

The Amity In-Prison and Post-Prison Therapeutic Community (TC) for Level III Offenders in the California Department of Corrections (CDC).



See Mullen, et. al. “Building and Replicating an In-Prison Therapeutic Community that Reduces Recidivism: Amity Foundation’s TC in the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility.” in a PDF format on this web site.

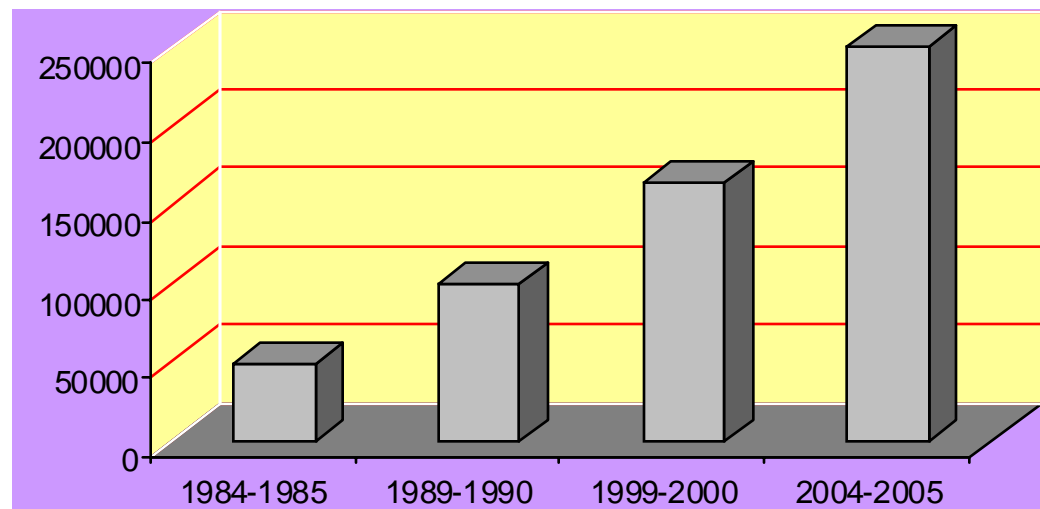
PART ONE AMITY IN-PRISON

SLIDES 1-20

Inmate Growth in California

Projected Growth in the California Department of Corrections Inmate Population

Nichol, Legislative Analyst's Office, 1997

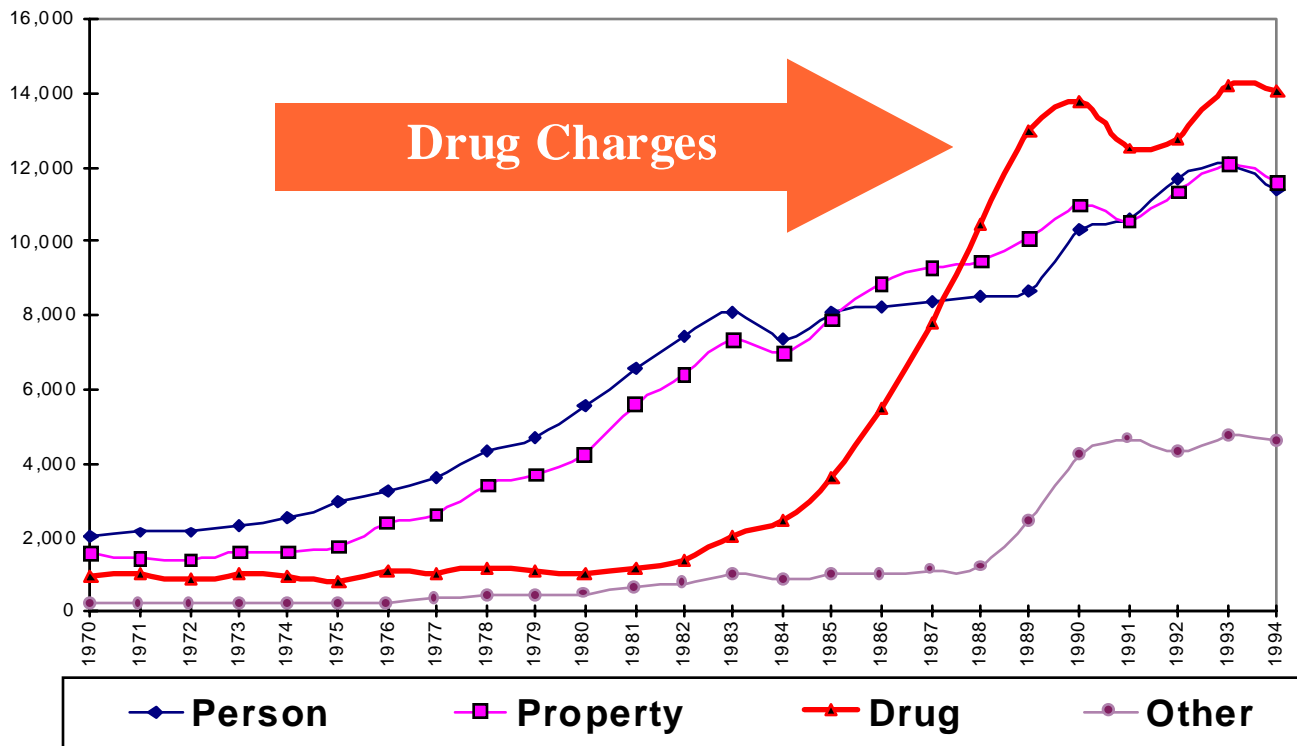


This slide presentation...

- ◆ Is designed to familiarize the viewer with the background of the project---California's first intensive TC program
- ◆ Gives some of the key elements that have made the project successful.
- ◆ Shows photographs of the project
- ◆ By implication, gives the background of other Amity projects with incarcerated substance abusers---such as those at the California State Prison, Los Angeles County, and the Correctional Training Facility at Soledad.

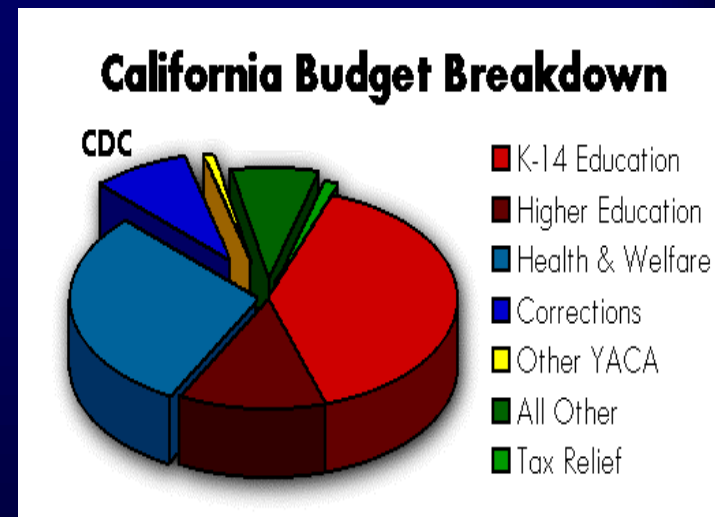
Drug Charges Swell Population

Felon New Admissions to CDC Institutions 1970 - 1994



\$ Impact of growth...

- ◆ CDC is 7.2% of the Total State Budget
- ◆ \$4.6 Billion
- ◆ 45,000 employees
- ◆ 301,442 are under CDC supervision
- ◆ Av. Cost per inmate = \$20,758 per year.
- ◆ Parolee = \$2,145
 - » 1999 numbers



FACILITIES/CDC

- **33** state prisons
- **38** camps
- **8** prisoner mother facilities
- **31** re-entry centers
- **1** restitution
- **15** TCs
- **1** boot camp
- **12** community correctional facilities (CCFs)



Amity TC/ When, Where & How

- ◆ Began in 1990 as a result of the federal Project Recovery, in which Amity's CEO provided technical assistance to California in developing strategies to deal with drug abuse in the California Department of Corrections.
- ◆ California's first in-prison TC
- ◆ The Amity model was based on Amity's experience developing several other TCs for correctional populations (adolescents, probationers & jail populations), and in providing technical assistance to several states.

Amity TC @ R.J.Donovan

- ◆ At the Richard J. Donovan State Correctional Facility, which houses 4,600 offenders, mostly Level III (medium security). Includes a regional reception center and a unit to process INS cases.
- ◆ The Institution was activated in 1987.
- ◆ Warden for first 9 years was John Ratelle, a 38-year CDC veteran
 - » Currently the Warden is Tom Hornung, who was the Chief Deputy under Mr. Ratelle since the inception of the Amity TC



Where is the TC located?

- ◆ All Amity participants housed in a standard 200 man unit.
- ◆ Modular buildings (two double wide trailers) are used for dedicated program space; some TC activities occur in the housing unit itself.





Amity
Housing
Unit

Amity
Program
Trailers

**Facility III at R.J. Donovan,
1100 Level III custody inmates**

The housing unit, 200 men
double celled...





Coming off the yard to the trailers.....



A group in the trailers...

Amity at R.J. Donovan

- ◆ Amity participants mix on the yard, at work, at “chow” with other Facility III inmates, but the housing unit and program space is segregated.
- ◆ Amity participants work the normal institutional schedule (35 hours) with other non-TC participants.
- ◆ Participants do a minimum of 20 hours per week of TC activities during their “time off.”
- ◆ There are no parole or other incentives for participation in the TC

Selection of participants

- ◆ Inmates who meet criteria (drug history and between 6-18 months left to serve) can apply from R.J. Donovan or any CDC institution.
- ◆ Amity does some recruiting within the institution using staff and participants.
- ◆ Classification staff review inmate applications
- ◆ Amity staff and Correctional Counselors assigned to the Amity unit jointly screen applicants.

Participants are volunteers

- ◆ Inmates must volunteer for the program, accepting the additional 20+ hours per week of TC activities and higher level of accountability.
- ◆ No parole or other incentives for participation
- ◆ Participants must forgo work furlough--they must be willing to complete the entire in-prison program.
- ◆ All participants who complete the TC are paroled, none go back to general population.
- ◆ Inmates who are rejected from the TC are sent to other institutions.

“Joint Venture” Approach

- ◆ Regular cross training between CDC and Amity insures sensitivity by both to issues of security and treatment.
- ◆ All Amity staff trained by CDC in security “basics” --40 hour new hire security training
- ◆ Correctional supervisors and officers work collaboratively with Amity staff to provide an intense, “seamless” environment that fosters holistic change in attitudes, beliefs, and behavior.



TC Curriculum



- ◆ All participants are involved in an comprehensive written curriculum developed by Naya Arbiter (Extensions, LLC) specifically for Amity, and specifically for incarcerated drug abusing offenders. Counselors are trained in the delivery of the curriculum.
- ◆ The Curriculum is phased and involves encounter groups, workshops, seminars, video playback, psychodrama, written and oral exercises, post-release planning; relationship training; emotional intelligence and moral development exercises.

The Amity Staff

- ◆ Racially integrated, mostly ex-addicts & ex-offenders who are “credible role models” to inmate participants. Several were in the original cohort of participants when Amity began the program in 1990-1991
- ◆ Staff participate in week-long immersion style training yearly to improve their skills and to increase their understanding of the changing inmate culture.



Community begins with staff



- ◆ Staff participate in regular scheduled encounter groups with each other; and use other TC tools and practices as well to improve communication, resolve conflicts, and insure that expectations are consistent.
- ◆ The “first circle” of community is the staff itself