



# Reentry

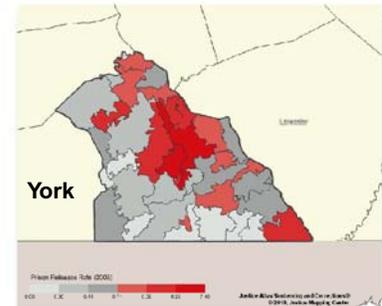
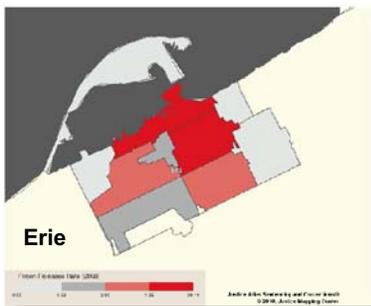
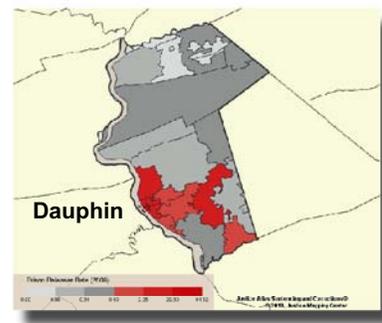
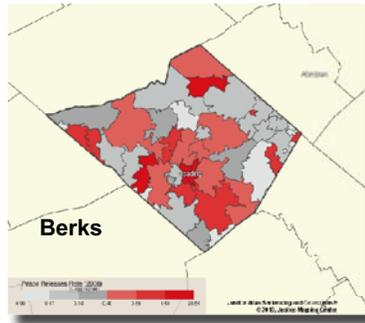
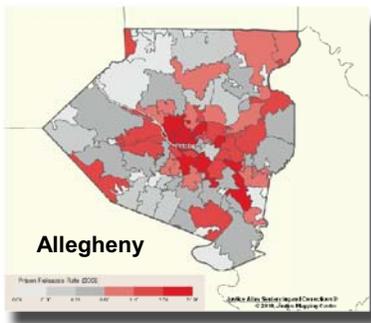
In 2008, 683,000 people were released from the nation's state and federal prisons. Pennsylvania's prison system released 15,776 offenders in that year. Between 2008 and 2010, the number of offenders released from the PA prison system has increased by nearly 2,700 inmates or 17 percent.

## Offender Releases

In 2008, inmates released from the DOC returned to:

14 zip codes out of PA's 4,600+ zip codes (0.3% of PA zip codes) generate 27% of all prison releases in PA. These 14 zip codes are located in just **six** of PA's 67 counties. These zip codes have:

- 8 times the average per capita imprisonment rate compared to the state as a whole
- 2 times the unemployment rate
- 3 times higher percent of minority population
- 3.5 times higher rate of single parent households
- 2 times higher rate of annual households earning less than \$25,000
- 12% higher three-year recidivism rate



The DOC is committed to identifying and addressing the factors that contribute to an offender's criminal behavior. To this end, every offender receives a battery of actuarial assessments upon intake to the system. The Department creates a correctional plan for each offender which lays out the expectations for behavior and program participation during incarceration. The Department offers treatment programming and educational services to offenders in prison. These programs are routinely monitored and evaluated to ensure they are operating as designed and according to the best evidence of what works in changing offender behavior.

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 Tom Corbett  
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In addition, the Department operates community corrections centers and contracts with community providers to provide offenders with a step-down from secure confinement to the community.

- In 2010, more than 10,000 offenders spent time in community corrections centers.
- Fifty-seven percent of offenders released from the DOC on parole in 2010 transitioned through community corrections centers spending about 90 days in these facilities where they are supervised and assisted in finding employment, reconnecting with their families, locating permanent housing and participating in on-going programming and basic skill training.

Ninety percent of the offenders incarcerated in the PA prison system will be released into communities across the Commonwealth. Effective community reintegration requires collaboration with other state agencies, local government officials, victims of crime, social service providers, members of community and faith-based organizations and employers. The following are among the initiatives the Department is engaged-in to enhance public safety through effective offender reintegration:

#### Reentry and Transition Accountability Checklist (RTAC)

- The RTAC is a document used by the Department and the PA Board of Probation and Parole to capture critical information relative to each offender's readiness for community living.
- Important information captured on this document includes tracking the personal identification that an offender had when they came into prison or secured during incarceration. The department assists offenders with obtaining duplicate social security cards, birth certificates and non-driver's identification from PA DOT provided the offender has some record with that agency.
- Offenders who have serious physical or mental health needs may qualify for federal or state benefits upon release. Department staff complete and submit applications for those offenders likely to be eligible for services. The goal is that offenders who are eligible will be able to activate any benefits they qualify for on the day they are released thus assisting with continuity of care. This information is captured and tracked in the RTAC.

#### Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Training

- The OWDS initiative is sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections and provides for state, multi-disciplinary teams involved with offender reintegration, to receive intensive training in assisting offenders in developing employment and life skills aimed at allowing them to become productive, law-abiding community members upon release from institutions.
- The DOC is the sponsoring agency for the Commonwealth's team. Other members include: the Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) within the Department of Labor and Industry, the Pennsylvania State University and the Firm Foundation Inc. of Harrisburg.
- The state team members have received comprehensive training and are now working to train others in local probation agencies, county jails and community organizations, to work with offenders on obtaining and retaining employment.

#### County Jail Reentry

- The Department is working closely with selected county jails to reintegrate state-sentenced offenders back into their committing county by transitioning them through their local jails and work release programs.
- This approach capitalizes on the strengths of both prisons and jails. The offenders receive a comprehensive assessment and targeted treatment while in prison, and the jails, as they are part of communities where offenders are returning to, can connect offenders with employers, services and supports critical to making a successful transition.

#### Second Chance Act Grant- Mentoring

- The Department is working with the Pennsylvania Prison Society, which received grant funding from the US Department of Justice, to identify community mentors to work with selected offenders incarcerated at SCI Muncy, a maximum-security institution for women near Williamsport, and SCI Pittsburgh, a minimum security institution for men.
- The mentors will work with the offenders during the last 6 months of incarceration and will continue to work with the offender as he/she transitions to community living.