

Washington State Institute for Public Policy
Monetary Benefits and Costs of Evidence-Based Public Policies That Affect Crime
Estimates as of November 2013

Topic Area/Program	Last Updated	Monetary Benefits			Costs	Summary Statistics		
Benefits and costs are life-cycle present values per participant in 2012 dollars. The programs are listed by major topic area, although some programs achieve benefits in multiple areas. Also, some programs achieve benefits that we cannot monetize (see Technical Appendix E for program-specific details)		Total Benefits	Taxpayer	Non-Taxpayer		Benefits Minus Costs (net present value)	Benefit to Cost Ratio	Odds of a Positive Net Present Value
Correctional Interventions for Adult Offenders								
Offender Re-entry Community Safety Program (dangerously mentally ill offenders)	Apr 2012	\$57,765	\$19,087	\$38,677	(\$32,924)	\$24,840	\$175	93%
Electronic monitoring (radio frequency or global positioning systems)	Apr 2012	\$23,085	\$5,817	\$17,468	\$1,093	\$24,178	n/e	100%
Therapeutic communities for offenders with co-occurring disorders	Dec 2012	\$26,842	\$7,321	\$19,520	(\$3,628)	\$23,213	\$7.40	99%
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for drug offenders)	Apr 2010	\$23,441	\$6,068	\$17,373	(\$1574)	\$21,867	\$14.89	99%
Correctional education (basic or post-secondary) in prison	Apr 2012	\$22,539	\$5,875	\$16,664	(\$149)	\$21,390	\$19.62	100%
Vocational education in prison	Apr 2012	\$21,131	\$5,585	\$15,546	(\$1599)	\$19,531	\$13.21	100%
Risk Need & Responsivity supervision (for high and moderate risk offenders)	Apr 2012	\$23,822	\$6,624	\$17,198	(\$4,854)	\$18,968	\$4.91	100%
Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (incarceration)	Dec 2011	\$18,452	\$4,797	\$13,655	(\$589)	\$17,863	\$3134	100%
Mental health courts	Apr 2012	\$20,211	\$5,522	\$14,689	(\$2,995)	\$17,217	\$6.75	100%
Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (incarceration)	Dec 2011	\$17,900	\$4,748	\$13,152	(\$1208)	\$16,692	\$14.82	100%
Case management: swift & certain/graduated sanctions for substance abusing offenders	Dec 2012	\$19,385	\$5,430	\$13,955	(\$4,834)	\$14,551	\$4.01	97%
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for property offenders)	Dec 2011	\$11,775	\$3,126	\$8,649	(\$1572)	\$10,203	\$7.49	71%
Drug courts	Apr 2012	\$14,459	\$3,795	\$10,663	(\$4,276)	\$10,183	\$3.38	100%
Cognitive behavioral treatment (for high and moderate risk offenders)	Apr 2012	\$10,364	\$2,677	\$7,687	(\$419)	\$9,945	\$24.72	99%
Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (community)	Dec 2011	\$11,494	\$3,171	\$8,323	(\$2,463)	\$9,031	\$4.67	99%
Work release	Apr 2012	\$7,550	\$2,012	\$5,538	(\$675)	\$6,875	\$11.19	98%
Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (incarceration)	Dec 2011	\$10,794	\$3,323	\$7,471	(\$4,359)	\$6,435	\$2.48	98%
Employment training/job assistance in the community	Apr 2012	\$5,949	\$1,502	\$4,447	(\$108)	\$5,811	\$43.26	99%
Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (community)	Dec 2011	\$6,390	\$1,669	\$4,721	(\$589)	\$5,802	\$10.85	92%
Correctional industries in prison	Apr 2012	\$6,858	\$1,931	\$4,929	(\$1,447)	\$5,412	\$4.74	98%
Intensive supervision (surveillance & treatment)	Apr 2012	\$12,619	\$4,150	\$8,469	(\$8,031)	\$4,588	\$157	78%
Case mgmt for offenders with SA	Dec 2011	\$8,528	\$2,144	\$6,384	(\$4,757)	\$3,770	\$1.79	91%
Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (community)	Apr 2011	\$3,746	\$1,050	\$2,696	(\$945)	\$2,801	\$3.96	79%
Case management: not swift and certain for substance abusing offenders	Apr 2011	\$4,059	\$1,614	\$2,446	(\$4,841)	(\$781)	\$0.84	45%
Intensive supervision (surveillance only)	Apr 2011	(\$2,494)	(\$93)	(\$2,401)	(\$4,220)	(\$6,714)	(\$0.59)	10%
Domestic violence perpetrator treatment	Apr 2011	(\$6,137)	(\$1,370)	(\$4,767)	(\$1,390)	(\$7,527)	(\$4.41)	19%
Prison								
For lower risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Apr 2013	(\$1,301)	(\$517)	(\$783)	\$5,642	\$4,341	\$4.34	98%
For moderate risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Dec 2012	(\$5,433)	(\$1,044)	(\$4,389)	\$5,633	\$200	\$1.04	52%
For high risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Apr 2012	(\$10,213)	(\$1,681)	(\$8,533)	\$5,641	(\$4,573)	(\$0.55)	17%
Police (results are per-officer)								
Deploy one additional police officer with hot spots strategies	Apr 2013	\$648,535	\$70,018	\$578,517	(\$92,597)	\$555,938	\$7.00	100%
Deploy one additional police officer with statewide average practices	Apr 2013	\$573,700	\$61,637	\$512,063	(\$88,310)	\$485,390	\$6.50	100%

Exhibit 1 (continued)
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Correctional Interventions for Juvenile Offenders								
Functional Family Therapy (youth in state institutions ²)	Apr. 2012	\$61,374	\$12,982	\$48,392	(\$3,332)	\$58,043	\$8.42	99%
Aggression Replacement Training (youth in state institutions)	Apr. 2012	\$57,364	\$11,940	\$45,423	(\$1,543)	\$55,821	\$37.19	90%
Functional Family Therapy (youth on probation)	Apr. 2012	\$37,587	\$9,510	\$28,077	(\$3,333)	\$34,254	\$1128	99%
Aggression Replacement Training (youth on probation)	Apr. 2012	\$35,329	\$8,727	\$26,602	(\$1,540)	\$33,788	\$22.94	86%
Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care	Apr. 2012	\$39,084	\$8,875	\$30,208	(\$8,059)	\$31,035	\$4.85	80%
Family Integrated Transitions (youth on probation)	Apr. 2012	\$38,556	\$10,221	\$28,335	(\$11,469)	\$27,087	\$3.36	86%
Multisystemic Therapy	Apr. 2012	\$34,067	\$7,700	\$26,367	(\$7,522)	\$26,545	\$4.53	93%
Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) for substance abusers	Dec. 2012	\$21,125	\$5,725	\$15,400	(\$5,835)	\$15,289	\$3.82	74%
Family Integrated Transitions (youth in state institutions)	Apr. 2012	\$26,420	\$6,503	\$19,917	(\$11,483)	\$14,937	\$2.30	75%
Multisystemic Therapy for substance abusing juvenile offenders	Sept. 2013	\$22,235	\$4,286	\$17,949	(\$7,528)	\$14,708	\$2.95	71%
Drug court	Apr. 2012	\$14,692	\$3,810	\$10,882	(\$3,164)	\$11,539	\$4.66	93%
Multisystemic Therapy for juvenile sex offenders	Sept. 2013	\$17,831	\$4,561	\$13,271	(\$7,526)	\$10,305	\$2.37	85%
Functional Family Parole (with quality assurance)	Jan. 2014	\$14,593	\$3,481	\$11,112	(\$4,425)	\$10,168	\$3.30	77%
Coordination of Services	Apr. 2012	\$6,445	\$1,684	\$4,762	(\$403)	\$6,043	\$16.01	78%
Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent juvenile offenders	Dec. 2012	\$9,160	\$2,326	\$6,824	(\$4,522)	\$4,628	\$2.02	64%
Victim-offender mediation	Apr. 2012	\$4,271	\$1,169	\$3,103	(\$589)	\$3,682	\$7.25	89%
Other chemical dependency treatment for juveniles (non-therapeutic communities)	Dec. 2012	\$4,105	\$1,382	\$2,723	(\$3,167)	\$948	\$130	56%
Scared Straight	Nov. 2012	(\$2,932)	(\$3,259)	(\$9,673)	(\$66)	(\$12,998)	(\$85.61)	1%
Prevention								
Nurse Family Partnership for low-income families		\$26,743	\$9,463	\$17,281	(\$9,788)	\$16,956	\$2.73	76%
Early childhood education for low-income 3- and 4-year olds		\$24,094	\$7,657	\$16,437	(\$7,653)	\$16,441	\$3.15	100%
Notes to Exhibit 1								
¹ Benefit to cost ratios cannot be computed in every case; we list "n/e" for those that cannot be reliably estimated.								
² Institutions = state institutionalized juvenile justice populations								

To produce the estimates for prison and policing, we followed our usual three-step research approach. We reviewed the growing body of credible research that measures the effect of prison and police on crime. While there remain significant gaps in the state of knowledge about how prison and police affect crime, it is possible to assemble information to assist current public policy in Washington. In the Technical Appendix, we provide the details of our formal meta-analyses of these research literatures.

In addition to our review of other research studies, we conducted our own empirical analysis, also reported in the Appendix, on how prison and police levels affect crime in Washington. We found results for Washington consistent with the typical findings from studies conducted elsewhere.

We find that, on average, both prison incarceration and the overall level of police employment affect the amount of crime in a state.