

Michigan Department of Corrections Oaks Correctional Facility

Project RESTART

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project RESTART was initiated at the Oaks Correctional Facility (ECF) in June of 1998. The program is a voluntary, eight week, military style boot camp program intended to supply administrative segregation prisoners the means to develop a sense of individual responsibility, self discipline, and self esteem. The intent is to alter behavior in a manner that will allow prisoners who have a history of segregation placement or placements, to adjust to general population placement. In addition to activities with boot camp connotations, a range of programming is offered which, while designed to improve behavior, also satisfies certain Reception Center requirements. RESTART participants can work toward their GED, are required to participate in group substance abuse counseling, and complete phase I of the Strategies for Thinking Productively Program. Participants who complete the program are guaranteed placement in general population and have the opportunity to transfer to Level IV. The ultimate goal of RESTART is to reduce the recurring need for administrative segregation placement by instilling changes in behavior patterns of prisoners to allow them to satisfactorily adjust to general population placements and, over time, reduce their security level.

Public Act 92 of 1999, which establishes the FY2000 appropriation for the Department of Corrections includes reporting requirements for Project RESTART. Director's Office Memorandum 1999-22 states that "The Office of Planning, Research and Management Information Services, in conjunction with the CFA Deputy Director or designees, shall annually prepare and submit a report to the Director which evaluates the impact Project RESTART has had on the prisoners completing the program and on the use of regular administrative segregation placement. It shall also provide statistical information on prisoner participation in the program." The 1999 annual assessment was completed in June of 1999 by the Research section. The following report in places includes information from that assessment.

METHODOLOGY

Calendar year 1999 was selected for study. In this period 312 prisoners entered the RESTART program. Sixty seven of the 312 successfully completed the program for a completion rate of 22.7%. The current (February 3, 2000) placement (general population versus administrative segregation and security level) of the RESTART graduates was compared with the placements of RESTART participants who were removed from the program for cause, and who voluntarily resigned from participation. Just as an added perspective, these placements were also compared to a group consisting of all prisoners released from administrative segregation at ECF during 1999 who either did not volunteer for the program, or volunteered and were found to be ineligible based on the criteria for admission in DOM 1999-22. It is understood that this group is

not representative of prisoners statewide that had no opportunity to participate in RESTART. These comparisons reflect the recidivism of the members of the group with respect to the behavior that is intended to be extinguished by the RESTART Program, a return to administrative segregation.

Additionally, the misconduct records for members of all of these groups were examined with the same intent of determining rates of behavior between groups. Misconduct rates provide a slightly different view of the various groups' behavior, as their negative behavior can be quantified prior to the necessity for reclassification to segregation.

All of these comparisons can be considered to reflect comparisons of cognitive changes in the individuals in the groups, as changes in thinking are required to achieve the changes in behavior which result in being able to remain misconduct free, or to remain in general population.

As the RESTART program is still relatively new, it is not possible to examine long lasting effects. Since the groups all consist of prisoners that entered RESTART in calendar 1999, the behavior examined is necessarily limited to a maximum of 12 months.

It is understood that since RESTART is a voluntary program that the effects of self selection are unknown.

PROGRAM UTILIZATION

In calendar 1999 RESTART intake opportunities were well utilized, with there being 26 intake sessions held. Each of these sessions was designed to provide an opportunity for twelve prisoners to enter the program, for a total of 312 intake opportunities. Three hundred and twelve prisoners were scheduled for and participated in RESTART intake for a 100% utilization rate. The Research Section's 1999 report considered the possibility of exhausting the pool of program participants, but to date this has not occurred.

While intake possibilities were utilized fully, as might be expected, not all participants graduated. Sixty seven prisoners graduated, while 110 prisoners who began the program left as voluntary removals (quits) and 118 left as involuntary removals for cause, (non-conformity with rules, or major misconduct). The balance of prisoners are still in the program, or were health care removals who may re-enter the program at a later date.

RESTART DISPOSITIONS

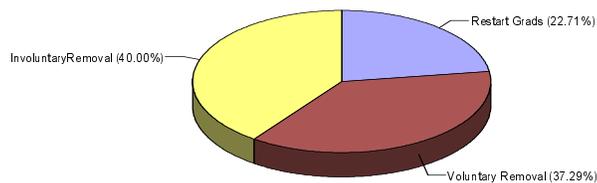


Figure 1.

RESULTS

The graduates of RESTART are guaranteed the opportunity to be classified to general population at either the Oaks Correctional Facility, the Ionia Reformatory, or the Saginaw Correctional Facility (Saginaw as of 1-2000). Some of the successful participants choose Level V at ECF due to the availability of single bunk cells, but others opt for either the Reformatory or the Saginaw facility because of the additional privileges available at Level IV, or the geographical proximity to their families. Unfortunately some RESTART graduates have returned to administrative segregation, but the vast majority of the 1999 graduates remain in general population at Levels II, IV, or V.

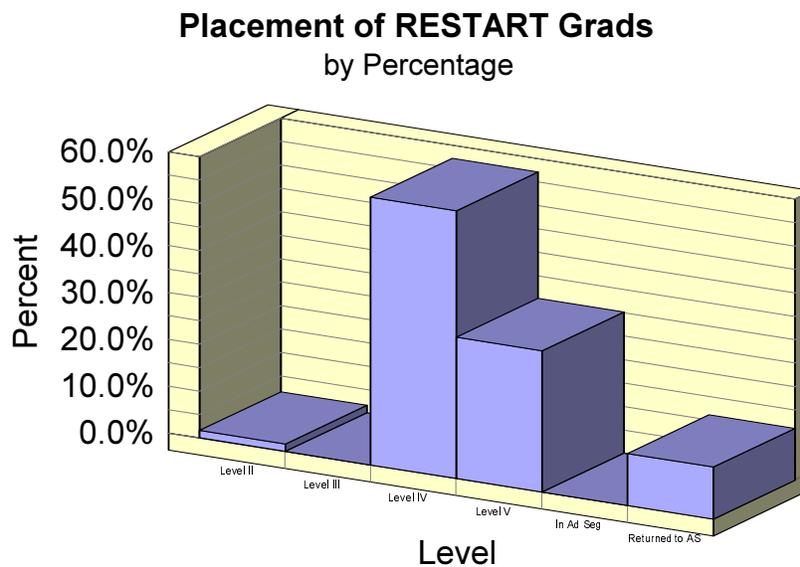


Figure 2.

From the n of 67, 1.5% of graduates have achieved Level II status, while 58% remain in Level IV. Thirty percent of those who opted for Level V remain, while 10.5% returned to administrative segregation.

Voluntary RESTART Removal Distrib.

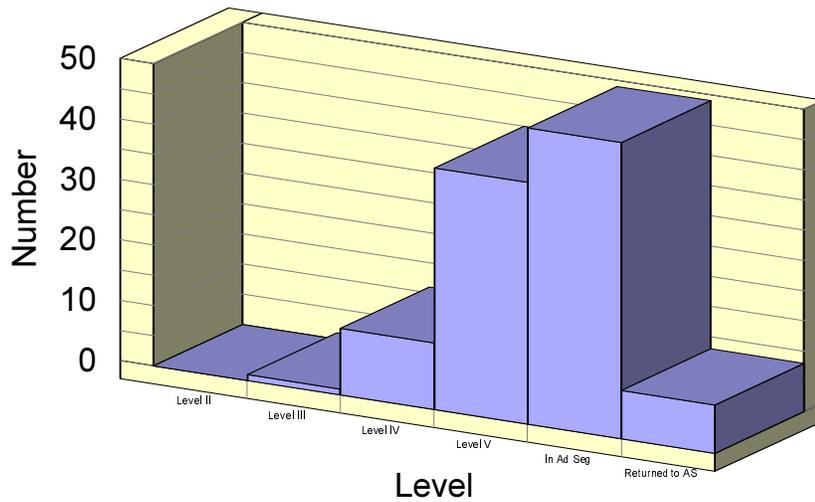


Figure 3.

The participants of Restart that requested to leave the program have subsequently not fared as well as the graduates. However there is notable difference in their placement from the participants removed for cause. Of the voluntary removals, 1% have attained Level III status, 10% have been released from segregation and attained Level IV status, 37% remain in Level V after release from segregation, 45% have not yet been released from segregation, and 7% have been returned to segregation after release to general population.

By comparison of the chart above with the one below, it can be seen that the participants removed for cause were not released to general population in the same numbers as the voluntary terminations. Of this group, after release from segregation, 1% of prisoners have attained Level III status, 12% have been reduced to Level IV and 26% remain in Level V. Fifty four percent of members of this group have not yet been released from administrative segregation, while 7% of the members who have been released have required reclassification to the former segregation status.

Involuntary RESTART Removal Distrib.

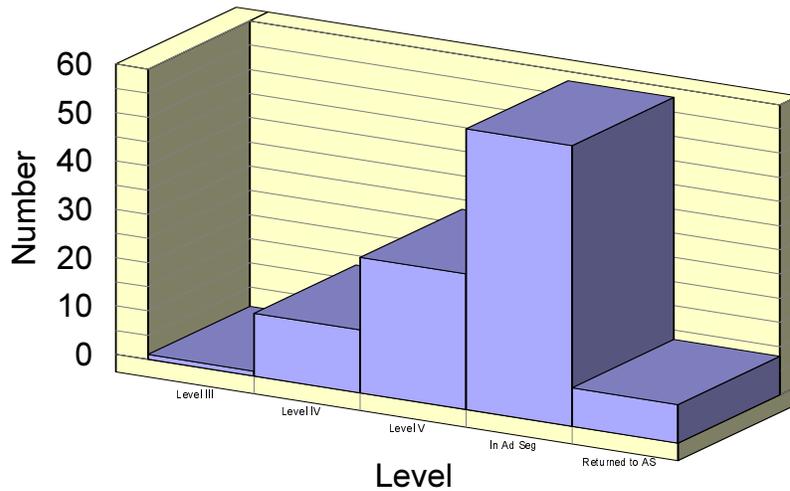


Figure 4.

Since there is a different n for each of these groups, it is best to compare the groups by percentage returned to administrative segregation. Of the 1999 RESTART graduates, 10.5% have been returned. Of the RESTART participants who quit, 7% returned to segregation after having been released to general population, but this must be considered in light of the fact that another 45% have not yet attained release status. Of the involuntary removals, 7% returned to segregation after release to population, but again this figure must be considered with the fact that 54% of the group has not yet been released.

If only the prisoners who have been released to general population are considered in the comparison, eliminating group members who have not attained general population status, the figures reveal that there appears to be a more positive effect for RESTART graduates. In the following chart, RESTART graduates are compared to RESTART involuntary removals and voluntary removals. The segregation return rate, (shaded area) reveals that prisoners with RESTART experience, who are removed for cause, and are subsequently released from segregation, only returned at the rate of 16%. Those who participated but voluntarily left the program fared better upon eventual release from segregation. Only 13% of this group was returned to segregation. Prisoners who completed RESTART returned at a rate of 10.5%.

Return To Segregation Rates

Group	Total Releases	Returns to Seg.	Return Rate (%)
RESTART Involuntary Removal	50	8	16.0%
RESTART Voluntary Removal	60	8	13.3%
RESTART Graduates	67	7	10.5%

Figure 5.

Misconduct rates may be seen as a less gross measure of cognitive changes. Misconduct convictions reveal a prisoner’s behavior patterns prior to the need for reclassification to administrative segregation. Figures reflect lower rates of major misconduct convictions for RESTART graduates than other noted groups.

As shown below, RESTART graduates had the lowest misconduct rate among the groups, averaging only .08 misconducts per graduate per month. The RESTART voluntary removals incurred misconduct convictions at a rate of 0.33 per prisoner per month. The RESTART involuntary removals had the highest rate of misconduct convictions per prisoner per month at 0.66. There was a very high degree of variability in this group, with misconduct convictions ranging from none to 31 per prisoner during the period of time after removal from RESTART. The RESTART voluntary removal and RESTART involuntary removal misconduct rates may have been impacted by the fact that the majority of these prisoners remained in segregation, while the majority of RESTART graduates were housed in general group.

COMPARISON OF MISCONDUCT RATES

	Average Misconducts/Month
RESTART GRADUATES	0.08
RESTART VOLUNTARY REMOVAL	0.33
RESTART INVOLUNTARY REMOVAL	0.66

Figure 6.

The most relevant figures are represented by the shaded cells in Figure 6. These are the comparison of the RESTART grads to the RESTART removals. It should be noted that 36 of the 67 (54%) RESTART graduates incurred no major misconduct convictions subsequent to graduation in 1999.

Summary

This evaluation has shown that there is a substantial change in prisoner behavior as a result of successful completion of the RESTART program. Misconduct rates, as well as recidivism rates, as measured by returns to administrative segregation, dropped for those prisoners who graduated.

Administrative segregation beds are the most expensive non-program beds in the Michigan Department of Corrections. Since RESTART is not yet two years old, subject to further investigation at a later date, it appears that this program can be a useful tool in reducing the need for administrative segregation beds by reducing recidivism. Over time, a study of the eventual security level attainments of graduates may show a further savings, in that the graduates may be adequately managed at significantly lower security levels, or attain parole status years before they might have if they had not received the benefits of RESTART.

At the facility level, it has been found that those individuals released from administrative segregation to general population after failing to complete the program (voluntary and involuntary removals) have still remained in general population at a much higher rate than those who had never participated in RESTART at all. Specifically, non-RESTART ECF prisoners released from segregation returned at a 37.3% rate, while RESTART voluntary removals returned to segregation after eventual release at a rate of only 13.3% and involuntary removals at 16%.

From this study it has been found that RESTART graduates are less likely to return to administrative segregation placement in comparison to non-RESTART ECF administrative segregation releases by a rate of 3.4 to 1 (10.5% versus 36.18%) See Figure 9. below. It is also noted that subsequent misconduct behavior committed by RESTART graduates is only one third that of the non-RESTART releases. This tends to be indicative of some degree of cognitive change and less severe misconduct behavior.

Rates of Return to Ad Seg by Percent of Group Evaluated

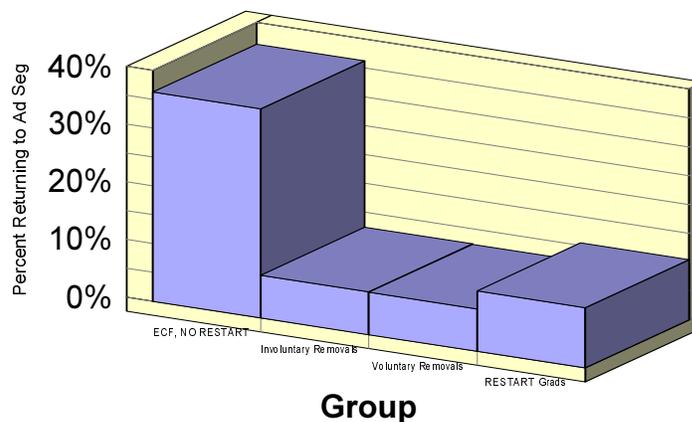


Figure 7.

Return To Segregation Rates

Group	Total Releases	Returns to Seg.	Return Rate (%)
RESTART Involuntary Removal	50	8	16.0%
RESTART Voluntary Removal	60	8	13.3%
No RESTART	193	72	37.3%

Figure 8.