

# CORE Ohio

Summer 2005

## Introduction

In July 2002, Director Reginald Wilkinson issued the Ohio Plan for Productive Offender Reentry and Recidivism Reduction. The plan included 44 recommendations for a comprehensive restructuring of the state correctional system to implement the philosophy of reentry at all levels of the system. Planning for the offender's successful return to the community would begin at reception. Needs as well as risks would be identified, along with services to be provided during the offender's stay in the institution to meet those needs. Finally, the services to meet those needs would continue once the offender returned to the community. The last three years have brought great strides in changing the system. A new automated offender needs assessment system has been implemented. Current programming in the institutions and community has been reviewed to determine if the programs meet the needs of offenders and target criminogenic needs. Reentry planning has begun for all offenders before they leave the institution.

In 2002, Ohio was awarded a three-year, \$2 million federal grant under the *Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI)*. Two additional grants were awarded to Ohio to improve substance abuse and mental health services to target offenders. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the lead agency, is collaborating with Ohio Department of Mental Health, Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Education and the Office of Criminal Justice Services. These partners, in conjunction with the local coordinators, serve on a Reentry Steering Committee that oversees the implementation of the grant. The local partners include the Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs for the Cleveland area and Community Connection for Ohio Offenders in Franklin (Columbus) and Allen (Lima) counties.

## Ohio Program Components

Ohio's SVORI grant is referred to as the Community-Oriented Reentry Program (CORE). The grant targets approximately 220 offenders who are from 18-35 years old and have been incarcerated for at least one year in jail or prison, and will be in the community under supervision for at least one year. The project began identifying and serving the target population in January 2003.



The following are the components of the grant:

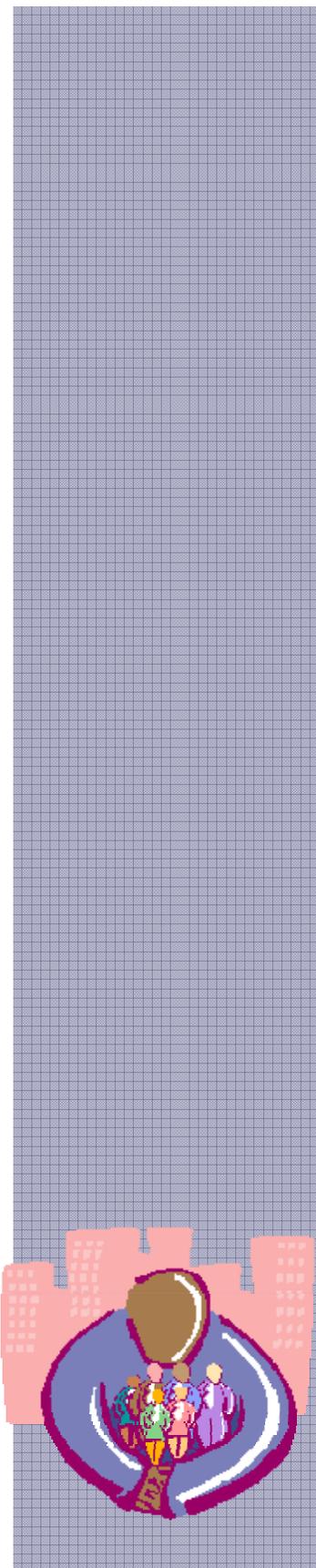
- ❑ Formal risk and needs assessments are conducted for offenders targeted under the grant. Needs assessments are completed at intake into the program, six months before release, within six weeks of release, and prior to release from parole or post release control.
- ❑ A *static risk assessment* is completed by using a validated risk instrument that determines the offender's risk of re-offending. The risk instrument provides a weighted score for the following items: prior convictions/adjudications, prior commitments of more than one year (adult or juvenile), a recent commitment-free period (within three years of the commencement of the current offense), criminal justice status at the time of the instant offense, prior probation/parole revocations, and age of the offender at the time of the offense. Offenders participating in CORE are classified as reentry intensive offenders.
- ❑ A *dynamic needs assessment* consists of seven key domains that may require treatment or program intervention on the part of the offender. These domains have been shown to be associated with the likelihood of future re-offending or recidivism. They represent the dynamic risk factors or criminogenic needs of offenders that may warrant some form of appropriate correctional intervention. If an offender displays significant problems within one or more of these domains they are addressed as part of the Reentry Accountability Plans. Each domain is assessed and a code given with one of the following designations: Asset to community, no need seen for improvement, some need for improvement, or considerable need for improvement. The seven dynamic needs areas or domains are: employment/education; marital/family; associates; substance abuse; community functioning; personal/emotional; and attitude.
- ❑ Reentry Accountability Plans (RAPs) are developed for offenders by reentry management teams after acceptance into the program. RAPs identify the appropriate programming recommended to meet identified criminogenic needs. The offender's RAP consists of three components: static risk assessment, dynamic needs assessment, and program recommendations and participation history. The offender is an active participant in developing his or her RAP.
- ❑ A Reentry Management Team (RMT) is formed starting in the institution and carrying over to the community. The RMT and Community Reentry Management Teams (CRMT) initially meet with the client monthly. Later, if the client is doing well, they meet bimonthly to evaluate needs and plan for services to meet these needs. The team is also responsible for helping the inmate get needed official documentation before leaving the institution or immediately after. The Reentry Management Teams consist of institutional case managers, treatment personnel, Adult Parole



Authority officers, Offender Services Network staff and service providers from the community.

- ❑ Community Reentry Coordinators (CRCs), hired by the local CORE partners, serve as members of the Reentry Management Teams both in the institution and in the community.
- ❑ Coordinated and comprehensive case management begins at acceptance into the program and continues into the community. The CRC serves as the intensive case manager in the community and the facilitator of obtaining services for the offender. Needs identified through the RAP that were not addressed while in the institution are addressed through appropriate treatment in the community. The CRC works in conjunction with the Adult Parole Authority to identify service providers.
- ❑ A cluster of institutions are used for grant purposes. Reentry offenders returning to Cuyahoga County are released from the Northeast Pre-Release Center, Grafton Correctional Institution, and the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Reentry offenders returning to Franklin County will be released from the Franklin Pre-Release Center, North Central Correctional Institution, Ross Correctional Institution, Pickaway Correctional Institution, Chillicothe Correctional Institution, and the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Offenders returning to Allen County will be released from Allen, Toledo and Lima Correctional facilities.
- ❑ A new career exploration program, Career Scope, has been implemented in the institutions participating in this grant. The program is designed to assist the offender in obtaining employment after leaving the institution. A key component of the project is to ensure all offenders not considered disabled obtain full-time employment at a living wage while in the community. The offender is also responsible for paying supervision fees, court fees, any court-ordered restitution, and child support while on parole or post release control.
- ❑ All offenders participate in the Targeting Success program. Targeting Success is a CD based program that walks through setting life goals, job searches, resumes, interviewing, and financial planning. The program is realistic and is developed from the perspective of offenders. The offenders begin the program in prison and take the CD when returning home. The RMTs review the results of the program during their sessions.
- ❑ The first supplemental grant was used to expand the substance abuse and mental health services. About 70 percent of the experimental group were rated as “Some” or “Immediate Need for Improvement” in substance abuse on the needs assessment. As a result of the additional funds, detailed substance abuse assessments of CORE clients are being completed before they leave prison or in the community if a substance abuse problem developed.





- ❑ Mental health services became a major issue with this population which was addressed with the first supplemental grant. Funds from the grant were being used to purchase prescription drugs to bridge the supply received at the institution prior to release and the first meeting with a psychiatrist in the community. Grant funds have also been used to complete mental health assessments in the community if the condition had not been previously diagnosed and to defray the costs of emergency inpatient treatment.
- ❑ The second supplemental grant is being used to work with the seriously mentally ill to support them in the community. Ohio had established Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) as a pilot program in several counties. ACT is designed to provide long-term case management and supported living for the seriously mentally ill. The additional funding allowed Ohio to expand the program in Cleveland to include CORE offenders and to develop an ACT program in Columbus where there were no specialized services.
- ❑ An emphasis will be placed on victims services through the development of Victim's Safety Plans as a component of the Reentry Accountability Plan, if necessary. The Victim Safety Plan is designed to ensure the safety of victims of violent crimes when the perpetrator is being released through CORE. Victim advocates at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction coordinate with local victim advocates to develop necessary protocols. The offender is then informed of necessary limits to his/her release to the community.
- ❑ Services for the offender are delivered in three phases. Phase I begins at the state institution and lasts until the offender is released from prison. Identified offenders are provided with information about the program, asked if they would like to participate, and asked to complete a screening form. Participation is voluntary. The inmate has priority admission into treatment programs available in the institution. Phase I is complete at release from prison.
- ❑ Phase II of the program occurs when the offender returns to the community. The offender will continue to meet with a community RMT that includes the offender, the community case manager, the parole officer, and other community service providers working with the offender. Phase II lasts for the time the offender is on parole or post release control.
- ❑ Phase III begins once the offender is off formal supervision and lasts for a year. The local community reentry manager (CRC) will monitor the offender's progress and continue to provide services as needed. The participation of the offender is absolutely voluntary at this point since the offender is no longer involved with the criminal justice system. Offenders are asked to meet with the CRC every other month.

- The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) works in conjunction with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and other CORE grant partners to document the successes and lessons of the grant. OCJS will also be assisting in developing publications on this unique undertaking and disseminate the reports.

## **Lessons Learned**

CORE has been operational in Ohio for almost three years. Since the beginning, there have been several lessons learned about operating this type of program within a state that has a large institutional system and home rule. Home rule means that the state system is totally separate from the local system and cannot control policies or operations at the local level. However, the philosophy of reentry is that bringing offenders home to the community to stay is not either a state or local responsibility but a joint responsibility. As a result, there are several lessons learned in the implementation process.

### ***Access to Offender Information***

During the implementation phase of the grant, there was a need to ensure that the community partners, institutional staff and parole staff had access to the same client information. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) utilizes an offender database, titled the Department Offender Tracking System (DOTS), to monitor all activities, programs, reentry accountability plans, visitors, parole board dates, releases, supervision adjustment, and offender history. The DOTS system is an internal system that is accessible by departmental personnel only. In addition, some departmental personnel working on the grant only had limited access to the system. It was important that all persons working with the offenders have access to the offender's information and progress as well as the capability to update the offender's records when applicable to make certain the most up-to-date and accurate information was available on each offender. After review by technical staff at DRC, it was determined that the DOTS system could be made available to other organizations. Director Wilkinson approved the change in policy, and the DOTS system was made available to the community partners and other state agencies that needed data. This is the first time DRC has been willing to share all offender data with outside organizations.

### ***Legal Changes***

Since the implementation of the grant, Ohio has undergone a number of legal changes that have impacted the target population under the CORE grant. The first court decisions that directly affected the CORE grant were from the cases *Layne v. Ohio*, *Lee v. APA*, and *Ankrom v. Hageman*. In these cases, inmates contended the parole board breached plea agreements by considering the circumstances of the original offense rather than the offense of conviction when determining parole eligibility. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the use of circumstances of the original offense



deprived the inmate of due process. The ruling clearly stated the offense of conviction was to be used in determining parole eligibility and guideline specifications. As a result, the parole board reviewed every inmate eligible for parole to determine if their parole had been denied based upon the original or the conviction offense. If the parole board determined the offender's release was postponed due to the details of the original offense rather than the conviction, the offender had to be released within 90 days of the hearing. A number of offenders were released early under this ruling.

The next change occurred with Ohio House Bill 327. House Bill 327 clarified provisions of the Felony Sentencing Law under Senate Bill 2. It corrected the penalty provisions for certain offenses and changed the requirements for post release control. The result for CORE was that offenders previously being released under supervision were being released at the expiration of sentence with no supervision. As a result they were no longer eligible for the program.

Finally, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction changed the Transitional Control (TC) Program policy to increase the number of offenders eligible for early release to the community. Once an offender has been approved for TC by the parole board, a letter is sent to the sentencing judge/county for approval. The judge has 30 days to respond. Once approval has been granted, the offender is immediately released to a TC facility as defined by ORC 2967.26. TC-certified facilities are located across Ohio, not just in the target counties. When released, the TC offender must go to the first available bed. As a result, some of the original program participants were released to counties not part of the program and were removed from the program. Internal discussions helped to ensure the CORE clients were released to target counties.

### ***Special Incidents***

In July 2004, we had two notable cases that indicated a need for a process of incident review that was independent of the authorities responsible for supervision of the offender. The first case involved an offender released to the community with serious mental health problems, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse dependence, and employability problems. Upon acceptance into CORE, the team began meeting with the offender at the institution on a monthly basis. The offender had three previous incarcerations with unsuccessful parole terminations. Early on the team began to notice the behaviors and responses displayed by the offender were inappropriate. One month he was coherent, the next he could not remember his mother's name, or had been placed in segregation for masturbating in front of a female correctional officer. Upon reviewing his file, it was learned he had been shot in the head on two separate occasions. Immediately, mental health assessments were requested including a referral and screening by the Ohio State University's Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic. As he neared his release date, community linkages were made for a smooth treatment transition. His family was supportive, but due to illness he was unable to live with them. Alternative transportation and



housing was arranged for the offender. During previous supervision the longest the offender maintained compliance was 30 days and then was reconvicted of a new crime. The offender was released in September 2003, and although he did have parole technical violations he managed not to engage in criminal behavior that would have resulted in a new criminal conviction. However, beginning in July 2004, the subject began to spiral downhill, refusing to comply with the conditions of his supervision, maintain treatment appointments, and missing appointments with his community case managers. He also failed to maintain contact with his family during this time frame. The team members attempted to locate him but he disappeared into the community. On August 23, 2004, the subject obtained a handgun and shot a friend who he thought was against him, barricaded himself in an apartment, and shot himself in the head. The offender died from this infliction.

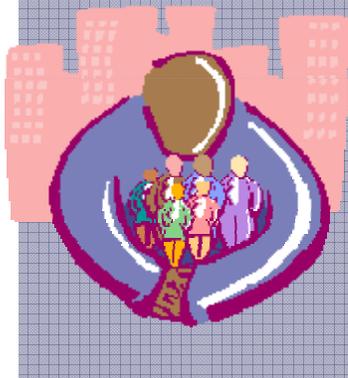
A second CORE offender, who had been in prison for more than seven years on burglary convictions, was released on parole. During his community supervision and case management he was compliant with conditions. However, due to a backlog of DNA processing in Ohio, it was not known that he was responsible for two rapes prior to his incarceration. In June 2004, the offender's DNA was matched to the DNA collected from the unsolved rapes. There was a miscommunication between the local police department and the Adult Parole Authority which resulted in the offender being released to community supervision. The offender learned he was wanted for these rapes and absconded. Before he could be arrested in August 2004 he committed two additional rapes.

Although the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction had an internal administrative review system, the state-level steering committee recommended an independent incident review be conducted since the program involved other state and local organizations. This review process included reviewing all file material from the institution, parole, and community partners. The review was designed as a tool to ensure the appropriate protocol was followed as outlined in the grant, identify successful strategies used, and determine if there was any need for improvement. It was not to be used for discipline or to determine blame. It was decided a representative from the Department of Mental Health with prior critical incident review experience would be responsible for conducting these reviews.

It was also critical that staff in these particular circumstances be debriefed by appropriate and trained personnel. Staff working with these offenders has invested time and dedication to the offender's success. A system was developed to work with staffs who are involved in critical incidents.

### ***Child Support Information***

One area that has been somewhat difficult to retrieve information on is child support obligations owed by CORE offenders. One of the project's goals was to work with offenders to become compliant with their child support payments. The community reentry management teams have had



difficulty in obtaining child support enforcement orders from their local jurisdictions. Eighty-one percent of the grant participants were single at the time of their commitment, with two-thirds reporting having children. However, many of the participants do not have court-ordered child support. A number of participants provide financial support to their child's custodial parent, but there did not appear to be a pattern of long-term consistent support.

Ohio child support enforcement is managed through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at the state level. For Cuyahoga County, we were able to establish a working relationship through the Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, which provided child support orders and information on Cuyahoga County offenders only. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, who is a member of the state steering committee, is working with the Child Support Enforcement Agency to obtain the necessary information on the remaining grant participants in Franklin and Allen counties.

### ***Staff Turnover***

A number of staff from the institution, parole, and community agencies have been transferred, promoted, or resigned from their current positions. As new staff were hired or assigned to the CORE grant, it became apparent that a modified on-the-job training manual was needed to train new staff quickly. The goal was to ensure services for offenders were not interrupted when personnel changes occurred.

It is also important to recognize that each community agency, institution, and parole region had its own workplace culture. For example, some community personnel had never been inside the confines of a prison, so teaching them the dynamics about operating procedures of prison culture was necessary. Institutional personnel also needed to be trained about how community supervision and services operated.

A standardized training manual has been developed for all CORE participating organizations. Information is provided on the goals and objectives of the grant, processes for working with the offenders, standardized reporting formats, and information sharing and storage. All current institutional and community staff have been retrained using the manual.

### ***Data Collection***

During an 18-month review conducted by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, it became apparent that all three sites were collecting and documenting offender information and data in different manners. Although each site was required to update the offender's information in the DOTS system and provide required documents to each other, it was not always occurring in a timely or concise manner. Information was missing, incomplete, or documented in a number of different locations. The institutions, parole offices, and community providers were also maintaining parallel information systems which were not included in DOTS.



Information was scattered among all three entities and not all of the required information was being collected.

In order to maintain consistency and ensure data is collected, a uniform monthly progress report has been developed. The community case managers, as chairpersons of the reentry management team, are responsible for working with all parties to complete the monthly progress reports. The information on the report is designed to indicate the offender's progress as well as provide needed data for evaluation.

### ***Workplace Culture***

As collaboration and implementation began, it became apparent there were different workplace cultures. A community agency of 20 employees found it easier and timelier to attain information than a state agency with thousands of employees. There was frustration from the community partners because of the differences in operating in a bureaucratic environment. For example, community partners could have been required to wait 45 minutes to see an inmate for a reentry management team meeting because the count had not cleared at the institution. Institutional staff did not initially understand community programs and the differences between a private non-profit organization and a parole office.

A dynamic also began to develop within the team itself. Case managers, community partners, and service providers became somewhat territorial of the offenders. All parties were operating in the best interest of the client as they saw it, rather than as a whole team. Unfortunately, this friction caused some offenders to voluntarily withdraw from the program. Staff's intentions were good but misdirected.

Over time, some of the problems have been resolved. However, additional training must be done to ensure there is an understanding of the different workplace cultures.

### ***Mentally Ill Offenders***

During the first year of the program it became apparent that the incidence of mental illness among the serious and violent offender population was considerably higher than the general population. At the 18-month review period, it appeared that the incidence of mental illness was 10 to 20 percent higher than the general population. Women had a much higher incidence than men. It was difficult to determine at what point in the process offenders were being diagnosed and treated for mental health problems. The records in DOTS appeared not to accurately reflect the mental health status of the inmates.

These problems prompted two strategies. First, to ensure the needs of the offenders were being met, additional funding was allocated to allow for identification, assessment, and treatment in the community. Second, to get a better understanding of the nature and scope of the problem, an addition research study was developed. With the assistance of mental



health services in the system, specific mental health data is being collected at intake, within the last three years of the inmate's incarceration, at release and in the community. The results of the study should provide a better understanding of the nature and extent of the problem among this population. It should also assist in determining if there is a need for any changes in the system.

### Evaluation

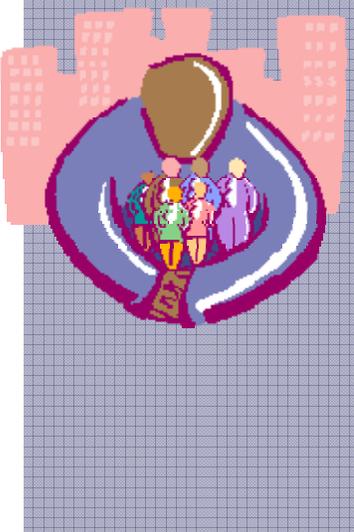
The Ohio CORE program was designed to test the effectiveness of the intervention. An outcome evaluation was developed at the beginning of the project. The research being conducted is based on an experimental design. Inmates identified as eligible for the program are assigned to an experimental and a control group. Data is collected for both groups of offenders while they are still in prison, in the community and after release from the program.

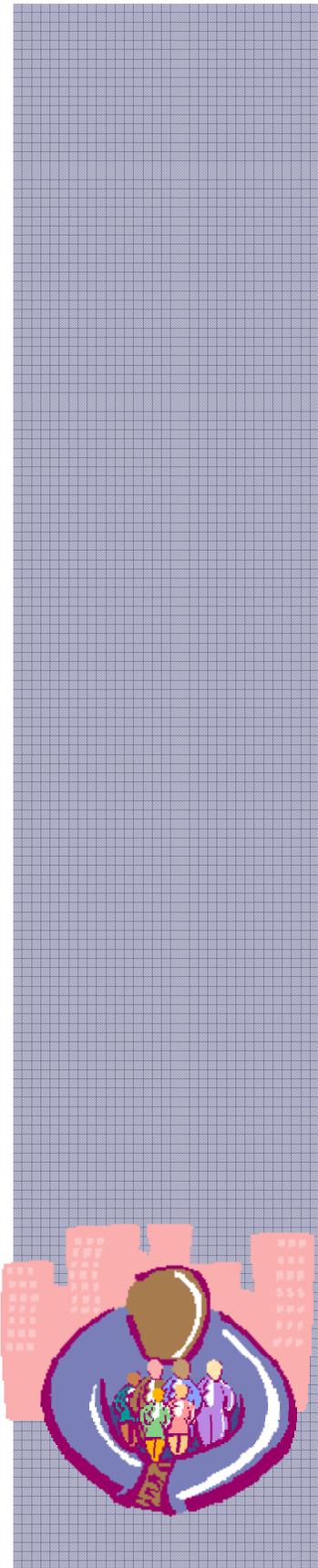
Preliminary data has been collected on 186 offenders in the experimental group and 184 offenders in the control group. The following is a summary of the characteristics of these offenders:

- ❑ The experimental and control group are similar in gender, with 78 percent and 74 percent, respectively, male.
- ❑ Overall, 71 percent of the offenders are African American. Since the majority of the offenders in the study are being released to two major urban areas in Ohio, Cleveland and Columbus, the racial composition is reflective of the total release population to those jurisdictions. In 2004, 66 percent of the releases to Allen County were African American, 75 percent of Cuyahoga County, and 64 percent of Franklin County. One hundred twenty-seven offenders in the experimental group and 134 of the offenders in the control group were African American.
- ❑ Eighty-nine percent of the offenders in both groups have been convicted of an offense where there is a presumption of incarceration under Ohio's sentencing law.

| Offense Level | Experimental | Control | All Offenders |
|---------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| Murder        | .5%          | 1.1%    | .8%           |
| Felony 1      | 23.9%        | 16.9%   | 20.4%         |
| Felony 2      | 38.0%        | 36.6%   | 37.3%         |
| Felony 3      | 29.9%        | 31.7%   | 30.8%         |
| Felony 4      | 7.1%         | 9.3%    | 8.2%          |
| Felony 5      | .5%          | 4.4%    | 2.5%          |

- ❑ The majority of all offenders were convicted of personal crimes (55.9 percent). Personal crimes include murder, manslaughter, vehicular homicide, felonious assault, arson, burglary, robbery, kidnapping, intimidation, stalking, kidnapping, endangering children,





and abduction. More than 60 percent of the experimental group and 51.4 percent of the control group's most serious offense conviction was in a personal crime category, 17.4 percent of the experimental group and 19.1 percent of the control group's offense was in a property crime category, 13 percent of experimental group and 17 percent of control group's offense was in a drug crime category, and 88.7 percent of the experimental group and 11.5 percent of the control group's offense was in other miscellaneous crime.

- The majority of offenders had more than one conviction offense at the time of this commitment; with the control group having more offenders with two or more convictions at the time of commitment.

| <b>Commitment Offenses</b> | <b>Experimental</b> | <b>Control</b> | <b>All Offenders</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| One                        | 48.9%               | 35%            | 42.0%                |
| Two                        | 38.6%               | 30%            | 34.3%                |
| Three or More              | 12.5%               | 35%            | 23.7%                |

- More than 83 percent of all offenders had one or more prior felony convictions, see below. The control group had more prior misdemeanor convictions than the experimental group. More than 62 percent of the control group, as compared to 33.8 percent of the experimental group, had three or more prior misdemeanors. Seventy-six percent of both groups had prior juvenile convictions.

| <b>Prior Felonies</b> | <b>Experimental</b> | <b>Control</b> | <b>All Offenders</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| None                  | 8.2%                | 27.3%          | 18%                  |
| One                   | 9.2%                | 15.8%          | 12%                  |
| Two                   | 20.1%               | 13.1%          | 17%                  |
| Three or More         | 62.5%               | 43.8%          | 53%                  |

- Seventy-three percent of the all offenders had prior adult commitments and 43 percent had prior state juvenile commitments.
- Sixty percent of all offenders have had drug convictions in their history.
- Slightly more than half (51.9 percent) of the offenders reported having family members with criminal histories. More than 61 percent of the experimental group and 41.8 percent of the control group reported family members with criminal records.
- Just under half of the offenders were 25 years or younger.

| <b>Age</b>   | <b>Experimental</b> | <b>Control</b> | <b>All Offenders</b> |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 16 or 17     | 2.2%                | 0.5%           | 1.4%                 |
| 18 to 25     | 45.7%               | 46.4%          | 46.0%                |
| 26 and Older | 52.2%               | 53.0%          | 52.6%                |

- The majority (81 percent) of all offenders were single — 79.0 percent of the experimental group, and 82.9 percent of the control group. Almost two-thirds (62 percent) of all single offenders had children. Slightly more than a third (37 percent) of the single offenders had two or more children.
- The majority of the offenders had a static risk score of 5 or higher, which was considered reentry intensive for purposes of this grant.

| Risk Score | Experimental | Control | All Offenders |
|------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| 4 or Less  | 9.5%         | 30.7%   | 19.2%         |
| 5 or More  | 91.3%        | 76.5%   | 83.9%         |

- More than 80 percent of all offenders were diagnosed as having a substance abuse problem as part of the assessment process — 75.3 percent of the experimental group and 85.5 percent of the control group. Offenders could report up to three substances that they used in no order of preference. Of those who reported substance abuse, alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine were the most frequently used drugs.

| Drug                             | Experimental | Control | All Offenders |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| Alcohol                          | 57.3%        | 64.7%   | 61.1%         |
| Marijuana                        | 51.6%        | 56.4%   | 54.1%         |
| Cocaine                          | 45.2%        | 61.7%   | 53.7%         |
| Number Reporting Substance Abuse | 124          | 133     | 257           |

- More than 45 percent of all offenders lived with parents or grandparents and 26.3 percent lived with a wife or significant other before commitment.

| Living Situation        | Experimental | Control | All Offenders |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| Parents or Grandparents | 44.0%        | 46.2%   | 45.1%         |
| Wife or SO              | 24.6%        | 28.1%   | 26.3%         |

- The average number of years of school completed was 10 with a range from 3 to 17. The experimental group appears to have a slightly higher education level than the control group.

| Education    | Experimental | Control | All Offenders |
|--------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| 3 to 8       | 12.42%       | 15.00%  | 13.74%        |
| 9            | 15.69%       | 19.38%  | 17.57%        |
| 10           | 27.45%       | 30.63%  | 29.07%        |
| 11           | 24.18%       | 21.88%  | 23.00%        |
| 12           | 13.07%       | 10.63%  | 11.82%        |
| More than 12 | 7.19%        | 2.50%   | 4.79%         |



- Twelve percent of all offenders had high school diplomas at commitment and 29.4 percent had a GED. It is interesting to note that many of the offenders reported receiving a GED as a result of a previous incarceration, either adult or juvenile.

| Completed  | Experimental | Control | All Offenders |
|------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| 12 Years   | 2.2%         | 0.5%    | 1.4%          |
| HS Diploma | 13.2%        | 10.7%   | 12.0%         |
| GED        | 32.7%        | 25.8%   | 29.4%         |

- More than 41 percent of all offenders were employed prior to prison: 35.8 percent of the experimental group and 47.7 percent of the control group.

### Final Note

The Ohio CORE program will end in June 2006. The last offenders will be accepted into the program this summer to ensure they are released to the community. The final data collection for the evaluation will occur next summer with a final report on the effectiveness of the program expected late in the fall 2006. One of the most important benefits of this program has been a new and increased cooperation between state and local agencies that work with offenders. The Ohio Department of Mental Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addictions Services, and the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services have actively worked to resolve problems for offenders returning to the community. The resources provided by all these agencies at no cost have given the Ohio program a higher likelihood for success.

