

TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PRISONS AND THE PEOPLE IN THEM:

1) Approximately 2.300 million people are in American prisons, including people in Federal and State prisons, territorial prisons, local jails, facilities operated by or exclusively for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), military facilities, jails in Indian country, and youth in juvenile facilities. Over 7 million people are under correctional supervision (jail, prison, probation or parole), or about 3% of the U.S. population. [1]

2) Between 1970 and 2001, the Illinois prison population increased more than 500 percent, from 7,326 to 44,348 people. Today, there are 48, 308 people in prison and 35,000 people on parole in Illinois. [2,3]

3) The Illinois Department of Corrections operates 28 adult prisons and various work camps, boot camps and 8 transitional centers. Currently, there are no private prisons in the state. [3]

4) In 2010 Illinois spent \$1.7 billion on the Dept. of Corrections. Nationally, the U.S. spent approximately \$64 billion. [5]

5) 93% of people in prison are male, 7% female. [1]

6) Black males have a 32% chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males have a 17% chance; white males have a 6% chance. [1]

7) 68% of people in state prisons did not receive a high school diploma and up to 65% are illiterate. [1, 6]

8) Between 1987 and 2007, states corrections funding grew by 127%, while funding for higher education only grew by 21%. [6]

9) Serving time reduces hourly wages for men by approximately 11%, annual employment by 9 weeks and annual earnings by 40%. By age 48, the typical formerly incarcerated person will have earned \$179,000 less than if he had never been locked up. [7]

10) Nationally, more than 8.3 million children have parents under correctional supervision (either in prison, jail, on probation or parole). One in every 28 children have a parent in state or federal prison. [1,7]

1. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

2. Urban Institute Report 2003.

3. Illinois Department of Corrections Quarterly Report, 2012.

4. Vera Institute of Justice

5. Department of Education.

6. NAACP "Misplaced Priorities: Over Incarcerate, Under Educate", 2001.

7. Pew Research Center, 2010.