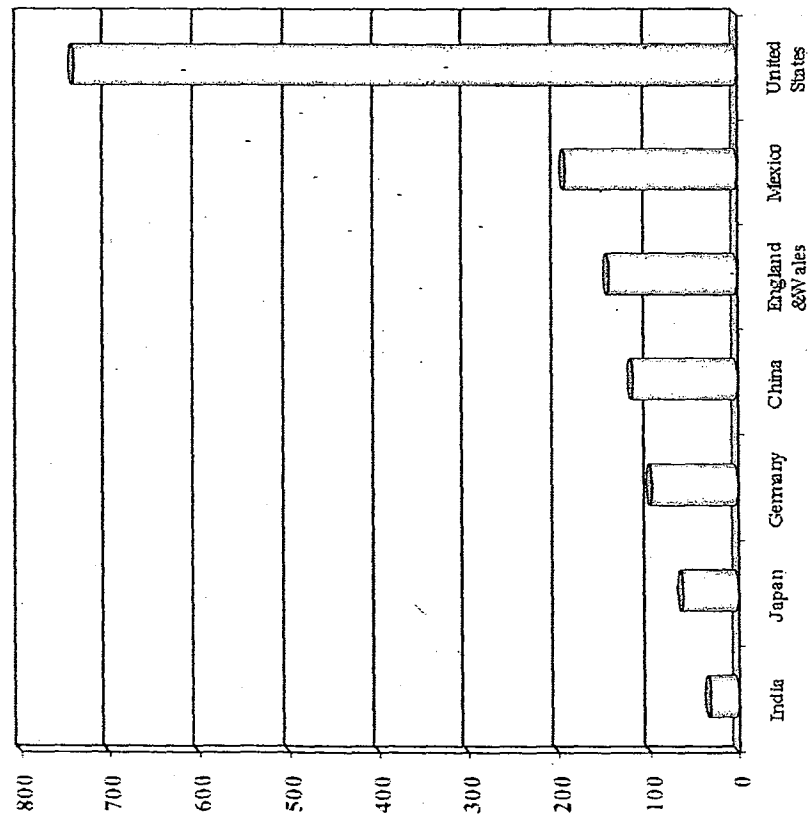


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HANDOUT -
BFM-1-7-09
Items
189

National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009: *The Scope of the Problem*

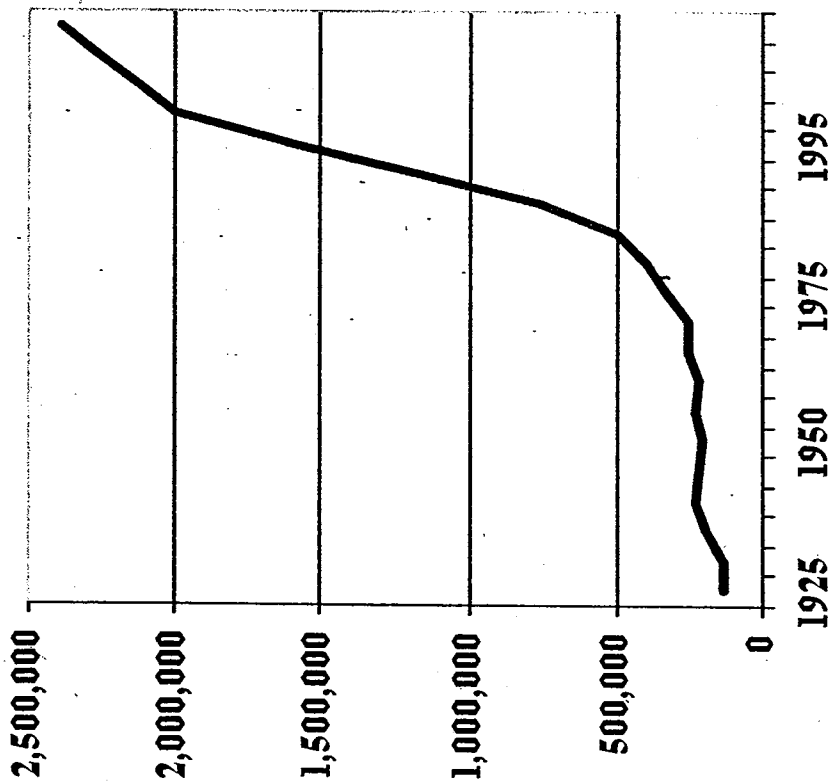


Incarceration Rate
(number of people in prison per 100,000 population)

- The U.S. has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prison population.
- 7.3 million Americans are incarcerated, on probation or on parole.
- 2.38 million Americans are in prison - five times the world's average incarceration rate.

Office of Senator Jim Webb, March 2009

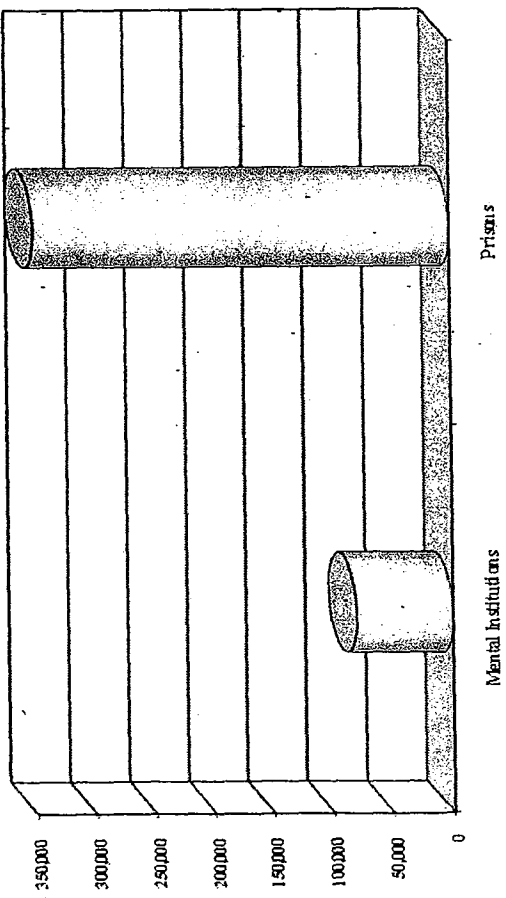
National Criminal Justice Commission Act: *The Scope of the Problem*



The U.S. incarceration rate has skyrocketed in the past decades.

National Criminal Justice Commission Act: *The Scope of the Problem*

Warehousing the Mentally Ill in Prison

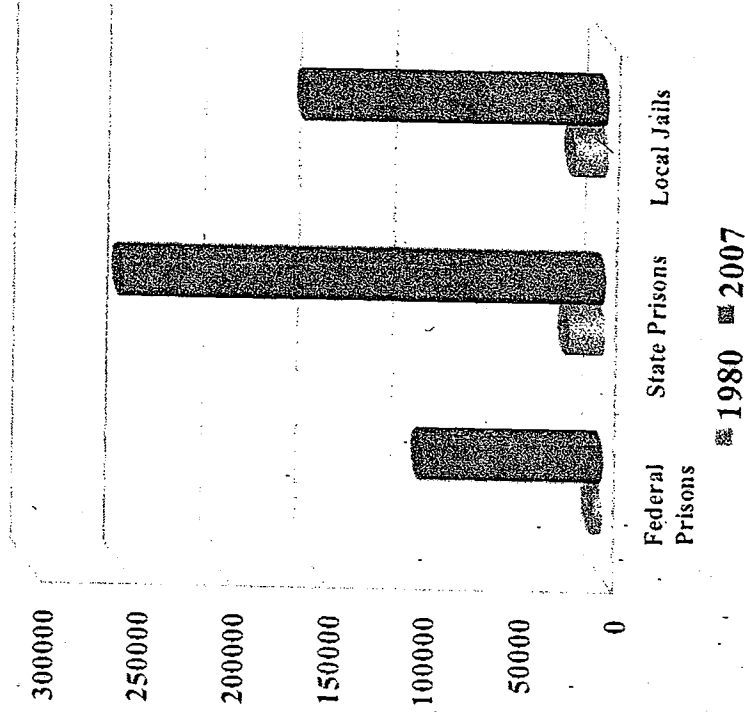


4x as many mentally ill people are in prisons than in mental health hospitals, roughly 350k compared to 80k

National Criminal Justice Commission Act: *The Scope of the Problem*

Drug Incarceration has Increased Sharply in Past 3 Decades

- Incarcerated drug offenders have soared 1200% since 1980, up from 41,000 to 500,000 in 2007.*
- A significant percentage of persons incarcerated for drug offenses have no history of violence or high-level drug activity.

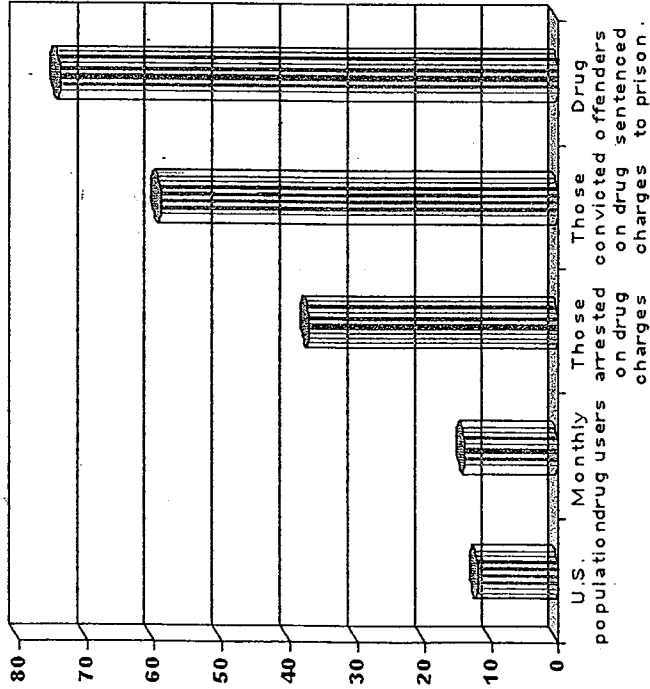


* In federal and state prisons and local jails.

National Criminal Justice Commission Act: A Special Problem: Racial Disparity in Drug Policy

**African Americans are far more likely to be incarcerated
for drug offenses than other groups**

African Americans = 12% of the U.S. population
 14% of monthly drug users
 37% of those arrested on drug charges
 59% of those convicted on drug charges
 74% of drug offenders sentenced to prison



National Criminal Justice Commission Act:
The Scope of the Problem

Poor Prison Administration & Violence

- Prison administration is haphazard – no career progression, inadequate training, potentially violent working conditions, high administrator turnover, low accountability.
- In 2007, 60,500 prison inmates reported sexual victimization. Sexual and physical assaults are estimated to be 5-10 times reported levels.
- Criminally ill: health care in prisons endangers inmates and the American public.