

Issues facing Ex-Offenders

Approximately 12 million former felons live in the U.S. today.

Each year, approximately 11 million inmates are released from jail -Shavit, 2008

Losing the Vote

In all but four states, inmates are not permitted to vote (one million people). About 30 states also deny the vote to those on parole and probation (another 1.4 million people). Fourteen states even bar ex-offenders who have completely served their sentences from voting for life (another 1.4 million).

The United States appears to be the only country that permanently disenfranchises ex-offenders, and has more of its population stripped of the vote than any other democracy.

Losing a Job

Questions about criminal history are now a standard part of most job applications. Employer rejection can combine with lack of money and excess free time to push offenders away from the community and back toward crime.

Losing the Lease

Background checks have become standard for most leases making it difficult to find housing.

Losing Social Connectedness, the Chance to Change, and Educational Opportunities

Recent Changes

H.R. 1593 Second Chance Act April 2008
Local/Federal Tax Incentives for hiring parolees

Special Health Considerations

Substance Abuse
Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Condoms are *ILLEGAL* in prison!)
Tuberculosis (30% of inmates with Latent TB)
Hepatitis C (25-42% prevalence in State Prisons)
Gang Involvement

Tips for Patients (From Go: *Getting in and Getting Out*, 2005)

References are key. *Encourage your patient to take a low-level job and work hard so that they can use the employer to receive recommendations for higher-level work.*

Networking also is important. *Direct patients to local support groups to help patient find jobs that are accepting of individuals with criminal records who are trying to turn their lives around.*

Don't lie, give excuses or harp on the details of a conviction. *Instead, recommend to patients that they discuss their own remorse and describe the efforts they have made to improve themselves.*

Local Resources

America Works

Oakland, CA Office
Contact: April Rizzi
1212 Broadway, 11th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

Phone# (510) 891-9100

Fax# (510) 891-9105

<http://www.americaworks.com/>



All of Us or None

"A national organizing initiative of prisoners, former prisoners and felons, to combat the many forms of discrimination that we face as the result of felony convictions."

1540 Market St. Ste. 490

San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: 415-255-7036 Ext. 337

<http://www.allofusornone.org/>

General Meetings

Every Third Thursday, 6:30 pm

1904 Franklin St., 9th Floor

Oakland, CA



Centerforce San Rafael Office:

2955 Kerner Blvd., 2nd Floor

San Rafael, CA 94901

Tel: 415/456-9980

Fax: 415/456-2146

<http://www.centerforce.org/>

Rubicon (510) 235 1516

Goodwill Industries (925) 706 9024

Local Counseling Centers (information handouts available in clinic)

Other Resources

Pager, Devah. 2007. *MARKED: Race, Crime, and Finding Work in an Era of Mass Incarceration*. University of Chicago Press. Chicago

Peeples, C. & C. Donner. 2005. *Go: Getting On After Getting Out*. Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition. Colorado (*offers some great guidelines on how to answer questions about a conviction*)

Tahmincioglu, E. *Getting out of prison and into a job: Federal, local governments offering tax incentives to hire parolees*.
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24428747/> May 5, 2008

AMICUS (Minnesota-based NGO)
www.amicususa.org

The Legal Action Center
<http://www.lac.org/roadblocks-to-reentry/index.php>

The Prisoner Reentry Institute
<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/centersinstitutes/pri/x.asp>.

The Sentencing Project
<http://www.sentencingproject.org/>



Interested in Learning More?

Opportunities for Medical Residents

San Quentin State Prison-rotations possible in prison health

Contacts

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Consultation Network

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A New Beginning



Re-Entry Resources for Patients with Criminal Records

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