JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE

President Nixon creates the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and declares "an all out global war on the drug menace," officially endorsing a wave of legislative and police action that began under President Eisenhower. Forty-nine percent of the U.S. federal prison population is now directly related to the "War on Drugs," and costs the country more than one trillion dollars.¹

New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller introduces to stiffen drug offense sentences The laws passed determined that possession convictions would yield a minimum of 15 years to life.²



Deinstitutionalization of mental health hospitals began with the implementation of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act in California, with all other states following suit by the early 1990s.⁷



The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Gregg v. *Georgia* that capital punishment was not ability to sentence and execute. This contributed greatly to the incarceration and sentencing practices in the 1980s.⁴



Congress passes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, which prevents youth involvement in the justice system through a unified national program. It also establishes the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.³

Following the kidnapping and murder of six-year-old Adam Walsh, his father, John Walsh, created and hosted the popular Fox TV show, "America's Most Wanted" which profiles at-large fugitives.⁸ The Reagan administration repeals the Mental Health Systems Act and cuts mental health funding by about 25%.⁹

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The Mental Health Systems Act signed into law to provide funding for community mental health programs in the face of deinstitutionalization of mental health hospitals.⁵

CNN begins 24/7 news coverage, leading to the increase of media influencing policy.

The 98th U.S. Congress passes and President Reagan signs the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 which abolishes the federal parole system while still providing a supervised release program for sentences longer than one year. This greatly affects the number of people in prison.¹

The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 permits policing agencies to seize assets, such as homes, cars and personal finances, incurred following drug-related arrests. Seized property was often used by police departments to buy vehicles, buildings, equipment and to run operations.

Corrections Corporation of America incorporates and launches its first detention center in 1984, opening the private prison market and influencing the "business" of prisons.¹²

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is founded by the Los Angeles Police Department to teach K-12 students to avoid drugs. Despite D.A.R.E.'s presence in 75% of national school districts, the program has not proven effective in preventing drug use among students; several districts across the nation have dropped the program.¹³

1982 41j,t

The Atlantic Monthly publishes influential article "Broken Windows," theorizing that unaddressed crimes in cities can lead to the degradation of those cities. It claimed that even "broken windows" vandalism or graffiti "crimes" must be prosecuted because they lead to more serious crimes.¹

During an anti-drug tour, First Lady Nancy Reagan first uses the phrase "Just say no," when asked by a little girl what to do if someone offers her drugs. Bv 1988, 12.000 schools nationwide adopt the slogan.¹¹

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The Central Park Jogger case and other cases involving youth sparked speculation about youth violence, leading to the birth of the term super predator" and predictions of heinous violence among youth in the early 1990s. The predictions did not play out; nonetheless, laws enabling easier prosecution of youth as adults were implemented in many states.¹⁷



Congress passes the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. It established mandatory minimums for drug offenders and imposes harsher sentences for crack cocaine than for powder aine which has had a der minority populations who come into contact with the criminal justice system.¹⁶

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 set "a drug-free America" as a policy goal.¹⁸ The GEO Group, originally Wackenhut Corporation, incorporates, creating a multi-national private prison companythe second largest of its kind to operate in the United States.¹⁹

THESE NUMBERS SHOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE IN STATE OR FEDERAL PRISONS FOR EACH YEAR FROM 1970 - 2011. WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

= NUMBER OF PEOPLE



Rodney King is brutally beaten by four white Los Angeles Police Department officers after a car chase. An amateur video of the event was slipped to the media, exposing police brutality and starting a campaign to expose police practices. The officers were acquitted, resulting in race riots in Los Angeles and the subsequent deaths of 50 people.²

truTV, originally CourtTV, is formed as a network edicated to live trial coverage. The network gets its start covering the Menendez Brothers and O.J Simpson murder trials, features shows such as "Homicide: Life on the Street," and "Forensic Files." It eventually introduces controversial, tough-on-crime personalities like Nancy Grace to the public.²⁴

1998 I,224,469 🌢

As part of Congress' 1998 Anti-Drug Abuse Act, the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance to provide federal funding primarily aimed at combating drug abuse and drug trafficking to state and local policing jurisdictions.³³

1997 1,176,564 🎍

Justice Policy Institute founded to report on justice reforms and reduce the justice system's reliance on incarceration.³²

Prop 215 passed in California legalizing medical marijuana. This is the first in a string of California initiatives intended to reduce penalties and increase treatment for drug use.³¹



Two Columbine, Colorado, high school students shoot and kill 12 students, a teacher and injure several others before committing suicide. The massacre sparked controversy over school safety, ushering metal detectors and school resource officers into many schools.³⁴



President Clinton signs the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 which granted funding to police departments for increased personnel and presence on the streets, directly increasing the police presence by over 100,000 in the first two years following passage,²⁸ and gave federal grants to states that proved their laws led to inmates serving at least 85 percent of their sentence.²⁹ A section of this legislation, the *Violence* Against Women Act, allocated \$1.6 billion to enhance investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against women. Another section, the Wetterling Act, required states to instate registries

The American Bail Coalition joins forces with the American Legislative Exchange Council.³⁰

for sex offenders and crimes against children

112,jb4 💩

- Drug courts emerge as an alternative to incarceration with the intention of clearing court dockets, diverting drug users to rehabilitative treatment instead of incarceration.²⁰
- "COPS" is released on FOX's primetime lineup.² One year later, "Law and Order" airs its pilot episode, creating a new stream of popular culture surrounding crime, police work, the legal process, and the criminal justice system.²²



The FBI announces the Safe Streets Violent Crime Initiative, which created a series of specialized gang task forces around the country.²⁵

The American Bail Coalition is formed to promote the use of for-profit commercial bail bondsmen in the criminal justice system.²⁶

the nation's first "three strikes" law, which mandates life without parole for defendants convicted of certain felonies for the third time.²⁷



2010 1,612,1/1

In Graham v. Florida, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that juveniles cannot be sentenced to life without parole for crimes in which no one is killed.⁴⁵

Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 was passed to reduce the 100 to 1 disparity between crack and powder cocaine possessions laws to 18 to 1. Mandatory minimum sentencing around crack cocaine possession convictions is also eliminated. This has tremendous implication in reducing racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

2009 1,613,/40 🎍

New York state lawmakers eliminate

mandatory minimum sentences for first-

time drug offenders, effectively dismantling

2013

A school shooting in Sandy Hook, Connection has renewed the gun control debate with the NRA pushing pro-policing and pro-gun policies while former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, victim of the 2011 Tucson, AZ, shooting announces the formation of a political action committee, Americans for Responsible Solutions, to counteract the influence of the gun lobby.

2011 1,598,/80 🛦

2002 1,440,144

n Atkins v. Virginia, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the death penalty for mentally retarded individuals is a Constitutional violation.³⁸

the 36-year-old Rockefeller drug laws.44 **2003** 1,468,601 🏻

In Ewing v. California, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds "three strikes" laws.³⁹

California's Proposition 21, the Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative revamps the state's juvenile justice system by increasing the prosecutor's authority to choose whether or not a child is tried as an adult-at the cost of juvenile judges' discretion.³⁵

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (Proposition 34) passes in California, permanently changing state law to allow first and second-time drug violators to receive treatment rather than imprisonment-the nation's most ambitious drug rehabilitation treatment experiment.³⁶



The World Trade Center's towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. are attacked by three hijacked airplanes, with a fourth maneuvered into crash-landing in Pennsylvania. These attacks lead to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, which is dedicated to fighting terrorism domestically and the increased enforcement of immigration laws.³⁷

2005 1,52/,929

In United States v. Booker, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that when imposing a sentence, federal judges must only consider the facts admitted or proven beyond a reasonable doubt at trial. This ended judges' ability to impose harsher sentences due to federal sentencing guidelines.⁴⁰

2006 1,569,945 🛦

Jena High School in Louisiana makes major headlines over a prosecutor allegedly targeting students on racial grounds.⁴¹ The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 expands sex offender registries and increases federal punishments for crimes against children.⁴²

NO DATA 🛎 2012

In Miller v. Alabama, the Supreme Court ruled that juveniles convicted of murder cannot be sentenced to life in prison without parole.⁴⁶

The fatal shooting of teenager Trayvon Martin by a local vigilante sparked a national outcry against potentially racist motivations in the way the case was handled and led to a re-examination of Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, a gun policy promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

During the November elections, voters in state elections in Colorado and Washington state support the legalization of marijuana while Massachusetts voters allowed for the use of medical marijuana. California revised its "three strikes" law so that "third strike" misdemeanors do not qualify a 25-to-life sentence.



President Bush signs the *Second Chance Act of* 2007, which increases the programs that people have access to in prison and reforms the re-entry process to give those released a second chance at success.4

The Great Recession hits U.S. financial markets leading to government bail outs of major companies in the banking and automobile industries. State budgets are strained across the nation causing a re-examination of correctional spending.

