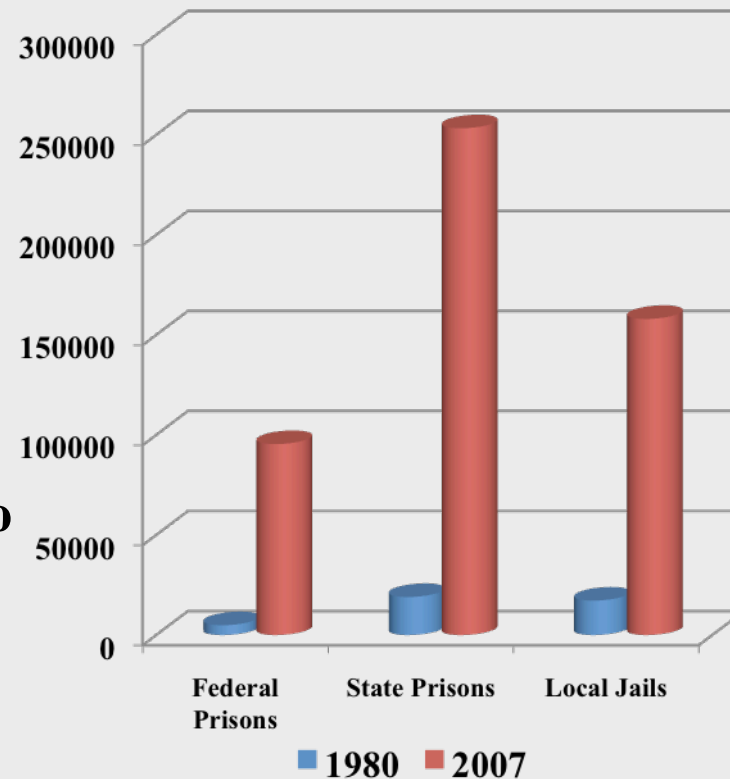


National Criminal Justice Commission Act: *The Scope of the Problem*

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.*



National Criminal Justice Commission Act: *A Special Problem: Racial Disparity in Drug Policy*

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

