

VENTURA COUNTY DAY REPORTING CENTERS

REDUCE CRIMINAL THINKING



FACILITY	POPULATION	CUSTOMER	PROGRAM LENGTH
Ventura County Day Reporting Center (DRC) · Ventura Ventura County Satellite DRC · Simi Valley	Probationers	Ventura County Probation Agency	180 days

PROGRAM SUMMARY

In Ventura County, GEO Reentry Services provides comprehensive programming tailored to meet the risk and needs of individuals on probation. At the foundation of our programs is evidence-based programming designed to address criminogenic needs as identified through the assessment process. The program model at the Ventura County DRC and the satellite DRC in Simi Valley includes individual and group Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT), alcohol and drug testing, substance use disorder counseling, anger management, job readiness and employment readiness, education services, parenting and family reintegration, life skills and cognitive restructuring, Moral Reconnection Therapy® (MRT), Thinking for a Change, and aftercare. Programming is delivered through group and individual sessions. The DRCs are designed to be part of the solution in changing behavior and reducing recidivism in California.

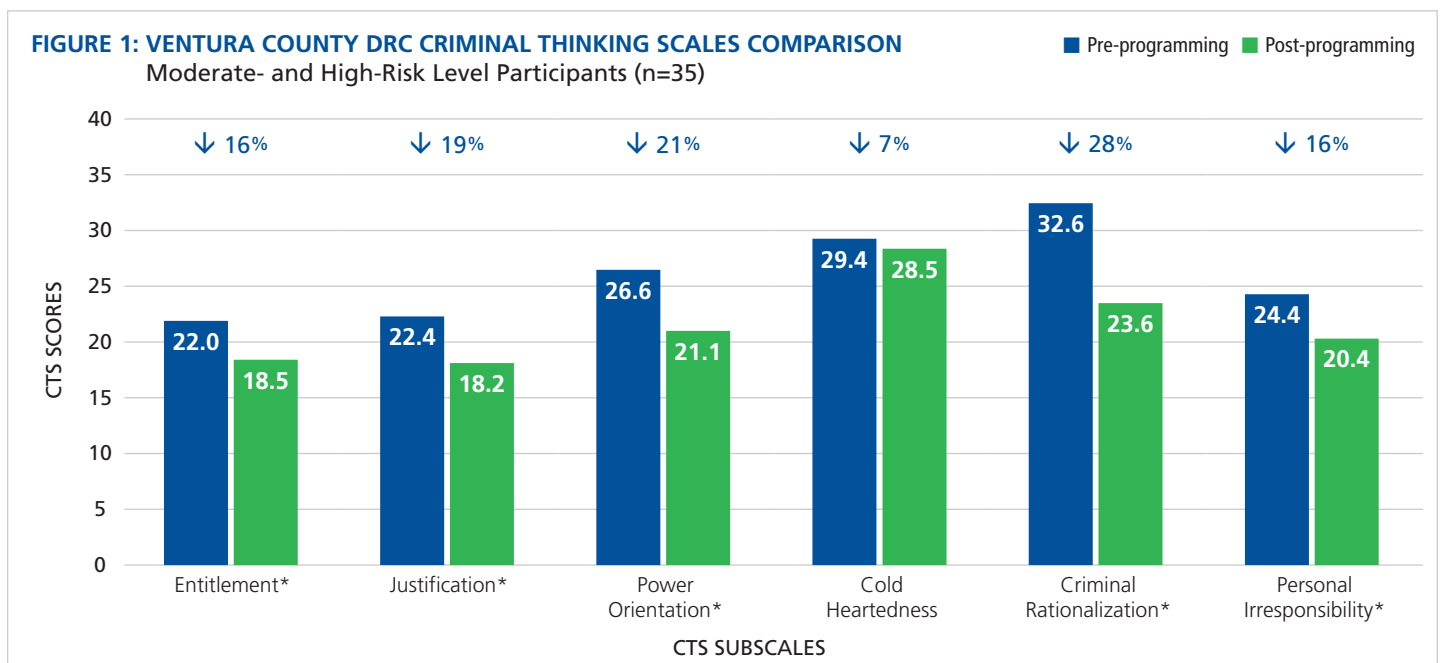
WHY IS A REDUCTION IN CRIMINAL THINKING IMPORTANT?

Criminal thinking domains, such as antisocial cognitions and antisocial attitudes, are frequent targets for change in correctional treatment, and are described in current theories of criminal behavior.¹ The research on “What Works” to reduce recidivism indicates that antisocial cognition and antisocial attitudes (criminal thinking) are among the top three risk factors as drivers of recidivism. The Texas Christian University Criminal Thinking Scales (CTS), a reliable and validated instrument, measures the effect of GEO Reentry’s programming on antisocial cognition and attitudes. The results of this report indicate that GEO Reentry’s programs reduce criminal thinking patterns as measured by the CTS, and therefore lower the potential for future recidivism.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Research evaluators analyzed the pre- and post-programming CTS scores for 35 individuals who participated in programming at the Ventura County DRC and 12 individuals who participated in programming at the satellite DRC between January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. The average time between the pre- and post-programming assessments was 287 days in Ventura and 202 days in Simi Valley. The results indicate the DRCs programming significantly reduced criminal thinking as evidenced by the reduction in the participants’ CTS scores.

- **FIGURE 1** illustrates the results of the 35 individuals with moderate- to high-risk scores in at least one domain at intake. Participant risk level is determined by the recommended score ranges outlined by research² (see table on reverse side). These participants had a clinically significant decrease, averaging an 18% reduction (4.5 points) across all six scales.

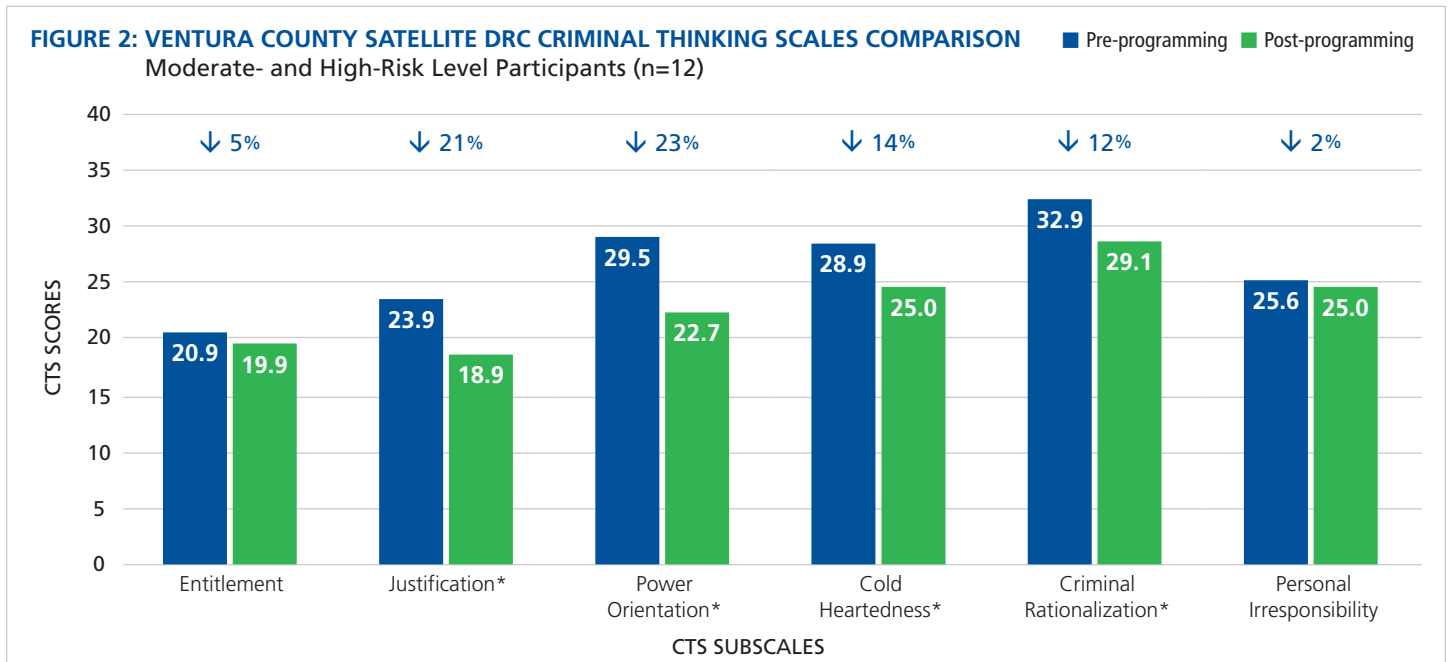


*A clinically significant reduction in scores is defined as a two point or greater decrease from the pre- to post-programming score.

¹ Knight, K., Garner, B.R., Simpson D.W. Morey, J.T., & Flynn, P.M. (2006). “An assessment for criminal thinking” *Crime & Delinquency*, Vol. 52, No. 1, 159-17

² Knight, K., Ekelund, B., Barbour, P. (2015) “Simplifying Assessment in Criminal Justice and Treatment Settings: Using TCU Tools to Ensure Effective Services”. <https://docplayer.net/45907693-Simplifying-assessment-in-criminal-justice-and-treatment-settings-using-tcu-tools-to-ensure-effective-services.html>

- **FIGURE 2** illustrates the results of the 12 individuals with moderate- to high-risk scores in at least one domain at intake. These participants had a clinically significant decrease, averaging a 13% reduction (3.5 points) across all six scales.



*A clinically significant reduction in scores is defined as a two point or greater decrease from the pre- to post-programming score.

CRIMINAL THINKING SCALES

RECOMMENDED RISK SCORE RANGES²

ELEMENTS	DESCRIPTION	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
ENTITLEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on a sense of ownership and privilege. • High scores are associated with the offender's belief that the world "owes them" and they deserve special consideration. 	10-17	18-20	21-40
JUSTIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refers to patterns of thought that minimize the seriousness of antisocial acts and by justifying actions based on external circumstances. • High scores may be associated with perceived social injustice. 	10-18	19-22	23-40
POWER ORIENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures the need of power and control. • High scores are associated with higher levels of aggression and controlling behaviors. 	10-22	23-27	28-40
COLD HEARTEDNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High scores reflect a lack of emotional involvement. 	10-20	21-23	24-40
CRIMINAL RATIONALIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High scores on this scale are associated with negative attitude towards the law and authority figures. 	10-28	29-35	36-40
PERSONAL IRRESPONSIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses the degree to which an offender is willing to accept ownership for criminal actions. • Therefore, high scores are associated with non-acceptance of criminal actions and often blaming others. 	10-18	19-24	25-40

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mary Jane Cordova, Program Manager • 805.509.9231 • macordova@geogroup.com