



Adult Incarceration – Ohio Facts & Figures

Male 92.5%

Female 7.5%

White 51%

Black 48%

Other 1%

- Ohio has the seventh largest prison population in the United States.
- Ohio has 32 penal institutions: 28 male, 3 female, and 1 both male and female
- The six Ohio counties with the highest number of committed inmates are Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, Summit
- Currently, more than 48,800 men and women are incarcerated in Ohio's prison system:
 - Average age = 35 years
 - Average stay in prison = 2.73 years
 - More than 90% of offenders will eventually be released back into the community
 - 60% of offenders will be released within a year of being incarcerated
 - Almost 50% of Ohio's prisoners have not completed high school
 - First arrested as a youth = 70% males and 41% females
- Recidivism rate within one year of release = 17%; within three years of release = 37%
- According to the 2005 Ohio Intake Study:
 - less than 10% of offenders were convicted of a serious violent crime
 - 31.7% of males and 15.6% of females were incarcerated for committing a crime against persons (including sex offenses) as their most serious offense
 - 31.3% of males and 24% of females were incarcerated for committing a drug offense
 - 20.5% of females were incarcerated for a miscellaneous property offense
- Between 1982-2002, Ohio's prison population increased 164 percent – from 17,147 to 45,284. The flow of prisoners leaving prison tripled during this time, jumping from 8,522 to 25,624.





Adult Incarceration – Ohio Facts & Figures

The Impact of Incarceration

- An increase in the number of female inmates has added to the number of minor children affected by incarceration.
- To understand the true scope of the problem, you must consider all who are affected by incarceration (spouses, children, siblings, parents, etc.). It is easy to see how families, neighborhoods, even entire communities are dramatically impacted.
- Returning prisoners are concentrated in a few core counties within Ohio. In fact, prisoners typically return to a relatively few neighborhoods, which are already experiencing significant disadvantage.
- Reports show that supportive families were an indicator of reducing recidivism, correlating with lower drug use and greater likelihood of finding jobs.

Based on national averages, the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents reports:

- About 75% of all female prisoners and 66% of all male prisoners are parents
- A significant, but unknown, proportion of the children of incarcerated mothers also have an incarcerated father
- On average, for every female prisoner, 2.4 children become invisible victims
- On average, for every male prisoner, 2 children become invisible victims
- Approximately 7 in 10 women under correctional sanctions have minor children under the age of 18
- 22% of all minor children with a parent in prison were under 5 years old

Effectiveness of Behavioral Programs for Offenders

Many studies have shown that the most effective programs in helping to reduce recidivism are behavioral in nature. The following information is taken from *What Works in Reducing Recidivism* by Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D, Professor and Head Division of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati.

- Behavioral programs are centered on the present circumstances and risk factors that are responsible for the offender's behavior.
- Behavioral programs are action oriented – offenders do something about their difficulties rather than just talk about them.
- Behavioral programs teach offenders new, pro-social skills to replace the anti-social ones like stealing, cheating, lying, through modeling, practice and reinforcement.
- Effective behavioral programs include structured social learning programs where new skills are taught, and behaviors and attitudes are consistently reinforced; cognitive behavioral programs that target attitudes, values, peers, substance abuse, anger, etc.; and family based interventions that train families in appropriate behavioral techniques.
- These programs assist the offenders in developing good problem-solving skills and self-control skills.
- Providing structured after care will also enhance the effectiveness of the program.