

Adventure Learning Action-Based Learning

Interpreting Data

Review the Charts and Answer the Questions

TABLE 1

In 2003, whites constituted 7.8% and African Americans constituted more than 80% of the defendants sentenced under the harsh federal crack cocaine laws, despite the fact that more than 66% of crack cocaine users in the United States are white or Hispanic.

2003 Federal Crack Cocaine Defendants


■ White
 ■ African American
 ■ Hispanic
 ■ Other

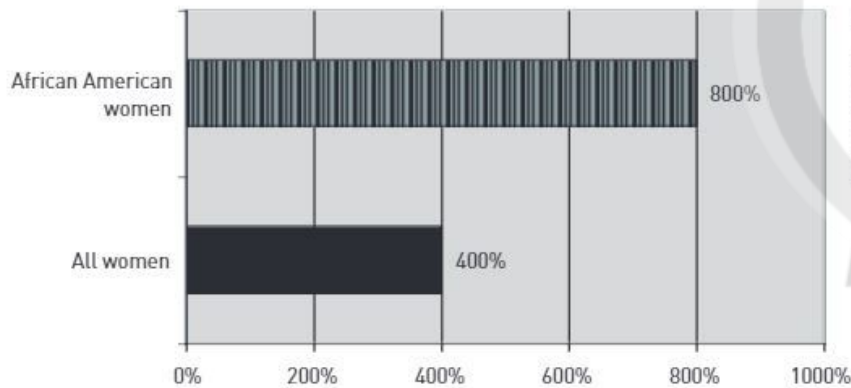
Source: U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION, 2003 SOURCEBOOK OF FEDERAL SENTENCING, Table 34 (2003), available at <http://www.ussc.gov/ANNRPT/2003/table34.pdf>.

Crack Cocaine Users


■ White
 ■ African American
 ■ Hispanic
 ■ Other

Source: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, 2004 NATIONAL SURVEY ON DRUG USE AND HEALTH, POPULATION ESTIMATES 1995, Table 1.43a (2005), available at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/Nhsda/2k3tabs/Sect1peTabs1to66.htm#tab1.43a>.

1. How would you collect the data for this graph?
2. What conclusions can you draw from the information represented in this graph?
3. Why do you think they chose to use a pie graph? Is there another graph that could be used to better illustrate the data?
4. List five examples of math that these scientists and mathematicians used to create this graph.

TABLE 2**Rate of Increase of Women Behind Bars Since 1986**

African American women's incarceration rates for all crimes, largely driven by drug convictions, increased by 800% from 1986, compared to an increase of 400% for women of all races for the same period.

Source: ACLU ET AL., CAUGHT IN THE NET: THE IMPACT OF DRUG POLICIES ON WOMEN AND FAMILIES 17 (2005), available at <http://www.fairlaws4families.org/final-caught-in-the-net-report.pdf> (citing SUSAN BOYD, FROM WITCHES TO CRACK MOMS: WOMEN, DRUG LAW, AND POLICY 208-09 (2004)).

1. How would you collect the data for this graph?

2. What conclusions can you draw from the information represented in this graph?

3. Why do you think they chose to use a bar graph? Is there another graph that could be used to better illustrate the data?

4. List five examples of math that these scientists and mathematicians used to create this graph.
 - a.

 - b.

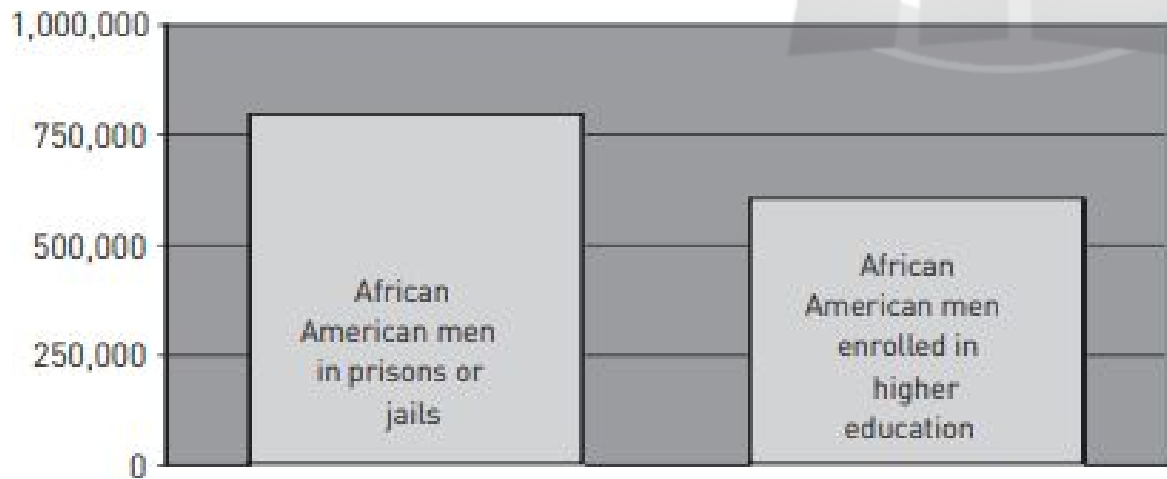
 - c.

 - d.

e.

TABLE 3

In 2000, there were approximately 791,600 African American men in prisons and jails. That same year, there were 603,032 African American men enrolled in higher education.



Source: JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE, *CELLBLOCKS OR CLASSROOMS?: THE FUNDING OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CORRECTIONS AND ITS IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN* 10 [2002], available at <http://www.justicepolicy.org/coc1/corc.htm>.

1. How would you collect the data for this graph?
2. What conclusions can you draw from the information represented in this graph?
3. Why do you think they chose to use a bar graph? Is there another graph that could be used to better illustrate the data?
4. List five examples of math that these scientists and mathematicians used to create this graph.