

## Virtues and Vices: Facts and Figures

1. Robert F. Kennedy said, “In my judgment, one of the basic reasons we have had crime, lawlessness and disorder in the United States has been the breakdown of the family unit.”
2. Horace Mann said, “Jails and prisons are the complement of schools; so the less you have of the latter, the more you have of the former.”
3. When the state of Oregon decided to get tough on young offenders and transferred youths from the juvenile system to the adult Division of Corrections, recidivism increased by 136 percent.
4. Jawaharlal Nehru once said, “ Ignorant people believe that if punishment is not severe enough crime will increase. As a matter of fact, the reverse is true.”
5. A 2009 study by Radelet and Lacock reveals that 88% of criminologists in the US do not believe death penalty has a deterrent effect on murders.
6. Singapore amended the Misuse of Drugs Act in 2012, to impose a life instead of death sentence to drug couriers who assist the police in investigations, e.g. Yong Vui Kong and Subashkaran Pragasam.
7. “To have once been a criminal is no disgrace. To remain a criminal is the disgrace”  
— Malcolm X
8. “Criminals do not die by the hands of the law. They die by the hands of other men.”  
— George Bernard Shaw
9. The recidivism rate for American prisoners is 77 percent within five years of being released, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics
10. It is exceedingly difficult to find a job after prison; as many as three out of four people remain unemployed a year after being released. The estimated 70 million U.S. adults with felony records face hurdles that make finding employment a struggle. A recent CityLab article reported that just

12.5 percent of employers would accept a job application from an ex-offender, noting that hiring him or her would be “bad for business.”