

My PhD and advocacy work around prison politics leads me to conclude that prisoners should not be counted based on imprisonment. It is not uncommon for prisoners to be transferred multiple times without knowledge to the Census Bureau. This leads to inaccurate counting of prisoners. What's more, prison privatization often results in prisoners being transferred out of their original residential state for a temporary period of time. These prisoners remain residents of the state from which they were transferred from and should be counted as residents of that state—not the state to which they are temporarily transferred. Counting prisoners as residents in prisons produces inaccurate data, and in turn, ineffective policy and practices.

Best,

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