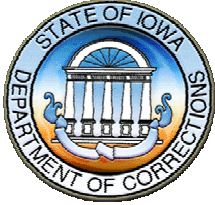


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Data Download



One Stop Reentry Reduces Disproportionate Representation

In a national study released in 2007 by The Sentencing Project, **Iowa tops the nation for imprisoning African Americans at a rate of 13.6 times that of whites.** In addition, African Americans in Iowa are much more likely to be unemployed, lacking a high school diploma, and earning less than white Iowans. And African American offenders' return-to-prison rates are higher than for white offenders.

In early 2009, the First and Fifth community corrections districts implemented African American Offender Reentry Programs in Black Hawk and Polk counties respectively, featuring culturally-responsive programming to improve outcomes for medium-risk black male offenders on probation (27%) and parole (73%). The program also featured smaller caseloads and more emphasis on community involvement.

Clients averaged 31 years of age, and 44% were under supervision for drug offenses, followed by 23% public order offenses (mainly OWI/traffic), 21% property crimes and 12% violent crimes.

A total of 209 offenders were tracked who had started receiving One-Stop Reentry services one year or more ago. Of these, 148 or 71% were either still receiving reentry services after one year or had successfully completed the services.

Recidivism rates for One-Stop participants were substantially lower than recidivism rates of a comparison group that had similar sex, race, age, LSI-R scores and crime types. Of the 148 offenders either still receiving reentry services or successfully completing, 35 or 24% were revoked, absconded, or incurred a new charge within one year.

While there are differences in the components of the First and Fifth District projects, they both have the same goals of decreasing overrepresentation of African American offenders in corrections through enhanced programming based on innovative and proven strategies.