

OCE Response to

OCE – Program Effectiveness and Identifying the Best Offenders for the Program

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The report lists various vocational training programs offered by OCE but incorrectly lists optician work as one of the programs. (The program is offered at CCCF by Portland Community College through DOC.)

The report summarizes two analyses which used a twin logistic regression model:

- 1) Quantifying the effectiveness of OCE programs through a reduction in recidivism attributable to inmates participating in OCE programs; and
- 2) The types of inmates who benefit the most from OCE programming.

2018 Response:

OCE requested this report to include the two analyses listed above.

The recidivism definition used is a felony reconviction within three years of release. The report calls out that the “analyses do not quantify service effectiveness nor service matching for specific OCE programs.”

The first analysis results showed the following recidivism rates:

- 1) Non-OCE inmates: 25.3%
- 2) OCE inmates: 18.9%

2018 Response:

OCE understands this report is for OCE overall, not specific OCE programs. OCE is working with DOC to develop an automated Work Opportunity Evaluation tool which will periodically pull data to analyze programs based on recidivism and misconducts.

The variables considered in the model are race/ethnic group, gender, risk to recidivate (Automated Criminal Risk Score or ACRS), admission age, length of stay, number of days worked for OCE in the last two years of incarceration (per OCE request for this analysis), number of DOC discharges, and number of days worked at OCE during incarceration.

In terms of race/ethnicity, the report found compared backgrounds with statistically significant numbers to Caucasians and states, “Hispanics tend to recidivate approximately 49% below the recidivating rate of Caucasians; this large effect could be attributable to ICE detainers that are not acknowledged in the statistical model. Native Americans are 35% more likely to recidivate than Caucasians with similar demographics and similar criminal histories.” The report further states, “For each year worked in the last 2 years of incarceration, the average reduction in recidivism is 32.5%. For offenders with a 30% risk of recidivating at release, those who worked for OCE would have a 20% likelihood of recidivating....These analyses do not suggest why someone working at OCE would be much less likely to recidivate – it could

be improved likelihood of employment, a better wage, the soft skills developed in a working environment, or any other benefits working at OCE.”

The second analysis looked at only those who worked for OCE to determine which population is most impacted by OCE. Of all the variables analyzed, the following were statistically significant: race, risk (ACRS), admission age, and OCE time in the last two years of incarceration. The report states, “these results suggest that male and female offenders who access OCE programming recidivate at the same rate. These results also suggest the number of times an offender has completed their parole is not indicative of subsequent recidivism. No association between total number of days worked at OCE suggests those working many days during their incarceration are equally likely to recidivate as offenders who work a few days. Previous DOC studies associating total number of OCE days worked and recidivism have concluded OCE work does not reduce offender recidivism” (in opposition of the findings of this report).

The report summarizes by stating “OCE employment and vocational skill development greatly reduces subsequent recidivism. The more an individual works for OCE in the final two years of their incarceration, the lower the likelihood someone will recidivate...although...the total number of OCE days worked during an incarceration is not associated with reduced recidivism.” The report also concludes that current OCE programs are less effective with the highest risk offenders.

2018 Response:

OCE continues to look for sustainable opportunities to install in minimum-custody facilities. This targets AICs with four years or less sentence remaining. The DRCM Laundry was reactivated in 2013, and a fulfillment program was added to CCCM in 2018.

OCE does look for opportunities for highest-risk offenders to assist DOC with its goals. Current programs located on high-risk mental health units are not tagged as OCE programs and thus were not considered in the analyses of this report. It is not currently known how effective these programs are, but they will be included in the Work Opportunity Evaluation tool once the tool becomes automated and verified.