

Recidivism

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## Recidivism

### **Introduction**

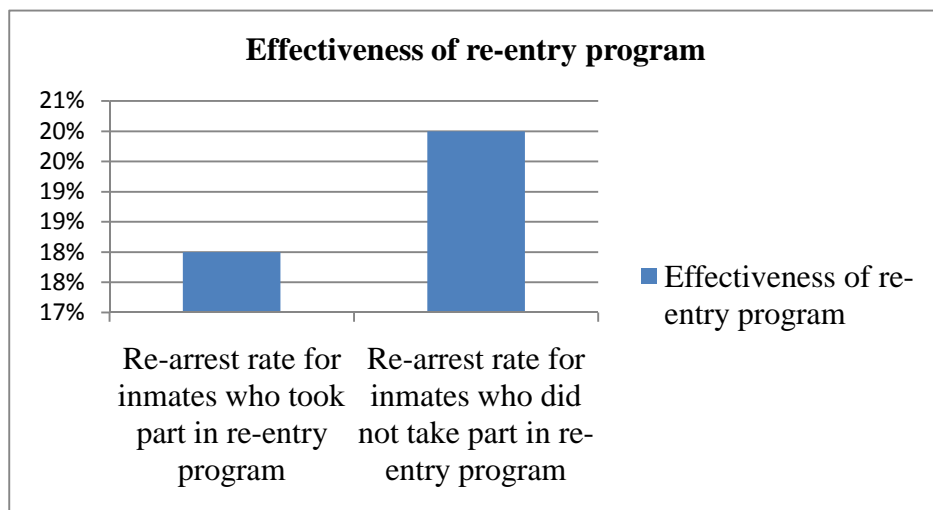
Life is a continuous learning process. In our lives we make a lot of mistakes and learn from our mistakes. There are some who make mistakes and then they get punishment for their mistakes and then learn from pains that they suffer during the punishment. Then there are those who commit mistakes and serve the punishment and still, they commit the same mistake over and over again. Just like normal life this issue is also common in law and enforcement. There are criminals who commit crimes even after the punishment. This is called recidivism. The following part of the paper describes recidivism from different perspectives.

### **Discussion**

The concept of recidivism can be defined as an act of a criminal to commit a crime even after he has faced the negative consequences of committing that crime. This means that a person relapse and portray the criminal behavior, even after he has suffered from the punishment. Recidivism is considered as one of the significant factor of the criminal justice. If we take into consideration the statistics and data related to the rates of recidivism from 1983 to 1994 then it would be revealed to us that the rate of recidivism was so high during this period. In the year 1983 there were almost 108,580 prisoners were released from the prison. Out of these 108,580 almost 63 percent were rearrested. However, in the year 1994, there were 300,000 prisoners were released and almost 68 percent were rearrested. This shows that the rate of recidivism is increasing (DIANE Publishing, 2003).

Year	Number of Prisoners	Rate of Re-arrest
1983	108,580	63%
1994	300,000	68%
2011	412,897	72%

In order to combat the issue of recidivism there are a number of strategies that are used by the law and enforcement agencies. One of the most effective and positive strategy is to indulge the prisoners in various re-entry programs. The purpose of re-entry program is to prepare the prisoners to go back to the society and stay away from criminal activities. There are scores of re-entry programs that can be made available to prisoners which can help them to be normal part of the society and in turn in reducing the rate of recidivism. Re-entry program cause positive impact on recidivism. There have been many studies that were conducted to gauge the impact of re-entry program and the rate of recidivism. A study was conducted by Robinson in the year 1996. The study shows that the rate of recidivism among the prisoners who took part in re-entry program is low as compared to those who did not take part in the re-entry programs (Robinson, 1996).



### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it can be said that recidivism is a significant part of the criminal justice. No matter how strict the laws, rules and regulations are if there is recidivism then it would be difficult to lower down the crime rate in the society. There are a number of strategies that can be used to eliminate and to lower down the rate of recidivism. With the help of effective and efficient strategies the rate of recidivism can be brought down. Otherwise, this would not only be harmful for the society but, it would also produce negative impacts for the criminal. Usage of the appropriate re-entry program can be of immense importance in reducing the rate of recidivism.

### References

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