



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Beyond Recidivism

A New Era of Measuring Reentry Success

September 4, 2025

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.

How We Work

- We bring people together
- We drive the criminal justice field forward with original research
- We build momentum for policy change
- We provide expert assistance

Agenda

- I. States Defining Reentry Success
- II. Critical Elements to Measure Beyond Recidivism
- III. Understanding Recidivism
- IV. Redefining Success for Correctional Agencies
- V. Nontraditional Metrics to Address Recidivism

Speakers



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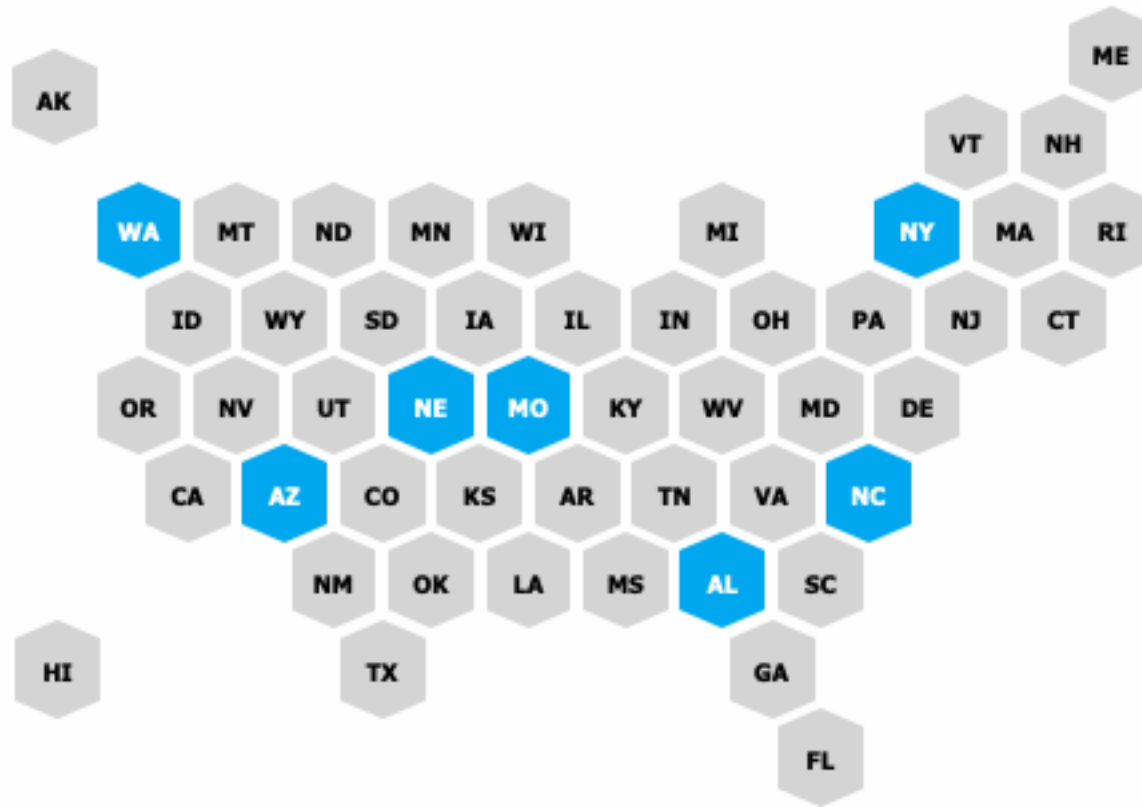
Chief of Strategy and Policy
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation
and Correction



Dr. Lucas Malishchak

Deputy Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Reentry 2030 states are defining reentry success.



REENTRY 2030

Reentry 2030 is a **national initiative** to dramatically improve reentry success for people exiting prison and those under supervision.

Missouri

- **100%** of incarcerated Missourians who need career services receive them.
- **85%** of formerly incarcerated individuals will be employed within 30 days of release.
- **80%** of formerly incarcerated individuals will maintain employment for at least 9 months after release.



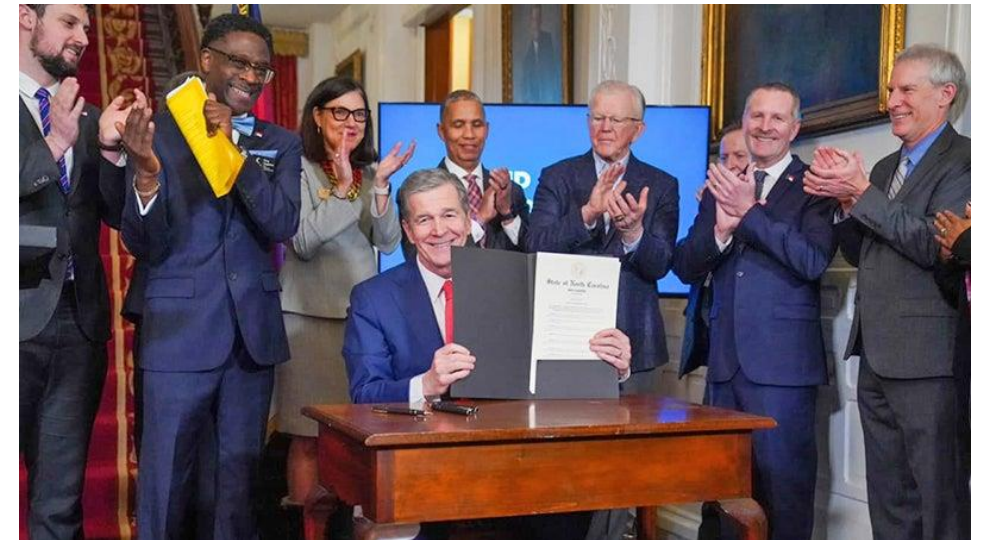
Nebraska

- Increase reentry success rate by **15%**.
- Promote education, including a **30%** increase in GED completion during incarceration.
- Ensure **100%** of eligible individuals who are incarcerated are enrolled in Medicaid.
- Assist **100%** of individuals who are incarcerated with obtaining state IDs and birth certificates prior to release.
- Provide support so that at least **90%** of individuals who are released will be gainfully employed within 30 days of parole placement.



North Carolina

- Improve economic mobility.
- Improve mental and physical health.
- Expand housing opportunities.
- Remove barriers to successful community reintegration.

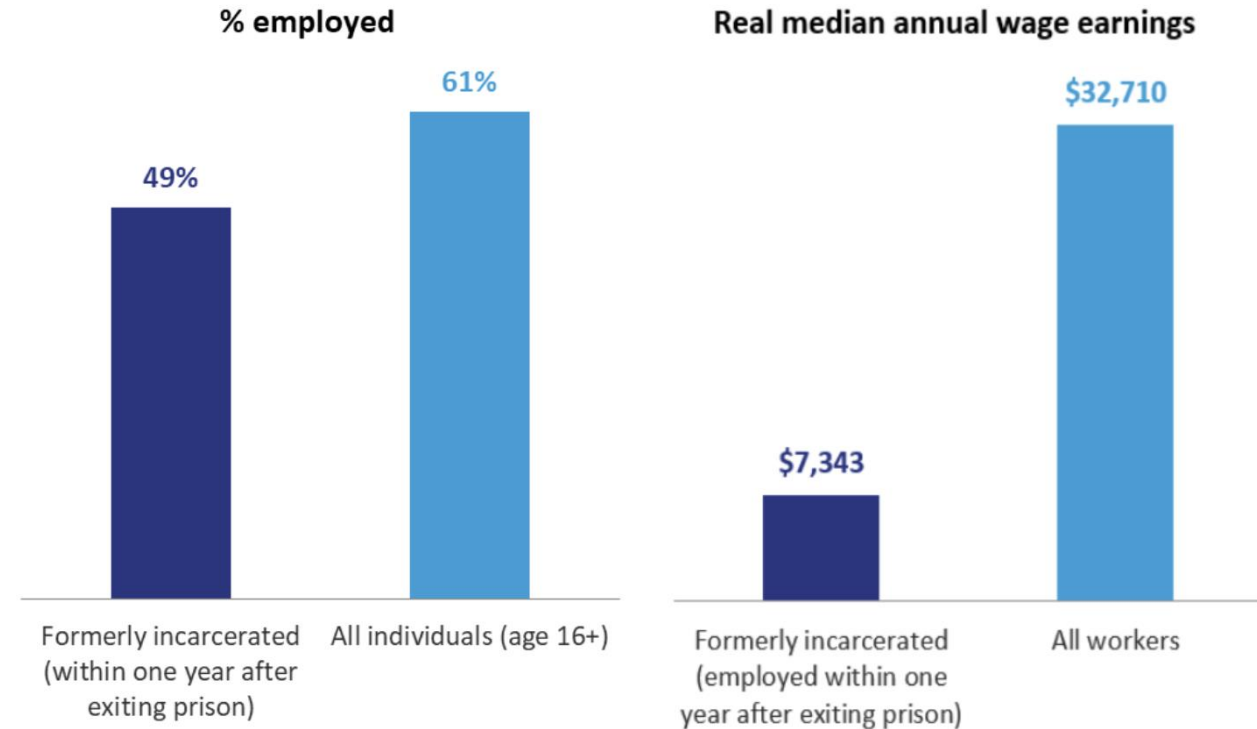


Multiple agencies hold valuable outcomes data.

The North Carolina Reentry Outcome Reporting System (NC-RORS) tracks post-release employment data to help improve reentry efforts.

Low Employment Rates and Low Wage Earnings After Exiting Prison

Employment and wage outcomes in North Carolina (2021)



NC Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division (LEAD)

Source: analysis of data from North Carolina Common Follow-up System and US Census Bureau



NORTH CAROLINA
**DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE**

Measuring Reentry Success

Recidivism Progression

Employment and Financial Stability

Housing Security

Health and Wellbeing

Social Reintegration



June 2025

Beyond Recidivism: Redefining Measures to Understand Reentry Success

To measure reentry success, states must look beyond recidivism, the traditional metric of re-arrest, conviction, or incarceration within a defined time period following justice system involvement.¹ Measuring recidivism is valuable, but it offers a limited view of the complex challenges faced by people reentering communities from incarceration.

Measuring recidivism alone overlooks critical aspects of reintegration that directly impact public safety and individual well-being. Recidivism rates don't capture whether people are stably housed, employed, or participating in substance use treatment—all factors that are essential indicators of successful reintegration.

Collaboration Across State Agencies

Tracking and reporting on a broader set of measures allows states, particularly corrections systems and community-based organizations, to assess the effectiveness of reentry services and initiatives holistically, make more informed decisions, improve individual outcomes, and optimize resource allocation.² To see examples of how some states are applying these measures beyond recidivism, explore the goals that **Reentry 2030** states are setting to redefine successful reentry.

Tracking meaningful reentry outcome categories requires a coordinated, multi-agency approach. Collaboration among corrections, education, health care, housing, social services, and workforce development systems and agencies ensures access to integrated resources. It also reduces service silos and provides a more comprehensive understanding of the reentry process. In addition, leveraging shared data systems or establishing data-sharing agreements enhances accountability, streamlines referrals, and supports informed decision-making.

Critical Elements to Measure



Recidivism
progression



Employment and
financial stability



Housing
security



Health and
wellbeing



Social
reintegration

Understanding Recidivism

Dr. Ronald Day, The Fortune Society

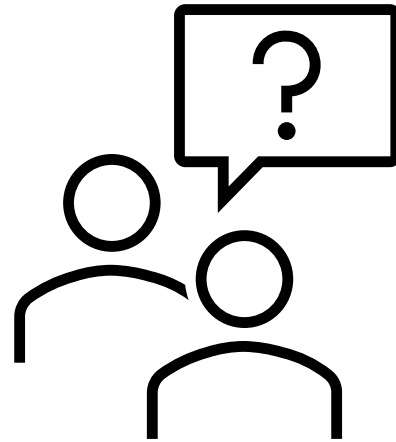
Redefining Success for Correctional Agencies

Brian Wittrup, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Nontraditional Metrics to Address Recidivism

Dr. Lucas Malishchak, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Questions & Answers



Thank You!

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For more information, please contact Nicole Jarrett at njarrett@csg.org

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