



Serious and Violent Offender Multi-site Evaluation


What We've Learned: Findings from the Multi-site SVORI Evaluation

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Serious and Violent Offender Multi-site Evaluation

Today

- **Brief overview of SVORI**
- **Implementation: What did the SVORI Program Directors tell us about their SVORI programs? Typical services & programs?**
- **Implementation: What did the respondents tell us about service & treatment needs? Services & treatment receipt?**
- **Impact: What did the respondents tell us about outcomes?**





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SVORI Overview

- **Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative funded agencies to develop programs to improve criminal justice, employment, education, health, and housing outcomes for released prisoners**
- **69 agencies received federal funds (\$500,000 - \$2,000,000 over 3 years) to develop 89 programs that**
 - Targeted adult & juvenile populations
 - Incorporated partnerships among state and local agencies to provide comprehensive services to prisoners returning home
 - Were locally designed to meet local needs and organizational capabilities






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Implementation Assessment

- **Goal: Identify local SVORI program components —what was intended & what was achieved**
- **Three rounds of surveys conducted with SVORI Program Directors**
 - **2004: *National Portrait of SVORI***
 - **2005 and 2006: Short reports on specific topics, *Reentry Research in Action: Findings from the Field***
 - **All surveys: Searchable information on individual programs at www.svori-evaluation.org**

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Impact Evaluation

- **Goal: Determine the extent to which SVORI**
 - improves access to appropriate, comprehensive, integrated services
 - improves employment, health, & personal functioning of returning prisoners
 - reduces criminal activity
- **Longitudinal study of more than 2,500 adult & juvenile offenders in 14 states (16 programs)**
- **Data from four waves of interviews (drug testing at 3 & 15 months)**
- **Agency data (DOC, DJJ, P&P, FBI & ESC)**


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Impact Evaluation Sites

- **Northeast (2 states)**
 - Maine
 - Pennsylvania
- **South (5 states)**
 - Florida (juvenile only)
 - Maryland
 - Missouri
 - Oklahoma
 - South Carolina (adult & juvenile)
- **Midwest (4 states)**
 - Kansas (adult & juvenile)
 - Indiana
 - Iowa
 - Ohio
- **West (3 states)**
 - Colorado (juvenile only)
 - Nevada
 - Washington

*Adult only unless noted

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Impact Evaluation Outcome Measures



- **Self Sufficiency & Quality of Life**
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Family (including contacts, stability & child custody/support)
 - Community Involvement
- **Health**
 - Substance Use (sobriety & relapse prevention)
 - Physical Health
 - Mental Health
- **Reduced Criminality**
 - Supervision Compliance
 - Reoffending
 - Rearrest
 - Reconviction
 - Reincarceration
- **Agency-level impact: Systems Change**
 - Agency cooperation
 - Sustainability

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Implementation: From the PDs' Perspective

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Enrollment: In 2005, PDs said

- Programs established eligibility criteria
 - Most (58%) accepted all offenders that meet criteria
 - Exceptions: insufficient capacity (38%) and the likelihood the offender would not being released by the parole board (33%)
- Most (79%) programs received referrals from facility/classification staff (84%) or self-referrals from prisoners (68%)
- Most (80%) programs voluntary
 - Few eligible participants declined participation
 - Those who declined participation don't think they need the services or that SVORI requires too much oversight

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Program Characteristics: In 2005, PDs Said

- Focused on the general “serious and violent population” (85%)
- Focused equally on the pre- and post-release phase (67%)
- Geographically targeted pre-release (specific institutions) and post-release (specific release communities)
- Most (90%) programs reported attempting to provide all needed services rather than delivering a specific service or set of services

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Primary Focus of Adult SVORI Programs

- Employment: 42%
- Community integration: 27%
- Substance use: 14%
- Mental health: 10%
- Education: 2%
- Family: 0%
- Other: 6%

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Source: 2005 Survey of SVORI Program Directors

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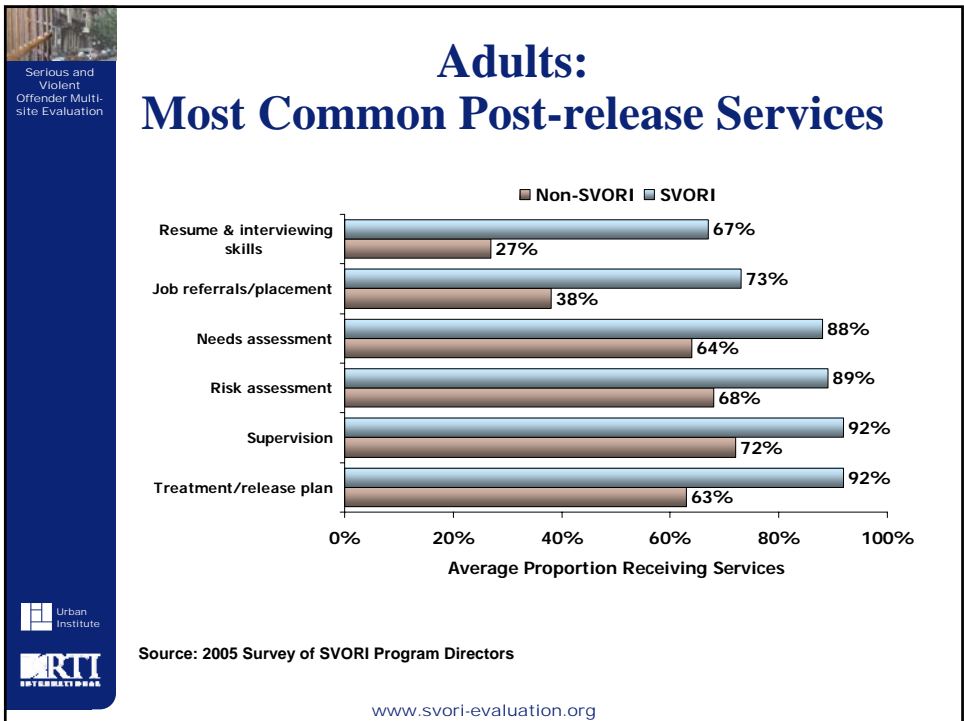
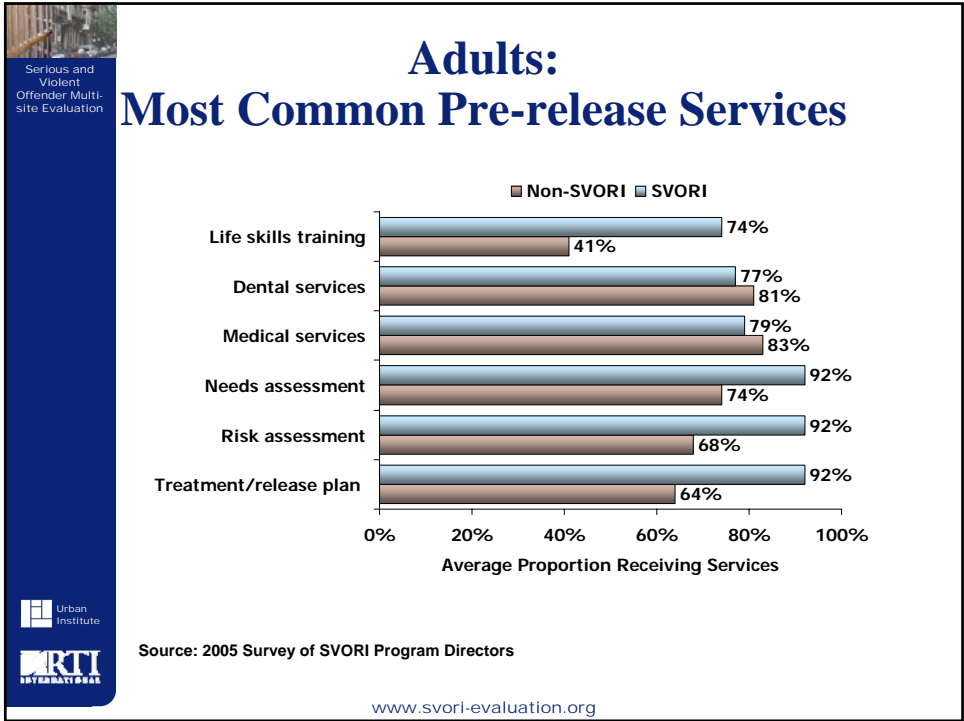
Many Programs & Services

- Risk assessment
- Needs assessment
- Treatment/release plan development
- Legal assistance
- Assistance obtaining identification
- Assistance obtaining benefits
- Financial support/emergency assistance
- Peer support groups
- 1-on-1 mentoring
- Housing placements/referrals
- Transportation (post-release only)
- Comprehensive drug treatment programs
- AA/NA
- Counseling sessions
- Mental health services
- Anger management/violence counseling
- Medical services
- Dental services
- Education/GED/tutoring/literacy
- Vocational training
- Employment referrals/job placement
- Resume & interviewing skills development
- Work release program
- Cognitive skills development/behavior program.
- Life skills training
- Domestic violence services
- Parenting skills development
- Family reunification
- Family counseling
- Formal post-release supervision (post only)

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In 2006, PDs Reported

- All 51 adult programs enrolled at least 1 participant
- Most programs (n=29) began enrolling participants in 2003
- 34 programs were still enrolling new participants in March 2006
- 23 programs planned to continue enrolling indefinitely

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Source: 2006 Survey of SVORI Program Directors

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Sustainability 2006

- Most PD's (82%, n=43) reported other reentry initiatives are underway in their state
- Most PD's (94%, n=47) planned to continue at least some elements of SVORI program once SVORI funds are no longer available
- Of those planning to continue, 77% (n=36) planned to expand their SVORI program

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Implementation Conclusions

- Most programs were designed to fill service gaps (or expand an existing program)
- Most programs are small & enrolled fewer people than originally projected
- Programs are targeted geographically (pre- and post-release) but do not focus on a specific phase, offender need type, or specific service type
- Primary programmatic focus for adult programs is employment/vocational services
- Overall, SVORI participants are more likely to receive more programs/services than comparable non-participants
- Most programs plan to continue at least some parts of their SVORI programs

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What We've Learned from Impact Evaluation Respondents



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Impact Study Respondents

- Interviewed SVORI participants and comparison subjects
 - 16 programs
 - 14 states
 - More than 300 prisons & jails
 - 7,120 completed interviews (as of 3/5/07)





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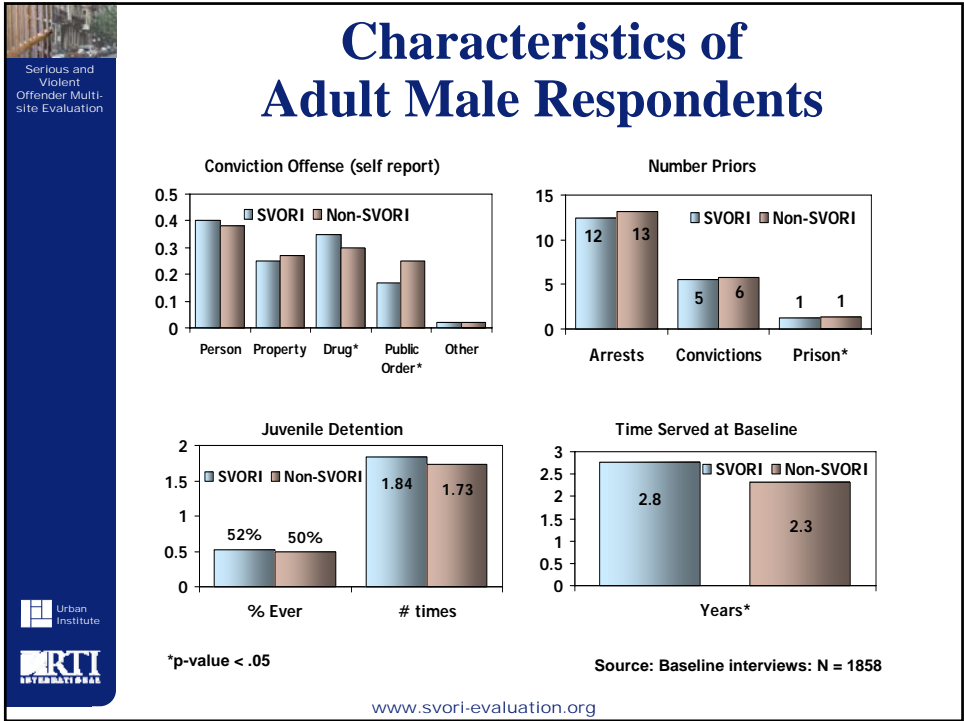
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Characteristics of Adult Male Respondents

- 29 years of age
- About 40% reported being married or in a steady relationship & about 60% reported having children < 18 years
- About 61% had a HS diploma or GED
- About 2/3rds reported having a job 6 months prior prison & 90% “ever had a job”
- Most had family & friends who were AOD and crime involved
- About 2/3rds reported drug and alcohol use in the 30 days prior to prison



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What They Needed & What They Got: Is Service Matching Enhanced through SVORI?

Results from the Offender Interviews

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Service Need and Delivery: Programs & Services Measured

- Needs assessment (receipt only)
- Case management (receipt only)
- Staff for release planning (receipt)
- Post release supervision (receipt)
- Legal assistance
- Financial assistance
- Public assistance
- Obtaining identification
- 1-on-1 mentoring
- Assistance obtaining documents
- Housing placements/referrals
- Transportation (post-release only)
- Assistance getting driver's license
- Dental health services
- Physical health services
- Mental health services
- Drug treatment services, AA/NA
- Abuse support groups
- Anger management/violence counseling
- Job services
- Education/GED/tutoring/literacy
- Money management
- Life skills training
- Personal relationships training
- Training to change attitudes regarding criminal behavior
- Domestic violence services
- Assistance with receipt of child support
- Child support debt modification
- Child custody modification
- Parenting skills development
- Assistance with child care

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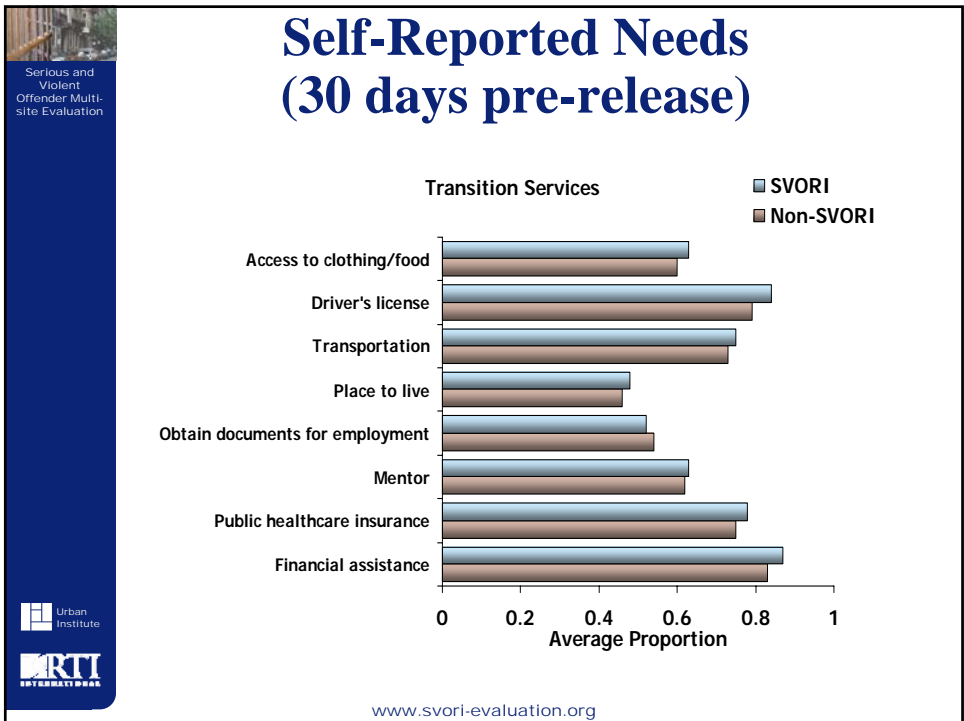
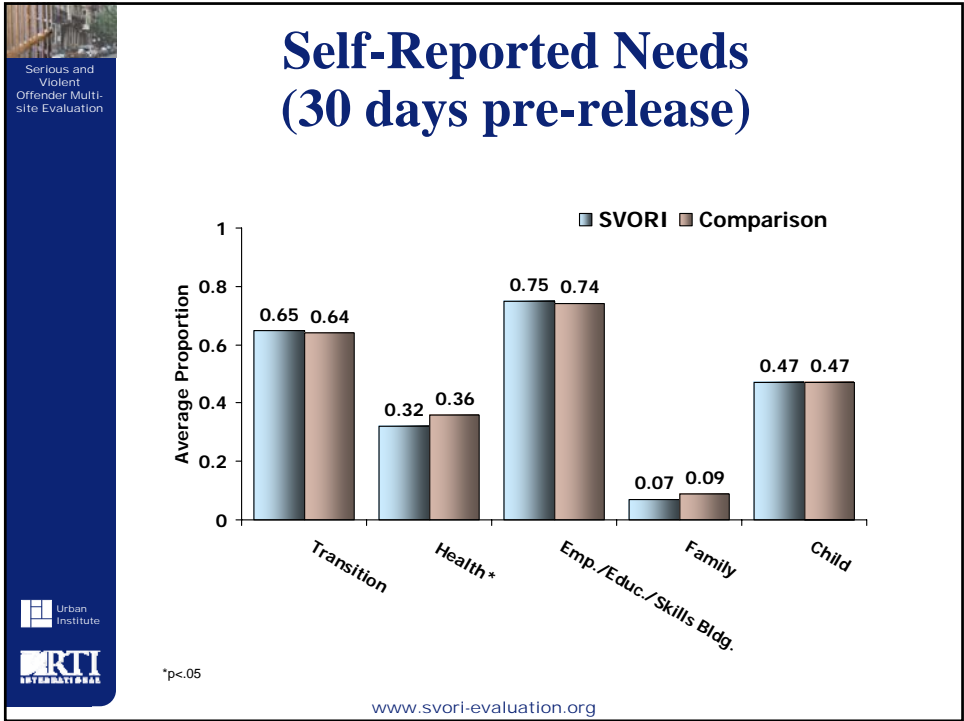
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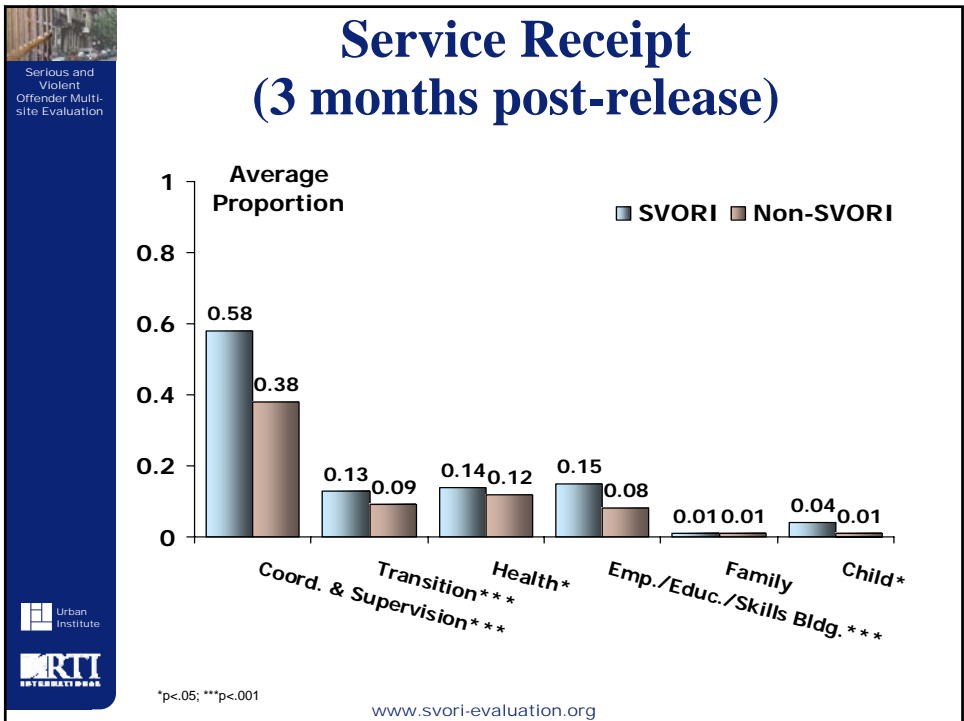
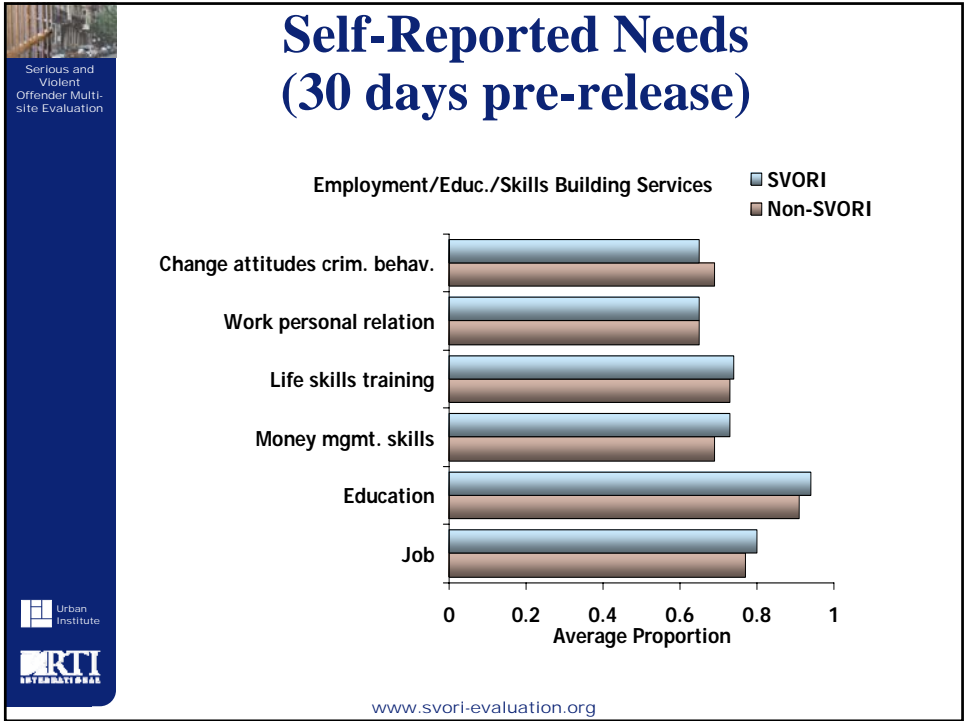



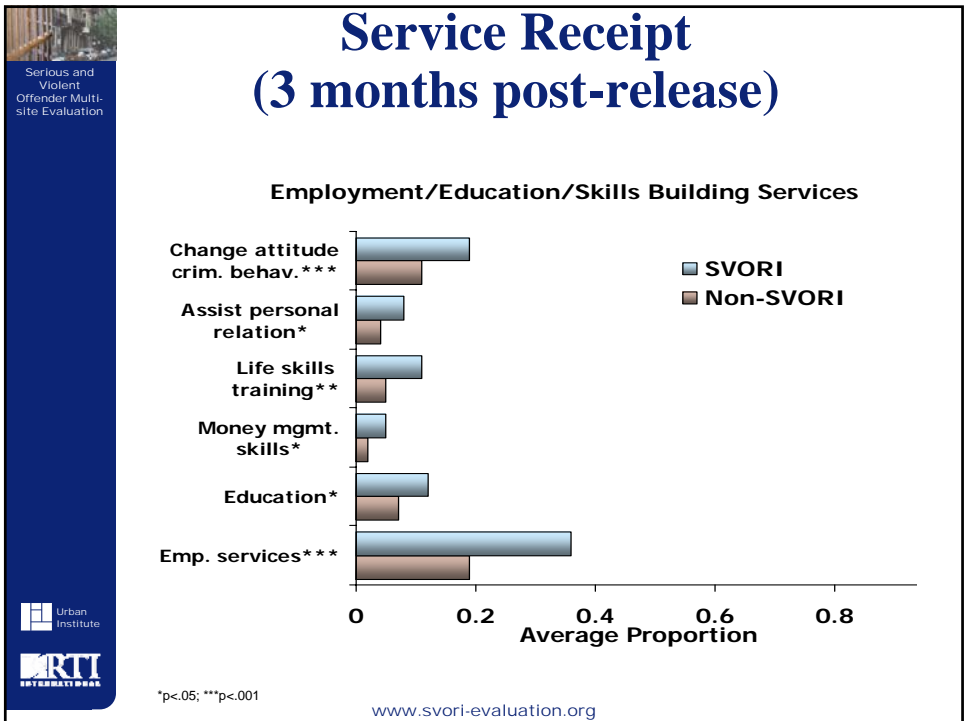
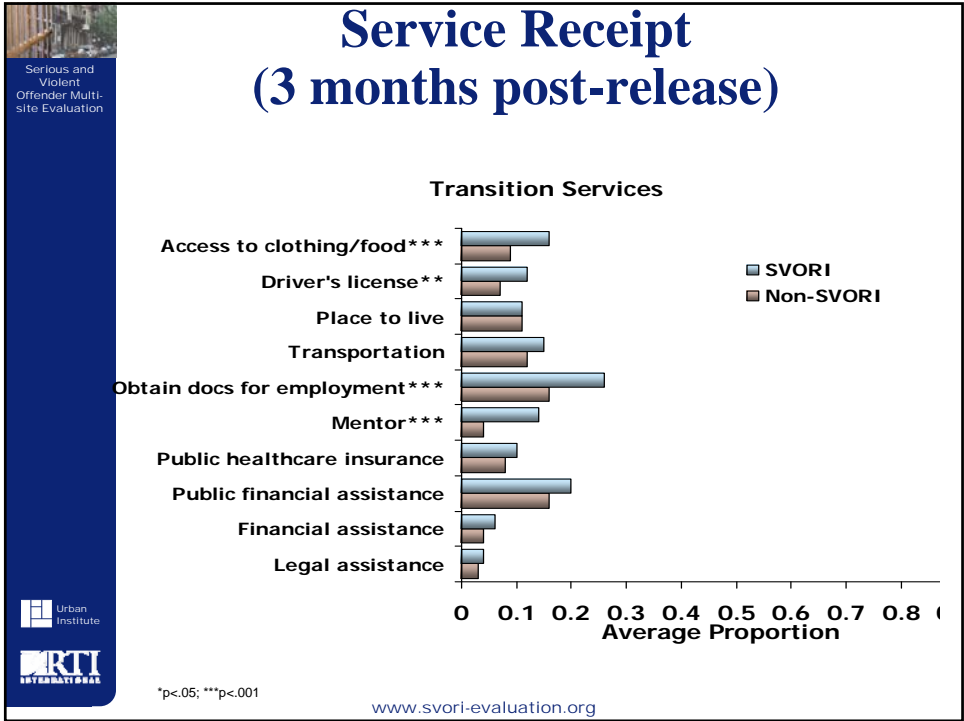
Service Needs & Receipt Bundles

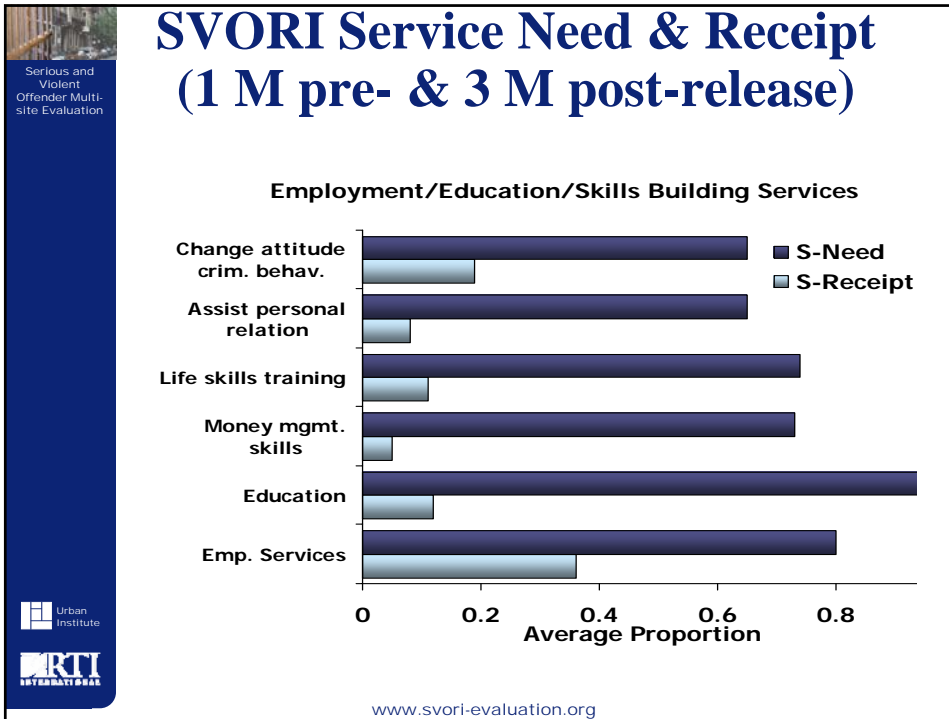
- **Coordination & Supervision (received only):** needs assessment, case management, worked with anyone to reintegrate, supervision
- **Transition Services:** legal assistance, financial assistance, public benefits assistance, healthcare insurance, mentoring, assistance obtaining documents, finding place to live, transportation, getting drivers license, clothing/food
- **Health Services:** tx for physical, MH, AOD, abuse groups, anger management programs
- **Employment/Education/Skills Building Services:** assistance finding job, educ. services, money management, gen. lifeskills, assistance w/ personal relationships, changing criminal thinking
- **Family Services:** DV support group, batterer intervention
- **Child Services:** getting child support, assistance modifying child support debt, custody, parenting class, assistance finding child care (for the ~ 600 cases with children < 18 years)

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- ## So...What Did the Respondents Tell Us About Needs & Services?
- In general, those not in SVORI have more unmet need than SVORI participants
 - Nonetheless, the overall level of service provision is low
 - Bundle scores will be used in multivariate analyses
 - Are beginning to examine potential reasons for low service provision
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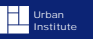
Impact: Is SVORI Working?



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Taking a First Look: Adult Males 3 M Post Release

- Only 1% homeless; most are living with relatives although about ¼ report living in own place
- In contrast to baseline findings (re: pre-incarceration), few report currently living with people using AOD or who have committed illegal acts
- SVORI subjects more likely than non-SVORI to respond positively to questions about reentry programming
- Nearly ¾'s have worked since release



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Does SVORI Work? Taking a Broader View

- As we've seen
 - SVORI programs potentially addressed a very broad range of needs
 - Individual programs provided up to 28 pre-release and 30 post-release categories of services
 - Offenders may have received assistance across these 58 service categories

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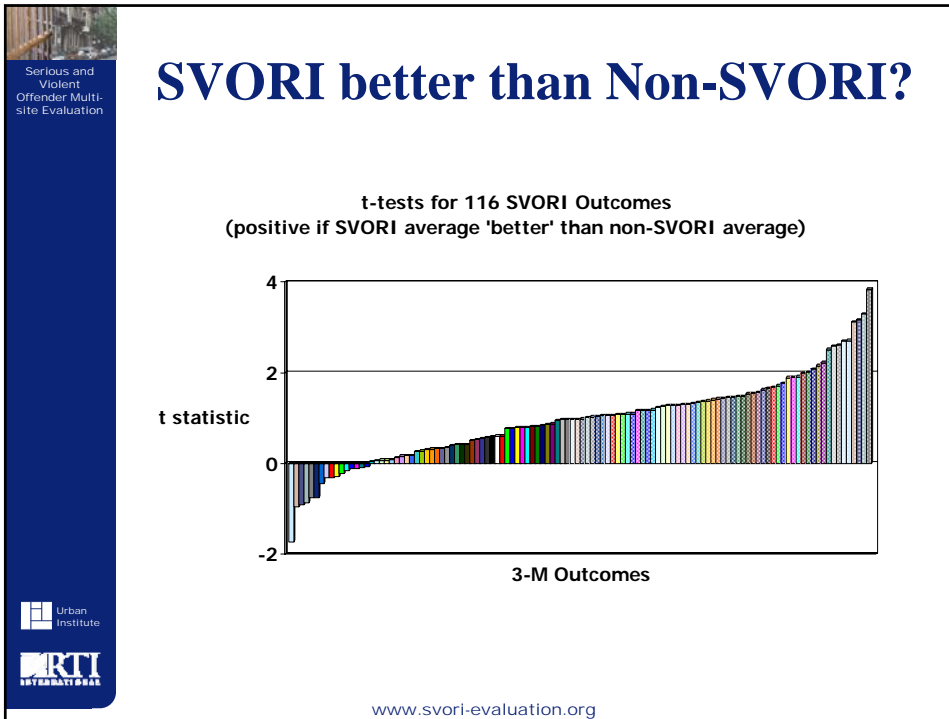
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Taking a Broader View

- As a result, we have more than 100 potential outcome measures at the individual level
 - Community involvement
 - Employment
 - Family Contact/Stability
 - Health/Mental Health
 - Housing
 - Recidivism
 - Substance Use
 - Supervision Compliance

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- ## So...
- 116 statistical tests
 - 18 of these t-statistics are negative (Non-SVORI better)
 - ◆ only one < -1.64
 - ◆ none < -1.96
 - 98 are positive (SVORI better)
 - ◆ 21 > 1.64
 - ◆ 14 > 1.96
 - Likelihood of these findings IF SVORI were not having an effect is virtually zero
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Conclusions

- **SVORI: Ambitious effort to improve integrated, individually targeted services through DOC coordination of state & community agencies & organizations**
- **Within a year, most programs were able to greatly increase the level of services provided to offenders pre and post release—but levels were far less than 100%, particularly post release**
- **Shortly after release, SVORI participants are doing better—if only moderately so—across a wide range of outcomes**

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