LOCKED UP INAMERICA



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Solitary Nation - Prison State

I x 53, I x 84 HD

LOCKED UP IN AMERICA

I x 53, I x 84

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jtkoch@pbs.org pbsinternational.org For decades, the United States has been fixated on incarceration, building prisons and locking up more and more people. But at what cost? And has it really made a difference? In Locked Up in America, a series of probing films, FRONTLINE goes to the epicenter of the raging debate about incarceration in America, focusing on the controversial practice of solitary confinement and on new efforts to reduce the prison population. With rare, unfettered access, award-winning director and producer Dan Edge captures unforgettable firsthand accounts from prisoners, prison staff, and people whose lives are forever altered by this troubled system.

Solitary Nation

On any given day, about 80,000 Americans are held in solitary. Critics say the practice is inhumane and counterproductive, and now some states are trying to curtail its use. With extraordinary access to the segregation unit at the maximum security Maine State Prison, FRONTLINE examines America's use of solitary confinement—a practice U.S. prisons and jails resort to more than most other countries. Solitary Nation is an extraordinarily rare and intimate view of life in solitary, through the stories of inmates living in isolation, the prison officers who keep them locked in, and a new warden who is re-thinking the practice and trying to reduce the number of inmates in solitary. **1x53**

Prison State

The second film in the series, *Prison State*, takes a close look at the cycle of mass incarceration in America and a statewide effort to reverse the trend. There are roughly 2.3 million people behind bars in the United States, with a disproportionate number coming from a few city neighborhoods. In some places, the concentration is so dense that states are spending millions of dollars a year to lock up residents of single blocks. *Prison State* focuses on one troubled housing project in Louisville, Kentucky, and follows the lives of four residents as they move in and out of custody, while Kentucky tries to break that cycle and shrink its prison state. **I x84**



CREDITS

Director: Dan Edge
Deputy Executive Producer of FRONTLINE: Raney Aronson-Rath
Executive Producer of FRONTLINE: David Fanning

Photo: Courtesy of FRONTLINE

