

## Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry

### Review of Specific Self-Improvement or Treatment Programs

**Department did not provide 3 of 4 programs we reviewed to most inmates who needed them, and many inmates who were enrolled in the programs did not complete them, impacting reduced recidivism and other rehabilitative benefits these programs provide to inmates**

#### Audit purpose

To determine whether inmates were enrolled in and completed 4 specific self-improvement or treatment programs based on their identified need for these programs: cognitive restructuring, moderate substance abuse (SA) treatment, intensive SA treatment, and driving-under-the-influence (DUI) treatment.

#### Key findings

- Our analysis of Department data for approximately 35,200 inmates released between January 2017 and November 2019 found:
  - Approximately 14,200 (43 percent) of 32,800 inmates who needed cognitive restructuring were enrolled in the program, and 11,100 enrolled inmates (78 percent) completed it.
  - Approximately 4,300 (17 percent) of 24,900 inmates who needed SA treatment were enrolled in either the moderate or intensive SA treatment program, and 2,700 enrolled inmates (63 percent) completed an SA treatment program.
  - Approximately 2,900 (79 percent) of 3,700 inmates who needed DUI treatment were enrolled in the program, and 2,500 enrolled inmates (87 percent) completed it.
- Reduced recidivism and other benefits from these programs cannot be achieved when they are not offered to inmates, and Department analyses indicated that completing these programs helps reduce recidivism.
- Staffing and other limitations have affected the Department's capacity to provide these programs, although the Department has been taking steps to address those limitations. For example, the Department requested and received an additional \$5 million appropriation in fiscal year 2022 to contract for and expand its provision of SA treatment services.
- Common reasons for not completing programs included inmates being transferred to a different prison unit while enrolled in a program or administratively discharged from a program, such as for medical and mental health issues. The Department is taking some steps to help reduce program noncompletions.
- The Department uses various reports to monitor program enrollments and completions but does not use its enrollment data to specifically monitor program noncompletions.

#### Key recommendations

The Department should:

- Continue taking steps to expand its capacity to provide and increase inmate enrollments in the 4 programs we reviewed, such as requesting additional resources to meet inmates' SA treatment needs as appropriate.
- Continue its efforts to reduce program noncompletions and assess the impact of those efforts.
- Use enrollment data to monitor program noncompletions, research causes, and use this information to make needed changes to its enrollment process.