

Let's End Financial Barriers



Lupita Carballo
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South Central Los Angeles

9:55

Messages



1,398

87

281



ib2_real

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The most expensive soap and deodorant is ...

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Research Question

For anyone that has supported a love one through incarceration

What has been the economic and personal toll of commissary/phone calls on your personal life?

NEWSLETTERS SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS

Costs of incarceration rise as inflation squeezes inmates, families

Prison commissaries often run by companies that contract with the state, and the state may also get a cut of profits

By GREGG DEWANE OCTOBER 15, 2022 1:48 PM

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Lawsuits target 'extortionate' phone calls, commissary items in California jails



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OPINION

JULY LAST PRISON

LASD-Run Inmate Welfare Fund: Another Black Hole of Taxpayer Dollars

The most expensive Chateaus in the world are sold in LA County jails. The sheriff's office eats the profit.

Mike Soren-Shing | May 14, 2022

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We know that people incarcerated is given three meals a day. But if you get hungry between meals or would like to purchase basic hygiene commissary money buys extra food and other necessities

Journalists have been publishing lawsuits as well as stories of the economic burden of phone calls and commissary costs that primarily fall on low-income women of color supporting loved ones inside

Did you know that a portion of the funds from commissary sales and collected phone calls goes into an Inmate Welfare Fund, which pays for rehabilitative programming? Currently, the LA probation department receives \$59,000 a year from phone calls from juvenile detention facilities



Research Source

How this source contributes to my understanding

LA TIMES (LAWSUITS TARGET PHONE CALLS COMMISSARY ITEMS IN CALIFORNIA JAILS)

Class action lawsuits filed in LA. This law suits come two years after the Los Angeles BOS. unanimously passed a motion to end commissary mark up and make phone calls free. It also challenges the Los Angeles County use of commission based contract meaning the county is guaranteed a big chunk of revenue from companies handling commissary sales & phone calls.

LA TIMES (When jails make money off phone calls, society pays)

Financial Barriers of a sister that has a brother incarcerated. She said that sometimes she had to choose paying for groceries & paying GTL bill. She also talk about putting money on jail books so her brother could buy basic food & hygiene from the jail commissary and being shock on the price. Lastly it also covers what San Francisco organizers are doing in the ground to pass SB255

Knock LA (LASD-Run Inmate Welfare Fund: Another Black Hole of Taxpayers Dollars)



Item	LASD Cost	Sale Price	Total # Ordered	Total
Irish Spring Soap 3.2oz	\$0.68	\$1.45	83,923	\$121,688.35
Roll-on Deodorant	\$1.88	\$4.00	21,390	\$85,560.00
Freshmint Toothpaste 2.75oz	\$1.02	\$2.16	36,082	\$77,937.12
Cocoa Butter Lotion 4oz	\$0.66	\$1.41	20,607	\$29,055.87
Tampons (10 pack)	\$1.27	\$2.70	1,399	\$3,777.30

In 2021 LA County Sheriff's Department pocketed \$44.9 million off commissary fees, LASD contract with for profit corporation such as keef which LASD sells at a 50% mark up. Also highlights that the revenues from these charges goes to something called Inmate Welfare funds

My personal experience

My love one has been incarcerated for the past 28 months we experience commissary mark up 2x went from \$100 every week to \$130 NOW \$160 a week not because he wants more stuff but because he could get the same quantity for his buck

I collected data by creating a survey

Let's end financial barriers survey

This survey was put together to collect data so we can eliminate profits and markups on commissary items in LA County jail and can potentially also end in a statewide

* Indicates required question

Email *

Cannot pre-fill email

Untitled Section

I know how to navigate Jpay, access securepak, and other apps to add money to my loved one's commissary *

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Other: _____

Having to contribute to my loved one's commissary puts a financial burden on me *

IF YOU HAVE EVER SUPPORTED AN INCARCERATED LOVED ONE WITH COMMISSARY- SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW!

THIS SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED TO USE AS A TOOL TO:

- 1. MAKE ALL PHONE CALLS FROM L.A. COUNTY JAILS FREE**
- 2. END ALL COUNTY MARKUPS ON COMMISSARY ITEMS**

@YOUTHJUSTICELA

Survey Questionnaire

Let's end financial barriers survey

This survey was put together to collect data so we can eliminate profits and markups on commissary items in LA County jail and can potentially also end in a statewide

* Indicates required question

Email *

Cannot pre-fill email

Untitled Section

I know how to navigate .jpay, access securepak, and other apps to add money to my loved one's commissary *

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Other: _____

Having to contribute to my loved one's commissary puts a financial burden on me *

Having to contribute to my loved one's commissary puts a financial burden on me *

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Other: _____

How often do you contribute to your loved one's commissary *

Once a month

twice a month

Once a week

multiple times a week

On average, how much do you spend a month in commissary (insert a dollar amount) *

Your answer _____

How often do you contribute to your loved one's commissary *

Once a month

Once a week

multiple times a week

Please fill out this field.

On average, how much do you spend a month in commissary (insert a dollar amount) *

Your answer _____

How often do you communicate with your loved on by phone? *

Once a month

Twice a month

Once a week

Multiple times a week

Once a day

Multiple times a day

I would be able to speak to my loved ones more if phone calls were free *

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

Other: _____

How long has your loved one been incarcerated? *

1-3 months

4-7 months

8-12 months

13 months-3 years

4 years or more

Other: _____

I and/or my loved one experienced price gauging when making purchases in commissary (for example, a bag of chips being \$5.00 while incarcerated when it would cost \$2.00 at any convenience store) *

True

False

In what month and year were you born? *

Your answer _____

What is your zip code? *

Your answer _____

What gender do you identify with? *

male

Female

Prefer not to say

Option 4

Other: _____

Have you ever been arrested or officially detained by law enforcement in any capacity?

Yes

No

Maybe

What racial/ethnic categories do you identify with?(Mark all that apply) *

latino/hispanic

Middle Eastern

African-American/ Black

White/Caucasian

Asian/Pacific Islander

Native-American

Other: _____

would you be interested in joining a campaign to eliminate fees and fines

Yes

No

Maybe

IF YES: Please put your email and the best number to text you below

IF NO: End the survey

Your answer _____

Want to enter a raffle for filling out the survey please add your name

Prize a dinner gift certificate or a package to your love one

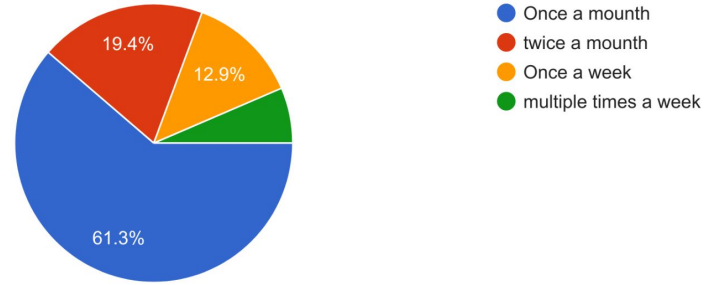
Your answer _____

Research Finding 1

The findings are that families are supporting their loved one incarcerated as much as they can no matter what according to one of the LA Times articles highlighting one person's testimony is also many of them

How often do you contribute to your loved one's commissary

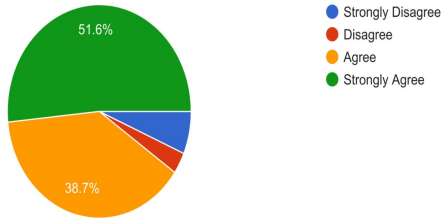
31 responses



- Once a month
- twice a month
- Once a week
- multiple times a week

Having to contribute to my loved one's commissary puts a financial burden on me

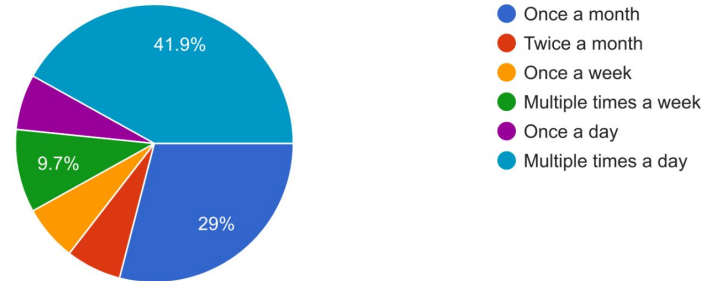
31 responses



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

How often do you communicate with your loved one by phone?

31 responses



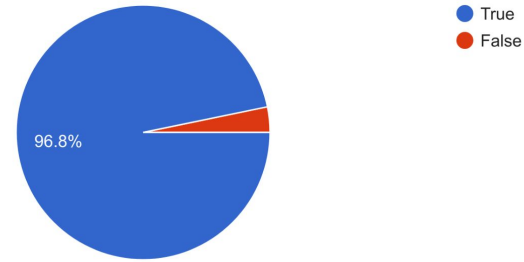
- Once a month
- Twice a month
- Once a week
- Multiple times a week
- Once a day
- Multiple times a day

Research Finding 2

The findings are that families know about the difference of pricing of the criminalization institutions and the outside world pricing of basic food and hygiene products .

I and/or my loved one experienced price gauging when making purchases in commissary (for example, a bag of chips being \$5.00 while incarcerated...then it would cost \$2.00 at any convenience store)

31 responses

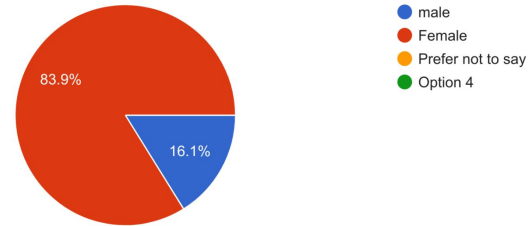


Research Finding 3

“those responsible for paying bail, court fines and fees are women, and mostly low-income women of color. Men do the time, but women pay the fine.”

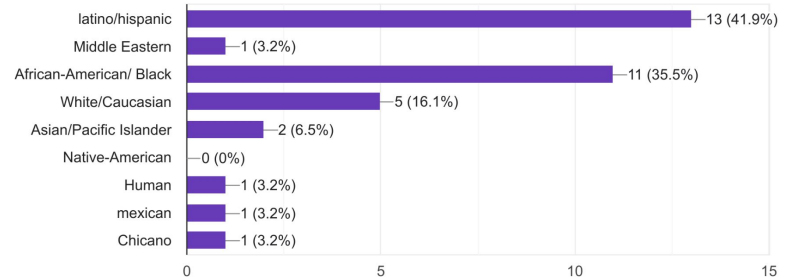
What gender do you identify with?

31 responses



What racial/ethnic categories do you identify with?(Mark all that apply)

31 responses



What this all means

There are many injustice within our criminal justice system

Action plan - what we need to do

- Since LA County has passed a motion to consider making free phone calls and end commissary mark up but recommended the CEO to work with the Sheriff's Department and Office of Inspector General to consider alternatives to the current phone contract DEMAND to make them free and end the mark up it's time to people community first
- Continue to collect data so it can be a tool to others for legislation/county motions
- End commissary markup and have free phone calls

List of sources (references/works cited page)

STUHL DREHER, A (2020 APRIL 06) *Op-ed: when jails make money off phone calls, society pays*

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Acknowledgements