

Multi-site Evaluation of the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative

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1. SVORI Program Overview

- 69 grantees funded in 2003 to develop programs to improve criminal justice, employment, education, health, and housing outcomes for released prisoners
- 45 adult programs; 37 juvenile programs; 7 adult and juvenile programs
- 71 male and female programs; 16 male-only programs; 1 female-only program

2. Implementation Assessment

• Methods

- Program Director surveys completed in 2004, 2005, and 2006
- Site visits in 2004 and 2005 to 16 evaluation impact sites (14 states)
- Currently conducting an additional short survey focused exclusively on sustainability

• Findings

- Most programs were small and enrolled fewer participants than they expected
- Most programs used SVORI funds to fill service gaps or expand existing programs (74%) as opposed to starting an entirely new reentry program
- Most programs focused on the general "serious and violent population" (85%) and attempted to meet all needs rather than providing a specific set of services (90%)
- Most programs targeted specific institutions pre-release (64%) and specific communities post-release (86%) as opposed to covering all institutions or the entire state
- Among adult programs, the most common areas of focus were employment (42%) and community integration (27%)
- Among juvenile programs, the most common areas of focus were family (27%), community integration (27%), and employment (24%)
- The types and amounts of services varied widely across programs. According to the Program Directors:
 - SVORI participants were more likely to receive more programs/services than comparable non-participants
 - Service delivery was higher pre-release than post release
 - Differences in services between SVORI and comparison offenders were greater post release
- Most adult programs (94%) planned to continue at least some SVORI elements post grant, with 77% planning to expand their reentry programming
- Most adult programs (82%) reported other reentry initiatives underway in their states

3. Impact Evaluation

The impact evaluation is assessing the extent to which SVORI participation resulted in improvements in post-release self-sufficiency quality of life, health (including substance abuse), and criminality.

SVORI Multi-Site Evaluation

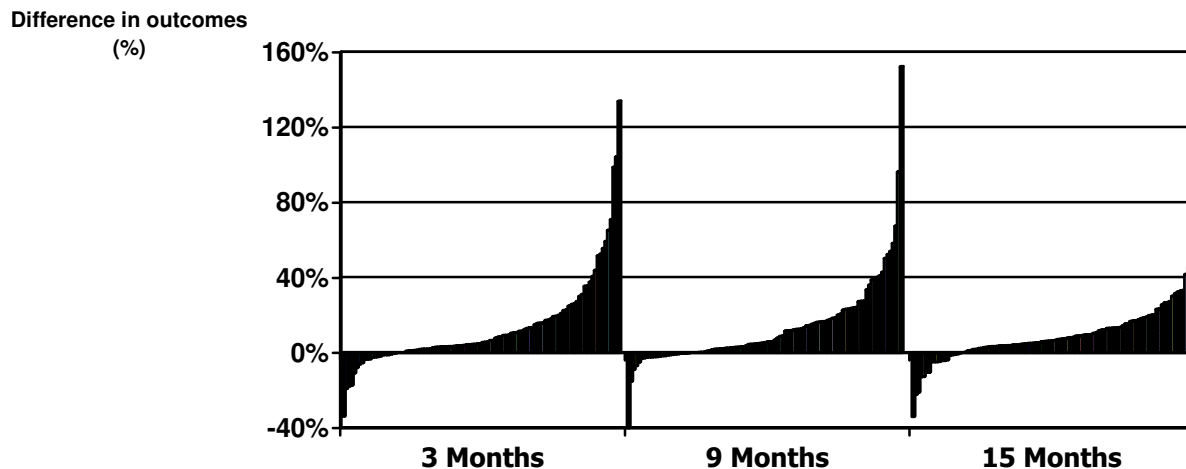
• Methods

- Interviews with adult males, adult females, and juvenile males prior to release and three times following release
 - 2,583 pre-release interviews (13% refusal rate)
 - 2,391 “usable interviews” (192 interviewees were not released)
 - At least one follow-up interview for 1,346 subjects (79%)
- Oral-swab drug testing conducted in conjunction with 3- and 15-month follow-ups
- Administrative data from appropriate state agencies

• Findings (adult males only)

- SVORI subjects were similar to comparisons on most important demographic and pre-incarceration measures
- SVORI subjects were similar to comparisons on many expressed needs
- SVORI participants reported receiving significantly more programs and services than those in the comparison group—although the levels of service receipt reported by both groups were, across nearly all service types, much smaller than self-reported need
- The following chart shows the percentage differences in more than 100 outcomes measured at each of the follow-up waves. Most of the effects are positive—suggesting better outcomes for SVORI participants. There are 23, 25, and 16 effects larger than 20% for the 3-, 9-, and 15-month results, respectively.

SVORI participants more likely than comparison subjects to have successful outcomes



4. Cost-Benefit/Cost-Effectiveness Study

- Five adult (IA, MD, OH, PA, SC) and 2 juvenile (FL, SC) impact evaluation programs
- Cost and service use data currently being collected

5. Dissemination

Results of the evaluation are being distributed through presentations at conferences, *Reentry Research in Action* products, journal articles, and monographs. These products, as well as results of the program director surveys, are available on the SVORI Multi-site Evaluation website: www.svori-evaluation.org.