

The characteristics of those on Mandatory Supervised Release in Macon & McLean County & Their Assessed Substance Abuse Treatment Needs and Patterns

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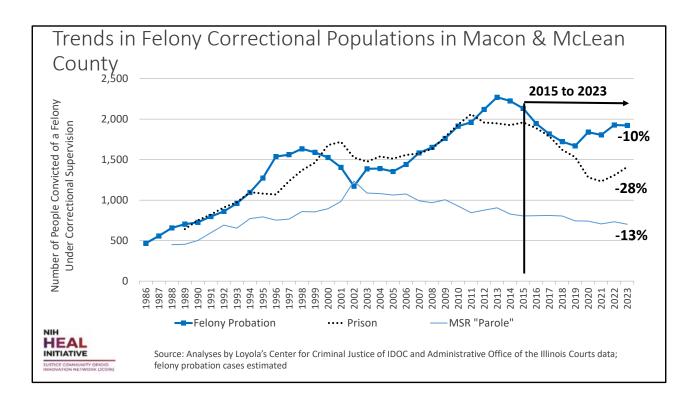




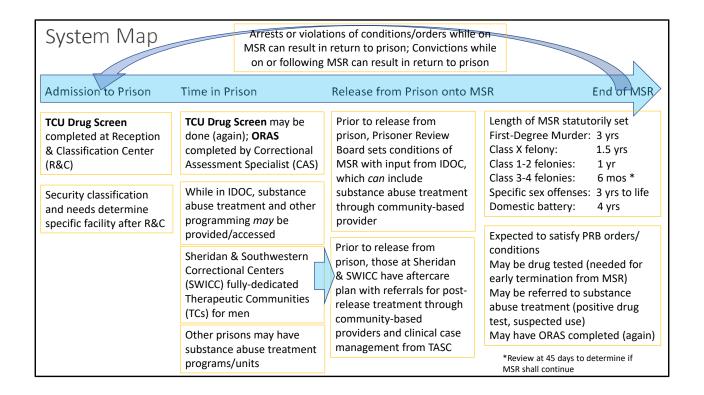




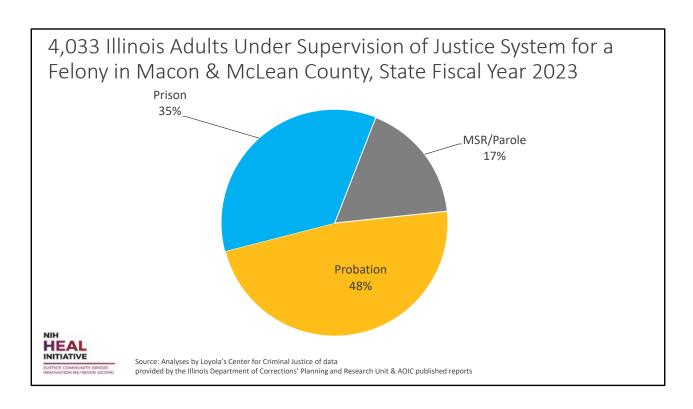
The Justice Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) is a national collaborative research project funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The goal of the project is to increase access to & retention in substance use treatment & medications for opioid use disorder services for adults released on parole supervision after a period of incarceration. Six Illinois parole offices were selected as partners for this project because of their dedication to improving the outcomes of Illinois parolees who have substance use disorders (SUD), and because of their unique position to improve how the justice system effectively responds to the opioid crisis. This project is a collaboration of the Illinois Dept. of Corrections, Loyola University, and TASC's Center for Health and Justice along with the Departments of Correction in Texas and New Mexico, as well as Texas Christian University and the University of New Mexico. Collectively, Illinois, Texas and New Mexico are a "hub" within a national network of practitioners and researchers, and our hub is led by Texas Christian University, or TCU. The project involves an exploratory phase, where we will collaborate with the offices to develop and build a local workgroup, and conduct a needs assessment of the community regarding current treatment services/capacities. We will also provide web-based, self-directed training on a variety of topics and practices. Next we will collaborate with the parole office and the local workgroup to develop a localized plan to improve access to, and retention in, services among those on Mandatory Supervised Release (MSR). During the 3rd phase the plan will be implemented, with continued training, coaching and support provided to the parole office and the local workgroup. Finally, we will collaborate with the parole office and the local stakeholders/workgroup to sustain the improvements made through research and evaluation.



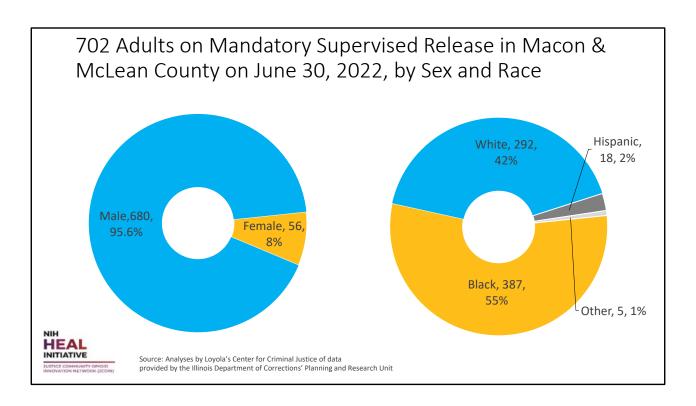
As can be seen in this graph, the number of people in prison and on community-based supervision (either probation or Mandatory Supervised Release) as a result of a felony conviction has decreased over the past 5-8 years, reflecting the overall drop in crime and arrests during that period, but also a decreased use of prison in Macon and McLean counties.



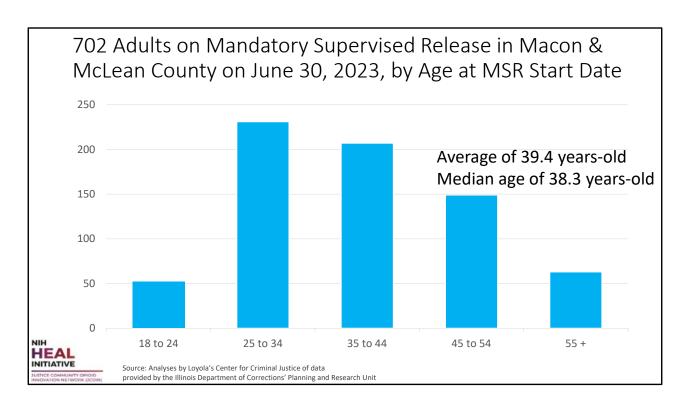
When looking at how those sentenced to prison matriculate through their prison sentence and period of MSR that follows, this figure highlights points where screening and assessments are done to identify substance use treatment needs, access to substance abuse treatment services both in prison and on MSR, and what happens during the MSR period with respect to drug tests, and referrals/access to substance abuse treatment services. During the workgroup meeting, more details of this system map will be fleshed out.



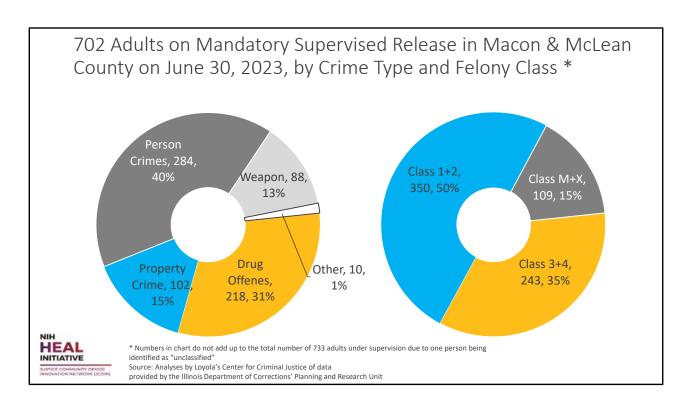
At the end of state fiscal year 2023, there were roughly 3,700 adults under some form of correctional custody or supervision as a result of a felony conviction. As can be seen here, roughly one-fifth (733) if these individuals were on MSR supervision in Macon and McLean counties.



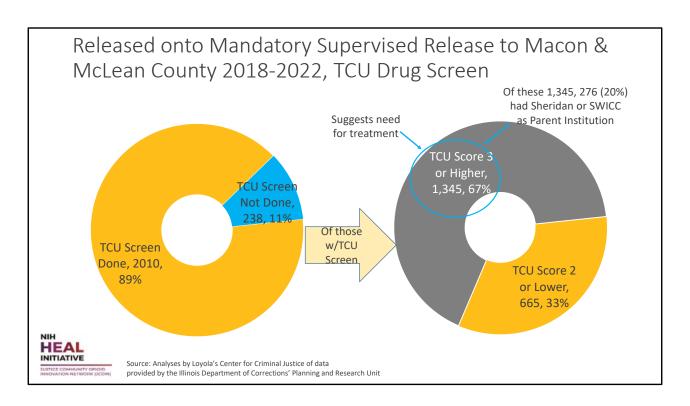
Of those on MSR on June 30, 2023, the vast majority (96%) were male and 55% were Black individuals.



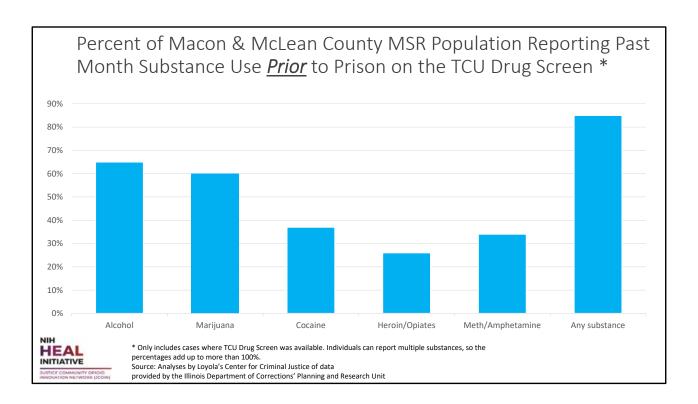
Of those on MSR on June 30, 2023, 25-34 year-olds accounted for the largest category of individuals, and the average age of those when they started their MSR term was 39 years old. A relatively small number of individuals on MSR in Macon and McLean counties were under 25 years of age or 55 and older.



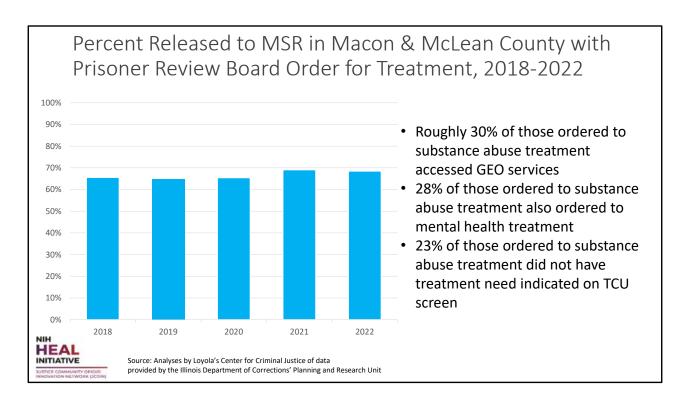
Of those on MSR on June 30, 2023, 40% were originally sentenced to prison for a violent/person crime, an additional 31% were sentenced to prison for a drug-law violation, and 15% had been sentenced to prison for a property crime. In terms of the felony class of the original conviction offense, which dictates how long individuals are on MSR, roughly 1 in 7 (15%) had been sentenced to prison for either Murder or a Class X felony, 50% for a Class 1 or 2 felony, and 35% for a Class 3 or 4 felony.



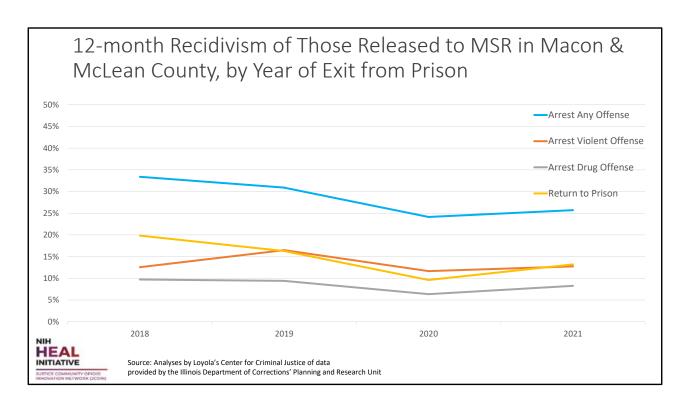
Of those released onto MSR from 2018 to 2022 to Macon and McLean County, most (89%) had a TCU Drug Screen available in IDOC's tracking system of record, and it was therefore accessible by parole officers. Of those with a score, two-thirds (67%) scored at a level indicating that substance abuse treatment was likely needed. However, of those scoring as in need of treatment, only a small portion—20% of those needing treatment—had Sheridan or SWICC, the two fully-dedicated prison-based substance abuse treatment therapeutic communities, as their parent facility.



When the substances those screened using the TCU Drug Screen were examined, it can be seen that of those with a TCU screen available, most reported some type of substance use in the month prior to their admission to prison. Alcohol was the most frequently cited substance (65%), followed by marijuana (60%). Roughly 37% reported cocaine use, followed by methamphetamine (34%), and one-quarter (26%) reported use of some type of opiate, either heroin or other opiates. Since individuals could have reported multiple substances, these percentages add up to more than 100%. All told, 85% of individuals on MSR in Macon/McLean counties reported using substances in the month prior to their incarceration.



Among those released from prison onto Mandatory Supervised Release (MSR) in Macon and McLean counties, roughly 70% had a Prisoner Review Board (PRB) order to complete substance abuse treatment while on MSR. Of those released to Macon and McLean counties with a PRB order for substance abuse treatment, roughly 30% accessed GEO services. Of those ordered by the PRB to complete substance abuse treatment 28% were also ordered to complete mental health treatment. One of the concerns raised by some parole agents is that often the PRB orders for treatment are not needed. Among those ordered to substance abuse treatment by the PRB, roughly one-quarter (23%) did not have a need for substance abuse treatment indicated on the TCU Drug Screen.



Among those released from prison onto Mandatory Supervised Release (MSR) in Macon and McLean County, the percent arrested for any offense within 12 months of their release decreased over time, from roughly 35% among those released in 2018 to 25% among those released in 2021. Looking just at arrests for violent crimes, between 10% and 15% were arrested within 12 months for a violent crime. Looking just at arrests for drug-law violations, roughly 10% of those released onto MSR in Macon and McLean counties from 2018 to 2022 were arrested for a drug offense. Finally, the percent of those released onto MSR in Macon and McLean counties that were returned to prison—either as a technical violators of MSR or with a new sentence—fell from 20% among those released in 2018 to 13% among those released in 2021.