



Lesson Plan: Paying for Crime

Excerpt #1 “Criminal Justice Policies”

“... criminologists Alfred Blumstein and Allen Beck examined the near-tripling of the prison population during the period 1980-96 and concluded that changes in crime explained only 12% of the prison rise, while changes in sentencing policy accounted for 88% of the increase. Essentially, persons arrested for a felony offense became far more likely to be sentenced to prison (accounting for 51% of the increase) and to be sentenced for a longer period of time in prison (37% of the increase).”

Source: Comparative International Rates of Incarceration: An Examination of Causes and Trends, June 20, 2003
<http://www.sentencingproject.org/pdfs/pub9036.pdf>