

Corrections and Making Connections: The Impact of Incarceration on Neighborhoods

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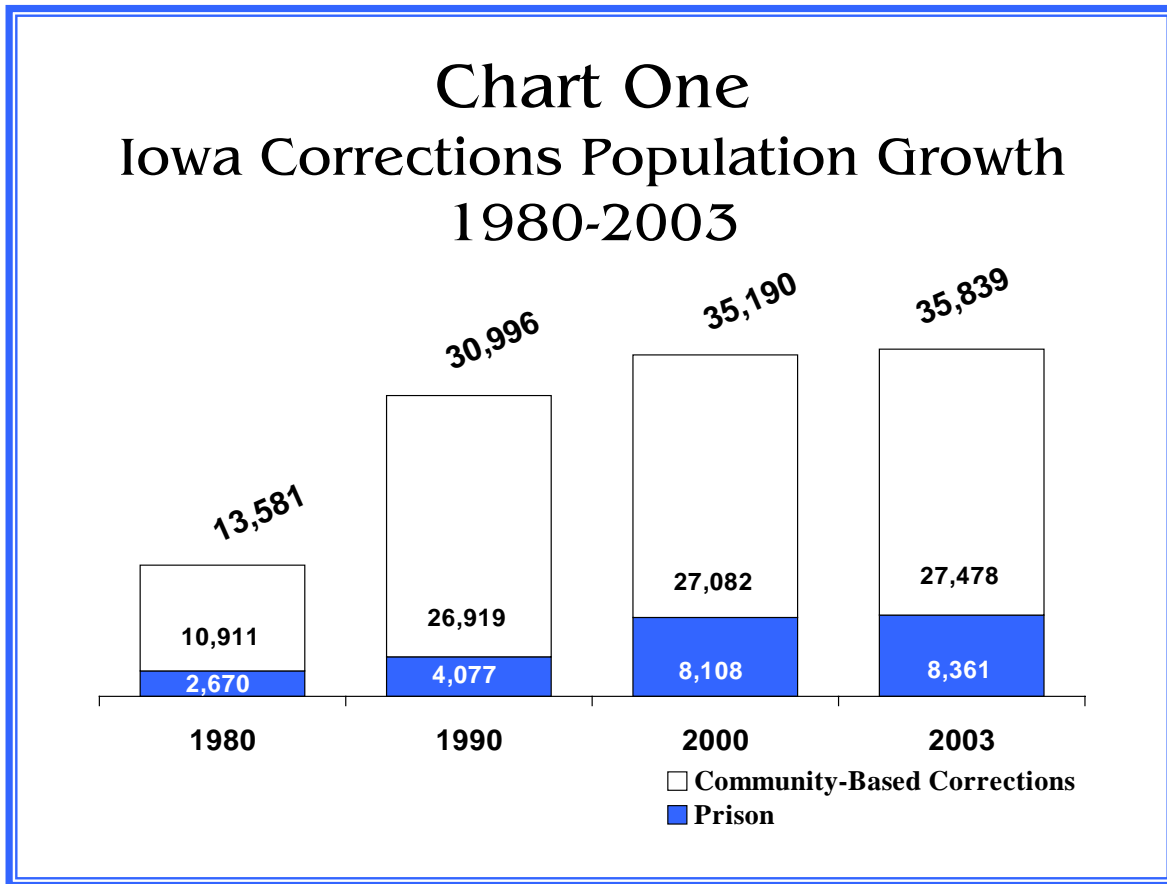
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Over the last twenty plus years, the corrections population in the country, Iowa, and Polk County has risen dramatically. In large measure due to an increase in conviction and incarcerations for drug offenses, the number of Iowans in prison or in community corrections (probation and parole) has nearly tripled.



The growth has been particularly pronounced in Polk County. While Polk County represents 12.8% of the state's population, one-quarter of the state's prisoners (24.7%) were from Polk County in 2003, up from one-fifth (20.0%) in 1990, an increase in Polk County residents in prison of 1,297 people. Polk County experienced a commensurate increase in its community corrections population. In addition, the average daily jail population for Polk County was 805 in 2003, again representing a dramatic increase over the previous decades.¹

This increase and level of incarceration and involvement with the criminal justice system did not affect all parts of Polk County equally. This report draws from prison data and community corrections data to determine the census tracts that represent the non-prison home for these criminal justice offenders.² Table One provides information on the numbers of persons in prison and on probation or parole in Making Connections neighborhoods and the highest risk census tracts in the county (of which Making Connections neighborhoods are a part), in relation to the overall adult resident population.³ This information is provided both for the 18–64 population⁴ and for the 18–34 population. [See the Appendix for further data on each Making Connections neighborhood, city-wide information, and a break-out of the prison population rate for every census tract.]

Table One				
Prison and Community Corrections Populations in Polk County: Making Connections and High Risk Census Tracts				
	MC Tracts	All High Risk Tracts	All Other Tracts	Polk County Total
<u>18-64 population</u>				
Resident Population	19,297	25,920	210,629	236,549
Prison Population	451	575	1,160	1,735
Probation and Parole Population	1,205	1,726	5,375	7,101
Total Corrections	1,656	2,301	6,535	8,836
Corrections as % of Total Population⁵	8.6%	8.9%	3.1%	3.7%
<u>18-34 Population</u>				
Resident Population	9,576	12,542	82,059	94,601
Prison Population	302	379	748	1,127
Probation and Parole Population	588	793	2,937	3,730
Total Corrections	890	1,172	3,685	4,857
Corrections as % of Total Population	9.3%	9.3%	4.5%	5.1%

As Table One shows, Making Connections neighborhoods and high risk census tracts have much higher rates of corrections involvement than for the rest of Polk County. Taken together, they constitute a very significant share of the overall working age population (18–64), and an even higher percentage of the younger working age population. The imprisonment rate in Making Connections and high risk neighborhoods

three times the rate for the rest of Polk County, and the community corrections rate is double that for the rest of Polk County.

Table One tells only part of the story, however. When examining imprisonment figures by both gender and race, the impact of imprisonment can be seen to be much more significant on the African American population in particular. Table Two shows some of this data for Making Connections neighborhoods, which results in there being many fewer available young men to serve in active parenting roles.

Table Two
Young Adult (18-34) Imprisonment by Race and Gender:
Making Connections Neighborhoods and Polk County

	Making Connections		Polk County	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total				
Resident Population	4,752	4,824	46,545	48,056
In Prison	278	24	1,037	90
Prison as % Resident Population	5.8%	0.5%	2.2%	0.2%
White				
Resident Population	2,275	2,636	38,325	40,797
In Prison	112	14	630	62
Prison as % Resident Population	4.9%	0.5%	1.6%	0.2%
African American				
Resident Population	796	935	2,281	2,309
In Prison	129	9	318	24
Prison as % Resident Population	16.2%	1.0%	13.9%	1.0%
Hispanic				
Resident Population	1,053	728	3,462	2,440
In Prison	24	0	64	1
Prison as % Resident Population	2.3%	0.0%	1.8%	0.1%

Clearly, the imprisonment proportion to the resident population is much higher for men than women. The proportion is also much higher for both men and women in the Making Connections neighborhoods than in Polk County as a whole. This holds for the white population generally. The proportions for the African American population of young men, however, are three times those for whites in the Making Connections neighborhoods, and nearly nine times those for whites in Polk County as a whole. Overall, for every 100 young African American men in the Polk County community, there are 13.9 young African American men in prison. While the proportions of African American women in prison are higher than for whites, they are nowhere near this magnitude. The imprisonment of young African American men actually accounts for the difference in the resident population between men and women in the Making

Connections neighborhoods. In the Making Connections neighborhoods, there currently are only 85 young men for every 100 women.

Further analysis will be conducted to determine the number of remaining men and women in these neighborhoods, by race, who are on probation or parole. William Julius Wilson's classic book, *The Truly Disadvantaged*, pointed to the absence of "marriageable males" in poor neighborhoods as one reason for high rates of poverty and of single parenting in those neighborhoods. It is clear from this analysis that, unless there is significant work undertaken to enable people returning from prison to re-enter society and assume or reassume societal and family responsibilities, the prospects for economic and social development of these neighborhoods will be seriously jeopardized. The same holds for the African American population and closing the opportunity gap, wherever it resides in Polk County. This confirms some of the conclusions from the *Report of the Governors Task Force on the Overrepresentation of African Americans in Prison*, released in December, 2001. The recommendations from that report deserve considered review both at the state level and within Polk County.

Finally, Table Two shows the Hispanic population has overall proportions of imprisonment comparable to the white population. There are many more Hispanic young men than women, however – a ratio of 144 men to 100 women in Making Connections neighborhoods and 142 men to 100 women throughout Polk County. Many Hispanic young men come from other countries to support families back home, and this has implications to what services and supports are needed for this population.

¹ Some of those in the average daily count are in jail for very short periods of time, but others are awaiting sentencing or serving jail sentences that can be over a year in length. The average number of daily admissions to the Polk County jail system is 41, and the average length of stay is 21.4 days. Later reports will seek to incorporate the jail population into the overall analysis.

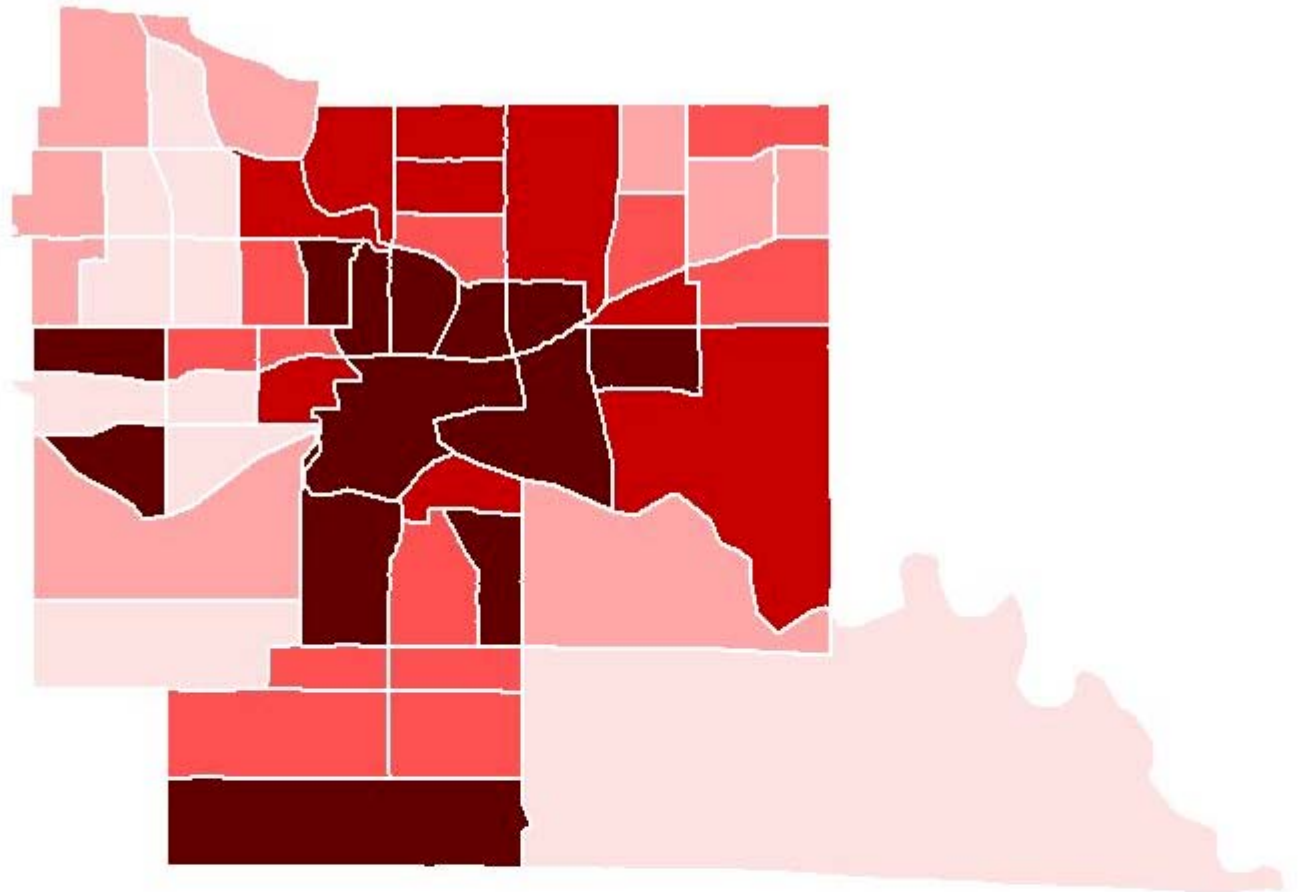
² In the case of the prison population, the address on prisoners' records is generally the home address at the time of arrest, but it may also be a family address that the prisoner considers to be home. In the case of the probation and parole population, the address is the individual's actual current residence. For some persons released on parole, this often is not the address at the time of arrest and may be determined by the availability of housing as much as by the individual's identification or consideration of a particular neighborhood as home.

³ The census reports on the non-institutionalized adult population, so it does not include individuals who are in prison, but it does include those on probation and parole. In the tables, "resident population" means the census population and is exclusive of any prison population.

⁴ Almost all prisoners and persons on probation and parole are between the ages of 18 and 64. That is the reason for comparing the criminal justice population with the overall population 18 to 64.

⁵ Percentages are shown here, but they are really proportionate figures. It should be remembered that the resident population does not include the prison population.

Percentage of Parole, Probation, and Prison Population (18–64 years)



DSM Census Tracts

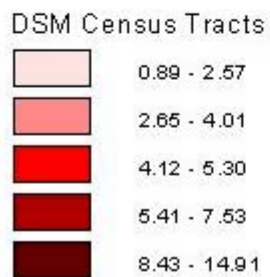


Table 3
City of Des Moines, Prison, Parole & Probation Populations (18-64) By Geographic Area

Geographic Area	Census** Population (18-64)	Prison Population (18-64)	Parole & Probation Population (18-64)	Prison + Parole & Probation Population (18-64)	Percentage Prison Population (18-64)	Percentage Parole & Probation Population (18-64)	Percentage Prison + Parole & Probation Population (18-64)
East Des Moines MC	8570	223	573	796	2.60	6.69	9.29
West Des Moines MC	10727	228	632	860	2.13	5.89	8.02
MC Areas	19297	451	1205	1656	2.34	6.24	8.58
All High Risk Neighborhoods	25920	575	1726	2301	2.22	6.66	8.88
Rest of Des Moines	99510	801	3342	4143	0.80	3.36	4.16
City of Des Moines	125430	1376	2033	2392	1.10	1.83	2.15
Not High Risk Census Tracts Polk County	236549	1735	7101	8836	0.73	3.00	3.74

Sources: Dept of Corrections January 2004.

** Census 2000

Table 4
Percentage Prison, Parole, and Probation Populations (18-64) by Census Tract

Des Moines Census Tract ID	County Population 18-64**	Prison Population 18-64	Parole & Probation Population 18-64	Prison & Parole Population (18-64)	% Prison Population by Census Tract	% Parole & Probation Population by Census Tract	% Parole + Prison Population by Census Tract
1.01	1862	23	65	88	1.24	3.49	4.73
1.02	2530	18	65	83	0.71	2.57	3.28
1.03	1724	12	52	64	0.70	3.02	3.71
2.01	1637	11	48	59	0.67	2.93	3.60
2.02	2126	29	80	109	1.36	3.76	5.13
3	2126	32	98	130	1.51	4.61	6.11
4	2716	39	108	147	1.44	3.98	5.41
5	2997	42	131	173	1.40	4.37	5.77
6	2534	45	123	168	1.78	4.85	6.63
7.01	2258	28	119	147	1.24	5.27	6.51
7.02	1798	15	57	72	0.83	3.17	4.00
7.03	2002	9	38	47	0.45	1.90	2.35
7.04	1841	9	37	46	0.49	2.01	2.50
8.01	3903	17	90	107	0.44	2.31	2.74
8.02	2345	5	38	43	0.21	1.62	1.83
8.03	2946	14	86	100	0.48	2.92	3.39
9.01	2261	7	53	60	0.31	2.34	2.65
9.02	2127	5	23	28	0.24	1.08	1.32
10	3620	11	65	76	0.30	1.80	2.10
11	3769	42	136	178	1.11	3.61	4.72
12	1754	62	157	219	3.53	8.95	12.49
15	1674	23	61	84	1.37	3.64	5.02
17	1429	51	118	169	3.57	8.26	11.83
18	1309	22	73	95	1.68	5.58	7.26
19	2661	43	98	141	1.62	3.68	5.30
21	2943	71	177	248	2.41	6.01	8.43
26	1726	17	55	72	0.98	3.19	4.17
27	2609	39	103	142	1.49	3.95	5.44
28	2700	25	92	117	0.93	3.41	4.33
29	2773	5	33	38	0.18	1.19	1.37
30.01	1322	8	26	34	0.61	1.97	2.57
30.02	2164	4	31	35	0.18	1.43	1.62

Table 4
Percentage Prison, Parole, and Probation Populations (18-64) by Census Tract

Des Moines Census Tract ID	County Population 18-64**	Prison Population 18-64	Parole & Probation Population 18-64	Prison & Parole Population (18-64)	% Prison Population by Census Tract	% Parole & Probation Population by Census Tract	% Parole + Prison Population by Census Tract
31	1129	2	8	10	0.18	0.71	0.89
32	1472	6	22	28	0.41	1.49	1.90
39	5037	36	164	200	0.71	3.26	3.97
40.01	2117	5	63	68	0.24	2.98	3.21
40.02	2217	9	38	47	0.41	1.71	2.12
41	1969	15	64	79	0.76	3.25	4.01
42	1251	25	66	91	2.00	5.28	7.27
43	3542	32	122	154	0.90	3.44	4.35
44	2672	26	84	110	0.97	3.14	4.12
45.01	2551	21	92	113	0.82	3.61	4.43
45.02	1616	15	52	67	0.93	3.22	4.15
46.01	2171	19	83	102	0.88	3.82	4.70
46.02	4051	38	158	196	0.94	3.90	4.84
47	4449	40	480	520	0.90	10.79	11.69
48	2031	43	110	153	2.12	5.42	7.53
49	1159	40	98	138	3.45	8.46	11.91
50	2319	67	186	253	2.89	8.02	10.91
51	2763	60	352	412	2.17	12.74	14.91
52	2167	58	168	226	2.68	7.75	10.43
53	1620	23	67	90	1.42	4.14	5.56
108.02	2941	13	55	68	0.44	1.87	2.31

Sources: Dept of Corrections January 2004.

** Census 2000

Table 5
Age 18-34 Population and Prison Population by Race

	Total		White Non-Hispanic		African American		Hispanic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Making Connctions East Prison Population	1,847 120	1,833 13	1,004 69	1,087 6	182 39	260 3	436 9	309 0
Making Connections West Prison Population	2,905 158	2,991 11	1,271 43	1,549 5	614 90	675 6	617 15	419 0
Making Connections Total Prison Population	4,752 278	4,824 24	2,275 112	2,636 14	796 129	935 9	1,053 24	728 0
All High Risk Census Tracts Prison Population	6,375 348	6,167 31	3,354 149	3,498 16	1,024 155	1,177 14	1,221 30	832 0
Non-High Rsick Policy County Prison Population	40,170 689	41,889 59	34,971 481	37,299 46	1,257 163	1,132 10	2,241 34	1,608 1
Polk County Prison Population	46,545 1,037	48,056 90	38,325 630	40,797 62	2,281 318	2,309 24	3,462 64	2,440 1
Des Moines	22,544	26,992	19,966	21,214	1,886	2,036	2,840	1,979



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