

||| WE ARE ALL ||| ||| CRIMINALS |||

One in four people in the U.S. has a criminal record.
This is the other 75%.

Participants in We Are All Criminals tell stories of crimes they got away with. The stories range from humorous to humbling, but all have one thing in common: they are privately held memories without public stigma. Each shows that often times the only thing separating *clean* from *criminal* is who gets caught.

PRIVATE MEMORY: I WORK IN CORRECTIONS. I SOLD DRUGS.

In high school I started experimenting with alcohol, marijuana, whatever I could get my hands on. I was still in school when I started living out of my car, sleeping in Walmart parking lots and dodging cops.

I picked up a job at a gas station, but it was really just a cover. What I really did to make money was sell LSD. It was more than enough money to support myself, but eventually just went to buy meth – my drug of choice. **A lot of crime comes from that: people trying to sustain drug addiction.**

When my first kid was born, I cut off everything. I'm careful.



PUBLIC RECORD: SALE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Several years ago, a young man faced decades in prison for selling more than 200 hits of LSD over the course of a few months. Pleading guilty to a lesser charge, he was incarcerated for three years. Eight years later, he cannot find a landlord willing to rent to him; he is ineligible for public housing because of his record.

Although he's no longer in prison or on parole, he's still hamstrung: unable to find an employer willing to hire him or a safe and stable place to sleep. In the words of one advocate for record reform,

"You don't need a license to sell drugs on the street. If we leave people with no legal access to employment or government assistance – how do you think they'll feed themselves?"

ON THE DOCKET:

|||Thompson Reuters |||
Eagan, MN
5.19 – 5.23

||| Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative: Keynote Address |||
Sioux Falls, SD
6.24

IN THE NEWS:

PUBLIC BENEFITS AND DRUGS

The Sentencing Project [found](#) that banning people with drug convictions from receiving federal benefits has been ineffective in preventing either drug abuse or fraud and disproportionately burdens poor people of color.

WAAC THANKS:

WAAC was honored to present at the U of M and the College of St. Benedict last month. Want WAAC to present in your area? Contact us below!

||| [SUPPORT](#) ||| [PARTICIPATE](#) ||| [ADVOCATE](#) |||

READ THE FULL STORY AND GET INVOLVED AT: www.weareallcriminals.org

Copyright 2014 We Are All Criminals; all rights reserved.