myths&facts

Why Incarceration Is Not the Best Way to Keep Communities Safe

	Myths...	...and facts
1	The use of jail and prison is the best way to prevent crime.	While jail and prison do indeed prevent crime while people are incarcerated, once released, incarceration has, at best, a negligible impact on crime prevention and, at worst, is crime-producing.
2	Community corrections does not work.	Community corrections has been shown to be effective in reducing future criminal activity by 10 to 30%.
3	Community supervision is soft on crime.	Individuals under community supervision reported that "doing time" is easier than having to abide by their release requirements.
4	Crime victims don't support rehabilitation and treatment.	Crime victims do not want new victims and support rehabilitation, perhaps even more so than the general public.
5	Effective community corrections programs are expensive.	The more communities invest in effective treatment, social services, and community supervision, the greater their financial return on investment.
	The bottom line:	While incarceration serves as an important public safety tool for some, community corrections options produce more effective and less expensive results for many.

The Community Corrections Collaborative Network (CCCN) is comprised of the leading associations representing 90,000-plus probation, parole, pretrial, and treatment professionals around the country, including the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI), the Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association (FPPOA), the International Community Corrections Association (ICCA), the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA), and the National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE). View our white paper, "Why Incarceration Is Not the Best Way to Keep Communities Safe," at nicic.gov/library/032698.