

# Drug Policy Alliance

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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

## Policy Issue Resources

[DONATE](#)

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**

Sign up to receive action alerts and news about drug policy reform.

Get tips for covering the war on drugs and download DPA staff photos, logos, marijuana stock photos and b-roll video.

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

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter to get an inside look at DPA and the world of drug policy reform.

