

Towards Safer Communities: Successful Offender Reintegration

Dauphin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Strategic Planning Retreat
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Reentry Defined

Offender Reentry is the return of an offender to a community after a period of incarceration in prison or jail.

- ✓ Most of the reentry literature focuses on the return of adult offenders from state and federal prisons to communities, with less attention being given to jail populations.
- ✓ While un-sentenced offenders comprise 60 percent of jail populations nationally, reentry work for jails is more often focused on sentenced offenders, in part, because of very short lengths of stays for un-sentenced jail inmates.

The Numbers

Total U.S. Adult Correctional Populations (probation, parole, jail, prison)

- ✓ 7 million at year-end 2011.
- ✓ 4 million offenders are on probation supervision, accounting for 60 percent of total correctional populations.
- ✓ 1 in 34 adults in U.S. under correctional supervision.

Incarcerated Populations

- ✓ 1.6 million in state and federal prisons at end of 2011.
- ✓ 735,000 average daily population (ADP) in nation's jails during 2011.
- ✓ 1 in every 107 adults in U.S. was incarcerated at the end of 2011.
- ✓ The incarceration rate in the United States is the highest in the world by far with 937 per 100,000 adult residents incarcerated at the end of 2011.
- ✓ The total number of offenders in the nation's state prisons declined by .9 percent from December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2011. This is the second straight year of slight decline. Prior to this, total state prison populations had not declined since 1972.
- ✓ Pennsylvania's state prison population declined by about 400 offenders from 2010 to 2011.

Prison and Jail Releases

- ✓ 688,000 offenders were released from the nation's state prisons in 2011. Most offenders are released to community supervision. Consider that fewer than 200,000 were released from the nation's prisons in 1980.
- ✓ The average length of sentence for offenders admitted to the nation's state prisons is 2.1 years, a number which has remained stable for more than a decade.
- ✓ 95 percent of offenders incarcerated in state prisons will be released.
- ✓ 9 million people are released from the nation's jails annually.
About 50 percent of U.S. jail populations are individuals who failed on community supervision.
- ✓ Jails have contact in three weeks with as many individuals as prisons have contact with in one year.

Outcomes

- ✓ Success rates, as measured by offenders being law-abiding after release, are low and relatively unchanged for decades.
- ✓ According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics Report, only 1 in 3 offenders released from state prisons in ten states, remains arrest-free for the first three years after release.
- ✓ The number of offenders rearrested within three years of release from Pennsylvania's prisons is roughly one-half, which is better than national averages.
- ✓ Failure rates are highest in the period immediately following release.
- ✓ Offenders are 3 times as likely to fail in the first month as they are in month 15.

Crime Rates and Correctional Costs

- ✓ According to UCR data released by the FBI, the number of violent crimes committed across the U.S. in 2011 was lower than that in 2010 marking the fifth straight year of decline. Likewise property crimes declined in 2011, for the ninth straight year.
- ✓ Preliminary arrest data for the first six months of 2012 released as part of the FBI's UCR data, show increases in arrest rates for both non-violent and violent crime.
- ✓ The Pew Charitable Trusts estimates that 52 billion dollars was spent on state corrections in 2011.
- ✓ Nationally, 1 in 14 state general fund dollars is spent on corrections with 1 in 9 corrections dollars spent on community supervision.
- ✓ Governor Corbett's proposed 2013-2014 budget calls for 1.9 billion in spending on state corrections.
- ✓ 7.3 percent of the Governor's proposed general fund budget for 2013-2014 is dedicated to state corrections and probation/parole.
- ✓ In Dauphin County, the public safety and judicial categories account for just over 50 percent of the county's general fund budget.

Offender Profile

- ✓ Offenders are disproportionately made up of young, black men from poor, inner-city neighborhoods.
- ✓ About two-thirds of offenders abuse or are dependent on substances.
- ✓ Studies of jail inmates suggest that approximately 15 percent of men and 30 percent of women in jail are mentally ill. Seventy percent of those with mental illness are also substance dependent.
- ✓ Criminal offenders are much more likely to have chronic diseases than the general population.
- ✓ An estimated 40 percent of criminal offenders do not have a High School diploma or GED. Most offenders are classified as unskilled workers and few have substantial work histories.
- ✓ ***A black man between the ages of 18 and 25 who is a high school drop out is more likely to be under correctional supervision than he is to have a job.***

Impact

- ✓ Incarceration carries significant and enduring economic repercussions for the remainder of the person's working years. Former inmates work fewer weeks each year, earn less money and have limited upward mobility.
- ✓ 2.7 million children in the US have a parent behind bars (1 in every 28 children). Research indicates that children whose parents serve time have more difficulty in school; parental incarceration alone is associated with more aggressive behavior in boys.

WE CAN DO BETTER

- ✓ Crime rates have declined at the same time prison, jail and probation populations have declined. Possibilities for less crime and less punishment along with more efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Proven/Promising Strategies for Improving Reentry Outcomes

- ✓ Application of deterrence strategy. Certainty. Swiftly. Celerity of punishment.
- ✓ Building collaborative relationships with police, businesses, and social service providers.
- ✓ Individual assessment, case planning and appropriate use of tools and techniques such as motivational interviewing, electronic monitoring, kiosks.
- ✓ Enhancing the power of "informal social controls."
- ✓ Concentrating on practical aspects of reentry e.g. having identification and safe place to live plus directing treatment resources to those who can benefit the most.

