

TEACHING POVERTY IRP SUMMER WORKSHOP 2018

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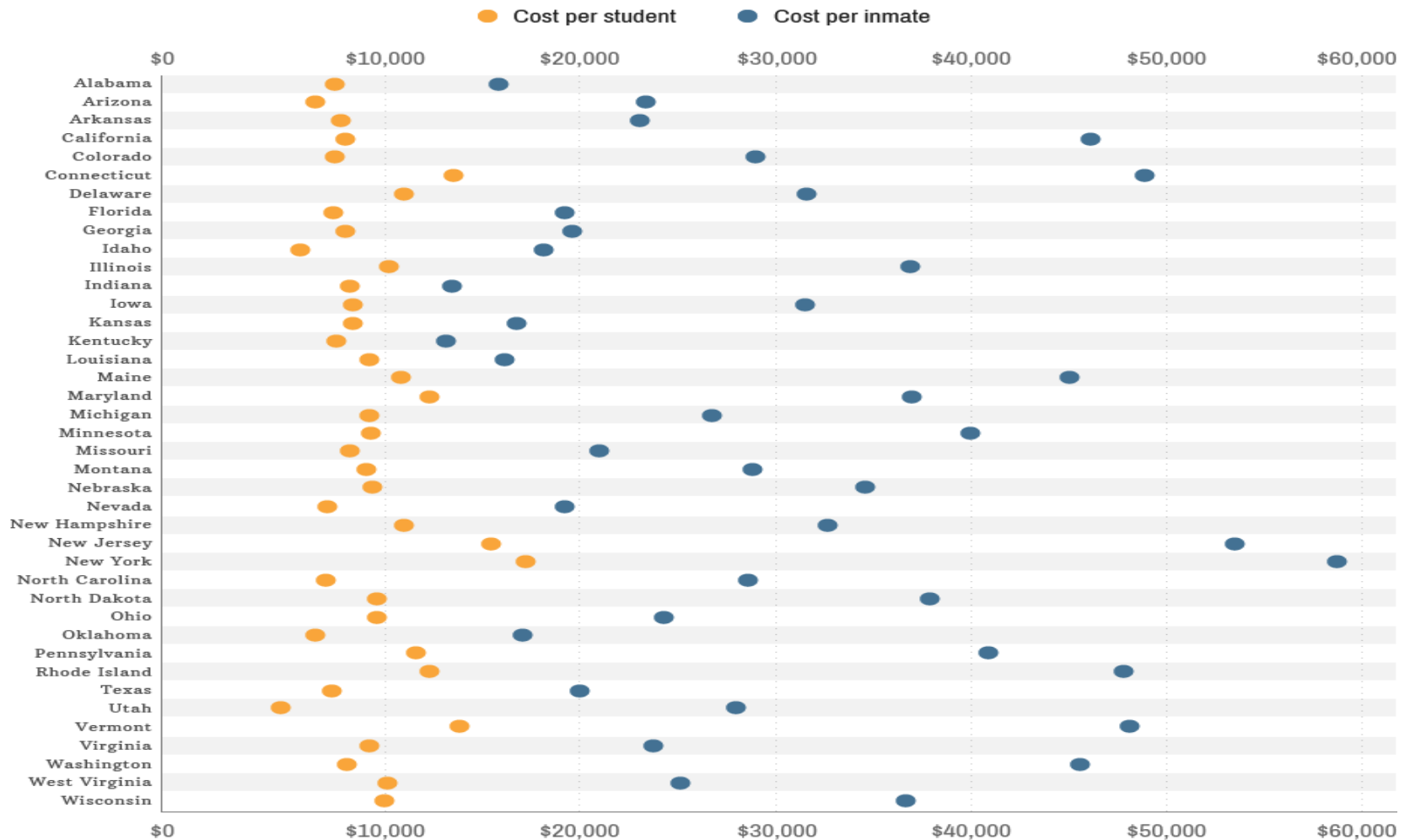
Overview

- 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



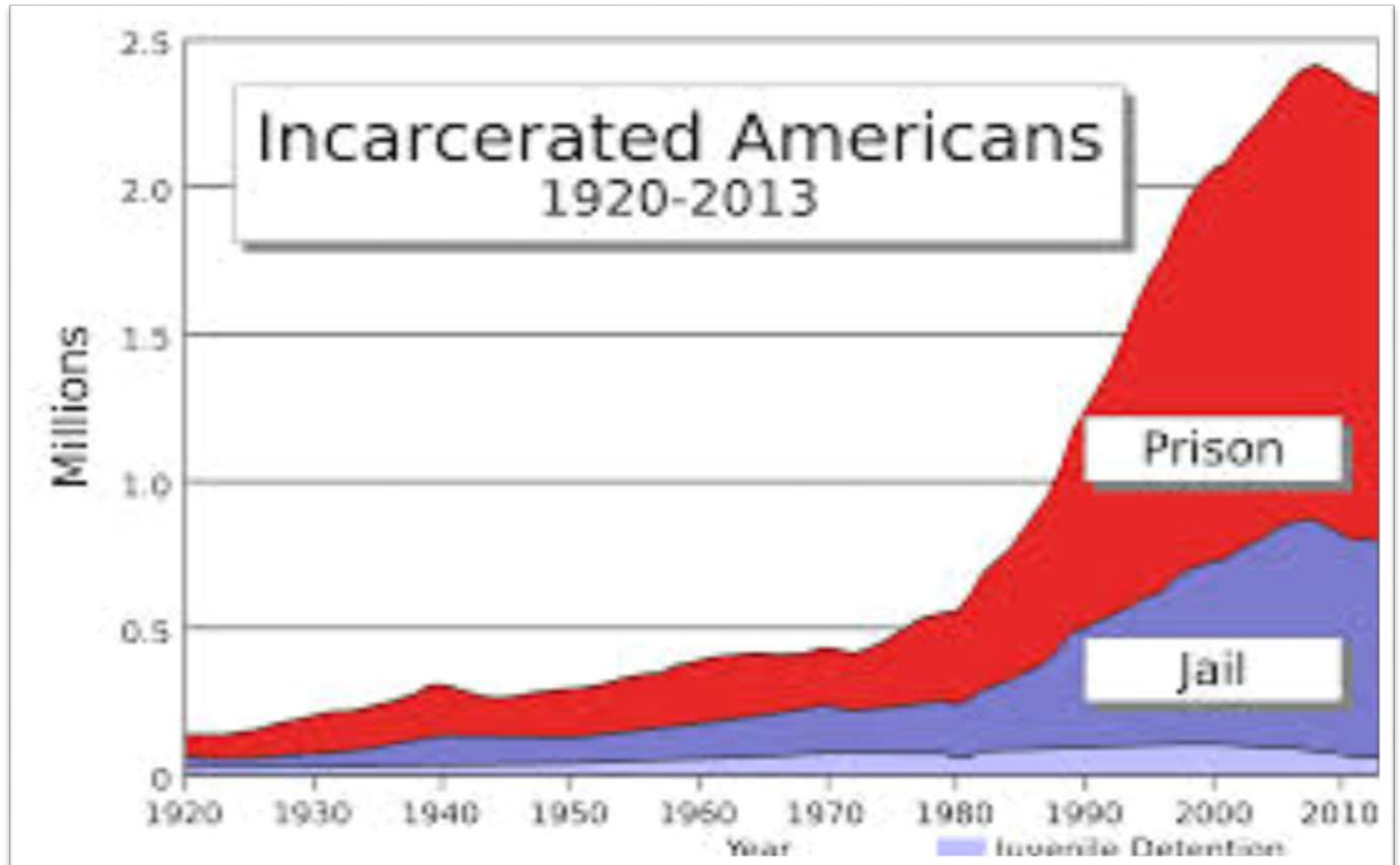
Expansion

- 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?



Further Back?

The Growth Of Incarceration

U.S. imprisonment rate per 100,000 people since 1980



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.

EVICTED

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”

U.S. Felony Disenfranchisement Laws by State

