

## **Bar Coding in Corrections**

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A new correctional management system is needed to see this industry into the year 2000. Bar code technology has proven capabilities of tracking objects and people. Correctional agencies presently using bar coding were interviewed and problems identified (e.g., low-end equipment, inadequate software, agency ignorance and poor training). Successful applications are also explored. Agency knowledge of this technology is crucial to successful implementation. Bar coding is shown to be a perfect match with corrections when implemented properly. A novel funding source, the inmate collect call phone system, makes this management system attainable for many agencies with restricted capital expenditures. Bar coding is a viable, available alternative to manual inmate tracking.