



Appraising Solitary Confinement

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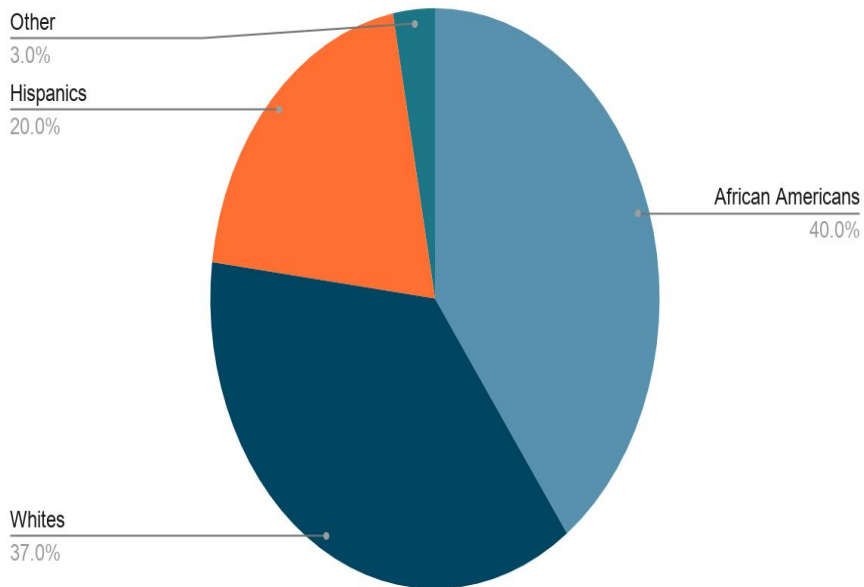


Solitary Confinement Numbers

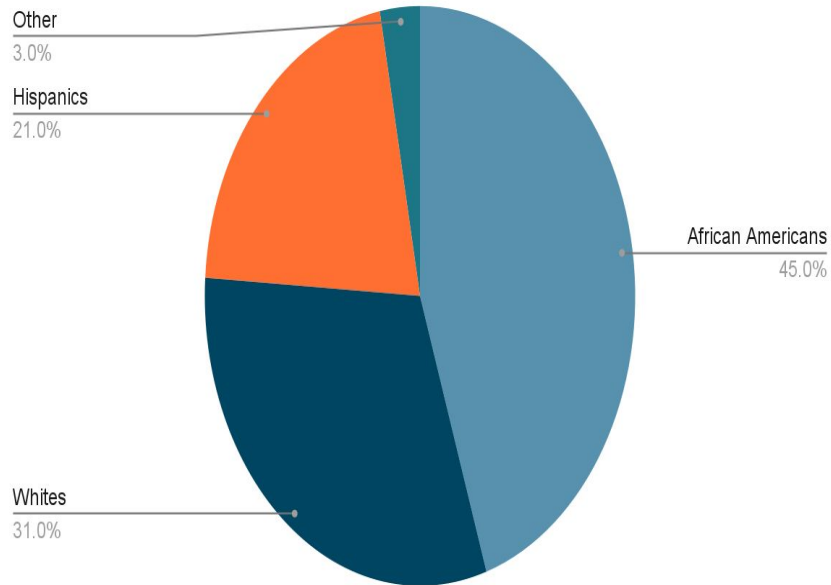
It is difficult to determine the exact number of individuals confined in solitary confinement. Under different states, solitary confinement is identified under different names. Such as New Jersey that does not use the term solitary confinement but instead uses the term “restrictive housing.” Recognizing this, it would be estimated that there are 80,000 individuals in solitary confinement nationally.

Comparison

Prison Population



Solitary Confinement



8th Amendment

prohibits the federal government from imposing excessive bail, excessive fines, or cruel and unusual punishments on individuals



THE LOOPHOLE

- initially prisoners had no rights because they were considered slaves
- minimal life necessities are met
- correctional officer must act in deliberate indifference or recklessness

Although 8th Amendment is now applied to prisoners, it is at a level of bare minimum.



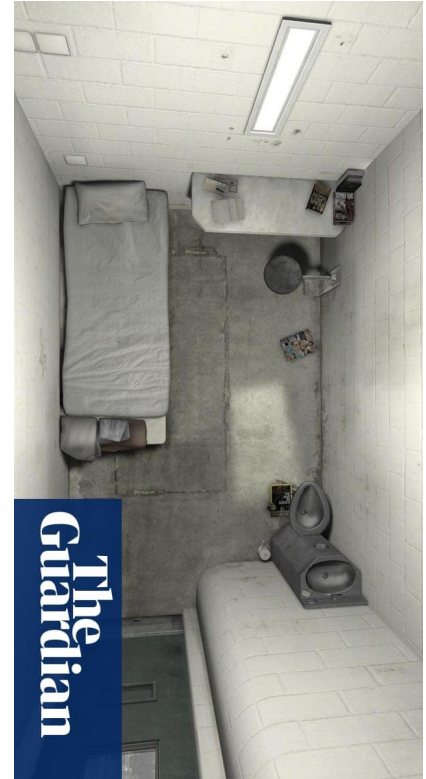
Correctional Officer Discretion

- ❑ on the basis of disruptive, dangerous, or threatening behavior
 - ❑ serious infractions (fighting) or minor infractions (talking back to officer)
 - ❑ have contraband
- ❑ to teach other prisoners a lesson
- ❑ on the basis of something the prisoner did or think they will do

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What Solitary Confinement Entails

When an individual is placed in solitary confinement, they are placed in a cell by themselves. The cell is usually a 7ft by 10ft room that does not have a window. In the off chance that there is a window, it is miniscule and barely lets in any sunlight. The doors are solid to prevent communication with other inmates and correctional officers. Above all, the main characteristic of solitary confinement is the hours that the individual(s) are locked up. The average being 23 hours a day.



The
Guardian

While in Confinement

- ❑ could earn up to 4 visitations and 4 calls per month if on good behavior
- ❑ no physical contact with anyone
 - ❑ forcibly restrained when going somewhere
 - ❑ if going to a recreational spot with other inmates could get chained together
- ❑ food could be used as a punishment, such as nutraloaf





Health Effects

Physical

1. physical ailments from lack of moving
2. a shrunken hippocampus
3. chronic headaches
4. skin irritations
5. weight fluctuations
6. fatigue/lethargy
7. sleep problems
8. hypersensitivity to light

Psychological

1. anxiety & stress
2. paranoia
3. depression
4. hostility/aggression
5. worsened preexisting health conditions
6. social withdrawal
7. suicidal thoughts
8. problems with attention

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Overall Evaluation

- ▣ solitary confinement is more expensive than being in general population
 - ▣ \$75,000 is the estimated average per prison that spends time in solitary confinement
 - ▣ x3 the average of being in general population
- ▣ being in solitary confinement does not equate to prisoner on prisoner violence decreasing or prisoner on correctional officer decreasing

Thanks!
Any questions?

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