

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 1,328,063 by midyear 2001. An additional 631,240 are held in local jails.
- The number of persons on probation and parole has been growing dramatically along with institutional populations. There are now 6.5 million Americans incarcerated or on probation, or parole, an increase of more than 240 percent since 1980.
- Nearly one in seven (13.4%) black males aged 25-29 were in prison or jail in 2001, as were 1 in 24 (4.1%) Hispanic males and 1 in 55 (1.8%) white males in the same age group.
- The 2001 United States' rate of incarceration of 690 inmates per 100,000 population is the highest reported rate in the world, now ahead of Russia's rate of 676 per 100,000.

Who is in our Prisons and Jails?

- 93% of prison inmates are male, 7% female.
- 46% of prison inmates in 1999 were black and 16% were Hispanic.
- 68% of state prison inmates in 1997 had not completed high school.
- 33% of jail inmates in 1991 were unemployed prior to entering jail.
- 32% of jail inmates in 1991 who had been free for at least one year prior to their arrest had annual incomes of under \$5,000.
- 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.
- 60% of jail inmates in 1996 reported they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time they committed their offense.
- 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 29% chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males have a 16% chance; white males have a 4% chance.