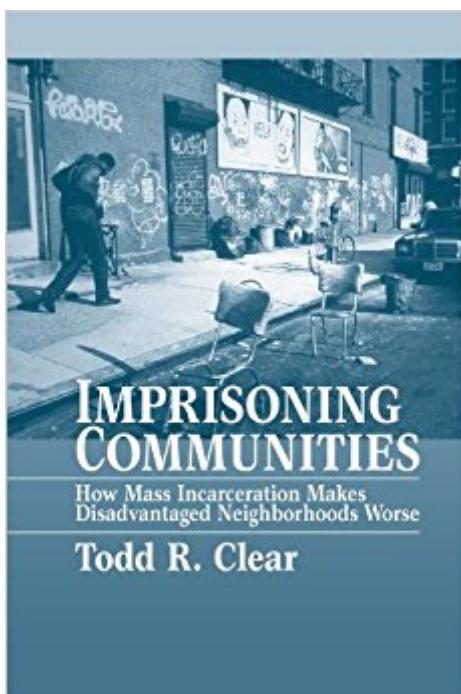


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# Imprisoning Communities: How Mass Incarceration Makes Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Worse (Studies In Crime And Public Policy)



## Synopsis

At no time in history, and certainly in no other democratic society, have prisons been filled so quickly and to such capacity than in the United States. And nowhere has this growth been more concentrated than in the disadvantaged--and primarily minority--neighborhoods of America's largest urban cities. In the most impoverished places, as much as 20% of the adult men are locked up on any given day, and there is hardly a family without a father, son, brother, or uncle who has not been behind bars. While the effects of going to and returning home from prison are well-documented, little attention has been paid to the impact of removal on neighborhoods where large numbers of individuals have been imprisoned. In the first detailed, empirical exploration of the effects of mass incarceration on poor places, *Imprisoning Communities* demonstrates that in high doses incarceration contributes to the very social problems it is intended to solve: it breaks up family and social networks; deprives siblings, spouses, and parents of emotional and financial support; and threatens the economic and political infrastructure of already struggling neighborhoods. Especially at risk are children who, research shows, are more likely to commit a crime if a father or brother has been to prison. Clear makes the counterintuitive point that when incarceration concentrates at high levels, crime rates will go up. Removal, in other words, has exactly the opposite of its intended effect: it destabilizes the community, thus further reducing public safety. Demonstrating that the current incarceration policy in urban America does more harm than good, from increasing crime to widening racial disparities and diminished life chances for youths, Todd Clear argues that we cannot overcome the problem of mass incarceration concentrated in poor places without incorporating an idea of community justice into our failing correctional and criminal justice systems.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This ambitious book is more than an indictment of the status quo. Clear also offers a compelling new vision for justice, one that would rebuild the same communities that have suffered such enormous harm. Anyone interested in crime policy should read this book."--Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice"Timely and compelling."--Harvard Law Review"Clear's analysis shows how mass incarceration disrupts the moving parts of neighborhood life and corrodes neighborhood capacity for self-regulation... This is required reading for those searching for the foundations of a principled punishment policy."--Jeffrey Fagan, Professor of Law and Public Health, Columbia University

Todd R. Clear is a Distinguished Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, and founding editor of the journal Criminology & Public Policy. He is the author of eleven books and numerous articles and book chapters on criminal justice issues ranging from corrections and sentencing to community justice.

Detailed reporting on the negative impact of concentrated incarceration -- on individuals, families, neighborhoods and the U.S. economy. Confirms the solid link that poverty and high dropout rates have with crime, incarceration, teen-pregnancy and unemployment. Helps illuminate the cost/benefits of dealing simultaneously with education, health & wellness, job readiness and decent housing in neighborhoods caught up in inter-generational poverty.

Amazing read. Purchased the book for a grad course but will continue to reference this book throughout my study.

Thought provoking and sensible.

Todd Clear brings out essential insight into the harm of mass incarceration to the communities most affected by use of prisons as our primary mode of dealing with crime and anti-social behavior. His book is concise, well-written and well-supported.

"Lock 'em up and throw away the key." That sums up our attitude towards crime and criminals in general. We believe that imprisonment will reduce crime in our society. Today the American society has more than two million people in prisons across the nation. Prisoner population is on the rise and we are building more and more prisons. On the other hand, however crime also is on the increase; prisons do not seem to prevent it. Todd R. Clear, distinguished professor of John Jay College of Criminal Justice and editor of the journal 'Criminology and Public Safety' demonstrates in this book that the current policy of incarceration is not only ineffective in reducing crime, but it positively contributes to its increase in our neighborhoods. Incarceration aggravates the very problems it is intended to solve. Our criminal justice system is backfiring. Our politicians and policy makers must take note of this eye-opening book. Well researched and beautifully written, this book provides a wealth of information and food for reflection. At the same time it is an easy read.

This book is a must read for any criminologist, sociologist and anyone college students. Although, the book is written so that it intrigues anyone. It is filled with the hard truth about our Criminal Justice prison policies and sheds light on the cycle of damage caused by these policies. It is beautifully written and researched.

The first time I took a Criminology class was in Graduate School. My professor made us read this book as part of the class. This book summarizes everything we learned in the class. This book presents the real world application of flawed methodology in our prison system. This is one of the most depressing yet 'real' books I've ever read.

Fantastic book! Very fact based and realistic. I have and will continue to recommend this book to others and I will be purchasing copies for others this Christmas!

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