

Resident Analyst Program Advancing Data in Corrections



June 23, 2026

Scope of Work

The DOC aims to **strengthen its existing reentry practices** by developing a comprehensive reentry metrics framework grounded in **best practices** to support the **successful reintegration** of individuals returning to their **communities** after incarceration.

1. **Literature review** of reentry best practices.
2. **Gap analysis** to help inform what a future reentry metrics framework can accomplish and identify areas for growth.
3. **Reentry metrics framework** that defines the DOC's reentry goals, core domains, and measurable metrics.



What Does Success Look Like in SD?

At the individual level

- Stable, **career-track** employment
- Stable, prosocial housing
- Meaningful family and community connection
- Continued programming and education post-release
- Confidence, preparedness, and **self-defined goals**

At the agency level

- Increasing **success rate**
- Reduction in policy-driven responses (PDRs)
- Shorter average stay in community housing placement (CHP)
- Shorter gap between release date and parole plan placement
- Increased verified employment for parolees



Measuring Reentry Across Six Domains

Employment & Financial Stability

Career-track employment, income stability, financial obligations

Housing Security

Stable housing type, duration, time to permanent housing

Health & Wellbeing

Continuity of care, treatment access, Medicaid enrollment

Social Reintegration

Pro-social networks, family connection, civic engagement

Desistance

Deceleration, de-escalation, cessation, and recidivism in context

Release Planning

Process infrastructure that makes the other five possible — documents, Enhanced Transitional Services, contacts, handoff



Recidivism vs. Desistance

Recidivism: Returning to prison within three years of release due to a new offense or a technical parole violation that results in the revocation of parole.

Recidivism measures **failure**.

It cannot capture progress, change, or the complexity of behavioral change over time.

SD DOC uses a "**success rate**" in annual reports — the framework builds on that shift.

Desistance measures an individual's decline in engaging in law-breaking activity.

Deceleration

Fewer offenses over time — slowing down is meaningful progress

De-escalation

Less serious offenses over time — moving from felonies toward misdemeanors

Cessation

Stopping entirely — the end goal



Key Data Gaps

Employment

Shows employment status, but not the factor that influence financial stability.

Housing

Captures a release address; no follow up measures to track housing stability.

Health & Wellbeing

Most data lives in a separate database due to HIPPA laws

Social Reintegration

Whether someone has family support or community connection exists only in case notes, if documented at all

Desistance

Can track who came back to DOC; cannot track arrests, court outcomes, or behavioral progress; outside of documented parole responses or case notes

Release Planning

The process exists on paper; implementation measure not tracked in the data system



SD DOC Moving Forward

Immediate Actions

- Standardized institutional-to-parole information transfer checklist
- Send release planning worksheets to individuals in advance of contacts
- Define “successful supervision completion” consistently across the parole division
- Data dictionary

Elite V5 Build Priorities

- Improved data continuity between DOC division
- Structured data tracking across reentry domains
- Centralized source of truth accessible to both institutional and parole staff

Future Work

- Staff accountability tracking measures
- Cross-agency and jurisdiction data-sharing agreements
- Establish a department-wide reentry data collection and dissemination process





Thank you!