

Impacting Services & Outcomes through Prisoner Reentry Programs

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Serious and
Violent
Offender Multi-
site Evaluation

Today

- **The Federal Initiative: What was the Serious & Violent Offender Reentry Initiative?**
- **Implementation: Did SVORI programs increase the delivery of services & programming? How well were SVORI programs implemented?**
- **Impact: Did SVORI participation result in improved outcomes?**



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SVORI Overview

- **Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative funded agencies to develop programs to improve criminal justice, employment, education, health, and housing outcomes for released prisoners**
- **69 agencies received federal funds (\$500,000 - \$2,000,000 over 3 years) to develop 89 programs that**
 - Targeted adult & juvenile populations
 - Incorporated partnerships among state and local agencies to provide comprehensive services to prisoners returning home
 - Were locally designed to meet local needs and organizational capabilities

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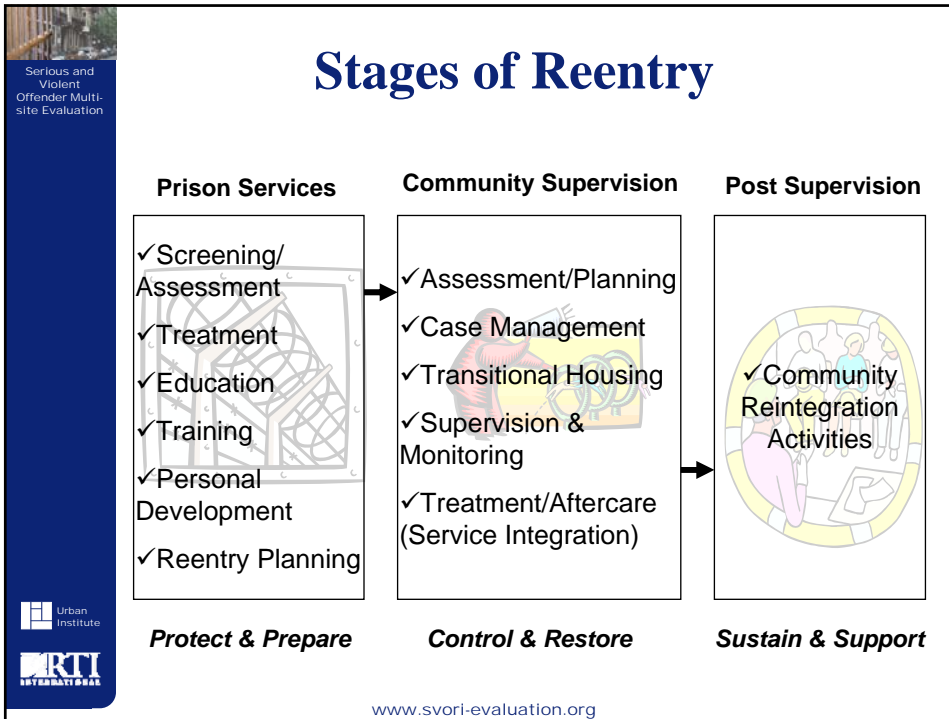
SVORI Components

- **Federal funding to initiate or supplement integrated programs and services**



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

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SVORI Multi-site Evaluation

- **RTI International & the Urban Institute funded by NIJ in 2003 to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the SVORI**
 - **Implementation & Sustainability: Four rounds of surveys with SVORI Program Directors**
 - **Impact: Longitudinal study of more than 2,500 adult & juvenile offenders in 14 states (16 programs)**
 - **Cost-Benefit: Supplemental services and cost data collection in five of the impact sites**
 - **Dissemination: www.svori-evaluation.org**

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SVORI Program Goals

- **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
- **Agency-level impact: Systems Change**
 - Agency cooperation
 - Sustainability



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Implementation

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SVORI Program Characteristics

- Focused on the general “serious and violent population” (85%)
- Focused equally on the pre- and post-release phase (67%)
- Geographically targeted pre-release (specific institutions) and post-release (specific release communities)
- Most (90%) programs reported attempting to provide all needed services rather than delivering a specific service or set of services

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Source: 2005 Survey of SVORI Program Directors
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Primary Focus of Adult SVORI Programs

- Employment: 42%
- Community integration: 27%
- Substance use: 14%
- Mental health: 10%
- Education: 2%
- Family: 0%
- Other: 6%

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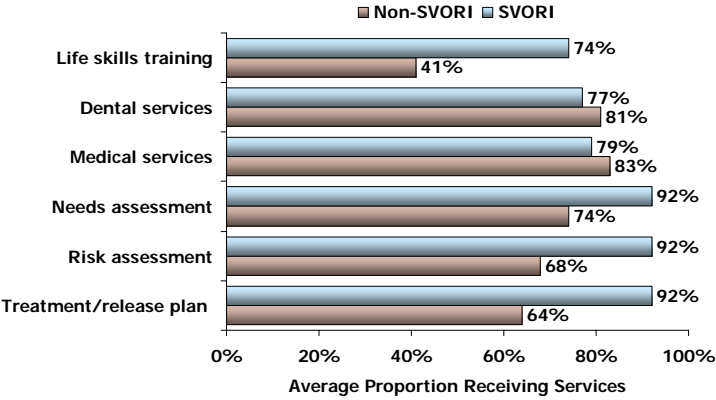
Source: 2005 Survey of SVORI Program Directors
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Many Programs & Services

- Risk assessment
- Needs assessment
- Treatment/release plan development
- Legal assistance
- Assistance obtaining identification
- Assistance obtaining benefits
- Financial support/emergency assistance
- Peer support groups
- 1-on-1 mentoring
- Housing placements/referrals
- Transportation (post-release only)
- Comprehensive drug treatment programs
- AA/NA
- Counseling sessions
- Mental health services
- Anger management/violence counseling
- Medical services
- Dental services
- Education/GED/tutoring/literacy
- Vocational training
- Employment referrals/job placement
- Resume & interviewing skills development
- Work release program
- Cognitive skills development/behavior program.
- Life skills training
- Domestic violence services
- Parenting skills development
- Family reunification
- Family counseling
- Formal post-release supervision (post only)

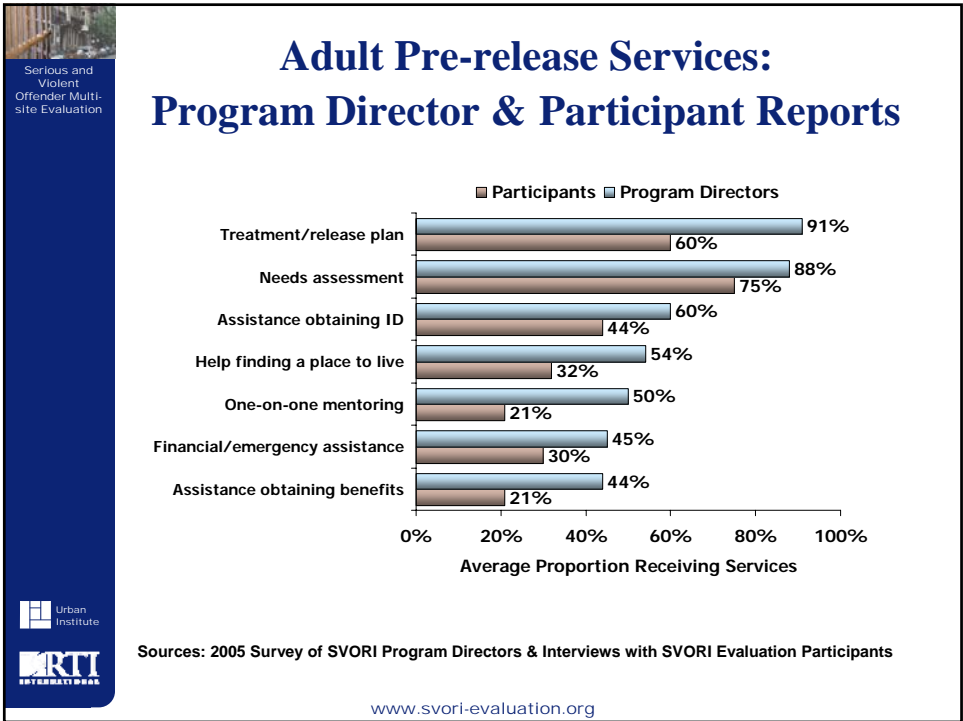
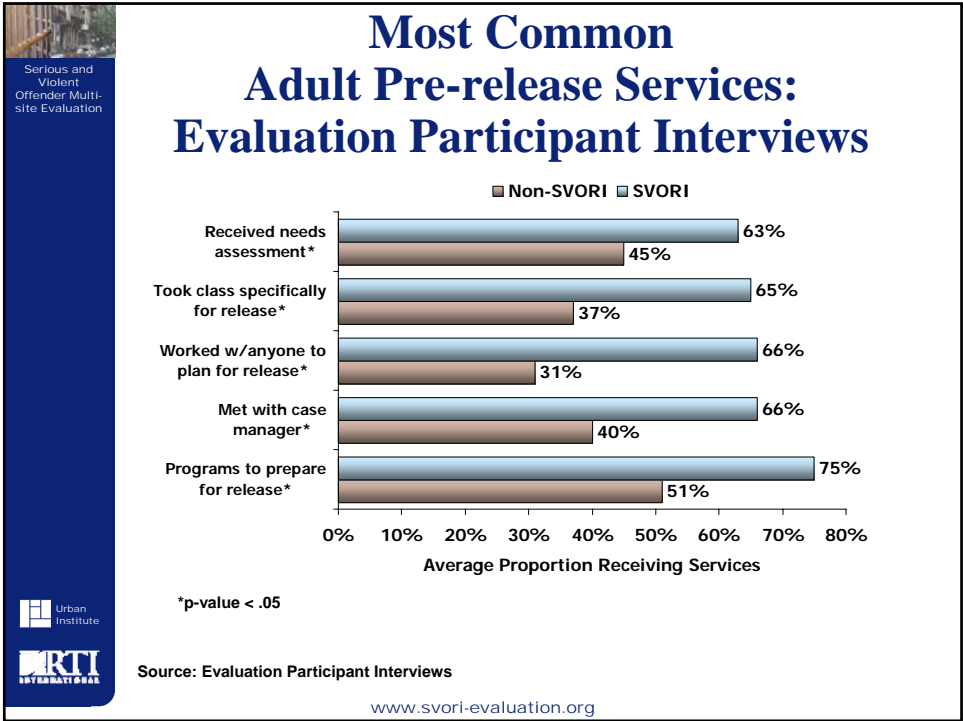
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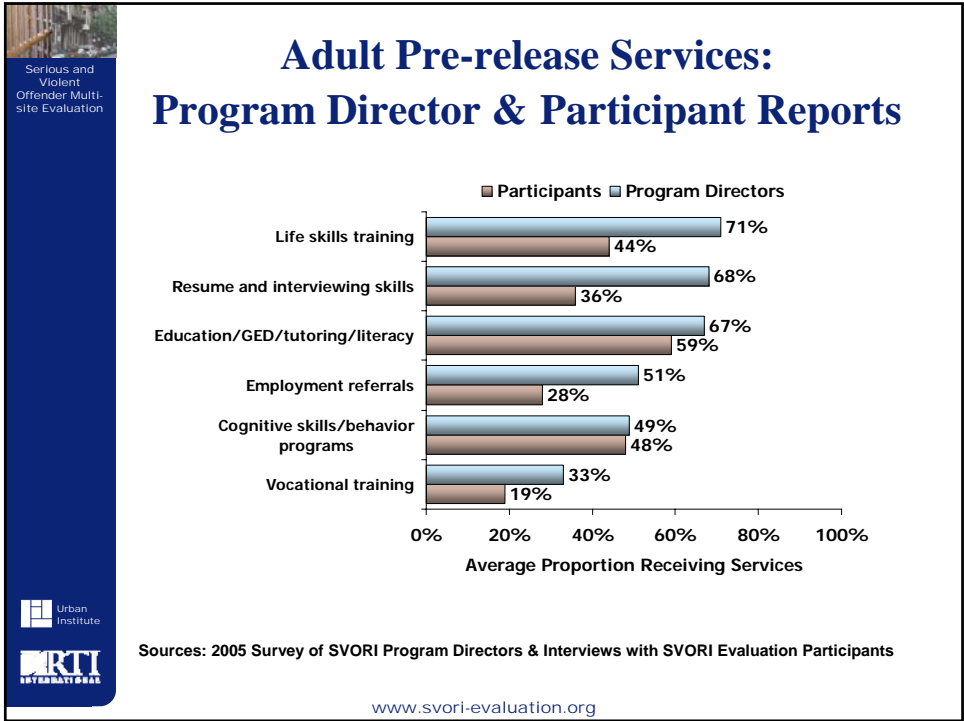
Most Common Adult Pre-release Services: Program Director Estimates



Source: 2005 Survey of SVORI Program Directors

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**Program Director (PD) and
Participant (P) Agreement**



	P < PD: PD Overestimated	P = PD: Agreement	P > PD: PD Underestimated
Service Item	N	N	N
Treatment/reentry plan	10	1	1
Needs assessment	9	1	2
Assistance obtaining ID	6	3	2
Help finding place to live	7	3	2
Mentoring	6	3	2
Financial/emergency assistance	6	2	4
Assistance obtaining benefits	7	3	2
Total	51 (62.20%)	16 (19.51%)	15 (18.29%)

Sources: 2005 Survey of SVORI Program Directors & Interviews with SVORI Evaluation Participants

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Program Director (PD) and Participant (P) Agreement



	P < PD: PD Overestimated	P = PD: Agreement	P > PD: PD Underestimated
Service Item	N	N	N
Life Skills	7	3	1
Resume/Interviewing Skills	8	2	1
Education/GED/Literacy	5	4	3
Employment Referrals	7	3	1
Cognitive Skills/Behavior Programs	6	2	3
Vocational Training	5	6	0
Total	38 (56.72%)	20 (29.85%)	9 (13.43%)

Sources: 2005 Survey of SVORI Program Directors & Interviews with SVORI Evaluation Participants

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Implementation: Service Delivery & Receipt




 - Agreement between Program Directors' estimates of service delivery and SVORI participants' reports of service receipt is low
 - Program Directors generally reported that they were providing services to more individuals than individuals reported receiving
 - SVORI participants reported receiving significantly more services and programs than those in the non-SVORI comparison group

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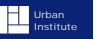
Impact: Is SVORI Working?



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Impact Evaluation

- Four waves of interviews with more than 2,500 adult & juvenile offenders in 14 states (drug testing at 3 & 15 months) were completed in May 2007
- Numerous potential outcomes including
 - 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



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Adult Males 3 M Post Release

- Only 1% homeless; most are living with relatives although about ¼ report living in own place
- In contrast to baseline findings (re: pre-incarceration), few report currently living with people using AOD or who have committed illegal acts
- SVORI subjects more likely than non-SVORI to respond positively to questions about reentry programming
- Nearly ¾'s have worked since release

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Did SVORI Work?

- SVORI programs potentially addressed a very broad range of needs
- Individual programs provided up to 28 pre-release and 30 post-release categories of services
- Offenders may have received assistance across these 58 service categories
- SVORI program participants much more likely to receive services and participate in programs

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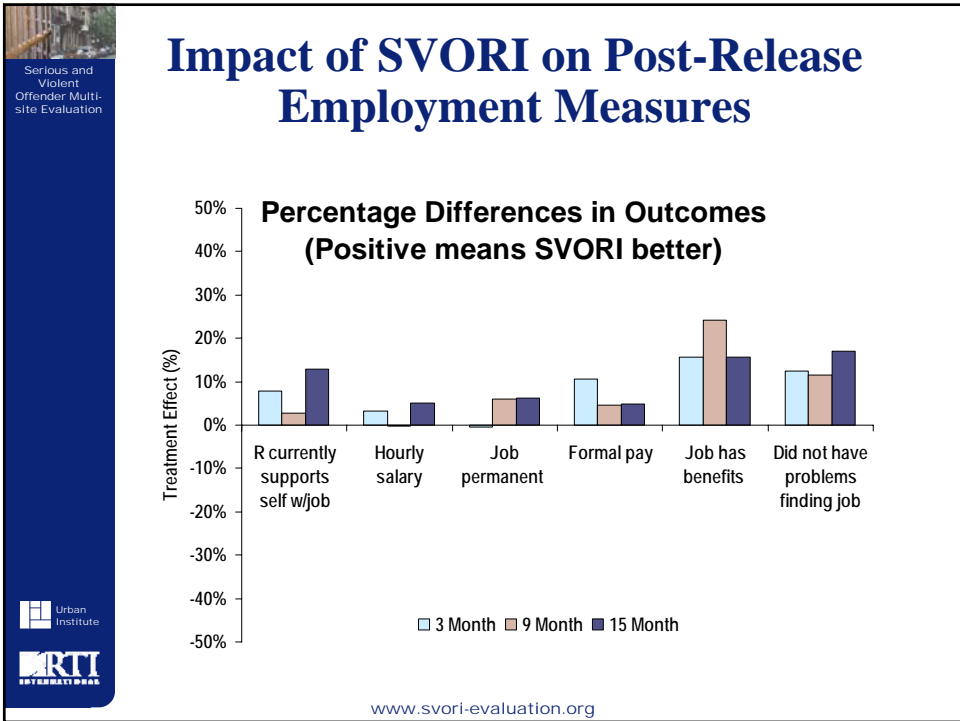
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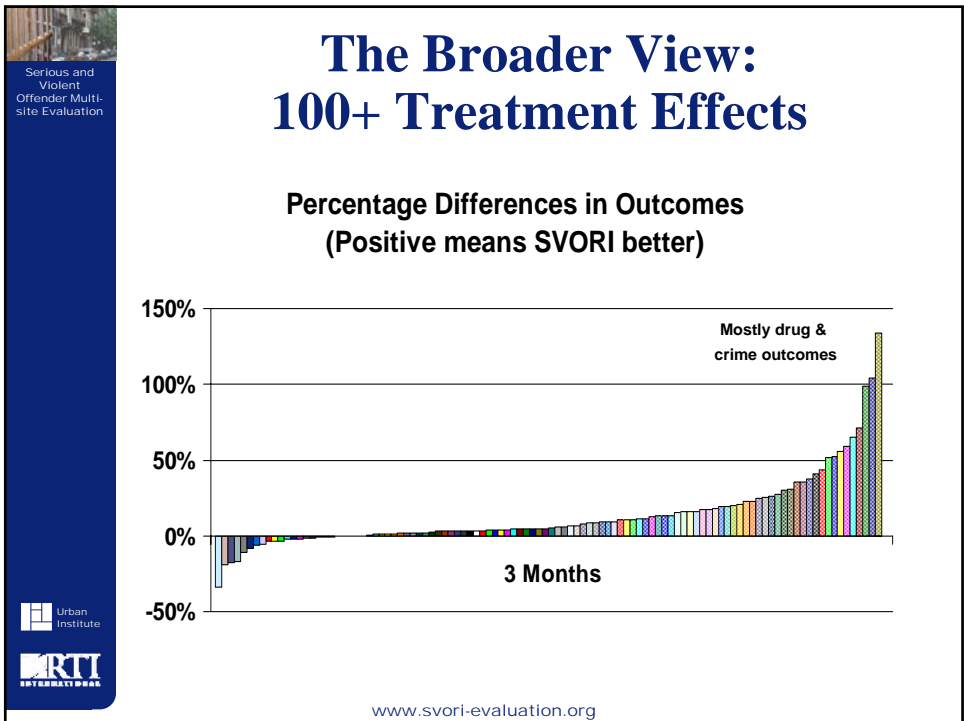
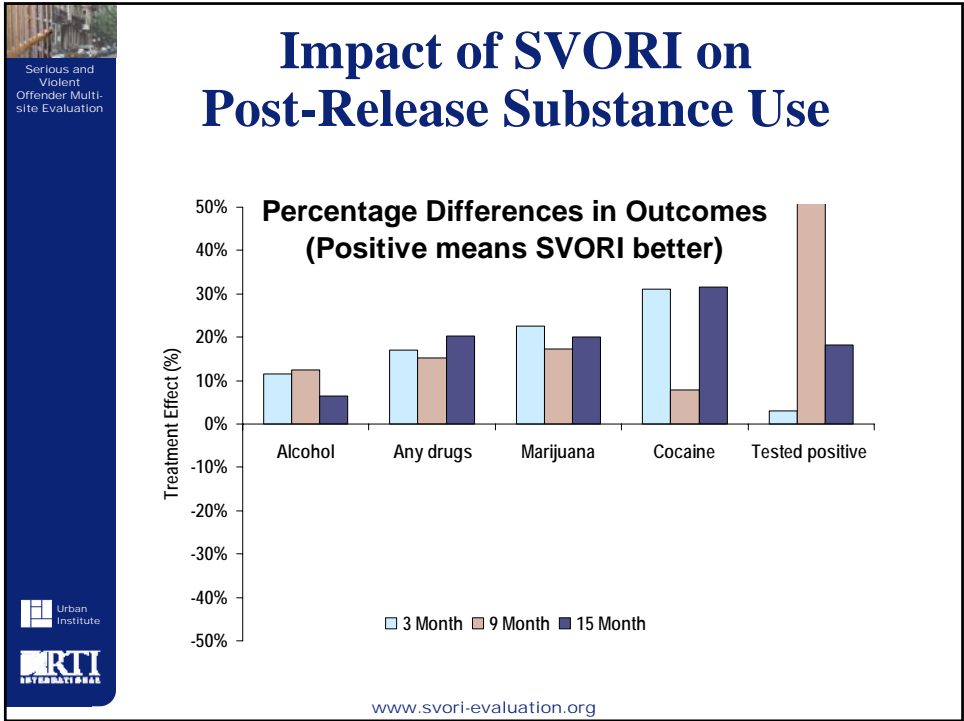



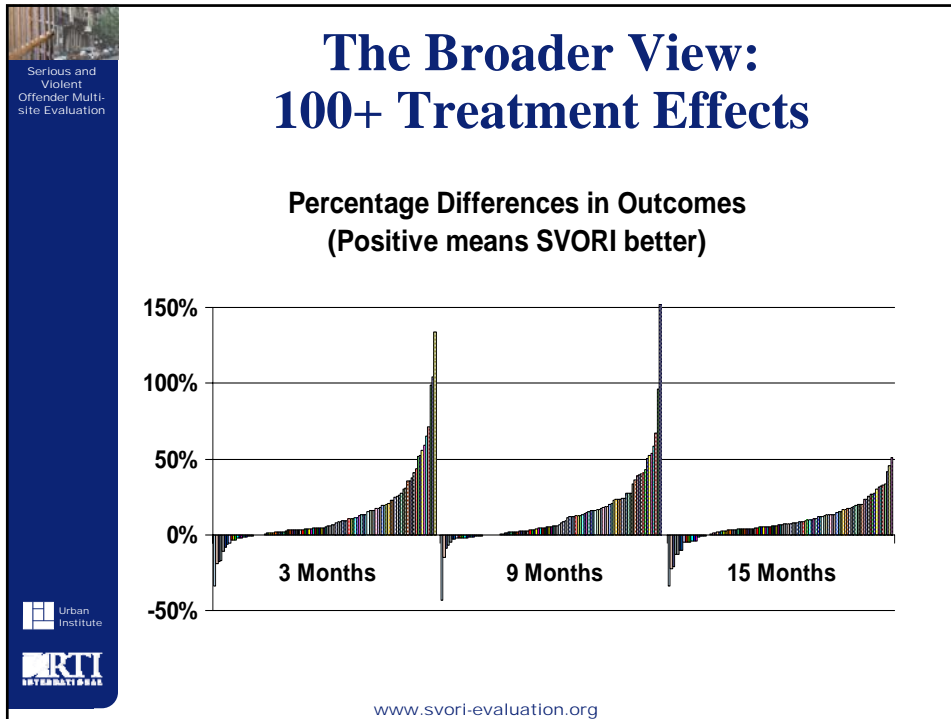
The Broad View

- We have more than 100 potential outcome measures at the individual level
 - Community involvement
 - Employment
 - Family Contact/Stability
 - Health/Mental Health
 - Housing
 - Recidivism
 - Substance Use
 - Supervision Compliance

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- Serious and Violent Offender Multi-site Evaluation
- ## Conclusions
- **SVORI: Ambitious effort to improve integrated, individually targeted services through DOC coordination of state & community agencies & organizations**
 - **Within a year, most programs greatly increased the level of services provided to offenders—but levels were far less than 100%**
 - **Low levels of agreement between PD estimates of service delivery and participant reports of service receipt indicate that (1) programs were not yet fully implemented at W1 participant interviews—not surprising considering scope of effort (systems change)—or (2) PDs did not know what services were being provided to whom**
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Conclusions (cont.)

- Nevertheless, SVORI participants received significantly more services than comparable offenders who were not enrolled in SVORI
- Although the magnitude of the treatment effects decreased over time, SVORI participants were doing better across a wide range of outcomes from release up through 15 months post release

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