

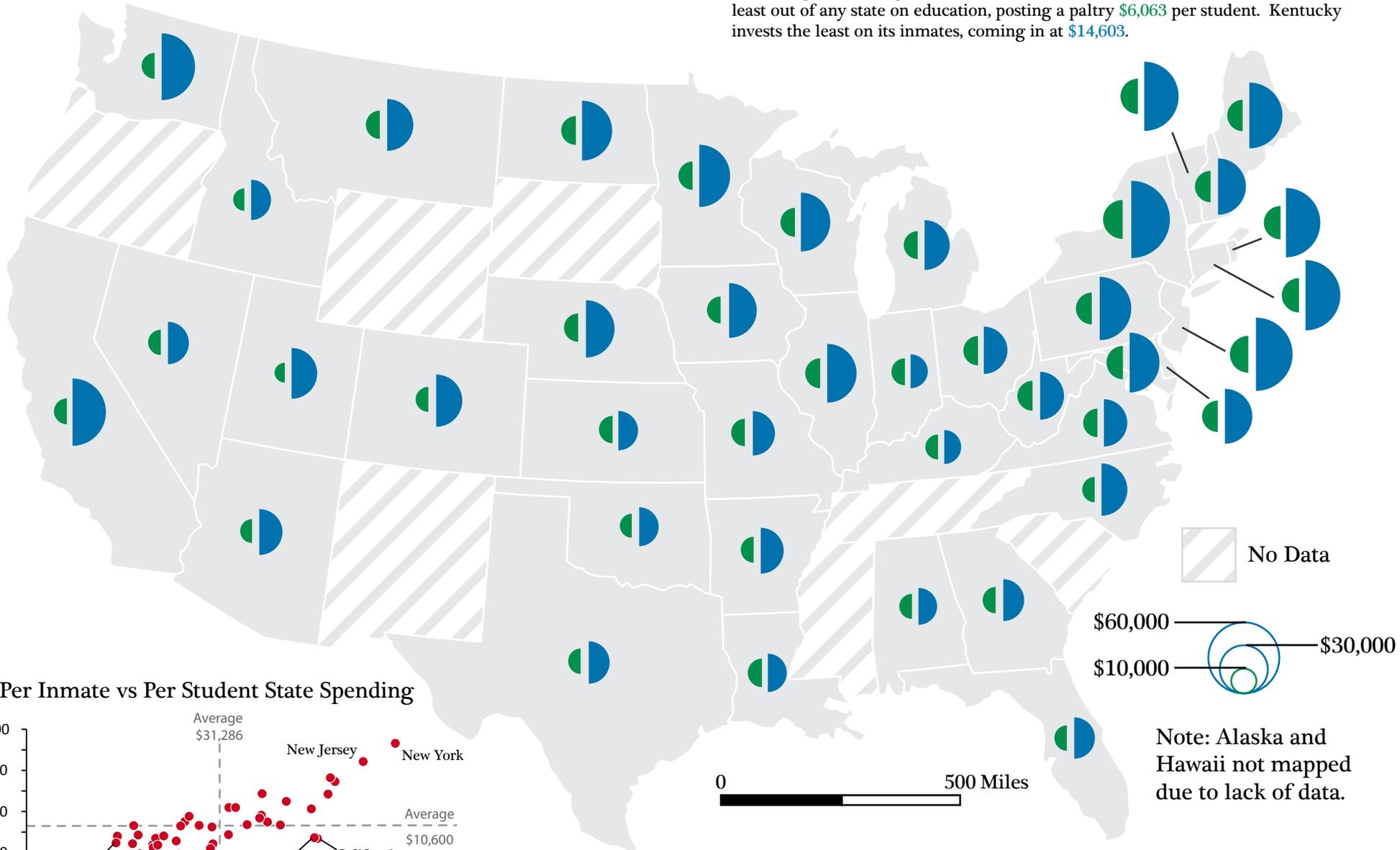


# Education or Incarceration?

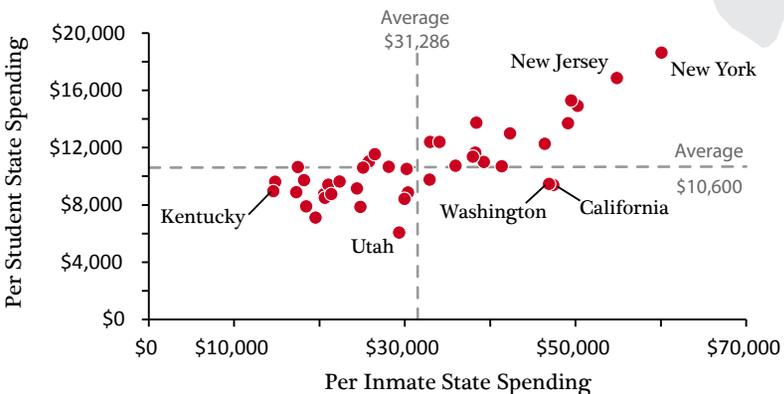


A look at which states spent more money on each prisnoer in their corrections system or each student in their public school system in 2010.

With state spending falling under more and more scrutiny, it is interesting to see the breakdown of how much money states are spending on their inmates and their public school students. The comparison is rather shocking- there is not one state that spends more on education on a per-person basis. The average cost to incarcerate someone (\$31,286) is significantly higher than it is to educate them (\$10,600), roughly 3 times higher, to be exact. The state of New York leads all others in both categories, expending a whopping \$60,076 per inmate and \$18,618 per student. Utah spends the least out of any state on education, posting a paltry \$6,063 per student. Kentucky invests the least on its inmates, coming in at \$14,603.



### Per Inmate vs Per Student State Spending



Note: Alaska and Hawaii not mapped due to lack of data.

Wisconsin expends \$37,994 on its prisoners and \$11,364 on its students. Both are above the national averages, and also stack up favorably with their neighbors in the Midwest. Defining the Midwest as the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, the average amount spent on each prisoner amongst these states is \$30,462 and the average amount spent on each student is \$10,528. Wisconsin spends the 4th most on each prisoner (trailing Minnesota, North Dakota and Illinois) and the 2nd most on each student (trailing only Illinois) in the Midwest region.