

This paper briefly describes data collected by researchers at the Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice to create Utah's Cost-Benefit Model. **When adjusted for inflation criminal justice budgets at the state level only increased 4% between 2005 and 2010 while budgets at the local level increased by 23%.**



Analysis of State and Local Criminal Justice Budgets (2005 – 2010)

To better understand “quality” in our value equation, we began by prioritizing program areas of interest. Using a systematic review process, we focused on finding and analyzing program evaluations in our prioritized areas to assess program effectiveness (or “quality”). This task began with an exhaustive search of the literature from which thousands of research papers and program evaluations were examined. This list was further honed to determine if each study met our strict inclusion criteria, and then each evaluation was read and assessed to determine its methodological rigor. If it was considered acceptable, it was combined with other evaluations in a given program area to create a quality index called an “effect size” using a process called meta-analysis. Further details of this process can be found in “Utah Cost of Crime 2012: Methods for Reviewing Program Effectiveness”

Introduction

As good consumers we seek “value”, that perfect balance between cost and quality that ensures that we are getting the most for our money. But in a marketplace that has vastly different price points and levels of quality, that value equation becomes complex. A cost benefit model helps bring both cost and quality into focus and provides valuable information to help make choices in a complex market. But how do you measure cost and quality in a fair way to ensure that the model can be safely used by consumers?

In our model, costs were calculated using budgetary information from our state criminal justice agencies (Courts, Corrections, Public Safety, Juvenile Justice Services and the Attorney General’s Office) over a six year period (2005-2010). This information was combined with similar data from both county and municipal budgets gleaned from the files of the State Auditor’s Office. Together this information included over 2000 separate data points. The budget information was then matched with crime data over the same period. The result was a statistical model that helps predict the cost to taxpayers for the investigation, arrest, prosecution, and incarceration of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Further details of this process can be found in “Utah Cost of Crime 2012: Introduction to an Econometric Cost-Benefit Approach”.

Budget Review

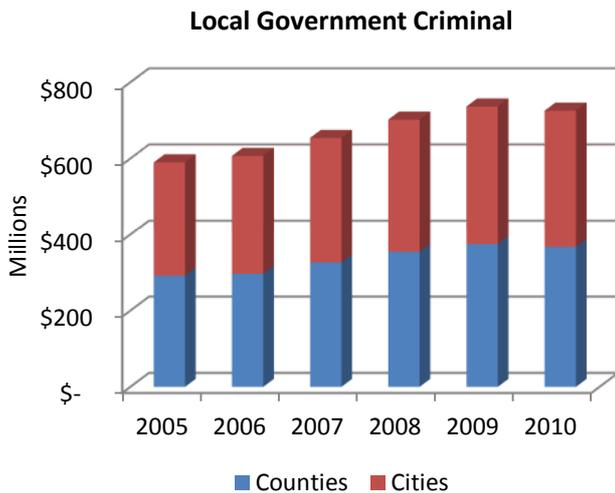
In 2010, the last year of our analysis, Utah taxpayers’ spent well over **1.3 billion** relating to criminal justice at the state and local level. Over the six year period this total rose to almost **7.5 billion** which represents a significant outlay of taxpayer dollars.

Nominal vs Adjusted Budgets

When discussing budget changes over an extended period, it is important to account for variations due to inflation. The amount spent each year was adjusted to “constant” dollars to ensure that the following graphs and analysis reflect actual increases.

The local budget data includes statewide information from both county and municipal governments. The agencies examined included local police agencies, sheriffs, justice courts, jails and attorneys.

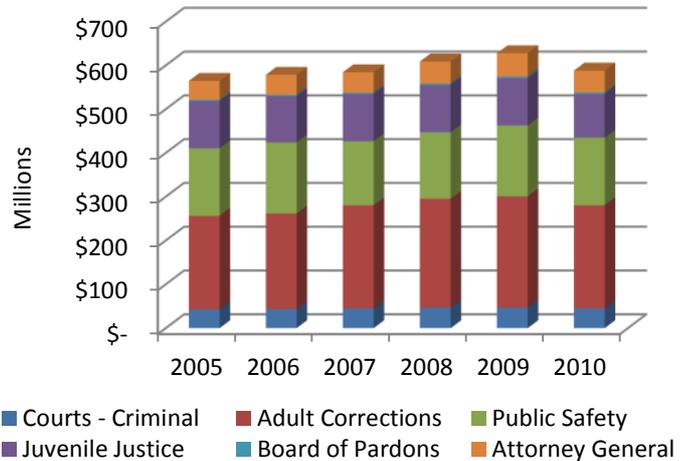
Even after adjusting for inflation, over the six year period, budgets for local government criminal justice agencies have increased by 23% to a total of \$725,624,000 in fiscal year 2010.



At the state level increases have been much smaller. Over the same six year period the budgets for the Department Corrections, Courts (Criminal), Public Safety, Juvenile Justice Services, Board of Pardons and the Attorney General's Office increased by only 4%.

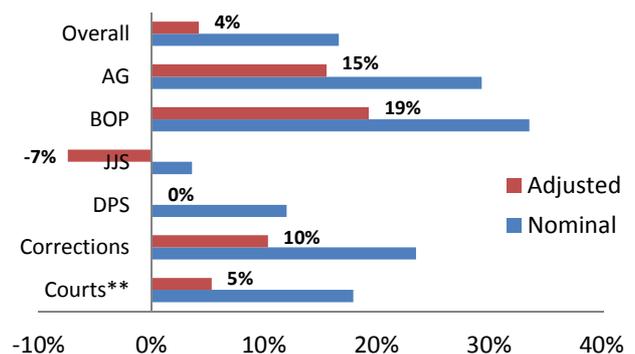
In adjusted 2010 dollars the total spent on criminal justice agencies in FY 2010 was \$588 million up from \$533.8 million in 2005 but the FY 2010 total of \$588 million represented a decrease of five percent between 2009 and 2010. In FY2009, the total spent on criminal justice in 2010 dollars was 627.8 million.

State Criminal Justice Budgets 2005-2010



But even among state agencies, the budget picture is very different. The Department of Corrections received almost \$22 million of the \$23.5 million dollar increase awarded to all criminal justice agencies while Juvenile Justice Services saw a decrease of just over \$8 million during the same time period.

Percent Increase in State Budgets 2005-2010 Nominal vs Adjusted*



*Adjusted to 2010 dollars using CPI ** Estimated - criminal

Both at the state and local level the cost of correctional services remains high. In 2010, the cost of Adult Corrections at the state level was \$235.4 million. At the local level the cost was \$179.4 million. Over time, the proportion of the budget at the state and local level allocated to correctional services remained relatively constant with nearly half of the local criminal justice budgets going to corrections, while at the state level this proportion is slightly lower at 40%.