

Profiles of Prisoners and Prison Programming in the States

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Crime is down, but prison populations continue to rise. As state officials struggle with budget shortfalls, it is increasingly important to understand the changing nature of state corrections, both from a demographic perspective and a programmatic one. If state officials are to ever solve the "revolving-door-of-corrections," they must provide effective programming and planning whose ultimate goal is the reentry of offenders into society.

Introduction

Crime victimization has fallen steadily since 1994 and property crime rates are at their lowest in more than 20 years. While these numbers are promising to our society, they are not an accurate portrayal of the total state of our criminal justice and corrections systems. With more than 6.7 million citizens under probation, parole, in jail or prison, 3.1 percent of all U.S. citizens (1 in 143) find themselves in the criminal justice system; of these, more than 1.2 million are imprisoned or under supervision by the states. In 2002, state prison populations increased more than 5 percent, with only nine states reporting decreases in population.¹ Between 1995 and 2000, the number of state correctional facilities increased by 3 percent to 1,320.

As states struggle with fiscal crises, programming at all levels of state government has undergone increased scrutiny. Nowhere has this been truer than in state corrections. In 2000, state governments spent more than \$35 billion on corrections.² Overall, state governments bear the majority burden for corrections, with 62 percent of the total cost across all levels of government, being paid by the states.³

In budget balancing efforts, prison programming has often been cut and in extreme circumstances, aging prisons closed. Furthermore, prisoners themselves are changing. More women and juveniles are entering the corrections system and the minority composition of prisons is changing due to an influx of Hispanic and other immigrant populations to the United States. In addition, inmates, like the rest of the population, are living longer which itself presents unique challenges to corrections in terms of programming, needs and costs. Finally, recidivism is the most critical issue facing corrections today with more than half of all released prisoners returning to prison within three years.

Profile of Prisoners

The composition of state prisons is changing. What was once a young-adult to middle-aged white male

dominated population has evolved into one much more representative of the population in general and in some instances, over-representative of specific groups most notably black males. In addition, more women and juveniles are being found in state prison populations. For the most part, state prisoners are male, disproportionately black and young.

Gender

While the overall state inmate population continues to grow, it is doing so at a reduced rate—3.2 percent annually, between 1995 and 2002 (Table I). However, the female inmate population increased by 4.9 percent, more than double the male increase of 2.4 percent with women now comprising 6.3 percent of the total state prison population.⁴ Since 1995, the total number of female inmates has grown by 42 percent, with approximately one-third of all state female inmates being held in three states—California, Florida and Texas.⁵

At year-end 2002, there were 60 sentenced female inmates per 100,000 women compared to 906 sentenced male inmates per 100,000 men—1 in every 1,666 women and 1 in every 110 men across the country.⁶ In addition, the type of crime committed for which the inmate is incarcerated varies widely depending upon gender. For example, males are more likely to be incarcerated for committing a violent crime (50.4 percent vs. 32 percent for female offenders) and female inmates more likely to be incarcerated for committing a drug-related crime (30.4 percent vs. 19.6 percent for male offenders). Further, women are slightly more likely to be incarcerated for property crimes (26.2 percent vs. 18.8 percent for males) and both groups hover around the 10.7 percent mark for public order offenses.⁷

Race/Ethnicity

No area of corrections is changing more rapidly than that of race and ethnicity. At year-end 2001, nearly as many blacks (2,166,000) as whites (2,203,000) had ever served time in prison and His-

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Table A: Lifetime Chance of Going to State or Federal Prison for the First Time

	Percent of resident population expected to go to state or federal prison, by year					
	1974	1979	1986	1991	1997	2001
Gender						
Male	3.6%	4.1%	6.0%	9.1%	10.6%	11.3%
Female	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.1	1.5	1.8
Race/Hispanic Origin						
White (a)	1.2	1.4	2.0	2.5	3.1	3.4
Male	2.2	2.5	3.6	4.4	5.4	5.9
Female	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9
Black (a)	7.0	7.2	9.3	16.5	17.7	18.6
Male	13.4	13.4	17.4	29.4	31.0	32.2
Female	1.1	1.4	1.8	3.6	4.9	5.6
Hispanic	2.2	3.3	6.2	9.5	10.5	10.0
Male	4.0	6.0	11.1	16.3	18.0	17.2
Female	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.5	2.2	2.2

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974–2001*.

Key:
(a)—Excludes persons of Hispanic origin.

panics numbered about half of either group (997,000).⁸ This parity between black and white populations is shocking given that blacks comprise only 12.7 percent of the total U.S. population.⁹ Further, nearly 17 percent of all adult black males have served time in prison and based on current trends and incarceration rates, a black male born in 2001 has a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison at some point in his life, while a Hispanic male has a 17.2 percent chance and a white male only around a 6 percent chance; black females, a 1 in 19 chance—six times more likely than their white counterparts. This is quite significant given that in 1974, black males had a lifetime incarceration likelihood of 13.4 percent, Hispanics 4 percent and white males 2.2 percent. The same trend holds true for black females, up from 1.1 percent in 1974 to 5.6 percent in 2001. Hispanic women’s likelihood of incarceration rose from 0.4 percent in 1974 to 2.2 percent in 2001, and white females rose to 0.9 percent in 2001, up from 0.2 percent in 1974¹⁰ (Table A). Overall, blacks are more likely to go to prison than other racial and ethnic groups. They comprise the largest group within the active state prison population at 45.4 percent of all state inmates. White prisoners make up 35 percent and Hispanics, 16.9 percent.¹¹

The types of offenses committed that resulted in incarceration also vary by race/ethnicity, although in different terms than by gender. For ex-

ample, all three major categories of race/ethnicity committed violent acts, such as murder, rape or assault at much the same rate, around 49 percent of those incarcerated. However, a significant difference exists when looking at drug offenses. Blacks are almost twice as likely to be incarcerated for a drug-related offense as a white inmate—25.4 percent for blacks, 13.5 percent for whites. This figure also holds true for Hispanics with 22.8 percent currently in prison for drug-related offenses. The opposite is true for property offenses, such as burglary, motor vehicle theft and fraud. White inmates incarcerated committed these crimes at a rate of 23.9 percent, as opposed to 16.8 percent for blacks and 15.8 percent for Hispanics.¹² Interestingly, the figures on violent prisoners vs. drug-

related offenders seem to fly in the face of some arguments that a majority of state prisoners are non-violent offenders incarcerated due to draconian drug laws. Based on this data, the two groups seem to be evenly split (Table B).

Age

Inmate age is another critical piece of demographic information that is significant in determining corrections costs and programming. While the arrival of new inmates may be slowing, those that are in prison are often younger and are staying longer, due in part to relatively new public policies such as “truth-in-sentencing” laws, mandatory sentencing laws, the abolishment in several states of parole boards and an increase in the severity of crimes committed. While older inmates pose challenges to state correctional systems for specialized health programming, younger inmates pose their own set of difficulties in the development of programming specialized for their educational, health and job training needs. The additional challenge for younger inmates is developing programs that will assist them in making it in a post-release world.

Male prisoners generally fall between the ages of 20 and 39, with the distribution for white males being fairly even in all categories 20 to 54 years of age. Black inmates, on the other hand, tend to have a higher concentration in the 20 to 39 range, while

Table B: Estimated Number of Sentenced Prisoners Under State Jurisdiction, by Offense, Race and Hispanic Origin, 2001

	<i>All</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>
Total	1,208,700	1,132,500	76,200	424,200	548,800	205,300
Violent offenses	596,100	571,700	24,400	208,100	267,700	102,600
Murder (a)	159,200	150,700	8,500	51,500	77,100	27,800
Manslaughter	16,900	15,000	1,900	6,300	6,300	3,500
Rape	30,900	30,600	300	15,100	11,700	2,700
Other sexual assault	87,600	86,600	1,000	50,700	21,300	12,600
Robbery	155,200	150,100	5,200	34,100	91,100	26,200
Assault	118,800	113,200	5,600	38,700	50,300	25,300
Other violent	27,400	25,500	1,900	11,700	10,000	4,700
Property offenses	233,000	213,100	20,000	101,800	92,300	32,500
Burglary	104,700	101,300	3,400	45,700	41,200	14,700
Larceny	45,500	39,600	5,800	17,400	20,300	6,100
Motor vehicle theft	18,000	17,300	700	6,900	6,700	4,200
Fraud	33,700	25,400	8,400	17,100	13,000	3,100
Other property	31,100	29,500	1,600	14,700	11,100	4,500
Drug offenses	246,100	222,900	23,200	57,300	139,500	47,000
Public-order offenses (b)	130,000	121,700	8,300	55,900	47,200	22,300
	3,600	3,200	400	900	1,700	800

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2002*.

Note: Data are for inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year under the jurisdiction of State correctional authorities. The number of inmates by offense were estimated using the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1997.

Key:

(a)—Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

(b)—Includes weapons, drunk driving, court offenses, commercialized vice, morals and decency charges, liquor law violations, and other public-order offenses.

(c)—Includes juvenile offenses and unspecified felonies.

Table C: Number of Sentenced Prisoners Under State or Federal Jurisdiction, by Offense, Race and Hispanic Origin and Age, 2002

	<i>Male</i>				<i>Female</i>			
	<i>Total (a)</i>	<i>White (b)</i>	<i>Black (b)</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>Total (a)</i>	<i>White (b)</i>	<i>Black (b)</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>
Total	1,291,326	436,800	586,700	235,000	89,044	35,400	36,000	15,000
18-19	36,400	8,800	17,300	8,400	1,300	700	500	200
20-24	218,300	59,400	105,400	47,400	8,900	3,700	3,100	2,100
25-29	248,400	70,700	123,000	49,300	15,900	5,500	6,500	3,000
30-34	245,700	83,900	111,400	46,200	22,100	8,500	9,200	3,600
35-39	220,600	79,400	102,500	34,200	19,400	7,800	8,300	2,900
40-44	150,200	56,300	64,600	25,300	10,700	4,100	4,700	1,400
45-54	127,300	55,800	48,500	18,800	8,400	3,700	3,000	1,400
55 or older	38,900	21,500	10,800	4,800	1,900	1,200	500	200

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2002*.

Key:

(a)—Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

(b)—Excludes Hispanics.

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Hispanics generally fall into the 20 to 34 category. A startling figure is that approximately 10 percent of the total black male population between the ages of 25 to 29 is in prison, compared to 2.4 percent for Hispanics and 1.2 percent for white males. Female prisoners generally fall between the ages of 25 to 44. Both white and black female inmates fall into this category, but Hispanic female inmates are generally a bit younger, fitting into the 20 to 39 age group. All told, black women are twice as likely to end up in prison as Hispanics and more than five times as likely as white females¹³ (Table C).

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of age in prisons is that of the older offender, specifically those over the age of 50. In 2000, 8.2 percent of the total state prison population was over 50,¹⁴ up from 6.6 percent in 1996—or 113,000 vs. 63,000.¹⁵ While the most recent number is nearly twice the previous, this gives an indication of the overall growth in state prison populations. As previously noted, it is not a factor of older offenders entering the corrections system; rather it is a factor of offenders being incarcerated longer due to a shift in public policy that is making the criminal justice system and corrections less flexible, with overall annual release rates on the decline—down from 37 percent in 1990 to 33 percent in 2001.¹⁶ Interestingly, states that have “truth-in-sentencing” laws do not historically incarcerate offenders longer than states with no such laws. In 1999, “truth-in-sentencing” states incarcerated inmates for an average of 53 months, while the states with no law held offenders for 52 months.¹⁷

Prison Programming

Approximately 95 percent of all inmates currently in state prison will one day be released back into the community, with 592,000 prisoners released from state prisons in 2001—up 46 percent from 1990¹⁸ (Table J). In simpler terms, that is 1,600 offenders released back into the community every day. As such, corrections agencies have a responsibility to rehabilitate and prepare inmates for their eventual release back into the community. Currently, states provide a range of mandatory and discretionary programs covering health care, drug and alcohol treatment, education and reentry programming (Table K).

Overall, prison programs work. Inmates that participate in educational, vocational and work-related programs are more successful at avoiding recidivism after release than their counterparts who did not have programming.¹⁹ Considering the alternative (67 percent of released offenders will be rearrested within three years and 47 percent will return to prison, either for a new crime or a technical violation)²⁰ (Table D), state corrections agencies should be looking at creating more programming.

However, despite a tradition of providing educational and employment training to inmates and the resultant effectiveness in improving outcomes upon release from prison, overall prison programming has declined. In 1991, 42 percent of soon-to-be-released prisoners reported participating in education programs, compared with 37 percent in 1997; vocational programs declined from 31 percent to 27 percent during the same period. A key reason for this decline

Table D: Recidivism of State Prisoners Released in 1983 and 1994, By Offense Type

<i>Most serious offense for which released</i>	<i>Percent of prisoners released in:</i>		<i>Percent rearrested within 3 years, among prisoners released in:</i>		<i>Percent reconvicted within 3 years, among prisoners released in:</i>	
	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1983</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1983</i>	<i>1994</i>
All released prisoners	100 %	100 %	62.5%	67.5%	46.8%	46.9%
Violent	34.6	22.5	59.6	61.7	41.9	39.9
Property	48.3	33.5	68.1	73.8	53.0	53.4
Drug	9.5	32.6	50.4	66.7	35.3	47.0
Public-order	6.4	9.7	54.6	62.2	41.5	42.0
Other	1.1	1.7	76.8	64.7	62.9	42.1

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics* 2001.

has been the rapid growth of prison populations followed by the resultant reshuffling of inmates among institutions to meet the increasing demand for incarceration. As a result, literacy and higher education programs in many states have been cut with a shift to more short-term programs that cost less.²¹

The Urban Institute, in its 2002 report *The Practice and Promise of Prison Programming*, identified nine general characteristics that make prison programming successful.

- Focusing on skills applicable to the job market;
- Matching offenders' needs with program offerings;
- Ensuring that participation is timed to be close to an offenders' release date;
- Providing programming for at least several months;
- Targeting offenders' needs that are changeable and may contribute to crime, such as attitudes and pro-social activities;
- Providing programs that cover each individual's needs and that are well-integrated with other prison programs to avoid potential redundancy or conflict across programs;
- Ensuring that prison programming is followed by treatment and services upon release from prison;
- Relying on effective program design, implementation and monitoring;
- Involving researchers in programs as evaluators.²²

Health Care

Since 1990, state corrections budgets have increased annually by 7.5 percent and from 1998 to 2001 outpaced overall state budget growth by 3.7 percent.²³ The health care component of state corrections budgets continues to climb and is now just over 10 percent or \$3.7 billion, of the total corrections cost.²⁴ Like the health care costs of private citizens, the cost borne by states on behalf of inmates is enormous and steadily growing. For example, communicable and chronic diseases are rampant in prison with a population that is especially vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Further, inmates are susceptible to Hepatitis B and C, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and a range of chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and asthma. These often preventable conditions significantly increase the cost of health care, raising it from an average daily cost of \$7.15 for a healthy inmate²⁵ into the tens of thousands of dollars for one treatment for an inmate with a chronic condition, such as hepatitis or HIV/AIDS.

Like many aspects of corrections policy, health

care is rife with court mandates which largely determine the minimum levels of programming and services. As a result, many state prisoners have access to better health care than their counterparts on the outside, and in most instances, get that health care for free. For example, 47 states provide MRIs, 44 states provide pacemaker implants, 42 states provide preventive dentistry and 25 states provide organ transplants.²⁶ To offset these costs, many states have started co-pay programs for inmates, although the recouping of total costs is minimal.

One programmatic factor that is popular throughout a majority of states is the use of private contracts for all or some of their health care services. In 11 states, private providers cover all health care services, in 19 states the corrections agency jointly handles health care services with a private contractor and in eight states health care services are provided by a partnering of the state, private contractors and public health agencies.²⁷

Mental illness is also a great cause for concern, with prisons and jails often becoming the dumping ground for those with a range of severe mental problems. Further, the criminal justice and corrections systems have traditionally been without the knowledge and tools to effectively address these issues, one major factor in the enormous scale of the \$15 billion annual cost to house inmates with psychiatric problems in Americas jails and prisons.²⁸

Prisons are improving their response to this immense need, with 70 percent of all state facilities providing mental health screenings during the intake process, 65 percent of state facilities conducting psychiatric assessments of inmates, 51 percent of state facilities providing 24-hour mental health care, 71 percent providing therapy and counseling to inmates from a trained mental health professional and 66 percent of state facilities help inmates obtain community mental health services once released.²⁹ (For more policy recommendations regarding the criminal justice system and the mentally ill, visit The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference's *Mental Health Consensus Project*, at <http://www.consensusproject.org>.)

Elderly inmates pose problems from the standpoint of increased costs and specialized health care. In many states, the increase in this population is overwhelming the total corrections health care budget with an inmate over age 60 costing, on average, \$70,000 a year to house while a younger inmate costs around \$22,000. These costs increase the longer an inmate stays in prison. For example, if a 60-year-old inmate lives to 80 years

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of age, these costs will rise to \$1.4 million annually.³⁰ Twenty-six states currently have either grouped or geriatric facilities. Eighteen states have specialized hospice or end-of-life care for terminal inmates, while 36 states have medical or compassionate release policies³¹ (Table L).

Drug/Alcohol Abuse & Treatment

Drug-related crimes accounted for 12 percent of the 13.9 million arrests made nationally in 2000. Of these, 19 percent were for the manufacture or sale of drugs and 81 percent were for possession.³² Currently, drug-related offenses account for 21 percent of the total state prison population.³³ As a result, one of the most prevalent groupings of programs in prison is that which addresses drug and alcohol abuse. The need is enormous: 83 percent of all state prisoners reported the past use of drugs and 57 percent reported the use of drugs within the month prior to the commission of the offense for which they are incarcerated. Interestingly, as of 1998 only eight states provided any sort of intake drug-screening; ironic given the destructive nature of abuse both prior to arrival and while in prison³⁴ (Table E). As of 2000, 39 states provided some sort of drug and alcohol treatment program, ranging from therapeutic communities and special housing to special peer groups, self-help pro-

grams and professional counseling.³⁵

Education

State prison inmates are generally less educated than their counterparts in the general population (Table F). For example, 39.7 percent of state inmates have not obtained a high school diploma, compared to 18.4 percent of those on the outside. This trend continues when talking about college or other post-secondary education. While 48.4 percent of the general population has completed some form of higher education, only 11.4 percent of inmates have accomplished the same. As expected, educational programs are the single largest set of programs existing in state prisons, with more than 90 percent of institutions offering some form of educational programming and just fewer than 84 percent offering high school/GED courses (Tables G, H). Further, nearly 56 percent currently offer some form of employment or vocational training.³⁶

Educational accomplishment by state prisoners varies by gender and race/ethnicity. Minority prisoners are less likely to have received their high school diploma or GED than their white counterparts. Likewise, female offenders are more likely than their male cohorts to have received a secondary education and to have even received some higher education.³⁷

Table E: Alcohol - or Drug-Involved State Prisoners Treated for Substance Abuse, By Selected Characteristics, 1997

Characteristic	Estimated number of state prisoners	Treatment for substance abuse		Participation in other substance abuse programs	
		Ever	Since admission	Ever	Since admission
Total	806,758	41.5%	14.6%	49.4%	31.9%
Sex					
Male	754,418	40.5	14.2	49.4	31.9
Female	52,340	55.6	19.6	49.3	31.9
Race/Hispanic origin					
White, non-Hispanic	271,345	51.8	17.0	58.0	36.3
Black, non-Hispanic	367,331	36.6	13.5	46.7	31.6
Hispanic	142,610	33.8	12.5	39.2	23.9
Other	25,472	46.2	16.2	54.2	34.8
Age					
24 or younger	158,705	29.3	10.2	37.9	22.6
25-34	316,744	43.1	15.2	50.2	33.1
35-44	242,579	47.4	16.8	54.4	35.5
45-54	71,936	42.4	14.9	53.9	35.5
55 or older	16,794	36.7	10.1	52.4	31.8

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Substance Abuse & Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*.

Table F: Education By Age, Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 1997

	<i>Percent of state prison inmates</i>		<i>Percent of state prison inmates</i>				<i>Percent of state prison inmates</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>24 or ></i>	<i>25-34</i>	<i>35-44</i>	<i>45 or <</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>
Educational Attainment									
8th grade or less	14.3%	13.6%	16.3%	12.1%	12.7%	20.7%	10.9%	11.7%	27.9%
Some high school	25.3	28.2	35.3	27.2	21.7	13.9	16.3	32.4	25.1
GED	28.9	22.3	31.2	29.4	27.8	23.1	35.2	24.8	24.7
High school diploma	20.4	21.6	13.6	21.5	23.5	21.3	22.8	21.0	14.9
Postsecondary	8.8	11.2	3.6	8.3	11.3	14.2	11.4	8.4	5.5
College graduate or <	2.3	3.1	0.1	1.5	3.0	6.9	3.5	1.6	1.9
High school completion									
Completed high school	25.3	30.3	14.1	25.4	30.0	33.4	29.9	25.5	17.2
Earned GED	35.2	27.9	34.4	35.3	35.5	32.0	42.9	30.4	29.7
In prison/jail	26.3	15.9	27.4	26.3	25.0	22.3	30.0	23.2	23.4
Outside prison/jail	8.9	11.9	6.9	9.0	10.5	9.6	12.9	7.2	6.3
Educational programs since admission									
Total	52.0	50.1	57.8	52.4	49.6	46.5	48.8	53.8	52.6
Basic	3.1	3.3	2.5	3.0	3.2	4.3	2.1	3.3	4.8
GED/high school	23.6	21.3	35.5	23.3	19.0	15.4	18.7	26.1	25.0
College	10.0	9.1	6.4	10.1	11.4	11.6	12.4	9.0	7.1
English as 2nd language	1.2	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.6	0.1	0.1	6.4
Vocational	32.4	29.5	30.5	34.0	32.5	28.7	32.0	33.7	29.1
Other	2.5	3.8	2.3	2.5	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.5	1.8
Number of Prison Inmates	989,419	66,076	208,955	402,693	310,405	133,442	351,742	490,384	179,301

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Education and Correctional Populations, April 2003.*

Table G: Educational Programs Offered in State, Federal and Private Prisons, 2000 and 1995, and Local Jails, 1999

<i>Educational programs</i>	<i>State prisons</i>		<i>Federal prisons</i>		<i>Private prisons</i>		<i>Jails</i>
	<i>2000</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1999</i>
With an educational program	91.2%	88.0%	100.0%	100.0%	87.6%	71.8%	60.3%
Basic adult education	80.4	76.0	97.4	92.0	61.6	40.0	24.7
Secondary education	83.6	80.3	98.7	100.0	70.7	51.8	54.8
College courses	26.7	31.4	80.5	68.8	27.3	18.2	3.4
Special education	39.6	33.4	59.7	34.8	21.9	27.3	10.8
Vocational training	55.7	54.5	93.5	73.2	44.2	25.5	6.5
Study release programs	7.7	9.3	6.5	5.4	28.9	32.7	9.3
Without an educational program	8.8	12.0	0.0	0.0	12.4	28.2	39.7
Number of facilities	1,307	1,278	(a)	(a)	242	110	2,819

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Education and Correctional Populations, April 2003.*

Key:

(a)—Changed definitions prevent meaningful comparisons of the numbers of federal facilities, 1995 and 2000.

Table H: Participation in Educational Programs for State and Federal Prison Inmates, 1997 and 1991, for Local Jail Inmates, 1996

Educational programs	Prison inmates				Jails 1996
	State		Federal		
	1997	1991	1997	1991	
Total	51.9%	56.6%	56.4%	67.0%	22.9%
Basic	3.1	5.3	1.9	10.4	0.4
GED/high school	23.4	27.3	23.0	27.3	7.8
College courses	9.9	13.9	12.9	18.9	6.1
English as a 2nd language	1.2	(a)	5.7	(a)	(a)
Vocational	32.2	31.2	31.0	29.4	7.0
Other	2.6	2.6	5.6	8.4	3.4
Number of inmates	1,046,136	709,042	87,624	501,159	2,055,942

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Education and Correctional Populations*, April 2003.

Key:
(a)—Not available.

Reentry

The number of inmates exiting prison—600,000 individuals this year alone—and returning to communities they left behind is increasing. The public safety implications are obvious, especially when considering that nearly 1 in 5 of these offenders exits without any post-release supervision. The cost implications of re-entry are also significant: parole revocations are now the fastest growing category of prison admissions.

People with criminal records typically face an overwhelming number of obstacles to successful re-entry, including substance abuse, unemployment and the search for housing. Addressing these problems is difficult under any circumstance, but particularly when service providers tend not to consider people with criminal records as part of their clientele.³⁸

Thirty-three percent of the prison population leaves correctional institutions annually. As discussed earlier, because the length of sentences of prisoners has increased, the ratio of the number of persons released to the number incarcerated fell in the 1990s. Given the likely slower growth of the huge prison population in the 2000s, we can expect the re-entry of some 600,000–700,000 inmates into civil society per year in the coming decade.³⁹ This influx of prisoners back into the community is likely to overwhelm an already over-burdened parole and community supervision system. As a result, while community supervision is viewed as a solution to the growing prob-

lem of prison overcrowding, few additional resources are being concentrated on this less expensive and often more effective area of corrections. Effective re-entry programs must address several categories, including education, work training and job placement, familial relationship-building, appropriate housing and living arrangements, direct supervision from probation authorities, medical care (preventative and chronic care) and drug treatment/testing to ensure sobriety.

Conclusion

The effects of recidivism are driving the costs of corrections. While the overall volume of prisoner entry has plateaued, sentences and the length of time served by inmates are growing. Combined with these changes is an overall shift in the composition of the inmate population, with a move towards more women, juveniles and Hispanics. This in turn dictates the various needs of the inmate population and the types of programming that will be successful at ultimately preparing offenders for release. Corrections officials need to be respondent to these changes, providing suitable educational, health and work programs that will benefit not only the inmate, but society in general. The revolving door of corrections is continuing with no end in sight. While state budget shortfalls have forced extensive corrections program cuts, their long-term costs are immeasurable to inmates and communities.

Notes

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About the Author

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Table I
CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF SENTENCED PRISONERS UNDER JURISDICTION OF
STATE AND FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL AUTHORITIES, BY REGION AND JURISDICTION, 1995-2001

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Population difference (1995 to 2001)</i>	<i>Percent change</i>	<i>Average annual percent change</i>
United States	259,490	23.9%	3.6%
Federal	52,846	63.2	8.5
State	206,644	20.6	3.2
Northeast	8,609	5.6	0.9
Connecticut	2,857	27.4	4.1
Maine	315	23.8	3.6
Massachusetts (a)(b)	(1,069)	-10.3	-1.8
New Hampshire	377	18.7	2.9
New Jersey	1,076	4.0	0.7
New York	-952	-1.4	-0.2
Pennsylvania	5,647	17.4	2.7
Rhode Island	93	5.1	0.8
Vermont	265	25.3	3.8
Midwest	47,501	24.7	3.7
Illinois	6,690	17.8	2.8
Indiana (a)	4,837	30.1	4.5
Iowa	2,056	34.8	5.1
Kansas	1,523	21.6	3.3
Michigan (a)	7,737	18.8	2.9
Minnesota	1,760	36.3	5.3
Missouri	9,602	50.2	7.0
Nebraska	859	28.6	4.3
North Dakota	473	86.9	11.0
Ohio	618	1.4	0.2
South Dakota	932	49.8	7.0
Wisconsin	10,414	(c)	(c)
South	93,089	20.8	3.2
Alabama	6,008	29.8	4.4
Arkansas	3,556	41.7	6.0
Delaware	1,020	33.8	5.0
Dist. of Columbia (d)	(8,247)	(c)	(c)
Florida	8,532	13.4	2.1
Georgia	11,736	34.3	5.0
Kentucky	3,044	25.2	3.8
Louisiana	10,515	41.7	6.0
Maryland	2,392	11.7	1.9
Mississippi	8,225	67.1	8.9
North Carolina (a)	-282	-1.0	-0.2
Oklahoma	4,629	25.5	3.9
South Carolina	2,591	13.6	2.2
Tennessee	8,465	55.7	7.7
Texas	25,290	19.8	3.1
Virginia	3,934	14.4	2.3
West Virginia	1,681	67.7	9.0
West	57,445	27.7	4.2
Alaska	-122	-6.0	-1.0
Arizona	6,172	30.4	4.5
California (a)	25,550	19.4	3.0
Colorado	6,385	57.7	7.9
Hawaii	1,080	41.7	6.0
Idaho	2,678	80.5	10.3
Montana	1,329	66.5	8.9
Nevada	2,488	32.3	4.8
New Mexico	1,483	37.8	5.5
Oregon	4,898	75.2	9.8
Utah	1,803	52.3	7.3
Washington	3,412	29.4	4.4
Wyoming (a)	289	20.7	3.2

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2001*.

Key:

(a) Population difference and percent change may be slightly overestimated due to a change in reporting from custody to jurisdiction counts.

(b) Excludes sentenced inmates held in local jails or houses of correction.

(c) Not calculated because of changes in reporting procedures.

(d) Responsibility for sentenced felons was transferred to the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a result of the 1997 Revitalization Act.

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**Table J
PRISONERS RELEASED FROM STATE OR FEDERAL JURISDICTION,
BY REGION AND JURISDICTION, 1999–2001**

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>Percent change 1999–2001</i>
United States total	630,207	608,096	576,680	9.3%
Federal	38,370	35,259	31,816	20.6
State	591,837	572,837	544,864	8.6
Northeast	69,373	70,646	65,350	6.2
Connecticut	6,331	5,918	5,283	19.8
Maine	723	677	698	3.6
Massachusetts	2,482	2,889	2,914	-14.8
New Hampshire	1,030	1,044	979	5.2
New Jersey	16,064	15,362	14,734	9.0
New York	28,101	28,828	26,652	5.4
Pennsylvania	10,376	11,759	10,028	3.5
Rhode Island (a)	3,197	3,223	...	...
Vermont	1,069	946	839	27.4
Midwest	124,030	114,382	106,860	16.1
Illinois	36,313	28,876	25,995	39.7
Indiana	12,207	11,053	10,317	18.3
Iowa	5,357	4,379	4,715	13.6
Kansas	4,270	5,231	4,503	-5.2
Michigan	11,928	10,874	11,243	6.1
Minnesota	4,250	4,244	4,475	-5.0
Missouri	13,892	13,346	12,267	13.2
Nebraska	1,738	1,503	1,558	11.6
North Dakota	715	598	671	6.6
Ohio	24,953	24,793	23	8.9
South Dakota	1,380	1,327	1,311	5.3
Wisconsin	7,027	8,158	6,895	1.9
South	223,185	214,015	202,919	10.0
Alabama	7,905	7,136	8,194	-3.5
Arkansas	6,613	6,308	5,403	22.4
Delaware	2,330	2,260	2,180	6.9
District of Columbia	1,581	3,238	5,471	-71.1
Florida	34,015	33,994	29,889	13.8
Georgia	15,758	14,797	17,173	-8.2
Kentucky	8,234	7,733	6,509	26.5
Louisiana	15,031	14,536	15,241	-1.4
Maryland	10,050	10,004	10,327	-2.7
Mississippi	5,685	4,940	4,136	37.5
North Carolina	8,935	9,687	10,710	-16.6
Okalahoma	8,265	6,628	6,140	34.6
South Carolina	8,627	8,676	7,942	8.6
Tennessee	12,690	13,893	12,361	2.7
Texas	66,228	59,776	52,318	...
Virginia	9,816	9,148	7,685	27.7
West Virginia	1,422	1,261	1,240	14.7
West	175,249	173,794	169,735	3.2
Alaska	2,041	2,599	2,504	-18.5
Arizona	9,053	9,100	8,982	0.8
California	129,982	129,621	129,528	0.4
Colorado	6,634	5,881	5,346	24.1
Hawaii	1,581	1,379	1,332	18.7
Idaho	2,539	2,697	1,724	47.3
Montana	1,246	1,031	1,044	19.3
Nevada	4,480	4,374	4,536	-1.2
New Mexico (b)	3,194	3,383	1,997	...
Oregon	3,668	3,371	3,185	15.2
Utah	3,151	2,897	2,554	23.4
Washington	6,957	6,764	6,344	9.7
Wyoming	723	697	659	9.7

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear, 2002*.

Key:
 ...—Not calculated due to changes in reporting.
 (a) Comparable data were not available for all three years.
 (b) Data may not be comparable from year to year due to changing reporting methods.

Table K
NUMBER OF STATE AND FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES PROVIDING
WORK EDUCATION AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS, JUNE 30, 2000

Characteristics	Type of facility				All facilities	
	Total	Federal	State	Private	Confinement	Community
Facilities						
All facilities	1,668	84	1,320	264	1,208	460
With work programs	1,519	77	1,249	193	1,174	345
Prison industries	572	68	482	22	555	17
Facility support services (a)	1,381	77	1,161	143	1,150	231
Farming/agriculture	373	6	346	21	346	27
Public works assignments	953	33	830	90	729	224
Other work programs	287	3	229	55	171	116
Without work programs (b)	149	7	71	71	34	115
With education programs	1,481	77	1,192	212	1,140	341
Basic adult education	1,275	75	1,051	149	1,062	213
Secondary (c)	1,340	76	1,093	171	1,096	244
Special (d)	617	46	518	53	550	67
Vocational training	907	72	728	107	820	87
College	477	62	349	66	410	67
Study release	175	5	100	70	45	130
Without education programs (e)	187	7	128	52	68	119
With counseling programs	1,603	77	1,284	242	1,177	427
Drug dependency, counseling, awareness	1,480	77	1,175	228	1,095	385
Alcohol dependency, counseling, awareness	1,464	77	1,162	225	1,102	362
Psychological, psychiatric counseling	1,038	77	849	112	906	132
Employment	1,076	74	816	186	790	286
Life skills, community adjustment	1,187	75	902	210	895	292
HIV/AIDS	899	69	697	133	734	165
Parenting	763	74	558	131	580	183
Sex offender	338	38	449	51	443	95
Other	400	11	350	39	328	72
Without counseling programs (f)	65	7	158	22	31	33
Inmates participating in work programs (g)	808,118	75,368	682,262	50,488	769,902	38,216

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2000.

Key:

(a) Includes office work, administration, food services, laundry, building maintenance, repair, construction and similar programs.

(b) The number without work programs includes 43 facilities that did not report any data for this item.

(c) Includes General Equivalency Diploma (GED).

(d) Includes programs for inmates with learning disabilities.

(e) The number of facilities without education programs includes 42 facilities that did not report any data for this item.

(f) The number of facilities without counseling programs includes 41 facilities that did not report any data for this item.

(g) Inmate participation numbers were not collected for education or counseling programs.

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Table I
STATE FACILITIES, SERVICES AND CHALLENGES FOR GERIATRIC INMATES

State	Grouped or in geriatric facilities	Programs or recreational opportunities	Special work assignments	Hospice/end-of-life programs	Medical or compassionate release	Early release planning
Alabama	★	★	★	★	★	★
Alaska .....	...	...	...	...	★	★
Arizona .....	★	★	...	...	★	★
Arkansas	★	...	★	...	★	...
California .....	...	★	...	★	...	★
Colorado .....	...	...	...	...	★	★
Connecticut .....	★	★	...	...	...	...
Delaware .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Florida	★	★	★	★	★	★
Georgia	★	★	...	★	★	...
Hawaii .....	★	★	...	...	★	...
Idaho .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Illinois	★	★	...	★	★	...
Indiana .....	...	★	★	★	★	★
Iowa .....	...	★	...	...	...	★
Kansas .....	...	...	...	★	★	★
Kentucky	★	★	★	★	★	★
Louisiana	★	...	★	★	★	★
Maine .....	...	★	...	...	...	★
Maryland .....	...	★	...	★	★	★
Massachusetts .....	...	★	...	...	...	...
Michigan	★	★	...	★	★	★
Minnesota .....	...	...	★	★	★	★
Mississippi .....	...	...	...	...	★	★
Missouri .....	...	★	...	...	★	★
Montana .....	...	★	...	...	★	...
Nebraska .....	...	...	...	...	★	★
Nevada .....	...	...	...	...	...	★
New Hampshire .....	★	...	★	...	...	...
New Jersey .....	...	★	...	...	...	...
New Mexico .....	★	...	...	...	...	...
New York .....	...	...	...	★	★	★
North Carolina .....	★	★	★	...	...	★
North Dakota	★	★	...	★	...	★
Ohio .....	★	★	...	...	★	★
Oklahoma .....	★	...	...	...	★	...
Oregon .....	...	★	...	...	★	★
Pennsylvania .....	★	★	...	...	...	★
Rhode Island .....	...	...	...	...	★	★
South Carolina	★	★	★	...	★	★
South Dakota .....	...	...	...	★	★	★
Tennessee	★	...	★	...	★	★
Texas	★	★	★	★	★	★
Utah .....	...	★	★	★	★	★
Vermont .....	...	...	...	...	★	★
Virginia .....	★	...	...	...	★	★
Washington	★	★	...	★	★	★
West Virginia	★	★	★	...	★	★
Wisconsin	★	★	★	...	★	★
Wyoming .....	★	...	...	...	★	★
Total	26	29	15	18	36	37

Source: Ronald H. Aday, *Aging Prisoners: Crisis in American Corrections*. Praeger Publishers, Westport, CT, 2003.

Key:
★—Yes.
...—No.

Table 9.8
TRENDS IN STATE PRISON POPULATION BY REGION, 2001-2002

State or other jurisdiction	Total population			Percent change from -		Incarceration rate June 30, 2002 (a)
	June 30, 2002	December 31, 2001	June 30, 2001	June 30, 2001 to June 30, 2002	December 31, 2001 to June 30, 2002	
United States	1,426,118	1,406,519	1,405,531	1.5%	1.4%	474
Federal	161,681	156,993	152,788	5.8	3.0	49
State	1,264,437	1,249,526	1,252,743	0.9	1.2	425
Eastern Region						
Connecticut (b)	20,243	19,196	18,875	7.2	5.5	397
Delaware (b)	6,957	7,003	7,122	-2.3	-0.7	557
Maine	1,841	1,704	1,693	8.7	8.0	137
Massachusetts (c)	10,620	10,588	10,734	-1.1	0.3	240
New Hampshire	2,476	2,392	2,323	6.6	3.5	197
New Jersey (d)	28,054	28,142	28,108	-0.2	-0.3	326
New York	67,131	67,533	69,158	-2.9	-0.6	346
Pennsylvania	39,275	38,062	37,105	5.8	3.2	318
Rhode Island (b)	3,694	3,241	3,147	17.4	14.0	184
Vermont (b)	1,784	1,741	1,782	0.1	2.5	211
Regional total	182,075	179,602	180,047	1.1	1.3	...
Midwestern Region						
Illinois (d)	43,142	44,348	45,629	-5.5	-2.7	339
Indiana	21,425	20,966	20,576	4.1	2.2	346
Iowa (e)	8,172	7,962	8,101	0.9	2.6	276
Kansas (d)	8,758	8,577	8,543	2.5	2.1	320
Michigan	49,961	48,849	48,371	3.3	2.3	495
Minnesota	6,958	6,606	6,514	6.8	5.3	139
Nebraska	4,031	3,937	3,944	2.2	2.4	227
North Dakota	1,168	1,120	1,080	8.1	4.3	167
Ohio (d)	45,349	45,281	45,684	-0.7	0.2	395
South Dakota	2,900	2,790	2,673	8.5	3.9	378
Wisconsin	21,978	21,533	20,931	5.0	2.1	387
Regional total	213,842	211,969	212,046	0.8	0.8	...
Southern Region						
Alabama	27,495	26,741	27,286	0.8	2.8	593
Arkansas	12,655	12,594	12,332	2.6	0.5	465
Florida (e)	73,553	72,404	72,007	2.1	1.6	451
Georgia (e)	46,417	45,937	45,363	2.3	1.0	552
Kentucky	16,172	15,424	15,400	5.0	4.8	386
Louisiana	36,171	35,810	35,494	1.9	1.0	799
Maryland	24,329	23,752	23,970	1.5	2.4	435
Mississippi	22,001	21,460	20,672	6.4	2.5	728
Missouri	30,034	28,757	28,167	6.6	4.4	531
North Carolina	32,755	31,979	31,142	5.2	2.4	347
Oklahoma (d)	23,435	22,780	23,139	1.3	2.9	672
South Carolina	23,017	22,576	22,267	3.4	2.0	542
Tennessee	24,277	23,671	23,168	4.8	2.6	421
Texas	158,131	162,070	164,465	-3.9	-2.4	685
Virginia	32,739	31,662	30,473	7.4	3.4	452
West Virginia	4,488	4,215	4,130	8.7	6.5	246
Regional total	587,669	581,832	579,475	1.4	1.0	...
Western Region						
Alaska (b)	4,205	4,571	4,197	0.2	-8.0	373
Arizona (e)	29,103	27,710	27,136	7.2	5.0	508
California	160,315	159,444	163,965	-2.2	0.5	450
Colorado (d)	18,320	17,448	17,122	7.0	5.0	414
Hawaii (b)	5,541	5,431	5,412	2.4	2.0	309
Idaho	5,802	6,006	5,688	2.0	-4.4	437
Montana	3,515	3,328	3,250	8.2	5.6	387
Nevada	10,426	10,233	10,291	1.3	1.9	499
New Mexico	5,875	5,668	5,288	11.1	3.7	301
Oregon	11,812	11,410	11,077	6.6	3.5	340
Utah	5,353	5,339	5,440	-1.6	0.3	226
Washington	15,829	15,159	15,242	3.9	4.4	259
Wyoming	1,732	1,684	1,679	3.2	2.9	346
Regional total	277,828	273,431	275,787	0.7	1.6	...
Regional total without California	117,513	113,987	111,822	5.0	3.0	...
Dist. of Columbia	3,023	2,692	5,388	(f)	(f)	55

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Bulletin, Prisoners and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2002* (April 2003).

Key:

... — Not available

(a) The number of prisoners with sentences of more than one year per 100,000 residents.

(b) Prisons and jails form one integrated system. Data include total jail and

prison population.

(c) The incarceration rate includes an estimated 6,200 inmates sentenced to more than 1 year but held in local jails or houses of corrections.

(d) "Sentenced to more than 1 year" includes some inmates "sentenced to 1 year or less."

(e) Not calculated due to transfer of sentenced felons to the Federal system.

In Connecticut, where state prison officials are constantly scrambling to keep the inmate population within limits set by state law, 3,700 offenders are living outside prison walls - almost half the number that are living inside. Advertisement. Continue reading the main story.Â In New York, with the exception of those in the shock program, prisoners must complete their minimum sentences before they are considered for parole. Nationally, the verdict on programs that offer an alternative to prison is still out, said Lawrence Sherman, president of the Crime Control Institute, a research organization in Washington. One reason, he said, is a lack of hard data because criminal justice programs still tend to swing according to the public mood, rather than according to the evidence of what works. When prisoners in the United States are released, they face an environment that is challenging and actively deters them from becoming productive members of society.Â Although there is evidence that such prison-based programs are effective and beneficial for prisoners and their families, participation in such programs has declined in recent years.[19] It is not completely clear why, but a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study found many prisoners who couldn't get the other parent to co-participate were less likely to continue.