GRAND CHALLENGE:
PROMOTE SMART DECARCERATION

By,
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Develop a proactive, comprehensive, evidence-based, “smart decarceration” strategy that will dramatically reduce the U.S. prison population and enable our nation to embrace a more effective and just approach to public safety.

**Specific Focus:**
How do we reduce recidivism?
• United States has the highest rate of imprisonment in the world; 716 per 100,000 persons

• 1972: Fewer than 200,000 individuals were incarcerated in the U.S.

• 2014: More than 2.2 million people were incarcerated with another 4.7 million adults under community supervision
### DESCRIPTIVE STUDIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>3 year</th>
<th>5 year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All released prisoners</strong></td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>68.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/Hispanic origin</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>80.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>75.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>75.0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Age at Release</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 or younger</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>80.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>77.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>69.8</td>
<td>78.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 or older</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>60.3</td>
<td>69.2</td>
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<td><strong>Type of Prison Release</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conditional</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconditional</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
• In general, commitment crimes predicted repeat crimes

• 1/3 imprisoned for violent crimes recidivated with violent crimes

• More than ½ of property crime offenders re-offended with property crimes

• About ½ with drug crimes were re-arrested with drug crimes
Individuals most at-risk for imprisonment:
  • Men of color
  • Younger populations
  • Those who are involved with illicit substances

Those most at risk to recidivate following imprisonment:
  • Men of color under the age of forty
  • Those who commit non-violent crimes, including property and drug crimes
Based on data available by Federal Bureau of Prisons
Last Updated: 25 February 2017
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DESCRIPTIVE STUDIES

Based on data available by Federal Bureau of Prisons
Last Updated: 25 February 2017
5 Year Recidivism Rates:

- African American (Non-Hispanic) 81%
- Hispanic 75%
- White (Non-Hispanic) 73%
Non-Violent Re-offenses (2010-2014):

- Non-White (Hispanic & Black) 67%
- White (Non-Hispanic) 31%

- No significant association between Whites & Hispanics
- (Ultimately) significant association with Blacks
Differences:

- Men are 10% more likely to recidivate overall
- Male violent criminal history leads to increased violent recidivism
- Men with longer sentences leads to lower recidivism, while in women recidivism increases
Similarities:

• Protective Factor = family support
• Risk Factors = delinquent peers, living in low SES, weak informal social control
• Prison is criminogenic
• Jail, intensive probation and probation all produce less recidivism
EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

Prison Based College Programs:
  • Reduces recidivism, offers job training and teaches responsibility

Specialized Courts:
  • Services such as drug, mental health, domestic violence and community courts
  • Help with reintegration into society

Family & Community Integration:
  • Studies show that even one visit from a family member or friend can reduce recidivism 13%-25% depending on the sentence
Research Indicates:

- Black prisoners have the highest recidivism rate (outside factors may have an impact on statistical data)
- Men recidivate more than women (but the gap is shrinking)
Our Suggestions:

• Prison-based college programs- Increases employment skills

• Specialty courts- Offers rehabilitation vs criminalization

• Increased familial & community support- Creates social supports necessary for successful reintegration