Prison spending outpaces colleges’

Black males in system outnumber those in universities

By Mark Fisher  
E-mail address: mark_fisher@coxohio.com
Dayton Daily News

Ohio's spending on prisons and corrections rose five times faster during the past 20 years than spending on Ohio's state-supported colleges and universities, and by 2000, more black men were in prison than were enrolled in the state's colleges, according to a study released Tuesday.

The report, Cellblocks or Classrooms? The Funding of Higher Education and Corrections and Its Impact on African American Men, was prepared by the Justice Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank committed to reducing what it calls "society's reliance on incarceration" to solve social problems. The study analyzed each state's spending patterns based on data from the National Association of State Budget Officers.

Among the study's findings:

From 1985 to 2000, inflation-adjusted spending on higher education in Ohio increased by 38 percent or $670 million, while corrections spending jumped 211 percent or $1.026 billion.

More black men were incarcerated in Ohio's prison system (23,200) than there were in Ohio's colleges (20,074).

Ohio has the 10th-highest university tuition in the country and is ranked 39th in the nation in the percentage of the population with a bachelor's degree (17 percent). Ohio ranks 40th nationally in public investment per full-time student. Meanwhile, for the annual cost of incarcerating one person in an Ohio prison...
The study's authors agreed.

linebacker's perseverance pays off

Alter vs. Bellbrook picked for Aug. 30 Game of the Week

More sports stories

Springfield man set on fire dies

Mom faces reduced charge in sunburn

Woman slain while on phone

Sexual predator, woman indicted

Area's most-wanted criminals

Ohio's broken mental retardation system

How the area's biggest traffic jam will happen

Does Ohio welfare trap people in poverty?

Nazi codes broken with help from Dayton

Today's featured ads

Plan a vacation

Better Business Bureau advertising guide

Find home-improvement help

Plan your wedding

Find live music

Get coupons

Special features

Gaming Guide, How to Play and Where to Stay

Get free travel information and chance to win 4 airline tickets from ATA

Summer Festival Guide sponsored by Ohio Renaissance Festival

See what's happening downtown

Forecast: Valley features sponsored by Dayton Metro Library

Continuing Education Opportunities

DDN | Prison spending outpaces coll...
"Policy makers should be concerned that at a time when college is ever more essential, it is increasingly eluding the pocketbooks of the typical family," institute officials said. "At the same time, the growth in our prison population and spending is absorbing ever larger shares of the state budget, and disproportionately impacting the African American community. Now is a good time to re-evaluate the policy choices that have led to increased prison spending."

**Contact** Mark Fisher at 225-2258 or by e-mail at mark_fisher@coxohio.com

[From the Dayton Daily News: 08.28.2002]