

BEHIND THE BARBWIRE:
THE IMPACT OF PRISON PROGRAMMING ON RECIDIVISM RATES

by
Beth Hull

A thesis submitted to Johns Hopkins University in conformity with the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts in Government

Baltimore, Maryland
December 2014

© 2014 Beth Hull
All Rights Reserved

Abstract:

Sixty-eight percent of all American inmates will reenter prison within three years of their release. Debates surrounding criminal sentencing have done little to address recidivism, and research on the importance of prison programming has yet to be conducted, though a number of states require evidence-based research in order to implement various type of programming to better equip inmates for their release. However, little is known about how different programs can impact recidivism rates. Using Pew Research Center's "State of Recidivism" study as a foundation for comparison, within this thesis, the impacts of educational, work, and faith-based programming on recidivism rates within a number of state case studies are examined. By using the applicable state reported information, news articles, and specific studies, the programs were compared to Pew's results to identify any impact.

Upon examination of three states for each program type, results prove that prison programming has a positive impact on reducing recidivism rates for participants. Programs, such as Ohio's faith-based one, reduced program participants' recidivism rate to as low as twelve percent over a twelve year time span. Similar results were observed with Wisconsin's work programs and North Carolina's educational programs that respectively lowered three year recidivism rates down to as little as ten and eighteen percent.

By implementing and expanding programs throughout the state and nation, facilities will experience lower recidivism rates for participating offenders. Furthermore, prison programming should be expanded to create a larger impact on the growing inmate

populations throughout the nation's corrections facilities through the implementation of multiple types of programming.

Thesis Readers: Judge Mary Ellen Coster Williams and Mr. William Clinger

Table of Contents:

Abstract:	ii
Table of Contents:	iv
List of Tables:	v
Chapter I: Introduction.....	v
Chapter II: Education	13
Chapter III: Work Programs	32
Chapter IV: Faith-Based	54
Chapter V: Conclusion.....	74
Bibliography	85
Curriculum Vita	96

List of Tables:

<u>Figure 1. Incarceration Rates around the World</u>	8
<u>Figure 2. Recidivism Survey Results: Change between 1999-2002 and 2004-2007</u>	11

Chapter I: Introduction

Sixty-eight percent of Americans under correctional supervision will return to incarceration within three years of their release.¹ This rapid turnover, known as the recidivism rate, across the United States has burdened the already broken corrections system. With 2.2 million individuals under correctional supervision in 2012 -- either incarcerated in a correctional facility or on probation -- the United States alone houses twenty-five percent of the world's prison population.² The increasing number of Americans under correctional supervision, coupled with the high recidivate rate, makes it apparent that the corrections system must be reformed.

Addressing recidivism has posed a challenge because the inmate population has increased by seven hundred percent since 1973.³ Consequently, facilities and policymakers have not had the chance to properly assess the causes of the growing recidivism rates due to the growing inmate populations. Local, state, and federal institutions argue that minimum sentencing, the War Against Drugs, and the Three Strike Rule have burdened the already maxed out housing units.⁴ As the United States continues to be the superpower of incarceration, proactive facilities in the U.S. are scrambling to

¹ Stephen J. Meyer, Linda Fredericks, Cindy M. Borden, and Penny L. Richardson, 2010, "Implementing Postsecondary Academic Programs in State Prisons: Challenges and Opportunities," *Journal Of Correctional Education* 61, no. 2: 148-184, *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 26, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=53550697&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

² Todd Pitock, 2013, "Jailhouse Blues," *Saturday Evening Post* 285, no. 1: 44, *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=84628930&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

³ Pitock.

⁴ Daniel P. Mears, Sarah Lawrence, and Amy L. Solomon, 2002, "Prison-Based Programming: What It Can Do and Why It Is Needed," *Corrections Today* 64, no. 2: 66-83, *OmniFile Full Text Mega (H.W. Wilson)*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ofm&AN=510207906&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

combat growing recidivism rates by helping inmates successfully reenter society. A number of institutions have attempted to revamp their programming, but the lack of funds, research, and support has limited their options. The use of multi-programs is one method that may help in addressing the growing recidivism rates while also providing a number of other benefits, such as improving inmates' behavior. By shedding light on how a multi-program institution assists in reducing recidivism, facilities will have insight into the benefits of implementing an array of programs to help a larger number of inmates. However, before the United States can take a step at addressing their massive issue, they must first understand how the issue came to be.

History of United States' Corrections

The use of imprisonment to punish criminal behavior was not utilized until the 1700's, when the nation shifted away from public punishment that focused greatly on inflicting pain to deter others.⁵ After a few decades though, the United States realized that their deterrence measures were not as successful as they once were. The first facilities were "simple and loosely organized buildings" that they housed individuals in with very little supervision.⁶ Men, women, and children, regardless of their crime, were all thrown into a large room together and left to "sort out" their crimes themselves.⁷

In the late 1770s, the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons met with Benjamin Franklin at his home to discuss the many issues surrounding the corrections system at the time.⁸ The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons was led by a number of Quakers who greatly influenced the direction

⁵ *History and Development*, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, 85.

⁶ *Ibid*, 85.

⁷ "History of the Prison System," *The Howard League of Penal Reform*, (accessed August 2014).
<http://www.howardleague.org/history-of-prison-system/>

⁸ *History and Development*, 85.

the prison system would take next. Known as the Penitentiary Movement, inmates were isolated to someday become “penitent” of their crimes.⁹

Built just outside Philadelphia in 1780, the Walnut Street Jail was a small facility that utilized individual cells for inmates to reflect on their actions. Founder of Pennsylvania, William Penn, played a large role in developing the design of the Walnut Street Jail, and later Eastern State Penitentiary, as “the most humane penal code in the colonies.”¹⁰ Inmates were locked in their cells to self-reflect on their crime and to study the Bible in effort to force them to become closer to God. The facility was so popular that the state in 1829 had to open the Eastern State Penitentiary to accommodate the growing population.¹¹

The use of separation and penitent was catching on as a successful method of dealing with criminal, leading New York to mirror Pennsylvania in mid-1800’s when the state constructed the Auburn Prison in Auburn, New York.¹² Also practicing silence and penitence, the Auburn Prison did make some notable contributions to the correctional system as well. Auburn prison dressed inmates in striped uniforms, utilized the lockstep, and forced them to work to cut the states’ costs on the state. While the movement was revolutionizing, the use of silence was proving to be ineffective and harmful to the inmates’ mental health and lives.

Growing out of the Penitentiary Movement, the United States in 1870 began to shift into what is today known as the Reformatory Movement.¹³ Recommended by the National Prison Association meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, the experts urged that a new

⁹ *History and Development*, 87.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 88.

¹² "Walnut Street Prison." Law Library- American Law and Legal Information.

¹³ *History and Development*, 88.

method needed to be established in order to address the needs of 16-30 year old offenders who were “less hardened.”¹⁴ Leaders of the corrections system wanted to “reform” individuals who had committed crimes at a younger age to deter them from recidivating. Using a military model, inmates were subjected to hard work, discipline, and vocational training. Additionally, the Reformatory Model introduced the idea of parole for good behavior.¹⁵ The impact was promising and revolutionizing, but the model was not lasting with the growing demands on the correctional system.

By the early 1900’s, states were running out of space to place the increasing number of inmates. States began building “warehouses” to house the large influx of inmates that forced the reformatory movement to end so that the “Big House Era” could address the sudden explosion within the system.¹⁶ Inmates were stacked upon each other within the tier structures of the facilities and became just a number within the massive system. Inmates were not treated for medical issues or taught any skills necessary to properly survive upon their release. Issues continued to pile on as the United States transformed in the 1950s into a new model, the Medical Model.

Believing that criminal activity was due to a personal illness, researchers and doctors worked to “solve” inmates’ problems so they would not commit more crimes once released.¹⁷ Inmates were subjected to treatment after they were diagnosed that may have been as simple as counseling or as extensive as surgery.¹⁸ Parole was also reintroduced as the method seemed to shift away from security custody to a stronger

¹⁴ Richard Brown, “Prison Reform 1880-1914,” 2011, (accessed August 2014).

<http://richardjohnbr.blogspot.com/2011/04/prison-reform-1880-1914.html>

¹⁵ *History and Development*, 88.

¹⁶ Brown, “Prison Reform...”

¹⁷ Marcos L. Misis, “History of Corrections in America,” *Illinois State University*, 2011, 16, (accessed August 2014).

http://www.castonline.ilstu.edu/gizzi/cjs200/first-week---may-20/cj-352_history-of-correctio.pdf

¹⁸ *History and Development*, 88.

focus on mental health. The method was short lived, though, as within just two decades the growing number of inmates once again burdened the system and forced states to harden their grips within their facilities to accommodate the large number of people.

Emerging out of the Medical Model in response to the changes in a number of states' and the federal government's stance on crime, the corrections system shifted in the 1960's/1970's into the current Contemporary Justice Model, or also known as the Crime Control Era.¹⁹ The current model is a major shift from the Medical Model due to the large move away from the individual care of inmates. The model today greatly mirrors the "Big House" era of warehousing massive amounts of criminals. The "tough on crime" policy approach throughout the country contributed greatly to the sudden jump in the number of inmates across the nation.²⁰ Targeting drug, violent, and repeat offenders, incarceration rates boomed due to the focus of longer sentences for crimes that were met previously given much shorter sentences.

In addition to the "tough on crime" approach, the "Three Strike Rule," which stated that any individual who commits the same crime three times is sentenced to life, plus mandatory sentencing that did not account for any factors contributing to the offenders actions, also added to the increased populations.²¹ With the lack of facility space throughout the United States, the few prisons available quickly became overcrowded and breeding grounds for gangs and violence.²² However, the goals of the policy changes to deter crime may have had some impact since there has been an overall

¹⁹ *History and Development*, 89.

²⁰ Misis, 7.

²¹ *History and Development*, 89.

²² Misis, 7.

reduction crime rates since the 1990's, but incarceration rates have only continued to grow.

America's Correctional System Today

With approximately 1 in 31 adults currently under some sort of correctional supervision, which includes prison, jail, parole and probation, the issue has become overwhelming.²³ Additionally, the United States has a record high of adults behind bars with 1 in 99 imprisoned.²⁴ Outpacing both the population growth and crime, facilities have been pushed beyond their capacities and unable to address the many issues behind bars. Overcrowding has quickly led facilities to have increases in fights, medical, and sanitation issues. The adoption of longer sentences and “tougher” approaches on crime have added to the issue rather than relieving that large problem across the states today.

While state leaders have voted to take on a “tougher” approach, the majority of America reported in 2011 that nine out of ten voters were in favor of reducing prison time for low risk, nonviolent offenders.²⁵ The “tougher” approach has led states to impose strict sentencing laws that force individuals to stay incarcerated for longer periods of time. Additionally, the poll showed that ninety percent of voters believed that programming works and should be utilized.²⁶ The poll sheds light on the public's opinion, but state leaders are leading criminal sentences in a different route. With the lack of oversight and knowledge surrounding corrections, the American public is left unaware of how large the issue is today, especially when compared to other nations.

²³ “Mass Incarceration Problems,” *American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)*, March 2014, (accessed August 2014). https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/massincarceration_problems.pdf

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Public Opinion Strategies and the Mellman Group, “Public Opinion on Sentencing and Corrections Policy in America,” *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, March 2012, 5, http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS_Assets

²⁶ Ibid.

In comparison to the world, the United States represents approximately five percent of the world population, but twenty-five percent of the world's incarceration rates.²⁷ The expansion and focus on longer sentences is a large factor that has caused this rate. Furthermore, these numbers have forced states to spend "1 out of every 15 state discretionary fund dollars" on corrections, which is a 127% increase since 1987.²⁸ However, states have only increased spending on higher education by only twenty-one percent since this time. While many other countries are increasing spending on education and infrastructure, the United States' 2nd fastest growing category is costs surrounding corrections.²⁹ Today, the United States spends over \$50 billion collectively on corrections a year.³⁰

While the United States claims to be on the cutting edge of a number of advancements and the "home of the free," they fail to openly discuss their incarceration rates. China, a major competitor of America, reported an inmate population of 1.5 million in 2013, whereas the United States had over 2.2 million.³¹ The United States often labels China as behind on the times with their communist government, but America fails to acknowledge its major issue of corrections. However, it is not only China that the United States outnumbers in incarceration rates, they also trump all other nations in the world.

²⁷ "Mass Incarceration Problems."

²⁸ Ibid.

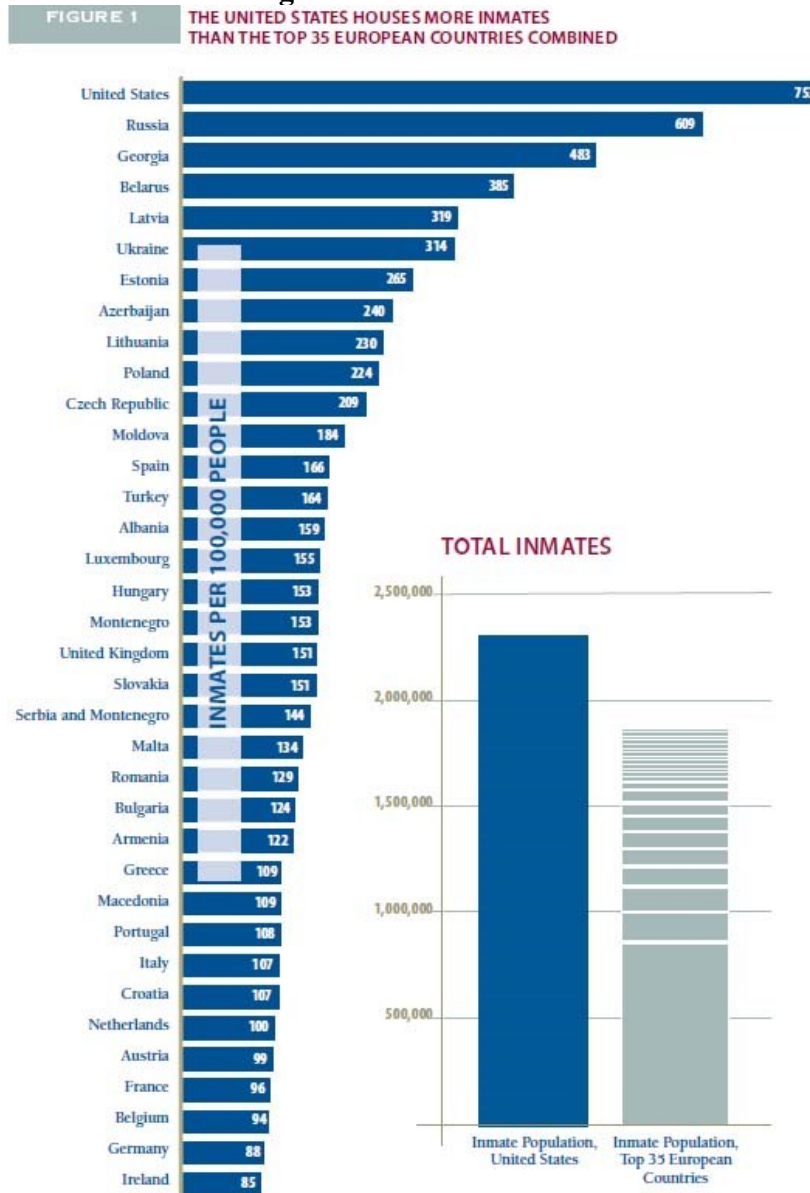
²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ "State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons," *The PEW Center on the States*, April 2011, 1. (accessed on November 11, 2013).

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/State_Recidivism_Revolving_Door_America_Prisons%20.pdf

³¹ Pitock.

Figure 1. Incarceration Rates around the World



Catherine Rampell, "Jail and Jobs," *Economix*, 2010, (accessed September 2014).
http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/29/jail-and-jobs/?_php=true&_type=blogs&r=0

In addition to the stark differences in incarceration rates, the United States also has the largest known recidivism rate in the world. With sixty-eight percent of released inmates returning to prison within just three years, the problem is crippling to the system and taxpayers. While recidivism rates do vary from state to state, the overall average of sixty-eight percent cannot be ignored. Economic factors led many policymakers to begin

questioning the corrections system over two decades ago and led for revolutionizing correctional studies to be conducted. Preliminary studies found that even a ten percent reduction in recidivism rates would save states \$635 million per year. This would quickly lessen the burden on the stretched budgets, but policymakers urged for evidence-based research on how to accomplish this.³² Researchers then turned to conducting larger studies on recidivism rates within the United States as the next step for answering the governments' questions.

Major Recidivism Rate Studies

During 1994, the United States Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) conducted the first study to look at national recidivism statistics, but the study collected data from only 15 states and did not provide any state-by-state information.³³ However, the BJS's report is still important as it set the foundation for Pew's more detailed study. Pew Charitable Trusts' research is the first of its kind. Reaching out to all fifty states asking for data on their incarceration and recidivism rates, costs associated with running their facilities, in addition to any services or programs that they provided to their inmates, Pew obtained data from thirty-three states in 1999 and forty-one states in 2004.³⁴

Previous researchers have explored the value of programming and have displayed its success in a number of institutions; however, only one major study has been conducted on a large number of states and their individual statistics.³⁵ With interests growing from policy makers seeking to find the best approach in reducing recidivism,

³² "State of Recidivism.."

³³ Mears, Lawrence, and Solomon.

³⁴ Scott and Derrick, 8.

³⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics. "Recidivism," Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)." (accessed November 1, 2013). <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=17>

Pew, working with the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), decided to weigh in on the under-studied issue.³⁶ Providing the first study of its size over an eight-year time span, the research provided the first set of data that tracked results state-by-state. Pew conducted their study by sending out surveys to all fifty states inquiring about information on their recidivism rates.³⁷ The study then analyzed the data provided over the eight-year time span to examine what factors may have caused the results.

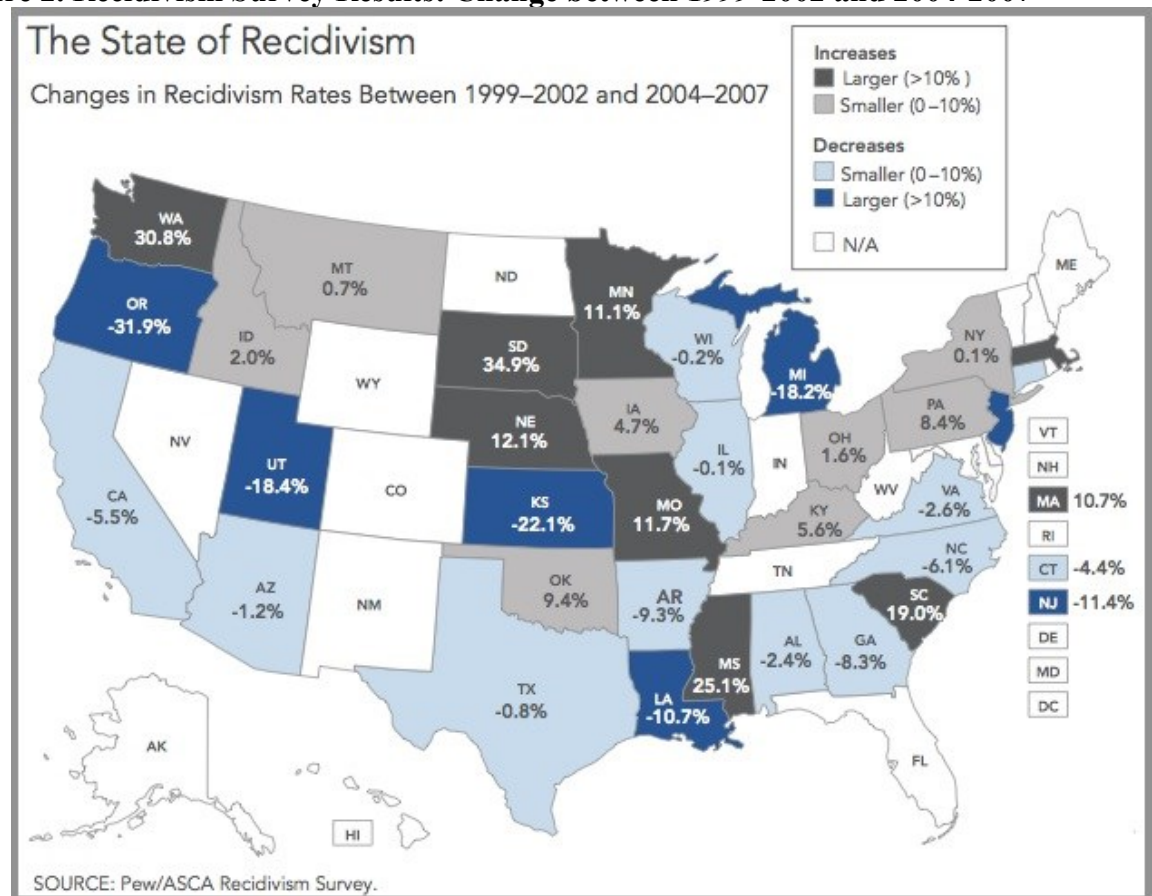
The study created a map displaying the reported changes from their studies from 1999-2002 and 2004-2007. This map displays how states possibly either began addressing recidivism or ignoring it, causing recidivism rates to fluctuate within the state. It is important to note that there are many factors that can affect a states' recidivism rate, some that are not always controllable or seen by a set of data without further investigation. Harsher sentencing in particular states, a growth in population with a decline in jobs, and states relying on prison terms versus probation all contribute to the growing number of individuals incarcerated and then adds to the possibility of higher recidivism rates for that state.³⁸

³⁶ "State of Recidivism...", 2.

³⁷ Mears, Lawrence, and Solomon, 3.

³⁸ "State of Recidivism...", 9.

Figure 2. Recidivism Survey Results: Change between 1999-2002 and 2004-2007



“State of Recidivism...,” 15.

On the other hand, Pew’s results only provide numbers and little insight into the causes of the fluctuation in recidivism rates. In addition, the study is nearly seven years old and has not been updated since. Today, it is reported that the national average for recidivism is sixty-eight percent, rather than the forty-three percent Pew found in 2004-2007.³⁹

Pew Charitable Trusts found from 2002-2007 that programming can reduce recidivism by fifty percent.⁴⁰ Pew’s research provides an overview of different solutions through programming, ranging from education to labor based, and established that

³⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Recidivism," Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), accessed November 1, 2013. <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=17>

⁴⁰ Mears, et. al, 6.

services, such as programming, can reduce recidivism rates.⁴¹ With ninety-five percent of all inmates released back into the community at some point, the practice of only housing inmates and not providing any developmental help has resulted in the present dilemma faced by the United States.⁴² As recidivism rates continue to increase, institutions must decide to take either a proactive approach through adding/revising programming or to continue the same practices that have resulted in the massive recidivism rate.

In the past, some programs have been implemented to rehabilitate individuals to become productive members of society. However, the lack of research and budget cuts have drastically impaired their effectiveness.⁴³ Additionally, budget cuts have led correctional facilities to reexamine every dollar they spend to determine which approach should be taken to run the most efficient institution possible. Nonetheless, state governments are implementing laws requiring facilities to only implement if they are proven to assist in reducing populations or better the lives of inmates through evidence-based studies.⁴⁴

By comparing several independent case studies to the Pew's, this study will examine the differences in recidivism in comparison to the reported statewide data on recidivism rates to the rates of educational programs. As the only data collected on recidivism rates in the United States, Pew's data serves as a foundation with their study's unique examination of recidivism on a state-by-state basis.⁴⁵ Furthermore, facilities are turning to empirical studies to find answers but are coming up short. The research

⁴¹ Mears, et. al, 1.

⁴² "State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons," *The PEW Center on the States*, April 2011, 32 (accessed on November 11, 2013).
http://www.Pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwPewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/State_Recidivism_Revolving_Door_America_Prisons%20.pdf

⁴³ Ibid, 25.

⁴⁴ Ibid, 26.

⁴⁵ Ibid, 2.

conducted on the most effective practices in corrections is minimal in comparison to the amount of funding devoted to this department due to stigma against prisoners and their wellbeing.⁴⁶

Examining the use of three of the most widely used prison programming methods; educational, work, and faith-based, will shed light on how each program may impact recidivism rates, in addition to improving inmates' behavior and providing valuable skills that will help them upon their release. Furthermore, by studying the impact of prison programming on recidivism rates, institutions will have data to support the implementation of additional programming to rehabilitate inmates from recidivating once released.⁴⁷ This thesis will study how educational, work, and faith-based programming affects recidivism by looking at multiple states' programs and their outcomes in order to assist in providing the evidence-based research necessary for more states to establish or expand similar programs for their own inmates.

Chapter II: Education

As one of the primary programs within facilities, education is a simple choice and solution for many states. Without education, many inmates are not able to function in society as easily. While education seems like a clear answer, the use of educational programming is still fairly new to corrections and is established differently in every facility.

History of Educational Programming

⁴⁶ "State of Recidivism..." 7.

⁴⁷ Percentages for programming results are typically apply to the prison participants versus prison populations as a whole. If data provided by the applicable state applies, it is noted within the description of that particular program.

The first known study on the effects of academics in corrections came in 1997 when the U.S. Department of Justice found that educational programming was cost effective and improved inmates' skills, making them less likely to commit crime once released.⁴⁸ These findings prompted the need for additional research to confirm or refute the U.S. Department of Justice's findings on the effects of education in corrections.

Since the USDJ's research, several authors have contended that additional education programs should be implemented within facilities in order to occupy the inmate's time, enhance their education level, and provide the inmates with more opportunities to succeed once released.⁴⁹ Robert Thomas argued that individuals resort to crime because they have little to no education, skills or both.⁵⁰ By obtaining these skills while incarcerated, the inmate can reenter society with the ability to overpower the negative influences and demonstrate their desire to change.

Supporting this argument, researcher Keith Price claimed shocking results with their study on the relation between academics and corrections in Texas. The study claims that the recidivism rate of inmates involved in educational programs was just over twenty-nine percent versus the national average of sixty-eight percent.⁵¹ North Carolina displayed similar results as Allison Anders analyzed the states' educational Youth Offender Program. The recidivism rate for the program participants was only nineteen

⁴⁸ Piotrowski and Lathrop.

⁴⁹ Allison Daniel Anders, and George W. Noblit, 2011, "Understanding Effective Higher Education Programs in Prisons: Considerations from the Incarcerated Individuals Program in North Carolina," *Journal Of Correctional Education* 62, no. 2: 77-93, *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 26, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=72636574&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

⁵⁰ Robert G. Thomas, 2012, "Expanding the Purpose of a Prison Education Classroom," *Journal Of Research & Practice For Adult Literacy, Secondary & Basic Education* 1, no. 3: 173-178, *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=86672460&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

⁵¹ Keith Price, 2013, "Corrections and Academia: A Partnership," *American Jails* 27, no. 3: 39, *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=89691394&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

percent, where the state as a whole has a rate of forty-nine percent.⁵²

Furthermore, a few authors found another positive impact from educational programming; the inmates' behavior while incarcerated improved.⁵³ Karen Lahm comments that there is a strong correlation between educational involvement while incarcerated and inmates' misconduct.⁵⁴ The changes in an inmates' behavior are noticed with less infractions and are carried over into society once the inmate is released.⁵⁵ Lahm's research is supported by Meyer et al.'s conclusion that inmates feel powerful and hopeful in their futures, which is reflected in their willingness to comply with the facilities' rules in order to be released.⁵⁶ With a national rate of sixty-eight percent of inmates without a high school diploma and nineteen percent rate of illiteracy, it becomes clear that the issue must be addressed.⁵⁷

The existing research provides the foundations necessary to look at single cases, but an overarching study on how multiple states have handled the issue differently all while lowering recidivism rates, is missing. This contribution to the field will add to the minimal number of studies conducted on correctional programming and its benefits so that the federal government, along with state and local governments, will expand their

⁵² Anders.

⁵³ Karen F. Lahm, 2009, "Educational Participation and Inmate Misconduct," *Journal Of Offender Rehabilitation* 48, no. 1: 37-52, *Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 26, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=i3h&AN=36438258&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
Stephen J. Meyer, Linda Fredericks, Cindy M. Borden, and Penny L. Richardson, 2010, "Implementing Postsecondary Academic Programs in State Prisons: Challenges and Opportunities," *Journal Of Correctional Education* 61, no. 2: 148-184, *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 26, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=53550697&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

⁵⁴ Lahm.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Meyer, et al.

⁵⁷ Robert G. Thomas, 2012, "Expanding the Purpose of a Prison Education Classroom," *Journal Of Research & Practice For Adult Literacy, Secondary & Basic Education* 1, no. 3: 174, *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=86672460&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

use in order to drive down recidivism rates and enhance the lives of ex-offenders.

Case Studies

This chapter will concentrate on three correctional facilities' education programs and their reported success and results, in order to examine a few different approaches that have found success in using education to reduce recidivism. Programs established in California, North Carolina and New York have each established unique and seemingly strong foundations in effort to tie education with corrections in order to better the inmates' lives and reduce their likelihood to recidivate.

While California is well-known for their many issues within their prisons, many are left unaware of the programs being established to better the lives of offenders within the state. Looking at two separate programs in California, Ironwood State Prison and California Men's Colony, one can see that the state has began trying to utilize the benefits of educational programming for inmates.⁵⁸ While the California Men's Colony has not reported numbers displaying recidivism rate changes, they have found shocking results on the illiteracy rate of inmates, which is supported by Ironwood State Prison's results from their program. Ironwood State Prison claims that their participants' recidivism rate was only ten percent and provided inmates something even more important, a second chance in life.⁵⁹

Similar results were reported in North Carolina's Youth Offender Program for 18-25 year olds. For program participants, their recidivate level is only nineteen percent

⁵⁸ Garry Boulard, 2005, "California Prison-Education Programs Report Success," *Community College Week* 17, no. 12: 11, *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 1, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=15683214&site=ehost-live&scope=site> Thomas, 173.

⁵⁹ Boulard, 11.

versus the forty-nine percent rate for nonparticipants in the same age range.⁶⁰

Furthermore, New York has also created an education program aimed at using post-secondary education as a tool to help inmates once released to stay away from crime and returning to prison. New York's statewide programs have reduced recidivism by around twenty percent.⁶¹ While each of these studies report significant findings, it is necessary to note that they each have established different approaches to their programs.

California

As one of the first programs of its kind, Ironwood State Prison, an average size facility that houses around 3,300 inmates, began partnering with a local community college to assist in reducing their recidivism rates.⁶² In 2001, Palo Verde Community College began offering courses to Ironwood State Prison to allow inmates housed in the facility the opportunity to obtain a General Education Development (GED) or even pursue post-secondary education.⁶³ As one of the first programs of its kind to provide college education to inmates through state funding available to all individuals within the state, including those incarcerated, Ironwood State Prison's program setup a strong foundation to succeed.⁶⁴ Additionally, the State of California's Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS), founded in 1969 to provide the financial means for many in the state to attend community college, was utilized to cover the costs of textbooks for

⁶⁰ Anders, 78.

⁶¹ Daa'iya L. Sanusi, 2009, "Correctional education reduces recidivism," *New York Amsterdam News*, February 19. 3, *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 11, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=37331786&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

⁶² "Ironwood State Prison (ISP)," California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Facilities_Locator/ISP.html

⁶³ Boulard, 11.

⁶⁴ "More Than 100 Inmate Students Graduate from Palo Verde College," California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Press Release, June 5, 2007. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/news/Press_Release_Archive/2007_Press_Releases/Press20070605.html

inmates.⁶⁵

Program participants within Ironwood State Prison have the ability to earn an associate's degree while incarcerated, opening the door to more job opportunities once released and the ability to stay away from the fast money lifestyle with crime. The unique opportunity allows an inmate to leave prison with "the promise for a better tomorrow," which is vital due to society's stigma against ex-offenders.⁶⁶ The dedication from prison inmates is astonishing, many find, as they do all of their work by hand, in a low-tech setting, and are eager to learn.⁶⁷ The students and instructors alike see the value in education and the many opportunities it can bring.

Nonetheless, the support of Ironwood's program is not universal. Some believe that prisons are not meant to enhance educational skills, but should be purely for punishment. Louisiana State Senator Robert Adley stated, "It ought to be a rough time, harsh time, the absolute worst thing a person could go through" in response to Ironwood graduating the largest number of inmate students to date in 2007.⁶⁸ While this statement is believed by many, one cannot ignore the fact that ninety-five percent of all inmates will be released at some point and the educational skills gained have shown a large impact on recidivism rates.⁶⁹

Data from the State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation report that their three-year recidivism rate for felons alone in fiscal year 2004-2005 was 65.6% and increased to 67.5% in the fiscal year 2005-2006.⁷⁰ However, in 2005,

⁶⁵ "More Than 100 Inmate Students Graduate from Palo Verde College."

⁶⁶ Boulard, 11.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ "State of Recidivism..." 32.

⁷⁰ Office of Research, "2011 Adult Institutions Outcome Evaluation Report," California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, November 23, 2011.

Ironwood State Prison's recidivism rate was an incredibly low ten percent overall.⁷¹ The success of Ironwood's program is due to a combination of basic education, with the GED, along with higher education in the ability to earn an associate's degree. The usefulness of Ironwood's educational program, in providing skills to inmates to make them productive members of society, should serve as a template for other facilities in California and across the U.S. as the numbers show that while Ironwood State Prison is a minimum- to medium-custody level facility, the impact in 2005 ranged from 55.6-57.5%.

Likewise, there is another program in California that has displayed successful results similar to Ironwood State Prison. Established before the War Against Drugs was even officially declared, the California Men's Colony (CMC), in San Luis Obispo, California, had already created the Central Coast Adult School. Since 1979, men have been given the opportunity to enhance their education while incarcerated in effort to better their lives once released to avoid returning to a life of crime.⁷² Robert G. Thomas, an academic instructor at the school since 1979, has found that students resort to crime because they lack the education and/or skills to obtain a well paying job. The program established at the Men's Colony provides inmates with the ability to take classes in efforts to pass the GED test.⁷³ With a mission "placed on providing all inmates with programs for self-improvement," CMC has designed their institution made up of minimum and medium security inmates to expand their academics to reduce their recidivism rate.

After years within the field, Thomas believed that his experiences would provide

[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/adult_research_branch/Research_Documents/ARB_FY_0607_Recidivism_Report\(11-23-11\).pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/adult_research_branch/Research_Documents/ARB_FY_0607_Recidivism_Report(11-23-11).pdf)

⁷¹ Boulard, 11.

⁷² Thomas, 173.

⁷³ Ibid, 174.

insight into the benefits of educational programming and decided to conduct his own study for others to see the need for these vital programs. Thomas conducted his research by interviewing 53 of his GED graduates from October 2009 to April 2010. The students were from multi-ethnic backgrounds and varied in age from 20 to 50 years old.⁷⁴ The survey asked each student to list three ways that the program had improved their lives while in prison. The 53 participants gave a total of 159 statements that Thomas then used to categorize into teaching strategies.⁷⁵ These results support Ironwood's similar results that inmate's felt more powerful and hopeful in their futures with the knowledge and skills that they gained.⁷⁶

Thomas notes that inmates are at a huge disadvantage once they are released from incarceration, so it is necessary to provide them with skills while imprisoned to increase their chances to succeed without returning to crime.⁷⁷ Pew's results provide similar results as they find that institutions providing strategic programs, such as education programs, will cause the recidivism rates in the facilities to decline.⁷⁸

While the State of California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Thomas' study on Central Coast Adult School in the California's Men Colony has not released exact numbers for their recidivism rate, one may believe that it too would find that there is a decrease in the recidivism rate from educational programming within the prison. Upon examination of the State of California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Report released in 2011 in combination with trends of successful

⁷⁴ Thomas, 173.

⁷⁵ Ibid, 174.

⁷⁶ Boulard, 11.

⁷⁷ Thomas, 177.

⁷⁸ "State of Recidivism...", 7.

programs, one can see that CMC has a greater likelihood to decrease recidivism rates similarly to Ironwood State Prison. Inmates' ability to gain skills through academia opens the door to endless possibilities for inmates to extend their education once released or have additional skills necessary to enter a more stable work field.

Within one year of study in 2005, Ironwood State Prison had a substantially lower recidivism rate of ten percent than the average of the rest of the State of California at approximately sixty-five percent that same year. This large decrease in recidivism rate shows the usefulness and how worthwhile education programs are within a correctional facility. With California having the highest rate of recidivism, policy makers should either expand programs similar to Ironwood or the Men's Colony or establish programs similar to other states, such as North Carolina's successful YOP program.

North Carolina

In 1998, North Carolina's Department of Corrections decided to expand their programs and implement the North Carolina Workplace and Community Transition Youth Offender Program (YOP) to provide post-secondary education to young adult inmates.⁷⁹ YOP's creation was funded by a Federal grant from the United States Department of Education to provide inmates from six different facilities across the state the ability to gain post-secondary education from state colleges and universities.⁸⁰ The program had strict requirements though: inmates must have either completed high school or earned their GED with a minimum score of 2250, be within five years of their release, and had to be between 18-25 years old.⁸¹ With such strict requirements, one may believe results would be bias to lower recidivism rates even more, but the program states they

⁷⁹ Anders, 81.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

narrow their participants down to provide the limited means of education tools to young inmates who would have an easier ability to turn their lives away from crime.⁸²

Beginning their research the same year as the program began, Allison Daniel Anders and George W. Noblit produced annual analysis on the program from 1998-2003 and 2005-2010. A year into its creation, the YOP in 1999 had 207 students enrolled throughout the six participating facilities, and by 2008 the program had grown to include 369 students in fourteen facilities.⁸³ The program reported that their ability to work alongside the University of North Carolina provided the access needed to address the growing number of participants and facilities.

Immersing themselves within nearly every aspect of the Youth Offender Program, the team of researchers observed classrooms, interviewed inmates, instructors, staff, and former participants to gain a wide range of information on the success and issues of the program.⁸⁴ In addition, surveys were distributed annually to all program participants to report on personal information, criminal activities, and upbringing while also asking questions on their attitude towards school and incarceration.⁸⁵ The range of questions provided data on the array of inmates who participated in the program.

Upon evaluation, the researchers found that the nine-year recidivism rate for program participants was only nineteen percent, in comparison to the forty-nine percent rate for inmates of the same age range in North Carolina regardless of education level.⁸⁶ However, data released in 2001 by North Carolina's Department of Corrections provides

⁸² "Grants to States for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Youth Offenders," North Carolina Department of Corrections, Presentation, 2007. www.doc.state.nc.us/RAP/OTS.../YOP-PRESENTATION-2-07.ppt

⁸³ Anders, 78.

⁸⁴ Anders, 79.

⁸⁵ Ibid, 80.

⁸⁶ Ibid, 78.

a table stating that in 2008, the same year of YOP's data, that the state had a two-year *rearrest* rate of thirty-six percent.⁸⁷ One must note however that the report from the North Carolina Department of Corrections was studying a two-year rearrest for all ages versus YOP's study of recidivism within a three-year period for 18-25 year olds only. With the recidivism rate for 18-25 year olds higher than the statewide average, one may believe that an unrestricted age requirement to participate in North Carolina's education program would yield similar drastic results, if not better results. As one ages within corrections they show a trend to recidivate at a much lower rate versus younger released offenders. With this trend, one can see that an expansion in educational programming could be beneficial to the state.

In addition to lowering recidivism, North Carolina found that educational programming in general is cost effective and allows life and job skills to be developed.⁸⁸ From the survey, and overall successful results that YOP has provided to North Carolina's correctional facilities, the program is now considering expanding the age range from 18-35 year olds.⁸⁹ The program's ability to turn "coal into diamonds" helped many students not only change their attitudes about education, but provided them with the confidence to try harder in life.⁹⁰ Spending less time in their cells meant inmates were less likely to get in trouble for misconduct since they did not have the time to focus on drama with their college course loads.⁹¹ North Carolina's continued success serves as an example of the usefulness of combining education with corrections to better the lives of

⁸⁷ North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, "Correctional Program Evaluation: Offenders Placed on Probation or Released from Prison in Fiscal Year 2008/09," North Carolina Department of Public Safety, April 15, 2012.

http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Documents/recidivism_2012.pdf

⁸⁸ Anders, 79.

⁸⁹ Ibid, 83.

⁹⁰ Ibid, 91.

⁹¹ Ibid, 86.

many individuals. Further, an expansion within the state, as well as across the U.S., the benefits will continue to grow to help more inmates and later society once they are released.

New York

Using the model from North Carolina's Youth Offender program, along with other successful states' programs, New York has revamped their long-standing programs to continue benefiting the lives of inmates. Asking policy makers to address the need for additional funding and expanded programs, the Correctional Association of New York took it upon themselves to conduct a study on the benefits of educational programming and how it can reduce recidivism, in addition to providing other useful advantages.⁹²

Since the 1980s, New York has provided inmates the opportunity to earn an associate's or bachelor's degree making it one of the oldest education programs in the United States.⁹³ Consortium of the Niagara Frontier at Attica Correctional Facility for years has partnered with Canisius College and Daemen College to help inmates pursue post-secondary education.⁹⁴ Funding provided through Pell Grants and Tuition Assistance Program awards allowed the program to employ 17 full-time staff members and 80 part-time instructors, but the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 ended inmates' ability to qualify for the aid.⁹⁵ Without the large amount of federal funding, the staffing size for the program dropped to only two employees who are funded through line item grants in New York's budget every year. The drastic cut in staff members has

⁹² "Education From the Inside Out: The Multiple Benefits of College Programs in Prison," *Correctional Association of New York*, 2009, (accessed October 31, 2013). http://www.correctionalassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Higher_Education_Full_Report_2009.pdf

⁹³ Ibid, 17.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid, ii.

reported to not have hindered the program in any way though.

Attica's program requires inmates to already possess a high school diploma or GED and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA while enrolled in the program.⁹⁶ With no public record of a GED courses being offered, the number of eligible inmates may be minimal. However, since the creation of the Consortium of the Niagara Frontier program, 426 inmates have earned an Associate's degree and 292 Bachelor's degrees have been awarded.⁹⁷ While these numbers are impressive, once they are put into perspective of how long the program has been in existence, one can see that the numbers are quite weak. Attica Correctional Facility reported in the 2011 that they had an inmate population of over 2,200 inmates.⁹⁸ Showing that even within one year, this program can only reach a small percentage of their inmate population. The ability for the program to truly impact inmates is minimal due to their small operational size that only continues to be cut. By expanding the program, one can soundly hypothesize that the program will have the ability to mimic other successful programs, such as North Carolina or California, where the inmates are gaining vital skills and recidivism rates have been drastically reduced.

Similar to Consortium of the Niagara Frontier, New York has another successful program, the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI).⁹⁹ Providing post-secondary opportunities at 7 facilities on the Eastern side of New York, BPI limits its number of participants to only 15 inmates per year.¹⁰⁰ These limitations are due to lack of private funding to pay for the inmates' tuition since no grants are currently involved. The Bard Prison Initiative has

⁹⁶ "The Consortium of the Niagara Frontier," Prison Studies Project.
<http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2011/08/the-consortium-of-the-niagara-frontier/>

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ "Attica Correctional Facility," The Correctional Association of New York, Report from Visit, April 2011. <http://www.correctionalassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Attica-2011-Report.pdf>

⁹⁹ "Education From the Inside Out...", 15.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid, 16.

allowed for 70 inmates to earn their associate's degree and 10 to earn a bachelor's degree since it began in 1999.¹⁰¹ With additional funding, the BPI would have the ability to extend the opportunity to more inmates to better their lives in preparation for their release.

The Consortium of the Niagara and the BPI, along with other education programs in New York, has found that their recidivism rates speak volumes for their work. First studied in 1991, New York found that education program participants had a recidivism rate of just over twenty-six percent versus the state average of almost forty-five percent.¹⁰² Similar results were concluded in 1999 as the recidivism rate for educational programming participants dropped to twenty-two percent in contrast to the state average of a reduced forty-one percent.¹⁰³ Close to Pew's findings, New York from 1999-2002 and 2004-2007 reported a steady state recidivism rate of nearly forty-percent.¹⁰⁴ With additional programs and updated data, the results from New York may display an even greater decrease in recidivism rates in educational program participants.

Moreover, the research conducted by the Correctional Association of New York found compelling cost benefits for implementing education programs in facilities. Besides the data showing that individuals who have a bachelor's degree earn one million dollars more over their lifetime than individuals who only have a high school diploma, post-secondary programs have even more benefits.¹⁰⁵ In early February 2014, a letter was released by New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on the initiatives to revamp their educational programming. Within the letter, Governor Cuomo disclosed that the state

¹⁰¹ Education From the Inside Out...,” 16.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid, ii.

¹⁰⁴ “State of Recidivism...,” 11.

¹⁰⁵ “Education From the Inside Out...,” 5.

currently spend \$60,000 per year to incarcerate one person.¹⁰⁶ In 2009, the state of New York spent a reported \$44,000 per year to house one inmate, which shows that in just five years, the costs have risen by \$16,000.¹⁰⁷ With the rising costs of corrections, the Governor, along with the Department of Corrections, decided it was vital to change the way they were handling their facilities.

Proactively, the state is beginning to reexamine options to reduce costs while reducing recidivism and improving inmates' futures. Governor Cuomo has examined the states' current programs and concluded that an expansion in college education specifically will provide the most benefits. The plan envisions that by repositioning funds to benefit individuals' educations, rather than their incarcerations, the number of prisoners may decrease as individuals will have less reason to commit crime.¹⁰⁸ The placement of funds must be examined in effort to use education as a tool to provide inmates, and the state, with short and long-term benefits. But, the state must also create a strong foundational program allowing inmates with longer sentences without a GED to have the opportunity to earn one so that too can participate in the expanded college programs within the state. By providing GED courses, more inmates will have the ability to serve their time wisely to become productive members of society once they are released.

Overall, the option of expanding college educations is seemingly a winning solution for both sides, while the inmate gains skills necessary to obtain employment more easily, the state cuts the costs necessary to run correctional facilities. New York is

¹⁰⁶ Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, "Governor Cuomo Launches Initiative to Provide College Classes in New York Prison," New York State, Press Release, February 16, 2014.

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/02162014-college-ny-prisons>

¹⁰⁷ "Education From the Inside Out..." 5.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid, 10.

leading the way in educational programming today and may provide new tools that other states can follow in effort to reduce recidivism and benefit the lives of inmates. However, the issue of funding for education programs will need to be increased. In addition, the number of college partnerships to provide enough educators and tools to the massive number of incarcerated individuals must be expanded to meet the large demand.

Suggestions for Educational Programming

Upon examining the results from California, North Carolina, and New York in comparison of their states' reported recidivism rate to the findings from the impact of their respected educational programs, the results become clear, educational programming works. While states have created their own programs to address their facilities' specific needs, the usefulness of modeling evidence-based programs off of other successful states' programs should be utilized more. Policy makers requiring evidence-based backed practices, such as Oregon and Arizona, have asked for more studies to be conducted to display what methods are working for other states before they will implement any changes.¹⁰⁹

As examined, California, North Carolina, and New York have each implemented unique programs that are designed in effort to address their states' needs as best as possible with their available resources. California provides insight into a system of deeply rooted programs, such as the one within Ironwood State Prison, has helped to reduce recidivism down to ten percent where the current national average is around sixty-eight percent. These results are not unique however.

The results in North Carolina that display a recidivism rate almost fifty percent less than the national average proves that programs geared toward younger inmates are

¹⁰⁹ "State of Recidivism...", 26.

successful. States with limited funding or sources should begin with programs such as these since they focus on a smaller number of inmates. Once a state gains or repositions additional funding, then they, including North Carolina, should expand their programs to reduce recidivism even more. Programs such as these can serve as a great tool to provide a large range of degrees to an array of inmates.

Similar to North Carolina, New York has a longstanding educational programming system, but does not limit their programs based on age. While the program has faced massive cuts in recent years with funding, the program has lasted the test of time and has strong results to prove it. Reducing recidivism in program participants to around twenty-six percent, the Governor has even taken notice of its success and has decided to recommit to expanding these worthwhile programs.

However, before states can establish or revamp their programs though, they must allocate the funding necessary to run education programs within their facilities. With correctional spending increasing to 305% over the past two decades, the cost benefits of only housing and monitoring inmates are proven inefficient with the growing recidivism rates.¹¹⁰ Longer sentences to prevent inmates from committing crime costs a state an additional \$2,800, but the cost to educate that same inmate with a shorter sentence is only \$1,600.¹¹¹ States are not only saving money by providing an education and shorter sentences of incarceration, but they are additionally reducing the likelihood of that inmate to recidivate.

Additionally, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 has greatly impacted funding available to inmates. In the Act, the ability for prisoners to be

¹¹⁰ “State of Recidivism...,” 5.

¹¹¹ “Education From the Inside Out...,” ii.

granted Pell Grants was eliminated, causing a large strain on states' programs with the lack of available funding. Many states' tight budgets were unable to address the burden and caused the states, such as New York, to greatly reduce their programs. In 1991, nationally, thirty-one percent of inmates participated in a program geared towards education. After the Pell Grant was restricted for inmates, the number dropped to twenty-seven percent and by 2005, it was believed to be closer to twenty-five percent.¹¹² These numbers are supported by Pew's report that even though evidence-based programs have proven to reduce recidivism, they continue to be cut due to funding.¹¹³

Furthermore, New York experienced similar hardships after the Act was enacted when 66 of their 70 programs ended and today is still struggling to recover.¹¹⁴ The state's recently released initiative is relying on private sources to fund the program, which could be a difficult task since most of society cares very little about the well-being of criminals.¹¹⁵ Without a solid plan, the changes New York hopes to enact will end before they are ever truly started. While the impacts are huge monetarily and on recidivism, the lack of governmental support could negatively impact the program.

For policy makers to provide the changes that they desire in reducing the funds spent on corrections, they must first open the possibilities facilities have to impact the inmate population and recidivism rates. By allowing grants and tuition assistance for inmates, programs across the United States would have the ability to run more efficiently and provide services to a larger number of inmates. Providing an education to inmates has proven to reduce recidivism down to ten percent. While education cannot save all

¹¹² "Education From the Inside Out..." ii.

¹¹³ Ibid, 26.

¹¹⁴ Ibid, i.

¹¹⁵ Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

inmates from a life of crime, it can greatly impact the growing prison populations.¹¹⁶

Conclusion

As the recidivism rates in facilities across the United States continue to spiral out of control, states demonstrating positive results through educational programming must serve as model programs for reducing recidivism rates. Education has proven to have a correlation with lowering recidivism rates and with this evidence, policy makers need to use it as the basis for implementing changes in corrections.¹¹⁷ The performance of states who have dedicated state funds, such as New York, have shown the impact that this can have on the states' recidivism rate. New York's result of reducing recidivism by fifty percent through their GED and post-secondary program is mirrored by North Carolina's similar results with their post-secondary program. As California continues to struggle with incarceration rates, their ability to take their current programs and expand to a similar model as New York will allow the state to begin truly addressing their incredibly high recidivism rates.

Furthermore, an examination of the Bureau of Justice Statistics "The State of Recidivism" map displaying changes in recidivism rates from 1999-2007, shows the impact educational programming may have on a larger scale across the United States. Some states have increased their recidivism rates by over thirty percent, but other states, such as California and North Carolina, have reduced their rates by an average of around six percent.¹¹⁸ Both of these states have implemented educational programming that has yielded a substantial reduction in recidivism rates, so one can see that these programs can have an effect on the overall rates within a state.

¹¹⁶ Boulard, 11.

¹¹⁷ "Education From the Inside Out..." appendix 2.

¹¹⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Recidivism."

As Pew finds that “programming is key” in reducing recidivism, policy makers who call for evidence-based research need to analyze what model programs will work best for them.¹¹⁹ Without a proactive approach from policy makers to allow for correctional facilities to obtain the funding necessary to run these vital programs, the reduction in educational programming will continue and will cause recidivism rates to continue climbing. Without educational programming, inmates will not be given some of the most vital tools necessary to succeed after their release or else the revolving door in prisons will continue to spin.

Chapter III: Work Programs

Similar to educational programming in providing skills to inmates that are vital in order to succeed upon their release, work programming has helped many offenders across the US. By establishing good work ethics, inmates throughout the United States are able to hold a job easier after they are released and stay away from committing additional crimes. Unlike education programs though, work programs can be utilized to solve state burdens, such as lack of goods or even natural disasters. Dating back over a century, work programming has shifted in importance within facilities, but today is once again becoming more prevalent.

History of Work Programs

For years programs have been implemented within facilities in effort to rehabilitate individuals to become productive members of society, but many facilities tend to focus on only one type of program, typically educational, instead of a

¹¹⁹ State of Recidivism...,” 30.

combination of programs. Federal work programs project that the recidivism rate is reduced by fourteen percent through work programs in addition to helping to produce many goods for the government and society.¹²⁰ Jeffrey Hopper observed similar results – that work programs can reduce recidivism by ten percent and save \$6.1 billion per year.¹²¹ In addition, the Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program, founded by Congress in 1999, used labor programs in facilities and was shown to reduce recidivism by eleven percent.¹²² Hopper and Michael Groh both conclude that work programs reduce recidivism, and also help inmates gain vital skills, such as better work ethic, to use once released.

Additionally, other studies support the arguments of Hopper and Groh in finding that work programs were beneficial for bettering inmates' work ethic and behavior and provides an opportunity for inmates to gain skills necessary to obtain employment. Inmates report that by giving back, they feel like they have a place in life which is important since society typically does not consider the emotional well-being of inmates and once released they will be more likely to care about the harm they do to others.¹²³ Likewise, Charles Scott and Frederick Derrick believe that with correction costs growing by about ten percent each year, keeping inmates active and productive through labor programs would decrease recidivism and infractions.¹²⁴

¹²⁰ Michael C. Groh, 2013, "Far (8.602) Gone: A Proposal to Maintain the Benefits of Prison Work Programs Despite the Restructuring of Federal Prison Industries' Mandatory Source Status," *Public Contract Law Journal* 42, no. 2: 391-410, *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 1, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=86828593&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

¹²¹ Hopper, 214.

¹²² Hopper, 218.

¹²³ Grant Duwe, "Minnesota's Affordable Homes Program," *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 23, no. 3 (2011): 327-351, (accessed November 11, 2013), <http://cjp.sagepub.com/content/23/3/327.refs>

¹²⁴ Charles E. Scott, and Frederick W. Derrick, 2006, "Prison Labor: The Local Effects of Ohio Prison Industries," *International Advances In Economic Research* 12, no. 4: 540-550, *Business Source Complete*,

Moreover, facilities would then use part of the inmate's paycheck to fund their incarceration fees. Having inmates pay for their own incarceration would reduce the costs to taxpayers. Since 1797, many institutions have used prison labor as one source of funding.¹²⁵ Corrections are a huge tax burden for all levels of the government and for taxpayers. Finding solutions to offset the massive costs associated with corrections have widely been accepted across the United States for centuries. In 1825, legislation supported the idea of inmates working in order to fund correctional facilities fully.¹²⁶ Today, states urge private industries to employ inmates to fill the positions and prevent outsourcing. With state inmates' pay ranging from thirteen to thirty-two cents an hour, jobs are completed at a much cheaper cost than if the positions were outsourced.¹²⁷

On the other hand, Heather Thompson explores the exemption of correctional facilities' from the Fair Labor Standards Act, as well as health and safety regulations, and asserts that this exemption cannot last much longer since it puts a larger cost burden on the state.¹²⁸ Inmates need to be kept safe and wages must be fair in order for correctional facilities to avoid lawsuits.¹²⁹ Other authors echoed an argument from 1835: that correctional work programs must be minimal in order for more jobs to be available local workers.¹³⁰ Scott and Derrick conclude that inmate labor programs hurt local economies

EBSCOhost (accessed November 16, 2013),

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=22930477&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

¹²⁵ Frederick W. Derrick, Charles E. Scott, and Thomas Hutson, 2004, "Prison Labor Effects on the Unskilled Labor Market," *American Economist* 48, no. 2: 74-81, *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 6, 2013),

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=15688734&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Heather Ann Thompson, 2012, "The Prison Industrial Complex," *New Labor Forum* (Murphy Institute) 21, no. 3: 38-47, p. 41, *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 16, 2013),

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=82351793&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

¹²⁸ Thompson.

¹²⁹ Scott and Derrick, 542.

¹³⁰ Derrick et al.

and need to be reduced even though they have a wide range of benefits.¹³¹ Once a balance is met through additional research to fill the flaws in the differing conclusions, corrections, businesses, and society will be able to benefit from the skills that inmates can provide and will increase the amount of work programs available to them.

Case Studies

Applying Pew's findings to those of work programming also allows for the examination of what affect work programming can have on recidivism, while maintaining some consistency in sources. Programs established in California, Louisiana, and Wyoming have each established unique and seemingly strong foundations in effort to tie education with corrections in order to better the inmates' lives and reduce their likelihood to recidivate.

The current state of California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation system has been under much scrutiny for their overcrowding and conditions, but many are unaware of the deep rooted programs that are quietly prevailing. In addition to the states education programs, California also has work programs to assist inmates. Designed to fit the unique needs of the state, California has created the California Prison Industry Authority (PIA) that works as a factory serving the needs of the state government.¹³² Additionally, California's wildfires led the state to establish the Conservation Camp program that allows inmates to work as firefighters throughout the state. The one-of-a-kind programs within California have allowed the state to continue reducing the recidivism rates of inmates and give back positively to the community.

¹³¹ Scott and Derrick.

¹³² "California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA)," California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. <http://pia.ca.gov/>

Similar to California's results were reported in Louisiana that even with their major budget constraints and elimination of several programs, the state is still working to reduce recidivism rates through creative measures by establishing transitional work programs and using inmate tutors. Furthermore, Wyoming has established unique and tailored work programs that have shown strong results with not only reducing recidivism for their facilities, but assisting inmates to have critical skills that have allowed a number of them to obtain permanent positions once released more easily. The differences in the states must be noted though as they reflect the differences in needs facilities encounter and how different approaches can all yield contrasting results.

California

Forced by a federal judge's ruling to reduce their prison population by about 25,000 inmates in 2011, California had to think fast to find solutions to achieve the court's decision.¹³³ After thinking through the state's options, California Governor Jerry Brown proposed the expansion of their existing job placement programs.¹³⁴ Entrusting the state's fate in work programs, Governor Brown devoted a large portion of California's few remaining resources to increase the available options inmates would have to not only get out of incarceration early, but to better the lives of inmates who would remain locked up to decrease their likelihood to recidivate upon their release. While the state moved many inmates into county jails, placed a number of offenders on probation and suspended some sentences, the state had to do more. With over 100,000

¹³³James Nash, "California's Prison Factories Falter as Inmate Population Falls," Bloomberg Businessweek, May 16, 2013, <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-05-16/californias-prison-factories-falter-as-inmate-population-falls>

¹³⁴ Ibid.

inmates still serving time in California's Correctional Facilities, the state took a look at the programs they already had and revamped them.¹³⁵

Created in 1982, the California Prison Industry (CALPIA) has provided not only the inmates and facilities with a number of benefits, but also to the whole state as they serve as a strong resource for the needs of the state government.¹³⁶ Established to develop and operate factories to provide work for inmates while teaching them critical skills to survive in society once released, the program has helped to better thousands of inmates' lives.¹³⁷ Today, the program employs approximately 7,000 inmates where they provide fifty-seven services and produce over 1,400 goods and services such as, "office furniture, clothing, food products, shoes, printing services, signs, binders, eyewear, gloves, and license plates."¹³⁸ To operate more efficiently, they created the Prison Industry Board (PIB), an 11-member board to oversee the operations of CALPIA.¹³⁹ The board has worked to streamline relations between the public's questions and the program.

Additionally, the CALPIA has strict requirements to follow in order to operate. The program must remain self-supporting, meaning the program is unable to receive any additional funds to offset any costs that they incur.¹⁴⁰ Self-sufficiency, however, is attainable because all state departments are required to purchase their goods and services from CALPIA versus using private companies. This mandate has been criticized as unfair since it hurts other companies' ability to fulfill the department's large orders, but reports

¹³⁵ Nash.

"California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA)," California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. <http://pia.ca.gov/>

¹³⁶ "California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA)," California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, *About*. <http://pia.ca.gov/>

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Lucia Hwang, "Working for Nothing: The Failure of Prison Industry Programs," Proposition One. <http://prop1.org/legal/prisons/working.htm>

from the program claim to have saved the state \$3.5 million in fiscal year 2009-10.¹⁴¹ Furthermore, a study by the University of Nevada found that if the program was eliminated “the economic activity in California would decline by \$295 million, household income would decline by \$75 million, and more than 1,000 jobs would be lost statewide.”¹⁴² These findings may seem slightly overstated, but the program purchases raw materials from local California businesses. Within the facilities, CALPIA has made lasting impact as well. Staff members claim that the inmates possess a more positive outlook and are less likely to start any trouble.¹⁴³ The inmates’ ability to do something productive and earn a living while incarcerated extends beyond the bars and barbwire though. The “job ready” inmates develop their “self-esteem and confidence” as they learn vital skills through the states’ accredited certifications and use their certificates to find employment upon release.¹⁴⁴ The state works through their PIB to connect inmates with an employee-seeking pool of businesses to help inmates obtain employment more easily.¹⁴⁵

The connection between inmates and employers has an even larger effect on the state. California reported that they had an overall statewide three-year recidivism rate in 2002 of just over sixty-one percent and experienced a 5.5 percent reduction by 2007 to just under fifty-eight percent.¹⁴⁶ This demonstrates the state’s success in lowering its large number of inmates. Reducing recidivism rates of program participants by twenty-six to thirty-eight percent, the benefits for the CALPIA program shows that the program

¹⁴¹ Hwang.

“California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA),” About.

¹⁴² “California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA),” About.

¹⁴³ Steven Greenhouse, “States Help Ex-Inmates Find Jobs,” The New York Times, January 24, 2011, http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/25/business/25offender.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

¹⁴⁴ “California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA),” IEP.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

works to further continue assisting the state in reducing their inmate populations and therefore lower future costs of corrections in California.¹⁴⁷ With California's large inmate population and recidivism rates, increasing the number of work programs, such as CALPIA, can further assist the state to reduce these issues.

California's CALPIA program is not their only effective work program, however. The state has also created a firefighting program to address another major need within the state. The expansive forests that stretch throughout California provide the state with beautiful landscapes, but can also result in massive forest fires. Spreading quickly, the state has to react immediately. In 1946, the state created its first permanent fire camp: Camp Rainbow in Fallbrook, California.¹⁴⁸ Co-managed by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Division of Forestry, the forty-three state prisons worked to assist the state in fighting fires.¹⁴⁹ The assistance was greatly appreciated as their work alleviated some of the pressure on professional and volunteer firefighters throughout the state. Recognizing their worth, the state has continued to expand the inmate program into what it is today.

Known today as the Conservation Camp program, nearly 4,000 male and female offenders make up approximately 200 fire crews.¹⁵⁰ Located throughout the state, there are now forty-two adult camps and two Division of Juvenile Justice Conservation Camps that work alongside professional and volunteer firefighters to suppress fires and assist

¹⁴⁷ "California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA)," About.

¹⁴⁸ Philip Goodman, "A Brief History of California's Prison Camps," University of California, Irvine, June 2010. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Conservation_Camps/docs/History_of_firecamps.pdf

¹⁴⁹ Goodman, "A Brief History..."

¹⁵⁰ "Conservation Fire Camps." California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Conservation_Camps/

when other devastating emergencies strike, such as earthquakes and floods.¹⁵¹ All inmates are carefully screened as medical professionals extensively check their health. Upon meeting all requirements, which includes having a sentence that is typically less than two years in a minimum security, and having no history of violent crimes, the inmates then enter a vigorous four week training course.¹⁵² Earning approximately \$1.45 to \$3.90 per day for their work, the inmates are some of the highest paid inmate workers in corrections and save California taxpayers an average of more than \$80 million annually.¹⁵³

California has continued to recognize the importance and worth of fire camps leading the state to begin considering adding more throughout the state.¹⁵⁴ The vitality of the program is apparent and is likely to continue to be important as weather disasters will never stop occurring. California's Department of Correction and Rehabilitation claim that many of the offenders become professional or volunteer firefighters once released which shows how these programs continue benefiting inmates and society upon their release with them working in a public safety career. The program offers inmates a number of benefits as they take pride in their work and give back to their communities. For a number of the inmates, it is a chance to feel redeemed after they have been labeled negatively by society.¹⁵⁵ The experience provides inmates with skills of compassion, motivation, and devotion that can help them in being law abiding citizens after their release.

¹⁵¹ "Conservation Fire Camps."

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ "Conservation Fire Camps." California

¹⁵⁴ Goodman, "A Brief History..."

¹⁵⁵ Greenhouse.

While California has not collected official numbers on the firefighting program's affect on recidivism rates, but has stated that the inmates are "among the lowest [to recidivate out] of the programs that are available to California's prisoners."¹⁵⁶ Upon review, the overall effect that the program has on taxpayers, inmates, and their likelihood to succeed once released lend themselves to prove the program works and should be expanded. Identifying the need decades ago, California's had the unique ability to utilize additional firefighters to assist a statewide problem which shows how other states can identify problem areas they are dealing with and create a program around it that not only fills a gap, but provides meaning to inmates' lives. While there are not official numbers to show how the program can reduce recidivism, the lifelong skills obtained through the fire camps can change the mentality of an inmate therefore changing their outlook on life to avoid crime.

Louisiana

Struck by their approximately forty-four percent recidivism rate in a three-year time span, Louisiana decided in 2002 that they needed to address their broken system immediately.¹⁵⁷ Realizing that a possible solution laid within their programming, Louisiana set out to "organize and standardize" their programs and services "to better prepare offenders for a successful reintegration into their communities" upon release.¹⁵⁸ The state's goal was to reduce the over fifty percent five-year recidivism rate that Louisiana taxpayers were burdened with to significantly reduce the costs on all while

¹⁵⁶ Nate Rawling, "California's Prison Problems Won't Extinguish Inmate Firefighters," Time Magazine, August 31, 2013. <http://nation.time.com/2013/08/31/californias-prison-problems-wont-extinguish-inmate-firefighters/>

¹⁵⁷ "Corrections Services," Louisiana Department of Corrections, Overview. <http://www.doc.la.gov/pages/reentry-initiatives/overview/>

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

greatly improving the safety of their communities. Louisiana then identified and constructed their response by revamping all areas of their programming that included faith-based, educational, and therapeutic programs, but as a state, they decided to focus most heavily on their vocational reentry services believing they were most important.

Louisiana implemented a rule that every eligible offender released from a Department of Corrections facility or local reentry center receive and complete a 100 hour course that taught a range of skills from money management and finding a job to victim awareness and job skills.¹⁵⁹ The curriculum courses were designed to take an average of ten weeks to complete and are typically done two months before an inmate is released.¹⁶⁰ Additionally, the monetary constraints felt by many states' need to balance their budgets has greatly impacted Louisiana's ability to expand class offerings to more inmates prior to their release in recent years. With approximately 15,000 inmates being released from Louisiana's correctional facilities each year, the state is working hard to find suitable ways to continue devoting funds to the work programs that they believe are necessary to decreasing recidivism and bettering the lives of inmates.¹⁶¹

Furthermore, the state has found another method to allow inmates to work while incarcerated to assist with the costs burdened upon the correctional system by creating a transitional work program, formerly known as work release.¹⁶² This program allows eligible inmates to gain employment at an approved job one to three years prior to their release, depending on their offense of conviction.¹⁶³ After working their shift, inmates

¹⁵⁹ "Corrections Services."

¹⁶⁰ Cindy Chang, "Prison Re-entry Programs Help Inmates Leave the Criminal Mindset Behind, but Few Have Access to the Classes," *The Times- Picayune*, May 19, 2012.

¹⁶¹ "Corrections Services," Overview.

¹⁶² "Corrections Services," Transitional Work Program.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

return to the facility they are incarcerated within to continue serving their sentence. The jobs are not located within the facilities, but within the communities. The ability for inmates to work within their communities is important because ten to twenty percent of the inmates continue working at the same job upon release.¹⁶⁴

The successfulness of the transitional work program within California was so great that legislation was recently passed to allow certain offenders with non-violent offenses to qualify for the transitional work program if their sentences were seven years or less.¹⁶⁵ For some inmates, this means they are possibly able to keep their job that they were employed with before being incarcerated. Additionally, inmates without employment before entering Louisiana's Department of Corrections can also apply for jobs to begin working while serving their sentences as well.

Partnering with local businesses to provide jobs to the newly released and currently incarcerated inmates in Louisiana, especially within New Orleans, is a part of the state's goal to help offenders avoid returning to a life of crime. The New Orleans Business Council has begun recruiting companies who are willing to employ ex-offenders as part of their growing citywide initiative.¹⁶⁶ Nonetheless, the size of the issue has forced the state to realize that courses should begin prior to the final months before release. However, the shortages are impacting the ability to address the lack of resources available currently and will possibly influence the program's future success.

In 2011, Louisiana unfortunately had to eliminate over six programs that taught skills from automotive technology to office systems and graphic communications to men and women prisoners because the state could not devote enough funds to keep the

¹⁶⁴ "Corrections Services," Transitional Work Program.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ Chang.

programs running.¹⁶⁷ State lawmakers were upset by the decisions that had to be made as State Representative Gary Smith, D-Norco, who sits on the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee stated, “Vocational training is one of the cornerstones of the rehabilitation process.”¹⁶⁸ Additionally, the state also had to dramatically reduce and cut many teachers from their existing programs. Thinking outside the box, the state began using skilled inmates to work as tutors to teach skills to other inmates on how to weld or do construction.¹⁶⁹ It is commendable that the state was able to get creative before cutting more programs, but one may worry that while the state still runs over forty-five work programs a continued reduction in offerings will only continue to hurt the positive impact Louisiana is making on the inmates’ lives.

The devotion Louisiana has made in recent years to reorganize and structure their work programs in effort to reduce the states’ massive recidivism rates has proved successful in just a few short years of reporting. In 2002, Louisiana was experiencing a forty-four percent three-year recidivism rate and an over fifty percent five-year recidivism rate.¹⁷⁰ Reporting to Pew in 2007 that the state had a recidivism rate of just over thirty-nine percent, the focus on programming, specifically work programs, appears successful.¹⁷¹ Having to use inmate tutors instead of teachers shows that the state is truly committed to continue using programs as a tool to reduce recidivism, even if it means getting creative when funding is drastically cut.

¹⁶⁷ Michelle Millhollon, “State’s Budget Shortfall May Affect Efforts to Reduce Recidivism,” The Advocate, 2011.
<http://theadvocate.com/csp/mediapool/sites/Advocate/assets/templates/FullStoryPrint.csp?cid=872921&preview=y>

¹⁶⁸ Ibid..

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ “State of Recidivism...”
“Corrections Services,” Overview.

¹⁷¹ “State of Recidivism...”

While the numbers reported in the Pew study are outdated, one can imagine that the continued use of the programming has allowed the states' recidivism rates to decline additionally in the last seven years. The successfulness of work programs is convincing and other states' ability to get creative, even with budget cuts and lack of resources, will positively affect the lives of inmates and reduce the number of inmates who will be behind the barbed wire fences in the future.

Wyoming

Boasting to have the second lowest recidivism rate in the United States currently, Wyoming has dedicated their corrections system to using evidence-based solutions tailored to their state's needs and the solutions have proved to be effective at reducing recidivism. Ranked as having the smallest population of citizens in the entire United States, one may believe that this impacts the proportionally small number of inmates and amount of crime the state has.¹⁷² Reporting at the end of 2013 an incarceration amount of 2,013 inmates in total, Wyoming houses an extremely minute number of inmates.¹⁷³ However, Wyoming, like all other states, is noticing an increase in incarceration rates. Unlike many other states, Wyoming is taking a progressive approach to combat the recidivism rates to better the lives of the inmates who are landing themselves behind bars.

The creation of effective programs that are not only well developed, but tailored to the inmates needs has allowed the state to be successful with lowering their recidivism rates. From the time an inmate enters a correctional facility, counselors work one-on-one

¹⁷² "States Ranked by Size and Population," IPL2. <http://www.ipl.org/div/stateknow/popchart.html>

¹⁷³ Joan Barron, "Wyoming Legislators Want to Learn Why Less Crime Produces More Prisoners," Casper Wyoming's Star-Tribune, February 3, 2014. http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/wyoming-legislators-want-to-learn-why-less-crime-produces-more/article_2d477703-8206-5e6e-8b40-2247ae8e68c4.html

with the inmate to layout a long-term plan best suited to the inmates' needs.¹⁷⁴ First, all inmates must receive a basic level of education by requiring all inmates, no matter how long their sentence may be, to earn a GED. This is quite unique in comparison to nearly all other states that do not have the ability to provide this same meaningful and necessary service. In addition, one of the most prominent goals of Wyoming's Department of Corrections in addition to ensuring every inmate leaves prison with at least a GED, is to guide inmates into a career path.

Stated directly in Wyoming's Department of Corrections (WDOC) Policy and Procedures #5.001 Prison Industries Enhancement Program Work Project-Inmate Selection and Compensation policy, "the WDOC recognizes the value of fully engaging inmates in productive activities... in order to assist inmates to successfully re-enter society with practical skills and a viable work ethic."¹⁷⁵ The dedication to assisting inmates has extended within many work forces from factories with their welding program or to their Honor Farm. Wyoming has reported monumental results from their wide range of efforts.

Established in 1931, the Wyoming Honor Farm has helped rehabilitate inmates for several decades. Extended in early 1988 to begin working with wild horses, the Wyoming's Wild Horse Program has developed into an effective longstanding program that other states have mirrored.¹⁷⁶ Utilizing methods that involve teaching inmates to

¹⁷⁴ Kyle Roerink, "Wyoming Prison Recidivism Rate Second-Best in Nation." Wyoming's Star-Tribune, October 14, 2012. http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming-prison-recidivism-rate-second-best-in-nation/article_2a78dded-9716-5e4a-a4ed-517ed470f189.html

¹⁷⁵ "Wyoming Department of Corrections: Policy and Procedures #5.001 Prison Industries Enhancement Program Work Projects- Inmate Selection and Compensation," Wyoming Department of Corrections, Policy and Procedures, December 1, 2005. www.corrections.wy.gov/Media.aspx?mediaId=44

¹⁷⁶ Mike Laughlin, "Wyoming Honor Farm Inmate/Wild-Horse Program," Cowboy Showcase. http://www.cowboyshowcase.com/wyoming-honor-farm-inmatewild-horse-program.html#.U2f_oMeaSi8

respect and care not only about themselves, but about others has helped to build strong work ethics within the participants.¹⁷⁷

Having a twenty-five bed minimum security limit within the program, male offenders must first volunteer and then be selected as good candidates.¹⁷⁸ Additionally, most inmates involved with the program are within eleven to twenty-four months of their release date.¹⁷⁹ Furthermore, starting pay for inmates within the program begins at \$35 per month which can be applied to any costs the inmates may have from restitution to personal items.¹⁸⁰ While the data provided does not include how many days per week the inmates work, an average five day work-week split between an average month of twenty-two work days would approximately equate to around \$1.60 a day. This supports other arguments that inmates are being paid much lower than what should be allowed.¹⁸¹

Inmates that have the privilege of working with the Wild Horse Program start out only being allowed to feed the horses and monitor other inmates. They watch to see how the animals are tamed and work their way up into working more hands on.¹⁸² Inmates progress through the program to learn how to not only train the wild horses, but work to learn “honesty, respect, trust, patience, and teamwork,” that are necessary and vital to survive in society successfully the program argues.¹⁸³ Reports state that the inmates who have completed the program and are released “have a higher percentage of success.”¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁷ “Redirection in the Life of Horses and Men,” Wyoming Department of Corrections.
<http://corrections.wy.gov/wildhorse/index.html>

¹⁷⁸ Laughlin.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ Thompson.

¹⁸² Laughlin.

¹⁸³ “Redirection in the Life of Horses and Men.”

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

For the thousands of other inmates within Wyoming's corrections system, the state has created a strong program for them too. Outside of the stables within the Wild Horse Program, inmates are working to build, weld, and complete print work by providing the work labor to many companies.¹⁸⁵ Built like a private freelance company, WY Brand has utilized Wyoming's offenders to develop job skills and assist the tight budgets of many companies looking for a cheaper labor source.¹⁸⁶ Additionally, the inmates are gaining real life, hands-on experience that will allow them to use their wages to pay for their incarceration, any debts they have and to save for their futures.¹⁸⁷ It will not only save taxpayers millions while they are incarcerated, but once they are released they will have skills that will attract employers, hopefully leading them into a productive lifestyle.

WY Brand Industries has created a sales team that works to negotiate contracts between the company and correctional facility to setup fair and legal agreements.¹⁸⁸ Inmates work to assist contracted companies to fulfill their orders that range from printing to metal work.¹⁸⁹ The possibilities in Wyoming with the use of their inmate workers are endless and with the help of the state's policy to ensure inmates are not paid unfairly, the issues raised by Thompson's article addressing pay can begin to be better addressed.¹⁹⁰

Additionally, the inmates' wages are used to fund their room and board, restitution, victims' compensation, and family support site. Plus, all of the inmates pay

¹⁸⁵ "WY Brand Industries," WY Brand Industries. <http://www.wybrandindustries.com/>

¹⁸⁶ "WY Brand Industries," About Us.

¹⁸⁷ "WY Brand Industries," Services.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ "WY Brand Industries," About Us.

¹⁹⁰ Thompson.

taxes.¹⁹¹ Wyoming's ability to lessen the burden of their taxpayers from funding all of the costs of incarcerating individuals while having inmates pay taxes back into the system, allows the state to utilize these costs to fund many other state run programs, such as education and health care. WY Brand Industries claims that their program "dramatically contributes to an overall reduction in recidivism therefore saving Wyoming taxpayers millions of dollars in future incarceration costs."¹⁹² The ability to utilize programs similar to WY Brand Industries can be beneficial to all involved from companies, society, and inmates.

Wyoming claims through local articles to have the second-best recidivism rate in the nation, but exact numbers were not given to Pew or released through the state.¹⁹³ However, the actual rate is conflicting with two recent second source news reports. An article published in October 2012 states that Wyoming had a felony recidivism rate of less than ten percent while an article released in February 2014 claims that the state had the lowest recidivism rate in the country overall at the end of 2013 with a rate of twenty-four percent of individuals being rearrested once released.¹⁹⁴ Yet, both could be correct as one is measuring recidivism based off of felonious charges that require a person be sent back to prison and the other is measuring all re-arrests.

Regardless of the true rate, Wyoming's work programs appear to be positively affecting the recidivism rate within the state since they have a minute number of inmates

¹⁹¹ "WY Brand Industries," About Us.

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ Kyle Roerink, "Wyoming Prison Recidivism Rate Second-Best in Nation." Wyoming's Star-Tribune, October 14, 2012. http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming-prison-recidivism-rate-second-best-in-nation/article_2a78dded-9716-5e4a-a4ed-517ed470f189.html

¹⁹⁴ Roerink.

Joan Barron, "Wyoming Legislators Want to Learn Why Less Crime Produces More Prisoners," Casper Wyoming's Star-Tribune, February 3, 2014. http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/wyoming-legislators-want-to-learn-why-less-crime-produces-more/article_2d477703-8206-5e6e-8b40-2247ae8e68c4.html

returning to the corrections system. States that are able to construct a work program that fits their states' needs, such as Wyoming's Wild Horse program and WY Brand Industries, the state can then utilize their inmates' work labor to fulfill many labor needs. Additionally, the inmates will gain life skills that will allow them to obtain employment more easily once released. The benefits to the reduction in recidivism rates will greatly reduce costs to taxpayers and keep communities safer as the released inmates will be less likely to commit crimes in their communities.

Suggestions for Work Programs

Results from California, Louisiana, and Wyoming all provide the same answer; work programming can be useful in reducing recidivism rates. Their respective programs have each been tailored to fit their states' needs, funding, and resources available to maximize their impact. While states have created their own programs to address their facilities' specific needs, the usefulness of modeling evidence-based programs off of other successful states' programs should be utilized more. Policy makers requiring evidence-based practices, such as Oregon and Arizona, have asked for more studies to be conducted to display what methods are working for other states before they will implement any changes.¹⁹⁵ Additionally, studying these states also shows the current struggles states are having in maintaining these programs and can help other states in overcoming the same obstacles as well.

As seen, California, Louisiana, and Wyoming have not utilized the same programs to reach results. California provides states with a model that shows how factory work can be implemented to reduce costs on taxpayers, other state departments, and still

¹⁹⁵ "State of Recidivism...", 26.

supply the state with a reduction in recidivism. Reducing an offender's likelihood to recidivate by twenty-six to thirty-eight percent, the CALPIA program is greatly assisting the state in driving down corrections costs in the long run. Furthermore, California's Fire Camps are assisting in reducing recidivism rates equally or potentially even more. However, concrete numbers would help to solidify this claim. Nonetheless, California's work programs are beneficial, but their strong results are not uncommon as they are seen in Louisiana as well.

Similarly to California, Louisiana has overcome many obstacles but has still found that the work program is vital to the states' ability to reduce recidivism. The states' well-rounded course curriculum to teach inmates many skills has helped inmates to be better prepared for life back on the streets leading to less likelihood to commit crimes. Releasing approximately 15,000 inmates a year, Louisiana knows firsthand the importance of preventing inmates from returning as they struggle to fund their current corrections system. The ability for the state to think outside the box has led Louisiana to work with businesses to create partnerships of possible employers for released inmates to reach out to obtain employment. Even though the state has had to recently reduce a portion of their available programs for inmates, Louisiana is still being proactive in finding solutions that can work on a tight budget. States experiencing funding cuts should look to Louisiana as a model of adjusting offerings and being creative to find ways to continue using work programs, but at a lower cost.

Upon examining Wyoming's unique work programs, a state can see that the possibilities of using inmate labor are nearly endless. The longstanding Wild Horse program in Wyoming depicts another example of a state finding a problem that they have

and using inmate labor to better the lives of their inmates, horses, and the state in general. While the majority of states will not need a Wild Horse program, states can model their programs off of Wyoming's to assist with their own issues. Also, Wyoming's WY Brand Industries that is similar to California's CALPIA allows states to have another model to see the benefits of factories within prisons. WY Brand Industries' approach of working with small businesses who need extra labor can be used anywhere and can help many small businesses to expand with the additional labor abilities. All states can use this model to partner local small businesses with correctional facilities to reduce recidivism by enhancing inmates' skills and serving the needs of local employers.

However, like problems faced with educational programming, states must allocate the funds necessary to create or revamp work programs. In the past two decades, correctional spending has increased by 305%, the cost benefits of only housing and monitoring inmates are proven inefficient with the growing recidivism rates.¹⁹⁶ With the current state of the government, the time is now to find solutions in effort to reduce the millions of dollars spent annually to incarcerate individuals. One such solution is having the federal government support part of the costs in running proactive, beneficial programs, such as work programs.¹⁹⁷ With more than 600,000 inmates released each year nationally, the ability to provide a lasting rehabilitative change on the inmates is vital to addressing the issue that sixty-eight percent of the released will return within three short years.¹⁹⁸

Policymakers must examine the results that California, Louisiana, and Wyoming have been able to create and maintain work programs are having in reducing their inmate

¹⁹⁶ "State of Recidivism...", 5.

¹⁹⁷ Greenhouse.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid.

long-term populations. By allocating funds to establish or revamp states' current programs, the United States could then begin reducing recidivism on a larger scale from coast to coast. Work programs, like educational programming, cannot "save" every inmate, but it can equip inmates with skills necessary to have potential to succeed in life.

Conclusion

As states continue to struggle with growing inmate populations, they must have the means necessary to truly make an effort to positively impact the offender in effort to reduce their likelihood to recidivate upon their release. States are struggling to fund all departments within their government, so the ability to reduce corrections' costs in the long run is critical to saving the state and taxpayers money. One such way that has achieved positive results is work programs in correctional facilities. The results in California, Louisiana, and Wyoming show that the programs produce positive results. Reducing recidivism even by a few percentage points can save states hugely, but results that lower recidivism rates by closer to thirty-eight percent has massive effects on the states' ability to lower funding spent on corrections while helping inmates.

Many states across the nation have experienced growth in recidivism rates from 2002 to 2007 as depicted by the map from Pew.¹⁹⁹ However, California and Louisiana are two states that have lowered their recidivism rates when the norm across the nation has seen a rise in rates. Work programs in California, Louisiana, and Wyoming have seen a reduction in their rates as well, is correlated to these

¹⁹⁹ "State of Recidivism...", 15.

reductions. This data provides evidence that the programs should be implemented nationwide to reduce recidivism.

As states cut funding and reduce work programs like those in place in Louisiana, the reduction in recidivism may cease to exist and may begin to rise in response to the lack of programming again. By policymakers deciding to devote more resources to work programs, states will have the funding necessary to continue to utilize these worthwhile and beneficial programs. Without work programs, inmates will remain at a huge disadvantage of not possessing the skills necessary to obtain and maintain a job in order to avoid turning to crime. Work programming does more than help the inmate and the state; it helps to ensure communities are safer from crime and destruction.

Chapter IV: Faith-Based

Also widely popular within many facilities in the United States today, faith-based programming has been utilized on and off for centuries to help inmates. While educational and work programming relies heavily on hiring professionals to lead courses or supervisor work sites, faith-based programming is unique in using volunteers from the community to run the inexpensive programs. Like work programming though, faith-based has changed greatly since its first implementation within a correctional setting and is now the cheapest solution.

History of Faith-Based Programs

Dating back to one of the first methods of imprisonment, faith-based programming was once used to “transform” and mold an individual before returning to

society. First used in Pennsylvania, inmates were isolated from society and other inmates in order to concentrate fully on repenting and growing spiritually. As the nation's first facility in the 1780s, the Walnut Street Jail emphasized the importance of inmates finding God to "fix" them from their evils ways.²⁰⁰ The common held belief was that crime was due to a "moral disease" that these individuals possessed and from which they needed to be released. Founded as a Quaker-based system, inmates were forced into isolated cells where they spent every second of their lives in silence accompanied by only a Bible.

The United States believed that the method of isolation and forced repentance was working and led the nation to construct a larger facility, the Eastern State Penitentiary in Pennsylvania and even expanded the idea into New York.²⁰¹ The system of forced faith-based corrections lasted until the late 1800s when politicians realized that incarceration rates were increasing and their method was inadequate and outdated for the times. Soon after, the United States adopted the "warehouse" approach that left inmates nameless and forgotten within a violent system. From this system came the birth of the War Against Drugs that additionally led to a surge in incarceration and recidivism rates. Today with growing recidivism rates, states within the United States have begun revamping past approaches, such as faith-based.

Similar to education and work programs, modernized faith-based programs have also been proven to lower recidivism rates of inmate participants. One researcher found that out of all of their participants over a two-year period, none of released inmates had

²⁰⁰ Chai Woodham, "Eastern State Penitentiary: A Prison with a Past," Smithsonian. (accessed September 12, 2014). <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/eastern-state-penitentiary-a-prison-with-a-past-14274660/?all&no-ist>

²⁰¹ "Walnut Street Prison," Law Library- American Law and Legal Information. (accessed September 12, 2014). <http://law.jrank.org/pages/11192/Walnut-Street-Prison.html>

recidivated.²⁰² This powerful outcome is difficult to support fully since the average recidivism rate is a three-year range, but the findings are still worthwhile to consider since they are revealing and could be visited in the future to add additional information. Additionally, Alabama's DOC Bullock County Correctional Facility found that their faith-based program participants had a recidivism rate of just fourteen percent.²⁰³ Furthermore, Rebekah Binger's study of how a notorious serial killer, Son of Sam- David Berkowitz, has changed since he has become involved with his institution's faith program provides a face to show just how drastically individuals can change with faith-based program.²⁰⁴ Binger's ability to provide a face for the benefits of faith-based programming strengthens other researchers' statistical findings of reduced recidivism and infraction rates.

The small costs to run a faith-based program is one of the strongest arguments authors make to support implementation of this program into a facility. Kwon et al. contend that there are no strong reasons against faith-based programs once costs and benefits are weighed.²⁰⁵ As supported by several court cases pertaining to the Establishment Clause and idea of the governments' "separation of church and state," no state budgets can fund any faith-based program, which means the program relies solely

²⁰² Louis B. Cej, 2010, "Faith-Based Programs Are Low-Cost Ways to Reduce Recidivism," *Corrections Today* 72, no. 4: 48. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 11, 2013).

²⁰³ Ibid. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=53304656&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

²⁰⁴ Rebekah Binger, 2011, "Prison Ain't Hell: An Interview with the Son of Sam--David Berkowitz, and Why State-Funded Faith-Based Prison Rehabilitation Programs Do Not Violate the Establishment Clause," *Pace Law Review* 31, no. 1: 488-530. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 10, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=60797306&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

²⁰⁵ Okyun Karl Kwon, Scott D. Camp, Dawn Dagget, and Jody Klein-Saffran, 2007, "Reasons for Participating in Faith-Based Correctional Programming: In Their Own Words," *Conference Papers -- American Society Of Criminology* 1, *Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text*, EBSCOhost (accessed October 30, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=i3h&AN=34675941&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

on volunteers.²⁰⁶ Obtaining volunteers for Virginia's faith-based program has been simple and the program has even created a reentry facility for inmates once released.²⁰⁷ In addition to the volunteers being cost-free, they are also effective at helping to better inmates' outlooks and behavior. Dodson et al. found that faith-based programs are successful because they help a wide range of offenders and are able to assist individuals to "repent deviant behaviors" in order to become a spiritual and productive being.²⁰⁸ This helps inmates become productive members of society in refraining from crime.

Differing from the overall support of the other programs, many authors believe that faith-based programming has a few major flaws. First, the idea of faith is difficult to assess in a study to draw strong conclusions. It is necessary for authors to find a common measurement so studies have similarity.²⁰⁹ Daniel Mears' 2007 study found that without an effective and common measurement, studies will be difficult to conduct.²¹⁰ Mears' argument is similar to others who also believe that until a method is found to measure faith, a program's affect on recidivism will be difficult to draw reliable conclusions.²¹¹ Also in contrast to education and work programs, facilities are unable to mandate a person's involvement in a faith-based program. Facilities must decide the usefulness of a program that is unable to be enforced, but authors argue that facilities should still

²⁰⁶ Dodson et al.

²⁰⁷ Cei.

²⁰⁸ Dodson et al.

²⁰⁹ Daniel P. Mears, 2007, "Faith-based Reentry Programs: Cause for Concern or Showing Promise?," *Corrections Today* 69, no. 2: 30, *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed October 30, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=24833112&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

²¹⁰ Ibid.

²¹¹ Dodson et al.

Diane L. Scott, Matthew S. Crow, and Carla J. Thompson, 2010, "Tempest in a Therapeutic Community: Implementation and Evaluation Issues for Faith-Based Programming," *Journal Of Offender Rehabilitation* 49, no. 1: 39-51, *Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=i3h&AN=47132395&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

implement the programming since they are shown to lower recidivism and are low cost.²¹²

Case Studies

Being the first in the nation to create a modern faith-based program, Texas broke the mold of focusing on the traditional routes of education and work programming by focusing greatly on the use of a faith-based approach. Designed to utilize volunteers and existing organizations throughout Houston, the state created a low-cost solution that helped thousands of inmates. The InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) uniquely paired outside resources with inmates that would allow for smoother transition into a community with already established positive groups. Today, the program continues to better inmates' lives and has led other states, such as Florida and Ohio, to establish their own programs.

Comparable to Texas, Florida established their own faith-based program that adopted the use of volunteers to greatly impact their Faith and Character Based Program (FCB). However, Florida decided to implement their program statewide in over a dozen facilities versus focusing only in one institution. From their program, Florida has noticed a positive impact on inmates while incarcerated and upon their release with a reduction in recidivism rates. The positive results from both Texas and Florida, along with other states with similar programs, led Ohio in 2006 to conduct a large study on the best practices of faith-based programming. From the results of the program, Ohio is currently implementing a multi-facility faith-based program that mirrors Texas and Florida while also being tailored to fit Ohio's needs. The differences in approaches have not changed the fact that each respective state has experienced positive results. Additionally, these

²¹² Kwon et al.

states are not alone in utilizing faith-based programming, but are unique in the larger amount of data available on them.

Texas

Implemented in 1997 at the Carol Vance Unit in Richmond, Texas, the InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) was a revolutionizing approach to faith-based pre-release programming.²¹³ The program was dedicated to IFI's mission to "create and maintain a prison environment that fosters respect for God's law and rights of others, and to encourage the spiritual and moral regeneration of prisoners."²¹⁴ The program ran off of volunteers from both the community to lead the Bible-based program and from other incarcerated individuals. Advocating for support, IFI urged that the program was "revolutionary" due to their "Christ-centered, Bible-based prison program" that worked to support "inmates through their spiritual and moral transformation" that helped them during their incarceration and extended once they were released.²¹⁵ The program's dedication to not only help the inmate behind bars, but also in society provided a major shift in approach that related to their main goal, to reduce recidivism.

With a maximum bed capacity of 378, the Vance Unit devoted 200 bed spaces to the program and in 2002 had 179 participants.²¹⁶ The Vance Unit was selected since it had a good size and proper security level necessary for the requirements; in addition it was located in a desired area that had resources available to inmates following their release. Located outside of Houston, the volunteer recruitment and number of aftercare

²¹³ Tony Fabelo, "Overview of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative: The Faith-Based Prison Program Within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice," Legislative Budget Board, 1. (accessed August 16, 2014). http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Public_Safety_Criminal_Justice/Reports/IFI.pdf

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ Ibid.

resources were plentiful, which was critical to the programs vitality.²¹⁷ The program was unique in having a large partnership that allowed a private foundation, the Prison Fellowship, to fund the costly measures that included additional staff members and materials while the actual facilities provided the security and custody role.

While the program had a well-designed foundation, the founders created strict requirements that greatly impacted the inmates selected to participate. Inmates had to have a certain amount of time remaining on their sentence, had to return to the Houston area once released, be classified as minimum security level, be male and English-speaking, have no significant medical problems, and could not be a sex offender in order to be eligible.²¹⁸ From the original call for participants, 1,770 inmates met the strict basic requirements and then had to be interviewed to gain a place in the program. The restriction requirements allowed the program to eliminate a large number of possible participants, while also allowing them to stick to their budget constraints and pick the “most-likely” inmates to succeed.

Dedicated primarily to faith-based programming, the IFI additionally included a number of other evidence-based practices that have been proven to be beneficial to lowering recidivism rates. Inmates entered into a three-phase program that exposed inmates to two facility phases and a mandatory after-care phase that was necessary to graduate the program.²¹⁹ The first phase included two 30-day self-studies; a large amount of time was spent on Biblical education, with the other amount of time spent with being mentored one-on-one with community volunteers, and working within facilities.

²¹⁷ Febelo, 4.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ Ibid.

Continuing within the next phase, the inmates continued to be mentored one-on-one, participated extensively in Bible study, and began working outside of the facility on projects that benefited the community. This next step allowed inmates to gain a balance of work and free time that was used to focus on learning more about the Christian faith. Additionally, each day was devoted to enhancing different aspects of one's life from substance abuse to family relations.²²⁰ The range of efforts contributed to one's ability to succeed once released and stay clear of crime.

The final phase of the IFI program came upon an inmate's release. Inmates were then provided six to twelve months of post-release assistance from the Vance Unit that worked to connect the inmate with a "nurturing church" and assist in finding affordable housing and employment.²²¹ Unlike the majority of other programs, IFI was designed to guide the inmate not only until they were released, but until they were fairly stable in a proper place in society.

Due to the large support of the IFI program in Texas, the state decided in 2000 to begin a two-year evaluation of the program in order to find the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology in order to provide the soundest program possible.²²² The evaluation was designed to monitor program participants who completed and those who did not complete for two years, as well as following individuals who fit the requirements but did not volunteer to participate in order to compare the results.²²³ This design would allow for a control of what would occur if the program was not in existence.

²²⁰ Fabelo, 7.

²²¹ Ibid, 8.

²²² Ibid, 11.

²²³ Ibid, 11.

In June 2003, the University of Pennsylvania released their results from their 2000-2002 IFI program study. The researchers discovered that graduates of the “InnerChange Freedom Initiative” were fifty percent less likely to be re-arrested and sixty percent less likely to be re-incarcerated, compared to the matched comparison group.”²²⁴ The results showed that the unique design of IFI was positively impacting inmates to make better choices once released and therefore kept them from recidivating. Combining mentoring, Bible study, work, and education created a strong foundation for the inmates to gain a large number of skills necessary to properly function in society.

Moreover, the data was convincing enough to Texas to continue with the program and go further to expand efforts for more organizations and private companies to become involved with programming in their facilities.²²⁵ Just as recently as 2013, Texas created a “Citizen Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits” in order to continue strengthening bonds between sectors to benefit inmates and lower recidivism rates.²²⁶ The continued focus on implementing programs lowered Texas’ overall recidivism rate .8% from the 2002 to 2007 Pew study results.²²⁷ With the additional resources given to programming in Texas, one can imagine the expansion of faith-based, along with other evidence based programming, would lower the recidivism rate even more. However, Texas’ model for connecting faith-based programming with inmates is not the only option that has yielded results.

Florida

²²⁴ "Timeline: History of Prison Fellowship," DeMoss, (accessed August 16, 2014). <http://demoss.com/newsrooms/pf/background/timeline-history-of-prison-fellowship>

²²⁵ "What is this Initiative?" OneStar Foundation. (accessed August 16, 2014). <http://onestarfoundation.org/texas-faith-based-community-initiative/what-is-the-texas-faith-based-community-initiative/>

²²⁶ Ibid.

²²⁷ “State of Recidivism...,” 15.

Establishing one of the largest faith-based programs in the United States, Florida has expanded their evidence-based program from eleven facilities to sixteen in 2013. Unlike Texas' model that focuses greatly on one facility with strict eligibility, Florida has broadened their requirements to assist as many inmates as possible. The Faith and Character Based Residential Program (FCB) provides a number of assets to inmates from mentoring to faith-based, while additionally teaching life skills. The bonus of FCB for the state is that it does not need any extra funds to run.²²⁸ The program expansion in April 2013 from eleven facilities to sixteen allowed the program to expand to 6,500 bed spaces, consisting of 553 female beds and 5,947 male beds.

The design of FCB combines faith-based programming with courses that teach inmates about healthy choices and how to build relationships with their families and society, along with skills that will help them gain employment such as computer literacy, small business concepts, and good interviewing techniques. While the program is diverse in providing inmates with a number of opportunities, a primary focus is for inmates to explore and gain a solid foundation in terms of "Living in Faith."²²⁹ The Faith and Character Based Residential Program, unlike Texas', does not emphasize any one particular faith as it has a wide range of religious and secular services available.

The programs are split into two types, prison-wide and self-improvement dorms. The prison-wide programs are open to any and all inmates to join in without meeting any eligibility requirements. These programs offer the widest range of services that are based on that inmate's preferences and personal interests. From yoga and Bible study to Native American prayer and skills classes, inmates are encouraged to try out different classes to

²²⁸ "Faith- and Character-Based Residential Programs," Florida Department of Corrections. (accessed August 16, 2014). <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/oth/faith/>

²²⁹ "Faith- and Character-Based Residential Programs."

find what suits them.²³⁰ As for the self-improvement dorms, inmates must be within thirty-six months of their release, must attend at least six hours of programming a week, and have a low number of disciplinary reports.²³¹ This program is committed more to combining faith with life skills that will prepare an individual even more for life upon their release and is similar to Texas' Vance Unit.

In order to run the program, the state of Florida committed to providing inmates the ability to grow spiritually which led the Faith and Character Based Residential Program to employ seventy-one chaplain positions throughout their facilities.²³² Currently, the Florida Department of Corrections reports that there is a ratio of 1 chaplain for every 1,422 inmates, but this strain does not restrict their outreach.²³³ In 2013, Florida's Department of Corrections reported that "each week, the department averages more than 2,100 religious services or activities for inmates," and that attendance totals more than 31,000 each week.²³⁴ The attendance of the free services is a cost effective measure that the state reports has lowered disciplinary infractions.²³⁵ Despite the chaplains' ability to reach a large portion of inmates each week, the small ratio of chaplains to inmates quickly led FCB to explore other methods to expand their ability to provide a stronger program to inmates.

Similar to Texas' InnerChange Freedom Initiative, FCB thrives off of community volunteers to mentor and teach inmates. The use of volunteers allows for the community to build trust back in the inmates while also shifting the stigma against ex-offenders. The

²³⁰ "Faith- and Character-Based Prison Initiative Yields Institutional Benefits; Effect on Recidivism Modest," Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA), 2. (accessed August 16, 2014). <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/reports/pdf/0938rpt.pdf>

²³¹ "Faith- and Character-Based Prison Initiative..."

²³² "Faith- and Character-Based Residential Programs," Quick Facts.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ Ibid.

²³⁵ Ibid.

major focus is placed upon the communities near the facilities as their willingness to donate their time is vital to not only the ability for the program to run, but is also necessary to give inmates a connection to a positive role model outside of prison staff. In June of 2013, the Faith and Character Based Program released that they had 17,000 active volunteers within the past twelve months.²³⁶ The support allowed for volunteers to donate 332,005 hours of service to the facilities that saved taxpayers' money while providing a priceless amount of help to the inmates and facilities.²³⁷

Despite the fact that Florida did not participate in Pew's study, the state has completed their own study on the impact of the Faith and Character Based Program. The outcomes measured in 2009 were quite strong as they led the state to expand the program in 2013. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) found that the prison-wide program improved the overall safety of the facilities due to the inmates having a more positive outlook while "helping them overcome destructive habits."²³⁸ The ability for inmates to act better within the facilities then allows for volunteer numbers to increase as the community members feel that they are truly making a difference within an inmate's life. The joint relation between inmates' attitudes with the increased number of volunteers helped to lower disciplinary reports by nineteen percent at one facility.²³⁹

The decrease in inmate disciplinary reports while incarcerated have also paralleled the inmates' behaviors upon release. The OPPAGA report concluded that inmates were on average fifteen percent less likely to recidivate than inmates who had not

²³⁶ "Faith- and Character-Based Residential Programs," Quick Facts.

²³⁷ Ibid.

²³⁸ "Faith- and Character-Based Prison Initiative Yields Institutional Benefits...", 3.

²³⁹ Ibid, 4.

participated in any of Florida's Faith and Character Based Program.²⁴⁰ Reducing the recidivism rate by fifteen percent by using a cost-free method to the state shows how vital faith-based programming can be to facilities who are tight on money, but who still want to improve the overall relations between inmates and the communities they will be returning to. While it is unclear from OPPAGA's results what factors of FCB works best, it is clear that is important to take faith-based programming seriously to help better lives while improving behavior on both sides of the barbwire fences.

Ohio

Initiated by Governor Ted Strickland in 2005, the state of Ohio began a large one year study on faith-based prison programming. Spending \$24,586 per inmate a year in 2005, the state knew they needed to find a cost effective solution.²⁴¹ Comprised of seventeen members, the Correctional Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force was delegated to study possible solutions with the use of community programs, look at existing programs in Ohio and other states that use faith-based programming. With their findings, the group was then to develop a model plan that would utilize faith-based programming to lower recidivism.²⁴² Co-Chair Representative, John White, noted, "there is a need that must be met among those released from Ohio's prisons to find alternatives to the lives they were living before incarceration and the actions that led to their imprisonment- and if we are going to take this on, we need to make sure we do it right."²⁴³ Mirroring White's views, the former Director of Rehabilitation and Corrections and Task Force Co-Chair, Reginald

²⁴⁰ "Faith- and Character-Based Prison Initiative Yields Institutional Benefits...", 5.

²⁴¹ "Faith-Based Initiatives: Task Force," Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. (accessed August 20, 2014). http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/fb_progress.htm

²⁴² "Report to the Ohio General Assembly from the Correctional Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force." Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 1. (accessed August 20, 2014). <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/FB.PDF>

²⁴³ Ibid.

Wilkinson stated, “the time is right...” as the state embarked on a journey to utilize a programming method that so many other states had been using for years with great success.

From the start of the study, the Task Force split into two groups, one looked at the needs of inmates while incarcerated while the other group focused on ex-offenders and what would help them succeed in society. The Task Force established their vision statement through a “strength, weaknesses, opportunity, threat analysis (S.W.O.T.)” approach.²⁴⁴ Simply, the two groups found that the main need for each division was that incarcerated individuals needed: “to mobilize faith and other community volunteers to engage with incarcerated youth and adults to transform the lives of Ohio offenders in institutions.”²⁴⁵ This vision also aligned from what other states, like Texas and Florida, had found also with their extensive use of volunteers within their program.

Additionally, the Task Force created a detailed list of what Ohio should include while implementing their custom faith-based program. One of the most unique factors of the study allowed the members to identify what community organizations would work best in collaboration with inmates prior to the creation of the final program. The ability to find partners before implementing their program meant that the state could pre-establish partnerships to guarantee a stronger foundation.

While the group identified strong possible partners, the Task Force also worked to find where gaps would exist in the program. In order for the program to truly prevail and create a change in offenders, the state knew they needed to iron out some smaller details. Each area involved needed help in some way to function better as a whole. Offenders

²⁴⁴ “Report to the Ohio General Assembly...,” 1.

²⁴⁵ Ibid, 2.

needed to have access to mental health treatment, basic skill courses, and have access to information on programs.²⁴⁶ Facilities, the community, and faith-based organizations needed to have extensive training and be aware of the benefits the programming offered. Furthermore, the awareness would enhance the number of volunteers and support from all of the groups involved to commit to seeing it flourish.

Upon completion of the study, the Task Force created sixteen recommendations for the state. The Task Force's number one recommendation was that the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should "encourage, wherever practical" for facilities "to utilize faith-based and community programs" since they have been statistically proven by other studies to "reduce the likelihood an offender will commit crimes after completing a sentence."²⁴⁷ Through faith-based programs, the State of Ohio could lower recidivism rates and better thousands of inmates' lives. Furthermore, the Task Force recommended that the state implement a program similar to Texas and Florida that would combine and synthesize the focus of work and education programming with faith-based.²⁴⁸ This would establish a stronger foundation for inmates to have more skills that are necessary to succeed once released.

Once approved by the state, Ohio began implementing a faith-based program that mirrored the use of IFI's three phase program.²⁴⁹ Inmates would begin by focusing for twelve months on biblical teachings, earn a GED if they did not already possess one, and would start being mentored. Next, inmates would spend six to twelve months preparing for release through work outside the facility and reentry courses. After they were

²⁴⁶ Report to the Ohio General Assembly.,” 3.

²⁴⁷ Ibid, 16.

²⁴⁸ Ibid, 22.

²⁴⁹ Ibid, 3.

released, the state set up an aftercare program for six to twelve months that helped inmates find housing and stable employment.

Since its implementation, Ohio has released very few updates on the progress of their faith-based initiative. Additionally, the state opted to not participate in Pew's recidivism rate study that compared rates from 1999-2002 and 2004-2007. However, in 2007, the state did release a Progress Report that urged for the community, facilities, and inmates to provide input on how to improve the new program. The state was working to educate the community and facilities on the benefits of faith-based programming and had announced that they had begun planning a "Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Ceremony" for those involved.²⁵⁰ Since the progress reports release, the state has not publically published any additional information, but an organization involved with Ohio's program released an article in September 2014 that stated the state had reduced their recidivism rate to thirty-four percent.²⁵¹ The Justice Center: The Council of State Governments, 2012 owed part of the reduction in recidivism rates to their use of the faith-based initiative.²⁵² In just a few years, Ohio's well-designed and planned faith-based program had quickly impacted the state's high recidivism rate.

In addition, the article released by Horizon Prison Ministries, the leader of the faith-based program within three of Ohio's prisons, stated participants of their program have a twelve year recidivism rate of under twelve percent.²⁵³ This recidivism rate is fifty-six percent less than the national average of sixty-eight percent. With the reduction

²⁵⁰ "Faith-Based Initiatives: Task Force," Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. (accessed August 20, 2014). http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/fb_progress.htm

²⁵¹ "Call for Volunteers: Horizon Prison Ministry," IACO: Interfaith Association of Central Ohio. (accessed September 26, 2014). [http://iaco.org/2014/09/29/call-for-volunteers-horizon-prison-ministry-2/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+iaco+\(IACO\)](http://iaco.org/2014/09/29/call-for-volunteers-horizon-prison-ministry-2/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+iaco+(IACO))

²⁵² Ibid.

²⁵³ Ibid.

in recidivism rates, the state is able to save millions of dollars from inmates becoming repeat offenders on the already budget strained department. As the recently founded faith-based program in Ohio progresses, the results continue to follow trends similar to Texas and Florida as they too see positive results.

Suggestions for Faith-Based Programs

Results from Texas, Florida, and Ohio have all reached the same outcome through their own custom use of faith-based programming: it can lower recidivism rates. The low cost programs each have unique factors that parallel their respective states' needs or monetary restraints, but this has not hindered their potential for positive results. The evidence displays that other states that are searching for "evidence-based" programs that yield results should follow their lead. While the programs are not perfect and could be enhanced to strengthen their outcomes even more, Texas, Florida, Ohio, and states considering faith-based programming should continue working to make them even more effective.

Texas was the first state in recent years to utilize the faith-based community to address the need of bettering inmates' lives to lower recidivism rates. With the assistance of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI), the state was able to establish a small, but meaningful program. The lack of larger community support has restricted the potential of the program, but the results show that expansion could create an even larger effect on the recidivism rates. This should be taken seriously as Pew's study shows that Texas' recidivism rates have increased. Regardless, even with the strict restrictions, Texas does have an important evidence-based program to note as it has greatly influenced other state programs, such as Florida.

Mirroring Texas, Florida has created a program that has taken the results and foundation of Texas' program and applied it to a large number of their facilities. From the large number of facilities utilizing the same basic design, Florida has had the ability to reach a greater number of inmates. Furthermore, states looking for an evidence-based program should consider creating a program like Florida that is less restrictive and not focused on any particular faith. With the relaxed requirements, Florida has yielded stronger results at the same cost as Texas'. Any states that are tight on money should strongly consider Florida's model as it is free and has a reported recidivism rate fifteen percent less than the national average.

Very similar to Florida, Ohio has also implemented a strong faith-based program. From Ohio's extensive Task Force, the state saw the benefits from other states and was able to create a program that has reportedly reduced recidivism rates of participants down to as little as twelve percent in a twelve year span. Costing the state very little to run, Ohio is able to gain results at a small cost to taxpayers. Ohio's yearlong study can be utilized by other states to display the possible results their state can easily obtain. Only a few years old, Ohio provides an example to others how quickly results can be achieved through cost-effective faith-based programming.

Additionally, faith-based programming should be considered more due to funding. The major difference between education, work, and faith-based programming does involve the major issue of costs. Education and work programs can be costly as a state has to fund the employees to teach inmates, but the use of volunteers is the largest factor of faith-based programming that allows a state to cost-effectively reduce recidivism. As budgets become tighter for both federal and state governments, it is vital

to find practical and worthwhile programs that can help to provide long-term results on the correctional system. One solution is the use of faith-based programming to proactively create a positive long-term impact. Through expansion to include all faith-bases, a larger population of inmates may participate. Like other programs, faith-based programming will not “save” or change every inmate, but by only spending a small amount of funds on trying, the state will not be out a large amount of money for trying. Furthermore, any reduction in the sixty-eight percent recidivism rate currently will greatly assist the burdened system.

Conclusion

The combination of growing inmate populations across the United States, along with the growing reduction in states’ budgets have led to a major issue. States must seek solutions that are cost-effective and proven to yield results. Uniquely, faith-based programming provides both of these. Upon examining programs in Texas, Florida, and Ohio, results show that their custom, cost-effective programs have displayed positive results. Any reduction in recidivism is worthwhile, but as seen in Ohio, recidivism rates have been reduced down to as little as twelve percent in a twelve year span for participants.

As seen in the map from Pew, recidivism rate growth is a common trend across the United States and even though Florida and Ohio opted to not participate in the study, their self-reported data does show that there are states lowering their recidivism rates still. Facilities utilizing faith-based programming in Texas, Florida, and Ohio have seen a reduction in recidivism rates and have helped to impact their state. As policymakers continue to address budget constraints and prison populations, they must examine

program results in Texas, Florida, and Ohio that have maintained results in reducing recidivism. This data additionally shows that expansion in programming can provide an even larger impact on the respective states, particularly Texas.

Unlike educational and work programming, faith-based programming is not a huge cost burden on states. States have had to weigh whether they want enhanced security measures or pay for education or work programming, with faith-based programming states have not had to dwell on the funding end of things since they rely heavily on volunteers. With continued reductions in state budgets, states must work to find solutions to the growing number of issues within their facilities. Faith-based programming works to lower behavioral infractions, better the inmates' outlooks, and lower their likelihood to recommit crimes once they are released.

In addition, the large number of volunteers devoting thousands of hours to mentoring inmates would be lost if states dropped this form of programming. Furthermore, without faith-based programming, inmates would lack the huge connection that is built between volunteers and inmates that continues once they are released. This would create a large hole in the inmates' ability to find employment and housing as Texas, Florida, and Ohio's programs have each helped to achieve. Faith-based programming has for years worked to connect the community with inmates to provide sustainable long-term results. Faith-based programming is about more than pushing religion, it is about helping to transform an inmate and providing them skills necessary to succeed upon their release and lower criminal activity.

Chapter V: Conclusion

America's sixty-eight percent recidivism rate has forced policymakers and state government leaders to realize immediate action is needed to combat this outrageous recidivism rate. One in thirty-one US citizens are under some sort of correctional supervision, in addition to the millions who have been fully released of supervision, America's correctional system is touching almost every life in some way. The creative use of programming is not necessarily new, but it has been revamped to address the current needs of the system.

Educational, work, and faith-based programming have provide positive results to their respective facilities. Recidivism rates have decreased throughout a number of states due to their proactive approach of pairing programs that help inmates with states' available resources. States have uniquely created programs to either assist a specific state need, such as California's wildfire program or Wisconsin's Wild Horse program, or mirrored already existing programs, like Ohio's faith-based program. The overall trend has been positive, but there are positive and negatives of every option that must be noted as states examine evidence-based results to implement their own custom programs.

Educational programming has been a common option for many prisons. Education is an essential skill for an individual to obtain employment, understand laws better, and survive in society. States who have established large, well-developed educational programs, such as California, North Carolina, and New York, have observed a reduction in recidivism rates for offenders who have participated in the respective states' programs. New York's partnership with a local college has allowed for the state to

provide basic and higher education to thousands of offenders. The results are strong with some participating facilities reporting a twenty-six percent recidivism rate. The results parallel those in California and North Carolina who have also experienced large reductions in program participants' recidivism rates -as low as ten percent.

The impact of educational programming in correctional facilities has proven to be an effective means of increasing an inmate's likelihood to stay clear of criminal action. Participating inmates have reported they have a better outlook on life, a more positive attitude, and believe that they are capable of succeeding in society. Educational programming allows an inmate to acquire the basic skills of earning a diploma or general educational development (GED) that are necessary for obtaining the vast majority of jobs. However, education extends further than just employment; it allows an individual to better understand and comprehend their rules of release while allowing them to function better in society. A number of inmates enter prison with little to no education and resort to crime due to their inability to function in society.²⁵⁴ Providing educational programming can put an inmate on a path to success upon their release. While educational programming has had a very positive impact in facilities that have adopted it, other facilities across the nation have experienced similar success while taking an alternative approach.

Work programming throughout America's prisons began over a century ago, but the recent focus on revamping states' programs has proven beneficial. Work programming can be easily tailored to fit the needs of a particular state. The customized programs can range from factories to horse farms, but all provide some sort of service to society at a lower cost than continuing the trend of mass incarcerations without any

²⁵⁴ Thomas, 2012.

activities. The lower burden on states' budgets are not the only benefits, though. Inmates are also exposed to firsthand knowledge that they can utilize in obtaining employment upon their release.

The unique issue of wildfires in California burdened the state financially, but with the help of inmate workers, the state has been able to lessen the strains. Training inmates to fight the wildfires allows inmates to give back to the state in a positive way, save land, and gives them valuable skills to enhance their résumés. While empirical research was not conducted on the impact of this specific program, the state strongly supports the program in its ability to improve an offender's success rate upon release.

Additionally, California, Louisiana, and Wyoming all developed their work programming further by creating factories within particular state facilities. The factories work to make state department goods for lower costs to the state and, by extension, taxpayers. Additionally, in Louisiana and Wyoming, the prisons also serve private businesses at lower costs than what to help establish smaller businesses. Unfortunately, Louisiana has experienced the consequences of budget reduction forcing the state to cut a number of the factory programs. Because the successfulness of the factory work programs is self-evident, the state is currently working to save as many work programs as possible to create long-term benefits through a reduction in recidivism rates.

Another unique approach to work programming and how it can be utilized to address states' specific needs while also benefiting inmates is demonstrated by Wyoming's Wild Horse Program. For decades the program has worked to better the lives of horses by taming them while also working to change inmates' sense of compassion toward others. Participating offenders report that they are more in tune with their

emotions and therefore upon their release can cope with hardships without resorting to crime. The use of work programming is a strong option as it frequently benefits both society and the inmate.

The benefits of programming through education and work are not the only options for a state though; states who are tight on funding have decided to try another, historically effective approach, faith-based programming. While faith-based programming is faced with the large issue of participants being entirely volunteer based, states should not fear its worth and ability to reduce recidivism rates. Texas, Florida, and Ohio have all experimented with the use of faith-based programming and each have found clear results that their programs are effective at reducing recidivism rates down to as little as twelve percent for participants.

As the first in the nation to implement the InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI), Texas took a leap of faith in devoting a couple hundred bed spaces to programming. While the participation requirements are quite selective, the program reports strong success with a sixty percent reduction in their recidivism rate over a two year rate. These strong results led Florida to design and implement an even more expansive program that was less exclusive of particular inmates. Florida's program has helped to lower participants' recidivism rate by fifteen percent over a three year span. The program thrives off of the use of volunteers throughout the state that provide the largest amount of support to inmates and donate thousands of hours to the cause. The faith-based program does not only address religion, but also works to enhance inmates' life skills, by working to establish strong worth ethics, better outlooks on life, and strengthen their educational backgrounds.

Curious over the results in Florida, Ohio leaders discovered through their year-long study in 2006 that faith-based programming could yield similar results within their facilities. Upon the implementation of their statewide program, Ohio discovered that recidivism rates had fallen to a twelve year recidivism rate of just twelve percent from the start of the program. Ohio continues to utilize the method as a cost-effective and meaningful program to better the lives of inmates both during incarceration and after inmates are released.

Results from each program display the same outcome - programming within prisons reduces the likelihood of recidivism. The level of impact depends greatly on the type of offenders involved, the resources devoted to the program, and whether or not the inmates can apply the skills gained from the programming upon their release. For states deciding which programming method to utilize or expand, the state must remember that each program has weaknesses that must be accounted for. Educational programming must have qualified staff to be accredited for inmates to receive diplomas. Furthermore, the program does require some funding to pay for teachers and necessary educational resources, such as books.

Similarly to educational programming, work programming must also have ample funding for inmates to benefit. States must decide if they want to hire professionals in the applicable trades to teach and supervisor inmate workers. Additionally, certain prison factories require complex machinery to do jobs that also have high initial costs for the state. There is also a major trade-off when utilizing inmate work forces; when inmates are performing a job, some argue that the state is then taking away possible job opportunities

for individuals in society. States need to have a balanced approach to employ both inmates and civilians in order to create the best impact on society and recidivism rates.

While faith-based programming is by far the least expensive approach with its use of community volunteers as leaders, the program must rely on inmates to volunteer to participate whereas some facilities can more easily strongly recommend education or work details. Facilities cannot force inmates to attend the faith-based programs, meetings, or events due to the Establishment Clause. States in a sense are taking a gamble without much knowledge of what the outcome of its implementation will be from week to week. However, previous results show that the use of faith-based programming has created a positive and lasting effect on those involved, so the initial uncertainty should not be dwelled on.

Recommendations

Awareness surrounding corrections continues to slowly build throughout the nation, but without evidence-based research on best practices, states may resort back to old trends that have proven to be harmful to the entire system. Some states, such as South Carolina, remain accustomed to old trends of increasing penalties without a large focus on programming within their facilities. The state relies on their use of a controversial “Two-Strike” law that sets a mandatory life sentence for individuals who commit two “serious felonies.”²⁵⁵ The state maintains a focus on punishment that directly correlates with what the Pew study found in a nineteen percent increase in recidivism rates for the state from 2002 to 2007. South Carolina’s resistance to increase programming, along with a shift in policies that mandate harsh punishments, may help to

²⁵⁵ David Dykes, “State’s Two-Strikes Law Draws Praise, Criticism,” *Greenville News*, October 27, 2014. <http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2014/10/26/states-two-strikes-law-draws-praise-criticism/17965513/>

alleviate some of the stress the system is having within the state. States who continue to focus on using sentences to fight crime versus building skills within individuals will have a larger likelihood of their recidivism rates *increasing*.

Another large issue that must be addressed in order for prison programming to better impact recidivism rates is with the creation of partnership with the community.²⁵⁶ If facilities fail to establish strong connections to keep released offenders on the right path in society, they often will lack the ability to stay away from crime and the fast money it offers to afford basic living costs. States who can partner with housing providers, work places, faith-based community centers, and colleges can offer the extended support that will bridge the gap in transitioning from imprisonment to freedom.

One state in particular is scrutinizing the gap between skills obtained while incarcerated and life after release. Alabama is beginning to study the lack of community support and supervision for released inmates and its relationship with the recidivism rate.²⁵⁷ Preliminary findings show that inmates who have spent decades incarcerated can benefit from support that allows them to apply their skills obtained while incarcerated to the outside world. The state has found that released offenders need mental health assistance the most as this allows them to receive help in readjusting to living with freedom. If other states follow suit, the impact of prison programming will become more sound and better assist ex-offenders from recommitting crimes.

Other states aside from Alabama are working on modernizing and expanding their existing programs due to the beneficial impact they are having on their recidivism rates

²⁵⁶ Kala Kachmar, "Lack of Community Supervision Leads to High Recidivism Rates," *Montgomery Advertiser*, October 25, 2014.

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/local/alabama/2014/10/26/lack-community-supervision-leads-high-recidivism/17949995/>

²⁵⁷ Ibid.

and inmate populations. Florida has worked to ensure that their educational programming is up to date with the use of computers within facilities, which has made it possible for inmates to attend online classes to earn a degree.²⁵⁸ The state hopes to have more inmates participate in the program in order for them to gain “employment upon their release and reduce the likelihood they return to prison.”²⁵⁹ The existing faith-based programs, along with the strong educational programming, will effectively work in reducing recidivism rates due to the inmates’ ability to obtain a number of skills necessary to succeed outside of the correctional system. States who are struggling to create an impact should mirror Florida in modernizing and expanding existing low-cost programs in order to gain the results that the state desires.

Additionally, California is utilizing grant and pilot funds to establish additional programs within facilities to continue addressing overcrowding and high recidivism rates within the state. Experimenting with new programming options, such as acting, along with the expansion of their existing evidence-based educational and work programs, the state devoted an additional \$2.5 million to programming options in 2014.²⁶⁰ The states’ devotion to lowering recidivism rates was at the forefront of the budget shifts and California legislators were aware of the importance of programming and its effects on inmates. California’s expansion on a range of programming should serve as a example for other states to follow for the greatest impact on reducing recidivism rates. However, as for what program is “best,” this is truly decided by the states’ resources and needs, but another expansive approach, multi-programming, should be strongly considered.

²⁵⁸ “Local program helps inmates earn diplomas online,” *PNJ*, October 22, 2014.
<http://www.pnj.com/story/news/education/2014/10/20/local-school-helps-inmates-earn-diplomas-online/17607813/>

²⁵⁹ Ibid.

²⁶⁰ Flaccus.

Utilizing a multi-programming approach would provide inmates with the opportunity to obtain a number of skills during their incarceration. States' best solution would be to create a strong focus on programming within each of their facilities. Inmates who are able to gain their GED or college degree would have one of the most basic, but necessary, requirements for employment. Additionally, if the inmate could then use their education while incarcerated to gain experience, they would then have an even greater chance of gaining employment. Furthermore, a program devoted to bettering the individual on a deeper level, as demonstrated in faith-based programming, inmates will then have the ability to become a better citizen who can cope with the stresses of life outside bars.

Optimal programming would not only utilize the multi-program approach, it would have the established support from the community and government. The current stigmas towards ex-offenders can hinder their ability to succeed if society only concentrates on their charges. Moreover, a system that created a positive cycle would be beneficial for the short and long-term. Meaning, inmates who were working would be paid fairly in order to pay a percentage towards their living costs while incarcerated. This system is often utilized for work release inmates within local jails. As for inmates in educational or faith-based programs, they could serve as mentors for other inmates and give back to the system that helped them. This could also be an agreement for eligible early release inmates.

Overall, more research must be conducted to provide additional proof for state and federal facilities that prison programming does work to reduce recidivism. While federal facilities do utilize programming, there is room for expansion and a larger focus

on them. Future studies that shed light on the federal approach would additionally assist in creating a larger picture to reinforce the importance of programming. However, other organizations are beginning to fill this gap.

From Pew's extensive study, along with the aforementioned cases in this paper, the research shows that "programming is key" to reducing recidivism.²⁶¹ Expanding programs to their full extent with as many resources as possible would allow for the more inmates to gain even stronger life skills. Recently, the American Correctional Association (ACA) has also begun supporting the idea of expanding programming into a collaborative effort to bring together a number of programs within facilities in addition to organizations and programs in the community.²⁶² Collaborative efforts would easily allow for the offenders to connect with outside efforts prior to their release and avoid the issues that are being experienced in Alabama. Support from the ACA, a well-respected and powerful association in the correctional community, shows how opinions toward programming are becoming increasingly positive. However, with limited research available, states and the federal facilities are not fully convinced to devote the funding necessary to revamp or establish programs within their facilities. The ACA reports that they are in support of conducting additional research, but tight budgets nationwide could slow the process greatly.²⁶³

Without additional research focusing on the positive impacts programming has on corrections, states, like South Carolina and Alabama, will fail to utilize or expand existing programs within their facilities. The failure to use programming does not only

²⁶¹ *State of Recidivism*, 30.

²⁶² Gary Mohr, "Working Collaboratively to Reduce Recidivism," *Corrections Today*, The American Correctional Association, September/October 2013, 28-31.

²⁶³ Mohr, 31.

hurt the budget with the increase in inmate populations, but also fails to serve the mission of many states who have named their corrections programs “The Department of *Rehabilitation* and Correctional Services.” Without programming, prisons are only providing correctional services rather than also rehabilitating inmates to become productive members of society upon their release. In the end, a balance must be struck to maintain both sides of “corrections” and “rehabilitation” in effort to create the best system possible.

Moreover, public polls show that ninety percent of voters want prisons to utilize programming.²⁶⁴ Public support, along with strong evidence-based studies, leaves no room for disputing the support and successfulness of programming. With the steady rise of recidivism rates and first time offenders, along with the steady decline of budgets, it is overdue that more states utilize programming, or multiple programs, to create the necessary change in America’s correctional approach. A focus on programming will establish a better future for all of those presently and hereafter incarcerated while keeping the streets of America safer for all future generations.

²⁶⁴ Public Opinion Strategies and the Mellman Group.

Bibliography

- Anders, Allison Daniel, and George W. Noblit. 2011. "Understanding Effective Higher Education Programs in Prisons: Considerations from the Incarcerated Individuals Program in North Carolina." *Journal Of Correctional Education* 62, no. 2: 77-93. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 26, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=72636574&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- "Attica Correctional Facility." The Correctional Association of New York. Report from Visit, April 2011. <http://www.correctionalassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Attica-2011-Report.pdf>
- Barron, Joan. "Wyoming Legislators Want to Learn Why Less Crime Produces More Prisoners." Casper Wyoming's Star-Tribune, February 3, 2014.
http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/wyoming-legislators-want-to-learn-why-less-crime-produces-more/article_2d477703-8206-5e6e-8b40-2247ae8e68c4.html
- "Best Practices Tool-Kit: Faith-Based Programming, Reentry and Recidivism." Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. (accessed August 20, 2014).
https://kb.osu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/1811/30146/Tool_Kit_Faith_Progra..?sequence=2
- Bidwell, Allie. 2013. "Report: Prison Education Programs Could Save Money." *US News*, (accessed November 11, 2013).
<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/08/22/report-prison-education-programs-could-save-money>
- Binger, Rebekah. 2011. "Prison Ain't Hell: An Interview with the Son of Sam--David Berkowitz, and Why State-Funded Faith-Based Prison Rehabilitation Programs Do Not Violate the Establishment Clause." *Pace Law Review* 31, no. 1: 488-530. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 10, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=60797306&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Boulard, Garry. 2005. "California Prison-Education Programs Report Success." *Community College Week* 17, no. 12: 11. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 1, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=15683214&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Brown, Richard. "Prison Reform 1880-1914." 2011. (accessed August 2014).
<http://richardjohnbr.blogspot.com/2011/04/prison-reform-1880-1914.html>

- Bureau of Justice Statistics. "Recidivism," Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)." (accessed November 1, 2013). <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=17>
- Burt, Victor. "An Education in Incarceration." *Huffington Post*, 2010. (accessed November 26, 2013). http://www.huffingtonpost.com/victor-burt/an-education-in-incarcera_b_3558222.html
- "California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA)." California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. <http://pia.ca.gov/>
- "Call for Volunteers: Horizon Prison Ministry." IACO: Interfaith Association of Central Ohio. (accessed September 26, 2014). [http://iaco.org/2014/09/29/call-for-volunteers-horizon-prison-ministry-2/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+iaco+\(IACO\)](http://iaco.org/2014/09/29/call-for-volunteers-horizon-prison-ministry-2/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+iaco+(IACO))
- Cei, Louis B. 2010. "Faith-Based Programs Are Low-Cost Ways to Reduce Recidivism." *Corrections Today* 72, no. 4: 48. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 11, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=53304656&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Chang, Cindy. "Prison Re-entry Programs Help Inmates Leave the Criminal Mindset Behind, but Few Have Access to the Classes." *The Times- Picayune*, May 19, 2012. http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2012/05/prison_re-entry_programs_help.html
- Chettiar, Inimai, and Gabriel Solis. "Education and Incarceration: Beyond 'Affirmative Action'." *The Huffington Post*, 2012. (accessed November 18, 2013). http://www.huffingtonpost.com/inimai-chettiar/fischer-v-ut_b_1959373.html
- "Conservation Fire Camps." California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Conservation_Camps/
- "Corrections Services." *Louisiana Department of Corrections*. <http://www.doc.la.gov/pages/reentry-initiatives/overview/>
- Cuomo, Governor Andrew M. "Governor Cuomo Launches Initiative to Provide College Classes in New York Prison." New York State. Press Release, February 16, 2014. <http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/02162014-college-ny-prisons>

- Derrick, Frederick W., Charles E. Scott, and Thomas Hutson. 2004. "Prison Labor Effects on the Unskilled Labor Market." *American Economist* 48, no. 2: 74-81. *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 6, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=15688734&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Duwe, Grant. "Minnesota's Affordable Homes Program." *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 23, no. 3 (2011): 327-351. (accessed November 11, 2013).
<http://cjp.sagepub.com/content/23/3/327.refs>
- Dykes, David. "State's Two-Strikes Law Draws Praise, Criticism." *Greenville News*, October 27, 2014.
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2014/10/26/states-two-strikes-law-draws-praise-criticism/17965513/>
- "Education From the Inside Out: The Multiple Benefits of College Programs in Prison." *Correctional Association of New York*, 2009. (accessed October 31, 2013).
http://www.correctionalassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Higher_Education_Full_Report_2009.pdf
- Fabelo, Tony. "Overview of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative: The Faith-Based Prison Program Within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice." Legislative Budget Board. (accessed August 16, 2014).
http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Public_Safety_Criminal_Justice/Reports/IFI.pdf
- "Faith- and Character-Based Prison Initiative Yields Institutional Benefits; Effect on Recidivism Modest." Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA). (accessed August 16, 2014).
<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/reports/pdf/0938rpt.pdf>
- "Faith- and Character-Based Residential Programs." Florida Department of Corrections. (accessed August 16, 2014).
<http://www.dc.state.fl.us/oth/faith/>
- "Faith- and Community-Based Initiatives." Texas Health and Human Services Commission. (accessed August 16, 2014).
http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc_projects/Faith-Based/
- "Faith-Based Initiatives: Task Force." Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. (accessed August 20, 2014).
http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/fb_progress.htm
- "Faith-Based Initiative to Reduce Crime is Evidence of Progressive Prison Reform: Editorial." *Cleveland.com*. (accessed August 20, 2014).
http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2013/12/faith-based_initiative_to_redu.html

- "Faith-Based Task Force: Suggestions." Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. (accessed August 20, 2014).
http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/fb_suggest.htm
- "Faith-Based Task Force: Overview." Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. (accessed August 20, 2014).
<http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/fb.htm>
- Fitch, Brian, ed., and Anthony Normore, ed. *Education-Based Incarceration and Recidivism*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing, 2011.
- Flaccus, Gillian. "Pilot Funding Returns Arts to California Prisons." *The Associated Press*, 2014. (accessed October 2014).
<http://www.whio.com/ap/entertainment/pilot-funding-returns-arts-to-california-prisons/nhkJH/>
- Goodman, Philip. "A Brief History of California's Prison Camps." University of California, Irvine, June 2010.
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Conservation_Camps/docs/History_of_firecamps.pdf
- Goodman, Philip. 2012. "Hero and Inmate: Work, Prisons, and Punishment in California's Fire Camps." *Workingusa* 15, no. 3: 353-376. *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 12, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=79779093&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- "Goucher Prison Education Partnership." Goucher College. (accessed November 11, 2013). <http://www.goucher.edu/academics/other-academic-offerings/goucher-prison-education-partnership>
- "Grants to States for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Youth Offenders." North Carolina Department of Corrections. Presentation, 2007.
www.doc.state.nc.us/RAP/OTS.../YOP-PRESENTATION-2-07.ppt
- Greenhouse, Steven. "States Help Ex-Inmates Find Jobs." *The New York Times*, January 24, 2011,
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/25/business/25offender.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>
- Groh, Michael C. 2013. "Far (8.602) Gone: A Proposal to Maintain the Benefits of Prison Work Despite the Restructuring of Federal Prison Industries' Mandatory Source Status." *Public Contract Law Journal* 42, no. 2: 391-410. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 1, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=86828593&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

- Hawkins, Steven. 2010. "Education vs. Incarceration." *The American Prospect*, (accessed November 15, 2013). <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/08/22/report-prison-education-programs-could-save-money>
- Henrichson, Christian, and Ruth Delaney. 2012. "The Price of Prisons: What Incarceration Costs Taxpayers." *Vera Institute of Justice*, (accessed August 2014). <http://www.vera.org/pubs/special/price-prisons-what-incarceration-costs-taxpayers>
- History and Development*. Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, 85-90.
- "History of the Prison System." *The Howard League of Penal Reform*. (accessed August 2014). <http://www.howardleague.org/history-of-prison-system/>
- Hopper, Jeffrey D. 2013. "Benefits of Inmate Employment Programs: Evidence From The Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program." *Journal of Business & Economics Research* 11, no. 5: 213-222. *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=87494084&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Hwang, Lucia. "Working for Nothing: The Failure of Prison Industry Programs." Proposition One. <http://prop1.org/legal/prisons/working.htm>
- "InnerChange Freedom Initiative." Prison Fellowship. (accessed August 15, 2014). <http://www.prisonfellowship.org/programs/reentry/ifi/>
- "InnerChange Freedom Initiative (Minnesota)." National Institute of Justice. (accessed August 16, 2014). <https://www.crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?ID=353>
- "Inside the Box: A Prisoner Tells His Tale- Education vs Incarceration." *Shawangunk Journal* 6, no. 47, 2013. (accessed December 6, 2013). <http://www.shawangunkjournal.com/2013/12/05/news/1312055.html>
- "Ironwood State Prison (ISP)," California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Facilities_Locator/ISP.html
- Kachmar, Kala. "Lack of Community Supervision Leads to High Recidivism Rates." *Montgomery Advertiser*. October 25, 2014. <http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/local/alabama/2014/10/26/lack-community-supervision-leads-high-recidivism/17949995/>

- Kilgore, James. 2012. "Mass Incarceration and Working Class Interests: Which Side Are the Unions On?." *Labor Studies Journal* 37, no. 4: 356-372. *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 1, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=87011073&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Krell, Eric. 2012. "The Work-Release Picture: Confusing, Expanding." *HR Magazine* 57, no. 3: 41. *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 1, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=75367659&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Lahm, Karen F. 2009. "Educational Participation and Inmate Misconduct." *Journal Of Offender Rehabilitation* 48, no. 1: 37-52. *Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 26, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=i3h&AN=36438258&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Laughlin, Mike. "Wyoming Honor Farm Inmate/Wild-Horse Program." Cowboy Showcase. http://www.cowboyshowcase.com/wyoming-honor-farm-inmatewild-horse-program.html#.U2f_oMeaSi8
- "Local program helps inmates earn diplomas online." *PNJ*. October 22, 2014.
<http://www.pnj.com/story/news/education/2014/10/20/local-school-helps-inmates-earn-diplomas-online/17607813/>
- "Mass Incarceration Problems." *American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)*. March 2014, (accessed August 2014).
https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/massincarceration_problems.pdf
- Mears, Daniel P., Sarah Lawrence, and Amy L. Solomon. 2002. "Prison-Based Programming: What It Can Do and Why It Is Needed." *Corrections Today* 64, no. 2: 66-83. *OmniFile Full Text Mega (H.W. Wilson)*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ofm&AN=510207906&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Meyer, Stephen J., and Bruce Randel. 2013. "The Impact of an Associate's Degree Program for Incarcerated Students: A Randomized Trial of the Correctional Education Association College of the Air Program." *Community College Review* 41, no. 3: 223-248. *OmniFile Full Text Mega (H.W. Wilson)*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 11, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ofm&AN=89735166&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

- Meyer, Stephen J., Linda Fredericks, Cindy M. Borden, and Penny L. Richardson. 2010. "Implementing Postsecondary Academic Programs in State Prisons: Challenges and Opportunities." *Journal Of Correctional Education* 61, no. 2: 148-184. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 26, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=53550697&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Millhollon, Michelle. "State's Budget Shortfall May Affect Efforts to Reduce Recidivism." *The Advocate*, 2011.
<http://theadvocate.com/csp/mediapool/sites/Advocate/assets/templates/FullStoryPrint.csp?cid=872921&preview=y>
- Misis, Marcos L. "History of Corrections in America." *Illinois State University*. 2011. (accessed August 2014).
http://www.castonline.ilstu.edu/gizzi/cjs200/first-week---may-20/cj-352_history-of-correctio.pdf
- Mohr, Gary. "Working Collaboratively to Reduce Recidivism." *Corrections Today*. The American Correctional Association. September/October 2013, 28-31.
- "More Than 100 Inmate Students Graduate from Palo Verde College." California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Press Release, June 5, 2007.
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/news/Press_Release_Archive/2007_Press_Releases/Press_20070605.html
- "Myths about Collaboration between Corrections and Faith-Based Groups." The United States Department of Justice. (accessed August 15, 2014).
<http://www.justice.gov/archive/fbci/docs/myths-re-entry081207.pdf>
- Nash, James. "California's Prison Factories Falter as Inmate Population Falls." *Bloomberg Businessweek*, May 16, 2013,
<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-05-16/californias-prison-factories-falter-as-inmate-population-falls>
- Nally, John, Susan Lockwood, Katie Knutson, and Ho Taiping. 2012. "An Evaluation of the Effect of Correctional Education Programs on Post-Release Recidivism and Employment: An Empirical Study in Indiana." *Journal Of Correctional Education* 63, no. 1: 69-89. *OmniFile Full Text Mega (H.W. Wilson)*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 15, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ofm&AN=87042257&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

- North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. "Correctional Program Evaluation: Offenders Placed on Probation or Released from Prison in Fiscal Year 2008/09." North Carolina Department of Public Safety. April 15, 2012.
http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Documents/recidivism_2012.pdf
- "Offender Programs." *Corrections Today*, September/October 2013.
- Office of Research. "2011 Adult Institutions Outcome Evaluation Report." California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, November 23, 2011.
[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/adult_research_branch/Research_Documents/ARB_FY_0607_Recidivism_Report_\(11-23-11\).pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/adult_research_branch/Research_Documents/ARB_FY_0607_Recidivism_Report_(11-23-11).pdf)
- "Our Work." Post-Prison Education Program. (accessed October 30, 2013).
<http://postprisonedu.org/pages/123/our-work/>
- Piotrowski, Chris and Peter J. Lathrop. 2012. "Prison-Based Educational Programs: A Content Analysis of Government Documents." *Education* 132, no. 3: 683. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 26, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=73342115&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Pitock, Todd. 2013. "Jailhouse Blues." *Saturday Evening Post* 285, no. 1: 44. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=84628930&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Price, Keith. 2013. "Corrections and Academia: A Partnership." *American Jails* 27, no. 3: 39. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=89691394&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- "Prisoner Reentry, Religion and Research." Department of Health and Human Services USA. (accessed August 15, 2014).
https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/pdf/prisoner_reentry.pdf
- "Prisoner Reform Movement, 1870-1930." *Women's Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Helen Tierney. 2002. (accessed August 2014).
<http://gem.greenwood.com/wse/wsePrint.jsp?id=id536>
- Public Opinion Strategies and the Mellman Group. "Public Opinion on Sentencing and Corrections Policy in America." *The Pew Charitable Trusts*. March 2012, 5.
http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS_Assets

- Rampell, Catherine. "Jail and Jobs." *Economix*, 2010. (accessed September 2014).
http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/29/jail-and-jobs/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0
- Rawling, Nate. "California's Prison Problems Won't Extinguish Inmate Firefighters." *Time Magazine*, August 31, 2013. <http://nation.time.com/2013/08/31/californias-prison-problems-wont-extinguish-inmate-firefighters/>
- "Recidivism- What the Public Thinks." *The Pew Center on the States*, April 2011. (accessed on November 11, 2013).
http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS_Assets/2011/recidivism_public_opinion%281%29.pdf
- "Redirection in the Life of Horses and Men." Wyoming Department of Corrections.
<http://corrections.wy.gov/wildhorse/index.html>
- "Report to the Ohio General Assembly from the Correctional Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force." Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. (accessed August 20, 2014). <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/FB.PDF>
- Roerink, Kyle. "Wyoming Prison Recidivism Rate Second-Best in Nation." *Wyoming's Star-Tribune*, October 14, 2012. http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming-prison-recidivism-rate-second-best-in-nation/article_2a78dded-9716-5e4a-a4ed-517ed470f189.html
- Sanusi, Daa'iya L. 2009. "Correctional education reduces recidivism." *New York Amsterdam News*, February 19. 3. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 11, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=37331786&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Scott, Charles E., and Frederick W. Derrick. 2006. "Prison Labor: The Local Effects of Ohio Prison Industries." *International Advances In Economic Research* 12, no. 4: 540-550. *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 16, 2013).
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=22930477&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- "State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons." *The Pew Center on the States*, April 2011. (accessed on November 11, 2013).
http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/State_Recidivism_Revolving_Door_America_Prisons%20.pdf
- "States Ranked by Size and Population." IPL2.
<http://www.ipl.org/div/stateknow/popchart.html>

- "The Cost of a Nation of Incarceration." *CBS News: Sunday Morning*. 2012. (accessed August, 2014). <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-cost-of-a-nation-of-incarceration/>
- Thomas, Robert G. 2012. "Expanding the Purpose of a Prison Education Classroom." *Journal Of Research & Practice For Adult Literacy, Secondary & Basic Education* 1, no. 3: 173-178. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=86672460&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Thompson, Heather Ann. 2012. "The Prison Industrial Complex." *New Labor Forum (Murphy Institute)* 21, no. 3: 38-47. *Business Source Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 16, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=82351793&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- "Timeline: History of Prison Fellowship." DeMoss. (accessed August 16, 2014). <http://demoss.com/newsrooms/pf/background/timeline-history-of-prison-fellowship>
- Tonry, Michael. 2013. "'Nothing' Works: Sentencing 'Reform' in Canada and the United States." *Canadian Journal Of Criminology & Criminal Justice* 55, no. 4: 465-480. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 1, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=90640710&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Vernarelli, MarkJulius, Erin. 2012. "Making Reentry Work in Maryland." *Corrections Today* 74, no. 2: 24. *MasterFILE Premier*, EBSCOhost (accessed November 2, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=80131986&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Volokh, Sasha . "Do Faith-Based Prisons Work?." The Washington Post. (accessed August 16, 2014). <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2014/02/10/do-faith-based-prisons-work/>
- Volokh, Sasha . "Faith-Based Prisons: The Valid Studies." The Washington Post. (accessed August 16, 2014). <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2014/02/13/faith-based-prisons-the-valid-studies/>
- "Walnut Street Prison." Law Library- American Law and Legal Information. (accessed September 12, 2014). <http://law.jrank.org/pages/11192/Walnut-Street-Prison.html>

- "What is this Initiative?" OneStar Foundation. (accessed August 16, 2014).
<http://onestarfoundation.org/texas-faith-based-community-initiative/what-is-the-texas-faith-based-community-initiative/>
- Williams, Diane. "Leading Best Practices in US Prisoner Re-entry Employment Programs." Safer Foundation. PowerPoint Presentation.
<http://www.saferfoundation.org/files/documents/US-EU%20Delegation%20Extended%20Website%20Presentation.pdf>
- "WY Brand Industries." WY Brand Industries. <http://www.wybrandindustries.com/>
- "Wyoming Department of Corrections: Policy and Procedures #5.001 Prison Industries Enhancement Program Work Projects- Inmate Selection and Compensation." Wyoming Department of Corrections. Policy and Procedures, December 1, 2005.
www.corrections.wy.gov/Media.aspx?mediaId=44
- Woodham, Chai. "Eastern State Penitentiary: A Prison with a Past." Smithsonian. (accessed September 12, 2014).
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/eastern-state-penitentiary-a-prison-with-a-past-14274660/?all&no-ist>
- Yoon, Jamie and Jessica Nickel. "Reentry Partnerships: A Guide for States Faith-Based and Community Organizations." United States Department of Justice. (accessed on August 1, 2014).
<http://www.justice.gov/archive/fbci/docs/reentry-partnership.pdf>

Curriculum Vita

HULL, BETH

Greenbelt, MD 20770 | bethhull42@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC

Master of Arts in Government

2013- Current

Concentration: Security Studies

Thesis: Behind the Barbwire: The Impact of Prison Programming on Recidivism Rates

Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY

Bachelors in History and Political Science cum laude

Aug. 2010- Dec. 2012

Paper: The Days of Palace Hotels: A History of the Brown and Seelbach Hotel

The Community College of Baltimore County

Certificate: Corrections Professional

2014

AWARDS

Certified Corrections Professional, Maryland Department of Correctional Services **Sep. 2014**

Bellarmino Leadership Institute, *Bellarmino University*

2011 – 2012

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Howard County Department of Corrections, Jessup, MD

Corrections Specialist: Audit Department

Nov. 2014 – Current

Manage facilities operational standards reports, conduct research on PREA, and assist with all required audits.

Howard County Department of Corrections, Jessup, MD

Assistant PREA Coordinator

Sep. 2013 – Oct. 2014

Conduct research on the Prison Rape Elimination Act, create and implement policies for future PREA audits, review incidents that involve PREA.

YWCA USA, Washington, DC

Intern: Advocacy and Policy Department

Jan. 2013- Jun. 2013

Created bi-weekly Legislative notes, Updated website with current Congressional records, monitored and attended Congressional hearings.

LANGUAGES

English- Native Language

Spanish- speak, read and write with basic competence

French- speak, read and write with basic competence

MEMBERSHIPS

Phi Alpha Theta