



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

July 16, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Winder, SD DOC Communications and Information Manager

State juvenile offender population continues downward trend

Pierre, S.D.- The number of youth in the care of the state Department of Corrections continues to decrease.

On June 30th, the number of youth in the state juvenile corrections system totaled 811, a decrease of 45 youth from the same time a year earlier. The number of youth in state-run programs at the State Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) Academy dropped from 157 in June 2009 to 136 a year later. The number of youth in other placement decreased from 307 in June 2009 to 299 in June 2010. The number of youth on aftercare dropped from 392 in June 2009 to 376 in June 2010.

“We have experienced a steady reduction in the number of youth in our care over the past eight years which is an encouraging sign for the future of South Dakota,” said Corrections Secretary Tim Reisch.

The average daily count (ADC) of juvenile offenders in the state system during state fiscal year 2002 was 1,135 while the ADC during FY 2010 was just 830. During the same period of time, the ADC for STAR Academy programs dropped from 200 to 134. The ADC of youth in other placement was 349 during FY 2002. During FY 2010 the ADC was 290. The ADC of youth on aftercare during FY 2002 was 586 but during FY 2010 the number was just 406.

The average length of stay has also decreased in each program at STAR Academy from FY 2003 to FY 2010.

“These achievements can be credited to our adoption of evidence based practices, specifically on the identification of individual risks and needs of the youth, taking a more individualized focus to programming, the adoption of open-ended programming and the development of community based treatment options,” added Reisch.