Community-based aftercare and return to custody in a national sample of substance-abusing women offenders.

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The Population & Substance Abuse

• Women offenders
  – 5% (n=1060) of federal prison population
  – 46% incarcerated
  – 54% under supervision in community
  – 10 times more likely to be dependent on drugs than women in the general population
• How many women offenders have a substance abuse problem at intake?

80%

• Cocaine
• Crack
• Opiates
Women Offender Substance Abuse Program (WOSAP)

Substance Abuse Programming Continuum

Engagement & Education
- 8 Sessions
- Institutional Living/Coping
- Health/Addiction/Crime
- Self-Management

Individual Contact (1 or 2)

Intensive Therapeutic Treatment
Emotive and Cognitive
- 20 Sessions
- Emotions
- Spirituality
- Relationships
- Sexuality
- Self

Individual Contact (6 or more)

Institutional Relapse Prevention & Maintenance
- 20 Sessions
- Coping Skills
- Problem Solving
- Goal Setting
- Relapse Prevention
- Lifestyle

Community Relapse Prevention & Maintenance
- 20 Sessions
- Skill Practice
- Relapse Prevention
- Emerging Issues

Transition Sessions (1 or 2)

Community Building Initiative

Mutual Support Group (open to all)

Community Meetings

Intensive Support Units

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Objective

- Examine the association between participation in CRPM and return to custody among a national sample of federal women offenders with substance abuse histories.
Sample & Data Source

• Sample: 361 women

• Inclusion criteria:
  – Began sentence after May 1st 2002
  – Participated in WOSAP in the institution
  – Moderate to high substance abuse treatment needs
    • Alcohol Dependence Scale
    • Drug Abuse Screening Test
    • Problems Related to Drinking Scale

• Offender Management System (OMS)
  – administrative database used to manage data about offenders under federal jurisdiction
Outcome & study groups

• Outcome:
  – Return to custody within 52 weeks post-release.

• Study groups:
  – Women who completed CRPM (n=56)
  – Women who did not participate in CRPM (n=305)
**Covariates**

- Demographic characteristics: age, marital status, aboriginal status, high school diploma
- Type of release (non-discretionary vs. discretionary)
  - Non-discretionary: released under supervision after serving 2/3 of sentence in prison
  - Discretionary release: some type of release (i.e., day or full parole) prior to serving 2/3 of sentence in prison
- Criminogenic risk (low-medium-high)
- Participation in drug-related or violence-related offence
- Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMTP)
- Unemployment status after release
- Violation of abstinence condition
Cox proportional survivor analysis: return to custody

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covariate</th>
<th>Hazard Ratio</th>
<th>Confidence Interval</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.95***</td>
<td>0.93-0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-discretionary Release</td>
<td>1.70*</td>
<td>1.04-2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Criminogenic Risk</td>
<td>2.29**</td>
<td>1.36-3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Criminogenic Risk</td>
<td>2.96***</td>
<td>1.57-5.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstinence Violation</td>
<td>1.90**</td>
<td>1.25-2.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed during release</td>
<td>2.17**</td>
<td>1.30-3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No aftercare treatment</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.90</strong>**</td>
<td><strong>3.43-34.66</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p ≤ .05, **p ≤ .01, ***p ≤ .001.
Survivor Rates by CRPM Participation among women offenders.
Final comments

- Return to custody is related to several risk factors including type of release, abstinence violation & unemployment

- **But, our data shows a strong positive relationship between non-participation in aftercare and return to custody!**
Final comments

- Only 15% of women under Federal supervision complete aftercare
- Women enter institutions high risk for re-entry due to SA
- *For women who do not* participate in aftercare they continue to be at high risk
Thank You

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Women’s Federal Correctional Institutions

Nova Institution NS

Grand Valley Institution ON

Joliette Institution QC

Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge SK

Fraser Valley Institution BC

Edmonton Institution AB

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