



**THE ARC OF NEW JERSEY:  
RE-ENTRY PILOT IN ATLANTIC  
COUNTY**

## THE ISSUES:

- Criminal justice professionals are usually ill-equipped to handle this population.
- Cognitive impairments limit important and meaningful interactions with the criminal justice system and its personnel.

## THE RESULTS:

- Lack of equal justice
- Lack of fair treatment
- Lack of basic constitutional rights



# THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

- Provides alternatives to incarceration and case management.
- Develops nationally recognized training programs for criminal justice professionals and service providers.
- Provides technical assistance and education for criminal justice professionals.



# Our Clients

- Male
- Mild Intellectual Disability
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Most common crimes:
  - Crimes of a Sexual nature
  - Drug Crimes
  - Robbery/ Assault
  - Burglary/ Vandalism
  - Arson
- Ages 20-40
- Usually commits the crime with others, and is last to flee the scene and the first to be caught.



# Personalized Justice Plans

- Addresses multiple areas and are tailored to the individual.
- To advocate for the client by acting as a liaison between the person and the criminal justice system to better understand one another.
- If the PJP is accepted: client is placed on probation.
  - Supply progress reports to probation officer if requested.
- If the PJP is not accepted: client is placed into a jail or treatment facility.
  - Prison: Contact social worker to ask for placement out of general population.





# The Atlantic County Re-Entry Pilot Project

Funded by a generous grant from the New  
Jersey Council on Developmental  
Disabilities  
Partnered with The Arc of Atlantic

## Barriers

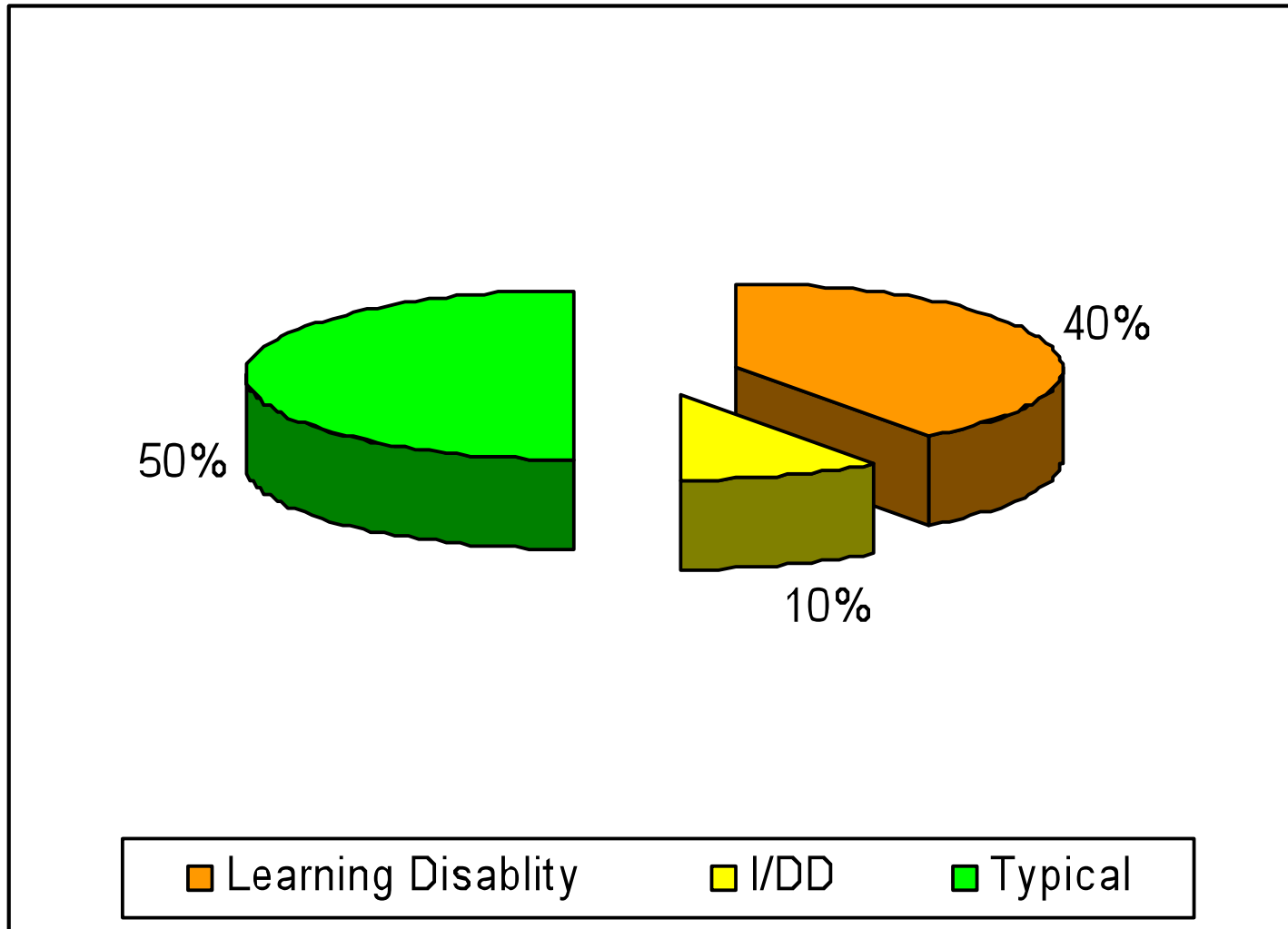
- Services knowledgeable with the I/DD population are not equipped to work with criminal offenders.
- Service Providers struggle with addressing needs
- No incentive to provide housing and services to offenders with I/DD considered High Risk and High Need.
- Offenders have difficulty finding housing and employment due to conviction, now add a disability on top of that, adds many more challenges.





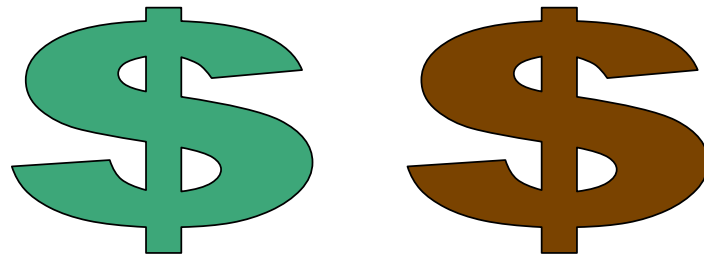


# Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who are Criminally Involved

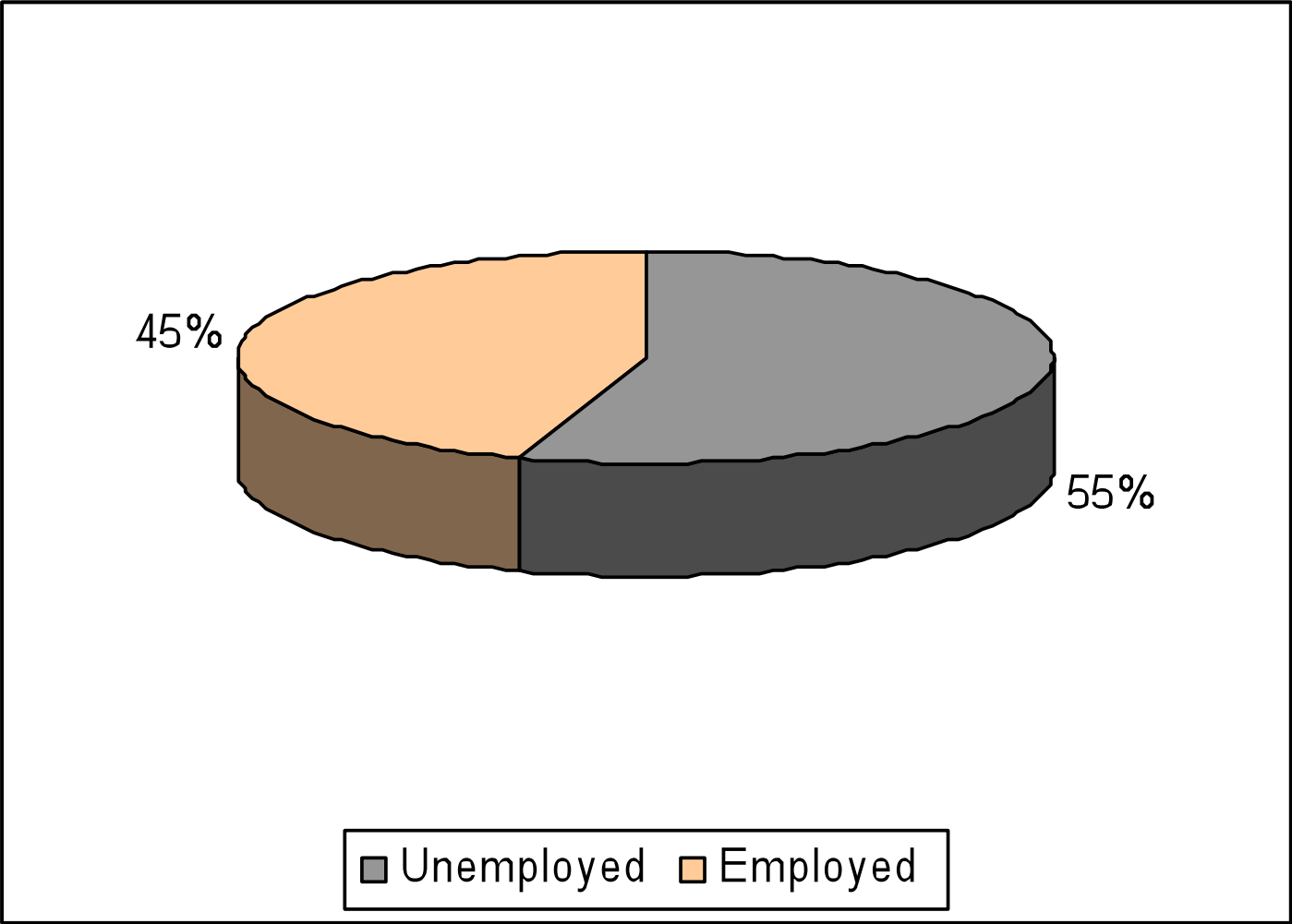


# Money

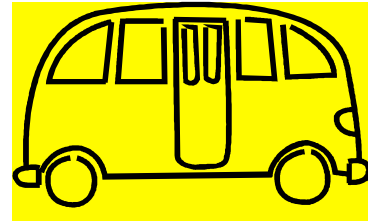
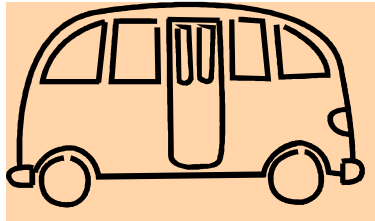
- Paying Fines
- Purchasing new Documentation
- Rent
- Food



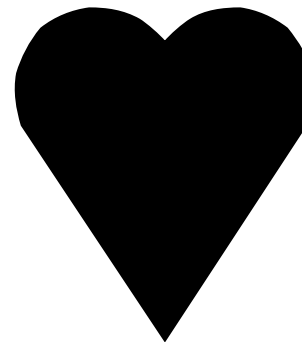
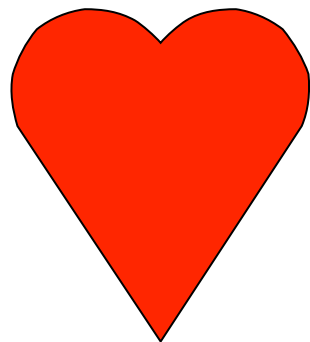
# Employment



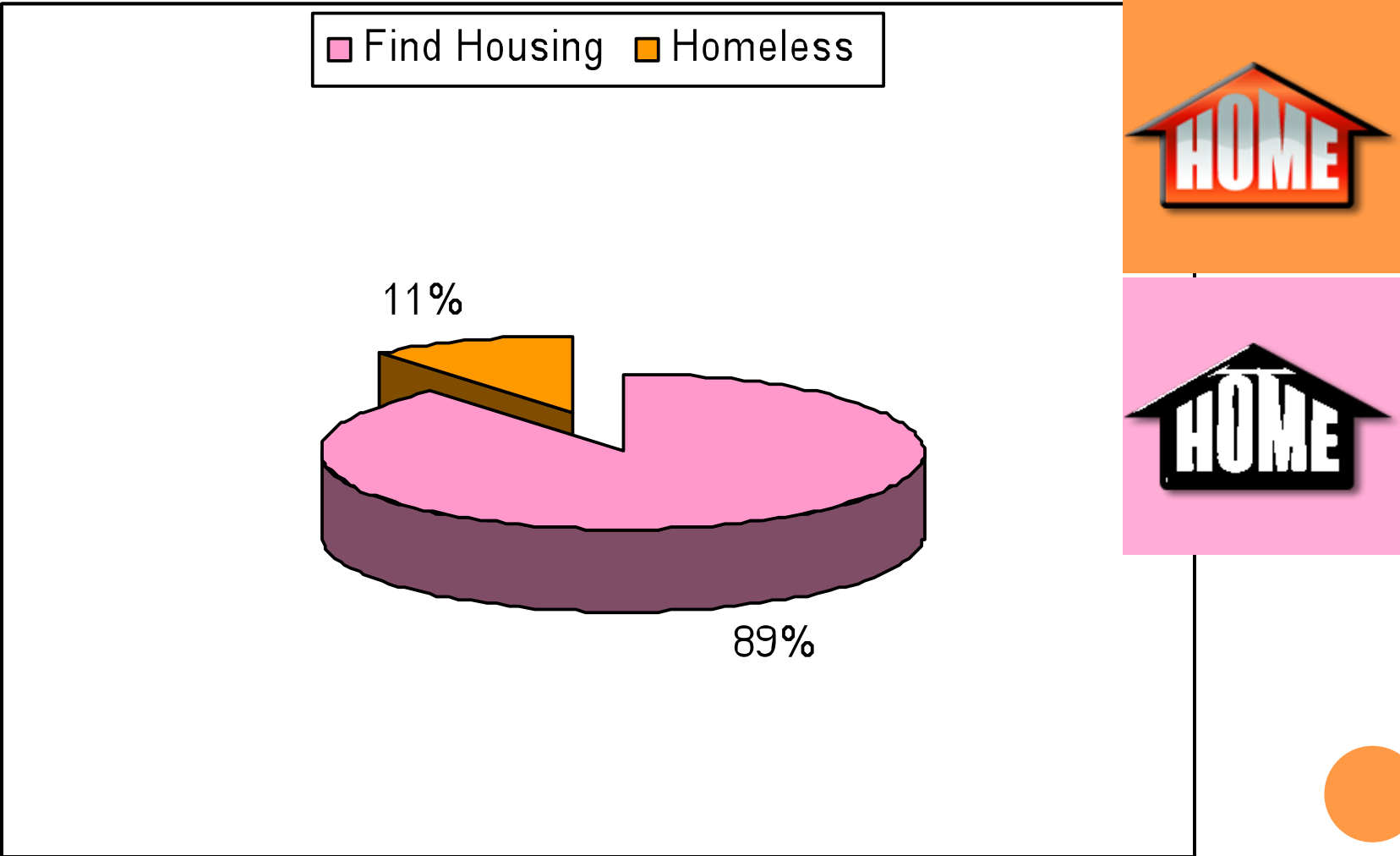
# Transportation



# Family Supports

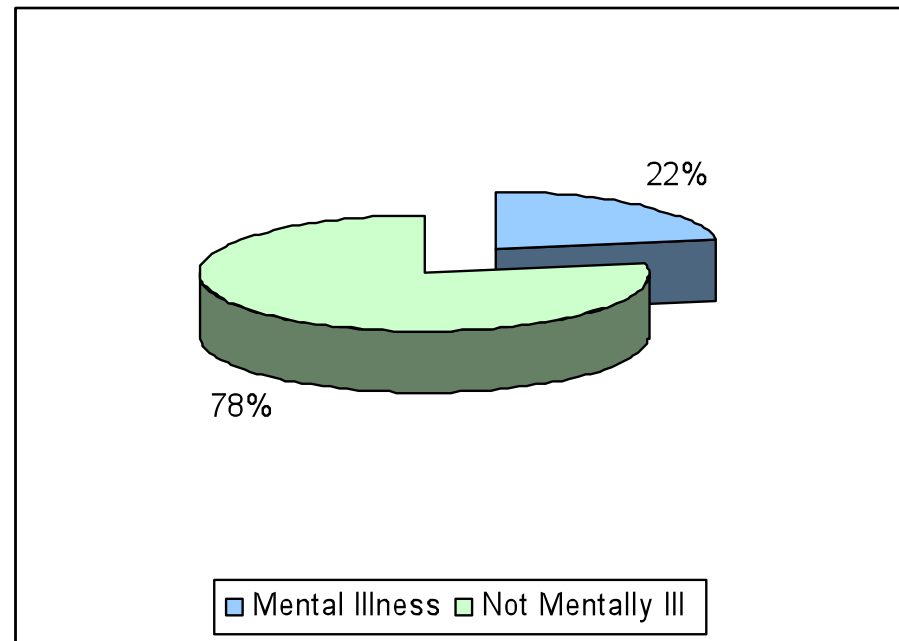


# Housing

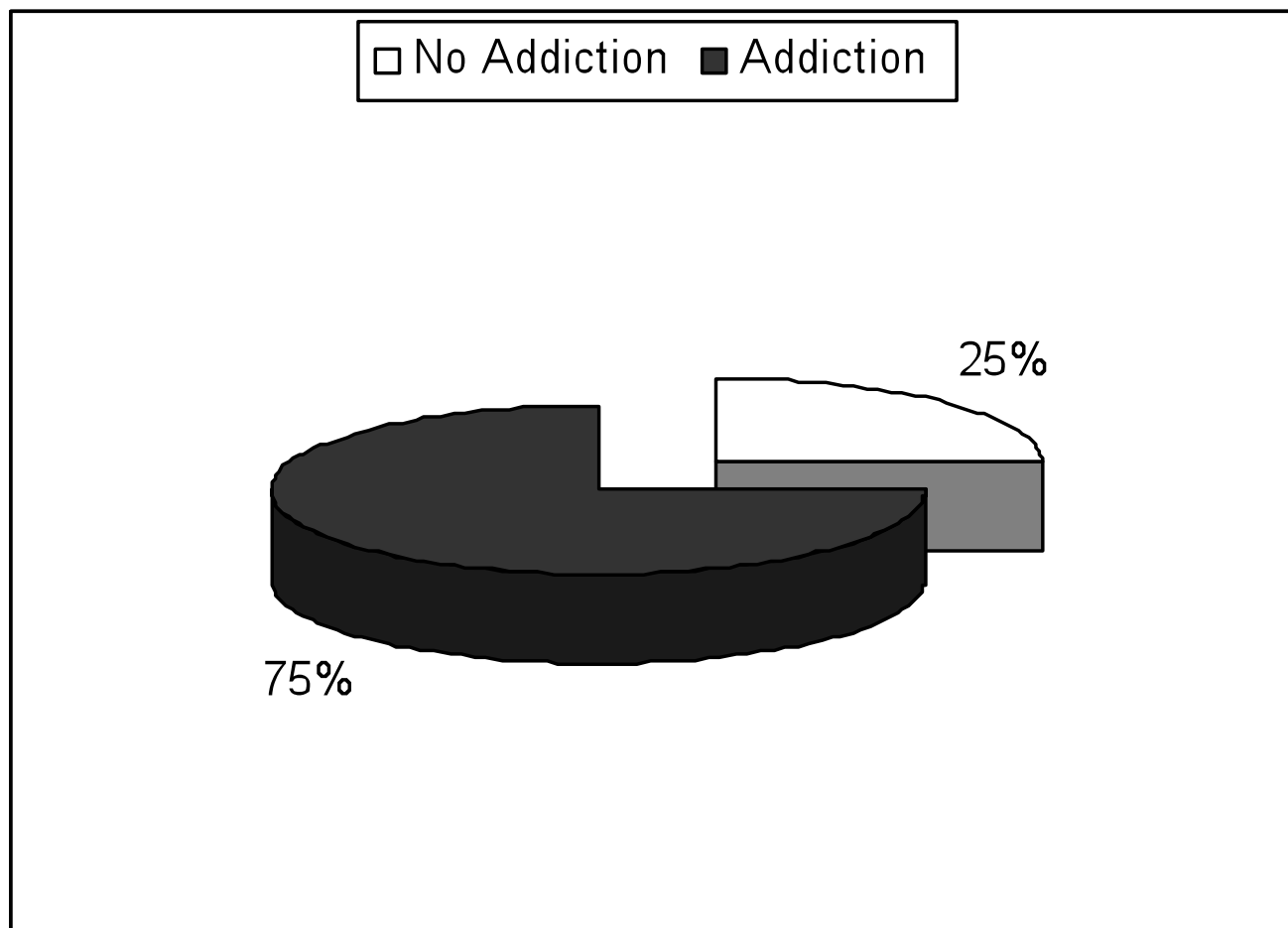


# Physical and Mental Health Supports

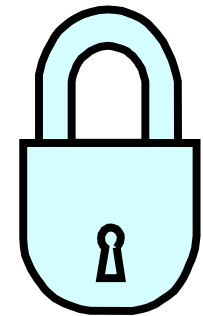
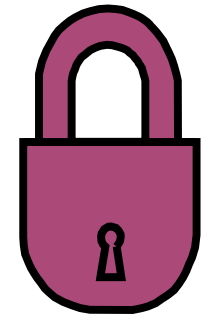
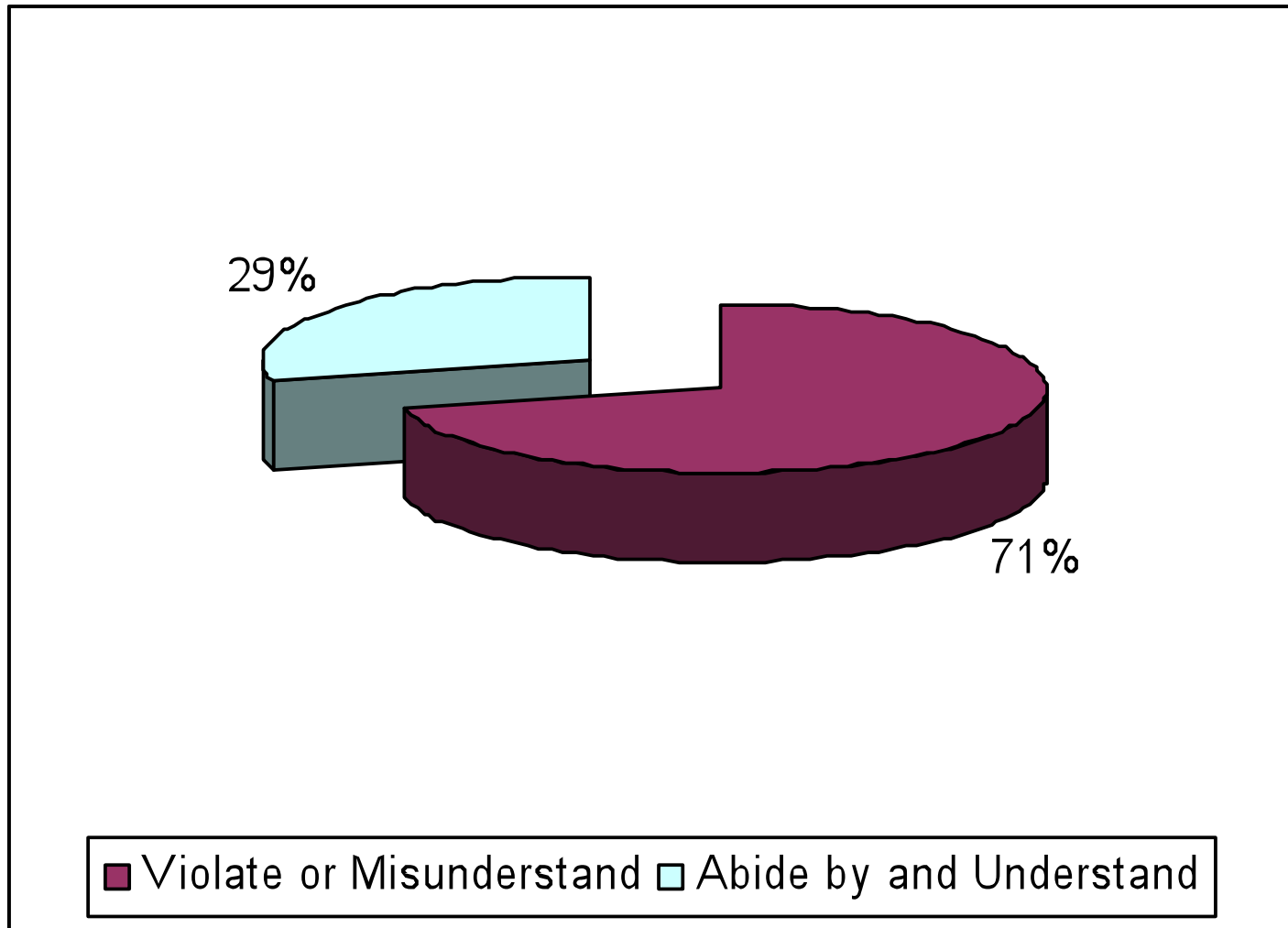
- **Medicaid**
- **Knowing when a Doctor is needed**
- **Medications upon Release**
- **Referrals and Appointments**



# Alcohol and/or Substance Addictions



# Conditions of Parole or Probation





## Reducing Recidivism

- Approximately 2 out of every 3 people released from prison in the US are re-arrested within 3 years of their release (Patrick et al., 2002).
- Research shows that when an offender has supervision, employment, involvement in community, and supports the likelihood of recidivism is reduced.
- Criminal Offenders with I/DD are often unsuccessful in re-entering society after incarceration.



# The Arc CARES

- Coalition Advocating for Re-Entry Services
- Stakeholders from an array of disciplinary backgrounds.
- Conduct a needs assessment for offenders re-entering the community specific to Atlantic County
- Identify gaps and address ways to bridge those gaps
- Aid clients through their transition from incarceration to community



# Developments

- Client Database
  - Run reports and statistics on data
  - Recidivism rates
- Service Provider Database
  - Search for services by category or by county depending on need
- Service Provider Questionnaire
- IRP: Individualized Re-Entry Plan



## Future Goals

- Service providers will be able to identify, house, and support offenders with I/DD as they transition back to the community.
- Reduce recidivism in Atlantic County
- Expand to another County in 2014



# References

- Statistics were obtained from the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center and The National Re-entry Resource Center
- Chown, N. (2010). 'Do you have any difficulties that I may not be aware of?' A study of autism awareness and understanding in the UK police service. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 12(2), 256-273. doi:10.1350/ijps.2010.12.2.174
- Freckelton, I., & List, D. (2009). Asperger's Disorder, Criminal Responsibility and Criminal Culpability. *Psychiatry, Psychology & Law*, 16(1), 16-40. doi: 10.1080/13218710902887483
- Patrick A. Langan and David J. Levin, National Recidivism Study of Released Prisoners: Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994, Washington, D.C., U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCJ 193427, June 2002



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