

*Multi-site Evaluation  
of the  
Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative*

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## Overview

- Why? Reentry context
- What? Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative
  - ◆ The Federal initiative
  - ◆ The sites' response
- How, where & when? Multi-site evaluation overview

## Why SVORI?

- More than 2.1 million prisoners in US prisons and jails
- Most (> 95%) will be released
- More than 650,000 released each year
  - ◆ 450,000 or so to parole
  - ◆ In 2002, the adult parole population grew by nearly 21,000 to more than 750,000
- Only 45% of parolees successfully complete their parole
  - ◆ 41% are reincarcerated
  - ◆ 9% abscond
- In 1994, more than 2/3rds of prison releases were rearrested within 3 years—no reason to think the numbers are lower today

Source: BJS

## Why SVORI?

- Let's not forget the money!
- In 2001, Bauer & Owens (2004) report
  - ◆ \$167 billion for police, corrections, courts & legal activities in the US
    - Up from \$35.8 billion in 1982
  - ◆ \$38.4 billion by State governments for corrections
    - Up from \$6 billion in 1982
  - ◆ \$16.7 billion by local governments for corrections
    - Up from \$3 billion in 1982
  - ◆ \$5.2 billion by the Federal government for corrections
    - Up from \$0.5 billion in 1982

## Why SVORI?

Those coming back through the 'revolving door' substantially contribute to the numbers and to the costs

## What is SVORI? The Federal Initiative

- Collaborative Federal effort to improve reentry outcomes in the areas of criminal justice, employment, education, health and housing
- Funded by the Federal Partners
  - Education
  - HHS (CMHS)
  - Housing and Urban Development
  - Justice
  - Labor

## What is SVORI?

- Federal funding to initiate or supplement integrated programs and services



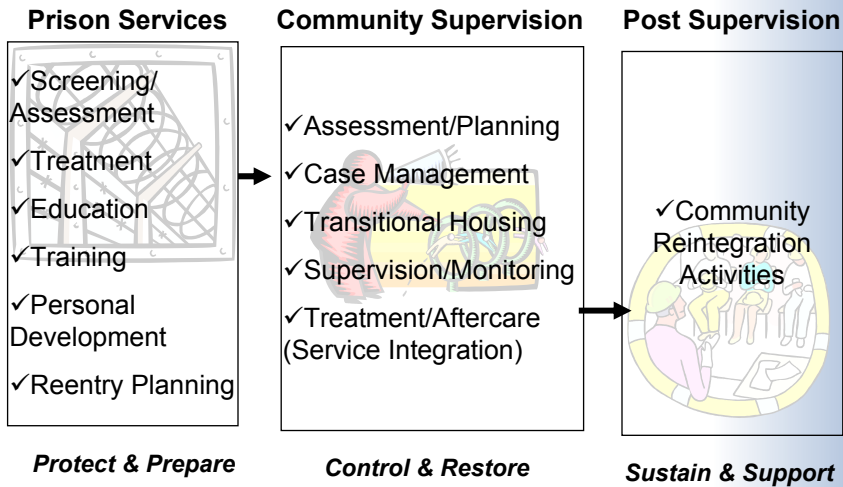
- Partnerships between state and local agencies to provide comprehensive services to prisoners returning to the community

## What is SVORI?

- 69 applicants (state and local sites) were selected to receive more than \$100 million to develop or expand programs offering integrated supervision and services to offenders
  - ◆ Some states have two grants—one adult, one juvenile
  - ◆ Some sites have multiple programs—there are 88 SVORI Programs
- SVORI programs target supervised populations
- Serious? Violent?
  - ◆ Perhaps most significant that these prisoners are NOT excluded from this program

# What does SVORI encompass?

## Stages of Reentry



# SVORI Program Goals:

## Individual Outcomes

- **Self Sufficiency & Quality of Life**
  - ◆ Employment
  - ◆ Housing
  - ◆ Family (including contacts, stability & child custody/support)
  - ◆ Community Involvement
- **Health**
  - ◆ Substance Use (sobriety & relapse prevention)
  - ◆ Physical Health
  - ◆ Mental Health
- **Reduced Criminality**
  - ◆ Supervision Compliance
  - ◆ Reoffending
  - ◆ Rearrest
  - ◆ Reconviction
  - ◆ Reincarceration

**Systems change is also a goal.**

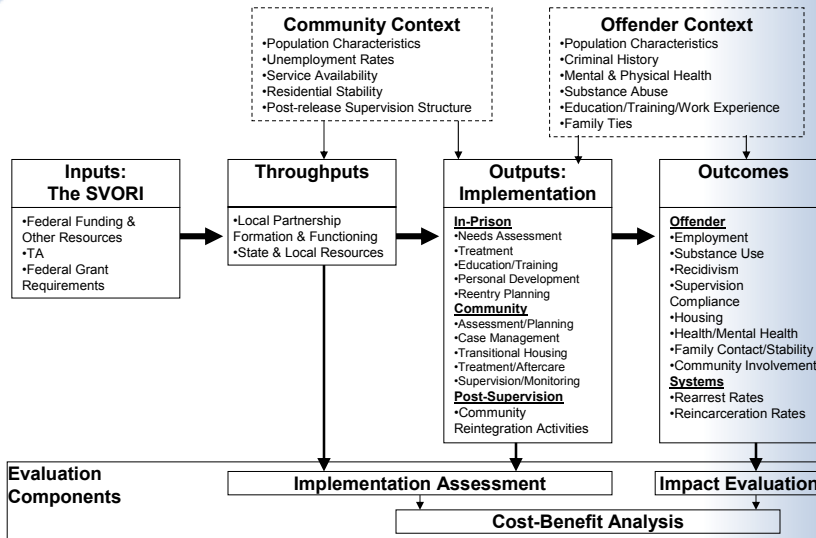
## The Multi-site Evaluation: How? Where? When?

- The Multi-site SVORI Evaluation is being conducted jointly by RTI International and the Urban Institute
- What are our goals?
- What strategies are we using to attain those goals?
- Where are we going? And when?
- What are some of the challenges we face?
- What's next?

## What is the goal of the SVORI Evaluation?

“...determine whether the selected programs have accomplished the overall goal of the Reentry Initiative—increasing public safety by reducing recidivism among the populations served by that program—and determining the relative costs and benefits of the program.”

# SVORI Evaluation Framework



## Evaluation Components

- **Implementation Assessment** will document implementation of SVORI, including targeted populations, program elements, and participating agencies
- **Impact Evaluation** will determine the extent to which SVORI improves access to services, improves employment and health outcomes, and reduces criminal behavior of returning criminals
- **Cost-Benefit Evaluation** will determine whether SVORI cost effective
- **Dissemination** will produce useful products throughout the evaluation

# SVORI Implementation Assessment Constructs

- **Program Organization & Operations**
  - ◆ Program capacity
  - ◆ Program enrollment
  - ◆ Eligibility criteria
  - ◆ Stage of enrollment (e.g., at admission to DOC; n months prior to release)
  - ◆ Degree of coercion
  - ◆ Program cost & funding sources
  - ◆ Referral process
  - ◆ Assessments/screening
  - ◆ Program phases
  - ◆ Program organization & management
- **Program Components**
  - ◆ Treatment plan development
  - ◆ Case management
  - ◆ Supervision/monitoring
  - ◆ Sanctions, incentives, rewards
- **Services**
  - ◆ Substance abuse treatment
  - ◆ Mental health treatment
  - ◆ Health services
  - ◆ Education/vocational training
  - ◆ Job placement
  - ◆ Family counseling
  - ◆ Housing assistance
- **Linkages/Collaboration**
  - ◆ Agencies represented
  - ◆ Level of involvement
  - ◆ Interagency collaborations
  - ◆ Service contracts/MOUs
  - ◆ Information sharing
- **System Reform**
  - ◆ Appropriateness (quality of program)
  - ◆ Accessibility (timeliness, wait list)
  - ◆ Comprehensiveness

# Implementation Assessment Update

- Data have been collected from all 69 SVORI grantees (representing 88 programs) and stored in a project MIS
  - ◆ Document review
  - ◆ Semi-structured project director telephone interviews
  - ◆ Follow-up telephone queries
  - ◆ State summaries prepared for the *National Portrait* were sent to sites for review and confirmation
- Currently planning for second round of data collection this winter
- Results will be included in the *National Portrait* and provided via links through the evaluation website

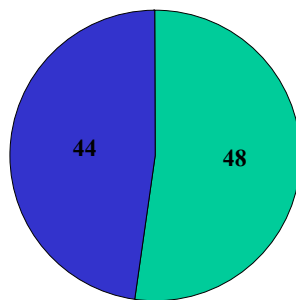


## Programs are taking a variety of approaches to the reentry process

- Considerable variability in the programmatic emphasis on the pre-release phase
  - ◆ Duration (and point of entry)
  - ◆ Pre-release planning and community involvement
  - ◆ “Standardized” curriculum vs. individual tailoring
  - ◆ Use of a pre-release facility for programming
- Also variability in the approach to service coordination
  - ◆ “Transition team” (“reaching out”) approach
  - ◆ “Reaching in” of community providers
- And, variability in the involvement of community
  - ◆ Accountability panel
  - ◆ Involvement of faith-based agencies in monitoring
  - ◆ Mentoring

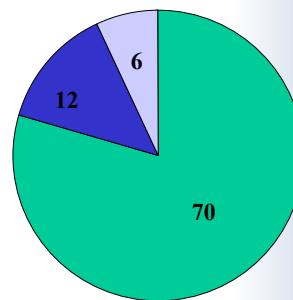
## Most programs are new...and governed by a steering committee

SVORI Program Type



■ New ■ Expansion

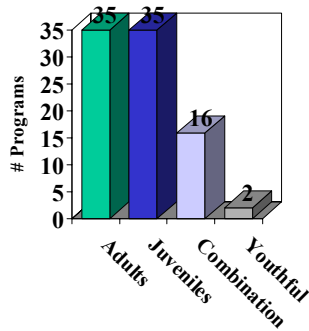
Steering Committee



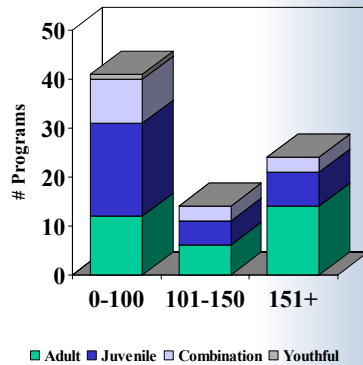
■ Yes ■ No ■ Unknown

## Programs are targeting adults & juveniles...most programs are small

Target Population



Program Capacity



## Most programs are inclusive...

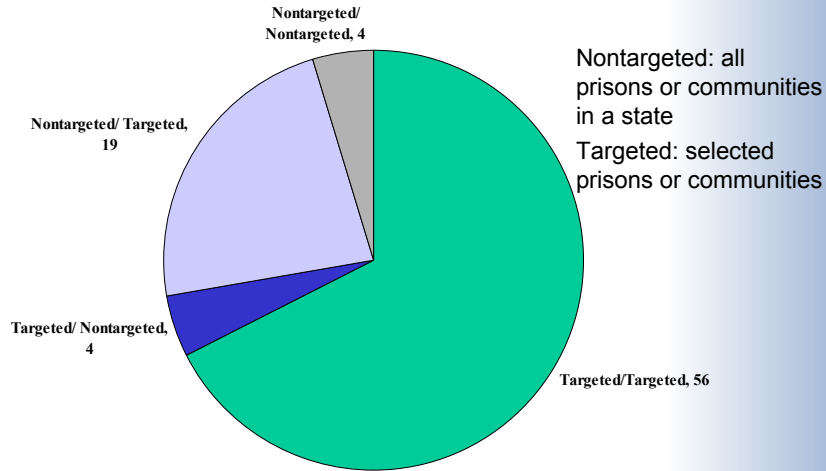
### Some programs exclude certain populations

- ◆ Sex offenders (9 programs)
- ◆ Severely mentally ill (9)
- ◆ Sex offenders & severely mentally ill (10)
- ◆ Other (11)
- ◆ Unknown (1)
- ◆ None (48)

### Others are targeting special populations

- ◆ Multiple special needs populations (16)
- ◆ Substance abusers (4)
- ◆ Mentally ill (1)
- ◆ Co-occurring diagnosis (1)
- ◆ Unknown (1)
- ◆ None (65)

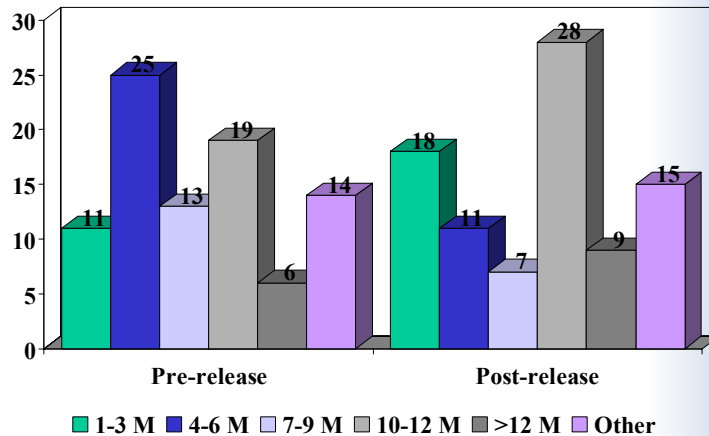
## Most programs are targeted on selected facilities & communities



## Most programs plan a comprehensive approach

Component	Pre	Post
Assessment (risk and/or needs)	85	78
Plan development (case management, treatment plan, release plan)	84	83
Substance abuse treatment	82	85
Mental health counseling	80	84
Medical and/or dental	71	60
Employment and/or education training	84	85
Housing assistance	62	75
Faith-based component	68	73
Other (parenting, domestic violence, life skills, and/or anger management)	80	77

## Programs vary in length of pre-release & post-release phases



## SVORI Multi-site Impact Evaluation

- Goal is to determine the extent to which SVORI:
  - ◆ improved access to appropriate, comprehensive, integrated services
  - ◆ improved employment, health, and personal functioning of returning prisoners
  - ◆ reduced criminal activity
- Will be conducted in a subset of 19 sites

## Impact Evaluation Measures of Individual Outcomes

- **Self Sufficiency & Quality of Life**
  - ◆ Employment
  - ◆ Housing
  - ◆ Family (including contacts, stability & child custody/support)
  - ◆ Community Involvement
- **Health**
  - ◆ Substance Use (sobriety & relapse prevention)
  - ◆ Physical Health
  - ◆ Mental Health
- **Reduced Criminality**
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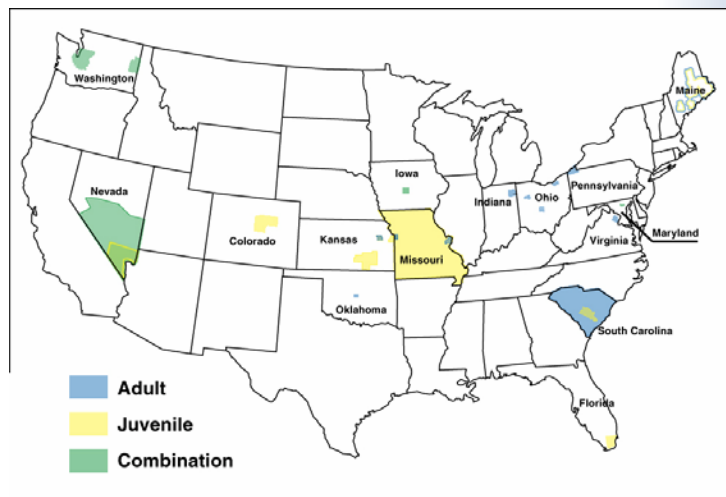
## Structure of the Impact Evaluation

- Longitudinal study of more than 4,000 offenders in 19 sites
- Data will be collected through
  - ◆ In-person, computer-assisted interviews
    - Baseline interviews in prison prior to release
    - Post-release interviews conducted at 3, 9, and 15 months post-release in the community or in prisons if the subject has been reincarcerated
  - ◆ Oral fluids drug tests conducted in conjunction with the 3- and 15-month interviews
  - ◆ Administrative data from Departments of Corrections, Juvenile Justice agencies, law enforcement, and the IRS

## Where is the impact evaluation being conducted?

- Impact Evaluation Impact Site Selection Factors
  - ◆ Enrollment
  - ◆ Region
  - ◆ Population type
  - ◆ Pre- and post-release geographical targeting
  - ◆ Stage of program implementation
  - ◆ Unique programmatic components (e.g., involvement of faith-based community, “boundary spanner”, use of videoconferencing)
  - ◆ Quality of state administrative data (i.e., law enforcement/supervision agency data)
  - ◆ Anticipated site cooperation
  - ◆ Availability of an appropriate comparison group

## SVORI Impact Evaluation Sites



## Impact Evaluation Sites: Regional Representation\*

- Midwest (5 sites)
    - ◆ Kansas (adult & juvenile)
    - ◆ Indiana
    - ◆ Iowa
    - ◆ Ohio
  - Northeast (3 sites)
    - ◆ Maine (adult & juvenile)
    - ◆ Pennsylvania
  - South (7 sites)
    - ◆ Florida (juvenile only)
    - ◆ Maryland
    - ◆ Missouri
    - ◆ Oklahoma
    - ◆ South Carolina (adult & juvenile)
    - ◆ Virginia
  - West (3/4 sites)
    - ◆ Colorado
    - ◆ Nevada
    - ◆ Washington (may add juvenile)
- \*Adult only unless noted.**

## The Adult Impact Sites

- In 2002, the States where the impact evaluation will be conducted
  - ◆ Supervised 27% of the total State parole caseload (BJS 2003)
    - 177,671 of 670,169
    - Most of these parolees, almost 98,000 were in PA
    - WA and ME are among the states that eliminated parole & have few parolees (95 and 32, respectively, at year end 2002)
  - ◆ Supervised 24% of the total State probation caseload (BJS 2003)
    - 933,793 of 3,963,839
    - Most of these were in OH (211,237), WA (173,198), PA (130,786), & IN (106,587)
  - ◆ Held 25% of all State prisoners (BJS 2003)
    - 305,040 or 1,001,359

# Impact Evaluation Challenges

- Achieving our target N of 4,200 baseline interviews
- Identifying & recruiting more than 2,000 comparison subjects
  - ◆ Identifying, recruiting & tracking non-participants present special challenges because staff are less committed to evaluation goals
  - ◆ Opportunities for random assignment have been identified and will be used
- Working in & maintaining good relationships with multiple facilities across the country to gain access to our subjects for baseline interview data collection
- Retaining subjects for three waves of follow up
  - ◆ Difficult populations to track
  - ◆ Collecting follow-up data from subjects incarcerated or hospitalized
- Accommodating programmatic diversity & site-specific evaluation designs when we combine data across sites

# Upcoming...

- Offender interviews will be conducted beginning in July 2004
  - ◆ Pre-release (baseline)
  - ◆ 3 months post release (plus oral fluids drug testing)
  - ◆ 9 months post release
  - ◆ 15 months post release (plus oral fluids drug testing)
- *National Portrait of the SVOR Initiative* will be published this summer
- We will begin publishing preliminary findings beginning in the Fall 2005



[www.svori-evaluation.org](http://www.svori-evaluation.org)