

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FISCAL YEAR 2012

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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## OBJECTIVE

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) provides substance abuse treatment programs.

TDCJ is responsible for managing felons sentenced as adults to state prison, state jail, and Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities. TDCJ also supervises parolees and provides funding and oversight for community supervision. TDCJ's statutory mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.

## KEY FACTS

- ◆ More than half of prison and state jail admissions were chemically dependent in fiscal year 2012.
- ◆ From fiscal years 2007 to 2012, the number of offenders in TDCJ's key substance abuse programs at year's end increased 49.3 percent (from 3,626 to 5,412).
- ◆ At the end of fiscal year 2012, the Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility wait list totaled 55 female offenders with an average wait time of six weeks.

## STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Government Code, Chapters 491 and 493

Among offenders admitted to prison and state jail who were assessed for chemical dependency, more than half (58.5 percent) were chemically dependent in fiscal year 2012.<sup>1</sup> This brief provides an overview of key TDCJ substance abuse treatment programs within correctional institutions.

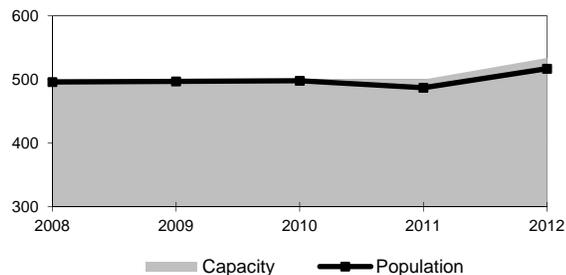
## IN-PRISON DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED RECOVERY PROGRAM (DWI)

The DWI program is an evidence-based, six-month program for prisoners incarcerated for DWI offenses. The program began serving male prisoners in the East Texas Treatment Facility in fiscal year 2008. The program expanded to serve female prisoners at the Halbert Unit in January 2012.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) places most participants in the program as a condition of release to parole. TDCJ also places some participants into the program. Once in the program, participants receive 20 hours of treatment a week from licensed counselors. Treatment primarily consists of substance abuse education and individual and group therapy. Treatment may also include the education of and dialogue with family members. After completing the program, nearly all participants are released to parole. In fiscal year 2012, 99.4 percent of participants were released to parole and the remaining participants were discharged without supervision.

Fig. 1 shows the DWI program's end-of-year capacity and population between fiscal years 2008 and 2012. During that time, capacity remained stable at 500 beds until increasing slightly in fiscal year 2012 to 534. The utilization rate was, on average, 98.5 percent during those five fiscal years. At the end of fiscal year 2012, the DWI program served 517 offenders and had no wait list.

**FIG. 1  
DWI END-OF-FISCAL YEAR CAPACITY AND POPULATION  
FISCAL YEARS 2008 TO 2012**



SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE FELONY PUNISHMENT FACILITIES

Established in the early 1990s, a Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFPF) is a correctional facility that provides an intensive therapeutic community program for probationers and parolees with substance abuse issues. Most SAFPF participants are probationers. District judges place probationers into SAFPFs as a condition of community supervision or for violating supervision conditions, which may be technical violations of supervision conditions or the commitment of new offenses. The BPP places parolees into SAFPFs as a sanction for violating supervision conditions.

<sup>1</sup> 56.7 percent of prisoners and 62.8 percent of state jail confinees were assessed to be chemically dependent.

While incarcerated, SAFPF offenders participate in a three-tiered treatment program, which typically lasts six months for general offenders and nine months for offenders with specialized medical or mental health needs. Unless exempted, SAFPF participants then spend three months in a halfway house that provides substance abuse treatment and reentry services. Finally, SAFPF participants return to parole or community supervision. They begin a six-to-nine-month outpatient treatment program and receive up to twelve months of support groups and follow-up services. In fiscal year 2012, 89.3 percent of participants were released to community supervision and 10.7 percent were released to parole supervision.

Fig. 2 shows SAFPF end-of-year capacity and population between fiscal years 2004 and 2012.<sup>2</sup> Between fiscal years 2007 and 2009, SAFPF capacity increased 28.3 percent due to expanded capacity funded by the Eightieth Legislature, 2007. Since fiscal year 2009, capacity decreased slightly to align with population needs. The utilization rate has been 90.3 percent, on average, from fiscal years 2004 to 2012. At the end of fiscal year 2012, the SAFPF program had 3,786 beds and housed 3,433 offenders. As of December 31, 2012, 10 SAFPF sites were in operation and 55 female offenders were on the SAFPF wait list for an average of six weeks. Before the expansion in fiscal year 2007, the wait list was 667 male and female offenders (as of August 6, 2007).

**IN-PRISON THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY**

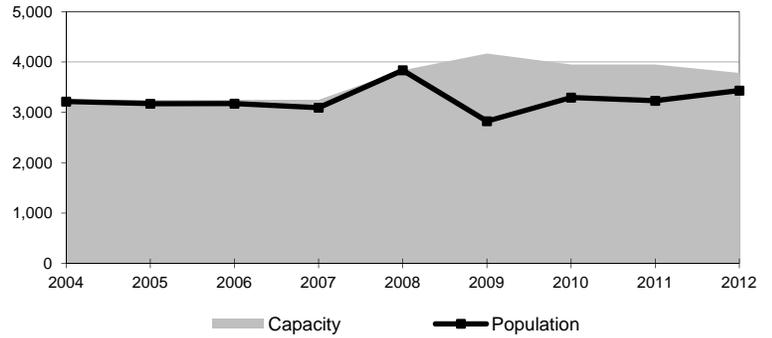
Begun in the early 1990s, the In-Prison Therapeutic Community (IPTC) program serves the prison population and is programmatically similar to the SAFPF program. BPP places parole-approved prisoners into IPTCs as a condition of release to parole. In fiscal year 2012, all exiting participants were released to parole supervision. Fig. 3 shows IPTC end-of-year capacity and population between fiscal years 2004 and 2012. From fiscal years 2007 to 2008, the IPTC population and capacity increased substantially (by 166.0 percent and 186.2 percent, respectively) due to the conversion of existing prison beds to IPTC beds. Before this expansion, the wait list totaled 744 offenders (as of August 8, 2007). By the end of fiscal year 2012, five IPTC sites were in operation with 1,503 beds and 1,462 participants. There was no wait list at this time.

This brief does not include other key TDCJ substance abuse programs, such as the pre-release substance abuse program (LeBlanc Unit), state jail substance abuse programs, and volunteer-administered alcoholics and narcotics anonymous programs. TDCJ provided all data included in this brief.

**CONTACT**

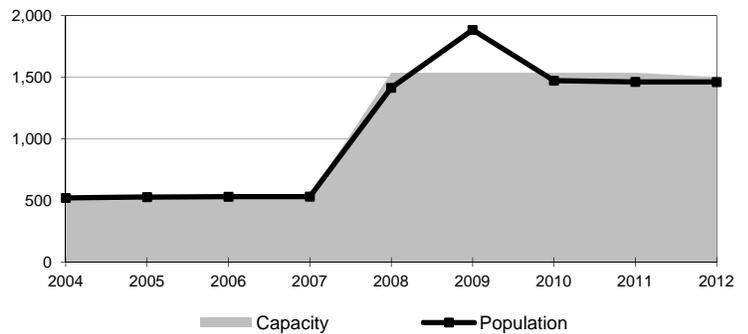
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**FIG. 2  
SAFPF END-OF-FISCAL YEAR POPULATION AND CAPACITY  
FISCAL YEARS 2004 TO 2012**



SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**FIG. 3  
IPTC END-OF-FISCAL YEAR CAPACITY AND POPULATION  
FISCAL YEARS 2004 TO 2012**



SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

<sup>2</sup> IPTC and SAFPF beds can be interchanged on a temporary basis to meet population needs but capacity is unaffected by these changes since they are temporary.