

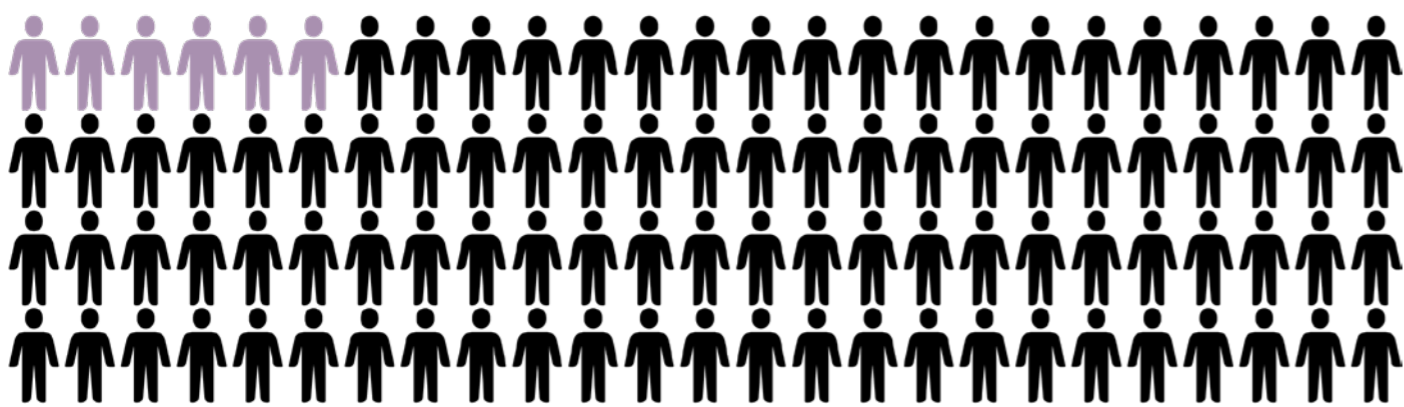


Introduction

Incarceration and the criminal justice system often have extreme negative effects on the financial security of families and communities, and these effects can be generational.

Over 3.5% of Ohio's population over the age of 16 is involved with the criminal justice system, either through incarceration or through supervision programs like probation and parole^{607,608}.

Black Ohioans are overrepresented in the criminal justice system—43% of incarcerated population vs. 13% of state population⁶⁰⁹. This is not due to a higher rate of crime, but because of targeted laws and the criminal justice system itself. From policing through sentencing and incarceration, the criminal justice system is more punitive towards Black people^{613,614,615}. The negative financial effects of the criminal justice system are concentrated in Black communities and increases community risk of experiencing IPV.



5.8% of white men will experience incarceration during their lifetime.



33% of Black men will experience incarceration during their lifetime.

Poverty does not cause intimate partner violence (IPV). Rather, the same conditions that create poverty also create the risk factors for IPV.

Several risk factors for IPV are related to economic and financial security. They range from personal factors to conditions affecting our entire society.

Economic Risk Factors for IPV Perpetration

- **Societal:** Income inequality
- **Community:** Neighborhood poverty, diminished economic opportunities, high unemployment rates
- **Relationship and Individual:** Economic stress

Strengthening household financial security and strengthening supports for workers and families are two ways to reduce risk for IPV perpetration in Ohio.

When people cannot afford bail, they are separated from their families and communities, they cannot work, and they are more likely to lose their jobs. Being arrested and facing criminal charges places an immediate and substantial financial burden on families. They may also face extreme economic hardship when released from incarceration because bills like rent and car payments do not cease when someone is incarcerated. Increased financial burden of families and communities can increase risk of experiencing intimate partner violence.

People of color are disproportionately impacted by the cash bail system because they tend to have less money to pay for bail, both individually and within their communities⁶²². Additionally, people of color are arrested and incarcerated at higher rates than white people due to racial discrimination and bias in the legal systems.

Loss of Earning Potential

Recovering from the economic impact of being involved in the criminal justice system is extremely difficult for incarcerated individuals and their families. After incarceration, individuals have less access to jobs. They have an average unemployment rate of over 27%. **Formerly incarcerated Black people between 35 and 44 have much higher unemployment rates (43.6% for women, 35.2% for men)**⁶²⁴. The jobs they do have access to generally pay less than jobs available to individuals who have not been involved with the criminal justice system.

On average, families pay around **\$13,607** in court-related costs for individual who are incarcerated. This amount is **more than 75% of the annual income** of a full-time minimum wage worker of Ohio in 2020⁶²³.

Formerly incarcerated individuals are often denied access to public benefits, such as SNAP, TANF, and housing assistance that provides support for individuals and families as they work toward economic security. Access to housing assistance impacts formerly incarcerated individuals' ability to find stable and affordable housing.

Generational Impact

A child with an incarcerated parent or parents is more likely to drop out of school, get involved in violent behaviors, or be part of the foster care system⁶²⁸.

The economic effects of criminal justice system involvement and incarceration can be generational and impact a family's economic security for decades. These outcomes increase the likelihood of becoming

involved with the justice system while perpetuating the risk for experiencing poverty, economic instability and IPV.

Criminal Justice Reform Barriers and Opportunities

Barriers

- Black people are disproportionately represented in the incarcerated population.
- Involvement with the criminal justice system has a cascading effect on individuals and families, extending from high expenses before incarceration to diminished earning potential after incarceration including generational effects.
- Due to the many systems involved and the generational scope of the effects of incarceration, lessening the economic burden of criminal justice system involvement will require substantial effort across systems and over time.

Opportunities

- Some cities in the U.S. have ended the cash bail system.
- The Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court supports reducing the use of cash bail due to its disproportionate impact on people living in poverty.
- Cash bail policy reform must protect victims of violent crime such as Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Child Abuse and Human Trafficking.
- Public employers in Ohio are prohibited from asking applicants about their criminal history on written job applications, although this information can still be gathered later in the hiring process.
- Eliminate zero tolerance educational policies.

Criminal Justice Reform Policy Recommendations and Action Items

Institute criminal justice reform to reduce mass incarceration and racial disparities in the system.

Pass policies to eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline.

References can be found at <https://www.odvn.org/intersecting-pandemics/>