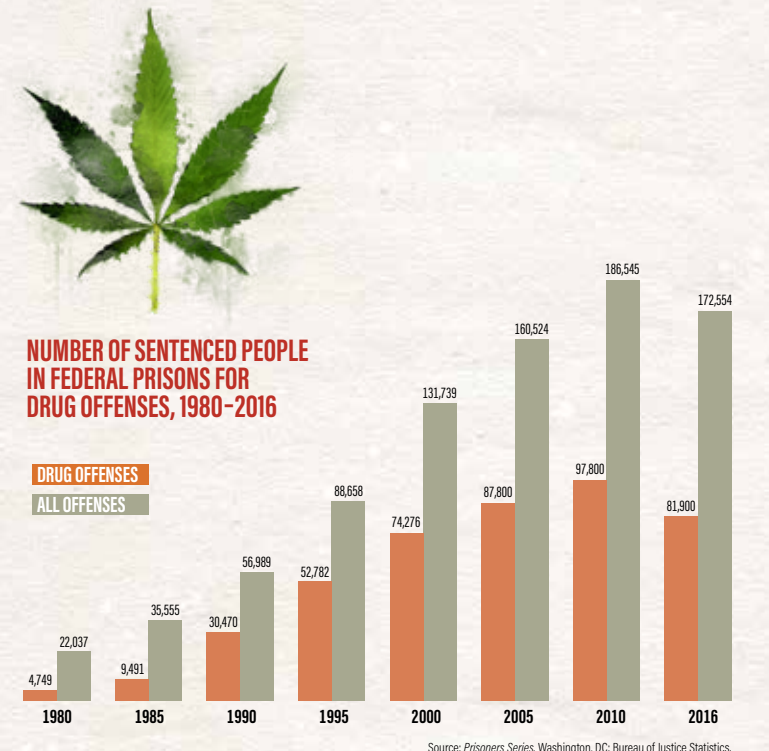


DRUG POLICY

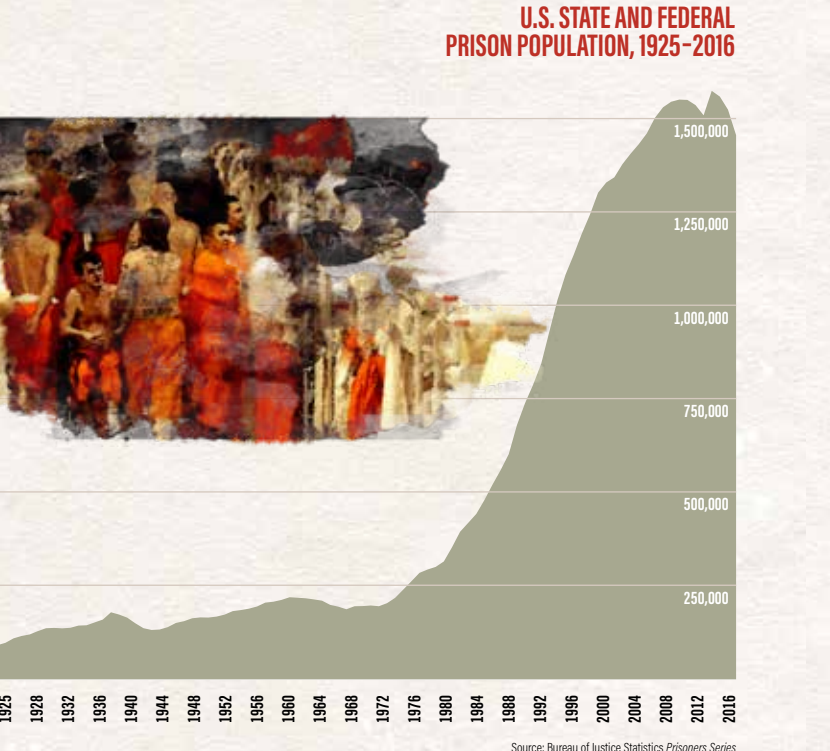
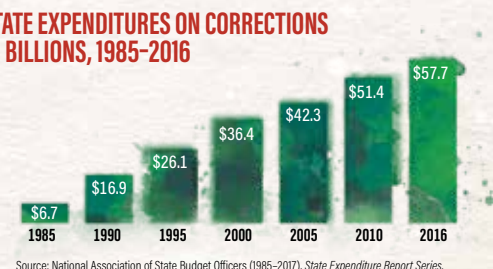
Sentencing policies of the War on Drugs era resulted in dramatic growth in incarceration for drug offenses. Since its official beginning in the 1980s, the number of Americans incarcerated for drug offenses has skyrocketed from 40,900 in 1980 to 450,345 in 2016. Furthermore, harsh sentencing laws such as mandatory minimums keep many people convicted of drug offenses in prison for longer periods of time: in 1986, people released after serving time for a federal drug offense had spent an average of 22 months in prison. By 2004, people convicted on federal drug offenses were expected to serve almost three times that length: 62 months in prison.

At the federal level, people incarcerated on a drug conviction make up just under half of the prison population. At the state level, the number of people in prison for drug offenses has increased nine-fold since 1980, although it has begun declining in recent years. Most of these people are not high-level actors in the drug trade, and most have no prior criminal record for a violent offense.



TRENDS IN U.S. CORRECTIONS

The United States is the world's leader in incarceration with 2.2 million people currently in the nation's prisons and jails — a 500% increase over the last forty years. Changes in sentencing law and policy, not changes in crime rates, explain most of this increase. These trends have resulted in prison overcrowding and fiscal burdens on states to accommodate a rapidly expanding penal system, despite increasing evidence that large-scale incarceration is not an effective means of achieving public safety.



222 East Harvard Street, Glendale 91205

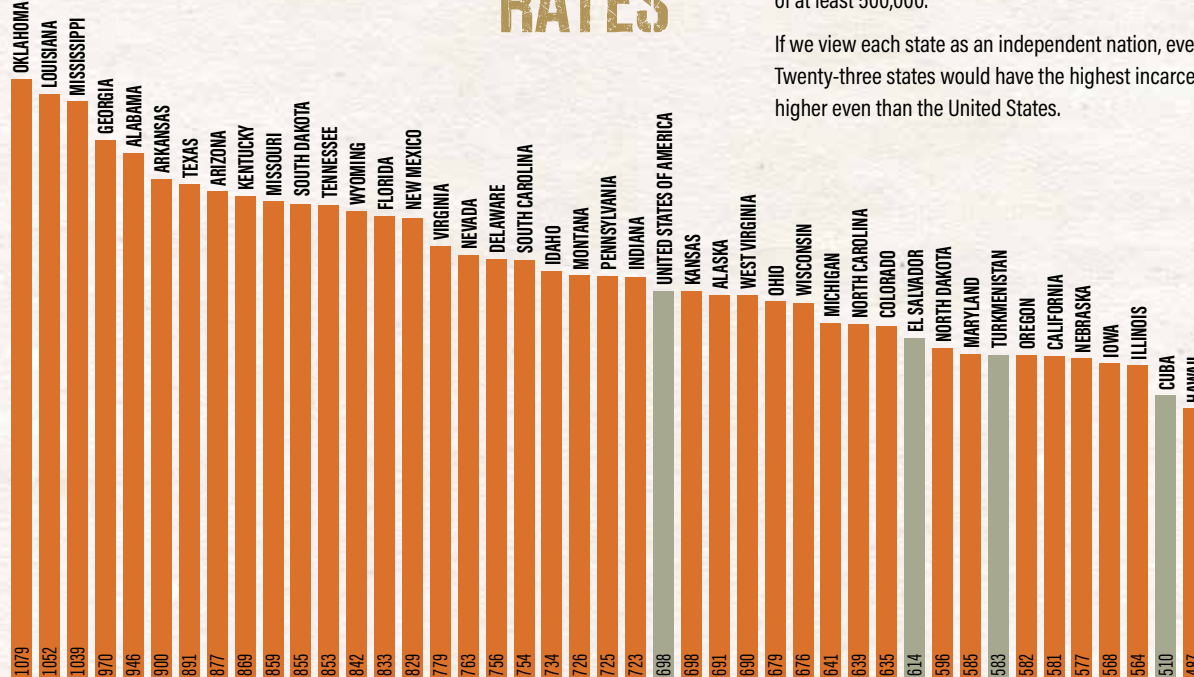
In conjunction with ReflectSpace exhibition
 Incarceration Nation: The US Prison Industrial Complex
 December 14, 2018–February 10, 2019
 Curated by Ara and Anahid Oshagan

INCARCERATION NATION



All information courtesy of The Sentencing Project, Washington, D.C., sentencingproject.org

GLOBAL INCARCERATION RATES



This graph shows the number of people in state prisons, local jails, federal prisons, and other systems of confinement from each U.S. state per 100,000 people in that state, and the incarceration rate per 100,000 in all countries with a total population of at least 500,000.

If we view each state as an independent nation, every state appears extreme. Twenty-three states would have the highest incarceration rate in the world — higher even than the United States.

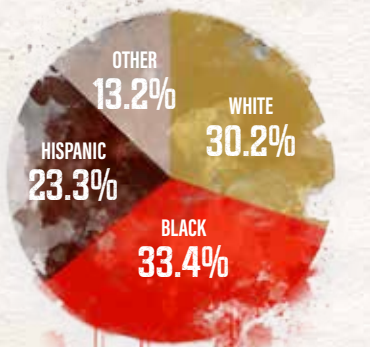


Massachusetts, the state with the lowest incarceration rate in the nation, would rank 11th in the world, just below Brazil and followed closely by countries like Belarus, Turkey, Iran, and South Africa.

In fact, many of the countries that rank alongside the least punitive U.S. states, such as Turkmenistan, Thailand, Rwanda, and Russia, have authoritarian governments or have recently experienced large-scale internal armed conflicts. Others struggle with violent crime on a scale far beyond that in the U.S.: El Salvador, Russia, Panama, Costa Rica, and Brazil all have *murder rates* more than double that of the U.S. Yet the U.S., "land of the free," tops them all.

PEOPLE IN STATE AND FEDERAL PRISONS, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN 2016

Source: Carson, E.A. (2018). *Prisoners in 2016*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.



RACIAL & GENDER DISPARITIES

More than 60% of the people in prison today are people of color. Black men are six times as likely to be incarcerated as white men and Hispanic men are 2.7 times as likely. For black men in their thirties, about 1 in every 12 is in prison or jail on any given day.

The number of women in prison has been increasing at twice the rate of growth for men since 1980. Women in prison often have significant histories of physical and sexual abuse, high rates of HIV, and substance abuse problems.

LIFETIME LIKELIHOOD OF IMPRISONMENT OF U.S. RESIDENTS BORN IN 2001

Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

