TEACHING POVERTY  IRP
SUMMER WORKSHOP 2018

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Overview

• Today’s:
  • Trends
  • Expansion of the Penal System
    • Compared to earlier periods
    • Cost considerations
  • Measurement considerations
  • Intervention points
  • *Informal, please interrupt
Scope of System

• Penal system has emerged as a social institution
  • Approximately 1 in every 100 adults incarcerated

• Compare to another institution: Higher education
  • All the students at UW-system, and Big-10, Pac-12, Big East, SEC, ACC, Big-12, IVY
  • Approximately same number of African-American men in prisons and jails as enrolled in four year institutions of higher learning
    • Jails VS Prisons
    • Felons VS Ex-Felons*
  • Many states, (including CA, NY, PA, MI, GA) spend more on incarceration than higher education
Spending

- Cost per student
- Cost per inmate

Expansion

• Notable for 3 reasons
  • Comparatively recent
    • Last three decades
  • Expansion not equal
    • Disproportionately poor, urban, minority men
  • Policy decision decoupled from crime rates
    • Crime rates decreasing since the early 1990s
Recent

• Began around the mid-1980s
• Universal
  • Federal system
    • Federal system population up over 700%
      • Funding up over 1700%
  • All state systems
    • Greater variation, but roughly 400-500%
  • Swelling of correctional population across different “classes”
    • Prisoners, felons, ex-felons
Expansion: How fast? How recent?

Incarcerated Americans
1920-2013

Millions

Year

Prison
Jail


Inmate Detention
Further Back?

The Growth Of Incarceration
U.S. imprisonment rate per 100,000 people since 1880

SOURCE: BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS
Measurement

- Three (+) ways to think about measurement
  - 1) Prisons
    - Generally long term, over a year
    - Almost always an accompanying felony conviction
  - 2) Jails
    - Generally short term
    - Sentence: Less than a year
    - Medium Stay: 1 night
    - Not always a felony conviction, or any criminal conviction
  - 3) Correctional Involvement
    - Felony conviction
    - Lesser forms of correctional involvement
      - Arrest, misdemeanor
Relationship to labor market

- Mechanism can be dependent on type of contact
  - Prisons: Human capital deficits
    - Invasive (repeated) removal from labor market and the educational system
    - Suggested policies: Vocational training
  - Prisons: Felony conviction
    - Mark of differentiation
      - Policies: Structural and legal changes that the lower
  - Jails?
    - Need to know more
  - Arrested? Charged? Released?
  - CJ Contact
    - Arrest or felony conviction
Poverty

- Felony/Prisons
  - Barriers to labor market
  - Depressed wages if hired
  - Low benefit

- Jails
  - Mark of a criminal (stigma)

- CJ contact
  - Fines, fees, court costs
New “class” in America

- Correctional policies have caused the emergence of a new “felon class” in society
  - ~20 million felons in the US
    - 8.5 percent of the adult population
    - 22.3 percent of the black adult population
    - 35.4 percent of the black adult male population

- Largely removed from crime
  - Greatest disparity around drug crimes
  - Transformative impact in American Society
Incarceration and Re-integration

• The implications of mass incarceration: Most often associated with returning to communities
  • 700,000 people release from prison yearly
    • 678,281 (2008 NCES)
    • ~ 398,180 living UW alumni
    • 545,021 degrees granted
      (http://registrar.wisc.edu/cumulative_degrees_granted.htm)
  • Concentrated across a number of dimensions
    • Racially, geographically, economically, educationally
Economic Struggles

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

2 in 3 families had difficulty meeting basic needs as a result of their loved one’s conviction and incarceration.

70% of these families were caring for children under 18.

Nearly 1 in 5 survey participants' families were unable to afford housing due to the loss of income resulting from their loved one's incarceration.
Direct fines and fees

**COURT-RELATED COSTS TO FAMILIES**

On average families paid $13,607 in court-related costs. These costs amount to nearly one year’s income for low-income families making less than $15,000 per year.

83% of family members primarily responsible for these costs were women.

1 in 5 families across income levels reported that they had to take out a loan to cover these costs.
Without housing……

**REENTRY HOUSING**
Cost and discrimination were the top barriers to finding housing after release.

- 79% of survey participants were either ineligible for or denied housing because of their own or a loved one’s conviction history.
- 58% of survey participants were currently living with family members while only 9% were living in transitional housing.
- 1 in 10 survey participants reported family members being evicted when loved ones returned.

**KEEP OUT!**
Reshaping America

- 2 million Americans incarcerated
  - 7.5 million under correctional supervision
  - 22 million felons or ex-felons in the US
- Ever
  - 1-17
  - 1-6
  - 1-3
- 40 percent of prison population is AA
- About 75 percent of inmates re-arrested within 5 years
- One study
  - 57-65 in lost economic output due to struggles of ex-offenders
- Inherently “cross-discipline”