In 1971 President Richard Nixon declared a "War On Drugs".

Sources: Justice Policy Institute Report: The Punishing Decade, & U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics

1984: Sentencing Reform Act (SRA)
United States is the World's Leading Jailer

Prisoners per 100,000 Population - 2008

The World's Leading Jailers

Prisoners of the World - 2008

Federal Drug Control Budget (in billions)


Note: As of 2004, ONDCP has changed its budgetary reporting practices, and no longer includes costs of enforcement and incarceration as part of its 'Federal Drug Control Budget'.

The November Coalition
282 West Astor • Colville, WA 99114 • (509) 684-1550 • www.november.org
Racial Demographic: America's Prison Population 2008

- Black: 38%
- White: 34%
- Hispanic: 20%
- Other: 8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics
Bulletin NCJ 228417 - Prisoners in 2008
America's Prisoners per 100,000 Population, by Race - 2008


Women are the single fastest growing demographic in U.S. prisons

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics
Drug Sellers By Race
(Percent, based on survey response)

Source: 2004 National Survey on Drug Use & Health, U.S. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
Changes in State Spending 1985 - 2004

Source: The New Landscape of Imprisonment: Mapping America's Prison Expansion from The Urban Institute, 2004

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U.S. Prison Proliferation, 1900-2000

People in state and federal prisons: 1,312,354. Rate per 100,000 U.S. residents: 478

In addition to the prisons represented here, the United States has more than 3,000 jails holding people awaiting trial or serving short sentences. Overall, the United States incarcerated over 2 million people (one in every 143 U.S. residents) in prisons and jails at yearend 2000.¹

Year Prison Opened: • 1778 - 1900 • 1901 - 1940 • 1941 - 1980 • 1981 - 2000
