



Fact Sheet

1. *All punishment should have a beginning and an end...*

- At year end 2006, there were 3,042 black male sentenced prison inmates per 100,000 black males in the United States, compared to 1,261 Hispanic male inmates per 100,000 Hispanic males and 487 white male inmates per 100,000 white males.
- A criminal record can affect food stamps, welfare, and public housing eligibility.

2. *Background checks affect certain groups more than others...*

- It is estimated that 16 million persons have a criminal record, representing almost 13% of the adult male population and one third of the black adult male population.

3. *Prisons are not state hospitals...*

- Nearly a quarter of both State prisoners and jail inmates who had a mental health problem, compared to a fifth of those without, had served 3 or more prior incarcerations.
- Female inmates had higher rates of mental health problems than male inmates (State prisons: 73% of females and 55% of males; Federal prisons: 61% of females and 44% of males; local jails: 75% of females and 63% of males).
- Only 1 in 3 State prisoners, 1 in 4 Federal prisoners, and 1 in 6 jail inmates who had a mental health problem had received treatment since admission.

4. *All consequences should be shared with offender prior to conviction...*

- People are not informed of the collateral sanctions of the crimes to which they are asked to plead guilty, including losing the right to be employed in certain types of occupations.

5. *It is responsibility of the state to provide rehabilitative opportunities...*

- At least 95% of all State prisoners will be released from prison at some point; nearly 80% will be released to parole supervision.

6. *Punishment should fall on offender and not children, families and communities...*

- In 1999, it was estimated that over half (55%) of the prisoners in US Federal and State prisons (721,500 men and women), were parents of minor children and 33% were parents of multiple minor children. Over 60% of State prisoners and 80% of Federal prisoners were held more than 100 miles from their last residence.

7. *We demand pragmatic and cost-effective approaches to public safety...*

- Prison operations consumed about 77% of State correctional costs in FY 2001.
- State correctional expenditures increased 145% in 2001 constant dollars from \$15.6 billion in FY 1986 to 38.2 billion in FY 2001; prison expenditures increased 150% from \$11.7 billion to \$29.5 billion.