

## Ending 50 Years of Mass Incarceration: Urgent Reform Needed to Protect Future Generations

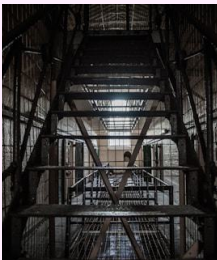
The United States has seen a modest decline in its prison population since its peak in 2009, but it still maintains an extremely high incarceration rate, far surpassing other developed nations. At the current rate of decline, it would take 75 years to return to 1972 prison population levels. The report emphasizes the urgent need for significant reforms to address mass incarceration, including reducing prison admissions and shortening sentences, particularly for violent offenses. Some states, like Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, have reduced their prison populations by over 50% since their peaks. 25 states have outpaced the national average in decarceration, achieving over 25% reductions. However, some states, like Alabama and Tennessee, are moving in the opposite direction, planning to expand prison infrastructure or implement harsher sentencing laws.

### 2 generations split by incarceration say sentencing should consider those left behind

Parental incarceration is considered an adverse childhood experience (ACE) with long-term negative consequences on a child's development and life. It often leads to foster care placements, housing instability, and financial struggles for the children left behind. The separation weakens or even destroys the parent-child bond, leaving lasting emotional scars. Amanda Hall, who experienced her mother's arrest as a child, shared how it fueled her own cycle of trauma, substance abuse, and eventual incarceration. Her son, Jayden Spence, recounted the fear and longing he felt witnessing his mother's arrest at five, impacting his trust in the justice system. Both Hall and Spence, along with Kentucky Youth Advocates, urge lawmakers to consider a caregiver's role during sentencing to mitigate the harm on families. While accountability for crimes is crucial, finding a balance between consequences and the impact on children is equally important.

### Quote

"No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens but its lowest ones" - Nelson Mandela.



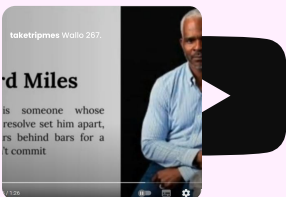
### More Cancer Cases in Areas Where Incarceration Rates Are High: Study

A new study reveals a correlation between high incarceration rates and increased cancer mortality rates. While not establishing a causal link, researchers observed that areas with high incarceration rates tend to have higher cancer death rates, particularly for lung and liver cancers. The study suggests that limited access to healthcare, including cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment, in areas with high incarceration rates might contribute to this correlation.

### What Happens as the Era of Mass Incarceration Winds Down

The era of mass incarceration, marked by harsh drug sentences, has resulted in a large population of aging prisoners. As these individuals are released, they face significant challenges reintegrating into society after serving long sentences. The article highlights the need for support systems and resources to help these individuals successfully transition back into their communities.

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

Watch the full reel on Youtube  
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