

Understanding New Jersey Policies That Drive **Mass Incarceration**

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**We are
the Drug
Policy
Alliance.**

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“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

– The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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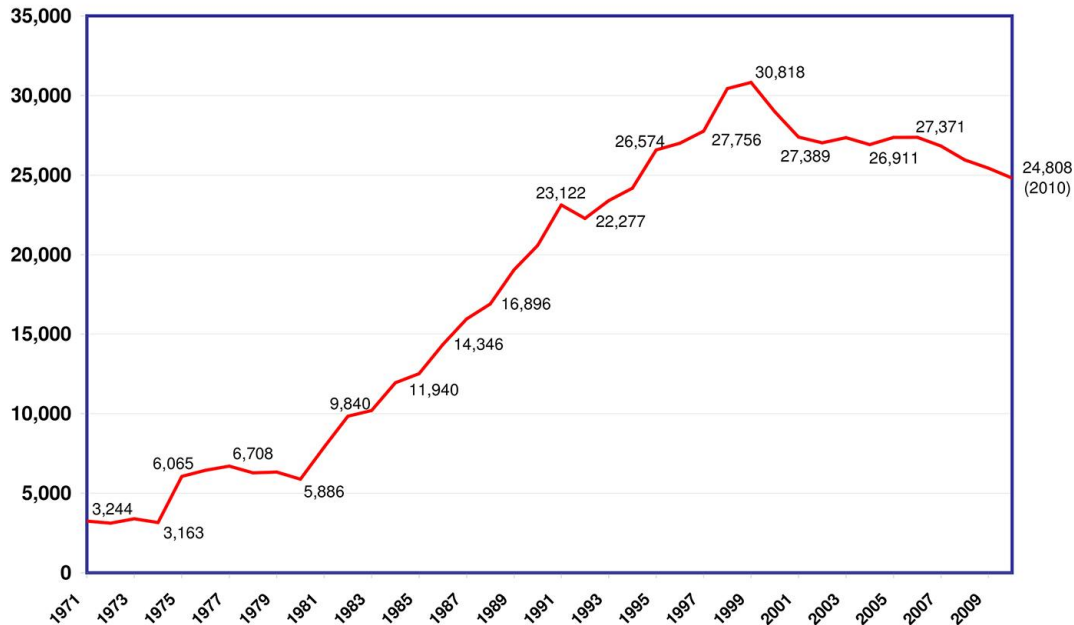
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoners Series*.



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New Jersey Total End-of-Year Prison Population, 1971-2010

The 1980s and 1990s dwarf all other decades in prison growth



Sources: Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics; Bruce D. Stout, PhD, The College of New Jersey, *Unpublished Data*

New Jersey's out-of-control prison growth

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- In New Jersey, the prison population rose from about 8,000 in 1982 to 21,000 today.
- The percentage of individuals serving mandatory minimum sentences rose from 11% to 73%.
- In 1987, only 11% of the New Jersey prison population was incarcerated for drug offenses. Today, 33% of New Jersey prison and “half way house” inmates are incarcerated for drug offenses.



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- It costs almost \$50,000 a year to incarcerate one person
- New Jersey spends more than \$300 million a year just to incarcerate nonviolent drug offenders.
- Over the last two decades New Jersey's annual budget for corrections has grown from about \$300 million to more than \$1 billion.
- Corrections spending grew at three times the rate of education spending during the 1980s and 1990s in New Jersey.

How Mass Incarceration Shapes Racial and Economic Inequalities

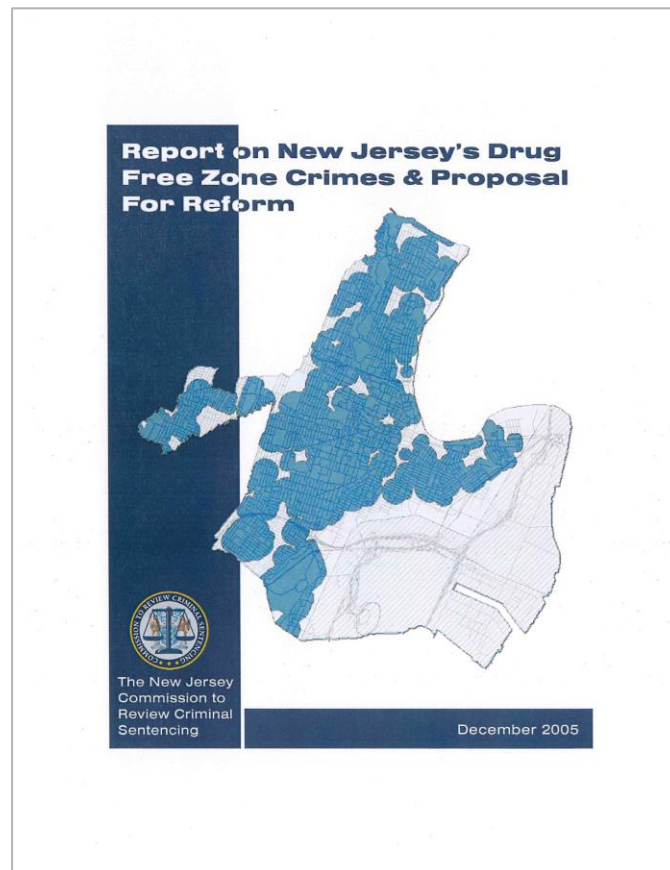
- African Americans and Latinos make up 27% of the population but more than 80% of those incarcerated.
- 1 in 9 African American children has a parent in prison.
- In New Jersey, about 15% of African American men cannot vote owing to being imprisoned, on parole or on probation.
- Individuals who have been incarcerated make 30 to 40% less in wages over their lifetimes than those who have not been incarcerated. This means less money to support families, communities and local businesses and less taxable revenue for New Jersey.
- Other issues: Ban the Box, Felony Drug Ban, Loss of Licenses, Child Support Accruing While Incarcerated

Financial Incentives and How They Drive Policy and Inequality

- The Prison Industrial Complex
- The Treatment Industrial Complex
- Policing for Profit



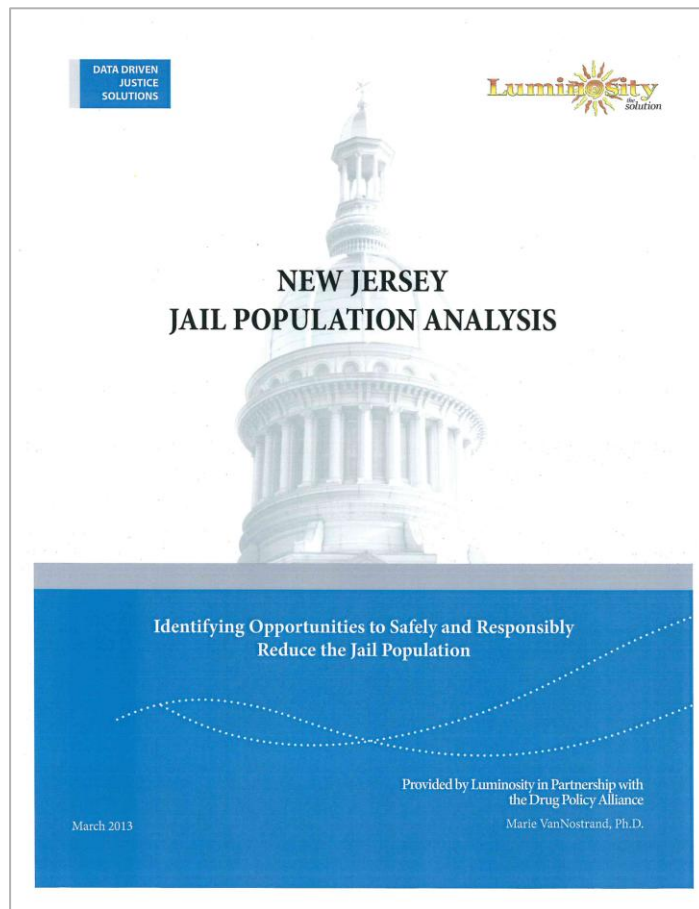
We Can Overcome: Drug Free Zone Reform Victory



We Can Overcome: Drug Free Zone Reform Victory

- Drug Free Zone law basically increased penalty for underlying offense by three years.
- 96% of those incarcerated under this law were African American and Latino.
- Basically two penalties for the same offense with the severity of the penalty based on geography and ultimately on race.

We Can Overcome: Bail Reform Victory



We Can Overcome: Bail Reform Victory

- On any given day, nearly 75% of the 15,000 people in New Jersey jails are awaiting trial rather than serving a sentence.
- The average length of incarceration for pretrial inmates is more than 10 months.
- Nearly 40% of the total jail population has the option to post bail but lacks the financial resources to do so.
- Approximately 10% of those in jail could secure their release pending trial with \$2,500 or less.
- Approximately 70% of the jail population is African American and Latino.
- Putting a face on the issue

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- [NJTV Due Process April 21, 2013](#)



What Can You Do?

- Join the *New Solutions Campaign!*
- Make your voice heard by adding your name and/or your organization's name to the list of almost 100 coalition partners around the state who support one or more of these critically important pieces of legislation.
 - Faith leaders and communities
 - Social service and social justice organizations
 - Community advocates and activists
 - Racial justice advocates and organizations
 - Law enforcement

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