

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION



## *Research In Brief* *Televideo Deportation* *Hearings*



**CALENDAR YEAR 2011**

### **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 2011 is \$4,848,060** (\$4,923,030 transportation, staff, and housing costs minus \$74,970 televideo connection costs) (see Tables 1 & 2 on the following page).

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

## Research In Brief—Televideo Deportation Hearings

**TABLE 1**

**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	GRAND TOTAL
JANUARY	38	220	213	123	144	174	303	176	147	177	149	156	159	2,179
FEBRUARY	41	197	212	72	108	167	235	185	148	145	158	121	135	1,924
MARCH	82	292	250	124	112	118	280	234	144	112	121	127	176	2,172
APRIL	127	213	168	152	103	144	195	169	161	139	143	143	135	1,992
MAY	128	264	243	124	102	120	271	208	213	156	125	103	179	2,236
JUNE	149	209	173	177	119	35	402	190	189	155	156	145	135	2,234
JULY	197	188	185	194	125	141	299	140	143	122	85	42	127	1,988
AUGUST	115	200	207	152	77	168	255	123	98	120	110	141	127	1,893
SEPTEMBER	253	183	239	164	173	113	235	140	166	172	169	135	171	2,313
OCTOBER	232	152	209	197	140	167	249	116	149	138	150	112	137	2,148
NOVEMBER	212	160	158	136	116	230	192	228	194	119	134	119	171	2,169
DECEMBER	156	114	121	120	117	192	145	137	82	147	173	113	125	1,742
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>1,777</b>	<b>24,990</b>
MONTHLY AVERAGE	144	199	198	145	120	147	255	171	153	142	139	121	148	

**TABLE 2.1**

**ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TELEVIDEO DEPORTATION HEARING PROGRAM**

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

**TABLE 2.2**

**ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TELEVIDEO DEPORTATION HEARING PROGRAM**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	GRAND TOTAL
TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	2,046	1,834	1,702	1,673	1,457	1,777	24,990
ESTIMATED GROSS TRANSPORTATION COST (\$197 PER INMATE ROUND TRIP)	\$403,062	\$361,298	\$335,294	\$329,581	\$287,029	\$350,069	\$4,923,030
VIDEO TELECONFERENCING COST TO THE DEPARTMENT (AVERAGE \$3 PER CONNECTION)	\$6,138	\$5,502	\$5,106	\$5,019	\$4,371	\$5,331	\$74,970
NET TRANSPORTATION COST SAVINGS	\$396,924	\$355,796	\$330,188	\$324,562	\$282,658	\$344,738	\$4,848,060