

# The Sentencing Project

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/shadow-report-of-the-sentencing-project-to-the-committee-on-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination/>**

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The incremental deterrent effect of increases in lengthy prison sentences is modest at best. Because recidivism rates decline markedly with age, lengthy prison sentences, unless they specifically target very high-rate or extremely dangerous offenders, are an inefficient approach to preventing crime by incapacitation.<sup>35</sup> National Research Council, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences* 5 (The National Academies Press 2014).

Given these findings, and the disproportionate effect of lengthy prison terms on people of color, what measures is the government undertaking to try to reduce the use of such sentences?

Footnotes[+]

Americans are barred from voting due to felony disenfranchisement laws

Sentencing Policy

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