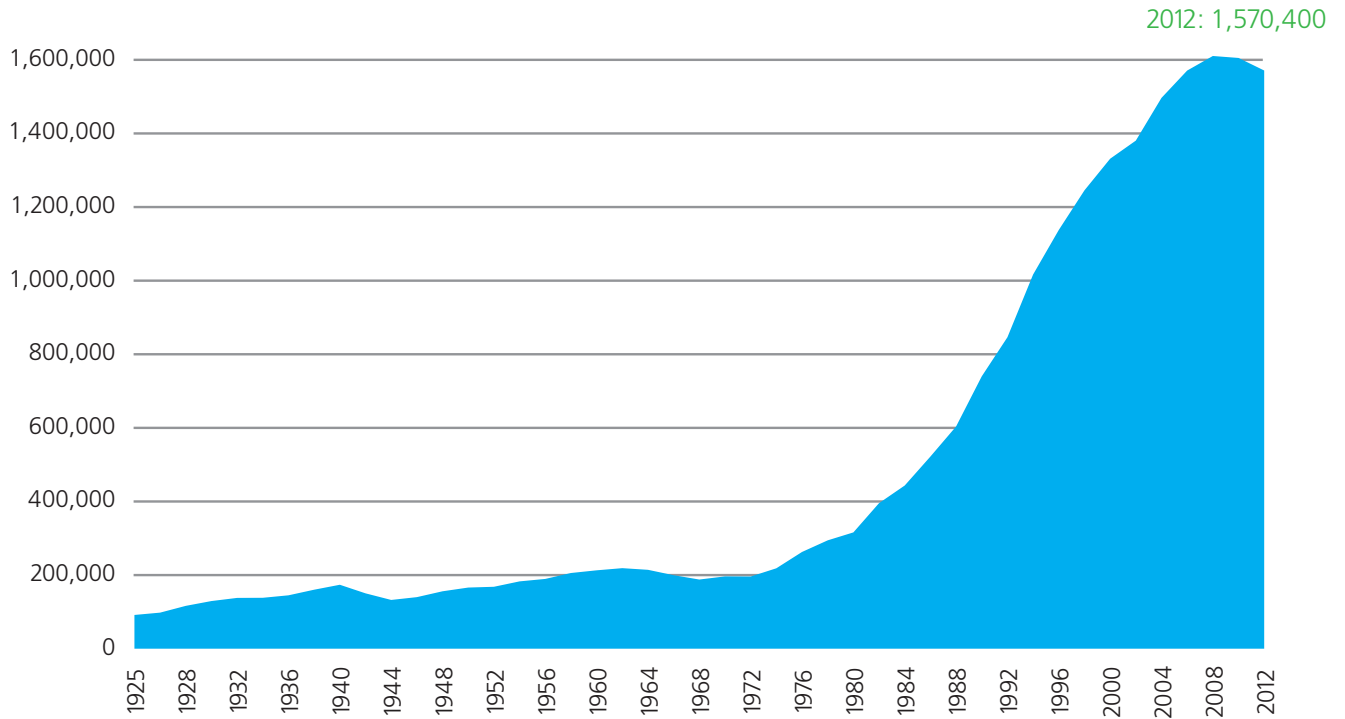


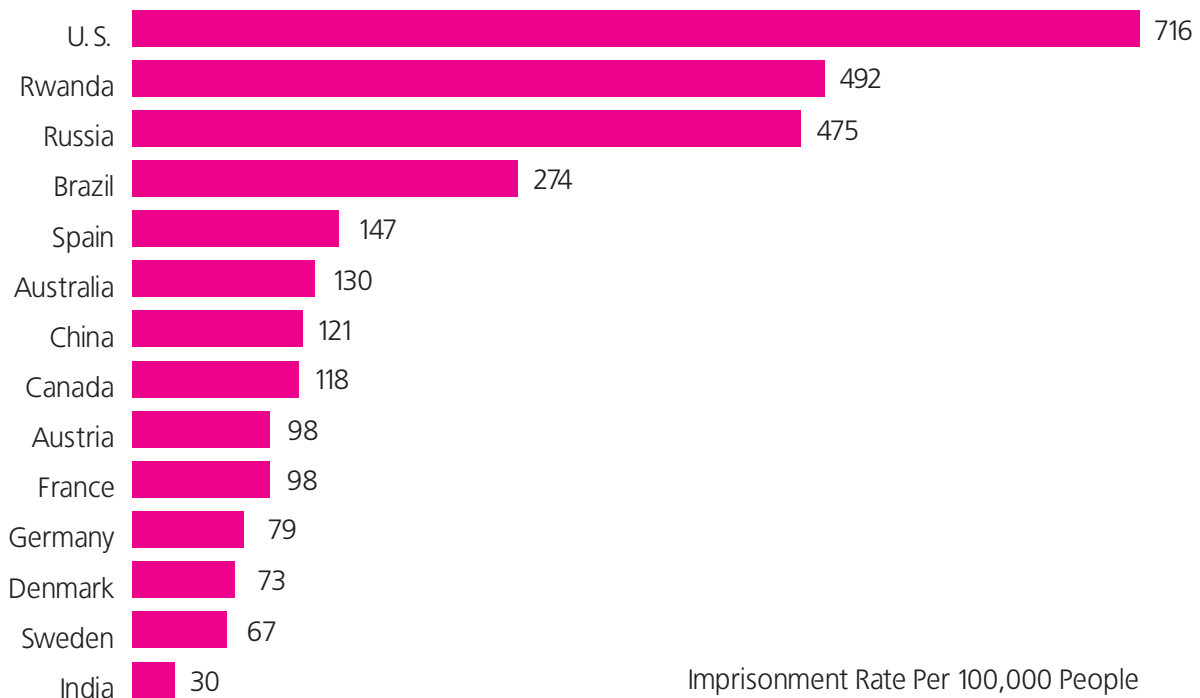
# TRENDS IN U.S. CORRECTIONS

U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2012



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoners Series*.

International Rates of Incarceration, 2012/2013



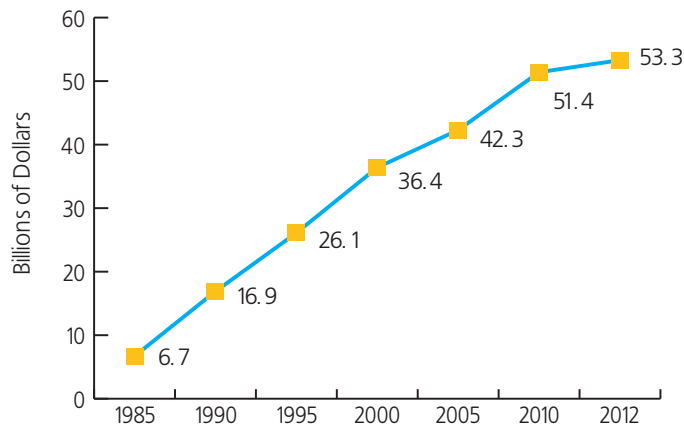
Imprisonment Rate Per 100,000 People

Source: Walmsley, R. (2013). *World Population List, 10th Ed.* Essex: International Centre for Prison Studies.

## 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.

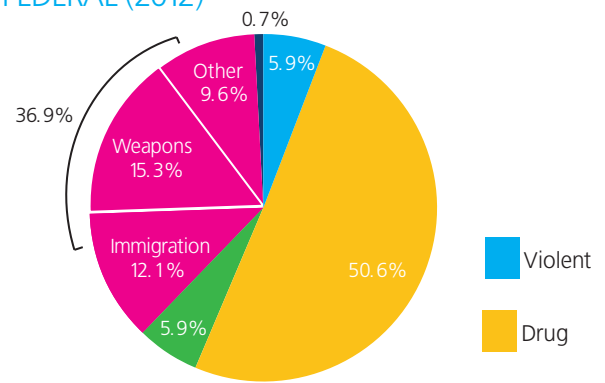
### State Expenditures on Corrections, 1985-2012



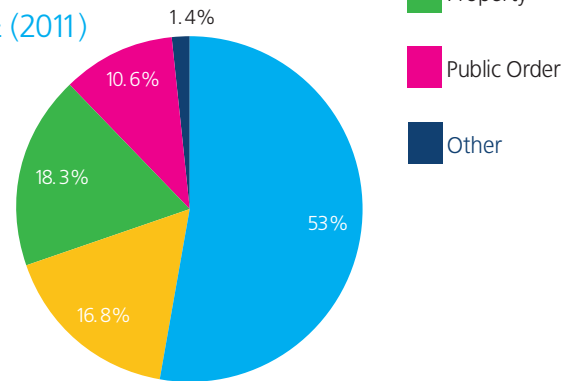
Source: National Association of State Budget Officers (1985-2012). *State Expenditure Report Series*. Washington, D.C.: National Association of State Budget Officers.

## State & Federal Prison Population by Offense

### FEDERAL (2012)

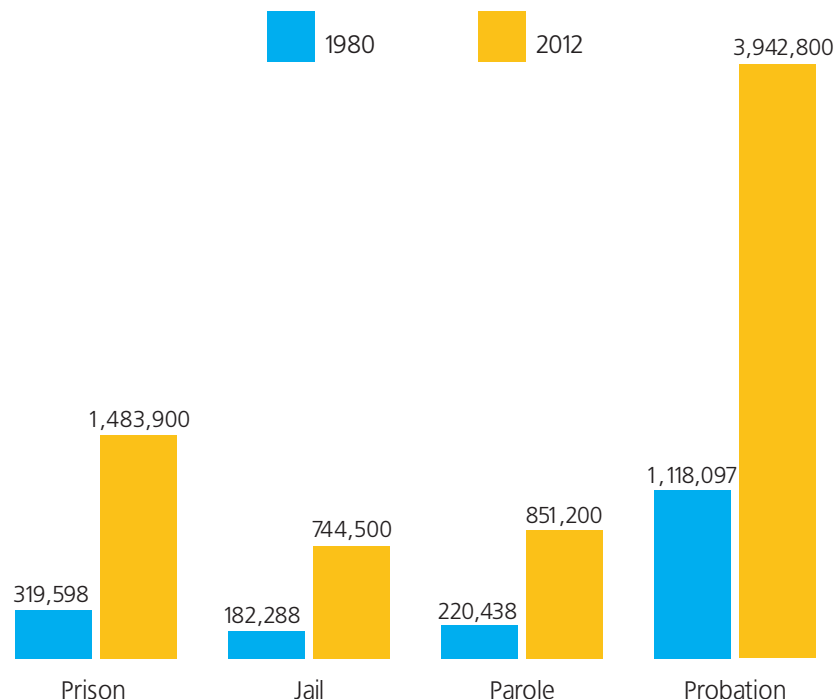


### STATE (2011)



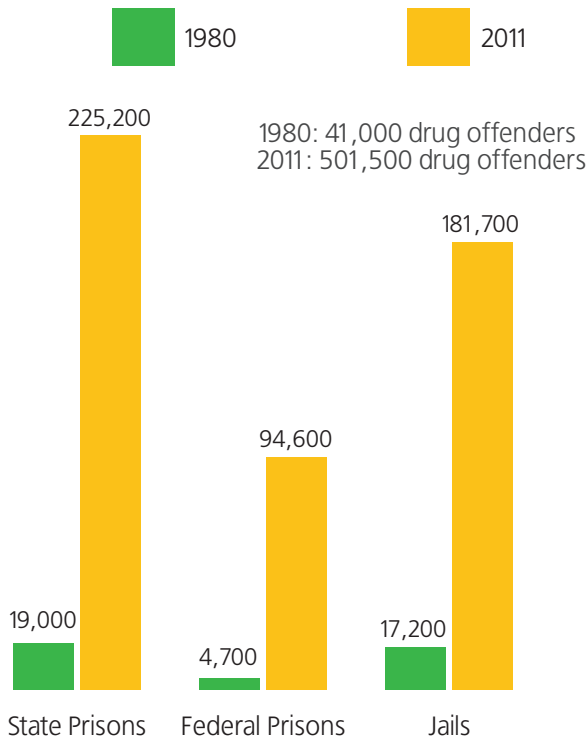
Source: Carson, E.A. and Golinelli, D. (2013). *Prisoners in 2012*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Carson, E.A. and Sabol, W.J. (2012). *Prisoners in 2011*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## Population Under Control of the U.S. Corrections System, 1980 & 2012



Source: Glaze, L. E. and Herberman, E.J. (2011). *Correctional Populations in the United States, 2012*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics; *Corrections: Key Facts at a Glance*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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



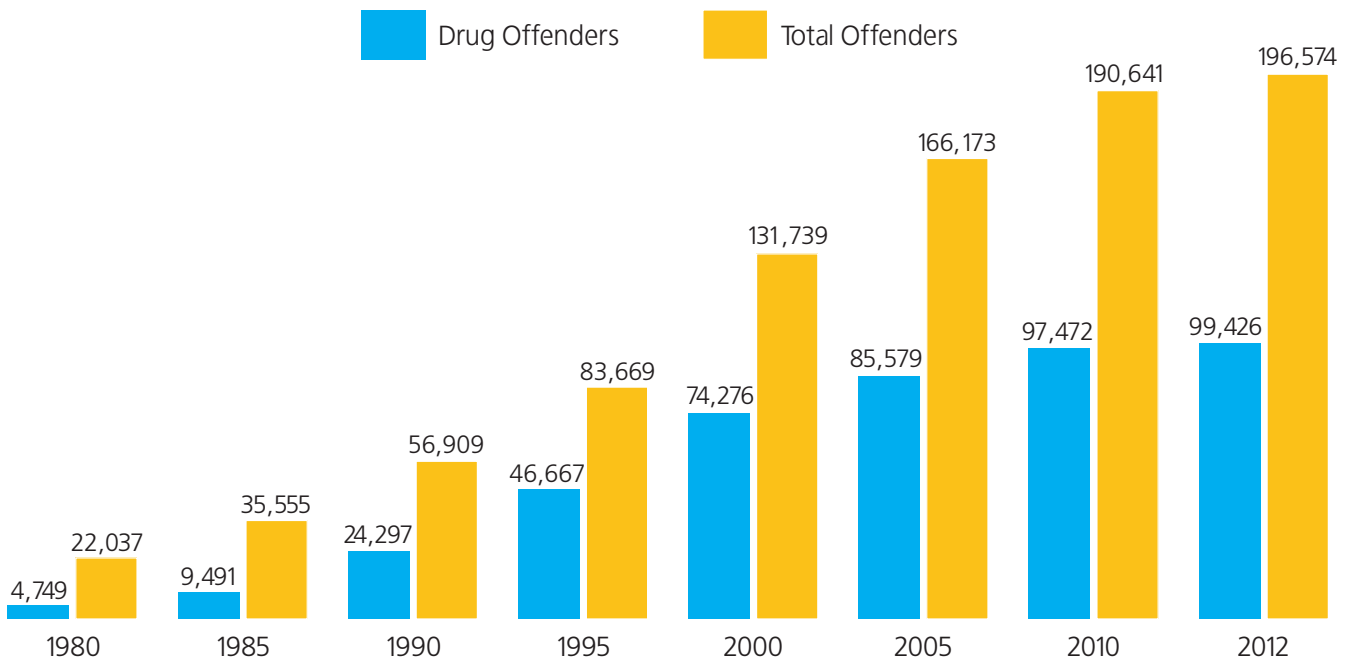
Sources: Carson, E.A. and Sabol, W.J. (2012). *Prisoners in 2011*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Mauer, M. and King, R. (2007). *A 25-Year Quagmire: The War on Drugs and its Impact on American Society*. Washington, D.C.: The Sentencing Project.

### DRUG POLICY

Sentencing policies of the War on Drugs 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 2011. 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. At the state level the number of drug offenders in prison 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, 1980-2012

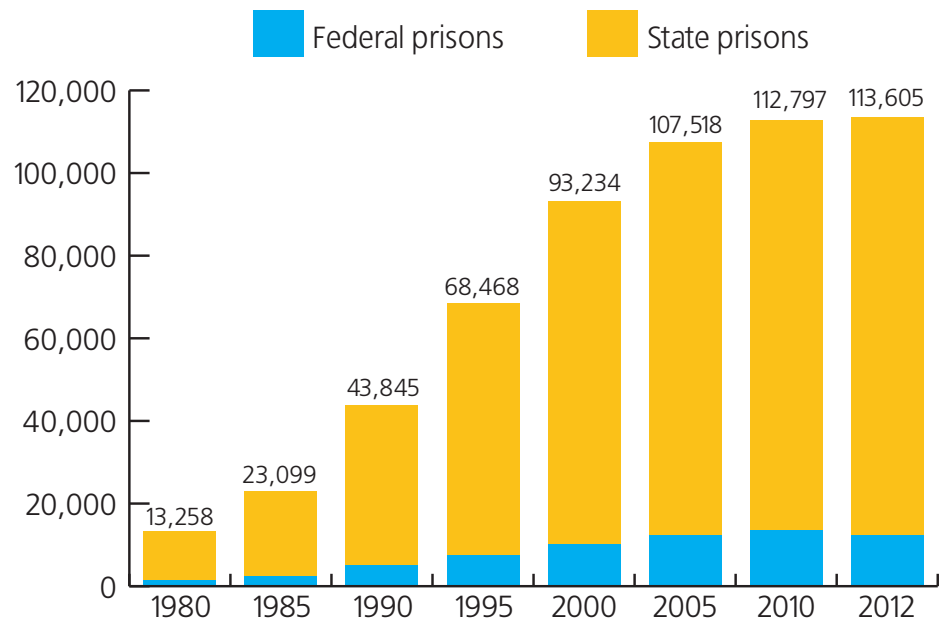


Sources: *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online*; Carson, E.A. and Golinelli, D. (2013). *Prisoners in 2012*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## 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.

### Number of Women in State and Federal Prisons, 1980-2012



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

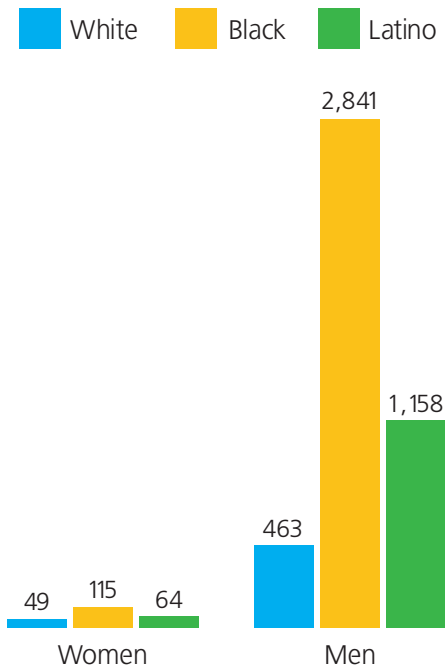
### Highest and Lowest State Incarceration Rates (per 100,000), 2012

Women (National = 63)		Overall (National = 480)		Men (National = 910)	
State	Rate	State	Rate	State	Rate
<b>HIGHEST</b>		<b>HIGHEST</b>		<b>HIGHEST</b>	
Oklahoma	127	Louisiana	893	Louisiana	1,720
Idaho	126	Mississippi	717	Mississippi	1,370
Kentucky	114	Alabama	650	Alabama	1,234
Arizona <sup>a</sup>	101	Oklahoma	648	Oklahoma	1,178
Louisiana	101	Texas	601	Texas	1,121
<b>LOWEST</b>		<b>LOWEST</b>		<b>LOWEST</b>	
Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	15	Maine	145	Maine	276
Massachusetts <sup>c</sup>	15	Minnesota	184	Minnesota	344
Maine	20	Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	190	North Dakota	372
New York	22	Massachusetts <sup>c</sup>	200	Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	376
New Jersey	23	New Hampshire	211	New Hampshire	396

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. and 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, 2012

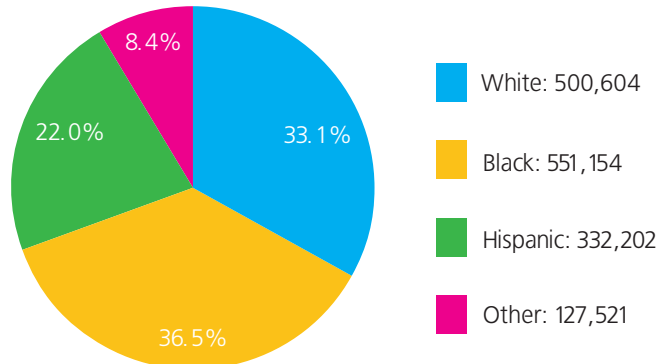


Source: Carson, E.A. and Golinelli, D. (2013). *Prisoners in 2012*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

### RACIAL DISPARITIES

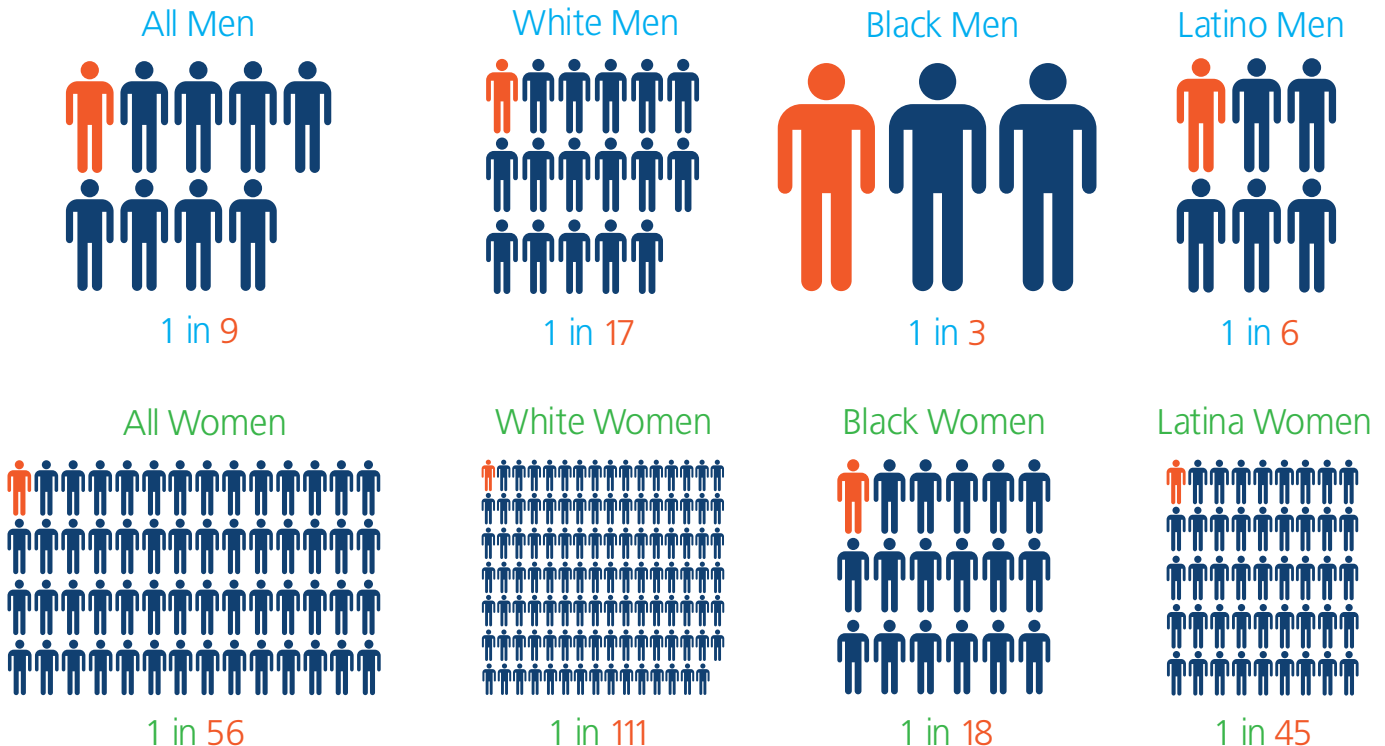
More than 60% of the people in prison today are people of color. Black men are six times more likely to be incarcerated than white men and 2.5 times more likely than Hispanic men. For black men in their thirties, 1 in every 10 is in prison or jail on any given day.

### People in State and Federal Prisons, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012



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

### Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment

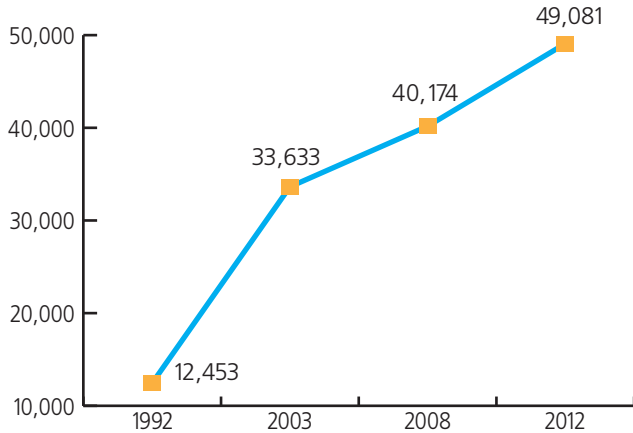


Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

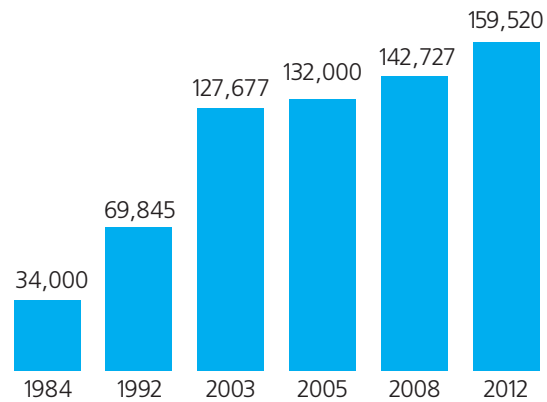
## LIFE SENTENCES

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 lifer 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

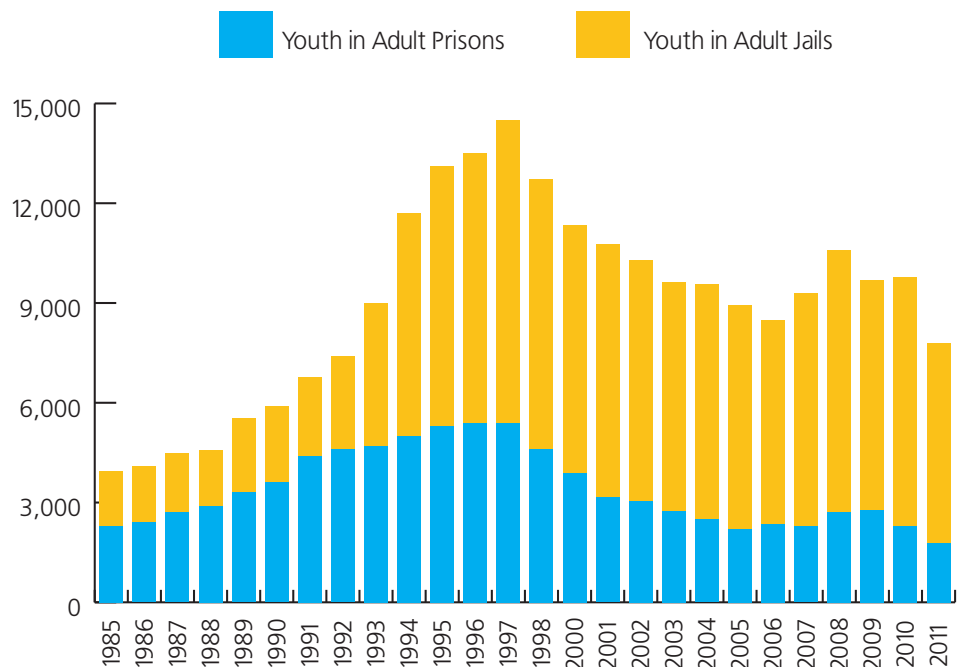


Source: Nellis, A. (2013). *Life Goes On: The Historic Rise in Life Sentences in America*. Washington, D.C.: The Sentencing Project.

## 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.

Number of Youth Held in Adult Prisons and Jails, 1985-2011



Sources: Austin, J., Johnson, K. D., & Gregoriou, M. (2000). *Juveniles in Adult Prisons and Jails: A National Assessment*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Assistance; Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear Series*; Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoner Series*. Strom, K. J. (2000). *Profile of State Prisoners under Age 18, 1985-1997*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Updated September 2014