From Prison to Work

Bruce Western
Harvard University

December, 2008
Incarceration in Western Europe, 2001

- UK: 126
- Germany: 96
- N'lands: 95
- Italy: 95
- Austria: 85
- Belgium: 85
- France: 77
- Sweden: 68
- Denmark: 59
Incarceration in Western Europe and the US, 2001

- USA: 686
- UK: 126
- Germany: 96
- N’lands: 95
- Italy: 95
- Austria: 85
- Belgium: 85
- France: 77
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Incarceration Rate (per 100,000)
In 2007:
In 2007:
* 1.5m in prison
In 2007:
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* 780,000 in jail
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* 780,000 in jail
* 800,000 on parole
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* 1.5m in prison
* 780,000 in jail
* 800,000 on parole
* 4.2m on probation
Men's Risk of Imprisonment by 30-34

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>1999</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncollege</td>
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<td>5.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dropouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
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<td>20.5</td>
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A National Prisoner Reentry Program in Four Parts
Part 1. More Programs in Prison

- Federal prison provides 240 hours compulsory basic education and GED preparation for all high school dropouts.
- The Federal standard should be adopted nationally.
- In addition: Discharge planning to prepare for reentry (obtaining id, post-prison program enrollment).
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Part 2. Transitional Services Upon Release

- A year of community service employment for all parolees in need of work (about 200,000 annually)
- Transitional housing immediately after release
- Substance abuse treatment
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Two more parts to go to scale...
Part 3. Parole Reform

- Technical parole violators now account for about a third of prison admissions.
- Funds for reentry services must be conditional curtailing parole revocations.
- Re-imprisonment should be replaced with graduated sanctions and short jail stays.
- Parole reform increases access to transitional services and improves their effectiveness.
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Part 4. Eliminate Collateral Consequences

- Expand eligibility of the formerly-incarcerated to:
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  - TANF and food stamps
- Evaluate the elimination of bans for federal housing benefits
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**Costs and Benefits**

### Annual costs and benefits (millions)

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<th>Costs</th>
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<td>Prison programs</td>
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