



Prison Informational Links

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What is Prison? Prison is for offenders who are sentenced to over a year in confinement. In a smart sentencing system prison is reserved for people who require punishment or must be removed from society to protect the public.

Washington has 12 prisons. Eight of the prisons are considered “major” and 4 “minimum.” Minimum facilities house offenders who will be released within 4 years. On June 30, 2012, there were 17,697 offenders in Washington State prisons. Males represented 92.5% of the prison population; females represented 7.5%. The average length of stay was 24.2 months.

Evidence shows that rather than reducing recidivism, incarceration actually increases the likelihood that the person will re-offend upon release.

What Programs Exist in Washington Prisons? According to the Washington State Department of Corrections website, "The Legislature funds effective, evidence-based programs, as determined by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, that are available on a limited basis in the Department's prisons to include:

- Vocational Education
- Basic Education
- Correctional Industries
- Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (includes Moral Reconation, Stress & Anger Management and Getting it Right)
- Chemical Dependency Treatment”

Links for More Information:

Washington State Institute for Public Policy, <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/>

Washington State Department of Corrections website, <http://www.doc.wa.gov/facilities/prison/default.asp>

Sources of Information:

Washington State Department of Corrections website (8.23.12)
<http://www.doc.wa.gov/facilities/prison/default.asp>

"Research-Based Smarter Sentencing, Training for Prosecutors, Public Defenders, Judges and Community Corrections Professionals," September 28-29, 2012, presentation by Frank Domurad and M. Elaine Nugent-Borakove to Spokane City and County, Spokane, WA.

Douglas Marlowe, J.D., Ph.D.,

"Best Practices In Drug Courts and Reentry Courts," September 12, 2012, presentation to Federal STEP Reentry Court, Spokane, WA .

"Evidence-Based Sentencing for Drug Offenders," September 13, 2012, presentation to Spokane Municipal Courts, Spokane, WA.

"A Criminal Justice System that Works," September 13, 2012, Community presentation, Spokane, WA.

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For more information on the Smart Justice Campaign go to www.smartjusticespokane.org or contact:

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