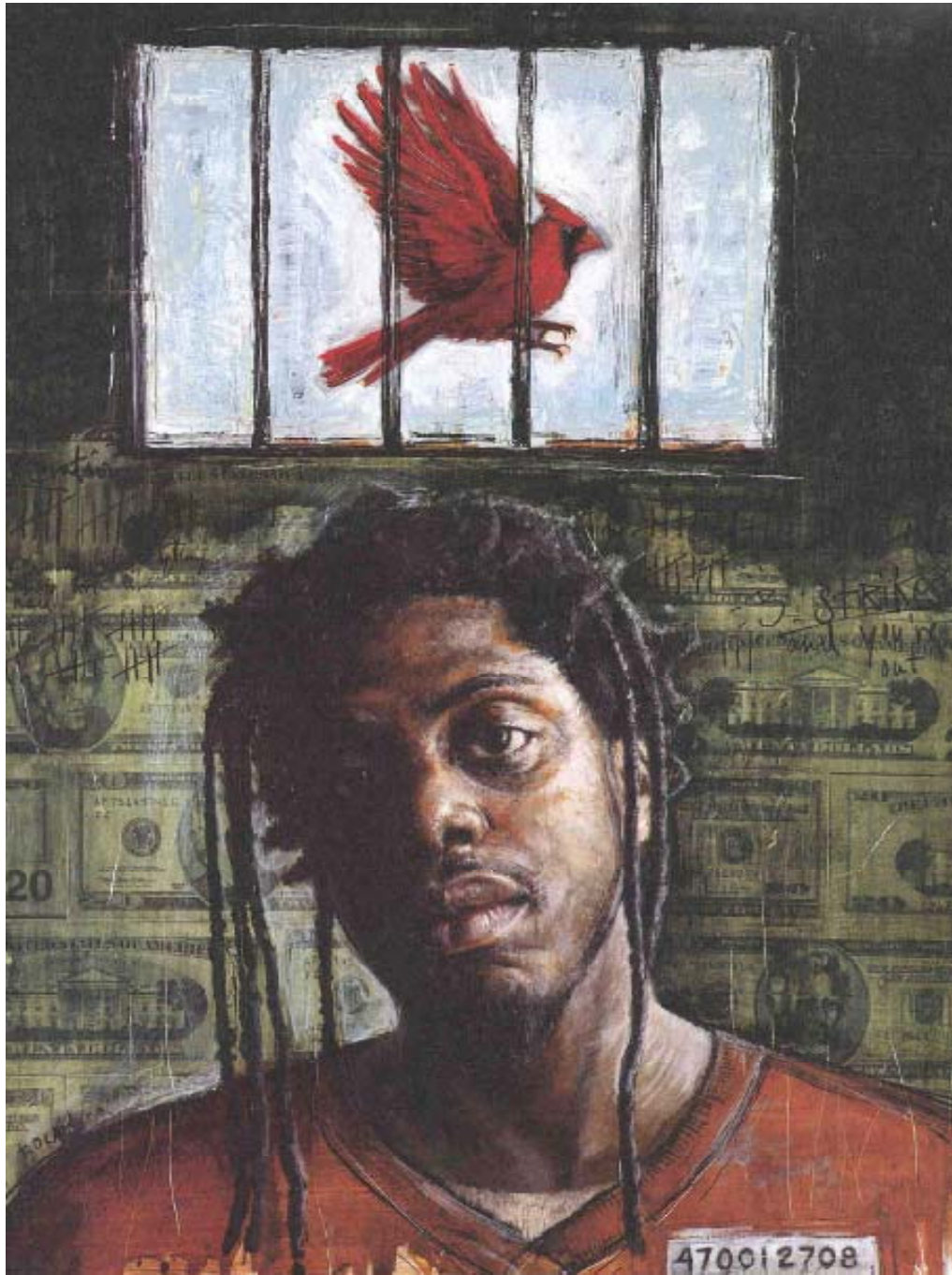


Mass Incarceration

Glenn C. Loury
Brown University
March 2010

Presentation based on data provided by
Bruce Western of Harvard University



Mass Imprisonment

David Garland (2001, 1) defines mass imprisonment:

... a rate of imprisonment... that is markedly above the historical and comparative norm for societies of this type...

[imprisonment] ceases to be the incarceration of individual offenders and becomes the systematic imprisonment of whole groups of the population.

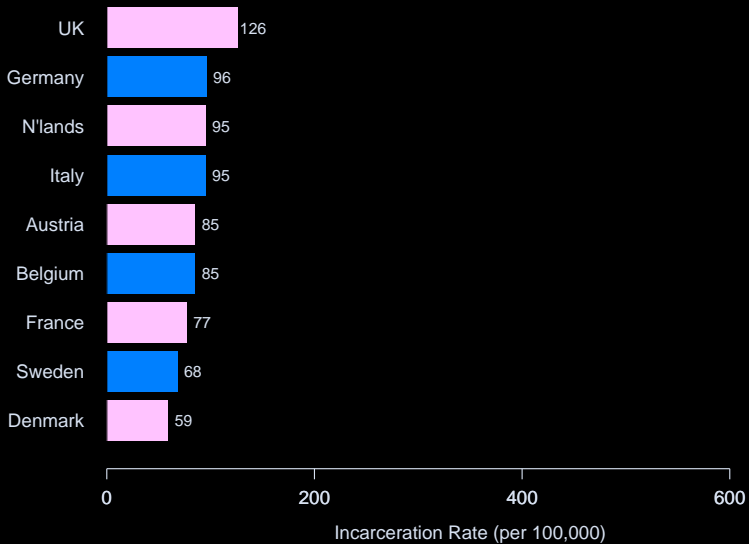
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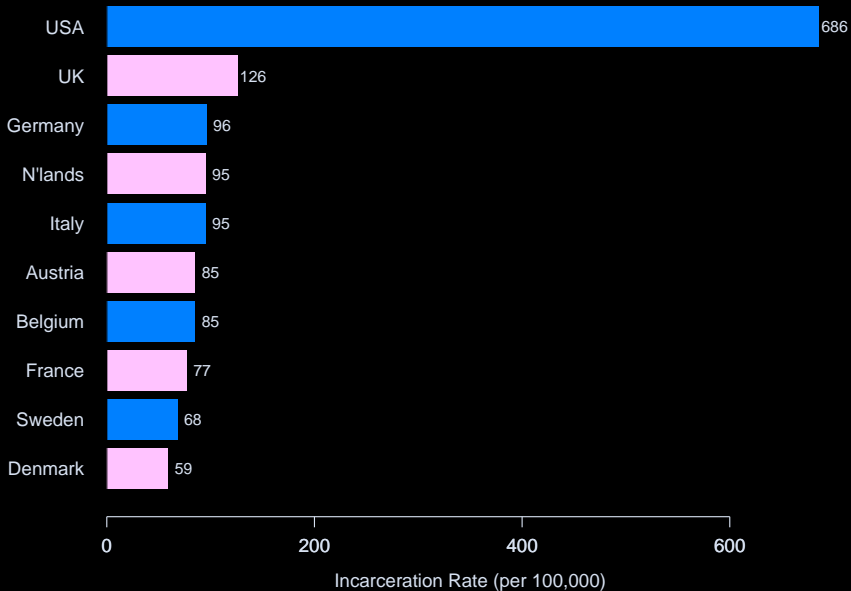
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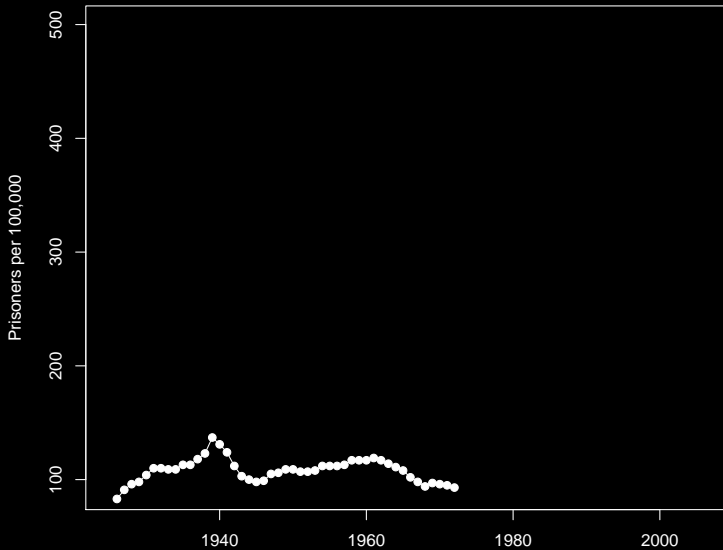
Incarceration in Western Europe, 2001



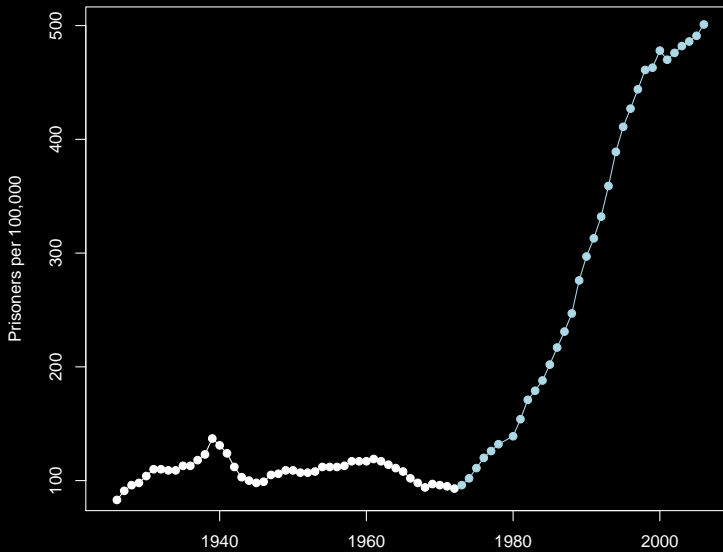
Incarceration in Western Europe and the US, 2001



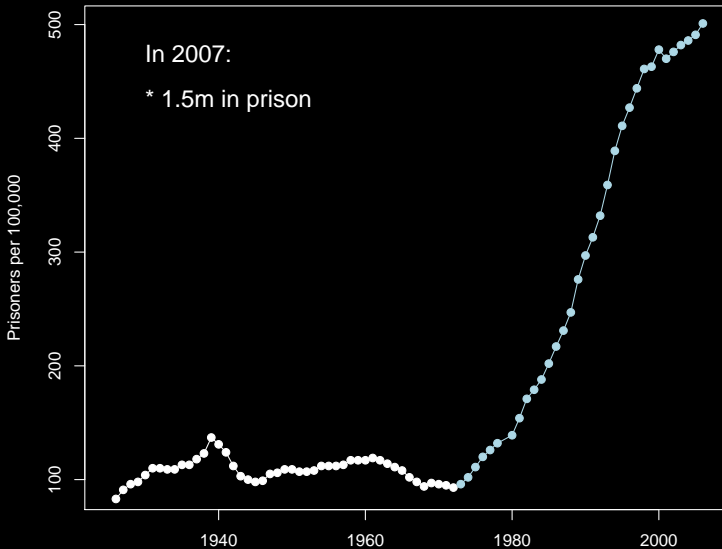
US Imprisonment Rate, 1925-1972



US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–2006



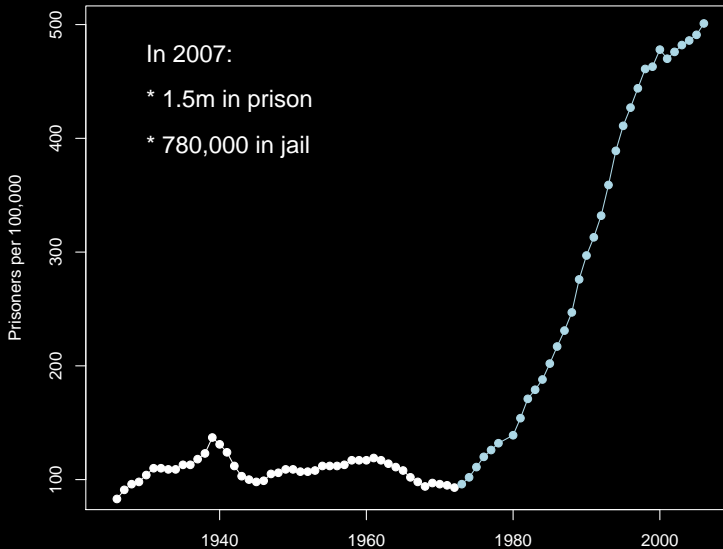
US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–2006



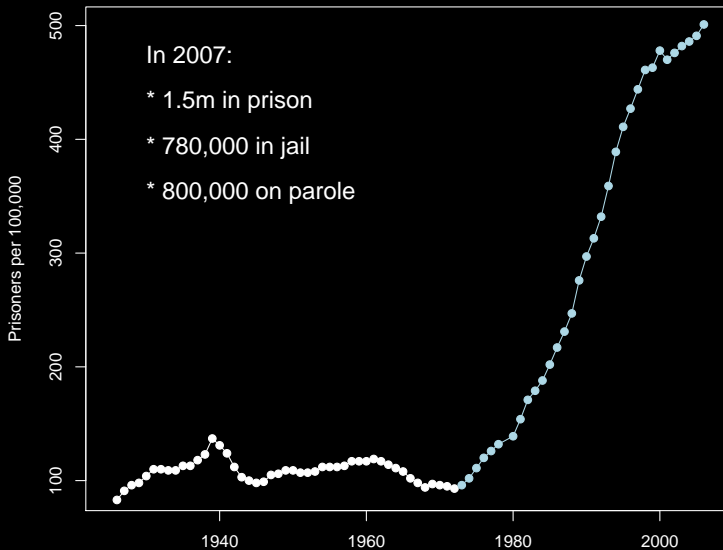
In 2007:

* 1.5m in prison

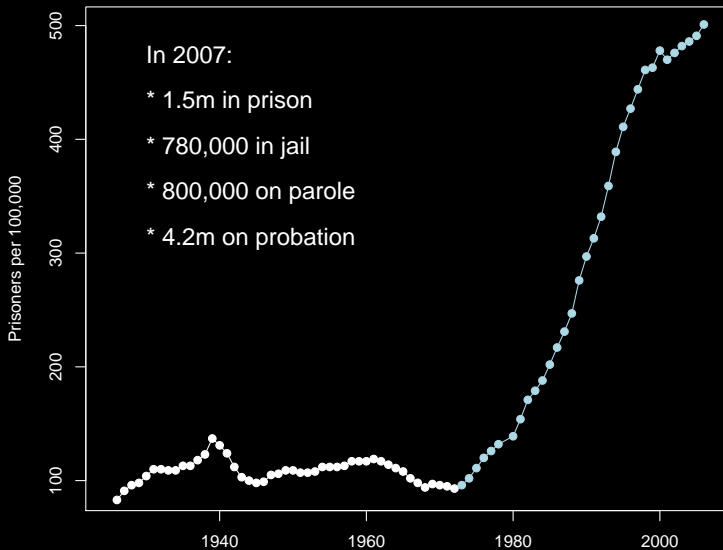
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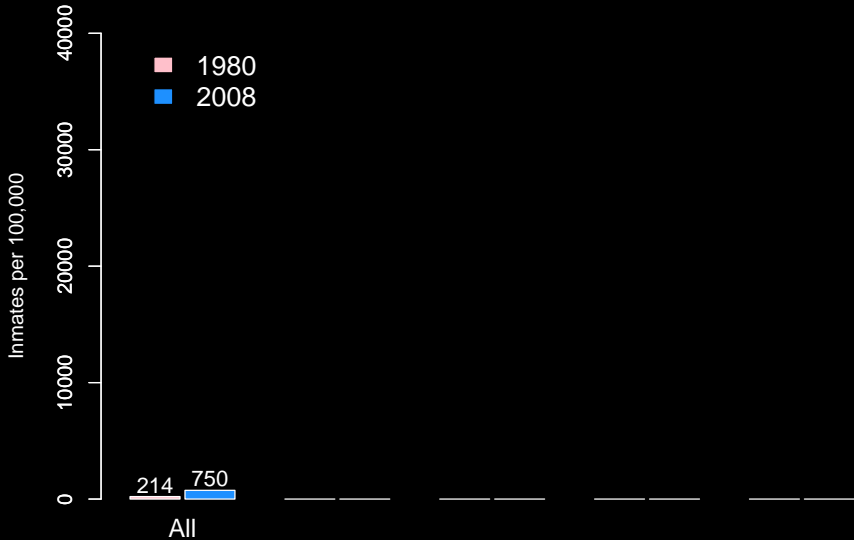
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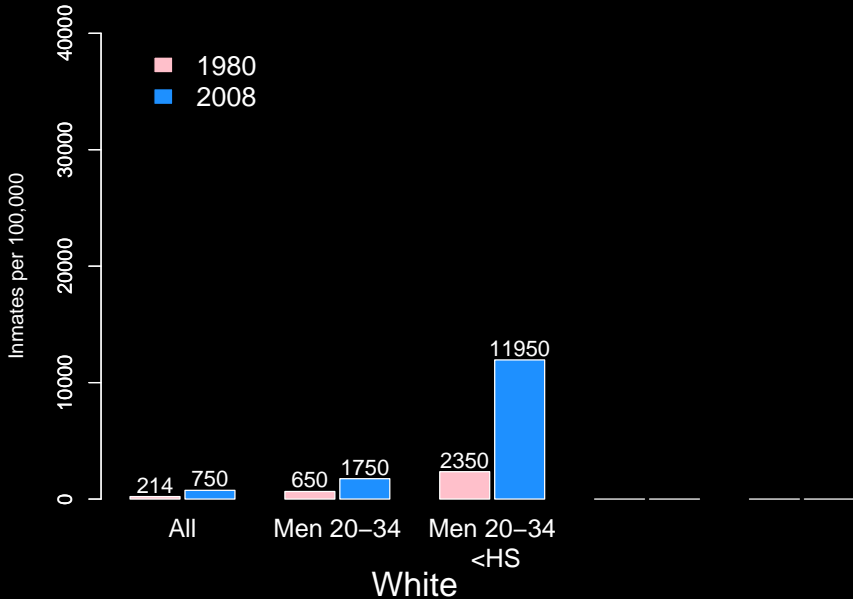
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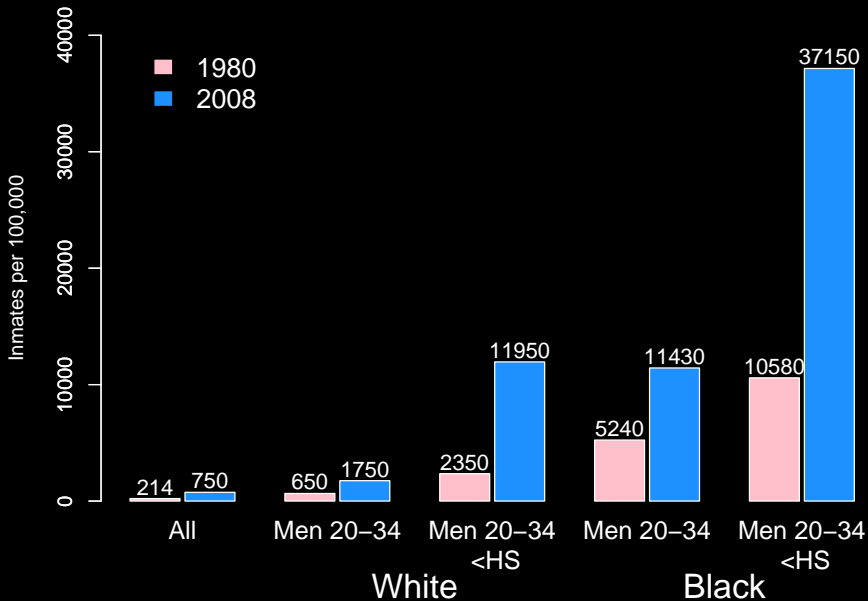
Incarceration by Race and Education



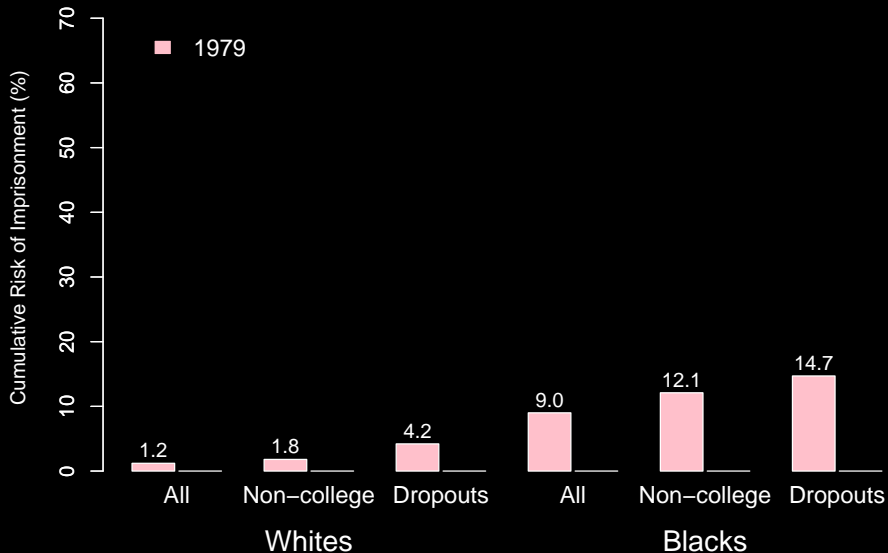
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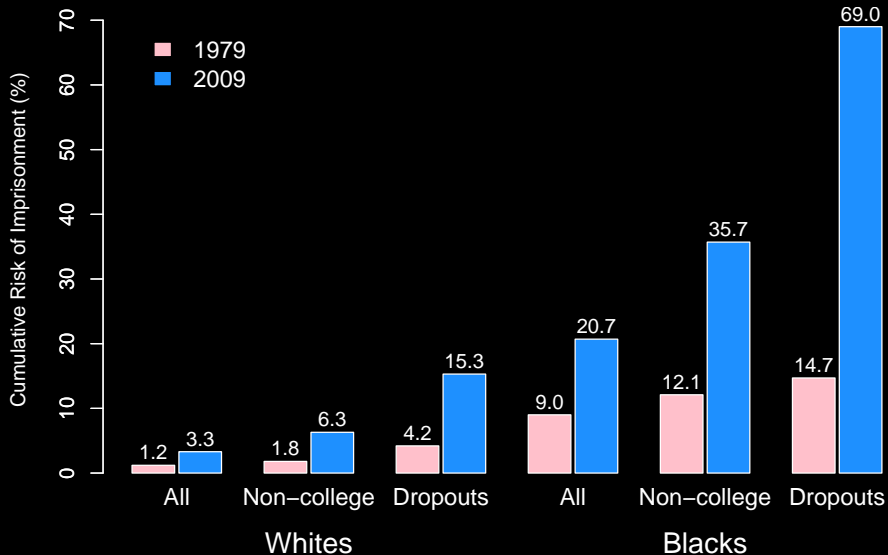
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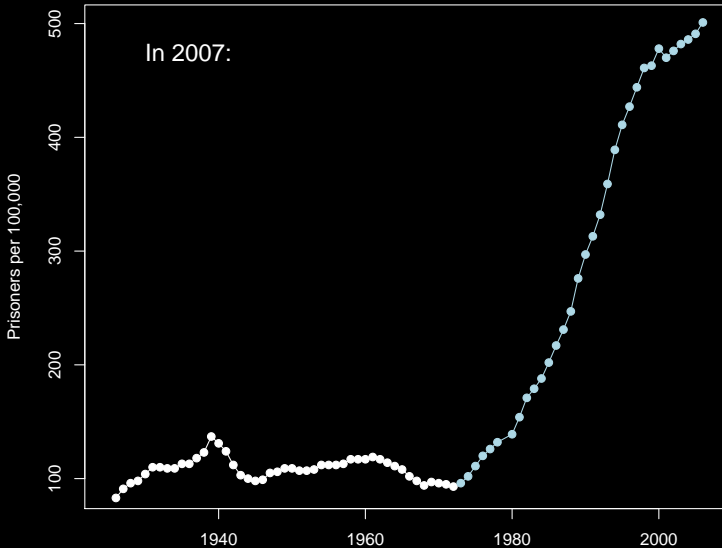
Men's Risk of Imprisonment by 30-34



Men's Risk of Imprisonment by 30-34



US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–2006



Violent crime rates

Adjusted victimization rate
per 1,000 persons age 12 and over

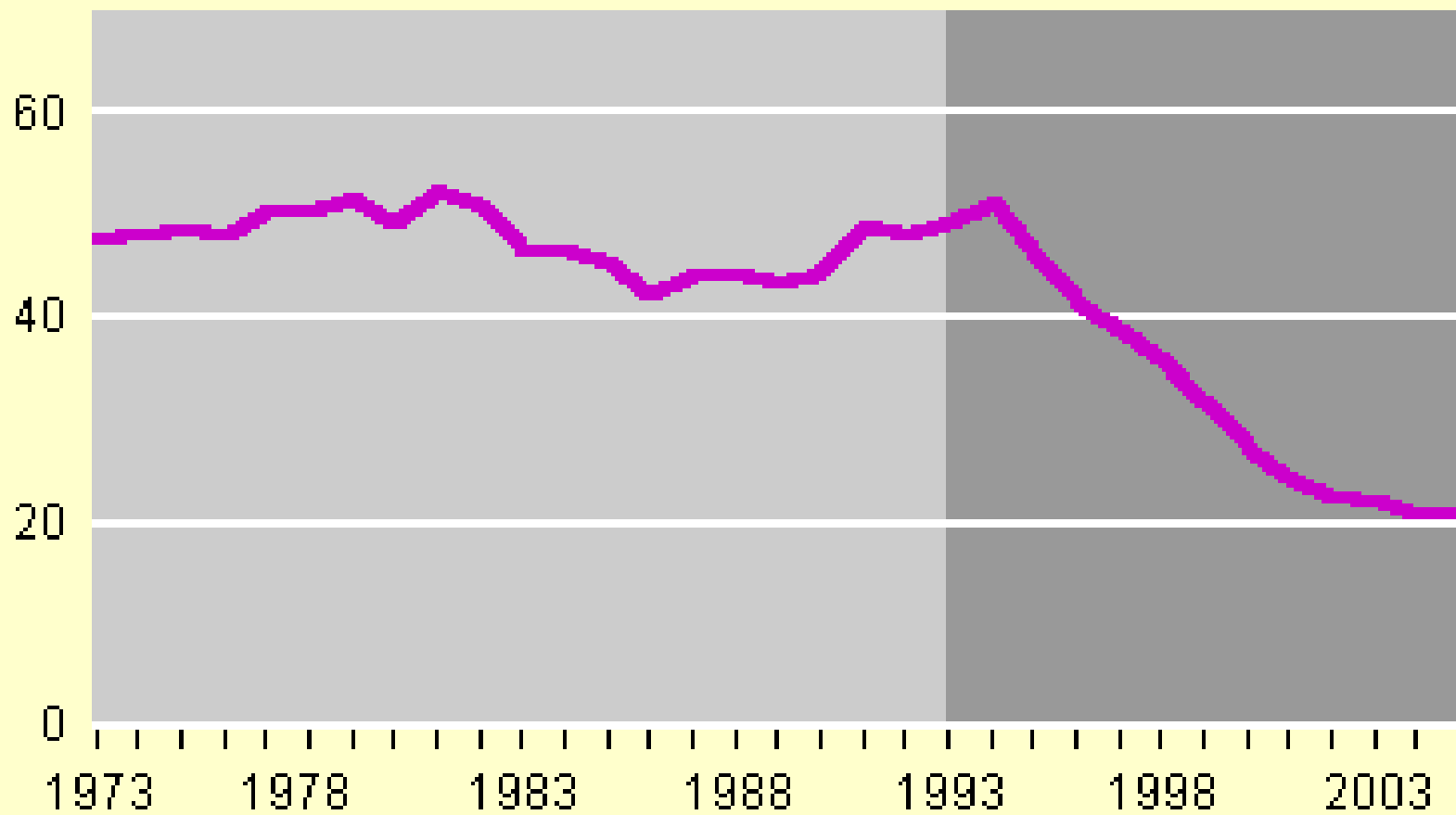
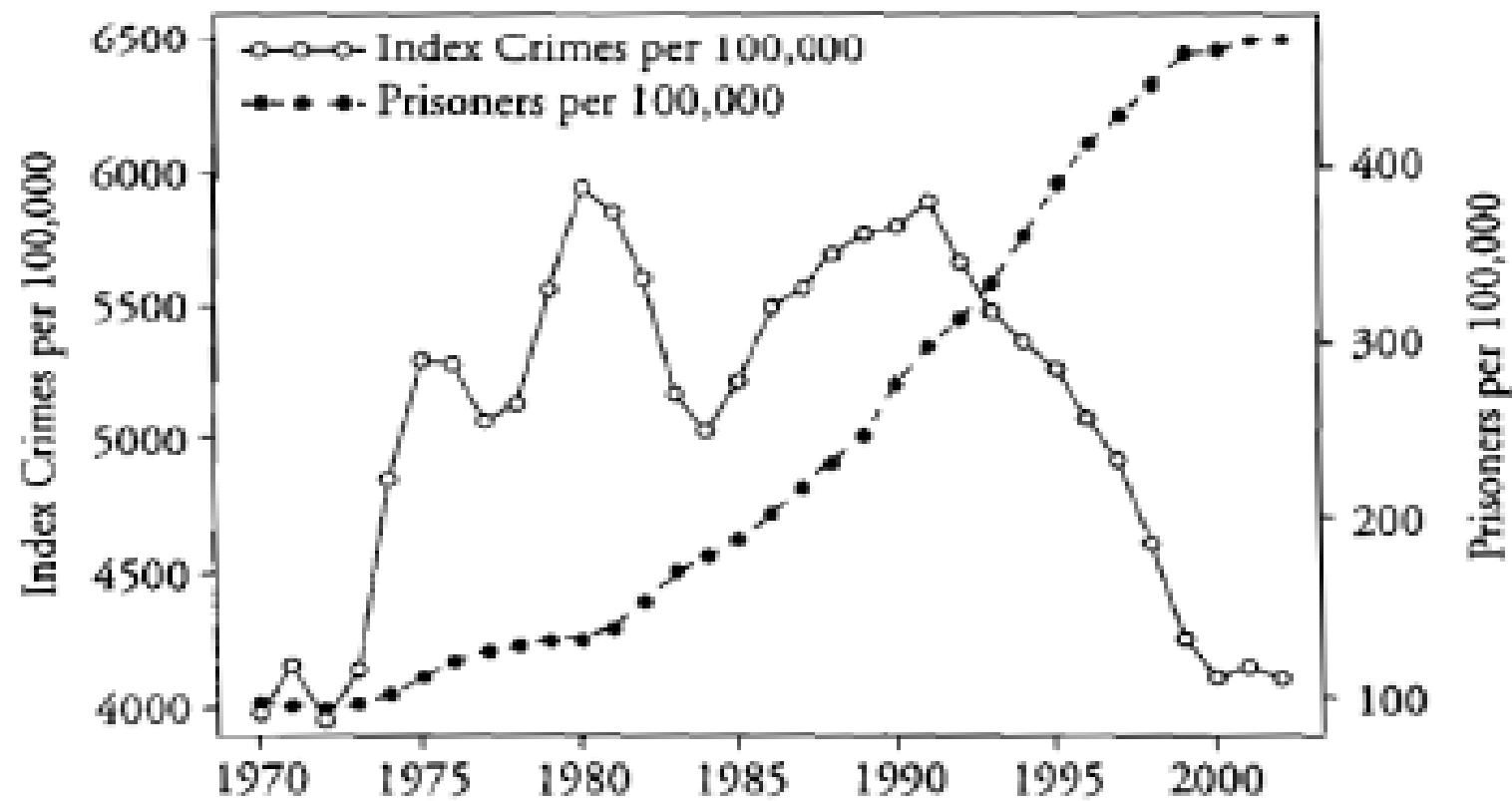
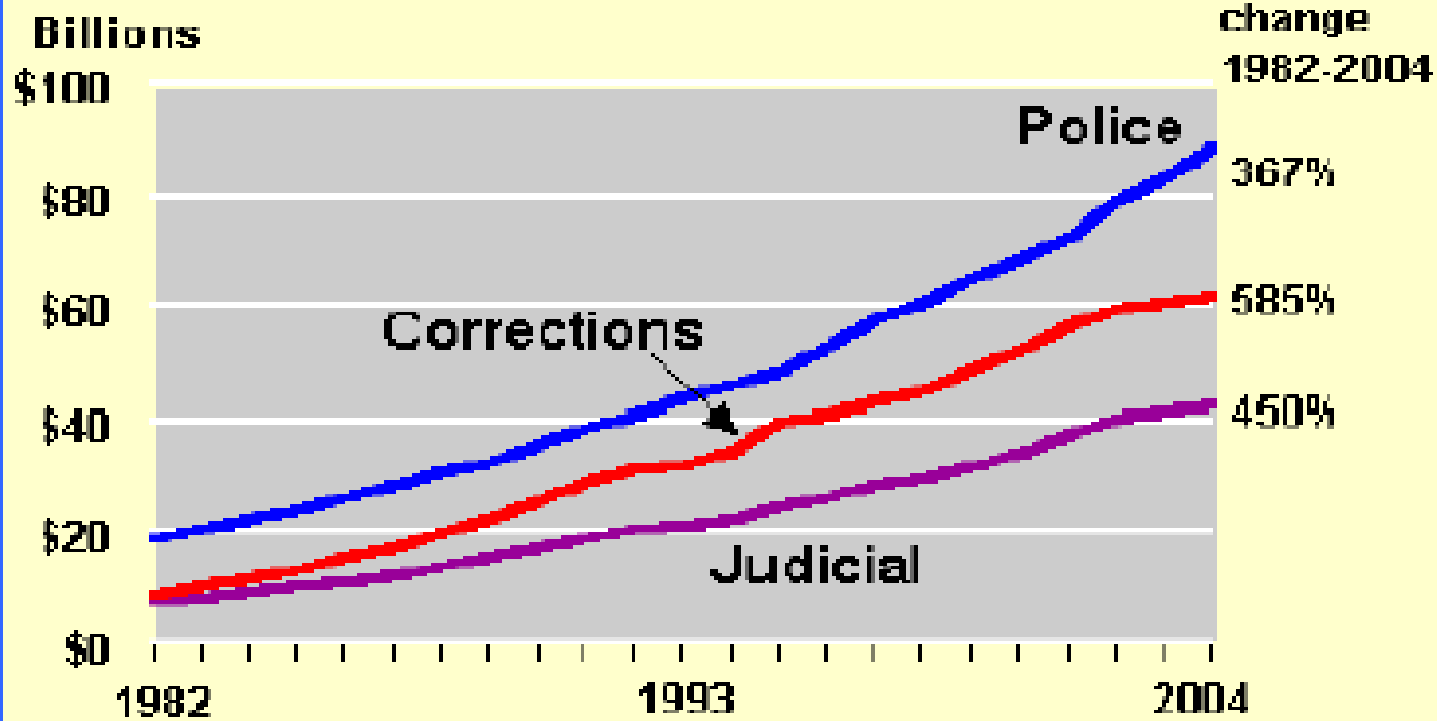


Figure 2.1 Trends in Index Crime Rate and Imprisonment



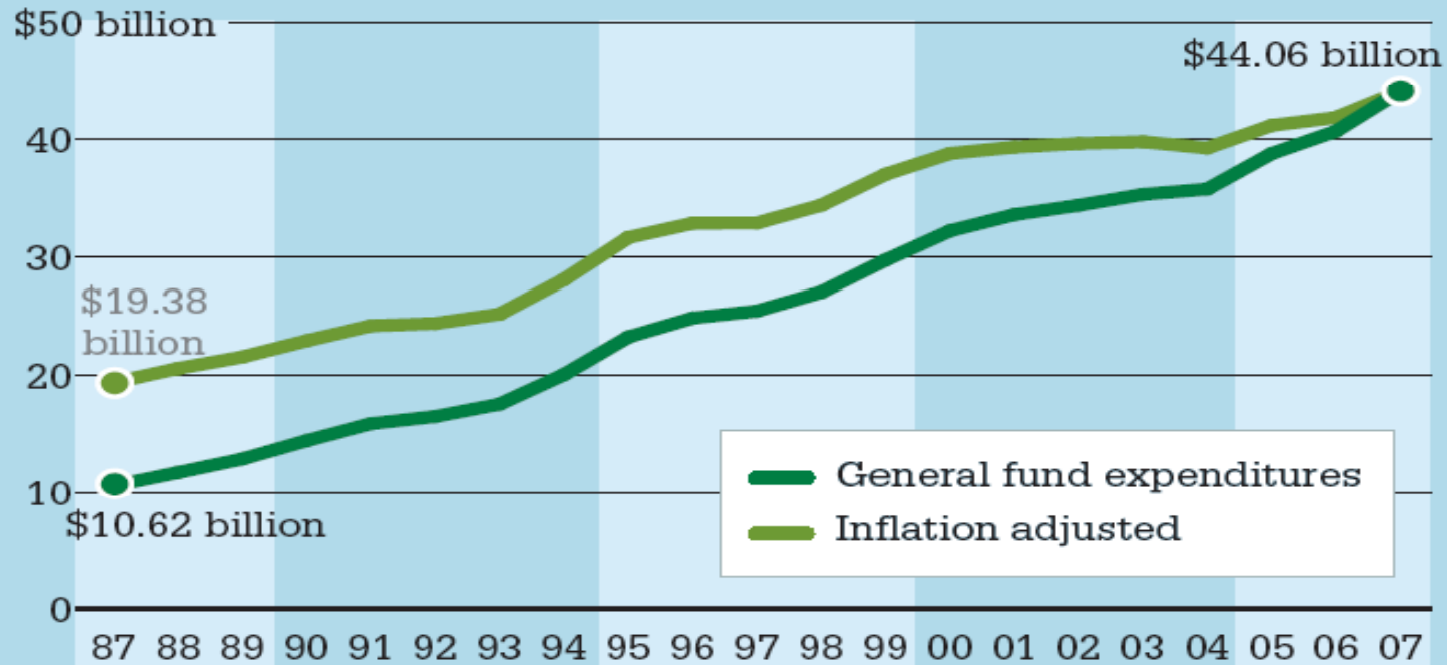
Sources: *Crime in the United States* (1977, 1991, 2004); Pastore and Maguire (2005, table 628).

Direct expenditure by criminal justice function, 1982-2004



TWENTY YEARS OF RISING COSTS

Between fiscal years 1987 and 2007, total state general fund expenditures on corrections rose 315 percent.



SOURCE: National Association of State Budget Officers, "State Expenditure Report" series; Inflation adjusted figures are based on a reanalysis of data in this series.

NOTE: These figures represent state general funds. They do not include federal or local government corrections expenditures and typically do not include funding from other state sources.



The Vortex

*The Concentrated Racial
Impact of Drug Imprisonment
and the Characteristics of
Punitive Counties*

A Justice Policy Institute Report
December 2007

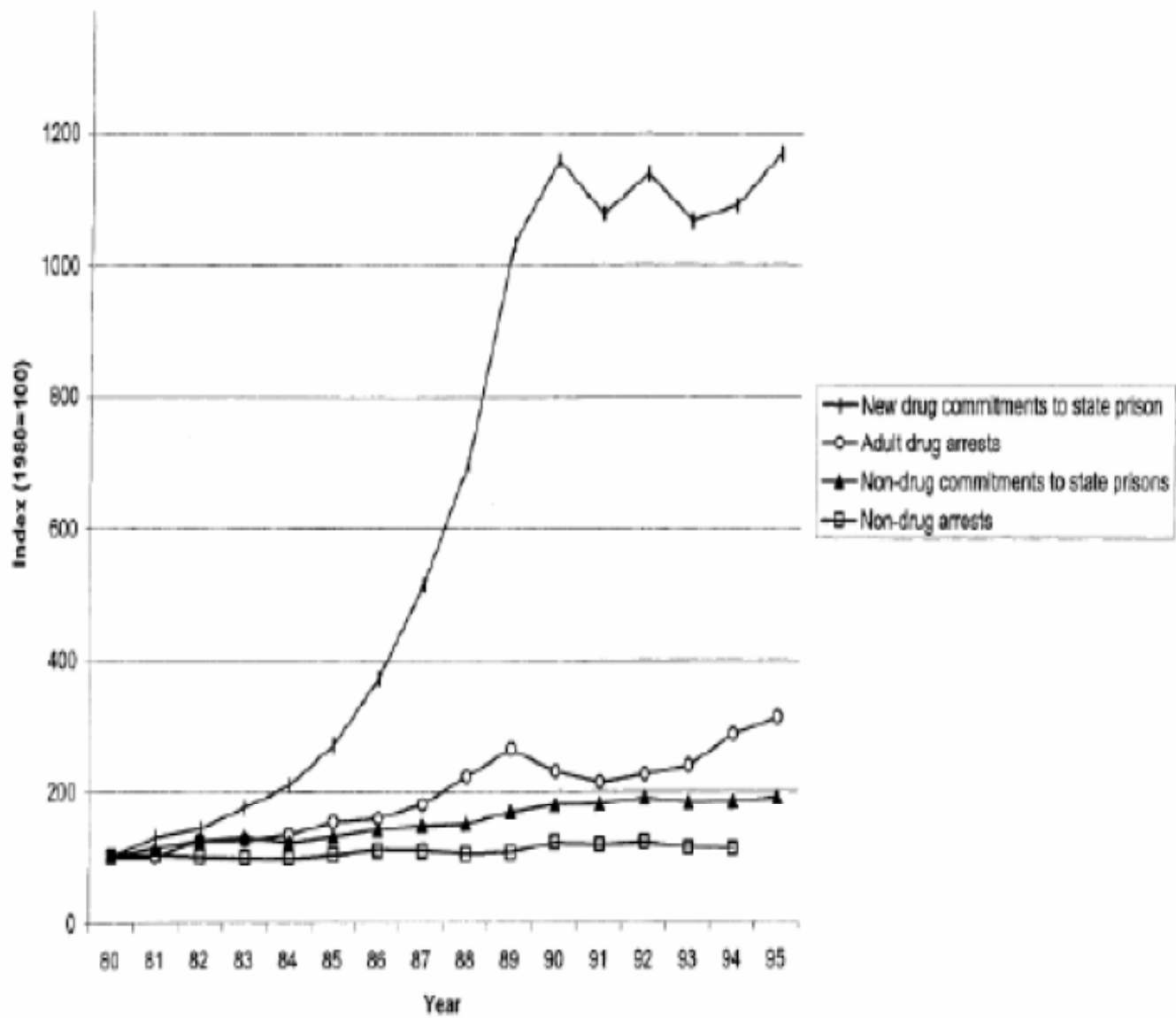
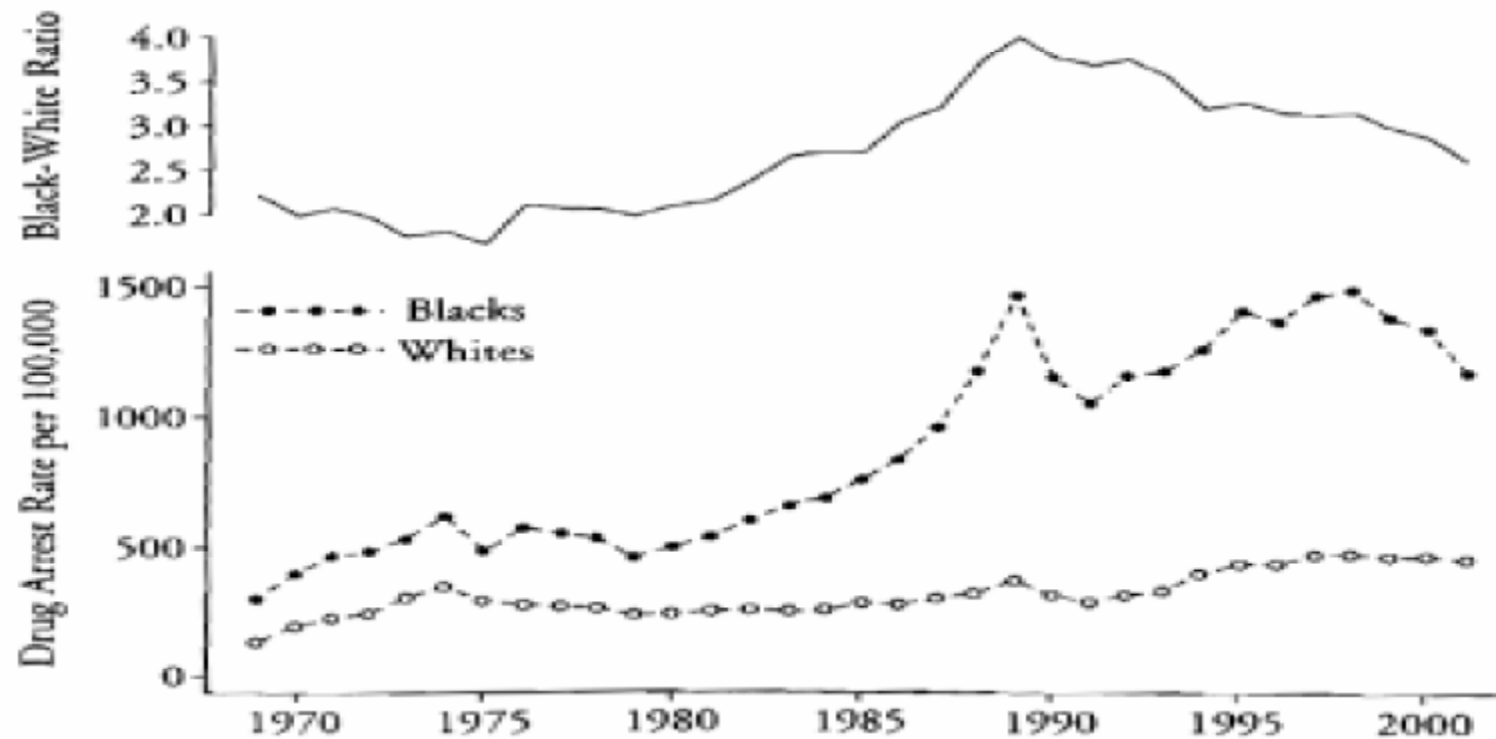


Fig. 1. Arrests and state prison commitments by crime type.

The War on Drugs

Figure 2.2 Drug Offenses and Arrest Rate Ratio



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation (1993, 2003).

Drug Arrests of Blacks Spike in Late 80's

Table 1. Though the European Union has 200 million more inhabitants than the United States, the U.S. incarcerates nearly 10 times as many people for drug offenses.

	U.S. Population (2003)	282,909,885
	TOTAL U.S. Prisoners	2,085,620
	Federal Prisoners	86,972
	State Prisoners	250,900
	Jailed Prisoners	170,751 *
	TOTAL	508,623
Drug Offenses	European Union Population (2003)	483,297,500
	TOTAL EU Prisoners	600,619
	Prisoners for Drug Offenses	55,830* *

- **While tens of millions of people use illicit drugs, prison and policing responses to drug behavior have a concentrated impact on a subset of the population.** In 2002, there were 19.5 million illicit drug users, 1.5 million drug arrests, and 175,000 people admitted to prison for a drug offense.¹¹ While there is some variation in reported drug use rates between different counties and different states, there is much greater variation between one locality's propensity to send people to prison for a drug offense compared to another's.
- **Whites and African Americans report using and selling drugs at similar rates, but African Americans go to prison for drug offenses at higher rates than whites.** Survey research shows that whites and
- **Counties with larger proportions of African Americans in the community sent people to prison for drug offenses at higher rates.** The drug imprisonment rate in the quartile of counties in which Af-

Figure 1: The Drug Admissions Vortex: Annual Rates of Drug Use, Arrests, and Prison Admissions

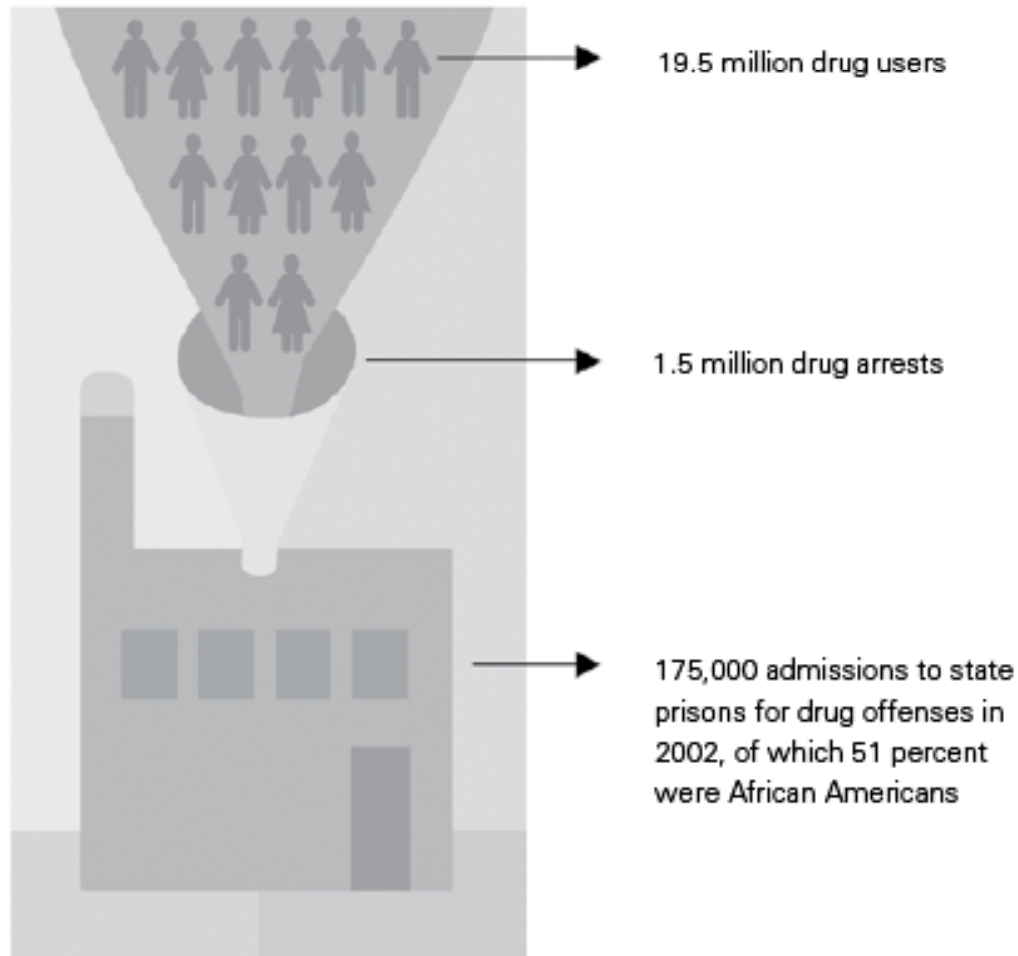


Figure 2a. Percentage of reported youth drug use and sales by race in 2002

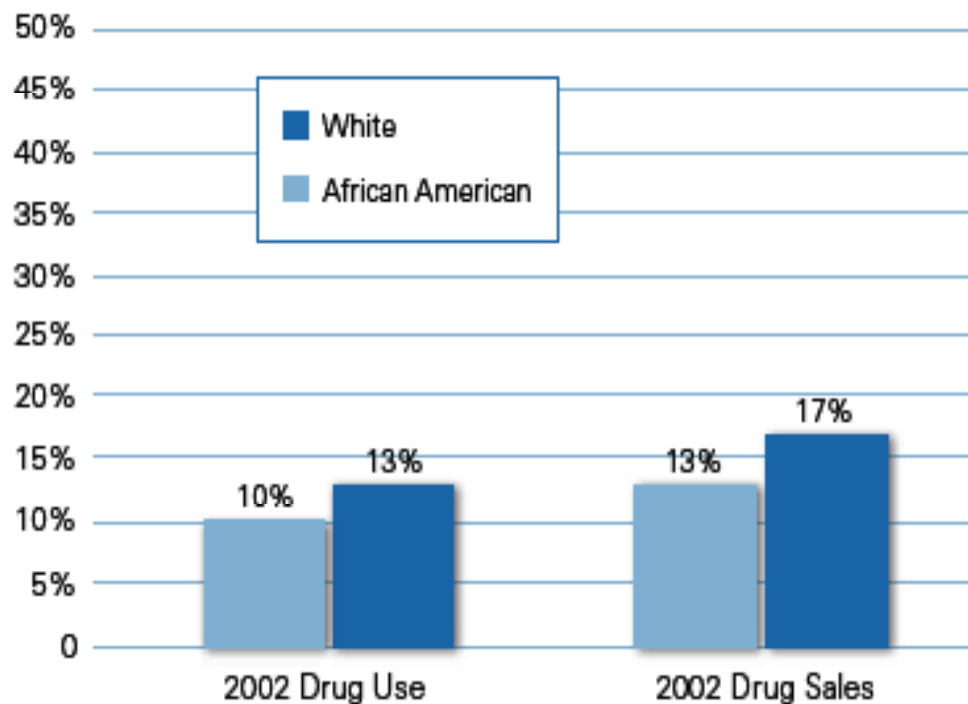
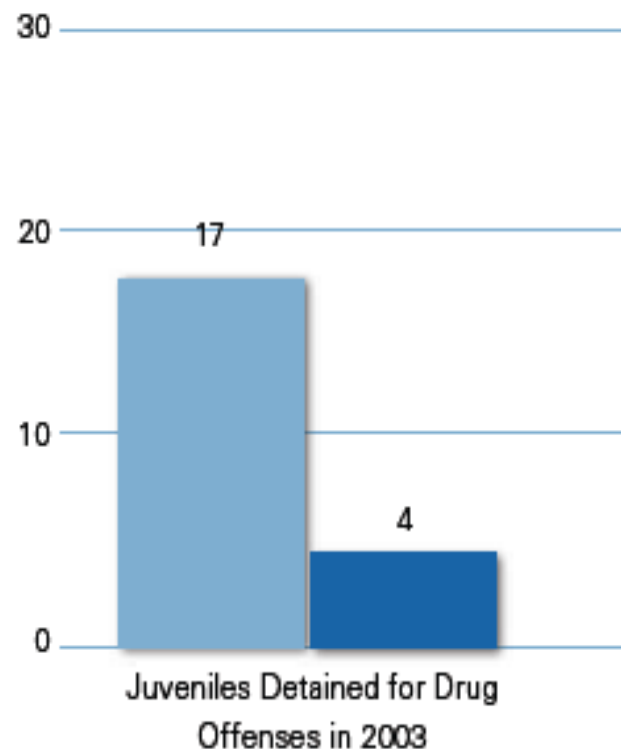
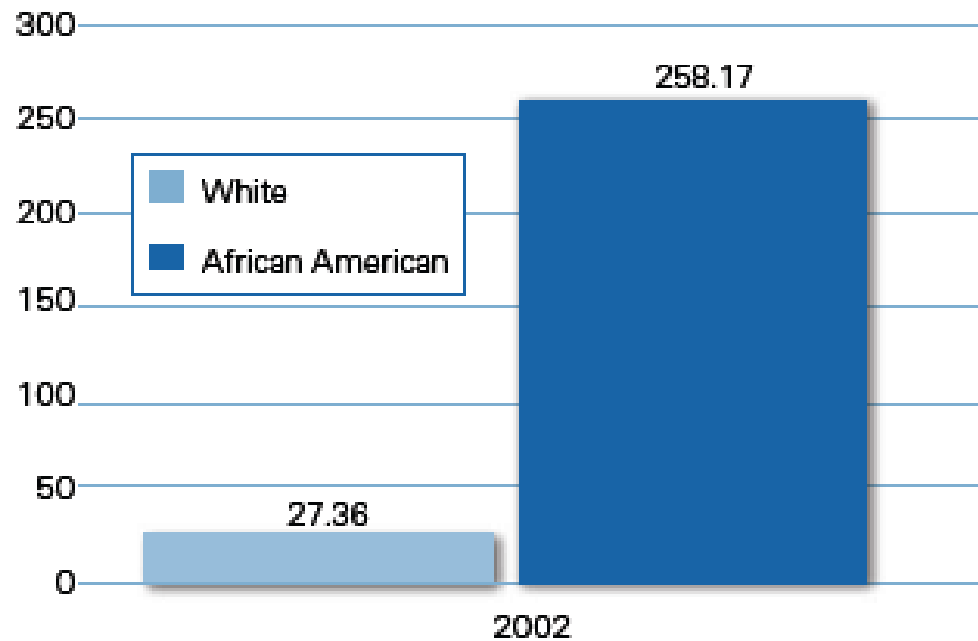


Figure 2b. Juveniles detained for drug offenses per 100,000 by race in 2003



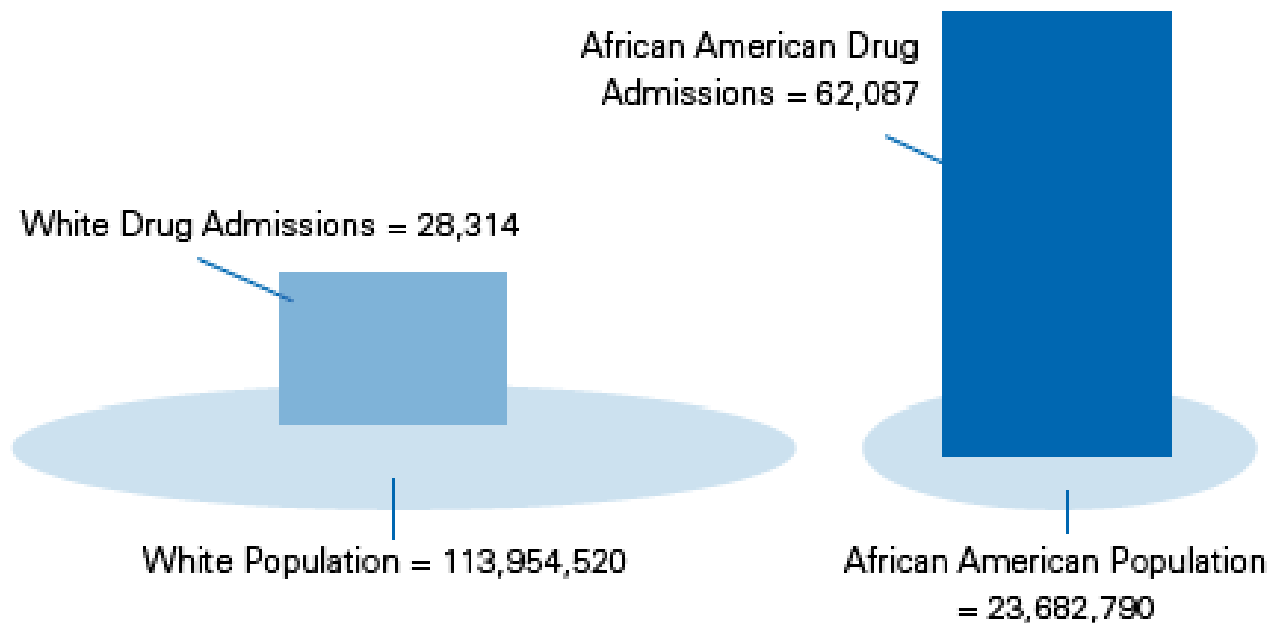
Sources: SAHMSA, 2005 Note: This is data for 12- to 17-year olds; Sickmund, Melissa, Stadky, T. I. and Kang Wei. (2005), "Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook."

Figure 3. In 2002, African Americans were admitted to state prisons for drug offenses at almost 10 times the rate of whites.



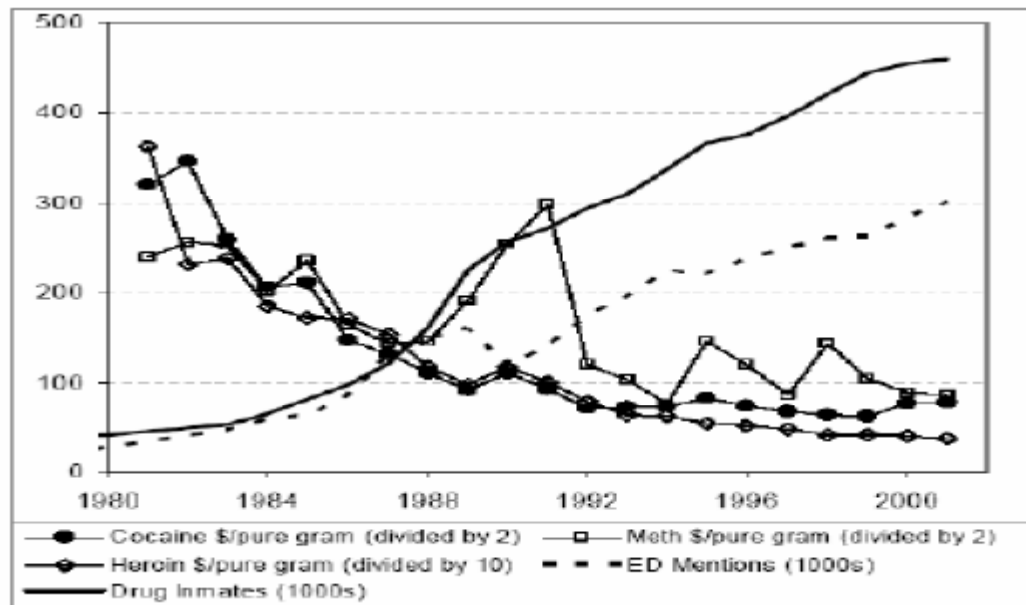
The 12 states for which there are no data available in the 2002 NCRP include five states from the Mountain West (Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming), five states from the Northeast (Delaware, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, and Massachusetts), and two states from the Midwest (Kansas, Indiana).

Figure 4. Population Size and Number of Admissions to Prison for Drug Offenses, by Race, Large-population counties in 2002 (n=198)



Data for this figure come from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCRP (2006), and the U.S. Bureau of the Census (2005).

Winning the War? Drug Prices, Emergency Treatment and Incarceration Rates: 1980-2000



[Source: Caulkins, Reuter and Taylor, "Can Supply Restrictions Lower Price?"
Contributions to Economic Analysis and Policy Vol. 5 (2006)]

POT AS PRETEXT: MARIJUANA, RACE AND THE NEW DISORDER
IN NEW YORK CITY STREET POLICING

Amanda Geller
Columbia University

Jeffrey Fagan
Columbia University

February 26, 2010

**Table 2: Population and NYPD Enforcement Activity by Race/Ethnicity
(rate per 1,000 population in parentheses)**

<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	Marijuana Stops	All Street Stops	Marijuana Arrests	Total Arrests	Estimated 2006 Population
Black	29,854 (14.83)	1,134,539 (563.71)	97,069 (48.23)	748,029 (371.66)	2,012,646
Hispanic	13,315 (5.41)	661,546 (268.59)	58,298 (23.67)	521,386 (211.69)	2,463,016
White	4,931 (1.96)	233,179 (92.81)	15,168 (6.04)	181,545 (72.26)	2,512,415
Other	3,604 (2.80)	191,025 (148.91)	2,886 (2.25)	56,487 (44.03)	1,282,782
Race Unknown	57	3,859	1,536	15,834	N/A
Total N	51,761	2,224,148	174,957	1,523,281	8,270,859

Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Sources: Stop counts and percents extrapolated from 10% random sample of stops from UF-250 data.

Arrest totals based on DCJS counts, 2004-2008. Population distribution based on citywide ESRI projections

Table 8: Weapons Seizure Rates Associated with Four Categories of Street Stops, 2004-2008

Crime Suspected	Number of stops made	Weapons Seizure Rate
Marijuana Possession	52,018	0.49%
Weapons Possession	442,552	2.37%
Violent Crime	340,792	0.71%
Other Offenses	1,388,786	0.43%
Total	2,224,148	0.86%

Weapons seizure rates based on seizures documented in UF-250 database, resulting from each type of stop.

Figure 1: Marijuana Possession Arrests, NYC

Source: Levine and Small (2008)

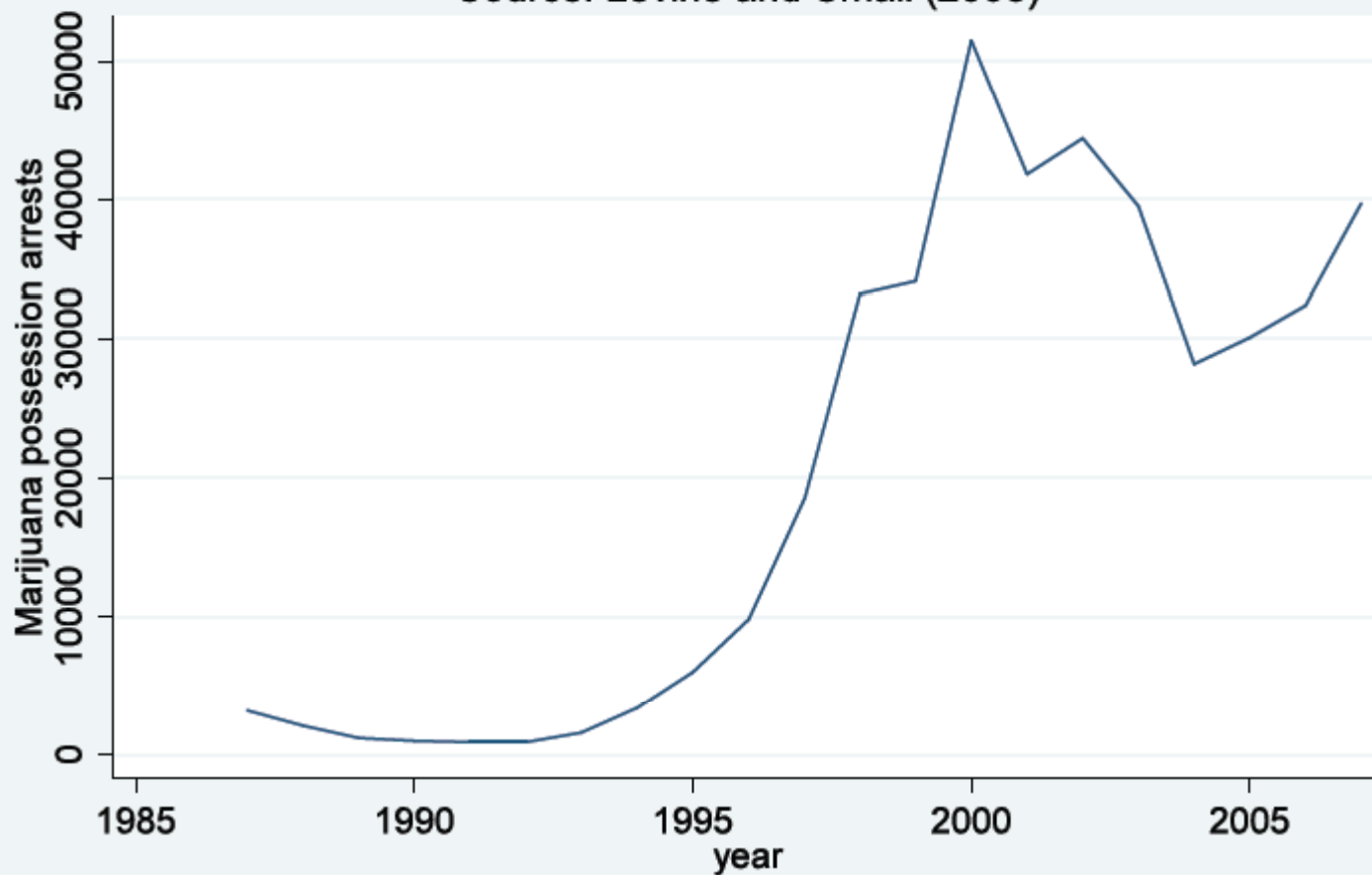


Figure 3: New York City Map of Marijuana Possession Stops

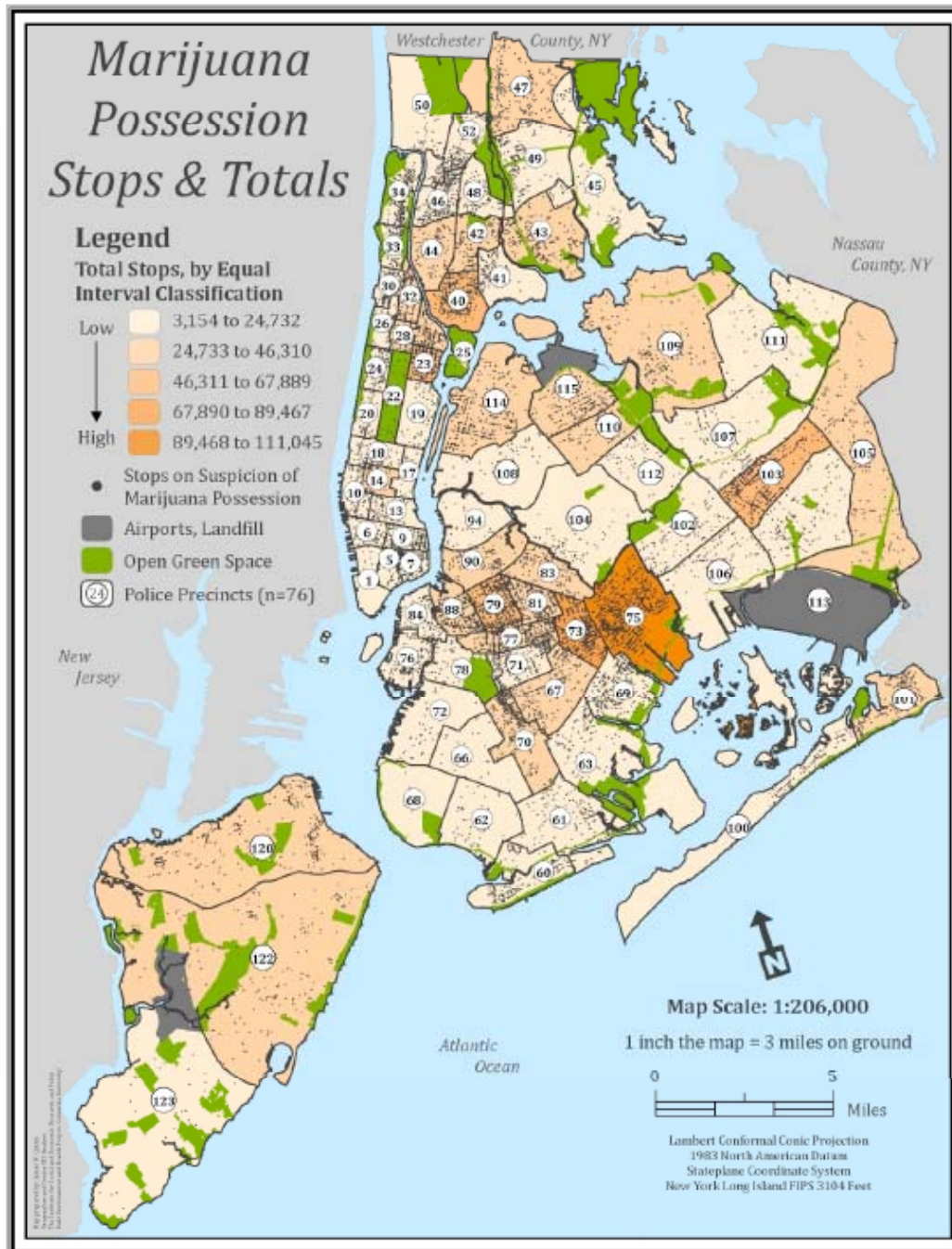
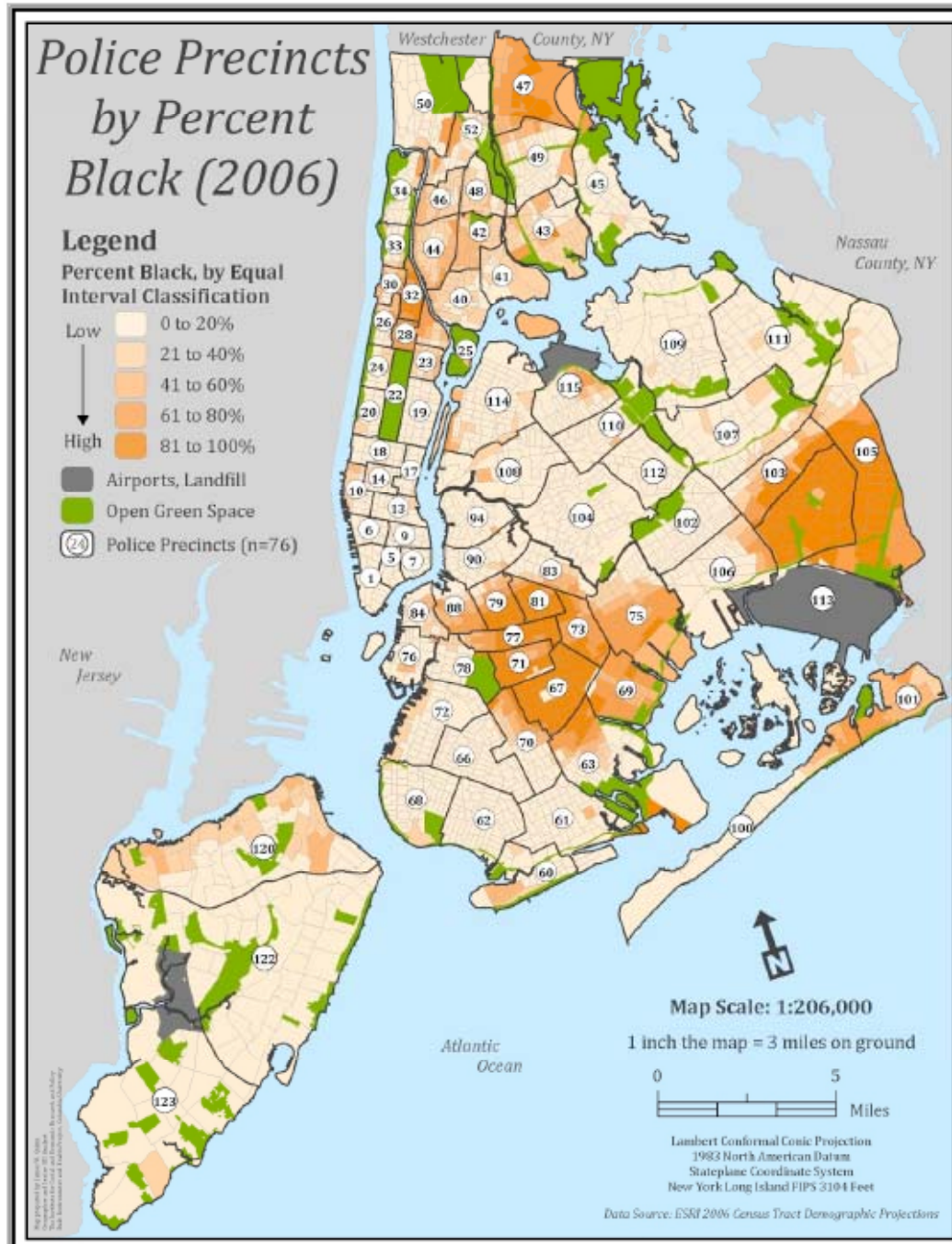


Figure 4: New York City Map, Shading by Tract % Black, Overlaid with Police Precinct Boundaries



Here's a 'narrative defining question for you:

Should we think about racial disparity of punishment in America as an accidental accretion of neutral state action applied to a racially divergent social flux – the chips having fallen as they may, so to speak?

Or is this powerfully salient feature of contemporary American social life better understood as the residual effect of our uniquely American history of enslavement, violent domination, disenfranchisement and racial discrimination?

That is, ought we to think of massive racial inequality in the incidence of punishment in America as a necessary evil, given our need for order maintenance? Or, should we view it an abhorrent expression of who we Americans have become as a people at the dawn of the 21st century?

Imprisonment and the Life Course

White and black men, born 1975–1979 experiencing a life event by 2009 (percent).

	Whites	Blacks
Marriage	68%	47%
Bachelor's Degree	34	17
Military Service	10	9
Imprisonment	5	27

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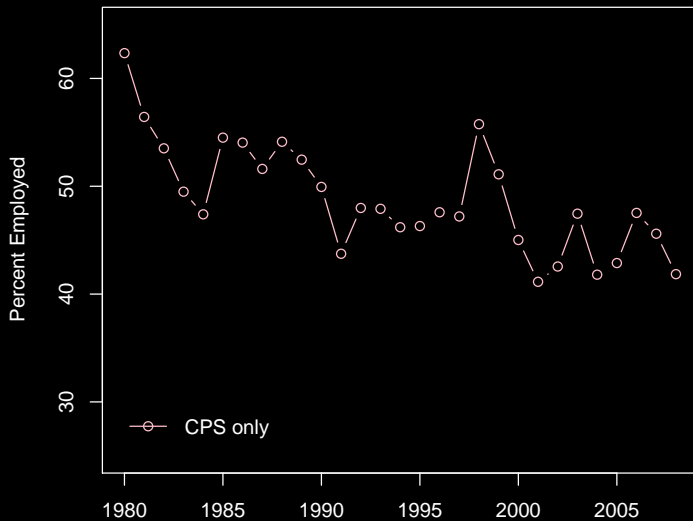
Invisible Inequality

- ▶ Inequality created by incarceration is invisible, because incarceration is *concentrated* and *segregative*, hidden from mainstream society
- ▶ Important for sociology: Incarceration is often overlooked in social accounting, and inequality is underestimated

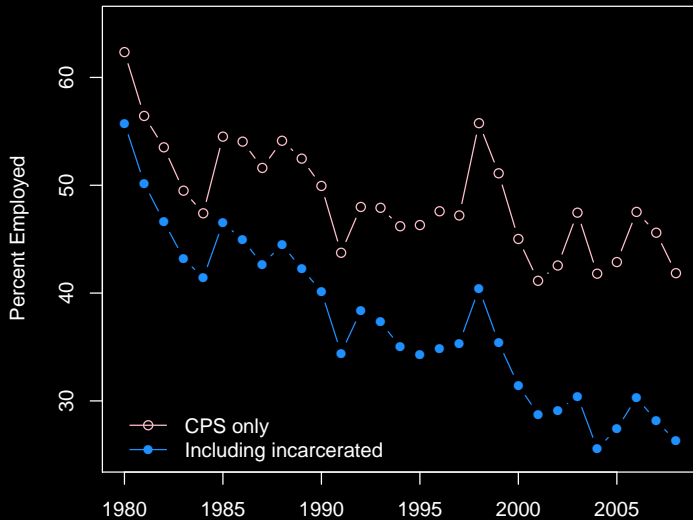
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Employment Rate, Black Male Dropouts, 20–34



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Cumulative Inequality

- ▶ Inequality created by incarceration diminishes the economic status of those whose employment and wage rates are already very low
- ▶ Panel data estimates show that incarceration reduces earnings by about 40%
- ▶ Experimental evidence indicates employment is reduced by a third to a half.

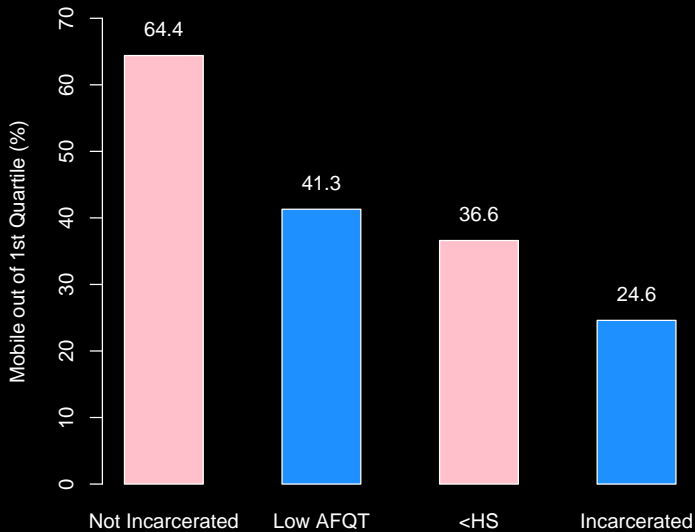
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20-year Earnings Mobility Among Low-Income Men



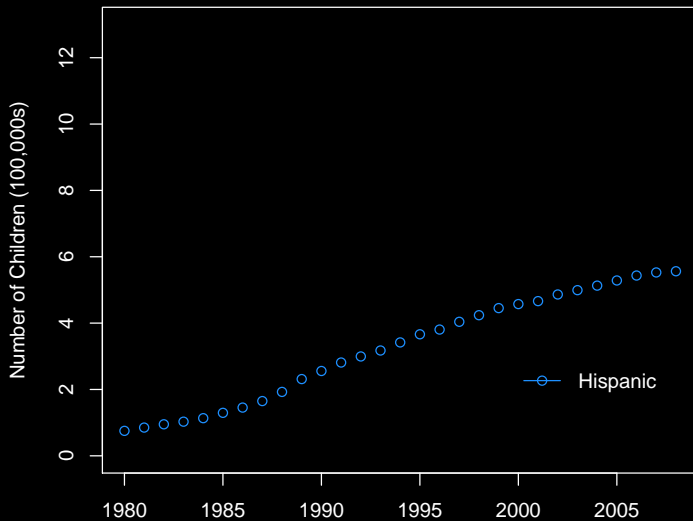
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- ▶ Stigma of incarceration for children, new research showing behavioral problems, particularly for boys

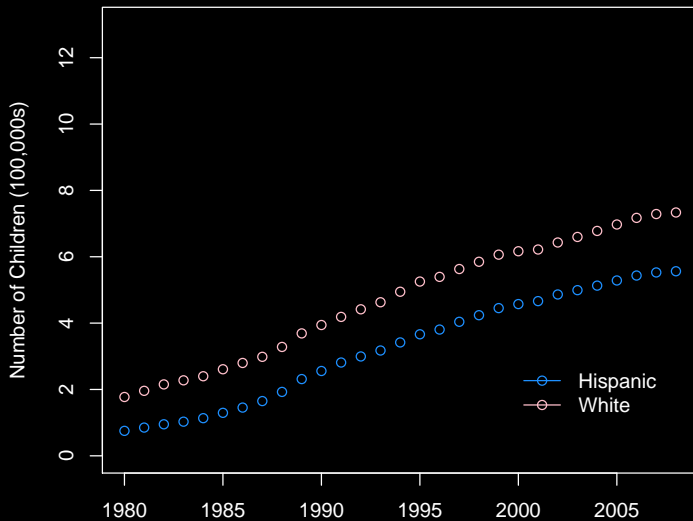
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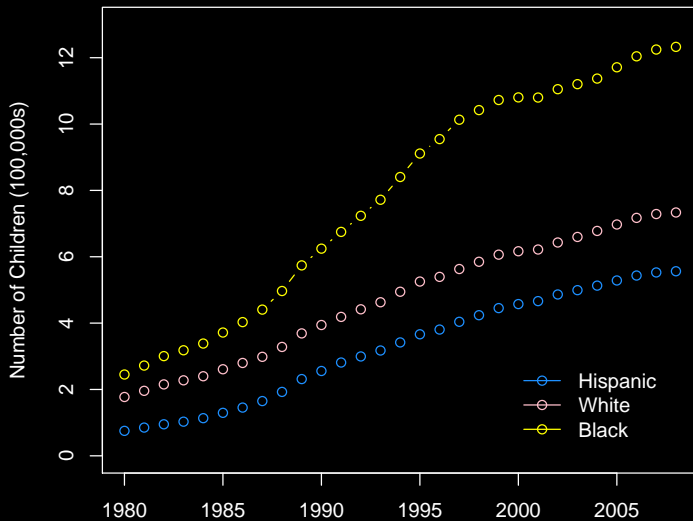
Children with Incarcerated Parents, 1980–2008



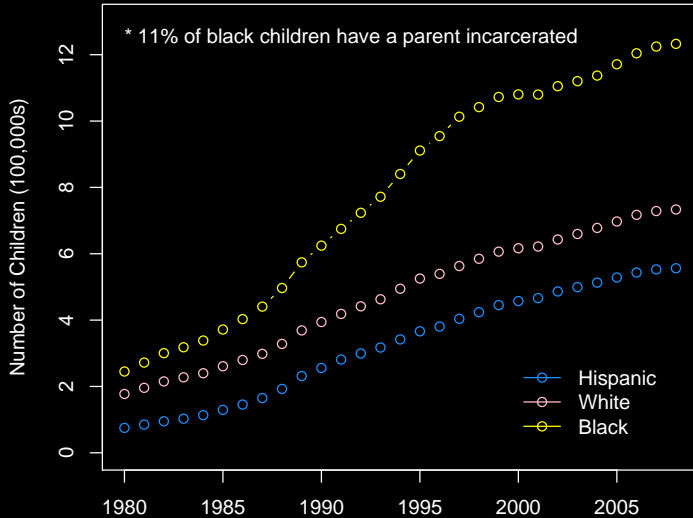
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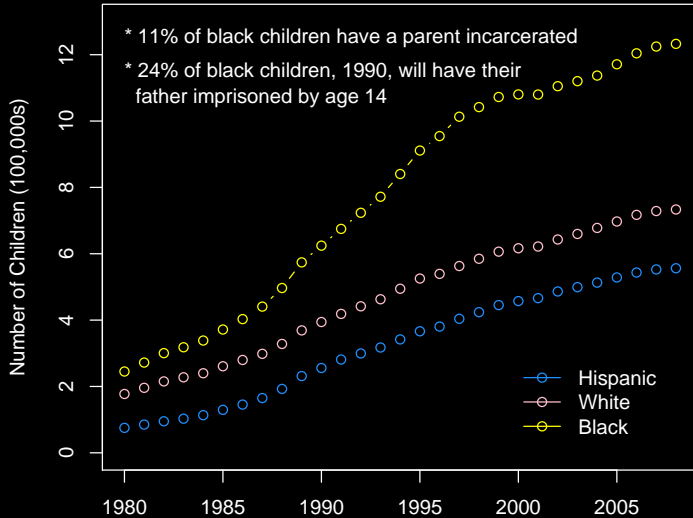
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