

**It's just a
matter of
time...**

In 1980, 35 out of every 1,000 Americans were victimized by a violent crime.

On July 1, 1989 there were more than 673,000 people behind bars...an all time high...more than 45,000 more than the previous year...the biggest leap in prison population in American History.



It's time to think about time: the time that convicts serve; the time it will take for the non-productive prisoner population to grow to even higher levels; the time we're running out of when it comes to a just and reasonable solution to the problem.



Hard Questions

For the past 20 years the Safer Foundation has been confronting the hard problems of hard time. Does the American approach to criminal justice serve either the society or the offender? Does our drive for retribution for crimes defeat our need to correct the causes? Is there a better way to punish the criminal and still maintain the hope for salvaging the individual?

Hard Answers

Safer Foundation doesn't have all the answers. But we're a lot closer to them than when we started. We've been able to cut the rate of return to prison for the cons we serve... more than 50,000 people... from a national average of 56% to 15%. We've helped thousands get jobs and make the transition to constructive law-abiding lives.

We've saved the state millions of dollars every year in averted police, court and prison costs. For every dollar invested, we save the taxpayer six!

The Convict Crisis

There are now almost three quarters of a million men and women locked up in federal and state prisons. Despite massive prison building programs, the number of new inmates continues to outpace bed space. With drug-related crime adding to the pressure, society will continue to demand locking up criminals. Two-thirds of all convicts will return to prison. Judges will be forced to maintain early release programs simply because of overcrowded prison conditions.

The Options

We can and are building more prisons. But this has not turned out to be enough. Furthermore, it costs an average of \$23,000.00 per year to house one inmate. In Illinois with a prison population over 20,000, nearly one half billion dollars is being spent on prisoners that could be going to the pressing needs of education and health care. While there will always be a need for confining some people, there are ways of helping ex-offenders stay out of jail and out of the people's pockets.

Building a Safer Foundation

Safer Foundation is dedicated to helping former offenders find a road to lawful and productive living. The programs provide individuals with the basic education they need to get a job, practical counseling on living

within the rules of society, emergency services and assistance in gaining productive employment. And it works. Nearly nine out of every ten Safer clients remain out of prison.

It's Time to Help

Now, with the cost of keeping criminals in prison growing to astronomical levels, there is no better use of public and private funding than to help Safer Foundation. It is understandable for the public to feel that all criminals should be locked up hard and long. But our society cannot afford the waste in money and lives that go along with this. The experience of Safer Foundation is that ex-convicts that seek us out can get a head start towards a productive future. With your assistance, we can help even more.

2%

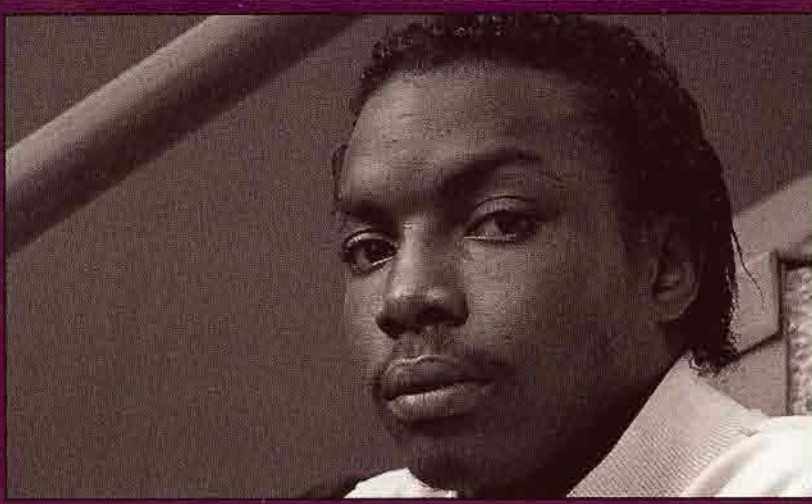
**Prison Population
Growth Per Year**

1%

**National Population
Growth Per Year**

Someday,
America will have
two classes of people,
of roughly equal population,
those outside prison
and those inside.

**It's just a
matter of time**



"The crime problem is in part an overdue debt that the country must pay for ignoring for decades the conditions that breed lawlessness."

—Chief Justice Earl Warren

The Safer Foundation has demonstrated it is possible for these programs to reduce the return rate for parolees by 50 percent. Governors and legislatures should appreciate that there could be no wiser use of public funds than massive investing in groups such as Safer...

Chicago Sun-Times editorial, April 30, 1989

Emergency Service

When a person is released from prison, their needs are many and their resources are few. Everyday situations such as the need for housing or health services present an obstacle to going straight. Safer provides direct assistance as well as helping people through the thicket of government agency services.

Intensive Counseling

When young parolees or probationers first come in they need to decide whether they really want to change their life. This two week introduction deals with the expectations and realities of life on the outside.

Education for basic skills: Youth

This nationally recognized program offers 14 to 21 year old offenders training in reading, writing and mathematics. The class is set-up in a job-simulated environment. Participants punch a time clock and have their course work reviewed constantly for quality. There is an opportunity to take a G.E.D. exam at the end of the program.

Education for basic skills: Adults

A six week program for older offenders who are unskilled, lack a job history and struggle with reading and math. The three-phased program includes education, employment and follow-up. Gains in achievement range from a minimum of one school year to as high as seven years.

Job Counseling

This innovative approach stresses goal planning, career ladder planning, education and training. In addition to working with employers to develop opportunities for ex-offenders, Safer counselors teach participants how to develop their own job leads. Each client must make at least 60 calls a day in hope of landing two interviews. It is twice as successful as traditional employment programs.





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