Drug Treatment in Prison

Program description:

This broad grouping of programs includes therapeutic communities and cognitive behavioral treatment for offenders who are diagnosed as chemically dependent. Therapeutic communities typically last 6 to 12 months in a structured, residential setting. These meta-analytic results were last updated in 2006.

Typical age of primary program participant: 28

Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes Measured	Primary or Second-	imary No. of or Effect econd- Sizes	Unadjusted Effect Sizes (Random Effects Model)			Adjusted Effect Sizes and Standard Errors Used in the Benefit-Cost Analysis					
	ary Partici- pant		FS	SF	n-value	Fire	st time ES estimated	Age	Se	cond time estimate SF	ES is d
				02	p vulue	20	02	/ ige		02	, ige
Crime	Р	21	-0.17	0.02	0.46	-0.17	0.02	30	-0.17	0.02	40

Benefit-Cost Summary

	Program Benefits					Costs	Summary Statistics			cs
The estimates shown are present value, life		-							-	
cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are										
expressed in the base year chosen for this								Return		Probability
analysis (2011). The economic discount rates							Benefit to	on	Benefits	of a positive
and other relevant parameters are described in	Partici-			Other	Total		Cost	Invest-	Minus	net present
Technical Appendix 2.	pants	Tax-payers	Other	Indirect	Benefits		Ratio	ment	Costs	value
	\$0	\$3,834	\$9,860	\$1,883	\$15,577	-\$4,603	\$3.38	22%	\$10,974	100%

Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

	Benefits to:						
Source of Benefits	Partici- pants	Tax- payers	Other	Other In- direct	Total Benefits		
Crime	\$0	\$3,834	\$9,860	\$1,883	\$15,577		

Detailed Cost Estimates

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to	⁰ Program Costs		Comparison Costs			Summary Statistics			
implement programs in Washington. The	-			·			Present Value of		
comparison group costs reflect either no							Net Program		
treatment or treatment as usual, depending on	Annual	Program	Year	Annual	Program	Year	Costs (in 2011	Uncertainty	
how effect sizes were calculated in the meta-	Cost	Duration	Dollars	Cost	Duration	Dollars	dollars)	(+ or – %)	
analysis. The uncertainty range is used in							,		
Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in	\$4.601	1	2011	\$0	1	2011	\$3.981	10%	
Technical Appendix 2.	+ .,	-			-		+-,		

Source: Estimate provided by the Washington State Department of Corrections.



Multiplicative Adjustments Applied to the Meta-Analysis

Type of Adjustment	Multiplier
1- Less well-implemented comparison group or observational study, with some covariates.	1.00
2- Well-implemented comparison group design, often with many statistical controls.	1.00
3- Well-done observational study with many statistical controls (e.g., instrumental variables).	1.00
4- Random assignment, with some implementation issues.	1.00
5- Well-done random assignment study.	1.00
Program developer = researcher	0.36
Unusual (not "real-world") setting	0.50
Weak measurement used	0.80

The adjustment factors for these studies are based on our empirical knowledge of the research in a topic area. We performed a multivariate regression analysis of 96 effect sizes from evaluations of adult and juvenile justice programs. The analysis examined the relative magnitude of effect sizes for studies rated a 1, 2, 3, or 4 for research design quality, in comparison with a 5 (see Technical Appendix B for a description of these ratings). We weighted the model using the random effects inverse variance weights for each effect size. The results indicated that research designs 1, 2, and 3 should have an adjustment factor greater than 1 and research design 4 should have an adjustment factor of approximately 1. Using a conservative approach, we set all the multipliers to 1.

In this analysis, we also found that effect sizes were statistically significantly higher when the program developer was involved in the research evaluation. Similar findings, although not statistically significant, indicated that studies using weak outcome measures (such as technical violations) were higher.

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