

# Hepatitis C and Corrections

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## Incarceration and Disease an Opportunity to

- Diagnose
- Treat (including linkage to treatment in the community after release)
- Prevent (education and risk reduction)

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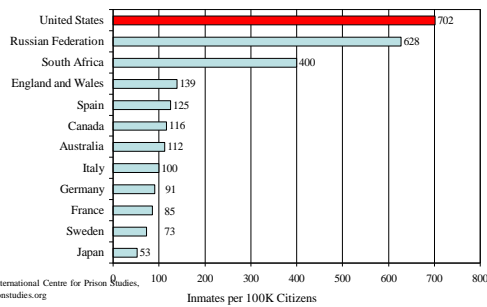
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The U.S. imprisons more people per capita than any other country in the world. In the 1990s alone, our inmate population grew by 239%.



Source: International Centre for Prison Studies, [www.prisonstudies.org](http://www.prisonstudies.org)

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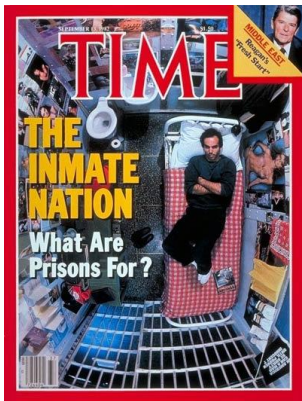
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### Epidemic of Incarceration



In 2010, 2.3 million persons are incarcerated in the U.S.

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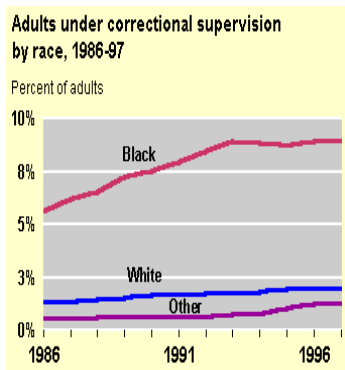
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## 1 in 100 Behind Bars in the United States (2008)

- Incarceration rates for males  $\geq 18$  years of age
  - White: 1 in 106
  - Latino: 1 in 36
  - Blacks: 1 in 15 (1 in 9 aged 20-34 years)
- Incarceration rates for females 35-39 years of age
  - White: 1 in 335
  - Latino: 1 in 297
  - Blacks: 1 in 100

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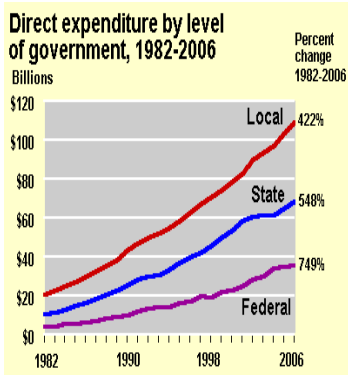
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1 of every 15 state general fund dollars spent (\$44 billion)

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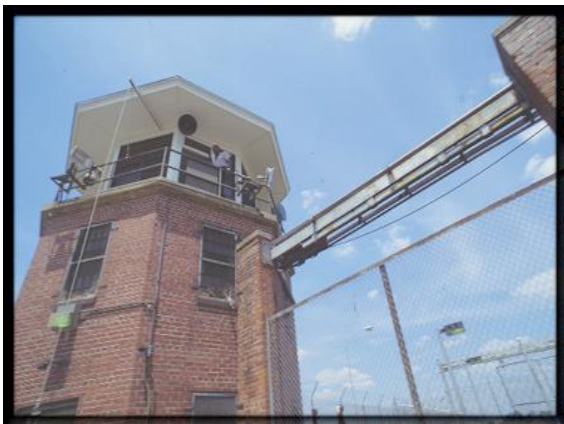
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## Epidemic of Incarceration

- Untreated mental illness and addiction
- Deinstitutionalization / dissolution of mental health care facilities
- Criminalization of drug use
  - War on Drugs
  - Mandatory minimum sentencing

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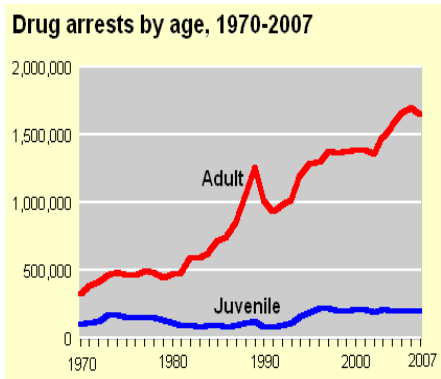
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## Who's Incarcerated?

- 44% men and 52% women prisoners meet criteria for alcohol/drug dependence (Karberg & James, 2005)
  - 39% men, 80% women nonviolent or drug offenders
- 60-83% were either under the influence during offense; committed offense to support drug addiction; or charged with a drug/alcohol related crime (Belenko & Peugh, 1998)

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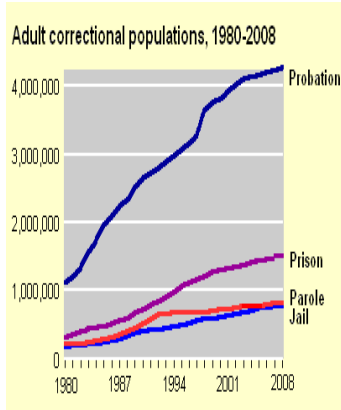
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Sources: RIDOC 2003 Annual Report (Offense categories are based on most-serious offense); Petrosillo, *When Disasters Come Home*, Oxford: New York, 2003; HRW, *It's Escaped*, 2003; The Providence Plan Analysis on RIDOC Sentenced Population as of 9/30/2003



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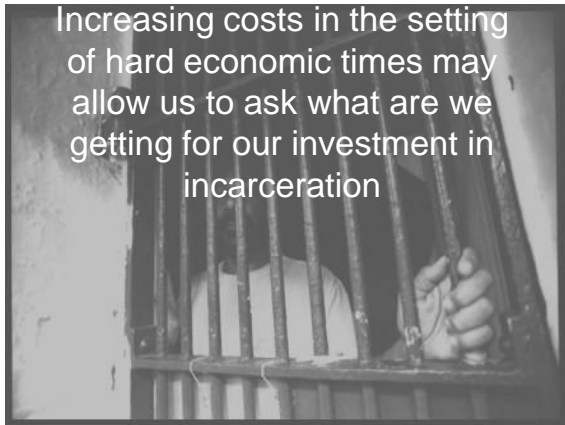
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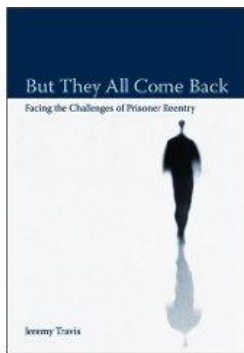
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## Reentry: *But They All Come Back*

- Over 95% of prisoners are released to their communities.<sup>2</sup>
- 735,000 individuals released from state and federal prisons in 2008.<sup>3</sup>
- Approximately 9 million individuals are released from jail each year.<sup>4</sup>

Hughes, T. & D.J., 2002.  
West, Sabol, & Cooper., 2009.  
Beck, A.J., 2006.

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## Post Release Dangers

- Mortality
- Overdose
- Communicable diseases
- Relapse
- Re-incarceration

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## Key Strategy: Continuity of Care

- Step 1: Identify disease and begin treatment
  - Screening incarcerated populations
  - Initiation of treatment
  
- Step 2: Maintain continuous care
  - Discharge planning and linkage to care in the community
  - Prevent transmission

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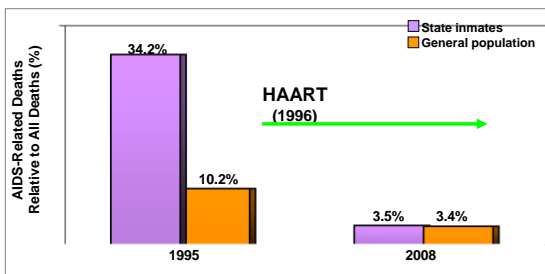
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## AIDS-Related Mortality Achieves Parity in Prisons and the General Population



Manuschak LM. *Bur Justice Stat Bull.* December 2009. Available at: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/hivp08.pdf>.

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Questions/Comments?

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