

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Adult Criminal Justice

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Employment counseling and job training (transitional reentry from incarceration into the community)	Aug. 2016	\$46,675	\$13,463	\$33,212	(\$2,563)	\$44,112	\$18.21	89 %
Offender Reentry Community Safety Program (for individuals with serious mental illness)	Apr. 2012	\$73,398	\$25,097	\$48,302	(\$38,600)	\$34,798	\$1.90	97 %
Circles of Support and Accountability	Nov. 2016	\$30,073	\$7,299	\$22,774	(\$4,117)	\$25,956	\$7.30	92 %
Correctional education (post-secondary education)	Jul. 2016	\$25,972	\$7,084	\$18,889	(\$1,316)	\$24,657	\$19.74	100 %
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for persons convicted of drug offenses)	Nov. 2016	\$23,912	\$7,113	\$16,799	(\$1,714)	\$22,198	\$13.95	99 %
Vocational education in prison	Jul. 2016	\$18,801	\$5,210	\$13,591	(\$1,575)	\$17,226	\$11.94	98 %
Case management ("swift, certain, and fair") for drug-involved persons	Nov. 2016	\$15,801	\$4,600	\$11,201	\$401	\$16,202	n/a	99 %
Electronic monitoring (probation)	Dec. 2014	\$14,558	\$4,114	\$10,443	\$1,198	\$15,756	n/a	93 %
Mental health courts	Oct. 2016	\$18,144	\$5,260	\$12,884	(\$3,266)	\$14,878	\$5.56	96 %
Intensive supervision (surveillance and treatment)	Dec. 2016	\$13,900	\$4,113	\$9,787	(\$856)	\$13,045	\$16.25	100 %
Reentry courts	Aug. 2016	\$17,795	\$5,422	\$12,373	(\$5,182)	\$12,613	\$3.43	95 %
Inpatient or intensive outpatient drug treatment during incarceration	Nov. 2016	\$13,762	\$3,840	\$9,921	(\$1,358)	\$12,403	\$10.13	98 %
Therapeutic communities (in the community) for individuals with co-occurring disorders	Nov. 2016	\$17,418	\$5,158	\$12,259	(\$5,364)	\$12,053	\$3.25	66 %
Correctional education (basic skills)	Jul. 2016	\$12,680	\$3,547	\$9,133	(\$1,316)	\$11,364	\$9.64	98 %
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for persons convicted of property offenses)	Nov. 2016	\$13,047	\$3,992	\$9,056	(\$1,714)	\$11,334	\$7.61	71 %
Outpatient or non-intensive drug treatment during incarceration	Nov. 2016	\$11,080	\$3,051	\$8,029	(\$788)	\$10,291	\$14.05	99 %
Outpatient or non-intensive drug treatment in the community	Nov. 2016	\$10,864	\$3,235	\$7,629	(\$810)	\$10,055	\$13.42	100 %
Electronic monitoring (parole)	Dec. 2014	\$8,679	\$2,149	\$6,531	\$1,198	\$9,878	n/a	100 %
"Swift, certain, and fair" supervision	Jan. 2017	\$9,703	\$2,672	\$7,031	\$71	\$9,775	n/a	64 %
Therapeutic communities (during incarceration) for individuals with substance use disorders	Nov. 2016	\$11,796	\$3,131	\$8,665	(\$2,315)	\$9,481	\$5.09	65 %
Drug courts	Aug. 2016	\$14,620	\$5,132	\$9,488	(\$5,182)	\$9,438	\$2.82	100 %
Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI)	Aug. 2016	\$24,014	\$8,558	\$15,456	(\$15,285)	\$8,729	\$1.57	90 %
Risk Need and Responsivity supervision (for individuals classified as high- and moderate-risk)	Dec. 2016	\$10,036	\$3,085	\$6,951	(\$1,444)	\$8,592	\$6.95	98 %
Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) (for individuals classified as high- or moderate-risk)	Dec. 2016	\$9,270	\$2,866	\$6,404	(\$1,470)	\$7,800	\$6.31	97 %
Therapeutic communities (in the community) for individuals with substance use disorders	Nov. 2016	\$10,810	\$3,247	\$7,562	(\$3,985)	\$6,825	\$2.71	59 %
Case management (not "swift, certain, and fair") for drug-involved persons	Nov. 2016	\$6,634	\$1,653	\$4,980	(\$406)	\$6,228	\$16.36	59 %
Correctional industries in prison	Jul. 2016	\$6,480	\$1,791	\$4,689	(\$511)	\$5,969	\$12.68	100 %
Housing assistance without services	Aug. 2016	\$8,006	\$2,601	\$5,405	(\$2,112)	\$5,895	\$3.79	92 %

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Work release	Jul. 2016	\$4,483	\$1,122	\$3,362	\$530	\$5,013	n/a	99 %
Police diversion for low-severity offenses (pre-arrest)	Mar. 2017	\$4,114	\$1,171	\$2,943	\$584	\$4,698	n/a	87 %
Day reporting centers	Oct. 2016	\$8,287	\$2,984	\$5,303	(\$4,197)	\$4,090	\$1.97	76 %
Employment counseling and job training with paid work experience in the community	Aug. 2016	\$9,366	\$3,560	\$5,806	(\$5,657)	\$3,709	\$1.66	59 %
Treatment in the community for individuals convicted of sex offenses	Jan. 2017	\$4,169	\$1,235	\$2,934	(\$2,546)	\$1,623	\$1.64	59 %
Treatment during incarceration for individuals convicted of sex offenses	Jan. 2017	\$6,226	\$1,886	\$4,340	(\$4,817)	\$1,409	\$1.29	62 %
Restorative justice conferencing	Feb. 2017	\$2,391	\$911	\$1,480	(\$1,166)	\$1,225	\$2.05	56 %
Jail diversion for individuals with mental illness (post-arrest)	Mar. 2017	\$431	(\$23)	\$455	\$726	\$1,158	n/a	51 %
Intensive supervision (surveillance only)	Dec. 2016	\$438	\$142	\$296	(\$113)	\$325	\$3.88	53 %
Employment counseling and job training in the community	Aug. 2016	\$1,320	\$676	\$644	(\$2,069)	(\$749)	\$0.64	41 %
Sex offender registration and community notification	Nov. 2016	(\$1,942)	(\$399)	(\$1,543)	(\$369)	(\$2,311)	(\$5.27)	32 %
Inpatient or intensive outpatient drug treatment in the community	Nov. 2016	(\$1,637)	(\$121)	(\$1,517)	(\$937)	(\$2,574)	(\$1.75)	47 %
Life skills education	Dec. 2016	(\$1,711)	(\$295)	(\$1,417)	(\$1,206)	(\$2,917)	(\$1.42)	35 %
Driving Under the Influence (DUI) courts	Aug. 2016	\$4,609	\$2,676	\$1,933	(\$8,246)	(\$3,638)	\$0.56	19 %
Domestic violence perpetrator treatment (Duluth-based model)	Aug. 2014	(\$2,242)	(\$424)	(\$1,817)	(\$1,525)	(\$3,767)	(\$1.47)	24 %
Violence reduction treatment	Dec. 2016	(\$399)	\$604	(\$1,004)	(\$5,346)	(\$5,746)	(\$0.07)	28 %
Housing assistance with services	Aug. 2016	\$1,184	\$2,086	(\$902)	(\$12,168)	(\$10,984)	\$0.10	3 %
Community-based correctional facilities (halfway houses)	Aug. 2016	(\$6,327)	(\$509)	(\$5,818)	(\$8,823)	(\$15,150)	(\$0.72)	0 %
Police diversion for individuals with mental illness (pre-arrest)	Mar. 2017	(\$13,787)	(\$1,998)	(\$11,790)	(\$5,030)	(\$18,817)	(\$2.74)	24 %
Injectable naltrexone for opioid use disorder for adults post-release	Mar. 2021	(\$2,939)	\$1,083	(\$4,022)	(\$17,437)	(\$20,376)	(\$0.17)	0 %
Methadone for opioid use disorder for adults post-release	Apr. 2021	(\$9,168)	\$216	(\$9,383)	(\$19,599)	(\$28,766)	(\$0.47)	0 %
Policy								
For individuals classified as lower risk, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$4,523)	(\$888)	(\$3,636)	\$6,185	\$1,661	n/a	68 %
For individuals classified as moderate risk, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$15,984)	(\$2,559)	(\$13,425)	\$6,185	(\$9,799)	n/a	8 %
For individuals classified as high risk, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$34,252)	(\$4,936)	(\$29,316)	\$6,185	(\$28,068)	n/a	0 %
Police (results per-officer)								
Deploy one additional police officer with hot spots strategies	Oct. 2013	\$540,287	\$70,181	\$470,106	(\$101,608)	\$438,679	\$5.32	100 %
Deploy one additional police officer with statewide average practices	Oct. 2013	\$470,312	\$60,618	\$409,694	(\$96,769)	\$373,543	\$4.86	100 %

Other Adult Criminal Justice topics reviewed:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
Buprenorphine for opioid use disorder for adults post-release	Mar. 2021	Click for meta-analytic results
Civil legal aid	Mar. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Day fines	Feb. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Deferred prosecution of DUI offenses	Mar. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Dialectical behavior therapy	Sep. 2015	Click for meta-analytic results
Domestic violence perpetrator treatment (Non-Duluth models)	Aug. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Ignition interlock devices for alcohol-related offenses	Mar. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Legal financial obligation repayment interventions	Jan. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Mandatory arrest for domestic violence	Jun. 2022	Click for meta-analytic results
Parenting programs (for incarcerated parents)	Aug. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Revocation reduction programs	Mar. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Therapeutic communities for individuals with personality disorders	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Banning criminal record check boxes in hiring	Nov. 2016	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Cautioning for cannabis offenses	Mar. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Child support barriers	Mar. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Mentoring programs	Mar. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Pretrial detention	Feb. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Project Sentry	Mar. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
State ID provision	Mar. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Veteran's courts	Jul. 2016	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Adult boot camps	Oct. 2006	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors—representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities—governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.