

PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH THE BARS



Technology and Dehumanization in U.S. Prisons



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Methodology of this study:

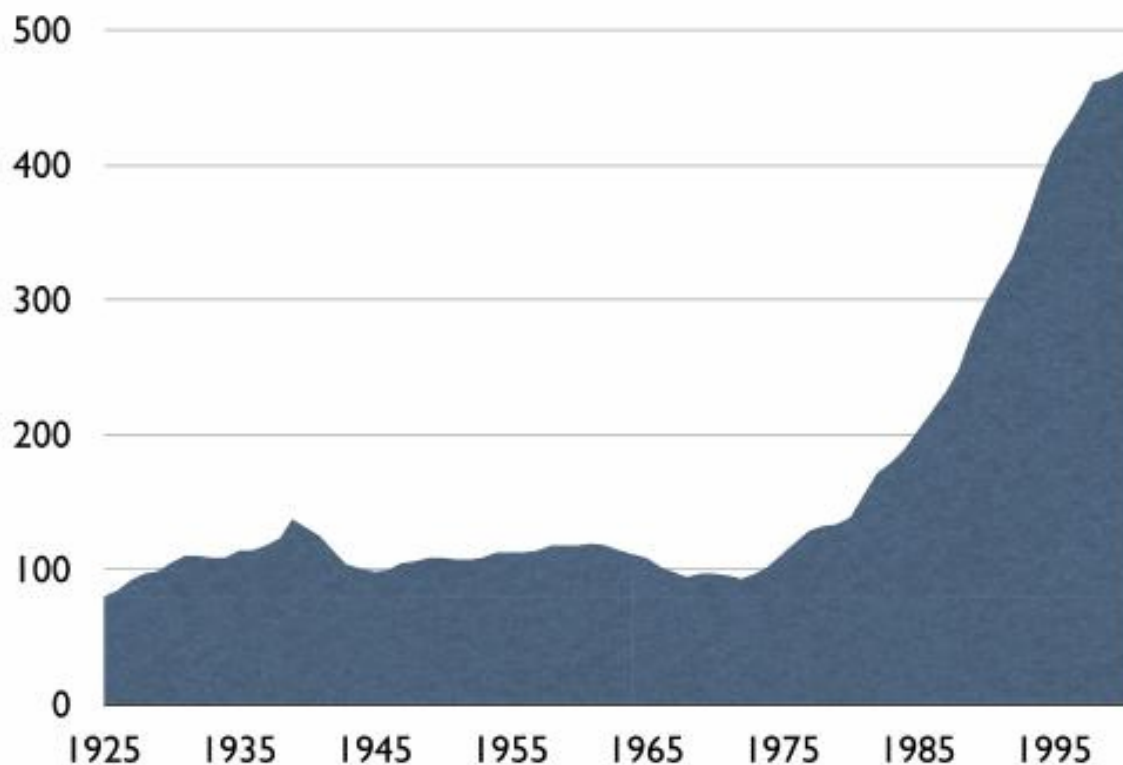
- Attendance at ACA , NCCCHC, and ACHSA meetings
- Observation and interviews at exhibit halls
- Review of corrections marketing in publications and at websites

Context of new correctional technology

- Growth in the U.S. Prison System
- Marketing Pressures

Growth of the U.S. Prison System

Incarceration rate, 1925-2001
prisoners per 100,000 population



Data from Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2001, Table 6.23

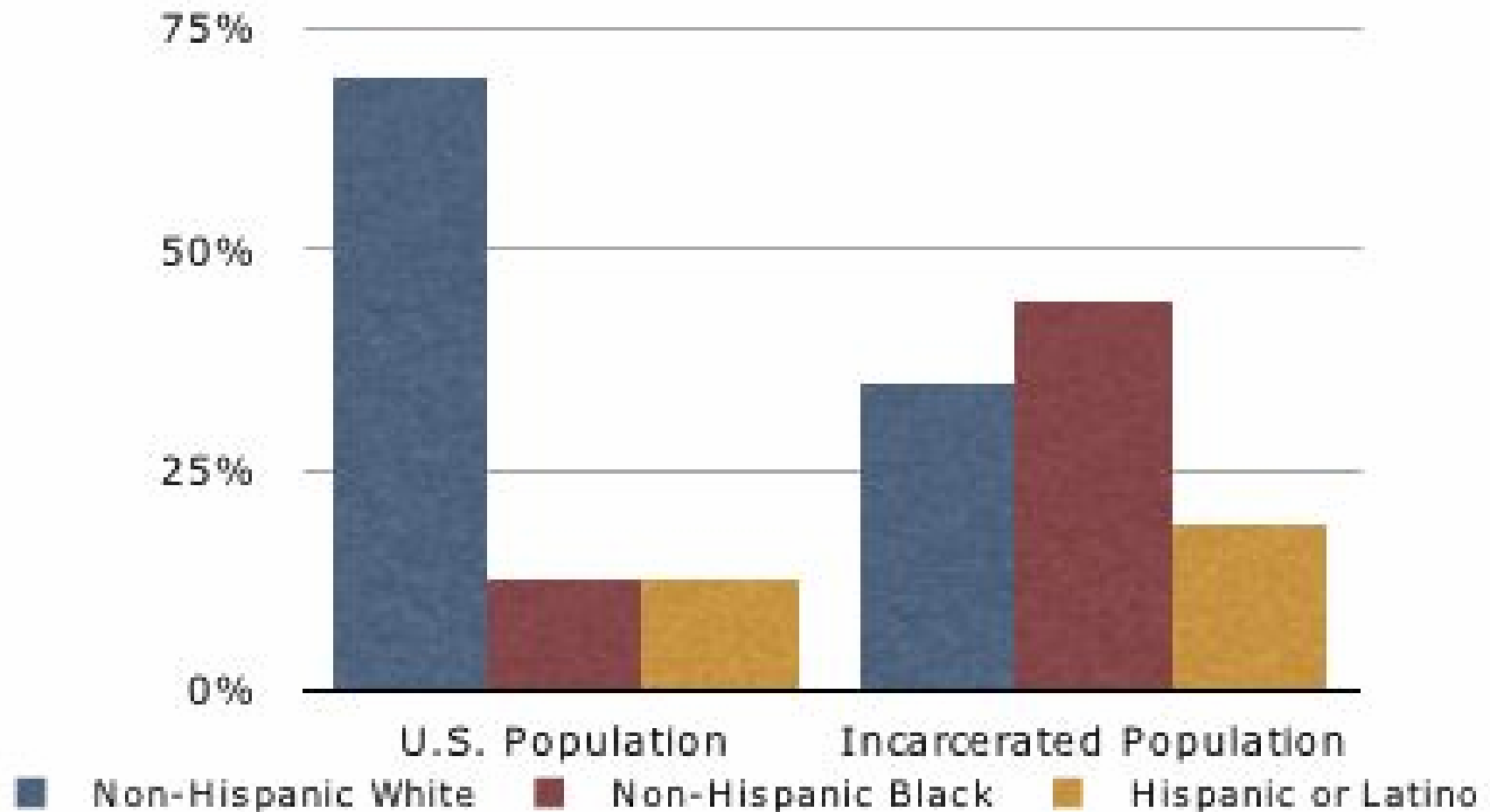
The Prison Index

Size of the correctional population

- 2,078,570 people are in prisons and jails
- 1 in every 140 U.S. residents is in prison or jail

» U.S. BJS, May 29, 2004

Racial disparity between U.S. and incarcerated populations



Sources of the increase

- Longer sentences
- “Truth in sentencing” laws
- “Three strikes” legislation
- More activities are criminalized
- Parole board release difficulties
- Parole violation returns

Dehumanizing trends: 1975-2004

- Security and control increasingly prioritized.
- Rehabilitation abandoned.
- Rise of the super-max prison
- Spread of long-term isolation and sensory deprivation
- Loss of human rights protections-in court and due to Prisoner Litigation Reform Act

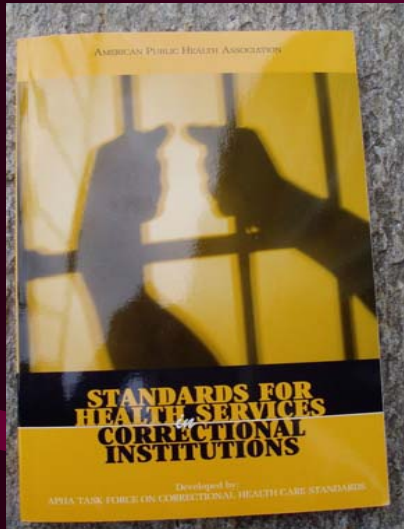
Prisoner Litigation Reform Act

- Passed in 1996
- Severely limits prisoners' rights to sue over conditions
 - must exhaust available administrative remedies
 - must pay court filing fees in full
 - cannot file a lawsuit for mental or emotional injury unless he or she can also show physical injury.

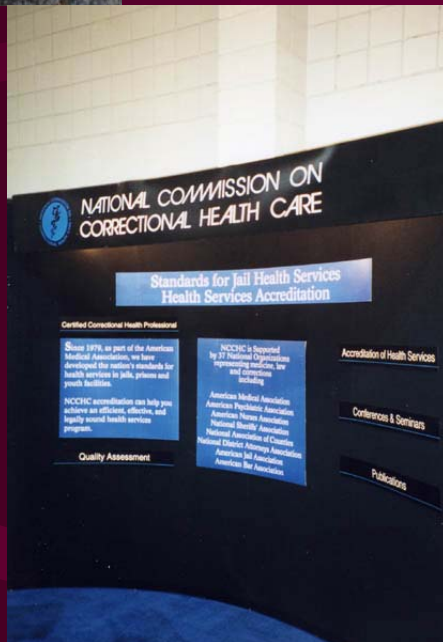
Humanizing trends:

- On-going prisoners' rights movement and litigation
- Introduction of standards of care and accreditation
- Provision of community-based medical services

Standards and Accreditation



- 2003 APHA Standards, third edition since 1976.

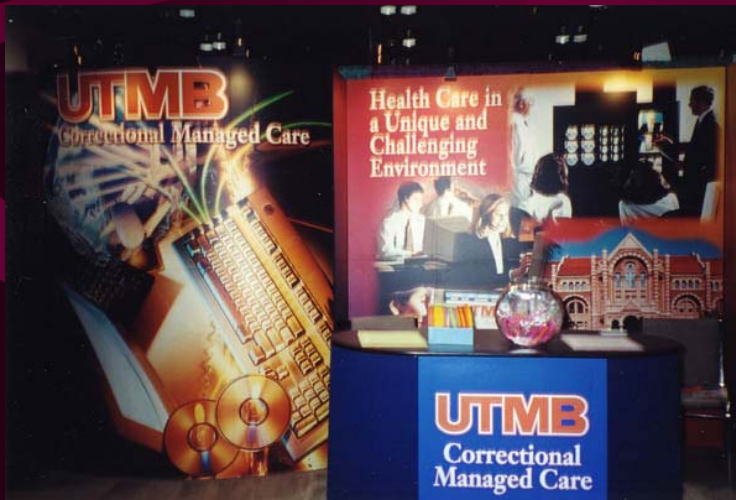


- National Commission on Correctional Health Care is the largest prison health accrediting body in the U.S. (created by the AMA in 1977); 450 currently participating jails and prisons.

Outside medical services



- Private corporation:
Prison Health Services

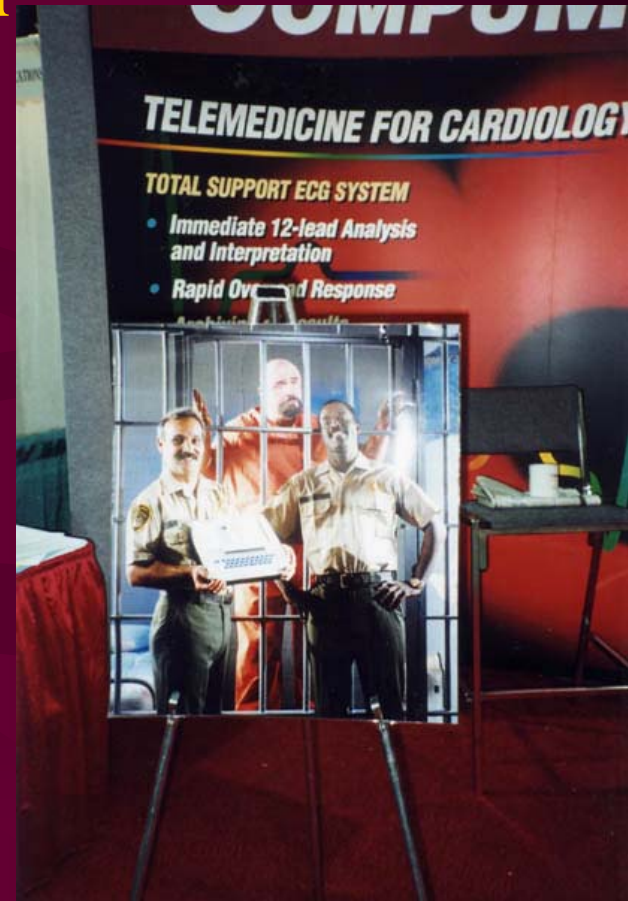


- Public Institution:
University of Texas
Medical Branch

But many new care options keep prisoners in the prison



Mobile surgery unit model



Telemedicine for cardiology

Corporate Suppliers

- Generate new prison-focused technologies
- Emphasize efficiency and cost savings
- Substitute technology for human labor and contact

Pharmaceutical marketing





- Statlander's Pharmacy -one of the nation's largest providers of mail-order prescriptions
- PRIMEMED, specializing in computerized service



Food service:



Corporate food service

Prepackaged trays



Packaged foods encourage in-cell eating



Dental Care



Characterized by

- Privatized services
- Specialized marketing to the corrections industry

Mental Health

- A large population with extensive needs
- and*
- Limited therapy and detrimental environments
- leads to*
- Emphasis on psychopharmacology
- Behavioral management



- “The wrap”



Seated restraint system

Restraints and suicide prevention



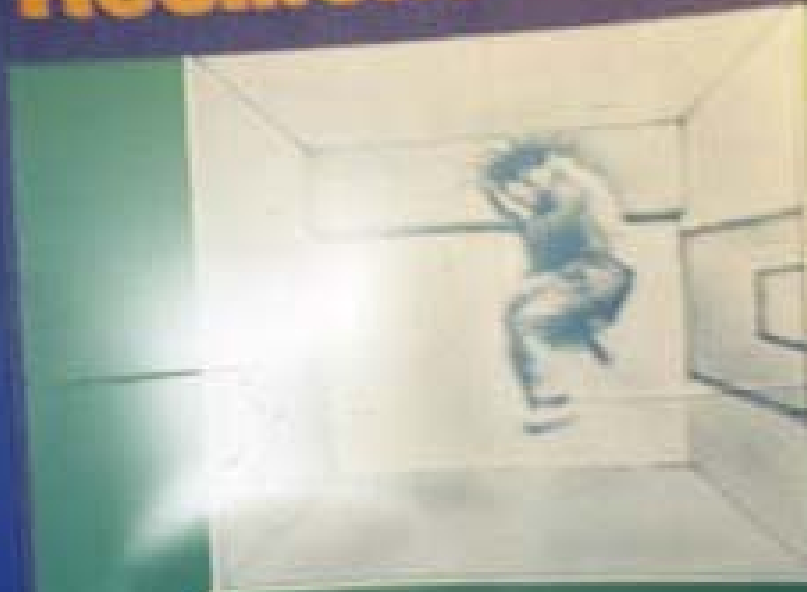
Isolation

Protection For:

- Violent Rooms
- Detox Rooms
- Time-Out Rooms
- Seclusion Rooms
- Rubber Rooms
- Holding Rooms

Class A Fire Rating
Indestructible
Easily Cleaned
For New Construction
Or Existing Facility
Installations Throughout
The World

Gold Medal Resilient Padding



A thin line between mental health and security



Security, control, or torture?



- Belly chains, leg connectors, shock equipment

The prisoner's body is seen as dangerous



Spit mask



Toxic cleanup clothing

Technology replaces contact



This system uses x-ray to check for contraband items.

Increased Surveillance

WE'VE GOT CAMERAS
TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAME

WANTED



V100 BULLET RESISTANT

Description:
Machined metal enclosure and thick Lexan® window is impervious to assault from 9mm handgun or 12 gauge shotgun.

WANTED



V27 ARMORPLATE

Description:

Defies assault in a Maximum Security (Class 5) correctional facility. Heavy-duty polycarbonate dome withstands an 8-pound sledgehammer blow.

A rise in acceptable and managed violence



Non-lethal ammunitions



Break-in tools
-for “cell-extraction”



Full body armor

Consequences of these trends

- An increase in mental illness
- Loss of community connections
- Reduction in social skills--for prisoners, guards, and health care providers
- Dehumanization of the prisoner

Public Health Interventions

- Expand public health services to include prisoners
- Establish effective community-based monitoring and intervention
- Utilize human rights model
- Promote decarceration as a public health necessity



WITH MILLIONS LOCKED UP, IT'S TIME



FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO GO TO JAIL