Corrections Offender Programs

Mission

To promote and operate a continuum of programs that enhance security and safety and foster the integration of the offending individual into the community.

Summary of Activities

The **Department of Correction** (DOC) Division of Programs and Community Services offers a variety of programs for offenders. They include educational opportunities in academic (literacy, adult basic, GED, high school/secondary and post-secondary/college) and twenty vocational programs. On-site and correspondence courses are provided through agreements with Indiana colleges. Two facilities offer post-secondary vocational programs through contracts. A total of 9,283 students participated in FY99.

Health services and clinical services at facilities include general and specialty outpatient, dental, nursing coverage, chronic care, intake and screening, mental health care (residential and outpatient), infirmary, dialysis and emergency care. Hospital care is provided off-site. With the exception of nursing care, most health services are provided by contractual providers.

Community involvement and religious services include religious worship, instruction, and spiritual care consistent with an offender's preferred faith. The DOC also assists victims and witnesses by notifying them regarding releases and other changes in offender status and providing other supportive services.

Holistic substance abuse programs focus on accountability and correcting "think errors" (cognitive restructuring). The programs use incentives and sanctions. Drug testing is an integral part of these programs. Traditional twelve-step programs are also offered. During 1999, approximately 65,000 hours of clinical services were provided to 7,000 offenders, with more than 3,000 successful completions.

Recreation programs provide opportunities for structured recreational activities. There are gymnasiums in the major facilities where 150 full-time recreation staff deliver both active and passive activities including basketball and arts and crafts. Programs for juvenile offenders include field trips, swimming, and camping. Adaptive activities for offenders with physical or mental disabilities are provided.

A transition program provides all adult offenders who are nearing the end of their term of incarceration with information and skills designed to aid successful reintegration into work, family and community life. 3,821 offenders completed the standard program (SPOP), offering eighty hours of instruction at seventeen facilities, in 1999. Another 2,815 received an abbreviated program (IPOP).

The SOMM Program is a research-based, three-phase approach to managing and monitoring adult sex offenders. Phase I consists of a mandatory, fifteen-hour awareness program in which offenders are challenged to take responsibility for their actions. Phase II occurs during incarceration at one of six facilities and includes risk assessment and a cognitive-behavioral program. The purpose is to increase staff and offender understanding of the offender's sex offense cycle, allowing for development of relapse prevention and community supervision plans. Phase III is the community component where offenders released to parole or probation participate in treatment and are subject to intensive supervision and polygraph exams. Treatment is focused on community safety and the needs of victims, rather than the needs of the offender-client. The DOC currently has about 3,200 sex offenders incarcerated and 400 under parole supervision.

External Factors

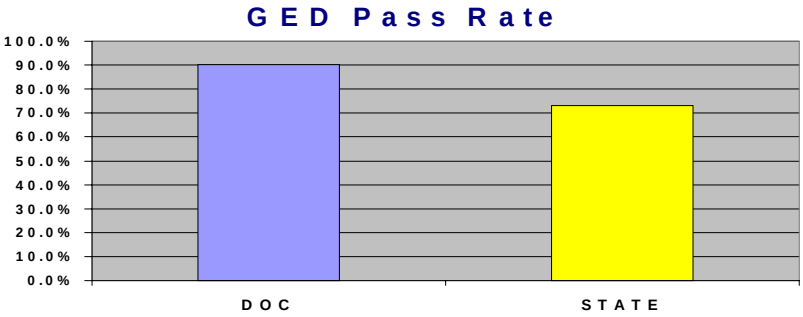
Most of the increase in offender programs spending has been due to the rapid increase in the number of prisoners. Several factors influence the type of programming offered. For example, 85% of DOC offenders have a significant history of substance abuse. Also, rising public concern about sex offenders has led to statutes developing a sex offender registry, requiring sex offender registration, mandating DNA sample collection, and placing restrictions on where sex offenders may reside in relation to schools and day care centers.

Evaluation and Accomplishments

In FY99, educational program participation grew by 4 % and completions grew by 8%. GED completions increased by 17%. FY 00 figures are expected to show a continuation of this trend.

During FY 00, there were 174,090 bed days of credit time earned as a result of offenders successfully completing substance abuse programs.

All DOC facilities have received accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). The Residential Treatment Unit (mental health) at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility was named the NCCHC's national "Program of the Year" for 1999.



Plans for the Biennium

♦ A special education cooperative will be developed to serve identified special education students in juvenile and adult facilities by making optimum use of certified teachers.

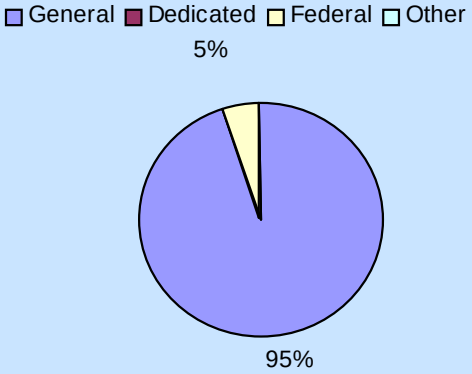
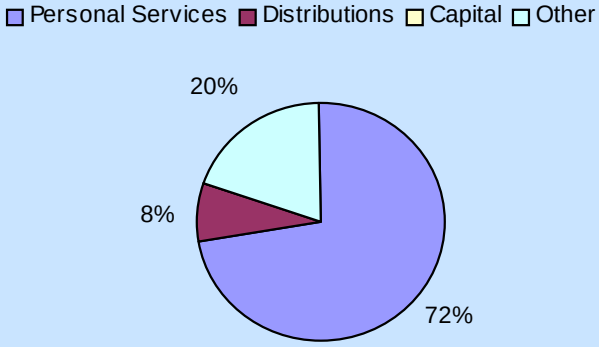
♦ Work with other criminal justice stakeholders to increase the number of polygraph and community treatment providers and fully implement the Sex offender Management and Monitoring Program.

♦ Reduce waiting lists for eligible offenders to receive substance abuse programs.

♦ Initiate a restorative justice program that will benefit both victims and offenders. Programs to explore include victim awareness, impact panels, family group conferencing, service-restitution, and mediation.

Program: 0415	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Appropriation (All Funds)	**$36,875,987**	**$43,579,788**	**$44,424,046**	**$51,538,791**	**$51,495,232**
Expenditures	**$37,198,680**	**$41,019,919**	**$45,639,713**		

Sources of Funds
FY 2001 (Approp)



Uses of Funds
FY 2001 (Approp)