

Flaws in the U.S. Jail System: World's Most Effective Rehabilitation Methods

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The United States incarcerates a greater percentage of its citizens than any other country in the world. Specifically, it is estimated that 743 out of every 100,000 United States citizens are incarcerated at some point in their lives. One of the major issues that people have with this fact is that imprisonment requires more than \$60 billion per year for the United States. As such, many have begun to push for the implementation of incarceration alternatives as a means of lowering re-conviction rates and saving the country money.

Alternatives to Incarceration in Other Countries

The United States may want to follow the lead of countries like Germany, the Netherlands, and Canada. Here, incarceration rates are significantly lower--some as low as 6%. Still, future re-conviction rates in these countries are lower when compared to the United States' current rate of 67%. Here are some of the most commonly utilized alternatives to imprisonment in these countries:

Fines and Rehabilitation: Both Germany and the Netherlands fine well over 70% of the people they arrest rather than imprisoning them. These fines are often combined with the requirement that the offender complete a rehabilitation program. This could be anything from a drunk driving or drug abuse program to a violent offense or behavior program. As a result, re-offender rates are lower and the countries actually make money rather than spending tens of thousands of dollars a year to incarcerate the individual.

Suspended Sentences: Rather than sentencing individuals to months or years in prison after being found guilty, Germany, the Netherlands, and Canada all utilize suspended sentences. This gives offenders a chance to go through a probationary period; during this time, the individual does not go to prison. If the probation period goes well (he or she does not get into further trouble with the law), his or her prison sentence is eliminated. In Germany, 75% off all sentences are suspended, with the remainder being less than two years long.

Looking Forward

The United States can learn a lot from the rehabilitation and punishment used in other countries. In the meantime, Bad Boys Bail Bonds is here to assist anybody who has been arrested for any crime. Here, we truly believe you are innocent until proven guilty.