

FACTS ABOUT PRISONS AND PRISONERS

The Growing Corrections System

- The number of inmates in state and federal prisons has increased more than six-fold from less than 200,000 in 1970 to 1,440,655 by the end 2002. An additional 665,475 are held in local jails.
- As of June 30, 2002, the nation's prison and jail population exceeded 2 million for the first time in history.
- At the end of 2002, 1 of every 143 Americans was incarcerated in prison or jail.
- The number of persons on probation and parole has been growing dramatically along with institutional populations. There are now 6.7 million Americans incarcerated or on probation or parole, an increase of more than 265 percent since 1980.
- One in eight (12.9%) black males aged 25-29 were in prison or jail at midyear 2002, as were 1 in 23 (4.3%) Hispanic males and 1 in 63 (1.6%) white males in the same age group.
- Overall, 1 in 1,656 women and 1 in 110 men were in prison in 2002.
- The 2002 United States' rate of incarceration of 701 inmates per 100,000 population is the highest reported rate in the world, now ahead of Russia's rate of 611 per 100,000.

Who is in our Prisons and Jails?

- 93% of prison inmates are male, 7% female.
- 45% of prison inmates in 2002 were black and 18% were Hispanic.
- 68% of state prison inmates in 1997 had not completed high school.
- 36% of jail inmates in 1996 were unemployed prior to entering jail.
- 64% of jail inmates in 1996 had monthly incomes of under \$1,000 in the month before their arrest.
- 70% of those sentenced to state prisons in 1998 were convicted of non-violent crimes, including 31% for drug offenses, and 26% for property offenses.
- 1 in 4 jail inmates in 1996 was in jail for a drug offense, compared to 1 in 10 in 1983; drug offenders constituted 21% of 1999 state prison inmates and 57% of 1999 federal prison inmates.
- Black males have a 32% chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males have a 17% chance; white males have a 6% chance.