

**A
CLEAN SLATE
IN
CONNECTICUT**



GHIAA

Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

MASS INCARCERATION

- **30%** of American adults have some sort of criminal record.
- **96,000** arrests in 2018 in CT alone, yet only 3,400 were for violent crimes.
- **50%*** of black men and **40%*** of white men are arrested by age 23.

Regardless of conviction, records of arrest can have lifelong consequences.

**Numbers are approximate*

Scope

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

- **50%*** of American children now have a parent with a criminal record.

The potential lifelong effects of a criminal record have been shown to negatively impact these children's:

- cognitive development
- social performance
- educational attainment
- future earning potential

**Numbers are approximate*

Scope

In 2014, the employment penalty for felony conviction **cost the U.S. economy 1.9 million workers.**

**Sapping
National
Potential**

If not for mass incarceration and collateral consequences, the U.S. poverty rate could have dropped a full 20% between 1980 and 2004.

Sapping National Potential

Connecticut laws are set up to drive people with criminal conviction into destitution and keep them there.

**Poverty
trap**

Those with conviction can be cut off from opportunities in:

- **Employment:**
9/10 employers use criminal background checks
- **Housing:**
4/5 landlords use criminal background checks
- **Education:**
3/5 colleges now use criminal background checks

Poverty trap

David Thatcher, "The Rise of Criminal Background Screening in Rental Housing," *Journal of the American Bar Foundation* 33 (1) (2008): 5–30

Martha Weissman and others, "The Use of Criminal History Records in College Admissions" (Brooklyn, NY: Center for Community Alternatives, 2009)

A criminal record reduces a job seeker's chance of getting a callback or job offer by nearly **50%**!

**Poverty
trap**

Source: Devah Pager, Bruce Western, and Naomi Sugie, "Sequencing Disadvantage: Barriers to Employment Facing Young Black and White Men with Criminal Records," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 623 (1) (2009): 195–213.

Over 17,000 people entered CT shelters between 2016 and 2019; more than 8,000 have been incarcerated.

Nearly **50%** of people in CT shelters have been incarcerated.

Source: Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

**Poverty
trap**

Studies have shown that individuals who remain crime-free 3 to 4 years after a nonviolent conviction are no longer more likely to recidivate than the general population is to be arrested.

----IN FACT----

A 2019 study in Michigan found that those who have had their records expunged actually saw a 25% pay increase after just two years.

Source: Alfred Blumstein and Kiminori Nakamura, "Extension of Current Estimates of Redemption Times: Robustness Testing, Out-of-State Arrests, and Racial Differences" (Washington: National Criminal Justice Reference Service, 2012)

Source: "Expungement of Criminal Convictions: An Empirical Study" by J.J. Prescott & Sonja B. Starr in *Harvard Law Review* forthcoming

Opportunity

A study of the U.S. military found that individuals with felony records were actually promoted more rapidly and to higher ranks than others. They were also no more likely to be discharged for negative reasons than individuals without criminal records.

Opportunity

Source: Jennifer Lundquist, Devah Pager, and Eiko Strader, "Does a Criminal Past Predict Worker Performance? Evidence from America's Largest Employers" *Social Forces* 96 (3) (2018): 1039–1068

A society in which people's basic needs are met is a safer society.

Clean Slate would help formerly incarcerated people support themselves and their families, and have access to legal ways of earning money.

**We all can benefit
from a
healthy economy!**

**Why
Clean
Slate?**

TO JOIN THE FIGHT...

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