

# CENTRAL INDIANA

UNDERSTANDING THE REGION AND IDENTIFYING CHOICES

CENTER FOR URBAN POLICY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 2001

## Reintegration and Aftercare of Ex-Offenders in Central Indiana

In 1999, the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) released from prison a total of 3,032 adult offenders who had been committed from the eight Indiana counties that comprise the Indiana Department of Correction Parole District 3 (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, and Shelby counties). Unfortunately, the parole/conditional release failure rate is high. According to some estimates, nearly 2,000 of these ex-offenders will be arrested again within three years unless something is done to reduce this trend. The IDOC budget is much more heavily weighted toward incarceration of offenders than toward the provision of programming for aftercare.



The majority of these ex-offenders are parents of minor children, and most have histories of substance abuse and/or mental health problems. If communities fail to respond to the needs of this growing population, not only will their recidivism rates continue to be unacceptably high, but the outlook for their children will remain poor. It has been well documented in

various studies, including one published by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, that children of incarcerated parents are at high risk for experiencing a variety of negative developmental outcomes, including ending up in juvenile or adult correctional systems themselves.

### Gender Disparities Among the Incarcerated

**U.S. incarceration rate for men is nearly 12 times the rate for women.**

However, increase in the annual incarceration rate is higher for women—8.4 percent for women, 6.5 percent for males.

**Among the 1999 ex-offenders released in Central Indiana, women served shorter terms.**

68 percent of the women were released in less than one year, while 50 percent of the men served longer than one year.

#### Authors

**William H. Barton, Ph.D.**, Indiana University School of Social Work  
**Lori M. Baker**, United Way of Central Indiana Community Service Council

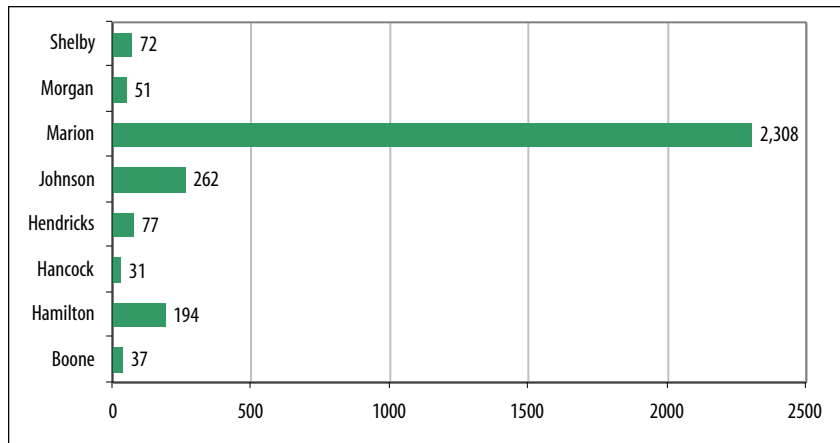
**G. Roger Jarjoura, Ph.D.**, IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs  
**Adam Fronczek**, Wabash College



# Ex-Offenders from Indianapolis and Seven Surrounding Counties

## Offenders Released in 1999 by County, Parole District 3

Released in 1999: **3,032**  
From Marion County: **76.1%**  
Males: **90.1%**  
Mean age at time of release: **32.9 years old**  
*Age ranged from 17 to 91*  
Time served (mean): **21.9 months**  
Time served (median): **11.9 month**  
Youths in state juvenile facilities  
in Central Indiana: **814**  
*December 2000*



Source: Indiana Department of Correction

## Suggestions for Successful Reintegration Programs

The Offender Reintegration Subcommittee of the United Way of Central Indiana's Safety and Violence Impact Council identified a need to better coordinate offender reintegration services. According to a needs assessment conducted by the subcommittee, the following characteristics contribute to a successful program:

- An overall coordinating mechanism that links ex-offenders with available resources on the basis of individual case plans
- An up-to-date listing of all available resources in the community that can specifically address transitioning ex-offenders' needs
- Case planning that begins within the prisons and continues during the ex-offender's transition back into the community
- Increased availability of adequate housing
- Increased availability of employment opportunities, at sustainable wages, especially those that provide some potential for career advancement
- Engagement of the faith community and other citizens, including other ex-offenders to serve as mentors and/or support group facilitators
- An aggressive case management component that oversees implementation of the case plan, coordinates and brokers available services as needed, and advocates for the ex-offenders with employers, landlords, and others
- Education of the community about the issues faced by ex-offenders and the community benefits of enhancing successful reintegration
- Ongoing evaluation to document successes of community reintegration and point to areas needing modification and improvement.



## AIM Provides Hope for Young People



The mission of Aftercare by IUPUI through Mentoring (AIM), funded in part by the IDOC and a grant from AmeriCorps, is to aid in the successful transition and reintegration of identified high-risk juvenile offenders from secure confinement back to their communities. The program addresses these issues through the use of:

- mentors
- life-skills training
- identifying and facilitating linkages between community resources and the youths.

### AIM Reaches Hundreds

- Since August 1996, there were 330 participants from the Plainfield Juvenile Correctional Facility.
- Youth participants are provided essential educational opportunities.



### Benefits

- AIM participants employed soon after release: 80 percent.
- A 63 percent reduction in reincarceration relative to non-participants occurs when mentor and youth followed through on their commitments.
- For each additional 100 youths in the program over a 24-month period, the cost is \$390,800, which saves the state—that is, the taxpayers—\$1,003,454.
- Well-implemented interventions, including mentoring and improving the coordination of service delivery, realized savings in criminal justice system costs of between \$2,000 to 3,000 per individual, and savings of \$6,000 for high-risk youths.



CENTER FOR URBAN POLICY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## Central Indiana's Future: Understanding the Region and Identifying Choices

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment has launched a new research project—Central Indiana's Future: Understanding the Region and Identifying Choices—funded by an award of general support from the Lilly Endowment. The aim of the project is to increase understanding of the region and to inform decision-makers about the array of options for improving quality of life for Central Indiana residents. Researchers from several universities are working to understand how the broad range of investments made by households, governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations within the Central Indiana Region contribute to quality of life. The geographic scope of the project includes 44 counties in an integrated economic region identified by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

National and state trends show that there are rising prison populations, which results in increasing numbers of ex-offenders returning to society. How do we break the cycle of recidivism and successfully reintegrate ex-offenders—both adult and juvenile—into society? In Central Indiana the Safety and Violence Impact Council of the United Way of Central Indiana conducted a preliminary assessment of adult offender reintegration needs in an eight-county area in Central Indiana to inform efforts to improve the chances for successful community reintegration of persons returning from prison. The Aftercare by IUPUI through Mentoring (AIM) Program addresses reintegration needs of juveniles. This issue brief summarizes some of the results from the needs assessment and policy implications of the AIM Program.

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment is part of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis. For more information about the Central Indiana Project or the research reported here, contact the center at 317-261-3000 or visit the center's Web site at [www.urbancenter.iupui.edu](http://www.urbancenter.iupui.edu).



342 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1708  
[www.urbancenter.iupui.edu](http://www.urbancenter.iupui.edu)