



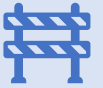
## Topical Area: Corrections and Juvenile Rehabilitation

Father Daughter Dance at Cedar Creek March 6, 2024



### What works for fathers:

- Peer mentors inside and out make a huge difference
- Some dads, like those in Strength in Families get extra support to find housing when many won't rent to felons.
- Getting set up with Medicaid, an ID before release
- SIF, PIO, GRE, Parenting Sentencing Alternative all help dads reunite with their family
- Education supports while inside like trades and GED
- Child Support abatement helps reduce –legal financial obligations
- Currently incarcerated father sharing their stories through Council events
- When dads can visit with their kids while incarcerated it keep the bonds, it keeps them more motivated, and reunification easier.



### What doesn't work for fathers:

- Coming out of prison with large debt -fines, fees, costs, restitution, child support
- Experiences of facing stigma upon re-entry – lifetime lack of amnesty
- Need more coordination with outside systems and services
- Placement far from kids so visiting is almost impossible
- Gatekeeping by mom and her family can really shut dad out



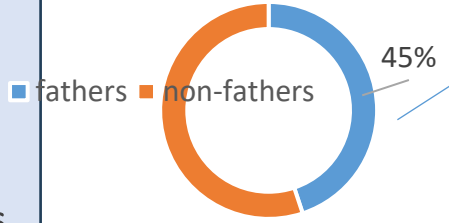
### What needs to change:

- Lots of programs in some prisons and in the community but no programs in other prisons need more access in all facilities
- Fathers need support in navigating and scheduling visitation, particularly when co-parenting is difficult
- More SIF, PIO, and Family Navigators in all facilities fully staffed
- See incarnated individuals as parents and share success stories

## Current State: Data Summary

# of fathers  
Relevant  
Father  
Statistics

### DOC male population



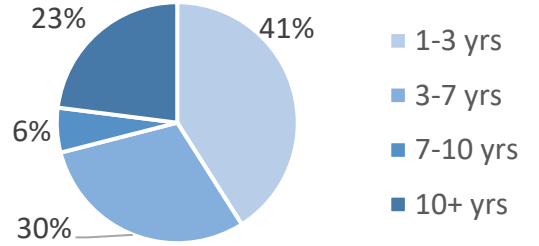
- Of the 12,655 DOC fathers:
- Under Community Supervision 6,473
  - Under Total Confinement (Prisons) 5,412
  - Other: 770

Of the 28,172 DOC males, 12,655 (45%) identify as fathers with a minor child



**12,655 DOC Fathers**  
Impacting 40,875 children and 20,375 co-parent

### Avg Sentence of a Father



Majority of fathers are sentenced to 7 years or less (41% 1-3 years, 30% 3-7 years)

While 45% of the male population under the DOC jurisdiction identify as a father with a minor child, **only 7% of the fathers receive visits from a minor** across prison and community facilities

Visitation<sup>1</sup>

- Across the 10 prison facilities, 908 men received at least one minor visitor; 1,738 total visits from minors
- Across re-entry centers, 17 men received at least one minor visitor; 6 women received at least one minor visitor; total of 33 minor visitors with 124 total visits
- Minor visitors may be siblings, children, stepchildren, cousins, nephews, nieces, etc. the report is not

# Agency Overview – Programmatic Overview (1 of 2)



Program	Parent Sentencing Alternatives (PSA): CPA / FOSA	Strength In Families (SIF)	Parent Navigator Program / Family Reunification
<b>Description</b>	Family and Offender Sentencing Alternative (FOSA) and Community Parenting Alternative (CPA) are alternatives to prison confinement for nonviolent offenders with minor children - reentry planning, community transition, early release via electronic home monitoring, intensive community case management, assistance and resource support to the reentered parent and their children/families.	SIF is a DOC-funded program for incarcerated and recently released parents. Components of this program consist of parenting and relationship skill building, assistance for Child Welfare involved families, reentry planning assistance, community transition, intensive community case management, resource support to the reentered parent and their children/families.	Funded through a legislative proviso, Parent Navigators work with incarcerated parents that have a child(ren) involved in dependency matters. They focus on individualized reunification and/or guardianship plans, identify barriers to parent/child visitation and create new pathways to collaborate with DCYF to achieve service plan goals, identify services, attend dependency court reviews, and deliver Dependency 101 education classes.
<b>Location / Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(3) Stafford Creek Corrections Center (Aberdeen), Washington Correction Center-Training Center (Shelton), Cedar Creek Corrections Center (Rochester)</li> <li>(11) Community facilities and related Reentry Centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(2) Prison facilities: Airway Heights Corrections Center (Spokane) and Washington Corrections Center for Women (Purdy)</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2.9M per biennium (new 3-year grant for \$750,000)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.35M FY 2023; \$1.48M FY 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$300,000 FY 2024</li> </ul>
<b># of participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>456 participated (from 2010 – 2023)</li> <li>68 currently enrolled (majority in the community)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Max caseload: 15 per specialist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>984 enrolled (2016-2023)</li> <li>156 currently enrolled<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Max caseload: 35 per case manager (4 of case managers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38 men currently enrolled (program started in 2023); 88 total participants (men and women)</li> <li>Reasonable caseload: 25 per parent navigator</li> </ul>
<b># of children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>169 children in active/current caseload</li> <li>92 children for FOSA, and</li> <li>77 children for CPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avg 3.2 children per SIF participant</li> <li>69 of 156 (44%) active/current Child Welfare cases</li> <li>55 of 156 (35%) active/current Child Support orders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38 active/current Child Welfare cases for men; 88 total active/current Child Welfare cases (men and women parents)</li> </ul>
<b>Staffing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Administrator</li> <li>3 Supervisors/Managers</li> <li>8 Case Managers</li> <li>1 Administrative Support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Supervisors/Managers</li> <li>4 Case Managers</li> <li>1 Administrative Support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Parent Navigator dedicated to fathers; 1 dedicated to Mother</li> </ul>
<b>Recidivism / return to prison rate)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.7% (as compared to male average of 23%); <i>It took 5 years until a father -participant of CPA returned to prison</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not currently tracked, will track it (by 3-year time period, and need to have a large enough comparison group (&gt;1000) to call it recidivism, otherwise called return to prison rates)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> PSA data is currently available data that was compiled from all active participants (including those in facilities and in the community) as of 7/1/2022

# Agency Overview – Programmatic Overview (2 of 2)



Program	Parenting Inside Out <sup>3</sup>	Statewide Visitation Program <sup>2</sup>	Family Centered Services
<b>Description</b>	An evidence-based parenting skills training program developed for justice involved parents. PIO has a proven impact on reducing recidivism and criminal behavior while improving family relationships and parenting skills.	DOC has in-person visits at all prisons and Reentry Centers. Prison visits consist of 3 types; regular visits, no contact visits, video visits on Securus, There are also Extended Family Visiting (EFV) are offered at every prison. Most of the Visit Program funding comes from the General Fund and the Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund.	DOC has a variety of services which assist in maintaining and strengthening family relationships during incarceration, detailed below.
<b>Location / Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two separate pathways: SIF offers PIO at Cedar Creek Corrections Center, Stafford Creek Corrections Center and Washington Corrections Center; other facilities offer as able, through paid DOC staff volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide availability for in-person visits</li> <li>Statewide availability for EFV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide availability throughout the year</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No dedicated funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility Visit Programs: Individual DOC facilities are responsible for funding much of their own visit programs</li> <li>Visit Room Photo Program: \$24,000 FY 2024</li> <li>Extended Family Visiting: \$250,000 FY 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$554,600 FY 2024 (includes programs and events for prisons, reentry centers, criminal justice centers, lodging and transport assistance, Parenting Inside Out)</li> <li>Family Centered Services are funded by the Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund.</li> </ul>
<b># of participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>968 completed (between 2006-2023)<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<p>From 7/1/2023 – 12/31/2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All prison facilities, 908 men received at least one minor visitor; 1,738 total visits from minors</li> <li>Re-entry centers, 17 men received at least one minor visitor; 6 women received at least one minor visitor; total of 33 minor visitors with 124 total visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>521 for FY24 only (July 1-December 31, 2023) incarcerated men participating in family programs</li> </ul>

1. Staffing shared across programs: The only dedicated, paid PIO instructors are with the SIF program (3 instructors at 3 facilities), and Parent Navigator program (2 instructors at 2 facilities). The rest of the classes statewide are taught by volunteer DOC staff. Family Friendly events generally coincide with visitation; therefore, extra staffing is not required, however is sometimes provided.

2. For statewide visitation: minor visitors may be siblings, children, stepchildren, cousins, nephews, nieces, etc. The report isn't limited to immediate family only, the numbers provided are of all minor visitors.

3. Data is for DOC males who have completed Parenting Inside Out/SIF Parenting Inside Out as of 10/31/2023. Data includes males who have completed PIO or SIF PIO and whose course completion and/or program certificate was entered in OMNI.



## Current State: Programs Overview

### Program Outcomes and Outputs

**Parent Sentencing Alternative (PSA): 68 currently enrolled, as of Jan 2024 (456 completed program 2010-2023).**

*"It was 5 years since the program started before a father (participant of PSA) returned to prison"*

- **Strength in Families (SIF): 156 currently enrolled, as of Jan 2024 (984 enrolled in program 2016-2023).** Program for incarcerated and recently released parents. Some, but not all, components of this program consist of parenting and relationship skill building, assistance with improving family bonds, and assistance for DCYF involved families (i.e., dependency).
- **Parent Navigator / Family Reunification Program: 38 men currently enrolled, as of Jan 2024.** Program that support incarcerated parents with active DCYF cases, in dependency and family reunification upon release; intended to help strengthen the parent/child relationship with the goal of increasing the child's success, reduce intergenerational incarceration and recidivism<sup>3</sup>.
- **Parenting Inside Out (PIO): 968 completed the program (2006-2023).** Parenting skills training program developed for justice-involved parents.

## 10.7% recidivism

Parent Sentencing Alternative (PSA)  
(Compared to 23% recidivism male avg)



There are 291 spots across PSA, SIF, Family Reunification father-inclusive and father-specific specialized programs can serve about **2.3% of the total 12,655 justice-involved fathers** (recognizing not all fathers will qualify for programs). While not all programs have tracked recidivism or return-to-prison rates, PSA has a 10.7% recidivism rate (as compared to the DOC male average of 23%)

Within the state's 10 male-only prison facilities...

Only 3 have the Strength in Families (SIF) program



Only 1 has the Parent Navigator / Family Reunification program



Source: Data provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) for the Study

# ● Adult Corrections

## Current State: Levels of Maturity Across Areas

### Policies

3 Action

**Father/family-friendly policies have been updated** to improve the experience of parenting while justice involved<sup>1</sup>.

- Parent Sentencing Alternative,
- Extended Family Visitation,
- Reduction of child support payments while parents are incarcerated,
- Family Reunification Services,
- Parent Navigators - pilot

### Funding and Resources

2 Aware

Only a small percentage of fathers/parents can access family support programs.  
**Additional sources of funding are required** for high-quality and sustainable programming across all facilities and in all communities.

### Systems

3 Action

A key strategic **focus across state agencies such as DOC, DCYF, Commerce, DSHS is on the seamless integration of state and local resources** to support justice involved families, reentry readiness and navigational supports.

### Services and Programs

3 Action

There are various programs **offered to fathers within the Corrections system** that have proven significant positive impact  
 DOC has demonstrated action to customizing and adapting programs that support the unique needs of fathers.

### Data and Monitoring

3 Action

Program enrollment and associated recidivism data is available.  
 There are opportunities to collect parenthood status data at intake more systematically

### Equity Considerations

3 Action

Intergenerational incarceration rates broken down by racial subgroup highlight the **importance of family-supportive programming** that disrupts these cycles.  
 DOC is looking at intergeneration impacts, whole family approaches, and racial/ethnic disparities



# Agency Successes

## State Level Snapshot

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has strong **awareness** for the need of father-inclusive policies, **demonstrated action** in delivering fatherhood intensive programming (e.g., Parenting Sentencing Alternative, Strength in Families, DOC Statewide Visitation Program, Parent Navigators, Family Centered Services, and Parenting Inside Out), and has **integrated** in partnerships with DCYF, DOH, Commerce, DSHS, and other partners.

- Some programs and services are limited such Parent Navigators in only 2 facilities and Strength in Families offered at 3 facilities in Western WA.
- Policies: Parenting Sentencing Alternative (PSA) is a bright spot in maintaining family connection, Extended Family Visitation policy supports families; 61 sons and daughters of incarcerated fathers participated in EFV visits in 2023 (until 12/1/2023); Family Services and Family Council policies
- The DOC Divisions offer support services that are father-inclusive and include:
  - Prisons Division: Parent Navigation which assists parent with Access to court hearings with DCYF, family court, visitation rights, parental rights, access to a public defender, access to parentage establishment services connecting fathers to DNA testing
  - Reentry & Correctional Industries Division: Resource navigation, transitional housing, support obtaining a state ID card

## Community Snapshot

### Bright spot:

- Projects to improve visitation rooms are underway, including training for correctional staff to support family visitations
- DOC parent program staff (Parenting Sentencing Alternative, Strength in Families, Parent Navigators, Family Centered Services) participate yearly on numerous father/child focused councils/committees and conduct presentation to raise awareness
- DOC parent program staff have participated in ALL Fathers Matter Community Café's sponsored by the Fatherhood Council to support reentry Dad in sharing their voices



# ● Corrections Metrics

## Future State: System-Level Recommendations and Outcome Metrics

### Recommended Impact Outcomes & Supporting Data Metrics

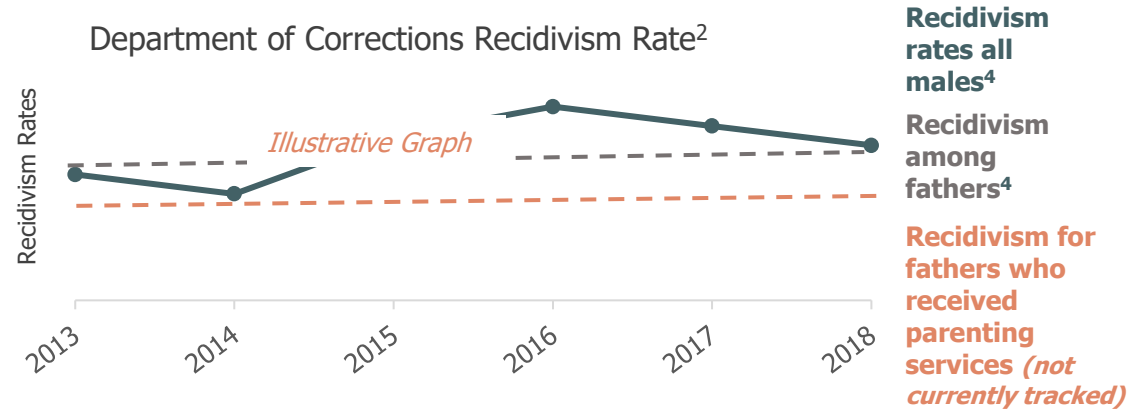


If WA can successfully track the number of fathers in the corrections and rehabilitation systems, those receiving services, and associated recidivism rates, it would be possible to **measure the impact of father-specific and father-supportive services affecting dad’s wellbeing, reentry success, and recidivism.**

### Metrics to track system-wide

<p><b>Number</b> # of fathers in the Justice system</p>	<p><b>Services</b> # of fathers who receive services while incarcerated / on reentry</p>	<p><b>Impact metric<sup>1</sup></b> Recidivism rates based on father-status and services received</p>
<p>Intermittently available, limited accuracy</p>	<p>Data Available</p>	<p>Available for Some Programs</p>

### Example Data Outcome to Track & Monitor



Research shows the importance of family connection and reunification in reducing recidivism.<sup>3</sup> The positive impact of providing father-supportive programs could be demonstrated in a time series downwards trend of **recidivism or return to prison rates for fathers who received parenting services**, or a lower recidivism rate as compared to all males or all fathers.

1. In addition to recidivism, other impact metrics could be desistance for the juvenile population, or tracking qualitatively if an individual does return to prison was it on a higher, lower, or equal crime/felony level  
 2. Adult recidivism measured by criminal acts that result in a return to a Department prison facility with or without a new sentence during a three-year period (36 months) after being released from prison. Source: <https://www.doc.wa.gov/information/definitions.htm>  
 3. US DOJ Office of Justice Programs, “Inmate Social Ties and the Transition to Society: Does Visitation Reduce Recidivism?”, 2008. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/inmate-social-ties-and-transition-society-does-visitation-reduce->; Minnesota Department of Corrections, “The Effects of Prisoner Visitation on Offender Recidivism”, 2011. [https://mn.gov/doc/assets/11-11MNPisonVisitationStudy\\_tcm1089-272781.pdf](https://mn.gov/doc/assets/11-11MNPisonVisitationStudy_tcm1089-272781.pdf)  
 4. Based on DOC reporting from 1/8/2024, “Request Title: SP5710 Fatherhood Study - Recidivism Rate”, Data Source(s) and Date: OMNI data, as of 12/31/2023, the recidivism rate based on those released in 2019, over a 3-year period, for all males was 23.89%, for those who identified as a father was 23.91%

# Agency Commitments



## Future Commitments

Policies	Funding and Resources	Cross-Agency Partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance existing policies to direct staff to increase assistance to parents involved in Child Welfare and Child Support</li> <li>Create more transparency, awareness, and outreach during intake to enable parents to be more comfortable disclosing their parental status</li> <li>Create policies &amp; procedures to support and offer parentage establishment services such as DNA testing for incarcerated fathers in order to support continued engagement and access to their children while incarcerated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance funding for programs that provide support to parents - Parenting Sentencing Alternative, Strength in Families, Parent Navigators;</li> <li>Enhance and fund a centralized DOC team that provides support and resources to incarcerated fathers and their families.</li> <li>Increase financial visitation assistance to non-custodial parents bringing children to visits regardless of miles traveled. Current policy requires travel to be &gt;150 miles away for an approved visitor to request \$50 a maximum of twice per month.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family navigators, Community Corrections Officers, reentry case managers connect reentry/released individuals to a wide-variety of community resources.</li> <li>Work on solutions to complicated legal matters -child welfare, child support, and family court matters.</li> <li>DOC has improved housing voucher policy 1) An individual does not have to be homeless to qualify for a voucher, 2) No longer have to show indigence (no money) to qualify for voucher; improving the policy by increasing voucher fund amount to \$700/month up to 6 months</li> <li>Increase so every prison facility has parent navigators</li> <li>Continue partnership with the Statewide Reentry Council</li> </ul>
Services and Programs	Data and Monitoring	Community-Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate alumni participants from DOC parenting programs or program volunteers to support, and mentor participants in the programs</li> <li>Offer more parenting classes during incarceration and enhance with paid instructors for PIO (or similar parenting program), co-parenting, dependency/child welfare systems, and participation in parent-teacher conferences.</li> <li>Expand parent specific case management support statewide in both facilities and the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve process of data collection: DOC attempts to collect parenting demographic data via <i>The WA ONE</i> series of questions. Possible process improvement includes increased consistency of conducting the interview and consistency in quality of recorded answers.</li> <li>At facility reception center intake, create more awareness and transparency for individuals to feel more comfortable on disclosing their parental status and children in their lives.</li> </ul>	<p>DOC parent specific program staff should continue to engage in community and outside DOC organizational committees to support ongoing efforts to support and improve father programs and services.</p> <p>Continue to conduct presentations in the community, to organizations, and other state agencies to build awareness and educate others on the services available, struggles, and needs of incarcerated fathers and their families and to build partnerships/relationships with those entities.</p>

# DOC Appendix: Agency Data (1 of 2)

## Additional Data Points

### Among all incarcerated individuals

Most common community correction violations for men who identify as fathers and are on community supervision <sup>2</sup>	% of total violation count	Legal Financial Obligation balance of DOC involved men who identify as fathers on the WA ONE <sup>1</sup>	% of DOC fathers / (% that reported a minor child)
Drug/alcohol	34%	\$500 or less	69% (20%)
Affirmative conduct (Failure to Obey All Laws, Failing to Work/Evaluations/Treatment/Programs as Required, Non-participation in Mental Health Treatment)	17%	Between \$1,000 - \$10,000	22% (41%)
High violation (Absconding, Prohibited Contacts, DV Violations, Search Refusal, Threatening/Assaultive Behavior, DOSA Violation, Weapons/Ammo Possession, Unapproved Residence.	15%	Over \$10,000	9% (9%)
Reporting	10%		
Geographic	10%		
Other	5%		
Financial	3%		
Sex offender	2%		
Alleged new crime	2%		
Contact	1%		
Prohibitions	0.75%		
Offender program	0.6%		
Court revocation	0.01%		

1. As of 10/31/2023 OMNI on the WA ONE.

2. Data represents all field violations across all time and may have occurred during a different DOC jurisdiction than they are currently serving on.

# DOC Appendix: Agency Data (2 of 2)

## Additional Data Points

### Strength in Families (SIF) program data

- Total # of SIF participants enrolled since 1/1/2016: 984
- Current # of active SIF participants: 156 (1.2% of the 12,655 of males that identify as fathers)
- SIF participants # of children (352 responses): 1,072 children under the age of 25. A total 55% of SIF participants have between 1-3 children, 31% have somewhere between 4-10 children.
- 100% of SIF participants polled had co-parents. 58% had one co-parent, 23% had two co-parents, and 19% had three or more co-parents.

Age of SIF participant	% of SIF participants <sup>1</sup>
18-20	2 (0.6%)
21-24	15 (4%)
25-34	134 (38%)
35-44	155 (44%)
45-54	45 (13%)
55-64	4 (1%)
65+	1 (0.3%)
Living prior to incarceration	% of SIF participants <sup>1</sup>
Rented	39%
Lived with family/friends	37%
Lived on streets/car	15%
Have owned a home	6%
Shelter/transitional housing	3%

Prior employment status	% of SIF participants <sup>1</sup>
Full time employment	40%
Illegal employment	26%
Not employed, able to work	16%
Not employed, unable	4%
Part time work	7%
Temporary, seasonal work	7%
Marital status prior to incarceration	% of SIF participants <sup>1</sup>
Have no current partner	42%
Romantically involved	24%
Married	22%
On again/off again relationship	12%

Top post-release financial challenges <sup>2</sup>	% of SIF participants <sup>1</sup>
Legal financial obligations	70%
Bad or no credit	68%
Finding affordable housing	59%
Child support payments	46%
Other debts owed	41%
Obtaining a bank account	35%
Financial literacy	22%
Phone/video chat with your children in the last month	% of SIF participants <sup>1</sup>
None	43%
1-3 times	40%
Daily/almost daily	17%
Legal order for child support	% of SIF participants <sup>1</sup>
Yes	50.4%
No	49.5%

1. SIF participant pre-program survey results (Feb 2021-Nov 2023). Between 350-360 participants polled per question.  
 2. Participants asked to pick top three.