

Re-entry Programs

The Bureau of Prisons' Mission Statement has two *equally-important* parts: the first part addresses our obligation to help protect public safety through the secure and safe confinement of inmates; the second part addresses our *obligation to help inmates prepare to return to their communities* and to remain crime-free. Post-release success is as important to public safety as is inmates' secure incarceration.

The vast majority of our inmate programs and services are geared toward helping inmates prepare for release. The BOP releases approximately 41,000 inmates to our communities each year to live and work near us, our families, and our friends. Release preparation (i.e., planning for re-entry) begins on the first day of incarceration.

Offenders come to prison with a variety of characteristics they cannot change, such as criminal history, employment history, parental supervision during childhood, and school attendance. There are, however, many other very important characteristics and behaviors that can change and are often important in determining post-release success, including antisocial attitudes and beliefs, substance abuse, anger and aggression, criminal associations, educational/vocational deficiencies, and life/social skill deficiencies.

Successful offender re-entry programs address these issues during three major phases:

- prison-based component,
- community-based transition, and
- community long-term support.

We are most involved in the first two of these phases.

The Bureau of Prisons has always provided inmates with self-improvement opportunities that include work, vocational training, education, religious programs, and counseling. Over the years, we have significantly supplemented these programs with:

- an institution-based release preparation program,
- pre-release placement in community corrections centers,
- enhanced psychology services and counseling programs,
- expanded religious services (including the residential Life Connections Program),
- drug abuse treatment (including residential drug abuse programs and its community transition component),
- anger management programs,
- parenting programs,
- health education and health promotion programs,
- mock job fairs,
- victim impact panels,
- residential programs (such as CODE, BRAVE, and others) that target younger offenders, high-security inmates, and quick-tempered inmates, and
- enhanced programs for female offenders.

The Life Connections Program (LCP) is a residential multi-faith-based program designed for inmates who believe the deepening of their spiritual life and the integration of their faith with other dimensions of their lives can be a major factor for personal growth and can help them reintegrate into the community. The program strives to contribute to an inmate's personal transformation and

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to reduce recidivism. Some of the components of the program are specific to one religion, others are interfaith in nature. The program relies heavily on community resources and volunteers to run a variety of sessions and personal growth seminars. As part of the program, inmates are connected with spiritual mentors at the institution and within a faith community at their release destination. LCPs are currently underway at FCI Petersburg, USP Leavenworth, FCI Milan, USP Terre Haute, and FMC Carswell. An interim report recently issued by the Office of Research and Evaluation demonstrates a positive effect of LCP participation in reducing serious forms of misconduct while inmates participate in the program. Analysis of impact on recidivism is ongoing.

However, research has demonstrated conclusively that Bureau programs such as Federal Prison Industries, vocational training, education, and residential drug abuse treatment have a positive effect on post-release success. Specifically, these core inmate programs have been proven to substantially reduce recidivism, for as long as 12 years following release from prison. A 1999 study by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy confirms the BOP's findings and also reports on the success of a great many "rehabilitation programs" operated by state departments of corrections all around the country. In fact, this study concludes that for each dollar spent on inmate programs, taxpayers save substantial amounts of money through lower rates of recidivism: as much as \$6.23 for prison industries programs, \$7.13 for prison vocational training programs, \$5.65 for prison education programs, and even \$2.69 for prison drug treatment programs.

These core programs also reduce misconduct in prison and make our institutions safer places in which to work. A number of our newer inmate programs have also been shown to reduce misconduct (which is highly related to recidivism).

Inmate Skills Development Initiative

The Inmate Skills Development (ISD) initiative is a comprehensive re-entry strategy being developed by the BOP. This initiative was the result of extensive investigation and research conducted through a re-engineering workgroup formulated in 2000 to examine how the BOP could improve efforts to provide inmates with the necessary skills to succeed upon release. The ISD Branch was established in June 2003 to coordinate efforts at implementing inmate skills development initiatives within the BOP and with external agencies, especially the development of collaborative partnerships to assist with the community transition phase.

Principles of the ISD strategy:

- the delivery of inmate programs must be linked expressly to the development of relevant inmate re-entry skills,
- the focus is on acquiring/improving a skill, rather than simply completing a program, and
- resources are allocated to target inmates with a high risk for re-entry failure.

One current collaborative partnership is the National Offender Workforce Development Partnership (with representation from the Department of Labor, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Institute of Corrections, the BOP, and the Legal Action Center's National Hire Network). This partnership was formed to focus on vocational training/apprenticeship programs and career-oriented employment strategies. Specific strategies include forecasting occupations, developing criteria and assessing work/VT programs, and identifying and addressing barriers to post-release employment.

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The ISD Branch is developing an automated inmate skills assessment instrument to identify an inmate's needs and strengths. The instrument will also be used to produce an individualized plan, to monitor progress in completing the plan, and to allow for better identification and coordination of inmate program involvement during incarceration.

Re-entry Legislation

Over the past couple of years, the Congress has considered significant legislation that focused specifically on offender re-entry. Four bills were introduced in the last Congress (Republican and Democratic versions of bills introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate) and became the basis for discussion of a variety of re-entry initiatives.

Different versions of a re-entry bill called the "Second Chance Act of 2005" (H.R. 1704 and S. 1934) have been introduced in the House and the Senate this year, and these bills have significant bipartisan support, though neither have been enacted.

- The primary thrust of this legislation is to enhance a program in the Office of Justice Programs (in the Department of Justice) that provides grants to state and local governments for re-entry projects.
- The bills also require the establishment of an interagency task force on Federal programs relating to the re-entry of offenders into the community, establish a research initiative on offender re-entry within the Office of Justice Programs, establish a collaborative grant program between the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor for mentoring and transitional services to facilitate reintegration of ex-inmates, and allow for the establishment of a National Adult and Juvenile Offender Re-entry Resource Center.
- For the BOP, both bills contain a provision that would increase the amount of time an inmate could be placed in a pre-release community corrections center or on home confinement. S. 1934 also contains a provision that would enhance the information BOP provides to inmates during the Release Preparation Program.

Executive Branch Re-entry Initiative

In his 2004 State of the Union address, President Bush proposed a 4-year, \$300 million initiative to reduce recidivism and the societal costs of incarceration by helping inmates find work when they return to their communities.

The program is a collaborative effort of the Department of Labor, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Justice to help ex-inmates:

- find and keep employment (community organizations to offer job training and job placement services in coordination with businesses),
- obtain transitional housing (grants to become available to organizations providing housing or vouchers to subsidize housing), and
- receive mentoring (community organizations to provide post-release mentoring).

On November 8, 2005, the Department of Labor awarded 30 grants totaling \$19.8 million to faith-based and community-based organizations as part of this initiative.

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Table 1: Recidivism Research Findings - BOP Core Programs

| Program | Participation | Recidivism |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| FPI | 18% of eligible (19,337 FPI workers) | 24% less likely to recidivate 14% more likely to be employed 23% reduction in misconduct |
| All Education Programs | 35% | 16% less likely to recidivate |
| VT/Occupational Training | 7% | 33% less likely to recidivate |
| RDAP | 34% have a drug use disorder; 92% of these volunteer | 16% less likely to recidivate 15% less likely to relapse (3 years) |
| | | |
| BOP Overall | | 40% recidivism rate from 1987-97: 10% reduction in recidivism |

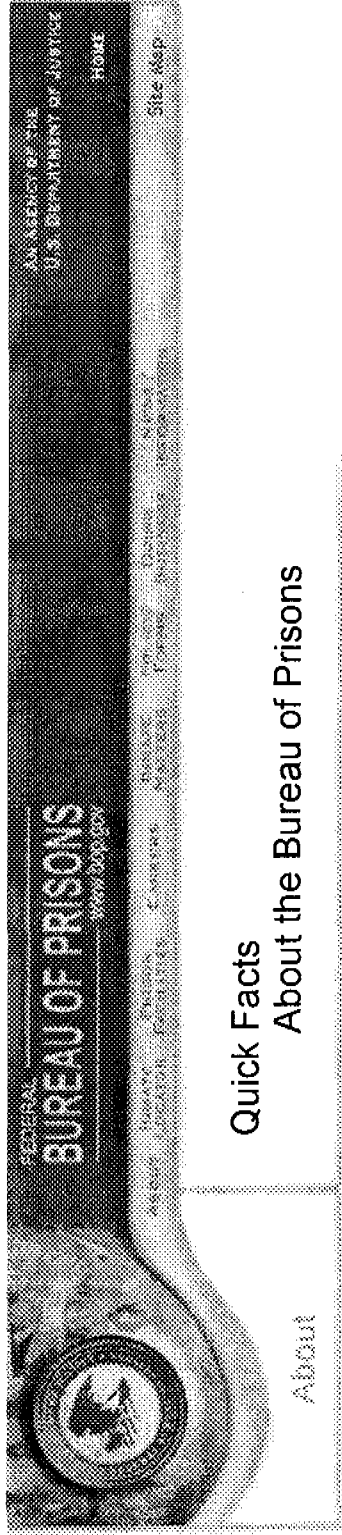
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Quick Facts About the Bureau of Prisons

Data presented here is from BOP automated information systems. Because of the timing of updates to these various systems, Quick Facts is updated monthly. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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Please see the most recent [Weekly Population Report](#) for individual BOP institutions figures.

Last Updated: Saturday, 25 February 2006

Inmate Population

Total population: 189,087
Total sentenced population: 170,058
 Inmates in BOP facilities: 160,236
 Inmates in privately-managed secure facilities¹: 18,855
 Inmates in other contract facilities²: 9,996

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¹ Includes inmates housed in privately-managed secure facilities under contract with the BOP or with a state or local government that has an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the BOP.
² Includes inmates housed in community corrections centers, home confinement, jail/short-term detention, contract juveniles, and long-term boarders.



Printer Friendly Version

Inmate Breakdown

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Inmates By Security Level

Minimum: 18.7 %
 Low: 39.4 %
 Medium: 26.1 %
 High: 10.2 %
 Unclassified¹: 5.4 %

Ethnicity

Hispanic: 60,255 (31.9 %)

Inmate Age

Average Inmate Age: 37

Inmates By Gender

Male: 176,445 (93.3 %)
 Female: 12,642 (6.7 %)

Citizenship

United States: 136,486 (72.2 %)
 Mexico: 32,158 (17.0 %)
 Colombia: 3,454 (1.8 %)
 Cuba: 1,711 (0.9 %)
 Dominican Republic: 3,363 (1.8 %)
 Other/Unknown: 11,915 (6.3 %)

Inmates By Race

White: 107,076 (56.6 %)
 Black: 75,522 (39.9 %)
 Native American: 3,301 (1.7 %)
 Asian: 3,188 (1.7 %)

¹These inmates have not yet been assigned a security level.

Sentence Imposed

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Less than 1 year: 3,549 (2.1 %)
 1-3 years: 23,472 (13.6 %)
 3-5 years: 27,605 (16.0 %)
 5-10 years: 50,467 (29.2 %)
 10-15 years: 31,627 (18.3 %)
 15-20 years: 14,800 (8.6 %)
 More than 20 years: 16,011 (9.3 %)
 Life: 5,449 (3.1 %)
 Death: 36

* Data is only calculated for cases where sentencing information is available.

Types of Offenses

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| | | |
|--|--------|----------|
| Drug Offenses: | 92,342 | (53.4 %) |
| Weapons, Explosives, Arson: | 23,706 | (13.7 %) |
| Immigration: | 18,924 | (11.0 %) |
| Robbery: | 9,951 | (5.8 %) |
| Burglary, Larceny, Property Offenses: | 6,915 | (4.0 %) |
| Extortion, Fraud, Bribery: | 7,261 | (4.2 %) |
| Homicide, Aggravated Assault, and Kidnapping Offenses: | 5,415 | (3.1 %) |
| Miscellaneous: | 2,280 | (1.3 %) |
| Sex Offenses: | 3,580 | (2.1 %) |
| Banking and Insurance, Counterfeit, Embezzlement: | 1,001 | (0.6 %) |
| Courts or Corrections: | 707 | (0.4 %) |
| Continuing Criminal Enterprise: | 590 | (0.3 %) |
| National Security: | 104 | (0.1 %) |

* Data calculated for those with offense-specific information available.

Staff Breakdown

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Staff By Race/Ethnicity

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------|
| White (Non-Hispanic): | 22,075 | (64.1 %) |
| African American: | 7,256 | (21.1 %) |
| Hispanic: | 3,881 | (11.3 %) |
| Asian: | 706 | (2.1 %) |
| Native American: | 510 | (1.5 %) |
| Other: | 7 | |

Staff By Gender

| | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Male: | 24,912 | (72.3 %) |
| Female: | 9,526 | (27.7 %) |

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