## Key Findings of the National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures Monica Davis, BA; Josephine Korchmaros PhD; Sally Stevens, PhD; & Alison Greene, MA

## Overview

As jurisdictions throughout the country continue to seek solutions to juvenile justice issues, several have merged two existing models to create an innovative approach: Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice (JDC:SIP) and Reclaiming Futures (RF).

Two federal agencies in partnership with a private foundation funded an initiative to improve the effectiveness and efficacy of juvenile drug courts (JDCs) by integrating these two models. Five sites were included in the National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures (JDC/RF).

The purpose of the JDC/RF National Cross-Site Evaluation was to evaluate the combined effects of the JDC:SIP and the RF models to identify the factors, elements, and services that perform best with respect to system and client outcomes and cost-effectiveness.

## **Key Finding**

Compared to intensive outpatie treatment, JDCs overall are mo among youth with relatively me

JDC/RF programs are more ef than non-RF JDCs and IOPs am activity at program intake.

Program characteristics with de 1) Having a defined target pop

2) Utilization of gender-appropriation

3) Utilization of policies and p differences;

- 4) Utilization of a non-adverse
- 5) Coordination with the school
- 6) Utilization of sanctions to me
- 7) Utilization of random and o

Integrated systems of care and population are particularly cri abuse treatment needs of JDC JDC/RF programs that more fu more successful at reducing sub 1) Community engagement;

- 2) Collaborative partnerships;
- 3) Educational linkages;
- 4) Community transition.

JDC/RF programs achieve mor more clinical problems.

service needs.

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	<b>Applications/Implications</b>
tient programs (IOPs) for substance use nore effective at reducing substance use nore substance use at program intake.	<ul> <li>JDC programs might be most effective substance problems.</li> <li>JDC programs with limited capacity consider focusing on high substance-period problems to IOP programs.</li> <li>Revise JDC program inclusion criterio.</li> </ul>
effective at reducing criminal behavior, mong youth with relatively more criminal	-JDC programs working with clients w effectiveness and cost efficiency by in -Revise JDC/RF program inclusion crit
desirable impact on client outcomes: opulation and eligibility criteria; opriate treatment; procedures responsive to cultural arial approach; ol system; nodify non-compliance; observed drug testing.	<ul> <li>Programs should select and utilize propulation.</li> <li>Programs utilizing the identified programs utilizing the identified program interficient if they target youth with a problem youth.</li> <li>Revise JDC and JDC/RF program interproblem youth.</li> </ul>
nd treatment tailored to the target ritical to effectively serving the substance C/RF clients.	-To optimize the effectiveness of the . treatment network/community in the . components that effectively serve the
bstance use with heavy substance users:	-The nature and extent of the implem model impacts client outcomes. -Revise JDC/RF program inclusion crit
ore cost-savings with youth who have	-JDC working with clients who have me efficiency by integrating elements of

An application from most findings and relevant for all programs is to use standardized, valid clinical tools to screen youth for program eligibility and assess their



tive and efficient by serving youth with high levels of

to serve the youth in need in their community should problem youth and referring youth with less substance

ia to focus on high-substance use-problem youth. with high levels of criminal behavior might increase their integrating elements of the RF model into their programs. iteria to focus on high-crime youth.

program components that effectively serve their target

ogram characteristics might be more effective and particular severity of substance use and criminal

nclusion criteria to focus on high-crime and high-clinical-

JDC, programs should increase support for the JDC area, as well as select and utilize program eir target population.

mentation of components of the integrated JDC/RF

iteria to focus on high-substance use-problem youth.

multiple clinical problems might increase their cost f the RF model into their programs.