



Release Mechanisms Workgroup

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Agenda

- Strategies to improve public safety
 - Evidence Based Practices and Reentry
- Release decision making (examples from other states)
 - Parole boards
 - Assessment
 - Conditional Release Options
- Medical and Geriatric Release
- Recommendations

Why Reentry?

- 1980 – 2005 the US prison population has grown 317% (2.3 million inmates, 1:100)¹
 - 2000 - 2007 SC's prison population grew 13% (23,862, 1:83)¹
- 1980 – 2003 correctional spending grew from \$7 billion to \$61 billion²
 - 1983 – 2008 spending on SC prisons grew from \$63 million to \$394 million¹
 - Six cents on supervision for every dollar spent on incarceration¹
- More than 95% eventually come home³

Adapted by research from the Pew Public Safety Performance Project and Dr. Speir¹, Wilhelm, D.² and Taxman, F. and Petersilia, J.³

Release Statistics

In a 3 year study of prisoners released in 13 states...

- 68% were arrested for a new offense within 3 years of release
- 47% were convicted for a new crime within 3 years of release
- 25% were sentenced to prison for a new crime within 3 years of release
- They return to prison for a new conviction and/or a violation of their community supervision (probation or parole)

Patrick Langan and David Levin. 2002. Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice

Who Is Going To Prison?

FY-2008 Admissions
13,950

New Court Admissions

73%

Probation Revocations

14%

Parole Revocations

3%

Community Supervision

3%

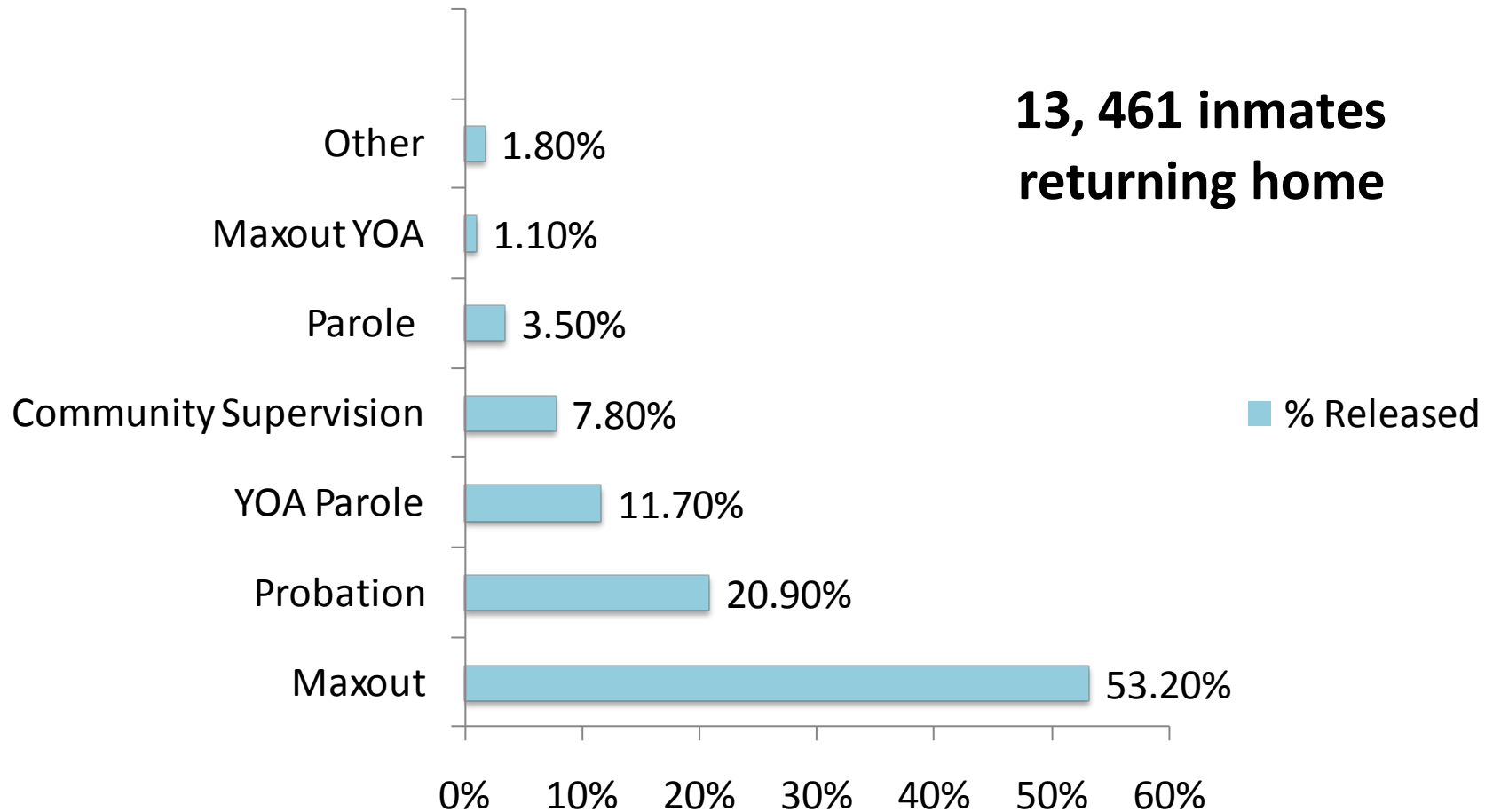
Other

2%

Who Gets Out?

SCDC FY 09 Release Data

**13,461 inmates
returning home**



What Happens in SC?

- SCDC Inmates Who Return within 3 Years
 - Most recent numbers (2003 releases) show 32.7% return within 3 years
- Return to SCDC Varies by Release Type
 - YOA Parole = 52.7%
 - Probation = 43.5%
 - Parole = 31.1%
 - Maxout (Expiration of Sentence) = 22.1%

<http://www.doc.sc.gov/research/SpecialReports/RecidivismRatesofInmatesReleasedDuringFY1998-FY2003.pdf>

Why use EBP practices and policies?

- To **reduce new crime & new victims** in our communities
- To know if what we are doing works - relying on facts
 - *Better **return on investment** of limited resources*
- To be held accountable for public safety outcomes
 - ***Ethical commitment** to do public good and not do harm*

What are the 8 Principles?

1. Assess Actuarial Risk/Needs
2. Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
3. Target Interventions (Risk, Need, Responsivity, Dosage and Program Integrity)
4. Skill Train with Directed Practice
5. Increase Positive Reinforcement
6. Engage Ongoing Support in Natural Communities
7. Measure Relevant Processes/Practices
8. Provide Measurement Feedback

1: Actuarial Assessment

- Risk and Need
 - Level of threat to public safety
 - Areas to address that make one prone to re-offending
- 3rd or 4th generation risk and need assessment tools
- Driver of resource allocation

The Risk Principle

1. Target those offenders with a higher probability of recidivism
2. Provide the most intensive treatment to higher risk offenders
3. Intensive treatment for lower risk offenders can increase recidivism

The Need Principle

1. Assess and identify criminogenic needs
2. Target criminogenic needs.
3. Must be focused intervention.
4. If this is followed recidivism rates can be lowered.

2: Enhance Intrinsic Motivation

- True or False – People don't change unless they want to change
- True or False – There are things we in the Criminal Justice system can do to move people through the stages of change

3: Target Interventions

- True or False – If you have high cholesterol you go to the dermatologist
- Match the assessed risk and needs to what we do with offenders
 - How we supervise and punish
 - Which services/programs
- Not all treatment is created equally

4: Skill Train with Directed Practice

- Its easy to go back to old ways, its hard to learn new skills (takes time and practice)
- Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Methods
 - Think, act and respond differently
- True or False – The treatments needed to address assessed risks and needs are readily available

5: Increase Positive Reinforcement

- It's all about carrots and sticks
- More positive reinforcement than negative
- Requires clear rules that are consistently (and swiftly) enforced with appropriate graduated rewards and consequences
- Offenders and people in general, will tend to comply in the direction of the most rewards and least punishments

6: Ongoing Support in Natural Communities

- Keeps offenders from coming back into the criminal justice system
- Improve bonds and ties to pro-social community members
- Pro-social ties can actively reinforce preferred behaviors

7: Measure Relevant Processes/Practices

8: Provide Measurement Feedback

- True or False – It's a good idea keep track of your investments
- Show me the data!!!
- Agencies practicing EBP are not really doing it unless they continually evaluate performance and adjust accordingly through a feedback and accountability process

Summary

- Who? – Assess and Focus Resources on Moderate to High Risk
- What? – Factors that Drive Criminal Behavior
- How? – Teaching Offenders to Think and Behave Differently
- How Much? – Frequency and Duration
- How Well? – Results and Feedback

Benefits of EBP

- Lets us know if our offenders, agencies, programs and system are working
- Reduces bias about what works and what doesn't work
- Helps better utilize resources and guide decision making
- Improves public safety while reducing recidivism and victimization



Examples from Other States

State Variations in Boards

- States vary in the qualifications required of members of their parole boards (however named), their terms, their numbers, and their appointment processes.
- The number of board members can range from 3-15 and their terms from 4-7 years. They also vary in the amount/type of training required.
- They are usually appointed by a governor with consent of the state senate, but some states may require the governor to choose from a list provided by the corrections department or selection directly by the corrections department.
- Qualifications can be very general (“of good character and just temperament”) or very specific, requiring selections from particular fields and college degrees or precise years of experience in the field.
- Some states make requirements that at least one member fit specified criteria, such as being from corrections, a minority, or a woman.

Release Decision Making

- Direct sentencing (Work Group 1)
 - Mandatory extended supervision
 - Risk incentive sentencing
 - Post release supervision
- Correctional discretion within legislative conditions
 - Assessment based (e.g., yes/no and conditions required)
 - Minimum percentage (e.g., certainty)
 - Revocation restrictions (e.g., limitations of time served for technical violations)
 - Continuum of community options (Work Group 3)

Post – Incarceration Options

State Variations

Direct release and no supervision

Completion of full sentence

Traditional Parole

Parole boards

Risk and need assessments

Risk/need upon release or risk upon release/need after settled

Graded toward higher risk parolees or apportioned across all risk levels

Nontraditional supervision

Post-release supervision

Extended supervision

Medical/geriatric release



Ideas for Consideration

Fiscally Responsible Concepts to Improve Public Safety

Guiding Principles

- Conserve resources to be **reinvested/reallocated** in effective strategies to **improve public safety**
- Look at the big picture
 - Keep in mind the need to turn **front and back end valves to control cost and improve public safety**
- Determine if any existing options work well, need enhancement and/or if additional services are needed

Requirements

Requires:

Clarification of role to reduce recidivism and improve public safety

Use of a validated assessment tool which includes dynamic and static factors

Implementation of evidence based practices

Evaluation systems to determine predictive validity, effectiveness and accuracy

Significant training, experience and quality assurance

Funding for all the above

Benefits

Benefits:

Conserve/reallocate scarce resources for a greater impact on public safety (diverts low risk, treats moderate and high risk, provides more space for those that need intensive supervision, treatment and/or incarceration)

Increased opportunities for collaboration and professionalism among law enforcement and provider agencies

Increased use of data and evidence to guide policy making practices and effective use of taxpayer dollars

Institutes the foundational element for any/all risk reduction strategies

Recommendation #1

- Focus limited resources (supervision and services) on moderate and high risk offenders
- This can be done through the implementation of an appropriate risk and need assessment tool. Assessments should:
 - Prioritize resource allocations
 - Drive case plans to target risks and needs
 - Determine post release requirements

Recommendation #2

- Consider changes in release determination authority
 - This can be done through:
 - Front end sentencing to incarceration and post release supervision (Work Group 1)
 - Risk incentive sentencing with certainty of minimum time to be served (Work Group 1)
 - Assessment driven release decisions and post release conditions (e.g., reentry planning)

Recommendation #3

- Focus limited resources on improving public safety through effective reentry practices
 - This can be done through
 - Assessment driven reentry planning
 - Effective coordination of transitional supervision and services
 - Enhanced release supervision, treatment and sanctions through a continuum of programs and services

Recommendation #4

- Adoption of Medical and Geriatric Release Proposal
 - This would require
 - Identification of impact within various ranges (e.g., age or years until death)
 - Determination of impact on other public agencies



Thank You!