



**Association for Criminal Justice
Research of California**

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Why the Re-Entry Policy Council?

- Prevent tragedies from driving policy
- Preempt the possibility of federal mandates
- Establish a forum to consult stakeholder groups with diverse views on the issue
- Provide a resource to practitioners inside and outside of the criminal justice system
- Respond to current state budget crises

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What is Re-Entry?

Scale of the Problem

- 97 percent of the people in prison will be released from prison at some point, and virtually all sentenced offenders in jail will return to the community.
- Approximately 625,000 individuals will exit prison this year.
- Jail administrators across the U.S. make approximately 10 million releases each year.
- 1 in 32 adults was in jail or prison, or on probation or parole, in 2002.

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What is Re-Entry?

Fiscal Implications

- American taxpayers went from spending approximately \$9 billion a year on corrections in 1982 to \$60 billion in 2002.
- Spending on corrections has been the fastest - or second-fastest growing item in state budgets over the last 15 years.
- These statistics do not include costs of arrest, prosecution, or costs to victims, or other collateral costs.

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What is Re-Entry?

Public Safety Implications

- Thirty percent of individuals released from state prison are re-arrested within the first six months following release. Within 3 years of release, 2 out of 3 of these individuals are re-arrested.
- 1 out of 2 people released from state prison returns to prison either for a new crime or a parole violation.
- Revocations are the fastest growing category of prison admissions.

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What is the Re-Entry Policy Council?

The Re-Entry Policy Council is a groundbreaking, national, bipartisan initiative bringing together nearly 100 leading elected officials, policymakers, and practitioners working in state and local government and community-based organizations who are committed to improving the likelihood that a person's transition from prison or jail to the community will be safe and successful.

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Central Features

- **Bipartisan:** Republican and Democrat elected officials
- **Cross-system:** Includes key stakeholders from workforce development, corrections, housing, health and human services, community corrections, and law enforcement
- **Consensus:** Focuses on areas where agreement can be reached
- **National:** Comprises representatives from all over the country

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police chiefs | people with criminal records | pretrial service administrators | probation officials | state legislators | substance abuse treatment providers | workforce investment chairs | judges | prosecutors | state alcohol and drug abuse directors | county executives | crime victims | public housing administrators | victim advocates

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state corrections directors | public defenders | workforce development officials | researchers | jail administrators | sheriffs | supportive housing providers | state mental health directors | parole officials | housing development officials

Coordinated by Council of State Governments

Project Partners

Association of State Correctional Administrators • American Probation and Parole Association National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials • National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors • National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors • National Association of Workforce Boards • National Center for State Courts • Corporation for Supportive Housing • Urban Institute • Police Executive Research Forum

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What is the Council of State Governments?

- Non-profit, non-partisan membership association of state government officials
- Funded largely through state dues
- Represents all three branches of state government: legislature, judiciary, and executive branch
- 4 regional offices
- Provides non-partisan setting to discuss controversial criminal justice topics outside of the public spotlight

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE / MENTAL HEALTH CONSENSUS PROJECT


A Precedent for the Re-Entry Policy Council

The Report:


- 46 Policy Statements
- 100's of recommendations
- Database of 80 program examples

Recent Legislative Activity:

Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (S1194/HR 2387) passed by US House and Senate; President's signature pending



Press Coverage:



National Projects:

- Technical assistance to Bureau of Justice Assistance Mental Health Courts grantees
- Technical assistance partnership with National Institute of Corrections

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| 2001: Re-Entry Policy Council established, three Advisory Groups formed | | |
| Public Safety and Restorative Activities | Supportive Health and Housing | Workforce Development and Employment Opportunities |
| May – June 2002 | | |
| Initial meetings of three Advisory Groups | | |
| December 2002 – February 2003 | | |
| Advisory Groups review selected policy statements | | |
| November 2003 | | |
| Advisory Groups meet together and review complete draft report | | |
| December 2003 Focus group on children and families | | January 2004 Focus group on victims issues |
| Fall 2004 | | |
| Report of the Re-Entry Policy Council released | | |

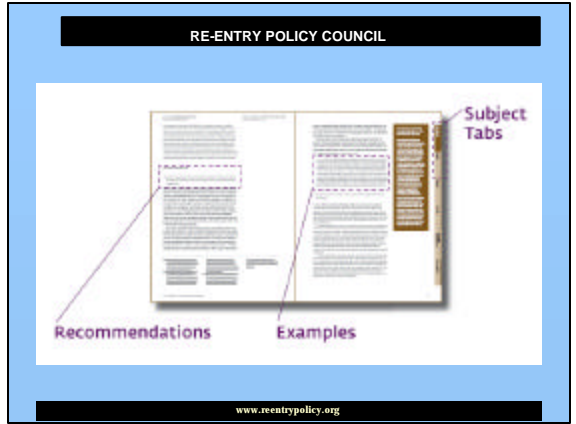
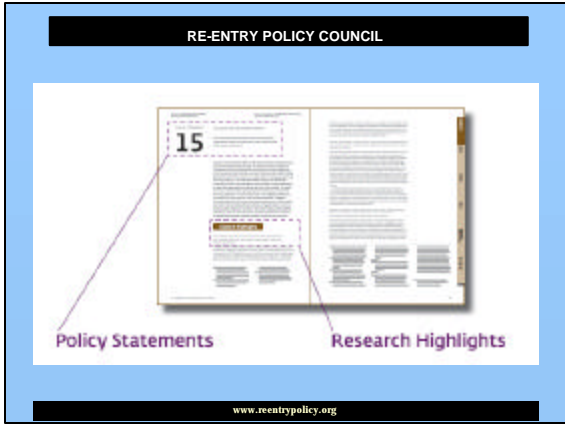
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About the RPC Report

- 34 Policy Statements
- Documented research highlights
- Hundreds of detailed action recommendations
- 175+ examples of programs from across the U.S.
- 3 sections:
 - o Planning a Re-Entry Initiative
 - o Review of the Re-Entry Process: From Admission to the Institution to Return to the Community
 - o Elements of Effective Social Service Systems

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What Does the RPC Report Recommend?

Get Started:

- Get people together
- Understand the issue in your jurisdiction

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What Does the RPC Report Recommend?

Address Core Challenges:

- Redefine missions
- Maximize the value of existing funding
- Integrate systems
- Measure performance
- Inform and reassure the public

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What Does the RPC Report Recommend?

Develop Policies and Programs:

- Make smart release and community supervision decisions
- Ensure support for victims
- Offer safe places to live
- Break the bonds of addiction
- Treat physical and mental illness
- Foster meaningful relationships
- Provide training, education, and jobs

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Probation Caseload Distributions
Sample neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York

Average caseload of 76 probationers

- 218 probationers
- 43 different probation officers

➢ 218 probationers = 3 caseloads

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Sample Policy Statement

25.

Design of Supervision Strategy – Review and prioritize what the releasing authority has established as terms and conditions of release and develop a supervision strategy that corresponds to the resources available to the supervising agency, reflects the likelihood of recidivism, and employs incentives to encourage compliance with the conditions of release.

- b** Seek information from, and promote cooperation with, law enforcement in the jurisdiction to which an individual will return before his or her release.

Example: Boston Re-Entry Initiative (MA)

President George W. Bush
State of Union Address, January 20, 2004

This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society.

We know from long experience that if they can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit crime and return to prison. So tonight, I propose a four-year, \$300 million prisoner re-entry initiative to expand job training and placement services, to provide transitional housing, and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups.

America is the land of the second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life.

Legislative Preview

- **Bipartisan support for the Second Chance Act of 2004:**
 - House of Representatives (introduced June 23, 2004): sponsored by Rob Portman (R-OH) and Danny Davis (D-IL), with broad bipartisan array of 41 additional co-sponsors
 - Senate (introduced September 10, 2004): sponsored by Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Rick Santorum (R-PA)
- **Key Points of the Second Chance Act of 2004 (HR 4676 / S 2789):**
 - \$100/160 million grant program for state re-entry initiatives
 - National Resource Center
 - Federal Interagency Task Force
 - Amends some statutory roadblocks to re-entry
- **HR 5073: Re-Entry Enhancement Act** (introduced Sept. 14, 2004)

Projects of the RPC

- **Report of the RPC** (due fall 2004)
- **Report Preview** (released July 2, 2004)
- **Website** (www.reentrypolicy.org)
- **Ancillary written products**
- **Technical assistance**

Contact the Re-Entry Policy Council



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