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# Early Literacy Connection to Incarceration

Illiteracy and crime are connected. The Department of Justice states, “The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure. Over 70% of inmates in America’s prisons cannot read above a fourth grade level.”

Additional Statistics on Low Early Literacy Skills and Incarceration:

- According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare.
- 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are **functionally low literate**.
- Juvenile incarceration **reduces the probability of high school completion and increases the probability of incarceration** later in life.
- Students who dropout of high school are **5 times more likely than high school graduates** to be arrested in their lifetime.
- Students who dropout of high school are **63% more likely to be incarcerated** than their peers with four-year college degrees.

Links to Sources:

<http://www.edjj.org/focus/prevention/phcsc.html>

<http://www.beginstoread.com/research/literacystatistics.html>

<https://www.proedtn.org/news/313839/Literacy-is-Critical.htm>

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs94/94102.pdf>