

In September 2002 the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) released the report *Cellblocks or Classrooms?: The Funding of Higher Education and Corrections and Its Impact on African American Men*. In the report JPI, states:

“In 2000, there were approximately 791,600 African American men under the jurisdiction of state and federal prison systems and in local jails. That same year, there were 603,032 African American men enrolled in higher education. This means there were 188,500 more African American men incarcerated than in higher education at the millennium. As disturbing as the 1993/4 estimate by Post-Secondary Opportunity was, today’s “education vs. incarceration gap” is even wider than it was that year, by some 60,000 African American. In just seven years since Post-Secondary Opportunity made their 1993/4 estimate, 113,000 African American men were added to the nation’s jails and prisons. “

Recent inquiries concerning the bolded statistics has prompted JPI to more clearly explain the methodology used in arriving at this statement:

- For the number of African American men incarcerated in federal and state prisons in 2000, JPI used the Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2000* report. This report uses a point in time count of the incarcerated population on June 30, 2000. This number does not reflect the incarcerated population over the entire span of 2000, but rather provides a snap shot of the number of people currently incarcerated on that one day.
 - Source: Allen J. Beck and Jennifer C. Karberg. *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2000, Table 12* (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2001). <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/pjim00.pdf>
- To obtain the number of African American men enrolled in higher education, JPI used data from the National Center for Education Statistics’ Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS). For the 603,032 JPI derived the number of Black, non-Hispanic men enrolled in Title IV institutions in fall of 2000 (provisional release data). This number does not reflect the enrollment of African American men throughout the 2000-2001 academic year, however at the time of publication the data sets used were the most recent and appropriate available for comparison.
 - Source: U.S. Department of Education, “National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS Data Center,” accessed September 2012. <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/Default.aspx>
- The data analyzed is not restricted to a certain age range. Both data sets are intended to capture the number of all African American males enrolled in higher education as well as those held in prisons and jails. While the most common age range for college students is 18-24, it is important not to exclude non-traditional and professional level students in the analysis.

This report was designed to highlight the trend in national spending towards corrections rather than education. It is JPI’s continued stance that the current criminal justice system doesn’t work, isn’t fair and costs too much. Our mission is focused on reducing the use of incarceration and its negative impacts on communities and promoting social investments that can help all people achieve positive life outcomes.