

Alaska Reentry Partnership

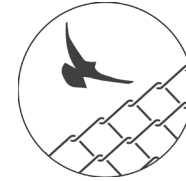
Presentation to House State Affairs Committee – 3/27/25



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

www.akreentry.org

Presenters



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

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

Bobby Dorton, **Healing Homes**, Peer Advocate



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
Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development, DVR, Job Center

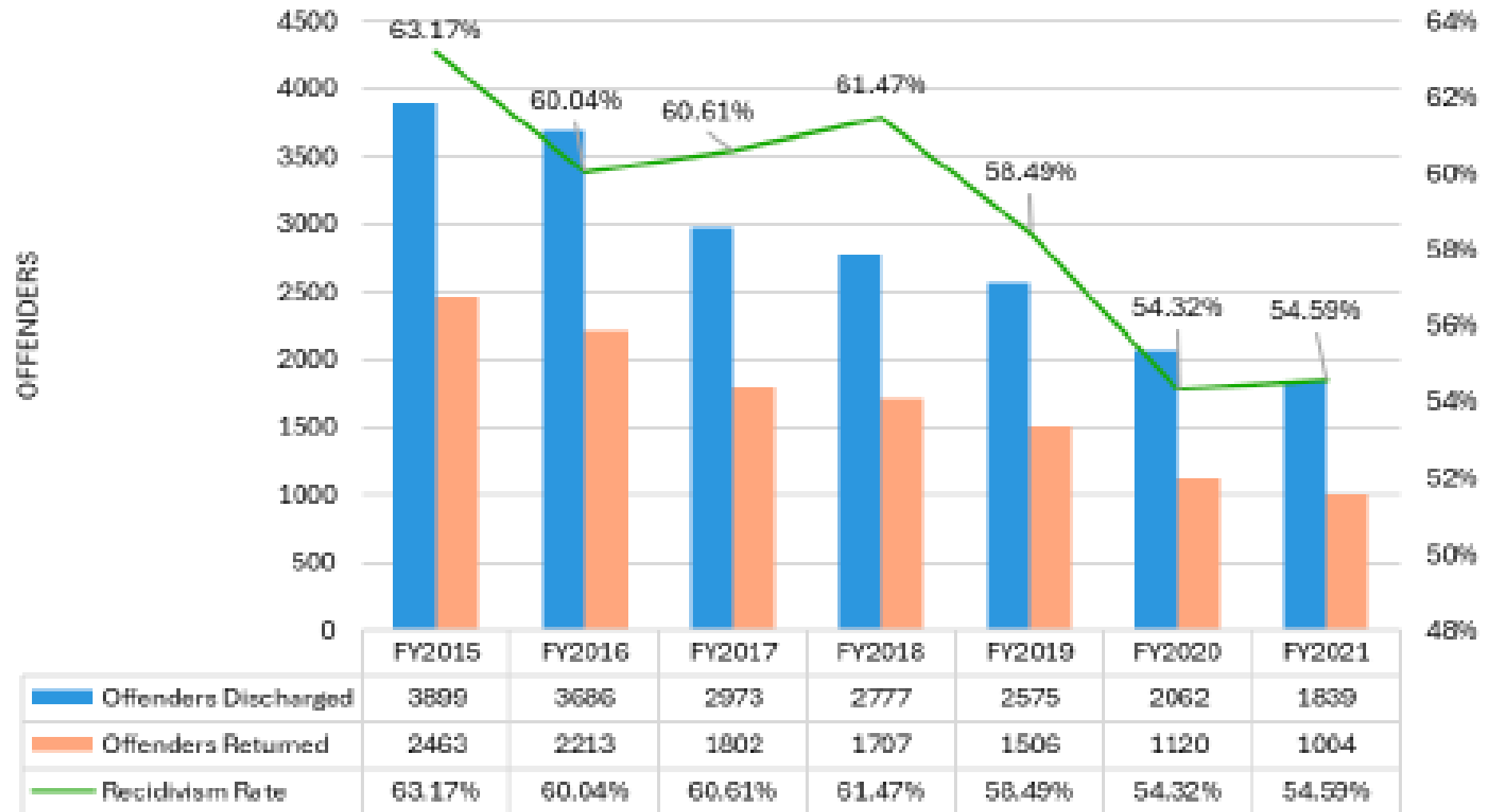
HB 35 - Access to Digital Technology in Prisons

- *HB 35 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.*

HB 35 – 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.*

Offender Returning to Incarceration Within 3 Years of Release



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



Alaska Statewide Reentry Efforts (2015-2025)

- Community Reentry Coalitions operating in eight Alaskan communities
- Alaska Mental Health Trust supports Reentry Coalitions in four 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 - State ID Before Release from DOC
- Peer Support Certification
- Therapeutic Courts Expansion
- Crisis Stabilization Efforts
- Mental Health Clinicians in DJJ
- Trust Beneficiaries In Corrections Study
- Trauma Treatment for Incarcerated Women in DOC
- Training for DOC Mental Health Staff
- AHFC Reentry Housing Funding
- Discharge Incentive Grants
- Holistic Defense In Rural Areas
- Reentry Simulations, and more.

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.*



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).*

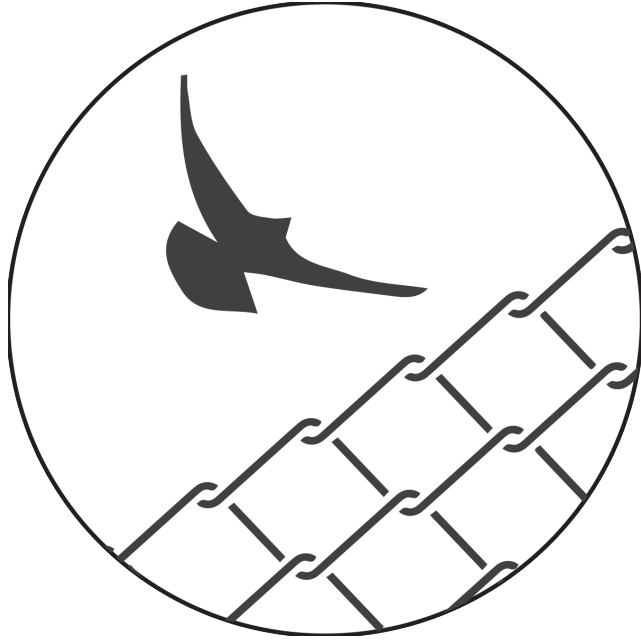
Online Reentry Data Resources:

National Reentry Resource Center:

<https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>

Council on State Governments Justice Center/Reentry:

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



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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