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Iowa Department of Corrections

Lettie Prell
Director of Research

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Curt Smith Executive Assistant to the Director





Tracking Needs of Prison Releasees and Community Corrections Agencies

DOC Research Director Lettie Prell recently compiled the calendar year 2012 data for offender releases from prison to community supervision in Iowa.

That 5th Judicial District DCS received the most offenders should come as no surprise, although the percent received (33%) is quite striking. But perhaps the most striking information is that the supposedly rural 2nd District ranked third among districts (1st District was second) with 12% of releases received.

Three of the four institutions considered the top releasing prisons – Newton Correctional Facility, North Central Correctional Facility and Fort Dodge Correctional Facility – did indeed rank at the top in the number of releases.

However the fourth – Iowa Correctional Institution for Women – ranked 6th behind Clarinda Correctional Facility and Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility, suggesting that sex offenders and offenders with a mental illness, of which these two institutions specialize in treating, are a growing portion of prison releases.

Another breakdown of prison releases is by race and ethnicity, which shows that 3rd District leads all others in the receiving of American Indian and Hispanic offenders, while 5th, 1st, 7th, and 6th Districts receive the most African-American offenders respectively.

Analyzes such as these help the Iowa Corrections system in identifying where the most reentry resource need is; what offender programming is most in demand; and which culturally-sensitive supervision and culturally-specific programming is prescribed.