

FACTS ABOUT PRISONS AND PRISONERS

The Growing Corrections System

- The number of inmates in state and federal prisons has increased seven-fold from less than 200,000 in 1970 to 1,524,513 by 2009. An additional 760,400 are held in local jails, for a total of 2.3 million.
- Between 2000 and 2008, the state prison population increased by an average annual rate of 1.5%, the federal population by 4.5 %, and the jail population by 3.0%.
- As of 2009, 1 of every 135 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 more than 7.2 million Americans incarcerated or on probation or parole, an increase of more than 290 percent since 1980.
- One in nine black males ages 25-29 was in prison or jail in 2009 as were 1 in 27 Hispanic males and 1 in 60 white males in the same age group.
- Nationally, 131 females per 100,000 women were in prison or jail in 2009; 1,398 males per 100,000 men were in prison or jail.
- The 2009 United States' rate of incarceration of 748 inmates per 100,000 population is the highest in the world.

Who is in our Prisons and Jails?

- 93% of prison inmates are male, 7% female.
- As of 2009, there were 201,200 women in state and federal prison or local jail.
- 39% of persons in prison or jail in 2009 were black, 21% were Hispanic, and 34% were white.
- 62% of jail inmates in 2009 were unconvicted and awaiting trial, compared to 51% in 1990.
- Of those persons incarcerated in state prisons in 2008, half (53.8%) had been convicted of a violent offense, and just under half for a drug, property, or public order offense.
- 1 in 4 jail inmates in 2002 was in jail for a drug offense, compared to 1 in 10 in 1983; drug offenders constituted 18% of state prison inmates in 2008 and 51% of federal prison inmates in 2009.
- 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.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

6/11