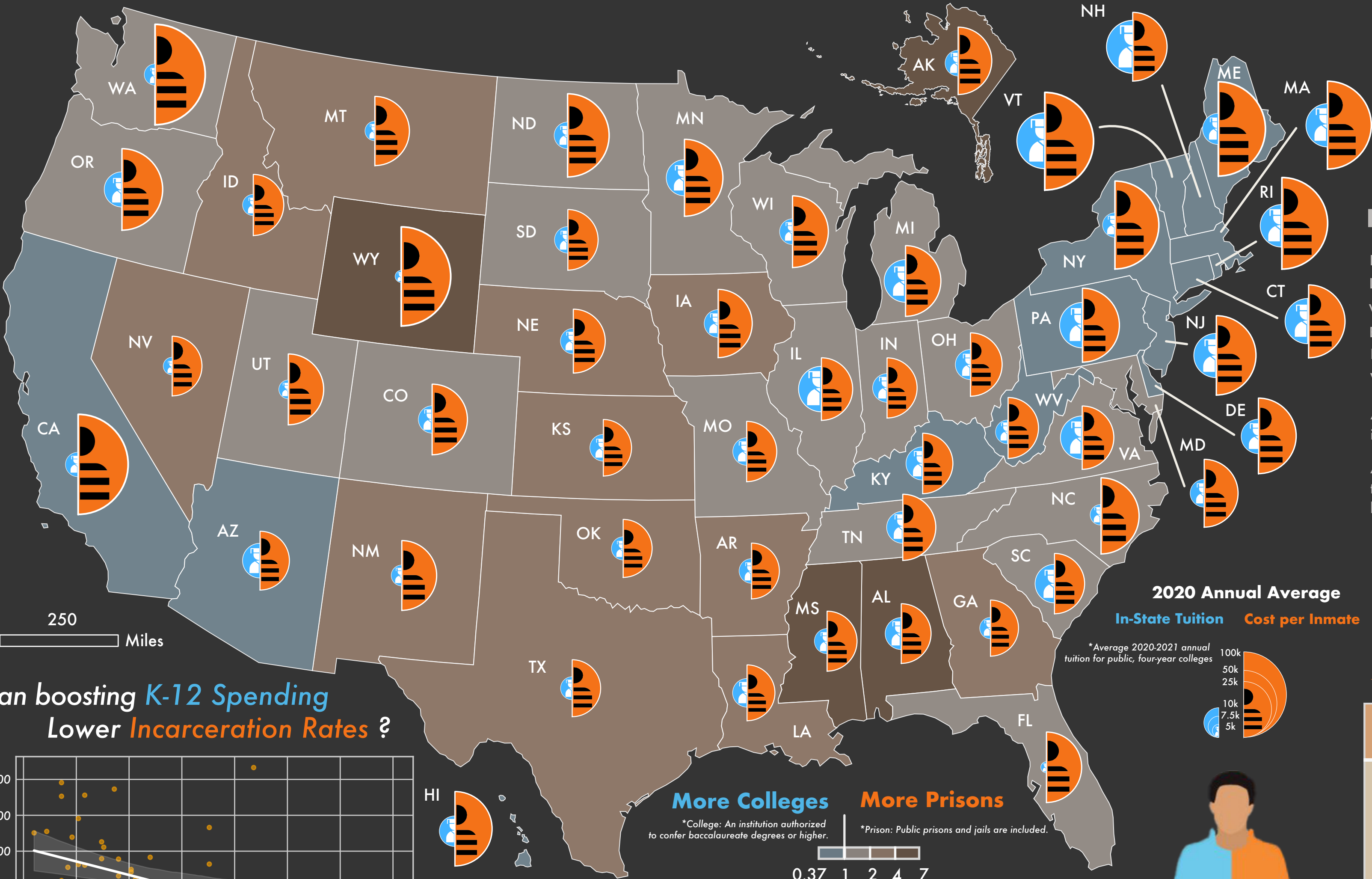
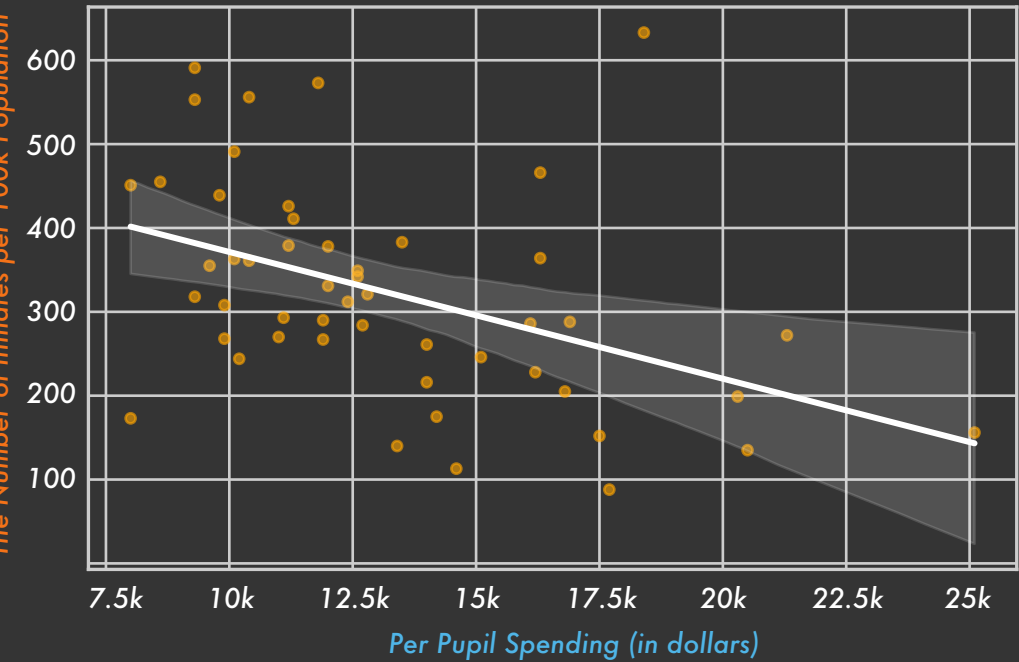


TO EDUCATE OR TO INCARCERATE ?

Yanbing Chen, Dec 2023
USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic
Central Meridian: 96° W
Standard Parallels: 29.5°N, 45.5°N
Sources:
Noun Project, Prisonpolicy.org, Vera.org,
worldpopulationreview.com, Eastern State Penitentiary



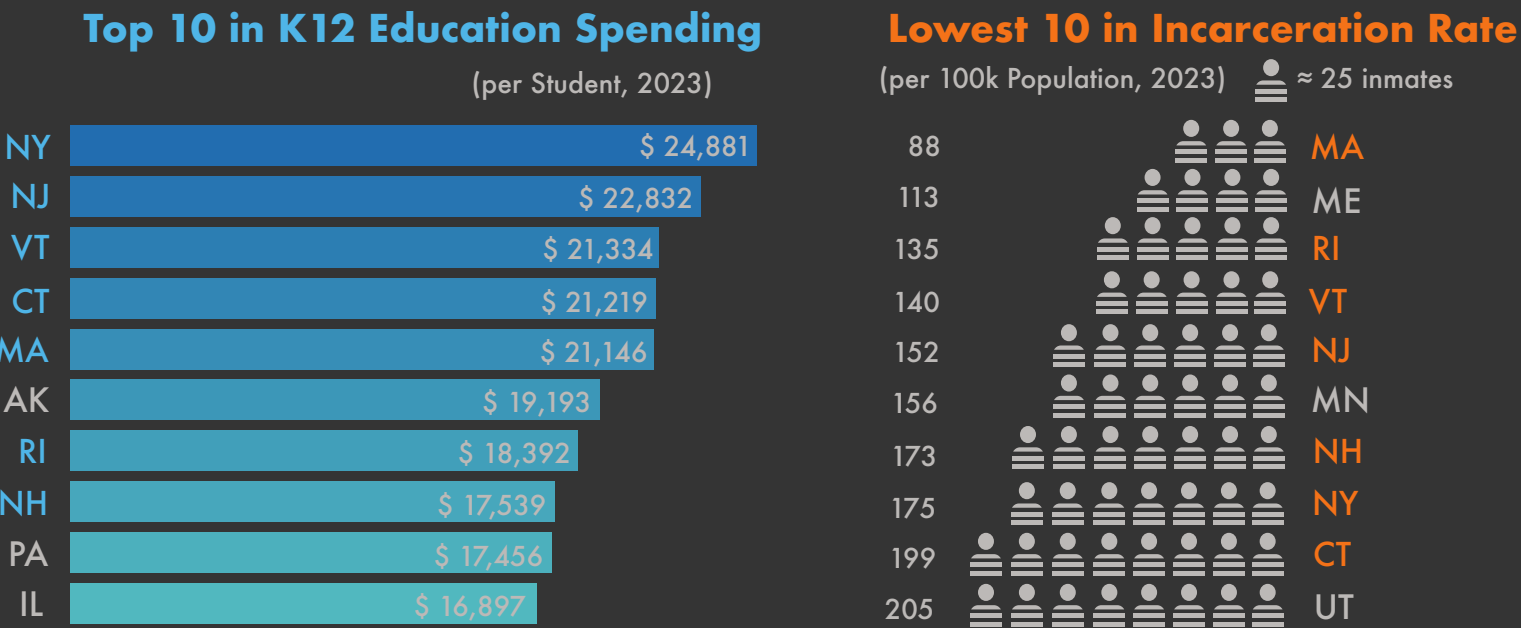
Can boosting K-12 Spending Lower Incarceration Rates ?



The regression analysis reveals a significant negative correlation between K-12 education spending and incarceration rates in the United States, with p-value = 0.00147.

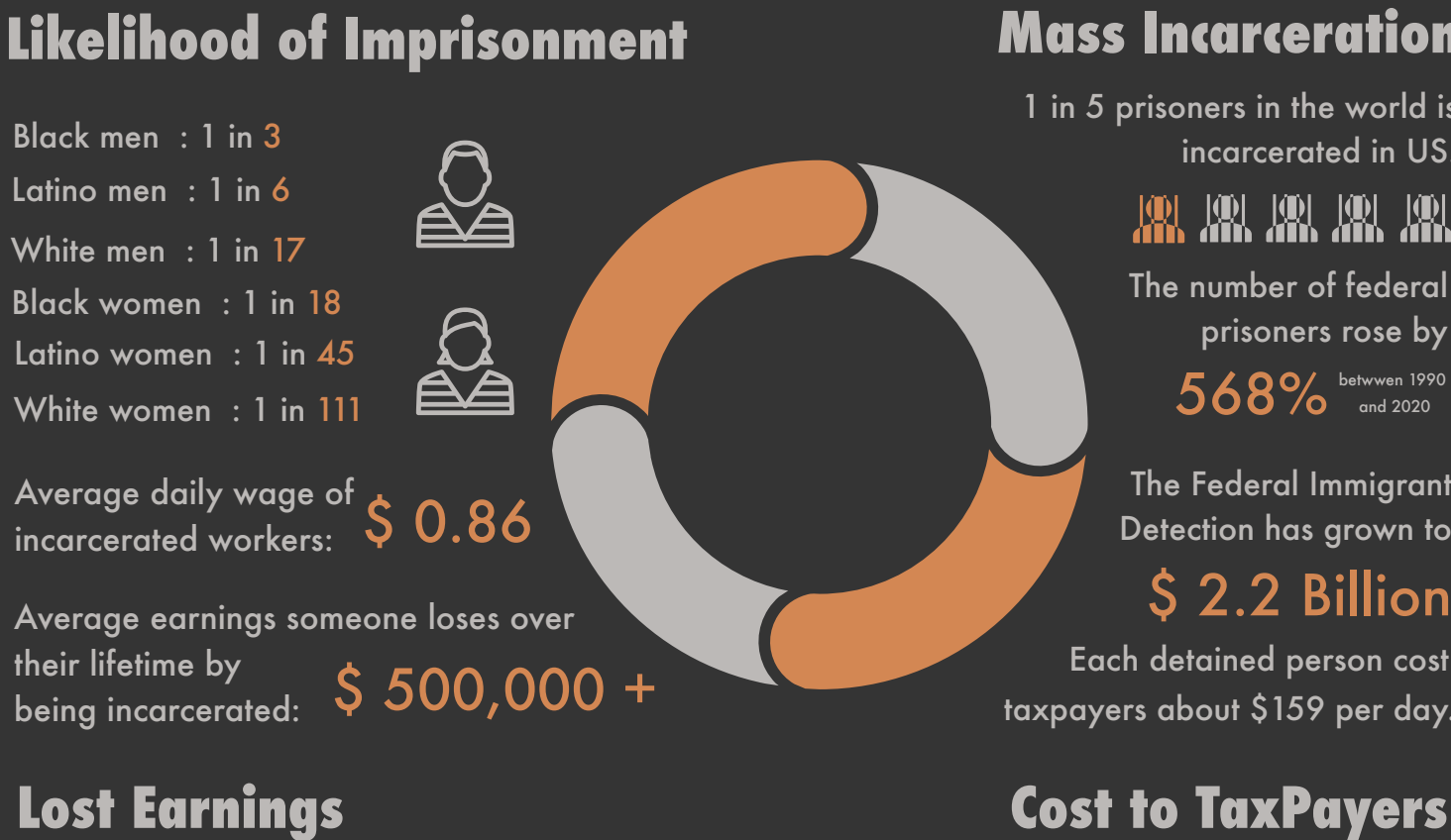
As shown in the bar chart, seven states marked in blue and orange both rank among the top ten for educational spending and among the least ten for incarceration rates.

While this does not prove causation, it highlights the potential of education-focused policies in addressing criminal justice challenges.

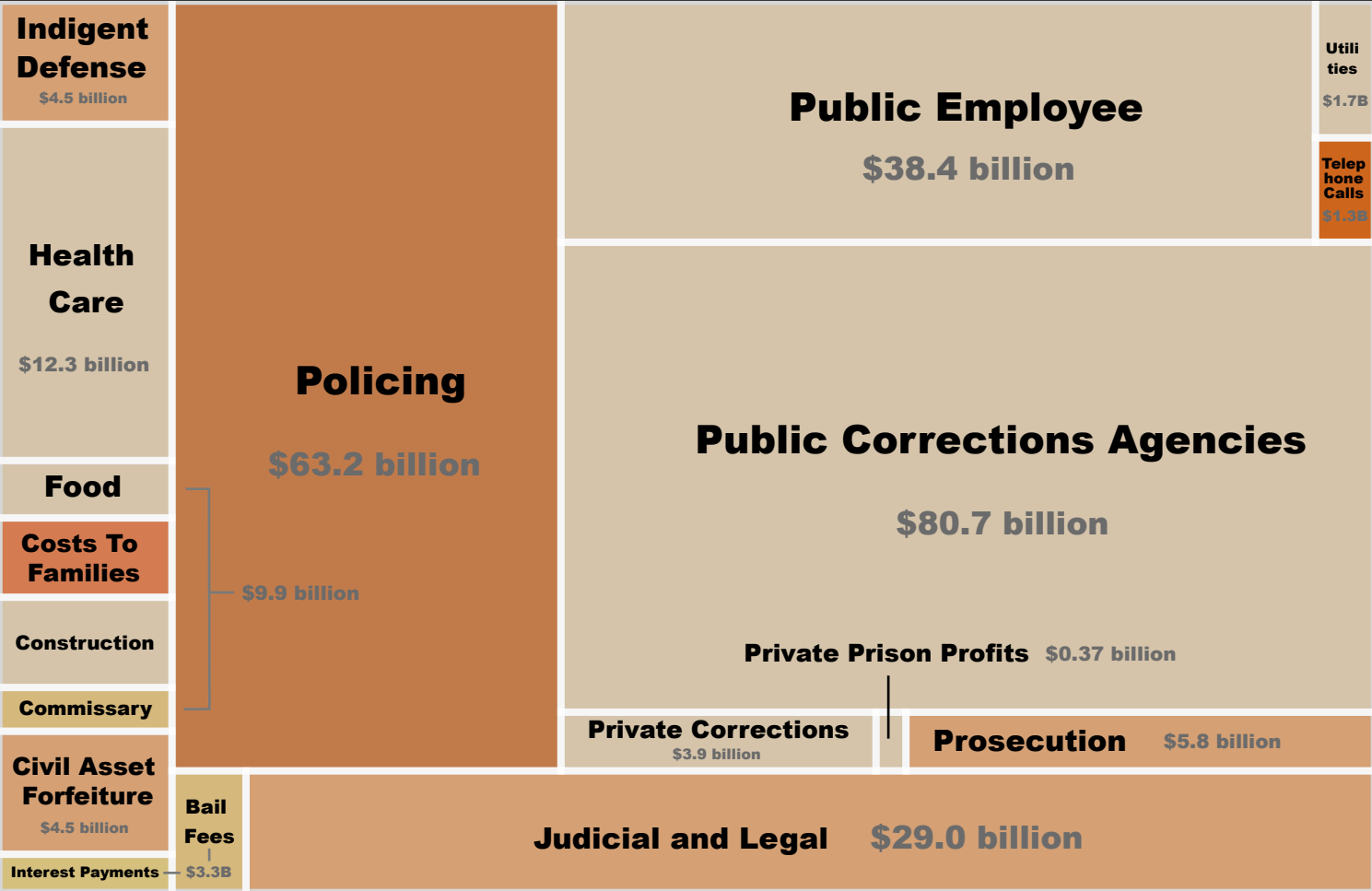


INCARCERATION IN THE STATES

With over 2 million people behind bars, the U.S. accounts for about 20% of the world's prisoners, despite having less than 5% of the global population. The annual cost of maintaining this vast prison system is estimated to be over \$180 billion. This phenomenon not only reflects on the country's criminal justice policies but also significantly impacts public spending.



FOLLOWING THE MONEY OF MASS INCARCERATION



Colors represent different cost categories: Public Corrections, Judicial and Legal, Policing, and Direct/Indirect External Costs.

Annual Total \$ 182 billion