

## Sex Offender Treatment and Recidivism

In a National Study released in January of this year, a meta-analysis of a number of cognitive-behavioral therapy programs (similar to the one operated by UDC), found that these programs significantly reduce recidivism by an average of 14.9%. (*Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Evidence-Based Adult Corrections Programs: What Works and What Does Not. January 2006. [www.wsipp.wa.gov](http://www.wsipp.wa.gov)* )

### Sex Offender Prison Program Graduates Recidivism In Utah

In order to make some type of comparison to the overall sex offender release population, Corrections compared all 1991 through May 2, 2004 program graduates to all other sex offenders released in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003, who had not completed all the phases of treatment by their parole release date. We looked at first year return rates for all offenders who had at least 12 months of parole opportunity.

#### Sex Offender Parole Release 12-Month Recidivism

Year of Release	12 month Return Rate	Percent of Returns Who had a <u>New Commitment</u>	Percent of Returns Who Violated <u>Parole Conditions</u>
Non-grad 2000	46.9%	14.5%	85.5%
Non-grad 2001	37.7%	16.2%	83.8%
Non-grad 2002	40.8%	13.8%	86.2%
Non-grad 2003	43.0%	12.4%	87.6%
1991 – May 2, 2004 Program Graduates	19.5%	12.3%	87.7%

- The majority of sex offender recidivism results from technical violations of the conditions of parole, not new criminal behavior, primarily because sex offenders are scrutinized on parole more closely than most other offender groups.
- This data seems to substantiate national data (see *McGrath et al.(2003)*), indicating treatment completion greatly improves an offender's chance of parole success. The overall return rate for sex offender treatment completers in Utah is less than half of the overall return rate for non-completers (19.5% successful completers versus 2000 through 2003 non-completers of 42.1%).
- Between January 1991 and May 2, 2004, there were only 9 offenders who: 1) were graduates of the sex offender treatment program: 2) were released to parole, and had twelve months of opportunity on parole and: 3) returned for a new criminal conviction within one year.
- Of those 9 returns, only 2 of the offenders were returned to prison for a new sex offense conviction. Those two offenders represent only .05% of the total treated and released population, between January, 1991 and May, 2004.

### A Longitudinal Study of Sex Offender Recidivism (1979 through 2006)

- 388 offenders convicted of a felony sex offense who were treated in the Bonneville Community Corrections Center program between 1979 and 1994, both successful program completers and failures.
- Criminal activity tracked for between 11 and 26 years, with an average of 16.5 years of follow-up.
- 83% of the offenders had no new criminal convictions during the entire follow-up period.
- Successful completers of treatment were significantly less likely to have any form of recidivism than those who failed – successful treatment completers had a 26% lower recidivism rate than non-completers.

**- Sex Offender Treatment IS Effective! -**