



Ventura County Jail Inmate Programs Evaluation

April 25, 2024

PREPARED BY
EVALCORP
Measuring What Matters®

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Real, lasting change is built on understanding what's needed and what makes a difference. **Evaluations** help to achieve that.

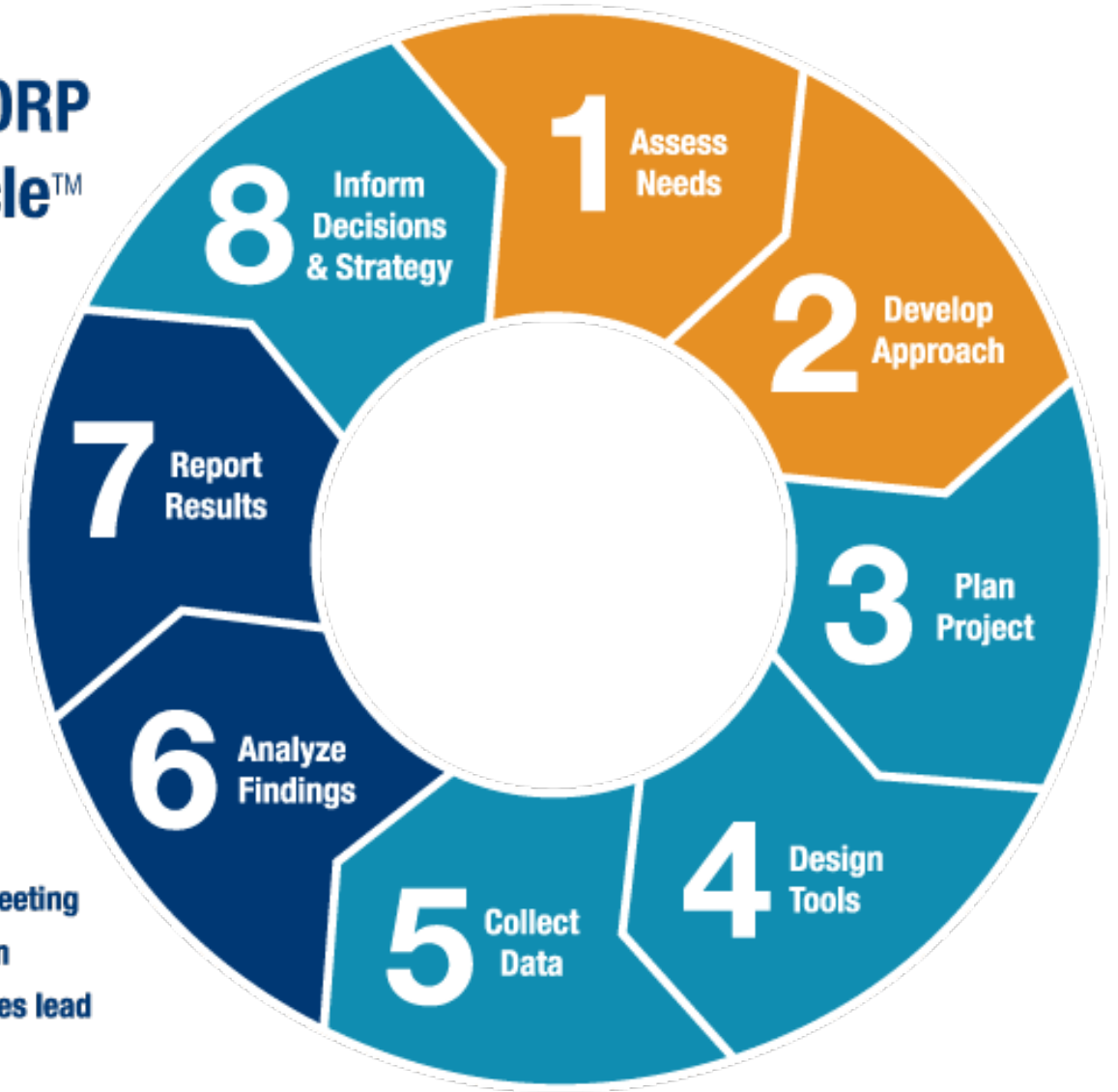
- What is being implemented?
- What is the impact on your community?
- How can you make meaningful changes?
- Why should you do something?



Evaluation Process

The EVALCORP Project Cycle™

- Face-to-face meeting
- In collaboration
- Consultant takes lead



We'll talk through the VC Jail Inmate Programs Evaluation,
as it relates to our process:
the **project overview**, **findings**, and **recommendations**



PROJECT
OVERVIEW



FINDINGS



SUMMARY AND
RECOMMENDATIONS



DISCUSSION



Project Overview

How do we go about answering our research question?

What are we going to do?

- Objectives
- Methodology

Primary Objectives

1. Quantify

Quantify levels of participation by service type, outline characteristics of inmates participating in services, and understand breadth of services offered.

2. Assess

Assess the relationship between inmates' participation in jail-based services and future criminal justice involvement.

3. Identify

Identify strengths of available jail-based services and obtain perceptions relative to enhancing or expanding current services.

Data Collection Methods



Document Review



Key Stakeholder Interviews



Partner Survey



Classes and Programs Survey



Administrative Data

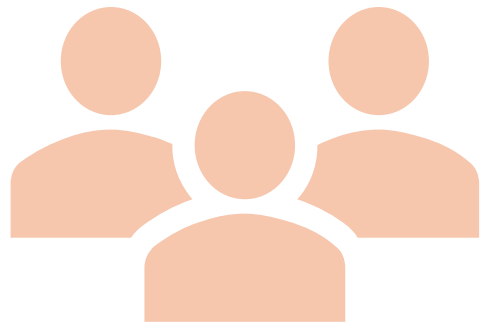
Criminal Justice Data
Service Data

Methodology: Document Review



What?	Reviewed program documentation and research
Who & Where?	Provided by VCSO staff and researched by EVALCORP Questions reviewed at monthly meetings
When?	Project launch; Ongoing
How?	e.g., seasonal flyers, annual admin program overviews
Why?	Foundational and contextual knowledge to frame the data collection and analysis plan

Methodology: Key Stakeholder Interviews



What?

Conducted 4 semi-structured interviews

Who & Where?

Key leadership and administrators
Virtually, via Zoom

When?

Month 3

How?

Invited via email

Why?

Obtain high-level perspectives; assess the existing strengths of and future opportunities to improve services

Methodology: Partner Survey



What?	Designed and distributed online surveys with both qualitative & quantitative questions for 41 past & current service providers
Who & Where?	22 program administrators, instructors, coordinators, directors, vocational deputies, and employment specialists
When?	Months 3-6
How?	Contact information provided by VCSO; invited via email
Why?	Reach a larger group of providers to understand strengths, challenges, and recommendations

Methodology: Classes and Programs Survey



What?	Designed and distributed 296 paper surveys to eligible persons in custody
Who & Where?	Incarcerated people eligible to participate in programs at Todd Road Jail and the Pre-Trial Detention Facility
When?	Month 4
How?	Distributed by Evalcorp team in-person in facilities and areas identified by VCSO
Why?	Gather inmates' first-hand perspectives and feedback while providing support and privacy

Methodology: Administrative Data



What?

Ventura County Integrated Justice Information System (VCIJIS)

1. Criminal Justice Involvement Data
2. Service Data

When?

Service data from January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2019

How?

VCSO provided all files to Evalcorp electronically;
Evalcorp connected the criminal justice and service data

Why?

Assess how participation in jail-based programming related to future criminal justice involvement



Project Findings

What did we learn from the analysis of data?

- Programming Overview
- Key Stakeholder and Partner Insights
- Incarcerated Individuals' Perspectives
- Criminal Justice Outcomes

Inmate Services Programming

With our document review, we described the **32 diverse classes and programs** that have been **offered** at Todd Road Jail or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility **in the past several years**

Treatment	Academic	Vocational	Re-entry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA/NA Meetings • Al-Anon • Anger Management • Changing Course • Managing My Life • Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) • Parenting Education • Relapse Prevention Therapy (RPT) • Substance Use Education • The Courage to Change • Trauma in Life • Treatment Basics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Class • English as a Second Language • High School Equivalency HiSET® Prep • Inside Out • Poetry Writing • Special Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge 2 Work • Custodial Technician Training • Food Service and Hospitality Program • Job Skills • Print Shop • Sewing • SuperCrew for Landscape Professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting it Right • ReEntry Action Planning (RAP) • Re-Entry Responsible Thinking <div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px;">Other</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious Services • Chaplain's Office • RUFF Road

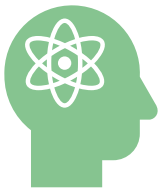
Inmate Services Programming



Academic, vocational, treatment-oriented, re-entry, and other services provided to inmates at Todd Road Jail and the Pre-Trial Detention Facility



Tablets and journaling courses provide services to individuals that may be unable to attend group sessions (e.g., protective custody)



Shift to services that are grounded in evidence-based practices

Key Stakeholder & Partner Insights: Who

4 Stakeholders develop, oversee, and support services for inmates.

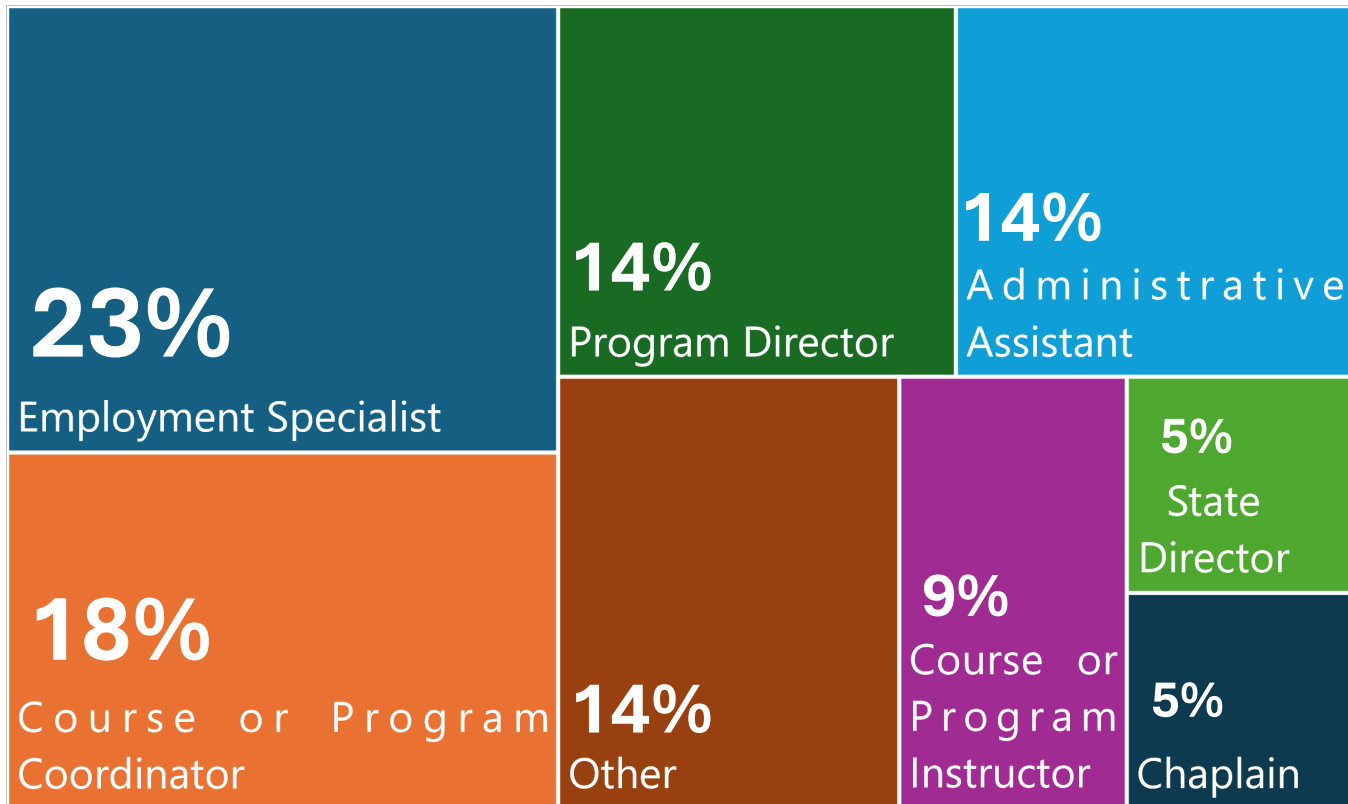
- **Wide range of experiences** and perspectives:
in respective positions between **9 months** and **12 years**.

22 Partners work(ed) or volunteered for a variety of agencies

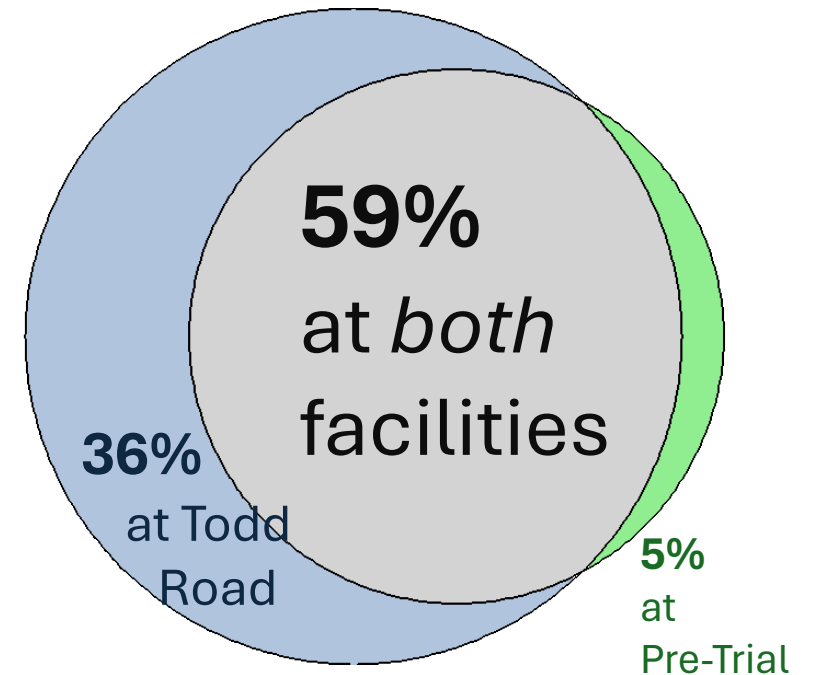
- **Most** are/were **employed by Ventura County**
including Inmate Services, Human Services Agency, Adult and Continuing Education, the Probation Agency, and the Veteran Services Office.
- Three volunteers from Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous (NA).
- **Nearly half** had worked or volunteered for **four or more years**, and **just over a quarter** for a **year or less**

Key Stakeholder & Partner Insights: Partners

What roles
did partners hold:



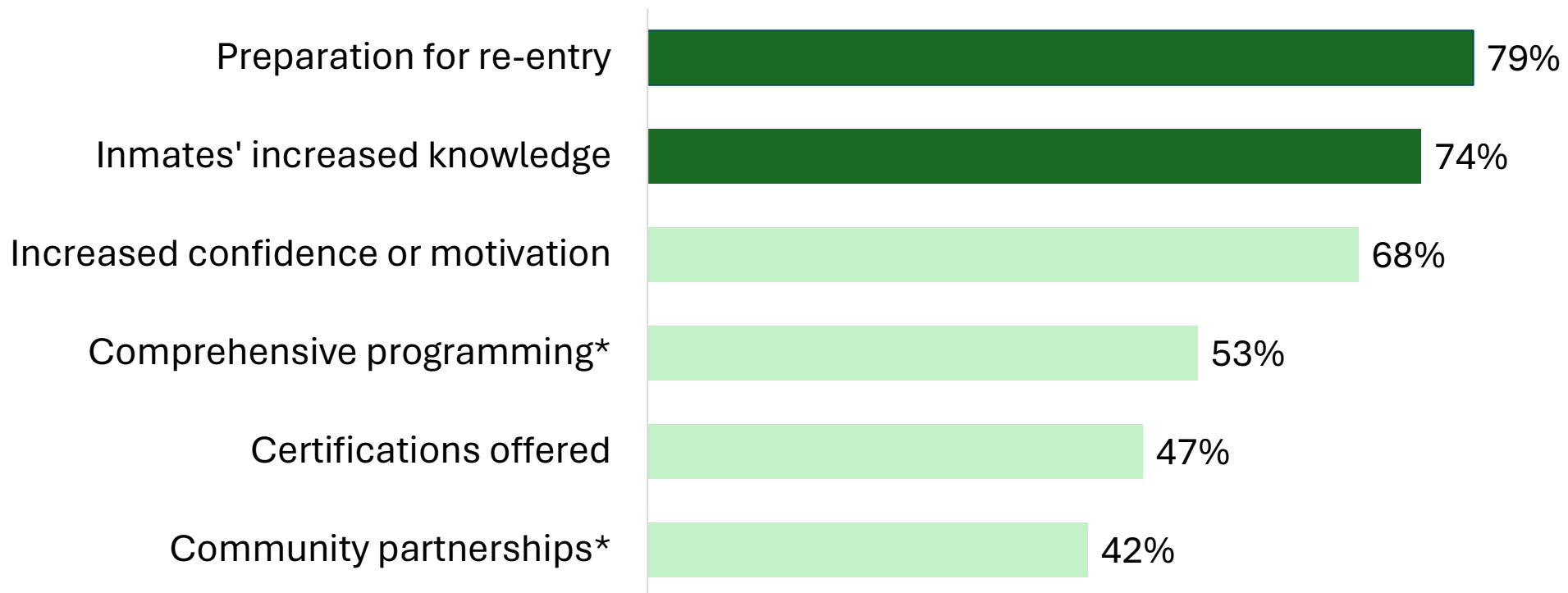
Where did partners
provided services:



Key Stakeholder & Partner Insights: Benefits

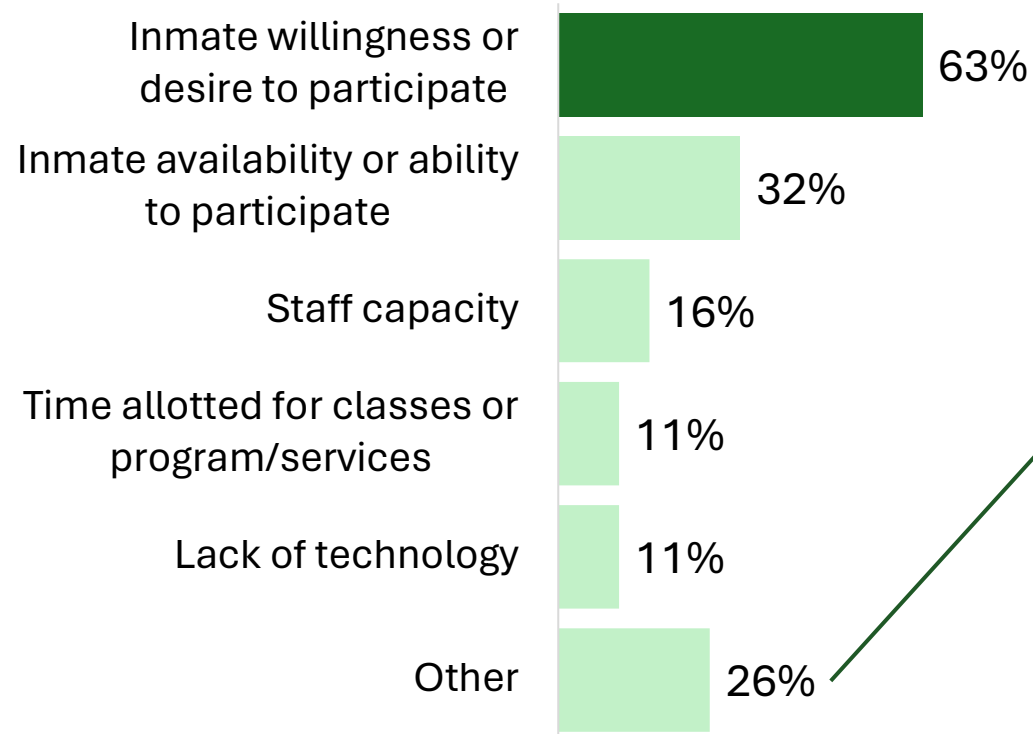
Preparation for re-entry and **increased knowledge** were the most commonly reported benefits

Selected Strengths and Benefits of Inmate Services
(n=19)



Key Stakeholder & Partner Insights: Challenges

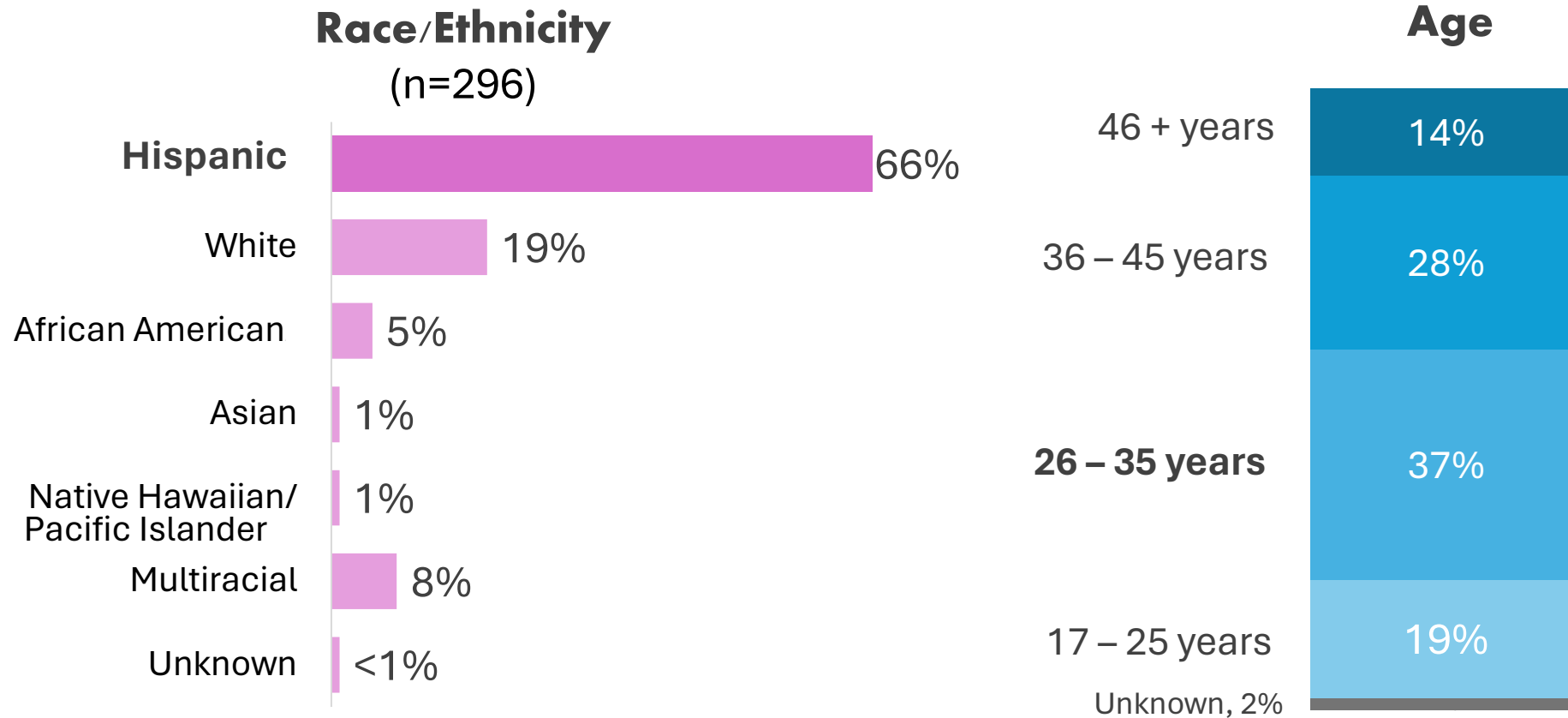
For staff and partners, **individuals' willingness and desire to participate** was viewed as the **most significant challenge** to establish a robust services program



Interviews dug deeper into 'other' reasons:

- **Shifting population dynamics**
- **Frequent changes in teachers**
- **Need for continuation of services post-release**
- Obtaining **sufficient funding**

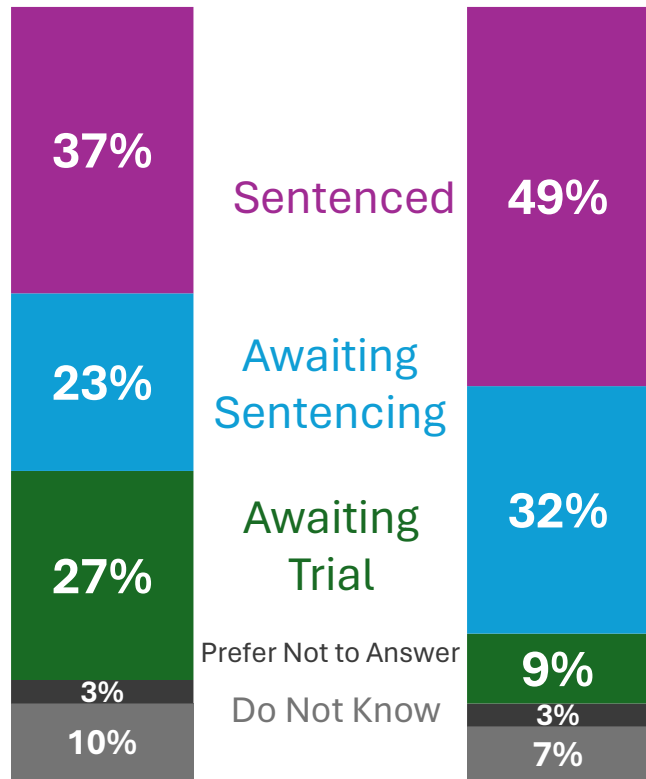
Incarcerated Individuals' Perspectives: Demographics



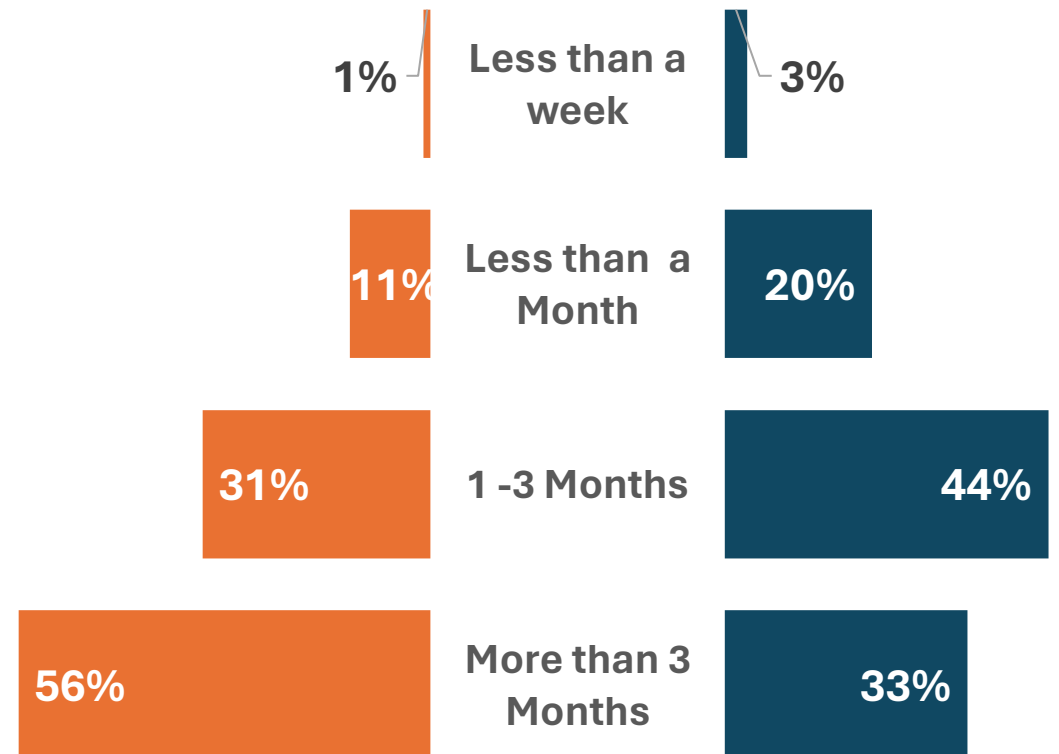
Incarcerated Individuals' Perspectives: Demographics

Survey respondents' current status and time in custody looked like:

Todd Road Jail **Pre-Trial Detention Facility**

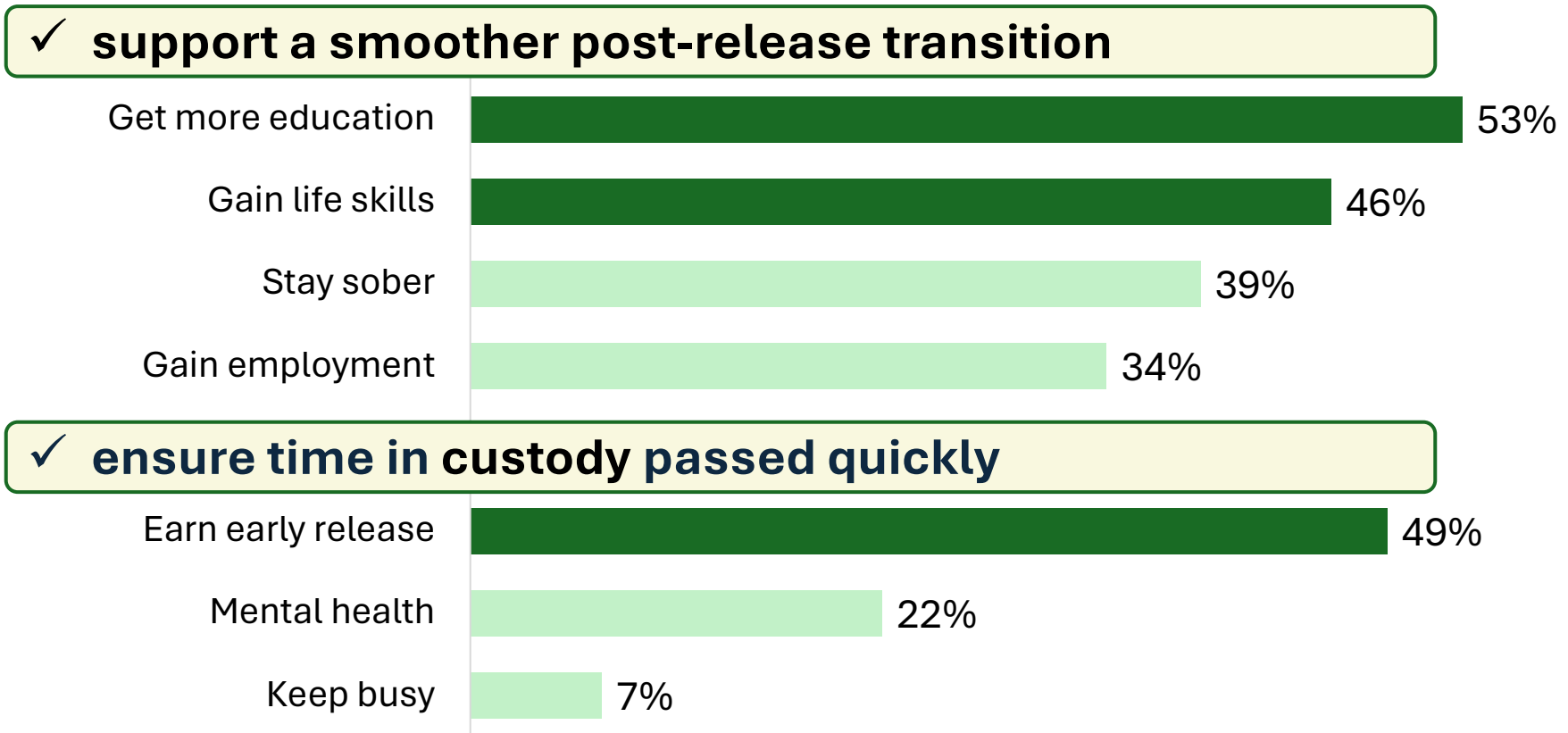


Todd Road Jail **Pre-Trial Detention Facility**



Incarcerated Individuals' Perspectives

Individuals reported being **motivated to participate** in services to...



Incarcerated Individuals' Perspectives

Managing My Life was identified as the **most helpful service**, followed by **Substance Abuse Education & Food Service and Hospitality**

Class or Program	Average Helpfulness
Managing My Life	0.81
Substance Abuse Education	0.70
Food Service and Hospitality	0.70
Parenting Education	0.64
AA/NA Meetings	0.58
ReEntry Action Planning	0.50
High School Equivalency	0.46
Bridge 2 Work	0.45
SuperCrew Training	0.40
Custodial Technical Certification	0.40
Computer Class	0.35

Administrative Data: Demographics

25,024 unique individuals **were detained** for more than one day between 2016 – 2019.

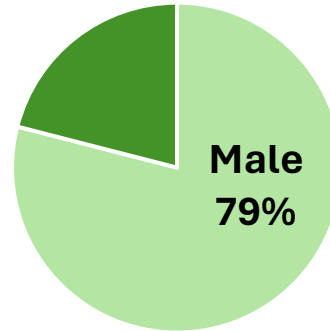
2,664 unique individuals **participated in services** for at least one day during this time.

OR

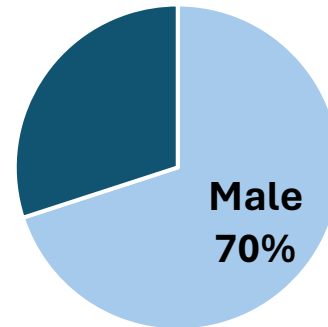


Gender

Service Participants



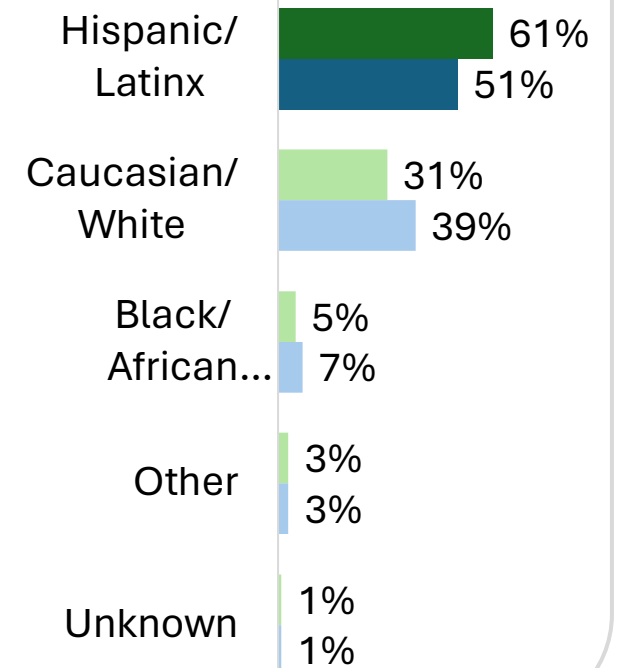
All Detained Individuals



Race/Ethnicity

Service Participants

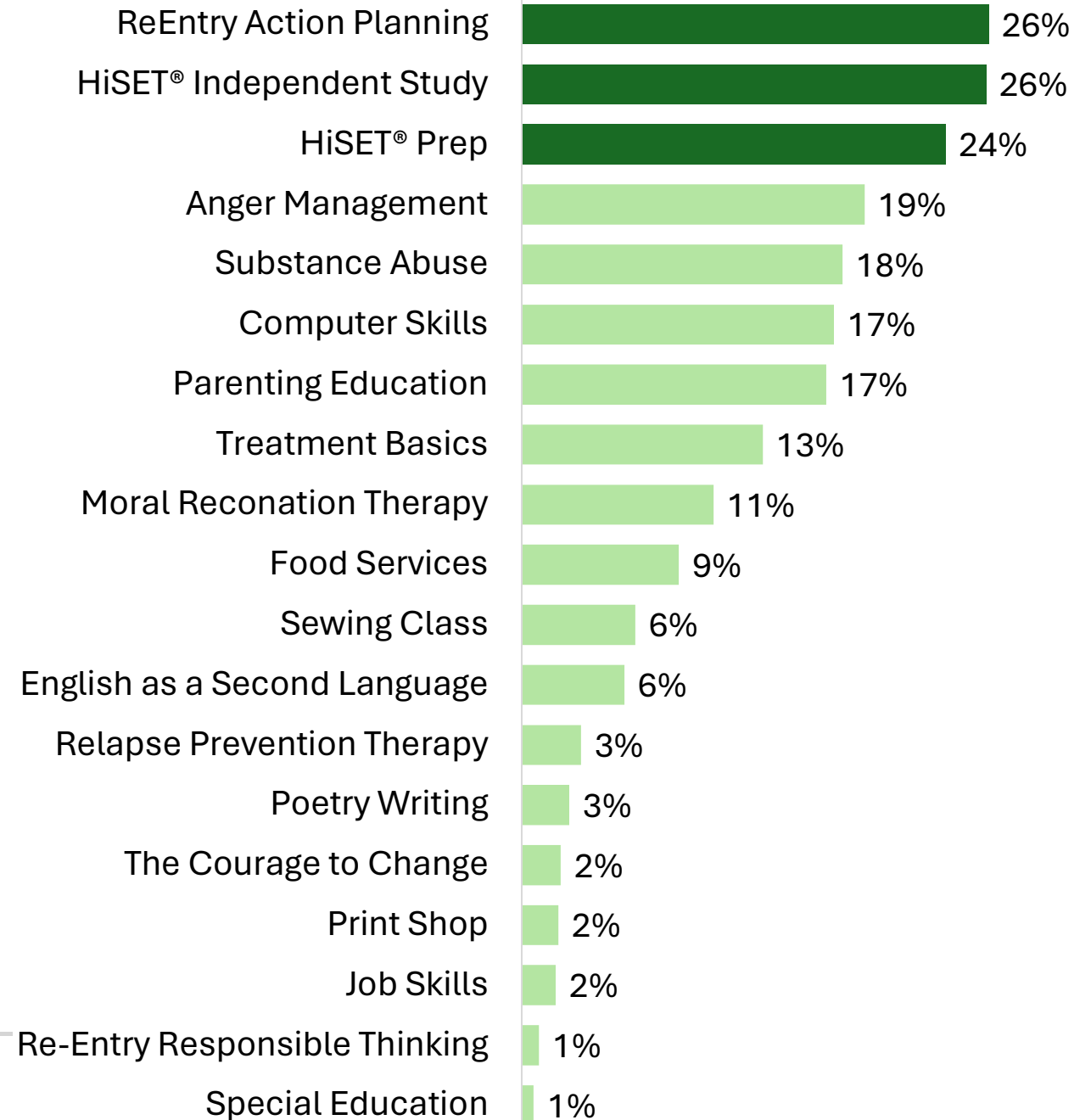
All Detained Individuals



Administrative Data: Service Engagement

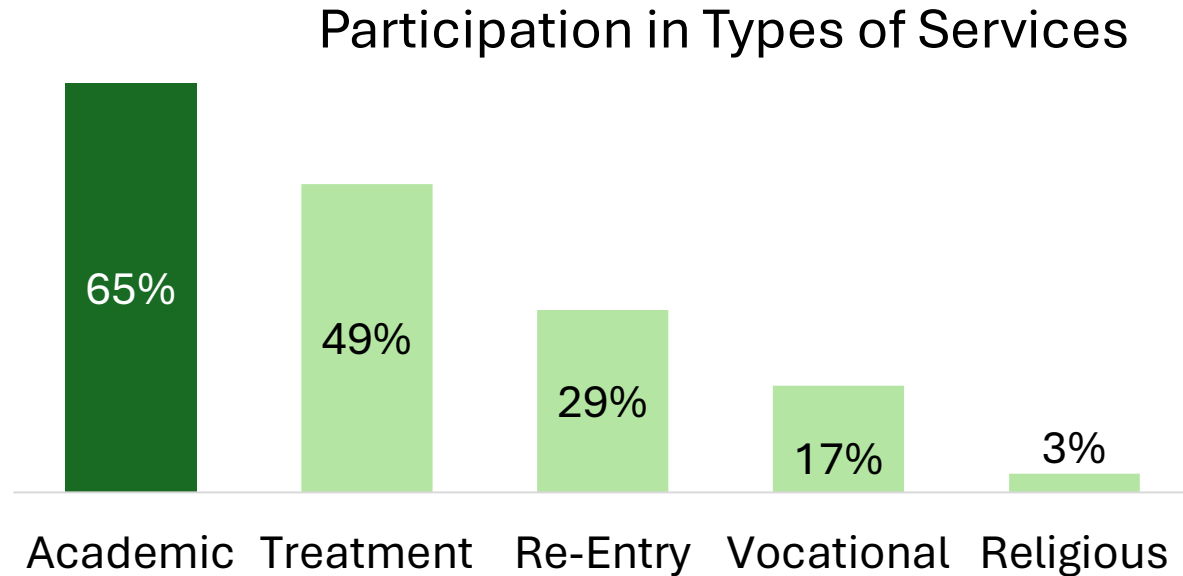
Of those individuals that engaged in services, about **one-quarter** participated in:

- **ReEntry Action Planning**
- **HiSET® Prep** (HS equivalency exam preparation course)
- **HiSET® Independent Study**



Administrative Data: Service Type

Academic classes and programs were the most common type of service



On average,
participation in a class
or program
lasted 43 days.

Administrative Data: Criminal Justice Outcomes

	Service Participants (n=1,887) Percent/Mean	Non-Participants (n=15,646) Percent/Mean
Rearrested	65%	52%
Number of arrests	6.2	5.3
Days to the subsequent arrest	230.1	254.8
Rebooked	66%	54%
Number of bookings	5.0	4.3
Days to the subsequent booking	222.8	255.0

Service Participants differ in important ways:

- Almost 2x more prior arrests
- Younger at booking
- More likely to be Hispanic

Administrative Data: Criminal Justice Outcomes

Participating in services, regardless of how often or how many services, was related to **less** future **criminal justice involvement**.



Arrested 0.7 fewer times within three years



Booked 0.6 fewer times within three years

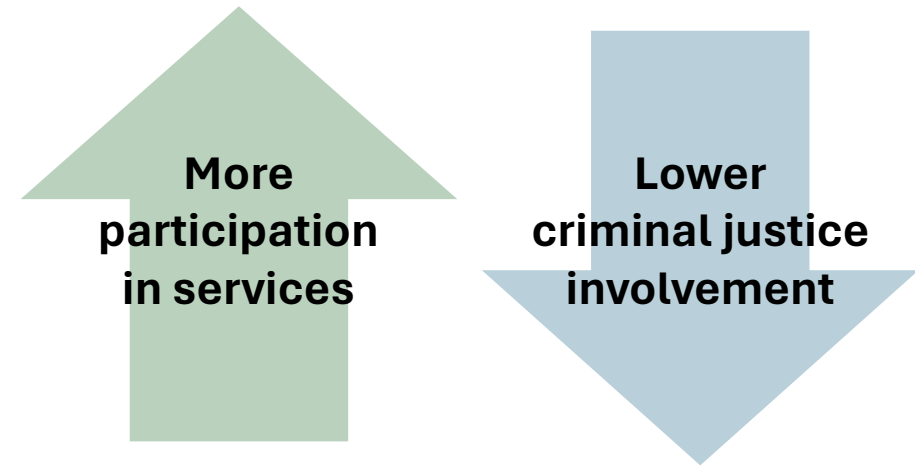


Administrative Data: Criminal Justice Outcomes

Individuals participating in **more services** had significantly **lower criminal justice involvement** three years after release.

Attending in 1 additional service session
was related to:

- 1% lower likelihood of being rearrested
- 1% lower likelihood of being rebooked
- 1 more day until subsequent arrest
- 1 more day until subsequent booking





Conclusions & Recommendations

So what do we do with all this information?

How does it become actionable?

Project Objectives

Quantify

- Academic, treatment, re-entry, vocational, and other services provided in Ventura County jails
- Re-entry and academic services were the most common

Assess

- Participation in services is related to lower future criminal justice involvement
- Programming supports individuals while detained *and* post-release

Identify

- Community partnerships are strong and essential to implementing effective, evidence-based programming
 - Recommendations focus on expanding access and support
-

Recommendations

1

Increase inmate awareness, motivation, and engagement in services

2

Make classes and programs more accessible

3

Build upon services by enhancing continuation of care post-release

Selected Recommendations



Enrollment

Streamline enrollment to maximize engagement.



Post-release workgroup

Develop a workgroup to coordinate post-release services and continuation of care efforts.



Post-release services

Increase services with a post-release component AND track successes.





Recommendations: VCSO Perspective





Discussion

*What are your reactions? What are you still wondering?
Let's talk!*

Contact: smetcalf@evalcorp.com