

FPI and Vocational Training Works: Post-Release Employment Project (PREP)

Federal Prison Industries (FPI) and other vocational and apprenticeship work programs reduce recidivism and increase the likelihood of employment for inmates after release. Specifically, inmates who participate in FPI are 24% less likely to **recidivate** for as long as 12 years following release as compared to similarly situated inmates who did not participate. Additionally, they are 14% more likely than non-participants to be **employed** 12 months following release from prison.

Work programs especially benefit **young minorities** who are at the greatest risk for recidivism. Eighteen to twenty-four year-old inmates who are of Hispanic or other minority descent and who have a ninth to eleventh grade education experience the sharpest decrease in risk of recidivism as a result of participating in work programs.

These findings are taken from research conducted by the Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) Office of Research and Evaluation. Through the Post-Release Employment Project (PREP), designed to evaluate the impact of FPI and vocational/apprenticeship training, data was collected for up to 12 years on more than 7,000 federal inmates. The study involved sophisticated research design and statistical analysis to eliminate the problems that often plague correctional research including selection bias. The results demonstrate convincingly that FPI and vocational/apprenticeship programs have a positive effect on post-release employment and recidivism, increasing the likelihood that inmates will successfully reintegrate into the community following release from federal prison.