



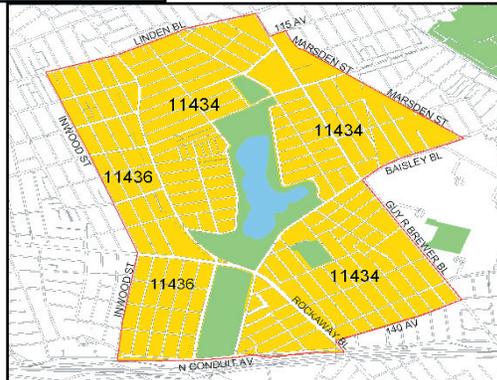
PUBLIC EYE ON PRIVATE PRISONS

A RESOURCE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SPRINGFIELD GARDENS COMMUNITY



5 Boroughs of New York
with Springfield Gardens
highlighted

That company has not done one thing
to contribute or reach out to the community.
GEO is making money off the misfortunes of
other people.
*Barbara Brown
Eastern Queens Alliance*



Springfield Gardens,
Queens

In This Issue:

- Quick Facts • 2-3
- GEO Corporate Profile • 4
- History of Operations • 5
- Springfield Gardens Timeline • 6-7
- FAQ on Private Prisons • 8-9
- Impacts of the Prison Industrial Complex • 10-13
- Resources • 13



Queens Correctional Facility,
182-22 150th Avenue, owned
and operated by GEO Group,
Inc., a private prison company



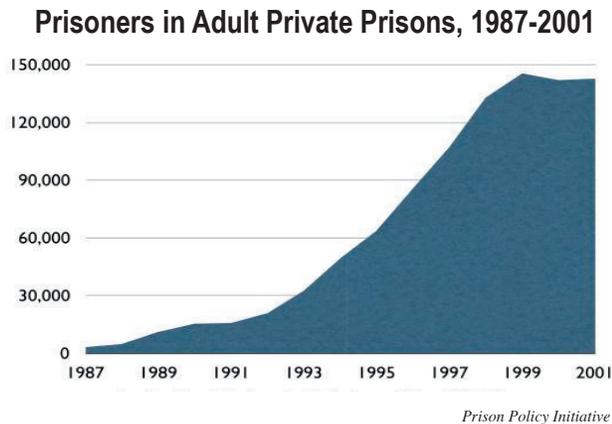
This newsletter was compiled
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James Sanders.



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QUICK FACTS



5 THINGS You should know about GEO and private prisons

Private prison corporations make billions of dollars by capitalizing on public prison and jail overcrowding. They spend millions to lobby legislators and public officials in federal, state and local government for lucrative contracts. Money that isn't spent to operate the prison is pocketed as profit.

The Queens Private Correctional Facility, located at 182-22 150th Ave in Springfield Gardens, is a private prison operated by the GEO Group, a for-profit company formerly known as Wackenhut Corrections.

GEO has a contract from the federal government that pays them more than \$10 million a year to confine pre-sentenced detainees in the Queens Private Correctional Facility. GEO's managers make every effort to spend as little as they can to care for the detainees.

1. They want to stay

- GEO has no plans for leaving Springfield Gardens and doesn't. In fact, despite continued community protest and against the advice of elected officials, **in December of 2005 GEO bought an adjacent building for \$4.3 million, with the goal of expanding its current facility no matter what its neighbors have to say.**

2. They are NOT nice neighbors

- There are numerous **potential environmental hazards** that are associated with the construction and maintenance of detention facilities, including wastewater treatment, hazardous waste and trash disposal, asbestos management, pesticide use, vehicle maintenance and power production.

- **GEO has a horrible track record when it comes to human rights.** In 1999, 2003 and 2004, detainees staged hunger strikes in protest of treatment and conditions inside the Springfield Gardens GEO facility, a windowless factory building in which they are held 23 hours at a time without access to sunlight, in prison-like conditions despite the fact that none of them had been accused of crimes and many were seeking political asylum.

- That company has not done one thing to contribute or reach out to the community," said Barbara Brown, who chairs the Eastern Queens Alliance and has been working with Meeks to stop the prison. **"GEO is making money off the misfortunes of other people."**

3. Private prisons don't save money

- Advocates for privatization claim that for-profit companies operate prisons at less cost than the government can. However, GEO was being paid **\$225/day per** detainee under their contract with the **Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE)**, and now gets **\$145/day per** detainee from the **Federal Marshals Service**, compared to **\$53/day** that BICE now pays for detainees held in **public facilities.**

4. Private prison executives have incentives to cut corners

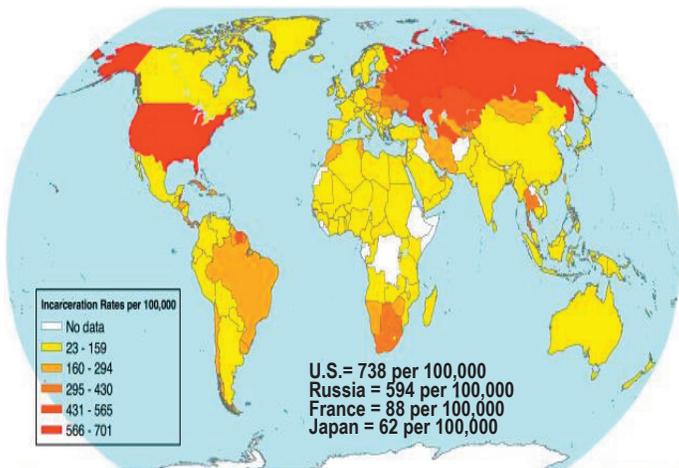
- **Money that isn't spent to operate the prison is pocketed as profit.** The less money GEO spends on education, medical care, vocational training and treatment programs, the more their corporate profits grow. GEO's Chief Executive Officer George Zoley, also its major private shareholder with over 50,000 shares, owns a \$9 Million mansion in Ft. Lauderdale.

5. Private prisons make bad public policy

- **GEO supports the American Legislative Exchange Council (www.alec.org),** a conservative group that pushes mandatory minimums and other "get tough" laws that put more and more people in prison for longer periods of time. For GEO, the more people who are put in prison, the more they profit. And that's the bottom line.

Sources: Justice Strategies, CAJE Project, Queens Chronicle

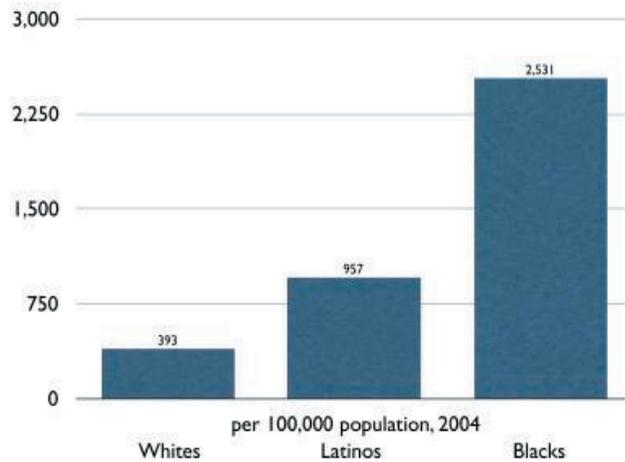
USA: World's #1 Jailer



The United States has a prison population of 2.2 million. In addition, there are 4.8 million people on parole or probation, totaling 7 million under the supervision of the criminal justice system. Annual spending on corrections is \$50 Billion.

Prison Policy Initiative

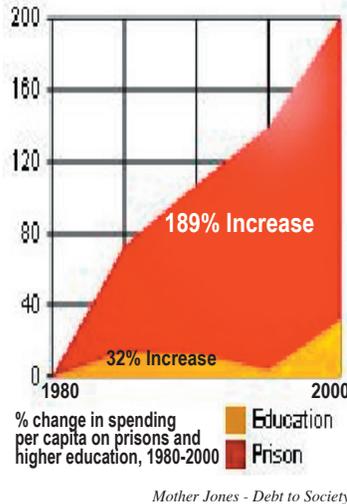
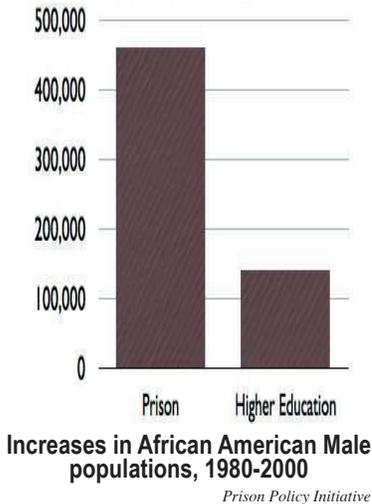
U.S. Incarceration Rate by Race



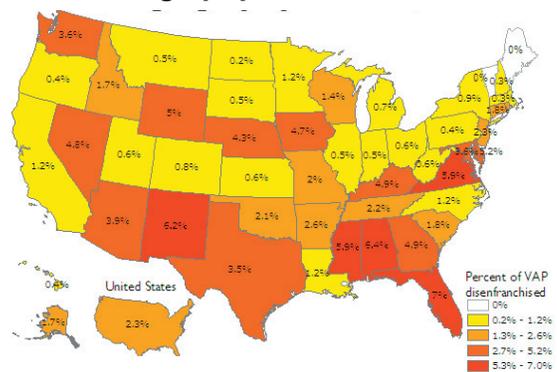
South Africa under Apartheid (1993), Black males: 851 per 100,000
 U.S. under George Bush (2004), Black males: 4,919 per 100,000

Prison Policy Initiative

Education Vs. Incarceration



Disenfranchisement of voting age population, 2000



5.3 million Americans have currently or permanently lost their voting rights as a result of a felony conviction. 676,730 women are currently ineligible to vote, and 1.4 million African-American men are disenfranchised - a rate 7 times the national average.

Prison Policy Initiative

Things You Can Do

- 1. Educate yourself!** There are many ways to get informed! Start with this newsletter. It is by no means definitive, but is a good starting point for asking questions and getting connected to new perspectives and resources for taking action.
- 2. Get involved!** If you are a resident of Springfield Gardens: Learn more about upcoming meetings, gatherings and actions taking place in your community by contacting City Councilman James Sanders' office at ph: 718.527.4356 or email: sanders@council.nyc.ny.us. If you are not a Springfield Gardens resident but would like to support the campaign to kick out the GEO prison profiteers, please help spread the word, and join us at the upcoming events and marches at the prison.
- 3. Spread the word!** Come to a meeting and share your perspective - every person has a valuable contribution to make! Learn more about upcoming actions and plug in to the organizing work. Share your skills, talk and build with your neighbors.
- 4. Envision a neighborhood without a prison next door!** What would it look like? How could you use that space to meet community needs? What are ways to build towards that vision?

CORPORATE PROFILE: GEO GROUP, INC.

GEO is one of the largest for-profit prison corporations in the world. Formerly known as Wackenhut Corrections Corp, the GEO Group, Inc, has its world Headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida. Until 2003, the Company was a majority-owned subsidiary of Wackenhut, which previously owned 12 million shares of the Company's common stock. GEO has regional offices in Carlsbad, California; New Braunfels, Texas; and Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; its international offices are located in Sydney, Australia, Johannesburg, South Africa and Reading, England.

With a global market share of 27% in the business of incarceration, GEO estimates its 2006 revenues to be in the range of \$727 million to \$743 million. GEO operates 63 facilities worldwide, in the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with a total capacity of approximately 49,000 beds.

GEO's profits depend on rising crime rates and tough sentencing and immigration policies, and it foresees a bright future for itself and its investors. Its shareholders include some of the most powerful banks in the world – JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Barclays, and Wells Fargo among others – and there appears to be no end to the number of people it is interested in locking up.

According to its 2005 Annual Report,

The need for additional bed space at the federal, state at local levels has been as strong as it has been at any time during the last decade, and we currently expect that trend to continue for the foreseeable future.

Overcrowding at corrections facilities in various states and increased demand for bed space at federal prisons and detention facilities primarily resulting from government initiatives to improve immigration security are two of the factors that have contributed to the greater number of opportunities for privatization.

GEO further makes the connection between policy, prisons and profit:

President George W. Bush's proposed budget for 2007 allocates \$5.0 billion for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and \$1.3 billion for the Office of the Federal Detention Trustee to ensure the safe detention and incarceration of a growing federal prisoner population. The President's proposed budget provides approximately \$447.0 million under the Secure Border Initiative for 6,700 new immigration detention beds as well as new immigration detention officers and agents. In addition, the President's proposed budget allocates approximately \$140.0 million to assimilate an expected increase of over 9,500 detainees under the custody of the United States Marshals Service.



GEO has established a tried-and-true recipe for enriching itself at all costs. As politicians create policy designed to lock more and more people up, the company presents itself as “helping to relieve the burden.” **Through aggressive lobbying, GEO receives government contracts (paid for with taxpayers' money) to build new facilities, expand existing ones, or simply to shuffle prisoners around.** Meanwhile, GEO's PR machine helps to convince communities that they are helping them, by creating “much-needed,” overworked and under-trained jobs.

When it comes to its workers – the COs, Wardens and staff who work at its facilities - GEO has a horrible track record as an employer. This Summer, a prison guards' Union in Delaware County, PA voted 183-11 to reject a contract proposed by GEO.

But when it comes to the politicians whom it wants to pay off in service of its prison-for-profit empire, GEO throws money around like the Yankees' bullpen – **spreading influence to politicians on local, state and national levels through a combination of campaign contributions, lobbying and political back-scratching.** Recently GEO has been in negotiations with the State of California to arrange to ship prisoners from CA to GEO facilities in Indiana, Michigan and Louisiana. **It has given more than \$90,000 to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's campaigns since his first run for governor in 2003.**

GEO's Board of Directors includes Pennsylvania House of Representatives Speaker John Perzel (R-Philadelphia), who owns 2,000 GEO shares. Perzel recently announced a plan to spend \$450 Million to hire 10,000 new police statewide. GEO's Board also includes Richard Glanton and John Palms, two corporate Executives from the energy conglomerate Exelon; Anne Foreman, a former Under Secretary of the U.S. Air Force (under George Bush I); and Norman Carlson the former Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and former President of the American Corrections Association.

In GEO's home-base State of Florida, from which it draws 11% of its revenue, the private prison-political connections run deep. **GEO's Chief Executive Officer George Zoley, also its major private shareholder with over 50,000 shares, is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University and owns a \$9 Million mansion in Ft. Lauderdale.** GEO has made contributions to Gov. Jeb Bush's private foundation to the tune of \$100,000 while Gov. Bush appointed Zoley to Florida Atlantic's Board of Trustees.

Here in NYC, GEO retains the lobbying firm of Davidoff Malito & Hatcher to target the Mayor's office, Borough President, Department of Corrections, City Planning, City Council and Community Boards over the use of City-owned properties.



HISTORY OF OPERATIONS

What this web of power relationships has led to is the ultra-fast growth of a company whose plan is to be nothing less than the most powerful and largest prison warden in the world.

In its never-ending thirst for profit, GEO has used each and every tactic at its disposal to cut corners, lower costs and maximize its earnings. Its corporate rap sheet illustrates not a series of accidents, but a recurrent and systematic pattern of human rights violations, corruption and criminal neglect throughout its entire global operation.

Its operational strategy looks similar in case after case: staff are given little training and are forced to work long hours without sufficient wages or benefits. This means high turnover rates, and a frustrated and inexperienced workforce. GEO cuts all possible education or recreation programs, driving the morale and desperation of prisoners to extremes. Prisoners are crammed into dorm-style tanks and in lock-down for up to 23 hours a day, sometimes without adequate access to food and health care.

Predictably, this has similar results. Here are just a few examples:

*** A June 2006 strike by COs at GEO's South African facility protested working conditions and a lack of benefits and danger allowances.** The CO strike interrupted the distribution of food and healthcare for the prisoners, who began a mass protest in response. A fire started, damaging a large section of the prison and resulting in one inmate being killed and several CO's and prisoners being wounded in the blaze.

*** The Newton, TX GEO facility which houses over 400 prisoners from Idaho has been the target of consistent complaints of violations to the ACLU, which has reported that corrections officers regularly complain of working more than 12 hours at a time, while inmates have reported up to nine hours passing without an officer in their tiers.** Subsequently there have been numerous documented cases of staff violence and overcrowding - a deputy warden resigned, one was fired and two others disciplined after an April incident when six Idaho prisoners were forcefully cuffed and maced. **The department said staff inexperience and lack of training contributed to the excessive use of force.** The condition have led to ongoing protests from prisoners.

*** In 2004 at the Val Verde County Jail outside of Austin, TX, LeTisha Tapia reported to the warden that male and female inmates had physical contact and were having sex with each other. She was ignored by officers, singled out by other prisoners as a snitch,**

attacked and forced into a male inmate's cell and raped. In the weeks following the incident she was denied her request to see a psychiatrist, then later physically and verbally abused by a corrections officer when she tried to smuggle a telephone into her cell. **She was found dead after committing suicide in her cell.**

If GEO worked alone, they would be an easier target. Unfortunately though, **companies like GEO operate within a larger context that allows them to increase their wealth at the expense of the lives and livelihoods of millions of people worldwide.** We have to understand this context in order to get to the roots of the problem. Many people call this system the Prison Industrial Complex, and we take a look at it here starting on page 8.

Sources: Justice Strategies and GEO website



The GEO Group, Inc. Brief Corporate Timeline

- GEO was initially founded as a division of The Wackenhut Corporation in 1984 under the name of Wackenhut Corrections.
- In April 1998, WCC helped form Correctional Properties Trust (now known as CentraCore Properties Trust), a real estate investment trust formed to capitalize on the growing trend toward privatization in the corrections industry.
- In November, 2003, at a special meeting, Wackehut's shareholders approved a change in the corporate name to "The GEO Group, Inc.," required under the terms of a share purchase agreement signed by WCC on April 30, 2003.
- On December 1, 2004, The GEO Group, Inc. established The GEO Group UK Limited's Head Office near Reading, England to "vigorously pursue new business opportunities" in England, Scotland and Wales.
- On July 14, 2005, GEO bought Sarasota-based Correctional Services Corporation (CSC), adding 15 adult prisons (about 8,000 beds) to its North American empire. Post-closing, GEO has contracts and awards to manage 58 facilities (and about 48,000 beds), which increases GEO's U.S.-based "correctional bed market share" from 22 percent to 28 percent.
- GEO Care, Inc is created as a healthcare subsidiary, to build and operate residential facilities for people in need of mental health services, people in recovery from addictions, elders, and people needing various forms of long-term therapy.
- * On July 26, 2006, marking its Tenth Anniversary of trading on the New York Stock Exchange its new ticker symbol was introduced: "GEO."
- * On September 20, 2006, GEO signed a definitive agreement to buy CentraCore Properties Trust, a correctional and real estate investment trust which it helped to start.

Source: GEO website

TIMELINE: GEO IN SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

The GEO Group's first operation in Queens was an immigration detention facility opened in 1989 on 226th Street. After continued protests by locals, in 1994 the company relocated operations to the present location. The prison is a converted windowless warehouse located just outside of JFK airport, at 182-02 150th Avenue in Queens, NY.

May 2005: ICE Terminates GEO's Contract Due To Price Gauging

ICE spokesman says that GEO was charging \$225 per day for each detainee – compared to an average of \$53 per day paid in public facilities nearby.

Queens Chronicle, 6/02/05

June 2005: OFDT/USMS Pick Up GEO Contract

GEO execs announce transfer of the contract to the Office of the Federal Detention Trustee (OFDT), the agency that manages Federal prison contracts. This new contract arranges for housing of pre-trial detainees for the U.S. Marshals Service, and expires on March 31, 2007 at which time a new contract will need to be created.

GEO website

November 2005: GEO Asks Meeks For Support

Congressman Gregory Meeks reports publicly that he received a call from GEO, asking his support for a 170-bed expansion of the prison. Meeks says he refused, and that he had already written to the Justice Department requesting an end to the funding for GEO's contract.

Queens Chronicle, 1/12/06

December 2005: GEO Buys New Building

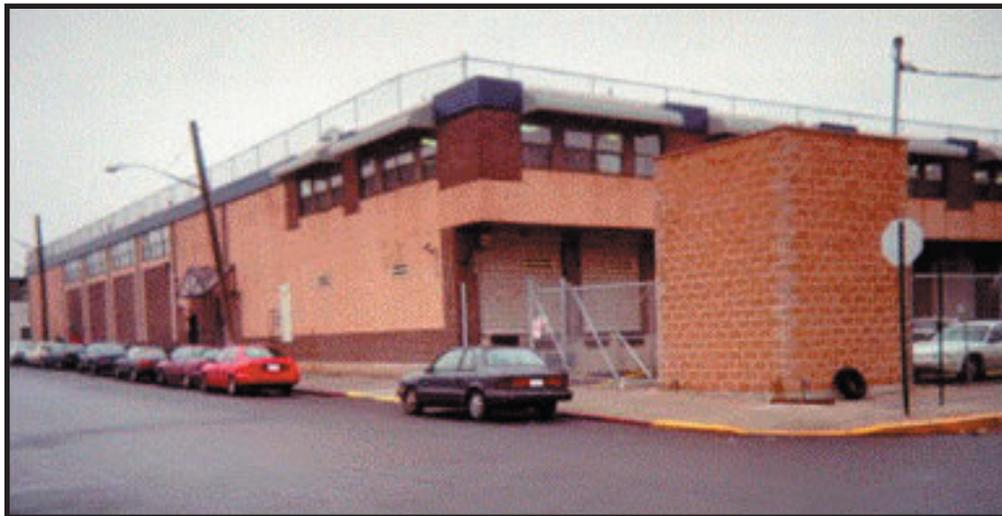
Despite community protest and against the advice of elected officials, GEO moves forward its expansion plans by buying an adjacent office building at 182-11 150th Road, along with vacant land listed as being at 182nd Street. Price tag: over \$4.3 Million.

Queens Chronicle, 1/12/06

← 2005

1999, 2003, 2004: Human Rights Violations, Hunger Strikes

ICE Detainees stage hunger strikes in protest of treatment and conditions inside GEO facility, a windowless factory building in which they are held 23 hours at a time without access to sunlight, in prison-like conditions despite the fact that none of them had been accused of crimes and many were seeking political asylum.



Queens Private Correctional Facility, 182-22 150th Ave.

Photo: GEO website

**January 2006:
Despite
Opposition,
GEO Seeks
Expansion**

Councilman Sanders reports that talks with a neighbor reveal GEO's intentions of buying still more buildings nearby. Although the **U.S. Marshal's Service** indicates that they will not support a prison expansion, GEO announces its plans to move forward.

New York Daily News, 1/18/06

**March 2006:
Officials Discuss
Developments**

Elected officials, including Congressman Meeks, Councilman Sanders, Assemblywoman Michele Titus and Democratic District Leader Juanita Watkins, meet with officials from the U.S. Marshals Service, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of the Federal Detention Trustee (OFDT). They are told that the detainees held in the GEO prison were "low- to medium-risk."

Queens Chronicle, 3/02/06

**April 2006:
Questions About
GEO Contract**

During a town hall meeting, Meeks says that cancelling the contract is not a viable option. Councilman Sanders maintains that the contract could be revoked without cause. Meeks pledges to form a community oversight committee and to pressure the Justice Department. **Meeks says that residents are in for a long fight, and should keep the pressure on. According to Sanders, "If we are politically strong we will stop it. The streets will be critical."**

Queens Chronicle, 4/06/06

**June 2006:
USMS Renews
GEO Contract**

On June 30, the U.S. Marshals Service renews its contract with GEO for the Queens Private Correctional Facility. **GEO spokesman Walter McCafferty calls opposition to the facility "irrelevant,"** saying, "the option to extend our contract for a year was already written [in]."

Queens Chronicle, 8/24/06

2006

2007

**January 2006:
Residents Rally
Against
GEO**

NYC Councilman James Sanders hosts a town meeting to discuss developments with the prison. Residents pack St. Peters Lutheran Church to denounce GEO's presence in their community. **GEO Chairman George Zoley's remarks are met with strong statements of opposition by elected officials and neighbors. Several people in the crowd talk of the organized resistance to the prison's start 15 years earlier.**

On MLK Day, over 75 people join a protest march and rally at the prison in sub-zero weather.

Queens Chronicle, 1/19/06



Ongoing, 2006

Throughout 2006, Councilman Sanders is joined by hundreds of community members during periodic protests against the prison. In August Sanders calls for a "year of discontent," while prisoners hold a sign up to the window reading, "Help Us, No Food."

Queens Chronicle 8/24/06. Photo: Sitara Nieves

FAQ: PRIVATE PRISONS

Q: What Are For-Profit Prisons, and What's Wrong With Them?

Private prisons, jails and detention centers are like public facilities, except that they are run (and sometimes owned) by corporations **for the sole purpose of profit**. They are legally obligated to act first and foremost in the interest of their shareholders.

Many people are surprised to hear that it's legal for corporations to perform the functions of a prison (up to and including the use of deadly force) and the law is very ambiguous on this point. Some states have passed laws governing private prisons, while in other states, private prison companies have simply asserted their right to operate prisons. The result is **a patchwork of laws that provide little oversight over private prisons**.

Despite serious operational and financial problems, private prisons, jails and detention centers have spread rapidly since their start in 1984, and they now house over 100,000 people (6% of the total incarcerated population in the U.S.). **27% of all private prison beds globally are operated by GEO.**

Q: But Don't Private Prisons Save Taxpayers Money Because They're Private? Aren't They More Efficient Than Public Prisons?

No. Private prisons do not save money; in fact, as a result of the involvement of private prison companies in the political process, taxpayers may end up spending far more on prisons than they would have otherwise. While some people assume that "private" prisons have private sources of revenue, **every penny earned by private prison companies comes from contracts with public agencies**; that is, from taxpayers. While

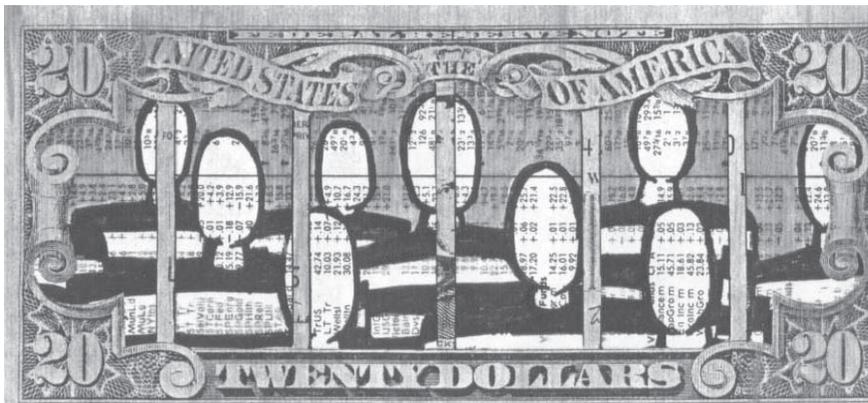
private prison companies may secure financing from private investors to build new prisons, those costs are always charged to the state agency in their contract. Like a credit card, private financing allows politicians to "charge up" new prisons without worrying how to pay for them until later—costing taxpayers much more money in the long run.

In addition, significant studies by the General Accounting Office and Abt Associates have found **no evidence of significant savings for the public**. Although private prison companies are always finding ways to spend less on wages, benefits, training, medical care, educational and rehabilitative programs, (not to mention items like blankets, food, combs, toothbrushes, etc...) they have additional expenses that public prisons don't. These include compensation packages for wardens who've been lured away from the public sector, huge salaries for company executives, **millions of dollars spent on lobbyists, campaign**

contributions, and right-wing think tanks like ALEC and Reason Foundation; millions more spent on media (especially damage-control), PR and pro-private prison "research" by people like (former) University of Florida professor Charles Thomas, a leading academic proponent of

private prisons until it was discovered that he had been paid over \$3 million by the Correction Corporation of America as a "consultant." And then there are the shareholders, who've been promised a big return on their investments.

Lastly, **far from being more efficient than public prisons, the private industry has regularly come to the public to be bailed out** of its own mistakes. In Mississippi, GEO convinced legislative allies that the company could not afford to keep operating unless it was paid for "ghost beds," that is, spaces the state did not need. Governor Ronnie Musgrove, a Republican, vetoed the scheme because the funds were desperately needed to address a crisis in education funding, but GEO's allies overrode his veto. (It was later discovered that GEO had seriously overestimated the amount of money the company needed to maintain profitability.) The private prison industry is more efficient in one respect: raking in the cash!



Q: Aren't Private Prisons Just Performing a Service For The Government? What Say Do They Have Over Who Goes to Prison?

The private prison industry does not simply “follow orders.” Instead, private prison companies actively influence criminal justice policies to ensure a steady flow of prisoners and prison dollars. One example of the private prison industry’s influence over policy is the American Legislative Exchange Council, a right-wing state lobby group that is financed largely through corporate sponsors. GEO is a leading contributor to ALEC and has used the group’s Criminal Justice Task Force to advance its agenda to enable privatization and promote tough-on-crime legislation such as “Truth In Sentencing” and “Three Strikes,” which ALEC has helped to pass in 25 states.

According to a recent study (from the non-partisan Institute on Money in State Politics) analyzing private prison industry campaign contributions from the 2002 and 2004 election cycles,

Companies favored states with some of the toughest sentencing laws, particularly those that had enacted legislation to lengthen the sentence given to any offender who was convicted of a felony for the third time. Private-prison interests gave almost \$2.1 million in 22 states that had a so-called “three-strikes law,” compared with \$1.2 million in 22 states that did not. All told, the companies, their executives, directors and lobbyists gave \$3.3 million in 44 states between 2000 and 2004 — a figure that includes contributions from not only private-prison firms, but also the investment and construction companies, food service providers, health-care management and counseling services that do business with them.

According to the study, contributions from GEO alone (including its executives, directors and lobbyists) totaled \$880,261 in 19 states during the 2002 and 2004 election cycles. These contributions have paid off time and time again.

Q: Are Conditions In Private Prisons Worse Than Conditions in Public Prisons? Don't Public Prisons Also Have Problems?

Public prisons, jails and detention centers have many problems, and working against for-profit private prisons is not intended to minimize those problems. However, there

is a substantial body of research showing that private prison conditions are significantly worse than public prison conditions. A survey conducted in 1997 by criminologist James Austin, for example, shows that rates of violence were 49% to 65% higher in private than public prisons.

The real cost of prison profiteering, however, is not measured by statistics or program evaluations, but of lives lost and damaged as a result of prison profiteering. **The examples of GEO’s “History of Operations” (pg. 5) are but a few stories of the brutal conditions of violence, neglect and mismanagement.**

Finally, privatization can lead to a downward spiral in both public and private conditions by encouraging prison administrators to focus on the “bottom-line” and setting up a competition between public and private facilities over who can achieve the lowest “per diem” costs. As the Wall Street Journal’s Joseph Hallinan observes in his book *Up The River*, as a result of prison privatization, some public prisons have cut costs to the bone while looking for “business opportunities” such as lucrative phone concessions, prison enterprise and the renting out of public prison beds.



Q: But Isn't The Federal Prison System Overcrowded?

The Federal system is crowded, but contracting out is no more a solution for the Federal system than it was for crowded state systems. The Federal system is crowded because mandatory minimum sentencing laws and an increase in Federal prosecutions has led to a massive increase in the number of people sentenced for drug offenses (from 30,470 in 1990 to 75,625 in 2000) and immigration offenses (from 1,728 in 1990 to 12,266 in 2000). Congress could address the crowding problem easily by adopting the same modest sentencing

reforms that many states have implemented in the last couple of years.

Even if Congress failed to act, however, the Federal Bureau of Prisons already has the power to move thousands of nonviolent offenders out of Federal prisons by transitioning them more quickly into community corrections at the end of their sentences. Increased use of community corrections would not only reduce crowding in Federal prisons, but also make it easier for prisoners to return successfully to communities.

FAQ adapted from Not With Our Money: www.notwithourmoney.org

IMPACTS OF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

1. USA: Incarceration Nation



• The United States is the world's #1 jailer with the largest prison population and the highest rate of incarceration. Bureau of Justice Statistics figures for 2005 indicate that there were nearly 2.2 million people in US' prisons and jails. In addition, there are approximately 4.8 million persons on probation or parole, bringing the total to 7 million citizens—over 3 percent of the adult population—under the supervision of the criminal justice system.

• Incarceration Rate by Country: USA = 738 per 100,000; Russia = 594 per 100,000; Canada = 107 per 100,000; France = 88 per 100,000; Japan = 62 per 100,000.

2. Some things to note about crime...

• **In the past 30 years, crime rates have fallen dramatically.** While there is a widespread public perception that crime rates have skyrocketed, the reality is that from 1970-1994, violent crime rates remained remarkably stable. Since 1994, violent crime has fallen. In fact, violent crime in 2002 was at its lowest level ever recorded.¹ Property crime has been on a steady decline since 1974.

• Despite falling crime rates since 1991, the rate of incarceration in prison has increased by more than 50% since that time. These dynamics suggest that *the rise in imprisonment is due to changes in policy that have increased the amount of time that offenders are serving in prison, and not crime rates.* From 1995 to 2001, the average time served in prison rose by 30%.

• **Locking up more offenders for longer periods of time does not significantly reduce the crime rate.** *Academic research has shown little or no correlation between rates of crime and the number of people in prison.* States with high rates of imprisonment may or may not have high rates of crime, while states with low rates of crime may or may not have high rates of imprisonment.

• **Violent crime constitutes only 4.6% of arrests in the US.** Even within this "violent" category, the actual physical violence is often overstated. The vast majority of violent crimes

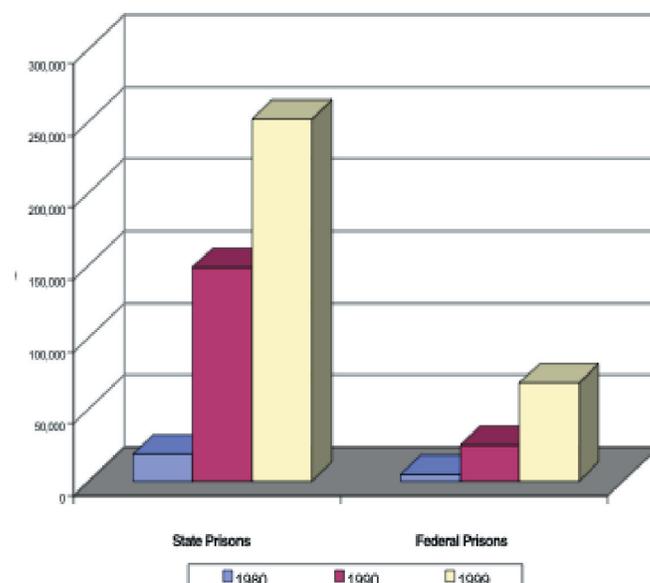
are assaults where one person hits or slaps another or makes a verbal threat. Only about 20 percent of the victims of violent crime nationally went to a hospital emergency room.

• **Drug arrests have tripled** since 1980 from 581,000 to over 1.5 million in 1999. In 1999, four of five (80.5%) drug arrests were for possession and one of five (19.5%) for sales. Overall, 40.5% of drug arrests were for marijuana offenses

• By 1999, a more than twelve-fold increase in drug offenders in state prisons led to a total of 251,200, constituting 21% of the inmate population. Dramatic increases occurred in the federal system as well, as the number of drug offenders rose to 68,360 representing 57% of all inmates.

• 58% of drug prisoners – an estimated 124,885 inmates – have *no history of violence or high level drug activity.*

Drug Offenders in State and Federal Prisons, 1980-1999

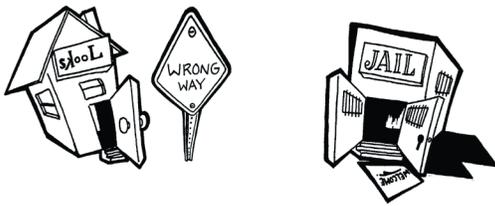


Sentencing Project: Drug Policy and the Criminal Justice System (2001)

3. At what cost? At whose cost?

• **Every year an individual is locked up in prison costs taxpayers an average of \$22,000.** As prisoners get older, the cost of maintenance rises, ultimately reaching an average of \$69,000 per year for those over the age of fifty-five. A study by a Stanford University professor estimated that the cost of a life term for an average California prisoner is \$1.5 million.

• **Prisons and the fear of crime are becoming one of America's biggest growth industries.** In 2001, federal, state and local governments spent an estimated \$49 billion on corrections. The crime control portion of the police and judicial budgets is an estimated \$51 billion. Private security costs \$104 billion. Combine the prisoners and the crime-fighters and you have 4% of the U.S. workforce consumed by this industry.



4. Education vs. Incarceration

- Nationally, between 1980-2000: **Spending per resident on prisons increased by 189%** while spending per resident on **higher education increased by 32%**

- In New York State, between 1980-2000: Spending per resident on **prisons increased by 165%** while spending per resident on **higher education decreased by 10%**

- African American Male Population in 2000: 602,900 in Prison; 603,032 in Higher Education.

- In New York City, the average annual detention cost for one youth (under 16 years old) in **secure detention in FY2006 was \$170,820**. The average annual cost per pupil in a **New York City public high school is \$11,844**.

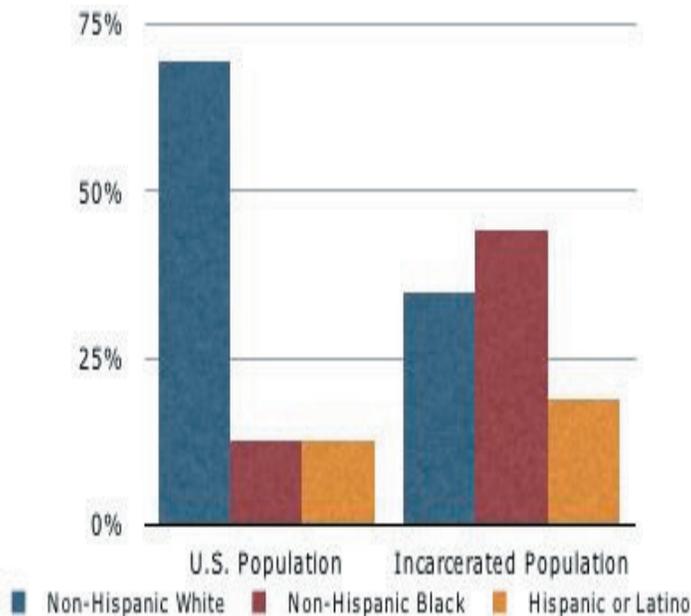
5. Who goes to prison? Who is Left Behind?

- Whites: 393 per 100,000; Latinos: 957 per 100,000; Blacks: 2,531 per 100,000

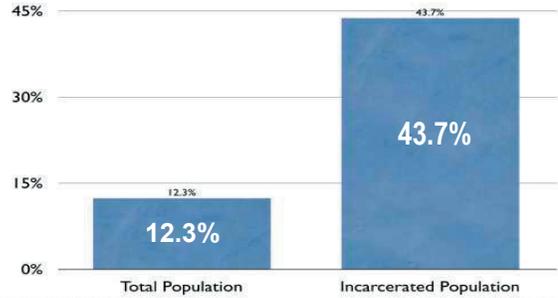
- South Africa under apartheid (1993), Black males: 851 per 100,000; U.S. under George Bush (2004), Black males: 4,919 per 100,000

- Aging Prison Population:* One of every 23 inmates in prison today is age 55 or older, an 85% increase since 1995. A significant contributor to this growth has been the fact that persons sentenced to prison today are serving more time those in past decades.

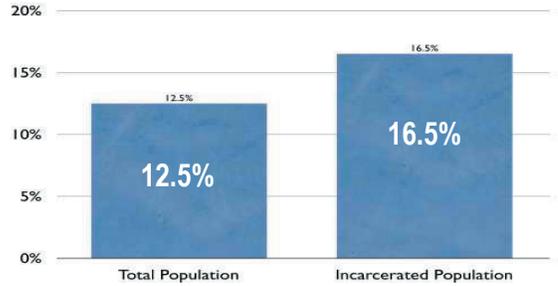
Racial Disparity Between U.S. and Incarcerated Populations



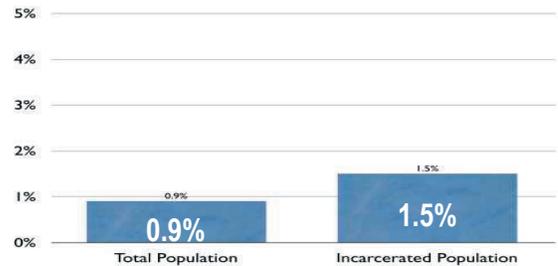
African Americans are Overrepresented in U.S. prisons



Latinos are Overrepresented in U.S. prisons



Native Americans are Overrepresented in U.S. prisons



2000 census data. All graphs from Prison Policy Initiative.

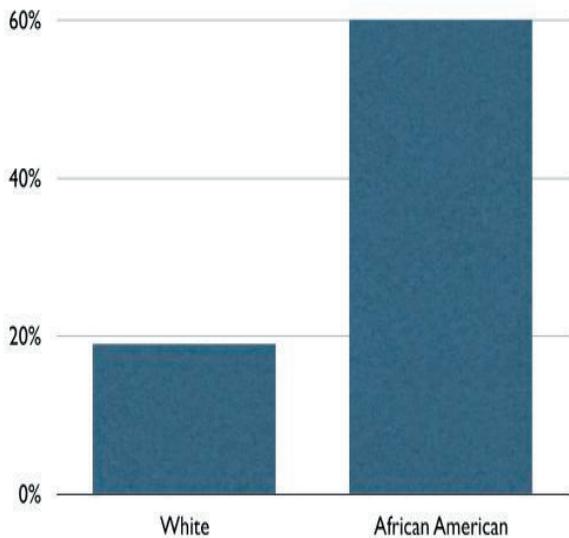
- Women, Mothers, Sisters and Daughters Behind Bars:* Since 1980 the number of women in prison has increased at **nearly double the rate for men**. Approximately 37% of women and 28% of men in prison had monthly incomes of less than \$600 prior to their arrest. 2/3 of mothers incarcerated in state prison lived with their children prior to their arrest.

- Immigrants Behind Bars:* **The number of imprisoned immigrants has soared since 1994**. There were 35,629 non-citizens serving criminal sentences in federal prison alone on June 7, 2001 - up from 18,929 only seven years ago, according to Judith Greene, a criminal justice policy analyst ("Bailing Out Private Jails," *American Prospect*, Vol. 12, Issue 16). **The reason for the exploding immigrant prisoner rate is not crime, but legislation:** including the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) and the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA), both passed in 1996 in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing. These new federal laws mandate incarceration for non-citizens, including lawful permanent residents, ever convicted in the U.S. of most major and minor crimes with no possibility of release, and greatly expand the scope of deportable felonies - to include non-violent crimes like shoplifting and check kiting.

- *Children Left Behind:* Across the country, an estimated 1.5 million children have a parent behind bars. Researchers believe that over 10 million kids have experienced the incarceration of a parent at some point in their lives. According to Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, as many as 90% of children in long-term foster care have a parent who has been arrested or incarcerated.

- *Youth Behind Bars:* In New York City, the vast majority of youth in detention come from the city's poorest neighborhoods. Young people from 15 of the city's 59 community districts account for 55% of all admissions to secure detention. In other words, a quarter of the city's neighborhoods supply over half of the youth entering detention. The neighborhoods with the highest rates of juvenile detention are University Heights, East Harlem, St. George, Harlem, Soundview, South Jamaica, South Bronx, East New York, Morris Heights, Bedford Stuyvesant, Far Rockaway, Morningside Heights, Brownsville, Washington Heights and Tremont. The neighborhoods with the highest rates of detention also have the highest levels of poverty, poor housing and under-performing schools.

Juveniles in Adult Prisons by Race



Data from BJS, Profile of State Prisoners Under Age 18, 1985-1997

Graph: Prison Policy Initiative

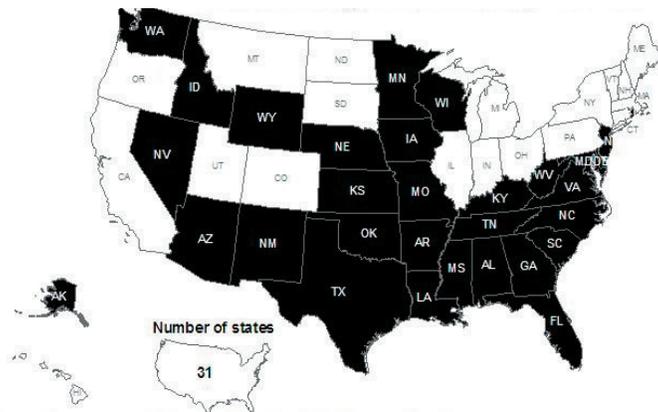
6. More prison time ≠ less crime

- Locking up more people for longer periods of time does not significantly reduce the crime rate. Academic research has shown little or no correlation between rates of crime and the number of people in prison. States with high rates of imprisonment may or may not have high rates of crime, while states with low rates of crime may or may not have high rates of imprisonment.

7. Felony Disenfranchisement

- An estimated 5.3 million Americans, or one in forty-one adults, have currently or permanently *lost their voting rights as a result of a felony conviction*.
 - 1.4 million African American men, or *13% of black men, are disenfranchised*, a rate seven times the national average.
 - An estimated *676,730 women are currently ineligible to vote* as a result of a felony conviction.

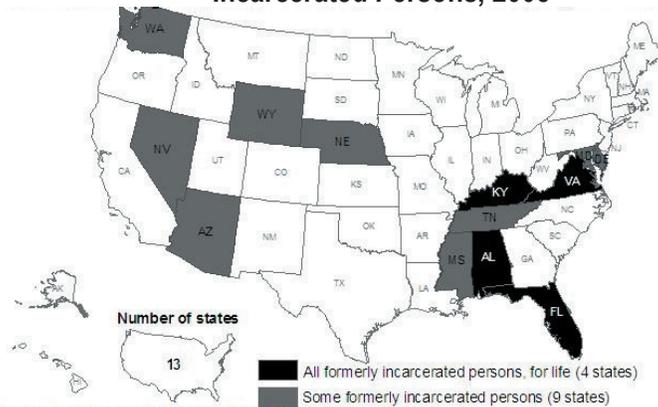
States That Disenfranchise Persons on Parole, 2005



States That Disenfranchise Persons on Probation, 2005



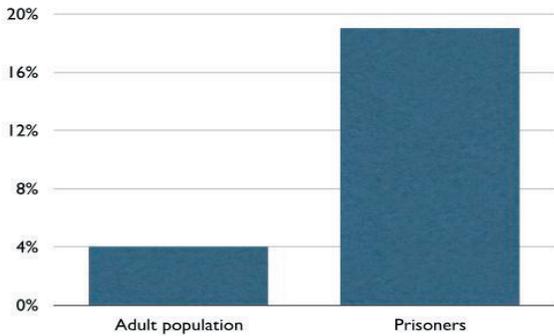
States That Disenfranchise Formerly Incarcerated Persons, 2005



Data source: Sentencing Project, Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in the United States, April 2005; and New York Times 6/18/2005

Prison Policy Initiative

Complete Illiteracy



Data from Education as Crime Prevention, OSI Criminal Justice Initiative, September 1997

The Prison Index, Prison Policy Initiative

8. Re-entry

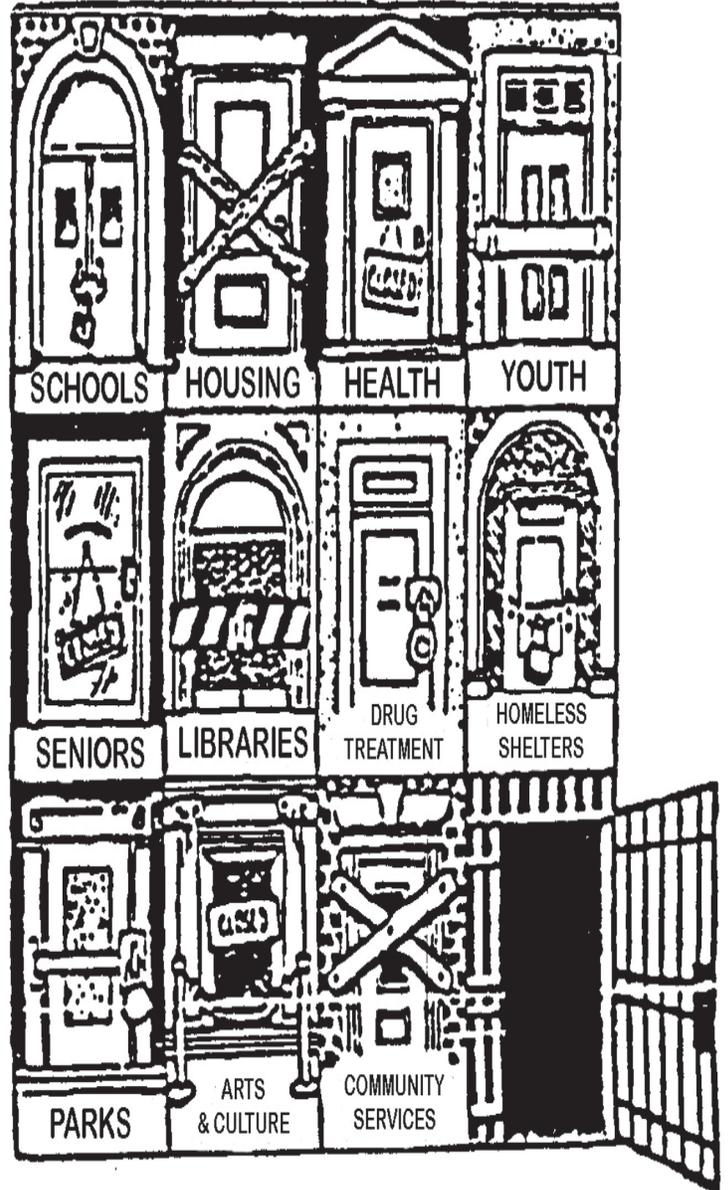
• Since 1998 about 600,000 people have been released from prison every year – about 1,600 a day. A 1989 study conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that *almost two-thirds of all re-entering persons are likely to be rearrested within three years.*

• The median educational level of released persons is 11th grade.

• In 1996, 6% of state prison budgets were allocated to support rehabilitative prison programs – vocational, educational, treatment – and 94% was spent on staffing, building prisons, maintaining and housing prisoners.

• More than 100,000 prisoners are being released each year without any form of community correctional supervision, although studies show that community supervision combined with some form of rehabilitative program following a prisoner's release helps reduce recidivism.

This section compiled from the following sites: www.sentencingproject.org, www.justicestrategies.net, www.motherjones.com, www.prisonpolicy.org, www.afsc.org/az.htm and www.prisonsucks.com.



R E S O U R C E S

NYC Council Member James Sanders • www.nycouncil.info

Congressman Gregory W. Meeks • www.house.gov/meeks

CAJE Project • www.cajeproject.org

Critical Resistance • www.criticalresistance.org

Drug Policy Alliance • www.drugpolicyalliance.org

Justice Strategies • www.justicestrategies.net/

Not With Our Money • www.notwithourmoney.org

PMP • www.nomoreprisons.org

Prison Policy Initiative • www.prisonpolicy.org

Prison Sucks • www.prisonsucks.com

Sentencing Project • www.sentencingproject.org

About Prison Moratorium Project

Founded in 1995, the Prison Moratorium Project (PMP) is a multi-racial group of youth, community members and formerly incarcerated persons. Based in Brooklyn, New York, we work locally and nationally to stop prison expansion and mass incarceration – particularly of youth – and empower communities most directly affected by the prison system through education, advocacy, leadership training and technical assistance. Our strategy in reducing the number of people going into the criminal/juvenile justice system is threefold: a) System accountability and reform through system monitoring, and policy and data analysis;

b) Community empowerment through education, training and community organizing around restoration of funds for community-based initiatives, institutions and alternatives; and c) Personal leadership development training for formerly incarcerated youth and young adults to become mentors, experts and leaders in their respective communities as well as the criminal/juvenile justice reform movement.

We currently operate through three program areas: Teach Justice, a community education and youth training program; Education Not Incarceration, a community organizing program where the training and organizing support offered in our Teach Justice program is applied to campaign work; and No More Prisons, a technical assistance program that shares our successes and learned lessons in training and campaign development with others seeking to stop mass incarceration.

Currently, we offer a series of educational workshops and trainings related to juvenile justice issues such as school safety, gangs, violence and drugs. We also host PMP Academy, an intensive 16 weeks-long training program for youth who have been detained, incarcerated or come from neighborhoods with high rates of incarceration. The participants graduate with the skills and tools necessary to become peer educators, community organizers and juvenile justice advocates and experts. For more information on our workshops and trainings, please contact us at (718) 260-8805 or info@nomoreprisons.org (www.nomoreprisons.org).



PMP

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED