The Insider

North Dakota Department Of Corrections And Rehabilitation

Barbara Allen-Hagen Award

By: Casey Traynor, PbS Site Coordinator

In October 2011, the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators awarded the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center the 2011 PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen Award. The award recognizes outstanding and exemplary implementation of changes based upon research, data and best practices as they pertain to Performance-based Standards (PbS.) The award was established in 2007 to honor Barbara Allen-Hagen following her retirement from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP.)

Performance-based Standards is a system that helps facilities identify, monitor and improve conditions of confinement and treatment services for youth in a correctional setting using national standards and outcome measures. The Performance-based Standards system is widely used; in 2011, 198 facilities across 27 states were engaged in this process of continuous self improvement. NDYCC has been involved with PbS for over a decade and continues to implement new and innovative ways to provide professional, team-oriented services to troubled adolescents within a safe and secure environment.

In 2011, 32 applicants from 16 states competed for the Barbara Allen-Hagen award. The YCC Assessment Program was selected as the facility that best exemplifies the PbS underlying principles. The primary factor considered in the receipt of this award was achieving the goal of eliminating youth isolation time.

Using PbS research on the effects of isolation on youth behavior, YCC determined that it's use of isolation was too high. Increased isolation is associated with several negative youth outcomes including increased suicidality, poorer staff-youth relationships, poorer treatment outcomes, and increased escalation of youth behaviors including physical violence.

Training took place to educate staff about the risks associated with the use of isolation. Staff from all levels participated in the effort to identify and implement strategies that would impact use of isolation across the

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DOCR Program Redesign

By: Karianne Wolfer, Staff Officer

In the 1970's a common idea in corrections abounded, nothing works to reduce recidivism. Believing that nothing works to rehabilitate offenders, the criminal justice community looked to longer sentences and tough on crime initiatives to ensure the safety of the public. According to the last 30 years of research, punishment, deterrence, and anecdotally supported methods of rehabilitating offenders don't work to reduce reoffending behavior, but there are interventions that do.

Focused on achieving our mission to enhance public safety by holding adult and juvenile offenders accountable while providing opportunities for change and reducing recidivism, the DOCR has engaged in an aggressive redesign effort focused on adhering to 8 Evidence Based Practices in Corrections that are linked to reductions in recidivism. The redesign is under the consultation of the University of Cincinnati Center for Criminal Justice Research and includes a thorough overhaul of policies, protocols, and practices to mirror research to reduce recidivism and criminality.

The goal of the redesign project launched in April 2011 and scheduled for completion in September 2012 is to reduce the likelihood of offenders coming back to prison and requires the DOCR to change what we target for rehabilitation and how we rehabilitate offenders. The redesign represents a paradigm shift for the entire prison system and will result in the following changes by September 2012:

- Adherence to a purely cognitive behavioral model based on the understanding that criminal thinking results in criminal behavior
- Empirically supported interventions focused on reducing criminogenic risk
- The targeting of offenders who have a higher risk of recidivism
- Prescription of an appropriate dosage of treatment for maximum treatment effect
- Increased reinforcements for prosocial behavior at each facility
- Staff training in and utilization of effective communication and motivational strategies (ECMS) to enhance offenders' intrinsic motivation for change
- Program offering and philosophy consistency at all the three prison facilities
- Quality assurance measures implemented to ensure fidelity to program model
- Outcomes measured and feedback delivered on outcomes

The DOCR strives for long term behavioral change in the offenders that engage in the criminal justice system in North Dakota rather than short term compliance with institutional or community rules. In order to achieve long term behavioral change, the criminal thinking patterns that dictate behavior must be disrupted. We refer to this disruption of criminal thinking as risk reduction and pair it with an intervention of negative behavior called risk control to achieve an integrated and comprehensive offender management system that results in safer institutions and reduced recidivism.

Barney Tomanek Receives Lone Eagle Award

By: Rick Schuchard, Program Manager

At the 2011 Peace Officer's Convention held in Bismarck the Lone Eagle Award for an active peace officer was presented to Parole and Probation Director, Barney Tomanek. Barney's nomination letter cited amongst other things, his leadership ability, his dedication and caring for staff, his concern for the well being of others, his loyalty to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, his volunteer work with the Dickinson Rural Fire Department, and his support for the law enforcement community as a whole

Each year the North Dakota Peace Officer's Convention banquet is highlighted by the presentation of the prestigious Lone Eagle Awards. A Lone Eagle award is given to both a retired and active peace officer.

Retired FBI agent Herb Eckenroth, who worked in North Dakota for many years, created the award in 1979 to recognize a North Dakota Peace Officer who"... has shown incorruptible soundness or moral character and faithful adherence to ethical principles." Additional qualities of recipients are a peace officer who in the eyes of their comrades, has contributed guidance, inspiration, and support throughout their career as a law enforcement official in North Dakota.

Barney was surprised when he heard his name called to receive the award as he had not planned to attend the convention this year. It took, as some may say, a bit of deceitful planning from some of his co-workers to get him to attend. Several members of Barney's family were secretly brought to the presentation as well, which made the event even more special. Barney gave a very humble and thankful reception speech and it was clear that he was honored to be selected for this coveted award. Barney was in good company as the Lone Eagle Award for a retired peace officer was presented to former Bismarck Police Chief Debbie Ness.

Congratulations to Barney for this outstanding accomplishment. He is more than deserving of this award.

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campus. Discipline policies and procedures were changed, and skill building training on relationships and communication strategies was offered. This resulted in a reduction in juvenile isolation, but furthermore marked the beginning of a positive change in facility culture. Associated with these changes is a documented reduction in episodes of inappropriate youth behavior as well as a reduction in the number of youth requiring physical restraint. During the April 2011 PbS data collection, the data period on which this award was based, there was no use of isolation.

What is Recidivism?

By: Tom Erhardt, Program Manager

Offender success and failure can be measured in many ways. Successful completion of treatment, successful completion of parole or probation supervision, commission of a technical violation, re-arrest for a new criminal offense, re-conviction of a new criminal offense, and re-admission to prison are among some of those ways. Since 2003 the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Adult Services (DOCR – DAS) has adopted the philosophy of "recidivism reduction" as a public safety strategy. However, we often hear the question "What is North Dakota's definition of recidivism?"

A broad definition of recidivism is "repeated or habitual relapse, as into crime" or "the chronic tendency toward repetition of criminal or antisocial behavioral patterns". Also, many scientific studies refer to recidivism as the outcome measure for which the study is based upon. These studies are the foundation for what we commonly refer to as "evidence based practices".

Specifically to the DOCR – DAS, recidivism is defined by a specific set of rules established by the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) performance based measurement system (PBMS). PBMS defines key institutional reporting criteria and sub-criteria to ensure that states are comparing these measures consistently – "apples to apples" so-to-speak. ASCA requires reporting states to measure recidivism in several areas:

- Returns to prison for new crime conviction within 12, 24 and 36 months.
- Returns to prison for technical violations within 12, 24 and 36 months.
- Overall returns to prison within 12, 24 and 36 months.

Technical violations are behaviors, either by commission or omission, that breach the rules set by the district court, or the North Dakota Parole Board. If an offender returns to prison for a new offense conviction and a technical violation, the offender is counted in the new offense conviction category.

PBMS provides for specific counting rules on which inmates you take into consideration, or the "cohort" group. The rules state to only count inmates released to the community.

For example, if an inmate is released from the DOCR, but is then transferred to prison in South Dakota due to a longer sentence there, the inmate would not be counted in the recidivism data because he remained incarcerated after release from the DOCR.

While the ASCA PBMS definitions are very detailed, the "layman's" explanation is to take the number of inmates released from the DOCR within a calendar year that return to prison for either a technical violation or a new crime conviction within three years and divide that number by the total number of inmates released for that calendar year.

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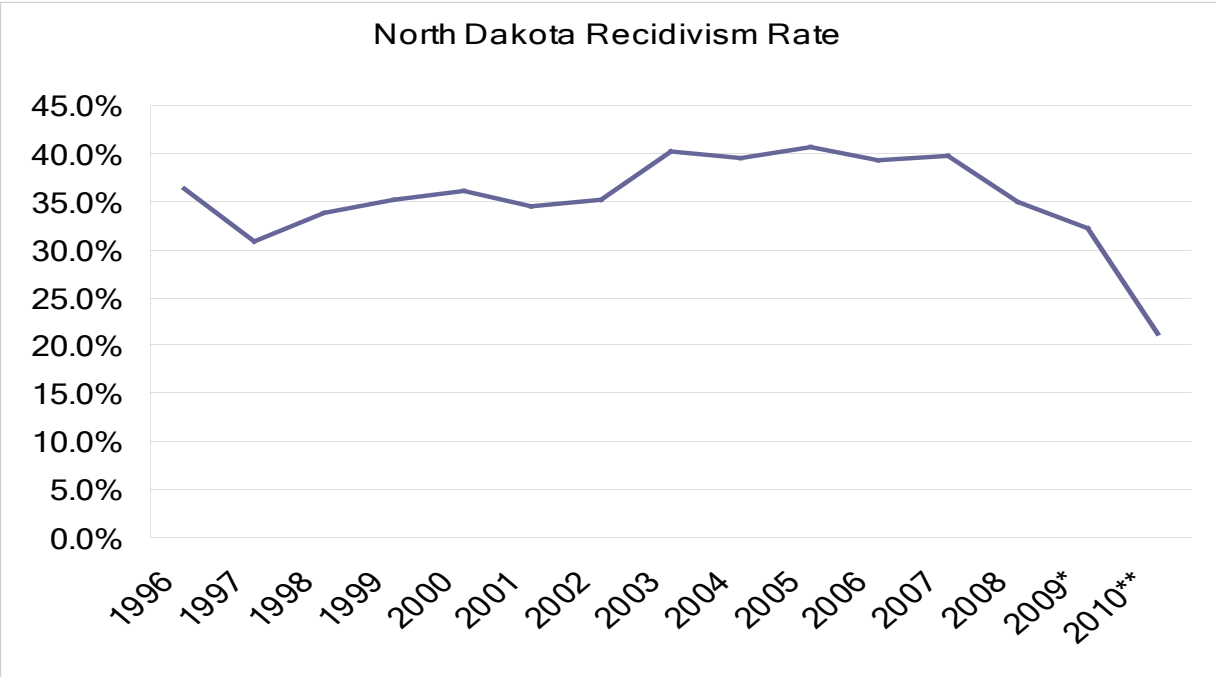
North Dakota Recidivism Rate

Year	Cohort	New Crime	Technical Only	Recidivism Rate
1996	449	19%	17%	**36%**
1997	495	21%	10%	**31%**
1998	633	18%	16%	**34%**
1999	658	23%	13%	**35%**
2000	606	25%	11%	**36%**
2001	706	24%	10%	**34%**
2002	790	24%	11%	**35%**
2003	872	25%	15%	**40%**
2004*	845	16%	23%	**40%**
2005	924	16%	25%	**41%**
2006	987	14%	26%	**39%**
2007	910	14%	26%	**40%**
2008	952	10%	25%	**35%**
2009**	898	9%	23%	**32%**
2010***	920	5%	16%	**21%**

* In 2004 North Dakota adopted the Association of State Correctional Administrator's Performance-Based Measurement system definition and reporting requirements for recidivism.
** Indicates recidivism rate for 2 years post-release.
*** Indicates recidivism rate for 1 year post-release.



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North Dakota Student Receives Scholarship Award from the Association of State Correctional Administrators

On August 18, 2011, DOCR Director Leann Bertsch presented Kurra Renner, daughter of Missouri River Correctional Center employee Steve Renner, with an award certificate, letter of congratulations, and a thousand dollar check given by the Association of State Correctional Administrators through the Susan M. Hunter Scholarship Award. Ms. Hunter was the former Director of the Prisons Division at the National Institute of Corrections until her passing in 2004. This award was developed for students who achieve superior academic work and desire to pursue higher education.

Kurra graduated from Dickinson High School last spring and has experienced several accomplishments throughout her high school career. She passed three Advanced Placement tests, which helped her earn college credits, scored a 95 on her ASVAB out of 99, and a 28 overall on her ACT. Kurra said "I however don't think that test scores are the main path to success. I think that working hard got me to the place where I am now." She has worked two jobs since tenth grade and continued to maintain straight A's in school. Kurra has also received her CNA certification where she was employed at a nursing home and assisted living facility. Kurra feels one of the most important achievements was a medical mission to the Dominican Republic which helped her realize she wanted to pursue the medical field.

Kurra is attending the University of Minnesota with her undergraduate studies being directed towards majoring in Biology. This will help her prepare for the MCAT graduation program in the medical field. She has her sights set on being a forensic pathologist, but says she will look at other options if the chance arises.

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For example, in 2007 there were 910 inmates released that were in the cohort group. 124 of them returned to prison within 36 months for a new crime conviction – 13.6%. Additionally, 238 of the cohort group returned to prison for a technical only violation – 26.2%. If you then add both of them together: 124 + 238 = 362 recidivists. 362 recidivists divided by 910 total released inmates = 39.8% overall recidivism rate.

Nationally, the PEW Center on the States April, 2011 report titled "State

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Healthier US School Challenge

By: Jana Ternes , NDYCC Food Service Director

The North Dakota Youth Correctional Center (YCC) Marmot High School was a recent winner of the Gold Award of Distinction, related to the Healthier US School Challenge. This is the USDA's highest award given for this challenge. YCC is the first and only high school in the State of North Dakota to receive this level of distinction.

Receiving the Healthier US School Challenge award means the YCC has gone above and beyond to create a school environment that promotes choosing a healthy lifestyle. This challenge is a key component of the First Lady's Let's Move campaign.

The goal of the challenge is to improve the health of the Nation's children by promoting healthier school environments. To help meet this goal, a school must meet minimum requirements to help ensure the students live full and active lives. It involves improving the quality of the foods served; to provide students with nutrition education and by providing students with physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

The YCC staff exceeded requirements in order to achieve this award. They prepared meals that offered more fresh fruits and vegetables (dark green & orange), whole grains products, and low-fat milk or fat-free milk. Marmot School teachers and food service staff inspired students to understand the connection between healthy meals and healthy bodies and YCC provides a high level of opportunity for physical activity.

On December 5, 2011, the Department of Public Instruction, Child Nutrition Department, presented this award to the YCC Food Service Department during a YCC lunch with staff and students present. The YCC Food Service Department will also receive a monetary gift of $2000.00 from the USDA for achieving this recognition.

A Message from the Editor

The Insider Newsletter is an official publication of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and is published four times each year. Its goal is to enhance communication and keep staff, and all those interested, informed of developments and achievements throughout the Department.

All employees are encouraged to submit articles, letters, comments, and ideas for future issues of The Insider to be considered in the next publication.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or exclude, if deemed inappropriate, any items submitted for publication. Please e-mail articles to:

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On Tuesday, February 7, 2012, we sent out an e-mail to all of our readers but later in the day had to recall the message due to incorrect information being provided. That data has been corrected, and we are sorry for any inconveniences this caused.

Inmate Population on December 31, 2011 (Male and Female)

TOTAL COUNT: 1,440

NDSP **533**, JRCC **413**, MRCC **141**, DWCRC **111,** Non Traditional Beds **242**

Non-Traditional Bed Breakdown:

Correctional Centers (Jails) **55**, Interstate Compact **26**, TRCC **56** BTC **44**, MTP **18**, FTP **16**, HACTC **25** LRRP **2** YCC **0**

Average Inmate Population, Arrivals, Releases and One Day Counts

	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY2010	FY2011
Average Daily Population	1,402.04	1,408.49	1,436.78	1,451.19	1478.29	1477.26
Admissions	1,114	1,043	1,076	1,019	1,063	1,005
Releases	1,115	1,006	1,046	1,028	1,003	1,037
Inmate Count on December 31	1,403	1,440	1,470	1,504	1,505	1,440

Inmate Count on December 31 (Crime Type)

Offense	12/31/2006	12/31/2007	12/31/2008	12/31/2009	12/31/2010	12/31/2011
Violent Offenders (Excluding Sexual)	387	394	450	430	457	470
Sex Offenders	208	226	243	233	258	260
Property, Status and Other	333	359	384	443	413	351
Drug Offenders (Includes Alcohol)	475	461	393	398	377	359
Drug - Deliver, Manufacture or Intent	259	238	218	235	228	234
Drug - Simple Possession	187	201	149	140	119	100
Drug - Alcohol	29	22	26	23	30	25

Inmate Count on December 31 (Minimum Mandatory)

Offense	12/31/2006	12/31/2007	12/31/2008	12/31/2009	12/31/2010	12/31/2011
DUI/APC	13	4	19	15	22	21
Driving Under Suspension	0	2	2	0	1	0
Drug Offenses (Not Alcohol)	47	28	22	28	31	35
Reckless Endangerment	2	1	2	0	2	2
Assault	8	8	8	9	11	15
Burglary With Weapon	2	1	0	0	0	0
Felonious Restraint	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	2	1	1	1	1	1
Sex Offense	3	2	3	5	8	9
Terrorizing	4	1	8	7	5	8
Robbery	12	8	12	9	7	6
Negligent Homicide	0	0	0	0	2	2
Manslaughter	3	1	1	1	1	1
Murder *	14	12	12	11	11	13
Felon in Possession of a Firearm	0	0	0	1	0	1
Offender Registration Violation	0	1	2	2	3	3
Total	110	70	92	89	105	117

* There are **56** males and **2** females with a life sentence (not all are minimum mandatory sentences)

8.11% of the inmate population on December 31, 2011 had a minimum mandatory sentence.

Inmate Count on December 31 (85% Truth-In-Sentencing)

	12/31/2006	12/31/2007	12/31/2008	12/31/2009	12/31/2010	12/31/2011
Number of Inmates Having 85% TIS	189	187	234	233	265	274
Average Sentence In Months	94	91	91	97	96	99

Average Sentence Does Not Include Inmates With Life Sentences

DOCR Prisons Division Inmate Population Information (Male and Female)						
Fiscal Year Admissions Of 85% Truth-In-Sentencing Inmates						
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY2011
Number of Inmates	49	70	77	80	85	96
Average Sentence In Months	47.29	62.21	49.66	45.86	45.31	43.59
Average Sentence Does Not Include Inmates With Life Sentences						
Number Of Fiscal Year Admissions by Crime Type						
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY2011
All Inmates	1,114	1,043	1,076	1,019	1,063	1,005
Violent (Non-Sexual)	211	210	239	227	224	238
Sex Offenders	66	81	73	64	70	70
Drug & Alcohol Offenders	460	415	397	356	339	336
Property, Status & Other	377	337	367	372	430	361
Average Sentence Imposed By Court (Fiscal Year, Crime Type, In Months, Excludes Life Sentences)						
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY2011
All Inmates	28.52	31.42	28.40	29.90	31.31	33.55
Violent (Non-Sexual)	31.73	40.04	29.46	32.30	33.69	42.34
Sex Offenders	45.97	66.20	61.74	62.97	75.21	74.22
Drug & Alcohol Offenders	27.60	28.06	27.63	29.89	31.20	31.30
Property, Status and Other	24.85	22.00	21.93	22.87	23.34	22.12
Number Of Fiscal Year Admissions By Length Of Court Imposed Sentence						
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY2011
Less Than One Year	61	58	53	45	56	50
One Year to Less Than Five Years	944	871	919	865	892	826
Five Years to Less Than Ten years	89	79	80	79	80	91
Ten Years to Less Than Twenty Years	12	21	15	17	22	23
Twenty Years or More	8	14	9	13	13	15

NOTE: The average sentence is that sentence imposed by the court. It does not take into account such things as good time, credit for time served, parole relief or any other method of shortening the sentence except Pardon Advisory Board recommendations adopted by the Governor (which can actually change the sentence). The average sentence is reported in months to two decimal points.

Data is based on the "controlling sentence" for offenders who are admitted for multiple crimes.

NDSP = North Dakota State Penitentiary. **JRCC** = James River Correctional Center. **MRCC** = Missouri River Correctional Center.

TRCC = Tompkins Rehabilitation Correctional Center. **BTC** = Bismarck Transition Center. **MTP** = Male Transition Program. **FTP** = Female Transition Program. **DWCRC** = Dakota Women's Correctional Rehabilitation Center (New England). **HACTC** = Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center (Rugby). **LRRP =** Lake Region Re-entry Program (Devils Lake). **YCC** = Youth Correctional Center.

Please note that that definitions for much of this report have been consistent for several years. However, the period for this report is now a fiscal year instead of a calendar year. ASCA PBMS information may be available in separate reports and uses definitions from the Association of State Correctional Administrators.

Organizational Characteristics. All DOCR Inmates. One Day Counts on the Last Day Of The Month. These numbers use the Association of State Correctional Administrator (ASCA) Performance Based Measurement Standards (PBMS) and are based on the controlling sentence.	**March 2011**	**April 2011**	**May 2011**	**June 2011**	**July 2011**	**August 2011**	**September 2011**	**October 2011**	**November 2011**	**December 2011**
General Organization Information										
Prisoners Housed by DOCR Institutions	1,099	1,112	1,097	1,098	1,118	1,117	1,105	1,107	1,095	1,087
Prisoners Outsourced (Not In A ND DOCR Facility)	368	347	355	371	353	365	368	340	344	353
Total Inmates Under DOCR Responsibility	**1,467**	**1,459**	**1,452**	**1,469**	**1,471**	**1,482**	**1,473**	**1,447**	**1,439**	**1,440**
Average Length of Sentence (Years)	5.55	5.59	5.72	5.68	5.70	5.64	5.67	5.78	5.82	5.84
Prisoners Serving Sentences Of Court (Prison Sentence)										
Inmates Serving Less Than 1 Year	34	31	30	29	27	28	28	25	24	27
Inmates Serving 1 to 3 Years	741	740	728	748	753	765	750	724	719	705
Inmates Serving 3 to 5 Years (3.01 to 5)	313	305	304	301	298	297	307	304	302	312
Inmates Serving 5 to 10 years (5.01 to 10)	177	179	183	183	184	183	180	182	180	181
Inmates Serving 10 to 20 Years (10.01 to 20)	98	100	100	101	101	102	102	104	105	106
Inmates Serving 20 to 40 Years (20.01 to 40)	40	40	41	41	42	41	41	41	42	41
Inmates Serving More than 40 Years (40.01 plus)	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Inmates Serving Life with Parole	36	36	37	37	37	37	36	36	36	37
Inmates - Life Without Parole	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	21	21	21
Inmates - Death Sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crime Distribution Statistics (Use Controlling Sentence)										
Part 1 Violent Crime Inmates	533	534	544	558	545	542	544	547	547	549
Other Violent Crime Inmates	158	160	154	142	160	159	156	162	158	165
Property Crime Inmates	274	271	256	260	253	267	268	252	244	237
Drug Offense Inmates	338	325	331	342	353	357	351	339	341	334
Other Public Order Offense Inmates	164	169	167	167	160	157	154	147	149	155
Inmate Demographics										
Average Inmate Age	35.00	35.27	35.27	35.48	35.41	35.20	35.35	35.71	35.73	35.84
Male Inmates	1,299	1,293	1,291	1,309	1,317	1,327	1,325	1,304	1,295	1,292
Female Inmates	168	166	161	160	154	155	148	143	144	148
White Inmates	917	917	913	924	918	929	915	905	902	911
Black Inmates	100	96	95	98	100	100	103	100	98	89
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Inmates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American/Alaskan Native Inmates	367	363	355	359	371	370	370	366	365	364
Hispanic or Latino Inmates	79	79	85	83	78	79	81	71	68	70
Asian Inmates	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	5	5
Other Race/Ethnicity Inmates	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Inmates With Unknown/Missing Race/Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inmates Non-Citizens	9	8	7	7	8	7	6	7	8	8

http://www.nd.gov/docr/media/stats.html

(What is Recidivism... continued from page 6)

of Recidivism - The Revolving Door of America's Prisons" reported the national recidivism rate from 2004-2007 at 43.3%. For more information on this report, including strategies to reduce recidivism, please refer to http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives_detail.aspx?initiativeID=85899358500

So why does the DOCR hang its hat on looking at only returns to prison as its philosophical overall outcome standard? DOCR Director Leann Bertsch comments, "To share meaningful numerical results, we must all be measuring the same thing the same way. The problem with past attempts to collect and share data with regard to recidivism has been that jurisdictions have different ways of measuring performance, making it difficult, if not impossible, to draw meaningful comparisons with others. PBMS is an accurate, consistent system to capture, record, report and share data between correctional agencies created by the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA). North Dakota follows the detailed counting rules set forth by PBMS to determine its recidivism rate so that we are able to draw accurate comparison to other states participating in PBMS."

If you have further questions about the Association of State Correctional Administrators Performance-Based Measurement System, please refer to the ASCA website at http://asca.net/articles/1647

Parole Board Members

Parole Board Members are appointed by the Governor for a three-year term. The Parole Board Members are listed as follows:

Members	Location
Duane Houdek, Chairman	Bismarck
Ronald Goodman	Oaks
Norman Anderson	Fargo
Robert Udland	Fargo
Sheri Baker	Bismarck
Jennifer Thompson	Fargo

Pardon Advisory Board Members

Pardon Advisory Board Members are appointed by the Governor for an open ended term to include the attorney general, two members of the parole board, and 2 citizens/residents of the state. The Pardon Board Members are listed as follows:

Members	Location
Duane Dekrey, Chairman	Pettibone
Wayne Stenehjem	Bismarck
Beverley Adams	Fargo
Everett Nels Olson	Minot
Berly Nelson	Fargo

Parole Board Meeting Dates for 2012

January	8-9
February	6-7
March	4-5
April	1-2
May	6-7
June	3-4
July	8-9
August	5-6
September	9-10
October	7-8
November	4-5
December	2-3

Pardon Advisory Board Dates for 2012

April 3 November 13

Our Vision...*A safer North Dakota through effective correctional services.*

Our Mission...*To enhance public safety, to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior by holding adult and juvenile offenders accountable, and to provide opportunities for change.*