



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



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To: Brian Sandoval, Governor
Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney General
Ross Miller, Secretary of State
From: James G. Cox, Director NDOC
RE: Agenda item 5

Inmate deaths within the NDOC are at their lowest levels in three years. Below is a chart setting forth yearly death rate percentages with total inmate population rates.

- 2010 – 42 deaths / 12,769 (total inmate population) = 0.329%
- 2011 – 38 deaths / 12,778 (total inmate population) = 0.297%
- 2012 – 40 deaths / 12,883 (total inmate population) = 0.310%
- 2013 (as of 11/22/13) – 31 deaths / 13,100 (total inmate population) = 0.238%

It is noteworthy that the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs has published a nation-wide study concluding that inmate death rates are overall lower than the general public,¹ and two-thirds of inmate deaths were attributable to medical conditions present at the time of incarceration. Approximately 89% of all inmate deaths were the result of illness and approximately 8% were the result of suicide.

To this end, the NDOC is continuing to explore and improve procedures which can be implemented in Nevada to address end-of-life issues. The NDOC, in conjunction with the National Prison Hospice Association, is researching the potential of providing hospice care, to supplement our current high-quality patient care, for the inmate population.

¹ Mumola, Christopher J. "Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)." *Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)*. N.p., 21 Jan. 2007. Web. 15 Nov. 2013. <<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail>>.