

---

***American Community Corrections Institute***



# **Home Study Program – Recidivism Report January, 2010 – September, 2012**

Including 15 Texas Community Supervision & Corrections Departments

---

November 13, 2012

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Program Description .....	1
Methodology .....	2
Findings .....	2
General .....	2
County-specific .....	3
155th .....	7
Bastrop .....	8
Cass .....	9
Collin .....	10
Cooke .....	11
Guadalupe .....	12
Hardin .....	13
Howard .....	14
Kaufmann .....	15
Kerr .....	16
Lampasas .....	17
Lee .....	18
Tyler .....	19
Wichita .....	20
Williamson .....	21
Discussion .....	22
Limitations and Future Research .....	22
Conclusion .....	23

---

## **Introduction**

A special thanks to each participating CSCD! While collecting completion rates is a statistic that can be obtained in-house, revocation rates or recidivism rates must be obtained from each county; therefore we appreciate the collaboration on collecting and reporting on this important outcome data. ACCI is committed to continually making our results as transparent as possible and void of biases or error.

It is important to note that this report does not represent the highest academic standard for evidence-based research; this report did not include a randomly selected control and experiment group. Rather, it reports on outcomes and serves as a strong indicator for program effectiveness.

This report focuses on two key outcome criteria, namely completion rates and recidivism rates. For the purposes of this report we defined recidivism as any probationer who successfully completed one of ACCI's 13 adult cognitive life skills home study courses, and afterward was incarcerated in a county jail or state prison.

## **Program Description**

ACCI's Home Study Program is a least costly / least intrusive way to meet several criminogenic needs and lower recidivism rates. This program is a correspondence-based program that allows probationers to complete one of ACCI's 13 adult cognitive life skills home study courses in the privacy of their home and with a coach they trust and with whom they have a pro-social relationship. At the heart of this offender-paid program are the principles of accountability and learning. The self-directed approach to learning and changing requires the participation of each probationer, which leads to greater learning, absorption and application.

This program is best utilized when referring officers understand their offenders' criminogenic needs and make a strong connection to the most appropriate ACCI cognitive life skills course. We train and encourage officers to take a "Motivational Interviewing" approach in setting up and referring their clients to this program. The emphasis is placed on the probationer investing in his or her own learning, growing and changing. ACCI has made available a user-friendly web-based referral system: [www.lifeskillslink.com](http://www.lifeskillslink.com) for referring officers to use when submitting a referral to ACCI. This web-based resource is designed to provide greater communication and transparency about the interaction that ACCI has with each referred probationer; also to provide timely information to the referring officer, which allows the officer to better hold the probationer accountable. This increased web-based collaboration has significantly enhanced the fidelity and accountability of the program, which has lead to better outcomes.

---

Each person that is referred to the home study program is given 30 days to complete and return his or her life skills course with an \$85.00 fee. An instructions sheet is included with the life skills course in the mail, which tells them what their post mark due date is and gives them a toll-free phone number to reach an ACCI representative. Most individuals that are referred to this program find value in the content as it relates to their personal life. As a result, 96% of individuals that have completed a life skills course say they would recommend it to another.

## **Methodology**

Participating counties within the state of Texas submitted data on the program status of participants as well as post-completion revocations of program completers. These data were used to generate various descriptive statistics, which aim to provide an understanding of the success of the ACCI Home Study Program. ACCI maintains records for every referral made on a secure and encrypted database. Reports were generated from this database for each participating CSCD that included all referrals since January 2010. We asked each county to search their database by probationer name and case number for those that had successfully completed to determine whether or not they had been revoked after having completed an ACCI course. Excel spreadsheets were used to email offender information to key contacts within each CSCD. One column was left blank for "Recidivism" and we simply asked each county to mark each probationer that had been revoked with a "1" and leave the cell blank for those that did not. Once all data was received, it was compiled into one excel sheet to generate overall and county specific statistics and percentages.

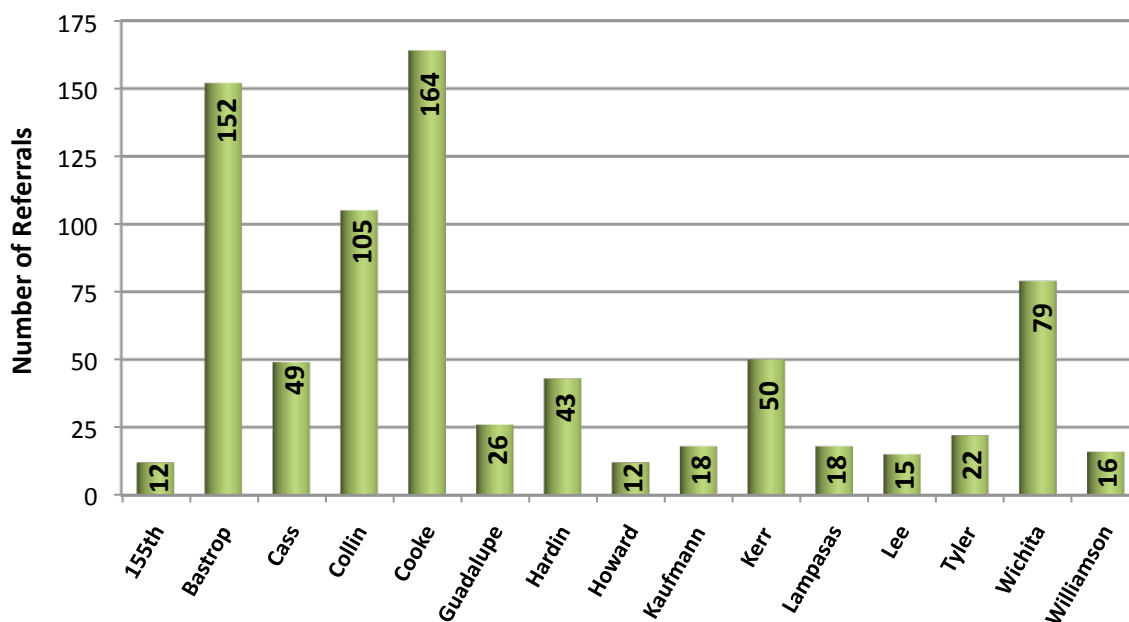
## **Findings**

### *General*

Since 2010, there have been 781 total referrals to ACCI's Home Study Program, with the number of county-specific referrals varying significantly. Some counties are much smaller in size with only 4 or 5 probationer officers, while other counties have up to 50 probation officers. It is also important to note that different counties use this program to help meet different objectives. Some counties simply use the program for probationers that reside outside of the county jurisdiction, while others use the program as a court sanctioned program and a mandatory part of their probationary terms and conditions. More recently, we have noticed a trend among various counties that use the program as an alternative to incarceration, which falls right in line with evidence-based practice for non-violent offenders. Please see Chart 1 for a depiction of these data.

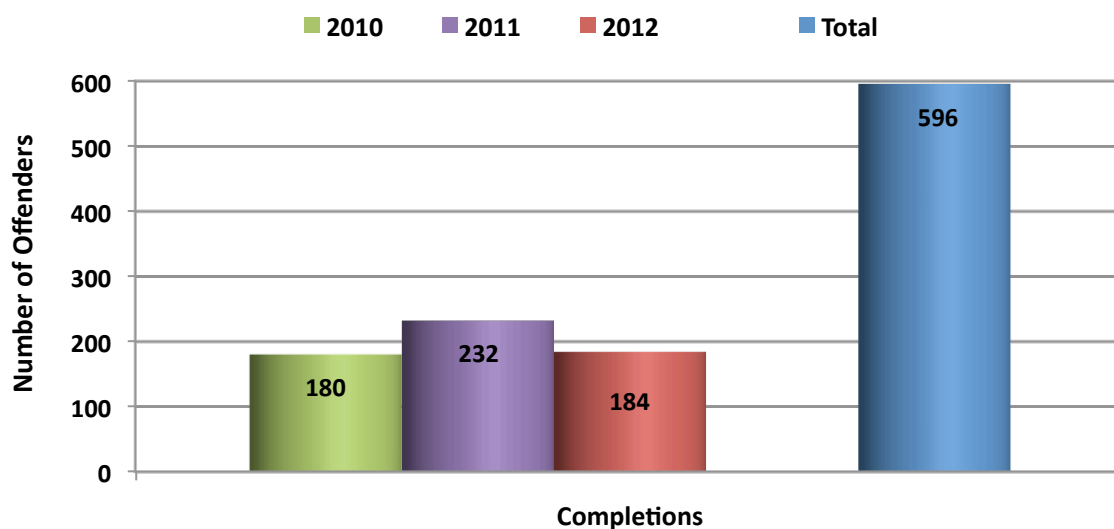
---

### Chart 1. 2010-2012 Total Referrals by County

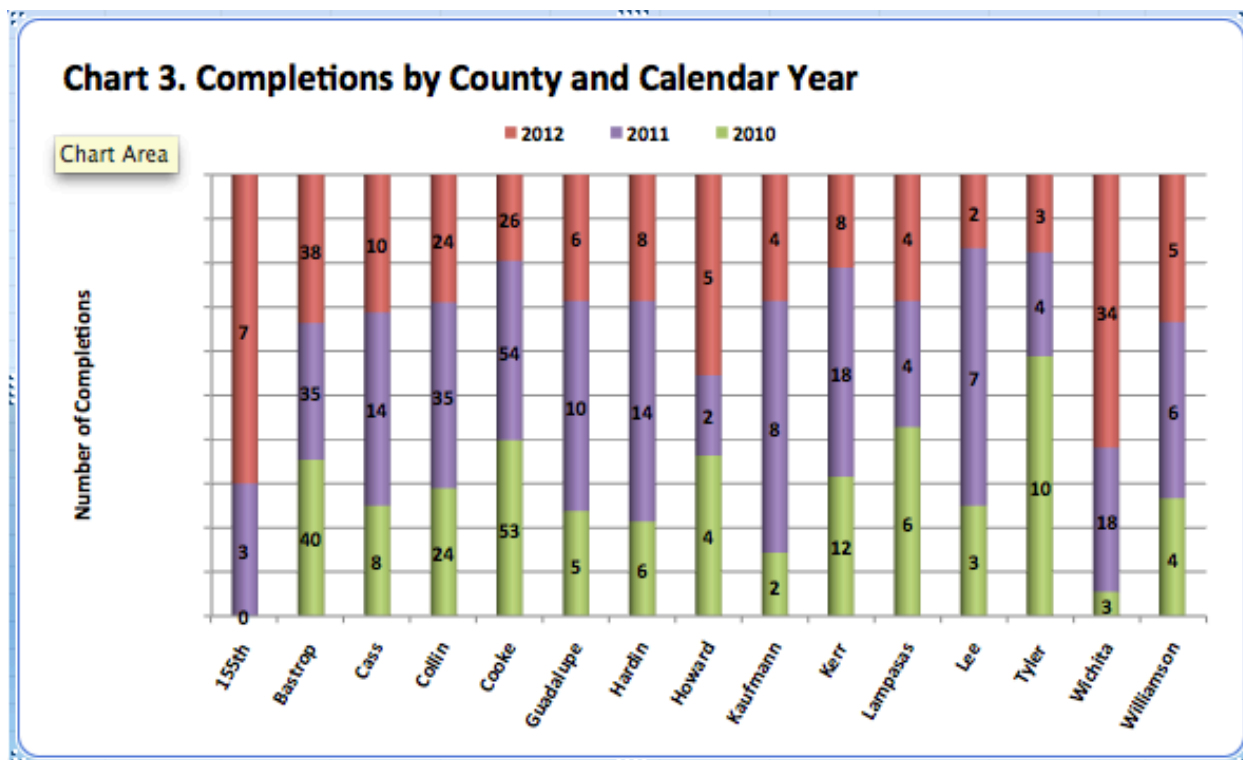


Participants of the life skills program within the state of Texas show a high program completion rate – 81.3% (N=596/733) – and the number of completions per year is depicted below in Chart 2. Unfortunately, a completion rate by year is not currently available due to data limitations. However, the raw number of completers per year is valuable as it provides an idea of the number of offenders the program has been able to serve. The number of total completers since CY 2010 has reached 596.

### Chart 2. Completions by Calendar Year



A further breakdown of completions by county is provided in Chart 3. Participant completions vary by year, depending on the capacity of the county-specific sites.

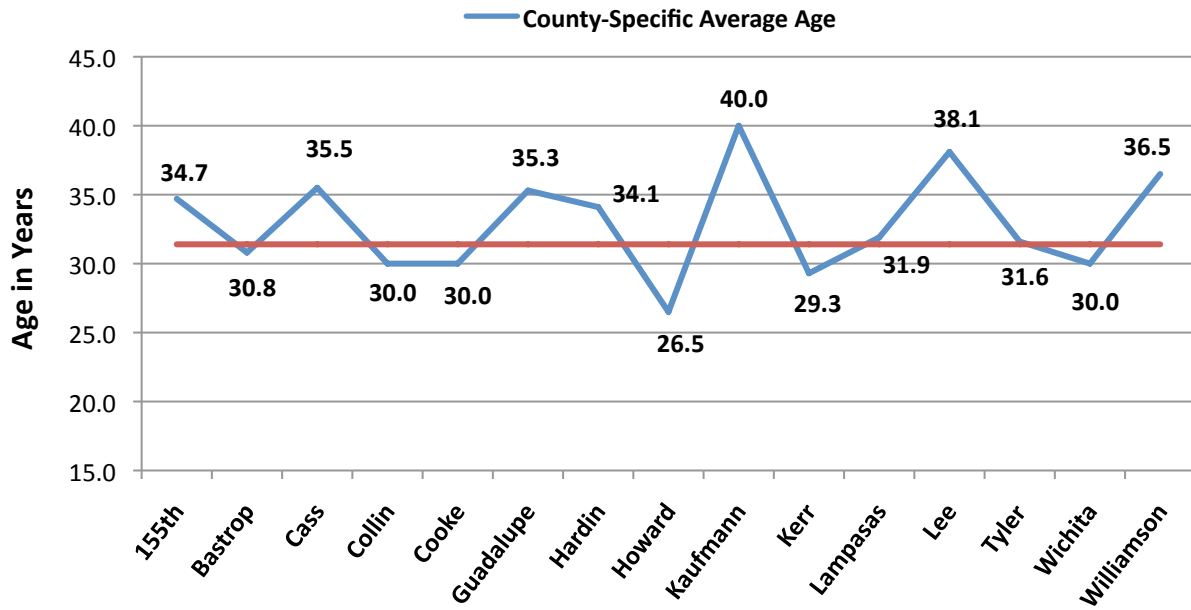


Recidivism is another measure of program effectiveness on which ACCI has chosen to focus. In this report, recidivism is defined as revocation post-program completion. ACCI asked each county to provide feedback on all completers to determine if the completer had been revoked since finishing the program. Some cases did lack follow-up information and were excluded from the analysis ( $N=26/597$ ). Provided in Table 1 are the revocation rates of all counties combined in addition to county-specific results, and these results are broken down by program completion year cohort. The all counties revocation rate for the CY 2010 completion cohort is 13.9% ( $N=23/166$ ), meaning 13.9% of the offenders who completed the Home Study Cognitive Life skills Program during CY 2010 have been revoked on their probationary term. This statistic is slightly higher for the CY 2011 cohort at 15.3% ( $N=34/222$ ), while the CY 2012 cohort is dramatically lower at 4.9% ( $N=9/183$ ). Note that CY 2012 should be interpreted with caution as it includes completers only through September, 2012. Also, the more recent the completion, the lower the likelihood of revocation, primarily due to not enough time having passed. County-specific results vary year to year. For a more in-depth discussion on these individual rates, please reference the county-specific reports beginning on Page 7.

**Table 1. Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by County and Calendar Year**

<b>County</b>	<b>CY 2010</b>	<b>CY 2011</b>	<b>CY 2012</b>	<b>Overall</b>
155th	-----	0.0%	14.3%	10.0%
Bastrop	19.4%	25.8%	11.1%	18.4%
Cass	25.0%	35.7%	0.0%	21.9%
Collin	5.3%	6.9%	0.0%	4.2%
Cooke	20.8%	20.4%	3.8%	17.3%
Guadalupe	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hardin	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%	10.7%
Howard	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kaufmann	50.0%	12.5%	0.0%	14.3%
Kerr	8.3%	16.7%	25.0%	15.8%
Lampasas	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Lee	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	16.7%
Tyler	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Wichita	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Williamson	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	6.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
<b>Note:</b> Revocations percentages based only on cases with returned data. CY12 based on completers through no later than September 2012.				

A variable of interest when considering revocation rates is the age of the offender at the time of program completion. This, among other variables, is important to consider when making county-by-county comparisons. As shown below in Chart 4, the overall average age of program completers from 2010 through 2012 is 31.4 years, and this statistic ranges from an average of 30.2 to 32.0 for each specific completion cohort. County-specific average ages range from 26.5 (Howard County) to 40.0 (Kaufmann County). As above, only cases with valid data could be included ( $N=568/597$ ).

**Chart 4. Completions by Average Age at Completion**

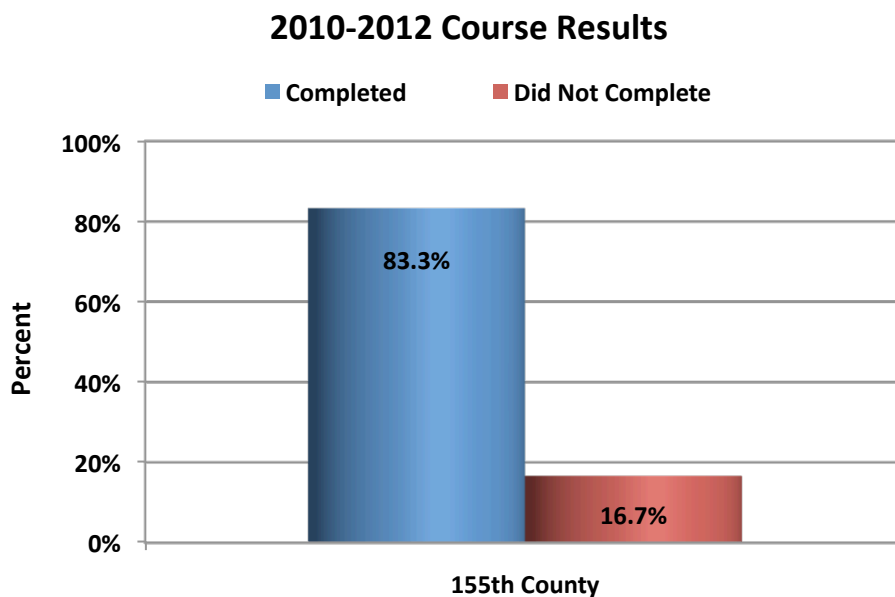
#### *County-specific*

Beginning on the following page are county-level reports, which discuss respective completion and revocation rates. Average age of completion cohorts is also included. Counties are listed in alphabetic order for easy review.



## 155<sup>th</sup> County

A total of 12 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at 155<sup>th</sup> County since 2011 and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 10 successfully completed; two were reported non-compliant. The yearly breakdown of completions is as follows: 2011 – three completions; 2012 – seven completions. This results in an overall county completion rate of 83.3% for the 2011 through 2012 time frame.



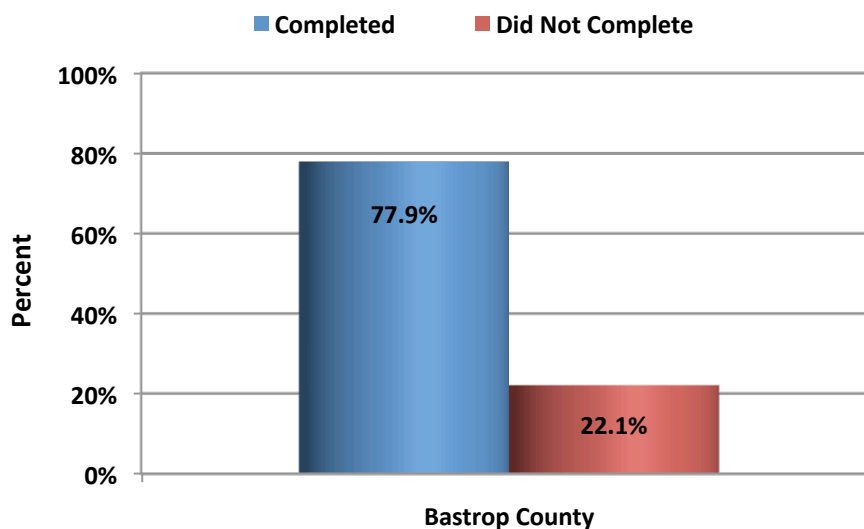
Regarding revocation rates, 155<sup>th</sup> County had no completers during 2010, meaning that revocation rates are only available for offenders who completed during calendar year 2011 and 2012. As depicted in the table below, Life Skills completers from this specific county were revoked at 0.0% ( $N=0/3$ ) for 2011 and 14.3% ( $N=1/7$ ) in 2012. The average age of the CY11 completers was 30.1 and slightly older for the CY12 completers at 36.8 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
155 <sup>th</sup> County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	-----	0.0%	14.3%	10.0%
<b>Note:</b> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through July, 2012.				

## Bastrop County CSCD

A total of 145 offenders participated in the Home Study Program from Bastrop County CSCD. Of this number, 113 successfully completed; 32 were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 77.9% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



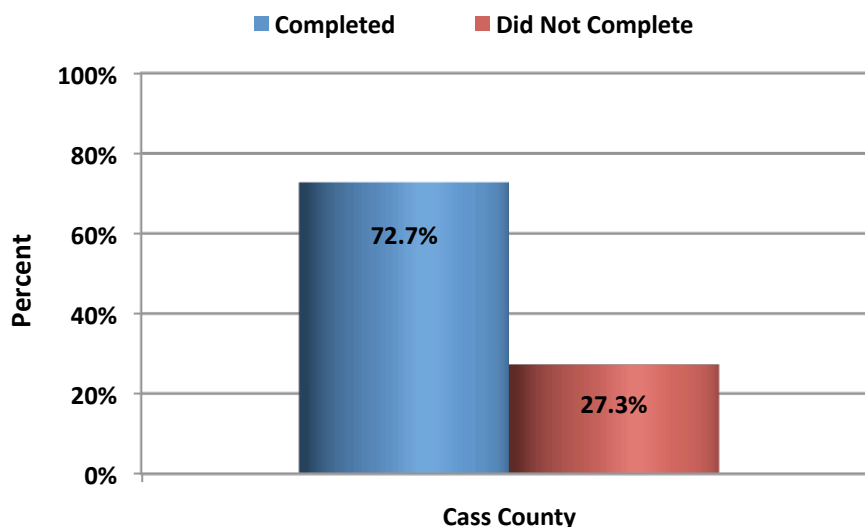
Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Bastrop County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 19.4% ( $N=6/31$ ); 25.8% ( $N=8/31$ ) for 2011; and 11.1% ( $N=4/36$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 29.2; CY11 was 31.6 years of age; and CY12 was 30.1 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Bastrop County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	19.4%	25.8%	11.1%	18.4%
<b>Note:</b> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Aug., 2012.				

## Cass County CSCD

A total of 44 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Cass County CSCD. Of this number, 32 successfully completed; 12 were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 72.7% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



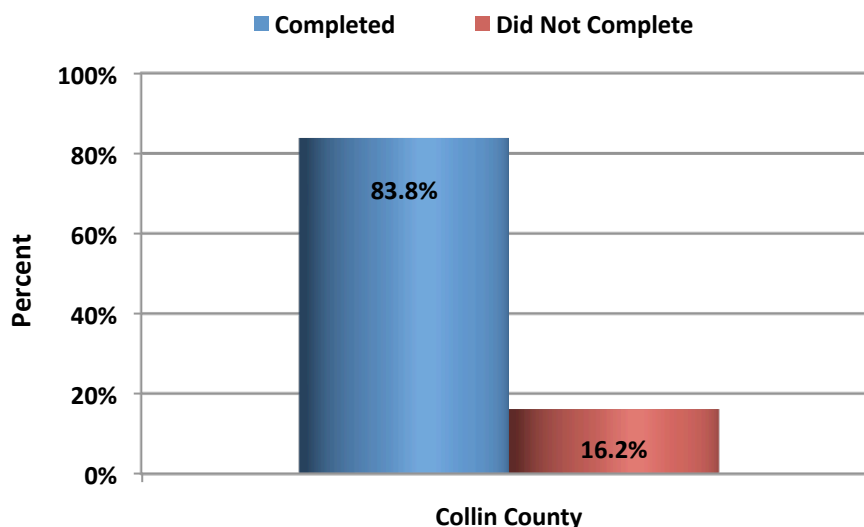
Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Cass County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 25.0% ( $N=2/8$ ); 35.7% ( $N=5/14$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/10$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 35.7; CY11 was 37.4 years of age; and CY12 was 32.8 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Cass County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	25.0%	35.7%	0.0%	21.9%
<b>Note:</b> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Aug., 2012.				

## Collin County

A total of 99 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Collin County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 83 successfully completed; 16 were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 83.8% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



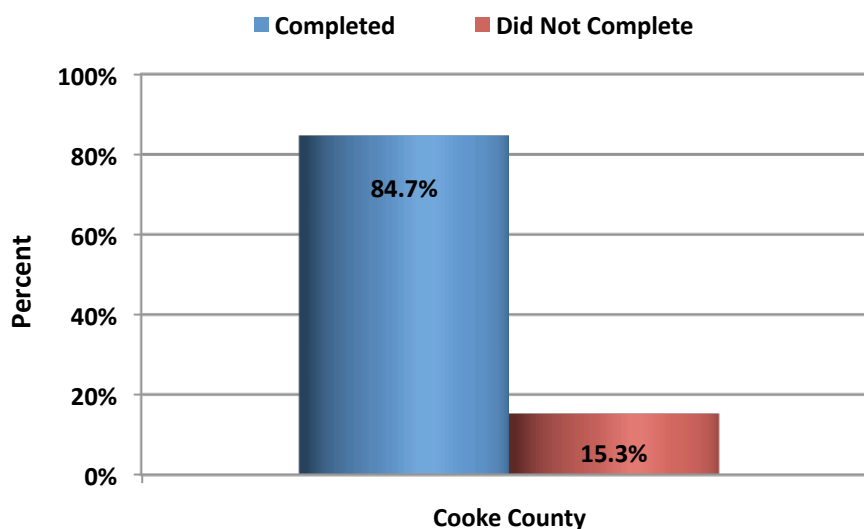
Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Collin County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 5.3% ( $N=1/19$ ); 6.9% ( $N=2/29$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/24$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 27.0; CY11 was 31.7 years of age; and CY12 was 31.3 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Collin County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	5.3%	6.9%	0.0%	4.2%
<i>Note:</i> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Sept., 2012.				

## Cooke County

A total of 157 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Cooke County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 133 successfully completed; 24 were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 84.7% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



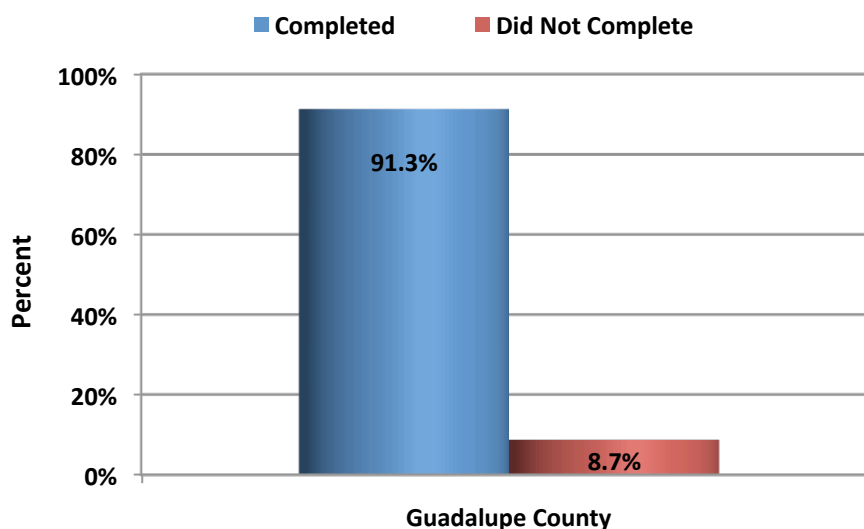
Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Cooke County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 20.8% ( $N=11/53$ ); 20.4% ( $N=11/54$ ) for 2011; and 3.8% ( $N=1/26$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 29.3; CY11 was 31.3 years of age; and CY12 was 28.9 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Cooke County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	20.8%	20.4%	3.8%	17.3%
<b>Note:</b> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Aug., 2012.				

## Guadalupe County

A total of 23 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Guadalupe County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 21 successfully completed; two were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 91.3% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Guadalupe County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 0.0% ( $N=0/5$ ); 0.0% ( $N=0/10$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/6$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 35.5; CY11 was 30.6 years of age; and CY12 was 43.7 years of age.

### Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year

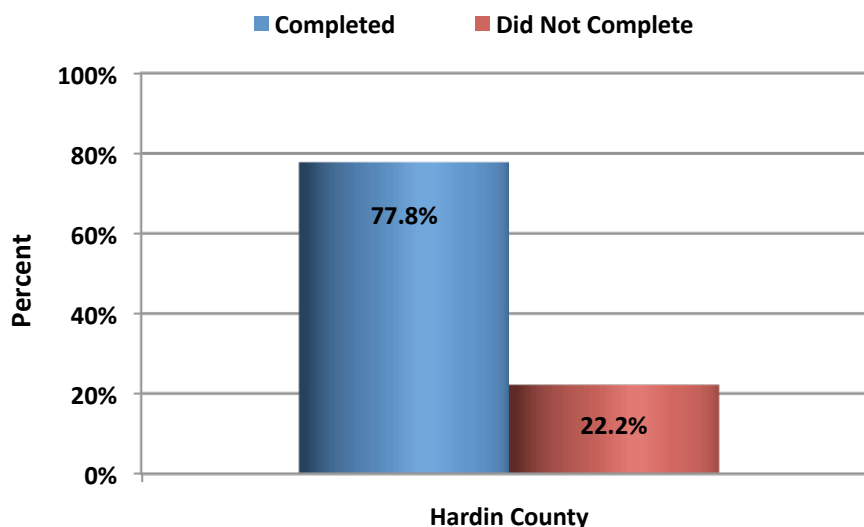
Guadalupe County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**Note:** Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through June, 2012.

## Hardin County

A total of 36 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Hardin County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 28 successfully completed; 8 were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 77.8% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



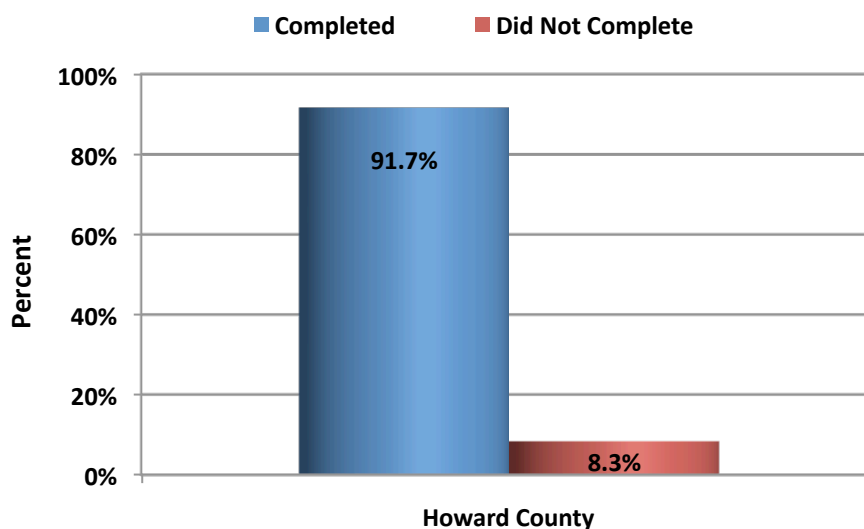
Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Hardin County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 16.7% ( $N=1/6$ ); 14.3% ( $N=2/14$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/8$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 33.2; CY11 was 31.3 years of age; and CY12 was 39.6 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Hardin County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%	10.7%
<b>Note:</b> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Aug., 2012.				

## Howard County

A total of 12 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Howard County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 11 successfully completed; one was reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 91.7% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Howard County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 0.0% ( $N=0/4$ ); 0.0% ( $N=0/2$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/5$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 20.5; CY11 was 30.8 years of age; and CY12 was 29.6 years of age.

### Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year

Howard County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

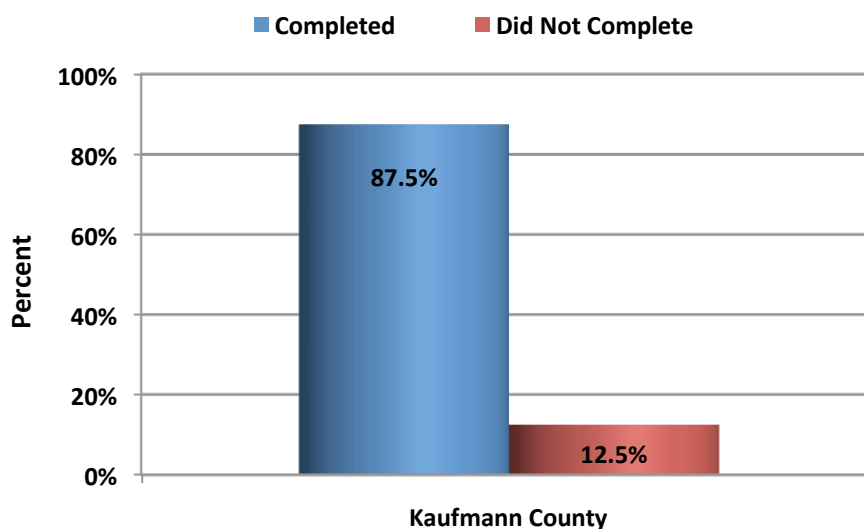
**Note:** Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Aug., 2012.



## Kaufmann County

A total of 16 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Kaufmann County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 14 successfully completed; two were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 87.5% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Kaufmann County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 50.0% ( $N=1/2$ ); 12.5% ( $N=1/8$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/4$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY11 was 43.2 years of age and CY12 was 37.8 years of age. Average age for CY10 completers is not available as only one completer had a recorded date of birth from which to calculate the age. This offender's age at completion, however, was 26 years.

### Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year

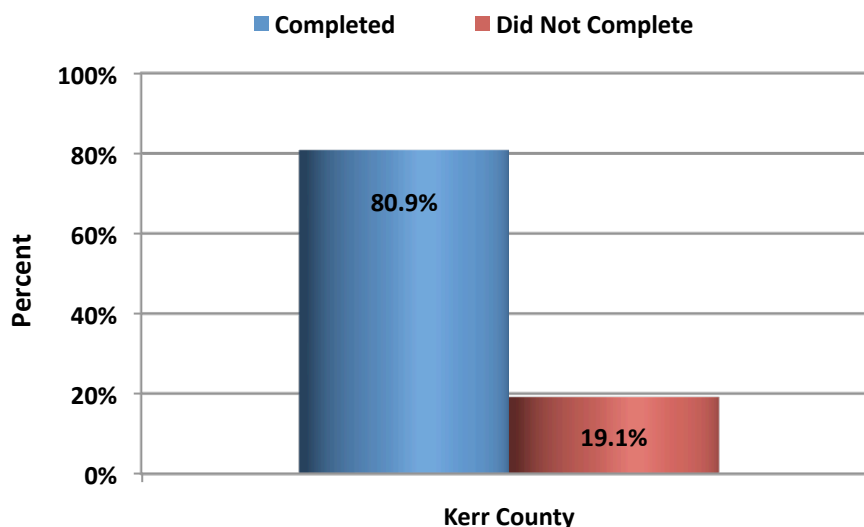
Kaufmann County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	50.0%	12.5%	0.0%	14.3%

**Note:** Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. Those with missing data were excluded.

## Kerr County

A total of 47 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Kerr County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 38 successfully completed; 9 were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 80.9% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



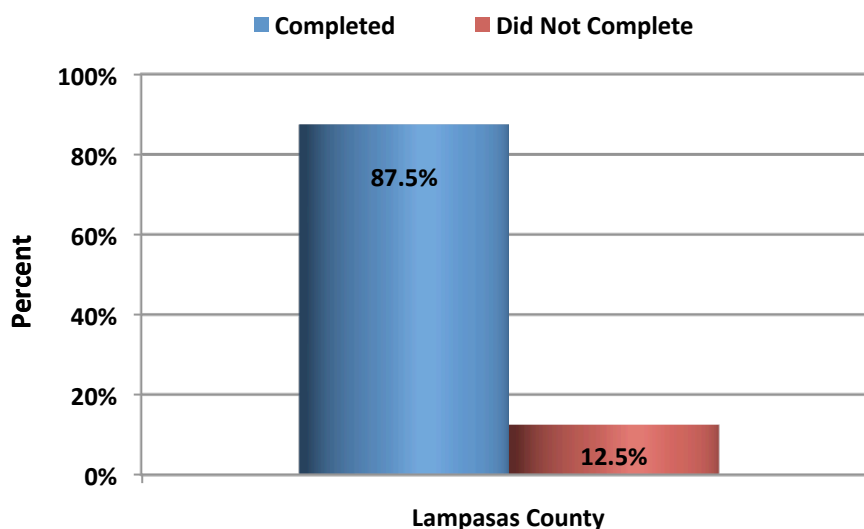
Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Kerr County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 8.3% ( $N=1/12$ ); 16.7% ( $N=3/18$ ) for 2011; and 25.0% ( $N=2/8$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 36.9; CY11 was 26.7 years of age; and CY12 was 24.4 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Kerr County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	8.3%	16.7%	25.0%	15.8%
<i>Note:</i> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Sept., 2012.				

## Lampasas County

A total of 16 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Lampasas County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 14 successfully completed; two were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 87.5% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Lampasas County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 0.0% ( $N=0/6$ ); 0.0% ( $N=0/4$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/4$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 28.2; CY11 was 30.9 years of age; and CY12 was 36.4 years of age.

### Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year

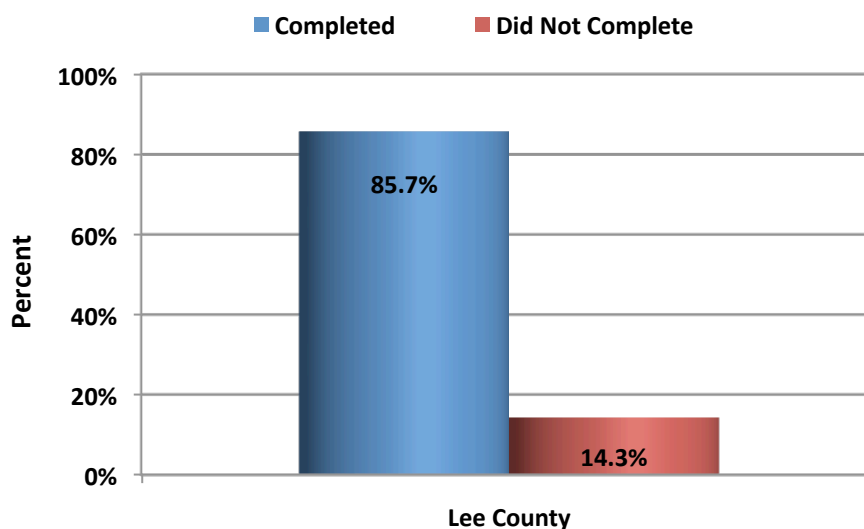
Lampasas County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**Note:** Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through July, 2012.

## Lee County

A total of 14 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Lee County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 12 successfully completed; two were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 85.7% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Lee County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 0.0% ( $N=0/3$ ); 28.6% ( $N=2/7$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/2$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 35.8; CY11 was 33.1 years of age; and CY12 was 59.0 years of age.

### Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year

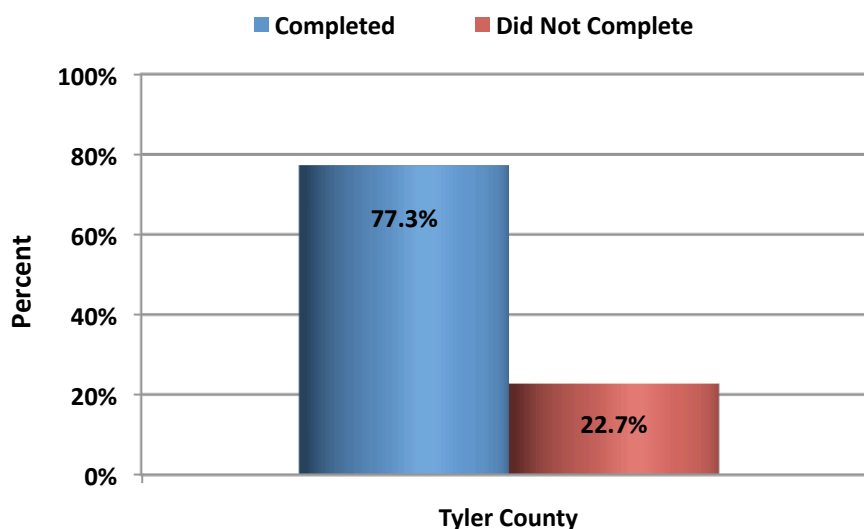
Lee County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	16.7%

**Note:** Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Aug., 2012.

## Tyler County

A total of 22 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Tyler County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 17 successfully completed; five were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 77.3% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



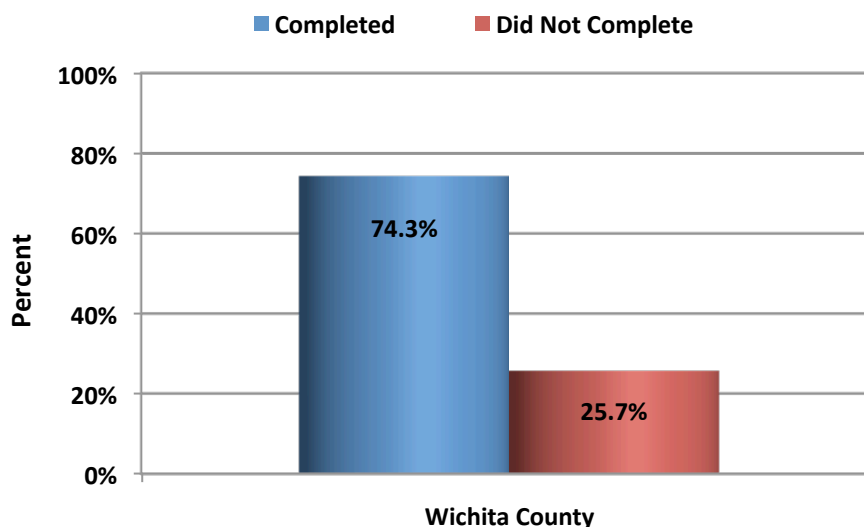
Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Tyler County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 0.0% ( $N=0/10$ ); 0.0% ( $N=0/4$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/3$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 33.7; CY11 was 28.5 years of age; and CY12 was 29.7 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Tyler County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Note:</b> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through May, 2012.				

## Wichita County

A total of 74 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Wichita County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 55 successfully completed; 19 were reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 74.3% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



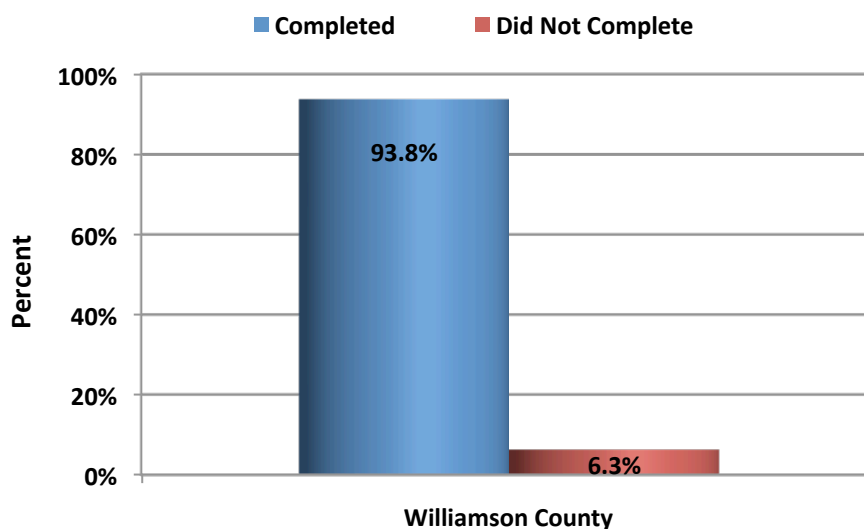
Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Wichita County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 0.0% ( $N=0/3$ ); 0.0% ( $N=0/18$ ) for 2011; and 0.0% ( $N=0/34$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 23.4; CY11 was 32.1 years of age; and CY12 was 29.3 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Wichita County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Note:</b> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through Sept., 2012.				

## Williamson County

A total of 16 offenders participated in the Home Study Program at Williamson County and have concluded their time in the program. Of this number, 15 successfully completed; one was reported non-compliant. This results in a completion rate of 93.8% for the 2010 through 2012 time frame.

### 2010-2012 Course Results



Regarding revocation rates of Life Skills completers for Williamson County, the table below depicts each rate by completion year. The revocation rate for 2010 was 0.0% ( $N=0/4$ ); 0.0% ( $N=0/6$ ) for 2011; and 20.0% ( $N=1/5$ ) for 2012. The average age of the CY10 completers was 30.9; CY11 was 39.1 years of age; and CY12 was 38.9 years of age.

Revocation Percentages of Life Skill Completers by Calendar Year				
Williamson County	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	Overall
	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	6.7%
<b>Note:</b> Revocation percentages based only on cases with revocation data. CY12 based on completers through April, 2012.				

## **Discussion**

Overall results of the ACCI Home Study Life Skills program administered in fifteen counties in the state of Texas indicate that results are positive. The program has a high completion rate, 81% for all counties combined, but varies from approximately 73% to approximately 94% when focusing on county-specific breakdowns. Recidivism, defined as revocation post-program completion, is approximately 15% or less, depending on the year.

Data collection and follow-up studies should continue, especially as the program continues to grow and more graduates are able to be considered in subsequent analyses. As of September 2012 the program is still ongoing, and by this date there were approximately 50 active participants. As this program continues to service more and more offenders and collect the data, the results will continue to have more meaning.

## **Limitations and Future Research**

A main limitation of this analysis is the inability to determine the impact of the length of time passed since completion on the future revocation of the program completers. Results presented herein lend support to the benefit of additional data collection to enable such an analysis. Also, future study consideration should be given to between-state comparison studies and more in-depth, within-state comparison studies to determine if the program shows greater success with a specific demographic.

Another variable of interest to account for in future research is to discover different success rates between individual referring officers. Based off of feedback from participating CSCD leadership, we have learned that some officers use the Home Study Program with greater results while others do not. Several factors should be measured and analyzed such as, 1. Responsivity – which means that officers are making every attempt to select the best possible program, based on each individual probationers specific needs. In other words, just because a program has high success rates doesn't mean that it is a good fit for each probationer. 2. Officer / Probationer relationship – We hypothetically believe that officers who generally have better rapport and healthy relationships with probationers are better able to influence program outcomes. 3. Linking to Risk / Needs Assessment – We would expect of find that officers who are not using probationers' risk factors to select the best available program would have less success rates compared to officers that are. 4. Motivational Interviewing – We would assume that officers who employ an MI style of intervention when referring probationers would have far better outcomes than those who don't. 5. Use correct legal sanctions to ensure participation. ACCI has observed through other similar research that there is no statistical difference in completion rates and recidivism rates between agencies and officers who use strong legal sanctions to ensure probationer participation versus those who don't. ACCI is curious to discover possible negative adverse effects from officers misusing legal sanctions to motivate and "force" participation.

---



## **Conclusion**

From analyzing the available data contained in this report, it is clear that self-directed learning is a successful approach and that the Home Study Program is a viable program to addressing several top criminogenic needs and lowering recidivism. ACCI offers free support and ongoing training to help officers and agencies get the best results when using the Home Study Program. Despite the fact this program is administered entirely without supervision from officers, case managers or other professionals, it continues to have promising results. A synthesis of the qualitative data provided by both the offender and coach within their hand-written evaluations would illustrate the depth to which the ACCI cognitive content has reached. From this data, it is clear that the relationship that the offender has with his/her chosen "coach" has created a healthy environment in which accountability, honesty, learning, growing and changing can take place.

More scientific research needs to be conducted to draw a strong cause and effect relationship between ACCI's Home Study Program and recidivism reduction.