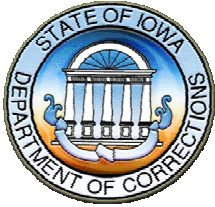


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Data Download

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GED's Receive "A" Grade in Reducing Recidivism

During 2011, the Iowa Department of Corrections analyzed the impact that attaining a GED has on recidivism – specifically, three-year return-to-prison rate. For those inmates who have a low or moderate risk level (as measured by the LSI-R assessment tool), attaining a GED does not tend to reduce the return-to-prison rate. However, attaining a GED does tend to reduce the rate for higher risk offenders.

The table below tracks those inmates released during FY 2007 for the following three years:

Exit_LSIR_Category	Education Category	Total Returned	Total Recidivism Rate	Rate of New Conviction
High	Less than HS Diploma	55	55.0%	41.0%
High	GED	48	44.0%	37.6%
Moderate/High	Less than HS Diploma	123	42.9%	25.8%
Moderate/High	GED	160	41.7%	27.6%
Moderate	Less than HS Diploma	163	35.7%	20.6%
Moderate	GED	217	38.6%	23.3%
Low/Moderate	Less than HS Diploma	43	29.5%	11.0%
Low/Moderate	GED	61	35.1%	18.4%

This study appears to confirm what other studies have shown in regards to lower risk offenders; and that is, offender programming can actually have a negative impact on recidivism. At the same time, it is heartening to be able to confirm that GED instruction and completion have a positive effect on those offenders most at risk to commit new crimes and create new victims.