Mass Incarceration: A National Embarrassment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Prison Population Per 100,000</th>
<th>% of US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US (1900-75)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In Prison for a Reason

Inmates in state facilities make up 87 percent of the nation’s prisoner population. As of 2012, they were:

- Violent Felons: 54%
- Property Offenders: 19%
- Drug Offenders: 16%
- Other: 11%
- Trafficking: 12%
- Possession: 4%

SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics
Community Corrections: A Failing Alternative

Graph 1: Total Correctional Population (1000s) by Year

- Probation
- Parole
- Jail
- Prison

Graph 2: Recidivism of prisoners released in 30 states in 2005, by time from release to first arrest that led to recidivating event

- Percent who recidivated

Legend:
- Arrest
- Return to prison
- Conviction

Time from release to first arrest (in months)
Reasons to Care

- The Unnecessary Human Suffering: The immediate consequences of incarceration include exposure to violence, psychologically-damaging conditions, and gang coercion. Long-term consequences include employment and housing discrimination.

- The Cost to Taxpayers: Corrections is an $80+ billion problem in terms of direct costs; the indirect costs are substantially higher.

- The Safety of Our Communities: At these absurdly high rates, we believe that incarceration causes more crime than it deters.

- The Racial Inequities: The incarceration rate for African-Americans is 2,200 per 100,000. More than 1 in 3 young, black men without a high school diploma is currently behind bars.
A Lack of Innovation:
- The US corrections is very large, very broken, and very antiquated
- Yet, the system has not seen disruption and has not attracted much tech-savvy entrepreneurship (commercial, social impact, or philanthropic)

The worthy goals of a criminal justice system:
- **Deterrence**: Increase the potential costs of committing a crime
- **Incapacitation**: Remove demonstrably dangerous people from society
- **Rehabilitation**: Help offenders improve their lives and behavior
- **Retribution**: Provide victims a sense of justice

For many inmates, these goals can likely be achieved without confinement in a metal cage and 24/7, in-person supervision by an officer... *how can technology facilitate this alternative?*
Electronic Monitoring (EM): Goals & Basics

- Core Functionality:
  - Inclusion Zones: Home curfew and attendance at work, counseling, etc.
  - Exclusion Zones: Stay away from victims or other problematic locations
  - Tamper-proof: Ensure that the device stays attached to offender and is powered

- Technology:
  - Radio Frequency
  - GPS
  - Sensors
Hundreds of local, state, and federal agencies contract with providers to operate EM programs

~200,000 units in use in the US (versus total community corrections population of ~5mm)

Average cost of equipment is ~$5 per day; typically the wearer covers the cost

Market leaders: BI (Geo Group owned), 3M, Satellite Tracking of People (Securus owned), and Omnilink
Electronic Monitoring: Serious Shortcomings

- Key issues with current EM products:
  - False positive alerts
  - Battery life
  - Device conspicuousness

- EM can become a major resource drain for supervisory agencies:
  - An AP inquiry indicated that 21 agencies logged 256,408 alarms for 26,343 wearers in one month
  - 230 parole officers in TX handled 944 alerts per day
  - A TN government audit indicated that 68 GPS wearers generated 11,347 alerts over 10 months, 80% of which were not cleared by officers
  - Tom Clements murder
Electronic Monitoring: Opportunities for Improvement

- Leveraging the smartphone:
  - Enhanced tracking: Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, accelerometer, etc.
  - Tethering mechanism: discrete wearable or recognition tech
- Back-end software:
  - Digital triaging of new alerts
- Additional Features:
  - Reentry resources (employment, housing, education, etc)
  - Case officer video chat
  - Collaborative Scheduling
Electronic Monitoring: Concerns & Criticisms

- “Net Widening”
- Overkill for low-risk offenders
- Privacy
- Human Dignity
- Constitutional Concerns
A New Model of Corrections: Graduated Reintegration

- **Goals:**
  - Alternative to incarceration
  - Solving reentry

- **Key program components:**
  - Scattered site housing (AirBnB)
  - Work & work search requirements
  - Close monitoring with technology
  - Swift, certain, and fair sanctions and rewards

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**Proposed Correctional Continuum**

- **Institutional Corrections**
- **Community Corrections**

**Current Correctional Continuum**

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Institutional Corrections = Prison & Jail  
RRC = Residential Reentry Center (Halfway House)  
Community Corrections = Probation & Parole
Figure 5. HOPE Probationers – Combined Violations (Number of Missed Appointments and/or positive drug tests) in 12-months

- 52% with 0 violations
- 16% with 1 violation
- 10% with 2 violations
- 7% with 3 violations
- 6% with 4 violations
- 4% with 5 violations
- 3% with 6 violations
- 2% with 7 violations
- 1% with 8+ violations