

National Cross Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures

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Overview

- Multi-Site, four-year evaluation of the Juvenile Drug Court and Reclaiming Futures Initiative
- Will use both quantitative and qualitative methods to identify the factors, elements, and services that perform best with respect to outcomes and cost effectiveness
- Six sites are currently included: Denver, CO; Ventura, CA; Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK; Snohomish County, WA; Travis County, TX; Hocking County, OH

Evaluation Team

- Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), University of Arizona
- Carnevale Associates, LLC
- Chestnut Health Systems

Why Should Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures be Integrated?

- Maximizes treatment opportunities for qualified youth involved with the juvenile justice system
- Permits youth involved in the juvenile justice system to be more effectively screened and assessed for substance abuse
- More appropriate matching of youth with available treatment services
- Treatment services are delivered via a coalition of providers working under the guidance of a local court

What will the Evaluation Show?

- How implementation of the JDC and RF models actually occur
- If 16 JDC elements and 6 RF principles are reflected systematically (ex. Client profiles, assessments, treatment referrals)
- If youth in need are being assessed appropriately
- If youth in need are being provided the services they need
- If JDC/RF programs and their comparison groups impact long-term outcomes such as substance use and criminality

Objective 1: Assess the operations of Juvenile Drug Court/Reclaiming Futures models using established indices for performance, efficiencies and cost effectiveness

- Evaluation of Drug Court/Change Teams
- Focus on Service Data
- Cost Effectiveness Study

Objective 2: Improve the empirical knowledge base about Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures

- Data will be divided into three groups:
 - Youth enrolled who complete JDC/RF
 - Youth enrolled who do not complete JDC/RF
 - Youth enrolled in the juvenile justice system who meet JDC/RF eligibility criteria, but are not enrolled in JDC/RF
- For JDC/RF clients Service, GAIN, and GPRA data will be used for analysis
- For non-JDC/RF clients, screening information provided by the sites will be used

Objective 3: Analyze the efficacy of combined efforts of the Juvenile Drug Court and Reclaiming Futures Models

- Examine how each site integrated the two:
 - Look at each site's strategic plan then conduct follow-up site visits
 - Develop logic models based on results
 - Define best practices
- The evaluation will also review:
 - Client recruitment/retention
 - System-level interventions support matching
 - System-level approaches and training/resources
 - Changes in services related to participant and program performance

Objective 4: Conduct case studies using administrative, collaborative, and quality indices and the sixteen key elements of Juvenile Drug Courts

- Will determine if individual norms, attitudes, and values lead to patterns of norms, attitudes and values that cut across the whole system
- Will conduct four individuals case studies per site and two yearly system/organizational case studies

Objective 5: Evaluate the potential for replication of these models

- The evaluation will permit a profile to be developed that shows who/what benefits most in the following areas:
 - How the JDC/RF model operates
 - The system/organizational culture that best supports the models
 - The JDC/RF effect on system and client outcomes
 - The efficacy of combining JDC/RF compared to other RF and JDC projects
 - The cost effectiveness in relation to a comparison group

How is this Evaluation Unique?

- Uses a mixed methodology approach:
 - Qualitative and quantitative methods
 - Case studies, meta-analysis, quasi-experimental studies, and cost-benefit analyses
- Evaluates JDC/RF at both the system and individual levels
- Contains process and outcome evaluations

This Study will also Address a Huge Gap in the Literature

- There are few published studies that have examined the efficacy of the drug court approach for juvenile populations
- This study will examine the necessary elements for successful collaboration and coordination of services
- The evaluation will provide insight on how JDCs can be improved in terms of system-level components, training, implementation, fidelity, and cost effectiveness

QUESTIONS?