

Programming Reduces Recidivism Rates

FACILITY: Hoffman Hall

POPULATION: Pretrial detainees and sentenced county inmates

CUSTOMER: Philadelphia Department of Corrections / Bucks County

PROGRAM LENGTH: 6 months

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

GEO Reentry Services provides comprehensive treatment programs tailored to meet individual offenders’ risks and needs. At the foundation of GEO Reentry’s treatment is evidence-based programming designed to address criminogenic needs as identified through the assessment process. GEO Reentry’s model includes the following: Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT), substance use disorder treatment, life skills training, anger management skills, and family relationship reunification. Programming is delivered through group and individual sessions.

Hoffman Hall utilizes a treatment model that combines the evidence-based principles of Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) with a modified Therapeutic Community (TC) approach.

WHY IS A REDUCTION IN RECIDIVISM IMPORTANT?

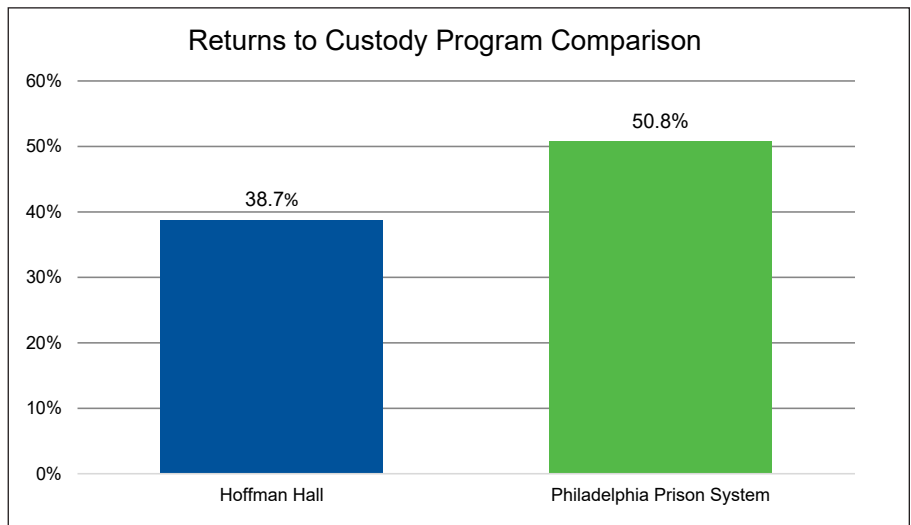
Across the country states have recognized that the most cost-effective way to enhance public safety is to break the cycle of re-incarceration for the thousands of individuals returning home from prisons every year. Nearly every state tracks recidivism rates, sets reduction targets, and implements policies that have been shown to reduce re-offense rates and supervision violations. The benefits of these efforts are clear – communities are safer; the growth in prison populations and related costs are lower; and limited corrections funding can be redirected into efforts that promote long-term public safety. In addition, by providing evidence-based programming to individuals while incarcerated they learn how to change their criminal thinking and behaviors and develop the skills needed to successfully transition and return to the community as a productive citizen.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

- The sample consisted of 803 males who were released from Hoffman Hall in 2010 and 2011, compared with a group of all remaining post-conviction released males from the Philadelphia Prison System (PPS) in 2010 and 2011.
- The groups were similar in terms of age and racial composition.

An independent review entitled “Making A Difference in Offender Recidivism: Correctional Treatment Programming,” was conducted in conjunction with the PPS and researchers at Drexel University. The review indicates a 24% reduction in recidivism with a group that completed treatment programs at Hoffman Hall as compared to a matched group of inmates released from PPS. The two groups studied were

PPS offenders referred to Hoffman Hall for evaluation and treatment and those serving their entire sentence in jail. Conducted between the years 2010 and October 2013, the review tracked offenders post-release and served as a comparison between the rates of return to jail custody. Drs. Kirk Heilbrun and David DeMatteo, with Chris King, Ben Locklair, and Casey LaDuke of Drexel University conducted the program review, which has shown promising results regarding the use of correctional treatment during incarceration as a factor in reducing recidivism.



CONCLUSIONS

The results from this program evaluation support the hypothesis that individuals who receive evidence-based correctional treatment during their confinement are less likely to return to custody than those who do not receive evidence-based correctional treatment while confined. These positive results will be used to further refine GEO Reentry’s methods of providing correctional treatment to offenders.

In terms of ongoing quality assurance, this type of outcome review provides critical feedback to all stakeholders. Replication of these findings will strengthen the results found in this project.