

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE, AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
National Institute of Mental Health

TO : Director, NIMH

DATE: July 9, 1975

NCJRS

FROM : Director, Division of Biometry

DEC 3 1975

SUBJECT : Implications of expected changes in U.S. population for
correctional institutions.

AC TIONS

The following examples illustrate the importance of the expected changes in the size and composition of the U.S. population for correctional institutions:

1. Expected changes in the U.S. population 1970-1985.

Attached Table 1 shows that by 1985 the population of the U.S. will have increased to approximately 241.7 million people, about 19 percent more than in 1970 (203.2 million). The increase will be 18 percent for whites (from 177.7 to 209.4 million), and 27 percent for nonwhites (from 25.5 to 32.3 million). Nonwhites are expected to constitute about 13 percent of the population in 1985. The relative increases expected in the size of each age group of the nonwhite population range from a 79 percent increase in the age group 25-34 years to 9 percent in the age group 45-64 years. These increases are considerably in excess of those in the white population which range from 61 percent in the age group 25-34, to 2 percent in the age group 45-64 years. Of particular importance is the fact that large increases will be occurring in age groups known from past experience to be characterized by consistently high utilization rates of mental health services and high incarceration rates in correctional institutions.

2. Implications for correctional institutions.

The population forecasts discussed above have many implications for those planning crime prevention and law enforcement programs. Problems of particular concern are those related to the impact of increases in the size of various high risk population groups on requirements of legal, judicial, police, other law enforcement agencies, correctional facilities and programs for the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders for facilities, funds and manpower for their various programs.

37928

Table 2 presents the number of inmates of correctional institutions specific for age, sex and race as reported in the 1970 Census of the Institutional Population. The following example illustrates the impact of the expected population increases given in Table 1 on the number of inmates in these institutions. Assume that the inmate rates per 100,000 population specific for age and race (i.e., the number of inmates per 100,000 population in each age group for whites and nonwhites) would be at the same level in 1985 that they were in 1970. The application of the 1970 rates to the 1985 population results in significant increases in the numbers of inmates in correctional institutions merely as a result of the increases in population (see Table 3). Indeed, the relative increases in the number of inmates in each age-race group would be identical to the relative increase in the numbers of persons in the corresponding age groups in the general population.

The overall result of this computation, shown in Table 3, is that the number of inmates in 1985 (455,116) will be 39 percent greater than the corresponding number in 1970 (328,070). The corresponding percent increase for whites would be 32 percent (from 187,199 to 246,123) and for Negroes and other races 48 percent (from 140,821 to 208,993). These expected percent increases in the total inmate population far exceed the corresponding increases in the total population (19 percent total, 18 percent for the whites and 27 percent for the nonwhite). This is because of the extraordinary increases expected in numbers of persons in the age groups in the general population where the inmate rates are the highest; namely, the age groups 18-24, 25-34, 35-44 years. To illustrate, the maximum 1970 inmate rates for both whites and nonwhites occur in the age group 18-24 years; and the next two highest rates, in the age groups 25-34 years and 35-44 years. The number of inmates in the age group 18-24 years--the group with the maximum rate--will have increased by 16 percent for whites (from 61,856 to 72,018) and by 43 percent for nonwhites (from 51,794 to 74,196). The corresponding increases in the age group 25-34 years will be 61 percent for whites (from 57,455 to 92,621) and 79 percent for nonwhites (from 44,678 to 79,843). The changes in other age groups are shown in Table 3.

The above discussion considers the expected increases for both sexes. However, males constitute more than 95 percent of the total inmate population. The expected increases will be still more pronounced for nonwhite males than white males because of their very high inmate rates in the age groups that will be experiencing the very large population increases. The inmate rates are particularly high in the age groups

18-24, 25-34, 35-44 years in which 3.3 percent, 3.0 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively, of the nonwhites are inmates of correctional institutions. These ratios are approximately six times the corresponding ones for white males. The following table summarizes the inmate rates for white and nonwhite males by age:

Age (Years)	No. of Males in Correctional Institutions per 100,000 population (1970)		Ratio NW/W
	White (W)	Nonwhite (NW)	
18	15	94	6.3
18-24	586	3,347	5.7
25-34	513	2,961	5.8
35-44	325	1,837	5.7
45-64	141	683	4.8
65+	35	134	3.8

The inmate rate for females (14 per 100,000) is considerably lower than the rate for males (317 per 100,000). However, the rate for nonwhite females (49 per 100,000) is six times higher than the rate for white females (8 per 100,000). The maximum rate for females also occurs in the age group 18-24 years, being 153 per 100,000 for the nonwhites and 25 per 100,000 for the whites.

As a result of the interaction of the two factors--high inmate rates and large relative increases in the general population, particularly in the age groups 18-24 and 25-34 years--the percent of the total population in the correctional institutions that would be nonwhite would increase from 43 percent in 1970 to 46 percent in 1985. In the age groups under

18 years and 18-24 years, more than half of the inmates in 1985 would be nonwhite (54 percent and 51 percent, respectively), and in the age group 25-34 years, 46 percent would be nonwhite. These proportions are higher than those for 1970. The change in the percent of the nonwhite population in each age group would be as follows:

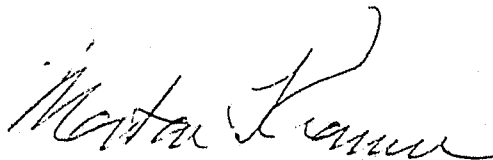
Age (Years)	1970		1985	
	No. of Inmates (All Races)	Percent Nonwhite ^{2/}	Expected No. of Inmates ^{1/} (All Races)	Percent Nonwhite ^{2/}
All Ages	328,020	43	455,116	46
18	10,180	52	11,052	54
18-24	113,650	46	146,214	51
25-34	102,133	44	172,464	46
35-44	57,651	42	78,180	42
45-64	40,212	35	42,037	36
65+	4,194	27	5,169	26

^{1/} Computed by applying 1970 inmate rates specific for age and race to estimated population 1985 (see Table 3).

^{2/} Computed from Table 3.

It should be emphasized that the estimates given in the above paragraphs are conservative. They portray the expected changes in the size of the population in correctional institutions that are likely to occur merely as a result of population increases, particularly those in the high risk age groups 18-24, 25-34 and 35-44 years.

There are a whole series of factors now operating that, in all probability, will increase rates of arrests and imprisonment over the next few years. These include the current high unemployment rate in the minority groups, the increases in crimes and arrests that are now being reported, and the stringent law enforcement programs that are being recommended by the President. Indeed, the overcrowding now being reported in jails in the District of Columbia and other places throughout the Nation are harbingers of an increasing number of problems that are likely to be the consequence of the population increases discussed in this memorandum.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Morton Kramer".

Morton Kramer, Sc.D.

Attachments

Table 1: U.S. POPULATIONS, ACTUAL 1970^{1/} AND ESTIMATED 1985^{2/}, AND NUMERICAL AND PERCENT CHANGE IN U.S. POPULATIONS: 1970-1985, BY AGE AND COLOR

Age	1970			1985		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
	Population (in 000's)					
Total.....	203,212	177,749	25,463	241,731	209,427	32,304
<18.....	69,644	59,062	10,582	73,307	61,363	11,944
18-24.....	23,697	20,592	3,105	28,423	23,975	4,448
25-34.....	24,907	21,779	3,128	40,699	35,109	5,590
35-44.....	23,089	20,328	2,761	31,384	27,657	3,727
45-64.....	41,810	37,658	4,152	42,941	38,398	4,543
65+.....	20,065	18,330	1,735	24,977	22,925	2,052
	<u>Change in Number of Persons</u> (in 000's)			<u>Percent Change in Number of Persons</u>		
	<u>1970-1985</u>			<u>1970-1985</u>		
Total.....	38,519	31,678	6,841	19.0	17.8	26.9
<18.....	3,663	2,301	1,362	5.3	3.9	12.9
18-24.....	4,726	3,383	1,343	19.9	16.4	43.3
25-34.....	15,792	13,330	2,462	63.4	61.2	78.7
35-44.....	8,295	7,329	966	35.9	36.1	35.0
45-64.....	1,131	740	391	2.7	2.0	9.4
65+.....	4,912	4,595	317	24.5	25.1	18.3

1/ Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census of Population, 1970, General Population Characteristics PC(1)-B1, Table 52

2/ Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 388, Tables 2 and 6 (Series D projection)

Table 2. Inmates of correctional institutions 1970: Number and number of inmates per 100,000 population by age and race

Age in Years	Population of the U.S. 1970 (000's) ^{1/}			Number of Inmates 1970 ^{2/}			Number Inmates per 100,000 Population			Ratio of Rates (Nonwhite/white)
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite	
	<u>Both Sexes</u>									
Total..	203,212	177,749	25,463	328,020	187,199	140,821	161.4	105.3	553.0	5.3
18.	69,644	59,062	10,582	10,180	4,883	5,297	14.6	8.3	50.1	6.0
18-24	23,697	20,592	3,105	113,650	61,856	51,794	479.6	300.4	1668.1	5.6
25-34	24,907	21,779	3,128	102,133	57,455	44,678	410.1	263.8	1428.3	5.4
35-44	23,089	20,328	2,761	57,651	33,608	24,043	249.7	165.3	870.8	5.3
45-64	41,810	37,658	4,152	40,212	26,318	13,894	96.2	69.9	334.6	4.8
65+..	20,065	18,330	1,735	4,194	3,079	1,115	20.9	16.8	64.2	3.8
	<u>Males</u>									
Total..	98,912	86,721	12,191	313,800	179,434	134,366	317.3	206.9	1102.2	5.3
18.	35,483	30,174	5,309	9,411	4,398	5,013	26.5	14.6	94.4	6.5
18-24	11,572	10,099	1,473	108,495	59,198	49,297	937.6	586.2	3346.7	5.7
25-34	12,218	10,775	1,443	98,037	55,316	42,721	802.4	513.4	2960.6	5.8
35-44	11,231	9,978	1,253	55,493	32,470	23,023	494.1	325.4	1837.4	5.7
45-64	19,992	18,049	1,943	38,672	25,393	13,279	193.4	140.7	683.4	4.9
65+..	8,416	7,646	770	3,692	2,659	1,033	43.9	34.8	134.2	3.9
	<u>Females</u>									
Total..	104,300	91,028	13,272	14,220	7,765	6,455	13.6	8.5	48.6	5.7
18.	34,161	28,888	5,273	769	485	284	2.3	1.7	5.4	3.2
18-24	12,125	10,493	1,632	5,155	2,658	2,497	42.5	25.3	153.0	6.1
25-34	12,689	11,004	1,685	4,096	2,139	1,957	32.3	19.4	116.1	6.0
35-44	11,858	10,350	1,508	2,158	1,138	1,020	18.2	11.0	67.6	6.2
45-64	21,818	19,609	2,209	1,540	925	615	7.1	4.7	27.8	5.9
65+..	11,649	10,684	965	502	420	82	4.3	3.9	8.5	2.2

^{1/} Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census of Population, 1970. General Population Characteristics, PC(1)-B1, Table 52.

^{2/} Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census of Population, 1970. Persons in Institutions and Other Group Quarters. Subject Reports PC(2)-4E, Table 3.

Table 3. Inmates of correctional institutions^{1/} Actual 1970^{2/} and Estimated 1985^{3/}, and numerical and percent change 1970-1985 by age and race.

Age	1970			Expected No. 1985		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total..	328,020	187,199	140,821	455,116	246,123	208,993
< 18.	10,180	4,883	5,297	11,052	5,073	5,979
18-24	113,650	61,856	51,794	146,214	72,018	74,196
25-34	102,133	57,455	44,678	172,464	92,621	79,843
35-44	57,651	33,608	24,043	78,180	45,725	32,455
45-64	40,212	26,318	13,894	42,037	26,835	15,202
65+..	4,194	3,079	1,115	5,169	3,851	1,318

Age	Change in Number of Inmates 1970-1985			Percent Change in Number of Inmates 1970-1985		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
	(7)=(4)-(1)	(8)=(5)-(2)	(9)=(6)-(3)	(10)=(7)/(1)	(11)=(8)/(2)	(12)=(9)/(3)
Total..	127,096	58,924	68,172	38.7	31.5	48.4
< 18.	872	190	682	8.6	3.9	12.9
18-24	32,564	10,162	22,402	28.7	16.4	43.3
25-34	70,331	35,166	35,165	68.9	61.2	78.7
35-44	20,529	12,117	8,412	35.6	36.1	35.0
45-64	1,825	517	1,308	4.5	2.0	9.4
65+..	975	772	203	23.2	25.1	18.2

1/ Includes prisons and reformatories, local jails and work houses.

2/ Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. U.S. Census of Population 1970, Persons in Institutions and Other Group Quarters, Subject Reports PC(2), Table 3

3/ Estimated by applying 1970 rates specific for age and race in Table 3 to the projected 1985 U.S. population by age and race in Table 1.