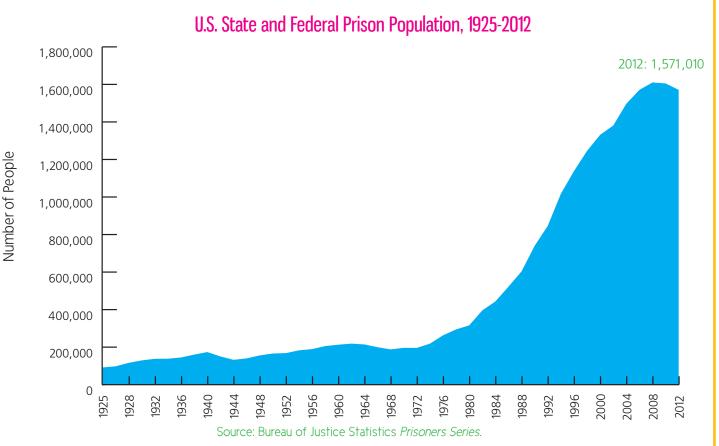
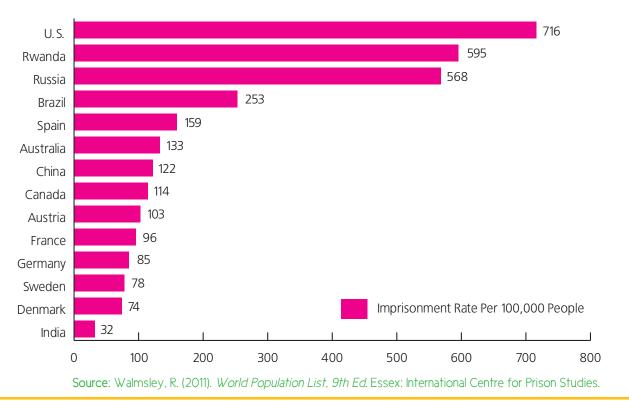


# **TRENDS IN U.S. CORRECTIONS**



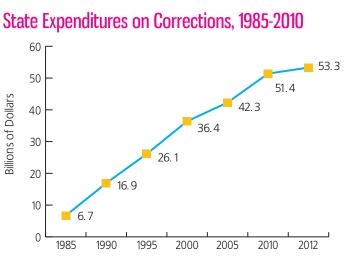
#### International Rates of Incarceration, 2011



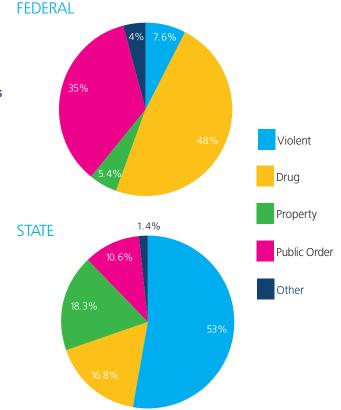
### FACT SHEET: TRENDS IN U.S. CORRECTIONS

### MASS INCARCERATION

The United States is the world's leader in incarceration with 2.2 million people currently in the nation's prisons or jails – a 500% increase over the last forty years. Changes in sentencing law and policy, not changes in crime rates, explain most of this increase. These trends have resulted in prison overcrowding and fiscal burdens on states to accommodate a rapidly expanding penal system, despite increasing evidence that large-scale incarceration is not an effective means of achieving public safety.



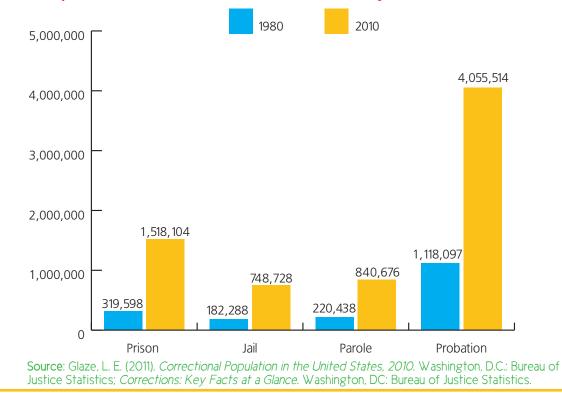
Source: National Association of State Budget Officers (1985– 2012). *State Expenditure Report Series*. Washington, DC: National Association of State Budget Officers.



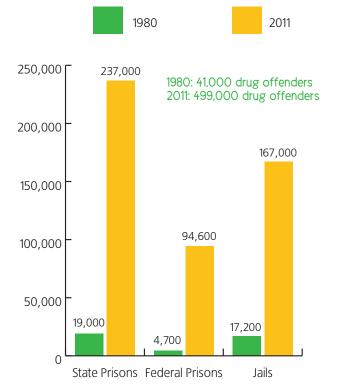
State & Federal Prison Population by Offense, 2011

Source: Carson, E.A., Golinelli, D. (2013). *Prisoners in 2012 – Advance Counts.* Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Carson, E.A., Sabol, W.J. (2012). *Prisoners in 2011.* Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

#### Population Under Control of the U.S. Corrections System, 1980 & 2010



## Number of People in Prisons and Jails for Drug Offenses, 1980 and 2011

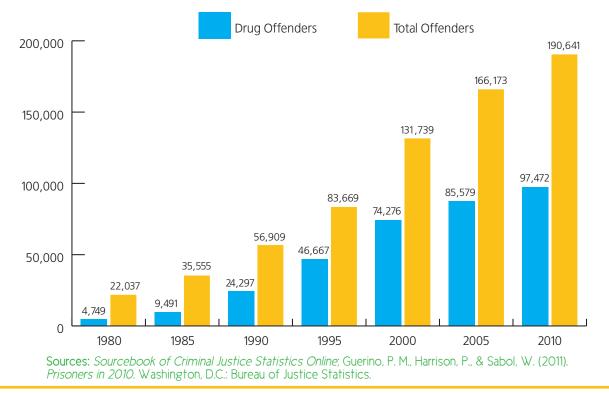


Sources: Carson, E.A., Sabol, W.J. (2012). *Prisoners in 2011.* Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Mauer, M. and King, R. (2007). *A 25-Year Quagmire: The War on Drugs and its Impact on American Society.* Washington, D.C.: The Sentencing Project.

## **DRUG POLICY**

Sentencing policies of the War on Drug era resulted in dramatic growth in incarceration for drug offenses. Since its official beginning in 1982, the number of Americans incarcerated for drug offenses has skyrocketed from 41,000 in 1980 to half a million in 2010. Furthermore, harsh sentencing laws such as mandatory minimums keep drug offenders in prison for longer periods of time: in 1986, released drug offenders had spent an average of 22 months in federal prison. By 2004, federal drug offenders were expected to serve almost three times that length: 62 months in prison.

At the federal level, prisoners incarcerated on a drug conviction make up half the prison population, while the number of drug offenders in state prisons has increased eleven-fold since 1980. Most of these people are not high-level actors in the drug trade, and most have no prior criminal record for a violent offense.



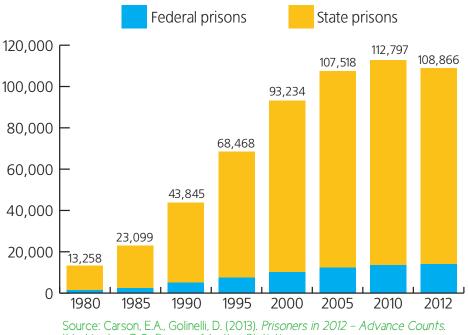
#### Number of People in Federal Prisons for Drug Offenses, 1980-2010

### FACT SHEET: TRENDS IN U.S. CORRECTIONS

Number of Women in State and Federal Prisons. 1980-2012

### **WOMEN**

The number of women in prison, many of whom are incarcerated for drug offenses, has been increasing at a rate 50 percent higher than men since 1980. Women in prison often have significant histories of physical and sexual abuse, high rates of HIV, and substance abuse problems. Women's imprisonment in female-headed households leads to children who suffer from their mother's absence and breaks in family ties.



Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

#### Highest and Lowest State Incarceration Rates (per 100,000), 2012

Women (National = 63)		
State	Rate	
HIGHEST		
Oklahoma	127	
Idaho	126	
Kentucky	114	
Arizonaª	101	
Louisiana	101	
LOWEST		
Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	15	
Massachusetts <sup>c</sup>	15	
Maine	20	
New York	22	
New Jersey	23	

Overall (National $=$ 480)	
Rate	
893	
717	
650	
648	
601	
145	
184	
190	
200	
211	

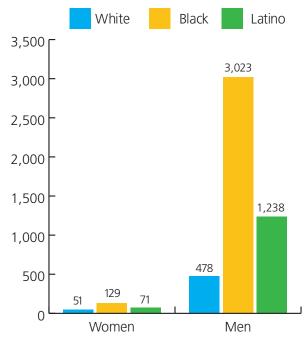
Men (National $=$ 910)	
State	Rate
HIGHEST	
Louisiana	1,720
Mississippi	1,370
Alabama	1,234
Texas	1,121
Oklahoma	1,178
LOWEST	
Maine	276
Minnesota	344
North Dakota	372
New Hampshire	396
Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	376

a = Prison population is custody count.

- b = Prisons and jails form one integrated system.
  c = Includes persons sentenced to one year or more in prison and held in county jails.

Source: Carson, E.A., Golinelli, D. (2013). Prisoners in 2012 - Advance Counts. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

# Rate of Incarceration per 100,000, by Gender, Race, & Ethnicity, 2011

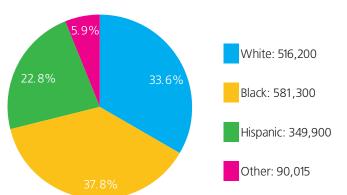


Source: Carson, E.A., Sabol, W.J. (2012). *Prisoners in 2011.* Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## **RACIAL DISPARITIES**

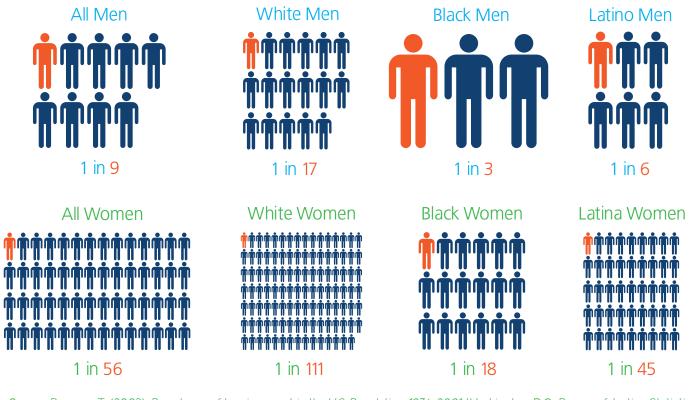
More than 60% of the people in prison today are people of color. For black men in their thirties, 1 in every 10 is in prison or jail on any given day. These trends have been intensified by the disproportionate impact of the War on Drugs.

# People in State and Federal Prisons, by Race and Ethnicity, 2011



Source: Carson, E.A., Sabol, W.J. (2012). *Prisoners in 2011.* Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

### Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment



Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974–2001. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

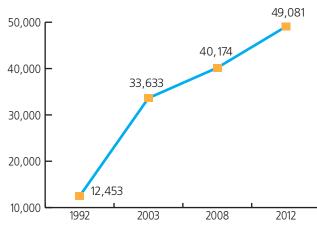
#### SENTENCING PROJECT

### FACT SHEET: TRENDS IN U.S. CORRECTIONS

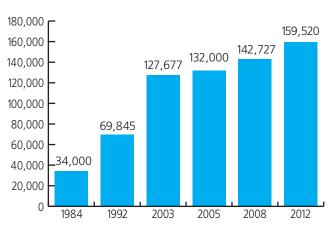
## LIFE SENTENCES

The number of prisoners serving life sentences continues to grow even while serious, violent crime has been declining for the past 20 years and little public safety benefit has been demonstrated to correlate with increasingly lengthy sentences. The life population has more than quadrupled since 1984. One in nine people in prison is now serving a life sentence and nearly a third of lifers have been sentenced to life without parole.

# Number of People Serving Life Without Parole Sentences, 1992-2012



# Number of People Serving Life Sentences, 1984-2012

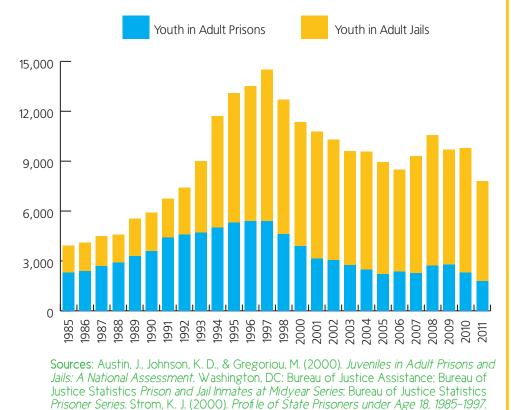


Source: Nellis, A. (2013). Life Goes On: The Historic Rise in Life Sentences in America. Washington, D.C.: The Sentencing Project.

## YOUTH

There has been a troubling shift in the nation's responses to at-risk youth over the past 25 years. The creators of the juvenile justice system originally viewed it as a system for providing prevention, protection, and redirection to youth, but it is more common for youth today to experience tough sanctions and adult-type punishments instead. While reforms are underway in many jurisdictions, there remains an urgent need to reframe our responses to youth delinquency.





Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.