



Reinventing Older Communities

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Prisoner Reentry & Urban Economic Development

- Why does prisoner reentry matter to urban economic development in the 21st century?
 - Scale and urban concentration of reentering population.
 - Employment/workforce impact.
 - Housing/community development impact.
 - Multiplier effects of high recidivism rate: public safety risk, taxpayer burden and incarceration costs, perception of urban areas.



Trends, Facts & Figures: Growth in the Prison Population

- Between 1920 and 1970, incarceration rate in the US was stable at about 110 state and federal prisoners per 100,000 residents.
- Beginning in the 1970s, incarceration rate began increasing at a rate of about 6% per year, every year.
- In 1973, there were just over 200,000 in prisons, but by 2003, there were 1.4 million in prisons.
- In 2002, the US incarceration rate was 476 (700 if you include jails) per 100,000. 1 in every 37 adults in the US has served time in prison.



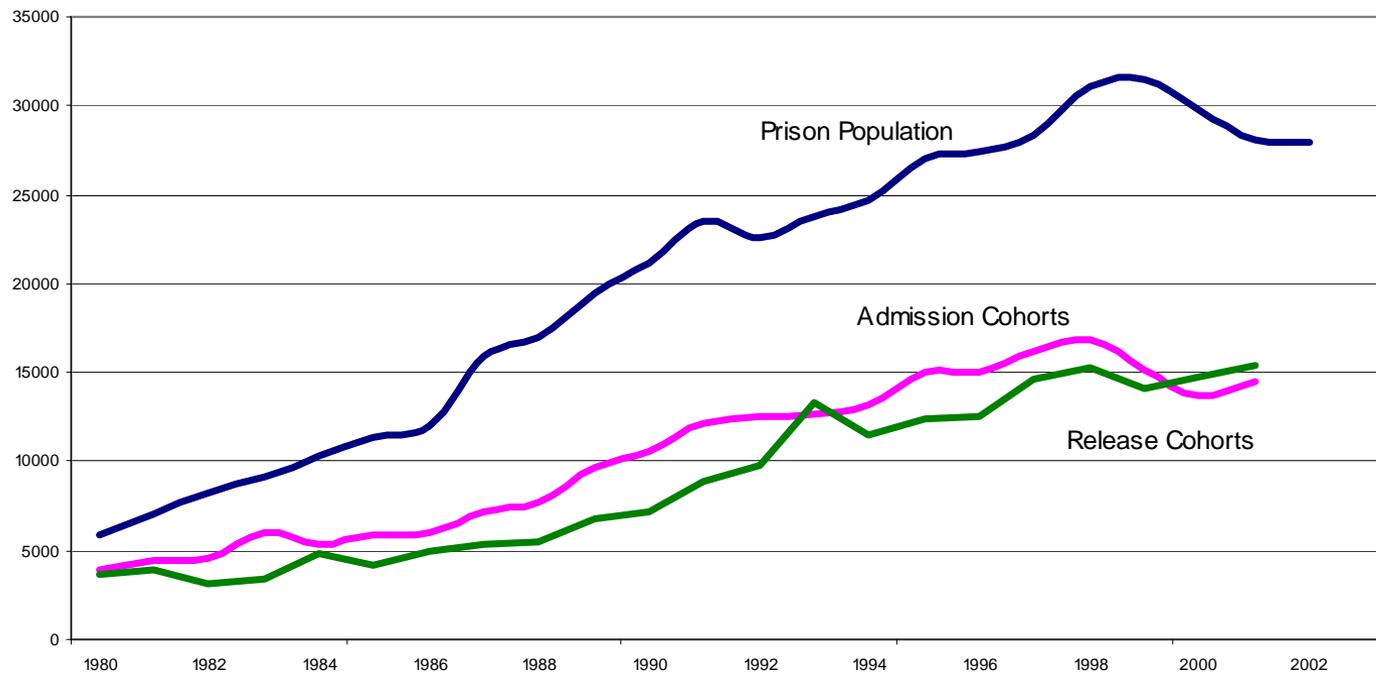
Trends, Facts & Figures: Growth in the Prison Population

- Between 1977 and 2002, New Jersey's prison population more than quadrupled, going from 6,017 to 27,891.
- During the same period, the per capita incarceration rate in New Jersey rose from 76 per 100,000 to 331.
- Growth driven by 4 prime causes:
 - rise in arrest rates for drug crimes
 - increased use of mandatory minimums in 1990s
 - increase in parole revocations
 - increased length of stay in late 1990s



Trends, Facts & Figures: Growth in the Prison Population

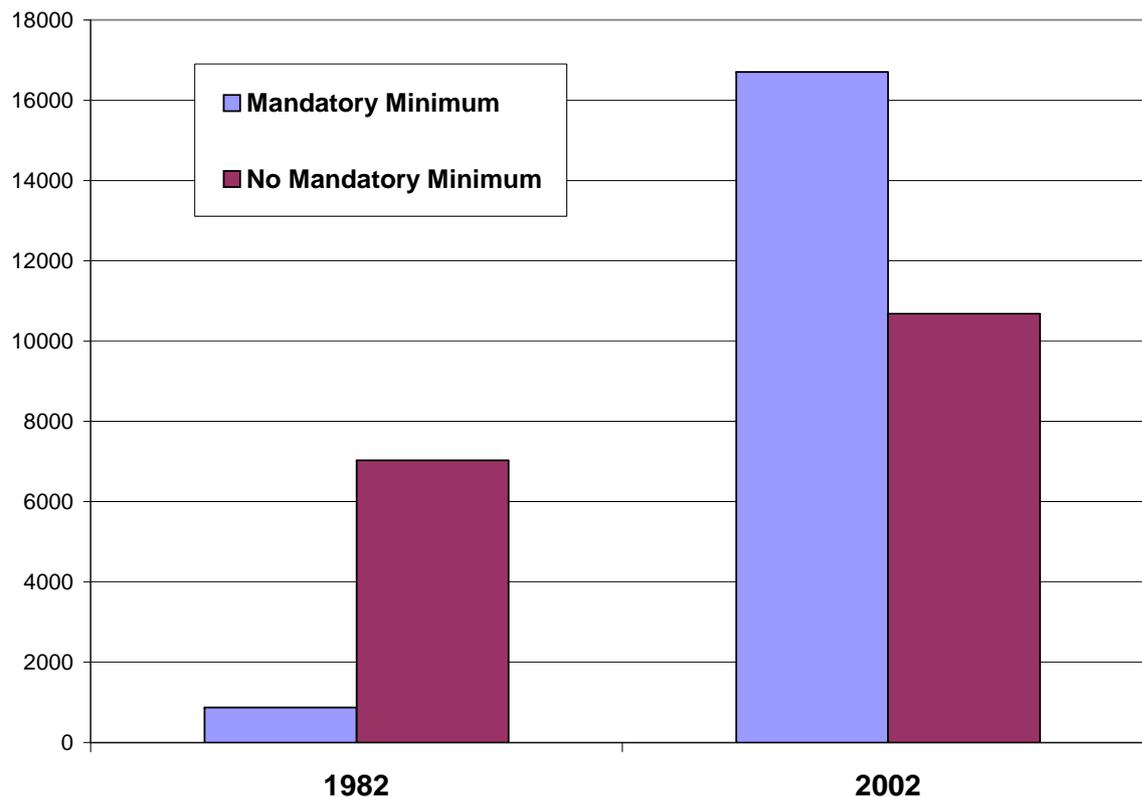
New Jersey Prison Population, Admissions, and Releases, 1980-2001





Trends, Facts & Figures: Causes of Incarceration Rise

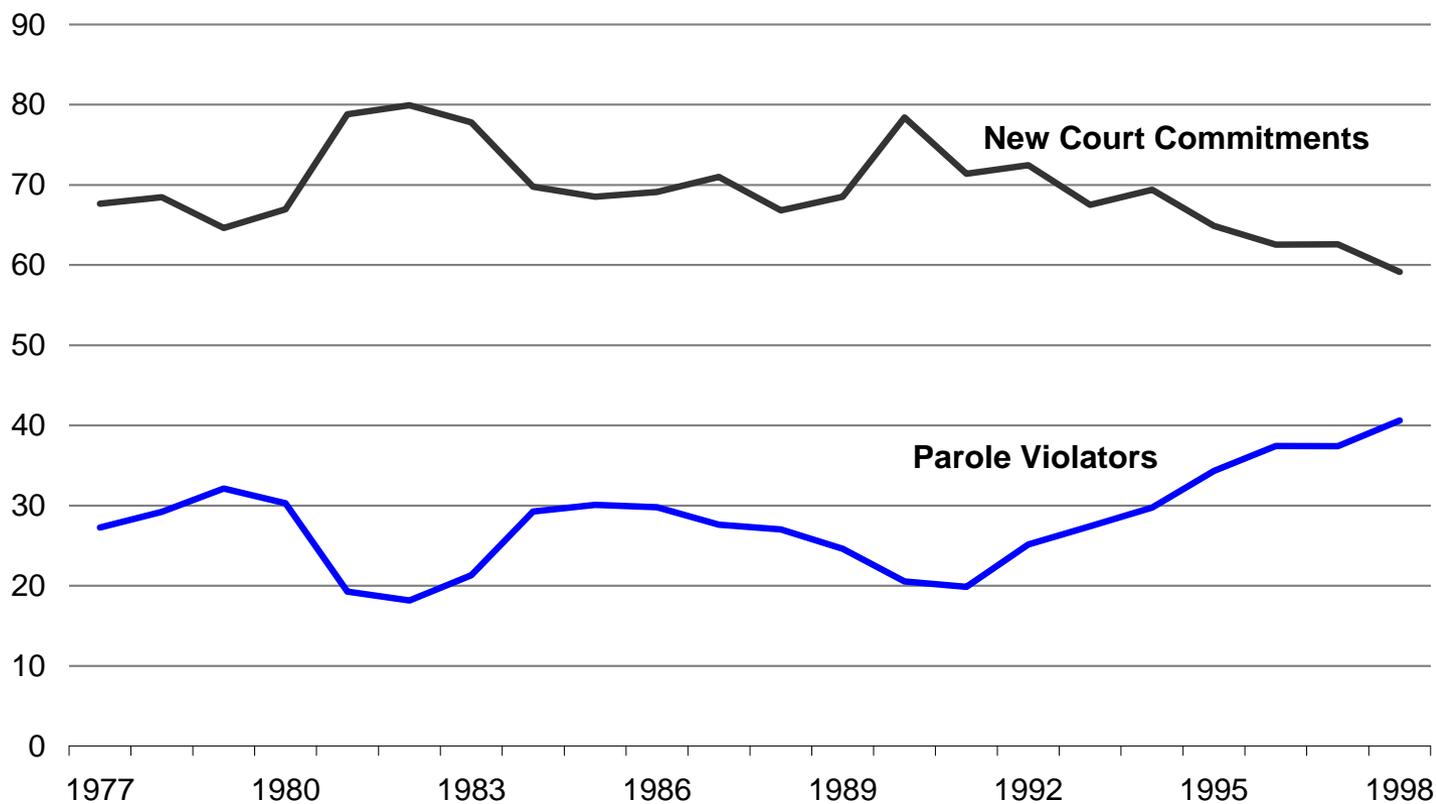
Population with a Mandatory Minimum Sentence





Trends, Facts & Figures: Causes of Incarceration Rise

Percent of Total Prison Admissions by Type, 1977-1998





Trends, Facts & Figures: Reentry

- Reentry: the process of leaving confinement and returning to the community.
- Reentry is virtually universal: 95% of those who enter state prisons are released. Every juvenile and every jail inmate will be released.
- As more go into prison, more come out: in 1980, in NJ, 3,910 individuals left state prisons. In 2002, the number had climbed to 14,849.
- Estimated 70,000 adults will return home to New Jersey communities over the next 5 years.
- An average 1,600 youth return home from juvenile justice placements annually, or 8000 over the next 5 years.



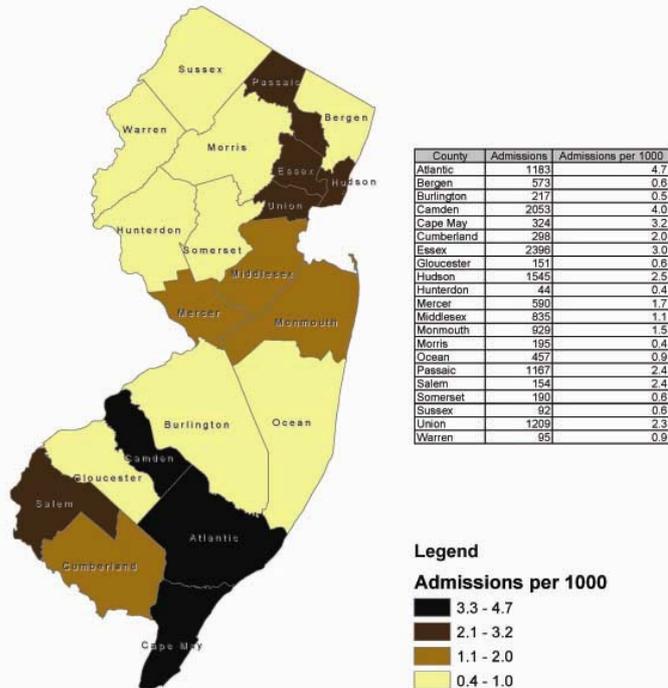
Trends, Facts & Figures: Reentry in New Jersey

Who is Coming Home? Data from 2002 release cohort (14,849)

- 91% male
- 62% African American
- Average age is 34 (78% between 20 & 40)
- 38% were drug offenders
- 39% were incarcerated for a violation of parole
- 32% had been diagnosed with at least one chronic and/or communicable physical or mental health condition.
- Over 50% were diagnosed with a drug or alcohol problem.
- 3.4% were identified as HIV+ or diagnosed with AIDS.
- 6% diagnosed with Hepatitis C.
- 11% were identified as having a mental illness.

Trends, Facts & Figures: Concentration in Urban Areas

Prison Admissions per 1000 Residents
New Jersey Counties, 2001



Essex and Camden Counties receive 31% of all people returning home from New Jersey prisons

Essex (16%)

Camden (15%)

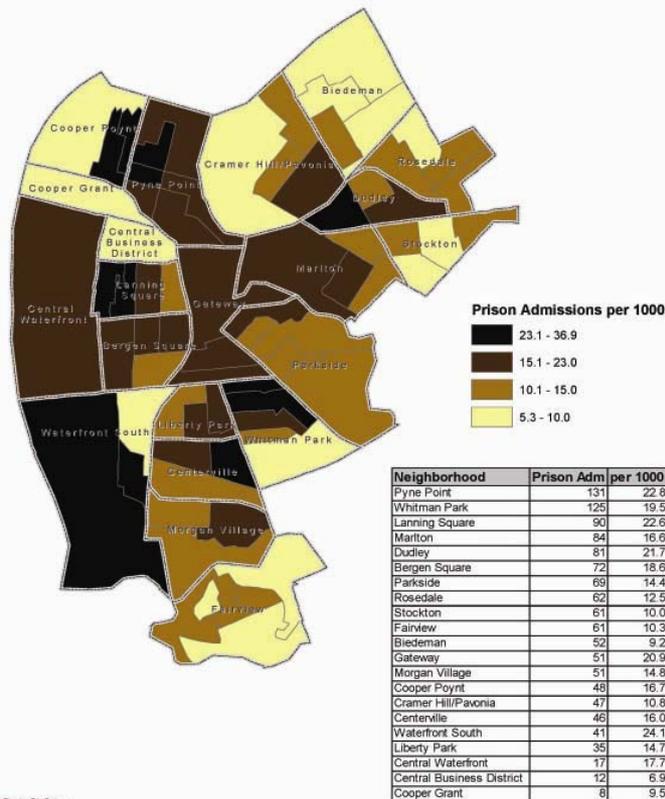
Camden County residents are incarcerated at a rate 100 times higher than Morris County

Camden (400 per 100,000)

Morris (4 per 100,000)

Trends, Facts & Figures: Concentration in Urban Areas

Prison Admissions per 1000 Residents by Block-Group
Camden City, New Jersey

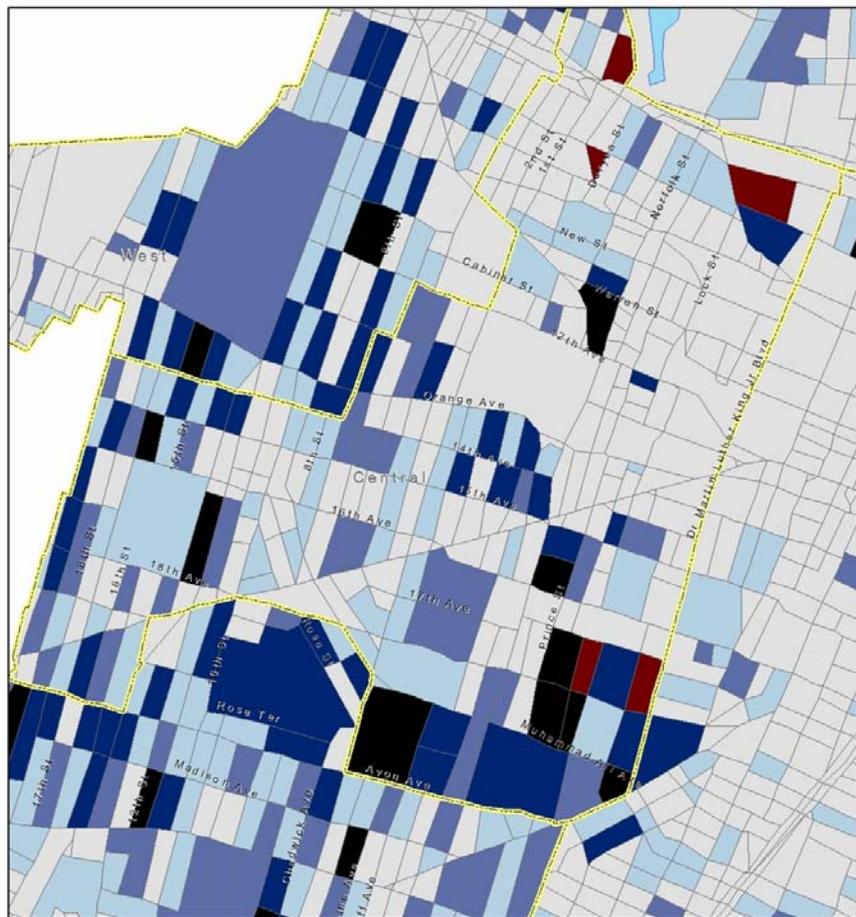


Camden County accounts for 14% of the New Jersey's prison admissions

Seven of Camden City's 21 neighborhoods account for 54% of all prison admissions from the city

New Jersey spends approximately \$54 million dollars a year to imprison residents of the city of Camden

Trends, Facts & Figures: Concentration in Urban Areas



Prison Admissions
by Block

Central Ward,
Newark, New Jersey

 Newark Wards

Prison Admissions

 11 - 33

 6 - 10

 3 - 5

 2

 1

Newark also has the highest number of parolees in Essex County (804) and highest per capita rate of parolees (294 per 100,000)

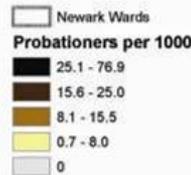
Within Newark, prison expenditures exceed \$15 million annually for the Central Ward alone.

Trends, Facts & Figures: Concentration in Urban Areas

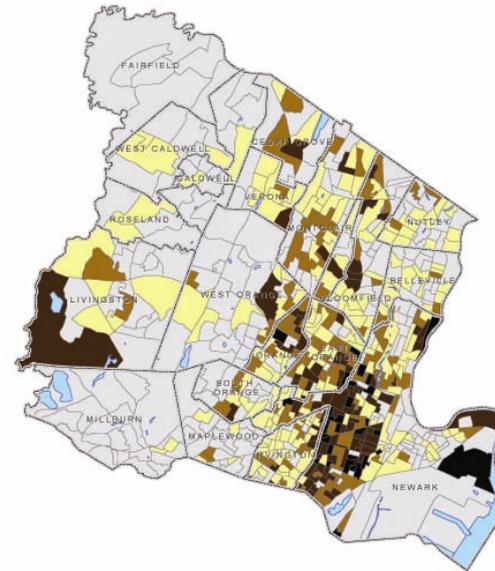
Probationers per 1000 Residents by Block-Group
Newark, New Jersey



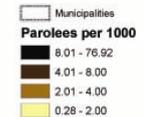
Ward	Probationers per 1000 Resident
South	808
Central	705
West	701
North	504
East	377



Parolees per 1000 Residents by Block-Group
Essex County, New Jersey



Municipality	Parolees per 1000
NEWARK	804
EAST ORANGE	201
IRVINGTON	100
CITY OF ORANGE	96
BLOOMFIELD	69
MONTCLAIR	63
WEST ORANGE	26
BELLEVILLE	25
NUTLEY	21
LIVINGSTON	19
CEDAR GROVE	18
SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE	16
VERONA	15
GLEN RIDGE	10
MAPLEWOOD	7
WEST CALDWELL	6
ROSELAND	2
NORTH CALDWELL	1
CALDWELL	1
MILLBURN	1
FAIRFIELD	0
ESSEX FELLS	0



Probationers: Newark City Council
Cartographer: Charles Swartz
Data Collaborator: New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
Data Source: NJ Judiciary, Department of Probation and Parole



Workforce/Employment in Newark

The scale and concentration of the reentering population in Newark should be contextualized within the workforce/employment data:

- Unemployment rate (2000) - 12.2% (double the state average)
- Labor force participation (2000) - 52.7%
- High school graduation rate (2000) - 57.9%



Housing/Community Development Implications

- Individuals leaving state custody face substantial barriers to securing stable and adequate housing
 - High need population: addiction, mental illness, poor health, attenuated family support, transition difficulties;
 - Legal barriers to housing:
 - Public housing restrictions
 - Section 8 exclusions
 - Grounds for eviction from private housing
 - Discrimination: NIMBY, lack of legal protections, parole restrictions;
 - Affordability: ineligibility for public assistance + similar problems as all low-income New Jerseyans.



What Can Be Done? Municipal Strategies

- State level policy & practice change is critical
- Broad bi-partisan support now understands reentry strategies as key to enhancing public safety
- Cities can be proactive; current approaches include:
 - Reducing municipally imposed barriers
 - Coordination of services/resources/planning for returning individuals
 - Public leadership and advocacy by Mayor
 - Integrating planning on reentry issues into other planning/programming initiatives
 - Engage the private sector, focusing on hiring concerns, high-demand jobs, and in-house training programs



Resources For More Information

- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice: www.njisj.org
- Second Chance Campaign of NJ: www.secondchancenj.org
- Reentry Policy Council: www.reentrypolicy.org
- Urban Institute: www.urban.org
- Vera Institute of Justice: www.vera.org