



# Reentry Services Briefing Workforce Board

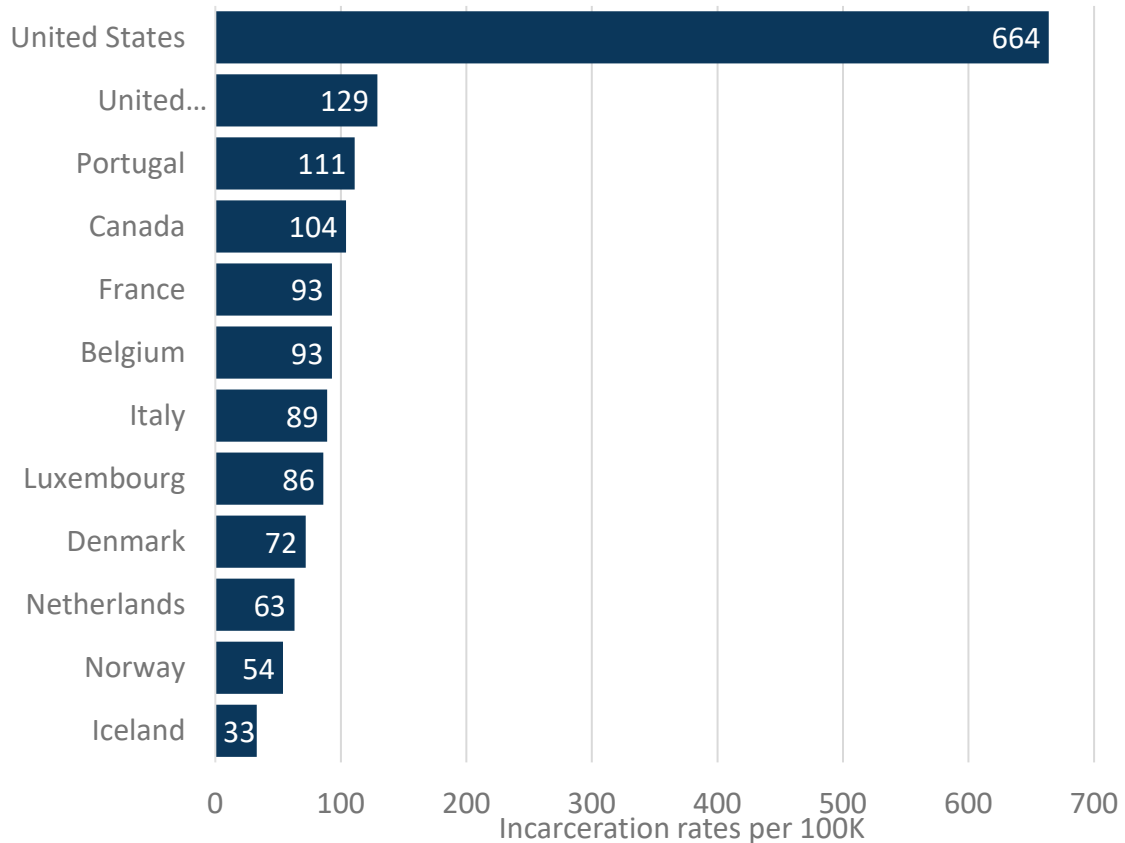
Cheryl Strange, Secretary  
September 2025

# Why Reentry Matters

## 2019 Global and US Incarceration Rates

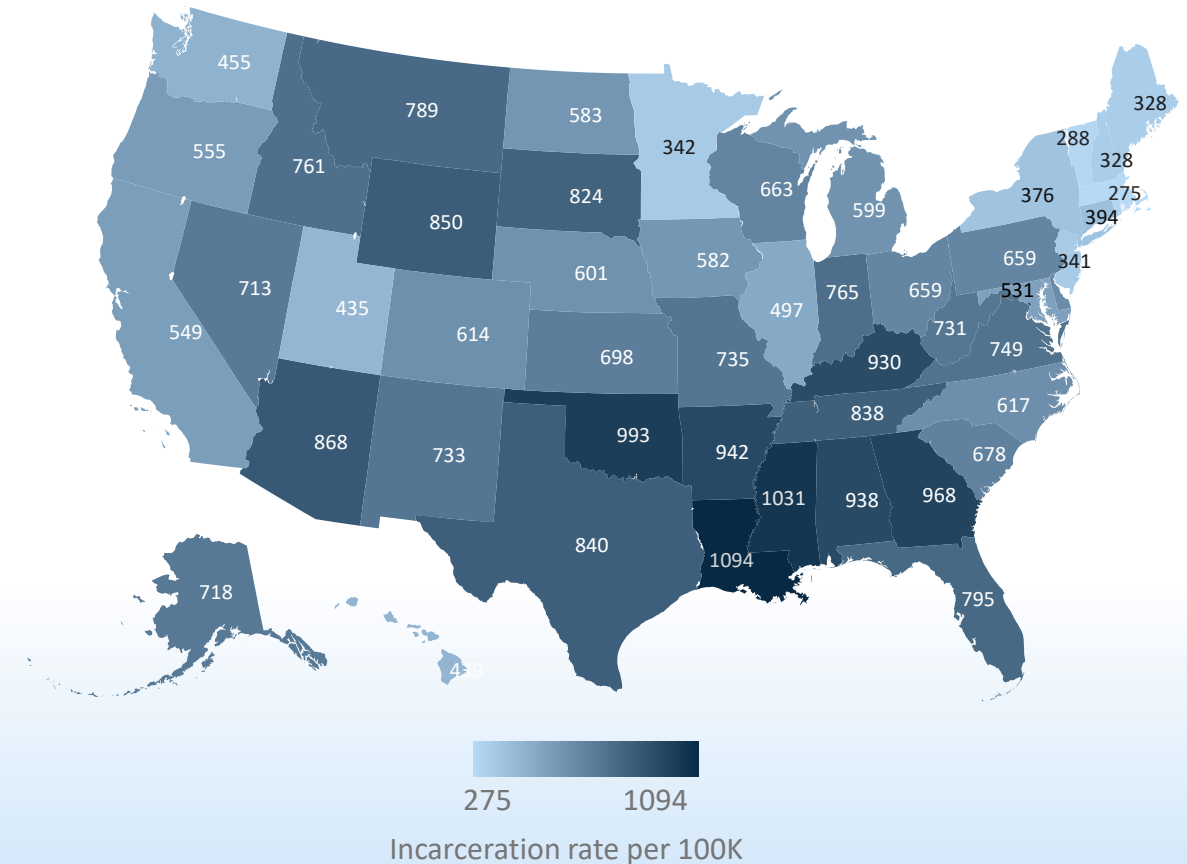


Global Standing



Source: Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR), Birkbeck University of London.

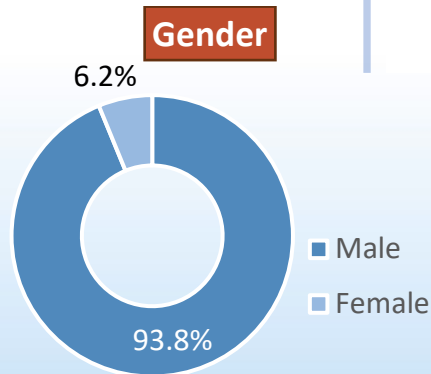
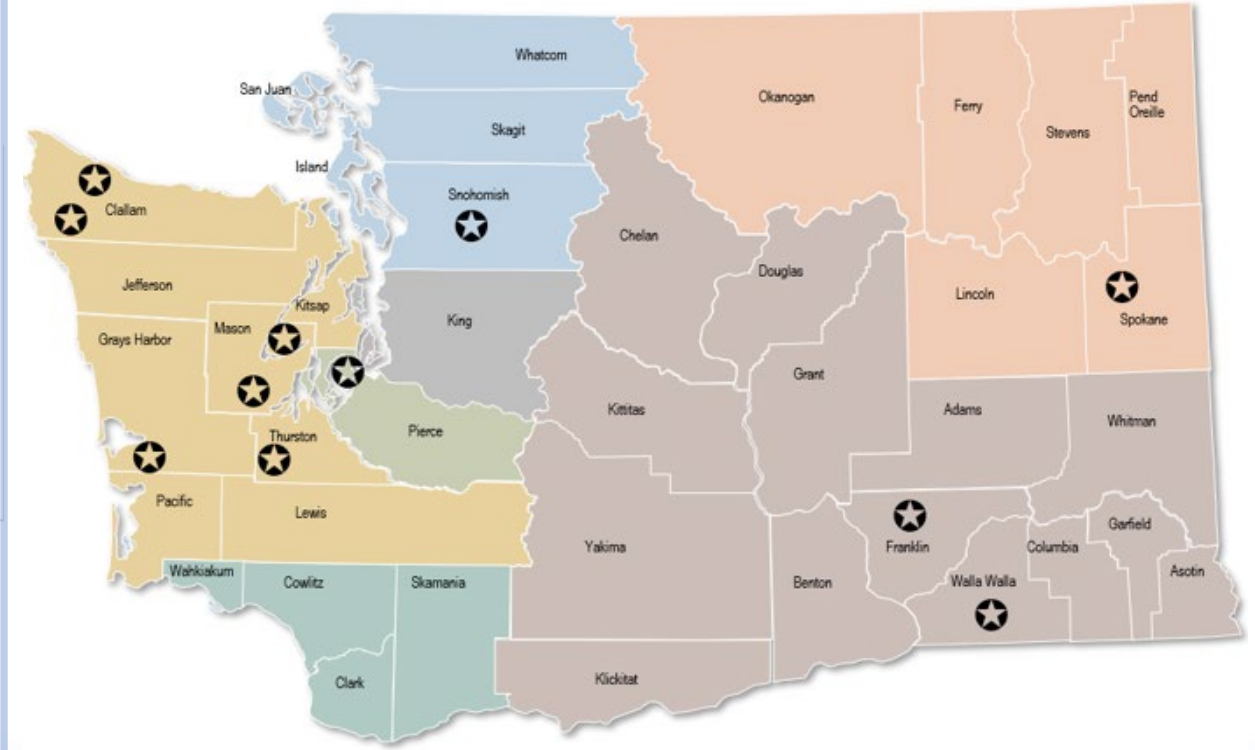
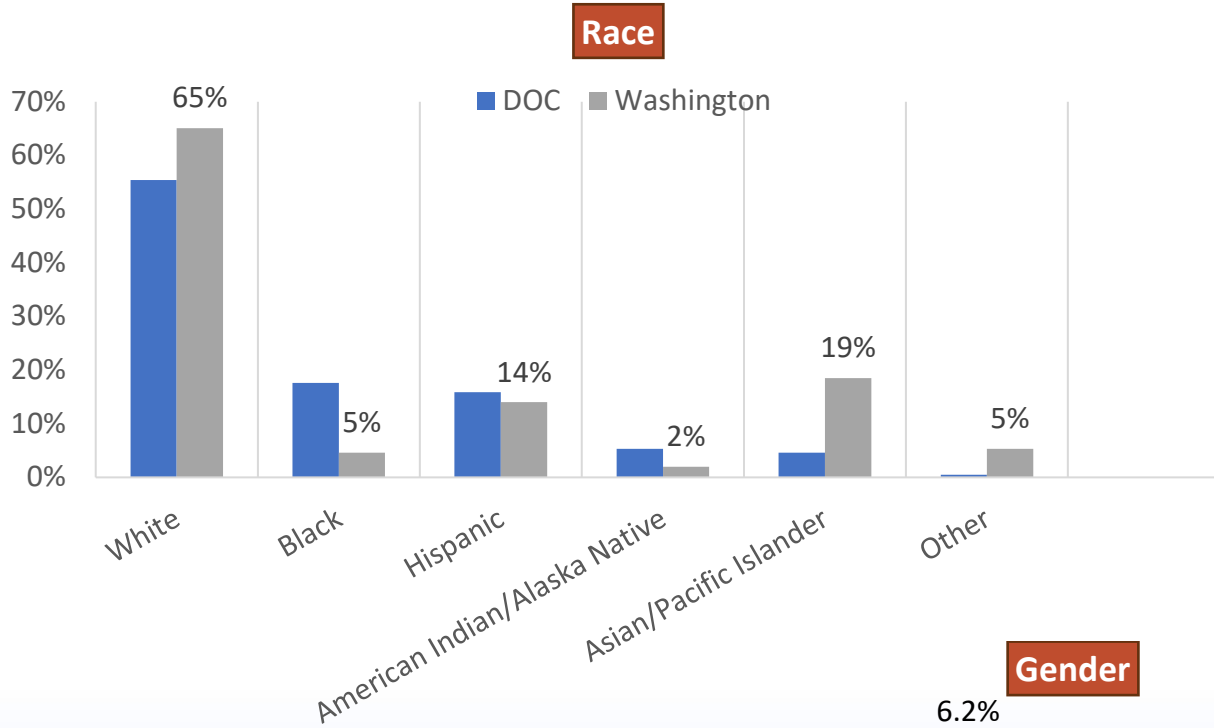
National Standing



Incarceration rate per 100K

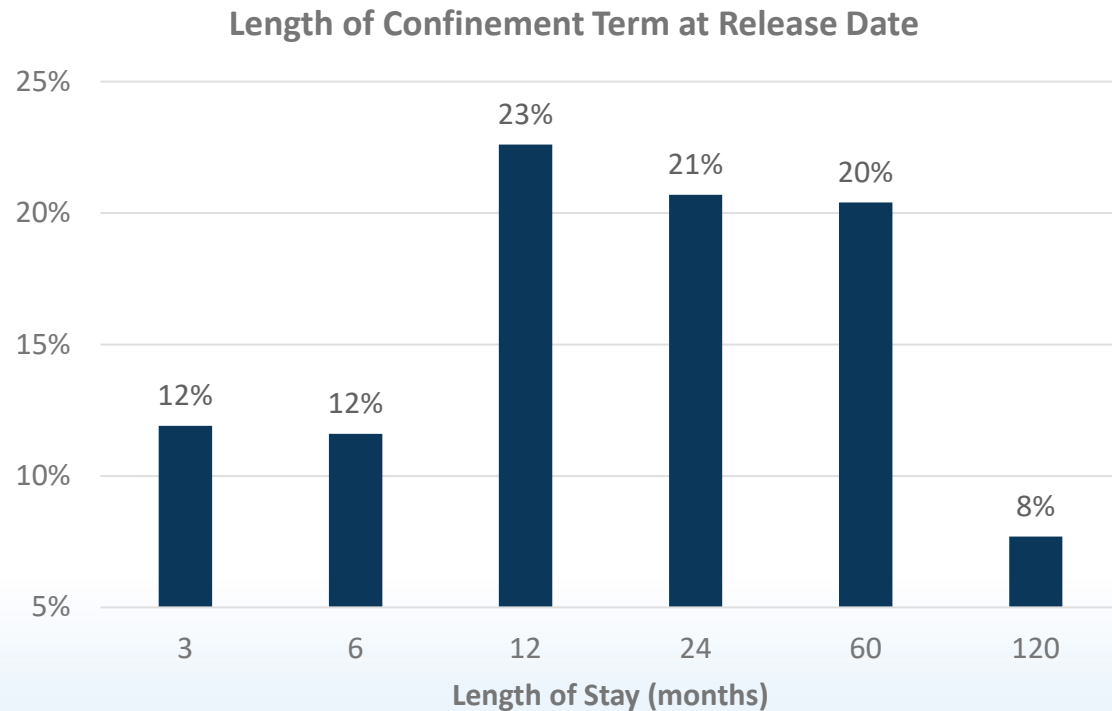
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Correctional Populations in the United States

# Washington Prisons

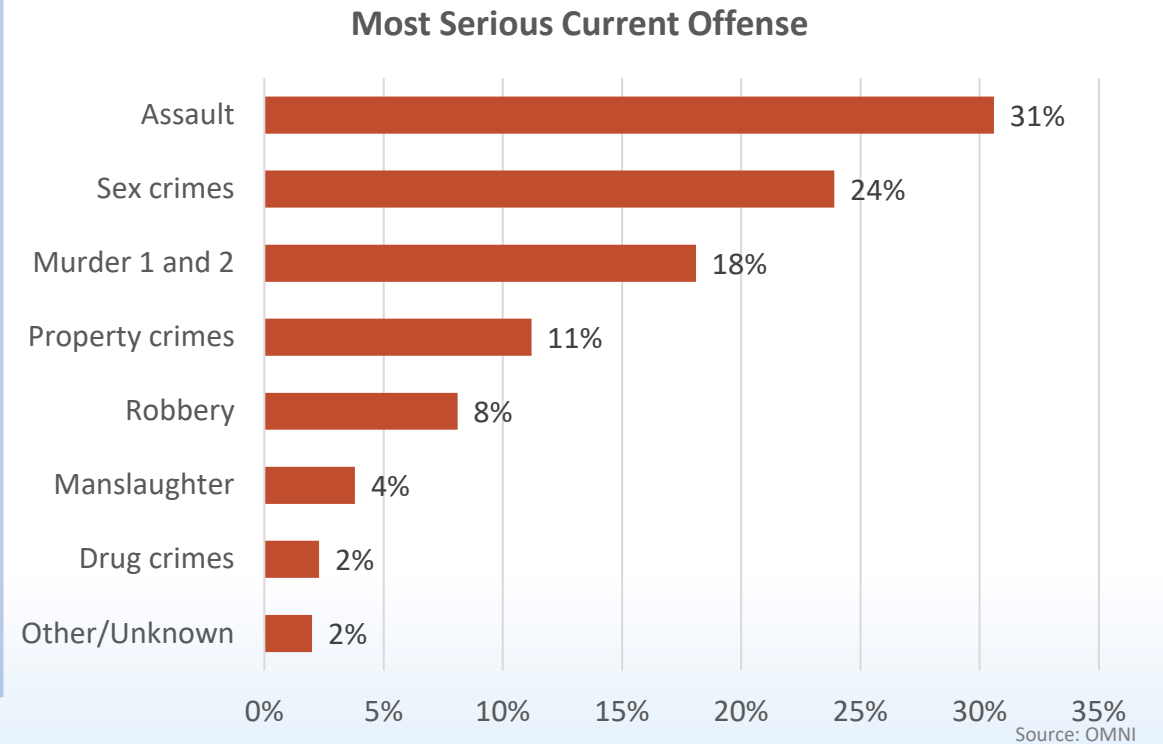


- ✓ 11 prisons in WA
- ✓ Total Population is 13,972
- ✓ Down from over 18,000 in 2019

# Types of Crimes and Length of Stay



Source: [WA DOC Agency Fact Card 100-RE005](#)



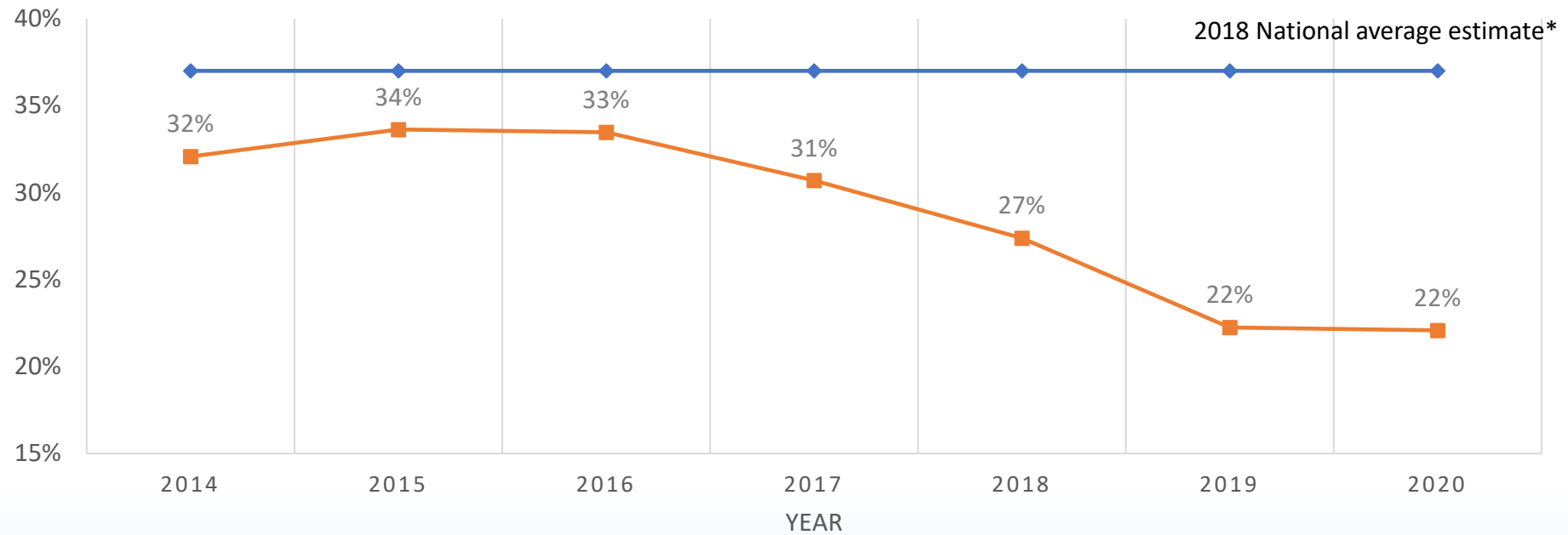
Source: OMNI

Average Length of Stay = 30.6 months

# Recidivism



## DOC OVERALL RECIDIVISM



# Washington is a Well-Respected Leader in Reentry Services



- We were the first state to implement sentence alternatives
  - Community Parenting Alternative
  - Mental Health Sentencing Alternative
  - Drug Offender Sentence Alternative
  - Graduated Reentry
- For over 40 years, we have partnered with colleges to provide education to those in our care and custody.
- We are one of a few states that has Correctional Industries integrated in reentry and aligned with meaningful jobs.



# Reentry Infrastructure

## EDUCATION



## PROGRAMMING



## WORK READINESS



# Reentry Begins at Reception



- Every incarcerated individual receives an *Individual Reentry Plan* on admission, for use throughout their stay.
- On admission we assess:
  - Medical and mental health needs
  - Education needs
  - Risk level and classification
  - Substance use history
  - Treatment and program needs

*Roughly 96% of incarcerated people return to our communities.*





# Reentry Infrastructure



- The Reentry Division consists of *800 FTE's* and a biennial budget of **\$154 M GF-S**
- Reentry services are education, programming, treatment, and work readiness.
- Reentry services exist in all 12 Prisons and 12 Reentry Centers
- 108 navigators help coordinate connections to:
  - *Education*
  - *Essential needs*
  - *Housing*
  - *Healthcare*
  - *Parenting*
  - *Workforce development (jobs)*
  - *Community resources and connections*

Navigation services begin 60 days prior to discharge



# Reentry Partnerships are Critical



## State Agencies

- Dept of Children, Youth, & Families
- Dept of Commerce
- Dept of Ecology
- Dept of Health
- Labor & Industries
- Dept of Licensing
- Dept of Social & Health Services
- Dept of Transportation
- Employment Security Dept
- Health Care Authority
- WA Dept of Veterans Affairs
- Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)

## Separately Elected

- Department of Natural Resources
- 
- Secretary of State
- Tribal Governments

## State Boards & Councils

- CI Advisory Committee
- Indeterminate Sentence Review Board
- State Board of Technical & Community Colleges
- 
- Statewide Family Council
- Statewide Reentry Council

## Community Partnerships

- Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC)
- Community Colleges & Four-Year Universities
- Non-profit Partnerships
- Labor Unions

## Federal Partners

- Social Security Administration
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

# We Have Colleges in all 12 Prisons



*For every dollar invested in corrections education, up to \$19.80 is saved from reduced recidivism in WA State (WSIPP, 2018).*



## High school diploma or GEDs

**3,080** completions from FY18-FY22

## Postsecondary workforce certificates

**19** certificates offered including HVAC, computer programming, welding

**4,819** completions from FY18-FY22

## Bachelor's degrees

BA liberal studies and BAS in business management pilots

## Postsecondary associate degrees

**7** types of degrees offered including direct transfer degree and business administration

**406** completions from FY18-FY22

Serving between 40-50% of the prison population annually.

# We Have Programing and Treatment in all 12 Prisons



All core programs are evidence-based, research-based, or a promising practice designed to meet the individual's needs identified at reception, including:

- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI)
- Substance use disorder/chemical dependency
- Therapeutic Community
- Sex offense treatment
- Mental health care
- Medication for Opioid use disorder
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Residential Parenting Program
- Soft skills development
- Reentry life skills
- Sustainability in Prisons Project



# Programs and Work Readiness



- All core programs are evidence-based, research-based, or promising practice.
  - Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI)
  - Strength in Families
  - Residential Parenting Program
  - Soft skills development
  - Reentry life skills
  - Financial literacy
- We have established community partnerships to enhance opportunities for living-wage and sustainable employment.
  - Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC)
  - Construction Trades Apprenticeship Preparation (CTAP)
  - Trades Related Apprenticeship Coaching (TRAC)

## PROGRAMMING



## WORK READINESS



# We Provide Marketable Job Skills



- *For every dollar invested in Correctional Industries (CI), up to \$12.68 is saved from reduced recidivism in WA State (WSIPP, 2018)*
- Correctional Industries maintains and expands work training programs for marketable job skills that allow for a wage outside of crime.
- DOC has over 1,600 work opportunities including:
  - Braille Services
  - Computer-aided Design Services
  - Food Manufacturing/Service
  - Optical
  - Welding



# We Provide Other Employment Pathways as Well



We have established community partnerships to enhance opportunities for living-wage and sustainable employment.

- Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC)
- Construction Trades Apprenticeship Preparation (CTAP)
- Licensed Trade Apprenticeship Preparation (LTAP)
- Trades Related Apprenticeship Coaching (TRAC)
- Department of Natural Resources Fire Crew
- Department of Transportation
- Wastewater Restoration and Treatment



# Transitions Out of DOC

Individuals transition to the community through a variety of pathways.



**Graduated  
Reentry**  
(11%)

**Reentry  
Centers**  
(7%)

**Community  
Parenting  
Alternative**  
(1%)

**Direct from  
Prison**  
(81%)

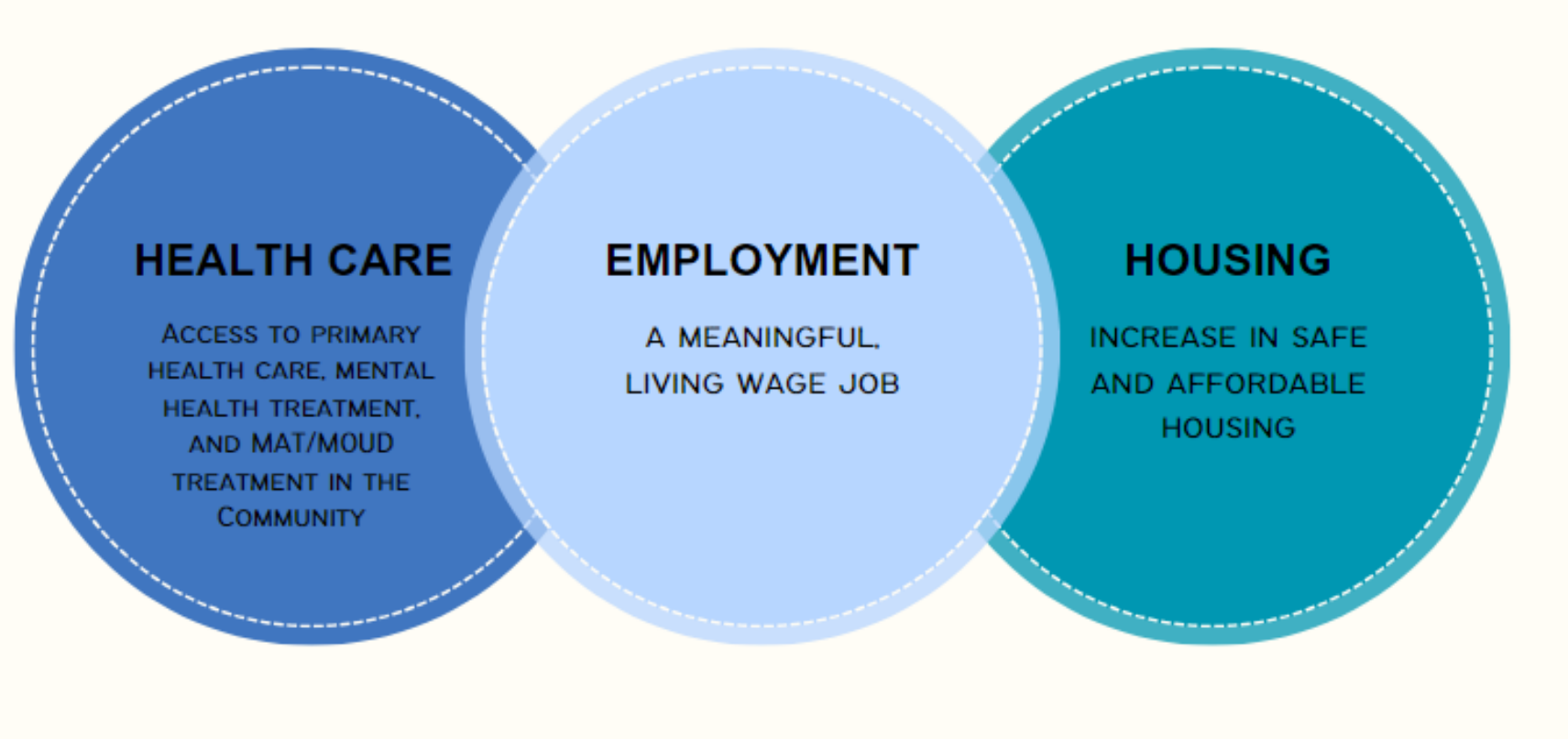


# Navigation Services Provide Critical Support for Successful Reentry



➔ FACILITY PHASE ➔ TRANSITION PHASE ➔ COMMUNITY PHASE ➔

# Moving the Needle



## HEALTH CARE

ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT, AND MAT/MOUD TREATMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

## EMPLOYMENT

A MEANINGFUL, LIVING WAGE JOB

## HOUSING

INCREASE IN SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

# Closing Remarks



Housing, healthcare and livable wage jobs are not about being soft on crime, they are about following the science to create public safety for all Washingtonians.