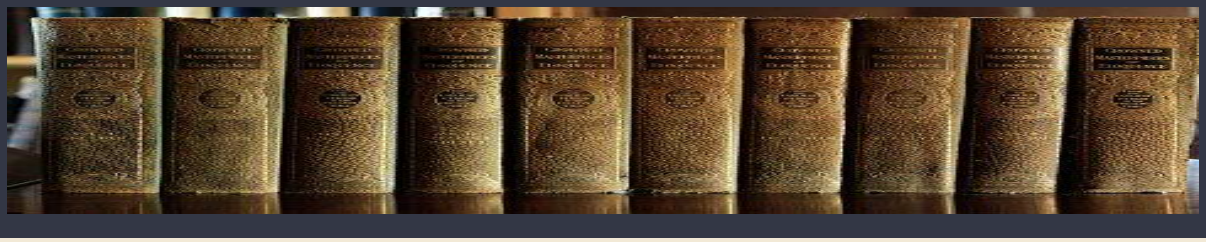
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Education Services Newsletter Spring/2009



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According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, at least 95 percent of all state prisoners will be released from prison at some point (U.S. Department of Justice, 2003).

CHANGES TO THE YOUTHFUL OFFENDER PROGRAM

The Incarcerated Individuals Program, formerly titled Grants to States for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Youth Offenders Program provides grants to States for activities that assist and encourage incarcerated individuals who have obtained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent to acquire educational and job skills, through:

(1) coursework in preparation for postsecondary education;

(2) the pursuit of postsecondary education certificate, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree while in prison; and

(3) employment and counseling and other related services that start during incarceration and end not later than two years after release from incarceration.

The average age of a Nevada offender in education programs is 33. Nearly 32% of Nevada inmates are between ages 26 and 35 years compared to 15% age 25 and under. With the recent legislative changes, our college program could more than double in size.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

An "eligible student" means a male or female offender who has obtained a secondary diploma or its equivalent **and**-

(1) is incarcerated in a State prison, including a pre-release facility;

(2) is eligible to be released or eligible for parole within seven years;

(3) is 35 years of age or younger; and

(4) has not been convicted of a "criminal offense against a victim who is a minor" or a "sexually violent offense" such as terms are defined in the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (42 U.S.C 14071 et seq.) or murder, as described in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code.

The following table summarizes the changes effective July 1, 2009:

"Two years after release, the overall recidivism rate for college degree holders was as low as 12%, and inversely differentiated by type of degree. The exact figures indicating these inverse recidivism rates for degree recipients were:

Associates (13.7%); Baccalaureates (5.6%); Masters (0%)".-National Institute of Justice

Youthful Offender & Incarcerated Offender Comparison

SUMMARY	PRESENT	JULY 2009
AGE	25 or under	35 or under
CONVICTION	No Limits	Has not been convicted of "criminal offense against a minor," "sexually violent offense," or "murder."
FACILITY	Services must start while incarcerated but may continue through parole.	Services must start while incarcerated or a pre-release facility but may continue for up to two years after confinement and through parole.
TIME UNTIL RELEASE	Eligible to be released within 5 years (including a youth offender who is eligible for parole within such time).	Eligible to be released within 7 years (including a youth offender who is eligible for parole within such time).
TUITION	$1,500 per year per student for tuition, books and essential materials for: remedial education for those with GED/high school education (limited to one years), post secondary education certificate (limited to five years), or associate's or bachelor's degree (limited to five years).	$3,000 per year per student for tuition, books and essential materials for: remedial education for those with GED/high school education (limited to two years), post secondary education certificate (limited to seven years), or associate's or bachelor's degree (limited to seven years).
DATA COLLECTION	Program completion, knowledge and skill attainment, success in employment (job retention/advancement), recidivism.	Program completion, knowledge and skill attainment, success in employment (job retention/advancement), recidivism. Reported annually in progress report.

Education as Crime Prevention:

The Impact of Education on Recidivism

The United States Department of Justice reports that "the typical offender is undereducated, unemployed and living in poverty before incarceration. Inside our prisons, 19% percent of adult inmates are illiterate, and up to 60% are functionally illiterate. In contrast to this, our national adult illiteracy rate stands at 4%, with up to 23% functionally illiterate.

Social, psychological, and demographic factors correlate powerfully with recidivism. Most persons are released from prison into the community unskilled, undereducated, and highly likely to become involved in crime again. Rates of recidivism in the United States are extraordinarily high, ranging from 41% to 71%.

Education as Crime Prevention: The Impact of Education on Recidivism cont…

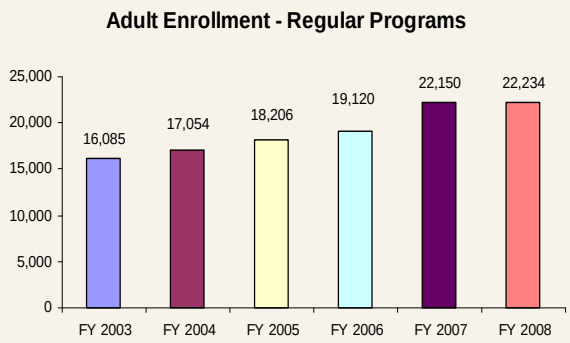
Prison-based education is the single most effective tool for lowering recidivism. According to the National Institute of Justice Report to the U.S. Congress, prison education is far more effective at reducing recidivism than boot camps, shock incarceration, or vocational training.

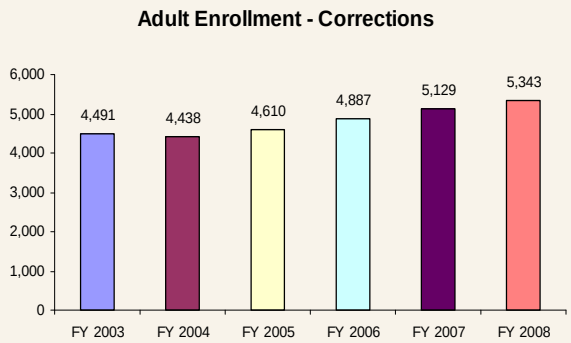
Most striking is the Bureau's finding that lower rates of recidivism are independent of post-release employment, and its conclusion that this is attributable to the normalizing effects of education itself. Other studies sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Prisons find that recidivism rates are inversely related to educational program participation while in prison. The more educational programs successfully completed for each 6 months confined, the lower the recidivism rates. The exact figures indicating these inverse recidivism rates for degree recipients were: Associates (13.7%); Baccalaureates (5.6%); Masters (0%).

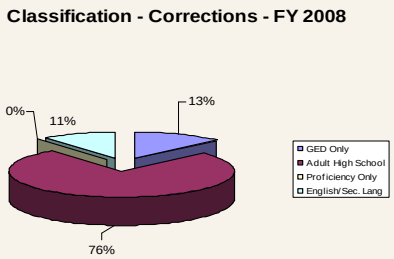
Many of the federal and state government studies of recidivism and correctional education have included a particular focus on the cost-savings of education programs compared to other forms of crime prevention. According to The U.S. Department of Education, every dollar spent on education returns more than two dollars to citizens in reduced prison costs.

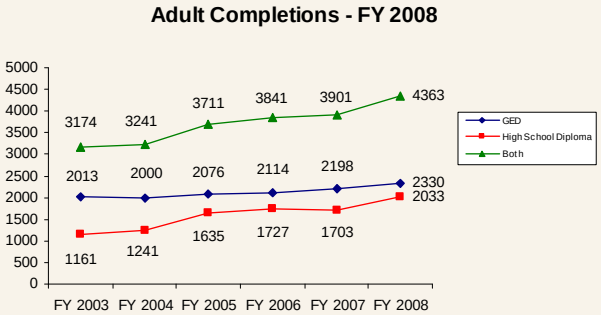
Highlights of Nevada's Adult High School Programs Statistical Reports FY 2003 to FY 2008

Statistics have indicated that the cost of keeping a prisoner in prison for one year exceeds the cost of educating prisoners for one year by a 10 to 1 ratio.









- **According to the 2005 American Community Survey there were 321,133 adults over 18 who did not have a high school diploma or equivalency.**
- **The poverty rate for adults over 25 who do not have a high school diploma is 17.2%.**
- **State of Nevada Adult Programs had a total of 27,577 students in FY 2008.**
- **Of these, 12,659 were classified as either GED only or ESL students.**
- **The Adult Programs awarded 2,033 Adult Diplomas in FY 2008.**
- **2,330 GEDs were also awarded in FY 2008.**
- **Considering the various factors which affect Adult graduation rates, the calculated graduation rate for Nevada Adult High School Programs is 43%.**

-Report prepared by Rick Rasmussen, Adult/Alternative/Distance Education Consultant
Nevada Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education

Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.
~Author Unknown

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. ~Maya Angelou

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. ~Henry Adams

He who opens a school door, closes a prison.
~Victor Hugo

2009 Annual Statewide Training Schedule for Volunteers and Teachers

Carson City

Where: 5500 Snyder, Bldg. 17 Carson City, NV 89702
When: Saturday, April 25th 9:00am-1:00pm
Facilitator: Scott Burchett

Where: 5500 Snyder, Bldg. 17 Carson City, NV 89702
When: Saturday, August 22nd 9:00am-1:00pm
Facilitator: Scott Burchett

Where: 5500 Snyder, Bldg. 17 Carson City, NV 89702
When: Saturday, November 7th 9:00am-1:00pm
Facilitator: Scott Burchett

Las Vegas

Where: Casa Grande Training Rm. 3955 W. Russell Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89118
When: Friday March 13th 9:00am-1:00pm
Facilitator: Dan Lee

Where: Casa Grande Training Rm. 3955 W. Russell Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89118
When: Monday April 13th 9:00am-1:00pm
Facilitator: Dan Lee

Lovelock

Where: Lovelock Correctional Center Lovelock, NV 89419
(Must register prior to training)
When: Friday, April 3rd 9:00am-1:00pm
Facilitator: Scott Burchett

Contacts for:
Volunteers: Nancy Derloshon
775 887-3249
nderloshon@doc.nv.gov
Teachers: Kim Petersen
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kspetersen@doc.nv.gov

Volunteer applications are now available on our website: www.doc.nv go to left hand list of topics and click volunteer information.

Our newsletters are also posted on the website under Education Services.

Reminders:
To become a volunteer/teacher:

1. You will need to fill out an application and give details of your experience, skills and abilities. (Additional information will be required for teachers such as special licenses etc.)
2. You must agree to submit to an initial criminal history background check by the Department and the Department can conduct subsequent checks at any later date.
3. You must submit proof of a current Two-Step Tuberculosis test and be retested annually thereafter.
4. You must complete the Department's initial Volunteer Training before entry to any facility and complete Refresher Volunteer Training every three years.
5. You may not bring any telecommunication device into any NDOC facility.

If you have not completed steps 1-3, please do so prior to training, room is limited and anyone without a background check or proof of TB test may be denied access.