



***Moving
Target***

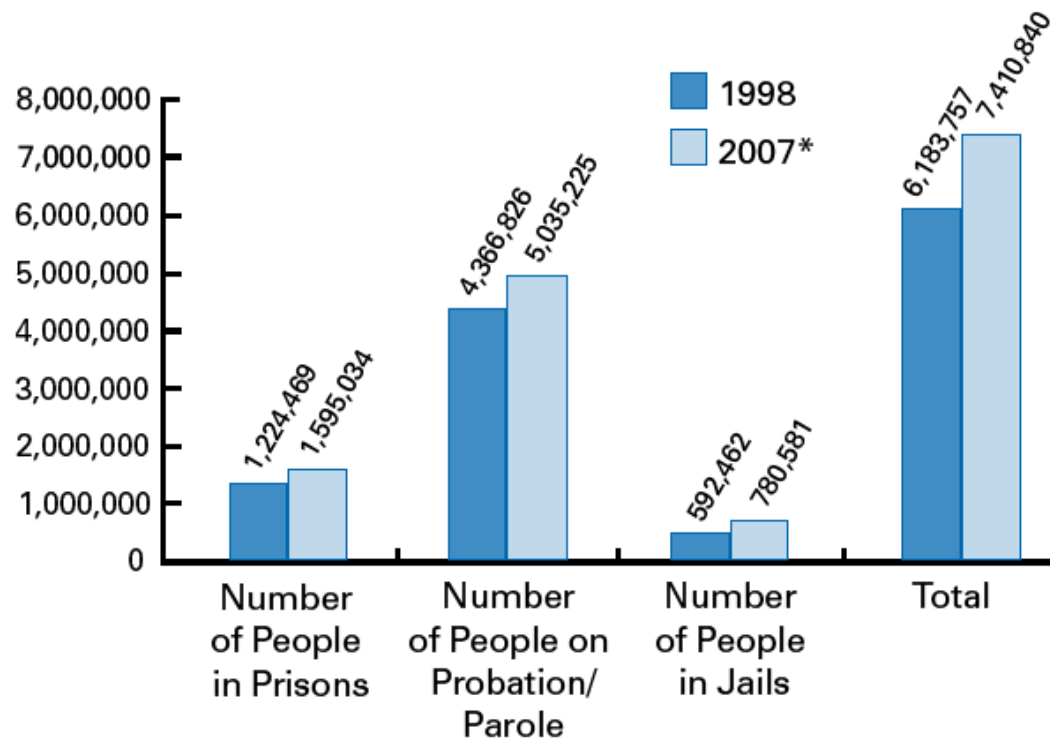
*A Decade of Resistance to the
Prison Industrial Complex*

Ten Years of Destabilizing the Prison Industrial Complex

- **Family and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Youth** led the effort to close Tallulah, an abusive youth prison.
- **Community Unity Coalition**, which included Critical Resistance, built a movement to defeat a proposed 2,000 bed jail in the south Bronx.
- **Campaign for Telephone Justice** reduced the financial burdens to families when trying to stay connected with imprisoned loved ones.
- **Critical Resistance** and its allies across the country have built dynamic partnerships including educators, environmental justice advocates, and members of labor and faith-based communities to dismantle the PIC.

However, more people than ever are under the control of the criminal justice system

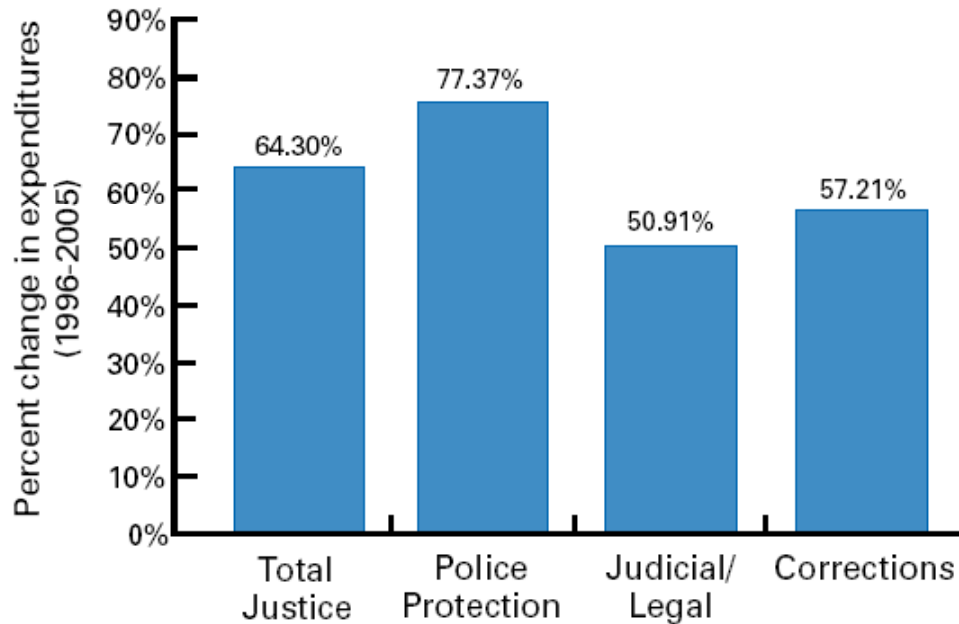
In 2007, there were more than 7.4 million people under the control of the criminal justice system.



*2007 numbers are as of June 30, 2007. Probation and parole numbers are from 2006; 2007 numbers are not yet available.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Key Facts at a Glance: Correctional Populations," www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/corr2tab.htm; William J. Sabol and Heather Couture, *Prison Inmates at Midyear 2007* (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2008), www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pim07.htm; William J. Sabol and Todd D. Minton, *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2007* (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2008), www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/jim07.htm.

The financial costs continue to rise...

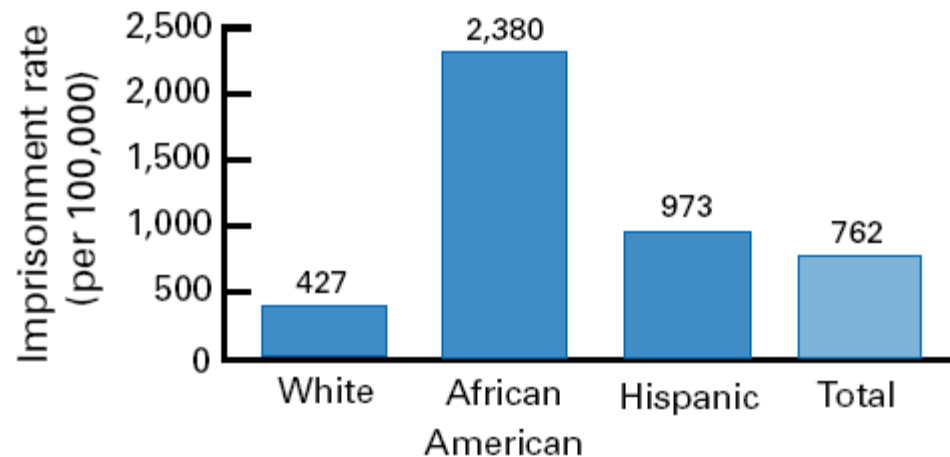
Total justice expenditures across federal, state and local governments have grown 64 percent in the last decade.



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Expenditure National Estimates," *Expenditure and Employment Database*, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/data online/Search/EandE/index.cfm>.

and communities of color continue to bear the burden of imprisonment.

African Americans are more than five times as likely as whites and more than twice as likely as Hispanics to be imprisoned in a jail or prison in the U.S.



Source: William J. Sabol and Heather Couture, *Prison Inmates at Midyear 2007* (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2008).

Financial incentives keep prisons full

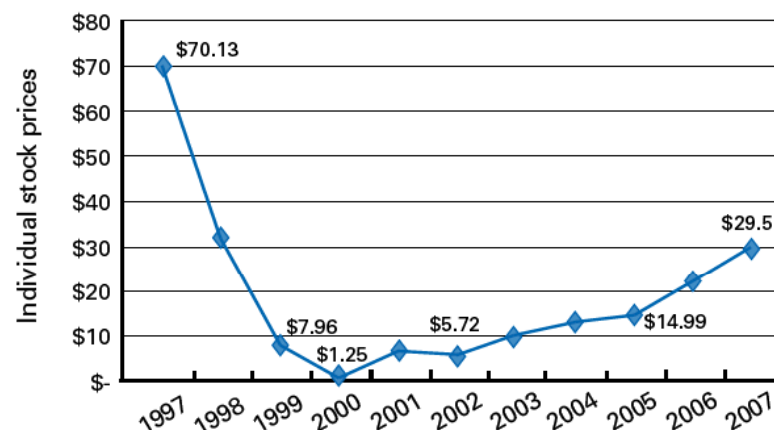
Private prison industries, like Corrections Corporation of America, continue to build and manage prisons for profit.

Prison Industries, like the Federal Prison Industries, a corporation of the Federal Bureau of Prisons generated \$67 million in profits for states in 2002.

Private Industry in Prison: Companies often pay people in prison below minimum wage to perform “low-skill” jobs. Victoria Secret, Starbucks, and Dell have used prison labor in the past.

Industry in Surrounding Communities: Although public officials often claim prisons will bring jobs to rural or economically depressed areas, there is usually no economic improvement. One study found that only 10 percent of jobs in a new prison in one prison town went to people already in the community.

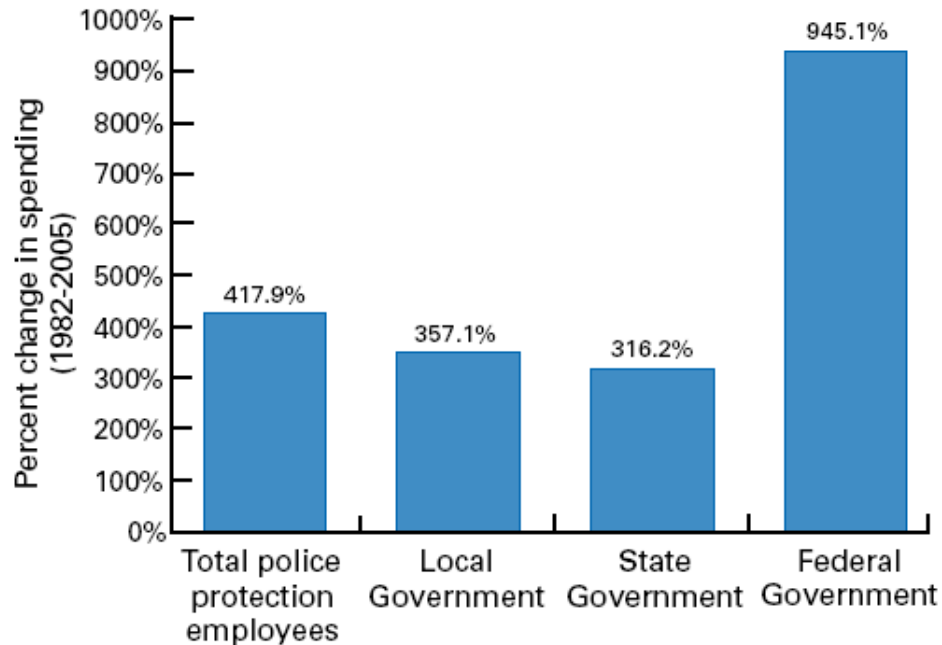
After experiencing a 98 percent drop between 1997 and 2000, Corrections Corporation of America stock prices are steadily increasing.



Source: Corrections Corporation of America, "Historic Stock Lookup," May 29, 2008, <http://investor.shareholder.com/cxw/stocklookup.cfm>.

The gateway to prison widens through policing

All expenditures on police protection has increased more than 400 percent.

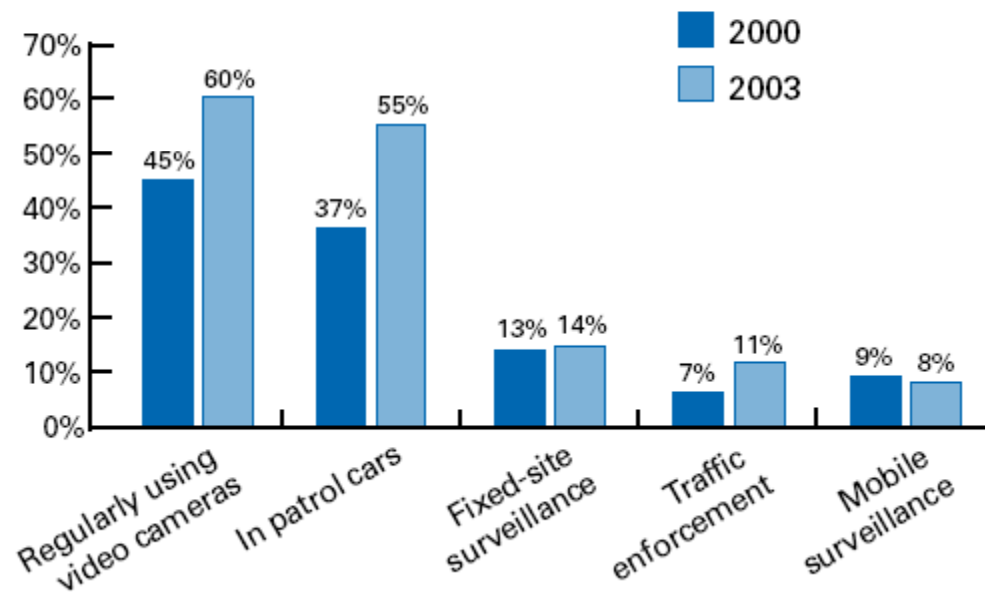


Note: These figures have been adjusted for inflation.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Justice Expenditure and Employment: Annually since 1982."

Increased surveillance further widens the gateway to the criminal justice system

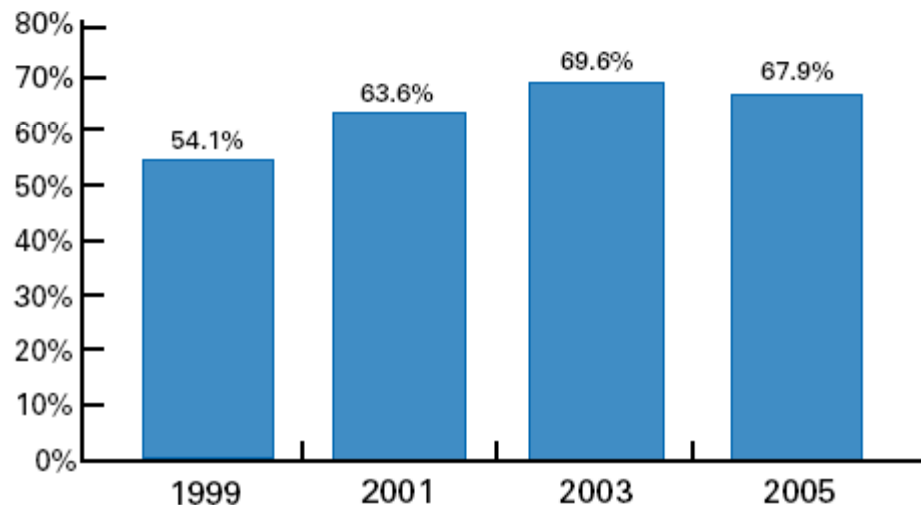
In just three years, the number of police departments regularly using surveillance cameras has increased 15 percent.



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Local Police Departments 2000," Table 48, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/lpd00.htm; Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Local Police Departments 2003," Table 63, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/lpd03.htm.

Specialized police, particularly in schools, contribute to the overall increase in policing

The percentage of youth ages 12 to 18 reporting security officers in their schools increased nearly 14 percent between 1999 and 2005.



Source: Rachel Dinkes, Emily Forrest Cataldi, and Wendy Lin-Kelly, *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2007* (Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2007), <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008021>.

The prison industrial complex relies on the criminalization of certain actions to thrive.

War on Drugs: The number of people in prison for drug offenses has increased 21 percent between 1995 and 2003. More recently, the war on drugs is waged with paramilitary-style tactics. In the past 20 years, there has been a 1,400 percent increase in the total number of SWAT team deployments.

Criminalizing Poverty: The National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty issued a report in 2006 that surveyed 224 cities around the country on their laws involving the criminalization of homelessness and found that 27 percent of cities prohibited sitting or lying in certain public places and 43 percent prohibited begging in certain places.

Criminalization of Immigration: The number of U.S. Border Patrol agents nearly tripled to 11,268 between 1990 and 2005. In FY 2006 alone, 1,500 more agents were added. Since 1995, the number of people held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in prisons and jails has increased more than 200 percent.

Media messages, public opinion, social policy, and government agencies legitimize criminalization of certain behaviors

Crime and Public Safety: The frequency with which media reports crime does not fluctuate with actual crime rates. In 1994 when the violent crime rate was at its peak, there were more than 2,500 media crime stories. But as the violent crime rate continued to fall, the number of crime stories continued to fluctuate for the next 10 years, regardless of trends in violent or property offenses.

Criminalization of Poverty: Researchers have found that television media relies on stereotypical assumptions about poverty and the symptoms of poverty (crime, drug use, mental illness) by linking those symptoms to visual cues and language (“abandoned house” or “drug-infested”). The words “poverty” or “poor” are rarely used and the description of poverty as the “sheer lack of income and wealth” is also not discussed. In one study, of the 239 news stories that mentioned symptoms of poverty, approximately 39 percent (147 stories) showed crime, drugs, and gangs as a manifestation of poverty.

Criminalization of Immigration: Public opinion polls document public fear about Latino immigrants coming to the United States not to commit a terrorist act but to take jobs from U.S. citizens, use services typically guaranteed to U.S. residents, and commit crimes. A 2006 Gallup Poll found that 48 percent of U.S. residents surveyed thought that there were too many immigrants coming to the U.S. from Latin American countries, compared to 19 percent for African countries, 20 percent from European countries, and 39 percent from Arab countries.

Communities of color and people living in poverty are disproportionately affected by the PIC.

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) found that in 2002, 8.5 percent of whites were current users of illicit drugs, compared to 9.7 percent of African Americans. However, a recent report by the Justice Policy Institute determined that African Americans are admitted to prison for drug offenses at 10 times the rate of whites.
- Data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics reveal that 83.5 percent of people in jail in 2002 earned less than \$2,000 per month prior to arrest.
- People of color are disproportionately affected by poverty and, thus are also more likely to be imprisoned. African Americans made up about 13 percent of the general population but approximately 22 percent of the people living in poverty and 40 percent of people in prisons and jails in 2006.

Positive social investments are the real alternatives to imprisonment

Invest in education: A policy brief by the Alliance for Excellent Education showed the monetary and public safety benefits of increasing graduation rates and found that a 5 percent increase in male high school graduation rates would produce an annual savings of almost \$5 billion in crime-related expenses.

Invest in Housing and community development: The Justice Policy Institute analyzed national and state-level spending on housing and community development and corrections expenditures and compared these expenditures to violent crime rates and prison incarceration rates from 2000 to 2005. An increase in spending on housing was associated with a decrease in violent crime at the national level and a decrease in incarceration rates at the state level.

Invest in evidence-based interventions: A study by the Washington State Institute of Public Policy reported lower recidivism rates and higher monetary benefits to taxpayers and crime victims when evidence-based programs such as Multisystemic therapy were administered instead of detention or unproven alternatives. For example, every dollar invested in Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) yields \$12.20 in benefits to crime victims and taxpayers.

Advocates must be just as innovative and flexible as the PIC to successfully destabilize it

Our efforts at reforming the prison system may inadvertently put more people in prison.

Specialty prisons seem to be growing in popularity among states to answer calls to decarcerate and provide treatment. However, organizations such as Californians United for a Responsible Budget has found that such institutions often confine people that otherwise would not have gone to prison at all.

Parole, although an increasingly popular mechanism to decrease prison populations in states, continues to be a secondary gateway to prison. There are currently approximately 750,000 people on parole in the U.S. In 2004, approximately one-third of admissions to state prison are for parole violations.

Specialty courts, like drug and mental health courts, have also grown in favor in states and localities as a purported means of getting people treatment and keeping them out of the system. However, such courts carry with them sanctions that may lead to additional or increased penalties, and may take away from opportunities to receive treatment in the community and outside of the criminal justice system.