

Alaska Reentry Partnership

Presentation to Senate State Affairs Committee – 3/11/25



A collaboration of individuals, organizations, community advocates, and public entities that support success before, during, and after incarceration.

www.akreentry.org

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Presenters



Teri Tibbett, **Alaska Reentry Partnership**, Coordinator,
Juneau Reentry Coalition, Co-chair

Don Habeger, **Juneau Reentry Coalition**, Coordinator

Marsha Oss, **Fairbanks Reentry Coalition**, Coordinator

Barbara Mongar, **Mat-Su Reentry Coalition**, Coordinator

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Partners

Reentry Coalition Partners:

Anchorage Reentry Coalition
 Mat-Su Reentry Coalition
 Fairbanks Reentry Coalition
 Juneau Reentry Coalition
 Bristol Bay Reentry Coalition
 Nome Reentry Coalition
 Kodiak Reentry Coalition
 Pathways Reentry Center
 (Kenai Peninsula)

Community Partners:

NeighborWorks Alaska
 Valley Charities
 Knik Tribe
 JAMHI Health & Wellness
 Bristol Bay Native Association
 City of Fairbanks
 Tanana Chiefs Conference
 Set Free Alaska
 True North Recovery
 Fairbanks Native Association
 Norton Sound Behavioral
 Health Corporation
 Partners Reentry Center
 Tlingit & Haida Indian
 Tribes of Alaska

State Partners:

Alaska Mental Health Trust – Disability Justice
 Department of Corrections – Reentry Program
 Division of Behavioral Health – Reentry Program
 Department of Labor & Workforce Development, DVR, Job Center

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SB 19 - Access to Digital Technology in Prisons

- *SB 19 removes a barrier in state law that restricts inmates inside correctional facilities from utilizing certain electronic devices—such as computers or digital tablets—for improved access to rehabilitative programming and activities.*
- *The Alaska Reentry Partnership supports efforts to expand digital technology in prisons for vocational training, education, treatment and recovery, reentry planning, housing and employment assistance, telehealth, peer support, faith-based, Tribal, visitation, and more.*
- *Rehabilitative programming increases the likelihood of success in the community after release. Successful reentry means safer communities.*

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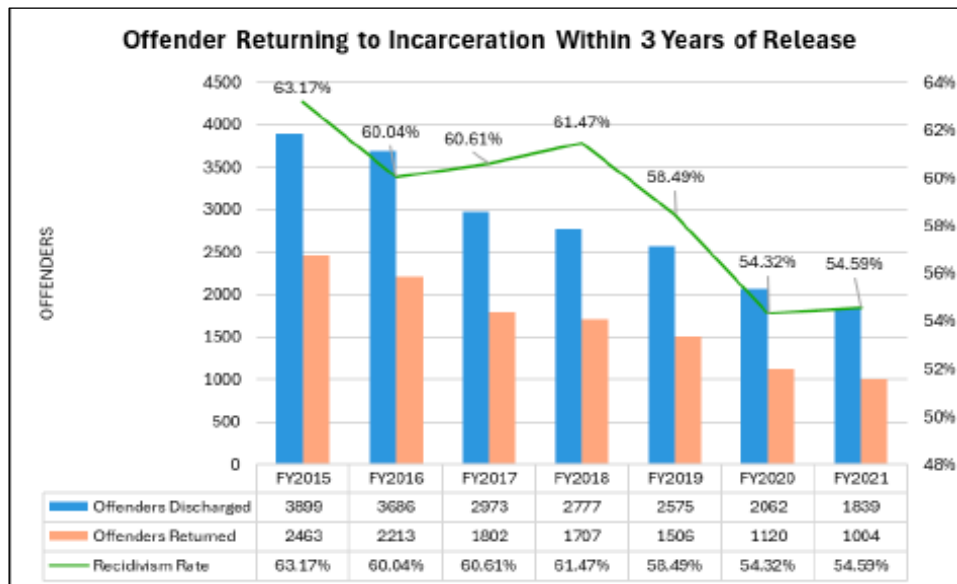
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SB 19 – continued

- *In today's world, people need to be 'digitally literate' for basic functioning—to fill out an applications, apply for a job, banking, communication, and more. People who have been incarcerated for decades need basic digital skills to function in today's world.*
- *The Alaska Reentry Partnership supports DOC's efforts to improve digital infrastructure to best provide safe and secure access to telehealth, video teleconferencing, closed circuit education channels, digital tablets, computer labs, and more.*

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Source: Recidivism Reduction Joint Advocacy Report FY24 – Alaska Department of Corrections/Department of Health

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Alaska Reentry Efforts (2015-2025)

- Community Reentry Coalitions Operate in Eight Alaskan Communities
- Division of Behavioral Health establishes Reentry Program, Reentry Case Managers
- Treatment in Prisons and Halfway Houses, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Reentry Unit Established and Operates in the Department of Corrections (DOC)
- SB 119 – Requires DOC to Provide State ID Before Release.
- AHFC Reentry Housing Funds
- Therapeutic Courts Expansion
- Peer Support
- Mental Health Clinicians in DJJ
- Crisis Stabilization Efforts
- Holistic Defense In Rural Areas
- Trust Beneficiaries In Corrections Study
- Trauma Treatment for Incarcerated Women in DOC
- Training for DOC Mental Health Staff
- APIC (Assess Plan Identify Coordinate) Discharge Planning in DOC
- Discharge Incentive Grants
- Reentry Simulations, and more.

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Alaska Data

- Between 2015 and 2024, Alaska's recidivism rate dropped from 63.17% in FY15 to the lowest point, 54.32% in FY23, and 54.59% in FY24¹
- Alaska does not currently have qualitative data to show correlation between reentry efforts and recidivism reduction, however information is being tracked and analysis could be forthcoming.
- Data challenges include Alaska's varying definitions of what is "reentry," what is "success," and how to measure success. DOC analyses three-year data, and reentry coalition case managers track only up to six months after release.
- "...[T]he risk of re-offending may lessen over time as individuals successfully re-establish themselves in the community..."²

Online Alaska Data Resources:

¹ *Recidivism Reduction Joint Annual Report FY24, prepared by the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Corrections (DOC).*

² *Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission, 2024 Annual Report.*

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National Research

State-level incarceration rates are 23% lower since 2008. “States are achieving these rates with changes in policy and by increasing opportunities and resources to support employment and connections to behavioral health care and housing.”

—Report from the *National Reentry Resource Center, Council of State Governments Justice Center, Bureau of Justice Assistance, [50 States, 1 Goal: Examining State-Level Recidivism Trends on the Second Chance Act Era](#) (2021).*

Online Reentry Data Resources:

National Reentry Resource Center:

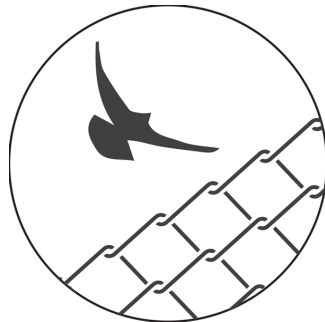
<https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>

Council on State Governments Justice Center/Reentry:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/topics/reentry/>

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Thank you.

+See also the [Alaska Community Reentry Program](#) (2017) by the Community Reentry Coalitions, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Department of Corrections, and Division of Behavioral Health/DOH.

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