

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

A FOUR STEP PROCESS

Justice Reinvestment is about redirecting money away from prisons into communities with a high concentration of offenders. The money is invested in programs and services which are proven to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. Less crime makes communities safer and saves money.

It is an old idea with a new name: prevention is better than cure. What's new about Justice Reinvestment is its reliance on rigorous data collection, analysis and evaluation. It is evidence-based and it has been proven to work.

1 Justice Mapping

Collect, analyse and map data about crimes, convictions, jail and parole to identify which communities are home to a high concentration of offenders. This crime data is cross-referenced against indicators of disadvantage and gaps in available services to help identify the underlying causes of crime in these communities.

2 Develop Options for Reducing Offending

Justice maps are used to develop strategies which are most likely to reduce offending and generate savings in corrections budgets. Local community members must be involved in designing these programs.

3 Implementation

Savings are reinvested in chosen high-needs communities to implement new policies and programs.

4 Evaluation

Finally, there is rigorous, ongoing evaluation to measure the impact of reinvestment and the functioning of the criminal justice system as a whole.

The implementation phase can involve programs at all three levels of the criminal justice system; prevention, diversion & rehabilitation:

- **Preventing crime by** strengthening the communities where it tends to occur
- **Diverting people away from jail** using other forms of punishment to avoid the 'university of crime' effect
- **Preventing reoffending** through effective rehabilitation, parole supervision and after-jail support

Justice Reinvestment is a place-based approach and input from local community members is vital. The programs and services that will support a community to reduce crime will differ from place to place and must be community driven.