Factors for Success in Community-Based Corrections:

A Regression Analysis

by

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ABSTRACT

This thesis project examined the factors that contribute to the successful completion of the residential program at Community Corrections Association. A regression analysis was used to determine which components of treatment were the greatest predictors of positive termination or the completion of the program. One hundred cases from the community-based correctional facility and 100 cases from the halfway houses were used to ascertain this information. The community-based correctional facility residents were felony offenders housed at the facility prior to incarceration in a prison. The halfway house residents were felony offenders housed at the facility following incarceration in a prison.

The greatest statistically significant predictor for successful program completion found in both the community-based correctional facility and the halfway house groups was employment. Correlations between employment and other program variables were found. For the Community-Based Correctional Facility residents, their employment success was correlated with: graduating from high school; participating in community service; receiving employment assistance; and receiving alcohol abuse counseling. For the Halfway House residents, their employment success was correlated only with paying child support while in the program.

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

Factors for Success in Community-Based Corrections

Research has suggested that rehabilitation programs, including halfway

houses and other community-based correctional facilities, which address the

criminogenic needs of offenders, combined with the sentences imposed by courts and

other supervising agencies, increase the likelihood of success among offenders.

Criminogenic needs include employment, education, substance abuse treatment,

and/or other areas in which individuals lack the skills or knowledge to participate in

everyday society. As a result of these obstacles, individuals may turn to alternative

means to meet their needs. Assisting offenders in meeting their criminogenic needs is

an important factor in reducing recidivism (Walsh, 2006).

A "success" in the field of criminal justice would be defined as an offender

who completes his/her sentence, including all requirements of supervision, and does

not re-offend or return to the system on a violation or with a new charge. Beyond

that, the goal is to provide individuals with the skills and capabilities to effectively

fulfill this objective.

Halfway houses and community-based correctional facilities attempt to

empower individuals to make changes in their lives that will dissuade them from

participating in future criminal behavior (Harris, 1999). Both offer residential

placement for offenders, without the degree of restriction as jail or prison, and include

programming that addresses offenders' needs.

Community-based correctional facilities allow those facing lesser sentences, such as jail time and probation, the opportunity to further their education, overcome addiction, and obtain gainful employment. These opportunities may be afforded through drug courts, by treatment in lieu of conviction, or by allowing probation violators another chance before being sanctioned to prison. Community-based correctional facilities (CBCFs) exist to allow programming to be provided to felony probationers as an alternative to prison, fulfilling a dual purpose within the criminal justice system. A board of Common Pleas Court judges advises and oversees community-based correctional facilities throughout the state of Ohio (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2008).

Halfway houses offer similar opportunities but to a different type of offender. State inmates may participate in transitional control programs where they serve the last six months of their sentence in a facility that allows them to seek employment. Halfway houses are generally utilized at the end of an offender's sentence as an option for re-entry, as opposed to the community-based correctional facilities, which are used as a component of probation (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2008). One particular difference between halfway houses and CBCFs is that the halfway houses are locked from the outside, but offenders are free to leave, if they choose. Unauthorized absences, however, may result in an escape charge. Trust is an important element in the re-entry process.

The same type of re-entry option is allowed for federal inmates in the state as well as parolees. Sex offenders, parole, and post-release control violators may also benefit from similar programs (Auerbach, 1998). Sex offenders and those on parole

or post-release control may be placed in a halfway house facility as a condition of release, in order to secure housing or employment or as a sanction for violating a release condition. Many offenders without housing or family support benefit from halfway houses upon release from prison, as evidenced by the employment and housing assistance provided by such programming.

Parole and Post Release Control

In 1996, the State of Ohio enacted Senate Bill 2, implementing changes in the state parole system under the new name of Post Release Control (PRC). Post Release Control is "a term of supervision, imposed upon a release from prison, and monitored by an administrative agency," for the purpose of protecting society (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2008). Essentially, parole and post release control serve the same purpose, to provide conditions for offenders to abide by after release from a prison sentence (ODRC, 2008). An offender's legal status may not only determine whether or not they are eligible for such a program, but may be a predictor for success as well.

Demographic Factors

In addition to legal status, individual characteristics such as age and gender may influence program success. Certain demographic factors of offenders, including age, history of substance abuse, marital status, and education, that are identified during the intake process, may be predictors of success or failure in rehabilitation programs as well as deterring future recidivism (Walsh, 2006). Addressing those

needs during treatment may be key in accomplishing the same goal. Often, offenders do not identify certain factors as "needs" or are reluctant to admit to having a problem such as drug addiction. Community Corrections Association utilizes several different tolls to assess and identify risks and needs for offenders, including the Ohio Risk/Needs Assessment and the Needs Identification Sheet. The latter is completed by the resident during intake to help encourage his/her participation in the development of their individualized treatment plan.

Need for Rehabilitation

The ultimate goal of the criminal justice system, specifically in corrections, is the protection of society. This goal is achieved in several ways including reduction of crime, general and specific deterrence, and by assisting offenders with the skills necessary to move from a life of crime and few opportunities, to a life of productivity and success. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, which oversees the adult prison and parole systems in the state, would likely benefit from more programs aimed at rehabilitating and correcting criminal behavior. This would help alleviate over-crowding in the prison system and the cost of housing these offenders.

In the past, the public tended to have an aversion to programs that focused on rehabilitation, perhaps at the risk of seeming lenient on criminals. Politicians tend to side with the public, which created a problem when new or existing funding was needed for program operation. As has been the case recently in Ohio prisons, when budgets are cut, treatment is the first area to be eliminated (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2008). Naturally, out of necessity, security staff and

administration must remain in place. It is necessary to continue to create awareness

within the public of the importance of rehabilitative programming within the criminal

justice system and emphasize its necessity. Continued research that provides

evidence of program effectiveness can help achieve this goal.

Goals of the Research Project

The primary goal of this project is to help individuals lead a crime-free life, by

strengthening existing evidence of the success of rehabilitation. To accomplish this

goal, it is necessary to connect individual successes by addressing the needs of

offenders during programming.

By measuring the success of halfway houses and community-based

correctional programs, the information may be used, not only to promote similar

programs to be implemented in the future, but to more accurately assess who is more

amenable to these programs. This information may be used by the Ohio Department

of Rehabilitation and Correction, courts across the state, other community-based

correctional facilities and halfway houses, and hopefully serves as the basis for future

research. The diffusion of this type of research and information is key to the

endurance of such programming (Harris, 1999).

Summary

This chapter addresses the goals of the research project, provides definitions

for some of the components of the program, the need to determine this information,

and how the information may be helpful to the criminal justice system.

Chapter Two briefly outlines the historical aspect of community corrections in the United States, Ohio, and specifically at Community Corrections Association. The impact and importance of community-based programs and the target populations who are served are also discussed. The next chapter will also explain how offenders in the program are assessed upon intake to determine individual needs, how compliance is monitored, and the reintegration process.

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

Community-based correctional facilities and halfway houses are designed to provide a therapeutic environment for offenders, either as a transition out of prison or as a chance for treatment before a more restrictive prison sanction is imposed. They offer the offender a chance to address his/her needs in a supportive environment while providing for life's basic needs such as food and shelter as well as therapeutic support (McCarthy, et al, 2001). Currently over 900 halfway houses across the United States assist offenders in reentry and reintegration, while protecting the community by placing structure and accountability on the offender (McCarthy, et al, 2001).

Historical Perspective

Though the origin of halfway houses is unclear, it is speculated that they began as part of Christian charity in a monastery which provided room and board to offenders upon their release from prison. In the mid-1800's, Sir Walter Crofton's Irish system was the first concept to be created that mirrors our modern system, allowing offenders a period of incarceration followed by work release (McCarthy, et al, 2001).

A proposal, prompted by a Pennsylvania prison riot in 1817, recommended the creation of a halfway house in order to address employment, vocational needs, and to help deter the stigmatazation of convicts; however, this proposal was turned down. The thought was that by allowing criminals to live together, their criminal

orientation would spread instead of being diminished by opportunity and employment (McCarthy, et al, 2001).

This negative stance on halfway houses continued through 1845 when the Quakers opened the Isaac T. Hopper Home in New York City. The success of the home inspired the establishment of other similar facilities including the Pennsylvania House of Industry in 1889. Other facilities were established sporadically across the country but the halfway houses did not see significant support until 1961, when Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy joined the halfway house movement. He collaborated with congress to enact the Federal Prisoner Rehabilitation Act of 1965 which provided funding for adult and juvenile halfway house facilities (McCarthy, et al, 2001).

The establishment of the International Halfway House Association (IHHA) in 1964 promoted the growth of halfway houses throughout the country as well as the implementation of operational and management standards and professionalism in the area of residential treatment facilities (McCarthy, et al, 2001).

<u>Community Corrections in the United States</u>

Today, the United States Federal Bureau of Prisons utilizes halfway houses in the same manner as state programs. There are currently 28 community corrections regions throughout the United States, which contract with local halfway houses for inmate placement. This includes United States Probation Office placements, which are individuals placed into the program as an alternative to federal prison or who are violators of United States Probation Office's conditions. Referrals are made directly

from the Federal Bureau of Prisons to the halfway house for acceptance or denial of offenders on an individual basis. The goal is to successfully reintegrate the individuals into society after a prison sentence or a probation violation by addressing the offender's existing criminogenic needs.

Community Corrections in Ohio

Currently there are 26 halfway houses and 19 community-based correctional facilities in Ohio. These agencies are monitored and audited by the Bureau of Community Sanctions, a division of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Over 7,400 offenders participated in a residential halfway house program in 2008, of which, 2,603 were under Transitional Control status (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2009).

Transitional Control refers to offenders serving a state prison sentence who are eligible to serve up to the last six months in a halfway house. The main purpose of Transitional Control is to allow the offender the opportunity to gain employment or further his/her education, through strengthening family ties with visitation and social passes. The possibility of house arrest/electronic monitoring is also an important incentive (ODRC, 2008).

In 2008, over 5,500 residents participated in a community-based correctional facility with a success rate of 82% (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2008). Community-based correctional facility (CBCF) placements are typically made by the referral of a Common Pleas judge for offenders charged with or convicted of a felony. This offers the offender a chance to address needs and correct

behavior that leads to criminal activity before prison becomes a necessary sanction. Regardless of the reason for placement in a community-based program, the goal is for individual growth into a productive member of society.

<div align="center">Community Corrections Association, Incorporated</div>

Community Corrections Association, Incorporated (CCA) was founded and incorporated in 1974 to assist the courts in providing resources and alternative sanctions for offenders. Over the years, CCA has grown to become an integral part of the criminal justice system and the community by providing rehabilitation and education that works to move offenders beyond the realm of criminal behavior and activity and into a life of responsibility and productivity (Community Corrections Association, 2008).

The agency currently consists of a community-based correctional facility capable of housing 70 male residents and two halfway houses with a capacity of housing 73 male and 26 female residents. Beyond assisting the Common Please courts, Community Corrections Association has served the Federal Bureau of Prisons since 1976 by accepting referrals for pre-release, direct court, and probation violators for residential placement.

Since 1978 Community Corrections Association has contracted with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to serve state offenders. Transitional Control and Post Release Control offenders are place into one of CCA's two halfway houses to help alleviate Ohio's prison overcrowding and to facilitate in the reintegration process.

Community Corrections Association continues to accept court referrals to the community-based correctional facility for a number of reasons including treatment in lieu of conviction and pre-plea cases. Mahoning County Common Pleas Drug Court refers men and women to CCA's residential treatment program to provide counseling and recovery to individuals with substance abuse problems, instead of a prison sentence, which may not address such needs.

Community Corrections Association utilizes cognitive-based treatment to motivate and facilitate behavioral change in offenders. Thinking for a Change, Cage Your Rage, Parenting, and Domestic Violence are a few of the evidenced based curriculum used to affect this change. Residents begin participating in programming immediately after the assessments are completed and reviewed by the case manager. Group therapy, individual counseling, writing assignments, and role-playing are the key components of the treatment end of the program.

Also implemented are means to promote responsibility and accountability, which provide structure to residents' daily activities. House assignments must be completed daily. Meals are scheduled at appropriate times of the day. Residents leaving and entering the building must do so according to passes at predetermined times. A system of incentives and consequences is used to reward residents for making proper decisions and sanctioning poor behavior. Progressive discipline is used to deter future negative behavior. The residential program at CCA aims to instill into each resident, the knowledge and capability to lead a crime-free life after release.

Community Corrections Association also provides non-residential services including electronic monitoring, day reporting, community service programs, and

probation pre-sentence investigation services, to the courts, probation and individuals in need.

In 2008, 525 residents completed the residential program at Community Corrections Association, with rate of 86% of offenders successfully completing the program. The community-based correctional facility (CCF) housed 205 residents with 179 of its participants successfully completing the program. The halfway houses (Unit 1 and Unit 2) housed 320 residents with a success rate of 90%. CCA leads the state with the highest success rate and lowest absconder rate over any other agency (CCA, 2008).

Impact and Importance

Facilities, such as those discussed above, benefit the offender, the community, and the criminal justice system. By focusing on the importance of employment, education, budgeting, and substance abuse therapy, the individual needs of the offender are met in order to deter a return to criminal behavior. This, in turn, benefits the community be returning a more productive, well-adjusted individual to society, instead of a person who has just been "locked up" for a period of time. The benefits to the criminal justice system are two-fold. First, the immediate placement of offenders into community-based residential programs reduces jail and prison populations. Second, the long-term benefit is to provide the offender an alternative way of life than they have been living as a criminal (McCarthy, et al, 2001).

Target Populations

Not all offenders are ammenable to community-based sanctions, nor are all crimes adequately punished by alternative sanctions, so members of the criminal justice system are faced with the task of determining who will best be served by this type of program. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency has addressed this question by identifying six factors in the target population of the halfway house or community-based correctional facility:

- Geographic location,

- Age,

- Gender,

- Legnth of stay,

- Offender characteristics, and

- Drug dependent and alcoholic offenders (McCarthy, et al, 2001).

Geographic location must be considered first when the aim is to reintegrate individuals back into their community. Age and gender are important factors in determining who will best benefit from a halfway house program (McCarthy, et al, 2001). Those too young or too old may not be good candidates for suitable, long-term employment based on lack of experience or approaching retirement. Gender is a factor to consider when a halfway house is to be established or expanded. Are there enough males or females who are eligible for the program? Will this be the solution that best benefits this clientele?

The legnth of stay is an important factor to address when attempting to determine the appropriate needs of each offender (McCarthy, et al, 2001). Those with

stable family support and no history of substance abuse, for example, may need a shorter time frame in the halfway house than someone with no housing options or a long history of drug addiction. The individual offender's characteristics are an extremely important factor to consider when choosing those eligible for community control (McCarthy, et al, 2001). Public safety, as well as the individuals' ammenability to community control, must be carefully assessed. Offenders with an extensive history of violence or mental illness may not be best served in this type of facility. Sexually-oriented offenders are often limited in their ability to participate in halfway house programs based on proximity to schools and on resources available for rehabilitation.

<div align="center">Substance Abuse</div>

Drug dependent and alcoholic offenders are good candidates for halfway house programs only if professionally trained staff are present in their recovery process (McCarthy, et al, 2001). The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) is the agency in Ohio that oversees drug and alcohol treatment and its administration to state clients in community-based correctional facilities and halfway houses. "ODADAS' mission is to provide statewide leadership in establishing a high quality addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services system of care that is effective, accessible and valued by all Ohioans" (Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, 2009).

Offenders who participate in the drug and alcohol treatment program (DAT), receive intensive group and individual counseling during substance abuse therapy at the beginning of their program and then move in to the relapse prevention phase, to

assist them in maintaining sobriety. The program and its phases are designed to provide insight into reasons for addictive behavior and change negative thinking patterns, to deter future substance abuse. The relapse prevention phase also aims to build a support system for long-term sobriety by introducing the offender into 12-step meetings and encouraging them to choose a sponsor (ODADAS, 2009).

Sobriety provides an essential piece of the puzzle for an offender who is working toward a life of productivity and crime-free behavior.

<u>Assessment and Identification of Needs</u>

The assessment of offenders' needs is an important first step in the rehabilitation process. Placing individuals into programming that is beyond their needs may have an adverse effect on their progress and detract from addressing their personal issues. Identifying needs through a single or static means alone is not sufficient to pinpoint the source of an individual's problems (Harris, 1999). Several assessment measures should be used in order to paint a picture of the overall situation and then to address those individual's particular needs. For example, a substance abuse assessment, a Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), and a pre-sentence investigation (PSI) may be used together to determine what type of treatment will be most effective for that individual.

Substance abuse needs are assessed during intake using the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) Substance Abuse Questionnaire. The SASSI is completed by the resident and the SAQ information is gathered in an interview format

between the resident and the case manager. The intake/assessment phase should be a collaboration between the resident and case manager in order to adequately develop a treatment plan.

One of the most important factors in promoting successful rehabilitation is the offender's readiness to change (McCarthy, et al, 2001). The most well equipped facility and the most expertly designed program will only be as effective as the individual's willingness to participate. This readiness will infrequently exist on its own, but may be encouraged with careful development. Knowing which stage of acceptance and willingness the offender is in at the beginning of the program is necessary to determine the starting point for effective rehabilitation. Four stages exist to assist the counselor in identifying the level of readiness and how to begin the recovery process:

- Precontemplation,

- Contemplation,

- Action,

- Maintenance (Harris, 1999).

Precontemplation is the earliest phase of recovery. At this stage, the offender may or may not acknowledge that a problem exists in his/her life. He/she may admit to having some issues, but may not have or accept the need to change. Contemplation is the phase in which the offender acknowledges a problem, but may not be ready to do what is necessary to make a change, or may not know how to begin. The action phase occurs when the plan is made and the process of change begins to take place.

Finally, maintenance is the stage in which the offender must embrace the change in order to avoid regressing back to old behaviors (Harris, 1999).

Risk and needs assessments implemented during the intake process, or the beginning of programming, can identify important information on how to approach the offender's programming goals and guidelines. While some assessment tools identify static and demographic information such as age and marital status, the Client Management Classification Assessment instrument gives the case manager a guide to examine the offender's attitudes and feelings (Walsh, 2006). The individual assessing the offender may implement his or her own style to achieve the best result, but the scoring is based upon four treatment modules:

- Selective Intervention

- Environmental Structure

- Casework Control

- Limit Setting

Selective Intervention is the treatment approach used for those who are generally well adjusted and who have had a less significant criminal history than repeat offenders. The offense may be situational and if the source of the problem is treated, the offender may be redirected into non-criminal behavior. Those who may benefit from the Environmental Structure approach are those who have poor vocational and social skills. Their criminal behavior may be a result of frustration from not being able to achieve personal goals in society. Casework Control refers to a holistic approach to treatment. Offenders who require this type of intervention have multiple and long-term issues which must be addressed. Limit Setting addresses

offenders who are generally comfortable with the criminal lifestyle. New boundaries must be explored to deter future criminal behavior (Walsh, 2006).

Interviewers should word the questions in their own way, but preserve the meaning of the question. Questions regarding the individual's criminal orientation or history should be discussed toward the end of the interview, after a solid rapport has been established between the offender and interviewer. Though the scoring of the Client Management Classification Assessment instrument is complex, the results can enhance basic information gathered from an interview or other types of assessments.

Substance abuse is a major area of concern for many offenders in the criminal justice system. Halfway houses and community-based correctional facilities specialize, partly, in the identification and treatment of drug and alcohol addiction. Research has found that successful reduction in recidivism may depend on a highly structured, professionally supervised program with intensive case management and follow-up. Acknowledgement of phases of recovery, in which the offender may identify and mark accomplishments, is important in recovery as well as reassessment of individualized needs throughout the program (Latessa, 1999).

Cognitive behavioral therapy has been effectively implemented into programs to address those with co-occurring needs (Latessa, 1999). Cognitive based therapy is aimed at changing the individual's thinking behind the criminal and addictive behavior, and teaching skills such as coping and problem solving to minimize poor decision-making. For example, an individual may deal with stress by using drugs. Cognitive behavioral therapy would address not only the issue causing the stress but new, constructive ways of handling the stressful situation. This type of therapy aims

to help the offender focus on the substance abuse problem itself, but also to examine new ways to approach solutions to related issues such as relapse prevention.

The implementation of cognitive behavioral, therapy and 12-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous is one example of combining more than one method of recovery in a program for greater effectiveness. Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous groups are useful for the offenders with substance abuse problems to maintain sobriety during residential treatment and also to help them build a support system to continue after release.

Mental health issues should be addressed simultaneously with substance abuse issues. These primary issues need to be controlled before secondary issues, such as education and parenting, may be effectively treated (Latessa, 1999). The cycle of criminal behavior may continue if only one need is addressed. The offender may have dealt with depression by turning to illegal drug use only to become more depressed by the negative consequences of their substance abuse. They may have had a period of involuntary sobriety during their incarceration, but the addiction and its underlying causes still exist.

Parallel treatment is appropriate when addressing offenders with two or more primary needs. Sequential treatment is used when one phase of recovery must be achieved before the next is initiated (Latessa, 1999). For example, during parallel treatment, the offender could work towards obtaining their General Educational Development diploma in order to seek better employment, while employed. In sequential treatment, for example, the offender must complete substance abuse therapy before moving into the relapse prevention phase of the program.

<u>Offender Participation and Compliance</u>

Before substance abuse therapy, or any other type of cognitive behavioral therapy can be used effectively, the problem behavior must be identified and communicated to the offender as a problem area. The rules or "Principles of Effective Intervention", emphasize several important factors in effectively implementing changes in the minds and lives of offenders (Auerbach, 1998). The first is to address behavioral change by utilizing rewards or positive reinforcements. Taking advantage of the group dynamic may be helpful in this area to encourage constructive behavior while deterring negative action choices. Next, the treatment must fit the offender. High-risk offenders have different criminogenic needs than the low risk offender and their needs must be addressed accordingly. Most offenders will respond to the appropriate type of intervention, which must be identified accordingly (Auerbach, 1998).

Program rules and individual expectations must be established and enforced in a firm but fair manner (Auerbach, 1998). The offender must know what their responsibilities are as well as the consequences of non-compliance. When a part of the contract is not upheld, the offenders must be encouraged to offer insight into the mistake and even discuss their own repercussions (Auerbach, 1998). Controls, such as drug testing, must be an integral part of the program as well, due to the nature of the offender (Auerbach, 1998). Counselors and therapists must initiate appropriate interaction with offenders to facilitate honest and productive communication throughout the recovery process. They must objectively monitor individual

offender's progress. The counselors and therapists should design the program and activities based on their experience and personal knowledge of each offender (Auerbach, 1998).

Basic life needs must be addressed for a smooth reintegration. For example, residents who have been incarcerated may need a social security card, birth certificate, or a new state identification card in order to seek employment. They may be referred to the Social Security Administration or the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to assist them. If they enter the program without clothing or hygiene items, local thrift stores and charities such as the Rescue Mission or Catholic Charities can be utilized to help fulfill individual needs. Additionally, many offenders may have family issues to be addressed that are beyond the scope of the agency's resources. In that case, residents are referred to Family Services or another similar agency to address and facilitate the reintegration process. Many of these resources will carry over through the residents' release (Auerbach, 1998).

Reintegration is an area of the criminal justice process that can be greatly beneficial to the individual and society. Prison may offer some training and services while the offender is incarcerated, but community-based correctional facilities and halfway houses help bridge the gap between institutionalization and freedom. After the offender has served all, or most of his/her sentence, many old issues may still exist, such as lack of education and chemical dependency, as well as new needs that must be addressed before the individual is ready to make the often difficult and stressful adjustment back into society.

<u>Reintegration</u>

Reintegration is the process of transitioning an offender back into society after a period of incarceration. The goal is to provide an opportunity for the offender to do better than they did before the conviction by assisting them with the changes that will occur during the process.

Reintegration can be a stressful process for an individual no matter how long they have been incarcerated. Areas of concern range from the stigma of incarceration, particularly if the offender has been convicted of a sexually oriented crime, to employment and education. Substance abuse is a very important issue to address when an offender is preparing for release. Periods of sobriety during incarceration are considered "involuntary" and are not to be viewed as successful abstinence. Offenders who abuse drugs and alcohol may resort to using to help cope with the stress of release, or to celebrate their return to society. Minimally, this could be a violation of their post release supervision, but the consequences can range to commission of a new crime.

Relapse prevention within the community is necessary (Auerbach, 1998). Old, self-defeating behaviors must be replaced with new thinking, coping, and behavioral strategies before the offender is released from the facility or from supervision. As much practice and anticipation as possible for future problems must be placed on this phase of recovery for future success. A detailed relapse prevention plan should be created, primarily by the offender, but with the help of the counselor, to prepare for difficult situations in their future. Role-playing may be a very useful tool to utilize during this phase of the program. Referrals and community resources

should be utilized to provide the greatest amount of assistance to offenders while in the program and upon their release (Auerbach, 1998).

Summary

The above discussions address some important issues in the effective reintegration of offenders into society. Much time and research has gone into the establishment and implementation of community-based corrections and its effectiveness. The importance of this type of programming on society is just beginning to be appreciated, but the hope is that the combination of continued success and ongoing research will provide a greater benefit for the individual offenders and society.

Chapter Three presents the design of the research project, discusses how the offenders were chosen and elaborates on the different legal statuses and why offenders are placed into the programs. Halfway houses and community-based correctional facilities generally place different types of offenders where needs may be addressed appropriately. The method for collecting offender information and how the information is stored and processed will also be discussed.

CHAPTER THREE

Methodology

Research Design

Ongoing research is beneficial on the topic of the effectiveness of community-based corrections, particularly, in Ohio; research efforts are increasing due to the emphasis on this type of programming over the last 20 years. Community-based corrections was initially viewed as a simple solution to prison over-crowding, but over the last decade it has gained recognition as a consistent solution to offender reintegration and recidivism reduction. The International Community Corrections Association and the American Correctional Association provide the most current and reliable information on the subject, as well as periodicals including *Corrections Today*. Recent textbooks also offer useful information on the subject of community corrections as far as established practices and emerging trends. Due to the need for additional knowledge, the following information was sought: What makes programs like this effective? How can they be improved?

This research project design is based on information acquired during the intake and termination processes of felony offenders participating in halfway house and community-based correctional facility programs at Community Corrections Association, Incorporated in Youngstown, Ohio. Per the Public Information Act, this information was used without the individual consent of each offender, exclusive of the offender's names and social security numbers. Information used included: age, gender, marital status, ethnic origin, highest grade level completed, level of felony, classification of felony, number of adult and juvenile convictions, history of mental

health treatment, history of identified drug abuse, history of identified alcohol abuse,

prior violent offense, prior sex offense, presentence investigation recommendation,

and any court requirement including court costs, restitution, fees, or child support.

Offenders' data was selected randomly out of the available information from CCA.

One hundred profiles were selected. A regression analysis was used to determine the

factors that are most commonly present in those who successfully complete the

program.

In order to determine which aspects of community programming effectively

address the issues of reducing recidivism and increasing individual success in the

community, the following question must be answered:

- What are the factors that lead to success in community corrections?

- Does substance abuse counseling increase an offender's chance of
  successfully completing the program?

- Is employment an important factor in program participation and

  completion?

- How does a person's education or marital status affect program outcome?

- Does gender have an impact on program success?

These questions were addressed in order to identify which variables were the

best predictors for successful program completion.

<u>Hypotheses</u>

This study aims to present the following assertions:

1. Specific factors contribute to successful program completion.

2. Substance abuse counseling increases the chance of success in the program.

3. Employment is a predictor for program success.

4. Demographic factors, such as education and marital status, are predictors for program success.

5. Demographic factors, such as gender, are predictors for program success.

To help answer the research questions and test the hypotheses, the following methods were used. Two hundred residents were randomly selected from a list of all residents who participated in Community Corrections Association's Halfway House or Community-Based Correctional Facility program from 2005 through 2007 in the state of Ohio. Offenders were placed into the program for a number of reasons. Individuals placed into the Community-Based Correctional Facility enter the program:

- as a condition of probation or community control,

- a sanction for a probation or community control violation,

- for treatment in lieu of conviction, and/ or

- as a condition of judicial release.

This placement is generally an alternative for sentencing to a state penitentiary for the purpose of rehabilitating the offender by providing services and life skills in order to successfully re-enter society. An offender in this program may also have served a

portion of his/her sentence in prison, but was allowed by court order to be discharged on judicial release, on the condition that this program, or one similar, would provide him/her with education, employment, substance abuse treatment, or other assistance to address his/her needs. A common pleas judge makes the referral for this type of placement.

Those entering the Halfway House were usually placed for one of the following reasons:

- as a transitional control release,

- as a condition of parole,

- as a condition of post-release control, or

- as a sanction for violating parole or post-release control.

This type of offender has usually served time in a state penitentiary and will be placed into the program for one of several reasons. The offender may be eligible to participate in the Transitional Control program, which allows for a person sentenced to a state penitentiary to serve the last six months of his/her sentence in an employment or vocational assistance program. The Bureau of Community Sanctions, a division of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation, or the Adult Parole Authority makes the referrals for the Halfway House placements.

A Parole or Post-Release Control resident may be placed in the program at the expiration of their sentence for the purpose of securing housing, relocating to a new area or to secure gainful employment. A person may also be placed in the program on a violation of their Parole or Post-Release Control. This type of sanction is

determined by the Adult Parole Authority as one of many in a continuum of sanctions for a violation of their supervision.

Data Collection

Upon intake into the program, data is gathered from the residents by a case manager and entered onto a form called a CCIS-Web Intake form. The Community Corrections Information System (CCIS) is a program that stores information for state offenders across Ohio. Demographic information, offender needs, and criminal history are detailed in this information for the purpose of identifying and individualizing treatment needs. Name, birth date, social security number, sex, and race are used as identifying information. Marital status, educational level, employment, history of drug or alcohol abuse, previous conviction of violent offense, number of convictions, number of incarcerations, history of mental health counseling, and seriousness of offense are used to determine the offender's risk level as well as the areas that need to be addressed during programming. Additionally, any court ordered financial obligations are documented as well as any pre-sentence investigation recommendations.

This information is recorded and double-checked for accuracy by the Community Corrections Association's accreditation manager before it is entered into the state-wide database for all Halfway Houses and Community-Based Correctional Facilities throughout the state of Ohio. The information used for this thesis was gathered from that website, using only previous residents of CCA.

The information on each participant was selected randomly out of all available information on former Community Corrections Association residents and each had an equal chance of being chosen. The data therefore provided a representative sample of those who had completed the program. Because similar halfway house and community-based correctional facility programs throughout the state of Ohio are monitored by the Bureau of Community Sanctions, a division of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the conclusion may be drawn that the results will be generalizable and retestable across the state of Ohio.

The Federal population of Community Corrections Association is not included in this research project due to the manner in which their information is collected and stored. They are not entered into the statewide system from which the information for this project was gathered, therefore making them ineligible to be randomly chosen from possible candidates.

After the state cases were randomly chosen, the data collected from the CCIS were placed into an SPSS data file and various statistical procedures were used to assist with answering the research question and evaluating the research hypothesis.

Linear regressions were used to determine why and who were most likely to complete the programming successfully. Linear regression, expressed simplistically, indicates the impact that independent variables have on a single dependent variable, in this case, program success. Linear regression involves using variables that are interval/ratio in nature. Because many variables in this study were nominal or ordinal in nature, it was necessary to dichotomize several so they could be used in the regression model.

Certain variables were regrouped into dichotomous groups in order to simplify the regression analysis. For example, instead of listing and coding marital status as single, married or living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or no information, the choices were regrouped into the groups "married" or "not married." Race, highest grade completed and employment status upon release were also recoded. Below is a list of the variables that were dichotomized:

- Gender (male or female)

- Race (white or non-white)

- Marital Status (married or not married)

- High School Graduate (high school graduate or not; GED was recorded as not)

- Employment (employed or not employed)

- History of Drug Abuse (had a history of drug abuse or did not)

- History of Alcohol Abuse (had a history of alcohol abuse or did not)

- Drug Offense (had committed a drug offense or had not)

- Crime Against a Person (had physically hurt another person in a criminal act or had not done so)

- Court Ordered to Pay Restitution (they were or were not ordered to pay restitution)

- History of Emotional, Psychological, or Mental Health Counseling (yes they did or no they did not have a history of these counseling types)

- Fees Collected While in the Program: restitution, court costs and/or fines, child support, supervision, other program fees (they paid or they did not)

- Counseling and Education Training While in the Program: chemical dependency counseling, community service performed, domestic violence counseling, mental health treatment provided, vocational education services, academic training, drug abuse counseling, alcohol abuse counseling, services for anger management (they received or participated in these treatments/education programs or they did not)

- Employment Assistance (was provided or not provided)

The results were then examined to determine whether bivariate Pearson's correlation coefficients could be found in order to predict success in the program. The correlations that were significant were included in the regression analysis along with certain control variables.

<div align="center">Summary</div>

The above section helps to clarify how the residents' information was collected and stored in the statewide database as well as how it was used for this research project. In the following chapter, descriptions of the samples are provided and the breakdowns, according to halfway house and community-based correctional facility, are presented. Also presented in Chapter Four are the results from the statistical procedures used to help answer the research questions and evaluate the research hypotheses.

CHAPTER FOUR

Analysis and Findings

This chapter provides specific information on the data that were used for this analysis. The goal is to ascertain which factors of the program contribute to residents' success. What are the factors that lead to success in community corrections? Does substance abuse counseling increase an offender's chance of successfully completing the program? Is employment an important factor in program participation and completion? How does a person's education or marital status affect program outcome? Does gender have an impact on program success?

The information was divided into two groups: Halfway House and Community-Based Correctional Facility. At Community Corrections Association, female residents only reside in the halfway house; therefore, there is no data available for female residents in the community-based correctional facility category.

First, the halfway house residents (those who were incarcerated prior to participating in community programming) will be described. Information for 100 Halfway House residents was collected. Seventy-one residents chosen were male and 29 were female. Fifty-three residents were white and 47 non-white. Eighty-two were married and 28 single, divorced or widowed. Sixty entered the program with a high school diploma or greater, and 40 without a high school diploma. Those entering the program with a General Educational Development (GED) diploma were counted as not having a high school diploma. Ninety-four were unemployed at the time of admission to the program, and six entered the program with employment. (See Table 1)

Table 1

Halfway House
Demographics

Gender	Male n=71	Female n=29
Race	White n=53	Non-White n=47
Marital Status	Married n=82	Non-Married n=28
High School Education	With Diploma n=60	Without Diploma n=40
Employed at Time of Admission	Yes n=6	No n=94

Ninety of the 100 Halfway House residents had a history of drug abuse, and 56 had a history of alcohol abuse. Twenty-nine were arrested for a drug offense. Thirty-nine were arrested for a crime against a person. Thirty-six had a history of emotional, psychological or mental health counseling. (See Table 2)

Table 2

Halfway House
Crime, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health History

	Yes	No
History of Drug Abuse	n=90	n=10
History of Alcohol Abuse	n=56	n=44
Arrested for Crime Against a Person	n=39	n=61
History of Mental Health Issues	n=36	n=64
Previous Violent Conviction	n=41	n=58

The Community-Based Correctional Facility residents' demographic data include 100 % male intakes. These residents were placed in community programming prior to being incarcerated in a prison. (Female probation residents are placed in the halfway house at CCA.) Fifty-eight were non-white and 42 were white residents. Only four of the residents included in this study were married upon intake. Ninety-six were single, divorced or separated. Forty-nine residents had earned their high school diploma and 51 had not. Only 11 residents were employed at the time of admission to the program. (See Table 3)

Table 3

Community-Based Correctional Facility
Demographics

Gender	Male n=100	Female n=0
Race	White n=42	Non-White n=58
Marital Status	Married n=4	Non-Married n=96
High School Education	With Diploma n=49	Without Diploma n=51
Employed at Time of Admission	Yes n=11	No n=89

Eighty-one residents of the Community-Based Correctional Facility had a history of drug abuse as opposed to 19, and 45 had a history of alcohol abuse. Thirty-six were arrested for a drug offense and 22 for a crime against a person. Thirty-two have a history of emotional, psychological or mental health counseling. (See Table 4)

Table 4

Community-Based Correctional Facility
Crime, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health History

History of Drug Abuse	Yes n=81	No n=19
History of Alcohol Abuse	Yes n=45	No n=55
Arrested for Crime Against a Person	Yes n=22	No n=78
History of Mental Health Issues	Yes n=32	No n=68
Previous Violent Conviction	Yes n=38	No n=62

Additional Information Regarding Program Termination

Upon termination from the program, for any reason, another form called the

CCIS Termination form is completed. This form includes information about services

received in the program. The following data are available on the CCIS:

- Name

- Birth Date

- Social Security Number

- Sex

- Race

Employment status at termination, offender fees collected while in program,

services provided to the offender while in the program, amount of money earned

while in the program, financial obligations addressed, and program participation

indicate the manner in which the individual's program worked. The reason for

termination from the program indicates successful or unsuccessful completion of the

program according to whether the individual completed all required components of the program without violating for any reason.

Thirty-six of the Halfway House residents were employed upon release. Eighty-nine received chemical dependency counseling, 28 participated in community service programming and 97 received drug and alcohol testing while in the program. Twenty-four received mental health counseling and 28 participated in academic training.

Ninety of the Halfway House residents received drug abuse counseling and 86 participated in alcohol abuse classes. Ninety residents also received services for anger management.

Comparative Information

The samples were randomly chosen by successful or unsuccessful completion in each type of program, resulting in four categories: Community-Based Correctional Facility (CBCF)-Successful Completion (49 residents), Community-Based Correctional Facility (CBCF)-Unsuccessful Completion (51 residents), Halfway House (HWH)-Successful Completion (51 residents), and Halfway House (HWH)-Unsuccessful Completion (49 residents), which equal 200. (See Table 5)

Table 5

Participant Distribution

	Successful Completion	Unsuccessful Completion
Community-Based Correctional Facility (CBCF)	n=49	n=51
Halfway House (HWH)	n=51	n=49
Total	n=100	n=100

Predicting Success

Linear regression analysis was used to determine what variables were correlated with an offender successfully completing CBCF and Halfway House programs, thus reflecting programming needs. Most demographic variables were recoded into dichotomous variables, meaning that an individual either possessed a trait or he/she did not. Tables 6 and 7 provide a summary of the individuals who participated in the Halfway House and CBCF programs. In Table 6, data collected during the intake phase are presented and in Table 7 data at the time of termination from the program are presented. As stated earlier, there were no females participants in the CBCF. The majority of these men were not married or employed at intake. Most had a history of drug abuse. The Halfway House participants were predominately male. Most, at time of intake, were married and not employed.

Upon termination from programming, additional information was collected. Table 7 presents a summary of that information. Later in this analysis, results from statistical test are presented to determine if the differences between these two groups

is significant and if the differences help determine who will and will not complete

their programming successfully.

Table 6

Data Collected Upon Intake

Variable	Halfway House		Community-Based Correctional Facility	
Gender	n=71 Male	n=29 Female	n=100 Male	n=0 Female
Race	n=53 White	n=47 Non-White	n=42 White	n=58 Non-White
Marital Status	n=82 Married	n=18 Not Married	n=14 Married	n=96 Not Married
High School Graduate	n=58 Yes	n=41 No	n=49 Yes	n=51 No
Employed at Admission	n=6 Yes	n=94 No	n=11 Yes	n=89 No
History of Drug Abuse	n=90 Yes	n=10 No	n=81 Yes	n=19 No
History of Alcohol Abuse	n=56 Yes	n=44 No	n=45 Yes	n=55 No
Drug Offense	n=29 Yes	n=71 No	n=36 Yes	n=64 No
Crime Against a Person	n=39 Yes	n=61 No	n=22 Yes	n=78 No
Previous Violent Conviction	n=41 Yes	n=58 No	n=38 Yes	n=62 No
Restitution Ordered	n=8 Yes	n=95 No	n=8 Yes	n=92 No

Table 7

Data Collected Upon Termination

Variable	Halfway House		Community-Based Correctional Facility	
Employed at Termination	n=36 Yes	n=64 No	n=57 Yes	n=43 No
Restitution Collected	n=1 Yes	n=99 No	n=1 Yes	n=99 No
Court Costs/ Fines Collected	n=3 Yes	n=97 No	n=11 Yes	n=89 No
Child Support Collected	n=8 Yes	n=92 No	n=5 Yes	n=95 No
Supervision Fees Collected	n=6 Yes	n=94 No	n=0 Yes	n=100 No
Other Program Fees Collected	n=29 Yes	n=71 No	n=0 Yes	n=100 No
Received Chemical Dependency Counseling	n=89 Yes	n=11 No	n=92 Yes	n=8 No
Participated in Community Service	n=28 Yes	n=72 No	n=53 Yes	n=47 No
Received Domestic Violence Counseling	n=0 Yes	n=100 No	n=8 Yes	n=92 No
Mental Health Treatment Provided	n=24 Yes	n=76 No	n=26 Yes	n=74 No
Received Drug and Alcohol Testing	n=97 Yes	n=3 No	n=95 Yes	n=5 No
Received Vocational Education Services	n=7 Yes	n=93 No	n=1 Yes	n=99 No
Participated in Academic Training	n=28 Yes	n=72 No	n=60 Yes	n=40 No
Participated in Vocational Training	n=28 Yes	n=72 No	n=32 Yes	n=68 No
Received Employment Assistance	n=86 Yes	n=14 No	n=43 Yes	n=57 No
Received Mental Health Counseling	n=20 Yes	n=80 No	n=26 Yes	n=74 No
Received Drug Abuse Counseling	n=90 Yes	n=10 No	n=92 Yes	n=8 No
Received Alcohol Abuse Counseling	n=86 Yes	n=14 No	n=87 Yes	n=13 No
Participated in Anger Management	n=90 Yes	n=10 No	n=50 Yes	n=50 No
Successful Completion	n=51 Yes	n=49 No	n=49 Yes	n=51 No

Predicting CBCF Participants Success

     Once the variables were dichotomized, they were introduced into correlation matrixes, one matrix per group, the CBCF and the Halfway House participants. A correlation matrix allows the researcher to examine how variables vary together. In order to conduct the linear regression analysis, the dependent variable for this series of statistical procedures was Successful or Not Successful completion of the program, first examining the Community-Based Correctional Facility. The correlation matrix was created in order to determine which variables were found to have a relationship that was within a probability range of 0.05; limiting the maximum number of independent variable used to predict success to a total of ten. The criterion that was used for determining if the linear regression model was considered a "good fit" was that the adjusted R square had to fall between 20-25%. Beta scores were examined in order to develop a model that would assist in predicting success. (Beta values range between +1 and -1). If the Beta, standardized coefficient, was less than .29, it was considered to represent a small predictor. If the Beta value ranged between 0.3 and 0.59, it was considered a medium or satisfactory predictor. If the Beta was at 0.6 or greater, this was considered a very good predictor of success.

     After the correlation matrix was conducted, it was found that the following five variables were correlated with the dependent variable, Successful or Not Successful: (See Table 8)

- Marital Status ($r = .233$, $p \leq .05$)
- High School Diploma/Graduate ($r = .280$, $p \leq .05$)
- Employment at Time of Reassessment / Termination ($r = .609$, $p \leq .05$)

- Court Fees and Fines Paid While in the Program (r = .231, p ≤ .05)

- Child Support Paid While in the Program (r = .234, p ≤ .05).

Table 8

Community-Based Correctional Facility-Success

Subscale	Pearson	Sig.	N
Residents (n=100)			
1. Marital Status	.223	.026	100
2. High School Graduate	.280	.005	100
3. Employed at Termination	.609	.000	100
4. Court Fees/Fines Paid	.231	.021	100
5. Child Support Paid	.234	.019	100

What seems to be blatantly missing, based on what can be concluded by extensive literature review, is substance abuse therapy. Previous research has correlated participation in substance abuse therapy and similar therapies to individuals successfully completing rehabilitative programming. One explanation for the absence of this correlation in this research project may be that the sample size could be larger. One would expect five times more admissions into the program than was present in this research sample.

The five variables identified above as being correlated with program success were placed into the linear regression model. The model was found to be a very good model ($r^2 = .372$), with 37% of the variance being explained. Unfortunately, only one independent variable in the model was statistically significant and had an acceptable beta level, Employment Status at Time of Reassessment / Termination (beta = .540, p

$\leq$ .001). This variable is considered a medium or satisfactory predictor. The other four variables in the model had beta values of less than .150 and none of the variables were found to be statistically significant.

The relationship between successful completion of the program and employment status was very strong. This relationship was therefore further examined. Perhaps the Community-Based Correctional Facility programmers would benefit from knowing what independent variable best predicts employment success, because this variable was the best predictor of program success. A correlation matrix was conducted to determine which variables had a stronger relationship with successful employment. After the correlation matrix was conducted, it was found that the following eight variables were statistically correlated with the variable, Employment Success: (See Table 9)

- Marital Status ($r = .201$, $p \leq .05$)

- High School Diploma/Graduate ($r = .326$, $p \leq .05$)

- Highest Grade/Degree Completed ($r = .225$, $p \leq .05$)

- Total Number of Adult Felony Convictions ($r = .197$, $p \leq .05$)

- Community Service Provided by Offender while in Program ($r = .356$, $p \leq$ .05)

- Participated in Vocational Training while in the Program ($r = .379$, $p \leq$ .05)

- Received Employment Assistance while in the Program ($r = .346$, $p \leq$ .05)

- Received Alcohol Abuse Counseling while in the Program ($r = .325$, $p \leq$ .05)

Table 9

Community-Based Correctional Facility-Employment

Subscale	Pearson	Sig.	N
1. Marital Status	.201	.045	100
2. High School Diploma	.326	.001	100
3. Highest Grade Completed	.225	.025	100
4. Number of Adult Felonies	.197	.050	100
5. Community Service	.356	.000	100
6. Vocational Training	.379	.000	100
7. Employment Assistance	.346	.000	100
8. Alcohol Abuse Counseling	.325	.001	100

The eight variables listed above were placed into the linear regression model. The model was found to have 26% of the variance explained. The independent variables in the model that were statistically significant were: Community Service ($B = .224$, $p \leq .05$), Received Employment Assistance ($B = .226$, $p \leq .05$), and Received Alcohol Abuse Counseling ($B = .241$, $p \leq .05$). The other five variables had beta values of less than .150 and none were statistically significant at the .05 level. (See Table 10)

Table 10

Linear Regression Model – CBCF – Variables Predicting Employment

Variable	B	SE B.	β	Sig.
Marital Status	-.005	.045	-.011	.909
High School Diploma	.182	.140	.184	.199
Highest Grade Completed	.013	.041	.044	.749
Number of Adult Felonies	.018	.021	.080	.387
Community Service	.222	.097	**.224**	**.025**
Vocational Training	.033	.438	.007	.940
Employment Assistance	.226	.093	**.226**	**.017**
Alcohol Abuse Counseling	.354	.131	**.241**	**.008**

Table 10 highlights the fact that employment success for the CBCF residents is predicted by the offender having participated in community service, employment assistance and most importantly alcohol abuse counseling. As stated earlier, a relationship between drug abuse and program success was expected. Because alcohol is a drug, although legal, it is addictive and thus supports the literature that substance abuse counseling is very important for program success.

Predicting Halfway House Participants Success

After determining that employment had a strong correlation with program success for Community-Based Correctional Facility residents, attention was turned to determining if this was also the case for the Halfway House residents. Again the dependent variable for this serious of statistical procedures was Successful or Not Successful completion of the program. A correlation matrix was created in order to determine which variables were found to have a relationship that was within a probability range of 0.05. After the correlation matrix was conducted, it was found

that the following five variables were correlated with the dependent variable,

Successful or Not Successful: (See Table 11)

- History of Drug Abuse ($r = -.260$, $p \le .05$)

- Offense Category ($r = .209$, $p \le .05$)

(The offense categories are violent/crimes against a person, sex, drug,

property, traffic, other, DUI, domestic violence, and non-support)

- Employment at Time of Reassessment / Termination ($r = .402$, $p \le .05$)

- Vocational Education Services Provided while in Program ($r = -.280$, $p \le .05$)

- Participated in Vocational Training ($r = -.210$, $p \le .05$)

Table 11

Halfway House-Success

Subscale	Pearson	Sig.	N
1. History of Drug Abuse	-.260	.009	100
2. Offense Category	.209	.036	100
3. Employment at Termination	.402	.000	100
4. Vocational Services Provided	-.280	.005	100
5. Vocational Training	-.210	.036	100

As indicated in the literature review, drug usage often impacts an offender's

ability to succeed or fail in rehabilitative programs. The literature was once again

validated by the information gathered regarding the Halfway House participants

although the data for the Community-Based Correctional Facility residents did not

support previous findings concerning this issue specific area (alcohol counseling was

important to the CBCF residents).

A negative relationship also existed between vocational services/training provided in correlation with the successful completion of the program. Because employment is key to the successful competition of the Halfway House program, delaying employment in order to complete vocational training, may contribute to overall program failure. Further evaluation of this relationship is needed.

The five variables listed above were placed into the linear regression model. The model was found to be a good model (r^2 = .225), with 22.5% of the variance being explained. Three independent variables in the model were statistically significant and had an acceptable beta level, History of Drug Abuse (B = -.208, $p \leq$ .05), Vocation Education Provided (B = -.213, $p \leq$ .005) and Employment at Time of Reassessment / Termination (B = .349, $p \leq$ .001). See Table 12

Table 12

Linear Regression Model – Halfway House – Variables Predicting Success

Variable	B	SE B.	β	Sig.
Residents (n=100)				
History of Drug Abuse	-.346	.151	**-.208**	**.024**
Offense Category	.029	.034	.078	.401
Employment at Termination	.363	.093	**.349**	**.000**
Vocational Services Provided	-.417	.198	**-.213**	**.039**
Vocational Training	-.068	.126	-.055	.589

Again, employment was a medium or satisfactory predictor of program success based on its beta value and significance level. Also important in determining if an offender would be successful in the program was if he/she did not have

vocational services provided and did not have a history of drug abuse. The remaining two variables (offense category and vocational training) in the model had beta values of less than .150 and none were statistically significant at the .05 level.

The relationship between successful completion of the program and employment status was very strong. This relationship was therefore further examined. A correlation matrix was conducted in order to determine which variables had a stronger relationship with successful employment. After the correlation matrix was conducted, it was found that the only one variable was correlated with employment success, Child Support Paid while in Program (r = .316, p ≤ .05). The data collected could not assist in the prediction of who would gain/maintain employment upon completion of the program. (See Table 13)

Table 13

Halfway House-Employment

Subscale	Pearson	Sig.	N
Child Support Paid	.316	.001	100

Comparisons Between the Two Groups

Generally speaking, the differences between the Community-Based Correctional Facility residents and the Halfway House residents include age, current offense, and criminal history. Due to the nature of CBCF placements being an alternative, or in some cases a last resort before prison, residents are typically much younger and have a less extensive criminal record than halfway house placements;

there are some exceptions of course. Individuals placed in the CBCF are most often charged with or convicted of fourth or fifth degree felonies, often drug-related offenses.

Halfway house residents are generally older, because they have usually served one or more prison sentences. Their offenses often involve violence or weapons charges, typically fourth degree felonies or above. They tend to have longer criminal records, sometimes even including a previous placement in a CBCF.

Table 14

Comparison between Groups-Successful Completion of Programming
Based on Linear Regression Models – Predicting Success

Independent Variables	CBCF Participants	Halfway House Participants
Community Service	Yes	No
Received Employment Assistance	Yes	Yes
Received Alcohol Abuse Counseling	Yes	No
History of Drug Abuse	No	Yes
Vocational Education Provided	No	Yes

Both the Community-Based Correctional Facility group and the Halfway House group were found to have employment as the greatest predictor of program success. (See Table 14) This is an important finding. Gainful employment can help an individual lead a crime-free life. Not only does finding and maintaining a job provide financial support for the individual, but it also encourages self-sufficiency, and empowerment, important components to reintegrating into mainstream society. After a resident secures employment, whether in the Community-Based Correctional Facility or the Halfway House, he/she begins to settle into a structured routine that

usually continues through release from the program. Employment is a necessary component of the program, which must be achieved before a resident is considered for release.

Substance abuse therapy played a role in this study as a predictor for program success. Halfway House residents require drug abuse counseling and the CBCF residents require alcohol abuse counseling. Substance abuse therapy and relapse prevention are two major components of the programming at Community Corrections Association.

Education and marital status were not identified as predictors for successful program completion. They did appear to have a correlation with employment but were not found to be statistically significant enough to count as a predictor for employment.

Gender did not play a role as a predictor in this study for program success, however other research has indicated that gender does affect offender participation and outcome in community-based corrections. Accordingly, Community Corrections Association provides different curriculum for male and female offenders for cognitive-based programming. For example, "Cage Your Rage", an anger management program is used for male residents, whereas "Stress and Anger" is used for females. Each provides a unique approach to dealing with anger based on differences in needs according to gender.

Although the two groups were different in their demographic and programming needs, it was helpful for correctional treatment specialists to see that

often a primary indicator of success, regardless of gender, age, substance abuse history, or other criminogenic issues is employment.

Summary

Based on the data analysis, employment was found to be the greatest predictor of program success. Community Corrections Association aims to serve every resident who participates in the program by assisting them with securing gainful employment before his/her release from the program.

Chapter Five covers the conclusions of the data analysis, contributions to the discipline, limitations and suggestions for future research. Community Corrections Association's expansion of employment programming will be discussed including the addition of an Ohio One Stop satellite office, which will greatly benefit and facilitate the residents' access to employment assistance and preparation.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

This research project focused on how community-based programming can effectively help an offender reintegrate into society and lead a crime free life. In order to accomplish this primary goal, data were analyzed pertaining to two programs utilizing community services, Community-Based Correctional Facility (offenders reside there before incarceration in prison) and Halfway House (offenders reside there after being incarcerated). In order to determine which aspects of community programming effectively address the issues of reducing recidivism and increasing individual success in the community, the following questions were answered based on the research projected completed:

- *What are the factors that lead to success in community corrections?*

  The data evaluated in this research project indicated that employment status is the primary predictor of program success. This issue is discussed in greater detail later in this chapter. Also important is the need for substance abuse counseling.

- *Does substance abuse counseling increase an offender's chance of successfully completing the program?*

  Substance abuse counseling is important for the success. For the Halfway House residents, the focus should be on drug abuse counseling; for the CBCF residents, the focus should be on alcohol abuse counseling.

- *Is employment an important factor in program participation and completion?*

  This was the most important predictor in program success for both the CBCF and Halfway House residents.

- *How does a person's education or marital status affect program outcome?*

  Being married was correlated with the success of the CBCF residents, but not for the Halfway House residents. Education was also correlated for success with the CBCF residents, but not for the Halfway House residents.

- *Does gender have an impact on program success?*

  Gender, at least with this sample, did not help predict program success. There were no females in the CBCF program and only 29 in the Halfway House program, accounting for only 14% of the total population. Additional research is needed to completely answer this research question.

Also, to help determine which aspects of community programming effectively address the issues of reducing recidivism and increasing individual success in the community, the following hypotheses were tested:

1. *Specific factors contribute to successful program completion.*

   Supported – The following factors contribute to success: marital status, employment status, substance abuse counseling, paying court fines, paying child support, education, and severity of criminal behavior.

2. *Substance abuse counseling increases the chance of success in the program.*

   Supported – Substance abuse counseling is important for successful completion of programming.

3. *Employment is a predictor for program success.*

   Highly Supported – Employment at time of program completion was highly correlated with overall program success.

4. *Demographic factors, such as education and marital status, are predictors for program success.*

   Partially Supported – Marital Status and education appear to be more important for individuals who have not served time in prison than those who had.

5. *Demographic factors, such as gender, are predictors for program success.*

   Inconclusive – There were not enough females, nor racially diverse groups, to evaluate this hypothesis accurately.

<div align="center">Importance of Employment for Ex-Offenders</div>

Successful program completion is achieved when a resident has completed all program requirements, has maintained good conduct in the program and on passes, and has displayed insight into his/her criminal thinking and progress in his/her behavior. The strongest predictor for successful program completion based on this research is employment.

Employment provides offenders with many benefits besides a means to support themselves financially. A job offers the offenders an opportunity to participate in legitimate activity. They can avoid "occupations" such as drug dealing or prostitution.

Independence is an important goal for many of those who have been incarcerated. As a participant in a residential program, the offender is offered the opportunity to gain employment and save enough money to secure a residence before their release. Many offenders feel that they have put their families through enough with their incarceration and the preceding circumstances; they do not wish to burden their family further for money or a place to live. Many residents take pride in proving for themselves and their families that they can accomplish these goals on their own. Being employed can empower offenders by assisting them with their independence even before their release.

Employment can also offer an offender a social support system since they can associate with new people on a regular basis. Because crime does not exist in a vacuum, many recovery programs stress the importance of changing people, places, and things in order to support a healthier, more productive lifestyle. Working around non-offenders, or even recovered ex-offenders, may provide a positive influence on newly released individuals, while allowing them to make a lawful contribution to society.

In 2009, Community Corrections Association will expand the vocational preparation and assistance program with the addition of an Ohio One-Stop satellite office within the agency. This will provide full time, on-site vocational assistance and

job search services for residents who are entering the employment phase of the

program. CCA staff will be trained to utilize the One-Stop system to assist with job

searches and they will be able to monitor each resident's efforts and progress with the

system. This will greatly benefit and further the employment process for residents in

the program.

Contribution to the Discipline

The results of this project may be used to emphasize programming for those

who are in need of treatment and rehabilitation to assist them in their re-entry into a

crime-free life. Hopefully, this project will enable the growth of community and

legislative support for such programming to continue and expand on a local and state

level. The public tends to be leery of programs that reduce incarceration and

encourage rehabilitation instead of punishment. Legislators often follow suit. In

order to change the negative connotation that community corrections may be

associated with, citizens need to see the positive results that such programming can

have. People want to see proof that something works before they buy into it. Prisons

do not rehabilitate people. Alternatives need to be utilized and supported. The results

from this project can be beneficial to the individual, the criminal justice system, and

the community if they are utilized in other communities.

Limitations

There were some limitations to this study. One of the primary limitations was

the low number of female residents evaluated. Women and men often face different

challenges in life. In many cases, women are expected to be the primary caregiver to children. This can greatly hinder their opportunity to seek and maintain employment. If employment is the primary indicator of program success, then additional assistance may be needed for female residents.

The information used in this project includes only data collected during program participation. A follow-up on offenders' progress after release could be beneficial to track longer-term success. Vocational training may prove more useful in employment status if the resident's continued success is evaluated one to five years after leaving the community based programming.

This study is generalizable across the state of Ohio due to the existence of similar programs in other counties; however, it may not be generalizable in other states due to differences in criminal justice procedures and other factors such as economy and crime rates.

Due to the manner in which information is collected and stored for federal residents, they were not included in the data for this project; therefore, the results do not reflect program specifications, progress or results for those placed in the program for federal violations. One major difference, for example, between programming for federal and state residents is that the federal residents receive substance abuse and mental health counseling from an outside agency as opposed to the state residents who participate in on-site treatment. This may affect program outcome.

Future Research

Many areas exist in which future research could help improve programming being offered by Halfway Houses and Community-Based Correctional Facilities. While this study is generalizable across the state, a comparison of the success factors of those in the Youngstown area versus those throughout the state could be used to identify programming, employment, and resources which improve offenders' chances of success from one agency to the next.

Another area to address would be to assess recidivism rates after successful completion. How many offenders returned to criminal activity? How many maintained a clear record after release? Information could be utilized to assess risk factors for post-release supervision offenders who still have supervision conditions to follow after their release from an in-house program.

As mentioned early, female residents need to be studied in more detail. They only comprised 14% of the total sample in this research project, due in part, to the fact that there are no female residents in the Community-Based Correctional Facility, only the Halfway House.

Finally, the residents placed in the program under federal status could be assessed separately to determine whether different factors affect successful completion of the program. Further research on federal inmates and probation cases may provide useful information specific to those convicted of federal crimes, specifically because federal crimes are classified differently than state crimes. Offender needs may differ, hence producing different factors for successful program completion.

<u>Summary</u>

The findings of this project will hopefully serve as reinforcement for what work is being done with offenders during the reintegration process as well as to emphasize the importance of continued efforts and research among agencies who serve this clientele. Community-based correctional facilities and halfway houses serve an important function within the criminal justice system in its role of protecting society by providing rehabilitation, education and reintegration skills to the offenders who need it the most. This study reinforced the correlation between successful reintegration/rehabilitation and the offender gaining and maintaining employment. Employment provides many positive things for the ex-offender. He/she can start to live independently, interact with non-offenders, and increase his/her since of self-worth.

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APPENDIX A

Permission from YSU's Human Subject Review Committee

August 13, 2008

Dr. Tammy King, Principal Investigator
Ms. Dawn Cox, Co-investigator
Department of Criminal Justice & Forensic Science
UNIVERSITY

RE: HSRC Protocol Number: 08-2009
       Title: Factors for Success in Community Corrections

Dear Dr. King and Ms. Cox:

The Human Subjects Research Committee has reviewed the abovementioned protocol
and determined that it is exempt from full committee review based on a DHHS
Category 4 exemption.

Any changes in your research activity should be promptly reported to the Human
Subjects Research Committee and may not be initiated without HSRC approval except
where necessary to eliminate hazard to human subjects. Any unanticipated problems
involving risks to subjects should also be promptly reported to the Human Subjects
Research Committee.

The HSRC would like to extend its best wishes to you in the conduct of this study.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Kasvinsky
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Research Compliance Officer

PJK/cc
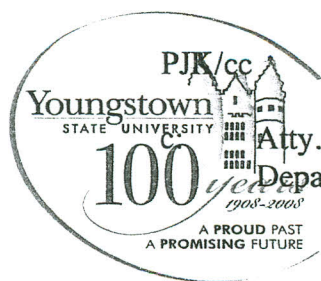
c: Atty. Patricia Wagner, Chair
    Department of Criminal Justice & Forensic Science

APPENDIX B

Permission from CCA to Conduct Research

DAWN ANN COX
1972 BOARDMAN-POLAND ROAD, APT. 6
POLAND, OHIO 44514
dacoxie11@hotmail.com

11 June 2008

Dr. Richard J. Billak
Community Corrections Association
1507 Market Street
Youngstown, Ohio 44507

Dear Dr. Billak:

I am writing to request permission to use data gathered from the CCIS Intake and Termination Probers per the Public Information Act for my thesis, as part of my graduation requirements. Resident names and social security numbers will be excluded from the information I am requesting to use. Please respond in writing at your earliest convenience so I may provide Youngstown State University with the documentation that I have been given permission to obtain and use this information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dawn Cox

APPENDIX C

CCIS - Intake and Termination Forms

CCIS-WEB INTAKE FORM
Required Fields

1. County Code_____(See list for county code)

2. Last Name_____ First Name_____ Middle Initial _____ Nickname_____
   (not required)

3. Date of Birth ___/___/____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

4. Funded Program Type_____
   111=CBCF
   222=Halfway House (HWH)
       Jail Diversion
       Prison Diversion
         (use CCA sanction codes)
   555=Electronic Monitoring (HWH)

5. Reason Placed in Program_____
   1=Condition of Probation/Comm. Control
   2=Judicial Release
   3=Violation of Probation/Community Control
   4=Condition of Parole/Post Release Control (HWH only)
   5=Parole/Post Release Control Violation (HWH only)
   6=Readmitted (within 6 mos.)
   7=Transitional Control (HWH only)
   8=Other
   9=Pre-trial
   10=Boot Camp/IPP/DUI (HWH only)
   11=Intervention in Lieu-of-Conviction

6. Social Security Number_____
   999999999=No Information

7. Case / Institution Number_____

8. Admission Date ___/___/___ (mm/dd/yyyy)

9. Sex___
   1=Male
   2=Female

10. Race_____
    1=White
    2=African American
    3=Asian/Pacific Islander
    4=Native American/Alaskan Native
    5=Bi-racial/Multiracial
    6=Other

11. Hispanic Origin____
    1=Yes
    2=No
    99=No Information

12. Marital Status_____
    1=Single (Never Married)
    2=Married or Living as Married
    3=Widowed
    4=Divorced
    5=Separated
    99=No Information

CCIS Web Intake
Rev 10/03/02

13. County of Conviction (See list for county code)_____

14. Highest Grade/Degree Completed____   0-24 Years
                                              GED = 12
                                              99=No Information

15. Employed at Time of Admission to Program?   _____
                                                 1=Yes
                                                 2=No
                                                 99=No Information

16. Does the Offender Have a History of Drug Abuse?   _____
                                                       1=Yes
                                                       2=No

17. Does the Offender Have a History of Alcohol Abuse?   _____
                                                          1=Yes
                                                          2=No

18. Level for Most Serious Instant Offense   _____
                                              1=First Degree Felony
                                              2=Second Degree Felony
                                              3=Third Degree Felony
                                              4=Fourth Degree Felony
                                              5=Fifth Degree Felony
                                              6=Misdemeanor
                                              7=Unclassified Felony

19. Offense Category (Most Serious Instant Offense)   _____
                                                       1=Violent\Crimes Against Person(s)
                                                       2=Sex
                                                       3=Drug
                                                       4=Property
                                                       5=Traffic
                                                       6=Other
                                                       7= DUI
                                                       8= Domestic Violence
                                                       9=Non Support

20. Total Number of Adult Felony Convictions   _____
                                                0=None
                                                99=No Information

21. Previous Conviction of Violent Offense as   _____
    defined by ORC   1=Yes
                                                 2=No
                                                 99=No Information

22. Total Number of Adult and Juvenile   _____
    Convictions (excluding moving traffic violations)   0=None
                                                         99=No Information

23. Is the Offender Required by Court Order to:
(Check all that applies)

    ❑ Pay Restitution
    ❑ Pay Court Costs and/or Fines
    ❑ Pay Child Support
    ❑ Pay Supervision Fees
    ❑ Pay Other Program Fees
    ❑ None
    ❑ No Information

24. Total Number of Adult Incarcerations to
State/Federal Prison

    _____
    0=None
    99=No Information

25. Does the Offender Have a History of Emotional,
Psychological or Mental Health Counseling?

    _____
    1=Yes
    2=No

26. PSI / PV Recommendation
(Check all that apply)

    ❑ Community Control
    ❑ Incarceration (Prison or Jail)
    ❑ Shock Probation/Judicial Release
    ❑ Intensive Supervision
    ❑ Work Release
    ❑ Other
    ❑ CBCF Placement
    ❑ HWH Placement
    ❑ None Included

FOLLOWING REQUIRED FOR CBCF'S ONLY

27. Name of Assessment Instrument_____   99=No Information

28. Risk Score _____   99=No Information

29. Needs Score ____   99=No Information

CCIS Web Intake
Rev 10/03/02

CCIS-WEB INTAKE FORM
Optional Fields

1.   Street Address_____

2.   Apartment Number_____

3.   City_____

4.   State_____

5.   Zip Code_____

6.   Last Name of Supervising Officer_____

7.   Last Name of Sentencing Judge_____

8.   Number of Dependent Children_____   0=None
                                                                99=No Information

9.   Local Field 1(numeric)_____

10.   Local Field 2 (numeric)_____

11.   Local Field 3 (numeric)_____

12.   Local Field 4 (character)_____

13.   Local Field 5 (character)_____

14.   Local Field 6 (date)___/___/___

15.   Local Field 7(date)___/___/___

16.   Comments:_____

CCIS-WEB REASSESSMENT/TERMINATION FORM
Required Fields

1. Last Name_____ First Name_____ Middle Initial_____

2. Date of Birth ___/___/____   (mm/dd/yyyy)

3. Funded Program Type_____
        111=CBCF
        222=Halfway House (HWH)
          Jail Diversion
          Prison Diversion
        (See list for CCA Program Type)
        555=Electronic Monitoring (HWH)

4. Reassessment/Termination
        1=Reassessment
        2=Termination

5. Reassessment/Termination Date___/___/___   (mm/dd/yyyy)

6. Employment Status at Time of
   Reassessment/Termination   _____
        1=Employed Full Time
        2=Employed Part Time
        3=Unemployed-Lost Job Since Intake
        4=Unemployed
        5=Unemployable
        6=Retired
        7=Employed-Lost employment due to
          termination from program

7. Type of Offender Fees Collected While in Program
   (Check all that apply)

   - ❑ Restitution
   - ❑ Court Costs and/or Fines
   - ❑ Child Support
   - ❑ Supervision
   - ❑ Other Program Fees
   - ❑ None

8. Other Services Provided to the Offender While in Program
   (Check all that apply)

   - ❑ Chemical Dependency Counseling   Drug and Alcohol Testing
   - ❑ Community Work Service   Probation Basic Supervision
   - ❑ Day Reporting   Residential Treatment
   - ❑ Domestic Violence   Restitution Program
   - ❑ Electronic Monitoring   Victim Offender Reconciliation
   - ❑ House Arrest   Work Release
   - ❑ Intensive Supervision   Sex Offender Program/Counseling
   - ❑ Jail Case Management   Vocation Education Services
   - ❑ Mental Health Treatment /Counseling   Not Applicable

9. Amount of Money (Gross) Earned Since Intake: _____
        0=None
        99=Not Applicable (Re-Assessment Only)
        99=No Information (For Termination Only)

1

10. Amount of Restitution Paid Since Intake

_____

0=None
99=Not Applicable (Re-Assessment Only)
99=No Information (For Termination Only)

11. Amount of Court Costs and/or Fines Paid Since Intake

_____

0=None
99=Not Applicable (Re-Assessment Only)
99=No Information (For Termination Only)

12. Amount of Child Support Paid Since Intake

_____

0=None
99=Not Applicable (Re-Assessment Only)
99=No Information (For Termination Only)

13. Number of Community Service Hours Completed

_____

0=None
99=Not Applicable (Re-Assessment Only)
99=(No Information (For Termination Only)

14. Did the Offender Complete Home Detention, Electronic Monitoring or Curfew Monitoring Program Since Intake/Last Reassessment?

_____

1=Yes, Completed
2=No, Failed to Complete
3=Still In
4=Not Applicable

15. Did the Offender (Check all that Apply)

_____

❏ Participate in Academic Training
❏ Participate in Vocational Training
❏ Receive Employment Assistance
❏ Participate in Sex Offender Programming
❏ Receive Emotional/Psychological/Mental Health Counseling
❏ Receive Drug Abuse Counseling
❏ Receive Alcohol Abuse Counseling
❏ Receive Services for Anger/Rage Management
❏ None

16. Was the Offender Convicted of a Felony Since Intake

_____

1=Yes
2=No
99=Not Applicable (Re-Assessment Only)

17. Reason for Termination from Program

_____

1=Successful Completion
2=Unsuccessful Completion-Tech. Viol.
3=Unsuccessful Completion-New Crime Misdemeanant
4=Unsuccessful Completion-New Crime Felony
5=Unsuccessful Completion-Other (HWH only)
6=Administrative Release
7=Other
8=Not Applicable (Reassessment Only)

18. Offender Status at Termination

_____
1=Released from Community Supervision
2=Transferred to Basic Supervision
3=Transferred to Other Program/Sanction
4=Transferred to Other Jurisdiction
         (Excluding Prison)
5=Sent to State/Federal Prison
6=Local Jail Incarceration
7=Absconder/AWOL/Capias
8=Incarcerated on Other Charges
         (Prior Pending)
9=Administrative Close of Interest
10=Abatement by Death
11=Other
12=Not Applicable (Re-assessment Only)
13=Transferred to Intensive Supervision
14=Transferred to CBCF

FOLLOWING REQUIRED FOR CBCF ONLY

19. Name of Assessment Instrument

_____
99=No Information

20. Risk Score

_____
99=No Information

21. Needs Score

_____
99-No Information