

**WHY SHOULD WE  
CARE ABOUT  
AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
HISTORY? HOW  
DOES IT RELATE TO  
AI?**

**WHY DO DATA  
ACTIVISTS NEED  
TO UNDERSTAND  
SYSTEMIC  
OPPRESSION?**

**13th examines how racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in America.**



# 13TH

## SLAVERY: (1619-1865) AND RECONSTRUCTION (1865-1877) (0-9:03)

Main idea: The US was in need of free labor.

As result, African Americans were labeled as prisoners because prison is free labor, just like slavery is free labor.





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Complete the Word Chart for these terms: **13th  
amendment, slavery**



# JIM CROW LAWS (1877-1965), CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (1954-1968), AND THE GREAT MIGRATION (1910-1970) (9:03-14:11)

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## MASS INCARCERATION(1970-PRESENT)(14:11-27:07):

1. President Richard Nixon Era- (1969 – 1974):
  - a. **War on crime** – words used by Nixon believed to be dog whistles politics. Believed to really be referring to Fight on the black political movement, Black power, Black Panthers, Antiwar movement, etc.



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## **MASS INCARCERATION(1970-PRESENT)(14:11-27:07):**

1. Ronald Reagan Era (1981 – 1989)
  - a. **War on Drugs:** Sentencing for crack was far harsher than those for powder cocaine. For instance, the same amount of time in prison for 1 ounce of crack cocaine that you get for 100 ounces of powder cocaine.



# **MASS INCARCERATION(1970- PRESENT)(14:11-27:07):**

Main idea: This section describes the Richard  
Nixon Era

Complete the Word Chart for these terms: **War  
on Crime, War on Drugs, mandatory  
sentencing, superpredator**

# POWER OF THE MEDIA (27:07-33:41 MINUTES)

People, including people Black people, were educated deliberately for years to believe that Black people were criminals, sex offenders, burglars, and robbers, which makes it easier to send people to prison rather than try to help them.





## **POWER OF THE MEDIA (27:07-33:41 MINUTES)**

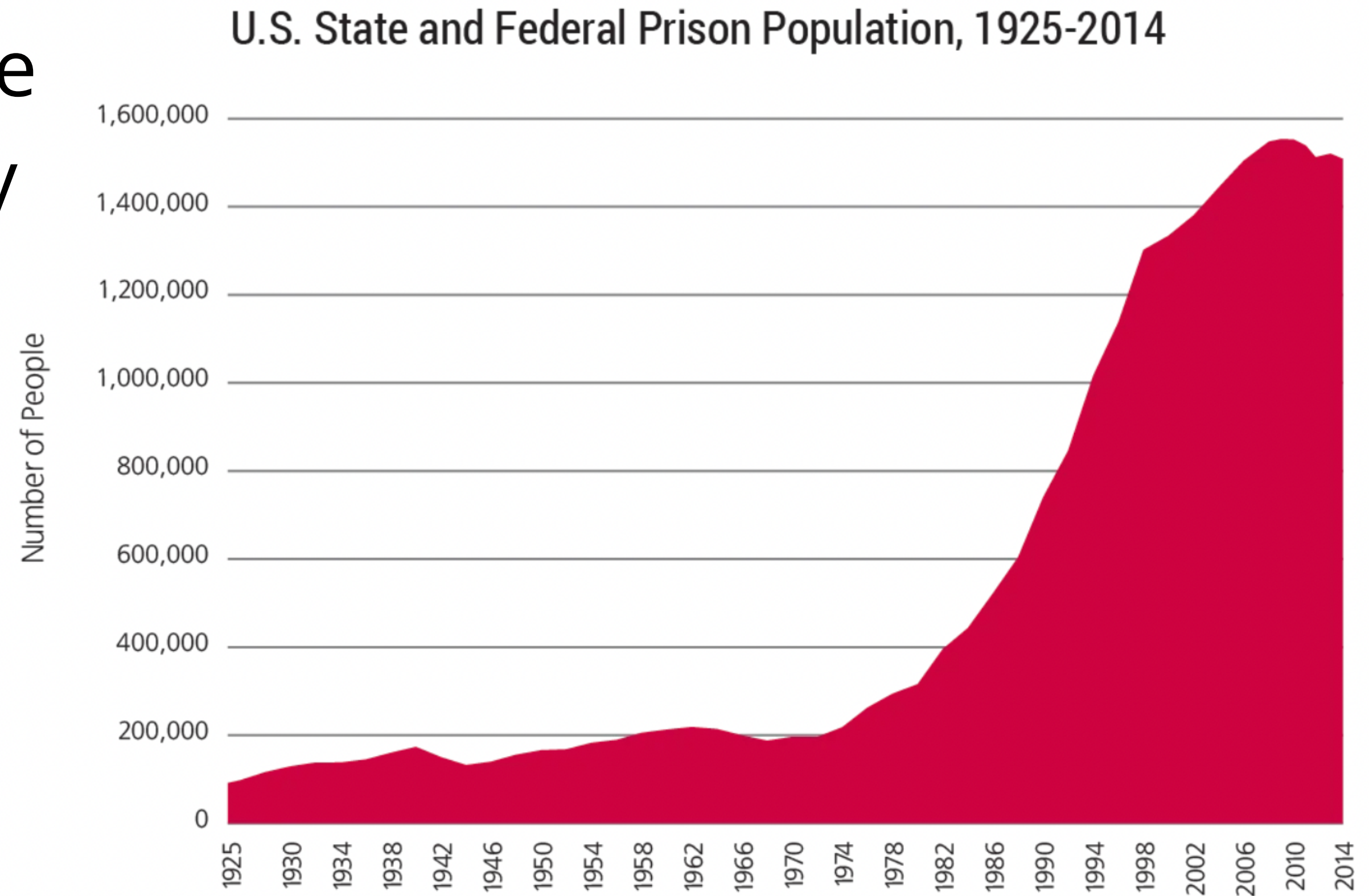
1. What kind of data do the scholars and activists use to prove their argument?
2. What did you learn from these activists that can assist you in your data activism projects?

**1990 – US PRISON POPULATION =  
1,179,200 (34:37 MINUTES-43:16  
MINUTES)**

- In 1994, Congress presented a \$30 billion federal crime bill, which heavily advocated for incarceration.
- This bill began the building of the infrastructure that we see today, such as the militarization of the police department.

## The number of US prisoners exploded after the 1970s

What are some of the specific reasons why the number of US prisoners increased after the 1970s?



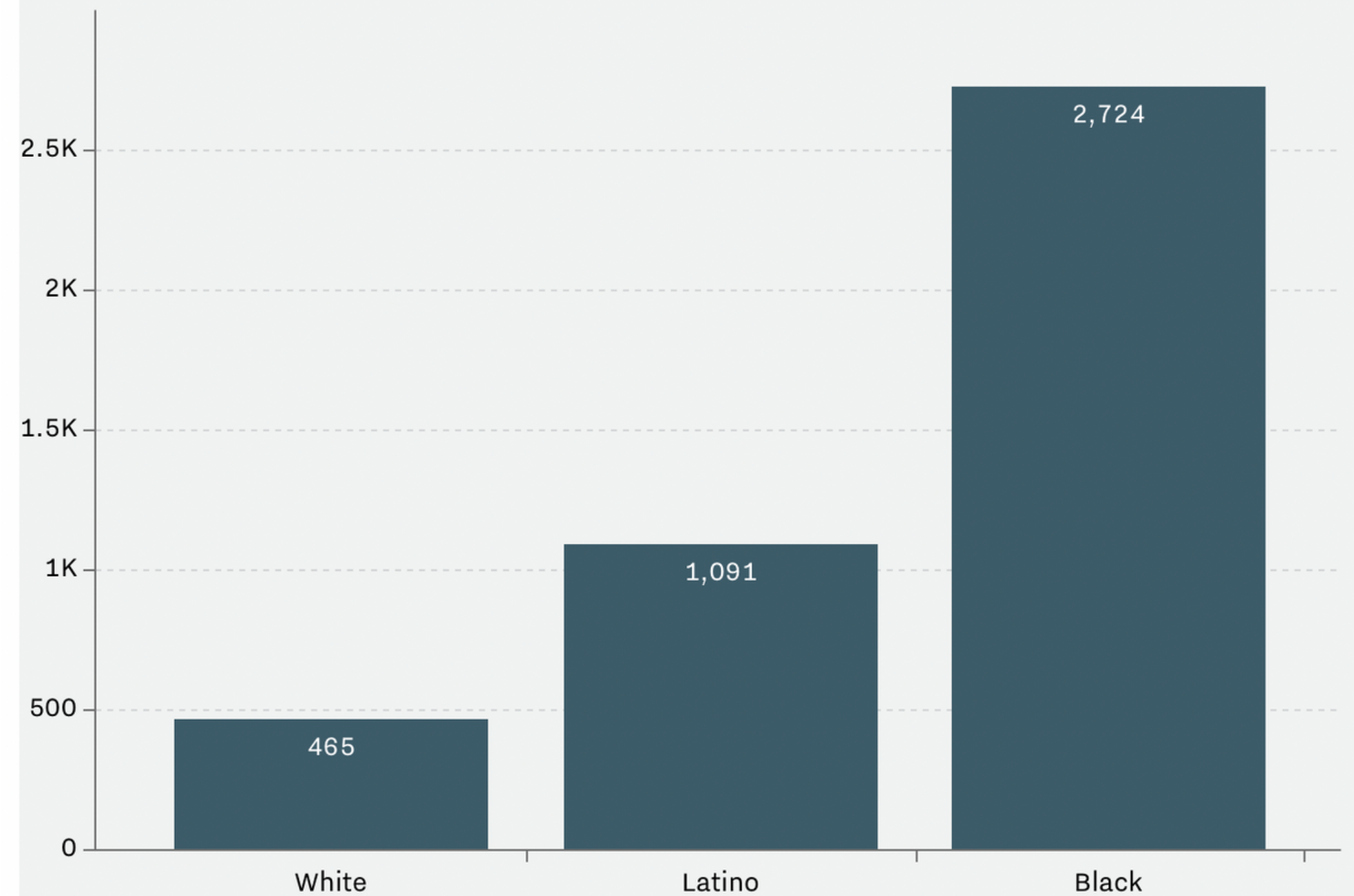
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoners Series*.



Why is it important  
that we do an  
intersectional data  
analysis of the prison  
population based on  
race and other  
aspects of people's  
identity?

## Black Americans are much more likely to be incarcerated

Incarceration rates per 100,000 US residents, by race and ethnicity



Source: [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)

Vox