

Crime & its Costs

WHO ARE IN PRISON?

Male	91%
Black	47%
Substance Abusers	68%
Recidivists (1-year failure rate)	21%
Unemployed at Arrest	40%
Illiterate	33%

HOW MANY IN TN?

State Offender Population – FY 2008	92,292
Felony Inmate Population – FY 2008	27,221
Community Supervised – FY 2008	65,294
Felony Admissions – FY 2008	15,159
Felony Releases – FY 2008	15,567

HOW MUCH PER YEAR IS LOST?

Averted Crime & Victimization Costs	\$5,000
Reduced Arrests & Prosecution	\$7,300
Unspent Incarceration Fees	\$23,000
Avoided Health Care Expenses	\$4,800
Added Economic Taxpayer Benefits	\$32,100
TOTAL LOST PER OFFENDER	\$72,200

HOW MUCH FOR PRISONS IN FY 2007?

Total TN Correctional Budget	\$688+ Million
Avg. TN Inmate Cost per Day	\$65
Avg. TN Inmate Cost per Year	\$23,725

US Law Enforcement/Corrections \$200 Billion

PROJECT RETURN SAVES MILLIONS

New Clients Receiving Services	855
Returned to Jail	112

SAVING THE PUBLIC PURSE¹
\$4.7 Million

With more than 2.2 MILLION PEOPLE IN PRISON & over 7 million on probation or parole, the U.S. has the distinction of maintaining the largest correctional system IN THE WORLD – nearly a quarter of all the prisoners in the world today are behind American bars.

– U.S. Dept. of Justice

Ex-offenders in Tennessee are returning to prison in RECORD NUMBERS for violating parole and probation or for committing new crimes.

– TN Comptroller

One unemployed ex-offender who is using drugs will commit over 100 NEW CRIMES A YEAR – costing the American people conservatively \$70,200.

– Joseph Califano

67.5% OF THE PRISONERS RELEASED IN TN WILL RETURN TO JAIL WITHIN THREE YEARS.

– TN Bureau of Investigation

¹Computation of savings derived using 43%, Tennessee's fiscal year 2001 12-month return-to-prison rate. Project Return's saving figures were conservatively based only on the Department of Correction's reported \$18,500 per inmate yearly incarceration costs for that year. The \$4.7 million savings does not include yearly property & victimization, arrests & prosecution, and health care (total lost to the economy per offender). The agency's 855 new-client evaluation period was May 2000 – April 2001. During this same period, Project Return also provided services to 786 current/returning clients.