



Prison abuse, deaths and escapes prompt calls for more oversight

Prisons and jails across the United States are facing challenges such as overcrowding, understaffing, and safety concerns. This has led to calls for increased oversight of correctional facilities, with many states considering legislation to establish independent oversight bodies.

The prison population is going up as prisons struggle with staffing and overpopulation

The U.S. prison population has been increasing since 2022, reversing a trend of decline over the previous decade. Several states have implemented harsher punishments, contributing to the rise in prison population. Louisiana lowered the age for adult criminal trials from 18 to 17, Oregon recriminalized previously decriminalized drugs, and California tightened penalties for certain theft and drug crimes. Despite the increase in prison population, prisons are already facing challenges with overcrowding and understaffing.

Quote

"Every time you state what you want or believe, you're the first to hear it. It's a message to both you and others about what you think is possible. Don't put a ceiling on yourself." – Oprah Winfrey

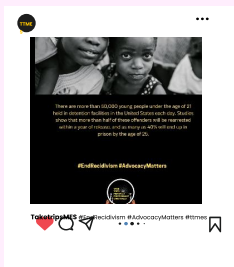
Harvard study suggests tactic for U.S. jails to reduce inmate deaths

A Harvard study examined 44 midsize jails across the US and found that those accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) had a 93% lower monthly death rate than non-accredited jails. The study suggests that accreditation leads to better staff education on referring inmates for treatment and improved processes for managing inmate patients. While accreditation did not result in more doctors or a wider range of services, it did lead to more frequent and timely healthcare services, such as intake screenings. The study also found that accreditation improved communication between medical and correctional staff, boosted job satisfaction, and increased compliance with safety and training standards.

Incarcerated Firefighters Battle California Blazes for Low Pay, Redemption

Incarcerated firefighters in California are battling wildfires for low pay, despite risking their lives to save wealthy communities. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) operates fire camps where incarcerated individuals are trained to fight fires, but they are paid significantly less than their non-incarcerated counterparts. While the program has been praised for its rehabilitation successes, critics argue that the low wages are exploitative and that these firefighters deserve fair compensation for the risks they take.

Our newsletter serves as a vital tool to raise awareness about the injustices within the incarceration system and to inform our audience about the ongoing efforts to create a more just and equitable system. Through this newsletter, we aim to highlight the systemic issues that lead to unfair treatment and wrongful imprisonment, share impactful stories of those affected, and provide updates on legislative and grassroots initiatives working towards reform. We hope to inspire collective action and foster a community dedicated to advocating for meaningful change.



Social media spotlight

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