

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**



Research In Brief
Televideo Deportation
Hearings



CALENDAR YEAR 2013

**A FEDERAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIP THAT
INCREASED ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCED
PROGRAM COSTS**

The Institutional Hearing Program (IHP) is a Federal and State initiative designed to begin deportation proceedings against criminal aliens under the Department's custody and complete those hearings before the criminal alien is released from the Department's custody. The IHP has been operating in varying forms at selected Department facilities since 1986.

In the late 1990's the Department began to engage in discussions with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) (also known as the Immigration Court) about the possibility of using video teleconferencing technology for deportation hearings. The motivation for using video teleconferencing was to reduce the cost of transporting inmates to in-person hearings at the Immigration Courts located in three of the Department's reception centers. The Court in turn expressed an interest in using the technology for initial hearings involving administrative issues such as explaining the charges being lodged against the inmate, the acquisition of legal counsel, assessing the need for a translator, and so on.

As a result of these discussions, the Department and EOIR agreed to begin a pilot program whereby a few select general confinement facilities would use video teleconferencing equipment to connect to the Immigration Court in the Department's medium security reception center. The pilot program proved to be very successful and applying what was learned during the implementation and operational stages of the pilot program, the televideo deportation hearing program was formally adopted and methodically rolled out to the remaining under custody facilities. As it turned out, the application of televideo technology not only saved the Department transportation costs, it increased the efficiency of the deportation hearing process itself.

For example, the estimated transportation, staff, and housing costs associated with an average round trip of 500 miles is \$197 per inmate, while the average televideo deportation hearing lasts approximately fifteen (15) minutes and costs approximately \$3 per hearing. **Therefore, the total estimated cost savings attributable to the televideo deportation hearing program between 1999 and 2013 is \$5,419,196** (\$5,502,998 transportation, staff, and housing costs minus \$83,802 televideo connection costs) (see Tables 1 & 2 on the following page).

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Research In Brief—Televideo Deportation Hearings

TOTAL NUMBER OF TELEVIDEO
DEPORTATION HEARINGS
BY MONTH AND CALENDAR YEAR

MONTH	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	GRAND TOTAL
JANUARY	38	220	213	123	144	174	303	176	147	177	149	156	159	140	105	2,424
FEBRUARY	41	197	212	72	108	167	235	185	148	145	158	121	135	116	117	2,157
MARCH	82	292	250	124	112	118	280	234	144	112	121	127	176	165	98	2,435
APRIL	127	213	168	152	103	144	195	169	161	139	143	143	135	163	139	2,294
MAY	128	264	243	124	102	120	271	208	213	156	125	103	179	154	130	2,520
JUNE	149	209	173	177	119	35	402	190	189	155	156	145	135	149	168	2,551
JULY	197	188	185	194	125	141	299	140	143	122	85	42	127	102	83	2,173
AUGUST	115	200	207	152	77	168	255	123	98	120	110	141	127	100	54	2,047
SEPTEMBER	253	183	239	164	173	113	235	140	166	172	169	135	171	143	120	2,576
OCTOBER	232	152	209	197	140	167	249	116	149	138	150	112	137	126	132	2,406
NOVEMBER	212	160	158	136	116	230	192	228	194	119	134	119	171	141	126	2,436
DECEMBER	156	114	121	120	117	192	145	137	82	147	173	113	125	83	90	1,915
GRAND TOTAL	1,730	2,392	2,378	1,735	1,436	1,769	3,061	2,046	1,834	1,702	1,673	1,457	1,777	1,582	1,362	27,934

TABLE 1

ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TELEVIDEO DEPORTATION HEARING PROGRAM

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	1,730	2,392	2,378	1,735	1,436	1,769	3,061	2,046
ESTIMATED GROSS TRANSPORTATION COST (\$197 PER INMATE ROUND TRIP)	\$340,810	\$471,224	\$468,466	\$341,795	\$282,892	\$348,493	\$603,017	\$403,062
VIDEO TELECONFERENCING COST TO THE DEPARTMENT (AVERAGE \$3 PER CONNECTION)	\$5,190	\$7,176	\$7,134	\$5,205	\$4,308	\$5,307	\$9,183	\$6,138
NET TRANSPORTATION COST SAVINGS	\$335,620	\$464,048	\$461,332	\$336,590	\$278,584	\$343,186	\$593,834	\$396,924

TABLE 2

ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TELEVIDEO DEPORTATION HEARING PROGRAM

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	GRAND TOTAL
TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	1,834	1,702	1,673	1,457	1,777	1,582	1,362	27,934
ESTIMATED GROSS TRANSPORTATION COST (\$197 PER INMATE ROUND TRIP)	\$361,298	\$335,294	\$329,581	\$287,029	\$350,069	\$311,654	\$268,314	\$5,502,998
VIDEO TELECONFERENCING COST TO THE DEPARTMENT (AVERAGE \$3 PER CONNECTION)	\$5,502	\$5,106	\$5,019	\$4,371	\$5,331	\$4,746	\$4,086	\$83,802
NET TRANSPORTATION COST SAVINGS	\$355,796	\$330,188	\$324,562	\$282,658	\$344,738	\$306,908	\$264,228	\$5,419,196