Treatment Research in Correctional Settings

Dr. Dwayne Simpson/Texas Christian University (TCU)

“Effectively Breaking the Cycle of Drugs and Crime”
March 15, 2005  Washington, DC

Strategic Issues for Treating Offenders

1. Assessing Treatment Needs

- TCU Drug Screen
  * Drug use/DSM “classification”
  * Treatment needs/history
  * FREE & Self Administered (5 min)

- Assessments: 90% referred to treatment

1. DSM Diagnosis
2. Other Records

2. Recovery Sequence in Treatment

Assessing TX Needs & Progress?

Simpson & Joe, 2004 (J Substance Abuse Treatment)

Treatment Research in Correctional Settings

- Needs
- Progress
- New Directions

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IBR Web site:  www.ibr.tcu.edu
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**Offender Functioning Profiles**  
(Norms for 25th & 75th Percentiles; N=3,166)

- **TCU CJ Client Evaluation of Self & Treatment (CJ CEST) Scales**

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**Providing Effective Interventions**

- **Clients**  
  - Early Engagement  
  - Early Recovery  
  - Retention/Transition

- **Support Networks**
  - Drug Use  
  - Crime  
  - Social Relations

**Posttreatment**

Simpson, 2004 (J Substance Abuse Treatment)

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**Induction to Treatment**  
(Readiness Training)

- **Clients**  
  - Early Engagement  
  - Early Recovery

- **Support Networks**
  - Drug Use  
  - Therapy  
  - Social Support

**Posttreatment**

Simpson & Joe, 1993 (PT); Blankenship et al., 1999 (PJ); Sia, Dansereau, & Czuchry, 2000 (JBAT)

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**Treatment Engagement by Motivation**  
(Desire for Help)

- **Clients**
  - Low Motivation
  - High Motivation

- **Support Networks**
  - % High Rapport
  - % High Participation

- **Posttreatment**

p<.01 (from CJ-DATS PIC Study)

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**3. Moving Offenders to “Re-entry”**

- **Clients**
  - Readiness

- **Support Networks**
  - Social Skills Training

**Posttreatment**

Simpson, 2004 (JAT); Simpson, Knight & Dansereau, in press (JCC)

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**Community Re-Entry**  
(CJ-DATS Protocols)

- **Support Networks**
  - Housing  
  - Education  
  - Employment  
  - Health Care

**Posttreatment**

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Transitional Case Management
"Linking Community Services to Re-entry"
- Use Strengths Case Management
- Emphasize prison pre-release planning
- Guided by strengths & goals
- Address needs & barriers to recovery
  - Increase access, engagement, & retention
  - Reduce relapse & CJ system costs

Step'n Out
"Catching People Doing Things Right"
- Coordinate TX with Parole Officer
- Emphasize social reinforcements
- Shape behavior, don’t just “punish”
- Give attention to positive behavior
- Be fair & realistic about changes

Pre-Release Assessment
"Making the Transition to Aftercare"
- Risk evaluation for aftercare
- Needed for TX placements
- Brief & self-administered
- Focus on security risks & needs
  - Drug use severity & criminal history
  - Offender motivation & TX progress

4. Special Populations & Needs
- Gender
- Minority
- HIV/HCV
- Co-Occurring Disorders

HIV/HCV/HBV Prevention
"Reducing Risks of Infections"
- Multi-media with interactive DVD
- Specific to gender/ethnic groups
- HIV/HCV/HBV testing offered
- Focus on community re-entry risks
  - Reduce sex partners/risks
  - Reduce drug use & IV risks

Co-Occurring Disorders (COD)
"Identifying Mental Health Barriers"
- Screening tool for COD severity
- Brief & self-administered
- Clinical & policy applications
- Focus on TX needs & planning
  - Estimations of prevalence rates
  - Improve services delivery
5. CJ Systems Functioning & Change

Organizational Functioning
Comparison of High vs Low TX Programs

TCU Organizational Readiness for Change (ORC) Scores

Client Functioning
Comparison of Diverse Set of TX Programs

TCU Client Evaluation of Self & Treatment (CEST) Scores

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