

**STRUCTURAL RACISM IN THE
PRISON INDUSTRIAL
COMPLEX: HOW THE RACIAL
FORMATION “OTHER”
CAUSES DISCRIMINATION**

By Tre' A. Carver

Program: Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

THREE GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Why are there proportionally more Blacks incarcerated in the U.S. than any other racial formation?
- How do high incarceration rates of Blacks affect Black youth?
- What purpose does incarcerating Blacks serve?

DISPROPORTIONATE SENTENCING/ SENTENCING DISPARITIES

Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment

Black Men



1 in 3

White Men



1 in 17

Black Women



1 in 18

White Women



1 in 111

Bonczar, T. (2003). Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

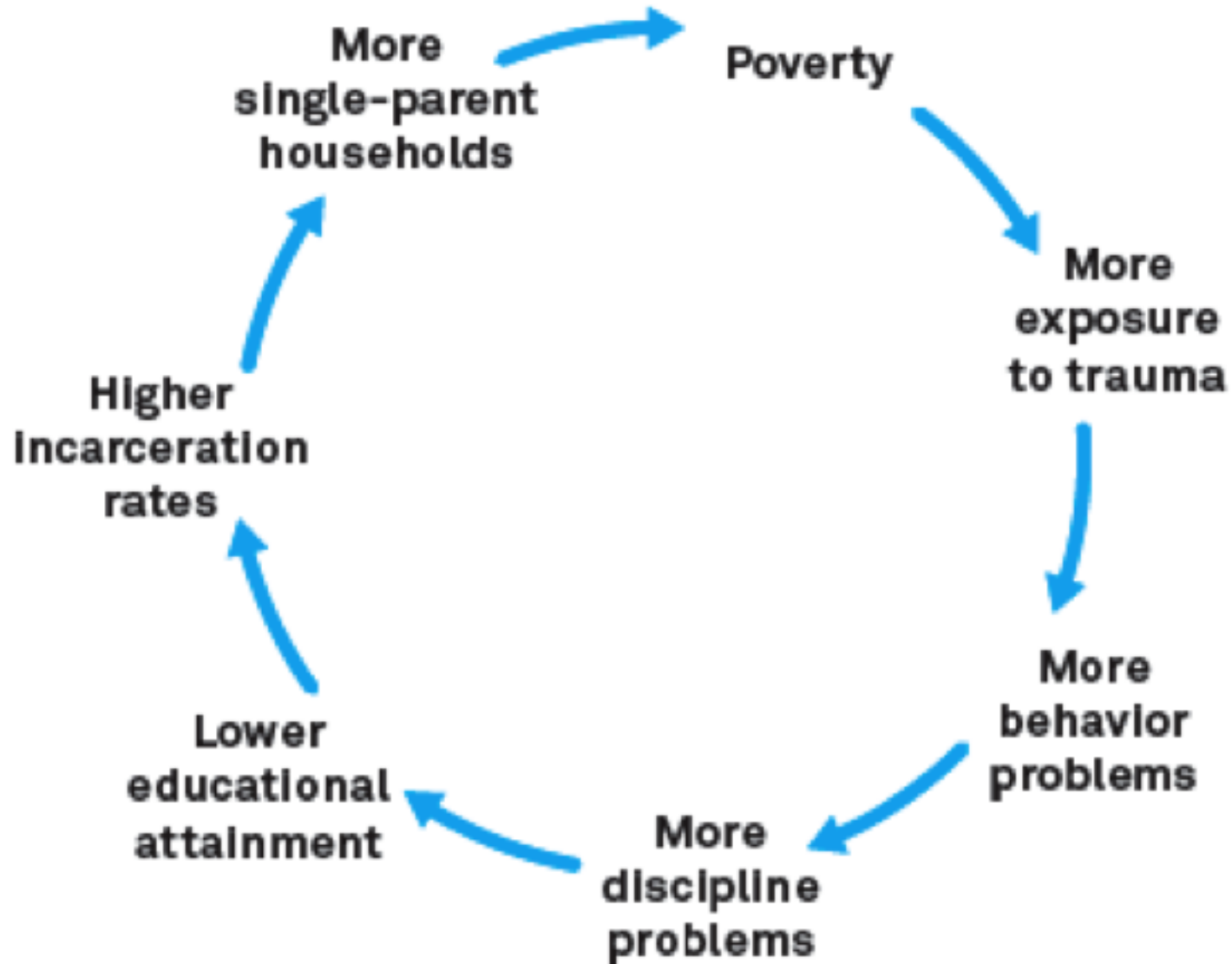
<https://www.attn.com/stories/2419/racism-in-american-criminal-justice-system>

POLICING STRATEGIES



http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/02/community-policing_n_7486576.html

CYCLE OF MASS INCARCERATION



HOW DOES THE HIGH INCARCERATION RATES OF BLACKS AFFECT BLACK YOUTH?

Single Parent Homes



<https://abagond.wordpress.com/2013/11/11/the-black-illegitimacy-argument/>

Support Group

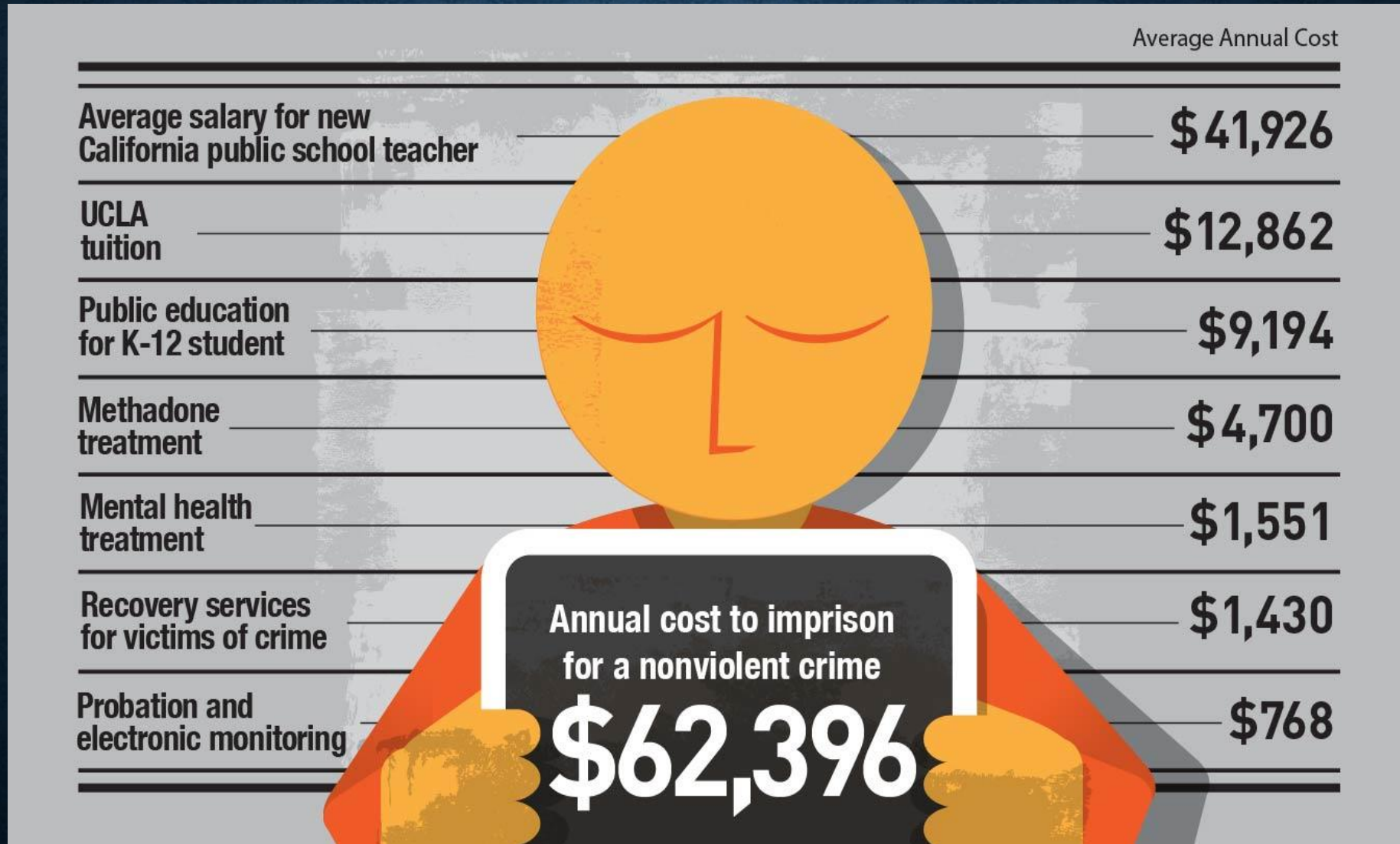


<https://unitedgangs.com/category/san-diego-gangs/>

WHAT PURPOSE DOES INCARCERATING BLACKS SERVE?

- Hegemonic and Racist Priorities
 - War on Drugs (John Ehrlichman—former Nixon Aid)
 - The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I'm saying?" "We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did" (John Ehrlichman, 1971, as cited in Donahue, 2016)

HEGEMONIC AND RACIST PRIORITIES CONT.



CONCLUSION

- Blacks are being systematically targeted and discriminated against by the Criminal Justice System
- Institutions like the Criminal Justice System in American are designed to perpetuate racist priorities (hegemonic agendas)
- Despite progress being made in Social Justice, these institutions are still operating in ways that disadvantage Blacks

REFERENCES

- Bonczar, T. (2003). Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Donahue, A. (2016). Nixon Aid Quote. Retrieved from https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/a-former-nixon-aide-admitted-the-war-on-drugs-was-designed-to-screw-over-blacks-and-hippies-vgtrn
- Cycle of Mass Incarceration. [Image] <http://www.humanimpact.org/tag/incarceration/>
- <https://newsone.com/1195075/children-single-parents-u-s-american/>