

# THE ROAD BACK

## IMPACT OF BARRIERS ON A FRESH START



Every year, between 600,000 and 800,000 people are released from state and federal prisons

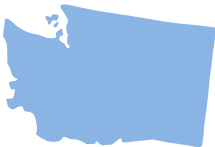


**19 million** Americans have a felony record

**79 million** have a criminal record of some type

**Re-incarcerating people is costly.**

In 2022, states collectively spent more than **\$8 billion** to reincarcerate people released from prison.



### WASHINGTON STATE

- **12,000 - 13,000** people release from prisons and jails annually
- In June of 2025, there were **13,852** people on active DOC supervision



**Lack of access to basic needs and employment remain some of the top indicators of recidivism.**

**30%** unemployment rate among people with criminal records, vs. **4.2%** of those who don't

- **16%** recidivism rate among those with stable employment, compared to 52% without stable employment

- **91%** of people released from prison report having food insecurity
- **48,000** people releasing from prisons or jails enter homeless shelters annually due to a lack of stable, affordable housing



Sources: National Reentry Council, US Department of Justice, US Department of Labor, US Chamber of Commerce, RAND Corporation, WA DOC Data Analytics 2024 & WA DOC Fact Card June 2025