

Title: The Ineffectiveness of Incarceration as a Means of Reducing Crime

Introduction:

The idea that incarceration is an effective way to reduce crime has been widely accepted for decades. However, recent research suggests that this may not be the case. Studies have shown that while imprisonment can temporarily reduce criminal activity in certain areas, it does not address the underlying causes of crime and often leads to higher rates of recidivism upon release from prison. This essay will explore why incarceration fails to effectively reduce crime and suggest alternative methods which could prove more successful.

Body Paragraph 1:

One reason why incarcerating criminals fails to reduce overall levels of crime is because it does nothing to address the root cause or “drivers” behind criminal behavior. For example, poverty, inequality, lack of education and employment opportunities are all factors which contribute significantly towards criminality yet these issues remain largely unaddressed by traditional forms of punishment such as imprisonment. As long as these drivers continue unchecked then individuals will still feel compelled to commit crimes regardless if they face potential jail time or not.

Body Paragraph 2:

Another issue with using incarceration as a means for reducing crime is its tendency to lead to increased rates of recidivism amongst offenders once released from prison back into society. Research shows that those who spend extended periods in prison are more likely than

others without similar experiences when returning home due their difficulty adjusting back into normal life after being incarcerated (Lipton et al., 2017). Furthermore, many prisoners struggle with mental health problems upon re-entering society due both pre-existing conditions exacerbated by their experience in prison along with new ones acquired during their sentence (Fazel & Danesh 2002). These difficulties make them far less equipped at dealing with everyday challenges compared other members within society thus increasing their likelihoods at committing further offences post-release (Bonta et al., 1998).

Conclusion: In conclusion, although imprisoning criminals might appear like an obvious solution for reducing criminal activity on paper; evidence suggests otherwise when looking closer at how prisons actually operate within our societies today . Rather than relying solely on punitive measures such as incarceration we should instead focus our efforts on addressing some key social issues including poverty , inequality , educational attainment etc.. Doing so would provide us with better chances at preventing people from turning towards lives filled with criminality rather than simply punishing them afterwards through ineffective means such as imprisonment .