

Loss of Liberty

Cost category Costs in response to crime

Cost item Loss of Liberty

Definition A welfare loss (loss of amenity) resulting from the time offenders spend in prison. The loss of liberty is what makes prison a deterrent

Theoretical discussion [link to relevant section in Bibliography]

Preferred estimation methodology no standard methodology

Comments loss of liberty to prisoners is normally ignored in cost of crime calculation; although some authors have attempted to estimate it. A QALY type methodology could be developed to estimate the value of the loss in quality of the life attributable to imprisonment. There may be, to some degree, an offsetting "benefit" associated with the loss of liberty. The "retribution" motive for imposing sanctions relies on the idea that citizens may be prepared to incur costs purely to make life unpleasant for those breaking social rules.

Usage normally ignored

Offences normally included normally ignored for all offence types, although potentially relevant for all offences which can be punishable by imprisonment.

Formula

Data sources

Example