REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 121 of 2024
Article 2, Section 501
Special Alternative Incarceration Program

Section 501 of 2024 P.A. 121 requires that the Department of Corrections provide individual reports for the residential reentry program, the electronic monitoring program, and the special alternative to incarceration program, including information on:

- Monthly new participants by type of offender. Residential reentry program participants shall be categorized by reason for placement. For technical rule violators, the report shall sort offenders by length of time since release from prison, by the most recent violation, and by number of violations occurring since release from prison.
- Monthly participant unsuccessful terminations, including cause.
- Number of successful terminations.
- End month population by facility/program.
- Average length of placement.
- Return to prison statistics.
- Description of each program location or locations, capacity, and staffing.
- Sentencing guideline scores and actual sentence statistics for participants, if applicable.
- Comparison with prior year statistics.
- Analysis of the impact on prison admissions and jail utilization and the cost effectiveness of the program.

Special Alternative Incarceration Program

The Special Alternative Incarceration Program (SAI) has been established as an In-Reach Facility focusing on individual risks and needs. Early on in this transition it was evident that SAI needed to make and be able to demonstrate significant changes in its structure and operation to meet the standards of Evidence-Based Practice established in the OS Model. The SAI program provides for a decrease in the costs of incarceration by reducing the need for bed space for more extended periods of time. The program and structural (evidence based) modifications to the SAI program that have been fully implemented are:

1. Assessment and classification:

Each participant who enters SAI has a COMPAS profile which is used by the classification director in assigning the offender to programs and work assignments that will increase their knowledge and provide the tools to become successful in the community upon their release. Participants are now provided specific and appropriate responsive programming based upon their individual strengths and needs as profiled by the COMPAS and entered the Transition Accountability Plan.

2. Programming:

Male Programming:

The programming menus at SAI consist of the following to meet the goals of PR and the programming standards. These programs are delivered in a 90-day period.

- Cognitive Journaling -Thinking Reports (Cognitive Behavioral Program)
- Premarital Interpersonal Choices and Knowledge (PICK a Partner)
- Advanced Substance Abuse Therapy (ASAT) provided by Catholic Charities

- GED
- Employment Readiness
- Pre-Release Vocational Educational Planning
- Employment Counseling
- Thinking for Change Trauma Informed

***Female Programming*:**

The programming menus at SAI consist of the following to meet the goals of OS and the programming standards. These programs are delivered in a 90-day period:

- Family Reunification Meetings
- Family Focus Workshops
- Substance Use and Medication Assisted Treatment
- GED/HSE
- Employment Readiness & Digital Literacy
- Seeking Safety
- Moving On
- Meridians
- Self Determination
- Parenting
- Nutrition
- Life Skills3
- Financial Planning

***3. Release decision making*:**

The COMPAS and Case Plan are used in developing the participant's release plan. All participants entering SAI are either given automatic paroles or probation depending on the successful 90-day completion. An Institutional Parole Agent enters the COMPAS profile into the Case Plan. This entry is created by COMPAS Assessment, criminal history, and the trainee interview. The Case Plan is used to identify programming and needed intervention to reduce recidivism.

The participant's profile is used by the classification director to classify trainees to the programs needed to strengthen weaknesses and to strengthen the existing skills of an offender to become successful in the community. Once the programs are completed, the completion and evaluation for SAI participant is entered into the Case Plan by the Institutional Parole Agent. Completion and progress evaluation is provided by a supplemental 363 which was developed for SAI study evaluation purposes. This supplemental form provides both qualitative and quantitative information that allows for better audit information gathering and release decision making.

4. Offender release preparation:

Three reports currently completed by staff at SAI are:

30 Day Report-reporting court information, after care agent, placement information including employment plans. Final Report: identifies court information, agent, approved placement, and program participation.

Case Plan: An Institutional Parole Agent (IPA) interviews the trainees and enters SAI completion data into OCMS that is used in the field to supervise the trainee when released to the community. It is also used by the Transition Teams that meet with the trainee before SAI completion for the purpose of offender release preparation. Transition Team visits are coordinated by the Re-entry Facility Coordinator. This team works collaboratively to develop a strong public safety conscious release plan with the offender prior to release from SAI. The meetings are either in person, by phone or video.

5. Disciplinary Process

The disciplinary process focuses on pro-social modeling and intrinsic motivation.

Immediate Verbal Counseling - Counsel trainee pointing out infraction of a rule or negative behavior.

Extra Drill - Marching and facing movements.

Extra Duty – Extra work; cleaning trash cans, toilets, washing windows etc., up to two hours, along with very close supervision.

Journaling - Writing in a journal about behavior, emotions, and making good decisions based upon what they are being taught in programming, i.e., Cage Your Rage, Thinking Matters, Journaling.

Motivation Detail - Detail consisting of hard physical labor and motivational PT, along with very close supervision.

Program Review Board (Male) - A board usually consisting of the Deputy Warden, Treatment Staff, and Shift Commander to review poor or disruptive behavior, major misconduct results, medical issues, lack of progress in the program etc., and determine whether the trainee referred should continue in the program or be terminated.

Program Review Board (Female) - A board usually consisting of the Deputy Warden, SAI Sergeant, Resident Unit Manager, and Prison Counselor to review poor or disruptive behavior, misconduct results, medical/mental health issues, lack of progress in the program etc., and determine whether the trainee referred should continue in the program or be terminated.

SAI Health Care also designates certain trainees with medical issues in a "Medically Compromised Platoon". These trainees are not allowed to do any physical training and are not assigned to any work assignments which require intense physical labor without Health Care approval. They are carefully monitored and are allowed to benefit by participating in the Prisoner Re-entry classes.

Staffing

Current staffing level male facility:

13 Custody Staff
03 Administrative staff
00 Maintenance staff
00 Food Service staff
00 Healthcare staff
01 Education staff

Current staffing level female facility:

08 Custody staff
01 Administrative staff
01 Food Service staff
07 Healthcare staff (full time and part time combined)
01 Education staff

Capacity

The current male capacity is 152
The current female capacity is 42.

SUMMARY OF 2024 MALE PROBATIONER PROGRAM STATISTICS

Male probationer program statistics for 2024 are presented in the attached appendices. These key data are summarized as follows:

Of the 38-probationers enrolled in the program:

1. 20 (53%) were African American
2. 18 (47%) were Caucasian
3. 0 (0%) were Hispanic
4. 0 (0%) were of other races

Probationers sentenced in 18 counties enrolled in the program.

Probationer age at sentencing ranged from 18 years to 48 years, with the 18–22-year age group comprising 32% of all admissions.

As of December 31, 2024, 6 male probationers were enrolled in the program.

Of the 37 probationers who either completed or were terminated from the program:
(Note: Completed figures include probationers who were already in the program as of January 1, 2024).

1. 33 (89%) successfully completed the program
2. 0 (0%) voluntarily withdrew
3. 3 (8%) were terminated as rule violators

0 probationer (0%) was terminated for medical reasons, and 1 probationer (3%) were terminated as unqualified.

(Note: Probationers terminated for medical reasons or for being unqualified are reasons out of the probationer's control).

SUMMARY OF 2024 SAI MALE PRISONER PROGRAM STATISTICS

SAI male prisoner program statistics for 2024 are presented in the attached appendices. These key data are summarized as follows:

Of the 277 prisoners enrolled in the program:

1. 115 (42%) were African American
2. 157 (57%) were Caucasian
3. 2 (.5%) were Hispanic
4. 2 (.5%) were of other races

SAI male prisoners sentenced in 65 counties enrolled in the program.

SAI male prisoner age at sentencing ranged from 18 years to 66 years, with the 18–22-year age group comprising 7% of all admissions.

As of December 31, 2024, 60 prisoners were enrolled in the program.

Of the 281 SAI male prisoners who either completed or were terminated from the program:
(Note: Completed figures include prisoners who were already in the program as of January 1, 2024).

1. 270 (96.1%) successfully completed the program
2. 2 (.007%) voluntarily withdrew
3. 6 (2%) were terminated as rule violators

2 SAI male prisoner (.007%) was terminated for medical reasons, and 1 SAI male prisoners (.003%) were terminated as unqualified.
(Note: Prisoners terminated for medical reasons or for being unqualified are reasons out of the prisoner's control).

SAI PRISONER AND PROBATIONER ADMISSIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE (Male)

The sentence for each of the 37male probationers who entered the program during 2024 was used for the groupings listed below. For probationers serving more than one sentence, the sentence entered the database first is listed.

The controlling sentence for each of the 277 SAI male prisoners who entered the program during 2024 was used for the groupings listed below. For prisoners serving more than one sentence, the sentence with the longest minimum term is the controlling sentence.

Each of the following offense type groupings contains offenses which are similar in nature. For example, the "Fraud" category contains all cases involving financial transactions where trickery or deceit was an element of the crime.

OFFENSE TYPE	PERCENT of TOTAL PROBATIONERS	PERCENT of TOTAL PRISONERS
1. Drug Offenses	18.9%	33%
2. Home Invasion	2.7%	10.8%
3. Assault	16.2%	14.4%
4.Unlawful Driving	24.3%	12.2%
5. Robbery/Unarmed	0%	2.8%
6. Larceny	0%	2.5%
7. Fraud	8%	1.8%
8. Weapons	21.6%	12.9%
9. Breaking & Entering	2.7%	3.6 %
10. Miscellaneous	5.4%	6%

SUMMARY OF 2024 FEMALE PROBATIONER PROGRAM STATISTICS

Female probationer program statistics for 2024 are presented in the attached appendices. These key data are summarized as follows:

Of the 11 probationers enrolled in the program:

1. 0 (0.0%) were African American
2. 9 (100%) were Caucasian
3. 0 (0.0%) were Hispanic
4. 0 (0.0%) were of other races

Probationers sentenced in 6 counties enrolled in the program.

Probationer age at sentencing ranged from 22 years to 47 years, with the 18–22-year age group comprising 12% of all admissions.

As of December 31, 2024, 1 female probationer were enrolled in the program. Of the 9 probationers who either completed or were terminated from the program:

(Note: Completed figures include probationers who were already in the program as of January 1, 2024).

1. 7 (78%) successfully completed the program.
2. 0 (0%) voluntarily withdrew.
3. 0 (0%) were terminated as rule violators.

Two (2) probationers 22% were terminated for medical reasons, and zero (0) probationers were terminated as unqualified.

(Note: Probationers terminated for medical reasons or for being unqualified are reasons out of the probationer's control).

SUMMARY OF 2024 SAI FEMALE PRISONER PROGRAM STATISTICS

SAI female prisoner program statistics for 2024 are presented in the attached appendices. These key data are summarized as follows:

Of the 52 prisoners enrolled in the program:

1. 7 (13.5%) were African American
2. 43 (82.7%) were Caucasian
3. 0 (0.0%) were Hispanic
4. 2 (3.8%) were of other races

Prisoners sentenced in 33 counties enrolled in the program.

Prisoner age at sentencing ranged from 19 years to 61 years, with the 18-22-year age group comprising 3.8 % of all admissions.

As of December 31, 2024, (9) SAI female prisoners were enrolled in the program.

Of the (61) SAI female prisoners who either completed or were terminated from the program:

(Note: Completed figures include prisoners who were already in the program as of January 1, 2023).

1. 50 (96%) successfully completed the program
2. 1 (2%) voluntarily withdrew
3. 0 (0%) was terminated as a rule violator

One (1) 2% SAI female prisoners were terminated for medical reasons (Note: Prisoners terminated for medical reasons or for being unqualified are reasons out of the prisoner's control).

SAI PRISONER AND PROBATIONER ADMISSIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE (Female)

The sentence for each of the 11 female probationers who entered the program during 2024 was used for the groupings listed below. For probationers serving more than one sentence, the sentence entered into the database first is listed.

The controlling sentence for each of the 52 SAI female prisoners who entered the program during 2024 was used for the groupings listed below. For prisoners serving more than one sentence, the sentence with the longest minimum term is the controlling sentence.

Each of the following offense type groupings contains offenses which are similar in nature. For example, the "Fraud" category contains all cases involving financial transactions where trickery or deceit was an element of the crime.

OFFENSE TYPE	PERCENT of TOTAL PROBATIONERS	PERCENT of TOTAL PRISONERS
1. Drug Offenses	63.6%	42.4 %
2. Home Invasion	0%	0%
3. Assault	18.2 %	17.3 %
4. Unlawful Driving	0%	17.3 %
5. Robbery	0%	0%
6. Larceny	9.1 %	0%
7. Fraud	0%	1.9 %
8. Weapons	0%	1.9 %
9. Breaking & Entering	0%	0%
10. Miscellaneous	9.1 %	19.2 %

Comparison of Outcomes: SAI-Prison vs. Non-SAI Paroles

In 2008 the SAI program was substantially modified to bring it into line with principles of the PR model and standards for Evidence Based Practices (EBP). Specifically, SAI was shifted from a strictly military style Boot Camp approach to an approach focused on individualized assessment of risk and needs and programs targeted to factors associated with each trainee's criminality.

A key element of the restructuring of the SAI program was to contract with Dr. James Austin of the JFA Institute to conduct a scientifically rigorous process and outcomes evaluation of the "new SAI". Previous SAI assessments (e.g., MDOC reports of SAI vs. non-SAI recidivism, Auditor General study of SAI) have generally concluded that SAI outcomes were no worse or even slightly better than non-SAI results. They also agreed that SAI reduces MDOC bed needs due to the shorter length of prison stay for SAI participants. However, none of those studies utilized a rigorously matched Comparison Group, making it impossible to estimate actual net effects of SAI. Further, those studies reported results for the "old SAI," prior to its 2008 modifications.

The JFA evaluation was conducted in two parts. The first phase of the study was a process evaluation designed to assess the extent to which SAI had been transformed from a Boot Camp to an Intensive Reentry program. The process assessment included objective data on changes to assessment, programming, community collaboration and program success rates. In addition, the researchers collected qualitative data regarding how both trainees and staff viewed the changes to the program and the extent to which the culture of SAI has been changed to match the structural changes. In other words, the process assessment measured the extent to which actual practice matched theory.

Several key findings emerged from the JFA process evaluation. Among the more important are:

- The process evaluation found that the recommended changes in program screening and intervention/programmatic structure were successfully made in the SAI program. These changes significantly enhanced SAI's potential to reduce recidivism, the MDOC population and agency costs.
- These program modifications positioned the SAI program to continue to produce cost-effective reductions in the Michigan prison population without jeopardizing public safety.
- The modified SAI program is clearly saving significant prison bed space and should be able to demonstrate lower recidivism rates in the future.

Once it was concluded that the SAI program had been successfully transformed, the decision was taken to proceed with the outcome evaluation phase of the study. The outcome evaluation used a comparison group matched on key characteristics, including age, race, gender, current offense, and risk. Thus, the comparison group had similar likelihoods of recidivism apart from the effects of SAI and any differences in outcomes found can be reliably attributed to the effects of the SAI program.

Because the changes to the SAI program were so fundamental, results for participants who went through the program before late 2008 are not informative about the effects of the program as currently constituted. Thus, outcomes reported here are limited to those contained in the Impact Evaluation phase of the JFA evaluation. These results are limited to twelve month follow up, but plans are in place to continue to follow graduates of the modified SAI program to obtain two (and ultimately three) years of outcomes data. Results for the twelve month follow up are summarized in the table following.

Four separate outcomes are reported: Return as Technical Violator, Return with a New Sentence, Conviction for

a New Crime and Arrest for a New Felony. Two levels of comparison are of interest in determining the effects of SAI.

1. Comparison of results for the Matched Comparison Group to those for all non-SAI parolees provides a measure of how participants who look like SAI trainees would be expected to perform on parole relative to the overall parole population. In other words, what would their recidivism rate be without SAI?

2. Comparison of outcomes for SAI graduates to the Comparison Group measures the net effects of SAI on recidivism after other participant characteristics are controlled for. In other words, this comparison captures the **net effects** of the SAI program itself.

2024 Admissions by Month (Males)

Month	Male Probationers	Male Prisoners
January	1	16
February	2	35
March	6	31
April	9	22
May	0	25
June	4	16
July	4	28
August	1	23
September	4	11
October	5	33
November	2	11
December	0	14

2024 Admissions by Month (Females)

Month	Female Probationers	Female Prisoners
January	3	8
February	1	7
March	0	9
April	1	7
May	0	3
June	0	0
July	2	1
August	2	4
September	0	3
October	1	2
November	1	4
December	0	4

2024 Monthly Population Totals (Males)

Month	Male Probationers	Male Prisoners
January	5	66
February	8	78
March	8	81
April	15	89
May	14	78
June	14	66
July	13	61
August	7	68
September	9	60
October	10	65
November	11	59
December	6	60

2024 Monthly Population Totals (Females)

Month	Female Probationers	Female Prisoners
January	0	12
February	2	15
March	2	21
April	3	25
May	1	19
June	1	10
July	2	4
August	4	9
September	3	9
October	2	8
November	1	9
December	1	10

2024 MONTHLY PROGRAM OUTCOMES – SAI PRISONER (Males)

	Successful Completion	Rule Violator	Voluntary Withdrawal	Medical Termination	Unqualified	Totals
JANUARY	13	0	0	1	0	14
FEBRUARY	22	0	1	0	0	23
MARCH	29	2	0	0	0	31
APRIL	18	1	0	0	0	19
MAY	32	0	0	0	0	32
JUNE	30	0	0	0	0	30
JULY	26	0	1	0	0	27
AUGUST	22	0	0	1	0	23
SEPTEMBER	18	1	0	0	0	19
OCTOBER	30	2	0	0	0	32
NOVEMBER	16	0	0	0	0	16
DECEMBER	14	0	0	0	1	14
TOTAL	270	6	2	2	1	281

2024 MONTHLY PROGRAM OUTCOMES – SAI PRISONER (Female)

	Successful Completion	Rule Violator	Voluntary Withdrawal	Medical Termination	Unqualified	Totals
JANUARY	4	0	0	0	0	4
FEBRUARY	5	0	0	0	0	5
MARCH	0	0	0	0	0	0
APRIL	8	0	0	0	0	8
MAY	6	0	0	0	0	6
JUNE	9	0	1	0	0	10
JULY	7	0	0	0	0	7
AUGUST	3	0	0	0	0	3
SEPTEMBER	0	0	0	0	0	0
OCTOBER	1	0	0	0	0	1
NOVEMBER	4	0	0	0	0	4
DECEMBER	3	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	50	0	1	0	0	51

2024 MONTHLY PROGRAM OUTCOMES – PROBATIONER (Males)

	Successful Completion	Rule Violator	Voluntary Withdrawal	Medical Termination	Unqualified	Totals
JANUARY	1	1	0	0	0	2
FEBRUARY	1	0	0	0	0	1
MARCH	3	1	0	0	0	4
APRIL	1	0	0	0	0	1
MAY	2	0	0	0	1	3
JUNE	3	0	0	0	0	3
JULY	9	1	0	1	0	11
AUGUST		0	0	0	0	0
SEPTEMBER	3	0	0	0	0	3
OCTOBER	3	0	0	0	0	3
NOVEMBER	1	0	0	0	0	1
DECEMBER	4	1	0	0	0	5
TOTAL	31	4	0	1	1	37

2024 MONTHLY PROGRAM OUTCOMES – PROBATIONER (Female)

	Successful Completion	Rule Violator	Voluntary Withdrawal	Medical Termination	Unqualified	Totals
JANUARY	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	0	0	0	0	0
MARCH	0	0	0	0	0	1
APRIL	1	0	0	2	0	3
MAY	1	0	0	0	0	1
JUNE	0	0	0	0	0	0
JULY	1	0	0	0	0	0
AUGUST	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEPTEMBER	0	0	0	0	0	0
OCTOBER	2	0	0	0	0	2
NOVEMBER	2	0	0	0	0	2
DECEMBER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	7	0	0	2	0	9

COMPARATIVE PROGRAM OUTCOMES – SAI PRISONER/PROBATIONER MALES 2023 AND 2024

	PRISONERS		PROBATIONERS	
	2024	**2023**	**2024**	**2023**
Terminations				
Successful Completions	270 (96%)	238 (96.3%)	31 (83%)	31 (91.2%)
Voluntary Withdrawals	2 (.007%)	0	0	1 (3%)
Rule Violators	6 (2.2%)	8 (3.2%)	4 (11%)	1 (3%)
Total	278	246	35	33
Unqualified				
Medical Terminations	2 (.007%)	1 (.004%)	1 (2.7%)	1 (3%)
Unqualified by statute	1 (.003%)	0	1 (2.7%)	0
Total Program Exits	281	247	37	34

COMPARATIVE PROGRAM OUTCOMES – SAI PRISONER FEMALES 2023 AND 2024

	PRISONERS		PROBATIONERS	
	2024	**2023**	**2024**	**2023**
Terminations				
Successful Completions	50 (98%)	67 (94%)	7 (78%)	5 (63%)
Voluntary Withdrawals	1 (2%)	0	0	0
Rule Violators	0	0	0	0
Total	51	67	7	5
Unqualified	0	0	0	0
Medical Terminations	0	4 (6%)	2 (22%)	3 (37%)
Unqualified by statute	0	0	0	0
Total Program Exits	51	71	9	8