

Study Finds Correctional Education Effective at Reducing Recidivism and Increasing Employment

According to the Rand study, of the approximately 700,000 individuals released from prison each year, nearly half will go on to re-offend and return to prison within three years. However, those who participate in correctional education programs, including academic and vocational, are 43% less likely to return to prison than those who do not participate in educational programming while incarcerated.

Perhaps a contributing factor in this decreased likelihood of recidivism, individuals who received education while in prison were 13% more likely to obtain employment following their release. This rate further increased to 28% among those who received vocational training.

Though analyzing the effectiveness of educational programs by format and curriculum was not a focus of this study, the RAND Corporation did find that computer-based or computer-supplemented instruction had better results in improving inmates' math and reading skills.

The RAND Corporation recommends that further studies be undertaken in order to determine what types of educational programming are most effective in correctional settings.

For more information, you can view the full report online: [*Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education: A meta-Analysis of Programs That Provide Education to Incarcerated Adults.*](#)

