

The Real Cost of Incarceration.

The Facts about the prison system!

The United States Prison system is home to over 2.3 million inmates who are housed together but most of the time for very different reasons! Over 18% of convicted convicts are non-violent offenders who have been imprisoned for crimes such as fraud or money laundering.



Incarceration rate

The United states has an incarceration rate of over 690 per 100,000 citizens. the highest in the world in 2019. The United States is in need of a reformation of the prison and justice system as it lets down many who it is meant to protect and defend. There are many ways in which criminals of all natures could repay their debt to society without putting a huge strain of the taxpayers who are supposedly the people who are protected by these individuals incarceration.



Alternative Justice?!

Many professionals and individuals who specialise looking into the subject have suggested that alternative punishment such as fines and community service as well as debt payback may be a better form of conflict resolution as the community does not suffer because of the actions a singular person took. With the average cost of incarceration being around 70,000 USD per year per inmate you can see why some people are not all for the system as this money is only generated by taxation of the rest of the population.



The Overall Goal

The United States of America is in the process of working out a way around the increasing rate and also how they can counter the recidivism rate which is also growing. The goal would be to allow the system to work on a lower cost to the general public and find a way to ultimately be self sufficient.

Did You Know?

- Over 1 million arrests in the US each year are drug related.
- Only 23% of prisoners do not reoffend
- The US houses over a quarter of the entire words prison population.
- The US prison system costs approx. \$80 billion each year to run.

INFORMATION SOURCE

IRWIN, JOHN, AND JAMES AUSTIN. IT'S ABOUT TIME AMERICA'S IMPRISONMENT BINGE. WADSWORTH, 1994.

THE BUREAU OF PRISON STATISTICS
BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS (BJS) - TOTAL CORRECTIONAL POPULATION