STRUCTURAL RACISM IN THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: HOW THE RACIAL FORMATION “OTHER” CAUSES DISCRIMINATION

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Program: Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
THREE GUIDING QUESTIONS

• Why are there proportionally more Blacks incarcerated in the U.S. than any other racial formation?

• How do high incarceration rates of Blacks affect Black youth?

• What purpose does incarcerating Blacks serve?
POLICING STRATEGIES

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/02/community-policing_n_7486576.html
CYCLE OF MASS INCARCERATION

Poverty

More exposure to trauma

More behavior problems

More discipline problems

Lower educational attainment

Higher incarceration rates

More single-parent households

More
HOW DOES THE HIGH INCARCERATION RATES OF BLACKS AFFECT BLACK YOUTH?

Single Parent Homes

Support Group


https://unitedgangs.com/category/san-diego-gangs/
WHAT PURPOSE DOES INCARCERATING BLACKS SERVE?

• Hegemonic and Racist Priorities
  • War on Drugs (John Ehrlichman—former Nixon Aid)
    • The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I'm saying?"
    "We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did” (John Ehrlichman, 1971, as cited in Donahue, 2016)
HEGEMONIC AND RACIST PRIORITIES
CONT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Average Annual Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average salary for new California public school teacher</td>
<td>$41,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA tuition</td>
<td>$12,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public education for K-12 student</td>
<td>$9,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone treatment</td>
<td>$4,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental health treatment</td>
<td>$1,551</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recovery services for victims of crime</td>
<td>$1,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probation and electronic monitoring</td>
<td>$768</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual cost to imprison for a nonviolent crime</td>
<td>$62,396</td>
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</tbody>
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http://www.safeandjust.org/schools-not-prisons/news-detail/cost-to-imprison
CONCLUSION

• Blacks are being systematically targeted and discriminated against by the Criminal Justice System

• Institutions like the Criminal Justice System in American are designed to perpetuate racist priorities (hegemonic agendas)

• Despite progress being made in Social Justice, these institutions are still operating in ways that disadvantage Blacks
REFERENCES


• https://newsone.com/1195075/children-single-parents-u-s-american/