

Title:

Rehabilitation and Prison Release during the Pandemic: Perspectives from British Prisons

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Abstract:

The past year has been enormously disruptive for all of society, but nowhere more so than in prisons, where all forms of face-to-face rehabilitative work have essentially ceased for almost the entirety of the pandemic in much of the UK. Drawing on one of the first research projects to be allowed inside British prisons since the lockdown began in March 2020, I will explore early evidence of what the outcomes of this tragic natural experiment have been on the lives of those in prison. This research, co-produced with the User Voice organisation, has sought to involve prisoners and ex-prisoners in every stage of the research process from design to data analysis and dissemination. The goal is to give a voice to one of the most overlooked and neglected populations during the pandemic.