

Oregon's Recidivism Success

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RECIDIVISM: WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Recidivism is the likelihood of an individual to reoffend after being released from incarceration.
- Many Oregonians believe that the best way to ensure that criminals will not reoffend is through long-term incarceration, especially true for offenders with mental illness.
- *We challenged the assumption that long-term incarceration is more effective at reducing recidivism rates of mentally ill offenders than offering rehabilitation programs.*
- In this talk we will look at what rehabilitation programs are offered for both adults and juveniles and the cost of implementation.

Within the prison system:

What works

Alternative Incarceration Program (AIP)

- ❖ AIP was created and passed by the Oregon Legislature in 1994.
- ❖ AIP is a program within the Oregon Department of Corrections which provides crucial treatment to inmates.
 - A program which requires mental health treatment and provides critical thinking analysis that builds on communication and decision making skills.
- ❖ AIP consists of three sub-programs: Summit program, New Directions program, and Turning Point program.



Summit Program: The first of three AIP programs

introduced.

- ❖ Based at The Shutter Creek Correctional Institution in Baker City.
 - Began in March of 1994.
- ❖ Elements: cognitive change, substance abuse education, decision making skills and anger management training.
- ❖ When an inmate joins this 6 month program they are carefully evaluated and released from prison if they meet the requirements. If not, they are released back into prison society.
 - 225 graduates per year.



Evidence based programs

- ❖ In 2003 the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 267.
- ❖ This bill states that any program implemented within the prison system must be evidenced-based and proven cost-effective.
- ❖ In addition, when implemented a program must provide greater savings than the cost of the program itself.
- ❖ Led to New Directions and Turning Point.



Turning Point : Third of three AIP programs

- ❖ A program based in Wilsonville that focuses on female inmates.
- ❖ Inmates with the most severe addiction habits and mental health issues are required to complete this six month program if they request release.
- ❖ They are forbidden contact with other inmates outside of the program to prevent relapse.
- ❖ Elements: gain relapse prevention skills and practice critical thinking skills that require them to take responsibility for their actions.



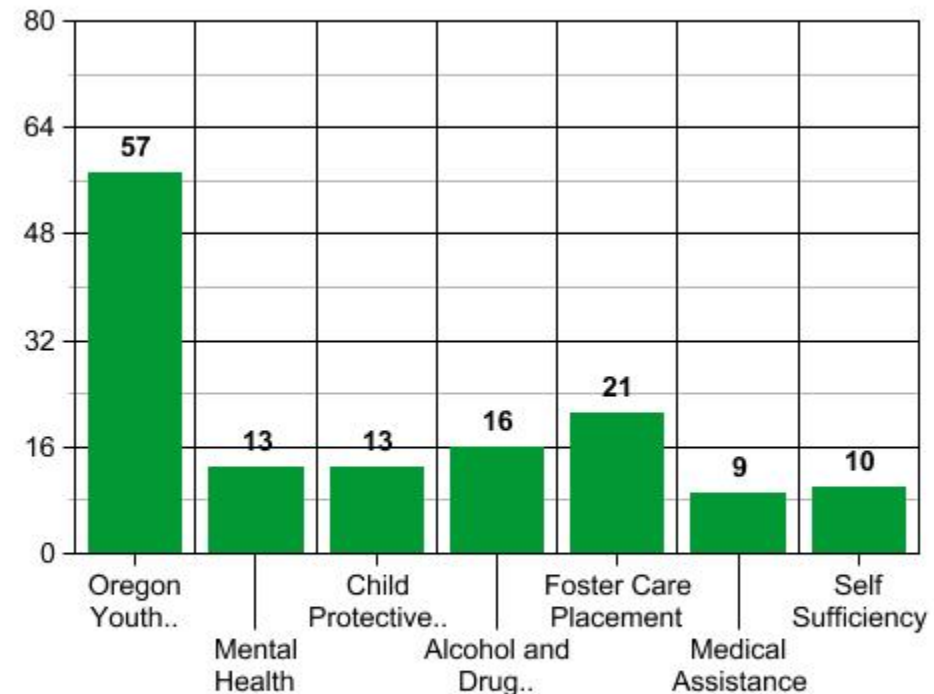
Conclusion

- ❖ Statistics show that between the years 2004-2007 recidivism rates in Oregon decreased to 22.8%, one of the lowest rates of re-offenders in the United States. These programs have proven effective within adult correctional facilities.
- ❖ Can these or similar programs also be successful when implemented within the juvenile justice system?

Lowering youth involvement with juvenile corrections decreases the chances that they will become involved in adult corrections.

- 39% of first time ODOC entrants are between 18-25.
- Research shows that systems in which problematic youth are congregated reinforces learned negative and deviant behavior.
- Oregon Criminal Justice Feeder System Program's data shows that involvement with OYA is one of the strongest predictors of involvement with ODOC.

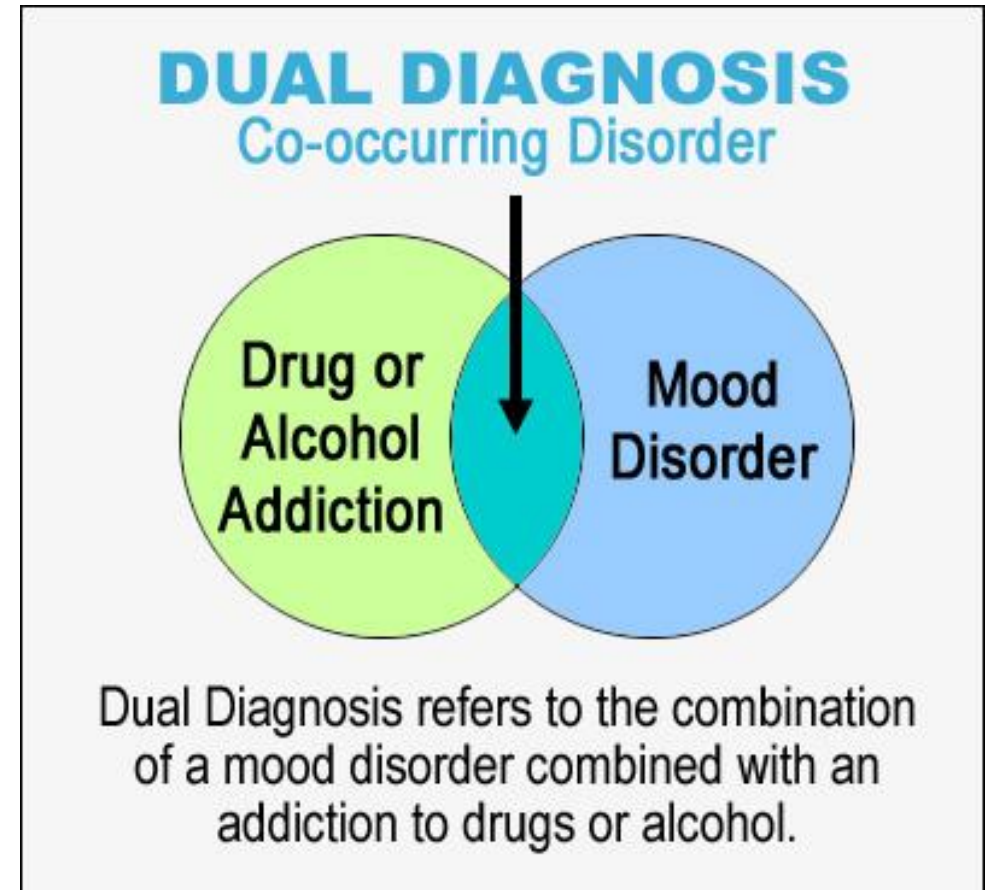
Percentage of 2001 cohort for each program entering DOC by 2013



Oregon Youth Authority Research & Evaluation. (2015, February 13). Prevalence and Timing of DHS, OHA, and OYA Services Prior ... Retrieved June 2, 2016, from <https://ncdps.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documents/files/Divisions/jj/FirstDOCFeederReport>

Mental health services are less available to youth in detention than youth in the community.

- Many juvenile departments in Oregon do not offer cognitive behavioral therapy or medication therapies.
- Most juvenile departments in OR report that treatment for youth with mental health problems and substance abuse problems are only available to youth in the community.
- Incarcerated youth are not eligible to be enrolled in OHP, and youth with OHP previously have it suspended upon incarceration.



Does incarceration decrease youth recidivism?

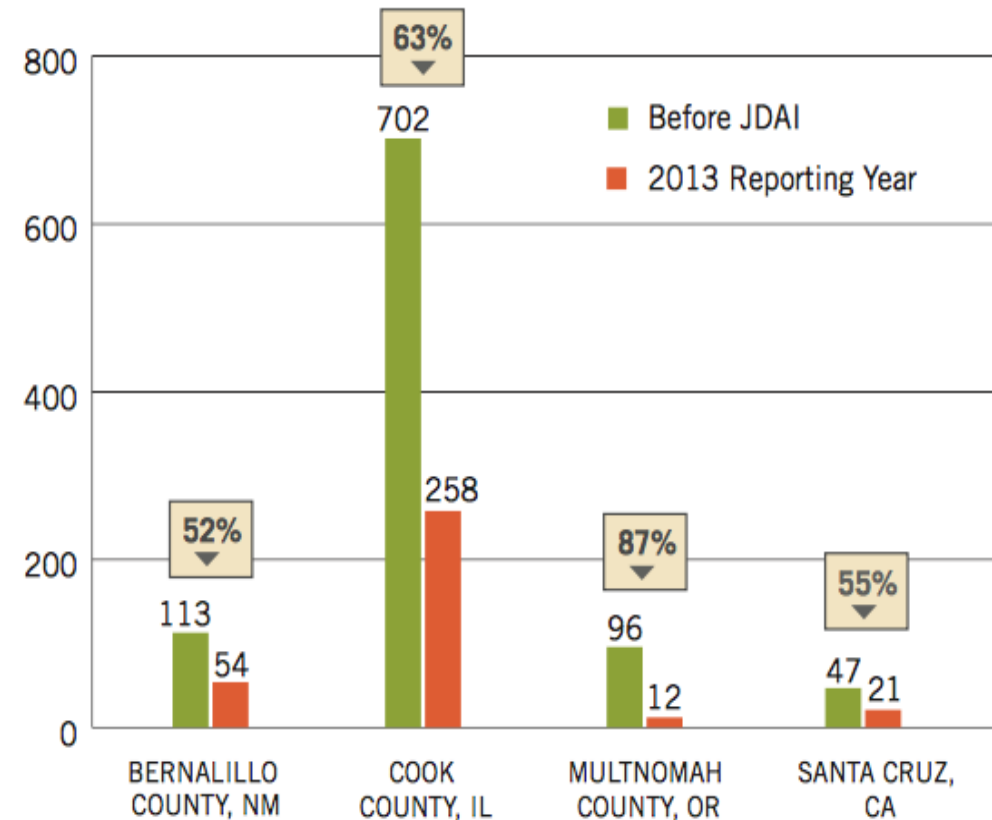
- Evidence shows that incarceration, mandatory minimum sentences and mandatory transfer to adult court (such as Measure 11) lessens the likelihood of youths' long term success.
- Evidence-based models have consistently been shown to lower recidivism rates of serious and chronic juvenile offenders when used as an alternative to conventional incarceration and supervision practices.



Community based support services are more effective at reducing recidivism than incarceration.

- Programs like the Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) that aim to divert youth incarceration, expand community treatment options and reduce the use of confinement have been proven effective at reducing recidivism.

DETENTION REDUCTIONS IN JDAI MODEL SITES



Conclusion

- Implementing community-based support services as an alternative to incarcerating youth could go a long way to further decrease Oregon's lower recidivism rates.
- But to really enact a successful model of low recidivism, we must not only look at the social costs of reducing recidivism but also the economic costs.
- So, what are the economic costs of recidivism?

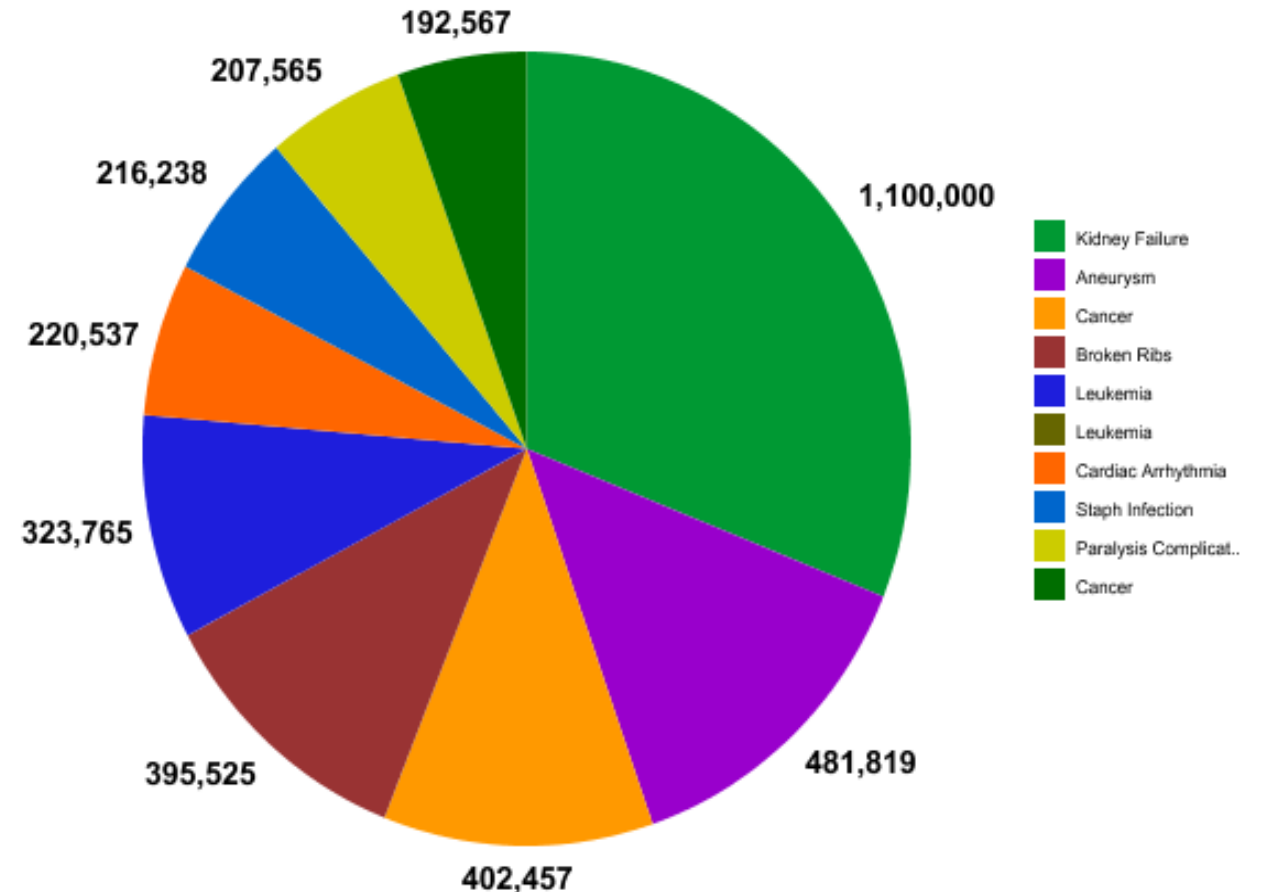
THE ECONOMICS OF RECIDIVISM

- A Measure 11 conviction comes with a mandatory minimum prison sentence length, duration varying by crime.
- Offenders are not eligible for sentence reductions.
- Offenders face longer sentencing if a second Measure 11 crime is committed.
- Taxpayer dollars cover the expenses these expenses.
- The Oregon DOCs fiscal biennium from 2015-2017 is \$1.5 billion.
- Reincarceration requires the continued expenditure of tax dollars.
- What are the expenses of incarceration?

The Expenses of Healthcare In Prison

- Each month expense for health care is \$567 per inmate.
- State legislation requires for these inmates to be treated.
- The prison health care expense is roughly a \$100 million a year, seven times the expenditure for Oregon's Education Department.
- What are the other expenses of housing an inmate?

The Most Expensive Prison HealthCare Cases For Fiscal 2010 Through February 2011



How much does it cost to house an inmate?

- Housing an inmate in Oregon's DOC costs **\$84.81** each day.
- Do the math: $\$84.81 \times 365 \text{ days} = \mathbf{\$30,955.65}$ spent housing house an inmate for a year.
- The average annual salary of a correctional officer is **\$51,950**.
- Oregon spends less than other states when housing inmates.
- New York's annual cost to house an inmate is approximately \$60,000.



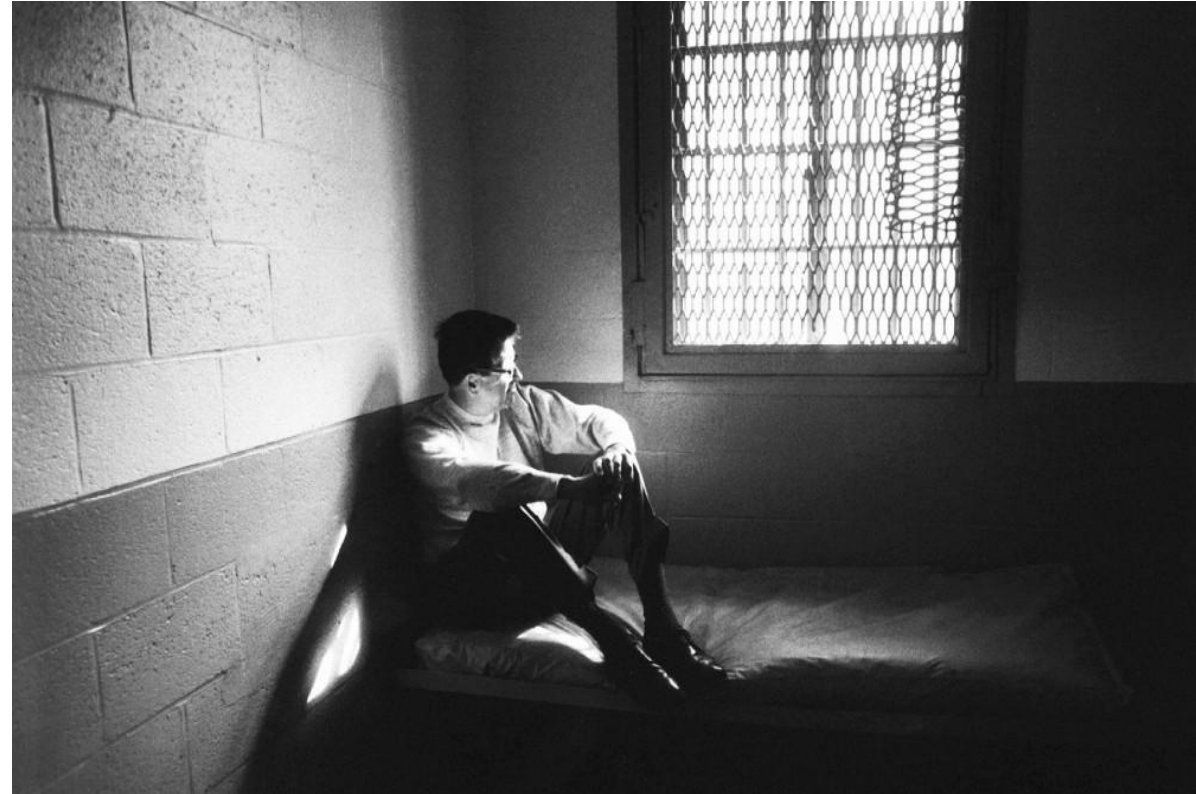
Price Comparison to Oregon Universities

- In state tuition at Oregon State University is \$25,434.
- Out of state tuition at OSU is \$43,899.
- In state tuition at the University of Oregon is \$25,524.
- Out of state tuition at the U of O is \$47,259.
- Could this money be reinvested?



The Economics of a Family Dynamic

- Lives are often ruined because of sentence length.
- Children are left parentless due to incarceration.
- Inmates may be people you know. An aunt or an uncle. Someone closer to you? A brother or sister perhaps. Mother or father? Maybe even your son or daughter.
- Inmates and former inmates are more than just statistics. They are human beings capable of change.
- When inmates return to incarceration, families are without their loved ones.



The Effects of Recidivism

- Families lose their loved ones for great periods of time due to incarceration and recidivism.
- To be more economical, recidivism needs to be reduced and prevented.
- Taxpayer dollars should be invested in ways to better prevent recidivism.

CONCLUSION

Our literature research and personal interviews led us to the conclusion that programs aimed at altering behavior and providing support for ex-inmates, along with a cooperative approach to offering these services, are the most effective means of preventing recidivism.

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