Multidisciplinary Reentry Models to Improve Outcomes
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Tool(s) used to transition an individual from one setting/situation to another.

How are reentry models relevant to Addiction Health Services?
Addiction, especially substance abuse, is a problem faced by a large number of individuals within the criminal justice system. Reentry initiatives within this setting aim to address the barriers these individuals face when returning to their communities. Many of these reentry models used incorporate substance abuse treatment as a way to prevent future criminal behavior. Also, as this review shows, reentry models are used across a wide variety of settings and populations. This examination provides insight into how to support the best possible outcomes in criminal justice reentry models as well as in general addiction-focused reentry models.

How Many Reviews?
Systematic Reviews: 8
Meta-Analyses: 12

What Works?

Legend: Size of circle indicates number of studies in topic area
Placement on x-axis indicates whether findings were positive, negative, or null/inconclusive

What factors are critical to interventions in this area?

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- Lower quality research designs resulted in more positive effects for some interventions. For instance, one study found that behavioral and contingency management treatments were impacted strongly by the rigor of the research design whereas psychodynamic and life skills go unchanged regardless of design rigor.
- Treatment modality impacts effect (e.g., CBT’s impact greatest when combined with other services.
- Length of time an individual spends in a program matters. For some groups and programs, longer term programs resulted in better outcomes, but other findings showed negative impacts when a client spends too long in the program.
- Individual factors (e.g., school performance, degree of substance abuse, motivation and coping, psychopathy, SES) important to outcomes.
- Higher risk level participants have better outcomes (e.g., having special facilities for high risk groups improves outcomes).

What are the useful strategies for implementation?

- Staff should be motivated and experienced. A review of AA interventions found that recovering alcoholics make the best counselors.
- Charismatic leaders and local champions help in sustainability efforts.
- Multi-agency involvement helps strengthen programs.
- Factors aiding implementation include: fewer dropouts; increased monitoring of providers; appropriate support and training for providers; an intervention that is well-planned and has clear target population, aims, and objectives; and utilizing small interactive groups.
- No one size fits all intervention exists. Decisions about desired interventions and outcomes should be made based on the needs of the population being served.
- Consider when data is collected during an intervention. One review found more positive findings when data collection was during treatment participation as compared to after treatment.
- Collect outcomes using validated tools. Both individual and program characteristics should be collected.
- Consider multiple outcomes for an intervention, not just the primary.
- Understand more about the impact of voluntary versus coercive participation on program outcomes. Mixed findings suggest future research should use a mix of participants in the same research design to really understand the difference.
- Co-occurring treatments are not necessarily equal. For instance, one review found that a milieu isn’t enough by itself, but needs to be coupled with another treatment; however it shouldn’t be used equally with other treatment because this produces negative results.

For More Information:
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