

The background image shows a prison interior. On the left, there is a dining area with several tables and chairs. On the right, there is a long row of prison cells, each with a metal mesh door. The ceiling has recessed lighting fixtures.

# Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) Overview

February 3, 2025

Mission:

*Transform Lives for a Safer Minnesota*



## Agency Reorganization

- Reorganize the department to break down silos, improve communication both vertically and horizontally, increase cross-unit efficiencies, improve agency leadership awareness, and reduce costs.
- At every level of the agency, grow and develop staff to build trusting teams and achieve results.
- Practice servant leadership at every level within the agency to grow and develop staff, build trusting teams, and achieve results.

## Transformative Programming

- Increase public engagement, in the creation and revision of agency programs and policies, particularly those impacted by them.
- Increase the use of evidence-based practices in the rehabilitation of those who are incarcerated, or under supervision.
- Increase a continuum of community intervention partnerships who embrace effective delivery of community-based programs to address needs so client may remain safely in community.
- Reduce the number of technical readmissions to prison by 70 percent overall, including American Indians and Minnesotans of color, through effective utilization of community supervision and supportive services.

## Safety and Wellbeing

- Continue to implement transmission mitigation plans to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among DOC staff and the people we serve.
- Protect all staff, currently incarcerated individuals, victim survivors and clients under supervision from additional harm and injury.
- Improve the quality of the experiences of new employees entering the agency.
- Embed employee wellness across the agency under the leadership and activities of the Peer Support Team.
- Provide sufficient resources & effective training to DOC staff and community partners to reach zero re-victimization of victim survivors.


# What Do We Do?

Create and deliver individualized plans to better help the people we serve.

Prepare people in our care to have success when they return to our communities.

Provide services in the community to help people under supervision build connections and transform their lives.

# DOC by the Numbers

- **Employees:** approx. 4,300
  - **Prisons:** 11
  - **Facility capacity:** 9,522 beds (double-bunked)
  - **Current Population:** approx. 8,300 individuals
  - **Total DOC facilities footprint:** 7.5 million sq. ft.
  - **DOC-provided supervision:** 20,000 individuals
  - **DOC district supervision offices:** 13
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**MCF-Shakopee**  
built 1986  
capacity: 656



**MCF-Faribault**  
opened 1989  
capacity: 2,026



**MCF-Lino Lakes**  
built 1963  
capacity: 1,325



**MCF-Red Wing**  
built 1889  
capacity: 42-A, 111-J



**MCF-Rush City**  
built 2000  
capacity: 1,018



**MCF-Oak Park Heights**  
built 1982  
capacity: 444



**MCF-St. Cloud**  
built 1889  
capacity: 1,058



**MCF-Stillwater**  
built 1914  
capacity: 1,561



**MCF-Togo**  
built 1955  
capacity: 90



**MCF-Moose Lake**  
built 1938  
capacity: 1,057



**MCF-Willow River**  
built 1951  
capacity: 177



Over **95%** of those incarcerated will return to our communities. Setting them up for success helps ensure fewer victims and greater public safety.

# DOC's Person-Centered Approach

- Human dignity is the foundational, organizing principle of Minnesota's corrections system.
- We are putting people at the center of our decision-making.
- Creating multi-disciplinary teams to work with the people we serve to design and deliver transformational services.



# Community Supervision/ Probation

## Minnesota relies heavily on community supervision

- Approximately 80,000 people in community on supervised release or probation statewide
- DOC is one of **4 delivery systems** for supervision
  - Minnesota Community Corrections Act (CCA)
  - Department of Corrections (DOC)
  - DOC/County Probation Officer
  - Tribal Supervision
- The DOC supervises two types of people:
  - Felony sentenced individuals who have served the mandatory two-thirds of their prison sentence who have been released from prison.
  - Probationers who were not committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections but resides in counties that do not operate a local supervision system.



# Considerations for Policy Makers

- The Department of Corrections has a **Constitutional obligation** to provide healthcare and a standard of living for those that are incarcerated under state law.
- **24/7/365 operation.** Supporting staff, keeping everyone safe, and providing transformational services are central to public safety.
- **97%** of the DOC's budget is appropriated by the General Fund.
- We must have safe, secure facilities to provide services.
- Our staff is the backbone to that work.
- We strive to be **transparent, responsive, and accountable.**



1% of the  
population is  
accountable  
for 63% of all  
violent crime  
convictions.\*

\*Falk O, Wallinius M, Lundström S, Frisell T, Anckarsäter H, Kerekes N. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatric Epidemiol. 2014 April.

# Minnesota's Incarcerated Population

- Average age: **39.9 years**
- Average time in DOC prison: **36 months**
  - 27 have life sentences
  - 167 of those without the possibility of parole
- **89%** have high school / GED or higher
- **68%** have minor children
- Race:
  - White: **51%**
  - Black: **37%**
  - American Indian: **9%**
  - Asian: **2.5%**
  - Unknown/Other: **0.2%**
- Health:
  - **85%** are diagnosed with an alcohol or substance use disorder
  - **39%** have a cardiovascular condition being treated
  - **37%** are on psychiatric medication
  - **10%** have diabetes
  - **41** individuals have cancer
  - **20** with Hepatitis C
  - **7** with tuberculosis
- **25%** of those leaving MN prisons are homeless
- **27%** unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated
- **64%** of incarcerated individuals remained free of felony convictions for three years post-release