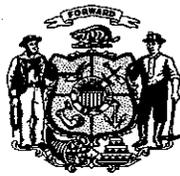


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Governor

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Secretary



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Margaret C. Carpenter
Administrator

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO TO COUNTIES

MEMO # 08-14

DATE: December 9, 2008
TO: County Departments of Human/Social Services Directors
FROM: Margaret C. Carpenter, Administrator 
SUBJECT: Wisconsin Juvenile Corrections Recidivism Rates

The Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) tracks the recidivism of youth released from juvenile correctional institutions (JCIs) as a way to gauge whether public safety has been enhanced due to the accountability and interventions provided by the state's JCIs. At the end of each calendar year, DJC reviews the recidivism rates for those youth who were released in the calendar year two years prior. This information is compiled and an independent audit is conducted to verify the results.

Recidivism is defined as either:

- Placement in a Wisconsin JCI as a consequence for a new delinquency adjudication after being released from a JCI; or
- Placement in a Wisconsin prison for either a new criminal offense or revocation of adult probation, after being released from a JCI.
- Placement in a Wisconsin prison directly from a JCI for a new criminal offense (i.e. youth moved out of the JCI solely for the purpose of a trial on new charges).

The definition does not include:

- Youth arrested and placed on county supervision, on probation or in jail; or
- Youth returned to a JCI for rule violations only.

The youth included in the case study are selected on the basis of having been released from a JCI in calendar year 2005. Only the last release for each youth in that calendar year was utilized to ensure that youth selected only appeared in the case study once for that calendar year.

Based on these definitions, the rate at which youth released from Wisconsin JCIs are returned to correctional confinement for a new offense is generally low. For youth released during CY2005, their two-year correctional recidivism was less than 18% on average – that is, fewer than 18% of the youth returned to state correctional institutions under the conditions described above. For all

Memo # 08-14
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youth released in CY2005, two-year recidivism rates were 17.51%. Girls' recidivism was 10.45%, considerably less than that of boys with an overall average of 18.27%.

Release year	Youth released	Boys recidivating	Boys percentage	Girls recidivating	Girls percentage	Non-recidivists	Two year average
2000	787	136	19.54%	7	7.69%	644	18.30%
2001	833	139	18.81%	7	7.45%	687	17.53%
2002	756	135	20.52%	7	7.14%	614	18.78%
2003	672	87	14.48%	6	8.45%	579	13.84%
2004	628	99	18.23%	4	4.71%	525	16.40%
2005	691	114	18.27%	7	10.45%	570	17.51%

Data sources: Juvenile Justice Information System, Juvenile Reporting System, DJC Locator and Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Program

cc: Rick Raemisch, Secretary, DOC
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