

KEY FINDINGS OFF THE NATIONAL CROSS-SITE EVALUATION OF JUVENILE DRUG COURTS AND RECLAIMING FUTURES

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Key Finding 1

Juvenile Drug Court/Reclaiming Futures (JDC/RF) programs are *more effective* at reducing criminal behavior than non-RF JDCs and intensive outpatient treatment programs (IOPs) *among youth with relatively more criminal activity at program intake.*

Application/Implication




JDC programs working with clients with high levels of criminal behavior might increase their effectiveness and cost efficiency by integrating elements of the Reclaiming Futures model into their programs.



Key Finding 2



Compared to IOPs, JDCs overall are *more effective* at reducing substance use *among youth with relatively more substance use at program intake*.



Application/Implication

JDC programs might be most effective and efficient by serving youth with high levels of substance problems. JDC programs with limited capacity to serve the youth in need in their community should consider focusing on high substance-problem youth and referring youth with less substance problems to IOP programs.

Key Finding 3

Having a defined target population and eligibility criteria, utilization of gender-appropriate treatment, utilization of policies and procedures responsive to cultural differences, utilization of a non-adversarial approach, coordination with the school system, utilization of sanctions to modify non-compliance, and utilization of random and observed drug testing had desirable impacts on client outcomes.

Application/Implication


Programs should select and utilize program components that effectively serve their target population.

Programs utilizing the identified program characteristics might be more effective and efficient if they target youth with a particular severity of substance use and criminal behavior.

Key Finding 4




Integrated systems of care and tailored treatment to the target population are particularly critical to effectively serving the substance abuse treatment needs of JDC/RF program clients.



Application/Implication




In order to optimize the effectiveness of the JDC, programs should increase support for the treatment network/community in the JDC area, as well as select and utilize program components that effectively serve their target population.



Key Finding 5



Reclaiming Futures is perceived as an opportunity to refine internal processes rather than as an entirely new approach.



Application/Implication

JDCs with small budgets can apply program characteristics (e.g., gender-appropriate treatment) that have been identified as critical for program effectiveness to their programs without having to purchase the Reclaiming Futures package.



Summary

Limitations

- ❑ There were more similarities across JDC/RF, JDC, and IOP programs than differences between them.
- ❑ There were several program characteristics that could not be tested due to lack of variability.
- ❑ Data collection challenges.

Next steps

- Publishing and disseminating findings from the JDC/RF National Cross-site Evaluation.
- Adding additional complexities to the models examining client outcomes.
- Additional Reclaiming Futures sites.
- Cost effectiveness.

Questions?



Questions: Contact Monica Davis, midavis@email.arizona.edu, or Josephine Korchmaros, jkorch@email.arizona.edu

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