



San Joaquin County Probation Day Reporting Center (DRC) *Recidivism by EBP Dosage Hours* January – December 2015

Introduction

This evaluation report centers on analysis specific to the San Joaquin County Probation Department's Day Reporting Center (DRC). The DRC, which has been in operation for numerous years offers clients on probation a location in which they can check in with their probation officers, remain in compliance (via reporting and drug testing), and immediately take part in evidence based curriculum. Clients who have been referred to the DRC (in order to receive case management services) have all been assessed as being high risk to reoffend. An overarching goal of the Probation Department is to reduce recidivism and commitments to local jail and State prison. In order to achieve these goals, the Department, via the services and programs offered at the DRC, is focused on addressing the barriers that hinder the success of their clients.

This report centers on DRC clients and recidivism data. Moreover, this analysis centers on a sample of 153 clients and offers a comprehensive look at recidivism analysis 365 days since enrollment in the DRC. It is important to note that eleven clients were removed from the sample due to various reasons including: client no show, client transferred out, client recidivated prior to enrollment, and one client passed away. In addition, this data analysis includes recidivism findings analyzed by the amount of evidence base programming hours received.

The two main data analysis questions for this work are:

- What is the level of recidivism for the sample?
- Are levels of recidivism affected by the dosage hours received?

Demographics

The sample for the recidivism check consisted of 153 clients and spans 365 days post enrollment. Most (94.8%) of the clients are male and 5.2% are female.

Table 1. DRC Demographics

	Count	%
Total Number of Clients	153	---
Recidivism Check	365 Days	
Gender		
Female	8	5.2%
Male	145	94.8%
Ethnicity		
Asian	5	3.3%
Black or African American	39	25.5%
Hispanic or Latino/Latina	63	41.2%
White or Caucasian	34	22.2%
Other	12	7.8%
Risk Assessment Level		
High Drug	15	9.8%
High Property/Violent	58	37.9%
High Violent	80	52.3%

In regards to the racial/ethnic make-up of the clients, four in ten (41.2%) clients identified as Hispanic or Latino/Latina, 25.5% identified as Black or African American, 22.2% reported White or Caucasian, five clients (3.3%) reported as Asian, and 7.8% were marked 'other.'

As previously stated, all of the clients in the DRC are high risk. When looking at the breakdown of risk assessment level, 52.3% of clients were assessed as High Violent, 37.9% as High Property/Violent, and 9.8% as High Drug.

Evidence Based Program (EBP) Dosage Hours

The average amount of hours that clients received of evidence based programming (EBP) during the 365-day sample was 37.3 hours, with a range of 1 to 115 hours. Forty-nine (49) or 32.0% of the clients received 0 to 19.5 hours of EBP, nearly one-quarter (24.2%) received 20 to 39 hours, and 67 or 43.8% of clients received 40 or more hours of EBP during the 365-day study (Table 2).

Recidivism Rates

As shown in Figure 1, the recidivism rates are as follows: 9.2% of the clients had a violation of probation (VOP), 29.4% of clients had at least one arrest, and 19.6% of clients had at least one conviction in the 365-day study period (Table 2 and Figure 1). The results of the recidivism analysis provide the most detailed assessment to date of the impact of evidence based programming at the DRC.

Data in Figure 2 (on page three) shows that clients with 0 to 19.5 hours of EBP had an arrest rate of 40.8% and conviction rate of 38.8%, clients with 20 to 39 hours had an arrest rate of 32.4% and a conviction rate of 18.9%. Clients who had forty or more EBP hours had less arrests (19.4%) and convictions (6.0%); these findings were statistically significant ($p = .039$ and $p = .000$ respectively).

Table 2. Evidence Based Program Dosage Hours and Recidivism Rates

	Count	%
EBP Dosage Hours		
Average (In Hours)	37.3	
Range (In Hours)	1-115	
0-19.5 Hours	49	32.0%
20-39 Hours	37	24.2%
40 or More Hours	67	43.8%
Recidivism		
VOP Rate	14	9.2%
Arrest Rate	45	29.4%
Conviction Rate	30	19.6%

Figure 1. VOP, Arrest, and Conviction Rates for DRC

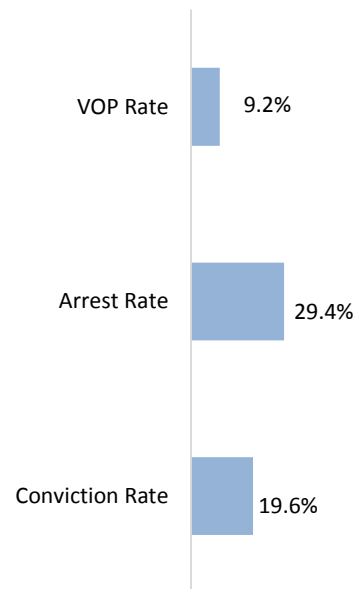
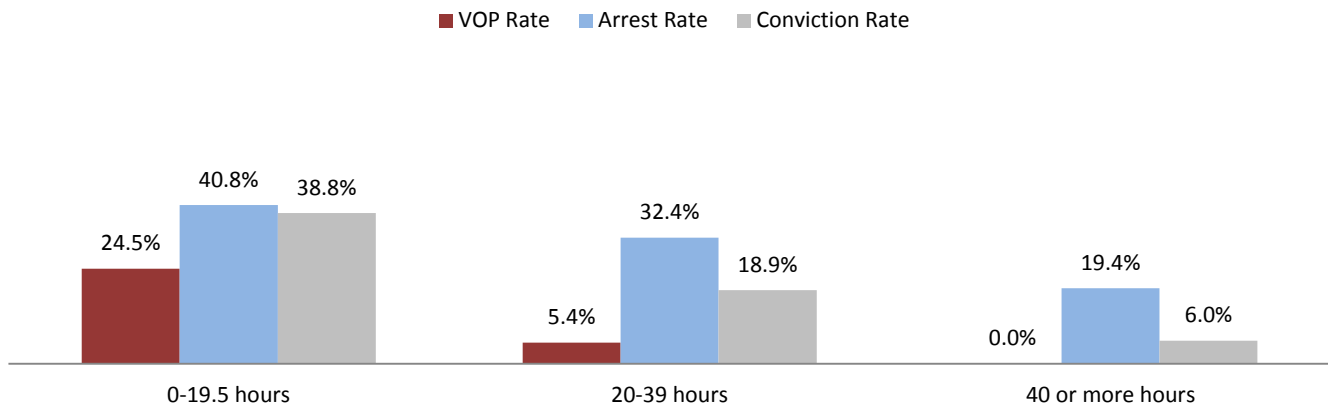


Figure 2. VOP, Arrest and Conviction Rates for DRC, by EBP Dosage Hours



When looking at whether or not levels of recidivism are affected by EBP dosage hours, data from linear regression analysis predicts that the higher the dosage hours a client receives, the less likely they will be to recidivate. This data is statistically significant for VOPs, arrests, and convictions ($p = .000$).

In addition, the clients with 0 to 19.5 hours of EBP, who had the largest percentages of VOPs, arrests, and convictions, are statistically more likely to have an arrest ($p = .039$).

Conclusion

Clients enrolled from January to December of 2015 were checked for recidivism 365-days post enrollment. Findings indicated a decrease in VOPs, arrests, and convictions as EBP hours increase. This analysis supports the claim that the DRC evidence based programming does help reduce recidivism rates.

Case Study Analysis

As an extension of the quantitative analysis, two case studies were completed in order to have a closer look at how some clients have been successful in reaching at least 40 hours of evidence based programming. The two case studies were built from interviews of two clients as well as information provided by the clients' probation officers. One probation officer from the DRC was also interviewed. Client stories are on the following page.

Case Study #1

Probation Grant: SB678

Type of Offense: Burglary

Risk Level/Factors: High Drug

Top 3 Criminogenic Needs: Education/Community Employment/Aggression

Main Challenges: Finding support amongst family/friends, finding a positive living environment, unhealthy relationships, triggers/old habits, decision making, reporting requirements of program, attending and completing EBP classes, and finding employment.

Summary from Probation Officer: After a conviction of burglary, the client was sentenced to a formal grant of Probation and reported to the DRC. While the client's Static Risk Assessment determined their risk level/factor to be High Drug, the overall history and circumstances at the time of the assessment indicated this was not to be the primary area of focus.

The officer noted that although faced with several challenges, the client developed and maintained a sense of intrinsic motivation through the support received from the officers and facilitators. The client used the different skills introduced and applied them to their everyday life. For example, the officer said that the client applied learned problem solving skills to struggles with regard to relationships, time management, transportation difficulties, and program attendance.

The officer added that the client's ability to recognize small accomplishments like having receipts for items purchased (instead of stolen) "ultimately translated into [the] major accomplishment of achieving over 40 hours of EBP."

Summary of Client Interview: After receiving the referral from Probation to report to the DRC, the client did not report until two weeks later. "I just got off probation from being on it for ten years. I was mad about it and didn't want to deal with it." After attending the orientation, the client was informed that they "would have been violated and still had to do it anyways...I thought let's get this done...so [Probation would] leave me alone." Hearing that some participants "take so long" to complete the program was motivation to "get [it] done in one shot."

One challenge that this client faced were certain words or situations that came up during class that were "triggers" and forced the client to confront their emotions. The client stressed how the facilitators and the probation officers (POs) walked him/her through the effects of the triggers by meeting after class and taking the time to talk. "I have done it before in other drug programs, but this one was different. The teachers [made] it different. This wasn't attack therapy. It wasn't a put down. We were able to be who we were." Facilitators offered extra homework that the client could focus on during difficult times outside of class when the facilitators and POs were not available. The client reported that it helped.

For this client, every phase had an emotional component that was difficult. The client said, "It got easier when I began to identify who I was through the class and through role playing. I got to see myself in others. For example: Am I really that rude?" The client applied what was learned in class and turned a situation with a family member that had the potential to escalate and be harmful into one where the client was helpful. "It helped me think about someone other than myself."

While sharing other successes of the program, the client mentioned having lived everyday "always out

to get something” and that the phrase “Now and Later” helped to remind the client to ask themselves if what they felt they needed to “get” now could be pushed to later? This was just one tool that helped to break the desire to steal. The client also noted that he/she could watch commercials with ease, an act that prior to DRC involvement had triggered a desire to steal. “My dad and brothers trust me in their house now. I have restored relationships because of this program.”

When asked if anything else helped to achieve these successes, the client said that during role play, a probation officer pushed him/her to do and see things in a different way. For example, this client moved in with an ex-partner and started coming into program late because of things associated with this person. “I kept telling myself that I could live with...my ex and it wouldn’t affect my program.” The probation officer helped him/her see how this was an old pattern that would prevent any change. “I left my [partner], who now is back in prison.”

When asked to offer some ideas about what may have prevented other clients from completing, this client said that some clients have a chip on their shoulder and they were acting “hard” which prevented them from succeeding. He/she added that when others lie to the group and “think up stuff to say,” it can keep them from completing the program.

When asked how they were able to reach a considerable amount of program hours, the client said, “Being here, showing up, asking questions, and asking for the extra work...you got to want to change. If you hold onto the old ways in the back of your mind, it’s not gonna work.”

When asked if there was anything else they would like to add, the client said, “Do this program...this one little program changed my life.”

Case Study #2

Probation Grant: LCS

Type of Offense: Receiving Stolen Property/Vehicle Theft/Possession of Controlled Substances

Risk Level/Factors: High Violent

Top 3 Criminogenic Needs: Employment/Aggression/Alcohol-drugs

Main Challenges: Finding a place to live, transportation, reporting requirements of the program, attending and completing EBP classes, and finding employment.

Summary from Probation Officer: When released from custody, the client reported directly to the Probation Department and was accepted in the Day Reporting Center (DRC). The client’s State of Change was in Action Phase with a strong desire to change their life and behavior, get his/her case closed, and stay out of custody. To solve issues of transportation, reporting requirements, and attendance, the client received bus passes through the DRC.

The client’s positive attitude, goal oriented approach, and open mindset helped with responsiveness and acceptance in regards to EBP. The officer noted that the client showed up to all classes and participated well in groups. In addition, it was added that he/she stayed honest and helped others in group to understand the skills being introduced.

This client took advantage of the AB109 services to secure residence at a sober living environment (SLE). He/she gained the trust of the SLE managers and became house manager; later earning money to help interview potential residents. The client successfully completed training through a union and is able to be called out to work on construction sites and is also taking electrician courses. This client continues to network with the people and programs that they get involved in.

Summary of Client Interview: The client was hesitant about becoming involved with the DRC. After two years in custody, the DRC was not part of their plans to “get [their] life back together.” However, after accepting that the program had to be done, opening up in groups and participating became “relatively easy.” The client asked him/herself, “How much time had I spent asking people for drugs and help out there?” and reasoned that they could spend time and ask for help at the DRC.

The client accepted that he/she had to participate in the program after realizing that “nothing else had ever worked.” The client began opening up in groups. In doing so, the client received criticism from other participants in the class, which was a challenge. He/she said, “They are still out there...engaging in criminal activity...I told the guys I’m not about that. If I came, I’m going to make the most of it.”

The successes achieved were fifteen months of abstinence from drugs and alcohol and a termination of probation. The client also learned social skills, coping skills, and communication skills; and stated that there was not one day at the DRC where they didn’t learn something.

When asked what helped him/her to achieve these successes, the client mentioned that the DRC was a “one stop shop” where, along with skills and support, he/she was assisted with Medi-Cal and CalFresh applications and received housing at a sober living environment. “I was in the system most of my life. It was never like this, parole was never like this. Last time I was out, I told them I had no place to go. I lasted 70 days. But this place, I come in here and they want to know how I am. They want to know how they can help. That’s a huge thing for a [person] like me. I actually welcomed participating; I had been running from things like this my entire life.”

When asked how he/she was able to reach a considerable amount of program hours the client said, “Basically, I lived here...I was here every chance I got.” They added that being here kept them accountable.

When asked to offer some ideas about what may have prevented other clients from completing, the client said, “Most people weren’t staying clean...it is quite a commitment...this is not an easy task for an active user. But if you’re done and you want something better, you’ll do it.”

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