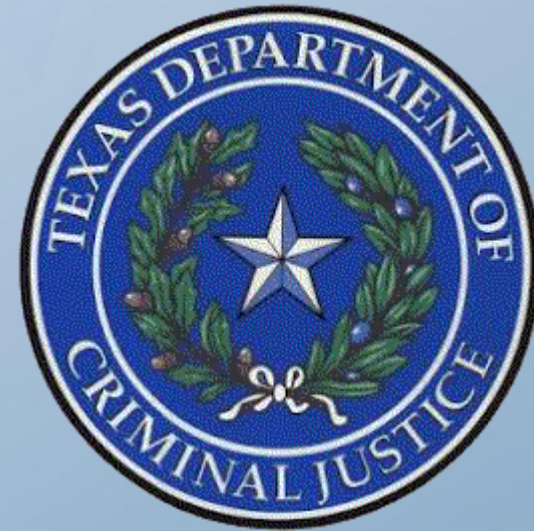
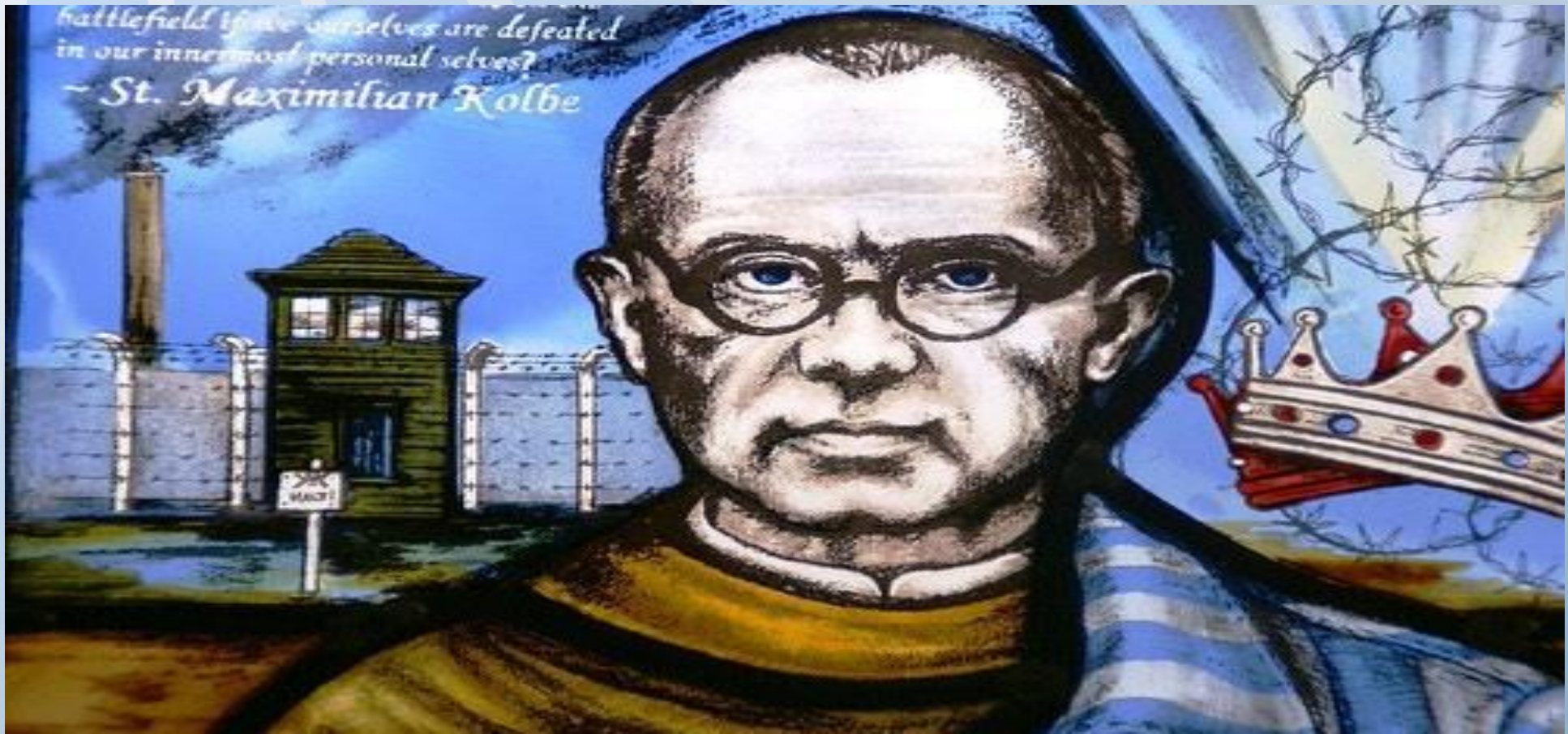


Special Presentation

**By Jason Clark, TDCJ
Chief Programs Officer**



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Kolbe Prison Ministries

Matthew 25:36
“I was in prison, and
you came to me.”



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Faith Behind Bars

- 132 chaplains of multiple faiths
- 466 different faiths across the system
- Nearly 10,000 inmates in Faith-Based dorms
- 26,000 religious volunteers



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Places of Worship

- 41 chapels across the system
 - 21 built by the agency
 - 20 built by volunteers
- 10 new chapels by 2030
 - Two in the construction phase
 - Three have fundraising campaigns



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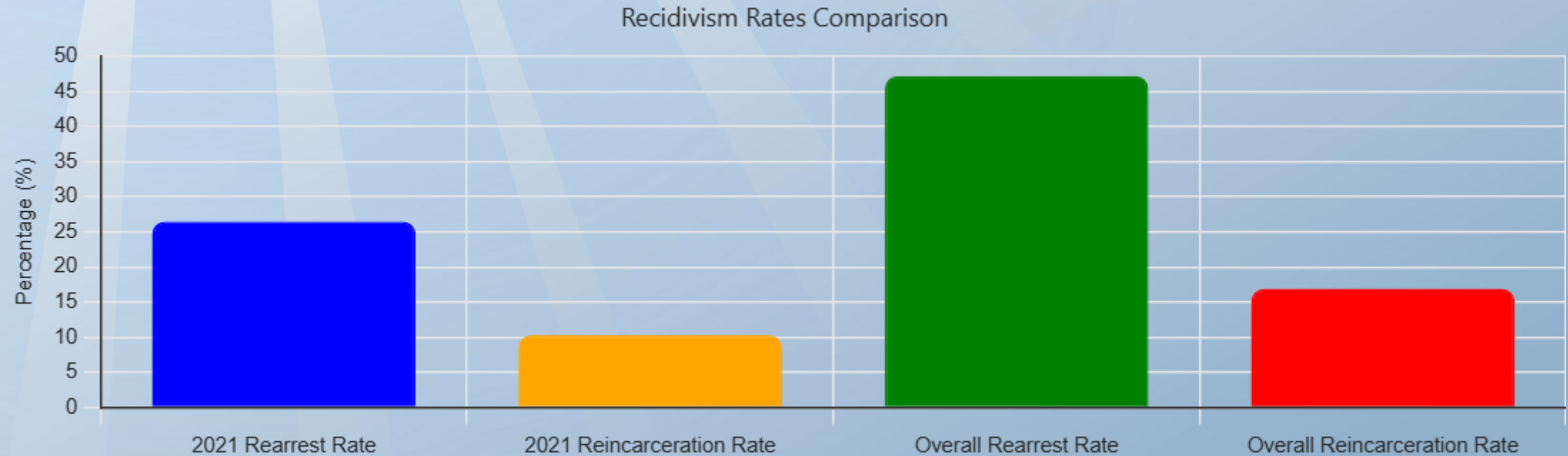
Volunteer Engagement

- Spiritual Awareness Conferences
- Marriage Retreats
- Day with Mom/Dad
- Religious Events



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Impact of Kolbe Ministries

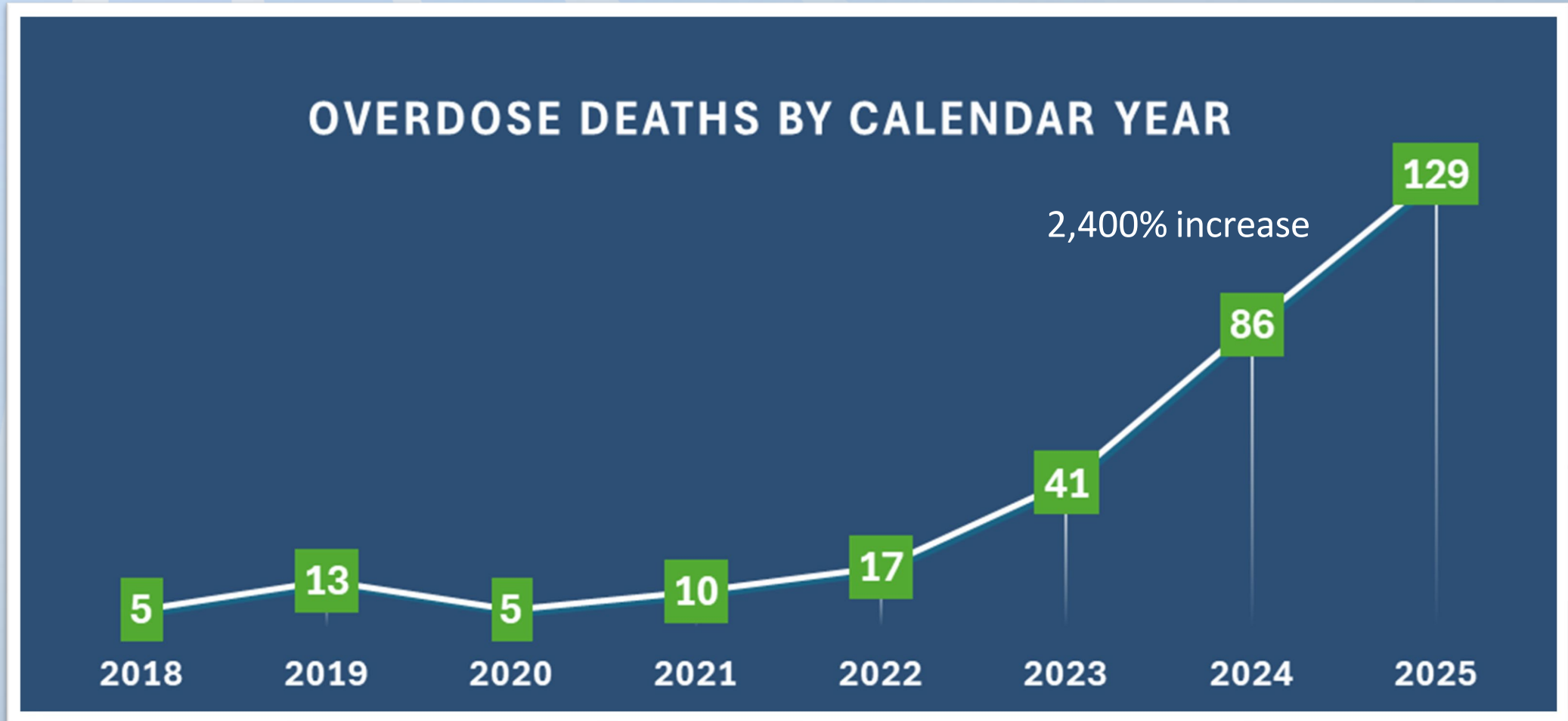


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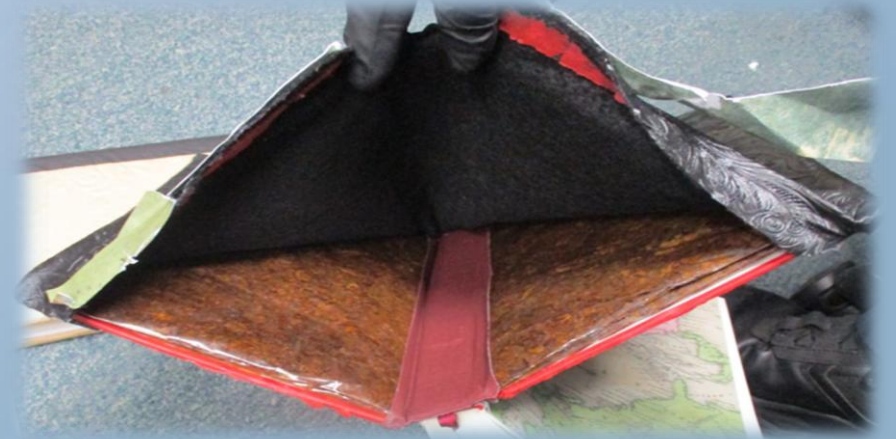
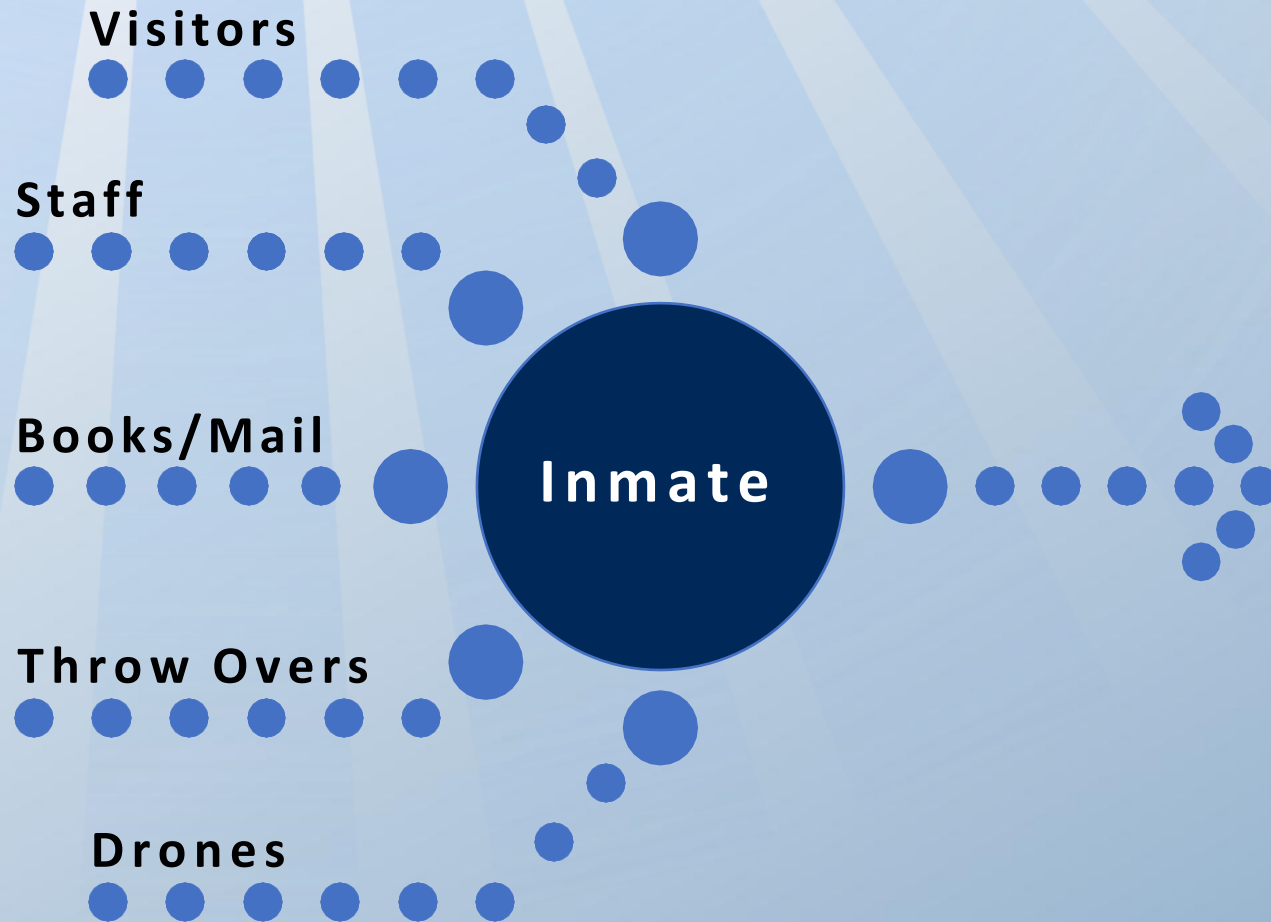
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Increase in Overdose Deaths



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Flow of Contraband Into TDCJ Facilities



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Legal Mail & Religious Materials



This is an emerging threat where bad actors will replicate a law firm's or a church's letterhead to send in drug-soaked paper.



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Books and Dangerous Contraband

- 385 books tested positive for illegal substances in 2025
- Drug labs are using advanced techniques to try to circumvent TDCJ's security measures.



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Advanced Notification Portal

- Individuals create an account, and their identity is verified using a third-party vendor
- Information such as the recipient, book title, vendor name, and purchase date is provided
- Mailrooms check the portal when books and publications are received
- Operational in the summer or early fall



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Donation Process

- Web-based form on Windham School District's website for donated books
- Stored at a central location and distributed as needed
- Eases the burden on mailrooms and makes drug smuggling more difficult



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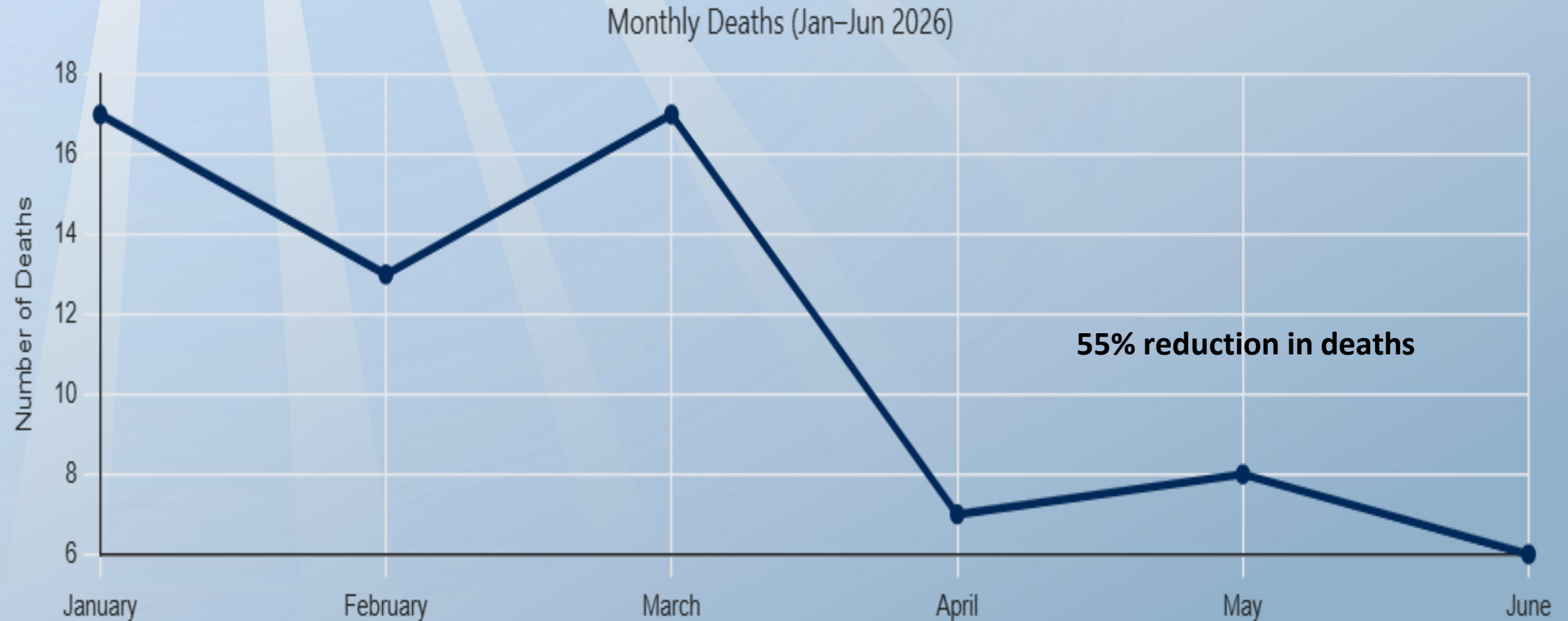
What is allowed?

- For active volunteer programs, having an event or facilitating classes:
 - Volunteers are allowed to bring necessary written material into the facility
 - It is subject to comprehensive searches
- For written material mailed to a specific inmate, it is subject to new policy procedures



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Decrease in Overdose Deaths



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Working to Reduce Demand for Drugs

- Expanding substance-use treatment
- Hosting “Stop the Drug Rallies” with guest speakers and enrollment into faith-based education programs



- Growing Peer-to-Peer recovery models led by inmates with lived experiences
- Enabling direct messages to treatment staff



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Becoming a Volunteer

- Confirm Eligibility
 - Must be 18+ years old
 - No pending criminal charges
- Submit an online application @
www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/prod/volunteer_app/
- Complete online training
- Undergo a criminal background check
- Renew application every two years



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Questions



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