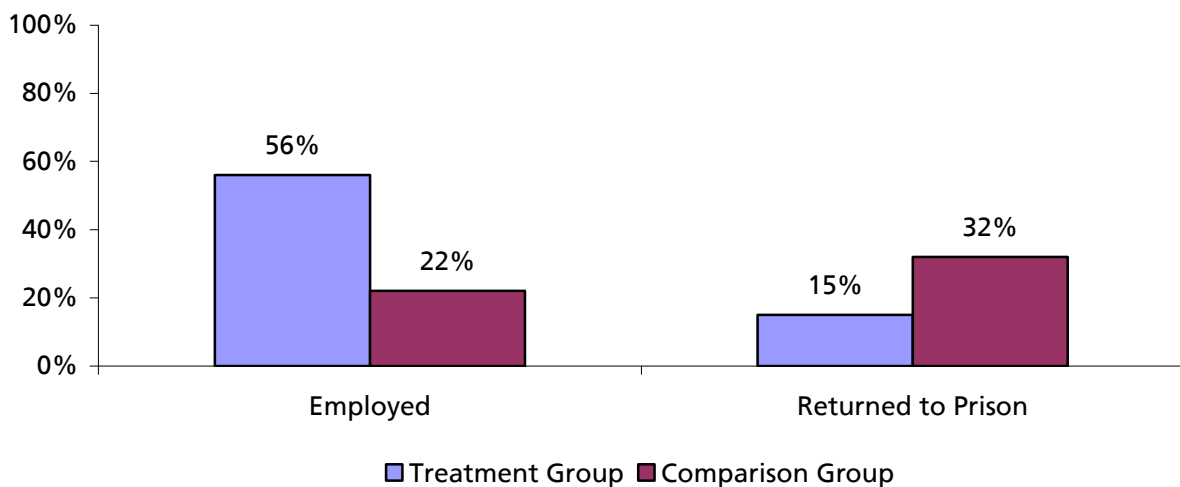


SB 618 San Diego County Prisoner Reentry Program: Preliminary Outcomes

This CJ Fax is the third in a series monitoring the progress of the SB 618 San Diego County Prisoner Reentry Program. Funded by the State, this multi-agency¹ program aims to reduce recidivism of non-violent offenders returning home from prison. Based on best practices, SB 618 engages individuals prior to sentencing, utilizes an assessment-based service plan (i.e., a life plan), and works toward achieving participant goals while in prison and continuing through the process of reentering the community. After three years of operation, preliminary outcome data reveal that the program is having a positive impact on protective factors and criminal activity (Figure 1). Specifically, SB 618 participants (i.e., the treatment group) were significantly more likely to be employed (56%) six months after exiting prison than the comparison group (22%). An important protective factor, being employed, was found to be significantly related to reducing the odds of an individual being rearrested. In addition, the treatment group was significantly less likely (15%) than the comparison group (32%) to be returned to prison during the same six-month period.

Figure 1
SB 618 PARTICIPANTS HAVE HIGHER EMPLOYMENT AND LOWER RECIDIVISM



SOURCE: SANDAG SB 618 Third Annual Evaluation Report.

This project is of particular interest given the recent policy changes that may release greater numbers of prisoners into the community. The full report, *Improving Reentry for Ex-Offenders in San Diego: SB 618 Third Annual Evaluation Report*, is available on the SANDAG Web Site at www.sandag.org/cj.

¹ California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; San Diego County Probation Department, Sheriff's Department, Public Defender's Office, Defense Bar, and Superior Court; and the University of California, San Diego.