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ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO TO COUNTIES

MEMO # 07-11

DATE: October 19, 2007
TO: County Departments of Human/Social Services Directors
FROM: Charles A. Tubbs, Administrator
SUBJECT: Wisconsin Juvenile Corrections Recidivism Rates

This memo updates information previously released in Administrator's Memo to Counties #07-02

The Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) tracks the recidivism of youth released from juvenile correctional institutions (JCIs) as a way to gauge whether public safety has been enhanced due to the accountability and interventions provided by the state's JCIs. At the end of each calendar year, DJC reviews the recidivism rates for those youth who were released in the calendar year two years prior. This information is compiled and an independent audit is conducted to verify the results.

Recidivism is defined as either:

- Placement in a Wisconsin JCI as a consequence for a new delinquency adjudication after being released from a JCI; or
- Placement in a Wisconsin prison for either a new criminal offense or an adult probation rule violation, after being released from a JCI.

The definition does not include:

- Youth arrested and placed on county supervision, on probation or in jail; or
- Youth returned to a JCI for rule violations only.

The youth included in the case study are selected on the basis of having been released from a JCI in calendar year 2004. Only the last release for each youth in that calendar year was utilized to ensure that youth selected only appeared in the case study once for that calendar year.

Based on these definitions, the rate at which youth released from Wisconsin JCIs are returned to correctional confinement for a new offense is generally low. For youth released during CY2004, their two-year correctional recidivism was less than 17% on average – that is, fewer than 17% of the youth returned to state correctional institutions under the conditions described above. For all

Memo # 07-02
Date October 1, 2007

youth released in CY2004, two-year recidivism rates were 16.40%. Girls' recidivism was 4.71%, considerably less than that of boys with an overall average of 18.23%.

| Release year | Youth released | Boys recidivating | Boys percentage | Girls recidivating | Girls percentage | Non-recidivists | Two year average |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2000 | 787 | 136 | 19.54% | 7 | 7.69% | 644 | 18.30% |
| 2001 | 833 | 139 | 18.81% | 7 | 7.45% | 687 | 17.53% |
| 2002 | 756 | 135 | 20.52% | 7 | 7.14% | 614 | 18.78% |
| 2003 | 672 | 87 | 14.48% | 6 | 8.45% | 579 | 13.84% |
| 2004 | 628 | 99 | 18.23% | 4 | 4.71% | 525 | 16.40% |

Data sources: Juvenile Justice Information System, Juvenile Reporting System, DJC Locator and Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Program

cc: Rick Raemisch, Secretary, Department of Corrections
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