

# Epidemic of Incarceration

A black and white photograph of a prison yard. In the foreground, there are several layers of chain-link fencing, some of which are coiled into a spiral. In the background, a prison building with a crenelated roof is visible under a cloudy sky.

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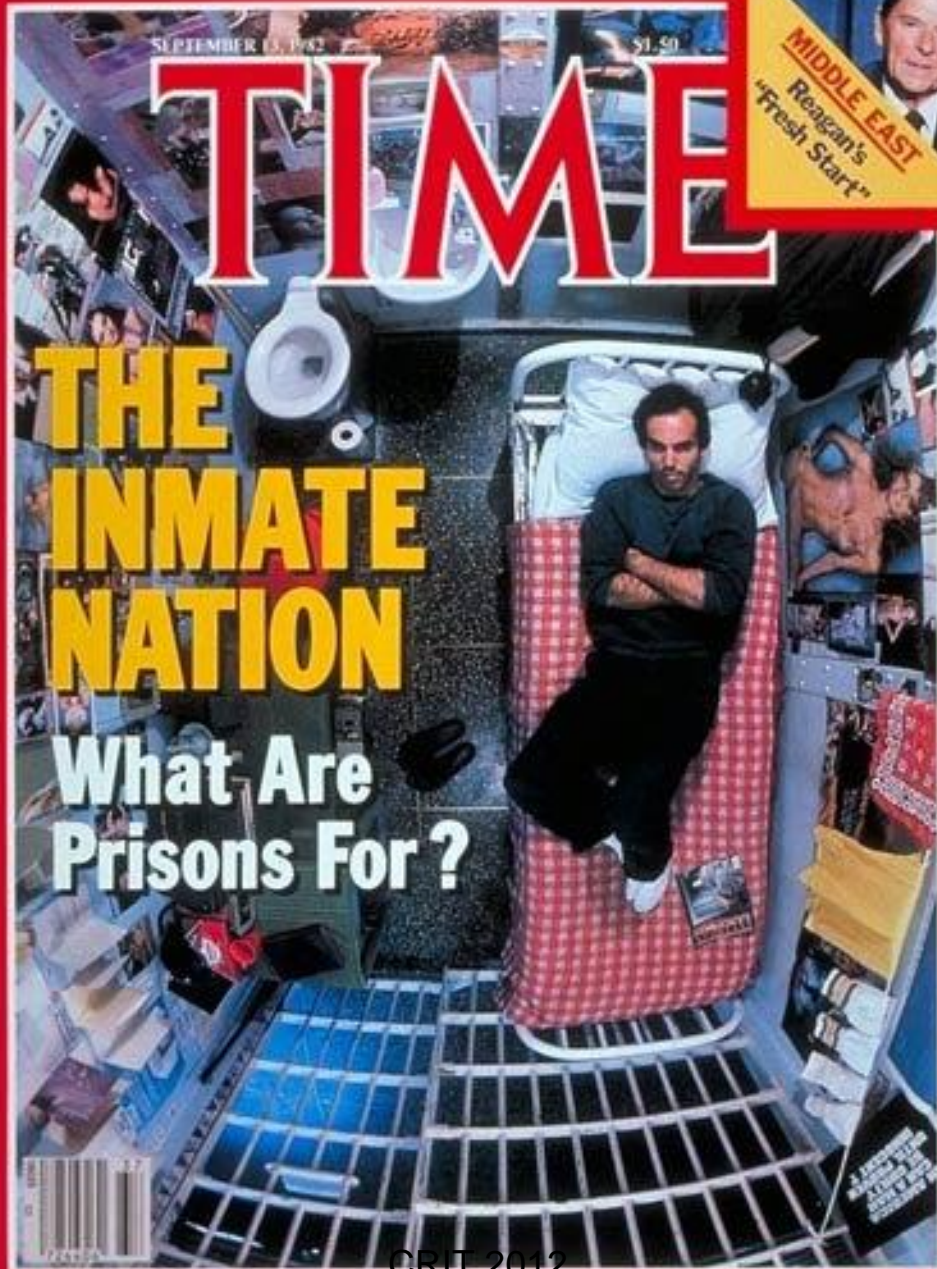
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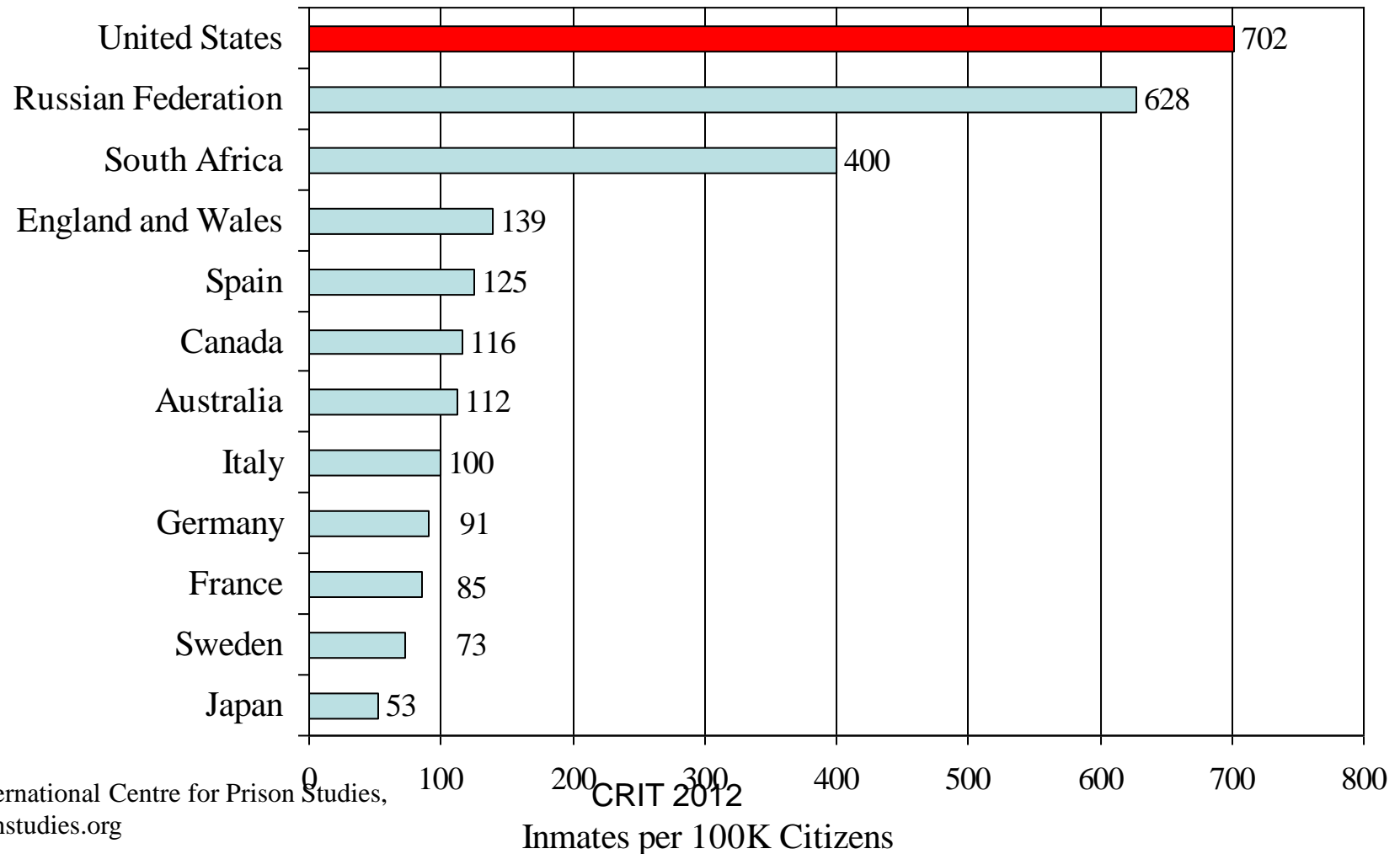
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# Epidemic of Incarceration



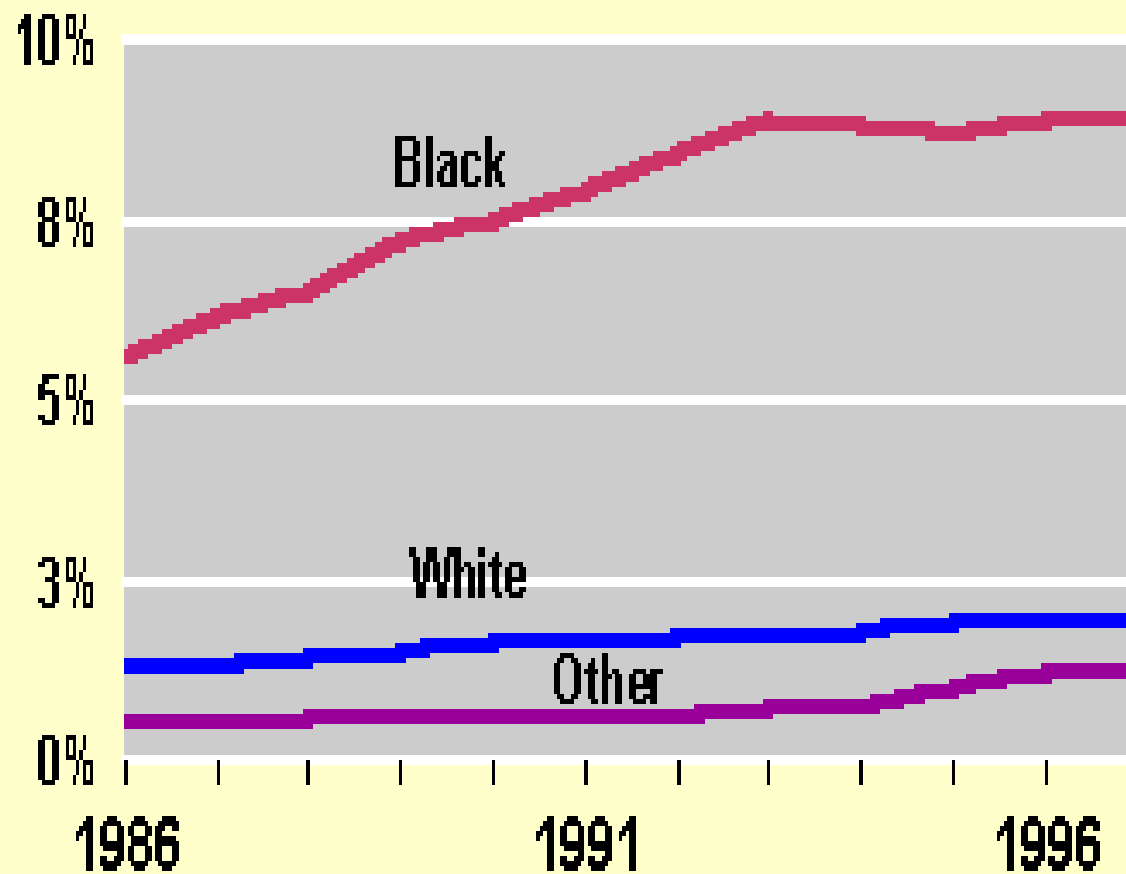
In 2010, 2.3 million persons are incarcerated in the U.S.

The U.S. imprisons more people per capita than any other country in the world. In the 1990s alone, our inmate population grew by 239%.




## Adults under correctional supervision by race, 1986-97

Percent of adults



# Epidemic of Incarceration

- Untreated mental illness and substance abuse
- Deinstitutionalization / dissolution of mental health care facilities
- Criminalization of drug use
  - War on Drugs (mandatory minimum sentencing, etc)

A black and white photograph of a person behind vertical prison bars. The person's face is partially visible through the bars, and their hand is gripping one of the bars. The image has a somber and gritty tone, with the bars creating a strong vertical pattern across the frame.

# Injection drug user hospitalized with endocarditis

MSM, HIV, intermittent meth,  
? ART

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**Hospitalized patient, suspected illicit drug use**

**Hospitalized patient on methadone, can't reach  
program**

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A black and white photograph of a person behind vertical metal bars, likely in a prison cell. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and is holding onto the bars with their right hand. The image is used as a background for the text.

HCV treatment in  
HIV/HCV co-infected  
patient, still using?

A photograph of a person sitting on a bed in a prison cell. The person is wearing a blue shirt and has their arms crossed. The background shows a toilet and a doorway.

# Incarceration is an Opportunity to

- Diagnose
- Treat (including linkage to treatment in the community after release)
- Prevent (education and risk reduction)

# Reentry: *But They All Come Back*

- 95% of prisoners are released to their communities
- 735,000 individuals released from state and federal prisons in 2008
- Approximately 9 million individuals are released from jail each year

Hughes, T. & D.J., 2002

West, Sabol, & Cooper., 2009

Beck, A.J., 2006

Travis, J 2002

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# Post Release Dangers

- Mortality
- Overdose
- Communicable diseases
- Relapse
- Re-incarceration

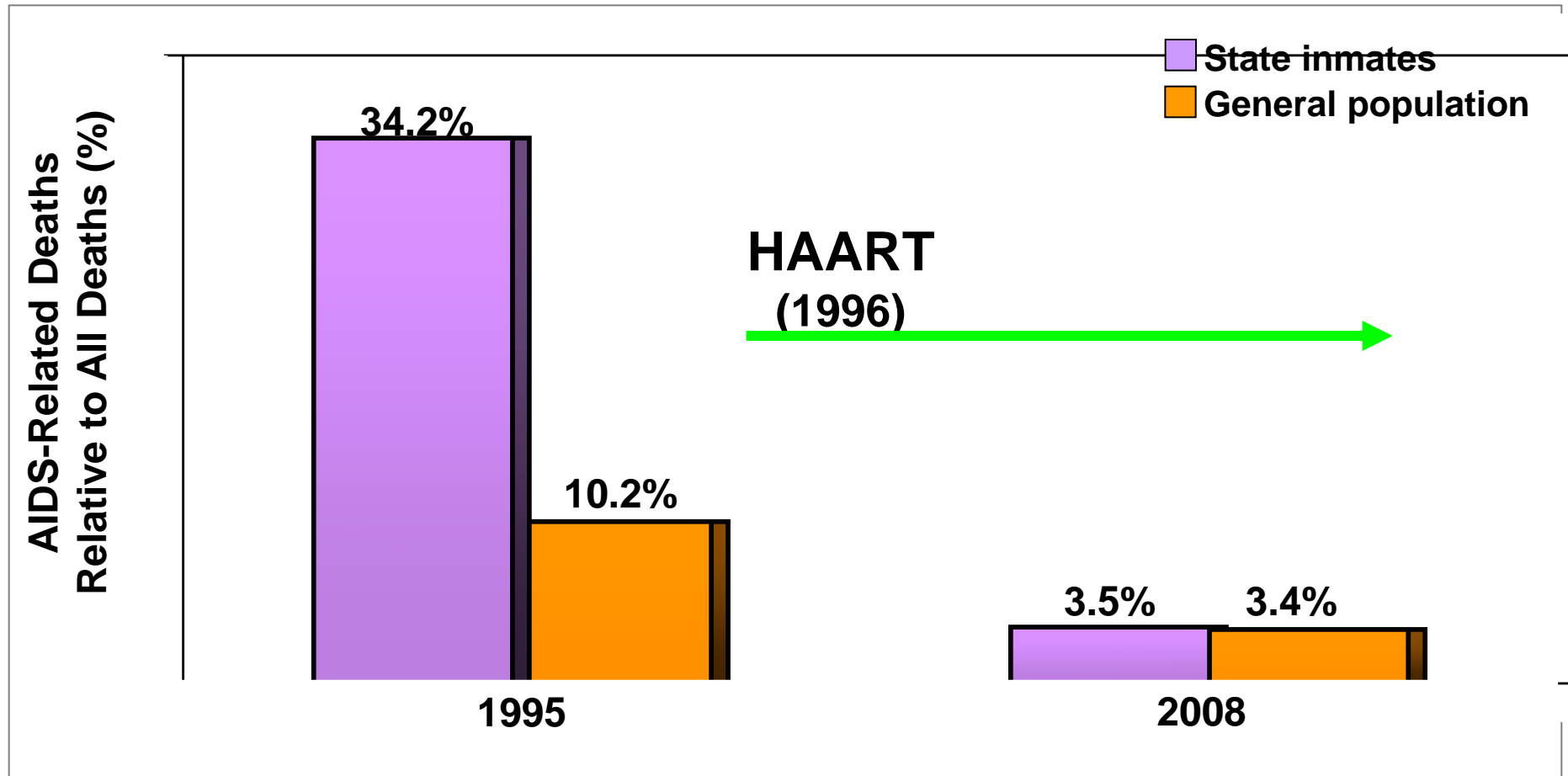


# Percent of Total Burden of Infectious Disease passing through Corrections, 1997

- AIDS 16%
- Total HIV/AIDS 20-26%
- Chronic Hepatitis B 12-16%
- Hepatitis C 29-32%
- TB Disease 38%
- *Hammett et al AJPH 2002*

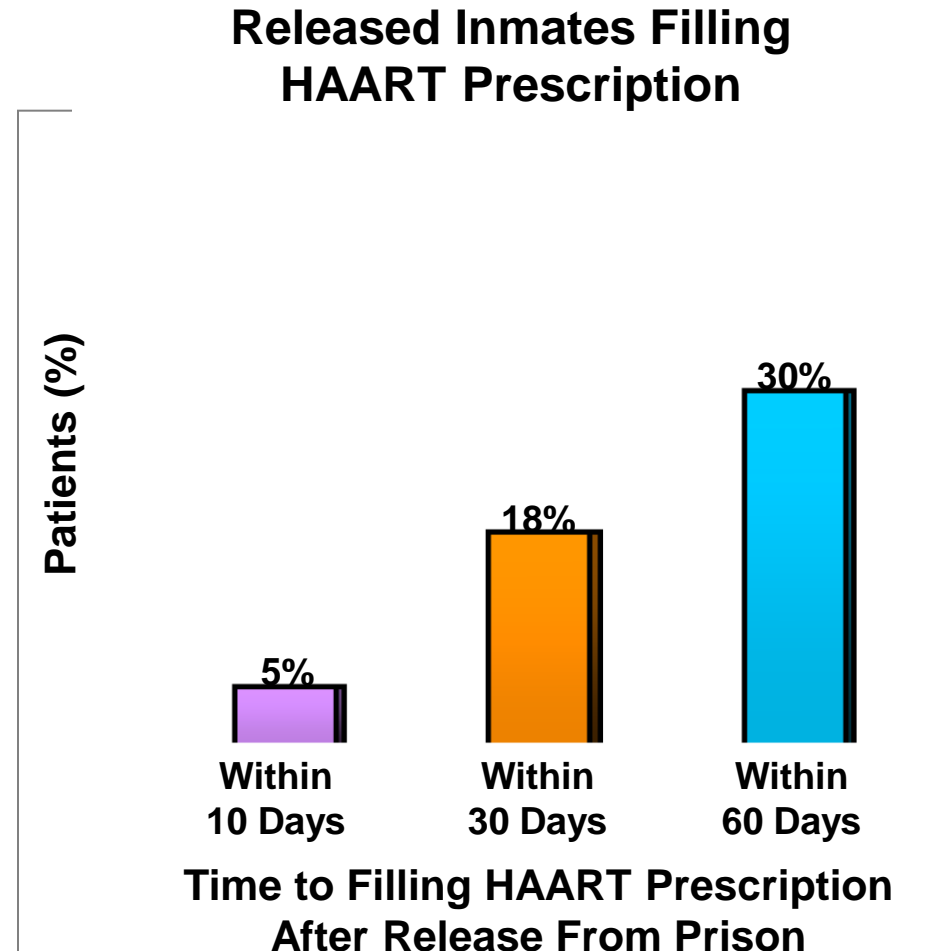


# AIDS-Related Mortality Achieves Parity in Prisons and the General Population



# Accessing HAART Following Release From Prison

- Retrospective cohort study (2004-2007)
  - All HIV-infected inmates released from Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison system (n=2112)
  - Texas ADAP program
    - ADAP program not convenient
- $\geq 90\%$  of the former inmates experienced a treatment interruption
  - Treatment interruptions lasting
    - $\geq 30$  days:  $>70\%$
    - $\geq 60$  days:  $>60\%$

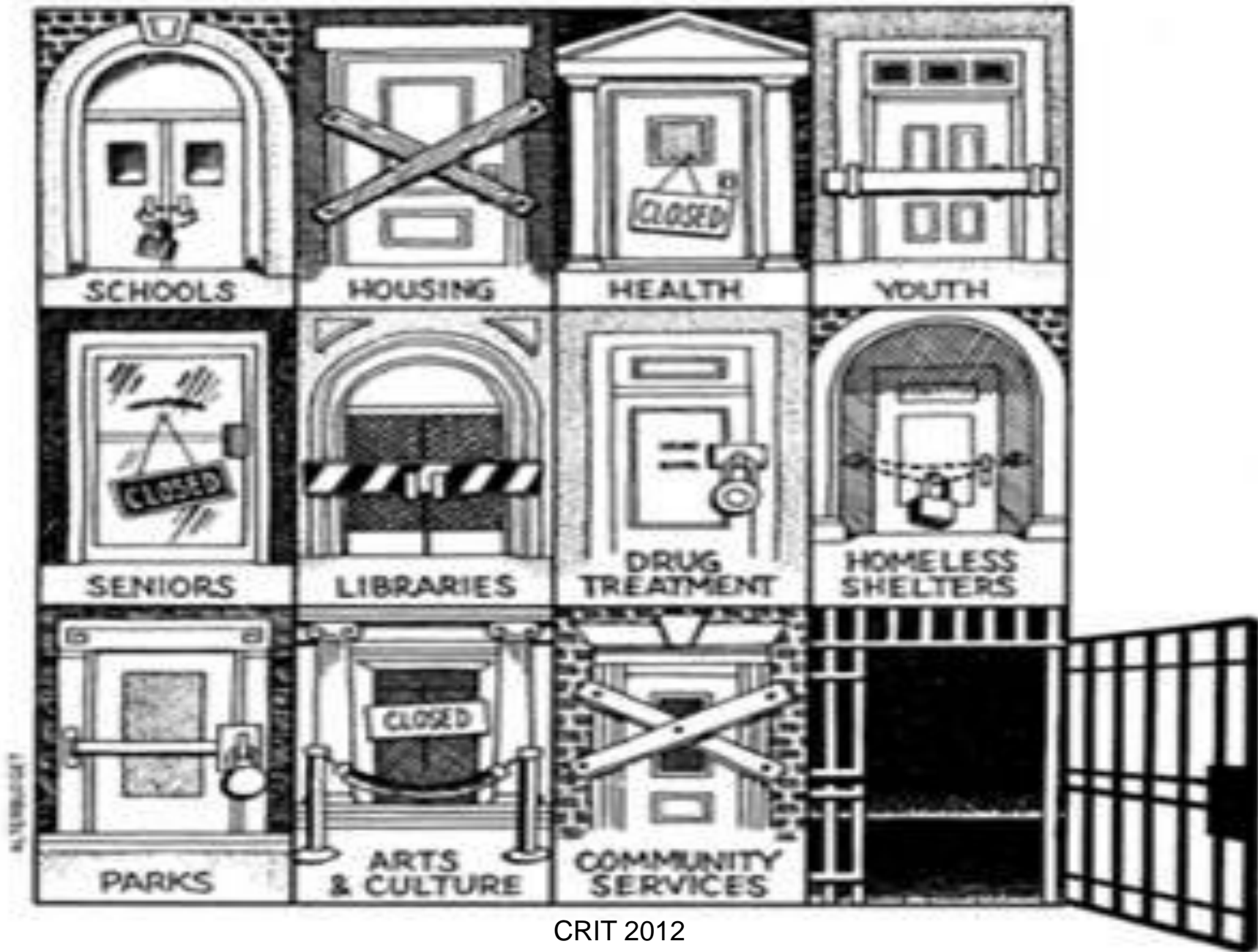


# Prisoner Health and Human Rights

- The landmark 1976 Supreme Court case *Estelle v. Gamble* found that not providing community standard of care constituted cruel and unusual punishment.
- For many, the medical care they receive while incarcerated is life-saving, yet correctional facilities are fundamentally designed to confine and punish.

# What Can We Do?

- Capitalize on public health and medical opportunities to address the complex medical and other needs of a disadvantaged, minority population
- Advocate for diversion strategies, policy reform, linkage to care, and increased public awareness of this crisis to address the collateral consequences of incarceration.



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Welcome to America, home to  
5% of the world's people &  
25% of the world's prisoners.

Let's build a better America together. [NAACP.org/smartandsafe](http://NAACP.org/smartandsafe)

