

Entire world - Prison Population Rates per 100,000 of the national population, the US is #1

By Nick Wing: 08/13/2013

Website: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/13/incarceration-rate-per-capita_n_3745291.html?utm_hp_ref=mostpopular



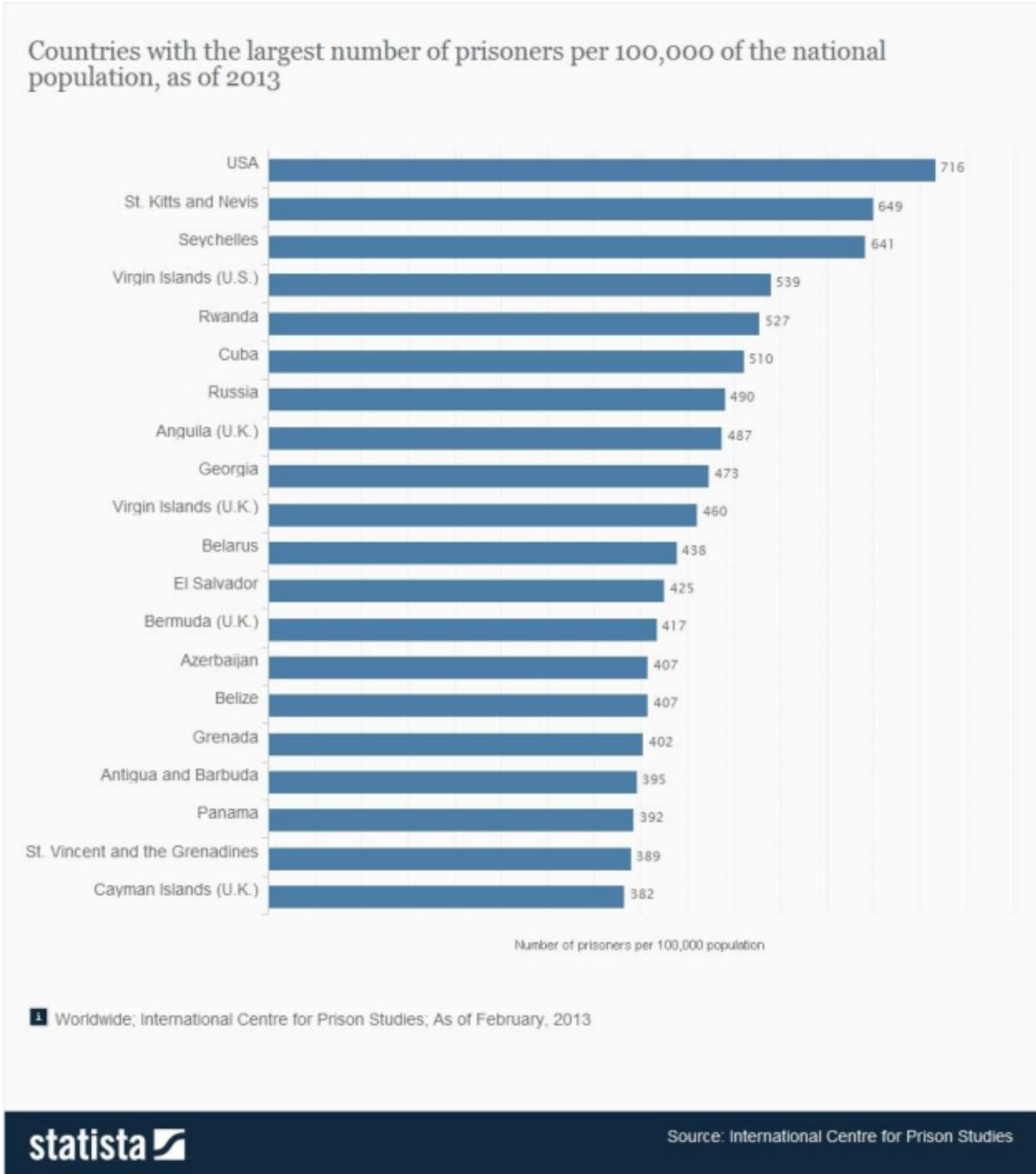
Website: http://www.prisonstudies.org/info/worldbrief/wpb_stats.php?area=all&category=wb_poprate

A lot has been reported about our nation's prison system and its bloated population, but this is what it looks like when you take all of the countries that jail more people than we do and put them into one GIF. No country incarcerates a higher percentage of its population than the United States. At 716 per 100,000 people, according to the International Centre for Prison Studies, the U.S. tops every other nation in the world.

On Monday, Attorney General Eric Holder announced sweeping plans designed to address the issue through drug-sentencing reform. Holder's blueprint included plans to divert low-level drug offenders to treatment and community service programs and implement an expanded prison program to allow for the release of some elderly, non-violent offenders.

"We need to ensure that incarceration is used to punish, deter and rehabilitate - not merely to convict, warehouse and forget," Holder said in remarks to the American Bar Association in San Francisco. "Although incarceration has a role to play in our justice

system, widespread incarceration at the federal, state and local levels is both ineffective and unsustainable. ... It imposes a significant economic burden -- totaling \$80 billion in 2010 alone -- and it comes with human and moral costs that are impossible to calculate."



Among OECD countries, the competition isn't even close -- Israel comes in second, at 223 per 100,000.

According to advance 2012 counts by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the U.S. prison population was 1,571,013 at yearend. That's actually a decline for the third consecutive year. Including local and city jail figures, however, that number easily tops two million, around 25 percent of the entire world's prisoners.
