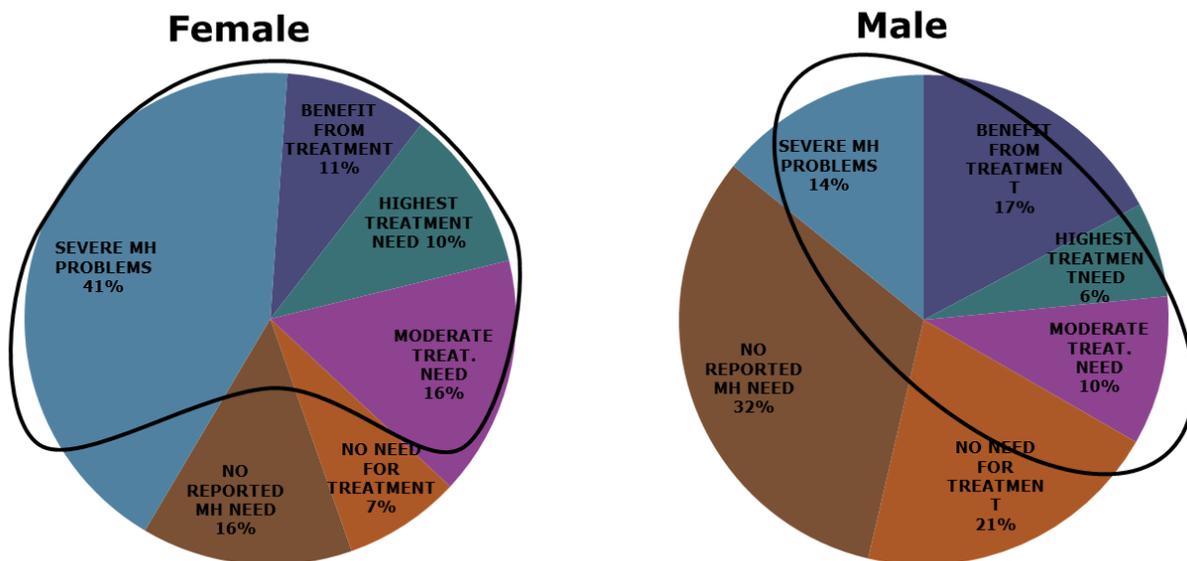


Oregon Commission for Women and Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs questions

Interested in knowing how many women are incarcerated and if they have a profile of the "typical" inmate.

The Oregon Department of Corrections has 1270 female Adults in Custody (AIC) out of a total population of 14,632. Women represent 8.7% of the AIC population. There isn't a profile of a typical AIC. But there are some issues that women have that are unique. Here is some data:

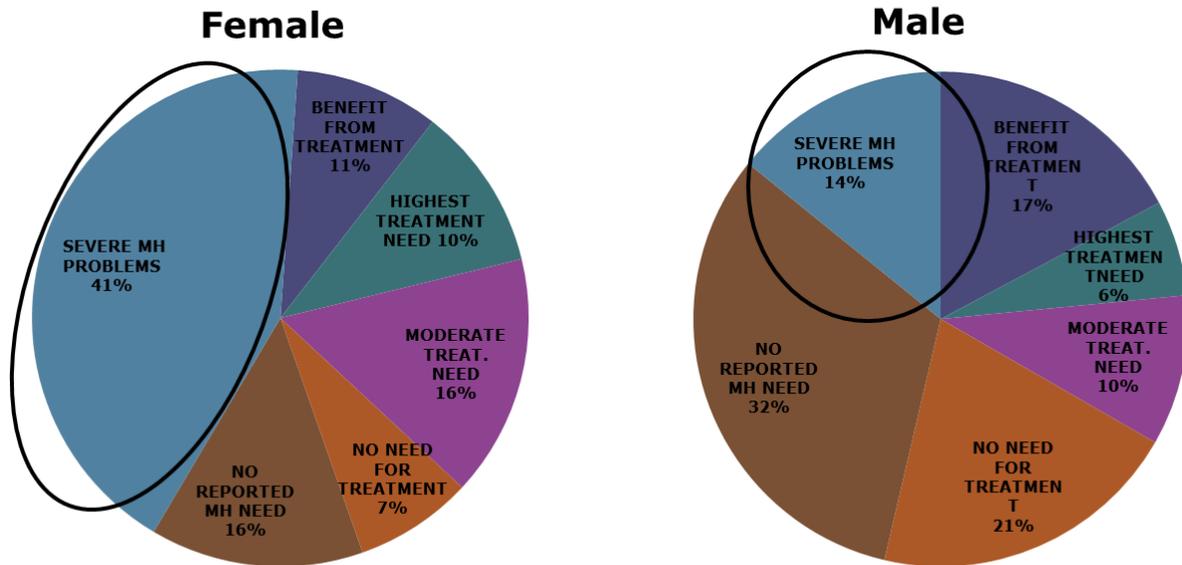
Gender Diversity as It Relates to AIC: Mental Health



http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf

Of female AIC, 77% need mental health treatment. By comparison, 47% of male AIC need mental health treatment.

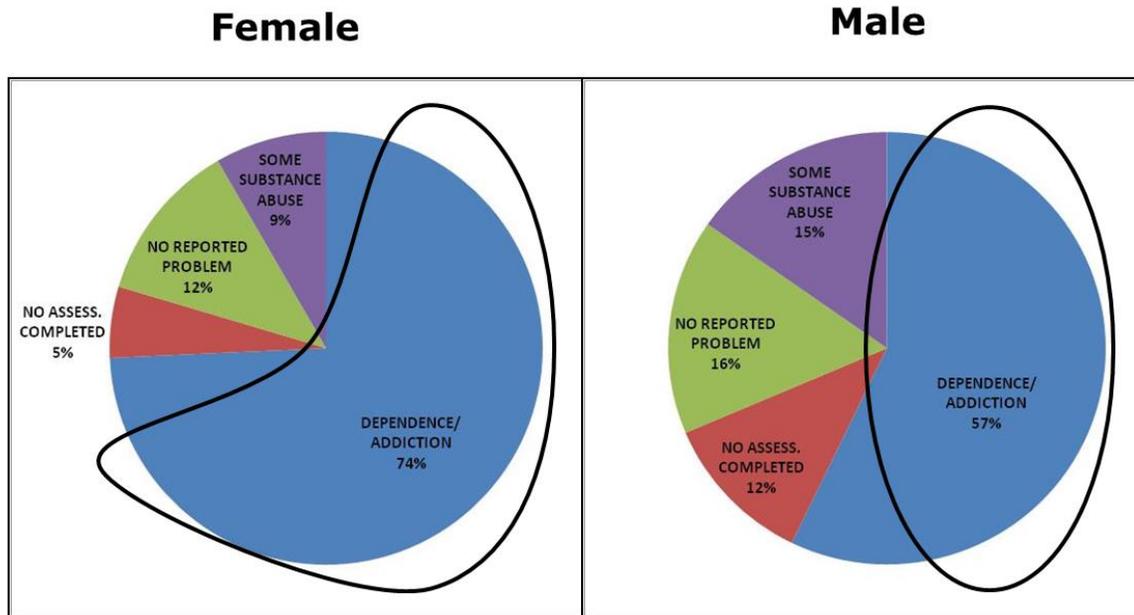
Gender Diversity as It Relates to AIC: Mental Health



http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf

Of female AIC, 41% have severe mental health problems. This is almost three times the level that male AIC have (14%).

Gender Diversity as It Relates to AIC: Drug Addiction



http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf

Female AIC are more likely to have substance abuse issues (74%) compared to male AIC (57%).

Still interested if there are employment opportunities for women in rural Oregon to work in the prison system as I believe they are all male inmates. I may be wrong on this.

There are opportunities for women to work in any prison in the state. Even in male institutions women can fill any position available including security officer positions.

Yes would like to visit both if possible and schedule allows.

It would easy to set up a tour prison to see different prison facilities including both male and female. Just let us know what you're interested in and we can make it happen.

Understand how the women and girls end up here.

The Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) as well as other law enforcement agencies have studied this extensively. The ODOC has found that there are seven criminogenic factors (essential factors that are related to criminal behavior). These are:

- Education and employment
- Family/marital relationships
- Alcohol and drug problems
- Pro-criminal attitudes
- Antisocial patterns

- Leisure and recreation
- Companions

When an AIC comes into the ODOC, they are evaluated on all seven factors in order to form a treatment plan.

As far as type of crime, this is the number of Female AIC incarcerated for particular crimes.

	Number of Female AIC	Percentage
Theft	288	22.7%
Drugs	159	12.5%
Assault	157	12.4%
Robbery	146	11.5%
Burglary	136	10.7%
Homicide	120	9.4%
Other Offense Group	110	8.7%
Vehicle Theft	41	3.2%
Driving Offenses	31	2.4%
Sex Abuse	18	1.4%
Rape	16	1.3%
Kidnapping	14	1.1%
Sodomy	13	1.0%
Arson	10	0.8%
Forgery	6	0.5%
Escape	5	0.4%

http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf

What percentage of women vs. men inmates are nonviolent offenders and how the violent vs. nonviolent populations are managed.

Women are disproportionately less likely to be in prison for what the state calls Measure 11 crimes, or person-to-person crimes. Of all AIC convicted of a Measure 11 crime, 95.4% are men. Only 4.6% are women.

<http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/m11snp.pdf>

In the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (Coffee Creek or CCCF) general prison population, AIC convicted of violent crimes interact with other AIC and live on the same housing units—even in the same cells. They are all treated the same in this regard. The exception to this is if any AIC is violent *in* prison. Then the AIC usually lives in disciplinary segregation for a time. After their segregation stay, the women generally will go to an intermediate housing unit which helps them prepare to go out to the general population by teaching them anger management and

other coping skills. Our goal is always to prepare an AIC to safely return to the community. An important step in that process is to help him or her be successful in the general prison population.

What happens to their families while they are away and also what do they see as the future.

This is a hard question to answer because each person's story is so unique. But more than 1.7 million children **in the U.S.** have an incarcerated parent. Children experience challenging changes when a parent goes to prison:

Parental loss. Separation from a parent for any reason can be traumatic for children, contributing to a doubled risk of mental health problems.

Stigma and Shame. Caregivers may tell children to keep their parent's imprisonment secret; schoolmates tease. Such experiences can contribute to having trouble in school, below-average academic performance, and increased dropout rates for these children.

New Living Arrangements. Up to 29% of children are separated from siblings as a result of parental arrest. 41% of children in **Oregon's** foster care program have a parent who is a convicted felon.

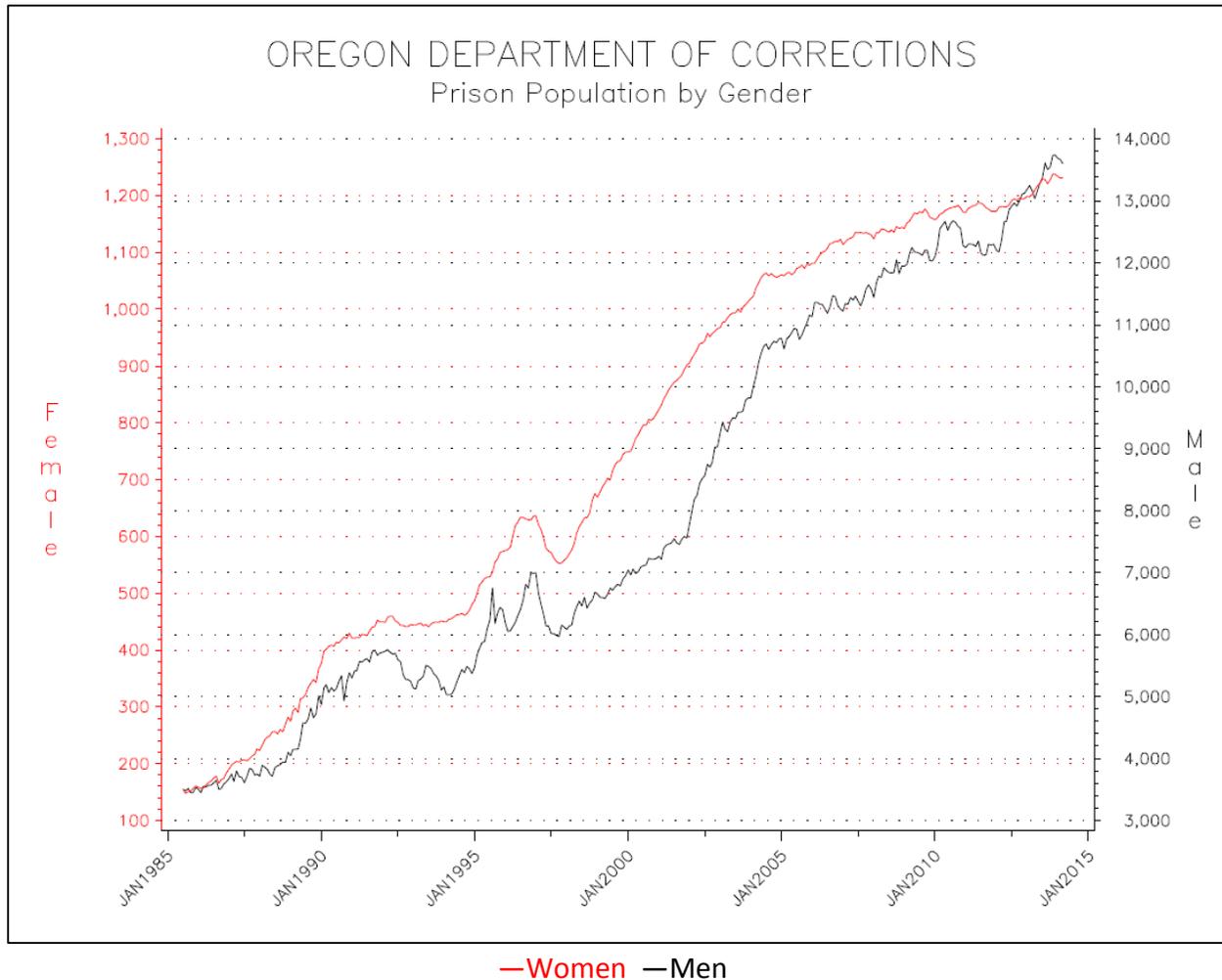
Increased poverty. Children who lose a parent to prison further suffer by losing that parent's income, which is difficult for families already living in poverty. 80% of these children need higher levels of state services than their peers who do not have a justice involved parent. These services include mental health; child welfare; alcohol/drug, and juvenile rehabilitation services; and financial assistance.

Kelly Rath, Inmate Services and Community Outreach Administrator and Chris Randall, Correctional Counselor Administrator for CCCF.

Yes meeting with anyone at that level regarding women and girls in the system can only be beneficial to the Commission.

A meeting of this kind would be easy to set up. There are a few people that should be part of the conversation and we would be happy to invite them to the table: Heidi Steward, CCCF Superintendent; Chris Popoff, Human Resources Assistant Director; Kim Brockamp, Offender Management and Rehabilitation Assistant Director; Jeremiah Stromberg, Community Corrections, Assistant Director; and Mike Gower, Operations, Assistant Director.

Interested to know if we have more incarcerated now and what do they see for the future.



DOC Research Report retrieved from <http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/pops4.pdf> on July 30, 2014.

The prison population continues to grow for a number of reasons and this is true for both male and female AIC. Even though women make up less than 10% of the prison population, their increasing rate of incarceration is the same or higher than that for the men.

Is rehabilitation working and what programs do they use to accomplish.

Oregon has one of the lowest recidivism rates in the country. Of AIC released from prison, the number who return to prison after three years is 27.4% for women compared to 29.1% for all AIC. Evidence-based rehabilitation programs are a major contributor to that success. <http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/recid.pdf>

For a list of programming opportunities available to female AIC, please see *attachment 1*.

How much time are women allowed to spend with their children? What about babies born to incarcerated mothers?

The amount of visiting time is based on space and the number of visitors. Each AIC in the general population is given 28 points for the month. The number of people who visit them during a given month is deducted from their point total 1-2 points per person, depending on various factors. At Coffee Creek Correctional Facility minor children are not counted against an AIC's point total. The AIC's points are only deducted for whoever accompanies the children to the visit.

All visiting is contingent upon the child's caregiver and what they are willing and/or able to accommodate. It also depends on whether or not the child is the victim of the mother's crime. In such a case, the child usually would not be approved to visit (while this is the general rule, it can be appealed).

(Oregon Administrative Rule 127 (Visiting), and Captain M. McCorkhill, CCCF)

For women who give birth while in prison, special programs are in place that allows the mother to see the child more frequently so the mother is better able to bond with the child.

For the *medium security prison* new mothers get two extra visits a week (in addition to normal visiting). Each additional visiting session is two hours. If the mother is able to, she is given the opportunity to breast feed the baby during that time.



For mothers in the *minimum security prison*, they have the opportunity to be a part of the Early Head Start program (0-3 years old) which takes place in a separate building on the Coffee Creek campus. Mothers are able to meet with their children 2-3 times a week beyond regular visiting. (Ms. Wiggin, CCCF)

For family traveling long distances, a request can be made in advance for additional visiting sessions. This gives the family the opportunity to maximize the time they spend together while the visiting family members are in town.

Do women inmates have access to all the same kinds of programs men do?

Yes and no. As far as government-paid programs, the ODOC works hard to be equitable between women and men. But programs that are a part of community organizations, which have people who volunteer their skills and time, vary by facility and consequently vary between women and men. Of all volunteers in the ODOC's 14 prison facilities, 20% volunteer at Coffee Creek. Many of these volunteers are religious. Volunteers also are involved in:

- Alcohol and Drug/12-Step Programs (Primarily AA and NA)
- Education
- Home for Good in Oregon Reentry Program
- Health Services
- College/University-based Internships

- Life Skills

(2013 Volunteer Report/Lavon StarrMeyers)

How are women encouraged to remain in contact with their families and communities while they are incarcerated? Especially those who come from areas that are geographically remote from the prison location. Is there bus service? Etc.

Family Visiting: Helping AIC stay close to their families is an important goal of the Department of Corrections, particularly at Coffee Creek. Wilsonville was selected as the site of the women's prison because it is the half-way point between Portland and Salem. But obviously not everyone lives in the Willamette valley, let alone Oregon. In the last two years the DOC has made video visiting available to AIC in the general population. Video visiting is a Skype-like service where family and friends who have a computer and camera can see and visit with their loved one from the prison housing unit. There is also a service that will let the AIC email (to and from) their families. These are not free services, but for families who are far away, it can enhance family connections for a much lower price than a physical visit.

Community outreach: Research shows that outreach from the community to AIC is a major factor in the individual's success. Many AIC are breaking old friendships or even some family ties in order to start a life that is drug, alcohol, and crime free; and they need community support. The DOC Religious Services Unit has a program called Home for Good in Oregon which matches an AIC with the religious community they are paroling to. The community religious leader will call or visit the AIC a few times before release. The religious leader will work with the AIC to create a supportive network when the AIC returns to the community. This program is very helpful to our religious AIC. There are some community outreach groups, like Goodwill or Dress for Success who reach out for specific purposes to individuals paroling. But outreach between the AIC and the community is an area where we have room to grow.

For more information on Home for Good in Oregon please see:

http://www.oregon.gov/DOC/OMR/pages/religious_services/home_for_good_in_oregon/hgo_home_page.aspx

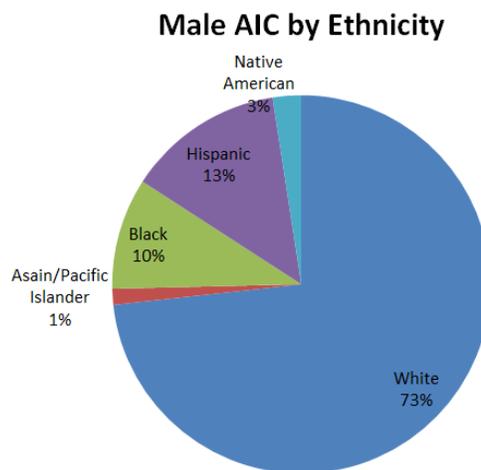
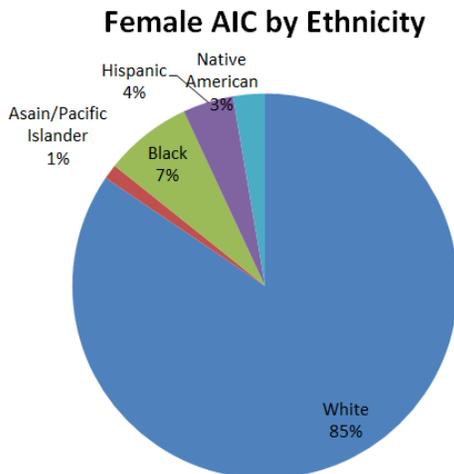
Building on the 'how they end up here' question - are there any correlative studies comparing root causes/inter-generational impacts on incarceration?

One point that the ODOC takes very seriously is that children of incarcerated parents are five to six times more likely to commit crime themselves compared to children of non-incarcerated parents. "The period of a parent's incarceration is an excellent opportunity for positive intervention with families at risk. The department's mission includes the phrase, '...reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.' It is clear that the department has a role to help improve outcomes for these high-risk children whose parents are incarcerated." ~*Children of Incarcerated Parents Project*

For more information on services for children of incarcerated parents, please visit:

http://www.oregon.gov/doc/GECO/docs/oam/2003_childrens_project.pdf

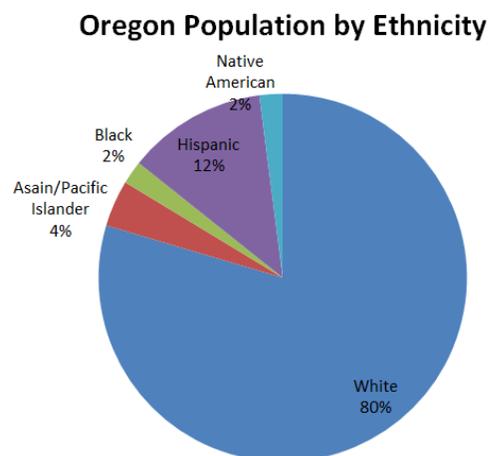
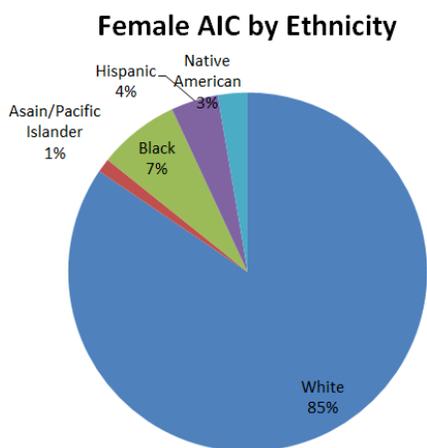
What is the demographic/cultural/racial breakdown of incarcerated women?



http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf

Female AIC are less likely than male AIC to be Hispanic and black:

- Hispanic (Female 4% of the AIC population, male is 13%), and
- Black (Female 7% of the AIC population, male is 10%).



http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf and U.S. Census quickfacts (2010).

However, female AIC are more likely to be black (7%) compared to the entire population of Oregon (2%), and less likely to be Hispanic (Female AIC 4%, the Oregon population is 12%).

What, if any, are linkages to education and income levels?

There haven't been any recent studies on income levels, education and incarceration in **Oregon**, but the following chart appeared in the February 2012 publication: *Beyond the Headlines*. The focus of the article was the **U.S. as a whole**.

Economic Characteristics Prior to Arrest – State Prison Inmates

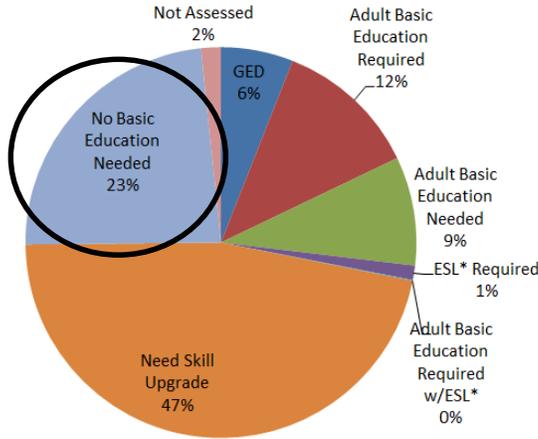
		Less than HS Diploma	GED	HS Diploma	Post-secondary/ Some college
Employment Status in month before arrest	Full-time	47.7%	56.4%	63.8%	69.9%
	Part-time	14.8%	11.9%	11.3%	9.0%
	Looking for Work	17.4%	13.1%	11.0%	7.8%
	Not Looking for Work	20.2%	18.6%	13.9%	13.2%
Personal Income in month before arrest	Less than \$1,000	63.6%	51.7%	47.4%	32.7%
	\$1,000 – \$1,999	21.6%	25.9%	29.5%	28.7%
	\$2,000 – \$4,999	8.9%	13.2%	14.6%	24.8%
	\$5,000 or more	6.3%	9.2%	8.5%	13.8%
Homeless in year before admission		11.6%	10.6%	10.0%	8.2%

The author of different article, states:

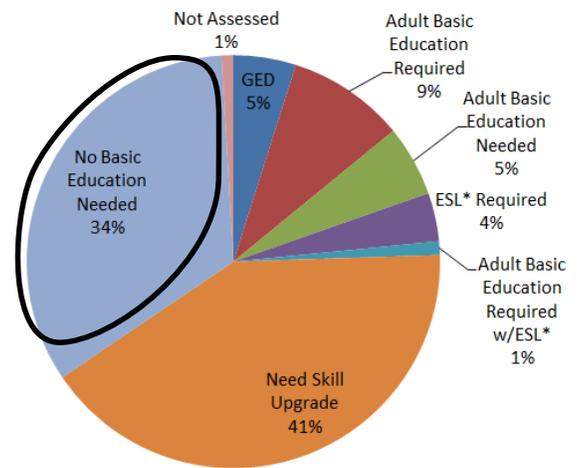
“There is an indirect correlation between educational attainment and arrest and incarceration rates, particularly among males....According to the most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Justice, 56 percent of federal inmates, 67 percent of inmates in state prisons, and 69 percent of inmates in local jails did not complete high school. Additionally, the number of incarcerated individuals without a high school diploma is increasing over time.”

<http://www.prweb.com/pdfdownload/11117731.pdf>

AIC Educational Needs: Female AIC



AIC Educational Needs: Male AIC

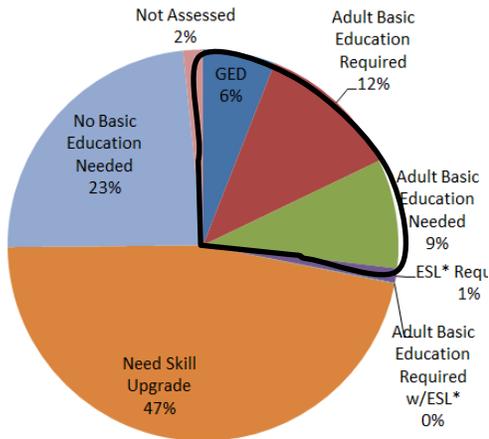


*ESL: English as a second language

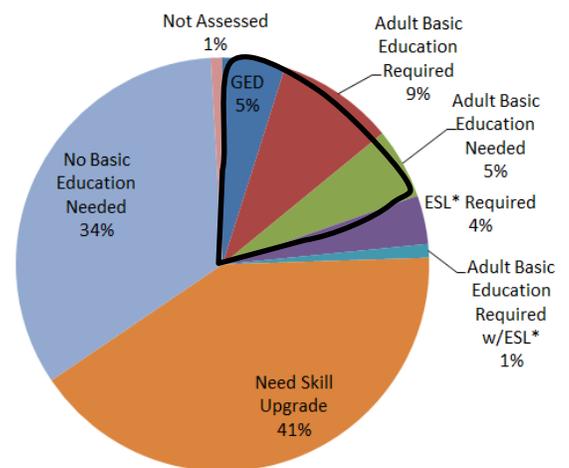
http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf

In the ODOC, female AIC are more in need of educational programs: 23% of women do not need some form of educational programming compared to 34% of the men.

AIC Educational Needs: Female AIC



AIC Educational Needs: Male AIC



*ESL: English as a second language

http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf

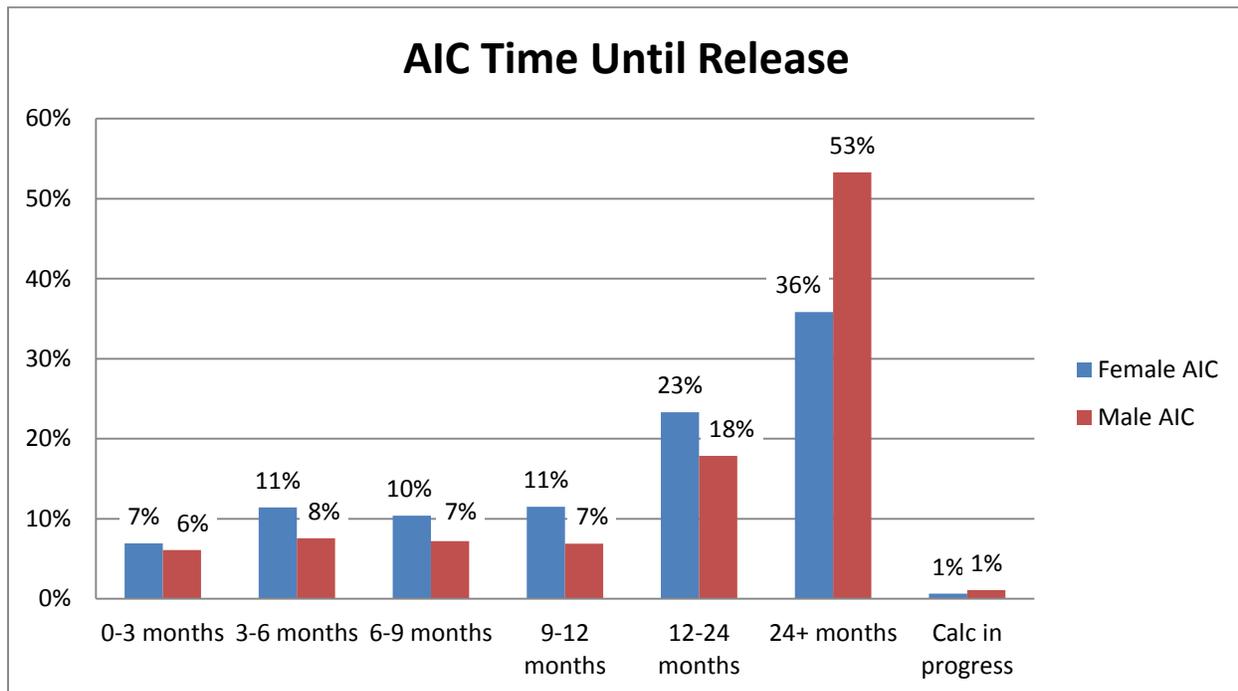
Female AIC are more in need of GEDs and adult basic educational programs: 27% of women need GEDs and adult basic educational programs compared to 19% of the men.

Please share 'success stories' of post-incarceration rehabilitation. What lessons can we learn from them?

There are many success stories. As an example *attachment 2* was printed July 10, 2014, in *The Oregonian*.

What will we be most 'surprised' to learn about how the Department of Corrections works with the female population?

Release dates



http://www.oregon.gov/doc/RESRCH/docs/inmate_profile.pdf

People are surprised to discover the rate that the DOC releases AIC; women even more so than men. 39% of female AIC will return to the community within the next 12 months (July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015); only 32% of men will release during that time frame. In the next two years (July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016), 62% of women will release; in comparison, 46% of men will release.

Visiting Rooms

The Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights states, "Children of incarcerated parents have a right to speak with, see and touch their parent when it is appropriate and safe."

When you take a tour of Coffee Creek, be sure to ask to see the visiting room. Like many visiting rooms in DOC prisons, the walls are covered with murals and there is a special room specifically for children. Many people think of visiting an AIC as sitting at a window talking through a

phone. This does occur for AIC in disciplinary segregation, but for most visits, the family and friends can interact with each other and physically touch each other.

Programing for AIC

Probably the biggest surprise that people have as they learn about Coffee Creek is the number of programs available to AIC. Some examples are:

- TACE (Through a Child’s Eyes) and other quarterly events: Four times a year the women in both the Medium and Minimum prison are part of family events. The most notable one is the summer TACE event which is very much like a carnival. This includes a barbecue, activities and fun food. The event is sponsored by the Wilsonville Rotary Club who also raises reimbursement money for families traveling long distances. The event is available to women if their children or grandchildren are on their approved visiting list and the woman has attended or is on the waitlist to attend parenting class. For some of the women, this is one of the few times during their incarceration that they visit their children.



- The non-cash incentive program: this program is available to all AIC as part of the Correctional Rehabilitation Program, yet it is something that few people know about. AIC receive incentive levels based on good behavior. Each incentive level comes with an increase in opportunities. These include being a part of certain programs, like the craft program or monthly movie night. It also allows the AIC to purchase certain things on commissary that others cannot buy. It is a great program that costs the state very little to monitor that is a great incentive for good behavior—which means the DOC spends less money on security problems.

- The Quilting Program and other service activities: The quilting program is available to female AIC who are in the minimum facility that are scheduled to release soon. Fabric is donated from outside organizations and the women learn to quilt. They make three quilts: two are donated to charity and the last one they send to friends or family as a gift or to keep for them when they return to the community.



There are other service opportunities that are available to AIC. Every year the women hold a sock drive where they purchase socks off commissary and give them to homeless shelters. There are other service projects that the women participate in, like the eyeglass (educational) program grinds prescription eye glasses donated by the Lion's club. The renewed glasses are taken to third world countries and given to people there. Another opportunity came about because of the Haiti hurricane. The women created sanitary kits (kits include toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, washcloth, etc.). This project asks the women to donate what they can to help others. These opportunities are completely voluntary, and are very uplifting to the women who participate.