

Prisoner Reentry: A Public Health or Public Safety Issue for Social Work Practice?

DOI:10.1080/19371918.2011.560822

George T. Patterson

05 Mar 2013, Social Work in Public Health, Volume 28, Issue 2, 2013

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19371918.2011.560822>

Abstract

A significant literature identifies the policy, economic, health, and social challenges that confront released prisoners. This literature also describes the public health and public safety risks associated with prisoner reentry, provides recommendations for improving the reentry process, and describes the effectiveness of prison-based programs on recidivism rates. Public health and public safety risks are particularly significant in communities where large numbers of prisoners are released and few evidence-based services exist. The purpose of this article is to describe the public health and public safety risks that released prisoners experience when they reenter communities, and to discuss the social justice issues relevant for social work practice.