

This paper briefly describes the Cost Benefit Analysis on Sex Offender Treatment. The analysis concluded that the break-even point for adults treated in a correctional facility was \$1,600, for those adults treated in the community it was \$5,125 and for juveniles treated as out-patients it is \$7,500.



Sex Offender Treatment

Sex Offender Treatment - Overview

The results of the meta-analysis show that sex offender treatment is effective for both adult and juvenile offenders in community-based settings. Overall, treatment is more effective for juvenile sex offenders (70% reduction in sexual recidivism) compared to adults (21% reduction in sexual recidivism). Adult sex offender programs in the community show substantial effects on sexual recidivism (48% reduction) while programs in secure settings such as prisons have little to no effect on sexual recidivism (15% reduction, although this change is not statistically significant). We cannot report on the effectiveness of juvenile sex offender treatment in secure settings because no studies of this type met minimum methodological and inclusion criteria.

In keeping with previous research, the results of this meta-analysis demonstrate the efficacy of cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and community-based interventions at reducing sexual recidivism for both adult and juvenile sex offenders. CBT methods target offenders' thoughts and behaviors and may include behavioral reconditioning, skill building, and cognitive restructuring.

Percentage reductions in recidivism and promising practices were based on examining 156 studies, of which 26 (18 adult & 5 juvenile) were of sufficient quality to be included in this analysis.

Promising Practices

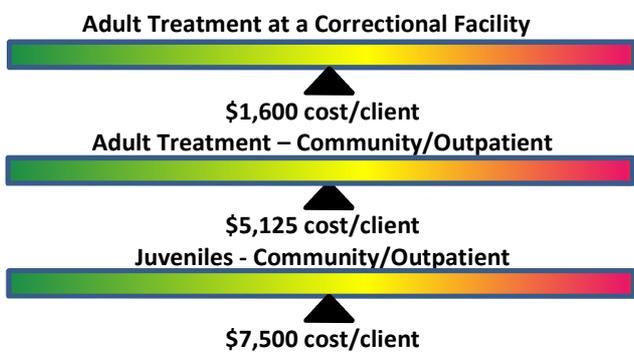
Adults in Community Setting

The Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) model employs teams of trained community members to mentor high-risk, adult sex offenders as they transition out of prison. Sex offenders meet with CoSA volunteers multiple times a week and receive a range of services, including social support, modeling of appropriate social skills and positive relationships, and assistance with housing and employment issues. The goal of the intervention is to successfully integrate the offender into the community and to increase the offenders' feelings of accountability to the community. High-risk sex offenders participating in CoSA programs were significantly less likely to recidivate than offenders who were not participating in any re-entry program

Juveniles in Out-patient Treatment

Juvenile sex offenders who participate in treatment combining cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and broad-based ecological programming recidivate less frequently than those who only receive individualized CBT. Under the model, adults within the youth's support system participate in a range of treatments, including parent skills training, family therapy, and teacher collaboration. Parents and teachers are trained to intervene at home and school to correct thinking errors and promote positive social skills, peer relationships, and problem-solving behaviors. This intervention assumes that parents, teachers, and other support people, with the guidance of a clinician, are in the best position to influence a youth's behavior over time.

Break-Even Points



Overview

As good consumers we seek “value”, that perfect balance between cost and quality that ensures that we are getting the most for our money. But in a marketplace that has vastly different price points and levels of quality, that value equation becomes complex. A cost benefit model helps bring both cost and quality into focus and provides valuable information to help make choices in a complex market. But how do you measure cost and quality in a fair way to ensure that the model can be safely used by consumers?

In our model, costs were calculated using budgetary information from our state criminal justice agencies (Courts, Corrections, Public Safety, Juvenile Justice Services and the Attorney General’s Office) over a six year period (2005-2010). This information was combined with similar data from both county and municipal budgets gleaned from the files of the State Auditor’s Office. Together this information included over 2000 separate data points. The budget information was then matched with crime data over the same period. The result was a statistical model that helps predict the cost to taxpayers for the investigation, arrest, prosecution, and incarceration of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

To better understand “quality” in our value equation, we began by prioritizing program areas of interest. Using a systematic review process, we focused on finding and analyzing program evaluations in our prioritized areas to assess program effectiveness (or “quality”). This task began with an exhaustive search of the literature from which thousands of research papers and program evaluations were examined.

This list was further honed to determine if each study met our strict inclusion criteria, and then each evaluation was read and assessed to determine its methodological rigor. If it was considered acceptable, it was combined with other evaluations in a given program area to create a quality index.

Further details of our methodology can be found in “Utah Cost of Crime 2012: Methods for Reviewing Program Effectiveness” and “Utah Cost of Crime 2012: An Introduction to an Econometric Cost Benefit Approach”

Break-even Analysis

Utah’s method included a break-even analysis to determine the maximum amount that could be spent on programs without exceeding taxpayer benefits. This statistic provides policy makers with a benchmark for understanding program costs.

In the graph below, the area in green represents programs that are the “best-value” because client costs are equal to or less than taxpayer costs.

