

Inmate Reentry Survey

Introduction & Methodology

The Inmate Reentry Survey was created to gather information directly from inmates inside Alaska DOC facilities about their perceived needs in regards to reentry, along with information that could be used to characterize potential needs of reentrants. Results were intended to inform activities within the Anchorage Reentry Coalition and inform advocacy and education efforts by the coalition and its partners.

The survey was created by the Coordinator of the Anchorage Reentry Coalition and implemented over about an 18-week period (10/1/18 to 2/4/19). Questionnaires were administered at four different ADOC facilities. There was a total of 81 respondents that submitted a completed questionnaire, however two questionnaires were removed because they were largely incomplete resulting in an analysis of 79 responses. All questionnaires were administered by the Coalition Coordinator, except for one single batch of six questionnaires that were administered by a knowledgeable volunteer doing work inside a correctional institution during an educational class. With the exception of the aforementioned situation, the survey was always administered during scheduled times when reentry service providers were given time to talk about reentry and services available in the community; the conversations and discussion about reentry services were meant to serve as a primer before completing the questionnaire.

The survey was anonymous and voluntary and independently completed by each respondent. Respondents were encouraged to put their responses inside a white envelope upon completion to help maintain anonymity. Anyone that was interested in completing the questionnaire was allowed to participate regardless of their circumstances (unsentenced, Federal inmate, no known release date, charges, community releasing to, etc.). Completed questionnaires were reviewed and analyzed by the Coalition Coordinator.

BACKGROUND DATA: RESPONDENTS BY INSTUTION

FACILITY	N	%	# OF VISITS
Hiland Mountain CC	16	20.3%	2
Anchorage Correctional Complex	24	30.4%	4
Goose Creek CC	15	19.0%	1
Spring Creek CC	24	30.4%	3
TOTAL	79	100%	10

BACKGROUND DATA: SEX

RESPONSE	N	%
Male	63	79.7%
Female	16	20.3%
TOTAL	79	100%

Note: this was determined based on the facility from which data was collected.

Results

Q. What is your age?

RESPONSE	N	%
19-29	21	26.6%
30-39	36	45.6%
40-49	14	17.7%
50-59	5	6.3%
60-63	3	3.8%
TOTAL	79	100%
Average Age	35.8 years old	
Age Range	19-63 years old	

Q. How would you describe your race?

RESPONSE	N	%
African American/Black	15	19.0%
Alaska Native or Native American	12	15.2%
Asian	2	2.5%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	5.1%
Hispanic/Latino	1	1.3%
White/Caucasian	26	32.9%
Mixed Race/Ethnicity	18	22.8%
Other	1	1.3%
TOTAL	79	100%

Q. Are you a parent?

RESPONSE	N	%
Yes	43	55.1%
No	35	44.9%
TOTAL	78	100%

Note: 1 missing value.

Q. When you are released from jail or prison will you be released directly to Anchorage?

RESPONSE	N	%
Yes	55	69.6%
No	6	7.6%
I Don't Know	18	22.8%
TOTAL	79	100%

Q. When you are released from jail or prison will you have a safe and stable place to live?

RESPONSE	N	%
Yes	27	34.2%
No	17	21.5%
I Don't Know	35	44.3%
TOTAL	79	100%

Q. What support or services do you think you will need or use when you are released from jail or prison? Mark any that apply including any services the court has mandated for you.

RESPONSE	N	%
Clothing	60	76%
Housing or a safe place to live	58	73%
Employment or work training	58	73%
Food	57	72%
Transportation (bus pass, bicycle)	57	72%
Identification (birth certificate, ID)	50	63%
Job preparation (resume, job interview training)	45	57%
Dental services	34	43%
Financial guidance or money management	29	37%
Treatment for alcohol or drug use	29	37%
Mental health services or emotional support	28	35%
Computer classes (typing, setting up email)	24	30%
Education (GED, high school diploma, reading classes, college)	23	29%
Physical health or primary health care	22	28%
Religious or faith-based services	19	24%
Legal services (restitution, child support)	16	20%
Cultural or social support services	14	18%
Tattoo removal	10	13%
Family services (family counseling)	6	8%
Domestic violence treatment	6	8%
Other	5	6%
Sex offender treatment	2	3%
Help with leaving a street gang	1	1%

Q. If you have a history of abusing alcohol, or using drugs or substances, what would you consider your substance of choice? *[Write-In Response]*

RESPONSE	N	%
Alcohol Only	12	15.2%
Cocaine Only	1	1.3%
Marijuana Only	12	15.2%
Methamphetamines Only	11	13.9%
Opiates	6 ^a	7.6
Spice Only	1	1.3%
Poly Drug Preference	12 ^b	15.2%
Not Applicable/No History	21	26.6%
Unclear Response	3	3.8%
TOTAL	79	100%

a. Includes heroin, prescription pills, speed

b. Responses were combinations of marijuana/alcohol/methamphetamine/cocaine/ heroin

Q. What do you think will most help keep you free and out of jail when you are released? [Write-In Response]

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A job (2) • Housing & a job (3) • Support (2) • Housing/Stable place to live (3) • Being in a drug free based living home. • Not using drugs • Support from the community • Positive social networking, people willing to help and services available upon release • Family • Working and having a safe place to live • Getting housing & employment set up quickly • A job and food • Stability. A safe and reasonable job. • Housing, employment, food, transportation, education • Being sober and busy working • A stable and dependable set of job skills • A job, my own place • Working fulltime like always / Positive people • Staying away from wicked women. • Getting back to MN with my family • I used to be productive and work stay busy • My kids and family • A strong family/support group • Staying busy • My desire to never come back AND my family • Setting goals. Putting them into plan • Too old to play around • Stay away from so called friends • Change of environment • Ability to succeed • Stable housing • Classes @ ANMC • Relapse prevention • Place to live, employment, health care - dental, food, clothing, ID, transportation • Emotional support/counselor • Getting and maintaining a job. • Recovery first, stable home, job • Place to live while I go back and forth to work! • Good job and place to live • A stable residence and job • Serving the lord god and love my family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to Domiciliary • A place to go that can help me with housing and living management I don't know how to live as a normal citizen • A good support system • Stay alert for people that are doing bad things • A sober environment • Support and good job and good housing. Being a felon = a renter landlord who will rent to me • Find and keep work. Supportive company. • Transparency, integrity, and honesty • Safe place to go. And a support team that will hold me accountable, not judge me. • Structure, stability, work, purpose, support. • Sober living. • Sober support system that consists of a sponsor, family, GOD, church. • Transportation to get to all of my appointments and jobs to achieve my goals and to keep myself motivated. Not having the money for transportation disappoints me by disappointing myself. • As much support as I can get. Spiritual. • Sober support system , employment, safe place to live • Stability/Support • Having a good job • Jobs, keeping busy, positive idle time • Honest relationship, support group, church, place to live • Voc ed training so that I can get a well-paying job • Job, housing, clothing • Somewhere to live upon release • Good support system • Alcohol treatment, a stable place to live • Short term goals, sponsor, daughters, grandson, sisters, mom, dad, new location, spiritual. Resources. Self-determination. • Having a steady place and a job, to have a social and productive life. • My kids, family, work • Replacing old memories of using/crime with positive memories • Management of sobriety • Substance abuse treatment. Activity replacement help
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Q. Do you have any other feedback or comments? *[Write-In Response]*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you (4) • I am just ready to make a positive transformation for myself and my children for the most part. • You do great work; people need it • Continue helping, get more services from other partners and keep up the helping hand. • SCRJI is willing to help anyway we could. • The way an inmate is treated during incarceration directly effects how an inmate treats the community after incarceration. • Raise awareness of the community that successful re-entry makes them safer. • A supportive P.O. (instead of a compliance focused one) is fundamental. • Keep this up. • Don't give up on us • Simple is genius • Would like personal interview for all options • Help is always wanted. Not always asked. • Thank you for your time and consideration. • Great program I look forward to working with you • Thanks for the help!! • LOTS! Thank you very much! • I appreciate your help. Thank you. • Support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more services like this • Appreciate the advice! • Reentry successfully helped my find myself. They also held a weekly support group. Lots of support from peers. • People need more housing and schooling education • Just continue the good work you guys are doing. Thank you • Help us with some of the people getting released • Thank you for your time! • More info on V.A. • Thanks for the support and helpful information from Re-entry. • I need to be stable on mental health meds at all times. Bipolar. PTSD. Sexual assault/abuse, TBI learning • Love sports, outdoor, fishing, hiking, camping, non smoker, non drug user. More vocational training for North Slope. • More info • Knowing help is out there if you want it. • The truth of the inner self. • Thank you for your care and concern. • Work on a one time issued food card for new releases would help a lot.
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Preliminary Conclusions

A total of 79 inmates voluntarily completed a questionnaire for the Inmate Reentry Survey. The results point to particular areas of opportunity for those working to provide services and engage with people releasing from correctional institutions in Alaska. There are limitations to the method used to collect data that should limit assumptions and inferences regarding the results, particularly when it comes to other communities in Alaska; however, comparing and contrasting these results (or replication in a different community) to other existing data regarding reentry needs and services could lead to strengthened conclusions about these results. Some preliminary highlights from the data include:

- Many inmates/reentrants are parents (n=43; 55%).
- Upon release to the community a large percentage of reentrants will not have a safe place to live (n=17; 21.5%) or are unsure if they will have a safe and stable place to live (n=35; 44.3%).
- Employment opportunities, job preparation, and housing are areas of need for many reentrants, but so too is food, clothing, transportation, and identification services.
- Nearly all reentrants indicated a desire or need to access multiple services upon release into the community.
- Among all the health-related services areas, a greater number of people indicated a desire for assistance with oral health and dental services (n=34; 43%) compared to alcohol or drug treatment (n=29; 37%), mental health services (n=28; 35%), or primary care health services (n=22; 28%).
- There appears to be a wide range of substances being abused in Alaska by those that become incarcerated, but not all reentrants necessarily have problems with drugs or alcohol.

Limitations

There are several limitations regarding the data gathered via this inmate survey. Firstly, data was collected via a convenience sample approach and participation was completely voluntary. All information was self-reported and was not cross-referenced with any other data sources for verification.

It is also believed that there was underrepresentation of some sub-populations within the data. It is presumed that inmates with acute mental health conditions, inmates in secure housing units or protective custody, and those who were under strict supervision were not allowed to attend in-reach presentations and activities, leading to under-counting of some sub-populations. It is unclear how a more representative sample would have impacted results overall. It is likely that a more representative sample would have increased the frequencies relating to some services sought at reentry, such as mental health services and sex offender treatment. However, gathering responses from inmates that were not in the general population would likely have proven very difficult and may not have yielded accurate data.

Although inmates were asked about whether they would release to Anchorage or not, data was not analyzed or filtered based on that factor. Further analysis may reveal differences between those releasing to Anchorage and those not releasing to Anchorage. It is believed that results are generally representative of the inmates within Alaska DOC facilities, however it is unclear what differences may exist in terms of reentry needs between those individuals that hail from a rural village or town, and those that are from an urban environment such as Anchorage. Lastly, this analysis did not seek to distinguish between male and female inmate populations. It is expected that there would be some differences between male and female reentrants.



Anchorage

Reentry

Coalition