
Day Reporting Center Clients
Compared to Standard Probation Clients
in Franklin County, PA

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FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA

FINAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

By the end of 2008, approximately 5.1 million adults were under community supervision with approximately 84% under community probation (Glaze & Bonzcar, 2008). Furthermore, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report in Pennsylvania, as of January 1, 2008, there were approximately 255,000 individuals under community supervision (Glaze and Bonzcar, 2008). Prison crowding and treatment issues are continually identified as persistent problems by the Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB). Alternatives to incarceration, such as the development of a day reporting center (DRC), are identified as viable options in addressing these issues. DRCs are an intermediate sanction used to alleviate prison overcrowding, improve management, decrease costs, and enhance supervision alternatives (Craddock, 2004). A National Institute of Justice (NIJ) survey identified several objectives of DRC's: 1) provide enhanced surveillance for offenders who are having problems abiding by supervision conditions, or who require more supervision than normally available; 2) provide or broker treatment services; and 3) target offenders who would otherwise be confined, thereby reducing prison or jail crowding (Craddock, 2004).

The Franklin County CJAB received a grant through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to study the effect of the DRC program on the recidivism rates of successful DRC graduates. The PCCD grant funded the costs of this study commissioned through Shippensburg University.

PURPOSE

The following report presents a descriptive and comparative analysis of the following two groups: 1) successful Day Reporting Center (DRC) clients versus 2) Standard Probation (SP) clients. The report examined probation clients in Franklin County, PA who successfully completed the DRC program from December 16, 2006 through June 9, 2009 and SP clients who were released from jail between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004. This report subsequently followed-up with clients from their discharge date (whether from the Jail or from the DRC) to determine if they committed any new crimes. If clients did commit new crimes, the length of time between their discharge date and the date of the new crime (less than one year versus more than one year; **See Appendix 1**) and the type of crime committed (crime severity scale; **See Appendix 2**) was analyzed.

METHODOLOGY

This evaluation utilized a sample of 362 offenders who were referred to the DRC from 2006-2009. The sample was identified through a database maintained by the DRC director. The SP data consisted of 299 probationers who were released from jail during the 2004 calendar year. Data were examined using descriptive and inferential statistics on the following variables: 1) gender; 2) age at discharge; 3) severity of offense prior to probation; 4) number of lifetime prior offenses; 5) jail days before; 6) times jail before; 7) jail days one year after discharge; 8) times in jail one year after discharge; 9) total jail days after discharge; 10) total jail times after discharge; 11) severity of offense after discharge; and 12) time to first arrest after discharge. The DRC director calculated all of the variables used in this study from existing data sets.

One year follow-up dates were determined for each client in the DRC and SP group using the exit date from the DRC for the DRC group and the jail release date for the SP group. Subsequently, a 365-day time period was added to each date to calculate the one-year outcome date to determine if clients had any arrests during that time period. A review of the PA Adult Probation System indicated all new charges. Those charges were then cross referenced through the Pennsylvania Unified Judicial System Web Portal's Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court (AOPC) website to confirm the incident dates.

Day Reporting Center and Standard Probation Sample

Of the 362 DRC clients, the average client was a 33 year-old male (76.5 %) while the average SP client was 30 years old and male (85.6%) (**See Table 1**). Significant differences are present in gender and age when comparing the DRC clients to the SP clients. The DRC sample had a higher proportion of female ($p < .05$) participants. In addition, the DRC clients studied are approximately 3 years older than the SP clients studied ($p < .05$) (**See Table 1**).

There were no differences between severity of prior offenses between DRC and SP (**See Table 2**). However, DRC clients did have significantly more lifetime prior offenses compared to SP ($p < .001$) [**See Table 2**]. There were no differences between jail days before discharge and jail times before discharge between DRC and SP clients (**See Table 3**). Although not a statistically significant difference, SP clients were more likely to have greater means compared to DRC in terms of jail days 1 year before discharge, times jail 1 year after discharge, jail days after discharge, and jail times after discharge.

TABLE 1. Descriptive Data

	DRC <i>n</i> (%)=361	SP <i>n</i> (%)=299
Gender		
Female	85 (23.5)	43 (14.4)
Male	277 (76.5)	256 (85.6)
Age**		
Less than 21	46 (12.7)	67 (22.4)
22-29	124 (34.3)	99 (33.1)
30-39	95 (26.3)	84 (28.1)
40-49	67 (18.6)	38 (12.7)
50-59	26 (7.2)	10 (3.3)
60+	3 (.9)	1 (.4)
Mean (<i>SD</i>)	32.93 (10.57)	29.99 (9.52)

**significant $p < .05$

TABLE 2. DRC vs. SP Crime Severity Scale and Lifetime Prior Offenses

	DRC <i>n (%)=359</i>	SP <i>n (%)=297</i>
Crime Severity Scale		
1	15 (4.2)	23 (7.7)
2	67 (18.6)	58 (19.5)
3	20 (5.6)	65 (21.8)
4	257 (71.6)	153(51.5)
Mean (SD) *	3.44 (.93)	3.16 (.99)
Lifetime Prior Offenses		
Mean (SD)**	1.98 (.09)	.36 (.03)

1=highest, 2=high, 3=moderate, 4=low; *not significant, ** $p < .001$

TABLE 3. DRC versus SP Days and Times in Jail

	DRC <i>Mean (SD)</i>	SP <i>Mean (SD)</i>
Jail days before (JDB)*	232.33 (265.39)	255.71 (271.19)
Times in jail before (TJB)*	3.63 (2.75)	3.24 (2.54)
Jail days 1 year after discharge(JD1YRDD)*	15.41 (49.52)	56.62 (85.94)
Times jail 1 year after discharge (TJ1YRDD)*	.28(.58)	.61(.84)
Jail days after discharge (TJDA)*	33.74 (82.47)	177.03 (241.84)
Jail times after discharge (TJTA)*	.48 (.88)	2.02 (2.46)

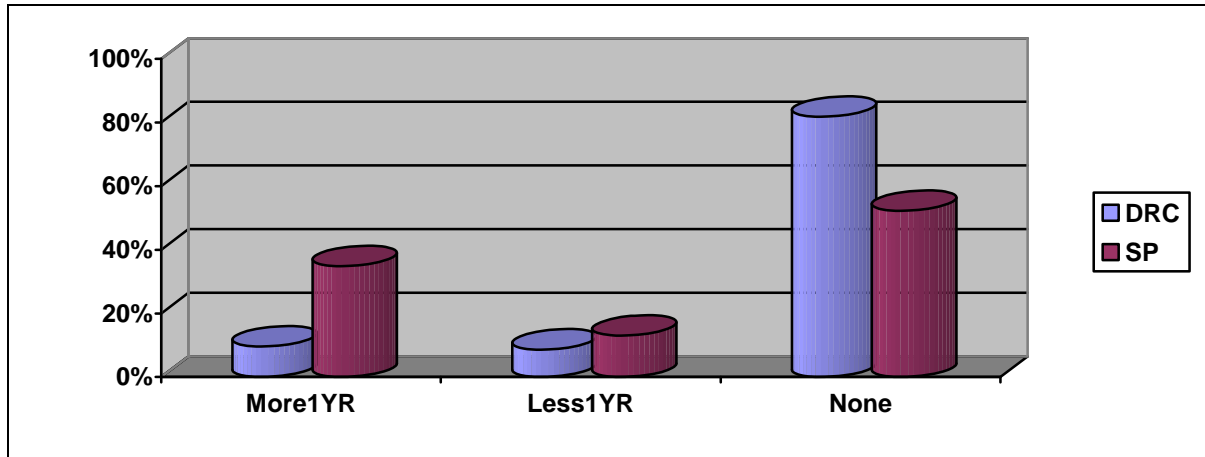
*not significant; **significant $p < .001$

RECIDIVISM OUTCOME

Arrest data were collected on all of the DRC clients and SP clients for a one year follow-up period.

An analysis of the outcome data reveals that SP clients were **over three times more likely** than DRC clients to recidivate more than one year after discharge (34.8% versus 9.6%). In addition, SP clients were more likely to be re-arrested less than one year after discharge (13.0% versus 8.6%) [See Graph 1]. These data indicate that, overall, during the specified time period SP clients were more than twice as likely to be re-arrested when compared to DRC clients (47.8% versus 18.2% respectively; $p < .001$) [See GRAPH 2].

GRAPH 1. DRC vs. SP: Time to First Arrest



SP versus DRC: $p < .001$.

GRAPH 2. DRC vs. SP: Any Arrest (Yes versus No)



SP versus DRC: $p < .001$

TABLE 4. DRC vs. SP Crime Severity Scale-Offenses that Occurred After Discharge

	DRC <i>n</i> (%)=362	SP <i>n</i> (%)=299
Crime Severity Scale		
1	4 (1.1)	8 (2.7)
2	13 (3.6)	33 (11.0)
3	11 (3.0)	24 (8.0)
4	38 (10.5)	78 (26.1)
5	296 (81.8)	156 (52.2)
Mean (SD) *	4.68 (.79)	4.14 (1.12)

1=highest, 2=high, 3=moderate, 4=low, 5=none; * $p < .001$

DISCUSSION

SP clients were more likely than DRC clients to be re-arrested during the time period specified: based on this study's findings, this difference is statistically significant. Although the relationship between SP and DRC client outcomes is statistically significant, it should be noted that there are limitations to the study which may weaken the relationship (see next section for more details).

Given the positive impact of successful completion of the DRC program on offender behavior in regards to recidivism, the development of strategies to engage offenders to the point of successful completion becomes imperative. These strategies should include practices that would encourage continued communication between the Adult Probation Officer, DRC staff, and offender during DRC service delivery.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

1. Researchers received existing data sets, timelines, severity scores, and recidivism recordings from Probation and DRC.
2. DRC and Probation chose the variables for analysis.
3. Lack of self-report bio-psycho-social assessments collected at baseline and follow-up time periods.
4. Probation data was limited in terms of other measures of progress; therefore, many of the DRC progress measures could not be compared with probation.
5. Data consisted of a convenience sample; therefore, generalization of the data is limited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct randomized controlled studies (groups of clients) to determine DRC effectiveness.
2. Conduct more sophisticated statistical analyses controlling for certain variables.
3. The development of a Probation and DRC Classification Profile Instrument database for all new incoming clients that participate in the DRC program. Ideally, the assessment instrument would serve to tabulate and organize data sets in reference to all DRC program participants.
4. Implement more widely-used bio-psycho-social assessments to assess client progress on several different domains.

REFERENCES

- Craddock, A. (2004). Estimating Criminal Justice Costs and Cost-Savings Benefits of Day reporting Centers. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 39 (4), 69-70.
- Glaze, L.E., & Bonczar, T. P. (2008). Probation and Parole in the United States, 2008. Bureau of Justice Statistics, (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, December 2009), NCJ 228230.

**APPENDIX 1
DRC PROJECT--CODEBOOK¹**

Variable Name	Variable Description	Code
ID#	Study Identification	1-362=DRC 363-661-SP
SUP	Supervision status	1=Day Reporting Center (DRC) 2=Standard Probation (SP)
Gender	Gender of probationer	1=Male 2=Female
DA	Age of probationer at discharge from probation	Continuous
S1P	Severity of offense prior to probation	1=Highest 2=High 3=Moderate 4=Low
LP	Lifetime prior offenses	Continuous
JDB	DRC Group – Jail days before DRC discharge Probation Group – Jail days before identified Jail discharge.	Continuous
TJB	DRC Group – Jail times before DRC discharge Probation Group – Jail times before identified Jail discharge.	Continuous
JD1YRDD	Jail days 1 year after discharge	Continuous
TJ1YRDD	Times jail 1 year after discharge	Continuous
TJDA	DRC Group – Jail days after DRC discharge Probation Group – Jail days after identified Jail discharge.	Continuous
TJTA	DRC Group – Jail days after DRC discharge Probation Group – Jail days after identified Jail discharge.	Continuous
S1A	DRC Group – Offenses that occurred after DRC discharge Probation Group – Offenses that occurred after identified Jail discharge.	1=Highest 2=High 3=Moderate 4=Low
TAD	Time to first arrest after discharge from probation	1=More than 1 year 2=Less than 1 year 3=No new charge
TAD1	Any new charge	1=Yes 0=No
TAD	Time to first arrest after discharge from probation	1=more than 1 year 2=less than 1 year

¹ Data and variables provided by DRC staff

APPENDIX 2

SEVERITY OF OFFENSE SCALE² (Revised 06.30.09)

HIGHEST:

- Aggravated Assault
- Aggravated Battery
- Aggravated Battery with Deadly Weapon
- Aggravated Child Abuse
- Aiding Escape
- Armed Robbery (multiple, with injury)
- Attempted Murder
- Burglary
- Burglary (armed)
- Burglary with Assault
- Escape (secure facility)
- Inciting a Riot
- Indecent Assault w/o Consent
- Kidnapping
- Murder (1st degree, 2nd degree)
- Robbery

HIGH:

- Accident Involving Death or Injury
- Arson
- Battery Law Enforcement Officer
- Corruption of Minors (sexual nature)
- Endangering Welfare of Children
- Extortion
- Failure to Appear/Flight to Avoid Apprehension
- False Imprisonment
- False Report of Bombings
- Fleeing or Attempting to Elude
- Intimidation of Witness
- Introduction of Contraband into Detention Facility
- Manufacture of Explosives
- Recklessly Endangering Another Person
- Stalking/ Intent to cause emotional distress
- Unlawful restraint/ Risk injury

MODERATE:

- Armed Trespass
- Bad Checks (felony)
- Carrying a Concealed Firearm
- Carrying a Firearm Without a License
- Corruption of Minors (non-sexual nature)
- Criminal Conspiracy Engaging
- Criminal Trespass
- Escape (non secure facility)
- Forgery
- Grand Theft

Hindering Apprehension/Prosecution
Identity Theft
Manslaughter
Manufacture/Delivery/Possession with Intent to Deliver a
Controlled Substance
PFA Violation
Probation Violation (County)
Receiving Stolen Property
Removing Electronic Monitoring Device
Resisting Arrest
Sale of Non-Controlled Substance
Simple Assault
Tampering with Evidence
Terroristic Threats
Theft by Deception
Theft by Unlawful Taking
Welfare Fraud (felony)

LOW:

Bad Checks (misdemeanor)
Battery
Carrying a Concealed Weapon
Criminal Mischief
Disorderly Conduct
Driving Under Suspension
Driving Under the Influence
Gambling
Harassment
Leaving the Scene of an Accident
Non-Support
Offering to Commit Prostitution
Possession Drug Paraphernalia
Possession Marijuana (misdemeanor)
Public Drunkenness
Retail Theft
Trespass

² Created by John Wetzel, Warden, Franklin County Jail, Franklin County, PA