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Mississippi Department of Corrections

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Volume II

Total Tested Inmate Population

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INTRODUCTION

This report is a follow-up to the previously published report entitled Analysis of Academic Performance Volume I. The purpose of Volume II is to evaluate the present total tested inmate population in terms of the three tested academic areas, i.e., reading, writing, and arithmetic levels.

Data was drawn from the Mississippi Department of Corrections, Systems Development computer files. Average test scores were used in making comparisons. Results are presented in both narrative and tabular form.

Test results were available on 540 inmates. These prisoners constitute the Target Population of this report.

An attempt was made to compare the total tested inmate population to the general population of the State of Mississippi as a whole. Since documented testing information is not readily available on civilian adults, information was taken from the State Department of Education, Adult Education Program. A sample was taken of adults enrolled in adult basic education centers at various locations around the state. Age ranged from 16 years to 80 years. As determined from the sample, the average reading, writing, and arithmetic level for those enrolled in Adult Education Classes is sixth grade in all the academic areas.

MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Tested reading level for the Target Population ranges from first grade to college graduate level with the average being 5th grade. Tested writing and arithmetic levels for this population are near the same, approximately 5th grade and 4th grade respectively, with writing ranging from 1st grade to college senior and arithmetic from 1st grade to college senior.
2. In all but one academic area (the reading level of white inmates) the Tested Population falls considerably beneath averages for adults enrolled in adult basic education programs. Approximately 50 percent read below the 6th grade, while 63 percent write below the 6th grade and 69 percent function at less than 6th grade in arithmetic.
3. Approximately 41 percent of the total tested population function at the fourth grade level or lower in at least one of the three tested areas (reading).
4. However, a large segment of the Tested Population has the intelligence to perform at higher academic levels than testing indicates. Approximately 34 percent are of normal intelligence and 6 percent are of higher. Although 61 percent fall below normal, 29 percent of the total test at dull normal. In short, 69 percent test above borderline.
5. Of the 41 percent who function at a fourth grade reading level or lower, approximately 38 percent test at dull normal intelligence or higher.
6. Older inmates, those that probably finished high school before 1964, test higher academically than the younger group. In fact, performance progressively decreases from the oldest to the youngest group.

SUMMARY FINDINGS

Of the total Target Population of 540 inmates:

271 (50%) read below the average of those enrolled in adult basic education, but 113 of these (21% of the 540 and 42% of the 271) test at dull normal intelligence or higher and could perform better academically if properly educated.

341 (63%) write below the average of those enrolled in adult basic education, but 172 of those (32% of the 540 and 50% of the 341) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

371 (69%) function below the average arithmetic level of those enrolled in adult basic education, but 194 of these (36% of the 540 and 52% of the 194) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

220 (41%) read at a fourth grade level or lower, but 84 of these (16% of the 540 and 38% of the 220) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

289 (54%) write at a fourth grade level or lower, but 131 (24% of the 540 and 45% of the 289) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

304 (56%) function at a fourth grade level or lower in arithmetic, but 138 of these (26% of 540 and 45% of the 304) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

Of 353 black inmates:

218 (62%) read below the average of those enrolled in adult basic education, but 85 of these (24% of the 353 and 39% of 218) test at dull normal intelligence or higher and could do better if properly educated.

256 (73%) write below the average of those enrolled in adult basic education, but 113 of these (32% of the 353 and 44% of 256) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

284 (80%) function below the average arithmetic level of those enrolled in adult basic education but 134 of these (38% of the 353 and 47% of 284) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

180 (51%) read at a fourth grade level or lower, but of these 63 (18% of the 353 and 35% of the 180) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

225 (64%) write at a fourth grade level or lower, but of these 92 (26% of the 353 and 41% of the 225) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

238 (67%) perform arithmetic at a fourth grade level or lower, but of these 97 (27% of the 353 and 41% of the 238) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

Of 187 white inmates:

53 (28%) read below the average of those enrolled in adult basic education, but of these 28 (15% of the 187 and 53% of

the 53) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

65 (35%) write below the average of those enrolled in adult basic education, but of these 59 (32% of the 187 and 91% of the 65) test at dull normal intelligence or higher).

87 (47%) perform arithmetic below the averages of those enrolled in adult basic education, but of these 60 (32% of the 187 and 69% of the 87) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

40 (21%) read at a fourth grade level or lower, but of these 21 (11% of the 187 and 53% of the 40) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

44 (24%) write at a fourth grade level or lower, but of these 39 (21% of the 187 and 89% of the 44) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

87 (47%) perform arithmetic at a fourth grade level or lower, but of these 41 (22% of the 187 and 47% of the 87) test at dull normal intelligence or higher.

There is significant evidence to indicate that persons who test at the dull normal level of intelligence can be significantly advanced. Of the 145 inmates of all races who tested at dull normal intelligence:

101 (70% of the 145) read above the fourth grade level.

76 (52% of the 145) write above a fourth grade level.

69 (48% of the 145) function above a fourth grade arithmetic level.

41 (28% of the 145) function above the average (6th grade) of those enrolled in adult basic education across the state.

36 (25% of the 145) function above the average (6th grade) of those enrolled in adult basic education across the state.

21 (14% of the 145) function above the average (6th grade) of those enrolled in adult basic education across the state.

CONCLUSIONS

By averaging percentages, it is estimated that approximately 50 percent of this Target Population demonstrates a need for remedial education and also possesses the intelligence to benefit from it.

Approximately 41 percent function at a fourth grade level or lower in at least one of the tested areas and are therefore considered to be in dire need of remedial education. Of this sub-group, 38 percent are smart enough to advance academically.

(NOTE: These conclusions reflect bottom line data only. Working papers and methodology may be reviewed upon request.)

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the evidence provided in this report and the additional support provided by Volume I, the Department of Corrections should carefully assess its present capacity for delivering adult basic education and seriously consider its expansion and upgrading.

The Target Population is, of course, a sampling. If the percentages contained in this report were applied to the entire inmate population, it would seem that the need for increased remedial education would become glaringly apparent.

TESTED READING LEVEL
 NO. = 540 Average = 5th Grade

	WHITE	BLACK	TOTAL	% OF TESTED POPULATION
GRADE 1	14	52	66	(12)
2	9	52	61	(11)
3	11	40	51	(9)
4	6	36	42	(8)
<u>Subtotal 5</u>	<u>13 (53)</u>	<u>38 (218)</u>	<u>51 (271)</u>	<u>(9) (50%)</u>
6*	31	56	87	(16)
7	16	29	45	(8)
8	19	17	36	(7)
9	17	12	29	(5)
10	12	7	19	(4)
11	10	1	11	(2)
12	16	4	20	(4)
13	3	2	5	(1)
14	2	4	6	(1)
15	4	1	5	(1)
16	1	2	3	(1)
17	1	0	1	(1)
18	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>(1)</u>
TOTAL	187	353	540	(100)

*Average for sample population of adults enrolled in adult basic education programs around the State.

TESTED WRITING LEVEL
 NO. = 353 Average = 5th Grade

	WHITE	BLACK	TOTAL	% OF TESTED POPULATION
GRADE 1	2	18	20	(4)
2	12	64	76	(14)
3	21	70	91	(17)
4	29	73	102	(19)
Subtotal 5	21 (85)	31 (256)	52 (341)	(10) (64%)
6*	23	35	58	(11)
7	21	24	45	(8)
8	19	10	29	(5)
9	15	12	27	(5)
10	13	4	17	(3)
11	1	6	7	(1)
12	3	1	4	(1)
13	2	4	6	(1)
14	2	0	2	(1)
15	2	1	3	(1)
16	1	0	1	(1)
17	0	0	0	(0)
18	0	0	0	(0)
TOTAL	187	353	540	(100)

*Average for sample population of adults enrolled in adult basic education programs around the State.

TESTED ARITHMETIC LEVEL
 NO. = 353 Average = 4th Grade

	WHITE	BLACK	TOTAL	% OF TESTED POPULATION
GRADE 1	7	33	40	(7)
2	7	65	72	(13)
3	30	77	107	(20)
4	22	63	85	(16)
<u>Subtotal 5</u>	<u>21 (87)</u>	<u>46 (284)</u>	<u>67 (371)</u>	<u>(12) (68%)</u>
6*	54	57	111	(21)
7	28	8	36	(7)
8	5	3	8	(1)
9	6	0	6	(1)
10	4	0	4	(1)
11	0	0	0	(0)
12	2	1	3	(1)
13	0	0	0	(0)
14	0	0	0	(0)
15	0	0	0	(0)
16	1	0	1	(1)
17	0	0	0	(0)
18	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(0)</u>
TOTAL	187	353	540	(100)

*Average for sample population of adults enrolled in adult basic education programs around the State.

TESTED READING LEVEL
N = 540

DATE OF BIRTH	1945 OR BEFORE	1946-1950	1951-1955	1956-1960	TOTAL
GRADE 1	12	12	19	23	66
2	8	12	22	19	61
3	11	9	19	12	51
4	9	5	16	12	42
<u>Subtotal 5</u>	<u>10 (50)</u>	<u>6 (44)</u>	<u>19 (95)</u>	<u>16 (82)</u>	<u>51 (271)</u>
6*	14	16	23	34	87
7	8	7	15	15	45
8	7	7	13	9	36
9	1	5	14	9	29
10	4	5	9	1	19
11	6	3	1	1	11
12	5	4	9	2	20
13	0	0	2	3	5
14	2	2	1	1	6
15	2	0	2	1	5
16	1	2	0	0	3
17	1	0	0	0	1
18	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	102	95	185	158	540

*Average for sample population of adults enrolled in adult basic education programs around the State.

TESTED WRITING LEVEL
N = 540

DATE OF BIRTH	1945 OR BEFORE	1946-1950	1951-1955	1956-1960	TOTAL
GRADE 1	2	1	10	7	20
2	11	15	19	31	76
3	24	14	36	17	91
4	12	20	32	38	102
Subtotal 5	11 (60)	8 (58)	16 (113)	17 (110)	52 (341)
6*	10	8	23	17	58
7	8	9	15	13	45
8	7	8	7	7	29
9	8	2	10	7	27
10	3	5	8	1	17
11	0	3	3	1	7
12	1	0	2	1	4
13	2	0	3	1	6
14	2	0	0	0	2
15	1	2	0	0	3
16	0	0	1	0	1
17	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	102	95	185	158	540

*Average for sample population of adults enrolled in adult basic education programs around the State.

TESTED ARITHMETIC LEVEL
N = 540

DATE OF BIRTH	1945 OR BEFORE	1946-1950	1951-1955	1956-1960	TOTAL
GRADE 1	13	8	11	8	40
2	11	16	28	17	72
3	15	10	40	42	107
4	14	21	25	25	85
Subtotal 5	12 (65)	6 (61)	20 (124)	29 (121)	67 (371)
6*	23	20	43	25	111
7	10	11	8	7	36
8	0	1	4	3	8
9	2	1	2	1	6
10	0	1	2	1	4
11	0	0	0	0	0
12	2	0	1	0	3
13	0	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0
16	0	0	1	0	1
17	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	102	95	185	158	540

*Average for sample population of adults enrolled in adult basic education programs around the State.

TESTED INTELLIGENCE
 N = 506 Average = 4.9

INTELLIGENCE	RACE		TOTAL	% OF REPORTED TESTED POP.
	WHITE	BLACK		
1 Very Superior	1	0	1	(<1)
2 Superior	5	2	7	(1)
3 Bright Normal	10	9	19	(4)
4 Normal	88	84	172	(34)
5 Dull Normal	50	95	145	(29)
6 Borderline	17	86	103	(20)
7 Mental Defective	9	50	59	(12)
<hr/>				
Total	180	326	506	(100)

READING
BLACK N = 353

TESTED INTELLIGENCE	VERY SUPERIOR	SUPERIOR	BRIGHT NORMAL	NORMAL	DULL NORMAL	BORDERLINE	MENTAL DEFECTIVE	NOT REPORTED	TOTAL
TESTED GRADE LEVEL									
1				4	6	21	17	4	52
2			2	9	9	14	14	4	52
3				6	9	11	11	3	40
4		1	1	7	9	12	4	2	36
5			2	4	16	10	1	5	38
6				17	25	8	3	3	56
7				8	13	7		1	29
8			2	7	5	1		2	17
9				7	1	2		2	12
10		1		5	1				7
11					1				1
12			1	2				1	4
13				2					2
14				4					4
15				1					1
16			1	1					2
17									
18									
TOTAL		2	9	84	95	86	50	27	353

WRITING
BLACK N = 353

TESTED INTELLIGENCE	VERY SUPERIOR	SUPERIOR	BRIGHT NORMAL	NORMAL	DULL NORMAL	BORDERLINE	MENTAL DEFECTIVE	NOT REPORTED	TOTAL
TESTED GRADE LEVEL									
1				1	1	5	10	1	18
2			2	9	7	25	17	4	64
3		1	1	10	20	21	9	8	70
4			2	16	22	18	12	3	73
5			2	11	8	5	1	4	31
6				8	16	7	1	3	35
7				9	10	4		1	24
8				3	5			2	10
9				9	3				12
10			1	2	1				4
11		1		2	1	1		1	6
12				1					1
13			1	2	1				4
14									
15				1					1
16									
17									
18									
TOTAL		2	9	84	95	86	50	27	353

ARITHMETIC
BLACK N = 353

TESTED INTELLIGENCE	VERY SUPERIOR	SUPERIOR	BRIGHT NORMAL	NORMAL	DULL NORMAL	BORDERLINE	MENTAL DEFECTIVE	NOT REPORTED	TOTAL
TESTED GRADE LEVEL 1				1	3	12	15	2	33
2				5	9	26	18	7	65
3			1	18	22	21	10	5	77
4			1	16	21	17	4	4	63
5		1	2	11	23	5	2	2	46
6		1	4	27	15	3	1	6	57
7				4	1	2		1	8
8			1	2					3
9									
10									
11									
12					1				1
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
TOTAL		2	9	84	95	86	50	27	353

READING
WHITE N = 187

TESTED INTELLIGENCE	VERY SUPERIOR	SUPERIOR	BRIGHT NORMAL	NORMAL	DULL NORMAL	BORDERLINE	MENTAL DEFECTIVE	NOT REPORTED	TOTAL
TESTED GRADE LEVEL									
1				4	2	4	4		14
2			1	1	1	4	2		9
3				2	5	2	2		11
4				2	3	1			6
5				3	4	3	1	2	13
6			1	11	15	3		1	31
7				10	6				16
8			1	11	7				19
9			2	11	3			1	17
10			1	7	4				12
11		1		9					10
12			2	13				1	16
13		1		2					3
14				1				1	2
15		2	1					1	4
16				1					1
17			1						1
18	1	1							2
TOTAL	1	5	10	88	50	17	9	7	187

WRITING
WHITE N = 187

TESTED INTELLIGENCE	VERY SUPERIOR	SUPERIOR	BRIGHT NORMAL	NORMAL	DULL NORMAL	BORDERLINE	MENTAL DEFECTIVE	NOT REPORTED	TOTAL
TESTED GRADE LEVEL									
1					1	1			2
2			1		1	5	5		12
3				3	10	6	2		21
4			2	14	7	2	1	3	29
5				10	10	1			21
6			1	15	6	1			23
7				14	6	1			21
8			1	12	4		1	1	19
9		2	1	9	2			1	15
10		1	2	6	2			2	13
11				1					1
12		1	1		1				3
13		1		1					2
14	1			1					2
15			1	1					2
16				1					1
17									
18									
TOTAL	1	5	10	88	50	17	9	7	187

ARITHMETIC
WHITE N = 187

TESTED INTELLIGENCE	VERY SUPERIOR	SUPERIOR	BRIGHT NORMAL	NORMAL	DULL NORMAL	BORDERLINE	MENTAL DEFECTIVE	NOT REPORTED	TOTAL
TESTED GRADE LEVEL									
1				2		3	2		7
2			1		2	3	1		7
3				6	11	6	6	1	30
4				11	8	2		1	22
5			1	8	10	1		1	21
6		1	3	34	14	1		1	54
7		1	4	15	5	1		2	28
8			1	3				1	5
9				6					6
10		2		2					4
11	1			1					2
12									
13									
14									
15									
16		1							1
17									
18									
TOTAL	1	5	10	88	50	17	9	7	187

END