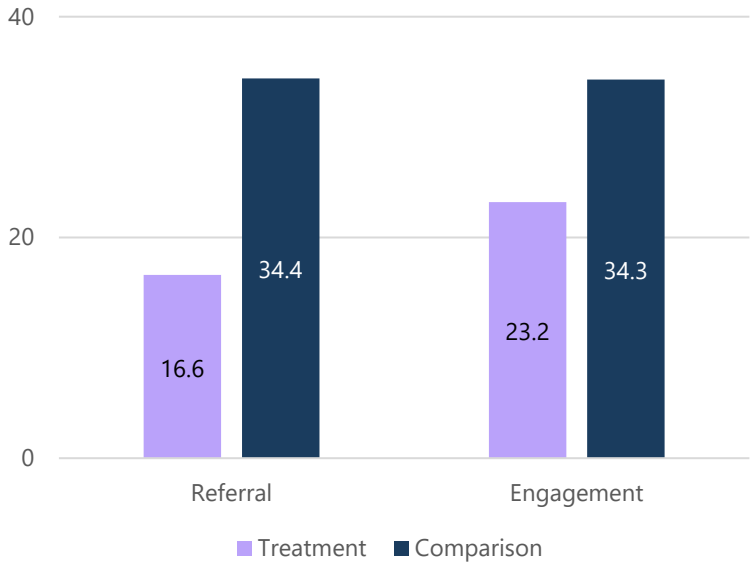
Evaluating DOC's Validated Treatment Provider List for Reentry Navigators: *Series Recap*

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) explored the impact of equipping reentry navigators with lists of verified service providers on referral activity and recidivism. The intent of the verified provider list (VPL) was to create a more comprehensive and up-to-date provider directory. WSIPP evaluated if use of the VPL resulted in changes to service referral activity and recidivism.

Background

In Washington, reentry navigators work with individuals as they leave prison and enter community custody. Navigators refer individuals to supportive services, rehabilitation programs, and potential employers. DOC tested how a verified list could improve the volume, speed, and quality of referrals to supportive services. The VPL was implemented in four reentry centers in two counties. Three reentry centers serving three additional counties served as the comparison.

Mean Days to First Referral and Engagement



Findings

- In the preliminary report, we explored the composition of the VPL, types of referrals, average number of referrals, and time to first referrals. We revisited these characteristics in the final report.
- People in treatment and comparison differed on demographic characteristics and recidivism risk scores, suggesting that the evaluation design was not effective in producing equivalent groups.
- Reentry navigators in facilities with access to the VPL provided more referrals and provided those referrals more quickly compared to reentry navigators in the comparison facilities.
- Across a variety of recidivism measures and analytic approaches, there were no statistically significant differences in arrest, conviction, or incarceration between people assigned to treatment or comparison groups.

Limitations

The small number of reentry facilities and relatively short recidivism follow-up period reduced the likelihood of reliably detecting statistically significant differences.

Assignment Details

WSIPP Board-approved contract from the Department of Corrections

Links to the full reports are provided below
Preliminary Report
Final Report

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