

The Impact of Education on: *Crime*

Six million students throughout America are currently at risk of dropping out of school. Students who fail to graduate from high school are more likely to participate in criminal activity than students who do graduate. Likewise, students with low levels of achievement in high school are more likely to engage in crime than students with high levels of achievement. Investing in education would save millions of dollars in crime related expenditures annually.

- Approximately 75 percent of state prison inmates did not complete high school. (Harlow, 2003)
- High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested in their lifetimes. (Catterall, 2001)
- A one percent increase in high school graduation rates would save approximately \$1.4 billion in costs associated with incarceration costs, or about \$2,100 for each male high school graduate. (Lochner and Moretti, 2001)
- A one-year increase in average education levels would reduce arrest rates by 11 percent. (Lochner and Moretti, 2001)
- About 47 percent of drug offenders do not have a high school diploma or a GED. (Harlow, 2003)
- About 23 percent of the difference in incarceration rates between blacks and whites would be eliminated by raising the average education levels of blacks to the same level as that of whites. (Lochner and Moretti, 2001)
- A male high school graduate with a D average is fourteen times more likely to become incarcerated than a graduate with an A average. (Arum and Beattie, 1999)
- For juveniles involved in quality reading instruction programs while in prison, recidivism was reduced by 20 percent or more. (Open Society Institute, 1997)