

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/diversion-and-decarceration/>

This video video discusses the issue of mass incarceration in the United States, tracing its significant rise since the 1970s, with incarceration rates peaking in 2008 and now showing some decline. The consequences of mass incarceration disproportionately affect vulnerable and marginalized populations across racial and socio-economic lines.

In response to the harms of mass incarceration, diversion initiatives have emerged, aiming to reroute individuals away from the criminal justice system and towards supportive services. These initiatives have evolved from therapeutic courts, which address underlying issues like addiction, to pre-booking diversion programs that prevent individuals from being booked into jail altogether. More recent deflection programs focus on avoiding police contact by allowing community referrals, which help vulnerable individuals receive necessary support without police involvement.

This video video highlights both the advantages and challenges of these programs. While pre-booking and deflection programs can reduce costs and avoid many issues associated with incarceration, they also risk giving considerable discretion to law enforcement, which can lead to disparities in treatment based on race or other factors.

The effectiveness of therapeutic courts in reducing recidivism has been debated, with research suggesting limited impact on long-term outcomes. Additionally, ethical concerns arise from their punitive elements, such as the threat of incarceration as motivation for participating in treatment.

The author encourages ongoing research to assess various models for diversion and treatment, emphasizing the need for balanced approaches to minimize harm and ensure equitable access to supportive resources. Overall, the text stresses the importance of improving policies within the criminal legal system to better serve individuals while avoiding harmful consequences.