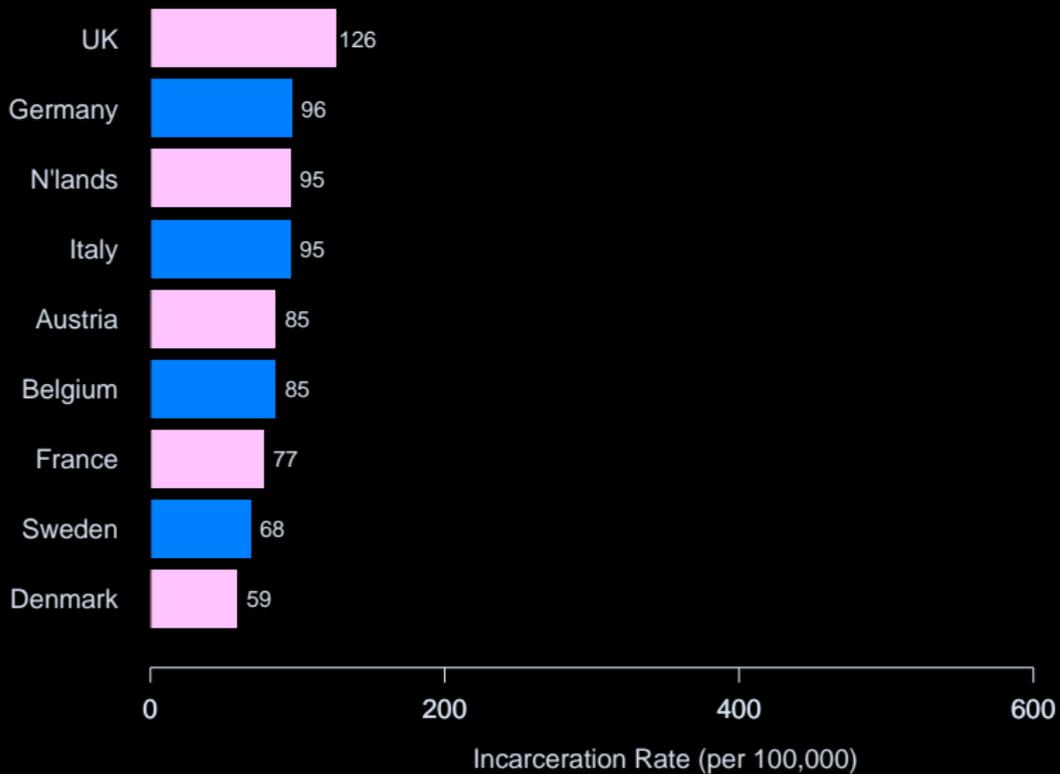


From Prison to Work

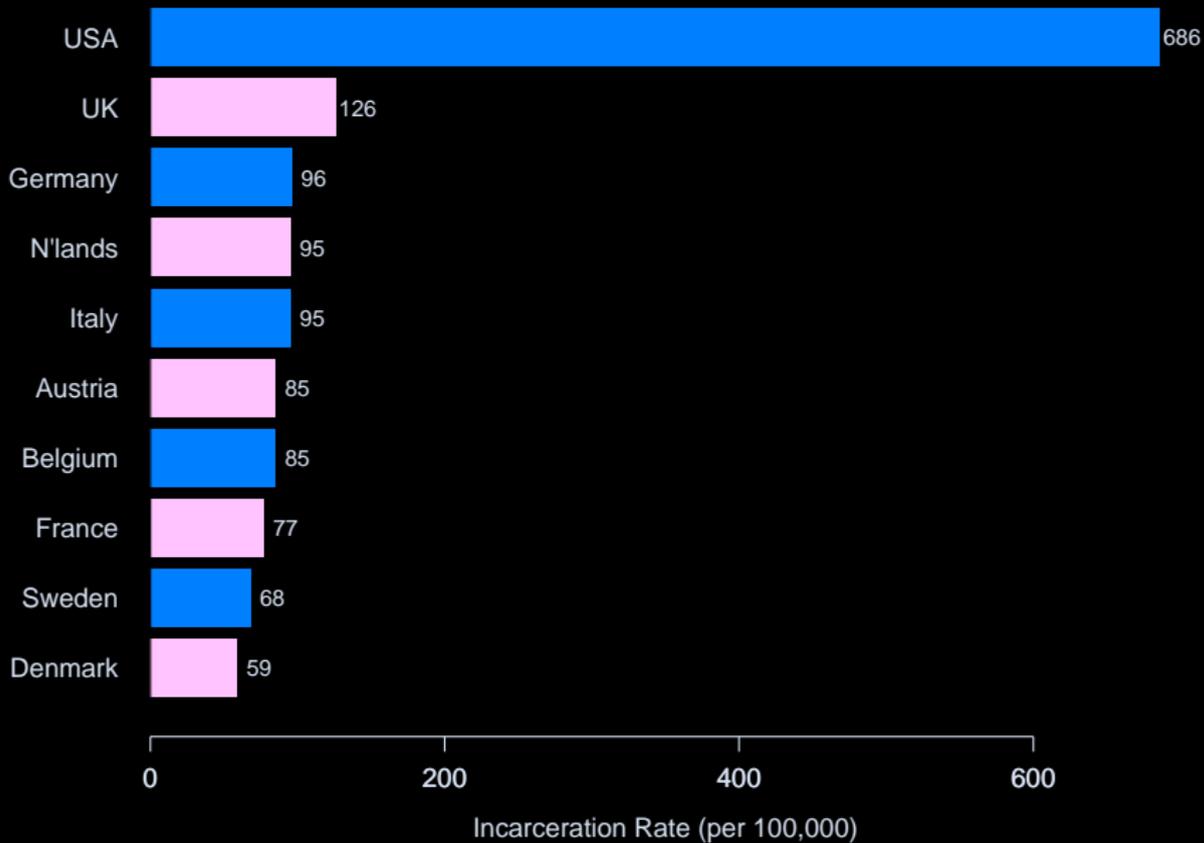
Bruce Western
Harvard University

December, 2008

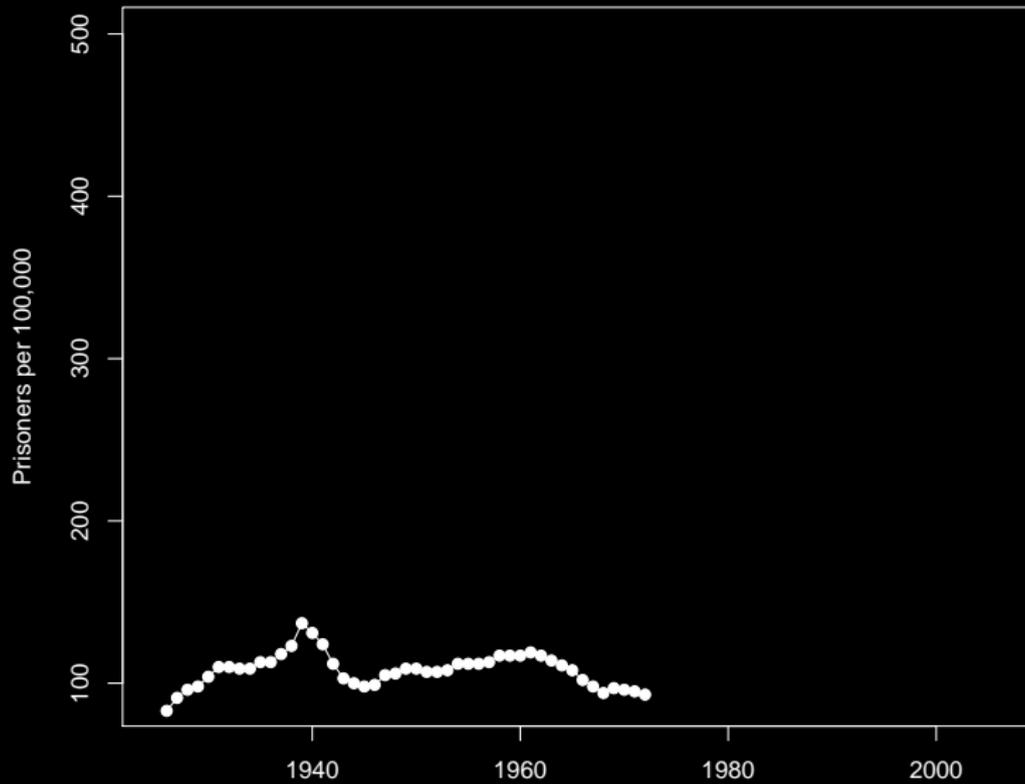
Incarceration in Western Europe, 2001



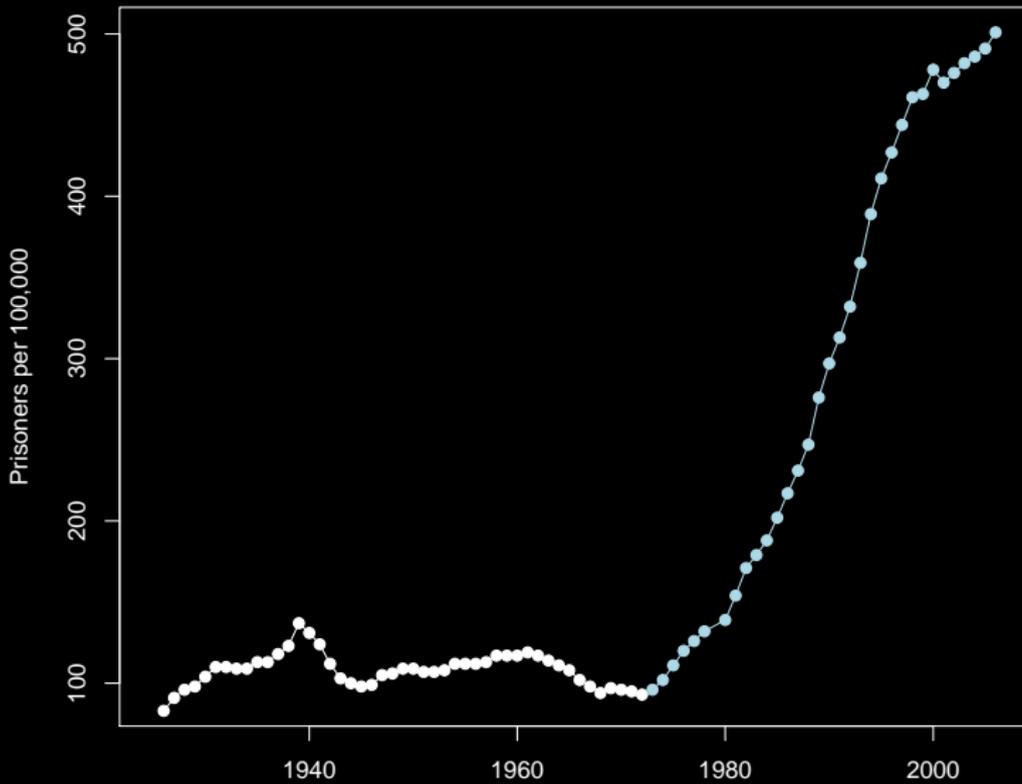
Incarceration in Western Europe and the US, 2001



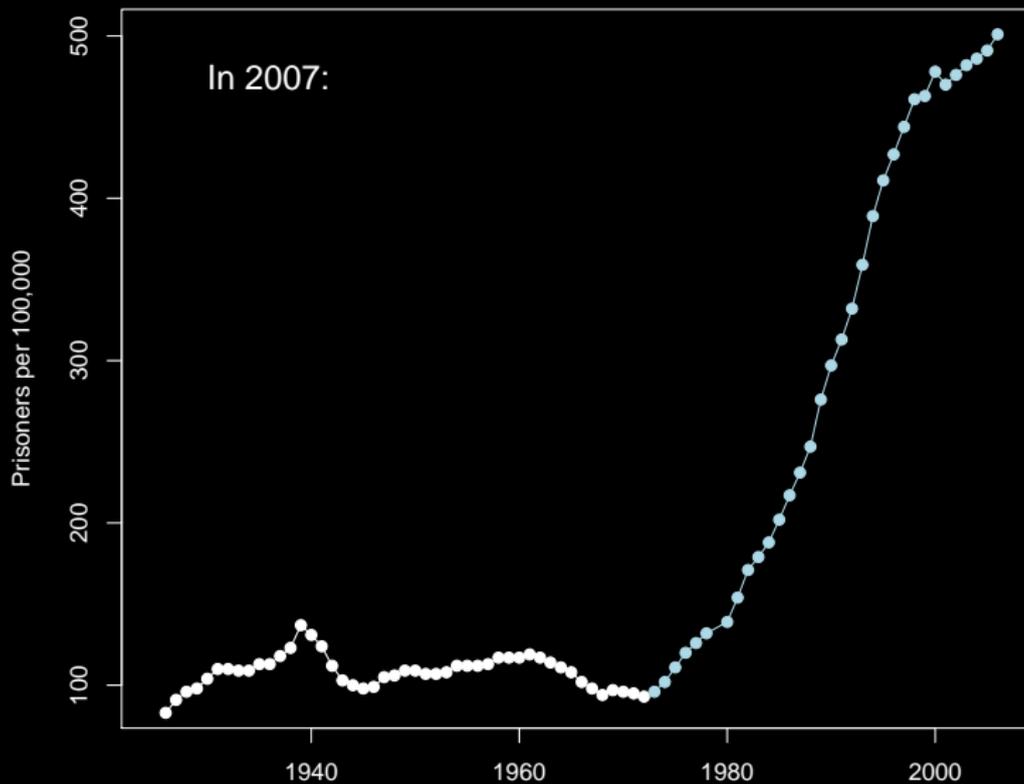
US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–1972



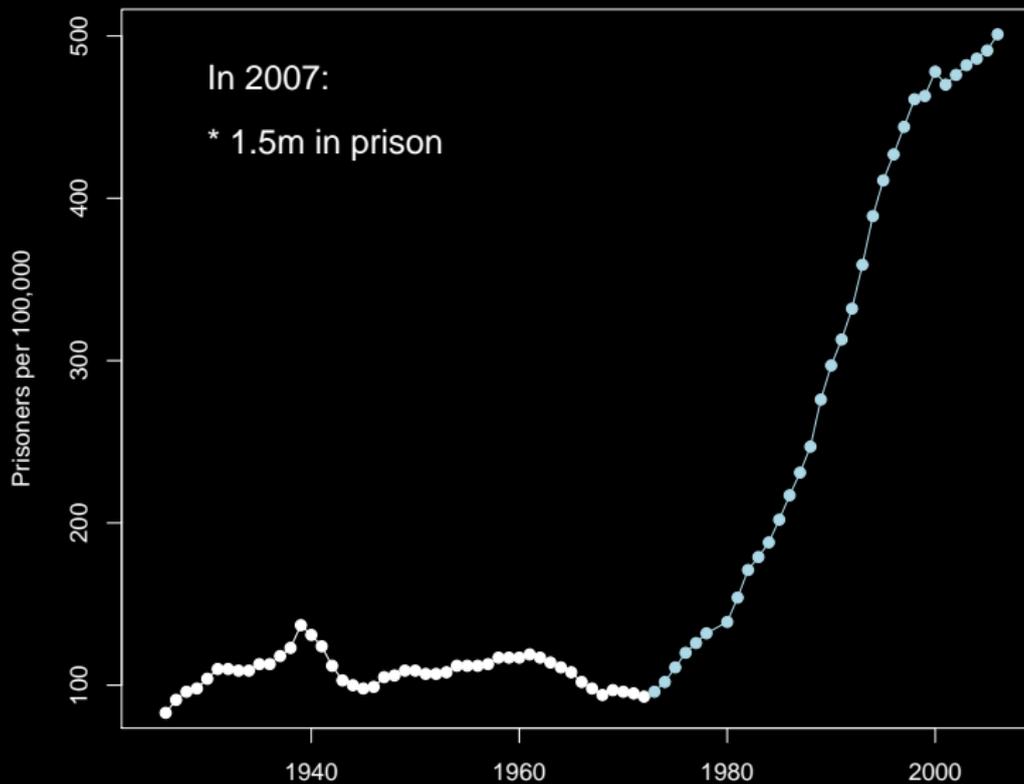
US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–2006



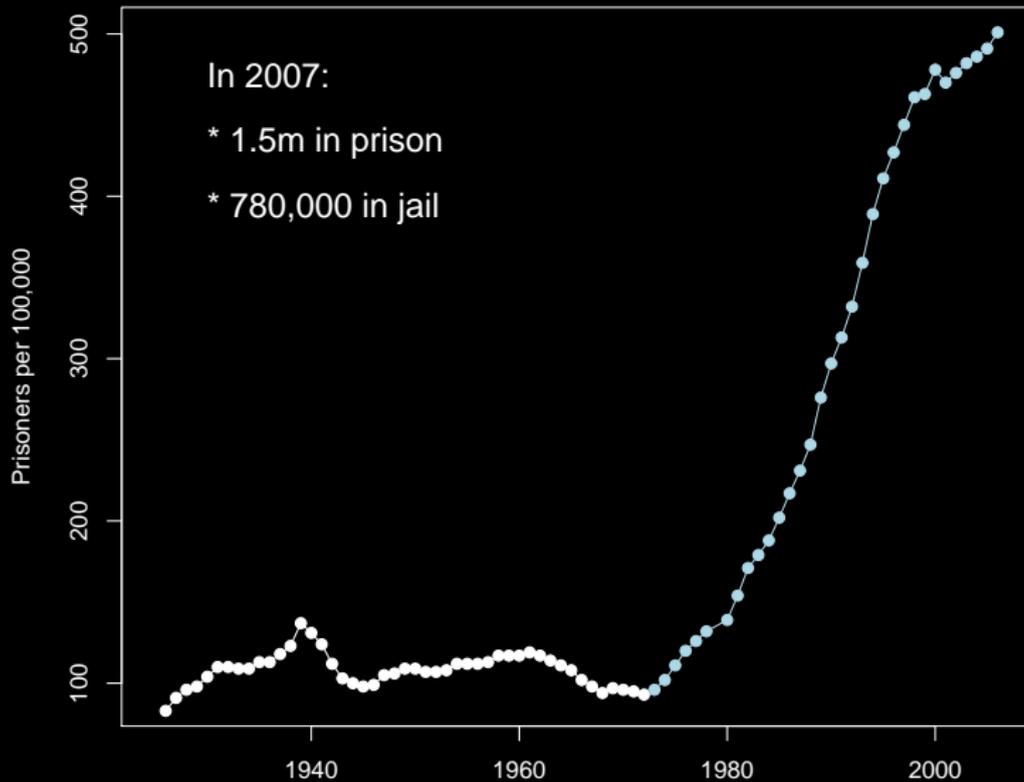
US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–2006



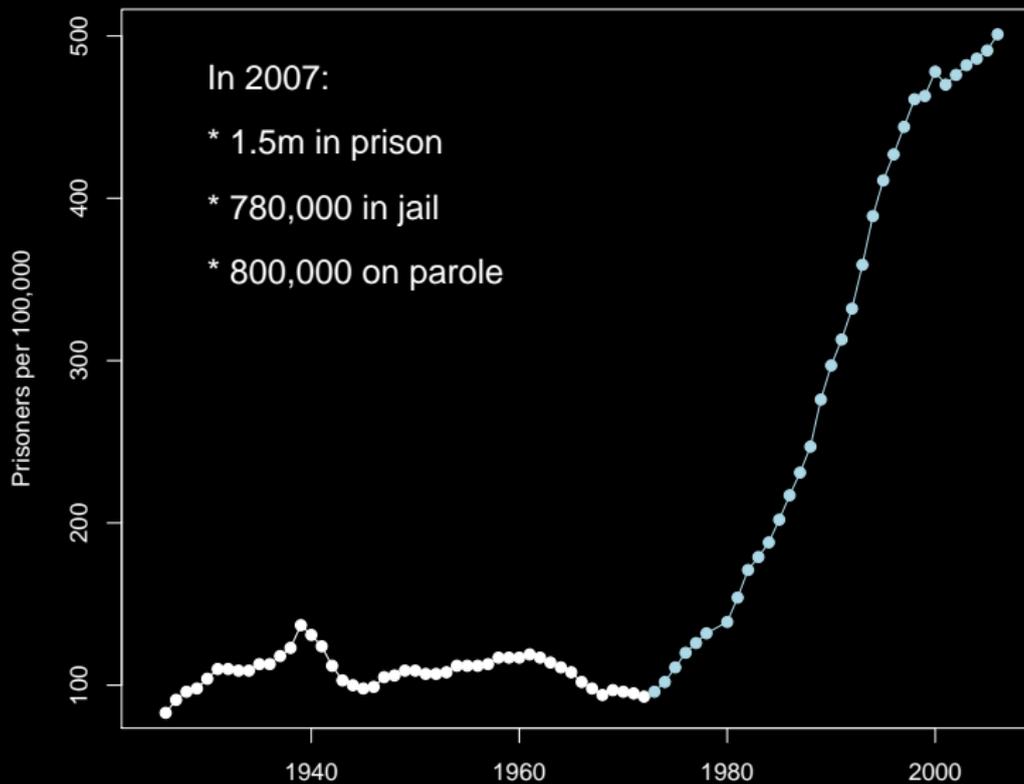
US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–2006



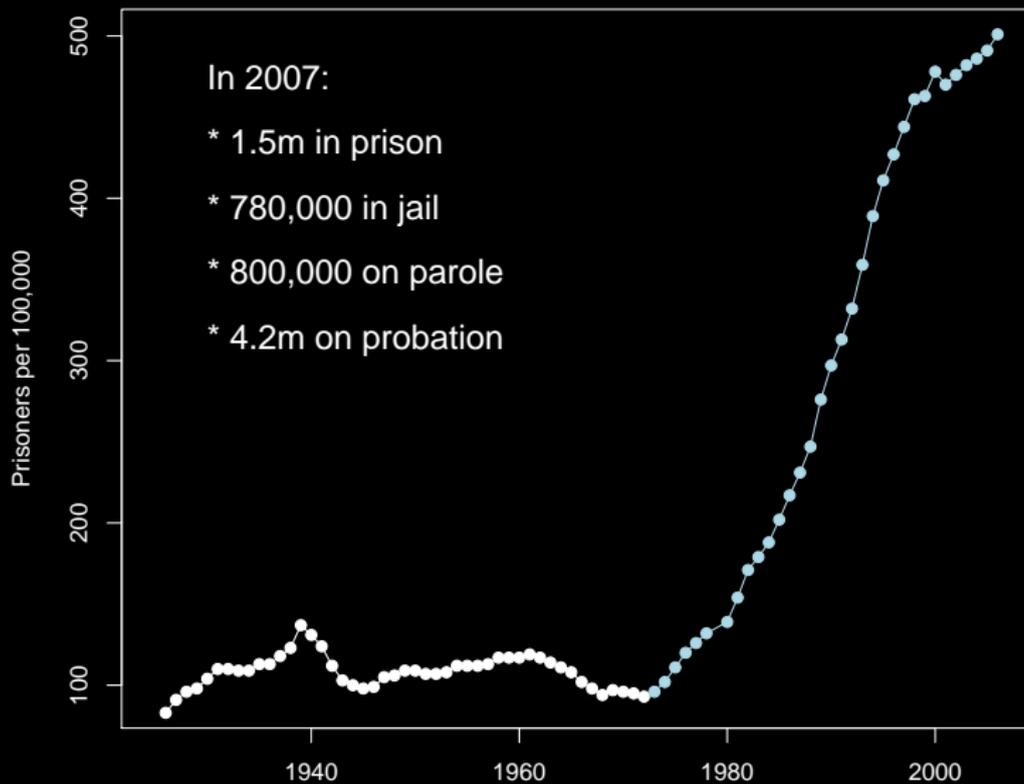
US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–2006



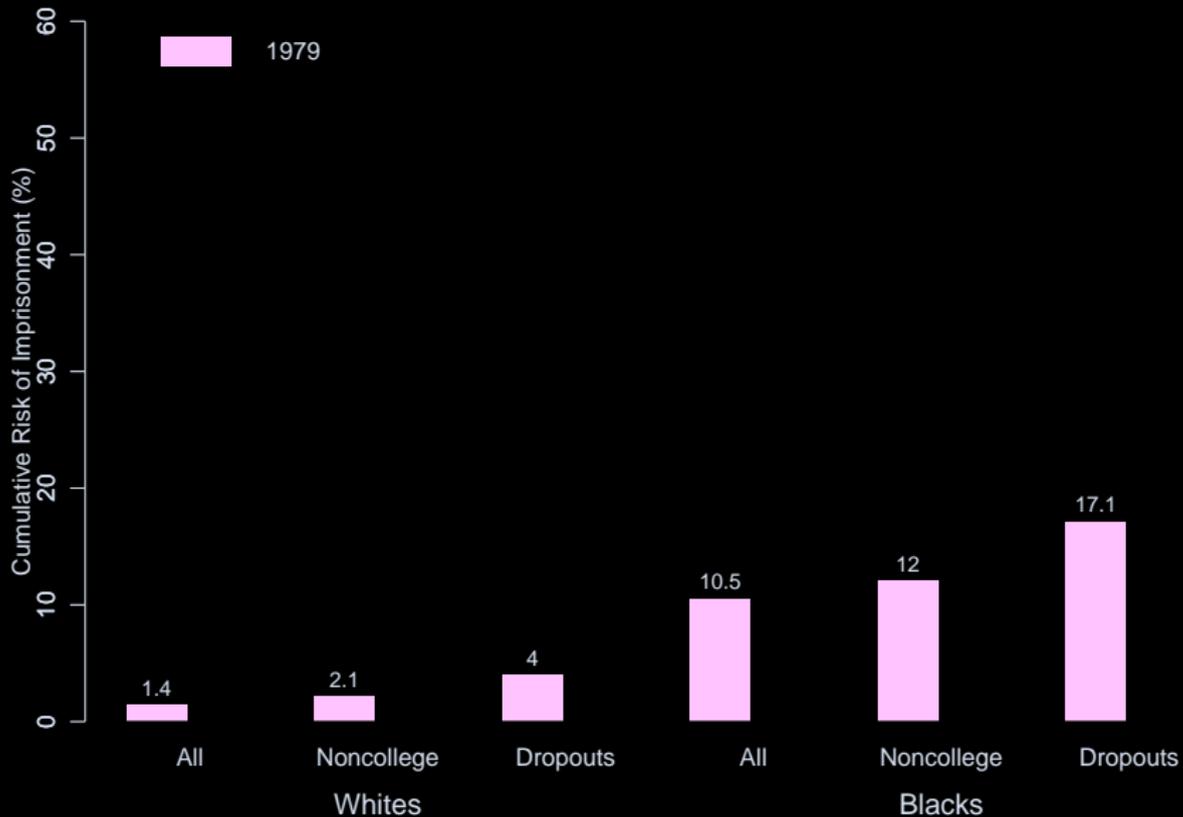
US Imprisonment Rate, 1925–2006



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Men's Risk of Imprisonment by 30-34



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A National Prisoner Reentry Program in Four Parts

Part 1. More Programs in Prison

- Federal prison provides 240 hours compulsory basic education and GED preparation for all high school dropouts
- The Federal standard should be adopted nationally
- In addition: Discharge planning to prepare for reentry (obtaining id, post-prison program enrollment)

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Two more parts to go to scale. . .

Part 3. Parole Reform

- Technical parole violators now account for about a third of prison admissions
- Funds for reentry services must be conditional curtailing parole revocations
- Re-imprisonment should be replaced with graduated sanctions and short jail stays
- Parole reform increases access to transitional services and improves their effectiveness

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- Expand eligibility of the formerly-incarcerated to:
 - Apply for federal housing benefits
 - Apply for federal student aid
- Evaluate the elimination of bans for federal housing benefits

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Costs and Benefits

Annual costs and benefits (millions)

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|-----------------------|---------|
| Prison programs | \$680 |
| Restore TANF and Pell | \$812 |
| Transitional services | \$6,954 |

Benefits

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|-------------------------------|---------|
| Earnings and productivity | \$3,210 |
| Reduced corrections and crime | \$8,060 |

Plus hard-to-quantify benefits: lifetime increases in earnings, reductions in crime, and improved child wellbeing.

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- The program shifts supervision from prison to the community, and replaces criminal justice oversight with intensive programming
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