Week 10 Journal

The Million Dollar Blocks analytic framework shifts the conversation about crime from one about where crimes occur to one about where public dollar are being spent on incarceration? What are the implications of shifting towards a conversation focused on the public impact and cost of incarceration versus one focused on where offenses occur?

I think that from shifting the conversation to the cost of incarceration and its public impact highlights the way in which cities spend their money. During the Black Lives Matter protest we saw how cities were quick to resource policing, but not communities. I think that through this analysis we were able to see that cities have enough money to properly fund communities and community organizations if we were to allocate funds away from policing and incarceration.

In general, neighborhood crime data can be tricky to accurately represent - why might this be the case? What questions do we need to ask about crime reporting in order to effectively analyze and facilitate deliberation using data on were crimes occur?

Crime data can be tricky to accurately represent because the information may be in inaccurate. For example, crime reports might not be representative of where crime actually occurs. For example, neighborhoods with more black and brown people are more heavily policed, thus more crimes will be reported there. Additionally, under these circumstances white collar crime and blue-collar crime may be reported differently. Crimes such as burglary and theft are easier to identify physically than fraud. This means that Another factor that we must consider is trust in the police. Some communities may report higher crimes because people are policed in neighborhoods they don’t belong in or look “suspicious.” For these circumstances, black and brown crime may be reported at higher rates despite the level of the crime.