**Analysis and Visualization of US Incarceration Data**

Research examines the cost and impacts of prison overpopulation and mass incarceration on individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole. By looking into American prison systems and the cost of maintaining them while also looking into the historical background of the prison system this gives the reader a scope of the financial and social costs of mass incarceration. It is concluded that the cost of maintaining the U.S. prison system outweighs its benefits. The stigma and stereotypes associated with prison inmates is also addressed in this article focusing on how stigmas and stereotypes propagated by the media result in negative social construction of prison inmates. This negative social construction is related back to how it is difficult to end America`s dependence on prisons. It is also discussed how changing the culture of incarceration presents its own challenges.

At San Jose State University, research was conducted upon "Human Cattle: Prison Overpopulation and the Political Economy of Mass Incarceration" [8]. Here, we take a deeper dive to look into the costs and impacts of prison overpopulation and mass incarceration on society as a whole, individuals, families and communities. Prison overpopulation is growing at an alarming rate, where in 1980 it was reported that 500,000 Americans were incarcerated [8]. That number grew to 2.3 million in 2010. Even with increased public funding, the system is no longer sustainable due to the amount of funding needed to maintain living conditions. In 2006, an estimate 68.7 billion dollars was spent on correctional systems [8]. Then in 2008 that number increased to 75 billion dollars, combining federal states and local governments. Not only are the financial costs a rising issue, but the social costs as well.

Mass incarceration contributes to increased poverty and income inequality. Incarceration has a negative impact of an individual`s economic prospects, meaning inmates are experiencing a decrease of 11 percent in hourly wages. In some cases, inmates are the primary source of family income. For some families, this means it is an added responsibility to find a new source of income and cover the costs of communication. After the release of an inmate, it can be difficult to find employment, and the financial burden continues of post-eviction penalties that preclude them from qualifying for subsidized housing or obtaining a job. Many negative stereotypes are pervasive to this day. They are perceived as "morally incompetent, unreadable" and likely to continue engaging in criminal activity. In addition, racial stigmatization is likely due to high crime rates in ethnic minority neighborhoods. Changing the culture of mass incarceration in America is not a simple task. The costs of maintaining sustainable living conditions outweigh the benefits derived from correctional systems. On the surface it may appear that it is serving in purpose, when in most cases it is no longer sustainable to maintain that purpose. Larger populations lead to even larger prison populations and expenses on the individuals and their families.

The article "Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2020" goes into detail about people being held in jail prior to their trial. In addition, the result of a lot of overcrowding is due to mass numbers of people in jail as a result of the dispute about legalizing drugs. In America, the criminal justice system holds about 2.3 million people in 1,833 state prisons, 110 federal prisons, 1,772 juvenile correctional facilities, 3,134 local jails, 218 immigration detention facilities, and 80 Indian Country jails [11]. This number also includes military prisons, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories. The report provides details on where people are locked up and for what reasons, as well as the results to minor offenses. Local jails play a great role in the daily population of these correctional facilities [11].

The article, “Inmate Society in the Era of Mass Incarceration,” looks at foundational work on inmate society to gain information on the impacts of mass incarceration on correctional settings [9]. Further research of contemporary prison life such as prison crowding and violence, race, gangs, inmate social structure, drugs and inmate society, aga, inmate society, inmate society in women`s prisons, inmate trust in late modernity, and comparative approaches are conducted. Inmate social organization was once the main interest and subject of study within the criminology realm, but the drive behind the research stalled just as incarceration rates climbed [9]. Past research is discussed and a future direction to renew interest in inmate society and its connections to prison stability, rehabilitation, and community reintegration is proposed.

In “Jails, prisons, and the health of urban populations: A review of the impact of the correctional system on community health,” the interactions between correctional systems and the health of urban populations is highlighted [6]. The authors define correctional facilities as a collection of individuals at high risk of violence, substance abuse, mental illness, and infectious diseases [6]. It is a known fact that cities have a higher rate of low-income citizens, more ethnic diversity, and a higher crime rate than suburban and rural areas due to the high population in a dense area. With this knowledge cities can influence family structure, economic opportunities, political participation, and normative community values on sex, drugs, and violence [6]. As the authors point out in this piece social needs are shown to have a decrease in resources as correctional policies divert resources from other social needs. Correctional systems can have a direct effect on the health of urban populations by offering health care and health promotion in jails and prisons, by linking inmates to community services after release, and by assisting in the process of community reintegration [6]. The authors propose a plan of action and research to reduce the adverse health and social consequences of current incarceration policies offered.

In “Challenges and Strategies for Research in Prisons”, it has shown that the available research on prison systems has been beneficial in evaluating how prisons affect the world around them [2]. However, there is still more research to be conducted as the interest of prison systems and their issues has surfaced once again. In this article the authors discuss some of the challenges encountered when conducting research projects in two maximum security prisons. Approaches that were effective in facilitating the research process through development of collaborative relationships, establishment of prison contacts, and implementation of research methods are also discussed in this piece. The results of the approaches used are high rate of inmate participation as well as a well-functioning multidisciplinary team.

In “The Psychological Impact of Incarceration: Implications for Post-Prison Adjustment”, life in prison is not easy as each individual has done something against the rules which we all live by [7]. By having a concentrated collection of high-risk individuals, a social hierarchy is formed. Factors such as reason for incarceration, sentence time, and repeat offenders all play into where in the social system an individual is [7]. This paper examines the psychological changes offenders undergo to survive their time in prison. Looking at the state of the prisons, the nature of institutionalization, special populations and pains of prison life, implications for the transition from prison to home, and the policy and programmatic responses to the adverse effects on incarceration the authors cover many of the psychological impacts offenders undergo [7].

This monograph “Emerging Issues on Privatized Prisons” by the Bureau of Justice Assistance focuses on the issues presented by privatized prisons [3]. The authors first summarize the current trends in privatization, prior research findings on privatization, national survey results, and future trends. It is then discussed the history behind the key debates over privatization. Resent research is then reviewed such as the background, cost, inmate services, quality of confinement, public safety, and health care. The national survey of state prison privatization is reviewed for both public and private state facilities. Finally, the future of privatization is discussed.

In “Using Technology to Make Prisons and Jails Safer” , various methods are introduced for implementing technology already used in other systems but for jails and prisons [4]. For example, testing airport scanners in prisons. The Graterford system, a maximum-security facility that houses 3100 inmates in Philadelphia, completed between 400 and 600 scans a week and each scan took just seconds [4]. The system only signaled if something was hidden beneath a person’s clothing and filtered for privacy. Another method is new portable scanner spots for improvised weapons. Institutions face challenges detecting nonmetallic objects, such as improvised weapons made of wood or hard plastics. This new device would spot contraband items regardless of the material used to make it. An additional method is tracking prisoners and pinpointing prison hotspots. The radio frequency identification technology involves radio frequency identification technology that uses small transponders, known as “tags” to track movements. In an effort to make prisons and jails safer the mentioned methods are being testing as ways to resolve ongoing issues in the correctional system.

In “Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration By Race and Ethnicity” it is discussed how The Sentencing Project plays a role in the U.S. prison systems [10]. The Sentencing Project is a national non-profit organization engaged in research and advocacy on criminal justice policy. The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective criminal justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing law and practice and alternatives to incarceration. The goal is to recast the public debate on crime and punishment. Since the early 1970s, there has been an increase of more than 500% in the number of people incarcerated in the nation’s prisons and jails resulting on over 2.2 million people behind bars [10]. As a result, there has been a growth in disproportionate racial composition, with high rates of incarceration for African Americans contributing to about 900, 000 of the total 2.2 million people incarcerated [10]. African Americans are incarcerated at a rate of 5.6 times the rate of whites. In addition, in 2005 Hispanics comprised 20% of state and federal prison population [10]. This is a 43% rise seen since 1990. Hispanics are incarcerated at nearly 1.8 times the rate of whites. Policies that produce high rates of incarceration for racial and ethnic minorities effect not only the people incarcerated but their families as well. These impacts include the growing number of children being incarcerated with parents, gender imbalances in communities, and the declining political influence through the high rates of felony disenfranchisement.

In “The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences,” the rate of incarceration in the United States more than quadrupled in the last four decades [12]. The high rates of incarceration rates resulted in the establishment of The Committee on the Causes and Consequences of High Rates of Incarceration in the United States established by the National Research Council. It was found that the normative principles both limit and justify the use of incarceration as a response to crime which is a necessary element of the analytical process[12]. Public policy on prison usage combines empirical findings and explicit normative commitment. The prison system impacts issues regarding criminal punishment and justice, fairness, and just deserts.

One of the biggest challenges confronting our criminal justice system today is overcrowding which is heavily highlighted in “Emerging Issues on Privatized Prisons”. In the past decade, there has been double the amount of adults incarcerated. Securing and housing in humane conditions has become an enormous burden on prison administrators and the federal, state, and local jurisdictions that provide financing. To explore the issues of privatization of prisons, the Bureau of Justice Assistance Funded a nationwide study that resulted in *Emerging Issues on Privatized Prisons*. The study resulted in discovering that rather than the projected 20% savings, the average saving from privatization was only about 1%, mostly achieved from lower labor costs.

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