

Environmental Scan 2010

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Introduction

Beginning in the late 1990's, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Information Center began scanning social, economic and corrections issues to inform the development of programs and services offered by NIC. This report, now in its 5th edition, has continued to evolve into a popular tool that is also used by corrections practitioners to inform their work in jails, prisons and community corrections. Since there are many issues beyond what is addressed in this environmental scan that potentially will influence corrections, this report is intended to give a broad overview of selected current and anticipated trends and not intended to be comprehensive.

The method for selecting articles, reports and other materials was based on a scan of popular magazines, newspapers and websites as well as corrections-specific publications. As part of the ongoing work of the Information Center in supporting the work of corrections practitioners, staff regularly monitor reports and publications from state, national and independent sources. The report is arranged from outside influences with the broadest influence on corrections to specific corrections issues. Each section of the report gives an overview of the topic followed by corrections-specific trends and developments in this area.

Universally documented, economic conditions both domestically and internationally have been the most salient factor influencing all professions and industries including corrections and which appears will continue into the coming decade. Together with demographic and incarceration trends, corrections will be forced to make difficult decisions in the coming years that may fundamentally change the trajectory of criminal justice in the United States.

International Developments

Major think tanks such as the National Intelligence Council and the World Economic Forum, among many organizations, are in consensus that the state of national economies across the globe will define international developments in the coming decade. As it has been noted in previous NIC environmental scans, these developments do not generally have a direct effect on corrections in the United States. However, the recent global economic decline has influenced the American economy, policies and public attitudes, as do many global issues. Economic trends will continue to be a closely watched trend in all industries.

- As part of their ongoing project tracking global trends, the National Intelligence Council has continued outlining significant influences on international developments into 2025. Global power structures will continue to gradually shift from few nations in the West toward many in the East including nonstate actors. Although the U.S. will continue to be the dominant international influence, a handful of nations continue to gain ground:
 - Between 2040-2050 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of BRIC – Brazil, Russia, India and China – will equal that of the G-7 (United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom).
 - By 2025, China will be the second largest economy.
 - Increasingly, more countries, such as Russia and India, are following China’s “state capitalism” model where the state plays the most dominant economic role.
 - Over the next two decades, almost all population growth will occur in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The West will account for less than 3%, mostly relying on immigration for population growth.
 - Instability will continue in the Middle-East and grow in countries with “youth-bulges,” such as Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Yemen, and emerging powers such as China, India and Russia will have more influence as “regional balancers.”

Source: National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends 2025: The Transformed Future*, November 2008

- In the fifth annual report from the World Economic Forum on emerging global issues, three themes emerged: (1) the interconnectedness of multiple issues requiring a systematic approach to risk management; (2) the danger in overlooking the impact of slowly emerging risks (3) and the gap in global governance around important government, business and social issues. The report’s 36 risks (key risks noted) included:
 - *Economic risks*
 - Food price volatility, oil price spikes, major fall in U.S. dollar, slowing Chinese economy (key risk), fiscal crises(key risk), asset price collapse (key risk), retrenchment from developed and emerging globalization, burden of regulation, underinvestment in infrastructure(key risk).
 - *Geopolitical risks*
 - International terrorism, nuclear proliferation, Iran, North Korea, Afghanistan instability, transnational crime and corruption, Israel-Palestine,

Iraq, global governance gaps (key risk).

- *Environmental risks*
 - Extreme weather, droughts and desertification, water scarcity, national catastrophes (cyclones, earthquakes, inland and coastal flooding), air pollution, biodiversity loss
- *Societal risks*
 - Pandemic, infectious and chronic diseases (key risk), liability regimes, migration.
- *Technological risks*
 - Critical information infrastructure, nanoparticle toxicity, data fraud and loss.

Source: World Economic Forum, [Global Risk 2010](#), January 2010

- Worldwide, of the 9.8 million people detained in some type of correctional facility, nearly 25% are incarcerated in the United States (2.29 million), followed by China (1.57 million) and Russia (890,000). (China's total does not include the 850,000 people held in "administrative detention," which if counted would put China's total at 2.4 million.) The International Centre for Prison Studies reports:
 - The world incarceration rate is estimated to be 145 per 100,000 people (158 per 100,000 if accounting for Chinese administrative detainees).
 - The United States has the largest per capita incarceration rate - 756 per 100,000, followed by Russia (629), Rwanda (604), St Kitts & Nevis (588), Cuba (531) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (488).
 - Compared to earlier prison reports, prison populations have grown in 71% of countries worldwide (Africa 64%, Americas 76%, Asia 68% and Europe 60%).

Source: Kings College London, International Centre for Prison Studies, [World Prison Population list, Eighth Edition](#), January 2009

Demographic and Social Trends

Overall, the United States is becoming increasingly older and more diverse. The statistics below highlight changes in the demographic makeup of the U.S. in terms of population, age, ethnicity, gender and education. The biggest challenge Americans will face in the coming years will be how to effectively adapt to as well as influence these changes.

- As of mid-October 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated the U.S. population to be 310 million, 4.5% of the world's 6.9 billion people. The U.S. is expected to grow to 439 million by 2050.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *U.S. and World Population Clock* and *Annual Population Estimates 2000-2009*, December 2009

- The ten most populous states, those near or above 10 million people, total more than half, 54%, of the entire U.S. population. The most populous region: the South, at over 113 million people.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Population Estimates 2000-2009*, December 2009

- By 2030, the number of Americans over the age of 65 is expected to rise to 19%, while those between the ages of 20-64 will fall to 55%. A more striking statistic: by 2050, the elderly population will comprise more than one fifth of those over the age of 85.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Aging Boomers Will Increase Dependency Ratio, Census Bureau Projects*, May 20, 201 and *The Next Four Decades: The Older Population in the United States: 2010 to 2050*, May 2010

- Those of Hispanic origin are the largest minority group and in the coming decades will comprise almost a quarter of the population. Below are the future projections of the ethnic composition of the U.S. population (in thousands).

	2010	2050
Total	308,936	419,854
White (not Hispanic)	201,112 (65.1%)	302,626 (72.1%)
Hispanic (of any race)	47,756 (15.5%)	102,560 (24.4%)
Black	40,454 (13.1%)	61,361 (14.6%)
Asian	14,241 (4.6%)	33,430 (8.0%)
All other races	9,246 (3%)	22,437 (5.3%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Projected Population of the United States, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000 to 2050*, March 18, 2004

- By 2042, due to immigration and a combination of other demographic trends, minorities are expected to account for more than half the U.S. population. During 2007, the largest group of foreign born Americans came from Latin America (54%) followed by Asia (27%) and Europe (13%). The countries with the largest number of immigrants included Mexico, China, Philippines, India and El Salvador.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [2008 American Community Survey](#) and [Race and Hispanic Origin of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2007](#), January 2010

- Groups that we most likely to speak a language other than English at home tended to be Asian (77%) and Hispanic (76%) while non-Hispanic whites were the least likely.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [Census Bureau Releases 2009 American Community Survey Data](#), September 28, 2010

- Rates of college degree attainment continue to rise among both genders: 28% of men and 27% of women have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. Yet, younger women throughout all ethnic groups outpace men in earning a bachelor's degree (one-third to one-fourth, respectively). All ethnic groups continue to make education gains, though large disparities among college degree earners continue to exist: Asian 50%, non-Hispanic white 31%, Black 18% and Hispanic 13%.

Source: Population Reference Bureau, [U.S. Economic and Social Trends Since 2000](#), February 2010

- Educated, younger Americans are gathering in a handful of states – the top 5: Nevada, Colorado, Georgia, Arizona and Oregon. Because business growth tends to follow talent, not the commonly held notion of low taxes and regulation, some states will benefit over others from these migration patterns. As boomers retire, they are moving to the South and the West, also bringing an array of assets with them.

Source: Pew Center on the States, [Trends to Watch: Big Sort](#)

- As the poverty rate of seniors has decreased, due to Social Security benefits, the rate of child poverty has increased. In less than a decade, children in poverty had increased from 6% in 2000 to 9% in 2008. Poverty varies largely among ethnic groups as well with a high of 23% of Hispanic children living in poverty.

Source: Population Reference Bureau, [U.S. Economic and Social Trends Since 2000](#), February 2010

The Workforce

The American workforce continues to become more diverse and older. Women and minorities continue to gain ground and are increasingly represented in the workplace. What is most striking is the overall aging of the U.S. workforce. Workers age 55 and older have historically accounted for the lowest workforce growth, yet in 2018 will account for almost one-fourth of all workers. Corrections will face similar challenges of an aging workforce as the private sector. Among these challenges, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the economy will not recover including a return to full employment until 2018.

- Slowing population growth due to declining fertility rates and an overall decreasing number of working adults will slow workforce growth in the coming decade. From 2008 to 2018, growth is expected to drop to 0.8% from the previous decade's 1.1%. The labor force will grow from 150.9 million jobs to 166.2 million, an increase of 15.3 million. "Replacement jobs" from retirement and turnover will account for 34.3 million employment opportunities for workers.
 - The professional, business and health sectors along with the service industry will be responsible for almost all job growth in the next decade. Job losses in manufacturing, mining and agriculture are expected, in contrast to construction which is anticipated to return to previous levels. The fastest growing occupations require a bachelor's degree or higher education, with one-third of all new jobs requiring a postsecondary degree. Sectors with the largest growth and that continue to make up the majority of the workforce, continue to necessitate much less education.
 - The workforce continues to become more diverse. The minority workforce will comprise over one-third of all workers (36.3%) with Hispanics making up over half (17.6%). Although men continue to outnumber women (53.1% to 46.9% respectively), the growth of women in the workforce (0.9%) continues to outpace men (0.7%).
 - Because people are living longer and healthier lives coupled with the financial benefits of delaying retirement, the workforce is aging significantly faster. In 2018, the majority of the workforce will still comprise workers between the ages of 25-54 (63.5%), however representing a 4% decline from the previous decade. As baby boomers move into the 55 and older group, an increase of 11.5%, they will make up almost a quarter of the workforce (23.9%).
- Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Employment Projections for 2008-2018, Labor Force Projections to 2018: Older Workers Staying More Active*, November 2009 and *Occupational Employment Projections to 2018*, November 2009
- From 2008-2009, the overall U.S. median household income dropped from \$51,726 to \$50,221, a decrease of 2.9%. Workers in 34 states saw their states' overall median

household income fall while North Dakota was the only state where it rose.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [Census Bureau Releases 2009 American Community Survey Data](#), September 28, 2010

- As of May 2009, the average hourly and annual wage for correctional officers was \$20.49 and \$42,610, for correctional first-line supervisors was \$28.76 and \$59,810 and for probation officers was \$24.28 and \$50,500. Job growth for correctional officers and supervisors will grow by 9% and probation officers will grow by 19%.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics [May 2009 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#) and Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011 Edition for [Correctional Officers](#) and [Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists](#)

- At yearend 2008, a total of 784,360 government employees worked in corrections with total payroll expenses exceeding 3 billion.

	Federal	State	Local	Total
Corrections employees	36,770	481,390	266,200	784,360
Corrections monthly payroll	\$198.4 million	\$1.9 billion	\$1 billion	\$3 billion

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [Government and Employment Payroll, 2008](#), December 2009

- Findings from a 2008 national survey of the jail workforce showed surprisingly small differences in responses from various age groups and jail sizes regarding recruitment and retirement. Respondents were generally attracted to their agency due to job security, benefits and a good reputation. Younger respondents mentioned that personal career goals, friendly coworkers and making a difference were important as well. Surprisingly, younger workers rated issues such as “respecting the organization’s leadership” and “knowing that management listens to my opinions” significantly higher than other age groups.

Source: Center for Innovative Public Policies, [The Future is Now: Recruiting, Retaining, and Developing the 21st Century Jail Workforce](#), January 2010

Technology

While technology appears to be changing rapidly, the pace of change may not occur as fast in developing and implementing technological solutions to various social problems. Clean coal and biofuel technologies are not seen as “probable” technologies in the coming decade at the same time the personal computer doubles its speed and decrease in size every two years. Below are some highlights of how technology is changing our social landscape as well as where it may be going in the near future.

- Developments in technology that will solve some of society’s growing problems are on the horizon, but there are barriers to significant change. The National Intelligence Council has rated the likelihood of breakthroughs in “game-changing” technologies occurring by 2025:
 - *Probable technologies*
 - Ubiquitous computing via Radio Frequency Identification, sensor networks, embedded servers and energy harvesters
 - Faster and more energy efficient clean water technologies for fresh water, waste water and desalination
 - Energy storage technology for use in hydrogenbased and renewable energy systems and low-emission transport vehicles
 - *Possible technologies*
 - Development of “biogerontechnology” – health monitoring biosensors, ubiquitous DNA sequencing and DNA-specific medicine
 - Clean coal technologies
 - Human strength augmentation technologies to aid/increase physical productivity
 - Biofuel technologies
 - *Plausible technologies*
 - Service robotics such as robots and unmanned vehicles
 - Human cognitive augmentation technologies that increase cognitive abilities along with vision, hearing and memory improvements

Source: National Intelligence Council, [Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World](#), November 2008

- The majority of U.S. households, 68.7%, have access to the Internet at home. The most connected tend to be older (age 35-44), employed and have a college degree. Those ages 55 and older remain the largest group without home Internet access, 41.8%, yet their access has increased by 17% since 2003.

Source U.S. Census Bureau, [Internet Use in the United States: October 2009](#), February 2010

- T.V. and landline phones continue to become less important to Americans. Only 42% describe a T.V. as a necessity, dropping over 20% in the last four years. More than a quarter of all Americans have given up their landline phones, with less than half of those ages 18-29 considering it a necessity anymore.

Source: Pew Research Center, *The Fading Glory of the Television and Telephone*, August 19, 2010

- In 2010, the Center for Digital Government rated each state government's technology use and practices – Michigan, Utah, Pennsylvania and Virginia were awarded top honors while Idaho, Indiana and South Carolina came in at the bottom. These characteristics describe states that were highly rated:
“Trending sharply up. Demonstrated results across all categories. Modernization used to realize operational efficiencies and strategic priorities under nimble leaders. Evidence of meaningful collaboration. Performance measures and metrics widely adopted. Cuts tend to be made strategically.”

Source: Center for Digital Government, *Digital State Survey: 2010*

- The Millennial generation, also aptly called Echo Boomers because their numbers rival that of the Baby Boom generation, has started influencing their workplaces with their use of technology. Globally, this is a snapshot of what technology looks like for Millennials currently in the workplace:
 - Not many Millennials, 34%, know or care about their workplace IT policy
 - 46% want to choose the technology they use at work
 - 27% are disappointed with the technology their employer provides
 - 37% chose a workplace based on the technology that will be available to them

Source: Accenture, *Jumping the Boundaries of Global IT*, 2010

- The National Institute of Justice has identified the technologies crucial to correctional facilities and community corrections efforts:
 - Improved, multi-use contraband detection in a single mobile device
 - Data analysis, integration and sharing of inmate activities
 - Duress alarm systems
 - Identification and tracking of staff and inmates
 - Automated surveillance and monitoring equipment and behavior recognition software
 - Multi-threat biohazard protective uniforms for correctional officers
 - Locating, tracking, monitoring and communicating with offenders
 - Monitoring cell phones and other electronic devices of sex offenders
 - Standards and testing program for electronic supervision technologies

Source: National Institute of Justice, *Corrections Technologies*

- A study of future technological development found that, “Advanced countries will stay ahead only if laws, public opinion, and other social factors do not become impediments.” The countries with the most capacity with the least barriers and to meet this challenge: Canada, Germany, United States, Australia, Japan, Korea and Israel.

Source: Rand Corporation, *Research Brief: Global Technology Revolution 2020*, 2006.

Public Opinion

Introduction forthcoming

- A Gallup Poll in September, 2010 asked respondents to identify the most important problem in the U.S. “Crime/Violence” was identified by only 1% of the participants in the survey as the most important issue. By contrast, 49% identified “Crime/Violence” as the country’s most important problem in 1994.

Source: Gallup, [Most Important Problem](#), September 16, 2010

- The Pew Center on the States conducted a national survey in March, 2010 focused on public attitudes on crime and punishment. Below are some of the findings:
 - Crime is a low concern compared to other problems in their states.
 - Respondents rank the top three purposes of prisons as protecting society (31%), rehabilitating offenders (25%) and punishing offenders (20%).
 - Respondents want offenders held accountable for their crimes.
 - Most respondents feel safe in their communities, but 42% believe (mistakenly) that violent crime increased nationally.
 - Respondents had big differences in the way they perceive violent and non-violent crime, with more support for treatment alternatives to non-violent offenders.
 - Respondents would prefer reducing prison spending to cutting funding for education and health care or to raising taxes.
 - 89% of respondents agreed that to improve public safety treatment and job training programs were important for prison inmates, as well as strengthening community supervision of offenders.

Source: Pew Center on the State, [Public Attitudes on Crime and Punishment](#), September 14, 2010

The Economy and Government Spending

Introduction forthcoming

- According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the U.S. entered the latest recession in December, 2007 and it lasted until June, 2008. It was the longest recession since the end of World War II. (A recession is a period of falling economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real GDP, real income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales.)

Source: National Bureau of Economic Research, [CITE PUBLICATION](#), June 2008

- The International Monetary Fund observed that, “the global economy went through a period of unprecedented financial instability in 2008-09, accompanied by the worst global economic downturn and collapse in trade in many decades. The seeds of the global crisis were sown during the years of high growth and low interest rates that bred excessive optimism and risk taking and spawned a broad range of failures – in market discipline, financial regulation, macroeconomic policies, and global oversight.”

Source: International Monetary Fund, [IMF Annual Report 2009](#)

- The International Monetary Fund projected world economic output to rise by 4.25% in 2010, following a 0.5% contraction in 2009. In most advanced economies, fiscal and monetary policies were supporting continued growth for 2010, but many need to urgently adopt strategies to reduce public debt and surplus spending.

Source: International Monetary Fund, [World Economic Outlook 2010: Fighting the Global Crisis](#), April 2010

- Forecasts are for a continuation of economic recovery at a slow rate. The World Bank projects growth rate of the U.S. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) at 2.9% for 2011 and 3.0% in 2012. The Congressional Budget Office projected a continuation of chronic unemployment and slow manufacturing restricting the pace of recovery. The CBO also projects:
 - A federal budget deficit of \$1.342 trillion for 2010.
 - Unemployment rates will not fall to the 5% range until 2014 or later.
 - That vacant homes and underused commercial properties and factories will slow construction and investment, and those factors, along with lost wealth, will restrain spending.
 - That without significant changes in federal tax and spending policies, the government will struggle to reduce deficits.

Source: The World Bank, [CITE PUBLICATION](#) and Reuters, [More Tough Economic Times Forecast by CBO](#), August 19, 2010

- The U.S. Comptroller General projects that “persistent cash shortages” for Social Security payments (beginning in 2016) and continuing rises in health care costs will put additional pressure on the federal budget which is already facing huge deficits and unsustainable long-term growth.

Source: U.S. Government Accountability Office, U.S. Government Financial Statements: *Fiscal Year 2009 Audit Highlights Financial Management Challenges and Unsustainable Long-Term Fiscal Path*, April 14, 2010

- The impact of the recession began to hit some state governments in FY 2007, and problems accelerated in FYs 2008 and 2009. While Federal recovery act funds provided some relief to states, most were forced to make significant cuts to balance budgets. States' General Fund spending increased from \$655 billion in FY 2007 to \$687 billion in FY 2008, and then declined to \$658 billion in FY 2009 and \$613 billion in FY 2010. In 2009, 43 states made mid-year cuts of \$31.3 billion to their enacted budgets. In FY 2010, 40 states were forced to cut \$22 billion from their enacted budgets. State government spending and revenue are not expected to return to pre-recession levels until FY 2012 or later. One projection indicates states will need to close budget gaps of \$62.3 billion in FY 2011 and \$53.4 billion in FY 2012.

Source: The National Association of State Budget Officers, *Summary: Spring 2010 Fiscal Survey of States*, June 2010, and National Conference of State Legislatures, *Sluggish Revenues at Core of State Budget Woes*, April 25, 2008

- In FY 2008, corrections spending accounted for 7% of all state general fund expenditures compared to other spending listed below:

Elementary-secondary education	34.5%	
Medicaid	16.3%	
Higher education		11.3%
Corrections	7%	
Public assistance		1.8%
Transportation	0.8%	
All other		28.4%

Source: The National Association of State Budget Officers, *State Expenditure Report 2008*, December 2009

- State corrections spending increased by 8.1% from FY 2007 to 2008, but increased by only 0.6% from FY 2008 to 2009. A survey in mid-year 2009 indicated that 26 out of the 37 states contacted had reduced funding for corrections. Kansas' corrections budget was cut by 22%, and seven other state corrections spending levels were cut by 10% or more. In the 37 state corrections agencies that responded to the survey:
 - 81% had reduced staff and/or frozen hiring.
 - 49% had closed facilities or housing units.
 - 73% had eliminated pay increases, reduced benefits, or decreased overtime payments.
 - 54% had reduced or eliminated inmate programs.
 - 24% had reduced health, dental, and mental health services.
 - 19% had reduced inmate food services.

Source: Stateline, *At Least 26 States Spend Less on Prisons*, August 11, 2009, and VERA Institute of Justice, *The Fiscal Crisis in Corrections Rethinking Policies and Practices*, July 2009

- Budget measures taken by states in 2008-2009 that affected corrections included:
 - Reduced inmate education programs, number of probation officers, department

- administration and prison food budget (FL)
- Eliminated the Probation Diversion Center and closed five prisons, two probation detention centers and a state prison boot camp (GA)
- Closed day reporting centers, a conservation camp and three housing units and reduced inmate education and treatment programs (KS)
- Reduced staff by 550 and closed eight facilities (MI)

Source: American Correctional Association, *Corrections Compendium*, Spring 2010, and Associated Press, [Michigan Announces Closure of 8 Prison Facilities](#), June 5, 2009

- Measures taken by states in 2010 to balance FY 2011 budgets that have affected corrections included:
 - Shifted costs to counties to house and treat some sex offenders (AZ)
 - Closed a state prison boot camp (CO)
 - Reinstated early release programs for some inmates (CT)
 - Reduced number of contract beds (FL)
 - Eliminated 24 positions and imposed mandatory staff furloughs (ID)
 - Eliminated a pre-release center project and froze per diems for private beds (MT)
 - Closed two facilities (NY)
 - Reduced sentence lengths for some non-violent crimes and some drug crimes (SC)
 - Closed several facilities yet to be determined (VA)

Source: National Conference of State Legislators, [CITE PUBLICATION](#)

Criminal Justice Trends

Introduction forthcoming

- The National Crime Victimization Survey, which measures both reported and unreported crimes, reported that crime rates continued declining in 2009, a trend since 1994. The victimization rate dropped to 17.1 per 100,000 compared to 51.2 per 100,000 in 1994. Property crime fell to 127.4 per 1,000 households from 553.6 in 1975. In 2009, both violent and property crime were the lowest since the survey began in 1973. Over half of all violent (51%) and property crimes (60%) went unreported in 2009.
- “In 2009, men were slightly more likely than women to be victims of violent crime. Women were more likely than men to be victimized by someone they knew. Seventy percent of all violent crimes against women were committed by a known offender (an intimate, family member or friend/acquaintance), compared to 45 percent of violence against men. Twenty-six percent of the non-fatal violence against women was committed by an intimate (current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend), compared to 5 percent of the violence against men.”

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Violent and Property Crime Rates Declines in 2009, Continuing the Trend Observed in the Last Ten Years*, October, 13, 2010

- The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports (reported crime) also reflects a continuing drop in crime rates.

Year	Population	Violent Crime	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime	Property Crime Rate
2009	307,006,550	1,318,398	429 per 100,000	9,320,971	3,036 per 100,000
2000	281,421,906	1,425,486	507 per 100,000	10,182,584	3,618 per 100,000
1990	249,464,396	1,820,127	730 per 100,000	12,655,486	5,073 per 100,000

Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States, 2009*, September 2010

- In 2006, state courts delivered 1,132,290 felony convictions.
 - 94% of offenders entering guilty pleas.
 - 69% were sentenced to prison (41%) or jail (28%). State prison sentences averaged 4 years and 11 months while jail sentences averaged 6 months.
 - 27% were placed on probation.
 - 4% where given other sentences such as fines, community service, house arrest, etc.
- The majority of felons sentenced in 2006 were men (83%). The average age of sentenced felons was 33 years compared to 29 in 1990.
- The most serious crime categories for felons sentenced by state courts in 2006 are listed below.

Violent crimes	18.2%
Property crimes	28.4%
Drug crimes	33.4%
Weapons crimes	3.4%
Other offenses	16.7%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Felony Sentences in State Courts, 2006 - Statistical Tables](#), December 2009

Corrections Populations and Trends

Introduction forthcoming

- At yearend 2008, the adult correctional population in the U.S. was 7,308,200.

	Jail	Prison	Probation	Parole
Population	785,556	1,518,559	4,270,917	826,169

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Prison Inmates at Mid-year 2009 - Statistical Tables](#), June 2010 and [Probation and Parole in the United States, 2008](#), December 2009

- After crime rates had been on the decline for over a decade and the recession of 2007-2008 dramatically reduced government revenues, state correctional populations began to decline in 2009 – the first decline in state prison inmates since 1972. Prison inmate numbers decreased in 24 states, with six states reporting drops of 1,000 inmates or more. The largest decreases were in Michigan (3,260), California (2,395), and New York (1,660). Pennsylvania reported the largest increase (2,214), followed by Florida (1,527) and Louisiana (1,399). Due to an increase of 6,838 federal inmates in 2009, the overall prisoner population in the U.S. increased by 0.2% in 2009 to 1,613,656.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Number of State Prisoners Declined Almost 3,000 During 2009; Federal Prison Population Increased by 6,800](#), June 23, 2010

- At the end of 2008, a total of 5,095,200 offenders were being supervised in the community (almost 1 in every 45 adults). Of those supervised, 84% were on probation (4,270,917 adults). Parolees accounted for 16% of the population (828,169 adults). The annual growth rate for probation and parole populations during 2008 was the same for both groups – 0.9%. Those increases represent a leveling off of the growth rates. Probation populations increased at an average annual rate of 0.7% from 2003 to 2008. Parole populations have increased annually by 2.6% from 2005 to 2007.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Probation and Parole in the United States, 2008](#), December 2009

- Probation Overview
 - The average number of probationers per 100,000 in the aggregate of state populations is 1,835. However, states vary significantly in their use of probation. New Hampshire had 443 probationers per 100,000 compared to Georgia's 5,520 probationers per 100,000.

- 49% of the probation population had committed felonies, 48% misdemeanors and 2% committed other offenses. The most serious crime categories of probationers included:

Violent crimes	19%
Property crimes	25%
Drug offenses	29%
Public order	17%
Other	10%

- Probationers comprise: 76% men, 24% women, 56% white, 29% black and 13% Hispanic.
- Of all persons who exited probation supervision, 63% completed probation, 17% went to prison for new crimes and/or violation of probation, 10% were discharged for other unsatisfactory circumstances (revoked then reinstated, discharged but failed to meet all requirements, etc.) and 4% absconded.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Probation and Parole in the United States, 2008, December 2009

- **Prison Overview**

- “By yearend 2009, the U.S. prison population (state and federal prisoners combined) reached 1,613,656, increasing by 0.2% during the year. The increase of 3,897 prisoners was the smallest annual increase during the current decade.”
- At midyear 2009, the incarceration rate in prisons and jails for black men (4,749 per 100,000) was more than six times the rate of white men (708 per 100,000) and 2.6 times the rate of Hispanic men (1,822 per 100,000). The incarceration rate of black women was more than 3.6 times the rate of white women and more than 2 times the rate of Hispanic women.

	Men	Women
Total	2,096,300	201,200
White	693,800	92,100
Black	841,000	64,800
Hispanic	442,000	32,300

- The national incarceration rate for state inmates at midyear 2009 was 447 per 100,000. The incarceration rates among the states varied from a high in Louisiana at 866 per 100,000 to a low in Maine of 151 per 100,000.
- Approximately 8% of the prison population was housed in private facilities and 5.1% in local jails. Non U.S. citizens made up 4.1% (94,598) of the prison population and 2,778 state inmates were under the age of 18.
- The Pew Center for the States surveyed 34 states in FY 2008 and found that 12% of corrections spending went for probation/parole services and 88% supported prison operations.
- In 2006, the most serious offense categories for new admissions to state prisons

were as follows:

Violent offenses	26%
Property offenses	29.7%
Drug offenses	31.1%
Public order offenses	12.7%
Other offenses	0.5%

- According to the American Correctional Association 2010 Directory, 710,873 inmates were released from state prisons in 2009, and 50,516 were released from federal facilities.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Number of State Prisoners Declined Almost 3,000 During 2009; Federal Prison Population Increased by 6,800*, June 23, 2010, *Prison Inmates at Mid-year 2009 – Statistical Tables*, June 2010 and *National Corrections Reporting Program: Most Serious Offense of State Prisoners, by Offense, Admission Type, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin*, May 25, 2010; Pew Center on the States, *One in 31*, March 2, 2009

- Jail Overview

- On June 30, 2009 there were 767,620 inmates in local jails, a decline in the U.S. jail population of 2.3% from the previous year.
- At midyear 2008, 87.3% of all jail inmates were male and 12.7% were female. In 2000, 11.4% of all jail inmates were females. At midyear 2008, the race/ethnicity breakdown of jail inmates in the U.S comprised:

White	42.2%
Black	39.2%
Hispanic	16.4%
Other	1.9%

- Jail populations are concentrated in large jails. At midyear 2007, 173 jail jurisdictions with an average daily population of 1,000 or more inmates held 52% of the nation’s jail inmates but accounted for only 6% of the number of jail jurisdictions. About 29% of the jail population was held in the 50 largest jail systems.
- At midyear 2007, 62% of jail inmates had not been convicted or were awaiting trial, up from 56% in 2000. An estimated 8% of jail inmates in 2007 were non-U.S. citizens. Slightly less than 1% of jail inmates were juveniles.
- Larger jails in 2007 were operating with populations closer to their rated capacity in 2007 compared to smaller jails.

Jail Jurisdiction Size (number)	Population as % of Capacity
Less than 50 inmates (1,097)	64.5%
50-99 inmates (583)	84.6%
100-249 inmates (558)	92.4%
250-499 inmates (272)	97.8%
500-999 inmates (177)	99.3%
1,000 or more inmates	99.5%

- In 2007, 8% of jail inmates were supervised outside secure jail facilities. Most of those inmates were in community service, electronic monitoring, pretrial

supervision and weekender or work placements.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2009 – Statistical Tables*, June 2010, *Characteristics of Inmates in Local Jails, Midyear 2000 and 2005-2008*, March 31, 2009 and *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2007*, June 2008

- Parole Overview

- The adult parole population in the U.S. at the end of 2008 was 828,169, an increase of 0.9% from the previous year. The growth rate that year was about one-third the annual rate increases from 2005-2007.
- There were 315 parolees per 100,000, but the use of parole varies significantly among the states. Maine (abolished parole in the 1970s) had only 3 parolees per 100,000 compared to Arkansas that had 920 parolees per 100,000.
- Of the 501,779 inmates placed on state parole in 2008, 145,639 (29%) were discretionary releases compared to 269,794 (54%) that were mandatory releases. Other releases were parole reinstatements or supervision following a determinate sentence.
- Of the 496,916 state parole case closures in 2008, 237,215 (48%) completed supervision and were discharged, 25% were revoked and returned to prison and 9.6% returned to prison with a new sentence.
- In 2008, 88% of parolees were male and 12% were female (the same percentages as 2000 and 2004). The ethnic breakdown of the state and federal parole populations were:

White	41%	
Black	38%	
Hispanic		19%
Native American	1%	
Asian	1%	

- The offense categories for adults on parole in 2008 are listed below:

Violent crimes	26%
Property crimes	23%
Drug crimes	37%
Weapons crimes	3%
Other	11%

- The National Parole Resource Center (NPRC), funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, began operation in 2010. The resource center serves as a portal for paroling authorizes to parole-related resources as well as training and technical assistance.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2008*, December 2009 and [The National Parole Resource Center](#)