

California Department of Corrections

Institution: **California Department of Corrections**

Scope of Work: ***Reading Horizons* was selected by California State University from among 24 other bids for use in the California Inmate Literacy Project (1994-1997). The following results describe the full three-year evaluation. Inmates enrolled in *Reading Horizons* included, among others, ESL students testing at or below fourth-grade reading level upon entry.**

California Inmate Literacy Project (1994-1997). The data available show inmates made noticeable progress in this program. The results were surprising, since the majority of inmates were learning English as a Second Language.

Tool: **The WRAT (Wide Range Achievement Test)**

Time Frame: **Three-year study conducted between 1994-1997**

Demographics

In this program, Hispanics, the largest group, made the greatest gains, followed by Asian inmates. Black inmates, the second largest group, achieved an average grade gain of 1.7. It should be noted that the number of Native Americans and Asian inmates is so small that the results are not generalized.

Racial and Ethnic Background	Number of Inmates	Pre-test	Post-test	Grade Gain
American Indian	1	4.2	4.2	0.0
Asian	6	4.0	6.0	2.0
Black	74	4.9	6.6	1.7
Hispanic	270	5.4	7.8	2.4
White	17	4.2	5.7	1.5
Other	31	5.5	5.9	0.4
Average and Totals	400	5.2	7.3	2.1

**California Department of Corrections Inmate Literacy Project, in
Cooperation with the HEC *Reading Horizons* Program***

Institution	Number of Inmates	Entry Grade	Current Grade	Grade Gain
Avenal State Prison	48	5.2	8.1	2.9
California Correctional Institution, Susanville	-	-	-	-
California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi	10	5.7	9.8	4.1
California Institute for Men, Chino	-	-	-	-
California Institute for Women, Frontera	-	-	-	-
California Medical Facility, Vacaville	1	2.1	4.3	2.2
California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo	38	8.4	9.5	1.2
California Rehabilitation Center, Norco	25	5.5	5.9	0.4
California State Prison, Corcoran	1	2.4	3.4	1.0
California State Prison, Los Angeles County	11	7.9	9.5	1.6
California State Prison, Solano	36	5.3	7.7	3.0
California State Prison	10	2.2	4.4	2.2
Central California Women's Facility, Chowchilla	4	2.6	4.9	2.3
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Blythe	39	5.7	8.2	2.5
Correctional Training Facility, Soledad	12	3.7	6.7	3.0
Deuel Vocational Institute, Tracy	67	3.6	5.5	1.9
Folsom State Prison	35	5.1	7.5	4.3
Ironwood State Prison, Blythe	24	4.5	5.0	0.5
Mule Creek State Prison, Lone	21	7.3	11.3	4.0
North Kern State Prison, Delano	3	4.0	3.4	-0.6
R.J. Donovan Correction Facility, San Diego	11	3.7	5.0	1.3
Sierra Conservation Camp, Jamestown	-	-	-	-
Wasco State Prison	4	2.1	4.2	2.1
Total	400	5.2	7.3	2.1

*Reading gains correlated with WRAT test.

Evaluator's Observations:

- By institution, the gains made by the inmates ranged from -0.6 to 4.3 grades.
- On average, inmates for whom both pre- and post-test scores are available exhibit a 2.1 grade gain.
- Student progress was remarkable.

To view a video about this study, please visit: http://www.readinghorizons.com/research/studies/california_corrections.aspx