BJA JRSA

Evaluation News

Expanding Knowledge Through Information Exchange

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Send questions and comments to bjaeval@jrsa.org

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Evaluation News provides information on the BJA Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement, promotes the exchange of information on evaluation and performance measurement, and publicizes criminal justice research and evaluation

Law Enforcement

Corsaro, Brunson and McGarrell conducted a study to examine the effect of a strategic, "pulling levers" intervention that was implemented by law enforcement officials in Rockford, Illinois, to address drug markets in a high crime neighborhood. The authors employed multiple data collection and analysis methods. Narratives and observational data with criminal justice officials were used to measure program implementation, and crime data supplied by the Rockford Police Department were used to assess impact. The crime data included all violent and non-violent crimes committed over the 2-year period from June 2006 through June 2008. Additionally, the authors conducted in-depth, qualitative interviews with 34 neighborhood residents. The results indicated that the targeted neighborhood experienced a statistically significant, substantive, and noticeable reduction in property, drug, and nuisance offenses after the strategy was implemented. Comparative analyses revealed that the remainder of the city also experienced declines in violent and non-violent crime, however these declines were not as extensive in terms of magnitude. The resident interviews revealed that the majority of participants agreed that the level of crime and disorder had declined. The full report: *Problem-Oriented Policing and Open-Air Drug Markets: Examining the Rockford Pulling Levers Deterrence Strategy*, is available at: *http://cad.sagepub.com/content/early/2009/10/14/0011128709345955*

Crime Prevention

McLean, Worden, Kim, Garmley, and Bonner evaluated Operation Safe-Corridor (OSC), a collaborative crime prevention and community safety initiative. Based on research related to spatial and social distribution of crime, OSC was designed to maximize pedestrian safety and prevent crime in areas frequently traveled by college students and other community members. The strategy Incorporates high-visibility patrols in a designated area (the corridor), community outreach initiatives, educational awareness (including encouragement to travel by foot in the corridor rather than via other routes), signage, safe havens within the corridor, taxi stands, video surveillance, and improved lighting. The authors utilized police crime data from January 2000

Useful resources for criminal justice program evaluation and performance measurement are available at the BJA Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement web site: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation.

through May 2008 to calculate changes in the mean levels of crime before and after the implementation of OSC. The findings suggest that there was no impact on violent crime in the OSC area - neither robberies nor aggravated assaults exhibited any significant changes after implementation. Additionally, the authors observed increases in Part I violent crimes in the area surrounding the OSC. The full report: *Operation Safe Corridor: An Outcome Evaluation*, is available at: http://cjp.sagepub.com/content/21/3/363

Substance Abuse

Evans, Li, Urada, and Anglin evaluated the comparative effectiveness of California's Proposition 36 (Prop 36) to traditional drug courts. Both Prop 36 and drug courts are intended to divert substance-using offenders from incarceration, but the two initiatives differ in the selection criteria for offender participation. Drug courts typically use offense-based eligibility and standards of offender suitability, such as addiction severity and information about previous treatment outcomes. By law, Prop 36 must be made available to all offenders who meet the conviction-based eligibility criteria. As a result, 40,000 to 50,000 offenders are admitted to drug treatment under Prop 36 each year compared to fewer than 3,000 seen by drug courts. This study is based on a sample of 27,911 Prop 36 offenders and 1,320 drug court offenders. Propensity score matching, a statistical method for identifying equivalent groups, was used to match a sample of 1,062 drug court offenders with a group of Prop 36 offenders of the same size. The outcome measures included treatment retention, treatment completion, treatment success and recidivism. The findings revealed that both groups experienced significant behavioral improvements. While more Prop 36 offenders were successful at discharge, more were found to have recidivated during the 12 moth follow-up period. The full report: *Comparative Effectiveness of California's Proposition 36 and Drug Court Programs Before and After Propensity Score Matching*, is available at: http://cad.sagepub.com/content/early/2010/09/16/0011128710382342

Corrections

Makarios, Steiner and Travis III examined the extent to which deficits in education, employment, housing, and lack of treatment programs pose significant barriers to the successful reentry of inmates released from prison. The authors utilized data from a larger research project that examined the impact of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's move to graduated sanctions. The sample for this study was 1,965 offenders placed on parole during two time periods: October through December 2003 and August through October 2005. The authors reviewed offender case files to examine the impact of potential barriers to reentry. The follow-up period for this study was one year and recidivism was defined as either a rearrest or a felony rearrest. The findings of this study were consistent with previous studies of recidivism. When leaving prison, nearly half of the sample had not graduated high school or received a GED. Fewer than 20% of offenders maintained stable employment during their first year in the community and nearly one-third remained unemployed during the entire study period. The data also reveal that parolees had high levels of residential mobility. The parolees lived in an average of two residences and 30% of the parolees lived in three or more places during the study time frame. After controlling for criminal history and offense seriousness, education, employment, and residential mobility were found to be significantly related to both measures of recidivism. The data indicate that one-fourth of the offenders were

rearrested for a new felony during the 12 month follow-up period. *The full report: Examining the Predictors of Recidivism Among Men and Women Released From Prison in Ohio, is available at:* http://cjb.sagepub.com/content/37/12/1377

Tip of the Month

Logic models are valuable tools that can help increase understanding of a program and the underlying logic upon which it is based. Logic models are visual representations of how a program works under certain environmental conditions. They link outcomes (short-term, intermediate, and long-term) with program activities/processes and the theoretical assumptions/principles of the program. A well-designed logic model can be a valuable tool with many uses, including assisting in the management of the program, communicating the focus of the program to stakeholders and funders, and identifying measures for process and outcome evaluations. To learn more about logic models, see some examples of logic models, and download logic model templates, see:

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide
http://www.wkkf.org/~/media/6E35F79692704AA0ADCC8C3017200208.ashx

U.S. Department of Energy EERE Program Evaluation
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/ba/pba/program_evaluation/program_logic.html

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension
http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/evaluation/evallogicmodel.html