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

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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?
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)

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
### Impact Evaluation Outcome Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self Sufficiency &amp; Quality of Life</td>
<td>- Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Family (including contacts, stability &amp; child custody/support)</td>
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<td>- Community Involvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>- Substance Use (sobriety &amp; relapse prevention)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Physical Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Mental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduced Criminality</td>
<td>- Supervision Compliance</td>
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<td>- Reoffending</td>
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<td>- Rearrest</td>
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<td>- Reconviction</td>
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<td>- Reincarceration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency-level impact: Systems Change</td>
<td>- Agency cooperation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Sustainability</td>
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### Implementation: From the PDs’ Perspective
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

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
Primary Focus of Adult SVORI Programs

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

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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Adults: Most Common Pre-release Services

- Life skills training: 41% Non-SVORI, 74% SVORI
- Dental services: 77% Non-SVORI, 81% SVORI
- Medical services: 79% Non-SVORI, 83% SVORI
- Needs assessment: 74% Non-SVORI, 92% SVORI
- Risk assessment: 68% Non-SVORI, 92% SVORI
- Treatment/release plan: 64% Non-SVORI, 92% SVORI

Source: 2005 Survey of SVORI Program Directors

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Adults: Most Common Post-release Services

- Resume & interviewing skills: 27% Non-SVORI, 67% SVORI
- Job referrals/placement: 38% Non-SVORI, 73% SVORI
- Needs assessment: 64% Non-SVORI, 88% SVORI
- Risk assessment: 68% Non-SVORI, 89% SVORI
- Supervision: 72% Non-SVORI, 92% SVORI
- Treatment/release plan: 63% Non-SVORI, 92% SVORI

Source: 2005 Survey of SVORI Program Directors

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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

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

What We’ve Learned from Impact Evaluation Respondents
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)

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
Characteristics of Adult Male Respondents

Conviction Offense (self report)

Number Priors

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Non-SVORI</th>
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<tr>
<td>Person</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug*</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Order*</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Non-SVORI</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convictions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
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Juvenile Detention

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<tr>
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<th>Non-SVORI</th>
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<tr>
<td>% Ever</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># times</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>1.73</td>
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Time Served at Baseline

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SVORI</th>
<th>Non-SVORI</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years*</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Baseline interviews: N = 1858

*p-value < .05

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

Results from the Offender Interviews

Funded by NIJ Grant No. 2004-RE-CX-0002
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

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)
Self-Reported Needs (30 days pre-release)

- Transition
- Health*
- Emp./Educ./Skills Bldg.
- Family
- Child

*\(p<.05\)

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Self-Reported Needs (30 days pre-release)

- Transition Services
- Access to clothing/food
- Driver's license
- Transportation
- Place to live
- Obtain documents for employment
- Mentor
- Public healthcare insurance
- Financial assistance

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Self-Reported Needs (30 days pre-release)

- Employment/Educ./Skills Building Services
  - SVORI
  - Non-SVORI

Change attitudes crim. behav.
- Work personal relation
- Life skills training
- Money mgmt. skills
- Education
- Job

Average Proportion

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1

Service Receipt (3 months post-release)

- Coord. & Supervision***
- Transition***
- Health*
- Emp./Educ./Skills Bldg.***

Average Proportion

0.58
0.38
0.13 0.09 0.14 0.12 0.15
0.08 0.01 0.01 0.04 0.01

*p<.05; **p<.001

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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
Impact: Is SVORI Working?

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

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
SVORI better than Non-SVORI?

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
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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