

Utah Department of Corrections

Presentation to Executive Offices and
Criminal Justice Appropriations
Subcommittee

Presentence Investigations

August 2019



Overview

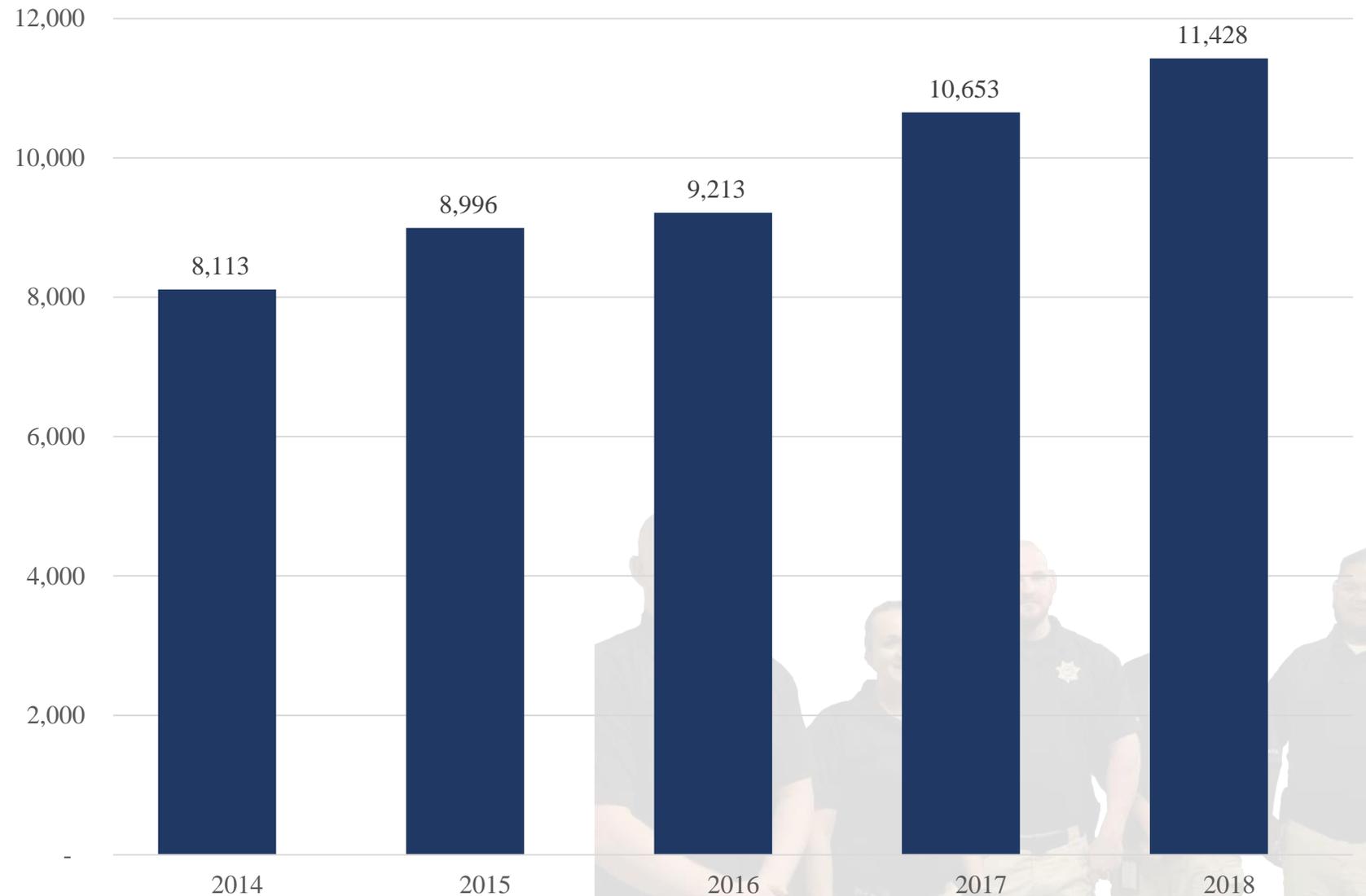
REQUEST: Presentence Investigation (PSI) Reports – study options to minimize the required information and length of the report

- Presentence investigation workload has increased significantly since 2014
- New civilian investigator positions established during 2019 General Session
- Revisions and process changes for PSI reports adopted July 2019
- Ongoing challenges and continued efforts



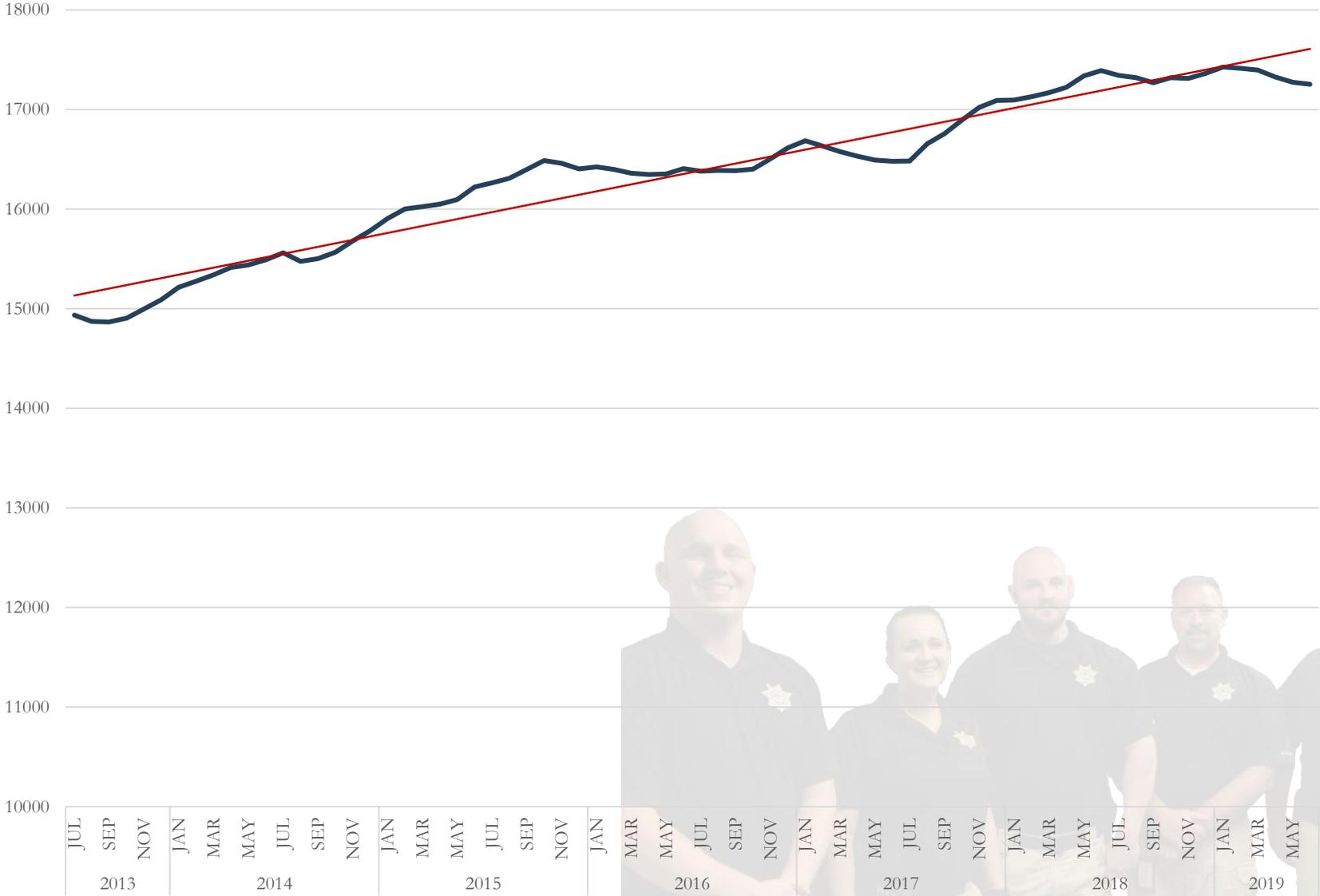
Workload Trends — PSI Completions

3,315 net increase in
PSI completions
between 2014 and
2018



Workload Trends — Probation & Parole Supervision

2,319 net increase in offenders supervised between July 2013 and June 2019



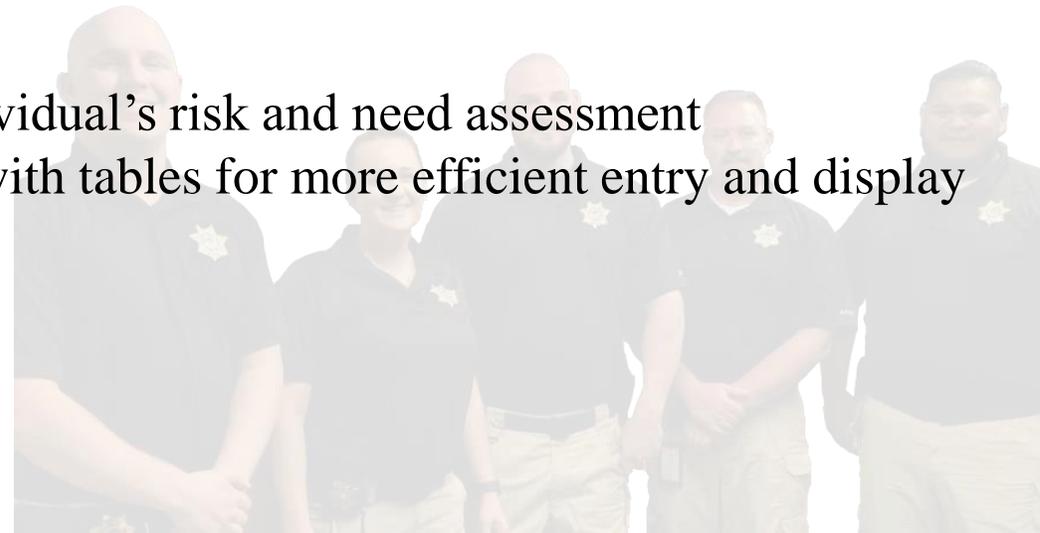
Civilian Investigator Positions

- Funding from 2019 General Session to establish new positions — \$1,750,000
- 22 civilian investigators have been hired
 - Recruitment opened in May 2019
 - Initial training for the new investigators completed
 - As the civilian investigators increase their report capacity, existing agents assigned to PSI will be shifted to community supervision
- 2 civilian supervisor positions have not been filled due to reduction in funding request — (\$185,000)
 - Funding reduction based on savings projection
 - If the positions added were certified agents, it would have required an additional \$185,000; however, there are not any actual savings as a result of the new civilian positions



PSI Report Revisions & Process Changes

- AP&P work group created in January 2019 to review content and format of reports
- Recommendation for three report versions and content revision
 - ***Full-version*** (felony offenses for moderate or higher risk offenders; sex offenses class A and higher)
 - ***Short-version*** (felony offenses for low risk offenders; class A offenses for moderate or higher risk)
 - ***Low-risk memo*** (class A offenses for low risk offenders; excluding sex offenses)
- Content revision
 - Streamlined content for all versions, centered on the individual's risk and need assessment
 - Reduction in the amount of narrative sections, replaced with tables for more efficient entry and display



PSI Report Revisions & Process Changes

- Utah Department of Corrections determines standards for supervision and presentence investigation UCA § 77-18-1(3)
- Discussion of PSI revision has been ongoing with various stakeholders over the last few years
- The Department sent a notification letter to all district court judges regarding PSI changes and an explanation of our direction
- Proposed PSI report formats and criteria were presented to the Board of District Court Judges, Judicial Council and Board of Pardons and Parole for review and comment



Ongoing Challenges & Continued Efforts

- Restore funding cut (-\$185,000) based on anticipated savings from establishing civilian investigator positions
 - Hire two civilian supervisors to help manage the 22 investigators, review reports, staff recommendations, develop and train new staff
- Workload growth - continue to monitor and address impact on staff
- Report back to EOCJ on status of new positions and PSI report revisions
- Continue to evaluate need for additional civilian PSI positions





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Questions?

