

From: [Heather Flaherty](#)
To: [Cathy Halka](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); peter.frazier@gmail.com
Subject: RE: SAC Meeting #8 - Justice Project (do not share)
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:44:18 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Sensitivity: Private

An excerpt I appreciate from the Urban Institute –

Despite [billions of dollars spent annually](#) at the federal, state, and local levels, our correctional system continues to fail us in critical ways. It falls short not just in protecting public safety, but also in [restoring the well-being of victims of crime](#).

This was brought into sharp focus by [findings from the National Survey of Victims' Views](#), released this week by the [Alliance for Safety and Justice \(ASJ\)](#). In this first-of-its-kind study, researchers surveyed more than 800 victims and found that, overwhelmingly, crime survivors want a criminal justice system that prioritizes prevention and rehabilitation over punishment. Among the highlights:

- More than half of victims—6 in 10—would prefer a system that dealt shorter prison sentences and invested more resources in prevention and rehabilitation programs. This is true even among survivors of serious violent crime.
- Another 6 in 10 want prosecutors to consider victims' input on what would help them recover, even when that doesn't include a long prison sentence.
- By a margin of about 3 to 1, victims want to hold people accountable not just through prison, but also through rehabilitation, mental health treatment, drug treatment, community supervision, and community service.

There's a clear gap between what victims want and what our criminal justice system delivers. The past few decades of tough-on-crime policies have built a system that typically favors punishment over prevention or rehabilitation and errs on the side of overincarceration.

From: Heather Flaherty
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A few links regarding “what victims want” if they're helpful.

<https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/crimesurvivorsspeak/>

https://vsdvalliance.org/press_release/punishment-is-not-accountability/

<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/what-do-victims-want-criminal-justice-reform>

<https://justalternatives.org/the-accountability-project/>

If you wanted to survey local victims, DVSAS and Brigid Collins might also be helpful places to start. I also think the Prosecutor's Office has a team of victim advocates who you could consult.

I would include Mardi and Holly on this email but their emails aren't populating in my outlook. You're welcome to share with the SAC too.