Minorities constitute a disproportionate percentage of Job Corps students as well as state and federal prison/jail inmates. Because MTC’s client base draws from these population groups, projected increases of minorities, Hispanics in particular, may be especially significant to the growth of the company. In addition, the shift in regional living patterns may indicate the regions where the company can anticipate business.

The ethnic make-up of the U.S. population will continue trends of the 1990s into the 21st century, with overall increases in Hispanics and shifts in regional demographics.

The percentage of White, non-Hispanics will decrease, especially in the West, while Whites will prevail in the Midwest.

Black, non-Hispanic populations will remain static through 2015, dominating the South.

The West will see significant growth in the percentage of Hispanics. Furthermore, Hispanics are the only major minority group increasing in number, and projected to comprise a quarter of the U.S. population by 2050.

Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau, Mathematica 2001 National Job Corps Study, Bureau of Justice Statistics, MTCI.
Educational Information

- High school dropouts are more likely to attend a Job Corps center or be incarcerated in a correctional facility than graduates, making trends in this area significant to MTC.

- The dropout rate for the U.S. has been declining since its peak in 1977 from 14% to 11% of students and is expected to remain fairly constant through 2011.

- The Hispanic population makes up a disproportionate percentage of dropouts, while White, non-Hispanics have a significantly lower dropout rate.

- The dropout rates in the Northeast and Midwest are lower than other U.S. regions. The South (19% Black) and the West (23% Hispanic) are the areas that will see growth in K-12 enrollment, with 7.5% in the West, 1% in the South, -3.3% in the Midwest, and -4.2% in the Northeast. Overall, K-8 enrollment is projected to decrease by 1% by 2011, while 9-12 enrollment will increase by 3%.

- While the dropout rate is expected to remain constant, the overall 18-year-old population is projected to increase, causing an estimated 11% numerical increase through 2011.

- Between 1977 and 2000, increased numbers of students completed the GED.

- The number of those receiving Associate’s degrees is projected to increase, while the number of students enrolled in vocational programs continues in sharp decline. In 1982, 27% of students enrolled in vocational programs, but by 1992, only 12% were pursuing vocational studies.

Sources:
The U.S. has experienced both greater educational participation and higher degree attainment in recent years, continuing long-standing patterns. More people are attending post-secondary institutions and average attainment is higher than ever before.

Earnings disparities by level of education have widened sharply. In 1970, dropouts earned 16% less than high school graduates and college graduates earned 24% more than high school graduates. In comparison, dropouts in 1999 earned 27.5% less than high school graduates and college graduates earned 61% more than high school graduates.

Sources:
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Education Statistics.
Corrections Trends

- Criminal victimization has been declining in the recent past, although the rates for the West and the Midwest continue to be the highest. These areas may offer the greatest growth opportunities for MTC corrections.

- While estimating the population of illegal immigrants in the U.S. is difficult, the best estimate from the INS is 5 million (about 2% of the U.S. population) with a net annual increase of about 275,000.

- California, Washington, D.C., and Texas have the highest percentages of illegal aliens. The number of deportable aliens located in 1999 was 1.7 million, the highest level since 1986. Recent events in the U.S. will likely result in an increase in the number of illegal aliens detained in INS facilities, a trend which presents a growth opportunity for MTC.

- Recent corrections publications have indicated that the prison population is getting older, mirroring the aging general population. One study found that the proportion of prison inmates, who are age 50 or older, steadily increased between 1990 and 1998. While an increase in older inmates may occur in the future, the percentage of inmates in State or Federal jails and prisons that are age 45 or older has actually decreased from 12.7% in 1999 to 11.4% in 2001.

Sources: