

2021 RISE Annual Data Report

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Overview

When reviewing social sciences data, particularly in the criminal justice field, data is often limited, incomplete, or underutilized. Data is often limited to current demographics that are basic in nature – age, gender, race, ethnicity, and education level. Data exploring past historical experiences or circumstances is often forgotten despite its predictive nature. In addition, data collection is often not required or put in focus in the criminal justice system or by organizations that are meant to serve that population. Incomplete data yields incomplete answers and prevents data informed decision making and decisions are typically made upon personal experiences, beliefs, and anecdotal information. This trend in the system's inability to adequately collect and analyze data is proving to yield less than positive outcomes when it comes to recidivism and stopping the ever-revolving door of the criminal justice system.

During the summer of 2020, RISE began reviewing existing data, collection methods, analysis, and use. Data collection was occurring but in an antiquated system limiting the data's validity and use. Collection methods were sporadic and inconsistent again resulting in further limitations. Because RISE values the importance of data to inform decision making, RISE embarked on developing and implementing new practices to improve data collection and analysis.

By February 2021, RISE had purchased and customized a new data management system known as Apricot. This system is a top-rated social services data management system that allows for complete customization to an organization's needs all while adhering to Social Security Administration data management and security requirements, as well as FERPA and HIPAA standards. Data also remains encrypted when in transit from personal computers and the Apricot servers. Apricot has allowed RISE to increase data collection and solidify data collection methods that allow for in-depth analysis, interpretation, and application.

Organizational Aggregate Data

Before diving into program specific data and analyses, a review of organizational aggregate data is warranted. The RISE Business Academy and RISE Family Wellness Collective are excluded at this time due to data limitations that are being addressed in 2022.

To date, RISE has served 1,043 participants through the In-Prison Program (IPP). Out of the 1,043 participants, 487 have graduated from the IPP.

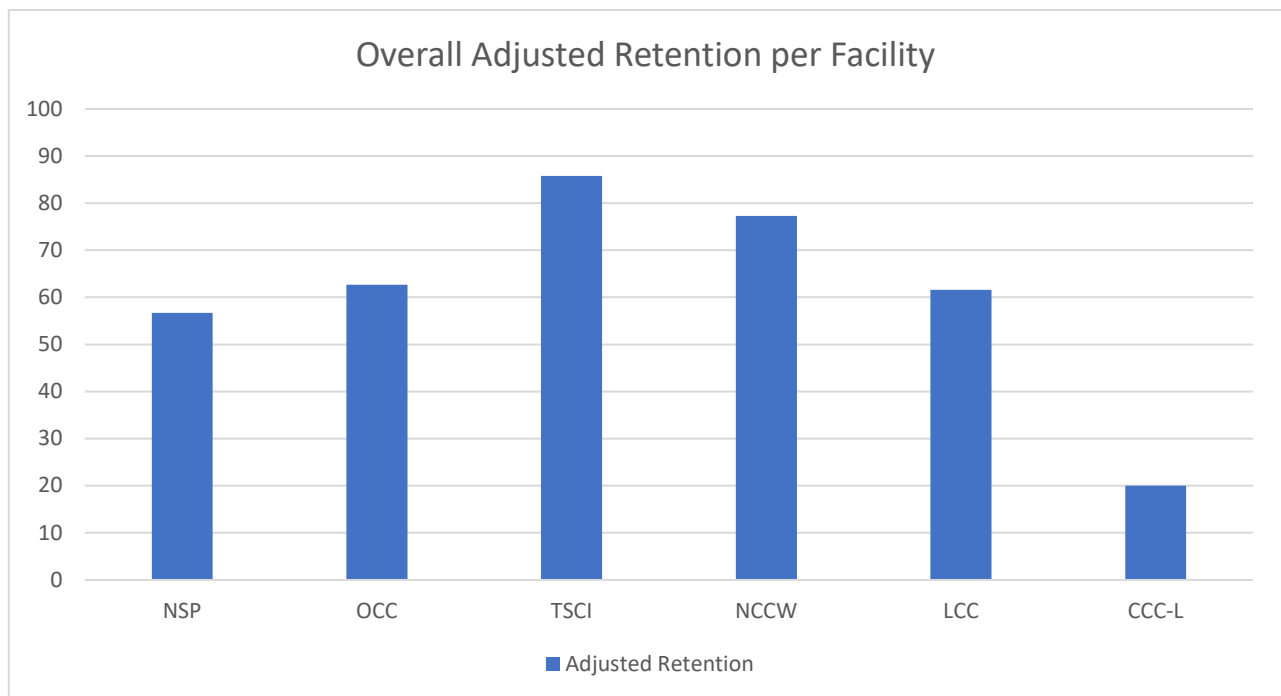
The overall retention rate of the program, which does include Defy Ventures programming and curriculum, is 47.40%. The adjusted retention rate is 61.17%; the adjusted retention rate excludes program removals that were involuntary or made at the discretion of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). Examples of involuntary program removals include disciplinary reasons, administrative removal, misconduct, released, or transfer to a new facility.

There are several noteworthy points of interest when it comes to program retention. The first being that the most secure of the state correctional facilities, Tecumseh State Correctional Institution (TSCI), has the highest adjusted retention rate of 85.79% whereas one of the least restrictive facilities, Community Correctional Center-Lincoln (CCC-L) has the lowest adjusted retention rate of 20%. With understanding the nature of the two correctional facilities it is possible to theorize the varying retention rates. While TSCI may be the most secure facility with the most high-risk individuals, it is often the facility that lacks the most programming. With limited programming, the individuals at TSCI may be more committed to what programming is available or the staff may be less likely to remove an individual from programming for the sake of allowing the person the opportunity to rehabilitate. On the opposite end of the spectrum, CCC-L may house some of the lowest risk individuals, yet the competing priority of employment may reduce the ability of individuals to fully commit and complete optional programming such as the RISE IPP. Based on raw data and anecdotal information about the

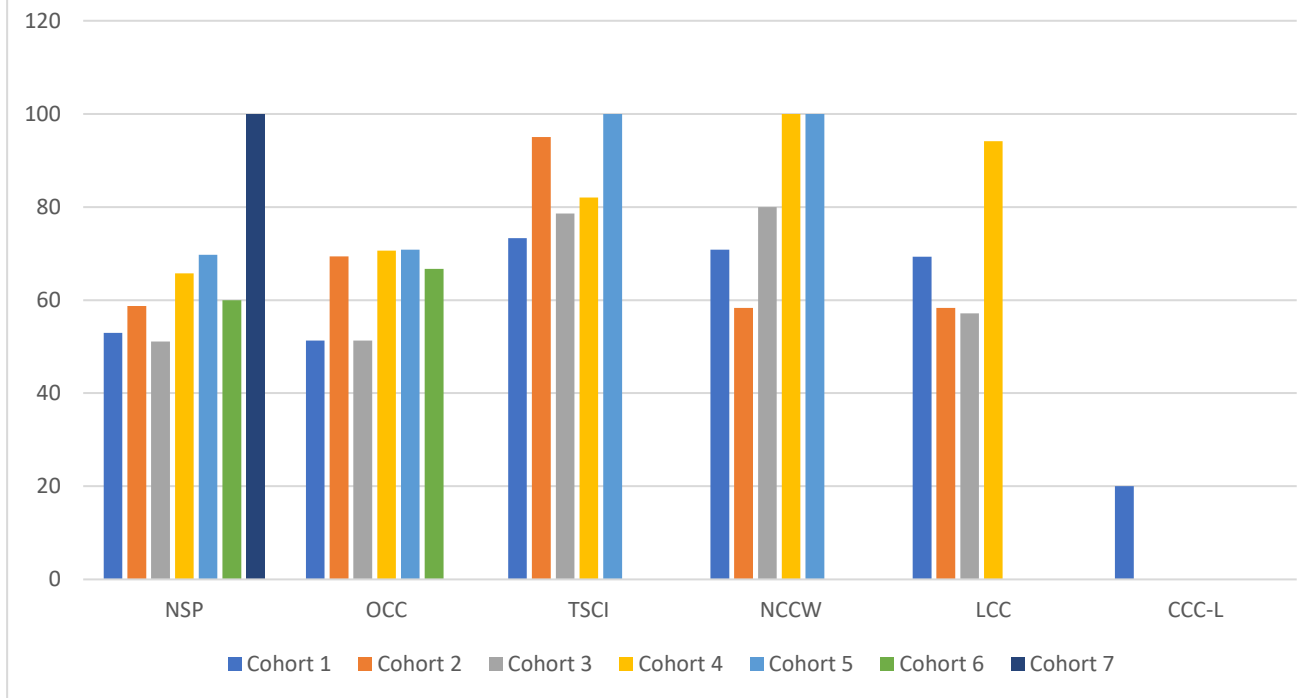
two correctional facilities, the IPP appears to yield higher retention rates at more secure facilities with limited programming options.

Another noteworthy point of interest are the involuntary and voluntary drop reasons in relation to facility. One would assume based on TSCI housing the most high-risk individuals that TSCI would boast the highest rate of involuntary program removals due to disciplinary reasons. Interestingly, TSCI ranks 3rd when compared to disciplinary removals at the other facilities the IPP is offered in. TSCI removed 9 participants due to disciplinary action compared to 87 at the Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP). The significant difference in disciplinary program removal between TSCI and NSP indicates that there are significant differences in facility operations and potentially culture; both of which are beyond the control of RISE. However, RISE worked diligently with NSP over the past year to build a strong relationship with NSP administrative staff and has seen a decrease in involuntary removals from RISE; this indicates a potential shift in culture or understanding of the RISE program.

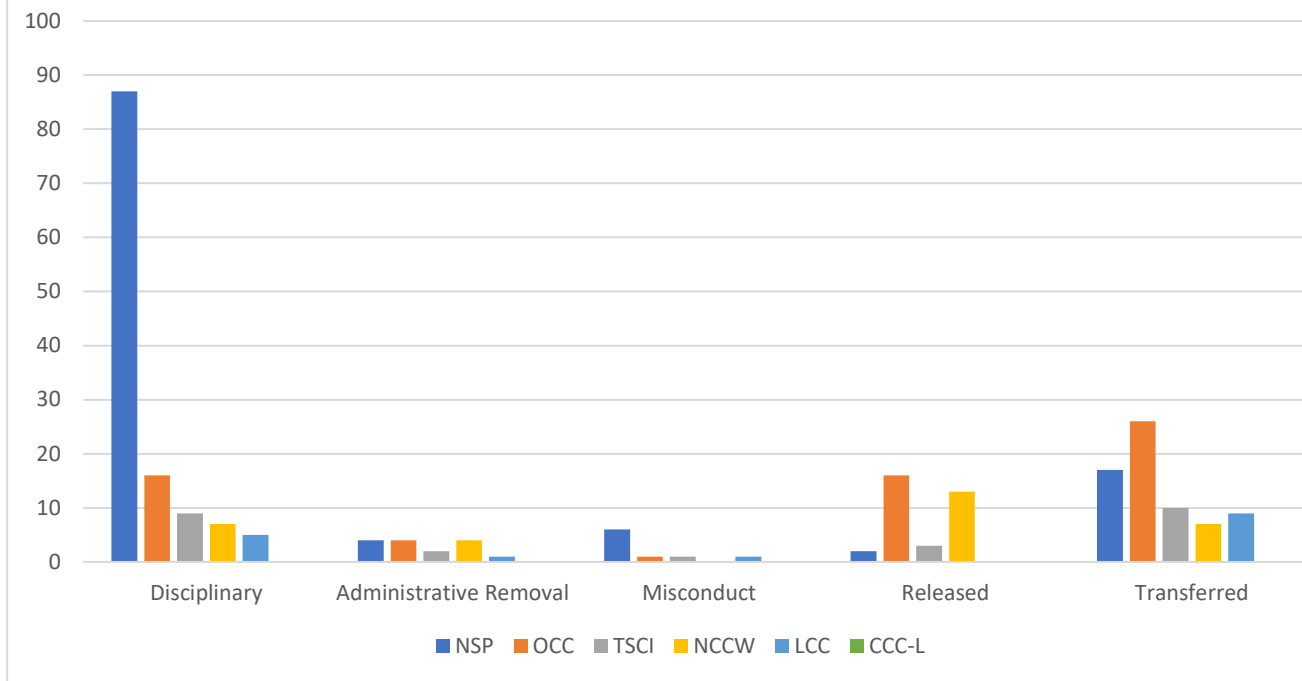
The last noteworthy point regarding retention is the overall increase in program retention after the implementation of RISE programming and curriculum in 2019. Retention at all facilities since then have remained higher than the retention rates seen when Defy Ventures curriculum was utilized. RISE prides itself on human connection through in-person activities rather than a reliance upon videos that was common with Defy Ventures. RISE also prides itself on providing inside-out reentry services which was also lacking with Defy Ventures. The pandemic may have slightly lowered retention at some facilities, often the results of extended lockdowns and quarantines, but overall retention has greatly improved since the implementation of RISE programming and curriculum.



Adjusted Retention Across Cohorts by Facility



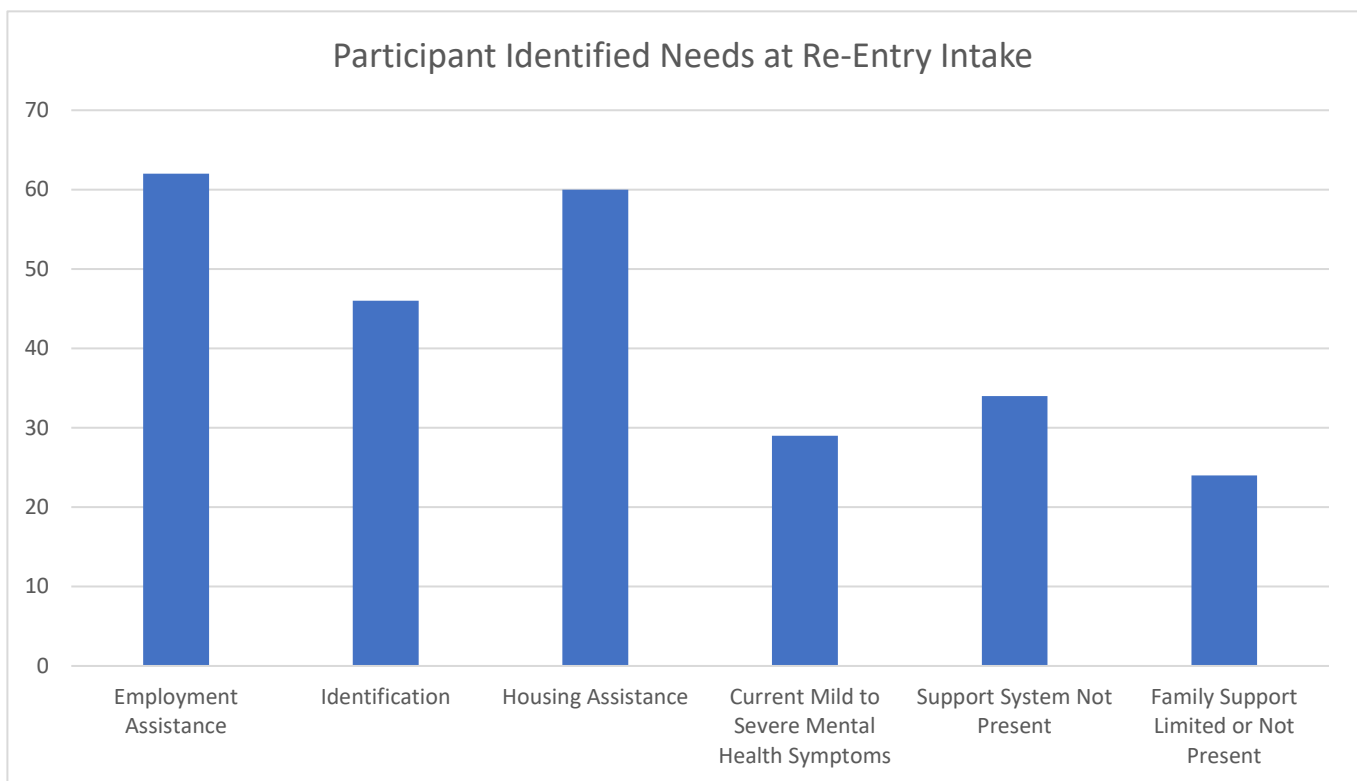
Involuntary Program Removal by Type Across Facility



As 2019 ushered in new in-prison programming and curriculum, RISE introduced Re-entry Services as a core component of RISE. Since re-entry services have been offered, the RISE Reentry Specialists have served 242 unique RISE participants, many of whom were enrolled in the Re-entry Program more than once (134). In 2021 alone, RISE served 201 participants through re-entry services. The most provided service was contact, encouragement, and direction. The average age of re-entry participants in 2021 was 40 years old. 168 identified as male and 33 identified as female. Most re-entry participants in 2021 identified as white (non-Hispanic), 56 as Black or African American, 12 as Hispanic or Latino, 14 as multi-racial, 5 as “other”, and 5 as Alaska Native or Native American. Most re-entry participants possess a high-school diploma or GED.

When looking at aggregate re-entry participant data there is a common thread: length of time that services are needed and utilized. RISE understands that re-entry is hard. It is complex. It is challenging. It takes a long time to reach stability after returning home from incarceration. On average, RISE provides re-entry services for 357 days before an individual is no longer needing or wanting re-entry services. Most time is spent on services post-release as that is when most assistance is needed.

RISE began providing re-entry participants with an assessment tool upon enrollment to determine risks and needs. This tool was piloted for 7 months during 2021 and the results shed much light on the most common risks and needs a person has when they are facing re-entry. During the pilot phase, 101 re-entry participants completed the re-entry assessment tool and most had more than one criminogenic need.



Based on this internal assessment, RISE participants were categorized into various levels of re-entry services to determine how frequently services should be provided by the Re-entry Specialists. For the pilot phase, most participants scored in the “Moderate Level” of re-entry services. However, after review of pilot phase, it was determined that scoring of needs should be weighted to reflect the individual impact of each need more accurately. For example, current severe mental health symptoms warrant more points, thus more intensive services, than mild mental health symptoms. The reworked assessment tool will begin to be utilized in February 2022.

Childhood Instability, Trauma, and Children Affected by Incarceration

As previously mentioned, RISE prides itself on high quality data collection and utilization when making organizational decisions. RISE also prides itself on working to understand the whole participant – not just their current situation. RISE believes in healing the whole person. To heal the whole person, RISE dives deep into all aspects of participants' lives going back to childhood. Research shows that childhood trauma can often leave individuals stunted in development and psychological growth and that childhood trauma can result in anti-social behavior and anti-social thinking well into adulthood.

When looking at the 2021 IPP graduates specifically, which can serve as a sample of the overall RISE population, one can easily see that childhood trauma and instability are prevalent. Understanding the various childhood unstable and traumatic childhood experiences of participants helps RISE provide trauma informed curriculum and services all while remaining responsive to each individual participant.

	50% experienced housing instability (5 or more residences as a child)

	More than 50% grew up in residences where state aid such as Section 8, TANF, or Food Stamps were utilized

	20% reported being homeless or residing in temporary housing at the time of their most recent incarceration

	53% are part of familial cycles of incarceration

	13% were part of the foster care system

RISE also bears witness to the effects of incarceration on families through the numerous children that are part of our participants lives. For the 2021 IPP cohort alone there are at least 50 children who are experiencing parental incarceration. And for the participants served through Re-entry Services, there are close to 200 children who are learning how to rebuild and reconnect with formerly incarcerated parents. Data regarding childhood instability and the volume of children affected by parental incarceration supports RISE's decision to provide family services. Encouraging families to support one another may improve re-entry outcomes and reduce the risk associated with having a parent(s) incarcerated.

Program Reviews & Recidivism

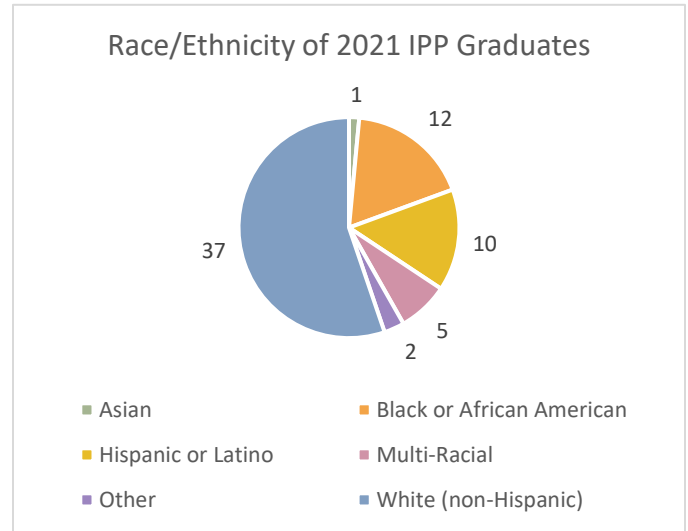
RISE programs and services are routinely evaluated for efficacy and performance. RISE conducts routine IPP outcome evaluations of participants as well as satisfaction surveys. RISE also conducts annual surveys measuring efficacy and performance of the Re-entry Program and Volunteer Services. Evaluations are being implemented for the RISE Business Academy and RISE Family Services and data will be available for the 2022 report.

Recidivism is also measured biannually with the assistance for NDCS when available. During 2021, RISE was able to receive official recidivism data for the first half of the year but was not provided official recidivism data for the latter half. However, a recently implemented MOU will resolve the issue going forward. Data for 2021 was collected via official reports from NDCS and public information available on the NDCS incarceration information website.

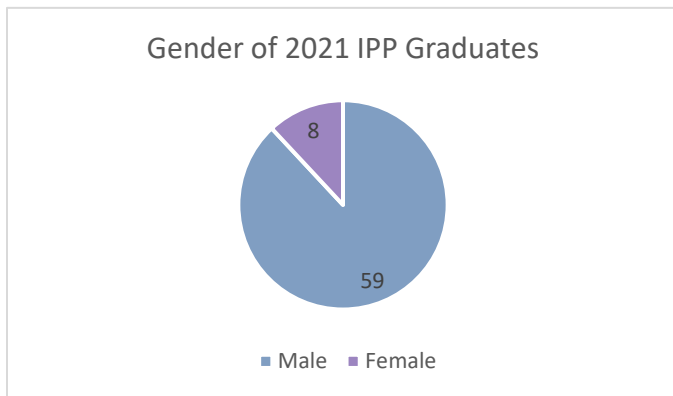
In Prison Program 2021: Outcome Data Report

As the pandemic and NDCS staffing shortages rolled over from 2020 into 2021, RISE was faced with maneuvering a new world of correctional programming. This new world was fraught with challenges ranging from facility lockdowns and lockouts to limited class sizes preventing large scale in-prison programming efforts. But, just as in years past, RISE adapted to this new world and was witness to another year of successful in-prison programming.

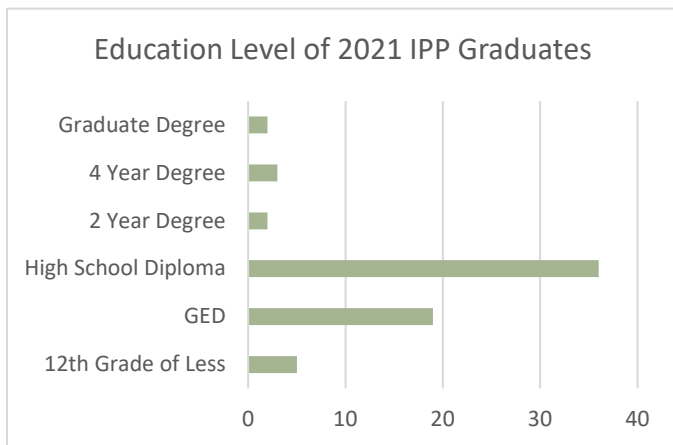
During 2021, RISE was able to graduate at least one cohort from each facility, totaling six graduations and 67 graduates. The graduation rate for these cohorts averaged to 63%.¹ The average age of the 2021 graduates in 38 years old. On average, the graduates of 2021 have 1 child each. Further demographics are depicted below.



Upon entry to the in-prison program, participants complete an outcome survey created by Category One Consulting. This survey is self-administered and consists of 85 questions measured on a 10-point Likert Scale. Upon completion of the program, participants complete the same survey to measure change.



Areas measured are outlined below:



- Behavior change
- Program engagement
- Hope and empowerment
- Healthy coping strategies
- Grit
- Growth mindset
- Deliberation
- Self-efficacy
- Achievement
- Empathy
- Prosocial behavior
- Honesty
- Accountability
- Self-development
- Self-control
- Respect
- Employment preparation
- Positive support systems
- Developing relationships
- Social activity
- Improved decision making
- Reentry preparation

¹ 107 individuals in 2021 began IPP programming. 40 did not complete and 67 graduated. $67/107=62.6$. Applicant only individuals were not included as

they did not participate. Details regarding retention specifics are found in the Organizational Aggregate Data section of this report.

Through data analysis, RISE is able to determine statistically significant growth for the 2021 graduates. RISE is also able to determine areas of statistically significant decline in skills or self-reported attributes.

Before review of the findings, it is imperative that data is reviewed with an objective lens that allows for honest interpretation and the ability to use the data to inform decision making. It is also important to remember that negative results are not created equal. The in-prison program instills a sense of self-awareness and honesty that many participants do not have prior to programming and that self-awareness or honesty may present itself in the results. However, all declines (or stagnation) must be examined in order to inform future programming.

Methodology

RISE reviewed 42 matched pre-program and post-program outcome surveys. This data was organized via an Excel spreadsheet and data was analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software.

Various data analyses were performed in accordance with the type of data present. Analyses included descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. For measures of association non-parametric measures were utilized to account for abnormalities in data distribution. Because this report is focused on outcome data, or the effect size of the in-prison program on overall personal growth, the Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test was utilized. The proposed hypothesis is that RISE in-prison programming has a significant effect on overall personal growth ($p < 0.05$). In addition, the same hypothesis is applied to each individual statement measuring specific areas previously outlined.

Results

Behavior Change

Two questions on the in-prison outcome survey, pertaining to behavior change, resulted in a statistically significant change from pre-programming to post-programming.

Q2: "In the last 6 months, how many times have you been found guilty of a rule violation that resulted in a level 1 misconduct report?"

Q3: "In the last 6 months, how many times have you been found guilty of a rule violation that resulted in a level 2 misconduct report?"

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant negative change in Q2 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -2.060$, $p = 0.036$, with a small effect size of 0.22 ($2.060/\sqrt{84}$).

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant negative change in Q3 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -2.653$, $p = 0.008$, with a small effect size of 0.28 ($2.653/\sqrt{84}$).

Program Engagement

One question on the in-prison outcome survey, regarding program engagement, resulted in a statistically significant change from pre-programming to post programming.

Q12: "I would be interested in becoming a Peer Facilitator for the RISE program."

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant negative change in Q12 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -2.745$, $p = 0.006$, with a moderate effect size of 0.30 ($2.745/\sqrt{84}$).

Hope and Empowerment

One question on the in-prison outcome survey, pertaining to hope and empowerment, resulted in a statistically significant change from pre-programming to post-programming.

Q15: "I'm always optimistic about my future."

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant positive change in Q15 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -2.291$, $p = 0.022$, with a small effect size of 0.25 ($2.291/\sqrt{84}$).

Grit

One question on the in-prison outcome survey, related to grit, resulted in a statistically significant change from pre-programming to post-programming.

Q31: "I don't give up easily, even when setbacks occur."

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant positive change in Q31 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -2.086$, $p = 0.037$, with a small effect size of 0.22 ($2.086/\sqrt{84}$).

Employment Preparation

Four questions on the in-prison outcome survey, regarding employment preparation, resulted in a statistically significant change from pre-programming to post-programming.

Q63: "I feel prepared to apply for a job if I needed to."

Q64: "I believe I would do well in a job interview."

Q65: "I am confident in my ability to get a job if I needed to."

Q69: "I have the knowledge and skills to run a successful business."

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant positive change in Q63 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -2.796$, $p = 0.005$, with a moderate effect size of 0.30 ($2.796/\sqrt{84}$).

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant positive change in Q64 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -2.429$, $p = 0.015$, with a small effect size of 0.26 ($2.429/\sqrt{84}$).

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant positive change in Q65 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -2.609$, $p = 0.009$, with a small effect size of 0.28 ($2.609/\sqrt{84}$).

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant positive change in Q69 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = -3.229$, $p = 0.001$, with a moderate effect size of 0.35 ($3.229/\sqrt{84}$).

Positive Relationships

One question on the in-prison outcome survey related to positive relationships resulted in a statistically significant change from pre-programming to post-programming.

Q73: "I feel like there are people who are rooting me on."

A Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a statistically significant positive change in Q73 following completion of the in-prison program, $z = 2.171$, $p = 0.30$, with a small effect size of 0.23 ($2.171/\sqrt{84}$).

Discussion

The results of this data analysis indicate that RISE in-prison programming is significantly impacting the lives of its participants in areas concerning behavior change, hope and empowerment, grit, employment readiness, and positive support systems. These areas of growth will allow participants to better engage in their incarcerated community and their returning community upon release.

Despite statistically significant results being limited, it is important to recognize that growth did occur in many other areas when examining raw data pre-programming and post-programming. For example, growth was witnessed healthy coping strategies, self-efficacy, prosocial behavior, developing relationships, improved decision making, and reentry preparedness.

In order to improve outcomes, RISE should consider exploring implementation of the Risk-Need-Responsivity Principle. This principle is heavily supported by research as an effective means to improve programming outcomes by matching the risk level, criminogenic needs, and responsivity of participants to treatment or programming. Further, this principle and research indicates that high risk individuals with multiple criminogenic needs have more positive outcomes

with intensive, high touch programs such as RISE. The principle also requires that programming be tailored to meet the individual learning styles, or responsiveness, of participants. This will require RISE to implement the use of a validated risk-need assessment tool or have access to the existing assessment results conducted by NDCS. It will also require RISE to have more access to participants while incarcerated. RISE should also consider varied levels of programming for the varied security levels of NDCS facilities. For example, individuals incarcerated at community corrections centers are typically lower risk and have addressed many criminogenic needs therefore RISE programming should not be as intense or high touch.

In addition to examining programming options to improve outcomes, one cannot rule out the outcome survey itself. The survey should be thoroughly reviewed for the potential to create response biases. If questions may result in response biases, accurate outcome data will not be collected.

Conclusion

The 2021 in-prison program graduates experienced great struggles with programming due to factors beyond their control (i.e., COVID-19 and NDCS staffing shortages). Despite these struggles, the participants made significant improvements in many areas of their lives. These improvements are characteristics of successful, prosocial community members – positive behavior, the ability to persevere during challenging times, employment skills, and the ability to develop positive and supportive relationships. Without these skills, recidivism may be likely. RISE continues to prove itself as an invaluable program to NDCS, incarcerated individuals, and the communities to which individuals return.

In Prison Program 2021: Satisfaction Report

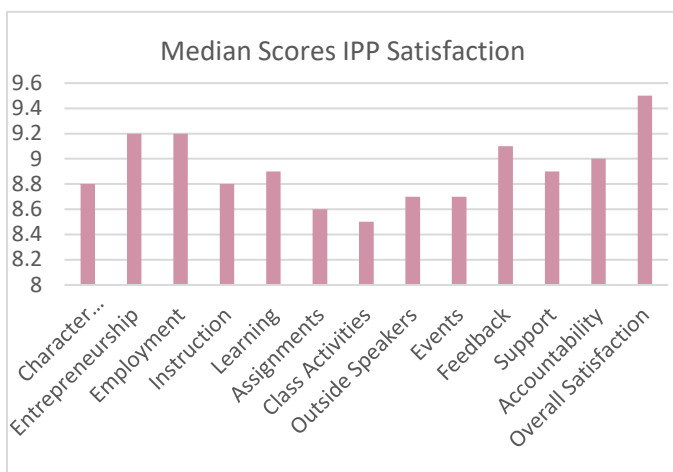
As part of continuous program improvement, graduates from the RISE in-prison program complete a self-administered satisfaction survey regarding various facets of the program. Survey results should be reviewed and considered when implementing program updates.

The survey examines the following areas:

- Character development
- Entrepreneurship
- Employment
- Instruction
- Learning
- Assignments
- Class activities
- Outside speakers
- Events
- Feedback
- Support
- Accountability
- Overall satisfaction

Overall scores were high in all areas. Out of the 58 respondents, 54, or 93%, ranked their overall satisfaction very high (self-rate of 8, 9, or 10).

Below are the median scores for all areas measured.



When looking at average scores for individual questions, there are areas that must be reviewed

as their responses should be utilized to influence in prison programming. Questions below that warrant examination are outlined below; these questions have a score of 8.6 or lower which is low when compared to the survey as a whole.

“The instruction I received from peer facilitators was highly effective.”

“Peer facilitators always held me accountable for attending classes and completing assignments.”

“Peer facilitators provided useful feedback to me during the program.”

“I learned a lot about coping with stressful situations as part of this program.”

Of note is that this lower score is correlated to the lower score regarding stressful situations and coping found in the reentry data report.

“The class activities were very interesting to me.”

“The assignments included in the coursebooks were very interesting to me.”

“The events I attended as part of the program were very well organized.”

“The outside speakers who were brought in as part of the program were highly engaging.”

In addition to rating various areas of programming, respondents were able to provide written feedback based upon guided questions. Highlights are found below:

“What one or two things did you like best about the RISE program?”

- Connection to others (e.g., Builders, volunteers, staff)
- Learning about self / character development
- Business basics

“What one or two things would change about the RISE program?”

- Bring in more volunteers / guest speakers
- Keep curriculum updated

“What content, activities, or assignments did you like best?”

- Deep Dive
- Character development
- Group activities
- Guest speakers / additional staff coming in for class

“What content, activities, or assignments did you like least?”

- Math / financials
- Weekly reports
- Rushed pace

Respondents were also able to provide three descriptive words of their experience in the program or descriptives of the program itself.

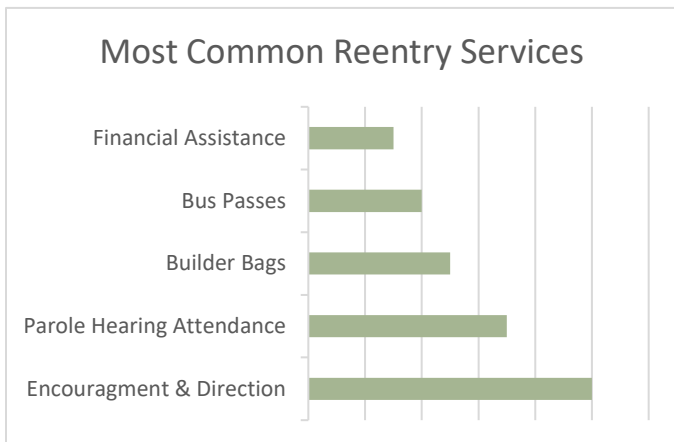
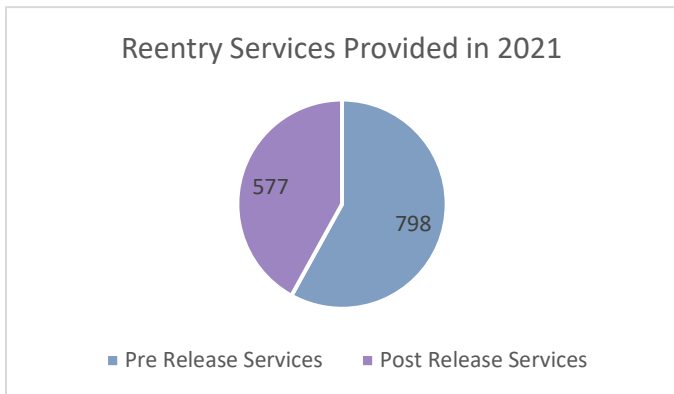


Reentry Services 2021: Data Report

RISE has always understood that to experience reentry is to experience crisis. Incarcerated individuals are often released to area communities with little to no financial support, emotional support, mental health support, or support for substance use addictions. This often leaves formerly incarcerated individuals operating in crisis mode and at a higher likelihood of reoffending.

RISE believes that reentry support is crucial to the success of its released graduates. Support must be tailored to individual needs, support must be swift, and support must be available around the clock. Most importantly, reentry support must begin prior to release.

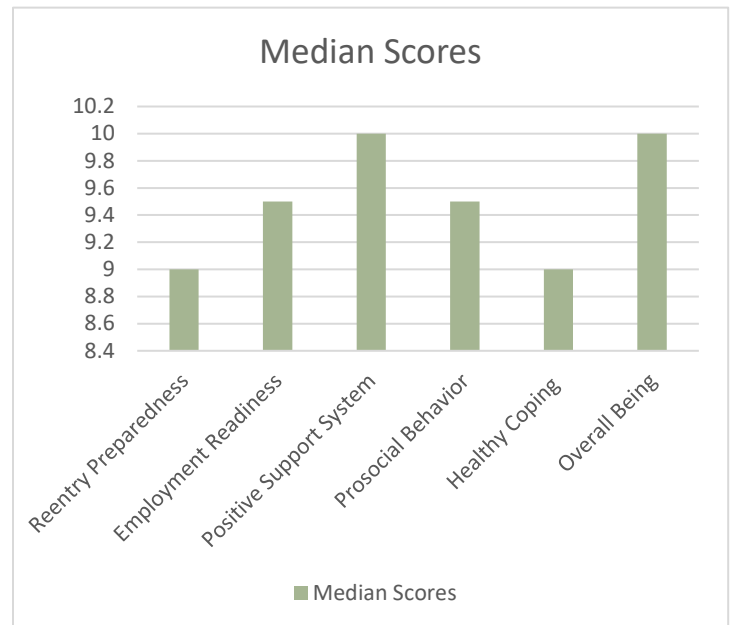
During 2021, the RISE reentry team was able to serve 201 graduates either pre-release or post release. RISE was able to provide over 1300 reentry services during 2021.



RISE administers an annual survey to recipients of reentry services. The survey measures areas such as reentry preparedness, employment readiness, prosocial behavior, healthy coping, support systems, and overall well-being. This survey was administered during November and December 2021 via email, phone call, and traditional mail. Surveys were incentivized as well. RISE had a response rate of 26%.

Overall, scores were very positive for released graduates. 80% of respondents reported that they feel as though they are doing well in their lives (self-rated of 8, 9, or 10).

Below are average scores for each area of construct measured.



When looking at average scores for individual questions, there are areas that must be reviewed as their responses should be utilized to influence reentry services and programming.

“I engaged with the RISE Alumni Association.”
The average score of 7.3 indicates engagement was not strong for survey respondents.

“I am always looking for opportunities to get involved (e.g., clubs, social groups, church groups, etc.)”

The average score of 6.9 indicates that the desire to engage in prosocial activities is not very strong.

These two aforementioned questions indicate that there exists an opportunity for RISE to provide more prosocial activities or events for released RISE graduates. Engagement in such positive, prosocial activities may serve as a protective factor against anti-social or criminal behavior for some.

“When faced with a stressful situation, I ask for help and support from others.”

An average score of 8.1 shows room for growth in developing coping mechanisms or the ability to ask for help when situations become challenging.

Written or verbal feedback from respondents also provided useful information that should be taken into consideration when improving services and programming.

“Is there anything RISE could have done to better prepare you for reentry?”

- Better availability at community corrections
- Teach how to use computer and phone

Based on the data presented, RISE is providing released graduates with high quality reentry services that are resulting in the majority of released graduates experiencing a sense of overall well-being and recidivism well below that of the general population.

RISE Recidivism 2021

In 2021, RISE adjusted its organizational definition of recidivism to match that of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Recidivism is defined as a return to NDCS for a new sentence or for a parole violation (law or technical). NDCS provides RISE with official recidivism data bi-annually and this data is then used to update RISE's internal database and to calculate recidivism data. It is important to remember that RISE recidivism rates cannot be compared to NDCS recidivism rates as there are variations in populations and no controls for variables in place.

Note: RISE continues to collect data regarding incarcerations at county and city jails however this data is not included in official recidivism rates as it does not align with the state definition.

As RISE has improved data collection and analytics, RISE can now calculate recidivism for all released graduates on aggregate and individual levels. Data is currently based upon participant self-attestation and the public NDCS incarceration locator. RISE continues to work with NDCS in hopes of obtaining official recidivism data on a regular basis.

Since program inception, 132 RISE graduates have released and returned to area communities. 45 out of those 132 have returned to NDCS for law violations, technical violations, law and technical violations, or a new felony conviction. The overall recidivism rate is 34.1% regardless of time. However, examining recidivism rates by time between release and return is critical for understand the reentry experience and associated programming needs.

Traditionally recidivism is reported in cohorts; cohorts are identified by the year of release. For example, one cohort would consist of graduates released in 2018 and another would consist of graduates released in 2019 and so on. Each cohort's recidivism is then monitored every three years; RISE expands this reporting to yearly. Having this expanded data is used to inform RISE best practices and programming.

The charts that follow depict recidivism for the following cohorts: 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

2018 Cohort

1 year	2 year	3 year	Total
1/1/2018-12/31/2019	1/1/2020-12/31/2020	1/1/2021-12/31/2021	
22%	22%	11%	

The 2018 cohort is the only cohort who has been released for three full years thus this is the only cohort that can be used when reporting a three-year recidivism rate. The current RISE three-year recidivism rate is 55%. However, it is important to understand that this cohort had 18 releasees or a population of 18. A small population is easily affected by small changes, in this case, a small number of individuals recidivating greatly increases the overall recidivism number. *The 2018 cohort should be considered an anomaly rather than the norm.*

2019 Cohort

1 year	2 year	3 year
1/1/2019-12/31/2020	1/1/2021-12/31/2021	1/1/2022-12/31/2022
39%	13%	-

2020 Cohort

1 year	2 year rate	3 year
1/1/2020-12/31/2021	1/1/2022-12/31/2022	1/1/2023-12/31/2023
35%	-	-

2021 Cohort

1 year	2 year rate	3+ year
1/1/2021-12/31/2022	1/1/2023-12/31/2023	1/1/2024-12/31/2024
7%*	-	-

*Incomplete data until 12/31/2022.

It is important to recognize that the majority of recidivism is parole revocations related to misdemeanor law violations and technical violations. Less than 6% of RISE recidivism since 2018 has been related to new felony convictions (2/40=5.0%; data only available for 40 released graduates).

RISE also attempts to understand the cause of recidivism if it occurs. RISE has limited data regarding the cause but for the data available, 100% of recidivism has been related to substance use. Substance use may not be the direct reason why a person was reincarcerated, but substance use involved in the individual's life led to poor choices thus resulting in parole violations. This data

could be developed into a working theory that recently released individuals are turning (or returning) to substance use to cope with the stressors related to reentry and thus engaging in anti-social behavior occurs resulting in recidivism.

It must be recognized that pre-release and post-release reentry services were not available until mid-2019 and at that time reentry services were provided by three staff with little to no implementation of evidence-based practices. By mid-2021, reentry services were fully operational with six staff and implementation of several evidence-based practices. A significant drop in one-year recidivism can be seen in the previously displayed chart.

It is also important to discuss the time from in-prison program completion to release from incarceration. Time from release and reincarceration was most high for individuals who had a short time frame between in-prison program completion and release (average of 200 days). Time from release to reincarceration was *lower* for individuals who had a longer time frame between in-prison program completion and release. As time

from graduation to release increases, the average time to reincarceration increases as well. It can be theorized that that having a lapse in time between programming and release allows graduates time to practice their newly learned skills in a controlled environment *and* have more time planning for reentry. Providing services too close to release may not be as effective as desired.

Overall, RISE recidivism data is below the national trend of a 12-month recidivism rate of nearly 45%. This same study conducted by the National Institute of Justice shows recidivism increasing over time, upwards to 70% within three years of release from incarceration. Again, RISE continues to remain below this trend albeit it early in recidivism data collection.

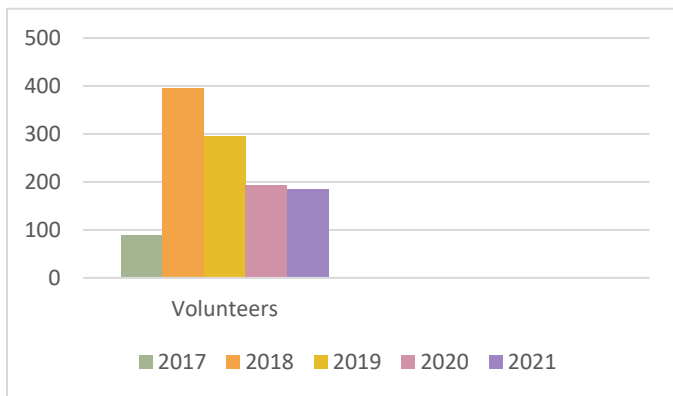
Based on this data, it is recommended that in-prison programming occur more than one-year pre-release and reentry services continue pre-release in an individually responsive manner. It is also recommended that RISE continue to routinely monitor recidivism trends (i.e., parole violations versus new felony convictions) to inform programming and services.

Volunteer Data & Survey Results 2021

Prior to COVID-19, in-person volunteer events were standard practice in RISE programming. This practice was in place to humanize the incarceration experience and to build empathy and connections for participants prior to release back to the community. Due to COVID-19 and NDCS procedural changes, in-person volunteer events were suspended and/or permanently changed at all facilities. This change led RISE to develop an online volunteer portal to continue providing volunteer experiences and building community empathy.

During 2021, RISE hosted 14 opportunities for volunteers. 184 unique volunteers participated in events throughout the year. The most common form of participant was via the online volunteer portal as in-person attendance was terminated in 2021 or suspended the majority of the year. 50 volunteers attended more than one event and 134 attended on one event.

Out of the 184 unique volunteers in 2021 bringing the total number of RISE volunteers to 872. When looking at trends, it is easy to see the effect of COVID-19 and NDCS volunteer restrictions on RISE volunteer opportunities. Based upon conversations with NDCS, large scale events seen in years before are no longer going to be an option based upon health concerns, NDCS staffing shortages, facility overcrowding, and NDCS volunteer procedural changes.

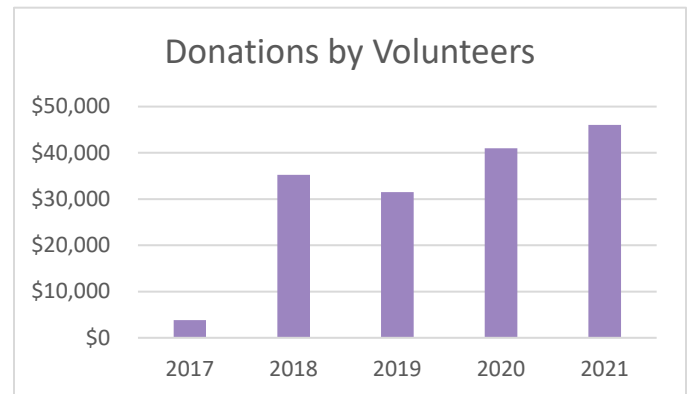


Despite these restrictions, RISE saw 117 new volunteers, many of whom utilized the new online

volunteer portal. This portal also allowed RISE to provide volunteer opportunities to individuals from other states and countries around the world.



Not only do volunteers provide in-person and virtual services to participants, but volunteers also often financially contribute to RISE. Despite volunteer numbers being smaller than in years past, RISE volunteers donated more funds than in any point in history.



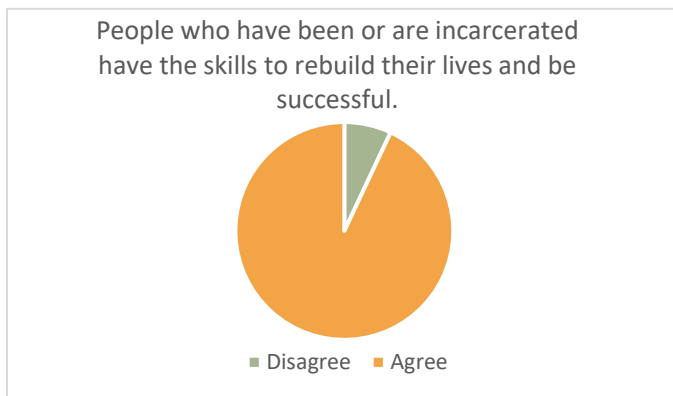
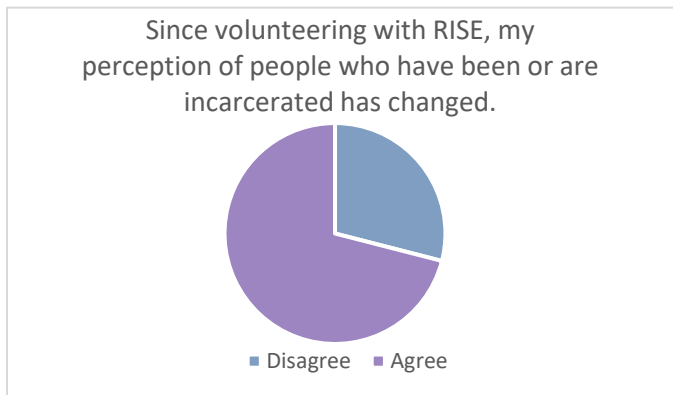
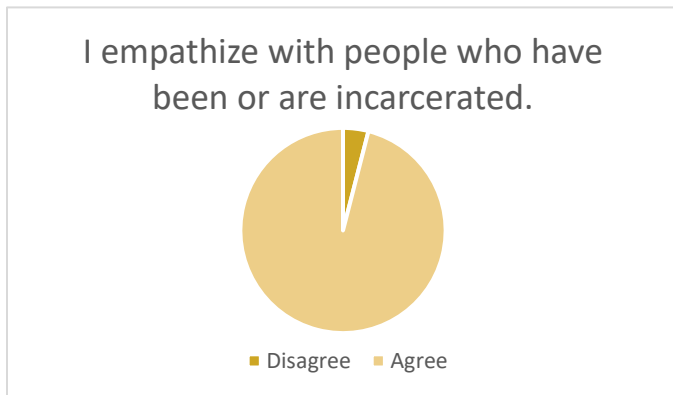
The volunteers were provided an end of year survey to measure the impact of RISE upon their beliefs of incarcerated individuals and their satisfaction with the overall experience. 28 volunteers completed the survey (15%). 2021 volunteers were asked questions ranging from empathy building to volunteer experience. This information was gathered via an online survey during the month of December 2021.

Because of facility access challenges faced by RISE during 2021, RISE developed an online volunteer portal to continue providing volunteer opportunities. This online portal allowed volunteers to provide resume feedback, business plan feedback, and address business related research

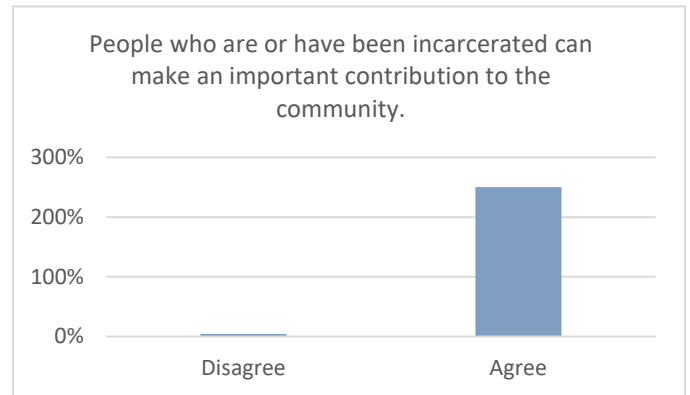
questions. The information was then provided back to participants during in-prison programming.

Out of those who used the online volunteer portal, 100% reported that it was user friendly. However, only 68% reported that the online portal allowed for a personal connection to participants which reiterates the need to have in-person volunteer events.

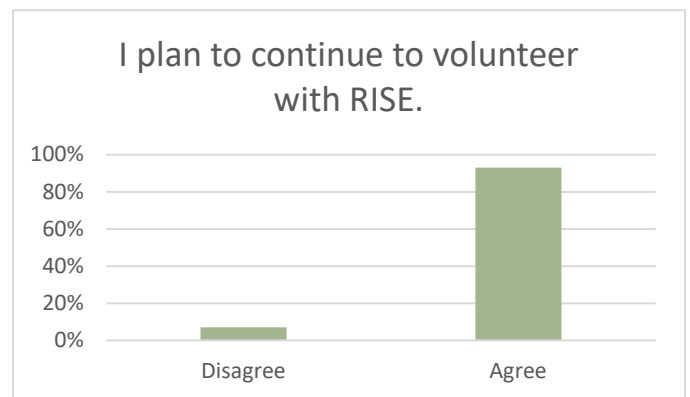
Despite limited personal connectedness with participants, volunteers reported that having empathy and a change in perception of individuals incarcerated.



Volunteers overwhelmingly reported having a positive image of individuals incarcerated and their ability to contribute to the community.



Despite the challenges of in-person prison events and adaptation to an online volunteer portal, most volunteer respondents reported that they plan to continue volunteering with RISE in the future.



Despite varied challenges throughout 2021, RISE has seen overall growth within volunteers' perceptions and support of RISE whether financially or future volunteer attendance. RISE anticipates future growth and success with the recent addition of a Director of Annual Giving and Stewardship in late 2021.