Mass Incarceration in Three Slides

Bruce Western
Harvard University

February 2017
Imprisonment Rate, 1925 to 1972

- Y-axis: Imprisonment per 100,000

The graph shows the imprisonment rate from 1925 to 1972, with a peak around 1940.
Imprisonment Rate, 1925 to 2012

Imprisonment per 100,000

1940 1960 1980 2000

100 200 300 400 500
By 2013:

Imprisonment Rate, 1925 to 2012

Imprisonment per 100,000

1940 1960 1980 2000
Imprisonment Rate, 1925 to 2012

By 2013:
* 1.57m in state or federal prison
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* 731,000 in jail
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* 853,000 on parole
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* 853,000 on parole
* 3.91m on probation
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* 1.57m in state or federal prison
* 731,000 in jail
* 853,000 on parole
* 3.91m on probation
* 6.90m under correctional supervision
Men's Risk of Imprisonment by 30–34

Cumulative Risk of Imprisonment (%)

1979

Whites

- All: 1.2%
- Non-college: 1.8%
- Dropouts: 4.2%

Blacks

- All: 9.0%
- Non-college: 12.1%
- Dropouts: 14.7%
Men's Risk of Imprisonment by 30–34

Cumulative Risk of Imprisonment (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>2009</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-college</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>6.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dropouts</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>15.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-college</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>35.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dropouts</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>69.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Whites: All, Non-college, Dropouts

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Race and Incarceration: Comparing Reintegration in Australia and the United States

NAAJA Throughcare

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency

Thomas Quayle
Throughcare Manager
Some Quick Stats

• The national incarceration rate is 191 per 100,000 adults.
• The NT incarceration rate is 882 per 100,000 adults.
• 30% of the NT’s population is Aboriginal.
• 86% of the Darwin Correctional Centre is Aboriginal.
• 96% of the Alice Springs Correctional Centre is Aboriginal.
• 60% of Aboriginal people released from prison in the NT return within 2 years.
Challenges

• Let’s start with colonisation . . .
• Language and culture
• Education
• Employment
• Accommodation and Housing
• The tyranny of distance and the lack of culturally responsive throughcare support on community.
The Role of Throughcare

- Commenced in 2009
- Funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Has two components:
  - Prison-based
  - Intensive Case Management / Post-release support
- Criteria:
  - Aboriginal
  - Have high needs
  - Engage voluntarily
- We work from a strengths-based, supported case management framework
- Only 14% of our clients have reoffended while supported by the Program
Leaving Prison: Challenges to Social Integration in the United States

Catherine Sirois¹
Stanford University

March 2017

¹This research was supported by Harvard University, grant 5R21HD073761-02 from NIH/NICHD and grant SES-1259013 from NSF.
Key Questions

▶ What are the main challenges to successful social integration after prison?
▶ What is the relationship between prison release and racial inequality in the U.S.?
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Boston Reentry Study

- Longitudinal interview study with 122 men and women released from Massachusetts prisons to Boston
- Five in-person interviews over a year, frequent phone check-ins, interviews with family members, linked administrative records
- Collected information on material hardship, residence, household composition, family relationships, employment, health, drug use, crime and criminal justice system contact
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Racial Composition of Boston and Boston Prison Releasees

Source: 2010 U.S. Census and Boston Reentry Study.
Racial Composition of Boston and Boston Prison Releasees

- **White**: Boston 45%, BRS 30%
- **Black**: Boston 35%, BRS 50%
- **Latino**: Boston 10%, BRS 15%
- **Other**: Boston 10%, BRS 5%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census and Boston Reentry Study.
What are the main challenges to successful social integration after prison?

- Finding a place to stay
- Developing family relationships
- Obtaining a means of subsistence
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Getting out
Those leaving prison face the stress of transition – the anxiety of adjusting to social interaction in free society under conditions of severe material deprivation.
Finding a place to stay
US Population and BRS, Aged 19 to 59

Residence Type
- Street
- Sibling
- Group Quarters
- Cohabit
- Alone
- Parent
- Other
- Spouse

US Population and BRS

Residence Type

Spouse
Probability of a Residential Move

Months after Prison Release

Median = 2 moves

26.9%
Probability of a Residential Move

- Median = 2 moves
- 30% with 3+ moves
- 26.9%
Probability of a Residential Move

Months after Prison Release

Median = 2 moves
30% with 3+ moves
80% with at least 1 move

26.9%
Developing family relationships
Family Support in the Year After Prison

Percentage of Respondents

Time Since Release

1 week 2 months 6 months 12 months

Total sample
Under age 30
Age 30 to 44
Over age 44
Obtaining a means of subsistence
(a) Employment

Employment Rate

0.4
0.5
0.6
0.7

Black

Hispanic

White
Older respondents and those with histories of mental illness and addiction experienced greater social isolation and more often resided in temporary and unstable housing.

Family members were critical suppliers of housing and financial support, especially for younger respondents.

Employment rates were low across the sample, though black respondents were unusually disadvantaged and had little access to steady, high-paying jobs.
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What is the relationship between prison release and racial inequality in the U.S.?

- Due to their high rates of incarceration, black Americans disproportionately face the material hardship and stress that accompany prison release.
- Family members, particularly older black women, bear much of the burden when their kin transition between prison and community life.
- Mass incarceration reproduces existing racial inequality in the labor market.
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Working to end mass incarceration is not just a matter for correctional policy but a struggle for racial justice.
Thank You

To the hundreds of men and women who shared their time and life experience to improve our understanding of incarceration in America.
To the Massachusetts Department of Correction and the Boston Reentry Study research team.