



Supporting Individuals: Re-entry & Education Pathway



April 94
McNeil Island

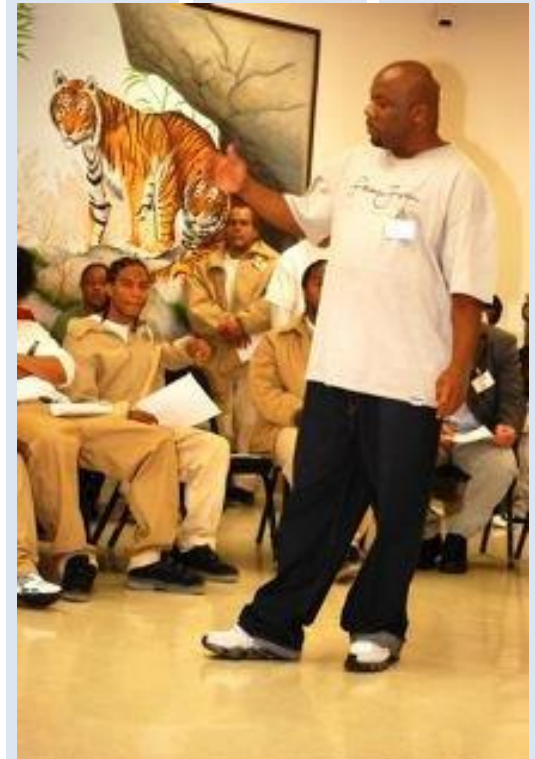
MCNEIL ISLAND CORRECTIONS CENTER - DOC 19-22 (2/87)
IMPREST FUND STUB 5

5760

#713385 Carl
Gate money
Transportation \$5.75

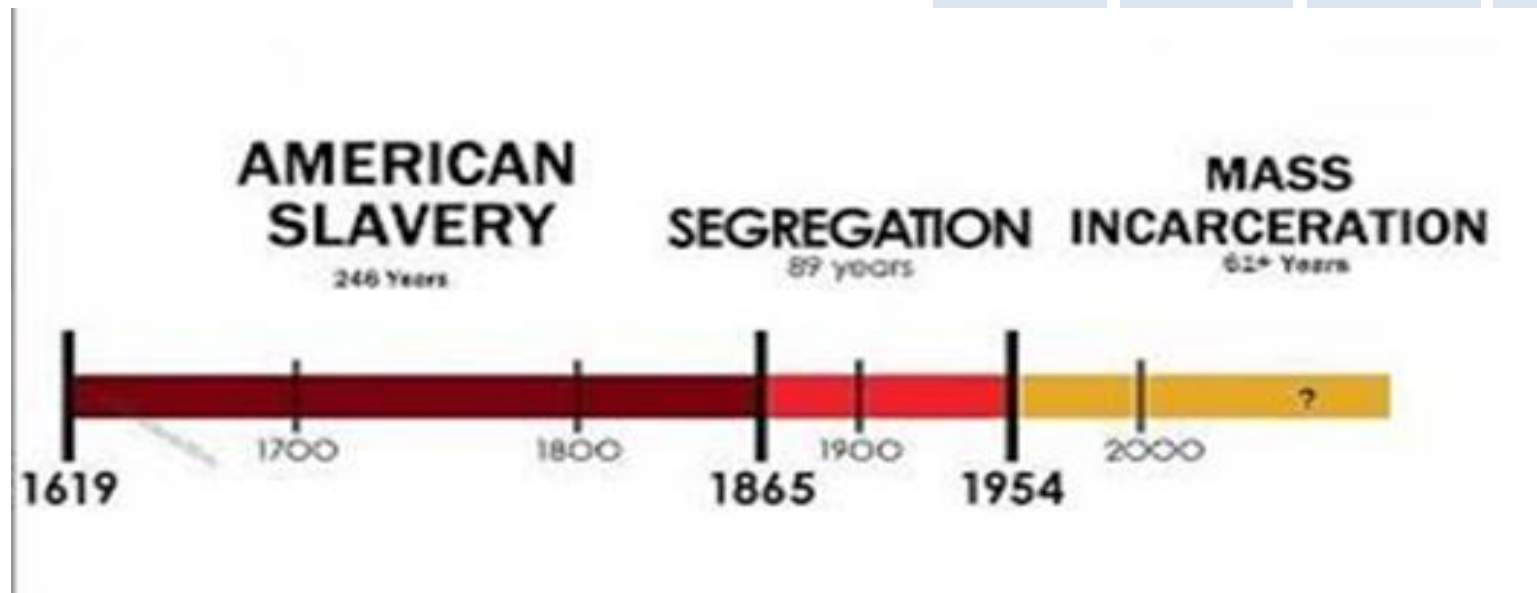
RECEIVED CHECK FOR \$45.75 FROM THE SUPT. Cameron Carl
Cameron Carl

DETACH AND RETAIN THIS STATEMENT
THE ATTACHED CHECK IS IN PAYMENT OF ITEMS DESCRIBED ABOVE



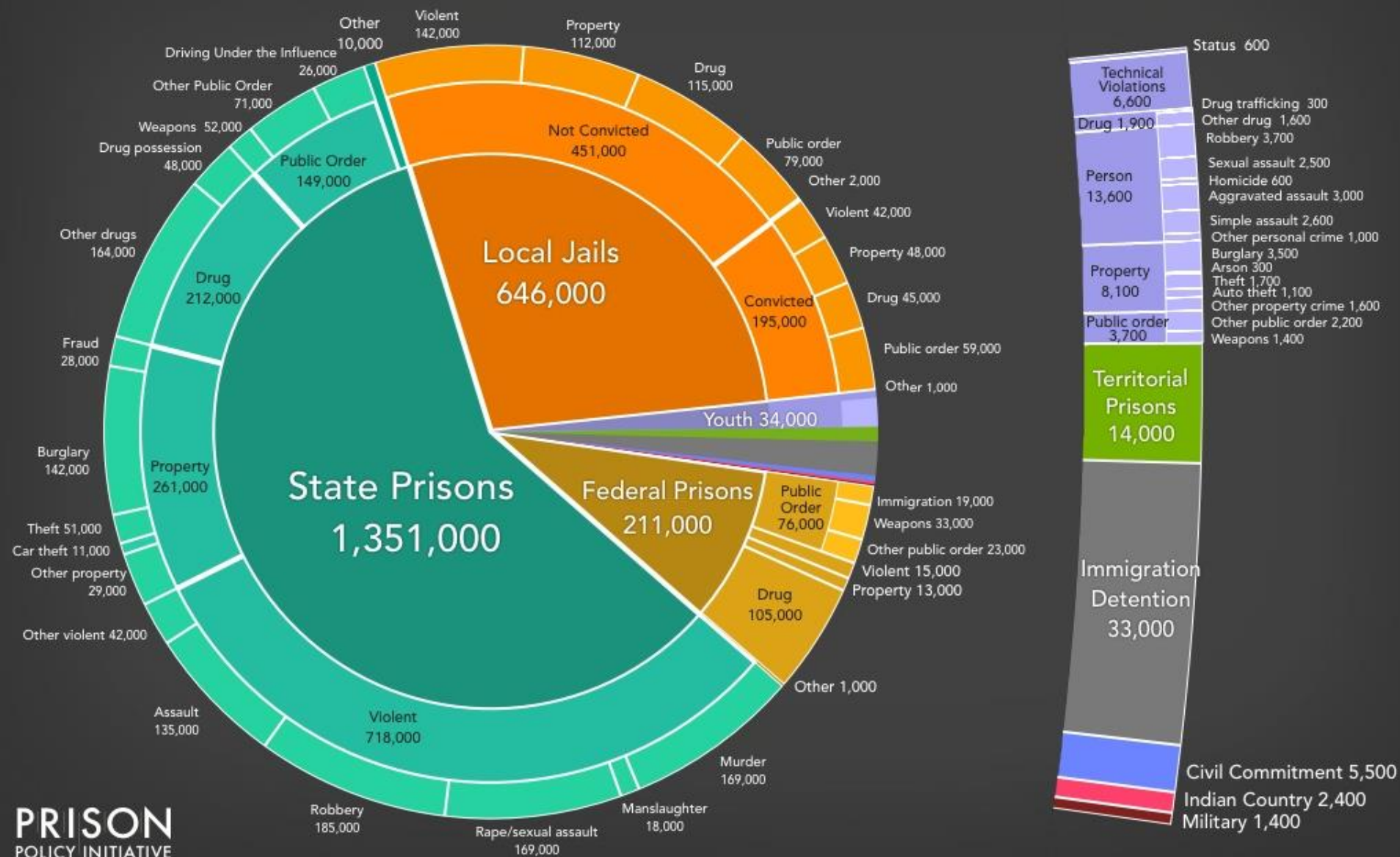
Mass Incarceration & The PIC

Historical Context



How many people are locked up in the United States?

The United States locks up more people, per capita, than any other nation. But grappling with why requires us to first consider the many types of correctional facilities and the reasons that 2.3 million people are confined there.



How many people are in Washington's criminal justice system?

139,000 are behind bars or under criminal justice supervision.



Racial and Ethnic Disparity in Imprisonment

Washington (2014)

(per 100,000 residents)

- White – 224
- Black – 1272
- Latinx - 272

King County (2014)

White: 165

Latinx: 41

Black: 889

Asian Pacific Islander: 58

Native: 669

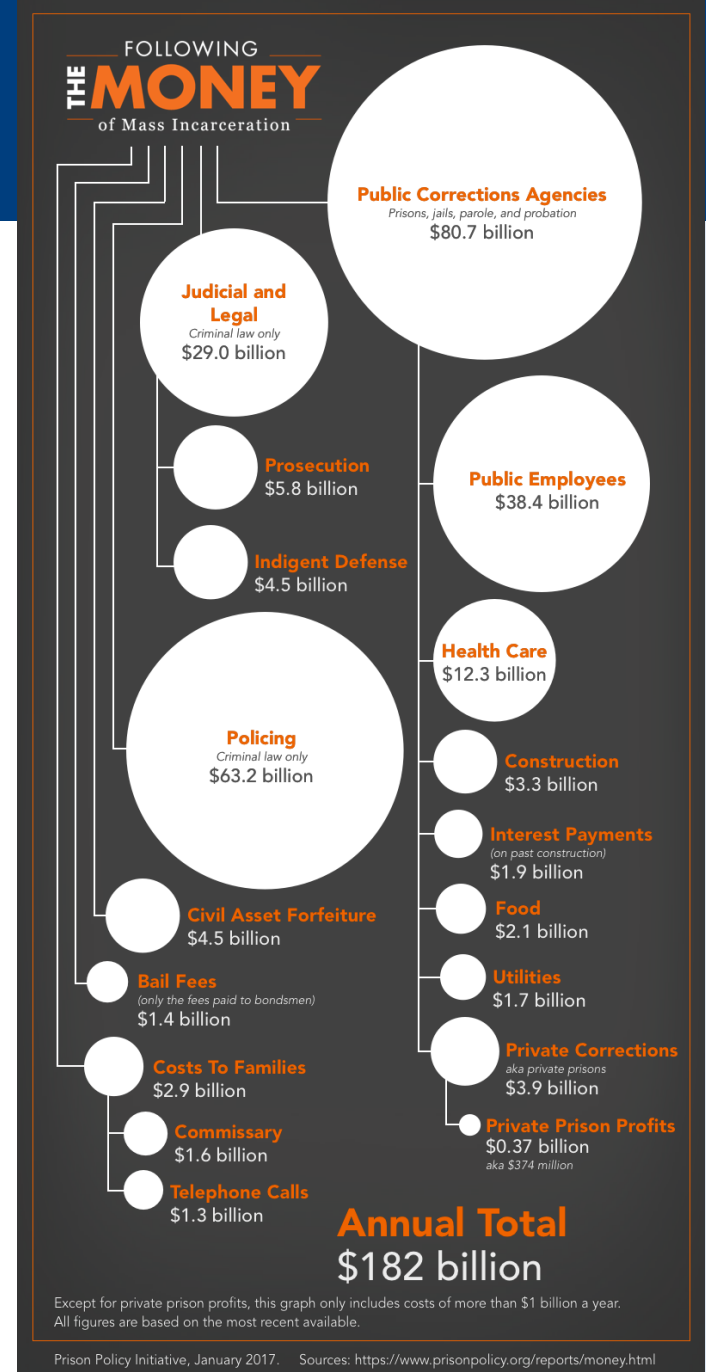
Ages 15-64

Per 100,000 county residents

Cost of Incarceration: Is it worth it?

- About \$70 billion dollars are spent on corrections annually.
- An average \$33,800 annually per Washington DOC inmate.
- Average college tuition costs for WA State, in 2015-2016 school year was \$5,191 for in-state.
- A \$2.9 billion cost to families.

Following the Money of Mass Incarceration -
<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/money.html>



Re-entry Rates from Prison

United States (both State/Federal) – 700,000

Statewide (2017) – 7850

King County – 1441

Pierce - 1131

Snohomish - 592

Recidivism

- The risk is higher in the first 3 years of release
- Increased risk due to barriers and being locked out of basic human needs

Re-entry is a process

- Different for everyone depending on personal, bio-psycho, social and economic factors
- Trauma from being incarcerated, experiencing racism, ACE's, other trauma exposure
- Conflicting Emotions/Feelings of excitement, overwhelmed, self doubt, worthiness, discouragement, depression, fear, anxiety
- Navigating resources and seeking assistance
- Fulfilling court obligations and meeting probation demands
- Dealing with barriers imposed by probation, work release, other state/local agencies
- Getting basic needs met (ID, food, housing, clothing transportation, hygiene)
- Maintaining sobriety/recovery, mental health and wellness
- Rebuilding and Reestablishing relationships (family and community)
- Facing discrimination in education, employment and housing
- Minimal support system or that is fragmented or not healthy

Cultural and Gender Responsiveness

Cultural

- Acknowledge and respect perspective and experience
- Include individual/group cultural references in all aspects of learning, engagement and experience
- Recognize and respect the importance of cultural references
- Learn from and relate respectfully with people of your own **culture** as well as those from other **cultures**

Gender (Women, transgender women, gender non conforming)

- Engage in a relational way to promote mutual respect and empathy
- Experiences within and outside of the criminal justice system are different from their male counterparts and as a result, their needs are quite different than those of men
- High rates of mental health problems such as depression, PTSD, and substance abuse
- Identity and self-worth are defined by their relationships. For women involved in the justice system who have experienced trauma and abuse by family members and significant others, their ability to achieve healthy, empathic and mutually empowering relationships is often limited
- Women are more likely to have served as the primary caretakers of children prior to entering prison

Collateral Consequences (Institutional Barriers)

Legal Sanctions

- Civic participation
 - (voting, serving on a jury)
- Employment
 - (discrimination, ineligible for certain licenses)
- Family
 - (can lose custody, imposition of child support, child support arrears)
- Financial impact
 - (monetary sanctions, loss of federal benefits, loss of income)
- Housing
 - (“one strike” prohibitions, time bar)
- Immigration (deportation)

Social Sanctions

- Reduced employment options and wages
- Housing instability
- Adverse effects on mental and physical health
- Distrust of law enforcement and the criminal justice system
- Familial separation and tension
- Negative consequences for children

Things to Know

- **Current & Future Policy Reform**
 - **Voting Rights Restoration**
 - **Legal Financial Obligation (LFO's) reform**
 - **Fair Chance Employment (Ban the Box)**
 - **Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity (CROP)**
 - **Fair Chance Housing (Seattle city limits only)**
 - **Governors Reentry Council**
 - **Pell Grant eligibility instatement for prisoners (future)**
 - **Higher Education for currently incarcerated consortium**

Education Reduces Recidivism

Recidivism Rates with Education Levels



The Relationship Between Incarceration and Low Literacy

- Only about half of incarcerated adults have a high school diploma or its equivalent
- 70 % of all incarcerated adults cannot read at a 4th grade level (National Adult Literacy Survey)
- Employment rates and earning histories of people in prison and jail are often low before incarceration as a result of limited education, low job skill levels, and the prevalence of physical and mental health problems; incarceration only exacerbates these challenges
- The relationship between an individual and school; loss of interest, academic difficulty, bias from teachers/staff, pushed into special ed, pushed out of school, disciplinary practices, curriculum that is white washed, social/household factors and environment
- Increasing literacy and education attainment will reduce risk of recidivism. Those without sufficient income are more prone to crime

Educational opportunities

- Jail (King County)

- Basic Education (GED, ESL, Creative Writing, College Prep, tutoring)

- Prison

- Basic Education (GED, HS21+, ESL)
- Degree and technical programs
- Higher education
 - Primarily independently funded
 - T.E.A.C.H., Freedom Education Project Puget Sound, University Beyond Bars
 - Correspondence courses
 - Pell Grant pilot

- Community

- Job Training Programs
 - Farestart, Pioneer Human Services, Seattle Goodwill, Urban League Seattle, South Seattle College
- Apprenticeship and Technical Programs
 - Urban League Seattle, Seattle Vocational Institute – PACT, South Seattle College – Georgetown Campus, Renton Tech, Bates (Tacoma)
- Community Colleges
- Certificate, AAS and Transfer options

On Campus Re-entry Support

College Reentry Navigators provided at:

- Renton Technical College
- Seattle Central College
- South Seattle College
- Bates Technical College (Pierce)
- Tacoma Community College (Pierce)
- Edmonds Community College (Snohomish)
- Skagit Valley College (Whatcom/Skagit)
- Clark College (Clark)

University support

- UWT Post Prison Education Research Lab
- Evergreen Tacoma / Numbers to Names
- UW Seattle

How can you be a great volunteer?

- Be accountable
- Meaningful relationships
- Education as freedom
- Language matters – Person 1st!
- Gain knowledge and awareness
- Change the narrative

What else can you do to support the re-entry process?

- Advocate for barrier removal to support the individual and their families' reintegration into society.
 - Housing, Education, Employment, Drug and alcohol treatment
- Dispel myths.
 - Financial aid loss, Voting rights
- Support investment in interventions and divestment from incarceration.
 - Restoring Pell Grants for prisoners
 - Restorative justice models, alternative sentencing, education & training
 - Zero Detention Initiatives
- Advocate for Policy Changes: Local, State and National.
 - Decriminalization and harm reduction
 - Law enforcement reform
 - Prosecutorial accountability / plea bargain, bail, and sentencing reform
 - Adequate representation

Additional Community Resources

•Grassroots and Community Based Organizations

- **Columbia Legal Services**
- **Seattle Public Library**
- **Village of Hope**
- **Black Prisoners' Caucus / T.E.A.C.H.**
- **Urban League of Greater Seattle**
- **Arms Around You**
- **F.I.G.H.T. (Formerly Incarcerated Group Healing Together)**
- **New Connections (South King County)**
- **NW Community Bail Fund**
- **IF Project**
- **Post Prison Education Program**

Further your learning

- **A Pound of Flesh: Monetary Sanctions as a Punishment for the Poor**, Alexes Harris. (2016). <https://www.alexesharris.com/a-pound-of-flesh>
- **Just Mercy**, Bryon Stevenson. (2014). <http://bryanstevenson.com> & <https://ejj.org>
- **Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison**, Bruce Western. (2018)
- **The Return** (Documentary, 2016), Directors: Kelly Duane, Katie Galloway
- **Following the Money of Mass Incarceration:**
<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/money.html>
- **The New Jim Crow**, Michelle Alexander. (2010).
- **Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom**, Bell Hooks. (1994).
- **Reentry Considerations for Justice Involved Women:**
<http://cjinvolvementwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Reentry-Considerations-for-Justice-Involved-Women-FINAL.pdf>

Discussion / Q & A