Division of Criminal Justice Services

Criminal Justice Performance Report

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2009 Profile
County Re-entry Task Force Participants

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Introduction

In November 2005, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) established new county level re-entry task forces. The task forces were designed to coordinate and strengthen the community response to high-risk offenders transitioning from prison back to the community. These locally-led partnerships include law enforcement agencies, regional parole offices, social service and drug treatment providers, and victim advocacy organizations. The CRTFs play a key role in coordinating services in areas such as housing, employment, and substance abuse treatment.

County Re-Entry Task Forces (CRTF) outside of New York City are funded by DCJS.
The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)[1] have staff liaisons assigned to each task force and regularly attend task force meetings. DCJS also provides each participating task force with a monthly list of offenders scheduled to be released to the county in the next 120 days. Information is provided so that inmates can be contacted and service arrangements initiated prior to release. The report includes information on name, age, gender, risk of re-arrest, crime information and time spent under custody.

This report profiles 1,570 individuals who were referred and accepted for services by the task forces during 2009. The report presents participant information related to:

- Risk of Re-Arrest;
- Prior criminal history;
- Type of conviction offense;
- Most recent DOCS admission type;
- Gender and age;
- Substance abuse history
- Program service needs; and
- Type of CRTF referral.

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[1] In 2011, the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) and the Division of Parole (DOP) merged to form the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS).

The data used for this report were taken from four sources:

- Case-specific monthly CRTF reports which provided information on program intake dates, risk scores, and program service needs for each offender;
- Computerized Criminal History (CCH) file maintained by DCJS which provided information on offenders' prior criminal histories;
- 2009 DOCS Release file which provided information on latest admission types and length of time under custody; and
- Parole Case Management System (CMS) and ALERTS files which provided information on participant demographics, and conviction offenses.

It is important to note that the totals within profile categories may vary. First, the totals may be based on different counts depending on the specific file used for the analysis. For example, Parole provided information on crime of conviction, drug abuse, and alcohol abuse for parolees only, whereas information on service needs was generated from the CRTF reports for all participants. Second, totals may vary due to missing information. Percentages exclude missing or unknown cases. Please note the following:

Crime of Conviction
Conviction crimes reflect the most serious charge as defined by New York State penal law.

Prior Criminal History is New York State Only
The analysis of prior criminal histories includes arrests and convictions in New York State that were unrelated to the arrest resulting in the offender's most recent admission to prison. The CCH file includes only New York State criminal history, so any arrests or convictions that occurred in other states or at the federal level are not accounted for.

Alcohol Abuse and Substance Abuse History
The information on alcohol abuse history and substance abuse *history* was reported by Parole based on what the parole officer reported to Parole's CMS.

Service Needs
Service needs were reported by the CRTFs on their monthly reports and were identified at the time of intake.

Risk of Re-Arrest

A goal of each CRTF is to make the best use of limited local resources by targeting persons returning to their communities with the highest risk of re-offending. Each month, DCJS calculates risk scores for inmates pending release from DOCS within four months. The risk scores were developed by DCJS using static information such as age, gender, criminal and correctional history, and are based on re-arrests among inmates released from NYSDOCS during 2002 and 2003. Risk scores reflect the probability of re-arrest within two years of release. Risk scores are broken out into low (scores 1-3), medium (scores 4-6) and high (scores 7-10) levels of risk.

Table 1 below shows that the CRTFs focused on higher risk offenders during 2009. Among the referrals accepted in 2009, 70% had risk scores indicating a medium or high risk of re-arrest, and 72% had a medium or high risk of re-arrest for a violent felony offense.

Table 1. Risk of Re-Arrest

Risk of Re-Arrest Scores				
	Risk Decile Scores	Predicted Risk of Rearrest in 2 Years	Number of 2009 CRTF Participants	Percent of 2009 CRTF Participants
Risk of ANY Rearrest in 2 Years:				
Low	1 -3	<1% - 46%	457	30%
Medium	4 - 6	47% - 68%	494	33%
High	7 - 10	69% - 85%	555	37%
Total			1,506	100%
Risk of VFO Rearrest in 2 Years:				
Low	1 -3	<1% - 6%	421	28%
Medium	4 - 6	7% - 12%	393	26%
High	7 - 10	13% - 29%	692	46%
Total			1,506	100%

Prior Criminal History

A review of the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) data shows that County Reentry Task Force participants had extensive New York State criminal histories.[2] On average, participants' records included 10 arrests and 5 convictions before their latest admission to DOCS. Two-thirds were second felony offenders, including 26% who had a prior conviction for a violent felony offense (VFO).[3]   The criminal histories of the 2009 CRTF participants are reviewed in greater detail in Tables 2 through 4.

Table 2 shows the most serious level of criminal history prior to the admission into DOCS that resulted in the CRTF referral. A total of 884 (67%) had at least one prior felony conviction, including 343 (26%) who had a prior conviction for a Violent Felony Offense. Fourteen percent (187 offenders) had one or more misdemeanor convictions, but had no previous felony convictions. For 144 (11%), the most serious prior criminal involvement was an arrest that did not result in a misdemeanor or felony conviction. Finally, 117 commitments (9%) had no prior arrest or conviction. County-based information on level of prior history is presented in Appendix A.

Table 2. Most Serious Prior Criminal History

	CRTF Total	
	#	%
Highest Level of Prior NYS History		
No Criminal History in New York State	117	9%
Prior Arrest but No Prior Convictions	144	11%
Prior Misdemeanor Conviction	187	14%
Prior Felony (Non-VFO) Conviction	541	41%
Prior Felony VFO Conviction	343	26%
Total	1,332	100%

n=1,332

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[2] The CCH file includes only New York State criminal history, so any arrests or convictions that occurred in other states or at the federal level are not included.

[3] Violent Felony Offenses are those specified in PL 70.02 as well as the following Class A-I offenses: Murder 1, Attempted Murder 1, Murder 2, Arson 1, and Kidnapping 1.

Table 3 shows that across CRTF sites, the 2009 CRTF participants averaged 4.6 felony arrests and 5.7 misdemeanor arrests prior to their latest admission dates. On average, participants had 1.5 violent felony arrests in their history.
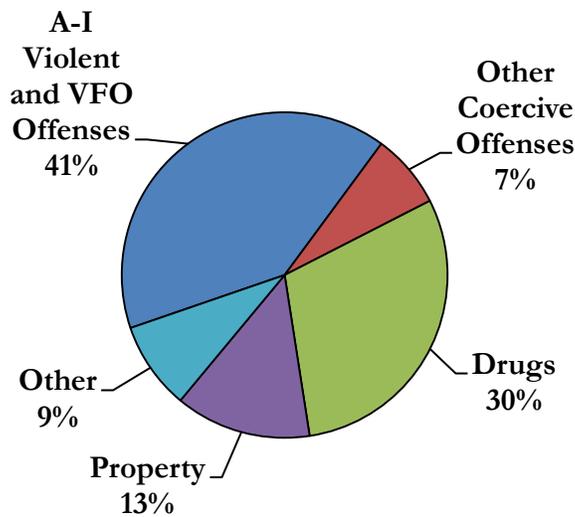
Table 3. Prior Arrests

Arrest Type	Mean	Min	Max
Any Arrest	10.5	0	93
Felony Arrests	4.6	0	30
Violent Felony Offense Arrests	1.5	0	13
Misdemeanor Arrests	5.7	0	74

n=1,332

Most Recent Commitment Offense

CRTF's are notified of the commitment offenses of individuals accepted for services. Conviction offenses are presented by top charge in Figure 1. About one-half (48%) of the CRTF participants were convicted of a violent offense. Among the A-I Violent and VFO offenses, 13% were convicted of robbery, 9% burglary, 7% weapons, 6% assault, 4% sex offenses, 2% murder/manslaughter, and 7% were convicted of other coercive offenses. Convictions for drug offenses accounted for 30% of all convictions, followed by property offenses (13%).

Figure 1. Crime of Conviction

n=1,357

Time Served in Prison Prior to Release

As an indication of how long CRTF participants were removed from their local communities, Table 4 presents information on the length of participants' most recent prison bid. Of the 1,332 CRTF participants released from DOCS during 2009, 894 (67%) were released to the community after serving time in DOCS for new felony commitments. The median length of time served in DOCS for the new commitments was 24 months. An additional 438 (33%) had been previously released and returned for a violation of parole, and are now released again. Parole violators were returned for a median length of nine months. The majority of CRTF participants were seen shortly after release. The median length of time between release and CRTF intake was 4 days. County-based time-served information is presented in Appendix A.

Table 4. DOCS Admission, Time Served, and Release

	CRTF Total	
DOCS Admission	#	%
Most Recent DOCS Admission Type		
Total	1,332	100%
New Felony Commitment	894	67%
Returned Parole Violator	438	33%
Months Served in DOCS*		
Median	24	
Minimum	1	
Maximum	420	
Time Between Release and CRTF Intake		
Median Days	4	

*New commitments only.

Demographics

A total of 93% of the CRTF participants were male. The mean age of participants was 34 years of age. Overall, 43% of the participants were 30 years of age or less when they were accepted for services. Twenty-eight percent of the participants were 41 years of age or older.

Table 5. Gender and Age

Gender	
Male	93%
Female	7%
Age at Intake	
16-25 Years	26%
26-30 Years	17%
31-35 Years	16%
36-40 Years	13%
41 Years or Older	28%

n=1,570

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Substance Abuse History

Substance abuse history information was reported by Parole based on what the parole officer reported to Parole's case management system (CMS). Table 6 shows that 74% of the CRTF participants had a history of drug abuse and 59% had a history of alcohol abuse.

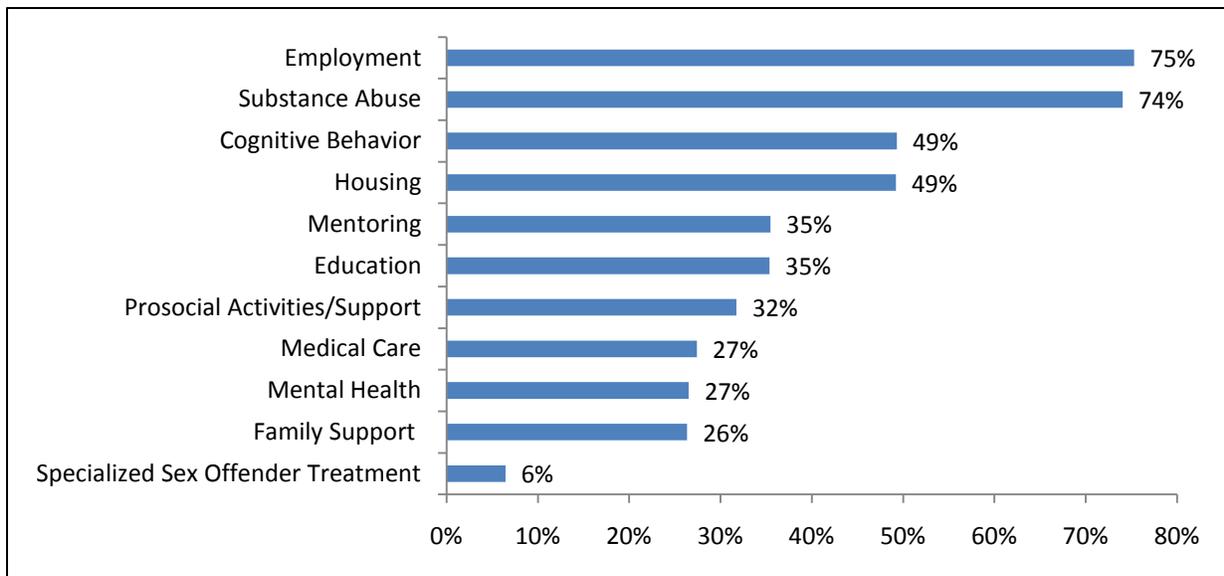**Table 6. Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

Parolee Participants With a Substance Abuse History	
Drug Abuse	74%
Alcohol Abuse	59%

*Parolees only (n=1,338)

Service Needs

Table 7 presents the service needs that were identified and reported by the CRTFs at the participant's intake. Three-quarters of the participants were reported as having an employment need (75%) and/or substance abuse treatment need (74%). The CRTFs reported that nearly 50% were in need of housing. Almost half (49%) of the participants were reported as needing cognitive behavior programming.

Table 7. Service Needs of Participants

Service Need	Percent
Employment	75%
Substance Abuse	74%
Cognitive Behavior	49%
Housing	49%
Mentoring	35%
Education	35%
Prosocial Activities/Support	32%
Medical Care	27%
Mental Health	27%
Family Support	26%
Specialized Sex Offender Treatment	6%

N=1,570

Type of CRTF Referral

The majority (92%) of the 1,570 referrals accepted by the CRTFs during 2009 were released to parole supervision, followed by offenders who were released from DOCS upon maximum expiration (5%). Offenders released from local jails accounted for 2% of the referrals. The remaining 1% were comprised of other types of referrals, such as probationers.   Overall, 19% (1,445) of the 7,546 offenders released to parole in the CRTF counties were referred and accepted. Table 10 displays referral types.

Table 10. CRTF Referrals by Type of Referral

Referral Type	
Parole	92%
Maximum Expiration	5%
Jail	2%
Other	1%

n=1,570