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Plea Bargaining and Race in the Criminal Justice System

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ABSTRACT

Why is it fair that most times, bigger crime figures sometimes get off easier than smaller ones? And why do minorities almost never get the same leniency that white males do? These are all questions I intend to answer in my paper. In conducting my research on the criminal justice system, I have concluded that plea bargaining, like most processes, is not atomic in its decision making. I have made this decision because of the evident statistics and blatant prejudice that runs rampant in the criminal justice system. Statistics like African American males are given pleas in almost half of the minority involved defendants, compared to whites (Kellough, G., & Wortley, S. 2002). This mass sentencing leads to mass incarceration, a problem that has cost the U.S. millions of dollars, not to mention not proved to be an effective method of detainment.