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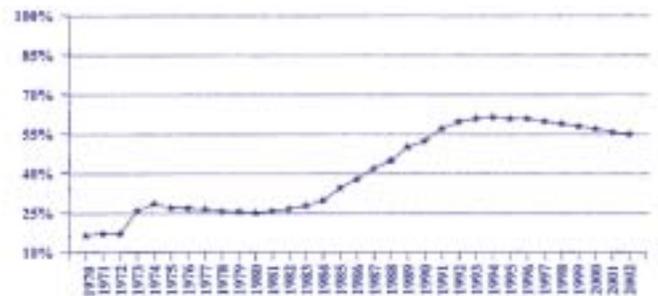
T A R G E T E D C A P A C I T Y E X P A N S I O N

DATA BYTES

Fifty-Five Percent of Sentenced Federal Prisoners Are Drug Offenders

Just over one-half (55 percent) of the 128,000 sentenced inmates in federal prisons in 2002 were convicted of drug trafficking, drug possession, or other drug offenses, according to statistics recently released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). While the current proportion of sentenced prisoners who are drug offenders is twice as high as it was in the 1970s and early 1980s, it is slightly below the peak of 61 percent reached in 1994 (see figure). Offenses that currently account for the next highest rates of sentenced federal inmates are weapons, explosives, and arson offenses (11 percent), immigrations (11 percent), and robbery (7 percent).

Percentage of Sentenced Prisoners Who Are Drug Offenders, 1970-2002



NOTE: Data are for inmates in BOP facilities (i.e., do not include inmates in contract facilities).

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