

The Second Chance Act: Reentry Demonstration and Mentoring Grantees At a Glance

In 2008, the Second Chance Act (SCA) was signed into law. It was created to help break the cycle of criminal recidivism, improve public safety, and help states, units of local government, and Indian tribes better address the growing population of offenders who return to their communities.

The SCA provides grants to state, local, and tribal governments to promote the safe and successful reintegration of individuals into the community after they are released from incarceration. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) places a strong priority on funding programs that implement evidence-based reentry practices, including adhering to the risk, needs, and responsivity principles. SCA grantees are committed to help those in the reentry process by

appropriately assessing risk and need, offering individualized case plans, and incorporating the appropriate amount of treatment.

This paper briefly outlines the performance data collected in the Performance Management Tool for fiscal year (FY) 2009 and FY 2010 covering adult offenders who were admitted to two SCA programs—Reentry Demonstration and Mentoring—from October 2009 to June 2011. During this time, there were 67 adult Reentry Demonstration grantees (including 15 for FY 2009 and 52 for FY 2010) and 86 adult Mentoring grantees (36 for FY 2009 and 50 for FY 2010) nationwide.

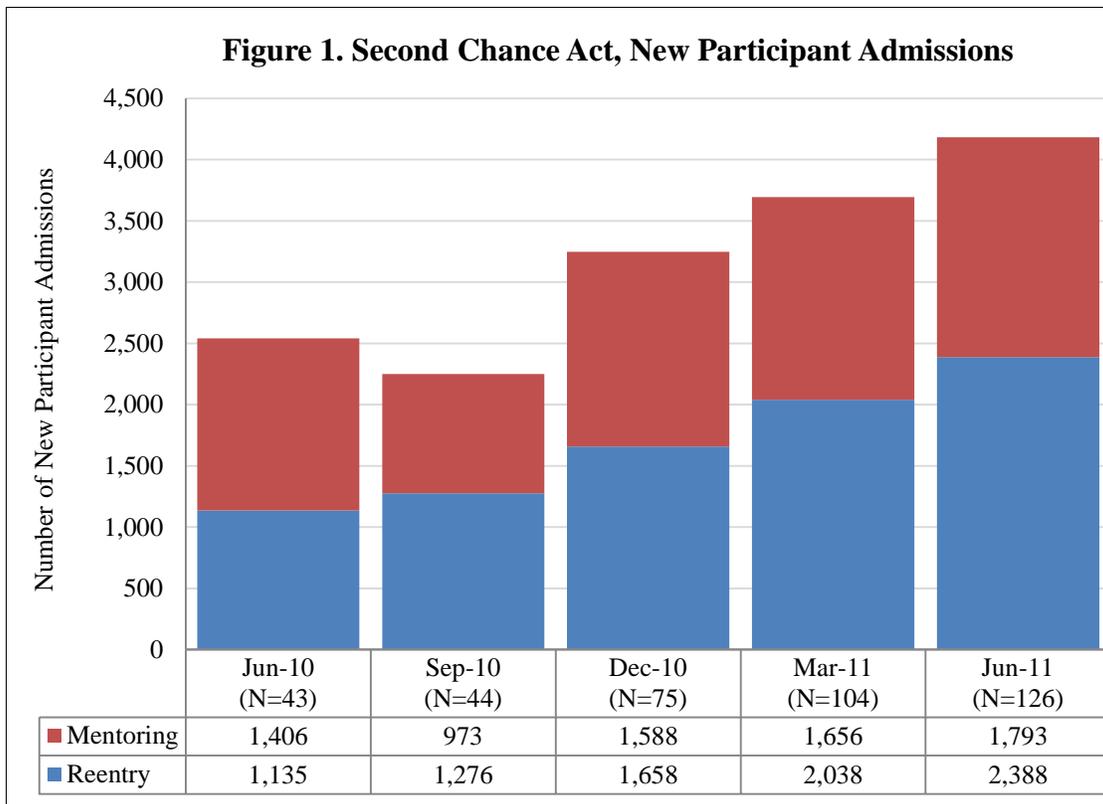
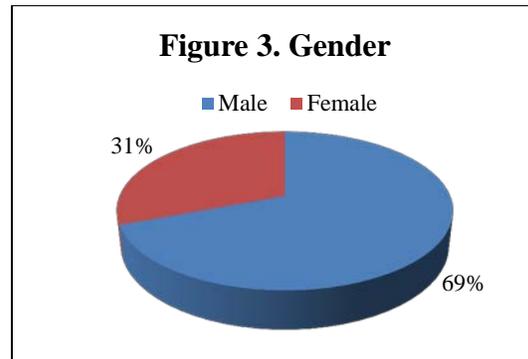


Figure 1 illustrates the number of new participant admissions to the SCA Reentry Demonstration and Mentoring programs from June 2010 to June 2011. In total, 15,911 participants have been admitted.¹ With the exception of July–September 2010, every reporting period saw an increase in new participants served. During this time, the number of grantees (N) increased, as did the number of grantees reporting data and their capacity to serve participants.

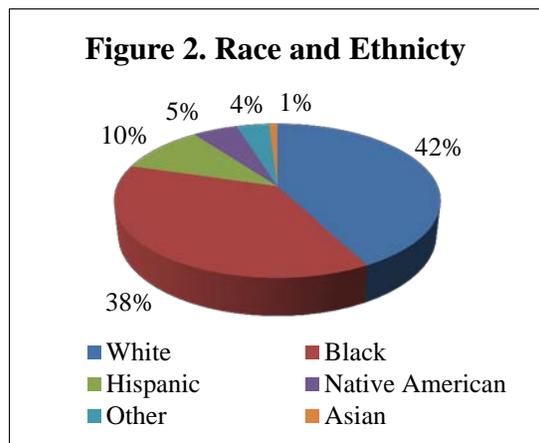
served at 69%, compared with 31% for females.



Do SCA Participants Represent National Reentry Populations?

SCA participants come from a diverse demographic background. Figure 2 illustrates race and ethnicity statistics for all new participants admitted to the SCA program. Whites remain the largest racial category served at 42%, followed by Blacks at 38%. Hispanics represent 10% of the population served.

SCA participants compare closely to the national parole estimates. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), 38% of people on parole in 2010 were white, 40% were black, 21% were Hispanic, and 1% were American Indian or Alaskan Native.²



The possible exception to this close comparison to national estimates is gender. In 2010, according to BJS, 88% of people on parole were male and 12% were female.³ However, among SCA program participants, 69% were men and 31% were females. Females are most likely overrepresented because 10 Reentry Demonstration grantees and 24 Mentoring grantees reported having only women participants.

Figure 3 shows gender characteristics for participants admitted to the SCA program. Males remain the largest group

It should be noted that the national parolee population, while similar, is not an equivalent comparison group. This is largely because SCA participants represent both jail and state prison populations, with awards made

¹ There is the possibility that participants are counted more than once, as this is self-reported data from grantees. Data beginning July 1, 2011 addresses this issue, which improves the reliability of the data.

² Glaze, L., & Bonczar, T. (2011). "Probation and Parole in the United States in 2010." Bureau of Justice Statistics, p. 43.

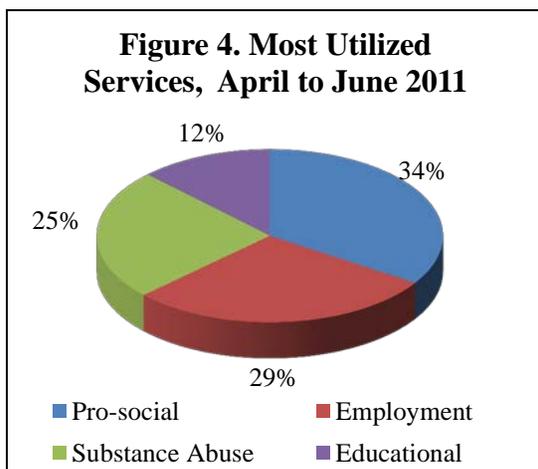
<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus10.pdf>

³ Ibid

competitively. This means every state may not receive an award. During the period assessed, Reentry Demonstration grantees represented 34 different states and Mentoring grantees represented 42. In addition, some grantees enrolled substantially more participants than others. For example, two grantees enrolled participants representing 38% of the total served in the Reentry Demonstration program, and one grantee enrolled participants representing 18% of the total served in the Mentoring program.

What treatment services do SCA participants receive?

Figure 4 illustrates the number of participants who were enrolled in services for the April–June 2011 reporting period.



As noted in the figure, 34% of participants were enrolled in pro-social services, 29% in employment services, 25% in substance abuse services, and 12% in educational services.⁴ Pro-social services can include programs such as

⁴ Participants may receive additional services not reported here. Also, participants can be enrolled in more than one service category.

anger and stress management, faith-based services, family counseling services, life skills training, and any other type of structured activities.

Continuation of Funding

The SCA legislation represents an enormous undertaking to break the cycle of recidivism, increase public safety, and help states ensure the smooth transition of offenders into the community. With additional appropriations, more programs have been implemented to address these needs. In FY 2011, \$83 million in appropriations were made available for SCA programming. During FY 2011, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) received 1,034 applications from the field for funding assistance that resulted in 122 competitive awards.

From FY 2009 through FY 2011, OJP received 3,209 applications from the field, resulting in 377 competitive site-based awards.⁵ The total number of awards characterized 12% of the demand expressed by the field. The abundant number of applications received represents the tremendous need for assistance in developing evidenced-based reentry programs. Moreover, the enactment and funding of SCA has had a major impact on building the capacity of corrections and reentry service providers to offer comprehensive programming to the field. BJA continues to strive to better monitor program performance, provide targeted technical assistance, improve performance and reporting, and enhance data collection techniques to meet the demands of the diverse range of programs funded.

⁵Not including supplements or continuation awards.