

REFORM IS CRUCIAL EVEN THOUGH THE MASSACHUSETTS INCARCERATION RATE IS LOWER THAN OTHER STATES

*"Over the last three decades, incarceration has actually risen at a faster rate in Massachusetts than in the nation overall."*¹

- **Incarceration quintupled after 1973.** Parallel to the national increase, after a half-century of steady rates.
- **Massachusetts ranks #8 in the World.** Behind U.S., Russia, Cuba, El Salvador, Thailand, Azerbaijan, and Rwanda.
- **Disparate treatment of African-Americans and Latinos is above the national average²**
 - **7.5 to 1 Black: White ratio (#13 in U.S.)**
 - **4.3 to 1 Hispanic: White ratio (#1 in U.S.)**
 - **Litaprasad decision** (475 Mass. 692 (10/14/2016)) – rising to a constitutional equal protection issue, needs Legislative attention
- **Not correlated to the Massachusetts crime rate.** Crime rate has declined significantly (violent crime down 29% and property crime down 40% for 25 years ending 2011-12)
- **Today's opioid crisis would not exist if the decades-long mandatory minimum drug sentence experiment had been successful.** Treatment is a more effective – and less expensive – alternative to criminalizing addiction by incarceration. 70% substance abuse and 40% mental illness among county prisoners.

¹ Benjamin Forman, et al., *The Geography of Incarceration in Boston* (Boston Foundation/MassINC, 2016), p. 3

² Source: The Sentencing Project

END MASS INCARCERATION RESOURCES – United Parish in Brookline (Fall 2016)

Books

- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness* (2011)
Fall 2015 U.P. book groups – the “bible” for the “civil rights issue of our era”
- Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice & Redemption* (2014)
Compelling memoir by Black lawyer defending criminal and death penalty cases in South
- Wes Moore, *The Other Wes Moore* (2010)
Two young Black men from Baltimore: Why am I a Rhodes Scholar and my namesake is in prison for life . Suitable for younger readers in this version or a separate version.

Film

- TED Talk – Adam Foss, a young Black prosecutor in Roxbury (coming to U.P. on Dec. 4)
- “The House I Live In” + “Beyond the Wall” + “13th” (coming to U.P. after Christmas)
- TED Talks by Michelle Alexander + Bryan Stevenson. Humor by John Oliver

Local Information + Emails

- Jobs NOT Jails website (www.jobsnottjails.org) - U.P. is one of 135 participation organizations
- E.P.O.C.A. website (www.esprisoners.org) – a key Jobs NOT Jails organization
- Criminal Justice Policy Coalition (www.cjpc.org) – sign up for free weekly email about local criminal justice reform events. List of pending bills and Mass. Bail Fund information on website.

Massachusetts Criminal Justice Data

- Council of State Governments Study (www.csjcenter.org/ma) – Final report, interim data presentations and recommendations for changes to MA criminal justice system (Jan. - Dec. 2016)
- MassINC (www.massinc.org) Regular research, policy briefs and conferences supporting evidence-based reforms to MA criminal justice system
- Senator William Brownsberger (www.willbrownsberger.com) Compilation of criminal justice information by the MA Senate co-chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary

National Criminal Justice Information

- The Marshall Project (www.themarshallproject.org) – Digest of U.S. press reports with links plus investigative reporting. Sign up for free Saturday highlights email (also available M – F)

Some Helpful Websites for Background Information

- The Sentencing Project www.sentencingproject.org
- Prison Policy Initiative www.prisonpolicy.org
- Right on Crime www.rightoncrime.com (conservative perspective on reform)
- Robina Institute of Criminal Law & Criminal Justice www.robinainstitute.org
- Brennan Center for Justice www.brennancenter.org
- Vera Institute for Justice www.vera.org
- Arnold Foundation www.arnoldfoundation.org (bail + pre-trial detention)