

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

# VALUE OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS PARTNERING WITH CORRECTIONS

COVID-19 DETECTION AND MITIGATION IN  
CONFINEMENT FACILITIES (CDMCF) TRAINING &  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TTA) CENTER

March 20, 2024



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Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice



# Presenters

- **Sara Sullivan**, Senior Policy Advisor, BJA
- **Russ Strickland**, Secretary, Maryland Department of Emergency Management
- **Robert Fletcher**, COVID-19 Detection and Mitigation in Confinement Facilities (CDMCF) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Center; President, Readiness Consulting Services, LLC



# Agenda

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Program Overview**

**COVID-19 Lessons Learned**

**Maryland Case Study**

**What Emergency Managers Need to Know**

**Questions**

SECTION 1

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION



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# What is the Office of Justice Programs?

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** and the **Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**.

**BJA** – Bureau of Justice Assistance



**BJS** – Bureau of Justice Statistics



**NIJ** – National Institute of Justice



**OVC** – Office for Victims of Crime



**OJJDP** – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



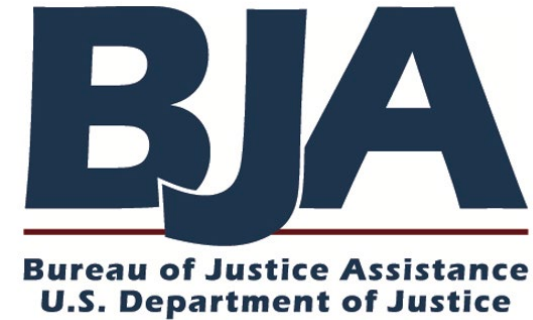
**SMART** – Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking



# U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

**Mission:** BJA's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.

**Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director**



<https://bja.ojp.gov/>



# How BJA Supports the Field



## Investments

Provide diverse funding to accomplish goals.



## Sharing Knowledge

Research, develop, and deliver what works to build capacity and improve outcomes.



## Engagement

Consult, connect, and convene.

## SECTION 2

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW



COVID-19 Detection and Mitigation in Confinement Facilities  
Training and Technical Assistance Center



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# TTA Center

## American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

- COVID-19 Confinement Funds
- Project Period: August 2021–July 2024

## CDC & BJA Partnership

- \$700 million in funds through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC)
- BJA's CDMCF TTA Center

## Eligible Facilities

- Adult prisons
- Adult jails
- Juvenile facilities
- Community corrections centers
- Police lock-ups

# Project Partners



- ✓ Nonprofit research and analysis organization
- ✓ 80 years of experience serving government entities
- ✓ Operates Centers of Expertise in Criminal Justice, Public Health, and Vulnerable Populations Protection
- ✓ Supports several national TTA programs for BJA and HHS



- ✓ 150+ years experience supporting practitioners in corrections
- ✓ Offers correctional operations and health care expertise
- ✓ Providing TTA Coaches and access to extensive network of SMEs



- ✓ Represents 2,500 members from jails across the country
- ✓ Facilitates peer learning among jail administrators
- ✓ Maintains extensive network of SMEs



- ✓ National organization representing the correctional administrators of the 50 states and US territories
- ✓ Focuses on critical issues impacting the field, such as Behavioral Health, Program and Training, and Staff
- ✓ Maintains extensive network of SMEs



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# Available Technical Assistance to Facilities in Your State



Assess pandemic plans



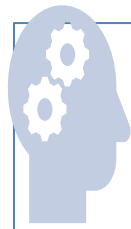
Develop staff training



Connect with state health departments



Inform data reporting procedures



Educate on mitigation strategies



And more...

SECTION 3

# COVID-19 LESSONS LEARNED



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# Pandemic Impact on Correctional Facilities\*

## COVID-19 Cases

647,349 COVID-19 cases among people incarcerated in prisons

246,858 COVID-19 cases among staff working in prisons

## COVID-19 Deaths

2,933 COVID-19 deaths of incarcerated individuals

292 deaths of staff working in prisons due to COVID-19

## COVID-19 Vaccines

561,096 incarcerated individuals received at least one vaccine dose

130,232 staff received at least one vaccine dose

# Lessons Learned: Top Themes

## Planning and Coordination

- Coordination with public health and emergency management.
- Develop and maintain tailored public health emergency response plans for correctional facilities.
- Collect data critical to appropriate, proportional public health response.

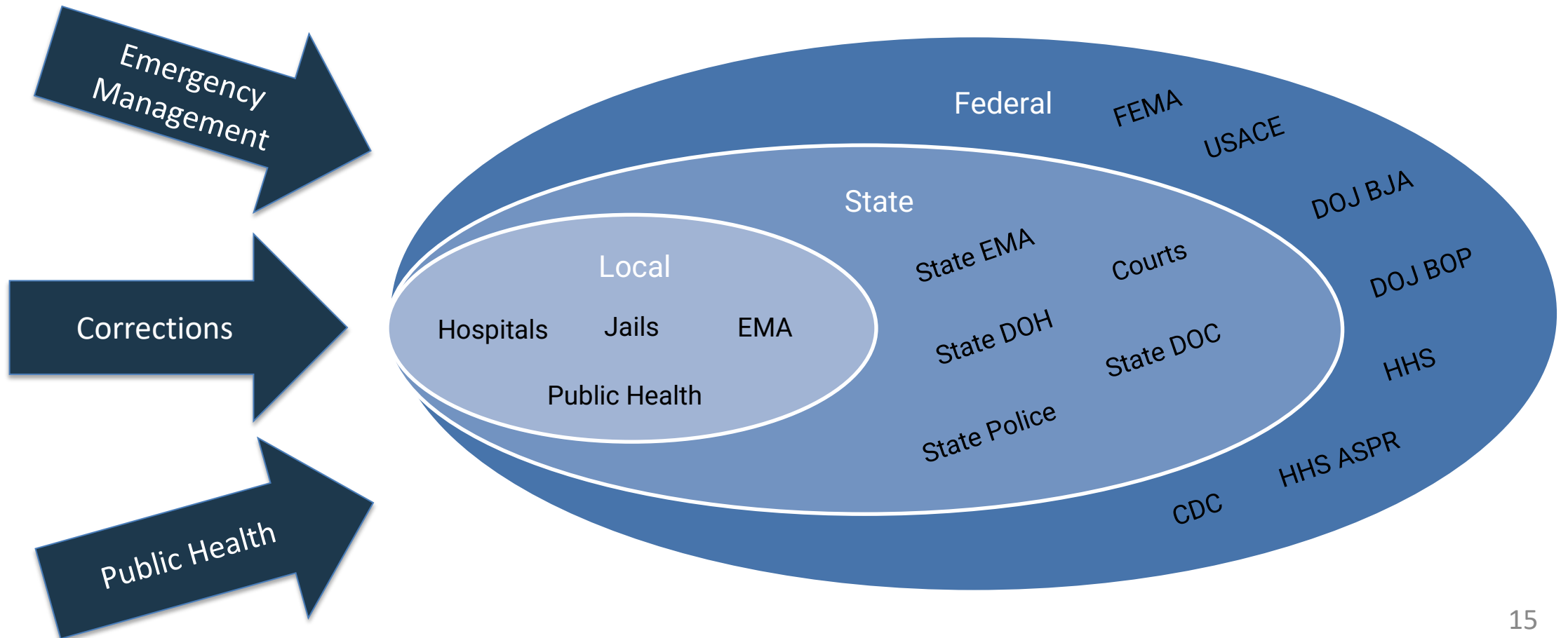
## Operations

- Access to health care enabled by investments in telemedicine; access to mental health.
- Need to balance mental and physical health impacts of mitigation protocols.
- Implement sustainable detection and mitigation strategies.
- Reducing the population works.
- Staffing-related issues impact operations.

## Tactical

- Investment in technology enabled communications and continuity of programs and services.
- Upgrading/improving HVAC systems key to risk management.
- Incentives increase personal protective equipment (PPE) compliance and vaccination rates.
- Diverse communication methods key to improve public health outcomes.

# Whole of Community Response Includes Collaborating with Corrections



SECTION 4

# MARYLAND CASE STUDY



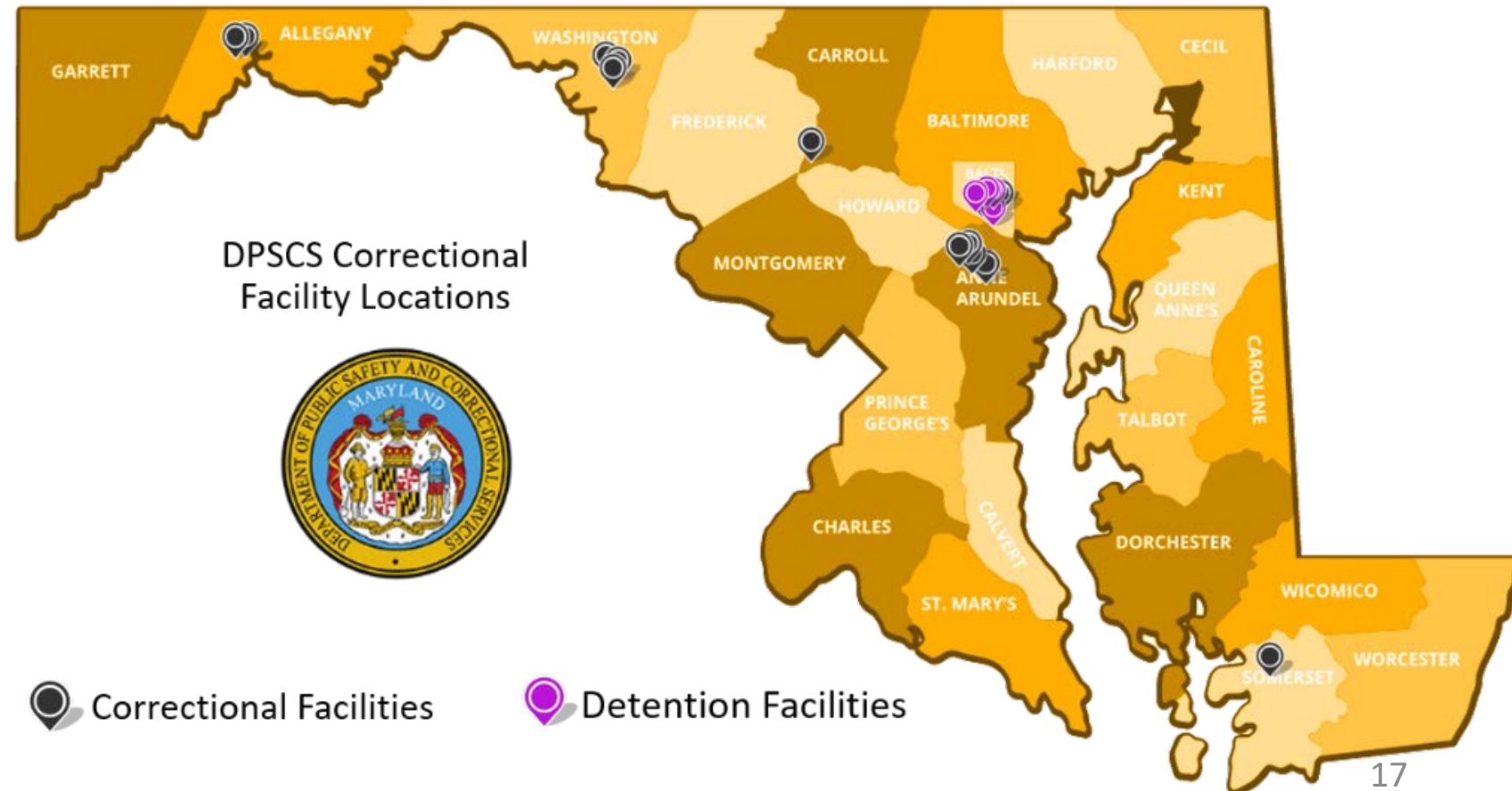
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# Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)

About 27,000 people were incarcerated in Maryland during COVID-19 in:

- 8 correctional facilities
- 4 community release facilities
- Baltimore City jail



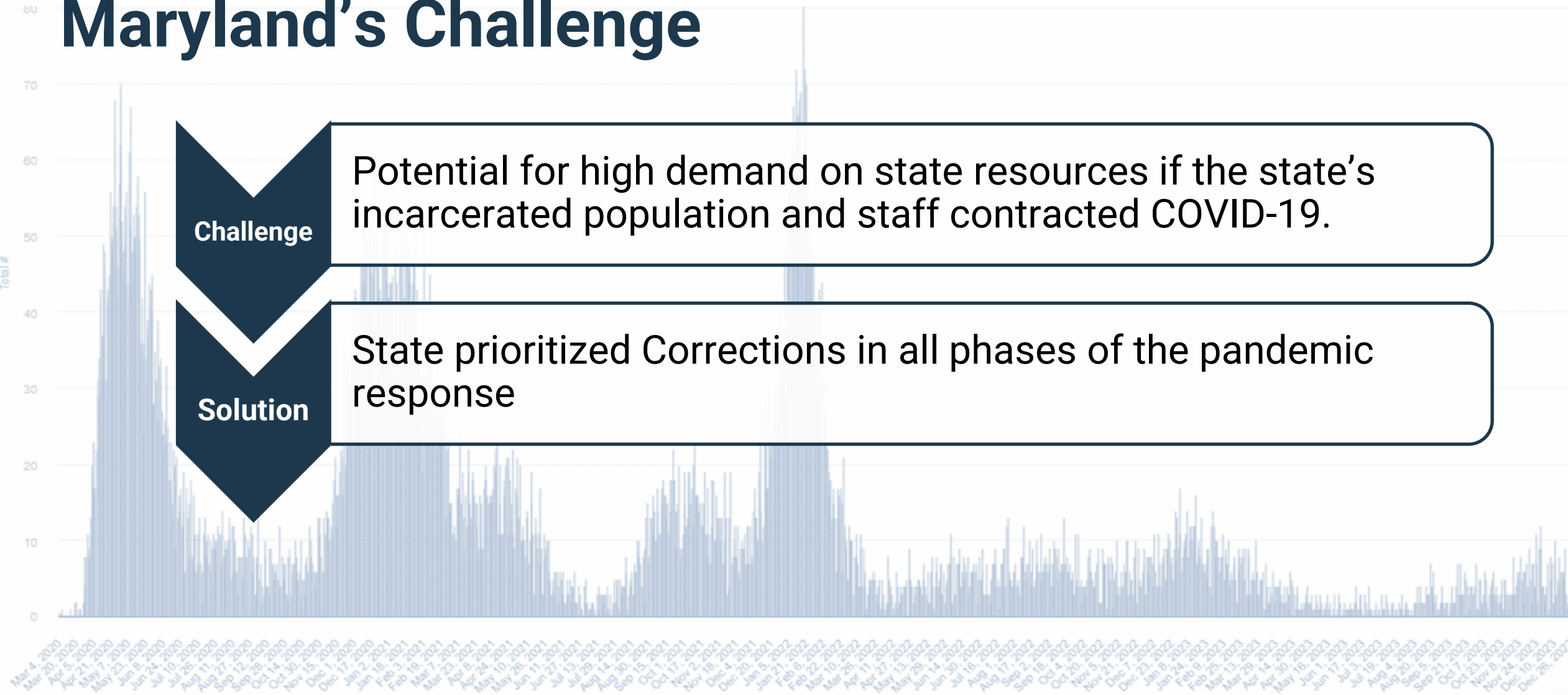
# Maryland's Challenge

**Challenge**

Potential for high demand on state resources if the state's incarcerated population and staff contracted COVID-19.

**Solution**

State prioritized Corrections in all phases of the pandemic response



State: 1,424,488 COVID-19 cases and 17,132 deaths

● Confirmed Deaths ● Probable Deaths

# Maryland Partnerships

State agencies worked together:

- Priority testing and vaccines in corrections.
- Built 10 alternate care facilities within correctional facilities.
- Increased the use of technology within corrections for virtual visits, telehealth.
- Resources and PPE made by Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE).



# DPSCS Results

## Outcome

State implemented a prison reduction program, built 10 dedicated medical treatment facilities within corrections, and increased the use of technology within corrections.

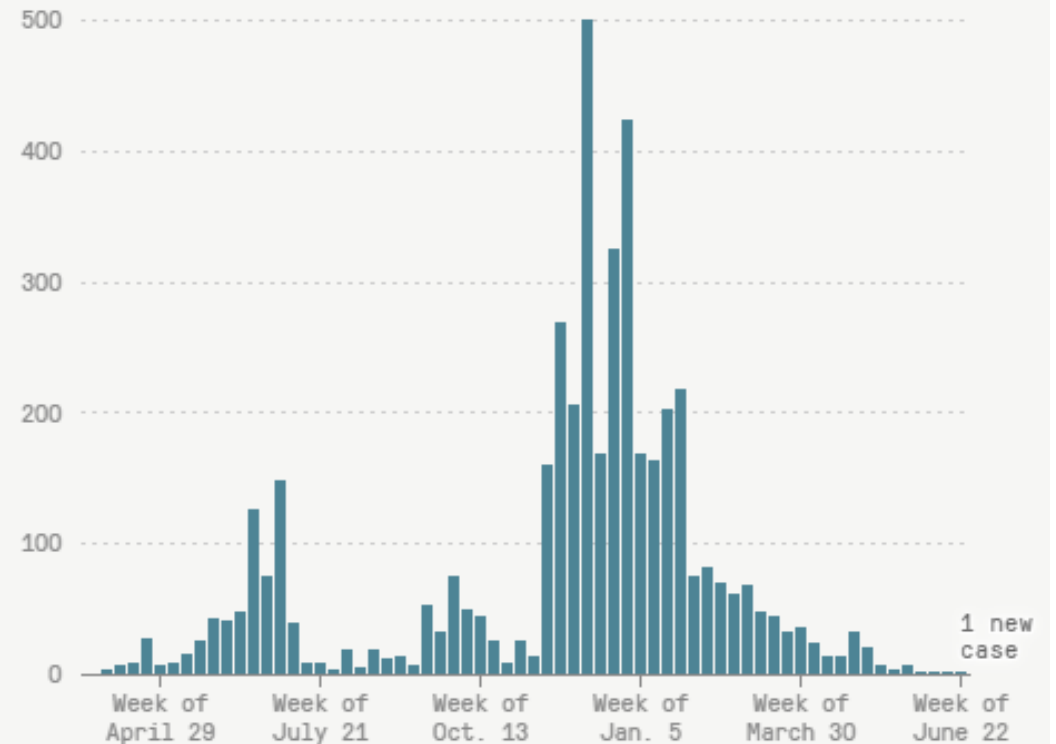
## Impact

4,482 COVID-19 cases, but only 35 deaths. Reduced its overall prison population by 9.3 percent. Saved \$3.2 million with alternate care sites.

There were

**4,482** cases

of coronavirus reported among prisoners in Maryland.



SECTION 5

# WHAT EMERGENCY MANAGERS NEED TO KNOW



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# What Emergency Managers Need to Know about Corrections...



**Facility Layout  
and Population  
Density**



**Health Protocols  
within  
Corrections  
Systems**



**Communication  
Channels**



**Vulnerabilities  
and Special  
Needs**



# What Emergency Managers Need to Know about Corrections...



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**Collaborative  
Planning**



**Resource  
Requirements and  
Allocation**



**Legal and  
Regulatory  
Frameworks**



SECTION 6

# QUESTIONS



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