

Justice Reinvestment and Evidence-Based Practices in Modern Corrections

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Introduction to Corrections by Robert D. Hanser mentions the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) as an important illustration of contemporary changes aimed at increasing the efficiency of correctional systems. JRI focuses on implementing data-based practice that minimizes recidivism and gains returns on the program to enhance community safety.

JRI process begins with a strict vetting procedure, where the states consider their models of criminal justice, describe the nature of the problem, including high incarceration levels or disproportionate representation, and employ data to develop different focused interventions. The attention to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) is among the most significant features of the JRI, as it puts a higher emphasis on scientifically proven interventions capable of lowering recidivism and achieving improved results with the offenders (Hanser, 2023). It implies a steady shift to a more analytical, data-driven perception of corrections, and not to the old-fashioned, or merely punitive methods.

As an example, the book discusses how JRI reforms were successfully implemented in different states, including Pennsylvania and Texas, in which data is applied to understand what types of offenders can be sent to alternatives to imprisonment (probation or drug court programs) (Hanser, 2023). They are expected to minimize the prisons and, on the other hand, focus on rehabilitation or the non-violent offenders.

The example is linked to greater issues in correctional areas, such as attempting to reduce racial disparities in sentencing, as well as the necessity of grounding corrections policies based on visible outcomes of enhancing the good of the community rather than the new incarceration cycles.

References

Hanser, R. D. (2023). *Introduction to Corrections* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc.

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