

IF YOU COULD HELP THOUSANDS, WOULD YOU?

*Every year, thousands are incarcerated
for non-violent drug crimes.*

Rehabilitation can break the cycle of recidivism.

ABSTRACT

The research conducted on how non-violent drug offenders face injustice in a criminal system is limited. This paper examines the benefits of rehabilitation as compared to a traditional jail sentence for non-violent drug offenders. The reasons for this includes that prisons are not effective at treating non-violent drug crimes, rehabilitation centres aid with the reintegration of felons back into society, and rehabilitative programs are cheaper while being more effective. Research was conducted for this paper by examining academic articles that touch on the subject. These articles include archives, case studies, meta analyses, and published reports. Minimal experimental research available on this topic led to the construction of arguments through the integration of various sources. Counter arguments were proposed as well, the main one being that a sentence in a penitentiary is viable and just. However, ultimately it was found that prison systems are significantly less beneficial for preventing drug crimes as they may increase the likelihood that a non-violent felon accused for a drug crime would reoffend. Further research on the topic, such as experimentally comparing recidivism rates of rehabilitation and prisons, would further help to solidify the conclusion reached in the paper.

WHY REHABILITATION?



Prisons are ineffective

- Do not lower recidivism rates
- Contribute to increased drug use
- Lead to repeated offences



Financially beneficial

- Less expensive to construct
- Better redistribution of taxes
- Lower housing costs



Help with reintegration back into society

- Recognize mental health problems
- Equip felons with coping mechanisms
- Increase employment rates

Be the change you want to see.