

Re-Entry Initiative, Region IID

Introduction

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Consortium conducted a one-year descriptive study of the implementation of the Re-entry Initiative in Region IID of the Adult Probation and Parole Department of the Utah State Department of Corrections. The purpose of this study was to provide initial feedback to the Department regarding this initiative so that expansion of these programs to other regions might benefit from the Region IID experience.

Methods

In this study, the Re-entry Initiative programming components that have been identified are: DRC groups, Faith-Based, Education/GED programs, Community Service, Transition Caseload, Intensive Outpatient (IOP), Halfway Back, Drug Board, and off-site services which include services through Davis Behavioral Health and individual therapy through private providers.

Data for this study was collected on parolees released between January 2002 and January 2003. A total of 87 parolees were included in the study. Data collection was done through interviews with the parolees and data extraction from the Corrections database, F-Track. Data was collected from these sources at the Farmington AP&P office between October 2002 and April 2003 by Research Assistants of the University of Utah Criminal and Juvenile Justice Consortium.

Conclusion

The Re-entry Initiative in Region IID at the time of this assessment consisted of the DRC being widely used in transition programming with other Re-entry programs being used minimally. Transition programming also included being placed on a transition caseload for up to 90 days. In the sample that was studied, participation in Re-entry programming did not effect recommitment to prison.

Limitations

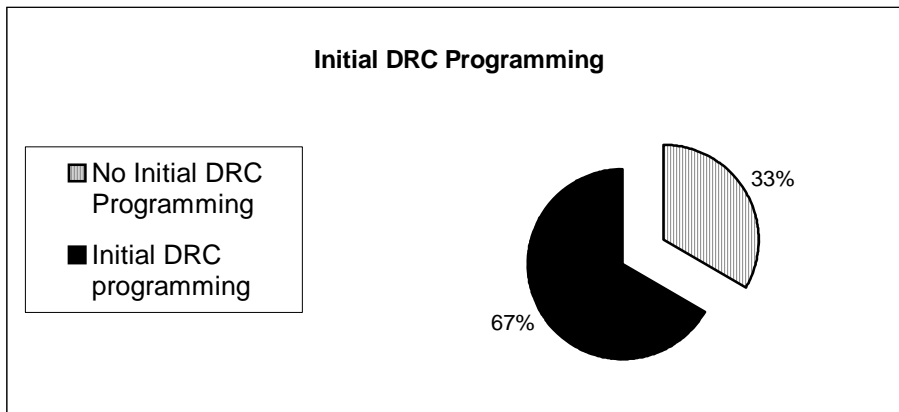
The duration of the study and the small sample size provided a serious limitation to any attempt at predicting the outcomes of the parolees involved in this study. This paper is only intended as information to Director Chabries and his staff and is not intended to be a predictor of the success of future Re-entry initiatives within the Department.

Results

Initial Programming

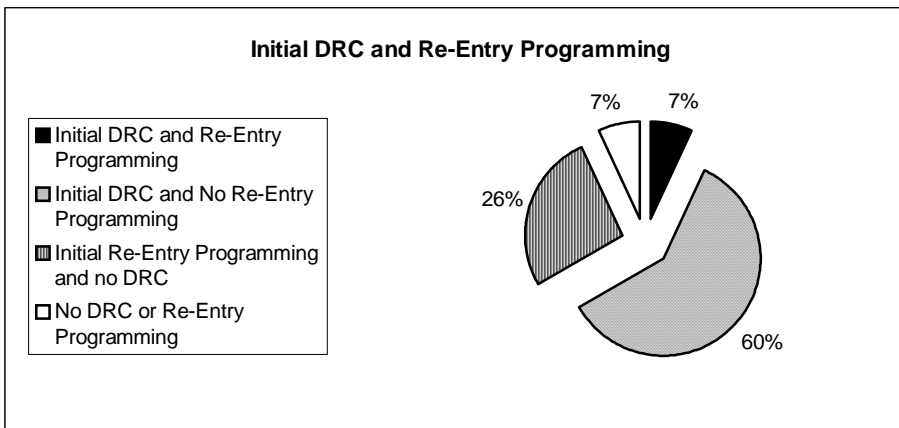
Sixty-seven percent of parolees involved in this study were assigned to participate in DRC programming as part of their initial parole requirements. Only one-third of parolees (33 percent) were placed into a Re-Entry program other than DRC upon release from prison. Of those parolees involved in non-DRC programs, the numbers within each of the other eight programs were too small to analyze involvement in each program individually. Thus, it appears that DRC programming is the major component of the Re-Entry Initiative and the other eight programs are used minimally in initial parole requirements.

Figure 1



58 of 87 parolees (67%) were initially placed in DRC programming.

Figure 2



6 of 87 parolees (7%) were initially placed in DRC and Re-Entry programming.

23 of 87 parolees (26%) were initially placed in only Re-Entry programming.

52 of 87 parolees (60%) were initially placed in only DRC programming.

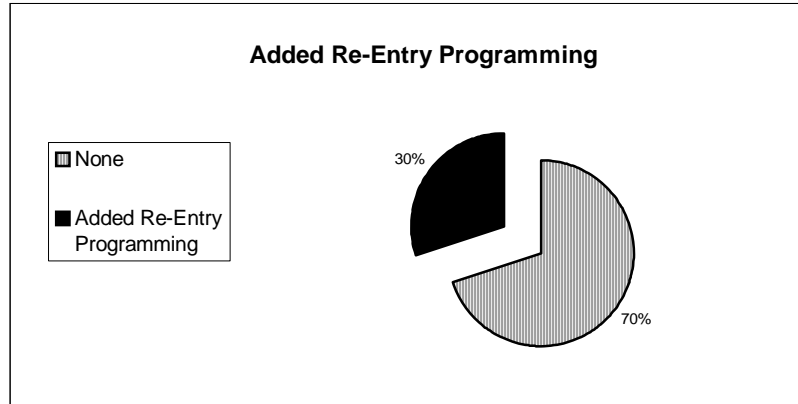
6 of 87 parolees (7%) were initially placed in no DRC or Re-Entry programming.

Added Programming

As part of the Re-Entry Initiative in Region IID, in addition to initial parole requirements, Re-Entry programs were also used as alternatives to recommitment.

During the time of the study, January 2002 to January 2003, parole violations by a parolee often resulted in additional programming being added to their parole requirements. Programs were assigned based on the type and seriousness of the violation and were determined by the parolee's parole officer. Thirty percent of parolees received Re-entry programming as an added requirement to their parole.

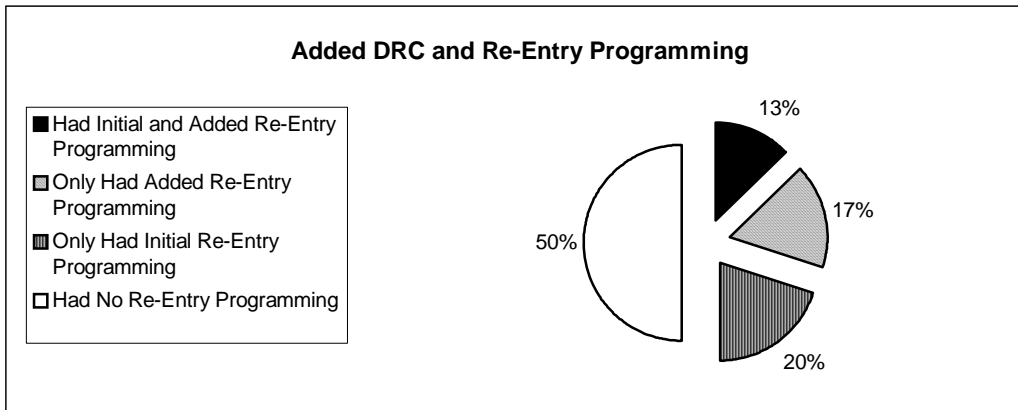
Figure 3



26 of 87 parolees (30%) had Re-Entry programming added after being paroled into the community.

Even when the non-DRC Re-Entry programs (listed in the *Methods* section of the report) were utilized as both the initial and added parole requirements, there were still half (50%) of all parolees involved in the study that were never placed into a Re-Entry program other than the DRC at any time during their parole. Thus, even when Re-Entry programming was used as an added requirement as well as an initial requirement, programs other than DRC were not used consistently.

Figure 4

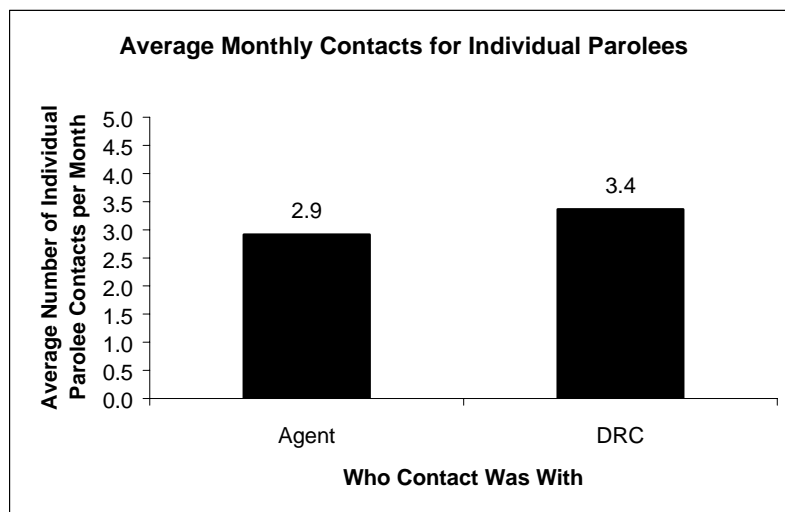


11 of 87 parolees (13%) with initial Re-Entry programming had additional programming added.
 18 of 87 parolees (20%) only had initial Re-Entry programming.
 15 of 87 parolees (17%) only had Re-Entry programming added to parole requirements.

Transition Caseload

Transition Caseload was another feature of the initiative. Parolees participating in programming other than Drug Board generally remain on the transition caseload for 60 to 90 days. Those parolees with violations or noncompliance on parole may remain on this caseload for more than 90 days. Through supervision contact data collection, this study has found that parole with a regular caseload provides the same level of supervision and contact as is provided on the transition caseload, an average of 2.9 times per month.

Figure 5



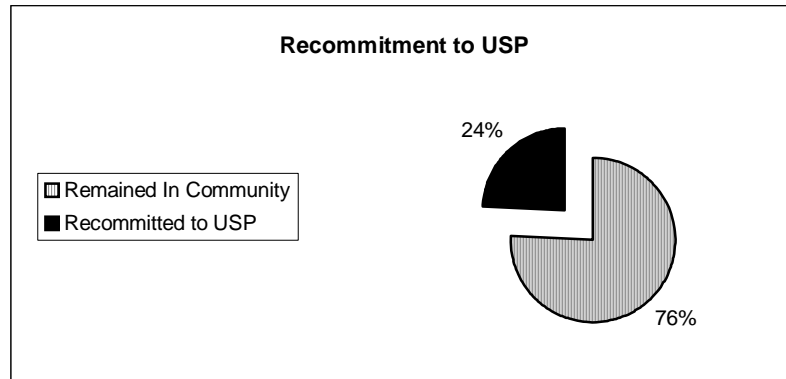
Parolees on the Transition Caseload received an average of 2.9 contacts per month from an AP&P agent.

Recommitment

As part of the study of the Re-Entry Initiative, recidivism rates of those involved in the initiative were considered. In comparing the programming involvement of those who remained in the community with those who returned to USP, it was determined that there was no relationship between participation in Re-Entry programming and subsequent USP recommitment.

To answer the question, "Did initial assignment to DRC or other Re-Entry programming prevent recommitment to USP?" a Chi Square Analysis was conducted. Based on the Chi Square Statistic, Phi Coefficient, and Standardized Residuals, it was determined that there was no relationship between initially participating in Re-Entry programming and subsequent USP recommitment. That is to say that there were no differences beyond what would be expected by chance alone.

Figure 6

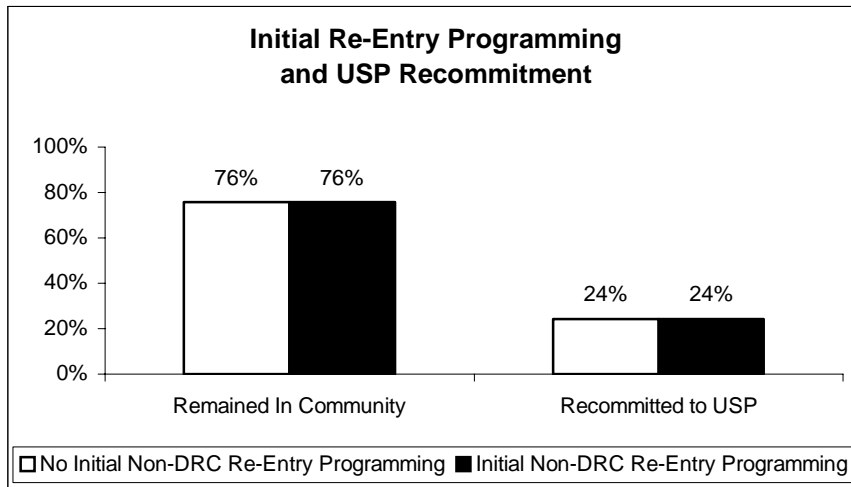


24 of 87 parolees (24%) were recommitted to USP while on parole in Region IID.

To answer the question, "Did assignment to additional Re-Entry programming after being paroled in the community prevent recommitment to the USP?" a Chi Square Analysis was conducted. The Chi Square Statistics revealed effects beyond what would be expected by chance alone, and the Phi Coefficient showed a modest relationship between programming and recommitment.

The Standardized Residuals revealed that parolees who were initially participating in Re-Entry Programming and also had additional Re-Entry Programming added were much more likely to have subsequent USP recommitment than any other group. This is most likely because these parolees were the ones who were most likely to be recommitted anyway. However, the data does reveal that the Re-Entry Programming is unlikely to have any positive impact on this group of offenders.

Figure 7

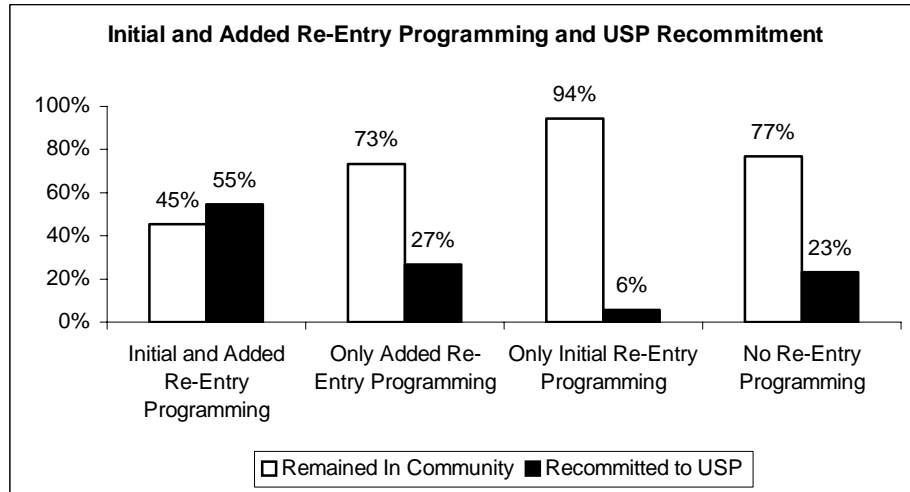


24% of parolees involved in Non-DRC programming, as well as 24% of those not involved in Non-DRC programming were recommitted to USP on new charges.

In looking at those parolees who received Re-Entry programming as both an initial expectation of parole and as added programming, these offenders were actually

more likely to have subsequent USP recommitment. This is most likely because these parolees committed the most severe offenses and thus were the most likely to be recommitment anyway. However, the data does reveal that Re-Entry programming is unlikely to have any positive impact on this group of offenders.

Figure 8



55% of those involved in Re-Entry programming as both an initial parole requirement and an added parole requirement were recommitment to prison.

Limitations

Again, there is the caution that the numbers are small and the time frame is short. Since this study consisted of a one-year snapshot of these parolees it provides an opportunity for the Department to look at reasons for this finding. Studies of recidivism of less than 3 years are not recommended as entirely conclusive.

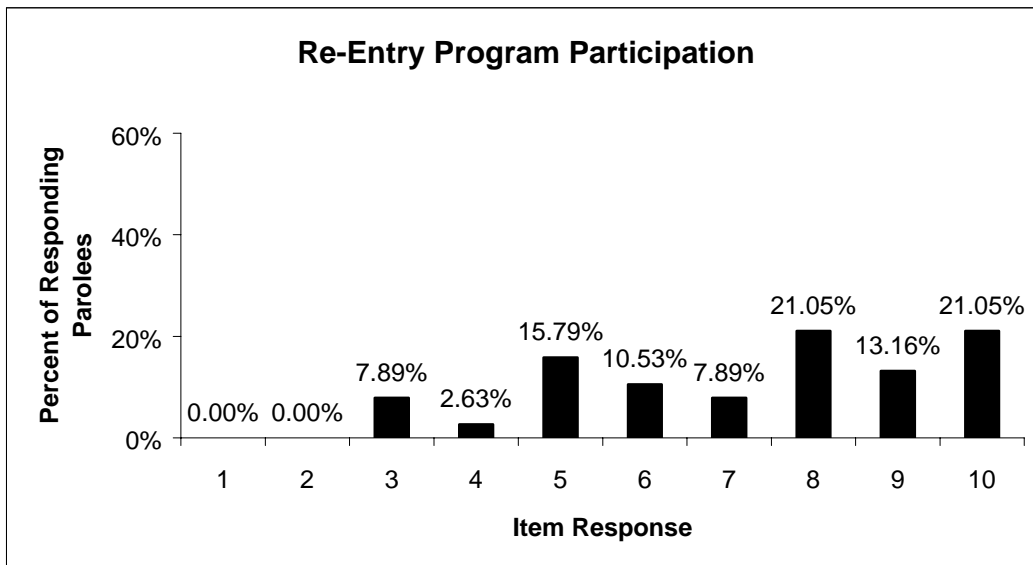
Interview Data

As part of this study, interviews were conducted with the parolees involved. All interviews in this study used an IRB-approved questionnaire and were conducted by research assistants of the University of Utah Criminal and Juvenile Justice Consortium. Parolees who consented to being interviewed were given an informed consent form as well as a verbal description of the study. Interviews were conducted both over the phone and in person with research assistants. All in-person interviews were conducted at the Farmington AP&P office. There were 42 parolees interviewed and a total of 74 parolee interviews were conducted between October 2002 and February 2003.

Parolees were questioned about the effectiveness of the Re-entry program that they were involved in. The majority of the participants rated the importance of their participation in their programming as quite important, with a rating of 8, 9, or 10 on a Likert Scale of 1 to 10.

Figure 9

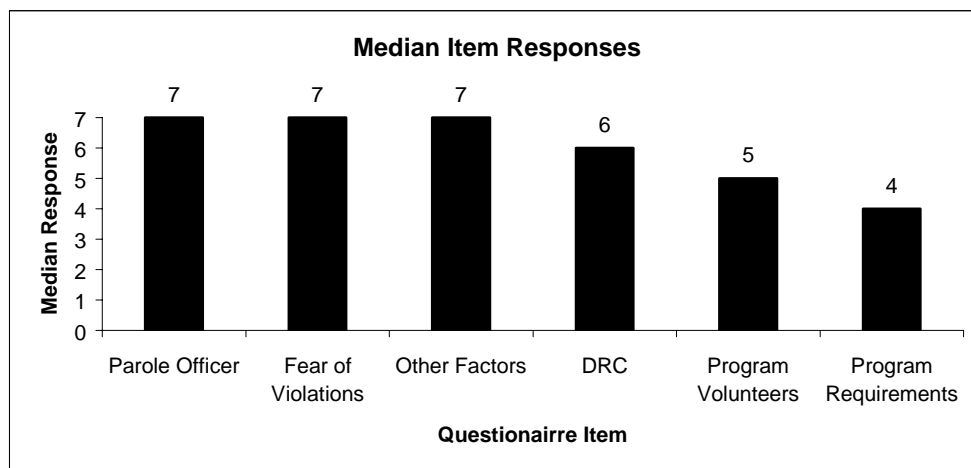
“How helpful do you think your program participation has been in helping you to comply with your parole requirements?”



Item responses are based on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 means, “participation has made complying with their parole requirements much more difficult,” and 10 means, “participation has made complying with their parole requirements much easier.” The majority of the participants who answered this question felt that their program made complying with their parole requirements easier, with a rating of 8, 9, or 10. Four parolees (9%) declined to answer this question.

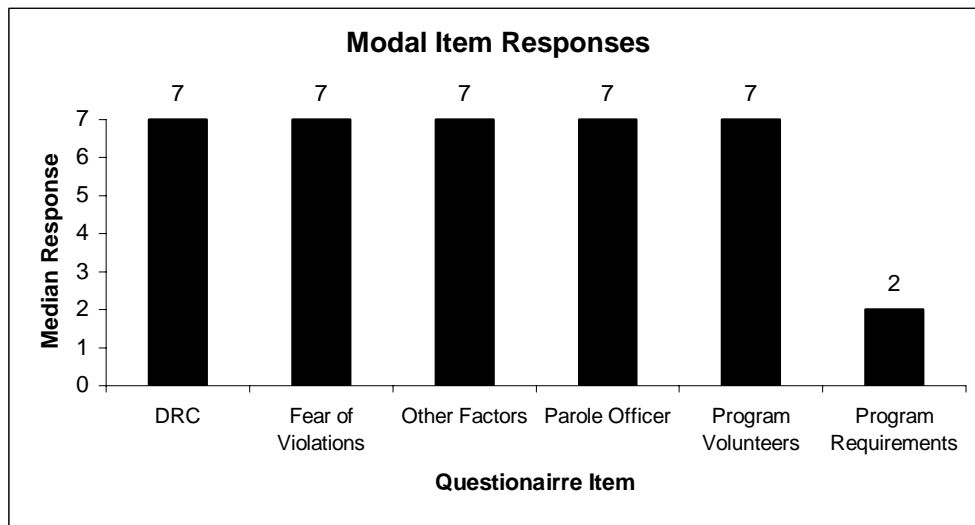
In general, parolees were very positive about their experiences on parole and the effectiveness of their parole requirements. Interview data indicates that parolees feel that there are many factors that contribute to their success on parole. The median responses to the questionnaire indicate that the program requirements were not as large a contributor to their compliance as were other factors.

Figure 10



Based on median responses to the questionnaire items, it appears that parole officers, fear of parole violations, and other factors were most important in helping parolees comply with the conditions of their parole.

Figure 11



Based on modal responses to the questionnaire items, it appears that all of the factors, with the exception of Re-entry program requirements, were equally important in helping parolees comply with the conditions of their parole. The parolees consistently rated the Re-Entry program requirements as least important.

* For graphs on other interview responses, see Appendix A.

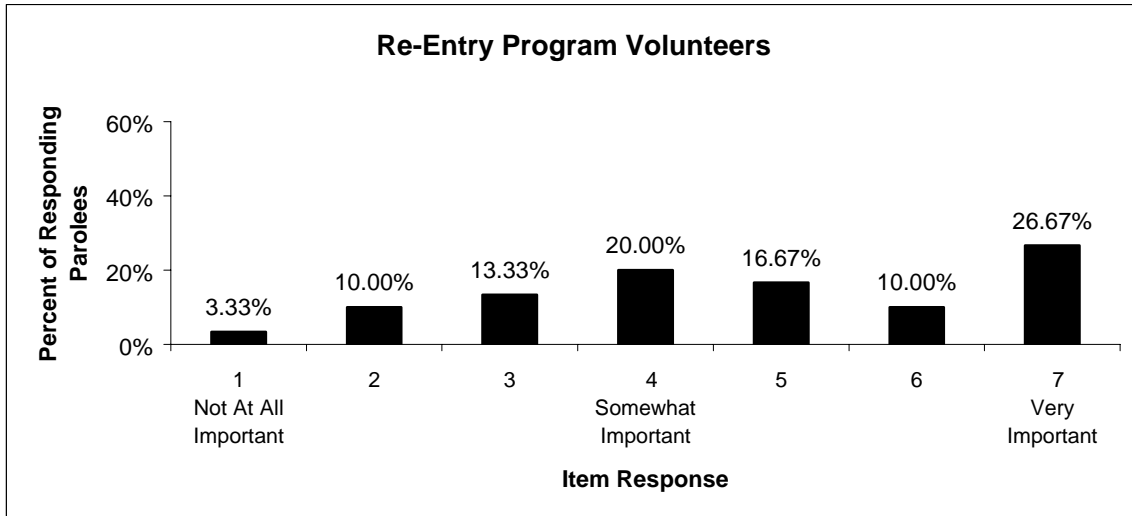
Conclusion

In summary, according to the data collected on the Re-Entry Initiative in Region IID, programming components other than the DRC are not being used extensively as a part of parole requirements. In addition, parolees' programming does not seem to have any effect on their likelihood to be recommitted to prison. It appears that Parole Officers are having contact with the parolees on their caseload consistently and multiple times per month, however it does not appear that the transition caseload is more intensive or more effective than traditional parole.

Appendix A

Figure 12

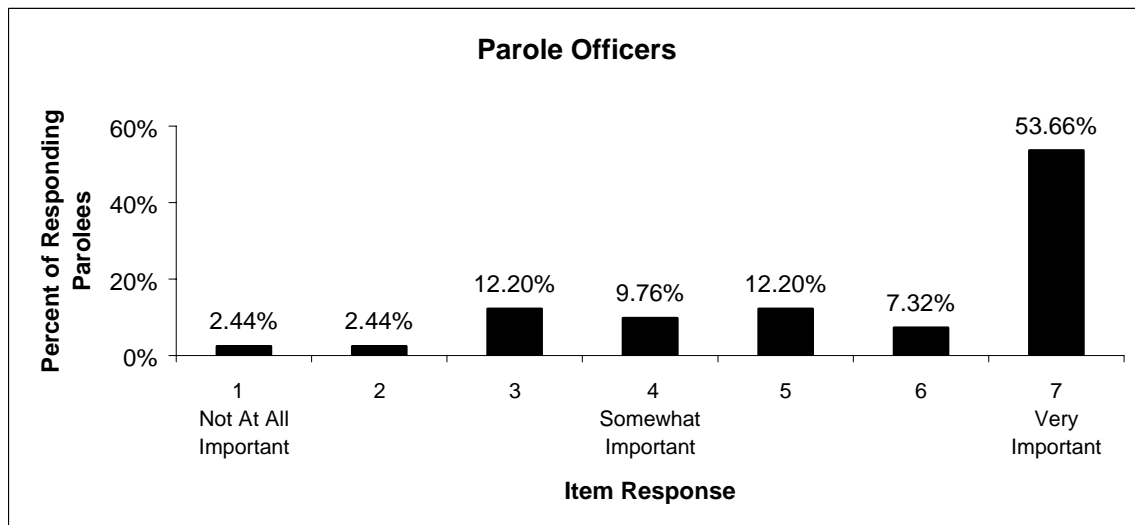
“How important are program volunteers in helping you to
comply with your parole requirements?”



Of the parolees who answered this question, the majority (74%) rated the volunteers as at least somewhat important in helping them comply with their parole. Twelve parolees (29%) declined to answer this question.

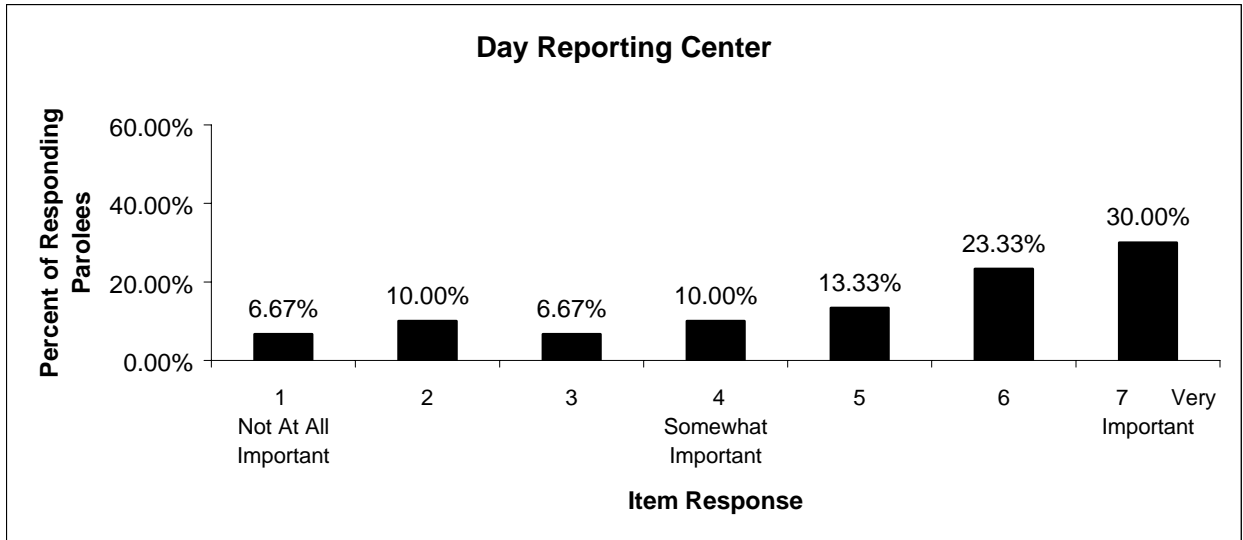
Figure 13

“How important is interaction with your parole officer in helping you to comply with your parole requirements?”



Of the parolees who answered this question, more than half (54%) rated their parole officer as very important in helping them comply with their parole. One parolee (2%) declined to answer this question.

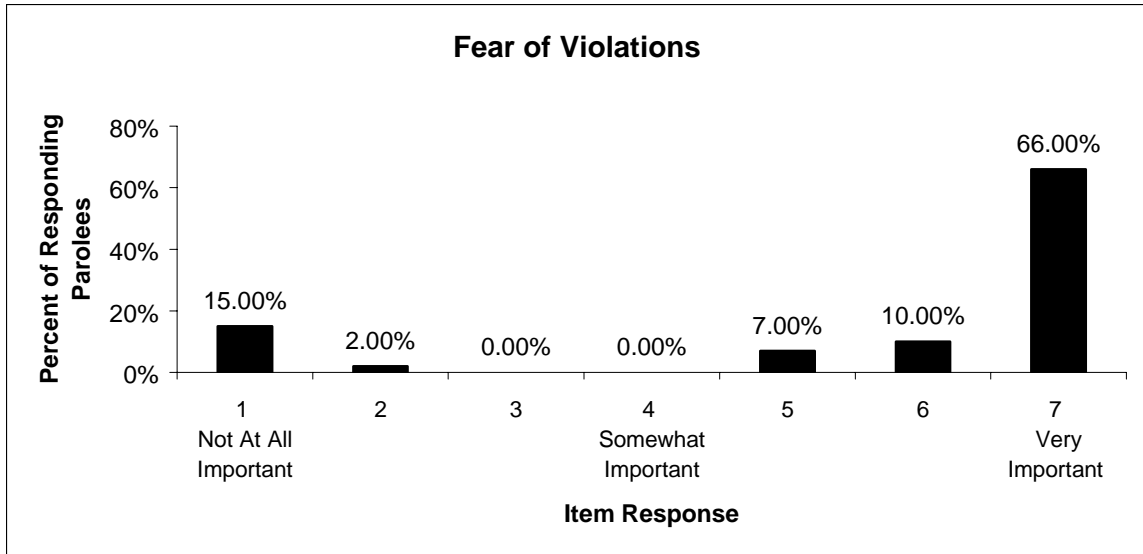
Figure 14
“How important is the DRC in helping you to comply with your parole requirements?”



Of the parolees who answered this question, the majority (66%) rated the DRC as quite important in helping them comply with their parole, giving it a rating of 5, 6, or 7. Twelve parolees (29%) declined to answer this question.

Figure 15

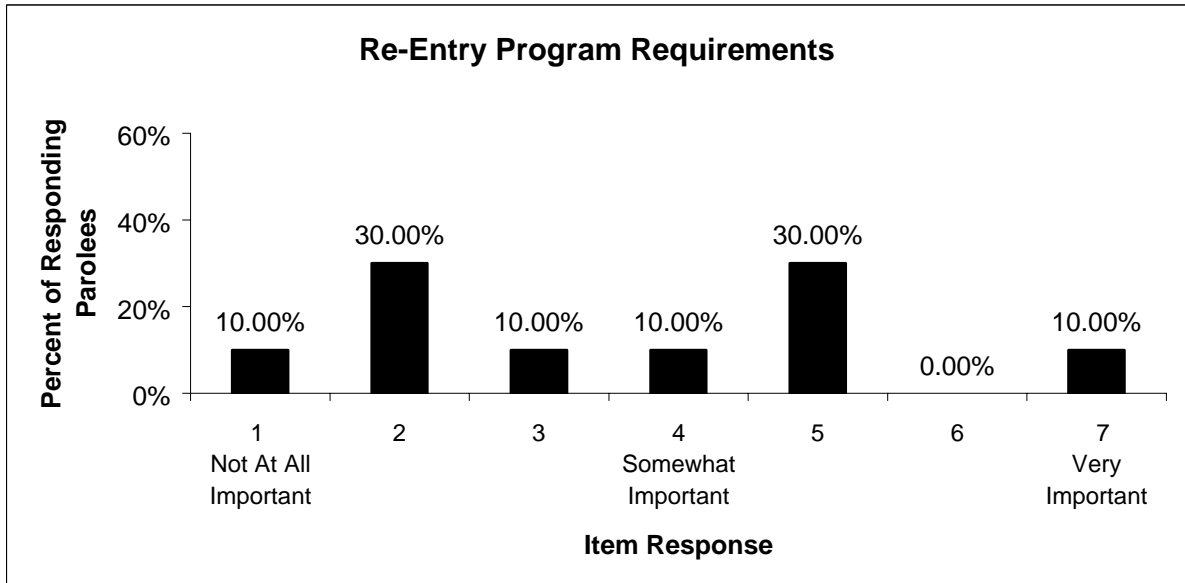
“How important is fear of violating conditions of parole in helping you to comply with your parole requirements?”



Of the parolees who answered this question, the majority (66%) rated the fear of violating their parole as very important in helping them comply with their parole. One parolee (2%) declined to answer this question.

Figure 16

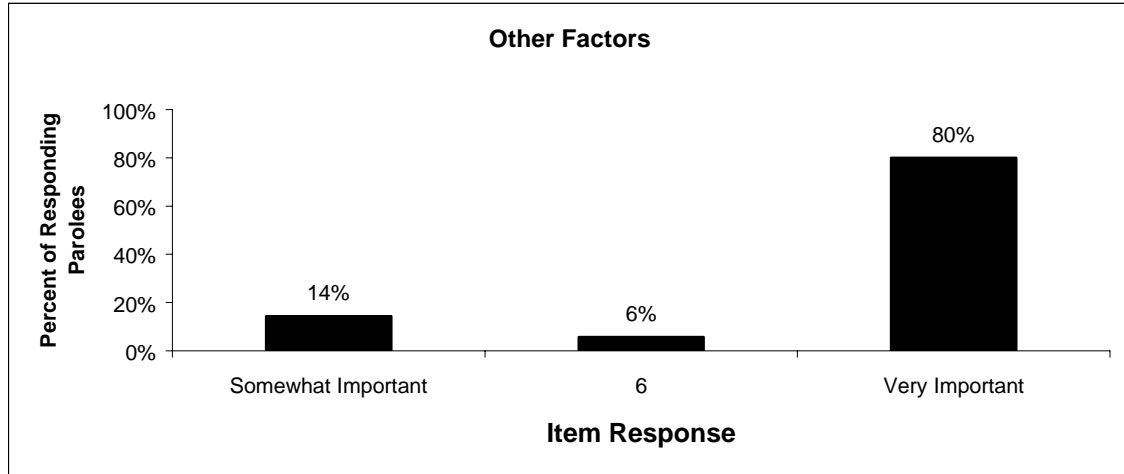
“How important are the program requirements other than the conditions of your parole in helping you to comply with your parole requirements?”



Of the parolees who answered this question, an equal number rated the Re-entry requirements of their program as quite effective as not very effective. The equal distribution of the positive and negative

responses to this question 32 (76%) declined to answer this question.

Figure 17
“How important would you say they have been in helping you comply with parole?”



Of the parolees who answered this question, most (80%) rated the other factors that they cited as very important in helping them comply with their parole. Seven parolees (17%) declined to answer this question.