# Analysis of Wrongful Convictions

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## Introduction

The issue of wrongful convictions within the United States is one that we should not take lightly! The criminal justice system, though strong is not always correct.

Innocent people get convicted all the time. There is no room for wrongful convictions within the United States Criminal Justice System; it is a matter of social injustice that takes a substantial toll on an innocent individual.

### Research Questions

- What are the factors leading to wrongful convictions in America?
- What are some solutions for wrongful convictions?

## Causes

- Forced confessions
- Inadequate Assistance of Counsel
- Unethical Actions by Police Officers and Prosecutors
- Eyewitness Identification Error
- Inappropriate Use of Informants
- Mental stability


## Facts

- Over 25 percent of the more than 290 wrongful convictions overturned by DNA evidence in the U.S. have involved some form of a false confession
- A study by Barry Scheck, Peter Neufeld, and Jim Dwyer showed that as many as 84% of DNA exonerations involved eyewitness identification error
- It is estimated that inappropriate use of informants is a contributing factor in approximately 21% of DNA exoneration cases in the United States
- The problem of unethical actions by police officers and prosecutors is far from insignificant, according to a study by C. Ronald Huff, former president of the American Society of Criminology, which showed that 63% of cases concerning subsequent exonerations on the basis of DNA evidence had involved such actions


## Solutions

- Have every interrogation session recorded and shown in court.
- Screen for better public defenders
- Have police go through tests to prove they are ethical
- Make certain that the eyewitness is credible
- Certify what the informant has said is reliable
- Have the accused tested before sentencing

## Conclusions

This social injustice is not one to be taken carelessly because it ruins peoples’ lives. The factors leading to this are clearly shown here.

Also we see why this is a problem within the United States, based on the facts. Finally there are several solutions that will stop the causes of this social injustice.