



# Governor Dan McKee's Overdose Task Force

## April 10, 2024

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**RHODE  
ISLAND**

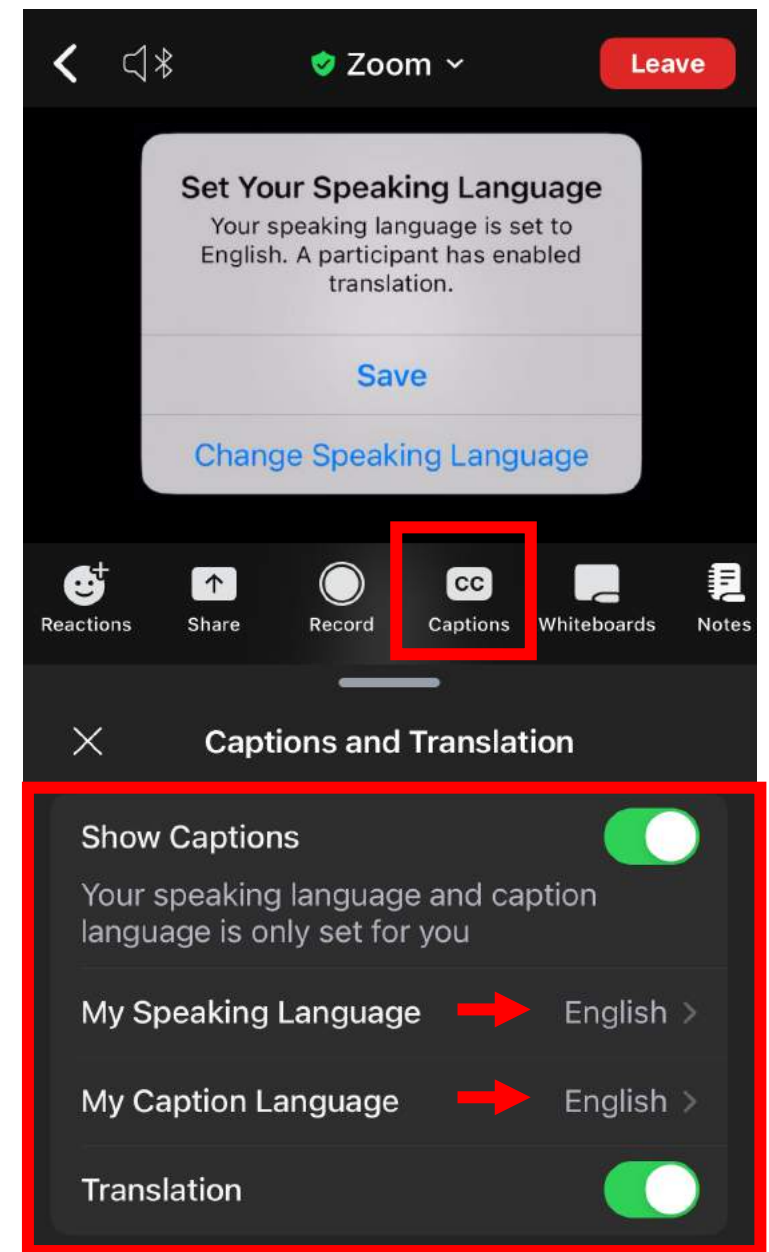
# Welcome and Announcements

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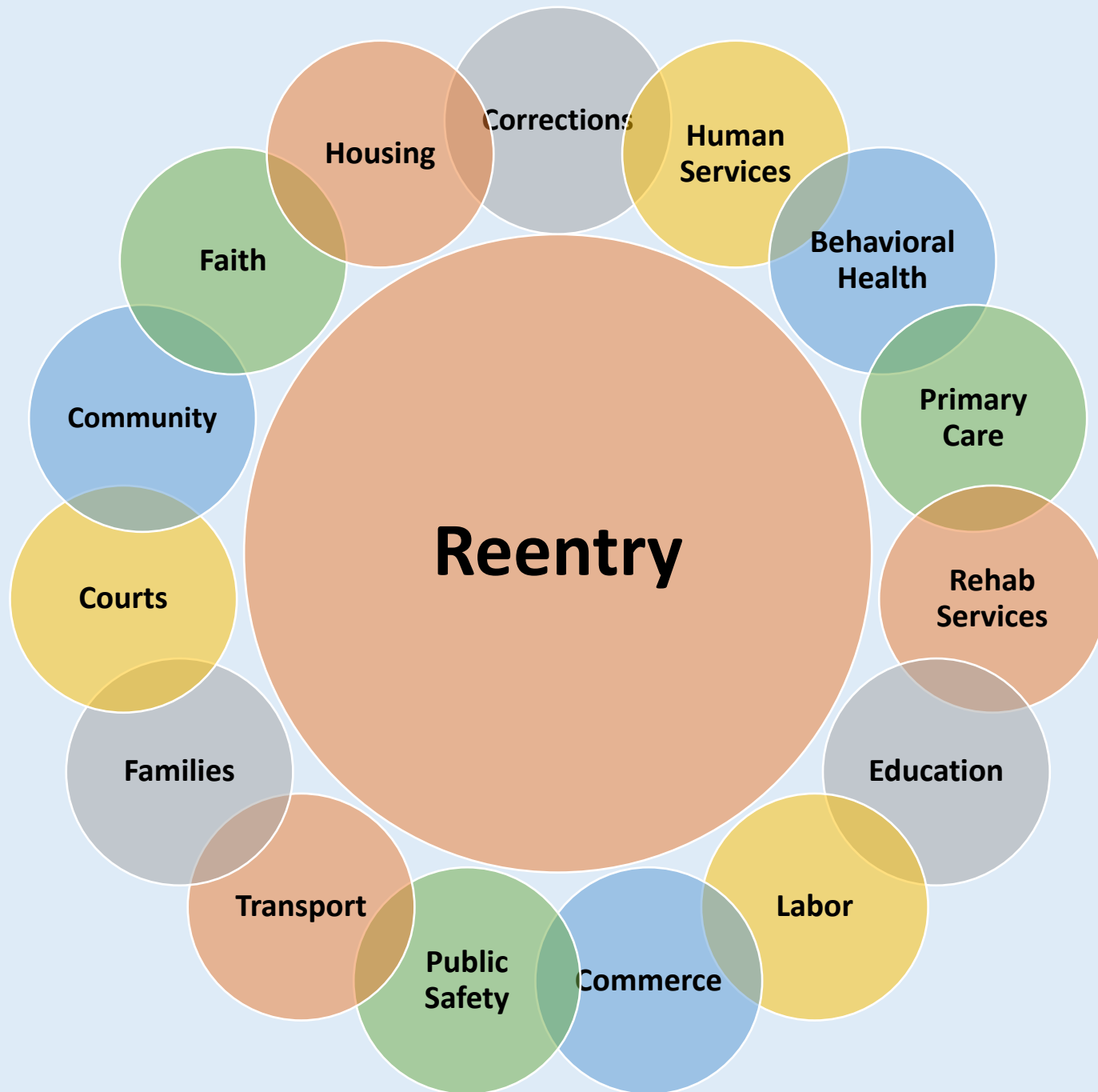
# Criminal Justice and Reentry Planning in Rhode Island

Heather Gaydos, MSW



# Key Takeaways for Today

1. One in three Rhode Islanders has a criminal record; a growing part of our population/future
2. Rhode Island does not have a strategy or statewide goals for how criminal justice investments are made
3. There is strong inter-agency agreement that a more strategic and skilled criminal justice planning mechanism is needed
4. Community and service providers are doing most of the work without funding, guidance, or coordination from the State



## National challenges facing the newly formed field of reentry:

1. Effective data collection strategies
2. Shared nomenclature
3. Empirical evidence
4. Evidence-based practices
5. Unifying siloed reentry data collection

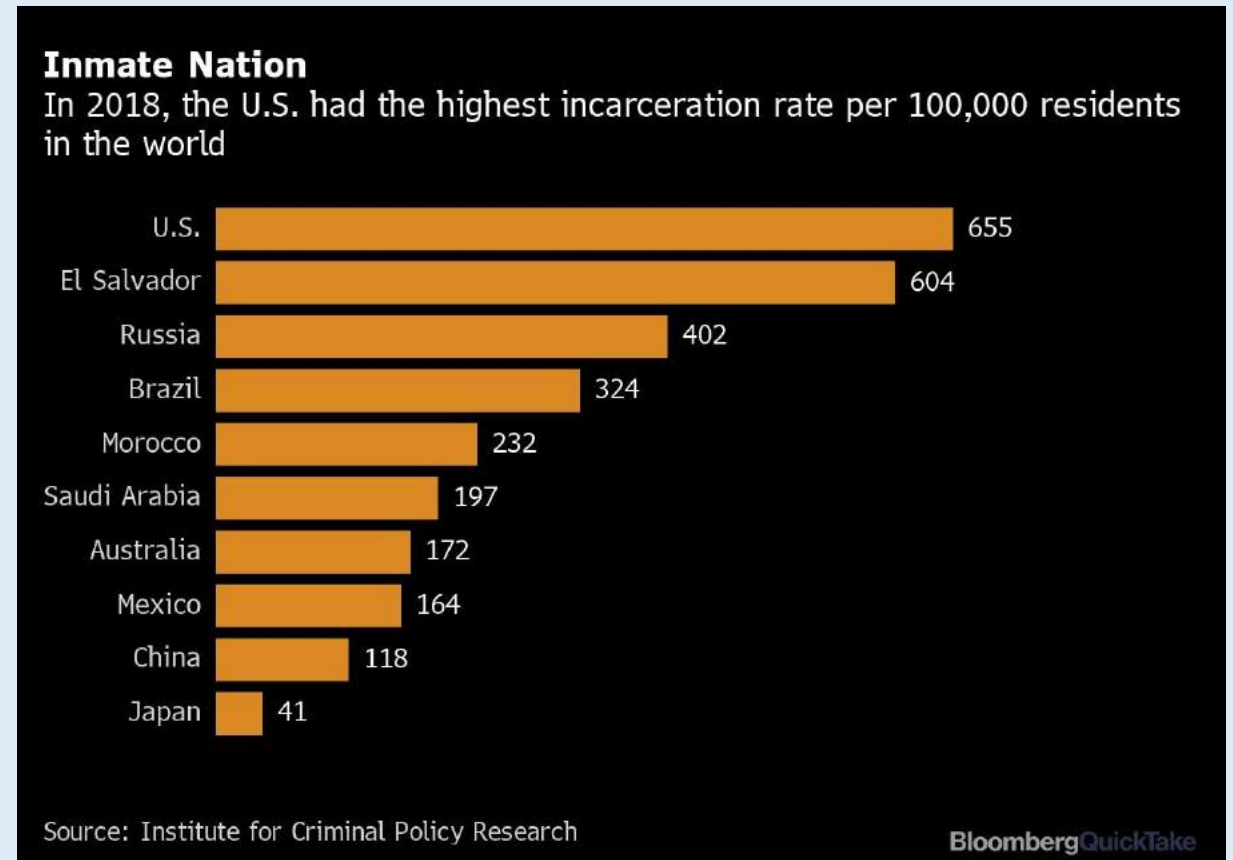
# **THE ISSUE: One-third of Rhode Island's population has a criminal record (arrest, charge, or conviction) which creates barriers for healthcare, economic, and civic engagement**

## **Key Takeaways:**

1. We know that large racial, economic, and health disparities exist nationally because of incarceration.
2. Rhode Island has had static correctional outcomes over the past few decades and its current carceral racial disparities are leading the country.
3. There is an undeniable connection between incarceration and health.

# The Scale of Mass Incarceration in the US

- The US has 4% of the world's population but almost 20% of the world's incarcerated population
- One in three adults (70 million people) have a criminal record
- Half of Americans have family members who have been incarcerated
- \$182 billion a year spent to incarcerate 1% of the country's adult population





# Racial Disparities in the US Criminal Legal System

**Arrest rate (per 100,000):**

4,223.1 Black vs.

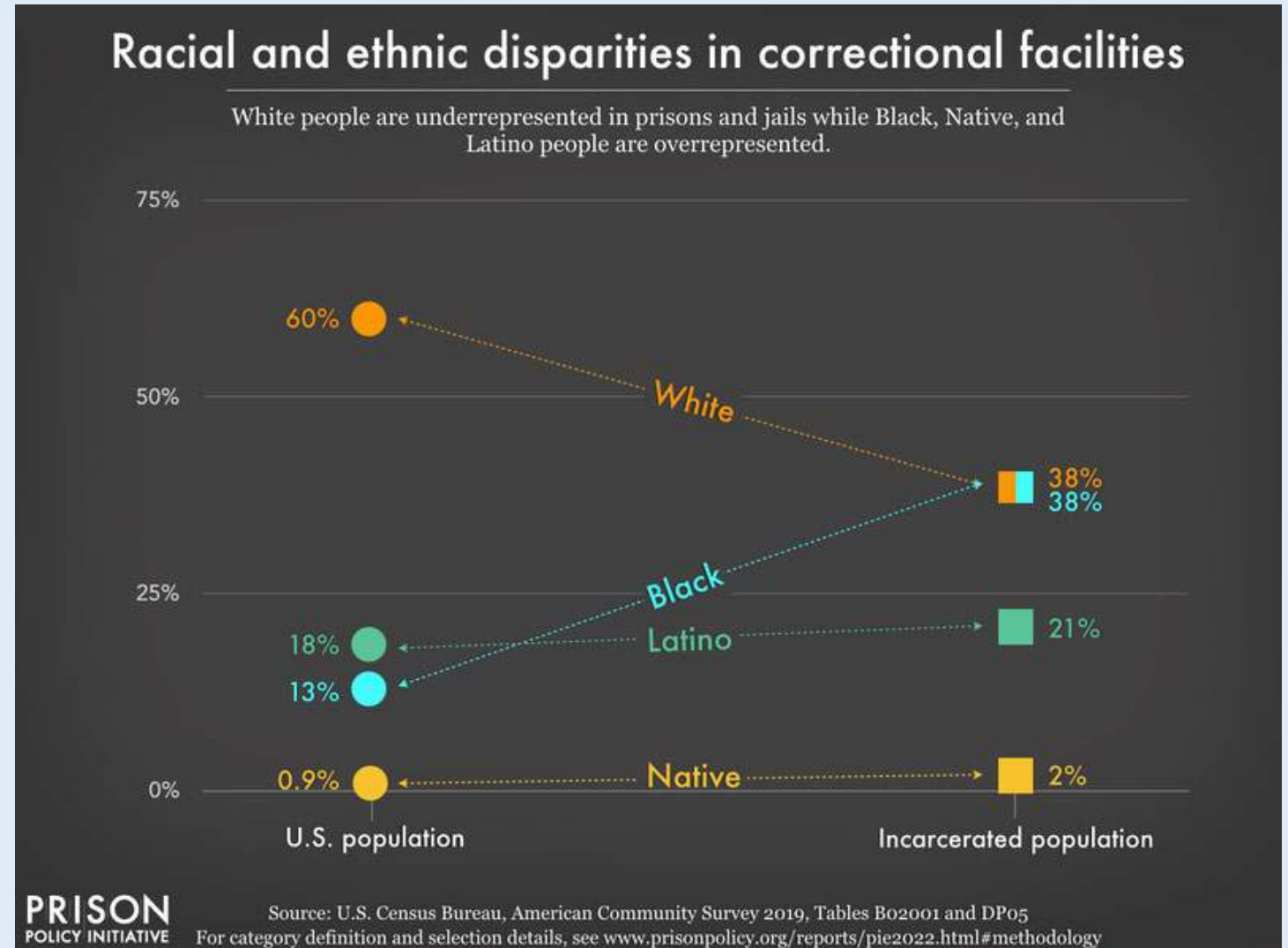
2,092.5 white

(OJDP, 2020)

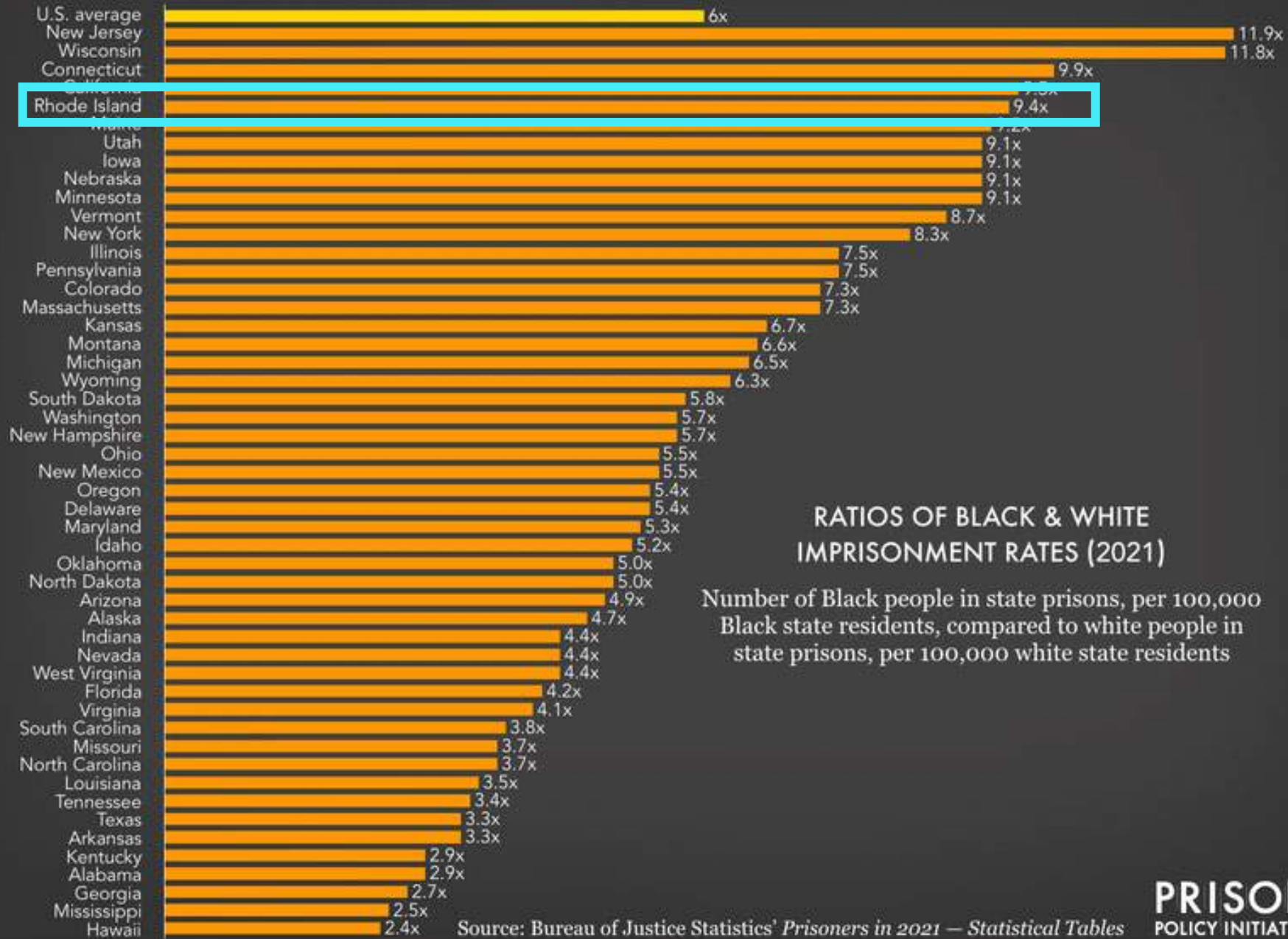
**Incarceration rate in  
state prisons:**

6x higher for Black people  
than for white people

(PPI, 2023)



# How much higher are Black incarceration rates than white?



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics' *Prisoners in 2021 — Statistical Tables*

# Criminal Legal System Exposure as a Social Determinant of Health

- Compared to the general population, people who are incarcerated are more likely to have **high blood pressure, asthma, cancer, arthritis, and infectious diseases** (such as tuberculosis, hepatitis C, and HIV).
- People may not receive adequate healthcare while incarcerated, particularly mental health care.
- **Parental incarceration** increases children's risk of substance use and involvement in crime, and is a contributor to future health problems, such as HIV/AIDS, high cholesterol, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Every year in prison **decreases an individual's life expectancy by two years.**

# Incarceration and Health

- *Disruption of care*
- *Conditions of confinement*
- *Stress*
- *Limited access*
- *Competing priorities*
- *Collateral consequences*
- *Stigma*

On any given day at RIDOC, an average of 2,132 people are incarcerated (735 are awaiting trial) of whom...

- 800 are receiving psychotropic medications
- 400 are diabetic patients
- 350 are patients receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder
- 205 are known HCV infected patients
- 180 are patients with asthma
- 25 are HIV+ patients
- 51% identified as having behavioral health disorders

**THE PROBLEM: Rhode Island does not invest in criminal justice planning and the current planning infrastructure has resulted in decades of static/limited criminal justice outcomes.**

**Key Takeaways:**

1. The last statewide criminal justice plan was created in 2009 and Rhode Island has not yet been able to collect multiple years of federal funding without a new plan in place.
2. For the past few decades, Rhode Island has invested less than 1% of public safety spending in transitional/reentry services.

# Community Corrections Population

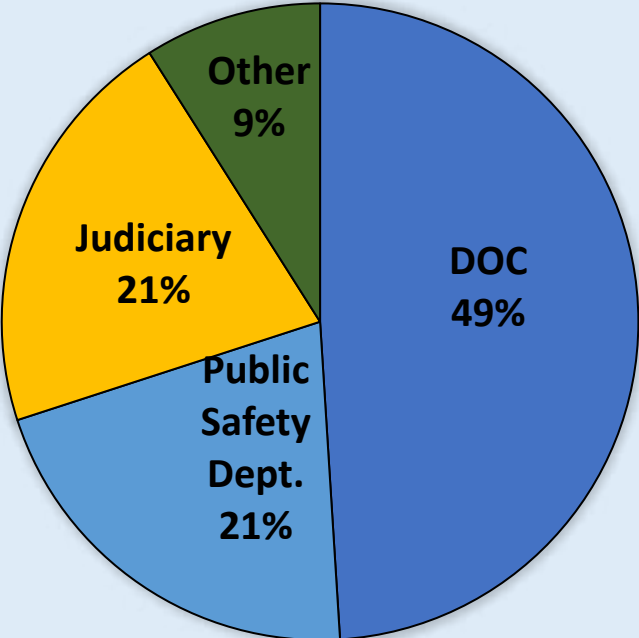
## RIDOC's FY22 Probation and Parole Population



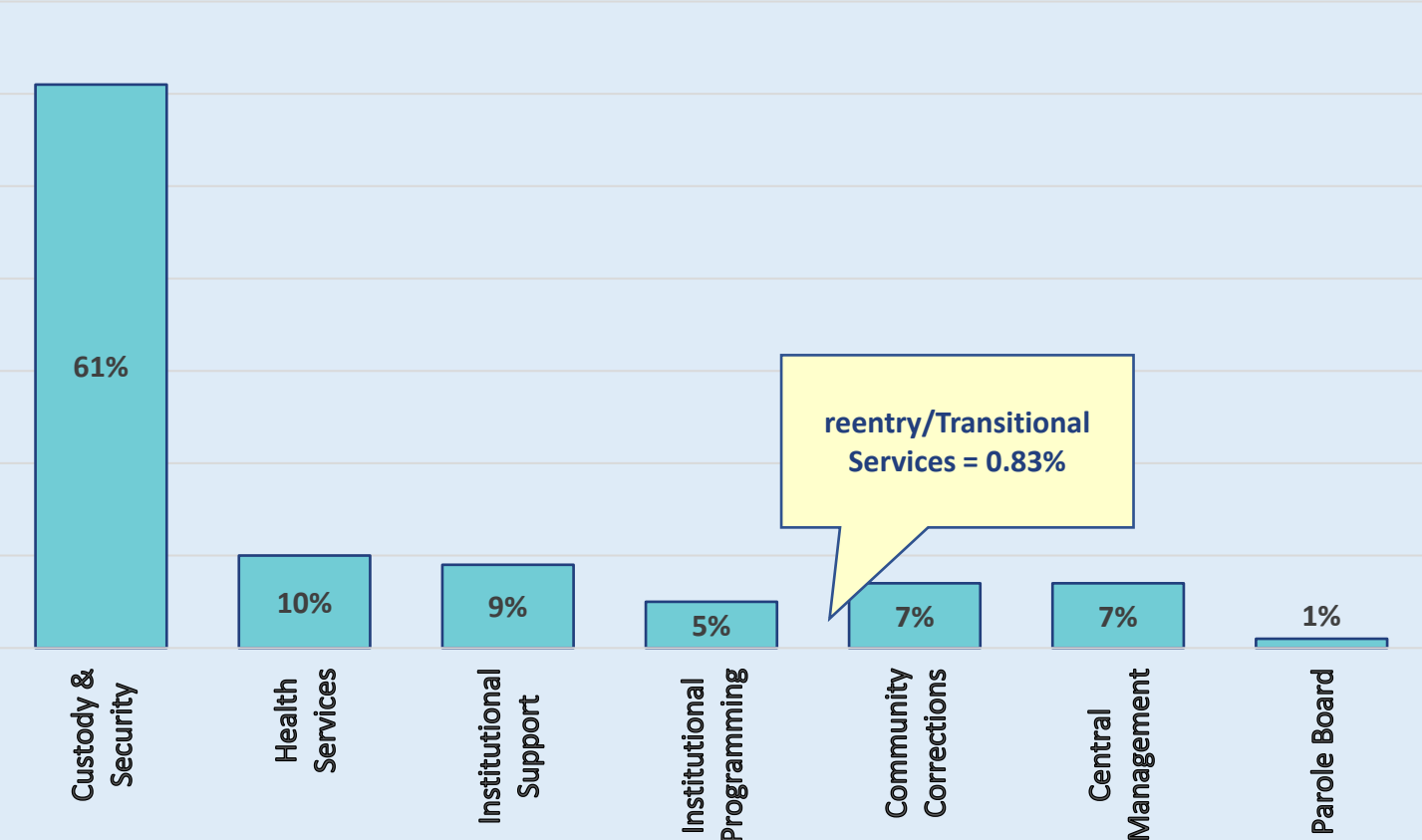
The overall Probation and Parole (P&P) population at RIDOC has fallen by 3% since the start of FY22. In the past 10 years, RIDOC's P&P population has decreased by 28%. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, as of 2020, Rhode Island has the fifth highest rate of Community Corrections supervision in the nation; 2,152 per 100,000 residents (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2020*). In addition, R.I. has the third highest rate of probation supervision in the nation; 2,080 per 100,000 residents (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2020*).

# Rhode Island's Investments In Reentry Services

RHODE ISLAND'S PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTMENTS  
(\$482 MILLION TOTAL)



RIDOC FY19 EXPENDITURES  
(% GR of \$235,712,888 TOTAL)



# Rhode Island's reentry System

## Institutional & Rehabilitative Programming

- Education
- Health Services
- Substance Use & Sex Offender Treatment
- Thinking for Change & Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

## Transitional Services & Discharge Planning

- Regionalized & Specialized
- Seven RIDOC FTEs
- Contracts with Community-based Organizations for Pre- & Post-Release Services

## Probation & Parole

- Regionalized & Specialized
- >100 RIDOC FTEs
- Home Confinement & Electronic Monitoring
- Reentry Forums

## Community-Based Services

- P&P Mandated
- Referrals
- Self-Sought
- Gaps in Housing & Behavioral Health



**THE PROBLEM: System reform is long overdue; Rhode Island currently has limited expertise and personnel to promote best practices.**

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Rhode Island has made limited attempts at system reform over the past 20+ years.
2. The current planning infrastructure through Rhode Island's Public Safety Grant Administration Office (PSGAO) does not have the technical expertise or staff capacity to conduct or support strategic planning or statistical analysis.

# National Context – State Administering Agencies

## State Administering Agencies (SAA)

- Federal statute requires the governor of each state to designate an SAA as the executive branch agency that accepts, plans for, and distributes criminal justice funds
- Mission, vision, and strategic focus of each SAA is defined by state statute
- Byrne/JAG program is a main source of federal funds for state/local justice systems
- In many states, the SAA director also serves as the governor's criminal justice policy advisor

### Federal Formula Block Grants Administered by SAAs

- ❖ **VOCA** - Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Grant Program
- ❖ **SVLP** - State Victim Liaison Project Grant
- ❖ **Violence Against Women Act**: Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors Grant (STOP) & Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)
- ❖ **NCHIP** - National Criminal History Improvement Grant Program
- ❖ **FSIA/Coverdell** - Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act Grant Program
- ❖ **RSAT** - Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program
- ❖ **PSN** - Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program
- ❖ **COAP/PDMP** - Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- ❖ **COAP/CARA** - Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program
- ❖ **SJS** - State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers
- ❖ **Byrne/JAG** - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
- ❖ **JAG SORNA** - Sex Offender Registration Notification Act, JAG Penalty Re-allocation
- ❖ **JAG PREA** - Prison Rape Elimination Act, JAG Penalty Reallocation
- ❖ **JJDP** - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grant Program
- ❖ **JJDP PREA** - Penalty Re-Allocation

# National Context – Statistical Analysis Centers

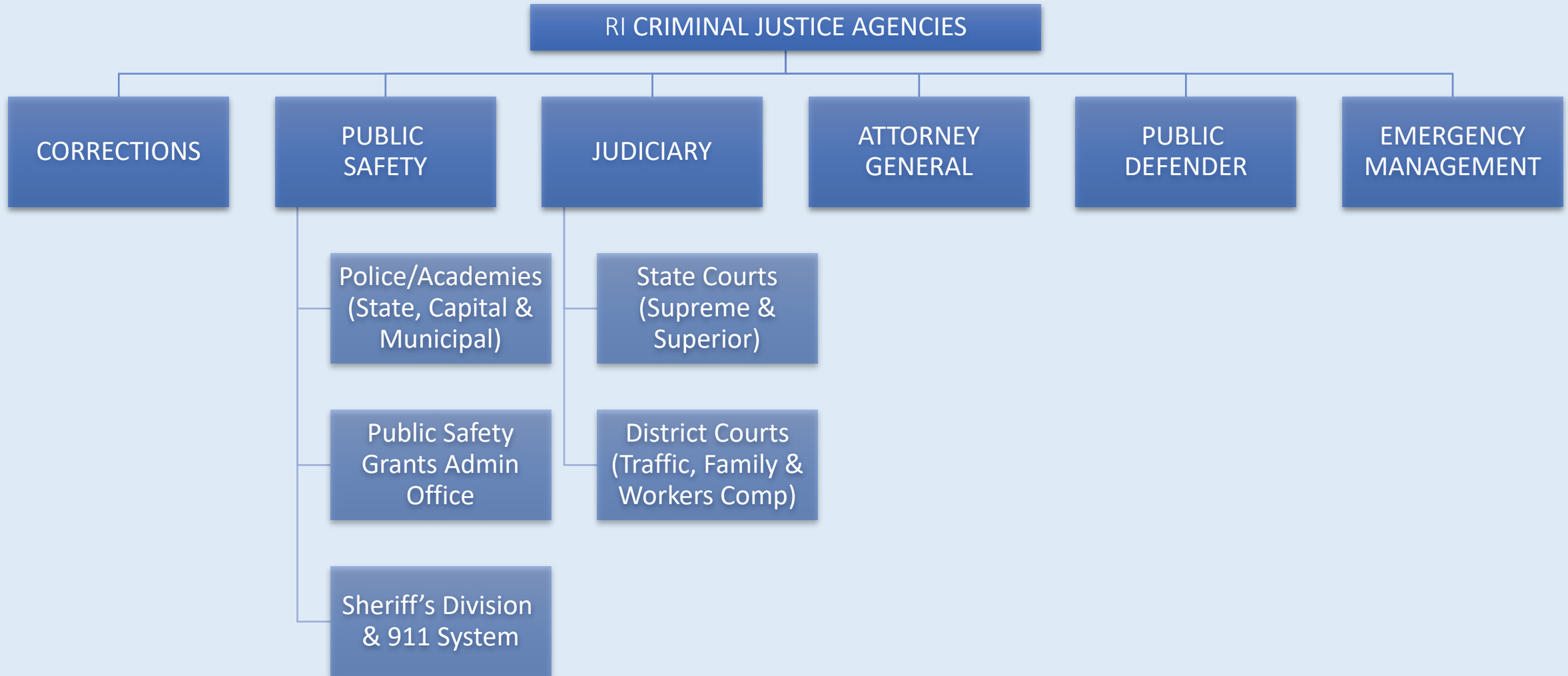
## Statistical Analysis Centers (SAC)

- Provide analytical services in support of criminal justice policy and planning (located within SAAs, universities, or research partners)
- Responsible for furnishing statewide crime data, sharing information on best practices, providing analytical support and grant review assistance

## National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)

- Nonprofit, non-partisan member association dedicated to assisting criminal justice agencies in the development and implementation of effective criminal justice policy
- Contracted by the federal government (BJA) for TTA to states to help develop comprehensive, data-driven strategic plans that define how Byrne/JAG grant dollars will be invested
- Five-year strategic plan required with each state's Byrne/JAG grant application

# Rhode Island's Current Structure



# Rhode Island's Public Safety Grants Administration Office (PSGAO)

<b>Function:</b>	Serves as both the state administering agency (SAA) and the statistical analysis center (SAC) for the receipt of federal funds in Rhode Island
<b>Statute:</b>	Rhode Island General Law Title 42, Chapter 26 outlines the purpose and function; states the PSGAO “shall be under the jurisdiction of the governor”
<b>History:</b>	Founded in 1969 as the Rhode Island Justice Commission under Rhode Island's DOA; changed name and moved under the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety (DPS) in 2008
<b>Leadership:</b>	<p>Criminal Justice Policy Board - 25 total members (17 government officials by statute plus eight community positions appointed by governor); chair of Board appointed by governor; policies are operationalized and supervised by the PSGAO Administrator</p> <p>PSGAO Administrator - appointed by the director of Rhode Island's Department of Public Safety (Chief of the Rhode Island State Police)</p>
<b>Staff Capacity:</b>	Currently limited to the federal funding received by Rhode Island; the State has not historically funded PSGAO employee salaries

**SOLUTIONS:** We already have recommendations about how to address the current challenges within Rhode Island's system; a strong local champion is needed to help lead the transformation of Rhode Island's criminal legal system.

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Multiple historical efforts in Rhode Island have resulted in many of the same recommendations;
2. Research and best practice tell us what needs to be done and a variety of local/national partners are available to guide the process;
3. Many other planning efforts are taking place across Rhode Island right now in various sectors related to the criminal legal system.

# Research already tells us about the needs of Rhode Island's re-entering population:

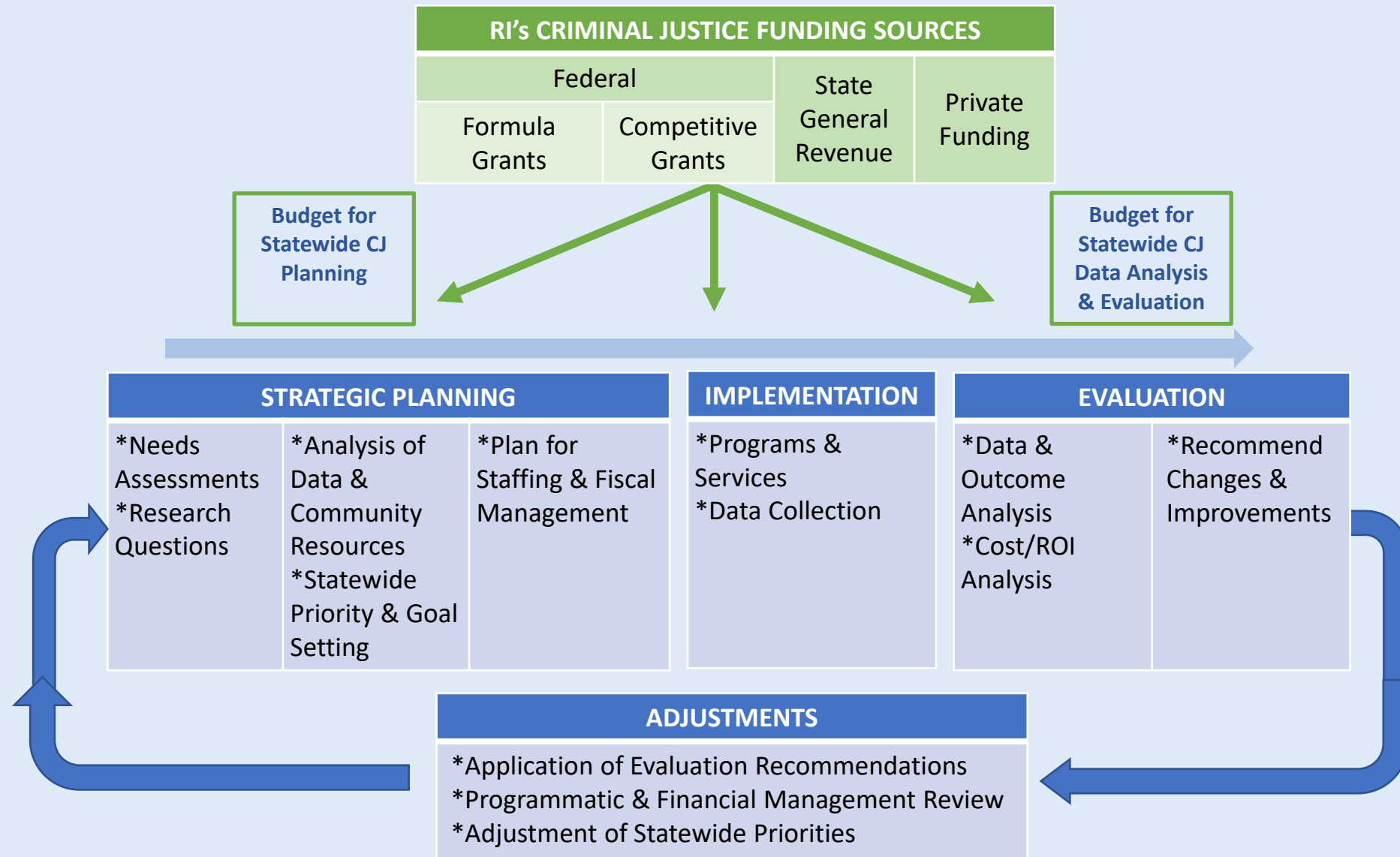
- **Continuity of care** between pre- and post-release services
- **Individualized transitional support**
- Relevant and **accessible programs and services**, both pre/post release
- **Peer mentors** and supports
- **Culturally competent and skilled workforce** to provide reentry services
- Dedicated state funding to support **community-based reentry services**

**Research also  
already tells  
us the best  
practices for  
system  
reform:**

1. Coordinated interagency data sharing produces better outcomes.
2. Relationships between justice agencies and community providers should be collaborative and regularly coordinated.
3. Policy decisions should be informed by data and the community being served.



# Research also informs best practices for strategic planning:



# Other Relevant Planning Efforts Across Rhode Island

## GOVERNOR-CONVENED GROUPS:

- Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
- Governor's Executive Working Group for Justice Reinvestment: *Reducing Domestic Violence by Improving Justice System Performance*
- Governor's Overdose Task Force

## EOHHS-CONVENED GROUPS:

- Health and Human Services Workforce Transformation Initiative (DLT, OPC)
- Rhode Island Olmstead Planning (BHDDH)
- 2022 Early Diversion SIM Summit (BHDDH)
- Rhode Island Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

## OTHER RELATED STATE EFFORTS:

- Strategic planning for Rhode Island's new Department of Housing
- Rhode Island's Broadband and Digital Equity Strategic Plan
- Rhode Island Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity (DOH, EOHHS)

# Other Planning Efforts and Data to Consider

## Active Planning Processes/Groups in Rhode Island

Governor's Council on Behavioral Health (BHDDH)
Governor's Executive Working Group for Justice Reinvestment: Reducing Domestic Violence by Improving Justice System Performance (DOC)
Governor's Overdose Task Force (RIDOH)
Governor's Workforce Board (DLT)
Health & Human Services Workforce Transformation Initiative (with DLT, OPC)
Rhode Island Olmstead Planning (BHDDH)
Rhode Island Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (EOHHS)
Rhode Island Department of Housing, strategic plan
Rhode Island's Broadband and Digital Equity Strategic Plan (Commerce)
Rhode Island's Economic Development Plan, short and long-term EDA plan (Commerce)
Rhode Island Commission for Health Advocacy & Equity (RIDOH, EOHHS)
Governor's Recovery-Friendly Workplace Initiative (BHDDH)
Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission (Housing Dept)
Rhode Island's Continuum of Care (RI Housing, BHDDH)

## Relevant Rhode Island Data/Reports:

- 2023 Rhode Island Foundation Report: Housing Supply and Homelessness in Rhode Island
- 2022 HUD OGC Guidance on Use of Criminal Records
- 2021 Final Recommendations to the JRI Executive Oversight Council
- 2020 Public Attitude Survey on Behavioral Health Issues in Rhode Island (BHDDH & HHP)
- 2019 Governor Raimondo's Criminal Justice Working Group Final Report and Recommendations
- 2019 Recommendations given to Governor's Working Group about reentry in Rhode Island
- 2017 Pay for Success Feasibility Study
- 2017 Harvard Assessment of DOC Discharge Planning
- 2016 Rhode Island Court Fees and Fines Case Study
- 2015 Truven Behavioral Health Report
- 2012 Pew McArthur Results First: Rhode Island Benefit-Cost Analysis
- Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook Indicators Are Collected Annually for Juvenile Justice

# Questions for this Task Force:

1. What reentry issues has this Task Force already identified as problematic?
2. How should a new statewide strategic plan for criminal justice incorporate the Task Force's strategies?
3. How can the Task Force strategically align with Rhode Island's justice system investments and improve data-informed decisions?

# Justice Assistance

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Comprehensive Opportunities  
Resource & Employment Services  
(CORES)

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# Comprehensive Opportunities Resource & Employment Services (CORES)

**Keith Whitt**

**Marketing and Development Officer**

**Justice Assistance**

# History

- Founded in 1978 to provide employment opportunities for justice-involved individuals
- Justice Assistance has served over 200,000 individuals over the past 46 years



# Court-Based Programs

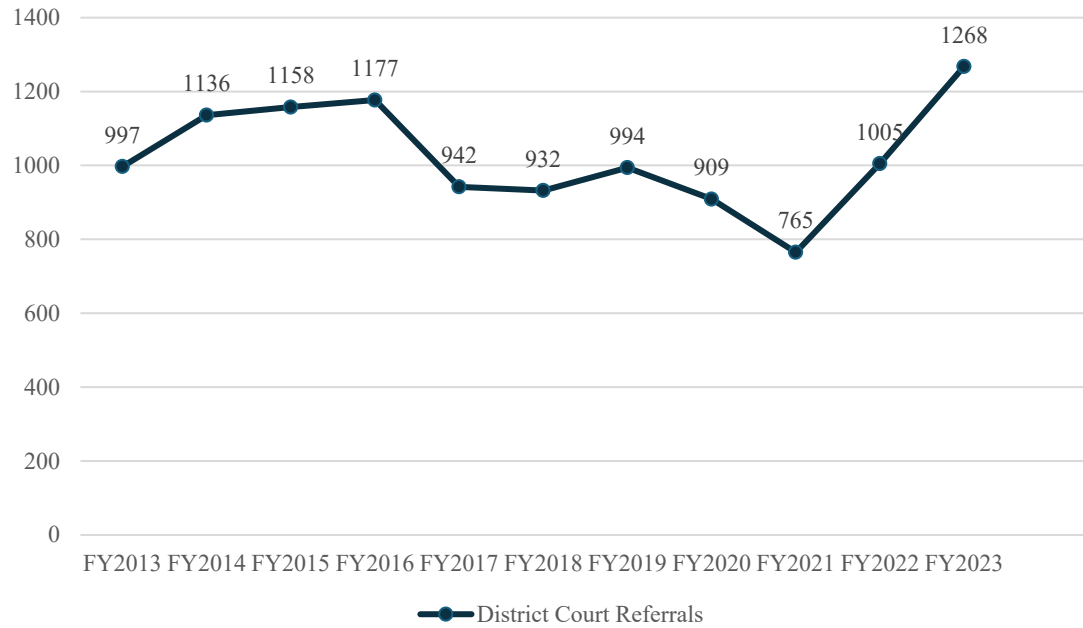
- Project Restitution
  - This project provides monitoring services to the Rhode Island District Court for all persons who receive a ‘filing.’
  - Justice Assistance is responsible for the collection of over \$5.6 million in restitution for crime victims.
  - The case managers ensure that all people on a ‘filing’ comply with their court order and provide supportive services to reduce risk of re-offending.



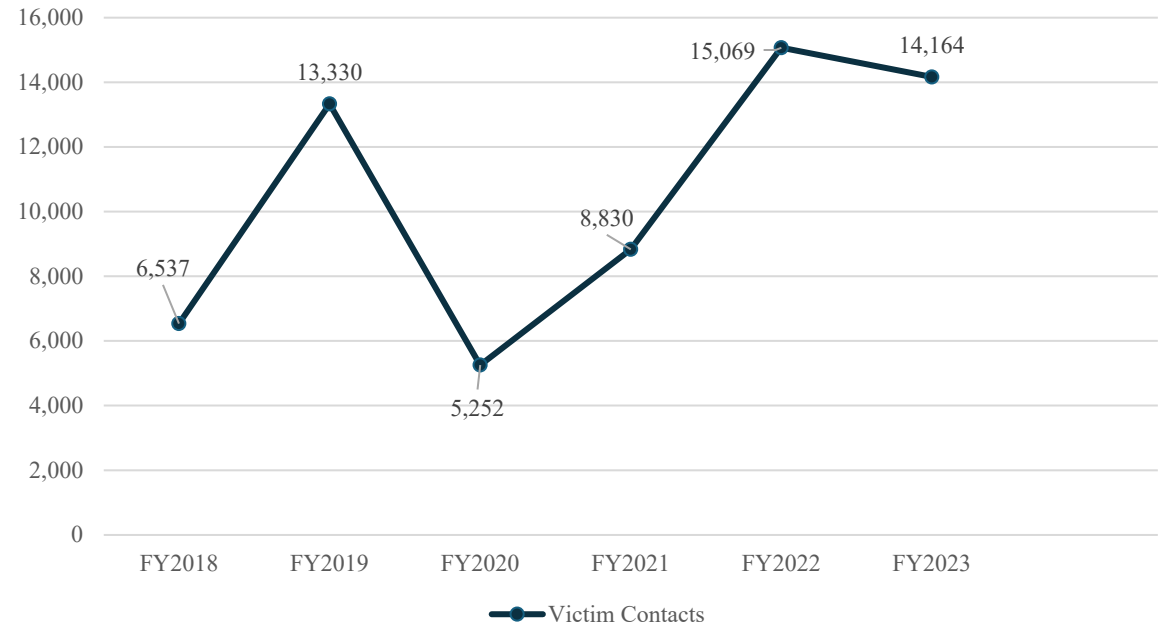
# Court-Based Programs

- Project Victim Services
  - Provides a service to the victims of crime whose perpetrator received a 'filing.'
  - Most victims are not made aware of what is happening after the arrest and what their next steps are.
  - Case managers provide regular notification and updates to the victims and act as a resource to victims for not just with court updates but with any personal needs.

District Court Enrollments  
FY2013-FY2023



Annual Victim Contacts  
FY2018-FY2023



# Habitat for Justice

- Currently, Justice Assistance is in the process of acquiring properties in Rhode Island.
  - Focusing on Pawtucket, Cranston, Central Falls, and Providence
- Development of three properties in Pawtucket should be beginning before the end of the year.
- The housing is being developed with the intention of renting to Justice-involved people and providing supportive services while they reside in the unit.
  - There will be an option to own.

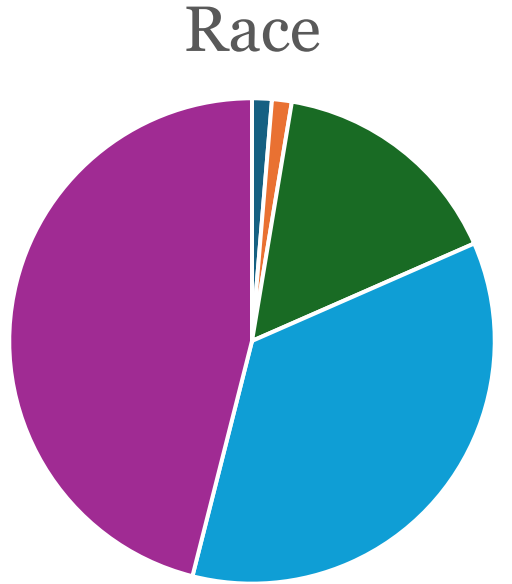
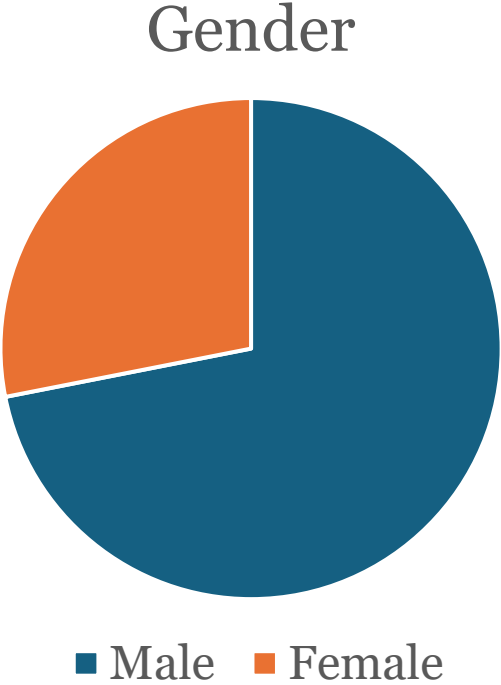


# CORES

- This program hosts a family of wrap-around services to Justice-involved people.
  - Services include: life skills development, education and employment assistance, community health and peer recovery support, and behavioral health counseling
- All services are provided at no cost to the client.
- Eligibility: any person who has been justice-involved, past or present.

# CORES

- Since being implemented in 2022, almost 300 individuals have been referred to the program. The charts below represent October 2023 to February 2024.



- American Indian/ Native American
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White Non-Hispanic or Latino/ Caucasian

# CORES

- The majority of clients are between the ages of 25-59.
- With the support of the capacity building for opioid use disorders, Justice Assistance was able to onboard an additional clinician making a total of three licensed social workers (LCSWs) onsite for clients to see.
- Our clinical services have been the most popular services to be utilized by clients.
- Our clinicians and employment placement specialists work together to prepare clients for employment.

# Make a Referral



Visit our website and fill out the form:

<https://www.justiceassistance.org/cores>



# Contact Information



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# Public Comment

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