# Strategies and policies to reduce recidivism in Korea

## (1) An Overview of Social Treatment by the Criminal Prevention Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Probation</th>
<th>Probation, electronic monitoring, community service order, attendance order, presentence investigation, sexually transmitted drug treatment, etc.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile crime prevention</td>
<td>management of juvenile training schools, probation of juveniles, initial prevention of delinquencies, education for juvenile offenders</td>
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<tr>
<td>The medical treatment &amp; custody to mentally-ill offenders</td>
<td>Operation of a treatment hospital for criminals such as mental illness and drug addiction (National Law Hospital)</td>
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<tr>
<td>rehabilitation and protection of released prisoners</td>
<td>Employment support, housing support for those released from prison</td>
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## (2) Introduction of Strategies for Prevention of Recidivism in Korea

1. **Prevention of recidivism through various use of electronic monitoring system**

   - Development of electronic devices that are safe from damage and incorporate cutting-edge technology

   - Cooperation with CCTV control centers of cities for quick response when a person under restraining order violates the conditions

   - Advancement of AI-based electronic monitoring service that comprehensively provides deviance information by convergence and analysis of criminal data and geographic information

   - Expansion of protection system for crime victims*

   * by improving the existing victim protection service, the system now sends an alert if the offender of the restraining order is within a specified distance from the victim anywhere

   - Expansion of general public safety service through electronic monitoring**
when citizens at risk shake their smartphones, the electronic monitoring system automatically analyzes the location of the people and the offenders, and responses immediately to threats

2. Establishment of high-risk person management system through selection and concentration

- Operating Special enforcement operations unit composed of special judicial police to establish a 24/7 immediate investigation response system for offenders who tamper with their devices or violate the conditions.

- Implementation of a high-risk group dedicated system in which no more than 6 employees are in charge of high-risk groups

- Expansion of 1:1 probation supervision*

* Enhanced supervision, including 24-hour intensive monitoring and daily check of living condition

- Conduct psychotherapy for social adaptation in the early stages of release

- Additional psychotherapy for fundamental behavioral improvement for high-risk offenders (Connect with special treatment institutions and hospitals if necessary)

- Provide residential support, vocational training, and job placement by cooperating with Korea Rehabilitation Agency and local governments for offenders’ successful re-entry into the society

3. Prevention of crimes targeting the socially disadvantaged and strengthening of victim protection

- Intensive probation* for child abuse, domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking, which is a crime that is highly related to public safety and targets the socially disadvantaged

- A professional probation officer is in charge of the crime and conducts on-site probation

- Probation officer directly checks the victim at least twice a month and takes measures to
protect the victim

- Working with the community to manage victims of child abuse

4. **Preparing effective system to prevent juvenile delinquency**

- Strengthen prevention in the early stages of delinquency through the organization of private resources specializing in community counseling and mentoring

- Applying principles of restorative justice to the treatment of juveniles

- Customized treatment based on scientific classification using recidivism risk assessment tool

- Introduction of human rights-friendly restraint order supervision method using smart watch (telephone monitoring system → smart watch monitoring system)

  - Authenticate by sending fingerprints and photos, Wear at home, check whether at home in real time

  - ※ In 2021, the recidivism rate for juveniles offender to the restriction on going out is 9% (total juvenile recidivism rate 12%)

- Improvement of juvenile detention center into small living rooms with 4 or less people and conversion to education and treatment-oriented facilities

5. **Paradigm shift in the treatment of criminals with a focus on treatment and rehabilitation**

- Implementation of a treatment order system that suspends the execution of punishment on condition of treatment

- Conducting mental health screening tests for probationary and delinquent juvenile, conducting joint counseling and medication guidance through professional counselors

- Improving the facilities of the National Justice Hospital by shifting the paradigm from the treatment and rehabilitation of mentally ill criminals centered on acceptance and punishment to treatment and rehabilitation
- Expand support for those released from prison to expand employment support projects and housing support projects

6. **Strengthening crime prevention function using big data**

- Establishment of an organization dedicated to production and management of recidivism statistics and promote establishment of an integrated management system

- Establishment of big data-based sex crime data warehouse including personal registration information, location information of offender, geospatial information (regional attribute information such as entertainment districts, etc.)

- Promotion of the ‘Sex Offenders Electronic Map Construction’ project that analyzes the characteristics of areas with high risk of sexual crimes
Strategies to reduce reoffending
- focused on the rehabilitation programs -

☐ **Background**

- Request for subsequent action of resolution on the prevention of reoffending at the 31st CCPCJ* session
  * Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

☐ **Strategies and expected effects**

- Strengthening concentrated treatment of violent criminals to alleviate public anxiety
  - Reinforcement of treatment in facilities to prevent recidivism
  - Establishment of a recidivism risk management system for inmates
- Promoting leading correction policies in line with international standards
  - Establishment of lifelong education system for correctional facilities.
  - Establishment of an exclusive public institution for professional management of prison work.

☐ **The relevant laws and regulations**

- **ADMINISTRATION AND TREATMENT OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INMATES ACT**

☐ **Programs**

① Reception and Classification Treatment

  Accommodation Management
When a sentence is finalized, treatment degree is decided through a scientific classification review and inmates are transferred to an appropriate correctional institution according to an individual treatment plan. While in prison, inmates get ready to return to society through various correctional programs until being released through parole or the completion of a prison term.

Classification Review

- Classification review consists of classification research that looks into inmate's personal information and classification examination that conducts personality, intelligence, and aptitude tests. Inmates are classified at different treatment levels for facilities, custody, and work. In addition, regular and irregular reviews are carried out during their prison terms to adjust the treatment levels according to the degree of inmates' improvement.

Implementation of the Correctional Recidivism Prediction Index

- In order to prevent recidivism and promote efficient accommodation of inmates, An 'Accommodation System Classifying Inmates by Security Level', an advanced correction model, was introduced and being operated. Furthermore, it developed a Correctional Recidivism Prediction Index (CO-REPI) which categorized inmates into five levels to analyze the possibility of subsequent convictions in an early stage depending on results of 23 evaluation tests.

High Risk Management Center

In response to the growing number of violent crimes, High Risk Management Center (HRMC) in each catchment area has been established. Experts in classification review and clinical psychology systematically examine inmates with high risk of recidivism to suggest treatment plans. After release, data is shared with relevant institutions to ensure a social safety network.

Intensive Classification Review

- Based on the principles of selection and concentration, experts intensively review inmates with high risk of recidivism, including sexual offenders, murderers, violent offenders, robbers, and arsonists.

In-Depth Psychology Test

- Professional staff members with clinical psychology qualifications and abundant examination experience perform systematic and in-depth psychological analysis with various test tools.
Proposal of Treatment Measures

- Education-reformation programs and treatment plans are suggested and the risk of recidivism is predicted based on the results of classification review and psychology test.

Assessment of Recidivism Risk Prior to Release

- Assessments of recidivism risk are performed for inmates with high risk of recidivism, taking overall lifestyle in correctional facilities and living environment after release into consideration. Psychological programs are performed for such inmates and data is shared with relevant organizations such as Korea Rehabilitation Agency to support post-management.

Education Programs

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<td>Learning continues even during the accommodation period. Inmates can build knowledge through academic education and develop social consciousness and law-abiding spirit through intensive personality education. In addition, programs customized to inmates' characteristics, such as education for rehabilitation of the disabled, are provided to support successful reintegration.</td>
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Intensive Personality Education

- Intensive personality education is being provided for inmates by categorizing their needs as basic education or re-education based on the progress of their sentences. Introduction of various programs from constitutional value and the humanities to communication and group counseling induce changes in inmates.

Academic Education

- A school qualification examination class is operated for inmates in need of mandatory education and opportunities to acquire a degree, including Korea National Open University courses and commissioned education courses of community colleges were provided in order to motivate them to achieve a better future.

Rehabilitation Education for the Disabled

- Programs customized to disabled inmates are performed to support self-sufficiency in society. The operation of Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center for the Disabled in Yeoju Correctional Institution and the Braille Training Program in the Cheongju Correctional Institution are representative of these schemes.
We are finding the power to change inmates by harnessing their interest in various fields. Inmates are supported to find emotional stability through artistic and religious activities, and to connect with society by watching various reformation broadcasting programs.

- **Experience-based Culture and Art Programs**
  - Opportunities for inmates to appreciate art were expanded through the provision of various culture and art programs. In cooperation with Korea Arts & Culture Education Service, experience-based culture and art performances for art, play, and music currently take place in 52 correctional institutions. Such programs develop inmates’ sensibility to change.

- **Religious Services**
  - Religious rallies and ceremonies have been launched and counseling with religious figures is provided so that inmates find mental stability through continuous religious practices.

- **Reformation Broadcasting System**
  - Reformation Broadcasting, which consists of general, education, and radio channels, airs programs such as education, liberal arts, dramas, sports, entertainment, and movies in accordance with the characteristics of inmates. Such broadcasting helps inmates cultivate cultural knowledge and emotion, and plays the role of a link between inmates and society.

We strive to prevent recidivism by strengthening expertise in psychological therapy and operating diverse psychological programs that accord with the risk of recidivism. In addition, we regularly hold meetings for case studies of inmate counseling to improve the counseling capabilities and expertise of the staffs in charge.

- **Psychological Programs by Cause and Type of Crimes**
- Psychological programs are operated for inmates with high risk of recidivism such as sexual offenders, drug & alcohol addicts, and mentally impaired patients. Psychological programs customized to criminal types are performed to reduce the risk of recidivism.

❖ Specialized Institutions for Psychological Programs

- Seven Psychological Programs Centers are operated nationwide for the dedicated treatment of inmates who committed specific crimes such as those related to sexual violence and child abuse. In 2020, Psychological Programs Division was established in 5 institutions* such as Anyang Correctional Institution to ensure treatment suitable for the characteristics of criminals.  
  * Anyang, Uijeongbu, Gunsan, Jinju, and Cheonan Correctional Institutions

❖ Family Relationship Recovery Programs

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Opportunities and spaces for reunion of inmates and their families are being provided to help restoration of family relationships that may be in danger of dissolution. Inmates are to develop a strong will for a new life by restoring the bond with the family.

❖ Family Reunion Day·Family Reunion House

- The Family Reunion Day is held so that inmates can spend time with their families in the correctional facilities, and opportunity is provided for inmates to stay with their families overnight in the Family Reunion House, which is intended to create the atmosphere of a general family house.

❖ Family Love Camp

- The Family Love Camp hosted by experts in family relations is provided so that inmates and their families have the opportunity to get to know each other and to restore their relationships through the program.

❖ Family Visit

- Inmates are allowed to spend up to 2 hours with their family in the visiting rooms at correctional facilities without a barrier in order to recover mental stability through their family bonds. Child-friendly family visiting rooms are operated to minimize the pressure that socially disadvantaged people including children may feel in the correctional facilities.

❖ Family Problem Solution Program

- By utilizing the system to allow inmates to go home, the spouse and inmate can participate in the Family Problem Solution Program with their children to restore family health. This program helps to restore family relations
hips of inmates.

Intermediate Treatment

Intermediate treatment facilities are being installed and operated so that inmates can move naturally from correctional facilities to society. Inmates can return to society more readily through the preliminary training they can receive here.

- **The House of Hope**
  - 'The House of Hope', similar to a general family house, was built so that inmates can adapt to the society step by step. Inmates prepare for release by commuting to outside workplaces, experiencing social activities, etc.

- **Hope Center**
  - Two open facilities including the Miryang Hope Center (Hankuk Carbon Co.) and Asan Hope Center (Kwangsung Co.) are being operated in the community. The inmates prepare for returning to society by spending their days like ordinary people, living in a corporate dormitory and going home or doing voluntary activities on weekends.

Prison Labor

Inmates acquire skills through prison labor conducted as part of their sentence and they develop adaptive skills to maintain their post-release work. The products of their prison labor are supplied to general public and to public institutions including correctional facilities.

- **Operation of Prison Labor**
  - Prison labor is operated by allocating profits from sales of prison labor products and service income from prisoners' labor provision. Profits from prison labor are being used for work incentives, vocational training expenses, and work environment improvement expenses.

- **Sales of Prison Labor Products**
  - Prison labor products are first supplied to each government office, including correctional facilities. Annual Corrections Art Exhibition is held so that the general public can purchase prison labor products, and an internet shopping mall (http://corrections-mall.net) is being operated. There is a wide v
ariety of products offered, and all are inexpensive compared to their quality, so popularity among the general public is increasing.

⑥ Vocational Training

Prison Labor and Vocational Training

The correctional facilities provide education in professional skills and opportunities to acquire qualifications in various fields so that inmates can become eligible for the jobs required to settle as members of society after release.

❖ Current Status of Vocational Training

- Vocational skill development training in 15 fields and 88 occupations including architecture, information technology, beauty, and services is conducted with courses ranging from three months to two years in duration. These help inmates to successfully settle in society after release. In addition, eight institutions including Cheongju Women's Correctional Institution are providing professional vocational training customized to the characteristics of female inmates, such as beauty-related and barista courses.

❖ Acquisition of Technical Qualifications

- An excellent skilled labor force is fostered by providing opportunities for inmates who have completed the vocational training to acquire various technical qualifications to become technicians and engineers.

❖ Participation in Skill Contests

- Selected inmates with excellent vocational training results get the chance annually to participate in regional and national skill contests. In 2020, 21 participants won in these national contests.

Employment and Business Start-Up Support Programs

Prison Labor and Vocational Training

We arrange meetings for inmates with persons associated with employment and business start-ups to give practical information to help inmates reintegrate into society and make a living.

❖ "Hug" Job Support Program

- A comprehensive employment support system is operated through counseling with Korea Rehabilitation Agency to help inmates plan for employment
and reintegrate into society stably after release.

- **Regular Job Interview**
  - Job interviews with various recruiting companies are held frequently so that inmates who expect to be released soon can get a job smoothly after release.

- **Small Capital Start-up Education**
  - Start-up education programs with 20- to 40-hour courses are provided in cooperation with Small Enterprise and Market Service so that inmates who expect to be released soon can establish the foundation for economic independence through start-ups.

- **Parole on Condition of Employment**
  - A social rehabilitation system is operated to carefully select inmates with no fear of recidivism and excellent correction scores, and parole them early on condition of employment.

- **conclusion**
  - Eliminate the criminality of inmates by operating an effective rehabilitation program from admission to release
  - Contributing to social reintegration by lowering the risk of recidivism of inmates through various and continuous rehabilitation programs, ensuring a stable life in correctional institution, and laying the foundation for a healthy return to society