



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Kevin A. Carr

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New Report Shows Impact of DOC Programs on Recidivism

Data points to drop in chances of returning to prison

Madison, Wis. - Wisconsin DOC's Primary Programs Report shows the agency's programming is having a real impact on the lives of those leaving DOC care and their families by decreasing their chances of returning to incarceration.

The Report, recently completed and posted to DOC's website, shows the results of an outcome evaluation of all primary treatment and education programs assigned to adult individuals when they join the state prison system. The assignments are based on an assessment of a person's risk level and criminogenic needs, which identify major factors associated with risky thinking, decision making and behavior. Programs are designed to offer greater opportunities for successful reintegration into the community, as part of DOC's mission statement to "provide opportunities for positive change and success."

Just a few findings from the report:

- People who completed the Anger Management program had a more-than 6% lower chance of reincarceration three years after returning to the community.
- People who completed the Earned Release program, related to substance use, had a more-than 7% lower chance of rearrest three years after returning to the community.
- People who participated in Sex Offender Treatment programs had a nearly 8% lower chance of reincarceration two years after returning to the community.
- People who participated in Career Technical Education (vocational) programming had a more-than 4% lower chance of reincarceration three years after returning to the community.

"I want to thank all our staff who work on these programs. They should be proud of the chances they are providing and the differences they are making in the lives of others," said DOC Secretary Kevin Carr. "I also want to thank our Research and Policy Unit and Office of Program Services for compiling the numbers and producing this very informative report."

The Primary Programs Report measures three recidivism outcomes – rearrest, conviction and reincarceration – for a sample of individuals who completed treatment and education programs while in DOC care. Those three outcomes are measured at one year, two years and three years after return to the community. Individuals who

successfully completed a program and left DOC care between 2010 and 2018 were compared to a similar control group.

Since 2010, the percentage of persons in DOC care who were enrolled in at least one primary treatment or education program has increased by 8.3%. Within the same time frame, the percentage who completed programming increased by 12.2%, leading to DOC reaching a 10-year-high for enrollment and completion rates in 2019.

“It is important to note that this recidivism data was collected during a time of significant change to programming in DOC’s Division of Adult Institutions,” said DOC Research and Policy Director Dr. Megan Jones. “In 2014, the agency began to standardize curricula in several programs for adults in DOC care, and also standardized a formal approval process in which all Career Technical Education programs were reviewed prior to implementation to ensure what they offered aligned with the job market. Because of these changes, we anticipate future outcome data will continue to show decreased recidivism rates for participants.”

You can go to DOC’s website to read the [full Primary Programs Report](#), including information on methodology.