

Department of Management

Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement

Tech2Connect Program Evaluation

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Key Findings

Iowa's Second, Sixth, and Seventh Judicial Districts administer a re-entry planning and preparation program called Tech2Connect (T2C). This program is innovative because it uses technology to expand the districts' re-entry efforts by making programming available before the offender leaves incarceration. The districts all use secure tablets and educational programming that are purchased through ORIJIN, a company that specializes in educational access in correctional facilities. T2C is available in seven of Iowa's nine correctional institutions and tablet access is managed by prison staff.

Eligibility for T2C is determined by the offender's privilege level in the prison, anticipated release date, and district where the offender will be released. T2C allows district staff to connect with offenders prior to them leaving prison and provide education, training, skill-building, and self-assessment knowledge that is intended to help in problem-solving, thinking patterns, and behavior change for success in the community post-release. Clients progress at their own pace at a level or amount determined by the client's interest and motivation. Clients are encouraged, but not required, to complete any programming.

This evaluation used T2C client data from 1/1/2022 through 8/15/2025 and prison incarceration and exit data from 1/1/2022 through 9/30/2025.

Program Description:

- The program had 2,048 client accounts and 24 district administrator accounts.
- 76.6% of clients anticipated release within 12 months.
- 58,162 hours of programming were delivered on 414 tablets.
- 175 different courses were offered.
- 452 T2C clients earned 1,192 certificates indicating completion of areas of study.
- For those who did not recidivate, there was a significant difference in time served during the initial incarceration (the time when I/I's would have joined T2C) with T2C clients serving an average of 2.1 years compared to 1.9 years served by offenders who did not participate in T2C.
- Significantly more T2C clients were more commonly released from prison to "work release" versus Not-T2C individuals.
- Significantly fewer T2C clients were released through "discharge" and were no longer under correctional supervision, compared to Not-T2C individuals.
- 68.7% of clients surveyed reported that they enrolled in T2C voluntarily, while 16.9% reported that they had been enrolled automatically.
- 38.6% of clients surveyed reported that they used the tablet daily and 28.7% used the tablet weekly.
- The T2C clients who had multiple prison stays (exited and returned) spent the most time on the tablets and in programming and earned significantly more Master Plan Certificates. They also had a significantly higher enrollment in the Master Plan, WRAP Addictions, and WRAP Reentry classes. One possible explanation is that these individuals have more time to spend in T2C.

Positive Outcomes

- 48.8% of clients reported high levels of comfort with technology prior to beginning T2C, and 53.3% of clients surveyed reported high competence in their ability to use the tablet.

- The majority of both T2C clients (80.2%) and the comparison group, Not-T2C individuals (84.0%) exited prison and did not return.
- For those who returned to prison, T2C clients spent significantly less time (0.77 years) in subsequent incarcerations than Not-T2C individuals (0.84 years).
- Significantly more Not-T2C individuals recidivated after being released from prison through “discharge” than T2C clients.
- District 7 offered early admission to T2C to some offenders whose sentence included an option for reconsideration. Of the nine offenders who participated early, only one returned to prison (11.1% recidivism).
- District and prison staff are enthusiastic about T2C. Staff view the program as a valuable tool for recidivism reduction and a way for offenders to demonstrate initiative.
- Prison staff felt strongly that T2C is not a replacement for traditional, in-person programming, but does provide a valuable supplement and expansion of available training and skill-building lessons.

Negative Outcomes

- T2C clients were significantly higher than Not-T2C offenders in revoked supervision for a “new arrest pending” or “found not guilty”.
- There were 274 (19.8%) T2C clients who exited that returned to prison compared to 16.0% (N=1,571) of Not-T2C individuals. The T2C clients returned to prison at a significantly higher than expected rate than Not-T2C individuals.

Future Considerations

- Prison staff reported a preference for consistent implementation.
- As the number of districts that are offering Tech2Connect in each correctional facility increases, so will the number of clients and tablets and the amount of staff time needed.

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Introduction to Tech2Connect

The Iowa Department of Corrections (IDOC), which oversees prisons and community-based corrections, has a vision of "an Iowa with no more victims" and a mission of "creating opportunities for safer communities."[1] IDOC additionally strives to help each individual build "protective factors that may buffer risk" and lead to successful life in the community after re-entry.[2] T2C is one effort to reduce criminal behavior and, ultimately, to make Iowa safer.

In an effort to facilitate progress towards these goals, Iowa's Second, Sixth, and Seventh Judicial Districts administer a re-entry planning and preparation program called Tech2Connect (T2C). T2C expands the districts' re-entry programming efforts by providing technology-based training to incarcerated individuals (I/I's) prior to release. The Second and Seventh Judicial Districts initiated T2C in 2018 and the Sixth Judicial District began offering the option in 2025. The T2C program in the Second and Seventh Districts was funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) through *the Innovations in Supervision Initiative: Building Capacity to Create Safer Communities* (2018) program. T2C was supported in 2021 with funding from Iowa's Legislature and has since become a recurring line item for the participating districts.

Each district uses secure tablets and educational programming that are purchased through ORIJIN which is a company that specializes in educational access in correctional facilities. The districts coordinate with prison facilities to enroll and assist I/I's who will be released to their respective districts with the T2C program.

T2C has the following goals[3]:

1) Use technology to connect with justice-involved individuals.
2) Provide access to individualized treatment within institutions and communities.
3) Provide reentry services for justice involved individuals.
4) Establish a mentorship program.
5) Increase treatment dosage within institutions and community.
6) Individual districts also worked on district-specific goals. For example, the Seventh District identified an additional goal to develop a process for offenders eligible to return to court for a reconsideration of sentence. The Second District set a goal to initiate a virtual classroom for Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) group classes by end of FY 2025.

Goal 1: T2C Technology

The T2C Program is available on secure tablets for individuals to use while still incarcerated. ORIJIN tablets are compact with a military-grade case, screens that are protected from shattering or removal, and batteries that are protected from removal. The tablet programming is locked and monitored and allows for either district or prison staff to administratively shut them down. This technology provides access to education, training, skill-building, and personal assessment programming that will benefit the learner post-release. Each account provides a

[1] https://doc.iowa.gov/our-mission-vision
[2] https://doc.iowa.gov/about-us/strategic-plan-fy2021-fy2026
[3] 7th District PPT, *Tech2Connect: Providing Reentry, Reconsideration, and Treatment Services for Justice Involved Individuals*.

communication pathway for the T2C client to communicate with designated district staff through the Learning Management System (LMS) on the tablets.

Goal 2: Individualized Treatment

Upon enrollment in T2C, clients utilize tablets to complete their self-assessments. These self-assessments help clients understand themselves better, and identify strengths, weaknesses, risk factors, and triggers that could affect their ability to succeed in the community. The I/I and district staff discuss the assessments and determine programming on the tablet that will benefit the client.

This direct communication focuses on future community living, builds supervision rapport, and anticipates needs for success in the community. Some examples of re-entry services that are anticipated and addressed through T2C include applying for Social Security Cards or IDs, assisting with housing and clothing needs, exploring employment opportunities, scheduling medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment appointments, and addressing outstanding warrants or pending charges.

Goal 3: Reentry & Recidivism

Re-entry is when people in prison "prepare for release and transition back into the community."[4] A goal of the IDOC "is to assist individuals as they work to become productive members of their communities when they reenter society."[5]

Success in the community post-release is measured by staying out of prison (i.e. recidivism). The IDOC defines recidivism as "the act of an individual leaving prison who is then reincarcerated within three years for any reason."[6] Recidivism occurs from a technical violation of their parole or when an individual commits a new crime for which they are charged and sentenced. As of June 30, 2024, Iowa's total prison recidivism rate was 35.8%. Recidivism for technical violation was 14.7% and recidivism for a new crime was 21.2% and recidivism for a technical violation (also referred to as "revocation") was 14.7%.[7]

According to IDOC, "individuals are at highest risk of recidivism the first year following release"[8] and is one of the measures used in this report. When an individual is more than three years past release, returning to prison is greatly reduced which is why three-year recidivism is often measured. For example, Iowa saw 3,173 people leave prison during FY2021. Within 12 months following release, 437 individuals were reincarcerated for a one-year recidivism rate of 13.8%. Within 36 months following release, 1,136 individuals were reincarcerated for a three-year recidivism rate of 35.8%.

T2C allows district staff to connect with offenders prior to them leaving prison and provide education, training, skill-building, and self-assessment knowledge that is intended to help in problem-solving, thinking patterns, and behavior change for success in the community post-release.

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[4] https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/overview-re-entry
[5] https://doc.iowa.gov/about-us
[6] https://data.iowa.gov/stories/s/Iowa-Prison-Recidivism/mp89-ki4k
[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.

Goal 4: Mentorship

The T2C program emphasizes client success in the community and building connections between clients and community members as aspects of re-entry success. T2C clients are assessed for candidacy in mentorship and clients complete a “Mentee” application. The district helps find a mentor for a client following the *Volunteer Programs in Community Based Corrections* policy.[9]

Goal 5: Treatment Dosage

T2C allows clients to participate in treatment programming while incarcerated and after reentry while in the districts. The goal is to provide education, training, and skill building that will help the offender change their thinking and behavior that had previously resulted in incarceration. District staff enroll T2C clients into some courses, and other courses are available for the clients to self-enroll. Clients progress at their own pace at a level or amount determined by the client’s interest and motivation. Clients are encouraged, but not required, to complete any programming.

District staff create courses that provide virtual and electronic communication between the district and the T2C client (e.g., *Zoom Rooms, Virtual Classrooms*). There are some courses that are offered to clients that can be taken either on their own (i.e. self-directed) or logged at a particular time weekly (i.e. synchronously) and progress through the curriculum with others at the same time. For example, both the Second and Seventh Judicial Districts offer online synchronous group courses. Other courses are created to hold materials or resources (e.g., *Forms*, *eBooks*) that all T2C clients can access.

Seventh District Goal: Reconsideration

Iowa Code § 902.4 states, “for a period of one year from the date when a person convicted of a felony, other than a class “A” or class “B” felony, begins to serve a sentence of confinement, the court, on its own motion or on the recommendation of the director of the Iowa department of corrections, may order the person to be returned to the court, at which time the court may review its previous action and reaffirm it or substitute for it any sentence permitted by law.” Essentially, this reconsideration allows a judge to take a "second look" at a person’s prison sentence within the first year and determine if the court will release the offender early. The Seventh District decided that they would evaluate each offender with a “reconsideration” option on their sentence and determine if those individuals should be invited to participate in the T2C program, which would be much sooner than through other T2C admission procedures. Offenders gain the benefit of the T2C programming plus the district then provides a letter to the judge to review at the reconsideration hearing.

Second District Goal: Virtual Classroom WRAP Class

Each of the districts set goals to continuously improve. One such goal developed when the Second District identified that offenders would benefit from having a virtual classroom for a structured experience with Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) classes. This goal was accomplished in the district by end of 2025.

[9] DOC. (2025). *Volunteer Programs in Community Based Corrections* https://doc.iowa.gov/media/898/download?inline

Program Evaluation

The history of Iowa's T2C program and an evaluation of the Second Judicial District Program was extensively documented in 2022.[10] The 2022 evaluation concluded:

"As part of this program, the Second District reduced barriers to treatment by integrating the utilization of technology to help facilitate programming, treatment, and promote supervising officer and client interaction."[11]

Presently, the Department of Management – Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement (DOM-DPI) is supported by funding from the Bureau of Justice Statistics to evaluate the program. The research protocol was reviewed and approved by an independent Institutional Review Board for the protection of human subjects on March 7, 2025.

The purpose of this program evaluation was to:

(1) Describe and evaluate the current processes used by the districts and prisons for administering the program.
(2) Describe the clients and their experience in the T2C program.
(3) Compare recidivism of T2C clients and Not-T2C clients.

Methodology

The Tech2Connect Program is currently administered and managed by Second, Sixth, and Seventh Judicial Districts in various Iowa prisons using ORIJIN tablets and programming.

Data for this evaluation was collected from multiple sources:

- Interviews with staff from Second, Sixth, and Seventh Judicial Districts.
- Interviews with ORIJIN staff.
- Interviews with staff from correctional facilities where T2C is offered.
- Client Survey deployed from July 15, 2025, to August 15, 2025, to all active T2C clients.[12]
- ORIJIN data for all courses and client enrollment, January 1, 2022, through August 15, 2025 (see Appendix B for interview and survey questions).

[10] Fineran, S. and Potts, B. (2022). Second Judicial Tech2Connect Evaluation. Iowa Department of Corrections.
[11] Ibid., 7
[12] The client survey was sent to ORIJIN's technical support team and they created the survey using their Form Assembly. It was then made available for all Iowa learners on their tablets. Approximately 4 days prior to the survey being deployed, the district coordinators notified all Tech2Connect clients that they would be seeing a survey pop-up in the coming days. The survey was active from July 15 through August 14, 2025. The first time that a learner logged into his or her Tech2Connect account after the survey was active, the Informed Consent for the Tech2Connect Survey popped up and the learner was required to choose to either "agree to participate in the survey" and be taken to the survey or to "not agree to participate" and then the window closed.

- Justice Data Warehouse (JDW) data for all T2C clients and Not-T2C clients on prison interventions, release, rule violation hearings, recidivism, and parole? revocation.[13]
- The JDW generated a list of new admissions between January 1, 2022, and August 15, 2025. For each admission, the report linked offender IDs, supervision statuses, and T2C cohort membership, while also compiling the specific intervention type, location, region, and duration.
- Reconsideration data for Seventh Judicial District clients was also obtained.

Program Description and Processes

District Commitment

The Second and Seventh Judicial Districts committed to T2C with staff, technology purchases, and training in 2018 using a grant from Bureau of Justice Assistance. Then, in 2021, the State of Iowa provided funding for the T2C Pilot Project and funded three FTE in the Second District, six FTE in the Seventh, and four FTE at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility. In 2024, the Sixth Judicial District implemented T2C by hiring one full-time T2C staff member who was hired in 2025.

The Seventh Judicial District created a document that outlines procedures for client identification, revoked parole, transfers to different institutions, sex offenders' criteria, and the unique approach to T2C in each prison including the contact person and location of tablets.

Districts and Correctional Facilities

Each individual district approaches the correctional facilities where they want to have T2C offered. The district staff member(s) who monitor T2C clients contact prison administrators, re-entry coordinators, counselors, or other treatment staff and meet to discuss the program and how it could operate in that facility. When the correctional facility administration and staff agree to assist in the day-to-day management of tablet administration, the districts pursue with creating a secure email account ("kiosk account") which allows the district to be an option for I/I's in that correctional facility to securely send an electronic communication to the districts. See Table 1 for locations in Iowa where T2C is offered.

[13] To examine the data, DPI staff compiled data from the JDW which is a central repository of key criminal justice information maintained by DPI. The data in this report reflect information from the Judicial Branch's Case Management System at the time the information was extracted to the Iowa Justice Data Warehouse. Some edits to these records may have occurred within the case management system after the extraction and such updates would be made in the data warehouse during the next upload cycle. All data is from the JDW unless otherwise noted.

Table 1. Iowa Correctional Facilities and T2C Programs

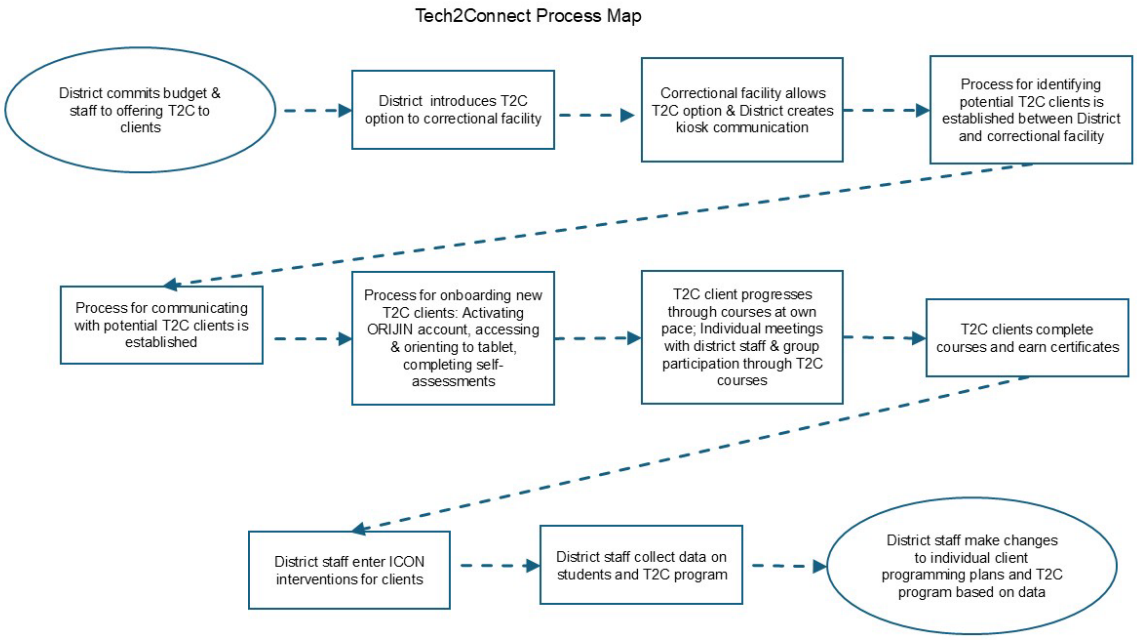
Anamosa State Penitentiary	ASP	Anamosa	Male	1160	Medium			
Clarinda Correctional Facility	CCF	Clarinda	Male	1020	Medium			D7
Fort Dodge Correctional Facility	FDCF	Fort Dodge	Male	1259	Medium	D2		D7
Iowa Correctional Institution for Women	ICIW	Mitchellville	Female	669	Medium	D2	D6	D7
Iowa Medical and Classification Center	IMCC	Oakdale	Male	964	Medium			D7
Iowa State Penitentiary	ISP	Fort Madison	Male	738	Maximum			
Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility	MPCF	Mount Pleasant	Male	1017	Minimum	D2		D7
Newton Correctional Facility	NCF	Newton	Male	1145	Medium	D2	D6	D7
North Central Correctional Facility	NCCF	Rockwell City	Male	474	Minimum	D2	D6	D7

**daily census on 8/14/2025*

Process for Identifying Potential T2C Clients

Each district works with individual correctional facilities to determine the I/I's qualification for the T2C program. In some cases, the correctional facility staff make a list of potential clients and inform the district staff. In some cases, the district staff contact potential clients based on their anticipated discharge date. In other cases, I/I's kiosk the districts and request enrollment in the T2C program. See Figure 1 for a summary of the T2C process.

Figure 1. T2C Process



Determining Client Eligibility & Acceptance into T2C

Each district reviews potential T2C clients and determines if the client will parole to that district, their length of time before release, and client willingness to participate in T2C. This process varies for each district. Districts have digitized the intake process: new clients complete tablet-based interviews and self-assessments that directly shape their customized programming. Clients are considered eligible for T2C if they are from and will be discharged to any of the districts that offer the program.

The districts determine eligibility for the program based on anticipated release date. An I/I's history with rule violations (i.e. disciplinary actions) may also affect eligibility according to the prison's rules. I/I's who are eligible to participate in programs based on their prison privileges are typically invited to participate in T2C.

Once a client is accepted into T2C, the district staff prepare the client for reentry by using programming to identify barriers to success, such as recognizing and planning for mental health management, transportation needs, clearing up existing charges, or having copies of one's social security card in order to be eligible for employment. The T2C district staff also connects clients with their parole officers via an introduction, either virtually or in person, once the client is released.

Onboarding New T2C Clients

Once a new client is accepted, a new account must be created with ORIJIN so that the client can access programming. T2C clients often require an introduction to using a tablet and to the available programming. Orientation to the ORIJIN programming has been the responsibility of the new client or they could ask other T2C clients who have experience with the tablet and programming for help. Sometimes the prison staff who managed the tablets were knowledgeable enough to assist new T2C clients. In 2025, the Second District started a class that provides onboarding information for new T2C clients.

Prison staff's involvement in onboarding new clients varied and ranged from very little involvement to full administrative access to ORIJIN accounts. Most staff reported satisfaction with their level of involvement, with some of the staff who had little involvement indicating that they could be more helpful to clients and district staff if they were more knowledgeable about T2C.

Tracking Client Progress

Client progress in the T2C program includes the following:

- Self-Directed Programming
    - Once enrolled, clients are allowed to proceed at their own pace. If a client is not making progress in T2C classes, then district staff will reach out to that client to identify and address barriers and encourage continued involvement.
- Course Completion & Certificates
    - Through the available programming, T2C clients can earn certificates in up to 20 subjects after successfully completing various courses.
- ICON Interventions
    - District staff enter information about T2C clients in the IDOC database, the Iowa Corrections Offender Network (ICON). Whenever a T2C client is enrolled in T2C, or completes a course, their progress is entered as an "intervention" in ICON.

Program Summary

Iowa's T2C Program started in 2018 with BJS funding in Iowa's Second and Seventh District Community Based Corrections departments. The Sixth District offered T2C for a short time in 2023 and then started up again in earnest in 2025. Each district operates its T2C program independently of the other districts, although they regularly communicate with each other. Iowa's T2C program functions through secure tablets purchased from and programmed through

ORIJIN. The districts fund and oversee the tablets, technology, and offenders' access to the program, while the daily tablet use by offenders is managed by reentry or treatment staff within individual prisons.

Analysis and Results

ORIJIN Data

ORIJIN collects data on tablet use and programming and generates user-friendly dashboards for district staff to review how active individuals are in their courses, how many clients are active in their district, how many tablets were used, the length of time used, and client enrollment and progress in courses. The T2C district staff meet regularly as a group with ORIJIN to discuss data, request specific details about courses or users, and determine if the dashboard is meeting their information needs. The districts then use this information to make changes to their individual T2C processes.

T2C Clients for this Program Evaluation

T2C clients were defined as any offender who had an active account in the ORIJIN database from 1/1/2022 through 8/15/2025. The beginning date was chosen because that is the earliest data available in ORIJIN's current database. The company transitioned from an older database prior to 1/1/2022 and the old data was not available. The end date was chosen to provide the maximum number of clients prior to analysis.

Number of T2C Accounts

The ORIJIN dashboard identified 2,597 accounts that had been created for T2C between 1/1/2022 and 8/15/2025. The ORIJIN dashboard reported that accountholders had spent 58,162 hours on available programming and had earned 1,192 certificates. In total, there were 414 tablets in use (see Table 2).

Table 2. ORIJIN Dashboard Reported Numbers*

Total Active Students	2131
Total tablets	414
Total hours spent	58,162
Accounts created since inception	2,597
Certificates earned	1,192

**As of 8/15/2025*

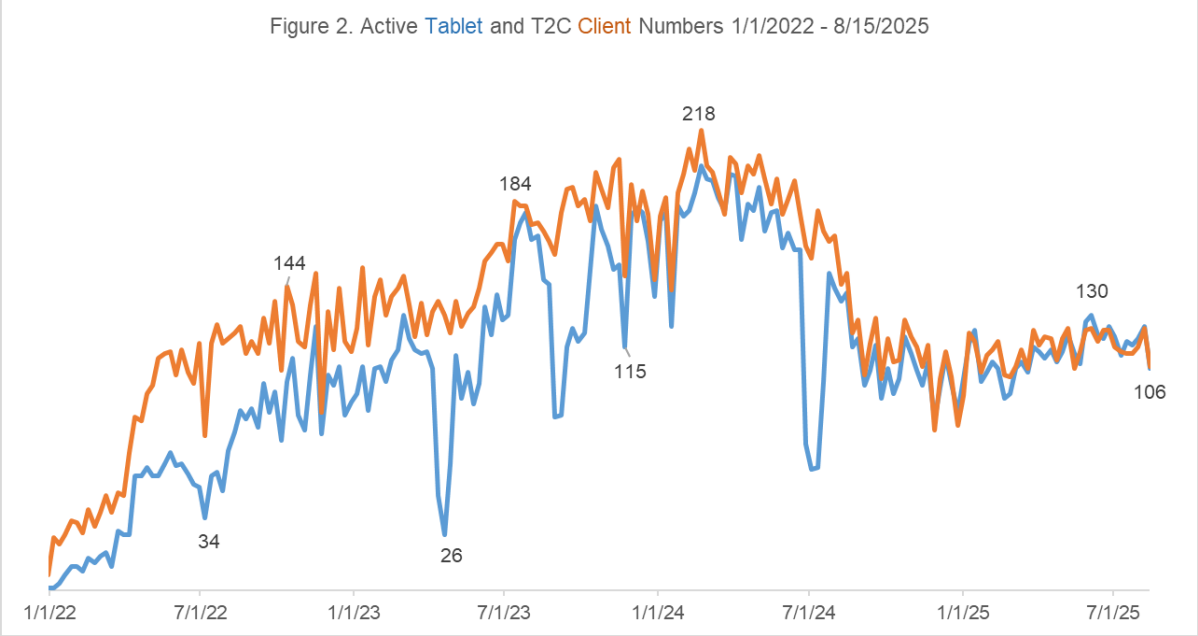
Active Client Accounts

T2C clients were considered "active" if they had ever logged into their account and the account had not been closed by district staff for completion, inactivity, or end of corrections supervision. Among the 2,597 accounts that were created, 2,131 of them were currently active. Of these 2,131 active accounts, there were 2,048 unduplicated client accounts, 24 accounts used by administrators, and 5 test accounts (see Table 3). This program evaluation uses the 2,048 active unduplicated client accounts for analysis.

Table 3. Active Accounts	
T2C Clients	2,048
Administration	24
Test	5

Weekly Active Clients

The highest number of active clients in a week was 218 with 201 tablets used during February 2024. The mean weekly active client number was 132 with an average of 108 tablets being used. See Figure 2 for a quarter-to-quarter comparison of active accounts and the number of tablets being used.



T2C Clients' Self-Reported Characteristics

Anticipated Release

ORIJIN asked T2C clients when they anticipated being released from prison. Of the 748 responses, 76.6% reported they anticipated being released within one year, 43.2% anticipated being released within four to twelve months, and 33.4% anticipated being released within one to three months (see Table 4).

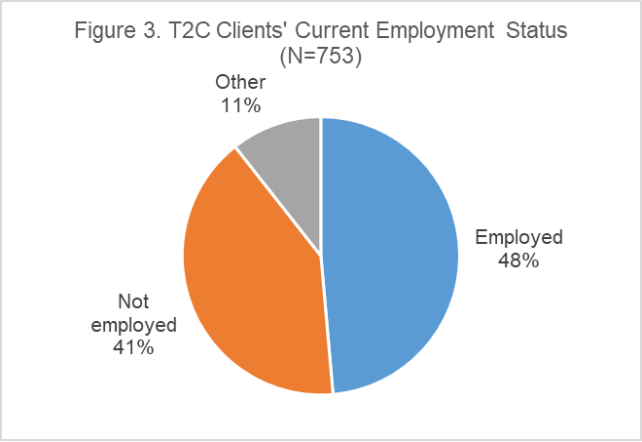
Table 4. T2C Client Reported Anticipated Release		
1-3 months	250	33.4%
4-12 months	323	43.2%
1-2 years	77	10.3%
3+ years	13	1.7%
Other	14	1.9%
Unsure	71	9.5%

Employment

ORIJIN asked T2C clients about their work experience prior to incarceration. Of the 660 clients who responded, 76.8% reported being full-time workers while 9.1% reported being part-time workers (see Table 5).

Table 5. T2C Client Pre-Incarceration Job Experience		
Full time employee	507	76.8%
Part-time employee	60	9.1%
Contractor	39	5.9%
Other	31	4.7%
This does not apply to me	23	3.5%

T2C clients reported their current employment status within prison as I/I's. Of the 753 respondents, almost half (N=366) were employed while 307 were not (see Figure 3).



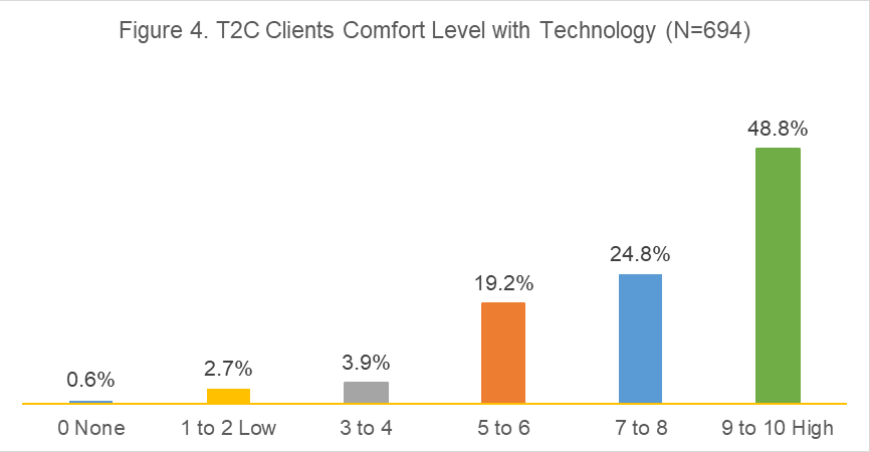
Core Values

ORIJIN asked clients to report on core values. Of the 474 responses, the most frequently chosen core value was "family" identified by 21.3% (N=101) of clients (see Table 6).

Table 6. T2C Clients' Top 10 Reported Core Values	
Family	101
Loyalty	68
Respect	58
Honesty	55
Integrity	41
Love	41
Personal Growth	31
Trust	29
Faith	27
Work Ethic	23

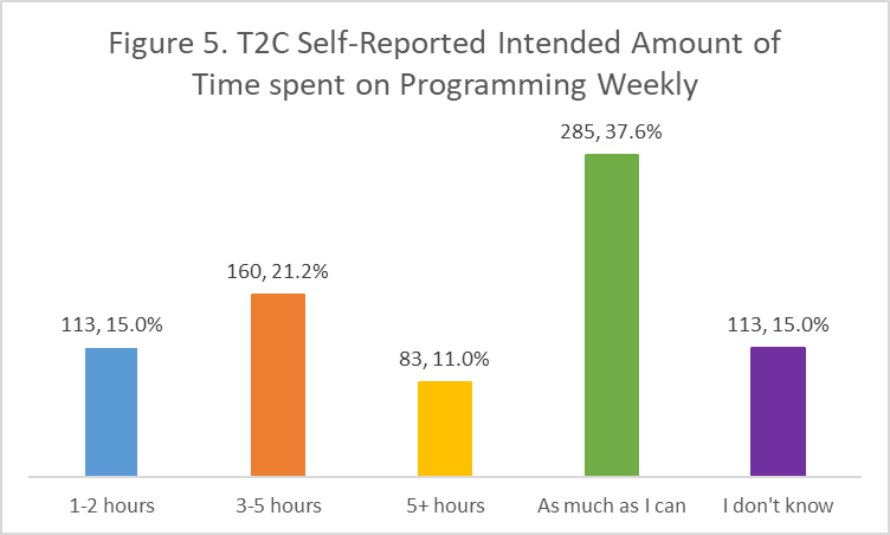
Comfort with Technology

Almost half (N=339) of the 694 clients who reported their comfort with technology scored themselves at the highest levels of comfort (9 or 10) and one quarter (N=172) scored themselves at 7 or 8. Only 50 clients reported that they had low levels of comfort with technology with scores between 0 and 4 (see Figure 4).



Anticipated Time to Spend on Tablets

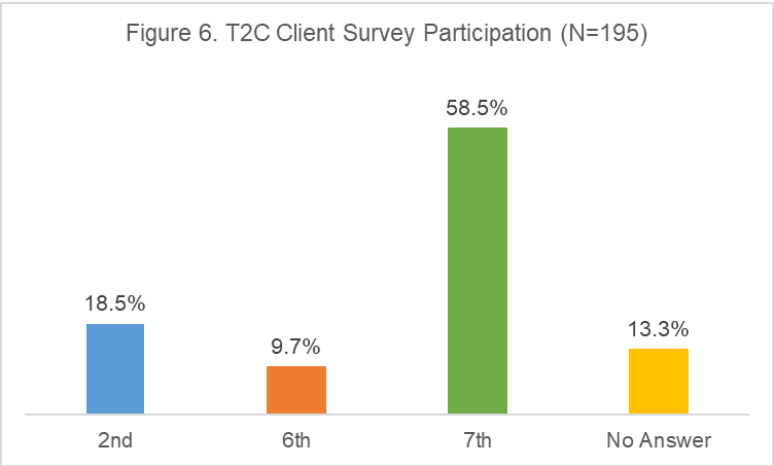
ORJIN asked T2C clients to identify how much time they expected to spend working on the tablets in courses. Of the 753 responses, the most common response for quantifiable hours was 3-5 hours per week (see Figure 5).



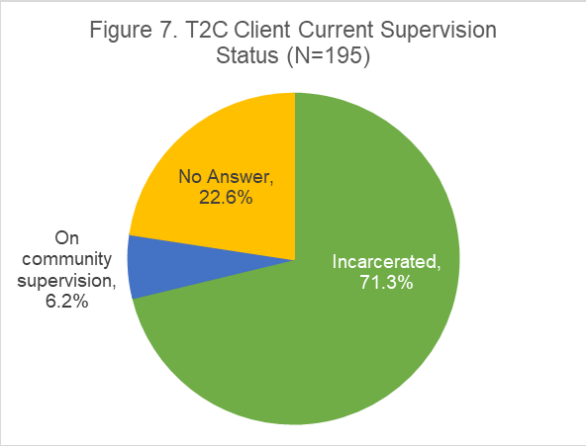
Client Survey Results

As part of this program evaluation, active T2C clients were invited to participate in a survey that asked about their experience with the technology, onboarding, and programming of T2C. Prior to the survey being deployed, district administrators messaged clients to make them aware of the upcoming survey that would be available from July 15, 2025, through August 15, 2025. When clients first logged into their T2C accounts during that time, and only that one time, the survey informed consent appeared on the screen. Clients were required to read the informed consent and to choose either to participate or to decline to participate in the survey before they were allowed to access their content. During the time of the active survey, 222 active T2C clients logged in to their accounts and 195 agreed to participate in the survey (87.7% agreed, 12.3% declined). Thus, the client survey results reflect the responses from 195 participants.

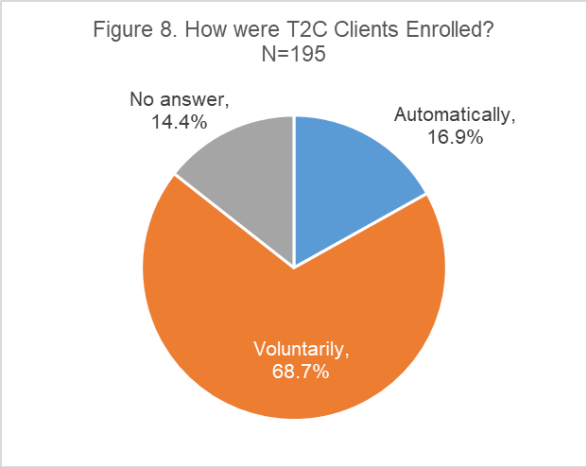
Survey participants were from the 7th District (N=114), 2nd District (N=36), 6th District (N=19), with 26 respondents not answering which district they were from (see Figure 6).



As shown in Figure 7, the majority of T2C clients who completed the survey were currently incarcerated (N=139), on community supervision (N=12), or did not answer (N=44).

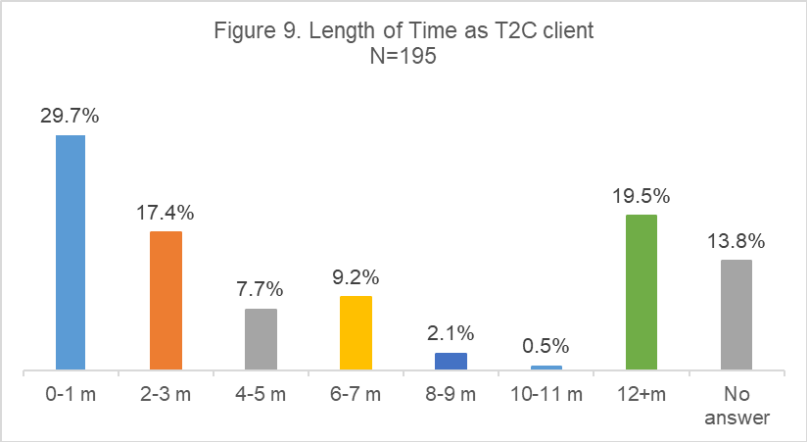


Clients were asked if they were enrolled voluntarily or automatically into the T2C program. Most clients reported that they enrolled voluntarily, N=134, vs. automatically, N=33 (see Figure 8).

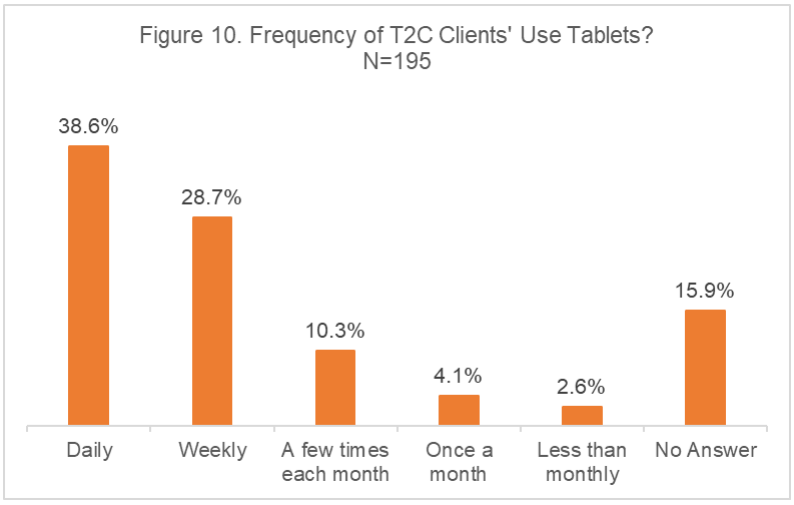


As shown in Figure 9, survey participants reported how long they have been enrolled in T2C. Of the 195 survey respondents, most had been enrolled in T2C less than one month (see Figure 9). The three most common responses were:

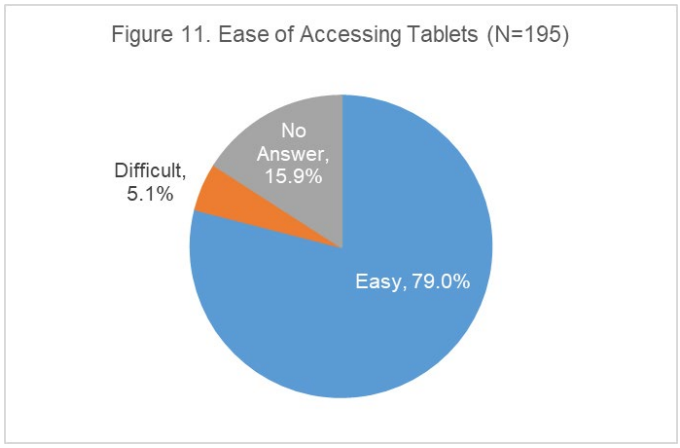
- 29.7% (N=58) reported their enrollment was between 0-1 month.
- 17.4% (N=34) reported between 2-3 months.
- 19.5% (N=38) reported their enrollment was 12 months or longer.



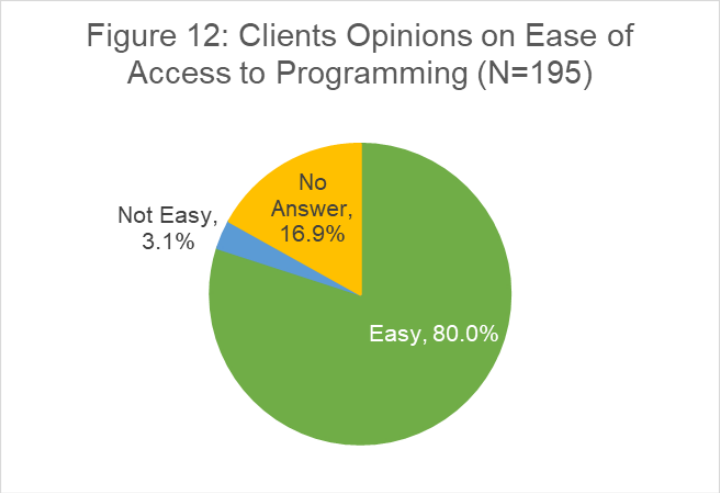
Of the survey participants, 38.6% used their tablets daily (N=75), 28.7% used them weekly (N=56), and 10.3% used tablets a few times each month (N=20). Fewer used the tablets monthly (N=8) or less than monthly (N=5) (see Figure 10).



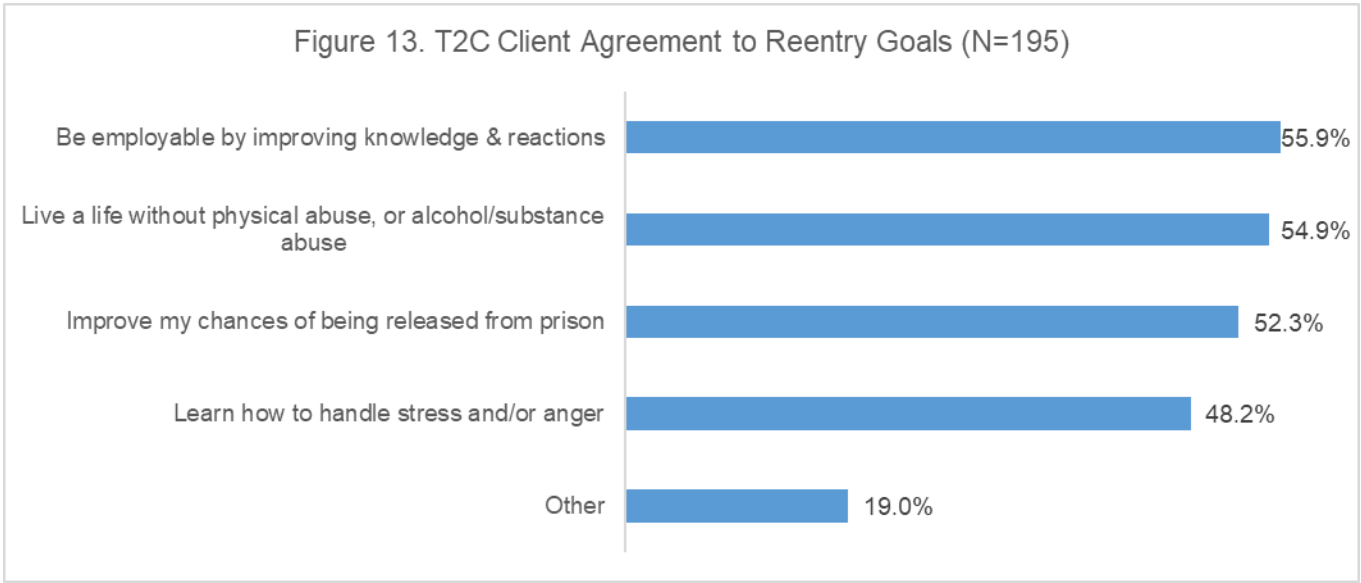
Most T2C clients who completed the survey reported that accessing the tablets was easy (N=154 or 79%), compared to 5.1% (N=10) who reported it was difficult (see Figure 11).



Most of the T2C clients who completed the surveys reported that it was easy to access programs, training, and assessments (N=156, or 80%) compared to 3.1% (N=6) reporting that it was not easy (see Figure 12).

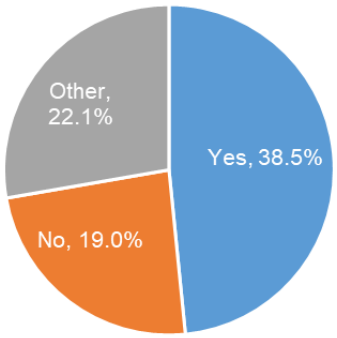


Over half of the survey respondents identified that their goals for release and reentry included being employable (N=109, or 55.9%), living free of alcohol or substance abuse (N=107, or 54.9%), and meeting prison programming requirements so that they improved their chances of being released (N=102, or 52.3%). Just under half of the survey respondents (N=94, or 48.2%) reported that they wanted to learn how to handle stress and/or anger in a more productive way (see Figure 13).



When asked if they had access to key people (i.e. future parole officer, counselor, residential house supervisor, employment contact) in their district where they will be released, 38.5% (N=75) of the survey participants reported that did, 19.0% (N=37) reported that they did not, and 22.1% (N=43) reported “other” (see Figure 14).

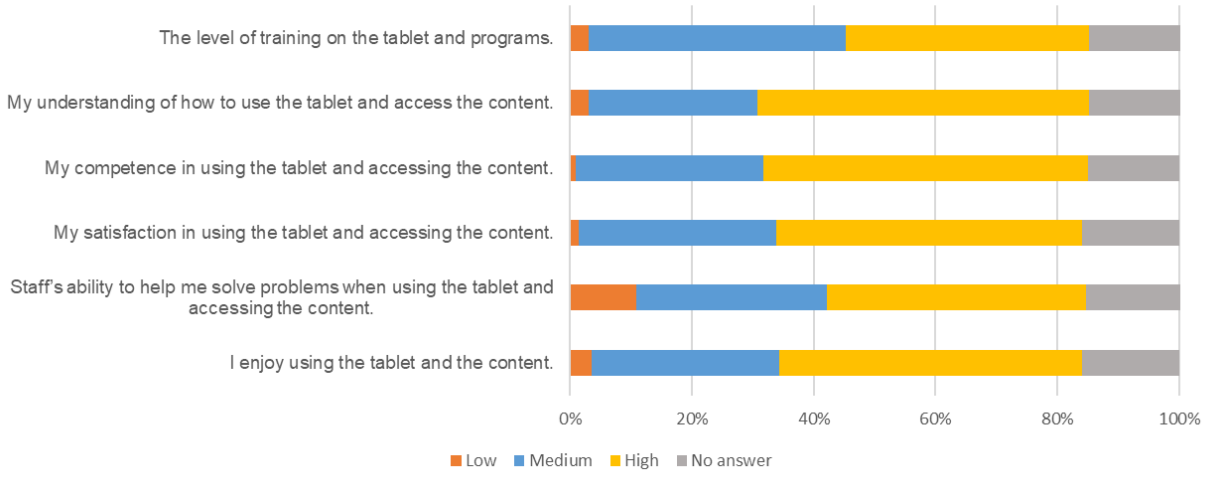
Figure 14. Client Access to Key People in District While in T2C (N=195)



As shown in Figure 15, when given the choices of “low,” “medium,” or “high,” on the following statements:

- 49.7% (N=97) highly enjoyed using the tablet and the content and 27.7% (N=60) moderately enjoyed it.
- 42.6% (N=83) highly ranked staff’s ability to help the clients solve problems when accessing or using the tablet and 31.3% (N=61) moderately ranked staff’s ability.
- 50.3% (N=98) were highly satisfied with using the tablet and accessing the content and 32.3% (N=63) were moderately satisfied.
- 53.3% (N=104) highly ranked their competence in using the tablet and accessing the content and 30.8% (N=60) ranked it moderately.
- 54.4% (N=106) had high understanding of how to use the tablet and access the content and 27.7% (N=54) had moderate understanding.
- 40.0% (N=78) highly ranked the level of training on the tablet and programs and 42.1% (N=82) moderately ranked training.

Figure 15. T2C Client Ranking of Access, Training, & Enjoyment (N=195)



Client Survey Summary

T2C clients from all three districts shared their experiences with the program. Most of the 195 survey participants were from the Seventh District (58.5%), followed by the Second District (18.5%), and then the Sixth District (9.7%). Most clients reported that they were currently incarcerated, had enrolled in the program voluntarily, and had been in the program for less than three months or greater than 12 months. More than one-third of the clients said that they had access to key people in the district where they would be released. Most clients used their tablet either daily or weekly, reporting that it was easy to access tablets, programs, trainings, and assessments. More than half of the clients reported goals of employability, living free of alcohol or substance abuse, and improving their chances of being released. Just under half of the survey respondents wanted to learn how to handle stress and/or anger in a more productive way. Approximately half of the clients reported "high" on their understanding of how to use the tablets and access the programming, their own competence, were satisfied with using the tablet and the programming, and enjoyed the tablets and programming. Less than half of clients ranked staff's ability to help solve problems highly when assessing or using the tablet and 40.0% of clients ranked the level of training highly for the use of the tablet and programming.

Course Information

Courses

ORIJIN lists 175 courses with enrollments ranging from 1 to 1,369, and course completions ranging from 1 to 374. "Forms" is a class where the self-assessment forms are stored and when the T2C clients are enrolled, they gain access to complete the self-assessments. The district staff and the clients then discuss the assessment results and determine what programs, training, and skill-building courses would best help the client prepare for success in the community post-release.

Among these programs, training, and skill-building courses are:

- eBooks: an online library where clients can check out up to two books at a time.
- The Master Plan: a curriculum that emphasizes helping people change their thinking from living a life that includes incarceration to a life that includes setting goals and finding success in a life free of crime.
- Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP): courses for addictions and re-entry.

The Master Plan and WRAP courses are offered to every individual re-entering the community from prison regardless of judicial district, however, the T2C modality for these courses is only offered to those individuals re-entering the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Districts. In other districts, individuals take these courses in-person.

Table 7 shows the 15 most popular T2C courses as well as the average daily minutes and total number of hours clients spent on that course.

Table 7. Top 15 T2C Courses with Most Time Spent			
Ebook	787	74	16,547
Entertainment	317	83	9,988
The Master Plan	1,368	44	6,676
TED Talks	659	42	3,006
WRAP for Addictions 2.0	729	40	2,552
WRAP for Reentry 2.0: Moving Forward from Incarceration	599	46	2,546
WORK_ESSENTIALS	403	52	2,053
MONEY_ESSENTIALS	557	38	1,395
Khan Academy (English)	420	39	1,370
Workbay_course	248	61	1,071
Interplay: HVAC Fundamentals	259	37	1,016
News Inside | The Marshall Project	592	27	1,010
Forms	1,132	24	983
Interplay: Electrician Training Entry	307	36	873
Interplay: Plumbing Training Entry	219	45	771

ORIJIN provides summary statistics for course completion. Six courses were reviewed for course completion (see Table 8). These six courses were chosen based on discussions with district and ORIJIN staff regarding the importance of the programming for success in reentry.

The course completion rates for these select courses ranged from 12.5% for “WRAP for Addiction” where 729 clients enrolled and 91 completed the course to 94.7% for “ORIJIN Career Academy” where 226 clients enrolled and 214 completed. “The Master Plan” course is recommended for almost all T2C clients and has the highest enrollment (N=1,369) with 22.9% completion rate (N=314).

Table 8. Course Enrollment & Completion for Selected ORIJIN Courses					
Course	Beginning Course N=	Completed 50% N=	Completed 90% N=	Completed 100% N=	Completion Rate %
The Master Plan	1,369	356	321	314	22.9%
MONEY_ESSENTIALS	561	255	226	225	40.1%
WORK_ESSENTIALS	409	253	217	217	53.1%
Orijin Career Academy	226	214	214	214	94.7%
WRAP for Addictions 2.0	729	91	91	91	12.5%
WRAP for Reentry 2.0	599	78	78	78	13.0%

Certificates

There are 20 certificates that T2C clients can earn by completing either individual or groups of courses. There were 1,192 certificates earned by 452 T2C clients during the timeframe of this evaluation. Clients earned an average of 2.6 certificates, and the range was from 1 to 18 certificates earned by individual clients. There were 244 clients who earned one certificate, 67 who earned two certificates, and 48 who earned three certificates. There were 93 clients who earned four or more certificates. Of those 93, 17 had earned 10 or more certificates.

Table 9. Certificates Offered and Completed by T2C Clients between 2022 and 2025

Career Planning Certificate	68
CDL Prep Program Certificate	1
Enduring Skills Certificate	53
Entrepreneurship Certificate	70
Explore a Career in Appliance Service Certificate	26
Explore a Career in Building Maintenance Certificate	23
Explore a Career in Clean Energy Certificate	20
Explore a Career in Construction Certificate	24
Explore a Career in Electrical Certificate	20
Explore a Career in HVAC (Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning) Certificate	21
Explore a Career in Multi-Family Facilities Maintenance Certificate	19
Explore a Career in Plumbing Certificate	24
Explore a Career in Solar Certificate	21
Interplay: Electrical Basics Certificate	91
Interplay: HVAC Fundamentals Certificate	84
Interplay: Plumbing Basics Certificate	74
Introduction to Skilled Trades Certificate	10
The Master Plan Certificate	374
Wellness Recovery Action Plan (Addictions) Certificate	91
Wellness Recovery Action Plan (Reentry) Certificate	78
Total	**1,192**

Hours Spent by Location

ORIJIN tracks programming hours spent by location. In total, T2C clients and administrators with accounts have spent over 56,000 hours participating in courses on the ORIJIN LMS system (See Table 10).

Table 10. ORIJIN Tracked Programming Hours Delivered 1/1/2022-8/15/2025

Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility	12,872
North Central Correctional Facility	11,482
Fort Dodge	10,780
2nd District Residential- Fort Dodge	4,811
Correctional Institute for Women	3,862
Newton Correctional Facility	3,377
2nd District Residential- Mason City	2,331
2nd District Residential Marshalltown	1,778
Clarinda Correctional Facility	1,688
Iowa Medical Classification Center	962
6th Judicial District	859
Probation and Parole 2nd District	475
IADOC - Specialty Courts	426
8th Judicial District	391
Probation and Parole 7th District	166
Iowa Medical Classification Center Education	73
Total	**56,334**

ICON Interventions & ORIJIN Courses

The Iowa T2C programming from ORIJIN is captured in ICON, a DOC database, where district staff manually input enrollment in T2C-specific interventions. The DOC records show a total of 2,450 offenders who were admitted into 5,298 T2C-interventions in ICON. Compared to the records captured by ORIJIN, the ICON data accurately captured 1,804 of the T2C clients for a 73.6% accuracy. This means that 646 of the ICON offenders who had been admitted into T2C-interventions were not identified in the ORIJIN data. This could reflect actual T2C clients whose accounts were closed or perhaps overuse of the T2C-intervention choices in the ICON database.

When the T2C interventions were compared to the data collected from ORIJIN for the individuals participating in the T2C program, there were 4,595 enrollments to ICON T2C interventions, while there were 15,878 enrollments in ORIJIN courses, indicating a 28.9% accuracy of tracking all classes taken by T2C clients (see Table 11).

Table 11. Comparison of Enrollments in ICON Interventions and ORIJIN Classes

Comprehensive Treatment Assessment	1,925		1,925		
Tablet Intervention-Basic Works	75		75		
Tablet Intervention-Breaking Free	163	1	164		
Tablet Intervention-Electrical Basics	9		9		
Tablet Intervention-Financial Literacy	210	8	218		
Tablet Intervention-HVAC Fundamentals	7		7		
Tablet Intervention-National Corrections Works	2		2		
Tablet Intervention-Plumbing Basics	9		9		
Tablet Intervention-The Master Plan	819	21	840		
Tablet Intervention-WRAP	318	4	322		
Tech 2 Connect Interview	20		20		
Tech 2 Connect Referral	10	1	11		
Tech2Connect MRT Anger Management	18	41	59		
Tech2Connect MRT Trauma	15	13	28		
Tech2Connect Re-Entry	786	27	817		
Tech2Connect-MRT	209	586	795		
Total Enrollments	**4,595**	**702**	**5,301**		
Total Individuals	**1,804**	**646**	**2,450**		

Another analysis using the ICON interventions compared T2C clients to Not-T2C individuals on number of enrollments in interventions (see Table 12). T2C clients had statistically significantly higher number of interventions, 7.2 per individual, compared to Not-T2C at 3.1 interventions per individual

Table 12. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C by Enrollments in ICON Interventions

Individuals	2,048	5.6%	34,407	94.4%
Interventions	14,762	12.3%	105,099	87.7%
Interventions/person*	7.2		3.1	

**p<.001*

Reconsideration

Iowa offers a unique option for judges when sentencing people convicted of class “C” or “D” felony. Iowa Code §902.4, *Reconsideration of a Felon’s Sentence,* allows a judge to bring a felon back to court within a year to revisit their sentence, review the person’s behavior in prison, and potentially reduce the prison sentence or release the person on probation. It is informally known as “shock probation” because this authority allows a judge to send a person to prison long enough to experience the “shock” of incarceration before potentially releasing them on probation. It is designed to give an offender a “wake-up call” without requiring them to serve multiple years in prison.

In District 7, T2C staff have created a specific, measurable curriculum for individuals who have been selected by the sentencing judge to be screened for the T2C Reconsideration Program. Once the individual meets the requirements of that program, a letter of completion is filed with the court, allowing the sentencing judge to review the client’s progress in the program. This

information helps judges know how the client has utilized their time while incarcerated and helps determine whether a reconsideration of sentence should be granted.

Table 13 shows the number of defendants whose cases were reviewed to determine eligibility for them to be admitted into the T2C Reconsideration Program. Of the 109 who were reviewed, District 7 identified 20 that were eligible, and 15 of those participated.

Table 13. Reconsideration Decisions in 7th District

Court-ordered reconsideration cases reviewed	109
Cases invited to participate in D7 T2C Reconsideration Program	20
Individuals who participated in D7 T2C Reconsideration Program	15

Reconsideration was granted to nine of the D7 T2C Reconsideration Program participants (see Table 14).

Table 14. Reconsideration Eligible Outcomes

Reconsideration granted	9
Reconsideration not granted	6
Total	**15**

Of the nine who were granted reconsideration, six were males and three were females with an average age of 35.9 years. They earned a combined 20 certificates. Participants earned 16 of these certificates at ICIW, three at IMCC, and one at FDCF.

Eight of the nine did not return to prison, 88.9% success rate and 11.1% recidivism rate. One individual returned to prison three times within three years after the initial exit.

T2C Comparisons

T2C programming is intended to help individuals succeed in their community post-incarceration. The T2C population (N=2,048) was compared to the “Not-T2C” population (N=34,407). The “Not-T2C” population are I/I’s who were not enrolled in T2C programming and who had a documented new admission to an “intervention” in the IDOC ICON database between 1/1/2022 and 8/15/2025.

The demographics of the two populations are shown in Table 15. The average age of the sample population was 38.7 years (38.9 for T2C and 38.7 for Not-T2C). The T2C clients were 87.2% male and the Not-T2C offenders were 82.3% male. The gender difference between the two populations is statistically significant (X^2 =31.9, df=1, p<.0001). Both groups consisted mostly of White-Non-Hispanic (65.1% and 64.5%) followed by Black-Non-Hispanic (25.3% and 21.4%).

Table 15. Demographics of T2C and Not-T2C Sample Population

Average Age (years)	38.9		38.7		38.7
Female*	262	12.8%	6,076	17.7%	6,338
Male*	1,786	87.2%	28,329	82.3%	30,115
Unknown			2	0.0%	2
Total	2,048	100%	34,407	100%	36,455
Asian/Pacific Islander - NH	6	0.3%	490	1.4%	496
American Indian/Alaskan Native - NH	30	1.5%	721	2.1%	751
Black - NH	519	25.3%	7,364	21.4%	7,883
White - NH	1,333	65.1%	22,204	64.5%	23,537
Hispanic	151	7.4%	2,779	8.1%	
Unknown - NH			161	0.5%	161
Unknown	9	0.4%	688	2.0%	697
Total	**2,048**	**100%**	**34,407**	**100%**	**36,455**

*p <.05

Table 16 shows the locations where the I/I's were housed. a subset of the total population that was analyzed for exiting and returning to prison. Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility (MPCF) had the highest number of offenders whose incarceration and recidivism were analyzed. There were 427 (30.9%) T2C clients and 2,278 (23.2%) Not-T2C individuals who were housed at MPCF.

Table 16. Facility Locations of Incarcerated Individuals

Locations	T2C	Not-T2C
Anamosa State Penitentiary	58	510
Clarinda Correctional Facility	100	1,115
Fort Dodge Correctional Facility	249	1,183
Iowa Correctional Institution for Women	156	1,277
Iowa Medical & Classification Center	88	570
Iowa State Penitentiary	7	92
Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility	427	2,278
Newton Correctional Facility	126	1,670
North Central Correctional Facility	172	1,145
Total	**1,383**	**9,840**

Offender Exits & Returns

Exits and returns to prison were reviewed between 1/1/2022 and 12/31/2025. During this time, 67.5% (N=1,383) of T2C clients and 28.6% (N=9,840) of Not-T2C offenders exited from prison (see Table 17). The high number of exits for T2C clients makes sense as eligibility for T2C requires an expected exit date.

Table 17. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C by Prison Exits

T2C	1,383	67.5%	665	32.5%	**2,048**
Not-T2C	9,840	28.6%	24,567	71.4%	**34,407**

Table 18 shows the breakdown in individuals who stayed out of prison compared to those who recidivated during the period of this evaluation. The majority of both T2C and Not-T2C stayed out of prison. There were 80.2% (N=1,109) of T2C clients who did not return to prison after exiting, compared to 84.0% (N=8,269) of Not-T2C individuals. There were 274 (19.8%) T2C clients who recidivated compared to 16.0% (N=1,571) of Not-T2C individuals. The T2C clients returned to prison at a higher-than-expected rate than Not-T2C individuals. The difference between the groups is statistically significant (X^2 =13.1, df=1, p=.0003).

Table 18. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C by Returns to Prison Post-Exit

T2C	274	19.8%	1,109	80.2%	**1,383**
Not-T2C	1,571	16.0%	8,269	84.0%	**9,840**

Most of all returns occurred within one year after exit (see Table 19). While most clients who returned to prison did so only once, there were 20 (7.3%) T2C clients who returned multiple times and 98 (6.2%) Not-T2C individuals who returned multiple times.

Table 19. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C by 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year Return

	T2C Returned		Not-T2C Returned	
	N=	%	N=	%
Returns 0-1 year after exit	206	75.2%	1,136	72.2%
Returns 1-2 years after exit	84	30.7%	483	30.7%
Returns 2-3 years after exit	6	2.2%	52	3.3%
Total Returns	**296**	**100%**	**1,671**	**100%**

*Time intervals are mutually exclusive. For example, the “Returns 0–1 year after exit” category includes all returns occurring prior to the one-year anniversary of release.

T2C Programming and Outcomes

One metric to begin understanding the level of engagement with T2C programing is the number of logins on the tablets as T2C clients access the programming, as well as the minutes spent on the tablets (see Table 20).

The group with the fewest logins was “I/I’s who never exited,” averaging 81.7 logins per person. The T2C clients who exited and did not return averaged 142.3 logins per person. The group with the highest number of logins were those who returned. Clients who recidivated averaged 172.8 logins during their initial and 187.4 logins during subsequent incarcerations. The comparative analysis results are provided in Appendix A. Significant differences between the groups’ logins were found between the following groups:

- Initial incarcerations for those who recidivated (172.8 average logins) versus
  - those who did not recidivate (142.3 average logins, p=.05).
  - those who never exited (81.7 average logins, p<.001).
- Subsequent incarcerations for those who recidivated (187.4 average logins) versus
  - those who did not recidivate (142.3 average logins, p=.02).
  - those who never exited (81.7 average logins, p<.001).
- Those who exited and did not recidivate (142.3 average logins) versus
  - those who never exited (81.7 average logins, p<.001).

Table 20. T2C Client Logins and Minutes Spent on Tablets by Exits

Recidivated	274		
Initial Incarceration		172.8	2,581.0
Subsequent Incarcerations		187.4	2,784.6
Exited once from prison, never returned	1,109	142.3	2,227.2
Did not exit	665	81.7	1,581.8

All of Iowa’s judicial districts promote three courses for all offenders to take:

- Wellness Action Recovery Plan (WRAP) course in Addiction,
- Wellness Action Recovery Plan (WRAP) course in Reentry which addressed reentry knowledge
- The Master Plan course is a curriculum that teaches offenders how to change their thinking and behaviors for success in the community post-release.

T2C offers these courses via tablets, and they can be completed while the individual is incarcerated, which contrasts with multiple in-person offerings of these courses post-release. Once completed, individuals may earn a certificate. Table 21 shows the completed certificates and course enrollment for these three courses. The T2C clients who recidivated (N=274), showed higher rates of program engagement than those who did not return. Specifically, they had statistically higher numbers of “The Master Plan” enrollments and certificates, as well as higher participation in WRAP for Addictions and WRAP for Reentry classes

Table 21. Comparison of T2C Exits by Course Enrollment and Certificates

The Master Plan Certificate	73	26.6%	199	17.9%	X^2=10.5, p <.001
WRAP Reentry Certificate	11	4.0%	32	2.9%	
WRAP Addictions Certificate	15	5.5%	46	4.1%	
Enrolled in The Master Plan Class	202	73.7%	762	68.6%	
Enrolled in WRAP Addictions Class	131	47.8%	430	38.8%	X^2=7.4, p <.01
Enrolled in WRAP Reentry Class	113	41.2%	378	34.1%	X^2=4.9, p <.05

Comparing T2C and Not-T2C by Single or Multiple Prison Exits

Table 22a compares the T2C and Not-T2C sample population by multiple exits (those who exited, then returned to prison and exited again) and Table 22b by single exits (those who exited and did not return to prison) and the release type.

When comparing those who experienced multiple exits from prison, the T2C group had significantly fewer discharges and significantly more work releases than the Not-T2C group.

Table 22a. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C by Release Type

Discharged			732	22.6%	X^2=10.5, p =.001
Parole			1,203	37.1%	
Work Release			910	28.1%	X^2=26.6, p< .001
Other			397	9.2%	
Total			**3,242**	**100%**	

When comparing those who exited prison once and did not return, the T2C group had significantly fewer offenders who were discharged or paroled and significantly more work releases than Not-T2C.

Table 22b. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C by Release Type

Discharged			1,319	16.0%	X^2=24.3, p<.001
Parole			4,059	49.1%	X^2=19.6, p<.001
Work Release			2,078	25.1%	X^2=124.0, p<.001
Other			813	9.8%	X^2=10.7, p=.001
Total			**8,269**	**100%**	

Tables 23a and b compare the T2C and Not-T2C populations on the most serious offense that resulted in the prison sentence for which the offender was serving. The following convicting crime types were significantly different between the T2C population and the Not-T2C population:

For those who exited prison multiple times, T2C clients served for significantly fewer drug and violence crime types and significantly more property and other crime types (e.g. money laundering) than Not-T2C offenders.

Table 23a. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C Exits by Convicting Crime Type

Drug			863	26.6%	X^2=4.4, p=.04
Other			366	11.3%	X^2=8.0, p=.005
Property			908	28.0%	X^2=6.3, p=.01
Public Order			452	13.9%	
Violent			602	18.6%	X^2=6.3, p=.01
(blank)			51	1.6%	
Total			**3,242**	**100.0%**	

For those who exited prison once and did not return, T2C clients served for significantly more property crime types than Not-T2C offenders.

Table 23b. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C Exits by Convicting Crime Type

Drug			1,939	23.4%	
Other			907	11.0%	
Property			1,916	23.2%	X^2=4.5, p=.03
Public Order			1,040	12.6%	
Violent			2,365	28.6%	
(blank)			102	1.2%	
Total			**8,269**	**100.0%**	

Tables 24a and b illustrate the differences between T2C and Not-T2C individuals who exited prison on the categories of convicting offense class. The T2C group had significantly more felony enhancement offenses and significantly fewer aggravated misdemeanor offenses compared to the Not-T2C group, regardless of number of prison exits. Felony enhancement in Iowa increases sentences and penalties for certain crimes and repeat offenders.

Table 24a. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C Exits by Convicting Offense Type

A Felony			1	0.1%	
B Felony	14	5.1%	56	3.6%	
C Felony	76	27.7%	403	25.7%	
D Felony	125	45.6%	748	47.6%	
Felony Enhancement	44	16.1%	167	10.6%	X^2=6.6, p=.01
Aggravated Misdemeanor	14	5.1%	169	10.8%	X^2=8.3, p=.004
Other or "blank"	1	0.4%	27	1.6%	
Total	**274**	**100%**	**1,571**	**100%**	

Table 24b. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C Exits by Convicting Offense Type

A Felony	2	0.2%	12	0.1%	
B Felony	73	6.6%	499	6.0%	
C Felony	321	28.9%	2,196	26.6%	
D Felony	495	44.6%	3,530	42.7%	
Felony Enhancement	128	11.5%	797	9.6%	X^2=4.0, p=.05
Aggravated Misdemeanor	82	7.4%	1,089	13.2%	X^2=29.9, p<.001
Other or "blank"	8	0.7%	146	1.8%	X^2=6.6, p=.01
Total	**1,109**	**100%**	**8,269**	**100%**	

Table 25 shows the average amount of time served before prison exit. For those who exited prison and did not return, T2C clients served significantly more time (2.06 years) than Not-T2C (1.89 years) (t-statistic= 2.17, df=9,376, p=.03). There was no significant difference in length of stay of the initial incarceration between T2C clients and Not-T2C individuals in the population who recidivated. For those who exited prison and returned, T2C clients spent significantly less time (0.77 years) than Not-T2C individuals (0.84 years) in prison during subsequent incarcerations (t-statistic=2.3, df=1965, p=.02).

Table 25. Comparison of T2C and Not-T2C Exits by Time Served (Years)

T2C	2.06	1.49	0.77
Not-T2C	1.89	1.29	0.84

The T2C clients and Not-T2C individuals who returned to prison were compared on the amount of time between their initial exit and the beginning of their next incarceration (see Table 26). While T2C clients returned to prison on average sooner than Not-T2C clients, there was no

significant difference between the return time. The average time to return for all T2C clients was 9.6 months and 10 months for Not-T2C individuals. The offenders who returned to prison once returned in an average of 9.8 months for the T2C clients and 10.2 months for Not-T2C individuals. For those offenders who returned to prison multiple times, T2C clients returned in an average of 5.8 months and Not-T2C individuals returned in an average of 6.7 months.

Table 26. Length of Time from Initial Exit to Subsequent Incarceration

All Members			1,571	0.83
Only Single Return Individuals			1,473	0.85
Only Multiple Return Individuals			98	0.56

Table 27 reflects the offenders who returned to prison in this sample population and compares whether the return was a revocation for those who were on supervision or recidivism after the offender was off supervision. The T2C clients were significantly higher than Not-T2C offenders in revoked supervision for a “new arrest pending” or “found not guilty”. This might contribute to recidivism because even if an offender is found not guilty, the court may determine that the evidence provided in a criminal trial was sufficient for revocation. The T2C clients were significantly lower than Not-T2C individuals in recidivism as determined by a new criminal conviction.

Table 27. Comparing T2C and Not-T2C Revocation and Recidivism

Revocation: New Charge	New Felony/Aggravated Misdemeanor Conviction	96	35.0%	477	30.4%	
	Serious Misdemeanor New Conviction	55	20.1%	271	17.3%	
	New Arrest Pending or Found Not Guilty	11	4.0%	25	1.6%	X^2=7.2, p=.007
	New Arrest	15	5.5%	93	5.9%	
Revocation: No New Arrest	Other Violation	76	27.7%	514	32.7%	
Recidivism	New Conviction	21	7.7%	191	12.2%	X^2=4.6, p=.03
Total		**274**	**100.0%**	**1,571**	**100.0%**	

Staff Interviews

District staff were interviewed regarding T2C administration, operations, and influence on clients. Researchers interviewed staff from all seven correctional facilities where Tech2Connect is available. Staff responses highlighted eight themes regarding their experiences and insights about the program.

Implementation and Consistency of Tech2Connect Across Districts

Staff recognized significant differences in how T2C is implemented across different prisons and districts, including variations in tablet management, client eligibility criteria, and communication protocols. A recurring suggestion from staff is the need for a more uniform approach for all districts to streamline the process.

Voluntary Participation and Client Motivation

The T2C program is voluntary, and staff see two groups of participants: those who are genuinely motivated to use the tablets for treatment and reentry planning and those who use

them primarily for recreation or to "look good" for the parole board. The self-directed nature of the program places a high emphasis on client self-motivation.

Benefits in Reentry Planning

T2C helps with reentry planning. The programming made available on the tablets bridges the gap between incarceration and the community, allowing clients to connect with parole officers, access resources, and build skills before release. Staff view the program as a valuable tool for recidivism reduction and a way for offenders to demonstrate initiative.

Operational Challenges and Solutions

Staff identified several operational challenges in different facilities, such as the limited number of tablets, connectivity issues, and the need for more staff to manage the program. There are also issues with staff not having access to client progress, which hinders their ability to help and track outcomes. Staff see clients struggle and are unable to help with navigating the tablet and programs because they themselves are not trained and don't have access.

Collaboration and Communication

T2C is a collaborative effort between the Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) community-based corrections districts and prisons. T2C has fostered stronger relationships and improved communication between these two groups. Nevertheless, staff would welcome more standardized approaches and consistent communication.

Technology and Infrastructure

A large part of Tech2Connect is managing the technology for the program, including the need for more tablets, the cost associated with them, technical barriers like connectivity, and the need for IT staff to be involved. Staff noted that tablets are rarely broken or out of service.

Programmatic Limitations and Opportunities

Prison staff felt strongly that T2C is not a replacement for traditional, in-person programming, but does provide a valuable supplement and expansion of available training and skill-building lessons. Staff comments were overwhelmingly positive. One staff member said, "The more I learn about T2C, the more excited I get about the future of treatment in corrections." Suggestions included expanding programming to include additional job-specific skills, and communication abilities between clients and their lawyers as they get closer to release to better prepare for reentry.

Staff Roles and Workload

The roles and responsibilities of both prison and district staff are key to the success of Tech2Connect. The program can be labor-intensive in the beginning but becomes more self-sufficient over time. There's a clear distinction between the district staff who enroll clients and manage their progress and the prison staff who handle the physical management of the tablets and client check-ins. As the number of districts that are offering Tech2Connect in each correctional facility increases, so will the number of clients and tablets and the amount of staff time needed.

Limitations

This evaluation compared T2C and Not-T2C offenders. The two groups were vastly different sizes (2,048 to 34,407) and this unbalanced design affects the statistical analysis. For example, when comparing a large group to a small group, the Chi-square test will address how much the smaller group deviates from the larger group, instead of comparing two equal groups.

Active client numbers were based on active, unduplicated accounts. This excluded any previously active clients who had closed accounts. If they had been included, there may be different findings.

Summary

This report evaluated the Tech2Connect program that is offered to incarcerated individuals (I/I's) who are going to be discharged to either the Second, Sixth, or Seventh Judicial District. The three districts work independently, but collaboratively, meeting regularly with each other and with ORIJIN.

This program evaluation explored the current processes used by the districts and prisons for administering the program and found that all districts have procedures for establishing the program in different correctional facilities and onboarding clients. Tablets and programming are purchased through ORIJIN, a company that specializes in prison education through technology. Each district has slightly different procedures and prison staff would prefer a more uniform approach. Overall, district and prison staff are supportive of T2C and report that the program provides positive activities, opportunities for personal development for offenders, and establishes relationships between offenders and their future district staff where they will be released. Success in the program is left up to the offenders to progress as much or as little as they prefer in the courses with no completion required. As such, many courses are lacking in completion numbers. This may not be something that can be addressed due to the nature of incarceration where offenders are moved to different facilities which affects eligibility levels or they are released resulting in reduced access to tablets and increased responsibilities that take their time and attention.

Both district and prison staff reported that being involved in T2C gives clients a sense of hopefulness about their future, and the programming on the tablet keeps the clients occupied in a positive way while incarcerated. Prison staff reported that T2C is not a replacement for traditional, in-person programming, but does provide a valuable supplement and expansion of available training and skill-building lessons. Any growth in T2C will require more staff time and tablets.

Clients reported that they found the tablets and programming easy to use, and most logged into the tablets daily, weekly, or a few times monthly. Clients indicated that orienting to the tablets could be improved.

This evaluation used T2C client data from 1/1/2022 through 8/15/2025. There were 2,048 clients with active ORIJIN accounts who spent 58,162 hours on programming on 414 tablets. Clients could enroll in any number of the 175 available classes and could earn up to 20 certificates in different subjects. There were 452 T2C clients who earned 1,192 certificates.

The T2C clients were compared to a group of offenders who were incarcerated and had been identified as participating in an ICON intervention between 1/1/2022 and 8/15/2025. Exits from prison were collected between 1/1/2022 and 9/30/2025. The majority of T2C clients (80.2%) and the comparison group, Not-T2C individuals (84.0%) exited prison and did not return, which is the goal.

The number of tablet logins and time spent in programming was higher among the T2C offenders who returned to prison than those who did not return. This may reflect more time in prison equating to more opportunity to use the tablets. Another possible explanation may be that those offenders who know they struggle with reentry spend more time trying to educate themselves and learn skills to help them succeed.

There were 274 (19.8%) T2C clients who exited that returned to prison compared to 16.0% (N=1,571) of Not-T2C individuals. Meaning, the T2C clients returned to prison at a significantly higher than expected rate than Not-T2C individuals. This is an unexpected finding because the T2C programming focuses on skills to succeed after reentry and clients and staff reported positive feedback about the program.

When investigating differences between T2C clients and Not-T2C individuals on types of crimes and types of releases, significantly more T2C clients were serving time for property crimes and released on work release versus Not-T2C individuals. When they returned to prison, significantly more T2C clients who returned to prison were serving time for felony enhancement offenses than Not-T2C individuals.

The initial incarceration during which individuals joined T2C was significantly longer (2.1 years) than Not-T2C individuals' initial incarceration (1.9 years). For those who returned to prison, T2C clients spent significantly less time (0.77 years) in subsequent incarcerations than Not-T2C individuals (0.84 years). T2C clients were significantly higher than Not-T2C offenders in revoked supervision for a "new arrest pending" or "found not guilty" and significantly lower than Not-T2C individuals in returns to prison after being "discharged" from DOC supervision.

In conclusion, offenders participate in T2C programming in prison at their own pace. Clients, district staff, and prison staff report positive experiences in the program delivery, although there are low numbers of course completion and there is no requirement to complete programming. The majority of T2C clients exited prison and did not return, like Not-T2C offenders. Clients who are in prison multiple times complete more programming. This evaluation found that individuals who participate in T2C, exit, and return, do so at a significantly higher rate than offenders who did not participate in T2C. This finding may be affected by the vast difference in sizes of the two groups, or the effectiveness of post-release in-person programming. Otherwise, T2C clients reflect the same length of time to returning to prison as Not-T2C offenders and spend significantly less time during subsequent incarcerations.

Appendix A

The group with the fewest logins was “I/I’s who never exited,” averaging 81.7 logins per person. The T2C clients who exited and did not return averaged 142.3 logins per person. The group with the highest number of logins were those who returned. Clients who recidivated averaged 172.8 logins during their initial and 187.4 logins during subsequent incarcerations. Significant differences between the groups’ logins were found:

- Initial incarcerations for those who recidivated and who did not recidivate (One-tail t-test assuming unequal variances t Stat=1.65, df=376, p=.05).
- Subsequent incarcerations for those who recidivated and who did not return. (two-tailed t-test assuming unequal variances t Stat=2.40, df=402, p=.02).
- Those who exited and did not return and those who never exited (two tailed t-test assuming unequal variances t Stat=5.66, df=1,548, p<.001).
- Those who returned after exiting and those who never exited (two-tailed t-test assuming unequal variances t Stat=5.55, df=418, p<.001).

Significant differences were found between those who did not exit and all the other types of exits on the average minutes spent on the tablets:

- Those who never exited and those who exited the first time of many (two-tailed t-test assuming unequal variances t Stat=2.77, df=427, p=.005).
- Those who never exited and those who returned after exiting (two-tailed t-test assuming unequal variances t Stat=3.31, df=456, p=.001); and
- Those who never exited and those who exited and never returned (two-tailed t-test assuming unequal variances t Stat=2.77, df=446, p=.001).

Appendix B

Informed Consent for Tech2Connect Client Survey

You are invited to participate in this Tech2Connect Client Survey because you are currently enrolled in the Tech2Connect Program.

The Tech2Connect Program is being evaluated by the State of Iowa Department of Management Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement (DPI). Researchers are collecting information from District staff, Prison staff, Clients, and ORIJIN to better understand the process, benefits, and challenges of the Tech2Connect Program.

Voluntary: Participation in this survey is voluntary. You are not required to complete the survey.

Confidential: Participation in this survey is confidential and will be viewed only by DPI researchers. No person in the District or Prison will know whether you participated in this survey.

Anonymous: Your answers to the survey questions are anonymous and your answers will not be individually identifiable. The survey information will be reported in aggregate with no identifying features for any particular response.

Benefits: There are no direct benefits to you for participating, and there are no disadvantages or penalties to you if you choose not to participate. Your participation in the research will have no effect on parole decisions or other criminal justice dispositions.

Risks: The risk to you for participating in this survey are low. You will be asked questions about your involvement in the Tech2Connect program. You may find some of the questions about your experiences in the program or reentry sensitive.

Mandatory Reporting: If you express an intention to cause harm to yourself or others or someone that is under mandatory reporting laws, the researchers are required to report to the appropriate authorities.

Participant Consent

If you agree to participate, please click “I agree” and the survey will begin on the next page.

If you do not want to participate, you can choose “I do not agree” or simply close this page.

Tech2Connect Client Survey

The Tech2Connect Program is offered to currently incarcerated who will be discharging to, and recently released individuals, in the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Judicial Districts. The State of Iowa Department of Management Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement (DPI) is conducting an evaluation of this program. As an active client in Tech2Connect, your feedback is a valuable part of understanding how the program operates, what works well and what needs improvement.

1. To understand if there are differences in client experiences, we would like to know your Tech2Connect district.
    a. Second
    b. Sixth
    c. Seventh
2. Were you automatically enrolled as a Tech2Connect client, or did you choose to be enrolled?
    a. Automatic
    b. Chose to be enrolled
3. Approximately how long have you been enrolled as a Tech2Connect client?
    a. 0-1 month
    b. 2-3 months
    c. 4-5 months
    d. 6-7 months
    e. 8-9 months
    f. 10-11 months
    g. 12 months or more
4. On a scale of 1 (lowest score) to 3 (highest score), how do you rate the following questions:
    a. The level of training on the tablet and programs.
    b. My understanding of how to use the tablet and access the content.
    c. My competence in using the tablet and accessing the content.
    d. My satisfaction in using the tablet and accessing the content.
    e. Staff's ability to help me solve problems when accessing or using the tablet.
    f. I enjoy using the tablet and the content.
5. How frequently do you use a Tech2Connect tablet?
    a. Daily
    b. Weekly
    c. A few times each month
    d. Once a month
    e. Less than monthly
6. How easy is accessing a tablet?
    a. It is easy to access a tablet.
    b. It is difficult to access a tablet.
        i. What would make it easier to access a tablet?
7. The programs, trainings, assessments, videos, etc. that I am supposed to participate in are easy to access and participate in on the tablets.
    a. Yes.
    b. No.

        i. What would make it easier to access the programs, trainings, assessments, videos on your tablet?
8. I have access to key people in the district where I will be released (check all that apply)
    a. My future parole officer
    b. My future counselor
    c. My future house supervisor
    d. My future contact for employment
    e. Other
    f. No, I do not have access to key people in the district where I will be released.
9. I have completed at least one self-assessment using the tablet.
    a. Yes
    b. No
10. I am currently completing/have completed the following classes that are required for me: (Check all that apply)
    a. The Master Class
    b. ACTV (any)
    c. WRAP (any)
    d. Other
11. I am currently completing/have completed the following classes voluntarily (they were not required for me. I just wanted to complete them):
    a. Open ended
12. My personal goals for release/reentry include: (check all that apply)
    a. Learn how to handle stress and/or anger in a more productive way.
    b. Be employable by improving my knowledge.
    c. Be employable by improving how I react in a work setting as an employee.
    d. Live a life without physical abuse.
    e. Live a life without alcohol or substance abuse.
    f. Meet the requirements so that I improve my chances of being released from prison.
    g. Other.
13. I am currently:
    a. Incarcerated
    b. on community supervision
14. What else do you want to tell researchers about the Tech2Connect program?
    a. Open ended

Informed Consent for Tech2Connect Staff Interviews

You are invited to participate in this Tech2Connect Staff Interviews because you are currently, or have been in the past, part of the team that started or operates the Tech2Connect Program. The Tech2Connect Program is being evaluated by the State of Iowa Department of Management Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement (DPI). Researchers are collecting information from District staff, Prison staff, Clients, and ORIJIN to better understand the process, benefits, and challenges of the Tech2Connect Program.

Voluntary: Participation in the interview is voluntary. You are not required to participate.

Open Records: Your responses in this interview will be documented by the researchers. They will be taking notes and summarized for themes, but no identifying information will be connected to responses. The interview summaries are subject to Iowa's open records law

Anonymous: Your answers to the questions in any drafts of and the final report will not be individually identifiable. The interview information will be reported in aggregate with no identifying features for any particular response.

Benefits: There are no direct benefits to you for participating, and there are no disadvantages or penalties to you if you choose not to participate.

Risks: The risk to you for participating in the interviews are low. You will be asked questions about your professional involvement in the Tech2Connect program, including strengths and weaknesses in the program system.

Mandatory Reporting: If you express an intention to cause harm to yourself or others or someone that is under mandatory reporting laws, the researchers will need to inform appropriate authorities.

Participant Consent: Your written consent is required prior to the beginning of any interview with DPI researchers. Please reply to this email with your decision. If you do not wish to participate at any time, please email Wendy Ringgenberg at wendy.ringgenberg@dom.iowa.gov prior to the interview or if this is at the beginning of a group interview, you may simply leave the group.

Tech2Connect Staff Interview Questions

1. How did T2C begin?
2. How did T2C begin in each prison?
3. What worked well during implementation of T2C?
4. What did not work during implementation? How was the problem addressed?
5. What does T2C look like in each prison currently? Describe the process for tablet management, client identification, onboarding, and tracking.
6. Who are the staff (their roles) who work with T2C and what do they do in the T2C process?
7. How often do T2C district and/or prison staff talk about T2C?
8. What would you like to see improved in T2C, and how would you improve it?
9. What are the challenges facing T2C?
10. What are the benefits of offering T2C?
11. Please share any relevant policies and procedures.