

# THE RISK OF RETURNING TO PRISON

## What Should We Really Focus On?



### CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS

These are the major risk factors highly associated with criminal conduct and can make prisoners more likely to commit another crime when they get out of prison:

#### Antisocial values and beliefs

Prisoners generally exhibit certain thinking errors that affect how they interpret and process information.

#### Antisocial peers

Associating primarily with friends involved in criminal behavior reinforces antisocial values and beliefs.

#### Personality traits

Prisoners may suffer from antisocial personality disorder and exhibit a reckless disregard for others and little to no remorse for their actions.

#### Family dysfunction

Unhealthy family factors typically contribute to individuals' negative, harmful ways of thinking and acting.

#### Low self-control

People who commit crimes often have a history of impulsive, risk-taking behavior. Those with low self-control are easily persuaded by situational and environmental factors.

#### Substance abuse

The risk of criminal behavior rises with the degree of dependency on drugs and level of use.

### FACTORS NOT HEIGHTENING THE RISK OF RECIDIVISM

These factors do not generally predict a high risk of returning to crime:

- Low self-esteem
- Low education status
- Mental-health issues
- Lack of employment options

*If programs and support networks focus only on these issues without addressing the criminogenic needs, research shows they will have little effect on recidivism.*

### PRISON FELLOWSHIP ACADEMIES

Located in select prisons across the country, Prison Fellowship Academies take men and women through a holistic life transformation spanning weeks or months, where they are mentored by Prison Fellowship staff and volunteers to lead lives of purpose and productivity inside and outside of prison.

For more information and resources from Prison Fellowship, visit <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/resources/training-resources/>.