

A photograph of an orange grove with rows of trees under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a tree with many ripe, bright orange fruits and green leaves. The background shows more trees in a field, slightly out of focus.

ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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DAY REPORTING CENTERS

STATUS REPORT

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Prepared by: Research Unit, Strategic Support Division



Adult Day Reporting Centers

Non-residential adult day reporting centers (DRCs) deliver structured reentry services and comprehensive programming for individuals released to the community. The main objective is to increase self-sufficiency and promote positive changes in behavior through the delivery of evidence-based practices proven to reduce recidivism. By reducing recidivism, DRCs may also reduce pressure on jails and prisons and cut future correctional costs.

The first Orange County (OC) Probation Department DRC opened in the city of Santa Ana in July 2012. Operated by The GEO Group, Inc., the Santa Ana DRC provides a combination of intensive treatment and programming, on-site supervision, and immediate reporting of behavior to the assigned deputy probation officers (DPOs) of the AB109 clients – those on Post Release Community Supervision (PCS) and Mandatory Supervision (MS). In May 2015, DRC services became available to the formal probation (FP) supervision population. The Santa Ana DRC is a stand-alone facility and can service up to 140 clients.

The second OC Probation Department DRC opened in the city of Westminster in September 2017. Also operated by the GEO Group, the Westminster DRC can service up to 75 clients. It is co-located at OC Probation Department's West County Field Services Office.

DRC participants go through a multi-phase program that could run six to nine months. The program includes frequent reporting to the center where participants are placed at different levels of treatment and training based on assessed risk and needs. DRC staff monitor individuals closely with daily check-ins, ongoing drug and alcohol testing, and intensive case management. DRC programs are rooted in consistent delivery of programming, immediate response for rewards or sanctions, and other evidence-based principles proven to change criminal behavior. DRCs help individuals gain structure and stability, change the way they think and behave, and develop new life skills. As of June 30, 2021, there have been ten program graduations with a total of 246 graduates.

OC Probation Department managers provide oversight and research staff conduct ongoing program evaluations and monitoring for DRC operations. As a result of constant communications and feedback between the Department and DRC staff, the program has gone through changes designed to improve participant outcomes.

In March 2020, reentry services at the Adult DRCs were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the Santa Ana and Westminster DRCs closed for in-person services on March 16, 2020. All services (individual sessions, cognitive behavioral curriculum, substance abuse counseling, Moral Reconciliation Therapy groups, parenting classes, etc.) were conducted via telephone.



In May 2020, the GEO Group proposed a phased reopening of the DRCs. The four phases in the proposed plan featured a slow reintroduction to in-person services that provided a safe and healthy environment for participants and staff. Below are the key elements of the four phases approved by the Probation Department:

Phase 1 (started June 2020)

- In-person check-ins for intakes or a scheduled assessment
- Participants check-in by telephone
- All other services delivered by telephone

Phase 2 (started April 26, 2021)

- In-person check-ins for intakes or a scheduled assessment
- In-person appointments (one-on-one) with case manager
- Participants check-in by telephone
- Breathalyzers and urinalysis will be administered only if there is suspected drug or alcohol abuse
- All other services delivered by telephone

Phase 3 (started May 10, 2021)

- In-person check-ins for intakes or a scheduled assessment
- In-person appointments (one-on-one) with case manager
- Participants check-in by telephone
- In-person group sessions (smaller groups to assure social distancing practices)
- Breathalyzers and urinalysis will be administered only if there is suspected drug or alcohol abuse
- All other services delivered by telephone

Phase 4 (not yet started)

- All breathalyzer and urinalysis services resume
- Participants resume in-person check-ins

As of June 30, 2021, both DRC locations were in Phase 3 of reopening.



DRC Services

All participants are assessed by a DRC case manager at entry, receive services based on their assessed risk/needs and are held accountable for their behaviors through specific measures in the chart below.

Services	Testing/Accountability Measures
Development of a Behavior Change Plan	Orientation & Intake Assessment using LSI Risk Assessment
Life skills & Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Moral Reconciliation Therapy)	Daily attendance, participation in individual and group counseling, progress reports & communication with assigned DPO
Substance Abuse Counseling	On-site random alcohol & drug testing, individual and group sessions, progress reports & communication with assigned DPO
Anger Management Counseling	Group sessions, attendance, periodic evaluation and communication with assigned DPO
Parenting & Family Skills Training	Group sessions, attendance, periodic evaluation and communication with assigned DPO, and family nights
Job Readiness & Employment Assistance	Assistance with job preparation and placement monitored by Education & Employment Coordinator
Education Services	Access to educational computer lab, assistance and monitoring by Education & Employment Coordinator
Community Connections	Getting Connected computer application, attendance at Community Connections meetings monitored by case manager & communication with assigned DPO
Restorative Justice Honors Group	Participation and attendance monitored by coordinator & certificate of completion
Reintegration & Aftercare	Aftercare case plan, weekly check-ins, and 1:1 meetings

In March 2020, the Santa Ana and Westminster DRCs closed for in-person services. All check-ins, counseling and treatment sessions were delivered to participants by telephone. The DRCs reopened in phases in June 2020 to slowly reintroduce in-person services while keeping clients and staff safe and healthy.

In Phase 1, clients only showed up for intake and assessment. All counseling sessions and groups were delivered by telephone. In Phase 2, clients could meet with their case manager in-person. In Phase 3, the DRCs opened group sessions to in-person attendance. These groups were smaller in number to comply with social distancing protocols. As of June 30, 2021, both DRCs were in Phase 3.

Day Reporting Centers (Santa Ana & Westminster)								
Telephone and In-Person Sessions by Phase Reopening								
July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021								
PHASE	Session Type	CBT - Individual	Substance Abuse Treatment Individual	MRT Group	Anger Management Group	Parenting Class Group	Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Group	Total
PHASE 1 (7/1/20 to 4/26/21)	Telephone	3988	490	2481	453	316	104	7832
PHASE 2 (4/27/21 to 5/9/21)	Mostly Telephone	343	0	207	54	32	75	711
PHASE 3 (5/10/21 to 6/30/21)	Telephone and In-Person	279	0	202	77	17	47	622
PHASE 4 (not yet started)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		4610	490	2890	584	365	226	9165



DRC Participant Profile

There were 285 participants served by the DRC during Fiscal Year 2020-21. The majority of were male (81%), approximately 37 years old and more than half (57%) were on Formal Probation supervision. The highest represented racial groups at the DRC were Hispanic (52%) and White (32%). PCS offenders were higher risk (97% vs. 92% MS and 54% FP), higher needs (64% vs. 58% MS and 44% FP) and older on average (PCS = 38.1; MS = 35.7; FP = 37.2) than MS or FP. (See Appendix 1 for more details on Participant profiles).

Entries and Exits

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2021, the DRC processed a total of 1,577 referred offenders and exited another 1,523 offenders. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of entries and exits dropped during the last two fiscal years.

DRC Entries

Supervision Type	FY17-18	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21	Grand Total
Formal Probation	256	298	208	163	925
Mandatory Supervision	41	51	29	26	147
Postrelease Community Supervision	176	134	99	96	505
Total	473	483	336	285	1577

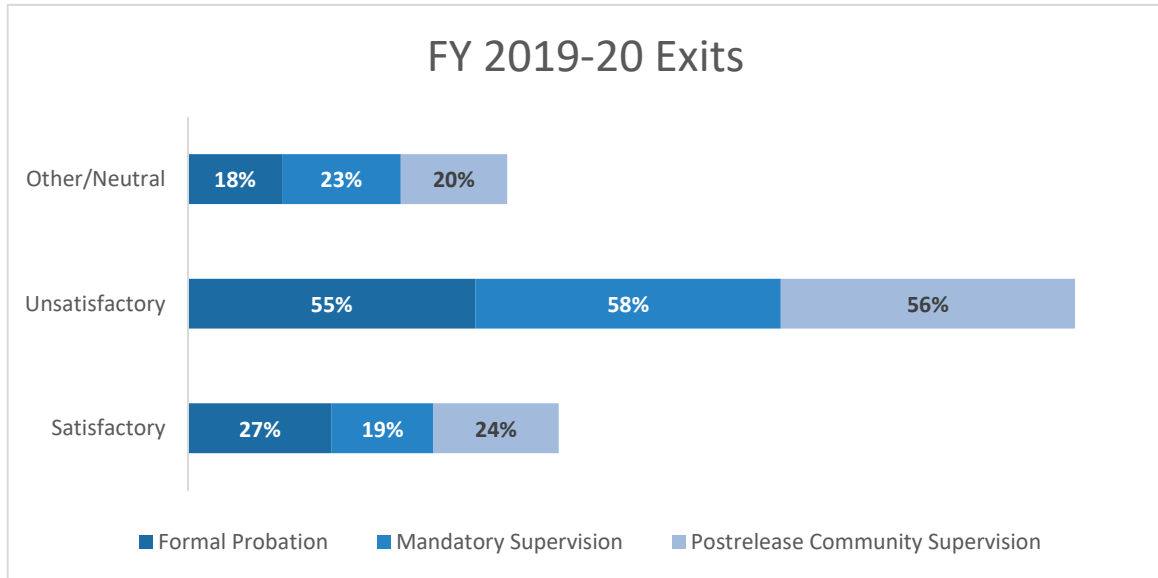
In Fiscal Year 2020-21, 277 individuals exited the DRC - 56% FP, 36% PCS and 8% MS.

DRC Exits

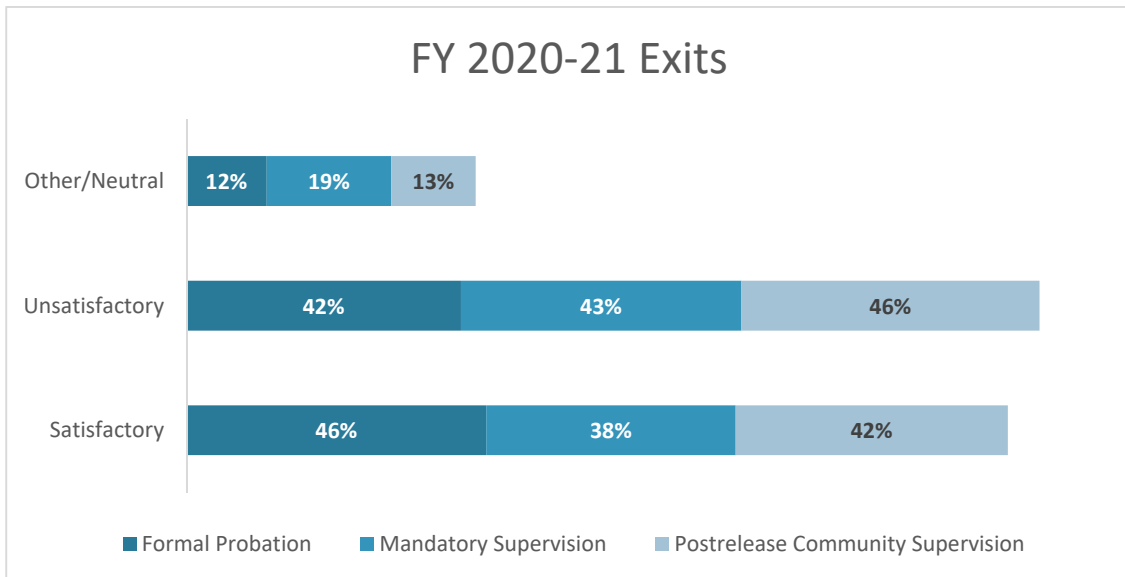
Supervision Type	FY17-18	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21	Grand Total
Formal Probation	248	284	212	155	899
Mandatory Supervision	35	49	31	21	136
Postrelease Community Supervision	161	142	84	101	488
Total	444	475	327	277	1523



EXIT OUTCOMES



Satisfactory DRC exits improved significantly in Fiscal Year 2020-21 for all participants (formal probation, MS and PCS)





New Convictions

A conviction for a new crime (reconviction) is a key (though not the only) measurement of the effect of criminal justice intervention programs. In this context, it is designated as a conviction for a new crime, felony or misdemeanor, within one year.

Participants who exited each year were followed for a period of one year from the date of exit. Below are the follow-up periods:

<i>Cohort</i>	<i>Year Exited DRC</i>	<i>1 Year Follow-Up Period</i>
FY 2017-18	Exited 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018	7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019
FY 2018-19	Exited 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019	7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020
FY 2019-20	Exited 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020	7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

Twenty-two of the 84 PCS offenders (26.2%) who exited the DRCs between 7/1/2019 and 6/30/2020 had a conviction for a new crime during the one-year follow up period. Additionally, 39.3% had a revocation (PC3455 Violation).

Postrelease Community Supervision (PCS)					
<i>Year Exited DRC</i>	Number Exited	One-Year		One-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate	PC 3455 Violations	Violation Rate
Exited 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018	161	45	28.0%	73	45.3%
Exited 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019	142	35	24.6%	70	49.3%
Exited 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020	84	22	26.2%	33	39.3%

One-year convictions for new crimes for MS offenders who exited between 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020 dropped significantly to 9.7% compared with 26.5% from the year prior.

Mandatory Supervision (MS)			
<i>Year Exited DRC</i>	Number Exited	One-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Exited 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018	35	11	31.4%
Exited 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019	49	13	26.5%
Exited 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020	31	3	9.7%

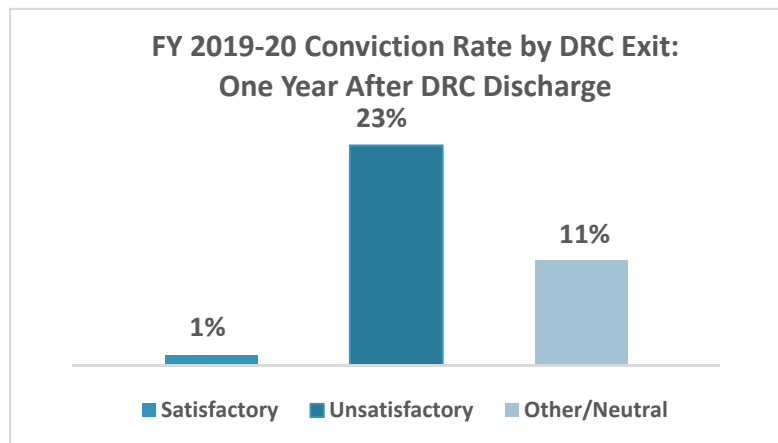


Individuals on formal probation who exited also experienced a big drop in one-year conviction rates for new crimes – 11.8% compared with 21.8% from the prior year.

Probation (PROB)			
Year Exited DRC	Number Exited	One-Year	
		Number Convicted	Conviction Rate
Exited 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018	248	53	21.4%
Exited 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019	284	62	21.8%
Exited 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020	212	25	11.8%

A key component in achieving lower crime convictions is a DRC participant’s satisfactory completion. In FY 2020-21, the percentage of satisfactory exits increased for individuals for all supervision types as compared to FY 2019-20 (19 percentage point increase for FP and MS; 18 percentage point increase for PCS). OC Probation management meets regularly with DRC staff to strategize on various approaches to improve the satisfactory completion of participants.

Furthermore, individuals from the FY 2019-20 cohort (FP, MS & PCS) who exited satisfactorily from the DRC also had the lowest rate of new convictions (1%) within the one-year follow-up period after discharge. In comparison, those who exited unsatisfactorily had the highest rate of new convictions (23%) during the follow-up period.



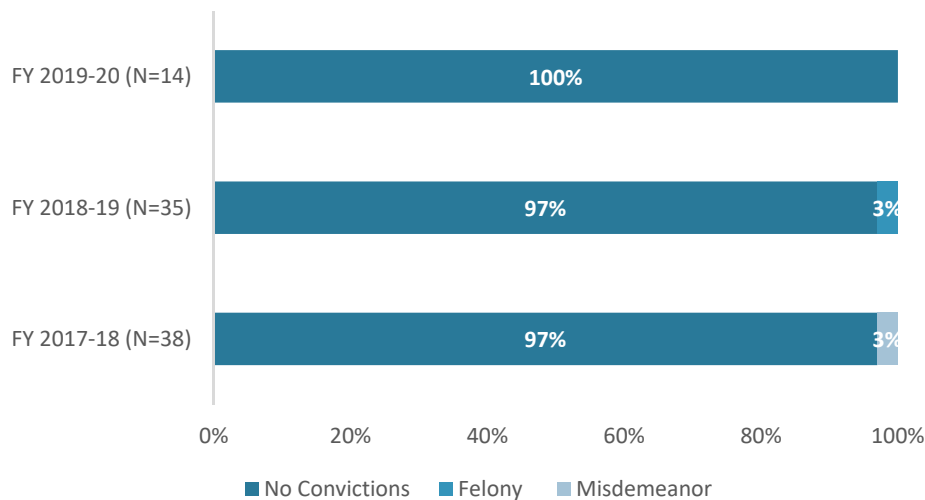


Restorative Justice

The Orange County Human Relations Commission currently partners with OCPD and GEO/BI to provide a Restorative Justice Honors program (RJ). Participants are selected and referred to RJ by DRC staff based on demonstrated leadership skills and success in the DRC program. This group meets weekly, in addition to the regular DRC requirements, for 9 weeks. During group sessions, participants meet with the Restorative Justice Coordinator who covers concepts such as the needs of the participant, victim, and the community and the obligations involved in repairing the harm done by their crime. This group provides and promotes on-going peer support. The RJ program was put on an indefinite hiatus beginning in March 2020 and reinstated in May 2021.

Since RJ was first implemented in March 2013, there have been 234 participants and as of June 30, 2021, 143 participants (61%) have completed the program. The chart below indicates each respective cohort's conviction rate result based on a one-year follow-up period of offenders who participated in RJ and discharged from DRC.

New Convictions for RJ DRC Program Exits



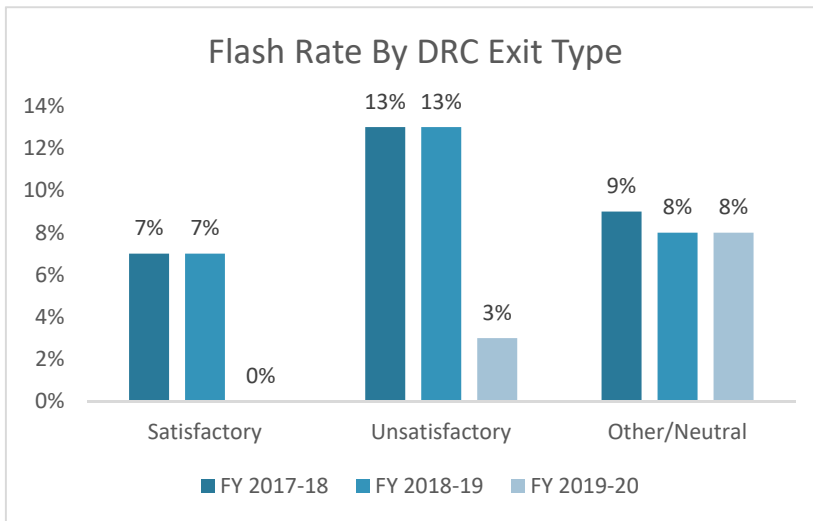
The drop in RJ participants from FY 2017-18 (N=38) to FY 2019-20 (N=14) was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although there was a drop in the number of RJ participants across each fiscal year, the new conviction rate remained low.



Flash Incarcerations

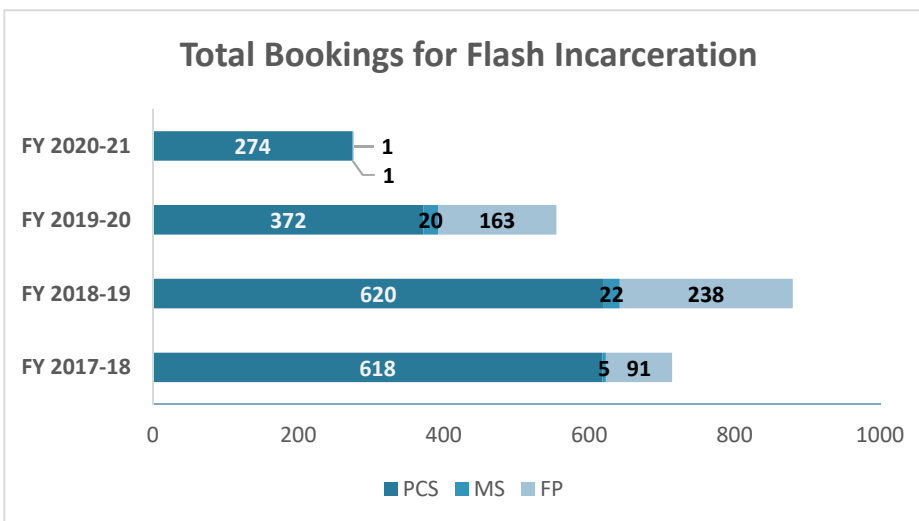
Flash incarceration is an intermediate sanction utilized by probation officers to deal with non-compliant behavior, less serious new law violations and/or technical violations (i.e., positive drug tests, absconding, etc.). The detention period of up to 10 days is intended to deliver a swift and certain sanction while minimizing the impact on the individual’s success in the community.

Previously unique to the PCS population, flash incarceration has applied to both the MS and Formal probation (FP) population since the passage of SB266 in September 2016.



A one-year follow-up revealed that DRC participants who exited satisfactorily had the lowest rate of flash incarceration one year after discharge (0%). Furthermore, participants who exited unsatisfactorily typically had the highest rates of flash one year after exiting the DRC. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting adjustments to jail operations affected the results for the FY 2019-20 DRC exits.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Governor declared a State of Emergency in March 2020. The State also closed courts, altered the timing of prison releases to Counties and enacted measures, such as zero bail, to reduce jail populations. These actions affected PCS releases, MS convictions, warrants, revocations, and flash incarcerations.



From a high of 880 in FY 2018-19, total flash bookings for all supervised populations (including DRC participants) dropped by 37%, to 555 in FY 2019-20 (July 2019 to June 2020). Furthermore, in FY 2020-21 (July 2020 to June 2021), there were only 276 total flash bookings.



DRC Reflections

Reflections from a current DRC participant and two case managers.

DRC Participant

"The authors of MRT are very knowledgeable and I reread the steps over and over when I feel lost or stuck. DRC is based on facts and there is a lot of research behind it, and I trust the program. I am glad the case managers are there to help me get back on track and hold me accountable. They all assist me with getting help and resources, especially at the beginning of COVID-19 shutdown. MRT is my favorite group because I get to talk to people in similar situations as me, learn from people who are on other steps, and get to take a deeper look at myself. Anger Management group is great too because it helps me take a different perspective of my actions and develop new coping skills. I think the DRC is awesome."

Case Manager

"This year looked different for everyone at the DRC. Despite the challenges and difficulties, we faced- we as a center managed to adapt to the changes. We were able to provide resources and continued providing multiple services- while keeping our participants engaged. Participants continued attending their groups over a conference call and calling in for their weekly meetings- they also adapted to the changes. This year was a learning experience."

Case Manager

"The past year has certainly been an unprecedented time filled with uncertainty and isolation. However, the DRC was something that was able to provide both staff and participant's stability and support. The DRC was able to make accommodations to ensure that participants were still able to have access to services and referrals during a global pandemic and through times of loss and hopelessness that the whole world experienced. Our virtual groups provided participants with comfort in speaking to peers and finding new ways to navigate, and achieve, their behavior change goals. Every day I am inspired by the hard work and dedication of the participants at the DRC. Their grit and determination motivates me to continue advocating for human services, finding new resources, and exploring creative ways to implement interventions during a pandemic."



Computer Lab at Santa Ana Day Reporting Center



Orange County Probation Department

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APPENDIX 1

ORANGE COUNTY DAY REPORTING CENTER FY 2020-21 ENTRIES				
	PCS	MS	FP	TOTAL
TOTAL ENTRIES (7/1/20-6/30/21)	N=96 (34%)	N=26 (9%)	N=163 (57%)	N=285 (100%)
Gender				
Male	81%	73%	82%	81%
Female	19%	27%	18%	19%
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	49%	58%	53%	52%
White	36%	31%	31%	32%
Black	4%	4%	6%	5%
Asian	9%	4%	8%	8%
Unknown/Other	2%	3%	2%	3%
Age at DRC Entry				
18 to 25 years	11%	12%	19%	16%
26 to 35 years	40%	38%	34%	36%
36 to 44 years	23%	27%	19%	21%
45+ years	26%	23%	28%	27%
Average Age	38.1 yrs	35.7 yrs	37.2 yrs	37.4 yrs
Reason for Referral				
Benefit	62%	65%	70%	67%
Sanction	12%	13%	18%	15%
Both	26%	22%	12%	18%
(Missing/Unknown)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Risk Level At Entry				
High	97%	92%	54%	72%
Medium	3%	4%	33%	20%
Low	0%	4%	11%	7%
Not Assessed	0%	0%	2%	1%
Needs Level At Entry				
High	64%	58%	44%	52%
Medium	29%	23%	34%	31%
Low	7%	19%	20%	16%
Not Assessed	0%	0%	2%	1%
Offense Type at Entry				
Felony - Person	7%	0%	26%	17%
Property	36%	31%	17%	25%
Drug	32%	58%	19%	27%
Other	25%	11%	20%	21%
Misdemeanor	0%	0%	18%	10%