



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

BOARD OF PAROLE
JASON T. CARLSTROM, CHAIR

January 31, 2014

Honorable Members of the Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee
C/O Beth Lenstra
Legislative Services Agency

RE: Follow up to Iowa Board of Parole Budget Presentation, FY2015

Honorable Members:

The following information has been compiled pursuant to your inquiries on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Please contact the Board of Parole for any further information.

Question #1: The figure of \$1,534 was provided as out of state travel costs in FY 2013. But there is no out of state travel shown on the Schedule 6 in FY 2013. How was that expense recorded in FY2013? Is it a coding error?

Answer: Out of state travel expenses were paid in FY 2014 using reverted funds, as the process to complete payment through DAS extended beyond August 31, 2013.

Question #2: Salaries increased by almost \$240,000 from FY 2013 to FY 2014. Why?

Answer: FY2013 actuals had vacancy savings from ALJ military leave, Board Chair, Clerk Specialist, Clerk and Board Members, which were expended in support (418 – IT Outside Services) for BOP ICON system development.

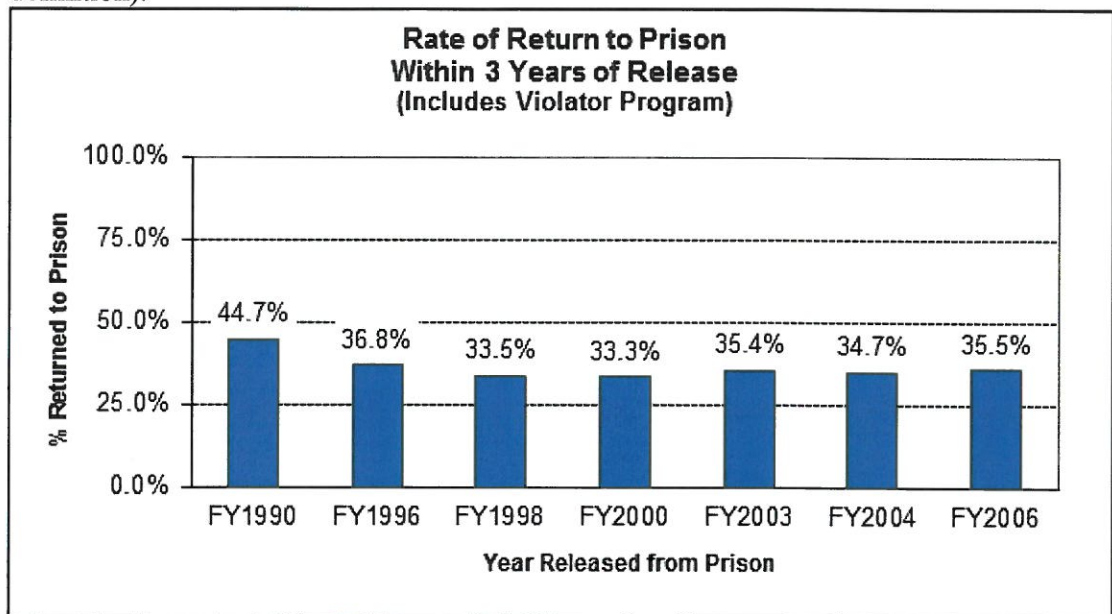
Question #3: Recidivism – Provide a national comparison for recidivism (I have comparative data in the Blue Book on page 34 – but it is older data). How does 30.3% compare to other states? Provide historical recidivism data for Iowa – what was it 3, 5, 10 years ago? Most of the recidivism data goes back 3 years. Do recidivism rates increase over time? Please provide recidivism rate for a period longer than three years.

Answer: The most recent national recidivism rates remain what was published in 2011 by the Pew Center on the States and is attached and incorporated herein. Updated recidivism rates using the same standard definitions as the Pew Report (and as Iowa currently maintains) may be found in the American State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) Performance-Based Measures System (PBMS). Not all states participate in PBMS, and not all participating states enter

recidivism data. However, for the states that do, the attached (PBMS Return Rates to Prison.xlsx) shows that Iowa's recidivism rate continues to compare favorably.

Regarding historical recidivism data, attached is recidivism data using the same standard definition for Iowa for available years. Old data are available that has been compiled by the Iowa Division of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning; however, recidivism definitions do not conform to the current national standard. Below is their available data using their definitions. As shown, there has been a general decline in offender recidivism rates since FY1990.

CJJP return rate to prison trend (caution: data do not conform to current national standard definition):



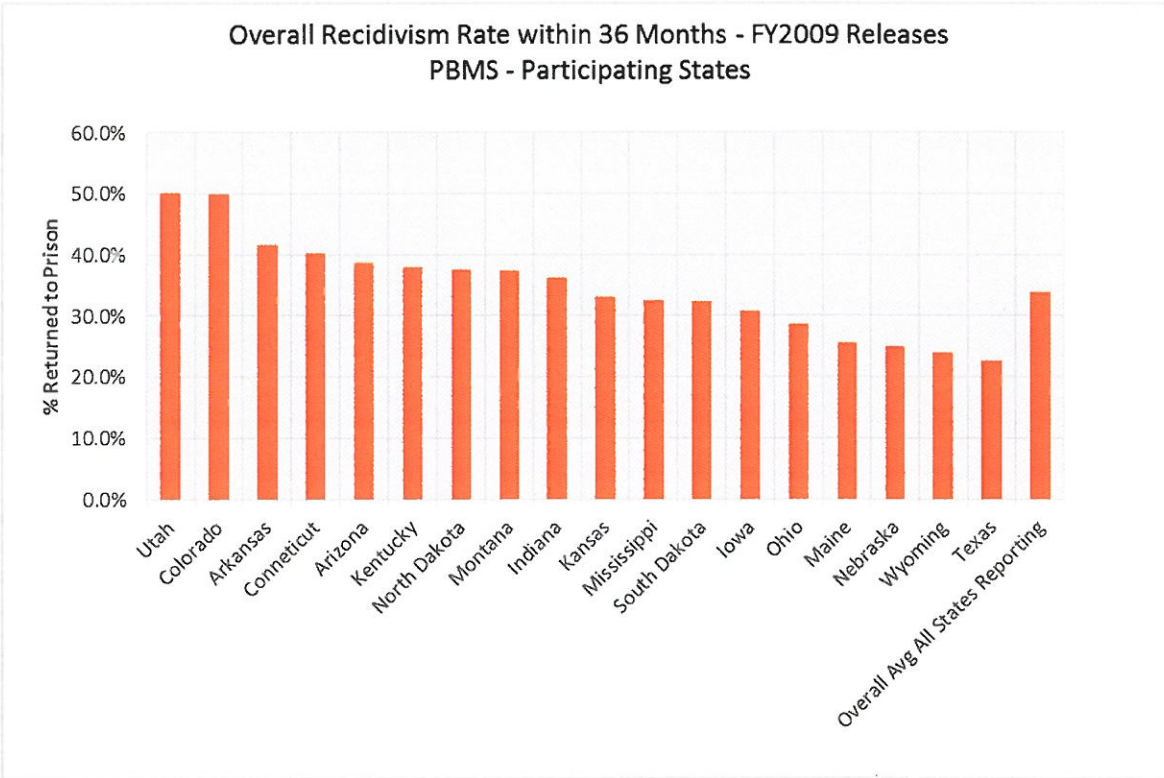
Please note that FY2000 and FY2004 recidivism rates were recalculated to conform to the national standard and those rates appear in the attached DOC trends document. It is reasonable to expect that if all these years' data were recalculated, a similar downward decline in recidivism rates would be observed.

Regarding recidivism beyond the three-year standard tracking period, it is now possible to run the recidivism report in the Justice Data Warehouse for the FY2007 release cohort using a 6-year follow-up period. This is the longest available tracking period of prisoner recidivism using this source. The return rate to prison at the 6-year follow-up period for this group is 41.6%. The three-year recidivism rate for this group shown in the attached was 31.8%. Therefore, by doubling the tracking period, we observe an additional 9.8 percentage points of offender recidivism. In terms of raw numbers for the FY2007 release cohort, 1,287 offenders returned during the first three years – and there were 404 additional returns during the three years after that. This data clearly demonstrates what has been observed in other studies, that offender recidivism drops off markedly the farther out we track.

Figure 1: American State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) Performance-Based Measures System (PBMS). Recidivism rates by reporting state, 36 Month follow up through FY2012.

Recidivism - Overall Recidivism Rate Within 36 Months FY2009 Releases (Tracked Through FY2012)	
State	Percent
Utah	50.1%
Colorado	49.8%
Arkansas	41.6%
Conneticut	40.3%
Arizona	38.7%
Kentucky	37.9%
North Dakota	37.5%
Montana	37.3%
Indiana	36.1%
Kansas	33.1%
Mississippi	32.5%
South Dakota	32.4%
Iowa	30.8%
Ohio	28.6%
Maine	25.5%
Nebraska	25.0%
Wyoming	23.9%
Texas	22.6%
Overall Avg All States Reporting	33.9%

Figure 2: American State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) Performance-Based Measures System (PBMS). Recidivism rates by reporting state, 36 Month follow up through FY2012, graphical presentation.



Lettie Prell
Director of Research

Data Download

Curt Smith
Executive Assistant to the Director



Prison Return Rate Down – Again

One of the key statistics that Iowa Corrections maintains to measure the success of our efforts is the three-year return-to-prison rate for offenders leaving prison and reentering the community. As the chart below shows, the rate for the three-year period from FY 2010 through FY 2013 continues a downward trend in offender recidivism, and is the lowest since this measure has been calculated.



While an in-depth study of the reasons behind this success has yet to be performed, we do know that the three-year return-to-prison rate for African-American offenders has decreased from 43% for FY 2004 departees to 31.2% for FY 2010 departees. We plan to take a closer look at the numbers behind the numbers in the next *Data Download*.

It is welcome news like this that should spur our efforts to continue to improve successful outcomes for offenders under our supervision. It works.

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.