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Overcrowding in Prisons

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ABSTRACT

Poor conditions in prisons are an extreme problem. Overcrowding causes many of these poor conditions. In the United States in 1980 there were 24,640 incarcerated inmates in federal prisons. It has rose tremendously to 155,562 incarcerated inmates in 2020. In 2018, from the Bureau of Justice statistics, the design capacity in a prison was for 12,412 inmates. The operational Capacity, however, was much higher at 22,231 inmates. Prisons are built for a certain number of inmates but when it exceeds that it is considered crowded. With this being a problem that you see in the United States, it is much more common around the world. Almost 70 percent of prisons are overcrowded around the world. Being overcrowded, means closer living conditions. A study of the Texas state prison system shows that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic the inmates there have four times more of a chance contracting the virus than the general public due to the close living conditions.