This document is made available electronically by the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library as part of an ongoing digital archiving project. http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.asp

# Minnesota Felony Driving While Impaired Report 2014

January 2015
Minnesota Department of Corrections
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-5219
(651) 361-7200
TTY (800) 627-3529
www.doc.state.mn.us

This information will be made available in alternative format upon request. Printed on recycled paper with at least 10 percent post-consumer waste.

The total cost of salaries, printing, and supplies incurred in the development and preparation of this report is \$2,615 (reported as required by M.S. 3.197).

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1							
Introduction								
Data and Methods								
Commitments to Prison	4							
County of Commitment								
Offender Demographics								
Criminal History								
Sentences								
Chemical Dependency Treatment in Prison	9							
Releases and Reincarcerations								
Challenge Incarceration Program	10							
Per Diem	12							
Conclusion.	12							
References	14							
Table 1. Prison Admissions by Fiscal Year and Admission Type								
Table 1. Prison Admissions by Fiscal Year and Admission Type	4							
Table 2. Prison Admissions by Committing County Location								
Table 3. Prison Admissions by Committing County								
Table 4. Demographic Characteristics at Prison Admission								
Table 5. Criminal Histories at Prison Admission								
Table 6. Sentence Length by Admission Type								
Table 7. Probation Revocation Reasons								
Table 8. Chemical Dependency Treatment Status								
Table 9. Chemical Dependency Primary Treatment Outcome								
Table 10. Supervision Status at Release								
Table 11. Status of Offenders Admitted to CIP	10							
Table 12. Reasons Offenders Failed CIP								
Table 13. Failure Rates by Phase for Offenders Admitted to CIP								
Table 14. Average Adult Operational Per Diem by Fiscal Year	12							
FIGURES								
Figure 1. Prison Admissions by Fiscal Year and Admission Type	5							

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is the sixth legislatively-mandated report (Minnesota Statute 2009, Section 244.085) on felony driving while impaired (DWI) offenders committed to the commissioner of corrections. In 2009, the legislature amended the statute, narrowing the scope of the report from all persons convicted of a felony DWI to only those felony DWI offenders admitted to prison.

#### **Incidence and County Characteristics**

- Between September 1, 2002, and June 30, 2014, a total of 2,599 offenders were admitted to prison 2,989 times for a felony DWI offense as either a new court commitment or a probation violator.
- Admissions increased sharply in the early years after the law went into effect, peaking in fiscal year 2008 with 323. In subsequent years, annual admissions have ranged between 262 and 304; 268 admissions occurred in fiscal year 2014.
- An average of 148 offenders were admitted each year as a new court commitment compared to an average of 102 offenders admitted each year as a probation violator.
- The state's two most populous counties, Hennepin and Ramsey, together account for 27.9 percent of the offenders admitted to prison for a felony DWI offense, which is slightly less than the percentage of the population (31.3%) residing in those counties.
- Counties from outside of the metropolitan area accounted for 59 percent of the offenders admitted to prison for a felony DWI, yet 46 percent of the state's population reside in these counties.

#### **Offender Characteristics**

- The typical felony DWI offender admitted to prison is a male who is in his thirties or early forties.
- Felony DWI offenders have been convicted of an average of four non-felony DWI offenses prior to prison admission. Most have not had a prior felony DWI conviction. Many of these offenders have received convictions for other criminal behavior that does not involve drinking and driving. On average, these offenders have been convicted of a total of nearly 10 non-felony offenses and 2.6 felony offenses prior to admission.

## **Sentencing Characteristics**

- On average, new court commitments received a sentence of 51.1 months while probation violators received a sentence of 45.0 months.
- Over half (51.6%) of the offenders given an executed sentence and committed to prison as a new court commitment received a sentence of 49 months or more compared to 16.1 percent of those given an executed sentence upon revocation of probation.
- Offenders can have their probation revoked for multiple reasons and all revocation reasons were collected for those admitted as a probation violator. Alcohol use was cited for more than half (57.4%) of the probation violators, and use of drugs was cited for 20.4 percent. Commission of a new offense was cited for 41.9 percent of the cases. Refusing chemical dependency treatment or failing to complete chemical dependency treatment was cited as a revocation reason for 23.9 percent of the cases.

## Prison-Based Treatment and Post-Release Supervision

- The majority (83.2%) of the felony DWI offenders admitted to prison have entered a primary chemical dependency treatment program. Many of the remaining offenders have been assessed as chemically dependent or abusive of one or more substances and are awaiting treatment.
  - Of the 2,486 offenders who have entered a primary chemical dependency treatment program in prison, 363 of these offenders (14.6%) entered a primary treatment program twice, and 61 (2.5%) entered a primary treatment program three or four times.
  - o Roughly 68 percent of primary treatment episodes were completed.
- A total of 2,494 (83.4%) of the 2,989 felony DWI offenders admitted to prison during the time frame examined were released from prison. Approximately 21 percent (20.9%) were released to the Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) Phase II community supervision, and fewer than 2 percent were released to Intensive Supervised Release (ISR). Most were placed on supervised release or another form of community supervision, such as work release, at the time of release from prison.
  - o Of those released to supervision, 38 percent were returned to prison for violating one or more conditions of their supervision.
  - Of those released to supervision, 11.1 percent were returned to prison for a new felony sentence.
- A total of 634 offenders, accounting for 21.2 percent of all felony DWI prison admissions, entered CIP.
  - o As of June 30, 2014, 95 of these offenders were in one of the three phases of the program, 372 had completed the program, and 167 had failed.
    - The failure rate was slightly higher in Phase I than in Phase II or Phase III. Failure rates for Phase II and Phase III were 9.2 and 10.6 percent, respectively, compared to 12.8 percent for Phase I.

#### INTRODUCTION

In June 2001, the Minnesota Legislature amended the state's DWI laws by creating a felony-level offense. The felony offense applies to individuals who violate the state's DWI laws and have prior convictions for three or more DWIs within the last ten years, a previous conviction for a felony DWI, or a previous conviction for criminal vehicular homicide or injury under M.S. 609.21 (offenders convicted under 609.21 are often but not always found to be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance). The law stipulates a mandatory sentence that can be no less than three years but no greater than seven years, and the court may stay execution of the sentence but not imposition of the sentence.

Minnesota sentencing guidelines presume an executed sentence of imprisonment for offenders convicted of a felony DWI who have a criminal history score greater than two or those who have a previous felony DWI conviction, regardless of criminal history score. Offenders who receive an executed sentence also are placed on conditional release for an additional five years after their release from prison. Those who fail to comply with the conditions of their release may have their supervised release revoked and may be returned to prison. Sentencing guidelines presume a stayed sentence for offenders convicted of a felony DWI who have a criminal history score of two or less. For those who receive a stayed sentence, the court must apply the mandatory penalties for non-felony DWI offenses which may include a jail term, intensive supervised release, long-term alcohol monitoring, and any chemical dependency treatment recommended. The court may order the stayed sentence to be executed if any conditions are violated; if so, the offender is committed to the commissioner of corrections and incarcerated in prison.

This is the sixth report on felony DWI offenders committed to the commissioner of corrections. Between fiscal years 2003 and 2007, the DOC published annual reports on all offenders convicted of a felony DWI as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 244.085. In 2009, the legislature amended that statute and narrowed the scope of the report. Specifically, the scope was reduced from all persons convicted of a felony DWI to those convicted of a felony DWI and sentenced to prison, which includes offenders given an executed sentence (new court commitments) and those whose stayed sentence was executed following a probation violation (probation violators).

#### DATA AND METHODS

The felony DWI law went into effect on August 1, 2002, and the first felony DWI offender was admitted to prison in September 2002. A total of 2,599 offenders were admitted to prison 2,989 times as either a new court commitment or a probation violator between September 1, 2002, and June 30, 2014. An additional 935 admissions of release violators occurred during this time; these offenders are not included in the primary analysis for this report but are included in the section addressing release violation rates. A portion of the data on offenders incarcerated prior to July 1, 2007, was obtained from the 2007 report submitted by the commissioner of corrections (Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2007) and the database created for that report. Reasons for probation revocation were collected from the counties in which the offender was convicted, and all other data were derived from the Department of Corrections' Correctional Operations Management System (COMS).

#### **COMMITMENTS TO PRISON**

Table 1 shows the number of new court commitment and probation violator admissions, by fiscal year, of offenders with a felony DWI as their governing offense. Figure 1 displays the Table 1 data graphically. The table reveals a rapid increase in felony DWI admissions occurring in the first three fiscal years after the law went into effect. Total admissions continued to increase, but more slowly, peaking at 323 in fiscal year 2008. In years since, probation violator admissions have been down from their peak levels. However, new court commitments reached a new high in fiscal year 2013, with 192, before declining to 171 in fiscal year 2014.

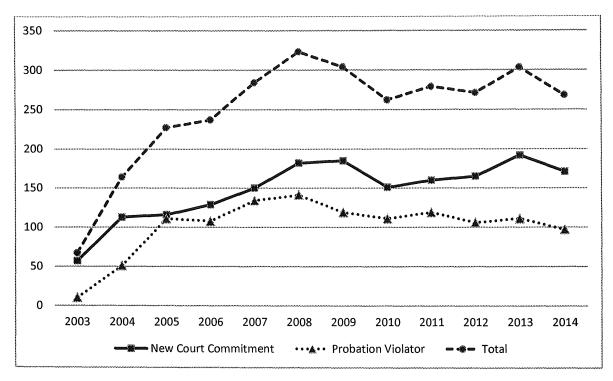
Table 1 also shows that, on average, the department admitted to prison 249 felony DWI offenders per year, over the last twelve fiscal years. Fifty-nine percent of these admissions were new court commitments.

Table 1. Prison Admissions by Fiscal Year and Admission Type

Fiscal Year	New Court Commitment				То	tal
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2003	57	85.1	10	14.9	67	100.0
2004	113	68.9	51	31.1	164	100.0
2005	116	51.1	111	48.9	227	100.0
2006	129	54.4	108	45.6	237	100.0
2007	150	52.8	134	47.2	284	100.0
2008	182	56.3	141	43.7	323	100.0
2009	185	60.9	119	39.1	304	100.0
2010	151	57.6	111	42.4	262	100.0
2011	160	57.3	119	42.7	279	100.0
2012	165	60.9	106	39.1	271	100.0
2013	192	63.4	111	36.6	303	100.0
2014	171	63.8	97	36.2	268	100.0
Total	1,771	59.3	1,218	40.7	2,989	100.0
Average	148		102		249	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Offenders returned to prison for violating their release conditions who initially were incarcerated for a felony DWI offense – release violators – are not included in this table but are included in a later section of this report.





### COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

Prison admissions for felony DWI disproportionately originate in non-metropolitan counties (Table 2). Just 41 percent of the offenders admitted to prison for a felony DWI offense were committed by one of the seven counties comprising the metropolitan area – Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington – but nearly 54 percent of the state's population reside in one of these seven counties. Counties from outside of the metropolitan area accounted for 59 percent of the offenders admitted to prison for a felony DWI, yet 46 percent of the state's population reside in these counties.

Table 2. Prison Admissions by Committing County Location

County	Number	Percent	Percent of Population
Metro Counties	1,225	41.0	53.6
Non-Metro Counties	1,764	59.0	46.4
Total	2,989	100.0	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010)

Additional analysis, not shown here, which separated prison admissions into new court commitments and probation violators, showed a somewhat higher percentage of new court commitment admissions in non-metropolitan counties. Specifically, during fiscal year 2014, new court commitments accounted for about 57 percent of the felony DWI offenders admitted from metropolitan counties, and for non-metropolitan counties it was about 69 percent.

Table 3 shows the counties accounting for the greatest proportion of the felony DWI prison admissions as well as the percentage of the state's population residing in each county. Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the state's two most populous counties, together are responsible for 27.9 percent of the offenders admitted to prison for a felony DWI offense. This figure is slightly less than the percentage of the population (31.3%) residing in those counties. Many of the counties in the table are the most populous counties in the state, and five of them (Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka, and Washington) are within the metropolitan area.

**Table 3. Prison Admissions by Committing County** 

County	Number	Percent	Percent of Population
Hennepin	532	17.8	21.7
Ramsey	301	10.1	9.6
Dakota	144	4.8	7.5
St. Louis	141	4.7	3.8
Anoka	120	4.0	6.2
Clay	109	3.6	1.1
Olmsted	96	3.2	2.7
Polk	83	2.8	0.6
Stearns	73	2.4	2.8
Washington	69	2.3	4.5
Remaining Counties	1,321	44.2	38.9
Total	2,989	100.0	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010)

#### OFFENDER DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 4 shows the demographic characteristics of all felony DWI offenders admitted to prison between September 1, 2002, and June 30, 2014. The typical DWI offender admitted to prison is a white male who is in his thirties or early forties. The average age of these offenders at admission is 39.3 years.

Table 4. Demographic Characteristics at Prison Admission

Sex	Number	Percent	Race	Number	Percent	Age	Number	Percent
Male	2,715	90.8	White	1,918	64.2	Under 25	84	2.8
Female	274	9.2	Black	454	15.2	25 - 29	446	14.9
			American Indian	428	14.3	30 – 34	586	19.6
			Hispanic	158	5.3	35 – 39	542	18.1
			Asian	30	1.0	40 - 44	513	17.2
			Unknown	1	0.0	45 – 49	432	14.5
						50 and over	386	12.9
Total	2,989	100.0		2,989	100.0		2,989	100.0

#### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Data on offenders' prior criminal offenses were obtained through COMS. Prior offense information was obtained for all but 13 (0.4%) of the 2,989 felony DWI admissions in this study. Table 5 shows that offenders had been convicted of an average of 9.8 non-felony (i.e., misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor) offenses and 2.6 felony offenses prior to admission to prison for a felony DWI. The average number of prior non-felony impaired driving convictions was four, and the average number of prior felony impaired driving convictions was less than one (0.3). Most of the admissions (79%) were not preceded by a prior felony DWI conviction. Only convictions for DWI or refusal to submit to testing which resulted in a conviction for DWI were included when counting prior impaired driving offenses. Convictions for other offenses which often, but not always, involve impaired drivers (e.g., careless driving or criminal vehicular operation) were not included. Offenses that often occur after an impaired driving offense, including driving after license suspension or license revocation, also were not included.

Table 5. Criminal Histories at Prison Admission

	All Off		Impaired Driving Offenses		
	Non-Felony	Felony	Non-Felony	Felony	
Maximum	44	22	19	8	
Average	9.8	2.6	4.0	0.3	

Nearly 30 percent of the 2,599 offenders admitted for a felony DWI offense had one or more commitments to the commissioner for other offenses, prior to their first felony DWI admission. In all, 1,203 prior commitments to the commissioner were identified in COMS for these felony DWI offenders. The most prevalent offense categories for these previous commitments were drug, assault, and burglary offenses.

#### **SENTENCES**

Table 6 shows the pronounced sentence length of the 2,989 felony DWI prison admissions, by admission type. The data reveal that sentence lengths for offenders given an executed prison sentence typically were longer than those who initially received a stay of imposition or stay of execution. Over half (51.6%) of the offenders given an executed sentence and committed to prison as a new court commitment received a sentence of 49 months or more, compared to 16.1 percent of those given an executed sentence upon revocation of probation. On average, new court commitments received a sentence of 51.1 months while probation violators received a sentence of 45.0 months.

Table 6. Sentence Length by Admission Type

Sentence Length					Total	
Average			48.6 months			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
24 months or less	16	0.9	6	0.5	22	0.7
25 to 36 months	234	13.2	295	24.2	529	17.7
37 to 48 months	607	34.3	721	59.2	1,328	44.4
49 to 60 months	617	34.8	122	10.0	739	24.7
61 months or more	297	16.8	74	6.1	371	12.4
Total	1,771	100.0	1,218	100.0	2,989	100.0

Table 7 shows the reasons cited for the 1,218 offenders who were admitted to prison following revocation of a probation sentence. Offenders can have their probation revoked for multiple reasons, and all reasons are included in the following table. Use of alcohol, the most common revocation reason, was cited for 57.4 percent of the cases; use of drugs was cited for 20.4 percent of the cases. Failing general probation rules was cited for 44.8 percent of the cases, and failing repeat DWI probation rules was cited for 15.8 percent. Commission of a new offense was noted for 41.9 percent of the cases. Combined, refusing to enter or failing to complete chemical dependency treatment was cited as a revocation reason for just under one-fourth (23.9%) of the cases. The average number of revocation reasons cited per offender was two.

**Table 7. Probation Revocation Reasons** 

***************************************		
		Percent of Total
Reason	Number	Probation Revocations
Use of alcohol	699	57.4%
Failed general probation rules	546	44.8%
New offense	510	41.9%
Use of drugs	248	20.4%
Failed treatment	225	18.5%
Failed repeat DWI probation rules	193	15.8%
Refused treatment	66	5.4%
Other	74	6.1%
Unknown	10	0.8%

Note: Because an offender can have his or her probation revoked for multiple reasons, a total of 2,561 reasons were identified for the 1,218 probation revocations. The percentages presented in this table are based on the total number of probation revocations (N=1,218).

## CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT IN PRISON

Table 8 summarizes treatment and assessment data for the 2,989 admissions and classifies each according to the highest level achieved in the assessment and treatment continuum. In most cases (83.2%), felony DWI offenders admitted to prison entered a primary chemical dependency (CD) treatment program while in prison. Approximately 7 percent were assessed as dependent on, or abusive of, one or more substances and presently are awaiting treatment. About 10 percent (10.1%) had not been assessed as of June 30, 2014, or were assessed as chemically dependent or abusive but not entering primary treatment. Many of these offenders were probation violators who were not incarcerated long enough to complete treatment or were repeat felony DWI offenders who had completed treatment during a recent incarceration. A small number were determined to be unamenable to treatment.<sup>2</sup> Some felony DWI offenders have entered primary CD treatment more than once. Eight offenders have had four primary treatment episodes, while 53 have entered primary treatment three times, and 363 have entered primary treatment twice.

**Table 8. Chemical Dependency Treatment Status** 

Treatment Status	Number	Percent
Entered primary treatment	2,486	83.2
Awaiting treatment, assessed dependent or abusive	200	6.7
Not assessed/not entering primary treatment	303	10.1
Total	2,989	100.0

Table 9 summarizes the outcomes of all treatment episodes for the felony DWI offenders who entered primary chemical dependency treatment and for whom the outcome of this treatment was known as of June 30, 2014. Findings show that just over two-thirds (68.3%) of primary treatment episodes were completed or the offender participated in treatment until he or she was released; this is similar to the completion rate for all incarcerated offenders.<sup>3</sup> Approximately 15 percent (14.8%) of offenders were terminated from the program by program staff, and 11.5 percent of offenders quit.

Table 9. Chemical Dependency Primary Treatment Outcome

Treatment Outcome	Number	Percent
Completed	1,707	66.1
Participated until released	58	2.2
Terminated	383	14.8
Offender quit	297	11.5
Discharged by administration <sup>4</sup>	136	5.3
Total	2,581	100.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In the last 12 years, only eight felony DWI offenders were assessed as chemically abusive or dependent and determined to be unamenable to treatment. Several entered pre-treatment programming and were removed for assaultive or other behavior requiring disciplinary action.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Chemical dependency treatment completion rates for all adult inmates were 71 percent in fiscal year 2011 and 66 percent in fiscal year 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Offenders who are discharged by administration are removed from treatment for a variety of non-disciplinary reasons by prison administration and are not considered treatment failures. Unlike offenders who are terminated from treatment or those who quit, these offenders do not receive a sanction for leaving treatment.

#### RELEASES AND REINCARCERATIONS

A total of 2,494 (83.4%) of the 2,989 felony DWI prison admissions through fiscal year 2014 were released from prison as of June 30, 2014. As shown in Table 10, roughly 21 percent were released to the CIP community supervision. Only 48 of the 2,494 offenders, accounting for just fewer than 2 percent of those released, were placed on ISR. The majority of offenders (75.9%) were released to other community supervision, primarily supervised release or work release. Twenty-three (0.9%) of the offenders were discharged (generally by the court or an executive order) and therefore were not placed on community supervision. Eight offenders died while incarcerated.

Of the 2,463 releases to community supervision, <sup>5</sup> 935 (38%) returned to prison on revocations for technical violations as of June 30, 2014. In addition, 274 offenders (11.1%) were revoked after being resentenced for a new felony-level offense.

**Table 10. Supervision Status at Release** 

Supervision Status	Number	Percent
Challenge Incarceration Program community supervision	521	20.9
Intensive supervised release	48	1.9
Other community supervision	1,894	75.9
Discharged	23	0.9
Deceased	8	0.3
Total	2,494	100.0

#### CHALLENGE INCARCERATION PROGRAM

Roughly one of every five felony DWI prison admissions enters the CIP. Table 11 shows that as of June 30, 2014, there were 634 CIP admissions of offenders serving a felony DWI sentence. As of that date, 95 of these offenders were in one of the three phases of the program. Thirty-four of these offenders were in Phase I, the portion of the program which takes place while the offender is incarcerated; the remaining 61 offenders were in Phases II or III, the portions which take place in the community. A total of 372 offenders completed the CIP and were placed on supervised release. A total of 167 offenders failed to complete the CIP.

Table 11. Status of Offenders Admitted to the CIP

	Number
In CIP	
Phase I	34
Phase II	36
Phase III	25
Total	95
Completed CIP	372
Failed CIP	167
Total	634

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Offenders discharged as well as those who died while incarcerated were excluded from this analysis.

Table 12 shows the reasons offenders failed to complete the CIP by the phase in which they failed. Thirty (38%) of the 79 offenders who failed in Phase I committed a program violation, were removed from the program, and returned to the general prison population. Twenty quit, and 22 were removed from the program administratively. Some of the latter were found to have a warrant outstanding, the presence of which was not known by DOC staff at the time program eligibility was determined. Seven offenders had mental or physical issues that precluded their continued participation in Phase I. All but one of the 48 offenders who failed in Phase II committed a program violation while under community supervision and were returned to prison. Finally, all of the 40 offenders who failed while on Phase III committed program violations while under community supervision and were returned to prison.

Table 12. Reasons Offenders Failed the CIP

Reasons	Phase		Phase		Phase		Tota	al
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Offender quit	20	25.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	12.0
Mental/physical issue	7	8.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	4.2
Administrative decision	22	27.8	1	2.1	0	0.0	23	13.8
Revoked and returned	30	38.0	47	97.9	40	100.0	117	70.1
Total	79	100.0	48	100.0	40	100.0	167	100.0

Failure rates were calculated for each phase of the program and reported in Table 13. To compute failure rates by program phase, one must determine how many offenders had the opportunity to complete (and thus are "eligible to fail") each phase. Because each phase in CIP lasts approximately six months, offenders were included in the failure rate calculations for each phase only if they had enough time in the program to complete a phase.

For example, an offender who began Phase I after January 1, 2014, would still be in this phase by the end of time period covered in this report (June 30, 2014, the end of fiscal year 2014), since each phase takes a minimum of six months to complete. Including this offender, if he or she failed, would artificially increase Phase I failure rates since his or her successful counterpart who began at the same time is not included. Similarly, an offender who entered Phase II or Phase III after January 1, 2014, would not have had time to complete that phase by the end of fiscal year 2014. Four offenders known to have failed as of June 30, 2014, are excluded from the failure rate analysis on this basis.

To illustrate the failure rate calculation for Phase I, Table 11 showed that 634 offenders entered the CIP. Of these offenders, 34 are excluded from the calculation because they entered Phase I on or after January 1, 2014, and thus did not have enough time to complete this phase by June 30, 2014. Therefore, of the 634 offenders who entered the CIP, 600 had an opportunity to complete Phase I by June 30, 2014.

As shown in Table 13, failure rates were highest in Phase I, and somewhat lower in Phases II and III. The failure rate was 12.8 percent for Phase I, compared to 9.2 percent for Phase II and 10.6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Violation data are not available as only those violations which result in program failure are recorded in COMS.

percent for Phase III. All offenders who failed were removed from the program and returned to prison to serve their remaining sentence as determined by state statute.

Table 13. Failure Rates by Phase for Offenders Admitted to the CIP

***************************************		Number	
Phase	"Eligible"	"Eligible" to Fail	Failure Rate
	Failures		
Phase I	77	600	12.8
Phase II	45	488	9.2
Phase III	41	386	10.6

#### PER DIEM

The legislation governing this report requests information on the costs associated with the incarceration and treatment of felony DWI offenders committed to the commissioner of corrections. Per diem information, however, is available only on incarcerated adult offenders in general and is not disaggregated by offense type. In the 12 fiscal years since the inception of the felony DWI law, the average adult operational per diem, which includes treatment costs, increased from \$80.52 to \$86.47 (Table 14).

Table 14. Average Adult Operational Per Diem by Fiscal Year

***************************************	
	Average Adult
Fiscal	Operational
Year	Per Diem
2003	\$80.52
2004	\$76.80
2005	\$76.43
2006	\$80.11
2007	\$86.14
2008	\$89.77
2009	\$89.24
2010	\$83.95
2011	\$85.52
2012	\$84.59
2013	\$86.27
2014	\$86.47

## **CONCLUSION**

A total of 2,989 prison admissions of felony DWI offenders occurred between September 1, 2002, and June 30, 2014. Admissions increased sharply at first; annual admissions peaked in fiscal year 2008 with 323. In subsequent years, annual admissions have ranged between 262 and 304; 268 admissions occurred in fiscal year 2014. Fifty-nine percent of all admissions come from counties outside of the metropolitan area, although these counties account for just 46 percent of the state's population.

The typical felony DWI offender admitted to prison is a male who is in his thirties or early forties and has been convicted of a non-felony DWI four times prior to his incarceration. These offenders have committed other types of offenses as well, averaging a total of nearly ten non-felony convictions and 2.6 felony convictions prior to admission. The average sentence for those admitted as a new court commitment is 51.1 months compared to 45.0 months among probation violators. Many (83.2%) of the felony DWI offenders admitted to prison enter chemical dependency treatment while incarcerated. Among those who enter a primary treatment program, 66.1 percent successfully complete it.

Of those who have been released from prison, 521 offenders (20.9%) were released to CIP community supervision. Forty-eight offenders (1.9%) were placed on intensive supervised release. Thirty-eight percent of offenders released to community supervision were returned to prison for a technical violation, and 11.1 percent were returned for a new offense.

## **REFERENCES**

United States Census Bureau (2010). Census 2010. Washington, D.C.

Minnesota Department of Corrections (2007). *Minnesota Felony Driving While Impaired Report, 2007*. St. Paul, Minnesota