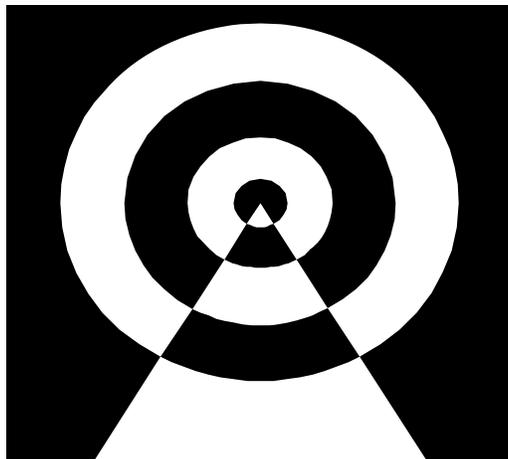


## **Targeted Programs:**



### **An Analysis of the Impact of Prison Program Participation on Community Success**

The extent of identified program needs and factors related to successful program participation were assessed among 14,681 inmates released during 2004. The 2004 releases were tracked from their respective release dates in 2004 through 2006. Two years after release, inmates who successfully completed prison programs based on their assessed needs were more likely to remain in the community than those who failed to complete the needed programs.

Various recidivism studies have revealed the positive impact of providing targeted treatment and educational programs to offenders in correctional settings. There is a growing body of literature that shows that needs assessments and subsequent program participation in prison can help lead offenders on a path to successful community reintegration.

This report is a continuation of the Research Unit's efforts to document the effect that inmate programming can have on the behavior and attitudes of offenders. For the past 25 years, the Department has published follow-ups aimed at assessing the impact of program participation on return rates. Consistently, the Department's program-based studies have found that inmates who satisfactorily participate in individual prison programs have lower return rates than comparable, non-participating inmates.<sup>1</sup>

The Department's annual report on the Earned Eligibility Program (EEP) evaluates the impact of overall participation on return rates. The legislatively-mandated program requires the Department to issue EEP certificates to inmates who have demonstrated positive progress in prison programs, providing incentive to the Parole Board to approve release for inmates who have earned their certificates at their initial hearing. Department assessments of EEP have consistently shown that inmates who progress in programs are less likely to return to prison than eligible inmates who fail to earn their EEP certificates.

Rather than focus on the evaluation of a particular program, this report examines the impact of the Department's statewide efforts to provide inmates the opportunity to receive targeted services based on individual needs assessments. In this report, inmates with varying types of assessed needs and levels of program participation were followed for 24 months post-release, to determine if there were any differences in rates of return. A total of 14,681 inmates released to the community during 2004 were included in the follow-up.<sup>2</sup> The 2004 releases were tracked from their respective release dates in 2004 through 2006. Computerized records from the Department's Guidance (KGNC) system were used to determine the inmates' most current assessments and participation statuses before release. As with the Department's annual follow-up report, an offender's first return to DOCS custody within the follow-up period, if any, was recorded, regardless of type of return (parole violation or new felony commitment).

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, *Overview of Department Follow-Up Research On Return Rates of Participants in Major Programs* (Macdonald 1995), for a summary of many Department follow-up reports.

<sup>2</sup> The release time period was selected to ensure the longest follow-up period possible along with the availability of reliable needs information as recorded in DOCS' Guidance system (KGNC). Inmates re-released from the Department after a previous return for a parole violation were excluded because of inconsistent availability of program data. In addition, inmates released from the Shock Incarceration program were not included because their needs and program participation are not recorded on the DOCS' Guidance system, even though academic education and substance abuse treatment are provided.

## **Identification of Needs**

The assessment of inmate needs begins at one of the Department's reception centers and continues in greater depth when an inmate enters his (or her) first general confinement facility. DOCS Guidance staff use a variety of measures to determine an inmate's program needs in five general areas and develop a program plan to address those needs. The five need areas include:

### Academic education

Inmates are considered to need academic classes if they have not graduated high school or earned an equivalency diploma. To assess academic proficiency, all inmates are administered standardized math, reading and writing achievement tests in English or in Spanish. To satisfy the academic program requirement, inmates must earn a high school equivalency diploma based on the Test for General Education Development (GED).

### Vocational training

The need for vocational training is based on the inmate's self-reporting of work history and specialized skills at the reception center. The factors used to determine whether an inmate has a vocational need include:

- ❖ Does the inmate hold a valid professional license?
- ❖ Has the inmate had a valid union membership for at least one year?
- ❖ Was the inmate employed in a trade, occupation or industry (including military) for one year or more, with a demonstrated ability to obtain and maintain employment?
- ❖ Does the inmate have a post-secondary degree or trade certificate?
- ❖ Did the inmate earn vocational completion job titles during a prior incarceration?

Inmates with an identified vocational need participate in a variety of vocational training offered in 32 different trade areas. All instruction is competency-based and self-paced. Inmates complete modules and earn job titles as listed in the Department of Labor's Dictionary of Occupational Titles. An inmate is considered to have satisfied his vocational need when he completes a cluster of job titles for a trade area.

### Substance abuse treatment

Counselors use several sources to determine a need for substance abuse treatment. At reception, inmates are administered the standardized Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST) as well as the Simple Screening Instrument for Outreach for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SSI). The inmate's prior criminal history as it relates to drugs and alcohol is also considered, as are the contents of the Pre-sentence Investigation Report. In addition,

self-report data are gathered from inmates about their drug use. Behavior while incarcerated may also indicate a substance abuse need.

To address the established need for substance abuse treatment, a number of substance abuse treatment programs are offered in a variety of modalities, both outpatient and residential. Substance abuse programs aimed at addressing co-occurring needs have been developed, including programs for chemically dependent sex offenders, perpetrators of domestic violence, inmates with mental health needs, and inmates housed in Special Needs Units. The programs range in length from six to nine months. Satisfaction of the substance abuse need is equated to successful completion of one of these assigned programs.

#### Aggression replacement training

All inmates with a violent conviction are considered in need of aggression replacement training. In addition, a counselor may determine a need based on an inmate's behavior while in prison. Satisfaction of the need is recorded upon completion of the Department's Aggression Replacement Training (ART) program, a minimum 100-hour program which offers alternatives to aggressive responses.

#### Sex offender counseling

For inmates released within the timeframe of this report, those convicted of a sex offense were required to participate in the sex offender counseling program developed by the Department. Inmates may also have been required to participate based on their behavior while in prison. Offenders who completed the six-month program were considered to have satisfactorily addressed their need. Significant changes to the Department's Sex Offender program are now in the process of being implemented. Under the new program, residential and modular program placement will be based on individual assessment, with program participation ranging from 6-24 months. Treatment providers will be clinically supervised, and a specialized re-entry component has been added to the program. Given the extensive changes pending in assessment, referral and program content, sex offender needs and program participation were excluded in this analysis of the 2004 releases.

### **Program Plan Compliance**

Once the inmate's program plan is developed, a counselor monitors compliance with the plan and records the current program status at least every three months on DOCS' KGNC system.

For each need identified, the following status categories are possible:

*Inmate satisfactorily completed a program*

*Present program is appropriate (currently in a program)*

*Inmate refuses to participate*

*Inmate was removed from a program for disciplinary reasons*  
*Inmate was removed for poor program performance and/or attendance*  
*Inmate is unavailable due to disciplinary confinement*  
*Inmate is unavailable due to out-to-court status*  
*Inmate is medically or psychiatrically unable to participate*  
*Inmate is unavailable due to protective custody status*  
*Inmate completed a program but has regressed and requires further programming*  
*Inmate was removed from the program for administrative reasons (e.g., transfer)*  
*Inmate has four or more years to release and future participation is projected*  
*Inmate is in a Required Program Pool and is awaiting an opening*  
*Program does not exist at the current facility*

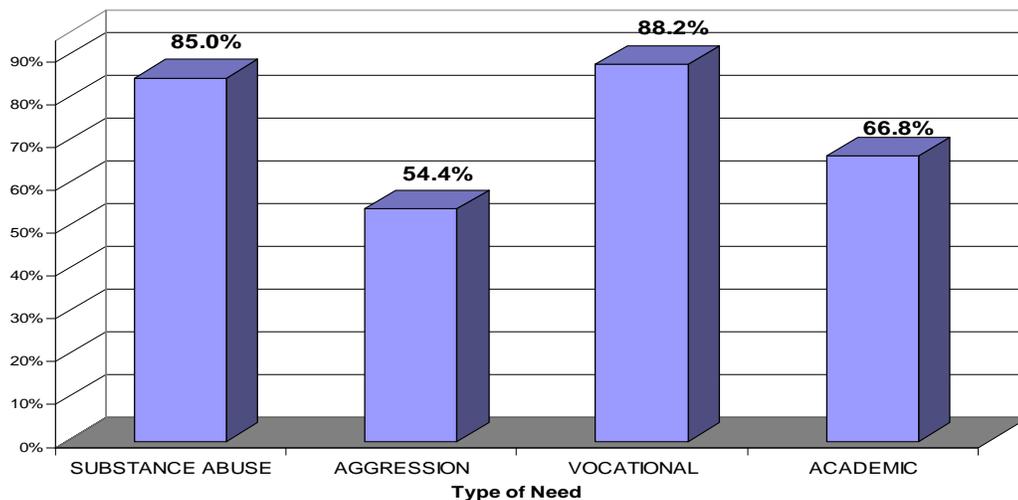
The number and variety of possible program status categories not only serve as indicators of the inmates' willingness to comply with the program requirements, but also reflect the complexities involved in meeting the many needs of offenders within a secure institutional environment.

For certain non-violent inmates, successful participation in the program plan can provide an opportunity for early release; conversely, refusal to participate may decrease or eliminate a reduction in sentence that could have been earned for good behavior.

### **Profile of Inmate Needs**

The percent of released inmates who were assessed as requiring programming for each of the four need types are presented graphically. Overall, 88 percent of the released inmates were assessed as having vocational needs, 85 percent had needs for substance abuse treatment, 67 percent needed academic programs, and 54 percent were assessed as needing aggression therapy.

**Figure 1**  
**Types of Needs Assessed among Inmates Released to the Community**  
**2004**



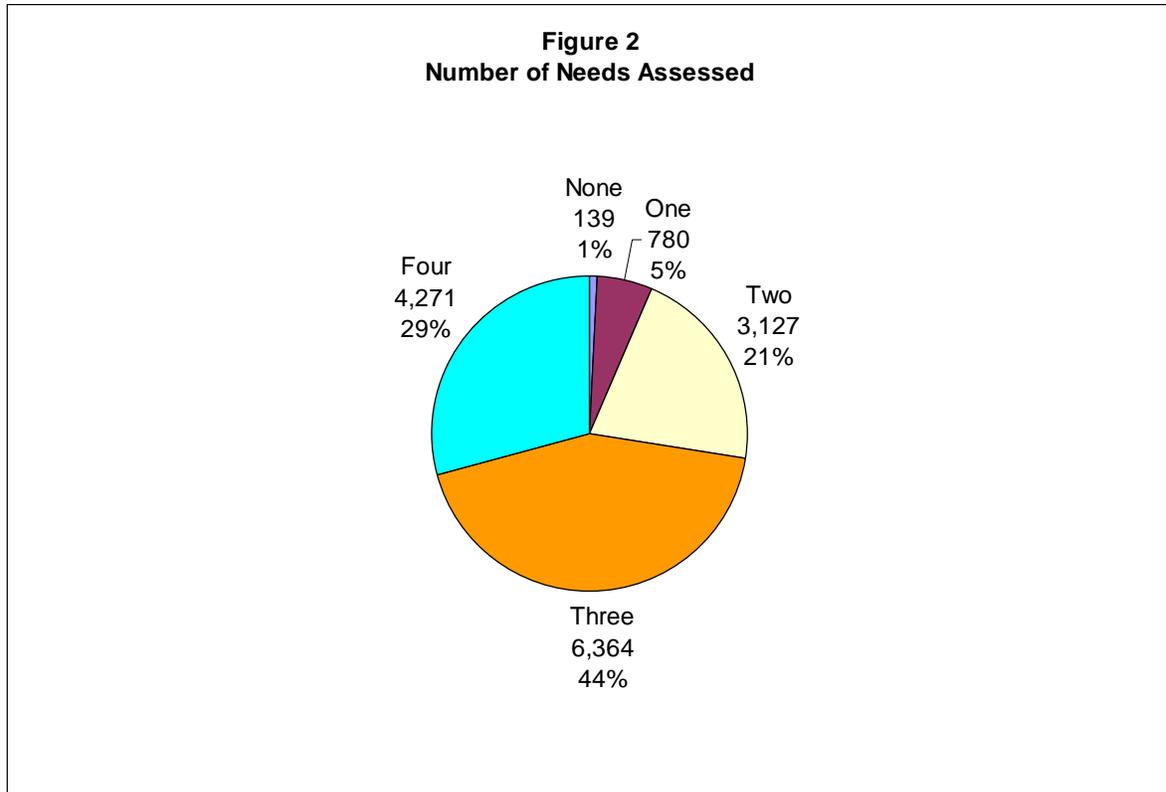
More detailed profiles of the release group are presented in the table below, which shows how different demographic and legal characteristics are related to the need categories. For example, males were twice as likely as females to need aggression programs (56% vs. 29%) and females were considerably more likely than males to need academic education (77% vs. 66%).

Generally, older inmates tended to be less likely than younger inmates to need programs.

Table 1									
TYPES OF NEEDS ASSESSED BY INMATE CHARACTERISTICS									
INMATES RELEASED 2004									
	TOTAL	TYPE OF NEED							
	RELEASED	SUBSTANCE ABUSE		AGGRESSION		VOCATIONAL		ACADEMIC	
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>INMATE CHARACTERISTICS</b>									
<b>GENDER</b>									
MALE	13,641	11,564	84.8%	7,677	56.3%	12,070	88.5%	9,013	66.1%
FEMALE	1,040	909	87.4%	306	29.4%	874	84.0%	797	76.6%
TOTAL	14,681	12,473	85.0%	7,983	54.4%	12,944	88.2%	9,810	66.8%
<b>AGE AT RELEASE</b>									
16-18 YRS	92	79	85.9%	55	59.8%	83	90.2%	88	95.7%
19-20 YRS	489	414	84.7%	350	71.6%	474	96.9%	404	82.6%
21-24 YRS	2,032	1,761	86.7%	1,484	73.0%	1,932	95.1%	1,613	79.4%
25-29 YRS	2,551	2,118	83.0%	1,573	61.7%	2,375	93.1%	1,793	70.3%
30-34 YRS	2,212	1,874	84.7%	1,209	54.7%	1,965	88.8%	1,467	66.3%
35-39 YRS	2,488	2,112	84.9%	1,244	50.0%	2,143	86.1%	1,536	61.7%
40-49 YRS	3,629	3,169	87.3%	1,558	42.9%	3,031	83.5%	2,174	59.9%
50 AND OVER	1,188	946	79.6%	510	42.9%	941	79.2%	735	61.9%
TOTAL	14,681	12,473	85.0%	7,983	54.4%	12,944	88.2%	9,810	66.8%
<b>ETHNIC STATUS</b>									
WHITE	2,933	2,461	83.9%	1,588	54.1%	2,378	81.1%	1,378	47.0%
BLACK	6,956	5,837	83.9%	4,009	57.6%	6,223	89.5%	4,766	68.5%
HISPANIC	4,484	3,931	87.7%	2,212	49.3%	4,073	90.8%	3,462	77.2%
OTHER	216	164	75.9%	138	63.9%	195	90.3%	141	65.3%
UNKNOWN	92	80	87.0%	36	39.1%	75	81.5%	63	68.5%
TOTAL	14,681	12,473	85.0%	7,983	54.4%	12,944	88.2%	9,810	66.8%
<b>RELEASE TYPE</b>									
PAROLE	7,194	6,456	89.7%	1,927	26.8%	6,196	86.1%	4,757	66.1%
CONDITIONAL RELEASE	6,806	5,437	79.9%	5,462	80.3%	6,119	89.9%	4,563	67.0%
MAXIMUM EXPIRATION	681	580	85.2%	594	87.2%	629	92.4%	490	72.0%
TOTAL	14,681	12,473	85.0%	7,983	54.4%	12,944	88.2%	9,810	66.8%
<b>TYPE OF CRIME</b>									
VIOLENT FELONY	4,880	3,764	77.1%	4,583	93.9%	4,478	91.8%	3,464	71.0%
OTHER COERCIVE	1,398	1,107	79.2%	1,295	92.6%	1,240	88.7%	852	60.9%
DRUG OFFENSES	5,292	5,080	96.0%	1,083	20.5%	4,666	88.2%	3,696	69.8%
PROPERTY & OTHER	2,730	2,201	80.6%	748	27.4%	2,205	80.8%	1,491	54.6%
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	350	297	84.9%	244	69.7%	325	92.9%	284	81.1%
JUVENILE OFFENDER	31	24	77.4%	30	96.8%	30	96.8%	23	74.2%
TOTAL	14,681	12,473	85.0%	7,983	54.4%	12,944	88.2%	9,810	66.8%
<b>TIME SERVED AT DOCS</b>									
0-11 MONTHS	2,000	1,682	84.1%	536	26.8%	1,610	80.5%	1,400	70.0%
12-23 MONTHS	4,207	3,545	84.3%	1,832	43.5%	3,706	88.1%	2,842	67.6%
24-35 MONTHS	2,906	2,547	87.6%	1,605	55.2%	2,621	90.2%	1,909	65.7%
36-59 MONTHS	2,879	2,506	87.0%	1,736	60.3%	2,606	90.5%	1,851	64.3%
60-119 MONTHS	1,948	1,603	82.3%	1,587	81.5%	1,762	90.5%	1,313	67.4%
120+ MONTHS	741	590	79.6%	687	92.7%	639	86.2%	495	66.8%
TOTAL	14,681	12,473	85.0%	7,983	54.4%	12,944	88.2%	9,810	66.8%

## Multiple Needs

The many challenges facing offenders are illustrated in the following pie chart. The vast majority of inmates were assessed as needing multiple programs. Only one percent of the inmates were assessed as having no needs; five percent had a single need. Almost three-quarters of the released inmates had three or four needs.



## Program Completion for Each Need Area

The percentage of inmates who completed a relevant program was calculated for each need area (see table on the following page). Completion rates varied by the type of need. Substance abuse treatment (68%) and aggression therapy (61%) had the highest rates of completion. Vocational and academic programs, which require certain levels of demonstrated achievements to satisfy, were less likely to be completed (28% and 21%).

<b>Table 2</b>			
<b>INMATES COMPLETING RELEVANT PROGRAMS BEFORE RELEASE</b>			
<b>BY NEED TYPE: 2004 RELEASES</b>			
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	<b>with need</b>	<b>completing program</b>	<b>completing program</b>
TYPES OF PROGRAMS			
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	12,473	8,469	67.9%
AGGRESSION	7,983	4,855	60.8%
VOCATIONAL	12,944	3,632	28.1%
ACADEMIC	9,810	2,058	21.0%

Since the release cohort included in this report, the Department has worked to expand program availability and to improve the monitoring and recording of program participation. As a result, program information for more recent release cohorts show substantial increases in program completion in every program area. For example, among the new commitments released more recently in April – June 2007, 75 percent of those with Aggression needs completed Aggression Replacement Training before release. During the same time period, 35 percent of releases with vocational needs satisfied the Department’s requirements by earning a cluster of job titles, and an additional 19 percent progressed by earning at least one job title while incarcerated. Similarly, 24 percent of the inmates with an academic need earned their GED before release, and an additional 11 percent achieved substantive academic benchmarks toward their GED.

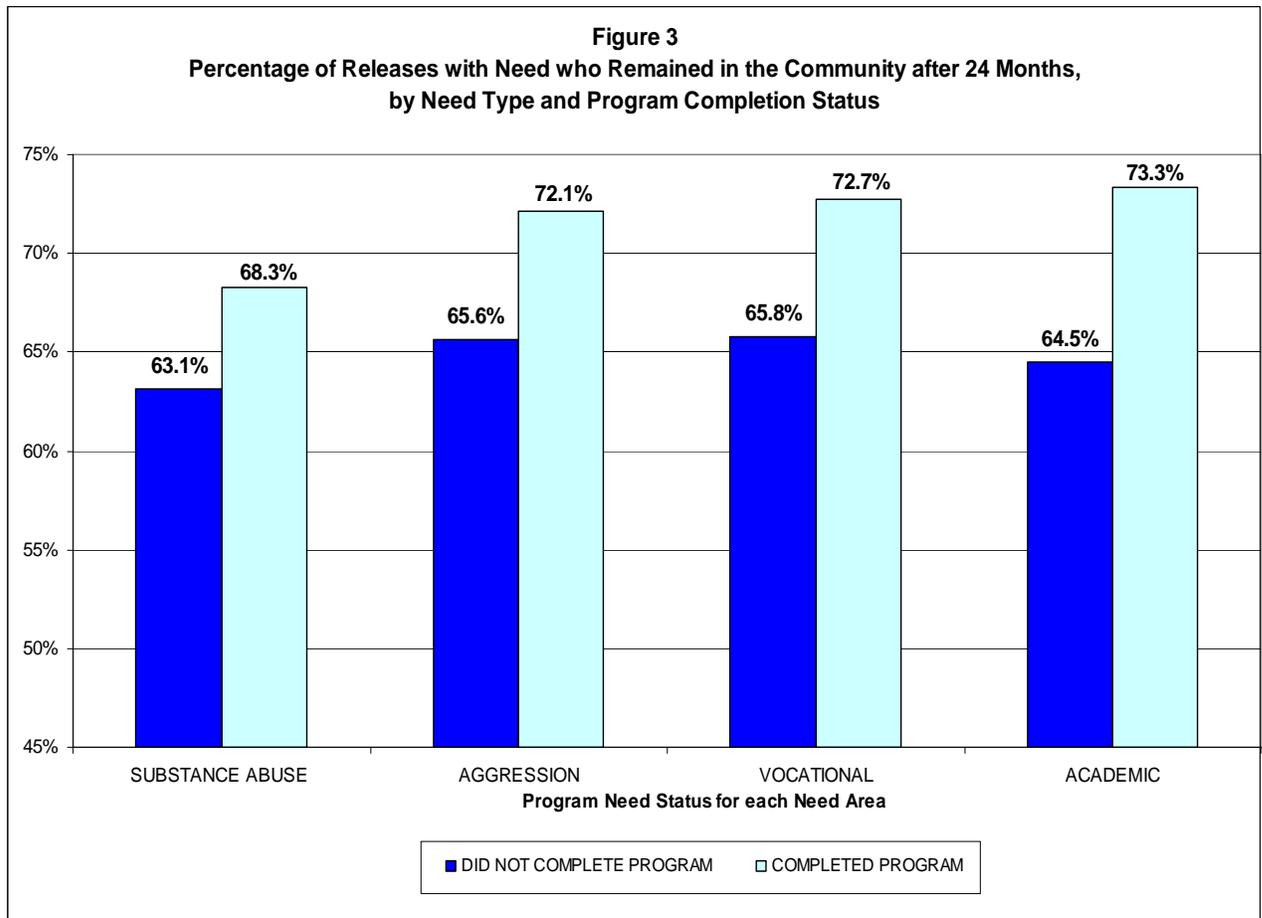
Program completion rates differed among inmates with various characteristics, as shown in the table below. Younger inmates tended to have lower program completion rates. Females were more likely than males to complete Aggression programs, but less likely to earn their GED or complete vocational training. Predictably, a strong relationship was found between program completion and time served at DOCS.

	PROGRAM COMPLETION RATES AMONG THOSE WITH NEED:			
	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	AGGRESSION REPLACEMENT	VOCATIONAL TRAINING	ACADEMIC EDUCATION
	%	%	%	%
<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>				
<b>GENDER</b>				
MALE	67.8%	60.6%	28.9%	25.3%
FEMALE	69.1%	67.3%	16.5%	19.8%
TOTAL	67.9%	60.8%	28.1%	24.8%
<b>AGE AT RELEASE</b>				
16-18 YRS	27.8%	18.2%	3.6%	18.2%
19-20 YRS	34.5%	23.4%	8.2%	18.6%
21-24 YRS	55.4%	46.2%	16.5%	26.4%
25-29 YRS	67.4%	63.1%	28.8%	31.5%
30-34 YRS	70.4%	67.6%	35.4%	32.1%
35-39 YRS	72.2%	68.3%	32.2%	22.1%
40-49 YRS	74.8%	68.9%	30.9%	18.4%
50 AND OVER	72.7%	67.5%	27.9%	19.3%
TOTAL	67.9%	60.8%	28.1%	24.8%
<b>ETHNIC STATUS</b>				
WHITE	67.8%	64.2%	30.2%	39.7%
BLACK	67.6%	60.3%	28.3%	24.2%
HISPANIC	68.5%	59.3%	26.9%	20.0%
OTHER	65.9%	60.1%	24.1%	22.0%
TOTAL	67.9%	60.8%	28.1%	24.8%
<b>TYPE OF CRIME</b>				
VIOLENT FELONY	69.2%	63.4%	39.5%	35.9%
OTHER COERCIVE	66.9%	65.9%	25.6%	23.5%
DRUG OFFENSES	71.8%	53.3%	24.1%	18.5%
PROPERTY & OTHER	62.2%	57.0%	17.7%	16.3%
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	31.6%	30.3%	6.8%	19.0%
JUVENILE OFFENDER	66.7%	70.0%	30.0%	47.8%
TOTAL	67.9%	60.8%	28.1%	24.8%
<b>TIME SERVED AT DOCS</b>				
0-11 MONTHS	33.7%	27.4%	4.0%	11.7%
12-23 MONTHS	69.8%	55.4%	12.3%	16.7%
24-35 MONTHS	72.6%	53.8%	24.3%	21.5%
36-59 MONTHS	75.5%	62.0%	41.6%	30.0%
60-119 MONTHS	75.5%	74.5%	54.9%	42.1%
120+ MONTHS	80.8%	82.8%	66.2%	56.4%
TOTAL	67.9%	60.8%	28.1%	24.8%

## Program Completion and Success after Release

Among the 14,681 releases, 69 percent remained out of DOCS custody throughout the 24 month follow-up period. Inmates who completed programs based on their assessed needs while at DOCS were less likely to return to prison than inmates who did not complete relevant programs. **For each type of need, twenty-four month success rates (the percentage of releases who did not return to DOCS) were higher among those inmates who completed a need-based DOCS program than among those who were assessed as having the need but did not complete a program.**

For example, as shown in the chart below, among the releases who were assessed as having a need for vocational training, 73 percent of those who successfully completed a DOCS Vocational program did not return to DOCS during the 24-month follow-up period, compared to 66 percent of the inmates who failed to complete a vocational program before release. These results were consistent for each need type.



## Women Releases

To further our understanding of the special needs of women offenders, the program needs among females in the 2004 release cohort with various characteristics are shown below. Earlier, Table 1 showed that among the total cohort, academic needs declined with the age of the offender. Below we see that among females, academic needs remain high even among older releases. Only aggression showed a decline in the proportion of inmates with a need for treatment as age increased.

	TYPE OF NEED								
	TOTAL	SUBSTANCE ABUSE		AGGRESSION		VOCATIONAL		ACADEMIC	
	RELEASED #	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>INMATE CHARACTERISTICS</b>									
<b>AGE AT RELEASE</b>									
16-18 YRS	6	4	66.7%	3	50.0%	5	83.3%	6	100.0%
19-20 YRS	22	18	81.8%	14	63.6%	21	95.5%	18	81.8%
21-24 YRS	103	88	85.4%	57	55.3%	91	88.3%	85	82.5%
25-29 YRS	120	99	82.5%	44	36.7%	99	82.5%	85	70.8%
30-34 YRS	138	121	87.7%	49	35.5%	114	82.6%	101	73.2%
35-39 YRS	225	198	88.0%	60	26.7%	187	83.1%	173	76.9%
40-49 YRS	351	323	92.0%	67	19.1%	295	84.0%	269	76.6%
50 AND OVER	75	58	77.3%	12	16.0%	62	82.7%	60	80.0%
TOTAL	1,040	909	87.4%	306	29.4%	874	84.0%	797	76.6%
<b>ETHNIC STATUS</b>									
WHITE	232	201	86.6%	67	28.9%	195	84.1%	141	60.8%
BLACK	517	450	87.0%	171	33.1%	433	83.8%	419	81.0%
HISPANIC	280	248	88.6%	63	22.5%	238	85.0%	229	81.8%
OTHER	2	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2	100.0%	0	0.0%
UNKNOWN	9	9	100.0%	4	44.4%	6	66.7%	8	88.9%
TOTAL	1,040	909	87.4%	306	29.4%	874	84.0%	797	76.6%
<b>RELEASE TYPE</b>									
PAROLE	709	627	88.4%	80	11.3%	582	82.1%	544	76.7%
CONDITIONAL RELEASE	314	265	84.4%	213	67.8%	279	88.9%	239	76.1%
MAXIMUM EXPIRATION	17	17	100.0%	13	76.5%	13	76.5%	14	82.4%
TOTAL	1,040	909	87.4%	306	29.4%	874	84.0%	797	76.6%
<b>TYPE OF CRIME</b>									
VIOLENT FELONY	191	156	81.7%	169	88.5%	171	89.5%	151	79.1%
OTHER COERCIVE	77	63	81.8%	64	83.1%	63	81.8%	55	71.4%
DRUG OFFENSES	479	456	95.2%	35	7.3%	400	83.5%	393	82.0%
PROPERTY & OTHER	264	207	78.4%	21	8.0%	215	81.4%	173	65.5%
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	26	24	92.3%	14	53.8%	22	84.6%	23	88.5%
JUVENILE OFFENDER	3	3	100.0%	3	100.0%	3	100.0%	2	66.7%
TOTAL	1,040	909	87.4%	306	29.4%	874	84.0%	797	76.6%
<b>TIME SERVED AT DOCS</b>									
0-11 MONTHS	248	220	88.7%	29	11.7%	187	75.4%	197	79.4%
12-23 MONTHS	402	344	85.6%	94	23.4%	355	88.3%	312	77.6%
24-35 MONTHS	185	168	90.8%	67	36.2%	161	87.0%	134	72.4%
36-59 MONTHS	138	126	91.3%	70	50.7%	115	83.3%	108	78.3%
60-119 MONTHS	57	44	77.2%	38	66.7%	48	84.2%	38	66.7%
120+ MONTHS	10	7	70.0%	8	80.0%	8	80.0%	8	80.0%
TOTAL	1,040	909	87.4%	306	29.4%	874	84.0%	797	76.6%

Program Completion among Women

Overall program completion rates for female releases are presented below.

Table 5			
FEMALE INMATES COMPLETING RELEVANT PROGRAMS BEFORE RELEASE			
BY NEED TYPE: 2004 RELEASES			
	Number	Number	Percent
	with need	completing program	completing program
TYPES OF PROGRAMS			
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	909	628	69.1%
AGGRESSION	306	206	67.3%
VOCATIONAL	874	144	16.5%
ACADEMIC	797	158	19.8%

Compared to the male releases, program completion rates among females were higher for substance abuse and aggression programs, but lower for academic and vocational programs (see Table 3). It is likely that female inmates' relatively shorter stays at DOCS (19.5 month median among the female 2004 releases) makes it particularly challenging to earn a GED or vocational certification before release.

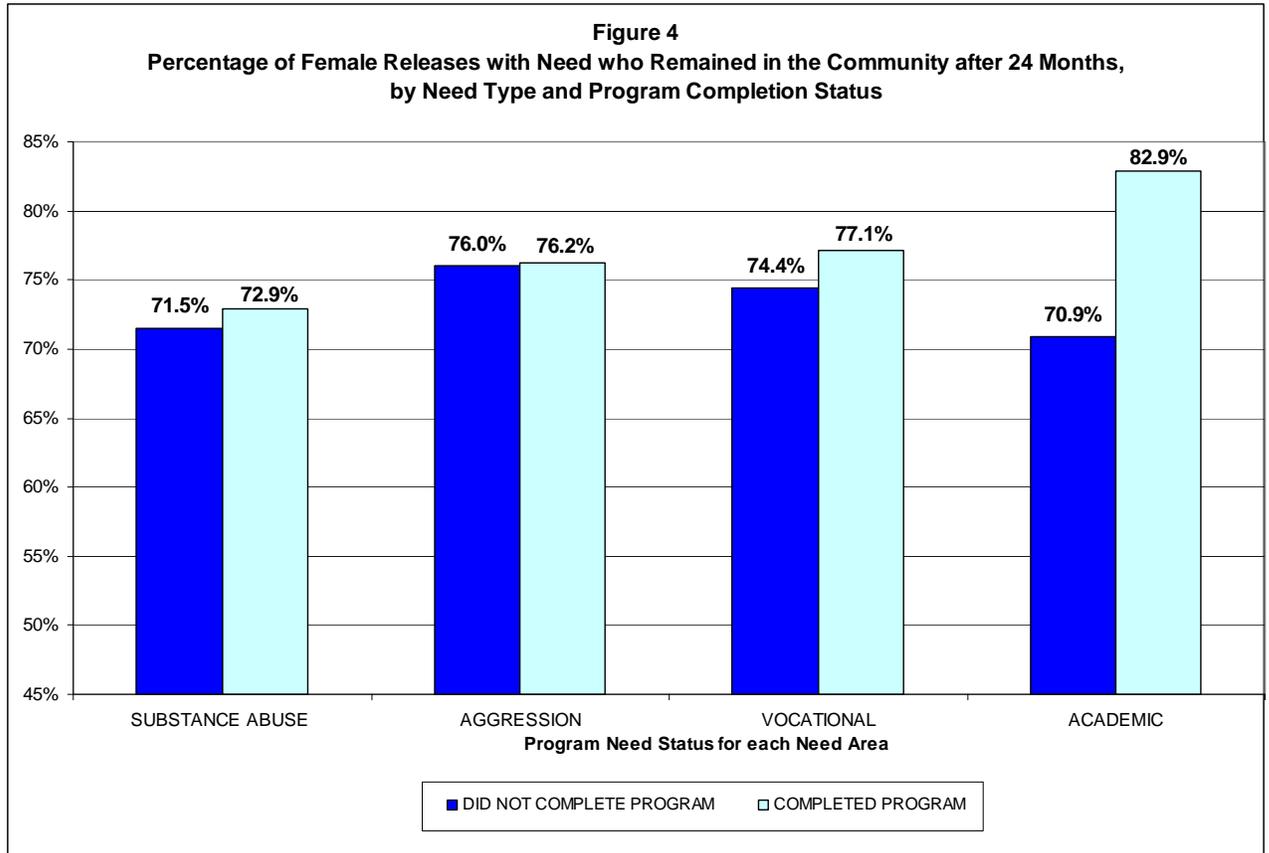
The table on the following page presents completion rates for women with the same demographic and legal characteristics that were included for the total population in Table 3. Predictably, completion rates among the women increased with time at DOCS.

Table 6				
PROGRAM COMPLETION RATES BY INMATE CHARACTERISTICS				
FEMALES RELEASED 2004				
	PROGRAM COMPLETION RATES AMONG THOSE WITH NEED:			
	SUBSTANCE	AGGRESSION	VOCATIONAL	ACADEMIC
	ABUSE	REPLACEMENT	TRAINING	EDUCATION
	%	%	%	%
<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>				
<b>AGE AT RELEASE</b>				
16-18 YRS	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
19-20 YRS	55.6%	85.7%	4.8%	33.3%
21-24 YRS	59.1%	66.7%	15.4%	29.4%
25-29 YRS	61.6%	72.7%	19.2%	24.7%
30-34 YRS	66.1%	69.4%	16.7%	19.8%
35-39 YRS	69.7%	63.3%	15.5%	18.5%
40-49 YRS	74.9%	64.2%	16.6%	14.9%
50 AND OVER	75.9%	58.3%	21.0%	18.3%
TOTAL	69.1%	67.3%	16.5%	19.8%
<b>ETHNIC STATUS</b>				
WHITE	72.1%	74.6%	22.1%	41.8%
BLACK	70.4%	65.5%	16.2%	18.6%
HISPANIC	65.3%	66.7%	12.6%	8.3%
OTHER	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
TOTAL	69.1%	67.3%	16.5%	19.8%
<b>TYPE OF CRIME</b>				
VIOLENT FELONY	73.7%	70.4%	22.8%	35.1%
OTHER COERCIVE	79.4%	75.0%	31.7%	23.6%
DRUG OFFENSES	71.7%	51.4%	12.5%	11.7%
PROPERTY & OTHER	61.4%	47.6%	14.9%	23.7%
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER	25.0%	57.1%	0.0%	13.0%
JUVENILE OFFENDER	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
TOTAL	69.1%	67.3%	16.5%	19.8%
<b>TIME SERVED AT DOCS</b>				
0-11 MONTHS	41.4%	31.0%	4.8%	15.2%
12-23 MONTHS	74.1%	67.0%	12.7%	16.0%
24-35 MONTHS	81.5%	71.6%	16.8%	21.6%
36-59 MONTHS	80.2%	71.4%	31.3%	25.9%
60-119 MONTHS	84.1%	76.3%	43.8%	39.5%
120+ MONTHS	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
TOTAL	69.1%	67.3%	16.5%	19.8%

\*Completion rate was not provided because there were fewer than 10 cases in the category.

Community Success among Women

The chart below shows that female releases who completed programs were more likely to remain in their communities 24 months after release. Differences, however, tended to be small, with one notable exception: women who completed DOCS' academic programs and earned their GED were considerably more likely to be successful in the community than women who did not complete the academic program.



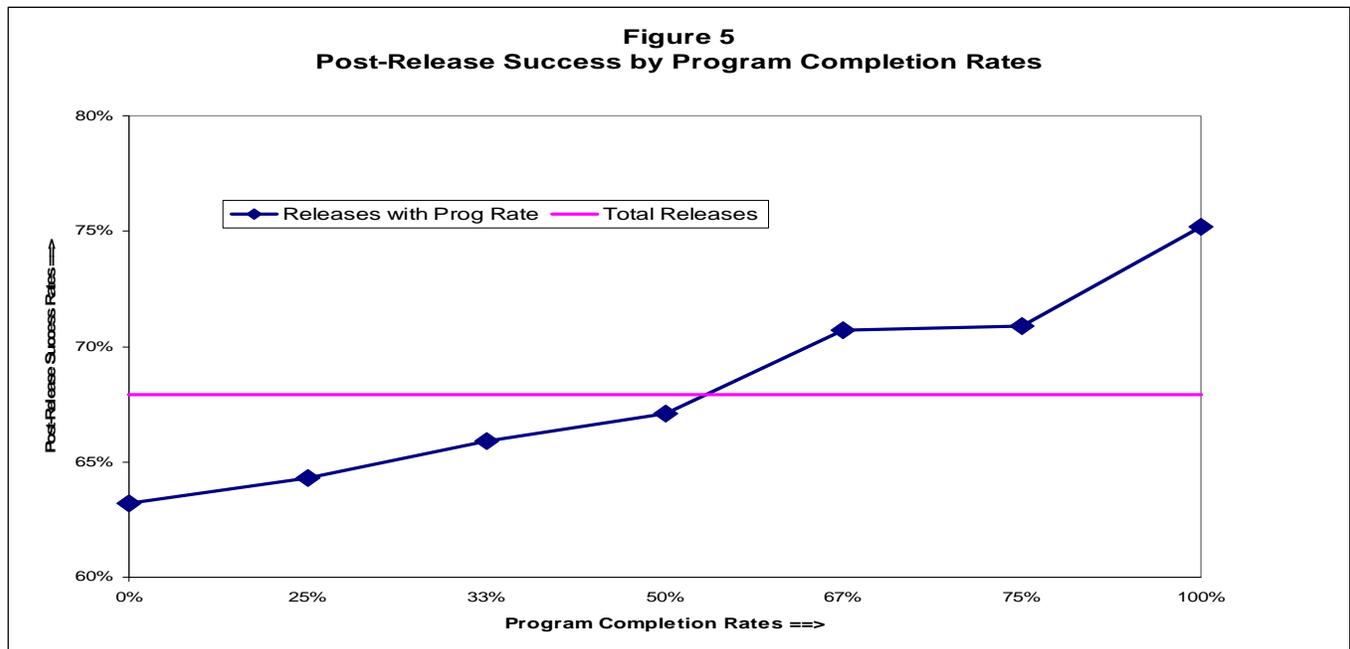
## Multiple Needs: Overall Program Plan Compliance

As shown earlier, most inmates enter DOCS with multiple program needs. A variety of issues affect the inmates' completion of programs for all of their assessed needs. Multiple needs must be addressed during a relatively short stay at DOCS (the median length of time at DOCS among the 2004 releases in this cohort was 28.4 months). Security issues may impact programming; participation may be interrupted because of inter-facility transfers or disciplinary sanctions. Some inmates resist participating in programs or cause disruptions. Program space and staff trained to address each type of need must be available in over 60 general confinement and specialty facilities housing over 60,000 inmates across the state.

To measure an inmate's overall compliance with the program plan, a rate of program completion was calculated by dividing the total number of programs an inmate completed by the total number of assessed needs identified for the inmate. Rates could range from 100 percent (a program was completed for every need assessed) down to 0 percent (no programs completed despite assessed needs). If an inmate was assessed as having four needs, and successfully completed two programs before release, his or her program completion rate would be 50 percent.

## Program Compliance and Community Success

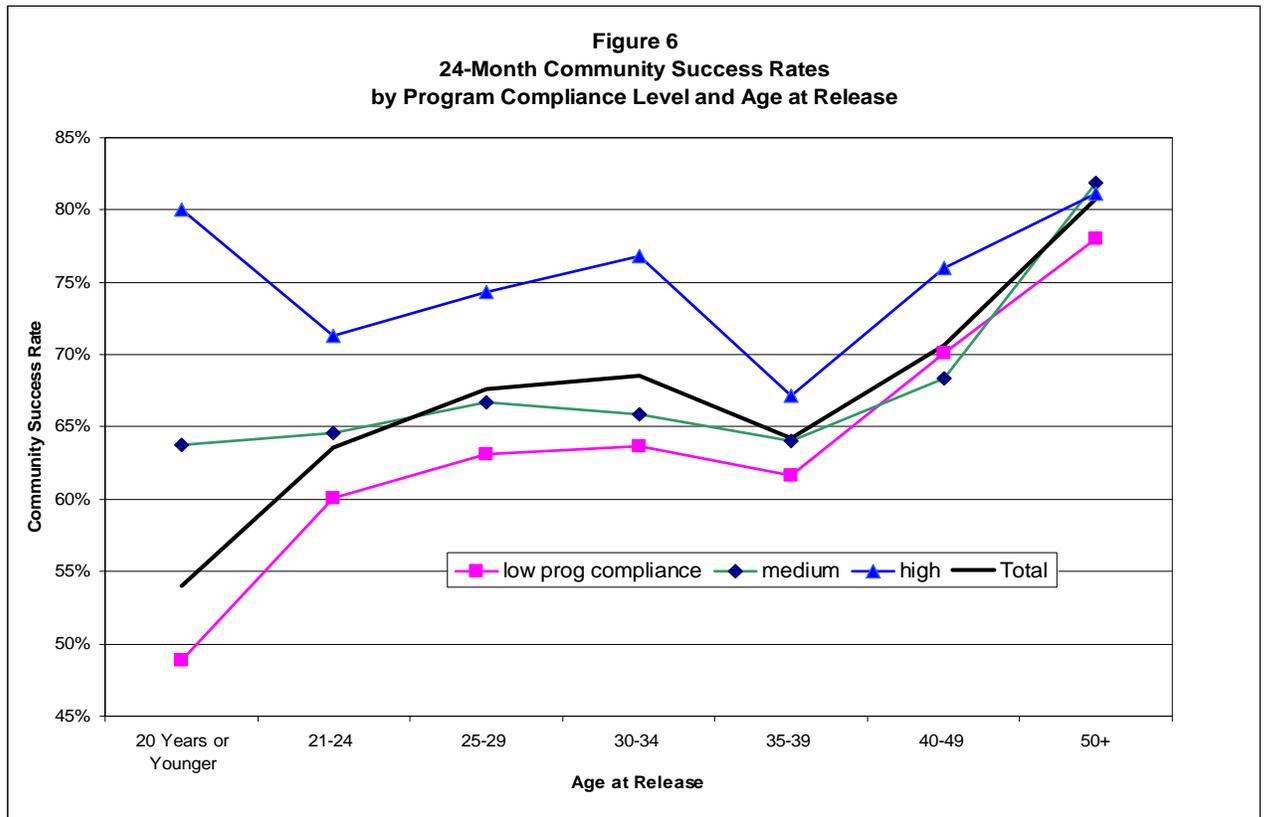
Figure 4 illustrates the positive relationship between overall program plan compliance and post-release success. Inmates who leave DOCS with higher program completion rates tend to fare better in the community. The solid horizontal line in the chart shows the overall success rate regardless of program completion. The distance between the solid line and the diamond-marked line represents the differences in community success rates that are related to program completion at DOCS.



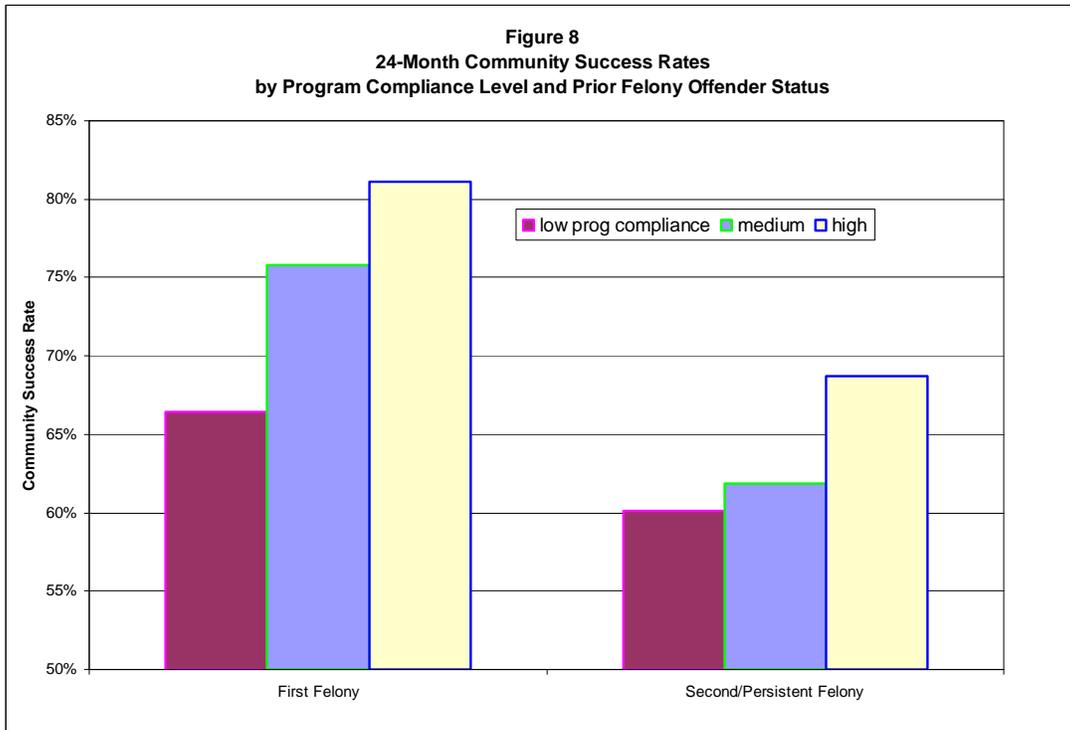
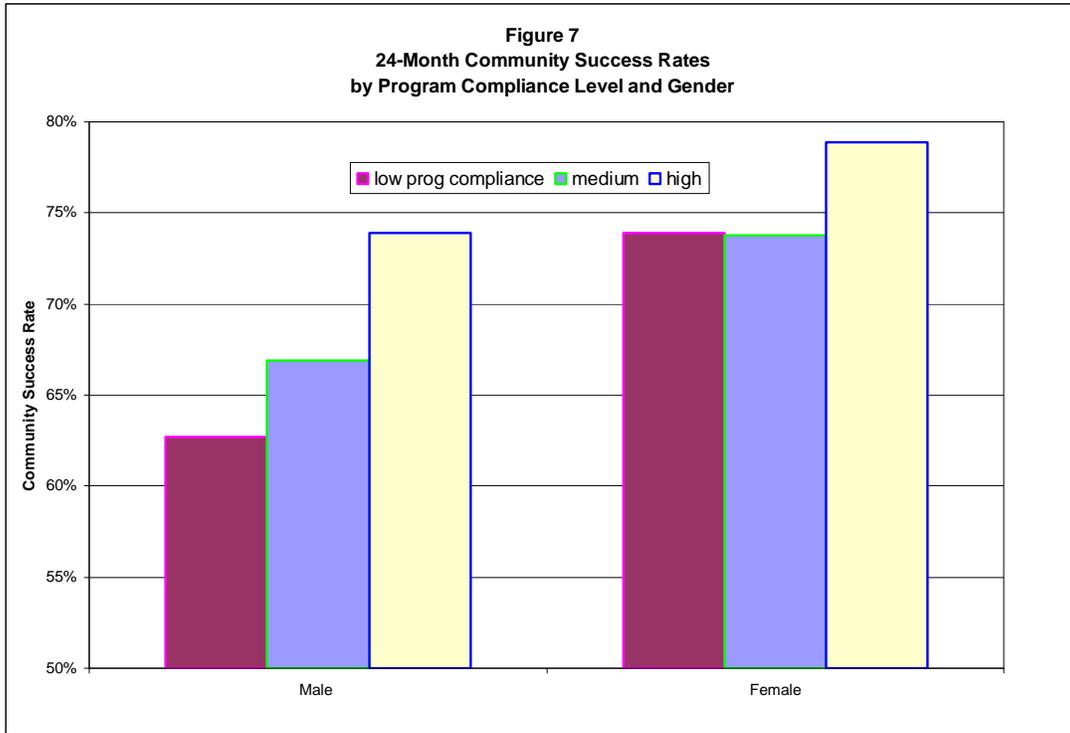
## Program Compliance, Community Success and Inmate Characteristics

To further explore the relationship between post-release behavior and program participation, community success rates were examined for inmates with different levels of program completion, controlling for inmate characteristics. Program completion rates were categorized as “low” if the completion rate (the number of programs completed divided by the number of program needs assessed) was 25 percent or less, “medium” if the rate was between 26 and 74 percent, and “high” if the inmate completed programs addressing at least 75 percent of his or her assessed needs. (See Appendix A for the distribution of program compliance levels by age and time at DOCS).

A high level of program completion was associated with community success among all age categories. Differences were particularly notable among younger inmates, who, absent programming, had relatively low rates of success in the community.



Below, higher levels of program compliance appear related to community success, regardless of gender or second felony offender status. Stronger relationships are suggested among males and first felony offenders.

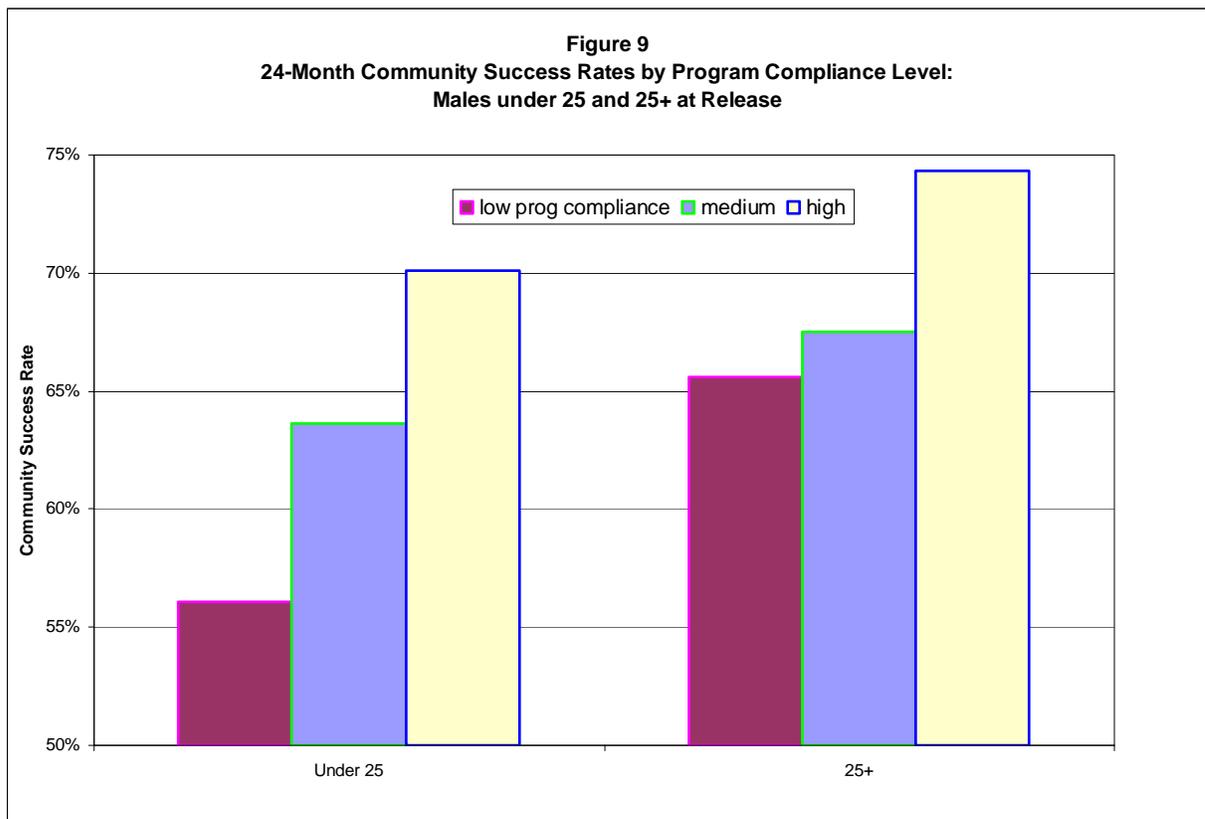


## Program Compliance Impacts Community Success among High-Risk Subgroups

To see whether the relationship between program completion and community success holds for higher-risk subgroups, we examined the association while controlling for factors that have been discussed in the literature as being related to recidivism. DOCS' annual Three-Year Follow-Up Report consistently documents that certain subgroups of releases return at higher rates than others. These findings are consistent with other return studies conducted by the federal government and those using inmate populations from other states<sup>3</sup>. For example, young, male offenders and second felony offenders are more likely to return to prison than other types of released inmates.

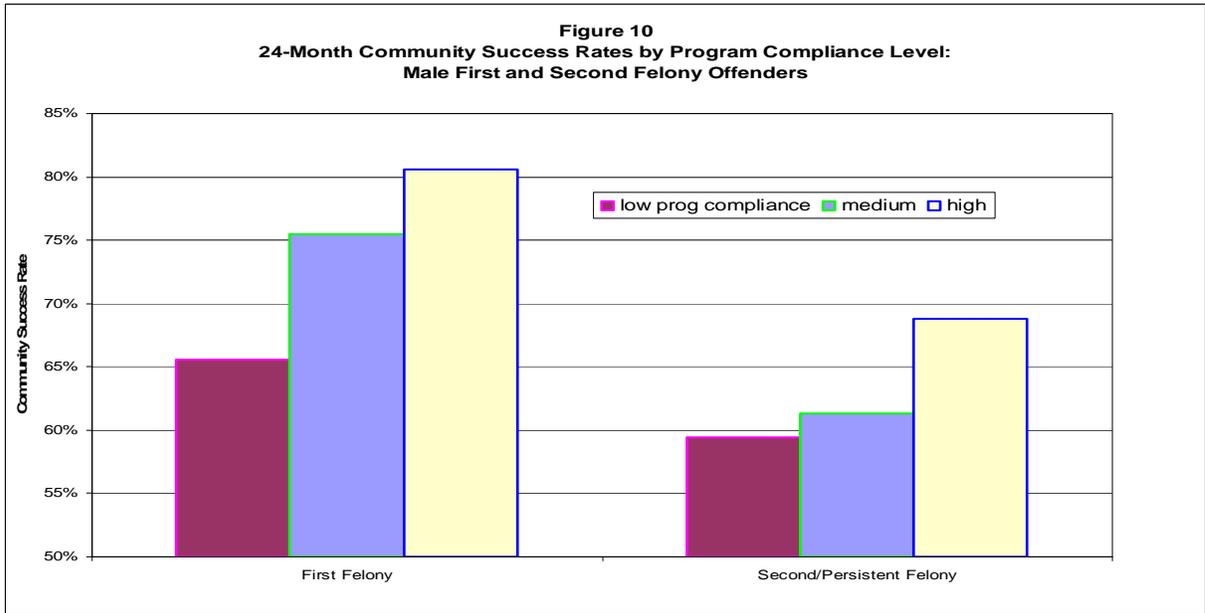
### Male Offenders by Age

Figure 8 shows that the relationship between program completion and community success remained for male offenders regardless of age. The impact of program completion on community success appears stronger among younger male inmates.



<sup>3</sup> See, for example, *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994*, published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in June 2002.

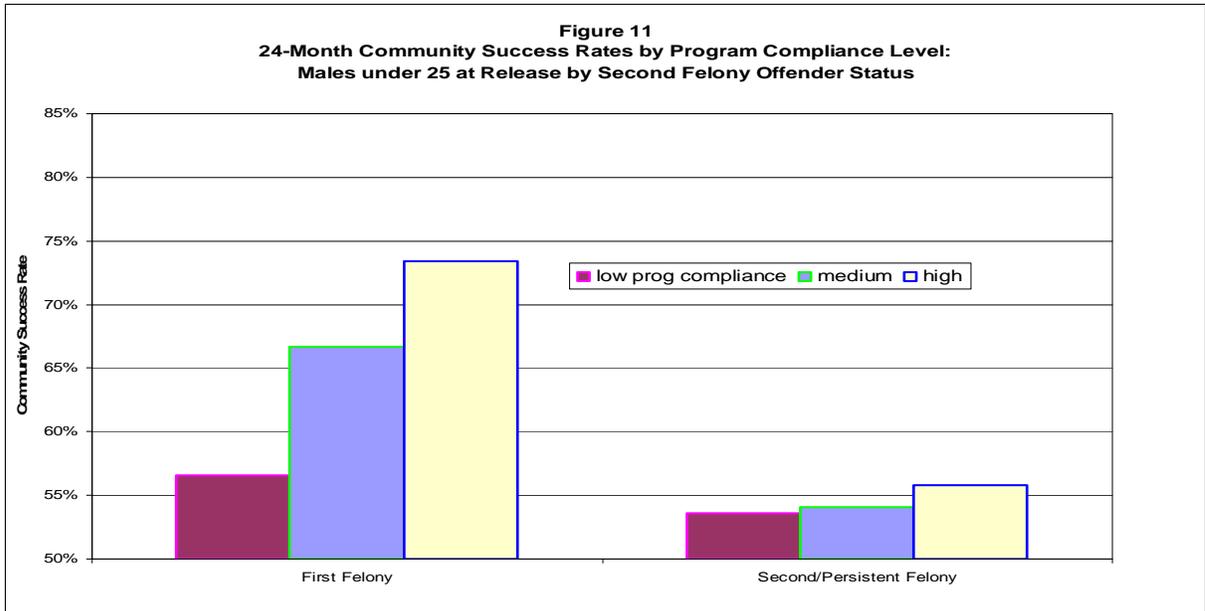
*Male Offenders by First and Second Offender Status*



The community success rates among male first and second felony offenders with varying program completion levels are compared above. Again, the relationship between community success and program completion was found for both types of offender.

*Young Males by First and Second Felony Offender Status*

The program/community success relationship was examined for first and second felony offenders among a group with a particularly high return rate—males under 25. The relationship between program completion and success in the community remained, although the differences were larger among the first felony offenders.



## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

This examination of a 2004 release cohort suggests that program participation at DOCS can positively impact community reintegration. Inmates who completed programs based on their assessed needs while under custody were more likely to succeed after release than inmates who did not. The relationship between program completion and community success remained after controls for known risk factors, such as age and second felony offender status, were added. These results highlight the importance of providing program opportunities for offenders, particularly for young inmates.

Future reports will focus on using multivariate analyses to further our understanding of the relationships between inmate characteristics, prison experience and community reintegration.

Appendix A									
PROGRAM COMPLIANCE LEVELS BY AGE AT RELEASE									
INMATES RELEASED 2004									
	TOTAL	COMPLIANCE LEVEL							
	RELEASED	NO ASSESSED NEEDS		LOW		MEDIUM		HIGH	
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>AGE AT RELEASE</b>									
16-18 YRS	92	1	1.1%	71	77.2%	17	18.5%	3	3.3%
19-20 YRS	489	7	1.4%	330	67.5%	135	27.6%	17	3.5%
21-24 YRS	2,032	8	0.4%	884	43.5%	858	42.2%	282	13.9%
25-29 YRS	2,551	20	0.8%	724	28.4%	1,192	46.7%	615	24.1%
30-34 YRS	2,212	15	0.7%	543	24.5%	1,037	46.9%	617	27.9%
35-39 YRS	2,488	23	0.9%	630	25.3%	1,180	47.4%	655	26.3%
40-49 YRS	3,629	42	1.2%	827	22.8%	1,882	51.9%	878	24.2%
50 AND OVER	1,188	23	1.9%	322	27.1%	557	46.9%	286	24.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,681</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>4,331</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>6,858</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>22.8%</b>
<b>TIME SERVED AT DOCS</b>									
0-11 MONTHS	2,000	60	3.0%	1,244	62.2%	596	29.8%	100	5.0%
12-23 MONTHS	4,207	38	0.9%	1,340	31.9%	2,337	55.6%	492	11.7%
24-35 MONTHS	2,906	22	0.8%	762	26.2%	1,589	54.7%	533	18.3%
36-59 MONTHS	2,879	11	0.4%	571	19.8%	1,421	49.4%	876	30.4%
60-119 MONTHS	1,948	5	0.3%	333	17.1%	702	36.0%	908	46.6%
120+ MONTHS	741	3	0.4%	81	10.9%	213	28.7%	444	59.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,681</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>4,331</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>6,858</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>22.8%</b>

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