

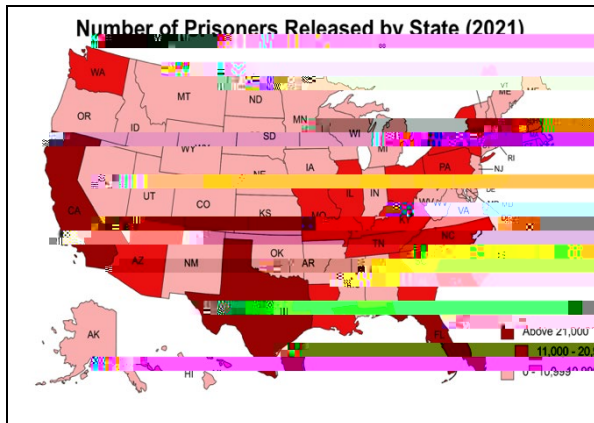
# **Barriers to Successful Re-Entry**

By: Jordan S. Donohue, M.A.

## **Introduction**

In the world of criminal justice, re-entry refers to the assimilation of a previously incarcerated individual back into society and their community (National Institute of Justice, 2013). Re-entry is

Figure 1



Source: Carson (2022)

### The Barriers for Reentry

With newfound freedom comes newfound struggles. Those who are released from United States' correctional facilities face a variety of different trials and tribulations. These struggles include, but are not limited to, employment, housing, and transportation.

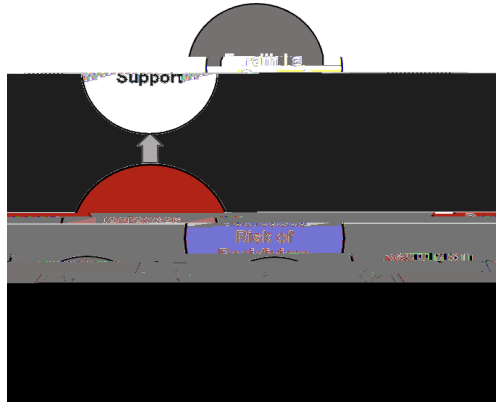
In the realm of employment, a previously incarcerated individual will be unemployed for over six months, on average, following their release (Wang & Bertram, 2022). Further, during ages 18 through 54, individuals in the general population will spend around 20% more of their time employed than those who have experienced incarceration (Wang & Bertram, 2022).

These obstacles do not stop once a person is employed post-release. One study found that approximately 49% of previously incarcerated persons earn less than \$500 during their first year on the outside. Further, the same study found that only about 20% of ex-prisoners will earn more than \$15,000 during their first year after being released (Looney & Turner, 2018). This is either one year (eas)-1 (thei).1 hAsTD(t0.913[Wi]-1.1 (th new)1.7 (found fr)0 (, 2)]J1.7 (t y).1 (ous)-1.7 (l)3



(e.g., Visher et al. 2008) found that almost half (48%) of released persons rely on financial support from their friends and family eight months post-release. This same study found that nearly three-fourths of the sample used friends or family to find post-release employment.

**Figure 3**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
(2018). 2018 Poverty guidelines.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references/2018-poverty-guidelines>

U.S. Department of Justice. (2016). Roadmap to reentry: Reducing recidivism through reentry reforms at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.  
<https://www.justice.gov/archives/reentry/file/844356/download>

Visher, C., Debus, S., & Yahner, J. (2008). Employment after release: A longitudinal study of releasees in three states (Research brief). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center.

Wang, L. & Bertram, W. (2022). New data on formerly incarcerated people's employment reveal labor market injustices.

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/02/08/employment/>

Zajac, G., Hutchison, R. A., & Meyer, C. A. (2014). An examination of rural prisoner reentry challenges.  
<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/An-Examination-of-Rural-Prisoner-Reentry-Challenges-Zajac-Hutchison/e78b5735aaf26b3d073dd6c1c62f24b6da7beeae>