



R REENTRY 2030

April 14, 2026



**Justice
Center**

The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.



The Challenge

Individuals transitioning from incarceration encounter systemic barriers that affect their ability to rebuild their lives, ultimately impacting community stability and public safety.

People returning from incarceration face significant challenges.

- More likely to experience homelessness
 - Higher rates of chronic health conditions and infectious diseases
 - Higher rates of substance abuse and mental illness
 - Limited education and higher than average unemployment rates
-

Tackling these challenges one-by-one ignores a singular opportunity to make a dramatic impact on outcomes and across social service systems.





The Solution

Reentry 2030 is a nationwide, whole-of-government initiative that unites state and local leaders to set bold, measurable goals so that every person leaving jail or prison is fully prepared to succeed from day one, breaking the cycle of re-incarceration.

As of today, 8 states have joined the initiative including MO, AL, NE, NC, WA, NY, AZ, and IL.

On April 27, 2026, Maine will be the 9th state to launch the initiative.

Reentry 2030 has a bold goal to improve reentry success by the end of this decade.

human-centered

Incorporates the perspectives of people who have gone through the reentry process.

coordinated

Fully engages multiple state agencies to build a whole of government approach to reentry.

transparent

Establishes public goals with definable population-based metrics.



The Reentry 2030 Strategy

scale up what works, including access to education, skills training, behavioral health treatment, and stable housing for people with criminal records.

clear away barriers to opportunity that are unnecessary for public safety.

use data to understand and address access to services, quality of services, and outcomes.

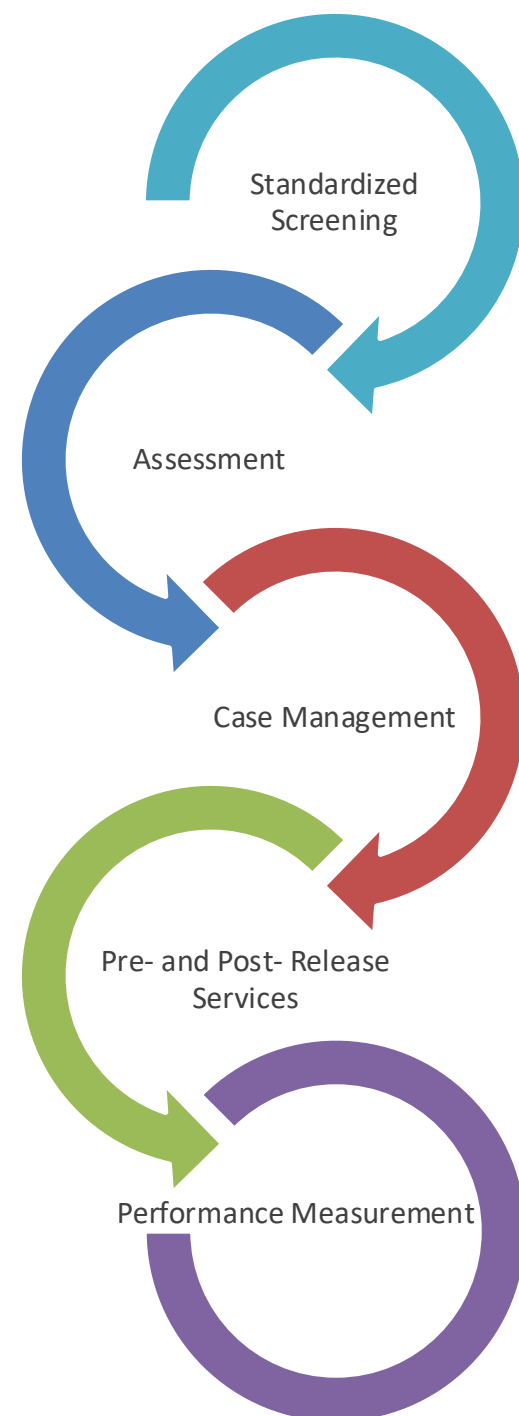
**Reentry 2030
convenes state
leaders across
systems to
tackle bold
reentry goals
together.**

- >>> corrections**
- >>> health**
- >>> human services**
- >>> education**
- >>> housing**
- >>> workforce**
- >>> behavioral health**

Local Reentry

Focus Area	Key Activities
Reentry Mapping	Identify system trends, needs, and barriers for individuals returning to the community
Tools & Capacity Building	Develop practical tools, templates, and training materials to support implementation
Employment & Workforce	Align workforce systems with labor market needs; address structural barriers and collateral consequences
Day 1 Readiness Framework	Design pre-release planning tools and checklists; establish protocols linking facilities to reentry pathways
Families & Cross-System Coordination	Strengthen coordination across corrections, child welfare, schools, and community partners; support returning families

People with co-occurring mental illnesses and substance use disorders have complex needs that require integrated responses across the criminal justice system.



Standardized Screening: Mental illnesses, substance use, suicidal thoughts, and withdrawal

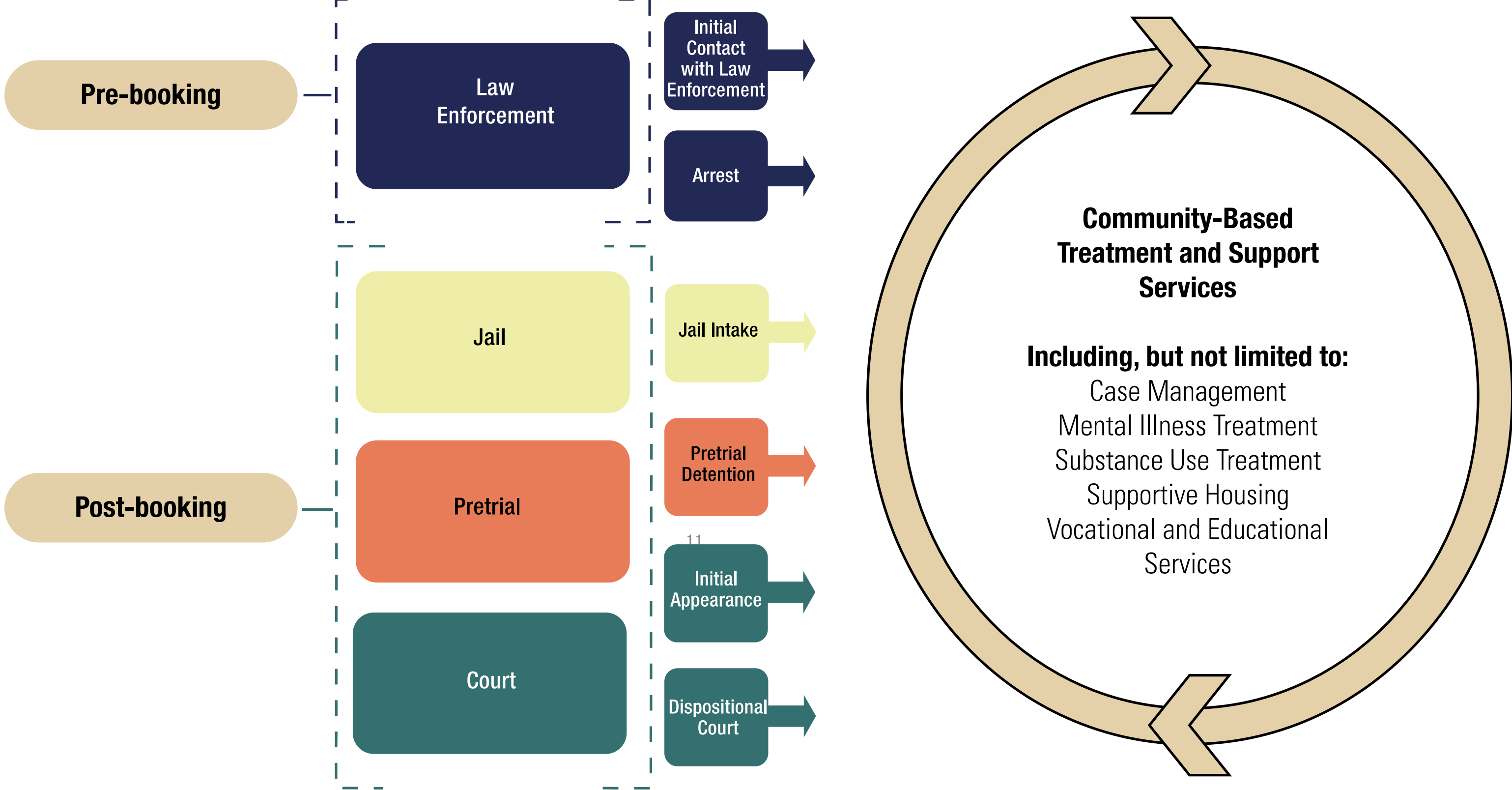
Assessment: Co-occurring disorders (CODs) and Criminogenic Risk and Needs

Collaborative Comprehensive Case Management

Pre- and Post-Release Services: COD and cognitive behavioral interventions for criminogenic risk and needs

Performance Measurement

Continuum of Diversion Interventions



Sheila Tillman, Sarah Wurzburg, and Hallie Fader-Towe Behavioral Health Diversion Interventions: Moving from Individual Programs to a Systems-Wide Strategy (New York: The Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2019).

THE ROLE OF CRISIS CARE IN REENTRY

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Co-responder models where mental health professionals accompany police to crisis situations.
- Crisis intervention team training for police officers to de-escalate mental health crises.

- Crisis assessment teams in jails to evaluate and provide immediate support to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Emergency psychological services available at court holding facilities.

INITIAL DETENTION

JAILS/COURTS

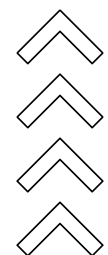
- In-jail crisis intervention services to address acute mental health crises.
- Suicide prevention and intervention programs within correctional facilities.

- Crisis planning and intervention as part of pre-release services, including identifying potential crisis triggers and developing response strategies.
- Rapid re-access to community-based crisis services upon release.

REENTRY

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

- Crisis intervention training for probation and parole officers.
- Access to emergency mental health services



community

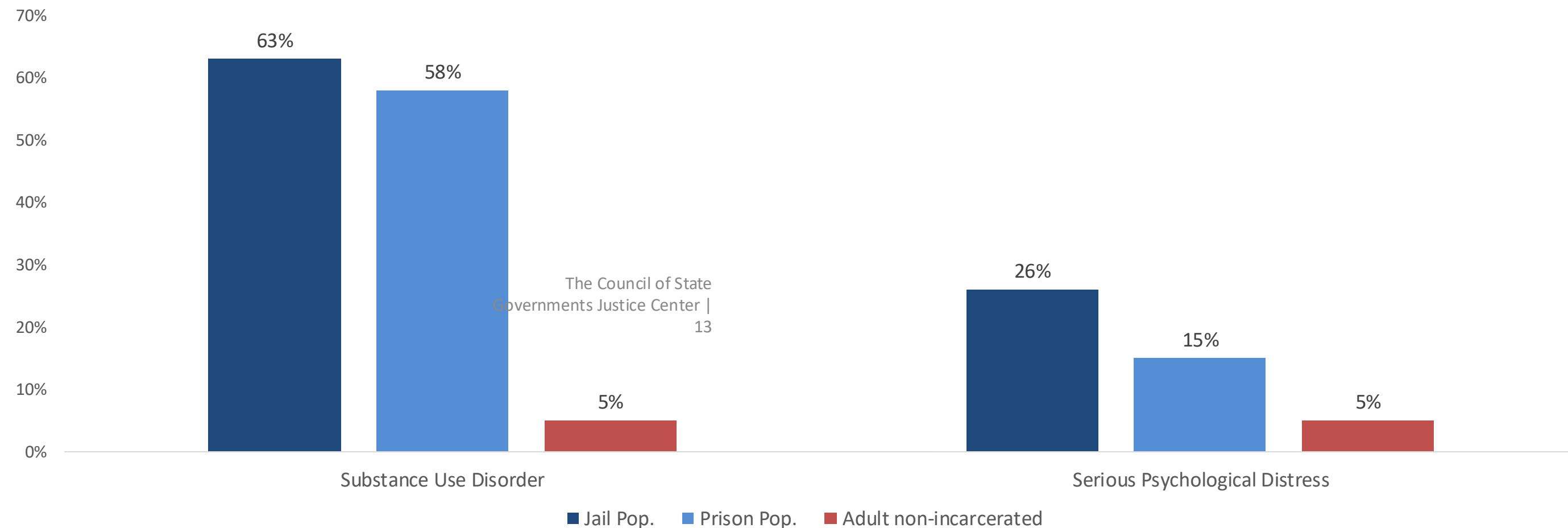
Mobile crisis teams, crisis hotlines or text services, walk-in crisis centers

community



Nationally, the rates of mental illnesses and substance use disorders in the justice system are higher than in the adult general population.

National Findings on Drug Use and Mental Illness Among People in Jail and Prison

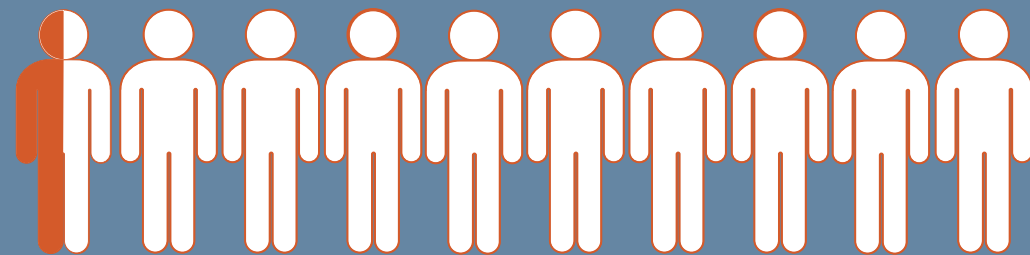


Jennifer Bronson, et al., *Drug Use, Dependence and Abuse Among State Prisoners and Jail Inmates, 2007–2009*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2017); Jennifer Bronson and Marcus Berzofsky, *Indicators Of Mental Health Problems Reported By Prisoners And Jail Inmates, 2011–2012* (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2017).

HAVE A **SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**



63 PERCENT
OF SENTENCED INDIVIDUALS
IN JAILS HAVE AN SUD

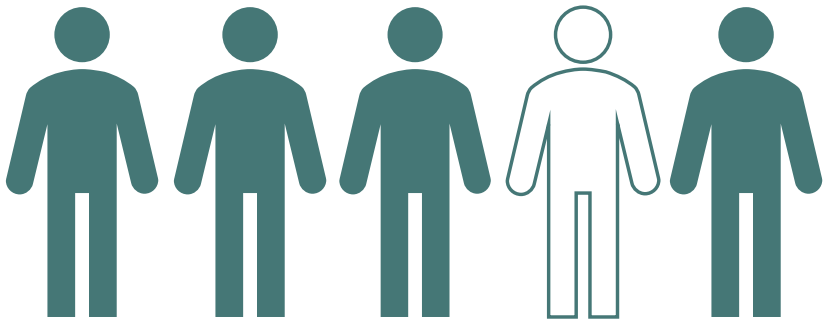
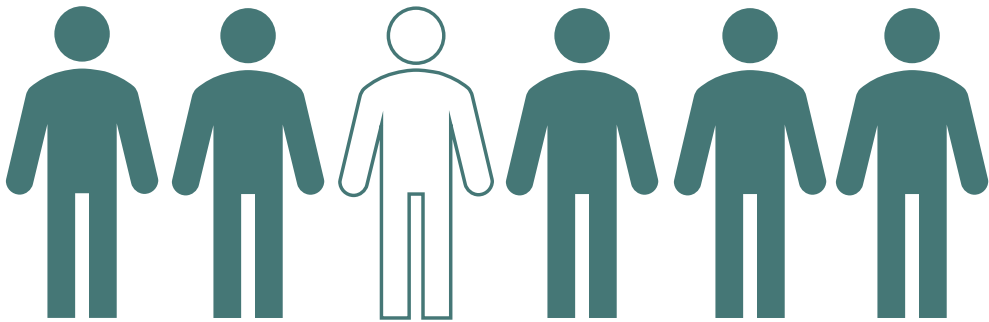


5 PERCENT
OF ADULTS WHO ARE
NOT INCARCERATED
HAVE AN SUD

Adults in
correctional
settings have
significant health
care needs.

National Estimates of This Crisis

Of the **11 MILLION** bookings to jails annually, about **2 MILLION** involve people with serious mental illnesses (SMI).



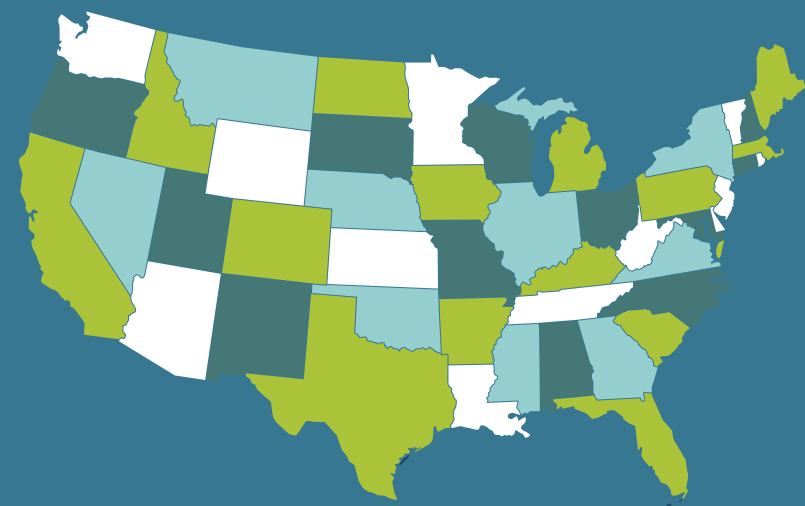
Source: H. J. Steadman, F. Osher, P. C. Robbins, B. Case, and S. Samuels, "Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness Among Jail Inmates," *Psychiatric Services* 6, no. 60 (2009): 761–765.

STEPPING UP

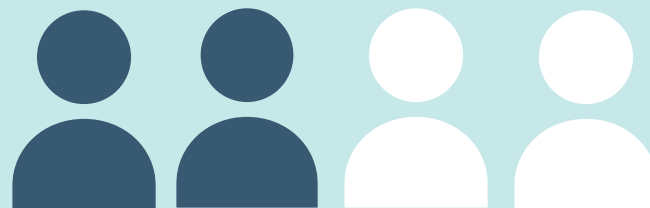
10 Years and Counting



More than **580** counties across **45** states have joined Stepping Up to reduce the prevalence of mental illnesses in jails.



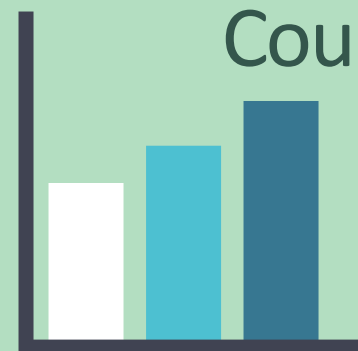
48% of Americans live in a Stepping Up county.



Approximately **1.3 million** times each year, people who have serious mental illnesses are booked into jails.



50+ Innovator Counties are blazing the trail in data collection.



5 states have launched statewide Stepping Up initiatives.



Reentry 2030 Benefits

- **Increase visibility** and recognition for your wins.
- Leverage membership for **peer learning**.
- **Enhance existing partnerships** among state and local agencies in support of shared populations and priorities.
- **Generate momentum** for accomplishing agency priorities.



States and localities interested in joining **Reentry 2030** should demonstrate executive-level commitment to a whole-of-government approach, including cross-agency collaboration, and a willingness to openly examine data, conduct assessments, and identify gaps in reentry outcomes such as recidivism, employment, housing, and other key measures of successful reintegration.



“We must provide better reentry programming to the post-incarcerated population of our state if we are going to make a meaningful impact...through **Reentry 2030**, we will break generational cycles of incarceration, strengthen the state’s workforce, and build stronger families and communities.”

- **Director Cam Ward**
Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles



Thank You

Jesse Kelley
Valerie Carpico
