Facilities Division

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MISSION

To protect Georgians by operating secure facilities and providing opportunities for offender rehabilitation.

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner Facilities Division

The Georgia Department of Corrections protects the public by operating safe and secure facilities through the development of professional staff and effective offender management. GDC has one of the largest prison systems in the United States and is responsible for supervising nearly 50,000 state prisoners within 34 state prisons, 21 county prisons, 12 Transitional Centers and four private prisons. It is the largest law enforcement agency in the state, with approximately 7,500 employees.

INFORMATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

REGIONS

NORTH REGION

- 12 state prisons
- 1 private prison
- 2 probation detention centers (PDC)
- 2 probation substance abuse treatment facilities (PSAT)

SOUTHEAST REGION

- 8 state prisons
- 3 private prisons
- 3 PDC's
- 1 Integrated Treatment Facility (ITF)

SOUTHWEST REGION

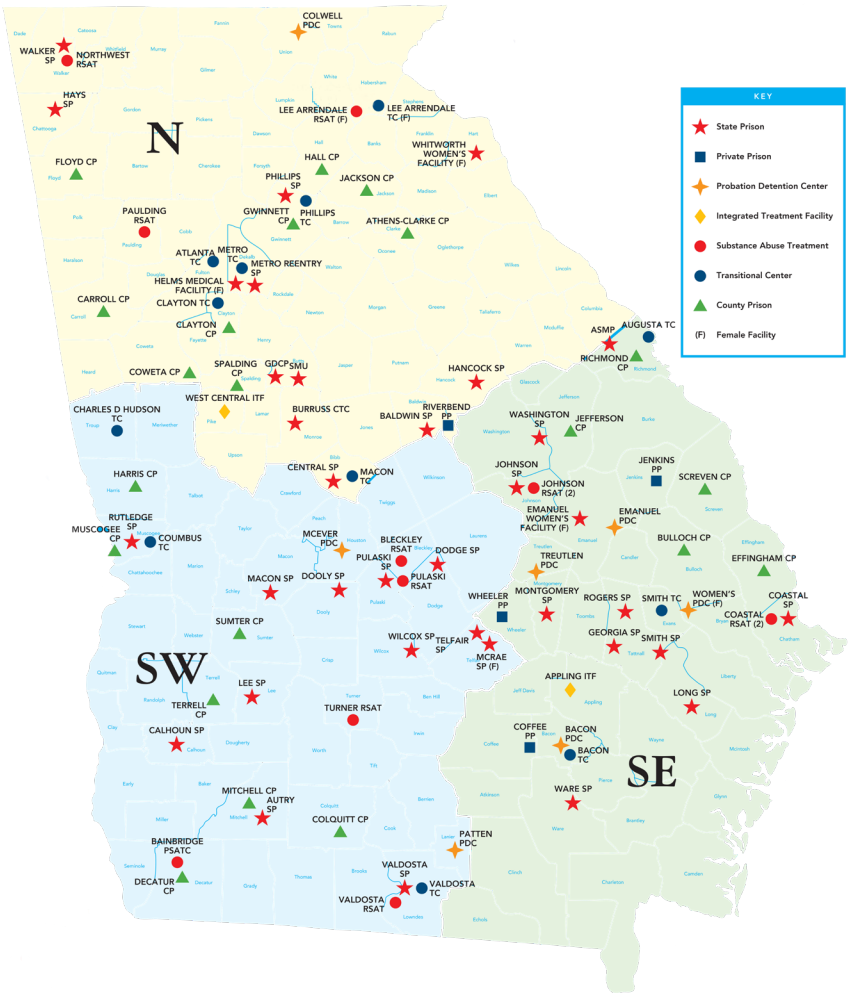
- 9 state prisons
- 2 PSAT's
- 1 PDC's

FEMALE SERVICES

- 4 state prisons
- 1 PDC
- 1 ITF
- 1 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Center (RSAT)

TRANSITIONAL CENTERS

- 12 Transitional Centers



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Facility Initiatives

HARDENING

Due to the more violent prison population and aging facilities, enhancements that would better withstand destruction by inmates (for the purposes of making weapons) was made to physical infrastructures beginning in March 2013 at all close security prisons. The modification included:

- Heavy gauge steel fixtures
- Wall-mounted beds
- Updated lockers, light fixtures, heater vents, and shower doors
- Tier Segregation system implemented in August 2013- Stratification oriented pathway for an offender to successfully transition from Administrative Segregation to lower-security levels
- In 2015, began to harden large, medium-security facilities (Autry, Washington, Calhoun, Dooly, Wilcox and Johnson State Prisons)

CELL PHONE INTERDICTION

To fight the growing problem of the introduction of cell phones into our facilities, GDC has implemented the following:

FRONT LINE EFFORTS

- Training - additional training on contraband detection
- Improved package screening of items coming in
- Enhanced staff screening during shift changes
- Assignment of canine to the investigations unit to improve communication and coordination
- Establishment of clear chain-of-command
- Secure evidence storage procedures

TECHNOLOGICAL EFFORTS

- CellSense: portable, full-body scanner to detect cell phones
- Infrared cameras: detects heat signatures from objects, animals, people 24/7
- Through Body Scanners - low dosage x-ray scanner used to scan staff and visitors upon entry into a facility for the detection of contraband
- Perimeter Netting - expansion of netting to stop contraband throw overs
- Body Orifice Security Scanner (BOSS) - detects hidden contraband

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)

GDC complies with federal standards through the investigation of all PREA allegations.

WALKER FAITH & CHARACTER BASED PROGRAM

The only male facility exclusively dedicated to faith and character-based programming. Established in 2011, the program has graduated numerous participants.

LEE EVIDENCE - BASED PROGRAM

Established in 2015, this two-year program utilizes evidence-based practices to determine training for staff and programming for offenders. The program is divided into four 6-month phases for offenders near release and those interested in programing.

HANCOCK EVIDENCE - BASED PROGRAM

In 2018, the evidence-based program expanded to a Level 5 facility, Hancock SP. Starting on one side of the prison (east), and expanding to the west side.

FIRE SERVICES

Operates 19 stations in state prisons, seven stations in county facilities, trains more than 220 inmates, and responds to 3,000 calls annually.