The U.S. corrections system has undergone an unprecedented expansion during the last few decades, with a more than 400% jump in the prison population, and a corresponding boom in prison construction. At the end of 2008, 2.3 million adults were in state, local, or federal custody, with another 5.1 million on probation or parole. Of that total, 9% were in federal custody. Globally, the United States has 5% of the world’s population but 25% of its prisoners. Prison growth has been fueled by tough drug enforcement, stringent sentencing laws, and high rates of recidivism (the re-arrest, re-conviction, or re-incarceration of an ex-offender).