

# The Prison Index



## Get the real facts about crime and punishment in the US today!

*The Prison Index: Taking the Pulse of the Crime Control Industry* is the first index of statistics about our nation's criminal justice system ever published. Containing 611 facts and 17 graphs and charts, this 48-page volume presents, in black-and-white, the state of crime control in America. Below is just a sample of some of the insightful and useful information, in easy to read index form.

## The United States stands alone on high incarceration

Incarceration rates per 100,000 population in other countries and regions.

### Countries with high incarceration:

United States: **686**  
Cayman Islands: **664**  
Russia: **638**  
Belarus: **554**  
Kazakhstan: **522**  
Turkmenistan: **489**  
Belize: **459**  
Bahamas: **447**  
Suriname: **437**  
Dominica: **420**

### First World countries with low incarceration

Australia: **116**  
Canada: **102**  
England and Wales: **139**  
Finland: **59**  
France: **85**  
Germany: **96**  
Iceland: **38**  
Ireland: **86**  
Italy: **95**  
Japan: **48**  
Netherlands: **93**  
Spain: **126**

### Median rates per region

Western and Central Africa: **50**  
Southern Africa: **362**  
South America: **107**  
Caribbean: **297**  
South central Asia: **54**  
Central Asia: **426**  
Southern Europe: **69**  
Central and Eastern Europe: **213**  
Oceania (including Australia and New Zealand): **110**

### A Joint Project of The Western Prison Project and the Prison Policy Initiative

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Special rates for prisoners: \$8 total!

### Incarcerated population on the planet<sup>1</sup>: 8,750,000

- Percent of incarcerated population that is in the United States<sup>2</sup>: **22**
- Percent of global population that is in the United States<sup>3</sup>: **4.6**
- Number incarcerated in the United States per 100,000 population<sup>4</sup>: **686**
- Percent of countries with prison populations below 150 per 100,000 national population<sup>5</sup>: **62.5%**

### While the United States leads the world in caging its citizens, the prevalence of crime in the United States is just average.

- Average percent of population in 17 industrialized countries that were a victim of a crime in 1999<sup>6</sup>: **21**
- Percent of the United States who were a victim of a crime in 1999<sup>7</sup>: **21**

#### (Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Roy Walmsely, *World Prison Population List*, 4th edition, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Calculation, *Ibid*

<sup>3</sup> Calculation based on the estimated U.S. population of 289,948,581 and the world population 6,265,656,384 at <http://www.census.gov> at 7:04am on Dec 31, 2002

<sup>4</sup> *World Prison Population List*, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>6</sup> Van Kesteren, J., Mayhew, P. & Nieuwebeerta, P. (2000) *Criminal Victimization in Seventeen Industrialised Countries: Key-findings from the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey. Chapter 2, Figure 6.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*