

Fight against gun violence is moving inside Illinois jails

OCTOBER 29, 2014, BY WGN NEWS DESK AND COURTNEY GOUSMAN

The fight against gun violence is moving inside Illinois jails.

For the first time ever, the Illinois Department of Corrections is inviting some tough-talking police and prosecutors inside to teach inmates headed back into society why they should stay away from guns.

56 inmates at the Sheridan Correctional Center are set for release within the next six months. As part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, they meet with prosecutors and police to learn about the gun laws that can land them right back behind bars.

The rate of recidivism for the Illinois Department of Corrections is 47%, including technical parole violators who do not commit new crimes. This program aims to help reduce that number as well as gun violence across the state of Illinois.

Today's program was recorded and will be played for inmates at all 25 of the state's prisons.