

# 2023 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

## MERCED COUNTY DAY REPORTING CENTER



### AGENCY

Merced County Probation

### POPULATION

Individuals on probation

### PROGRAM SUMMARY

In Merced County, GEO Reentry Services provides comprehensive programming tailored to meet individual participant's risk and needs. At the foundation of our approach is evidence-based programming designed to address criminogenic needs as identified through the assessment process. The program model at the Merced County Day Reporting Center (DRC) includes Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT), Moral Reconciliation Therapy® (MRT), Substance Use Disorder (SUD) programming, employment/education readiness, parenting, relapse prevention, life skills, anger management, Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA), and a Batterers' Intervention Program (BIP).

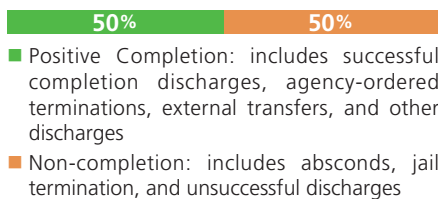
The Merced County DRC operates four specialized program tracks including:

- **Traditional Track:** Designed for moderate- to high-risk individuals to complete in a phased approach
- **Modified Short-term Track:** Designed for sanctioned participants with needs in criminal thinking to complete in 60 to 90 days
- **Employment Track:** Designed for employed individuals to complete in 60 to 90 days
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Track:** Designed for participants meeting American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria to complete in 90 to 150 days

The following reflects the annual (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023) program data and intermediate outcomes for the Merced County DRC in California.

### DISCHARGE RESULTS

TOTAL DISCHARGES: 217



### 262 PARTICIPANTS SERVED

Participants served during the reporting period; below is the breakdown by track.

TRADITIONAL	148
MODIFIED SHORT-TERM	33
EMPLOYMENT	35
SUBSTANCE USE	46

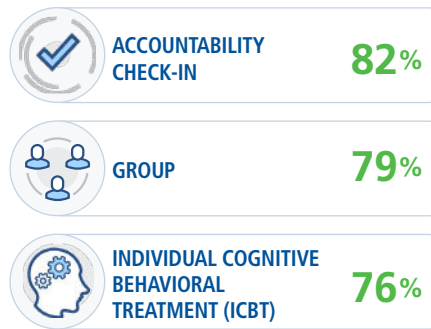
### 65 AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

Average number of participants enrolled in the program per day; below is the breakdown by track.

TRADITIONAL	41
MODIFIED SHORT-TERM	7
EMPLOYMENT	8
SUBSTANCE USE	9

### SERVICE ATTENDANCE RATES

Below is the breakdown of service attendance rates for the DRC population based on those scheduled for the service.



### CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

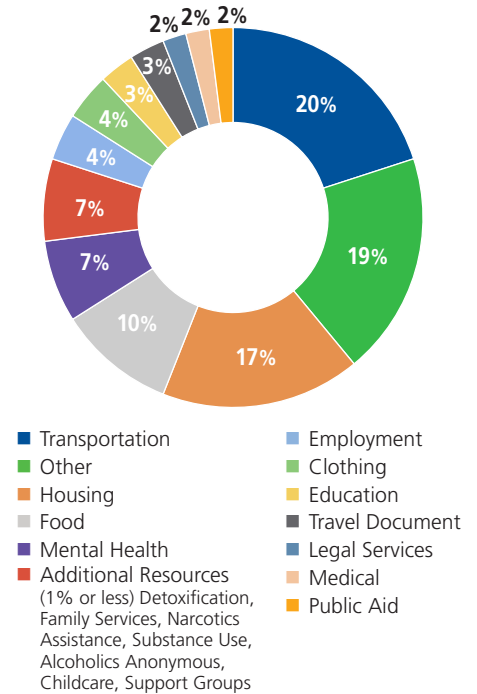
The DRC uses the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA) to identify participant risk, needs, and level of care. Below are the top four criminogenic needs identified during the reporting period. (n=208)

#### TOP CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS

1. Behavioral characteristics
2. Attitudes, values, and beliefs
3. Substance abuse
4. Antisocial peers

### COMMUNITY RESOURCE REFERRALS

During the reporting period, the DRC provided 359 valuable resource referrals to assist with participant stabilization in the community. Below is the breakdown by referral type.



### IN THEIR WORDS

Below is a sample of participant testimonials from the July 2023 survey.

"Every day that I attend, I learn something new. It's helping me become a better me!"

"I feel this program goes out on a limb for us. We're very fortunate to have this opportunity."

"I really like this program. I am seeing a difference in how I respond to situations and so are others."

"It's a wonderful program with wonderful staff, and I owe them everything. Because of GEO Reentry, today, I am who I am and my kids have their mommy back."

"The program works and facilitates change. It helps build self esteem and provides worthwhile tools to stay successful."

"MRT helped me learn how to cope with alcohol, drugs, and anger and to change my thinking and behavior."

"Every part of the program has helped me. If it wasn't for the DRC program I would be stuck still making bad decisions."

# MERCED COUNTY REENTRY PROGRAMS REDUCE CRIMINAL THINKING

## FACILITY

Merced County Day Reporting Center  
Merced County Jail Reentry Program (JRP)

## AGENCY

Merced County Probation Department  
Merced County Sheriff Department

## POPULATION

Individuals on community-based probation and in-custody

## WHY IS A REDUCTION IN CRIMINAL THINKING IMPORTANT?

Criminal thinking domains, such as antisocial cognitions and antisocial attitudes, are frequent targets for change in correctional treatment, and are described in current theories of criminal behavior.<sup>1</sup> The research on “What Works” to reduce recidivism indicates that antisocial cognition and antisocial attitudes (criminal thinking) are among the top three risk factors as drivers of recidivism. Texas Christian University (TCU) released the Criminal Thinking Scales (CTS) assessment tool in 2006, and later released version 3.0 in 2022. TCU researchers evaluated 2.0 and recommended new domains and definitions to assess and treat the justice-involved population more appropriately. CTS measures the effect of GEO Reentry’s programming on antisocial cognition and attitudes. The results included in this report indicate that GEO Reentry’s programming reduced criminal thinking patterns as measured by the CTS, and therefore lowers the potential for future recidivism.

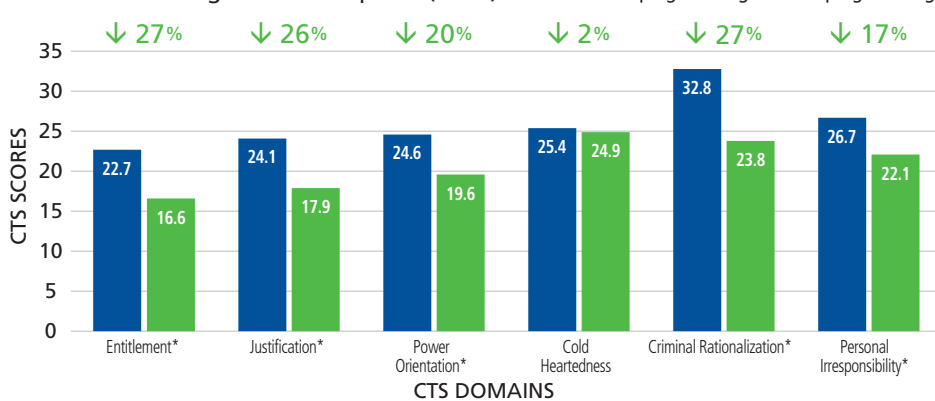
## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Research evaluators analyzed the CTS 2.0 pre- and post-programming scores for 11 individuals and the CTS 3.0 pre- and post-programming scores for 20 individuals who participated in programming at either the Merced County DRC or the Merced County JRP between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. These individuals had moderate- to high-risk scores in at least one domain at starting point. The average time between the CTS 2.0 pre- and post-programming assessment was 209 days and 160 days for CTS 3.0.

- **FIGURE 1** illustrates the results of the 11 individuals. These participants averaged a 20% reduction (5.2 points) across all six domains. Five out of the six domains showed a clinically significant reduction (two points or greater) in criminal thinking patterns.
- **FIGURE 2** illustrates the results of the 20 individuals. These participants averaged a 17% reduction (4.2 points) across all five domains. All five domains showed a clinically significant reduction (two points or greater) in criminal thinking patterns.

**FIGURE 1: MERCED COUNTY DRC & JRP 2.0 CRIMINAL THINKING SCALES COMPARISON**

Moderate- and High-risk Participants (n=11)

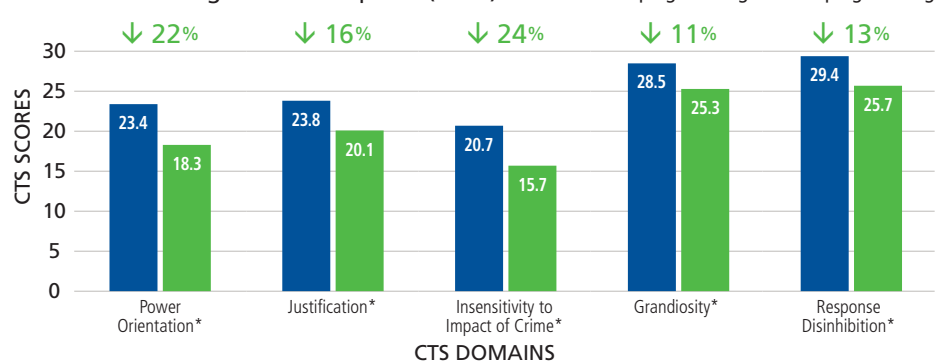


\*A clinically significant reduction in scores is defined as a two point or greater decrease from the pre- to post-programming score.

2.0 CTS DOMAINS	DESCRIPTION
ENTITLEMENT	· Focuses on a sense of ownership and privilege · High scores are associated with the individual’s belief that the world “owes them” and they deserve special consideration
JUSTIFICATION	· Refers to patterns of thought that minimize the seriousness of antisocial acts and by justifying actions based on external circumstances · High scores may be associated with perceived social injustice
POWER ORIENTATION	· Measures the need of power and control · High scores are associated with higher levels of aggression and controlling behaviors
COLD HEARTEDNESS	· High scores reflect a lack of emotional involvement
CRIMINAL RATIONALIZATION	· High scores are associated with negative attitude towards the law and authority figures
PERSONAL IRRESPONSIBILITY	· Assesses the degree to which an individual is willing to accept ownership for criminal actions · High scores are associated with non-acceptance of criminal actions and often blaming others

**FIGURE 2: MERCED COUNTY DRC & JRP 3.0 CRIMINAL THINKING SCALES COMPARISON**

Moderate- and High-risk Participants (n=20)



\*A clinically significant reduction in scores is defined as a two point or greater decrease from the pre- to post-programming score.

3.0 CTS DOMAINS	DESCRIPTION
POWER ORIENTATION	· Reflects the need for power and control · High scores may be associated with an outward display of aggression to control their external environment or others
JUSTIFICATION	· Refers to the tendency to justify one’s criminal behavior · High scores reflect a likelihood to make excuses for their crime(s) or blame others for their wrongdoings
INSENSITIVITY TO IMPACT OF CRIME	· Focuses on a lack of understanding or awareness around the effect their crime has on others or society · High scores may be associated with the individual being prone to shrugging off their crime(s), thinking it is not that big of a deal
GRANDIOSITY	· Refers to thoughts and feelings of superiority as compared to others · High scores are associated with a belief that one is above the law or superior to others
RESPONSE DISINHIBITION	· Focuses on the inability to regulate behavior in situations when overwhelmed · High scores reflect behavior that the individual may later regret such as lashing out or becoming aggressive

<sup>1</sup>Sease, T. B., & Knight, K. (2023). Development and Testing of the Texas Christian University Criminal Thinking Scales 3.0. *Crime & Delinquency*, 69(13-14), 2699-2718.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** Michael Reyes, Program Manager • 209.723.0119 • mireyes@geogroup.com