

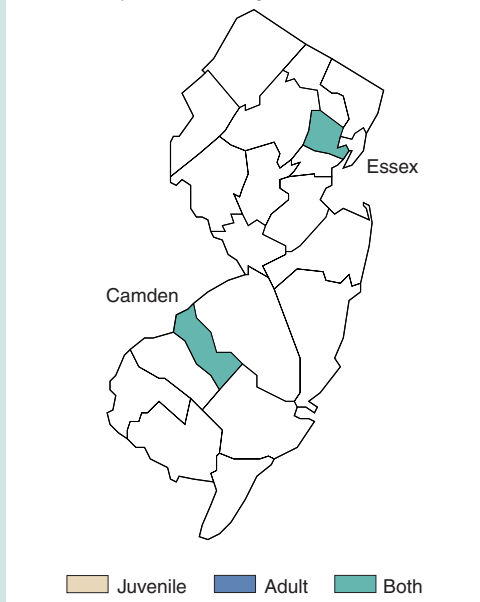
NEW JERSEY

SVORI Grantees in New Jersey

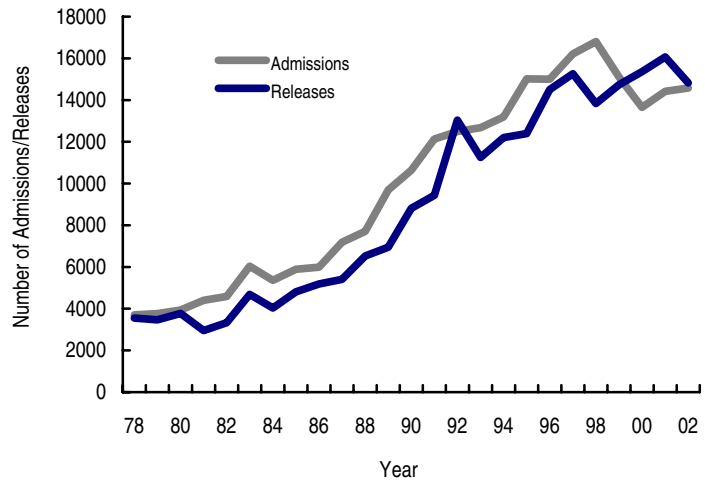
- New Jersey State Parole Board (NJ SPB)

New Jersey has one SVORI grantee with two administratively separate programs: one focused on adults returning to Camden and Essex counties and one focused on juveniles returning to Camden and Essex counties (depicted in the map below). The line chart below provides BJS statistics on adult prison admission and release trends in New Jersey over a 24-year period.

New Jersey SVORI Target Areas



New Jersey Adult Prison Admissions and Releases, 1978–2002



Source: Correctional Populations in the U.S. (BJS, 2002) and Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2002 and 2003 (Harrison and Karberg, 2004)

SVORI Grantee: New Jersey State Parole Board

SVORI website	None
Data management system	SVORI-specific database is being developed by the local evaluator
Local evaluation planned	Researchers from Rutgers University are conducting the local evaluation
Program names	NJ State Parole Board—Adults NJ State Parole Board—Young Adults

NJ SPB: PROGRAM 1

Adults

TARGET POPULATION

Population type	Male and female adults
Number of targeted prisoners	51–100
Inclusion criteria	Ages 18–35, a sentence of 5–20 years, released on parole between October 2003 and July 2004, and a criminal record that includes at least one crime against a person or multiple offenses and probation/parole violations
Exclusion criteria	Offenders in special treatment centers, those who have committed only one crime against property, or those who have committed only drug crimes
Pre-release facilities	All State prisons
Post-release locations	Camden and Essex counties
Participation	Mandatory; special condition of parole
Legal release status	All NJ Adult SVORI participants are under parole supervision

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND SERVICES

Steering committee	Greater Newark Safer Cities Initiative (Essex County) and Camden County Advisory Board
Post-release reentry authority	NJ State Parole Board
Number of phases	2

Phase 1: Institutionally Based Programs

Duration: 9 months

Assessments: LSI-R

Components/services offered within phase:

- Assessment of risk
- Transfer to facility that provides needed services, if necessary
- Development of individualized reentry plan
- Case management provided by individual on multi-disciplinary transition team
- Faith-based community mentors to enter institutions to help prepare offenders for release
- Comprehensive wraparound services, including mental health counseling, medical/dental services, employment skills/vocational training, education, housing assistance, parenting skills training, domestic violence services, life skills training, anger management, faith-based services, a Mutual Assistance Program (inpatient drug program), and SVORI-specific curricula

Coordination of services:

- Institutional parole counselors and representatives from parole and community agencies (for substance abuse, mental health, etc.) work together on multi-disciplinary teams. Case manager is designated on a rotating case-by-case basis to give each agency representative a chance to take the lead on case management.

Phase 2: Community Transition and Long-Term Support

Duration: 21 months (October 2003–June 2005)

Assessments: No specific assessments used in this phase

Components/services offered within phase:

- Parole supervision
- Multi-disciplinary transition team in each county works with offenders to identify needs and refer them to services
- Mandatory accountability sessions held at local churches for offenders, service providers, family members, and parole officers to discuss offenders’ progress and address concerns
- Community wellness meetings held to address community concerns about parole
- Specific targeted services include, as needed, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, employment skills/vocational training, education, housing assistance, parenting skills training, domestic violence services, life skills training, anger management, and faith-based services

Coordination of services:

- Multi-disciplinary transition teams meet to discuss cases in which they identify needed services and make referrals. Accountability sessions are chaired by members of the Parole Board and include offenders, their families, service providers, and parole officers.

CHANGES EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF SVORI FUNDING

System-level changes

- Partnerships at state and local level forged to fill gaps and enhance services available to offenders
- Improved discharge planning with goal of providing seamless method of offender discharge from commitment to release
- Expansion of existing service systems to meet offenders’ housing, mental health (co-occurring disorders), faith/mentoring, and employment needs
- Provision of needed institutional programs and services

Individual-level changes

- Contact with community-based service providers while still in prison
- Multi-disciplinary transition team to work with offender to identify needs and connect to services
- Development of an individualized reentry plan
- Direct participation of offender in the reentry planning process
- Inclusion of family members in the planning process
- Accountability sessions

TARGET POPULATION

Population type	Male and female juveniles
Number of targeted prisoners	151–200
Inclusion criteria	Ages 14–23; either on parole, post-incarceration supervision, or have judicial restriction dates during the grant period; and have an ICCD score of 9 or greater (Institutional Classification)
Exclusion criteria	Juveniles who are on parole only for a month or less during the program recruitment period
Pre-release facilities	All State juvenile correctional facilities
Post-release locations	Camden and Essex counties
Participation	A special condition of parole
Legal release status	All SVORI Candidates are supervised by their Regional Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND SERVICES

Steering committee	The Steering Committee comprises, to date, delegates from the Department of Labor, Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Health Services, Department of Human Services—Division of Mental Health, the Division of Addiction Services, the NJ State Parole Board, the NJ Department of Corrections, the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, and the NJ Supported Housing and Special Needs—NJ Housing Mortgage and Finance Agency. Agencies will be added to meet the needs of the SVORI population.
Post-release reentry authority	New Jersey State Parole Board, Community Programs Unit, the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission’s Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services, Community MDT(s) from Camden and Essex Counties
Number of phases	2

Phase 1: Institutionally Based Programs

Duration: 10–12 months

Assessments: ICCD score and SVORI criteria are used to identify participants

Components/services offered within phase:

- Parole supervision
- Multi-disciplinary reentry and transition team consisting of the institutional reentry team, family members, community agency representatives, case managers from the Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services, and Juvenile Unit Hearing Officers from the State Parole Board
- Juvenile Parole case manager works with the institutional social workers to oversee provision of services and track participants progress
- Transitional school programs in both Camden and Essex counties prepare for returning SVORI candidates and act as port of entry for all youth returning to these counties

- Monthly reviews are held at the secure facilities and provide a forum for participants, institutional staff, family members, case managers and parole officers to assess progress, address concerns, and hold both participants and programs accountable
- Specific targeted services inside the secure facilities include, as needed, substance abuse and mental health treatment, and/or counseling, employment skills/vocational training, education, parenting skills training, life skills training, domestic violence services, anger management, and faith-based services

Coordination of services:

- Monthly meetings are held to coordinate and monitor youth. The reentry and transitional multi-disciplinary teams made up of the institutional social workers, child study teams, mental health, substance abuse, education, family when available, and the regional parole case manager from the Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services.

Phase 2: Community Transition and Long-Term Support

Duration: 1–18 months

Assessments: Currently, the Commission administers its own risks/needs assessment, known as the Comprehensive Intake Assessment (CIA), and the YLSI is administered pre-release. It is expected that within the next 12 months the second half of the CIA (known as the CAP) will be used to identify risk and need and serve as a tool to help develop each individual's service plan.

Components/services offered within phase:

- Parole supervision
- Reentry and transitional multi-disciplinary team consisting of various community agency representatives, parole officers and case managers from the Office of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services, members of the State Parole Board, and family when available meet weekly for case reviews
- Case manager oversees provision of services, parole officer supervises and monitors youth

- Non-transitional school programs act as a point of entry for all youth returning home
- Mandatory accountability sessions (held at the regional parole office and chaired by Parole Board Juvenile Unit Hearing Officer) provide a forum for participants, service providers, family members, and parole officers to assess progress, address concerns, and hold participants, parole, and service providers accountable
- Specific targeted services include, as needed, substance abuse and mental health outpatient and residential treatment, individual and family counseling, employment skills/vocational training, education, housing assistance, parenting skills training, life skills training, domestic violence services, anger management, and faith-based services

Coordination of services:

- Case managers, parole officers, and members of the reentry and transitional multi-disciplinary teams monitor progress and track each SVORI youth returning home

CHANGES EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF SVORI FUNDING

System-level changes

- Renewed partnership of Juvenile Conference Committees (JCC), State Parole Board, and many State and local organizations and stakeholders
- Movement from fragmented pre-release system to highly structured, all-inclusive team approach
- Streamlined, centralized internal JCC data collection and dissemination processes
- Improved risk and needs assessment protocol
- Shared agency protocols
- Growing interest in reentry with potential of statewide movement to address the needs and risks of youthful offenders
- Regular feedback mechanism among agencies to ensure collaboration is working
- Neutral facilitator (the Police Institute of Rutgers University) to assist JCC in improving reentry process

Individual-level changes

- Multi-disciplinary reentry and transition team includes institutional staff, juvenile parole staff, and community agencies
- Connection to service providers prior to release
- Family participation in planning process prior to release
- Priority given to offenders not participating in institutional services
- Implementation of an overarching case management system bridging institution, transition and community services, and programs through cross-training and seminars