National Criminal Justice Commission Act:  
*The Scope of the Problem*

**Drug Incarceration has Increased Sharply in Past 3 Decades**

- Incarcerated drug offenders have soared **1200%** since **1980**, up from **41,000** to **500,000** in 2007.*

- A significant percentage of persons incarcerated for drug offenses have no history of violence or high-level drug activity.*

* In federal and state prisons and local jails.

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*Office of Senator Jim Webb, March 2009*
African Americans are far more likely to be incarcerated for drug offenses than other groups

- African Americans = 12% of the U.S. population
- 14% of monthly drug users
- 37% of those arrested on drug charges
- 59% of those convicted on drug charges
- 74% of drug offenders sentenced to prison

Office of Senator Jim Webb, March 2009