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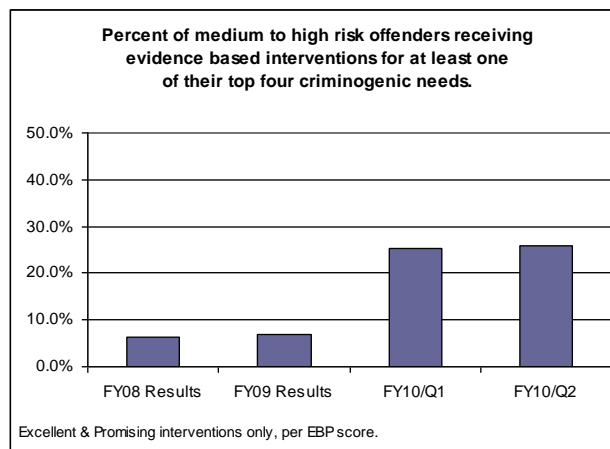


Higher Standards Lead to Better Results

Like many businesses and government agencies, the Iowa Department of Corrections has been measuring our results for some years now. Certain performance measures are collected and reported to the Governor as part of the Director's Flexible Performance Agreement used to evaluate the DOC Director. Updates of these measures are forwarded to DOC staff on a quarterly basis. In addition, the Iowa Department of Management requires each state agency to report on certain performance measures as part of Iowa's effort to ensure accountability in state government. These measures and their progress are posted to www.ResultsIowa.org

DOC does not stop with the above mandatory reporting requirements. Through the aid of ICON, we continually look for new ways to accurately measure what we do. If it's not working, fix it or re-direct our limited resources to something that shows promise. DOC has even brought in grant-supported consultants from the Center for Effective Public Policy to review what we are measuring and how, in order to learn if there are better ways. The consultants termed a number of our measures to be "rigorous" – meaning that DOC has set higher standards than is the norm.

Below is an example of how DOC incorporates measuring our performance with improving our performance. As shown below, DOC experienced a big improvement between the first half of FY 2010 and the previous two years in providing evidence-based interventions. A good part of the progress can be credited to the work of the EBP Steering Committee which undertook an exhaustive review of existing offender programming, and personnel at each of the CBCs and institutions who implemented the changes needed to improve programming.



DOC is restricted by our limited resources as to the quantity of effective interventions we can offer. Therefore, it is critical that we make best use of the resources that we do have. Measuring what we do is an integral part of that process.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:
Advance Successful Offender Reentry to Protect the Public, the Employees, and the Offenders from Victimization.