

## STATISTICS ON INCARCERATION

According to an analysis of CDC population estimates by the University of California Survey Research Center for the last quarter of 2003, of the 161,331 adults serving time in California prisons, 6.3 percent were women. . . there are 192,000 minors whose parents are imprisoned, one-third of who are under six years old. (FCL Newsletter May, 2004)

<http://www.fclca.org/may04news.pdf>

A significant impressive number of children in California are affected by parental arrest and imprisonment. Based on the number of prisoners charted above, and on estimates of California inmates' children drawn from 1995 survey data, adults in California's criminal justice system were parents to an estimated 846,980 children (see Chart 2), of which 694,635 children had fathers in the criminal justice system, and 152,345 children had mothers in the system. There are about 9.3 million children in California, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Thus an estimated nine percent of the state's children had a parent in the criminal justice system in 2001-2002. The actual number of minor children is likely to be less, as some of these children are now over the age of 18. (Calif. Research Bureau, February 2003.)

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/03/03/03-003.pdf>

***An estimated 856,000 children in California have a parent currently involved in California's adult criminal justice system, nearly nine percent of the state's children.*** <sup>4</sup>

This is an estimate because California does not request or keep family information about arrested or convicted persons. We estimate that approximately 195,000 children currently have parents in state prison, 97,000 have parents in jail, and 564,000 children have parents on parole or probation. (Cal Research Bureau, March, 2000)

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/00/notes/v7n2.pdf>

See—Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents

<http://www.e-ccip.org/index.html>

In 1998, the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents and The Casey Family Program [TCFP] conducted a study of children in long-term foster care. Findings from the first phase of the study were dramatic and unexpected.

**Approximately 80% of the children studied had at least one parent who had been arrested or incarcerated during the child's lifetime.** This number excluded children whose parents had histories of criminal offenses against children. When that group was included, the proportion of children of criminal offenders in the study population was about 90%.

**Approximately 40% of the children studied had two birth parents who had been involved in the criminal justice system.**

**Approximately 70% of the children studied had a parent incarcerated at some time during their tenure in foster care.** However, only 10% of the children had a currently incarcerated mother and only 33% had a currently incarcerated father.

**About 85% of the children of criminal offenders studied had entered the foster care system for reasons that were not directly related to parental incarceration.** This was not true for the 10% whose parents were incarcerated for crimes against children..

<http://www.fcnetwork.org/reading/fostercare.html>

Current State Budget proposed \$95 million cut from inmate and parolee programs  
[http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis\\_2005/crim\\_justice/cj\\_01\\_ov\\_anl05.htm#\\_Toc96164678](http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis_2005/crim_justice/cj_01_ov_anl05.htm#_Toc96164678)

California's recidivism rate stands at an astonishing 70 percent. This is not a surprise to local police chiefs and sheriff sergeants, who've seen crime rise in local hot spots particularly gang-related incidents after gang members are released from jail or prison and return to their old haunts. (California Performance Review, Sept. 2004)

<http://cpr.ca.gov/updates/pressdetail.php?id=274>

California parolees have the highest rate of returns to prison in the nation with over 55 percent of all parolees returned to prison within two years of release. California has the second lowest level of parole success, with only 21 percent of parolees completing their term on parole supervision without being returned to prison or absconding. Approximately 80 percent of the parole violators returned to prison are sent back by way of the administrative revocation process, often for noncriminal violations, often referred to as "technical violations." The remainder of parole violators are convicted of new crimes and sent back to prison by the courts. Researchers have attributed the high parolee failure rate in California to a number of factors, including few programs and services available to assist parolees with reintegration, few alternatives to revocation for parolees who violate their conditions of parole, a failure by CDC to adequately prepare inmates for release, and an emphasis on parolee punishment rather than reintegration.

**Costs of Parolee Failure** While there is a clear public safety benefit associated with incarcerating felons and isolating them from society, there are also significant costs associated with parolee failure and revocation. First, the state incurs average prison costs of over \$10,000 for each parolee who is returned to prison, costing the state almost \$900 million in incarceration costs each year. In addition, researchers have noted other, often less fiscally tangible, costs associated with parole failure. These costs include local law enforcement and court costs, harm to victims and their property, loss of financial and social support to children and families of the incarcerated, and loss of tax revenues from revoked parolees who otherwise could be working. (CA Legislative Analyst 2004)

[http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis\\_2004/crim\\_justice/cj\\_07\\_5240\\_anl04.htm#\\_Toc64089223](http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis_2004/crim_justice/cj_07_5240_anl04.htm#_Toc64089223)

California returns a higher percentage of parolees to prison than any other state, often for violating a condition of parole such as staying within a specified area.

	1984	2003
Inmates released to parole	24,711	115,424
Parolees returned to prison	11,409	78,053
Returned for violating conditions	7,421	62,377
Returned for new conviction	3,988	15,676

Source: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

[http://realcostofprisons.org/blog/archives/2005/07/ca\\_hard\\_time\\_ca.html#more](http://realcostofprisons.org/blog/archives/2005/07/ca_hard_time_ca.html#more)

**Fiscal Effects.** The level of prison violence in state institutions raises not only safety concerns, but also has significant fiscal consequences. When violence occurs, participants and victims often require expensive medical attention. The CDC reports that approximately 1,700 staff health and workers' compensation claims were filed for injuries resulting from inmate violence over the past three fiscal years. These claims have cost the department about \$8.5 million over the period. In addition, while CDC does not track the number of injuries to inmates resulting from prison violence, treating these injuries likely costs the state several millions of dollars each year.

Violence can also lead to lawsuits against the department for failure to adequately protect inmates. In fact, CDC reports that approximately 350 such lawsuits have been filed by inmates since July 2000. The department has paid inmate claimants approximately \$4 million for 24 of those cases that have so far reached resolution. Finally, as described below, participation in violent and serious incidents results in the placement of some inmates in high-security housing which costs more than \$400 million annually. (CA Leg Analyst, 2005 Budget Study)

[http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis\\_2005/crim\\_justice/cj\\_06\\_5240\\_anl05.htm#\\_Toc96164932](http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis_2005/crim_justice/cj_06_5240_anl05.htm#_Toc96164932)

The prevalence of rape in prison *is* fearsome. Line officers recently surveyed in one southern state estimated that one in five male prisoners were being coerced into sex; among higher-ranking officials, the estimate was one in eight. Prisoners themselves estimated one in three.

[http://www.legalaffairs.org/issues/March-April-2004/feature\\_brook\\_marapr04.msp](http://www.legalaffairs.org/issues/March-April-2004/feature_brook_marapr04.msp)

Psychiatrist Terry Kupers, among others, believes the main cause of the surge in violence in the '80s was overcrowding and the idleness that resulted from programs being cut. "If you take everything away, prisoners become desperate, and therefore uncontrollable," he says. "Crowding, idleness and lack of rehabilitation cause violence. And no amount of supermaxes will stop that."  
[http://www.ertext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/controlunits/LAtimes\\_shu.html](http://www.ertext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/controlunits/LAtimes_shu.html)

How does the benefit-cost ratio of a new supermax facility compare with the BCRs of proposals for such things as other prison safety options, public safety strategies, or new schools? If improving prison safety is a primary goal, then the results of alternative prison safety strategies may be useful comparisons.  
[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411047\\_Supermax.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411047_Supermax.pdf)

**The Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's prisons is a national effort to clarify the nature and extent of violence, sexual abuse, degradation, and other serious safety failures and abuses in prisons and jails throughout the United States, as well as the consequences for prisoners, corrections officers, and the public at large.**

[http://www.prisoncommission.org/public\\_hearing\\_1.asp](http://www.prisoncommission.org/public_hearing_1.asp)

