

USA: Almost 50% of all prisoners worldwide are in the “*Land of the Free*”

The number of faces behind bars is increasing everywhere on the globe. Due to the collapsing penal system in the USA, the government is forced to enact laws that provide for the early release of elder, non-violent offenders. Yet, those released individuals remain on probation and, therefore, in the system. The higher the prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population), the more likely innocent inmates are confined. When one compares the U.S. states with each other, and the USA with other countries (the poor and the rich), one realizes that the incarceration rate is not only the consequence of crime, politics and the lack of equalization of wealth, but it is also a matter of culture. The social focus in the USA is the South, once known for plantations and slavery. Nowadays, it is still the “Bible belt” that clings to the death penalty. Its “correctional” facilities on large grounds and the often brown and black people in prison clothes working the fields remind of old times. Especially in rural areas where jobs are rare, each employee at local jails or the Department of Corrections, their families and friends enhance the lobby of the prison industry. They need convicted people to make a living and they cannot have an interest in a decrease of the prison population. Better basic education in the country and more alternative jobs would improve the chance for innocent prisoners to be heard and listened to by voters, and thus, by politicians as judges, district attorneys, sheriffs, legislators and governors.

The Innocent in Prison Project International (IIPPI) compiled information from the U.S. Census 2010, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the International Centre for Prison Studies. Today, on July 10, 2011, IIPPI provides and illustrates the data in the graphics below.

Summary findings by the Bureau of Justice Statistics¹

- In 2009, over 7.2 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole at yearend — 3.1% of all U.S. adult residents or **1 in every 32 adults**. The total correctional population declined (down 0.7% or 48,800 offenders) during 2009, the first decline observed in the population since the Bureau of Justice Statistics began reporting this population in 1980.
- At yearend 2009 a total of 4,203,967 adult men and women were on probation and 819,308 were on parole or mandatory conditional release following a prison term.
- State and federal prison authorities had jurisdiction over 1,613,740 prisoners at yearend 2009: 1,405,622 under state jurisdiction and 208,118 under federal jurisdiction.
- Local jails held 760,400 adults awaiting trial or serving a sentence at midyear 2009.

¹ <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=11>

USA: Almost 50% of all prisoners worldwide are in the “*Land of the Free*”

*Summary findings by the International Centre for Prison Studies*²

Almost half of the world’s prisoners are in the United States (2.29 million) according to the latest edition of the *World Prison Population List* published on January 29, 2009 by the International Centre for Prison Studies at King’s College London. Roy Walmsley compiled the data and Rob Allen, Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies, comments, “*Given the high financial, social and ethical costs of imprisonment, the data should prompt policy makers in every country to consider what they can do to limit the size of their prison population. Excessive use of imprisonment does nothing to improve public safety.*”

World Prison Population List (eighth edition)

Roy Walmsley, King’s College London, International Centre for Prison Studies

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/law/research/icps/downloads/wppl-8th_41.pdf

“This eighth edition of the World Prison Population List gives details of the number of prisoners held in 218 independent countries and dependent territories. It shows the differences in the level of imprisonment across the world and makes possible an estimate of the world prison population total. The information is the latest available in early December 2008.”

² www.prisonstudies.org/

USA: Almost 50% of all prisoners worldwide are in the “Land of the Free”

STATE	POPULATION (2010) ³	WHITE %	BLACK %	NATIVE AMERICAN %	ASIAN %	BELOW PO- VERTY LEVEL % ⁴	PRISONERS % ⁵
ALABAMA	4,779,736	68.5%	26.2%	0.6%	1.1%	17.5%	30,508 (0.64%)
ALASKA	710,231	66.7%	3.3%	14.8%	5.4%	9.1%	5,014 (0.71%)
ARIZONA	6,392,017	73.0%	4.1%	4.6%	2.8%	16.5%	39,589 (0.62%)
ARKANSAS	2,915,918	77.0%	15.4%	0.8%	1.2%	18.5%	14,716 (0.51%)
CALIFORNIA	37,253,956	57.6%	6.2%	1.0%	13.0%	14.2%	173,670(0.47%)
COLORADO	5,029,196	81.3%	4.0%	1.1%	2.8%	12.6%	23,274 (0.46%)
CONNECTICUT	3,574,097	77.6%	10.1%	0.3%	3.8%	9.3%	20,661 (0.58%)
DELAWARE	897,934	68.9%	21.4%	0.5%	3.2%	11.2%	7,075 (0.79%)
D.C.	601,723	38.5%	50.7%	0.3%	3.5%	17.6%	2,910 ⁶ (0.48%)
FLORIDA	18,801,310	75.0%	16.0%	0.4%	2.4%	15.0%	102,388 (0.54%)
GEORGIA	9,687,653	59.7%	30.5%	0.3%	3.2%	16.6%	52,719 (0.54%)
HAWAII	1,360,301	24.7%	1.6%	10.0% ⁷	38.6%	10.4%	5,955 (0.44%)

³ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts

⁴ 2009

⁵ December 31, 2008. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2011
www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2011/tables/11s0344.pdf

⁶ Source: District of Columbia Department of Corrections, (Statistics)
http://www.doc.dc.gov/doc/frames.asp?doc=/doc/lib/doc/populationstats/DemographicsandStatistics_Jun11_1.pdf

⁷ Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

USA: Almost 50% of all prisoners worldwide are in the “Land of the Free”

STATE	POPULATION (2010)	WHITE	BLACK	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN	BELOW PO- VERTY	PRISONERS
IDAHO	1,567,582	89.1%	0.6%	1.4%	1.2%	14.4%	7,290 (0.47%)
ILLINOIS	12,830,632	71.5%	14.5%	0.3%	4.6%	13.3%	45,474 (0.35%)
INDIANA	6,483,802	84.3%	9.1%	0.3%	1.6%	14.4%	28,322 (0.44%)
IOWA	3,046,355	91.3%	2.9%	0.4%	1.7%	11.8%	8,766 (0.29%)
KANSAS	2,853,118	83.8%	5.9%	1.0%	2.4%	13.2%	8,539 (0.30%)
KENTUCKY	4,339,367	87.8%	7.8%	0.2%	1.1%	18.4%	21,706 (0.50%)
LOUISIANA	4,533,372	62.6%	32.0%	0.7%	1.5%	17.6%	38,381 (0.85%)
MAINE	1,328,361	95.2%	1.2%	0.6%	1.0%	12.6%	2,195 (0.17%)
MARYLAND	5,773,552	58.2%	29.4%	0.4%	5.5%	9.2%	23,324 (0.40%)
MASSACHUSETTS	6,547,629	80.4%	6.6%	0.3%	5.3%	10.3%	11,408 (0.17%)
MICHIGAN	9,883,640	78.9%	14.2%	0.6%	2.4%	16.1%	48,738 (0.49%)
MINNESOTA	5,303,925	85.3%	5.2%	1.1%	4.0%	10.9%	9,406 (0.18%)
MISSISSIPPI	2,967,297	59.1%	37.0%	0.5%	0.9%	21.8%	22,754 (0.77%)
MISSOURI	5,988,927	82.8%	11.6%	0.5%	1.6%	14.6%	30,186 (0.50%)
MONTANA	989,415	89.4%	0.4%	6.3%	0.6%	15.0%	3,607 (0.36%)
NEBRASKA	1,826,341	86.1%	4.5%	1.0%	1.8%	12.2%	4,520 (0.25%)

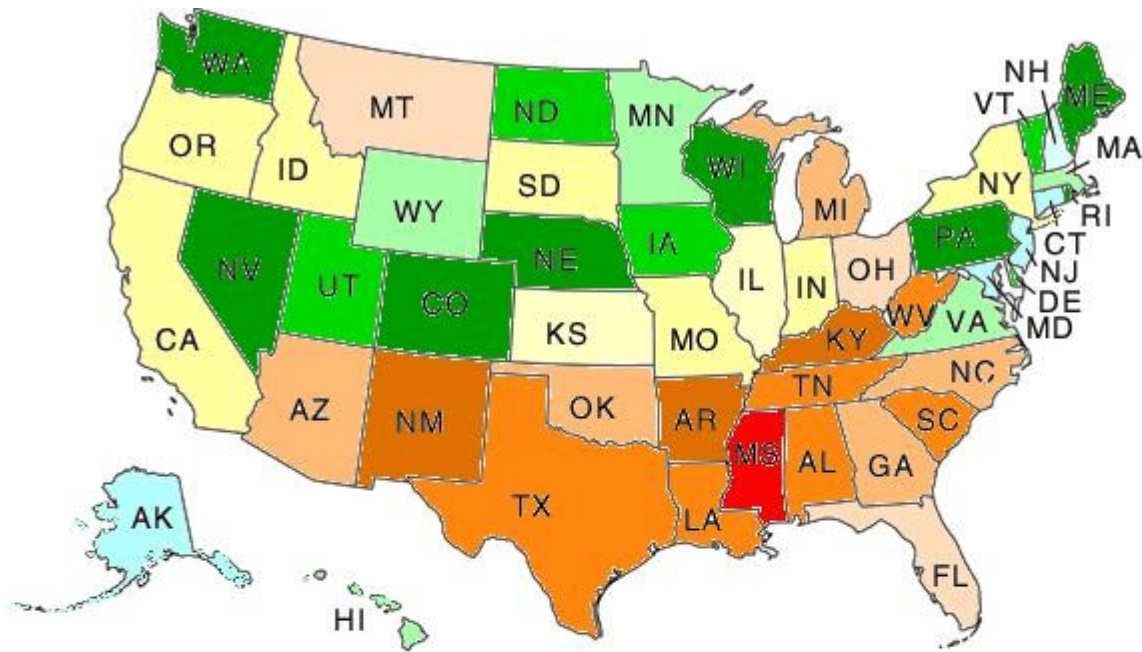
USA: Almost 50% of all prisoners worldwide are in the “Land of the Free”

<i>STATE</i>	<i>POPULATION</i> <i>(2010)</i>	<i>WHITE</i>	<i>BLACK</i>	<i>NATIVE</i> <i>AMERICAN</i>	<i>ASIAN</i>	<i>BELOW PO- VERTY</i>	<i>PRISONERS</i>
<i>NEVADA</i>	<i>2,700,551</i>	<i>66.2%</i>	<i>8.1%</i>	<i>1.2%</i>	<i>7.2%</i>	<i>12.4%</i>	<i>12,743 (0.47%)</i>
<i>NEW HAMPSHIRE</i>	<i>1,316,470</i>	<i>93.9%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>	<i>0.2%</i>	<i>2.2%</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>2,904 (0.22%)</i>
<i>NEW JERSEY</i>	<i>8,791,894</i>	<i>68.6%</i>	<i>13.7%</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>8.3%</i>	<i>9.4%</i>	<i>25,953 (0.30%)</i>
<i>NEW MEXICO</i>	<i>2,059,179</i>	<i>68.4%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>9.4%</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>18.2%</i>	<i>6,402 (0.31%)</i>
<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>19,378,102</i>	<i>65.7%</i>	<i>15.9%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>	<i>14.2%</i>	<i>60,347 (0.31%)</i>
<i>NORTH CAROLINA</i>	<i>9,535,483</i>	<i>68.5%</i>	<i>21.5%</i>	<i>1.3%</i>	<i>2.2%</i>	<i>16.2%</i>	<i>39,482 (0.41%)</i>
<i>NORTH DAKOTA</i>	<i>672,591</i>	<i>90.0%</i>	<i>1.2%</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>11.7%</i>	<i>1,452 (0.22%)</i>
<i>OHIO</i>	<i>11,536,504</i>	<i>82.7%</i>	<i>12.2%</i>	<i>0.2%</i>	<i>1.7%</i>	<i>15.1%</i>	<i>51,686 (0.45%)</i>
<i>OKLAHOMA</i>	<i>3,751,351</i>	<i>72.2%</i>	<i>7.4%</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>1.7%</i>	<i>16.1%</i>	<i>25,864 (0.69%)</i>
<i>OREGON</i>	<i>3,831,074</i>	<i>83.6%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>	<i>14,167 (0.37%)</i>
<i>PENNSYLVANIA</i>	<i>12,702,379</i>	<i>81.9%</i>	<i>10.8%</i>	<i>0.2%</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>49,307 (0.39%)</i>
<i>RHODE ISLAND</i>	<i>1,052,567</i>	<i>81.4%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>2.9%</i>	<i>12.0%</i>	<i>4,045 (0.38%)</i>
<i>SOUTH CAROLINA</i>	<i>4,625,364</i>	<i>66.2%</i>	<i>27.9%</i>	<i>0.4%</i>	<i>1.3%</i>	<i>17.1%</i>	<i>24,326 (0.53%)</i>
<i>SOUTH DAKOTA</i>	<i>814,180</i>	<i>85.9%</i>	<i>1.3%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>0.9%</i>	<i>14.2%</i>	<i>3,342 (0.41%)</i>
<i>TENNESSEE</i>	<i>6,346,105</i>	<i>77.6%</i>	<i>16.7%</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>17.2%</i>	<i>27,228 (0.43%)</i>
<i>TEXAS</i>	<i>25,145,561</i>	<i>70.4%</i>	<i>11.8%</i>	<i>0.7%</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>17.1%</i>	<i>172,506 (0.69%)</i>

USA: Almost 50% of all prisoners worldwide are in the “Land of the Free”

<i>STATE</i>	<i>POPULATION (2010)</i>	<i>WHITE</i>	<i>BLACK</i>	<i>NATIVE AMERICAN</i>	<i>ASIAN</i>	<i>BELOW PO- VERTY</i>	<i>PRISONERS</i>
<i>UTAH</i>	<i>2,763,885</i>	<i>86.1%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>	<i>1.2%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>11.7%</i>	<i>6,546 (0.24%)</i>
<i>VERMONT</i>	<i>625,741</i>	<i>95.3%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>0.4%</i>	<i>1.3%</i>	<i>11.5%</i>	<i>2,116 (0.34%)</i>
<i>VIRGINIA</i>	<i>8,001,024</i>	<i>68.6%</i>	<i>19.4%</i>	<i>0.4%</i>	<i>5.5%</i>	<i>10.6%</i>	<i>38,276 (0.48%)</i>
<i>WASHINGTON</i>	<i>6,724,540</i>	<i>77.3%</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>1.5%</i>	<i>7.2%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>17,926 (0.27%)</i>
<i>WEST VIRGINIA</i>	<i>1,852,994</i>	<i>93.9%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>0.2%</i>	<i>0.7%</i>	<i>17.8%</i>	<i>6,059 (0.33%)</i>
<i>WISCONSIN</i>	<i>5,686,986</i>	<i>86.2%</i>	<i>6.3%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>2.3%</i>	<i>12.4%</i>	<i>23,380 (0.41%)</i>
<i>WYOMING</i>	<i>563,626</i>	<i>90.7%</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>2.4%</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>10.2%</i>	<i>2,084 (0.37%)</i>
<i>USA</i>	<i>308,745,538</i>	<i>72.4%</i>	<i>12.6%</i>	<i>0.9%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>	<i>1,609,606 (0.52%)</i>

USA: Almost 50% of all prisoners worldwide are in the “Land of the Free”

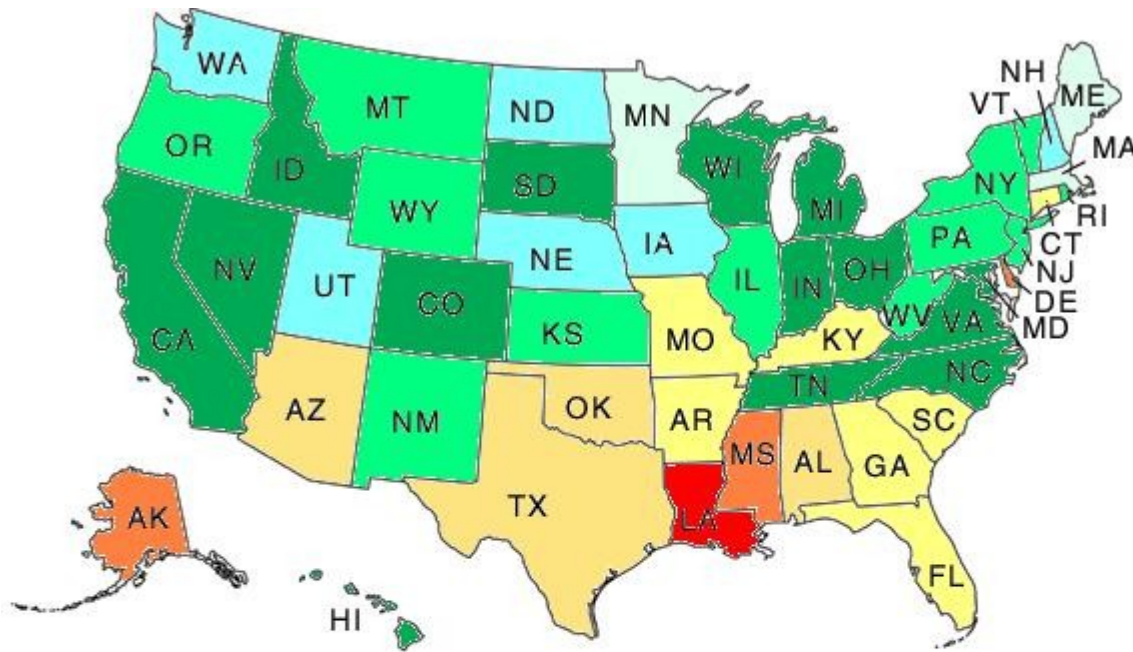


POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN THE USA (2009)

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8.0-8.9% | 14.0-14.9% |
| 9.0-9.9% | 15.0-15.9% |
| 10.0-10.9% | 16.0-16.9% |
| 11.0-11.9% | 17.0-17.9% |
| 12.0-12.9% | 18.0-18.9% |
| 13.0-13.9% | 21.8% ...of the population live in poverty. Source: U.S. Census |

(c) 2011, Innocent in Prison Project International, www.iippi.org

USA: Almost 50% of all prisoners worldwide are in the “Land of the Free”



PRISON POPULATION IN THE USA (December 31, 2008)



... of the population are in prison. Jail inmates, individuals on parole or probation are not included.

(c) 2011, Innocent in Prison Project International, www.iippi.org