



The Recidivism Problem

Well over a million people are currently in the U.S. corrections system, and almost all of them will eventually reenter our communities.

- About 1.6 million people are incarcerated in federal and state prisons.¹
- Since the early 1970s, the nation's prison population has quadrupled to 2.2 million.²
- More than half of state prisoners are serving time for nonviolent crimes, and one of every nine, or about 159,000 people, are serving life sentences — nearly a third of them without the possibility of parole.³
- In 2010, the United States spent more than \$80 billion on corrections expenditures at the federal, state, and local levels.⁴
- 95 percent of inmates in state prisons will at some point be released back into the community.⁵

Three out of every four released inmates will be arrested again after release, and over half of all inmates will return to prison soon after release.

- Studies show 67.8% of released inmates are rearrested for a new crime within 3 years and 76.6% are rearrested within 5 years. Within three years of release, 49.7% of released inmates end up back in prison and 55.1% end up back in prison within 5 years.⁶

¹ Hughes, Timothy and Doris James Wilson. "Reentry Trends in the United States: Inmates returning to the community after serving time in prison." U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p12tar9112.pdf>

² Travis, James, Bruce Western, and Steve Redburn. "The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences." National Academy of Sciences. Retrieved from http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18613

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Kearney, Melissa and Benjamin Harris. "Ten Economic Facts about Crime and Incarceration in the United States." The Hamilton Project; The Brookings Institution. Retrieved http://www.hamiltonproject.org/papers/ten_economic_facts_about_crime_and_incarceration_in_the_united_states/

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Durose Matthew, Alexia Cooper Ph.D., and Howard Snyder, Ph.D. "Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010." U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rpts05p0510.pdf>

A vast majority of the prison population suffers from addiction or has a history with substance abuse.

- 65% of the U.S. prison population is classified as having alcohol or other drug abuse and addiction. Another 20 percent were at some point substance involved.⁷

Due to inmates' low education levels, finding a job after incarceration is difficult.

- 68% of state prison inmates did not receive a high school diploma.⁸
- In a Harvard study, incarceration was found to reduce the rate of wage growth by about 30% for former inmates in the labor market.
 - Much of this happened due to “an increasing penalty for low education.”⁹
- In a survey, employers from four major cities were asked if they would accept an applicant with a criminal record.
 - Only 12.5% of employers said that they would definitely accept

Can recidivism be reduced?

Inmates who participate in academic education programs while incarcerated are less likely to return to prison.

- Inmates who obtain GEDs while in prison are up to 30% less likely to return to prison.¹¹
 - Individuals who participated in vocational training programs have 28% greater odds of finding employment post-release.
- In a RAND study, they took a hypothetical pool of 100 inmates and found a 13-percentage point reduction in recidivism for those who participate in education programs.¹²

Inmates who find employment after release are less likely to return to prison.

- In a study from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, employed former inmates were 32% less likely to be arrested for any crime and 42% less likely to be arrested for a drug crime.¹³

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Harlow, Caroline Wolfe Ph.D. (January 2003). “Education and Correctional Populations.” Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ecp.pdf>

⁹ Western, Bruce (August 2002). “The Impact of Incarceration on Wage Mobility and Inequality.” ASR 2002, vol 67. Retrieved from http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/brucewestern/files/western_asr.pdf

¹⁰ Freeman, Richard (May 2003). “Can We Close the Revolving Door?: Recidivism vs. Employment of Ex-Offenders in the U.S.” Harvard University and National Bureau of Economic Research. Urban Institute Reentry Roundtable. Retrieved from http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410857_freeman.pdf

¹¹ Davis, Lois, Robert Bozick, Jennifer Steele, Jessica Saunders, and Jeremy Miles (2013). “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correction Education.” RAND Corporation. Retrieved from https://www.bja.gov/Publications/RAND_Correctional-Education-Meta-Analysis.pdf

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Huebner, Beth Ph.D. “Drug Abuse, Treatment, and Probationer Recidivism.” Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Retrieved from <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/ResearchReports/Drug%20Abuse%20Treatment%20and%20Probationer%20Recidivism.pdf>

Inmates who participate in vocational training programs while incarcerated are more likely to find employment.

- According to RAND, individuals who participate in vocational training programs while incarcerated are 28% more likely to find post-release employment than nonparticipants.¹⁴

Inmates who receive substance abuse treatment while in prison are less likely to return.

- A study performed by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation looked at offenders who were paroled between 2011 and 2012. The recidivism rate after three years for those who completed treatment in prison and the aftercare programs was 31.3% versus 63.7% for all inmates.¹⁵
- The California analysis is performed annually, and continues to find that recidivism significantly declines when inmates participate in substance abuse treatment programs.

Faith-based programs can reduce recidivism.

- A 2011 analysis from the Journal for Inmate Rehabilitation found “that [the] faithbased programs reviewed work to reduce recidivism.”¹⁶
- In an analysis of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative in Minnesota, a Baylor University study found program “graduates were significantly less likely to be either arrested or incarcerated during the two-year period following release from prison.”¹⁷

What are the benefits of reducing recidivism?

Inmate education is cost effective and, over the long term, saves taxpayers money.

- A RAND study found that every dollar spent on inmate education reduced incarceration costs by \$4-\$5 dollars in the first three years post-release.¹⁸
- Looking at a pool of 100 inmates, RAND found that re-incarceration costs are \$870,000 to \$970,000 less for those who receive correctional education.¹⁹

¹⁴ Davis, Lois, Robert Bozick, Jennifer Steele, Jessica Saunders, and Jeremy Miles (2013). “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correction Education.” RAND Corporation. Retrieved from https://www.bja.gov/Publications/RAND_Correctional-Education-Meta-Analysis.pdf

¹⁵ California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (October 2012). “2012 Outcome Evaluation Report.” Office of Research, Research and Evaluation Branch. Retrieved from http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/adult_research_branch/Research_Documents/ARB_FY_0708_Recidivism_Report_10.23.12.pdf

¹⁶ Dodson, Kimberly, Leann Cabage and Paul Klemowski (2011). “An Evidence-Based Assessment of Faith-Based Programs: Do Faith-Based Programs ‘Work’ to Reduce Recidivism?” Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 50:6, 367-383. Retrieved from <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10509674.2011.582932#.UO9ZLxdU00>

¹⁷ Johnson, Byron (January 2012). “Can a Faith-Based Prison Reduce Recidivism?” Corrections Today. Retrieved from http://www.baylorisr.org/wp-content/uploads/Johnson_Jan2012-CT-3.pdf

¹⁸ Davis, Lois, Robert Bozick, Jennifer Steele, Jessica Saunders, and Jeremy Miles (2013). “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correction Education.” RAND Corporation. Retrieved from https://www.bja.gov/Publications/RAND_Correctional-Education-Meta-Analysis.pdf

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

There is an overall economic benefit to reducing recidivism and employing inmates.

- In an analysis by the City of Philadelphia, the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia found substantial economic benefits to employing former inmates and reducing recidivism.
 - o Connecting 100 formerly incarcerated with employment would produce \$1.2 million in annual earnings and \$55 million in total post-release lifetime earnings for the city.
 - o 100 fewer recidivists would result in more than \$2 million in annual cost savings to criminal justice agencies including police, courts, corrections, and probation and parole.²⁰

Why is CoreCivic strengthening its reentry programs?

CoreCivic has a history of providing inmates reentry programs.

- At CoreCivic, providing quality reentry programming is as much a part of what we do as operating safe, cost-effective facilities.
 - o Every year, we help more than 3,000 inmates earn a GED -- the equivalent of a high school diploma.
 - o Every day, more than 20,000 inmates participate in CoreCivic programs that teach life and vocational skills.

Effective reentry programs help CoreCivic deliver on its business model.

- The fewer crimes people commit, the safer our communities are. The more people stay out of jail, the lower the cost to taxpayers.
- In addition to flexibility in managing populations, safety and cost savings are why CoreCivic exists.
- In CoreCivic's Life Principles Program only 19% of a group of 659 women who completed the program over a five-year period had returned to prison.
 - o This research was done in Arkansas where the average recidivism rate at the time was estimated to be between 32% and 50%.²¹

Our partners are increasingly making reentry programs a priority.

- According to a national poll, American voters believe too many people are in prison and the nation spends too much on imprisonment.²²

²⁰ Economic League of Philadelphia (September 2011). "Economic Benefits of Employing Formerly Incarcerated Individuals in Philadelphia." City of Philadelphia. Retrieved from http://economyleague.org/files/Ex-Offenders_Exec_Summ_for_web.pdf

²¹ Institute in Basic Life Principles (April 2004). "How Prisoners are Find Freedom." Retrieved from <http://iblp.org/news/how-prisoners-are-finding-freedom>

²² Public Opinion Strategies and the Mellman Group (March 2012), "Public Opinion on Sentencing and Corrections Policy in America." Pew Charitable Trust. Retrieved from http://www.prisonpolicy.org/scans/PEW_NationalSurveyResearchPaper_FINAL.pdf

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- o More than 80% of poll respondents from households in which someone has been a victim of a violent or nonviolent crime agree with the statement: "It does not matter whether a nonviolent offender is in prison for 18 or 24 or 30 months. What really matters is that the system does a better job of making sure that when an offender does get out, he is less likely to commit another crime."²³

What is CoreCivic doing to strengthen its reentry programs?

CoreCivic has been making operational changes and investing capital to strengthen its focus on reentry.

- Last August, CoreCivic acquired a company in San Diego called Correctional Alternatives.
- This group helps about 450 motivated, drug-free inmates find jobs and living situations in a setting that mirrors life after release.
 - o Almost 200 of these centers exist across the country. The vast majority are run by small businesses or local non-profits.
 - o At the same time, nearly 700,000 inmates are released from federal and state prison every year in America.²⁴
- In 2012, only 8,900 had the benefit of being placed in a community corrections center.²⁵
- CoreCivic recently combined their operations department and inmate programs departments—now know as the correctional programs department.
 - o According to CoreCivic CEO Damon Hininger, "Security without programs -- or programs without security -- make facilities less safe."

Making reentry a "Day One" priority.

- Beginning on day one, CoreCivic will assess the risk level and supervision requirements of every inmate—but also, every inmate will also be assessed to determine what tools, resources and programs they need for successful reentry.
- Based on the results of this assessment, a multi-disciplinary team will design an Individual Program Plan to address the inmate's needs throughout their incarceration.

Every CoreCivic professional will be a reentry professional.

- CoreCivic has started training every single one of its 16,000 professionals on reentry programming.

Every dollar our partners invest in reentry will be a dollar that is proven to reduce recidivism.

- CoreCivic has catalogued all of the programs in their system and reviewed the data and research about their impact on recidivism.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Guerino, P.M., Paige Harrison, and William Sabol (2011). "Prisoners in 2010." U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p10.pdf>

²⁵ Glaze, Lauren and Eriin Herbermann, Ph.D. "Correctional Populations in the United States, 2012." U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus12.pdf>