



# OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

*A Fact Sheet*

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*Recidivism*

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The Department of Corrections (DOC) General Fund appropriation in FY 2006-07 was 8.6 percent of the total State General Fund budget. Ten years ago, DOC General Fund was 6.0 percent of the total State General Fund budget. DOC's General Fund has grown 127.5 percent since FY 1996-97, which is more than double the rate of growth for the total State General Fund. This means that other state programs grew at a slower rate in order to stay within the total budget limits. If DOC had grown at 6.0 percent General Fund per year since FY 1996-97, the State would now have over \$124M more General Fund for other state priorities (like higher education).

	<u>FY 1996-97</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>GF Growth</u>	<u>% Growth</u>
DOC GF	\$257,026,652	\$584,748,410	\$327,721,758	127.5%
State GF	\$4,248,810,404	\$6,815,017,852	\$2,566,207,448	60.4%
Inmate Population*	12,214	22,519	n/a	84.4%

\*This is the fiscal year-end inmate population, recorded on June 30 of FYs 1996-97 and 2006-07

## **Basic Colorado Recidivism Statistics**

Adult recidivism rate	51.7%
Youth recidivism rate	39%
Annual cost of a new private prison bed	\$19,232
Annual cost of a DOC bed	\$28,783
Annual cost of a DOC mental health bed	\$65,841
Cost of a NYC bed	\$52,732

## **Key Facts about Colorado's Incarcerated Population**

Average Length of Stay <sup>1</sup>	23 months
Percent with Substance Abuse Issues	78%
Percent with Mental Illness	18%
Percentage without a GED	22%
Percentage of Homeless Parolees <sup>2</sup>	24.5%

## **Substance Abuse**

- About 32 percent of parolees have a drug offense as their most serious offense and the percentage is increasing.

<sup>1</sup> This represents the average prison time served among DOC offenders who were released in 2006.

<sup>2</sup> This represents the percentage of parolees who live in shelters, motels, or other temporary housing in the Denver Metro area only. The Denver Metro area has the largest concentration of parolees, and was the subject of a study by the Piton Foundation (May 2007) on housing situations for parolees.

- Research indicates that addicts commit an average of 280 felonies per year. Aftercare treatment reduces the risk of a relapse and the associated cost to society.
- Approximately 78 percent of offenders in DOC have a substance abuse problem, less than 25 percent of offenders receive substance abuse services.
- The current recidivism rate among offenders who participate in a combination of in-prison Therapeutic Communities (intense substance abuse services) programs and community-based therapeutic community programs is 8.0 percent, compared to a recidivism rate of approximately 52 percent among the general prison population.
- DOC estimates that about 30 percent of offenders could be targeted for TC programs. There is a waiting list of about 1,500 offenders for the TC programs operated by DOC.

### **Mental Illness**

- The Department of Corrections has experienced a 583 percent increase in the number of mentally ill offenders over the last 13 years.
- Currently, 18 percent of DOC's total jurisdictional inmate population is classified as mentally ill.
- Federal courts have consistently held that offenders have a constitutional right to medical and mental health treatment for serious disorders.
- The recidivism rate for mentally ill offenders is 53.8 percent, which is slightly higher than the estimated 49 to 52 percent recidivism rate among the general population. Based on the recidivism rate for offenders with mental illness, the Department estimates that 1,022 offenders with mental illness will return to prison within three years, often for technical violations.

### **Educational Services**

- Over 5,000 of the offenders in prison are in need of GED certificates. Research indicates that academic education and vocational education can potentially reduce recidivism by 7% to 9%.