

Safety in Corrections

Budget Presentation 2011

March 2011

The strongest aspect of our security system is the outstanding men and women who make up our staff. Their professionalism and dedication is the first step in ensuring the safety of the public, staff and inmates of Pennsylvania. We are committed to maintaining a safe and secure prison system for both inmates and DOC staff, and enhancing public safety by turning out offenders who are less likely to commit additional crimes than when they entered the prison system. Our prisons remain more than 99% drug free; the number of inmates with serious misconducts has decreased and there have been no major disturbances since 1989.

Highlights

Staff and Inmate Safety:

Total inmate on inmate assaults have declined by 18% from 2003 to 2010 in spite of the inmate population growing by nearly 10,000 offenders during this time period.

During this same time, the total number of inmate on staff assaults declined by 22%.

Inmate on staff assaults which necessitated medical treatment at an outside hospital numbered 32 in 2010 a 36% decrease from the 50 which occurred in 2009.

A very small portion of the inmate population (5%) continue to account for a disproportionate number of prison misconducts, with 27% of misconducts being issued to this 5%.

Drug Interdiction:

Our prisons remain more than 99% drug free.

There were 882 drug finds throughout the entire state correctional system in 2010.

Seventy-five percent of all drug finds are either in the possession of visitors or unused inmate prescription drugs.

The department conducted 53,000 random drug tests on inmates during 2010. Only .15% of these tests were positive for illicit substances.

Only 910 (.5%) visitors out of nearly 200,000 visitors scanned for drugs using electronic drug detection equipment tested positive in 2010.

Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics

Physical Security:

**There have been no major disturbances since 1989.
The department maintains a 1 to 5 ratio of custody staff to inmates.**

The department utilizes a risk management system to identify existing and potential vulnerabilities that may compromise the safety and security of a facility. Plans are developed and resources deployed to address these vulnerabilities. On-going inspections and emergency drills allow each facility to identify areas in need of improvement and take corrective action.

Department staff at the institutional and central office levels conduct regular security and safety inspections of all institutions. Findings from these inspections are documented, action plans created to address weak areas and follow-up inspections conducted to ensure deficiencies have been addressed.

The department uses the Incident Command System, the national model for responding to emergencies, and monitors compliance with the National Incident Management System in fulfilling its mission of operating safe and secure facilities.

The department has special response teams which are comprised of highly-trained and skilled staff who can quickly and effectively respond to serious situations which may compromise staff and inmate safety within institutions.

Continuing Initiatives

800 MHZ - Base monitoring stations have been installed at all DOC sites with vehicle installations continuing to ensure adequate radio communication with the facilities is maintained.

Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS) Training Site - The department is continuing to explore establishing a PIDS training site to provide Electronic Trades Instructors training to effectively monitor, test, and maintain the PIDS installed at their facilities.

Centralized Armory Distribution Center - This cost savings initiative will provide for bulk purchases that will address ammunition shortfalls.

Identity Verification System (IDVS) - New technology is being explored to replace antiquated systems utilized to maintain accountability for staff and inmates who enter and exit the secure perimeter of the facilities.

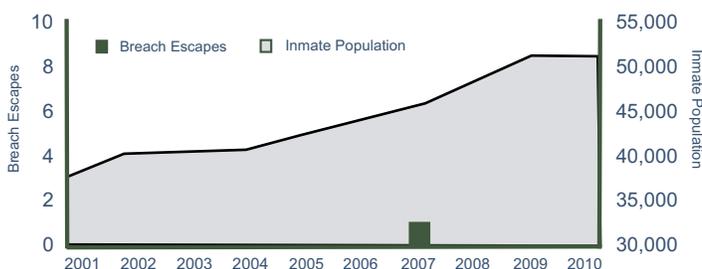
AlertPA is a commonwealth-wide initiative established to notify people with important information in the event of an emergency. Individuals may contact any state correctional institution to receive phone calls, text messages, or e-mails regarding urgent prison situations.

Body Armor - The department enforces mandatory wear of stab resistant body armor for all uniformed staff. Ballistic body armor is required for specific posts and outside transports. Initiatives have been taken to receive partial reimbursement for these procurements through the Bulletproof Vest Program.

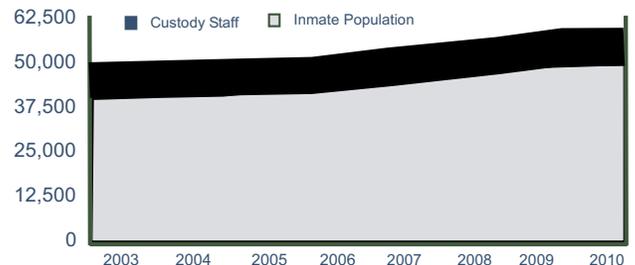
Cell Phone Detection - Cell phone detection technology is being pursued to assist in identifying the presence of this contraband inside our facilities.

Tower closures - By enhancing the security of perimeters by updating PIDS systems, installing cameras and conducting routine inspections, we have been able to close selected towers at some institutions without compromising public safety. This initiative has resulted in significant cost savings.

There has been one breach escape since 1999.



The DOC continues to ensure adequate staffing with the increase in population.



Despite the increasing inmate population, the department has maintained appropriate staffing levels as evidenced by key indicators such as assaults on staff.

Staff and Inmate Safety:

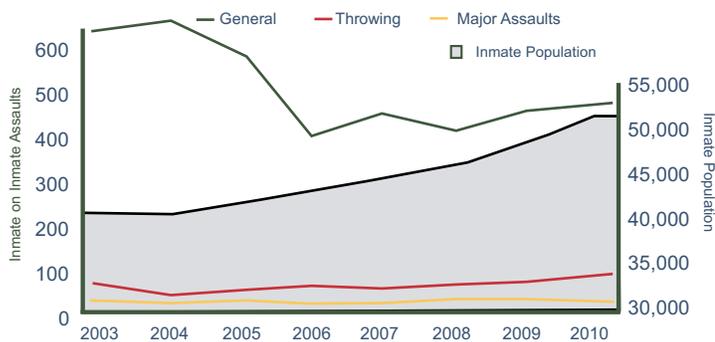
Assaults, misconducts, and some causes of death (homicide, suicide, and death due to drug overdose) are all indicators of prison safety.

The rate of total inmate on staff assaults declined since 2003 (23 per 1,000 to 14 per 1,000), with a marked decrease in assaults requiring medical treatment occurring between 2009 and 2010 from (17 per 1,000 to 14 per 1,000).

The rate of total inmate on inmate assaults has declined since 2003 (19 per 1,000 to 12 per 1,000).

Key Indicators

The rate of assaults per 1,000 inmates declined significantly since 2003, remaining steady since 2006.



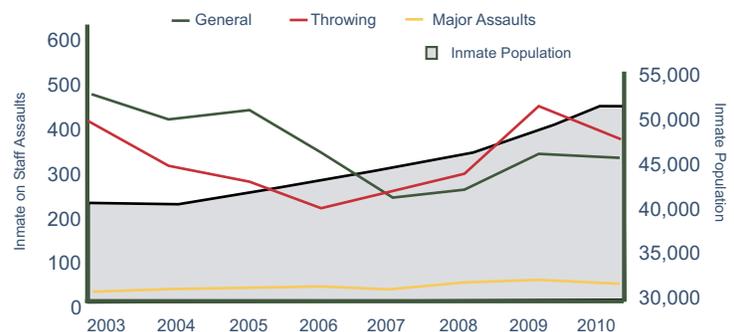
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Incidents	N/A	N/A	N/A	456	494	491	543	569
Major	21	19	21	19	18	26	26	19
General	654	678	577	410	446	412	461	496
Throwing	82	58	63	77	59	87	95	105
Total	757	755	661	506	523	525	582	620
Rate per 1,000 inmates	19	18	16	11	11	11	11	12

Between 2009 and 2010 the number of inmate on inmate major assaults decreased slightly. Since 2003, less than 4% of all inmate on inmate assaults were major assaults requiring treatment outside of the institution.

Almost 80% of the annual assaults are classified as general assaults that either require no medical treatment or only minor treatment inside the institution. These assaults increased by 7.6% between 2009 and 2010.

Inmate throwing assaults constitute about 17% of all inmate on inmate assaults and increased by 10.5% between 2009 and 2010.

The rate of staff assaults per 1,000 inmates is down from 2003 while the number of incidents declined by 13% from 2009 to 2010.



	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Incidents	N/A	N/A	N/A	574	531	589	764	661
Major	17	22	25	37	30	41	50	32
General	495	413	452	341	265	283	357	318
Throwing	417	303	293	231	270	308	456	379
Total	929	738	770	609	565	632	863	729
Rate per 1,000 inmates	23	18	18	14	12	13	17	14

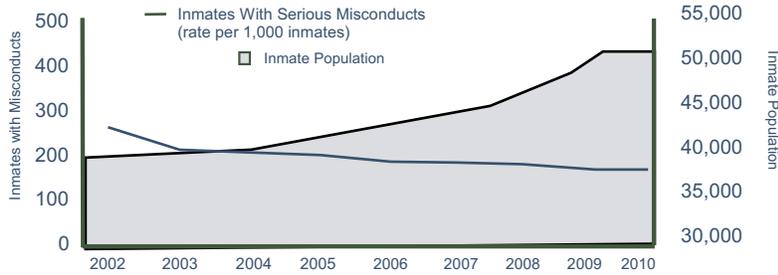
Between 2009 and 2010 the number of inmate on staff major assaults decreased by 36% from 50 in 2009 to 32 in 2010.

Since 2003, approximately 5% of all staff assaults were major assaults requiring treatment outside of the institution.

Inmate on staff throwing assaults decreased by 17% between 2009 and 2010. Since 2003, over 45% of all inmate on staff assaults have been throwing assaults.

Since 2003, the DOC inmate population has increased 26%, from 40,817 to 51,321.

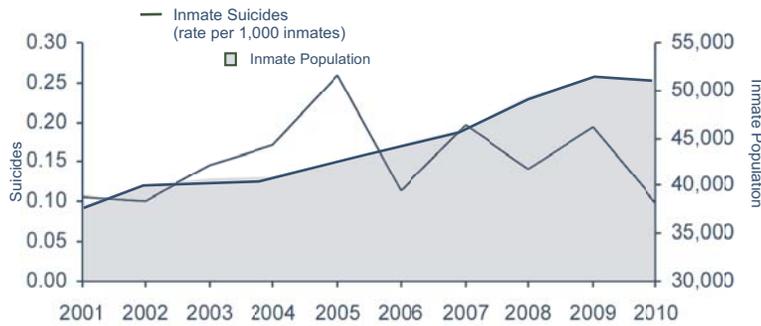
DOC Inmate Misconducts



A very small number of inmates are responsible for a disproportionate number of misconducts.

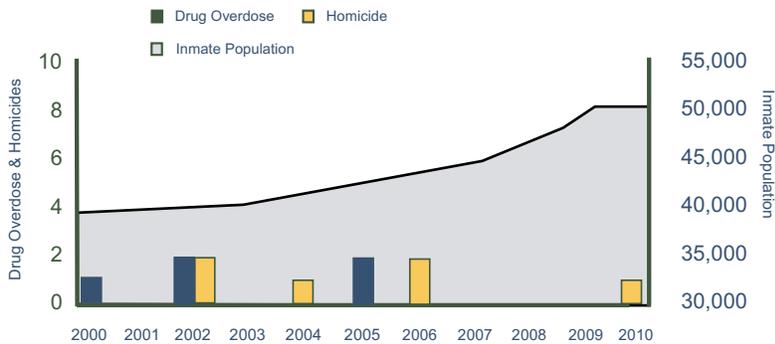
In 2010, 4.9% of the total inmate population received 27% of all written misconducts.

DOC Suicides



Although the inmate population has grown, the number of suicides has remained relatively constant over the last 10 years and actually decreased by 50% between 2009 and 2010.

DOC Drug Overdose and Homicides



In the past 11 years, there have been 6 inmate on inmate homicides and 5 deaths due to drug overdose, among all state correctional institutions.

Drug Interdiction:

Our Prisons remain more than 99% drug free.

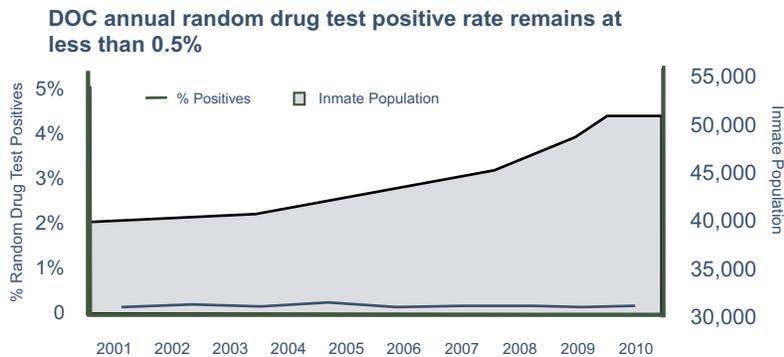
Seventy-five percent of all drug finds are either in the possession of visitors or unused inmate prescription drugs.

The Department utilizes drug testing, canine searches, and electronic drug detection to enforce a zero-tolerance drug policy.

Continuing Initiatives

The enforcement components of the DOC's drug policy include:

- Patrolling parking lots and visiting areas with canine units
- Conducting air scans with canine units
- Using electronic scanning devices on people entering our prisons
- Conducting drug tests on all new court commitments and parole violators received
- Conducting random drug testing of inmates
- Conducting quarterly drug tests for inmates working outside
- Using enhanced technology for inmate telephone monitoring
- Monitoring video cameras in visiting rooms
- Conducting surprise searches of facilities
- Increasing the frequency of cell searches
- Scrutinizing inmate accounts closely

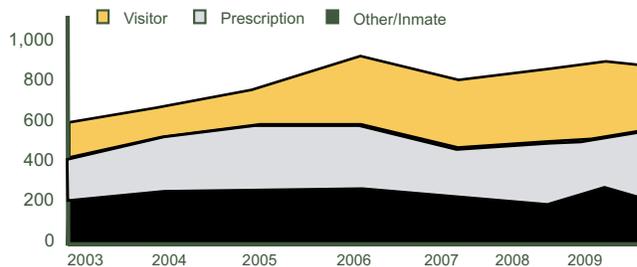


DOC policy provides the opportunity to test each inmate randomly at least once per year.

Since 2001, the annual positive rate for random drug tests has remained at less than 0.5%.

Of the 53,662 random drug screens in 2010, only 79 were positive.

75% of all drug finds are either found on visitors or are unused inmate prescription medicines.



Beginning in 2003, drug finds have been tracked according to the type of find. In 2010:

38% were found on visitors.

39% are prescription medication not ingested by the inmate during the prescribed period.

22% are illegal substances, such as alcohol or marijuana found in the possession of an inmate.

Visitor drug finds increased 95%, from 174 in 2003 to 339 in 2010 but decreased by 22% between 2009 and 2010. The decrease in visitor drug finds indicates that the zero drug policy for visitors is working.