Using Recidivism Data to Improve Correctional Practice

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Presenters:
Laurie Lindahl
Leah Bower
Kimberly Sperber
Presentation Objectives:

• To provide a brief description of Ramsey County Community Corrections and its internal evaluation philosophy

• To share current recidivism data and how it has been used to improve practice

• To have an open discussion about what other jurisdictions are doing with recidivism data
- Minnesota State Population: 5,303,925
- Ramsey County Population: 508,640
- Ramsey County is the smallest and most densely populated county in Minnesota.
- Ramsey County Community Corrections (RCCC) supervises approximately 9% of the juveniles on probation statewide and 12% of adult offenders on probation statewide.
Internal Evaluation Philosophy

- RCCC has dedicated resources to sustain and grow its internal Research and Evaluation Unit
- Commitment to integrating evaluation into the culture of the organization
  - Decision makers need to know that they can trust the information
  - Focus on improving the performance of programs/interventions
Internal Evaluation Philosophy (con’t)

- Emphasize evaluation as an iterative and reflective process that has to be embedded in the decision making structure of the department.
Recidivism – Developing an Automated System

• Moving from hand counts to automation
  • The creation of ARTS (Automated Recidivism Tracking System)
• Defining recidivism
  • Comparability
  • Our definition
• Preliminary data analysis
  • Face validity
  • Measurement stability
Ramsey County Community Corrections - Adult Services Division
Study #1a: 12-Month Recidivism Comparison: Clients that Started on Probation
Using Recidivism Data to Improve Practice

- Targeting your audience
  - Internal – director, senior managers, supervisors, staff. What do they want to know?
- Measurement for whom?
  - Focusing on offenders while they are on probation versus after discharge from probation
12-Month Recidivism Comparison
Discharged Probation vs. Started Probation

- **Discharged Probation**
  - 2008: 8.9%
  - 2009: 6.9%

- **Started Probation**
  - 2008: 13.7%
  - 2009: 11.6%
Sample Recidivism Studies/Analyses

- Recidivism by risk level
- Linking recidivism to the implementation of EBP
Recidivism by Risk Level

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Percentage That Have a Recidivating Offense

Months from Start of Supervision
Ramsey County Community Corrections – Adult Services Division
12-Month Recidivism Comparison by Supervising Units

**Started Probation - Field Offices**

- **Field 1**
  - 2008: 30.3%
  - 2009: 25.0%
  - 2010: 25.3%

- **Field 2**
  - 2008: 18.8%
  - 2009: 16.9%
  - 2010: 18.5%

- **Field 3**
  - 2008: 37.6%
  - 2009: 36.1%
  - 2010: 22.2%
LSI Scoring Accuracy by Adult Field Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field 1</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field 2</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field 3</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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MI Proficiency by Adult Field Units

Field 1: 82%
Field 2: 89%
Field 3: 73%
Ramsey County Community Corrections – Adult Services Division
12- Month Recidivism Comparison by Originating Offense Level

Started Probation – Field Units 1, 2 and 3

- Felony
- GM/Misdemeanor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Felony Rate</th>
<th>GM/Misdemeanor Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
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Open Discussion
Presenters Contact Information

- Laurie Lindahl
  - Email: laurie.lindahl@co.ramsey.mn.us

- Leah Bower
  - Email: leah.bower@co.ramsey.mn.us

- Kimberly Sperber
  - Email: Kimberly.Sperber@talberthouse.org