



PROGRAMMING SEMINAR SERIES

Kevin O'Connell

Michael Wilson

Seminar 1.2:
Assessing and Applying the
Evidence-Based Program Literature

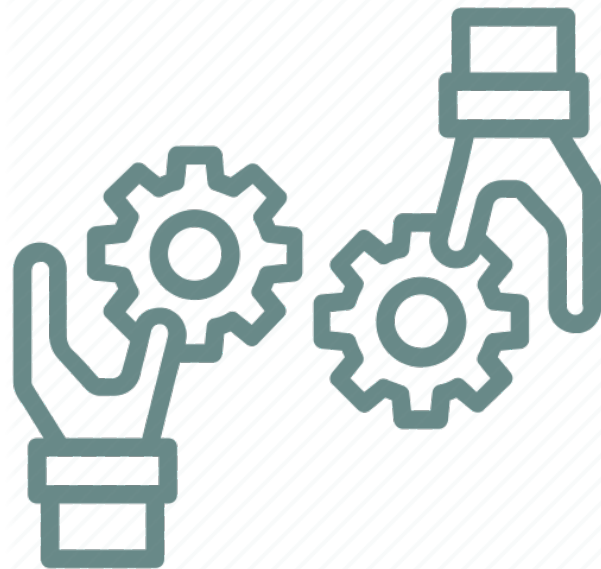


HOUSEKEEPING/ZOOM

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR DATA-DRIVEN AND EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

What is a strategic framework?

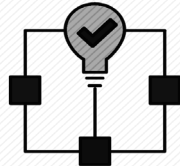
- A vision for where you would like to go and a map for how you plan to get there.
- Helps conceptualize the key components we may need to develop and how these components will build on each other over time to achieve that shared goal.



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR DATA-DRIVEN AND EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE



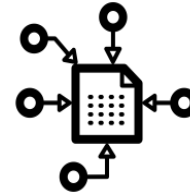
Program
Inventory &
Literature Review



Logic Models &
Process Maps



Contracting
Practices



Data Strategy
& Dashboards



Program
Evaluation
& Cost Benefit
Analysis

Seminar Series 1: Programming

Seminar Series 2: Data Strategy and Evaluation

PROGRAMMING SEMINAR SERIES OVERVIEW

- Give counties approaches to look at their justice involved populations through a lens of evidence, shared interventions, and a system-wide view.
- Offer tools that help to operationalize and embed evidence in program design and funding
- Apply concepts of cost efficacy to program design and assessment

PROGRAMMING SERIES CORE COMPONENTS

Program Inventory

- How do we build a program inventory and make it useful?

Oct 2020



Assessing and Applying Evidence

- How do we look at evidence and ask critical question?

Dec 2020

Program Design and Contracting

- How do we connect evidence to contracting and program design?

Feb 2021

Cost Benefit, Part 1

- What are the key concepts in developing a cost-benefit model?

Apr 2021

Cost Benefit, Part 2

- How do we use cost-benefit analysis to inform policy and practice?

June 2021

SEMINAR 1.2:
ASSESSING AND APPLYING THE
EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM LITERATURE

EVIDENCE AND PROGRAM DESIGN SEMINAR OVERVIEW

What is
evidence?

Where do you
find evidence?

How do you
put it to use?



WHAT IS EVIDENCE?

WHAT IS EVIDENCE?

Programs or practices whose level of effectiveness has been determined by rigorous evaluations.

Evidence can be found in the following places:

- Specific evaluations
- Meta-analyses
- Clearinghouses

RIGOROUS EVALUATION

- Randomized control trials
 - Rarely used in criminal justice because of ethical and research design challenges
- Quasi-experimental design – attempts to establish a cause-and-effect relationship without random assignment
 - Control group
 - Regression discontinuity
 - Propensity score matching
 - Standard regression analysis
 - Accounting for differences between groups

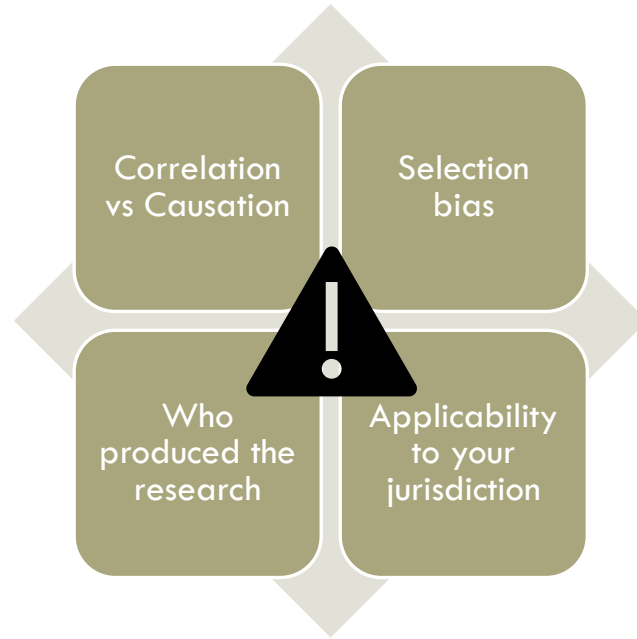
POLL QUESTION

How comfortable are you reading rigorous evaluation studies?

MARYLAND SCIENTIFIC METHODS SCALE

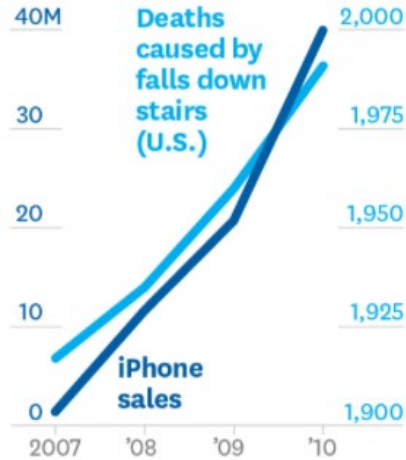
- Five-point scale, with five being the most rigorous
 - ↑ **Level 5:** Randomized control trial
 - Level 4:** Regression discontinuity or similar design
 - Level 3:** Use of a treatment group with statistical controls (e.g. propensity score matching)
 - Level 2:** Before and after comparison without a control group
 - Level 1:** Correlation, no use of control variables to adjust for group differences
- The Washington State Institute for Public Policy uses a similar scale for their meta-analytical work

RESEARCH CAUTIONS

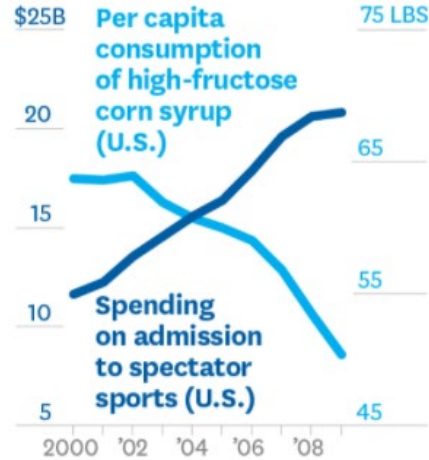


CORRELATION

MORE IPHONES MEANS MORE PEOPLE DIE FROM FALLING DOWN STAIRS



LET'S CHEER ON THE TEAM, AND WE'LL LOSE WEIGHT



TO INCREASE AUTO SALES, MARKET TRIPS TO UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



SOURCE TYLERVIGEN.COM
FROM "BEWARE SPURIOUS CORRELATIONS," JUNE 2015

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SELECTION BIAS

- Successful participants compared to dropouts
 - Underlying motivational differences could explain better outcomes for program graduates
- Variation in risk levels
 - Programs that take lower risk individuals will have better outcomes even if the program is ineffective
 - Programs that take higher risk individuals could have worse outcomes but still be effective
- Pre-and-post design
 - Regression to the mean
 - May be some level of improvement even without the program

WHO PRODUCED OR FUNDED THE RESEARCH?

- In the 80's tobacco companies funded research showing there were no harmful impacts from secondhand smoke
- The sugar industry funded academic research in the 1960's questioning any link between sugar and heart disease
- The Washington State Institute for Public Policy found that when program developers are closely involved in the research the findings are often better than those that operate in real world settings
 - Developers pay closer attention to research design
 - Developers have greater incentive to find positive results

LOCAL APPLICATION

- Where were the studies conducted?
- Demographics of participants
- Setting of the program
- Risk levels of individuals served
- Rural or urban

POLL QUESTION

Where do you get your information on the effectiveness of programs?
(anecdote, local evaluations, rigorous research studies, meta-analyses and clearinghouses)

**WHERE CAN YOU GET
EVIDENCE ABOUT WHAT
WORKS?**

THE SOURCE OF THE EVIDENCE MATTERS... BUT ALSO HOW YOU PERCEIVE IT

Barriers to Thinking About New Information

- Confirmation bias
- Loss aversion
- Past is prologue
- Legends and stories
- Apples to oranges comparisons

Ways to Start Sourcing Evidence

- Trusted source with clear, documented standards and funding
- Expertise in the subject along with external expert panel
- Clear affiliations, and ideally, non-membership or fee-based assessment

LOWER

Chance you will get a good idea of
"What Works" to impact an outcome

HIGHER



EXAMPLE: TOP EYE SURGEONS!

1. Who produces this information?
2. What are they attempting to accomplish?
3. On what basis do they include some practitioners while omitting others?
4. Is there a peer review process?

**THESE DOCTORS ARE AMONG
THE BEST
EYE SURGEONS
IN AMERICA**

Each doctor has been peer-nominated and/or selected by the nation's leading providers of information on top doctors.

These top eye surgeons specialize in KAMRA for close vision, LASIK, laser cataract surgery and lens implantation.

All doctors are board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.



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913-497-3300
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RALEIGH-DURHAM
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919-857-9900
VisionDurham.com
Credo Community - Top Doctors

PHOENIX
Sanford L. Maresky, DO
100 W. University Circle
Mesa, AZ
480-470-1200
ArizonaAsk.com
PhoenixMagazine - Top Doctors Issue

NAPLES, FL
Farnell C. Tyson, MD
Other locations: Ft. Myers,
Bonita & Cape Coral, FL
239-642-2000
TysonEye.com
GulfBreezeBusiness - 47 Under 47

LOS ANGELES
Jeffrey C. Hong, MD
800 S. Fairmount Avenue
Pasadena, CA
626-648-7007
HuntingtonEye.com
Super Doctors - Southern California

ST. LOUIS
Jason P. Branton, MD
550 N. New Ballas Road
St. Louis, MO
314-379-2000
BrantonVision.com
Ranked LASIK Surgeon Directory

ATLANTA
Milan F. Pafai, MD
6300 Hospital Parkway
Johns Creek, GA
678-381-2000
MilanEyeCenter.com
Credo Community - Top Doctors

TheTopDoctors.com

WHAT ARE INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM CLEARINGHOUSES?

- Review and summarize rigorous evaluations of different programs and practices to create a “registry” of sorts.
- Help to Identify the consensus on “what works”
- Assign ratings to programs and practices based on the evidence (e.g., promising, mixed effects).

STEPS IN PROGRAM ASSESSMENT FOR CLEARINGHOUSES

Targeted collections of programs and practices, rated on clearly defined scale, and follow a routinized review process.

1. Identify programs of interest to practitioners and policy;
2. Screen programs for relevancy to the outcomes and target populations of interest;
3. Large scope search for relevant research/evaluation materials;
4. Screen for evidence levels and impacts on outcomes of interest, and retain relevant and high-quality programs;
5. External Review by panel of experts; and
6. Aggregate and apply study ratings

RESULTS FIRST CLEARINGHOUSE DATABASE

- Contains information from 9 reputable clearinghouses – no need to search around individual clearinghouses
- Features over 2500 programs and practices across multiple areas of social policy
- Allows users to search and filter by categories and settings
- Applies standardized rating across clearinghouses

The screenshot displays the Results First Clearinghouse Database interface. At the top, there is a search bar labeled "Search Clearinghouse Database" with a magnifying glass icon and a right-pointing arrow. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with tabs for "Overview", "Clearinghouses", "Rating Colors & Systems", and "FAQ". A sidebar on the left contains a menu with "Categories", "Settings", "Rating colors", and "Clearinghouses", each with a downward arrow. Below the sidebar is a "Legend" section with four entries: "Highest rated" (green circle), "Second-highest rated" (yellow circle), "Mixed effects" (blue circle), and "No effects" (grey circle). Each entry includes a brief description of the rating criteria. The main content area features a close button (X) in the top right corner and three paragraphs of text explaining the database's purpose and methodology. At the bottom, a horizontal scale from "Negative impact" to "Positive impact" is shown, with five colored dots representing the rating levels: red for "Negative effects", grey for "No effects", blue for "Mixed effects", yellow for "Second-highest rated", and green for "Highest rated".

Search Clearinghouse Database

Overview | Clearinghouses | Rating Colors & Systems | FAQ

Categories
Settings
Rating colors
Clearinghouses

Legend

- Highest rated**
The program had a positive impact based on the most rigorous evidence.
- Second-highest rated**
The program had a positive impact based on high-quality evidence.
- Mixed effects**
The program had inconsistent impacts based on high-quality evidence. That is, study findings showed a mix of positive impact, no impact, and/or negative impact.
- No effects**
The program had no impact based on high-quality evidence. That is, there was no difference in

The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative created the Results First Clearinghouse Database to provide users with an easy way to access and understand the evidence base for programs in social policy areas such as behavioral health, criminal justice, education, and public health. More specifically, it allows users to see if there have been rigorous evaluations of a program and, if so, to review information on the program's effectiveness.

The database compiles and displays key information from nine national clearinghouses, including the rating they assigned to each program and the program's description, outcomes, setting, and target population (where available). It also contains a link back to the program's original source page on the clearinghouse website so that users can obtain additional details.

Clearinghouses develop this information by reviewing and summarizing rigorous evaluations of programs within their focus area. Then, they assign a rating to each program using their own methodology and terminology (such as top tier, effective, positive, and model).

The database applies color-coding to the clearinghouses' distinct rating systems, creating a common language that allows users to quickly see where each program falls on a spectrum from negative impact to positive impact. This coding consists of five rating colors that correspond to different levels of impact as shown below.

← Negative impact | Positive impact

Negative effects | No effects | Mixed effects | Second-highest rated | Highest rated

RESULTS FIRST CLEARINGHOUSE DATABASE (2)

<input type="text" value="drug treatment"/>	Overview	Clearinghouses	Rating Colors & Systems	FAQ
Results: 103 programs found	Adult <u>Treatment Drug Courts</u> (Multi-site)			
Clear results ×	Clearinghouse: ●			
Categories (1) ^	The Multi-site Adult <u>Drug Court</u> Evaluation (MADCE) was a 6-year national evaluation funded by the National Institute of Justice that looked at the impact of adult <u>drug courts</u> . Adult <u>treatment drug courts</u> are specialized and problem-solving... Read more >			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crime & delinquency				
<input type="checkbox"/> Child & family well-being				
<input type="checkbox"/> Education				
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment & job training				
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health				
<input type="checkbox"/> Public health				
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behavior & teen pregnancy				
<input type="checkbox"/> Substance use				
Settings ^	Multnomah County (Ore.) Sanction <u>Treatment Opportunity Progress (STOP) Drug Diversion Program</u>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Community	Clearinghouse: ●			
	The Sanction <u>Treatment Opportunity Progress (STOP) Drug Diversion Program</u> is a <u>drug court</u> program that was designed to reduce the increasing backlog of... Read more >			

RESULTS FIRST CLEARINGHOUSE DATABASE (3)

drug treatment

Results: 103 programs found

Clear results

Categories (1)

- Crime & delinquency
- Child & family well-being
- Education
- Employment & job training
- Mental health
- Public health
- Sexual behavior & teen pregnancy
- Substance use

Settings

- Community

Washington State's Residential Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative >

Clearinghouse:

The Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA) is a law that was passed in Washington State in 1995, which allows incarcerated offenders with substance abuse problems to receive a reduced prison sentence in exchange for completing a chemical-dependency treatment program. In 2005, a modification to the law created a "residential" DOSA, which allows offenders to receive chemical-dependency treatment in the community in lieu of confinement. The primary goal of residential DOSA is to reduce rates of recidivism by increasing community-based treatment alternatives for substance-abusing offenders.

Read less

Clearinghouse:

CrimeSolutions.gov

Settings:

Residential (group home, shelter care, nonsecure)
Correctional

Clearinghouse rating:

Promising

Ages:

Not specified

Outcomes:

Total Recidivism

Target populations:

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Offenders

Learn more

WHAT IS A META-ANALYSIS?

Meta-analysis is a statistical technique for synthesizing the results of a set of independent, quantitative, empirical studies on a topic, in order to determine an overall estimate of a treatment effect... now widely accepted as **a method of summarizing the results** of empirical studies within the behavioral, social and health sciences.”
Lipsey and Wilson (2001)

What are some example meta-analysis sources for numerous programs, policies, and concepts:


- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)
- Cochrane Collaboration
- High Quality Individual Meta-Analysis Example:

Lipsey, M. W. (2009). The primary factors that characterize effective interventions with juvenile offenders: A meta-analytic overview. *Victims & Offenders*, 4(2), 124–147.

STEPS IN A META-ANALYSIS

Targeted collection of programs and practices, rated on clearly defined scale, and follow routinized review process:

1. Identify programs of interest to practitioners and policy
2. Screen programs for relevancy to the outcomes and target populations of interest
3. Large scope search for relevant research/evaluation materials
4. Screen for evidence levels and impacts on outcomes of interest, and retain relevant and high-quality programs
5. Create an effect size (estimate of change on an outcome from treatment) and standard error
6. External Review by panel of experts or peer review process



Same 4 steps
from
Clearinghouse
Assessment =
Consistent
Rigor

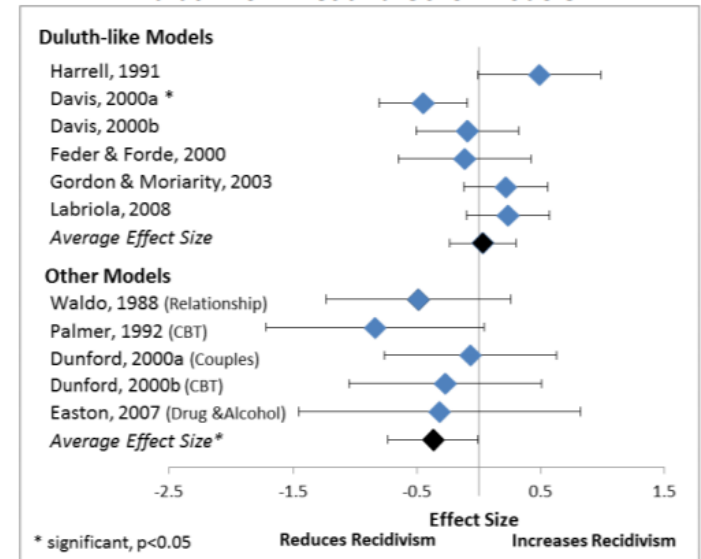
META-ANALYSIS HELPS MOVE FROM NARRATIVE REVIEW TO SOMETHING QUANTITATIVE

The “effect size” is a statistical method to compare the relative magnitude of effects on a baseline, and along with a standard error, the level of certainty across studies.

Example: Studies of different Domestic Violence models vary depending on how they are combined.

Benefit is the average effect size gives a general idea of program groups impact to the baseline expectations about level of impact locally.

**Effects Sizes for Group DV Treatment
Duluth/Feminist and Other Models**



Source: WSIPP, WHAT WORKS TO REDUCE
RECIDIVISM BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS?

EXAMPLE META-ANALYSIS: SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

- Employment counseling programs with job training teach skills necessary for seeking employment.
- These include both hard skills (e.g., job preparedness and skills training) and soft skills, (e.g., effective job searches, applications, and resumes).
- Each program in this category also includes subsidized or transitional jobs to help participants transition to regular employment.

Outcome	Effect Size (1)	Total Treatment Group
Crime/Recidivism	-.076	5,777

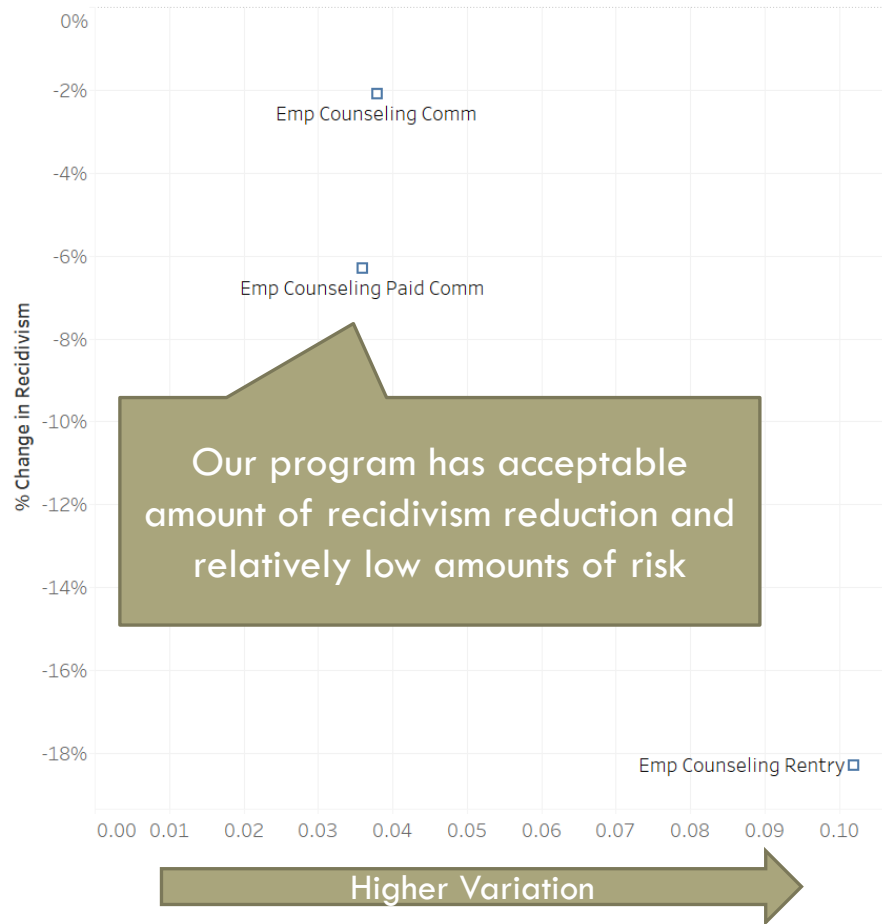
Going the right direction with an acceptable magnitude

6 studies with almost 6000 people trained

**RANGE OF WSIPP
META-ANALYSIS
FOR EMPLOYMENT
SHOWS RANGE OF
RECIDIVISM
REDUCTION**

Recidivism
Reduction

WSIPP Effect Sizes and Standard Error for Employment



Q AND A

**HOW DO YOU PUT IT TO
USE?**

MATCH PROGRAMS TO THE EVIDENCE

- Seminar 1.1 discussed collecting specific program information (e.g. duration, intensity, target population, budget, etc.)
- Program information can be matched to the Results First Clearinghouse Database to assess evidence
 - Green or highest rated
 - Yellow or second highest rated
 - Gray or no effects
- Cross agency workgroup can be used to create consistent matching
- Need to match program types in more depth than just applying similar names

FUNDING FOR EVIDENCE BASED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM INFORMATION	BUDGET		EVIDENCE-BASED
PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM BUDGET	% OF PROGRAM BUDGET	RATINGS
Reasoning and Rehabilitation	\$125,000	8%	Highest rated
Living in Balance	\$50,000	3%	Highest rated
Drug Court	\$300,000	20%	Second-highest rated
Vocational Education	\$250,000	17%	Second-highest rated
Intensive Supervision without Treatment	\$180,000	12%	No effects
Veterans Courts	\$100,000	7%	Not rated/Theory Based
All other programs	\$500,000	33%	Not rated/Theory Based

EXAMPLE FROM MINNESOTA

How to use the Minnesota Inventory

1. Use the filters to explore different services. Click the **Apply** button after you've made your selections. Filter results will appear in the table below.
2. **Hover** your mouse over a service's Rating to view the impact on outcomes.
3. Click on the Source of Evidence to open a hyperlink to the evidence in your internet browser

Search service name by keyword

Total number of services/programs in table below that match your search: **148**

Rating	Area of interest	Service population	Outcome	Service location
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (All) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mixed Effects <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proven Effective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theory Based	<input type="checkbox"/> (All) <input type="checkbox"/> Child stability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal justice <input type="checkbox"/> Early childhood <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and econo... <input type="checkbox"/> Family stability <input type="checkbox"/> General / physical health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (All) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adults <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All children <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culturally specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Families <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young children	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol use <input type="checkbox"/> Child maltreatment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crime (including recidivis... <input type="checkbox"/> Employment / earnings <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancement in child or ... <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalization / health c...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (All) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correctional setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In home or community <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outpatient <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice model
Cancel Apply	Cancel Apply	Cancel Apply	Cancel Apply	Cancel Apply

Service	Service description	Rating	Source of evidence
Affordable Homes Program (ICWC/AHP)	Inmates construct affordable housing under supervision of a qualified construction foreman and stay in county jails for the duration of the program.	No Effect	What Works with MN Prisoners
Aftercare	A range of programs designed to reintegrate juveniles after an out-of-home placement concludes. These programs focus on changing individual behavior so as to prevent further delinquency.	Promising	Crime Solutions
Aggression Replacement Training	A cognitive behavioral intervention. It targets chronically aggressive and violent youths. Treatment focuses on improving social skills, moral reasoning, as well as anger and emotional management. Provides yo...	Proven Effective	Crime Solutions
Career and technical education	This includes post-secondary education and technical training in various vocations to develop skills offenders can use to find and retain post-release employment.	Proven Effective	What Works with MN Prisoners
CASASTART	Targets youth age 11 to 13 in high-risk neighborhoods. The program attempts to decrease youth exposure to crime and drug activity by providing intensive case...	No Effect	Crime Solutions

CALIFORNIA COUNTY EXAMPLES

Solano County Results First

Program Inventory			
Program	Program Description	Outcomes/Needs Addressed	Evidence Rating
Reasoning and Rehabilitation II (R&R II)	Cognitive behavioral therapy intended to help participants develop social skills, moral reasoning, and problem-solving skills. The focus of R&R II involves assisting clients develop problem solving skills through moral reasoning.	Criminal Thinking Companions Anti-Social Patterns Pro-Criminal Attitude	Highest Rated
Employment Services	Employment services in the form of soft skills, resume preparation, job searches and job training. Includes interactive journalized curriculum.	Employment	Highest Rated
The Nurturing Parenting Program (Men & Women)	Program for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.	Family Relationships/Parenting	Highest Rated
Motivational Interviewing	Theoretical approach to therapeutic interventions helping consumers identify areas in their life that cause problems, help motivate consumer to change behaviors and sustain positive changes	Antisocial patterns Alcohol/Drug Leisure/Recreation Family/Marital	Highest Rated
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression	Group therapy utilizing cognitive behavioral therapy to build skills to develop a positive, more balanced and constructive ways to respond to stressors to reduce/manage symptoms of depression	Alcohol/Drug Leisure/Recreation	Highest Rated
Dialectical Behavior Therapy - Emotional Regulation	Skill building therapy group utilizing Dialectical Behavior Therapy, integrating mindfulness, distress tolerance and effective communication	Alcohol/Drug Leisure/Recreation Family/Marital	Highest Rated

EVIDENCE AND THE PROGRAM INVENTORY

- Establish a baseline
- Evaluation decisions
 - Identify programs that need evaluation
 - Use data collection as a check on program fidelity
- Budget decisions
 - Target resources at effective programs
 - Use Clearinghouse Database as a menu of potential investments



RESOURCES

MATERIALS, GUIDES AND TEMPLATES

Materials
available:

[Program Inventory Overview](#)

[Results First Clearinghouse](#)

Programming Series Info:

<https://www.counties.org/framework-seminar-series>

Support Hub Website:

<https://www.counties.org/csac-support-hub>

Q AND A



LOOKING AHEAD

DATA AND EVALUATION SERIES - SEMINAR 2.2 (JANUARY)

This seminar will focus on strategies to access and integrate local data. The Support Hub team will provide a model template that identifies key data elements commonly held by local agencies and community-based organizations, as well as outline a plan for integrating data locally. We will also provide an overview of some of the key tools that would draw on these data to produce analyses that can be used to inform your practice.

PROGRAMMING SERIES - SEMINAR 1.3 (FEBRUARY)

This seminar will provide guidance on developing logic models for key programs in your inventory. Logic models are important in ensuring the program design is clear, key outcomes agreed upon, and assess whether the design is informed by the literature. The seminar will also feature approaches for engaging providers and community organizations around how to structure contracts.



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