

Mass Incarceration and the Mental Health Crisis in America's Prisons





- Founded in 1989 by Bryan Stevenson
- Montgomery, Alabama
- Non-profit Legal Organization

Death Penalty



Mass Incarceration

- In 1972, the United States had 300,000 people in U.S. jails and prisons. Today there are 2.3 million.
- The U.S. represents about 5% of the world's population but houses about 25% of the world's prisoners.

- \$80 billion per year – increase of %1000 since 1975
- From 1980 to 2017, incarceration of women has grown by nearly 800%
- More than 60% of women have children under age 18

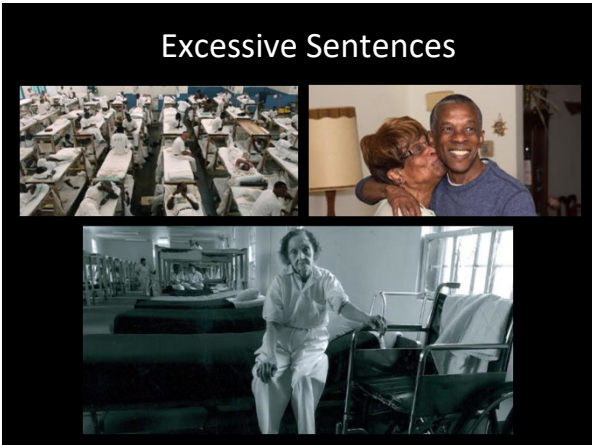
“You want to know what this was really all about?”

“[Nixon] had two enemies: the antiwar left and Black people. You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or Black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and Blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities....

Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

-- John Ehrlichman, Domestic Policy Chief to President Nixon

- 1 in 3 Black male babies are expected to go to jail or prison.
- Compared to white men, Black men are 6 times more likely to be incarcerated in U.S., Latino men are 3 times more likely.





Graham v. Florida, 560 U.S. 48 (2010)

“The Constitution prohibits the imposition of a life without parole sentence on a juvenile offender who did not commit homicide.”

Miller v. Alabama, 132 S. Ct. 2455 (2012)

United States Supreme Court held that it is unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile offender to a mandatory sentence of life without parole.

Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551 (2005)

- First, “[a] lack of maturity and an underdeveloped sense of responsibility.”
- Second, “juveniles are more vulnerable or susceptible to negative influences and outside pressures, including peer pressure.”
- Third, “the character of a juvenile is not as well formed as that of an adult. The personality traits of juveniles are more transitory, less fixed.”

Abandonment of Rehabilitation





"Tutwiler has a history of unabated staff-on-prisoner sexual abuse and harassment. The women at Tutwiler universally fear for their safety. They live in a sexualized environment with repeated and open sexual behavior, including; abusive sexual contact between staff and prisoners; sexualized activity, including a strip show condoned by staff; profane and unprofessional sexualized language and harassment; and deliberate cross-gender viewing of prisoners showering, urinating, and defecating."

United States Department of Justice Findings Letter, 2014



