

# Alaska Reentry Partnership

HB 35 - Presentation to Senate Judiciary Committee – 5/7/25



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

[www.akreentry.org](http://www.akreentry.org)

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## Presenters



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

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

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

Marsha Oss, **Fairbanks Reentry Coalition**, 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  
 Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development, DVR, Job Center

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## **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.*

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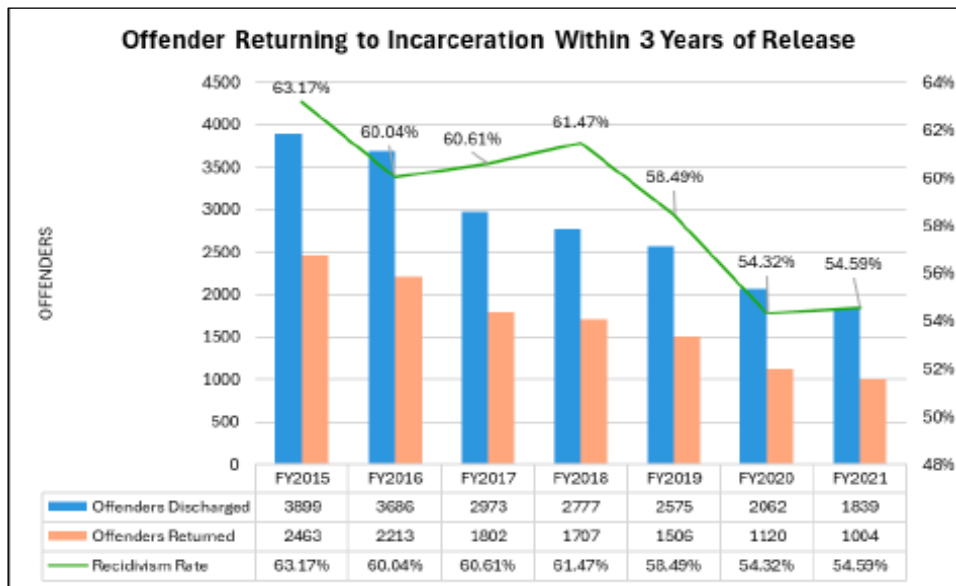
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**HB 35 – continued**

- *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.*

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

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## 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.

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- 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 FY24<sup>1</sup>
- 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..."<sup>2</sup>

## Alaska Data



### **Online Alaska Data Resources:**

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

<sup>2</sup> *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:

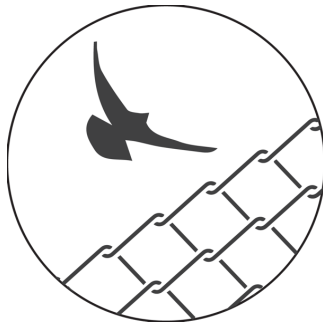
<https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>

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.

Alaska Reentry Partnership – [www.akreentry.org](http://www.akreentry.org)

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