

## Mass Incarceration

LEAD:  
DON PLUMMER

Our nation is exceptional in many ways, but some of its distinctions are very troubling.

The U.S. leads the world in imprisoning our citizens: Despite comprising only 5% of the world's population, the U. S. imprisons 25% of all people incarcerated worldwide. The U.S. is also first in the actual number of people incarcerated, more than 2.12 million, followed in order by China, Brazil, India, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, Indonesia, Mexico, and Philippines. And at 639 per 100,000 of the population the U.S also leads the world in the rate in which it incarcerates its citizens.

Minorities are disproportionately affected: Black men are six times as likely to be incarcerated as white men and Latinos are 2.5 times as likely. For Black men in their thirties, about 1 in every 12 is in prison or jail on any given day. This disparity further damages already marginalized communities and does not increase public safety. High recidivism rates show that incarceration is ineffective and harmful to offenders, their families, the victims, and law enforcement. Those in prison often do time without proper counseling and assistance with reentering society. Without these skills many have difficulty reestablishing relationships, finding jobs, and staying away from criminal activity after being released.

Georgia has made some progress in reform of its juvenile and adult prisons. The state has reduced recidivism by starting accountability courts for those whose crimes are associated with addiction, post-traumatic stress, and mental illness. However, Georgia is still #1 in persons under carceral supervision which includes prison, jail, parole, or probation. Georgia has the nation's longest average probation times and remains in the top 10 of states with highest incarceration rates (507 per 100,00 Georgians are in prisons).

REPORTERDON@GMAIL.COM

## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

[The Episcopal Church on Mass Incarceration](#)

[National overview](#)

[Detailed information about incarceration in Georgia](#)

[Ending Mass Incarceration](#)

LEARN

"The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." Luke 4:18  
Restorative faith is at the core of Christian belief, most notably in the Gospels of Matthew (25 31-40) and Luke.

PRAY

Tell your elected officials that you support policies that restore justice.  
Sign up for faith-based action alerts:

[The Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center](#) (state issues)

[The Episcopal Public Policy Network](#) (federal issues)

ACT