AMERICA BEHIND BARS

NO OTHER COUNTRY imprisons more people than the United States. Mass incarceration exacts tremendous costs on our society, with destructive effects on individuals, families, and communities.

2.4 million People incarcerated in the United States (larger than the population of New Mexico)

4.8 million People on probation or parole

IN 2013, THE U.S. PRISON POPULATION INCLUDED:

3% of all Black men in the U.S.
1% of all Latino men in the U.S.
0.5% of all white men in the U.S.

THE FASTEST-GROWING SEGMENT OF THE PRISON POPULATION:

213,700 women in federal and state prisons and local jails in 2013, a 25 percent increase since 2000.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND SENIORS:

54,148 juveniles in detention facilities
69,776 people age 60 and over in state and federal prisons

The people behind the numbers

LIFETIME LIKELIHOOD OF IMPRISONMENT FOR:

African-American men 1 in 3
Latino men 1 in 6
White men 1 in 17
African-American women 1 in 19
Latino women 1 in 45
White women 1 in 118

The lasting legacy of “tough on crime” laws

PUNISHMENT IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM:

159,520 people serving life sentences
81,622 people in solitary confinement
3,095 people on death row

PRISON POPULATION, BY CONVICTION

VIOLENT 7%
DRUG 50.7%
PROPERTY 18.8%
PUBLIC ORDER 35.7%
OTHER 0.7%

The social and economic costs

Every year, millions of families feel the impact of mass incarceration.

1.7 million children in the U.S. with a parent in prison (1 in 28 kids)
1 in 9 Black children with a father or mother in prison
54 percent of prisoners are parents with children under 18

COST OF INCARCERATION:

$39 billion U.S. spending on incarceration every year
$31,286 Average cost per prisoner per year

To learn more, visit afsc.org/prisons