

Accelerating Reentry: Recidivism Data & A New Roadmap for Success

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Justice
Center





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Solutions for complex justice challenges

We help leaders in every state make communities safer and healthier.

- Trusted Data
- Practical Solutions
- Cross-systems collaboration

Progress & Promise

Recidivism Trends & the Path to 2030

- This Second Chance Month, we are 17 years out from the passage of the SCA.
- 23% fewer people return to prison nationally now compared to 2008.
- How do we maintain and accelerate reentry success?

Agenda

- **Review 4 CSG Justice Center Publications for Practitioners & Policymakers**
 1. 50 States, 1 Goal: Recidivism Trends Over the Past Decade (April 2026)
 2. Supervision Violations and Their Impact on Incarceration (Feb. 2026)
 3. Reentry 2030 Cost Savings & Recidivism Impact (March 2026)
 4. Policy and Practice Guidance for the Future of Reentry (April 2026)
- **Panel Discussion: Maintaining and Accelerating Reentry Progress**
- **Q & A**

Panelists



Colby Braun
Director

North Dakota Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation



Joshua Hatch
Chair

Maryland Task Force on the Creation
of a Division of Returning Citizens &
Expanded Reentry Services



Cam Ward
Director

Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Parole

CSG Justice Center Presenters



Susan Gottesfeld
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Corrections and Reentry



Dr. Jessica Saunders
Director
Research



Jesse Kelley
Program Director
Reentry 2030

Publication 1: 50 States, 1 Goal

State Recidivism Rates, 2006–2022

~75%

of people released from prison do NOT return within 3 years

23%

reduction in the national 3-year reincarceration rate since the Second Chance Act (2008)

3-Year Reincarceration Rate by Release Year



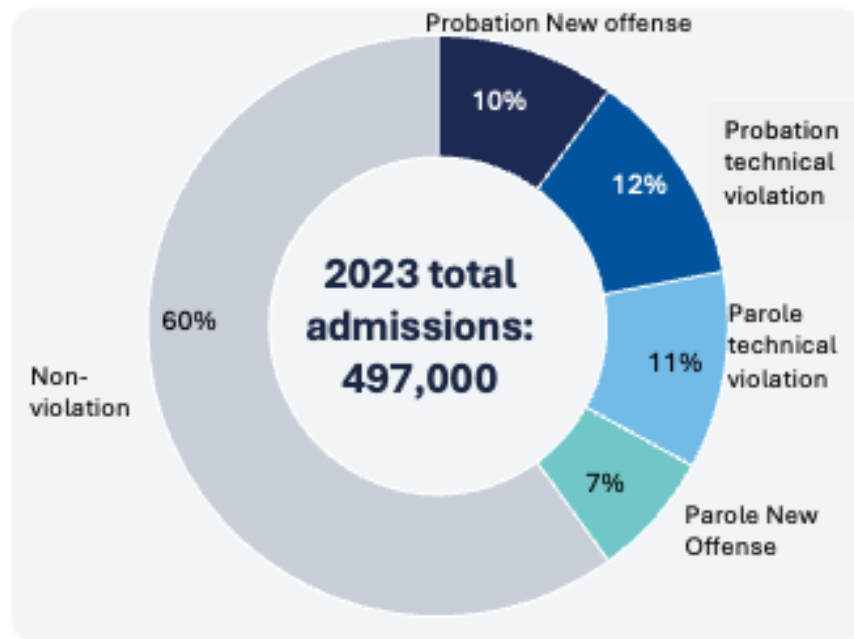
State-by-State Variation



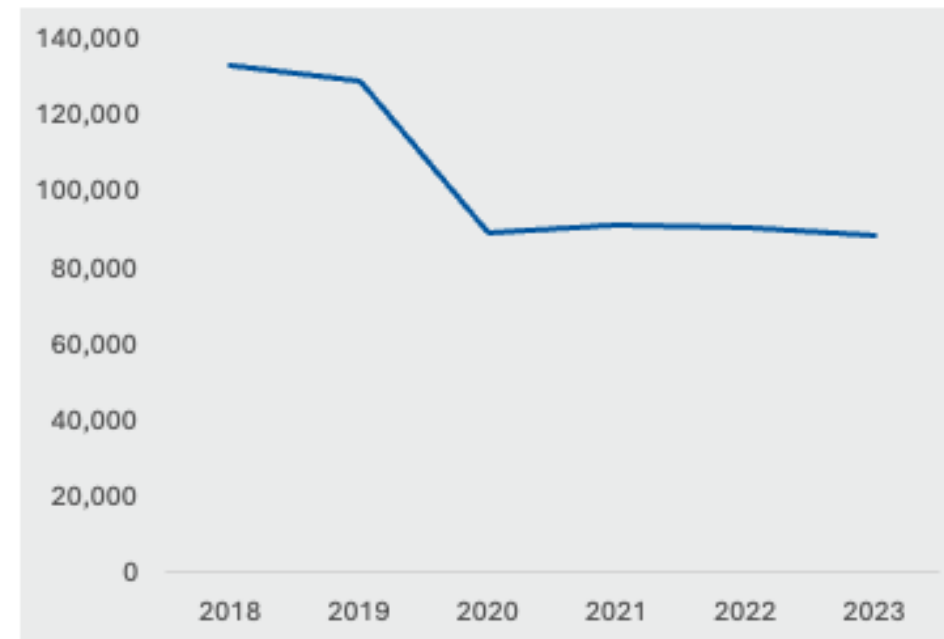
- **Why does it vary?**
Some differences reflect genuinely different outcomes. Others reflect inconsistent definitions of recidivism across states.
- **Not all states improved equally.**
Some saw even larger reductions than the national average; others showed little or no change.
- **Still a significant cost.**
States will collectively spend \$8 billion reincarcerating people who leave prison each year, making further progress a fiscal imperative.
- **[See your state's data.](#)**
The full report includes state-level breakdowns. Find out where your state stands.

Publication 2: Supervision Violations and Their Impact on Incarceration

All Prison Admissions



Admissions for Parole Violations



Supervision failures = **40% of prison admissions** but only **20% of the standing population**—shorter stays mean high churn. Of those ~200,000 admissions, **23% of all admissions (57% of violations admissions) were technical violations**—not new criminal conduct.

Find your state's data: <https://projects.csjusticecenter.org/supervision-violations-impact-on-incarceration/report/#statedashboard>

Publication 3: Reentry 2030 Cost Savings & Recidivism Impact

An initiative designed to reduce the national recidivism rate by **30% by 2030**—and model what that means for people, states, and public safety.

[Read the full report.](#)

30%

recidivism
reduction
target by 2030

500K+

people kept out
of prison, 2030 -
2040

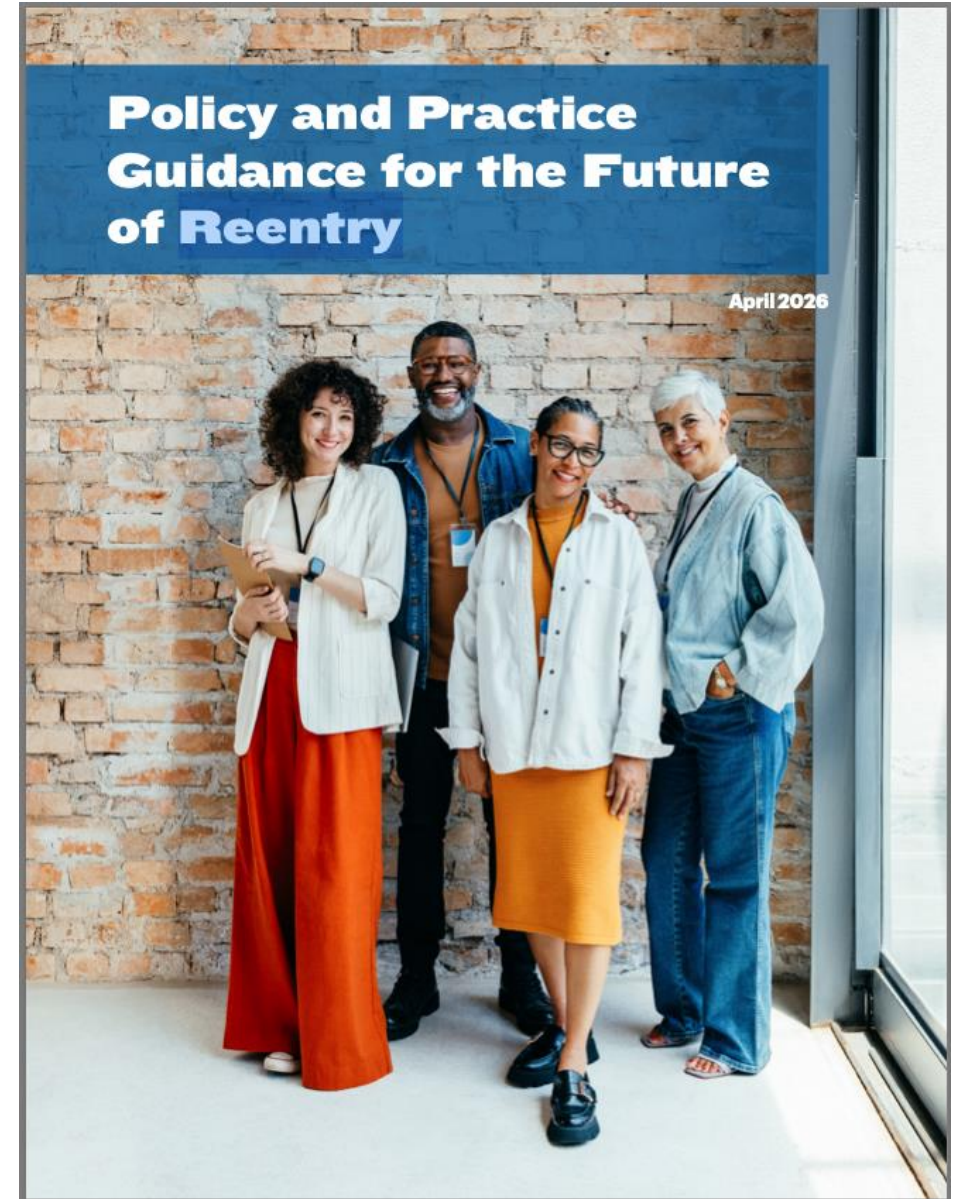
\$43B

in averted
incarceration
costs, 2030–2040

Publication 4: Policy and Practice Guidance for the Future of Reentry

7 Core Principles for Coordinated and Human-Centered Reintegration

[Read the report.](#)



7 Core Principles

1. Integrated Coordination
Courts, Corrections & Community Supervision
2. Safe and Stable Housing
Access to a Variety of Housing Solutions
3. Economic Mobility
Meaningful Employment Opportunities
4. Educational Opportunities
Pre- and Post-Release Access
5. Health & Behavioral Health
Comprehensive Treatment and Care
6. Strong Families
Social Networks and Support
7. Access to Relief
Mechanisms to Mitigate Barriers

Together, these principles foster a reentry system that is coordinated, transparent, and centered on human dignity.

Principle

1

Integrated Coordination Across Courts, Corrections & Supervision

A coordinated justice system is essential for successful reentry.

Key Strategies

- Codify a multiagency body or commission to regularly assess and improve outcomes for people returning home.
- Develop intergovernmental and community partnerships for warm handoffs upon release, including grassroots organizations.
- Create standards to identify and use only evidence-based reentry programs that demonstrate positive outcomes.
- Train supervision staff in trauma-informed, person-centered coaching and case management practices.
- Provide every person leaving prison with a state ID, Social Security card, and other vital documents before release.
- Actively involve each person from intake in developing a personalized reentry plan addressing their individual needs.

Principle

2

Access to Safe, Stable Housing

Housing is foundational to successful reentry.

Key Strategies

- Build consensus around a shared target population and align housing interventions to their specific needs.
- Prioritize housing vouchers and resources for people exiting the justice system; partner with local housing agencies.
- Use universal housing assessments to screen for homelessness risk and establish clear referral pathways.
- Reduce formal barriers: limit criminal record lookbacks, advance fair-chance housing bills, and restrict exclusionary ordinances.
- Develop housing specialist and landlord liaison positions to build relationships and create pre-release housing plans.
- Expand housing supply by leveraging diverse funding streams and scaling successful housing intervention pilots.

Principle

3

Economic Mobility and Meaningful Employment

The pathway to lasting reintegration begins with economic opportunity.

Key Strategies

- Review and remove mandatory collateral consequences in occupational licensing and hiring to expand fair-chance access.
- Limit how long consequences remain in effect and require licensing boards to apply direct relationship tests.
- Prepare people for employment: resume writing, interview training, technology skills, and credential documentation.
- Create training, apprenticeship, and work-release programs aligned with in-demand industries and labor market needs.
- Engage employers in second-chance hiring through coalitions, job fairs in correctional facilities, and education campaigns.
- Pause child support during incarceration, eliminate supervision fees, and end private collection of fines.

Principle

4

Pre- and Post- Release Educational Opportunities

Education is one of the most transformative tools available to individuals during and after incarceration.



Key Strategies

- Lift statutory or funding restrictions preventing incarcerated students from accessing postsecondary education.
- Remove criminal history disclosure requirements from higher education applications and reduce campus participation barriers.
- Offer high-quality career and technical education as well as associate- and bachelor-level programs in all state facilities.
- Ensure in-prison credentials are industry recognized and aligned with labor market needs and licensing realities.
- Allow parole boards to consider educational progress in early release decisions; accept education in lieu of employment conditions.
- Establish articulation agreements so in-facility credits transfer seamlessly to community college degree programs.

Principle

5

Comprehensive Health & Behavioral Health Care

Sustained, formalized collaboration across systems reduces harm and promotes long-term stability.

Key Strategies

- Formalize collaboration between housing, criminal justice, and behavioral health agencies at state and local levels.
- Implement universal mental health, substance use, and homelessness screenings at booking with timely follow-up.
- Expand pre-arrest diversion programs and encourage behavioral health courts to adhere to accredited best practices.
- Leverage Medicaid waivers to provide pre-release coverage; suspend (not terminate) enrollment during incarceration.
- Strengthen continuity of care through health home models integrating primary care, mental health, and substance use treatment.
- Train reentry staff to identify trauma and co-occurring conditions; increase telehealth access as a supplement to on-site care.

Principle

6

Strong Families and Social Networks

Families are often the most enduring source of support for people impacted by the justice system.

Key Strategies

- Reduce the financial burden of incarceration for families by offering free transportation and lodging for visits.
- Provide pre-release parenting programs and ensure jail/prison policies support child-friendly visiting environments.
- Eliminate or reduce the cost of phone calls for incarcerated people to preserve family connections.
- Establish and expand virtual visiting options (video visits) while maintaining in-person visitation access.
- Train correctional officers on the trauma of parental incarceration to better support families during visits.
- Create an interagency advisory committee to coordinate services for children of incarcerated parents; define family broadly.

Principle

7

Access to Relief Mechanisms to Mitigate Barriers

Record relief transforms a legal possibility into a meaningful and accessible second chance.

Key Strategies

- Create or expand long-term relief mechanisms such as automatic sealing and expungement for eligible offenses.
- Reduce waiting periods, expand the list of eligible offenses, and revise limitations based on multiple convictions.
- Create or expand near-term relief tools like certificates of relief that convert mandatory consequences into discretionary ones.
- Limit barriers to non-automatic relief: reduce filing fees, simplify petition processes, and improve public awareness.
- Ensure relief statutes are clear: granted relief must bar both mandatory and discretionary consequences going forward.
- Affirm that people granted clearance can lawfully deny the existence of cleared convictions when asked.



Roadmap to Reentry

Brief companion guide on how states can get started or accelerate a bold vision for reentry

[Read the brief.](#)



April 2026

Roadmap to Reentry:

3 Things States Can Do to Get Started

States nationwide are committing to transform the way reentry works through [Reentry 2030](#), uniting key stakeholders around a shared vision for successful reintegration for people leaving prison and community supervision. The CSG Justice Center has compiled Policy and Practice Guidance for the Future of Reentry that can inform states about best practices in multiple fields of reentry.

While this level of coordination marks an important shift, turning that vision into reality requires deliberate, sustained action. As states embark on the transformational work Reentry 2030 calls for, they need clear, practical steps to guide and accelerate their early progress:

1. **Set a big goal.**
2. **Scale up an exceptional program.**
3. **Evolve the approach to reentry.**

Advancing these three action items requires a whole-of-government approach, engaging leaders from all three branches and every level of state government. Whether you are a governor, cabinet official, legislator, judge, or corrections leader, your leadership is essential to driving collaboration, aligning systems, and ensuring that reentry success becomes a shared statewide priority. Read on for ways each sector can contribute to this collective effort.

I. Set a Big Goal

Through Reentry 2030, states are encouraged to look beyond recidivism outcomes as measures of success. We recommend that state leaders begin by setting at least one goal related to economic mobility, housing, or health care.

Economic Mobility Goals

These goals address workforce development strategies as well as educational, certification, and licensing opportunities.

- **Sample goal:** By [year], 100 percent of people pursuing educational opportunities while

Panel Discussion

- Accelerating Progress
- Building Consensus on What Works
- Scaling

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Thank You!

For more information, please contact the reentry team at reentry2030@csg.org.

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