Inventory of Evidence-Based, Research-Based, and Promising Programs for Adult Corrections: *Final Report*

The 2023 Legislature directed WSIPP to update its adult corrections inventory, focusing on programs offered in Washington's Department of Corrections (DOC) adult prison facilities. In this final report, we summarize the results of our evidence reviews and program classifications.

Background

The adult corrections inventory (ACI) summarizes evidence for programs and policies at all stages of the criminal justice system. In 2024 WSIPP updated the ACI, focusing on DOC programs for incarcerated individuals. WSIPP takes the following steps to classify programs:

1) Synthesize all rigorous evaluations of a program or policy to determine average **effectiveness**

2) Estimate **return on investment** from a societal perspective and how likely it is to break even

3) Determine whether the program has been tested in a sufficiently **diverse population**
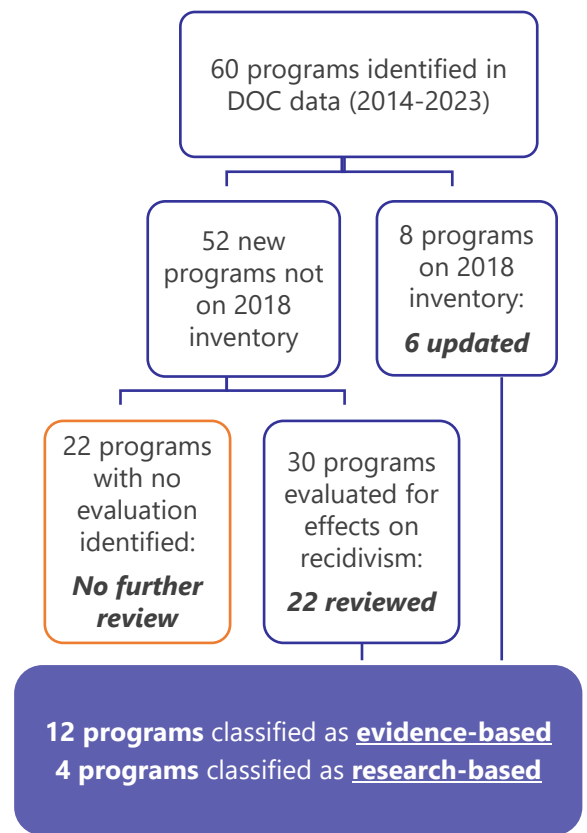
Results

- We reviewed evidence for 22 new programs, and updated reviews for 6 existing programs.

- Of these 28 new or updated programs, we classified 16 programs as research-based or evidence-based.

- Further, of those 16 programs, 12 are likely effective in reducing recidivism. Evidence-based and research-based programs without evidence of reducing recidivism significantly improved at least one other target outcome (e.g., substance use disorder).

Limitations

Estimates of program effectiveness reflect the current evidence base; we are unable to make a statement on effectiveness of programs that have not been rigorously evaluated. Estimates of the return on investment are limited to the outcomes that WSIPP is currently able to monetize in our benefit-cost analysis.

DOC Prison Facility Programs and WSIPP's Adult Corrections Inventory Classifications

60 programs identified in DOC data (2014-2023)

52 new programs not on 2018 inventory

8 programs on 2018 inventory: *6 updated*

22 programs with no evaluation identified: *No further review*

30 programs evaluated for effects on recidivism: *22 reviewed*

12 programs classified as **evidence-based**
4 programs classified as **research-based**