

# **CENTRAL CITY CONCERN MENTOR AND ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE COMMUNITY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS: CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT EVALUATION, 3/2007**

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Criminal activity among individuals who are drug dependent, drug addicted or are regular users of drugs can result in considerable individual, social and economic costs. In a recent study of acquisitive crime among 1075 heroin and cocaine users recruited into the National Treatment Outcome Research Study, the researchers found that in the three months prior to starting treatment, 50% of clients had committed some form of acquisitive crime and reported a total of 27,787 individual offenses (Duncan, Stewart et al, 2000). The estimated cost to victims per year for this cohort of clients has been estimated at \$9.5 million. Another study conducted by Ball, Shaffer, and Nurco (1983) found that opiate users reported committing crimes on 248 days of the year when actively using. Increased frequency of drug use has been found to be associated with frequency of committing crime. Best and colleagues (2003) studied 128 opiate addicted individuals in the month before entering treatment, 60% reported an average of more than 70 crimes each, and there was a .28 correlation between heroin use and crack use and the total number of crimes committed. Fortunately, substance abuse treatment outcome studies have demonstrated that both drug consumption and criminal activity can be substantially reduced both during and after treatment.

The goal of this study was to examine criminal justice involvement for graduated clients served by two housing programs through Central City Concern. This analysis used arrest data which measures only known criminal offenses. It is likely that for the regular drug users in this sample who were otherwise unemployed, these data are an underestimation of actual crimes committed to help sustain clients' drug use.

**Data Sources:** The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office provided two years of arrest data (January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006) for the 90 clients enrolled in the Mentor Housing program and for a sample of 141 clients enrolled in the ADFC program in 2005. A total of 284 clients were served by the ADFC program in 2005 and this random sample represents 50% of those served in that year. The Oregon Department of Corrections also provided state prison data for all inmates released to Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties from 2000 through 2006. From these data, we were able to identify CCC clients who had served time in prison over those years and examined felony-level recidivism.

## **Summary of Findings:**

- **Rate of Successful Completion.** Of the 90 clients served by the **Mentor Housing** program in 2005, 65 (72%) **successfully completed treatment**. Overall there was a **46% reduction in the number of individuals arrested** and a **54% reduction in the number of total arrests**. For the ADFC program, 80 clients (57%) **successfully completed as measured by being clean and sober upon discharge**. Overall there was a **42% reduction in individuals arrested** and **50% reduction in total arrests**.

- **Prison data.** In the one year prior to enrollment, a total of **15 Mentor** clients had served time in the state prison at least once and were released into Multnomah, Washington or Clackamas counties between 2000 and 2004. Only one person returned to prison within one year post-enrollment. Only **5 ADFC** clients had served time in the state prison at least once pre-enrollment and were released to Multnomah, Washington, or Clackamas counties between 2000 and 2004. No clients returned to prison in the 12 months post-enrollment.
- **Total jail days pre/post.** In the one year prior to enrollment in the Mentor or ADFC program, 84 clients spent 2,368 days in jail. One year post enrollment, 59 clients spent 1659 days in jail. **Overall, the number of days in jail was reduced by 709 days or 29%.**
- **Graduates compared to Non-graduates for jail days pre and post-enrollment.** Pre-enrollment, graduates spent an average of 8.2 days in jail compared to 3.4 days post-enrollment- a significant reduction. Non-graduates, on the other hand, spent an average 12.9 days in jail 12 months pre-enrollment compared to 13.4 post-enrollment, a slight though non-significant increase.
- **Mentor bookings pre/post completion.** For the 26 Mentor clients booked in the 12 months post-enrollment, 8 of these clients served jail time while receiving services by the Mentor program. Chart reviews of these records indicate that these individuals were serving jail time for offenses that occurred prior to program enrollment. Of the 26 who served jail time post enrollment, 54% had successfully completed the program. Of the 65 total successful completions, 22% were arrested post-enrollment.

The above findings are promising. Further evaluation is necessary to fully realize the total implications of these service packages on successful outcomes and on total system savings. CCC is committed to continue supporting external evaluators examining the impact our services have. Limitations to this study are as follows:

- CCC is unable to fully verify the name and SSI# of every enrollee in these 2 programs. This may impact the total number of individual hits in the Multnomah County and the State Department of Corrections data systems.
- We have not studied the impact of the ADFC residents based on treatment provider with whom they are enrolled. Just over 50% of those enrolled in the ADFC program receive their outpatient treatment through CCC. Future analysis may break out the impact based on whether residents are enrolled in CCC's outpatient treatment vs. another agency.
- This study does not account for criminal activity that occurs under the radar of the criminal justice system.