Status Update: Request for Recidivism of Inmates Completing the DMV Connect Program

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in partnership with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) established the DMV Connect program to provide inmates nearing release with a valid identification card (ID). In order to track the recidivism rate of those inmates who received an ID through the DMV Connect program, the DMV provided a list of inmates and the date they received the ID. The file provided by DMV contained 4,072 IDs issued to inmates. After checking the DMV file against the Virginia CORIS[*] data system, 3,052 inmates were considered State Responsible (SR) and released in FY2014 or FY2015 and included in this evaluation. The detailed breakdown is shown below.

Duplicate Inmates	5
Unable to Identify InmateId from SSN, FN, LN, and DOB	42
No SR Release Date in FY14 or FY15	911
SR Release Date in FY14*	984
SR Release Date in FY15*	2,068
ID Not Issued During Release Term*	62
Total Cases in DMV file	**4,072**

*The ID issued date must fall between the inmate's New Crime Commit Date and Release Date.

The VADOC calculates a three-year re-incarceration rate for a release cohort approximately four years following the date of the most recent release in that cohort. This includes three years of follow-up plus an additional year for court records to be received and entered. There were 984 inmates who were issued an ID though the DMV Connect program and released from an SR term of incarceration during FY2014. Of these 984 inmates, 176 were re-incarcerated within three years of their release date. This recidivism rate (17.9%) is lower than the overall three-year re-incarceration rate for all SR releases during FY2014, 23.4%.

SR Releases		
	Number of Inmates	Recidivism Rate
FY14	12,021	23.4%
FY14 w/ DMV ID	984	17.9%
FY15	12,385	23.1%
FY15 w/ DMV ID	2,068	20.6%

Of the 12,385 SR releases during FY2015, almost 17% were issued an ID through the DMV Connect program (2,068). Of those inmates, 426 were re-incarcerated within three years of their release date. This recidivism rate (20.6%) is lower than the overall three year re-incarceration rate for all SR releases during FY2015, 23.1%.

Inmates released in FY2014 and FY2015 who received an ID through the DMV Connect program prior to release had a lower re-incarceration rate than their respective cohort. This is a positive sign, but additional analysis using matched control groups is needed to evaluate the impact of the DMV Connect program on recidivism.

[*]VirginiaCORIS: The computer-based Virginia Department of Corrections inmate information management system.

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