Correctional Industries in Prison

Program description:

Correctional industries are prison jobs where offenders earn a wage for their work. In this broad grouping of programs, industries can include private sector, non-profit, or institutional support jobs.

Typical age of primary program participant: 28

Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes Measured	Primary or Secondary Participant	No. of Effect Sizes	Unadjusted Effect Sizes (Random Effects Model)			Adjusted Effect Sizes and Standard Errors Used in the Benefit-Cost Analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
			ES	SE	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Crime	P	9	-0.08	0.03	0.00	-0.08	0.03	30	-0.08	0.03	40

Benefit-Cost Summary

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2011). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in Technical Appendix 2.

Program Benefits					Costs	Summary Statistics			
Participants	Taxpayers	Other	Other Indirect	Total Benefits		Benefit to Cost Ratio	Return on Investment	Benefits Minus Costs	Probability of a positive net present value
$0	$1,713	$4,467	$863	$7,042	-$1,417	$4.97	38%	$5,625	100%

Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

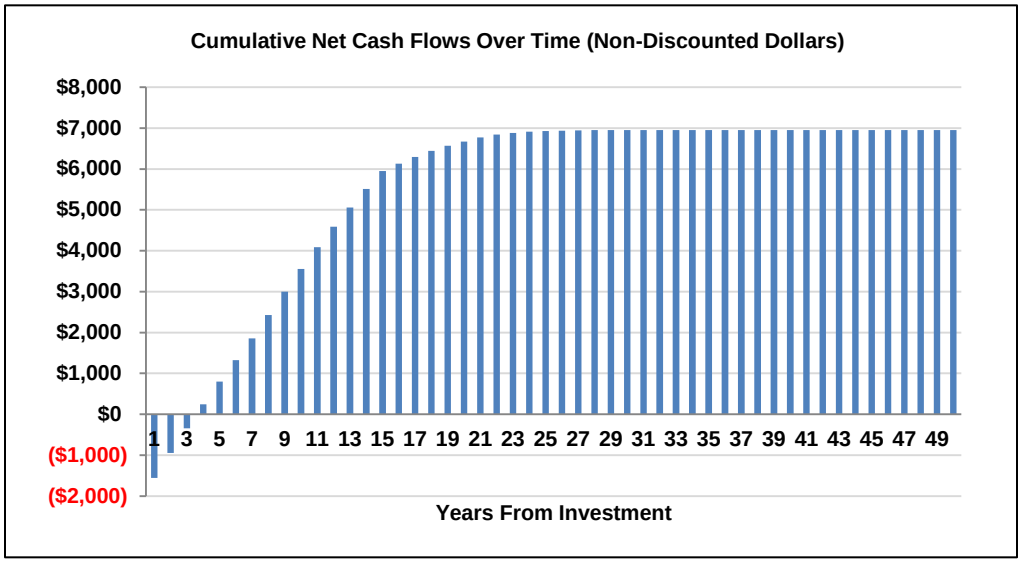
Source of Benefits	Benefits to: Participants	Taxpayers	Other	Other Indirect	Total Benefits
From Primary Participant					
Crime	$0	$1,713	$4,467	$863	$7,042

Detailed Cost Estimates

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta-analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in Technical Appendix 2.

Program Costs			Comparison Costs			Summary Statistics	
Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Present Value of Net Program Costs (in 2011 dollars)	Uncertainty (+ or – %)
$1,387	1	2010	$0	0	2010	$1,418	10%

Source: Estimate provided by the Washington State Department of Corrections.



Multiplicative Adjustments Applied to the Meta-Analysis

Type of Adjustment	Multiplier
1- Less well-implemented comparison group or observational study, with some covariates.	1.00
2- Well-implemented comparison group design, often with many statistical controls.	1.00
3- Well-done observational study with many statistical controls (e.g., instrumental variables).	1.00
4- Random assignment, with some implementation issues.	1.00
5- Well-done random assignment study.	1.00
Program developer = researcher	0.36
Unusual (not "real-world") setting	0.50
Weak measurement used	0.80

The adjustment factors for these studies are based on our empirical knowledge of the research in a topic area. We performed a multivariate regression analysis of 96 effect sizes from evaluations of adult and juvenile justice programs. The analysis examined the relative magnitude of effect sizes for studies rated a 1, 2, 3, or 4 for research design quality, in comparison with a 5 (see Technical Appendix B for a description of these ratings). We weighted the model using the random effects inverse variance weights for each effect size. The results indicated that research designs 1, 2, and 3 should have an adjustment factor greater than 1 and research design 4 should have an adjustment factor of approximately 1. Using a conservative approach, we set all the multipliers to 1.

In this analysis, we also found that effect sizes were statistically significantly higher when the program developer was involved in the research evaluation. Similar findings, although not statistically significant, indicated that studies using weak outcome measures (such as technical violations) were higher.

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

Berk, J. A. (2009). Essays on work and education: Behind bars and in the free world. *Dissertation Abstracts International, 69*(11), A.

Drake, E. K. (2003, February). *Class I impacts: Work during incarceration and its effects on post-prison employment patterns and recidivism*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Corrections, Planning and Research Section.

Hopper, J. D. (2009). The effects of private prison labor program participation on inmate recidivism. *Dissertation Abstracts International, 69*(07), A.

Maguire, K. E., Flanagan, T. J., & Thornberry, T. P. (1988). Prison labor and recidivism. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology, 4*(1), 3-18.

Saylor, W. G., & Gaes, G. G. (1996, September). *PREP: Training inmates through industrial work participation, and vocational and apprenticeship instruction*. Washington, DC: United States Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Smith, C. J., Bechtel, J., Patrick, A., Smith, R. R., & Wilson-Gentry, L. (2006, May). *Correctional Industries preparing inmates for re-entry: Recidivism & post-release employment*. (Retrieved from United States Department of Justice database; Document No. 214608)

Soderstrom, I. R., Minor, K. I., Castellano, T. C., & Adams, J. L. (2001, April). *An evaluation of a state's correctional industries program*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Washington, DC.