

Drug Policy Alliance

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://drugpolicy.org/resource/drug-war-mass-incarceration-and-race-englishspanish>

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With less than 5 percent of the world's population but nearly 25 percent of its incarcerated population, the United States imprisons more people than any other nation in the world largely due to the war on drugs. Misguided drug laws and harsh sentencing requirements have produced profoundly unequal outcomes for people of color. Although rates of drug use and sales are similar across racial and ethnic lines, black and [Latino](#) people are far more likely to be criminalized than white people.

Source: International Centre for Prison Studies, World Prison Brief.

The Drug War Drives Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparities in U.S. Judicial Systems

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Justice Statistics

Mass Incarceration Destroys Families

Collateral Consequences of Mass Incarceration

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Our new strategic plan takes bold steps to dismantle this war on drugs and our communities. Join us in seeing this vision through.

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**We are
the Drug
Policy
Alliance.**