

Maine DOC Restrictive Housing: *The Impacts of Systemic Wellness*

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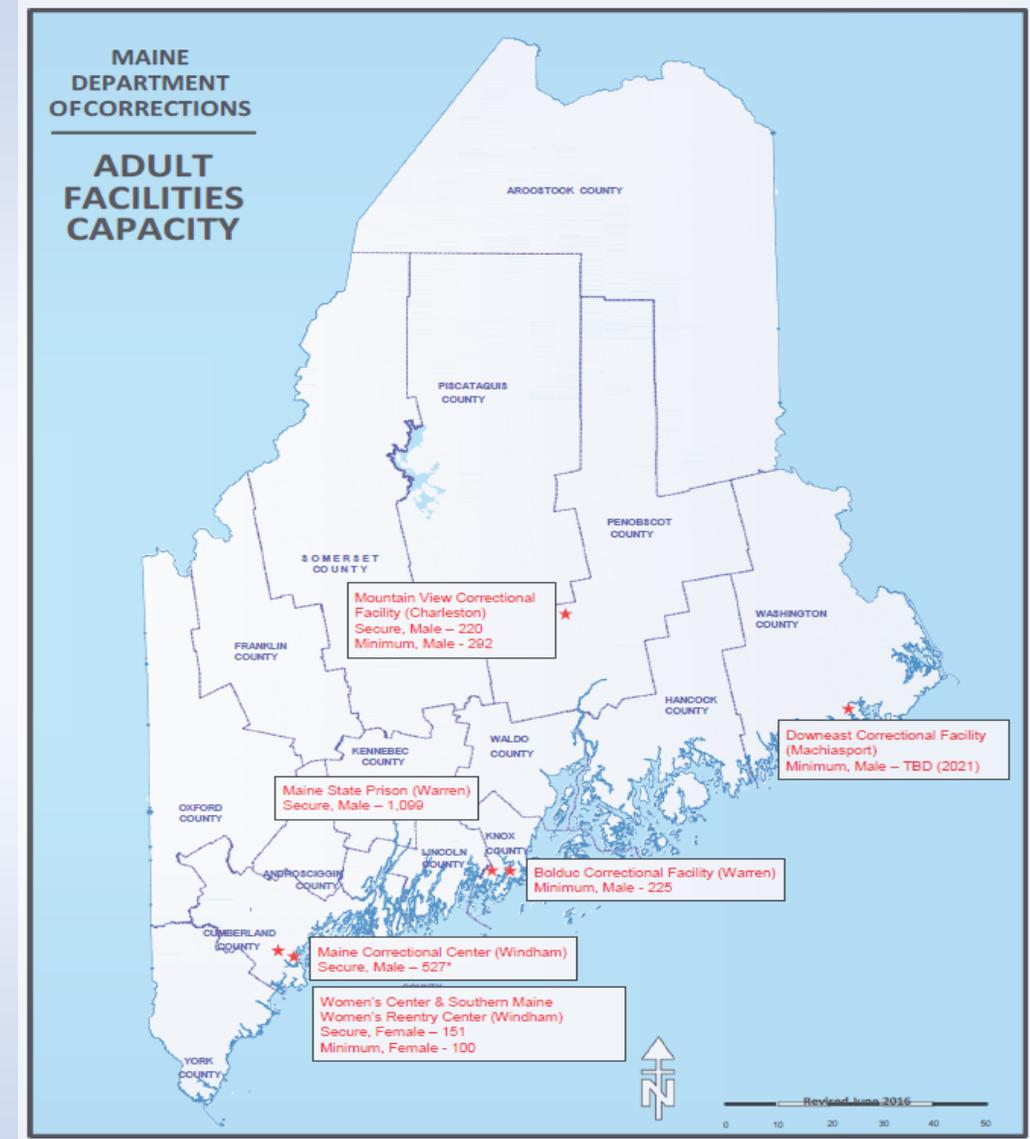
Maine Department
of Corrections



CLA Winter Conference
January 2022

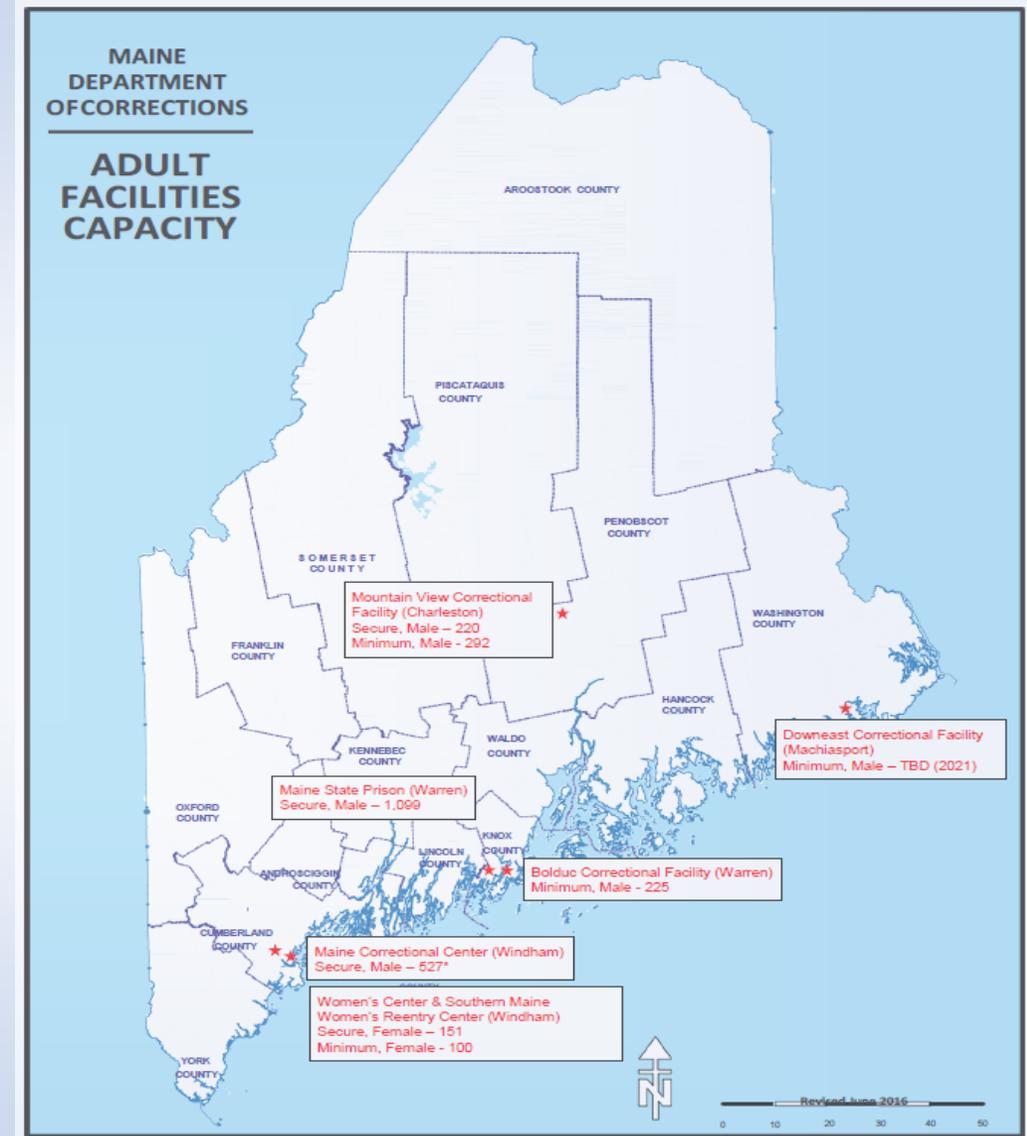
Overview

- About Maine and Maine DOC
- Restrictive Housing in Maine
- Maine Model of Corrections
- Lessons Learned

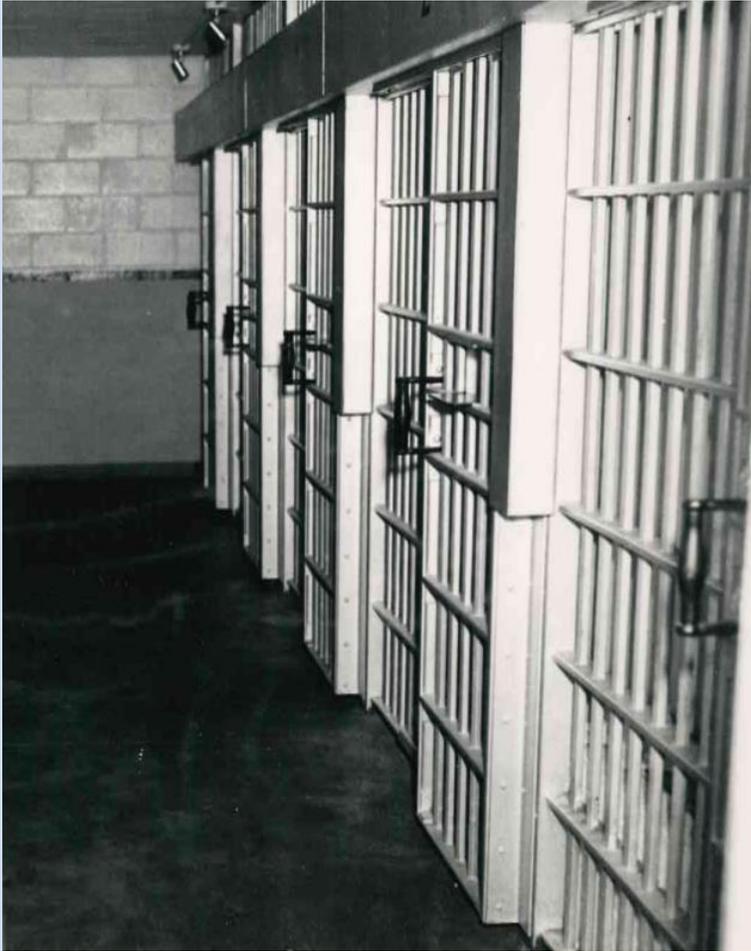


Maine DOC

- Maine's population: ~1,350,000
 - Average age: 44.7
 - Rural
 - Low crime/incarceration rates
- MDOC's population: 1,600 adults
 - 1,485 males
 - 115 females
 - Average age: 41
 - 6 adult facilities (secure and minimum)
- 5,400 adult probation clients



Maine's Restrictive Housing Evolution



1940s



Maine's Restrictive Housing Evolution



2016



Maine's Restrictive Housing Evolution



Current



Waves of Restrictive Housing Reform

- **Pre-2014**
 - Commissioner Ponte slashes RH population numbers
- **2014-2015**
 - MDOC is defined by PBS Frontline's *Solitary Nation*



Waves of Restrictive Housing Reform



Waves of Restrictive Housing Reform

- **Late 2015**
 - Changing the narrative
 - Meaningful reform begins



General Goals of Reform

- Reduce the # of RH placements
- Reduce the length of stay in RH
- Reduce the incidents in RH and in GP
- Increase programming/treatment available in RH
- Create meaningful placement and review process
- Divert special populations from RH



Meaningful Reform in Maine

- Ensure meaningfulness in placement
- Increase the time and activity out of cell
- Utilize programming/interventions to address behaviors and needs
- Divert special populations and shorten stays in RH
- Willingness to take risks
- Use wellness as a definition of success

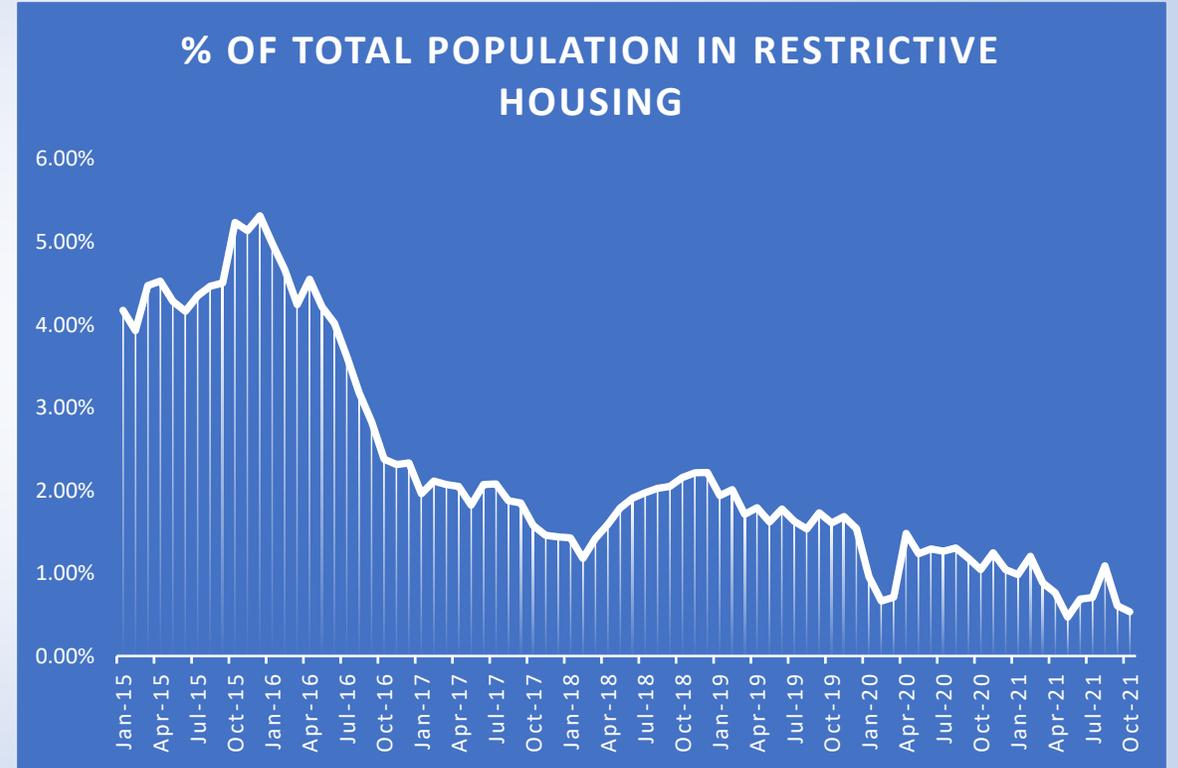
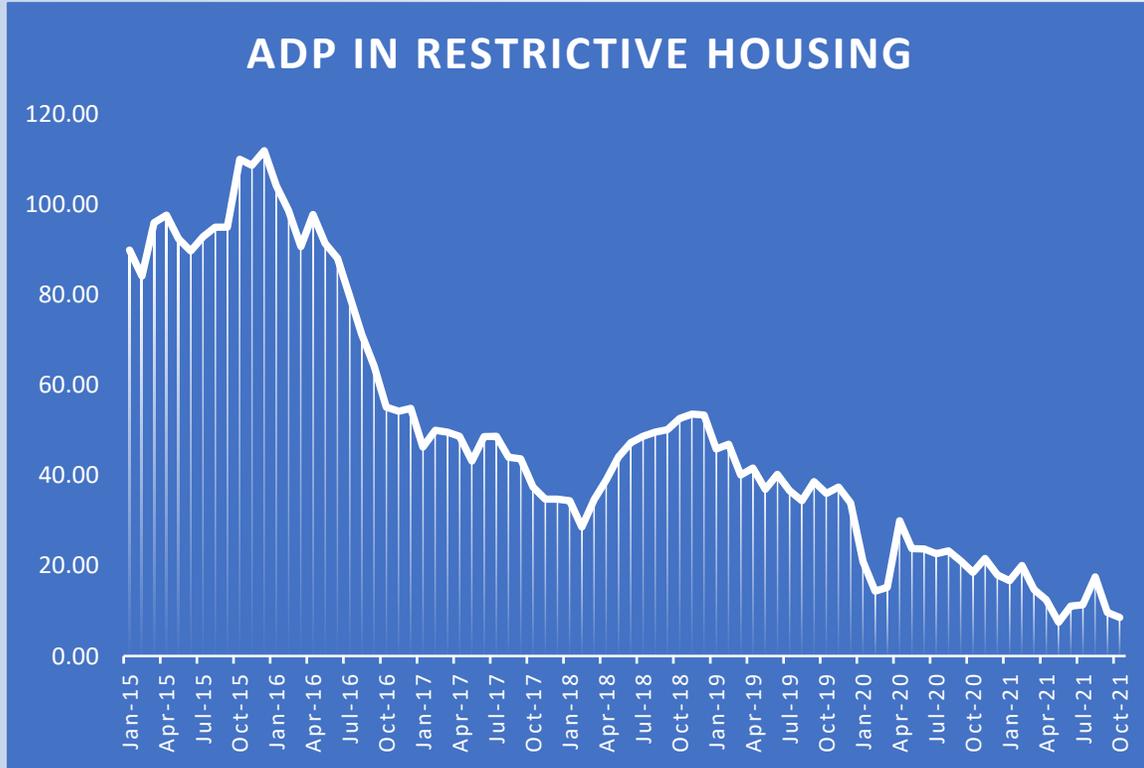


What It Looks Like Now

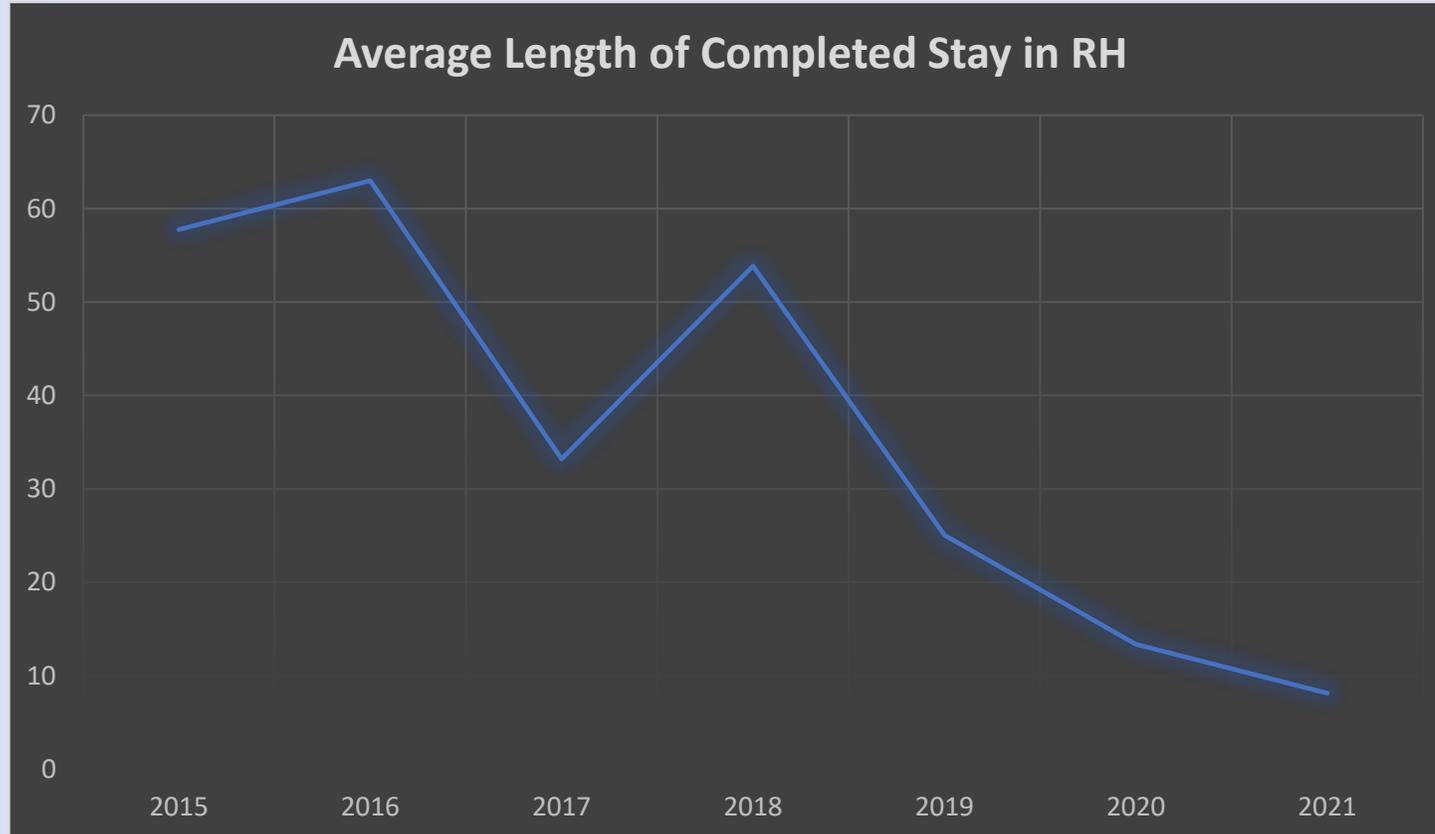
- **Administrative Status**
 - Avg. LOS on Ad Status is 3.03 days (m) / 1.0 days (f)
- **Disciplinary Segregation**
 - Avg. LOS on D-Seg is 39 days (m) / 0 days (f)
- **Administrative Controls Unit**
 - Programming unit for long-term step-down
- **Intensive Mental Health Unit**



Outcomes



Outcomes



Role of Systemic Wellness

- The health of the overall system determines the role of restrictive housing within it
 - Outcomes in Maine are due to systemic wellness
 - *Confront what contributes to RH placement*
- Maine Model of Corrections
 - *Normalization, humanization, and de-stigmatization*



System-wide Sustainability

- Languages matters – **de-stigmatizing** their stay
- **Educational** services universally available
- **Technology** usage widely available
- Diversity, equity and **inclusion**
- Wellness-based **case management**
- Tablets to supplement **programming**
- Vocational **training** with national certification

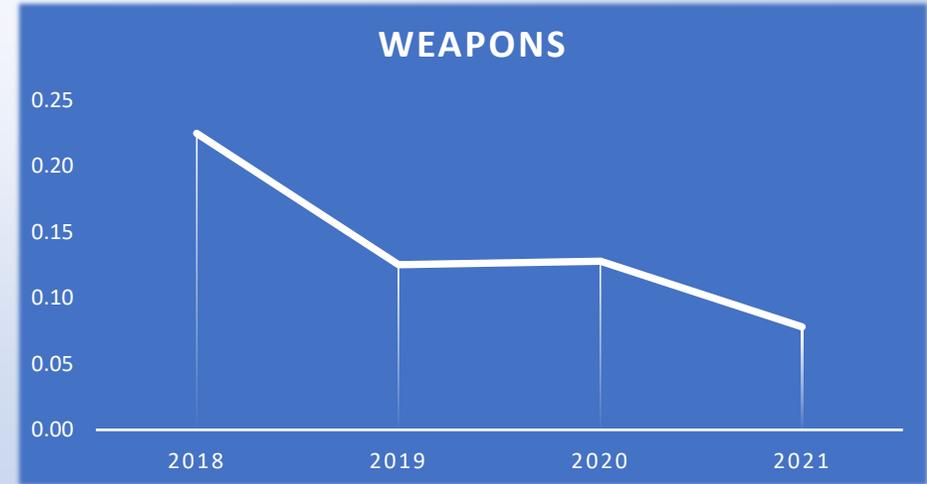
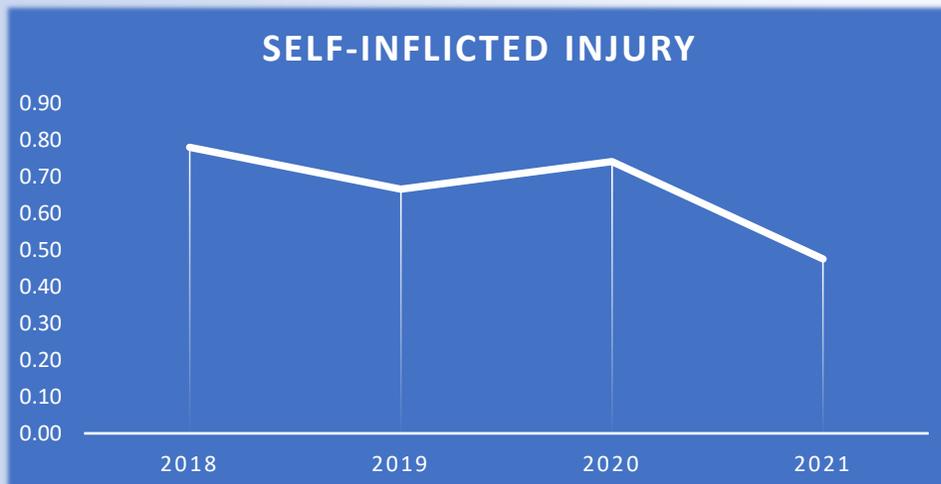
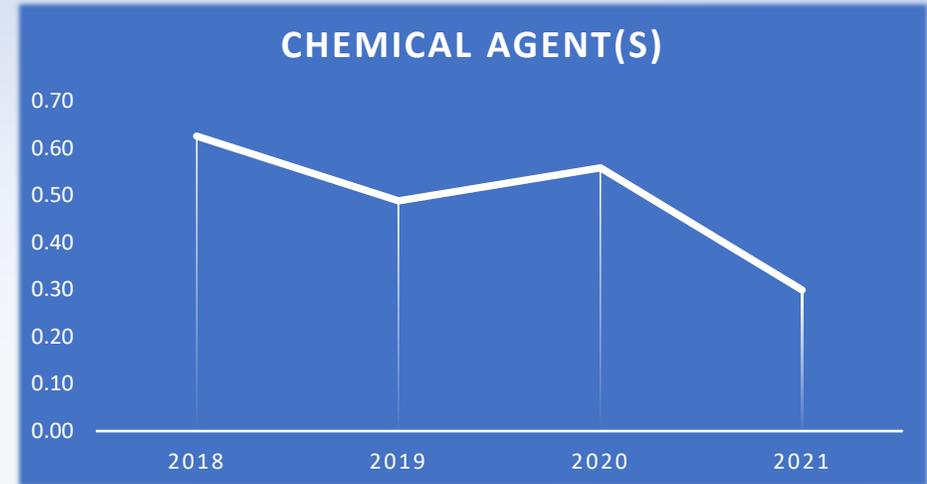
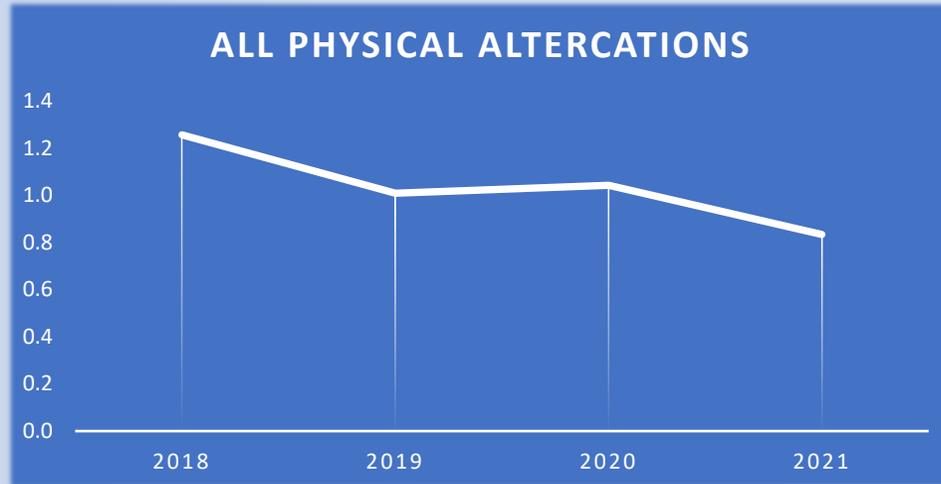


System-wide Sustainability

- Women's services
- Agriculture and food sustainability
- Intensive Mental Health Unit
- Privilege level system
- Medications for SUD
- Specialty programs and interventions
- Restorative justice/conflict mediation

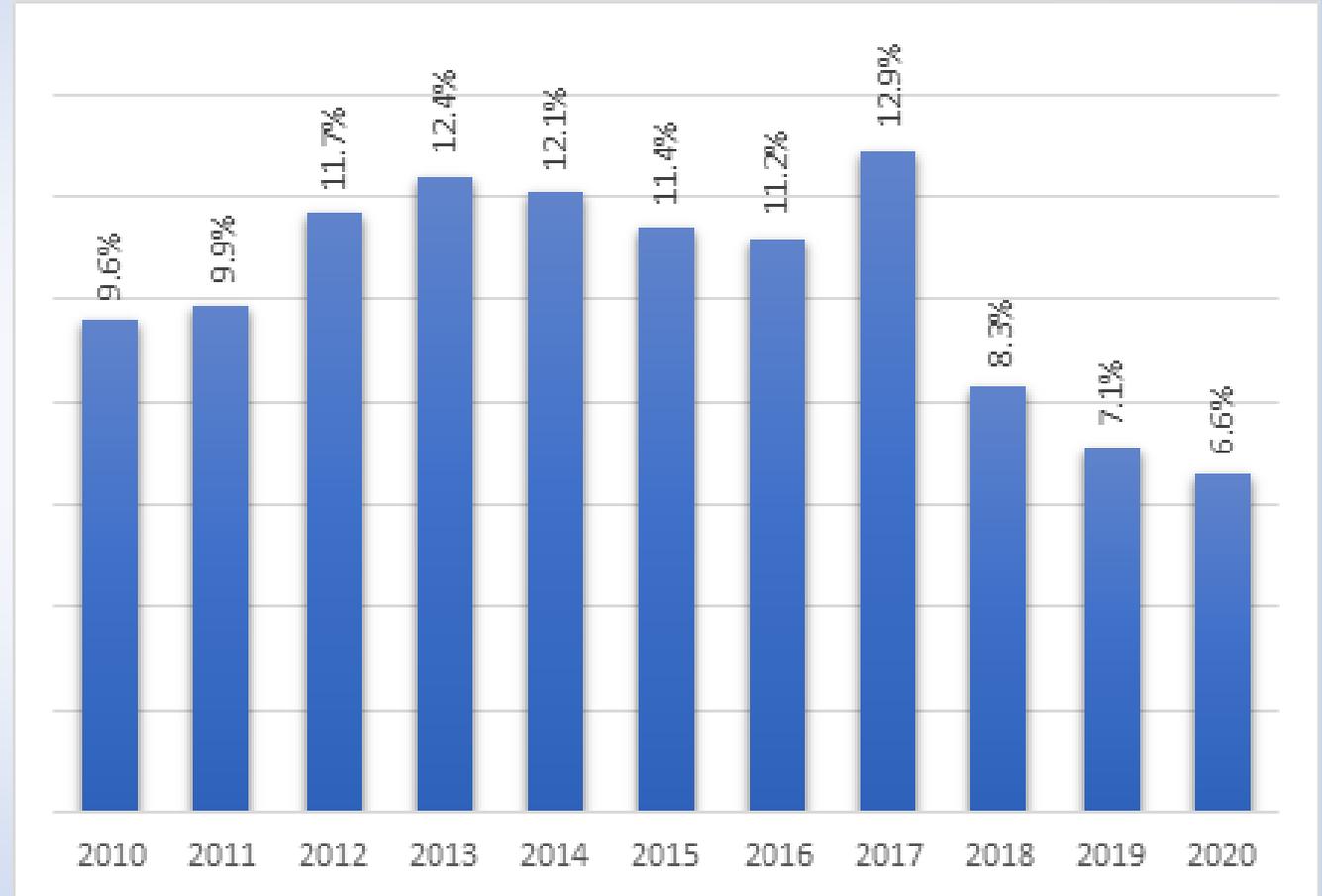


Incident Data Supports the Work



Return to Custody Data

- One year post release
 - RTC on downward trend



Lessons Learned

- **Internal champions are critical to sustained success**
- The agency leadership must be willing to take risks
- The goals will change over time – it's a marathon
- Change is hard, but possible, to sustain
- Staff buy-in often feels elusive, but it's happening
- **RH reform can't be an isolated initiative, it must be part of systemic improvement to be sustained**



Challenges and Future

- Staffing levels need to support the work
- Sustainability through isolated incidents
- Population peaks and valleys
- Sustaining buy-in and messaging
- Redefining best practices and standards



Repurposing Corrections



Thank You

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