



# WHO ARE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS?

- **77.7%** male, **22.3%** female
- **69.5%** white, **20.8%** black, **5.7%** Hispanic
- **80.5%** are between the ages of 30 – 44
- **63.9%** have some college experience, **25%** have a college degree, **19%** Bachelors, **4.5%** Masters, **1.5%** Ph.D.
- Correctional Officers (CO's) have the second highest mortality rate of any occupation.
- 33.5% of all assaults in prisons and jails are committed by inmates against staff.
- A CO's 58th birthday, on average, is their last.
- A CO will be seriously assaulted at least twice in a 20 year career.
- On average a CO will live only 18 months after retirement.
- CO's have a 39% higher suicide rate than any other occupation,
- And have a higher divorce and substance abuse rates than the general population.

Sources:

"Stress Management for the Professional Correctional Officer", Donald Steele, Ph.D., Steele Publishing 2001

"Corrections Yearbook 2000, 2002", Criminal Justice Institute, Middletown, CT

"Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2003", Bureau of Justice -Statistics, 31st edition, NCJ 208756

"Suicide Risk Among Correctional Officers", Archives of Suicide Research, Stack, S.J., & Tsoudis, O. 1997

-Metropolitan Life Actuarial Statistics, 1998



### Assaults

- 33,000 inmate on staff assaults per year
- 90 assaults per day, 3.7 per hour
- 2.7 staff assaults per 100 inmates – county
- 1.4 staff assaults per 100 inmates – state
- 0.9 staff assaults per 100 inmates – federal

A Correctional Officer will be seriously assaulted at least twice in a 20 year career

Sources:

-Corrections Yearbook 2000, 2002 Criminal Justice Institute, Middletown CT  
-US Government Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 31st Edition, US Department of Justice, Washington DC

### An Unhealthy Occupation

"Of the hundreds of Correctional Officers I have treated, 60% of their anxiety and stress can be attributed to the Administration, 15% from inmates, 15% from other staff and 10% from personal issues. Also I am noticing more PTSD in officers from previous trauma and for those who have been in wars. " -Donald Steele, Ph.D.

"Take a look around you, in five years 80% of you won't be working here. This job takes its toll. It's not for everyone" -Lt. Gordon Schofield / MA DOC, May 1982

### Inmates In Custody

The number of inmates in state custody has increased 30.45% from 1995 to 2006.

The number of inmates in our nation's county jails increased 51.07% during that same ten year period.

	<u>State Inmates</u>	<u>County Inmates</u>
Suicide Rates	14/100,000	47/100,000
Homicide Rates	4/100,000	3/100,000
AIDS/HIV USA	0.5%	1.8%
AIDS New York	7.0%	6.4%
Mental Health Issues	56%	64%
Psychotic Disorder	15%	24%

\* Nearly half of all jail suicides (48%) take place in the first week of custody.

Sources:

- "Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates" Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sept. 2006 NCJ 21360  
- "Suicide and Homicide Rates in State Prisons and Local Jails" BJS Aug. 2005 NCJ 210036  
- "HIV in Prisons, 2004: BJS, Nov. 2006 NCJ 213897



### **Inmates with Mental Health Issues**

Midyear 2005

- 45% of federal inmates
- 56% of state inmates
- 64% of county inmates

There were 479,900 county inmates found to have mental health issues at midyear 2005.

- 54% were reported to show symptoms of Mania
- 30% were reported to show symptoms of Major Depression
- 20% were reported to show symptoms of a Psychotic Disorder

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates" NCJ213600 Sept., 2006

### **AIDS/HIV**

In 1999\* the national average of the inmate population with AIDS/HIV was 2.1%.

The rate of AIDS/HIV in the general population in 1999 was 0.12%

In 1999 New York county jails had identified 1,359 confirmed cases of AIDS/HIV. A rate of 4.3% of the ADP. Only Washington, DC had a higher rate (7.6)

Sources:

-Bureau of Justice Statistics, "HIV in Prisons 2004", NCJ 213897 November 2006

-Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 31st Edition, US Department of Justice, Washington DC

-\* JAIL AIDS/HIV statistics are only available once every five or six years. The next report by the DOJ is due to be released in the spring of 2008.

### **Gangs**

Percentage of inmates identified as gang members:

- 11.7% of all federal inmates
- 13.4% of all state inmates
- 15.6% of all county inmates (approx 114,000 inmates)
- 1/3 of all violent incidents in prisons and jails are estimated to be gang related.

There are over 1,600 identified STG's in our prisons and jails. (STG = Security Threat Groups, prison parlance for Gangs)

Source:

- 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment, National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations, 2005

## Terrorism

Statistics are not yet available regarding the impact that terrorism is having on the country's prisons and jails and the inmate population.

We do know that the existence of terrorists within our correctional systems necessitates an expansion of the training a Correctional Officer will need in certain screening and observation skills.

The destabilization of the inmate population by fundamentalist organization makes a Correctional Officers job that much more dangerous. Terrorist are just another in a long lists of issues today's Correctional Officers must deal with.



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