NEW YORK STATE | Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor
MARIA LISI-MURRAY, ESQ.
Acting Executive Director

August 3, 2026

Dr. Li-Wen Lee
Associate Commissioner
Division of Forensic Services
NYS Office of Mental Health
44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229

Jamie Donahue
Associate Commissioner
NYS Department of Corrections
And Community Supervision
The Harriman State Campus-Building 2
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12226-2050

Dear Dr. Lee and Associate Commissioner Donahue:

The Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (the Justice Center) is required to oversee compliance with the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) legislation and monitor the quality of corrections-based mental health care for incarcerated individuals (Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2008).

As part of our HALT monitoring responsibilities, we conducted a survey of incarcerated individuals to solicit information about programming, recreation and tablet use in segregated confinement. The attached report is an analysis of the responses received in the first quarter of 2026.

Please direct any correspondence or concerns related to this report to me at jody.signoracci@justicecenter.ny.gov. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jody Signoracci
Deputy Director, Office of Outreach, Prevention and Support

Cc: Maria Lisi-Murray, Esq., Acting Executive Director, Justice Center
Erika Beardsley, Executive Deputy Director
Dr. Jessica Pidgeon, Chief of Staff
Melissa Finn, Director, Forensics
Dr. Anne Sullivan, M.D., Commissioner, OMH
Danielle Dill, Executive Director, CNYPC
William Vertoske, Deputy Dir. Psychiatric Center, Corrections-Based Operations
Lisa Murphy, Director of Quality Management, OMH
Maureen Morrison, Director of Suicide Prevention, OMH
Meaghan Bernstein, Advocacy Letter Coordinator, OMH
Daniel Martuscello, Commissioner, DOCCS

NOTE: All correspondence related to this matter will be available for public inspection under Article 6 of the Public Officers Law. Material which will be required to be kept confidential or which is protected from disclosure under the Public Officers Law or other laws will be redacted prior to such disclosure.

PROGRAMMING AND RECREATION SURVEY ANALYSIS 2026

Quarter 1 Summary

Contents

Introduction 2
Surveys Received 2
Programming 4
Program Frequency 4
Provision of Programming, Encouragement of Attendance, and Program Names 9
Program Helpfulness 13
Desired Programs 15
Tablets 16
Tablet Frequency 16
Recreation 18
Recreation Type 18
Recreation Frequency 19
Conclusion 24
Programming 24
Recommendations 24
Appendix A: Programming and Recreation Opinion Survey 25
Appendix B: Data From 2023 through 2025 28
Surveys Received 28
Programing 30
Tablets 51
Recreation 53

Introduction

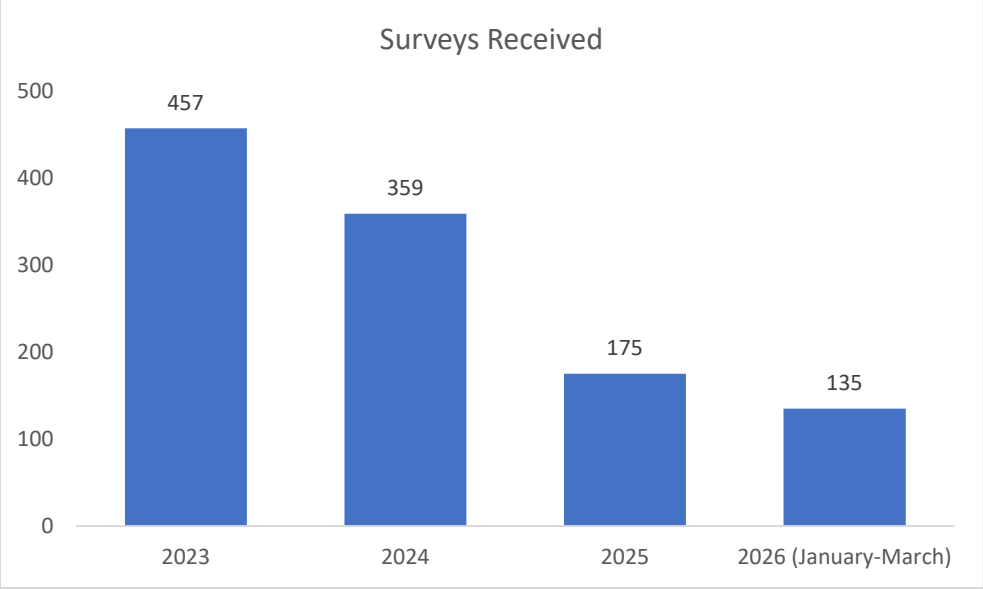
The Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act (HALT Act) as well as the quality of mental health care provided to people who are incarcerated in New York State correctional facilities.

The HALT Act limits the use of segregated confinement and requires that alternative rehabilitation measures, including the creation of Residential Rehabilitation Units (RRUs) focused on therapy, treatment and rehabilitation be implemented. Further, the legislation outlines requirements for the programming and recreation that is offered in RRU and Special Housing Units (SHU).

In 2022, the Justice Center created a survey[1] to obtain input directly from incarcerated individuals on the programming they receive in SHU, RRU, and other units housing individuals who received disciplinary sanctions. This survey has been distributed directly to incarcerated individuals during cell-side interviews with Justice Center staff at site visits conducted by the Justice Center since January 2023. Individuals who choose to complete the survey, mail them back to the Justice Center in self-addressed, stamped envelopes that are provided. This report summarizes the responses received from incarcerated individuals from the first quarter of 2026 (January through March). Responses from 2023 through 2025 are shown in Appendix B.

Surveys Received

To date, the Justice Center has distributed over 3,300 surveys to incarcerated individuals across 37 New York State correctional facilities and 1,126 have been completed and returned; 135 surveys have been returned in 2026.[2]



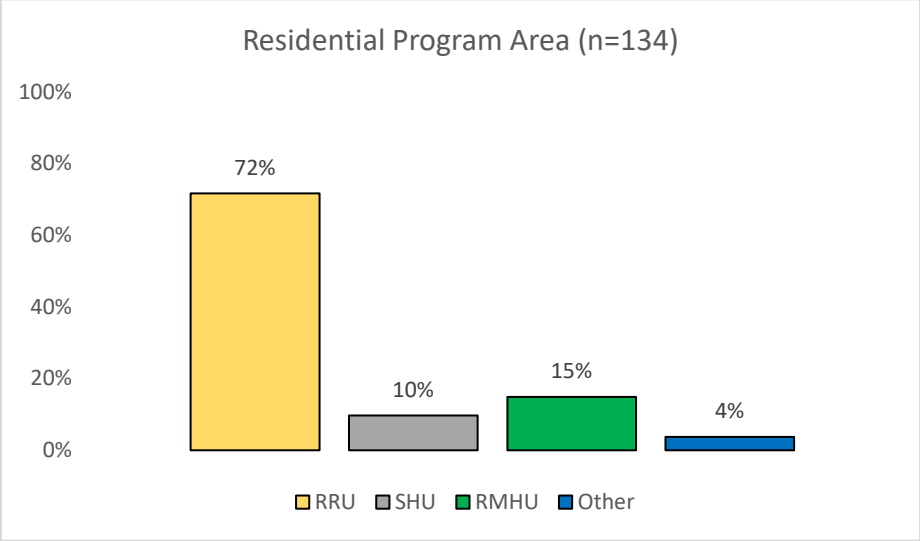
[1] A copy of the latest version of the survey can be found in Appendix A.
[2] It is not possible to measure change over time. A true change analysis would compare responses from an individual who submitted more than one survey over time while remaining at the same facility. To date, responses from just three incarcerated individuals apply.

The following table shows the total number of surveys distributed and received per facility in 2026.

Facility	# of Surveys Distributed in 2026	# of Surveys Received in 2026
Adirondack		2
Albion	12	1
Cape Vincent	12	4
Coxsackie	74	25
Fishkill	174	60
Five Points	164	40
Gouverneur		1
Greene		1
Orleans		1
Total	**436**	**135**

Note: Individuals may change facilities which can cause a discrepancy in where surveys were distributed vs where they were received.

Seventy-two percent of respondents indicated an RRU as their residential program area in 2026.[3]



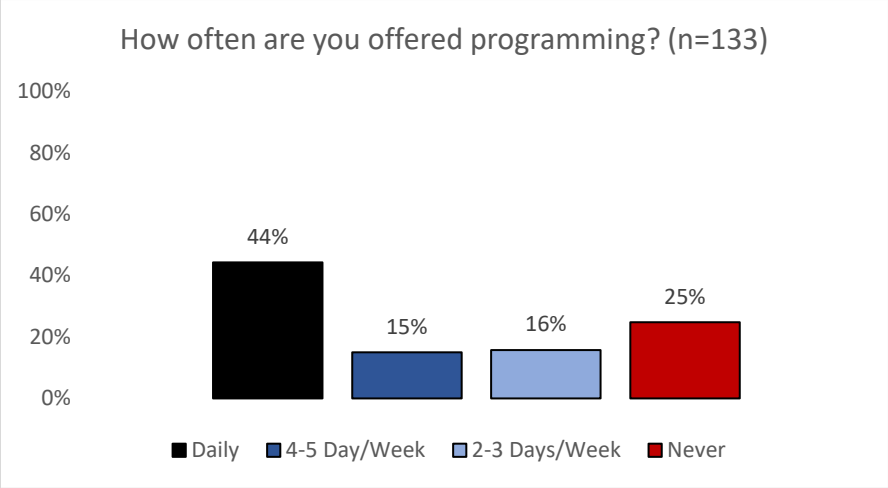
[3] One respondent did not indicate residential program area.

Programming

The HALT Act requires DOCCS to offer six hours of daily out-of-cell congregate programming, services, treatment, recreation and/or meals to individuals housed in RRUs with an additional minimum of one hour for recreation. In segregated confinement, DOCCS is required to offer four hours of daily out-of-cell programming plus an additional hour for recreation.[4]

Program Frequency

The chart below shows how frequently programming is offered, based on the responses to the question: During the average week, how often are you offered programming? Overall, 44% of respondents said programing was offered daily.



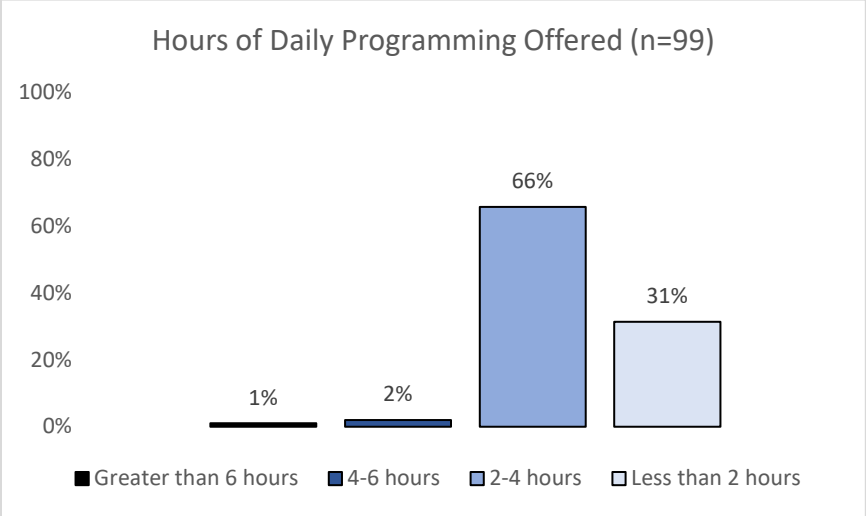
The following table shows frequency of programming offered per facility. [5]

Facility	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Never
Adirondack	2			
Albion	1			
Cape Vincent				4
Coxsackie	10	7	3	4
Fishkill	36	5	4	14
Five Points	9	8	13	10
Gouverneur				1
Greene	1			
Orleans			1	
Total (n=133)	**59**	**20**	**21**	**33**

[4] Correction Law §137(6) (j) (ii)

[5] The number of responses is shown rather than percentages due to the very small sample sizes among certain facilities; percentages based on very small sample sizes can be misleading. For example, 100% of respondents reported programming is offered daily at Greene. However, this percentage is based on one response. For this reason, the actual counts supporting graphs are reported.

The following graph shows how many hours of programming are offered each day.[6] Sixty six percent of respondents said programming was offered two to four hours per day.

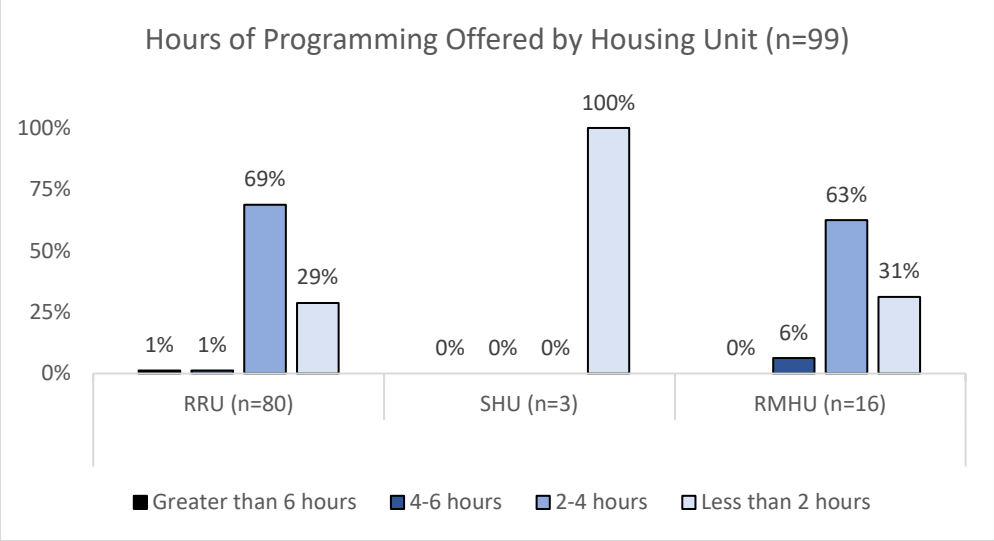


The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	> 6 hrs.	4-6 hrs.	2-4 hrs.	< 2 hrs.
Adirondack			2	
Albion		1		
Coxsackie			14	6
Fishkill	1		33	10
Five Points		1	15	14
Greene			1	
Orleans				1
Total (n=99)	**1**	**2**	**65**	**31**

[6] Excludes individuals who responded that programming is never offered.

This chart shows hours of daily programming by residential housing unit. [7] As seen below, 69% of respondents indicating an RRU as their residential program area were offered programming two to four hours per day. All three of the respondents who indicated a SHU as their residential program area were offered programming less than two hours per day.

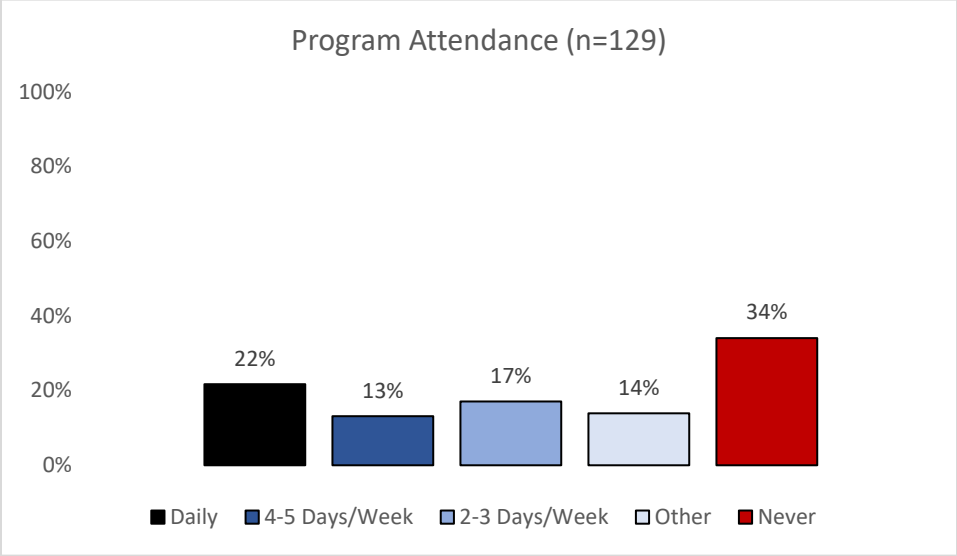


The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

	> 6 hrs.	4-6 hrs.	2-4 hrs.	< 2 hrs.
RRU	1	1	55	23
SHU				3
RMHU		1	10	5
Total (n=99)	**1**	**2**	**65**	**31**

[7] Excludes individuals who responded that programming is never offered.

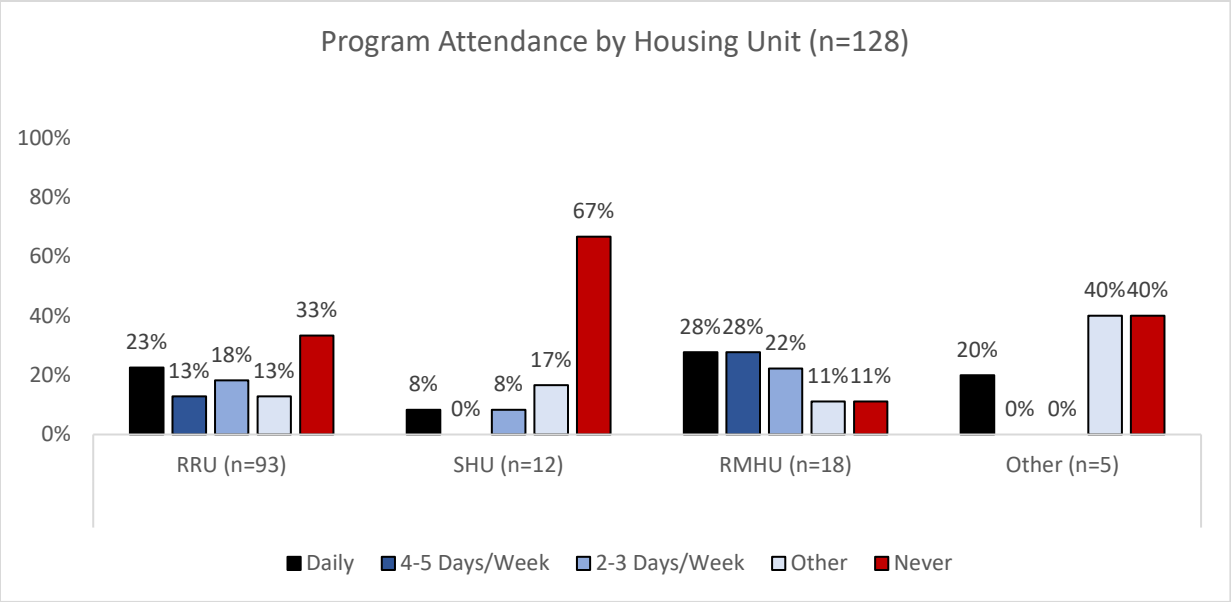
This chart shows how often incarcerated individuals have attended program during the average week. While 22% of respondents said they attended program daily, 34% said they never attended program.



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Other	Never
Adirondack	2				
Albion		1			
Cape Vincent	1				2
Coxsackie	9	7	2	2	3
Fishkill	13	2	9	9	25
Five Points	3	5	11	6	14
Gouverneur		1			
Greene		1			
Orleans				1	
Total (n=129)	**28**	**17**	**22**	**18**	**44**

This chart shows program attendance by residential housing unit.



The data supporting the graph above are shown below.

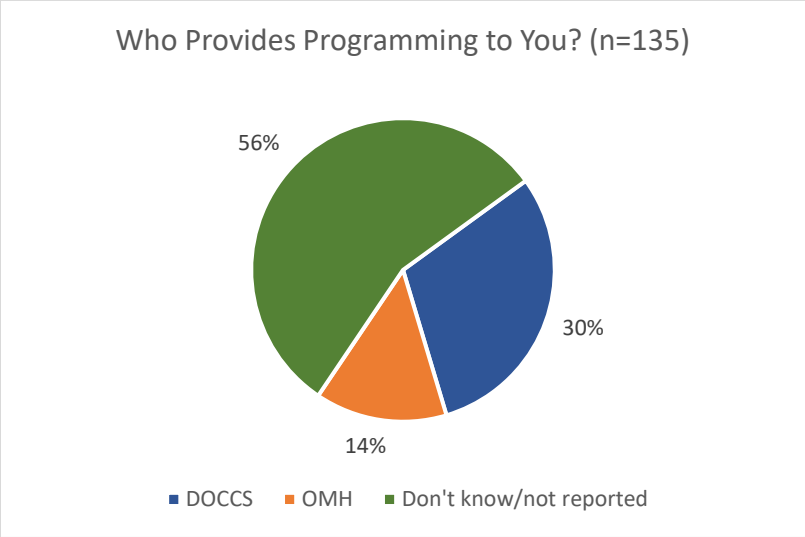
	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Other	Never
RRU	21	12	17	12	31
SHU	1		1	2	8
RMHU	5	5	4	2	2
Other	1			2	2
Total (n=128)	**28**	**17**	**22**	**18**	**43**

When asked "How often do you attend programming," one answer choice was 'other' with the option to add a comment; to date 18 respondents indicated 'other' as their answer to this question and nearly all added a comment. Some individuals indicated that they were not given the opportunity to attend programming, some said it depended on the facility in which they lived, and some said programming was not offered. Examples of comments include:

- They always cancel or run late without valid explanation.
- I don't go often because it serves no purpose for me. Too many negative individuals.
- They refuse us by not announcing program or walk pass cells very quickly.
- I am not allowed to say because I am in 18-month box time.
- I get up at or around 7:30 am to put down for programs & as before stated facility officers deny programs randomly or systematically or all together pretending that signed up.
- When I'm allowed, most of the time CO's is purposely walking by our cell, ignoring us or not putting us down for program.
- BC I'm just sitting in a unoccupied hallway that's makeshift, doing a packet that's misc & not really learning or seeing nothing of value.

Provision of Programming, Encouragement of Attendance, and Program Names

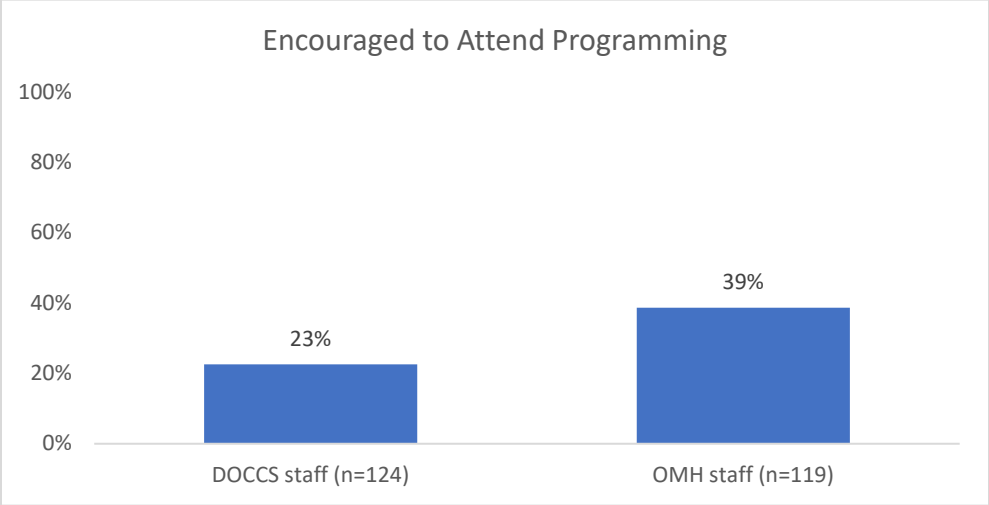
Fifty-six percent of the respondents did not know or did not report who provided programming in their facilities. However, 30% felt DOCCS provided programming and 14% said OMH provided programming.



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	DOCCS	OMH	Don't know/ not reported
Adirondack	1		1
Albion			1
Cape Vincent			4
Coxsackie	8	6	11
Fishkill	21	2	37
Five Points	10	11	19
Gouverneur	1		
Greene			1
Orleans			1
Total (n=135)	**41**	**19**	**75**

As seen below, 23% of respondents said DOCCS staff encouraged program attendance and 39% of respondents said OMH staff encouraged program attendance.



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	# of Respondents who reported staff encouraged program attendance	
	DOCCS staff	OMH staff
Adirondack	2	1
Albion		
Cape Vincent		
Coxsackie	7	9
Fishkill	11	20
Five Points	8	16
Gouverneur		
Greene		
Orleans		
Total	**28**	**46**

When asked for the names of the programs in their facilities, respondents were often unsure. The following table lists all responses per facility.

Responses per facility
Adirondack
Booklets 4 different ones.
RRU.
Albion
No.
Cape Vincent
Painting, electrical, masonry, HSE, computer maintenance, building maintence, custodial maintence, energy tech.
There is none.
Coxsackie
Counselor/vocational instructor.
Different titles.

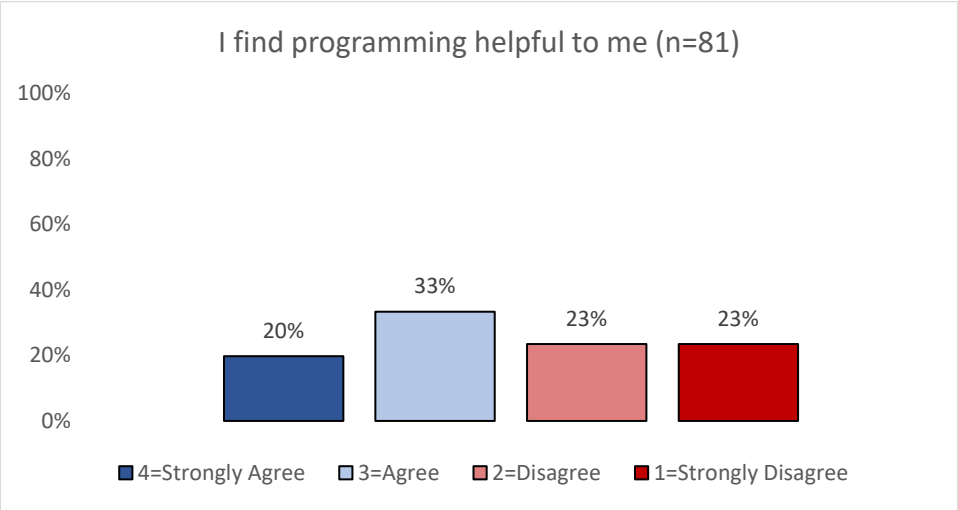
Responses per facility
Don’t know/No (n=3).
No b/c they barely do the same program & the 1's they do have no name.
No I don't know sorry.
No specific name.
No that doesn't exist.
No we watch TV and little to no programming.
No, I wish I could cause I am not getting good time for attending cause they do not give me programs.
RMHU.
RRU.
RRU programming.
RRU programming all I know about programming in this.
School for now because I am also the porter of the RMHU.
There is no name just program.
Fishkill
Anger management, coping skills, movie days.
ART, ASAP.
Can't say.
CBT Cognitive behavioral therapy.
Cell confinement.
Classroom.
Don’t know/No (n=3).
I don't go.
I don't know whoever is conducting the class provides the subject!
I have none.
Its always random sometimes an ORC, sometimes a social worker, sometimes a movie, sometimes a trade instructor.
Its just call programs.
Just got here.
Just one hour of rec.
Movies on Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
N/A
No because they don't let me attend.
No idea just a group meeting about whatever.
Not sure.
ORC that what they tell us. ORC programs.
Program.
Rec & Program.
RRU.
RRU Program.
RRU programming is what they call if over the speaker.
There isn't any names.
Uplifting behavior rational thinking theres two more but these programs help.
We just sit in a classroom.
We literally do nothing only staff from program who actually teaches anything is Ms. McKenzie!
Five Points
Again, I'm lost why am I here if I can not learn, teach me or allow me to facilitate to my peers about trauma and my. hard life experiences, etc.
ASAT.
CBT, leisure time, etc.
Don’t know/No (n=3).
Don’t know sad but true! SMH.
Don't know they don't give out schedules anymore.
I didn't know they had any names. They call if program from my understanding.
I don't even know what program they got me in now but, when I was in general pop, I was in small gas engine repair.
I don't know, I never get a chance to go they don't take me.
I'm in RRU so I don't know the names of the program.
Its suppose to be therapeutic programming in accordance to corr law § 137.
N/A.

Responses per facility
N/A all they do is put on old movies, never no work.
No but I felt Chicago beyond should be part of RRU and SHU as a program.
No I don't have any programs.
No, I am fairly new here but so far they haven't giving me a program paper listing my programs. When and Marcy RMHU they did.
None.
None offered.
Nope.
Rec therapy; CBT; ART; ASAT; Phase I, II, III; education.
RRU.
RRU, Step-down, etc.
Education.
Greene
None its games & talking.
Orleans
Nothing therapeutic.

Note: “Don’t know” and “No” responses have been grouped together per facility.

Program Helpfulness

Among individuals who responded that they have attended programming at least once, 53% felt the programs were helpful.



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	Agree/strongly agree programs are helpful	Disagree/strongly disagree programs are helpful
Adirondack	1	1
Albion		1
Cape Vincent		1
Coxsackie	11	8
Fishkill	17	14
Five Points	13	12
Gouverneur	1	
Greene		1
Total (n=81)	**43**	**38**

Forty-three individuals agreed or strongly agreed that programming was helpful to them. Examples of comments regarding what they liked best are listed below.

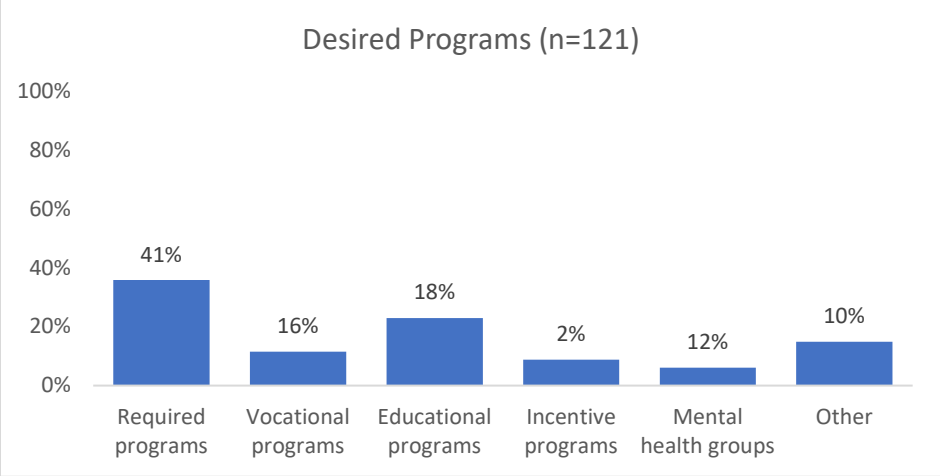
Facility	What do you like best about the programming offered?
Adirondack	The group discussion and all the informal materials.
Coxsackie	Obtaining certificates & learning to cope with mental health symptom issues & become a better person for society.
	I get to talk out my issues.
	Time out my cell.
Fishkill	Time out of my cell and being able to talk to people other than my bunkie and doing CBT activities to learn more about myself.
	Movies time out the cell good for MH.
	Learning! As well with getting out my cell to do something productive!
Five Points	That 5 Points RMHU & DOCCS counselors give us good information, for both learning to deal w/ our MH and life in general.
	Well, we can be social with others and share ideas if it's civil, open-minded people there.
	School programming will be better GED or college.
Gouverneur	Getting out cell.

Thirty-eight individuals indicated that they disagreed or strongly disagreed that programming is helpful to them. Examples of comments regarding what they liked least are listed below.

Facility	What do you like least about the programming offered?
Adirondack	No ART/No ASAT.
Albion	It's headstart level.
Cape Vincent	Only certain teachers actually teach anything.
Coxsackie	They don't do programs so there is none to be made for all we do is watch tv.
	The individuals I am around and some staff I dislike as well.
	Barely learn anything, word searches aren't beneficial.
Fishkill	It does not help you from coming back.
	They don't ever give us the proper time we are supposed to be granted and half of the staff is terrible.
	Being cuffed and shackled.
Five Points	This is not no program I can't learn sitting in a re-start chair with ankle cuffs on in not learning nothing.
	Ain't nothing interesting about it.
	The staff or so-called facilitators not caring to teach us and help reform us.
Greene	We don't get enough time & often the young I/I's don't care to interact!

Desired Programs

HALT requires that incarcerated individuals in residential rehabilitation units have access to programs and work assignments comparable to core programs and types of work assignments in general population.[8] As seen here, 41% of respondents indicated they wanted more required programs such as ASAT, ART, AVP, AA, NA, and other types of transition programs.[9] Eighteen percent also indicated a desire for educational programs.



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	Required programs (ASAT, ART, AVP, AA, NA, transition programs, etc)	Vocational / trade programs	Educational programs (GED, college courses, resume writing, life skills, etc)	Incentive programs (time cuts, commissary, tablets, phones, more recreation, special meals, etc).	Mental Health groups	Other (rec, games, movies, yoga, gym, religion, etc.)
Adirondack					1	
Albion						
Cape Vincent	2	1				
Coxsackie	14	3	3	1	6	1
Fishkill	24	11	10	2	5	5
Five Points	9	4	8		3	6
Gouverneur	1					
Greene			1			
Orleans						
Grand Total	**50**	**19**	**22**	**3**	**15**	**12**

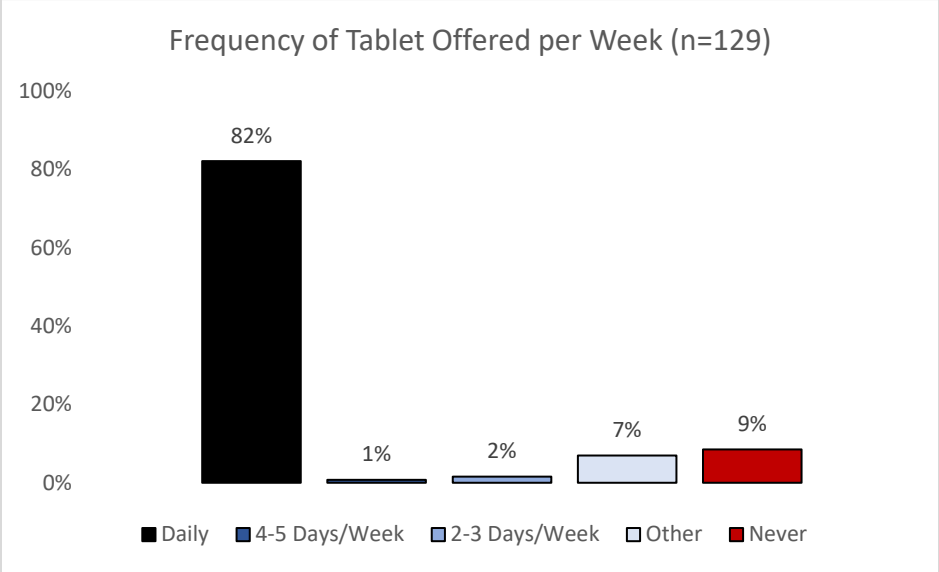
[8] Correction Law §137(6) (j) (v)
[9] Respondents had the ability to indicate more than one type of desired program.

Tablets

Incarcerated individuals are given access to static tablets, which they can use to keep in touch with family members and friends. Tablets also include multiple educational and self-help programs, suicide prevention programs, leisure reading, and games.

Tablet Frequency

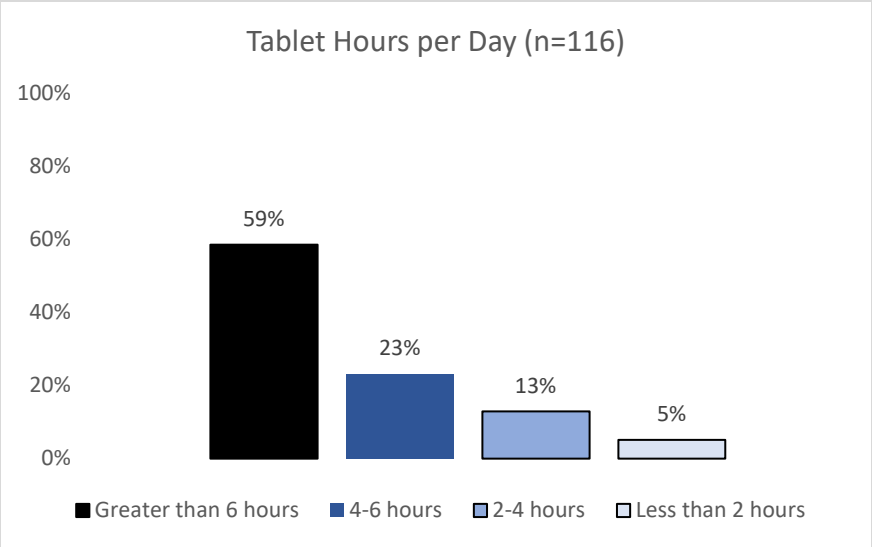
Eighty-two percent of incarcerated individuals reported tablets were offered daily.



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Other	Never
Adirondack	2				
Albion	1				
Cape Vincent	3			1	
Coxsackie	17			1	4
Fishkill	50		1	3	4
Five Points	31		1	4	3
Gouverneur		1			
Greene	1				
Orleans	1				
Total (n=129)	**106**	**1**	**2**	**9**	**11**

Eighty-two percent of respondents reported that tablets have been used at least four hours per day.[10]



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	> 6 hrs.	4-6 hrs.	2-4 hrs.	< 2 hrs.
Adirondack	2			
Albion		1		
Cape Vincent	3	1		
Coxsackie	6	7	4	1
Fishkill	44	6	1	1
Five Points	12	11	9	4
Gouverneur		1		
Greene			1	
Orleans	1			
Total (n=116)	**68**	**27**	**15**	**6**

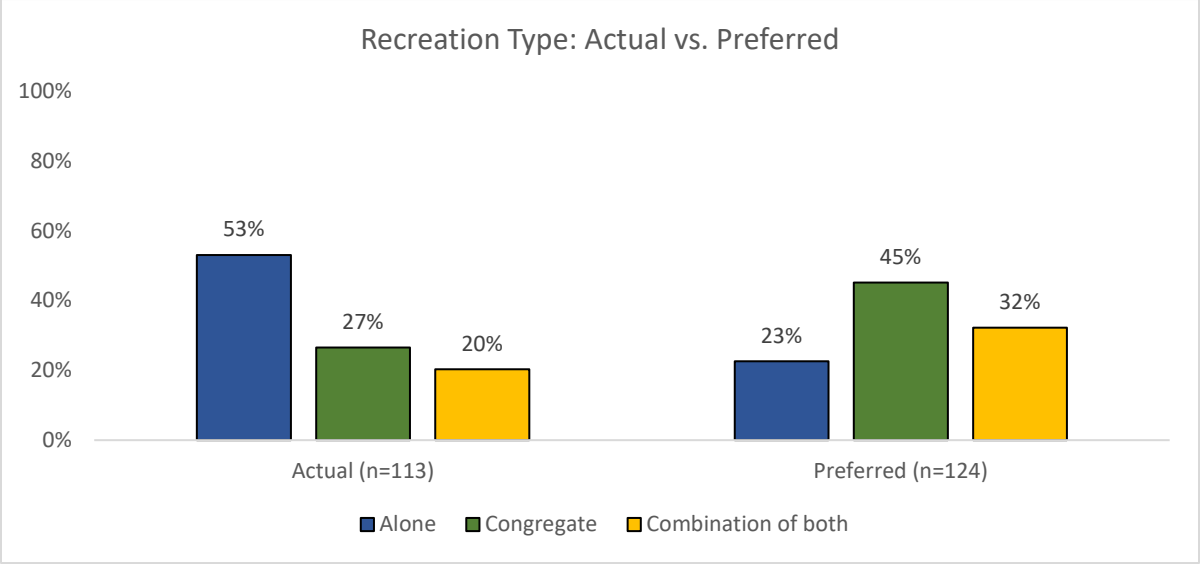
[10] Excludes respondents who indicated tablets are never offered.

Recreation

HALT requires that DOCCS offer out-of-cell congregate recreation to all individuals in RRUs, unless exceptional circumstances exist. In both RRU and SHU, recreation must be offered for a minimum of one hour per day.[11]

Recreation Type

The chart below shows the breakdown of recreation type: congregate, alone, or combination of both. Just 27% of respondents reported recreation is congregate. While 53% of respondents reported recreation occurs alone, fewer (23%) said they preferred that setting. Forty-five percent said they preferred a congregate setting.



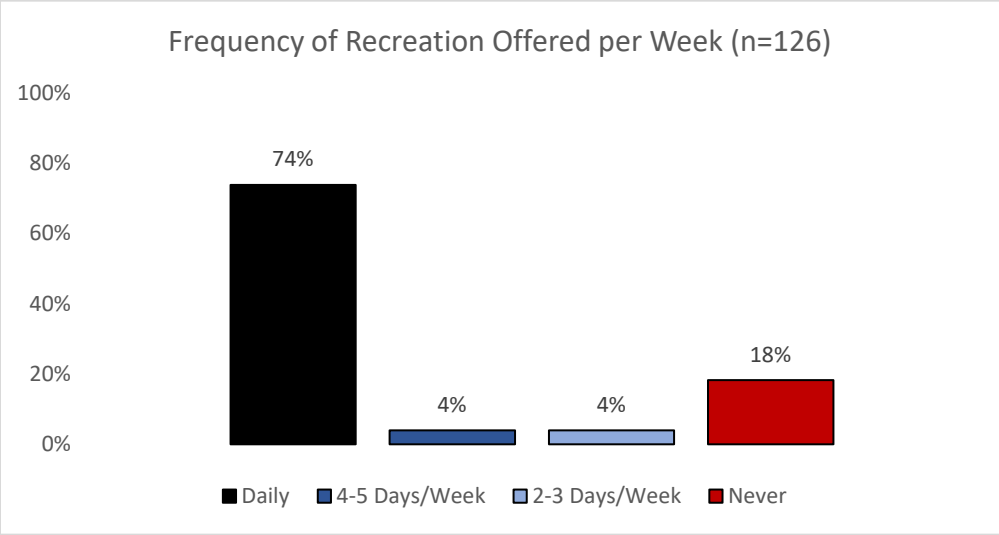
The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	Actual Recreation (n=113)			Preferred Recreation (n=124)		
	Alone	Congregate	Combination of both	Alone	Congregate	Combination of both
Adirondack		1	1			2
Albion		1			1	
Cape Vincent	2	1		1	2	
Coxsackie	12	4	4	7	12	5
Fishkill	23	21	10	13	23	21
Five Points	23	2	7	7	17	11
Gouverneur			1			1
Greene					1	
Orleans						
Total	**60**	**30**	**23**	**28**	**56**	**40**

[11] Correction Law §137(6) (j) (v)

Recreation Frequency

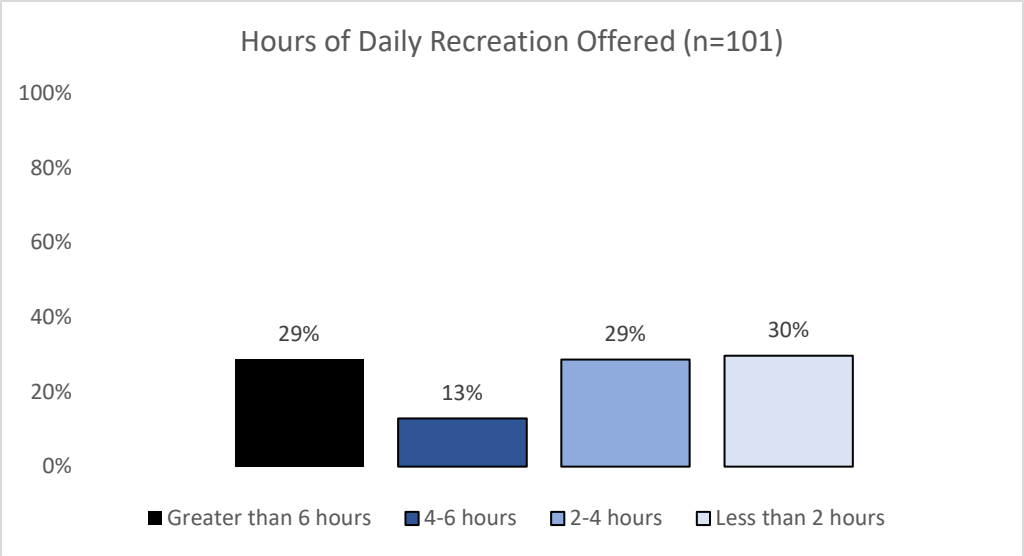
Seventy-four percent of respondents indicated recreation was offered daily.



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Never
Adirondack	2			
Albion	1			
Cape Vincent	3			
Coxsackie	20		1	3
Fishkill	50	1		7
Five Points	17	3	4	13
Gouverneur		1		
Total (n=126)	**93**	**5**	**5**	**23**

As seen below, 70% of the respondents' indicated recreation is offered for at least two hours per day. [12]

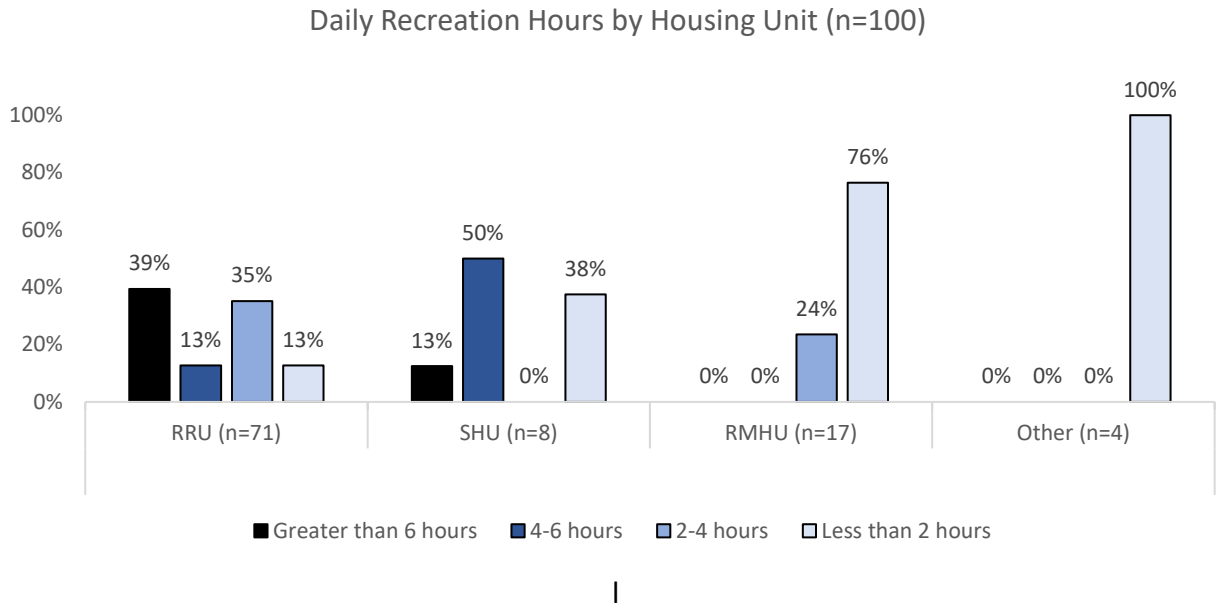


The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	> 6 hrs.	4-6 hrs.	2-4 hrs.	< 2 hrs.
Adirondack			2	
Albion			1	
Cape Vincent				3
Coxsackie		1	10	8
Fishkill	21	9	11	10
Five Points	8	2	5	9
Gouverneur		1		
Total (n=101)	**29**	**13**	**29**	**30**

[12] Excludes individuals who indicated recreation is never offered.

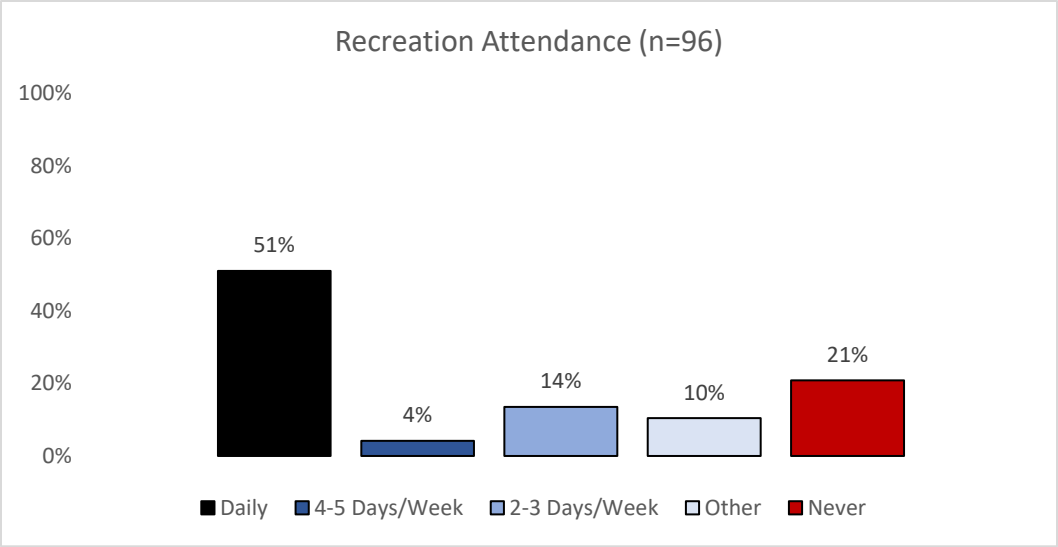
This chart shows daily recreation hours offered by residential housing unit.



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

2026	> 6 hrs.	4-6 hrs.	2-4 hrs.	<2 hrs.
RRU	28	9	25	9
SHU	1	4		3
RMHU			4	13
Other				4
Total (n=100)	**29**	**13**	**29**	**29**

As seen below, 51% of respondents reported attending recreation daily.[13]



The data supporting the previous graph are shown below.

Facility	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Other	Never
Adirondack	1	1			
Albion			1		
Cape Vincent				2	1
Coxsackie	7	1	5	2	6
Fishkill	31	1	5	1	8
Five Points	9	1	2	5	5
Gouverneur	1				
Total (n=96)	**49**	**4**	**13**	**10**	**20**

After the question, "How often do you attend recreation," there was a follow-up question: "If less than daily, why don't you attend recreation when it is offered?" The responses are shown below:

- The process I have to go thru just to go outside it's to much.
- Because I don't want to be stab up.
- Wack.
- Yard is to small/there aren't many things to do.
- Ms. Figeroa.
- Don't like to mingle with others. To old to be around negative individuals have to many medical issues. I am an intervert.
- Because its only in a rec pen!
- I want to sleep.
- Because the gangs run the yard.
- RRU is very negative and I am 54 years old and I hate gang memebes or people that bully and extort.

[13] Excludes individuals who indicated recreation is never offered.

- Cause they (the CO's) only give us program rec out of cell when they want.
- To violent inmates.
- Sometimes I am told there is no staff. But yet there 2 officers and 2 national guard people on duty.
- I can't go to something they always cancel.
- B/C they put me in a cage w/out any pull up bar or way to keep myself occuppied.
- Don't tell up to going outside.
- Its cold rite now.
- Every now and then. I have a fratured foot due to CO's assaulting me.
- Afraid to leave my cell when I know or think certain officers are working the ones who assaulted me.
- I jut don't go to recreation on my own will.
- Like I said there's only a rec pen with no pull-up bar or anything to do work-out exercise.
- Cuz its cold.
- Its cold outside we can't have water or early go back.
- Because recreation is my cell rec pen no workout equitment nothing but a rec pen.
- Because it makes me feel secluded and in a way being held captive like being in a dog pin and recreation is connected to the back of my cell only separated be a security door.
- Its nothing to really do in a rec cage.
- Its cold outside.
- Because the officers issue you those white slippers and its to cold we need our boots. Because inmates don't have proper footwear.
- Because its to cold and we don't get jacket or gloves.
- I don't attend b/c I'm in a wheelchair and the pen (cages) where recreation is are not shoveled. There is over a foot of snow not good for wheelchair.
- To cold out.
- RRU pec pen tablet.
- I'm practing self control so I don't do everything just because I can.
- Its to cold.
- Weather dictates my participaiton the social climate as well, who's ready to act violantly & who isn't I avoid violence at all cost.
- Its cold out to cold!
- its too cold.
- Not all the time
- I don't want any trouble, I want freedom. I deserve freedom. I've been physically & mentally abused for 10 yrs now. I'm fighting for freedom! I need my CR date. They have it April 24, 2026 which is wrong. It's this month & they won't fix it.
- Because they took away congregated rec so you can't play cards and basketball with other I/I's anymore.
- When I feel I am able.
- Being its cold and they only allow you to wear minimum state clothes!
- We don't go outside becauxe its cold but I know the rec pin be open so I guess you can say I attend recreation everyday.
- Health.

Conclusion

From January 2023 through March 2026, the Justice Center has received 1,126 surveys from incarcerated inmates housed in 35 correctional facilities. This report summarizes the 135 responses received from incarcerated individuals during the first quarter of 2026.

Programming

Forty-four percent of respondents indicated that programming is offered daily. Sixty-nine percent of respondents housed in an RRU indicated that programming is offered two to four hours daily.

Incarcerated individuals would like to see additional program options offered including educational classes such as GED, college, and life skills courses, various vocational classes, and mental health groups. Additionally, they have requested that DOCCS offer mandated programs such as Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT). Twenty-three percent of respondents indicated DOCCS staff encouraged program attendance.

HALT requires DOCCS to offer one hour of congregate recreation per day to incarcerated individuals housed in RRU. Just 27% of survey respondents indicated that recreation was congregate. Twenty percent indicated that recreation was a combination of congregate and alone. Seventy-four percent of respondents indicated that recreation is offered daily and 70% indicated that it is offered for at least two hours per day.

Recommendations

1. DOCCS should expand therapeutic and educational programming options and incentives to increase participation.
2. OMH should develop and provide programming options in the SHU and RRU including mental health groups and topics.
3. DOCCS should train and support staff to encourage incarcerated individuals to attend programming and not remain isolated in their cells.
4. While DOCCS appears to be offering daily recreation, they should make every effort to ensure that recreation is congregate to maintain compliance with HALT.

Appendix A: Programming and Recreation Opinion Survey

The New York State Justice Center is an independent agency which is separate from DOCCS and OMH, and we are responsible for monitoring DOCCS and OMH compliance with the HALT legislation. We are seeking your voluntary input about the programming required under HALT in specialized units such as the RRU, SHU, RMHU, and any type of hold-over or step-down units. We value your opinion and encourage you to complete this survey, however there is no penalty if you choose not to respond. Your responses will inform us of your perspective about the programming and recreation that is available.

Your survey will not be shared with DOCCS or OMH, so once completed you can return it directly to the NYS Justice Center in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

1. **Name** _____
2. **DIN** _____
3. **Facility Name** _____
4. **Program** (Circle one)
   SHU RRU RMHU Hold-over Other (describe)
5. **During the average week, how often are you offered programming?** (Circle one)
   Daily 4-5 Day/Week 2-3 Days/Week Never
6. **If programs are canceled, what are the reasons for their cancelation?**
7. **When are you offered programming?** (Circle all that apply)
   Morning Afternoon Evening
8. **When there is programming, on average, how many hours of programming are offered each day?** (Circle one)
   Less than 2 hours 2-4 hours 4-6 hours Greater than 6 hours

9. **How often do you attend programming?** (Circle one)

   Daily 4-5 Days/Week 2-3 Days/Week Never Other (please explain)

   If less than daily, why don't you attend programming that is offered?

10. **Does DOCCS staff encourage you to attend programming?** (Circle and explain)

    Yes No

11. **Does OMH staff encourage you to attend programming?** (Circle and explain)

    Yes No

12. **Who provides you programming?** (Circle all that apply)

    OMH DOCCS I don't know

13. **Can you tell us the names of your programs?**

14. **How often are you offered a tablet?** (Circle one)

    Daily 4-5 Days/Week 2-3 Days/Week Never Other (please explain)

15. **How many hours do you get to use your tablet per day?** (Circle one)

    Less than 2 hours 2-4 hours 4-6 hours Greater than 6 hours

16. **Are you permitted to have access to a tablet on days when you attend programming?**

    Yes No

17. **I find the programming to be helpful to me.** (Rate your opinion on this statement - circle one)

    1=Strongly Disagree 2=Disagree 3=Agree 4=Strongly Agree

18. **What do you like best about the programming offered?**

19. **What do you like least about the programming offered?**

20. **What other types of programs would you like to see offered that would be helpful to you?**

21. **During the average week, how often are you offered recreation?** (Circle one)

    Daily 4-5 Day/Week 2-3 Days/Week Never

22. **When are you offered recreation?** (Circle all that apply)

    Morning Afternoon Evening

23. **When there is recreation, on average, how many hours of recreation are offered each day?** (Circle one)

    Less than 2 hours 2-4 hours 4-6 hours Greater than 6 hours

24. **How often do you attend recreation?** (Circle one)

    Daily 4-5 Days/Week 2-3 Days/Week Never Other (please explain)

    If less than daily, why don't you attend recreation when it is offered?

25. **Recreation is:** (Circle one and explain)

    Group Alone Combination of both (explain)

26. **What kind of Recreation do you prefer?**

    Group Alone Combination of both (explain)

Appendix B: Data From 2023 through 2025

Surveys Received

Facility	# of Surveys Received			
	2023	2024	2025	Total
Adirondack	6			6
Albion		3		3
Attica	22	42	2	66
Auburn		2	20	22
Bare Hill	1	3		4
Bedford Hills		2	2	4
Cape Vincent		1		1
Cayuga	37	4	30	71
Clinton		7	8	15
Collins	20	24	1	45
Coxsackie		19		19
Eastern	1		6	7
Elmira		12	7	19
Fishkill	1	37		38
Five Points	7	1		8
Franklin		1	5	6
Gouverneur	43	77	1	121
Green Haven		2	1	3
Greene	53	1	38	92
Hudson		2	4	6
Lakeview		1		1
Marcy		9		9
Mid-State		28		28
Mohawk	3			3
Orleans	1	70	35	106
Riverview		1		1
Shawangunk			4	4
Sing Sing	2		3	5
Sullivan		3		3
Ulster			1	1
Upstate	253	3		256
Washington	2			2
Wende	3		4	7
Woodbourne	1	1	3	5
Wyoming		3		3
Not reported	1			1
Total	**457**	**359**	**175**	**991**

Residential Program Area

Year	# of Responses per Residential Program Area						Total
	RRU	SHU	Hold-over	RMHU	Other	Not Reported	
2023	398	44	4	3	6	2	457
2024	265	43		19	27	5	359
2025	124	43			5	3	175
Total	**787**	**130**	**4**	**22**	**38**	**10**	**991**

Programing

During the average week, how often are you offered programming?

Facility	2023 (n=448)				2024 (n=353)				2025 (n=161)			
	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Never	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Never	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Never
Adirondack	6											
Albion					2			1				
Attica	5	11	2	4	13	19	2	7	1	1		
Auburn						1		1	5	2	2	10
Bare Hill				1				3				
Bedford Hills					1	1				2		
Cape Vincent					1							
Cayuga	29	5	1	2	2			2	21	2		7
Clinton								6		1		7
Collins	9	2		8	2	1	5	14				
Coxsackie					11	7		1				
Eastern				1					5			1
Elmira					7		1	4	2	3		1
Fishkill				1	24	8	1	2				
Five Points	1	2	4			1						
Franklin								1				5
Gouverneur	28	7	4	4	53	8	5	11	1			
Green Haven						1		1	1			
Greene	26	8	12	6			1		1		24	11
Hudson						2			3			1
Lakeview								1				
Marcy					3	6						
Mid-State					10	10	2	6				
Mohawk				3								
Orleans		1			32	10	12	16	2	4	9	12
Riverview								1				
Shawangunk									1			3
Sing Sing	2											3
Sullivan					1		2					
Ulster									1			
Upstate	118	35	43	51	1		1	1				
Washington			1	1								
Wende	1	1		1					1	2		1
Woodbourne	1					1			1			1
Wyoming					1		1	1				
Total	**226**	**72**	**67**	**83**	**164**	**76**	**33**	**80**	**46**	**17**	**35**	**63**

When there is programming, on average, how many hours of programming are offered each day?

	2023 (n=363)				2024 (n=269)				2025 (n=105)			
Facility	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**
Adirondack		1	3									
Albion						2						
Attica			12	6	1		26	7			2	
Auburn						1					6	2
Bedford Hills							2				2	
Cape Vincent								1				
Cayuga	2	2	27	3			2		1	1	20	1
Clinton							1				1	
Collins			11	1			6	1				
Coxsackie							15	3				
Eastern											3	2
Elmira					2	2	3			1	4	
Fishkill						1	24	9				
Five Points			3	4			1					
Gouverneur			34	5		2	38	24			1	
Green Haven								1				1
Greene			26	21				1		1	17	8
Hudson							2			1	2	
Marcy						2	7					
Mid-State						2	14	6				
Orleans				1		5	41	6			11	11
Shawangunk												1
Sing Sing			2									
Sullivan							3					
Ulster											1	
Upstate	2	3	87	104			2					
Washington			1									
Wende			1	1							2	1
Woodbourne								1				1
Wyoming							1	1				
Total	**4**	**6**	**207**	**146**	**3**	**17**	**188**	**61**	**1**	**4**	**72**	**28**

Hours of programming offered by housing unit:

	> 6 hrs.	4-6 hrs.	2-4 hrs.	< 2 hrs.	Total
2023	**4**	**6**	**206**	**146**	**362**
RRU	3	6	195	132	336
SHU	1		9	10	20
RMHU			1	2	3
Hold-over			1		1
Other				2	2
2024	**3**	**17**	**184**	**61**	**265**
RRU	2	12	147	50	211
SHU		2	12	5	19
RMHU	1	2	15	1	19
Other		1	10	5	16
2025	**1**	**4**	**72**	**28**	**105**
RRU	1	4	62	22	89
SHU			10	4	14
Other				2	2
Total	**8**	**27**	**467**	**235**	**737**

How often do you attend programming?

	2023 (n=442)					2024 (n=340)					2025 (n=161)				
Facility	**Daily**	**4-5 Days/Wk**	**2-3 Days/Wk**	**Other**	**Never**	**Daily**	**4-5 Days/Wk**	**2-3 Days/Wk**	**Other**	**Never**	**Daily**	**4-5 Days/Wk**	**2-3 Days/Wk**	**Other**	**Never**
Adirondack	3			2	1										
Albion						1	1			1					
Attica	1	4	2	9	6	5	8	8	5	14				1	
Auburn							1			1	3	1	1	3	11
Bare Hill			1			1			1	1					
Bedford Hills						1		1			1			1	
Cape Vincent										1					
Cayuga	7	2	12	5	10	2			1	1	9	4	2	2	12
Clinton										5				2	3
Collins	1	2		6	11		1	1	4	17				1	
Coxsackie						9	4	1	2	2					
Eastern					1						3	1		1	1
Elmira						2	1	2	2	5	1			1	3
Fishkill					1	9	5	6	5	12					
Five Points	1	2	2	2		1									
Franklin										1					5
Gouverneur	4	7	9	14	9	22	7	12	13	20	1				
Green Haven							1					1			
Greene	18	7	11	10	6			1			2		11	14	10
Hudson											3				1
Lakeview									1						
Marcy						3	2		1	2					
Mid-State						7	6	3	5	3					
Mohawk				1	2										
Orleans				1		18	12	15	12	13	2		5	7	17
Riverview						1									
Shawangunk											1			1	2
Sing Sing	2														3
Sullivan						1		1							
Ulster															1
Upstate	45	36	39	71	50		2		1						
Washington			1		1										
Wende					3									1	3
Woodbourne					1				1						2
Wyoming						2									
Total	**82**	**60**	**77**	**121**	**102**	**85**	**51**	**51**	**54**	**99**	**26**	**7**	**19**	**35**	**74**

Program attendance by housing unit:

	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Other	Never	Total
2023	**82**	**59**	**77**	**121**	**102**	**441**
RRU	72	57	71	106	81	387
SHU	9	1	3	9	19	41
RMHU	1		1		1	3
Hold-over			2	1	1	4
Other		1		5		6
2024	**83**	**51**	**51**	**54**	**97**	**336**
RRU	66	37	44	40	69	256
SHU	6	4	4	6	19	39
RMHU	7	4	1	3	2	17
Other	4	6	2	5	7	24
2025	**26**	**7**	**19**	**34**	**72**	**158**
RRU	22	4	19	26	44	115
SHU	4	2		7	25	38
Other		1		1	3	5
Total	**191**	**117**	**147**	**209**	**271**	**191**

Who provides you programming? Survey item added in 2024

Facility	2024 (n=359)			2025 (n=175)		
	DOCCS	OMH	Don't know/ not reported	DOCCS	OMH	Don't know/ not reported
Albion	1		2			
Attica	13	2	27	2		
Auburn			2	7	1	12
Bare Hill			3			
Bedford Hills		2		1		1
Cape Vincent			1			
Cayuga			4	13	2	15
Clinton	1		6			8
Collins	4	1	19			1
Coxsackie	3	5	11			
Eastern						6
Elmira	2	1	9	3		4
Fishkill	13	2	22			
Five Points			1			
Franklin			1			5
Gouverneur	28	3	46	1		
Green Haven	1		1	1		
Greene			1	10		28
Hudson			2	1		3
Lakeview			1			
Marcy		8	1			
Mid-State	14		14			
Orleans	25	4	41	9	2	24
Riverview			1			
Shawangunk						4
Sing Sing						3
Sullivan	1		2			
Ulster				1		
Upstate		1	2			
Wende				1		3
Woodbourne			1			3
Wyoming			3			
Total	**106**	**29**	**224**	**50**	**5**	**120**

Does DOCCS staff encourage you to attend programming? Survey item added in 2024
Does OMH staff encourage you to attend programming? Survey item added in 2024

Facility	2024		2025	
	# of Respondents who reported DOCCS staff encouraged program attendance	# of Respondents who reported OMH staff encouraged program attendance	# of Respondents who reported DOCCS staff encouraged program attendance	# of Respondents who reported OMH staff encouraged program attendance
Albion				
Attica	17	18		1
Auburn	1	1	4	5
Bare Hill				
Bedford Hills	1	2	1	1
Cape Vincent				
Cayuga			11	9
Clinton				
Collins	2	9		
Coxsackie	5	8		
Eastern			2	1
Elmira	3	5		1
Fishkill	6	12		
Five Points				
Franklin				
Gouverneur	6	24		
Green Haven	1	1		
Greene			5	7
Hudson			2	1
Lakeview				
Marcy	4	6		
Mid-State	4	7		
Orleans	10	33	6	7
Riverview				
Shawangunk				
Sing Sing				1
Sullivan	1			
Ulster				
Upstate	1	1		
Wende			1	
Woodbourne				1
Wyoming	1	1		
Total	**63**	**128**	**32**	**35**

Can you tell us the names of your programs? Survey item added in 2024

Responses per facility (2024 and 2025)
Albion
Don’t know/No (n=1).
A.M. & P.M. programs that’s all they are called from my understanding.
Mess hall until they took me out b/c I refuse to go b/c they won't give me vocational. I want to do something with my time here.
Attica
Don’t know/No (n=10).
RRU.
RRU.
RRU program.
RRU Program.
I'm not in the right program my program is CAR I'm not getting help so I can go home sooner. I need CAR programming.
I thought it was RRU or programs.
They don't have a name, but we need school, ASAT, voc, ART, etc. but we don't have these programs.
GED, ART, ASAT.
I didn't know they had names. But usually we read and discuss about different subjects. Criminal thinking for example.
They call it program or rec.
I'm in RRU so I'm unsure I think is violent prevention act or something like that.
Daily we study or expound on different topics daily. It varies.
Anger management, mindfulness, calisthenics, cognitive behavioral.
You just attend. Never speak of organization.
Rec program.
Anger management.
There's so many Albany states I need all of them.
It's a lot we go through in program.
Programs is just chained up on chair of downstairs room and talk about controlling anger.
We sit in a classroom & civilians come & talk to us about topics.
There are none.
They never say I didn't even know program had names.
No. We call it program.
What program? “make believe”.
Auburn
Don’t know/No (n=4).
A little bit of everything group meetings.
I have to compete ART for falsified MBR's as far as RRU programs they just have class. I'm in danger so I don't attend. I don't wanna die.
I need to do ASAT and ART.
Just program.
N/A.
Never been there to know.
No never been to one.

Responses per facility (2024 and 2025)
RRU Program.
Well I'm a parole violator so I have to do ART.
Bare Hill
RRU.
They don't talk to us at all!!! We don't see them after entering SHU.
There are no protective custody programs. There is no commissary here at BHCF protective custody.
Bedford Hills
ART, IDDT, and movies and snacks.
ADT, ART, DOCCS.
1. Program; 2. A right to heal.
Morning group, outdoor rec, afternoon indoor rec.
Cape Vincent
Cell studies on Mondays and whatever program in the mornings.
Cayuga
Don’t know/No (n=2).
Anger management, education.
Don't have a name just programming.
I have bad memory!
I've never heard if there was a specific name for them at all.
N/A.
Name a movie you want to watch & that is the name of your program.
No but you should offer ART & ASAT for those serving 3 months or more.
No I cannot. I was told from day 1 being here to stay in my cell do not pop out for programs & then I will either get 1 thing back for my entire stay here. Either commissary or my packages back. Sergent _____ & _____ discussed that with me & we made the agreement I have the papers to prove it.
No, because I don't know the names.
Not sure.
RRU program.
RRU, counseling.
School and general business.
Clinton
Don’t know/No (n=3).
Program has never been offered.
Clinton diversion don't have programs they call it the SHU.
I don't know. I promise you they never offered no program until 10/6/25.
N/A.
No. They've never run any program ever since I've been here.
Not sure at this time and don't even have wall socks to listen to the news. If giving tablets for 7 hours per day I could do programs on the edvo app.
Collins
Don’t know/No (n=9).
Have no clue never got the chance to attend and I've been here going on 6 months. I started doing "in cell" RRU packets b/c they won't let me go.
Its different turns every class.
RRU staff doesn't run programs.
We don't have any they don't let us out.
RRU staff doesn't run programs.
We don't have any they don't let us out.

Responses per facility (2024 and 2025)
I don't know for this facility, of there program.
Its no name to none of the programs at all.
I get CBT cell study packets.
None except cell packets.
They don't have program here period.
Again I don't attend program.
It should be the RRU.
Keep locked (literally).
No, I cannot at all they can't even tell us the program names.
I have no clue.
Coxsackie
Don’t know/No (n=3).
ASAT.
Come out your cell & sit shackle to a desk & talk about a bunch of nothing.
Custodial maintenance.
This place is unorganized & dirty.
It appears as if they just "wing it" (make it up as they go along). In my opinion the ORC & DOCCS staff have not yet bought in to the idea of "programming for positive change”.
It's just program.
Just school for the mental health I would like to work.
Laugh out loud what program! We sit in a room shackled & talk amongst each other.
Rehabilitation/Time Cut.
RMHU.
RRU.
Television.
There is no name the counselor just comes up & gives us word search puzzle & sits down & we don't learn anything.
There is no program name we just sit there learning nothing.
This how really this shit is because I don't even know myself!
We get a schedule of different programs I attend to its a lot of new able advise program that are very useful to benefit from.
Eastern
Don’t know/No (n=1).
ART, ASAT.
Just be counselor asking us? And ART and craft.
N/A.
Names of programs? I thought it was just called "program".
Program is not being offered.
Elmira
Don’t know/No (n=2).
Electrical & school.
Halt programs.
Paint class and AVP.
PMT.
RRU, if there's a name of a program I don't know it nor have I heard it!
RRU.
Self awareness; MH.

Responses per facility (2024 and 2025)
There is no program.
RRU they (DOCCS) make vocation instructors participate but most shows they don't want to be involved by using disrespectful tone of voice/intimidating stares.
Vocational staff; teachers.
Fishkill
Don’t know/No (n=12).
Academics.
Cognitive behavior Therapy.
I don't go.
RRU I guess.
We just talk about the same stuff every day.
I don't think it has a name.
In the process of starting cell-study whenever they choose to write me back.
Its all a facade, we watch a movie & go back to our cells if they call for it.
Just program.
Mostly movies.
My mental health is stopping me. I get nervous and there bad inmates hurt me in past.
No, due to the fact that the counselors can't neither. It’s a bunch of old irrelevant material they read with us to pass time. I've been in different RRU's I-step down programs, they all utilize the same state material.
None offered @ Fishkill count toward facility program credit. (ex: ART or ASAT).
Rational thinking, critical thinking.
RRU Program.
RRU program/movie, that’s what they tell us.
RRU programming.
RRU programs.
RRU.
Truthfully, none.
Not even a chance in hell. Never given pamphlets on program or anything. Signed for info & rule book never got them.
Franklin
Don’t know/No (n=2).
I wish I could but there is none.
None at the moment.
Gouverneur
Don’t know/No (n=30).
RRU.
RRU program.
RRU Program.
RRU programming.
Communication skills, criminal lifestyles, personal growth.
Don't even know that since police here advices you not to go to program because of the females. They don't want you looking at them I guess.
I just know they call it RRU.
All we do is talk to each other and sometimes watch movies.
I can't remember but topics on growth & development, life, politics, humanity, liberal.
RRU, Personal Growth, Communication.
RRU is the only program being offered.
We are brought into a classroom, our feet shackled to the table & we are given workbooks that we do with the counselor that comes in that day.

Responses per facility (2024 and 2025)
We do like criminal thinking workbooks but on the weekend we sit in the room & talk with no staff nothing to do but talk for 2 hrs. No movie is shown nothing is done but talk.
No because they just talk about what's going on out side of here.
No because they just talk about what is going on outside of here.
I don't know like I said staff threatens you with a ticket if you sign up.
They only have one class but the ORC gives us packets that we pick out that we feel is helpful to us.
RRU that's what they tell me.
Just RRU program I attend to get my good time back.
RRU and whichever book they are doing and also it's never the books you pick from RRU staff.
They call it RRU but these people said they hate this program and want is to be not here at this jail. The CO always tell us to not go to program or we will not feed you or we will put hands on you go to much.
We read off a workbook and program is run by counselors.
The only program I chose participate in was cell study which is a GED prep program. I like to learn things but in the NJ I have a high school diploma which hasn't confirmed by DOCC but they are aware of my testing proficiency. They also have an incentive program.
If there is a name I wouldn't know.
CBT is what they offer.
Rational thinking. Communication skills, transition, violence prevention, con behavior, something else. There are growth & development books.
Green Haven
Step down to community.
SDC.
Greene
Don’t know/No (n=6).
Anger management I think.
CBT.
CBT & DBT.
CBT work.
Cognitive behavioral therapy.
Cognitive behavioral thinking class (CBT).
I am currently in the RRU so I attend RRU program in restart chair.
I don't know! They only listen to music they don't do anything beneficial.
I have no clue.
In the RRU there isn't a specific list of programs.
Music therapy; black history.
N/A.
No I can't even know there was a name to the program.
No I think RRU.
None.
Not sure if they have an actual name they just say programs.
RRU program.
They don't have any, no school, no trade, no ART, no ASAT.
They have never called it anything. They just call it program. And all we do is play games for the most part. Very little educational stuff.
Hudson
Don’t know/No (n=1).
I'm not sure.
Movies.

Responses per facility (2024 and 2025)
Lakeview
Are none.
Marcy
Don’t know/No (n=2).
7 habits, DOCCS culture, Pre-ART, Thoughts & feelings, ACES, DBT, CBI, Relationships; Heros, Seeking safety, Scenario budgeting, DBT Skills.
All the counselors here are greatly respected by me & appreciated.
Mental wellness, the choices we make, purposeful life, start now, DBT journaling, mood management, grief & loss.
Mon – Fri Mod 1 – Mod 2 is orientation Mod 3 – Mod 4 is movie.
Need better meds that work.
Safe Space, Thoughts & feelings, Choice Topics, Mood Mgmt, ABE, DEAR, DBT journaling.
Safe Space,7 habits, grief & loss, current events, DBT, Healthy conflict, poverty, etc.
Variety of programs.
Mid-State
Don’t know/No (n=5).
ART.
ART.
ART. That's all I know.
ART; step down; back to population.
ASAT/ART but when we go to program we get nothing from it. They get paid the big bucks while the I/I's starve and suffer. Unfair!
Classroom 1, basement TV.
Cognitive behavior Therapy. I do volunteer Dialectical Behavior Therapy, aggression replacement training.
CO's & teachers is racists & they like I/I's that play with dudy & catch tickets.
I'm suppose to be in ASAT & ART programs but we don't do any of that we go through these booklets & barely get through those.
Mid-State only handles ART, there is no help with our vocational programming.
I just know they say program run.
Not really but I think ART is one.
Step down is legal.
Step down program and they say they’re not under HALT NY AB 2277.
Step down program.
Step down to population.
Step down.
Step-down.
Orleans
Don’t know/No (n=17).
Can't tell you unless you mean the programs I have to complete which is ASAT. I have to redo ART as well.
CBT material.
CBT program.
CBT.
CBT.
CBT. RBT, RRU or something.
CBT/PMT.
Cognitive behavior Therapy.
Cognitive thinking; Thinking ahead.
Daily package's doc's to get time cuts.
GED skills.

Responses per facility (2024 and 2025)
Honestly all I know is we go to program & majority of the time they have a crossword or word search for us to do.
I am not sure.
I can't, I never been there. I know they gave _____ or cell packets daily or programs out of cell (1) time a week.
I don't even know because they don't tell us or we don't even get to go.
I only know the packet name CBT.
I'm not sure I only do the packets when they are brought to my cell.
Just programs and packets.
Mr. Castro, MS; Ms. Hill; Ms. Ashton.
N/A.
Never been offered programs.
Never been.
Orleans CF doesn't have a name & no set course of what we do especially with Ms. Freeman.
RRU – which provided us cognitive programming.
RRU program I guess.
RRU program.
RRU programs.
RRU Therapeutic Program.
RRU.
RRU.
RRU. All we do is crossword they don't do nothing. Loot at the people working the program.
School which is offered if you are 21 y/o or younger.
School, RRU.
School.
The name of the program here is called RU program.
The RRU – SHU program for out of cell therapy I guess for a few hrs & they say if we attend we will get incentives for going to program for ex time cuts.
Therapeutic we do work & maybe play a game don't know the name.
There really isn't a program put in place.
Under 22 program/school.
We play games, sometimes write, read or just talk.
We usually do nothing or just play jeopardy with this one teacher.
Riverview
Don’t know/No (n=1).
Shawangunk
Don’t know/No (n=3).
Sing Sing
Don’t know/No (n=1).
No programs.
Sullivan
Don’t know/No (n=1).
SHU.
Ulster
N/A.
Upstate
Don’t know/No (n=1).
RRU program.

Responses per facility (2024 and 2025)
Behavior cognitive treatment.
Wende
Don’t know/No (n=2).
I believe they have a OMH class and the other is school.
Step down to community.
Woodbourne
Don’t know/No (n=2).
None.
Wyoming
Not sure what this is asking.
No, but when in GP I was ASAT, parenting, school porter.
I'm only aware of the tablet program but they never work when your lucky to get one.

Note: “Don’t know” and “No” responses have been grouped together per facility.

I find programming helpful to me (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree).

Facility	2023 (n=323)		2024 (n=232)		2025 (n=79)	
	Agree/strongly agree programs are helpful	Disagree/strongly disagree programs are helpful	Agree/strongly agree programs are helpful	Disagree/strongly disagree programs are helpful	Agree/strongly agree programs are helpful	Disagree/strongly disagree programs are helpful
Adirondack	3	2				
Albion			1	1		
Attica	7	6	18	7		1
Auburn			1		5	
Bare Hill	1		1	1		
Bedford Hills			1	1	1	1
Cayuga	17	8		2	13	4
Clinton						1
Collins	6	3	3	3	1	
Coxsackie			6	9		
Eastern					3	2
Elmira			3	4		2
Fishkill			14	11		
Five Points	2	4		1		
Gouverneur	23	11	36	18	1	
Green Haven			1			
Greene	17	26	1		12	13
Hudson					1	2
Marcy			4	1		
Mid-State			15	6		
Orleans		1	34	21	8	6
Shawangunk					1	
Sing Sing	2					
Sullivan			1	1		
Upstate	91	92	2			
Washington	1					
Wende						1
Woodbourne				1		
Wyoming			2			
Total	**170**	**153**	**144**	**88**	**46**	**33**

What do you like best about programming offered? Examples of comments over time (2023 through 2025)

Facility	What do you like best about the programming offered?
Adirondack	Helps you to think better!
	To come out of my cell to participate.
Albion	It gives you time to think about the questions & study who you really are.
Attica	Getting out of the cell talking to staff about what's going on in the real world, updates about the news.
	It's informational.
	Give me a chance to communicate and attend most things that we talk about in program can be helpful in general population.
Auburn	It helps me out a lot physically and mentally.
	It gives me new knowledge & wisdom & time to get out of the cell and talk with other I/I, the Iman other counselors & teachers.
	I get to come out my cell and talk about current events in my life.
Bare Hill	They don't offer you program, they just put you in what they want.
	Release from confinement and human interaction.
Bedford Hills	The program keeps you in touch with what is going on in your life.
	The group interaction in a positive way.
Cayuga	It allows you to progress while you are in the box/RRU and continue to rehabilitate yourself. It gives you goals to set/reach that's developed with your ORC.
	Learning new things and information to better yourself.
	It gets me ready for when I go home, to talk about real world problems.
Collins	The thing I like best that the programming offered is that it's the only time we get out of our cell to interact with each other (offender to offender).
	It give you chance to get out your cell do some work maybe look at TV or even just second to get away from ya bunkie if you have one.
	To get to learn new skills and to get time with other people to talk and socialize.
Coxsackie	When we talk about why we there and admit to our action.
	You can benefit from it in the long run.
Eastern	Get time out of my cell. We get to talk about real life topics that interest us & during group discussions we relate.
	Being in prison is punishment in and of itself. These programs give hope and access to material to rehabilitate.
	I get out of my cell and able to engage with other I/I's.
Elmira	It gives you something to do outside your cell; lot of positive things.
	I get to come out and talk to people.
Five Points	It gives us an outlet to work on some issues we may have. But that is only if the work that is being done is actually therapeutic.
Fishkill	I like group when we have deep convo about life & where we see our self in this world.
	Learning coping techniques and skill to be better myself.
	Being able to talk about stuff going on in the facility.
	Getting focus while in program. Less stress & depressed from being inside cell going crazy, learning, being able get time cut for participating & etc.
Gouverneur	You learn a lot and it help you to stay humble.
	That I can help myself and learn from my mistake and still make it home to my family on time.
	It gives you the real tools & understanding I need to keep doing better & knowing a better way of controlling anger & my thinking process.
Greene	Being out the cell, having an ORC to be able to answer questions and help with any issues I'm having. Watch movies in a depressing time, doing work and puzzles and group class discussions.
	You're with other classmates and you're doing group work. So it's kind of like school.
	Learn to interact with other people and depending on the program you can learn life skills that will benefit you upon release.
Green Haven	Time out my cell, good discussion.

Facility	What do you like best about the programming offered?
Hudson	More education will be great.
Marcy	The facilitators seem as if they really care and are held accountable for the materials they teach.
	I get to associate with the staff that run the different groups and exchange my thoughts with others.
Mid-State	Being able to share my experiences with others.
	That I get to socialize with other inmates and counselors. Get to watch tv.
	Help you get ready for population and teaches you how to respect each other as individuals.
Orleans	I like that you can come out your cell and learn new things with new people.
	Instructors show passion for their job. You see they actually want to help you improve your life.
	It allows you to work on your social skills in a social environment.
Shawangunk	Help me think different and see things different.
Sing Sing	I like having realistic conversations with other I/I's.
Sullivan	Out of cell time.
Upstate	To be outside the cell and speaking/working on ways to better myself.
	Conducts good energy, helps to get back on track to get back out to general population.
	ORC's.
Washington	Tablets, opportunity to speak to loved ones, and get out my cell to interact with others.
Wyoming	I get to interact w/ staff that are not criminals or criminal minded, I get to communicate w/ other prisoners. I get to learn something new or watch a movie or video & Cayuga CF RRU was the best I had!
	The ability to see and interact with other people.

What do you like least about programming offered? Examples of comments over time (2023 through 2025)

Facility	What do you like least about the programming offered?
Albion	Boredom; unhelpful; redundant.
Adirondack	That the counselors don't have no schedule plans for teaching.
Attica	I dislike that you cannot finish mandatory programs that you may need to go home such as ASAT/ART. I feel that some of the civilians are very lazy with the curriculum in that a person who is well read or further in formal education can't truly participate for lack of stimulation.
	There are no time cuts offered whether or not you attend program. Also, you are shackled in restraints to the floor like an animal, inhumanely. You can't use bathroom while attending program. No TV or news.
	Being handcuffed behind the back & legs shackled to the desk. Makes me feel like an animal.
Bedford Hills	I need to do the TRAMAMA program there is no tramama program.
	That we do the same work sheet over and over.
Cayuga	The computers they have what they call standalones.
	The fact that the facilitator brings in the same material to class, which is not helpful to the (mental). In all actually the same thing I do at programs I can do in my cell and it'll be more helpful to me.
	Interaction with security staff!
Collins	You can't bring what you learn from programs back.
	That they always find reasons not to let me go.
	The assistance the counselors offer is not helpful at all and it doesn't motivate the I/I's to change or work on their behavior that needs to be helped b/c they don't' allow +6 I/I's to come out & program for some reason & if they do it's a personal selection they choose to cope out & program.
Coxsackie	The staff & their way of approaching a sensitive situation.
	We sit in a room and talk to each other.
	They don't always reward you the incentives. For example, we normally receive incentives every week. However, I have not received a "time cut" in about a month. And the SORC can't seem to explain why.
Eastern	They don't help you at all and are only halfhearted with you and only give you drawings to compare you with a little child.
Elmira	That there is no incentive for this RRU.
	Not offering alternative that can & will be useful in the future, such as how to become entrepreneurs etc.
	The unorganized/unprofessional staff.
Fishkill	Sitting around doing nothing chained to a chair!
	No interacting with staff.
	They leave it up to CO to give time cut and that don't work.
Five Points	They restrain you to a table and allow other I/I's to be unrestrained in the same class.
Gouverneur	That we do all of it and still don't get nice time cuts like back in the day and that was before this RRU thing.
	That they don't work on each I/I's individual needs and or do assessments for each person rather treat us all the same.
	The tablet has to be shared, when in GP I have my personal tablet and can communicate w/ my loved ones. I do not like that they don't have ART or ASAT.
Greene	They don't offer any program that will satisfy my program needs for a CR.
	The lack of staff working the program and Correction Officer's attitudes.
	Conduct exhibited by staff meant to harass, annoy and antagonize inmates without reprisal or deterrence.
Hudson	Nobody does nothing but ...the whole class.
Marcy	I get to come out of my cell.
Mid-State	I have a disability I'm not supposed to be here I'm supposed to be in special population per HALT Law.
	I gotta go 30 days without commissary.
	The bull___ they take away from us when the officers write negatives.

Facility	What do you like least about the programming offered?
Orleans	That everyone pretends like something is being done. The foundations of the HALT Act is sound; the implementation of it is simply not taking place. It's an illusion and its doing more damage than good.
	Time, hand cuffs can't move.
	Nothing, they don't teach at all; terrible prison. The worse prison.
Sullivan	No rehabilitative benefits.
Upstate	1) Program instructors mean well, however the antiquated curriculum does not offer any realistic rehabilitation; 2) CO's make prisoners get on their knees to apply leg restraints; 3) Incentives have been punitively reduced to discourage program participation such as time cuts, food packages, extra visits, commissary buy $90; 4) Program hours are only 2 hours or less daily; 5) The Friday movies are the same three movies (Tuskegee Airmen, Daddy Day Care, Apollo 13).
	I don't like how they don't really care to help us. I'm young but I'm wise enough to know when I'm being treated unfairly. I need to know about transitioning back into society, housing & programs that may help me when I'm home.
Wende	The program is useless, it's no help.

What other types of programs would you like to see offered that would be helpful to you?

Facility	Required programs (ASAT, ART, AVP, AA, NA, transition programs, etc)			Vocational / trade programs			Educational programs (GED, college courses, resume writing, life skills, etc)			Incentive programs (time cuts, commissary, tablet, phones, more recreation, special meals, etc).			Mental Health groups			Other (rec, games, movies, yoga, gym, religion, etc.)		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Adirondack	4						1			1								
Albion					2			1										
Attica	7	18	1	5	4		3	2	1	3	1		2	4		1	8	
Auburn			5		1	1		1	5						3			3
Bare Hill							1				1			1				
Bedford Hills								1						1				2
Cape Vincent		1																
Cayuga	15	3	12	4		1	5		8			3	5		1	5	1	4
Clinton			1						1			1		1	1		1	
Collins	11	9		2	5		2	10		2	3		1	3		2	3	
Coxsackie		9			2			5			1			5			2	
Eastern			2			1			2			1			1	1		
Elmira		2	2		1	3		4	2		1	1		1			1	2
Franklin																		1
Fishkill		17			4			6			4		1	5			3	
Five Points	3			1			2			1						1		
Gouverneur	18	25	1	9	10		14	11		2	13		2	4		8	10	
Green Haven		1															1	
Greene	28		13	6		6	12	1	11			6	9		2	8		4
Hudson								1	2									1
Lakeview		1			1													
Marcy		2			2			3						3			2	
Mid-State		7			4			6			4			4			3	
Mohawk																		
Orleans	1	25	10		6	4		8	1		3	1		9			15	4
Shawangunk			1						1						1			
Sing Sing			2	1			2						1					
Sullivan		1						1										
Ulster						1												
Upstate	128	1		31	2		59	2		28			26			24		
Washington	1															1		
Wende			2	1														
Woodbourne		1	1	1														1
Wyoming		2						2						1			2	
Grand Total	**216**	**125**	**53**	**61**	**44**	**17**	**101**	**65**	**34**	**37**	**31**	**13**	**47**	**42**	**9**	**51**	**52**	**22**

Tablets

How often are you offered a tablet?

Facility	2023 (n=436)					2024 (n=349)					2025 (n=167)				
	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Other	Never	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Other	Never	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Other	Never
Adirondack	5			1											
Albion						2			1						
Attica	10	1		5	6	28	2	1	4	5	2				
Auburn						1				1	16	1		3	
Bare Hill			1			2		1							
Bedford Hills						1					1				
Cape Vincent						1									
Cayuga	25	1	2	6	3	3				1	28				1
Clinton						7					5	2		1	
Collins	18				2	23		1			1				
Coxsackie						12	3		2	1					
Eastern			1								5				
Elmira						9			2		5				1
Fishkill				1		9	5	4	14	5					
Five Points	3				4	1									
Franklin						1					4			1	
Gouverneur	34	2		5	1	63	2	1	9	2	1				
Green Haven						2					1				
Greene	2		19	22	7	1					30	1	3	2	1
Hudson											3				1
Lakeview						1									
Marcy						6			2						
Mid-State						14			3	10					
Mohawk	2		1												
Orleans	1					47		3	9	10	31			2	1
Riverview									1						
Shawangunk											2			1	
Sing Sing	2										3				
Sullivan						1		1		1					
Ulster											1				
Upstate	2	3	109	99	24			3							
Washington	2														
Wende	1	1			1						3	1			
Woodbourne	1					1					2				
Wyoming						3									
Total	**108**	**8**	**133**	**139**	**48**	**239**	**12**	**15**	**47**	**36**	**144**	**5**	**3**	**10**	**5**

How many hours do you get to use your tablet per day?

	2023 (n=374)				2024 (n=304)				2025 (n=161)			
Facility	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**
Adirondack	3	2		1								
Albion						2	1					
Attica	6	7	3		5	17	9	3		1	1	
Auburn							1			7	10	3
Bare Hill							1	2				
Bedford Hills						1					1	
Cape Vincent							1					
Cayuga	24	5	2	2	3				25	3		
Clinton					1		5	1			6	2
Collins	2	4	12			6	17	1		1		
Coxsackie					3	4	9					
Eastern				1					4	1		
Elmira					1	7	2		4	1		
Fishkill				1	1	2	11	18				
Five Points			3				1					
Franklin						1					5	
Gouverneur	1	11	27	1		9	43	22			1	
Green Haven						2			1			
Greene		2	29	10			1		16	7	10	3
Hudson										2	1	
Lakeview							1					
Marcy						2	6					
Mid-State					2	8	4	1				
Mohawk			2	1								
Orleans				1	1		31	25	22	5	3	2
Shawangunk									1		2	
Sing Sing		1	1								3	
Sullivan						1		1				
Ulster									1			
Upstate	1	2	53	148			2	1				
Washington		1	1									
Wende		1	1						1	1	2	
Woodbourne		1				1				2		
Wyoming					1		1	1				
Total	**37**	**37**	**134**	**166**	**18**	**63**	**147**	**76**	**75**	**31**	**45**	**10**

Recreation

Current Recreation is … alone / group (congregate) / combination of both

Facility	2023 (n=402)			2024 (n=316)			2025 (n=140)		
	Alone	Congregate	Combination of both	Alone	Congregate	Combination of both	Alone	Congregate	Combination of both
Adirondack		2	4						
Albion						3			
Attica	11		5	13	10	15	2		
Auburn				1		1	6	5	5
Bare Hill			1			1			
Bedford Hills					2			2	
Cape Vincent				1					
Cayuga	23	2	9	2		1	15	4	8
Clinton				2		4	4	1	2
Collins	11	1	8	9	5	9	1		
Coxsackie				10	2	7			
Eastern		1					5		1
Elmira				3	1	2	5		
Fishkill	1			15	15	6			
Five Points	3	1	3			1			
Franklin						1	3		
Gouverneur	29	4	9	32	10	25	1		
Green Haven				1					
Greene	27	2	15			1	24	2	3
Hudson						1			4
Lakeview				1					
Marcy				8					
Mid-State				21	3	4			
Mohawk	1		1						
Orleans	1			35	5	22	14	2	9
Shawangunk							1		2
Sing Sing	1		1					1	1
Sullivan						1			
Ulster									1
Upstate	149	13	60	2					
Washington	1								
Wende	2						4		
Woodbourne						1		1	1
Wyoming						1			
Total	**260**	**26**	**116**	**156**	**53**	**107**	**85**	**18**	**37**

What kind of recreation do you prefer? Survey item added in 2024

Facility	2024 (n=313)			2025 (n=151)		
	Alone	**Congregate**	**Combination of both**	**Alone**	**Congregate**	**Combination of both**
Adirondack						
Albion	1	2				
Attica	6	20	8		1	
Auburn		1	1	4	13	1
Bare Hill		1	1			
Bedford Hills		1	1		1	1
Cape Vincent		1				
Cayuga				8	9	11
Clinton	1	4	1	1	3	3
Collins	6	6	10	1		
Coxsackie	4	8	7			
Eastern					3	1
Elmira	2	3	3	3		3
Fishkill	10	12	15			
Five Points						
Franklin		1		1	3	
Gouverneur	7	33	26			1
Green Haven			1			
Greene				6	14	11
Hudson			1	3		1
Lakeview		1				
Marcy	1	2	3			
Mid-State	7	11	9			
Mohawk						
Orleans	10	31	26	8	8	15
Shawangunk				1		3
Sing Sing				1		1
Sullivan			1			
Ulster				1		
Upstate	1	1	1			
Washington						
Wende				4		
Woodbourne		1			1	1
Wyoming			2			
Total	**56**	**140**	**117**	**42**	**56**	**53**

During the average week, how often are you offered recreation?

Facility	2023 (n=440)				2024 (n=346)				2025 (n=163)			
	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Never	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Never	Daily	4-5 Days/Wk	2-3 Days/Wk	Never
Adirondack	6											
Albion					3							
Attica	12	1	2	6	14	14	5	5		1		1
Auburn					1			1	9	2	3	2
Bare Hill			1		1			2				
Bedford Hills					2						1	
Cape Vincent					1							
Cayuga	26	2	1	6	3			1	24		1	4
Clinton					7				3	2	2	
Collins	20				18	2	1	2	1			
Coxsackie					16	3						
Eastern	1								6			
Elmira					6			4	3	1		2
Fishkill	1				28	4	2	3				
Five Points	7											
Franklin					1				2		1	2
Gouverneur	35	1	3	2	61	4		10	1			
Green Haven					1			1				
Greene	30	2	7	11		1			25		1	10
Hudson					2				3			1
Lakeview					1							
Marcy					9							
Mid-State					21	1	2	3				
Mohawk				3								
Orleans	1				63			6	22	1		11
Shawangunk									3		1	
Sing Sing	2								2			1
Sullivan					1		1	1				
Ulster									1			
Upstate	210	5	5	25	3							
Washington				2								
Wende	1			2					4			
Woodbourne	1				1				2	1		
Wyoming					2			1				
Total	**353**	**11**	**19**	**57**	**266**	**29**	**11**	**40**	**111**	**8**	**10**	**34**

When there is recreation, on average, how many hours of recreation are offered each day?

	2023 (n=374)				2024 (n=298)				2025 (n=122)			
Facility	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**	**> 6 hrs.**	**4-6 hrs.**	**2-4 hrs.**	**< 2 hrs.**
Adirondack			4	2								
Albion						1		2				
Attica			9	4	1	1	23	8			1	
Auburn								1		1	6	6
Bare Hill			1			1						
Bedford Hills							1	1		1		
Cape Vincent								1				
Cayuga	23	2	3		2		1		16	3	4	1
Clinton								5				7
Collins	6	7	5	1	4	7	10			1		
Coxsackie						2	12	4				
Eastern				1								6
Elmira							1	3				4
Fishkill		1				5	20	9				
Five Points			6	1								
Franklin							1				1	2
Gouverneur	1	4	32	2		14	46	5			1	
Green Haven							1					
Greene	4	6	12	17			1		15	3	3	3
Hudson							1	1	1		1	1
Lakeview								1				
Marcy						2	7					
Mid-State					9	2	7	3				
Orleans			1			9	48	6	16	2	1	1
Shawangunk									1		1	2
Sing Sing			1	1							2	
Sullivan								2				
Ulster												1
Upstate	35	75	74	31	3							
Wende				1								4
Woodbourne				1				1			1	2
Wyoming					1			1				
Total	**69**	**95**	**148**	**62**	**20**	**44**	**180**	**54**	**49**	**11**	**22**	**40**

Hours of recreation offered each day by housing unit:

	> 6 hrs.	4-6 hrs.	2-4 hrs.	<2 hrs.	Total
2023	**69**	**95**	**148**	**61**	**373**
RRU	63	85	139	50	337
SHU	6	5	6	9	26
RMHU			1	1	2
Hold-over		2	1		3
Other		3	1	1	5
2024	**20**	**43**	**180**	**51**	**294**
RRU	11	34	150	34	229
SHU	1	5	11	12	29
RMHU		3	12	2	17
Other	8	1	7	3	19
2025	**49**	**11**	**22**	**39**	**121**
RRU	48	11	17	11	87
SHU			5	25	30
Other	1			3	4
Total	**138**	**149**	**350**	**151**	**788**

How often do you attend recreation?

	2023 (n=371)					2024 (n=298)					2025 (n=128)				
Facility	**Daily**	**4-5 Days/Wk**	**2-3 Days/Wk**	**Other**	**Never**	**Daily**	**4-5 Days/Wk**	**2-3 Days/Wk**	**Other**	**Never**	**Daily**	**4-5 Days/Wk**	**2-3 Days/Wk**	**Other**	**Never**
Adirondack	5				1										
Albion								1		2					
Attica		1	6	2	6	1	4	8	5	14					1
Auburn						1					2	1	3	1	7
Bare Hill			1			1									
Bedford Hills						1			1		1				
Cape Vincent										1					
Cayuga	24	1	4			2		1			17	1	2	1	4
Clinton						4				2	1	1	2	2	1
Collins	15	1	2		1	17	1	1	2		1				
Coxsackie						10	5	1	1	2					
Eastern					1						3	1		2	
Elmira								2		3			1	1	2
Fishkill	1					24	2	3	1	4					
Five Points	4				1										
Franklin						1					1		1		
Gouverneur	21	2	5	4	6	52	4	1	3	4	1				
Green Haven									1						
Greene	26	3	6	3	1			1			23			3	
Hudson								1	1		2		1		
Lakeview										1					
Marcy						4	1	1	1						
Mid-State						13		2	7	2					
Orleans				1		50	1	2	6	3	18			3	2
Shawangunk											1	1			2
Sing Sing	2										1				1
Sullivan									1						
Ulster												1			
Upstate	168	6	9	18	11	3									
Wende					1						1	1		1	1
Woodbourne					1			1			1			2	
Wyoming						2									
Total	**266**	**14**	**33**	**28**	**30**	**186**	**18**	**26**	**30**	**38**	**74**	**7**	**10**	**16**	**21**

If less than daily, why don't you attend recreation when it is offered? The following is a sampling of responses (2023 through 2025)

- It's within 1 step away from the holding cell. It's cold, ain't nothing to do unless I work out in that's it. Beside walking around in a box like holding cell.
- It's cold and also there is no pull up bar or nothing there to work out, it's just a cage.
- It's a little box, all you get from rec is fresh air. There's nothing to do.
- Started going then felt it was pointless.
- We get rec too early. You have to wake up early if you want to go in the rec pen.
- Our recreation is only in our rec pen during the week. On weekends our rec is 3 hours in a classroom with no T.V., movies, etc. I see no probable value in being in my cell calling it recreation or sitting in a room talking with no movement.
- Not much. Nothing to offer other than fresh air.
- I've been denied recreation, daily.
- Because I don't have the proper protection gear for bad weather. Right now, it's too cold.
- I step outside to get some air, but the cameras make me feel uncomfortable.
- I love being in my cell alone. So, I can gather my thoughts and think of how I can prevent myself from ever coming back to the SHU again. I plan to make this my first and last time.
- I attend recreation about once or twice a week. Because most of my days I am attending RRU program.
- Boring, sit in a cell/kennel and do nothing.
- If its cold outside they don't allow us to wear thermals or sweat suits under our greens so we could be warm then they have us out there for hours.
- Monotonous. Just a cage no real recreation.
- When I don't attend it's because COs prohibit me from doing so.
- Upstate makes up their own rules!
- I would like to attend daily but my rec pen does not open daily.
- Because inmate get a chance to attack other inmate with weapon and love to hurt them.
- Not enough vocational programs.
- I'm not big on television.
- I really don't care to stand around and talk about nothing in a cage.
- I avoid conflict with other I/I.
- It is not clean in the recreation place.
- Because I don't want to sit in a cage with no water or bathroom for hours.
- Because with us being outside in the scorching heat - the DOCCS staff do not allow us to bring bottled water (bought from commissary) nor do they offer any alternative to stay hydrated.
- Because they don't let us use the bathroom, get water or wear the clothing we are allowed.
- Because there is no water, no bathroom & there is nowhere to sit down or when it rains there is no shelter out there.
- I've only been in SHU since yesterday but rec is cancelled daily. We don't go out more than we do go outside it seems. We are all separated to a separate box.
- Because I'm offered a tablet instead, unless I utilize my rec in which I'm then not afforded a tablet!!!
- Because I would be in a cage by myself for a hour just walking back and forth.
- Because it is never offered in the morning or the afternoon, only evening. Cold weather.
- RRU staff don't allow me to go even though I sign up everyday.
- Because if I pick program or phone I can't get rec.
- Because of harassment & retaliation by officers who are prejudice & against the Halt Act Correction law 137.

- Because it is not congregate and the rec pens are completely empty so it is boring. Also, no water or bathroom facilities are available & I'm old and need this.
- The rec pen is part of the cell so if you consider stepping outside for a minute or two, rec, then daily.
- Recreation is in a cage attached to my cell that I share with another I/I. My cellmate and I in a cage attached to our cell is not my idea of recreation in a congregate setting. Especially 4 walls in a cage with no rec equip. That is not recreation in my opinion.
- Once a week preserving my right to isolate. One cage is enough for the day sometimes, don't need to go from cell cage to rec cage.
- The guards scurry by before you have a chance to sign up for it.
- It's literally the same as being trapped in your cell and I find it being very uncomfortable.
- Cause staff uses intimidation tactics when they run recreation.
- Small area and very enclosed.
- I rather self-educate myself in my cell by reading.
- Cold concrete box on roof.

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor
DANIEL F. MARTUSCELLO III
Commissioner

August 10, 2026

Jody Signoracci
Deputy Director, Office of Outreach, Prevention & Support
NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs
161 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054

Programming and Recreation Survey Analysis 2026
Quarter 1 Summary

Dear Deputy Director Signoracci:

This is in response to the New York State Justice Center's Programming and Recreation Survey Analysis conducted during the 1st quarter of 2026.

Recommendation 1:

DOCCS should expand therapeutic and educational programming options and incentives to increase participation.

Response:

In regard to your recommendation of expanding the programming options in SHU and RRU, DOCCS is constantly reviewing curriculum in order to make improvements. DOCCS staff currently utilizes a variety of therapeutic materials, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and Holistic Programming Material. Interactive Journaling and CBT materials remain the core curriculum with a focus on developing new thought patterns and coping strategies to succeed in general population. Holistic Group Materials are routinely added to the DOCCS Training Icon for staff to access, and include topics which supports recovery, self-regulation, CBT, soft skills, and lessons to encourage thoughtful reflection on one's behaviors and the impact that has on their goals. Academic studies are offered with progression testing occurring at regular intervals.

Regarding specific incarcerated individual feedback pertaining to mandatory programming such as ART and ASAT, these programs require continuous participation and often a reliance on familiarity with the same group membership. Substance abuse treatment is best suited for a residential therapeutic community setting, and aggression programming uses closed-group modality. Additionally, educational material related to drug and alcohol rehabilitation is available to the incarcerated individuals on the tablet and by request. Both the curriculum in SHU and RRU include courses related to behavior modification, self-regulation and other topics that encourage group discussion and developing pro-social behaviors.

Furthermore, those mandatory programs are often tied to early release opportunities, and providing mandatory programs in SHU and RRU would reward misbehavior. Due to security and logistical issues, vocational courses are not feasible in SHU or RRU however incarcerated individuals can request material related to subjects they are interested in.

In regard to your recommendation to provide incentives to increase program participation, the Department's policy includes a standardized incentive program with the expectation of universal application statewide. Incentives are provided when earned through positive progress and participation. Incentives are awarded to participants exhibiting positive behavior and/or progress toward achieving their individual rehabilitation plan goals. The Program Management Team (PMT) conducts meaningful reviews of incarcerated individuals to assess their progress. The Incarcerated Individual Informational Report is used to convey pertinent information to the PMT, and it is used to make determinations pertaining to incentives. Disciplinary time cut recommendations are made at the discretion of the PMT with the Superintendent giving final approval, and an incarcerated individual may request a time cut at any time through the discretionary review process.

Recommendation 2:

OMH should develop and provide programming options in the SHU and RRU that include mental health groups and topics.

Response:

DOCCS has continued discussions with OMH regarding their role in SHU and RRU as the Department maintains that OMH's involvement would be a valuable component to programming. OMH is not involved with programming in SHU; however, last year they agreed to start piloting OMH programming in RRU at Elmira Correctional Facility and Five Points Correctional Facility for incarcerated individuals on their caseload with a plan to expand if successful. DOCCS will defer to OMH for additional explanation.

Recommendation 3:

DOCCS should train and support staff to encourage incarcerated individuals to attend programming and not remain isolated in their cells.

Response:

In regard to your recommendation to staff encouraging program participation, DOCCS continues to emphasize the importance of participation in rehabilitative and therapeutic programming in SHU and RRU to promote self-regulation and encourage pro-social behaviors. Incarcerated individuals in SHU and RRU are encouraged to participate daily in out-of-cell programming and work on identifying the behaviors that led to their disciplinary confinement and take necessary steps to engage in behavior modification. Programming is offered daily during SHU/RRU Go-Round by officers and submitted daily to the executive team and the guidance office in the facility. The purpose of this form is to allow the executive teams to track each incarcerated individual's daily participation in use of tablets, programming, and recreation.

All staff assigned to SHU or RRU undergo specialized training prior to assignment to such unit and receive regular training thereafter to promote adherence to the HALT Legislation. Additionally, the Department has provided Motivational Interviewing training for the Offender Rehabilitation Coordinators to increase the incarcerated individuals' intrinsic motivation to make positive changes in their lives which includes program participation. Staff have received RRU operations and CBT training and continue to be supported by Central Office through monthly conference calls. Additional training is available upon request of the facility administration.

Recommendation 4:

While DOCCS appears to be offering daily recreation, they should make every effort to ensure that recreation is congregate to maintain compliance with HALT.

Response:

In regard to your recommendation concerning congregate recreation, DOCCS reviews on an ongoing basis each facility's layout to explore space and logistics to make improvements. Current improvements consist of capital projects including construction of congregate recreation areas; however, some projects have not yet reached completion status.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your report that was based on surveying incarcerated individuals regarding programming and recreation. I look forward to continuing to work productively with the Justice Center to improve the services for our population.

Sincerely,

James Donahue
Associate Commissioner