

# Final Report

## An Outcome Evaluation of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Community Orientation & Reintegration Program

Linda G. Smith, Ph.D.  
Denise R. Suttle, M.A.

International Association of Reentry  
Columbus, Ohio

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

With the increases in prison populations and the rising costs of incarceration nationwide, top officials at all levels of government are focusing on the concept of reentry as a process to transition offenders back into the community without compromising public safety. The growing concern about the failure of the criminal justice system to safely return prisoners home, as evidenced by high recidivism rates, has prompted a renewed interest in how prisoners are prepared for release and how they are linked with critical support and services in the community upon their reentry into society. Although reentry programs are receiving funding from federal, state, and local governments, we have only recently started to critically examine how these programs are doing in reaching their goals of reduced recidivism and improved outcomes that emphasize employment, training, housing, and treatment services for offenders after release from prison. Very few reentry programs have been evaluated using any methodological rigor, so our knowledge about how well they are working is limited. With an emphasis on public safety, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) created a reentry program to address issues of prison overcrowding and the increases in the costs of incarceration. The reentry program, called Community Orientation and Reintegration (COR), used the “What Works” literature to develop the curriculum, which the DOC planned to deliver in two phases – an in-prison program and a program provided in the Community Correctional Centers (CCC’s). The focus was on crafting a program that would act as a “refresher” course. This “refresher” course was designed to draw on the knowledge and skills that the inmates received from participating in other programs offered in the prison system. COR was implemented in late 2001 and continues today.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the present study was to provide the DOC with a methodologically rigorous evaluation that would present objective feedback on how well COR worked in facilitating the successful reentry of offenders being released from prison back into the community. The evaluation was done as part of the DOC’s continued emphasis on delivering evidence-based programs in the prison system that incorporate principles of effective intervention. The main focus of the current study was on the post-release outcomes of recidivism, employment, and substance abuse of COR Phase I participants compared to a Control Group who did not participate in COR. This outcome evaluation followed the process evaluation of COR that was conducted previously.

### **Methodology, Research Design, Study Population, Time Dimension and Measures**

The initial pilot of COR used an experimental design with random assignment of inmates for participation in COR or assignment into a Control Group. An experimental design in correctional research is rare and provided the unique opportunity to conduct the most rigorous study recommended for evidenced-based practices and programming. We focused on two groups for the study population – COR Completers and the Control Group. A total of 1310 inmates comprised the study population (772 COR Completers and 538 Control Group members). Using a longitudinal panel study, both groups were followed for five years focusing on 9 measures of recidivism, 3 measures of employment, and 1 measure of substance abuse. In

addition, a sub-sample of 99 members of the study population participated in a survey, interviews, and focus groups providing an in-depth examination of the study population.

It should be noted that we eliminated a group of COR participants who did not complete the program (COR Non-Completers). The numbers in this group were small (N=61, which was less than 5% of the total study population). We did, however, run t-tests comparing the COR Non-Completers to the COR Completers and the Control Group members on several measures and we found that they were only less likely to be male. For the other measures, including the recidivism measures, the t-test results showed that COR Non-Completers were not significantly different from COR Completers or Control Group members.<sup>1</sup> All we knew about this group was that they started the COR program but never finished. Therefore we did not think that including this group in the study would be particularly useful.<sup>2</sup>

### **Data Collection and Sources**

The main data elements were obtained from official records including the DOC COR Phase 1 Participation Database, the DOC COR Assessment Database, the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) criminal histories, the DOC move sheets, the DOC summary sheets, and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L & I) employment data. The information used for selecting the study population came from the DOC COR Phase 1 Participation Database and the COR Assessment Database. Criminal histories were obtained for every inmate in the study population (the COR Completers and the Control Group) from the Pennsylvania State Police. The PSP serves as the state's criminal history repository. The DOC move sheets were also pulled for everyone in the study population to help identify anyone who came back to prison as a parole or pre-release violator. The move sheets were used to supplement the criminal histories since parole and pre-release violators' returns to prison do not usually show up on the criminal histories. The DOC summary sheets were obtained for all individuals who were reimprisoned for a new crime. This information was used to find out the specifics of the reimprisonment charge and parole status. Labor data were collected from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L & I) over five quarters starting three years after the study participants were released from prison. We were able to collect data for the number of quarters worked and the average wages earned by each individual.

Another important source of data came from surveys, which were given to a randomly selected sub-sample of both the COR Completers and the Control Group members who had returned to prison and who volunteered to participate. The lead researcher traveled to several prisons to administer the surveys to prisoners and hold focus groups and interviews. The surveys asked the study participants a variety of questions about (1) individual demographics, (2) criminal history information including criminal associations, (3) program participation while in prison (4) questions about COR and the COR curriculum, (5) living situations during most recent

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<sup>1</sup> We compared the COR Non-Completers to the COR Completers and the Control Group members using t-tests of mean differences for gender, age, race, single-state vs. multi-state offender, domestic violence incidents, overall recidivism, rearrest, reconviction, reimprisonment, reimprisonment offense, resentencing minimum and maximum times, quarters worked and wages earned.

<sup>2</sup> The Non-Completers could have participated in COR only one day or they could have participated until the second-to-last day.

release from prison, (6) work history and employment situation prior to current incarceration, (7) financial situation during most recent release from prison, (8) drug and alcohol situation, (9) mental health status, (10) experiences with parole, (11) events leading to current incarceration, (12) current situation in prison, (13) future plans after release from prison, and (14) offender suggestions for improving programming efforts.

### **Study Population Characteristics**

Demographics for age, race, and gender, along with single-state vs. multi-state offender<sup>3</sup> and domestic violence indicators, were collected from official records. We also compared the demographic data of the study population to the DOC general population during the same time period that the study population was established. Other demographic and criminogenic characteristics were collected from the survey data.<sup>4</sup> The following is a summary of the findings.

#### **Study Population Characteristics from Official Records**

- **The mean age for COR Completers was slightly younger at 39.31 years compared to the Control Group which had a mean age of 40.33 years.<sup>5</sup> Both groups were older than the mean age of the DOC general population and prisoners nationwide.**
- **The racial composition of the study population follows national trends with African Americans making up 53.4% of COR Completers and 55.2% of the Control Group. Whites accounted for 35.5% of COR Completers and 31.8% of the Control Group while Hispanics made up 10.9% of the COR Completers and 12.5% of the Control Group. Although the percentage of African Americans in the study population was somewhat higher and Hispanics somewhat lower than national statistics, the trend is the same. We did not find any significant differences between the study population and the DOC general population's racial composition.**
- **For gender, males made up 94.6% of COR Completers with females accounting for 5.4%. Males accounted for 93.7% and females 6.3% of the Control Group. These findings were not significantly different from the gender composition of the DOC general population.**
- **A significant number of COR Completers (29.8%) and the Control Group (25.9%) were multi-state offenders. These figures were much higher than multi-state offending reported in a nationwide study (7.6%).**
- **Examining their entire criminal history, 51.0% of the COR Completers and 46.4% of the Control Group had domestic violence indicators on their criminal histories with a mean of 1.75 indicators for both groups.**

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<sup>3</sup> Single-State offenders have a criminal history in only one state while multi-state offenders have a criminal history record in more than one state.

<sup>4</sup> Only a portion of the findings from the survey data is presented in the Executive Summary.

<sup>5</sup> Although there was just a little over a year's difference in the mean age of COR Completers compared to the Control Group, it was statistically significant.

### Survey Results for Study Population Characteristics

- Marital status for COR Completers was much different compared to the Control Group. For COR Completers, 55.3% reported that they were single and had never been married while only 36.5% of the Control Group reported being single and never married.
- More than 75% of both groups had children under the age of 18.
- More than half of both groups reported that they had completed high school or had a GED.

### Survey Results for Self-Report Criminal Histories/Criminal Associations

- COR Completers were slightly younger at the age they were first involved in criminal activities and the age they were first arrested (15.87 and 16.98 years of age respectively) compared to the Control Group who reported 16.59 years of age for first involvement and 18.60 years of age for first arrest.
- COR Completers had more juvenile arrests (an average of 2.00 arrests) and confinements in a juvenile facility (56.8% had been confined in a juvenile facility) compared to the Control Group with an average of 1.78 juvenile arrests and 41.2% reporting confinement in a juvenile facility. The COR Completers' greater involvement with the juvenile justice system compared to the Control Group is consistent with the younger age of first criminal involvement and age at first arrest that the COR Completers reported.
- COR Completers reported that they had an average of 3.90 arrests as an adult with 2.75 prior felony arrests compared to an average of 5.20 arrests with 2.96 prior felony arrests for the Control Group.
- COR Completers reported a mean of 3.21 times for prior jail incarcerations, 2.00 for prior prison incarcerations with a total of 120.14 months spent in prior incarcerations compared to the Control Group with a mean of 3.24 for prior jail incarcerations, 3.14 prior prison incarcerations and a total of 142.46 months for total incarceration time. It would be expected that the Control Group had been incarcerated longer since they had a slightly larger number of jail incarcerations and a larger number of prison incarcerations compared to COR Completers.
- Three-fourths of the COR Completers (75.0%) and 71.4% of the Control Group had been on probation at least once. Thirty-four percent of COR Completers (34.1%) and 32.6% of the Control Group had been on probation two or more times. Twenty-five percent of the COR Completers and 28.6% of the Control Group had never been on probation.
- All of the COR Completers (100%) had been on parole previously while 94.1% of the Control Group had been on parole prior to their current incarceration. More than sixty percent (61.3%) of the COR Completers and 50.9% of the Control Group had been on parole two or more times.
- The majority of both COR Completers (84.4%) and the Control Group (78.3%) reported that some, most, or all of the friends that they "hung

around with” before their current incarceration had criminal records. It should be noted that 33.3% of the COR Completers reported that most or all of their friends that they “hung around with” during their last release from prison had a criminal record compared to only 17.3% of the Control Group. Very few in either group (15.6% of COR Completers and 21.7% of the Control Group members) associated with friends who did not have criminal records.

- Almost one-fourth of COR Completers had a parent who had been convicted of a crime compared to 17% of the Control Group.
- Approximately 12% of both groups reported that they had a child who had been incarcerated in jail or prison or detained in a juvenile facility.
- Approximately one-third of the COR Completers and one-fourth of the Control Group reported high crime in the neighborhoods they lived in prior to their current incarceration.

### **Findings and Conclusions**

Reducing recidivism, increasing the employment rates and wages for program participants, and decreasing post-release substance abuse were important goals of the COR program. The results of this report showed failures for COR Completers compared to the Control Group for almost every recidivism, employment, and substance abuse measure used in this outcome evaluation. Thus, the following findings **do not support** COR’s success in achieving the goals of the program.

#### **Recidivism Outcomes from Official Records**

- COR Completers had a slightly higher rate (71%) of overall recidivism<sup>6</sup> compared to the Control Group at 70.1%.
- COR Completers’ time to failure for overall recidivism occurred approximately four months sooner (14.47 months) than time to failure for the Control Group (18.46 months)<sup>7</sup>.
- COR Completers had a higher rate of rearrest (49.5%) compared to the Control Group (42.8%).<sup>8</sup> Both groups had rearrest rates lower than national rearrest rates.
- COR Completers had a slightly higher rate of reconviction (22.4%) compared to the Control Group (21.2%).<sup>9</sup> Both groups had lower reconviction rates compared to national reconviction rates.
- COR Completers had a slightly higher rate of reimprisonment (59.1%) compared to the rate of reimprisonment for the Control Group (58.9%).

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<sup>6</sup> Any study participant who had a rearrest, reconviction, or reimprisonment following release from prison in 2001 or 2002 was coded 1 (yes) for overall recidivism. Study participants were also coded 1 if they were returned to prison for non-compliance of any post-release supervision (parole or pre-release violations). The study participants were only counted **once** for this measure even if they had multiple indicators.

<sup>7</sup> The difference was statistically significant.

<sup>8</sup> The difference was statistically significant.

<sup>9</sup> Reconviction records were not as complete as the rearrest and reimprisonment data.

Both groups had higher reimprisonment rates, largely driven by parole and pre-release violations, compared to national reimprisonment rates.<sup>10</sup>

- COR Completers had a higher rate of reimprisonment (16.7%) for a new crime compared to the Control Group (15.5%). However, the COR Completers had a slightly lower rate of reimprisonment for technical parole violations and pre-release violations combined (81.6%) compared to the Control Group who had a combined rate for reimprisonment of 82.1% for technical parole violations and pre-release violations.
- COR Completers had higher rates of reimprisonment for new crimes for the three felony offense categories (21.6% for violent, 25.7% for property, and 37.8% for drugs) compared to the Control Group with reimprisonment rates of 21.4% for violent, 19.0% for property, and 35.7% for drugs.
- COR Completers had a slightly shorter mean of 30.27 months for minimum re-sentencing time compared to the Control Group with 30.43 months, but COR Completers had a longer mean of 74.96 months for maximum re-sentencing time compared to a mean of 68.14 months for maximum re-sentencing time for the Control Group.
- COR Completers and the Control Group members were nearly identical in the proportion surviving without recidivating at the end of five years, 0.290 and 0.297 respectively. However, the hazard of recidivating was higher for the COR Completers and the mean and median survival time for COR Completers was lower (meaning they did not survive as long) compared to the Control Group.

### Survey Results for Post-Release (Parole) Supervision

- Most of the COR Completers (92.5%) and the Control Group (88.0%) reported that they were on parole when they committed the act that resulted in a return to prison.
- Approximately 60% of both the COR Completers (61.9%) and the Control Group (61.4%) reported that they got along with their parole officer very well or fairly well during their last release.
- Fifty-eight percent of the COR Completers (58.1%) and 52.2% of the Control Group said that their parole officer helped them some or helped them a lot. Conversely, 41.9% of the COR Completers and 47.8% of the Control Group said that their parole officer did not help them at all or made it more difficult for them when they were released.
- Seventy-five percent of the COR Completers and 68.1% of the Control Group reported that their parole officer never gave them another chance after catching them breaking a condition of their parole. This is an interesting finding given the fact that the majority of both groups got along with their parole officers.

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<sup>10</sup> We had more sources of data than that used in the national study of recidivism for reimprisonment. The national study only used criminal histories. We used the DOC move and summary sheet data to supplement the criminal histories.

- Eighty-one percent of the COR Completers (81.4%) reported that they violated conditions of their parole during their first year of release compared to 55.5% of the Control Group. This is consistent with time to failure reported in the recidivism outcomes.
- Sixty-five percent of COR Completers (65.2%) said they returned to prison for a parole violation compared to 63.3% of the Control Group.<sup>11</sup>
- Thirty-one percent of the COR Completers reported that they returned to prison while they were on the run compared to 26% of the Control Group.
- Twenty-two percent of the COR Completers and 16% of the Control Group returned to prison from a Community Correctional Center for violations during pre-release.

### Employment /Financial Outcomes from Official Records

- COR Completers worked slightly less, 3.33 quarters of the five quarters tracked with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, compared to 3.40 quarters worked by the Control Group.
- COR Completers earned slightly less, \$16,127.43 for the five quarters reported, compared to the Control Group members who earned \$16,548.40.
- COR Completers earned slightly less for average quarterly wages (\$3,745.24) compared to the Control Group who had an average quarterly wage of \$3,905.14. Average wages were based on the quarters worked.
- COR Completers (25.7%) had a higher rate of reimprisonment for economic (property) crimes compared to 19.0% of the Control Group who were reimprisoned for economic crimes.

### Survey Results for Employment/Financial Stability during Release

- Close to three-fourths of both the COR Completers (73.9%) and the Control Group (72.9%) reported that they were working full time when they were employed during their last release from prison.
- Almost three-fourths of both the COR Completers (73.3%) and the Control Group (70.8%) reported being unemployed at some time during their last release from prison.
- The longest period of time that COR Completers worked at one place during their lifetime was an average of 27.61 months compared to more than double that at 59.38 months for the Control Group.
- A similar outcome occurred for the longest period of time worked at one place during their last release from prison with COR Completers reporting 10.57 months and the Control Group reporting 19.71 months.
- COR Completers earned less money weekly (\$395.82) compared to the weekly wage of \$456.81 for the Control Group. This self-reported income is

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<sup>11</sup> This self-report figure does not include pre-release violations we report from official records as part of the post-release compliance outcomes.

consistent with the findings from the official records of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

- For the longest job held during the study participants' last release from prison, less than half of those employers for either the COR Completers (36.6%) or the Control Group (47.5%) provided any kind of employee benefits (i.e., medical insurance, retirement, and/or vacation time).
- More than half of both COR Completers and the Control Group reported feeling stress from their job.
- Fifty-seven percent of the COR Completers thought it was hard to get a job during their last release from prison compared to 36% of the Control Group.
- About half of both groups said that finances limited their job search.
- Only 37.8% of the COR Completers had a bank account compared to 67.3% of the Control Group.
- More than 50% of the COR Completers reported that they were not able or just barely able to make ends meet during their last release compared to 36% of the Control Group who reported that they were not able or just barely able to make ends meet.
- More COR Completers (35.6%) reported that managing money had been a problem compared to 25.5% of the Control Group.

#### **Substance Abuse Outcomes from Official Records**

- COR Completers had a higher rate (37.8%) of reimprisonment for drug offenses compared to the Control Group's rate of 35.7%.

#### **Survey Results for Drug and Alcohol Use during Release**

- Close to 90% of both the COR Completers and the Control Group reported participation in drug and/or alcohol programs while in prison.
- More COR Completers (58.8%) reported participation in the DOC's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program compared to only 44.4% of the Control Group who reported participation in RSAT.
- Fifty-one percent of COR Completers (51.1%) had received prior treatment (either in-patient or out-patient treatment or both) for a drug and/or alcohol problem while out of prison compared to 50.0% of the Control Group who reported treatment.
- Sixty-five percent of the COR Completers and 73.3% of the Control Group reported seeking treatment for alcohol/drugs while they were released.
- More than 50% of both groups drank, used drugs, or did both during their prior release from prison. Twice as many COR Completers (26.7%) reported doing both drugs and alcohol compared to the Control Group (10.4%).
- One-third of the COR Completers had a drink during the same week they were released compared to only 18.2% of the Control Group.

- Almost one-half of the COR Completers (47.6%) had a drink during the week leading up to their current arrest/return to prison compared to 20% of the Control Group.
- COR Completers were drinking more days (3.30) and more drinks (8.24 per day) each week compared to the Control Group who drank 1.38 days per week on average and consumed 3.46 drinks in a day on average when they drank.
- During the last time they were released, 25% of the COR Completers who reported using drugs did so during the same week they were released compared to 20% of the Control Group.
- Thirty-six percent of the COR Completers (36.4%) and 41.6% of the Control Group used drugs during the week before their rearrest/reincarceration.
- COR Completers usually used drugs an average of 3.05 days per week compared to the Control Group who reported using drugs an average of 2.36 days per week.
- Marijuana and cocaine were drugs used most often by COR Completers compared to marijuana, cocaine, and heroin for the Control Group.
- For COR Completers, marijuana and cocaine were their drugs of choice. Marijuana, cocaine, and heroin were the drugs of choice for the Control Group.
- Only 5.6% of COR Completers said that heroin was a drug of choice compared to 23.5% Control Group who reported that heroin was a drug of choice.
- Only 11% of both COR Completers and the Control Group said that crack cocaine was a drug of choice.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings from the outcome evaluation of the COR program, we recommend the following:

- Increase the program time for COR and improve the curriculum and delivery of the program or dismantle the program entirely and recreate a new reentry program based on lessons learned from COR. Another option is to incorporate the important aspects of COR into the well-established programs already operating in the DOC.
- Utilize risk and needs assessment instruments for reentry programming to create plans specifically designed to address individual needs and services for the offenders and to ensure that the appropriate population is being targeted for services.
- Provide greater oversight of reentry programs at an administrative level to ensure compliance with the principles of effective intervention and programming.
- Work with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) and the parole officers to collaboratively develop both in-prison and after-prison programs that will help the offender meet the supervision requirements for

- **Consider the input of the offenders on how the DOC can help them achieve greater success upon release. The survey and interview results from a random sample of both groups in the study population who returned to prison provided an in-depth look at their individual and family background, their current offense and criminal histories, criminal associations (family and friends), employment and financial situations, drug and alcohol histories, prior in-prison programming participation, their parole situation and experiences during release, medical and mental health status, and factors leading to their failure during their previous release. The survey provided a wealth of information that can be used to create a reentry program with greater insight about the inmates and the critical issues facing them when they reenter society and transition back to their families, workforce, and communities.**

The findings from the outcome evaluation of COR were disappointing and the subsequent recommendations difficult to make. We are always reluctant to recommend eliminating any program, and we should emphasize that we are not recommending eliminating the DOC's reentry efforts. Rather, we are recommending the elimination of the COR program as it is designed now. A complete redesign of how the DOC will put reentry into practice in the future is needed. This is an opportunity to take the lessons learned from COR and use those lessons to strengthen and improve the DOC's approach to reentry programming for inmates. The DOC's continued emphasis on evidence-based practices and programs, which incorporates the principles of effective intervention, is a good foundation for a revised reentry program. Any new reentry program that the DOC develops should adopt the same goals that COR had. These include reducing recidivism, increasing employment opportunities, and decreasing substance abuse for offenders being released from prison without compromising public safety.

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**SECTION I:  
OUTCOME EVALUATION**

## INTRODUCTION

In a fifteen state study of recidivism, the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 67.5% of prisoners released and tracked for three years were rearrested (Langan and Levin, 2002). These high rates of recidivism among prisoners being released, along with prison overcrowding and the increasing costs of incarceration, have prompted government officials at the federal, state, and local level to develop initiatives designed to ease the transition of offenders back into their families, workforce, and communities after incarceration. Government officials agreed that the transition or “reentry” of offenders would require the collaboration of many partners (agencies), and a multi-disciplinary approach, to achieve the desired results of a reduction in recidivism and an improvement in the many other outcomes needed for success for those leaving our prisons and jails. In 2002, several federal partners including the Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education, worked together on a reentry initiative and awarded a total of \$100,000,000 to all states and federal territories who wished to participate (approximately two million dollars were awarded to each state). The efforts of these federal partners are being maintained as additional monies continue to fund reentry programs across the country.

Since the concept of prisoner reentry is being embraced at all levels of government, it is not surprising that there are different interpretations about the best way to put reentry into practice. For example, the way offenders are prepared for release through programming while in prison or jail and how they are linked with essential support and services in the community may vary from agency to agency. Also, with the high rates of recidivism of released prisoners being reported, a growing concern about public safety has emerged impacting how many agencies conduct reentry programs (Travis and Visher, 2005; National Governors Association, 2005).

This means that offenders selected for reentry programs might be the very ones who do not need it, while the ones who are rejected for reentry are the ones who may benefit the most. As part of the principles of effective intervention, targeting the right offenders for successful reentry services requires the utilization of a risk/needs assessment tool (Zajac, 2007; Latessa and Lowenkamp, 2006). Many correctional agencies are only now starting to consider such a tool part of a “best practices” approach to the reentry process. Therefore, any agency planning a successful reentry program must balance principles of effective intervention and a concern for public safety.

### **Brief Summary of Existing Research on Reentry**

Reentry efforts are not new to corrections. In the past, we had pre-release planning and a number of other prison programs that focused on helping the offender transition back home and into the workplace. These programs generally had a long-term goal of reducing recidivism. For example, education, vocational training, job preparedness, substance abuse treatment, life skills, and parenting classes have long been a part of correctional programming, and they all have goals of reducing recidivism. Not until the concept of “reentry” was embraced at the federal level, did we start referring to these programs or a combination of these programs as part of the reentry process. This interest in reentry is being supported at all levels of government. The National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices stated that reentry is “an important concern to states for three main reasons: the growing prison population and numbers of returning offenders; the impact of returning prisoners on crime rates; and the rising costs of corrections” (NGA, 2005, p. 2). They note that governors and other state policymakers can take steps to improve the reentry process by “raising the profile of prisoner reentry as a public safety issue and not solely a corrections issue” (Ibid. p. 1). The current focus on reentry has been good

for correctional programming because it has directed much needed attention and money to the serious problems of rising costs associated with high incarceration rates, prison overcrowding, high recidivism rates, and the failure of the criminal justice system to “correct” the behavior of individuals in our nation’s prisons and jails and those under probation or parole supervision.

What exactly is “reentry” and how do we define it? A definition seems to get lost when there are a myriad of things that must be done to make “reentry” successful for prisoners returning home. Travis and Visher (2005) define reentry as “the inevitable consequence of incarceration” (p. 3). Although not all of the prisoners currently incarcerated will return to (reenter) the community, approximately 95% will eventually be released<sup>12</sup>. With the current prison population, this means that more than a half million prisoners will return home every year (Petersilia, 2003) and, as mentioned earlier, more than two-thirds will recidivate with a rearrest within three years of release (Langan and Levin, 2002). There is a lot of work to be done and very little money available to make reentry a successful endeavor. Where do we start? What areas should reentry programs focus on to get the biggest return for their efforts?

We can start by looking at some of the major areas of concern for prisoners returning home and to their communities. Family, work, and community ties are the main areas we need to concentrate on improving (Uggen, Wakefield, and Western, 2005; Petersilia, 2005; NGA, 2005). And hand-in-hand with improving ties to family, work and community are the skills needed for improved family relationships, parenting, financial management, communication, education, vocational training, job success, decision-making, and substance abuse treatment (Uggen, Wakefield, and Western, 2005). A brief discussion of the literature supporting the need to focus on these areas follows in the sections below.

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<sup>12</sup> The other five percent are serving life sentences without parole, die in prison because of natural causes or prison violence, or are executed.

## **Reentry into Family Relationships**

Offenders returning home to their families and resuming relationships with spouses, significant others, and children can be a positive factor in the successful reintegration of the offender but these relationships can also create additional stress (Smith, 2006). Considering that more than half of all incarcerated offenders have children under the age of 18, there are not only relationship pressures with spouse, children, and other family members, but also financial obligations that must be addressed such as child support (Smith & Steurer, 2002). Readjusting to the routine of family life can add stressors (and triggers for substance abuse) if offenders have not adopted good communication and decision-making skills. They also must be able to handle financial obligations that are an important part of good family relationships. Programs that address interpersonal communication, family reunification, parenting skills, and financial management are promising strategies that can enhance the offender's positive relationships and lessen the stress and negative impact of returning home.

## **Reentry into the Workforce**

One of the biggest challenges for offenders after incarceration is finding and maintaining employment. Multiple barriers and problems such as criminal records, low educational status, skill deficiencies, unstable work histories, and long-term substance abuse make them undesirable employees and particularly susceptible to stressors in the work environment that might prevent them from being productive, working citizens (Eby, Johnson, and Russell, 1998). Recent research has shown that nearly half of all incarcerated offenders have never held a legal job or have only worked in part-time, temporary, seasonal, low wage, or entry level jobs (Smith and Steurer, 2002; Bernstein and Houston, 2000). Moreover, a large number of offenders in the prison population do not have a high school diploma or GED (Harlow, 2003; Smith and Steurer,

2002), and research has shown that such offenders are at greater risk of recidivating than those who have these credentials (Andrews and Bonta, 1998; Gendreau, Little, and Goggin, 1996).

Because of their educational and skill deficiencies, most offenders returning to the workforce will be entering the low-wage labor market without benefits such as health insurance, sick leave, and retirement plans. Earnings are so small for most offenders in the low wage labor market that they cannot support a family of four with an income above the poverty line (Bernstein and Houston, 2000). One of the goals of offender reentry and/or any prison education, vocational, and employment training programs should include reducing the barriers and problems that prevent these offenders from obtaining and retaining long-term, meaningful employment that will allow them to take care of themselves and their family.

This may be a difficult undertaking given the competitive employment situation that exists across the country, especially in the low-wage labor market. During the last two decades, there has been a general deterioration in the low-wage labor market for less-educated workers, and 75% of vacant jobs required at least a high school diploma or GED (Holzer, 1996). According to the Current Population Survey (CPS), for both men and women, the rates of joblessness are inversely related to level of educational achievement (Pryor and Schaeffer, 1999). This decrease in the demand for less-educated workers in today's low-wage labor market has been pushing many offenders out of the labor force and is a contributing factor to the high unemployment rates of these individuals (Pryor and Schaffer, 1999). A series of studies by the Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council of the Texas prison educational system found that inmates with the highest education were more likely upon release to obtain employment, have higher wages, and lower recidivism (Fabelo, 2002). Encouraging and assisting offenders in obtaining at least a GED is critical to their reentry success.

Offenders also represent a range of skill levels in categories such as intellect, aptitude, knowledge, and specific work experience ("hard" skills); and work ethic, attitude, good communication, flexibility, adaptability, problem-solving, time management, creativity, motivation, decision-making, judgment, and self-confidence ("soft" skills) (Lorenz, 2005). The focus on "soft skills" has become increasingly important in the current job market (Holzer, 1996). Thus, educational level coupled with skill deficiencies (both "hard" and "soft" skills), severely limit the offender's chances for successful employment. Offender programs that focus on education, vocational training, skill development (both "hard" and "soft" skills), employability, and job readiness will enhance the offender's opportunity for getting and retaining a job in today's competitive market.

### **Reentry into the Community**

Community linkages and resources for education, career counseling, medical/mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, family counseling, child care, and housing are also crucial to the successful reentry of offenders (NGA, 2005). "Poverty and the related difficulty in obtaining housing, healthcare, and child care make it more difficult to think clearly and engage in the complex information processing necessary to solve career problems and make career decisions" (Sampson, Peterson, Reardon and Lenz, 2000, p. 160). Support services can help offenders make the social adjustments necessary to function successfully in the community. The importance of linkages in the community has also received a renewed interest in criminological theory, particularly the concept of social support and the belief that it has a direct effect on crime (Cullen, 1999; Cullen and Agnew, 1999). Cullen (1999) argues "The more social support in a person's social network, the less crime will occur...Social support lessens the exposure to criminogenic strains...Anticipation of a lack of social support increases criminal involvement

...Across the life cycle, social support increases the likelihood that offenders will turn away from a criminal pathway...Giving social support lessens involvement in crime” (pp. 241-243). In addition, fostering and promoting citizenship in offenders can give them a sense of commitment to their communities and help them understand the boundaries of appropriate and law-abiding behavior (Hirschi, 1999; Gottfredson and Hirschi, 1999).

Thus reentry programs in prison should target as many of these areas as their budgets, staff, and time will allow without compromising the quality of the programming. Programs that try to do too much can sometimes be more harmful than doing too little as they tend to lose focus and deplete their resources without accomplishing anything. Reentry programs are still in their infancy and, consequently, we know very little about the success of reentry program efforts.

### **Recent Evaluations of Reentry Programs**

One of the few rigorous outcome evaluations of reentry programming was the evaluation of Project Greenlight. “Project Greenlight was a short-term, prison-based reentry demonstration program operated by the New York State Department of Correctional Services and the New York State Division of Parole and administered by program developers from the Vera Institute of Justice” (Wilson, 2007, p. 1). Drawing on the “What Works” literature, program developers designed an eight-week program to be delivered right before the offender’s release from prison. The key elements included cognitive-behavioral skills training, employment, housing, drug education and awareness, family counseling, practical skills training, community-based networks familiarity with parole, and individualized release plans (Wilson, Cheryachukin, Davis, Dauphinee, Hope, Gehi, and Ross, 2005). From the discussion in the previous sections on the major areas that should be covered by a reentry program, Project Greenlight seemed to address them in their program components.

However, in what has become one of the major disappointments in the reentry movement, Project Greenlight participants (N=334) did worse for every recidivism outcome measured at 6 months and 12 months after release compared to two other groups – one which did not receive any pre-release services before being released from prison (N=113) and one that received the transitional services program already in existence at the same prison as Project Greenlight (N=278). The data analyses showed that not only did the Project Greenlight participants do worse, those results were statistically significant. Participation in Project Greenlight also did not have any significant impact on interim outcomes such as housing, employment, and parole (Wilson, 2007, p. 3)

Why were the results so disappointing? A panel of correctional experts convened to discuss the outcomes from Project Greenlight (Brown and Campbell, 2005) and several articles in the journal *Criminology and Public Policy* addressed the disappointing results. Methodologically there did not seem to be any issues – analyses suggested that selection bias was not a problem. The consensus seemed to point toward implementation issues (Rhine, Mawhorr, and Parks, 2006), the short-term nature of the program (Wilson and Davis, 2006), the failure to target the appropriate population (high-risk offenders) through a validated risk and needs assessment (Latessa and Lowenkamp, 2006), and the fact that the program may have been too comprehensive for such a short-term – “a hodgepodge of unproven and unstandardized clinical interventions, which could explain why it failed to produce positive effects on virtually any outcome measure” (Marlowe, 2006, p. 342).

We need to take the lessons learned from Project Greenlight and other evaluations and work toward implementing stronger and more effective reentry programs. The present study examines the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections’ (DOC) reentry program, Community

Orientation and Reintegration (COR), to see how successful their efforts have been in returning prisoners home and to their communities with reduced recidivism, higher rates of employment, and decreased substance abuse after release. The COR program has much in common with Project Greenlight. It too is a short-term program, even shorter than Project Greenlight at only two weeks long for the in-prison component (Phase I). COR also laid the foundation for its curriculum from the “What Works” literature using a multi-dimensional approach similar to Project Greenlight. We hope to add, as did the Project Greenlight evaluation, to the body of literature on reentry programs. An overview of COR is provided below.

### **Overview of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections’ Community Orientation and Reintegration Program**

Long before any federal monies were allocated to the states for reentry initiatives, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) embraced the concept of reentry. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics report of *Prisoners in 2005* and *Prisoners in 2006*, the size of the Pennsylvania DOC’s prison system places the state in the top ten largest prison populations in the United States operating at 108% of capacity and continuing to grow with a 4.8% increase between 2005 and 2006 (Harrison and Beck, 2006; Sabal, Couture, and Harrison, 2007). State correctional administrators, in an effort to reduce recidivism and decrease the size of the prison population without increasing the risks to public safety, embarked on a two-phase reentry plan called the Community Orientation & Reintegration (COR) program to assist offenders being released from incarceration. The DOC recognized that barriers such as a lack of family support, a return to crime infested neighborhoods, low educational levels, unstable employment records, few job skills, substance abuse histories, medical/mental health problems, and offender criminal records were all contributing factors to the high rates of recidivism. As a result, the DOC designed the COR program to address many of these problems faced by offenders returning

home after incarceration. The COR program has four specific goals: (1) to promote effective community linkages, (2) to enhance employability and job readiness, (3) to promote healthy family and interpersonal relationships, and (4) to establish a standard program based on known risk and needs factors. The broader goals of the COR program are to reduce recidivism and enhance the reintegration experience.

COR, implemented in December 2001, is delivered both inside the prison (Phase I) and after release from incarceration while the offender is completing a commitment to the Community Corrections Center (Phase II). The focus of this study is on Phase I. Phase I of the program used the “What Works” literature to develop their curriculum covering 15 major areas of activities, which included an emphasis on employment, family, finances, anger management, health and wellness, relapse prevention for drugs and alcohol, character development, and spirituality. The idea was to create a program that would act as a two-week, intensive “refresher” course drawing on the inmates’ knowledge and foundation that they received from the many other programs that were available to them in the prison system. The intent was to deliver Phase I of the program immediately before the inmates’ release from prison to ensure that the curriculum was indeed “fresh” in the minds of the participants. COR is taught by either the education or treatment staff of the DOC or, in some cases, by a private contractor.

Since the DOC has adopted an evidence-based approach to correctional programming, rigorous evaluations are considered an important component of all programming efforts. These evaluations are used to determine whether or not a program has met the standards and criteria required for the intervention to be considered evidence-based (Smith and Potter, 2006). The

DOC began their assessment of the COR reentry program with a process evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute.<sup>13</sup>

### **Process Evaluation of the Community Orientation and Reintegration Program**

The Urban Institute's process evaluation of COR examined inmate demographics and needs, expectations for release, focus group findings on the implementation of COR, and a summary of the program's strengths and weaknesses (LaVigne and Lawrence, 2002). The Urban Institute found that most of the material in the COR curriculum was covered and that it was basically a refresher course as designed. They noted that there appeared to be an issue of poor communication and coordination between Phases I and II of the COR program and that Phase I was viewed more favorably than Phase II by the participants in the program (Ibid, p. 111-2). The Urban Institute thought that the strengths of COR were the employability segments, consistency in the delivery of Phase I, community contacts made, family reunification modules, and the anger management and Life Skills modules (Ibid., p. 111-2). The recommendations by the Urban Institute for the improvement of COR included:

(1) Reconsider the community service requirement in Phase 2; (2) Allow Phase 2 inmates more flexibility to leave CCC premises for job searches and community linkages; (3) Improve the mentoring component of COR by assigning all participants mentors; (4) Provide referral or placement assistance for those interested in pursuing education and vocational training after release; (5) Add a health segment to the COR curriculum and provide referral services for medical and mental health care; (6) Consider adding family counseling sessions to the family reunification modules; (7) Provide more staff training and more communication from the DOC administrators to enhance coordination and standardization of program delivery and encourage buy-in by line staff; (8) Conduct a thorough needs assessment of each inmate prior to release to see who would benefit from COR; and (9) Conduct an impact evaluation of COR to determine the extent to which it is enhancing the reintegration of inmates and reducing recidivism. (Ibid. 111-2 & 3)

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<sup>13</sup> See the Urban Institute's website <http://www.urban.org> for a copy of the entire process evaluation report.

The DOC embarked on a path to implementing the recommendations by the Urban Institute that they deemed important for improving the COR program. They also decided to move ahead with an outcome evaluation of COR as recommended by the Urban Institute.

### **PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT STUDY**

This study continues the evaluation of COR with an outcome evaluation of Phase I. While process evaluations examine program implementation and operation to see if the program is being administered as intended, outcome evaluations look at both short-term objectives and long-term outcomes. Specifically with the outcome evaluation, the DOC wanted to see how well COR worked in facilitating the reentry of offenders being released from prison back into the community focusing on a reduction of recidivism, an increase in employment and wages, and a decrease in substance abuse after release from prison compared to a Control Group selected for participation in the study. The DOC states that “One of the most important ways that the Department can fulfill its mission of protecting public safety is by adequately preparing inmates for community reintegration” (Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, 2007). The outcome evaluation was designed to determine if this mission was being accomplished with the COR Phase 1 reentry program.

Outcome evaluations determine the success of a program by addressing questions defined in the program’s goals and objectives that emanate from an agency’s mission statement for the program. Outcome evaluations are mostly quantitative compared to process evaluations, which are mostly qualitative. Process evaluations are important and should be conducted prior to an outcome study. It is, however, the findings from the outcome evaluation that are used most often to justify a change in program characteristics, and/or an enhancement of the program with critical revisions and budget increases. In some cases, an outcome evaluation may lead to the

elimination of a program entirely when it fails to meet the goals and objectives outlined and there is no hope that the program can be restructured for success.

### **Study Questions**

The outcome study of COR concentrated on a methodology and research design rigorous enough to meet the criteria for evidenced-based policy decisions. The following questions are designed to assess the effectiveness of COR in carrying out the DOC's mission for reentry:

#### **Reduced Recidivism**

- **Question 1:** Is there any difference in the rate of overall recidivism measured by rearrest, reconviction, and return to prison (reimprisonment) between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 2:** Is there any difference in time to failure for overall recidivism between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 3:** Is there any difference in the rate of recidivism measured by only rearrest between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 4:** Is there any difference in the rate of recidivism measured by only reconviction between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 5:** Is there any difference in the rate of recidivism measured by only return to prison (reimprisonment) between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 6:** Is there any difference in the incidences of technical violations of parole and prerelease as indicators of post-release compliance between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 7:** Is there any difference in new reimprisonment offenses between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 8:** Is there any difference in minimum and maximum times for re-sentencing between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 9:** Is there any difference in the survival rates between the COR Completers and the Control Group?

#### **Stable Employment/Financial Stability**

- **Question 10:** Is there any difference in the rates of post-release employment measured by quarters worked between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 11:** Is there any difference in post-release wages between the COR Completers and the Control Group?
- **Question 12:** Is there any difference in the rates of recidivism for economic (property) crimes between the COR Completers and the Control Group?

#### **Reduced Substance Abuse**

- **Question 13:** Is there any difference in the rates of recidivism for drug offenses between the COR Completers and the Control Group?

## **METHODOLOGY**

The methods used in the outcome evaluation of the COR program were designed to be objective and to present unbiased interpretations of the findings related to the success of the program. Discussions of the research design including the time dimension, data sources and collection methods, measurements, and data analyses techniques used are presented in this section of the report.

### **Research Design**

According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Center for Program Evaluation (2007), “the most effective outcome evaluations of reentry initiatives employ experimental designs that randomly assign prison releasees to receive reentry services” (p. 1). Experimental designs allow the researcher to infer causality and to control for any competing explanations of changes that occur after an intervention (Dennis, 1994). Rarely in evaluations of prison programs do researchers have the opportunity to use an experimental design primarily because of the difficulty in coordinating the activity with several sites (institutions) as well as concerns about the legal and ethical issues of not making the program available to everyone. Because of the foresight of the DOC’s Bureau of Planning, Research, Grants and Statistics (PRGS) leadership, a protocol for using an experimental design was established during the pilot testing of the COR program between late 2001 and August 2002. Since the experimental design was implemented during the piloting of the program, the legal and ethical issues were minimized.

As a result of the PRGS’ planning, the researchers for this project had the rare opportunity of conducting an outcome evaluation of the COR program using the most methodologically rigorous design recommended by the Bureau of Justice Assistance for reentry programs (2007). By using an experimental design to measure the post-release outcomes of

recidivism, employment, and substance abuse for study participants who were randomly assigned to either COR or a Control Group, the evaluation eliminated concerns about selection bias normally associated with quasi-experimental designs as well as the need for subsequent analyses (i.e. Heckman's Correction, Propensity Score Analysis) to address these concerns. Although some institutions did not follow protocol and were subsequently removed from the study (see the discussion of the Study Population in the next section), the overall study population was still sizeable (1307 study participants).

### **Time Dimension**

The time dimension of the COR evaluation was a critically important element in the research design. The researchers were able to use a longitudinal panel study by following the same treatment and Control Group for five years (Babbie, 1989). Following the study participants for five years had an obvious advantage over shorter term evaluations in that it allowed us to observe the long-term impact of a program. This was important for several reasons. Usually there is a major fiscal commitment for correctional programs and programs compete for limited resources. Therefore, it is important to know that the money is being utilized for the most effective programs that have a long-term effect. Secondly, it allows enough time for data to be recorded in official records like the criminal histories and the labor data. There is always a delay between the time an event occurs and the time the data are transmitted from police agencies and the courts to the criminal history repository, and the same holds true for the recording of labor data. By allowing time for the information to be recorded, it provided a more accurate accounting of the rearrest, reconviction, and reimprisonment data from the criminal histories, and the employment data from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and

Industry. The outcome evaluation for COR began in 2003 with data collection ending in August of 2007.

### **Data Sources and Collection**

Several data sources were used in the COR Outcome Study. Using a variety of sources, primarily from official records, provides the most accurate and reliable data for tracking the recidivism and employment rates for the study population. Using only one source would seriously underestimate the true recidivism of COR participants and would not give the DOC an adequate accounting of how well COR worked to successfully reintegrate participants back into the community. These sources included:

- **COR Phase I Participation Database**
- **COR Assessment Database**
- **Criminal Histories pulled from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP)**
- **Move Sheets collected from the DOC database**
- **Summary Sheets collected from the DOC database**
- **Surveys administered by the lead researcher to a sub-sample of the study population (See Appendix A for the survey)**

In addition, information about post-release employment was collected from:

- **State labor data from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L & I)**
- **Surveys administered by the lead researcher**

How data elements were collected and what information was obtained from these sources are discussed individually.

#### **COR Phase I Participation Database**<sup>14</sup>

COR was initially designed to be provided to **all** inmates scheduled for initial parole, re-parole, and pre-release; max-outs were not included (Phase I has since been opened to them on a voluntary basis). During the period from December 2001 through August 2002, the DOC conducted a pilot test of COR, whereby inmates were randomly assigned to COR, based upon

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<sup>14</sup> Most of the discussion about COR Phase 1 Participation Database was provided by the Bureau of PRGS.

the first number in their alpha-numeric inmate ID numbers (e.g. AB1234). Inmates with odd numbers received COR, inmates with even numbers did not. There is no relationship between the numeric portion of the ID number and inmate characteristics; receiving an inmate number is much like taking a ticket at the deli counter. Based upon tests run on the first nine months of release data for 2001, this schema was expected to produce a roughly even split between COR and non-COR inmates during the nine months of the pilot. Given that inmates are identified for release on a daily basis, this was the most feasible scheme (and least subject to “manipulation”) for random assignment. This scheme has subsequently been used successfully on other projects in the DOC and has proven itself as a useful means of random assignment for rolling admissions programs. From this, the COR Phase I Participation Database was created by the DOC to be used by institutional staff to track inmates receiving COR during the pilot test. Inmates not receiving COR were not entered into this system (data on them were gathered via other means, discussed below in the COR Assessment Database section). A COR database was also created by the research team beginning with data elements from the COR Phase I Participation Database including the DOC ID number, name, age, date of birth, gender, race, date of COR participation, whether or not the offender completed COR, and study participant code.

Information gathered from this database provided the source for the COR participant group (treatment group). While most State Correctional Institutions (SCI’s) were represented in this database, some SCI’s had low numbers (N) for participants. In some cases, this was due to technical glitches at the SCI, but in other cases it was because the random assignment scheme resulted in a situation of insufficient numbers of inmates to run a COR group (some SCI’s saw only a few inmates being released per week at various times during the pilot and were reluctant to run groups for a handful of inmates). Thus, some inmates who should have received COR

(based on their ID numbers) at those SCI's did not receive it, due to low numbers. Moreover, at three large SCI's, the DOC had received grant funding from another state agency to support the COR program there, and this funding stipulated that COR be given to all inmates at those SCI's. Thus, random assignment was not possible at those SCI's, and they are not represented in this study. Beginning in September 2002, COR was given to all inmates being released.

### **COR Assessment Database**<sup>15</sup>

Tracking of the non-COR inmates (Control Group) was accomplished by means of another database set up to collect assessment data on all inmates released during the COR pilot test period (December 2001 – August 2002). The DOC was interested in adopting tools to assess criminal thinking and anti-social attitudes and decided to use the COR pilot as an opportunity to field test two of these tools. This allowed the DOC to do a preliminary testing of some assessment tools on a large number of inmates, to collect some potentially useful control data on the COR and non-COR inmates, and to identify the inmates not receiving COR, which provided the randomly assigned Control Group for the study population. The basic data elements for the Control Group were entered into the COR database including the DOC ID number, name, age, date of birth, gender, race, and study participant code.

### **Criminal Histories**

Criminal histories were collected from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), which maintains the criminal history repository for the state. First a letter of agreement from the researchers was required in order to obtain criminal histories for each study participant. In the letter of agreement, the researchers provided a description of the project that required the use of criminal history data along with a statement that only the researchers would have access to the criminal history data and that the data would be destroyed upon completion of the project. Once

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<sup>15</sup> Most of discussion about the COR Assessment Database was provided by the Bureau of PRGS.

the agreement was signed, the researchers, using the format provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), submitted a list with each study participant's social security number, last name, first name, middle initial, date of birth, sex, race, and state identification number (SID) in batches of 200 names. The data requests were actually submitted to the PSP through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

The criminal histories were pulled and given to the lead researcher. The lead researcher coded the criminal histories starting with the date that the study participant was deleted (released)<sup>16</sup> from the Department of Corrections after completion of the program. Using that date as a reference point, any new arrests (rearrests) on the study participants criminal history were recorded along with reconviction (dispositions) and reimprisonment data if available. It should be noted that dispositions only showed up on the criminal history occasionally as did any reimprisonment data. If there were any new arrests, convictions, and imprisonment on the record, the individual was classified as a recidivist (yes=1, and no=2). The dates of the new arrest, conviction, and imprisonment were recorded along with the corresponding offenses. The researchers entered up to three new incidences in the database.

To assess the study population demographics beyond age, race and gender, we examined single-state versus multi-state offender status, as indicated on the criminal histories, so that information could be tracked. We also recorded any domestic violence incidences, as indicated by "possible domestic violence," notations on the criminal history for the entire history of the study participants. We thought it was important to examine these two variables to gauge the extent of criminal offending across state lines and to consider the extent of domestic violence in the study groups. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 7.6% of offenders commit crimes in states other than the one that releases them (Langan and Levin, 2002, p. 2). However,

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<sup>16</sup> Delete dates are the same as release dates for this study.

since Pennsylvania borders states with large urban areas in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Ohio, the researchers hypothesized that the rates for multi-state offenders would be higher for the COR study population than that indicated in national statistics. In addition, domestic violence continues to be a national concern, and Pennsylvania is one of the few states that provides a notation on the criminal histories that a crime might be a domestic violence situation. The lead researcher saw this as an opportunity to collect important information that is of national interest while reviewing the criminal histories.

While the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2007) has been concerned about the accuracy of criminal histories nationwide and has implemented the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) to address those concerns, the lead researcher checked the accuracy of the data on the criminal histories in Pennsylvania. The data appeared current with entries on the criminal history sheets showing dates within three to six months of the data being pulled for rearrest but, as mentioned earlier, conviction and imprisonment data did not seem to be as current on the criminal histories. This was the motivation for the lead researcher to capture the reimprisonment data from the DOC database move sheets and data summary sheets. It would have been almost impossible to collect the reconviction data from another source other than the criminal histories because of budget and time constraints. All of the data elements from the criminal histories were entered into the COR database.

### **The DOC Move Sheets**

The lead researcher had worked with the DOC on prior studies and was aware that a significant number of offenders come back to prison as some type of parole or pre-release violator. These failures may not show up as a new arrest and consequently may not show up on the criminal history, however, the information is available from the move sheets in the DOC

database. This information needed to be recorded to provide the most accurate and reliable data related to rates of recidivism. In the Bureau of Justice Statistics study of recidivism, Langan and Levin (2002) state:

To an unknown extent, recidivism rates based on State and FBI criminal history repositories understate actual levels of recidivism. The police agency making the arrest or the court dispositions of the case may fail to send the notifying document to the State or FBI repository. Even if the document is sent, the repository may be unable to match the person in the document to the correct person in the repository or may neglect to enter the new information. For those reasons, studies such as this one that rely on these repositories for complete criminal history information will understate the recidivism rates. (p. 2)

This is the very reason we took the extra step and time to examine the move sheets. Using the DOC ID number and name, a list of all study participants was submitted to the Bureau of PRGS where they pulled move sheets for every individual in the study population (N=1371). These move sheets provided a description of all the movements within the prison system for each study participant including delete (release) dates, additions (return to prison), changes, transfers, and current status (i.e. parole violation pending, technical parole violation, etc.). In addition, the move sheets were used to verify and fill in delete (release) dates in the evaluation database.

The lead researcher coded each move sheet to reflect the correct the DOC delete (release) date based on COR program dates. After confirming the delete date, each move sheet was coded to show whether or not the offender returned to prison as a technical parole violator (TPV), convicted parole violator (CPV), technical/convicted parole violator (T/CPV), parole violator pending (PVP), a pre-release failure, or for a new crime. The date of the return was recorded as well. If there were any entries after the original program participation delete date showing a return to prison resulting from a TPV, CPV, T/CPV, PVP, new crime or a pre-release violation, the individual was classified as a recidivist (yes=1, and no=2). The offenders who came back to prison were also coded as yes=1 for reimprisonment. Each move sheet was matched with a

criminal history for the purpose of capturing all of the recidivism data and rechecking information collected from both data sources. The results were entered into the database. For every study participant who came back to prison for a new crime or as a convicted parole violator, summary sheets were requested to gather more complete information about the circumstances leading to reimprisonment and the reimprisonment charges.

### **The DOC Summary Sheets**

The DOC summary sheets were requested by the lead researcher for individuals with a new reimprisonment crime based on the move sheet data. Summary sheets provided information about the inmate's controlling (reimprisonment) charge, committing county, commitment date, minimum and maximum sentence, minimum and maximum expiration date, sentence status, parole status, a parole maximum date and, if required, a recomputed parole maximum date.

Summary sheets for new reimprisonment crime were received for all but nine study participants who were classified as combined CPV/TCPV (137 were requested – 128 were returned and three were removed later since they were part of the COR non-Completer group leaving a total of 125 with summary sheet information). The lead researcher then coded the summary sheets to reflect the reimprisonment offense and the sentence lengths. All sentence lengths were recorded to reflect the minimum and maximum sentence range, as well as the minimum and maximum mean sentence length. The data were entered into the COR database.

### **Surveys**

Surveys (Community Orientation and Reintegration Survey) were collected on a randomly selected sub-sample of the study population who had returned to prison (see Section II: Appendix A for the survey). The surveys were developed and piloted twice with inmates at Camp Hill. Focus group discussions on the entire survey were conducted and any questions that

were hard to understand by the inmates were changed or any that were considered unnecessary were eliminated. An effort was made to collect surveys from those who did not return to prison through an agreement with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), however, the logistics could not be worked out in a timely manner. Although we did not collect data on both failures and successes, we still thought it was important and helpful to share the results of the surveys from those who returned to prison. The surveys were collected from several prisons with the lead researcher traveling to each one to administer the surveys, conduct one-on-one interviews, and hold focus group discussions about COR and about why they (both COR Completers and the Control Group) returned to prison. Each participant who filled out a survey or participated in an interview was asked to complete an informed consent form (see Section II: Appendix A for Informed Consent Form). Completing the survey was voluntary. Participants were told that they could refuse to answer any question on the survey.

The survey contained 140 questions and covered areas related to: (1) individual demographics, (2) criminal history information including criminal associations, (3) program participation while in prison (4) questions about COR and the COR curriculum, (5) living situations during most recent release from prison, (6) work history and employment situation prior to current incarceration, (7) financial situation during most recent release from prison, (8) drug and alcohol situation, (9) mental health status, (10) experiences with parole, (11) events leading to current incarceration, (12) current situation in prison, (13) future plans after release from prison, and (14) offender suggestions for improving programming efforts.

Of the 107 surveys collected, there was only one refusal by a study participant who was leaving for home that day. The survey took approximately one hour with some study participants finishing in about 45 minutes and some taking two hours to complete the survey.

We did not provide any compensation for participation in completing the survey or participation in the focus groups or interviews. The responses from the surveys were coded and entered into the evaluation database.

### **Labor data from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L & I)**

Information about the employment of the study population during release was collected from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L & I) through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Corrections' Bureau of PRGS. Quarters worked and wages earned were collected after the study participant's release date from prison. Using the format requested by L & I, names, social security numbers, and birth dates were submitted to PRGS, which submitted the requests to L & I. Because of the lag time with employers reporting information to L & I, only 5 quarters of information from L & I were returned to PRGS, which was then given to the research team. These data elements were coded and entered into the evaluation database.

### **Measurements**

We examined five demographic measures for the COR Completers and the Control Group. Three of these measures are commonly used demographic variables – age, race, and gender. We also had the opportunity to capture data on whether or not the study participant was a single-state or multi-state offender so we included this measure as part of the demographics of the study population. The fifth demographic variable examined the incidences of “possible domestic violence” recorded on the criminal histories. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (2007) currently has an initiative out for funding to improve the accuracy, utility, and interstate accessibility of criminal history records and enhancing records of protective orders involving domestic violence and stalking. Pennsylvania is one of the few states that records whether or not

the police were investigating a “possible domestic violence” incident on an individual’s criminal history.

In this research study, nine measures were used to assess the success of COR in reducing the recidivism of participants in the program compared to the Control Group of participants who did not participate in COR. The Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI, 2007) used supervision compliance, reoffending, rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration. We used these same measures (rearrest, reconviction, reimprisonment, and post-release compliance). We also included measures for overall recidivism, time to failure, reimprisonment offense (new crime or parole/pre-release violation), reimprisonment sentence for either a new crime or parole/pre-release violation, and survival time.

In addition to the recidivism measures, we also used three measures to assess the employment success of the study population using the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry data. These included quarters worked, wages earned, and reimprisonment for an economic crime. Several questions on the survey also asked the study population about post-release employment which we report in Section II. For the last measure, we looked at whether or not there was a reduction in substance abuse by examining return to prison for a drug crime for both the COR Completers and the Control Group. We also asked several questions in the survey about substance use during release from prison.

To summarize, for the outcome study of COR, we used five measures examining study population demographics, nine measures of recidivism, three measures for employment and one measure for substance abuse for a total of eighteen measures collected from official records. For the most part, survey results will be discussed in Section II of this report. Overall, the

measures used for the COR outcome evaluation exceeded those used in most studies of reentry and other correctional programs. Each of these measures is discussed in more detail below.

### **Demographics**

- **Age** – for age we used the Date of Birth provided in the DOC databases and verified the information using the criminal histories. Age was measured as number of years old in current time using SPSS to calculate the age from the date of birth. The range and mean age were also measured.
- **Race** – race was categorized as 1=African American, 2=White, 3=Hispanic, 4=Asian, and 5=Indian.
- **Gender** – gender was collected from the DOC database and coded 1 for male and 2 for female. The gender was cross-referenced with the DOC ID numbers as females have an ID number distinctly different from males.
- **Single-State vs. Multi-State Offender** – for most of the study population the criminal histories indicated whether or not study participants were a single-state or multi-state offender. This tells us if they have a criminal history in only Pennsylvania or if they have a criminal history in another state in addition to Pennsylvania. This data element was coded 1 for single-state offender and 2 for multi-state offender.
- **Domestic Violence Indicator** – we reviewed the entire criminal history of a study participant for domestic violence indicators and recorded the information as a yes if there was at least one indicator and no if there were no indicators. The total number of domestic violence incidences and the mean number of incidences noted on the criminal history were also reported.

### **Recidivism Measures**

- **Overall Recidivism** – any study participant who had a rearrest, reconviction, or reimprisonment after release from prison following the time period outlined by the DOC for participation or non-participation in the COR program was coded 1 for overall recidivism. A study participant was also coded 1 if they were returned to prison for non-compliance of any post-release supervision. The study participants were only counted **once** for this measure even if they had multiple indicators.
- **Time to Failure** – time to failure was measured as time until a recidivist event occurred. The time was measured in months following the time period outlined by the DOC for participation or non-participation in the COR program.
- **Rearrest** – any offender who was arrested after their release from prison following the time period outlined by the DOC for participation or non-participation in the program

was counted as yes for rearrest and yes for overall a recidivism. Rearrest was defined by yes or no.

- **Reconviction** – any offender who was convicted after their release from prison following the time period outlined by the DOC for participation or non-participation in the program was counted as yes for reconviction and yes for overall recidivism. Reconviction was defined as yes or no. It should be noted that there was a significant number in the study population that did not have reconviction information in their criminal histories. This is not uncommon as the courts lag behind in submitting the information to the state’s criminal history repository.
- **Reimprisonment** – any offender who was imprisoned after their release from prison following the time period outlined by the DOC for participation or non-participation in the program was counted yes for reimprisonment and yes for overall recidivism. Reimprisonment was defined by yes or no.
- **Post-Release Compliance** – for this measure, study participants were counted as a yes for reimprisonment and a yes for overall recidivism if they returned to prison for any of the following: New Crime, Technical Parole Violation (TPV), Convicted Parole Violation (CPV), Technical/Convicted Parole Violation (TCPV), Probation Violation (PBV), or a Pre-Release Failure (PRF). For a Parole Violation Pending (PVP), they were not counted as a yes for reimprisonment or overall recidivism if they were later cleared of any parole violation.
- **New Reimprisonment Crime** – any study participant who returned to prison for a new crime was counted a failure. Any new crime committed by a study participant was coded into one of eight categories: violent, property, felony drugs, misdemeanor, traffic (including DUI), misdemeanor drugs, violation of probation, and other (arson, judicial code violations, etc.).
- **Reimprisonment Offense Sentence Length** – the minimum and maximum sentence length were recorded for all new reimprisonment offenses in months including the range for minimum and maximum sentences, mean minimum, and mean maximum.
- **Survival Time** – survival time is a measure designed to calculate the duration of a study participant’s time until a recidivism event occurs or whether or not the study participant survived past the maximum date set for survival. In this study the time is measured from the delete (release) date as the starting time until 60 months (5 years) out, which is defined as the censor date. If a study participant survives past the maximum date of 60 months, they are considered censored.

### **Post-Release Employment Success**

- **Post-Release Employment** – any study participant who participated in the legal labor market for at least one quarter after their release from prison following the time period outlined by the DOC for participation or non-participation in the program and earned wages was counted

as a yes for post-release employment. Quarters worked were averaged for each group in the study population and the range of quarters worked was also included. Not all study participants who worked were counted as some participate in a labor market without wages being recorded (i.e. they are paid “under the table”, they are self-employed and do not report their wages, or they participate in an illegal labor market). Thus, this reflects only those we were able to “capture” through wage reports to the Department of Labor and Industry. It should be noted that there is about an 18-month lag time for collection of labor data.

- **Post-Release Employment Wages** – post-release wages were measured by combining all wages earned for every quarter worked and averaging wages earned across all quarters. The range of earnings was also measured.
- **Post-Release Economic Crimes** – any study participant who committed a new economic (property) crime was compared across study groups.

### **Post-Release Substance Abuse**

- **Reduced Substance Abuse** – reduced substance abuse was measured by comparing the two study groups’ reimprisonment for drug offenses. Since we could not obtain parole reports, we were unable to calculate the number of study participants who returned to prison for technical violations as a result of a positive drug screen; however, in the survey data we asked several questions about the events leading to their return to prison including questions related to substance abuse. Several questions in the survey will allow us to measure and compare the study groups’ responses.

### **Data Analyses**

A number of data analyses techniques were used in the outcome evaluation of the COR program. Simple percentages, t-tests, bivariate logistic regression models, logistic regression models with demographic controls and survival analysis provided the findings for the evaluation of COR. Because of the experimental design, other statistical analyses such as Heckman’s correction or propensity score analysis (normally used in corrections program evaluations) were not necessary.

### **FINDINGS**

The COR outcome evaluation yielded a number of findings. First, we present the demographics of the study population before presenting the recidivism, employment, and substance abuse outcomes.

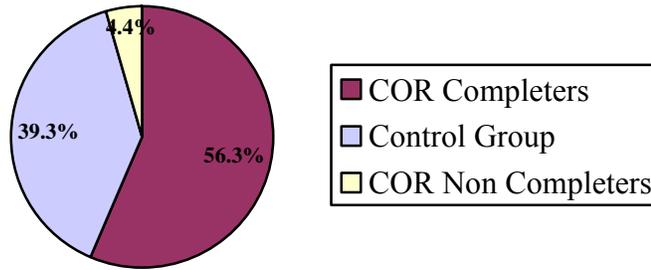
## Study Population

Once the database was cleaned by removing those institutions that did not follow protocol, as well as by removing cases where data were incomplete or otherwise flawed, we had a total of 1371 in the study population (see Table 1) collected from 23 institutions (see Table 2). We had 772 (56.3%) COR Completers, 61 (4.4%) COR Non-Completers, and 538 (39.3%) in the Control Group. Although we kept the Non-Completers in some of the tables, for purposes of statistical analyses for the main section, we compared only the COR Completers to the Control Group since the percentage of COR Non-Completers comprised less than 5.0% of the entire study population.

While we do not report the results in this section, we did compare the COR Non-Completers to the COR Completers and the Control Group members using t-tests of mean differences for gender, age, race, single-state vs. multi-state offender, domestic violence incidents, overall recidivism, rearrest, reconviction, reimprisonment, reimprisonment offense, resentencing minimum and maximum times, quarters worked and wages earned. We found that the COR Non-Completers were only less likely to be male. Other than gender, the t-test results showed that COR Non-Completers were not significantly different from COR Completers or Control Group members on any of the other measures (see Section II: Appendix B for these tables). All we knew about this group was that they started the COR program but never finished, thus, we did not think that including this group in the study would be particularly useful.

<b>Table 1. Study Population by Participant Group</b>		
	%	N
COR Completers	56.3%	772
COR Non-Completers	4.4%	61
Control Group	39.3%	538
Total Study Population	100.0%	1371

**Figure 1. Study Population by Participant Group**



In Table 2, we find that the study population came from 23 prisons within the DOC system. Most of the COR Completers came from the Albion, Houtzdale, Rockview and Somerset prisons, while most of the Control Group came from the Camp Hill, Chester, Houtzdale, and Retreat prisons.

<b>Table 2. Study Population by Institution</b>			
	COR Completers	COR Non-Completers	Control Group
Albion	16.5% (N=127)	6.6% (N=4)	3.7% (N=20)
Camp Hill	2.1% (N=16)	1.6% (N=1)	9.1% (N=49)
Cambridge Springs	1.0% (N=8)	6.6% (N=4)	4.5% (N=24)
Chester	2.7% (N=21)		10.6% (N=57)
Cresson	7.8% (N=60)		7.6% (N=41)
Dallas	5.3% (N=41)		3.9% (N=21)
Frackville	.6% (N=5)	1.6% (N=1)	.4% (N=2)
Greene	1.4% (N=11)		.2% (N=1)
Greensburg	1.4% (N=11)		2.4% (N=13)
Houtzdale	11.8% (N=91)	9.8% (N=6)	10.4% (N=56)
Huntington	.4% (N=3)	1.6% (N=1)	7.6% (N=41)
Laurel Highlands	.5% (N=4)		1.7% (N=9)
Mercer	.4% (N=3)		5.8% (N=31)
Muncy	4.4% (N=34)	9.8% (N=6)	1.5% (N=8)
Pittsburgh	.1% (N=1)		1.7% (N=9)
Pine Grove	7.0% (N=54)		
Quehanna			4.8% (N=26)
Retreat	4.5% (N=35)	4.9% (N=3)	8.4% (N=45)
Rockview	10.5% (N=81)	14.8% (N=9)	1.7% (N=9)
Smithfield	3.5% (N=27)	1.6% (N=1)	2.8% (N=15)
Somerset	11.3% (N=87)	21.3% (N=13)	6.3% (N=34)
Waymart	4.8% (N=37)	13.1% (N=8)	2.6% (N=14)
Waynesburg	1.9% (N=15)		2.4% (N=13)
Total	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=61)	100.0% (N=538)

### **Demographics (Age, Race, and Gender) of Study Population**

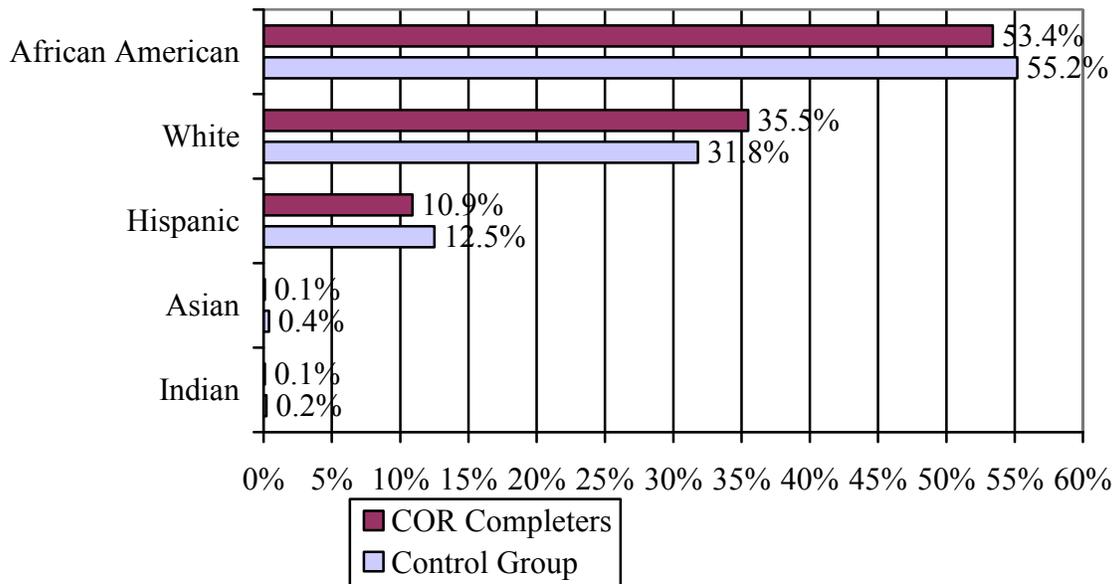
Although the population was selected using an experimental design with random assignment to either the COR or Control Group, we wanted to examine, age, race, and gender and compare the groups. Examining the age (see Table 3) of the study population, we find that for the COR Completers, the range for age was 23-74 years (mean age 39.31) and for the Control Group, the range was 25-75 years (mean age 40.33). We also compared the age to the DOC general prison population at the time the study group was selected and found that both the COR Completers and the Control Group were slightly older than those in the general population (mean age 35.0).

<b>Table 3. Study Population by Participant Group's Age</b>		
	<b>COR Completers (N=772)</b>	<b>Control Group (N=538)</b>
<b>Range</b>	23 – 74	25 – 75
<b>Mean</b>	39.31	40.33

The COR Completers and the Control Group were very similar in racial composition (see Table 4 and Figure 2). The COR Completers were comprised of 53.4% (N=412) African Americans, 35.5% (N=274) Whites, 10.9% (N=84) Hispanics, .1% (N=1) Asian, and .1% (N=1) Indian. The racial composition of the Control Group was 55.2% (N=297) African Americans, 31.8% (N=171) Whites, 12.5% (N=67) Hispanics, .4% (N=2) Asian, and .2% (N=1) Indian. We also found no differences in racial composition comparing the COR Completers and the Control group to the DOC general population.

<b>Table 4. Study Population by Participant Group's Race</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
African American	53.4% (N=412)	55.2% (N=297)
White	35.5% (N=274)	31.8% (N=171)
Hispanic	10.9% (N=84)	12.5% (N=67)
Asian	.1% (N=1)	.4% (N=2)
Indian	.1% (N=1)	.2% (N=1)
Total	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=538)

**Figure 2. Study Population by Participant Group's Race**

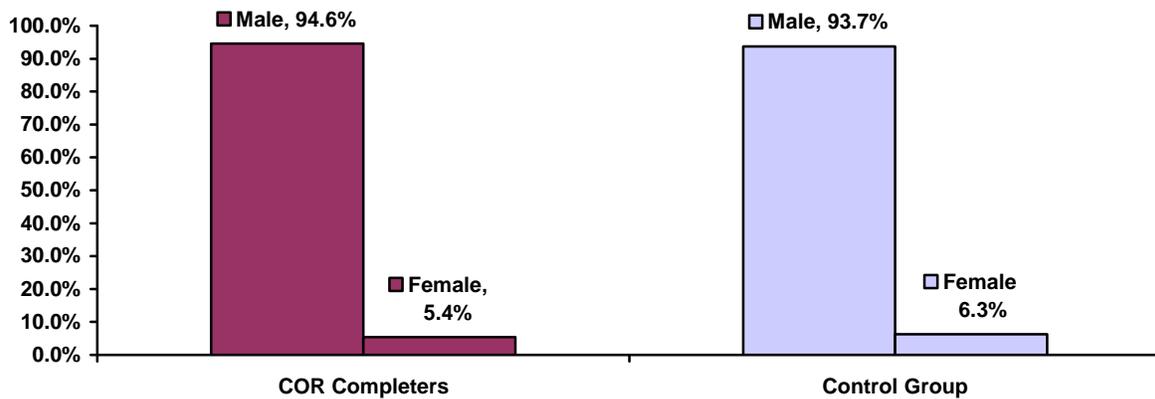


Comparing the COR Completers and the Control Group, we find that the gender composition of the two groups was also very similar (see Table 5 and Figure 3). For the COR Completers, 94.6% (N=730) were male and 5.4% (N=42) were female, while in the Control

Group 93.7% (N=504) were male and 6.3% (N=34) were female. The gender breakdown for the DOC general population was also similar to the COR Completers and the Control Group.

<b>Table 5. Study Population by Participant Group's Gender</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Male	94.6% (N=730)	93.7% (N=504)
Female	5.4% (N=42)	6.3% (N=34)
Total	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=538)

**Figure 3. Study Population by Participant Group's Gender**



**T-Tests of Mean Differences for Demographic Variables of Age, Race and Gender**

The tests of the differences in the means between the COR Completers and the Control Group shown in Table 6, demonstrate that the two groups are very similar demographically as would be expected with an experimental design. Only age shows a significant difference, with COR Completers averaging one year younger than the Control Group.

**Table 6. Study Population T-Tests of Mean Differences  
Between Participant Groups for Demographic Variables  
of Age, Race and Gender**

	COR Completers <sup>1</sup> (N=772)	Control Group (N=538)
Race (1=African American)	0.534 0.499	0.552 0.498
Race (1=White)	0.355 0.479	0.318 0.466
Race (1=Hispanic)	0.109 0.312	0.125 0.330
Race (1=Asian)	0.001 0.036	0.004 0.061
Race (1=Indian)	0.001 0.036	0.002 0.043
Gender (1=male)	0.946 0.227	0.937 0.244
Age (in years)	39.308* 8.874	40.333 9.150

Note: Variable means are listed first in each cell; standard deviations are listed second.

<sup>1</sup> Two-tailed t-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

**T-Tests of Mean Differences for Demographic Variables of Age, Race and Gender  
Comparing COR Completers, the Control Group and the DOC General Population**

We also conducted t-tests of mean differences for demographic variables of age, race and gender comparing COR Completers, the Control Group, and the DOC general population (see Table 7). We find that the only significant differences between the COR Completers, the Control Group and the DOC general population are with regard to mean age. As reported earlier both the COR Completers and the Control Group are significantly older than the DOC general population. Neither the COR Completers nor the Control Group evidence any significant differences from the DOC general population with regard to racial/ethnic background or gender.

**Table 7. T-Tests of Mean Differences for Demographic Variables of Age, Race and Gender Comparing COR Completers, the Control Group and the DOC General Population**

	COR Completers (N=772)	Control Group (N=538)	Overall DOC Population 2002 Annual Statistical Report (N=40,172)
Age* (years)	39.3	40.3	35.0 † ‡
Race – White**	35.5%	31.8%	34.6%
Race – Black	53.4%	55.2%	53.6%
Race – Hispanic	10.9%	12.5%	11.1%
Gender – Male	94.6%	93.7%	95.5%
Gender – Female	5.4%	6.3%	4.5%

\*  $p \leq 0.05$  (between COR Completers and Control Group)

†  $p \leq 0.05$  (between COR Completers and Overall DOC Population)

‡  $p \leq 0.05$  (between Control Group and Overall DOC Population)

\*\*Totals for racial breakdown may not sum to 100% as a very small “Other” category is not shown here.

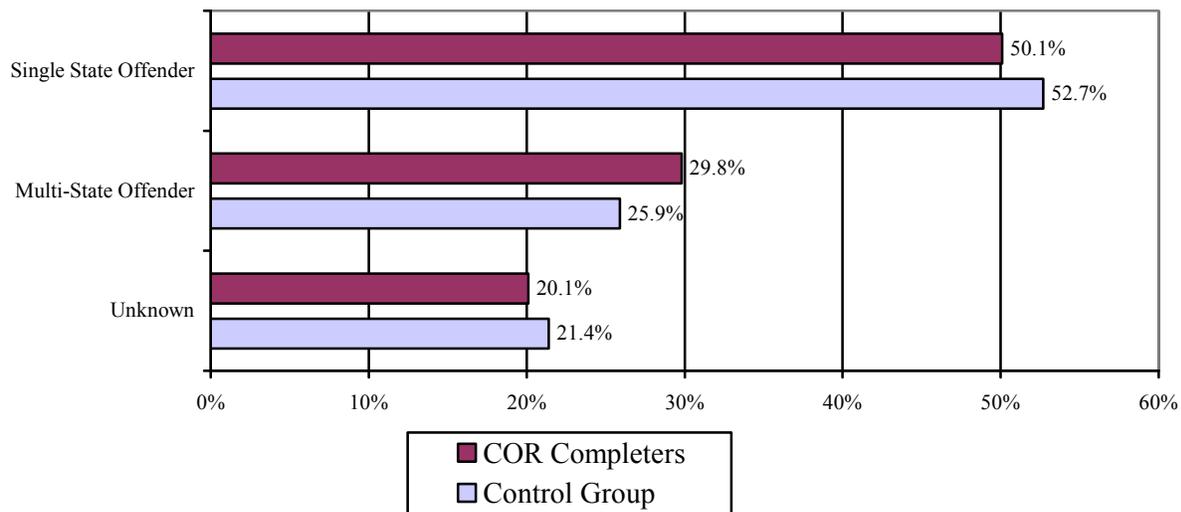
### **Single-State versus Multi-State Offender**

We also wanted to examine whether or not the study population participants were single-state or multi-state offenders (see Table 8 and Figure 4). We had access to this information from the criminal histories and it gave us a chance to see which offenders were committing crimes in other states. Pennsylvania is in close proximity to other states with large urban areas (New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Ohio) making it easy to cross state lines to commit crimes. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that an estimated 7.6% of all released offenders in their study of recidivism in 15 states were rearrested for a new crime in a state other than the one that released them (Langan and Levin, 2002, p. 2). As shown in Table 8 and Figure 4, both the COR Completers and the Control Group had high percentages of multi-state offenders. With 29.8% (N=230) of the COR Completers and 25.9% (N=139) of the Control Group classified as a multi-state offender, the rates were much higher than that shown in the BJS study.

<b>Table 8. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Single-State versus Multi-State Offender</b>		
	COR Completer	Control Group <sup>1</sup>
Single-State Offender	50.1% (N=387)	52.7% (N=283)
Multi-State Offender	29.8% (N=230)	25.9% (N=139)
Unknown	20.1% (N=155)	21.4% (N=115)
Total	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=537)

<sup>1</sup> For this variable, we had one person with missing information in the Control Group.

**Figure 4. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group  
Single-State versus Multi-State Offender**



**T-Tests of Mean Differences for Single-State versus Multi-State Offender**

We looked at tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group on single-state versus multi-state offending (see Table 9) and we found that the COR Completers were no more or less likely to be single-state offenders or multi-state offenders than the Control Group members. Although the differences were not significant, the COR

Completers had a higher percentage of multi-state offenders compared to the Control Group.

(Note: Variable means are listed in each cell).

<b>Table 9. T-Tests of Mean Differences            COR Completers/Control Group            Single-State versus Multi-State Offender</b>		
	COR Completers <sup>1</sup>	Control Group <sup>2</sup>
Single-State Offender	0.50 (N=772)	0.53 (N=537)
Multi-State Offender	0.30 (N=772)	0.26 (N=537)
Unknown	0.20 (N=772)	0.21 (N=537)

<sup>1</sup> Two-tailed t-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

<sup>2</sup> For this variable, we had one person with missing information in the Control Group.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

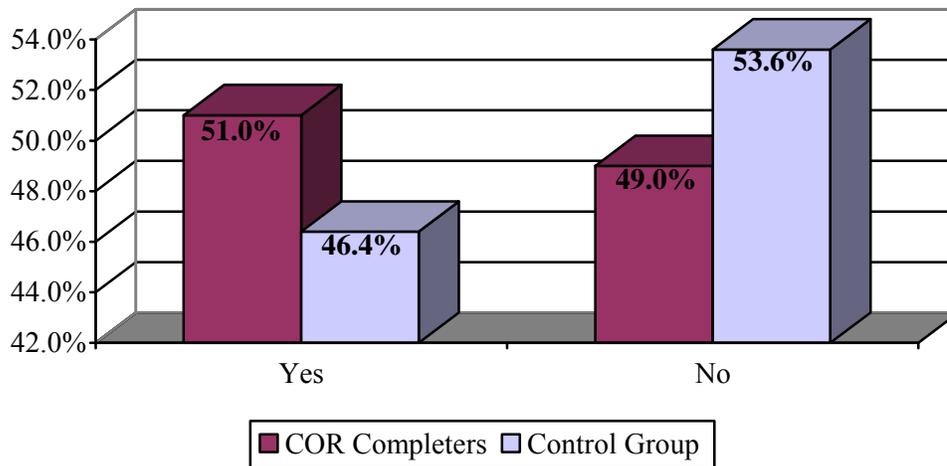
### **Domestic Violence Indicators**

Using the criminal histories, “possible domestic violence” indicators were examined for both groups in the study population. The COR Completers and the Control Group members do not evidence significant differences on whether or not they had any indication of a “possible domestic violence” incidence on their criminal history records or the number of domestic violence events (see Table 10 and Figure 5). In total, 51% of COR Completers had at least one domestic violence event and were 5 percent (rounded) more likely to have an incident recorded on their criminal history than Control Group members (46.4% of this group had at least one domestic violence event), but this was a non-significant difference. The mean number of domestic violence events was the same for both groups (1.75).

<b>Table 10. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Domestic Violence Events</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group <sup>1</sup>
Domestic Violence?		
Yes	51.0% (N=394)	46.4% (N=249)
No	49.0% (N=378)	53.6% (N=288)
Total	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=537)
DV Range	1 – 8	1 – 9
DV Mean	1.75	1.75

<sup>1</sup>For this variable, we had one person with missing information in the Control Group.

**Figure 5. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group  
Domestic Violence Events**



This pattern extends to male offenders who were COR Completers compared to the Control Group, but is reversed and minimized for female offenders (see Table 11). The number of domestic violence events across treatment groups were the same for all male and female offenders; however, female Control Group members had slightly more domestic violence incidences recorded on their criminal histories than female COR Completers.

**Table 11. Study Population - COR Completers/Control Group  
Domestic Violence & Gender**

	Gender			
	COR Completers		Control Group <sup>1</sup>	
DV?	Male	Female	Male	Female
Yes	52.6% (N=384)	23.8% (N=10)	47.7% (N=240)	26.5% (N=9)
No	47.4% (N=346)	76.2% (N=32)	52.3% (N=263)	73.5% (N=25)
Total	100.0% (N=730)	100.0% (N=42)	100.0% (N=503)	100.0% (N=34)

<sup>1</sup> For this variable, we had one person with missing information in the Control Group.

**T-Tests of Mean Differences for Domestic Violence Variables**

T-Tests of mean differences for domestic violence variables showed no significant differences across groups or gender (see Table 12). Thus, COR Completers did not have fewer incidences of domestic violence compared to the Control Group overall but the female COR Completers had a slightly lower percentage of domestic violence events (24%) compared to the females in the Control Group with 26 percent.

**Table 12. T-Tests of Mean Differences  
COR Completers/Control Group  
for Domestic Violence Variables\***

	COR Completers <sup>1</sup>	Control Group <sup>2</sup>
Domestic Violence (1=yes)	0.51 (N=772)	0.46 (N=537)
Domestic Violence (number)	1.75 (N=394)	1.75 (N=249)
Males:		
Domestic Violence (1=yes)	0.53 (N=730)	0.48 (N=503)
Domestic Violence (number)	1.76 (N=384)	1.76 (N=240)
Females:		
Domestic Violence (1=yes)	0.24 (N=42)	0.26 (N=34)
Domestic Violence (number)	1.40 (N=10)	1.44 (N=9)

Note: Variable means are listed in each cell.

<sup>1</sup> Two-tailed t-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

<sup>2</sup> For this variable, we had one person with missing information in the Control Group.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

## Recidivism Outcomes

Following the study participants for five years, the COR outcome evaluation looked at several measures of recidivism as a means of addressing the nine questions about the recidivism outcomes of COR Completers compared to the Control Group. These included: (1) overall recidivism, (2) time to failure (recidivism), (3) rearrest, (4) reconviction, (5) reimprisonment, (6) post-release compliance, (7) sentencing offense for new crime, (8) sentence length for new crime or parole/pre-release violation, and (9) survival time.

***Question 1: Is there any difference in the rate of recidivism measured by rearrest, reconviction, and return to prison (Overall Recidivism) between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

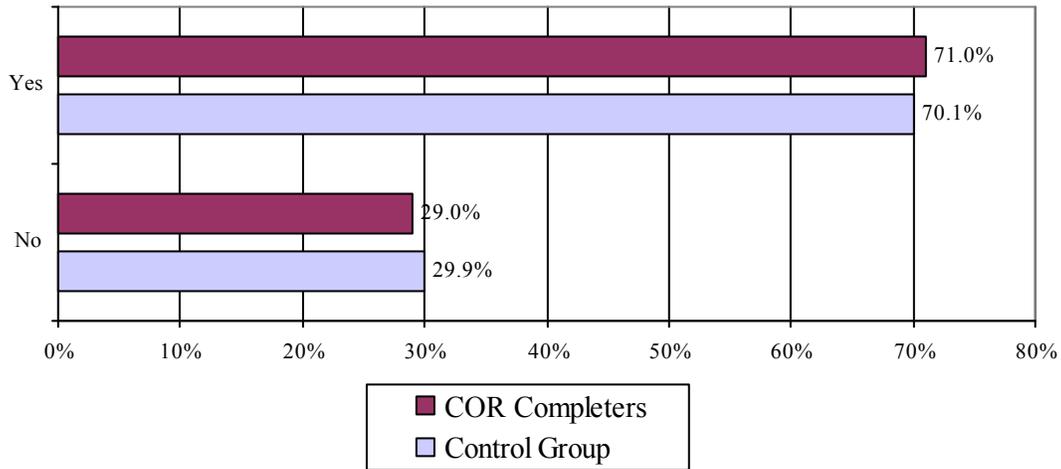
Examining Table 13, we find that the overall recidivism rate of the COR Completers (71.0%) is very similar to the Control Group (70.1%). There is less than one percentage point difference between the two groups although the COR Completers had a slightly higher overall recidivism rate. Thus, the answer to Question 1 is “yes” – the COR Completers had a slightly higher rate of recidivism compared to the Control Group.<sup>17</sup>

<b>Table 13. Study Population Overall Recidivism<sup>18</sup> Outcomes by Participant Group</b>			
Recidivist?	COR Completers	Control Group	Total
Yes	71.0% (N=548)	70.1% (N=377)	925
No	29.0% (N=224)	29.9% (N=161)	385
Total	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=538)	1310

<sup>17</sup> For all of the recidivism findings, statistical significance is summarized in Table 21.

<sup>18</sup> Overall Recidivism is measured by any rearrest, reconviction or return to prison including return to prison for parole or pre-release violations.

**Figure 6. Study Population Overall Recidivism Outcomes by Participant Group**



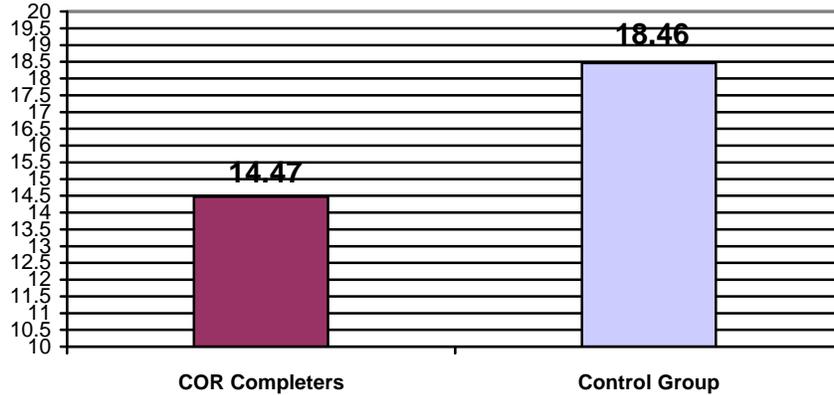
**Question 2: Is there any difference in time to failure for overall recidivism between the COR Completers and the Control Group?**

In Table 14 we find that the time to failure for COR Completers was 14.47 months compared to 18.46 months for the Control Group (also see Figure 7). This is a difference of approximately 4 months with COR Completers failing sooner than the Control Group. The range of 0-59 months for COR Completers and 0-62 months for the Control Group means that some in each group did not last even one month before failing (the exact number can be seen in the survival tables). The answer to Question 2 is “yes” – COR Completers had a shorter time until failure compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 14. Study Population Time to Failure for Recidivists by Group (Months)<sup>19</sup></b>		
	COR Completers (N=548)	Control Group (N=377)
Range	0 – 59 Months	0 – 62 Months
Mean	14.47 Months	18.46 Months

<sup>19</sup> Time to failure should not be confused with the survival analyses presented later as survival analyses takes into consideration those individuals who “survived” at the end of the study period without recidivating.

**Figure 7. Time to Failure until Recidivism in Months**



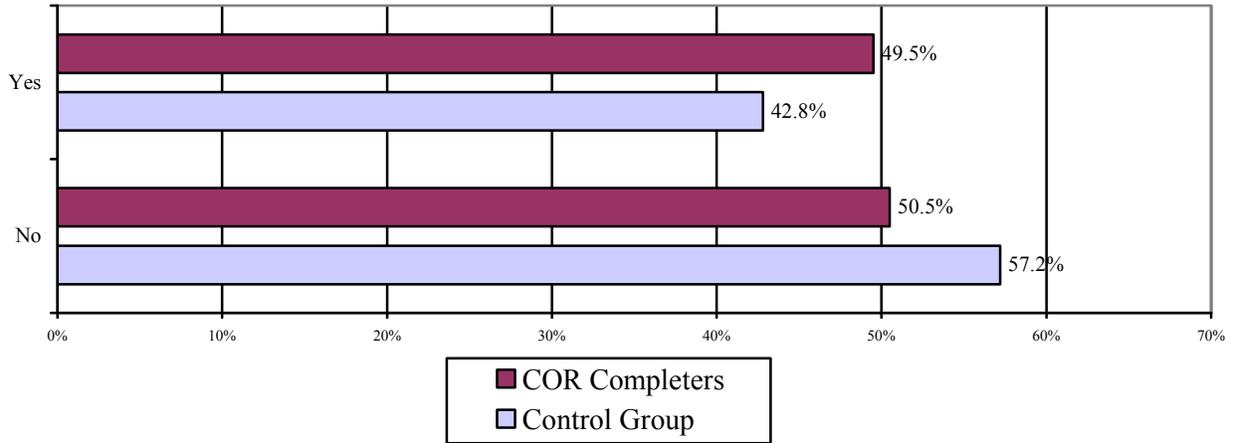
**Rearrest**

***Question 3: Is there any difference in the rate of recidivism measured by only rearrest between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

Comparing rearrest rates in Table 15 and Figure 8, we find that 49.5% of COR Completers were rearrested during the study period compared to 42.8% of the Control Group, which means that the answer to Question 3 is “yes” – the COR Completers had a higher rate of recidivism measured by only rearrest compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 15. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Rearrested</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Yes	49.5% (N=382)	42.8% (N=230)
No	50.5% (N=390)	57.2% (N=308)
Total	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=538)

**Figure 8. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Rearrested**



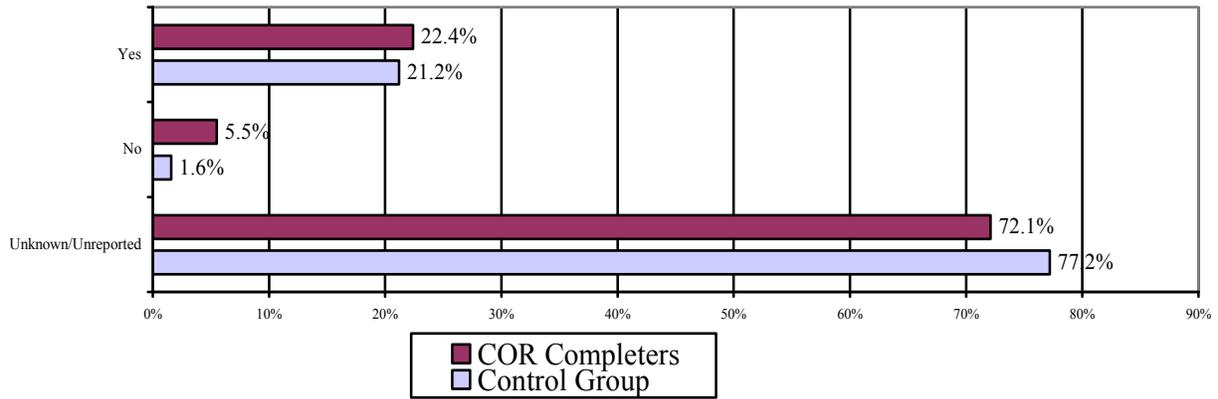
**Reconviction**

***Question 4: Is there any difference in the rate of recidivism measured by only reconviction between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

When looking at reconviction rates, Table 16 shows that there is very little difference between the COR Completers and the Control Group. The COR Completers had a slightly higher reconviction rate (22.4%) compared to the Control Group (21.2%) (see Figure 9). The answer, therefore, to Question 4 is “yes” – COR participants had a higher rate of recidivism measured by only reconviction compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 16. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Reconvicted</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Yes	22.4% (N=123)	21.2% (N=80)
No (Includes: Nolle Prossed/ Withdrawn & Quashed/ Dismissed/ Demure/ Suspended)	5.5% (N=30)	1.6% (N=6)
Unknown/Unreported	72.1% (N=395)	77.2% (N=291)
Total	100% (N=548)	100% (N=377)

**Figure 9. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Reconvicted**



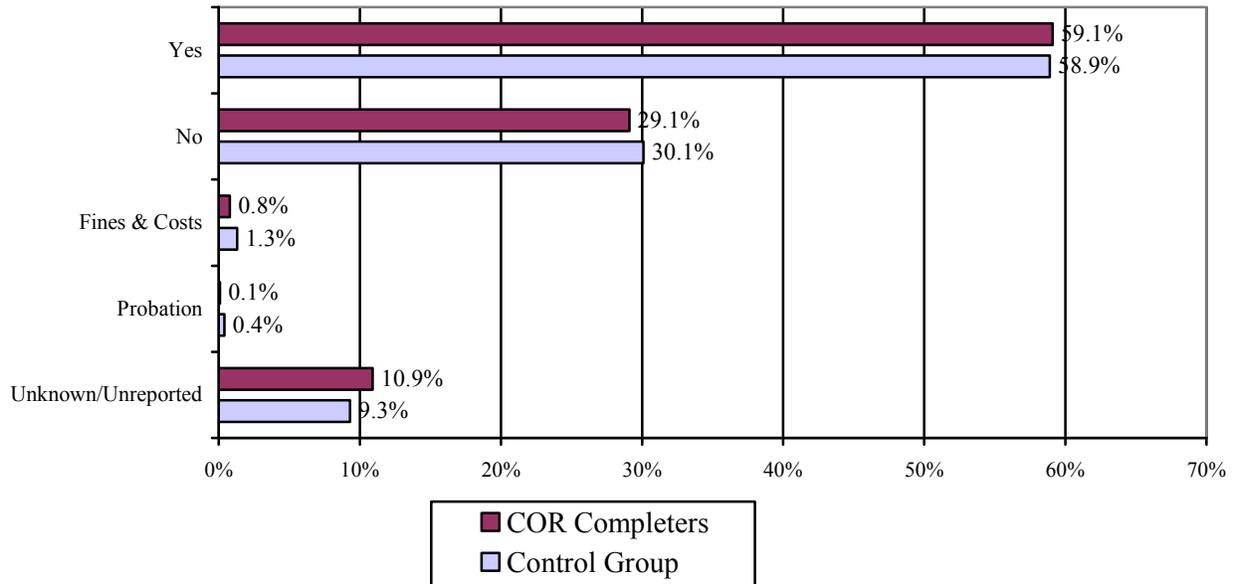
**Reimprisonment**

***Question 5: Is there any difference in the rate of recidivism measured by only return to prison (reimprisonment) between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

A comparison of the reimprisonment rates shown in Table 17 of the COR Completers and the Control Group show that there is very little difference between the COR Completers (59.1%) and the Control Group (58.9%) (see Figure 10). Although the difference is minimal (less than two-tenths of a percentage point), the answer to Question 5 is “yes - COR Completers had a higher rate of recidivism measured by only return to prison compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 17. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Reimprisoned</b>			
	COR Completers	Control Group	Total for Study Population
Yes	59.1% (N=456)	58.9% (N=317)	N=773
No	29.1% (N=225)	30.1% (N=162)	N=387
Fines & Costs	.8% (N=6)	1.3% (N=7)	N=13
Probation	.1% (N=1)	.4% (N=2)	N=3
Unknown/Unreported	10.9% (N=84)	9.3% (N=50)	N=134
Total	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=538)	N=1310

**Figure 10. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Reimprisoned**



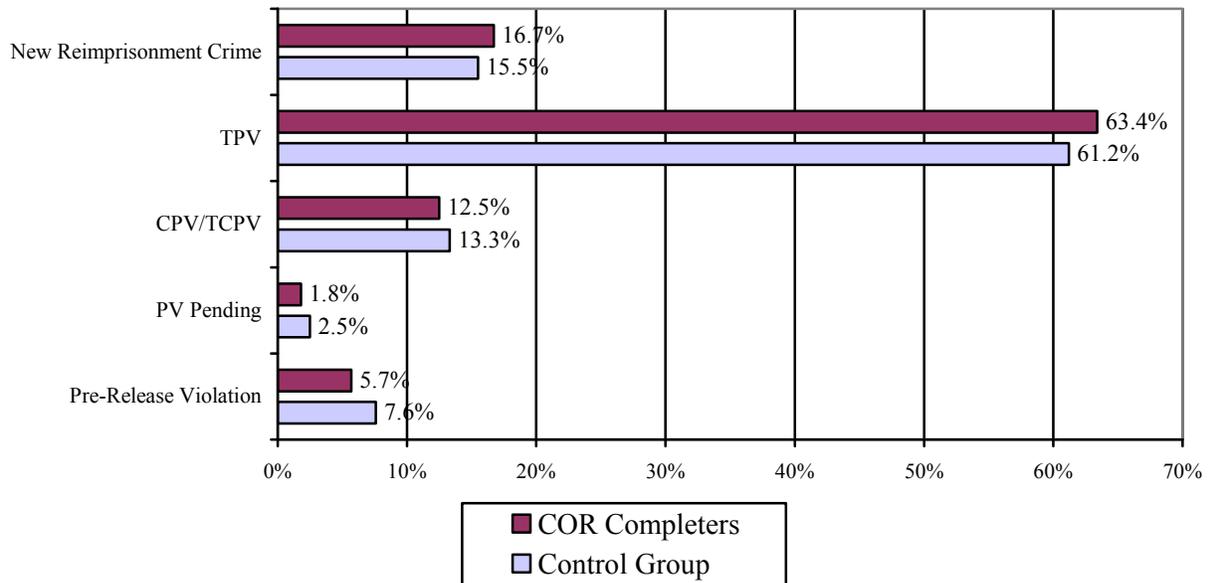
**Post-Release Compliance**

***Question 6: Is there any difference in the incidences of technical violations of parole and prerelease as indicators of post-release compliance between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

Excluding reimprisonment for new crimes and parole violations pending, Table 18 shows that for those who returned to prison, COR Completers had slightly lower rates of incidences of technical violations of parole and pre-release failures (81.6%) compared to the Control Group (82.1%). Although the difference is only half of a percentage point, COR Completers had fewer incidences of technical and pre-release violations compared to the Control Group so the answer to Question 6 is “yes” (see Figure 11). However, it should be noted that the COR Completers had a higher rate of reimprisonment for new crimes (16.7%) compared to the Control Group’s rate for reimprisonment for new crimes (15.5%) accounting for the slightly higher rate of reimprisonment seen in the previous Table (17) for the COR participants compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 18. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group Post-Release Compliance</b>			
	COR Completers	Control Group	Total for Study Population
New Reimprisonment Crime	16.7% (N=76)	15.5% (N=49)	N=125
TPV	63.4% (N=289)	61.2% (N=194)	N=483
CPV/TCPV	12.5% (N=57)	13.3% (N=42)	N=99
PV Pending	1.8% (N=8)	2.5% (N=8)	N=16
Pre-Release Violation	5.7% (N=26)	7.6% (N=24)	N=50
Total	100.0% (N=456)	100.0% (N=317)	N=773

**Figure 11. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group  
Post-Release Compliance**



**Sentencing Offense for New Crime**

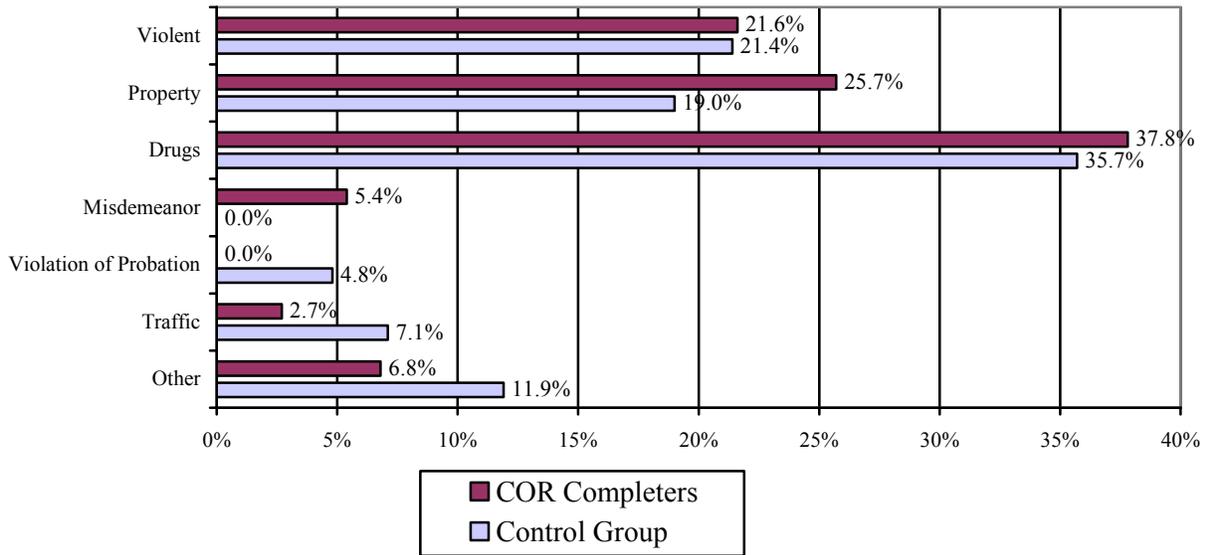
***Question 7: Is there any difference in new reimprisonment (sentencing) offenses between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

As shown in Table 19 COR Completers had higher percentages of reimprisonment for the three felony offenses (21.6% for violent, 25.7 % for property and 37.8% for drugs) compared to the Control Group felony offenses categories (21.4% for violent, 19.0% for property, and 35.7% for drugs) (see Figure 12). Therefore, the answer to Question 7 is “yes” – COR Completers had more serious reimprisonment offenses compared to the Control Group. In fact, they had higher rates in every felony category compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 19. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group DOC Sentencing Offense for New Reimprisonment Crime</b>			
	COR Completers	Control Group	Total for Study Population
Violent	21.6% (N=16)	21.4% (N=9)	N=25
Property	25.7% (N=19)	19.0% (N=8)	N=27
Drugs	37.8% (N=28)	35.7% (N=15)	N=43
Misdemeanor	5.4% (N=4)		N=4
Violation of Probation		4.8% (N=2)	N=2
Traffic	2.7% (N=2)	7.1% (N=3)	N=5
Other	6.8% (N=5)	11.9% (N=5)	N=10
Total	100.0% (N=74)	100.0% (N=42)	N=116
Missing <sup>20</sup>	N=2	N=7	N=9

<sup>20</sup> We did not have summary sheet information for these individuals so they were excluded from the percentages.

**Figure 12. Study Population COR Completers/Control Group DOC Sentencing Offense for New Reimprisonment Crime**



**Re-sentencing Minimum and Maximum**

***Question 8: Is there any difference in minimum and maximum times for re-sentencing between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

The re-sentencing times for the COR Completers showed both a longer minimum (6-240 months) and maximum (23-480 months) re-sentencing time compared to the Control Group, which had a minimum range of 3-180 months and a maximum range of 24-360 months (see Table 20). Although the minimum mean for the COR Completers was slightly shorter (30.27 months) compared to the Control Group mean of 30.43 months, the maximum mean for the COR Completers was longer (74.96 months) compared to the Control Group, which had a maximum mean of 68.14 months. So in this case, the answer to Question 8 is “yes” for both minimum and maximum re-sentencing time for COR Completers compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 20. Study Population  COR Completers/Control Group  Re-sentencing Minimum/Maximum Length (Months)</b>		
	COR Completers (N=73)	Control Group (N=42)
Minimum Range	6 - 240 Months	3 – 180 Months
Minimum Mean	30.27 Months	30.43 Months
Maximum Range	23 – 480 Months	24 -360 Months
Maximum Mean	74.96 Months	68.14 Months

### **T-Tests Results for Recidivism Outcomes**

With regard to the possible recidivism outcomes, COR Completers and the Control Group are quite similar (see Table 21). However, COR Completers are significantly *more* likely to be rearrested and their “failure” time (the time from release until the recidivist event) is significantly shorter. Moreover, although the differences are non-significant, COR Completers are also slightly more likely to be recidivists, reconvicted, and reimprisoned.

COR Completers and Control Group members do not differ significantly with regards to post-release compliance. COR Completers and Control Group members are nearly equally likely to be reimprisoned for a New Crime, a Technical Parole Violation (TPV), a Convicted Parole Violation (CPV), a Technical/Convicted Parole Violation (T/CPV), a Parole Violation Pending (PVP), or a Pre-Release Failure (PRF).

The COR Completers and Control Group members showed no significant differences across the seven types of sentencing offenses for their new reimprisonment crime. On average, COR Completers were slightly more likely to be reimprisoned for violent, drug, property, and misdemeanor offenses, while Control Group members were slightly more likely to be

reimprisoned for probation violation, traffic, and other kinds of offenses. When re-sentenced to prison, COR Completers and Control Group members do not receive significantly different sentence lengths. The mean minimum sentence length is slightly shorter and the maximum sentence length is somewhat longer, by nearly six months, for COR Completers than they are for Control Group members.

**Table 21. T-Tests of Mean Differences  
COR Completers/Control Group  
Recidivism, Sentencing Offenses, and Re-sentencing Times**

	COR Completers <sup>1</sup>	Control Group
Recidivist (1=yes)	0.71 (N=772)	0.70 (N=538)
Failure Time	14.47*** (N=548)	18.35 (N=376)
Rearrested (1=yes)	0.50* (N=772)	0.43 (N=538)
Reconvicted (1=yes)	0.22 (N=548)	0.21 (N=377)
Reimprisoned (1=reimprisonment)	0.59 (N=772)	0.59 (N=538)
Reimprisoned (1=finest & costs)	0.01 (N=772)	0.01 (N=538)
Reimprisoned (1=probation)	0.001 (N=772)	0.004 (N=538)
New Reimprisonment Crime	0.17 (N=456)	0.15 (N=317)
TPV	0.63 (N=456)	0.61 (N=317)
CPV/TCPV	0.13 (N=456)	0.13 (N=317)
PV Pending	0.02 (N=456)	0.03 (N=317)
Pre-Release Violation	0.06 (N=456)	0.08 (N=317)
Violent Reoffenses (1=yes)	0.22 (N=74)	0.21 (N=42)
Property Reoffenses (1=yes)	0.26 (N=74)	0.19 (N=42)
Drugs Reoffenses (1=yes)	0.38 (N=74)	0.36 (N=42)
Misdemeanor Reoffenses (1=yes)	0.05 (N=74)	0.00 (N=42)
Violation of Probation Reoffenses (1=yes)	0.00 (N=74)	0.05 (N=42)
Traffic Reoffenses (1=yes)	0.03 (N=74)	0.07 (N=42)
Other Reoffenses (1=yes)	0.07 (N=74)	0.12 (N=42)
Minimum Resentence Time (in months)	30.27 (N=73)	30.43 (N=42)
Maximum Resentence Time (in months)	74.96 (N=73)	68.14 (N=42)

Note: Variable means are listed in each cell.

<sup>1</sup> Two-tailed t-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

## **Logistic Regression Results**

The COR Program did not significantly reduce recidivism, reconviction, or reimprisonment, either in the bivariate logistic regression models or in the logistic regression models with demographic controls (see Table 22). In fact, in many of the logistic regression models, the program *increased* the odds of recidivism, reconviction, and reimprisonment (although non-significantly and only in the bivariate model for the latter outcome). Only with regard to rearrest does the program have a significant impact, both bivariately and with demographic controls, but again the program *increased* the odds of rearrest, by nearly 30 percent for COR Completers. Across all regression models, the demographic controls were better predictors of the four possible outcomes. The odds of recidivism, rearrest, reconviction, and reimprisonment significantly decreased with age. Men’s odds of recidivism and reimprisonment were nearly twice that of women’s, and African Americans’ odds of recidivism and rearrest were almost 40 percent or almost 70 percent higher than whites’ odds, respectively. However, the models as a whole weakly predict the outcomes, never explaining more than five percent of the variation in any of the outcomes.

<b>Table 22. Study Population Logistic Regression Analysis of Recidivism, Rearrest, Reconviction, and Reimprisonment</b>								
	Recidivism		Rearrest		Reconviction		Reimprisonment	
Treatment	1.045	1.001	1.312*	1.286*	1.074	1.037	1.006	0.967
Gender (1=male)		2.822***		1.508		0.499		2.816***
Age (in years)		0.964***		0.954***		0.980*		0.978***
Black		1.388*		1.690***		0.745		1.101
Hispanic		0.920		1.245		1.089		0.759
Asian		0.869		2.246		- -		0.333
Indian		0.561		2.124		- -		0.768
N	1310	1310	1310	1310	925	922	1310	1310
Pseudo R <sup>2</sup>	0.0001	0.0373	0.0032	0.0477	0.0002	0.0115	0.0000	0.0219
LR Chi <sup>2</sup>	0.13	59.13	5.78	86.27	0.20	11.17	0.00	38.82
(p value)	0.7222	0.0000	0.0162	0.0000	0.6578	0.0481	0.9580	0.0000
Goodness of Fit	0.00	19.67	0.00	2.53	0.00	3.14	0.00	21.36
(p value)	- -	0.0116	- -	0.9602	- -	0.9251	- -	0.0063

\*p≤0.05, \*\*p≤0.01, \*\*\*p≤0.001

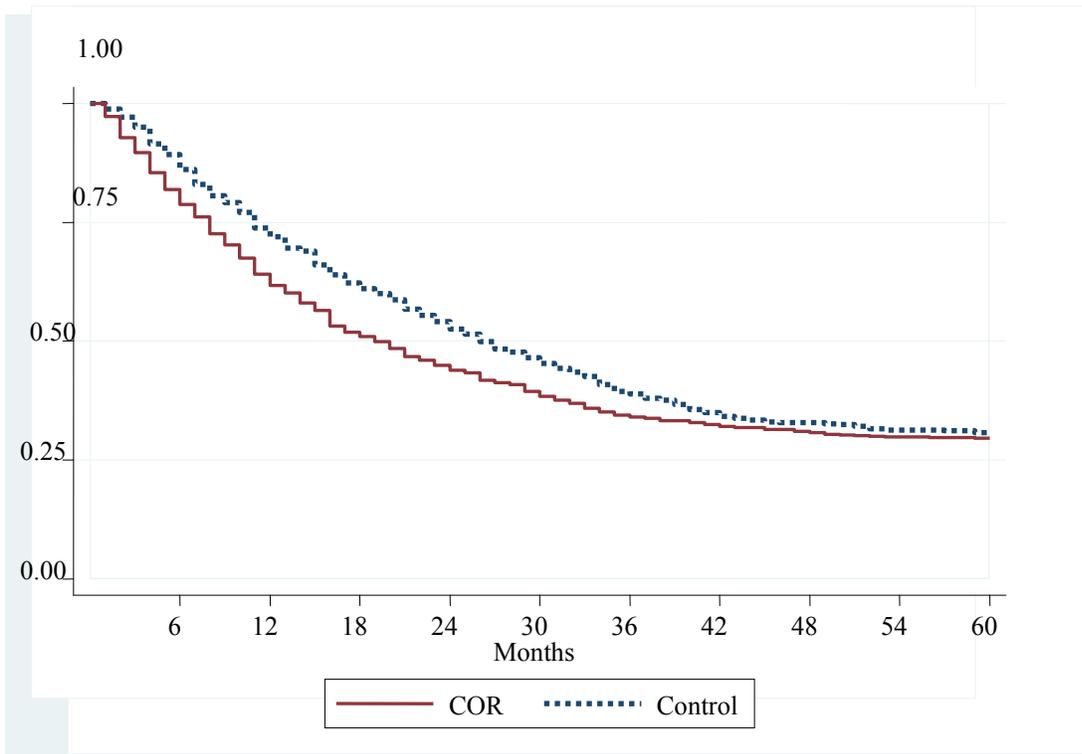
## **Survival Analysis**

### ***Question 9: Is there any difference in the survival rates between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

The survival time to recidivism was analyzed using a Cox proportional hazards model for single-record, single-failure data. Survival time (see Figure 13) was collected by number of months until the survival event. Multiple subjects could "tie" and terminate at the same time (in the same month). The Breslow correction method – an approximation of the exact marginal likelihood for continuous data with ties – was used in estimating the models. The effect of the COR program on the time to the recidivism event was captured by the treatment (COR Completers) variable. In both the bivariate and multivariate models, those who completed the COR program had a slightly higher hazard, 12 to 14 percent, of recidivating. Yet, the proportion of the COR Completers and the Control Group surviving without recidivating by the end of the five year study was nearly identical, 0.290 and 0.297, respectively (see Tables 23 & 24). The median survival time for the two groups suggests a similar result; the median survival time for COR Completers was 19 months (mean = 27.68) and for Control Group members was 26 months (mean = 30.89). Only subject gender and age significantly impacted survival time in the multivariate model (see Table 25). Male subjects had an 88% higher hazard of recidivating than for females. The hazard of recidivating for older subjects was lower than for younger subjects. All analyses were estimated using Stata version 9. One case with a survival time longer than the study period of 60 months was set to 60 for the survival analysis.

Although the results for survival were similar and not statistically significant across the two study groups, the answer to Question 9 is “yes” because the hazard of recidivating was higher for the COR Completers and the mean and median survival time for the COR Completers was lower (they did not “survive” as long) compared to the Control Group.

**Figure 13. Recidivism Survival for COR Completers/Control Group**



**Table 23. Recidivism Survival for COR Completers**

Interval Start	Interval End	Number Entering Interval	Number of Terminating Events	Proportion Terminating	Proportion Surviving
0	1	772	15	0.019	0.981
1	2	757	21	0.047	0.953
2	3	736	34	0.091	0.909
3	4	702	23	0.121	0.880
4	5	679	32	0.162	0.838
5	6	647	27	0.197	0.803
6	7	620	24	0.228	0.772
7	8	596	20	0.254	0.746
8	9	576	26	0.288	0.712
9	10	550	18	0.311	0.689
10	11	532	21	0.338	0.662
11	12	511	26	0.372	0.628
12	13	485	18	0.395	0.605
13	14	467	12	0.411	0.589
14	15	455	16	0.431	0.569
15	16	439	12	0.447	0.553
16	17	427	24	0.478	0.522
17	18	403	10	0.491	0.509
18	19	393	7	0.500	0.500
19	20	386	8	0.510	0.490
20	21	378	11	0.525	0.475
21	22	367	13	0.542	0.459
22	23	354	6	0.549	0.451
23	24	348	8	0.560	0.440
24	25	340	8	0.570	0.430
25	26	332	4	0.575	0.425
26	27	328	12	0.591	0.409
27	28	316	4	0.596	0.404
28	29	312	3	0.600	0.400
29	30	309	11	0.614	0.386
30	31	298	8	0.624	0.376
31	32	290	6	0.632	0.368
32	33	284	4	0.637	0.363
33	34	280	8	0.648	0.352
34	35	272	6	0.655	0.345
35	36	266	5	0.662	0.338
36	37	261	3	0.666	0.334
37	38	258	2	0.668	0.332
38	39	256	4	0.674	0.326
40	41	252	3	0.678	0.323
41	42	249	3	0.681	0.319
42	43	246	3	0.685	0.315
43	44	243	2	0.688	0.312
45	46	241	3	0.692	0.308
47	48	238	3	0.696	0.304
48	49	235	2	0.698	0.302
49	50	233	3	0.702	0.298
50	51	230	1	0.703	0.297
51	52	229	1	0.705	0.295
52	53	228	1	0.706	0.294
53	54	227	1	0.707	0.293
56	57	226	1	0.709	0.292
59	60	225	1	0.710	0.290
60	61	224	0	0.710	0.290

**Table 24. Recidivism Survival for Control Group**

Interval Start	Interval End	Number Entering Interval	Number of Terminating Events	Proportion Terminating	Proportion Surviving
0	1	538	11	0.020	0.980
1	2	527	6	0.032	0.968
2	3	521	9	0.048	0.952
3	4	512	11	0.069	0.931
4	5	501	19	0.104	0.896
5	6	482	12	0.126	0.874
6	7	470	16	0.156	0.844
7	8	454	17	0.188	0.812
8	9	437	12	0.210	0.790
9	10	425	8	0.225	0.775
10	11	417	11	0.245	0.755
11	12	406	17	0.277	0.723
12	13	389	10	0.296	0.705
13	14	379	12	0.318	0.682
14	15	367	4	0.325	0.675
15	16	363	15	0.353	0.647
16	17	348	11	0.374	0.626
17	18	337	9	0.390	0.610
18	19	328	6	0.402	0.599
19	20	322	6	0.413	0.587
20	21	316	7	0.426	0.574
21	22	309	10	0.444	0.556
22	23	299	7	0.457	0.543
23	24	292	7	0.470	0.530
24	25	285	8	0.485	0.515
25	26	277	6	0.496	0.504
26	27	271	8	0.511	0.489
27	28	263	8	0.526	0.474
28	29	255	4	0.534	0.467
29	30	251	6	0.545	0.455
30	31	245	6	0.556	0.444
31	32	239	6	0.567	0.433
32	33	233	4	0.574	0.426
33	34	229	5	0.584	0.416
34	35	224	9	0.600	0.400
35	36	215	7	0.613	0.387
36	37	208	3	0.619	0.381
37	38	205	5	0.628	0.372
38	39	200	2	0.632	0.368
39	40	198	5	0.641	0.359
40	41	193	5	0.651	0.349
41	42	188	4	0.658	0.342
42	43	184	4	0.665	0.335
43	44	180	2	0.669	0.331
44	45	178	2	0.673	0.327
45	46	176	2	0.677	0.323
46	47	174	1	0.678	0.322
49	50	173	1	0.680	0.320
50	51	172	1	0.682	0.318
51	52	171	2	0.686	0.314
52	53	169	3	0.691	0.309
53	54	166	1	0.693	0.307
57	58	165	1	0.695	0.305
59	60	164	2	0.699	0.301
60	61	162	1	0.703	0.297

<b>Table 25. Cox Proportional Hazards Model of Recidivism</b>		
	Model 1	Model 2
Treatment (1=COR)	1.140	1.126
Gender (1=male)		1.880***
Age (in years)		0.982***
Black		1.146
Hispanic		0.928
Asian		1.347
Indian		0.936
N	1284	1284
Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square (p-value)	3.76 (0.052)	55.47 (0.000)

Note: Hazards ratios are presented in each cell. \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

### **Employment/Financial Stability**

We looked at three questions addressing issues of employment and financial stability, which focused on quarters worked, wages earned, and new reimprisonment crimes for economic offenses. Each is discussed below.

#### **Post-Release Employment**

***Question 10: Is there any difference in the rates of post-release employment measured by quarters worked between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

The employment history of the COR Completers and the Control Group members were not significantly different from each other, although the Control Group members evidenced slightly longer periods of employment (see Table 26). On average, COR Completers worked 3.33 of the five quarters tracked and Control Group members worked 3.40 of the five quarters (rounded). Thus, the answer to Question 11 is “Yes” – the COR Completers had lower rates of employment measured by quarters worked compared to the Control Group.

**Post-Release Wages**

***Question 11: Is there any difference in post-release wages between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

Control Group members also averaged higher wages. Table 26 shows that Control Group members earned \$421 more for total wages (\$16,548.40) compared to the COR Completers (\$16,127.43) and for average wages, the Control Group earned \$160 more (\$3,905.14) during their employment than COR Completers (\$3,745.24). Yes, there is a difference with the COR Completers earning slightly lower total wages and slightly lower average quarterly wages compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 26. Study Population by Participant Group Wage Data</b>				
	<b>COR Completers N=372</b>		<b>Control Group N=289</b>	
	<b>Range</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Total Quarters</b>	1-5	3.328	1-5	3.398
<b>Total Wages</b>	\$30 - \$209,557	\$16,127.43	\$24 - \$316,457	\$16,548.40
<b>Average Wages</b>	\$30 - \$41,911	\$3,745.24	\$24 - \$63,291	\$3,905.14

**T-Tests of Mean Differences for Employment Variables**

Table 27 shows that the T-Tests of mean difference in quarters worked and wages earned between the two groups is not significant, but overall the Control Group did slightly better than the COR Completers for quarters worked and wages earned.

**Table 27. T-Tests of Mean Differences between Participant Groups for Employment Variables**

	COR Completers	Control Group
Total Number of Quarters Worked	3.328 1.617 372	3.398 1.540 289
Average Wages across Quarters	3745.24 4358.22 372	3905.14 5104.04 289

Note: Variable means are listed first in each cell; standard deviations are listed second; sample sizes are listed third.

<sup>1</sup> Two-tailed t-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

***Question 12: Is there any difference in the rates of recidivism for economic (property) crimes between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

Referring back to Tables 19 and 21, COR participants had a higher rate of reimprisonment for economic (property) crimes (25.7%) compared to the Control Group (19%). Although the difference was not significant, the answer to Question 13 is “yes” since the COR Completers had a higher rate of reimprisonment for economic (property) crimes compared to the Control Group.

**Reduced Substance Abuse**

***Question 13: Is there any difference in the rates of recidivism for drug offenses between the COR Completers and the Control Group?***

Comparing COR Completers and the Control Group on new crime offenses for drugs (refer back to Tables 19 & 21), we find that the COR Completers had a higher rate (37.8%) of reimprisonment for drug offenses compared to the Control Group’s rate of 35.7%. T-Tests did not show a significant difference between the two groups on reimprisonment for drug offenses, however, the answer to Question 13 is “yes” – the COR Completers had a higher rate of recidivism for drug offenses compared to the Control Group.

## DISCUSSION

Based on the findings of the five-year outcome evaluation of COR (Phase I), COR Completers did worse on all but one of the 9 measures of recidivism (another measure had mixed results), on all of the employment measures, and on the measure for substance abuse compared to the outcomes for the Control Group. A review of the main points from the analyses follows. To make the review easier, we summarize the findings based on the 13 questions proposed.

First, we find that the overall recidivism rates were higher for COR Completers compared to the Control Group but only slightly so (71% vs. 70.1%) (Question 1). Second, it took a shorter time for the COR Completers to fail (14.47 months) compared to the Control Group (18.46 months), and this finding was statistically significant (Question 2). Third, the rearrest rate was higher for COR Completers (49.5%) compared to the Control Group (42.8%), and again the result was statistically significant (Question 3). Fourth, the reconviction rates (22.4% vs. 21.2%) were higher for COR Completers compared to the Control Group but the difference was not statistically significant (Question 4). Fifth, the reimprisonment rates (59.1% vs. 58.9%) were higher for COR Completers compared to the Control Group although again not statistically significant (Question 5). The survey results (found in Section II) might help explain some of the differences in recidivism rates between the COR Completers and the Control Group. COR Completers started their criminal activity at a younger age and they were more involved with the juvenile justice system compared to the Control Group. COR Completers had stronger criminal associations with friends and family and they appeared to be more drug and alcohol involved compared to the Control Group. All of these factors are good predictors of criminal behavior.

While our main objective was comparing the COR Completers to the Control Group to evaluate the intervention of the COR program, it is interesting to see how similar both the COR

Completers and the Control Group members' rearrest, reconviction and reimprisonment rates are to those rates for offenders in the BJS recidivism study (Langan and Levin, 2002). We found that the rearrest rates were lower for both the COR Completers (49.5%) and the Control Group (42.8%) compared to the rearrest rate of 67.5% for offenders in the national study. The reconviction rates of both groups (22.4% for COR and 21.2% for the Control Group) were also lower than the BJS national rates of 46.9%, however, the reimprisonment rates were higher for both groups (59.1% for COR Completers and 58.9% for the Control Group) compared to the national rates of 51.8%. This is explained, in part, because the current research uses more sources of data to examine reimprisonment rates compared to the national study.

Our study also examined post-release compliance measured by return to prison for a new crime, technical parole violation, technical/convicted parole violation, parole violation pending, and pre-release failure (Question 6). Overall, the COR Completers did do better than the Control Group on parole/pre-release compliance but they did worse on return to prison for a new crime (16.7% of COR Completers returned to prison for a new crime compared to 15.5% of the Control Group who returned to prison for a new crime). These results were not statistically significant. Again, it is interesting to compare the outcomes of the COR study groups' return to prison for a new crime with the national rates of 25.4% especially since both groups in the DOC had lower rates for this measure. The survey results reported in Section II point to COR Completers having a slightly better relationship with their parole officers compared to the Control Group but they self-reported less favorable outcomes with post-release compliance compared to the Control Group.

Seventh, we examined the types of re-sentencing offenses to see if the COR Completers had less serious offenses for return to prison for new crimes (Question 7). COR Completers did

worse with higher percentages for the three felony offense categories (21.6% for violent, 25.7 % for property and 37.8% for drugs) compared to the Control Group felony offenses (21.4% for violent, 19.0% for property, and 35.7% for drugs) although these results were not statistically significant.

Eighth, we looked at the re-sentencing minimums and maximums for both groups to see if the COR Completers had shorter sentences for new crimes (Question 8). We had mixed results for this question. COR Completers had shorter minimum sentences (mean of 30.27 months) but longer maximum sentences (mean of 74.96 months) compared to the Control Group with a mean minimum of 30.43 months and a mean maximum of 68.14 months.

Ninth, we examined the survival time of the COR Completers compared to the Control Group (Question 9). The COR Completers had a slightly higher hazard, 12 to 14 percent, of recidivating compared to the Control Group but the proportion of the COR Completers and the Control Group surviving without recidivating by the end of the five-year study was nearly identical (0.290 and 0.297 respectively). Males and younger offenders had a higher hazard of recidivating compared to females and older offenders.

Questions 10, 11, and 12 examined the employment situation of the COR Completers compared to the Control Group. COR Completers worked an average of 3.328 quarters compared to the Control Group who worked an average of 3.398, only slightly lower for the COR Completers. The mean wages earned during the 5 quarters of observation were also similar - \$16,127.43 for COR Completers and \$16,548.40 for the Control Group with the COR Completers doing slightly worse. These differences in the employment measures were not significant. However, COR Completers had a higher rate of reimprisonment (25.7%) for

property (economic) offenses compared to the Control Group with a rate of 19% leading to a negative assessment of the COR Completers' financial stability compared to the Control Group.

The Survey results reported in Section II show COR Completers had much less stable employment compared to the Control Group and as with official records COR Completers reported less income. The COR Completers thought it was much more difficult to find a job and they felt slightly more stress on the job compared to the Control Group. The COR Completers were much less likely to have a bank account, have more difficulty managing their money, and were less able to make ends meet compared to the Control Group. This could help explain why COR Completers did not perform as well with the employment/financial outcomes compared to the Control Group.

Our focus on the 13<sup>th</sup> question was on a reduction in substance abuse/use as measured by the percentage the study population who returned to prison for new crimes committed for drug offenses. COR Completers had a higher reimprisonment rate (37.8%) for drug offenses compared to the Control Group (35.7%) so a reduction of substance abuse for COR Completers compared to the Control Group did not occur as indicated by this measure. The survey results in Section II also point to the COR Completers as more drug and alcohol involved than the Control Group. COR Completers were more quickly involved with drugs and alcohol after release and used and abused drugs and alcohol more frequently compared to the Control Group. It is also interesting to note that a much higher percentage of COR Completers reported participation in the DOC Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program.

In summary, the COR Program did not significantly reduce recidivism, reconviction, or reimprisonment in the analyses of the data including the bivariate logistic regression models or in the logistic regression models with demographic controls compared to the Control Group. In

many of the logistic regression models, the program *increased* the odds of recidivism, reconviction, and reimprisonment (although non-significantly and only in the bivariate model for the latter outcome). Only with regard to rearrest does the program have a significant impact, both bivariately and with demographic controls, but the program *increased* the odds of rearrest by nearly 30 percent. We had the same negative results comparing COR Completers with the Control Group on the employment, substance abuse, and domestic violence measures.

Across all regression models, the demographic controls - age, gender, and race - were better predictors of the recidivism outcomes than the treatment variable (COR Completers and the Control Group members), which means that participating in and completing COR was not a positive predictor of success in the outcomes. The odds of recidivism, rearrest, reconviction, and reimprisonment significantly decreased with age. Men's odds of recidivism and reimprisonment were nearly twice that of women's, and African Americans' odds of recidivism and rearrest were almost 40 percent or almost 70 percent higher than whites' odds, respectively.

These disappointing findings in the outcome evaluation of COR are similar to those found in the evaluation of the Project Greenlight Reentry program. With almost every measure used to assess the success of the COR intervention, we saw a negative outcome for those who completed the COR program. We examined the findings from the COR evaluation for explanations as to why this program failed to produce the outcomes expected from a successful reentry program.

### **Explaining the Outcomes**

What we found were several factors we believed were impeding the success of the COR program. First, the program was simply too short (only two weeks long) to make a significant impact on the offender's behavior that took years to develop. This was also a criticism of the

Project Greenlight reentry program, and it was an eight-week program also delivered in prison immediately prior to release. Successful interventions do not take place in two weeks. We have learned that from years of studying substance abuse treatment programs.

Second, although there are many worthwhile and well established correctional programs in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' prison system such as the education and vocational training programs, COR was a new program and not well developed. The program designers, like those for Project Greenlight, took the right approach by looking at the "What Works" literature and incorporating the components of interventions that had been considered successful in other programs and documented in evaluations. However, objective measures designed to assess the level of comprehension of the material taught in COR were not used, so we do not know if the program was successful in delivering the curriculum to both groups equally. This should have been a key finding from the process evaluation with a subsequent pre/post test incorporated into the program. We knew the educational levels of the participants but we did not know their functional literacy levels. COR Completers may not have grasped the material as easily as the Control Group. However, without pre/post tests we had no way of measuring any gains in knowledge for either group for comparison.

We have evidence from methodologically rigorous studies that education, vocational training, and cognitive skills programs work, but these are delivered as individual programs (Smith and Steurer, 2002; Aos, Miller, and Drake, 2006; Mackenzie, 2006). Although we considered the components of the curriculum appropriate for COR, we did not think that all of them together could or should be delivered in a two-week time frame. Like Project Greenlight, COR tried to incorporate too many components into its curriculum in an effort to be more

comprehensive, but it too looks much like a “hodge podge” of interventions Marlowe (2006) used to describe the Project Greenlight reentry program.

Third, strong administrative oversight goes a long way in keeping programs on track and functioning as they should with consistent implementation and operation. Although the lead researcher on this project was not involved with the process evaluation, it became clear from observing some of the classes and interviewing participants that there was an inconsistent application of the curriculum. Sometimes the program was provided by either treatment or education staff from the DOC. Other times the program was delivered by independent contractors.

Fourth, the trend today in corrections is to individualize programs as much as possible. There are many assessments that are successful in determining the needs of offenders. Before being placed in any program offenders should have an assessment that identifies the areas they need to improve. The Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) is a popular and progressive instrument currently being used in many correctional systems (Petersilia, 2003). The LSI-R provides program staff with a numeric estimate of each client’s risks and needs so that prisoners can be assigned to appropriate services (Andrews and Bonta, 1995).

Fifth, the parole violations were driving the recidivism rates in the COR outcome evaluation. When you look at only rearrest and reconviction rates, they were lower than national averages but the reimprisonment rate, driven mostly by parole violations, was higher. Although a review of parole practices was not part of the evaluation, there is obviously something amiss with the parole system considering that such large numbers of offenders returned to prison for some type of parole violation.

Finally, we cannot ignore the results from the survey which show that the COR Completers were younger at age of first involvement in crime and age at first arrest. They had more juvenile arrests and confinements in juvenile facilities, had more criminal associations, were more likely to be on probation and parole, were more drug and alcohol involved, had less stable work and financial situations, and were less prepared overall for release after prison compared to the Control Group. These criminogenic factors could have had a major impact on the COR Completers failure to succeed after prison that outweighed any benefits gained from program participation.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

We make the following recommendations based on our analyses of the findings in the study and our observations of the program.

**Recommendation #1 – Increase the program time for COR and improve the curriculum and delivery of the program or dismantle the program altogether and incorporate the important aspects of the program into the education, vocational training, and cognitive skills programs already well established within the DOC. Another option, and the one we consider the best, is to redesign the DOC reentry program.**

The COR program's two-week curriculum while in prison is too short to have any meaningful impact on the offender. Although COR was only meant to be a "refresher" program, it did not work. Reentry programs need to embrace a long-term approach, starting at the time of incarceration, to resolve the multitude of problems prisoners face when returning home.

COR Completers failed in almost every area assessed for reduced recidivism, increased employment and wages, and decreased substance abuse compared to the Control Group. Not only did the COR program fail to have a positive impact, in most instances, it had a negative impact on the outcomes. If the program cannot be changed in a meaningful and substantial way, the program should be dismantled and the resources directed to established programs within the

DOC. These programs could incorporate the important components of COR that would enhance and complement the other curricula.

Another option, and the one we consider the best, is a complete redesign of the reentry programming efforts in the DOC. This is an opportunity to take the lessons learned from COR and use those lessons to strengthen and improve the DOC's approach to reentry. The DOC's continued emphasis on evidence-based practices and programs, which incorporates the principles of effective intervention, is a good foundation to start building a better reentry program for prisoners returning home.

**Recommendation #2 - Utilize risk and needs assessment instruments for reentry programming to create plans specifically designed to address individual needs and services for the offender, and to ensure that the appropriate population is being targeted for services.**

The COR program currently is a "one size fits all" curriculum and is not targeting the specific needs of the individual prisoner. The trends now are to (1) provide correctional programming that targets high risk offenders and (2) address individual needs. The DOC has implemented a "rigorous new system for assessing the criminogenic risk and needs of its offenders" including the LSI-R (Gnall and Zajac, 2005, p. 95). The LSI-R has been adopted by the DOC for newly admitted inmates, and plans to extend this assessment and others for systematic reassessment in reentry planning are being considered. The research team highly recommends that this plan for assessment and reassessment be adopted as soon as it is feasible to facilitate successful reentry programming.

**Recommendation #3 – Provide greater oversight of reentry programs at an administrative level to ensure compliance with the principles of effective programming.**

Administrative oversight of programs helps ensure program integrity through compliance with the principles of effective programming and interventions. From researcher observations,

the COR program was delivered inconsistently although the COR survey (See Section II) did indicate that most of the participants in the program attended the requisite number of hours and weeks intended for the program. However, based on a checklist of 15 activities developed from the curriculum, participants did not take part in these activities with consistency. We recommend using only the DOC staff members for program administration as program materials delivered by independent contractors are more difficult to monitor. We understand that there are fiscal issues driving the hiring of independent contractors but failed programs do not make this a cost-effective endeavor.

**Recommendation #4 – Work with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) and the parole officers to collaboratively develop both an in-prison and after-prison program that will help the prisoner meet the supervision requirements of parole. Develop alternative sanctions for technical parole violations other than a return to prison.**

A better solution to resolving the problems related to parole or pre-release violations other than a return to prison needs to be cultivated with more collaboration between the DOC and the Board of Probation and Parole. We know that PBPP and the DOC have been trying the half-way back approach popular in the 1970's as an alternative solution but that approach is only dealing with part of the problem – the “after violation” part. Dealing with offender problems before they violate their conditions of supervision is a more effective method to reducing recidivism and subsequent incarceration along with a reduction in the social and monetary costs associated with a return to prison. Just as they have returned to the concept of “half-way back” for technical violations, perhaps they should consider a return to another “old way” of doing things - having both prison and parole staff act as a “broker” for services and resources beneficial to the prisoner returning home.

**Recommendation #5 – Consider the input of the offenders on how the DOC can help them by targeting the offenders’ individual criminogenic factors (see Survey results, Section II).**

In the COR Survey we asked those prisoners who had returned to prison (failed) after completing COR (COR Completers), as well as those who had not participated in COR (Control Group) who had returned to prison, how the DOC could help them achieve greater success upon their next release from prison. These were the most common suggestions from the prisoners.

- Work more closely with CCC and Parole to ease transition
- Assist with education
- Help with jobs and job training
- Provide better access to resources
- Help return to a different home environment
- Offer mental support and encouragement
- Help with funding for post-release immediate needs

The issues with parole and pre-release failures were at the forefront of the prisoners’ recommendations and understandably so since most of the COR Completers and the Control Group returned to prison because of post-release compliance failures. We suggest, in Recommendation #5, ways to address this problem.

First, the prisoners wanted assistance with education. These programs are well-established in the DOC prison system and are doing reasonably well. Why not put more resources into these programs and make education classes available to a larger number of people who are on waiting lists to receive these services? As we noted in our earlier comments about education and job training, offenders who do not have a high school diploma or GED are at greater risk of recidivating than those who have these credentials (Smith and Steurer, 2002; Andrews and Bonta, 1998; Gendreau, Little, and Goggin, 1996).

The prisoners also wanted help with getting jobs and additional training. Because of their educational and skill deficiencies, most offenders returning to the workforce will be entering the low-wage labor market. This market is already highly competitive and with the added barrier of

a criminal record, they will face great difficulty in obtaining employment that will sustain them and their families. The DOC is already providing post-secondary training in jobs that are more willing to hire offenders such as the fiber optics and HVAC programs. The DOC should increase their budget for these programs. They should also continue to gauge the labor market and explore training programs that will provide meaningful and sustainable employment for offenders.

Better access to resources is another request by offenders. Bringing in volunteers *who can assist prisoners when they are released* is one way to accomplish this. Although all volunteers are important to corrections, many of them do not have the resources to assist offenders upon release. Community groups with resources or access to resources should be actively recruited for involvement in the prison system.

Other resources are job fairs, which the DOC already conducts in many of the prisons, but having them more often might increase chances for employment. Having an employment coordinator who can set these up would be well worth the investment. Continuing the linkage with L & I is also important; but in talking with staff, we received mixed reviews about L & I. In some of the prisons, L & I would not come (most likely because of the isolation of the institution) to the prison but L & I offers many services in the community that are very beneficial to ex-offenders. While interviewing prisoners, it became clear that an awareness of those services was seriously deficient. Again, an employment coordinator could ensure and oversee the L & I involvement in the prisons.

As we pointed out earlier in the literature about reentry, support services can help offenders function successfully in the community. Criminological theory is exploring once again the direct effect that social support has on crime with the hypothesis that increasing social

support will reduce involvement in crime (Cullen, 1999; Cullen and Agnew, 1999). The DOC should explore ways that they can increase social support for prisoners. Our suggestions are only a few of the ways that this can be accomplished.

Many prisoners suggested that help in returning to a different home environment would assist them in making a successful transition back into the community. Recognizing that their home environment plays a major role in returning to a life of crime and criminal associations is insightful on their part. However, with a majority of prisoners coming from large urban areas and from neighborhoods with high rates of crime, this is a hard reality to address. We are not sure that this is something that can be accomplished by the DOC but again, drawing on support and involvement from community agencies might assist with this problem.

It was interesting that one of the prisoner's suggestions was to offer mental support and encouragement. We believe that the treatment staff and the education department in the DOC do offer support and encouragement in their classes, but there are waiting lists for programs so prisoners may not be involved in these programs where they would receive this positive reinforcement. Another source of support and encouragement could come from family members. Improving inmate visitation would help prisoners keep in contact with and strengthen their ties to family members (we should point out that while the literature strongly endorses family support, it is not always a positive factor for offenders).

Finally, the prisoners suggested that it would be helpful if they had funding for post-release immediate needs. While this may be an idealistic recommendation and currently not economically feasible, it would seem that having a fund closely monitored for those with real needs might help in deterring those individuals who come back within the first month of release. Churches or other charitable organizations may be willing to contribute to a release fund. Even

inmates themselves may be willing to contribute a couple of dollars out of their accounts toward a release fund. We feel that it is worth exploring. In this study, 26 prison releasees came back before the first month ended. Setting aside two hundred dollars for a week of food and housing, especially for those who are maxing out (completing) their sentence versus those who are going to a Community Correctional Center, might be money well spent if we can keep them from returning to prison or even delay their return. Just considering the 26 who came back in the first month, we are talking about a little more than \$5,000 contributed by a release fund that may have prevented spending more than \$500,000 for one year of incarceration for those 26 inmates.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

The outcome evaluation of COR was a complex undertaking. The results were disappointing for a program that seemed to move in the right direction. It can sometimes be difficult to dismantle a program and move on but in this case it is the appropriate action to take. Marlowe (2006) said it best in his comments about Project Greenlight:

If the services lack appreciable credibility, this might imbue clients with a sense of futility, prime them to reject future services or inure them against the active ingredients of successful programs. If so, then providing weak treatments could, under some circumstances be worse than providing no treatment at all. (p. 342)

We want correctional administrators to make policy decisions about prison programs based on credible evidence that the program is working, or in this case is not working. The evidence provided in this evaluation of COR should make the decision easy for the DOC administrators since they have adopted and strongly support evidence-based practices and programming, which incorporate the principles of effective intervention. However, we need to emphasize that we are **not** recommending that the DOC eliminate all of their reentry efforts. Rather, as we mentioned in our recommendations, the DOC should regroup, consider the

changes suggested, and move forward to create a new concept for reentry that incorporates both the positive and negative aspects learned from the outcome evaluation of the COR program.

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## SECTION II: SURVEY OUTCOMES\*

**\*Results in this section were taken entirely from the self-reported responses of the study participants.**

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

The survey participants were randomly selected from the original study population using a list of those who had returned to prison. Since the survey population was selected from the original study population, which used an experimental design, we assumed that the results were representative of the entire study population.

The survey results yielded a wealth of information about the offenders who returned to prison after completing the COR program during their previous incarceration and about those in the control group who had returned to prison. The surveys provided data about: (1) individual demographics, (2) criminal history information including criminal associations, (3) program participation while in prison (4) questions about COR and the COR curriculum, (5) living situations during most recent release from prison, (6) work history and employment situation prior to current incarceration, (7) financial situation during most recent release from prison, (8) drug and alcohol situation, (9) mental health status, (10) experiences with parole, (11) events leading to current incarceration, (12) current situation in prison, (13) expectations after prison, and (14) offender suggestions for improving programming efforts (see Appendix A for survey).

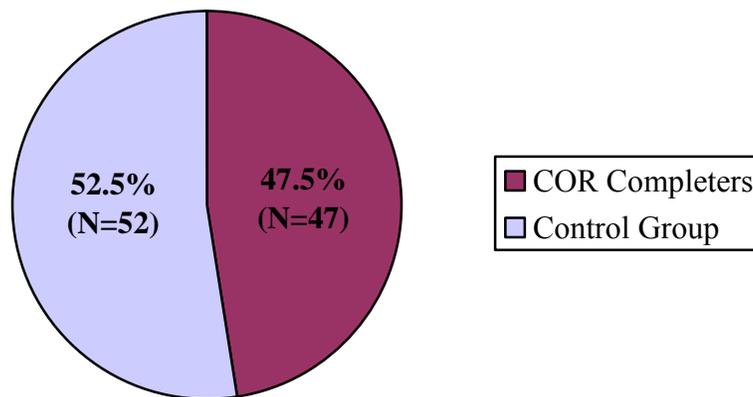
### **Survey Population**

Surveys were collected from 107 offenders from the original study population group, which included COR Completers and the Control Group members. There were 8 COR Non-Completers who were surveyed but they were removed from the survey population because the numbers were too small to yield any meaningful results leaving 99 in the survey population. Most all of the recidivism, employment, substance abuse and domestic violence measures used in the outcome study compared only COR Completers with the Control Group. We used only COR Completers and Control Group participants for the survey results as well. Since

participation in the survey was voluntary, they were told that they did not have to answer any question they did not want to answer. Consequently, the numbers may not always add up to the 99 survey participants, and in some cases the percentages do not always add up to exactly 100%.

The surveys were collected from several prisons with the lead researcher traveling to each one to administer the surveys to the study participants, hold focus group discussions and conduct one-on-one interviews. Discussions about why the study participants (both COR Completers and the Control Group) had returned to prison were also held. Each participant who filled out a survey or participated in an interview was asked to complete an informed consent form first (see Appendix A for informed consent form). Figure 1 shows that the survey population was comprised of 47 COR Completers and 52 Control Group participants representing 16 institutions (see Table 1).

**Figure 1. Survey Population**



<b>Table 1. Survey Population by Institution</b>		
	<b>COR Completers</b>	<b>Control Group</b>
Camp Hill		7.7% (N=4)
Chester	4.3% (N=2)	7.7% (N=4)
Coal Township	12.8% (N=6)	1.9% (N=1)
Cresson	2.1% (N=1)	3.8% (N=2)
Dallas	12.8% (N=6)	7.7% (N=4)
Graterford	25.5% (N=12)	19.2% (N=10)
Greensburg		1.9% (N=1)
Houtzdale	8.5% (N=4)	13.5% (N=7)
Huntington	4.3% (N=2)	17.3% (N=9)
Mahanoy	21.3% (N=10)	11.5% (N=6)
Pine Grove	2.1% (N=1)	
Quehanna		5.8% (N=3)
Retreat		
Rockview	2.1% (N=1)	1.9% (N=1)
Somerset	2.1% (N=1)	
Waynesburg	2.1% (N=1)	
Total	100.0% (N=47)	100.0% (N=52)

**Individual Demographic Information for Survey Population**

Similar to the data for the original study population, the COR Completers who participated in the survey were younger on average (age 36 rounded) compared to the Control Group survey participants who had an average age of 39 (rounded) (see Table 2). The range of ages for survey participants was similar between the two groups (ages 24-59 for COR Completers and ages 23-61 for the Control Group).

<b>Table 2. Survey Population by Age Compared to the Overall Study Population</b>				
	<b>Survey Population</b>		<b>Study Population</b>	
	<b>COR Completers (N=47)</b>	<b>Control Group (N=51)</b>	<b>COR Completers (N=772)</b>	<b>Control Group (N=538)</b>
Range	24 – 59	23 – 61	23 – 74	25 – 75
Mean	35.62	39.08	39.31	40.33

In examining the race distribution, a larger number of African Americans were represented in the survey population for both groups (66% in the COR Completers and 60% in the Control Group) than the numbers represented in the original study population (see Table 3). The number of Whites participating in the survey was considerably smaller for both groups, while the number of Hispanics participating was approximately the same as the demographics in the original study population.

<b>Table 3. Survey Population by Race Compared to the Overall Study Population Racial Composition</b>				
	Survey Population		Study Population	
	COR Completers	Control Group	COR Completers	Control Group
African American	66.0% (N=31)	59.6% (N=31)	53.4% (N=412)	55.2% (N=297)
White	17.0% (N=8)	19.2% (N=10)	35.5% (N=274)	31.8% (N=171)
Hispanic	10.6% (N=5)	15.3% (N=8)	10.9% (N=84)	12.5% (N=67)
Native American	2.1% (N=1)	1.9% (N=1)	.1% (N=1)	.2% (N=1)
Asian			.1% (N=1)	.4% (N=2)
Other	4.3% (N=2)	3.8% (N=2)		
Total	100.0% (N=47)	100.0% (N=52)	100.0% (N=772)	100.0% (N=538)

Only males participated in the survey although an attempt was made to collect data from the females who were in the original study. Because the number of females in the original study population was small, it was difficult for us to capture any of them for the survey.

Most of the COR Completers (55.3%) reported that they were single and had never married, while only 36.5% of the Control Group reported being single (being single was still the largest category for marital status for both the COR Completers and the Control Group) (see

Table 4). The second largest category for both the COR Completers and the Control Group were those who reported that they were in a common law relationship with a wife.

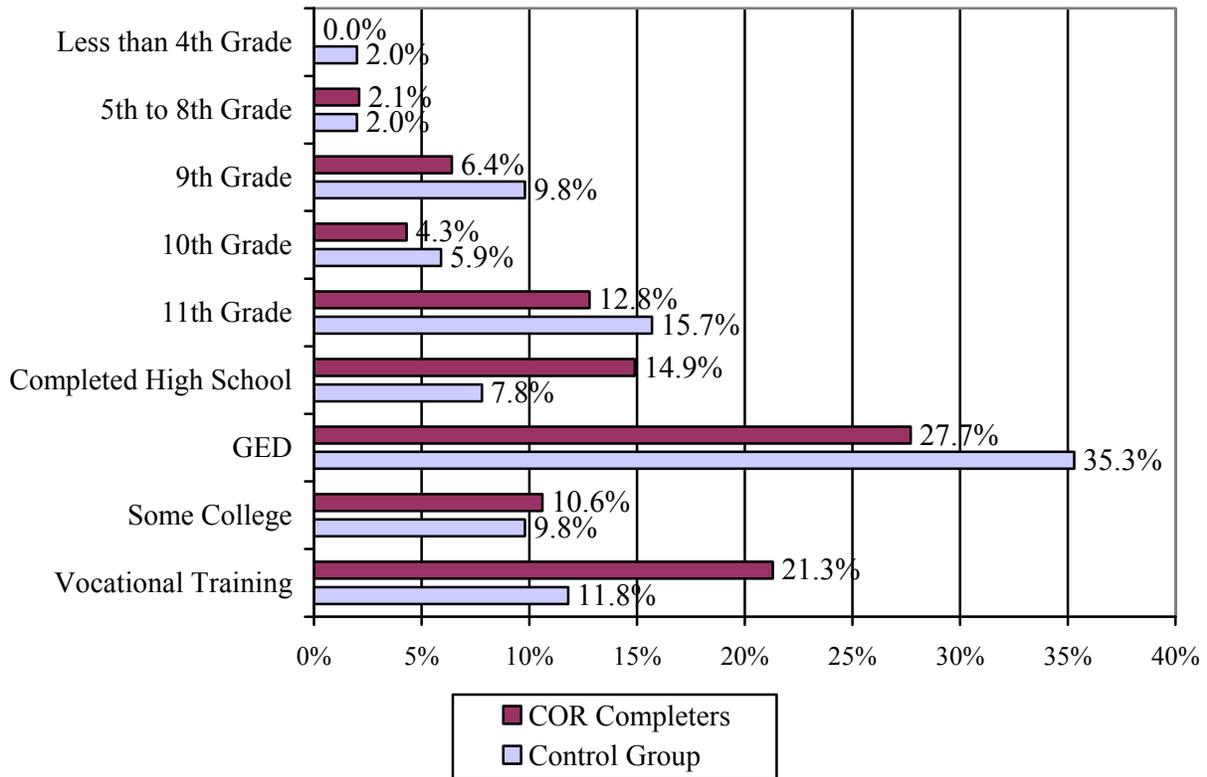
<b>Table 4. Survey Population by Marital Status</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Married	12.8% (N=6)	19.2% (N=10)
Common law relationship with a wife/husband	19.1% (N=9)	23.1% (N=12)
Separated	6.4% (N=3)	9.6% (N=5)
Divorced	2.1% (N=1)	9.6% (N=5)
Single & never married	55.3% (N=26)	36.5% (N=19)
Widow/Widower	4.3% (N=2)	1.9% (N=1)
Total	100.0% (N=47)	100.0%* (N=52)

\* We rounded the SPSS totals of 99.9% to 100%.

We also collected other demographic data considered important for this study. These were the key findings from the survey:

- Almost one-quarter (22.2%) of the COR Completers spoke a language other than English at home
- 17.3% of the Control Group spoke a language other than English at home
- More than 75% of both groups had children under the age of 18
- More than half of both groups reported that they had completed high school or had a GED (see Figure 2)

**Figure 2. Survey Population by Education Levels**



**Criminal History Information**

Survey respondents were asked several questions about their involvement in the criminal justice system prior to their current incarceration. They were also asked about the involvement of their friends and family in the criminal justice system.

**Individual Criminal History**

As shown in Table 5, both the COR Completers and the Control Group were similar in their responses for the age at which they were first involved in criminal activities (ages 15.87 and 16.59 respectively). When asked about their age at first arrest, the COR Completers reported an average age of 16.98, while the Control Group members were slightly older at 18.60 years old. The Control Group showed a slightly higher average number of adult arrests (5.20) versus the COR Completers (3.90). Both groups were similar in the average number of felony arrests (2.75

for COR Completers and 2.96 for the Control Group) and the average number of times they had been in jail (3.21 for COR Completers and 3.24 for the Control Group). The Control Group reported a slightly higher average number of times that they had been in prison (3.14) compared to that of the COR Completers (2.00). When asked about the average number of months spent in prison and jail since turning 18, the COR Completers reported an average of 120 months spent incarcerated, and the Control Group reported having spent an average of 142 months incarcerated, which reflects the fact that the Control Group had been in jail and prison more times than the COR Completers.

<b>Table 5. Criminal History</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
How old were you when you were first involved in criminal activities	N = 45 Range = 10 – 29 Mean = 15.87	N = 49 Range = 7 – 29 Mean = 16.59
How old were you when you were first arrested	N = 44 Range = 10 – 44 Mean = 16.98	N = 48 Range = 7 – 56 Mean = 18.60
How many times were you arrested as an adult	N = 40 Range = 0 – 11 Mean = 3.90	N = 45 Range = 0 – 30 Mean = 5.20
How many felony arrests have you had before this incarceration	N = 40 Range = 0 – 9 Mean = 2.75	N = 48 Range = 0 – 20 Mean = 2.96
How many times have you been in jail	N = 29 Range = 0 – 18 Mean = 3.21	N = 33 Range = 0 – 16 Mean = 3.24
How many times have you been in prison	N = 37 Range = 0 – 4 Mean = 2.00	N = 43 Range = 1 – 16 Mean = 3.14
How much time have you spent in prisons and jails since turning 18 *(Time in months)	N = 43 Range = 12 – 288* Mean = 120.14*	N = 46 Range = 12 – 384* Mean = 142.46*

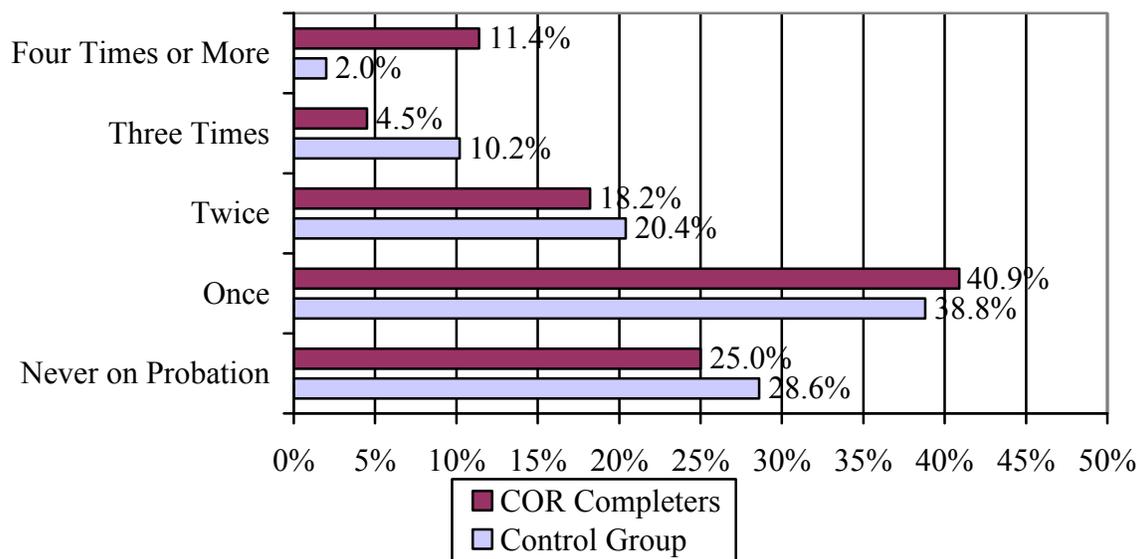
Survey participants were also asked about their criminal history as a juvenile (see Table 6). The COR Completers reported an average of 2.00 arrests as a juvenile and the Control Group

reported an average of 1.78 arrests. Respondents were also asked if they had ever been confined in a juvenile facility. More than half (56.8%) of the COR Completers, and less than half of the Control Group (41.2%) reported that they had been confined in a juvenile facility at least once.

<b>Table 6. Criminal History – Juvenile</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
How many times were you arrested as a juvenile	N = 38 Range = 0 – 11 Mean = 2.00	N = 40 Range = 0 – 20 Mean = 1.78
Have you ever been confined in a juvenile facility?		
Yes	56.8% (N=25)	41.2% (N=21)
No	43.2% (N=19)	58.8% (N=30)

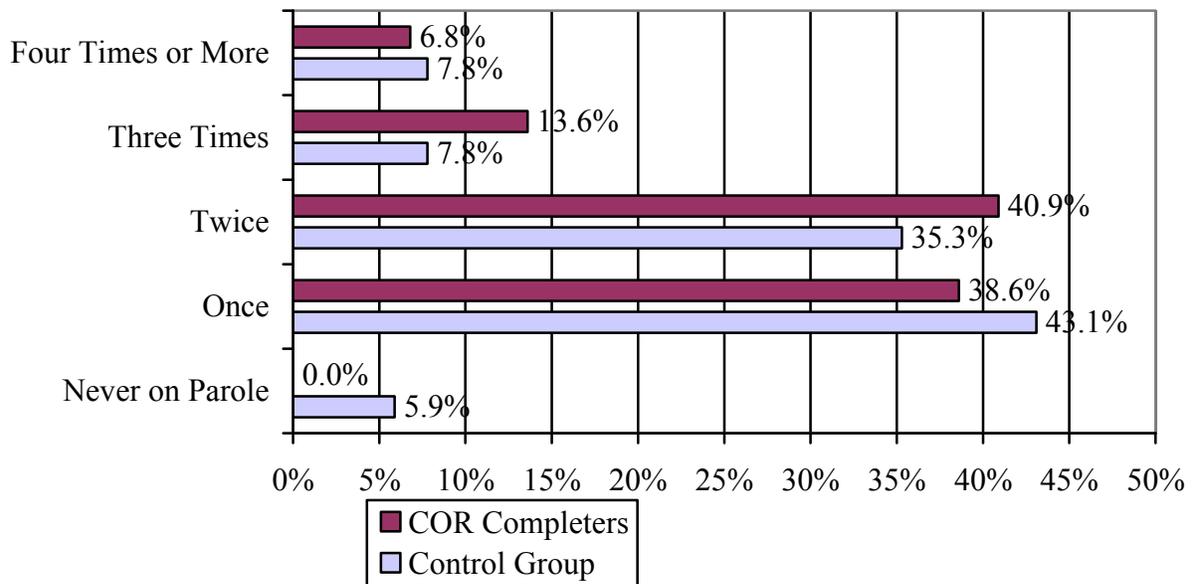
Both groups were asked about the number of times that they had been on probation prior to their current incarceration (see Figure 3). Slightly more COR Completers (75%) had been on probation compared to 71.4% of the Control Group. Thirty-four percent (rounded) of the COR Completers had been on probation two or more times, while 32.6% of the Control Group members reported being on probation two or more times.

**Figure 3. Number of Times on Probation**



We asked the respondents how many times they had been on parole (see Figure 4). One hundred percent (100%) of the COR Completers reported being on parole at least once, while 94.1% of the Control Group reported being on parole at least once. More than sixty percent (61.3%) of the COR Completers reported being on parole two or more times, while slightly more than half (50.9%) of the Control Group responded that they had been on parole two or more times.

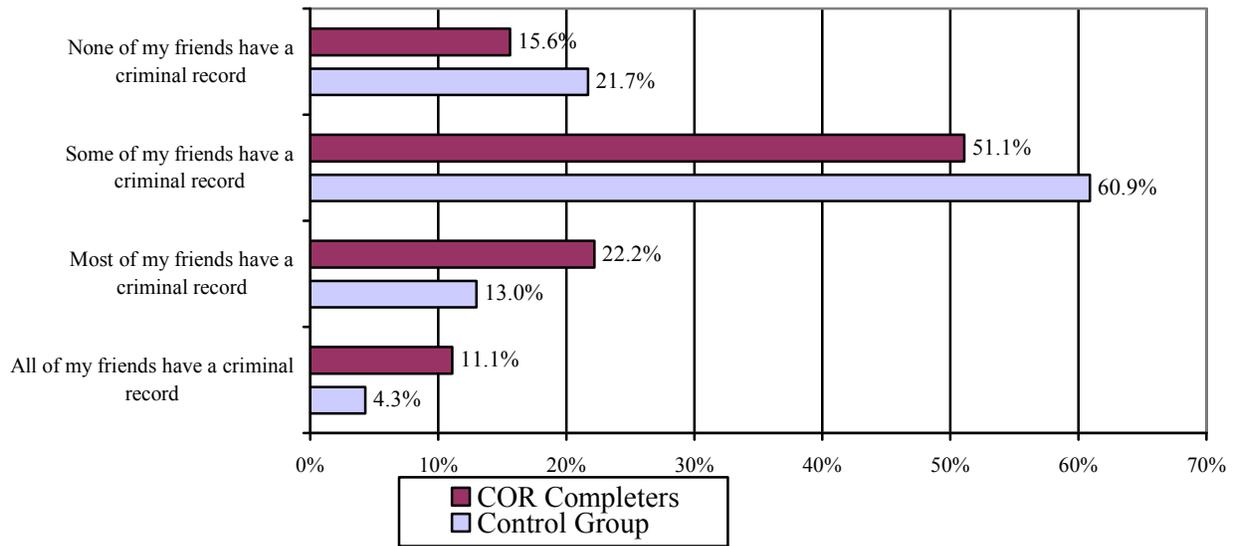
**Figure 4. Number of Times on Parole**



**Friends and Family Criminal History**

We also wanted to know about friends and family who were involved in the criminal justice system. Figure 5 shows that a majority of both the COR Completers (84.4%) and the Control Group (78.2 %) reported that some, most, or all of the friends that they hung around with while they were last out had a criminal record. It should be noted that one-third (33.3%) of the COR Completers reported that either most or all of their friends that they hung around with had a criminal record compared to only 17.3% the Control Group. Very few offenders in either group had close friends who were **not** involved in the criminal justice system.

**Figure 5. Criminal History – Friends**



Twenty-four percent of COR Completers reported that they had a parent who had been convicted of a criminal offense (see Table 7). Individuals in the Control Group reported a slightly lower number (17%) of parents convicted of a criminal offense. The majority of COR Completers (76.1%) and the Control Group (82.7%) reported that neither parent had ever been convicted of a criminal offense.

<b>Table 7. Criminal History – Family Either Parent Convicted of Criminal Offense?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Yes	23.9% (N=11)	17.3% (N=9)
No	76.1% (N=35)	82.7% (N=43)
Total	100.0% (N=46)	100.0% (N=52)

Respondents were asked about the criminal history of both their immediate and extended family members. Overall, the COR Completers and the Control Group had, on average, at least

one member of their immediate or extended family who had been convicted of a criminal offense.

Survey respondents were asked whether or not any of their children had ever been incarcerated in jail or prison or detained in a juvenile facility. Approximately 12% of both the COR Completers and the Control Group reported that their children had been incarcerated in jail or prison or detained in a juvenile facility.

Overall, both the COR Completers and the Control Group members had similar criminal histories with arrests, confinement, probation, and parole. In both groups many of their family and friends were also involved in the criminal justice system.

### **Program Participation While in Prison Prior to Current Incarceration**

We wanted to know what types of programs both COR Completers and the Control Group had attended in prison prior to their current incarceration. For those who answered this question, the survey revealed that both groups had participated in several different programs while in prison prior to their current incarceration.

In looking at the program participation, there were less than 10 percentage points difference between the number of COR Completers and the number of Control Group members involved in “Thinking for A Change,” “Therapeutic Community,” “Individual Counseling,” “Treatment,” “Anger Management,” “Other Drug Programs,” “Alcohol,” “Parenting,” “Citizenship,” and “Sex Offender” programs.

However, there was more than 10 percentage points’ difference between COR Completers (58.8%) who participated in Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program compared to the Control Group members (44.4%). There was also more than 10 percentage points difference between COR Completers who participated in the “Batterers” program with

fewer COR Completers (20%) participating compared to the Control Group (33.3%) who participated. The same was true of the “Religious/Bible Study” program with fewer COR Completers (65%) participating compared to the Control Group (76%).

Overall, it appears that both groups equally participated in the programs offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the number of participants from each group was high (more than 50% from each group participated in each program) with the exception of the batterers program and the sex offender program.

<b>Table 8. While You Were in Prison Prior to Your Current Incarceration, Did You Participate in the Following Treatment Programs?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Anger Management	97.1% (N=34)	91.4% (N=32)
Treatment	88.9% (N=16)	88.0% (N=22)
Alcohol Program	88.5% (N=23)	88.9% (N=24)
Other Drug Program	86.7% (N=26)	87.9% (N=29)
Citizenship Program	85.2% (N=23)	92.1% (N=35)
Parenting Program	75.0% (N=15)	69.6% (N=16)
Thinking for a Change	69.6% (N=16)	62.1% (N=18)
Therapeutic Community	68.2% (N=15)	73.1% (N=19)
Religious/Bible Study Program	65.0% (N=13)	76.0% (N=19)
Individual Counseling	64.7% (N=11)	71.4% (N=20)
RSAT	58.8% (N=10)	44.4% (N=8)
Batterers Program	20.0% (N=2)	33.3% (N=4)
Sex Offender Program	20.0% (N=2)	23.1% (N=3)

## **COR Participation**

Only COR Completers were asked to respond to questions about COR activities and participation. We asked questions about their participation in Phase 1 (in-prison program) and Phase 2 (after prison program conducted in the CCC).

### **COR Phase 1**

The COR Completers were asked about class attendance starting with how often they attended classes in Phase 1 of COR. While in the program, 84.8% of the participants attended classes four or more hours per day. There were 97.1% of the participants who attended five or more days per week, and 93.7% who attended the program for two weeks. This is consistent with how the DOC intended to deliver the COR Phase 1 program.

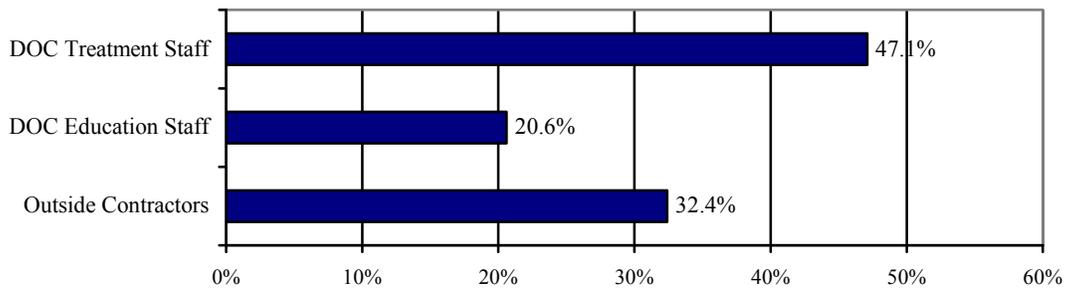
We asked several questions about their participation related to the COR curriculum. Using the COR curriculum as a guideline, we developed a series of questions about the types of activities they participated in during their COR classes. There were 15 different activities available in COR Phase 1. According to the survey responses, the percentages of COR Completers participating in each of the 15 activities are as follows:

- 100% in application/resume activities
- 93.9% in job search activities
- 87.9% in interviewing/getting and keeping a job
- 87.9% in money management
- 81.8% in decision making
- 69.7% in parole and CCC expectations
- 60.6% in anger management
- 51.5% in victim awareness
- 48.5% in alcohol, drugs and relapse prevention
- 45.5% in family reunification
- 45.5% in health and wellness
- 42.4% in impact of incarceration
- 42.4% in parenting classes
- 33.3% in character development
- 27.3% in spirituality

Overall, it appears that the delivery of the COR curriculum was inconsistently provided to the COR Completers. More than half of the COR Completers did not participate in seven of the 15 curriculum categories. Only the application/resume writing achieved 100% participation. This leads us to the next question about who was teaching COR Phase 1.

The COR teaching staff was divided into three categories – the DOC Treatment Staff, the DOC Education Staff, and Outside Contractors. COR Completers were asked who taught the COR Phase 1 classes. The DOC treatment staff accounted for 47.1% of COR teachers, the DOC education staff made up 20.6% of the COR teachers, and 32.4% of the teaching staff came from outside contractors (see Figure 6). Two of these three categories of COR teaching staff have different supervisors within different bureaus of the DOC, and little monitoring occurs with outside contractors so it is understandable how there were inconsistencies in the delivery of the COR Phase 1 program.

**Figure 6. COR Phase 1 Teaching Staff**



COR Completers were asked to rank the COR program on usefulness. Answers were ranked on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being very useful and 5 not being useful at all. The following responses were given:

- 1 = 20.0%
- 2 = 40.0%
- 3 = 26.7%
- 4 = 6.7%
- 5 = 6.7%
- Mean = 2.40

It is interesting to note that more than half of the COR Completers thought that the program was useful or very useful.

The COR participants were also asked what type of problems they had with Phase 1. The following responses were given:

- Already knew the program/taught us stuff we already knew
- Boring, not too informational
- COR is the problem
- I have a good job, so I did not participate
- It could have been more detailed and in depth
- It is a useless program, people will do what they want no matter what program you give them
- It was just an overview of groups I had already completed
- It is too long and forced upon you
- Lack of interest, repeating the same material
- Not useful
- They limited our knowledge on learning how to deal with family problems
- Too long
- Understanding
- Upon completion, staff told me that I will do 2 weeks of phase 2 then get released

COR participants were asked how they thought Phase 1 could be improved. Their answers were as follows:

- A lot of those classes do not apply to me
- By following through to Phase 2, by checking and making sure Phase 2 participants and staff know and acknowledge that you have completed both programs successfully
- By letting those who wish to attend, attend, and allowing those who do not want the class, not to come
- By using the internet, getting people's resumes online before they leave. More use of career link online job search
- Cancel it completely
- Certain convicts only attend
- Combine a couple of aspects of it into one class
- Focus more on an individual basis
- Focus on the main issue that parolees face upon release – housing & employment
- Give us more information that will help us
- Have it offered instead of forced
- Offer it twice a month instead of once a month
- If they looked into other programs instead of prison society to get jobs
- Improve the educators who are out of touch with teaching the class

- Make it an option
- More choices
- More detail, information & better qualified teachers
- More vocational information
- More time
- Allow computer use & implement job searches & resources on the spot
- Some better resources
- Talk about temp agencies
- Have outside teachers doing the classes
- They are doing too much in a little bit of time

## **COR Phase 2**

Although we only focused on those who participated in Phase 1 for the outcome evaluation, we asked questions about participation in Phase 2 (conducted in the Community Correctional Centers) on the survey. First we asked if the COR Phase 1 Completers participated in the COR Phase 2 program. Less than half (40.4%) of the COR Phase 1 Completers participated in Phase 2 of the program.

COR Completers were asked how often they attended classes in Phase 2 of COR. They reported that:

- 71.1% attended classes five or more days per week
- 64.3% attended classes four or more hours per day
- 53.8% attended classes for 2 weeks / 46.2% attended 4 weeks

Using the COR curriculum for Phase 2 to develop questions about COR Phase 2 activities, COR Completers were asked what activities they participated in during Phase 2. The results were:

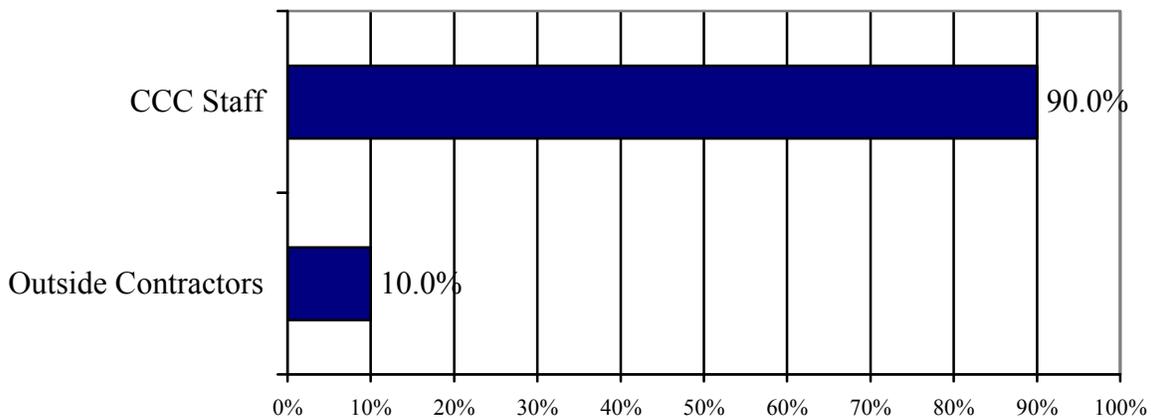
- 84.2% - Orientation
- 73.7% - Life Skills
- 68.4% - Alcohol & Other Drug Education
- 68.4% - Employment Preparation
- 68.4% - Community Service
- 63.2% - AA/NA
- 57.9% - Personal Finance
- 47.4% - Alcohol/Drugs/Relapse Prevention

- 47.4% - Parole Board (PBPP) Orientation
- 42.1% - Correctional Reentry Plan
- 42.1% - Vocational Evaluation
- 36.8% - Parenting
- 36.8% - Character Development

Similar to the Phase 1 activity participation, less than half of those participating in Phase 2 participated in six of the 13 categories for Phase 2. In the other 7 categories the numbers were above 50% participation but none of the categories showed more than an 84% participation rate with most of these 7 categories showing a participation rate around 60 to 70 percent. Again, one would have to question the consistency of the delivery of the Phase 2 curriculum.

We asked COR Completers who taught the COR Phase 2 classes. Figure 7 shows that 90 percent of the teaching staff for COR Phase 2 classes were comprised of the CCC Staff, and only 10 percent came from outside contractors. During the focus groups the lead researcher was told by the study participants that the CCC staff had too many other things to do in addition to teaching the COR classes and as a result Phase 2 was delivered in a haphazard fashion.

**Figure 7. COR Phase 2 Teaching Staff**



COR Completers were asked how they thought Phase 2 of COR could be improved. Their responses are listed below.

- By being more clear about their intention, truthful to the contract
- Eliminate it
- Fine the way it is
- Have more information, better qualified teachers
- More emphasis on help finding jobs
- More help with entering programs (job search, transportation)
- Set days and stick to them
- Shortened
- We need qualified people who want to see us make it in society

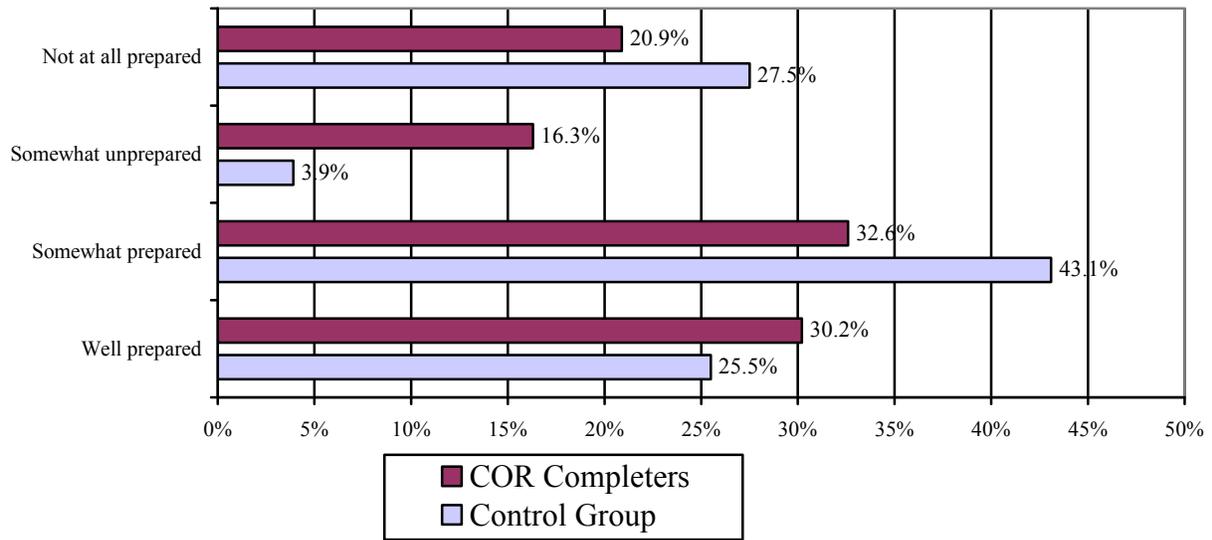
Although the outcome evaluation did not encompass Phase 2 of COR, it appears from the survey responses that this Phase of COR also suffered many of the same shortcomings experienced in Phase 1.

### **Prison/Program Experience**

All of the survey respondents were asked how well they thought prison prepared them for their release during their most recent time out of prison: (1) overall, (2) to deal with family relationships, (3) to find a job, (4) to keep a job, (5) to deal with financial situations, (6) to handle alcohol or drug problems, and (7) to deal with emotional problems.

Figure 8 shows that two-thirds of the COR Completers felt that they were either somewhat prepared or well prepared for their release from prison, while approximately one-third felt that they were not at all prepared or somewhat unprepared for their release. Similar to the COR Completer responses, approximately one-third of the Control Group felt not at all prepared or somewhat unprepared for release, while two-thirds felt somewhat prepared or well prepared for release.

**Figure 8. How Well Did Prison Prepare You for Release?**



The majority of both the COR Completers and the Control Group felt that prison somewhat prepared them or well-prepared them to positively deal with their family relationships and situations (see Figure 9), although approximately one-third of each group felt not at all prepared or only somewhat prepared to deal with family relationships.

**Figure 9. How Well Did Prison Prepare You to Positively Deal With Family Relationships and Situations?**

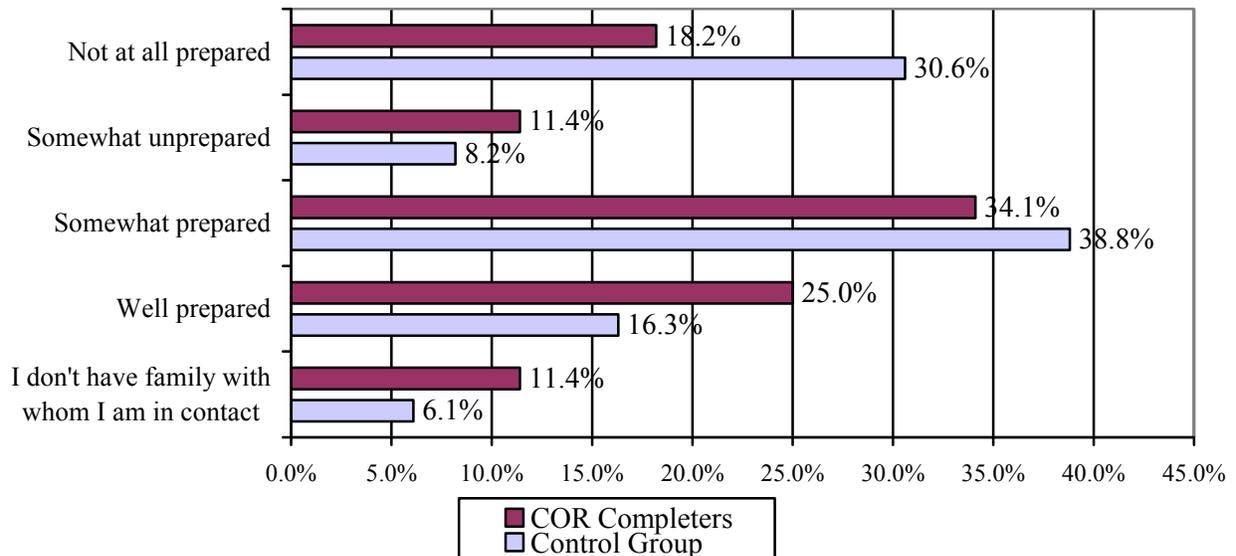


Figure 10 shows that most people in both the COR Completer and Control Groups felt that they were either somewhat or well prepared to find a job when they were released. Overall, only 18.6% of the COR Completers felt that they were either somewhat unprepared or not at all prepared. This result was higher for the Control Group with 32.6% of the individuals feeling either somewhat unprepared or not at all prepared to find a job.

**Figure 10. How Well Did Prison Prepare You to Find a Job?**

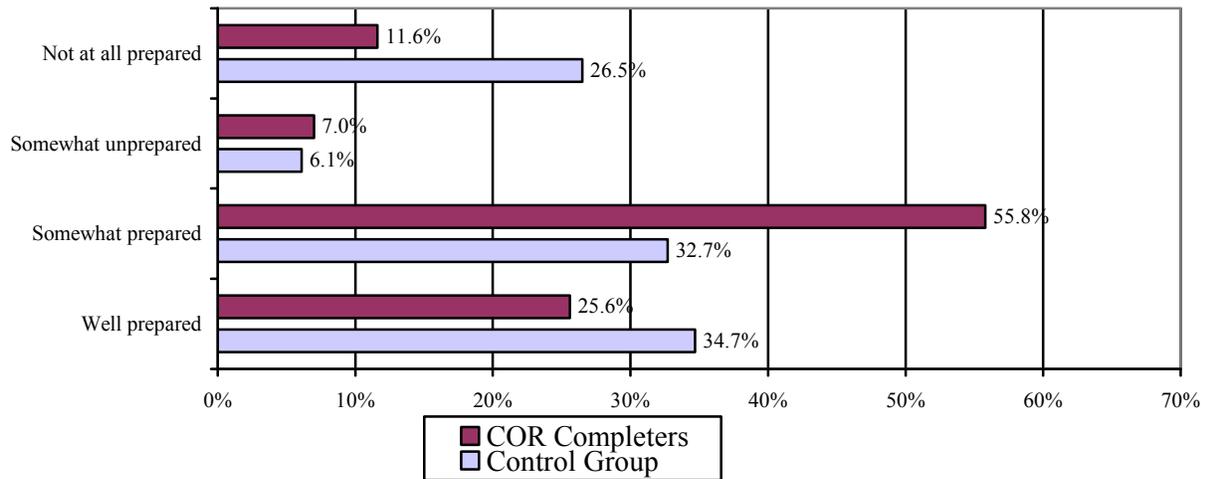


Figure 11 shows that more than 82% of the COR Completers and 74.4% of the Control Group felt that prison programs prepared them to keep a job.

**Figure 11. How Well Did Prison Prepare You to Keep a Job?**

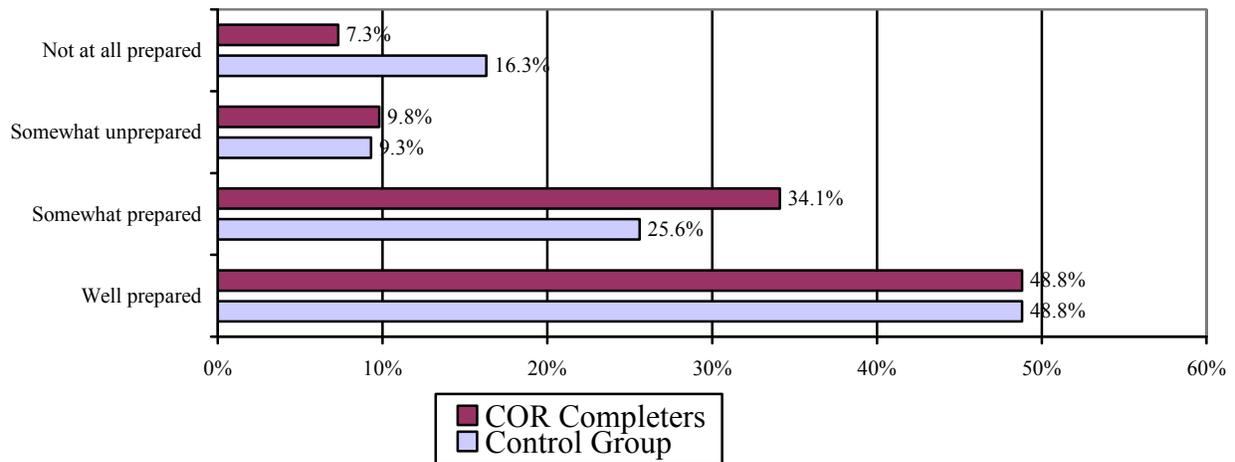


Figure 12 shows that 40.9% of the COR Completers felt that prison only somewhat prepared them or did not prepare them at all to manage their finances after release from prison. More than half of the Control Group (51.0%) felt that they were not at all or only somewhat prepared to manage their finances after release.

**Figure 12. How Well Did Prison Prepare You to Take Care of Financial Situations?**

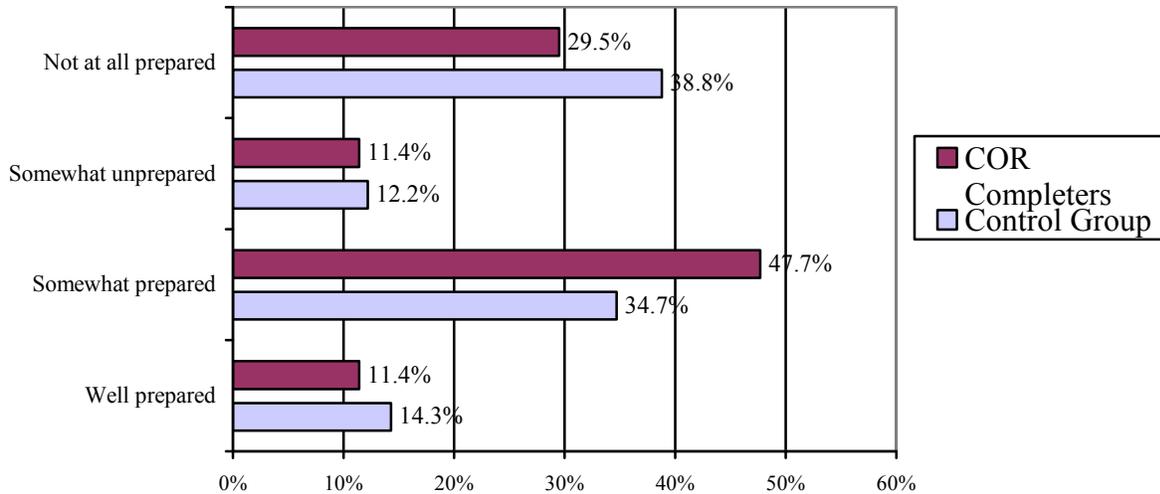
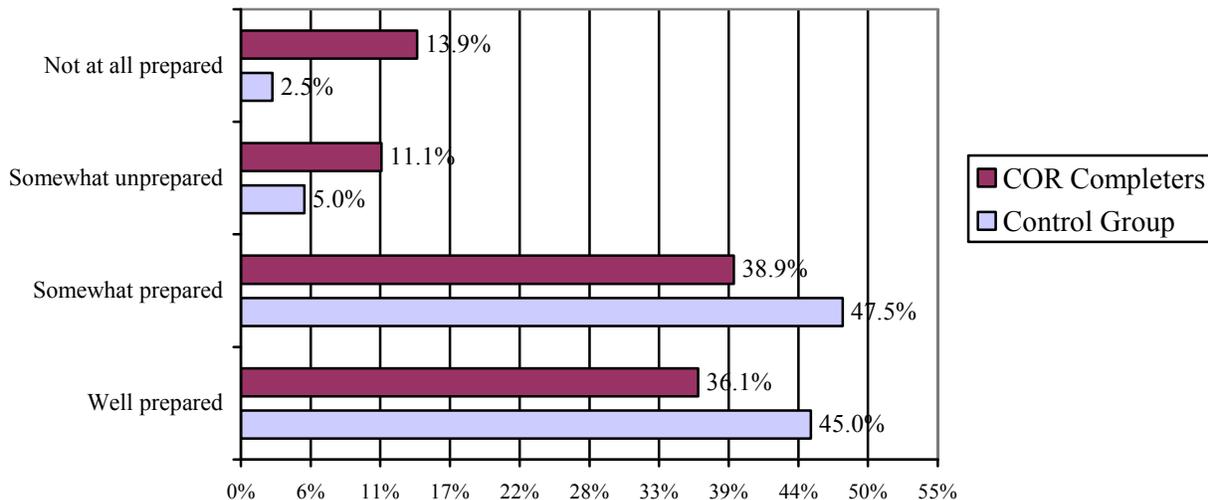


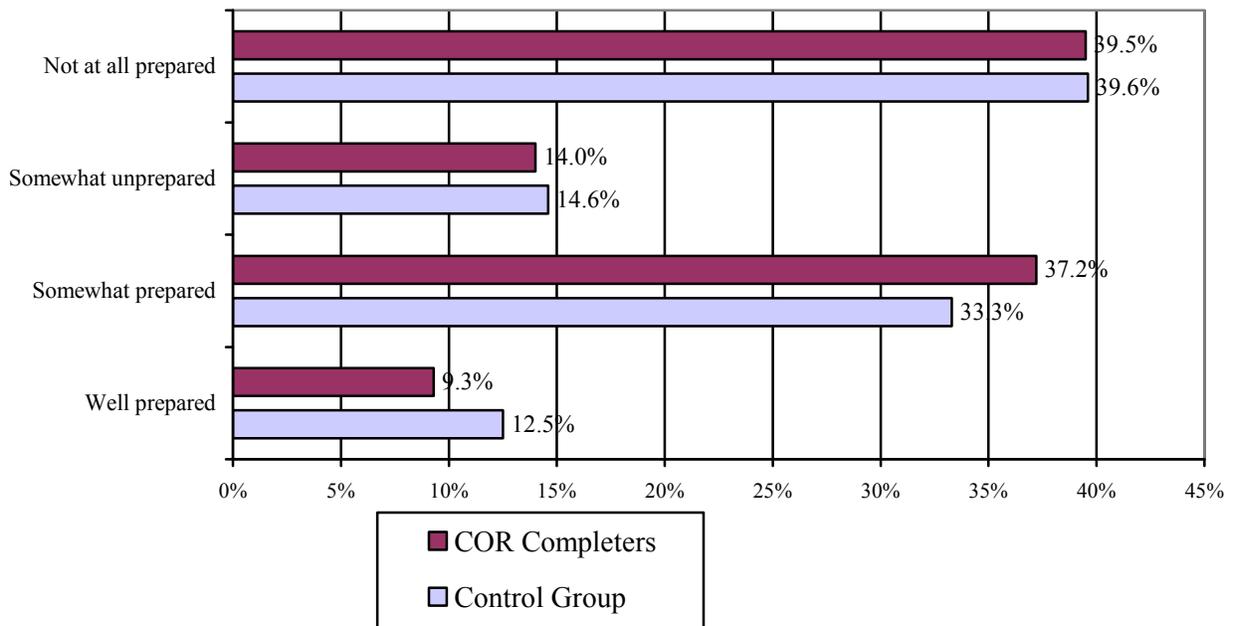
Figure 13 shows that most of the COR Completers (75%) and the Control Group (92.5%) felt that they were either somewhat prepared or well prepared to handle their drug or alcohol problems.

**Figure 13. How Well Did Prison Prepare You to Handle Your Drug or Alcohol Problems?**



Individuals were asked how well they thought prison prepared them to deal with emotional problems (see Figure 14). The COR Completers were somewhat split between feeling not at all prepared (39.5%) and somewhat prepared (37.2%). The results were about the same for the Control Group, which showed that 39.6% felt not at all prepared and 33.3% felt that they were somewhat prepared.

**Figure 14. How Well Did Prison Prepare You to Deal With Emotional Problems?**



**Living Situation during Most Recent Release from Prison**

In Table 9, we see that 38.2% of the COR Completers and 46.2% of the Control Group reported that they were living in a halfway house, CCC or on their own during their most recent release from prison. More COR Completers (38.3%) lived with a parent compared to only 26.9% in the Control Group. Approximately one-fourth of each group lived with a spouse. More COR Completers lived with a girl friend/boy friend compared to the Control Group, while more Control Group members lived with a sibling or children compared to COR Completers.

<b>Table 9. Who Were You Living With After Release From Prison?</b>		
	COR Completer	Control Group
Wife or husband	23.4% (N=11)	26.9% (N=14)
Children	14.9% (N=7)	11.5% (N=6)
Father	8.5% (N=4)	7.7% (N=4)
Mother	29.8% (N=14)	19.2% (N=10)
Grandmother		1.9% (N=1)
Brother or Sister	10.6% (N=5)	19.2% (N=10)
Aunt/Uncle/Cousin	4.3% (N=2)	1.9% (N=1)
Girlfriend/Boyfriend	23.4% (N=11)	13.5% (N=7)
Friend	6.4% (N=3)	
Halfway house or CCC	19.1% (N=9)	21.2% (N=11)
On your own	19.1% (N=9)	25.0% (N=13)
Homeless shelter		
In the streets		
Other	2.1% (N=1)	

Over three-quarters of the COR Completers (79.5%) reported that they had lived in a city during their previous release (see Table 10). In the Control Group, 28.6% reported that they lived in a city and 57.1% reported living in a suburb of a city during their previous release.

<b>Table 10. What Type of Area Did You Live in Before This Incarceration?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
City	79.5% (N=35)	28.6% (N=2)
Suburb of a city	4.5% (N=2)	57.1% (N=4)
Small city	4.5% (N=2)	14.3% (N=1)
Town	6.8% (N=3)	
Rural area	4.5% (N=2)	
Total	00.0% (N=44)	100.0% (N=7)

COR Completers moved more often during their last release (an average of 2 times) with a range of 0 to 5 times compared to the Control Group who moved an average of 1.44 times with a range of 0 to 3 times (see Table 11).

<b>Table 11. Not Including Prison or Jail, How Many Different Places Did You Live During Your Most Recent Release From Prison?</b>		
	COR Completers (N=40)	Control Group (N=48)
Range	0 – 5	0 – 3
Mean	2.08	1.44

In Table 12, we find that almost three-quarters of both the COR Completers and the Control Group felt that they had a somewhat of an easy time or a very easy time finding a place to live.

<b>Table 12. Survey Population How Much Trouble Did You Have Finding a Place to Live?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
I had a very hard time finding a place to live	6.7% (N=3)	7.8% (N=4)
I had somewhat of a hard time finding a place to live	13.3% (N=6)	9.8% (N=5)
I had somewhat of an easy time finding a place to live	13.3% (N=6)	13.7% (N=7)
I had a very easy time finding a place to live	60.0% (N=27)	56.9% (N=29)
I was still living in the halfway house/ CCC when I came back	6.7% (N=3)	11.8% (N=6)
Total	100.0% (N=45)	100.0% (N=51)

In Table 13, we show that about one-third of the COR Completers reported that they were living in a high crime neighborhood during their most recent release from prison, while only one-fourth of the Control Group reported living in a high crime neighborhood. Only 15% of the COR Completers reported living in a neighborhood with no crime, while none of the Control Group members reported living in a neighborhood with no crime.

<b>Table 13. What Was the Level of Crime in the Neighborhood You Lived During Your Most Recent Release from Prison?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
No crime in the neighborhood	15.2% (N=7)	
Low crime in the neighborhood	26.1% (N=12)	37.5% (N=3)
Some crime in the neighborhood	26.1% (N=12)	37.5% (N=3)
High crime in the neighborhood	32.6% (N=15)	25.0% (N=2)
Total	100.0% (N=46)	00.0% (N=8)

Contact with parents for both the COR Completers and the Control Group during the time they were released was high with more than 80% in each group having contact with both parents, with mother only, or with father only (see Table 14).

<b>Table 14. What Was the Extent of Your Contact With Your Parents While You Were Out?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
In contact with both parents	42.2% (N=19)	40.4% (N=21)
In contact with mother only	40.0% (N=18)	32.7% (N=17)
In contact with father only	4.4% (N=2)	7.7% (N=4)
Not in contact with either parent	11.1% (N=5)	1.9% (N=1)
Parents are deceased	2.2% (N=1)	15.4% (N=8)
Other		1.9% (N=1)
Total	100.0% (N=45)	100.0% (N=52)

### **Work History & Employment Situation While Released From Prison**

Survey respondents were asked multiple questions about their work history and employment situation during the time that they were released from prison. In Table 15, we see that more than one-third (35.5%) of the COR Completers were unemployed for one year or more at some point during their lifetime (4.4% of this number had never been employed), while 30.6% of the Control Group reported that they were for one year or more during their lifetime (6.1% of this number had never been employed). Only 22.2% of the COR Completers and 18.4% of the Control Group reported that they had never been unemployed.

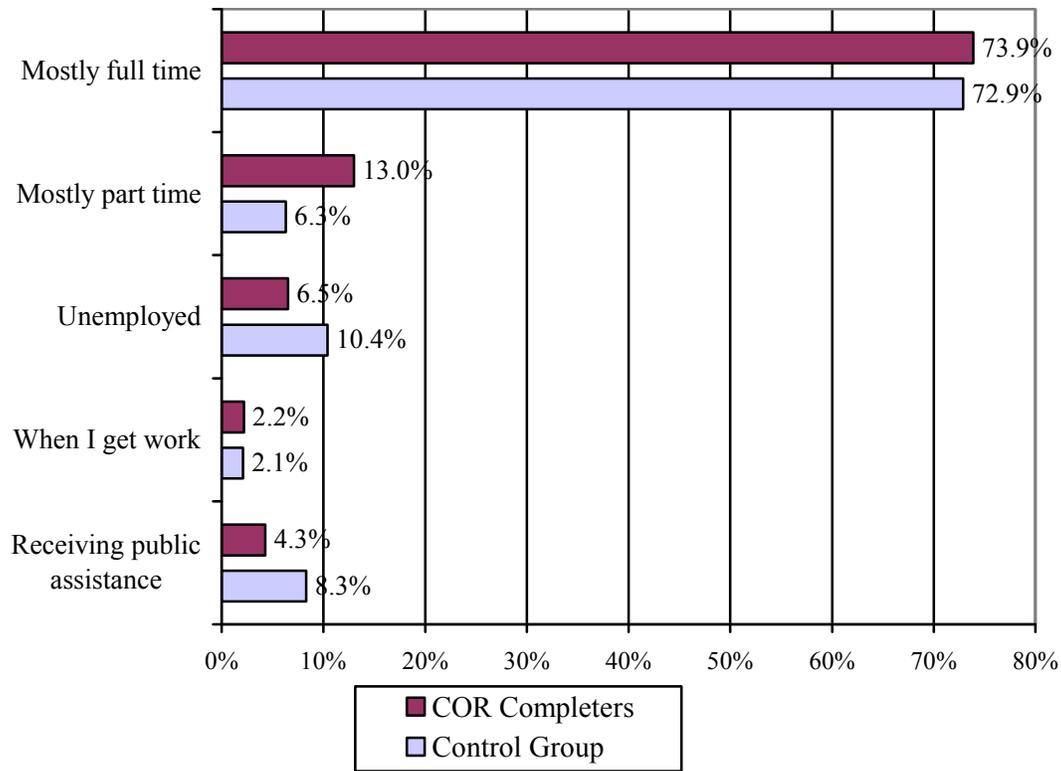
<b>Table 15. Since You Graduated or Left School, What is the Longest You Have Been Unemployed in Your Lifetime?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Never unemployed	22.2% (N=10)	18.4% (N=9)
Unemployed less than one month	17.8% (N=8)	8.2% (N=4)
Unemployed one to six months	20.0% (N=9)	28.6% (N=14)
Unemployed seven to twelve months	4.4% (N=2)	14.3% (N=7)
Unemployed one year or more	31.1% (N=14)	24.5% (N=12)
Never employed	4.4% (N=2)	6.1% (N=3)
Total	100.0% (N=45)	100.0% (N=49)

More than three-quarters (80.4%) of the COR Completers and slightly under three-quarters (73.5%) of the Control Group responded that they were legally employed at some point during their most recent release from prison (see Table 16).

<b>Table 16. Were You Legally Employed at Any Time During Your Most Recent Release From Prison?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Yes	80.4% (N=37)	73.5% (N=36)
No	19.6% (N=9)	26.5% (N=13)
Total	100.0% (N=46)	100.0% (N=49)

In Figure 15, we see that nearly three-quarters of both the COR Completers and the Control Group reported that they had been employed full time during their most recent release from prison, although a little more than one-fourth of the survey respondents in each group were not employed, employed only part-time, or receiving financial assistance.

**Figure 15. Employment Situation during Release**

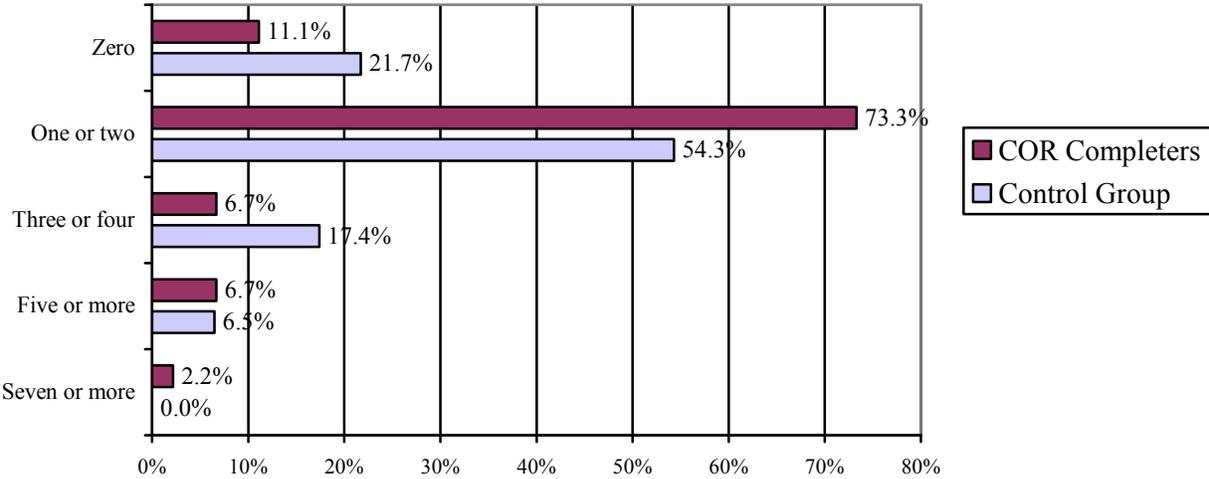


In Table 17, approximately half of the COR Completers (55.6%) and 60.3% of the Control Group reported that they had either never been unemployed or that they had been unemployed less than one month during their most recent release from prison. The COR Completers (73.3%) experienced a higher rate of unemployment overall, compared to 70.8% of the Control Group.

<b>Table 17. During Your Most Recent Release From Prison, How Long Were You Unemployed?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Never unemployed	26.7% (N=12)	29.2% (N=14)
Unemployed less than one month	28.9% (N=13)	31.1% (N=15)
Unemployed one to six months	26.7% (N=12)	16.7% (N=8)
Unemployed seven to twelve months	2.2% (N=1)	2.1% (N=1)
Unemployed one year or more	4.4% (N=2)	6.3% (N=3)
Never employed	11.1% (N=5)	14.6% (N=7)
Total	100.0% (N=45)	100.0% (N=48)

Survey respondents were asked how many different jobs they had during their most recent release from prison. In Figure 16, we see that the majority of both the COR Completers and the Control Group reported that they held one or two jobs during their most recent release indicating a fairly stable employment situation *when they were working*.

**Figure 16. How Many Different Jobs Did You Have During Your Most Recent Release from Prison?**



When asked about the longest period of time worked at one place in their lifetime, the COR Completers reported an overall average of 27.61 months (see Table 18). The Control Group, however, reported an average of more than double the length of time compared to the COR Completers (59.38 months).

<b>Table 18. What is the Longest Period of Time That You Worked at One Place During Your Lifetime?</b>		
(months)	COR Completers (N=38)	Control Group (N=45)
Range	1 – 84	3 – 420
Mean	27.61	59.38

Similarly, when asked the longest period of time worked at one place during their most recent release from prison, the Control Group again reported working an average of almost double the amount of time (19.71 months) compared to the COR Completers (10.57 months) (see Table 19).

<b>Table 19. What is the Longest Period of Time That You Worked at One Place During Your Most Recent Release from Prison?</b>		
(months)	COR Completers (N=37)	Control Group (N=38)
Range	1 – 36	3 – 114
Mean	10.57	19.71

More than half of both the COR Completers and the Control Group reported that they had never been fired from a job (see Table 20).

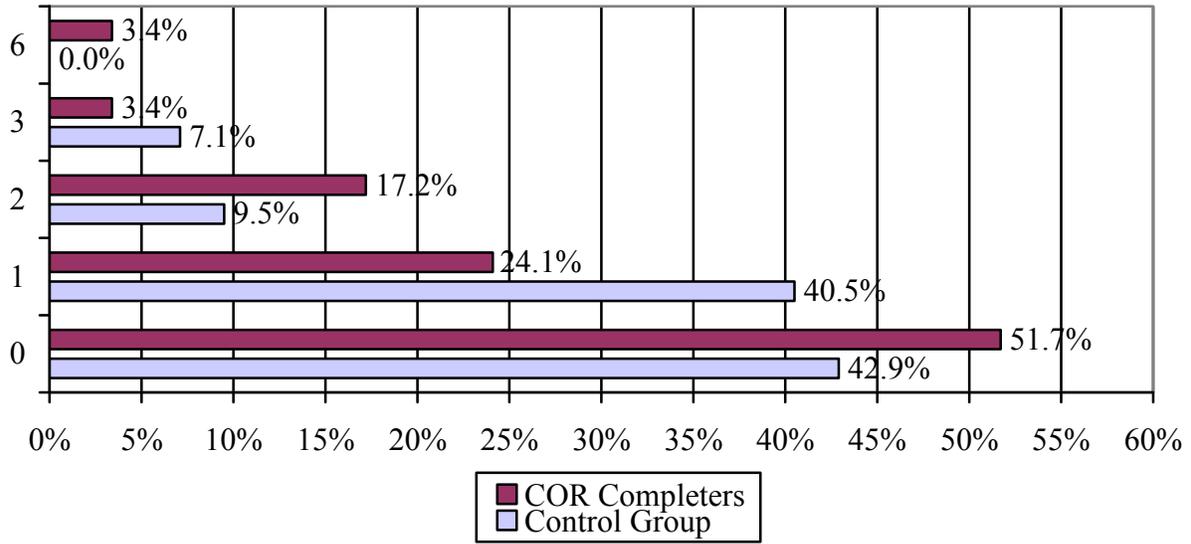
<b>Table 20. Have You Ever Been Fired from a Job?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Yes	35.6% (N=16)	40.8% (N=20)
No	64.4% (N=29)	59.2% (N=29)
Total	100.0% (N=45)	100.0% (N=49)

Fifty-four percent (53.7%) of the COR Completers and 60.5% of the Control Group reported that they had not been fired during their most recent release from prison (see Table 21). If they had been fired from a job during their most recent release, 22.0% of the COR Completers and 14% of the Control Group reported that they were fired only one time.

<b>Table 21. How Many Times Were You Fired from a Job During Your Most Recent Release from Prison?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
None, I was not working	22.0% (N=9)	18.6% (N=8)
None, I was not fired	53.7% (N=22)	60.5% (N=26)
One time	22.0% (N=9)	14.0% (N=6)
Two times		4.7% (N=2)
Three or more times	2.4% (N=1)	2.3% (N=1)
Total	100.0% (N=41)	100.0% (N=43)

During their lifetime, 48.1% of COR Completers and 57.1% of the Control Group responded that they had been fired from a job at least once (see Figure 17).

**Figure 17. How Many Times Have You Been Fired From a Job During Your Lifetime?**



In Tables 22 and 23, survey respondents were asked how much they earned weekly or daily if they held a legal job. In both cases, the COR Completers earned much lower wages compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 22. If You Held a Legal Job During Your Most Recent Release from Prison, How Much Did You Earn Weekly?<sup>21</sup></b>		
	COR Completers (N=26)	Control Group (N=30)
Range	\$94.00 - \$1500.00	\$120.00 - \$1000.00
Mean	\$395.82	\$456.81

<b>Table 23. If You Held a Legal Job During Your Most Recent Release from Prison, How Much Did You Earn Daily?</b>		
	COR Completers (N=12)	Control Group (N=13)
Range	\$4.50 - \$18.50	\$3.75 - \$180.00
Mean	\$10.16	\$44.16

<sup>21</sup> Participants could answer each question reporting either weekly or daily wages.

Table 24 shows that for those individuals who held illegal jobs during their most recent release from prison, the COR Completers reported earning a higher average weekly wage compared to the Control Group.

<b>Table 24. If You Held an Illegal Job During Your Most Recent Release from Prison, How Much Did You Earn Weekly?</b>		
	COR Completers (N=4)	Control Group (N=4)
Range	\$94.00 - \$3000.00	\$500.00 - \$800.00
Mean	\$1023.50	\$618.75

Table 25 shows that the daily average wage for individuals who held an illegal job during their most recent release from prison was higher for individuals in the Control Group.

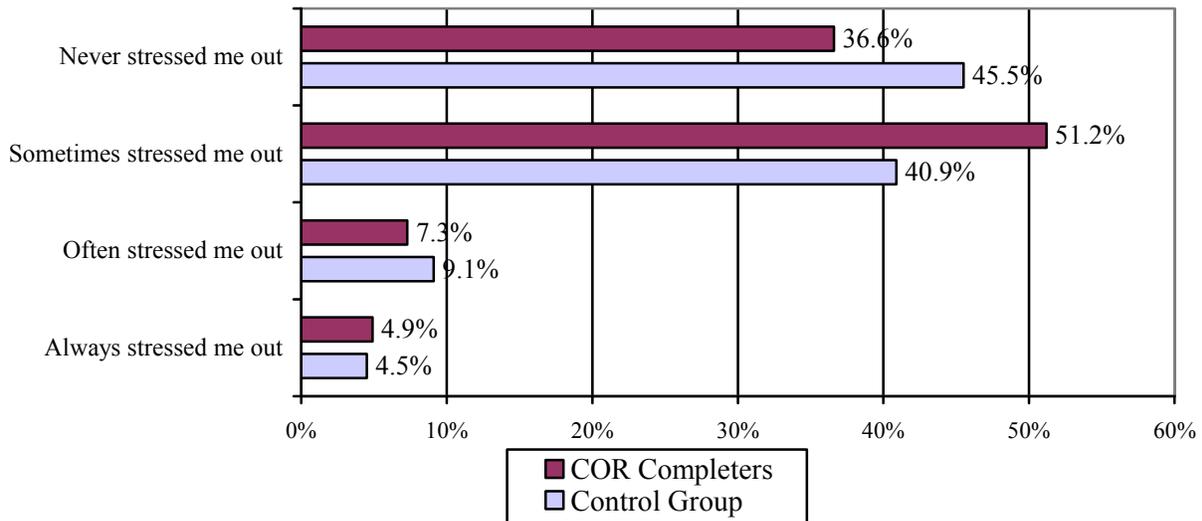
<b>Table 25. If You Held an Illegal Job During Your Most Recent Release from Prison, How Much Did You Earn Daily?</b>		
	COR Completers (N=4)	Control Group (N=2)
Range	\$7.00 - \$550.00	\$14.00 - \$900.00
Mean	\$166.75	\$457.00

More than half of both the COR Completers (63.4%) and the Control Group (52.5%) reported that during the longest job they had during their most recent release from prison, their employer **did not pay for any benefits** (see Table 26).

<b>Table 26. Did Your Employer Pay for Any Benefits for the Longest Legal Job You Held During Your Most Recent Release from Prison?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Yes	36.6% (N=15)	47.5% (N=19)
No	63.4% (N=26)	52.5% (N=21)
Total	100.0% (N=41)	100.0% (N=40)

More than half of the COR Completers surveyed (63.4%) experienced job related stress (see Figure 18). The Control Group responses showed that 54.5% experienced job related stress.

**Figure 18. During Your Most Recent Release From Prison, How Often Did Your Job Stress You Out?**



Survey participants were asked how many different jobs they had during their most recent release from prison. The COR Completers reported an average of 2.16 jobs and the Control Group reported an average of 2.09 jobs. Both groups were asked whether or not they depended on illegal employment to pay their bills, and/or support their family. The overwhelming majority of both the COR Completers (83.7%) and the Control Group (85.7%) reported that they did not depend on illegal employment to pay bills or that they were not working illegally.

Most of the COR Completers (61.3%) and the Control Group (66.7%) reported that if they had to go out and look for a job during their most recent release from prison, the process was only somewhat stressful or not stressful at all. Approximately one-third of the COR Completers thought that searching for a job was often or always stressful compared to 11.7% of the Control Group (see Table 27).

<b>Table 27. If You Had to Go Out and Look for a Job During Your Most Recent Release from Prison, How Stressful Was the Process?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Not stressful at all	29.5% (N=13)	29.4% (N=15)
Somewhat stressful	31.8% (N=14)	37.3% (N=19)
Often stressful	15.9% (N=7)	7.8% (N=4)
Always stressful	15.9% (N=7)	3.9% (N=2)
Not applicable, I already had a job lined up	2.3% (N=1)	11.8% (N=6)
Not applicable, I did not look for a job	4.5% (N=2)	9.8% (N=5)
Total	100.0%* (N=44)	100.0% (N=51)

\* We rounded the SPSS totals of 99.9% to 100%.

In Table 28, more than half of the COR Completers (56.8%) reported that if they had to go out and look for a job during their most recent release, it was somewhat or very hard to actually get a job compared to 36% of the Control Group who thought it was somewhat or very hard to actually get a job. Sixty percent of the COR Completers said they had a hard time finding a job because of their criminal record, while only 46% of the Control Group reported having a hard time finding a job because of their criminal record. Almost half of the COR Completers (48%) reported that they had a hard time finding a job because they lacked skills or job experience, while only 25% of the Control Group reported difficulty because of skills or experience.

<b>Table 28. If You Had to Go Out and Look for a Job During Your Most Recent Release from Prison, How Hard Was it to Actually Get a Job?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Not hard at all	34.1% (N=15)	44.0% (N=22)
Somewhat hard	38.6% (N=17)	26.0% (N=13)
Very hard	18.2% (N=8)	10.0% (N=5)
Not applicable, I already had a job lined up	4.5% (N=2)	10.0% (N=5)
Not applicable, I did not look for a job	4.5% (N=2)	10.0% (N=5)
Total	100.0% (N=44)	100.0% (N=50)

The COR Completers and the Control Group reported similar averages (about two) for the amount of interviews they had before they landed their first job (see Table 29).

<b>Table 29. If You Had to Go Out and Look for a Job, How Many Interviews Did You Have Before You Landed Your First Job?</b>		
	COR Completers (N=39)	Control Group (N=45)
Range	0 – 10	0 – 15
Mean	1.92	2.04

Survey participants were asked if finances limited their job search in any way. Almost one-half of the COR Completers (49.9%) and 55.2% of the Control Group reported that finances limited their job search (see Table 30).

<b>Table 30. How Much Did Finances Limit Your Job Search?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Did not limit my job search at all	40.9% (N=18)	38.3% (N=18)
Slightly limited my job search	29.5% (N=13)	34.0% (N=16)
Greatly limited my job search	13.6% (N=6)	19.1% (N=9)
Completely limited my job search	6.8% (N=3)	2.1% (N=1)
Not applicable, I did not have to go out and look for a job	9.1% (N=4)	6.4% (N=3)
Total	100.0% (N=44)	100.0% (N=47)

The majority of both the COR Completers (72.7%) and the Control Group (87.2%) reported that if they were working, they frequently or always got along with their boss (see Table 31).

<b>Table 31. If Employed, How Well Did You Get Along With Your Boss?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Did not get along at all		
Sometimes did not get along	15.9% (N=7)	4.3% (N=2)
Frequently got along	9.1% (N=4)	23.4% (N=11)
Always got along	63.6% (N=28)	63.8% (N=30)
Not applicable, I did not have a job	11.4% (N=5)	8.5% (N=4)
Total	100.0% (N=44)	100.0% (N=47)

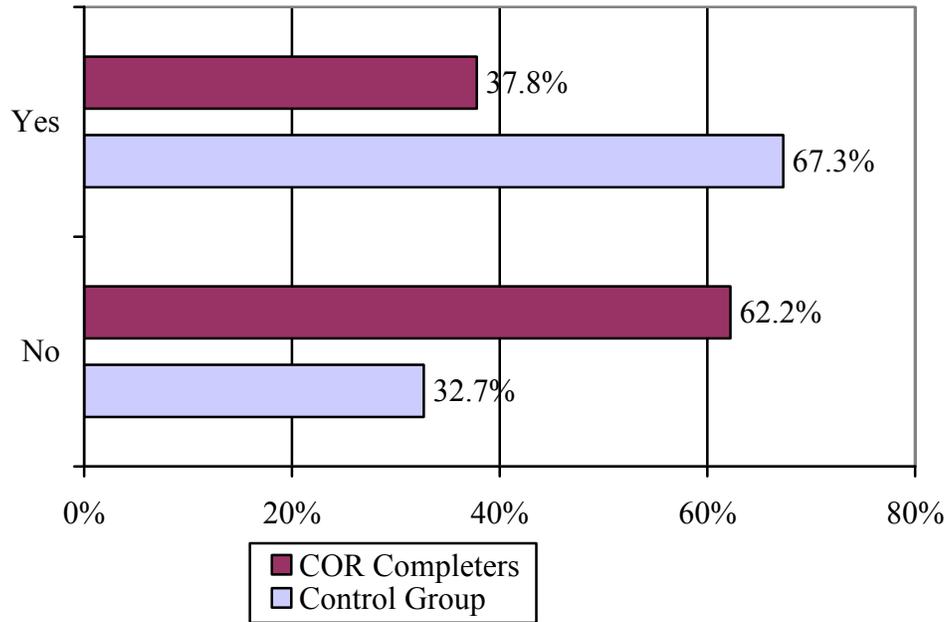
Table 32 shows that the majority of both the COR Completers (79.5%) and the Control Group (86.6%) reported that if they were employed, they either got along with most people or they got along with everyone with whom they worked.

<b>Table 32. If Employed, How Well Did You Get Along With the Other People You Worked With?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Did not get along with anybody		
Got along with a few people	9.1% (N=4)	4.4% (N=2)
Got along with most people	31.8% (N=14)	42.2% (N=19)
Got along with everybody	47.7% (N=21)	44.4% (N=20)
Not applicable, I did not have a job	11.4% (N=5)	8.9% (N=4)
Total	100.0% (N=44)	100.0% (N=45)

**Financial Situation While Released From Prison Prior To Current Offense Or Parole Violation**

The majority of the COR Completers (66.7%) reported that they did not have any debts that they could not pay. Over three-quarters of the Control Group (76.6%) reported that they did not have any debts that they could not pay. Most of the COR Completers (84.4%) and almost all of the Control Group (91.8%) reported that they knew how to set up a bank account. Figure 19 shows that most of the COR Completers (62.2%) did **not** have a bank account, although most of the Control Group (67.3%) did have one.

**Figure 19. Did You Have a Bank Account?**



More than 82% of the COR Completers and more than 94% of the Control Group stated that they knew how to plan a budget (see Table 33).

<b>Table 33. Do You Know How to Plan a Budget?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Yes	82.6% (N=38)	94.1% (N=48)
No	17.4% (N=8)	5.9% (N=3)
Total	100.0% (N=46)	100.0% (N=51)

When asked whether or not managing their money has been a problem, 64.4% of the COR Completers and 74.5% of the Control Group said “no,” however, more than one-third of the COR Completers and one-fourth of the Control Group felt that it had been a problem.

<b>Table 34. Has Managing Your Money Been a Problem for You?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Yes	35.6% (N=16)	25.5% (N=13)
No	64.4% (N=29)	74.5% (N=38)
Total	100.0% (N=45)	100.0% (N=51)

Respondents were asked how well they were able to make ends meet. The COR Completers reported the following:

- 4.5% - Not able to make ends meet at all
- 47.7% - Just barely able to make ends meet
- 40.9% - Able to make ends meet with some money left over
- 6.8% - Able to make ends meet with a lot of money left over

The Control Group reported the following:

- 8.0% - Not able to make ends meet at all
- 28.0% - Just barely able to make ends meet
- 54.0% - Able to make ends meet with some money left over
- 10.0% - Able to make ends meet with a lot of money left over

### **Drug & Alcohol Situation**

Survey respondents were asked several questions about their drug and alcohol history. When asked if they have a drug or alcohol problem, only 31% of the COR Completers admitted to having a problem. However, 51.1% said that they had received prior treatment for a drug or alcohol problem. Similarly, in the Control Group only 38.8% admitted to having a drug or alcohol problem yet 50% said that they had received prior treatment. Respondents were asked if they attended any Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings during their previous release from prison; 62.8% of the COR Completers and 62.5% of the Control Group reported that they attended meetings. More than half of the COR Completers (65.4%) reported seeking treatment for their drug or alcohol problems during their last release from

prison. Almost three-quarters of the Control Group (73.3%) reported seeking treatment during their last release from prison.

More than half of the survey respondents (55.6% of the COR Completers and 54.2% of the Control Group) reported that they drank and/or used drugs during the last time that they were out of prison with more than twice as many COR Completers (26.7%) doing both compared to 10.4% of the Control Group (see Table 35).

<b>Table 35. Did You Drink or Use Drugs During the Time That You Were Out?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
No, I did not drink or use drugs	44.4% (N=20)	45.8% (N=22)
Yes, I drank alcohol	17.8% (N=8)	25.0% (N=12)
Yes, I used drugs	11.1% (N=5)	18.8% (N=9)
Yes, I did both	26.7% (N=12)	10.4% (N=5)
Total	100.0% (N=45)	100.0% (N=48)

If they drank, 33.3% of the COR Completers compared to 18.2% Control Group had a drink within the same week that they were released from prison (see Table 36).

<b>Table 36. During the Last Time That You Were Out, When Did You Have Your First Drink?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
The same day that I was released	11.1% (N=1)	18.2% (N=2)
The same week that I was released	22.2% (N=2)	
The same month that I was released	66.7% (N=6)	81.8% (N=9)
Total	100.0% (N=9)	100.0% (N=11)

For the COR Completers, 47.6% had their last drink within a week before they were rearrested compared to 20% of the Control Group (see Table 37).

<b>Table 37. When Did You Have Your Last Drink Before Your Rearrest?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Longer than a month before I was rearrested	19.0% (N=4)	28.0% (N=7)
Within a month before I was rearrested	19.0% (N=4)	20.0% (N=5)
Within a week before I was rearrested	23.8% (N=5)	8.0% (N=2)
The day before I was rearrested	4.8% (N=1)	
The day I was rearrested	19.0% (N=4)	12.0% (N=3)
Not applicable, I did not drink	14.3% (N=3)	32.0% (N=8)
Total	100.0% (N=21)	100.0% (N=25)

On average, the COR Completers drank 3.30 days per week and the Control Group drank 1.38 days per week (see Table 38). The COR Completers who did drink, reported that they drank an average of 8.24 drinks on a usual drinking day. The Control Group reported an average of 3.46 drinks on a usual drinking day.

<b>Table 38. How Many Days a Week Did You Usually Drink?</b>		
	COR Completers (N=20)	Control Group (N=24)
Range	0 – 7	0 – 7
Mean	3.30	1.38
<b>How Many Drinks Did You Have On a Usual Drinking Day?</b>		
	(N=21)	(N=24)
Range	0 – 50	0 – 12
Mean	8.24	3.46

Table 39 shows that COR Completers drank more than their usual amount an average of 1.46 days during the last week they were out compared to the Control Group who drank more than their usual amount an average of .55 days during the last week they were out.

<b>Table 39. How Many Days During the Last Week That You Were Out Did You Drink More Than Your Usual Amount?</b>		
	COR Completers (N=13)	Control Group (N=22)
Range	0 – 7	0 – 7
Mean	1.46	.55

In Table 40, 25.0% of the COR Completers reported that they first used drugs in the same week that they were released compared to 20% of the Control Group who reported first using drugs in the same week that they were released.

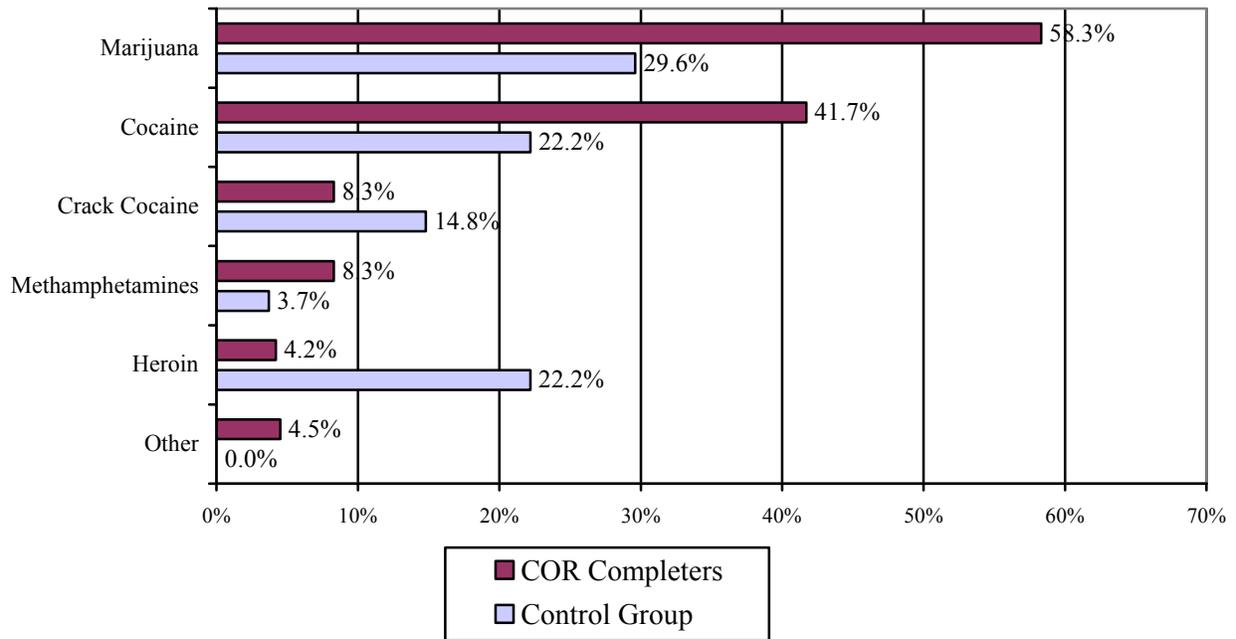
<b>Table 40. During the Last Time That You Were Out, When Did You First Use Drugs?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
The same week that I was released	25.0% (N=1)	20.0% (N=1)
The same month that I was released	75.0% (N=3)	80.0% (N=4)
Total	100.0% (N=4)	100.0% (N=5)

Of those who did use drugs, more than one-third of both the COR Completers (36.4%) and the Control Group (41.6%) used drugs within a week of their rearrest (see Table 41).

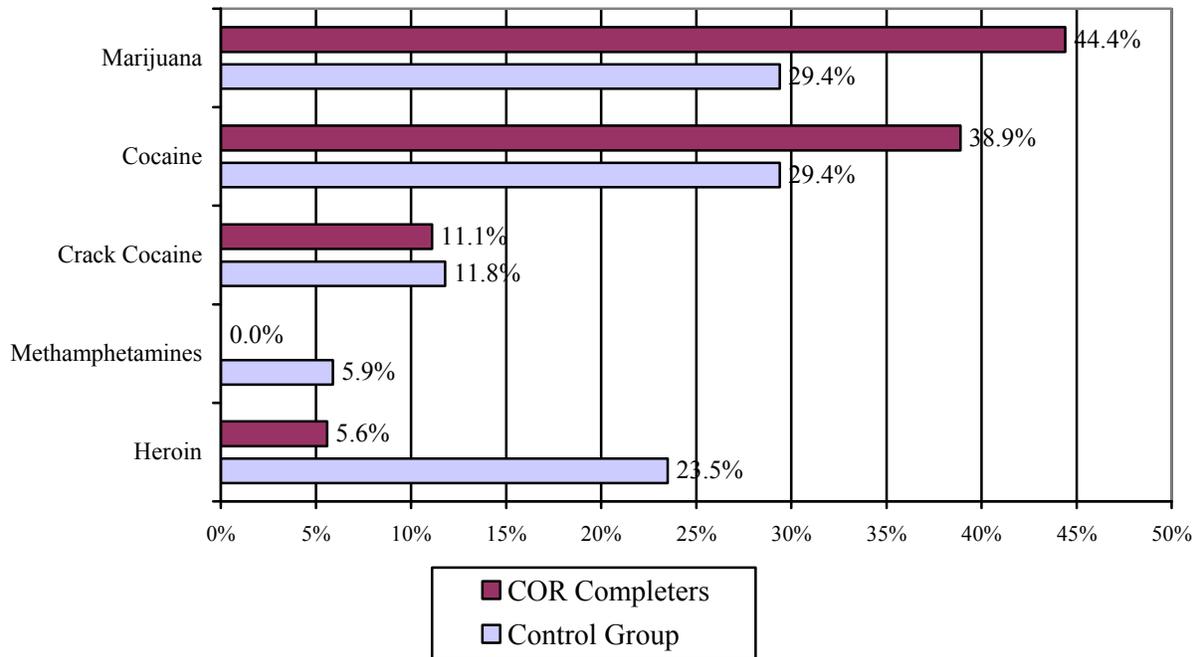
<b>Table 41. When Did You Last Use Drugs Before Your Rearrest?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Longer than a month before I was rearrested	9.1% (N=2)	12.5% (N=3)
Within a month before I was rearrested	27.3% (N=6)	12.5% (N=3)
Within a week before I was rearrested	9.1% (N=2)	8.3% (N=2)
The day before I was rearrested	9.1% (N=2)	
The day I was rearrested	18.2% (N=4)	33.3% (N=8)
Not applicable, I did not use drugs	27.3% (N=6)	33.3% (N=8)
Total	100.0% (N=22)	100.0% (N=24)

Figures 20 and 21 show that the majority of the COR Completers (58.3%) used marijuana and cocaine (41.7%) while they were out and their drug of choice was marijuana and cocaine. The Control Group reported that they mostly used marijuana, cocaine, and heroin while they were out, but their drugs of choice were evenly split between marijuana and cocaine followed closely by heroin.

**Figure 20. Did You Use Any of the Following Drugs While You Were Out?**



**Figure 21. What Was Your Drug of Choice?**



Survey respondents were asked how many days during the week prior to getting arrested did they use more than their usual amount of drugs. The results in Table 42 show that most of the COR Completers (78.6%) used drugs more than their usual amount at least one day during the week prior to arrest, and they normally used drugs an average of 3.05 days per week. The Control Group, however, showed that only 40% used drugs more than their usual amount at least one day during the week prior to arrest with the majority (60.0%) reporting that they did **not** use any drugs in the week prior to getting arrested. The average number of days a week the Control Group used drugs was 2.36 days.

<b>Table 42. On How Many Days During the Last Week That You Were Out Did You Use More Than Your Usual Amount of Drugs?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
0	21.4% (N=3)	60.0% (N=6)
1	7.1% (N=1)	10.0% (N=1)
2	21.4% (N=3)	
3	14.3% (N=2)	
4	7.1% (N=1)	10.0% (N=1)
7	28.6% (N=4)	20.0% (N=2)
Total	100.0% (N=14)	100.0% (N=10)
<b>How Many Days a Week Did You Usually Use Drugs?</b>		
	COR Completers (N=21)	Control Group (N=25)
Range	0 – 7	0 – 7
Mean	3.05	2.36

### Mental Health Prior to Current Incarceration

We wanted to look at both the COR Completers and the Control Group's state of mind during the time that they were last released from prison. Table 43 indicates that both the COR Completers and the Control Group experienced similar emotions that most likely impacted their well-being during their release from prison.

<b>Table 43. In the Month Before Your Return to Prison Did You Strongly Experience:</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Hopelessness	17.0% (N=8)	11.5% (N=6)
Depression	38.3% (N=18)	32.7% (N=17)
Moody	23.4 (N=11)	15.4% (N=8)
Angry	36.2% (N=17)	25.0% (N=13)
Frustrated	59.6% (N=28)	42.3% (N=22)
General stress	42.6% (N=20)	30.8% (N=16)
Worry	48.9% (N=23)	44.2% (N=23)
Powerlessness	25.5% (N=12)	28.8% (N=15)
Anxiety	21.3% (N=10)	26.9% (N=14)
Guilty	34.0% (N=16)	19.2% (N=10)
Loneliness	25.5% (N=12)	17.3% (N=9)
Boredom	14.9% (N=7)	23.1% (N=12)
Sexual frustration	2.1% (N=1)	5.8% (N=3)
Felt nothing		5.8% (N=3)
Felt positive	19.1% (N=9)	21.2% (N=11)

<b>Table 43 cont. In the Month Before Your Return to Prison Did You Strongly Experience:</b>		
Felt happy	23.4% (N=11)	26.9% (N=14)
Felt calm	17.0% (N=8)	13.5% (N=7)
Hopeful	17.0% (N=8)	17.3% (N=9)
Joyful	14.9% (N=7)	19.2% (N=10)
On the right track	19.1% (N=9)	28.8% (N=15)
Other	2.1% (N=1)	7.6% (N=4)

The COR Completers seemed to experience more frustration, worry, and stress during the month prior to their reincarceration compared to the Control Group who seemed to experience more worry, frustration and depression than other emotions (see Table 43). The COR Completers felt that depression and frustration were equally their strongest emotion during the last month they were out while the Control Group said that frustration was their strongest emotion during the last month they were out (see Table 44). In the 48 hours prior to their reincarceration, worry and frustration seemed to be the predominant emotions for the COR Completers. These were the same predominant emotions that the Control Group felt in the 48 hours leading up to their offense or parole violation (see Table 45). Both groups felt that frustration was the strongest emotion they felt in the 48 hours prior to their offense or parole violation (see Table 46). Both experienced significant levels of emotional distress in a number of areas in the 48 hours prior to reincarceration (see Tables 45 and 46).

<b>Table 44. Which Emotion Was the Strongest During the Last Month That You Were Out:</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Hopelessness		
Depression	16.7% (N=7)	2.6% (N=1)
Moody		
Angry	2.4% (N=1)	
Frustrated	16.7% (N=7)	15.8% (N=6)
General stress	7.1% (N=3)	13.2% (N=5)
Worry	14.3% (N=6)	2.6% (N=1)
Powerlessness	7.1% (N=3)	2.6% (N=1)
Anxiety	2.4% (N=1)	5.3% (N=2)
Guilty	4.8% (N=2)	10.5% (N=4)
Loneliness	7.1% (N=3)	5.3% (N=2)
Boredom	2.4% (N=1)	2.6% (N=1)
Sexual frustration		
Felt nothing		2.6% (N=1)
Felt positive		5.3% (N=2)
Felt happy		5.3% (N=2)
Felt calm	2.4% (N=1)	2.6% (N=1)
Hopeful	4.8% (N=2)	7.9% (N=3)
Joyful	4.8% (N=2)	5.3% (N=2)
On the right track	4.8% (N=2)	10.5% (N=4)
Other	2.4% (N=1)	
Total	100.0% (N=42)	100.0% (N=38)

**Table 45. In the 48 Hours Before You Did the Act That Led to Your Offense/Parole Violation, Did You Feel:**

	COR Completers	Control Group
Hopelessness	8.5% (N=4)	15.4% (N=8)
Depression	29.8% (N=14)	30.8% (N=16)
Moody	8.5% (N=4)	11.5% (N=6)
Angry	25.5% (N=12)	19.2% (N=10)
Frustrated	31.9% (N=15)	40.4% (N=21)
General stress	25.5% (N=12)	23.1% (N=12)
Worry	42.6% (N=20)	34.6% (N=18)
Powerlessness	21.3% (N=10)	28.8% (N=15)
Anxiety	23.4% (N=11)	26.9% (N=14)
Guilty	23.4% (N=11)	17.3% (N=9)
Loneliness	8.5% (N=4)	13.5% (N=7)
Boredom	2.1% (N=1)	5.8% (N=3)
Sexual frustration	2.1% (N=1)	3.8% (N=2)
Felt nothing	8.5% (N=4)	3.8% (N=2)
Felt positive	17.0% (N=8)	9.6% (N=5)
Felt happy	12.8% (N=6)	13.5% (N=7)
Felt calm	19.1% (N=9)	15.4% (N=8)
Hopeful	14.9% (N=7)	5.8% (N=3)
Joyful	14.9% (N=7)	5.8% (N=3)
On the right track	10.6% (N=5)	7.7% (N=4)
Other		3.8% (N=2)

**Table 46. In the 48 Hours Before You Did the Act That Led to Your Offense/Parole Violation, Which Emotion Was the Strongest?**

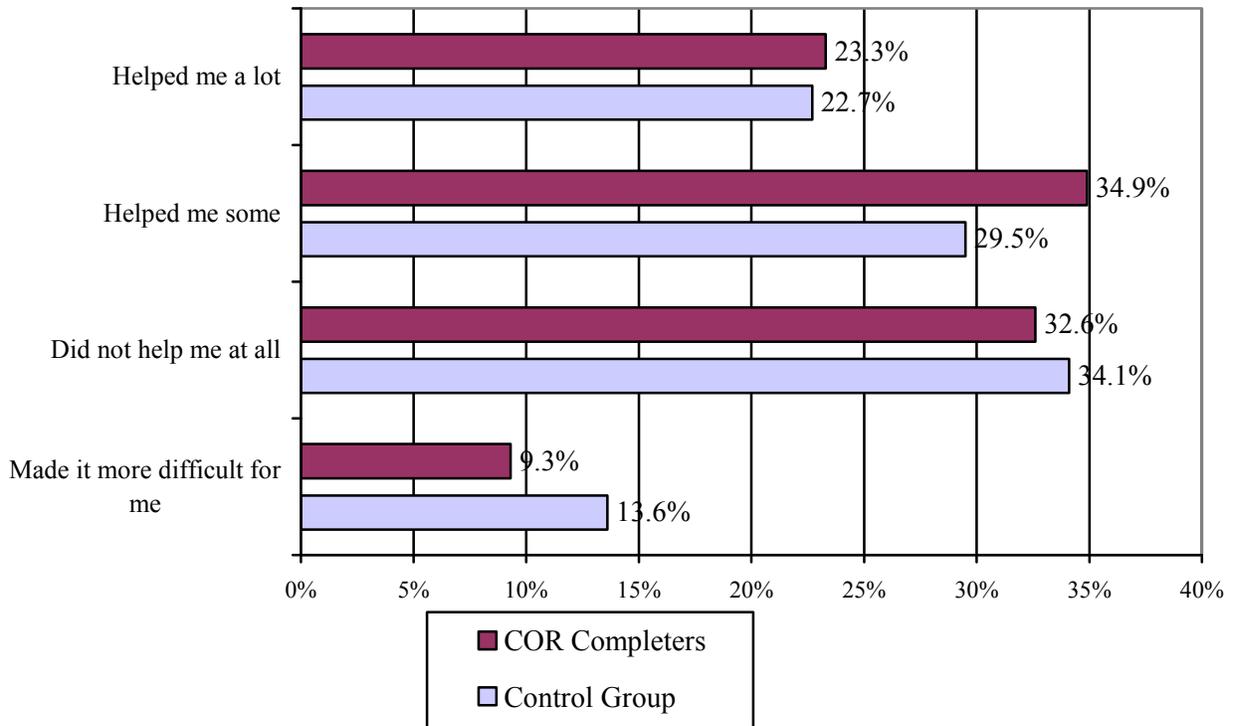
	COR Completers	Control Group
Hopelessness		2.6% (N=1)
Depression	9.5% (N=4)	13.2% (N=5)
Moody		
Angry	11.9% (N=5)	7.9% (N=3)
Frustrated	19.0% (N=8)	13.2% (N=5)
General stress		10.5% (N=4)
Worry	11.9% (N=5)	7.9% (N=3)
Powerlessness	2.4% (N=1)	10.5% (N=4)
Anxiety	7.1% (N=3)	2.6% (N=1)
Guilty	9.5% (N=4)	2.6% (N=1)
Loneliness		2.6% (N=1)
Boredom		
Sexual frustration		
Felt nothing	2.4% (N=1)	
Felt positive	2.4% (N=1)	2.6% (N=1)
Felt happy	2.4% (N=1)	10.5% (N=4)
Felt calm	7.1% (N=3)	5.3% (N=2)
Hopeful	7.1% (N=3)	
Joyful	2.4% (N=1)	
On the right track	4.8% (N=2)	7.9% (N=3)
Other		
Total	100.0% (N=42)	100.0% (N=38)

## Parole Experience

Survey respondents were asked several questions about their experiences with parole. We wanted to know how much their parole officer helped them, how well they got along with their parole officer, how long before they violated conditions of their parole after release from prison, and how many times they were violated before being returned to prison.

More than half of the COR Completers (58.2%) felt their parole officer helped them some or a lot compared to 52.2% of the Control Group who felt that their parole officer helped them some or a lot. Conversely, 41.9% of the COR Completers and 47.7% of the Control Group believed that their parole officer did not help them at all or made it more difficult for them (see Figure 22).

**Figure 22. How Much Do You Think Your Parole Officer Helped You Once You Were Released?**



As shown in Table 47, both the COR Completers (39%) and the Control Group (40.9%) felt that they got along with their parole officer very well. However, 20.4% of the Control Group stated that they did not get along with their parole officer compared to only 4.9% of the COR Completers who did not get along with their parole officer.

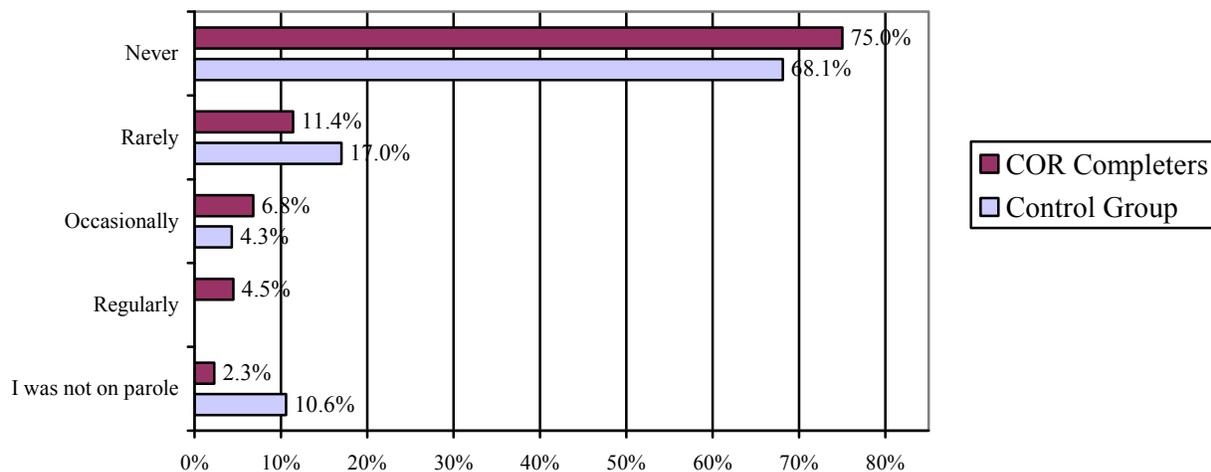
<b>Table 47. How Well Did You Get Along With Your Parole Officer?</b>		
	<b>COR Completers</b>	<b>Control Group</b>
Very Well	39.0% (N=16)	40.9% (N=18)
Fairly Well	22.0% (N=9)	20.5% (N=9)
Okay	34.1% (N=14)	18.2% (N=8)
Not Very Well		15.9% (N=7)
Very Badly	4.9% (N=2)	4.5% (N=2)
Total	100.0% (N=41)	100.0% (N=44)

Most of the COR Completers (92.5%) and the Control Group (88.0%) reported that they were on parole when they committed the act that resulted in their return to prison. During their previous release from prison, more than one-third of the COR Completers (39.5%) reported that they violated the conditions of their parole within the first 4 months, while 31.2% of the Control Group reported that they violated the conditions within the first 4 months. More Control Group members (28.9%) were able to hold off more than one year after they were last released before violating their conditions of parole compared to 18.6% of the COR Completers who were able to hold off for more than one year after their release (see Table 48). This is consistent with the time to failure and survival analyses reported from official records.

<b>Table 48. How Long After You Were Last Released Did You Violate Any of the Conditions of Your Parole?</b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
Less than a week	2.3% (N=1)	6.7% (N=3)
Less than a month	7.0% (N=3)	6.7% (N=3)
1 to 4 months	30.2% (N=13)	17.8% (N=8)
5 to 8 months	25.6% (N=11)	13.3% (N=6)
9 to 12 months	16.3% (N=7)	11.1% (N=5)
More than 1 year	18.6% (N=8)	28.9% (N=13)
Not applicable – I did not break any laws		15.6% (N=7)
Total	100.0% (N=43)	100.0% (N=45)

Three-quarters (75%) of the COR Completers reported that they were never given another chance by their parole officer after breaking a condition of their parole. Similarly, the majority of the Control Group (68.1%) reported that they never got a second chance before they received a violation from their parole officer (see Figure 23).

**Figure 23. How Many Times Did Your Parole Officer Catch You Breaking a Condition of Your Parole, But Gave You Another Chance Before Finally Violating You?**



**Return to Prison and the Events Leading to Current Incarceration**

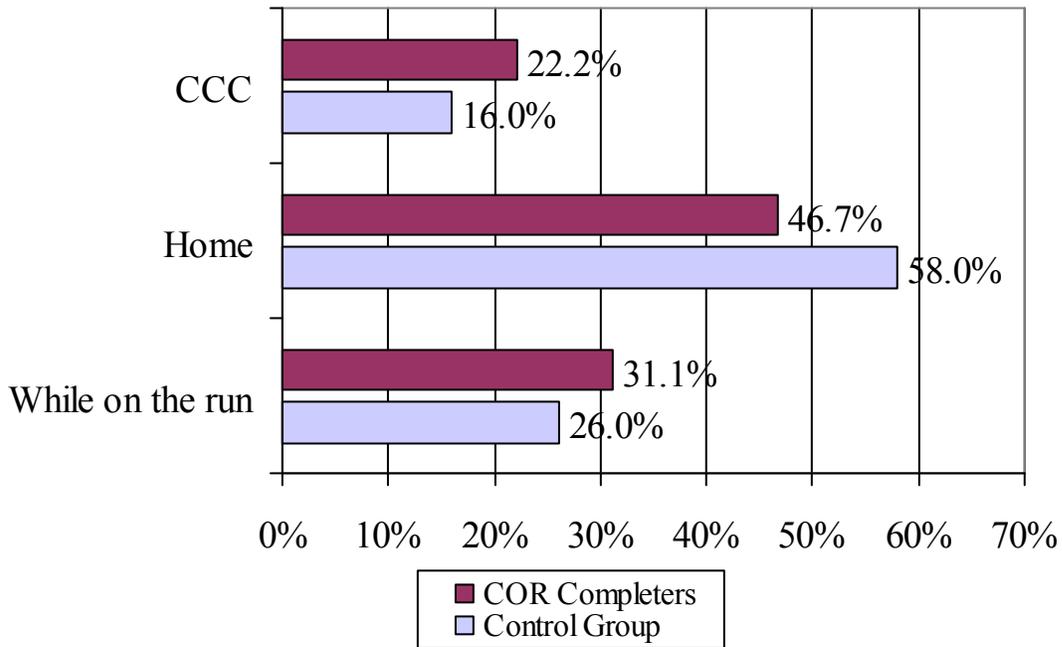
Table 49 shows that the majority of the survey respondents from both the COR Completers (65.2%) and the Control Group (63.3%) came back to prison for a technical parole violation. These numbers are consistent with what was reported in the official records in the outcome evaluation for the entire study population.

<b>Table 49. Reason for Return to Prison<sup>22</sup></b>		
	COR Completers	Control Group
A new crime	8.7% (N=4)	14.3% (N=7)
A technical parole violation	65.2% (N=30)	63.3% (N=31)
A parole violation for a new crime	26.1% (N=12)	22.4% (N=11)
Total	100.0% (N=46)	100.0% (N=49)

Forty-six percent of the COR Completers (46.7%) returned to prison from home, while 58.0% of the Control Group returned to prison from home (see Figure 24). Consequently, of those who went to a CCC after release from prison, most had already been discharged from the CCC when they were reincarcerated. It is noteworthy that almost one-third of the COR Completers and slightly more than one-fourth of the Control Group were on the run when they returned to prison.

<sup>22</sup> “A new crime” differs from a “parole violation for a new crime” because it did not occur while the offender was on parole.

**Figure 24. Returned to Prison From:**



On a scale of 1 to 10 (1=no problem, 10=serious problem), the survey respondents were asked about how much of a problem they found housing, parole, money management, work, leisure time, friends, family, alcohol, drugs, emotional, debt, child support, and health during their release from prison. The COR Completers and the Control Group responded very similarly about their perception of problem areas. Both groups did not see any of these areas as particularly onerous. For both groups of respondents, parole was seen as their biggest problem (see Table 50).

**Table 50. Problem Areas**

	COR Completers	Control Group
Housing problems	N = 42 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.93	N = 47 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.28
Parole problems	N = 40 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 5.10	N = 45 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 4.73
Money management	N = 41 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.71	N = 47 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.36
Work problems	N = 42 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.26	N = 45 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.18
Leisure problems	N = 38 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.53	N = 45 Range = 1 – 9 Mean = 2.53
Problems with friends	N = 41 Range = 1 – 8 Mean = 1.95	N = 48 Range = 1 – 9 Mean = 1.63
Family problems	N = 42 Range = 1 – 9 Mean = 2.29	N = 48 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.08
Alcohol problems	N = 40 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.75	N = 45 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.87
Drug problems	N = 40 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.03	N = 46 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.72
Emotional problems	N = 42 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.05	N = 47 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.83
Debt problems	N = 42 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.12	N = 45 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.07
Child support problems	N = 39 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.28	N = 46 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.02
Health problems	N = 41 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 2.32	N = 46 Range = 1 – 10 Mean = 3.61

### **Current Situation in Prison**

A little more than one-third (36.1%) of the COR Completers reported that they had asked for a transfer in order to be closer to their family so that they could visit more frequently, however, only 28.6% of the Control Group reported that they had asked for a prison transfer. A large number of the COR Completers (41.7%) and half of the Control Group (50.0%) reported that during their current incarceration, they never saw their children.

### **Future Plans after Release from Prison**

Respondents were asked about their release plans after prison. According to the survey responses, 77% of COR Completers and 80% of the Control Group would be under parole supervision once they were released. A majority (86%) of the COR Completers and almost three-quarters (74%) of the Control Group reported that they would have a place to live upon release. This tells us too that 14% of the COR Completers and 26% of the Control Group would not have a place to live upon their release from prison. After their release from prison, only 37.5% of the COR Completers and less than half (46.9%) of the Control Group reported that they would have a job upon release.

Survey respondents were asked how the DOC could help them once they were released from prison. Responses were categorized by similarities and the major issues were grouped together. Many participants would like the DOC to work more closely with the CCC and the PBPP in order to ease the transition back into the community. They believed that an increase in the communication between the prison and the CCC/PBPP would create an easier and more successful transition once released. Respondents also requested assistance with education as well as with jobs and job training. They thought that if they were given better access to resources, this would also help with making the transition back to the community much

smoother. Several individuals felt that if they had assistance in returning to a different home environment, they would have a greater chance of success. Mental support and encouragement were also listed as important issues needing assistance. Lastly, several survey respondents requested help with funding for post-release immediate needs, such as housing and food.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

The self-reported survey responses provided a wealth of information about the study population who returned to prison. We were able to capture important data elements that provide significant insight as to why so many prison releasees failed to make the successful transition from prison to home. We examined: (1) individual demographics, (2) criminal history information including criminal associations, (3) program participation while in prison (4) questions about COR and the COR curriculum, (5) living situations during most recent release from prison, (6) work history and employment situation prior to current incarceration, (7) financial situation during most recent release from prison, (8) drug and alcohol situation, (9) mental health status, (10) experiences with parole, (11) events leading to current incarceration, (12) current situation in prison, (13) future plans after release from prison, and (14) offender suggestions for improving programming efforts.

With the survey results, we were able to look beyond data from official records to provide us with alternative explanations as to why COR did not have a positive impact on the program participants (COR Completers) when compared to the Control Group. For example, the COR Completers were younger at age of first involvement in crime and age at first arrest compared to the Control Group members. They had more juvenile arrests and confinements in juvenile facilities, had more criminal associations, were more likely to live in high crime neighborhoods, were more drug and alcohol involved, were more likely to be on probation and

parole, had less stable work and financial situations, and were less prepared overall for release after prison compared to the Control Group. The COR Completers need more education and vocational skills training, which focuses on both hard and soft skills that employers want to see in potential employees. They were also younger and committed more serious offenses that resulted in their return to prison compared to the Control Group. All of these criminogenic factors could have had a major impact on the COR Completers failure to succeed after release from prison that outweighed any benefits gained from program participation.

All of the information collected from the survey can be used to create a reentry program with greater insight about the inmates and the critical issues facing them when they reenter society and transition back to their families, workforce, and communities. The DOC can use these responses to develop more appropriate curriculum and improve implementation/delivery practices. It is especially important to develop a program that is flexible enough to meet the individual needs of the target population. The study participants told an important story through their responses to the surveys and that story can help build a better reentry program for prison releasees returning home.

# APPENDIX A:

COR Survey  
Informed Consent Form

# Community Orientation & Reintegration (COR) Survey

The International Association of Reentry in Columbus, Ohio with Dr. Linda Smith of Atlanta, GA as the chief researcher is conducting this survey. This survey asks a series of questions about your current situation along with questions about your family and living arrangements, employment experiences, criminal history, educational background, program participation, medical/mental health status during your previous incarceration and after your release from prison prior to your current incarceration. We are particularly interested in trying to discover what happened in your life while you were out on the streets either with or without parole supervision that might have contributed to your return to prison for either a new crime or a parole violation.

The information from your answers will be put together with others who answer this survey to produce statistics. The findings will allow program personnel an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of their current policies and programs which could lead to improved/enhanced services for inmates. No one will know your individual answers because all data will be reported as group statistics. In other words, **your answers to the survey are completely anonymous and confidential.**

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and you have the right to refuse participation at any time without penalty or prejudice. **If you have a parole violation pending, we assure you that your answers to these questions will have absolutely no effect on the outcome of your parole violation hearing.**

We will be happy to answer any questions you have about the survey. Because the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections policy prohibits payment for participation in research, we cannot offer any compensation to you for completing this survey. **We appreciate your willingness to participate in this important research and thank you for the time you set aside to assist us.**

Please answer the questions as honestly as you can and remember that all of your responses are confidential.

## **Directions**

**Please mark your answers directly on the survey. On questions with check-boxes, please place a check-mark within the lines of the appropriate box. If you want to add any additional comments to any question, please write them on the back of the survey indicating the question number.**

**If you have any concerns or if you are having problems understanding a particular question, please do not hesitate to raise your hand and ask the survey administrator for assistance.**

Inmate Name \_\_\_\_\_

Inmate DOC Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I. CURRENT INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The following questions ask about you and your current family situation.

1. Under federal law, people participating in this survey DO NOT have to tell us their Social Security Number. However, it is very useful and helps us to do follow-up studies. May I have your Social Security number? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Race:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White            | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Hispanic   | <input type="checkbox"/> Biracial        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Hispanic   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____     |

3. Gender  Male  Female

4. What is your current marital status?

- I am married
- I have a common law relationship with a wife/husband
- I am separated
- I am divorced
- I am single and have never been married
- I am a widower/widow (My spouse is deceased)

5. What is your date of birth? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many children do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many children under the age of 18 do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have children under the age of 18, please list their ages: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

- Yes  No

If yes, what language?

Spanish  Asian (Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, etc.)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the highest grade you have completed? (You can check more than 1)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 <sup>th</sup> grade          | <input type="checkbox"/> GED                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> grade | <input type="checkbox"/> Some college             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <sup>th</sup> grade                    | <input type="checkbox"/> AA degree                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <sup>th</sup> grade                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Four year college degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 <sup>th</sup> grade                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate school          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed high school                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Training      |

**II. LIVING SITUATION DURING YOUR MOST RECENT RELEASE FROM PRISON.** These questions ask about the period of time that you were last out of prison.

10. What type of area did you live in **before this incarceration**? (Circle only One)

In a city - Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

In a suburb of a city - Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

In a small city (over 10,000 to 50,000 people)

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

In a town (less than 10,000 people)

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

In a rural area - Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

11. Who were you living with? (place a check in the box next to all that apply)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wife or Husband | <input type="checkbox"/> Brother or Sister       | <input type="checkbox"/> On my own        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children        | <input type="checkbox"/> Aunt/Uncle/Cousin       | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father          | <input type="checkbox"/> Girlfriend or Boyfriend | <input type="checkbox"/> On the streets   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother          | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend(s)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |

12. How many people usually lived with you? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What was your marital status **during your most recent release from prison?**  
(check only one box)
- Legally married
  - Separated or divorced
  - Common law wife or husband
  - Single, never married
14. If you were in a relationship, how well was the relationship working out? (check only one box)
- Terrible
  - Mostly Bad
  - Mostly Good
  - Excellent
  - Not applicable, I was not in a relationship
15. If you had a personal problem with something, could you go to the person you were in a relationship with for help?
- Yes    No    Not applicable, I was not in a relationship
16. Did you get into any arguments or physical fights with the person you were living with?
- Yes    No    Not applicable, I was not living with anyone
- If you answered yes, did any one call the police?
- Yes    No
- Did anyone get arrested?
- I did    The other person was arrested    No one was arrested
17. What was the extent of your contact with your parents while you were out (contact includes telephone calls, letters, or personal contact)? (check only one box)
- In contact with both parents
  - In contact with mother only
  - In contact with father only
  - Not in contact with either parent
  - Parents are deceased
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Has either of your parents ever been convicted of a criminal offense?
- Yes    \_\_\_\_\_Father    \_\_\_\_\_Mother    \_\_\_\_\_Both
- No
19. If you had a personal problem with something, could you go to your family for help?
- Yes     No     Not applicable
20. How many other people in your **immediate** family (brothers, sisters, children) have ever been convicted of a criminal offense? \_\_\_\_\_
21. How many other people in your extended family (aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins) have ever been convicted of a criminal offense? \_\_\_\_\_
22. How many children do you have that lived with you **during your most recent release from prison**? (check the "No Children" box if you don't have any children)
- \_\_\_\_\_     No Children
23. Do you have children that you were not legally allowed to visit while you were out?
- Yes     No     Not applicable, I do not have children
24. Have any of your children been in trouble with the police?
- Yes     No     Not applicable, I do not have children
25. Have any of your children been: (check all that apply)
- Incarcerated in jail or prison
- Detained or confined in a juvenile facility
- Not applicable, I do not have children
26. Of the following, how well did prison prepare you to positively deal with your family relationships and situations? (check only one box)
- Not at all prepared
- Somewhat unprepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Well prepared

27. Of the following, what would you say is the level of crime in the neighborhood where you lived during your most recent release from prison? (check only one box)
- Low crime neighborhood
  - Some crime in the neighborhood
  - Often crime in the neighborhood
  - High crime neighborhood
28. Not including prison or jail, how many different places did you live **during your most recent release from prison?** \_\_\_\_\_
29. How much trouble did you have finding a place to live? (check only one box)
- I had a very hard time finding a place to live
  - I had somewhat of a hard time finding a place to live
  - I had somewhat of an easy time finding a place to live
  - I had a very easy time finding a place to live
30. **During your most recent release from prison**, how many people depended on you for financial support?
- None     One     Two     Three     Four or more
31. **During your most recent release from prison**, were you the person financially supporting one or more of your children/grandchildren?
- Yes, my child (children) lived with me
  - Yes, I paid support for their care but I am not court ordered to pay
  - Yes, I paid court-ordered support
  - Yes, I supported my grandchildren
  - No
32. How well did prison prepare you for release **during your most recent release from prison?** (check only one box)
- Not at all prepared
  - Somewhat unprepared
  - Somewhat prepared
  - Well prepared

**III. WORK HISTORY AND EMPLOYMENT SITUATION WHILE RELEASED FROM PRISON PRIOR TO CURRENT OFFENSE OR PAROLE VIOLATION:** The following questions ask about your past work history and your employment **during your most recent release from prison.**

33. Since you graduated or left school, **what is the longest you have been unemployed** in your lifetime? (Do not count time when you were in school full-time or when you were in prison or jail).

- Never unemployed  Unemployed One year or more  
 Unemployed One to six months  Never employed  
 Unemployed Seven to twelve months

34. Were you legally employed at any time **during your most recent release from prison?**  Yes  No

35. **During your most recent release from prison** how would you describe your employment situation?

- Mostly full-time (37+ hours/week)  Workmen's Compensation  
 Mostly part-time (Less than 37 hrs/wk)  When I get work  
 Unemployed  Receiving Public Assistance

36. **During your most recent release from prison,** how long were you unemployed?

- Never unemployed  Unemployed One year or more  
 Unemployed One to six months  Never employed  
 Unemployed Seven to twelve months

37. How many different jobs did you have **during your most recent release from prison?**

- Zero  One or two  Three or four  
 Five or more  Seven or more

38. What is the longest period of time that you worked **at one place** during your life time?

\_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_ Months

39. What is the longest period of time that you worked **at one place** during your **most recent release from prison?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_ Months

40. Have you ever been fired from a job?  Yes  No
41. How many times have you been fired from a job during your life time? \_\_\_\_\_
42. How many times were you fired from a job **during your most recent release from prison**?
- None, I wasn't working       One time       Two times
- Three or more times
43. What job or jobs did you hold **during your most recent release from prison** (legal or illegal)? Please list them: (If you need additional space please write on the back on this page)
- \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_
44. If you held a legal job during your recent **during your most recent release from prison**, how much did you earn?
- I was not employed
- Weekly wages: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Daily wages: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
45. If you held an illegal job **during your most recent release from prison**, how much did you earn?
- I was not working illegally
- Weekly wages: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Daily wages: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
46. **During your most recent release from prison**, did you have to depend on illegal employment to pay your bills and/or support your family?
- Yes  No  Not applicable, I was not working illegally
47. Did your employer pay for any benefits for the longest legal job you held **during your most recent release from prison**?
- Yes, they did       No, they did not
- If yes, what were the benefits? (Annual leave or vacation, sick leave, retirement plan, unemployment, other) \_\_\_\_\_

48. **During your most recent release from prison**, check how often your job stressed you out: (check only one box)
- Never stressed me out
  - Sometimes stressed me out
  - Often stressed me out
  - Always stressed me out
49. If you had to go out and look for a job **during your most recent release from prison**, how stressful was this process? (check only one box)
- Not stressful at all
  - Somewhat stressful
  - Often stressful
  - Always stressful
  - Not applicable, I already had a job lined up
  - Not applicable, I did not look for a job
50. If you had to go out and look for a job **during your most recent release from prison**, how hard was it to actually get a job? (check only one box)
- Not hard at all
  - Somewhat hard
  - Very hard
  - Not applicable, I already had a job lined up
  - Not applicable, I did not look for a job
51. If you had to go out and look for a job, how many interviews did you have before you landed your first job? (enter 0 if you did not have to interview)
- \_\_\_\_\_
52. Of the following choices, how much did finances limit your job search? (check only one box)
- Didn't limit my job search at all
  - Slightly limited my job search
  - Greatly limited my job search
  - Completely limited my job search
  - Not applicable, I did not have to go out and look for a job

53. If employed, how well did you get along with your boss: (check only one box)

- Didn't get along at all
- Sometimes didn't get along
- Frequently got along
- Always got along
- Not applicable, I did not have a job

54. If employed, how well did you get along with the other people that you worked with: (check only one box)

- Didn't get along with anybody
- Got along with a few people
- Got along with most people
- Got along with everybody
- Not applicable, I did not have a job

55. Of the following choices, how well did prison prepare you to do the following? (check only one box under each)

How prepared were you to **find** a job?:

- Not at all prepared
- Somewhat unprepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Well prepared

How prepared were you to **keep** a job?:

- Not at all prepared
- Somewhat unprepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Well prepared

**IV. FINANCIAL SITUATION WHILE RELEASED FROM PRISON PRIOR TO CURRENT OFFENSE/PAROLE VIOLATION:** These questions ask about your financial situation during your most recent release from prison.

56. What was your **main** source of income **during your most recent release from prison?** (check only one box)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Assistance (Welfare) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                      |   |

57. If you were in debt, about how much debt did you have? (including credit cards and loans)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

58. Did you have any debts that you could not pay?

Yes  No

59. Do you know how to set up a bank account (checking or savings)?

Yes  No

60. Did you have a bank account (Checking or Savings)?

Yes  No

61. Of the following, check how well you were able to make ends meet: (check only one box)

- Not able to make ends meet at all
- Just barely able to make ends meet
- Able to make ends meet with some money left over
- Able to make ends meet with a lot of money left over

62. Do any of your close family members (Spouse, Children, Parents, Grandparents, siblings, etc.) currently receive any government benefits?

- Yes  No  Don't Know
- I don't have close family members with whom I stay in contact

If yes, please list the benefits and who receives them:

---

63. Do you know how to plan a budget?

Yes  No

64. Has managing your money been a problem for you?

Yes  No

65. Of the following choices, how well did prison prepare you to take care of the financial situation that you were faced with when you got out of prison? (check only one box)

- Not prepared at all
- Somewhat unprepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Well prepared

**V. ABOUT YOUR RETURN TO PRISON AND THE EVENTS LEADING TO YOUR CURRENT INCARCERATION.**

66. Did you come back to prison for:

- A new crime (only answer if you were not on parole)
- A technical parole violation
- A parole violation for a new crime

67. Did you come back to prison from:

- A Community Correctional Center?
- The Streets?

If you answered a Community Correctional Center, how long were you there before your current incarceration) ?

\_\_\_\_\_ years                      \_\_\_\_\_ months                      \_\_\_\_\_ days

If you answered the streets, how long were you out on the streets before your current incarceration (do not include the time you were confined to a Community Correctional Center)?

\_\_\_\_\_ years                      \_\_\_\_\_ months                      \_\_\_\_\_ days

68. Did you drink or use drugs during the time that you were out? (check only one)

- No, I didn't drink or use drugs **(If you checked this box, skip to question #78)**
- Yes, I drank alcohol
- Yes, I used drugs
- Yes, I did both

69. During the last time that you were out, **when did you have your first drink?** (check only one box)

- I had my first drink the same day that I was released
- I had my first drink the same week that I was released
- I had my first drink the same month that I was released

**When did you have your last drink before your rearrest?** (check only one box)

- I had my first drink longer than a month before I was rearrested
- I had my first drink within a month before I was rearrested
- I had my first drink within a week before I was rearrested
- I had my first drink the day before I was rearrested
- I had my first drink the day I was rearrested
- Not applicable, I did not drink while I was last out

70. How many days a week did you usually drink? \_\_\_\_\_  Did Not Drink

71. How many drinks did you have on a usual drinking day? \_\_\_\_\_  Did Not Drink

72. On how many days during the last week that you were out did you drink more than your usual amount? (check the "Did Not Drink" box if you did not drink at all)  
\_\_\_\_\_  Did Not Drink

73. During the last time that you were out, **when did you first use drugs?** (check only one box)

- I used drugs the same day that I was released
- I used drugs the same week that I was released
- I used drugs the same month that I was released

**When did you last use drugs before your rearrest?** (check only one box)

- I used drugs longer than a month before I was rearrested
- I used drugs within a month before I was rearrested
- I used drugs within a week before I was rearrested
- I used drugs the day before I was rearrested
- I used drugs the day I was rearrested
- Not applicable, I did not use drugs while I was last out

74. How many days a week did you usually use drugs? \_\_\_\_\_  I did not use drugs

75. What illegal drugs did you use while you were out? (Check all that apply)

- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Crack Cocaine
- Methamphetamines
- Heroin
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I did not use drugs

76. Of the above drugs, what was your drug of choice (the one you used most often)?

\_\_\_\_\_  I did not use drugs

77. On how many days during the last week that you were out did you use more than your usual amount of drugs? (check the "Did Not Use Drugs" box if you did not use drugs at all)

\_\_\_\_\_  I did not use drugs

78. Of the friends that you hung around with while you were last out, how many of your friends have a criminal record? (check only one box)

- None of my friends have a criminal record
- Some of my friends have a criminal record
- Most of my friends have a criminal record
- All of my friends have a criminal record

79. Of the following, how well did prison prepare you to handle your drug or alcohol problems? (check only one box)

- Not at all prepared
- Somewhat unprepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Well prepared

80. Check all of the applicable emotional feelings that you strongly experienced **in the month before your return to prison.**

- |                          |                |                          |                    |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hopelessness   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Powerless          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Felt positive      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Depression     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Anxiety            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Felt happy         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Moody          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Guilty             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Felt calm          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Angry          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Loneliness         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hopeful            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Frustrated     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Boredom            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Joyful             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | General stress | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sexual frustration | <input type="checkbox"/> | On the right track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Worry          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Felt nothing       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____        |

81. Which one of the above emotions that you just checked was the strongest **during the last month that you were out?** \_\_\_\_\_

82. Check all of the applicable emotional feelings that you strongly experienced **in the 48 hours before you did the act that led to your offense/parole violation:**

- |                          |                |                          |                    |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hopelessness   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Powerless          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Felt positive      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Depression     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Anxiety            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Felt happy         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Moody          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Guilty             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Felt calm          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Angry          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Loneliness         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hopeful            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Frustrated     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Boredom            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Joyful             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | General stress | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sexual frustration | <input type="checkbox"/> | On the right track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Worry          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Felt nothing       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____        |

83. Which one of the above emotions that you just checked was the strongest **during the last 48 hours before you did the act that led to your offense parole violation?**

\_\_\_\_\_

84. Before you got into trouble, how confident were you that you could succeed on the outside? (check only one box)

- Completely confident
- Fairly confident
- A little unconfident
- Completely unconfident

85. How long **after you were last released** did you break the law even if you were not caught? (check only one)

- Less than a week
- Less than a month
- 1 to 4 months
- 5 to 8 months
- 9 to 12 months
- More than 1 years
- Not applicable – I did not break any laws

86. Were you on parole when you committed the act that resulted in your return to prison?  
 Yes  No
87. How long **after you were last released** did you violate any of the conditions of your parole even if you were not caught? (check only one box)  
 Less than a week  
 Less than a month  
 1 to 4 months  
 5 to 8 months  
 9 to 12 months  
 More than 1 years  
 I was not on parole
88. How many times did your parole officer catch you breaking a condition of your parole but gave you another chance before finally violating you? (check only one box)  
 Never  
 Rarely  
 Occasionally  
 Regularly  
 I was not on parole
89. How well did you get along with your parole officer? (check only one box)  
 Very well  
 Fairly well  
 Okay  
 Not very well  
 Very badly  
 I was not on parole
90. How much do you think your parole officer helped you once you were released? (check only one box)  
 Helped me a lot  
 Helped me some  
 Did not help me at all  
 Made it more difficult for me  
 I was not on parole

91. Rate each of the problem areas below on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest, on how much they bothered you and contributed to your failure during your most recent release from prison. **Remember, a score of 1 means that the area didn't bother you at all and didn't contribute to your failure. A score of 10 means that the area completely bothered you and heavily contributed to your failure:** (circle only one number for each problem area)

- Housing Problems    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Parole Problems    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Money Management 1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Work Problems    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Leisure Problems    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Problems w/ Friends 1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Family Problems    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Alcohol Problems    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Drug Problems    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Emotional Problems 1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Debt    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Child Support    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10
- Health Problems    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

92. Of the following, how well did prison prepare you to deal with the emotional problems described above? (check only one box)

- Not at all prepared
- Somewhat unprepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Well prepared

## VI. Current Medical/Dental/Mental Health Status:

93. Have you been treated for any of the following medical/mental health problems? (Check all that apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes                      | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart Problems                | <input type="checkbox"/> High Cholesterol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually transmitted Diseases | <input type="checkbox"/> Skin Problems    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vision           |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sickle Cell Anemia | <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar Disorder   | <input type="checkbox"/> Back Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depression         | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schizophrenia      |  |

Other Medical/Mental Health Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

94. Do you have any Medical/Dental/ Mental Health concerns at the present?

- Yes     No

If you do, please list them.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

95. Are you currently taking medications?

- Yes     No

If you answered yes, what medications are you taking?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

96. Do you have an alcohol or drug problem?

- Yes     No

97. Have you ever been treated for an alcohol or drug problem?

- Yes
- In- Patient Treatment      Number of Times \_\_\_\_\_
- Out-Patient Treatment      Number of Times \_\_\_\_\_
- Both In-Patient and Out-patient
- No
- Not Applicable

98. Did you seek treatment for your alcohol/drug problems after your release from prison?

- Yes                       Did you receive treatment?  Yes     No
- No
- Not Applicable

99. Did you attend AA or NA after your release from prison?

- Yes     No     Not applicable

100. Have you ever had any treatment for emotional or psychological problems?
- Yes       In-patient      Where \_\_\_\_\_
- Out-patient      Where \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Not Applicable
101. Did you seek treatment for your mental health problems after your release from prison?
- Yes       Did you receive treatment?  Yes     No
- No
- Not Applicable

**VII. OFFENSE INFORMATION: Involvement in the Criminal Justice System Prior to Current Incarceration:**

102. How old were you when you were first involved in criminal activities?
- Years of Age
- What was your first crime? \_\_\_\_\_
103. How old were you (as an adult or juvenile) when you were first arrested (taken to juvenile detention or to the police station to be booked and fingerprinted)?
- Years of Age
104. Have you ever been confined in a juvenile facility?
- Yes     No
- If yes, what was it in?       Juvenile detention      How Long \_\_\_\_\_
- Juvenile incarceration      How Long \_\_\_\_\_
105. How many times were you arrested **as a juvenile** (include both misdemeanor and felony)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Times
106. How many times have you been arrested **as an adult** (include both misdemeanor and felony)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Times
107. How many **felony** arrests have you had before this incarceration? **(Count both adult & juvenile)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Arrests
108. How many times have you been in:
- Jail \_\_\_\_\_      Prison \_\_\_\_\_

109. How much time have you spent in prisons and jails since turning 18 years of age (include current stay)?

Years  Months

110. How many times have you been on probation?

Never  Once  Twice  Three Times  Four times or more

111. How many times have you been on parole/release?

Never  Once  Twice  Three Times  Four times or more

**VIII. WHILE YOU WERE IN PRISON PRIOR TO YOUR CURRENT INCARCERATION, DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS?**

112. **EDUCATION:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic education	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
<input type="checkbox"/> GED classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
<input type="checkbox"/> Life skills, job prep	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
<input type="checkbox"/> Spector (YOI) Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
<input type="checkbox"/> College classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
<input type="checkbox"/> Others	: _____		

113. **TREATMENT:**

COR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Thinking for A Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Therapeutic Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Individual counseling/ Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Anger Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
RSAT	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Other Drug Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Alcohol Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Batterers Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Parenting	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available
Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to but it wasn't available

Religious/Bible Study             Yes     No     Wanted to but it wasn't available  
Sex Offender Program             Yes     No     Wanted to but it wasn't available

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you did not participate in COR Phase 1 in Prison or COR Phase 2 in the Community Correctional Center please go to question #124.**

114. If you participated in **COR Phase 1, IN PRISON**, please answer the following questions.

Check the COR Phase 1 activities that you participated in:

- I participated in only Phase 2 at the Community Correctional Center  
(Skip to question #119)
- Job Search
- Applications/resumes
- Interviewing, getting, and keeping a job
- Decision Making
- Impact of Incarceration (especially long-term incarceration)
- Parenting
- Family Reunification
- Money Management
- Anger Management
- Health and Wellness
- Alcohol/drugs/Relapse Prevention
- Victim Awareness
- Character Development (7 Habits for Highly Effective People)
- Spirituality
- Parole/CCC expectations

115. How often did you attend classes in Phase 1 of COR  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hours per day    \_\_\_\_\_ days per week    \_\_\_\_\_ # of weeks

116. Who taught the COR Phase I classes:

- DOC Treatment Staff     DOC Education Staff  
 Outside Contractor

117. What type of problems did you have with Phase 1 of COR?

---

---

- I did not have any problems with Phase 1 of COR

118. How do you think Phase 1 of COR could be improved?

---

---

- I think Phase 1 of COR is fine the way it is

119. If you participated in **COR Phase 2, IN THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER**, please answer the following questions.

Check the COR Phase 2 activities that you participated in:

- I only participated in Phase 1 in Prison (skip to question # 124)  
 Orientation  
 Correctional Reentry Plan  
 Alcohol and other Drug Education  
 Life Skills  
 Employment Preparation  
 Vocational Evaluation  
 Community Service  
 AA/NA  
 Parenting  
 Personal Finances  
 Alcohol/drugs/Relapse Prevention  
 Parole Board (PBPP) Orientation  
 Character Development (7 Habits for Highly Effective People)

120. How often did you attend classes in Phase 2 of COR  
\_\_\_\_\_Hours per day \_\_\_\_\_days per week \_\_\_\_\_# of weeks

121. Who taught the COR Phase 2 classes:  
 CCC Staff  Outside Contractor

122. What type of problems did you have with Phase 2 of COR?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I did not have any problems with Phase 2 of COR

123. How do you think Phase 2 of COR could be improved?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I think Phase 2 of COR is fine the way it is

**IX. In Prison:** These questions ask about your current situation in prison.

124. How long have you been incarcerated on current charges/parole violations?

Years  Months

125. How long have you been at this prison?

\_\_\_\_\_Years \_\_\_\_\_Months \_\_\_\_\_Days

126. How much time do you have left on your sentence?

Years  Months

127. In the last month who has visited you? (check all that apply)

Spouse  Children  Parents  Other Relatives  Friends

128. During this incarceration, how often do you see your children? (If you don't have any children, just check N/A)

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> N/A          | <input type="checkbox"/> Every 3 months |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week  | <input type="checkbox"/> Every 6 months |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once a month | <input type="checkbox"/> Never          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once a year  |   |

129. While in prison, how often do you attend religious services?

- |                                 |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never  | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily        | <input type="checkbox"/> Two or Three times per week |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a month | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a year                 |

130. Are you still waiting disposition of your current charges/violation?

- Yes  No

**X. After Prison:** The following questions ask about future plans after release from prison.

131. When do you expect to be released? \_\_\_\_\_

132. Do you have a place to live when you get out of prison?

- Yes  No  I think so  I don't know

133. Where do you plan to live after release from prison?

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

134. Will you be living with members of your family when you get out of prison?

- Yes  No  I think so  I don't know

If yes, what family member will you be living with (i.e., mother, father, brother, sister, child, grandparent)?

\_\_\_\_\_

135. Will you be under parole supervision after release?

- Yes  No

136. If you will be leaving on parole, do you know who your parole officer is?

Yes  No

If yes, Name: \_\_\_\_\_

137. Will you have a job in the community when you get out?

Yes  No  I think so  I don't know

If yes, what is the job? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, do you plan on looking for a job? \_\_\_\_\_

138. Is there anyone on the outside who will help you find a job?

Yes  No  I think so  I don't know

If yes, who will help you (relative, former employer, employment agency)

\_\_\_\_\_

139. Do you have any concerns about your upcoming release?

Yes  No

If yes, what are they:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

140. What could DOC do to help you have a more successful situation when you are released from prison this time?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

**Check here if you would like to receive a copy of the results from this study**

**Where should we send it:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# INFORMED CONSENT FORM

**Project Title:** Pennsylvania Department of Corrections COR Evaluation

**Statement of Age of Subject:** I state that I am over 18 years of age, in good physical health, and wish to participate in a program of research being conducted by Dr. Linda G. Smith of the International Association of Reentry Columbus, Ohio

**Purpose** The purpose of the research is to conduct an evaluation of the Department of Corrections COR Program. The findings will allow program personnel an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and assess the program's progress in meeting strategic planning goals, all of which could lead to improved/enhanced services for offenders. In addition, states receiving federal funding are required to submit reports on the progress of participants during the program and after their release from incarceration. If you did not participate in the COR program we are still interested in your opinions as this will help other inmates who may wish to participate later during their incarceration.

**Procedures:** A survey will be given to me with directions for answering the questions on the survey. A researcher will also be present to explain the process and to answer any questions I may have. The researcher will provide assistance in filling out the survey if necessary. The survey includes questions about my individual and family background, my prior work history, my previous involvement with the criminal justice system, my current involvement with the criminal justice system, my medical and mental health status and questions about my participation in the a number of different programs in the DOC including COR. I understand that the researchers may also review my institutional files, criminal history data, and employment and wages earned during release from prison. I may be asked to participate in small group discussions or a one-on-one interview with the researcher. Participation in any of the activities is strictly voluntary.

**Confidentiality:** All information collected in this research is confidential, and my name will not be identified at any time. The data I provide will be grouped with data other participants provide for reporting and presentation. The International Association of Reentry and not the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections will maintain the data. No staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections will be given any responses from individual inmates.

**Risks:** I understand that answering certain questions about my life may cause some discomfort, however, there are no other expected risks from my participation in the research study.

**Benefits, Freedom to Withdraw** I understand that the research is not designed to help me personally, although I may experience improved/enhanced services while participating in Reentry programs. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' policy prohibits payment to any inmate for participation in research. I am free to ask questions or to withdraw from participation at any time without any negative consequences.

Linda G. Smith, Ph.D.  
International Association of Reentry  
Columbus, Ohio  
(404) 697-2055

**Printed Name of Subject** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Subject** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX B

T-Tests of Mean Differences Comparing the  
COR Non-Completers to the COR Completers and the Control Group

**Table 1. T-Tests of Mean Differences  
COR Completers / Non-Completers / Control Group  
Demographics**

	COR Completers <sup>1</sup>	COR Non-Completers <sup>2</sup>	Control Group <sup>3</sup>
Gender (1=male)	0.946 (N=772)	0.836*** (N=61)	0.937** (N=538)
Age (in years)	39.308* (N=772)	38.820 (N=61)	40.333 (N=538)
Race (1=Black)	0.534 (N=772)	0.557 (N=61)	0.552 (N=538)
Race (1=White)	0.355 (N=772)	0.311 (N=61)	0.318 (N=538)
Race (1=Hispanic)	0.109 (N=772)	0.131 (N=61)	0.125 (N=538)
Race (1=Asian)	0.001 (N=772)	0.000 (N=61)	0.004 (N=538)
Total Number of Quarters Worked	3.328 (N=372)	3.840 (N=25)	3.398 (N=289)
Average Wages	3745.24 (N=372)	4782.21 (N=25)	3905.14 (N=289)

Note: Variable means are listed in each cell.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

<sup>1</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

<sup>2</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the COR Non-Completers and the COR Completers.

<sup>3</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the Control Group and the COR Non-Completers.

**Table 2. T-Tests of Mean Differences  
COR Completers / Non-Completers / Control Group  
Recidivism**

	COR Completers <sup>1</sup>	COR Non-Completers <sup>2</sup>	Control Group <sup>3</sup>
Recidivist (1=yes)	0.710 (N=772)	0.656 (N=61)	0.701 (N=538)
Rearrested (1=yes)	0.495* (N=772)	0.492 (N=61)	0.428 (N=538)
Reconvicted (1=yes)	0.224 (N=548)	0.300 (N=40)	0.212 (N=377)
Reimprisoned (1=reimprisonment)	0.591 (N=772)	0.557 (N=61)	0.589 (N=538)
Reimprisoned (1=fines & cost)	0.008 (N=772)	0.000 (N=61)	0.013 (N=538)
Reimprisoned (1=probation)	0.001 (N=772)	0.000 (N=61)	0.004 (N=538)
Survival Time	27.680* (N=772)	31.607 (N=61)	30.890 (N=538)
Single-State Offender (1=yes)	0.501 (N=772)	0.500 (N=60)	0.527 (N=537)
Multi-State Offender (1=yes)	0.298 (N=772)	0.317 (N=60)	0.259 (N=537)

Note: Variable means are listed in each cell.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

<sup>1</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

<sup>2</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the COR Non-Completers and the COR Completers.

<sup>3</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the Control Group and the COR Non-Completers.

**Table 3. T-Tests of Mean Differences  
COR Completers / Non-Completers / Control Group  
Recidivism**

	COR Completers <sup>1</sup>	COR Non-Completers <sup>2</sup>	Control Group <sup>3</sup>
Reimprisonment Offense (1=violent)	0.216 (N=74)	0.083 (N=12)	0.214 (N=42)
Reimprisonment Offense (1=property)	0.257 (N=74)	0.333 (N=12)	0.190 (N=42)
Reimprisonment Offense (1=drugs)	0.378 (N=74)	0.500 (N=12)	0.357 (N=42)
Reimprisonment Offense (1=misdemeanor)	0.054 (N=74)	0.000 (N=12)	0.000 (N=42)
Reimprisonment Offense (1=probation)	0.000 (N=74)	0.000 (N=12)	0.048 (N=42)
Reimprisonment Offense (1=traffic)	0.027 (N=74)	0.083 (N=12)	0.071 (N=42)
Reimprisonment Offense (1=other)	0.068 (N=74)	0.000 (N=12)	0.119 (N=42)
Minimum Resentence Time (in months)	19.115 (N=26)	9.500 (N=2)	14.553 (N=19)
Maximum Resentence Time (in months)	42.731 (N=26)	19.000 (N=2)	30.579 (N=19)

Note: Variable means are listed in each cell.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

<sup>1</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

<sup>2</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the COR Non-Completers and the COR Completers.

<sup>3</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the Control Group and the COR Non-Completers.

**Table 4. T-Tests of Means Differences  
COR Completers / Non-Completers / Control Group  
Domestic Violence**

	COR Completers <sup>1</sup>	COR Non-Completers <sup>2</sup>	Control Group <sup>3</sup>
Domestic Violence (1=yes)	0.51 (N=772)	0.48 (N=60)	0.46 (N=537)
Domestic Violence (number)	1.75 (N=394)	1.90 (N=29)	1.75 (N=249)
<b>Males:</b>			
Domestic Violence (1=yes)	0.53 (N=730)	0.52 (N=50)	0.48 (N=503)
Domestic Violence (number)	1.76 (N=384)	1.85 (N=26)	1.76 (N=240)
<b>Females:</b>			
Domestic Violence (1=yes)	0.24 (N=42)	0.30 (N=10)	0.26 (N=34)
Domestic Violence (number)	1.40 (N=10)	2.33 (N=3)	1.44 (N=9)

Note: Variable means are listed in each cell.

\*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

<sup>1</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the COR Completers and the Control Group.

<sup>2</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the COR Non-Completers and the COR Completers.

<sup>3</sup> T-tests of mean differences between the Control Group and the COR Non-Completers.