

Mass Incarceration
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I. Abstract

II. Mass incarceration in the United States has increased since the 1970's when the "war on drugs" was introduced by Richard Nixon. "The term "War on Drugs" was not widely used until President Nixon created the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 1973 to announce "an all-out global war on the drug menace" (Suddath, 2009). The "war on drugs" was introduced to help with the production, distribution, and consumption of illegal substances. This has caused the United States to have one of the highest rates of prison incarceration compared to other countries around the world. Social implications play a major role in the "war on drugs" and the racism which causes higher incarceration of African-American people in our prison system.¹

1. system.

This is a very good abstract summary that gives a clear preview of the paper [Lynn Ma]

III. Mass Incarceration

IV. Problem Statement

a. According to Adam Gopnik, "mass incarceration on a scale almost unexampled in human history is a fundamental fact of our country today," (Zakaria, 2012).

V. What are the individual and social implications of this problem?

a. Individual implications of mass incarceration

1. Intergenerational

2. Foster Care

b. Social implications of mass incarceration

1. Poverty levels

2. Over populated neighborhoods

a) “Individuals that live in residentially crowded, lower-class communities have less privacy in all aspects” (Collica & Furst, 2012).

3. “Defendants who are denied bail or cannot afford the bail amount required are held in jail until their trial or until their case is resolved via a plea bargain” (Collica¹ & Furst, 2012).

VI. What do the experts say about the problem?

a. “The research suggests that along with Native Americans, African Americans tend to have higher rates of crime perpetration, especially for violent offenses” (Collica & Furst, 2012).

1. (Collica
This is a nice incorporation of
the textbook [Lynn Ma]

b. Incarceration rates are disproportionately impact individuals and communities of color, issues of family instability, reentry, employment, and political representation also disproportionately impact communities of color” (Collica & Furst, 2012).

VII. What have we, as a society, done about this problem?

a. “Catchy slogans are no match for chemical addictions, however, and study after study showed that programs such as D.A.R.E. — no matter how beloved — produced negligent results” (Suddath, 2009).

b. Programs were incorporated in the school system and communities to help in the fight of drug addiction.

VIII. How are public policies and other, less formal responses working?

IX. “Public health researchers and policymakers must continue to reassess the impact of the laws and policies that have fueled mass incarceration through a social epidemiology lens” (Cloud, Parsons & Delany-Brumsey, 2014).

X. “Attorney General¹ Eric Holder’s speech delivered before the American Bar Association in August 2013, called for major reforms to laws mandating prison time for drug crimes and greater investment in rehabilitation initiatives” (Cloud, Parsons & Delany-Brumsey, 2014).

1. General

Overall, this is a very nice outline that shows you are well prepared for the final paper [Lynn Ma]

XI. Describe an alternative solution to the problem?

- a.** “If we want to solve our nation’s drug problems, we need to focus less on obtaining convictions and more on preventing addictions” (Mass Criminalization, n.d.).
- b.** Rehabilitation programs should be considered when determining sentencing to rehabilitation centers instead of our prison system.

XII. Discuss why the alternative is, or can be, an effective response to the problem.

- a.** Rehabilitation is one consideration of providing a reduction in the overpopulation of our prison system.
- b.** Law makers providing a reduced in the sentence of drug convictions and providing more programs available for these individuals.

XIII. Conclusion

- a.** Mass incarceration has been an issue since the “war on drugs” has increased the rates of criminals in the prison system.
- b.** This issue will continue unless law makers and policy makers decide to provide improvements to rehabilitation centers and incorporate legalization of certain drugs.

XIV.IX. References

- a. Cloud, D., Parsons, J., & Delany-Brumsey, A. (2014). Addressing mass incarceration: A Clarion call for Public Health. *American Journal of Public Health*, 104(3), 389-391.

This article discusses how to address mass incarceration. Clarion calls for the help of Public Health in the battle of reducing this issue. How rehabilitation can help those addicts of small convictions of drug use. This helps support my paper on providing resources in helping reducing the amount of individuals in our prison system.

- b. Collica, K. & Furst, G. (2012). *Crime & society*. San Diego, CA: Bridgepoint Education, Inc.

This electronic book discusses the social implications and addresses the rates of mass incarceration pertaining to the war on drugs. This provides important information how addiction has increased in the last forty or so years. This information contributes to my paper in providing statements from different scholars how mass incarceration has been a major issue that needs new laws and policies to help with decreasing the amount of criminals in the prison system.

- c. Mass Criminalization (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2014 from www.drugpolicy.org/mass-criminalization

This article discusses how to address mass incarceration through Public Health. The article further discusses addressing how to help solve the issue of drug addictions and the importance of providing rehabilitation. This information provides the importance of providing help with addiction prior to incarcerating drug addicted criminals. This will contribute to my paper by providing appropriate information on the consequences of continuing with the current route.

- d. Suddath, C. (2009). The war on drugs. Retrieved November 24, 2014 from <http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1887488,00.html>

1. [policy.org/mass-criminalization](http://www.drugpolicy.org/mass-criminalization)

These are all good references with a well written annotated bibliography [Lynn Ma]

This article gives a brief history of the “war on drugs”. This helped me further understand how it has affected the United States and why it was developed. This is helpful in my paper because I am able to put information about the history of how controlling drugs in the United States by Richard Nixon. He was hoping to help in controlling production, distribution and consumption of illegal drugs.

- e. Turney, K. (2014). The intergenerational consequences of mass incarceration: Implications for children’s co-residence and contact with grandparents. *Social Forces*, 93(1), 299-327.

This article discusses the implications of intergenerational consequences of these large numbers of incarceration. How fathers whom are incarcerated can help in the higher rate of their children becoming incarcerated. The importance of children being able to stay in contact with their parents to help reducing their risk of entering the judicial system. This provides my paper with additional information on how to reduce the rate of incarceration in our prison system.

- f. Zakaria, F. (2012). The war on drugs has succeeded only in putting millions of Americans in jail. Retrieved November 24, 2014 from <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2109777,00.html>

This article discusses how the “war on drugs” is affecting our prison system. This contributes to my paper by providing important information on the rates of incarceration throughout the United States. How a political figure voices how the “war on drugs” has failed and has not reached the goal that was expected. How more than half of the incarcerations in our prisons are due to drug convictions and how this is an issue.