

# 19-459 - A - Results First CCP Report

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## ***Acknowledgements***

On behalf of the County Administrator's Office and the Probation Department, we wish to thank all the individuals who contributed to the Results First Initiative in Solano County.

### **Project Champions**

Solano County Community Corrections Partnership  
Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator  
Christopher Hansen, Chief Probation Officer

### **Project Lead**

Jennifer McDermott, Probation Project Manager

### **Program Inventory Workgroup**

Kate Grammy, Health and Social Services  
Andrew Williamson, Health and Social Services  
Robert Oliver, Solano County Courts  
Renee Smith, Solano County Sheriff's Office

### **Resource Cost Workgroup**

Ian Goldberg, County Administrator's Office  
Jason Aguirre, District Attorney's Office  
Elena D'Agustino, Public Defender's Office  
Shari King, Public Defender's Office  
Brad Dewall, Sheriff's Office  
Keith Bloomfield, Sheriff's Office  
Lisa Woods, Sheriff's Office  
Robert Oliver, Solano County Courts  
Lennette Maniaul, Probation Department  
Jennivive Venzon, Probation Department

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## Overview

Solano County law and justice partners work tirelessly to end the cycle of justice involvement for its adult criminal justice population. Ending the cycle of involvement in the criminal justice system clearly benefits the lives of the involved individuals as well as the County, taxpayers, and crime victims. Taxpayers and the communities impacted by crime can realize a benefit of up to **\$121,479 in Solano County** by avoiding one recidivist, due to reduced usage of the criminal justice system<sup>1</sup>. For this reason, the County Administrator’s Office committed to, and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) endorsed, partnering with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Hub for Criminal Justice Programming<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of this initiative is to aid counties in implementing an innovative policymaking approach and cost-benefit model which helps policymakers invest in policies and programs best supported by evidence to reduce recidivism.

For the last year, the Probation Department has led the Results First work in collaboration with staff from the Sheriff’s Office, the Public Defender’s Office, the District Attorney’s Office, the Department of Health and Social Services, and Solano Superior Court. Members from each agency collaborated to step through the Results



Figure 1: Results First Approach

First approach which included creating an inventory of programs<sup>3</sup> that serve the adult criminal justice population and to develop a cost-benefit model. The purpose of this work was to identify and understand the impact of these programs on reducing the recidivism of justice involved adults in Solano County and to measure the value that the avoided recidivist brings to the County.

## Program Inventory

A Program Inventory Workgroup comprised of County agencies working with the adult criminal justice population formed to create an inventory of funded programs. The workgroup was tasked with identifying and providing descriptive, budget, and participant data about the adult criminal justice programs overseen by their departments. Programs were then reviewed and matched with the evidence utilizing the Results First Clearinghouse Database<sup>4</sup>. The County identified nearly 50 unique programs addressing numerous offender needs across agencies. Table 1 below includes examples of the programs

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<sup>1</sup> Recidivism is defined as a new crime conviction after the start of supervision or release from incarceration. A cohort is defined as a group of supervisees who began supervision between October 2011 and September 2012 and were tracked for re-convictions over the next 5 years of their release.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.counties.org/csac-support-hub>

<sup>3</sup> A program can be defined as an intervention (program or a practice) that engages specific participants to achieve a discrete outcome.

<sup>4</sup> Results First Clearinghouse: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/data-visualizations/2015/results-first-clearinghouse-database>

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included in the inventory. Appendix A contains a list of programs which have been matched to evidence in the Results First Clearinghouse Database to date.

**Table 1: Program Inventory Example**

| Program Name                             | Description  | Outcomes and Needs Addressed   | Evidence Rating      |
|--|--|--|----------------------|
| Reasoning and Rehabilitation II (R&R II) | Cognitive behavioral therapy intended to help participants develop social skills, moral reasoning, and problem-solving skills. | Criminal Thinking<br>Companions<br>Anti-Social Patterns<br>Pro-Criminal Attitude | Highest Rated        |
| Employment Services                      | Employment services in the form of soft skills, resume preparation, job searches and job training.                             | Employment   | Highest Rated        |
| Education - High School Diploma or GED   | GED preparation. Independent Study Programs and Special Education.   | Education  | Second-Highest Rated |
| Matrix <i>for Probation clients</i>      | Intensive outpatient approach for substance abuse and dependence   | Substance Abuse  | Second-Highest Rated |

## Benefit Cost Model

The benefit-cost model projects the return of investment of a program based on the impact on recidivism, which is discussed below. The model relies on high-quality research studies and meta-analysis to estimate the level of effectiveness of programs at impacting crime as seen through repeated trips through the criminal justice system (recidivism), and then monetizes recidivism reductions using Solano County-specific county costs, recidivism, sentencing outcomes, and resources used (days on probation, in jail, or in prison).

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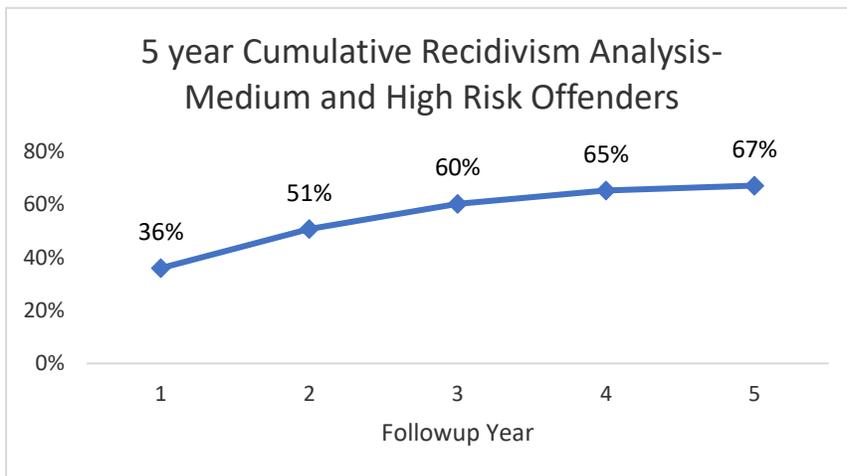


Figure 1: Recidivism

Analysis

Solano County created a cohort of those who started supervision in October 2011 who were risk assessed as Medium or High Risk to recidivate using Solano County’s validated risk assessment tool<sup>5</sup>. This cohort consisted of 892 Felony Probationers<sup>6</sup>, Mandatory Supervision<sup>7</sup>, Post Release

Community Supervision (PRCS)<sup>8</sup> individuals who assessed above the County’s cutoff. This group was tracked over a 5-year period yielding a 67% cumulative recidivism rate, meaning 67% percent of the cohort had at least 1 new conviction. This group generated 1,440 new convictions over the 5 years, with 57% of these new convictions being felonies. (Figure 1). This risk-based cohort was used since, based on standard correctional practice and evidence-based supervision, those with elevated risk of recidivism should be supervised and referred to services at higher rates. It’s worth noting that Solano County is the first Results First participating county to use conviction data from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to perform the analysis. This is significant because the data includes convictions from other counties in addition to Solano, when they exist.

All the programs identified run through the model are matched to a level of evidence based on the research in order to apply a research-based estimate impact on recidivism. Table 2 below provides examples of the benefits and costs associated with an individual program as well as the anticipated recidivism reduction rate. Appendix B contains a full list of programs run through the benefit-cost model.

| Program Name | Description   | Benefits Per Participant | Cost Per Participant | Cost-Benefit Ratio | Recidivism Reduction |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Matrix Model | Intensive outpatient treatment approach for substance abuse and dependence. | \$8,196                  | \$ 1,208             | \$6.78             | -10%                 |

<sup>5</sup> The LS/CMI is a correctional risk assessment tool that helps probation to assess the relative risk to re-offend, as well as design customized case plans and make needs-based referrals to programming.

<sup>6</sup> Felony Probationers are individuals sentenced to formal probation supervision the Court

<sup>7</sup> Mandatory Supervision is a split the time of a sentence between a jail term and a period of supervision by a probation officer

<sup>8</sup> PRCS are eligible individuals who would have previously been under parole supervision who are supervised by Probation after release from prison

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|  |  |         |          |         |     |
|--|--|---------|----------|---------|-----|
| Reasoning and Rehabilitation           | Cognitive behavioral therapy intended to help participants develop social skills, moral reasoning, and problem-solving skills. | \$7,312 | \$ 227   | \$32.15 | -9% |
| Education - High School Diploma or GED | GED preparation. Independent Study Programs and Special Education  | \$7,622 | \$ 1,564 | \$4.87  | -9% |
| Employment                             | Employment services in the form of soft skills, resume preparation, job searches and job training.                             | \$1,714 | \$1,083  | \$1.83  | -2% |

- **Benefits Per Participant:** The program’s monetary impact for reducing recidivism
- **Program Cost:** The operational cost to provide the program
- **Cost-Benefit Ratio:** The amount of benefits for every dollar in costs invested
- **Recidivism Reduction:** The estimated recidivism reduction based on Solano County’s baseline recidivism rate

## Key Findings

Overall the County is committed to providing the appropriate evidence-based interventions and services to clients based upon their needs and their risk in order to reduce recidivism. There is equal commitment to using a data-driven approach to ensure programs are delivered with fidelity to the evidence, to measure outcomes, and to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. The benefit to the County and the community when recidivism is avoided has been identified. Lastly, through this project, evidence-based practices are now part of stakeholder conversations which is creating an evidence-based focus on programming and contracting with vendors we contract with for programming.

## Recommendations and Next Steps

The purpose of this initiative is to aid counties in implementing an innovative policymaking approach and benefit-cost model which helps policymakers invest in policies and programs best supported by evidence to reduce recidivism. For this reason, the following recommendations and next steps are being made:

- Develop a county-wide evidence-based program definition and approach for contracting, Requests for Applications, and Requests for Proposals
- Build capacity within each agency to monitor and respond to fidelity concerns
- Continue to collaborate cross-agency on standardizing evidence-based programming