Idaho Prison Compstat

7th Annual ICRN/NCRP meeting
Idaho Department of Correction
Janeena White

Overview

- Agency Overview

- Evaluation and Compliance mission

- Justice Reinvestment and focus on Evidence Based Practices

- Outcomes

- Creating and maintaining a research agenda for your agency

Agency Overview

IDOC has approximately:
- 2,200 staff
- 9,200 inmates (5.4 per 1,000)
- 17,000 felony probationers/parolees (9.6 per 1,000)

- 9 State Prisons
  - Total capacity = 7,262
  - 2 are female, plus one combined male/female facility
  - 650 in out of state prison
  - 1 maximum security, 2 medium, 2 combined custody
- One in-state private prison
  - Capacity = 432
- 4 Community Reentry Centers
  - 1 is female
- 7 P&P district offices plus multiple satellite offices

- Have received funding for additional CRCs and have requested funding for day reporting centers.

Idaho population 1.7 million

Evaluation and Compliance

- Created in 2015 (previously was research and analysis unit)
  - Emphasis is now more on quality control for organization as well as research

- Mission is provide actionable information to decisionmakers to evaluate current practices to ensure the delivery of high quality, evidence-based programming.

- Prison forecast
  - Track admission and release trends

- Compstat for prisons, P&P and agency
  - Population trends, recidivism, # of inmate/inmate and inmate/staff assaults, grievances filed, etc.

- Information for legislative reports
  - Justice Reinvestment

- Adhoc information requests and research
  - Probation and parole officer time study

Justice Reinvestment in Idaho <small>enacted 2014</small>

- In 2013, the Council for State Governments found Idaho:
  - Had one of the highest incarceration rates in the nation, 10th in nation in 2014 – with 3rd lowest violent crime rate.
  - Supervision and diversion programs were not reducing recidivism
  - Prison population primarily composed of community supervised population who revoked, sentenced to rider.
  - State lacked ability to track outcomes, measure quality and assure the reliability of recidivism reduction strategies.

Justice Reinvestment in Idaho Strategies

- Enhance supervision practices and programs
  - Changed all programs only include evidence based curriculum, and assess with CPC and CPC-GA audit tools every two years.
    - Evidence based programs in community
  - Respond with swiftness and certainty to violations using behavior response matrix.
    - Keep ratio of 4 to 1 rewards versus sanctions
  - Training on Motivational Interviewing
  - Keep caseloads less than 50 mod/high risk

Reserve Prison Beds for High Risk

- Tailor confinement responses for probation and parole violations

- Provide judges with recidivism outcome data for various sentencing options

- Use risk-assessment to inform the parole decision-making process
  - Tailoring parole sanctions and parole decision making
    - Discretionary jail time and parole diversions

- Improve management of victim restitution

Strengthen Supervision

Prison Beds for High Risk

Track Effectiveness
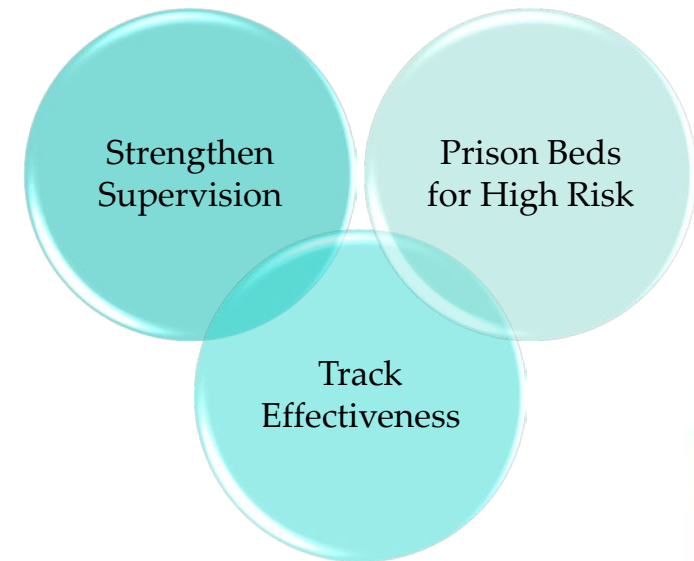
Tracking Recidivism Reduction

- Establish an oversight committee to measure and assess policy impacts

- Require that risk and needs assessments be routinely reviewed for quality

- Increase the capacity of state agencies to collect and analyze data in order to reduce inefficiencies and cut costs

- Evaluate the quality of programs and use results to improve outcomes
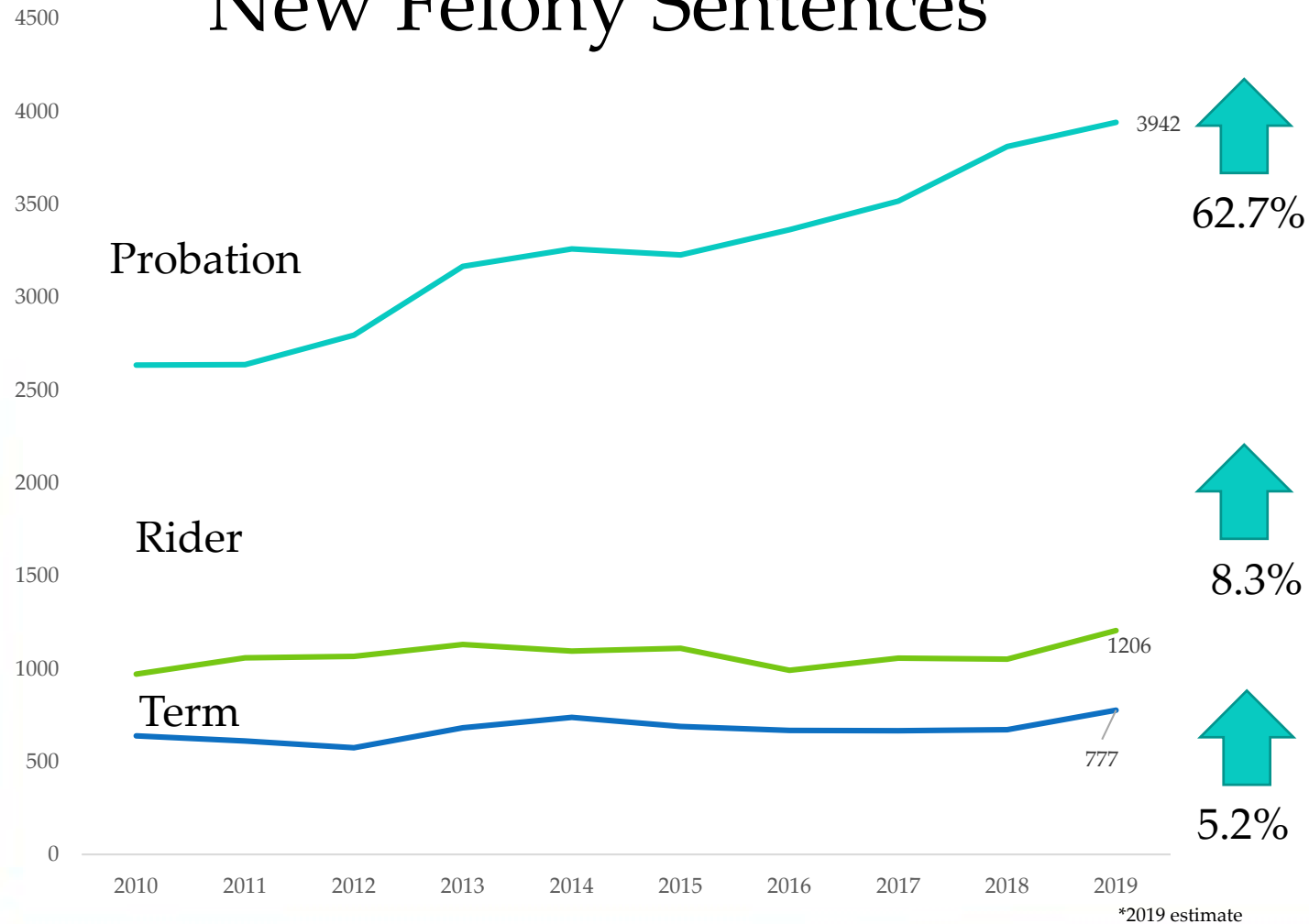
Track Assess

Do Plan

Population trend
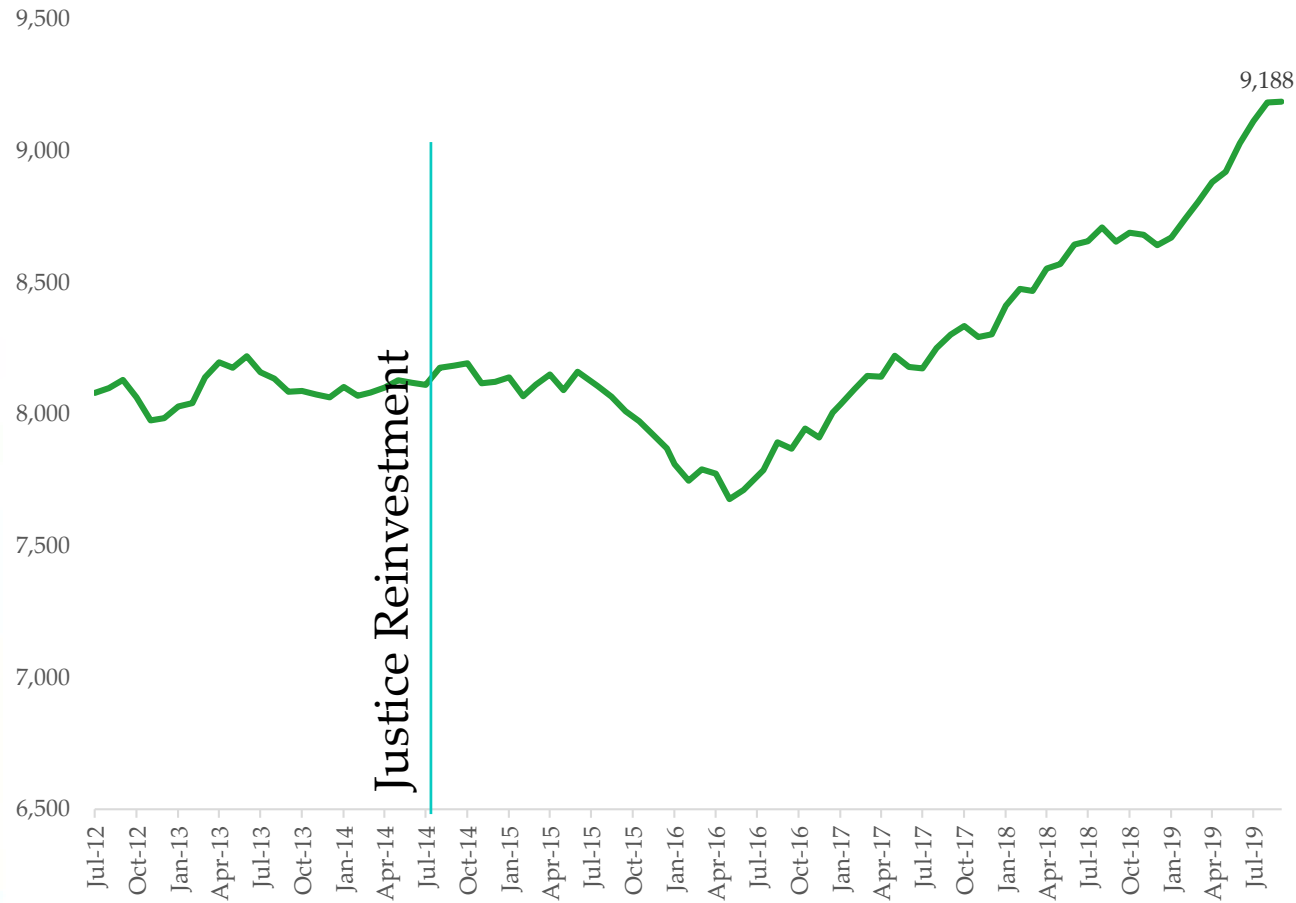
- Current 6% annual growth

- Drivers of population continue to be probation and parole violations for new crimes involving drug possession.

Community Population
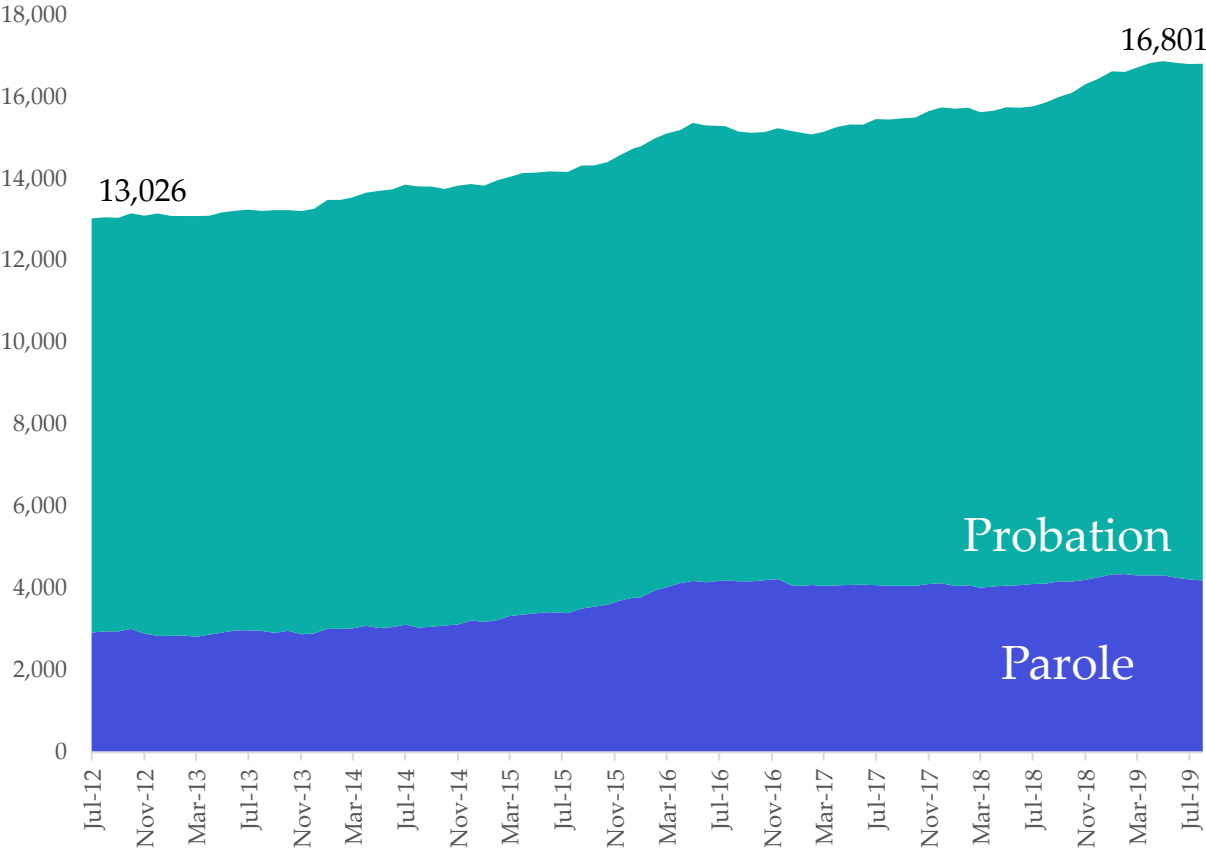

- Population has increased by 7.4% for probation and 2.0% for parole in past year.
- Have increased number of P&P officers by 25 but staffing remains an issue as well as workload.
- Use of supervision by risk allows to keep less than 50 mod/high risk per caseload.

Justice Reinvestment Outcomes

- Continued population growth
  - Probation and parole violations continue filling prison beds (30% of term admissions and half of rider admissions started on probation).
    - 38% of term admissions in FY19 were on parole and only 24% were from new commitments.
  - Have some savings from early decrease in population (comparison with projection), however, could reach projection of 9,400 for end of FY2019.

- Increased spending on treatment on the community and increased emphasis on use of emphasis based treatment.
  - CPC and CPC GA assessments indicate most programs are effective to highly effective.

- Intent to use prison beds for more violent offenders
  - Even greater number of individuals are incarcerated for drug crimes now than in the past (41.5% of admissions in 2018 compared to 31.0% in 2010).
  - Use of assessments that don't measure "violence" per se, but rather risk to recidivate has led to more individuals incarcerated who are higher "risk" with a higher LSI-R score.

- Increase in absconding and increase in new drug crimes.

- Increased attention to data and evidence based practices.

Lessons learned creating a research agenda

- JRI started policymakers and leadership asking the right questions

- How to get them to keep asking…
  - Produce results
  - Simplify- less is more
    - Data visualization
    - Highlight just the key points
  - Keep in touch with front line staff to help explain what the data means
  - Provide both qualitative and quantitative information
  - Follow up with leadership and staff with information, is it helpful/useful?

- The right data is not always available, especially when there is little difference between groups.
  - Explain differences and keep digging for data

- Work with external evaluators
  - Beta.gov, recidivis, university researchers

Why isn't population decreasing?

- Qualitative findings:
  - Survey of absconders
    - Need to improve reentry process and access to/relationship with PPO
  - Surveys of staff
    - Overwhelmed with expectations of the job
    - Don't like responsibilities such as COS collection
    - Hate data entry
      - Since JRI this became a primary task of the job, recording all sanctions and rewards, information about all contacts made, etc.
      - If you ask, try and do something about it
  - Client satisfaction surveys
  - Reentry surveys
    - How apprehensive were they prior to release and how satisfied with services received while in prison?

Most common reasons for absconding

Common Absconding Reasons
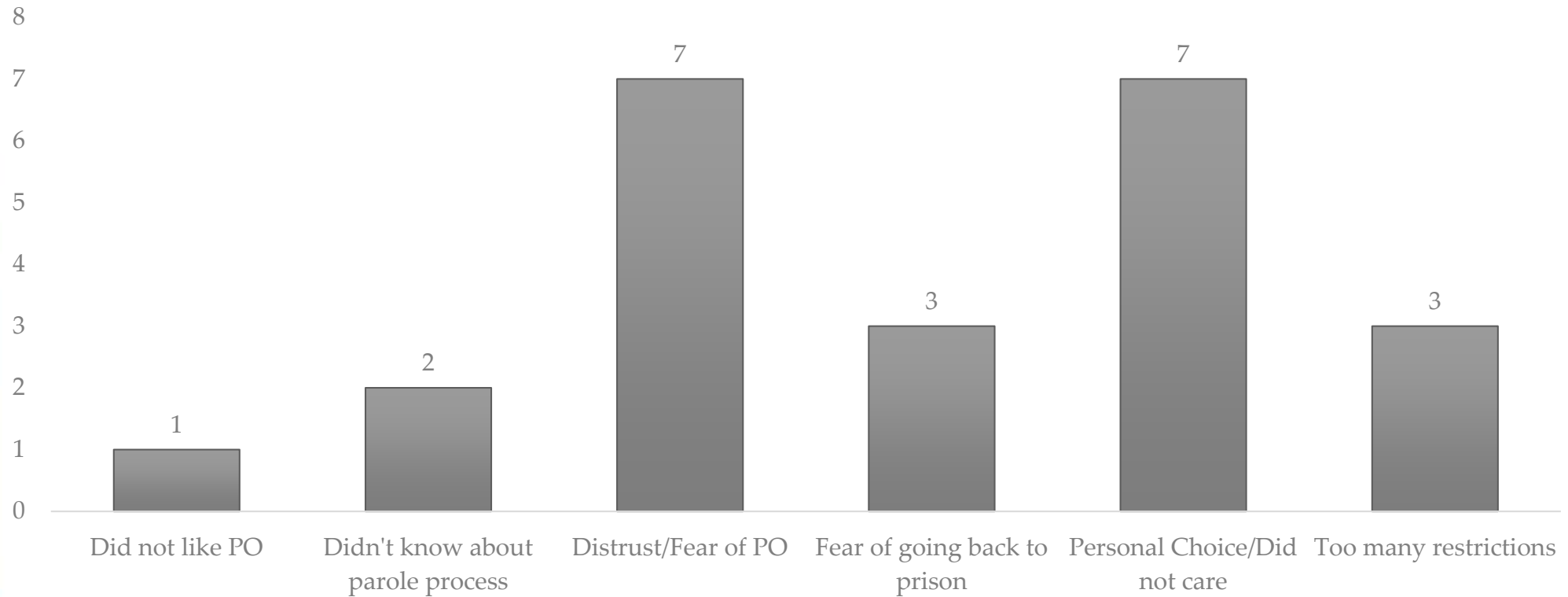
How prepared did you feel after being released from prison?

- *"Felt ready, but apprehensive"*

- *"I didn't have a stable place to go so it was bad from the start"*

- *"Fairly prepared, had good support system, did good for 3 years"*

- *"Gave up a little because I had no finances"*

- *"I thought I had a plan, but it didn't work out the way I wanted"*

- *"Overwhelmed in the beginning"*

- *"Not good, the transitional house had drugs so I used soon after being out"*

What were reasons for absconding?

- *"My support network collapsed, and I didn't care about checking in or anything"*

- *"I'm not from Idaho, and I didn't know what the rules were"*

- *"Scared to ask for help. Worried PO would send me back to prison"*

- *"I'm an addict, and I knew the consequences of absconding. I didn't care"*

- *"I didn't trust the PO to help me"*

- *"Scared to go back to prison because I used. I was afraid of the PO"*

- *"I needed to go somewhere where I had medical support, and I didn't have it here"*

What can IDOC do differently to keep you from absconding?

- *"I needed more personal structure that would've prevented me from using"*

- *"I should be sent back home to do parole"*

- *"I don't think anything can be done since it was a personal choice to abscond"*

- *"Make it easier for SOs to get housing, and more transitional funding"*

- *"Allow us to have our driver's license especially for getting a job"*

- *"Too much waiting around with programming, but needed treatment immediately"*

Principle of Normality

- IDOC prisons are trying to incorporate more ways to make offenders ready for release.

- E&C is providing and/or helping with pre/post testing for projects
  - Community mentors
  - Reentry specialists
  - Enhanced environment
    - Couches, plants, silverware, murals
  - Incentive tiers
  - Inmate mentors
  - PPO specialists

Explaining what the data means

- Sometimes the data doesn't show significant change when improvements are made
  - Can always dig deeper to offer qualitative information from staff and population to find out more

- Incentive tiers-
  - Decreases most related to areas with gaming consoles, ability to paint cells
  - No change in areas with weight equipment, couches, library, etc.
    - Some areas were already fairly low so difficult to note change through disciplinary actions alone.
  - Decreases in other areas of the institution (maybe to be placed on incentive tier?)

- Ask inmates and staff what they think about the changes…

Conclusion

- Data driven, evidence based practices are the new norm

- To get leadership and policymakers to continue asking the right questions:
  - Simplify
  - Provide information that is visually appealing
  - Provide quantitative and qualitative information
    - Always dig deeper in the data to understand the full story
  - Access to a variety of information can help explain the bigger picture
    - Data from HR (staffing, satisfaction, etc.), in addition to prison- disciplinary actions, grievances filed, programming and education, etc.
    - Data on community employment, programming, education, needs of population, etc.
  - If something isn't working, dig deeper to find out why.

Thank you!

- Questions or comments:
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