

CHALLENGES TO REINTEGRATION :

Reentry barriers encountered by ex-convicts in halfway houses

Université 
de Montréal

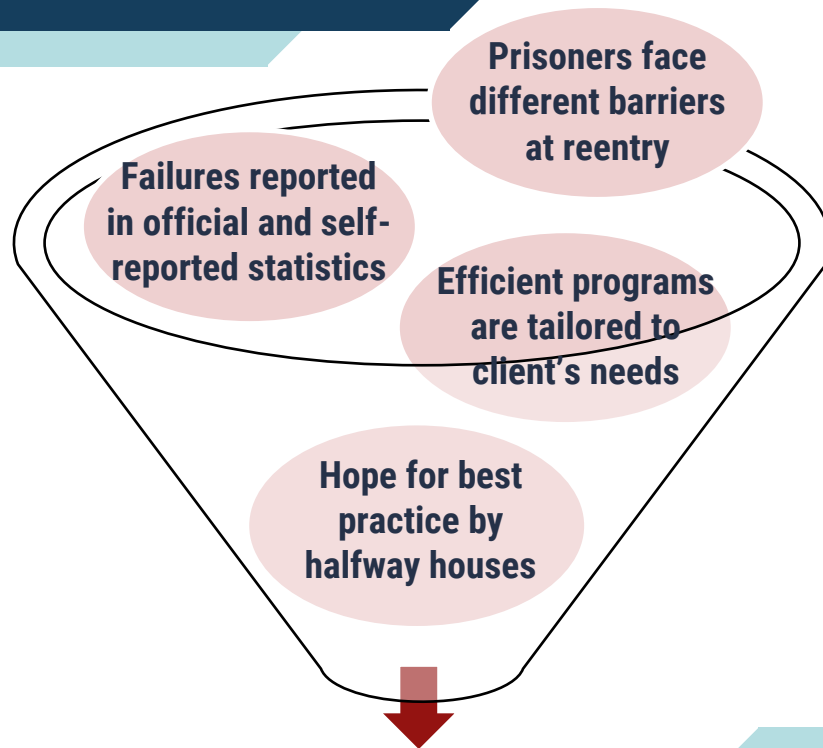


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INTRODUCTION

REENTRY
COMMUNITY
REINTEGRATION
SOCIAL
INTEGRATION
REHABILITATION
DESISTANCE



Research interest



OBJECTIVES

■ Main :

- ▶ Understand the challenges to reintegration

■ Specifics :

- ▶ Explore the federal/provincial resident's differences
- ▶ Explore the sexual/other offender's differences
- ▶ Explore the fit between services/programs offered and identified challenges



METHOD

As decided with the halfway houses directors :

- 24 semi-directed interviews
- Content analysis

		Provincial residents	Federal residents
Residents	Sexual offenders	4	5
	Other offenders	4	3
Staff	Counsellors	4	4

(!) Limits with this sample



CHALLENGES TO REINTEGRATION

First days following release

- Tasks/procedures
- Life rhythm adjustment
- Managing time

Structural challenges

- Money
- Employment
- School
- Housing

Social network

- Family
- Intimate partner
- Friends

Personal development

- Personal difficulties
- Stress

Stigmatisation

- Media coverage
- Release conditions
- Social connexions

Living in halfway houses

- Supervision
- Cohabitation
- Counsellors





SUBGROUPS COMPARISON

FEDERAL

- Life rhythm adjustment
- Housing
- Intimate partner relationships



PROVINCIAL

- Managing time
- Money
- Stress
- Supervision
- Cohabitation

“ I would say it was a lot of stress. Looks like it has gone from being excessively quiet to overly stressed since there are a lot of things to do. To be able to deal with the 40h/week, in addition to appointments example for the sex offender registry, appointments at the doctor, appointments with the psychologist to find a therapy.

(Free translation)

Gerard
(provincial resident)



SUBGROUPS COMPARISON

SEX OFFENDERS VS OTHER OFFENDERS

- Challenges are the same ...
- ... but some challenges affect sex offenders with greater intensity :

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Employment | ■ Personal difficulties |
| ■ Family relationships | ■ Media coverage |
| ■ Intimate partner relationships | ■ Released conditions |
| ■ Making friends | ■ Social connexions |



“

Oh well ... the worst I think, the worst it's going to be ... to feel people's look on me. Well, community life, it's a challenge too. Because ... prejudices, everything. Even with people who have commit other crimes here.

*André
(sex offender)*

(Free translation)



SUBGROUPS COMPARISON

SEX OFFENDERS VS OTHER OFFENDERS

- Challenges are the same ...
- ... but some challenges affect sex offenders with greater intensity :
 - Employment
 - Family relationships
 - Intimate partner relationships
 - Making friends
 - Personal difficulties
 - Media coverage
 - Released conditions
 - Social connexions





PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Programs/services of the organization :

- Have a positive impact on the challenges they target
- Are for federal residents only

Community programs/services (outside) :

- Address mainly primary needs : personal difficulties + employment

→ Counsellors in hallway houses needs to answer a number and a variety of challenges



CONCLUSION

Recommendations :

- To the partner organization
- For intervention in the field of reentry :
 - ▶ Availability and access to reentry programs
 - ▶ Extensive knowledge of reentry measures and crime statistics by the general population



““ *But when you have that label, often the perception of the public is that you have done nothing good, and you will never do anything good either. That's what you have to get rid of and then be able to move on to other things I think.*

(Free translation)

Olivier
(federal resident, sex offender)



CREDITS

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- **Frédéric Ouellet**, my master degree director.
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QUESTIONS ?

For any questions or comments, you can find me at
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