

# The Prison Index



## Get the real facts about crime and punishment in the US today!

*The Prison Index: Taking the Pulse of the Crime Control Industry* is the first index of statistics about our nation's criminal justice system ever published. Containing 611 facts and 17 graphs and charts, this 48-page volume presents, in black-and-white, the state of crime control in America. Below is just a sample of some of the insightful and useful information, in easy to read index form.

## Who is at the greatest risk of crime victimization? Who has confidence in the criminal justice system?

### Blacks are more than four times as likely as Whites to have no confidence in the criminal justice system

When asked whether you have a great deal, some, or very little confidence in the criminal justice system, what percentage volunteered "none"?<sup>1</sup>

Whites: **2%**

Blacks: **9%**

### Poor people are more likely than richer people to have very little or no confidence in the criminal justice system.

Percent of people reporting very little or no confidence in the criminal justice system:<sup>2</sup>

Incomes at or over \$50,000: **31%**

Incomes under \$20,000: **40%**

### The rich are the *least* likely to have their homes burglarized.

Number of burglaries per 1,000 households by household income level:<sup>3</sup>

Household income under \$7,500<sup>4</sup>: **67.0**

Household income between \$7,500-\$14,999<sup>5</sup>: **44.2**

Household income between \$50,000-\$74,999<sup>6</sup>: **24.1**

Household income \$75,000 or more<sup>7</sup>: **23.1**

### Murder rates vary greatly by race and gender.

Number of murders and non-negligent manslaughters by race and gender of victim per 100,000 population, 1998<sup>8</sup>:

White females: **2.2**

White males: **6.1**

African-American females: **8.6**

African-American males: **42.1**

#### (Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000, Table 2.14.

<sup>2</sup> Calculation, Sourcebook 2000, Table 2.14.

<sup>3</sup> Statistical Abstract 2001, Table 305

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Statistical Abstract 2001, Table 115.

### A Joint Project of The Western Prison Project and the Prison Policy Initiative

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As of August 2006, *The Prison Index*  
is out of print. Read it online at  
<http://prisonpolicy.org/prisonindex/>