

Who Is in Prison

Criminal Justice

The composition of a prison population, and what actually drives its size.

Prison populations reflect sentencing and social policy at least as much as offending levels.

INTERNATIONAL RANGE

Rates differ by more than tenfold

COMPOSITION

Sentenced · remand · recalled

- Imprisonment rates vary enormously by country
- Remand prisoners are held before conviction
- Mental ill health far exceeds population levels
- Head injury and learning disability are common
- Care experience and exclusion are over-represented

LOOK FOR IT

Longer sentences raise the population even when crime is falling.

Educational reference. National statistics define categories differently; compare the definitions before comparing the rates.