



The Crime & Justice Institute at Community Resources for Justice Reshaping Restrictive Housing

CJI is a national leader in restrictive housing policy and practice. Concerned with costs and, in some cases, facing external pressure, correctional leaders are increasingly seeking ways to safely reduce the use of restrictive housing. CJI is responding to this need with a groundbreaking new strategy to reshape restrictive housing, helping correctional institutions reduce institutional violence and corrections costs while improving offender reintegration.

Our staff and consultants, which include a former state corrections department director and former prison wardens and correctional officers, have decades of experience developing and implementing policies to improve the effectiveness of restrictive housing and other correctional practices. Because of this extensive on-the-ground experience, we can go far beyond simply providing recommendations. CJI can help correctional leadership assess its current practices, develop new policies, create and manage an implementation strategy, and ultimately build the agency's capacity to sustain lasting change.

What is Restrictive Housing?

Restrictive housing—sometimes called administrative segregation—is used by correctional administrators to manage offenders who may be disruptive within their facilities. Restrictive housing entails physically removing inmates from the general population of a prison, housing them separately, and imposing restrictions on their movement, behavior, and privileges.

What are the Challenges with Using Restrictive Housing?

Restrictive housing can be a necessary tool for corrections administrators to ensure safety and order, prevent violence, and protect inmates and staff. It is, however, a tool that comes with high costs and unintended negative effects -- and like any tool, it can be overused.

The costs and risks of restrictive housing include:

Financial: Housing an inmate in administrative segregation is far more expensive. In 2011, California estimated the annual cost of incarcerating an administrative segregation inmate as \$77,000, which is 33% more than the cost of housing an inmate in maximum security general population.

Impacts on Mental Health: Mental health and restrictive housing are inextricably intertwined: a high proportion of offenders with mental illness or intellectual disability are placed in restrictive housing, and many correctional practitioners worry that placement in restrictive housing may lead to a deterioration in mental health.

Potential Court and Legislative Challenges: Correctional institutions are and will likely continue to be under increasing external pressure from courts, legislatures and the media to reduce the use of restrictive housing. Those institutions dealing with the issue pro-actively will be in a better position to enact reforms at a manageable pace.

How CJI Can Help

Our team can help you develop and implement a plan to reshape the way your agency uses restrictive housing. Working hand-in-hand with your corrections staff, CJI can:

- **Assess** your current restrictive housing policies and practices.
- **Develop policies, procedures and programming your agency** can use to improve placement and inmate behavioral management decisions.
- **Provide training to your staff** on new policies and procedures for placement, behavior management, reviews and other topics related to the management of offenders in high security settings.
- **Design data collection, performance measurement and quality assurance** systems to ensure new policies are being implemented with fidelity and are working as intended.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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Our Approach

CJI is dedicated to working hand in hand with agencies to improve performance and build your capacity for lasting change. We go beyond simply delivering technical assistance: our goal is to develop your organization's long-term capacity to ensure the sustainability and success of your restrictive housing initiative long after the technical assistance period.

Our strength lies in our ability to bridge the gap between research, policy and practice. Our recommendations are informed by the latest research and what has worked in other agencies, but we also understand that your issues and systems are too complex for a cookie-cutter approach. Instead, we work collaboratively with you to understand your goals, assess your institution's strengths and needs, and develop evidence-based, data-driven recommendations to help achieve those goals.



At Community Resources for Justice, we believe that society gains when all people are given the support and tools they need to lead responsible, productive and dignified lives. For more than 135 years, some of society's most challenged citizens have benefitted from the programs and services we provide, and the policy reforms for which we have advocated, in 41 states across the country. More information available at www.crj.org