

States facing fast-growing prison population

WASHINGTON (AP) - America's prison population grew again in 2002 despite a declining crime rate, costing the federal government and states an estimated \$40 billion a year at a time of rampant budget shortfalls.

The inmate population in 2002 of more than 2.1 million represented a 2.6 percent increase over 2001, according to a report released Sunday by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Preliminary FBI statistics showed a 0.2 percent drop in overall crime during the same span.

Experts say mandatory sentences, especially for non-violent drug offenders, are a major reason inmate populations have risen for 30 years. About one of every 143 U.S. residents was in the federal, state or local custody at year's end.

"The nation needs to break the chains of our addiction to

prison, and find less costly and more effective policies like treatment," said Will Harrell, executive director of the Texas American Civil Liberties Union. "We need to break the cycle."

Others say tough sentencing laws, such as the "three strikes" laws that can put repeat offenders behind bars for life, are a chief reason for the drop in crime.

The Justice Department, for example, this year ordered Bureau of Prisons officials to stop sending so many white-collar and nonviolent criminals to halfway houses.

"The prospect of prison, more than any other sanction, is feared by white-collar criminals and has a powerful deterrent effect," Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson said in a memo announcing the change.

Yet the cost of housing, feeding and caring for a prison inmate is roughly \$20,000 per

year, or about \$40 billion nationwide using 2002 figures, according to The Sentencing Project, a nonprofit organization that promotes alternatives to prison. Construction costs are about \$100,000 per cell.

Even as these costs keep climbing, the federal government is tackling a giant budget deficit and 31 states this year are cutting spending - most often across all programs - to deal with shortfalls, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"The prison population and budget figures, taken together, should be setting off alarm bells in state capitols," said Jason Zeidenberg, director of policy and research for the Justice Policy Institute, a nonprofit organization focused on ending reliance on incarceration.

Drug offenders now make up more than half of all fed-

eral prisoners.

The federal penal system, which has tough sentencing policies for drug offenses, is now the nation's largest at more than 151,600 - an increase of 4.2 percent compared with 2001.

Over the same period, state prison and jail populations grew just 2.4 percent.

Prison alternative advocates credit moves in some states to divert drug offenders to treatment programs and other innovations for that lower growth rate.

Texas, for example, recently passed a drug treatment alternative law and saw its prison population remain virtually unchanged from 2001 to 2002.

Ohio, which revised its sentencing and parole guidelines in the late 1990s, had its prison and jail population rise just 0.8 percent last year compared with 1.9 percent for the Midwest as a whole.

"The way to reduce prison spending is to reduce the number of people in prison and the number of prisons, like some states across the country have done," said Rose Braz, director of Critical Resistance, a California-based group opposed to prison expansion.

At the same time, the Justice Department report found that 17 states reported increases of at least 5 percent year-to-year in their prison populations, with Maine's increasing by 11.5 percent and Rhode Island's rising 8.6 percent.

The federal prisons and almost all state corrections systems are over their capacities, with 71,000 offenders serving their state or federal sentences in local jails.

Other key points in the report:

• As of last Dec. 31, there were 97,491 women in state or federal prisons, or about

6.8 percent of all inmates and one in every 1,656 women. There were over 1.3 million male inmates, or about one in 110 men.

• About 10 percent of all black men between 25 and 29 were incarcerated last year, compared with 1.2 percent of white men and 2.4 percent of Hispanic men. Overall, the 586,700 black men in prison outnumbered both the 436,800 white males and 235,000 Hispanic males. Black males account for about 45 percent of all inmates serving a sentence longer than a year.

• Privately operated prisons held 93,771 inmates, about 5.8 percent of state prisoners and 12.4 percent of those in federal jurisdictions.

• At year's end 2002, the federal government held 8,748 people at immigration detention facilities, 2,377 at military jails and 16,206 in U.S. territorial prisons.

Jury

(Continued from Page 1)

"Business is usual," said Inglewood police Sgt. Calvin Smith.

The judge said a hearing on whether to have a retrial would be held Sept. 22, and that if one was to be held it would begin Sept. 29.

Jackson and his father, Coby Chavis, have state and federal civil rights lawsuits pending against the officers, the city and Los Angeles County.

"We do think that this case should definitely be retried and we look forward to that on Sept. 29," said Jackson's attorney, Camryn Stewart. "We are hopeful that this next time around, justice will be served and we in the meantime will proceed vigorously with the civil lawsuit."

Jackson was not in the courtroom Tuesday. Morse and Darvish left the courtroom without comment.

Barnett said he would ask the judge to dismiss the charge against Morse.

"The basis is that he's been tried once already and that it's unlikely that any jury will convict him. There will be no new evidence and it would be oppressive to put him through a second trial, the result of which would almost certainly be the same," Barnett said.

Darvish's attorney, Ron Brower, said his client is happy with the verdict and is anxious to get to work. Darvish had been doing administrative duty with the police department, but he would return to police duty as early as Wednesday, Brower said.

Morse had been fired from



Donovan Jackson, the 16-year-old motorist whose videotaped arrest by police resulted in charges being brought against two officers, and his attorney Cameron Stewart, are guarded by sheriff's deputies after appearing before reporters following the verdicts in the trial of the two officers outside a Los Angeles court building Tuesday.

the force in Inglewood, about 10 miles south of downtown Los Angeles.

Race was not mentioned at the trial. In closing arguments, prosecutor Michael Pettersen said Morse was "an angry, out-of-control officer" who administered street justice against Jackson, then 16, because he had struggled with officers.

Barnett portrayed Morse as an officer who was doing his job and had only seconds to decide how much force to use against a potentially dangerous suspect.

The incident began when Jackson came out of the convenience store after buying gas and a bag of chips to find Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies questioning his father about expired license plate tags.

Both sides acknowledged that Jackson made suspicious motions when confronted by officers — he put his hands in his pockets — and resisted arrest. He flailed with officers who took him to the ground after he got out of a police car.

The videotape, filmed by a bystander, began after that point.

It showed Morse lifting an apparently limp Jackson by his collar and belt and slamming his head down on the trunk of a police car. Morse then punched the teen in the head after Jackson allegedly grabbed his testicles.

The video also showed a bloody scratch on Morse's head.

Jackson's parents said he has a learning disability and has difficulty in understand-

ing and following instructions. Prosecutors suggested that may have been why he failed to follow police orders.

They also argued that Morse did not need to slam Jackson onto the police car

because he wasn't resisting. They contended the youth had passed out or was semiconscious from being choked by a silver necklace he wore.

Jackson was not seriously injured. On the witness stand,

the teenager gave inconsistent answers about whether he was conscious when Morse slammed him and said he didn't remember much of the incident. He denied striking or injuring any officers.

Dr. Joseph Bailey moves to Rainbow Medical Centers North location!

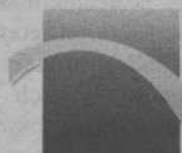
Rainbow Medical Centers is pleased to announce that Joseph Bailey, M.D. is accepting new patients at Rainbow Medical Centers North - 4920 Lone Mountain Road (at Decatur).

- Non-Life Threatening Emergencies
- Industrial & Personal Injury
- X-Ray ■ Lab ■ EKG
- Pulmonary Testing On Premises



www.rainbowmedical.com

Joseph Bailey, M.D.
Board Certified
Family Practice



New Patients
Welcome

RAINBOW
Medical Centers

**PRIMARY &
URGENT CARE**



Most Insurances
Accepted

Conveniently Located At: 4920 Lone Mountain Rd. (at Decatur)
For An Appointment Call (702) 655-0550