

Montana Community Supervision Findings and Recommendations Review + The Role of Reentry Resources

Criminal Justice Oversight Committee

March 2023

Agenda

- Introduction
- Project background
- Summary of CJI's findings from revocation analysis project
- Reentry services supporting community supervision

About the Crime and Justice Institute

- The Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) works with local, state, and national jurisdictions to assist them in developing and implementation data-driven solutions to strengthen their justice system
- CJI provides non-partisan analysis, research, technical assistance, program evaluation, and training to jurisdictions throughout the country

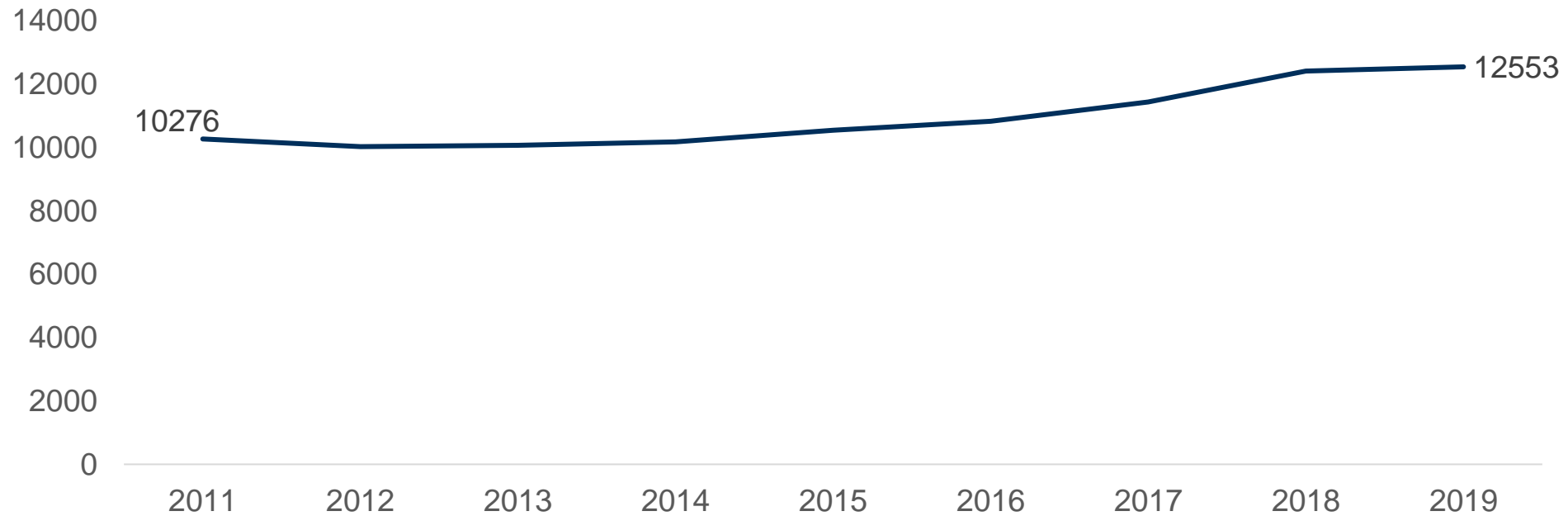
Project Background

- CJI partnered with supervision agencies in four states to understand the drivers of revocations from community supervision and identify policy and practice changes to improve supervision outcomes
- In addition to Montana, CJI partnered with
 - Colorado
 - Mississippi
 - Florida

REVOCAATION TRENDS

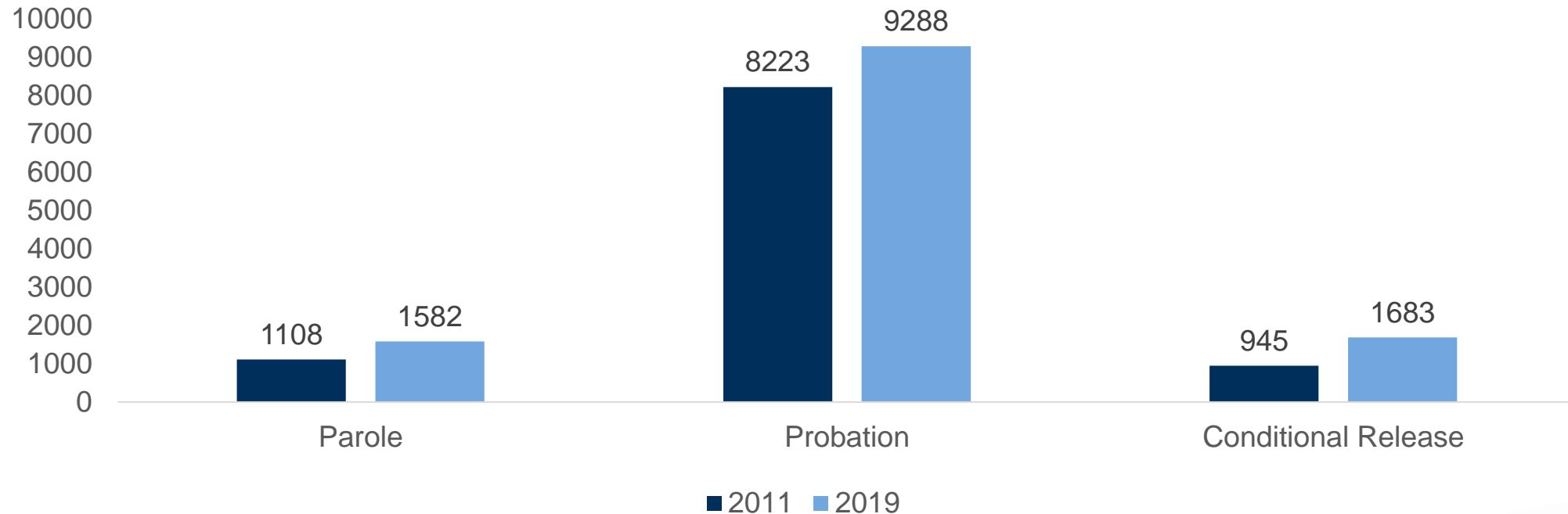
Montana Supervision Population Has Grown 22% Over Past Decade

Community Supervision Standing Population, 2011-2019



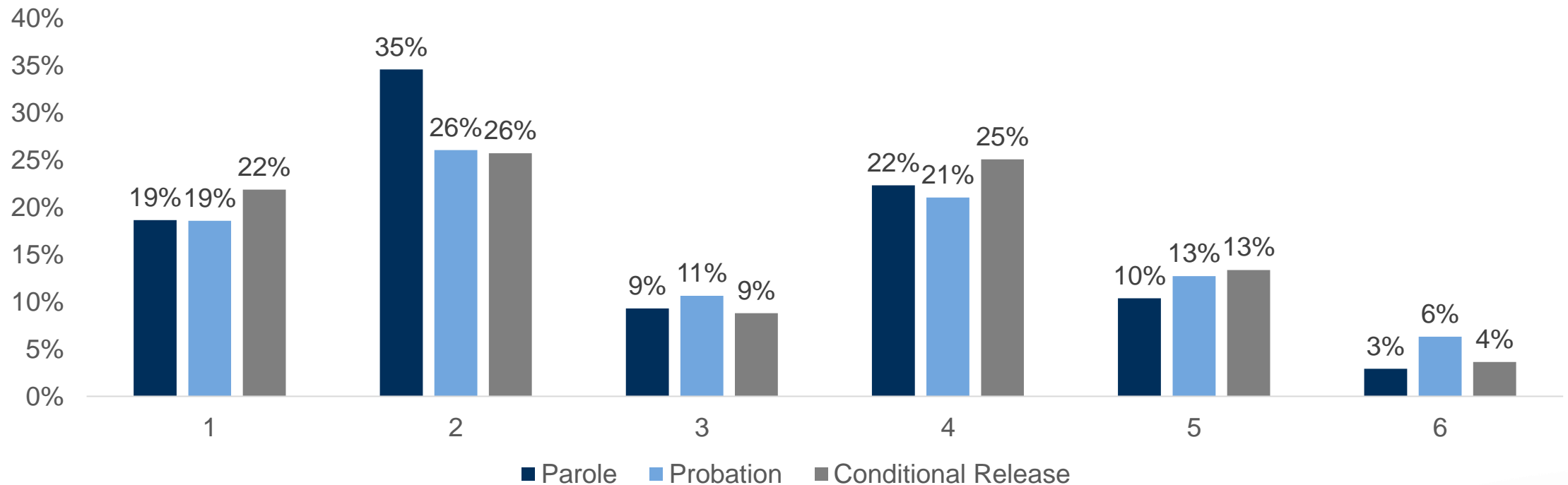
Parole and Conditional Release Populations Growing More Quickly Than Probation

Community Supervision Population by Type of Supervision, 2011 and 2019



Highest Proportion of Individuals on Supervision in Region 2 (Helena)

Distribution of Supervising Region by Type of Supervision, 2019



Revocation Rates Highest for Conditional Release and Parole

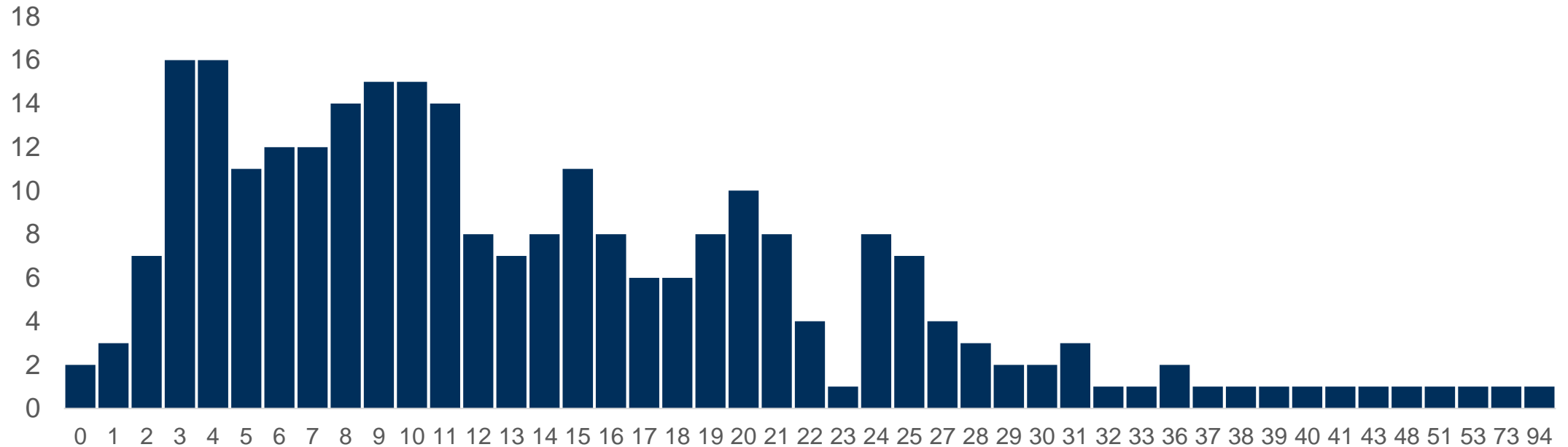
- Revocation rates refer to the percentage of those unsuccessfully terminated from a particular type of supervision and returned to a custodial setting, as compared to successful termination of supervision.
- In 2019, revocations comprised:
 - 70% of conditional release terminations
 - 61% of parole terminations
 - 31% of probation terminations

Trends Across Supervision Types

- Across all types of supervision -- revocation rates are highest for:
 - Men
 - Native American individuals
 - 18-24-year-olds
 - Individuals with a violent offense as their most serious offense
 - Individuals assessed at the highest risk level ('very high' for men, 'high' for women)

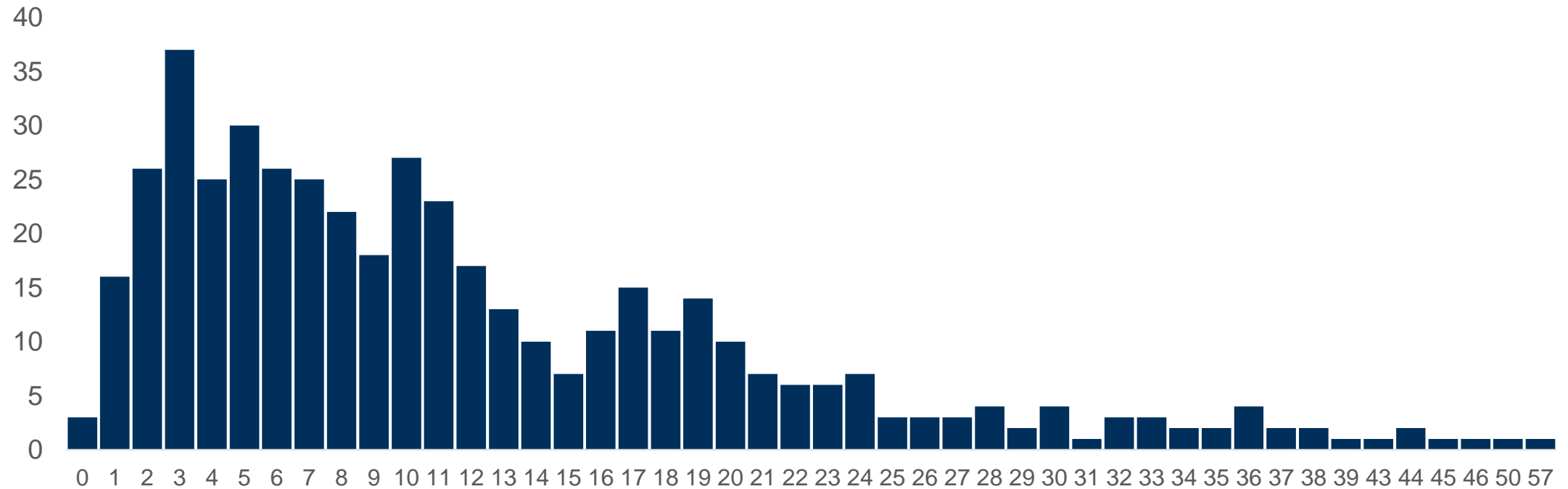
Time on Parole Prior to Revocation Peaks at Three or Four Months

Distribution of Months on Parole Prior to Revocation, 2020



Similar Peak for Conditional Release at Three Months

Distribution of Months on Conditional Release Prior to Revocation, 2020



Most Frequent Violations Among Probation, Parole, and Conditional Release Revocations, 2019

Probation		Parole		Conditional Release	
Drug Use	61%	Drug Use	50%	Drug Use	66%
Failure to Report	61%	New Offense	45%	New Offense	51%
New Offense	39%	Residence Violation	27%	Absconding / Escape	30%
Residence Violation	35%	Failure to Report	23%	Failure to Report	27%

Conditions of Supervision Not Focused on Criminogenic Risk

- For all types of supervision, individuals who were revoked received a higher number of total conditions
- Statute requires conditions be related to underlying offense and not necessarily informed by an individual's criminogenic needs
 - This may limit DOC's ability to focus resources on addressing these needs
- Some standard conditions may be unnecessary for all individuals on supervision and can create barriers to success
 - Drug testing is required of all individuals placed on community supervision regardless of substance use history

CATEGORIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Focus resources on the highest risk population



Ensure supervision practices intended to reduce recidivism are implemented with fidelity



Address barriers to supervision success



Ensure sustainability of policy and practice changes to improve outcomes



Next Steps Underway for DOC

- Training on Evidence-Based Practices and Case Planning
- Enhancement of DOC's case management policy and procedure
- Enhancement of DOC's revocation policy and procedure
- Revisions to supervision condition-setting procedure
- Absconder Study

Next Steps Underway for BOPP

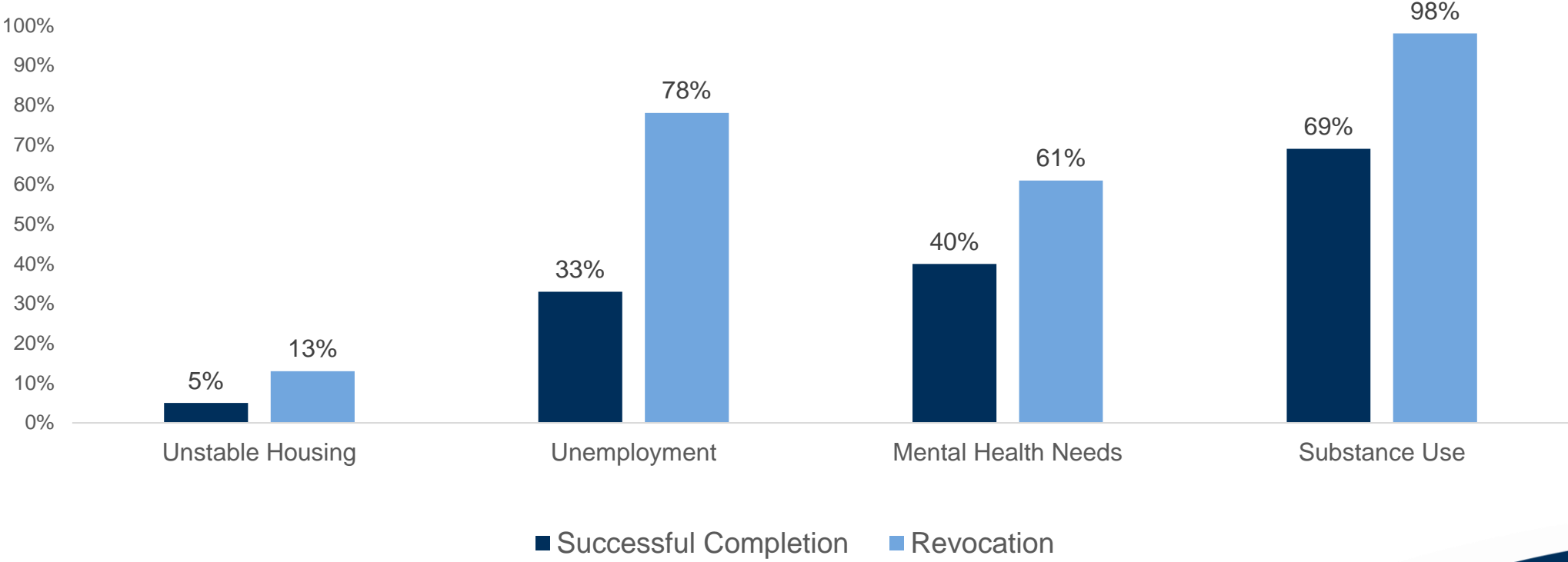
- Potential validation of parole release guidelines
- Facilitated discussions around reentry

ROLE OF REENTRY SERVICES IN COMMUNITY SUPERVISION SUCCESS

Reentry Services that Impact Community Supervision Outcomes

- Health
- Housing
- Employment
- Skill Development
- Mentorship
- Social Networks

Data Indicates Those Revoked Have Higher Needs



Reentry Service Gaps Identified in Revocation Analysis Project

- Officers reported a significant need for mental health services and co-occurring disorder treatment for those on community supervision
 - Supervisors noted long waits for important mental health services like medication management

Reentry Service Gaps Identified in Revocation Analysis Project

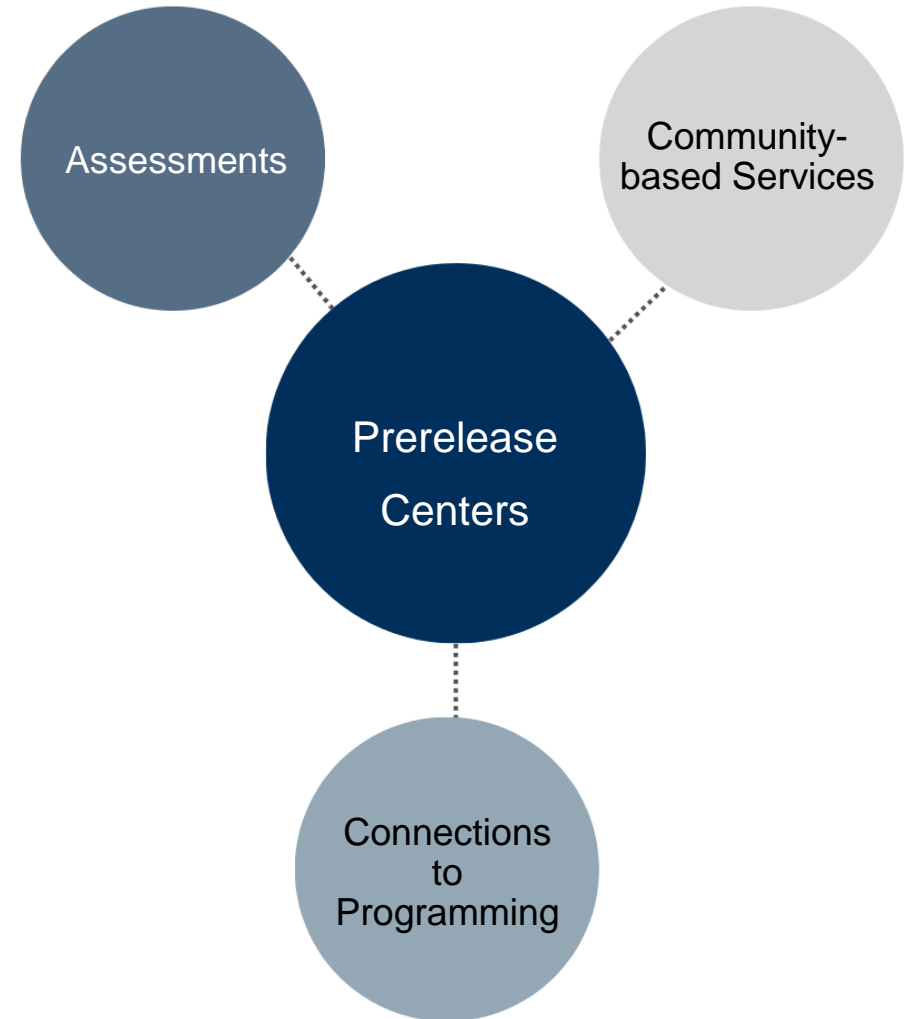
- 60% of officers who responded to CJI's survey reported they lacked the resources necessary to assist clients with specialized needs, such as a lack of housing, transportation, or childcare. Officers noted:
 - Too few transitional housing locations or recovery residences
 - Few homeless shelters, and those may have restrictions such as sobriety
 - Transportation was an issue for people who need to travel to work or treatment

Opportunities to Expand Reentry Resources and Address Barriers on Supervision

- Partner with affordable housing providers
- Increase access to employment specialists and mental health services through early assessments
- Expand use of technology to reduce barriers to reporting/treatment
- Reach out to members of tribal justice systems to see if there are opportunities to cooperate in the supervision of tribal members who are on DOC supervision

Prerelease Centers

- Alternatives, Inc. (Billings, MT)
- Gallatin County Reentry Program (Bozeman, MT)
- Community, Counseling, and Correctional Services, Inc. (Butte, MT)
- Great Falls Prerelease Services Inc. (Great Falls, MT)
- Boyd Andrew Community Services (Helena, MT)
- Missoula Correctional Services, Inc. (Missoula, MT)



Opportunities to Collaborate on Reentry Services

- Native American Development Corporation
- Urban Indian Centers
- Flathead Reentry Program



Different Reentry Models Across the Country



Pre-release
Programming



Release to Nonprofit
Providers



Partnership with
State Agencies

Reentry Models Across the Country: Pre-release Programming



In **Kansas** and **Connecticut**, reentry transition plans are created by case managers and shared with community supervision officers while individuals are still in custody

In **Nebraska**, the nonprofit RISE offers reentry programming and assigns reentry specialists to individuals in the years leading up to release

Reentry Models Across the Country: Release to Nonprofits



In **Colorado**, DOC partners with a network of nonprofit reentry organizations through the Work and Gain Education & Employment Skills (WAGEES) program to offer supportive housing and employment opportunities

In **Wisconsin**, the DOC runs three transitional housing facilities and contracts with 20 other nonprofits

Reentry Models Across the Country: Partner with State Agencies



In **Tennessee**, the Department of Labor & Workforce Development created the Office of Reentry (OOR) to help individuals connect to employment opportunities

In **Wisconsin**, DOC partners with the Department of Human Services to provide housing and case management for people experiencing severe mental illness

Summary of Best Practices in Reentry

- In-reach opportunities to connect people to reentry services before release
- Quality assurance/oversight of reentry services
- Navigator + peer mentor positions
- Relationships with second-chance friendly employers

CONCLUSION

QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your time!