

Offender Management in the Iowa Prison System

Background

When offenders enter the prison system, they are evaluated and assigned a custody score. The Department of Corrections (DOC) implemented a new custody classification system in January 2009 (FY 2009). The new system resulted in fewer offenders classified as maximum, medium, and minimum live-out custody, and more offenders classified as minimum or minimum work-out custody. Refer to the DOC [FY 2009 Annual Report](#) for a summary of the new custody classification instrument. See the DOC webpage research tab, <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/research.asp> and click on Assessment and Reclassification for information about risk assessments and classification tools used by the DOC, and validation of these tools.

Custody Classification System

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division (CJJPD) published a [report](#) in April 2014 that validated the custody classification system. There are multiple levels of custody within a custody class. For example, minimum security offenders may be classified as minimum work-out (they can work outside the perimeter fence), minimum live-out (they can live in dormitory settings immediately outside the security fence), or minimum security (they are housed inside the perimeter fence).

Transition Incentive Program

The DOC implemented a Transition Incentive Program (TIP) in FY 2013. The program provides incentives consistent with risk assessment, risk management, and risk reduction to reward offenders for positive behaviors. The TIP has tiers within a given custody classification so that improved behavior results in more privileges, such as lower (good behavior) or higher (bad behavior) custody housing units. The TIP also tries to ensure that offenders do not lose privileges when transferring between prisons. See the DOC [FY 2013 Annual Report](#) for a summary of the TIP. On the DOC [webpage](#), click on Policies, select Institutional Services Chapter and Classification Subchapter, to view the [TIP](#). All of the Institutions, except for Rockwell City, have their own TIP policy and procedures. Rockwell City does not have a TIP because it is a minimum security prison focused on offender work, education, and pre-release to the community.

Offender Population by Crime Type

The chart on the following page shows the offender population by the type of offense. The types of crime committed by offenders in the prison system have remained relatively stable from FY 2010 through FY 2014. Offenders that have committed violent offenses are approximately 45.0% of the population, while property offenders are about 18.0% of the population. Drug offenders are about 21.0% of the population, with the remaining offenders sentenced to prison for public order or other offenses. While approximately 45.0% of the offender population was sentenced to prison for violent crimes, their custody classification scores indicate they do not necessarily have a propensity for violent behavior, at least while in prison.

More Information

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov>

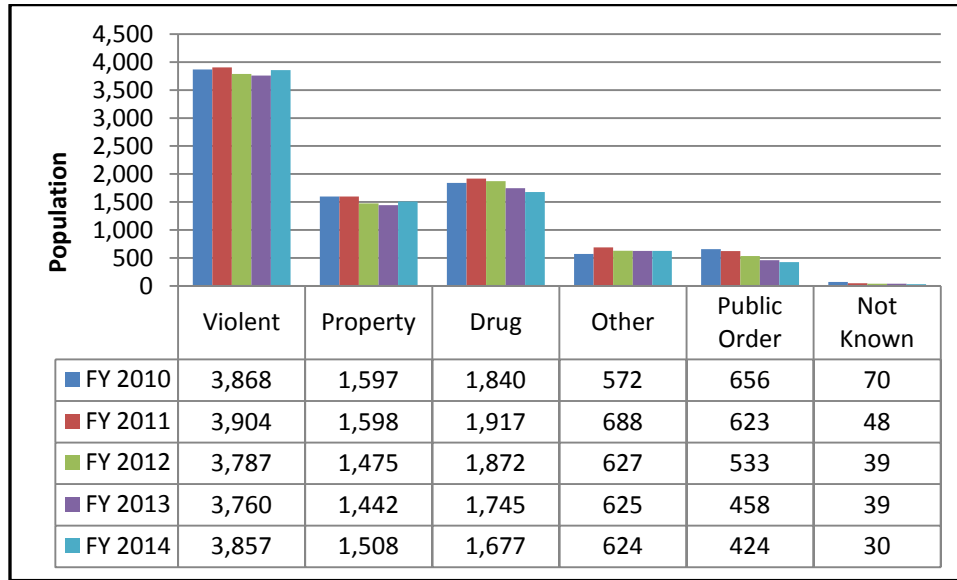
Iowa Department of Corrections: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us>

Department of Human Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division: <http://www.humanrights.iowa.gov/cjjp/index.html>

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Offender Population by Type of Crime



Source: Iowa Department of Corrections, Iowa Corrections Offender Network (ICON)

Additional Information

For more information about the various appropriations to the DOC, refer to:

- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Department of Corrections Central Office](#) for the purpose, structure, and organization of the DOC Central Office.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Adult Correctional Institutions](#) for the purpose, administration, and focus of the Institutions.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Board of Parole](#) for the purpose, history, and duties of the Board.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Consolidated Farm Operations Revolving Fund](#) for the current situation of the Farms.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Units: Iowa Corrections Offender Network](#) for a description of the purpose, use, and funding of the ICON.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Contraband Currency Fund](#) for receipts and expenditures of money confiscated from offenders in the Institutions.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Corrections Education](#) for an overview of education of offenders while incarcerated.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Corrections Training Fund](#) and [Department of Corrections Training](#) for a brief review of staff training in the DOC.
- **Fiscal Topic** [National and State Corrections System Populations](#) for a review of historical trends in prison populations and expenditures.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Iowa State Industries Revolving Fund](#) for a description of work available to offenders in the State prison system.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Telephone Rebate Fund](#) for the administration of the offender telephone system in the State prisons.
- [2014 Iowa Factbook](#) includes national and state statistical and comparative data for corrections systems.
- **Issue Review** [Department of Corrections Centralized Pharmacy](#) for a review of pharmacy operations in the State prison system.
- **Issue Review** [State Prison System Budget](#) for analysis of receipts and expenditures, average annual costs, and personnel within the State prison system.
- **Legislative Guide** [Criminal Law Overview](#) provides a general overview of the substantive criminal and sentencing laws in Iowa.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [321J](#), [901](#), [901B](#), [903A](#), [904](#), [905](#), [906](#), [907](#), [908](#), [909](#), [910](#), [913](#), and [915](#)
 Iowa Administrative Code [201 IAC](#)