

# Implementation of Juvenile Justice in the Adult Prison System

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*How can the implementation of more rehabilitative opportunities reduce mass incarceration? Could more resources ensure restoration for adults in the adult prison system?*

Prison System Growth (1950-2016)

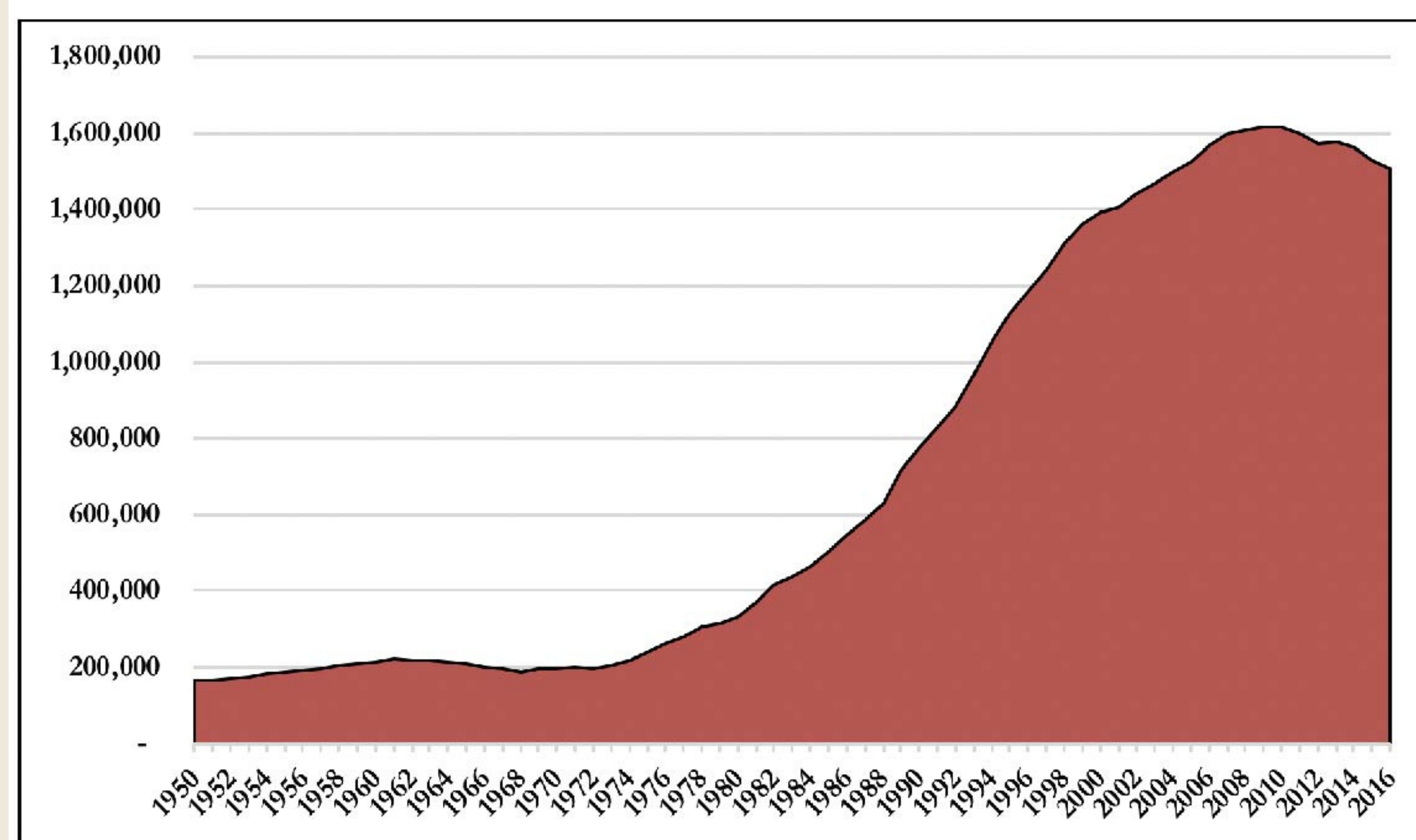


Chart from Brennan Center for Justice. Depicts the growth of the prison system since 1950s to 2016. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/history-mass-incarceration>

## What is Mass Incarceration? What is the issue here?

- Mass incarceration is a major issue in the United States carceral system. According to reports, the United States has the highest incarceration rate internationally. The problem of mass incarceration is that there are laws implemented that:
  - (1) Disproportionately target communities of color, especially Latino and Black communities.
  - (2) Lessens individuals opportunities for rehabilitation and personal restoration.
- There was a spike in incarcerations during the Nixon administration due to the laws implemented during the War on Drugs.



## What Does Rehabilitation Mean in Juvenile Justice?

“Rehabilitation aims to understand and address the underlying factors that contribute to a young person’s involvement in criminal behavior. This could encompass factors like trauma, family issues, mental health challenges, and substance abuse” (Jarrett Maillet J.D., P.C.)

*This also includes ensuring programs or resources that help the youth.*

## Why are Children More Likely Offered Rehabilitation Options?

- Youth are more likely offered these opportunities due to the fact that they are still cognitively developing.



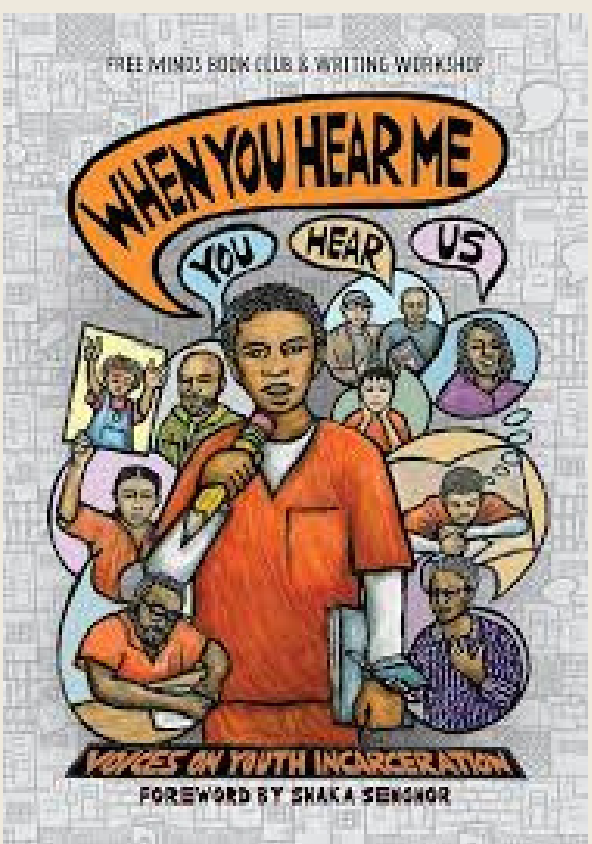
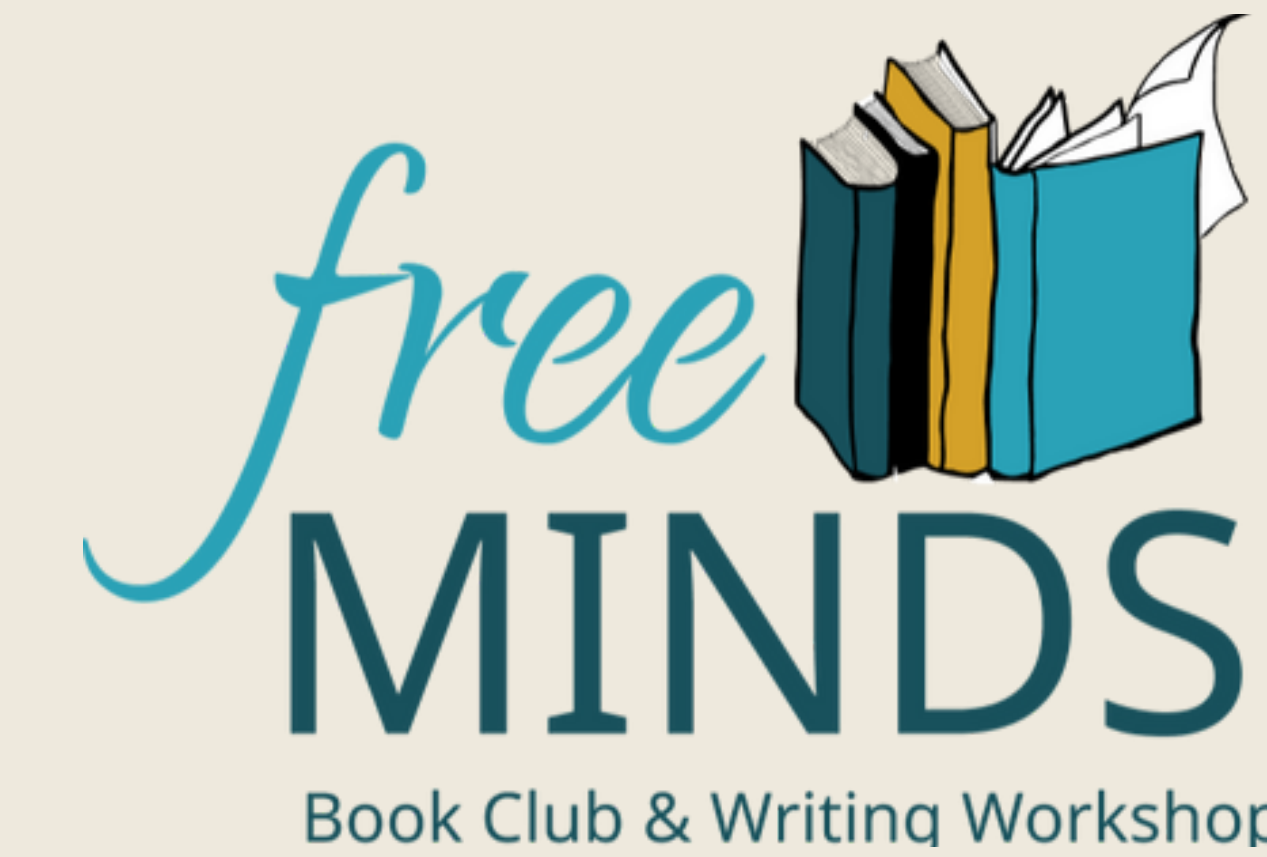
## Scholarly Opinions on Rehabilitation

### “Do Criminal Offenders Have a Constitutional Right to Rehabilitation” by Edgardo Rotman

- Argues that “a constitutional right to rehabilitation remains unrecognized by the United States federal courts” (1023).
- Discusses two models of rehabilitation:
  - Authoritarian
  - Paternalistic

### “Could Successful Rehabilitation Reduce The Crime Rate” by Ernest Van Den Haag

- Analyzes how rehabilitation possible reduces recidivism rates
- Analyzes effectiveness of rehabilitation



## Insights from Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop is a non-profit in Washington, D.C., that utilizes books and writing to bring restoration and healing to incarcerated youth and adults in the DC Jail and surrounding prisons. Free Minds is a prime example of a rehabilitative program that impacts both youth and adults in the system.

During my research, I interviewed two members from Free Minds about their experiences in the prison system and what issues they believe need to be addressed to fuel systemic reform.

## Many people in state prisons are excluded from job training and educational programming

Most people in state prisons have not participated in educational or job training programs since admission. For many, this was not a choice but a matter of not being offered - or being denied - the opportunity.

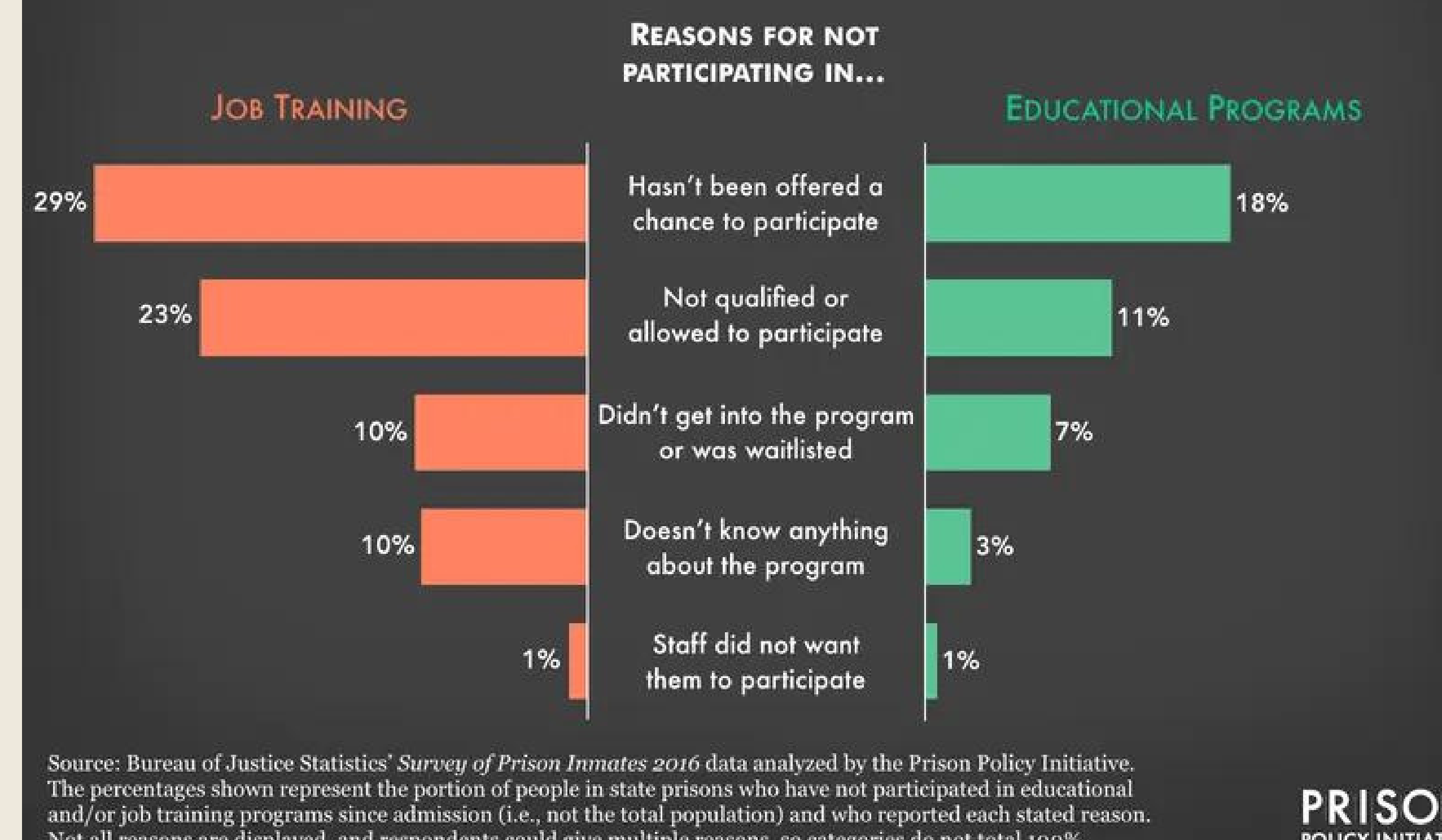
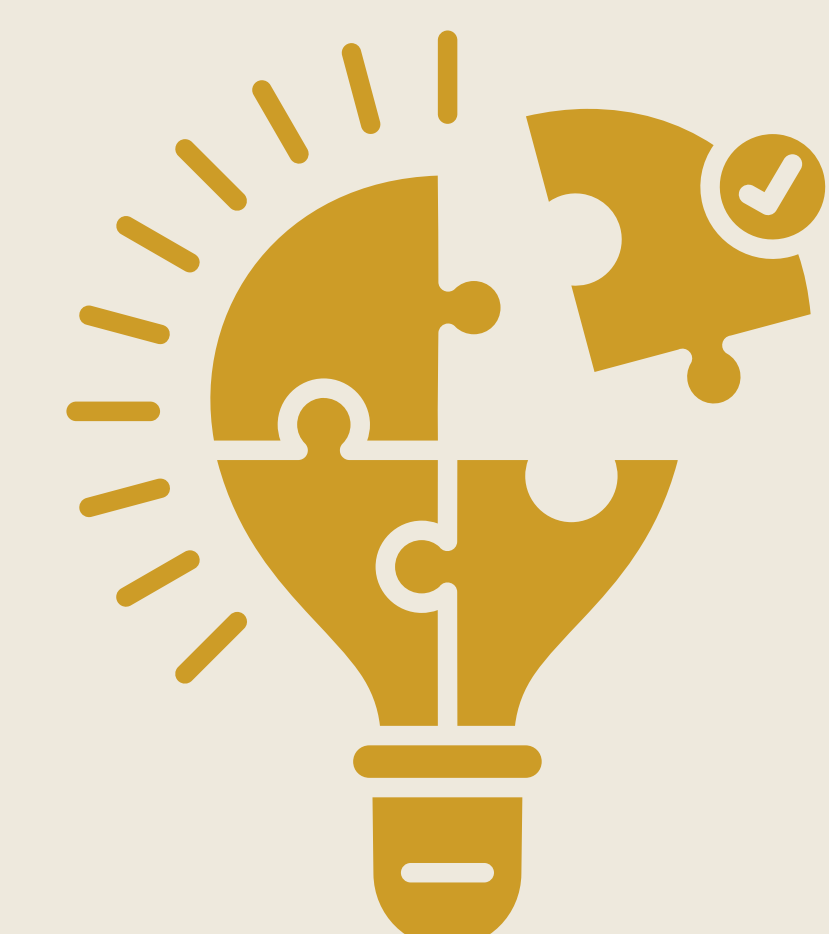


Chart from Prison Policy Initiative. Shows percentage of people that are denied from employment training and educational program opportunities. [https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/09/02/prison\\_opportunities/](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/09/02/prison_opportunities/)



*How do we implement more rehabilitative programs, already utilized in the juvenile system, into the adult prison system?*