CHAPTER 15
THE FUTURE OF CORRECTIONS
AND JUVENILE JUSTICE
Trends & Challenges Facing Corrections in 21st Century

- Retribution and Sentence Severity
  - since 1980s, trend to increase sentencing severity
    - has dramatic implications for all areas of corrections
  - by the end of 2005
    - incarceration numbers passed 1.5 million in U.S.
    - 491 of every 100,000 citizens were in federal or state prisons
      - 19% increase over the rate of 411 per 100,000 in 1995
  - two most controversial changes in sentencing
    - mandatory sentencing
    - habitual offender statutes
      - has increased the number of offenders going to prison
      - has increased the length of sentences to longer periods of time
      - number of prisoners will probably continue to grow
        - regardless of whether crime rises sharply over the next decade
      - lead to overcrowding and an increasing older prison population
Trends & Challenges Facing Corrections in 21\textsuperscript{st} Century

- Retribution and Sentence Severity
  - overcrowding in correctional facilities
    - incarceration increased
    - prisons operating over capacity
      - double-bunking
      - reduced availability of programming
      - increased tensions
      - health and sanitary issues
  - aging prison population
    - almost 5\% are 55 years of age or older
    - challenges
      - increased costs of health care
      - specific mental health challenges for more than half the population
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- **Communicable Diseases in Corrections**
  - disease rates higher in facilities than in communities
    - Tuberculosis
    - Hepatitis
    - STDs
    - HIV/AIDS
      - between 1-2 percent of inmates; 3 times rate of general population
      - higher percentage of females than males

- **Drugs and Drug Policies**
  - over 1/2 of BOP & 20% of state inmates for drug convictions
    - four elements important to drug control policy (Welch)
      - supply reduction
      - treatment
      - prevention/education
      - decriminalization
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- Privatization
  - proponents
    - built faster and more efficiently operated
    - equal care and custody with less expense
    - reduction of recidivism
  - opponents
    - to profit from punishing offenders is controversial and unethical
    - delivers substandard care and is driven by profit motive

- Faith-based Initiatives
  - White House Office of Faith-Based/Community Initiatives
    - helped make faith-based initiatives that are now available
      - assist ex-prisoners with reentry
      - employment-based programs
        - mentoring and housing
        - job training
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- **Technology**
  - most potential influence to effect change in the 21st Century
    - data storage
    - DNA
    - surveillance
    - weapons and control devices
    - video

- **Specialty Courts**
  - many types introduced since 1989
    - drug and mental health
    - domestic violence
    - firearms offenses
    - teen
    - DUI
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- **Evidence-Based Corrections**
  - increased attention/interest given to research & evaluation
    - therapeutic, skills-based, and educational programs
  - more funding for university-based research centers

- **Community Reentry**
  - effective community reentry strategies developed
    - increase public safety & reduce recidivism
  - some challenges that ex-prisoners face
    - stigma of criminal conviction
    - lack of recent work history
    - poor educational achievement
  - types of collaborative programs offering ex-prisoners support
    - financial, therapeutic, and educational
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- **Juvenile Justice**
  - increased emphasis on after care
    - traditionally been neglected
    - insufficient staff and financial resources
      - economically more efficient than longer incarceration periods
  - increased community and agency collaboration
    - effort to control gangs and illegal firearms
    - increased collaboration
      - police
      - probation
      - prosecutors
      - school officials
  - school resource officers
    - city/county law officers employed by police/sheriff’s departments
    - assigned to work in one or more schools
Trends & Challenges Facing Corrections in 21st Century

- Juvenile Justice
  - the “adultization” of juvenile justice
    - process where juvenile system becomes more like adult system
      - easier transfer to adult criminal courts
      - the “Youthful Offender” category
        - ability to impose strict, adult sanctions in lieu of waiver
      - increase in severity of punishments
      - implementation of fixed sentencing schemes
        - reduces juvenile judges’ discretion
      - transfer to adult prisons at age 18
      - dismantling of confidential nature of juvenile justice proceedings
  - some evidence adultization effects may be positive
    - may provide greater access to rehabilitative services
Correctional Futurism

- Correctional administrators and planners
  - try to gauge the future and its impact upon their organization
  - engage in environmental scanning
  - look for wider trends or events that may have an impact
    - social, economic, demographic and political
      - methamphetamine use
      - aging of U.S. population
      - increased rate of women offenders
      - increased number of minorities
      - budget crises
      - possible pandemic
      - terrorism
  - need better understanding of laws/justice system practices
    - sometimes have unanticipated or unforeseen consequences