

JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE: PROJECTS AND PROGRAM IN 2006

THE URGENT NEED AND OUR MISSION

In the last twenty years, our nation has witnessed an unprecedented growth in its prison population, making the country's incarceration rates the highest in the world. As politicians promised to get "tough-on-crime," prison beds were filled, often with people who have mental health or drug treatment needs that could be better served elsewhere. Now, the country is struggling to pay the steep price of imprisoning over two million people—two-thirds of whom are African American or Latino. The time has come for better solutions.

The Justice Policy Institute is dedicated to ending society's reliance on incarceration, and promoting effective and just solutions to social problems. Through the development of cutting-edge research, strategic media advocacy, and technical support to our allies, JPI works to provide policymakers, advocates, the media and the public with the information they need to reduce prison populations, and invest in communities to promote public safety.

JPI RELEASES IN 2006

All available, free, on our website at www.justicepolicy.org

"Illinois is one of five states held up as models of cost-effective juvenile corrections, according to a new national report by the Justice Policy Institute."

The Chicago Tribune. March 3, 2006.

Cost Effective Youth Corrections: Rationalizing the fiscal architecture of juvenile justice systems.

The report shows how some states have altered the fiscal architecture of their juvenile justice systems to reduce the inefficient, ineffective and sometimes damaging effect of fiscal incentives that make it cheaper to send youth to state secure care than to treat or supervise them at home.

"Instead of reducing crime, the act of incarcerating high numbers of youth may in fact facilitate increased crime."

The Newark Star-Ledger. November 28, 2006.

The Dangers of Detention: The impact of incarcerating youth in detention and other secure facilities.

JPI profiled studies from around the country that showed incarcerated youth have higher recidivism rates than youth supervised in other kinds of settings, and have worse outcomes in education, employment and health.

Justice Policy

INSTITUTE

A Public Policy Organization Promoting Effective Solutions to Social Problems, and Dedicated to Ending Society's Reliance on Incarceration

“In reaction to the crack epidemic of the 1980s, laws creating drug-free zones around schools spread nationwide.....The Washington-based Justice Policy Institute is issuing a report today that contends such laws, which generally carry extra-stiff mandatory penalties, have done little to safeguard young people and are enforced disproportionately on blacks and Hispanics.”

The Associated Press. March 21, 2006.

Disparity by Design: How drug-free zone laws impact racial disparity—and fail to protect youth.

Drug-free zone laws do not deter drug sales, and disproportionately impact communities of color, according to this JPI report. Several states are considering proposals to either eliminate or narrow the scope of the drug-free zone laws, in order to enhance public safety and minimize unintended consequences.

“Pennsylvania, according to a new report by the Justice Policy Institute, has obtained more than one third of its 67 counties to develop a model system for juveniles who are being released.”

The Associated Press. December 5, 2006.

Models for Change: Building momentum for juvenile justice reform.

The report profiles the momentum for juvenile justice reform building across the country. According to the report, states are rolling back laws that try more young people as adults, improving services for youth with mental health challenges, and reducing the use of incarceration for some youth.

“In Baltimore, increased drug treatment probably has more to do with the city’s drop in homicides than anything else. The JPI report suggests we would have been even further along with more treatment and less incarceration. Please, let’s fix this.”

The Baltimore Sun, September 21, 2006.

Progress and Challenges: An analysis of drug treatment and imprisonment in Maryland from 2000-2005.

Maryland made progress moving toward “treatment, not incarceration,” according to JPI’s finding that show that the number of people admitted to drug treatment from the criminal justice system rose, while the number of people sentenced to prison for drug offenses dropped. The report also found that counties that relied more on treatment than prison experienced larger drops in crime than those that relied on incarceration.

“A recent Justice Policy Institute study showed that, in the five years since Prop 36 was approved, California prisons saw a 32 percent drop in the number of people incarcerated for drug possession, and the violent crime rate in California dropped at a faster rate than [in] other states.”

The Sacramento Bee. April 20th, 2006.

Proposition 36: Five years later.

JPI’s research shows that moving more people from prison into the public health system saved California hundreds of millions of dollars in incarceration spending, doubled what the state spent on drug treatment, and had no adverse affect on public safety.

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