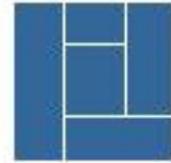




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*Guided Tour of the  
SVORI National Portrait*

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The Urban Institute

September 22, 2004

National Conference on Offender Reentry

Cleveland, Ohio

# Evaluation Overview

- **Implementation Assessment** will document implementation of SVORI, including targeted populations, program elements, and participating agencies
- **Impact Evaluation** will determine the extent to which SVORI improves access to services, improves employment and health outcomes, and reduces criminal behavior of returning criminals
- **Cost-Benefit Evaluation** will determine whether SVORI is cost effective
- **Dissemination** will produce useful products throughout the evaluation

# National Portrait Overview

- First in a series of publications that documents the work of the SVORI Multi-site Evaluation
- Final product of a preliminary assessment of all 69 sites funded under the SVORI
- Intended to engage and inform local SVORI programs, practitioners, policy makers, researchers, and the Federal partners
- The Portrait is available on the SVORI Multi-site Evaluation website ([www.svori-evaluation.org](http://www.svori-evaluation.org)) as a complete document and individual sections

# National Portrait Overview

- **Introduction and Context**
- **Evaluation Overview**
- **Program Summary/Overview**
- **Innovations**
- **Barriers and Challenges**
- **Detailed Activities by State**

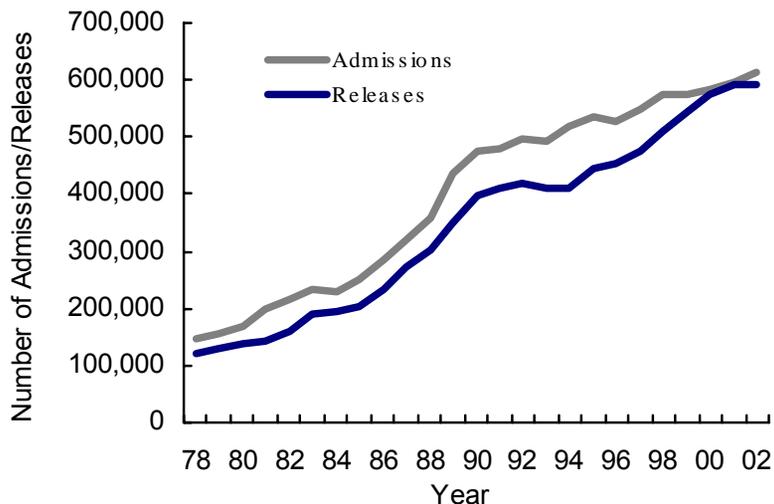
# Introduction and Context

**Introduction** describes the SVORI Initiative and provides the purpose of the National Portrait

## Why SVORI?

- ◆ Changes in sentencing and release policies
- ◆ Large increases in correctional costs
- ◆ Challenges faced by releasing prisoners

# Introduction and Context



## Context gives the rationale for SVORI

- ◆ More than 2.1 million prisoners in US prisons and jails
- ◆ Most (> 95%) will be released
- ◆ More than 650,000 released each year...450,000 or so to parole
- ◆ Adult parole population grew by nearly 21,000 in 2002 (↑ 2.8% since 2001)
- ◆ Most will be rearrested within three years

# SVORI Implementation Assessment Constructs

- **Program Organization & Operations**
- **Program Components**
- **Services**
- **Linkages/Collaboration**
- **System Reform**

# National Portrait Data Sources

Information in the National Portrait is based on data collected from all 69 SVORI grantees

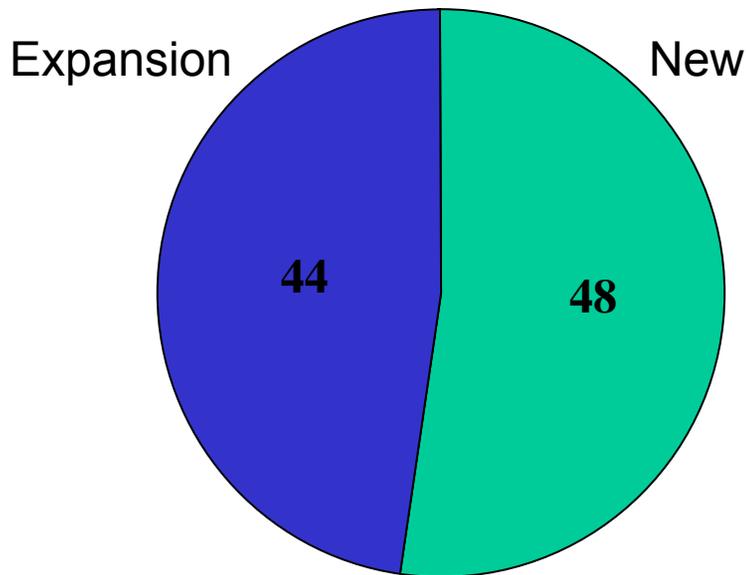
- ◆ Document review
- ◆ Semi-structured project director telephone interviews
- ◆ Follow-up telephone queries
- ◆ State summaries prepared for the *National Portrait* were sent to sites for review and confirmation

# Program Summary/Overview

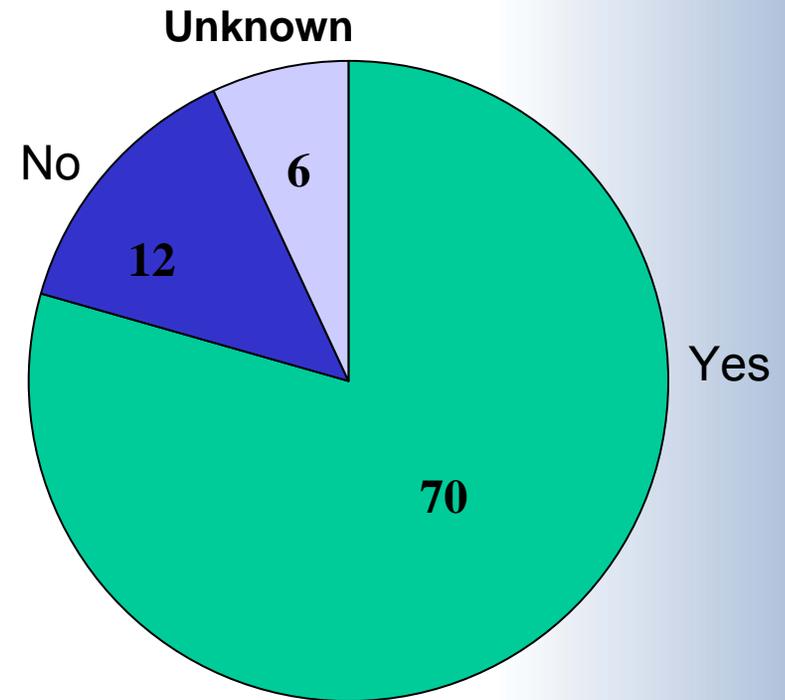
- 69 SVORI grantees representing all 50 states plus the US Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C.
- The 69 grantees operate 88 distinct programs
- Thirteen of the grantees are juvenile justice agencies, 45 grantees are adult correctional agencies, and 11 are other State agencies

# Most Programs Are New and Governed by a Steering Committee

## SVORI Program Type

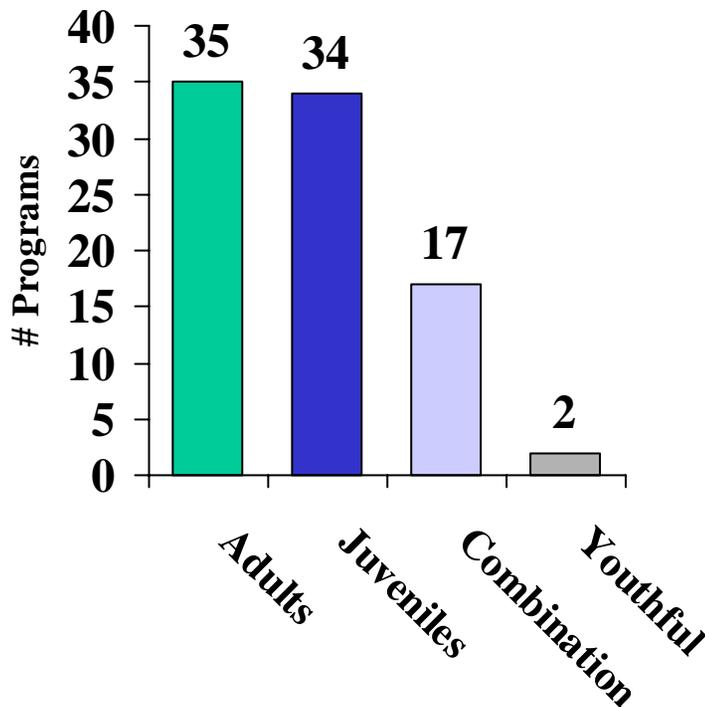


## Steering Committee

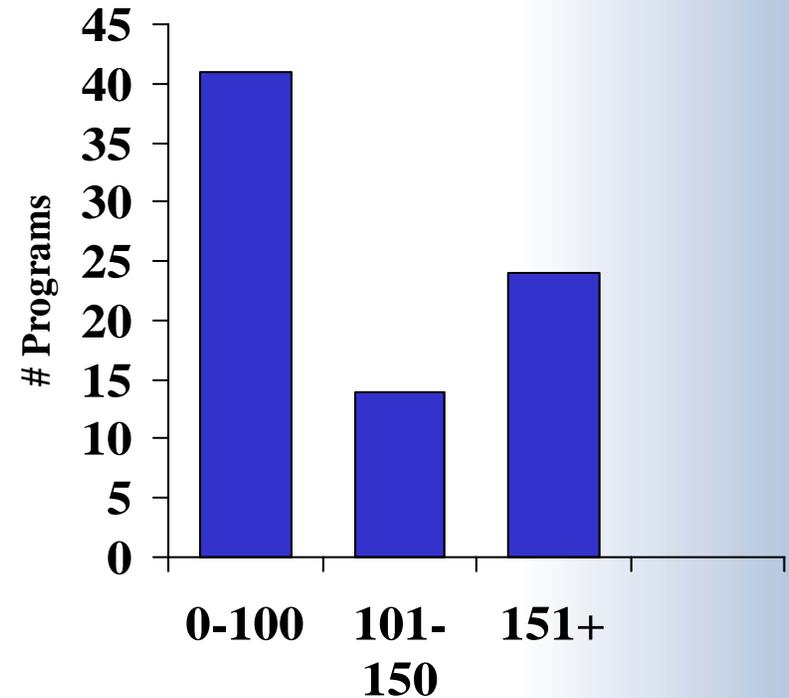


# Programs Are Targeting Both Adults and Juveniles and Most Programs Are Small

## Target Population



## Program Capacity



# Most Programs Are Inclusive

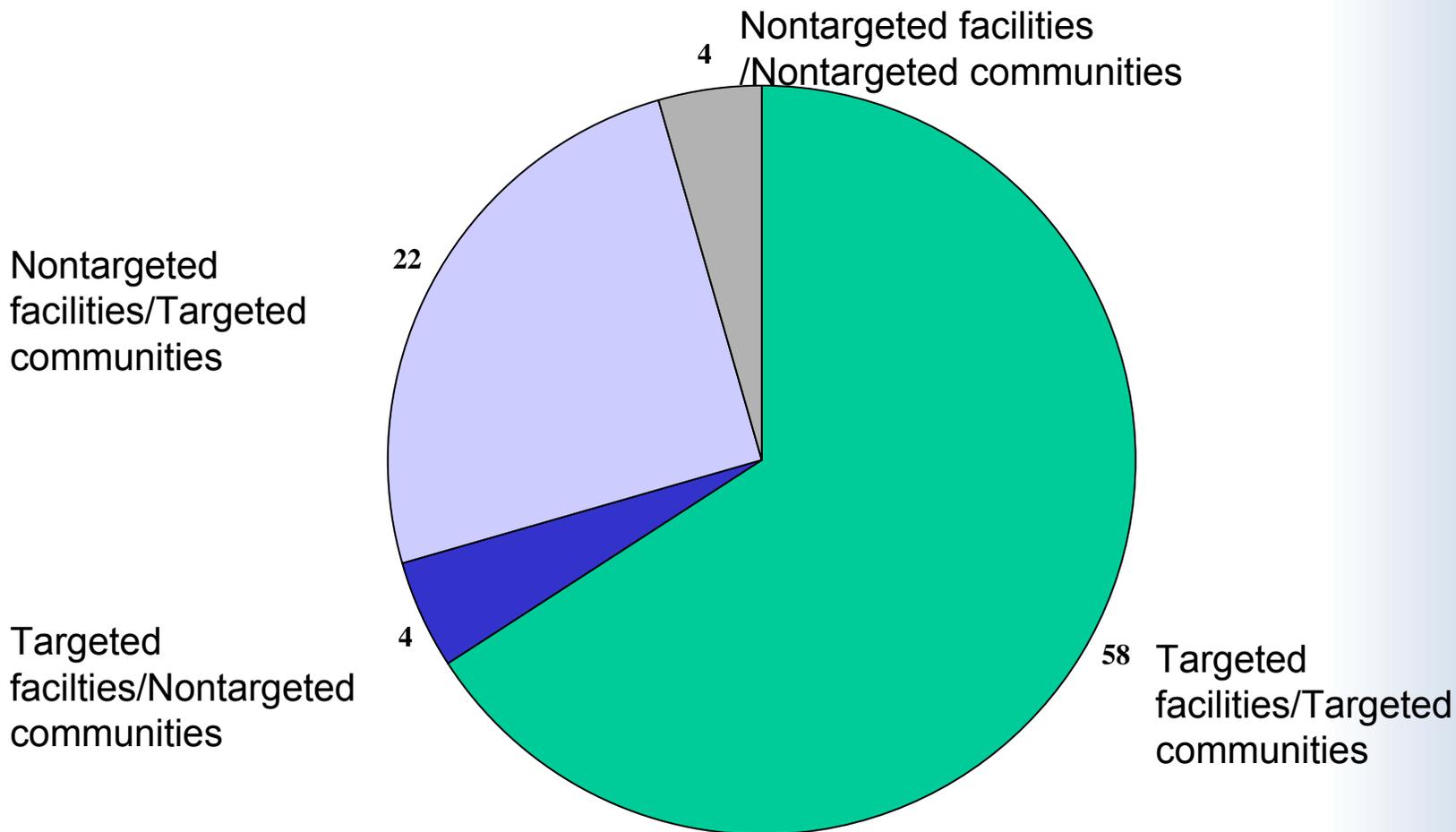
## ■ Some programs exclude certain populations

- ◆ Sex offenders (10 programs)
- ◆ Severely mentally ill (8)
- ◆ Sex offenders & severely mentally ill (10)
- ◆ Other (11)
- ◆ Unknown (1)
- ◆ None (48)

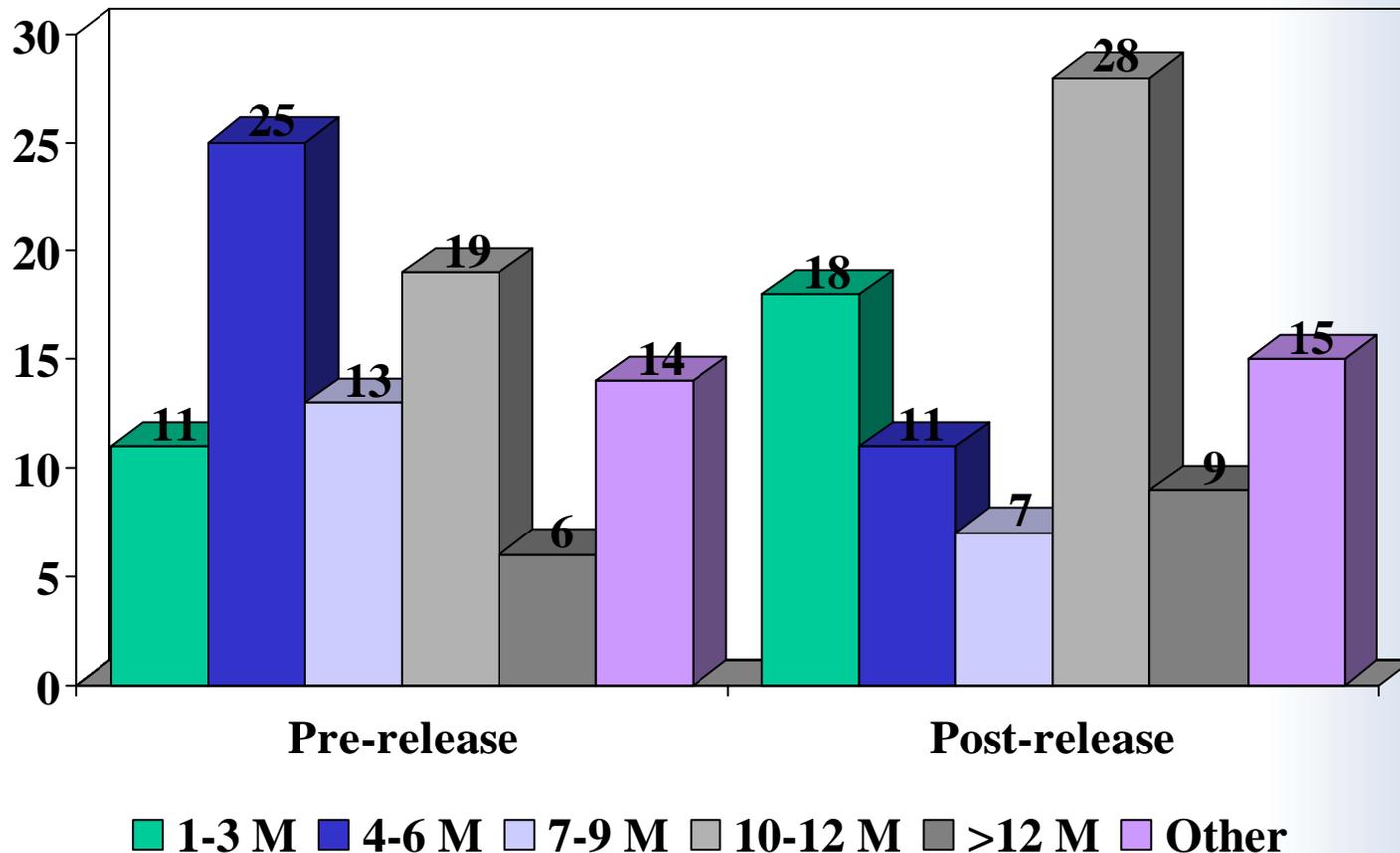
## ■ Others are targeting special populations

- ◆ Multiple special needs populations (16)
- ◆ Substance abusers (4)
- ◆ Mentally ill (1)
- ◆ Co-occurring diagnosis (1)
- ◆ None (66)

# Most Programs Are Targeting Selected Facilities and Communities



# Programs Vary in Length of Pre-release and Post-release Phases



# Most Programs Plan A Comprehensive Approach

Component	Pre	Post
<b>Assessment</b> (risk and/or needs)	97%	89%
<b>Plan development</b> (case management, treatment plan, release plan)	95%	94%
<b>Substance abuse treatment</b>	93%	97%
<b>Mental health counseling</b>	91%	95%
<b>Medical and/or dental</b>	81%	68%
<b>Employment and/or education training</b>	95%	97%
<b>Housing assistance</b>	70%	85%
<b>Faith-based component</b>	77%	83%
<b>Other</b> (parenting, domestic violence, life skills, and/or anger management)	91%	87%

# **SVORI Programs Are Using Innovative Strategies**

# Innovation: Using Data to Support Strategic Decisions

Some sites used data to target resources to areas of highest need. Sites continue to use data to improve their programs.

- The Wyoming Department of Corrections targeted post-release counties with the highest expectation of success based on recidivism data
- The West Virginia Division of Juvenile Justice used economic and probation caseload data to identify targeted counties

# Innovation: Establishing Reentry Courts

Court-based reentry management allows the reentry process to begin at sentencing and continue through release

- Allen County (Indiana) Community Corrections operates a reentry court. Participants appear before the judge initially to learn about the program and then appear every 2 to 5 weeks to monitor progress.

# Innovation: Implementing Reentry Curricula

Curriculum-based, classroom programs are intended to better prepare prisoners for their reentry experience

- The Iowa Going Home Keys program covers computer skills, basic vocational training, employment issues, and other areas returning prisoners face. It also introduces participants to the service network they can tap into upon release.

# Innovation: Introducing Video-conferencing

Video-conferencing mitigates barriers associated with the physical distance between a prisoner and the community – facilitates community “reach-in”

- The Maine Reentry Network provides video-conferencing so that offenders can meet with community based organization staff prior to release
- The Mississippi Juvenile Reentry Program uses video-conferencing so that reentry participants can meet with family members or community service providers

# Innovation: Using Community Accountability Panels

Allows community members to serve as stakeholders in the reentry process, providing accountability and a network of support

- The Kansas Department of Corrections' community accountability panel has broad community representation and meets with the former prisoner every 6 weeks to provide a network of support and recognize accomplishments

# Innovation: Using Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

CBOs provide post-release case management and service coordination

- The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has contracted with the Enterprise Foundation to act as an intermediary to provide case management and advocacy for the Re-entry Partnership (REP) Initiative clients

# Innovation: Building Service Provider Networks in the Community

Service provider networks can focus on returning prisoners, address gaps in service areas, and prioritize services

- The Minnesota Department of Corrections supports a Community Resource Developer who is charged with developing a “preferred provider service network” of social service agencies that provide services to returning prisoners
- In the Washington Going Home program, each participating county has a dedicated Community Advisor who coordinates and brokers services for returning prisoners

# Innovation: Using Graduated Sanctions

Developing and applying responses that increase in severity based on the seriousness of the infraction, reducing the reliance on reincarceration

- Nevada's Going Home Prepared program allow the court and the parole officer to impose appropriate, graduated sanctions to address non-compliance with program requirements

# Innovation: Involving Multiple Participants

- **Families** – focusing on assisting former prisoners with the transition back to the family
- **Victims** – including the victim’s perspective in reentry planning and implementation
- **Law enforcement** – emphasizing social support through community building and/or deterrence through heightened surveillance
- **Faith-based organizations** – offering a range of services from case management to specific resources such as emergency aid
- **Peer mentors** – Involving former prisoners in reentry programming creates an opportunity for mutual peer support

# **SVORI Programs Are Also Reporting Barriers and Challenges**

# Barriers and Challenges

- **Coordinating Activities across Disparate Systems**

Programs must work to bring together groups that have not historically interacted regularly

- **Partnering with the Community**

Forming partnerships within the community requires effort

- **Identifying Participants for Pre-release Programming**

Shifting sentence lengths and release dates make it difficult to identify and enroll individuals in pre-release programming

# Detailed Activities by State

- State overview describing the distribution and target populations of grantees and administrative programs.
- Adult admission and release trends
- Grantee overview, including local SVORI website (if available), local evaluation activities, and the grantee's data management system
- SVORI program description:
  - ◆ Target population
  - ◆ Pre-release facilities and Post-release geographic areas
  - ◆ Detailed information about pre-release and post-release activities, services, and components
  - ◆ System and individual level changes or expected changes

# Ohio

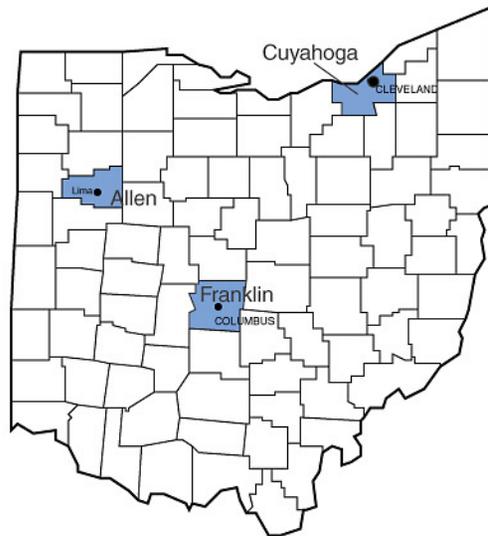
## SVORI Grantee

- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC)

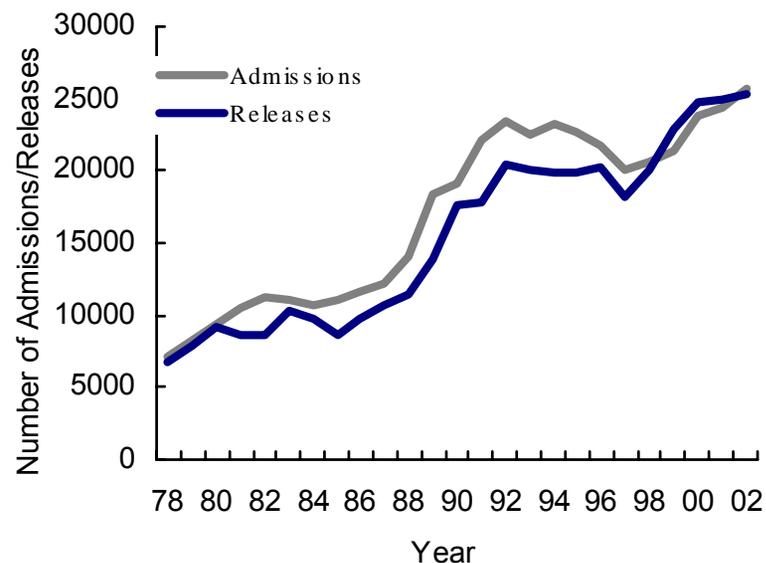
## Reentry Program Name

- Community Oriented Reentry Program (CORE)

Ohio has one SVORI grantee focused on adults returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Allen counties (depicted in the map below).



Legend:  Juvenile  Adult  Both



# Ohio: Program Organization and Services, Pre-Release

**Duration:** 10-12 months

**Assessments:** Following an initial screening to determine eligibility, risk and needs assessments are conducted for those who agree to participate. Mental health and substance abuse assessments by community providers are conducted immediately prior to release.

## **Components/services offered within phase:**

- Reentry Accountability Plan tailored to the individual risks and needs of each participant is developed with participants, team members, family members, and victims
- All released offenders (including non-SVORI participants) participate in required core curriculum
- Participants meet monthly with community service providers, team members, and family members in the prison through in-person visits

**Service Coordination:** ODRC

# Ohio: Program Organization and Services, Post-Release

**Duration:** 12 months during parole term plus long-term follow-up

**Assessments:** STATIC

## **Components/services offered within phase:**

- Participants meet with community case manager and parole officer (PO) within 72 hours of release
- Financial assistance is provided for housing, work equipment, rental assistance, and obtaining identification
- PO has a minimum of five contacts per month with each participant

## **Service Coordination:**

- Community case management and service coordination is handled by Community Connection in Allen and Franklin counties and by Community Re-Entry in Cuyahoga County; ODRC also coordinates services during the parole term

# Ohio: Changes as a Result of SVORI Funding

## System-level changes

- Use of technologies such as video-conferencing to put participants in touch with outside resources while still incarcerated
- New level of cooperation among agencies, including joint mission statements, shared protocols, and mechanisms for feedback
- Use of community accountability panel to facilitate successful reentry

## Individual-level changes

- Development of Reentry Management Teams that are specific to each participant
- One-one-one contact with service providers both in the prisons and in the community
- Earlier PO assignments (10-12 months prior to release) with more intensive contacts
- Access to specialized types of services, such as rental assistance, not available to other released prisoners

# Upcoming...

- Implementation Assessment will begin a second round of data collection this winter
- Impact Evaluation
  - ◆ Offender interviews began in July 2004
    - Pre-release (baseline)
    - 3 months post release (plus oral fluids drug testing)
    - 9 months post release
    - 15 months post release (plus oral fluids drug testing)
- Dissemination
  - ◆ Preliminary findings from the Impact Evaluation (fall 2005)
  - ◆ Topical Briefs
- Cost Benefit findings

[www.svori-evaluation.org](http://www.svori-evaluation.org)