

Education Matters to Prevent Youth Violence

April 29, 2015

Federal investments in education are crucial to preventing youth from entering the criminal justice system and to reducing youth violence and criminal activity.

Promoting access to cradle-to-career education is one of the foremost strategies for preventing youth violence and delinquency. Long-term studies of programs nationwide have found that participation in education programs beginning at birth, including home visiting and high-quality preschool, results in lower rates of arrest and incarceration. Investing in strategies to reduce youth contact with the criminal justice system will help them to become productive adults rather than a financial burden on the system.

Invest in education to:

- Improve public safety by preventing juvenile crime
 - A long-term evaluation of the Nurse-Family Partnership, a voluntary home visiting program offering parenting training and other support, found that by age 19 the children that served by the program were half as likely to have been convicted of a crime.¹
 - A two-decade long study of Chicago's government-funded Child-Parent preschool program found that by age 26, youth who had completed the program had 22% fewer arrests than those who did not. Additionally, 28% fewer had experienced time in jail.²
 - Students who participated in LA BEST, an afterschool program serving more than 28,000 kids throughout Los Angeles demonstrated that students who participated at a higher rate had significantly lower incidences of juvenile crime. Researchers estimate an average \$2.50 in savings to each dollar invested in the program.³
 - A nationwide increase in the male high school graduation rate by 10% would reduce murder rates by an estimated 20%, motor vehicle theft by 13% and arson by 8%.⁴
- Reduce the burden on and cost to the criminal justice system
 - Nationally, the total population under supervision in the adult correctional system has more than quadrupled in the last forty years, with nearly seven million people incarcerated or on probation in 2012.⁵
 - State spending on corrections is the third highest category of general fund expenditures in most states.⁶ Our nation spends an estimated \$75 billion each year to incarcerate more than 2 million people.⁷
 - The national average for educating a student is \$12,643 per year, less than half of the annual state average cost of incarceration of \$28,323.⁸

¹ Olds, D.L. et. al. Long-Term Effects of Nurse Home Visitation on Children's Criminal and Anti-Social Behavior: 15-Year Follow-Up of a Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 1998. 280(14), 1238-1244.

² Reynolds, A. J., et. al. School-Based Early Childhood Education and Age-28 Well-Being: Effects by Timing, Dosage, and Subgroups. *Science*. 2011. Vol. 333(6040), 360-364.

³ Goldschmidt P., Huang D., and Chinen M. The Long-Term Effects of After-School Programming on Educational Adjustment and Juvenile Crime: A Study of the LA's BEST After-School Program. 2007. Retrieved from: http://www.lasbest.org/what/publications/LASBEST_DOJ_Final%20Report.pdf

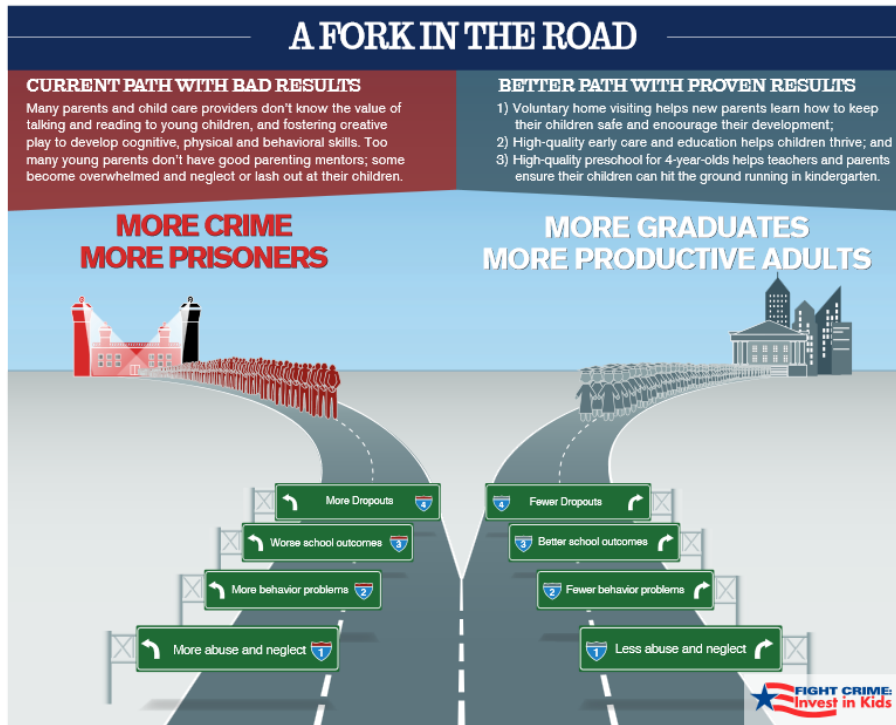
⁴ "Saving Futures, Saving Dollars: The Impact of Education on Crime Reduction and Earnings." Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2013.

⁵ National Research Council. *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2014.

⁶ Ibid.

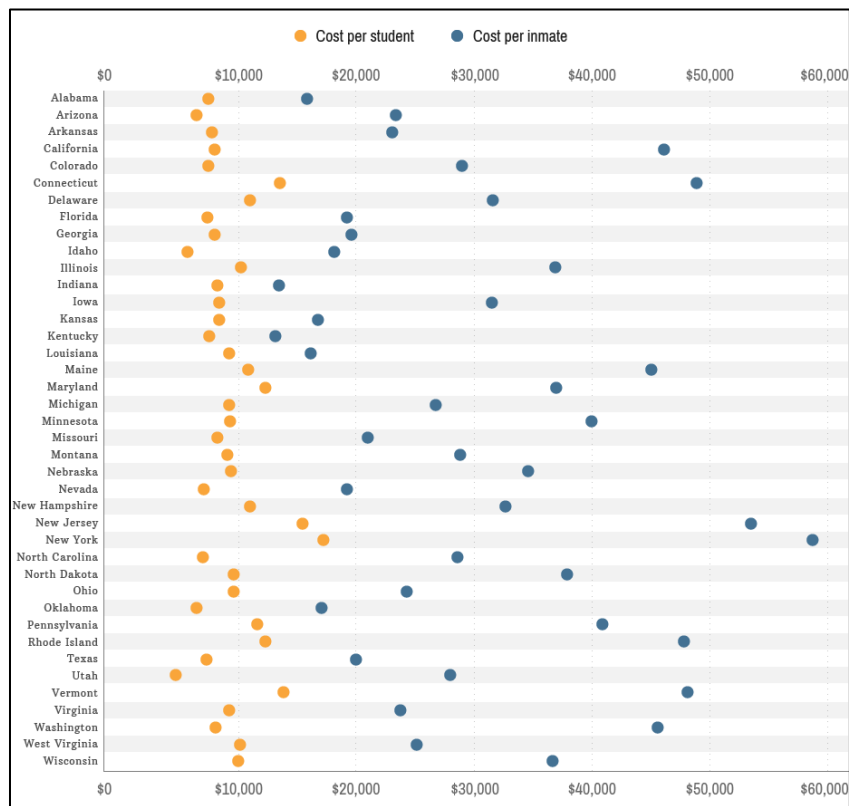
⁷ Schmitt, J., Warner, K., and Gupta, S. "The High Budgetary Cost of Incarceration." Washington, DC: Center for Economic and Policy Research, June 2010.

⁸ "Saving Futures, Saving Dollars: The Impact of Education on Crime Reduction and Earnings." Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2013



Source: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Education vs Prison Costs: Data from 40 states depict how much government money is spent per year to educate an elementary/secondary school student compared to the cost of keeping an inmate imprisoned.



Source: U.S. Census Data and Vera Institute of Justice Graphic: Tal Yellin / CNNMoney

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