The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND RECIDIVISM

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INTRODUCTION

University of Oklahoma, 2013-present

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, 2009-2013

Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center, 2005-2009

Florida Supreme Court, 2001-2005

REENTRY AND RECIDIVISM

Barriers to Successful Reentry

- Long-term concern with community reintegration
- Education
- Job training
- Employment

REENTRY AND RECIDIVISM

Defining and Measuring Recidivism

- New arrest, conviction, incarceration
- 6 months, 1 year, 3 years
- Official records and statistics
- What can the CJ system do to reduce recidivism?

CHOICE AND CONTEXT

Individual Responsibility

- Classical school
- 1760s; 1970s to present
- Free will, rational choice, deterrence
- Self-interest in correctional education/job training

CHOICE AND CONTEXT

Social Responsibility

- Objectivist school
- 1920s to present
- Crime related to social conditions, rehabilitation
- Societal interest in correctional education/job training

CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION

Davis, Bozick, Steele, Saunders, and Miles (2013)

- RAND—meta-analysis
- Lower odds of recidivism—43 percent
- Higher odds of employment—13 percent
- Cost-effective

CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION

Webb, Wang, and Ho (2024)

- 72,000 offenders released from Indiana DOC, 2009-15
- Recidivism rate with college degree—23 percent
- Recidivism rate with HS/GED or below—30 percent
- “deterrent mechanism”

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Schuster and Stickle (2023)

- Meta-analysis of 79 papers between 1980 and 2023
- Reduces odds of recidivism
- Increases odds of employment
- Highest return on investment

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Tennyson, Thomas, Purdy, and Guiton (2022)

- United States Sentencing Commission
- Study of vocational training for federal offenders
- Differences in recidivism were not statistically significant
- Did not measure impact of job training on employment

CONCLUSION

Correctional education (college/job) is consistently associated with lower recidivism rates and higher employment rates.

College degree programs may be more effective at reducing recidivism.

Both address individual/social responsibility.