

Supporting Successful Reentry Through the Community Pathways Program

Building bridges through community collaboration and connection

Presented to:

25th Annual Massachusetts Suicide Prevention Conference

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Presented by:

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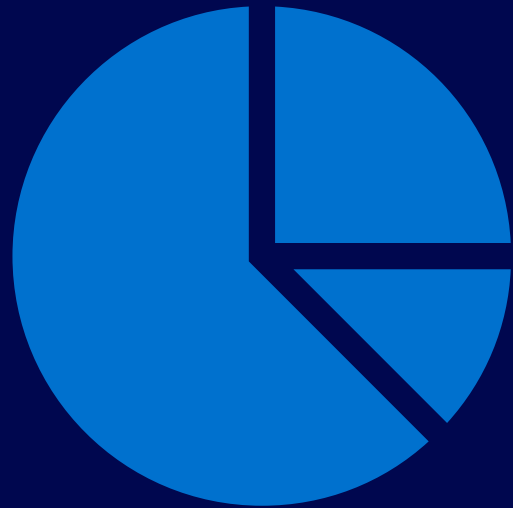
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Disclaimer

Any opinions or views expressed in this presentation are solely my own and do not represent the views or opinions of The Massachusetts Department of Public Health or its partners.

Objectives

- Understand the health impacts of incarceration
 - Integral in understanding the population returning to community and the unique risks that can influence an individual's sense of safety and security.
- Discuss the strong collaboration with parole
 - essential in mitigating risks related to reentry and creating supportive, stabilizing pathways that promote safety, health, and long-term success.
- Highlight the profound importance of parole-community collaboration in safeguarding individuals during the reentry period
 - a time of heightened vulnerability when stressors can quickly escalate into crises, including risk for self-harm.



National Demographics

How many
people are
currently
under
supervision
in the US
justice
system?

20 Million

5 Million

2 Million

.9 Million

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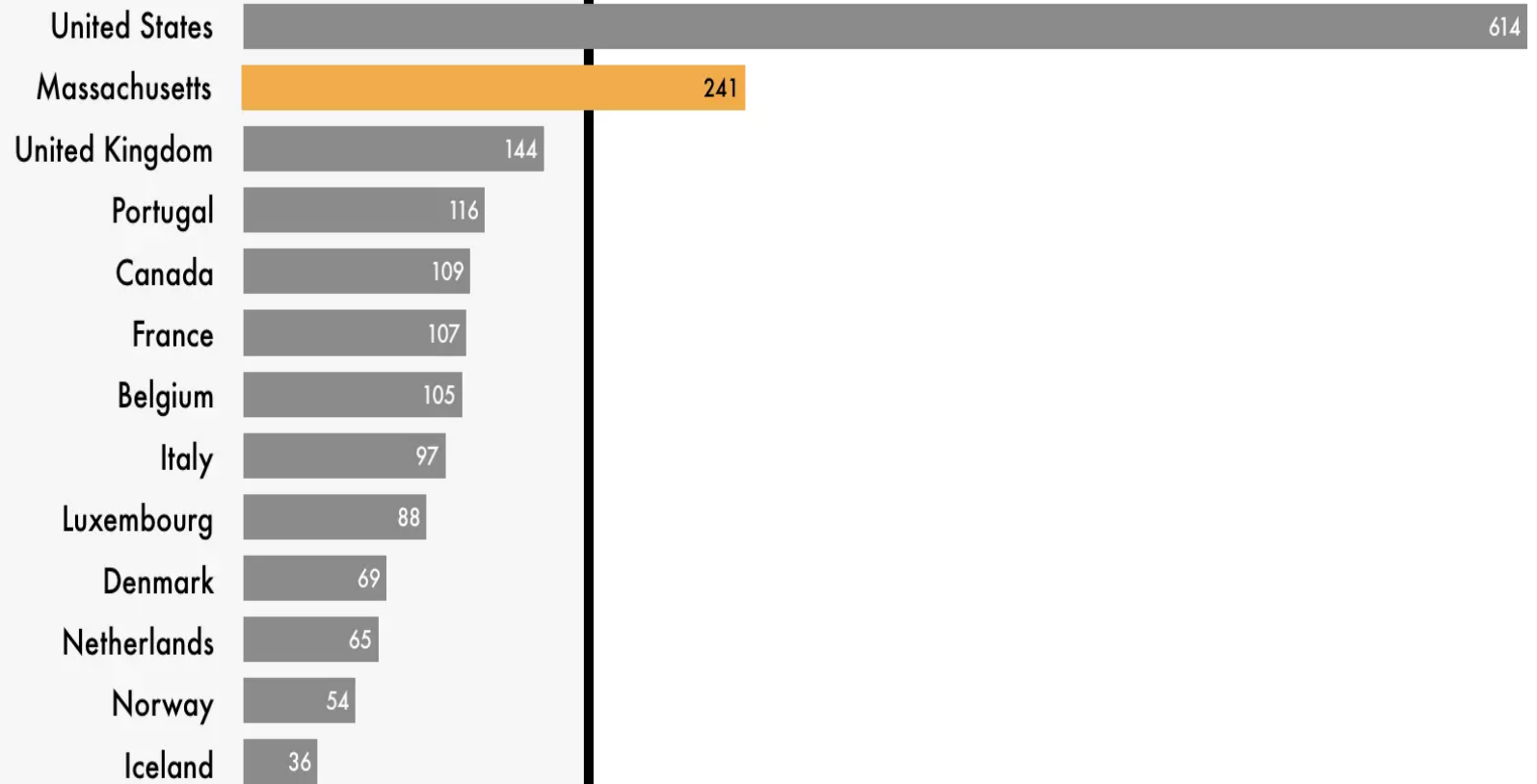
Including probation, parole, and serving sentences

How many incarcerated people are in
US prisons and jails?

2 Million

INCARCERATION RATES

COMPARING MASSACHUSETTS
AND FOUNDING NATO COUNTRIES



Incarceration rates per 100,000 population

Source: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2024.html>

A Portrait of Mass Incarceration

14 million
arrests annually

100 million Americans
with criminal records

2 million
incarcerated
(1 in 108)

1 in 35 adults
on supervision

80% of convictions
involve substances

Veterans at
increased risk

43% with
diagnosed mental
illness

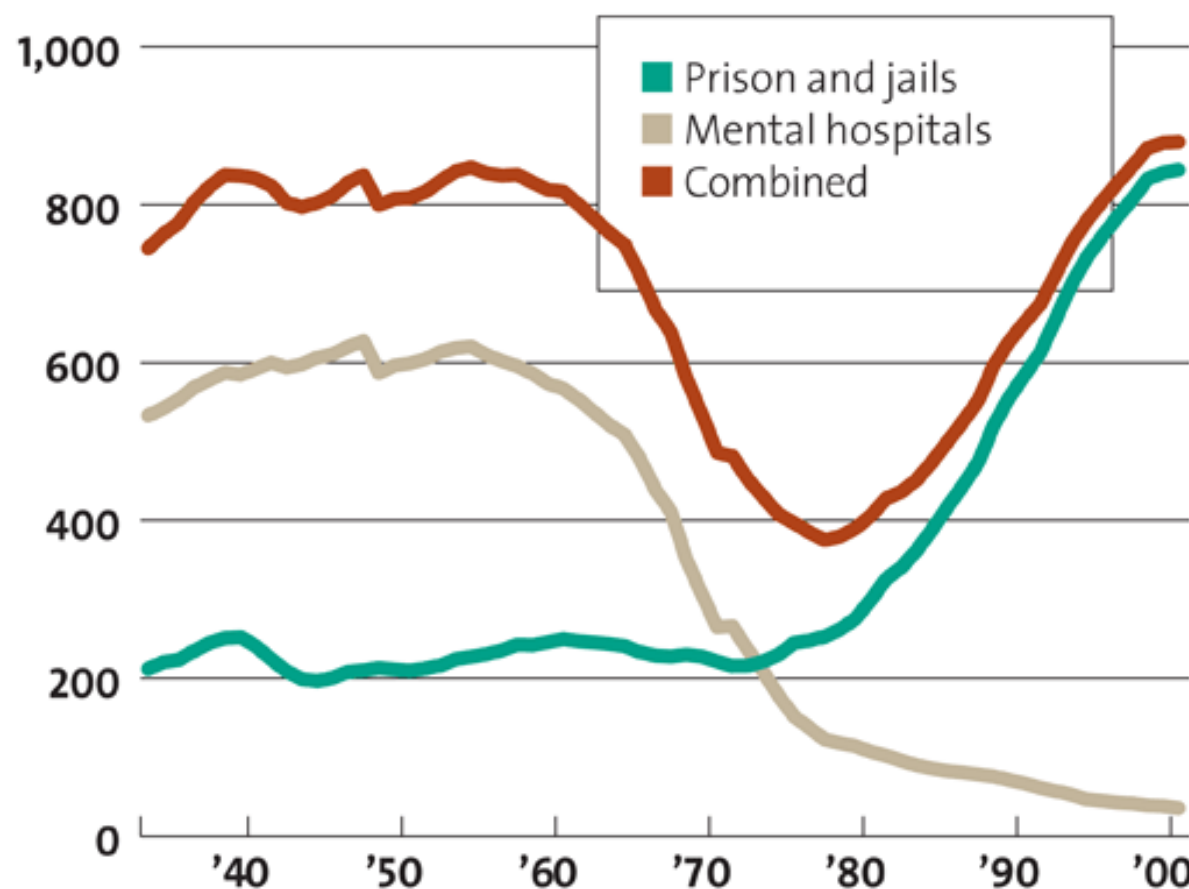


Source: Ferguson et al. JHCPU
May 2016. In Press.; Photo: ©2006 www.cdcr.ca.gov

Prison and Jail = Usual Mental Health Hospital

Locked Up. But Where?

Rates of institutionalization, per 100,000 adults

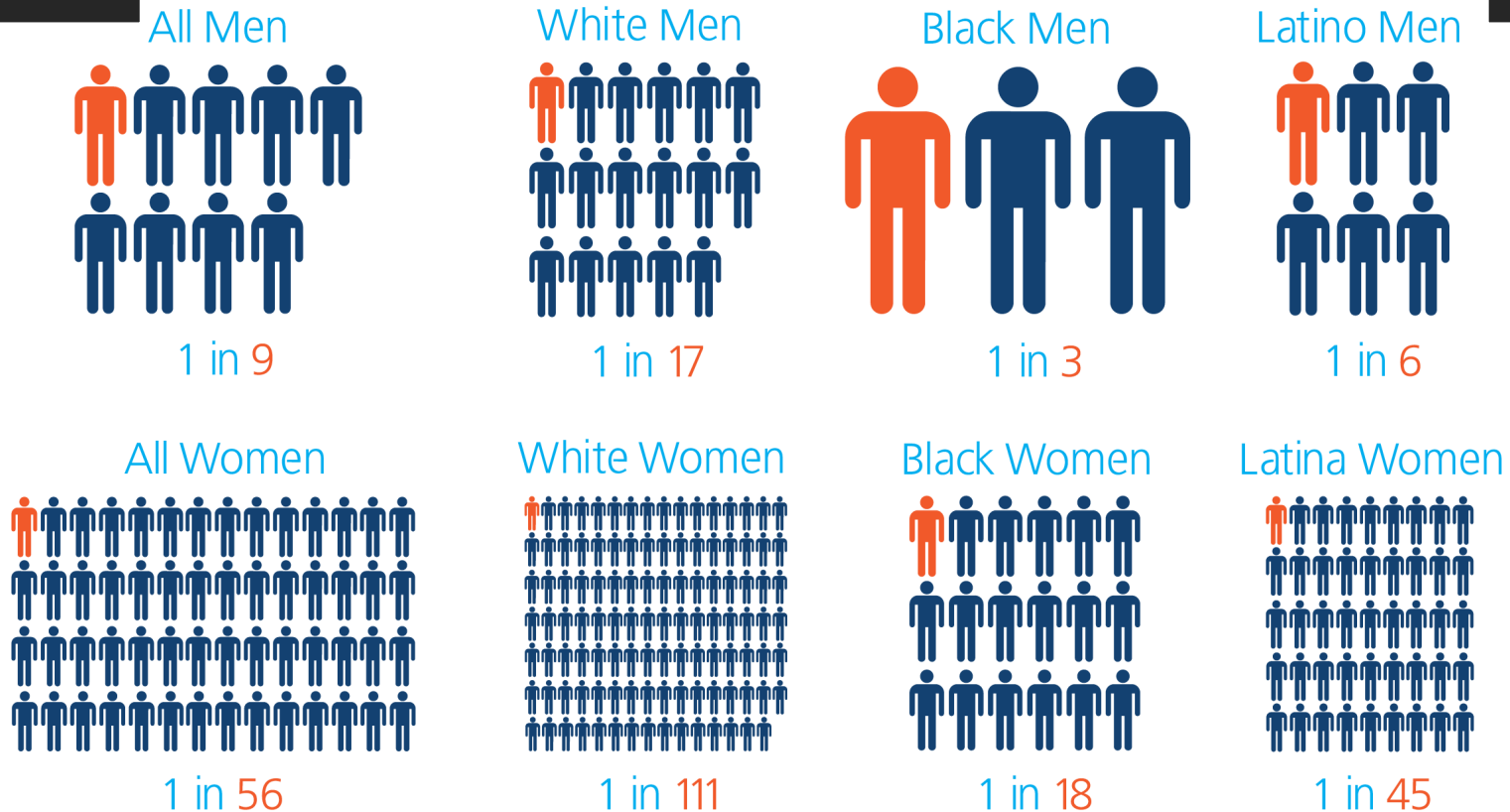


Source:
<https://mentalhealthpostwii.wordpress.com>

Racial and Ethnic Justice Disparities Poignantly on Display in the Statistics

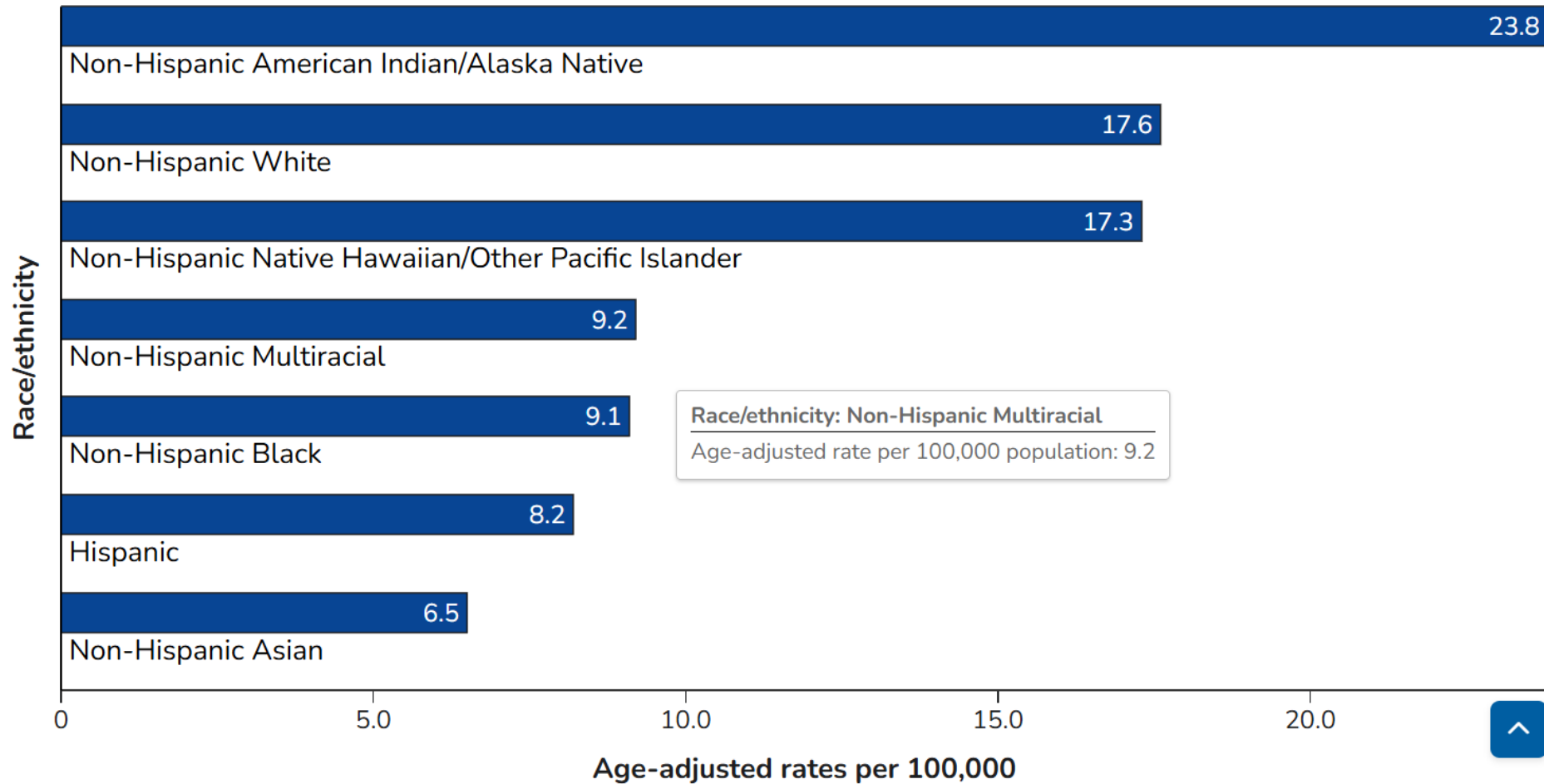
70%
of Black men with less
than HS education
jailed by 40

Black youth are
7x more likely
to be tried as adult

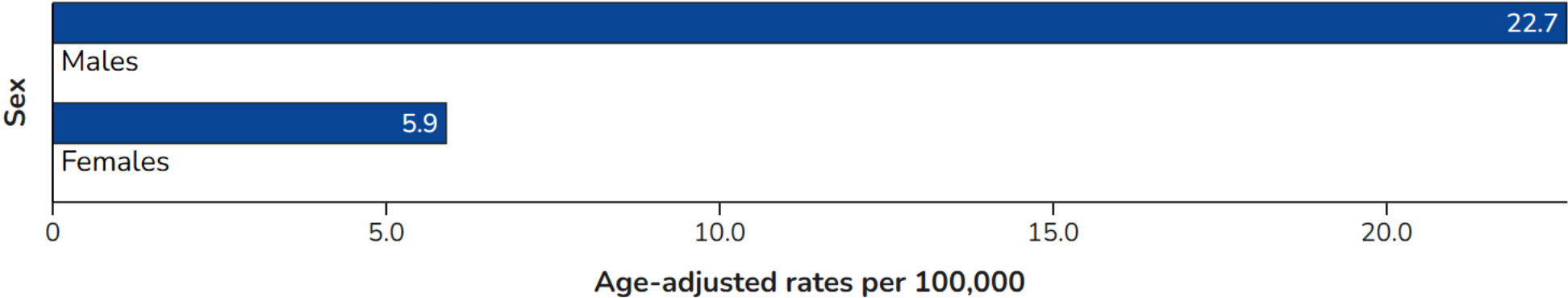


Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). Prevalence of Imprisonment in the US Population, 1974-2001. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Suicide Rates by Race



Suicide Rates by Gender



Data Table +

Recidivism Translates to a Life Sentence

95%
of detainees
return to the
community

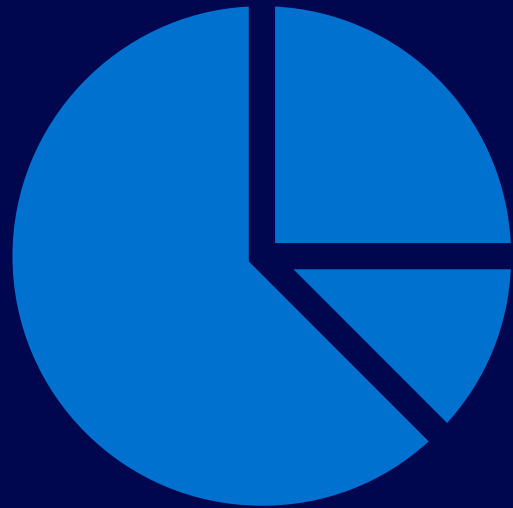
Recidivism
rate of
75%
over five years



11 million
people cycle
through jail
annually

700,000
prison releases
annually;
2,000 a day

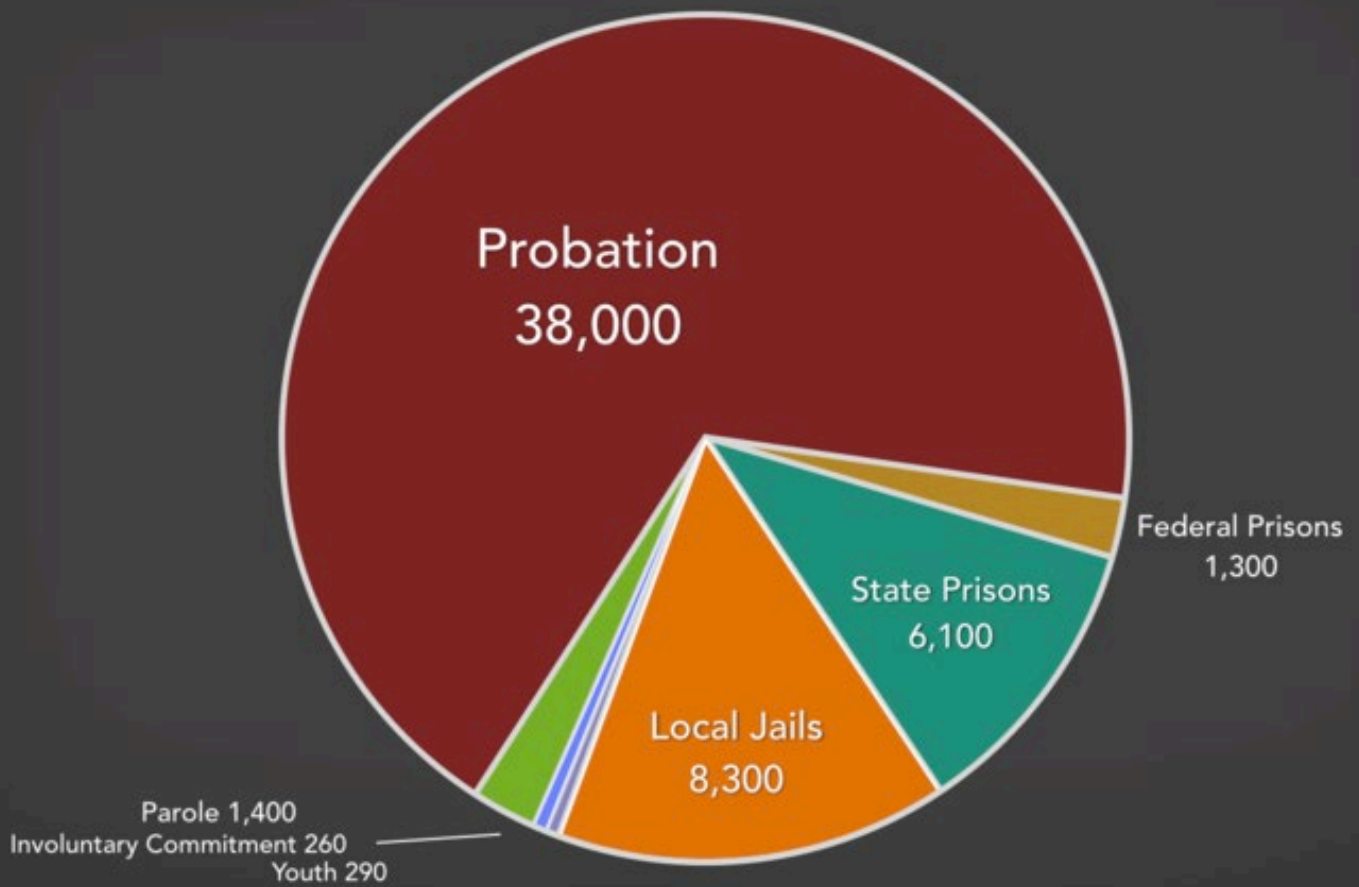
Source: Ferguson et al. JHCPU. May 2016. In Press.



Massachusetts Demographics

How many people are in Massachusetts's criminal legal system?

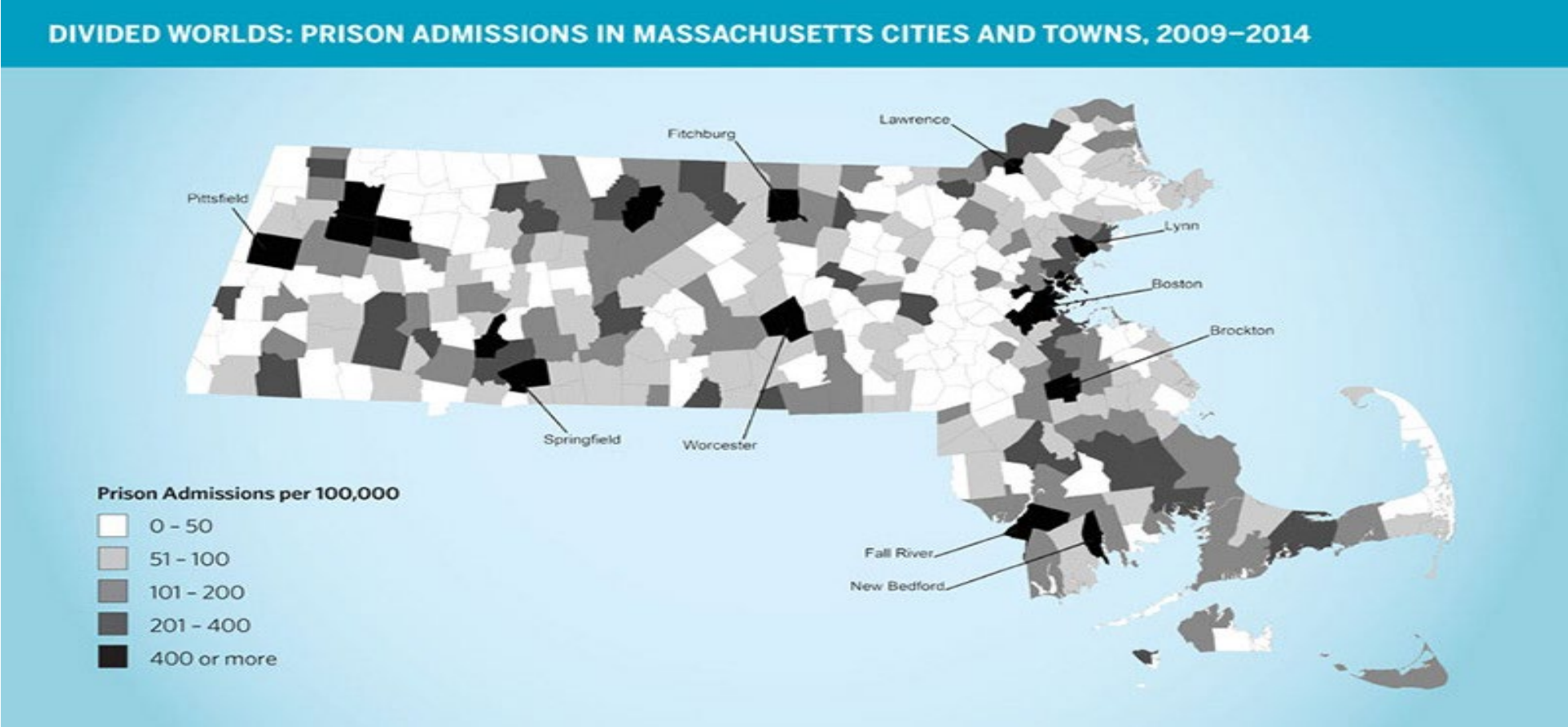
55,000 Massachusetts residents are behind bars or under community supervision.



PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

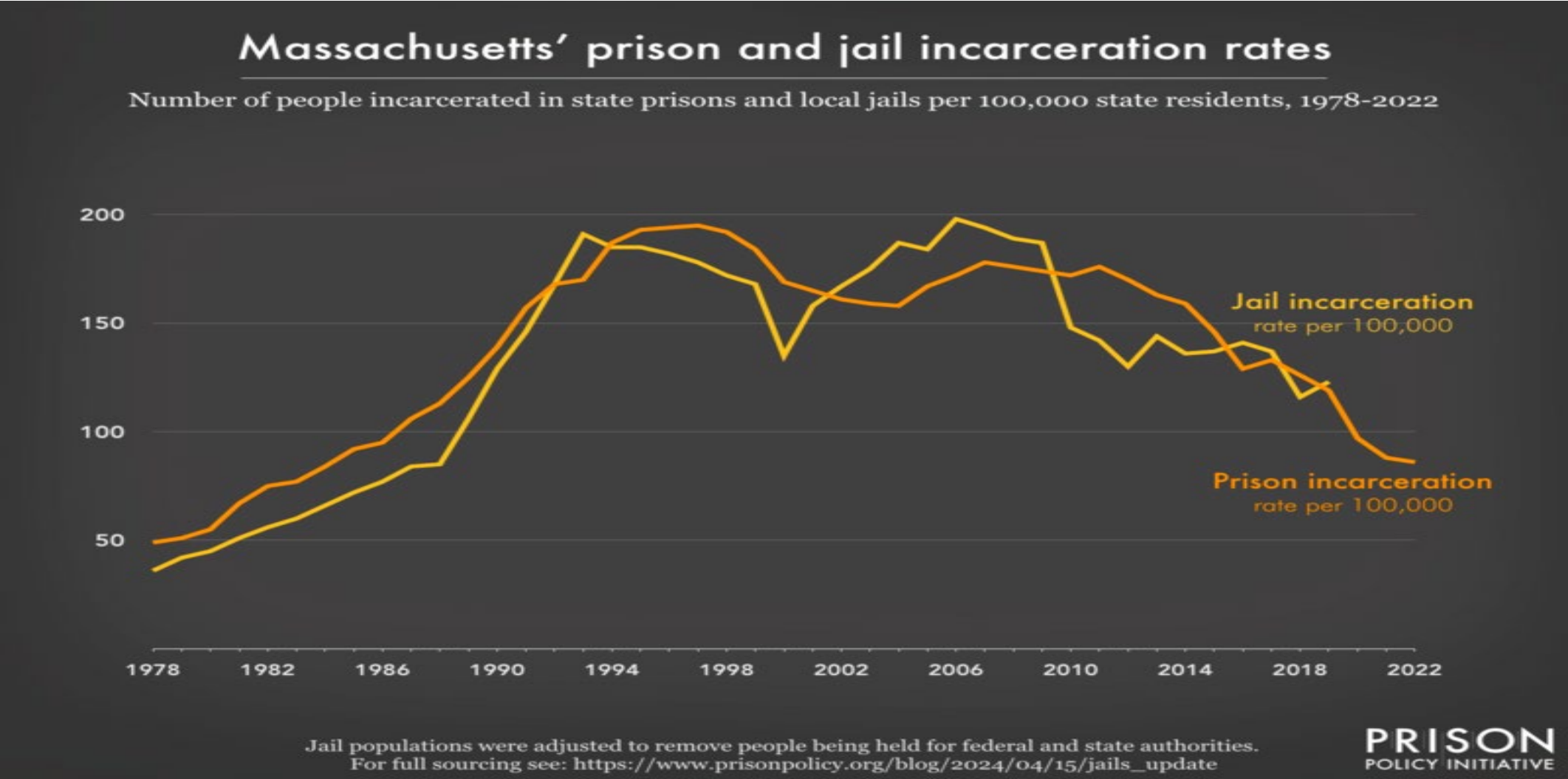
Details may not add to total due to rounding.
Sources and data notes: See www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/correctionalcontrol2023.html

MA Concentration of Imprisoned Persons

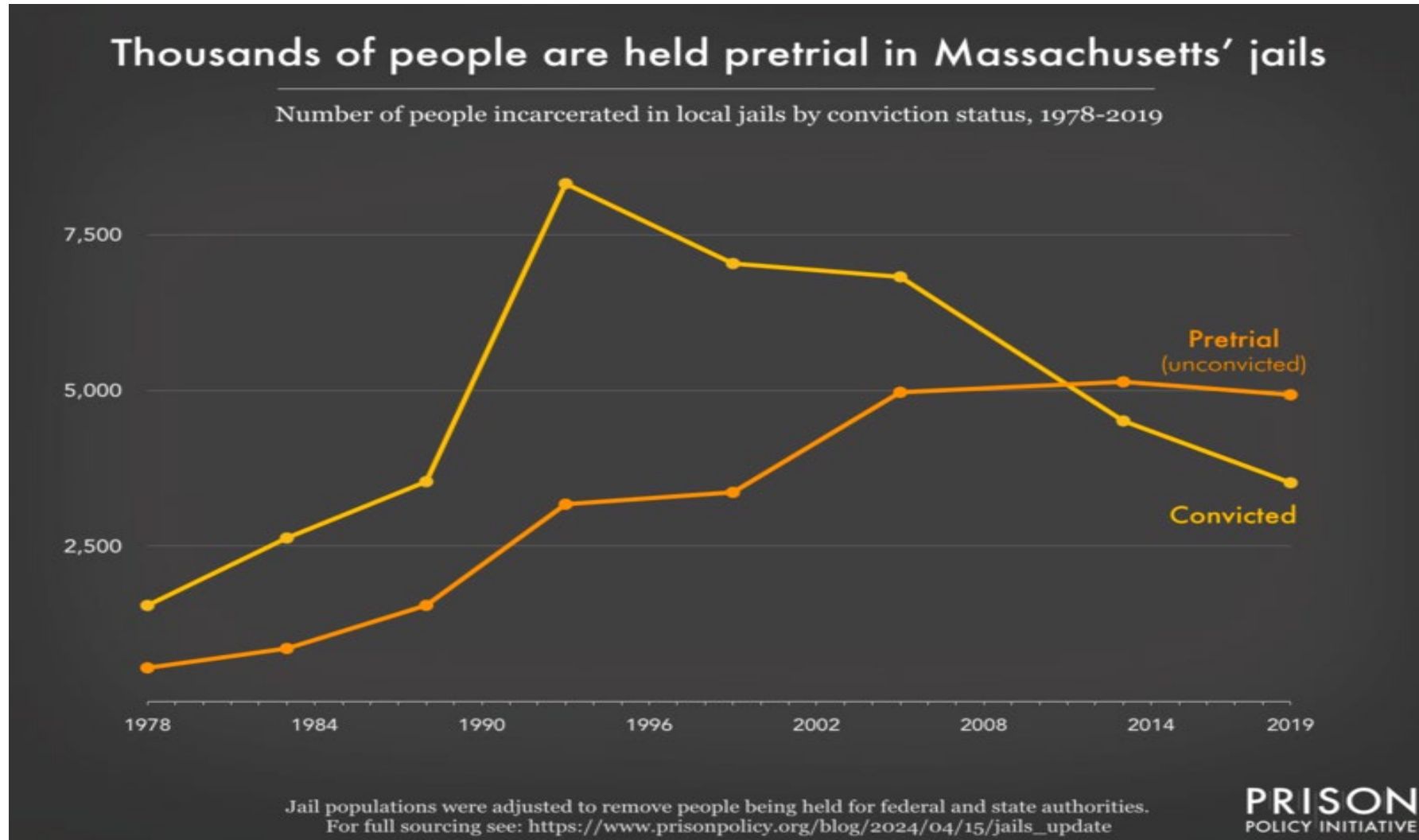


Source: Jessica Simes, BU
<https://www.bu.edu/articles/2017/mapping-mass-incarceration/>

MA Prison and Jail Incarceration Rates



Pre-trial Numbers in MA



Racial disparities in Massachusetts prison and jail incarceration rates

People in state prisons and local jails, per 100,000 state residents in each race or ethnicity category

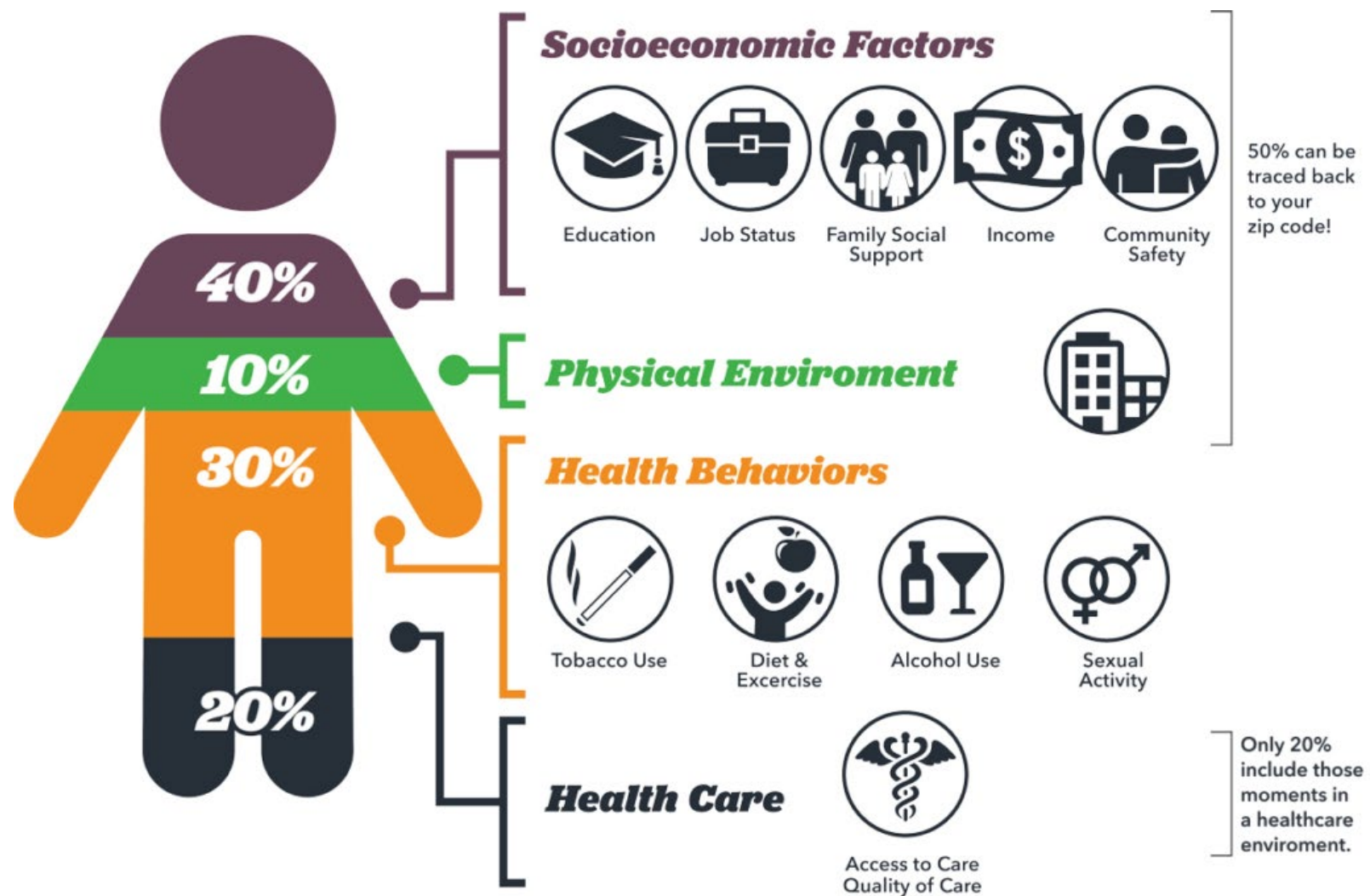


† Suppressed: Estimate is either not calculable based on published data or is based on fewer than 25 people.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau data. For sourcing details and dataset, including race definitions and categories not displayed above, see: www.prisonpolicy.org/data/race_bystate_2021.xlsx.



Impact of Criminal Legal Involvement

Social Determinants of Health



Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

Narrative: Impact on Health

“Jail has messed me up a lot, like um, me going in and out just um, I- after I got shot, they said I had PTSD, depression, anxiety. I noticed me going in and out, it just made it worse and um, you know and when you're in there, sometimes they don't really care, you know, for example the nurse says, "Oh, what now?" when I'm in there.”



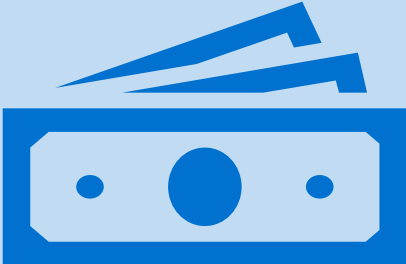
Narrative: Impact on family



“It's a total ripple effect. My whole entire family's affected. My children, um, are in counseling. My father's now- has a low dose of anxiety medication. Um, my children are not allowed to come to the prison because their counselor said that it would cause trauma for them to see their mother here; so they won't let them see me. I haven't seen my children in a year. My father comes three times a week to visit me from Connecticut and it's causing a strain on his marriage because he feels like when I went to prison, he went to prison and um, it's sad. I mean I want- I wanna see my family but I don't want them to be upset and sad to- to see me.

It's embarrassing, I'm the first person in my family to ever be incarcerated and as a military veteran- my whole family's military, it's a disgrace. So it's shameful, so it's affected us a lot.”

Imprisonment vs. Crime



Poverty



Racial segregation



**Highly mobile
population with poor
neighborhood
infrastructure**



**Policing practices that
target these
communities**

Source: Clear, Todd. *Imprisoning Communities: How Mass Incarceration Makes Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Worse*. New York: Oxford University Press; 2007.

Family & Generational Impact Loom Large: Catalyst for Maladaptive Behaviors

Histories of
Trauma

Mental
Health
Disorders

Substance Use
Disorders



Lack of formal
education
among
parents

Lack of love,
support &
safety

Source: Western B. <http://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/475764/how-big-is-isis/>

Economic Impact Loom Large: Catalyst for Maladaptive Behaviors

Poor
Schools

Stringent
juvenile
detention

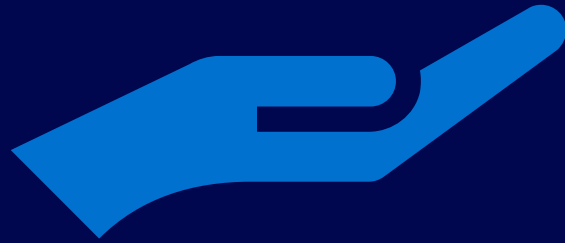
High dropout
rates



Lack of
employment
opportunity

Gang culture
& crime

Source: Western B. <http://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/475764/how-big-is-isis/>



PRO: Community Pathways Program

MA Parole Overview

- 2022 data shows that over **3,008** face to face hearings were conducted
- **14%** increase in the number of incarcerated individuals released on parole supervision in 2022 (1,876); 1,835 individuals on parole supervision
- **8%** increase from 2021 of individuals under parole supervision
- Revocations decreased **15%**; **76%** of parole discharges were successful
- TSU paroling rate increased to **69%** in 2022
- Field Parole Officers assisted **653** individual on parole supervision with transitional or sober housing in 2022 (increase of 8%)

What is the Community Pathways Program?

Develops channels for the enhanced delivery of care to individuals with substance use and other behavioral health disorders reentering the community.

Maximizes
resources
available to
Parole Officers

Improves
positive health
outcomes

Improves
community
tenure

Improves overall
success for
reentry

How Does the PRO: Community Pathways Work?



Referrals & Increased
Access to Supports



Connections to
Community Providers



Establish and Enhance
Relationships



Increased Community
Tenure & Decrease
Revocations

Why is this Important?

- Benefit to individuals on supervision by effectively providing appropriate treatment responses, resources, and interventions.
- Benefit to Parole Officers by supporting them as they seek to find behavioral health services for their members.
- PRO-Community Pathways will improve positive outcomes and the lives of the individuals.

Expert Consultation
needed for those with
SUDs and mental illness
on Parole

Maximization of available
interventions, treatment
& resources

Improvement of
outcomes for those on
Parole supervision

Consultation by TSU Staff

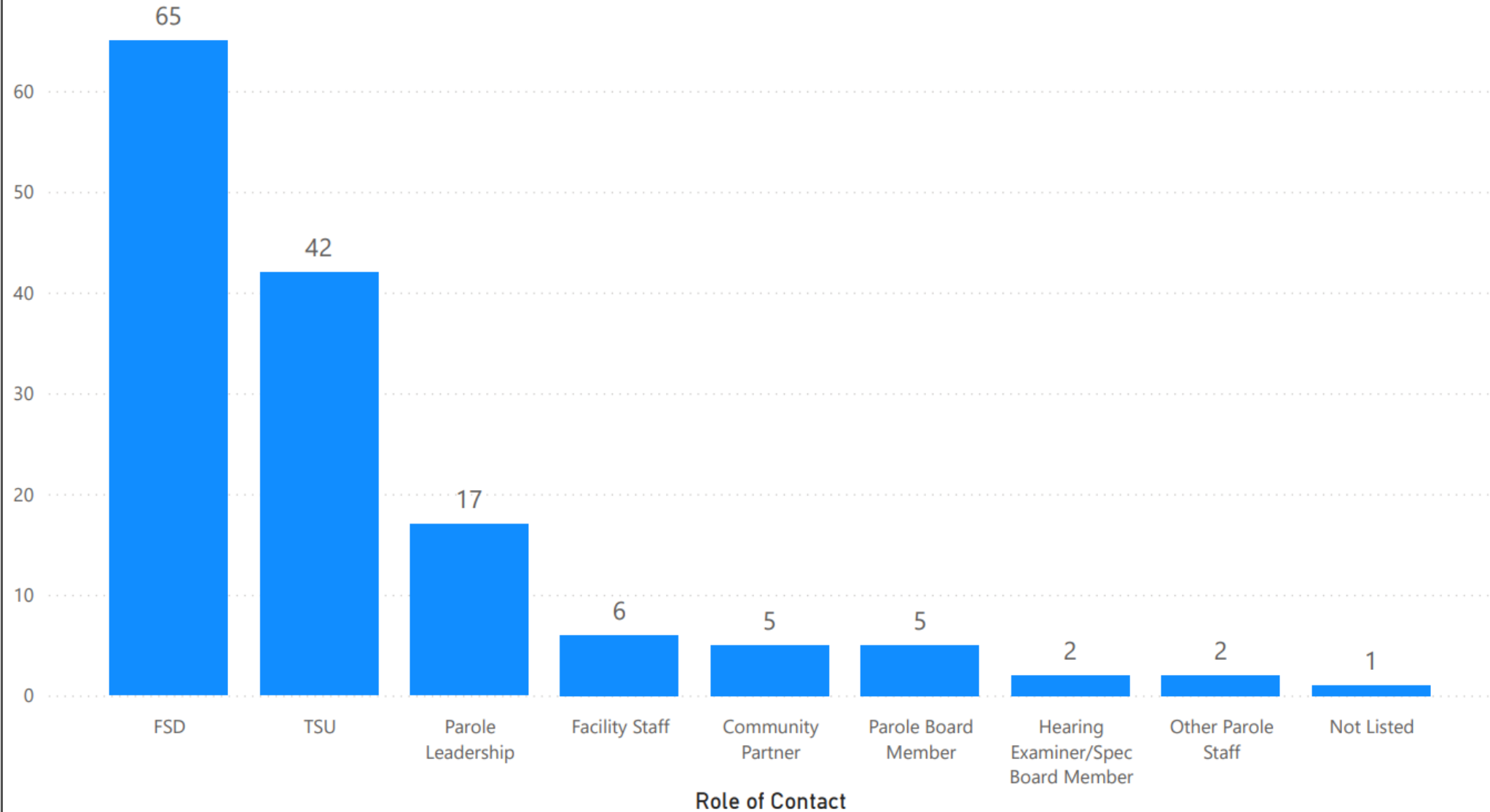
Sheriff's Office Facilities	
Barnstable County (Bourne)	1
Essex County (Middleton)	3
Franklin County (Greenfield)	1
Hampden County (Ludlow)	1
Lawrence Correctional Alt. Center	1
Middlesex County (Billerica)	1
Worcester County (Worcester)	3
Plymouth County (Plymouth)	3
South Bay (Suffolk)	1

Department of Corrections Facilities	
MA Treatment Center	3
MCI-Framingham	4
MCI-Norfolk	5
MCI-Shirley	10
North Central Correctional Institute	12
Northeastern Correctional Center	8
Pondville Correctional Center	4
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	3

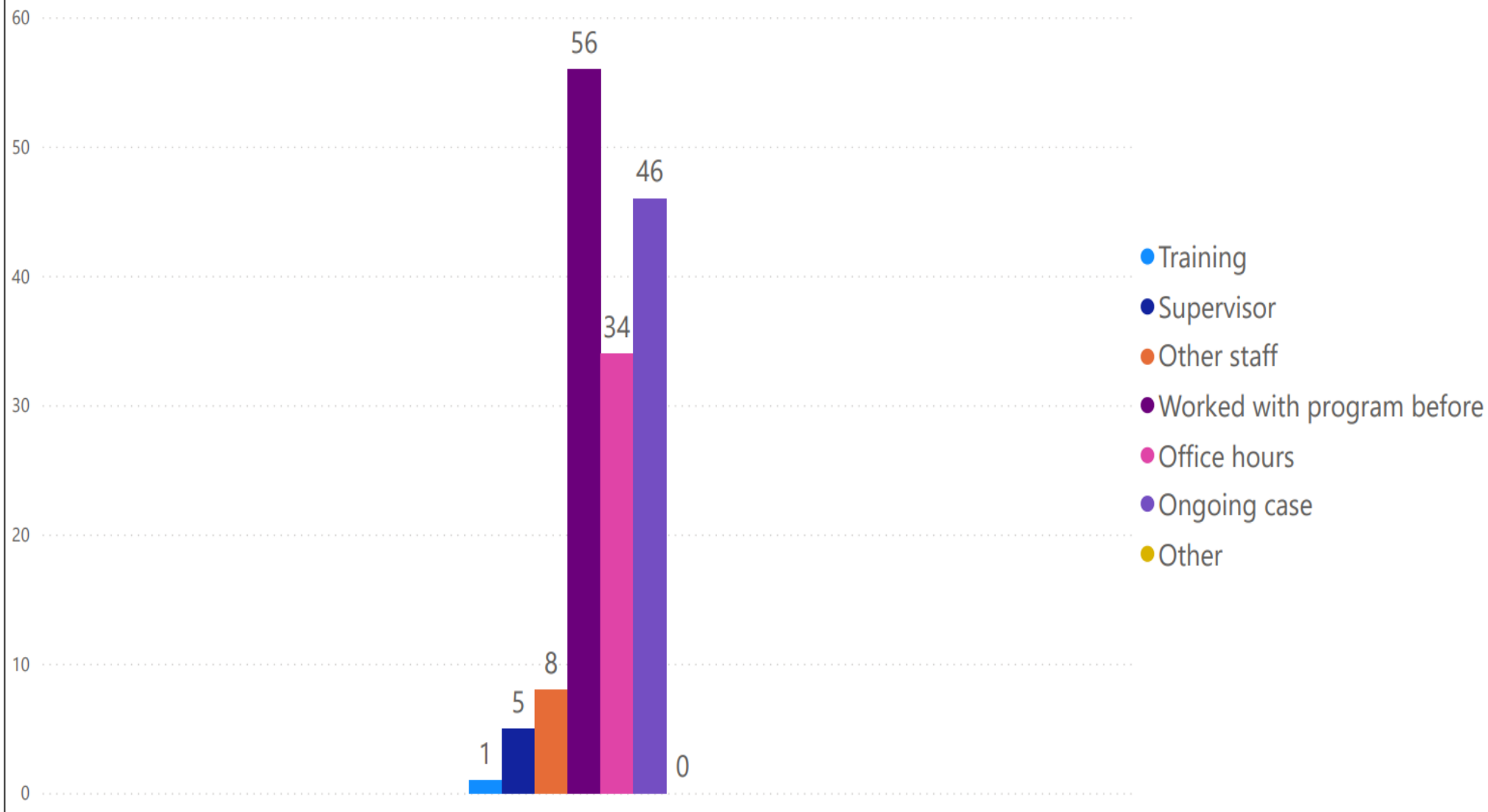
Consultation by FSD Staff

Region 1: Dorchester	10
Region 2: Dorchester	13
Region 3: Lynn	12
Region 4: Worcester	4
Region 5: Springfield	11
Region 6: Lowell	5
Region 7: Brockton	9
Region 8: Dartmouth	10
Region 9: Framingham	3

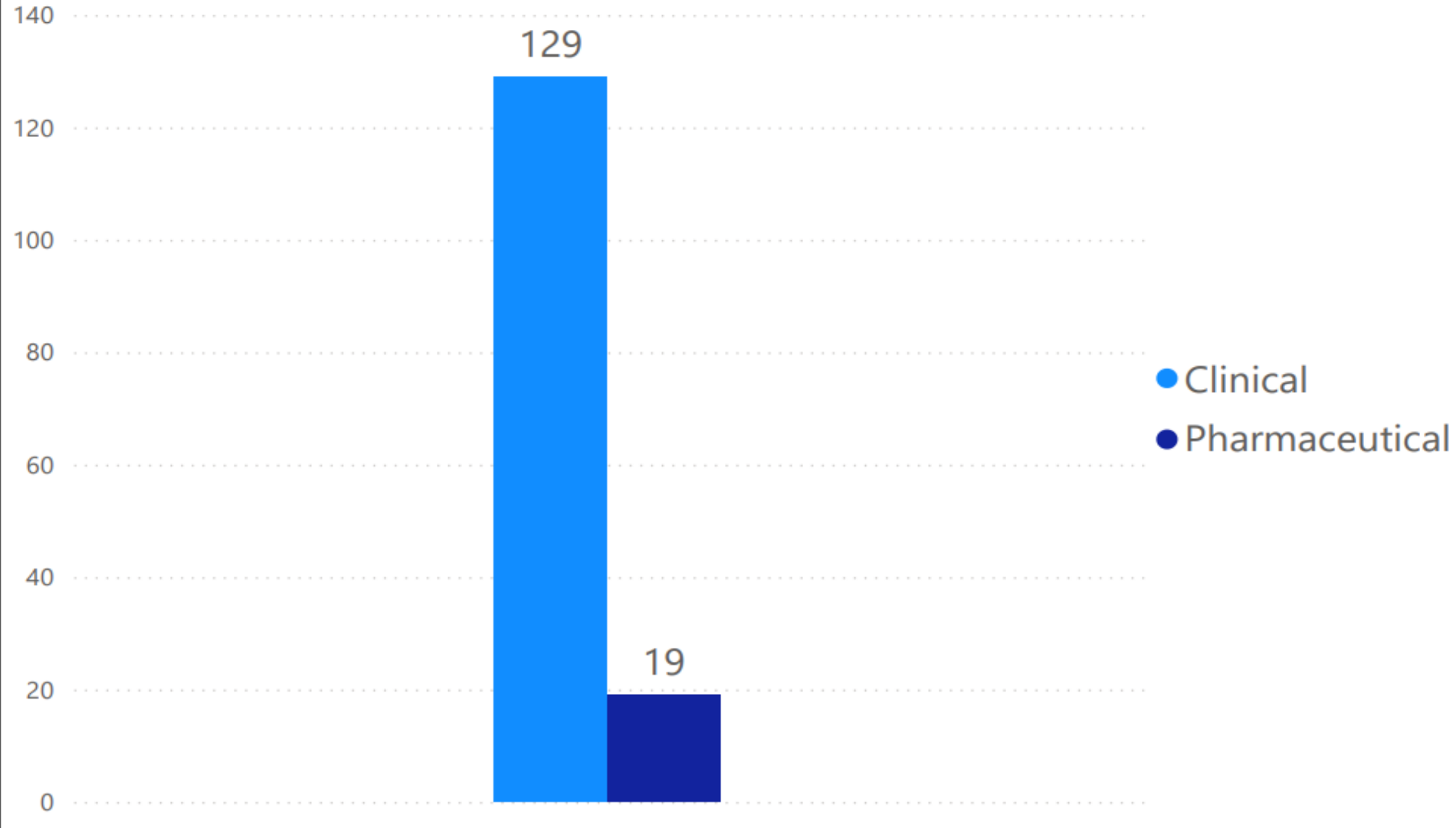
Role of Consultation Contact

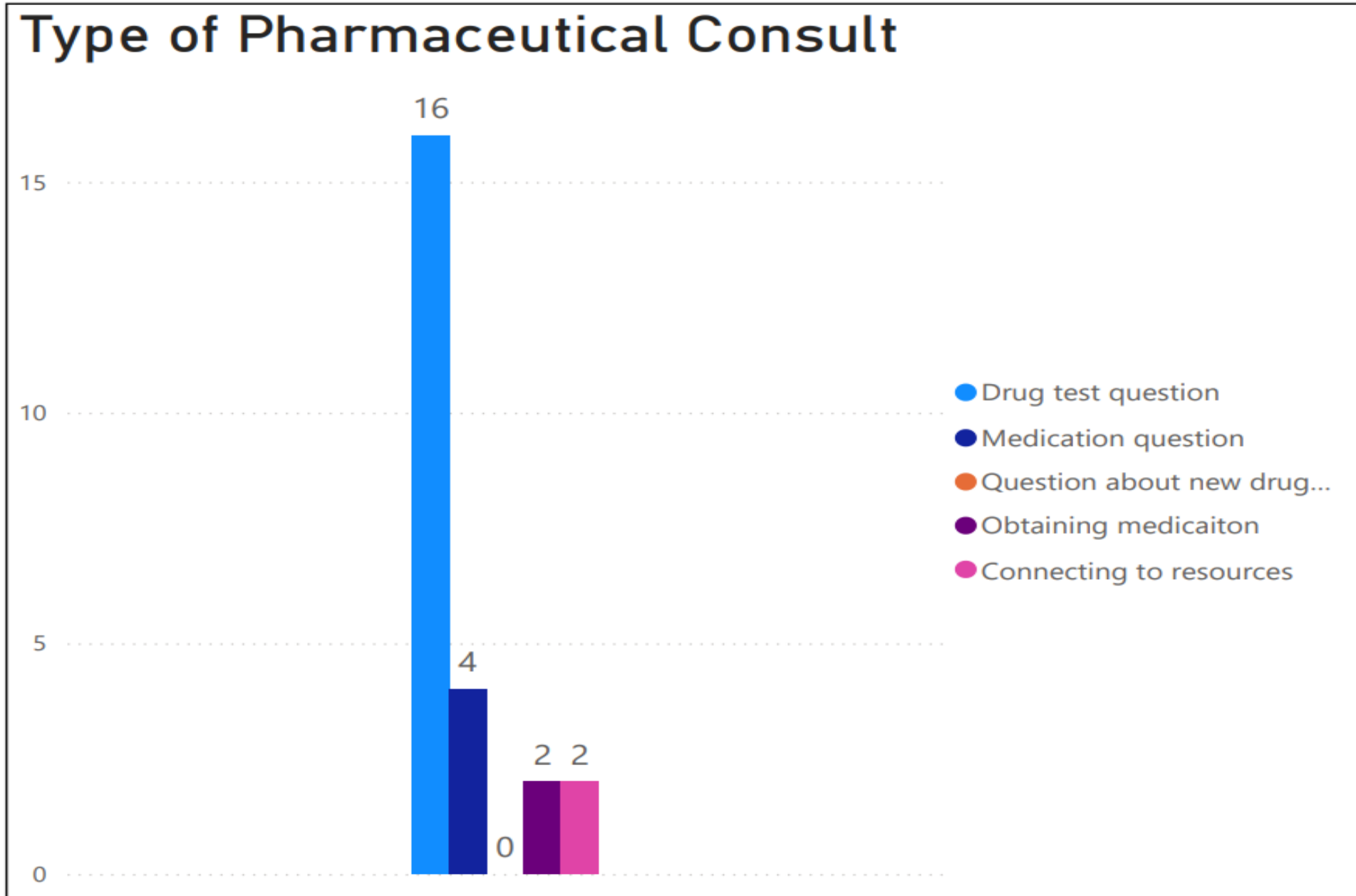


Consultation Referral Source (Multiple Choice)



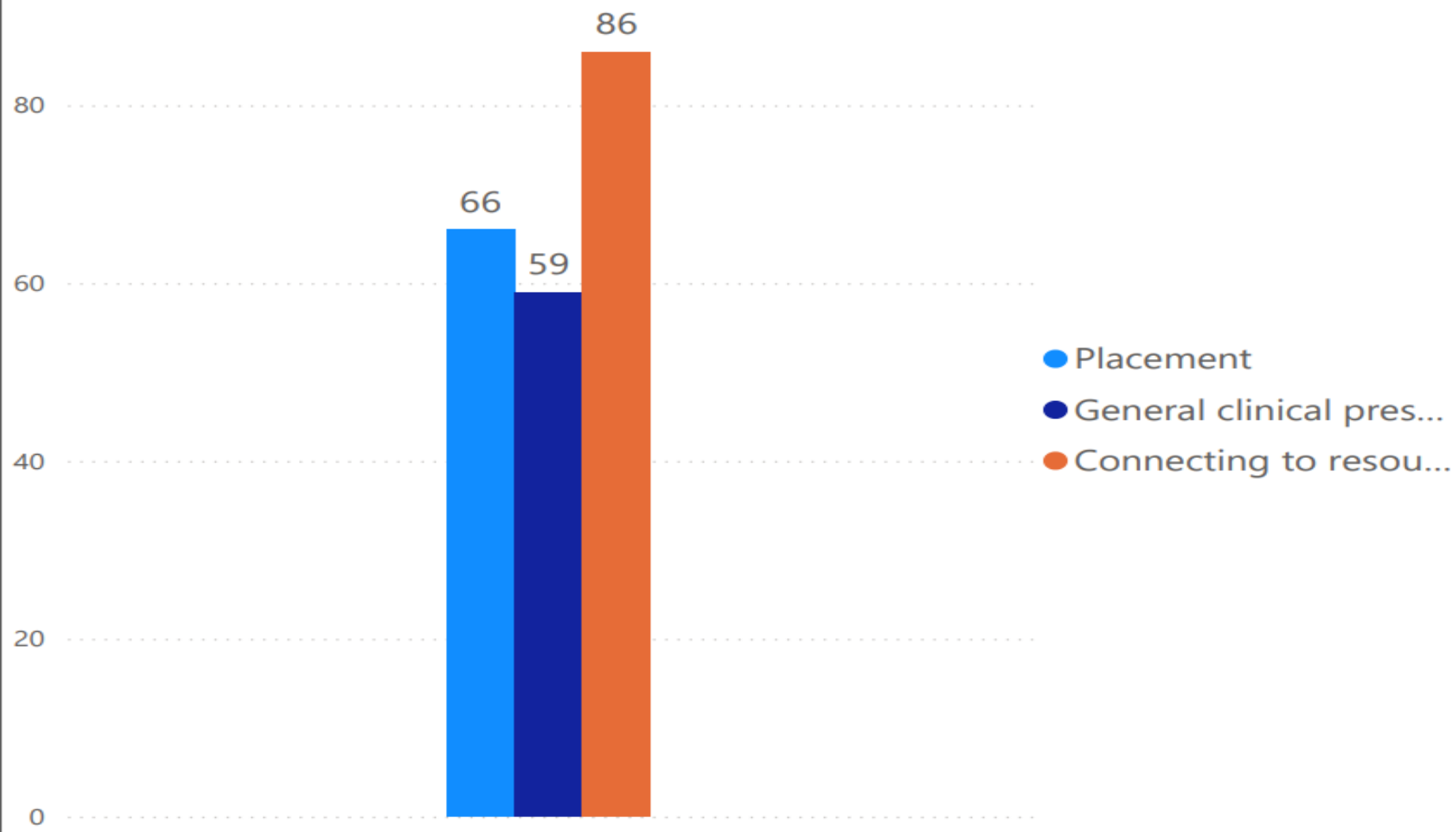
Type of Consult (Multiple Choice)





Can choose more than one option.

Type of Clinical Consult



Can choose more than one option

Suggested Next Steps



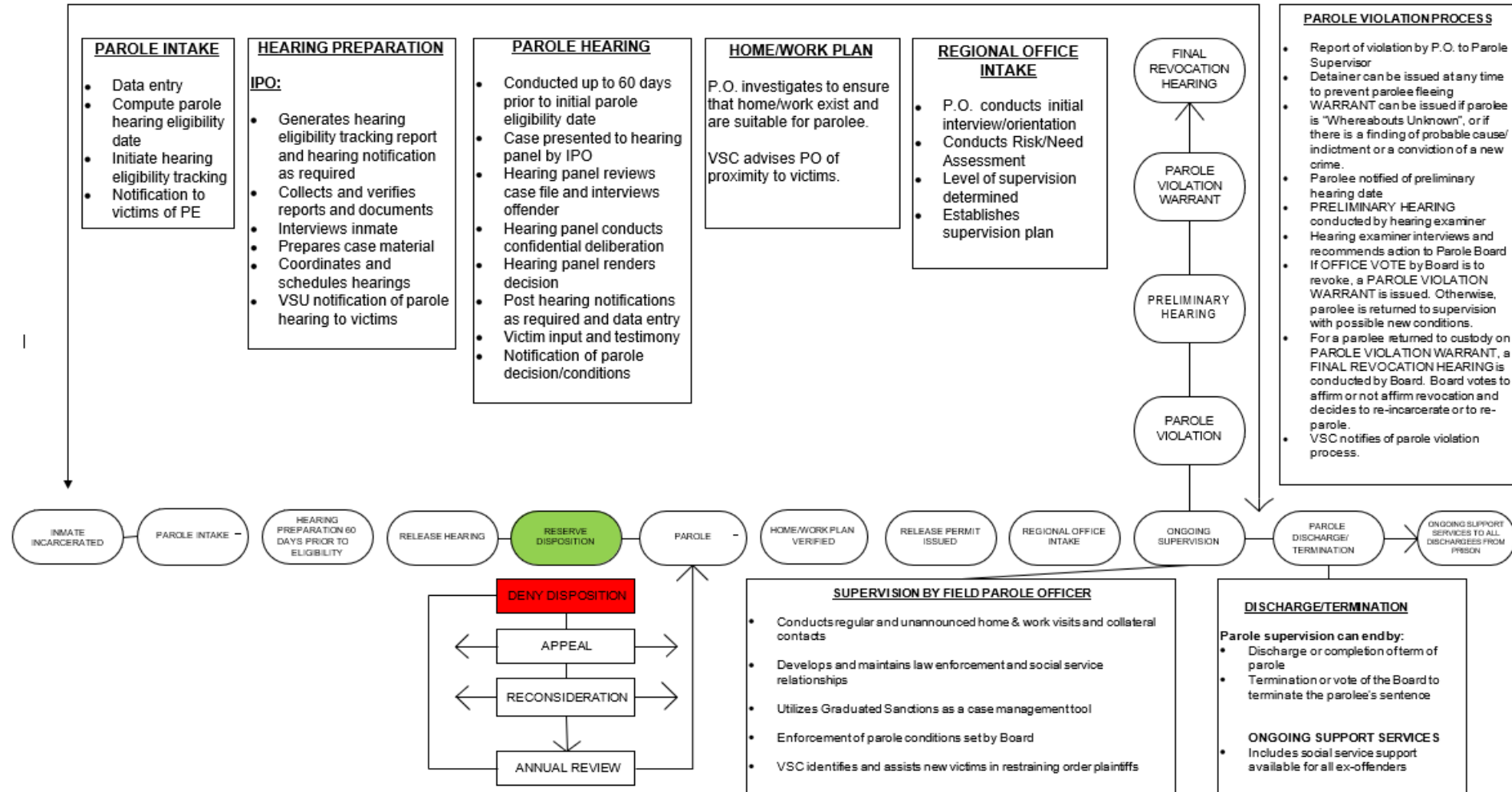
Office Hours & Case Reviews

	Past Prescription	Past Reserve	Graduated Sanctions
# Cases Reviewed	186	400	149
# Cases Discussed at Office Hours	3	10	23

Community Pathways on the Parole Continuum



MASSACHUSETTS PAROLE BOARD PAROLE PROCESS FLOW SHEET



Intersection 1: Hearing Preparation

- ForHealth is working in collaboration with EOPSS and DOC to update DOC Parole Contact Sheet
- Parole staff to refer complex/challenging cases to Community Pathways
 - Work in collaboration with DOC Reentry Specialists, when appropriate
- Attend DOC-run monthly Reentry Triage Meeting at designated pilot sites
 - MCI-Shirley
 - Souza Baranowski Correctional Center
 - Old Colony Correctional Center

HEARING PREPARATION

IPO:

- Generates hearing eligibility tracking report and hearing notification as required
- Collects and verifies reports and documents
- Interviews inmate
- Prepares case material
- Coordinates and schedules hearings
- VSU notification of parole hearing to victims

Intersection 2: Parole Hearing

- Community Pathway staff observation of Institutional Hearings and Lifer Hearings
- Support on hearing days for complex cases
- Assist with any preparation needed for complex cases as it relates to reentry planning

PAROLE HEARING

- Conducted up to 60 days prior to initial parole eligibility date
- Case presented to hearing panel by IPO
- Hearing panel reviews case file and interviews offender
- Hearing panel conducts confidential deliberation
- Hearing panel renders decision
- Post hearing notifications as required and data entry
- Victim input and testimony
- Notification of parole decision/conditions

Intersection 3: Home/Work Plan

- Conduct Transitional Services specific Office Hours
 - Data driven related to extended delays
- Serve as liaison, when appropriate, for intra- and inter-agency collaboration and communication related to home plan development
- Strategize with Parole staff on best means for support for individuals with challenging reentry needs

HOME/WORK PLAN

P.O. investigates to ensure that home/work exist and are suitable for parolee.

VSC advises PO of proximity to victims.

Intersection 4: Regional Office Intake

- Identify any gaps for the individual on parole in reentry plan services
- Offer connections to community resources
- Build-out community connection, overall, through region-based roundtables

REGIONAL OFFICE INTAKE

- P.O. conducts initial interview/orientation
- Conducts Risk/Need Assessment
- Level of supervision determined
- Establishes supervision plan

Intersection 5: Supervision by Field Parole Officer

- Designated Field Services Office Hours
 - Data driven related to graduated sanctions incurred
- Available for consultation and triage
 - Reentry plan changes
 - Complex needs
 - Parole violation and/or graduated sanction
- Conduct case calls and conferences both for internal needs as well as community bridging needs

SUPERVISION BY FIELD PAROLE OFFICER

- Conducts regular and unannounced home & work visits and collateral contacts
- Develops and maintains law enforcement and social service relationships
- Utilizes Graduated Sanctions as a case management tool
- Enforcement of parole conditions set by Board
- VSC identifies and assists new victims in restraining order plaintiffs

Intersection 7: Parole Violation Process

- Consult for options to support when individuals on parole are engaging in risky behaviors
- Community collaboration through regular and positive engagement
- Will not serve as means to circumvent PV policy and procedure
 - Used to supplement support of mission related to community tenure
- Consult for Board for pending updates and/or changes related to reentry plan

PAROLE VIOLATION PROCESS

- Report of violation by P.O. to Parole Supervisor
- Detainer can be issued at any time to prevent parolee fleeing
- WARRANT can be issued if parolee is "Whereabouts Unknown", or if there is a finding of probable cause/ indictment or a conviction of a new crime.
- Parolee notified of preliminary hearing date
- PRELIMINARY HEARING conducted by hearing examiner
- Hearing examiner interviews and recommends action to Parole Board
- If OFFICE VOTE by Board is to revoke, a PAROLE VIOLATION WARRANT is issued. Otherwise, parolee is returned to supervision with possible new conditions.
- For a parolee returned to custody on PAROLE VIOLATION WARRANT, a FINAL REVOCATION HEARING is conducted by Board. Board votes to affirm or not affirm revocation and decides to re-incarcerate or to re-parole.
- VSC notifies of parole violation process.

Intersection 6: Ongoing Support



Monthly trainings



Community roundtables



Case Reviews



SPIRIT access



Region-specific resource booklets



Newsletter



Pharmacological one-pagers



Clinical consultation



Pharmaceutical consultation

Questions? Please Contact Us!

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Thank You

