

# 2022 EVALUATION REPORT SUMMARY

VENTURA COUNTY PROBATION AGENCY ADULT REPORTING & RESOURCE CENTER



## EXTERNAL PROGRAM EVALUATION

In 2022, Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA) contracted EVALCORP to design and conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Ventura County and East County Adult Reporting and Resource Centers (ARRCs) operated by GEO Reentry Services. The evaluation was aimed to assess program impact, identify strengths and barriers, develop recommendations, and measure the extent to which ARRC participation impacted recidivism and other justice system outcomes.

VCPA established the Ventura County ARRC in 2016 and the East County ARRC in 2020 to address the criminogenic risk factors of individuals on probation and pretrial with the greatest risk of re-offending, struggling to comply with court orders, or needing transition support. [The evaluation findings indicate that the ARRC services have helped clients make positive behavioral changes in their lives.](#) The full report can be viewed at [GEOreentry.com](http://GEOreentry.com).

## EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

EVALCORP employed a mixed-methods research design consisting of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis to assess the ARRC programs and the impact services have on clients. The evaluation compared two groups of clients who participated in programming between July 2016 and February 2022: clients who entered the program, but left before engaging in treatment programs (Motivation Phase Only, n=395) and clients who engaged in treatment programs (Treatment Phase & Beyond, n=344). In addition to the administrative and criminal justice data provided by GEO Reentry and VCPA, a component of the evaluation was client and staff perspectives and recommendations.

## KEY FINDINGS

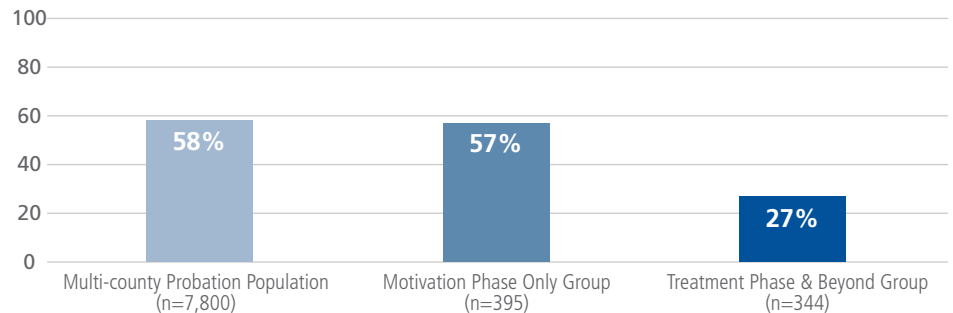
ARRC participation that progresses to Treatment Phase & Beyond leads to positive outcomes. Compared with clients in the Motivation Phase Only group, clients in the Treatment Phase & Beyond group had:

- Lower rates of custodial sanctions (30% v. 37%)
- Lower rearrest rates (27% v. 57%)
- Fewer new case filings (30% v. 51%)
- Significantly lower recidivism rate (26% v. 43%)

## TWO-YEAR REARREST RATE

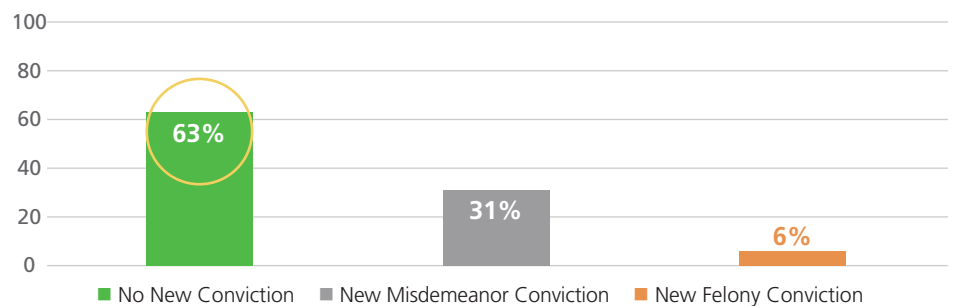
A multi-county study published in June 2019 by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) reported two-year arrest rates across 12 counties in California to represent the state. This study found that individuals sentenced to probation as of October 2015 had an overall two-year rearrest rate of 58%.

In looking at the ARRC population, [within 24 months of ARRC service entry, 57% of the Motivation Phase Only group had a new arrest compared to 27% of the Treatment Phase & Beyond group.](#)<sup>1</sup> The data indicates that the longer a client engages and participates in programming, the rearrest rate decreases.



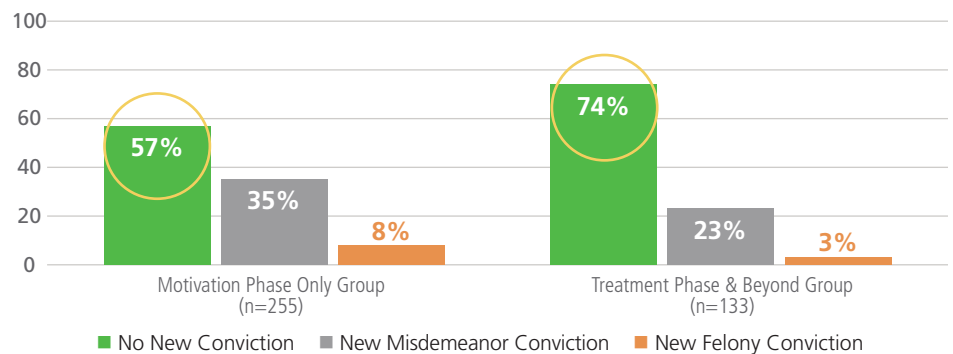
## THREE-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATE

The recidivism rate is defined as a new conviction for an offense committed within three years of ARRC entry. [Sixty-three percent of all ARRC clients, regardless of phase status, had no new convictions within three years of entering the ARRC program.](#) Of the 37% who had a new conviction, 31% received a misdemeanor conviction, and 6% received a felony conviction.<sup>2</sup> (n=739)



## THREE-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATE BY GROUP

In looking at the data by phase group, [57% of Motivation Phase Only group had no new convictions within three years post-ARRC entry, compared to 74% of the Treatment Phase & Beyond group.](#)<sup>2</sup> Similar to the data above, for those who recidivated, a majority received a misdemeanor conviction.



## SERVICE PARTICIPATION

**107,890** Service sessions provided to 1,078 individuals<sup>3</sup>

**1,919** Community referrals logged<sup>4</sup>

**35,690** Substance use tests conducted, with 94% testing negative<sup>5</sup>

## CLIENT SURVEY RESULTS

Below are results from the client survey conducted during the evaluation to gather client perspective on the helpfulness of services and the positive impact on their lives. (n=72)

### CLIENT PERSPECTIVE: ARRC IMPACT

The majority (75%-95%) of respondents strongly agreed/agreed that the ARRC had a positive impact across various aspects of their lives.<sup>7</sup>

#### Since I started attending the ARRC...

I have been motivated to make positive changes in my life.



I am more likely to remain arrest/conviction free.



I have improved my interpersonal relationships.



I am better able to avoid criminal and/or risky behaviors.



I have not violated my probation.



■ Agree/Strongly Agree ■ Disagree/Strongly Disagree

### CLIENT PERSPECTIVE: HELPFULNESS OF SERVICES

#### The following groups were helpful to me<sup>8</sup>:

Note: Percentages do not include n/a responses

Moral Reconciliation Therapy<sup>9</sup>



Thinking for a Change



Job Readiness Employment Services



Substance Use Counseling



Community Connections & Referrals



Individual Cognitive Behavioral Treatment



Education Services

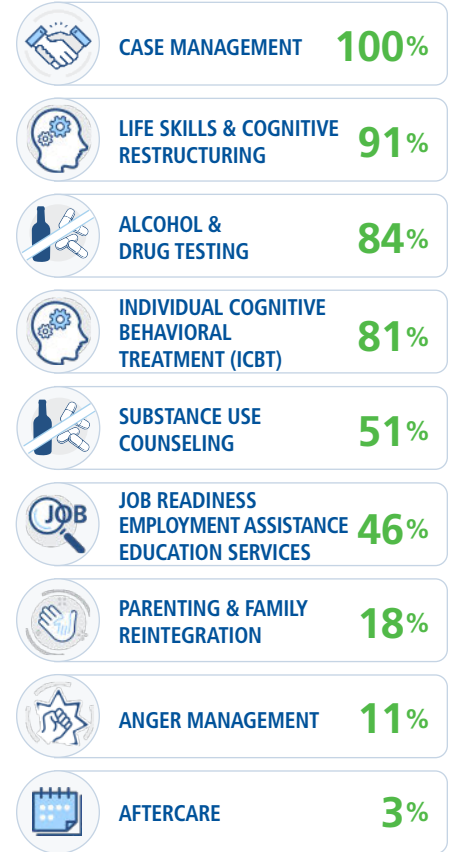


■ Very Helpful or Somewhat Helpful ■ Not Helpful

<sup>1</sup>VCPA ARRC Evaluation Report 2022, Figure 13, p.17; <sup>2</sup>VCPA ARRC Evaluation Report 2022, Figure 18, p.22; <sup>3</sup>VCPA ARRC Evaluation Report 2022, Figure 1, p.5; <sup>4</sup>VCPA ARRC Evaluation Report 2022, Table 1, p.8; <sup>5</sup>VCPA ARRC Evaluation Report 2022, Figure 8, p.11; <sup>6</sup>VCPA ARRC Evaluation Report 2022, Figure 2, p.6; <sup>7</sup>VCPA ARRC Evaluation Report 2022, Table 8, p.31; <sup>8</sup>VCPA ARRC Evaluation Report 2022, Figure 23a & 23b, p.28;

## PARTICIPATION BY SERVICE

The below data shows the percentage of clients who received a service across ten different service categories. A client is counted the first time they received a service in that category. Clients may appear in multiple service categories but are only counted once in each.<sup>6</sup>



## RECOMMENDATIONS

After the comprehensive evaluation was completed, EVALCORP made the following recommendations, among others.

### INCREASE REACH

- Additional sites (e.g., Oxnard)
- Expand hours at East County ARRC
- Adapt services for at-risk communities

### EXPAND SERVICES

- Additional classes offered in Spanish
- Incorporate family and significant others more often
- Strengthen community connections
- Housing assistance, non-substance use, transportation, specific vocational training, life skills classes

### PROVIDE ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

- Create mentorship program for graduates

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