



U.S. Department of Labor

Prisoner Reentry

Leveraging the Good Work of Faith-Based and Community Organizations

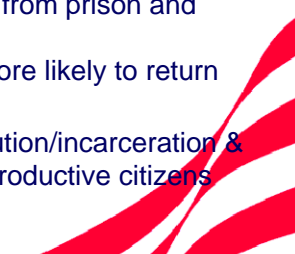
PRESENTER:

Scott Shortenhaus
Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
U.S. Department of Labor



Background

- Each year more than 650,000 inmates are released from Federal and State prisons and return to their families and communities
- 95% of the 2.1 million prison inmates now in prison will be released
- Without intervention, over two-thirds of returning inmates will be rearrested within three years of their release from prison and two out of five will be reincarcerated
- An unemployed ex-offender is three times more likely to return to prison than an employed ex-offender
- Cost to community two fold – cost of prosecution/incarceration & opportunity cost of not having offenders as productive citizens





Statistics on Employment and Recidivism

- Released prisoners face myriad challenges that contribute to their return to criminal activity, re-arrest and re-incarceration.
- Data from 1997 show that nearly one-third of adult prisoners were unemployed in the month prior to their arrest—compared with 7 percent unemployment in the general population.
- Prisoners also demonstrate low levels of educational attainment—some 40 percent of adult state prisoners are functionally illiterate and more than half of state parole entrants have not graduated from high school.



DOL Reentry through FBCOs

- Employment Driven
 - Training
 - Placement
 - Retention
 - Employer Focus Group
- Mentoring is a Focus
- Ready4Work, PRI, Beneficiary-Choice
- Results-Focused





Strengths of FBCOs

- Established and trusted presence in community with many connections to employers and other service providers
- Compassionate vision and “human capital” to provide holistic services to returnees – leveraging volunteers
- Flexibility
- Many provide a variety of social services such as: mentoring, soft skills training, technical skills training, job placement and retention, case management, language training, housing, substance abuse treatment, basic needs, etc.



Ready4Work

- Created in 2003, R4W was a 3-yr, \$25M reentry demonstration program run through FBCOs.
- Jointly funded through DOL, DOJ and P/PV.
- 11 sites serving adults (18-35), 6 sites serving juveniles (14-18).
- Services ended August, 2006.
- Adult sites are in the following cities: Memphis, New York, Jacksonville, Houston, Milwaukee, Detroit, Oakland, L.A., Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington DC



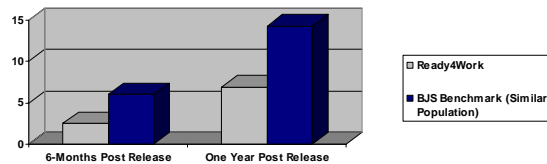
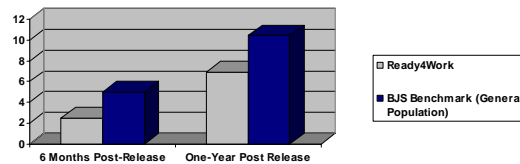


Ready4Work Results

- 4,482 participants served
- 97% case managed
- 63% mentored
- 86% in job training classes
- 2,543 (57%) have been employed, and 63% of this total retained their job for 3 consecutive months
- Average cost: \$4,500/participant
- 6-month recidivism: 2.5%, 1-year recidivism: 6.9%



Ready4Work Recidivism Results





Effect of Mentoring on Employment

In R4W, mentored participants:

- Remained in the program longer
- Twice as likely to obtain a job
- Increased the odds of getting a job by 73% the next month
- Increased the odds of retaining employment by 56%



Employer Perspectives on Employing Ex-Prisoners

- Driven by skills and labor shortages
- Employers looking for basic skills, work ethic, work well on a team; they can provide hard skills
- Positive past experience in hiring ex-offenders
- Smaller companies make employment decisions on a case-by-case basis
- FBCOs provide a crucial role as a mediating or liaison in the reentry process





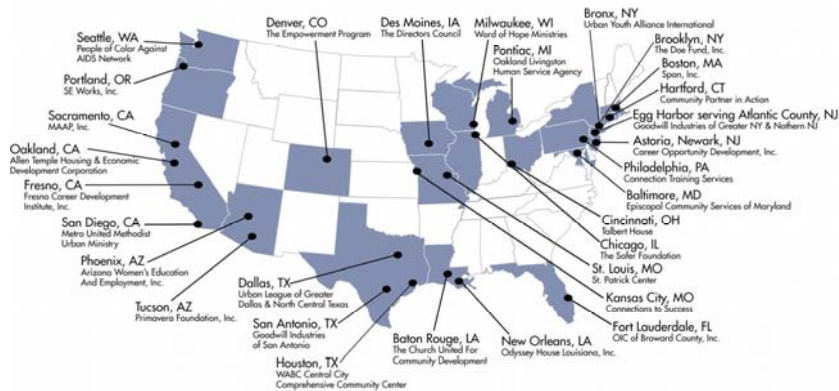
PRI

- Announced in 2004 by President Bush in his State of the Union Address
- \$115M program to date
- 30 sites in 20 states
- Complementary grants made to Criminal Justice Agencies
- Three different generations
- Second Chance Act link



President's Reentry Initiative

Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) Grants





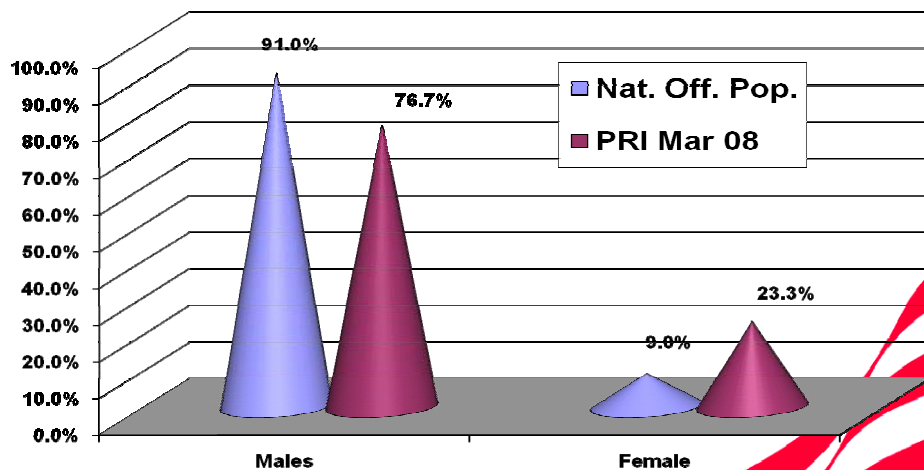
PRI Results

To date, PRI sites have:

- Served more than 13,000 participants
- 88% un-employed at program entry
- 50% less than high school degree
- More than 8,000 participants placed into jobs
- 9-month retention rate: 60%
- 1-year recidivism rate: about 1/3 national average (15% vs. 44%)



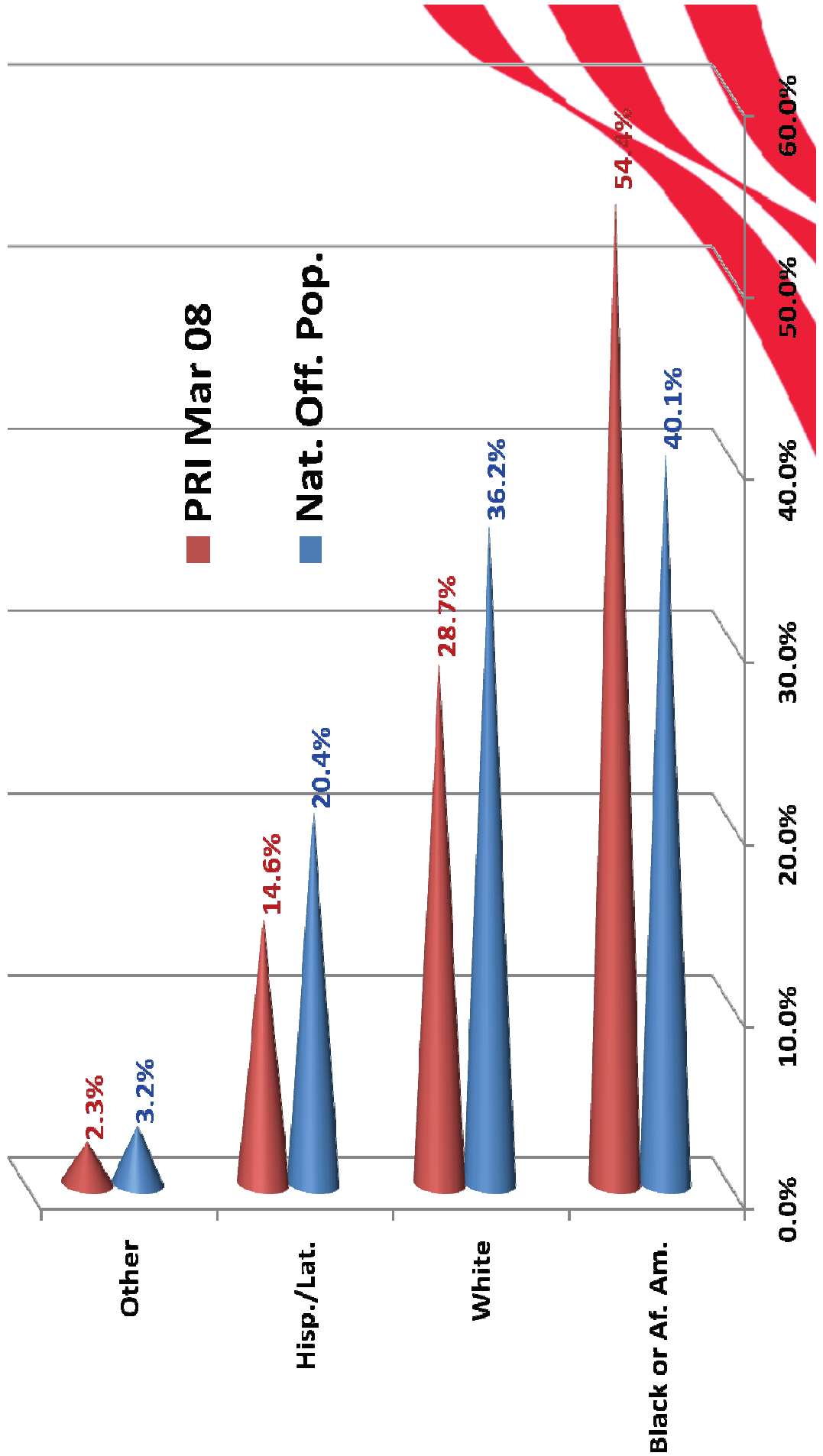
Gender 3/31/08





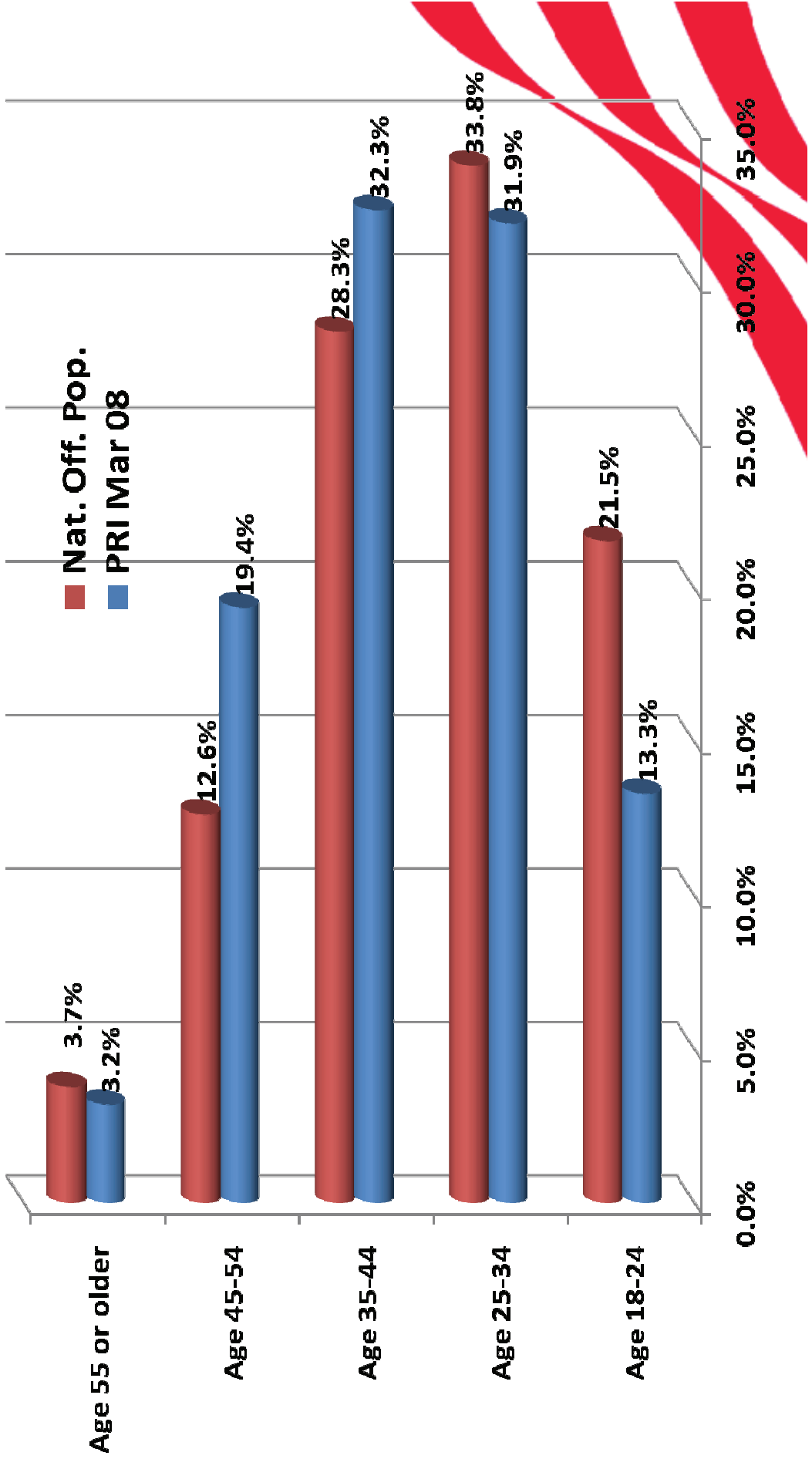
PRI

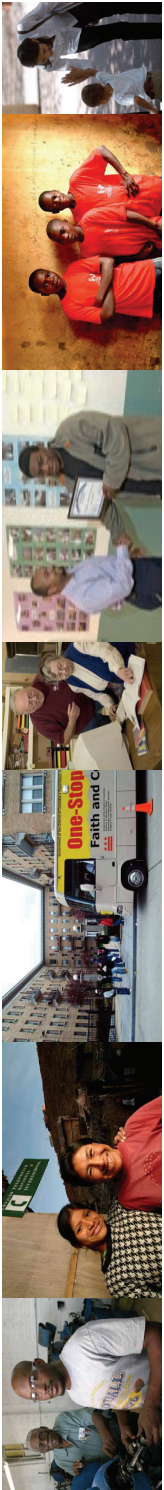
Race 3/31/08



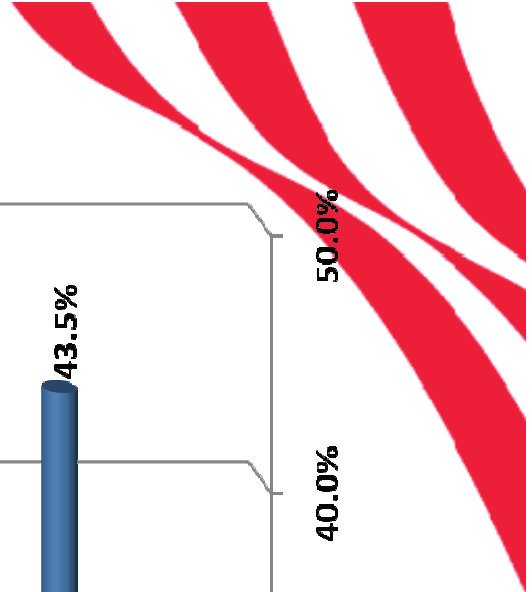
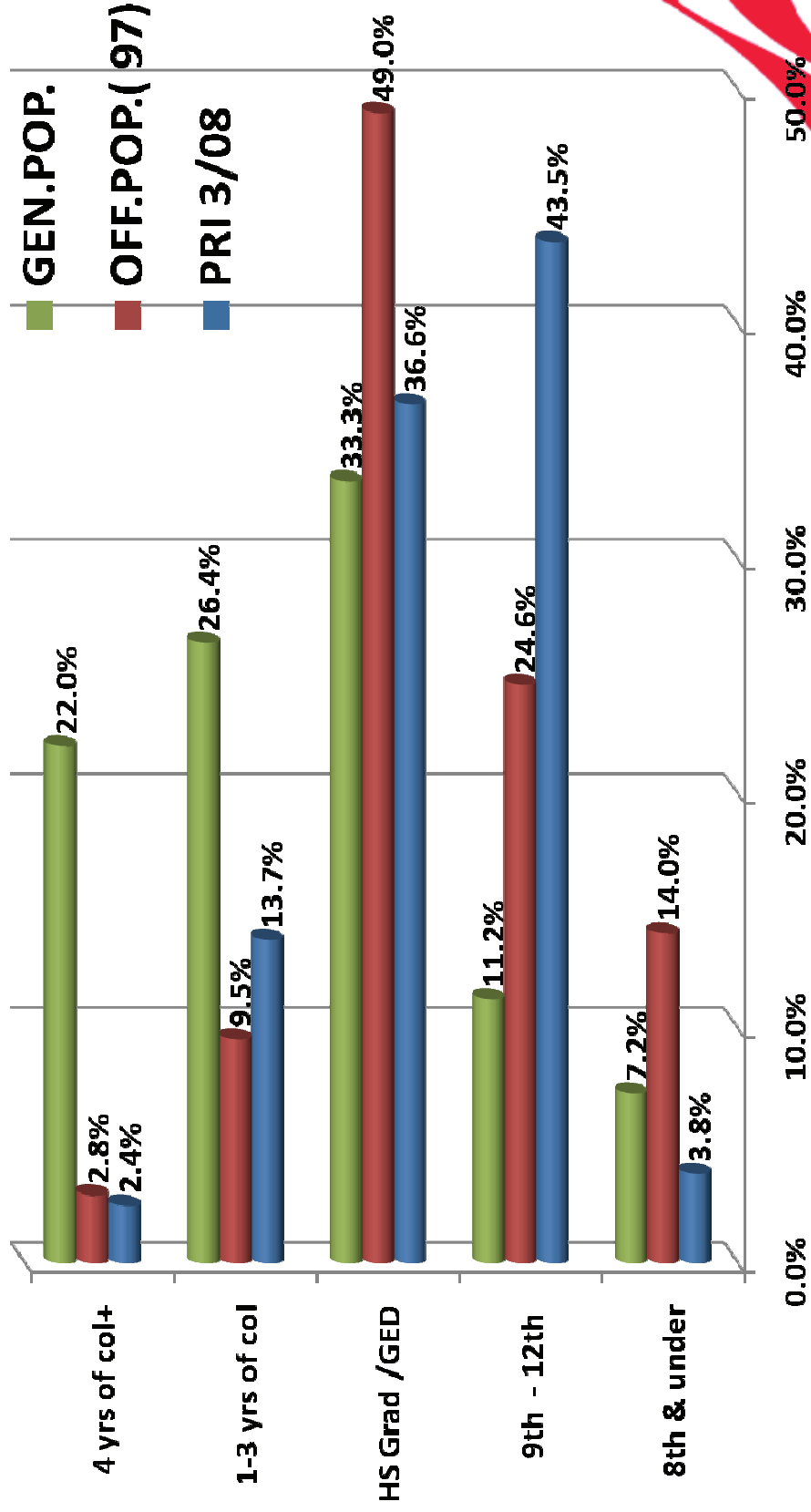


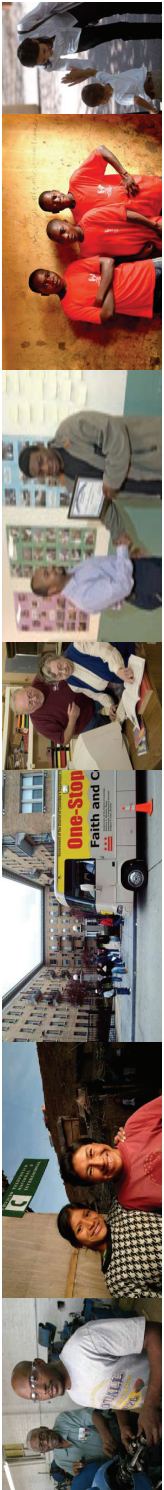
Age 3/31/08



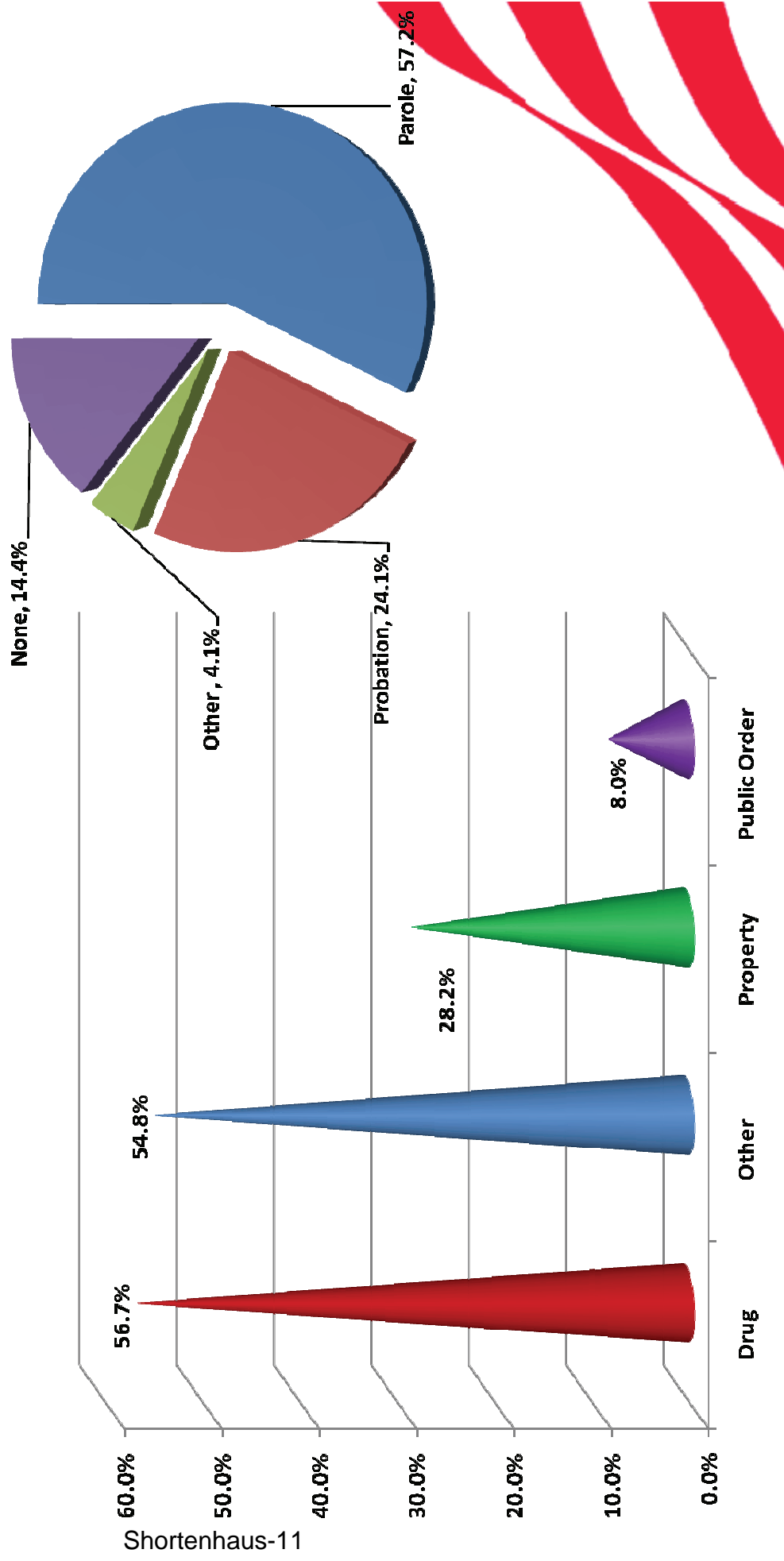


Education 3/31/08





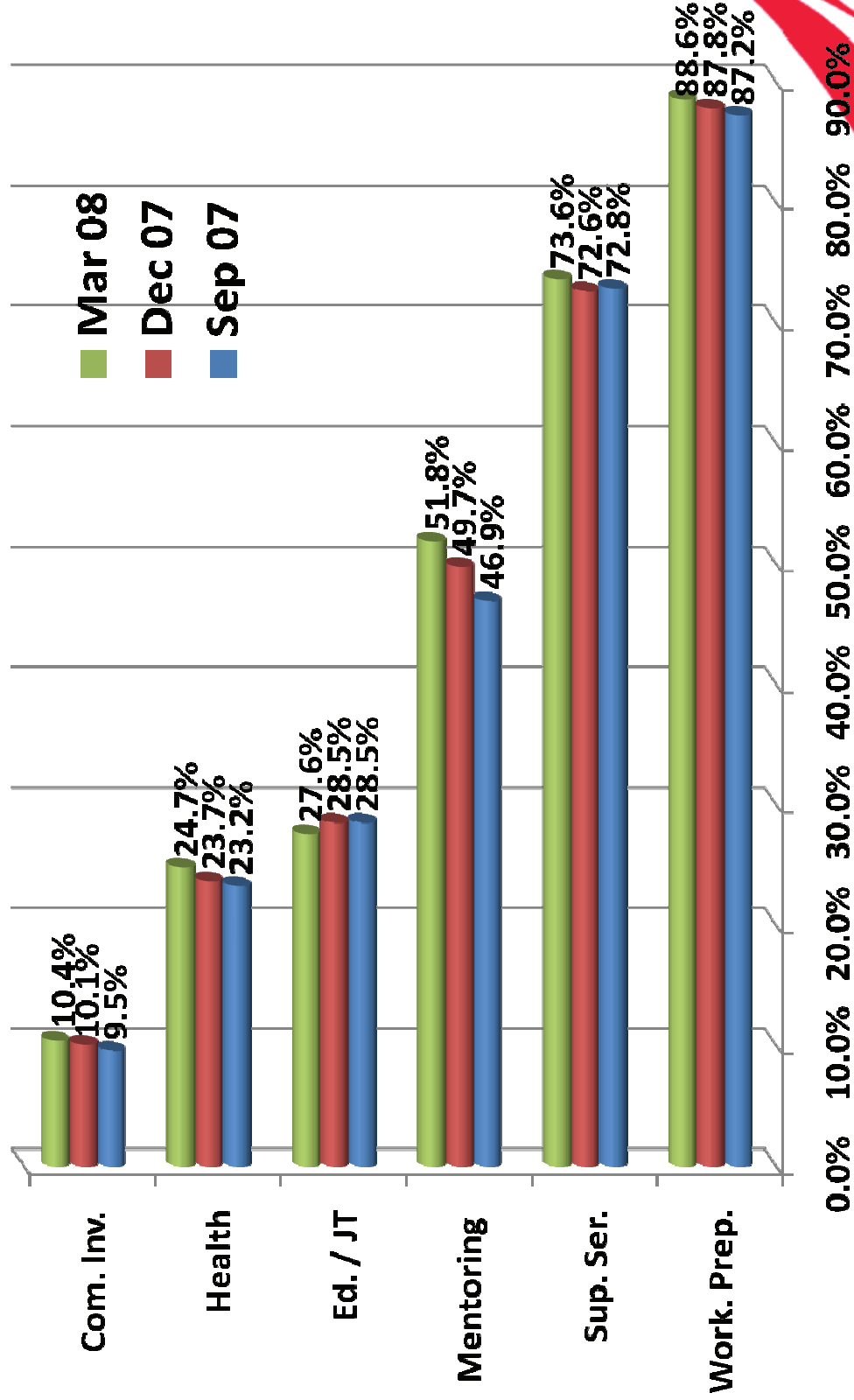
CJ Status 3/31/08



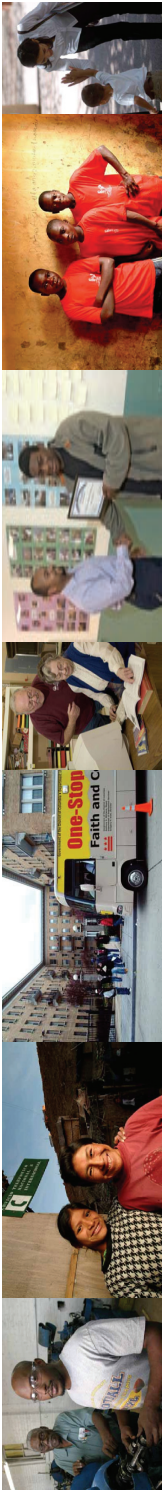


PRI

% Clients Rec. Services 3/31/08



Total for Mar 08 = 35,666

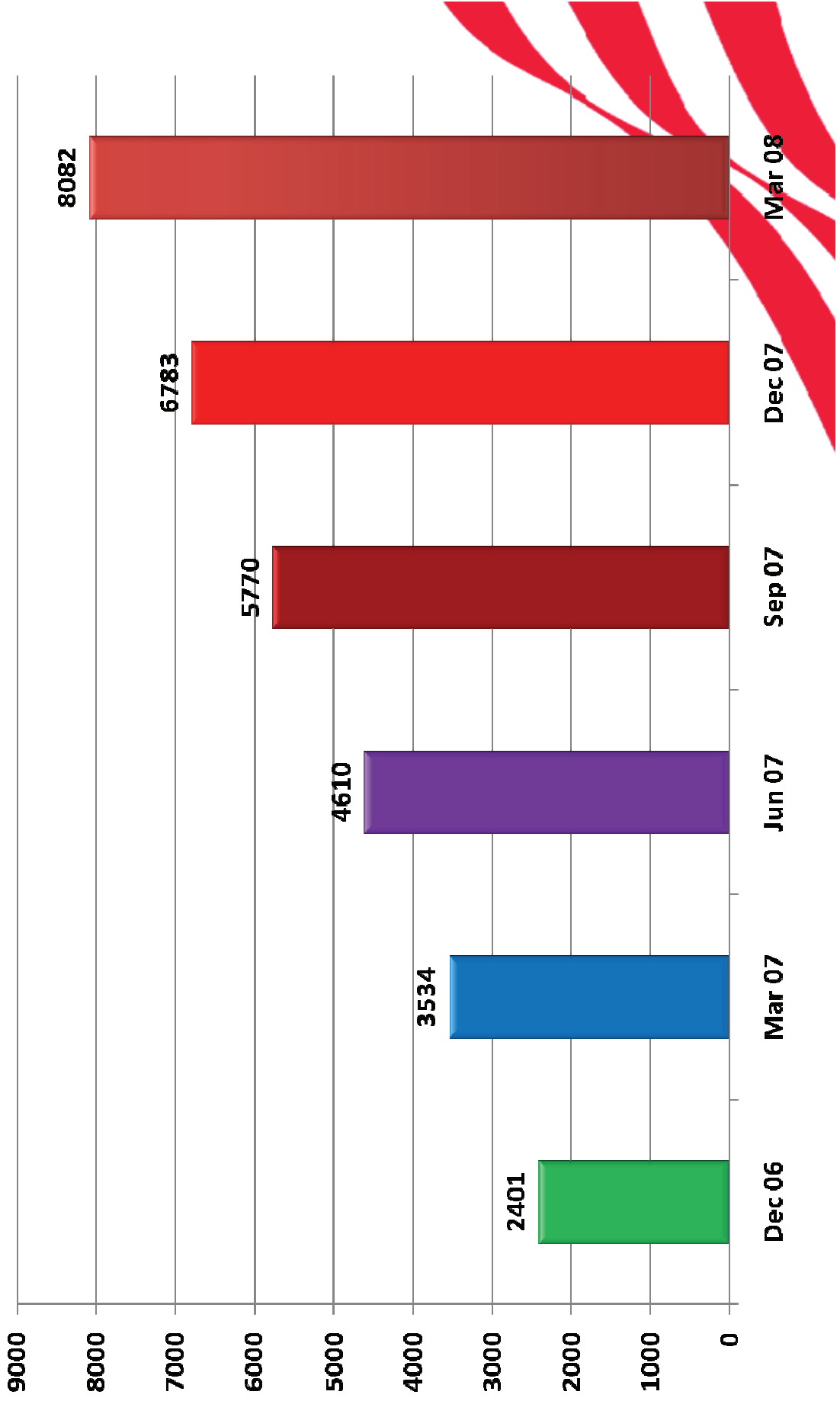


Short Term Indicators of Performance

Indicator	Mar 07	Jun 07	Sep 07	Dec 07	Mar 08
Abstained from Alcohol Abuse or illegal Drug use (6 months after enrollment)	41.0%	39.0%	40.0%	42.0%	44.0%
Stable Living Arrangements (6 months after enrollment)	53.0%	49.0%	50.0%	53.0%	55.0%
Number of Initial Job Placements	3534	4610	5770	6783	8082
Average Hourly Wage Rate at Placement	\$9.35	\$9.36	\$9.29	\$9.31	\$9.41
Number of Job Re-Placements	1111	1640	2247	2758	3376
Average Hours Worked 1st Week of Placement	47	36	36	36	36
Number Obtained High School Diploma of GED	13	18	25	31	35
Number who Obtained a Certificate	349	490	787	999	1202
Entered Post Secondary Education	325	453	691	911	1109
Entered Vocational/Occupational Skills Training	641	859	1047	1173	1267
Number of Re-arrests for a New Crime	233	295	350	442	583
Number of Re-Incarcerations for Revocation	275	390	510	612	829



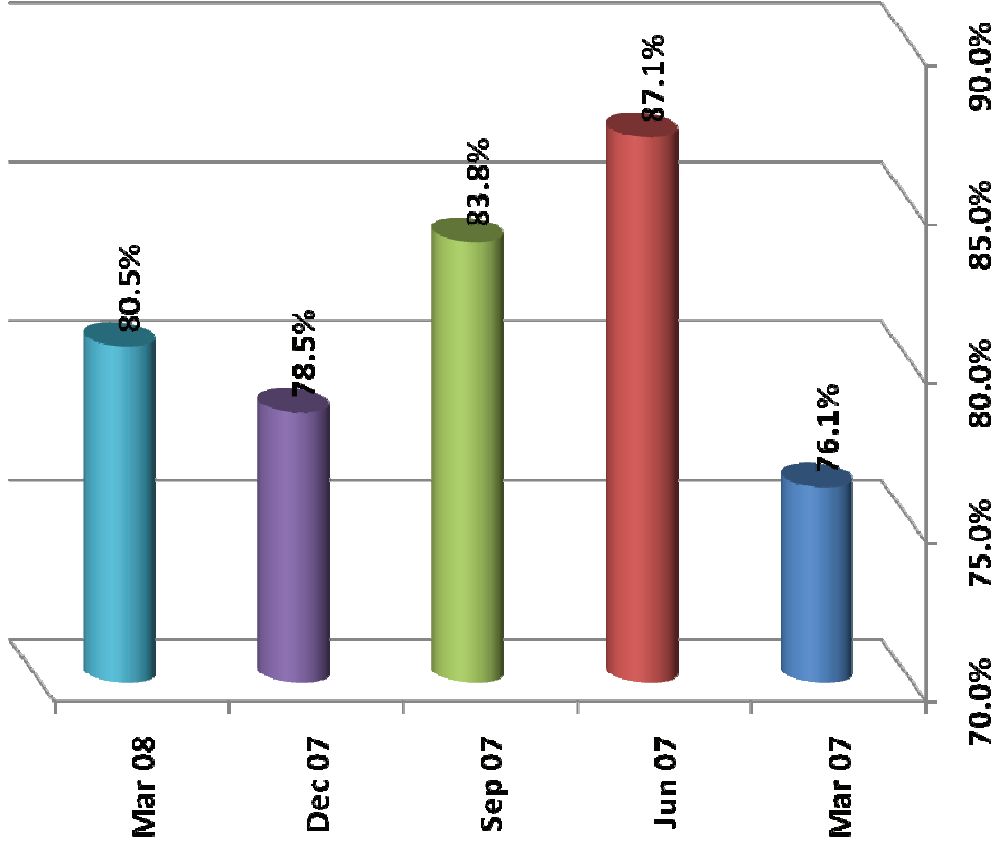
Initial Job Placements



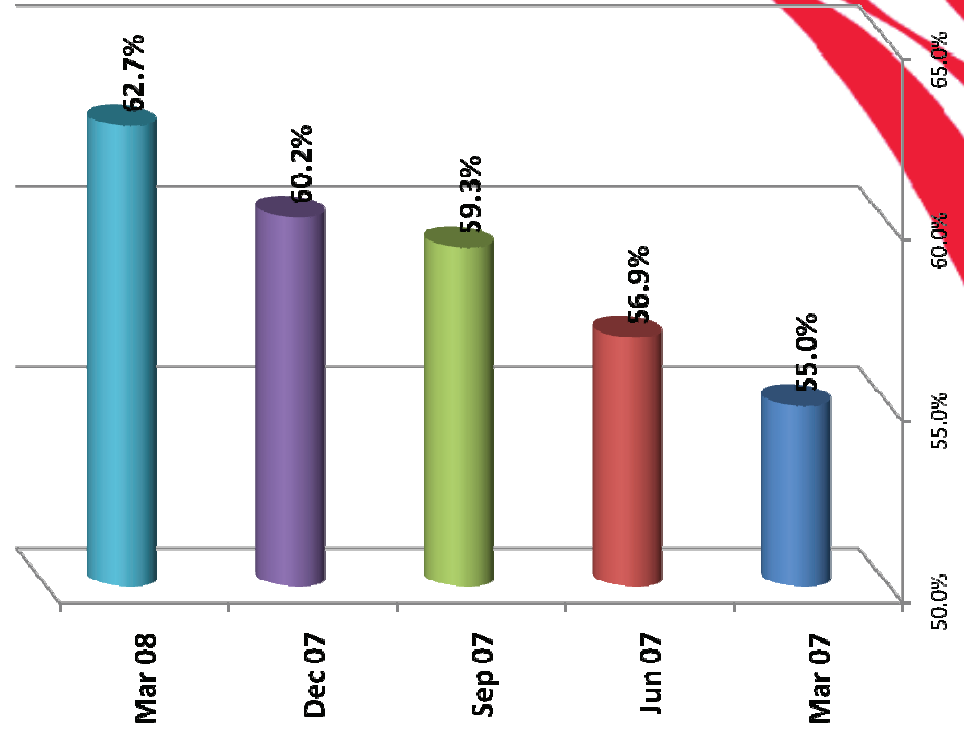


Initial Job Placements as a %

Exiters



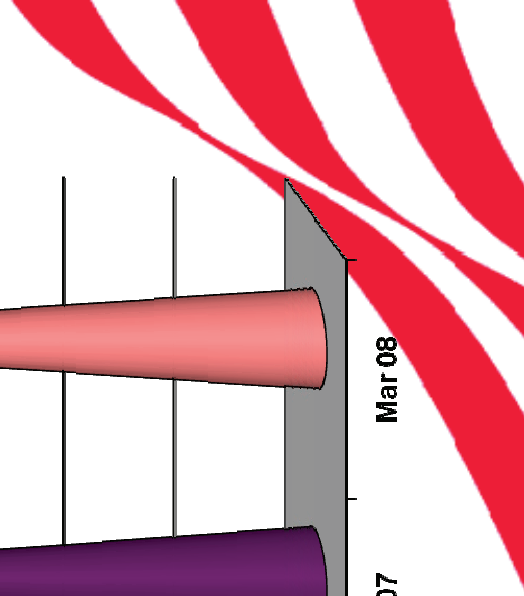
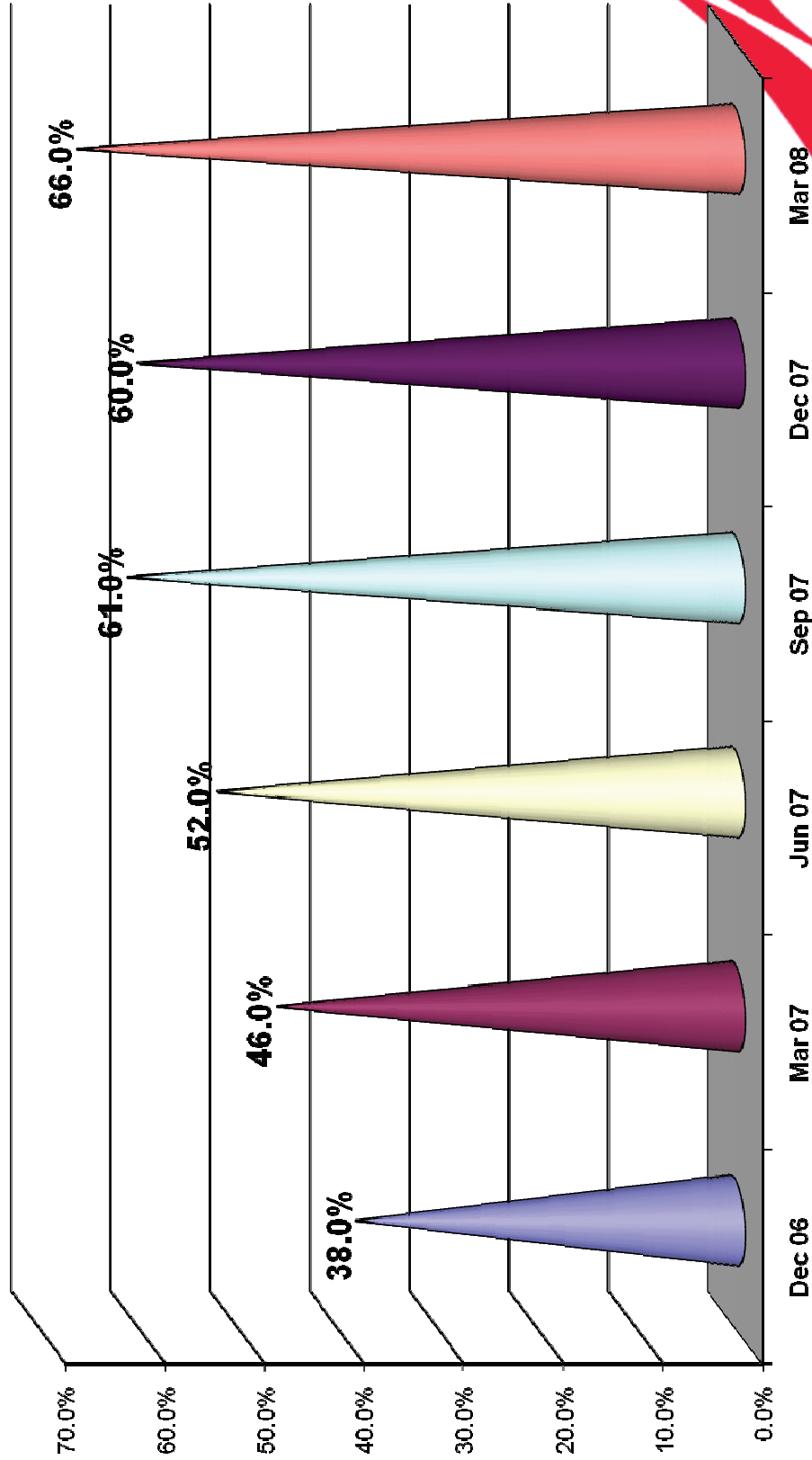
Enrollees

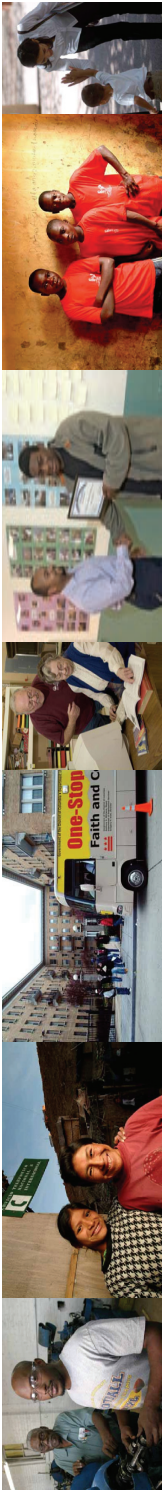




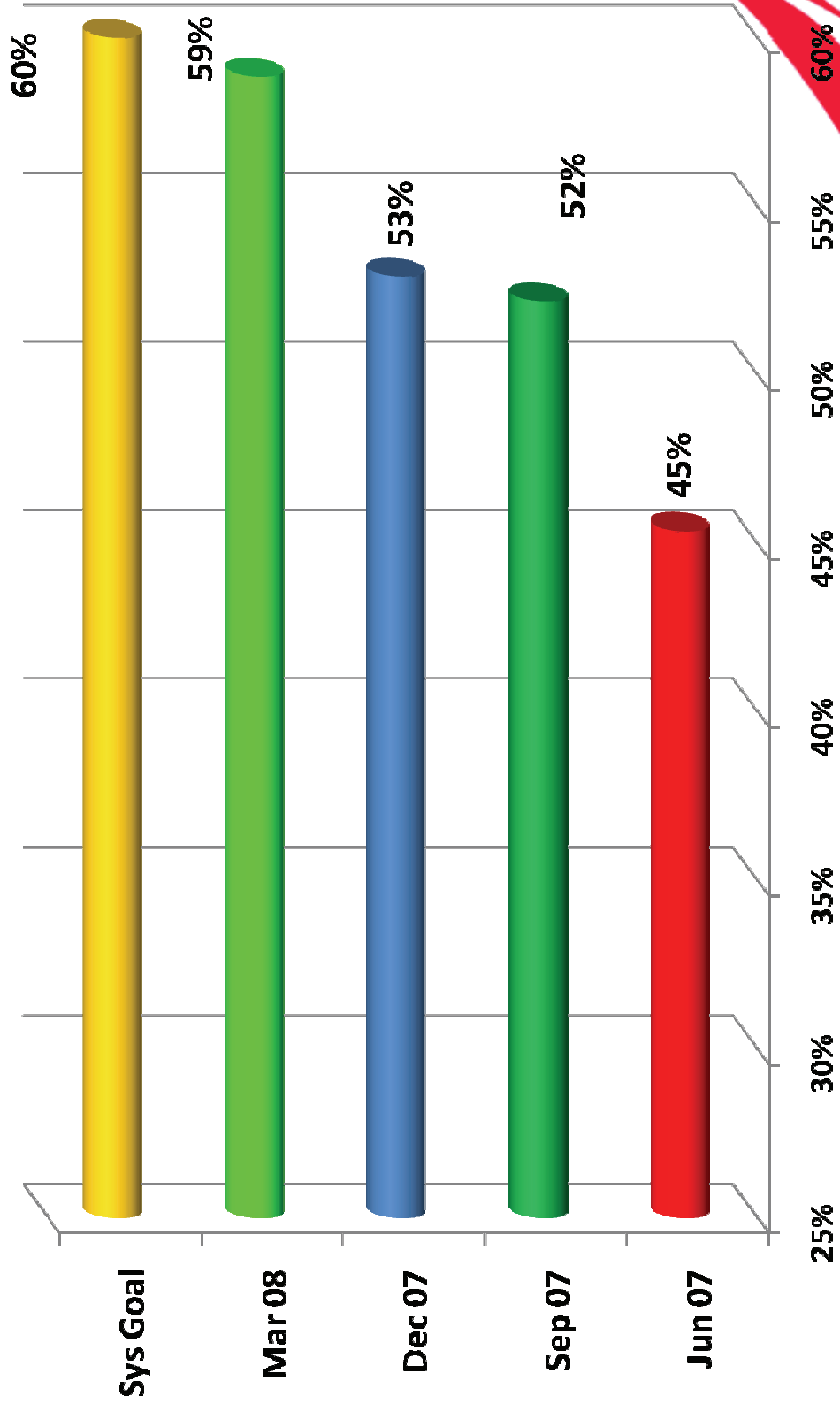
Retention Rate 3/31/08

Goal = 70%





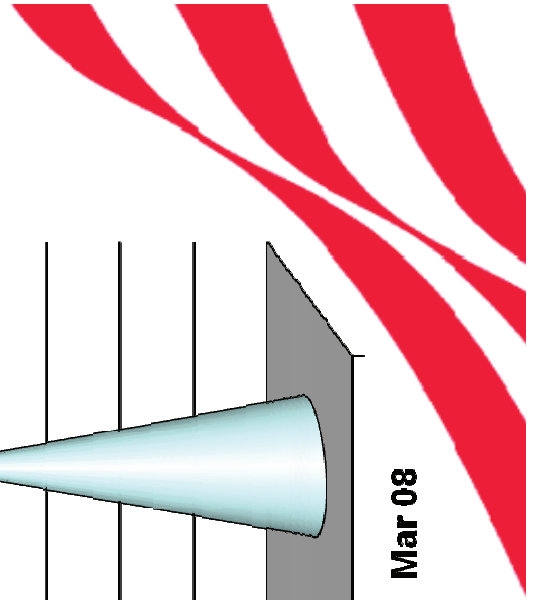
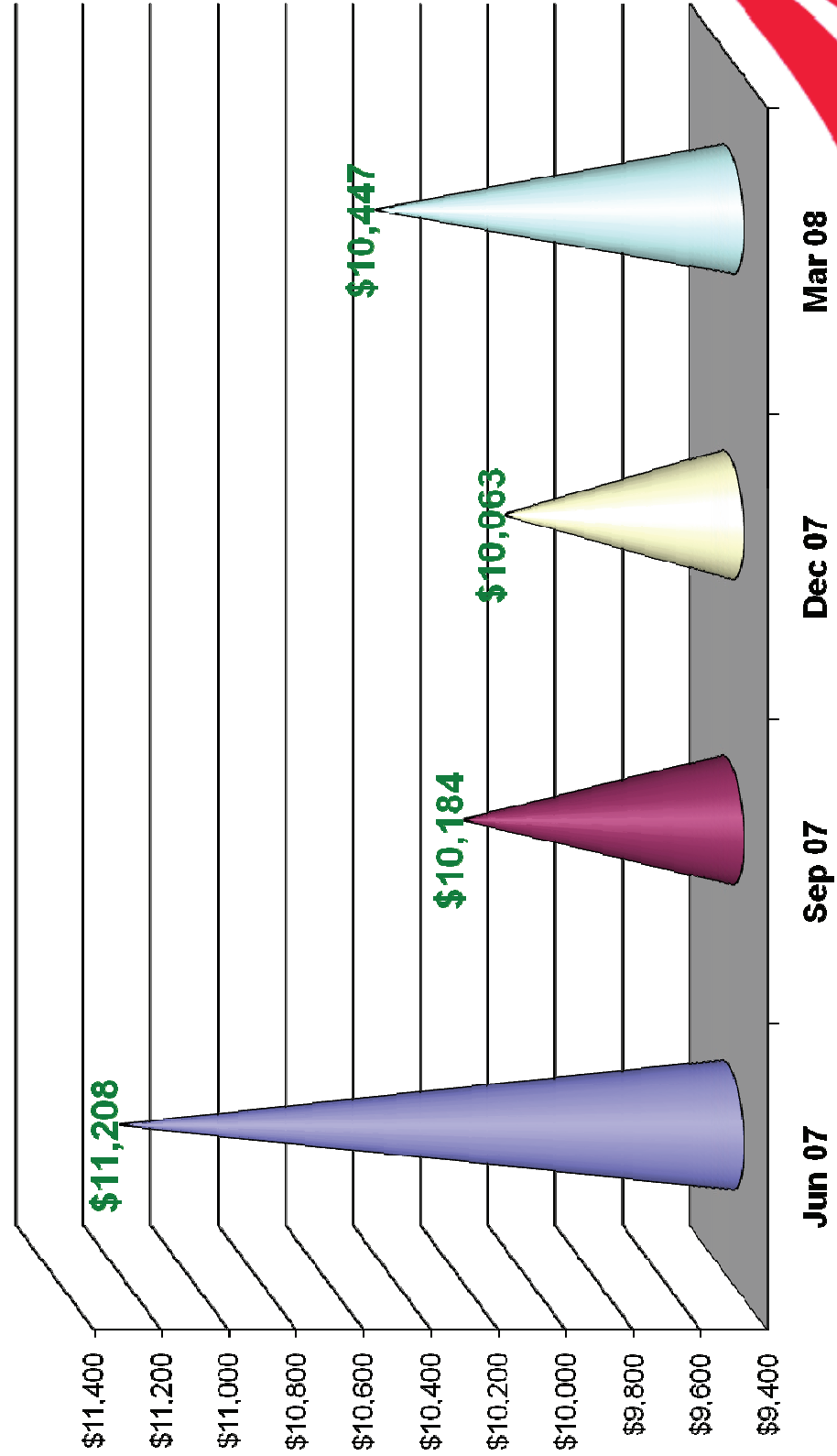
Mentoring 3/31/08

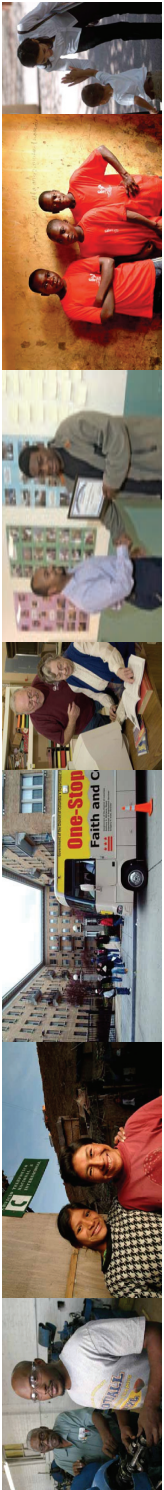




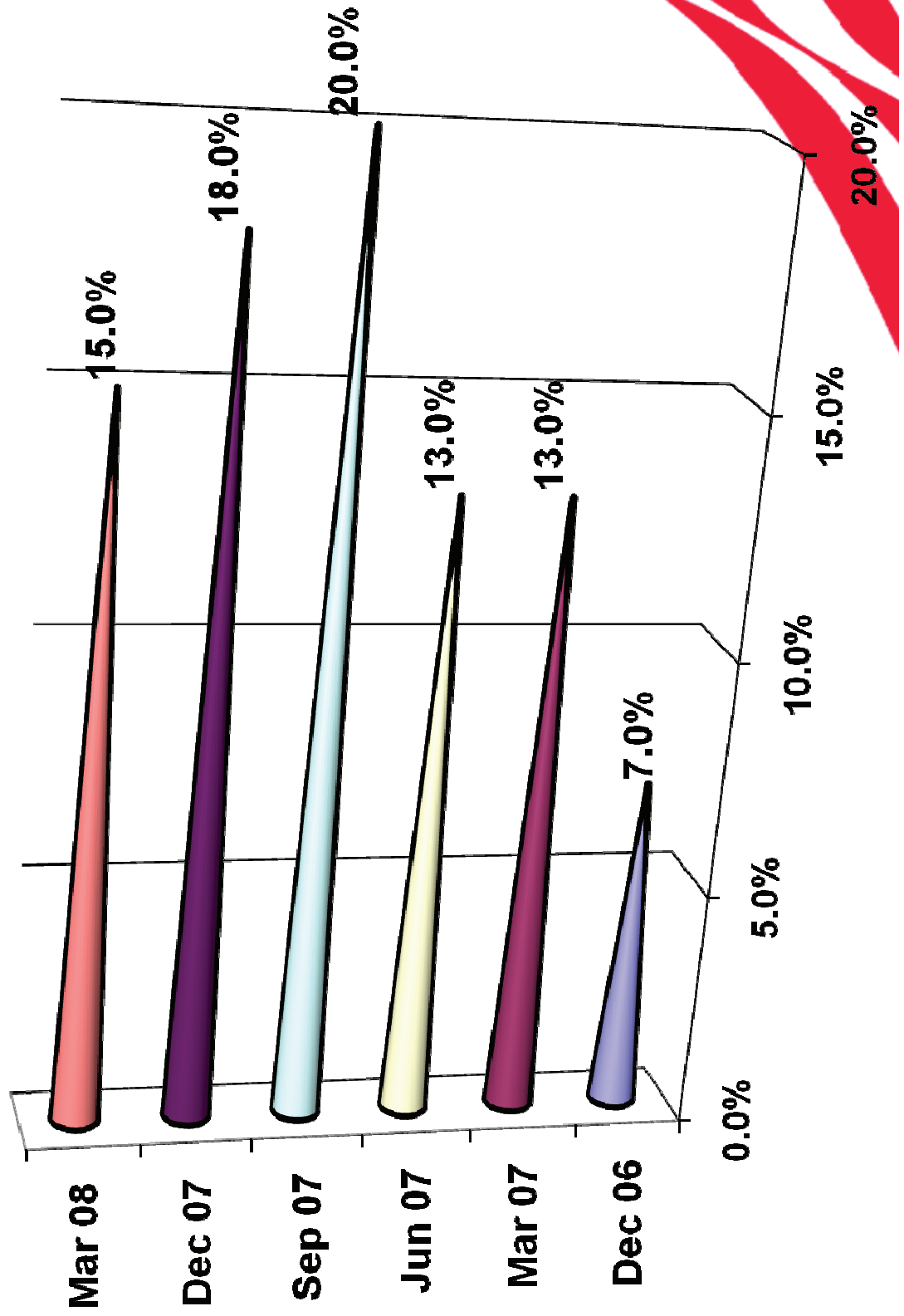
Average Earnings 3/31/08

Goal = \$93360 -- PRI Average = \$10,447





Recidivism 3/31/08





Resources for Prisoner Reentry

Mentoring Manual and Reentry Toolkit

DOL: <http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/reentry.htm>

CSG: <http://justicereinvestment.org/>

DOJ: <http://www.usdoj.gov/fbci/docs/fed-prisoner-reentry-resources.pdf>

Access to Recovery: <http://atr.samhsa.gov/>

Scott Shortenhaus
Shortenhaus.scott@dol.gov
202.693.6459

