

## An International Perspective on Corrections

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## Some questions to ponder...

- Who has the right to send people to prison and under what circumstances?
- When people are sent to prison, what are the conditions in which they should be held?
- What rights should prisoners forfeit and which should they retain?
- What expectations should they have about their treatment?
- What are the implications for the immediate members of their families?
- Do special arrangements need to be made for particular groups, such as those who are awaiting trial, women and juveniles?
- What professional standards and skills should be required of personnel who work in prisons?
- To what extent should prisons be subject to independent scrutiny?



## International Center for Prison Studies

- School of Law, King's College, University of London, United Kingdom in April 1997
- <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/rel/icps/home.html>
- Seeks to assist world governments to develop appropriate policies on prisons and imprisonment
- Designed to reach:
  - Policymakers
  - Practitioners
  - Administrators
  - Media
  - General public



## Objectives

- To carry out, organize and publish research
- To disseminate information about the international covenants and instruments relating to detention and imprisonment in a manner which is accessible to prison personnel.
- To undertake practical prison projects, which take account of the cultural, social and financial realities in the countries involved
- To develop and evaluate models of best practice.
- To build up a data base of good models of prison management and effective projects and making this available on a worldwide basis.
- To make use of an international network of individuals and agencies with a record of achievement in this field of work.
- To organize seminars, conferences and to publish reports which will further these objectives.



International Centre  
for Prison Studies

## World Prison Brief

- ▶ Home
- ▶ World Prison Brief
- ▶ Background
- ▶ Highest to Lowest Rates



Click on a region's name or select from the list below

Choose a Region



## World Prison Brief Online

- World Prison Brief Online was launched on 28 September 2000 using data specially compiled for ICPS.
- The WPB is a data-base which provides factual information about prison systems throughout the world.
- Information is provided on:
  - prison populations and prison population rates per 100,000 of the national population
  - on the use of imprisonment for women and juveniles
  - on the extent of pre-trial imprisonment
  - on prison overcrowding
  - record of the national ministries responsible for prisons and contact details for prison administrations
- The World Prison Brief also presents lists from the country with:
  - comparative prison rates
  - prison population totals
  - occupancy rates
  - pre-trial/remand prisoners
  - female prisoners
  - foreign prisoners.



## Tennessee

- Prison Population Total – 35,884
- # in Local Jails – 19,629
- # in State Prisons – 16,324
- Prison Population Rate – 655



## USA

- Prison Population Total - **2,085,620**
- Prison Population Rate – **714**
- Unsented – **20.0%**
- Female – **8.4%**
- Juveniles - **0.5%**
- Foreign - **6.6%**
- # of Facilities – **5,069**
- Official Capacity – **1,921,500**
- Occupancy – **108.5%**



## Canada

- Prison Population Total - **36,389**
- Prison Population Rate – **116**
- Unsented – **28.0%**
- Female – **5.0%**
- Juveniles - **10.7%**
- Foreign – No data
- # of Facilities – **168**
- Official Capacity – **34,030**
- Occupancy – **95.5%**



## Mexico

- Prison Population Total - **191,890**
- Prison Population Rate – **182**
- Unsented – **42.7%**
- Female – **4.9%**
- Juveniles - \*
- Foreign - **0.9%**
- # of Facilities – **451**
- Official Capacity – **151,692**
- Occupancy – **125.6%**



## Uruguay

- Prison Population Total - **7,100**
- Prison Population Rate – **209**
- Unsented – **72.5%**
- Female – **6.0%**
- Juveniles – **No data**
- Foreign – **No data**
- # of Facilities – **24**
- Official Capacity – **3,386**
- Occupancy – **150.8%**



## Kenya

- Prison Population Total – **55,000**
- Prison Population Rate – **169**
- Unsented – **39.4%**
- Female – **3.6%**
- Juveniles – **1.9%**
- Foreign – **No data**
- # of Facilities – **92**
- Official Capacity – **16,000**
- Occupancy – **343.7%**



### South Africa

- Prison Population Total – **186,739**
- Prison Population Rate – **413**
- Unsentenced – **26.7%**
- Female – **2.2%**
- Juveniles – **1.9%**
- Foreign – **2.4%**
- # of Facilities – **224**
- Official Capacity – **113,825**
- Occupancy – **164.1%**



### Iran

- Prison Population Total – **133,658**
- Prison Population Rate – **191**
- Unsentenced – **24.8%**
- Female – **3.5%**
- Juveniles – **1.3%**
- Foreign – **No data**
- # of Facilities – **184**
- Official Capacity – **65,000**
- Occupancy – **243.1%**



### Switzerland

- Prison Population Total – **6,021**
- Prison Population Rate – **81**
- Unsentenced – **41.5%**
- Female – **6.2%**
- Juveniles – **1.4%**
- Foreign – **70.5%**
- # of Facilities – **157**
- Official Capacity – **6,584**
- Occupancy – **91.4%**



### India

- Prison Population Total – **313,635**
- Prison Population Rate – **29**
- Unsentenced – **70.4%**
- Female – **3.0%**
- Juveniles – **No data**
- Foreign – **No data**
- # of Facilities – **1,119**
- Official Capacity – **229,713**
- Occupancy – **136.5%**



### Australia

- Prison Population Total – **23,362**
- Prison Population Rate – **117**
- Unsentenced – **20.9%**
- Female – **6.9%**
- Juveniles – **No data**
- Foreign – **16.7%**
- # of Facilities – **123**
- Official Capacity – **20,503**
- Occupancy – **105.9%**



### Prison Population High/Low Totals

USA	2,085,620
China	1,548,498
Russian Federation	763,054
Nauru	6
Tuvalu	6
San Marino	0



### Prison Population High/Low Rates

USA	714
Belarus	532
Bermuda (U.K.)	532
India	29
Nepal	29
Burkina Faso	23



### Percent Unsentenced High/Low

Paraguay	92.7%
Haiti	83.5%
Dominican Republic	79.8%
USA	20.0%
Iceland	7.8%
Namibia	5.2%
Greenland	3.7%



### Female Prisoners High/Low

Maldives Islands	26.6%
Hong Kong	21.6%
Thailand	18.4%
USA	8.4%
Malawi	1.2%
Burkina Faso	1.0%
Tanzania	0.9%



### Foreign Prisoners High/Low

Andorra	83.6%
Luxembourg	73.6%
Switzerland	70.5%
USA	6.6%
Tanzania	0.2%
Armenia	0.1%
Mongolia	0.1%



### Occupancy Rates High/Low

Kenya	343.7%
Barbados	302.4%
Cameroon	296.3%
USA	108.5%
Niger	68.8%
Azerbaijan	66.3%
Gambia	65.0%



### Reform Concerns

- Prisons cannot be considered in a vacuum
- A western model is not necessarily or usually the best
- Cultural change is central to prison reform
- Changes have to be owned by those working within the system if they are to be sustainable
- Real change takes time and needs a strategic approach
- Human rights is integral to everything that goes on in a prison; it is not something merely to be added on
- Resources are often very inadequate so projects need to liberate the creativity of prison staff
- Study visits to other systems have to be justified, purposeful and targeted
- Relationships with civil society are crucial

