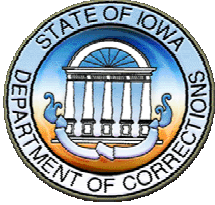


Lettie Prell  
Director of Research

Curt Smith  
Executive Assistant to the Director



## Data Download



### Welcome to Data Download

*Data Download* is a new DOC newsletter that each month will show how we are using data to help measure what we are doing, and to better inform decisions that we make.

During the previous year, wardens, CBC directors, their management and/or EBP teams and Central Office staff were asked to identify research priorities for the year. The top five priorities were identified and are listed below along with their current status:

1. **Interventions** (comprehensive and program by program outcomes). DOC partnered with the Dept. of Management to evaluate DOC institutional substance abuse treatment interventions' effectiveness, and found that DOC is administering a number of promising substance abuse treatment programs. An in-house analysis of the violator program found it to be promising **IF** participants receive comprehensive aftercare services. For those who do, the recidivism rate for violator program participants is comparable to those who had served longer terms of confinement. Finally, the Div. of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning is currently evaluating all drug courts, which includes a comparison of judge-directed courts with community panel-led courts.
2. **Inmate Discipline.** Durrant/PBA consultant Patricia Hardyman (who is helping DOC update our inmate classification tools) has been studying what predicts inmate disciplinary reports.
3. **Mentally Ill Inmates.** Data is now being collected and analyzed on an annual basis to describe mentally ill offenders in prison. A first-ever survey of mental illness among CBC offenders has been conducted, and prevalence estimates will be available soon.
4. **LSI-R Validation.** Validation will be performed this year – for men and women, and for institutions and CBC's.
5. **Offender Employment.** DOC is working with a graduate student interning at one of our CBC's to research offender employment. The specifics of the study are not yet in place.

Research relating to the above priorities is an ongoing effort, and results will be shared with you as they are received.

We hope this publication will be of interest to you. Please contact Curt Smith ([curt.smith@iowa.gov](mailto:curt.smith@iowa.gov)) with any questions/comments related to the information provided in this newsletter.