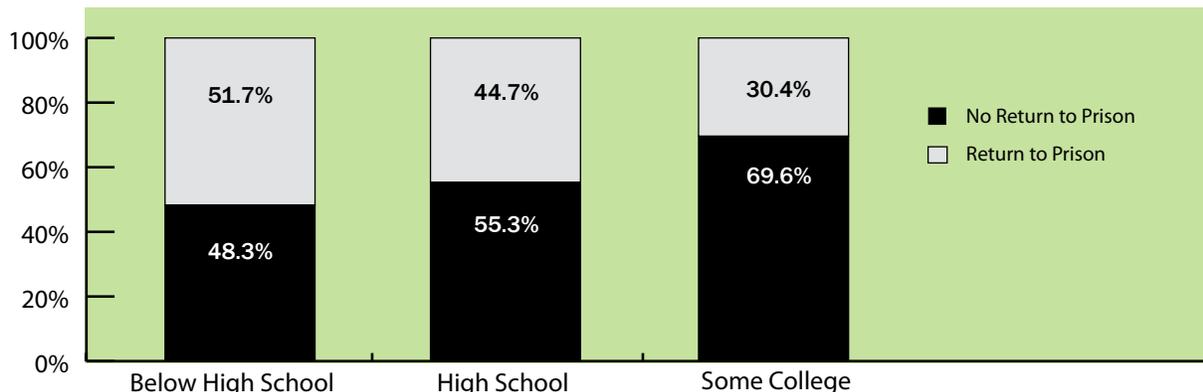




More Education Linked to Less Recidivism, More Post-Prison Employment

For people exiting correctional facilities, greater educational attainment is associated with lower recidivism rates and greater employment rates, according to results of an Indiana study¹ reported recently in the *Justice Policy Journal*. Across all offense types,² releasees with high school or some college education³ were less likely to return to prison and more likely to be employed during the study period⁴ than their peers with below-high-school education. Among releasees who had been incarcerated for drug offenses, 51.7% of those with below-high-school education returned to prison, compared to 44.7% of those with high school and 30.4% of those with some college. Similarly, 57.9% of those with below-high-school education were employed, compared to 67.8% of those with high school and 65.2% of those with some college. The need for formal education is evidenced by the significant portion of releasees across all offense types with below-high-school education – almost 4 in 10 (38.1%). Authors advocate increasing correctional education resources as a viable solution to reduce recidivism.

Recidivism Among Releasees Incarcerated for Drug Offenses, by Education Level



Source:

Nally, J. M, Lockwood, S., Ho, T., and Knutson, K. (2012). The Post-release Employment and Recidivism among Different Types of Offenders with a Different Level of Education: A 5-year Follow-up Study in Indiana. *Justice Policy Journal*, 9(1).

Notes:

- ¹ Researchers conducted a 5-year follow-up on a cohort of 6,561 people released from the Indiana Department of Corrections in 2005.
- ² Offense types: violent, non-violent, sex, and drug.
- ³ High school education: earned a GED or diploma. Some college education: completed a two-year college degree.
- ⁴ Study period: 2005-2009.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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