

Exploring Misdemeanants in Community Corrections

August 22, 2022
Division of Probation Services

Misdemeanants on Probation

Most people are on
probation for a
misdemeanor

- **2/3** of new probation cases
- **3/4** of terminated probation cases
- **30%** of misdemeanants terminated from probation in FY20 were classified as high-risk or high-risk and high-need

Success rates for
misdemeanants vary
by risk and need

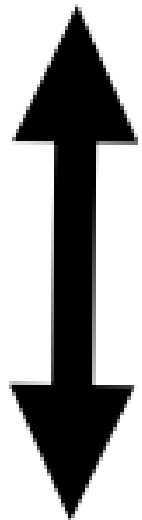
- **44%** success rate for high risk and high risk/high need
- **78%** success rate for moderate to lower risk and need

Colorado Probation

Colorado Probation's Population: Risk-Need-Responsivity Strategies

Typologies are a research-informed practice that categorize adult probationers according to similar risk and need profiles to better tailor supervision strategies in alignment with the Risk-Needs-Responsivity framework. The profiles are listed below with distinguishing characteristics for each profile.

Higher Risk



Lower Risk

LS: Limit Setter

- Higher risk probationers with few protective factors and more involved criminal histories.
- Score higher on the *intrinsic* (attitudinal and behavioral) criminogenic need areas (e.g. Impulsivity)

CC: Casework Control

- High risk and high need in the areas of behavioral health (SUD, MH, Dual Dx).
- Scores above average on almost every measure with chronic instability

CM: Case Management

- The largest proportion of the probation population
- Assessed as lower to medium risk – often with more *extrinsic* need profiles (employment, family/marital, companions, financial) with no clear indicators that would categorize them in any other group

SIT: Selective Intervention-Treatment

- Lower risk with remarkable substance abuse or mental health issues (or co-occurring disorders)

SIS: Selective Intervention-Situational

- Low risk with no treatment need

Typologies in Colorado Probation: Descriptions, Distributions, and Success Rates

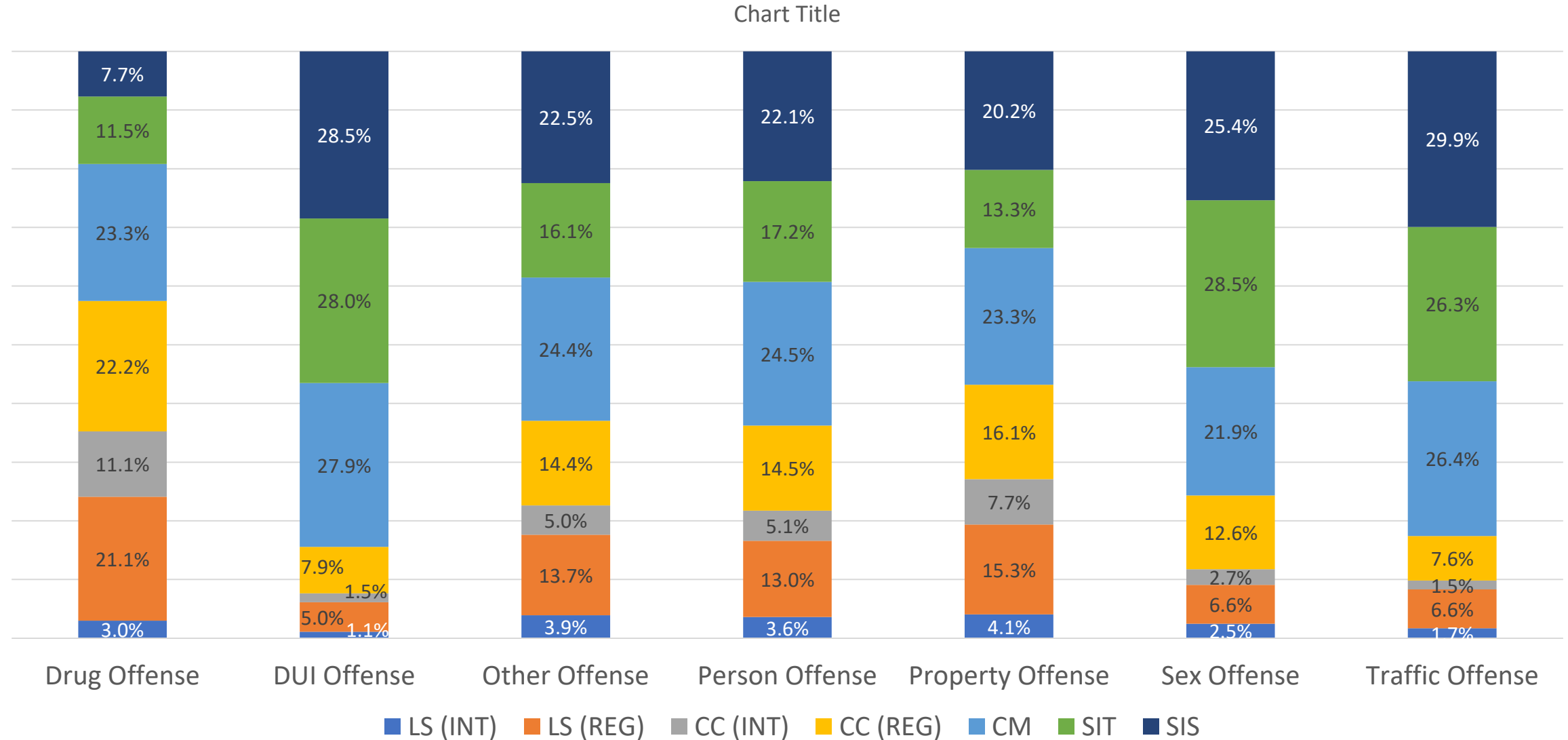
Higher Risk
and Need



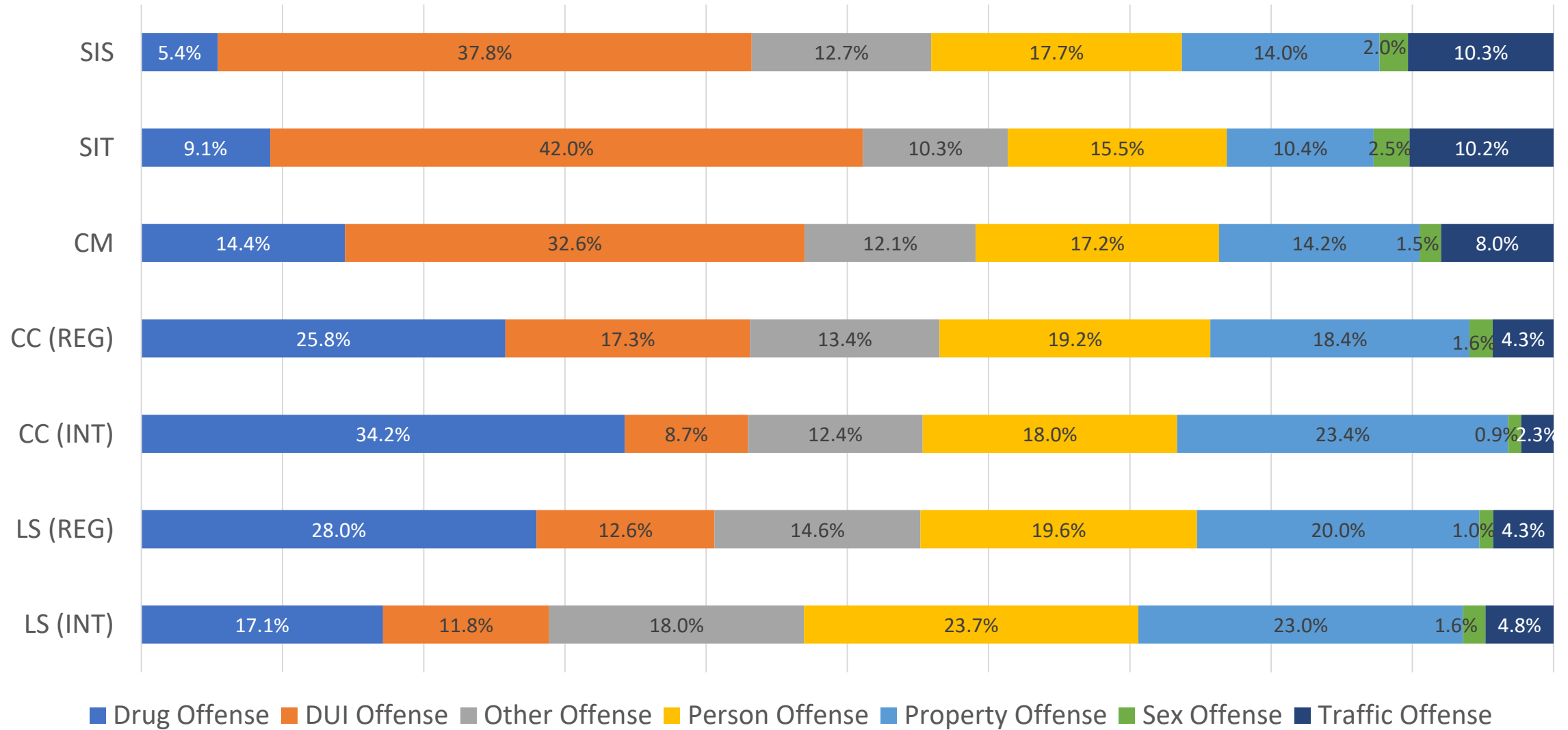
Lower Risk
and Need

		Distribution	Success Rate	Unsuccessful Termination Rate		
				Abscond	Tech Viol	New Crime
Limit Setter Intensive (LS-INT)	Higher risk with antisocial orientation. Eligible for intensive program.	3%	43.9%	15.0%	20.4%	20.6%
Limit Setter Regular (LS-REG)	Higher risk with antisocial orientation and secondary needs.	12%	40.0%	17.4%	24.6%	18.1%
Casework Control Intensive (CC-INT)	Higher risk and higher need with stability issues. Eligible for intensive program.	5%	47.4%	13.8%	23.7%	15.2%
Casework Control (CC-REG)	Higher risk and higher need with stability issues. Eligible for intensive program.	13%	51.9%	15.0%	21.4%	11.7%
Case Management (CM)	Medium risk and need.	25%	69.6%	11.2%	12.2%	7.0%
Selective Intervention-Treatment (SIT)	Lower risk with single need factor typically related to a substance use or mental health treatment need.	20%	82.0%	7.0%	7.5%	3.5%
Selective Intervention-Situational (SIS)	Lower risk with no distinguishing need factors and high levels of stability and protective factors.	23%	86.9%	6.6%	4.5%	2.0%

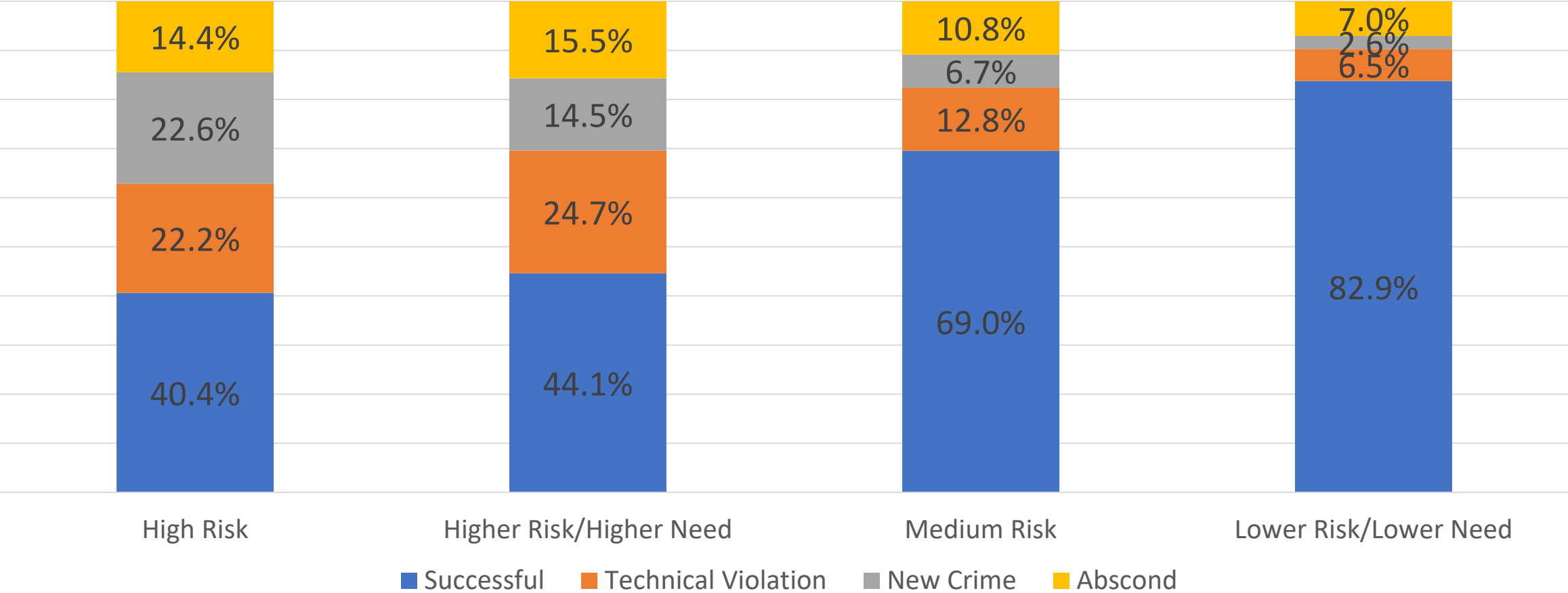
Distribution of Typology within Crime Type of Conviction FY20 Terminations

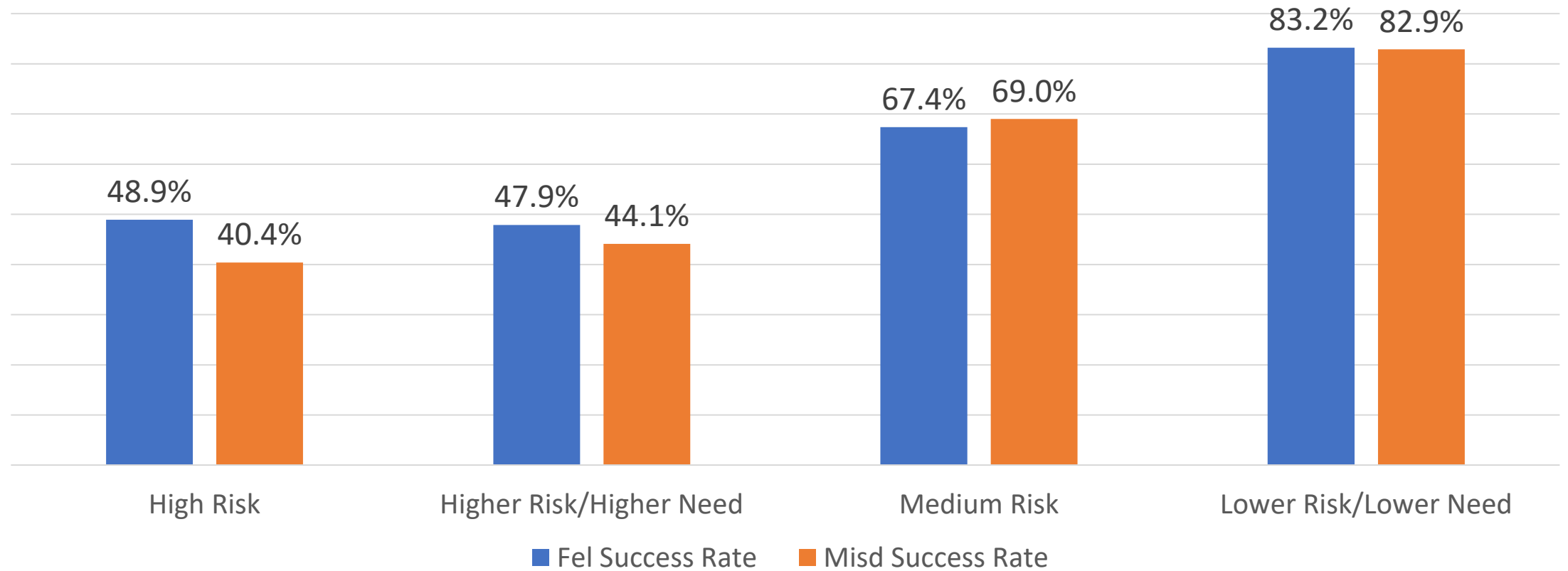


Distribution of Crime Type of Conviction by Typology



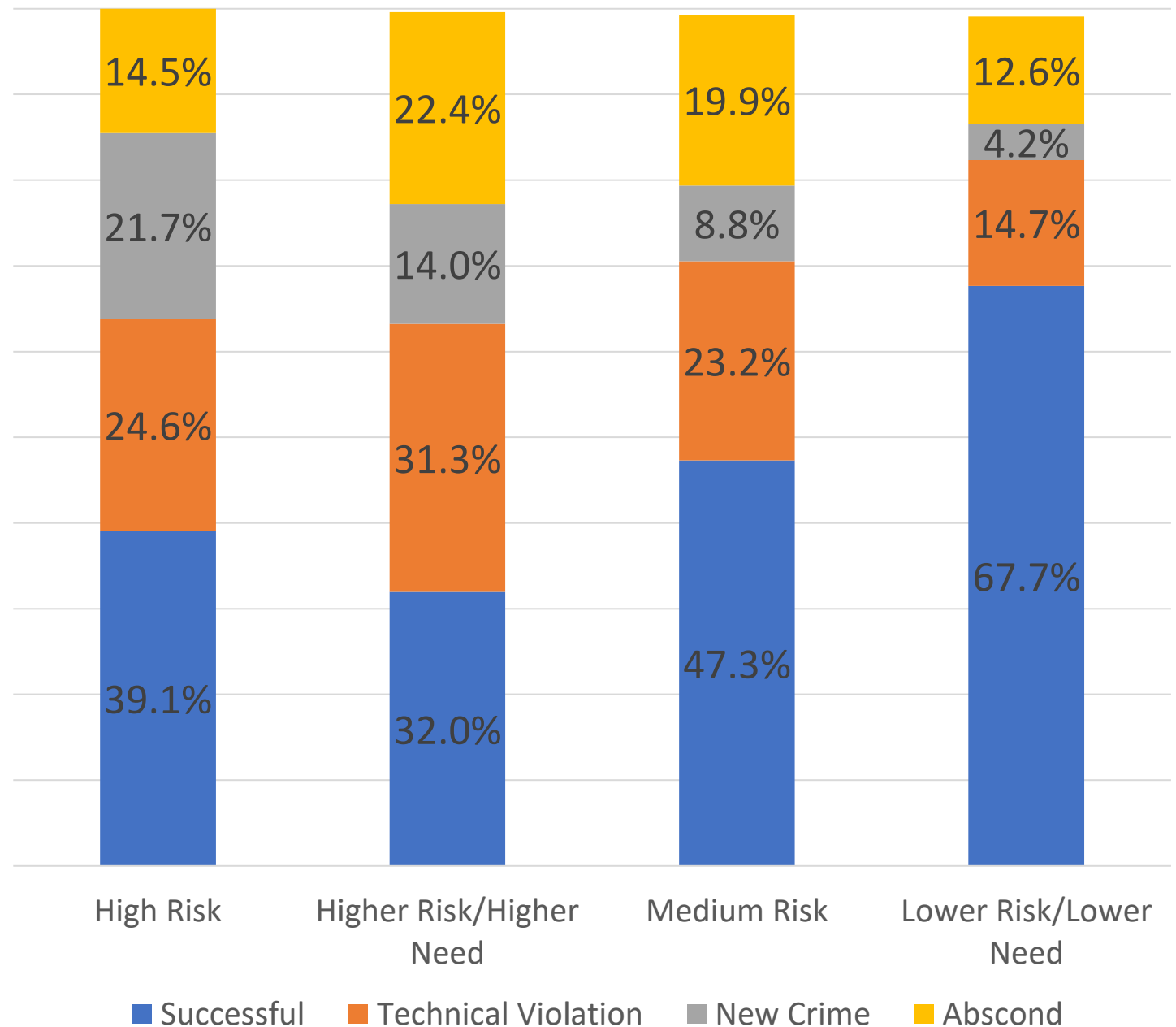
Probationers who are higher risk and higher need on supervision for a misdemeanor have lower success rates





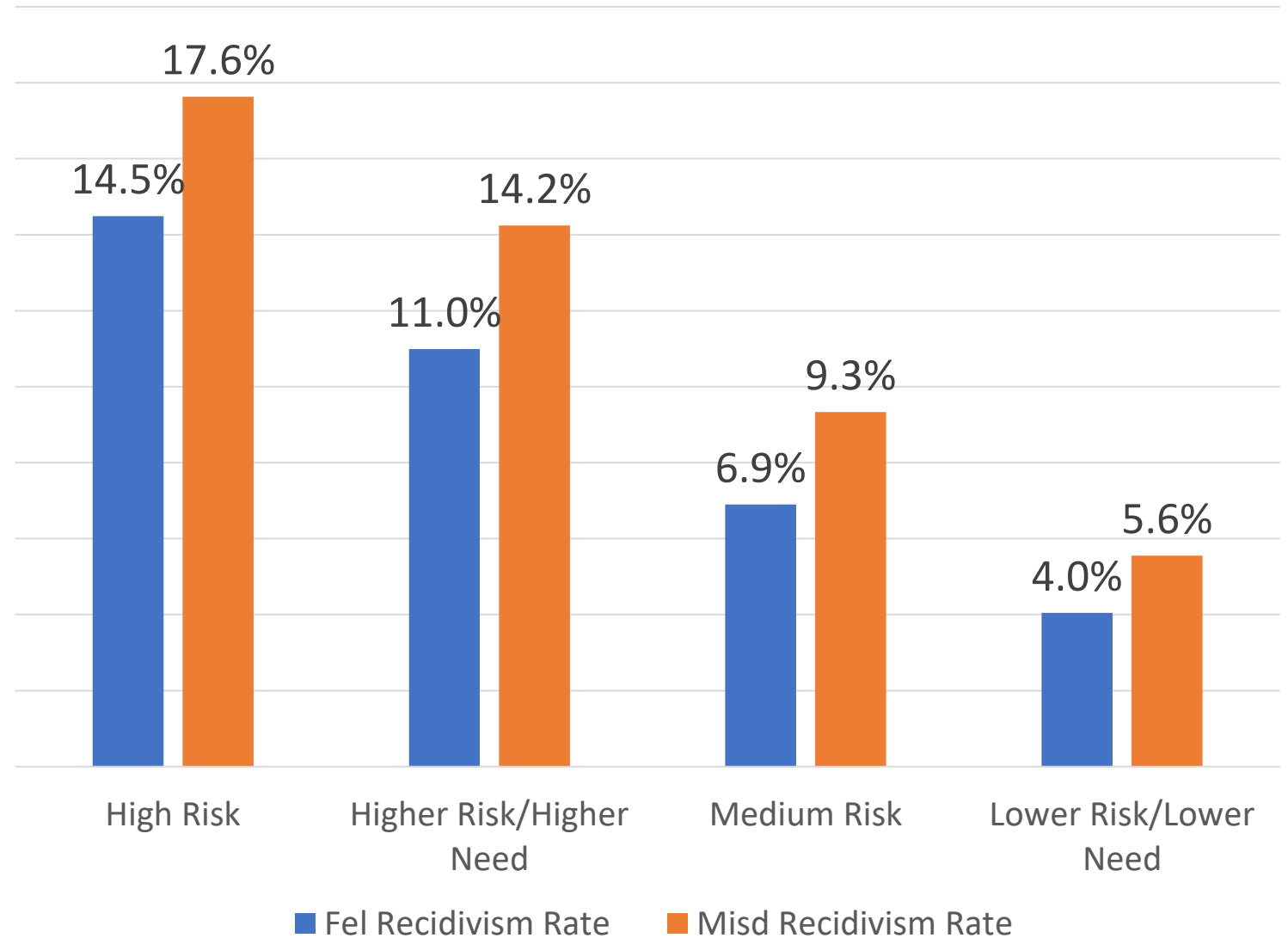
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Outcomes are **especially poor** for higher risk and higher risk/higher needs probationers with a drug misdemeanor



Probationers who are higher risk and higher need on supervision for a misdemeanor also have higher recidivism rates*

*Recidivism is defined as a new deferred agreement or conviction one-year post-release from supervision.



Bottom Line

Risk and Need is more important than Offense

Continue to implement
Risk-based program
models

Drug use is a problem

May be seeing
unintended
consequence of
reclassifying drug
possession

Gaps in service
availability exist

Need alternatives to
improve outcomes for
high-risk high-need
misdemeanants

Policy Options for Use of Community Corrections with Misdemeanants

- Condition of Probation
- Treatment access and/or stabilization
- New Sentence

Important considerations:

