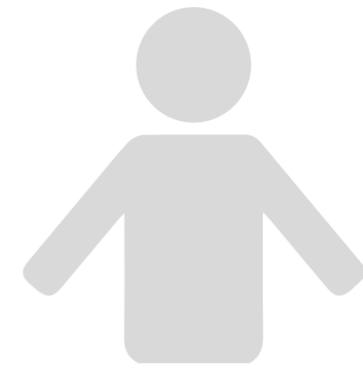
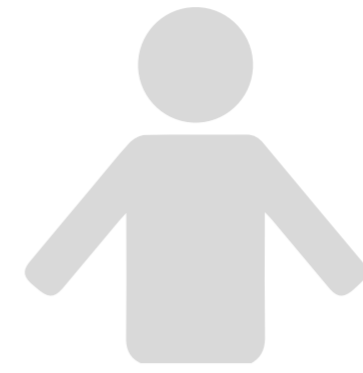
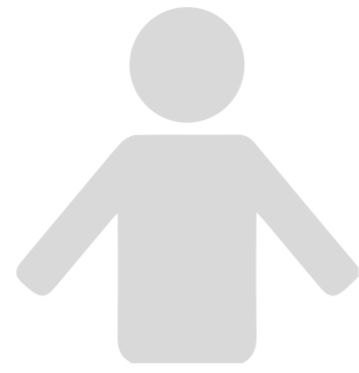


MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCING

The US criminal justice system's way of legally institutionalizing racism, disenfranchising minorities, and wasting taxpayer dollars.

by Mary Weaver



AFRICAN AMERICANS MAKE UP 40% OF THE US PRISON POPULATION,

even though they only make up 13% of the US population.¹ It is time to end the racial disparities of the US criminal justice system.

Introduced during the Nixon administration as the Anti-Drug Abuse Act (ADAA)², this "tough on crime" stance has been proven ineffective, out of date, and disproportionately biased (specifically against already marginalized, minority groups.)¹

Due to these minimums, combined with sentencing disparities¹ by age 30, African American men are **8x more likely** to be incarcerated than White men.³

The ADAA created mandatory minimums based off the type and quantity of illegal substance.²



OTHER STAGGERING STATISTICS

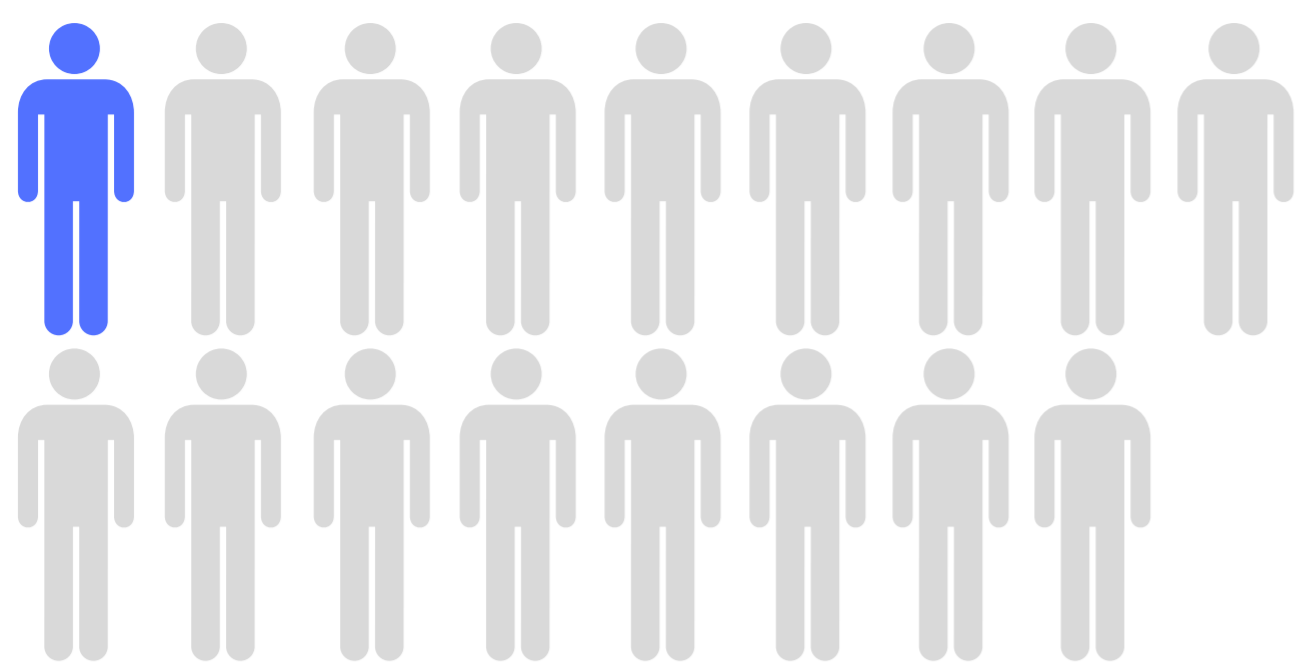
- The "War on Drugs" effort cost the country approximately \$1 trillion in taxpayer money; however, it did not mitigate drug use in the US.⁴
- The US has become the world's highest incarcerator.⁴
- US prisons house 25% of the world's incarcerated population yet the US itself only houses 5% of the world's population.⁴
- Of those incarcerated, about 48% were convicted for **non-violent** drug charges.⁴

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

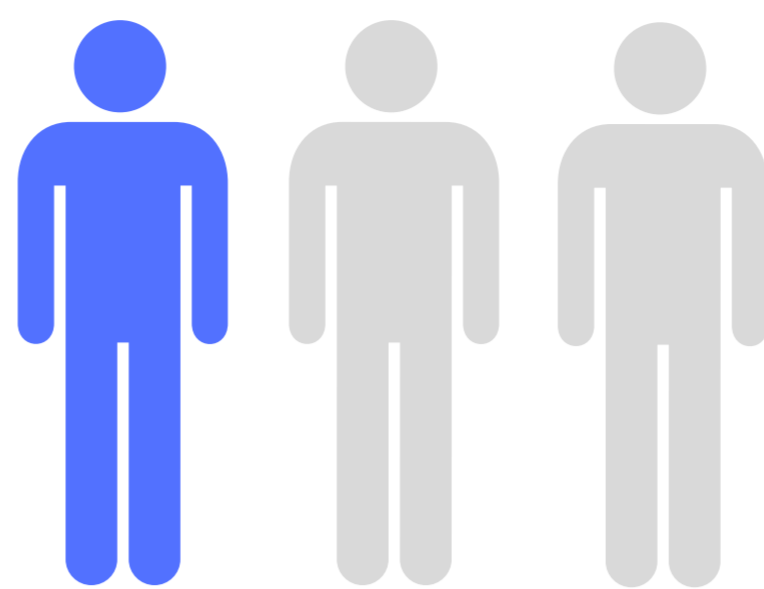
These outrageous racial disproportions within our prison system prove that mandatory minimums are ineffective and only lead to overcrowding in prisons and disenfranchisement of minorities. Instead of effectively deterring drug use in the US, minimums only promote recidivism.⁴ Along with this, they eliminate judge's agency to create sentences from their discretion, causing a breach in the separation of powers.⁵ This imposes problems for many groups and just because it doesn't affect you, doesn't mean you shouldn't care.



THE RACIAL DISPARITY IS EVIDENT, JUST LOOK AT THE STATS...



ONLY 1 IN 17 WHITE MEN BORN IN 2001 ARE EXPECTED TO GO TO PRISON...



WHILE 1 IN 3 BLACK MEN BORN IN 2001 ARE EXPECTED TO GO TO PRISON.¹⁰

What is a main issue this disparity is due to? **Mandatory minimum sentencing.**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS

and urge them to push and support the **Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, S. 1917** to the Senate floor.

This bipartisan bill was passed by the Senate's Judiciary Committee and is the first step to equitable sentencing.⁷

This bill will:

- reduce mandatory minimums for 2nd offenses from 20 years to 15 years⁸
- reduce minimums for third time offenders from life in prison without parole to 25 years⁸
- require the Federal Bureau of Prisons to spend more money on recidivism-reducing programs and promote productive activities for prisoners⁸
- retroactively reduce sentences changed by the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (which reduced disparity between crack and powder cocaine)⁸

"...the most substantial criminal justice reform legislation introduced since the inception of the 'tough on crime' movement..."⁶

- Marc Mauer, executive director of The Sentencing Project

And in regards to money...



According to the Congressional Budget Office by enacting S. 1917, the cost of incarceration would decrease and lead to a net reduction of about **\$387 million** in discretionary costs over the 2019-2028 period.⁹

JUST BECAUSE IT DOESN'T AFFECT YOU, DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT HAPPENING

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND DEMAND JUSTICE

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