

MEMORANDUM

TO: Congressional Staff
FROM: Reentry Working Group
RE: The Impact of Incarceration: Fact Sheets on Issues Affecting Reentry

Attached are a series of fact sheets that describe the wide range of issues that affect formerly incarcerated individuals, individuals who have been recently released from incarceration and people with arrest and conviction records. These fact sheets describe the challenges facing reentering individuals, their families and communities and provide statistics on the extent of the challenges and the effectiveness of addressing them. These issues include:

- The Impact of Incarceration: Issues Affecting Reentry;
- The Social and Economic Cost Savings of Reentry Programs;
- Housing, Homelessness and Reentry;
- Employment, Reentry and Recidivism;
- Families and Reentry;
- Access to Treatment;
- Access to Education;
- Juveniles and Reentry; and
- The Over-Representation of Latinos and African Americans in the Justice System.

The Reentry Working Group is an informal coalition of national, state and local organizations who advocate on the wide range of issues that affect those individuals who are returning to our communities from prison and jail. The following organizations lend their support and their expertise to this working group and urge you to support legislative efforts that adopt a comprehensive approach to reentry. Thank you for your attention to these important issues. Any questions regarding the content of the fact sheets may be addressed to:

Supporting Organizations

Human Rights Watch
Justice Fellowship
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Legal Action Center
Mexican American Legal Defense and
Education Fund
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Correctional Industries
Association

National Council of La Raza
National H.I.R.E. Network
The National Law Center on Homelessness
& Poverty
National TASC
Open Society Policy Center
Rebecca Project for Human Rights
Volunteers of America

THE IMPACT OF INCARCERATION: ISSUES AFFECTING REENTRY

Background

- In 2002, 2 million people were incarcerated in Federal or State prisons or in local jails. ⁱ
- Nearly 650,000 people are released from incarceration to communities nationwide each yearⁱⁱ
- Budget crises in combination with tougher sentencing laws have dramatically decreased the number and types of programs that are available to incarcerated individuals, including drug and mental health treatment, which could result in increased recidivism rates upon their release.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Over 59 million Americans - and probably many more have a criminal history on file with state or federal governments. That means that about 27% of the nation's adult population live a substantial portion of their lives having a criminal record.^{iv}
- According to the 2001 national data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 3.5 million parents were supervised by the correctional system. Prior to incarceration, 64% of female prisoners and 44% of male prisoners in State facilities lived with their children.

THE CHALLENGES

A strong transition process—through which inmates are prepared for release, leave prison, return to communities, and adjust to free living—is needed to protect the public effectively.^v 97% of the individuals now in prison eventually will be released and will return to communities,^{vi} often without assistance or services. Many men and women leave prison and jail with substance abuse disorders, chronic health issues, low levels of education and job training, and a general lack of resources to help them truly reintegrate.^{vii} Yet, research confirms that these services – including education, job training, job placement, job retention, and alcohol and drug treatment – are essential to help formerly incarcerated individuals obtain work, housing, and avoid recidivism.

- **Housing, Homelessness and Reentry:** Studies have shown that from 15% to 27% of prisoners expect to go to homeless shelters upon release from prison.^{viii}
- **Employment, Reentry and Recidivism:** National Institute of Justice has found that after 1 year of release, up to 60% of former inmates are not employed. ^{ix}
 - People with criminal records face many barriers to getting a job, including substance abuse problems, spotty work histories, poor educational backgrounds, physical and mental health problems, and bias against them. Any one of these barriers can impede an ex-offender's ability to become employed, and taken together, they create formidable obstacles to getting, maintaining, and advancing on a job.^x
- **Families and Reentry:** Between 1991 and 1999, the number of children with a parent in a Federal or State correctional facility increased by more than 100%, from approximately 900,000 to approximately 2,000,000. According to the Bureau of Prisons, there is evidence to suggest that

inmates who are connected to their children and families are more likely to avoid negative incidents and have reduced sentences.^{xi}

- **Access to Treatment:** 57% of federal and 70% of state inmates used drugs regularly before prison,^{xii} with some estimates of involvement with drugs/alcohol around the time of the offense as high as 84% (BJS Trends in State Parole, 1990 – 2000). However, a BJS analysis indicated that only 33% of federal and 36% of state inmates had participated in residential inpatient treatment programs for alcohol and drug abuse 12 months before their release.^{xiii} Further, over a third of all jail inmates have some physical or mental disability and 25% of jail inmates have been treated at some time for a mental or emotional problem.^{xiv}
- **Access to Education:** Participation in state correctional education programs lowers the likelihood of reincarceration by 29% according to a recent U.S. Department of Education Study. A Federal Bureau of Prisons study found a 33% drop in recidivism among federal prisoners who participated in vocational and apprenticeship training.^{xv}

REENTRY SERVICES ARE EFFECTIVE AND BENEFIT THE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY

There are Effective Interventions. These interventions help formerly incarcerated people get treatment for substance abuse and/or mental health disorders, access to health care, enhance their workforce participation and find and maintain suitable stable affordable housing. The Safer Foundation prepares formerly incarcerated people for employment by helping them find and keep meaningful employment through a full range of employment services. Safer also provides clients with the additional services they often need to be ready for employment such as housing, substance abuse treatment, education and life skills.

- Since 1972, Safer has placed over 40,000 clients in jobs. A 1996 evaluation found that 59% of Safer clients placed in jobs that year remained in the job for 30 days. The evaluation also found that these clients were also more likely to remain employed and crime free up to a year after release^{xvi} and that participants had reduced rates of recidivism: 8% for Safer participants compared with 46% for the comparison group.^{xvii}

Transition and Reintegration Programs Save Money. Recidivism rates cause considerable direct and indirect costs that nationally amount to billions of dollars. Effective reintegration programs reduce the inmate population and therefore reduce the cost of reincarceration.

- A report based on the Philadelphia Prison System found it they could reduce recidivism rates by just 10% they save \$6.8 million a year in jail costs alone.^{xviii}
- In Ohio, 400 offenders could be served at an annual cost savings of \$2 million by providing 100 halfway house beds for reentry prerelease/transitional control or for parole violators in lieu of returning to prison.^{xix}

Successful integration of formerly incarcerated individuals benefits the community and individual in ways that cannot be measured in dollars. The social value of reintegration is measured by a formerly incarcerated person's ability to contribute to the support of their family, provide a healthy environment for their children and enhance the positive human resources in the community. To accomplish these ends, we must examine and implement effective interventions that could help people with criminal records on the path to productive community involvement.

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- ⁱ Bureau of Justice Statistics, <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/prisons.htm>>.
- ⁱⁱ Office of Justice Programs (OJP) website, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/learn.html
- ⁱⁱⁱ See Generally Id.
- ^{iv} *Use and Management of Criminal History Record Information: A Comprehensive Report, 2001 Update*, <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/ascii/umchri01.txt>>.
- ^v National Institute of Corrections, <<http://www.nicic.org/resources/topics/TransitionFromPrison.aspx>>.
- ^{vi} National Institute of Corrections.
- ^{vii} *They're Coming Back: An Action Plan for Successful Reintegration of Offenders that Works for Everyone*, (Philadelphia Consensus Group on Reentry and Reintegration of Adjudicated Offenders). Hard copy available upon request.
- ^{viii} Linda Ostreicher. "When Prisoners Come Home," *Gotham Gazette*, 1 January 2003, <<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/socialservices/20030117/15/187>>.
- ^{ix} Joan Petersilia, "When Prisoners Return to the Community: Political, Economic, and Social Consequences," *Sentencing & Corrections* 9, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of U.S. Department of Justice, November 2000), <<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/184253.pdf>>.
- ^x *From Hard Time to Full Time: Strategies to Help Move Ex-Offenders from Welfare to Work* (Washington, DC; Legal Action Center, 2001), Funded, printed and distributed through the U.S. Department of Labor. <http://www.lac.org/pubs/pubs_top.html>.
- ^{xi} As cited in Federal Register Vol.69, No. 35 Monday, February 23, 2004 Notice of a Funding Opportunity for Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program, <<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/multidb.cgi>>.
- ^{xii} Bureau of Justice Statistics 1997 Survey as cited by Prisoner Releases: *Trends and Information on Reintegration Programs*, (Washington, DC: GAO-01-483, June 2001).
- ^{xiii} Bureau of Justice Statistics 1997 Survey.
- ^{xiv} Bureau of Justice Statistics, <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/crimoff.htm>>.
- ^{xv} National Institute for Literacy, "State Correctional Education Programs, March 2002, http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/policy/st_correction_02.html.
- ^{xvi} *Outside the Walls, A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs*, published by the Urban Institute, Council of State Governments and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2004.
- ^{xvii} Maria L. Buck. *Getting Back to Work: Employment Programs for Ex-Offenders*, (Philadelphia, PA: Public/Private Ventures, September 2000), <<http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications>>.
- ^{xviii} *They're Coming Back*.
- ^{xix} Anne Power, *Halfway House Utilization: The Key to Reentry, A Cost Savings Report*, (Cincinnati, OH: Power & Associates, February 25, 2003), <www.occaonline.org/ohiocostsavings.pdf>.

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THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST SAVINGS OF REENTRY PROGRAMS

Many of the 600,000 men and women leaving prisons each year have substance abuse disorders, chronic health issues, no housing, little education or job training, and a general lack of resources to allow them to truly reintegrate.¹ The economic and social costs of failing to provide services to these individuals so that they may truly reintegrate into the community are simply too high.

Costs of Recidivism

- 97% of the individuals now in prison eventually will be released and will return to communities, often without assistance or services.²
- Studies show an alarmingly high rate of recidivism across the nation. According to one Bureau of Justice Statistics study, more than 67% of prisoners released from prison in 1994 were rearrested within three years, and almost 52% were back in prison for a new offense or a violation of the terms of release.³
- These high rates of recidivism “translate into thousands of new victimizations each year.”⁴
- High recidivism rates have direct economic consequences as well. The average cost per day to house a federal inmate is \$69, or over \$25,000 a year.⁵ The average cost on the state level in 2000 was only slightly less – about \$58 a day, or \$21,170 yearly.⁶
- A major May 2001 study conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy found that, “the best [reentry] programs can be expected to deliver 20% to 30% reductions in recidivism or crime rates” and that “programs that can deliver – at a reasonable program cost – even modest reductions in future criminality can have an attractive economic bottom line.”⁷

Reentry Programs Pay for Themselves Many Times Over

Drug Treatment Programs Reduce Recidivism and Save Money

- The Washington study also showed that case management and community-based substance abuse treatment realized similar savings. The benefit-to-cost ratio for case management was \$1.56 and the treatment’s ratio was \$3.30. Drug treatment programs in prisons provided cost savings similar to the community-based substance abuse treatment. Recidivism rates for all three were positive.⁸

- The Washington study also found that various juvenile therapeutic models are far less costly than juvenile incarceration. For each program participant, taxpayers can save up to an average of \$16,000 and the average benefit-to-cost ratio for each dollar spent on these therapeutic programs is \$28.57. Such programs have very low recidivism rates as well.⁹
- The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice reported lower re-offense rates for those in its services-oriented Homeless Release Project, 44% vs. 71%.¹⁰
- The Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council found in 2002:
 - Only 7% of those who completed the state substance abuse program recidivated within 2 years, compared to a recidivism rate of 25% – 31% for those who failed to complete the treatment program.¹¹
 - Cost savings of \$29.9 million as a result of diverting prison/jail bound offenders into a multi-component state drug program.¹²
- In New York State, a study reported in 2001 that the annual cost of incarceration per person was \$30,500, but the cost of inpatient drug treatment was \$20,000. Outpatient drug treatment costs were as low as \$4,300.¹³

Access to Stable Housing Reduces Recidivism and Saves Money

- A study by the Corporation for Supportive Housing in New York showed that the use of state prisons and city jails dropped by 74% and 40%, respectively, when people with mental illness and past criminal records were provided supportive housing.¹⁴
- In Ohio, 400 offenders could be served at an annual cost savings of \$2 million by providing 100 halfway house beds for reentry prerelease/transitional control or for parole violators in lieu of returning to prison.¹⁵
- One study found that two-thirds of former prisoners who did not have appropriate housing recommitted crimes within the first 12 months of release, whereas only one quarter of those who obtained housing re-offended in the same time frame.¹⁶

Education and Employment Services Reduce Recidivism and Save Money

- The Texas Project RIO (Re-Integration of Offenders), a program that helped parolees find jobs, reported that 69% of RIO participants found employment, compared with 36% of a matched control group. The study also found that in the year after release, only 23 percent of RIO participants returned to prison, compared to 38% in the control group. The evaluation concluded that by reducing recidivism and re-incarceration, RIO saved the State \$15 million in 1990 – more than its entire \$8 million annual budget.¹⁷

- The Center for Employment Opportunity (CEO) in New York City provides comprehensive employment to individuals returning from prison and other former offenders. A 1997 Vera Institute study found that only 21% of all enrollees were reincarcerated within three years; and only 15% of enrollees that CEO placed in jobs were reincarcerated within three years.¹⁸
- The Safer Foundation in Chicago offers job readiness and placement services. An evaluation of the program found a recidivism rate of 8% for Safer participants compared with 46% for the comparison group.¹⁹
- According to the study by Washington State Institute for Public Policy, adult offender program types save taxpayers money. Work release, job counseling, education, vocational training, and correctional industries averaged savings for taxpayers of \$72,500. This number also factored in the savings to potential crime victims as recidivism rates increase.²⁰
- Participation in state correctional education programs lowers the likelihood of reincarceration by 29%, according to a recent U.S. Department of Education Study. A Federal Bureau of Prisons study found a 33% drop in recidivism among federal prisoners who participated in vocational and apprenticeship training.²¹

¹ Philadelphia Consensus Group on Reentry and Reintegration of Adjudicated Offenders, *They're Coming Back: An Action Plan for Successful Reintegration of Offenders that Works for Everyone*, (Philadelphia, PA: Feb. 2003), <<http://www.sfcg.org/documents/Feb2003Philadelphia.pdf>>.

² National Institute of Corrections, <<http://www.nicic.org/resources/topics/transitionfromprison.aspx>>.

³ "Reentry Trends in the United States," Bureau of Justice Statistics, <<http://www.usdoj.gov/bjs/reentry>>.

⁴ Jeremy Travis, Amy L. Solomon, and Michelle Waul, *From Prison to Home: The Dimensions and Consequences of Prisoner Reentry* (Washington, DC: June 2001), <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/from_prison_to_home.pdf>.

⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics, <http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/budgetsummary/btd/1975_2002/2002/html/page117-119.htm>.

⁶ 2000 Corrections Yearbook.

⁷ Steve Aos, Polly Phipps, Robert Barnoski, and Roxanne Lieb, *The Comparative Costs and Benefits of Programs to Reduce Crime 4* (Olympia, Washington: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, May 2001), <<http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/costbenefit.pdf>> ("WSIPP Report").

⁸ Aos et al.

⁹ Aos et al.

¹⁰ Ursula A. Castellano and Alissa Riker, *Community-Based Treatment: Impact of the Homeless Pretrial Release Project* (San Francisco, CA: Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 2000), <<http://www.cjcj.org/pubs/hrp/hrp.html>>.

¹¹ Tony Fabelo, *Recidivism Rates and Issues Related to TDCJ Substance Abuse Treatment Programs 8* (March 13, 2002), <<http://cjpc.state.tx.us/reports/adltrehab/RecidTDCJ.pdf>>.

¹² Aos et al.

¹³ Gleason Center, *Rockefeller Drug Laws Are Too Costly for NYS*, <<http://www.cgr.org/Data/CGR/Articles/Files/FINALwithreferences.pdf>>.

¹⁴ Dennis P. Culhane, Stephen Metraux, and Trevor Hadley, *The New York, New York Agreement Cost Study: The Impact of Supportive Housing on Services Use for Homeless Mentally Ill Individuals 4* (Corporation for Supportive Housing, May 2001).

¹⁵ Anne Power, *Halfway House Utilization: The Key to Reentry, A Cost Savings Report 10* (Cincinnati, OH: Power & Associates, Feb. 25, 2003), <<http://www.occaonline.org/ohiocostsavings.pdf>>.

¹⁶ *Safe at Home: A Reference Guide For Public Housing Officials on the Federal Housing Laws Regarding Admission and Eviction Standards for People with Criminal Records* (Washington, DC: Legal Action Center, Spring 2004). Unpublished document, hard copy available upon request.

¹⁷ Gwen Rubenstein, *Getting to Work: How TANF Can Support Ex-Offender Parents in the Transition to Self-Sufficiency* (Washington, DC: Legal Action Center, April 2001). Hard copy available upon request.

¹⁸ *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs*, published by the Urban Institute in collaboration with Outreach Extensions. <<http://www.urban.org/urlprint.cfm?ID=8700>>.

¹⁹ Maria L. Buck, *Getting Back to Work: Employment Programs for Ex-Offenders 5*, (Philadelphia, PA: Public/Private Ventures, Fall 2000), <http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/94_publication.pdf>.

²⁰ Aos et al.

²¹ *State Correctional Education Programs 1*, National Institute for Literacy, (March 2002), <http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/policy/st_correction_02.pdf>.

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HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND REENTRY

Background

- 15% to 27% of prisoners expect to go to homeless shelters upon release from prison.¹
- At any given time in Los Angeles and San Francisco, 30% to 50% of all people under parole supervision are homeless.²
- In New York City, up to 20% of people released from city jails each year are homeless or their housing arrangements are unstable.³
- One study found that at least 11% of the people released from New York state prisons to New York City from 1995 go 1998 entered a homeless shelter within two years – more than half of these in the first month after release.⁴
- Oregon Housing and Community Services reported 40% of those released from prison in the State of Oregon as having no address.⁵

Many people leaving prisons and jails do not have a home. They often return to communities where persistent poverty and lack of jobs and affordable housing make finding a permanent home difficult.⁶ As of 2003, there was no place in the United States where a full-time minimum wage worker could afford the fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit in his or her community.⁷ According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, “even if a household has multiple low wage workers or individual earners that work overtime or more than one minimum wage job to make ends meet, in the majority of areas, housing is still unaffordable.”⁸ More transitional and specialized housing, as well as affordable housing in general, is critical to preventing homelessness among returning inmates.

Criminal history is a key barrier to offenders accessing safe, secure, and affordable housing. Even if an ex-offender has money to pay rent, a tenant background check often screens out the ex-offender. Federal law also allows public housing authorities to refuse to rent to ex-offenders. Additionally, without transitional housing, it is almost impossible for an offender to obtain the credit and rent payment history necessary to live independently and maintain permanent housing. These individuals are at high risk of homelessness and recidivism. Affordable housing, and for some, supportive housing that is drug, alcohol, and crime-free, is critical if treatment and services are to successfully reintegrate the individual into the community.⁹

Access to decent, stable, and affordable housing increases substantially the likelihood a person with a past criminal record will obtain and retain employment and remain drug- and crime-free.¹⁰

- A study by the Corporation for Supportive Housing in New York shows that the use of state prisons and city jails dropped by 74% and 40% respectively when people with mental illness and past criminal records were provided supportive housing.¹¹

While access to safe and affordable housing can have a positive effect on individuals and, collectively, on the community, the converse is true when people cannot secure a decent living environment.

- One study found that two-thirds of former prisoners who did not have appropriate housing recommitted crimes within the first 12 months of release, whereas only one quarter of those who obtained housing re-offended in the same time frame.¹² Without the basic necessities of life, individuals are more prone to engage in drug use, enter into the underground economy to survive, and commit other criminal acts that will send them back to the criminal justice system.

¹ Linda Ostreicher. "When Prisoners Come Home," *Gotham Gazette*, 1 January 2003, <<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/socialservices/20030117/15/187>>.

² Nino Rodriguez and Brenner Brown, "Preventing Homelessness Among People Leaving Prison," *Issues in Brief*, December 2003. Vera Institute of Justice, <http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/209_407.pdf>.

³ Rodriguez and Brown.

⁴ Rodriguez and Brown.

⁵ *Strategic Plan 2001 – 2003*, (Portland, OR: Oregon Housing & Community Services).

⁶ Rodriguez and Brown.

⁷ *Out of Reach 2003*, National Low Income Housing Coalition, <<http://www.nlihc.org/oor2003>>; see also *Every Door Closed: Barriers Facing Parents with Criminal Records* 43, (Philadelphia, PA: Community Legal Services, 2000), <http://www.clsphila.org/Every_Door_Closed.htm>.

⁸ *Out of Reach 2003*.

⁹ Supportive Housing for Ex-Offenders 3-4, April 2002, <<http://www.csh.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=420&nodeID=1>>.

¹⁰ *Safe at Home: A Reference Guide for Public Housing Officials on the Federal Housing Laws Regarding Admission and Eviction Standards for People with Criminal Record*, (Washington, DC: Legal Action Center). Due for publication Spring 2004.

¹¹ Dennis P. Culhane, Stephen Metraux, and Trevor Hadley. *The New York, New York Agreement Cost Study: The Impact of Supportive Housing on Services Use for Homeless Mentally Ill Individuals* 4 (Corporation for Supportive Housing, May 2001).

¹² *Safe at Home*.

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EMPLOYMENT, RE-ENTRY, AND RECIDIVISM

Background

- National Institute of Justice reported that after 1 year of release up to 60% of formerly incarcerated individuals are unemployed.¹
- The New York Department of Labor found that 83% of offenders who violated probation or parole were unemployed at the time of violation.²
- Employment reduces recidivism and increases the chance that a formerly incarcerated person will successfully transition into the community. In an evaluation of the Windham School District, a prison educational system in Texas:
 - 70% of individuals in the program were employed during their first year of release. Of those, the employed individuals had a recidivism rate of 15%, compared to an 18% rate for unemployed individuals. This represents a 17% reduction in recidivism for employed releasees.³

Formerly incarcerated individuals face unique circumstances and barriers when seeking employment.

These barriers impede the ability of a formerly incarcerated person to become employed, especially when taken together, and create formidable obstacles to getting, maintaining, and advancing on a job.

- Recently released individuals enter a competitive labor market often saddled with language barriers, low levels of literacy, limited skills and work experience and difficulty finding an employer who will hire them.⁴ *Individuals with criminal records may be legally disqualified from many kinds of jobs, and barred by law from obtaining professional licenses in such fields as cosmetology and home health care.*
- They face other barriers to sustained employment including substance abuse, lack of transportation, need for childcare, having little savings and no income upon release, and being mandated to find employment quickly as a condition of their parole.⁵

An individual with a job is less likely to commit another crime following their release from prison.

- Job training and placement programs connect formerly incarcerated individuals to work, thereby reducing their likelihood to further offend. Also, the higher the wages, the less likely it is that individuals reentering society will return to crime.⁶
- Wage level and health benefits are often cited as critical factors as to whether a person with a criminal record remains employed. Better People, a privately funded, not-for-profit organization based in Oregon, reports a six-month job retention rate of 76%. They attribute their success to average wage level, which is between \$8.70 and \$9.05 per hour.⁷

Findings from evaluations over the last 20 years indicate that employment programs for formerly incarcerated people have increased their employment and earnings and reduced their expected recidivism.⁸

- Wildcat's "Supported Work" project, which provided jobs and job training to chronically unemployed individuals in recovery from heroin addiction and people with criminal records, demonstrated increased employment and pay as well as lower arrest rates among those employed.⁹

- The Texas Project RIO (Re-Integration of Offenders), a program that helped individuals on parole find jobs, reported that 69% of RIO participants found employment, compared with 36% of a matched control group.¹⁰
 - During the year after release, only 23% of RIO participants returned to prison, compared to 38% in the control group.¹¹
 - Project RIO saved the State \$15 million in 1990 – more than its entire \$8 million annual budget by reducing recidivism and re-incarceration.¹²

PROGRAMS THAT WORK¹³

Center for Employment Opportunities (NY, NY) – CEO’s goal is to provide comprehensive employment to individuals returning from prison and other people with criminal records under community supervision in New York City by offering immediate employment, job training, and job development. CEO places 65% to 70% of its graduates in full-time jobs in three months. Of those, about three-quarters were still working after one month and 60% were still on the job after three months. A 1997 study by the Vera Institute found that only 21% of all enrollees (whether they were with CEO for one day or one year) were reincarcerated within three years; only 15% of enrollees that CEO placed in jobs were reincarcerated within three years.

Safer Foundation (Chicago, IL) – Safer strives to reduce recidivism by offering a full spectrum of services, including job readiness and placement, so that formerly incarcerated people can become productive, effective, law-abiding members of the community. Since 1972, Safer has placed over 40,000 clients in jobs. A 1996 evaluation found that 59% of Safer clients placed in jobs that year remained in the job for 30 days. The evaluation also found that these clients were also more likely to remain employed and crime free up to a year after release.¹⁴

¹ Joan Petersilia, “When Prisoners Return to the Community: Political, Economic, and Social Consequences,” *Sentencing & Corrections* 9, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, November 2000), <<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/184253.pdf>>.

² Melissa Houston, *Offender Job Retention, A Report from the Office of Correctional Job Training and Placement*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections, July 2001). Hard copy available upon request.

³ *Impact of Educational Achievement of Inmates in the Windham School District on Recidivism*, (Texas: Criminal Justice Policy Council, 2000), <www.ejpc.state.tx.us>.

⁴ The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, and Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey. *Employment Opportunity for Ex-Offenders in New Jersey*, Report for New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, 2003, <http://www.njisj.org/reports/heldrich_report.html>.

⁵ Heldrich Center et al.

⁶ Amy L Solomon, Michelle Waul, Asheley Van Ness, and Jeremy Travis. *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs*, (Washington, DC: Urban Institute Publication, 27 January 2004), <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410911_OTWResourceGuide.pdf>.

⁷ “Better People Exceeding Job Retention Standards,” *Better People - 2000 Annual Report*, <<http://www.betterpeople.org/docs/report2.pdf>>.

⁸ Gwen Rubenstein, *Getting to Work: How TANF Can Support Ex-Offender Parents in the Transition to Self-Sufficiency*, (Washington, DC: Legal Action Center, April 2001), <<http://www.lac.org/pubs/gratis/html>>.

⁹ Rubenstein.

¹⁰ Rubenstein.

¹¹ Rubenstein..

¹² Rubenstein.

¹³ Solomon et al.

¹⁴ Solomon et al.

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FAMILIES AND REENTRY

Background

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that 1.5 million children in the U.S. had a parent in a state or federal prison in 1999--an increase of 500,000 since 1991.¹
- Over 7 million children have a parent under some form of correctional supervision.²
- In 2001, approximately 400,000 mothers and fathers finished serving their prison or jail sentence and returned home to rebuild their families and rebuild their lives.³

Most parents who are reentering the community after incarceration face multiple barriers in addition to their criminal records. They are overwhelmingly poor, with limited education and limited skills, and often have alcohol and drug problems, histories of being physically and/or sexually abused, mental and/or physical health problems and homelessness. 70% of parents in state prisons don't have high school diplomas.⁴

- Before being incarcerated, more than one-quarter of parents were unemployed (29% in state prison and 27% in Federal prison), with more mothers in both systems reporting unemployment (50% of women in State prison and 38% in Federal prison).

Family reunification is an option and a reality for many families with a formerly incarcerated parent. Most adults in State (55%) and Federal (63%) prison have minor children, and almost half (46%) lived with their children before their incarceration. Mothers in prison report that most of their children live with a relative, primarily a grandparent, while they were incarcerated, and some regain custody after release.⁵

Multi-systemic programs involving the family, community-based service providers and government agencies are proving to render success results that reduce recidivism and insure stable reintegration. La Bodega de la Familia, and its government partners, the New York State Division of Parole and the New York City Department of Probation, engages and supports families of drug users on parole and probation. The Bodega model draws on family strengths to help reduce drug abuse and increase adherence to conditions of parole and probation that take into consideration linguistic ability and cultural references necessary to reach the Latino community. One study indicated that illegal drug use among participants declined from percent 80% to 42% and participants were less likely to be arrested and convicted than a comparison group.⁶

Family Support programs exist throughout the nation and provide numerous models for replication:

- St Rose's Family Support Program (Milwaukee, WI)
- Hopper Home (New York, NY)
- Family Matters (Little Rock, AR)
- Centerforce (Northern California and California Central Valley)

Investing in families with a formerly incarcerated parent will help reduce the rate of juvenile delinquency and parental recidivism.

- Children of incarcerated parents are seven times more likely to become involved in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.⁷ Children of incarcerated and released parents often become confused, unhappy, and socially stigmatized. The frequent outcome is school-related difficulties, low self-esteem, aggressive behavior, and general emotional dysfunction.⁸
- Incarcerated parents, their children and their families who receive appropriate interventions have significantly improved child and family outcomes. For example, Project SEEK, a joint initiative involving the Michigan Department of Corrections and Department of Community Health provided wrap-around case management services to the children and families of incarcerated parents. The children demonstrated less delinquent and antisocial behaviors, reduced stress and fewer depressive symptoms. Outcomes for caregivers and incarcerated or recently released parents were also improved.⁹
- Early research suggests that inmates with involved family members show a significantly lower recidivism rate when compared with those who do not have such visits throughout their prison term. In one study, prisoners with no visitors were six times more likely to re-enter prison during the first year of parole as those with three or more visitors. In another study, 71% of the "active family interest" group were successful on parole compared with 50% of those in the "no contact with relatives" group.¹⁰

¹ Christopher J. Mumola, "Incarcerated Parents and their Children," *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2000).

² Mumola.

³ Amy E. Hirsch, Sharon M. Dietrich, Rue Landau, Peter D. Schneider, Irv Ackelsberg, Judith Bernstein-Baker and Joseph Hohenstein, *Every Door Closed: Barriers Facing Parents With Criminal Records*, A report published by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and Community Legal Services, Inc. citing Children of Incarcerated Parents, Charlene Wear Simmons, 7(2) California Research Bureau Note 2, March 2000.

⁴ Hirsch et. al.

⁵ Gwen Rubinstein, "Welfare, Workforce Development & Ex-Offenders." Background Paper. MPH Legal Action Center, 2002.

⁶ Leah Edmunds, "La Bodega Wins Innovations in American Government Award," Vera Institute of Justice. *Just 'Cause* March/April 2003 10 (2).

⁷ *Notice of Funding Opportunity for Mentoring of Children of Prisoners*, (Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, February 23, 2004), <<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/multidb.cgi>>.

⁸ Barbara Bloom and David Steinhart, "Why Punish the Children: A Reappraisal of the Children of Incarcerated Mothers in America." San Francisco, 1993.

⁹ Thomas Kuecker, Li Chun-Hao, Chris Maxwell, Lori Post and Carl S. Taylor, *Public Policy Briefing Report, Institute for Children, Youth, and Families. Services to Enable and Empower Kids (Project SEEK)*, 1999.

¹⁰ David Glaser. *The Effectiveness of a Prison and Parole System* (New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1964); Holt, Norman and Donald Miller. *Explorations in Inmate-Family Relationships* (Sacramento: Research Division, Department of Corrections, State of California, 1972); L. Ohun, *The Stability and Validity of Parole Experience Tables*, Diss. University of Chicago, 1954.

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Access to Treatment

Background

- Sentences for drug offending are the major reason for increases in prison admissions since 1980.¹
- Although spending on prisons was the fastest growing budget item in nearly every state in the 1990's, increased dollars funded more prisons but not more rehabilitation.²
- 70% to 85% of State prisoners need treatment; however, just 13% receive it while incarcerated according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).³
- Three-quarters of individuals with drug related convictions in state prisons have only been convicted of drug and/or non-violent offenses; one-third have only been convicted of drug crimes.⁴

Access to Substance Abuse Treatment that is Culturally Competent and Linguistically Accessible is Essential to Successful Reentry

Numerous studies have shown with remarkable consistency that at every stage of the criminal justice process, from arrest to conviction to incarceration, as many as 80% of offenders have alcohol and drug problems and/or were under the influence of drugs and alcohol while they committed their offense.⁵ Research indicates that drug-involved offenders who were treated in prison and after release did better at staying drug free and arrest free than those who received no treatment.⁶ Drug treatment, when provided in the criminal justice context, works to reduce crime and drug abuse.⁷

- Hispanic federal prisoners were the least likely of all racial/ethnic groups to receive any type of substance abuse treatment; approximately one-third (36%) of Hispanic federal prisoners received substance abuse treatment or participated in a program to address their substance abuse dependency.⁸

Substance Abuse Treatment Works and Leads to Reduced Rates of Drug Use, Recidivism and Increased Cost-savings. Substance abuse treatment cuts drug use in half, reduces criminal activity by up to 80%, and decreases unemployment and homelessness. *Every dollar invested in substance abuse treatment saves taxpayers \$7.46 in social costs.*⁹ Recent evaluations of women treated through two federal programs for pregnant and parenting women revealed positive results in decreased drug use, decreased involvement with the criminal justice system, and increased employment.¹⁰

- A study released from the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice shows that recidivism rates continue to be significantly reduced (2% to 20%) for graduates of substance abuse treatment programs as well as for individuals who do not complete the program.¹¹

Substance Abuse Treatment Leads to Reduced Rates of Drug Use – The National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study conducted by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) found that participants in alcohol and drug treatment reduced their drug use by 50%.¹²

Substance Abuse Treatment Leads to Reduced Rates of Recidivism – The Delaware Life Skills Program reported that 2 years after release, female participants had a 15% recidivism rate compared to a 50% rate for the non participants group.¹³ Other program evaluations have seen similar results.

- Individuals participating in a Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJ CJ) services-oriented Homeless Release Project had a re-offense rate of 44% compared to 71% for the non-participant comparison group.¹⁴

- In Texas, 7% of individuals who completed the state substance abuse program recidivated within 2 years, compared to a recidivism rate of 25% to 31% for those who individuals who failed to complete the treatment program.¹⁵
- A Volunteers of America (VOA) program found a substantial reduction in criminal activity for women who completed one of their multi-dimensional drug treatment programs.
 - During the year before treatment, VOA found that the group of women as a whole were involved in criminal activity on 19,400 days. During the year after treatment the total number of crime-days declined to 7,900. Thus, the amount of time that the women were involved in crime was cut more than in half, from 50% of their days at risk before treatment down to only 22% of the days at risk after treatment. From a public safety perspective, there was a substantial bottom line reduction of 11,500 crime-days.¹⁶
- A recidivism study done by the Oregon Recovery Consortium (ORC) found that in the year prior to treatment the 100 offenders in the sample had 238 arrests. In the year after treatment, the same 100 offenders had 150 arrests, a reduction of 88 total arrests, or 37%.¹⁷

Substance Abuse Treatment Leads to Increased Cost Savings – The State of Texas saved \$29.9 million as a result of diverting prison/jail bound offenders into a multi-component state drug program.¹⁸ A voter-approved law in Arizona to divert nonviolent drug offenders from prison into treatment resulted in saving more than \$2.5 million the first year of operation.¹⁹

¹ Joan Petersilia, "When Prisoners Return to the Community: Political, Economic, and Social Consequences," *Sentencing & Corrections* 9, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of U.S. Department of Justice, November 2000), <<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/184253.pdf>>.

² Petersilia.

³ Petersilia.

⁴ *Distorted Priorities: Drug Offenders in State Prisons*, The Sentencing Project, 2002. <http://www.sentencingproject.org/pubs_04.cfm>.

⁵ Steven Belenko, *Behind Bars: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population*. New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, January 1998. <<http://www.casacolumbia.org/pdshopprov/shop/item.asp?itemid=20>>.

⁶ Jeremy Travis. "But They All Come Back: Rethinking Prisoner Reentry," *Sentencing & Corrections* 7 (May 2000). Papers from the Executive Sessions on Sentencing and Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. <www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/181413.pdf>.

⁷ Travis.

⁸ *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1997*, Bureau of Justice Statistics (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, November 2000).

⁹ *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1997).

¹⁰ *Steps to Success: Helping Women with Alcohol and Drug Problems Move from Welfare to Work* (Washington, DC: Legal Action Center, 1999). <www.lac.org>.

¹¹ *Recidivism Rates for Drug courts Graduates: Nationally Based Estimates* Office of Justice Programs (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, July 2003).

¹² *Resources for Recovery: State Policy Options for Increasing Access to Alcohol and Drug Treatment Through Medicaid & TANF* (Washington, DC: Legal Action Center, 2002). <www.lac.org>.

¹³ Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Report, <www.grantcommunity.com/cfdaprogram/p84255.htm>.

¹⁴ Ursula A. Castellano and Alissa Riker, *Community Based Treatment: The Impact of the Homeless Pretrial Release Project* (San Francisco, CA: Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 2000), <<http://www.cjcj.org/pubs/hrp/hrp.html>>.

¹⁵ *Recidivism Rates and Issues Related to TDCJ Substance Abuse Treatment Programs*, Report to Texas Senate Criminal Justice Interim Committee, (Texas: Criminal Justice Policy Council, March 2002), <<http://cjpc.state.tx.us/reports/adltrehab/RecidTDCJ.pdf>>.

¹⁶ Gregory P. Falkin, Ph.D. and Sheila M. Strauss, Ph.D., *Reductions in Drug Use and Criminal Activity among Women Treated at VOA's Residential Program*, Project Worth, (New York, NY: National Development and Research Institutes, Inc, January 2000). Hard copy available upon request.

¹⁷ Wayne C. Salvo. *Re-Arrest Rates of Offenders participating in Residential Alcohol and Drug Treatment in 1999*. (Portland, OR: Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Research and Evaluation Unit, May 7, 2001). Hard copy available upon request.

¹⁸ Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Report.

¹⁹ *Drug Treatment and Education Fund, Legislative Report Fiscal Year 1997 – 1998*, (Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts, Adult Services Division, May 1999), <<http://www.csdp.org/research/dteftoday.pdf>>.

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ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Background

- 41.3% of the nation's correctional population failed to graduate from high school compared to 18.4% of the general population whose educational attainment is "some high school or less."¹
- 48.4% of the general population has some post-secondary education, only 12.7% of the correctional population has some post-secondary education.²
- About 44% of Black State prison inmates and 53% of Hispanic inmates had not graduated from high school or received a GED, compared to 27% of Whites in state prisons.³
- Young White and Black male inmates were about twice as likely as their counterparts in the general population to have not completed high school or its equivalent (14% versus 28% for Whites and 16% versus 44% for Blacks).⁴
- Young Hispanic males' educational achievement did not differ by much; 52% in prison and 41% in the general population did not have a high school diploma or its equivalent.⁵
- Approximately one third of prisoners cannot locate an intersection on a street map or identify and enter basic information on an application.⁶
- One-third cannot explain in writing a billing error or place information on an automobile maintenance form.⁷
- Only one in twenty can determine which bus to take from using a schedule.⁸

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are important for the prison population to ensure participation in other programs like substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as to ensure that they are better able to function in society upon reentry. Hispanic State prison population enrolls in ESL classes six times more than their White and Black counterparts.⁹

According to two government studies education is one of the best deterrent to re-offending. In a recent U.S. Department of Education Study, participation in state correctional education programs lowers the likelihood of re-incarceration by 29%. A Federal Bureau of Prisons study found a 33% drop in recidivism among federal prisoners who participated in vocational and apprenticeship training.¹⁰

Funding sources for correctional education have not kept up with the need to provide this service additionally, the levels at which correctional education programs are funded shrink yearly.

- State spending on correctional education has not increased with the growth in the prison population which has nearly doubled over the last decade. The percentage of prisoners participating in state correctional education programs has decreased, resulting in a prison population less prepared to be released than in past years.¹¹
- The largest source of funding for state correctional education programs has been the Adult Education Act, replaced in 1998 by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) (P.L. 105-220). Before the 1998 changes in the law, states were required to spend no less than 10% of their Basic State Grant for Adult Education on educational programming in state institutions, including correctional institutions. Today the states are required by law to spend no more than 10%. Likewise the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Act was also amended in 1998. Before states were required to spend at least 1% of their federal funding on vocational and technical education programs in state institutions, including correctional institutions. Now state spending is capped at no more than 1%.¹²

¹ Caroline Wolf Harlow. "Education and Correctional Populations" *BJS Special Report*, January 2003. (NCJ 195670), (see "Correctional Education Facts at a Glance," National Institute for Correctional Education).

² Harlow.

³ Harlow.

⁴ Harlow.

⁵ Harlow.

⁶ Sue Burrell and Loren Warboys. "Special Education and the Juvenile Justice System," *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, July 2000. OJJDP, (NCJ 179359).

⁷ Burrell and Loren Warboys.

⁸ Burrell and Loren Warboys.

⁹ *State Correctional Education Programs*.

¹⁰ *State Correctional Education Programs*.

¹¹ *State Correctional Education Programs*, National Institute for Literacy, March 2002.

¹² *State Correctional Education Programs*, National Institute for Literacy, March 2002.

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JUVENILES AND REENTRY

Background

- Approximately 100,000 juveniles (ages 17 and under) leave juvenile correctional facilities, state or federal prison each year (Urban Institute, 2003).
- On average, youth released from custody have spent one-third of their teenage years in secure confinement (Urban Institute, 2003).
- Juveniles released from secure confinement have a recidivism rate ranging from 55%-75% percent (Weibush, et al., 2000).
- Juveniles released from confinement still have their likely “prime crime years” ahead of them; 85 percent of all violent crimes are committed by those over the age of 17, and the ages which account for the greatest proportions of violent crimes are ages 18-21 (Crime in the United States, 2002).
- The chances that young people will successfully transition into society improve with research-based, effective reentry/aftercare programs.

The transition from confinement to “life on the outside” presents great risks and opportunities for young people and society.

Youth are still undergoing considerable physical, cognitive, social and emotional development during and after secure confinement, making the experience of confinement and reentry different from that of adults.¹

The risk:

- Ineffective correction and reentry experiences can negatively impact a youth’s development and likelihood of recidivism to an even greater extent than with adult prisoners.
- Unlike most adult offenders, youth offenders have their potential “prime crime years” ahead of them (*see attached graphs*)²:
 - The ages which account for the greatest proportions of arrests for crimes are ages 18- 20. The ages which account for the greatest proportions of arrests for violent crimes are ages 18-21.
 - The vast majority of crimes are committed by those over age 17. 84% of all crimes are committed by those over 17, and 85% of all violent crimes are committed by those over age 17.

The opportunity:

- With their development still in progress, young ex-offenders are more amenable to effective behavior modification interventions, thus saving lives, anguish, and public tax dollars.

Investing in effective re-entry/aftercare programs can prevent juvenile ex-offenders from becoming adult offenders.³

Recidivism rates for juvenile offenders can be lessened through proper juvenile reentry support structures⁴:

- An individualized plan for reentry/aftercare, based on an assessment of each youth, must be developed – and implementation begun – well before release.
- Positive links with community resources and social networks must be created, and must involve the youth's family, school, peers, faith based institution, after-school service provider, and other relevant community networks.
- A mix of intensive surveillance and services must be provided; staff should have small caseloads and supervision services should be available on weekdays, evenings and weekends.
- A balance of incentives and graduated consequences (carrots and sticks) must be applied, with a range of graduated sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of any violation.

These strategies must be consistently implemented, and where appropriate, sustained for at least 6 months to a year—a time when the risk of recidivism is highest.⁵

Effective reentry in action:

An example of a research-based, effective program that has a strong reentry component and reduces recidivism is Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC). MTFC targets adolescents experiencing chronic antisocial behavior, emotional disturbance and delinquency.⁶ MTFC provides: services to the youth and their families during and after the youth's out-of-home placement, ongoing supervision by a program case manager, and frequent contact and coordination of services with the youth's parole/probation officer, teachers, work supervisors and other involved adults. MTFC thus provides the structures needed for successful reentry.

Evaluations have demonstrated that, after 12 months, youth in programs using MTFC:

- Ran away from their programs, on average, three times less often;
- Had significantly less hard drug use;
- Had significantly fewer arrests; and
- Spent 60 percent fewer days incarcerated.

MTFC is cost effective. MTFC saves taxpayers \$22,000 per juvenile treated.

¹ David Brown, Edward DeJesus, Sarah Maxwell, and Vincent Schiraldi, *Barriers and Promising Approaches to Workforce and Youth Development for Young Offenders*. A Report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2002. <<http://www.aecf.org/publications/pdfs/workforce.pdf>>.

² *Crime in the United States*, Federal Bureau of Investigation (2002).

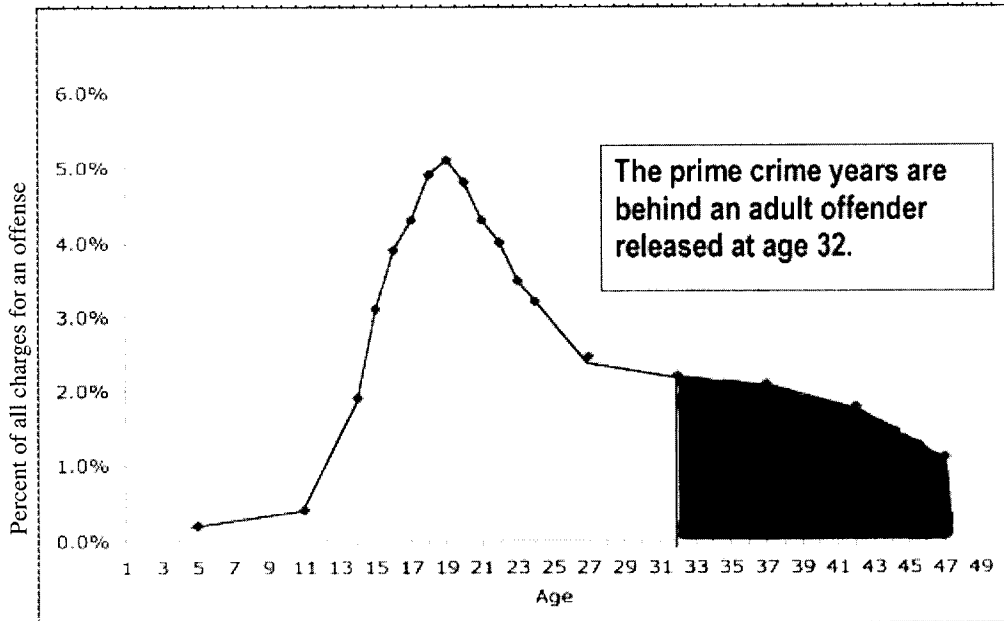
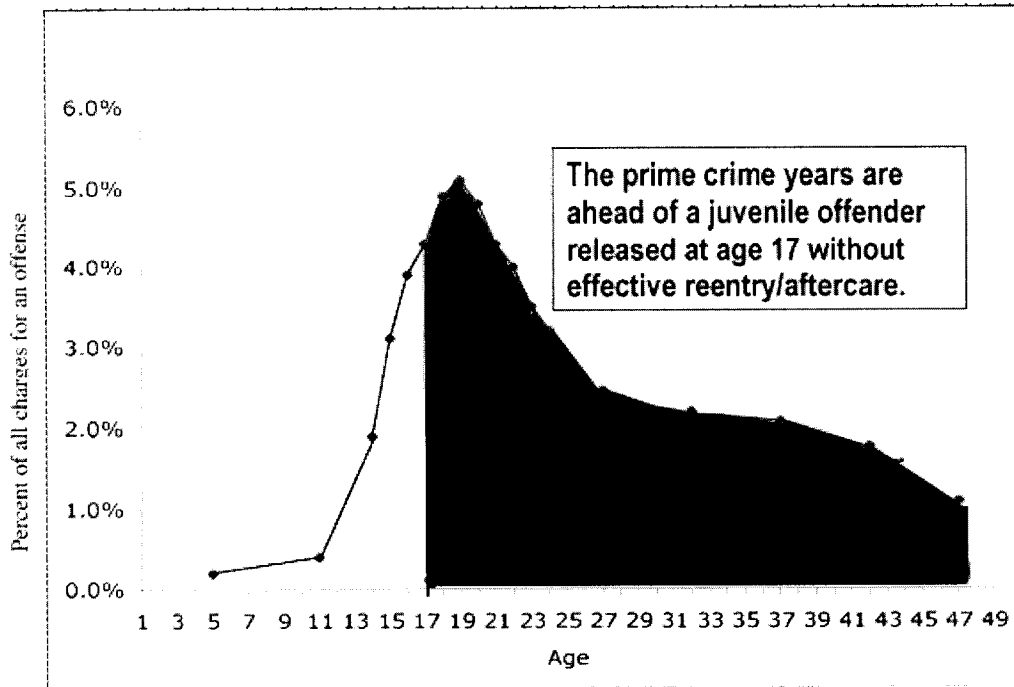
³ *The Dimensions and Pathways and Consequences of Youth Reentry*, Urban Institute Policy Institute Center (2003).

⁴ Richard G. Wiebush, Betsie McNulty and Thao Le, "Implementation of the Intensive Community Based After Care Program," *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, July 2000.

⁵ *Dimensions and Pathways and Consequences of Youth Reentry*.

⁶ D.S. Elliot. "Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care" (Series Ed.). Blue Prints for Violence Prevention: Book Eight. (Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado at Boulder: 1998).

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Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Crime in the United States 2002*. 2003.

The Over-Representation of Latinos and African Americans in the Justice System

Background

- ❑ African Americans and Latinos are disproportionately over-represented in federal, state, and county prisons, jails and juvenile detention facilities. While the state bears the substantial economic and social costs of incarceration/detention and reentry, the impact is felt most severely by low-income families and communities of color.
- ❑ As of June 30, 2002, the nation's prison and jail population exceeded 2 million inmates for the first time (2,019,234) and continued to grow by year's end to 2,166,260.¹ About 1 in 3 Black males and 1 in 6 Hispanic males will go to prison in their lifetime. This is in contrast to 1 in 17 White males.²

- **America's incarceration rate of 701 per 100,000 is the highest in the industrialized world.** As of June 30, 2002, Black males are incarcerated at the rate of 4,810 per 100,000. Hispanic males are incarcerated at the rate of 1,740 per 100,000 and white males at the rate of 649 per 100,000.³
- **Young Black and Hispanic men between the ages of 20 and 39 constitute the majority of the Federal and State prison and local jail population, while they represent a significantly small percentage of the total general population.** Black men between the ages of 20 and 39 constituted 33% of the incarcerated population, Hispanic men were 12%, and White men were 21%. Compared with 17% of Black men in the general population of that age group, 3% of Hispanic men and 22% of White men.⁴
- **Approximately 6 million U.S. residents have served a prison sentence.** As of December 31, 2001, 5,618,000 U.S. adult residents had ever served time in prison. This is about 1 in every 37 adults. Whites represent 2,203,000, Blacks 2,166,000, and Hispanics 997,000. The rate of a Black male ever having gone to prison among adult males (16.6%) was twice as high as Hispanic males (7.7%) and over 6 times as high as among adult White males.⁵
- **In 1999, there were approximately 1 million parents in federal or state prisons, and 1.5 million children had parents in jails or prisons, the majority of these children were either Latino or African American.** In 1999 State and Federal prisons held 721,500 parents. About 336,300 U.S. households had a minor child affected by imprisonment. Nearly 2.1% of all children or about 1,500,000 children have a parent in jail. White children at 0.8% are the least likely to have a parent in prison. Black children at 7.0% percent are nearly 9 times more likely to have a parent in prison than white children. Hispanic children at 2.6% were 3 times as likely as white children to have a parent in prison.⁶

- **Racial/ Ethnic data show that minority State prison inmates are less likely to have a high school diploma in comparison to their White counterparts.** About 44% of Black State prison inmates and 53% of Hispanic inmates had not graduated from high school or received a GED, compared to 27% of Whites in state prisons.⁷
- **Hispanic and Black defendants were more likely than White defendants to be arrested for drug offenses.** The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported in 2001, that 1996 data indicated Hispanics comprised 46.3% and Blacks were 47.9% of the defendants charged with drug offenses in U.S. District Courts, compared with 29.4% of White defendants charged with the same offense.⁸
- **According to the latest data from the Department of Health and Human Services, drug use does not vary significantly by race and ethnicity.** In 2002 the rates of current illicit drug use were 9.7% for Blacks, 8.5% for Whites, and 7.2% for Hispanics.⁹
- **Hispanic federal prison inmates in 1997 were the least likely of all racial/ethnic groups to receive any type of substance abuse treatment.** More than one-third (36.4%) of Hispanic federal prison inmates received substance abuse treatment or participated in a program to address their substance abuse dependency during 1997. By contrast, 53.7% of white and 48.4% of Blacks received some type of treatment or participated in substance abuse programs.¹⁰

¹ P.M. Harrison and J.C. Karberg, *Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin: Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2002* (Washington, DC: April 2003), NCJ 198877.

² T.P. Bonczar, *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U. S. Population, 1974-2001* (Washington, DC: 2003), NCJ 197976.

³ P.M. Harrison and J.C. Karberg.

⁴ P.M. Harrison and J.C. Karberg.

⁵ T.P. Bonczar.

⁶ C.J. Mumola, *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Incarcerated Parents and Their Children*, (Washington, DC: August 2000), NCJ 182335.

⁷ Caroline Wolf Harlow, "Education and Correctional Populations," *Bureau of Justice Statistics: Special Report*. (January, 2003), NCJ 195670. (see "Correctional Education Facts at a Glance," National Institute for Correctional Education).

⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Federal Pretrial Release and Detention, 1996*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, August 2001).

⁹ *2000 National Survey of Drug Use and Health*, (Washington, DC: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies).

¹⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1997*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, May 2000).

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