REVOCATION

noun /ˈrevəˌkɛʃ(ə)n/
Incarcerating a person for violation(s) of their supervision arrangement (meaning parole, probation, or extended supervision.)

People can be revoked—imprisoned—for breaking rules of their supervision arrangement that doesn’t break the law in Wisconsin, this is referred to as a revocation without a new conviction.

Even for missing meetings

In 2015
2,954 people in Wisconsin were put in prison for a revocation without a new conviction. Imprisoned for an average of 1.5 years costing the state $147M

Though only 6.6% of Wisconsinites identify as Black, 40% of people sent to prison due to revocation without new conviction are Black.

Though only 1% of the Wisconsin population identifies as American Indian or Alaska Native, 5% of people sent to prison due to revocation without new conviction are American Indian or Alaska Native.
It is estimated that 3,000 children under age 18 in Wisconsin had a parent sent to prison for a revocation without being convicted of a new crime in 2015.

People on supervision experience chronic stress, which can lead to worse health outcomes. In focus groups across Wisconsin, people consistently described deep stress to themselves and their families and experiences of “living in fear at all times” that revocation could happen at any time.

“IT’S FRUSTRATING WHEN YOU’RE OUT HERE WORKING A JOB, GOING TO COLLEGE, AND HELPING YOUR FAMILY OUT AND THEN THEY PLACE YOU IN PRISON EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT COMMITTED ANY CRIME.”
- Milwaukee EXPO Leader

People on supervision are at higher risk of housing instability. A recent study showed that people on parole experience on average 2.6 moves per year — that would mean moving about every 4 months.

Though only 18% of Wisconsinites suffer from mental illness, 44% of people revoked without a new conviction are living with a mental illness.

48% of the people incarcerated without a new conviction are parents.

Want to learn more?
Visit humanimpact.org to read the full research report by Human Impact Partners, WISDOM, and EX-Prisoners Organizing. Visit rocwisconsin.org to get involved in ending mass incarceration in Wisconsin.