CorrectiveSolutions

Case Study | Recidivism in Johnston County, NC

Reduction of Recidivism in Johnston County, NC

One of the most desired outcomes of diversion is also one of the most challenging to measure: **Recidivism**. We were incredibly fortunate to be able to run a statewide, 26-month analysis of a diversion program CorrectiveSolutions administers in Johnston County, NC to determine whether the participants that completed that program were less likely to reoffend. **The analysis, which compared cases that were offered the program in Q4 2017 and Q1 2018, found that individuals who completed the diversion program had a 68% lower recidivism rate than individuals who did not participate in the diversion program.**

Group Information	Recidivism Rate After 2 Years
Group A: Offered program but did not enroll	47%
Group B: Completed diversion program	15%

Using nationally recognized guidelines on recidivism comparisons, we used the following parameters:

- **Control/Comparison group:** to get the closest to an apples-to-apples comparison, we compared two groups of individuals over the exact same period between October 2017 and March 2018: those who were offered the program but did not enroll, and those who completed the program. This was to ensure that there would be a comparison of two groups with as similar as possible demographics, eligibility, criminal offenses, and even the time of year when the offense was committed.
- We ran a criminal check on both groups of individuals two years later at the end of March 2020 that covered the **entire state of North Carolina, not just Johnston County**.
- Economic factors and **program costs did not likely significantly affect the results** because this program has a sliding scale depending on a participant's income and dependents, with total program fees as low as $40.

Keystones of this Diversion Program

- **Evidence-Based Curriculum**
  Group cognitive behavioral change sessions using evidence-based curriculum provide the basis for future decision making. Taught by experienced professionals, over 60% of participants rated the classes as "eye opening" and over 80% stated that the class was "helpful and informative to their particular situation."
- **Socioeconomic needs assessments**
  An integral part of the Diversion Plan Conference, the needs assessment puts participants in touch with community resources that may assist with improving living conditions, employment, substance use, mental health, and veterans' resources.
- **Accountability to the community**
  Giving back to the community by way of community service, restitution and apology letters.

Program Description

Johnston County, NC has a population just over 200,000 and is in the metropolitan area of Raleigh, NC which has a population of approx. 1,500,000.

Eligible individuals are generally first-time offenders who have not completed a diversion program in the past 4 years. Individuals are offered diversion by a diversion coordinator while in court.

Program Length

3-6 months, depending on the offense(s)

Program Conditions

- Attend a Diversion Plan Conference
- Attend a Behavioral Change Class
- Community service (12-24 hours)
- Drug Testing (if applicable)
- Apology letter (if requested by referring attorney)
- Restitution (when applicable)

Program Cost

$280-$400 depending on case length and is subject to sliding scale fee reduction for indigent participants, determined by income and dependents.

Eligible offenses generally

- Misdemeanors under Chapter 90 Article 5 (Controlled Substances)
- Criminal Misdemeanors under Chapter 14
- Motor Vehicle infractions