



## Lesson Plan: Paying for Crime

### Worksheet #4: Prison Budgets

**Concept:** From the Bureau of Justice 1996 report, page 4:

“States spent an average of \$6 out of every \$100 for new construction, renovations, major repairs, equipment, land, buildings, and other nonrecurring outlays during FY 1996.”

**Calculation:** Convert that to a percent:  $6/100 = 6\%$ .

**Concept:** On page 5:

“About two-thirds of operating costs went for prison employee salaries, wages, and benefits”

**Calculation:**  $2/3 = 66.67\%$

**Concept:** On page 6:

“Over a quarter of current operating expenses in State prisons in FY 1996 involved inmate medical care, food service, inmate programs, utilities, and transportation and travel expenses”

**Calculation:** Over a quarter means more than  $1/4$ , which is 25%. So we can estimate 26%-30%.

**Concept:** Of that 26-30%, 12% is medical and dental, page 7:

“...medical and dental care in FY 1996, or about 12% of total prison operating expenditures...”

**Calculation:** 26%, subtract 12% for medical and dental, leaving 13% split between food, utilities, inmate programs and transportation.

**Concept:** On page 8:

“Outlays for State prison food services during FY1996 were slightly less than half as large as the costs for medical care.”

**Calculation:** Medical/dental was 12%. Half of that is 6% so food gets about 5% of the budget.

**Concept:** On page 9:

“...**inmate programs** involving academic and vocational training, substance abuse awareness and treatment programs, religious activities, parenting, job search preparation, life skills training, recreation and exercise, and related activities... This amount was slightly more than for food service and equal to about **6%** of the Nation’s total State prison operating expenditure.”

**Concept:** On page 10:

“State prison **utility costs** totaled \$682 million in FY 1996, or about **3.3%** of total prison operating expenditures.”

**Concept:** On page 11:

“Inmate **transportation** and staff travel activities cost State prisons systems \$197 million in FY 1996, or about **1%** of their total operating expenditures.”