

# How To Fix Overcrowding In Prisons

## **How to Fix Overcrowding in Prisons: A Multi-Pronged Approach**

### Introduction:

America's prisons are bursting at the seams. Overcrowding isn't just a logistical nightmare; it's a humanitarian crisis fueling violence, hindering rehabilitation efforts, and ultimately costing taxpayers billions of dollars annually. This isn't a problem with a single, simple solution. Instead, addressing prison overcrowding requires a multifaceted strategy that tackles the root causes of incarceration while simultaneously improving prison conditions. This comprehensive guide delves into the core issues and proposes practical solutions, offering a roadmap for a more just and efficient correctional system. We'll explore alternative sentencing, prison reform initiatives, and preventative measures, providing actionable insights for policymakers, activists, and concerned citizens alike.

### 1. Addressing the Root Causes: Reducing Incarceration Rates

The most effective way to combat overcrowding is to prevent it from happening in the first place. This involves a fundamental shift in how we approach crime and punishment:

**Reforming Sentencing Guidelines:** Mandatory minimum sentences and "three-strikes" laws disproportionately contribute to prison overcrowding. Reform efforts should focus on reducing these sentences, particularly for non-violent offenses, and incorporating individualized sentencing that considers mitigating factors like mental health issues and substance abuse. Emphasis should be placed on restorative justice practices that prioritize rehabilitation and community reconciliation over lengthy incarceration.

**Investing in Drug Treatment and Mental Health Services:** A significant portion of the incarcerated population struggles with addiction and mental illness. Diverting individuals with these issues into treatment programs rather than prisons is crucial. This requires increased funding for community-based treatment centers and mental health facilities, along with better integration of these services within the criminal justice system. Early intervention programs in schools and communities are also vital in preventing future crime.

**Addressing Systemic Bias and Inequality:** Studies show that racial and socioeconomic disparities significantly contribute to incarceration rates. Addressing these systemic biases through policy changes, increased access to legal representation, and community-based programs is essential for achieving a more equitable justice system. This includes initiatives that tackle the school-to-prison pipeline and invest in underserved communities.

### 2. Improving Prison Conditions and Management:

Even with reduced incarceration rates, improving existing prison infrastructure and management is vital:

**Building New Facilities (Strategically):** While building new prisons might seem counterintuitive, strategically located, smaller facilities focusing on specific needs (e.g., mental health, substance abuse treatment) can improve efficiency and reduce overcrowding in larger, older prisons. These facilities should be designed to promote rehabilitation and reduce violence.

**Implementing Innovative Prison Management Techniques:** Adopting evidence-based practices in prison management can significantly improve inmate behavior and reduce the need for punitive measures. This includes utilizing positive reinforcement techniques, implementing robust conflict resolution programs, and improving staff training.

**Enhancing Prison Healthcare:** Providing adequate healthcare, including mental health services, is essential for the wellbeing of inmates and helps reduce violence and recidivism. Investing in improved healthcare facilities and staffing within prisons is crucial.

### 3. Expanding Alternative Sentencing Options:

Alternative sentencing programs offer viable alternatives to incarceration and reduce prison populations:

**Increased Use of Probation and Parole:** Expanding the use of probation and parole, coupled with strict monitoring and support services, can allow for community supervision while reducing prison populations. These programs should be tailored to individual needs and incorporate effective rehabilitation strategies.

**Promoting Community Service and Restitution:** Requiring offenders to perform community service or make restitution to victims can be a valuable part of their rehabilitation while avoiding incarceration. This can help address the harm caused by the crime and integrate offenders back into society.

**Expanding Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts:** Specialized courts that focus on addiction and mental health issues provide a pathway to treatment and rehabilitation, avoiding incarceration for individuals who would benefit more from these services.

### 4. Investing in Re-entry Programs:

Successful reintegration into society is crucial in reducing recidivism:

**Pre-Release Programs:** Preparing inmates for release through pre-release programs that focus on job training, housing assistance, and continued substance abuse or mental health treatment significantly reduces the likelihood of returning to prison.

**Support Networks and Mentorship:** Connecting released inmates with support networks, such as mentorship programs and community organizations, provides crucial assistance during the transition back into society.

**Addressing Barriers to Employment and Housing:** Removing barriers to employment and housing, such as criminal background checks that automatically disqualify individuals, is essential for successful reintegration. Providing job training and assistance with finding stable housing is vital.

## 5. Promoting Transparency and Accountability:

Transparency and accountability are critical for effective prison reform:

**Independent Oversight:** Establishing independent oversight bodies to monitor prison conditions, investigate complaints, and ensure compliance with standards is crucial.

**Data-Driven Decision Making:** Utilizing data to track recidivism rates, analyze the effectiveness of different programs, and guide policy decisions ensures a more efficient and effective correctional system.

**Public Awareness Campaigns:** Raising public awareness about prison overcrowding and the need for reform can foster a more informed and engaged citizenry, pushing for meaningful change.

### Article Outline: "How to Fix Overcrowding in Prisons"

**Introduction:** The crisis of prison overcrowding and its multifaceted nature.

**Chapter 1:** Addressing the root causes – reducing incarceration rates.

**Chapter 2:** Improving prison conditions and management.

**Chapter 3:** Expanding alternative sentencing options.

**Chapter 4:** Investing in re-entry programs.

**Chapter 5:** Promoting transparency and accountability.

**Conclusion:** A call to action for comprehensive reform.

(The body of this document already fulfills the detailed outline above.)

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the biggest contributor to prison overcrowding? Mandatory minimum sentencing, coupled with increased incarceration for non-violent offenses, significantly contributes to overcrowding.
2. Are there any successful models for reducing prison populations? Several states have successfully reduced incarceration rates through sentencing reform, increased investment in drug treatment and mental health services, and expansion of alternative sentencing programs.
3. What role does mental health play in prison overcrowding? A substantial portion of the incarcerated population suffers from mental illness, often untreated, contributing to recidivism and increasing the need for incarceration.
4. How can communities help reduce prison overcrowding? Supporting community-based programs, advocating for sentencing reform, and raising awareness about the issue are all impactful ways to contribute.
5. What is the cost of prison overcrowding to taxpayers? Overcrowding leads to increased costs in healthcare, security, and infrastructure, placing a significant burden on taxpayers.
6. Does reducing prison populations increase crime rates? Studies have shown that reducing incarceration rates through evidence-based reforms does not necessarily lead to an increase in

crime rates.

7. What are some examples of alternative sentencing? Alternative sentencing includes probation, parole, community service, restitution, and drug/mental health courts.

8. How important are re-entry programs to reducing recidivism? Re-entry programs significantly reduce recidivism by providing support and resources for successful reintegration into society.

9. What is the role of technology in addressing prison overcrowding? Technology can play a role in improving monitoring of offenders, enhancing communication within prisons, and providing access to educational and rehabilitative resources.

#### Related Articles:

1. The Impact of Mandatory Minimum Sentences on Prison Overcrowding: Examines the direct correlation between strict sentencing laws and increased prison populations.

2. Restorative Justice: A Path to Reducing Incarceration: Explores the effectiveness of restorative justice practices in reducing recidivism and easing prison overcrowding.

3. The Role of Mental Health Treatment in Prison Reform: Focuses on the importance of addressing mental health issues within the correctional system.

4. Effective Re-entry Programs: Reducing Recidivism and Overcrowding: Highlights successful re-entry programs and their impact on reducing prison populations.

5. Sentencing Reform: A Key to Addressing Prison Overcrowding: Discusses various sentencing reform initiatives and their potential to reduce overcrowding.

6. The Economics of Prison Overcrowding: A Taxpayer Burden: Analyzes the financial implications of prison overcrowding for taxpayers.

7. Addressing Systemic Bias in the Criminal Justice System: Explores how racial and socioeconomic biases contribute to mass incarceration.

8. The Effectiveness of Drug Courts in Reducing Prison Overcrowding: Evaluates the impact of drug courts on reducing incarceration rates.

9. Innovative Prison Management Techniques: Improving Conditions and Reducing Violence: Examines modern prison management strategies that enhance security and rehabilitation.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: The Bail Book** Shima Baradaran Baughman, 2018  
Examines the causes for mass incarceration of Americans and calls for the reform of the bail system. Traces the history of bail, how it has come to be an oppressive tool of the courts, and makes recommendations for reforming the bail system and alleviating the mass incarceration problem.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Tackling Prison Overcrowding** Hough, Mike, Allen, Rob, Enver Solomon, 2008-10-22 Tackling Prison Overcrowding is a response to controversial proposals and sentencing set out in by Lord Patrick Carter's review of prisons, published in 2007. This book comprises nine chapters by leading academic experts, who expose the proposals of the Carter

Review to critical scrutiny. They take the Carter Report to task for construing the problems too narrowly, in terms of efficiency and economy, and for failing to understand the wider issues of justice that need addressing. They argue that the crisis of prison overcrowding is first and foremost a political problem - arising from penal populism - for which political solutions need to be found.--BOOK JACKET.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Prison Overcrowding and Alternative Sentencing**

United States. Congress. House. Committee on the District of Columbia. Subcommittee on Judiciary and Education, 1984

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons:** *The Effects of Incarceration and Reentry on Community Health and Well-Being* National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity, 2020-04-17 The high rate of incarceration in the United States contributes significantly to the nation's health inequities, extending beyond those who are imprisoned to families, communities, and the entire society. Since the 1970s, there has been a seven-fold increase in incarceration. This increase and the effects of the post-incarceration reentry disproportionately affect low-income families and communities of color. It is critical to examine the criminal justice system through a new lens and explore opportunities for meaningful improvements that will promote health equity in the United States. The National Academies convened a workshop on June 6, 2018 to investigate the connection between incarceration and health inequities to better understand the distributive impact of incarceration on low-income families and communities of color. Topics of discussion focused on the experience of incarceration and reentry, mass incarceration as a public health issue, women's health in jails and prisons, the effects of reentry on the individual and the community, and promising practices and models for reentry. The programs and models that are described in this publication are all Philadelphia-based because Philadelphia has one of the highest rates of incarceration of any major American city. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions of the workshop.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Inside Private Prisons** Lauren-Brooke Eisen,

2017-11-07 When the tough-on-crime politics of the 1980s overcrowded state prisons, private companies saw potential profit in building and operating correctional facilities. Today more than a hundred thousand of the 1.5 million incarcerated Americans are held in private prisons in twenty-nine states and federal corrections. Private prisons are criticized for making money off mass incarceration—to the tune of \$5 billion in annual revenue. Based on Lauren-Brooke Eisen's work as a prosecutor, journalist, and attorney at policy think tanks, *Inside Private Prisons* blends investigative reportage and quantitative and historical research to analyze privatized corrections in America. From divestment campaigns to boardrooms to private immigration-detention centers across the Southwest, Eisen examines private prisons through the eyes of inmates, their families, correctional staff, policymakers, activists, Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees, undocumented immigrants, and the executives of America's largest private prison corporations. Private prisons have become ground zero in the anti-mass-incarceration movement. Universities have divested from these companies, political candidates hesitate to accept their campaign donations, and the Department of Justice tried to phase out its contracts with them. On the other side, impoverished rural towns often try to lure the for-profit prison industry to build facilities and create new jobs. Neither an endorsement or a demonization, *Inside Private Prisons* details the complicated and perverse incentives rooted in the industry, from mandatory bed occupancy to vested interests in mass incarceration. If private prisons are here to stay, how can we fix them? This book is a blueprint for policymakers to reform practices and for concerned citizens to understand our changing carceral landscape.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Prison Conditions in India** Aryeh Neier, David J.

Rothman, 1991

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Revoked** Allison Frankel, 2020 [The report] finds that

supervision -- probation and parole -- drives high numbers of people, disproportionately those who

are Black and brown, right back to jail or prison, while in large part failing to help them get needed services and resources. In states examined in the report, people are often incarcerated for violating the rules of their supervision or for low-level crimes, and receive disproportionate punishment following proceedings that fail to adequately protect their fair trial rights.--Publisher website.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Slumber Party from Hell** Sue Ellen Allen, 2010-08 What happens to a successful woman when her world falls apart and she is faced with betrayal, breast cancer, and prison? What happens when her pain is unimaginable and her choices look bleak. When all this happened to Sue Ellen Allen, she chose to turn her pain into power. The death of Gina, her young roommate, coupled with an atmosphere of darkness and negativity, led her to find her passion and purpose behind the bars. Her experience of cancer, prison, and Gina's death is an inspirational story of courage, wisdom, and choices.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: The Penal System** Michael Cavadino, James Dignan, George Mair, Jamie Bennett, 2019-12-02 Now in its Sixth Edition, this book remains the most comprehensive and authoritative on the penal system, providing students with an incisive, critical account of the punitive, managerial and humanitarian approaches to criminal justice. Fully updated to cover the most recent changes in the Criminal Justice System, the new edition: Outlines contemporary policy debates on sentencing, staffing, youth custody and overcrowding. Explores growing inequalities in the criminal justice system including issues of race, religion, gender and sexuality, with new content on faith, and transgender prisoners. Considers the impact of privatisation on the probation service. Discusses the most recent debates around the parole process, including high-profile cases and attempts at reform. The book is supported by online resources for lecturers and students, including chapter PowerPoints, sample syllabus, summaries of key legislative acts, bills and official reports, a list of recommended further reading for each chapter, and links to important Penal Agencies and Organisations, Law Reform Organisations, and other useful academic sites. Essential reading for students of criminal justice and criminology, studying penology, punishments and the penal system.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Golden Gulag** Ruth Wilson Gilmore, 2007-01-08 Since 1980, the number of people in U.S. prisons has increased more than 450%. Despite a crime rate that has been falling steadily for decades, California has led the way in this explosion, with what a state analyst called the biggest prison building project in the history of the world. *Golden Gulag* provides the first detailed explanation for that buildup by looking at how political and economic forces, ranging from global to local, conjoined to produce the prison boom. In an informed and impassioned account, Ruth Wilson Gilmore examines this issue through statewide, rural, and urban perspectives to explain how the expansion developed from surpluses of finance capital, labor, land, and state capacity. Detailing crises that hit California's economy with particular ferocity, she argues that defeats of radical struggles, weakening of labor, and shifting patterns of capital investment have been key conditions for prison growth. The results—a vast and expensive prison system, a huge number of incarcerated young people of color, and the increase in punitive justice such as the three strikes law—pose profound and troubling questions for the future of California, the United States, and the world. *Golden Gulag* provides a rich context for this complex dilemma, and at the same time challenges many cherished assumptions about who benefits and who suffers from the state's commitment to prison expansion.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Encyclopedia of Community Corrections** Shannon M. Barton-Bellessa, 2012-04-17 In response to recognition in the late 1960s and early 1970s that traditional incarceration was not working, alternatives to standard prison settings were sought and developed. One of those alternatives—community-based corrections—had been conceived in the 1950s as a system that might prove more progressive, humane, and effective, particularly with people who had committed less serious criminal offenses and for whom incarceration, with constant exposure to serious offenders and career criminals, might prove more damaging than rehabilitative. The alternative of community corrections has evolved to become a substantial part of the criminal justice and correctional system, spurred in recent years not so much by a progressive, humane

philosophy as by dramatically increasing prison populations, court orders to fix overextended prison settings, and an economic search for cost savings. Although community correction programs have been in place for some 40 years now, to date no comprehensive reference resource has tackled this topic. Accessible and jargon-free and available in both print and electronic formats, the one-volume Encyclopedia of Community Corrections will explore all aspects of community corrections, from its philosophical foundation to its current inception. Features & Benefits: 150 signed entries (each with Cross References and Further Readings) are organized in A-to-Z fashion to give students easy access to the full range of topics in community corrections. A thematic Reader's Guide in the front matter groups entries by broad topical or thematic areas to make it easy for users to find related entries at a glance. In the electronic version, the Reader's Guide combines with a detailed Index and the Cross References to provide users with convenient search-and-browse capacities. A Chronology in the back matter helps students put individual events into broader historical context. A Glossary provides students with concise definitions to key terms in the field. A Resource Guide to classic books, journals, and web sites (along with the Further Readings accompanying each entry) guides students to further resources in their research journeys. An Appendix offers statistics from the Bureau of Justice.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes** Yvon Dandurand, Curt Taylor Griffiths, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2006 The present handbook offers, in a quick reference format, an overview of key considerations in the implementation of participatory responses to crime based on a restorative justice approach. Its focus is on a range of measures and programmes, inspired by restorative justice values, that are flexible in their adaptation to criminal justice systems and that complement them while taking into account varying legal, social and cultural circumstances. It was prepared for the use of criminal justice officials, non-governmental organizations and community groups who are working together to improve current responses to crime and conflict in their community

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Punished for Aging** Adelina Iftene, 2019-07-22 Built around the experiences of older prisoners, Punished for Aging looks at the challenges individuals face in Canadian penitentiaries and their struggles for justice. Through firsthand accounts and quantitative data drawn from extensive interviews, this book brings forward the experiences of federally incarcerated people living their golden years behind bars. These experiences show the limited ability of the system to respond to heightened needs, while also raising questions about how international and national laws and policies are applied, and why they fail to ensure the safety and well-being of incarcerated individuals. In so doing, Adelina Iftene explores the shortcomings of institutional processes, prison-monitoring mechanisms, and legal remedies available in courts and tribunals, which leave prisoners vulnerable to rights abuses. Some of the problems addressed in this book are not new; however, the demographic shift and the increase in people dying in prisons after long, inadequately addressed illnesses, with few release options, adds a renewed sense of urgency to reform. Working from the interview data, contextualized by participants' lived experiences, and building on previous work, Iftene seeks solutions for such reform, which would constitute a significant step forward not only in protecting older prisoners, but in consolidating the status of incarcerated individuals as holders of substantive rights.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Alternatives to Prison Sentences** J. Junger-Tas, 1994 This report surveys and summarizes the literature on the use of alternative sanctions in 12 western countries with a particular focus on its effectiveness and efficiency.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Handbook of Basic Principles and Promising Practices on Alternatives to Imprisonment** Dirk Van Zyl Smit, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2007 Introduces the reader to the basic principles central to understanding alternatives to imprisonment as well as descriptions of promising practices implemented throughout the world. This handbook offers information about alternatives to imprisonment at various stages of the criminal justice process.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: The Future of Corrections** John Phillips Conrad, 1969

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: A Guide to Prisons and Penal Policy** Rachel Vipond, 2023-04 Understanding prisons and the policies surrounding them is of fundamental importance to students and practitioners of criminology and related fields. This concise and accessible guide offers a compendium of key information, theories, concepts, research and policy, presenting a rounded and critical overview of the prison system in England and Wales. Covering the historical and contemporary context of prisons, the text guides the reader through the work of prison officers, a tour of international prisons and how prison life is experienced by different groups, such as women. Focusing on the experiences of stakeholder groups and the themes of power, legitimacy and rehabilitation, the book concludes with an overview of the future challenges for prisons. Each chapter includes key learning features: - end of chapter questions; - definitions of key terms and concepts; - examples and illustrative case studies; - learning outcomes; - summary boxes of major research studies and further reading.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Handbook on Prisoner File Management**, 2008 This handbook discusses the importance of effective prisoner file management, illustrating the consequences of poor or non-existent management. It will be of particular relevance to prison systems that do not have electronic systems for managing files. It outlines the key international human rights standards that apply to prisoner and detainee file management. It also summarizes and illustrates the key requirements of prison systems in relation to prisoner and detainee file management in order to meet international human rights standards and how these might be met.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Emerging Issues on Privatized Prisons** James Austin, 2001 This report discusses the findings of a nationwide study on the use of private prisons in the United States. The number of these prisons grew enormously between 1987 and 1998, with proponents suggesting that allowing facilities to be operated by the private sector could result in cost reductions of 20%. The study examined the historical factors that gave rise to the higher incarceration rates, fueling the privatization movement, and the role played by the private sector in the prison system. It outlines the arguments, both in support of and opposition to, privatized prisons, reviews current literature on the subject, and examines issues that will have an impact on future privatizations. The report concludes that, rather than the projected 20-percent savings, the average saving from privatization was only about 1 percent, and most of that was achieved through lower labor costs. Nevertheless, there were indications that the mere prospect of privatization had a positive effect on prison administration, making it more responsive to reform.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Prison Conditions in South Africa** Human Rights Watch (Organization), 1994 While visiting over twenty prisons as well as lockups in at least five different cities throughout South Africa, we found significant improvements had been made since the political climate began to change in 1990. Nevertheless, South Africa's prisoner-to-population ratio is among the highest in the world, and many aspects of prison life remain depressingly unchanged from the years of official apartheid. South African prisons are places of extreme violence, where assaults on prisoners by guards or fellow inmates are common and often fatal.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Prison Inmates Living with HIV in India** Sayantani Guin, 2015-04-15 This Brief presents preliminary findings from research in three prisons in Maharashtra, India on experiences of prison inmates there living with HIV. The study explores health care services in these prisons, and problems experienced by inmates in India living with HIV, as well as their staff and caregivers. Through this preliminary study, the researchers shed light on the experiences of inmates in Indian prisons, with an aim of presenting questions for future research. The author provides an overview of the global conditions of prison inmates living with HIV, as an international comparative context for examining the cases in India. Major problems highlighted in the cases include: living conditions, high risk behavior during incarceration, delivery of medical services and adherence to ethical guidelines. Results of the study reveal that overcrowding and inadequate nutrition were major concerns for inmates living with HIV; there were no support systems available inside the prisons to address the stress related issues of the inmates; and, the prison hospital did not have provisions to cater to the treatment needs of inmates living with AIDS. The study also found



that confidentiality regarding the HIV positive status could not be maintained inside the prison. This Brief presents a window into the experience of inmates in India, and presents questions for future research to understand and improve living conditions and medical service delivery within the prison system. This work will be of interest to researchers in criminology and criminal justice, particularly interested in incarceration or health issues, public health and related areas such as public policy, international studies, and demography studies in India.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Behind Bars** Jeffrey Ian Ross, Stephen C. Richards, 2002 Best ways to avoid being beaten, sexually abused, or getting killed; US origin.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: The Use of Imprisonment** Seán McConville, 2023-10-25 In the previous few years English penal policy had undergone considerable change. Originally published in 1975, the contributors to *The Use of Imprisonment* focus on the use of imprisonment in such a time of transition, and examine various aspects of penal policy – administrative, organizational, staffing, legal, philosophical. The volume provides a valuable introduction to penal policy and administration, and to some of the central issues in the penological debate at the time. Influenced mainly by events in the United States, interest had been growing in England in prisoners' legal rights and in the laws affecting imprisonment. This complemented an increasing mood of scepticism among many psychologists, sociologists and other social scientists in relation to the aims and methods of reformatory imprisonment. Such thinking, although still largely divergent and amorphous, had gone far towards undermining the penological axioms and aspirations of the last few generations. The precise direction of new policy was still unclear, but the essays in this book make various informed suggestions as to the future, and also provide an examination of the present state of several key areas. They emphasise the failure of the treatment model of imprisonment, while at the same time recognising the need to be cautious about breaking down the prison walls and bringing treatment 'into the community'.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: The Deviant Prison** Ashley T. Rubin, 2021-02-04 A compelling examination of the highly criticized use of long-term solitary confinement in Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary during the nineteenth century.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: The Culture of Control** David Garland, 2012-07-16 The past 30 years have seen vast changes in our attitudes toward crime. More and more of us live in gated communities; prison populations have skyrocketed; and issues such as racial profiling, community policing, and zero-tolerance policies dominate the headlines. How is it that our response to crime and our sense of criminal justice has come to be so dramatically reconfigured? David Garland charts the changes in crime and criminal justice in America and Britain over the past twenty-five years, showing how they have been shaped by two underlying social forces: the distinctive social organization of late modernity and the neoconservative politics that came to dominate the United States and the United Kingdom in the 1980s. Garland explains how the new policies of crime and punishment, welfare and security—and the changing class, race, and gender relations that underpin them—are linked to the fundamental problems of governing contemporary societies, as states, corporations, and private citizens grapple with a volatile economy and a culture that combines expanded personal freedom with relaxed social controls. It is the risky, unfixed character of modern life that underlies our accelerating concern with control and crime control in particular. It is not just crime that has changed; society has changed as well, and this transformation has reshaped criminological thought, public policy, and the cultural meaning of crime and criminals. David Garland's *The Culture of Control* offers a brilliant guide to this process and its still-reverberating consequences.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Communities in Action** National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Committee on Community-Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United States, 2017-04-27 In the United States, some populations suffer from far greater disparities in health than others. Those disparities are caused not only by fundamental differences in health status across segments of the population, but also because of inequities in factors that impact health

status, so-called determinants of health. Only part of an individual's health status depends on his or her behavior and choice; community-wide problems like poverty, unemployment, poor education, inadequate housing, poor public transportation, interpersonal violence, and decaying neighborhoods also contribute to health inequities, as well as the historic and ongoing interplay of structures, policies, and norms that shape lives. When these factors are not optimal in a community, it does not mean they are intractable: such inequities can be mitigated by social policies that can shape health in powerful ways. *Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity* seeks to delineate the causes of and the solutions to health inequities in the United States. This report focuses on what communities can do to promote health equity, what actions are needed by the many and varied stakeholders that are part of communities or support them, as well as the root causes and structural barriers that need to be overcome.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Economic Perspectives on Incarceration and the Criminal Justice System** Executive Office of the President, 2016-09-01 Calls for criminal justice reform have been mounting in recent years, in large part due to the extraordinarily high levels of incarceration in the United States. Today, the incarcerated population is 4.5 times larger than in 1980, with approximately 2.2 million people in the United States behind bars, including individuals in Federal and State prisons as well as local jails. The push for reform comes from many angles, from the high financial cost of maintaining current levels of incarceration to the humanitarian consequences of detaining more individuals than any other country. Economic analysis is a useful lens for understanding the costs, benefits, and consequences of incarceration and other criminal justice policies. In this report, we first examine historical growth in criminal justice enforcement and incarceration along with its causes. We then develop a general framework for evaluating criminal justice policy, weighing its crime-reducing benefits against its direct government costs and indirect costs for individuals, families, and communities. Finally, we describe the Administration's holistic approach to criminal justice reform through policies that impact the community, the cell block, and the courtroom.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Sentencing Reform in Overcrowded Times** Michael H. Tonry, Kathleen Hatlestad, 1997 The articles in this collection originally appeared in the journal "Overcrowded Times". They provide an overview of sentencing policy, practices, and institution in the United States, other English-speaking countries (Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand & South Africa), and Europe.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Smarter Crime Control** Irvin Waller, 2013-12-05 The U.S. is the world's biggest jailer and one of the most affluent murderous countries, and yet its citizens pay more taxes to sustain law and order than their European counterparts. Yet, the U.S. has the most data in the world on the use of incarceration and its failure. Its researchers have identified more projects able to prevent violence than the rest of the world put together. Its legislators have access to pioneering data banks on cost effective ways to use taxes to reduce crime. We are left wondering why we cannot implement measures that we know will work, reduce crime, and cost less for law and order. *Smarter Crime Control* shows how to use recent knowledge and best practices to reduce the extraordinarily high rates of murder, traffic fatalities, drug overdoses, and incarceration, while avoiding the high taxes paid by families for policing and prisons. Providing detailed examples, Irvin Waller offers specific actions our leaders at all levels can take to reduce violence and lower costs to taxpayers. He focuses on how to retool policing and improve corrections to reduce reoffending and crime, while limiting criminal courts. He also shows how programs and investments in various strategies can help those youth on the path to chronic offending avoid the path all together. Waller shows how to get smart on crime to shift the criminal justice paradigm from the failing, outdated, racially biased, and exorbitant complex today to an effective, modern, fair and lean system for safer communities that spares so many victims from the loss and pain of preventable violence. He makes a compelling case for reinvesting what is currently misspent on reacting to crime into smart ways to prevent crime. Ultimately, he demonstrates to readers the importance of reevaluating our current system and putting into place proven strategies for crime and violence

prevention that will keep people out of jail and make our streets and communities safer for everyone.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Mass Incarceration on Trial** Jonathan Simon, 2012-08-21 Once the home of the most progressive prison system in the United States, California has now become the most extreme example of mass incarceration since the 1980s. In this inspired and original work, prize-winning criminal justice author Jonathan Simon argues that California provides a crucial window for learning what has gone wrong with American justice. The Supreme Court's recent 5-4 ruling in the landmark *Brown v. Plata* case, a culmination of more than twenty years of litigation about medical and mental health care in California's massive prison system, guarantees that California will be forced to continue to find ways to reduce its prison population. Yet it remains uncertain what will actually be done to unwind California's long-term prison crisis, let alone America's addiction to mass incarceration. Through constructing a framework of dignity and healing rather than shame and punitiveness, *Mass Incarceration on Trial* advocates for a new approach: the creation of social policy programs and initiatives that work with prisoners outside of the penal system, restoring a sense of humanity to criminal justice. Shedding light on the costly and dangerous prison system that exists in California today, this book will both point the way toward ending mass incarceration and offer a blueprint for restoring effective social policy in America.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: Evidence Based Policing** Renée J. Mitchell, Laura Huey, 2018-12-05 Over the past ten years, the field of evidence-based policing (EBP) has grown substantially, evolving from a novel idea at the fringes of policing to an increasingly core component of contemporary policing research and practice. Examining what makes something evidence-based and not merely evidence-informed, this book unifies the voices of police practitioners, academics, and pracademics. It provides real world examples of evidence-based police practices and how police research can be created and applied in the field. Includes contributions from leading international EBP researchers and practitioners such as Larry Sherman, University of Cambridge, Lorraine Mazerolle, University of Queensland, Anthony Braga, Northeastern and Craig Bennell, Carleton University.

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: *The Rights of the Accused*** Stuart S. Nagel, 1972-12

**how to fix overcrowding in prisons: *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices***, 2003

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