

The background of the slide is a photograph of the interior of a bus. It shows rows of blue seats with colorful patterns, yellow handrails, and windows looking out onto a city street. The lighting is warm and slightly blurred, giving a sense of movement or a candid shot.

# Transit Driver Shortage

Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency

By Jordan Poppe, Cale Nelson, Hector Rivera-Hernandez, Sam Smith





# Recommendation

Employ Reentering Citizens as Transit Drivers for HIRTA and Other Iowa Transit Agencies to Combat the Driver Shortage.

# Agenda

## The Project

- HIRTA
- Project Scope

## Impact on Society

- Driver Shortage
- Reentering Citizens
- Perception Survey

## Road Map to Implementation

- Key Players
- Limitations
- Stages





# HIRTA

- Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency
- Call-in public transit system
- Provides customer-focused community transportation
- Operates in 7 counties:
  - Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story and Warren.

# Project Scope

## Transit Driver Shortage Research

- What is the demand?

## Citizen Reentry Research

- Can they meet demand?

## Public Perception Survey

- Analysis and interpretation of data

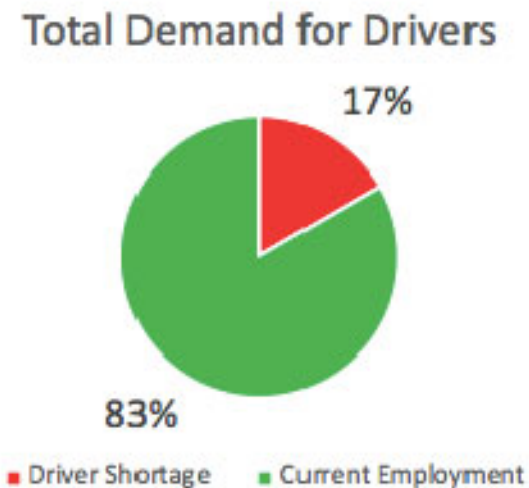
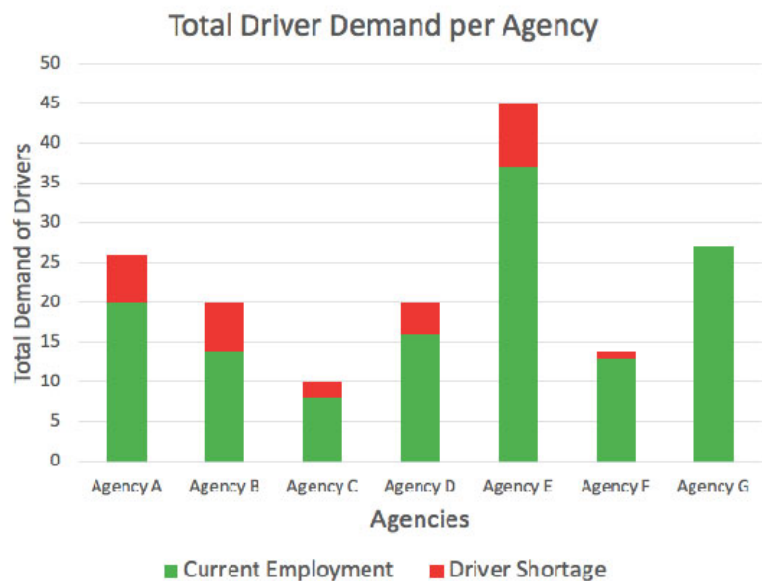
## Recommendations

- What is the future action plan for the project?

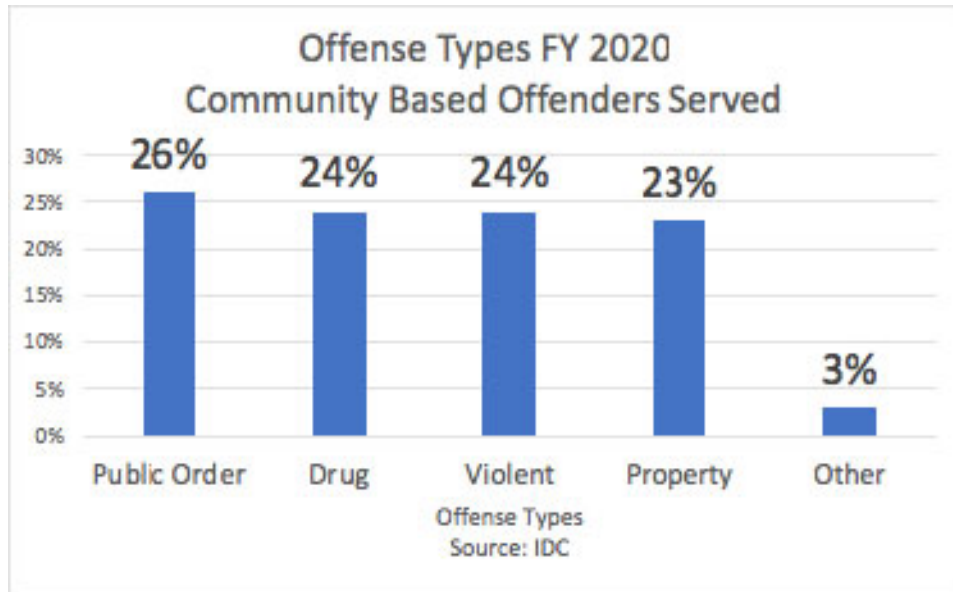
# Driver Shortage

In the U.S., 3 out of 4 transit agencies have shortage issues

In Iowa, there's a 17% shortage in drivers failing to meet demand



# Reentering Citizen Data

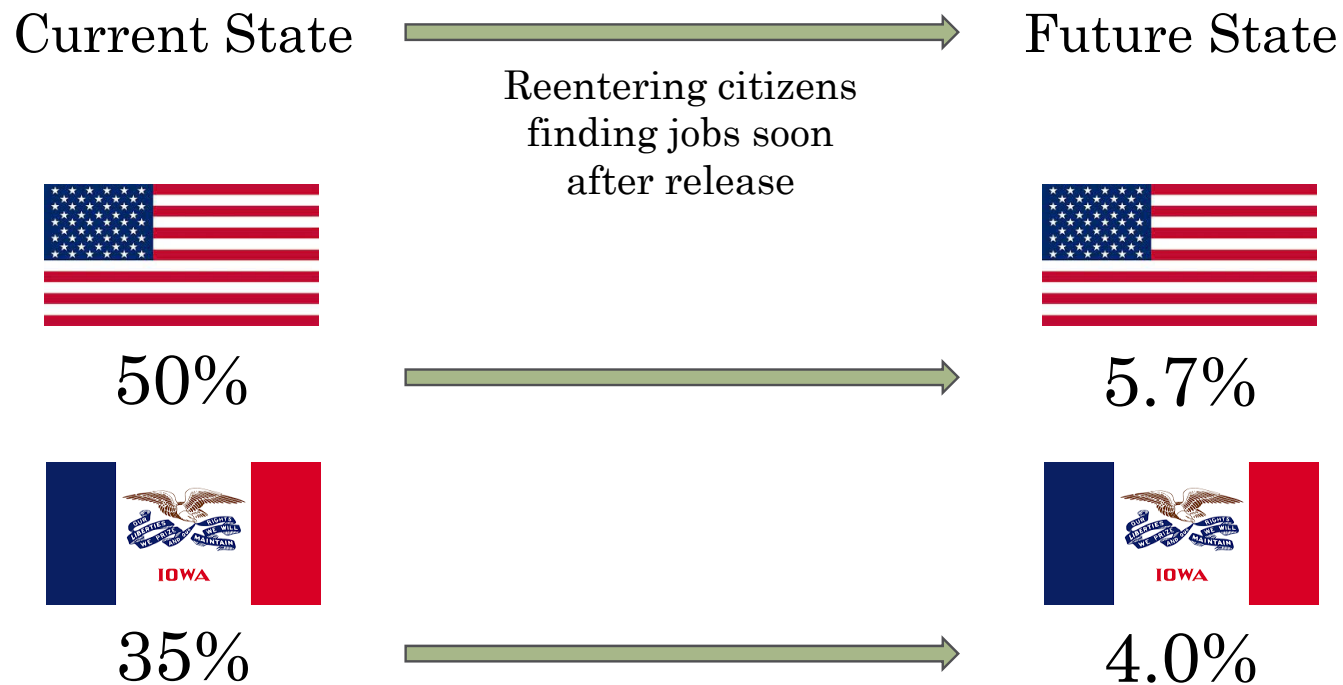


In the U.S., 55% of the current population are violent offenders

In Iowa, 73% of the released offenders would qualify for the program

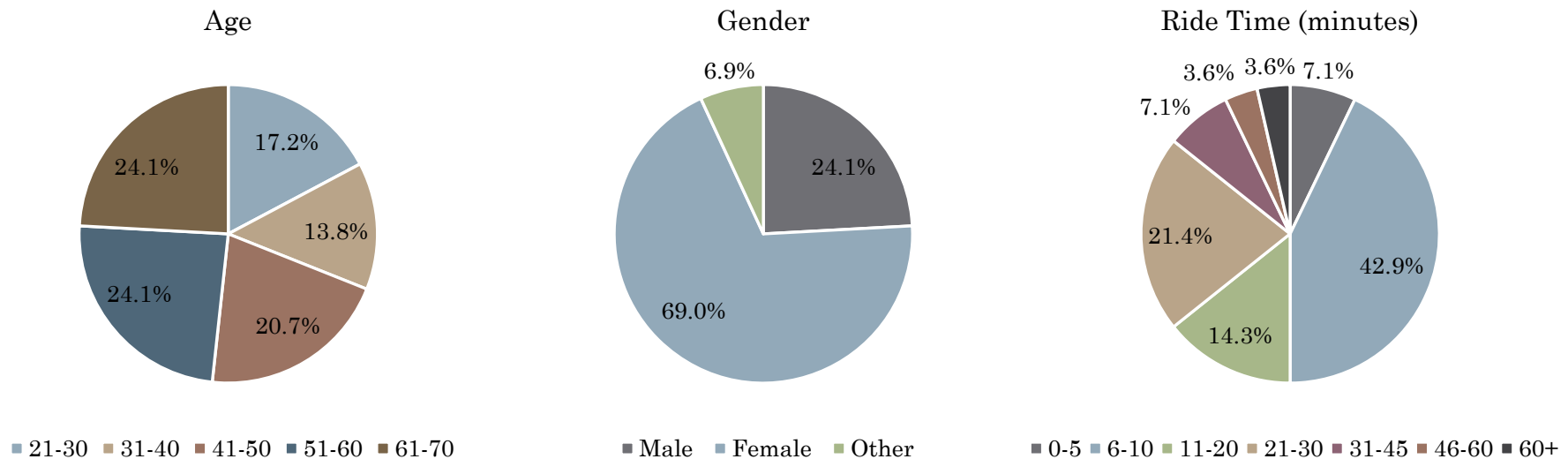
On a national level, prison population is aging, so non-violent offenders released would be younger

# Reducing Recidivism Rates for Reentering Citizens





# Customer Perception Survey



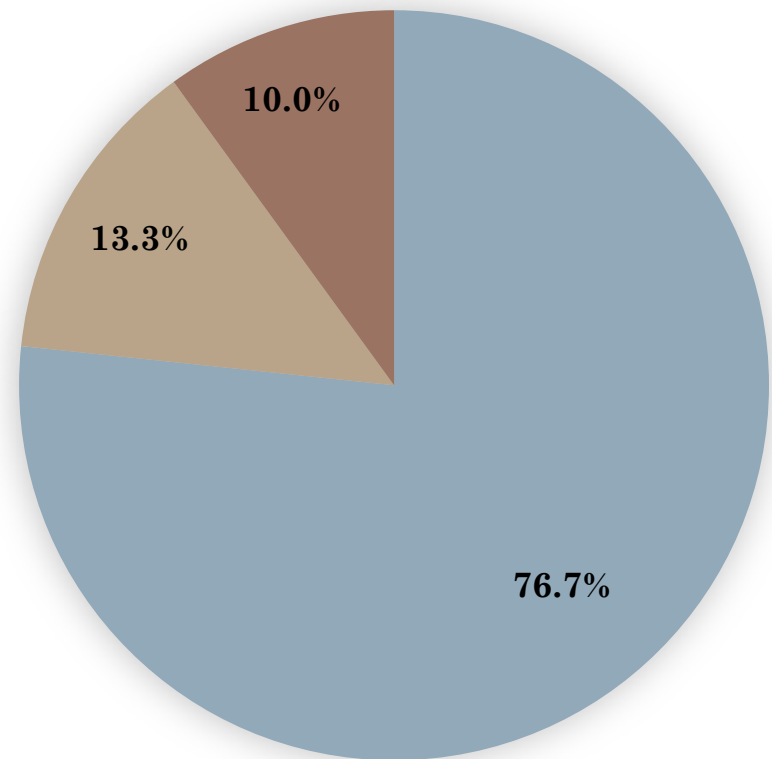
**Question:** What is your general opinion with regards to hiring reentering citizens as transit drivers?

*Agree, Neutral, or Disagree*

# Survey Results

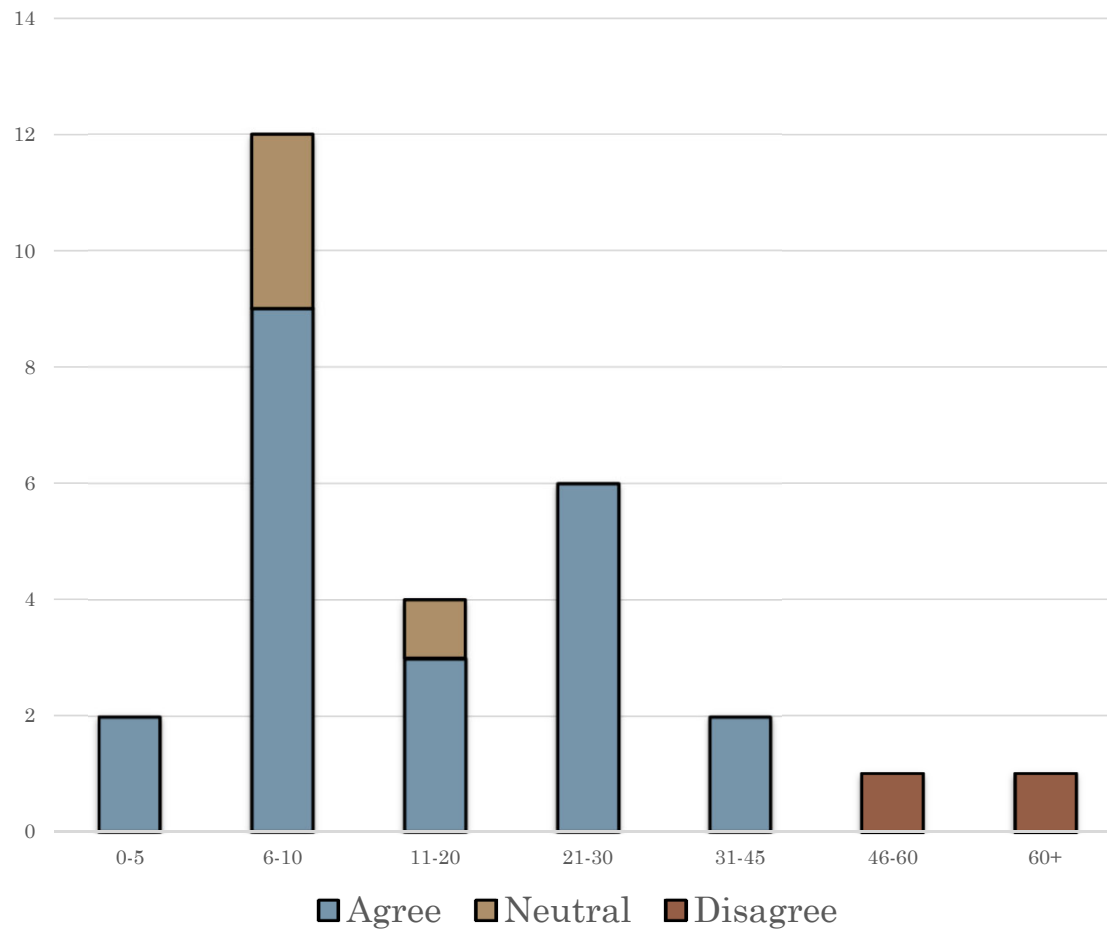
Should reentering citizens be hired as transit drivers?

- **76.7% - Yes**
  - 13.3% - Neutral
  - 10.0% - No
- 
- Personal Safety was #1 concern among those who disagree



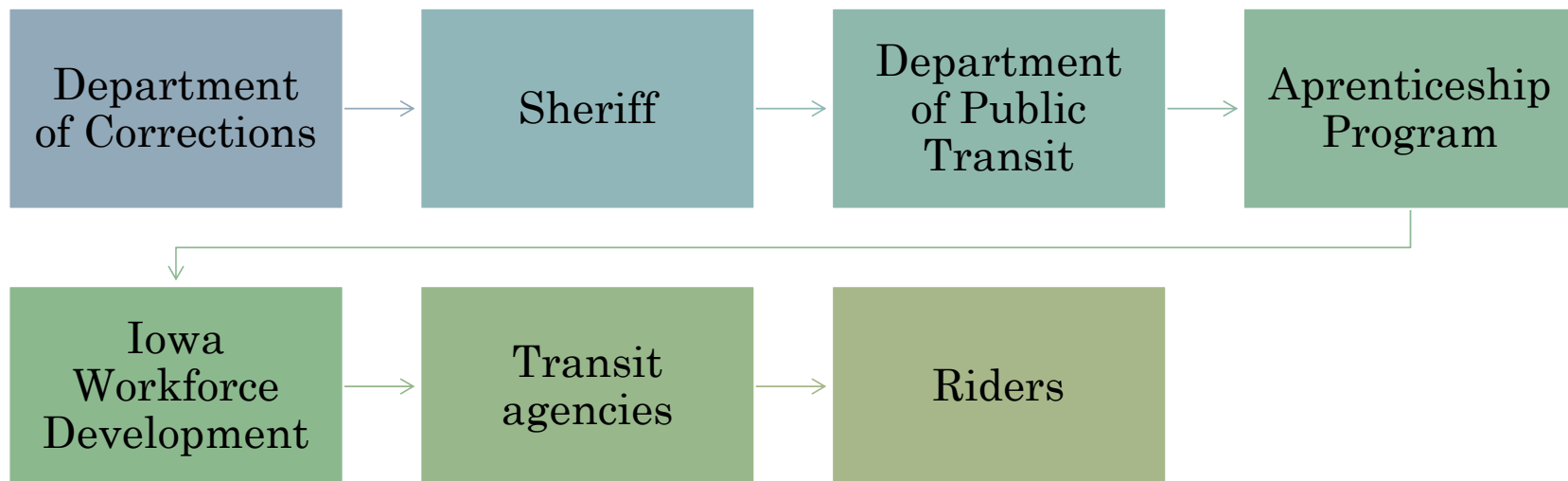
■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree

Average Ride Time (Minutes)



## Survey Results: Trends

# Key Players for Future Progress



# Limitations

## Commercial Driver License

- Class C license
- Meet the driving hours

## Not everyone is a success

- 2 failed tests in Oregon pilot study

## Returning to their community

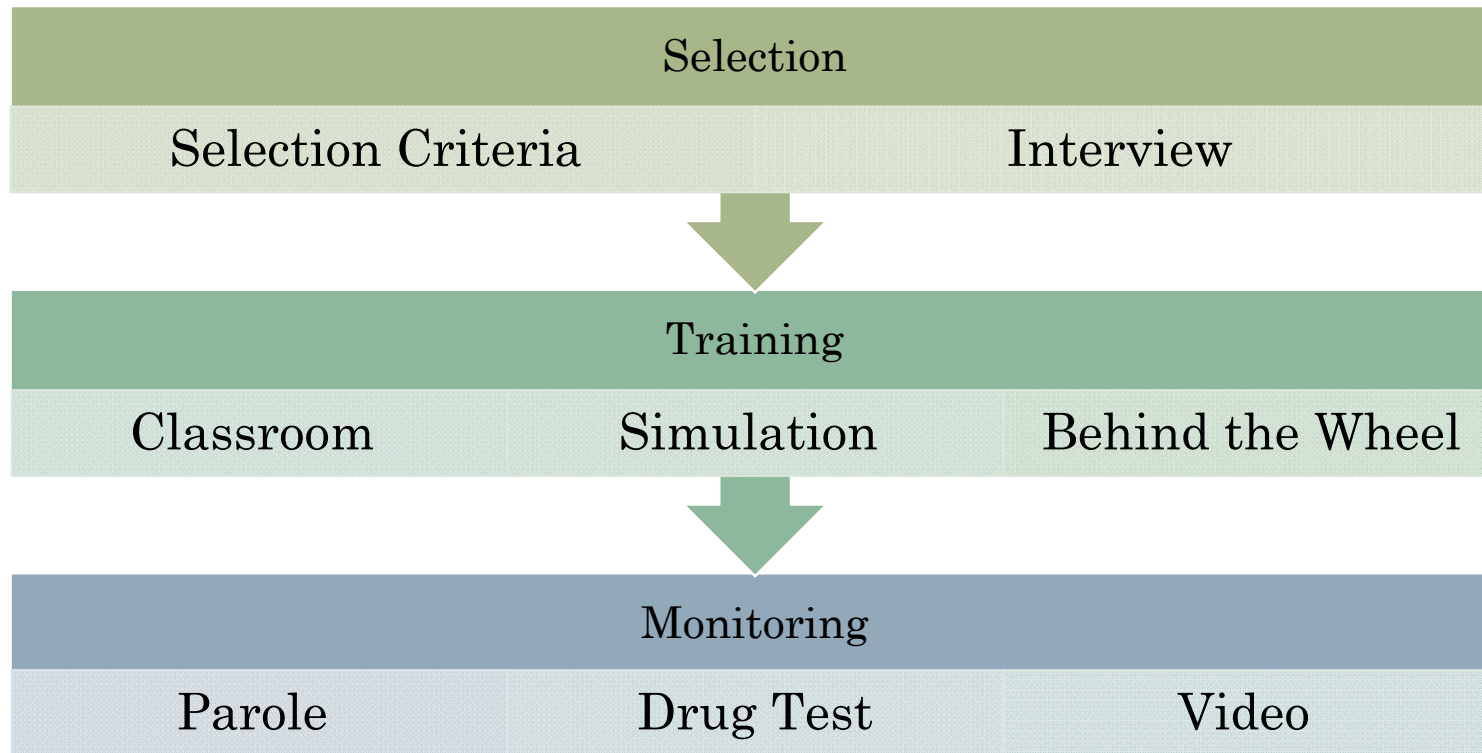
- Rural communities

## Key players buy in

- Collaboration



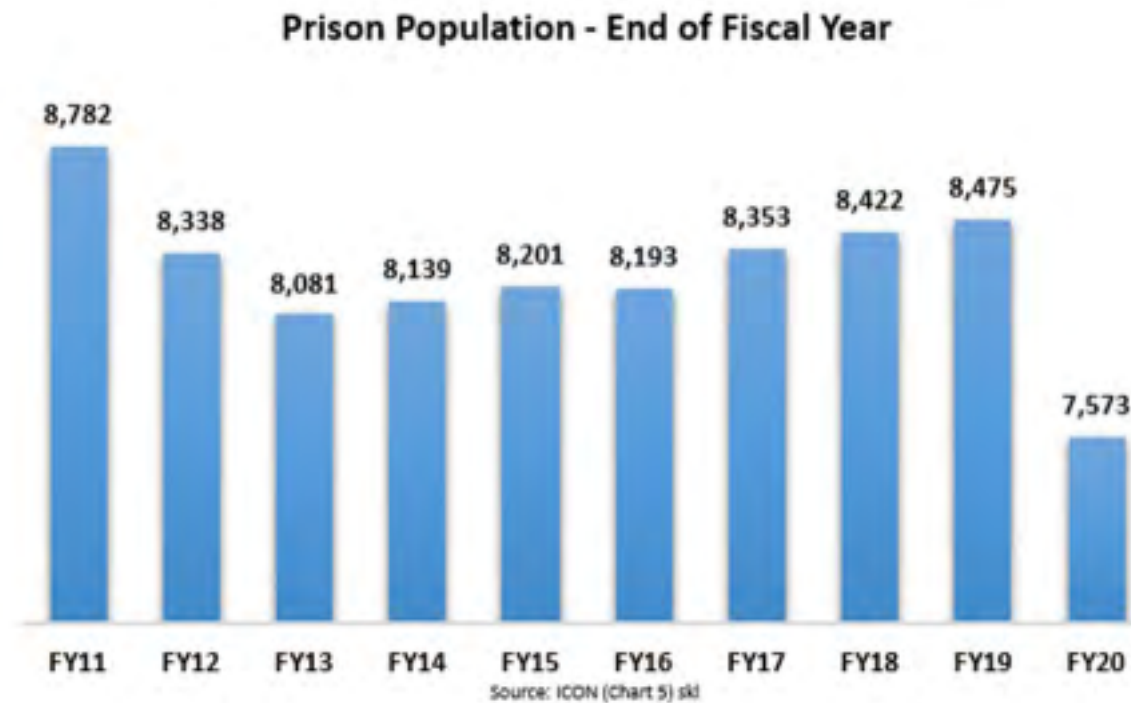
# Process



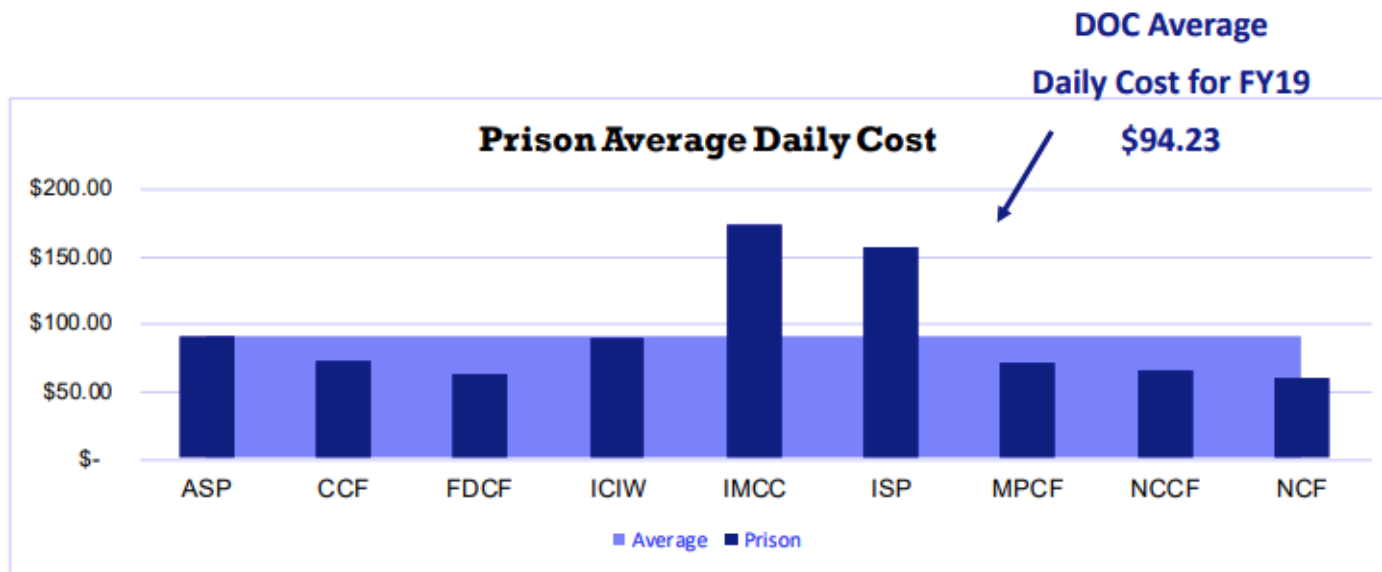
The background image shows the interior of a bus. It features rows of blue seats with a colorful, abstract pattern. Yellow handrails are visible, running along the length of the bus. The windows on the sides show a blurred view of the outside world. A semi-transparent grey banner with a fine grid pattern is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the word "Questions" in white serif font.

# Questions

# Appendix: Prison Population



# Appendix: Prison Cost



# Sources

- <https://american-bus-inc.com/new-vehicles/u4x/>
- <https://www.rideharta.com/>
- [https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021/01/fy2020\\_iowa\\_doc\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021/01/fy2020_iowa_doc_annual_report.pdf)
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- Coves, P., & Bowes, L. (2015, June 11). *Immediate Access to Employment Reduces Recidivism*. realclearpolitics.com. [https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2015/06/11/immediate\\_access\\_to\\_employment\\_reduces\\_recidivism\\_126939.html#!](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2015/06/11/immediate_access_to_employment_reduces_recidivism_126939.html#!)
- Prescott, J. J., Pyle, B., & Starr, S. B. (2020). *Understanding Violent-Crime Recidivism*. University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. <https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3168&context=articles>