



Alaska Results First

Benefit-Cost Findings: Adult Criminal Justice Programs



Presented to:
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
October 26, 2017

**ALASKA
JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER**



Alaska Results First: Adult Criminal Justice
Programs

Mission

- To compile, analyze, and report on criminal justice topics to policymakers and practitioners in order to improve public safety, to increase criminal justice system accountability, and to reduce recidivism.
 - AJiC helps **improve public safety** by promoting evidence-based best practices, and by providing data to inform administrative and funding decisions
 - AJiC facilitates **criminal justice system accountability** by developing, producing, and tracking criminal justice agency performance measures
 - AJiC assists with **recidivism reduction** by providing criminal justice policymakers and practitioners with data and analyses that can be used to assess the effectiveness, costs, and benefits of existing programs and practices.



A Brief Introduction

ALASKA RESULTS FIRST



Alaska's Results First Initiative

- State of Alaska applied to join *Results First*
 - Tri-branch agreement to pursue this work
 - Alaska Legislature
 - Office of the Governor
 - Alaska Court System
- In 2015 Alaska became the 19th jurisdiction to partner with Pew-MacArthur *Results First*
- Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC)
 - Tasked with conducting data collection, analyses, and dissemination of findings



An Overview

STEPS IN THE PROCESS



The *Results First* Process

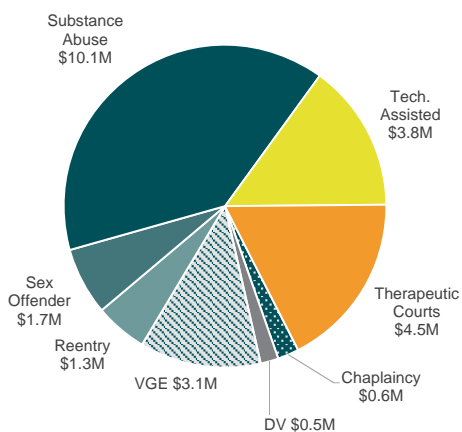
- **Program Inventory**
 - Comprehensive listing of all programs provided in a particular policy area (e.g., criminal justice)
- **Match state programs to the evidence base**
 - Results First Clearinghouse Database; Results First Ratings Database
 - *How effective are programs that are provided?*
- **Pew-MacArthur Benefit-Cost Model**
 - Estimates benefit-cost ratios for programs that have been rigorously researched/evaluated



Step 1: Program Inventory

- 54 adult criminal justice programs identified
- Separated into 8 groupings:
 - Chaplaincy services
 - Domestic violence (DV)
 - Vocational and general education (VGE)
 - Re-entry services
 - Sex offender
 - Substance abuse
 - Technology-assisted
 - Therapeutic courts
- 36 adult criminal justice programs were funded wholly or in part by the State of Alaska
 - \$25.5 million annually
- 18 adult criminal justice programs in the inventory did not receive dedicated state funding allocations

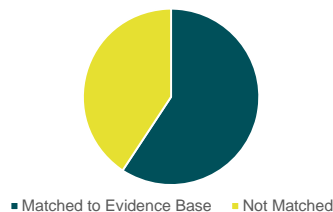
Distribution of State Investments
in Adult Criminal Justice
Programs



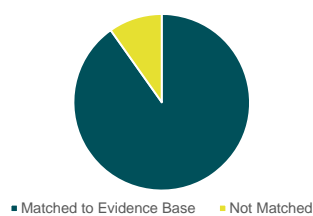
Step 2: Program Matching

- Compare Alaska adult criminal justice programs with programs that have been rigorously evaluated
 - Program features
 - Program content/curriculum
 - Program structure/process
 - Locus of Treatment
 - Prison vs. community
 - Inpatient vs. outpatient
 - Target population/eligible participants
- Key Findings
 - 32 of 54 (59.3%) adult criminal justice programs matched to evidence base
 - Of the 32 programs matched, 26 funded wholly or in part by State of Alaska (\$23 million)
 - 90% of state investment in adult criminal justice programs directed to programs matched in evidence base

Programs Matched to Evidence Base



State Investment in Adult Criminal Justice Programs



Step 3: Populate *Results First* Benefit-Cost Model

- Prerequisite steps:
 - Estimate per-participant program costs
 - Estimate criminal justice resource use and cost parameters
 - Probability of resource use for prison, community supervision
 - Marginal costs of: police (\$ per arrest), courts (\$ per conviction), prison (\$ per inmate), and community supervision (\$ per offender)
 - Estimate recidivism parameters for Alaska program-eligible populations
 - 2007 cohorts
 - 9 cohorts in total
 - 8-year recidivism estimates
- THEN...populate the *Results First* benefit-cost model to estimate **benefit-cost ratios** for programs



Step 3 {continued}: Populate *Results First* Benefit-Cost Model

- Not all of Alaska's evidence-based programs were put in the model
 - Evidence not about recidivism
 - For example: 12-step programs >>> relapse
 - Evidence insufficient to determine a reliable recidivism reduction effect
 - Too few studies
 - Studies of substandard scientific rigor
 - No dedicated, program-specific funding
 - For example: Ignition interlock (self-pay)
- Total programs entered into the model: 19



Programs Included in Model

- ASAP: Alcohol Safety Action Program (DHSS)
- BIP: Batterer Intervention Program (DPS via CDVSA)
- EM: Electronic Monitoring (DOC)
- IOPSAT: Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment (DOC)
 - Community-based
 - Prison-based
 - Dual diagnosis
- PACE: Probation Accountability with Certain Enforcement (DOC)
- PsychEd: Psych-Educational Substance Abuse Program (DOC)
- RSAT: Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (DOC)
- SOTX: Sex Offender Treatment (DOC)
 - Community-based outpatient
 - Prison outpatient
 - Residential (therapeutic community)
- TC: Therapeutic Courts (ACS)
 - Anchorage Municipal DUI Wellness Court
 - Felony DUI Wellness Courts
 - Hybrid DUI/Drug Wellness Courts
 - Anchorage Felony Drug Court
 - Mental Health Courts
- VGE: Vocational/Adult General Education
 - Vocational education
 - Adult general education



Benefit-Cost Ratio

- A monetary metric for assessing “return on investment”
- Consists of two elements
 - $$\frac{\text{Benefits}}{\text{Costs}} = \frac{(\text{Avoided CJ Costs}) + (\text{Avoided Victimization Costs})}{\text{Program Costs}}$$
 - Note: Benefits are triggered by **recidivism reduction** achieved by each adult criminal justice program
- The ratio can be made larger by...
 - ↑ benefits
 - ↓ costs



Interpretation

- *How does one interpret a benefit-cost ratio?!*
- Ratio greater than 1.0
 - Benefits exceed costs
 - Example: 3.07 >>> \$1 investment by state produces \$3.07 of benefits
- Ratio of 1.0
 - “Break even”
 - \$1 invested by state produces a return of \$1 of benefits
- Ratio greater than 0.0, but less than 1.0
 - Positive return with tangible monetary benefits, but not equal to amount invested
 - Example: 0.80 >>> \$1 investment by state produces \$0.80 of benefits
- Ratio of 0.0
 - No return on investment
- Ratio less than 0.0
 - Negative return
 - State investment lost, plus additional costs produced
 - Example: -0.96 >>> \$1 investment by state lost, and an additional \$0.96 in costs incurred



Results First Model Results

BENEFIT-COST RATIOS ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS

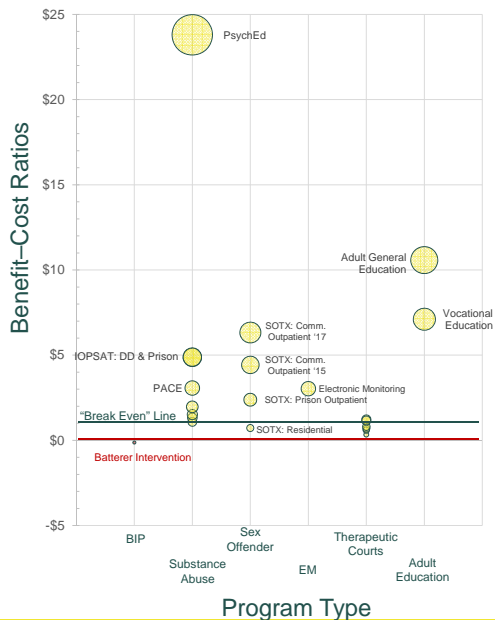


Alaska Results First: Adult Criminal Justice Programs

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Benefit – Cost Ratios Adult Criminal Justice Programs

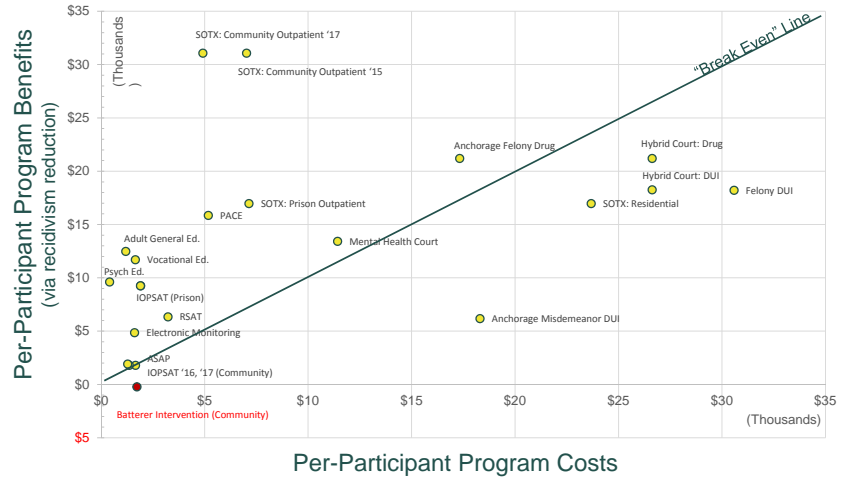
- 1. PsychEd (\$23.80)
- 2. Adult General Education (\$10.58)
- 3. Vocational Education (\$7.11)
- 4. Sex Offender: Community Outpatient '17 (\$6.33)
- 5. IOPSAT: Dual Diagnosis (\$4.89)
- 6. IOPSAT: Prison (\$4.87)
- 7. Sex Offender: Community Outpatient '15 (\$4.43)
- 8. PACE (\$3.07)
- 9. EM: Post Prison (\$3.03)
- 10. Sex Offender: Prison Outpatient (\$2.38)
- 11. RSAT (\$1.97)
- 12. ASAP (\$1.51)
- 13. IOPSAT: Community '17 (\$1.32)
- 14. Anchorage Fel Drug Court (\$1.22)
- 15. Mental Health Courts (\$1.16)
- 16. IOPSAT: Community '16 (\$1.08)
- 17. Hybrid Courts [as Drug] (\$0.80)
- 18. Sex Offender: Residential (\$0.72)
- 19. Hybrid Courts [as DUI] (\$0.69)
- 20. Fel DUI Wellness Courts (\$0.60)
- 21. Anchorage Misd DUI Court (\$0.34)
- 22. BIP: Community-Based (-\$0.96)



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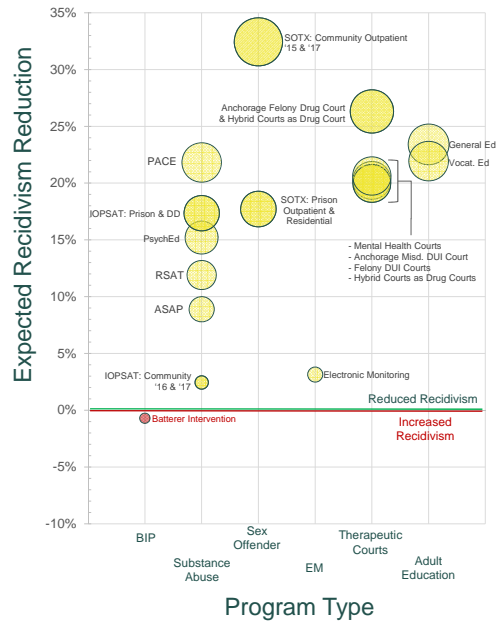
Benefits vs. Costs (Alternate View)



Expected Recidivism Reduction

Adult Criminal Justice Programs

- 1(t). Sex Offender: Community Outpatient '15 (32.44%)
- 1(t). Sex Offender: Community Outpatient '17 (32.44%)
- 3(t). Anchorage Fel Drug Court (26.31%)
- 3(t). Hybrid Courts [as Drug] (26.31%)
5. Adult General Education (23.41%)
6. Vocational Education (21.94%)
7. PACE (21.82%)
8. Mental Health Courts (20.63%)
9. Anchorage Misd DUI Court (20.24%)
- 10(t). Fel DUI Wellness Courts (19.97%)
- 10(t). Hybrid Courts [as DUI] (19.97%)
- 12(t). Sex Offender: Residential (17.72%)
- 12(t). Sex Offender: Prison Outpatient (17.72%)
- 14(t). IOPSAT: Prison (17.35%)
- 14(t). IOPSAT: Dual Diagnosis (17.35%)
16. PsychEd (15.20%)
17. RSAT (11.91%)
18. ASAP (8.89%)
19. EM: Post Prison (3.15%)
- 20(t). IOPSAT: Community '16 (2.45%)
- 20(t). IOPSAT: Community '17 (2.45%)
22. BIP: Community-Based (-5.13%)



SUMMARY



“3 Things”

1. 90% of state investment in adult criminal justice directed to programs matched in evidence base
2. Of the 19 adult criminal justice programs modeled, all but one produced positive returns
 - 14 benefits exceeded costs
 - 4 positive return with tangible monetary benefits, but not equal to amount invested
 - 1 negative return
3. **Benefit-cost ratios are not fixed!**
 - “Return on investment” – that is, the monetary performance – of a program can change
 - Increase benefits (e.g., program elements, participants)
 - Decrease costs (e.g., capacity, contracting/procurement)



3 More For The Road...

1. Results First findings are intended to be used as a decision making TOOL, not a decision making rule
2. What are our expectations, RE: “return on investment” when it comes to the delivery of public services?
3. Model estimates could be improved
 - Program level
 - Programmatic data collection and compilation
 - Collect/compile data with research/evaluation in mind
 - Policy level
 - Establish a program (and culture) of rigorous program evaluation and assessment, and institutionalize a paradigm of continual process improvement



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