



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. PREPARE

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PRISON SAFETY



September 2, 2020
Todd Ishee, Commissioner of Prisons



COVID-19 UPDATE

Offender Statistics

- 33,363 Offenders tested
- 1,970 Positive Results
- 31,393 Negative Results
- 1,624 Recovered Offenders
- 10 Offender Deaths
- Overall positivity rate 5.9%

Data as of 8/30/20

Mass Testing Operation

Mass testing of all offenders housed in NC Prisons commenced on June 22, 2020 and concluded on August 6, 2020.

2.1% Positivity Rate

Employee Statistics

- 645 Staff Positives
- 503 Recovered Staff
- 142 still out of work

Data as of 8/27/20

Since May 2020, staff have had unlimited access to free COVID-19 testing. Currently available thru October 31, 2020.



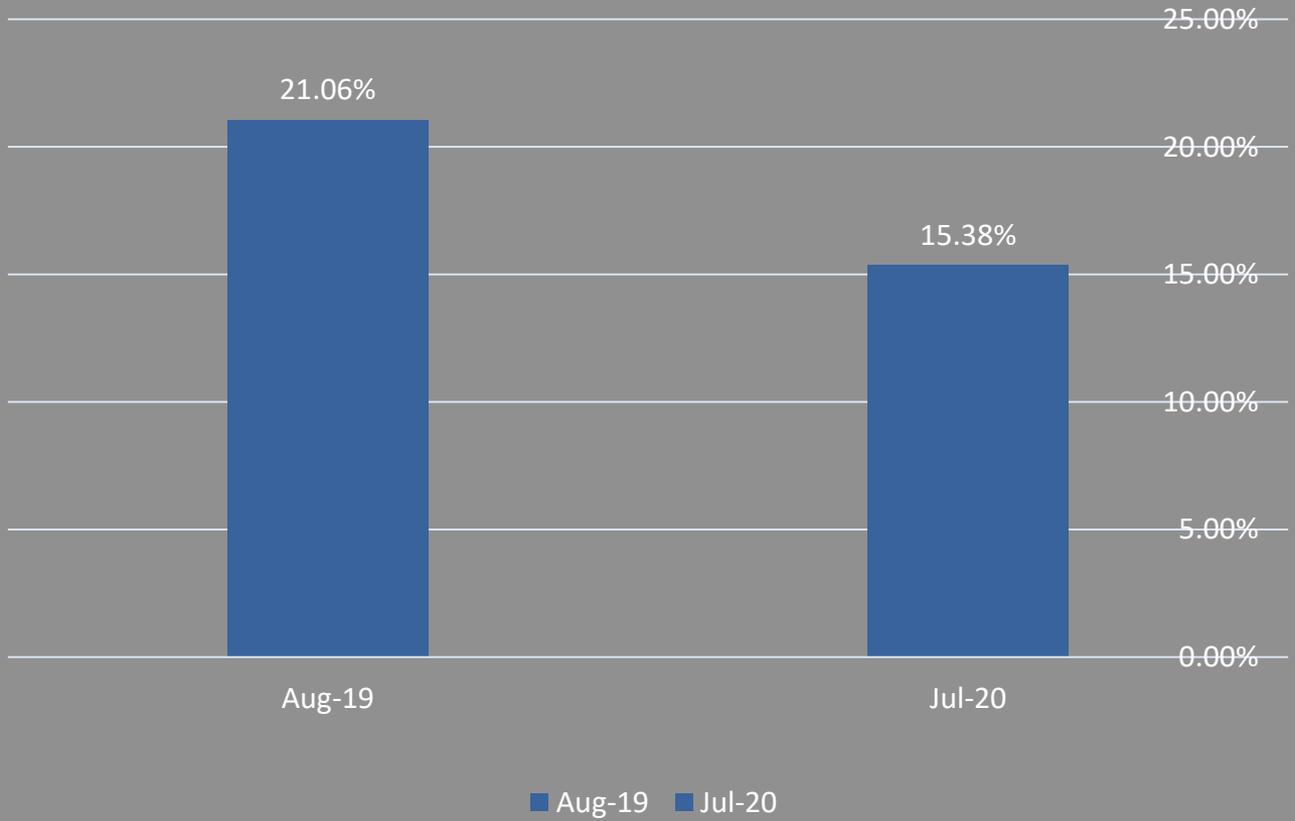


- *Created, produced, and distributed over 300,000 face masks to state/local agencies and active/retired state employees.*
- *Division of Prisons ordered 600,000 3-ply cloth face masks to be distributed to staff and offenders. Staff and offenders will receive five each once order is fulfilled.*
- *Correction Enterprise continues to distribute face masks, gowns, face shields, health partitions, floor decals, posters, and alcohol & non-alcohol based hand sanitizer.*



Correctional Officer Vacancy Rate Comparison

August 2019 vs. July 2020



Taser Rollout

- *Pilot was implemented in four close custody facilities in 2019*
 - *Maury*
 - *Scotland*
 - *Marion*
 - *Pasquotank*
- *Rollout complete at all 12 close custody facilities as of 9/1/20.*



New Correctional Officer Uniforms

- *100% polyester with EvoChill cooling technology, moisture wicking properties, and stretches to ensure comfort while remaining waterproof.*
- *BDU (Battle Dress Uniform) style black pants with six pockets, fabricated from a polyester & cotton material that provides stretch, lighter weight, and increased durability.*



Telehealth

Current Status

- *Telehealth unit in every NC Prison.*
- *Approximately 40,000 Tele Psychiatry encounters since 2019 inception.*
- *30 different specialty medical clinics in operation averaging 180 encounters per week.*
- *Staffing consists of 250 specialists from the UNC Healthcare System.*
- *Projected reduction in ER visits.*

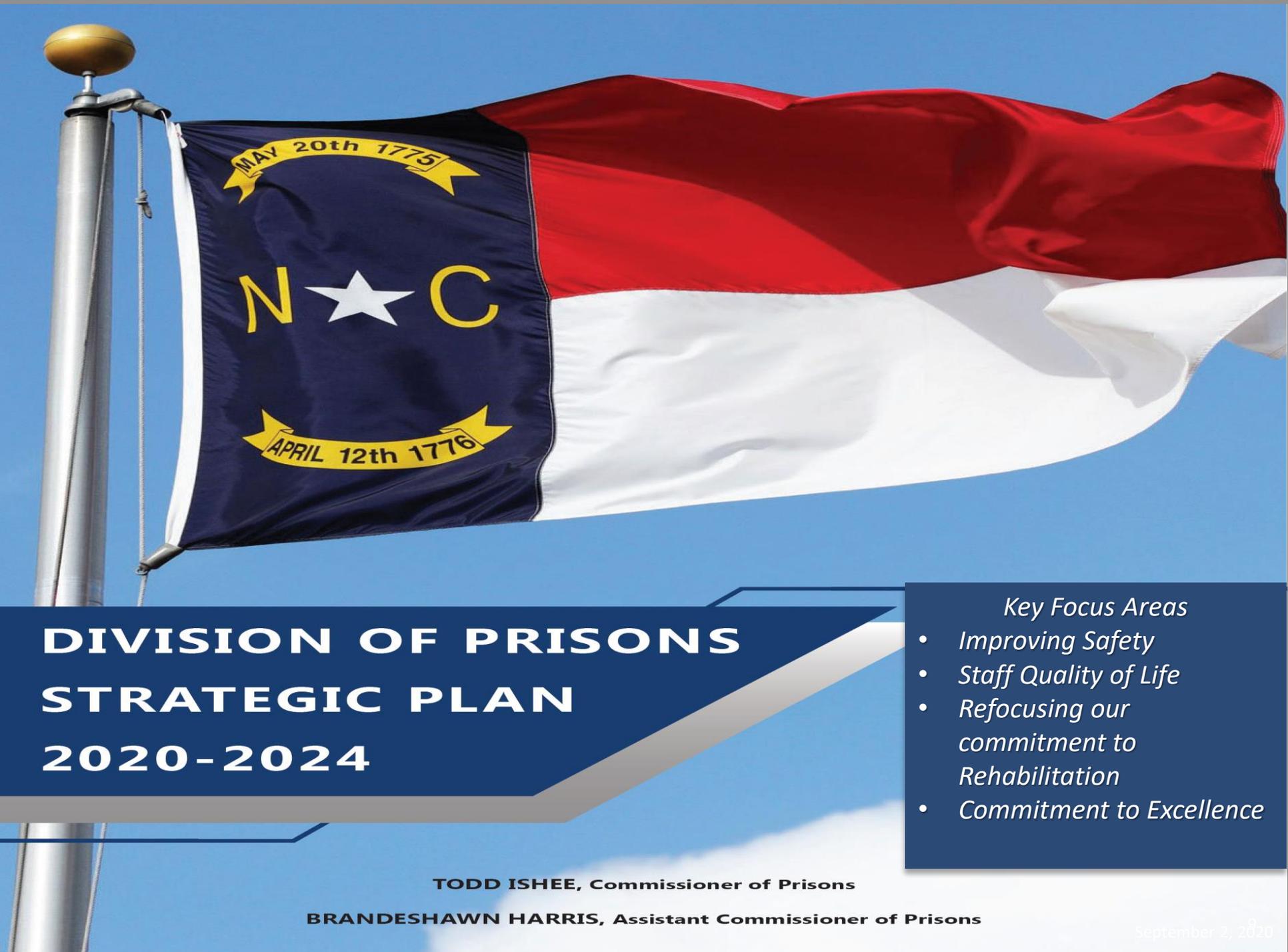
Benefits

- *Less offender transport outside of secure prison.*
- *Positive impact on officer staffing.*
- *Reduced offender and staff exposure to COVID-19*
- *More timely access to care for offenders*



New Custody Classification Instrument

- *Took effect on August 5, 2020*
- *Different instruments for male and female offenders.*
- *Used for both initial and annual classification reviews.*
- *Researched and developed in consultation with the National Institute of Corrections*



**DIVISION OF PRISONS
STRATEGIC PLAN
2020-2024**

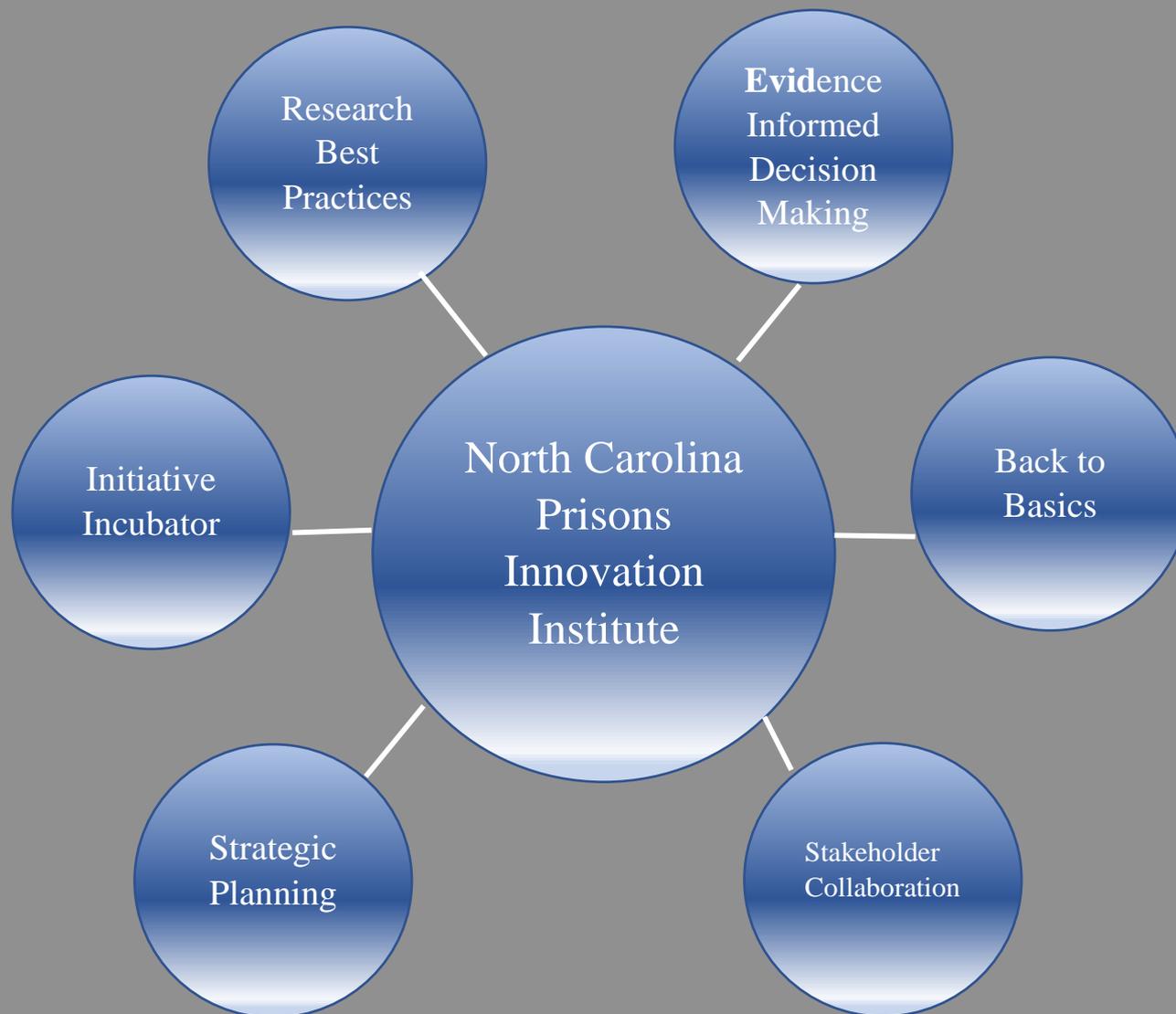
- Key Focus Areas*
- *Improving Safety*
 - *Staff Quality of Life*
 - *Refocusing our commitment to Rehabilitation*
 - *Commitment to Excellence*

TODD ISHEE, Commissioner of Prisons

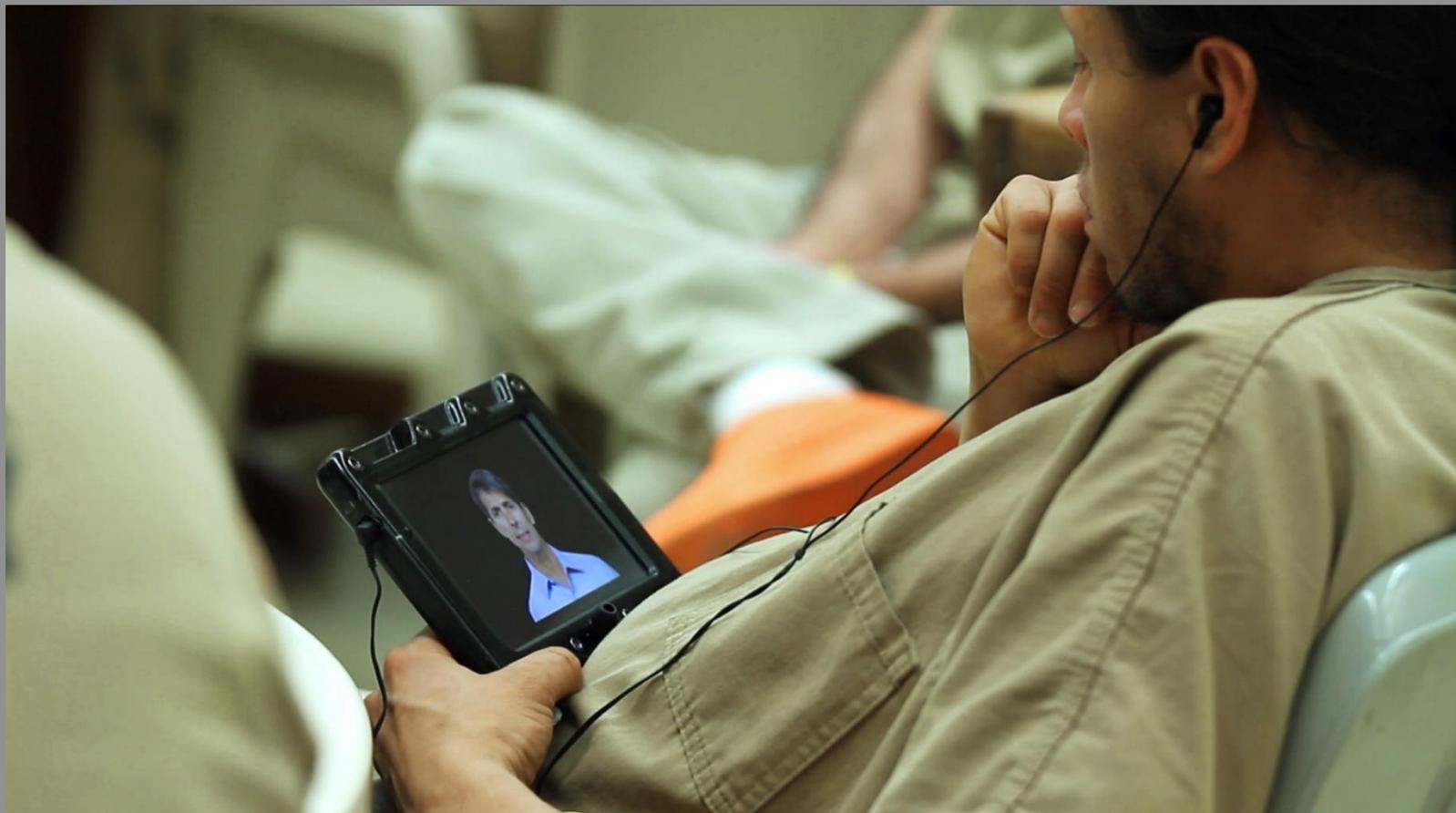
BRANDESHAWN HARRIS, Assistant Commissioner of Prisons

September 2, 2020

North Carolina Prisons Innovation Institute

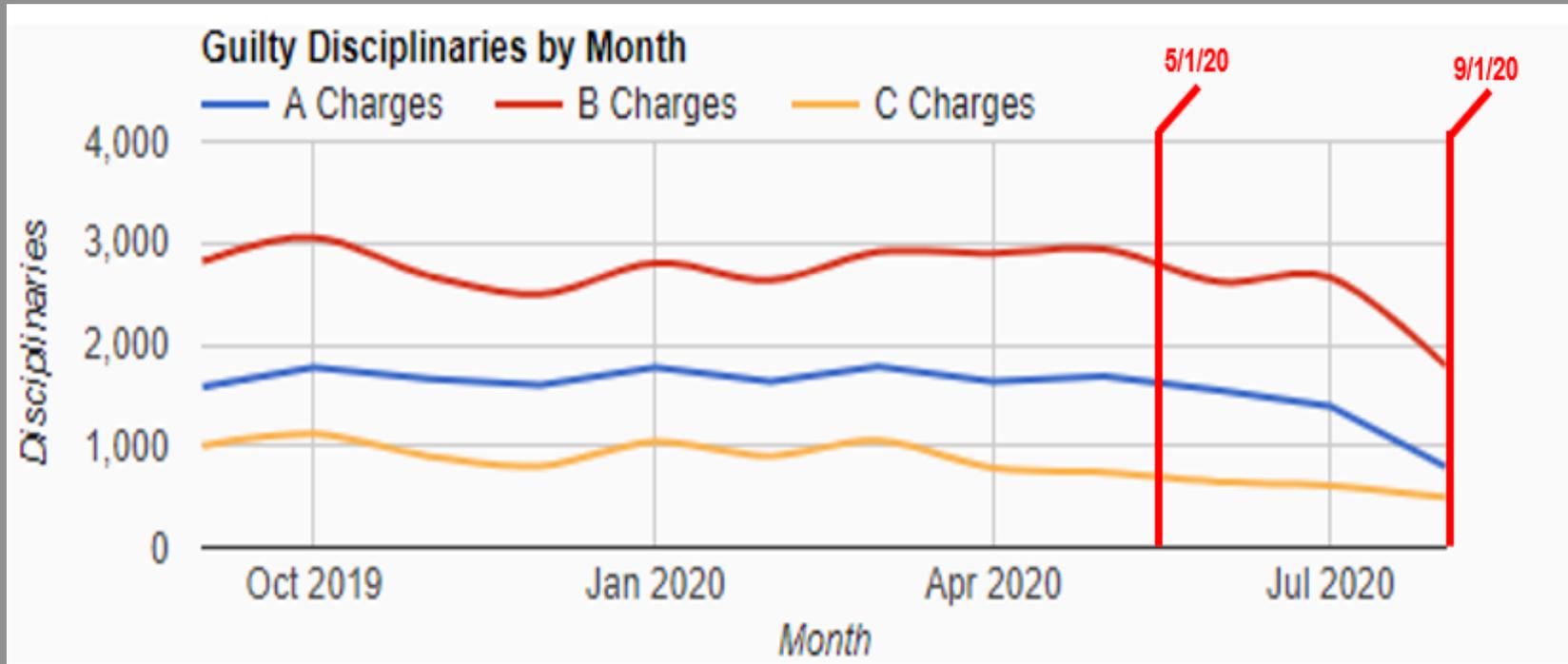


Offender Tablet Initiative



Safer Prisons Initiative

Incentive Time Sentence Credits



Questions?

