

International Comparisons⁴⁵

The United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world, both in absolute numbers and per capita (as a percent of total population). We may be surprised to hear that this holds true, even when we compare the U.S. to notorious human rights offenders, like Russia, China, and North Korea. Here are some statistics:

Absolute Number of Incarcerated People

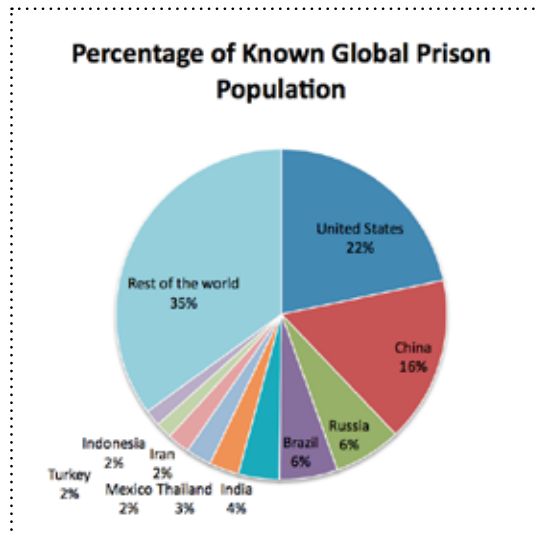
More than 10.2 million people are held in prisons and jails throughout the world, mostly as pre-trial detainees or serving a criminal justice sentence. Almost half of these are in:

1. United States:
2.24 million
2. China:
1.64 million sentenced people
3. Russia:
680,000

In addition at least 650,000 are reported to be in pre-trial or 'administrative' detention in China and 150,000 in North Korea. If these were included, the world total would be more than 11 million and China would be on par with the US in total incarcerated people.

Highest Incarceration Rates Per Capita

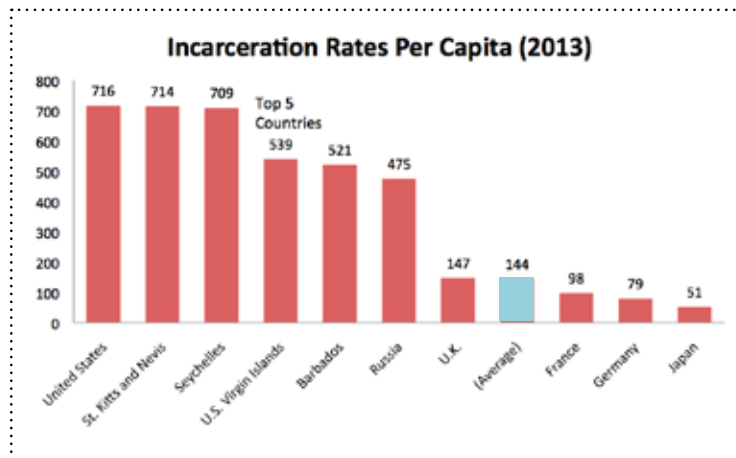
Top 5 (incarcerated people per 100,000 people):



United States	716
St. Kitts and Nevis	714
Seychelles	709
U.S. Virgin Islands	539
Barbados	521

Russia comes in at 10th place with 475 incarcerated people per 100,000; China is much further down the list.

• More than half of the world's countries and territories (54%) have rates below 150 per 100,000.



• The world population at the beginning of 2013 was about 7.1 billion. If the world's incarcerated people were evenly distributed, the rate would be 144 people per 100,000.

For comparison with countries we see as peers:

United Kingdom	147
France	98
Germany	79
Japan	51

⁴⁵ Walmsley, Roy, "World Prison Population List (Tenth Edition)" (Kings College, London, England: International Centre for Prison Studies, 2013), p. 1. http://www.apcca.org/uploads/10th_Edition_2013.pdf