



JAIL-BASED REENTRY PROGRAM

Creating Access to Therapeutic, Reentry, and Recovery Support Services in the Transylvania County Detention Center

2024 FINAL REPORT

The Transylvania County Jail-Based Reentry Program is a partnership of the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office and CARE Coalition to ease the transition from incarceration back into the community.

The Transylvania County Detention Center releases about 4 detainees each day. Many of these people face barriers such as little or no money, no place to live, no job, and no dependable family or friends to offer support. These challenges are even more difficult to navigate for those who have a mental health concern or substance use disorder.

Reentry programs help connect participants to resources they need before they are released, which helps them thrive in the community and avoid reincarceration.

Transylvania County's program supports 2 staff positions within the local detention center that provide case management, behavioral health assessment and counseling, and in-jail programming. It also connects participants with community treatment providers, including inpatient substance use disorder treatment, outpatient mental health counseling, and other agencies that help address daily needs.

Transylvania County's Jail-Based Reentry Program was funded through a Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through March 2025. The program has received a second COSSUP grant to enhance the existing jail-based efforts and expand community-based services with peer support through September 2027.

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participant demographics



255 men

88 women

39 average age

55% Transylvania County residents

services provided

- 344 Received case management and/or reentry programming within the detention center
- 343 Screened for substance use disorder (SUD)
- 241 Received services from a behavioral health counselor
- 105 Participated in in-jail programming that addresses criminogenic needs
- 99 Applications for in-patient SUD treatment initiated by the reentry coordinator
- 67 Applications for in-patient SUD treatment already accepted (with 25 more in progress or pending)

reentry needs identified



77%

driver's license



50%

housing



49%

transportation



45%

clothing



43%

SUD treatment



42%

employment



41%

food

“ The reentry services opened my eyes to community resources, coping skills other than using drugs, and showed me I do have a chance at a better drug-free life.

I think this program can ultimately save lives and steer people towards better, more productive lives. ”

- current detainee

63% of detainees reported multiple needs

prevalence of behavioral health concerns

SUBSTANCE USE

MENTAL HEALTH

65% of detainees screened tested positive for SUD

59% met criteria for multiple SUDs

MOST PREVALENT substance use disorders

- 1 Methamphetamine - 76%
- 2 Opioids - 37%
- 3 Alcohol - 37%

90% of detainees with SUD showed symptoms of at least 1 mental health condition

MOST PREVALENT mental health conditions

- 1 PTSD - 84%
- 2 Depression - 77%
- 3 Generalized Anxiety Disorder - 65%
- 4 Bipolar Disorder - 27%

Many detainees with opioid use disorder are at high risk for overdose:

74% experienced overdose

88% witnessed overdose

68% administered Narcan

72% of detainees with opioid use disorder want MOUD treatment in jail

impact of substance use disorder

JAIL ADMISSIONS & STAYS

Individuals with any SUD had a **higher number of jail admissions** compared to those without an SUD



15 average number of days in jail for participants **without an SUD**
63 average number of days in jail for participants **with an SUD**

INCARCERATION COSTS



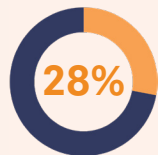
\$600 average cost of detention for a person **without an SUD**
\$2,520 average cost of detention for a person **with an SUD**

JAIL-BASED REENTRY PROGRAM IMPACT

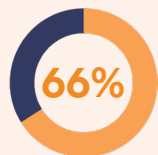
JAIL SAFETY

4.7 → **2.9**

average number of rule violations in 12 months **prior to** engaging with reentry program
average number of rule violations in 12 months **after** engaging with reentry program



28% of detainees who did not report **suicidal thoughts** during booking reported them to the counselor



66% of detainees who did not indicate a **mental health condition** during booking presented symptoms to the counselor or reentry specialist

These mental health concerns would most likely have gone unacknowledged if they had not been documented by the reentry program staff

RECIDIVISM

2.2 → **1.2**

average number of arrests in 12 months **prior to** engaging with reentry program
average number of arrests in 12 months **after** engaging with reentry program



56% of detainees with SUD were **readmitted** to jail at least once between Oct 2022 and Oct 2024

36% of participants were **not re-arrested** within 12 months after working with the reentry program

COST BENEFIT

\$130,582 estimated savings per year for Transylvania County Sheriff's Office

