

jail: correctional facility designed to hold pretrial detainees & misdemeanants serving their criminal sentence

prison: correctional facility designed to hold convicted felons while they serve their criminal sentence

- crime rate declined in US as number of people under lock & key has risen
- US has 5% of world's population but ~25% of world's prisoners

The History of Correctional Institutions

hulk: mothballed ship used to house prisoners in 18th-century England

The Original of Corrections in the US

- first American jail built in James city in Virginia colony in early 17th century
- modern American correctional system had origins in Pennsylvania under the leadership of William Penn
- at end of 17th century, Penn revised Pennsylvania's criminal code to forbid torture & capricious use of mutilation & physical punishment
- reforms remained in effect until death in 1718 when criminal penal code changed back to open public punishment & harsh brutality

Creating a Correctional System

Walnut Street Jail: birthplace of modern prison system & Pennsylvania system of solitary confinement

penitentiary houses: correctional institution for those convicted of major crimes

The Pennsylvania System

Pennsylvania system: prison system, developed in Pennsylvania during the 19th century, based on total isolation & individual penitence

- supporters believed solitary confinement with in-cell labor would make work so attractive that upon release, inmate would be well suited to resume productive existence in society

The Auburn System

tier system: type of prison where cells located along corridors in multiple layers/levels

congregate system: prison system, originated in New York, in which inmates worked & eat together during the day & then slept in solitary cell at night

Auburn system: prison system, developed in New York during the 19th century, based on congregate (group) work during the day & separation at night

- philosophy of Auburn system was crime prevention through fear of punishment & silent confinement
- worst felons cut off from all contact with other prisoners & had no hope of pardon to relieve solitude/isolation
- silence was key to prison discipline in Auburn system; prohibited escape plans while preventing plots & riots & allowed prisoners to contemplate infractions

Creating Prison Industry

contract system: prison industry system, widely employed until after Civil War, in which officials sold labor of prison inmates to private businesses, for use either inside/outside prison

convict-lease system: contract system in which private business leased prisoners from state for fixed annual fee & assumed full responsibility for supervision & control

- development of prison industry led to abusive inmates who were forced to work for almost no wages & to profiteering by dishonest administrators & business owners

public account system: prison industry system, popular after the Civil War, in which employment was directed by the state & products of the prisoners labor were sold for the benefit of the state

- for inmates who had no family &/or dependents, earnings accumulated & were paid to them upon release

Prisons in the Twentieth Century

- early 20th century was time of contrasts in US prison system
- prisoners were allowed "the freedom of the yard" to mingle & exercise 1-2 hours each day
- movies & radio appeared in 1930s

- visiting policies & mail privileges were liberalized
- Great Depression in 1929 prompted industry & union leaders to further pressure state legislators to reduce competition from prison industries

The Development of Parole

- term "parole" comes from french word for "promise" referring to practice of releasing captured enemy soldiers if they promised not to fight again with threat that they would be executed if recaptured
- ticket-of-leaves could have been granted to those who had served significant portions of their sentence
- conditions of release were written on license that former inmates were required to carry with them at all times
- conditions included sobriety, lawful behavior, & hard work
- 1870s: Zebulon Brockway selected rehabilitated offenders from Elmira Reformatory for early release under supervision of citizen volunteers known as "guardians"
- guardians met with parolees at least once a month & submitted written reports on progress
- Ohio created first parole agency in 1884
- 1901: ~20 states had some type of parole agency
- 1927: only 3 states (Florida, Mississippi, & Virginia) had not established some kind of parole release

Contemporary Correctional Institutions

The modern era has been a period of change & turmoil in the nation's correctional system. Three trends stand out.

First, between 1960-1980 came the prisoners' rights movement

- after many years of indifference, state & federal courts ruled in case that institutionalized inmates had rights to freedom of religion & speech, medical care, procedural due process, & proper living conditions

Second, violence within the correctional system became a national concern.

- well-publicized riots drew attention to potential death & destruction in every prison
- prison rapes & killings have become commonplace
- locus of control in many prisons shifted from correctional staff to violent inmate gangs
- prison overcrowding has made attempts to improve conditions difficult

Third, the view that traditional correctional rehabilitation efforts have failed has prompted many penologists to reconsider the purpose of incarcerating criminals.

- between 1960-1980, it was common for correctional administrators to cling to medical model, which viewed inmates as sick people who suffered from some social malady preventing them from adjusting to society

medical model: view of corrections holding that convicted offenders are victims of their environment who need care & treatment to transform them into valuable members of society

- since 1980s, nation moved toward more conservative political outlook, prison viewed as places for control, incapacitation, & punishment rather than a place for rehab & reform

Jails

The nation's 3,200 jails are institutional facilities with 5 primary purposes:

- (1) detain accused offenders who cannot make/not eligible for bail prior to trial
 - (2) hold convicted offenders awaiting sentence
 - (3) serve as principal institution of secure confinement for offenders convicted of misdemeanors
 - (4) hold probationers & parolees picked up for violations & waiting for a hearing
 - (5) house felons when state prisons are overcrowded
- ~15,000 local jurisdictions maintain short-term police/municipal lockups that house offenders for no more than 48 hours before bail hearing can be held
 - some jurisdictions, such as MA, house corrections holds convicted misdemeanants & county jail holds pretrial detainees

Jail Populations & Trends

- jail incarceration right now ~234 jail inmates per 100,000 US residents & ~745,000 jail inmates behind bars at any time
- ~9 out of every 10 inmates are adult males
- although whites make up >47% of jail population, minority representation is significant problem: African Americans represent >35% & Hispanics an additional 15% of all inmates; minority representation in jail inmate population remained stable for past decade
- number of juveniles held in adult jails been in declined since 2000 result of ongoing federal government initiatives to remove juveniles from adult facilities
- ~5,400 minors still being held in adult jails each day; some runaways being detained in adult jail because no juvenile facility is available while others being held simply because local jurisdiction has not accepted federal mandates

FEMALE JAIL INMATES

- ~14% of jail inmates are women
- even though men make up 86% of jail population, during past 2 decades, percentage of adult females in jail increased at faster pace than that of males
- often difficult for female inmates to make successful reentry into society
- employment seems to be key issue

Jail Conditions

- jails usually low-priority item in criminal justice system
- >10% of male inmates & ~50% of female inmates have been victims of prior physical & sexual abuse
- ~2/3 jail inmates report having mental health problems
- some counties report inmate suicides are biggest concern
- percentage of jail inmates who take their own lives higher than that of the general population
- ~1.6% of inmates reported coercive sexual incident involving another inmate & ~1.8% reported incident involving staff

The survey also revealed that:

- inmate-on-inmate victimization was ~2x as common for females than males (3.6% vs 1.4%)
- sexual victimization of jail inmates occurs at similar rates for all races, ethnicities, & ages

New-Generation Jails

- traditional jails constructed on what is referred to as the linear/intermittent surveillance model; jails designed this way are more rectangular with corridors leading to either single/multiple occupancy cells arranged at right angles to corridor; officers must patrol to see into cells & when they're in position to observe one cell, they cannot observe others
- new generation jails allow for continuous observation of residence; there are two types: direct supervision & indirect supervision jails
- direct-supervision jails contain cluster of cells surrounding living area or "pod" which contains tables, chairs, & tvs
- indirect-supervision jails: correctional officer's station located inside secure room; microphones & speakers inside living unit permit officer to hear & communicate with inmates
- research shows indirect-supervision jails may help reduce postrelease offending in some situations

Prisons

- ~1,800 secure public & private adult correctional facilities housing >1.5 million state & federal prisoners
- prisons usually organized/classified on 3 levels: maximum, medium, & minimum security

Maximum-Security Prisons

- maximum-security prison: correctional institution houses dangerous felons & maintains strict security measures, high walls, & limited contact with outside world
- typical max-security facility is fortress-like, surrounded by stone walls with

guard towers at strategic places; walls may be 25-ft high & sometimes inner & outer walls divide prison into courtyards

- barbed wire/electrified fences used to discourage escapes
- inmates live in interior, metal-barred cell that contain their own plumbing & sanitary facilities & are locked securely by key/electronic device
- during day, inmates engage in closely controlled activities like meals, workshops, education, etc
- these prisons designed to eliminate hidden corners where people can congregate & passages are constructed so they can easily be blocked to quell disturbances

Super-Maximum-Security Prisons

super-maximum-security prisons: form of max-security prison which uses high-level security measures to incapacitate nation's most dangerous criminals; most inmates are in lockdown 23 hours/day

- these institutions can be independent centers or locked wings of existing prisons
- supermax model based on assumption that prison disorder is primarily result of handful of disruptive inmates & that if these few can be strictly controlled, violence level in entire facility can be reduced
- 484-bed facility in Florence, Colorado has most sophisticated security measures in the US including 168 video cameras & 1,400 electronically controlled gates
- inside cells in Florence: all furniture is unmovable; desk, bed, & TV stand all made of cement; all potential weapons (soap dishes, toilet seats, toilet handles) have been removed
- cement walls are 5,000-lb quality & steel bars crisscross every 8 in. inside walls
- cells are angled so inmates can see neither each other nor outside; this cuts down on communication & denies inmates sense of location to prevent escapes

ARE THEY EFFECTIVE?

- although they achieve correctional benefits by enhancing security & quality of life, they deprive inmates of basic human rights & any opportunity for rehabilitation
- rural location makes staffing difficult in professions like dentistry, medicine, &

counseling

- senior officers prefer to not work in these facilities so most difficult inmates often in hands of least experienced officers

PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE?

- some research efforts show supermax inmates have more difficult time readjusting upon release
- some correctional experts believe supermax are more likely to have extremely harmful effects, especially on those suffering from preexisting mental illnesses & those with subnormal intelligence
- another recent study used 14 tests to measure psychological states such as anxiety, depression, & psychosis in sample of inmates housed in supermax-like conditions & showed initial improvements in psychological well-being; test showed 20% of study sample improved & 7% worsened during study period

Medium-Security Prisons

medium-security prison: less secure institution that houses nonviolent offenders & provides more opportunities for contact with the outside world

- also surrounded by walls but may be fewer guard towers/other security precautions
- visitation with personal contact may be allowed
- most prisoners housed in cells but individual rooms used to reward those making exemplary rehab efforts
- medium-security prisons promote greater treatment efforts & relaxed atmosphere allows freedom of movement for rehab workers & other therapeutic personnel

Minimum-Security Prisons

minimum-security prison: least secure correctional institution which houses white collar nonviolent offenders, maintains few security measures, visitation policies

- inmates allowed considerable amount of personal freedom
- instead of guards leading them everywhere, they are summoned by bells/loudspeaker announcements & they assemble on their own
- dress codes lax & inmates are allowed to grow beards/mustaches

- may have dorms/small private rooms for inmates
- prisoners allowed to own personal possessions that might be deemed dangerous in other level security prisons such as radios
- sometimes called "club fed" because of their frequent criticism for being like country clubs

Alternative Correctional Institutions

Prison Farms & Camps

- found primarily in south & west
- have been in operation since 19th century
- prisoners on farms produce dairy products, grain, & vegetable crops used in state correctional system & other governmental facilities like schools & hospitals
- forestry camp inmates maintain state parks, fight forest fires, & do reforestation work
- road gangs repair roads & state highways
- ranches employ inmates in cattle raising & horse breeding

Shock Incarceration in Boot Camps

boot camp: short-term, militaristic correction facility in which inmates undergo intensive physical conditioning & discipline

- boot camp gained popularity in 1980s-1990s
- concept is short periods of 90-180 days of high-intensity exercise & work will "shock" inmate into going straight
- tough physical training designed to promote responsibility & improve decision-making skills, build self-confidence, & teach socialization skills

shock incarceration: short-term correctional program based on a boot camp approach that makes use of a military-like regime of high-intensity physical training

- empirical research yielded disappointing results; future of boot camp approach clouded at best & many state programs have been canceled

Community Correctional Facilities

- placing offenders in prison makes them more likely to adopt inmate lifestyle

than reassimilate conventional social norms

community treatment: attempt by correctional agencies to maintain convicted offenders in the community rather than a secure facility; includes probation, parole, & residential programs

halfway house: community-based correctional facility that houses inmates before their outright release so they can become gradually acclimated to conventional society

- community corrections programs often offer specialized treatment/focus on specific groups of offenders, helping residents use experience to cushion shock of reentering society; common among drug abusers & other nonviolent offenders whose special needs can be met in self-contained community setting

Private Prisons

- ~19% of federal prisoners & ~8% of state prisoners are housed in private facilities
- private & state institutions seem to cost about the same to operate & produce same results in terms of security issues & recidivism

Inmate Populations

- backgrounds & characteristics of inmates reflect arrest data & are similar to those of the jail population: disproportionately young, male, minority, & poor
- black males 6x more likely & Hispanic males 2x more likely as white males to be held in custody
- women still make up <10% of total prison population
- disproportionate number of inmates have experienced homelessness & associated social problems including mental illness, substance abuse, & unemployment
- only ~1/3 of current inmates have high school diploma compared with >80% of general population

Population Trends

- indications that after decades of growth, prison population may be on decline
- convicted criminals receiving shorter sentences than several years ago
- past few years, ~50% of states have closed prisons, reduced number of prison

beds, or both

- change in correctional population may depend on faith judges & legislators place in incarceration as a crime control policy

FIGURE 13.1 Total, State, and Federal U.S. prison populations, 2004–2014

