

Audience:

Policy makers in cities and states.

According to fiscal reports from the US Census Bureau the budget of police departments has continued to increase substantially, despite the steady decline in crime reported by the FBI. Police department budgets can consist of billions of dollars and even a 10% decrease in spending would substantially help underfunded programs.

If cities and states are more efficient with their budgets, they can reduce budgetary spending or allocate excess funds towards underfunded programs. Funding these programs will considerably increase the desirability of their city or state.

Benefits?

Problems?

Issue

Cities and states have the daunting task of managing budgetary expenses, and currently not every single program can be adequately funded. Therefore, it's imperative for cities to be efficient when budgeting and address overspending.

So What?

Solutions?

Policy makers in cities and states should consider reducing the budgetary spending allocated towards police departments. Additionally, cities should use the excess budget to fund other underfunded programs to increase the desirability of their city.

As the funding for police departments continues to increase, departments take up greater and greater portions of a city's budget. For example, New York City has a budget of around \$97.8 billion dollars. And the police department takes up around 11.1% of that budget by spending around \$10.9 billion. The budget of the NYPD has increased by 1/3 (\$3.63 billion) since 2010, even though crime has continued to decline. Therefore, cities should investigate whether they should reduce or relocate department spending to match the declining crime rates to alleviate the city's budgets.