A common refrain we hear in America today is that the ‘criminal justice and reform system is broken’. It is disheartening and a call to action at the same time. Moreover, experts on the subject will confirm that the issue is an extremely nuanced one. Gradations vary by state and country. But we cannot deny that there has been a more severe brunt borne by the people of color of this country. This post is not meant to politicize. Rather it is to inform and look the matter straight in the eye. It is undeniable that the police force is faced with an extremely difficult task and faces danger in everyday settings. However, it is also true that the abuse of force is rampant.

As highlighted in the many cases that surfaced in the recent years on the subject, we find the police profiling in order to make snap decisions. But as technology helps police the police, and inform sentencing, how will things evolve? Key turns in technology that have affected the state of policing include: vide surveillance by civilians to capture police actions, and predictive analytics and ai in sentencing and assigning risk scores to perpetrators.

Ideally, we’d like to see prison reform and better reintegration into society. However, measuring the quality of prison reintegration is difficult. And so we just focus on a few key metrics such as recidivism rates. In this post, we examine three areas of criminal justice statistics: (i) self-reported victims of crime (ii) arrests made, and (iii) prison populations.

As we all know, prisons are an extremely resource intensive facility or institution to have in our country, especially for what is essentially an unproductive population.

One thing is for sure. That no matter what your politics, prison reintegration is a bipartisan issue. Formulating a plan to reduce crime is an issue both parties can get behind.

Links and other information:

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/hot-topics-criminal-justice/home/welcome>