

A National Overview of Offender Reentry

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Why Do Reentry?

Why?

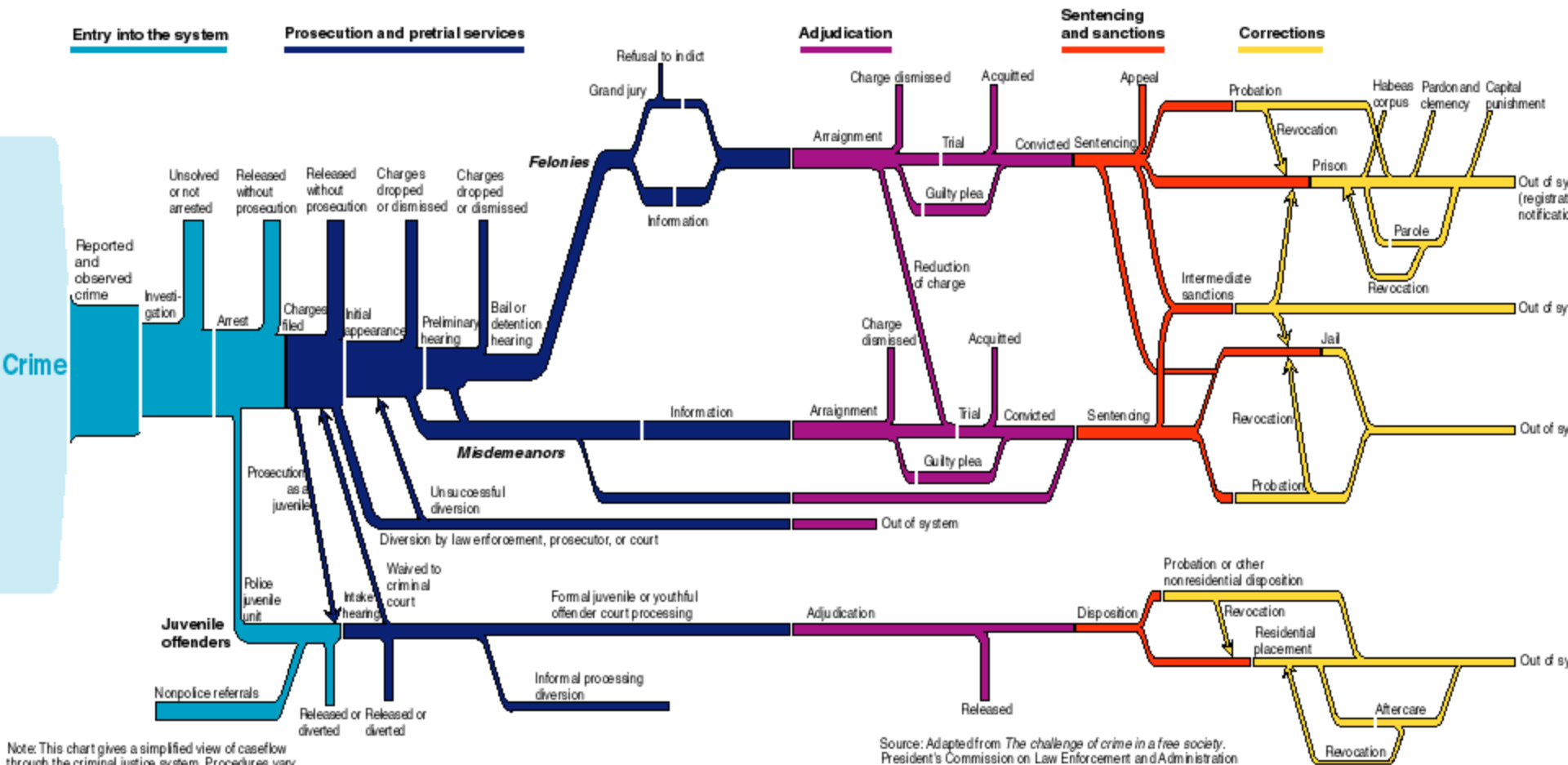
Because.... "If we always do what we've always done, we'll always get what we always got."

- High Recidivism
- Crime
- Victims
- Expense

Reentry...

- Gives corrections an opportunity to be a pro-active component of the criminal justice system.
 - Prevent crime
 - Prevent victimization
 - Improve community and public safety

What is the sequence of events in the criminal justice system?



Note: This chart gives a simplified view of caseload through the criminal justice system. Procedures vary among jurisdictions. The weights of the lines are not intended to show actual size of caseloads.

Source: Adapted from *The challenge of crime in a free society*. President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, 1967. This revision, a result of the Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of the President's Commission, was prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1997.

Sir Robert Peel

“The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it.”

-Peel's Nine Principles

Effective Government

- The current focus in government is more efficient ways to do business
 - Multidisciplinary approaches
 - Limited resources available
 - Partnerships essential
 - **Collaboration** among agencies is expected

Catalyst for Change in Corrections

- The job is too big for any one agency
- Scarcity of resources
- Public dissatisfaction with past efforts
- Lack of coordinated efforts among agencies
- Need for corrections to “learn to learn”
- Past strategies have been ineffective

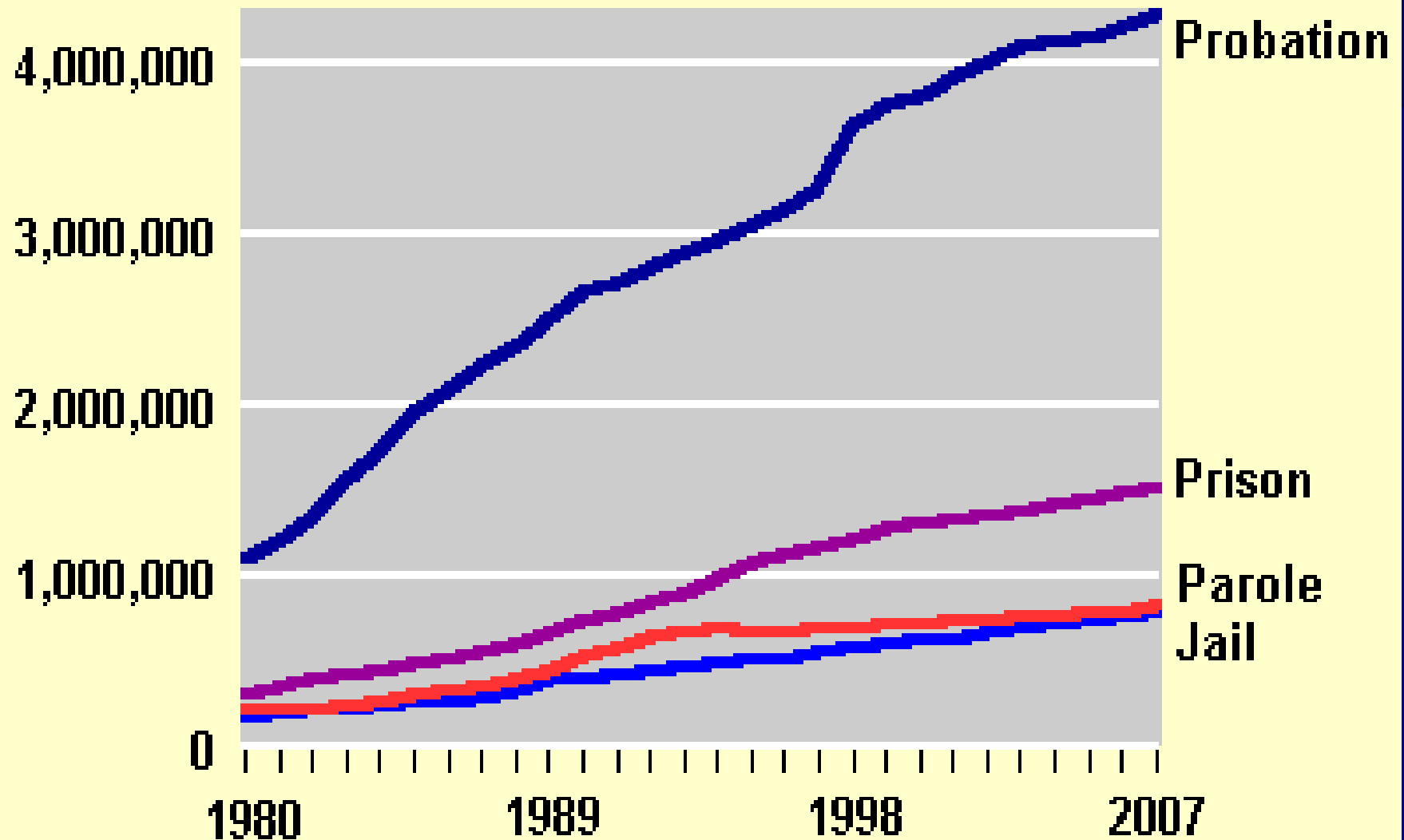
Nationally...

The number of PV admissions has increased seven-fold over the past two decades.

- In 1980, 17% of prison admissions were PVs. By 2000, 35% of prison admissions were PVs.
- During this same time period, new court commitments declined from 81% of admissions in 1980 to 60% of admissions in 2000.
- Despite the increasing proportion of PV admissions, “we do not know much about the underlying behavior of parole violators”. **

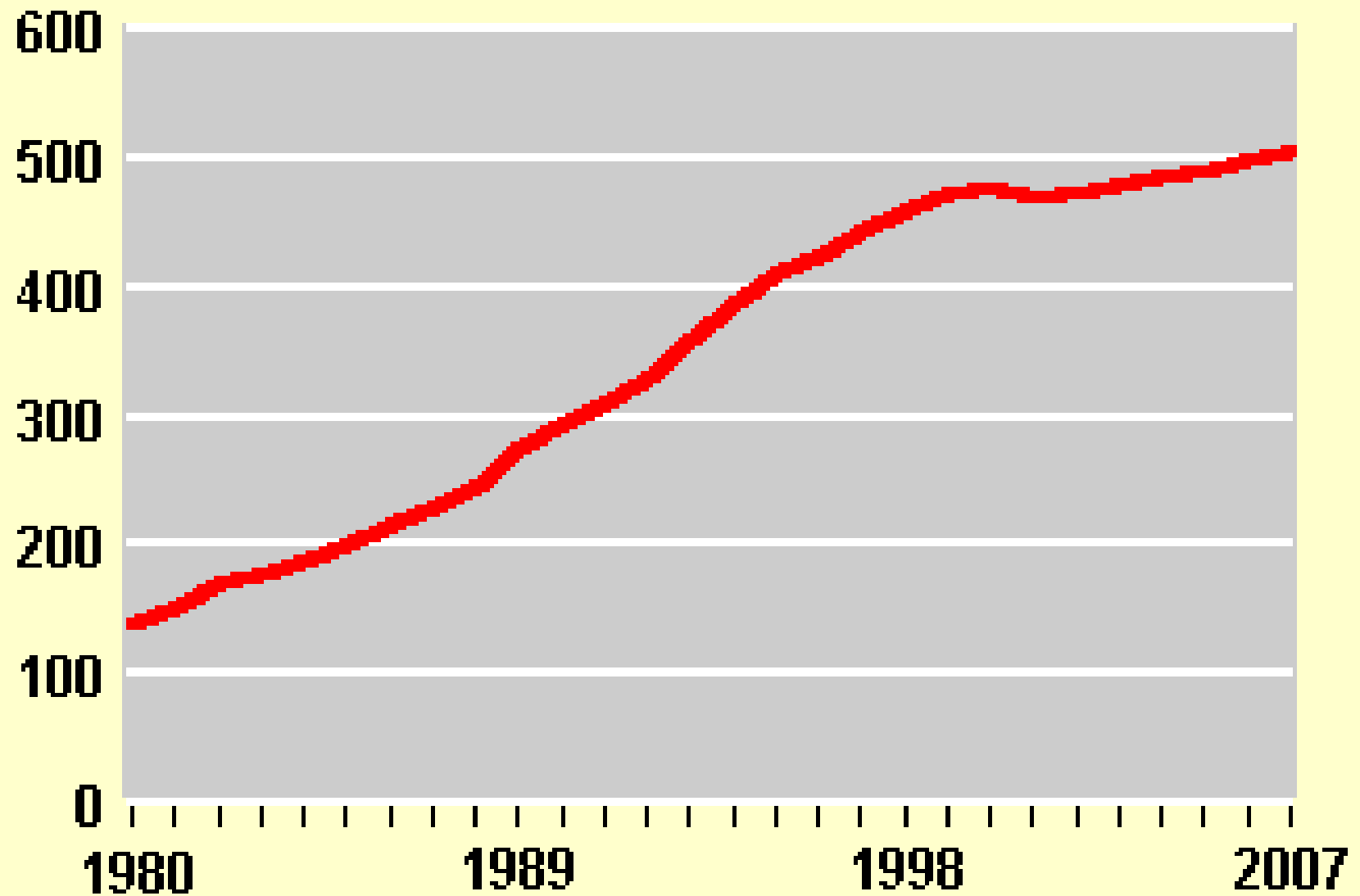
** Travis, Jeremy and Lawrence, Sarah. 2002. *Beyond The Prison Gates: The State of Parole in America*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, p.22.

Adult correctional populations, 1980-2007



Incarceration rate, 1980-2007

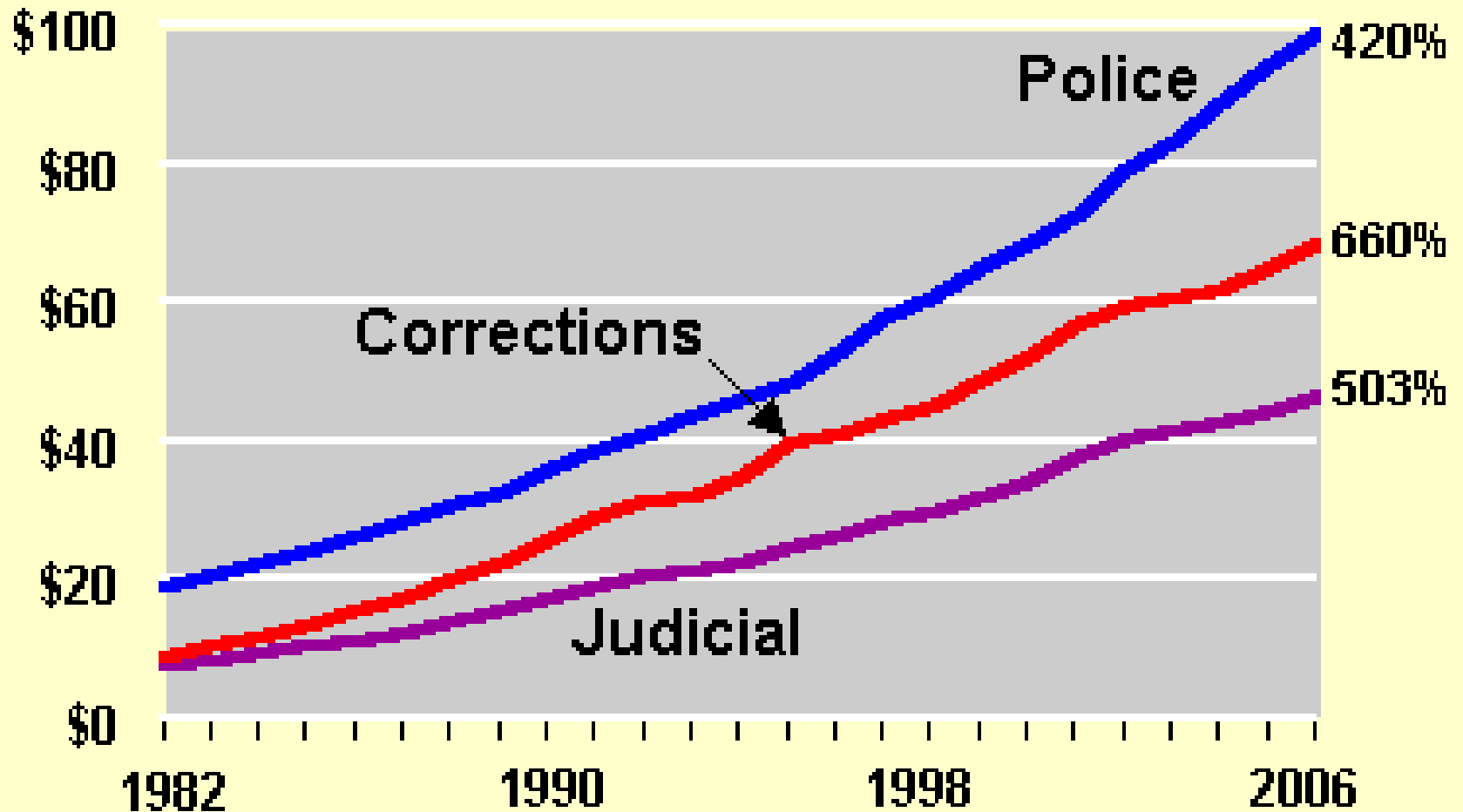
Number of offenders per 100,000 population



Direct expenditure by criminal justice function, 1982-2006

Billions

Percent change
1982-2006

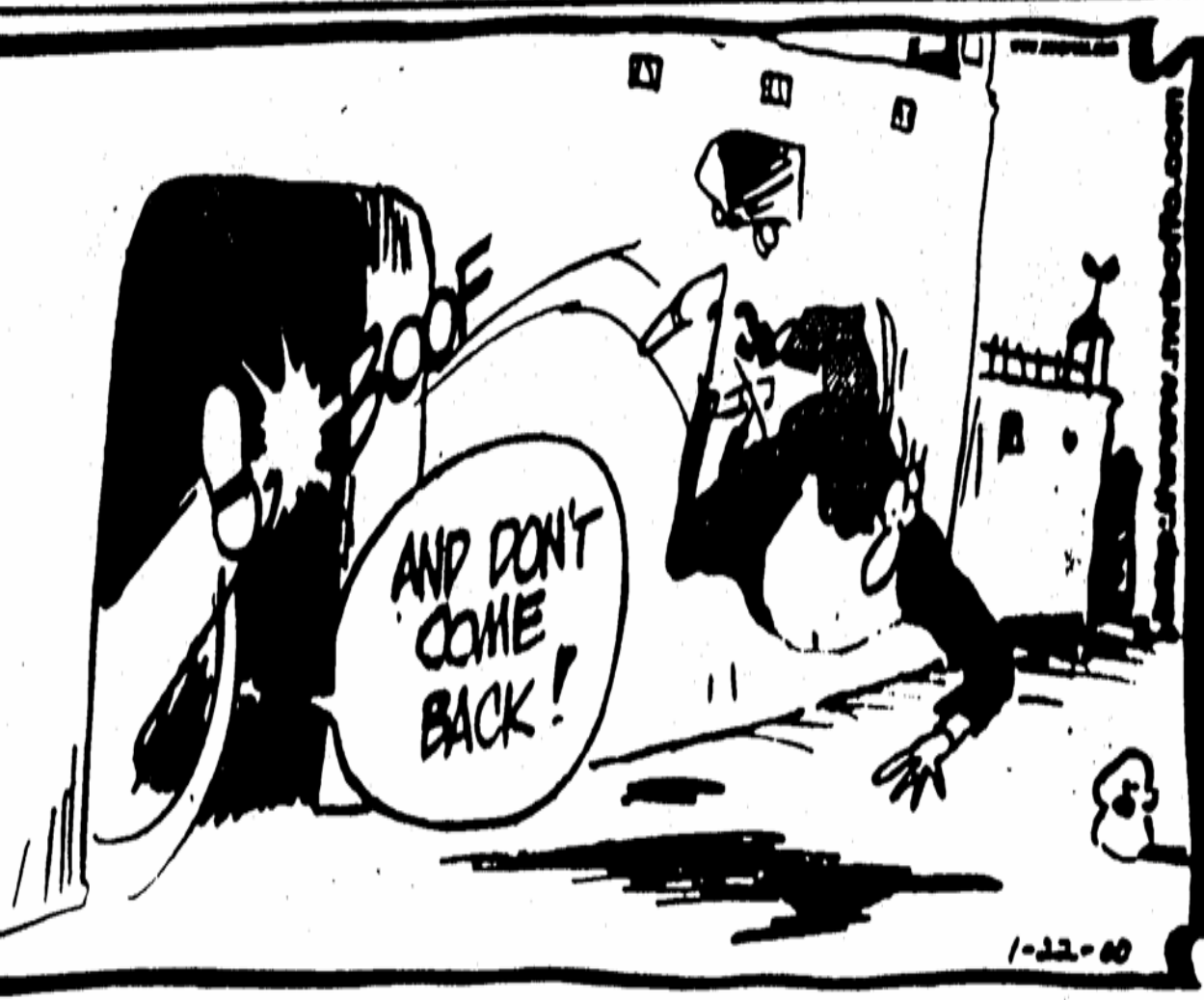


SIMPLE SOLUTIONS
TO COMPLEX
PROBLEMS

PRISON
RECIDIVISM

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Reentry is a Philosophy not a Program

- Philosophy – what you think and believe
- Strategy – how you put the philosophy into practice
- Tactic – one method that can be used to achieve a narrowly defined goal

The Situation

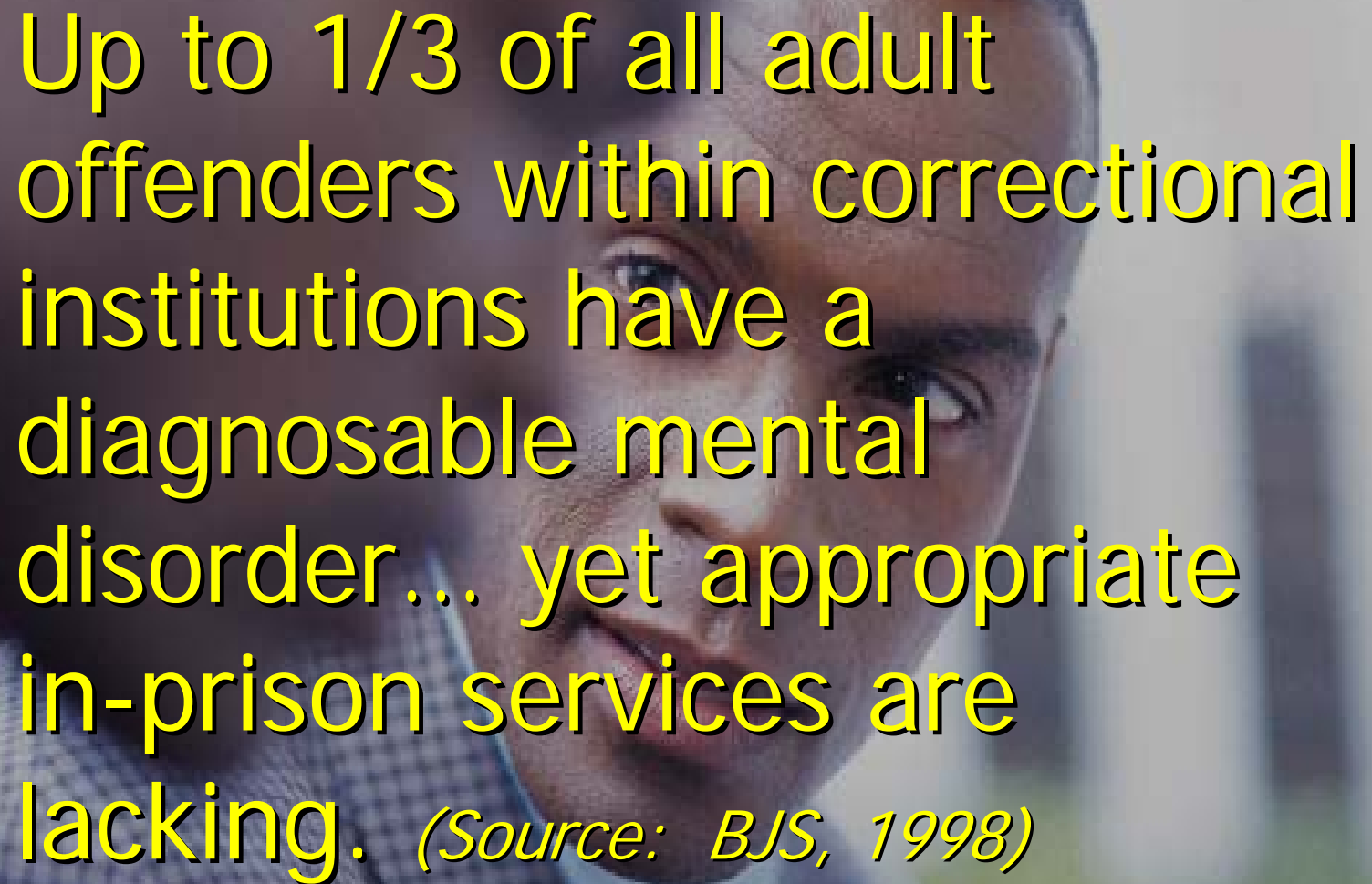
- 2.3 million offenders are incarcerated in the U.S. (BJS, 2009)
- In 2007, 7.3 million were on probation, parole, in jail or in prison
 - 3.2% of the U.S. adult population
 - 1 in every 31 adults (BJS, 2009)
- 97% of offenders will leave prison and most will return to their communities

The Situation

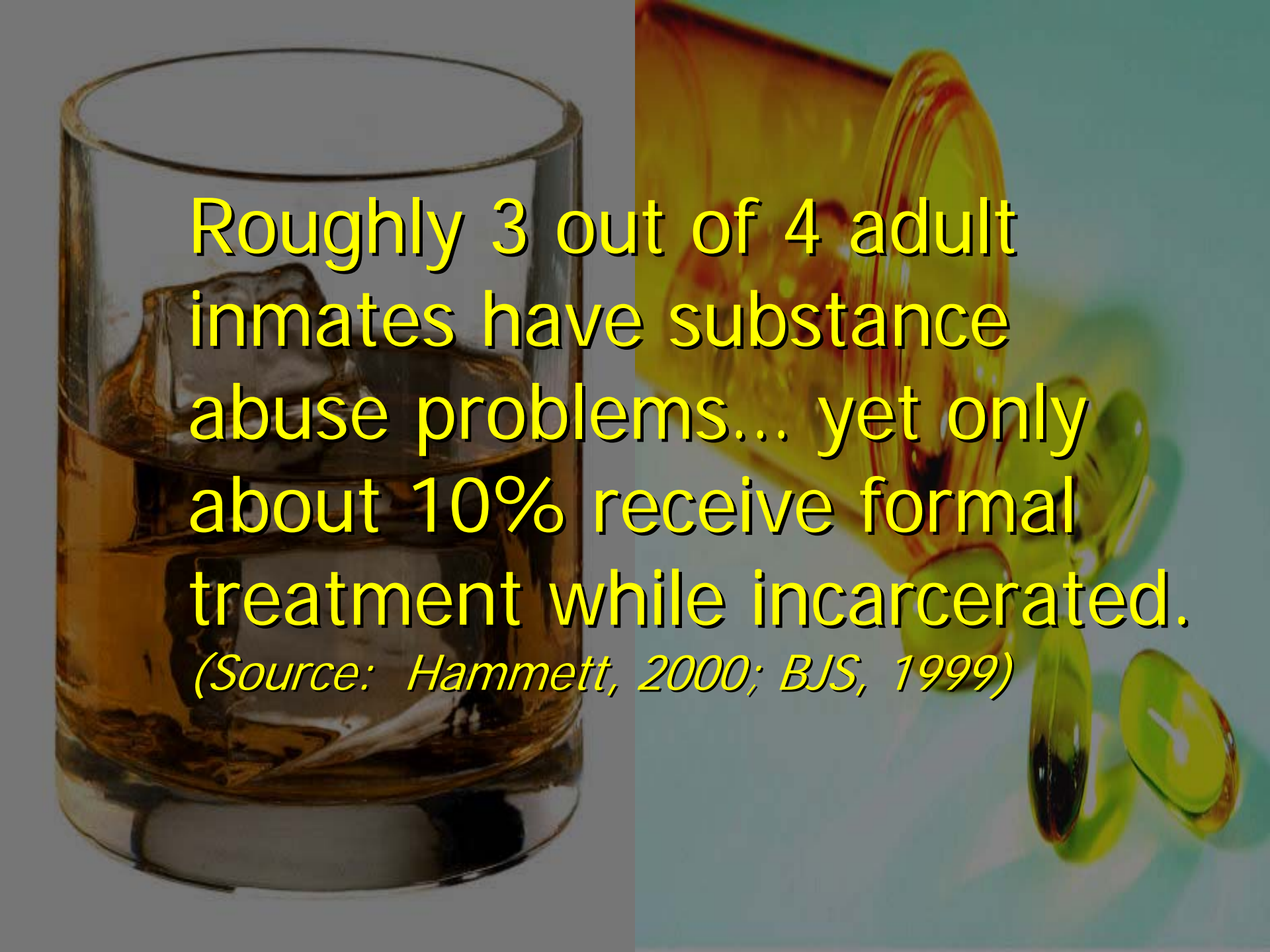
- Offender population growth management is one of the greatest problem facing states
- There are 13 million ex-felons in this country:
 - 6.5% of the entire adult population
 - 11% of the adult male population
 - 37% of the African-American male population

Nearly 65 Million People in the U.S. have a Criminal Record

- Approximately 30% of the nation's adult population has a criminal record
–U.S. Dept. of Justice – BJS
- We are all someone, know someone, or are related to someone with a criminal record
- This is a population that we can no longer ignore

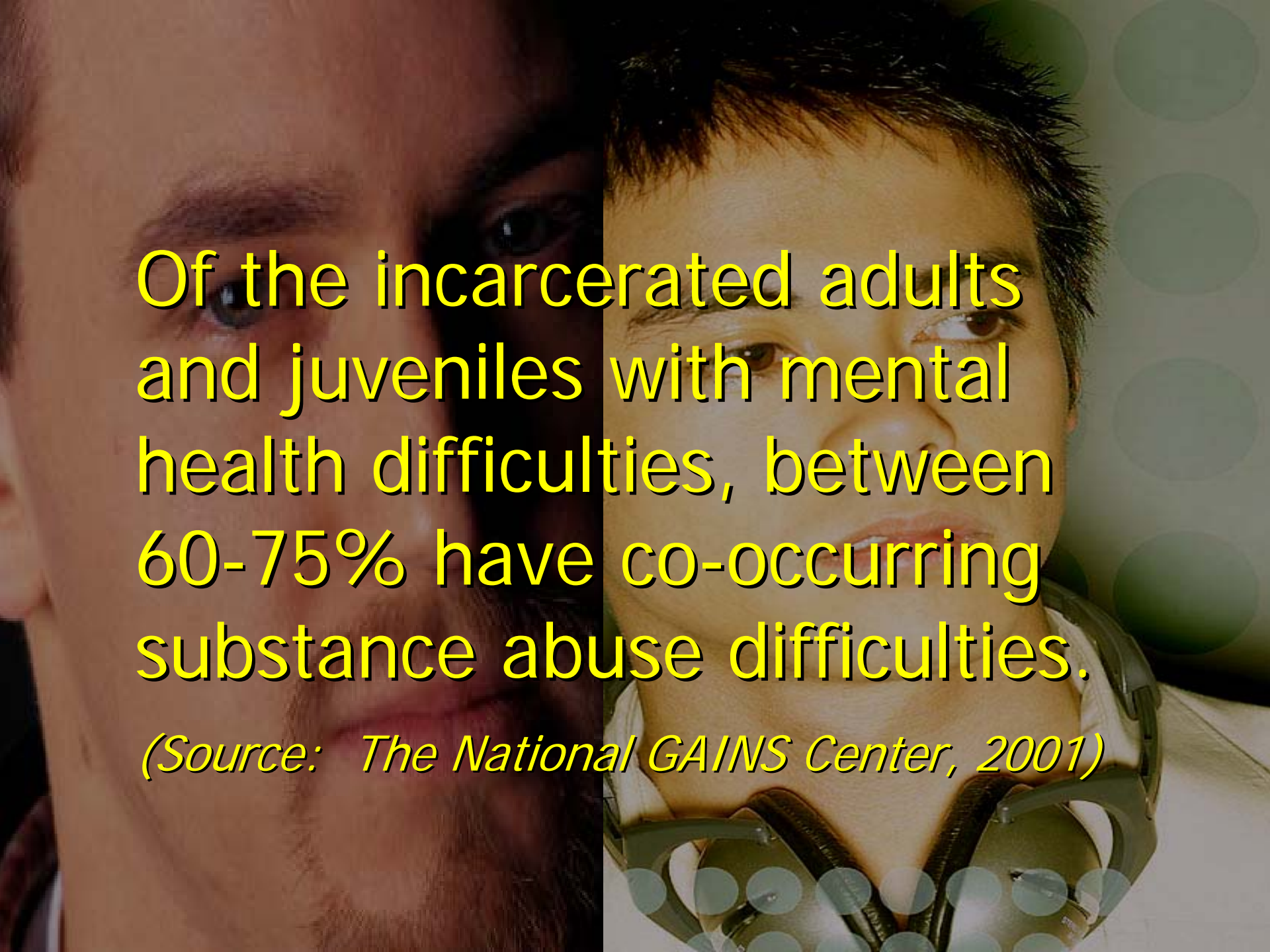


Up to 1/3 of all adult offenders within correctional institutions have a diagnosable mental disorder... yet appropriate in-prison services are lacking. *(Source: BJS, 1998)*

The background of the slide features a glass of whiskey with ice cubes on the left and a spilled glass of whiskey with several pills scattered on the surface on the right. The text is overlaid on this background.

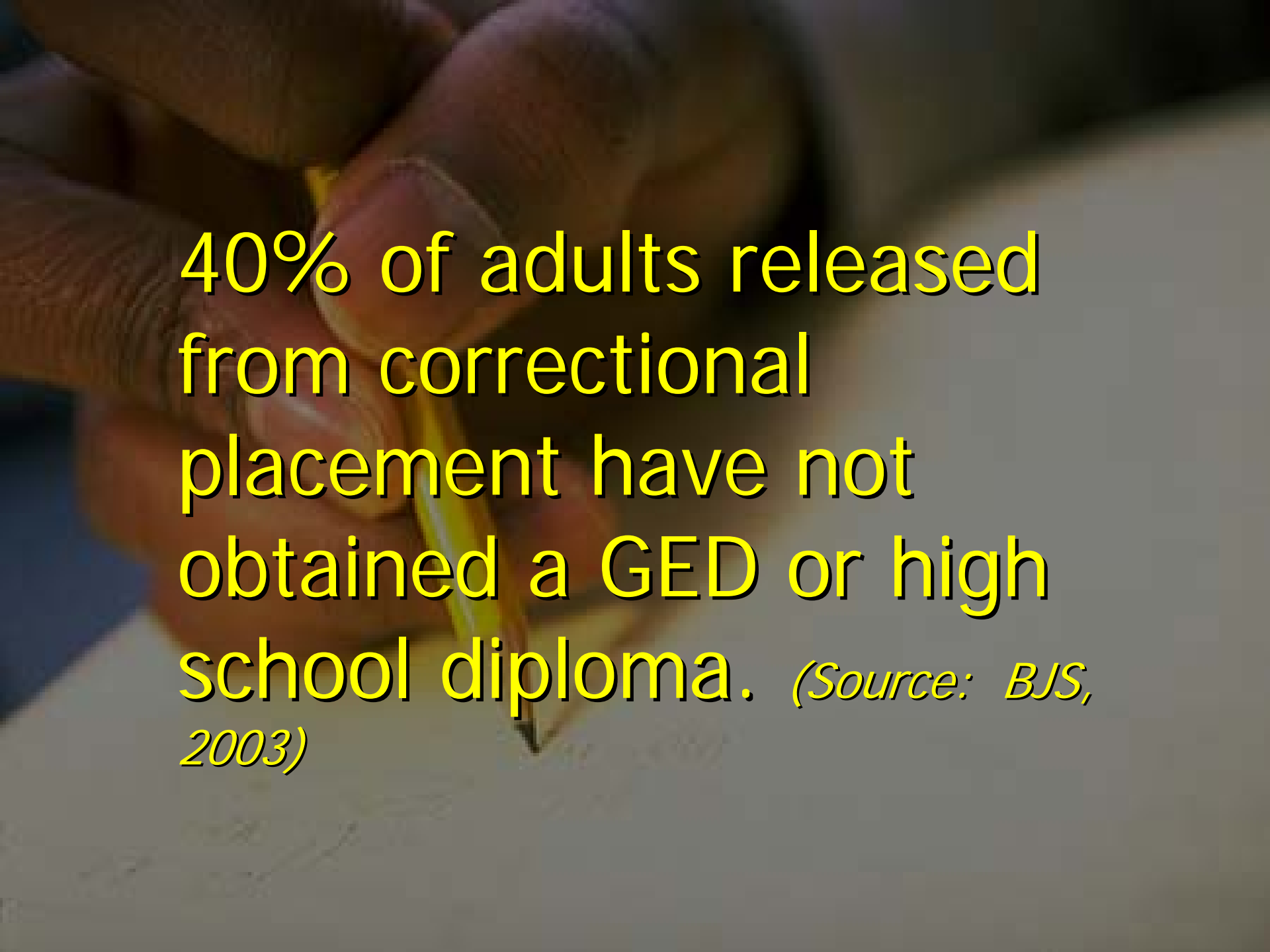
Roughly 3 out of 4 adult inmates have substance abuse problems... yet only about 10% receive formal treatment while incarcerated.

(Source: Hammett, 2000; BJS, 1999)

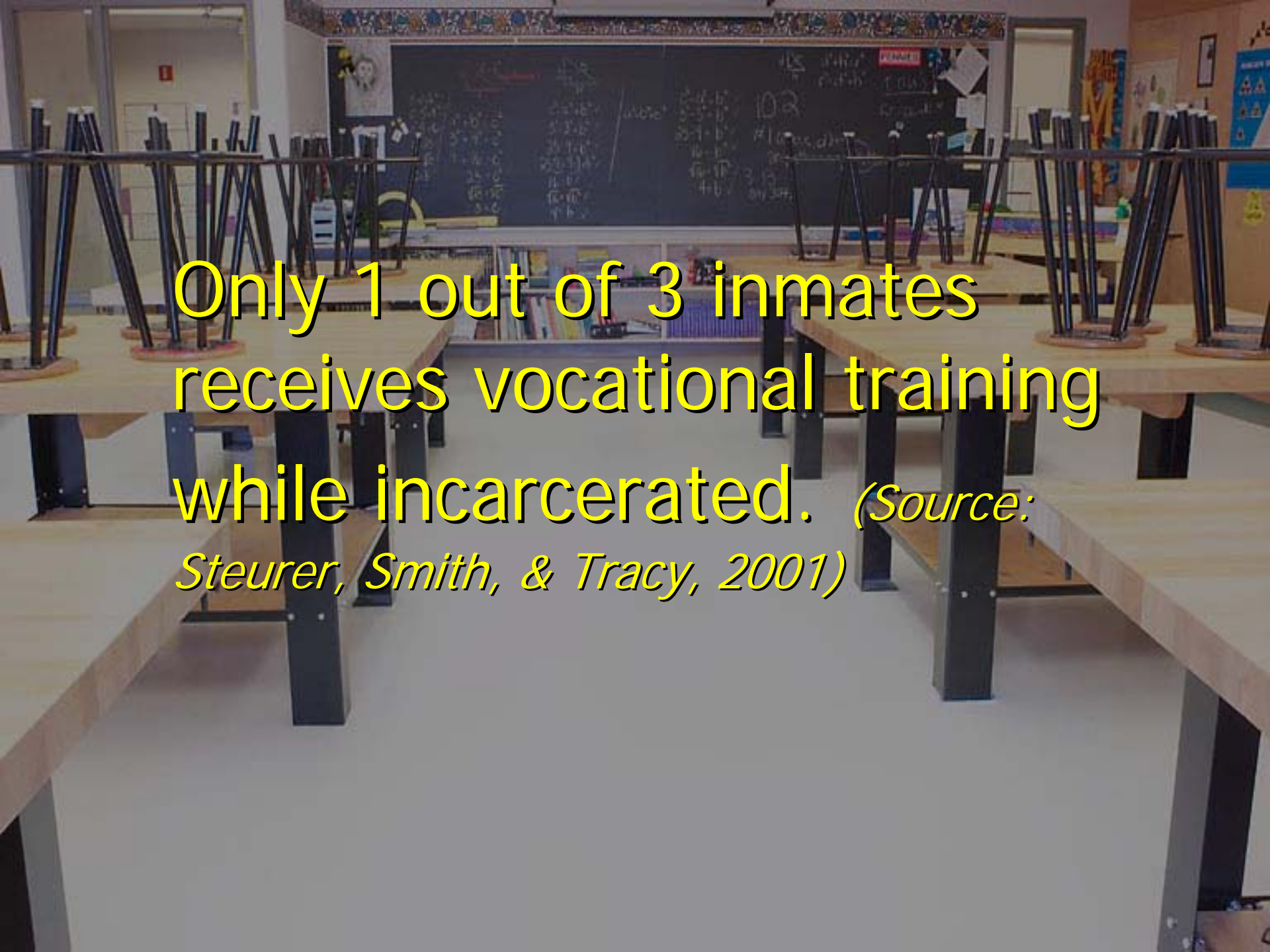


Of the incarcerated adults and juveniles with mental health difficulties, between 60-75% have co-occurring substance abuse difficulties.

(Source: The National GAINS Center, 2001)

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a yellow highlighter, positioned over a document. The background is slightly blurred, showing the texture of the paper and the hand's grip on the highlighter. The text is overlaid on the image in a bright yellow color with a black outline.

40% of adults released from correctional placement have not obtained a GED or high school diploma. *(Source: BJS, 2003)*

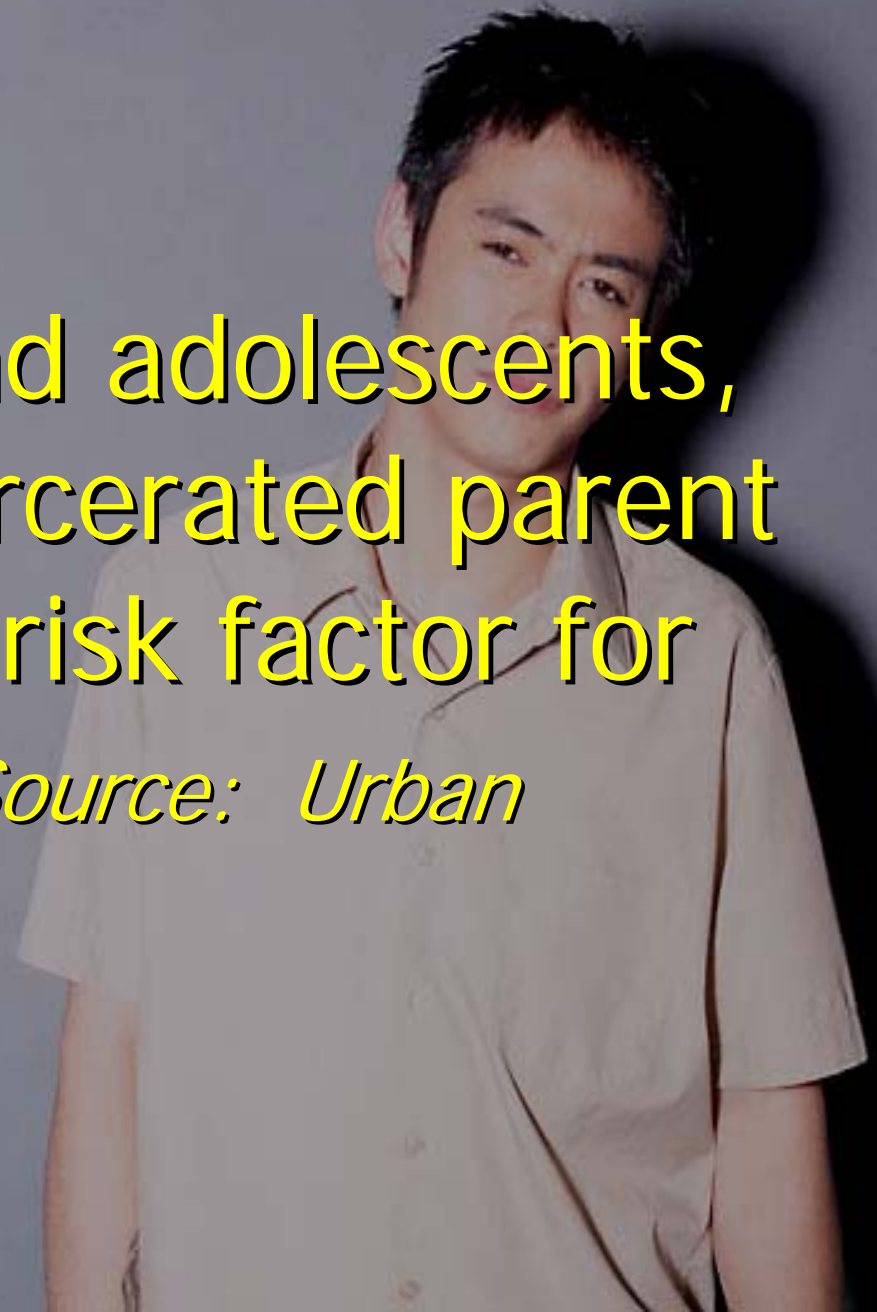
A photograph of a classroom with rows of light-colored wooden desks and black metal legs. In the background, there is a large chalkboard with some writing on it. The room appears to be empty.

Only 1 out of 3 inmates
receives vocational training
while incarcerated. *(Source:
Steurer, Smith, & Tracy, 2001)*

A photograph of a man and a young girl. The man is on the left, smiling, with his arms around the girl. The girl is on the right, looking slightly to the side, wearing a red jacket with blue and white stripes on the sleeves. The background is a blurred green field.

55% of inmates have children under 18 years of age. *(Source: Travis et al., 2003)*

For children and adolescents, having an incarcerated parent is a significant risk factor for delinquency. *(Source: Urban Institute, 2002)*



Re-Incarceration Trends

- 30% of adult offenders released from state prisons are rearrested within the first six months following their release. *(Source: BJS, 2002)*
 - Within 3 years of release, this number increases to 2 out of 3 rearrested.
- Between 50 – 70% of young offenders released from institutional custody are rearrested within 2 years. *(Source: Brown et al., 2002)*
- Revocations are the fastest growing category of prison admissions—parole violators account for 35% of new prison admissions today, as compared to 17% in 1980. *(Source: Travis & Lawrence, 2002)*

Reentry is about Public Safety!

- Fewer crimes
- Fewer victims
- Responsible parenting
- Law-abiding, productive citizens
- Holding offenders accountable
- Holding ourselves accountable

Preliminary Indications:

- Disciplinary incidents lower in reentry units
- Bed day cost savings
- Increases in employment
- Decreases in drug use
- Decreases in technical and criminal violations after release

Public Safety

- Those individuals with previous records are responsible for a significant amount of crime.
- Those who are unsuccessful will continue to offend and commit crimes.
- Those who successfully reintegrate as productive citizens improve our communities.

What Does the Public Think?

- 74% are somewhat or very concerned about the problem of crime in their communities
- 79% are fearful about the release of 700,000 prisoners annually
- By an almost 8 to 1 margin (87% to 11%), the U.S. voting public favored rehabilitative services for prisoners as opposed to punishment only

Zogby Poll

What Does the Public Think?

- 70% favored services both during incarceration and after release
- 82% felt that a lack of job training was a very significant barrier to released offenders avoiding subsequent crime
- Voters thought medical care, availability of public housing and student loans were important (86%, 84% and 83% respectively)

What Does the Public Think?

- Those polled believed that job training, drug treatment, mental health services, family support, mentoring, and housing were all very important services that should be offered to prisoners
- Less than 2% of those polled (2% in the case of job training) thought that these services were unimportant
- 44% thought planning for reentry should begin at sentencing

Current Trends

- Most states report cutbacks in vocational and educational training
- No new prison construction in most states
- Inmate population growth continues
- 97% of offenders will return home
- Only 13% will participate in a formal reentry program

Public Health Issues

- One-third of people with Hepatitis C have been incarcerated (Mo. Dept. of Health and Senior Services)
- At year end of 1999, three percent of incarcerated offenders were HIV positive
 - 5 times the rate of the general public

Mental Health Issues

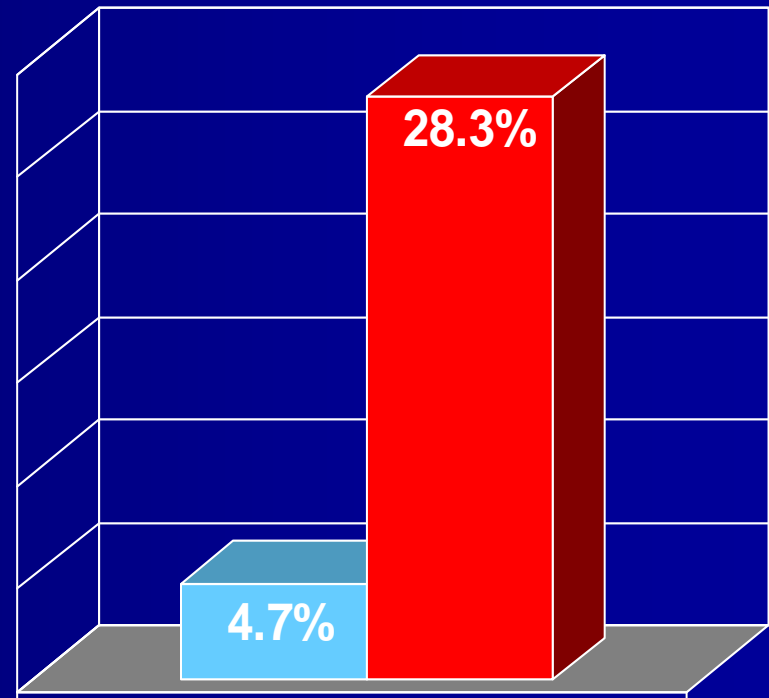
- 46% of Missouri's violent offenders under supervision are also being served by the Department of Mental Health
- Many offenders have substance abuse issues
- Many offenders have psychological disorders

Substance Abuse

■ 8,468 offenders with known (classified) substance abuse problems were released during the five-year period from FY 1998-2002:

- Of those that received both institutional and community treatment, 4.7% returned to prison within the first year
- Of those that did not receive substance abuse treatment, 28.3% returned within the first year

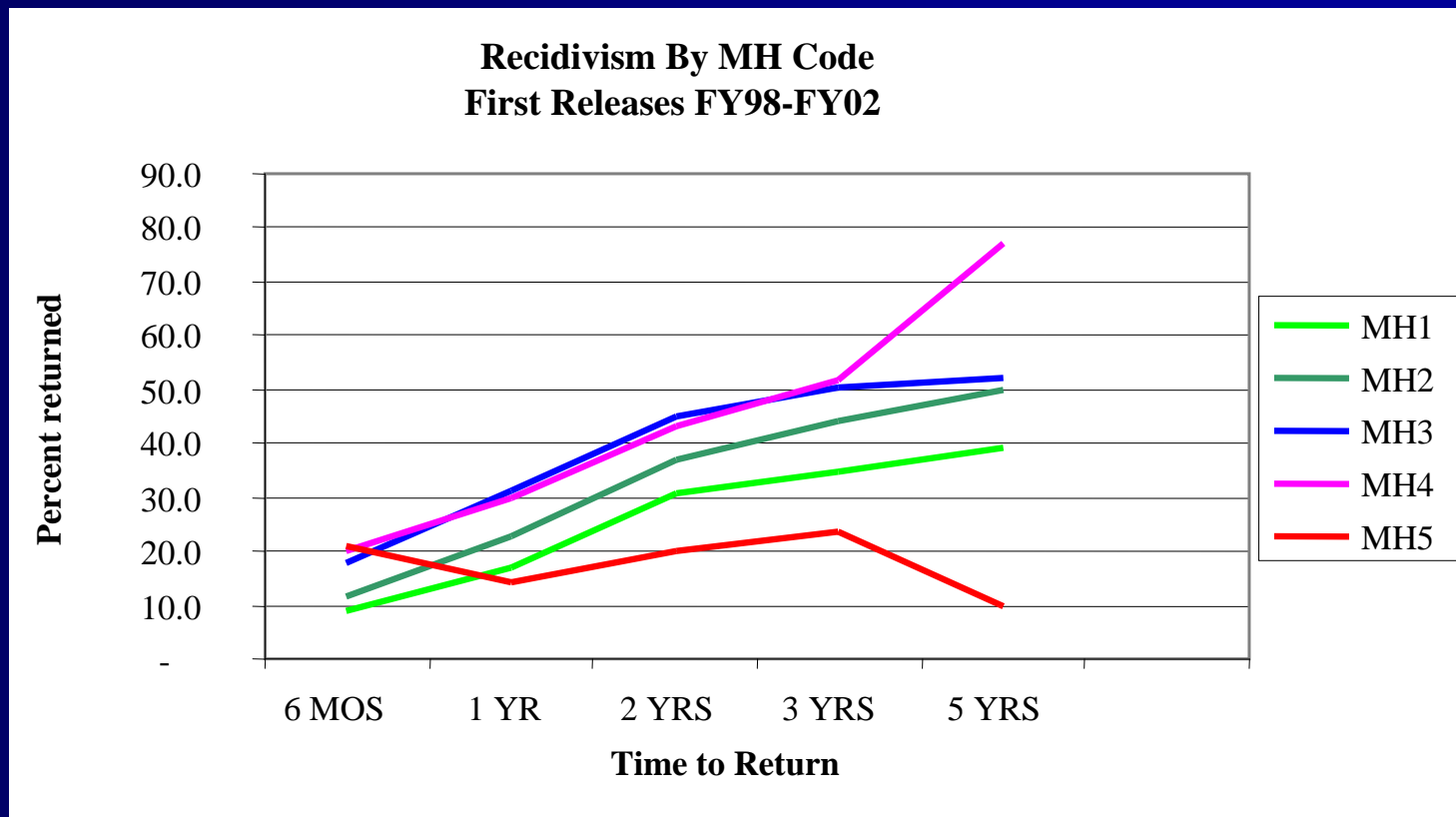
Re-incarceration Rate



■ Treatment ■ No Treatment

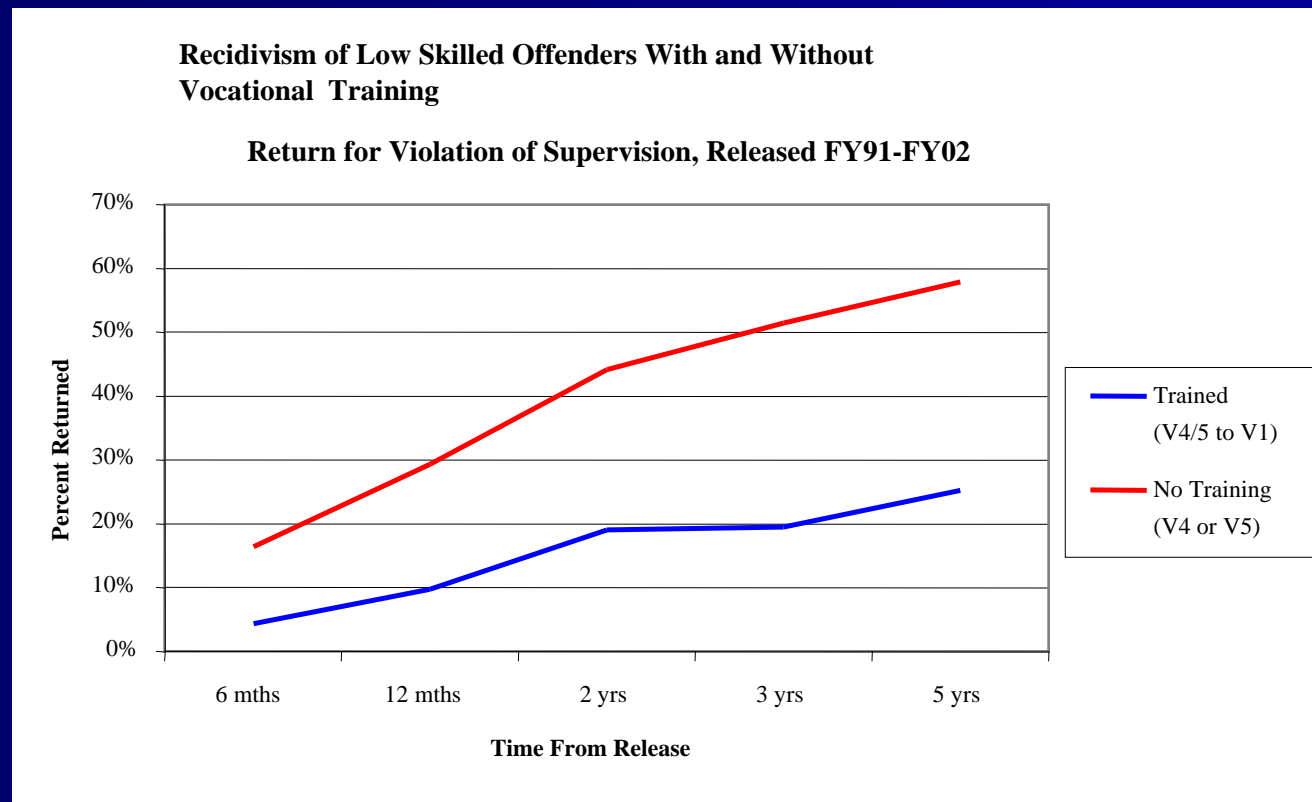
Mental Health

The re-incarceration rate is higher for offenders with mental health problems (MH Score 3 or higher)

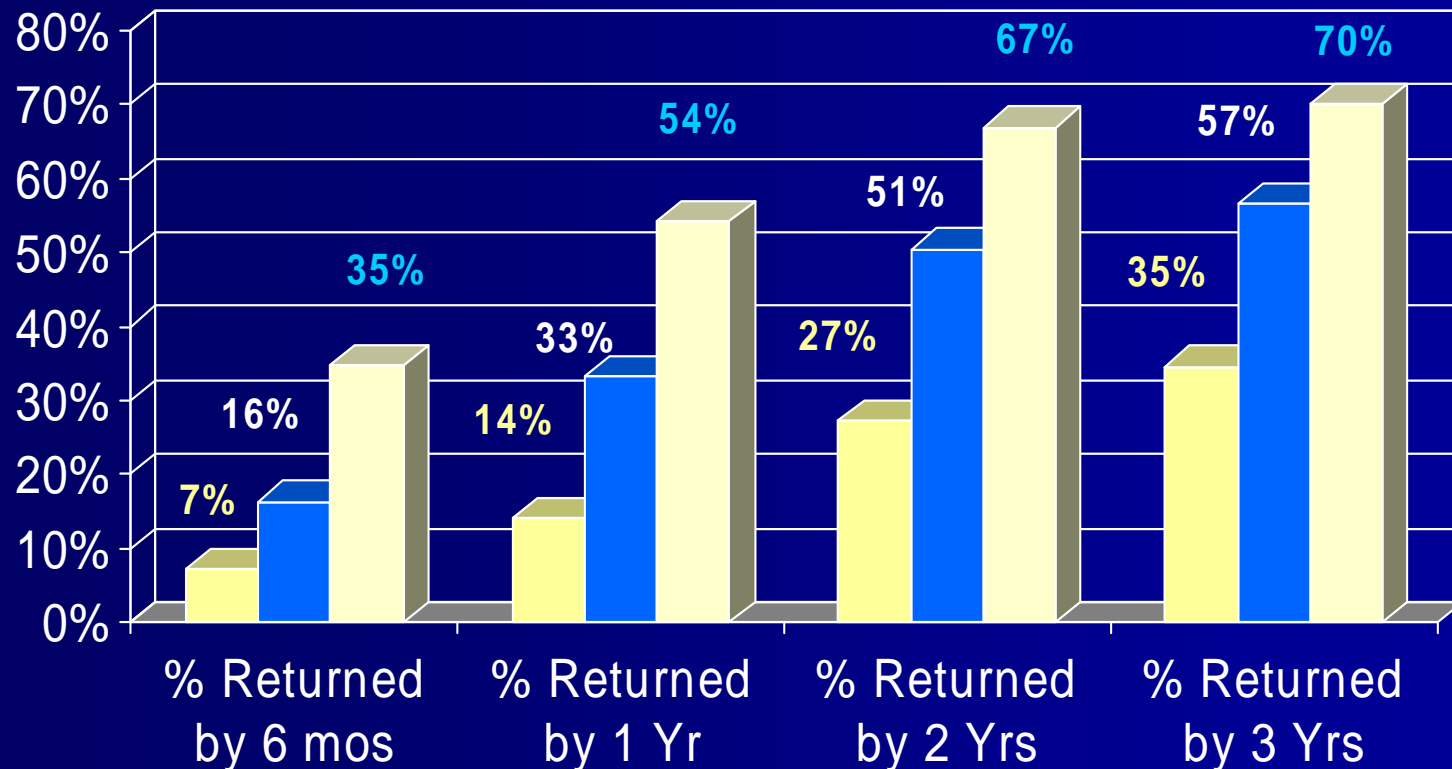


Employment/Vocational Training

Offenders who raise their vocational skill level while in prison through vocational training show a much lower return to prison rate (25%) than those with no vocational skills (58%).



Recidivism Rate by Maximized Employment Status



■ Employed Full Time - 10,182 ■ Employed Part Time - 6,712 ■ Unemployed - 1,697

Measured Accomplishments

(reported in TPC Handbook in press)

- GA: In 2006 they report 71% successful completion of parole, up from 66% in 2005
- MI: In 2007 overall MPRI recidivism improvement by 23% compared to a 1998 baseline
- MO: Reporting lower levels of technical and criminal violations (6.8% after 6 months, 4.1 % after 12 months)
- OR: Shows decreasing rates of revocation and absconding during the first 180 days after release

In Conclusion

- We are in a time when the nation is focused on reentry as a major public policy initiative.
- Empirical research and practical experiences are available to guide your course.
 - There is much to learn from others.
 - Others will learn much from you!