

BEST PRACTICE



Insights into Female Recidivism: A Comprehensive Study of State Prison Releases

A pivotal study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), *Recidivism of Females Released from State Prison: 2012–2017*, presents crucial findings on the recidivism patterns of females released from state prisons across 34 states. The study, analyzing data over a five-year period, found that approximately 69 percent of females were incarcerated for property or drug offenses, compared to 52 percent of their male counterparts.

Key insights include that of the 38 percent of the females that had ten or more prior arrests, their recidivism rates were distinctly characterized by the nature of their initial offenses. For instance, those serving time for violent offenses had a higher likelihood of re-arrest compared to those with property offenses.

PROWD grantees and stakeholders in workforce development will find this report invaluable for designing programs tailored to these unique patterns and challenges. The comprehensive analysis and findings can guide effective interventions and support strategies to reduce recidivism among women.

The full report is a crucial resource for those seeking to understand and address the complexities of female recidivism. To learn more about these findings and to leverage them for program development, download the [full report from the BJS website](#).



Empowering Correctional Populations: A Blueprint for Training and Employment

The sixth chapter of *A Better Path Forward for Criminal Justice*, a report by the Brookings-American Enterprise Institute Working Group on Criminal Justice Reform, delves into the vital role of training and employment in empowering correctional populations. This chapter underscores the challenges faced by individuals in the correctional system, highlighting their lower educational attainment and employment levels compared to the general population. It emphasizes the significance of education and employment as crucial factors in reducing recidivism, advocating for a multi-faceted approach that includes education programming, employment programming, and policy reforms.

For PROWD grantees and stakeholders, the report offers insightful strategies for program design, focusing on enhancing educational opportunities and workforce readiness within correctional populations. The comprehensive recommendations include short-term reforms like deepening Pell Grant investments, medium-term reforms such as expanding pre-release workforce development services, and long-term reforms like addressing employment-based criminal background checks.

This chapter serves as a valuable resource for those aiming to develop more effective reentry programs and policies. To explore these transformative strategies and apply them in program design, [access all chapters of *A Better Path Forward for Criminal Justice*](#) on the Brookings website.

PROMISING PRACTICE



Transforming Reentry: L.A. County's Program Sets a Blueprint for Nationwide Adoption in Reducing Recidivism

The [Los Angeles County's Reentry Intensive Case Management Services](#) (RICMS) program has established a promising model for reducing recidivism through extensive wraparound services, as detailed in a recent study by [Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation](#) (MDRC). RICMS's has shown to reduce re-incarceration rates by 17 percent compared to other state programs. The program's effectiveness has been attributed to collaborations with 29 Community-Based Organizations that offer support in housing, employment, and health services.

This initiative is particularly noteworthy for its use of Community Health Workers, who, with their own experiences of incarceration, provide invaluable guidance to participants. The study, *A Promising Approach to Coordinated Community-Based Reentry Services*, conducted by the MDRC based its findings on data from April 2018 to March 2021 and included surveys and interviews with staff and participants. It revealed that RICMS participants had fewer arrests, convictions, incarcerations, and probation revocations than those not in the program.

The study employed a nonexperimental approach for its analysis. This approach, though exploratory, offers vital insights into the potential of coordinated, community-based reentry services. The full report, which can be downloaded from the MDRC website, suggests that such a model is not only effective at the state and county levels but could also be replicated in federal prison systems to improve the life experiences of program participants and reduce future contact with the criminal legal system.

To access the comprehensive findings and explore the potential for nationwide application of these practices, stakeholders and grantees are encouraged to [download the full report from the MDRC website](#).



U.S. Sentencing Commission Votes to Allow Retroactive Sentence Reductions

The [Health and Reentry Project](#) (HARP) is a groundbreaking initiative, aiming to help states, the federal government, local governments, and relevant stakeholders reshape public health and safety through Medicaid policy reforms. Its April 2022 report, *Medicaid and Reentry: Policy Changes and Considerations*, offers insightful analysis and practical solutions for enhancing healthcare support during reentry, a crucial service for PROWD grantees.

Highlighting Medicaid's pivotal role in the healthcare system and its potential to support incarcerated individuals, the report discusses possible policy changes and implementation challenges. Importantly, it proposes a reentry care model and key principles to improve healthcare service delivery for those reentering society.

This comprehensive issue brief from HARP synthesizes stakeholder feedback by outlining seven essential actions for public officials to effectively translate new Medicaid policies into practice. These recommendations, valuable even without Medicaid support, can potentially be replicated through alternative funding sources like the FSA.

For PROWD grantees and stakeholders, this report is a must-read to understand and implement effective reentry strategies. [Access the full report and its programmatic recommendations](#) for insights on how to enhance your reentry programs and policy frameworks.

FAITH-BASED PROGRAMMING



Unlocking Potential: Faith-Based Rehabilitation's Role in Reducing Recidivism

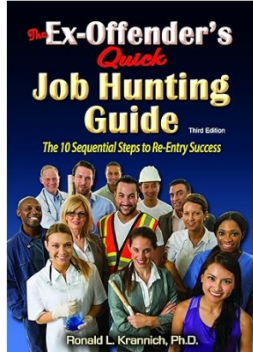
The *Fact Sheet, The Effectiveness of Faith-Based Rehabilitation in Reducing Recidivism*, offers compelling data on the success of faith-based rehabilitation programs. These programs significantly influence recidivism rates, with the [InnerChange Freedom Initiative](#) showcasing a remarkable 17 percent reduction compared to the control group. Similarly, the [Prisoner Entrepreneurship Fellowship](#) records an 8 percent recidivism rate among its graduates compared to a 20 percent recidivism rate among non-graduates. This evidence emphasizes the impact of spiritual and moral guidance in supporting the reentry process. For PROWD grantees and stakeholders, these insights are invaluable for developing more effective and compassionate reentry strategies.

To delve deeper into this impactful approach and incorporate its benefits into your programs, [download the full fact sheet here](#).

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Ex-Offender's New Job Finding and Survival Guide: 10 Steps for Successfully Re-Entering the Work World

Finding a job is one of the most important challenges facing millions of



ex-offenders who leave prisons, jails, and detention centers each year. *Ex-Offenders New Job Finding and Survival Guide: 10 Steps for Successfully Re-Entering the World of Work* is a transformative resource tailored for individuals reentering the workforce after incarceration.

This guide is highly relevant to PROWD program participants, offering practical advice and strategies to overcome the unique challenges they face while seeking employment post-incarceration, such as harnessing personal strengths, creating effective resumes, interview preparation, and effective ways to address one's criminal record with potential employers. The book also examines popular myths and realities of reentering the workforce post-incarceration, details 22 principles of success, and highlights ten steps to job and career success from two of America's leading employment experts.

For valuable insights and tools to support the journey towards successful reentry into the workforce, consider adding this title to your collection. More information about the [book is available here](#).

Do you have organizational members or partners who would benefit from the latest updates and resources from the PROWD newsletter? Share **this link**, so they can subscribe and stay informed!

**Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce
Development Newsletter**

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