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Criminal Injustice Project

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the criminal Justice System? Do you think of justice being served? Well I don't, I actually like to refer to the Justice system as the Injustice system. Why you may ask. There are many reasons why, however today I will be addressing the overcrowding that occurs in many prisons around the world. Prison overcrowding is one of the key contributing factors to poor prison conditions around the world. Overcrowding prevents prisons from fulfilling their proper functions. As stated from penalreform.org "Prisons in [over 118 countries exceeded their maximum occupancy rate](#), with 11 national prison systems at more than double their capacity". What this means is due to such high rates of overcrowding in these prisons it hinders the ability for prisons to meet basic human needs. For example, healthcare, food, and accommodations. Not only does overcrowding affect basic human needs, it also heightens mental health problems and increases the rates of suicide/self harm. As I stated in question 2 of the Case Study Learning Guide some of the root causes of injustice and inhumanity in the criminal justice system are policing in marginalized communities, longer sentencing for minor crimes, and endless restrictions after being released. All of these contribute to the overcrowding issue occurring. We can better our prisons going forward by determining who is in prison and how their needs can be met. For example, If someone who is mentally ill is sitting in prison maybe put him in a hospital where they can help him. Or for crimes related to drugs may be lessening the sentence. Stop arresting citizens for petty crimes and keeping them in prison. Not only is this unjust but it's contributing to the overcrowding issue in the jail systems which in turn is resulting in many other issues.