

# Substance Abuse Treatment of Offenders Released from Prison

Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum

March 6, 2014

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# Background

- Audit of DOC's Community Corrections Substance Abuse Treatment
- Analyzed data for offenders released during 2008-2011
- Highest-risk offenders
- Benefit cost analysis

# Background

## Did You Know...

- Economic cost of substance abuse: \$5.9B in 2006
  - \$4.2B in lost earnings
  - \$813M in health care cost
  - \$656M in alcohol and drug enforcement
- Substance abuse treatment cost:
  - In prison: \$5,854/year
  - In Community: \$1,908/year

# Purpose of the Audit

- To determine the number of highest risk offenders in our audit population
- To determine the number of highest risk offenders not receiving substance abuse treatment
- Use results of the above to determine whether estimated benefit exceed cost for providing substance abuse treatment

# Audit Results

## **Why substance abuse treatment is important for released offenders?**

Research and best practices indicate:

- Treatment educes overall crime and other societal impact of substance abuse problems
- Treatment is more effective than incarceration in interrupting substance abuse/criminal justice cycle
- Released offenders with untreated substance abuse challenges are more likely than treated offenders to engage in substance abuse and criminal behavior

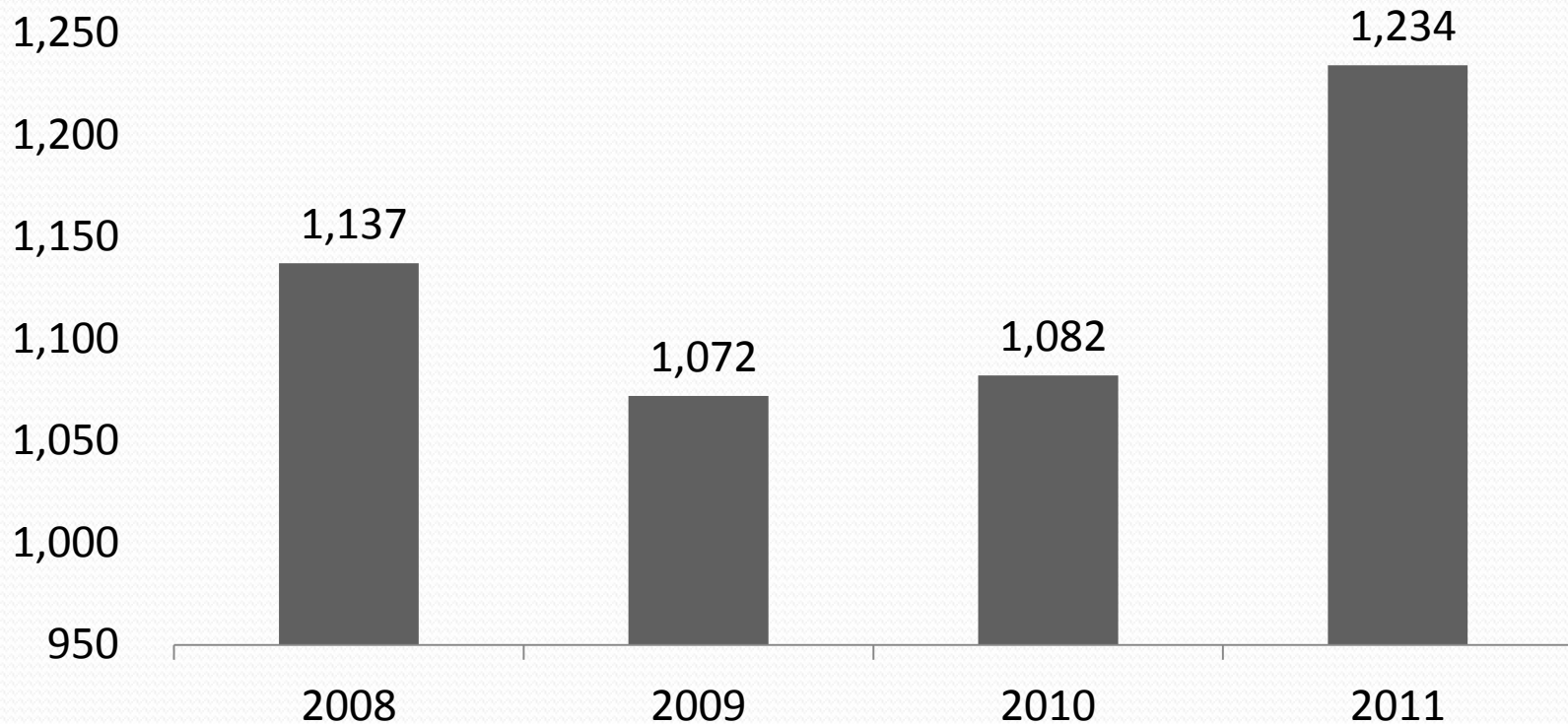
# Audit Results

## Offender Information

- 18,834 offenders released from 2008 – 2011
- Over half assessed by DOC and Community Corrections as highest – risk offenders
  - Highest risk offenders: those assessed by DOC and Community Corrections as having a medium-to-high risk to reoffend and a moderate-to-high substance abuse challenge
- 4,525 did not receive substance abuse treatment in prison or the community

# Audit Results

**Number of Offenders not receiving any substance abuse treatment  
by Year**



# Audit Results

## Challenges to providing substance abuse treatment

- Funding shortfall
  - State budget cuts resulted in about half of Oregon counties experiencing reductions in services, including substance abuse treatment
- Geographic variation of community corrections agencies
  - Availability of treatment facilities and services varies depending on the county an offender is released to



# Audit Results

## **Benefit Cost Analysis**

- \$33.5M in benefit if we provided substance abuse treatment to the 4,525 untreated highest-risk offenders
- \$11.9M would've been the cost to treat the 4,525 highest –risk offenders
- \$21.6M in net benefit because the state didn't provide treatment to the 4,525 highest-risk offenders

# Medicaid Eligibility Expansion

- Starting January 2014 eligibility expanded to all individuals with income at or below 133% of FPL
- Federal gov't covers cost of the expansion population at 100% from 2014-2016
- Federal coverage of the expansion population will decrease to a minimum of 90% in 2020

# Recommendations

## Department of Corrections

- Work with county community corrections agencies and Legislature to coordinate funding and track resources to provide substance abuse treatment for the highest-risk offenders
- Explore utilizing expanded Medicaid Funding for substance abuse treatment for released offenders and consider integrating Medicaid eligibility review into release planning

# Methodology

Interviews – DOC program managers and staff; some Community Corrections management and staff

File reviews at the four largest counties with the highest number of offenders released

Academic literature research

Data analysis – obtained data from DOC and identified highest risk offenders who did not receive substance abuse treatment

# Methodology

## **Benefit - Cost Analysis**

Washington State Institute of Public Policy (WSIPP) benefit cost tool

Cost information provided by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

Expert from CJC ran benefit cost analysis on the 4,525 highest risk offenders

# Questions



# Contact Information

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