

Serious and Violent Offender Multi-site Evaluation

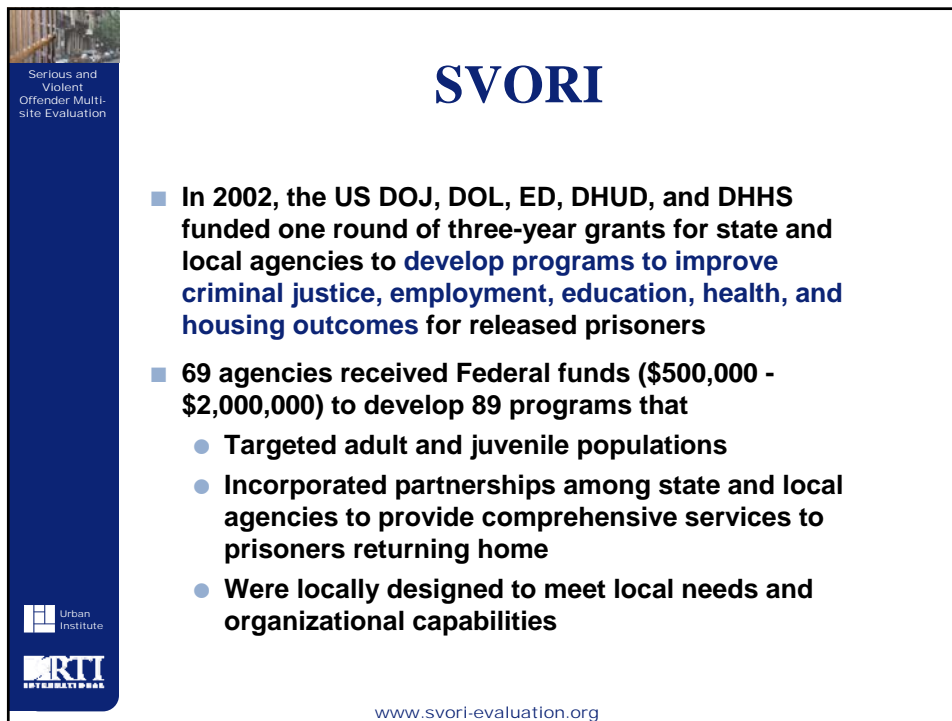
Findings from the SVORI Multi-site Evaluation

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RTI International

American Correctional Association
Tampa, FL
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Serious and Violent Offender Multi-site Evaluation

SVORI

- In 2002, the US DOJ, DOL, ED, DHUD, and DHHS funded one round of three-year grants for state and local 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) to develop 89 programs that
 - Targeted adult and 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 Funding Came with Few Requirements

- Unlike many Federal programs, SVORI grants imposed only a few requirements
 - Focus on “*serious and violent offenders*” 35 years of age or younger
 - Address different stages of reentry through services delivered (1) prior to release, (2) post release during supervision, and (3) post supervision
 - Base services on needs and risk assessments
 - Include partnerships among state and local agencies and community and faith-based organizations





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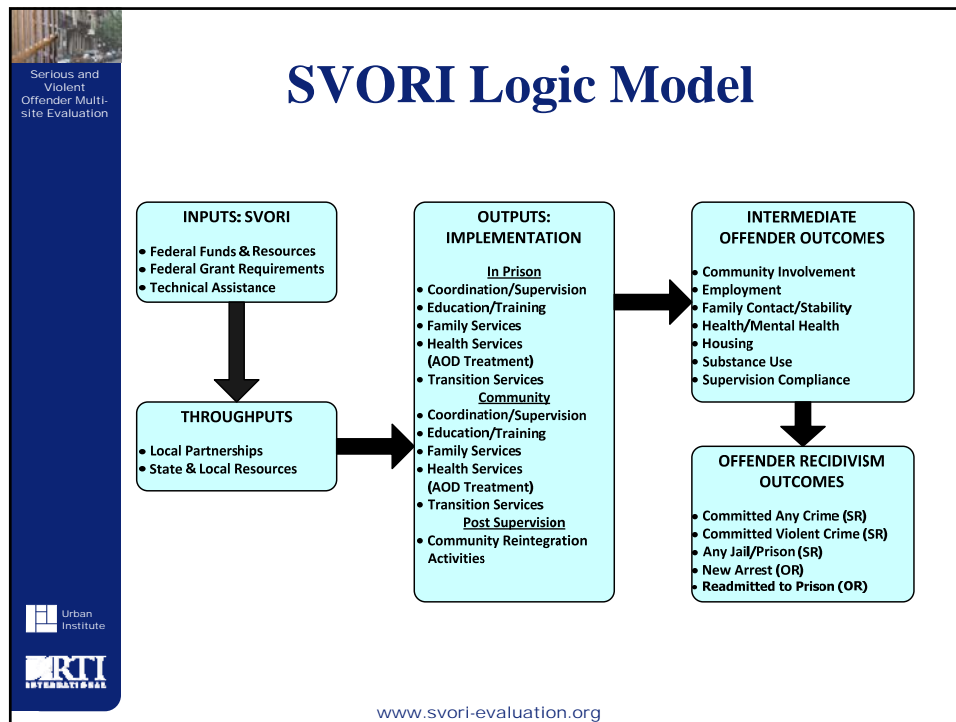


So... What was a “SVORI Program”?

- SVORI programs were locally designed to meet local needs & organizational capabilities
- Most programs used assessments to develop individualized schedules of services & programs for program participants
- SVORI was not a program in the sense of traditional programs (e.g., cognitive behavior therapy or non-residential drug treatment)
- *SVORI was a funding stream that agencies used to enhance & expand existing programs or to develop new reentry programs*




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SVORI Evaluation



- **The program goals were to develop programs to improve criminal justice, employment, education, health, and housing outcomes for released prisoners**
- **Evaluation objective was “...determine whether the selected programs have accomplished the overall goal of the Reentry Initiative—increasing public safety by reducing recidivism among the populations served by the program—and determine the relative costs and benefits of the program.”**

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Did SVORI Work?

- **Research Hypotheses**
 - **SVORI improved access to appropriate, comprehensive, integrated services**
 - **SVORI improved employment, health and personal functioning of returning prisoners**
 - **SVORI reduced criminal activity**





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SVORI Multi-site Evaluation



- **Implementation assessment collected multiple waves of survey data from all 89 SVORI program directors, as well as data from program participants & comparison subjects**
- **Impact evaluation focused on SVORI participants and non-SVORI comparison subjects in 12 adult programs (11 for adult females) and 4 programs for juvenile males in 14 states**
- **Interviews with individuals who entered SVORI programs and were released from prison between July 2004 and November 2005**
 - **30 days prior to release**
 - **3, 9 and 15 months post release**
- **Cost-benefit study of 4 adult and 1 juvenile program**



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SVORI Multi-site Evaluation

- Impact evaluation focused on SVORI participants and non-SVORI comparison subjects in 14 states
 - 12 adult programs (11 for adult females)
 - 4 programs for juvenile males
- Interviews with individuals who entered SVORI programs and were released from prison between **July 2004** and **November 2005**
 - 30 days prior to release
 - 3, 9 and 15 months post release

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SVORI Impact Evaluation Subjects 12 Adult Programs; 4 Juvenile Programs

Wave	Men			Women			Boys			Total
	S	NS	Total	S	NS	Total	S	NS	Total	
Pre	863	834	1697	153	204	357	152	185	337	2391
3 M	529	455	984	110	134	244	105	131	236	1464
9 M	565	470	1035	119	134	253	108	131	239	1527
15 M	582	531	1113	124	152	276	107	141	248	1637
Total	2539	2290	4829	506	624	1130	472	588	1060	7019

- Wave 1 response rate: 86%
- Wave 2: 58% (Men), 68% (Women), 71% (Boys)
- Wave 3: 61% (Men), 71% (Women), 72% (Boys)
- Wave 4: 66% (Men), 77% (Women), 74% (Boys)




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Evaluation Issues

- There was no one “program” to evaluate
 - Programs varied from location to location in response to available resources and service providers
 - Programs provided different services to individual participants based on needs and risks
- SVORI program participants varied from location to location, either because of targeting by administrators or underlying demographic differences in populations



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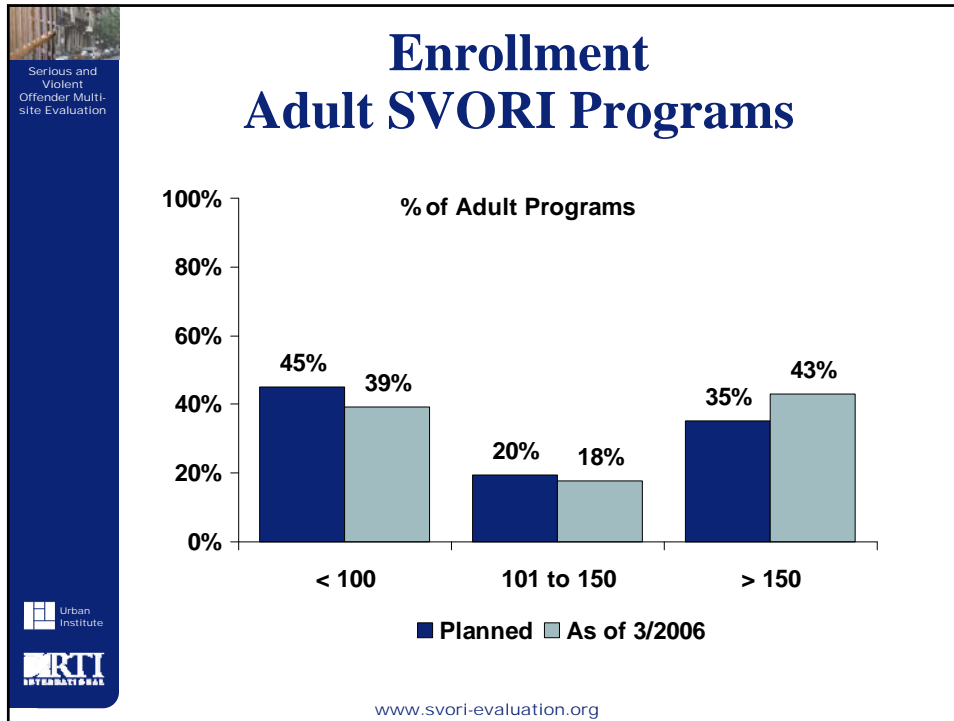


Next

- Implementation
 - What were the characteristics of SVORI programs?
 - What services did SVORI programs provide?
 - Did program participants receive more services?
- Impact
 - What were the characteristics of impact study subjects
 - What were the impacts of SVORI on intermediate outcomes?
 - What were the impacts of SVORI on recidivism?

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Characteristics Adult SVORI Programs

Adult Programs	Impact Sites		Non-Impact Sites		All Sites	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Primary program phase focus (52 programs reporting)						
Pre-release	8.3%	1	—	0	1.9%	1
Post-release	25.0%	3	32.5%	13	30.8%	16
Both pre- and post-release	66.7%	8	67.5%	27	67.3%	35
Population focus (52 programs reporting)						
General serious and violent offenders	91.7%	11	82.5%	33	84.6%	44
Offenders with specific needs	8.3%	1	17.5%	7	15.4%	8
Service focus (51 programs reporting)						
General service focus	91.7%	11	89.7%	35	90.2%	46
Targeted service provision	8.3%	1	10.3%	4	9.8%	5
Program participation (52 programs reporting)						
Voluntary	75.0%	9	82.5%	33	80.8%	42
Mandatory	25.0%	3	17.5%	7	19.2%	10
How SVORI funds used (51 programs reporting)						
Fill service gaps	27.3%	3	45.0%	18	41.2%	21
Expand existing services	18.2%	2	37.5%	15	33.3%	17
Start a new program	54.5%	6	17.5%	7	25.5%	13

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Characteristics Adult SVORI Programs

Adult Programs	Impact Sites		Non-impact Sites		All Sites	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Outcomes targeted (program director ranked in top 3)						
Community integration	66.70%	8	48.72%	19	52.94%	27
Employment	58.30%	7	66.67%	26	64.71%	33
Improved decision-making or self-sufficiency	58.30%	7	43.59%	17	47.06%	24
Reduced substance use	50.00%	6	43.59%	17	45.10%	23
Housing	33.30%	4	46.15%	18	43.14%	22
Educational attainment	16.70%	2	12.82%	5	13.73%	7
Improved physical and/or mental health	8.30%	1	12.82%	5	11.76%	6
Family reunification/functioning	8.30%	1	12.82%	5	11.76%	6
Outcomes fair to determine program effectiveness						
Community integration/connectedness	100.00%	12	69.23%	27	76.47%	39
Employment	100.00%	12	84.62%	33	88.24%	45
Reduced recidivism	91.70%	11	79.49%	31	82.35%	42
Reduced substance use	75.00%	9	71.79%	28	72.55%	37
Family reunification/functioning	75.00%	9	38.46%	15	47.06%	24
Educational attainment	66.70%	8	38.46%	15	45.10%	23
Housing	66.70%	8	66.67%	26	66.67%	34
Improved physical and/or mental health	50.00%	6	46.15%	18	47.06%	24

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Implementation

- **SVORI funds resulted in the development of local programs that provided an increase in programs and services for participants... according to the SVORI Program Directors**


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Characterizing & Comparing SVORI Programs

- **Coordination & Supervision:** risk assessment, needs assessment, treatment/release plan, and (post-release only) supervision
- **Employment/Education/Skills Building:** education/GED/ tutoring/literacy, vocational training, employment referral/job placement, resume/interviewing skills, work release, cognitive skills development, life skills
- **Health Services:** AA/NA, counseling, comprehensive AOD treatment, mental health, medical, dental, anger mgmt/violence counseling
- **Transition Services:** legal, id assistance, benefits assistance, financial support/ emergency assistance, peer support, mentoring, housing, and (post-release only) transportation

Service Bundles



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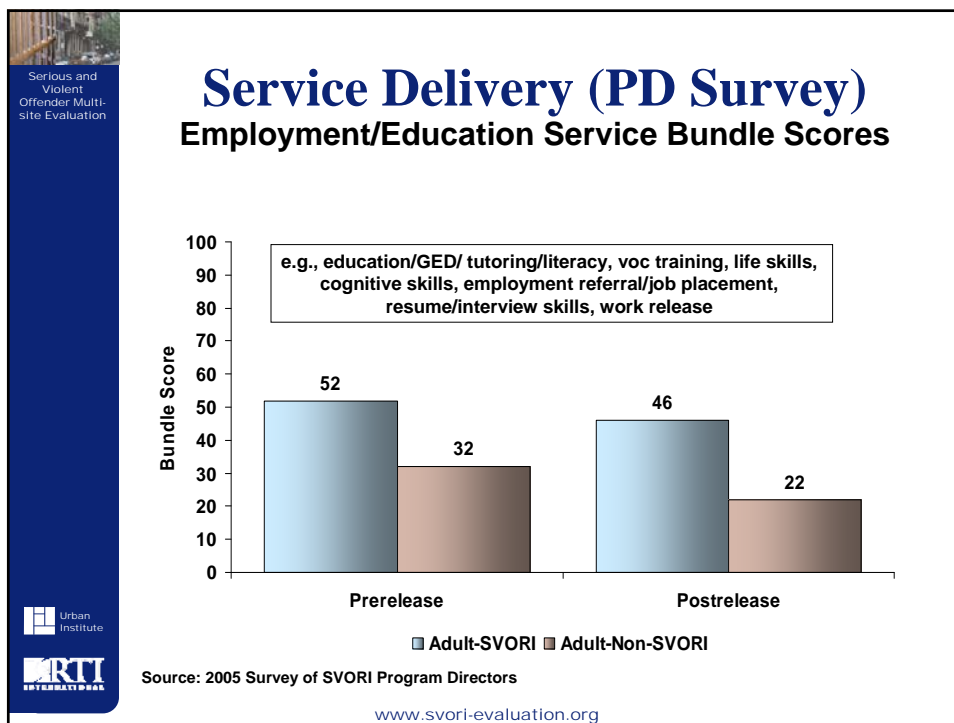
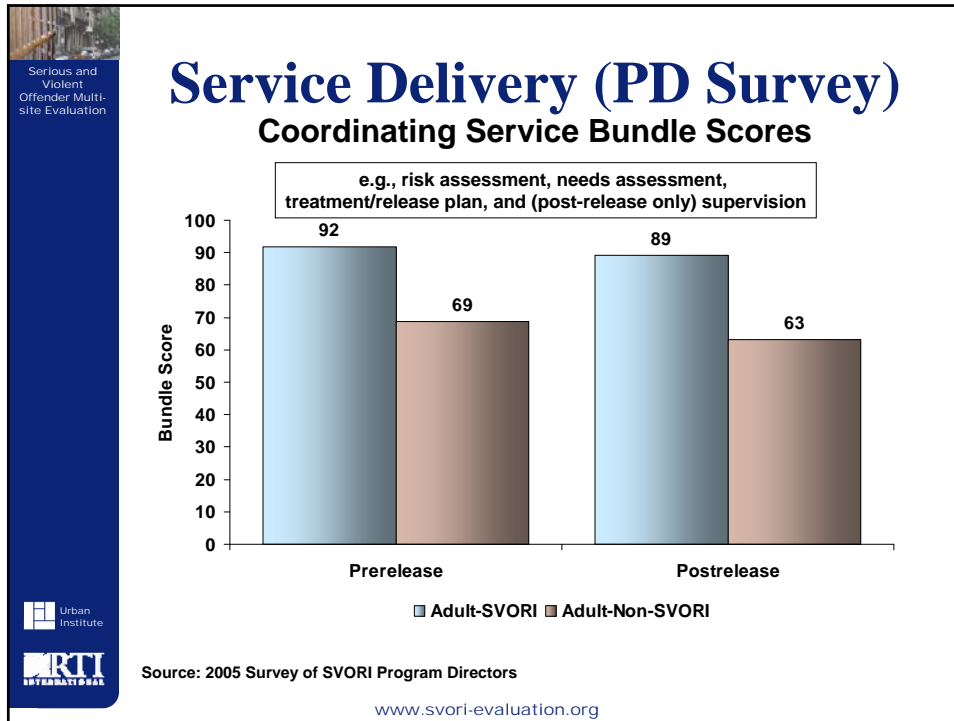
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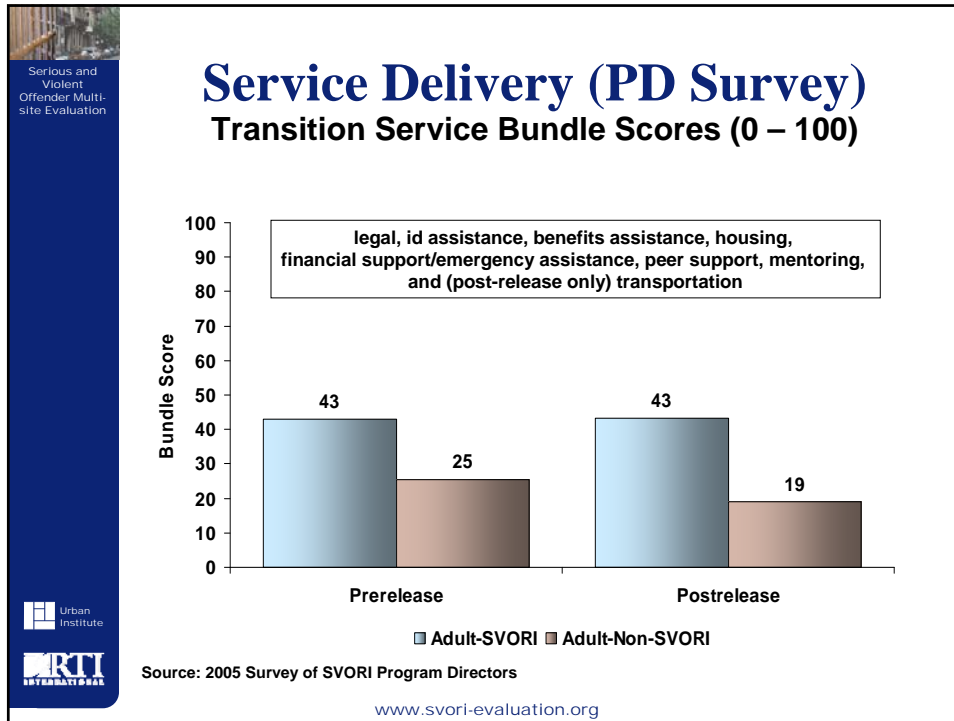
Service Bundles

- **Combined similar services/activities**
- **Generated by averaging the percentages who received (were to receive) each item in a bundle & multiplying by 100**
- **Example: Suppose we had an “assessment bundle” that consisted of (1) needs assessment and (2) risk assessment**
 - **If 60% received the needs assessment & 100% received the risk assessment, the assessment bundle score would be 80:**
$$(.6 + 1.0)/2 = 0.8 * 100 = 80$$

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Implementation

- SVORI funds resulted in the development of local programs that provided an increase in programs and services for participants...according to the SVORI Program Directors
- Our impact site respondents confirmed more services for those participating in programs...

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Many Programs & Services

- **Coordination & Supervision:** needs assessment, case manager, treatment/release plan or help reintegrating, and (post-release only) supervision
- **Employment/Education/Skills Building:** education/vocational training, employment services, life skills, money management, personal relationships, change criminal behavior attitudes
- **Health Services:** medical, dental, AOD tx, mental health tx, anger management, abuse victim support group
- **Transition Services:** legal, financial, health care, mentoring, employment documents, housing, transportation, driver's license, clothes/food banks, (prerelease only) program/class to prepare for release

Service Bundles

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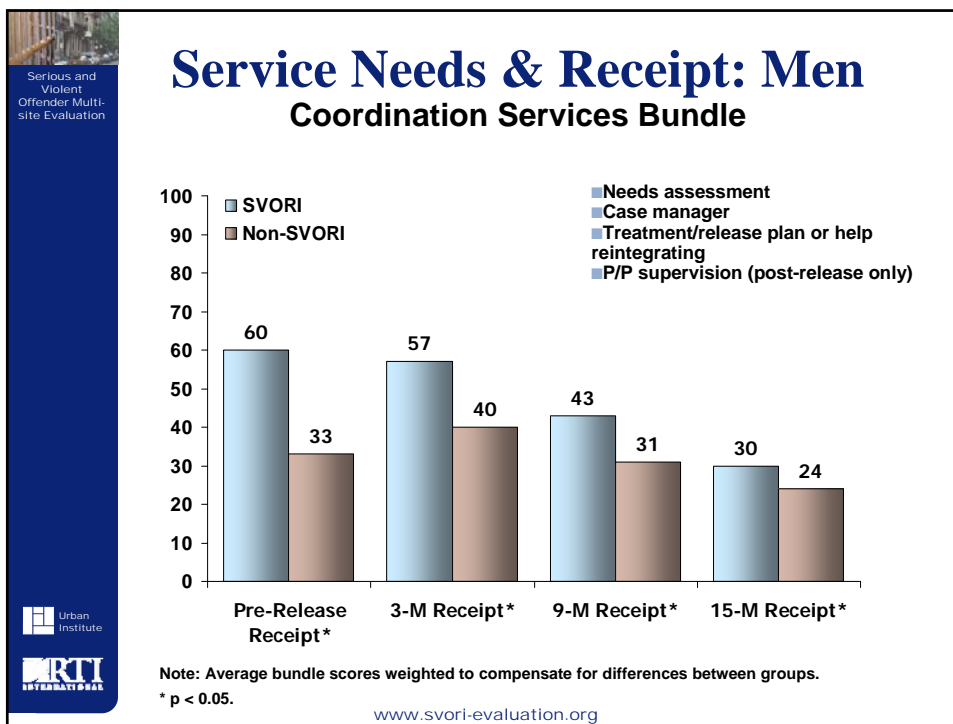
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Coordination Services Receipt Men

Received	Prerelease		3M Post	
	S	NS	S	NS
	N=863	N=834	N=529	N=455
Reentry Plan?	57%*	25%	n/a	n/a
Met w/anyone re: release/reintegration?	66%*	31%	46%*	22%
Needs assessment for release?	49%*	23%	n/a	n/a
Needs assessment?	63%*	46%	44%*	18%*
Met with case manager?	66%*	41%	58%*	34%

Note: Average bundle scores weighted to compensate for differences between groups.
* p < 0.05.

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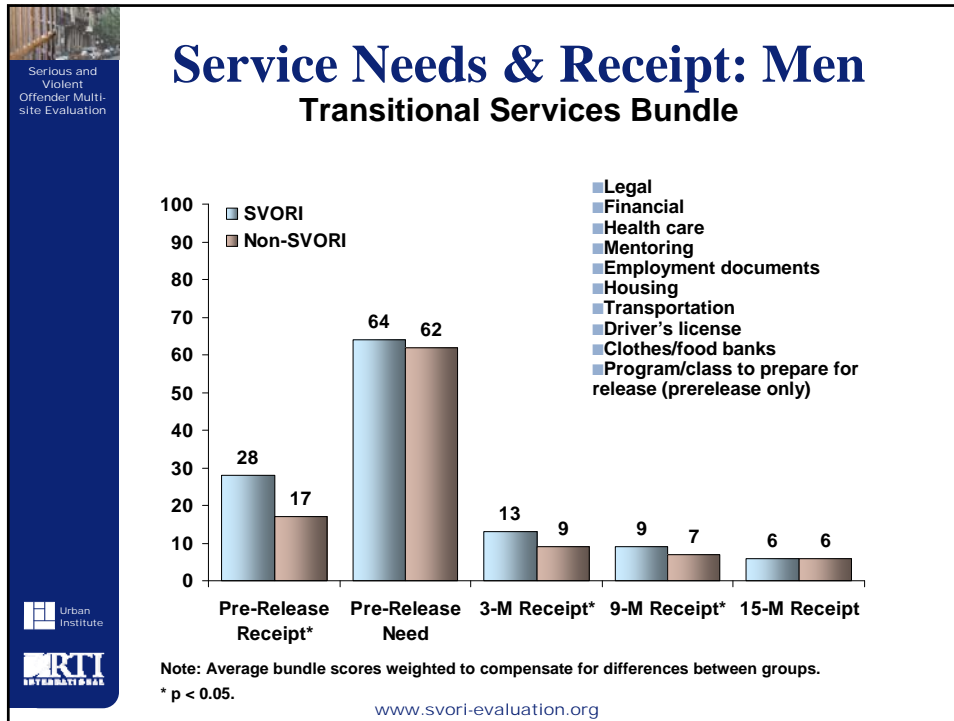


Selected Transition Services Receipt: Men

Received	Prerelease		3M Post	
	S	NS	S	NS
	N=863	N=834	N=529	N=455
Programs for release?	75%*	52%	n/a	n/a
Help obtaining job docs?	41%*	26%	25%*	16%
Help finding place to live?	28%*	13%	12%	11%
Help getting driver's license?	22%*	8%	12%*	7%
Mentoring?	19%*	8%	14%*	4%
Transportation?	19%*	12%	15%	12%
Public health care access?	13%*	9%	11%	8%

Note: Average bundle scores weighted to compensate for differences between groups.
* p < 0.05.

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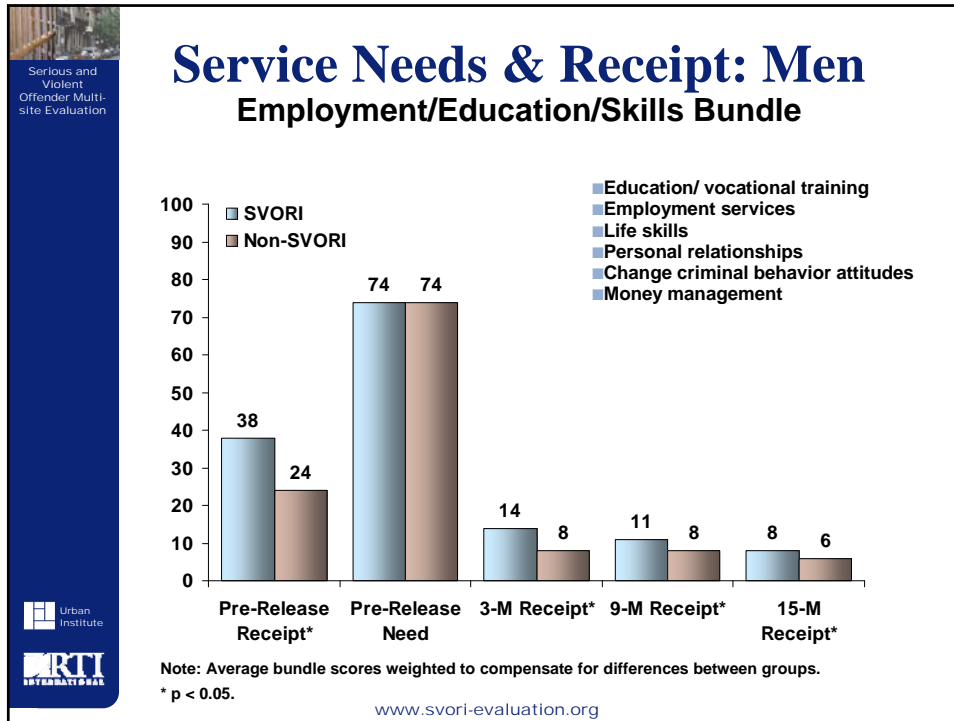


Pre-release Employment/Education/ Skills Building Services: Men

Received	Prerelease*		3M Post*	
	S	NS	S	NS
	N=863	N=834	N=529	N=455
Any E/E/SB Service?	79%*	69%	50%*	31%
Any Employment Service?	37%*	20%	34%*	20%
Any Educational Service?	51%*	44%	11%	8%
Money Management?	23%*	8%	5%*	2%
Other Life Skills?	42%*	21%	11%*	5%
Asst w/ Personal Relationships?	25%*	17%	7%*	4%
Trng Change Criminal Attitudes?	51%*	36%	18%*	10%

Note: Average bundle scores weighted to compensate for differences between groups.
* p < 0.05.

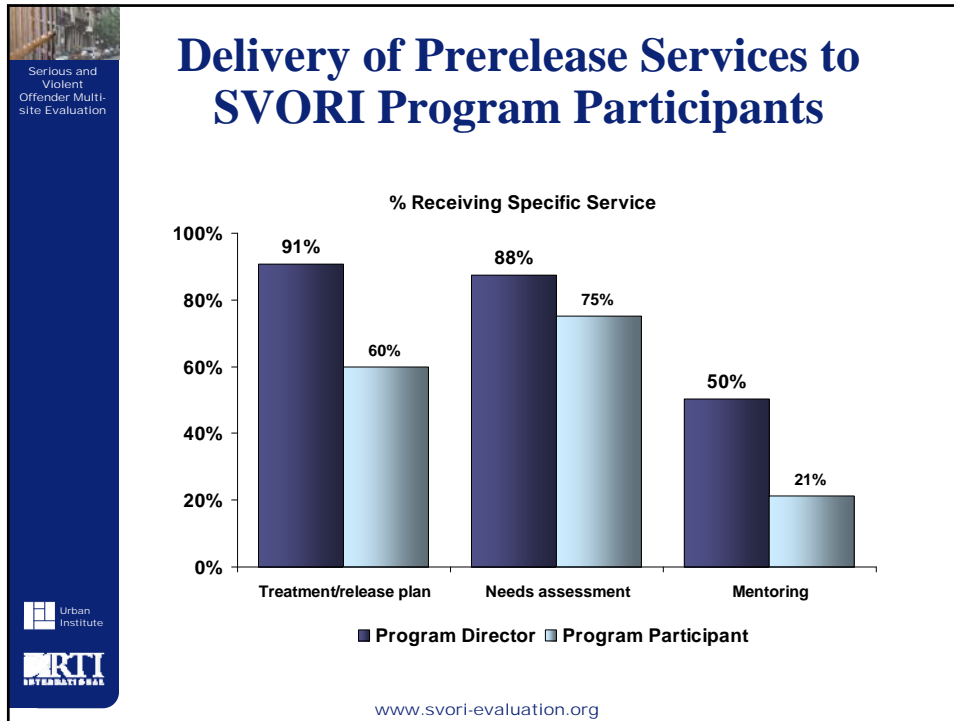
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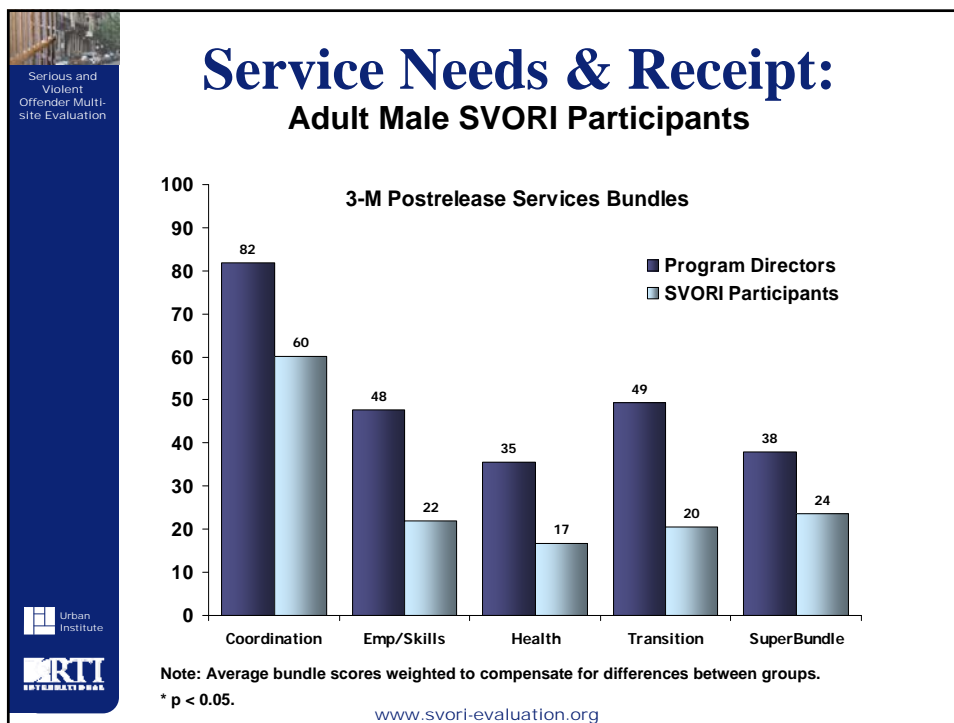
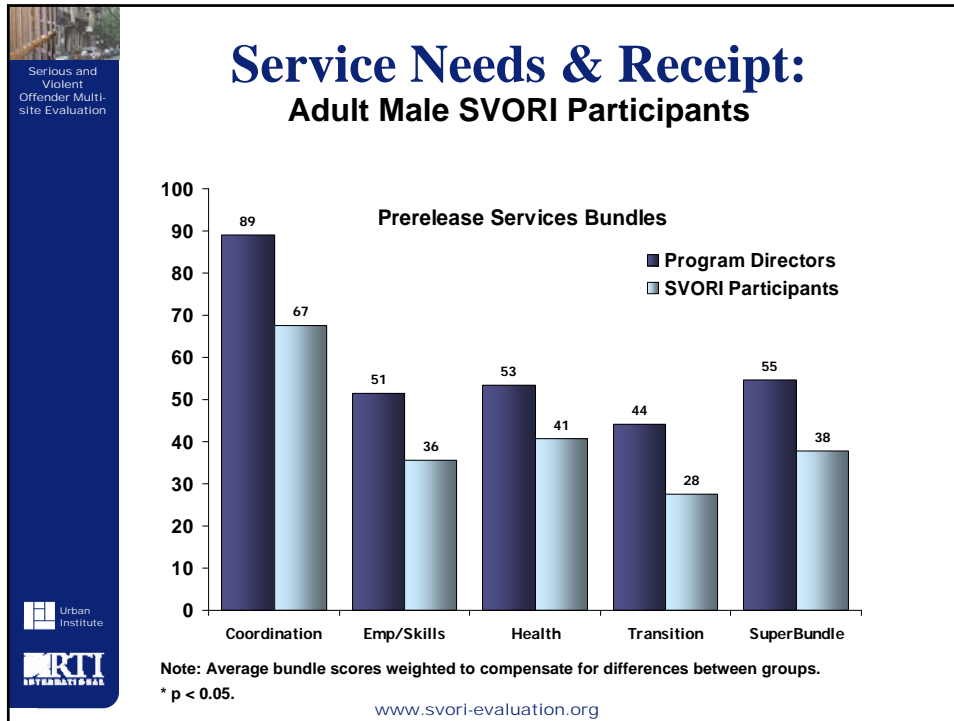
Implementation


- SVORI funds resulted in the development of local programs that provided an increase in programs and services for participants...according to the SVORI Program Directors
- Our impact site respondents confirmed more services for those participating in programs...but at levels substantially below those reported by the Program Directors

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- ### Focusing on a Reduced Set of Programs & Services
- **Employment/Education/Skills Building:** education/vocational training, employment services, life skills, money management, personal relationships, change criminal behavior attitudes
 - **Transition Services:** legal, financial, health care, mentoring, employment documents, housing, transportation, driver's license, clothes/food banks, (prerelease only) program/class to prepare for release
 - **Health Services:** medical, dental, AOD tx, mental health tx, anger management, abuse victim support group
 - **Coordination & Supervision:** needs assessment, treatment/release plan or help reintegrating
- Service Bundles**
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Implementation

- SVORI funds resulted in the development of local programs that provided an increase in programs and services for participants...according to the SVORI Program Directors
- Our impact site respondents confirmed more services for those participating in programs...but at levels substantially below those reported by the Program Directors
- Self-reported need was similar across sites...self-reported service receipt varied

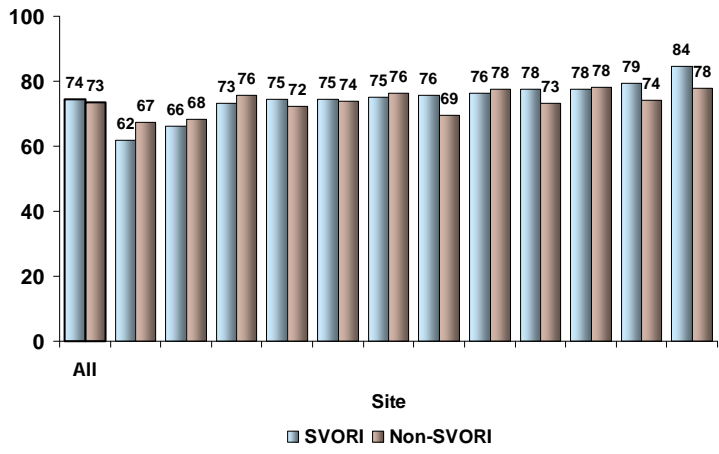
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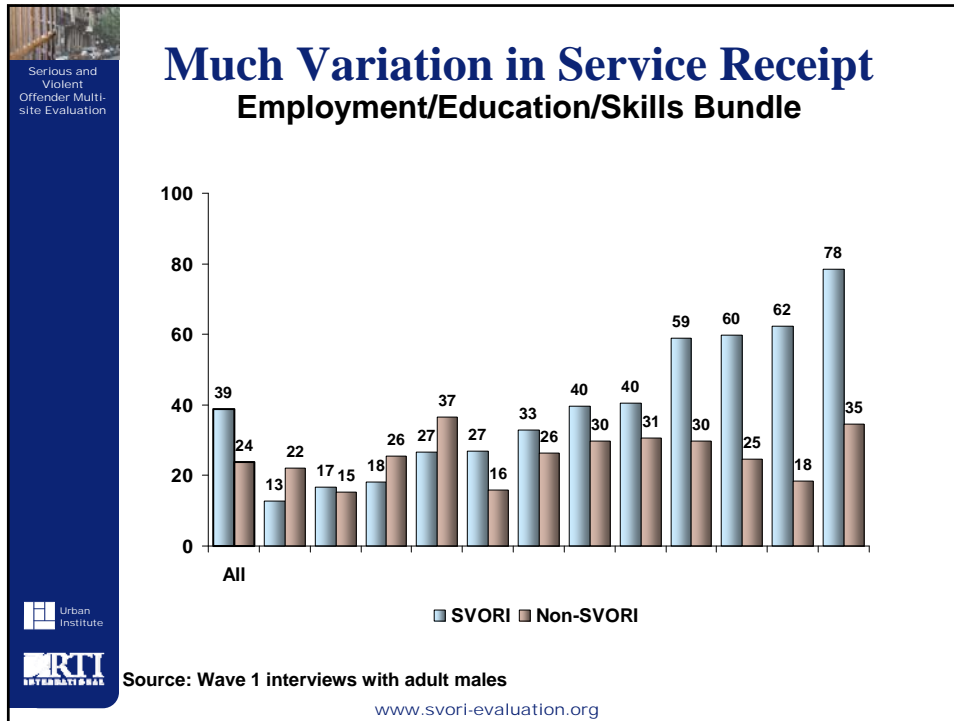
Little Site Variation in Needs Employment/Education/Skills Bundle



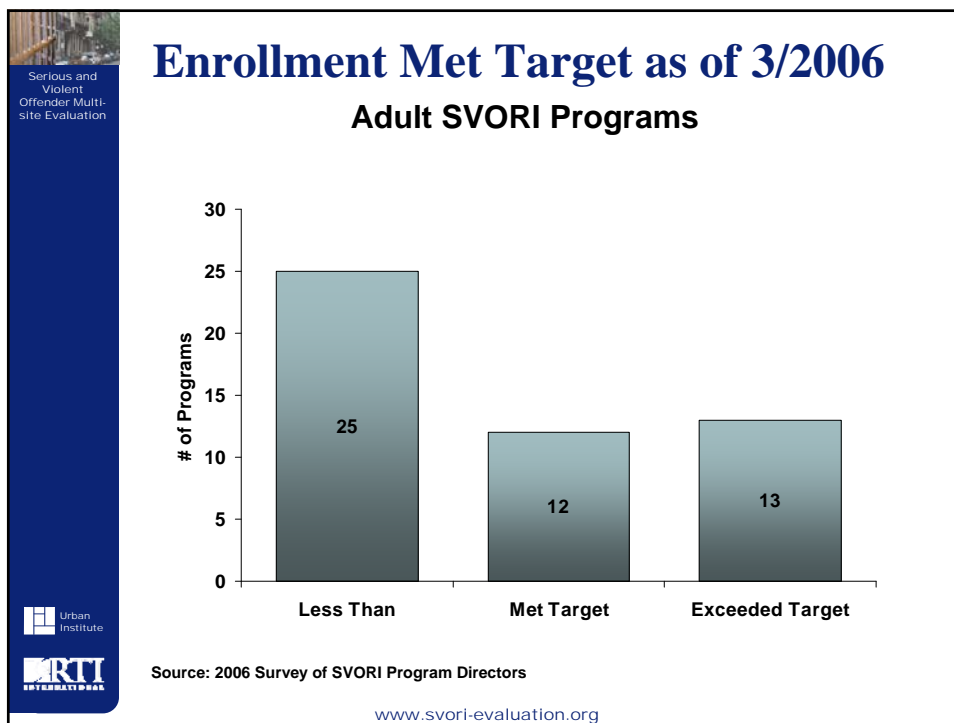
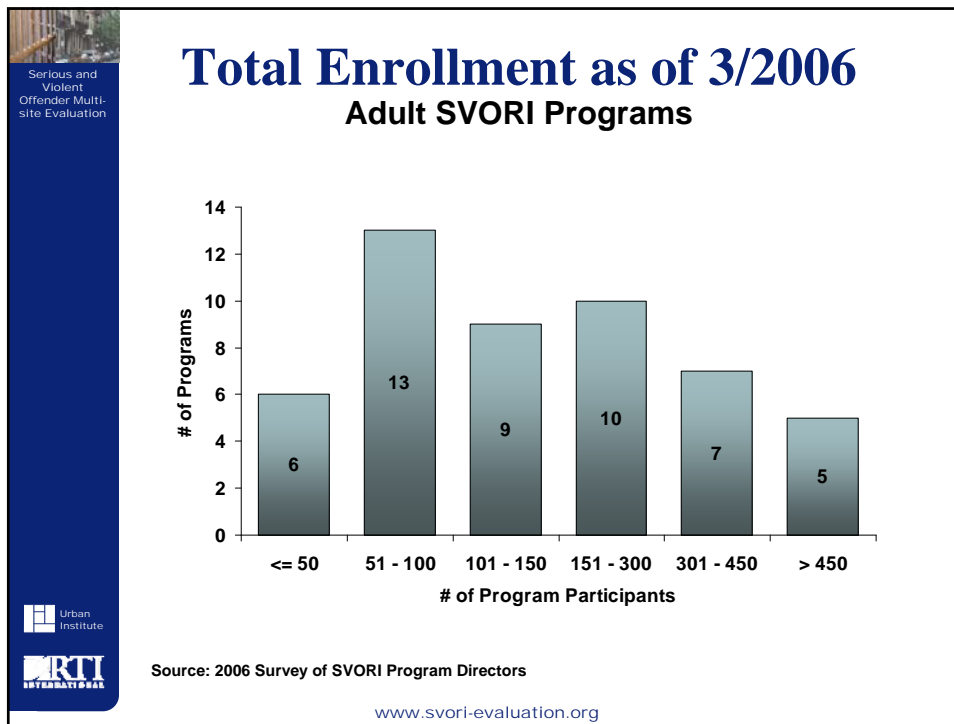
Category	SVORI	Non-SVORI
All	74	73
Site 1	62	67
Site 2	66	68
Site 3	73	76
Site 4	75	72
Site 5	75	74
Site 6	75	76
Site 7	76	69
Site 8	76	78
Site 9	78	73
Site 10	78	78
Site 11	79	74
Site 12	84	78

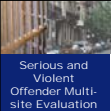
Source: Wave 1 interviews with adult males

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- ### More on Implementation
- SVORI funds resulted in the development of local programs that provided an increase in programs and services for participants
 - Many programs had difficulty meeting enrollment targets
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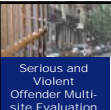


Implementation

- **SVORI funds resulted in the development of local programs that provided an increase in programs and services for participants**
- **Many programs had difficulty meeting enrollment targets**
- **SVORI funds increased collaboration among state and local agencies and organizations**





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SVORI Impact on Collaboration

- **Almost all Program Directors rated inter-agency collaboration very high and felt that SVORI improved inter-agency collaboration**
- **Almost all Program Directors felt that organizational climate within grantee agency & the community was favorable towards reentry and SVORI**
- **Program Directors reported highest support for SVORI from top administrators, supervisors, and line staff at post-release supervision agency and top administrators and supervisors at pre-release supervision agency**
- **Program Directors reported lowest support from line staff at pre-release facilities and members of the community**

Source: 2006 Survey of SVORI Program Directors



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Implementation Takeaways

- Measure what you are providing
 - SVORI programs provided more services to program participants that “treatment as usual”
 - PDs said services were provided to greater percentages of participants than the percentages of participants who reported receiving services
 - Although SVORI participants were more likely to report receiving programs/services than non-participants, levels were far less than 100%
- Develop plans to identify participants
 - Many programs had difficulty meeting enrollment targets
 - Don’t assume that “if you build it, they will come”, suggesting the need to focus on & develop plans to identify participants & not
- Collaboration increased as a result of SVORI


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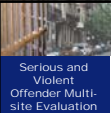
Impact: Did the SVORI Programs Make A Difference?




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SVORI Impact Evaluation Subjects

12 Adult Programs; 4 Juvenile Programs


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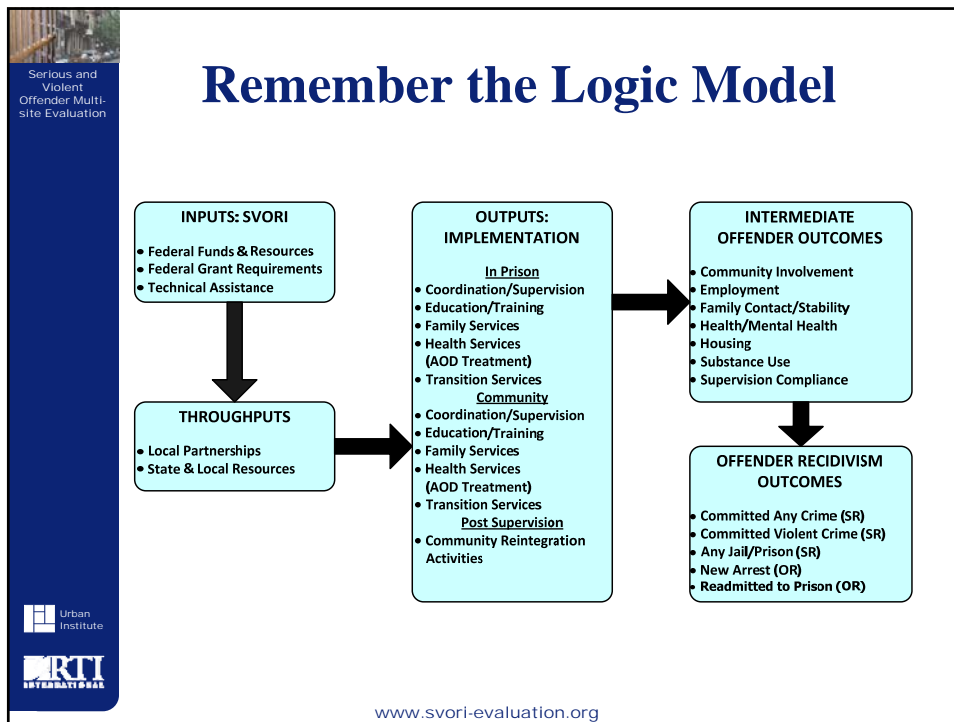


Sample Characteristics

30 Days Prior to Release

	Men	Women	Boys
Age at release	29	32	17
Black	54%	41%	55%
Hispanic	4%	6%	20%
Currently married/steady relationship	40%	48%	43%
Children	63%	83%	9%
HS/GED	60%	62%	17%
Employed 6 m prior prison	66%	53%	38%
Supported self w/ job 6 m prior prison	61%	48%	29%
Age 1 st arrest (years)	16	19	13
Prior arrests (number)	14	12	7
Person/violent crime (current)	41%	29%	46%
Lifetime illicit drug use	95%	94%	88%
AOD/MH treatment prior prison	51%	73%	43%

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Did SVORI Work? Approach



- Overall, our SVORI and non-SVORI groups (adult males) are very similar although there are a few differences
- Propensity score models were estimated to address observable differences in SVORI & Non-SVORI with respect to assignment to SVORI
- Propensity score weighted models were estimated to determine effect of SVORI participation on outcomes

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Post-Release Employment Outcomes: Men



	3M		9M		15M	
	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS
	N=529	N=455	N=565	N=470	N=582	N=531
Currently support self with job?	64%*	59%	68%	68%	71%**	60%
Worked each month since last interview?	38%	39%	43%	44%	44%	42%
Receives formal pay?	84%**	74%	80%	77%	78%	74%
Current/most recent job has benefits?	47%**	39%	53%**	42%	52%**	44%

* Difference significant at p < 0.10
**Difference significant at p < 0.05

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Post-Release Substance Use Outcomes: Men

	3M		9M		15M	
	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS
	N=529	N=455	N=565	N=470	N=582	N=531
No drug use past 30 days (SR)	79%	77%	69%**	62%	66%	62%
No drug use past 30 days except marijuana (SR)	88%	89%	81%	79%	82%	80%
No drug use since last interview (SR); no + UA	51%	49%	n/a	n/a	41%*	35%

* Difference significant at p < 0.10
**Difference significant at p < 0.05

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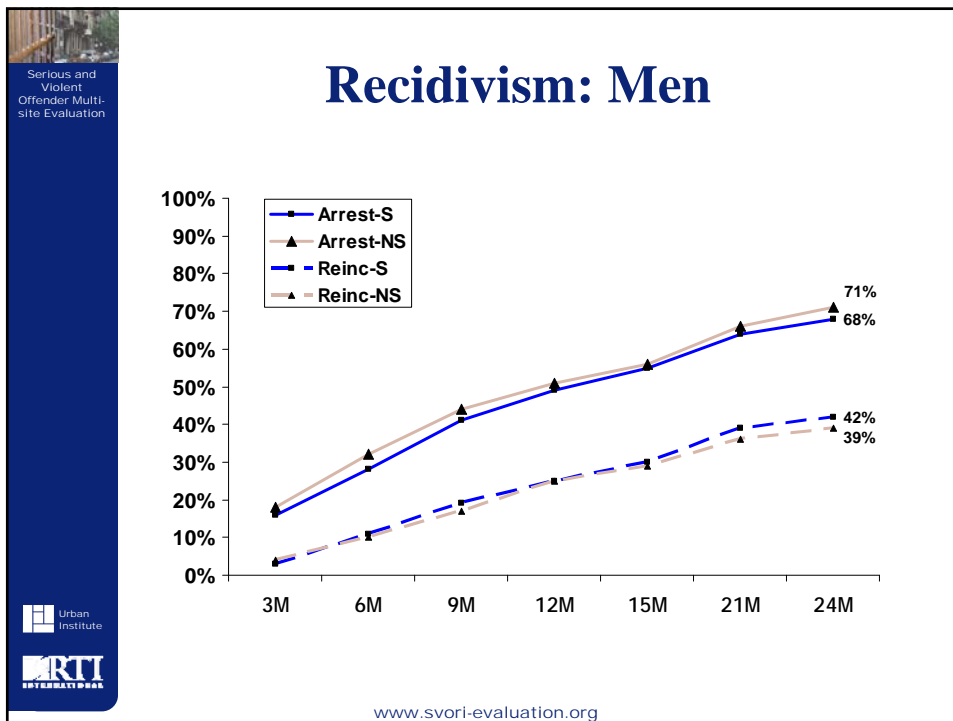
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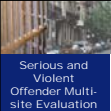
Post-Release Recidivism Outcomes: Men

	3M		9M		15M	
	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS
	N=529	N=455	N=565	N=470	N=582	N=531
No crimes since last interview (SR)	79%**	73%	64%	59%	66%	61%
Complied with conditions of supervision	78%	78%	69%	70%	66%**	57%
Not booked or reincarcerated since last interview (SR)	82%	81%	59%	59%	51%	49%

* Difference significant at $p < 0.10$
 **Difference significant at $p < 0.05$



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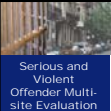


Conclusions

- **SVORI participants were more likely to report receiving services pre and post release—if at levels far below 100%**
- **From release up through 15 months post release, SVORI participants had better results—if only moderately so—across a wide range of outcomes**
- **Official measures of recidivism show few differences in post-release arrest or incarceration**





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Remaining Questions

- **Implementation & Program Fidelity**
 - **We obtained self-report indicators of the receipt of specific types of services**
 - **We were unable to examine the quality or quantity of services provided**
- **Subgroup Analysis**
 - **Are there sites that produced better outcomes?**
 - **Are there types of individuals for whom reentry programming produced better outcomes?**



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Next Steps

- **New NIJ award beginning January 1, 2010: What works? For Whom? For How Long? At What Cost?**
 - **Examine the relationship among individual characteristics, treatment needs, service receipt & outcomes (15 months post release for interview data; ~2.75 years for rearrest & reincarceration data)**
 - **Examine the relationship among individual characteristics, treatment needs, service receipt & long-term (~5 years) mortality & recidivism outcomes**

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Lessons for the Field

- **Modest funding focused on improving coordination and developing reentry strategy can result in substantial increases in services**
- **Improvement in services leads to modest gains in outcomes**
- **Incomplete implementation of service components may explain modest outcomes**
- **Critical component: careful, systematic assessment of needs and matching of services**
- **Continuity of service delivery!**
- **SVORI was first major attempt to develop and deliver systematic reentry strategies**

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