

# TCU IBR Policy Impact


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## Outline

- Introduction
- Evidence-based policymaking
- Policy impact
- Future



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# Introduction

Why am I here?

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# My Professional Journey


- SFU** • MA & PhD Forensic Psychology & Law
- UBC** • Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Population and Public Health
- USF** • Assistant Professor in Mental Health Law & Policy and  
• Assistant Professor in Community & Family Health

• Assistant → Full Professor of Psychology  
• Medical Director Center for Family and Community Engagement  
• USA (Senior Vice) President

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## USF Center on Co-Occurring Disorders, Justice, and Multidisciplinary Research

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[Roger H. Peters](#), *University of South Florida*  
[Kathleen A. Moore](#), *University of South Florida*  
[P. G. Stiles](#)

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**Document Type**  
 Technical Report

**Publication Date**  
 2012



**Abstract**  
 Increasing numbers of persons who have co-occurring mental and substance use disorders (CODs) and other health-related conditions are involved in the criminal justice system, and have placed an enormous strain on institutional and community-based services. Despite NIDA's efforts to focus attention on CODs in the justice system, there has been relatively little programmatic research to address this key public health problem and to design theoretically informed and evidence-based interventions. The current project will support three new faculty investigators who will be located within the Center on Co-occurring Disorders, Justice, and Multidisciplinary Research (CJM), hosted by the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy (MHL P) at the University of South Florida (USF). New investigators will be

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## Client-Level MAT Outcomes

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- NCSU** • (Assistant → Full) Professor of Psychology  
• Director Center for Family and Community Engagement

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## Treating Opioid-Involved Criminal Justice Clients: An Examination of Mental Health Problems and Medication-Assisted Treatment

by Julie S. Gray, Sarah L. Desmarais, Amy M. Cohn, Stephen Doherty, and Kevin Knight

Psychol Addict Behav. 2017 May;31(3):315-325. doi: 10.1037/adb0000276. Epub 2017 Apr 6.

**Daily stressors as antecedents, correlates, and consequences of alcohol and drug use and cravings in community-based offenders**

Shevaun D Neupert <sup>1</sup>, Sarah L Desmarais <sup>1</sup>, Julie S Gray <sup>2</sup>, Amy M Cohn <sup>3</sup>, Stephen Doherty <sup>4</sup>, Kevin Knight <sup>5</sup>

DOI: 10.1037/adb0000276

Psychol Violence. 2016 Jul;6(3):378-389. doi: 10.1037/vio0000047. Epub 2016 Mar 24.

**Medication-Assisted Treatment and Violent Outcomes in Community-Based Offenders with Alcohol and Drug Use Problems**

Sarah L Desmarais <sup>1</sup>, Julie S Gray <sup>2</sup>, Candalyn B Rade <sup>1</sup>, Amy M Cohn <sup>3</sup>, Stephen Doherty <sup>4</sup>, Kevin Knight <sup>2</sup>

Affiliations + expand  
PMID: 27525168 PMID: PMC4979558 DOI: 10.1037/vio0000047  
[Free PMC article](#)

**Abstract**  
**Objective:** This study explored medication-assisted treatment (MAT), the combined use of medication and psychosocial treatment, as a strategy for reducing violent outcomes in community-based offenders. The primary aims were to: 1) examine associations between participant characteristics and treatment adherence; 2) examine associations between treatment adherence and substance use; 3) examine associations between treatment adherence and violent outcomes; and 4) determine whether associations between treatment adherence and violent outcomes may be attributable to reductions in substance use.

**Introduction**  
Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is defined as “the use of medication in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a whole-person approach to the treatment of substance use disorders” (SAMHSA, 2013). MAT is recognized as part of an evidence-based approach to improve outcomes in substance abuse populations (Pecoraro et al., 2013). Offenders with substance use problems reoffend at higher rates than their counterparts who do not have substance use problems. At the individual level, substance use is associated with increased problematic alcohol and drug use; at the community level, substance use as individuals adapt to and learn new skills in the community. This study used a diary study using Interactive Voice Response technology to examine substance use among offenders on probation or parole participating in a community-based MAT program. Results showed that offenders referred to medication-assisted treatment for alcohol and illegal drugs, and use of alcohol and illegal drugs 1 month after MAT initiation. Offenders who showed significant day-to-day fluctuation in alcohol and

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• Director Center for Family and Community Engagement
- PRA** • (Senior Vice) President and Chair of the Board

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## Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA)



- Women-Owned Small Business in NY Capital Region
- Staffed by 70 experts and support personnel around the country
- Leader in behavioral health technical assistance and research since 1987

*Our mission is to create positive social change through technical assistance, research, and training.*

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# PRA Expertise



Behavioral Health



Research & Evaluation



Systems Mapping



Homelessness



Income Supports



Criminal Legal System



Veterans



Lived Experience



Youth Opportunity



Recovery Support

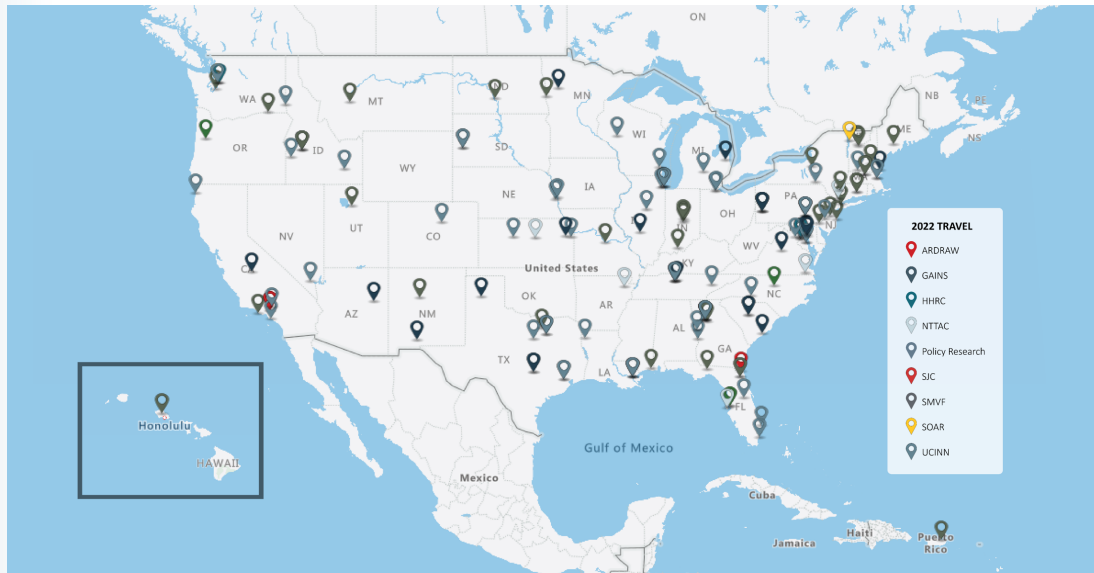


Trauma

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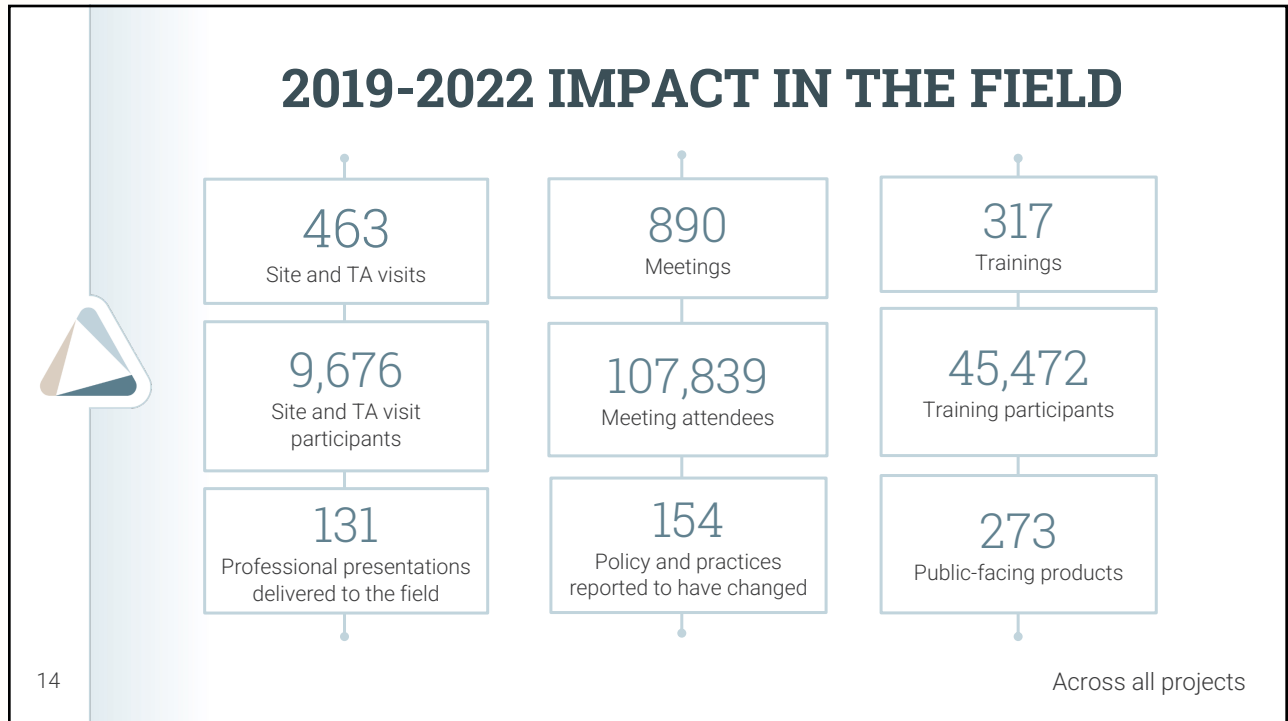
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# PRA on the Ground

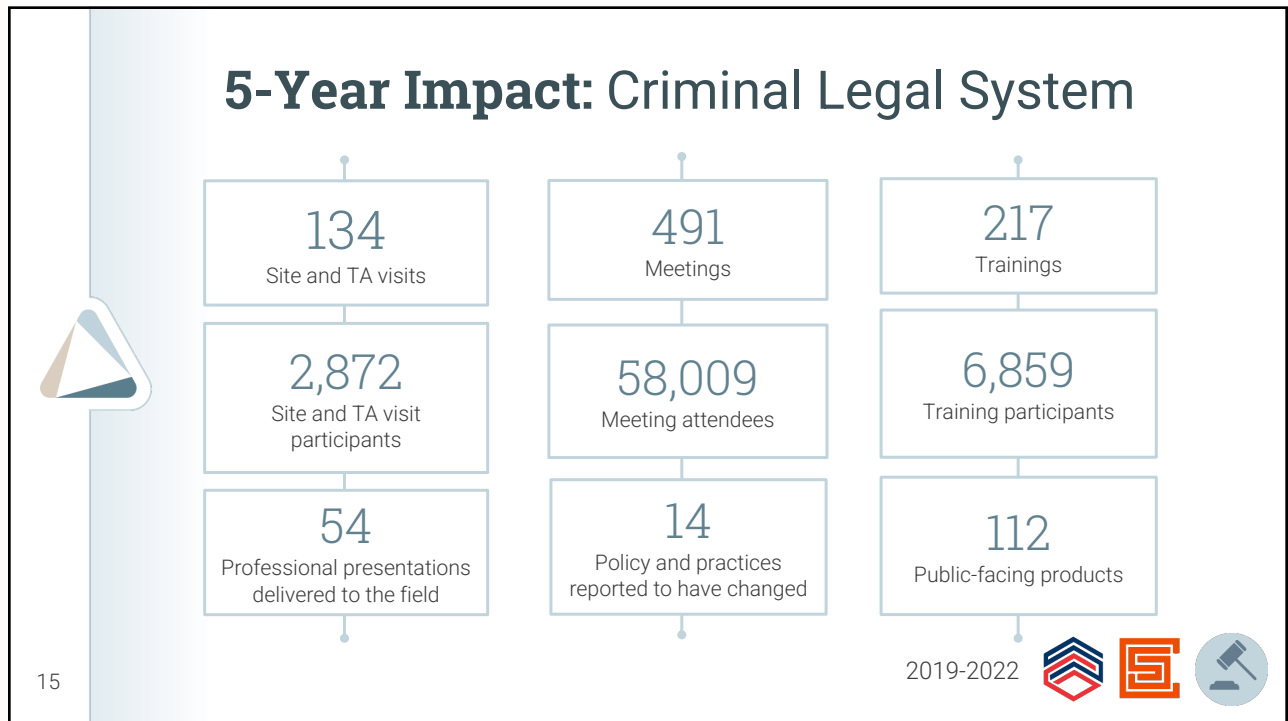


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# Cornerstone Project

SAMHSA GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation


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## Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) GAINS Center

- SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation focuses on expanding access to services and supports for people with mental and/or substance use disorders who come in contact with criminal justice system



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# GAINS Technical Assistance Model

**Gather information:** Collect research findings and information about best practices

**Assess what works:** Synthesize information into appropriate and targeted communication strategies

**Integrate:** Design and implement facilitated learning and follow through opportunities

**Network:** Support the building and strengthening of networks and infrastructure

**Stimulate change:** Identify and promote use of most cost-effective, evidence-based ways of achieving significant results

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# Cornerstone Project

MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) IMPACT Network

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## John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC)



*The Safety and Justice Challenge provides support to local communities that are ready to tackle one of the greatest drivers of over-incarceration in America—the misuse and overuse of jails.*



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## MacArthur SJC Impact Network



Improving implementation of justice-focused  
Mental and behavioral health  
Practices:  
Activating  
Collaboration through  
Training and technical  
assistance



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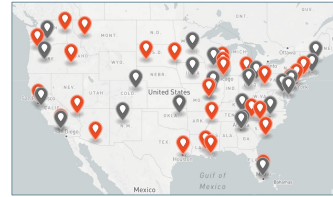
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Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

# MacArthur SJC Impact Network

- Broader SJC Network
  - Over 65 sites across 34 states
- SJC IMPACT Network
  - 17 sites across 2 cohorts
    - 2021
      - Allegheny County (PA), East Baton Rouge (LA), Charleston County (SC), Milwaukee County (WI), Pennington County (SD), Eau Claire County (WI), West Texas Centers/Howard County (TX), San Juan County (NM), Middlesex County (MA), Orange County (CA), and Texas Health and Human Services Commission
    - 2023
      - Solano County (CA), Doña Ana County (NM), Issaquah (WA), Sarpy County (NE), Douglas County (NE), and Natrona County (WY)

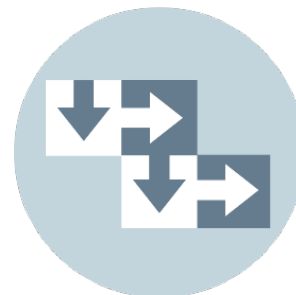


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# Core Model and Tool

## Sequential Intercept Mapping

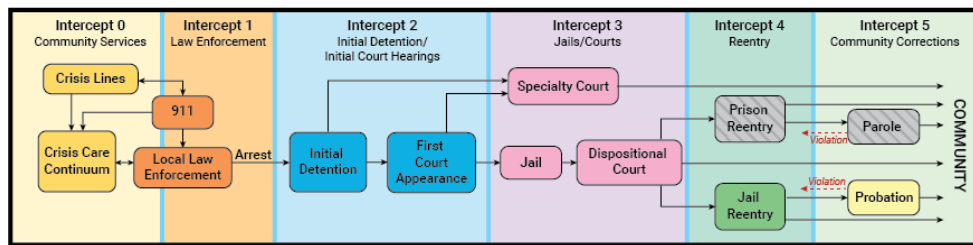


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# Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM)

- Conceptual model to describe pathways in and out of criminal legal system for people with behavioral health conditions
- Strategic planning tool



Abreu, D., Parker, T. W., Noether, C. D., Steadman, H. J., & Case, B. (2017). Revising the paradigm for jail diversion for people with mental and substance use disorders: Intercept 0. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 35(5-6), 380-395. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2300>  
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# Evidence-Based Policymaking

Why is this harder than it sounds?



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## Evidence-Based Policymaking

- Two broad goals
  1. To use what we already know from program evaluation and other research to inform policy decisions
  2. To build more knowledge to better inform future policy decisions

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EVIDENCECOLLABORATIVE.ORG

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## Challenges

1. Policy problems may not be clearly defined or amenable to research.
2. Financial constraints make evidence-based recommendations unaffordable.
3. Research evidence may be ambiguous because it contains uncertainties.
4. Research evidence may be value-laden (or not focused at policy level).
5. Research evidence may not be generalizable.
6. Other types of evidence may compete with research evidence.
7. Research evidence may be limited by framing and assumptions.
8. Policymaking process is complicated and iterative.
9. Policy decisions may be made for reasons other than effectiveness.
10. Policymaking and research time scales often differ.

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Greenhalgh &amp; Russell (2009)


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# Policy Impact

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## Policy Impacts


- Screening and assessment
- Intervention
- Evaluation

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## Policy Impacts

- Screening and assessment
- Intervention
- Evaluation



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## Screening and Assessment


- Case example: TCU Drug Screen V

Client ID#	Today's Date	Facility ID#	Zip Code	Administration
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### TCU Drug Screen V

During the last 12 months (before being locked up, if applicable) –

	No	Yes
1. Did you use larger amounts of drugs or use them for a longer time than you planned or intended? .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Did you try to control or cut down on your drug use but were unable to do it? .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Did you spend a lot of time getting drugs, using them, or recovering from their use? .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Did you have a strong desire or urge to use drugs? .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Did you get so high or sick from using drugs that it kept you from working, going to school, or caring for children? .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Did you continue using drugs even when it led to social or interpersonal problems? ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Did you spend less time at work, school, or with friends because of your drug use? ....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Did you use drugs that put you or others in physical danger? .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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## National Commission of Correctional Health Care (NCCHC)

- 2018 Standards for Health Services in Jails and Prisons
  - Screening for drug use issues essential component of intake process
- But, U.S. jails typically have:
  - High volume of admissions
  - Relatively low levels of staffing
  - High staff turnover rates
  - Typically short periods of stay
  - Limited budgets

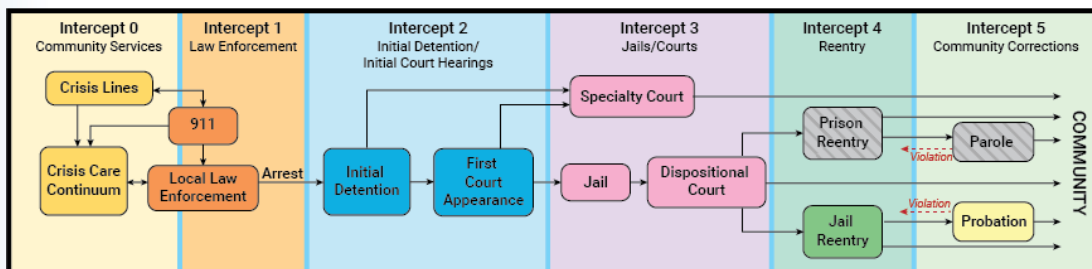


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## SIM Intercept 2

- Screening for mental and substance use disorders
  - Brief screens should be administered universally by non-clinical staff at jail booking, police holding cells, court lock ups, and prior to the first court appearance.



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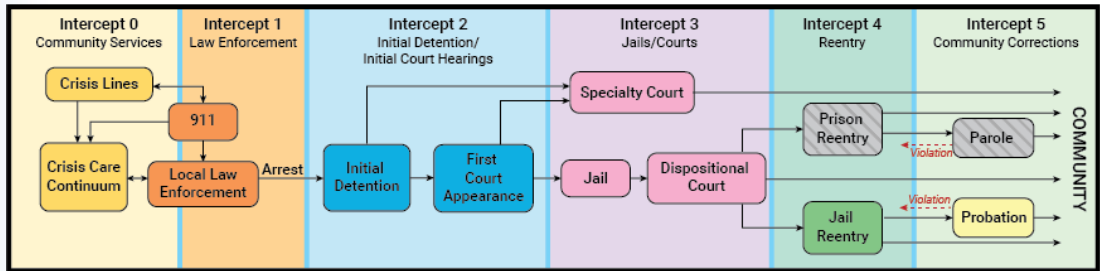
Abreu, D., Parker, T. W., Noether, C. D., Steadman, H. J., & Case, B. (2017). Revising the paradigm for jail diversion for people with mental and substance use disorders: Intercept 0. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 35(5-6), 380-395. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2300>  
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## SIM Intercept 2

- Screening for mental and substance use disorders
  - Texas Christian University Drug Screen-V
    - Past 12-month use based on DSM-V criteria; 17 items
    - Consider combining with the AUDIT for alcohol use



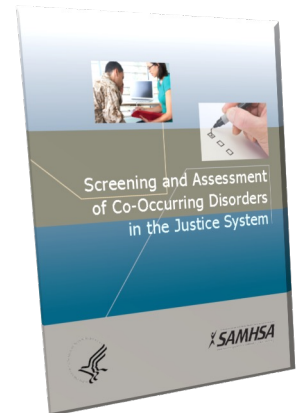
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## SAMHSA's Screening and Assessment of Co-Occurring Disorders in Justice System

- Screening for CODs should be provided at earliest possible point



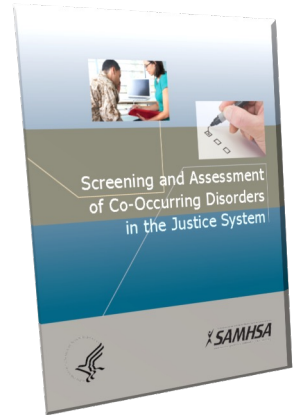
Screening and Assessment of Co-Occurring Disorders in the Justice System | SAMHSA Publications and Digital Products

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## SAMHSA's Screening and Assessment of Co-Occurring Disorders in Justice System

- Screening for CODs should be provided at earliest possible point
- TCU Drug Screen V among:
  - Recommended screening instruments for substance use disorders
  - Recommended screening instruments for co-occurring disorders
- TCU instruments mentioned 175 x



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[Screening and Assessment of Co-Occurring Disorders in the Justice System | SAMHSA Publications and Digital Products](#)

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## BJA Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP)

- Screening should be done for every person at:
  - Booking or intake
  - Transfer to other points correctional and community health care systems.



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[https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/AHP\\_Screening\\_for\\_Substance\\_Use\\_Disorders\\_in\\_Jails.pdf](https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/AHP_Screening_for_Substance_Use_Disorders_in_Jails.pdf)

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## BJA Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP)

- Screening should be done for every person at:
  - Booking or intake
  - Transfer to other points correctional and community health care systems.
- TCU Drug Screen V among recommended instruments



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[https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/AHP\\_Screening\\_for\\_Substance\\_Use\\_Disorders\\_in\\_Jails.pdf](https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/AHP_Screening_for_Substance_Use_Disorders_in_Jails.pdf)

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## Screening and Assessment

- Across the United States, correctional policies at local and state levels require screening for substance use
  - Many policies explicitly name TCU Drug Screen
  - Other agencies use it to meet policy requirement

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# Strategies for Policy Impact

## IBR's Keys to Success

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## Challenges

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Greenhalgh & Russell (2009)

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Greenhalgh &amp; Russell (2009)

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## 2. Recommendation Not Affordable

- Standards require universal drug use screening in jails
  - ...but jails typically have little to no budget for screening
- IBR approach
  - Make (all!) the instruments FREE

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## 4. Research Not At Policy Level

- Standards require universal drug use screening in jails
  - ...but most studies examine screening at person level
- IBR approach
  - Conduct organizational- and policy-level research on screening (and other) tools
    - Effectiveness
    - Barriers (and facilitators) to use
    - Implementation strategies to support uptake and effectiveness

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## 5. Research Evidence Not Generalizable

- Standards require universal drug use screening in jails
  - ...but many people in US jails do not speak English as first language (or at all)
- IBR approach
  - Translate and validate tools in other languages

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## 7. Evidence Limited by Framing & Assumptions

- Well-established quality criteria for clinical trials do not consider real-world conditions or mechanisms
  - Example: CONSORT statement
- IBR approach
  - Conduct research in real-world settings
  - Identify barriers for implementation and evaluate strategies for overcoming them

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## 9. Decisions May Not Reflect Effectiveness

- Standards require drug use screening in jails
  - ...but jails typically respond with homegrown approach
    - "I know 'em when I see 'em!"
    - "I can tell if someone is using by looking at them!"
    - "I use the 'eyeball' test..."
- IBR approach
  - Create tools with limited burden (and a lot of benefit)
    - Make the work easier (not harder)
  - Make them easy to find and FREE

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# Future Policy Impacts

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## Next 60 Years

- Ask questions that are potentially less interesting but more practical
- Prioritize (rigorous) mixed methods field research
- Position within criminal legal system reform(s)
- Drive reductions in racial disparities
- Reimagine and (re)engage with communities and stakeholders

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## Next 60 Years



- Ask questions that are potentially less interesting but more practical
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*Partner with PRA!*

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# Policy Research Associates, Inc.

**CREATING POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE**  
 FOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH  
 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING



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