

# 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PRISONS IN THE U.S.

1. There are approximately 2 million people in US prisons and jails today, and 5.7 million people under state supervision.
2. The incarceration rate in the United States is 725 for every 100,000--the highest in the world. One in every 130 people will serve time at some point in their lives.
3. One of 3 African American men in the US will serve time in prison in their lifetimes.
4. The number of women serving time in state and federal prisons has increased 92% in the last 10 years.
5. The US currently cages more people of color per capita than any other nation.
6. It costs more to send a person to prison for a year than to Harvard University for a year.
7. The prison system is not filled with violent and dangerous people; the majority of people are being sent to prison for drug charges and acts which involve no violence whatsoever.
8. Private corporations such as Eddie Bauer and Lexus employ prison slave labor. Prisoners are forbidden by law to unionize or strike; they are not protected by minimum wage laws for the Fair Labor Standards Act; they cannot voice complaints or even refuse to work without receiving severe retaliation.
9. Conditions in US prisons have been repeatedly condemned by groups such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch for violating the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
10. Healthcare for prisoners is practically nonexistent. It is common practice for prisoners to be denied medical examinations and treatments.

Contrary to what the government and mass media lead you to believe, sources such as the Uniform Crime Report and the Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics confirm that there has been no increase in the crime rate. Yet the imprisonment rate has more than tripled and expenses for criminal "justice" have increased six-fold.

Caging more and more people for longer will not address the real problems in our society. Social justice will. We demand health care, housing, and education. End poverty and racism now!

Facts compiled by the Prison Activist Resource Center in cooperation with Oberlin Action Against Prisons

PARC  
www.prisonactivist.org  
PO Box 339 Berkeley CA 94701

OAAP  
PO Box 285  
Oberlin OH 44074