

February 2015



Maryland taxpayers spend approximately \$288 million to incarcerate 7,794 people from Baltimore City. The burden of incarceration is disproportionately felt by some communities. The same communities that experience incarceration most acutely also have the greatest challenges serving their residents. Rather than spend millions of dollars to incarcerate people from each of these communities, the funds could, instead, be invested in education, workforce development, treatment, and housing services.

Number of people in prison from Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park	458
Cost of incarcerating people from Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park	\$16,946,000

Challenges in Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park

The challenges that Baltimore communities face contribute to a cycle of incarceration, poverty, and lost opportunity. Redirecting people and funds away from prison would help Baltimore City address these persistent challenges and barriers to the success of each community. Specific indicators of the challenges faced by this community include:

Population 16-64 not Employed (2008-2012)*	51.8	%
Employed Population with Travel Time to Work of 45 Minutes or More (2012)	31.8	%
Median Household Income (2008-2012)	24,006	dollars
Families Receiving TANF (2012)	25.0	%
9 th -12 th Grade Students that are Chronically Absent (2012)	49.3	%
Population (25 years and over) with Less than a High School Diploma (2012)	60.7	%
Number of Narcotics Calls for Service per 1,000 Residents (2011)	464.8	calls
Mortality Rate for 15-24 year olds (2012)	19.0	per 1,000 youth
Life Expectancy (2012)	68.8	years
Residential Properties that are Vacant or Abandoned (2012)	33.1	%
Children (aged 0-6) with Elevated Blood-Lead Levels (2012)	7.4	%
Violent Crime Rate	23.0	per 1,000 residents

Source: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Jacob France Institute, “Vital Signs 12,” Accessed August 2014.
http://bniajfi.org/vital_signs/

Investments in Opportunity for Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park

For what taxpayers spend on incarceration in Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park, Baltimore City could invest in an array of programs and resources already available to help address community challenges.

	Cost per person	Number that could be served with \$16,946,000
Drug treatment for adults	\$4,494	3,771 adults
Employment training	\$5,000	3,389 people
Housing (per month)	\$1,252	13,535 families
GED course	\$1,000	16,946 students

For the full report, sources, and additional data see *The Right Investment?* at JusticePolicy.org/TheRightInvestment or PrisonPolicy.org/origin/