



## Juvenile Justice and Education Equity Fact Sheet

**The United States has built more prisons than any other country in the last 20 years and imprisons approximately 2 million people daily with about 6.5 million people under some form of supervision within the criminal justice system.**

- From 1977 to 1995 U.S. prison spending grew by 823% whereas, higher education spending grew only by 374%.
- Native Americans have the highest per capita incarceration rate.
- One out of every three African American males between the ages of 20 and 29 is in jail, prison on probation or parole.
- Latinos are the fastest growing group behind bars. Between 1985 and 1995 Latinos increased from 10% to 18% of all federal and state inmates. In 1993 Latina/o youth were 3 times more likely to be incarcerated than white youth.
- Although youth of color represented just 34% of the U.S. population in 1997 they represented 62% of the youth in detention, and 67% of youth committed to state facilities.

**In 1999, the Applied Research Center found that in U.S. public schools students of color are more likely to drop out - or be pushed out- of school and are less likely to graduate than are white students.**

- African American, Latino and Native American students are expelled and suspended more often than their white peers in public schools across the U.S.
- 89% of U.S. public school teachers are white, while only 65% of public students are white.

**California has 6 million public school students. 63% are students of color, 37% are white.**

- Of those 63% youth of color - 42% are Latino; 37% are white; 11% are Asian, Pacific Islander or Filipino; 9% are African American and 1% are Native American.
- Latinos make up 42% of California students, but only 32% of high school graduates.
- Only 26% of African American; 26% of Pacific Islander; 23% of Latinos and 23% of Native American high school graduates are eligible to go to college upon graduation; compared to 41% of white graduates.

**California is home to the largest youthful offender agency in the nation with some 4,600 young men and women in institutions and camps and approximately 4,200 more on parole. Most of these youth are youth of color.**

Sources: Applied Research Center. "Facing the Consequences." 2000; Building Blocks for Youth, ¿Dónde está la justicia? 2002; Californians for Justice Education Fund. "First Things First." 2003; Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice [www.cjci.org](http://www.cjci.org); Great Valley Center. "The State of the Great Central Valley of California." 2002.

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- Over the past 25 years, California prison spending grew by 749% while higher education spending increased only by 296%.
- Since the implementation of California's "3 -Strikes Law" the state of California has built more than 21 prisons and 1 university.
- In 2003, prison spending remained high while \$1.2 billion was cut from the education system, which amounts to \$500 million from K-12; another \$500 million from community colleges; and \$20 million from state colleges and universities.
- In California children of color are 6.2 times more likely than white youth to be charged with crimes.
- It costs \$48,400 to incarcerate one child for one year at the California Youth Authority. 91% of California Youth Authority graduates are re-arrested within 3 years.

**The Central Valley houses 32% of the state's incarcerated population, although it represents only 16% of the state's total population. Six of the last ten prisons built in California were built in the Central Valley.**

- Of the 18 counties that comprise the Central Valley, 13 of them have higher arrest rates than the rate of California overall.
- The Fresno County arrest rate is 85 per 1000.
- The King county arrest rate is 148 per 1000.
- The overwhelming majority of arrests in the Central Valley are among immigrant youth and youth of color.

**The Central Valley especially the portion that comprises the San Joaquin Valley has the highest percentage of people under the age of 18 (32%) in California.**

- According to a 2002 report by the Great Valley Center, the dropout rate, birth to teens rate, arrest rate, juvenile misdemeanor rate, and felony rate among youth in the Valley are all significantly higher than anywhere else in the state.
- The San Joaquin Valley is the poorest region in the state, with 30% of families below the state's per capita income level and in continued decline.
- Resource misallocations, zero-tolerance policies in schools, reliance on harsh punishment rather than remediation and treatment and policies of neglect born of prejudice have created a pipeline for valley youth into the criminal justice system.

Sources: Applied Research Center. "Facing the Consequences." 2000; Building Blocks for Youth, ¿Dónde está la justicia? 2002; Californians for Justice Education Fund. "First Things First." 2003; Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice [www.cjcj.org](http://www.cjcj.org); Great Valley Center. "The State of the Great Central Valley of California." 2002.

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