

Priority Topics

The Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) supports and conducts research activities relevant to its programs, services, operations, mission, and strategic goals. All research must comply with state and federal guidelines, be reviewed and receive approval from one or more of the following:

- Research and Data Analytics (RDA), and/or
- Washington State Institutional Review Board (WSIRB), and/or
- Research Review Committee (RRC)

All research should be scientifically sound and include:

- Well-defined scope
- Concise research questions
- Rigorous methodology
- Specific data variables requested
- Realistic timeline
- Proposed deliverables

RDA regularly receives research and data requests and must prioritize. Requests are prioritized based on:

- Executive Order and/or legislation, legal mandate, or imminent public safety risk
- Alignment with the agency's mission and strategic goals
- Partnerships with mutual benefit
- Requestor's correctional research experience and subject-matter expertise in the proposed topic
- Available resources to support the requests

See list below for priority topics related to the [2019-2023 Strategic Plan](#)

Keep People Safe	
Strategic Goals	Priority Topics
Decrease the rate of violence from 0.93 to 0.90 per 100 incarcerated individuals at prison and work release facilities by 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Program Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC Aggression Replacement Training (DOCART) • Operation Place Safety • Nature Imagery Program
Increase the rate of supervised individuals reporting from 78% to 80% by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Optimizing community supervision contact standards (home/field visits, text notifications, electronic monitoring)
Improve Lives	
Strategic Goals	Priority Topics
Decrease the first-year rate of return to institutions from 12% to 10% by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Program Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving On & Beyond Violence • Thinking for a Change • Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fire Crew
Increase the rate of continuity of care plans by 40% by 2023 for incarcerated individuals diagnosed with a substance use disorder, mental health, and/or chronic care condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Program Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment and utilization of Medicaid • Application of Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the community
Achieve Organizational Excellence	
Strategic Goals	Priority Topics
Provide full and partial confinement options within 100% of capacity by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendations and revised practices to hearings ➤ Program Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA) • Swift and Certain (SAC)
Engaged & Respected Employees	
Strategic Goals	Priority Topics
Increase the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect (EDIR) index from 61% to 65% by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hiring, training, and retention practices ➤ Staff safety, wellness, and job satisfaction ➤ Caseload model for prison and CCD