

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 1,410,404 by midyear 2004. An additional 713,990 are held in local jails, for a total of more than 2.1 million.
- The state and federal prison population grew by more than 30,000 persons (2.1%) between midyear 2003 and midyear 2004, while the jail population increased by more than 22,000 inmates (3.3%).
- As of 2004, 1 of every 138 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 6.9 million Americans incarcerated or on probation or parole, an increase of more than 275 percent since 1980.
- One in eight (12.6%) black males aged 25-29 was in prison or jail in 2004 as were 1 in 28 (3.6%) Hispanic males and 1 in 59 (1.7%) white males in the same age group.
- Nationally, 63 females per 100,000 women are serving a sentence in prison; 923 males per 100,000 men are in prison.
- The 2004 United States' rate of incarceration of 726 inmates per 100,000 population is the highest reported rate in the world, well ahead of the Russian rate of 532 per 100,000.

Who is in our Prisons and Jails?

- 93% of prison inmates are male, 7% female.
- As of 2004, there were 190,893 women in state and federal prison or local jail.
- 44% of prison inmates in 2003 were black and 19% were Hispanic.
- 60% of jail inmates in 2004 were unconvicted and awaiting trial, compared to 51% in 1990.
- 81% of those sentenced to state prisons in 2000 were convicted of non-violent crimes, including 35% for drug offenses, and 28% for property offenses.
- 1 in 4 jail inmates in 2002 was in jail for a drug offense, compared to 1 in 10 in 1983; drug offenders constituted 20% of state prison inmates and 55% of federal prison inmates in 2001.
- 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.