

Creating Offender Success

The Michigan Department of Correction's
New Approach to Reentry

Three Opportunities for Offender Success

Diversion - Michigan must do a better job impacting the lives and behavior of offenders to prevent them from coming to prison.

Incarceration/Rehabilitation - The MDOC needs to create an environment in prison that focuses on preparing offenders for a successful return to their community while breaking the cycle of criminality.

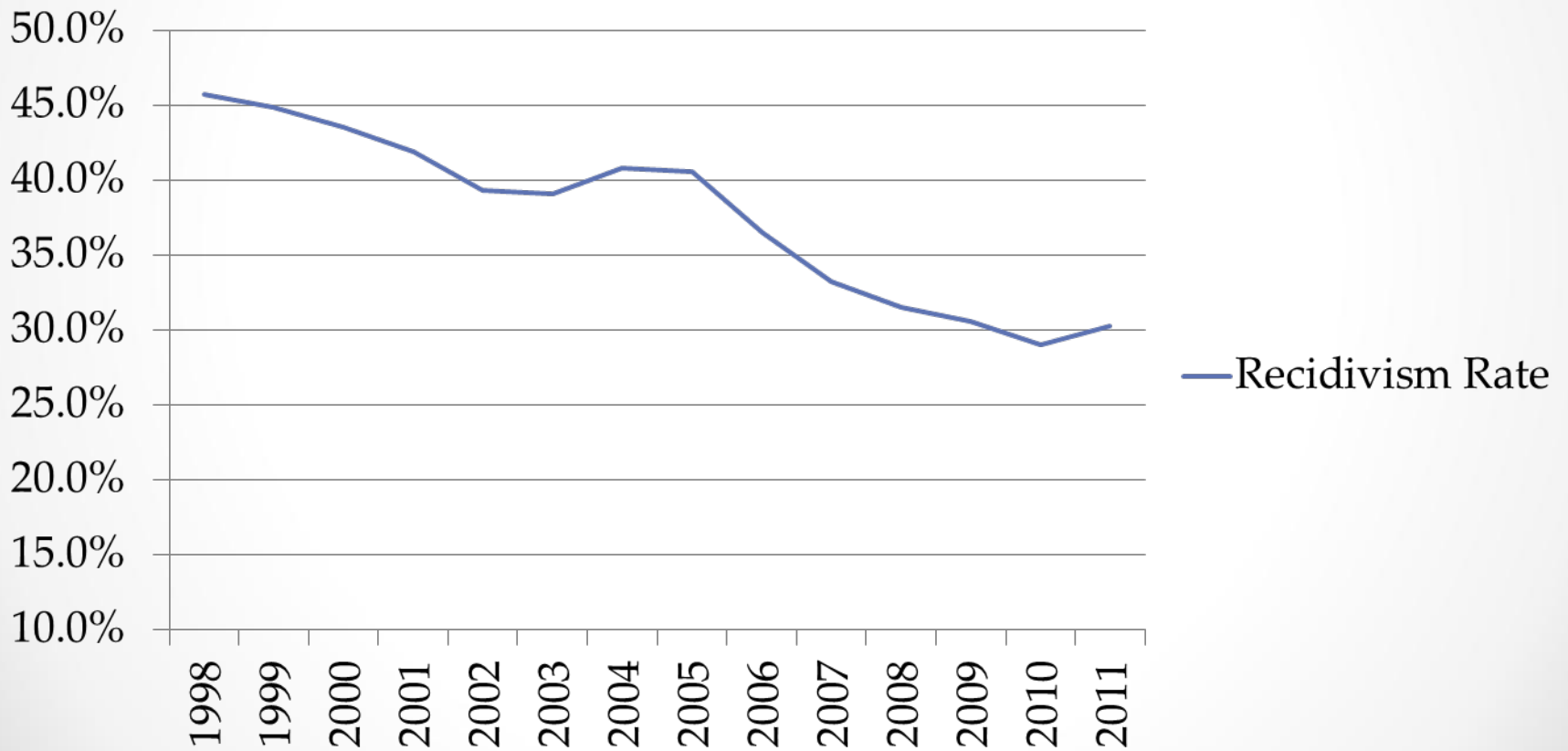
Reentry - Michigan must find ways to provide offenders with opportunities, rather than just support.

Defining Recidivism

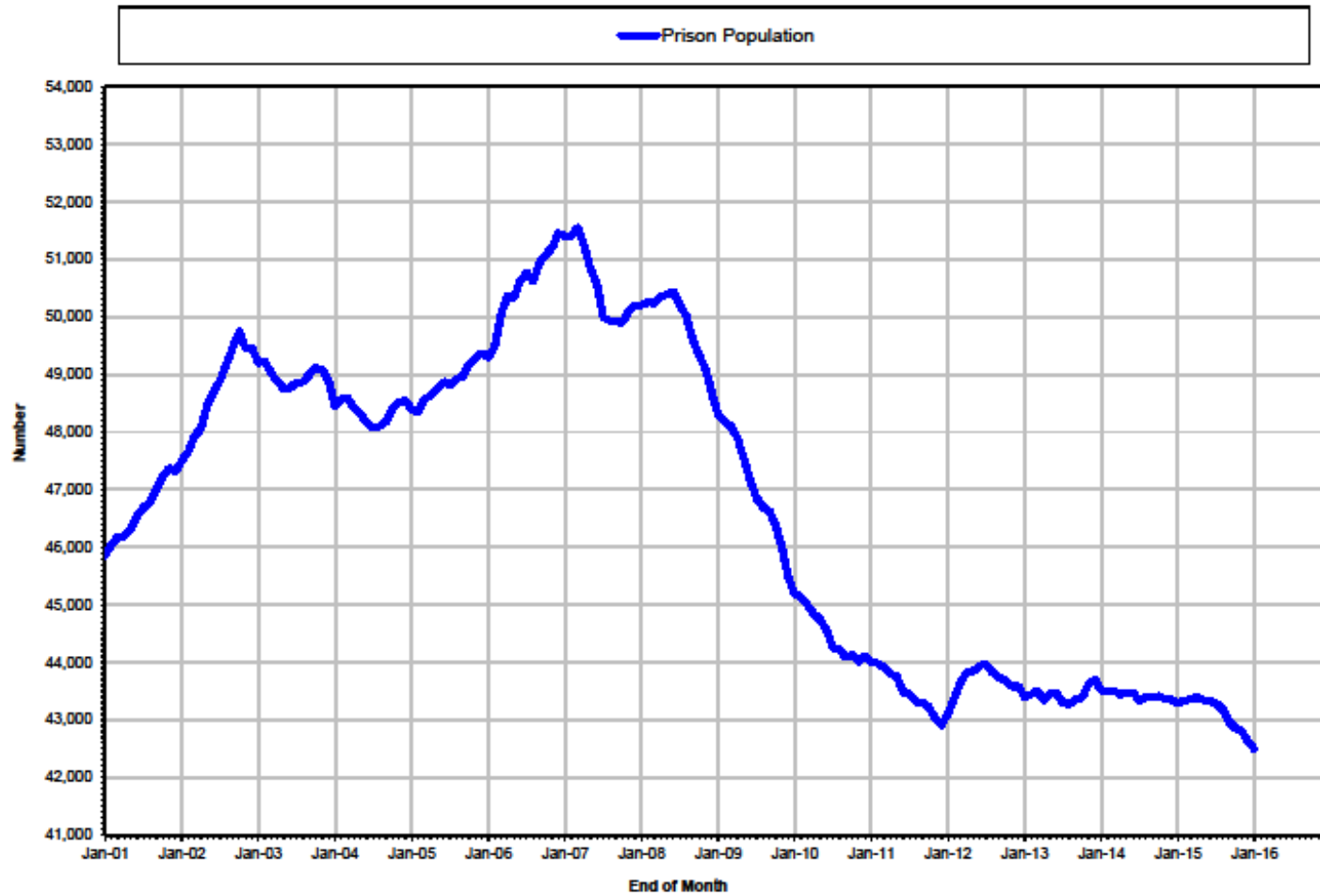
- The Michigan Department of Corrections defines recidivism as a return to prison within 3 years of release from the state prison system for either a technical violation or a new sentence.
- This is an important measure for the MDOC that has been consistently used for decades, but it is not a comprehensive measure of the success of the entire criminal justice system.
- The current MDOC recidivism rate (2011 Release Cohort) is **30.3%**.

Historic Trends

Recidivism Rate



Michigan Department of Corrections
PRISON POPULATION



Offender Success Begins at Entry

Work Keys/Vocational Programming

- Under the new Offender Success model, every prisoner with a minimum sentence of two years or less (55% of intake) will complete the Work Keys test as part of the intake process.
 - Those scoring below silver will be enrolled in an Employment Readiness Class that utilizes Key Train prior to parole.
 - All prisoners will retake the Work Keys test prior to release to determine if they are eligible for a National Career Readiness Credential and Certificate of Employability.
- Creating job skills while in prison is a key factor in long-term offender success.
 - The Offender Success Model will include additional vocational opportunities, but will also treat this programming like other MDOC programs that are meant to reduce risk and improve outcomes.
 - Recommendations will be made based on the Offender's COMPAS Needs/Risks Assessment, Career Pathways Questionnaire, labor market data for their home community, input from the Talent Investment Agency, and available employer partnerships.

Offender Success Begins at Entry

Cognitive Programming

- Offender Success requires a fundamental shift in the offender's behavior and thought process, which requires evidence-based cognitive programming.
 - Phase I parole interviews at intake will ensure that prisoners receive their recommendations with sufficient time to complete programming prior to their ERD. This will eliminate circumstances of prisoners not being recommended for programming until after their initial Parole Board hearing.
 - Since FY '12, the MDOC has added 81 FTE's at a cost of \$8.6m to reduce programming wait lists, but significant barriers to program completion remain, including for parolees sent to the Detroit Reentry Center to complete mandatory programming.
 - The MDOC will utilize statewide programming waitlists to ensure that all prisoners are placed in programming based on ERD with the goal of having all prisoners complete recommended programming prior to their initial Parole Board interview.
 - Prisoners will be assigned to facilities where the appropriate programming is available to avoid unnecessary transfers or delays.

Turning Prison Time into Productive Time

Opportunities for Growth

Programing Waitlists

	FY '16	
Program	Post-ERD	ERD to 1 Year
Violence Prevention Program	113	234
Sex Offender Programing	170	278
Thinking for a Change	45	296

	FY '12	
Program	Post-ERD	ERD to 1 Year
Violence Prevention Program	713	826
Sex Offender Programing	532	642
Thinking for a Change	550	372

Turning Prison Time into Productive Time

Opportunities to Learn

- The focus of the Offender Success Model is skills development and employment. This requires a complete reinvention of prisoner education, with a focus on developing in-demand skills and a strong work ethic.
 - The Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia will become the MDOC's first "Vocational Training Unit". Prisoners will be sent to this facility to develop vocational skills while completing cognitive programming in a setting meant to limit idleness and replicate the experience of working and going to school in the community, with at least 8 hours per day spent in training.
 - Vocational skills programs will be expanded to two shifts and will include welding, CNC machining, building trades, auto technology, plumbing and electrical. Prisoners will be placed in programs based on the job opportunities in their home counties.
 - The program will create a therapeutic community within a housing unit with external partners, such as Prison Fellowship, employers, and community groups that will help create an immersive environment for prisoners that will focus their attention on work and learning.

Turning Prison Time into Productive Time

Opportunities to Earn

- Employment is key to offender success, so the Department will begin focusing on employment prior to release.
 - Employment counselors at each facility will be tasked with creating and maintaining relationships with key employers in their prosperity region to generate strategic partnerships for vocational education and employment.
 - Employers will be given the opportunity to work directly with offenders prior to release to develop the necessary skills to secure employment when they parole.
- PIECP
 - The MDOC is considering partnerships with private firms that will utilize prisoner labor.
 - This program will allow prisoners to earn at least 20% of the gross prevailing wage for this type of work, with a portion of the funds being placed in their "Reentry Support Fund" that they will be able to access upon parole.

Preparing to Return Home

Vital Documents

- Partnering with the Michigan Department of State
 - The MDOC will enter into a MOU with the MDOS that will provide access to a SOS Mobile Office to serve prisoners and parolees.
 - The SOS Mobile Office will come to each Correctional Facility and FOA Field Office on a regular basis to process ID requests.
- Partnering with the Social Security Administration
 - Pilot to establish an expedited process for prisoners that have been granted parole after serving their minimum sentences.
 - These prisoners are released 28 days after the parole is ordered.
 - In September, 79 prisoners participated in the pilot:
 - 32 denied due to multiple SSN's reported.
 - 5 denied by SSA for various reasons.
 - 8 already had a SSC and could provide proof.
 - 5 refused to fill out the application.
 - 29 applications sent with 15 SSC received so far.

Preparing to Return Home

Employment Documents

- Each prisoner will receive a Workforce Development Referral Packet when exiting prison.
 - The packet will include:
 - GED Certificate or High School Diploma
 - Vocational Certificates
 - Resume
 - Certificate of Employability
 - This referral packet is scanned and maintained in an electronic format so that it can be reproduced for parolees and employers.

Creating Success in the Community

Supporting Opportunities in the Community

- RFP under development that will include program metrics related to offender success.
 - The RFP will refocus reentry services on the medium and high-risk parolees.
 - The RFP will streamline the service provider model to reduce the portion of funding spent on Operations Support.
 - The RFP will focus on creating opportunities for offenders, not simply support, with the goal of having parolees maintain employment to become self-sufficient.
 - The RFP will include additional safeguards to ensure that funds are only used to assist the MDOC's target population.

Helping Offenders Succeed Without Prison

Probation Diversion

- Michigan has become more effective at diverting offenders from prison through the utilization of specialty courts and community corrections programs, but 30% of the MDOC's prison intake continues to be probation violators.
- Wayne County Residential Alternative to Prison (WRAP)
 - Establish a 50 bed unit at the Detroit Reentry Center for probation violators that are prison bound.
 - Provides Cognitive Restructuring Therapy and a vocational training opportunity (culinary arts) in a short-term custodial setting.
 - WRAP residents will be able to access the One Stop Career Services office at DRC for additional services, with those services continuing in the community.
 - Offenders will spend 120-180 days in the program.

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