



Programming Needs of Incarcerated Survivors in Vermont's Women's Facility

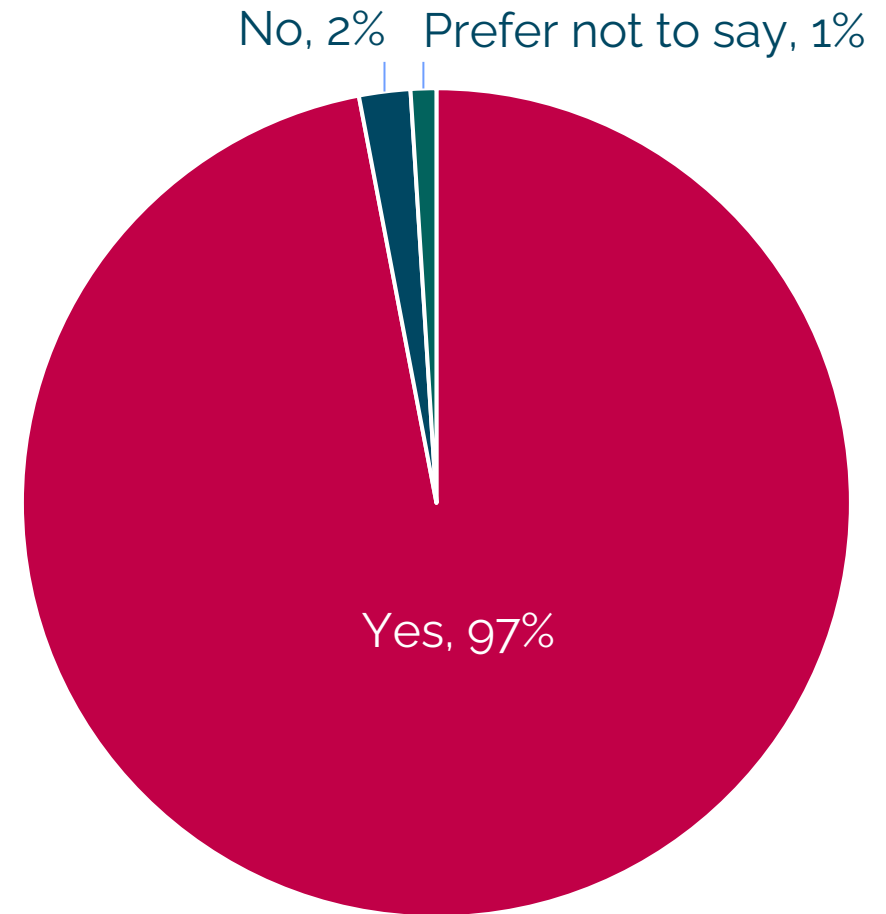
January 16, 2026

Today's Roadmap

1. Vermont Network DIVAS Program at CRCF
2. CRCF & Women's Facility Stakeholder Group
3. Re-entry Services Needs for Detainees at CRCF
4. Proposal to Increase Capacity for Re-entry at CRCF

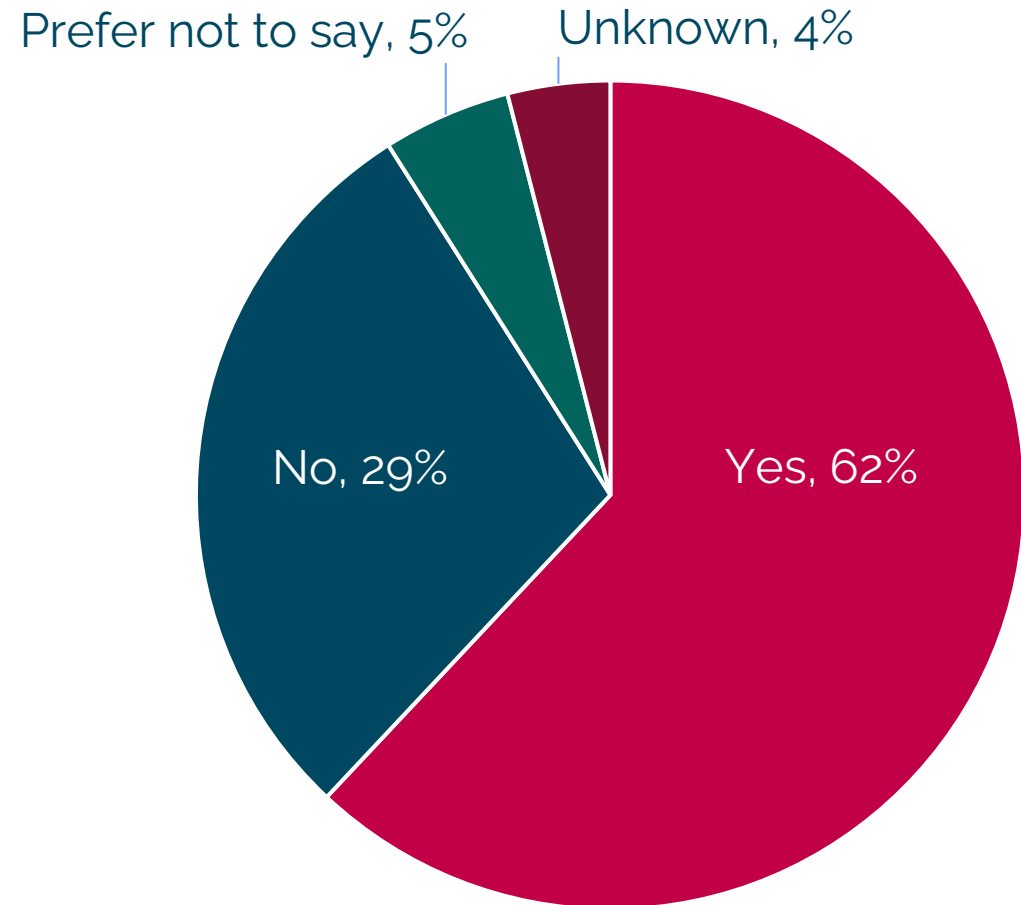
97% of people
reported a history
of domestic
violence.

*2024 Survey of Chittenden
Regional Correction Facility*



62% of people
reported a history
of forced
criminality.

*2024 Survey of Chittenden
Regional Correction Facility*



DIVAS Program Staff

Program
Director
(1 FTE)

Director of
Advocacy
(0.7 FTE)

Director of
Education
(0.7 FTE)

Vermont Network DIVAS Program

1-1 Emotional
Support

Groups &
Education

Re-entry
Planning

Case
Collaboration

Training

PREA

Re-entry Planning through DIVAS

Community
Resource
Connections

Housing

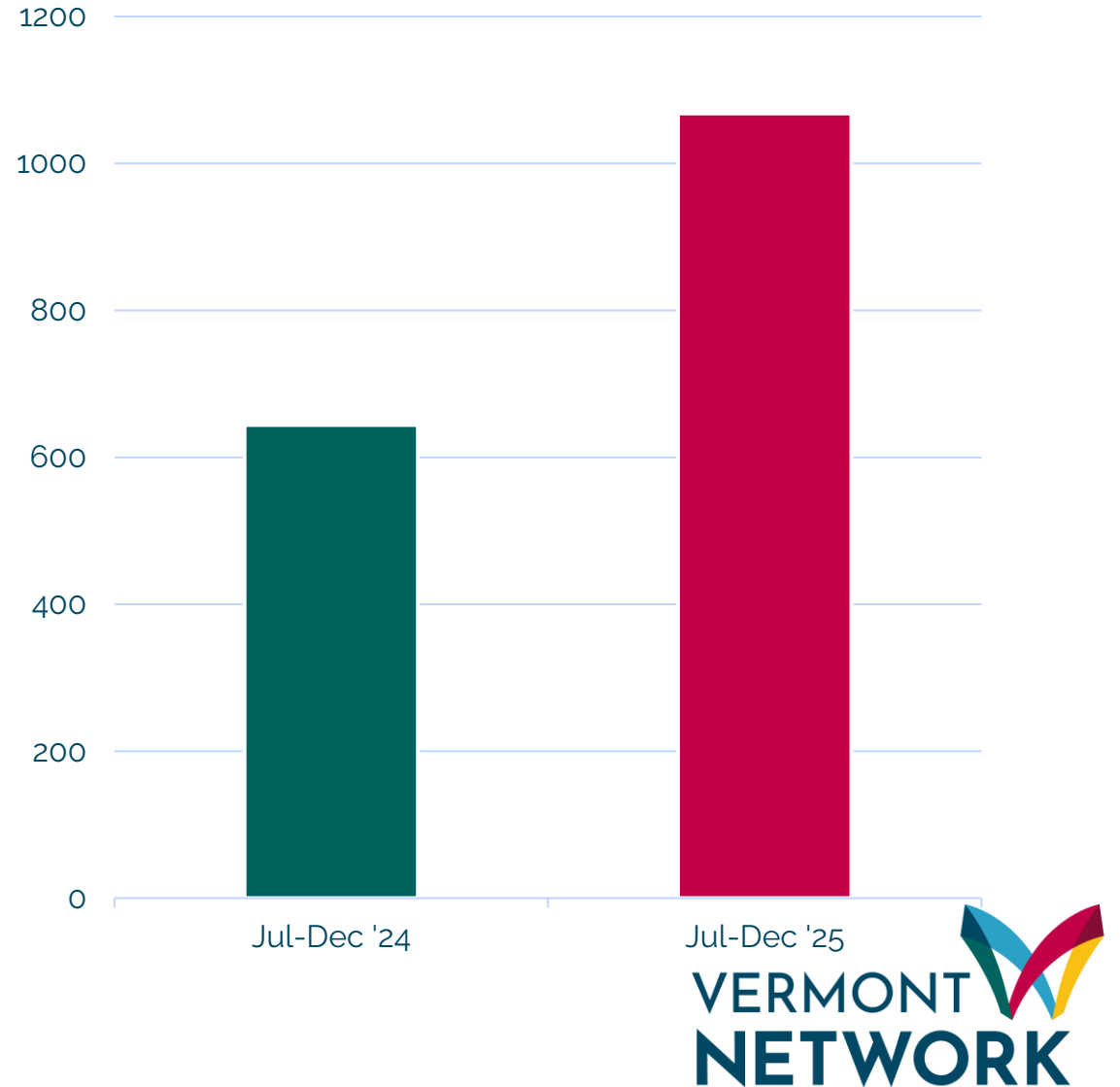
Safety Planning

Family Needs

Re-entry
Supports

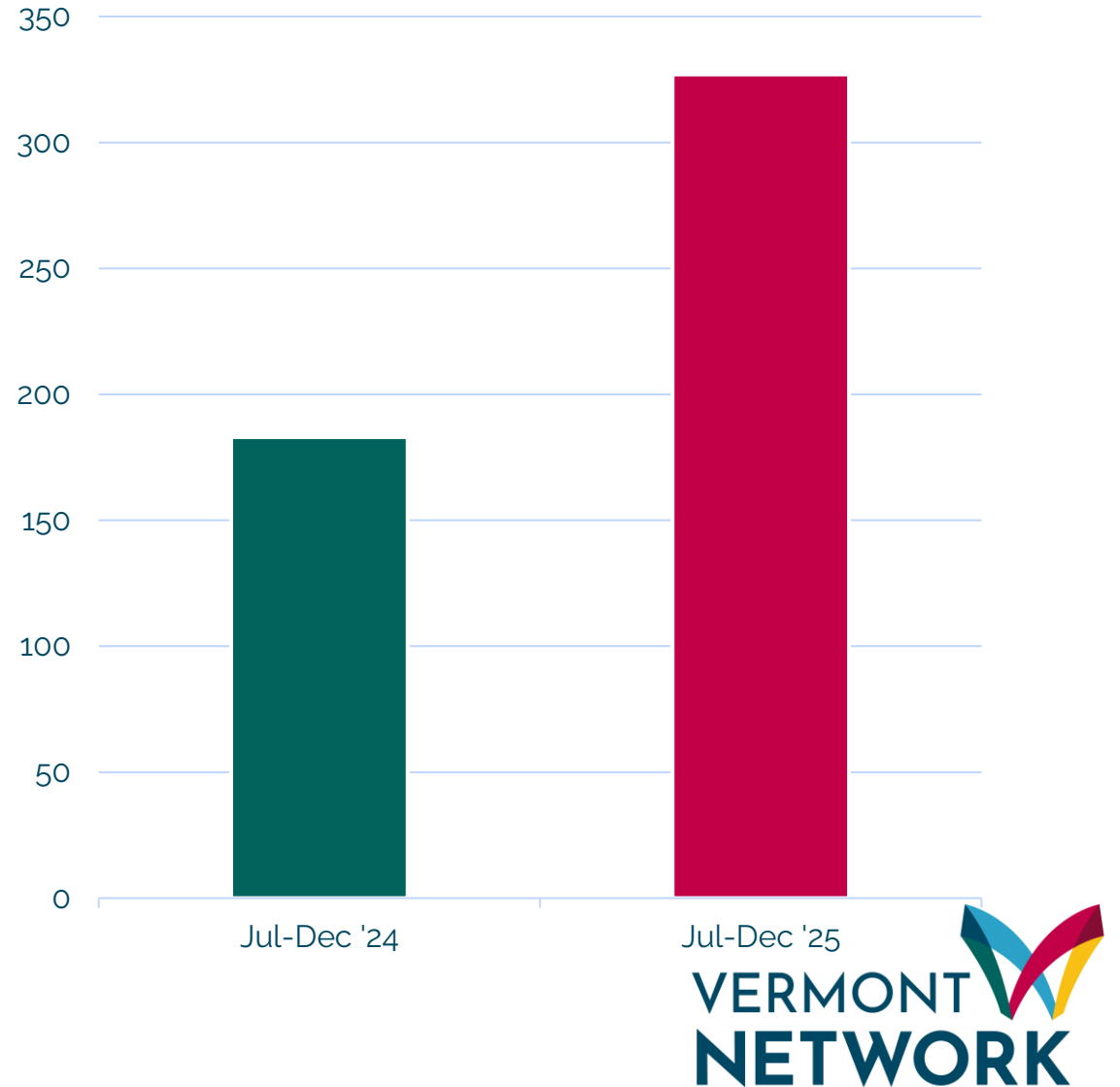
69% increase in 1-1 sessions with DIVAS participants

Comparing Jul-Dec 2024 to Jul-Dec 2025 reporting periods



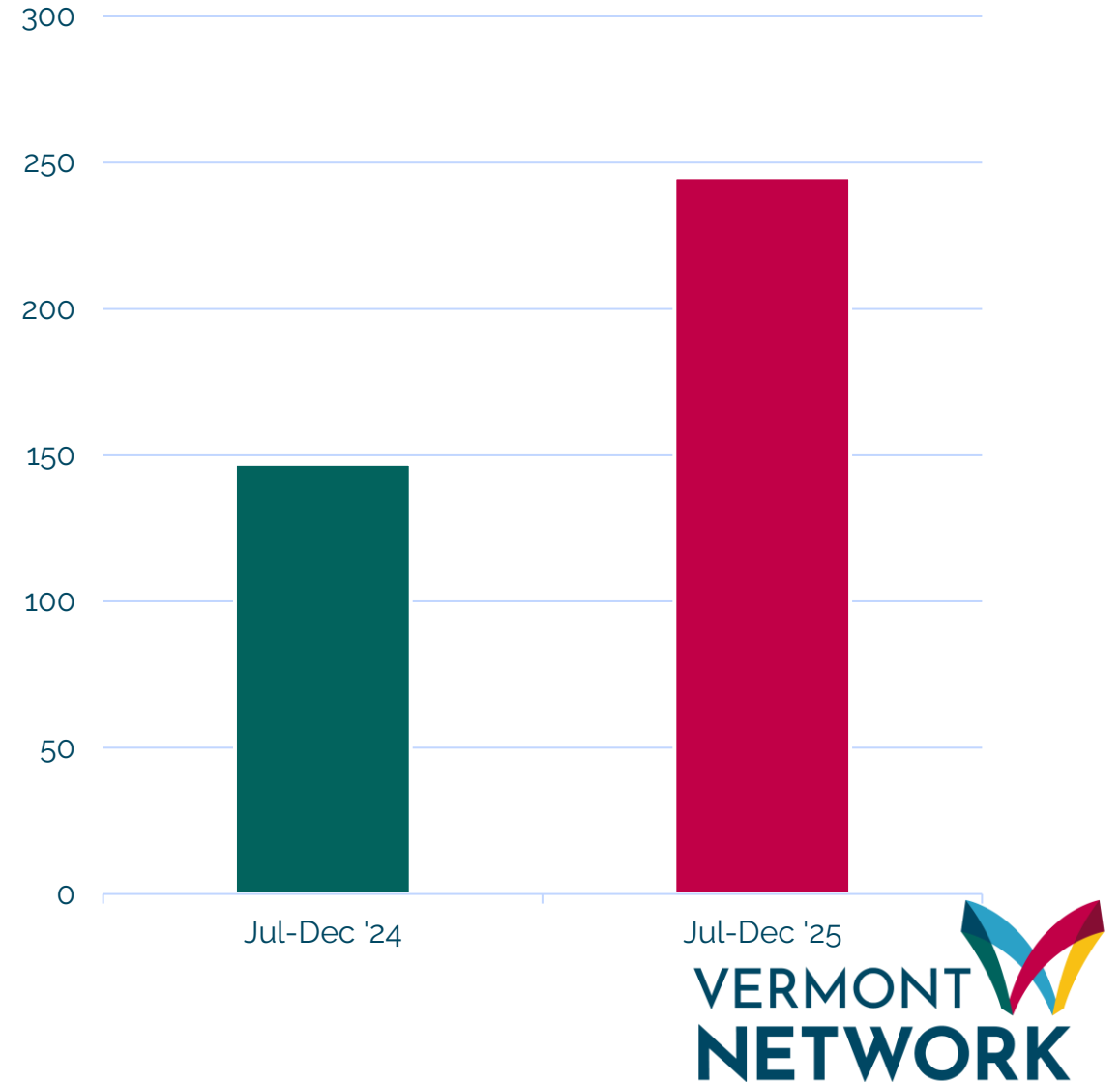
79% increase in # of participants in DIVAS groups

*Comparing Jul-Dec 2024 to
Jul-Dec 2025 reporting periods*



66% increase in # of people served in DIVAS

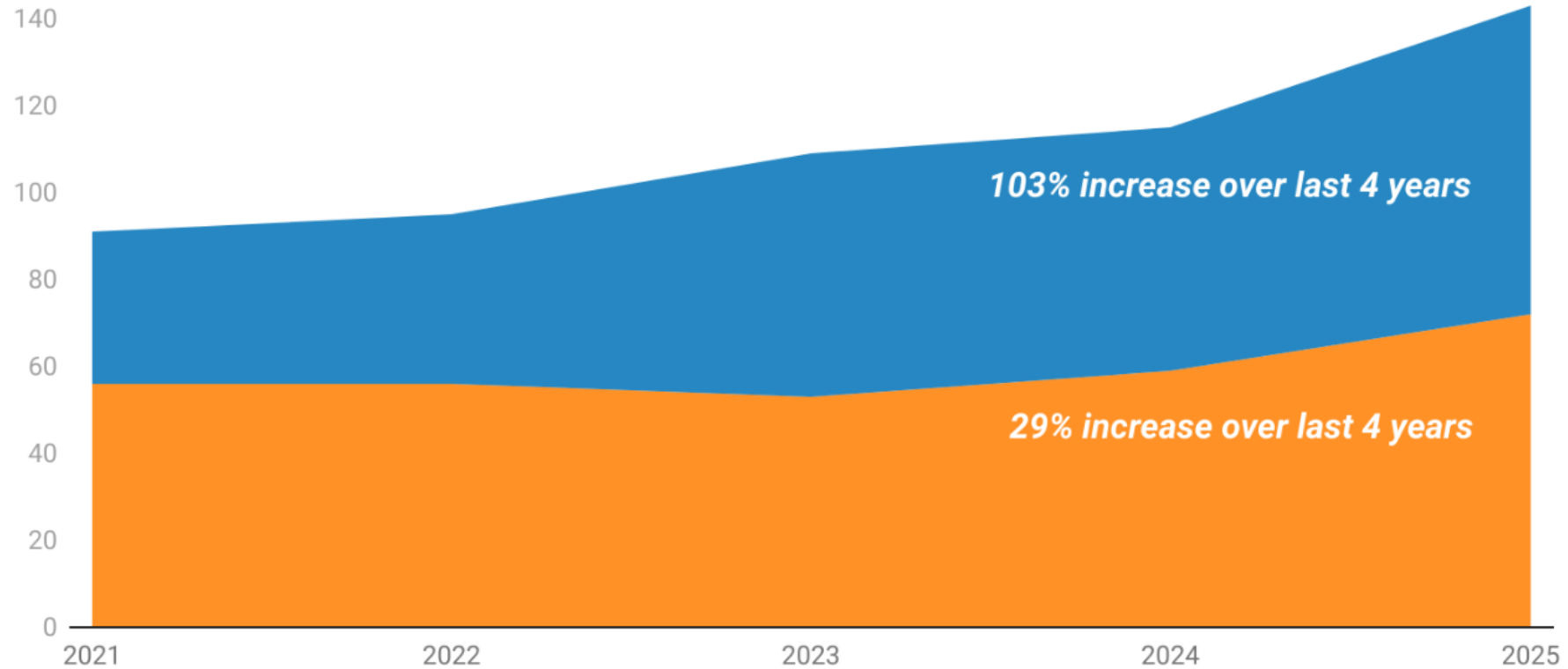
*Comparing Jul-Dec 2024 to
Jul-Dec 2025 reporting periods*



Women's Facility Stakeholder Group

- Department of Corrections began convening the group informally in summer 2022. It was formalized in 2023 with a letter of intent from Chair Alice Emmons.
- ***Objective:*** Engage stakeholders in developing replacement facilities that promote **successful rehabilitation and re-entry of justice-involved women.**

Sentenced & Detained State Female Population: 2021 to Present



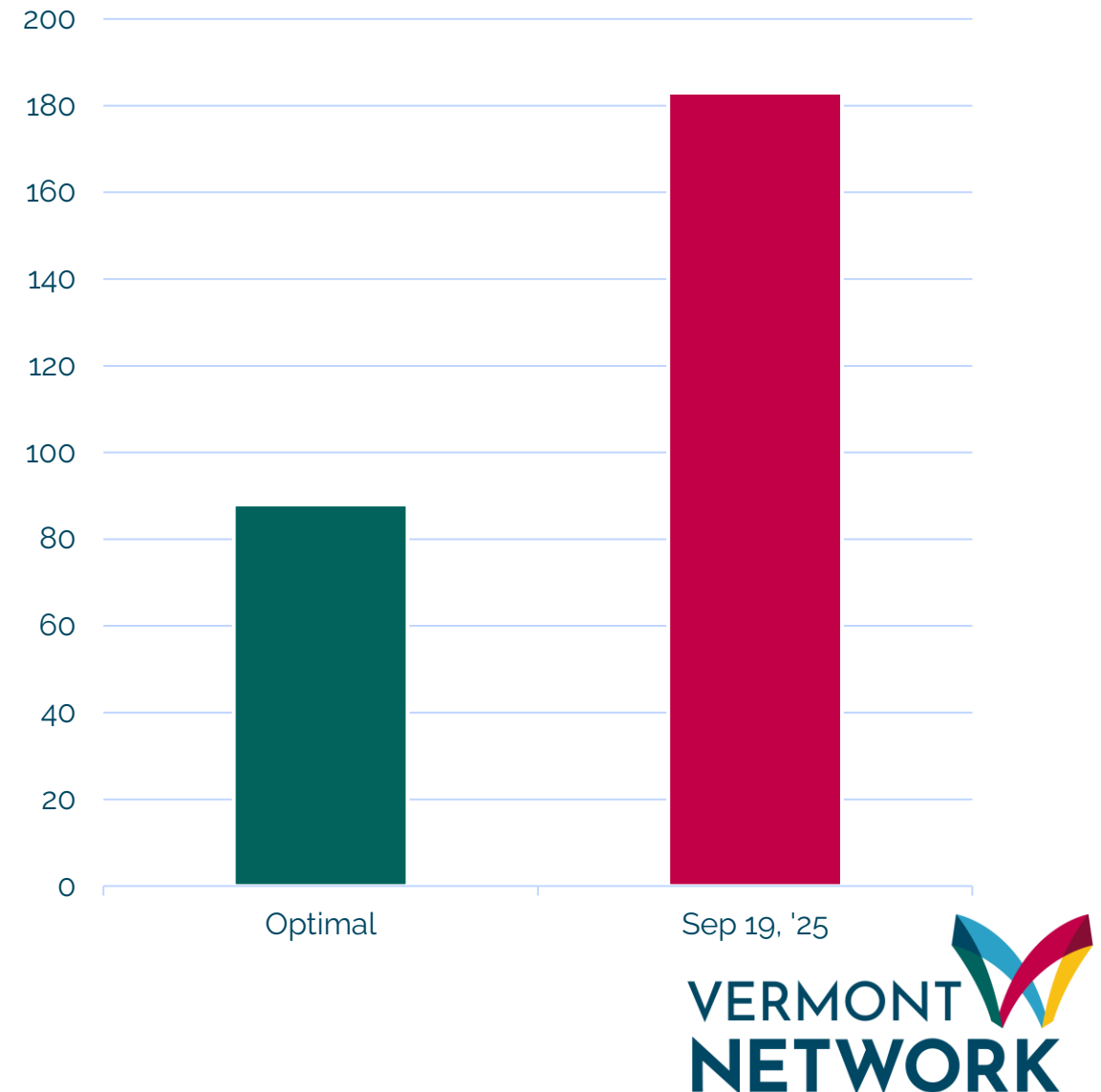
Excludes federal holds



At high point in
September, 183 people
were incarcerated at
CRCF (93 state detainees).

Under optimal conditions*,
CRCF is **meant to
accommodate up to 88**
people.

* American Correctional Association
Capacity Buffer Recommendation



Overview of Re-entry Services

- Re-entry services are critical to preparing incarcerated people, including detainees, for a successful re-entry following release.
- Re-entry services can include:
 - Conducting needs assessments
 - Making referrals to programming and transitional housing
 - Securing documents
 - Enrolling in benefits
- Successful re-entry planning involves **both community-based providers and DOC case workers.**

Re-entry Services for Detainees

- In response to capacity restrictions, DOC updated its Court Processes Standard Operating Procedure in 2024 to specify that **DOC case workers can only provide case work services to sentenced individuals, not detainees.**
- Existing case workers are frequently called to stand in for correctional officers and operate remote courts.

Unmet Need for Re-entry Services

- Detainees can be released to situations that are:
 - Unsafe
 - Where they do not have basic needs met
 - Where they have a high likelihood of reoffending
- It can result in detainees being **incarcerated longer than required**, because they do not have support meeting their conditions of release.

Proposal for Case Workers at CRCF

Currently, there are five case workers providing re-entry services to sentenced individuals at CRCF.

We estimate **three to five additional case workers** are needed to meet the specific re-entry needs of detainees in CRCF.

The added staff capacity would necessitate a **revision of DOC's policy to allow re-entry services for detainees**, not only sentenced individuals.

To: Senate Institutions Committee and House Corrections and Institutions Committee

From: Undersigned Members of Vermont Women's Facility Stakeholder Group:

- Jordan Souder, Policy Advocate, ACLU of Vermont
- Jayna Ahsaf, FreeHer Vermont Campaign Director, National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
- Kim Laroche, Director of Parent Child Center Services, Lund Vermont
- Daniel Franklin, Executive Director, Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery
- Cary Brown, Executive Director, Vermont Commission on Women
- Sarah Robinson, Co-Executive Director, Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Rhoni Basden, Executive Director, Vermont Works for Women
- Marybeth Redmond, Former State Representative (Essex Town) and Essex Community Member
- Irene Wrenner, Former State Senator (Chittenden-North) and Essex Community Member

Date: December 16, 2025

Subject: Re-entry Services for Detainees at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility

Background: Women's Facility Stakeholder Group

The Department of Corrections (DOC) began convening an informal stakeholder group to inform its replacement of the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) in summer of 2022. The group was formalized in 2023, following a [letter of intent](#) from Chair Alice Emmons and the House Corrections and Institutions Committee to engage stakeholders in developing replacement facilities that promote successful rehabilitation and re-entry of justice-involved women.





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