


Re-Entry: Breaking Barriers and Opening Doors

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What are our main necessities to survive in society/have access to opportunities for success?

On the index cards, write three things that you think are essential to anyone's survival and opportunity for a successful life.



Dot Activities

In this activity everyone come up and place 3 dots by your top 3 biggest barriers to a successful reentry for someone getting released from incarceration

Youth
and
Reentry

**How does
reentry impact
youth who have
been impacted
by the juvenile
justice system?**

Barriers for Reentry

- Employment
- Education
- Housing
- Family
- Race
- Length of incarceration
- Transportation
- Psychosocial development of the youth



Recidivism

- Increases likelihood of recidivism- in many states, 80% of youth are rearrested within 3 years of release (Council of State Governments, 2018)
- In order to reduce recidivism, we need to address the barriers that youth face when they reenter their community



Employment

Barriers

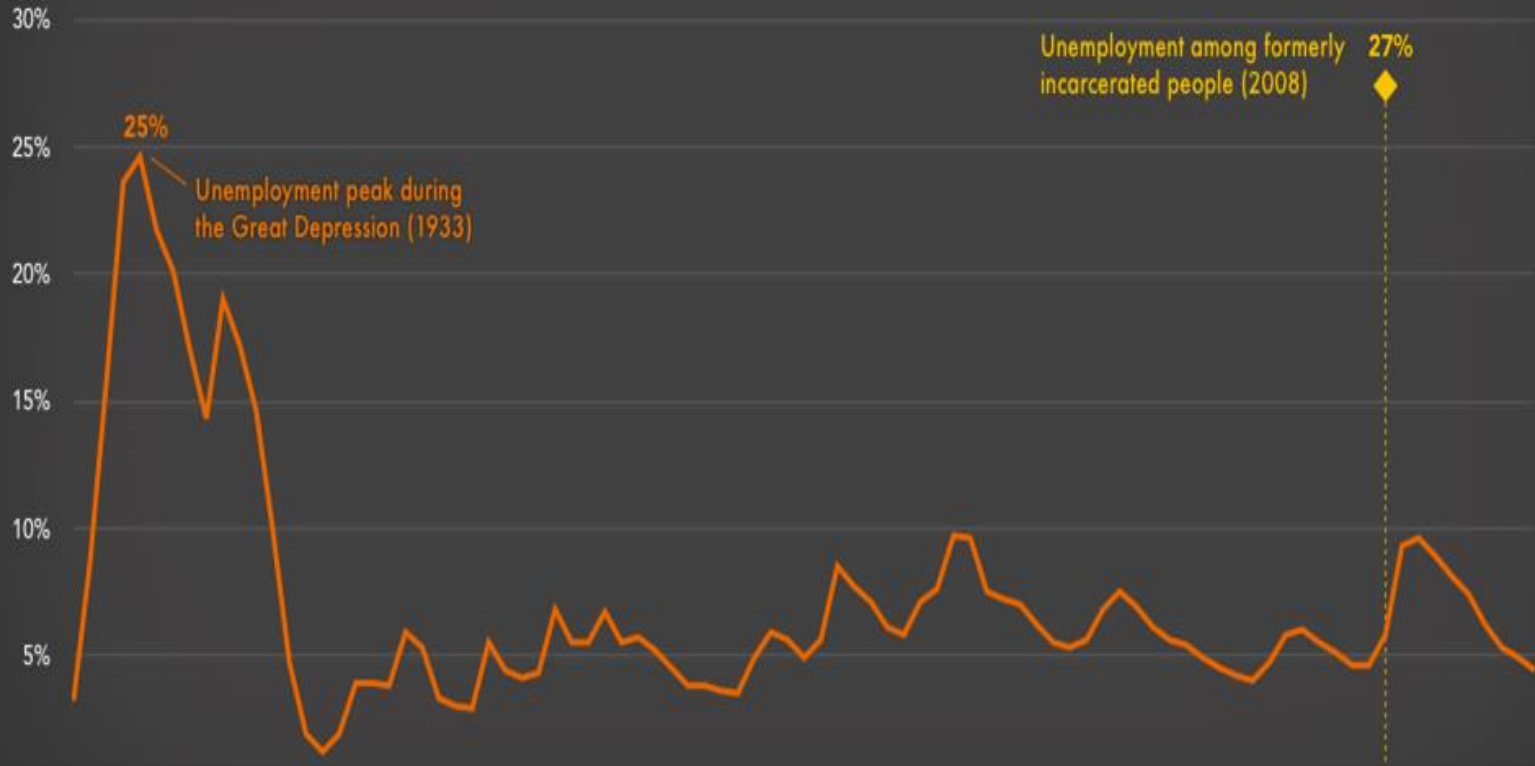
- Often, juveniles have little to no work experience upon release making it difficult to enter professions
- More than 90% of companies are influenced by background checks when making hiring decisions, putting jobs further out of reach for the 1 in 3 adults in the US with a criminal record
 - Checking the “box”- youth seeking jobs are restricted from employment opportunities earlier on in their careers than adults making it difficult to develop professional careers
- License restrictions based on criminal history can make occupational licenses invalid for their training

Solutions

- Increase vocational programs while youth are involved in the juvenile justice system and after their involvement
 - Ex: Pre-Apprenticeship programs, vocational certificates, safety training, college classes, etc.
- Advocacy- 25 States and more than 150 cities have banned the box. Also, major corporations like Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, Walmart, Home Depot, and Starbucks have made the choice to ban the box as well
- Partnerships with local employers to start an employment pipeline for incarcerated individuals
- Work Release programs for incarcerated juveniles over the age of 18
- Remove restrictions for commercial licenses and people that apply for them
- Eliminating barriers for public assistance

Reentry and Employment

U.S. unemployment rates over time compared to the unemployment rate of formerly incarcerated people in 2008



US Unemployment Rates Over Time Compared to the Unemployment Rate of Formerly Incarcerated People in 2008

Employment Stats

Median Lifetime Earnings By Highest Educational Attainment, 2009 Dollars

- Less than High School \$973,000
- High School Diploma \$1,304,000
- Some College/No Degree \$1,547,000
- Associates Degree \$1,727,000
- Bachelors Degree \$2,268,000
- Masters Degree \$2,671,000
- Doctoral Degree \$3,252,000
- Professional Degree \$3,648,000

Of the 55 Million Job Openings Between 2010 and 2020:

- 7 million (12%), Less than a High School Diploma
- 13 million (24%), High School Diploma
- 10 million (18%), Some College, No Degree
- 5 million (10%), Postsecondary Vocational Certificate
- 7 million (12%), Associates Degree
- 13 million (24%), Bachelor Degree
- 6 million (11%), Masters Degree or Higher

Education

Barriers

- Lack of educational programs within the juvenile justice system to prepare youth for reentry
 - Once released, youth struggle with re-enrolling in school- e.g. high school, college
- Formerly incarcerated people are often relegated to the lowest rungs of the educational ladder
 - Only given bare minimum of opportunities. Viewed differently than a normal student in the application process
 - Checking the “box” extends to college applications
- People incarcerated or formerly incarcerated (with limited exceptions) are ineligible for federal Pell grants and federal student loans

Solutions

- Ensure that formerly incarcerated people have access to robust education services that prepare them for both 21st century jobs and higher education
- Increase educational opportunities like college level classes within juvenile facilities
 - Introduce scholarships for incarcerated youth
 - Satellite classrooms
- Restore Pell grants for incarcerated people and remove other barriers to financial aid and the college admissions process
- Education advocates or mentors in specific school districts that are there to recruit at-risk youth back to school

Homelessness/Housing

Barriers

- Having a criminal record excludes you from section 8 housing (affordable housing)
- Having a history of mental health and/or drug abuse, and/or sex offense limits your housing options
- Landlords discriminate people with criminal records
- Homelessness- Youth often do not have stable housing options after JJ involvement
 - About 25% of the youth in Washington are homeless after being impacted by the juvenile justice system (Coalition of Juvenile Justice, 2016)
 - In a study done in Minnesota, 44% of youth that were exiting the JJ system had unstable housing options (Coalition of Juvenile Justice, 2016)

Solutions

- Programs- a reentry program that provides housing like Washington State's Re-entry Housing Pilot Program.
- Policy change and stakeholder support- break the barriers of housing for youth



Reentry Housing Pilot Program

- As part of a larger bill to support evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism in Washington State, the legislature recognized that, “Stable, habitable, and supportive housing is a critical factor that increases a previously incarcerated individual’s access to treatment and services as well as the likelihood of success in the community”.
- The legislation provided up to 12 months of housing support to qualified individuals who were willing to engage in treatment, secure employment and work toward self sustainability.

Family

Barriers

- Poor familial relationships can act as a barrier for youth who are still legally considered minors when exiting the juvenile justice system
- Youth that must still be dependent on family support have limited options for housing, financial support, and successful reentry opportunities when they have poor relationships with their families

Solutions

- Family engagement programs while youth are involved in the juvenile justice system to improve relationships between youth and their families
- Family counseling- address the tensions between youth and families
- Exit pathway plan development that involves youth and families to increase support role of families in reentry process

Race

Barriers

- Race is a big factor in gaining employment
 - According to a survey done by Penn State, "A white applicant with a felony criminal background had equal callback opportunities as a black applicant without a criminal record" (Lee, Mhando, Sheuble, p.43).
- There are racial disparities in how reentry impacts youth of color and white youth, with youth of color being disproportionately hurt by the barriers that emerge with reentry when compared to white youth

Solutions

- Educating employers on the statistics for race and employment
- Diversity Pipeline: a support program developed to support people of color with their reentry needs
 - Employment

Length of Incarceration

Barriers

- Entering the system as a juvenile and leaving as an adult- poses problems with transition into adulthood
- Institutionalization: Acclimating to the incarcerated lifestyle making it difficult to adapt to the outside world
- Support system in the community
- Limited living arrangements

Solutions

- Increase classes aimed towards job skills and independent living
- Making independent living education part of the reentry plan
- Support system built around juveniles releasing into the community after being locked up for 5+ years or 21 years or older.
 - Increase the Reentry Housing Pilot Program

Transportation

Barriers

- No Driver's License
 - Driver's Ed, written test, and driving test
 - Driving experience
 - Fines and restitution=\$\$
- Insurance=\$\$
- Vehicle=\$\$
- Opportunities for work and education in the area

Solutions

- Free bus pass for formerly incarcerated individuals who apply and get approved
- Partnerships: Cheap or discounted Uber and Lyft rides
- Driver's education inside juvenile facilities
- Loaner car program
 - Impounded or seized cars


Psychosocial Development of Youth

Barriers

- Often, youth are incarcerated during key formidable years where they gain social maturity and cognitive growth to successfully transition into adulthood and this transition can be negatively impacted by their involvement in the juvenile justice system
 - Ex: Mental health illnesses that emerge while incarcerated or before can hurt the transition
- This acts as a barrier as youth may struggle to cope with reentry, the barriers that arise with reentry, and the social stigma of having a criminal record

Solutions

- Programs within juvenile facilities that provide support for the transition into adulthood
 - Ex: Support groups within the juvenile facilities that help with things like interpersonal relationships and social functioning, self-definition and self-reliance
- Programs that address financial independence and responsibility, pathway plans, etc.



**What actions can we
take in changing the
current reentry trends
for youth?**