



SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER

The justice of a society can be measured by how the most vulnerable are faring and treated.

Solitary Confinement Fact Sheet: What Other States Have Done to Address the Cost and Cruelty

- 1) "Solitary confinement wastes taxpayer dollars"--Southern Poverty Law Center...[read more](#).
- 2) "Fact Sheet: The High Cost of Solitary Confinement" from SOLITARY WATCH...[read more](#).
- 3) "Prisons Rethink Isolation, Saving Money, Lives and Sanity"—from the NY Times...[read more](#).
- 4) "Solitary Confinement Reforms by State: 1998-2014"— from The Marshall Project...[read more](#).
- 5) "Administrative Segregation in U.S. Prisons"—U.S. Department of Justice—March 2016—many research papers cited...[read more](#).
- 6) "Public Health and Solitary Confinement in the United States"— from American Public Health Association--many references cited...[read more](#).
- 7) "Resolution on Limiting the Use of Solitary Confinement"—American Legislative Exchange Council—November 2019...[read more](#).
- 8) Solitary Confinement: Common Misconceptions and Emerging Alternatives—from VERA

Institute for Justice—May 2015...[read more](#).

- 9) "California Expects to Save \$28 Million by Reducing Solitary Confinement"—SOLITARY WATCH—January 2016—[read more](#).
- 10) "Although there is little empirical evidence to support the efficacy of solitary confinement as a prison management tool, there is ample evidence that it is the most costly form of incarceration." ACLU Briefing Paper—2014...[read more](#).
- 11) "Solitary Confinement In America: Time for Change and a Proposed Model Of Reform"—University of Pennsylvania--October 2014--multiple references to unjustifiable cost—[read more](#).
- 12) **A summary of some of the findings:**
 - a) "Mississippi heightened the criteria for placing individuals in administrative segregation, significantly reducing its overall population in solitary confinement and the associated costs. It was able to close a unit that once held up to 1,000 people in isolation, saving \$8 million a year." See #1 above.
 - b) "Segregation units can be two to three times as costly to build and, because of their extensive staffing requirements, to operate as

conventional prisons are.” See #2 above.

c) “...(T)he GAO report found that, for fiscal year 2012, the total cost of housing 1,987 inmates in SMUs was \$87 million (whereas it would have cost approximately \$42 million to house those same inmates in a medium-security facility or \$50 million in a high-security facility).” See #5 above.

d) “39 Other states (other than California) are recognizing that, at 2 to 3 times the cost of housing in the general jail or prison population, solitary confinement provides a poor return on investment.” See #6 above.

e) “...(I)n 2007, Mississippi had 1,300 people in solitary confinement while today there are only 300. This downsizing has saved Mississippi taxpayers \$6 million, because solitary confinement costs \$102 per day compared to \$42 a day for inmates in the general population. Most importantly, violence within Mississippi’s prisons and the recidivism rate upon release are both down, with violence dropping nearly 70 percent.” See #7 above.

f) “...(I)n 2013, the estimated daily cost per inmate at the federal administrative maximum (supermax) facility was \$216.12 compared to \$85.74 to house people in the general prison population. In 2003, the daily per capita costs of operating a supermax prison in Ohio were estimated at two-to-three times that of regular security units—\$149 per day

compared to \$63 per day, with one corrections officer for every 1.7 prisoners in supermax compared to one for every 2.5 in less restricted housing.” See #8 above.

g) “As our fact sheet on the issue of cost points out, solitary confinement routinely costs more. One **estimate** put the average difference at as much as \$50,000 a year, per-individual. This, despite significant evidence that prolonged segregation may in fact be counterproductive...” See #9 above.

h) “A 2007 estimate from Arizona put the annual cost of holding a prisoner in solitary confinement at approximately \$50,000, compared to about \$20,000 for the average prisoner. In Maryland, the average cost of housing a prisoner in segregation is three times greater than in a general population facility; in Ohio and Connecticut it twice as high; and in Texas the costs are 45% greater.” See #10 above.

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