

*Enhancing the lives of people
living and working in our correctional system
through research, education, and community engagement.*

Reducing Recidivism in Arizona

Summary

- Purpose was to determine what works to reduce recidivism in Arizona as told by prisoners to prisoners
- Participatory action research that incorporated people who are incarcerated at all stages of the research process
- Employment, housing, substance abuse discussed as barriers to reentry

Data and Methods

- Sample included 409 men incarcerated in a medium security prison
- 5 incarcerated men conducted semi-structured interviews on challenges and solutions to effective reentry

Findings

- Job training offered in prison not useful upon release
- 1/3 of the men did not know where they would live upon release
- Identified needs upon release: employment (72%), assistance with healthcare (71%), proper ID (71%), mentorship (62%), family or friend support (60%), and transportation (54%)

Implications

- Meaningful employment, job training, and trade opportunities while in prison would reduce recidivism and make for a more positive and supportive prison environment
- Job placement prior to or at release viewed as main solution to recidivism
- Mentorship critical at all stages of imprisonment and reentry

Select Publications

Haverkate, D.L., Meyers, T.J., Telep, C.W., & Wright, K.A. (In Press). On PAR with the yard: Participatory action research to advance knowledge in corrections. *Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research*.

Wright, K.A., et al. (2017). *Reducing recidivism in Arizona*. Report submitted to the Governor's Office Recidivism Reduction Project Team. Available at <http://ccj.asu.edu/ccs/reducing-recidivism-arizona>