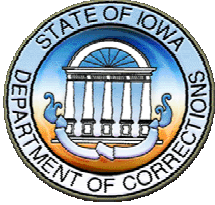
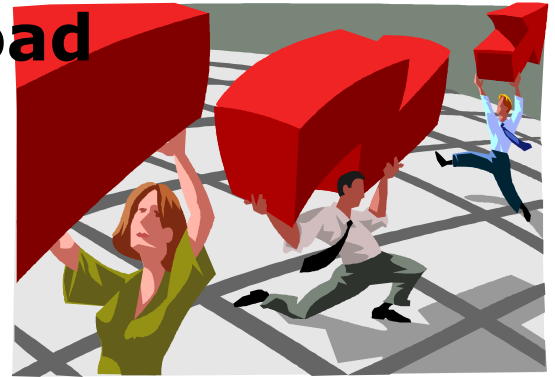


Lettie Prell  
Director of Research

Curt Smith  
Executive Assistant to the Director



## Data Download



### Improving Offender Programming

In 2008, the Iowa Department of Corrections embarked on a comprehensive audit of all institutional and community corrections offender programs that receive corrections funding. The audit focused on the degree to which each program adheres to evidence-based practices principles (what works best). The audit areas are listed below along with some examples of the questions asked about each program:

**Risk Assessment Criteria.** Is a risk assessment conducted? Does the program address the risks identified by the risk assessment?

**Responsivity Assessment Criteria.** Does the assessment identify how best to motivate an offender (for example: incentives, rewards, motivational enhancement interviewing)? Is the treatment designed to be received positively by the offender?

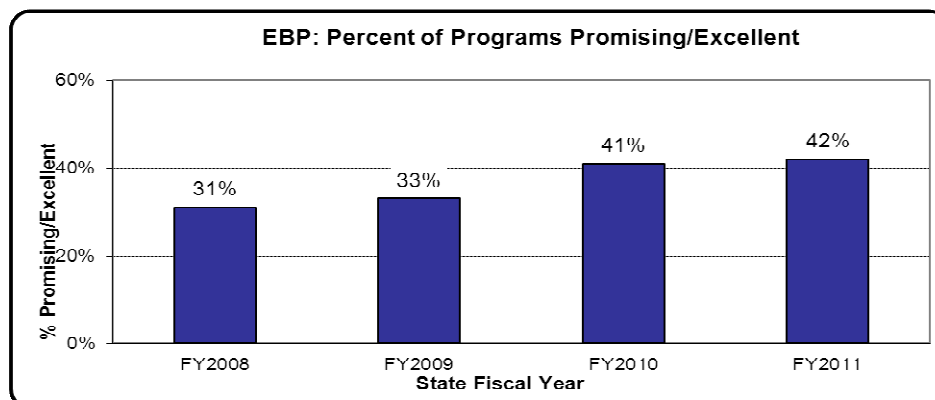
**Cognitive Behavior Interventions (changing the way the offender thinks).** Are cognitive behavioral programs used to help the offender develop a more positive way of thinking (and behaving)?

**Continuing Support.** Is there a plan for the offender to receive continuing community support after the formal program has been completed (for example: mentors, support groups)?

**Program Measurement/Feedback.** Has the program been evaluated by correctional staff for effectiveness? Has it been evaluated by an independent researcher?

**Clinical Supervision.** Has the program supervisor been trained in Evidence-Based Practices (what works best)?

Each program received a rating, with categories from high to low as follows: Excellent, Promising, or Needs Improvement. Some programs were eliminated and improvement plans were developed for other lower-scoring programs. As shown below, more programs now score as promising or excellent due to these efforts.



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.**