

Jury Service Costs

Cost category Costs in response to crime

Cost item Jury Service Costs

Definition In countries making use of juries in criminal trials jury service may entail quite substantial opportunity cost.

Theoretical discussion [link to relevant section in Bibliography]

Preferred estimation methodology Estimate number of juror days used in cases involving offence type j: multiply by average daily earnings: To get average cost per offence, divide this total by the estimated number of offences

Comments Juries are used more widely in some countries particularly those with Anglo-Saxon legal systems. Particularly in complex trials, such as certain kinds of financial fraud, juror costs may be very substantial since 12 or more individuals may be away from work for months. It is important to use lost earnings to measure these losses rather than the token amounts paid by way of compensation to employers.

Usage Government component of juror costs is included in some cost of crime studies including Dubourg (2005), but not the full opportunity cost.

Offences normally included Any offences for which offenders can be imprisoned

Formula
$$\frac{\text{proportion of prosecutions for offence type } j \text{ for which a jury trial is used} \times \text{number of offence of type } j \text{ where a suspect is tried} \times \text{average length of trial (days)} \times \text{average daily earnings}}{\text{estimated number of offences of type } j}$$
 to get from total offence cost to average cost per offence

Data sources

Example