

Abstract

- The epidemic of drug use remains a significant problem in the United States; however drug use among adolescents is even more damaging and can result in severe physical and mental development that can impact their opportunities further on in life
- Many juvenile drug offenders are placed into reentry programs also known as aftercare programs, aimed at helping prepare youth who serve time away from home to reintegrate into society.
- The current study is a secondary data analysis of data collected by the Midwest Research Center.
- The sample consisted of A total of 187 participants residing in Delaware and Florida participated in this study.
- A series of Chi-square test were conducted.
- More research is needed to better understand the relationship between juvenile drug offenders and effective policies and reentry programs.

Introduction

Significance of the Study

- Since the late 1980's, there have been broadening concern about crimes committed by the youth, and extensive attention has been focused on juveniles offenders.
- For the fiscal year of 2006, it was reported that over two million juveniles had been arrested and approximately about 60,000 detained annually, making the United States of America one of the largest to incarcerate youths compared to any other developed country.
- The nation has now reached the point that on any given day, about 54,000 youths will be held in some facility, and one in ten will end up in an adult jail or prison.
- A report conducted by the Department of Justice Office of juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, reported from 2001 to 2013 the declination rate declined to 53 percent.
- Few empirical research have explored the association between reentry programs and juvenile offender rehabilitation rates.

Purpose

- The goal of this study is to understand if reentry program are effective in preventing juvenile offenders from relapsing on substances and be able to reintegrated back into their communities.

Research Question

- How effective are reentry programs at preventing juvenile offenders from relapsing on illicit substances?

Hypothesis

- Juvenile offenders that participate in reentry programs will have the same relapse rate on illicit substances as their none participating counterparts.

Literature Review

- Adolescence is a period where individuals strive for independence and possibly experiment with substances.
- The epidemic of drug usage remains a significant problem in the United States; however, drug use among adolescents is even more damaging and can result in severe physical and mental development that can impact their opportunities further on in life.
- Currently, the fastest growing drug problem among teenagers in the United States is prescription drugs.
- Another more recent drug trend among juveniles is vaping, which is defined as an act of inhaling aerosolized liquid that comes in a variety of flavors, known as "juice".
- The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University estimated for the year 2000, approximately 1.9 million of the 2.4 million juveniles arrested had also included substances.
- From 1991 to 2000, there was a three percent increase in the number of juvenile drug-related arrest and 145 percent increase of juvenile violating their offenses.
- Studies have also highlighted that male juveniles have a higher likelihood to abuse substances and commit more criminal offenses than their counter parts.
- It has also been reported been reported that males and females experience different rated of substance use and delinquency, with females being more likely to refrain.
- Similar to adult criminal justice systems, the National Data for Juveniles is also congruent with overrepresentation minorities for drug offenses.
- Many empirical studies have reported the difficulty adults experience when transitioning from a prisoner back to civilian; the challenges juveniles experiences can be even more burdensome.
- Additional studies have also acknowledged a juveniles likelihood of engaging in risky or illegal behaviors by hanging out with criminally minded friends. Another factor that may also impact a successful reentry are the neighborhoods they live in.
- Unfortunately, empirical research evaluating the effectiveness of reentry and aftercare programs towards helping juvenile drug offenders reenter society is scarce.
- This could be attributed by society being more concerned with correcting unlawful behavior through punishment then juveniles reintegrating back into their communities.

Methods

Research Design

- The study was funded by the Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies (CJ-DATS) and the principal researcher was Nancy Janchill of NDRI Midwest Adolescent Center .
- The study was a longitudinal panel interval with the primary objective being to compare two reentry protocols: Cognitive Restructuring (CR), and Aftercare Services (AS) in regards to post-reentry treatment outcomes.
- The study utilized a multi-site experimental design in which participants were randomly assigned to either a CR or AS intervention and placed in a group.
- The study implemented a basic random assignment approach to create randomized groups of eight individuals to be assigned in equal numbers to each of the two study conditions for each site. The randomization procedure was incorporated to help balance the interventions on various vital characteristics such as race, gender, and the index of risk.
- The CR intervention was based on the approach to restructure an offender's thinking and help assist the offenders to reach their desired goal. While the AS intervention took on a more of a case management perspective that attempted to address the individual's needs (Jainchill, 2015). The research design has condition a group condition (Cognitive Restructuring: CR), and an individual condition (Services as Usual: AS).
- The study consisted of N=187 baseline interviews, three months into the study, two weeks before completion of the treatment, and nine months after the completion of the treatment .
- The current study is to analyze the effectiveness between two reentry programs cognitive reconstructive and aftercare services and their ability to increase recidivism among juvenile offenders.
- The current study used all four waves for the purpose of analysis.

Sample

- Program staffers were given flyers to distribute to youths as part of their discharge planning procedures.
- Of all the participants, 187 responded to the flyers with 130 coming from the Delaware sites and 57 from the Florida sites.
- The study had a response rate of 53.5% urban, 35.3% suburban, and 10.7% rural, 24.1% 15 and under, 19.8% 16, 37.4% 17, and 18.7% 18 and older. Ethnic origin in the study were described as (Hispanic versus Non-Hispanic), and racial origin (African American versus Non-African American) with no specific percentages.
- The study excluded juveniles who demonstrated a history of psychotic features that would make them a management problem as well as prevent them from participating in the treatment regimen.
- Other youths excluded from the study were individuals who could not speak English, due to the limitations on being able to find and provide therapists and probation officers who could deliver intervention services.
- Respondents who did not answer all the questions regarding ethnic origins, drug usage, and were excluded from the current study. Similar to the original study, the current study defined juvenile offenders younger than 18 years old, who were scheduled to reintegrate back into the community after being released from a juvenile justice residential treatment facility.

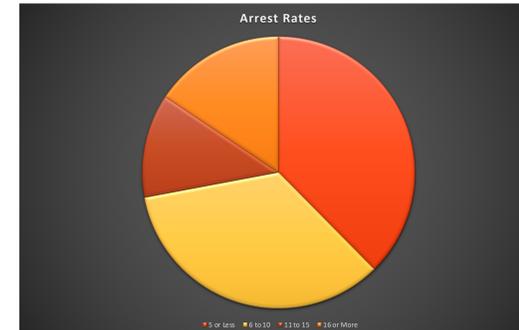
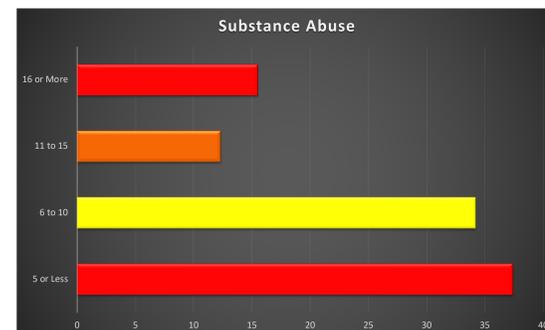
Measures

- Independent Variable:** The independent variable for this study is the two reentry programs among juveniles.
- Cognitive restructuring refers to a therapeutic technique to help assist individuals in coping with stressful events and circumstances.
- While Aftercare intervention took on a more of a case management perspective that attempted to address the individuals who have been discharged from an institution.
- The level of measurement is nominal because juveniles either participated or did not.
- Dependent Variable. The dependent variable for this study was relapse. Relapse is defined as a setback in an individual's state of health that resulted in a visit to refers to an emergency room and/or hospitalization due to a reaction to non- prescribed medications.
- The level of measurement will be nominal for the type of drug the juvenile chooses. The second measurement is scale/ratio, the time frame of when the drug was used.

Results

Descriptive Analysis

- There were 187 participants in this study 10 (5.3%) males and 177 (97.4%) females. Majority of the ethnicity demographics for the participants were (90.4%) "other" ethnicity, (the study did not define the other ethnicities for participants), followed by Hispanic or Latino/a (9.6%).
- The geographic location of the participants were (53.3%) urban, (35.5%) suburban, (10.7%) rural.
- The marital status of the participants during the baseline interviews were (100%) single.
- However, those percentages changed by the third month's interview with a participants reporting their marital status as (98.1%) single and (1.9%) married .
- The mean age for the participants were 16.58 years.
- The results indicated majority of the youth used marijuana(79.1%), followed by tobacco (61.5%), tranquilizer (18.7%) cocaine/crack (14.4) , and hallucinogen (14.4%).
- The data indicated that 37.4% of participants had been arrested five times or less, 34.2% were arrested six to ten times, 12.3% were arrested eleven to fifteen times, and 15.5% were arrested sixteen or more times.



- A Chi-square test was calculated comparing the continuous drug usage for 90-day post baseline interview mark for both interventions.
- Despite the slight increase in participation, there was still no statistical significance relationship between participations receiving two different modalities and usage of marijuana or tobacco.
- The results indicated a slight increase in usage of Marijuana in both interventions groups, X2 (2, n=159)= 3.83, p= 0.15 and tobacco X2(2, N=159) = 2.24, p=0.33.
- Despite the slight increase in participation, there was still no statistical significance relationship between participations receiving two different modalities and usage of marijuana or tobacco.
- There was no statistically significant relationship between interventions and drugs used at 90 days for the participants of the study.
- However, there was a significant relationship with interventions and Hallucinogen X2 (1,N=159)= 5.50, p=0.02.

Drug Usage at the 90-day Post Baseline Interview (N=159)

Drug Type	Study condition	Never	1-14 days	15 days+	df	Chi square	Sig
Marijuana	CR	58	4	15	2	3.83	0.15
	AS	66	8	8			
Tobacco	CR	45	3	29	2	2.34	0.33
	AS	51	1	30			
Tranquilizer	CR	74	3	0	1	1.16	0.28
	AS	81	1	3			
Cocaine/Crack	CR	75	2	0	1	0.41	0.52
	AS	81	1	0			
Hallucinogen	CR	72	5	0	1	5.50	*0.02
	AS	82	0	0			

Discussion

Limitations

- First, the current study presented a relatively low sample size, resulting in a possible chance of overestimating the effect size.
- Missing data was also a major issue associated with surveying juvenile offenders.
- The current study also illustrated the constraints of using a secondary data set to analysis
- The exploration of whether there was a significant correlation between intervention and the rates of relapsing among juvenile offenders.
- The data set incorporated was outdated and conducted in 2015 and failed to reflect the most popular drug choices of the time for juvenile offenders.
- Without empirical data there is no current accurate portrayal of whether or not interventions are meeting the needs of offenders.

Implication for Future Research

- Considering the ecology of juvenile offenders reasoning for using drugs it is crucial to take into consideration negative emotions, stress, cognitive factors, socialization processes, and environmental issues.
- Future research will assist reentry programs to develop and implement more comprehensive interventions that can increase the likelihood of juvenile offenders reframing from relapse and transitioning back into their communities.

Implications for Practice and Policy

- With each new generation of adolescents willing to experiment with drugs and crime, social workers have the opportunity to interact or work with juveniles to integrate them back into their communities.
- Within policy practice, social workers can develop a national research and policy agenda that has the possibilities of generating a coherent and actionable youth reentry program throughout the nation.
- Social workers can implement a standard screening for both substance use and delinquent behaviors as a tool to increase treatment relevance, motivation and commitment.
- Social workers can also advocate to establish identification screenings, evidenced based practice, and culturally competent mental health services.
- Social workers can also advocate on behalf of youth offenders to reduce the number of juvenile transfers.
- By better understanding the reasons why juveniles use drugs and creating more evident based interventions it may successfully increase juveniles from relapsing, and assist in transitioning back into their communities and living a more productive and healthier lifestyle.