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

Monica Davis, BA, a Pamela Baumer, MA, b & Josephine D. Korchmaros, PhD a

a University of Arizona-Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW)
b Chestnut Health Systems, Inc.

Addiction Health Services Research Conference • October 14-16, 2015
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.
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.
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.
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: Contact Monica Davis, midavis@email.arizona.edu, or Josephine Korchmaros, jkorch@email.arizona.edu

Disclaimer: The development of this presentation is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through an interagency agreement with the Library of Congress-contract number LCFRD11C0007 and is supported by Grant Number 2013-DC-BX-0081 awarded by OJJDP, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed here are the authors and do not necessarily represent the official policies of the Department of Justice or the Library of Congress; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Acknowledgements: SIROW wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the evaluation sites and the evaluation partners, Chestnut Health Systems (CHS) and Carnevale Associates, LLC (CALLC) to this National Cross-Site Evaluation. In addition, SIROW is appreciative of support from the Library of Congress - Federal Research Division, OJJDP, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Reclaiming Futures National Program Office.

Suggested Citation: Davis, M., Baumer, P. C., & Korchmaros, J. D. (October, 2015). Key Findings of the National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures. Paper presented at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Marina del Rey, CA.