The Bronx House of Detention, opened in 1937, was closed in 2000.

In Queens, the Queens House of Detention was opened in 1959, eventually reaching a population of over 8,613 people. It was later replaced by the Queens County Jail in Long Island City, opened in 1961. However, the old jail was kept open due to overcrowding.

In New York City, the Floating Jails were part of the old Rikers Island prison system. In 1988, two former British troop barges were converted into floating prisons and used in the Hudson River and East River. These barges were later sold to Europe.

Rikers Island was closed in 1999. The last inmate was transferred in 2003. After two months, the prison closed. The site was later redeveloped as housing for 800 people.

Jails are for demolishing! A project of Critical Resistance New York City