



Reentry Fact Sheet

- Each year, more than 700,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons.¹
- At least 95 percent of all inmates in America will ultimately be released and returned to the community.²
- Another 9 to 10 million more people cycle through local jails annually.³
- Roughly 40% of former federal prisoners and more than 60% of former state prisoners are rearrested within three years of release.⁴
- The costs of imprisonment and jail in the past 20 years have grown at a faster rate than nearly any other state budget item.⁵
- It costs an average of \$78.95 per day to keep an inmate locked up.⁶
- The U.S. now spends more than \$68 billion annually on federal, state and local corrections.⁷
- High rates of recidivism (the act of reengaging in criminal behavior that results in being rearrested, reconvicted, or returned to custody within three years of release from prison or probation) means more crime, more victims and more pressure on an already overburdened criminal justice system.⁸
- Studies indicate that high quality jobs diminish the likelihood of recidivism.⁹
- Research suggests that ex-offenders who maintain a steady job and have close ties with family are less likely to renew their involvement in criminal behavior.¹⁰
- Most ex-offenders lack a competitive resume, employment credentials, are under-skilled relative to the general population of job-seekers, have the added stigma of an arrest or prison record, and by virtue of their record, face an especially narrow range of job opportunities; which are all considerable barriers to employment.^{11 12}
- Studies have found that employers were unwilling to hire ex-offenders even when they exceeded the qualifications for the position. Nearly 60% of employers surveyed in 4 large U.S. cities reported that they would “definitely not” or “probably not” hire an ex-prisoner.¹³
- By reducing the rate of offenders who return to prison, we keep communities safer, families more intact, and can therefore, begin to reinvest incarceration dollars into other critical areas.¹⁴
- Those of us with social capital have the ability to influence individuals who have the authority to hire an applicant, despite their criminal record, based on inside knowledge about the applicant’s character that may be gleaned from a third party source.¹⁵
- Successful reintegration into the workforce translates into: a) safer neighborhoods, b) stable families, c) prosocial structured activity for an ex-offender, d) reduced taxpayer costs for reincarceration, e) living wages for an ex-offender to support himself/herself and family, and f) income for restitution to victims, court and correctional supervision fees, continued mental or behavioral health treatment, and child support, when necessary.¹⁻¹⁶

¹ Federal Interagency Reentry Council. (2011). *REENTRY In Brief*. Washington: U.S. Department of Justice.

² Pew Center on the States, *State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons* (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, April 2011).

³ Merica, D., & Perez, E. (2013, August 12). Eric Holder seeks to cut mandatory minimum drug sentences. Washington, DC, United States of America.

⁴ Merica, D., & Perez, E. (2013, August 12). Eric Holder seeks to cut mandatory minimum drug sentences. Washington, DC, United States of America.
Electronic Reference: <http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/12/politics/holder-mandatory-minimums/>

⁵ Federal Interagency Reentry Council. (2011). *REENTRY In Brief*. Washington: U.S. Department of Justice.

⁶ Pew Center on the States, *State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons* (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, April 2011).

⁷ Federal Interagency Reentry Council. (2011). *REENTRY In Brief*. Washington: U.S. Department of Justice.

⁸ Pew Center on the States, *State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons* (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, April 2011).

⁹ Berg, M. T., & Huebner, B. M. (2011). Reentry and the Ties that Bind: An Examination of Social Ties, Employment, and Recidivism. *Justice Quarterly*, 28(2), 382-410.

¹⁰ Berg, M. T., & Huebner, B. M. (2011). Reentry and the Ties that Bind: An Examination of Social Ties, Employment, and Recidivism. *Justice Quarterly*, 28(2), 382-410.

¹¹ Berg, M. T., & Huebner, B. M. (2011). Reentry and the Ties that Bind: An Examination of Social Ties, Employment, and Recidivism. *Justice Quarterly*, 28(2), 382-410.

¹² Pew Center on the States, *State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons* (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, April 2011).

¹³ Berg, M. T., & Huebner, B. M. (2011). Reentry and the Ties that Bind: An Examination of Social Ties, Employment, and Recidivism. *Justice Quarterly*, 28(2), 382-410.

¹⁴ Pew Center on the States, *State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons* (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, April 2011).

¹⁵ Berg, M. T., & Huebner, B. M. (2011). Reentry and the Ties that Bind: An Examination of Social Ties, Employment, and Recidivism. *Justice Quarterly*, 28(2), 382-410.

¹⁶ Rakis, J. (2005). Improving the Employment Rates of Ex-Prisoners Under Parole. *Federal Probation*, 69(1), 7-12.