

Title: No True Justice in the American Criminal Justice System for People of Color: A Study of Racial Disparities in Mass Incarceration

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In the American criminal justice system, there is evident bias against people of color in which they are subjected to discrimination that lead to mass imprisonment. To conduct research, academic journals and scholarly websites were used. In 2017, state and federal correctional facilities' imprisonment rate for males of color was nearly six times the rate of white males (Bronson, Carson). There are many characteristics of the justice system that disproportionately target people of color — one of them being pretrial detention and bail decisions. When the accused suspects are unable to pay bail, they are forced to spend time locked up as they wait for their court date. Both entities “contribute to 30% to 47% of the explained Black-White disparity in [. . .] court dispositions” (Donnelly, MacDonald 776). Moreover, the presumption of guilt, along with all-white juries, allow for possibilities of mistrials, since racial stereotypes can affect a case for a defendant of color. In fact, “in cases with no blacks in the jury pool, blacks were convicted 81 percent of the time, and whites were convicted 66 percent of the time” (Hartsoe). Finally, the overall structure continues mass incarceration and sustains the role racism plays in the administration of justice, which is almost considered as modern-day slavery. To profit off of people of color in a society that condemned slavery, exploiters capitalize on today's legal system for personal gains (Jones). Therefore, the American justice system needs reformation due to the effects of perpetrated marginalization of people of color.

Works Cited

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