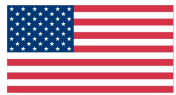


Justice Decisions that Impact Drug Related Crime

ISSUP Regional Conference 2025

Bali, Indonesia
17 September 2025

Michele Worobiec, JD



INL

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

ICATI is funded by the U.S. Department of State via the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). INL works to keep Americans safe by countering crime, illegal drugs, and instability abroad.

Presentation Goals

- Learn about the connection between drug use and crime
- Identify key legal distinctions that (should) drive justice responses
- Understand how applying the appropriate approach reduces crime

Global Problem of Substance Abuse

People who use drugs, 2023

316

million people

↑ 28%
over 10 years



cannabis

244

million



opioids

61

million



amphetamines

31

million



cocaine

25

million



"ecstasy"

21

million

People with drug use disorders, 2023

64

million people

↑ 13%
over 10 years

World Drug Report, 2025

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/WDR_2025/WDR25_Special_points_of_interest.pdf

Substance Use in the Justice System

Substance Use In the Justice System



60% of individuals test positive for a substance at the time of their arrest

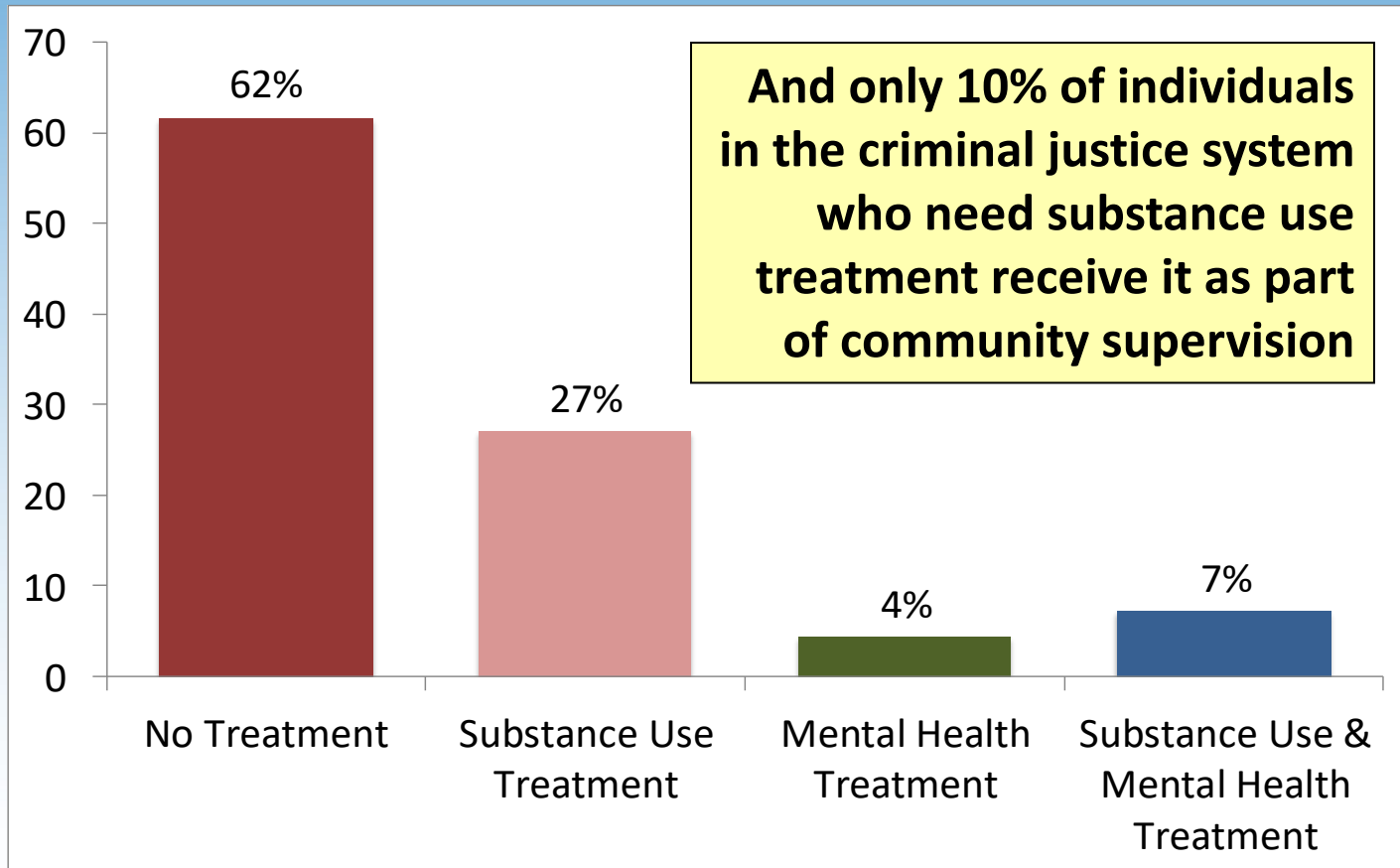


62% of individuals arrested have not received any SUD treatment



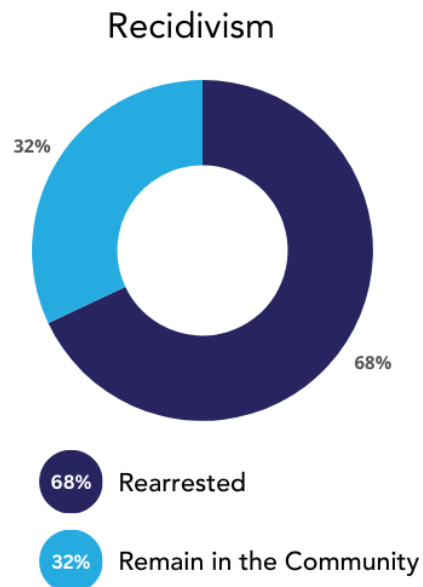
63% of incarcerated individuals have a SUD

Lifetime History Among Arrestees



Recidivism After Incarceration

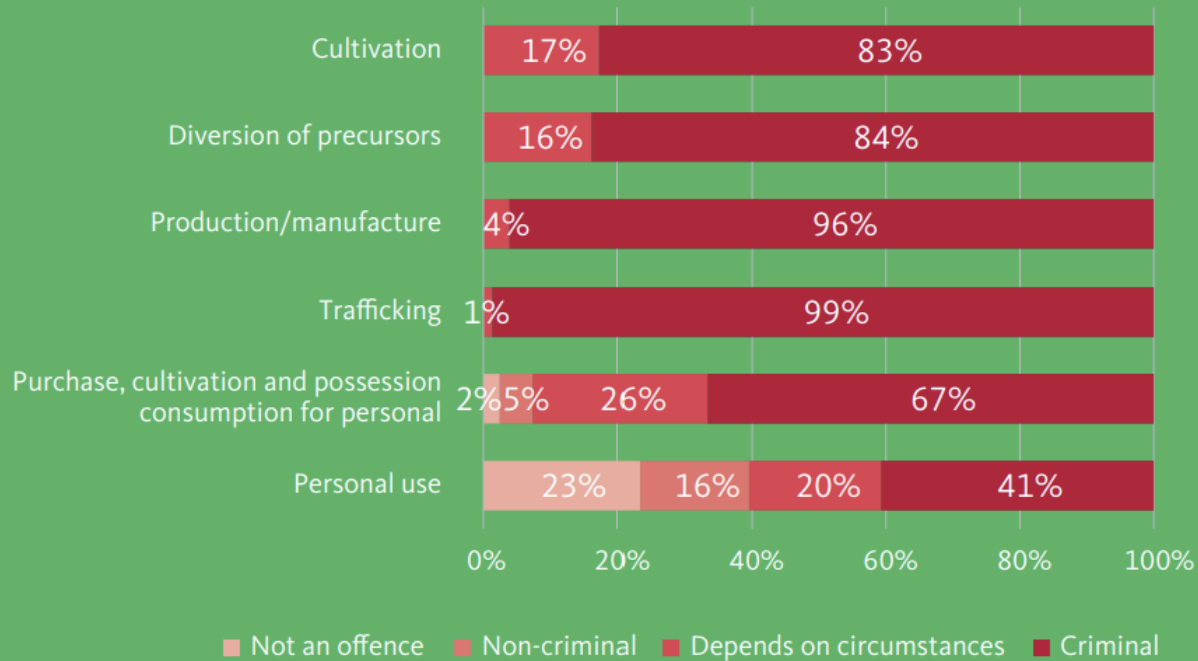
Within Three Years of Release



Is This Drug Related Crime?

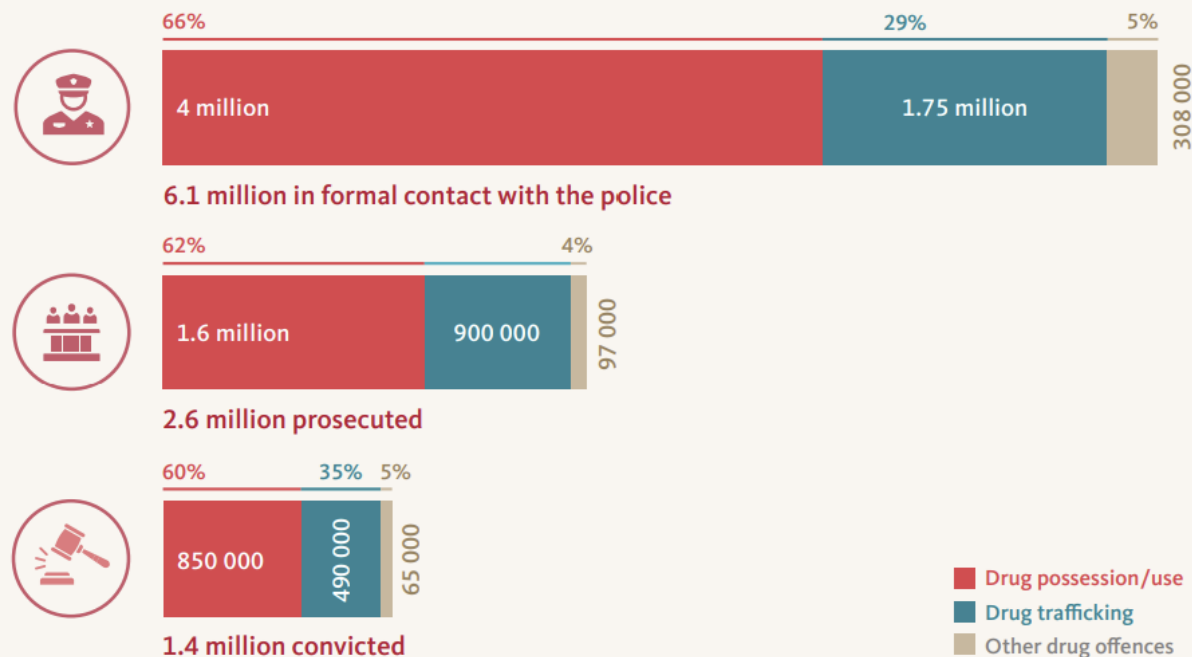
Defined By Legislation

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTING COUNTRIES THAT CRIMINALIZE SPECIFIC DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITIES, 2020



Possession / Use and Trafficking

People in the criminal justice system for drug offences, 2023

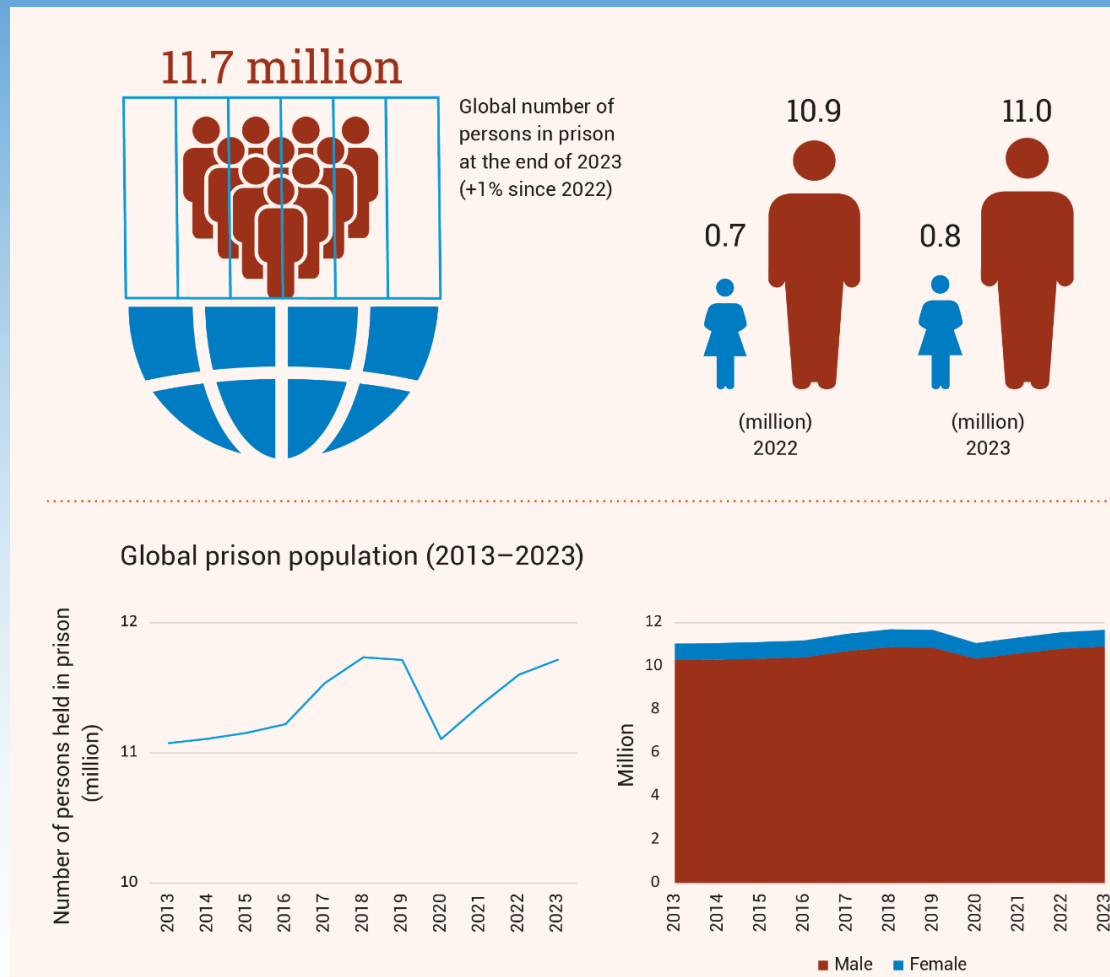


What Other Crimes Could be Related to Drugs?

- Crimes committed under the influence of drugs/alcohol/other addictive (“substances”)
- Crimes committed in connection with withdrawal from substances
- Crimes committed to obtain funds to purchase substances
- What else???

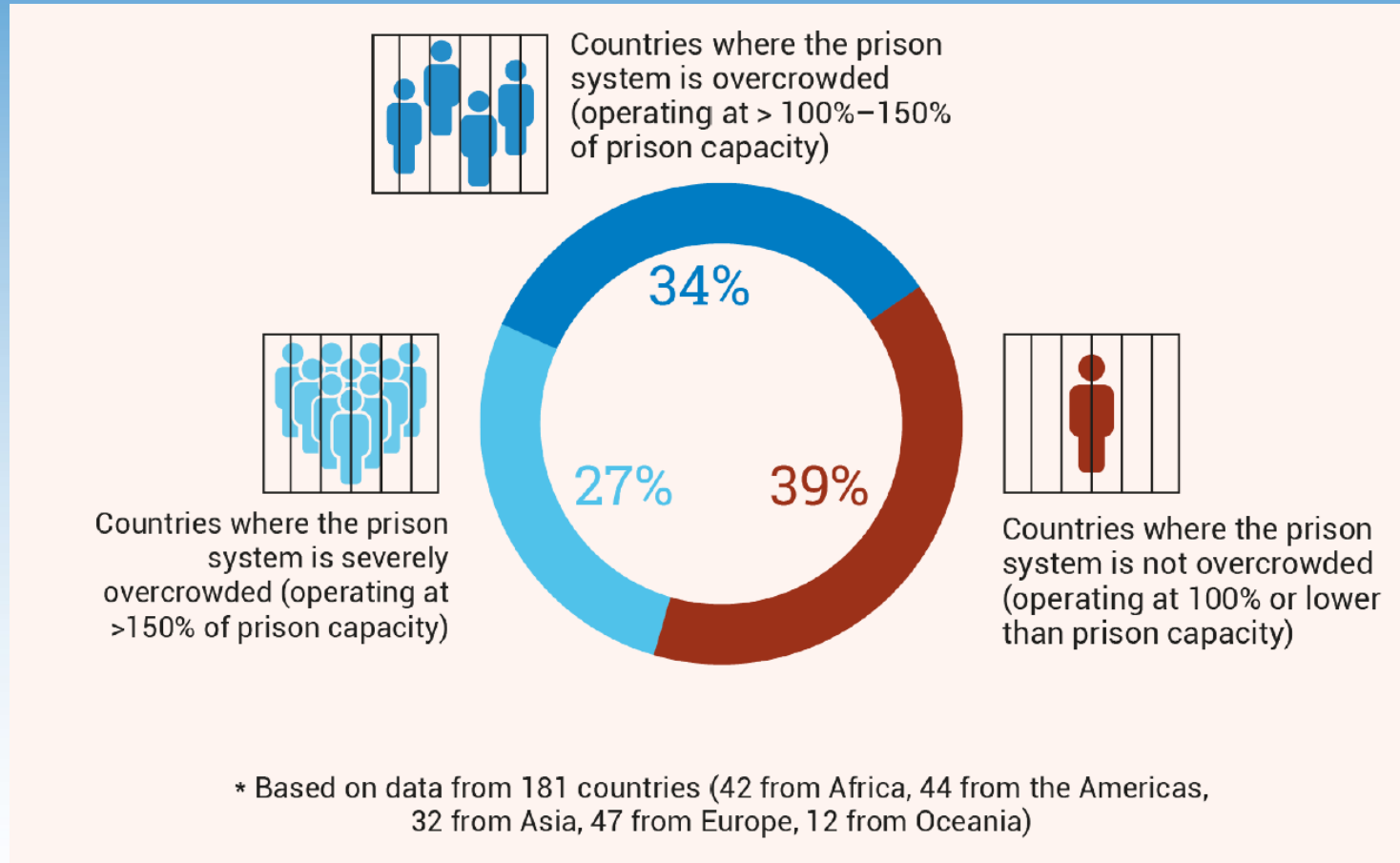
Should There Be an Arrest?

How Many People are in Prisons Globally?



UNODC, Prison Matters 2025: Global Prison Population and Trends; A Focus on Rehabilitative Environments (United Nations, 2025)

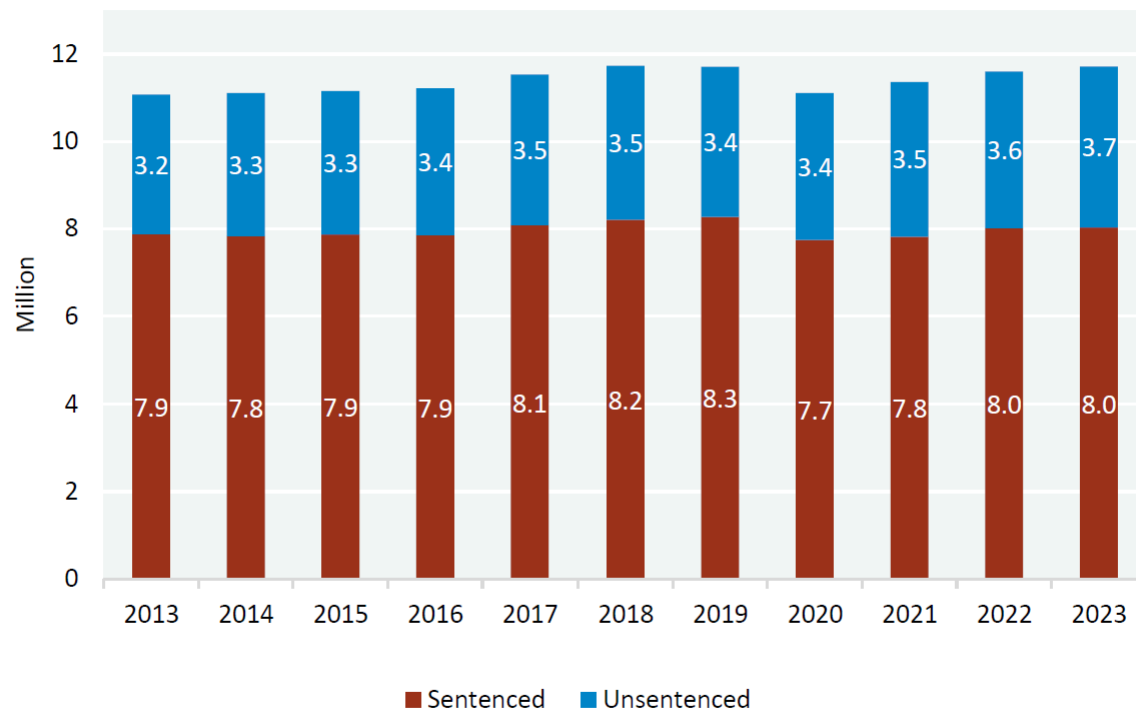
Prison Overcrowding



UNODC, Prison Matters 2025: Global Prison Population and Trends; A Focus on Rehabilitative Environments (United Nations, 2025)

Sentencing Status

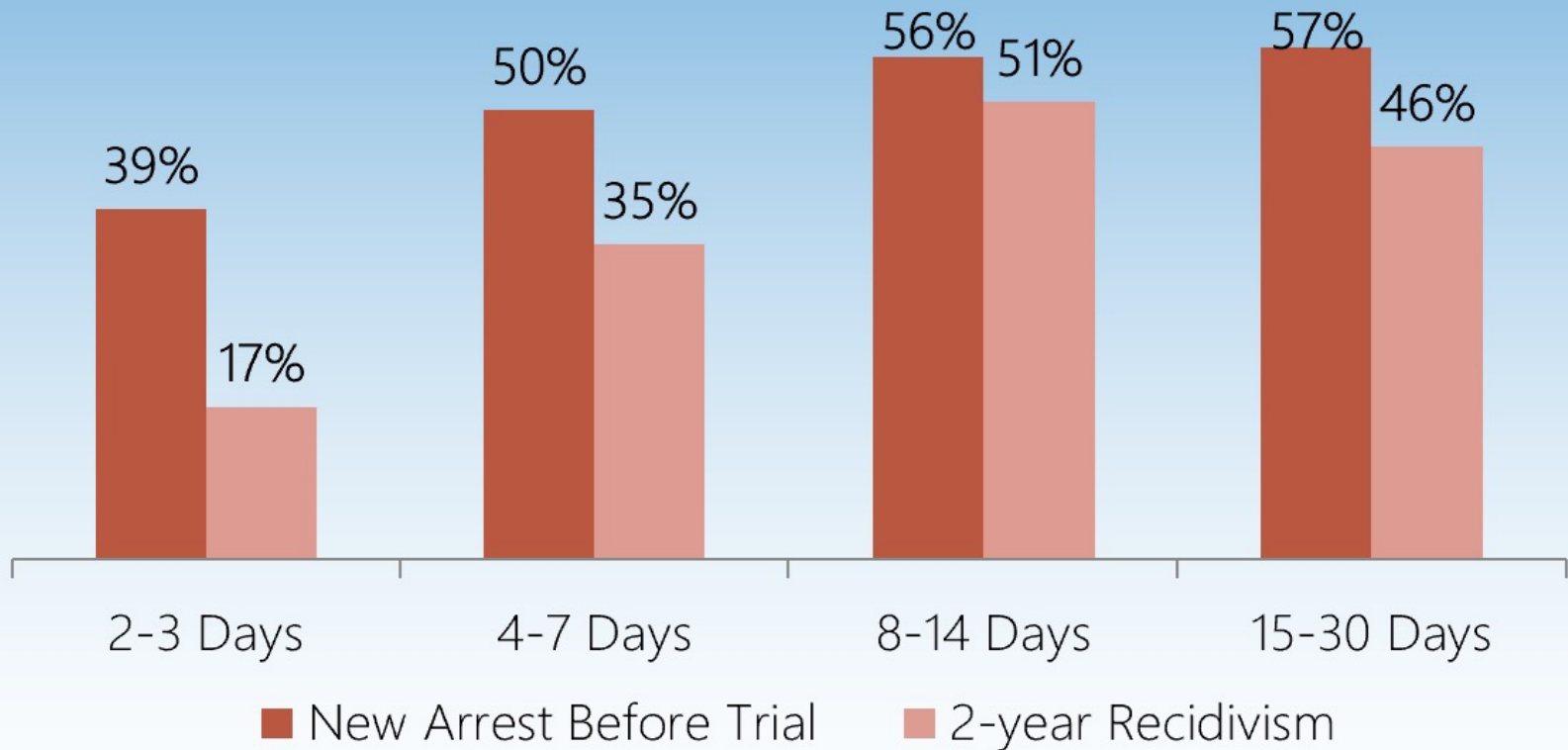
Figure 1: Number of persons held in prison, by sentencing status, 2013-2023



Source: UNODC estimates, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, data from the World Prison Brief (Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research) and national sources reviewed by Member States.

Hidden Costs of Pretrial Detention

% Increase in recidivism for persons incarcerated in jail for more than one day



Collateral Consequences of Conviction and Incarceration

- Convictions (even for minor and nonviolent offenses) result in lasting collateral consequences

DEPRESSED NEIGHBORHOODS AT-RISK YOUTH
INSTABILITY **BARRIERS TO EDUCATION**
UNEMPLOYMENT
RECIDIVISM **HOMELESSNESS**
LOSS OF CHILD CUSTODY **EVICTED** INCREASED FEES
INELIGIBILITY FOR FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION
BARRIERS TO HOUSING LIMITED JOB OPPORTUNITIES
DENIAL OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Why Do We Have Prisons?

Punishment: Retribution for committing a crime

Deterrence: Preventing future crimes by deterring potential criminals

Incapacitation: Removing the harm posed to the public by criminals

Rehabilitation: Helping people correct their behavior so they don't commit more crimes

Holding accused persons: Keeping people in custody who are awaiting trial or sentencing

Prison and Crime:

2 Competing Philosophies

Prisons Deter Crime:

- People are rational actors who are deterred from crime if punishments are severe enough
 - Imprisonment is ultimate loss of freedoms
 - Likelihood of prison + long sentence = deterrence

Prisons Increase Crime:

- Conditions of custodial settings increase reoffending
 - Close quarters cohabilitation, learning from other inmates, expose to violence, loss of personal freedoms, fraying ties to support networks, collateral consequences such as barriers to housing and employment

How Do We Balance Justice and Clinical Factors?

Disrupting Criminal Groups: Drug Trafficking

Orientation:

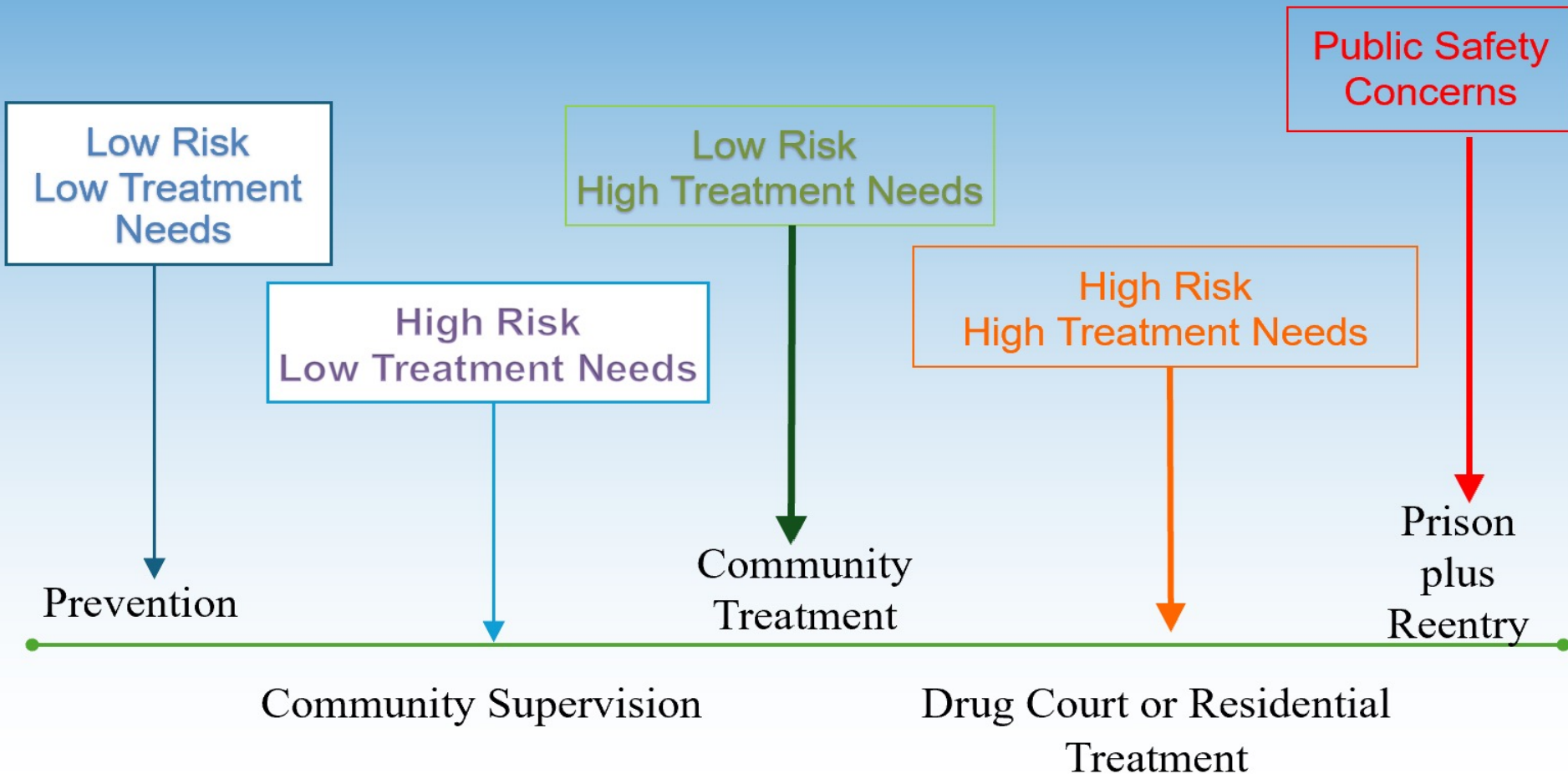
- Centralized (C)
- Decentralized (D)
- Governance (G)
- Trade (T)

Targets:

- CG -Top Leadership
- DG- Mid Members
- CT – Key Nodes
- DT – Key Nodes

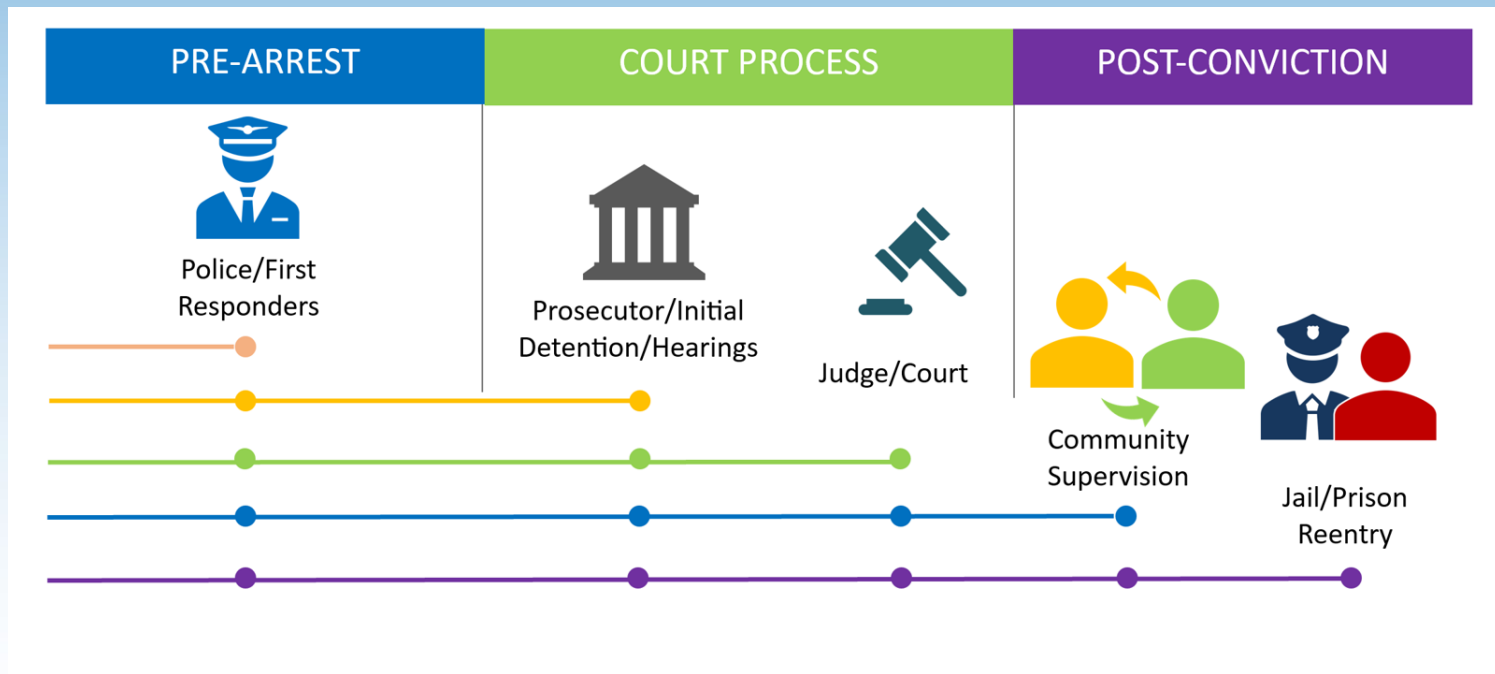
Group characteristics	Strengths	Vulnerabilities	Disruptive responses
Oriented towards governance and centralized	Hierarchy and limited information flow protects against infiltration	Group reliant on key individuals to operate	Targeting of members with highest decision-making capacity or those with greatest skills (e.g. money-launderers or chemists) to disrupt operations; uprooting of group structure may be possible through removal of leadership
Oriented towards governance and decentralized	Greater connectivity among members increases resilience to law enforcement pressure	Trust among members can be damaged through use of informants; groups might be easier to infiltrate	Removal of top leadership, especially in places experiencing high levels of violence, may generate more violence. Instead, removal of mid-level members that serve as bridges between leaders and operatives may be more disruptive
Oriented towards trade and centralized	Hard to infiltrate and go to great lengths to keep operations from discovery; often smaller networks	Group reliant on key individuals to operate	Interventions may require extensive surveillance and mapping to identify key nodes and work to damage trust within networks
Oriented towards trade and decentralized	Greater connectivity among members and lower barriers to membership make groups highly resilient to law enforcement	Trust among members can be damaged through use of informants	Interventions may require extensive surveillance and mapping to identify key nodes and work to damage trust within networks

Addressing Drug Use Related Crime



The Full Justice Continuum

Community-based treatment and care is made available along the full justice continuum through deflection, diversion, and reentry programs.



The Systems Involved

Justice

Program
Eligibility

Supervision

Accountability

Treatment

Diagnostic
Assessment

Level of Care

Behavioral
health, medical,
pharmacological

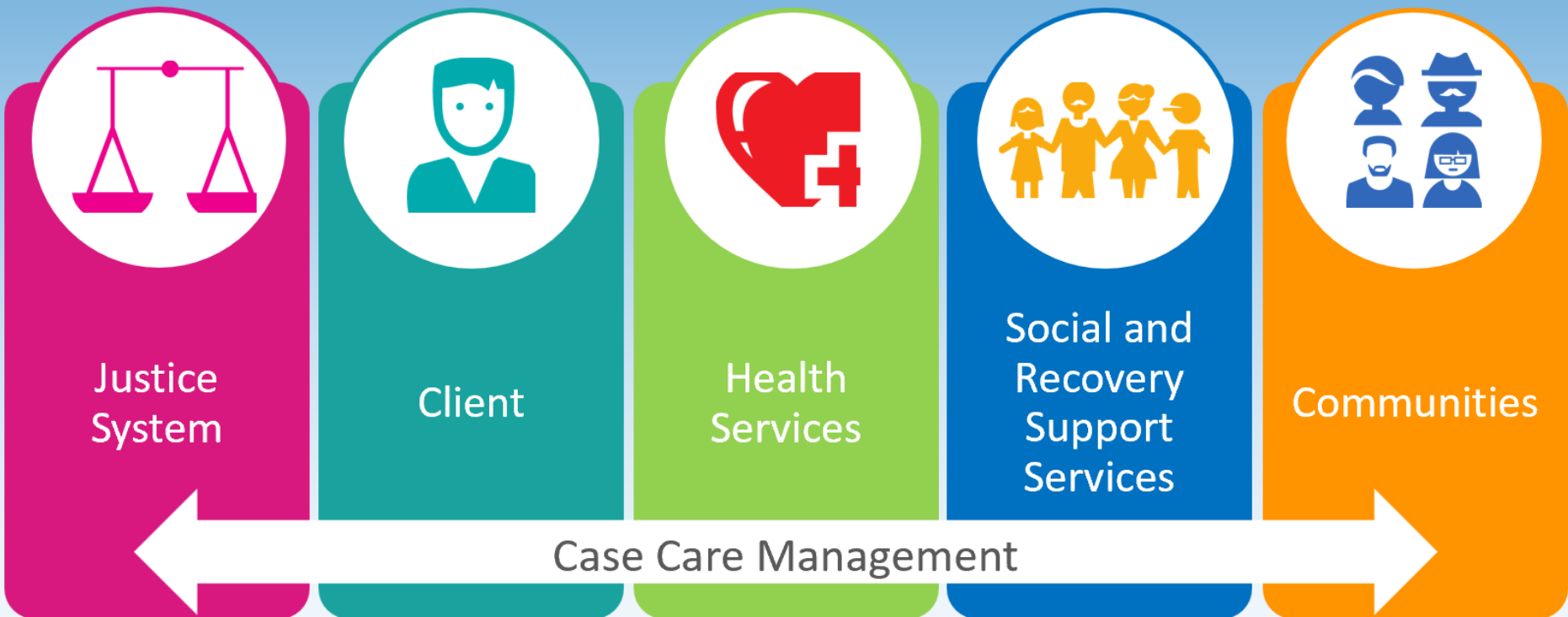
Social Services

Thinking
Strategies & Life
Skills

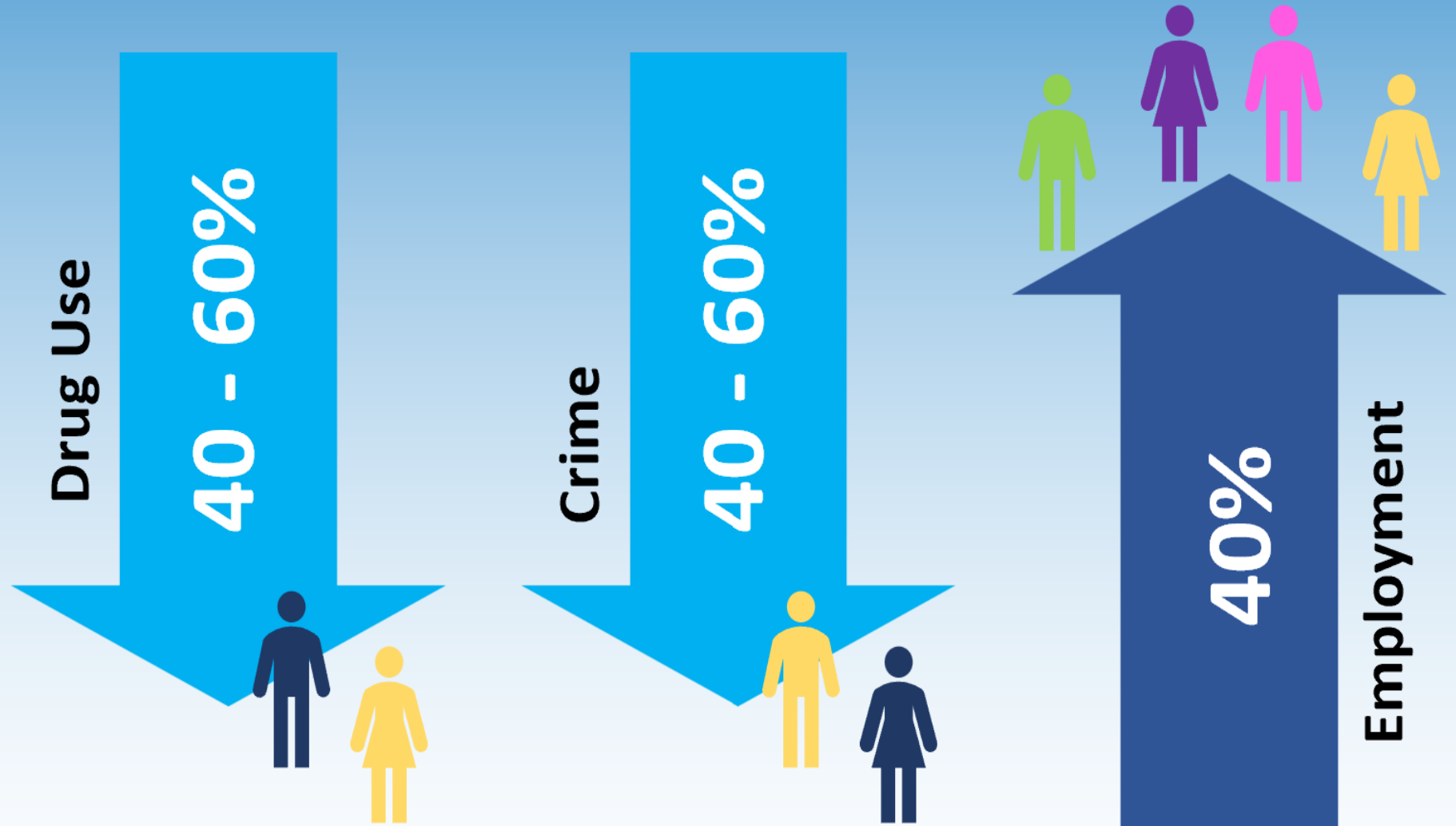
Protective
Factors

Case Care Management

Working with Stakeholders and Participants



Treatment, Care & Accountability Produce Good Results



Let's Work Together!



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Discover opportunities to engage with ICATI at these offerings that highlight global progress and strategies to reduce drug related crime, including utilizing treatment, care, and accountability as Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI).

ICATI Leadership



**Michele
Worobiec, JD**
Global Lead

Workshops & Plenary Sessions

Morning Workshop: How Do Substance Use Professionals Reduce Drug Related Crime?

Afternoon Workshop: Recent Advances in Evidence-Based Drug Treatment for Persons in the Criminal Justice System

Plenary 4: Reducing Drug Related Crimes in the Community, Featuring:

- Justice Decisions that Impact Drug Related Crime
- Community-Based Drug Treatment in the Justice System: What Works in Reducing Crime

Plenary 6: Reducing Drug-related Crime in Asia

ICATI Office Hours

Join these strategic conversations to discuss how your country is working to reduce drug related crime. The general session will allow interactions between countries, while the country sessions are specific to your country.

Country: Sept 17 & 18

**(registration required)*

General: Sept 17

**(registration encouraged)*



Scan to access the ICATI website (www.icati.org) for General and Country Office Hours Registration.

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