

# VIRGINIA SERIOUS AND VIOLENT OFFENDER REENTRY INITIATIVE *VASAVOR - FAIRFAX*



"Going Home To Stay"

Status Report for the Period of February  
2003 to July 2005



Prepared by the VA Department of Corrections  
Research, Evaluation and Forecast Unit

**Partners:** Probation & Parole District #29 - Fairfax, Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board, Fairfax/Falls Church Community Services Board, Fairfax Sheriff's Office, Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources

# VASAVOR PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

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## VASAVOR MISSION:

- **Identify and address critical services and supervision needs to enhance offenders' successful community reentry and reduce recidivism.**
- **Services provided include:** education, vocational training, intensive employment assistance, residential placement, physical/mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, sex offender services, intensive supervision and offender monitoring through technology

## VASAVOR POPULATION:

- **Serious and Violent Offenders:** Capital Murder, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Homicide, Abduction/Kidnapping, Sexual Assault/Rape, Robbery, Assault, Weapons Charge, Manslaughter, Car Jacking
- **Incarcerated offenders serving a state sentence** who are **released under supervision**, with **no detainers**, who have **home plans** and **return placement** in **Fairfax**.

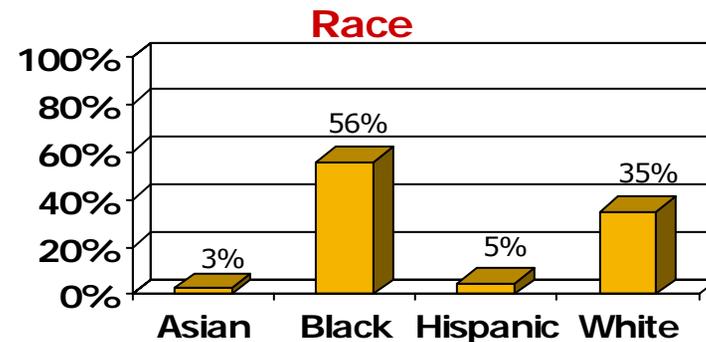
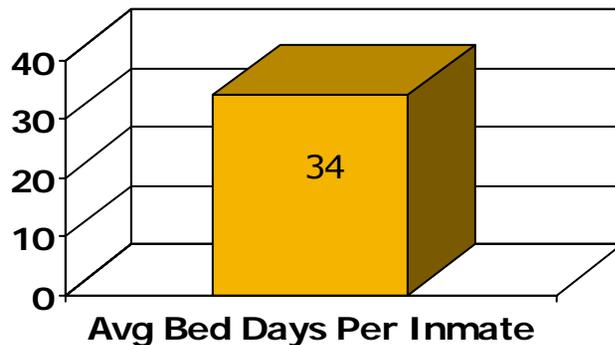
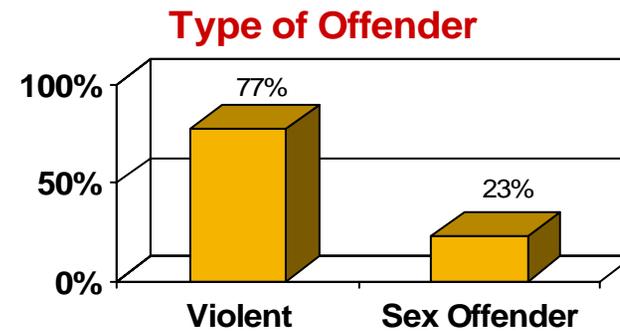
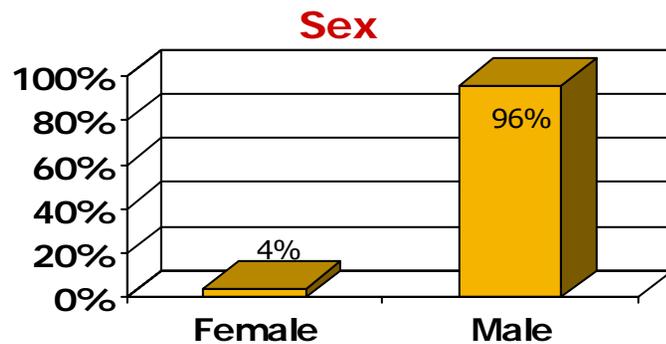
# VASAVOR PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION Continued

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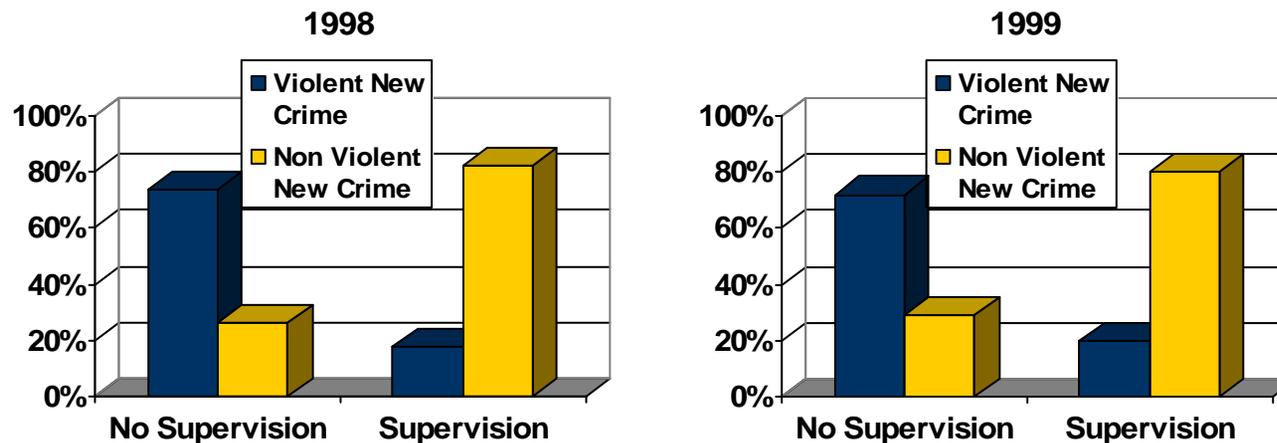
- ▶ **Phase I:** DOC Prison Facility and Transfer to Fairfax Adult Detention Center
  
- ▶ **Phase II:** Transition to the Community
  - ▶ Probation and Parole Intensive Supervision
  - ▶ Access to Community-Based Services
  - ▶ Transition Team guides offender in job training or educational placement
  - ▶ Ancillary services provided according to offender needs
  
- ▶ **Phase III:**
  - ▶ Reduced Level of Supervision
  - ▶ Level of Increased Self Sufficiency With Established Support System
  - ▶ Successful Termination

# A LOOK AT THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE FAIRFAX ADULT DETENTION CENTER (FADC) PHASE



NOTE: Total number of VASAVOR offenders participating or have participated in the FADC phase is 102.

# VIRGINIA RECIDIVISTS\* RELEASED UNDER SUPERVISION VS NON SUPERVISION



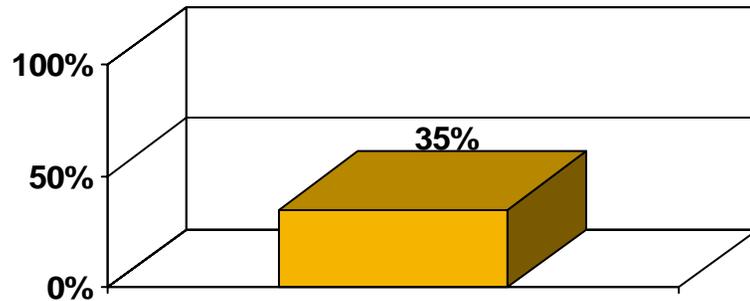
- Offenders who were released under supervision = lower violent recidivism and higher number of technical violations
- Offenders released not under supervision = higher violent recidivism and less technical violations

\*Virginia recidivism based on 3 year follow-up periods.

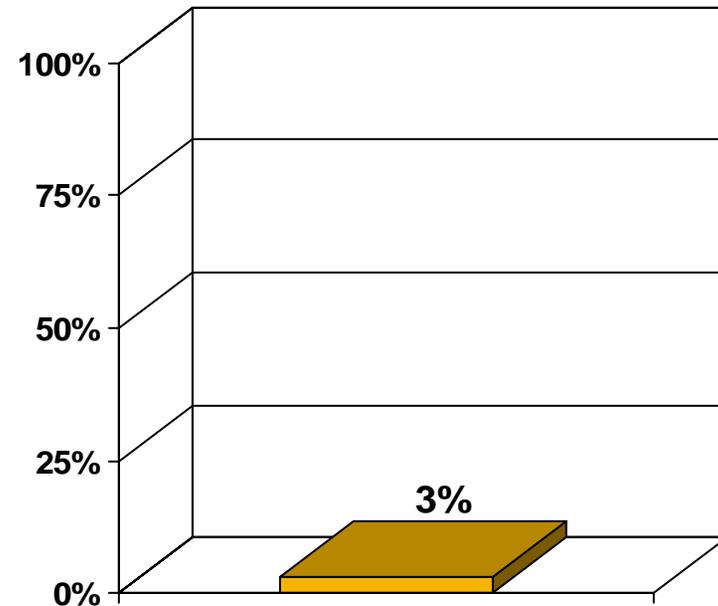
Note: Non Violent New Crime includes technical parole violations.

# A LOOK AT RECIDIVISM – those returned for a new crime

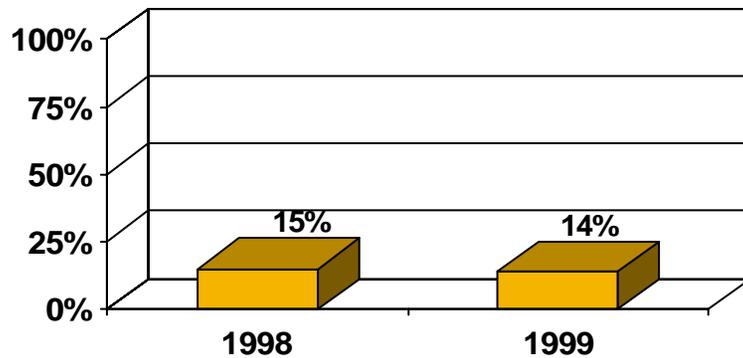
National Violent Offender Recidivism Rate



VASAVOR\*\* Recidivism Rate



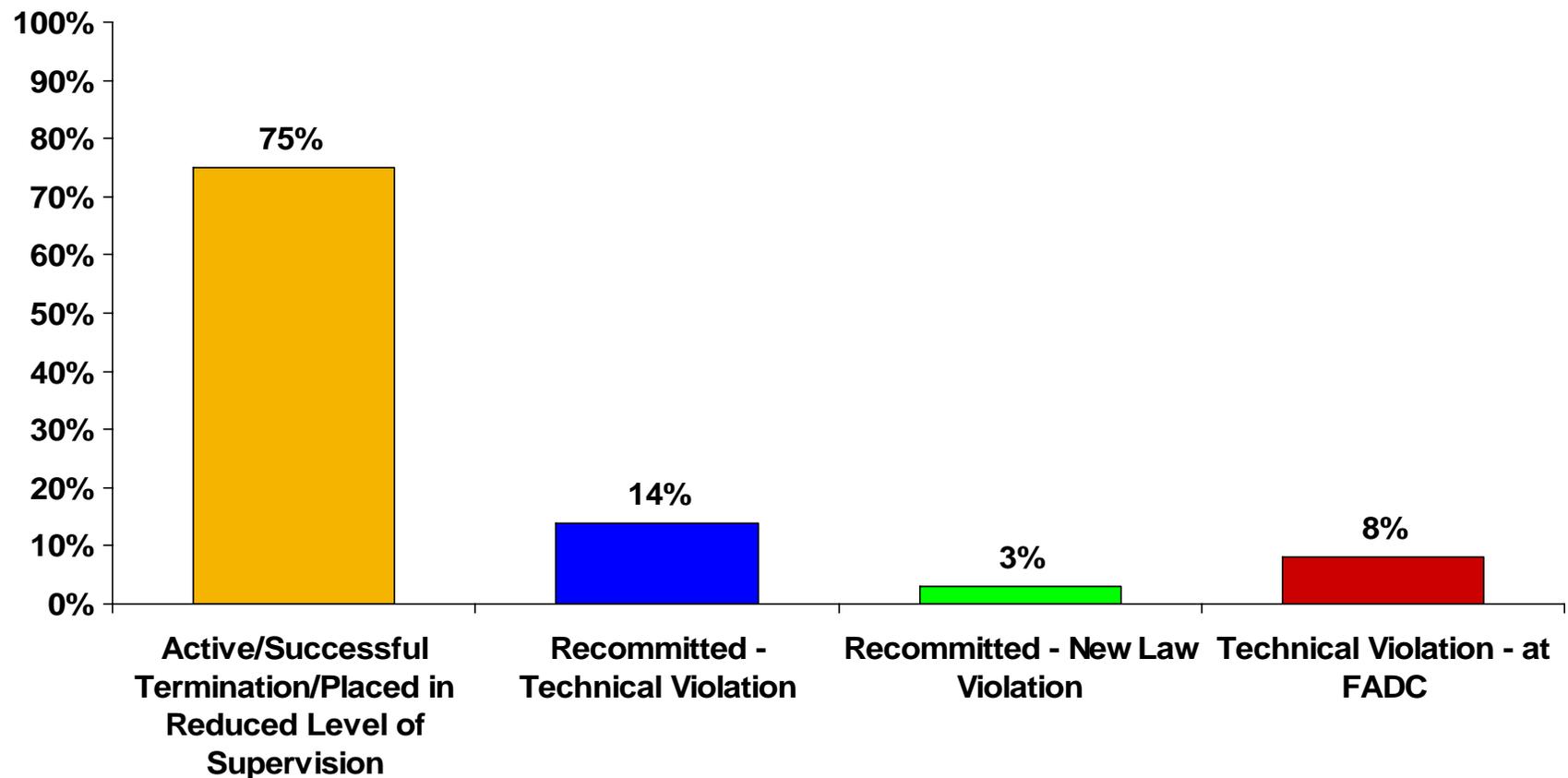
Virginia Violent Offender Recidivism Rate\*



\*Virginia Recidivism based on 3 year follow-up periods.

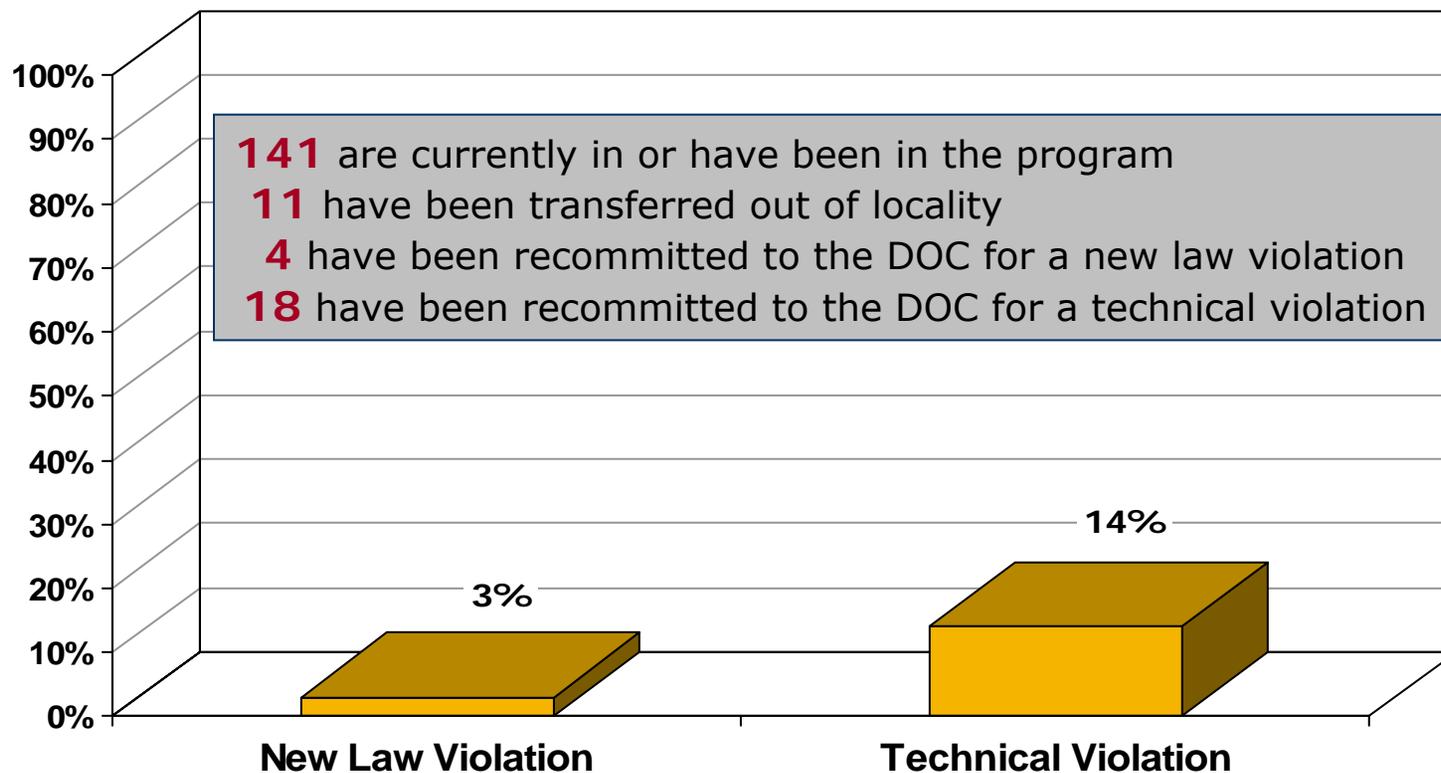
\*\*VASAVOR recidivism rate is based on all released participants since program inception, February 2003.

# VASAVOR RECIDIVISM



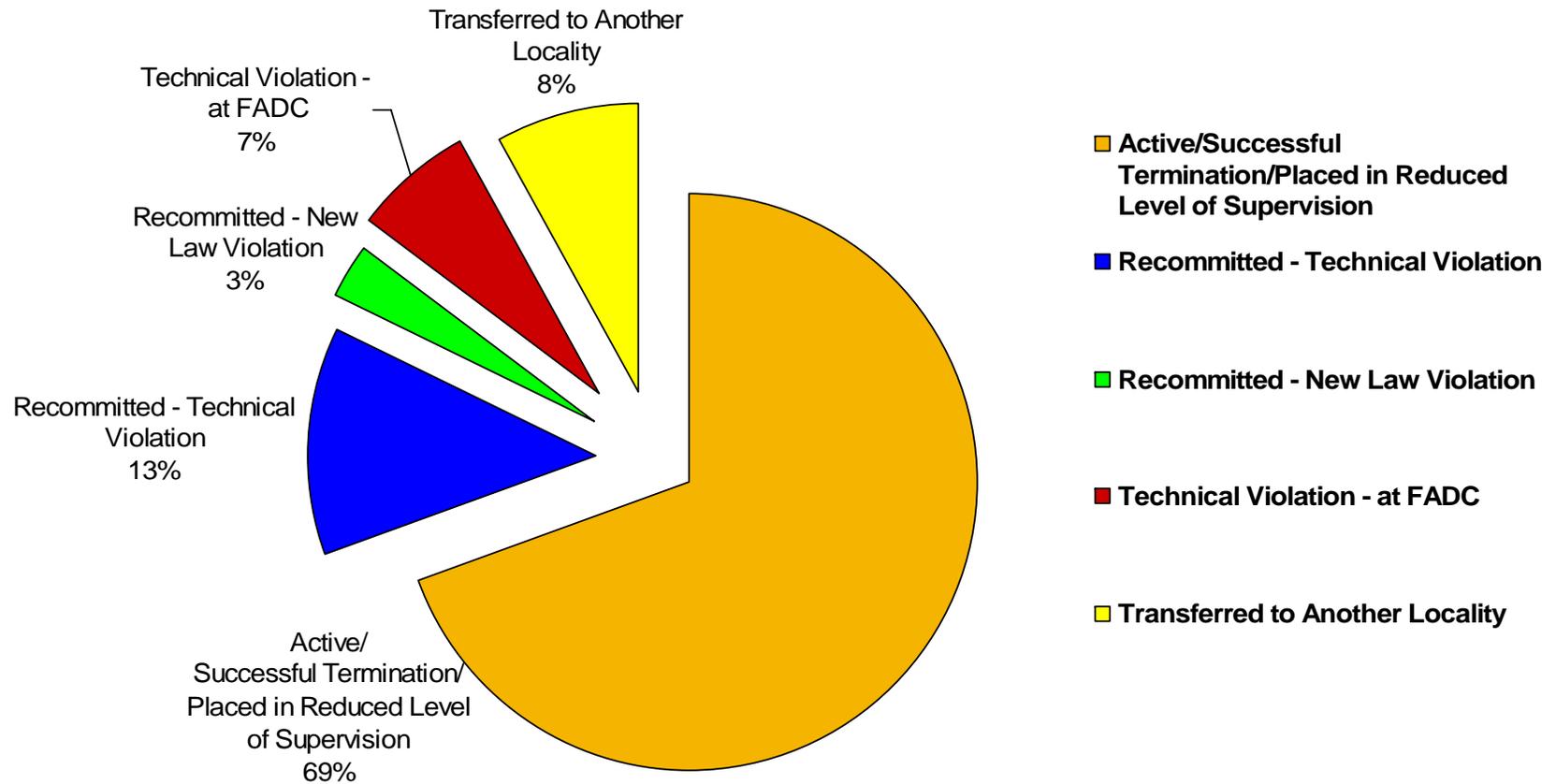
Note: Total number of VASAVOR offenders included in graph is 130. This does not include those who were transferred to another locality.

# VASAVOR RECIDIVISM – those Offenders Who Returned to DOC



Note: Total number of VASAVOR offenders included in graph is 130. This does not include those who were transferred to another locality.

# VASAVOR OFFENDER STATUS



Note: Total number of VASAVOR offenders included in graph is 141. This does include those who were transferred to another locality.

**SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH FAIRFAX  
COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
(funded by the VASAVOR Grant)**

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Overall inmate supervision, care and maintenance relative to food, clothing and routine health needs in accordance with the Board of Corrections Minimum Standards for Local Jails and Lockups and access to appropriate programming.

## **NORTHERN VIRGINIA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (NVWIB) SERVICES (funded by the VASAVOR Grant)**

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- ▶ Job Developer (case manager) to work with VASAVOR offenders.
- ▶ Individual Training Accounts (ITA) used to assess skills of VASAVOR offenders and provide training and/or education.
- ▶ Miscellaneous employment support which includes, but is not limited to, protective clothing, equipment, and transportation assistance.

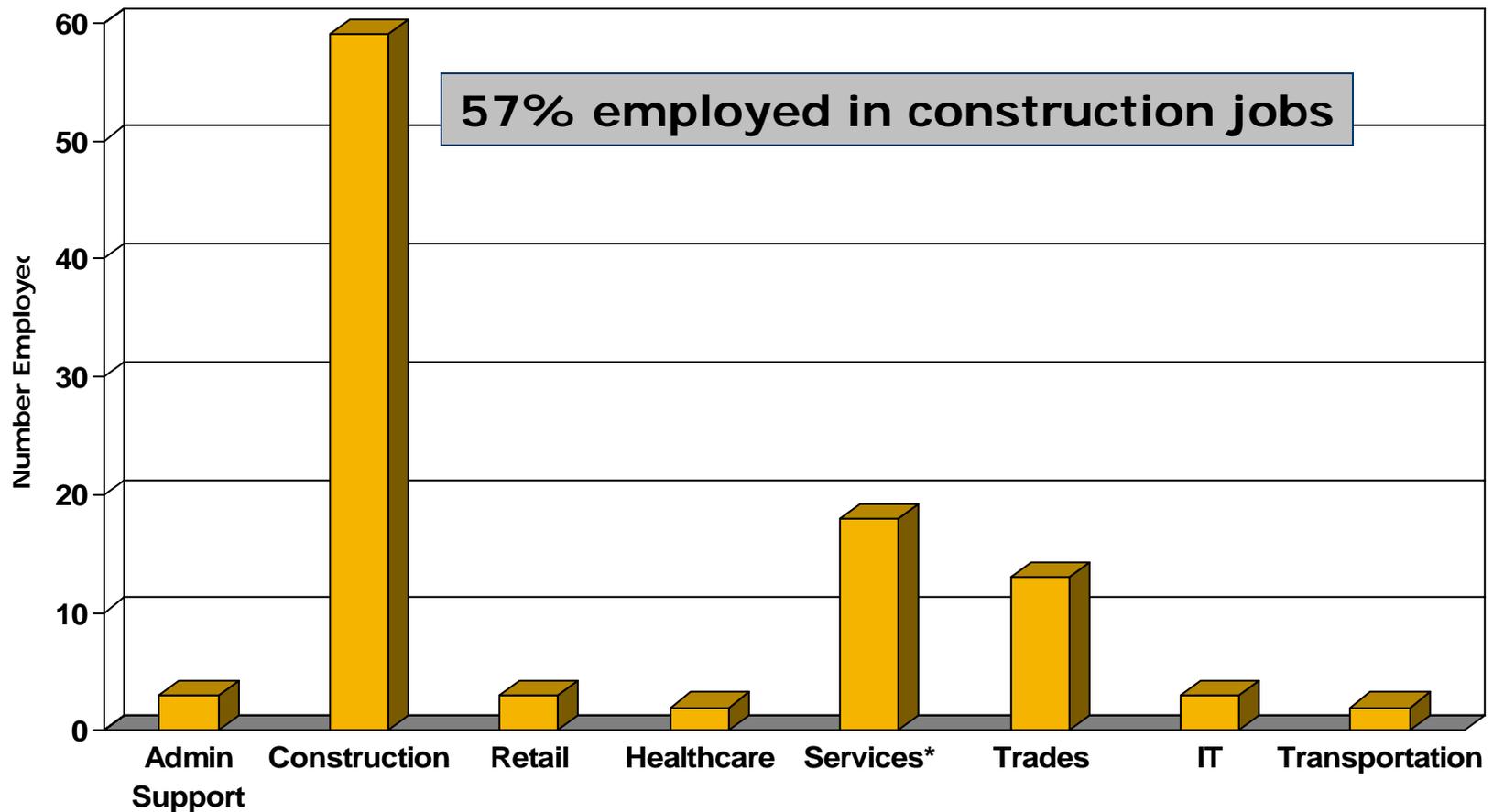
# VASAVOR EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

(from Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board)



- ✍ 137 clients have received services
- ✍ 103 are employed (thru July 2005)
- ✍ Average salary at placement: \$27,809 year; \$13.37 per hour
- ✍ 49% are receiving benefits (health insurance, sick leave, vacation)
- ✍ 5 clients enrolled in On the Job Training

# VASAVOR OFFENDER EMPLOYMENT AREAS



\*"Services" area includes janitorial and maintenance, office and carpet cleaning.

# VASAVOR OFFENDER EMPLOYMENT TENURE

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# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT “LIVING FREE” SERVICES (funded by VASAVOR Grant)**

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- Evaluation and assessment of VASAVOR offenders
- Development of Individual Service Plans (ISP) for applicable VASAVOR offenders
- Group counseling based on ISP, focusing on teaching recognition of abuse patterns and tools to intervene in those patterns as well as avoidance of risky behaviors

# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT "LIVING FREE" (funded by VASAVOR Grant)**

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**85 Offenders Assessed for "Living Free"**



**3 Determined to Not Need Treatment  
8 Referred to Other Services**



**31 Offenders Currently at "Living Free"**



**30 Offenders Successfully Completed "Living Free" (to  
include 9 in Aftercare)**



**13 Offenders Unsuccessful**

NOTE: The assessment is the Clinical Psychosocial Interview that is done prior to beginning treatment. It assesses the client's appropriateness for group therapy and aids in developing a treatment plan.

## **FAIRFAX/FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (CSB) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (funded by the VASAVOR Grant)**

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- Mental Health Counselor to assess mental health needs of VASAVOR offenders
- Provide direct services as appropriate
- Oversee development and implementation of mental health treatment plans for those offenders
- Provide psycho-education services focused on restructuring criminogenic thinking
- Psychiatric evaluations
- Medication for those VASAVOR offenders who have a mental health diagnosis and no means to acquire medication

## **FAIRFAX/FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (CSB) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Continued** (funded by the VASAVOR Grant)

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- ❑ **125** VASAVOR offenders screened for mental health issues
- ❑ **46** VASAVOR offenders attended cognitive behavior treatment and psycho-educational groups at FADC
- ❑ **26** VASAVOR offenders attended cognitive behavior treatment and psycho-educational groups at OAR



# FAIRFAX/FALLS CHURCH (CSB) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Continued (funded by the VASAVOR Grant)



17 offenders were provided psychiatric evaluation, medications and medication monitoring

- 8 still in treatment
- 1 absconded
- 2 returned to prison
- 2 elected to go to private psychiatrist
- 1 transferred to residential facility
- 1 elected to stop meds
- 2 completed treatment

**Total Cost of Meds: FY04/05: \$21,268**

# FAIRFAX/FALLS CHURCH CSB MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Continued (funded by the VASAVOR Grant)

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## GENERAL POPULATION

Disorders needing psychotropic medications occur in approximately .5% to 3% of the U.S. population.

## NATIONAL AND STATE NUMBERS

Approximately 15% of people incarcerated in state and federal prisons are diagnosed with a mental disorder that requires medication.

## VASAVOR PROGRAM

17 of 141 VASAVOR clients (12%) require medication for mental disorders

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**CONCLUSION:** The prevalence of mental disorders that require medication in the VASAVOR population is consistent with the reported percentage of similar populations in federal and state prisons. This percentage is significantly higher than the percentage for the general population.

# SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES, ALTERNATIVES AND RESOURCES (OAR) (funded by the VASAVOR Grant)



- Residential assistance
- One full-time and one part-time **Case Manager**
  - Help provide emergency food, shelter, utility payments, counseling and medical assistance
  - Coordination of VASAVOR Transition Team (Probation/Parole Officers and Case Managers)
  - Data entry support, data integrity review and preparation of statistical reports requested by DOC and VASAVOR partners
  - Work with Faith Based organizations to coordinate and implement pro-social activities for VASAVOR offenders
  - Coordination of training and workshops for a variety of life skills for VASAVOR offenders

# TOTAL DOC BILLED AMOUNTS PAID FOR BY VASAVOR GRANT FUNDS

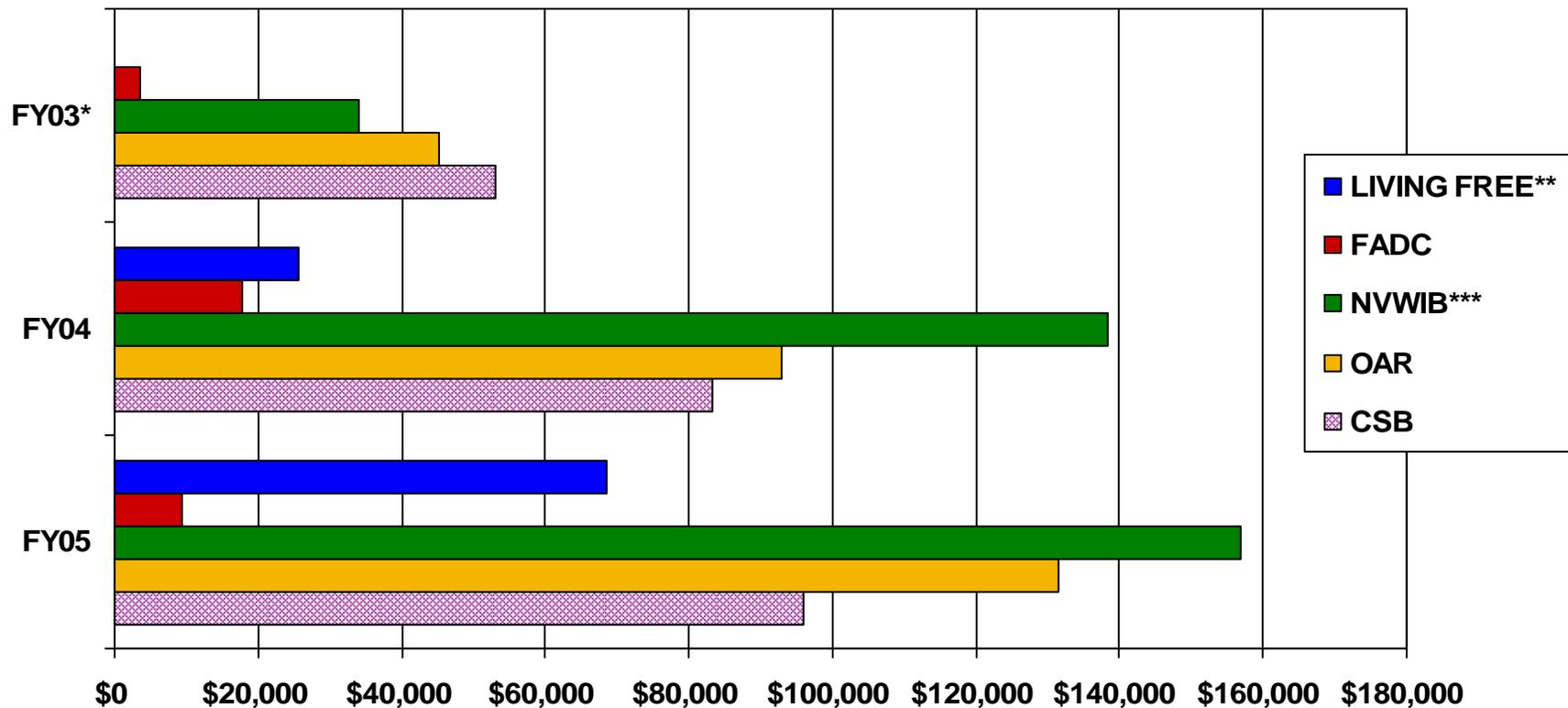
	CSB	OAR	NVWIB**	FADC	LIVING FREE	TOTAL
<b>FY03*</b>	\$53,021	\$45,170	\$34,063	\$3,432	N/A***	\$135,686
<b>FY04</b>	\$83,325	\$93,037	\$138,318	\$17,685	\$25,550	\$357,915
<b>FY05</b>	\$95,872	\$131,431	\$156,924	\$9,348	\$68,490	\$462,065
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$232,218</b>	<b>\$269,638</b>	<b>\$329,305</b>	<b>\$30,465</b>	<b>\$94,040</b>	<b>\$955,666</b>

\*VASAVOR program did not begin until February 2003.

\*\*NVWIB does not include an invoice for June 2005.

\*\*\*There were no services received from Living Free in FY03.

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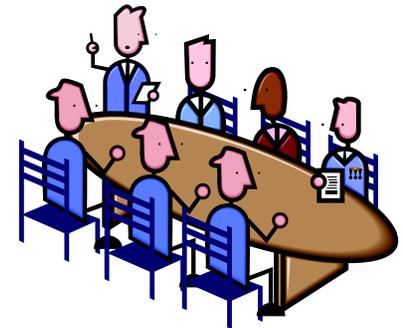
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# WHAT DO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO SAY?\*

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## Strengths:

- ✓ Appreciation for VASAVOR program
- ✓ Helpful staff members
- ✓ Provide transportation/bus tokens
- ✓ Staff does leg work
- ✓ Good follow up and follow through
- ✓ Classes
- ✓ Provide positive feedback



## Need for Improvement:

- ✗ Preprogram Communication
- ✗ Participation in the Program is Not Voluntary
- ✗ Transportation Assistance

\*Based on a focus group study done by Strumpf Associates.

# CONCLUSION

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## ADVANTAGES OF THE VASAVOR PROGRAM

- ◆ Formation of effective community partnerships closes gaps in needed offender reintegration service delivery.
- ◆ Transitional planning identifies offender needs and eases personal adaptation between institutional release and community placement.
- ◆ Enhanced communication and coordination between VASAVOR service agencies reduces duplicated efforts and saves money.
- ◆ Multi-agency collaboration results in enhanced and expanded supervision and services.
- ◆ Community-based VASAVOR gives the obligation of offender rehabilitation to the home community and decreases NIMBY (not in my backyard) reaction.

# CONCLUSION Continued

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## INITIAL RESULTS OF THE VASAVOR PROGRAM

- VASAVOR promises to be an effective approach for ensuring public safety with released serious and violent offenders: National violent offender recidivism=35%; Virginia violent recidivism =15%; VASAVOR violent offender recidivism=3% (new law violation).

## WHAT IS NEEDED?

- Continuation of VASAVOR's comprehensive services and intense supervision is dependent upon reallocation of existing agency resources and new sources of funding.
- VASAVOR interagency collaboration requires each partner to accept that other agency partners have diverse and equally important roles. Collaboration requires multi-agency partners to work together for the offenders' ultimate successes. This high level of team work requires on-going training of VASAVOR staff.