

YOUTH LIVING IN COMMUNITIES WITH MASS INCARCERATION



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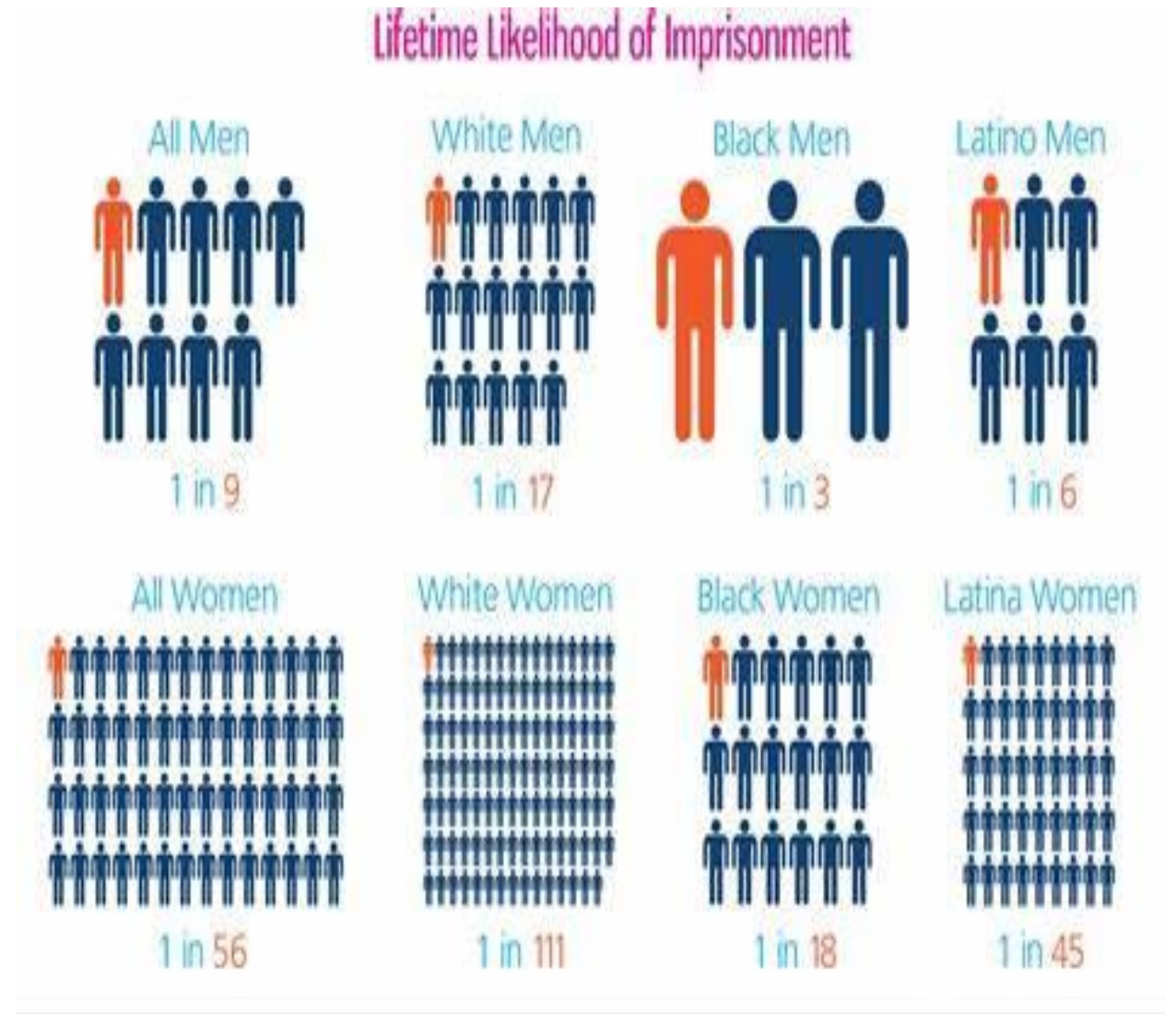
Introduction to the problem

- Mass incarceration is a major concern in the United States.
- Over the last 40 years, incarceration has had a 500% increase.
- The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world.



Target population

- The target population are vulnerable populations like the Black and Hispanic race along with those living in communities where incarceration rates are high.



Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Barriers/Challenges



Companies have been reluctant to donate to these programs because the results from the program are not immediate.



Companies express concerns about working with youth living in violent neighborhoods because youth may have multiple issues such as drug abuse and trauma which takes a great deal and time to improve



Schools in neighborhoods with high incarceration rates often have zero-tolerance policies. These zero-tolerance policies mean small infractions at school are treated as criminal, and as a result youth can have their first arrest as teenagers.

Youth Mentor Programs

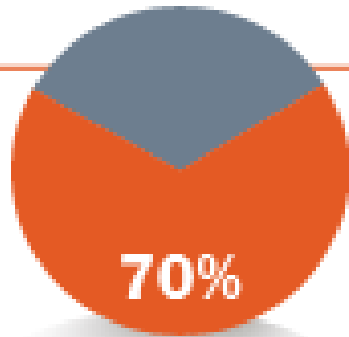
Mentor programs is a moderately effective intervention for at risk youth which will include:

- Thoughtful discussions between the youth and mentor
- Development of life skills (decision making, social awareness)
- Development of leadership skills
- Development of self-control

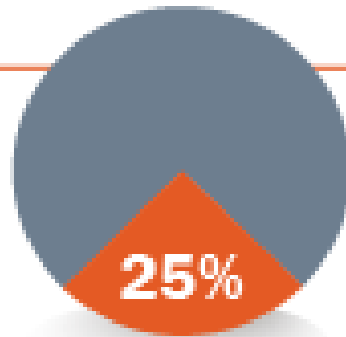
YOUTH RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS



Of the **2 Million Youth** Arrested Each Year in the U.S.:



65-70% of Detained Youth Have a Mental Health Disorder



25% of Detention Facilities Have Few or No Mental Health Services

- People in neighborhoods with high incarceration have higher rates of depression and anxiety.
- Youth in correctional facilities have high rates of suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, depression, and other mental health difficulties.
- Youth RTCs provide needed mental health services that are not being provided in juvenile correctional facilities.

Some of the services provided in RTCs

psychiatric assessment
psychological testing
individual, family, and group therapy
milieu therapy
social work services
special education services

Summer Youth Employment Program

- The SYEP provides an opportunity for the youth to be able to be exposed and gain experience in the workforce, allowing them to think about career options in the future.
- This allows our youth to start to decide a path that they will want to work towards in the future, thus “keeping them out of trouble” and focused on what goals they need to accomplish next.
- SYEP causes a decrease in the probability of incarceration of 0.10 percentage points, driven by a decrease among males.



Afterschool Programs

Afterschool programs keep children safe, encourage learning, and provide peace of mind for working parents. Kids have the opportunity to explore different interests, develop smart habits, and avoid negative behaviors.



“ I learned to make a positive impact on my community. ”

- Marisol Romero
Afterschool Youth Ambassador

This is Afterschool.

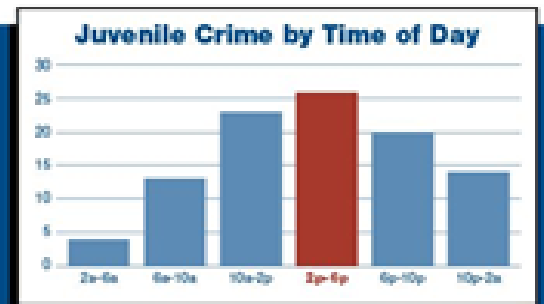
Supporting social and emotional learning

Youth are more likely to be involved in criminal activity during afterschool hours. A report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids finds that afterschool programs play an important role in preventing crime during the hours between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

2 to 6 p.m.: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in the U.S.

Quality Afterschool Programs:

- 📍 Reduce Crime
- 🎓 Boost Academics
- 👍 Improve Behavior
- ❤️ Lead to Healthier Habits
- 💰 Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

📌 FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME:
INVEST IN KIDS
CRIME PREVENTION



Our names are Kaiesha Copeland, Annwar Abdullah, Tiffany Ivey, and Wendy Melara; we are student nurses from New York City College of Technology. We are doing a health advocacy project for our urban health course about youth living in communities with mass incarceration, and are focusing on youth prevention programs to prevent juvenile criminal justice system involvement.

For our project, we are to choose an organization and meet with the key person to speak about the organization and how the services are benefiting the youth population and preventing incarcerations in the community. While researching our topic, we have identified CHLDC's Summer Youth Employment Program as a successful intervention in counteracting youth incarceration rates.

We would like to know if we could meet with someone in the SYEP organization that can help us better understand the organization. We would also like to ask a few questions about the organization for our project, which I will list below. Please let us know when it is convenient to meet with someone.

Letter to Key Person

Letter to Key Person Part 2

- What is your mission statement?
- How does the SYEP cut cost on incarceration budgets?
- What is the SYEP cost-benefit ratio?
- What types of resources and funding does SYEP receive?
- What kind of funding and resources would SYEP like to receive in the future?/ are you looking to expand the SYEP and its funding?
- Are there legislative changes that could positively impact the rate of incarceration?
- Where do you see SYEP in 5-10 years from now?



Major takeaways



Although incarceration rates are decreasing our vulnerable populations still have disproportionate rates of incarcerations



Programs geared toward youth involvement have a positive impact on decreasing rates of incarceration and can even decrease mortality rates



Mentorship and residential programs for youth are having very positive impact on children's lives

Major takeaways

- Continuing to lobby for increased funding and expansion of these programs are key in reducing incarceration rate and changing our communities for the better



What is the next step in making changes to improve employment and long term health outcomes?

- Including the community in the youth programs and encouraging local businesses to partner with them
- Encouraging the community to become mentors and or host children in vulnerable situations

References

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