

# Criminal Justice Reform Reentry Survey

N=1,000 Registered Voters, December 8-11, 2017

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

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1. Generally speaking, how much do you worry about crime and safety in the country?

**84%** **TOTAL A LOT/SOME**  
**16%** **TOTAL NOT THAT MUCH/NOT AT ALL**

36% A lot  
49% Some  
14% Not that much  
2% Not at all

2. Do you generally feel very safe, somewhat safe, not that safe, or not safe at all in this country?

**77%** **TOTAL SAFE**  
**23%** **TOTAL NOT SAFE**

12% Very safe  
65% Somewhat safe  
19% Not that safe  
4% Not safe at all

3. Compared to the last few years, do you believe the amount of crime in the country has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

58% Increased  
33% Stayed about the same  
10% Decreased

4. Compared to the last few years, do you believe the level of safety in the country has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

46% Decreased  
30% Stayed about the same  
24% Increased

Thinking now about our country's criminal justice system, which is comprised of police, the courts, and the prison system...

5. Would you say that our police forces...?

- 42% Have serious problems that need to be addressed immediately
- 42% Have some problems that should be addressed eventually
- 15% Are working pretty well and don't need anything addressed right now

6. Would you say that our court system...?

- 47% Has serious problems that need to be addressed immediately
- 44% Has some problems that should be addressed eventually
- 8% Is working pretty well and doesn't need anything addressed right now

7. Would you say that our prison system...?

- 57% Has serious problems that need to be addressed immediately
- 37% Has some problems that should be addressed eventually
- 6% Is working pretty well and doesn't need anything addressed right now

8. In general, do you believe the primary purpose of the criminal justice system should be to...?

- 64% Punish but also rehabilitate those convicted of a crime
- 24% Punish those convicted of a crime
- 12% Rehabilitate those convicted of a crime

9. Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important to reduce the number of people who are in prison in America today?

- 78% TOTAL IMPORTANT**
- 22% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT**

- 33% Very important
- 45% Somewhat important
- 15% Not very important
- 7% Not at all important

**10.** Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important to do a better job rehabilitating people who are in prison or have been released from prison?

**91% TOTAL IMPORTANT**  
**9% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT**

56% Very important  
35% Somewhat important  
6% Not very important  
3% Not at all important

**11.** In your opinion, which of the following would do more to prevent those convicted of crimes from committing further offenses once they're released from prison?

69% Providing rehabilitation services and training so those convicted of a crime can reenter society and be productive citizens.  
31% Making prison as hard and unpleasant as possible so those convicted of a crime are afraid of going back.

**12.** Below are two statements. Although you may not agree completely with either one, which statement do you agree with more?

72% (Some/Other) people say those who have been convicted of a crime can turn their lives around and lead productive and responsible lives with the right kind of help.  
28% (Some/Other) people say those who have been convicted of a crime are unlikely to change and will almost always be a danger to society.

Below are several statements about our criminal justice system. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

<i>(ranked by total agree)</i>	<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
<b>13.</b> Our criminal justice system does not do a good job of rehabilitating prisoners for when they reenter society.	<b>73%</b>	<b>7%</b>	35%	39%	19%	5%	2%
<b>14.</b> We should reform the criminal justice system and focus on rehabilitating those convicted of a crime, rather than just sending them to prison and hoping they change their ways.	<b>66%</b>	<b>15%</b>	33%	33%	20%	10%	5%
<b>15.</b> The main goal of our criminal justice system should be to rehabilitate offenders to become productive, law-abiding citizens.	<b>65%</b>	<b>16%</b>	31%	34%	19%	11%	5%
<b>16.</b> The government is spending too much money keeping offenders behind bars.	<b>62%</b>	<b>17%</b>	30%	32%	21%	10%	7%
<b>17.</b> Elected officials should remove government barriers that make it more difficult for released offenders to find jobs, to find housing, and to receive loans to achieve educational goals.	<b>57%</b>	<b>18%</b>	24%	33%	25%	12%	6%
<b>18.</b> Our criminal justice system needs to lock up more non-violent offenders.	<b>19%</b>	<b>61%</b>	7%	12%	20%	26%	35%

So you are aware, some elected officials have proposed reforming the criminal justice system from one focused on punishment to one focused on the rehabilitation of offenders while improving their ability to successfully reenter society.

- 19.** Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose reforming the criminal justice system this way?

**79%**    **TOTAL SUPPORT**  
**21%**    **TOTAL OPPOSE**

33%    Strongly support  
46%    Somewhat support  
15%    Somewhat oppose  
6%    Strongly oppose

Additionally, some elected officials want to establish a prisoner rehabilitation program that would create individualized success plans for every person sentenced to prison to better rehabilitate them to become productive members of society.

- 20.** Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose creating a prisoner rehabilitation program?

**82%**    **TOTAL SUPPORT**  
**18%**    **TOTAL OPPOSE**

36%    Strongly support  
46%    Somewhat support  
13%    Somewhat oppose  
5%    Strongly oppose

Thinking some more about a prisoner rehabilitation program...

The following are several aspects that could be included in this program. After reading each one, please indicate if it makes you much more supportive, somewhat more supportive, somewhat less supportive, or much less supportive of this program?

<i>(ranked by total more supportive)</i>	<b>TOTAL MORE SUPPORTIVE</b>	<b>TOTAL LESS SUPPORTIVE</b>	<b>Much More Supportive</b>	<b>Somewhat More Supportive</b>	<b>Somewhat Less Supportive</b>	<b>Much Less Supportive</b>
<b>21.</b> A rehabilitation plan would include support for those with mental illnesses or drug addictions.	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>	47%	39%	9%	4%
<b>22.</b> Each rehabilitation plan would be individualized to best meet the needs of each offender.	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>	43%	43%	11%	3%
<b>23.</b> The plans could expand the options for early release to non-violent offenders who can show they have been successfully rehabilitated.	<b>84%</b>	<b>16%</b>	40%	45%	12%	4%
<b>24.</b> The program would be driven by public-private partnerships, so the skills and strengths of both sectors would be utilized in the rehabilitation and redemption of offenders.	<b>81%</b>	<b>19%</b>	30%	51%	16%	3%
<b>25.</b> The program would be created and administered by each individual state.	<b>75%</b>	<b>25%</b>	23%	51%	21%	5%

26. Would you be much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to vote for a political candidate if you knew he or she supported creating more services like a rehabilitation program to help offenders become productive members of society?

**76% TOTAL MORE LIKELY**

**11% TOTAL LESS LIKELY**

- 34% Much more likely
- 42% Somewhat more likely
- 8% Somewhat less likely
- 4% Much less likely
- 13% No difference in support