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Return on Investment in Access to Justice - Infographic

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PEOPLE two-thirds of the world's population lack meaningful access to justice"

Task Force on Justice

People in both developed and developing countries don't have access to the resources required to engage the law to address their legal problems.

A lack of access to law and justice has serious short-term and long-term consequences for individuals, families, communities and societies. A lack of access to justice is financially,

physically costly.

economically, socially, emotionally and

The Global Justice Gap is a Complicated Problem To Solve.











Justice

has a PR

problem.

access to healthcare, education or other social services. But... experiencing an everyday legal problem is a common issue in high-, middle- and low- income countries alike!



There are over 100 million Americans living with civil justice problems

Almost 50% of adults in Canada

experience 1 or more civil or family justice problems in a given 3-year



Every year, 1 in 4 Australians will experience a legal problem that is



problem within the previous 3 years

75% of people in Austria

In a 2-year Period:

79% of people in the Czech Republic

69% of people in Brazil 69% of people in Finland

74% of people in Ethiopia

81% of people in Portugal

...and those are just a few examples!

So what's being done to address this problem?

for ethnic and religious minorities, the poor and other vulnerable populations.

Governments, grassroots Plus, for the first time organizations, academics,

different countries to try to make it easier to resolve legal problems through formal and informal channels. Looks like we're on the right track then?

researchers, lawyers and others

are working in different ways in



THREE MAJOR BARRIERS Lack of awareness of the seriousness of the crisis to equal access to justice: in access to justice

THE DATA GAP THE FINANCE GAP

This is all important work but we still

have a long way to go to address



We looked at lots of studies on

Spending on justice

Lack of public knowledge of what constitutes a legal problem

Lack of cost-effective, accessible avenues

access to justice

- to deal with legal problems Misconceptions about the costs and benefits of providing
- Lack of coordination and collaboration among justice system stakeholders
- Let's take a closer look at the finance gap.

We looked at a

number of projects

from a number

of different

jurisdictions and

here are several

examples.

Legal Aid

£1 (CAD \$1.73) spent

generates approximately

£11 (CAD \$19.03)

Community-based

Paralegals

Every R1 (CAD \$0.09) spent

generates approximately

R6.01 (CAD \$0.54)

SCOTLAND

SOUTH AFRICA

Resistance to change

in the legal sector

justice spending, costs and benefits from around the world and they all point to the same conclusion:

There are significant

access to justice.

Civil Legal Aid

UK £1 (CAD \$1.73) **spent**

generates an estimated:

Civil legal aid for housing problems:

£2.34 (CAD \$4.05)

Civil legal aid for debt problems:

£2.98 (CAD \$5.15)

Civil legal aid for benefits problems:

£8.80 (CAD \$15.22)

Civil legal aid for employment

problems: £7.13 (CAD \$12.33)

economic (and other)

benefits to investing in

saves more money than it costs!

Spending cuts are common in the justice sector.

then reallocated to other sectors and programs.

They are often done as a way to save money that is

UNITED STATES Civil Legal Aid **US \$1** (CAD \$0.74) **spent**

BUT

California US \$8.14 (CAD \$11.00)

generates approximately:

Pennsylvania **US \$11.00** (CAD \$14.86)

Tennessee **US \$11.21** (CAD \$15.15)

Florida **US \$7.19** (CAD \$9.72)

Texas **US \$7.42** (CAD \$10.00)

Alaska **US \$5.00** (CAD \$6.76)

Virginia US \$5.27 (CAD \$7.12)

Montana US \$10.61 (CAD \$14.34)

Oklahoma US \$7.75 (CAD \$10.47)

Louisiana US \$8.73 (CAD \$11.80)

Georgia US \$8.00 (CAD \$10.81)

Utah **US \$9.23** (CAD \$12.47)

CANADA Pro Bono CAD \$1 spent generates approximately

Ontario: CAD \$10

Family Law Collaborative

Settlement Processes

CAD \$1 spent

generates approximately

BC/ON/AB/NS: CAD \$1.12 - \$2.06

Youth Justice

CAD \$1 spent generates

CAD \$5.52 over 1 year

CAD \$10.13 over 3 years

Family Law Mediation CAD \$1 spent generates approximately BC/ON/AB/NS: CAD \$1.00 - \$2.78

There

are also other

benefits that

come from

investing in

justice:

AUSTRALIA **Community Legal Centres**

AUD \$1 (CAD \$0.95) **spent** generates approximately

AUD \$3.50 (CAD \$3.33)

AUD \$1 (CAD \$0.95) **spent**

generates approximately

AUD \$18 (CAD \$17.03)

Youth Justice

One of the main barriers to improving access to justice is a lack of funding

BUT research shows that spending on justice

than it costs.

for justice programs and services

unemployment lower court costs

saves more money

Lower

eviction

More efficient courts and

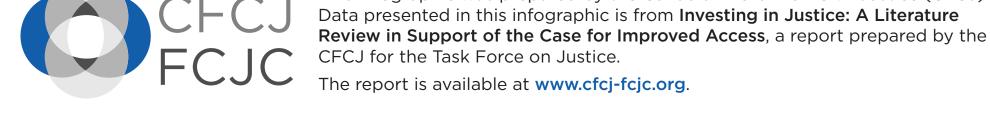
rates

Lower

Reduced

homelessness

The benefits of spending on justice



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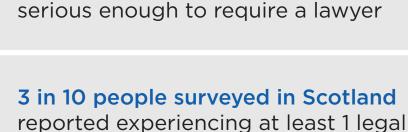
far outweigh the cost of the investment! This infographic was prepared by the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice (CFCJ). Data presented in this infographic is from Investing in Justice: A Literature



ON JUSTICE

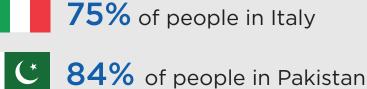
People don't view access to justice, in particular access to civil and family justice, in the same way that they think about







period





The consequences of having a legal problem are especially hard-hitting

EQUAL ACCESS

TO JUSTICE

is included as a goal