



JUSTICE INVOLVED WOMEN

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Of the Sentencing Reform Task Force/ Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice



LITERATURE REVIEW



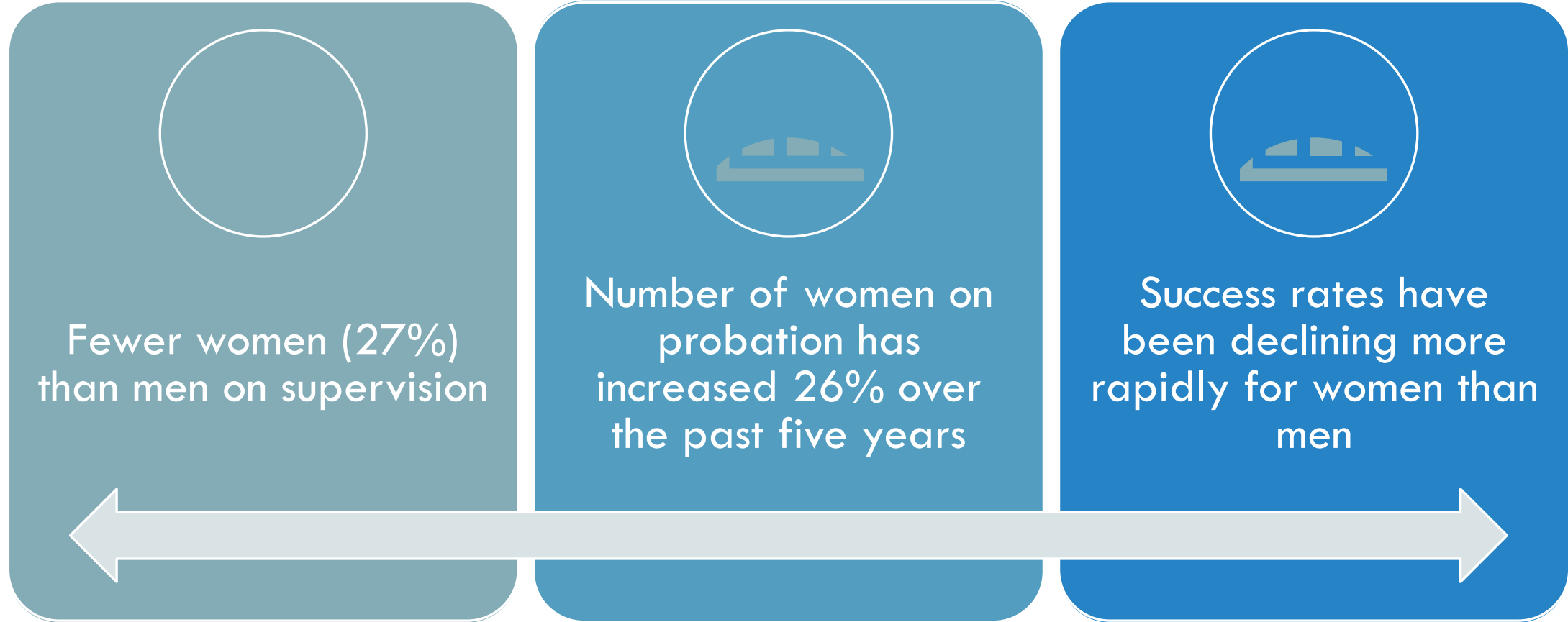
STAKEHOLDER
INTERVIEWS



FOCUS GROUP

RESEARCH

DATA: 2014 THROUGH 2018



DATA: 2014 THROUGH 2018

Overrepresented

37% of mental health caseloads

33% of maximum supervision

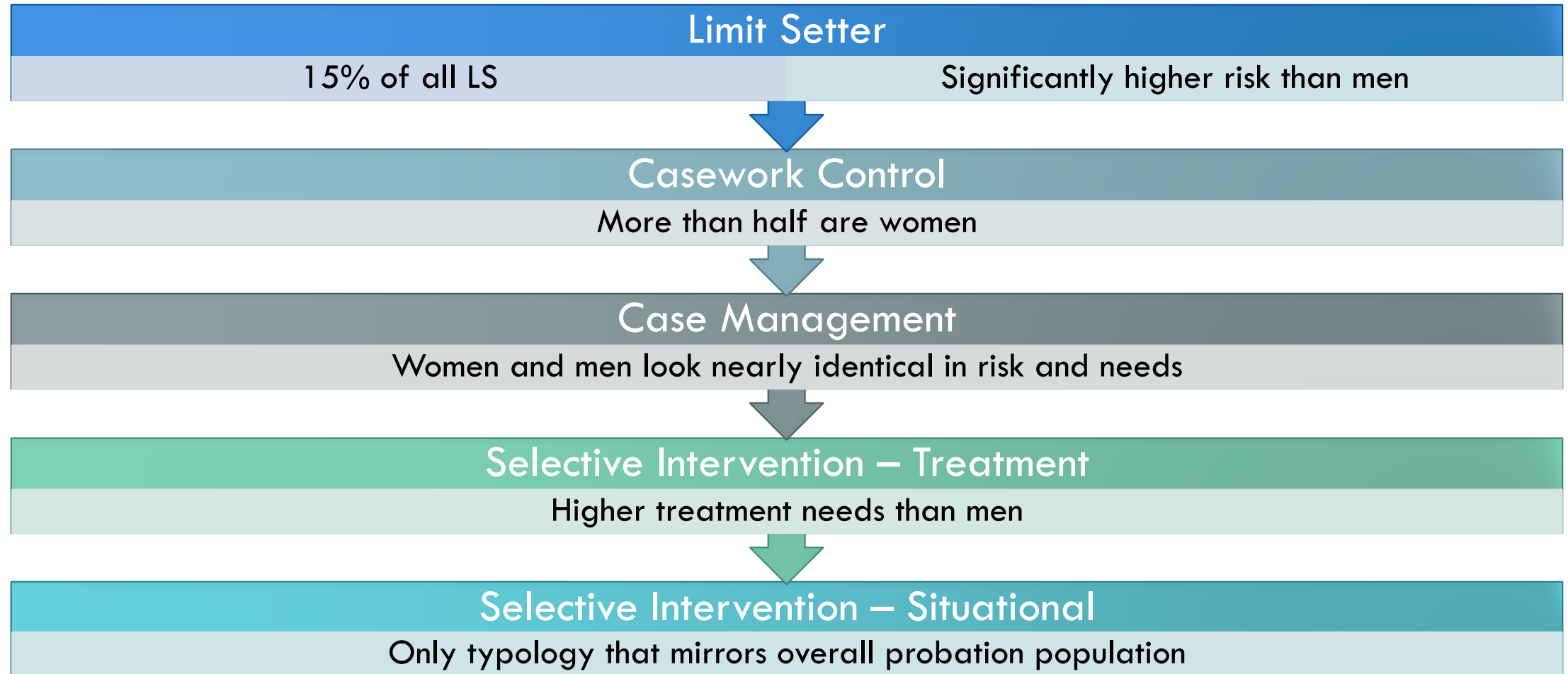
30% of medium supervision

Underrepresented

20% of domestic violence programs

3% of sex offender programs

TYPOLOGIES: 2014 THROUGH 2018



DATA: 2022



Continue to be fewer women
then men sentenced to
probation

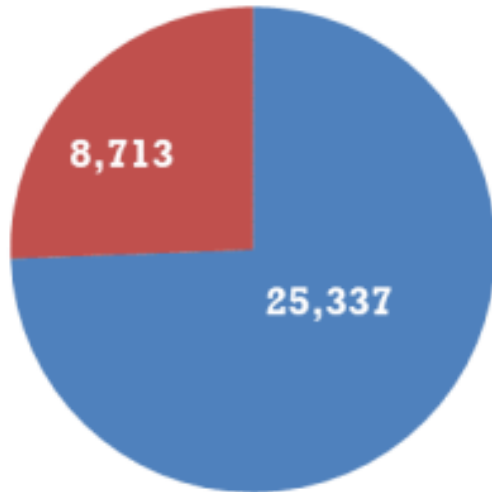


Success rates increased
between 2019 and 2020, but
decreased in 2021 and 2022

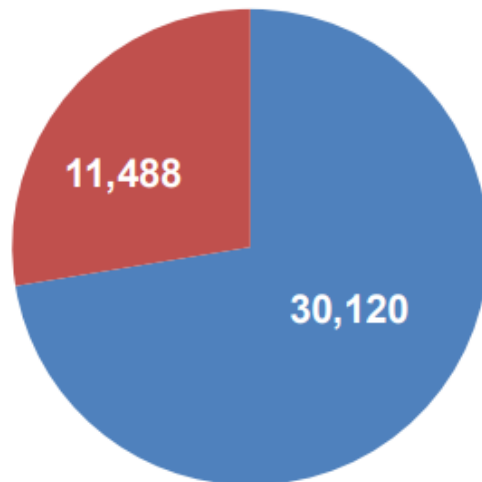


NEW ADULT PROBATIONERS BY GENDER

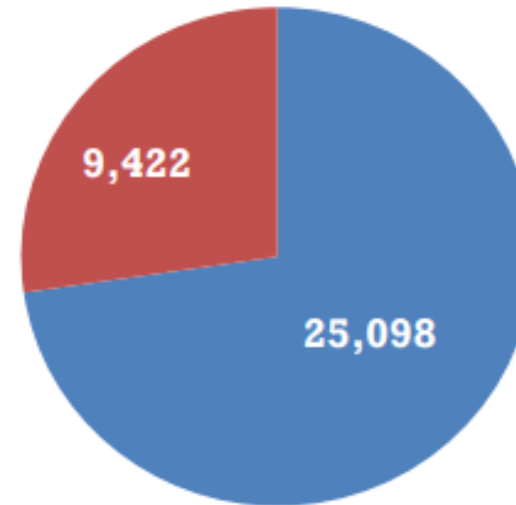
FISCAL YEAR 2013 NEW



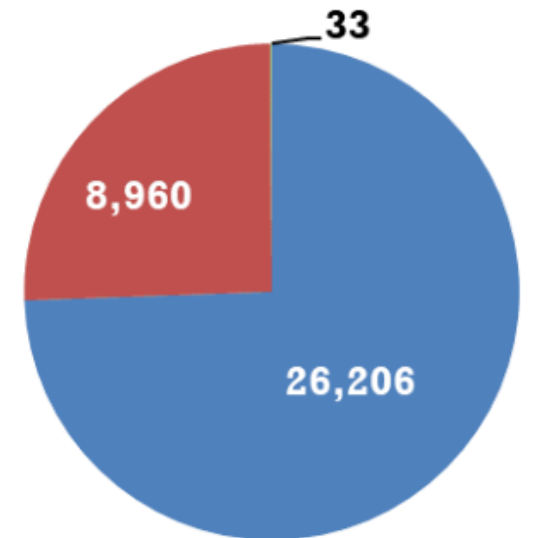
FISCAL YEAR 2019 NEW



FISCAL YEAR 2020 NEW



FISCAL YEAR 2022 NEW



■ Male ■ Female ■ Unknown

*Colorado Judicial Branch Annual Statistical Report – Fiscal Year 2019, 2020 and 2022



Employment / Education
Housing
Intimate Relationships
Mental Health
Parental Responsibilities
Self-Esteem / Self-Efficacy
Substance Abuse
Transportation
Traumatic Brain Injury
Victimization / Trauma
Intersectional Identities

THEMES

EMPLOYMENT / EDUCATION

What the literature says:

- Under-educated, under-employed
- Lower wage, entry level, low skilled jobs

What we heard:

- Employment = independence
- Low paying jobs
 - Difficult to pay for childcare, housing, insurance
 - Make too much to qualify for assistance, e.g. Medicaid, food stamps

HOUSING

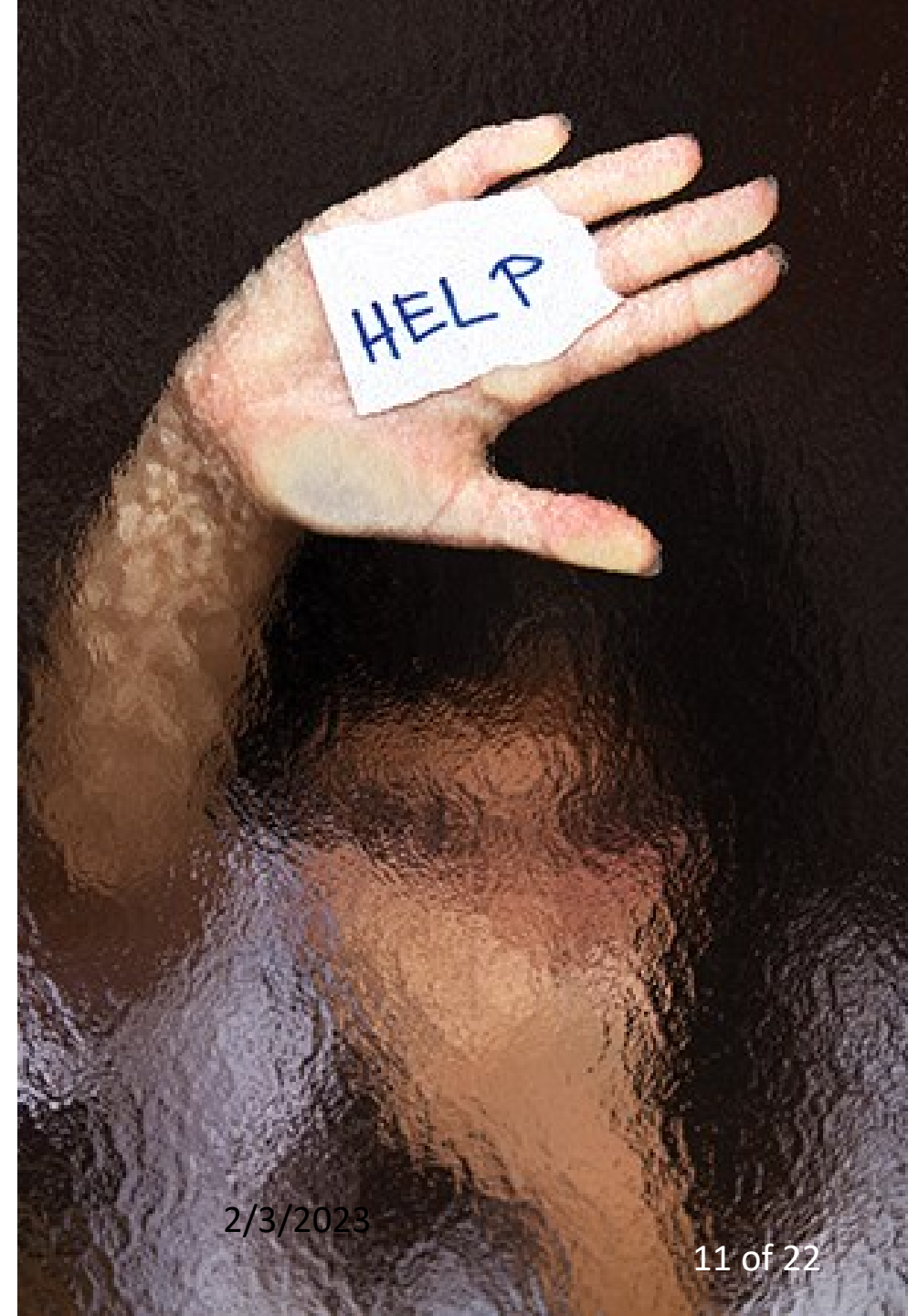
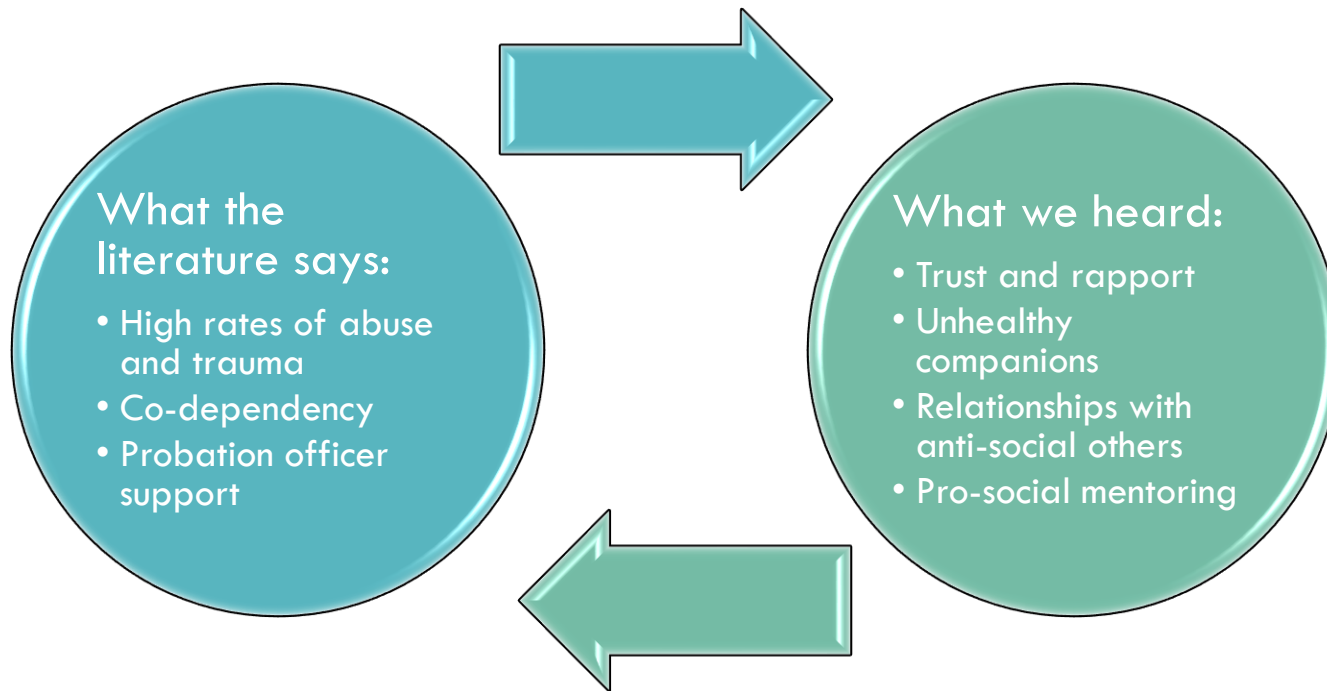
Housing

Providing a home
for their children
and sobriety



Women need access to affordable housing that will allow them to engage in treatment services in safe communities with access to healthy recreation and career opportunities

INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS



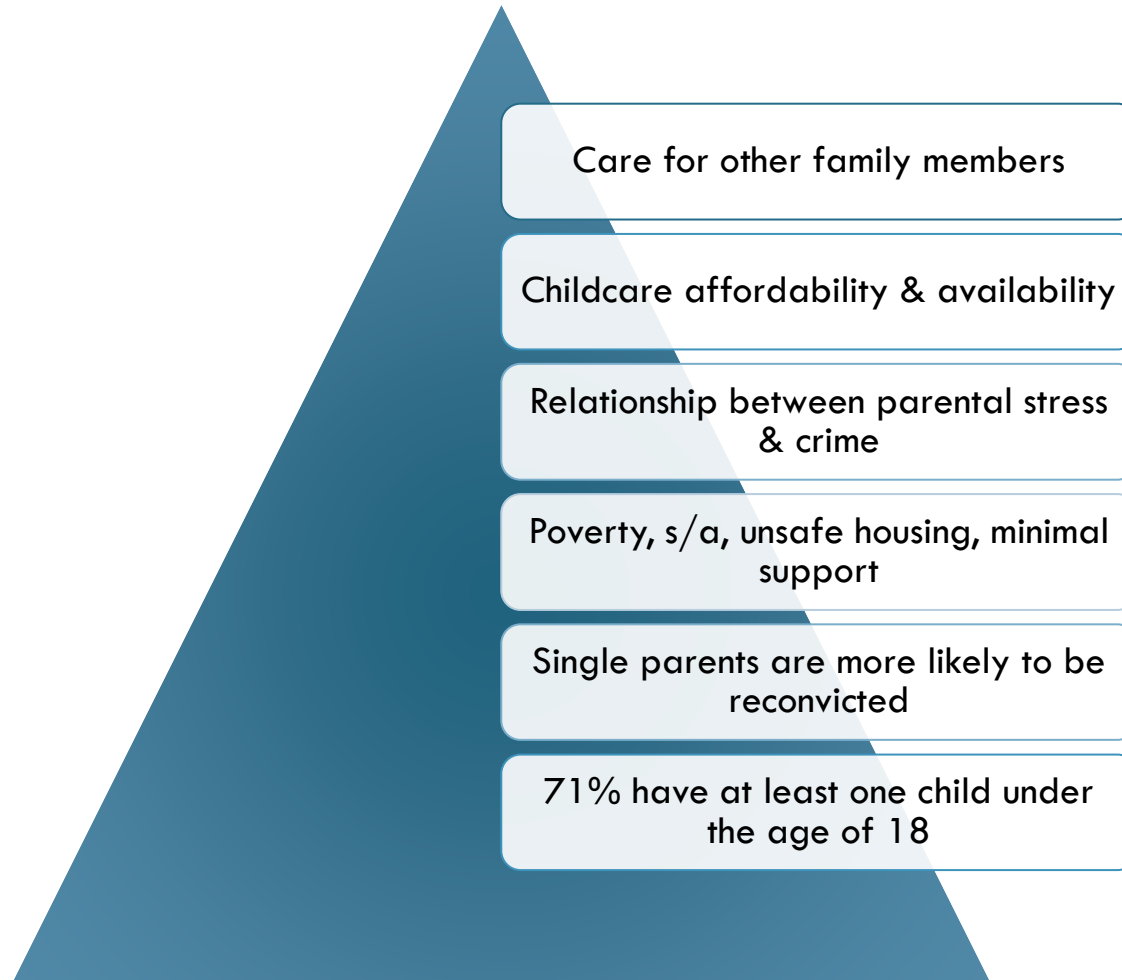
MENTAL HEALTH



Depression, Anxiety, Self-harm,
Co-occurring dx, PTSD

Recidivism contributions: stress,
depression, fearfulness, suicidality

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES





SELF-ESTEEM / SELF-EFFICACY

"Probation Working Group"

Justice-Involved Women

Sentencing Reform Task Force/Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Creates pathways out
criminal behavior

Helps with desistance

Justice system involvement
paired with parental rights
determination

Justice involved women
experience a lot of:

Shame

Labeling

Stigma

2/3/2023

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Exposure to certain
life events
increases likelihood
of use as an adult

Treatment
completion lowers
risk of re-arrest by
75%

Coping mechanism

Collaboration

Gender-Responsive
Treatment



TRANSPORTATION

"Probation Working Group"

Justice-Involved Women

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Transportation is a
barrier to success

Importance of car
ownership, especially
for care givers

Independence from
anti-social others

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16 of 22

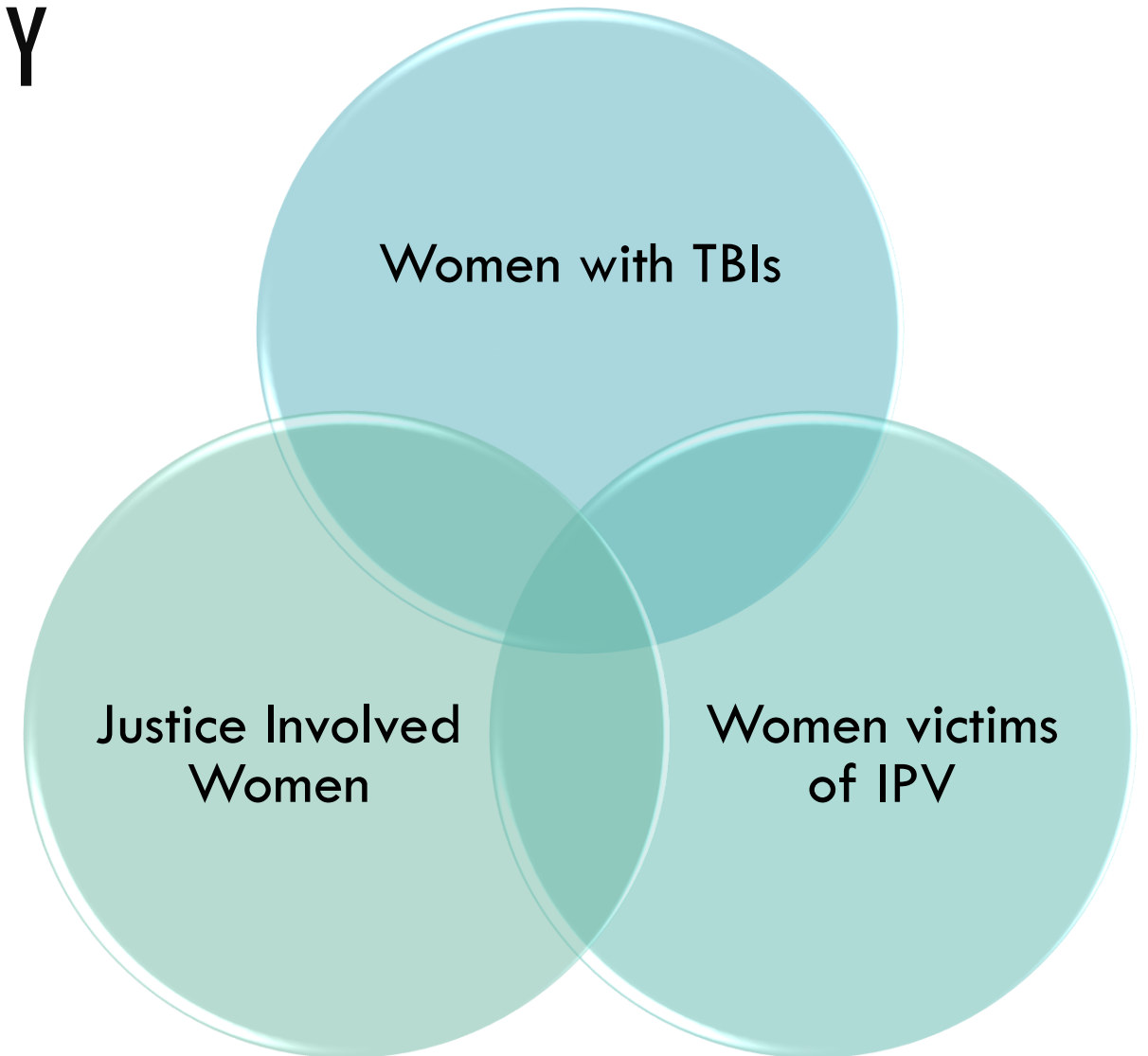
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Women in justice systems are more likely to have TBIs

Injuries occur in violent circumstances

Long term impacts

One Colorado site: 97% of women had TBIs



VICTIMIZATION / TRAUMA

Justice Involved Women

- Histories of abuse

- Co-occurring disorders associated with likelihood of trauma

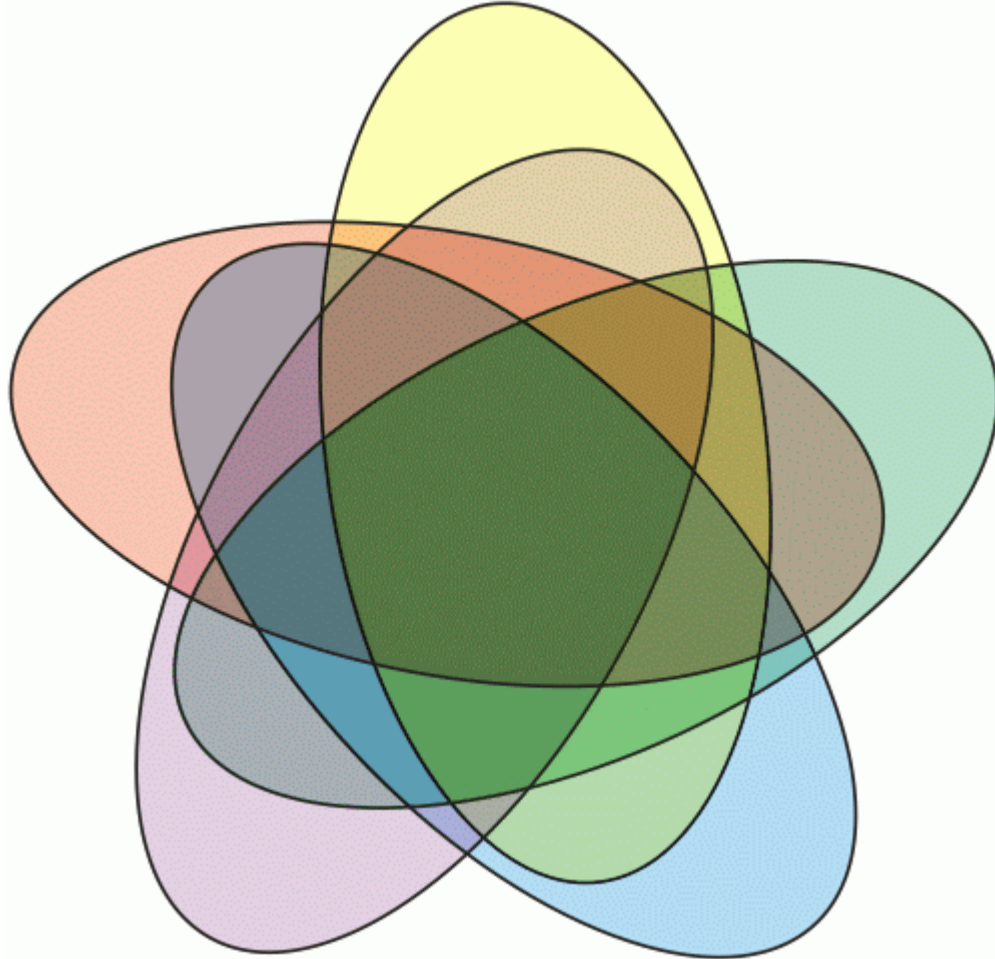
Gender responsive officers

- Facilitate pro-social coping strategies

- Effective responses to trauma

- Prevent further re-traumatization





INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITIES

"Probation Working Group"

Justice-Involved Women

Sentencing Reform Task Force/Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

- Intersection of gender, race, religion, and other identities
- Disproportional Representation of non-white male populations
- Norms are white, heterosexual men (e.g. assessments)
- Magnifies differences and disadvantages
- Importance of relating to someone in the room
- Ask people what they prefer for pronouns and descriptors

2/3/2023

EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION APPROACHES SUPPORTED BY RESEARCH

Adjust Supervision Practices

Holistic

Collaborative

Relational Needs

Strength Based

Pro-social supports

Stability

Relationship Building



Individualized gender-responsive holistic supervision strategies

Strength based supervision

Coordinated Interventions

Peer mentorship programs

Build Life Skills

Adjust meeting locations & expectations

Kid friendly appointment times and locations

Build pro-social community supports

Build stability factors

Focus on relationship building

WHAT ARE DISTRICTS DOING NOW?

