



# Incarceration Prevention and Restorative Justice

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## Introduction:

High incarceration rates have been a pressing issue, with the justice system taking slack often. Since the War on drugs where a high number of the population, particularly the black community, was incarcerated, prison rates have been an issue. Not only with incarceration, but recidivism and overpopulation as well. One important subject is the school-to-prison pipeline where more disadvantaged schools tend to funnel kids into prison rather than brightening their future. Noting that, there have been efforts to find a way around all of these very important issues when it comes to the justice system. One solution that has been proposed and developed is the idea of restorative justice. Restorative justice is a collaborative effort between victim and perpetrator to organize a way to recognize actions and provide more humane and better ways of justice. Within this project, we hope to find the ways that restorative justice can provide options to the traditional justice problems, as well as possibly fill the gap in schools to provide children ways to learn from their mistakes rather than filing them into prisons.

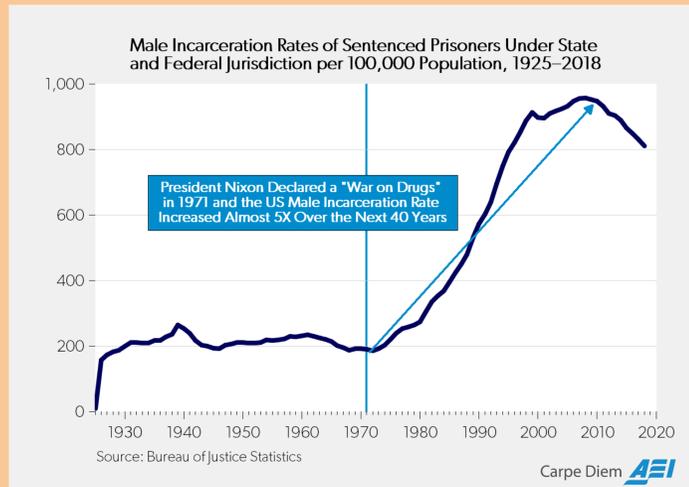


Image 1, "The Shocking Story Behind Nixon's Declaration of a 'War on Drugs' on This Day in 1971 That Targeted Blacks and Anti-war Activists"

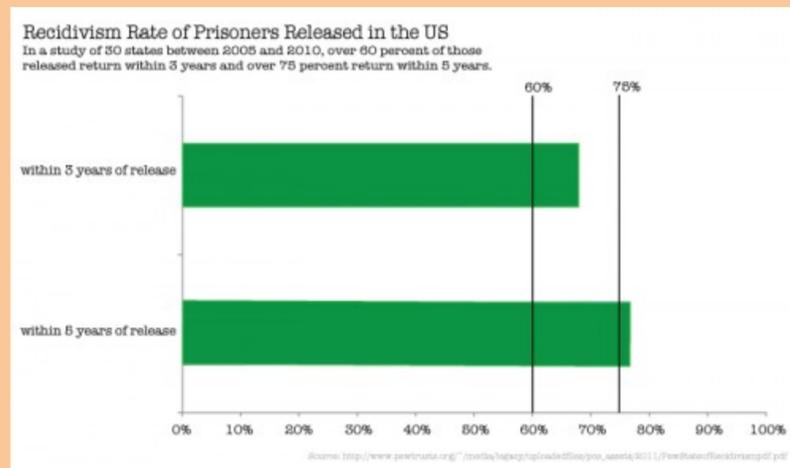


Image 2, "Not All Bad on the Criminal Justice Front: Crime, Sentencing and Corrections Reform Gains Momentum Across the States"

## Methodology:

- Researching and analyzing the justice system and past research on the subject
- Literature review of relevant scholarly literature on restorative justice and intervention programs
- Content analysis of organization materials and federal legislation
- Utilizing past research to formulate questions and find gaps in current research
- Collaborate with research mentor and research team to add all the components into one
- Utilizing documents to research into current programs and funding for nationwide as well as local programs
- Reaching out to nearby officials in relevant program
- Discussing current findings and how to expand into gaps in the knowledge of the current findings

## Results:

- Restorative justice works to lower the rates of recidivism
- Victims of crimes tend to lean towards restorative justice as they experience closure within the crimes committed
- Correlation between other forms of justice, rather than traditional, have been more efficient in lowering recidivism and engaging the struggling in the community
- When used in educational setting, students tend to become more involved in the academic setting and are less likely to reoffend
- Creates more positive relationships between the students and the staff in educational settings

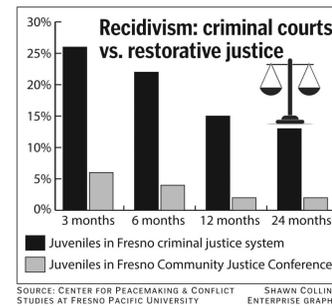


Image 3, "Restorative Justice: Let's Keep the Conversation Going"



Image 4, "Community Compact on the Use of Restorative Justice for the Safety and Empowerment of Utah Youth"

## Conclusion

Our research suggests that restorative justice is viable and effective within communities and schools. Restorative justice works to reduce the recidivism rates in the community and may also work within public schools (Maryfield et al, 2020). Similarly, victims also find satisfaction through this form of justice by receiving closure, with 85% of victims satisfied by the process (Restorative Justice Council). Our findings suggest that restorative justice is more efficient than traditional justice. Not only that, but we also found that schools in which this approach is taken over typical punishment, students are far more likely to join back into the school community in a positive way whereas when punished they tend to fall back into the negative behavior after. Similarly, students are more likely to foster positive relationships with school staff when restorative justice is implemented. Finding that restorative justice can be a way of getting kids reinvented in school is helpful as it allows us to improve conditions for kids in the schooling system and even possibly tackle the issue of kids getting funneled into prison. These findings are very important as this is a way to fix not only justice problems within the United States, but also address social issues that correlate to this. The school-to-prison pipeline, underfunded schools, and such are all issues that could be positively affected by these changes, or at least have some light shed on by these findings. Future research should focus on how restorative justice enhances communities and if restorative justice can work as a strategy within schools to address the pressing school-to-prison pipeline.

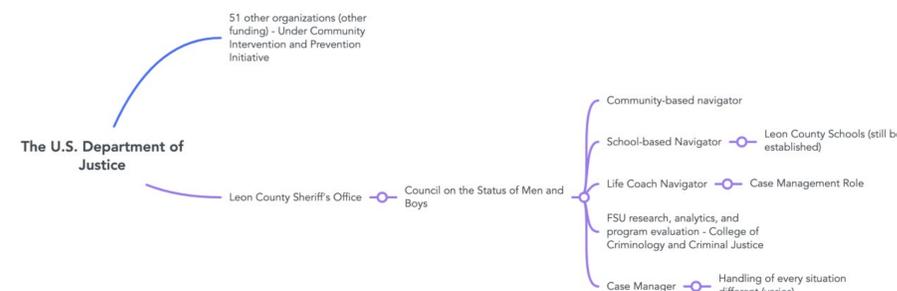


Image 5, made from Mindmeiser, entails the flow of money from the government to a local preventative program in the Leon County Sheriff's office, The Council on the Status of Men and Boys

## Further Research:

- What are ways we can further restorative justice efforts within different communities and school systems? future research into how restorative justice is important as it expands on the idea and discovers how we can further implement restorative justice and accommodate for different communities using this approach.
- How does restorative justice differ between the different states, and does this potential difference produce changes in the efficiency? Asking how this may differ between states if also important as it allows us to figure out if it is a truly efficient approach, or if it can be changed within its expansion to accommodate to the social and political climate of different states.
- Are there other ways around traditional justice, other than restorative justice? By looking into other forms of justice, we can seek to optimize ways of decreasing problematic statistics in the justice system.
- How can we use preventative measures over reactive measures with justice? What are some other strategies to prevent crime and youth delinquency rather than reacting to it, thus we can attack the problem at its source.

## Importance:

Our research is important as the problems like the school-to-prison pipeline, high recidivism rates, and high incarceration rates have yet to have solutions. Clearly, with the continuance of these problems, we must find alternate solutions for the traditional form of justice we use within the United States. By researching into the different ways of justice helps to fill these gaps and possibly provide solutions to our current justice systems' problems. Similarly, future research into how restorative justice is important as it expands on the idea and discovers how we can further implement restorative justice and accommodate for different communities using this approach. Similarly, its important to further research on how we can take preventative measures as opposed to reactive.

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