Community-Based Drug Treatment in the Justice System: What Works in Reducing Crime?

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Roger Peters, Ph.D., University of South Florida; rhp@usf.edu

Presentation Goals

Review

- **Importance of community SUD treatment** for those in the criminal justice system
- **Outcomes of SUD treatment** at different points in the criminal justice system
- **What doesn't work** in SUD treatment in the criminal justice system

International Prevalence Rates of SUD in the Criminal Justice System

Alcohol Use Disorders

Men: 26%

Women: 20%

Drug Use Disorders

Men: 30%

Women: 51%

(Fazel, Yoon, & Hayes, 2017)

Importance of Community SUD Treatment in the Criminal Justice System

Substance Use Treatment in the Community is a Good Investment

- Every $1 spent on community drug treatment = **$18 in benefits** to society
- Costs of incarceration are **5x higher** than community drug treatment

(**UNODC, 2021; Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2006**)

Other Benefits of Community Substance Use Treatment

- Participants continue to work and pay taxes
- Families remain intact
- Avoid contact with criminal peers
- Engagement in prosocial activities

Outcomes of SUD Treatment Across the Justice Continuum

Evidence-Based Substance Use Treatment

- Cognitive-behavioral treatment
- Relapse prevention
- Motivational enhancement
- Contingency management
- Medications
- Group counseling

Outcomes of Drug Treatment in the Justice System

Law enforcement deflection

- Reduces justice system contact and recidivism (Collins, et al, 2015)
- Improves housing and employment outcomes

Pre- and post-sentence community supervision with drug treatment

- Significantly reduces recidivism for up to 4 years post-treatment (Zarkin et al., 2005)

Transition treatment centers (reentry programs, work release programs, day treatment)

- 50% reduction in prison recommitment (Prendergast et al., 2004)

Drug Court Outcomes

- Adult drug courts can reduce recidivism by 40%
- Reductions in recidivism can extend to 15 years
- Drug courts produce cost benefits of $5,000 USD per participant

(Aos et al., 2006; Kearley & Gottfredson, 2020; Rossman et al., 2011 Shaffer, 2011; Zweig et al., 2012)

Outcomes of Case Management

Treatment Completion

62% higher rate of SUD treatment completion

Reduced Recidivism

44% decrease in reincarceration during 7-year follow-up

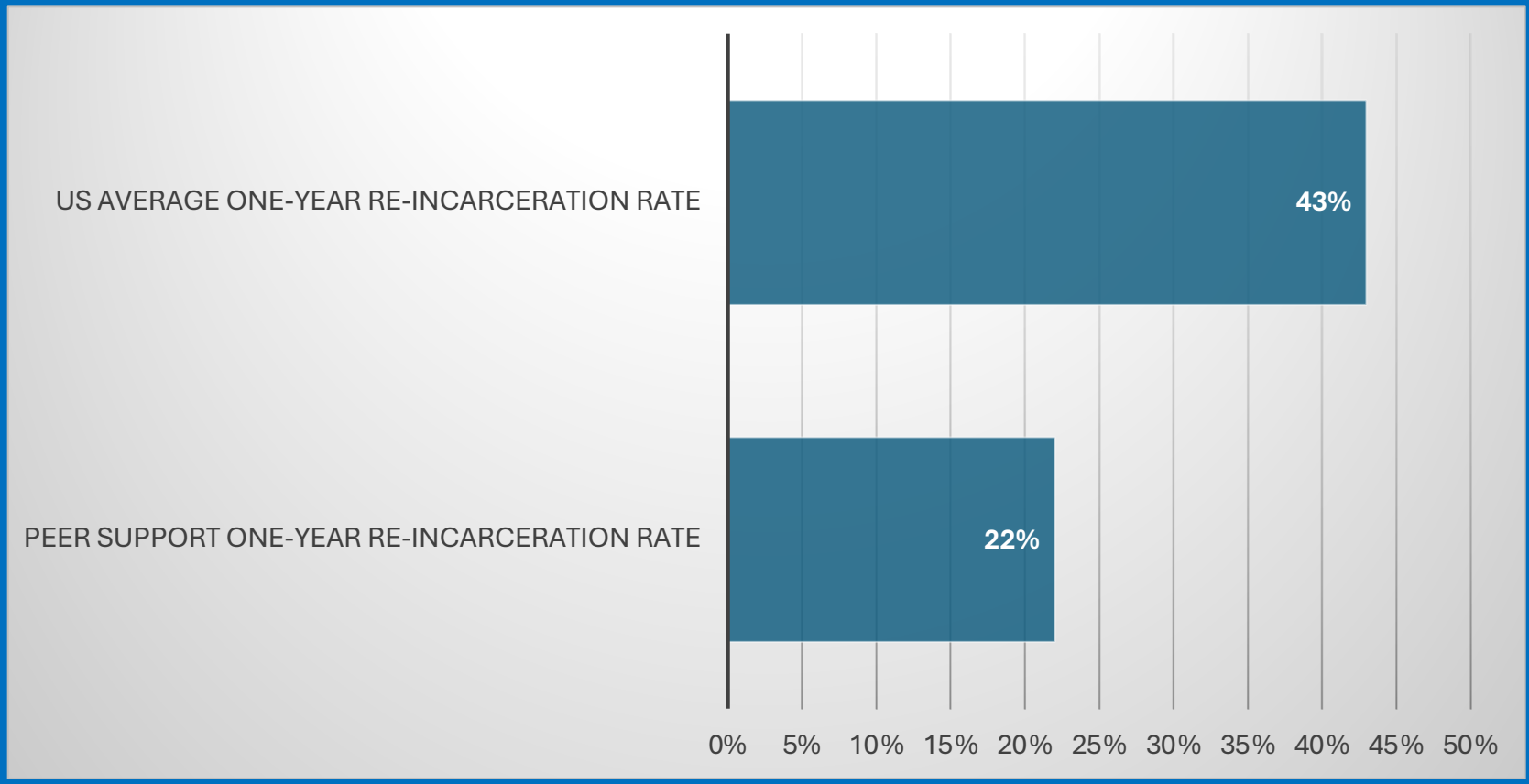
Family Reunification

Twice as likely to achieve family reunification of at least one year

Early Exit from SUD Treatment

- Some justice treatment programs have rigidly defined periods of participation (e.g., 12-18 months)
- Provides incentives for treatment progress
- Allows others access to treatment
- Extended treatment duration can be counterproductive

Peer Support Outcomes at 1-Year Following Incarceration



Adapted from Bellamy et al. (2019)

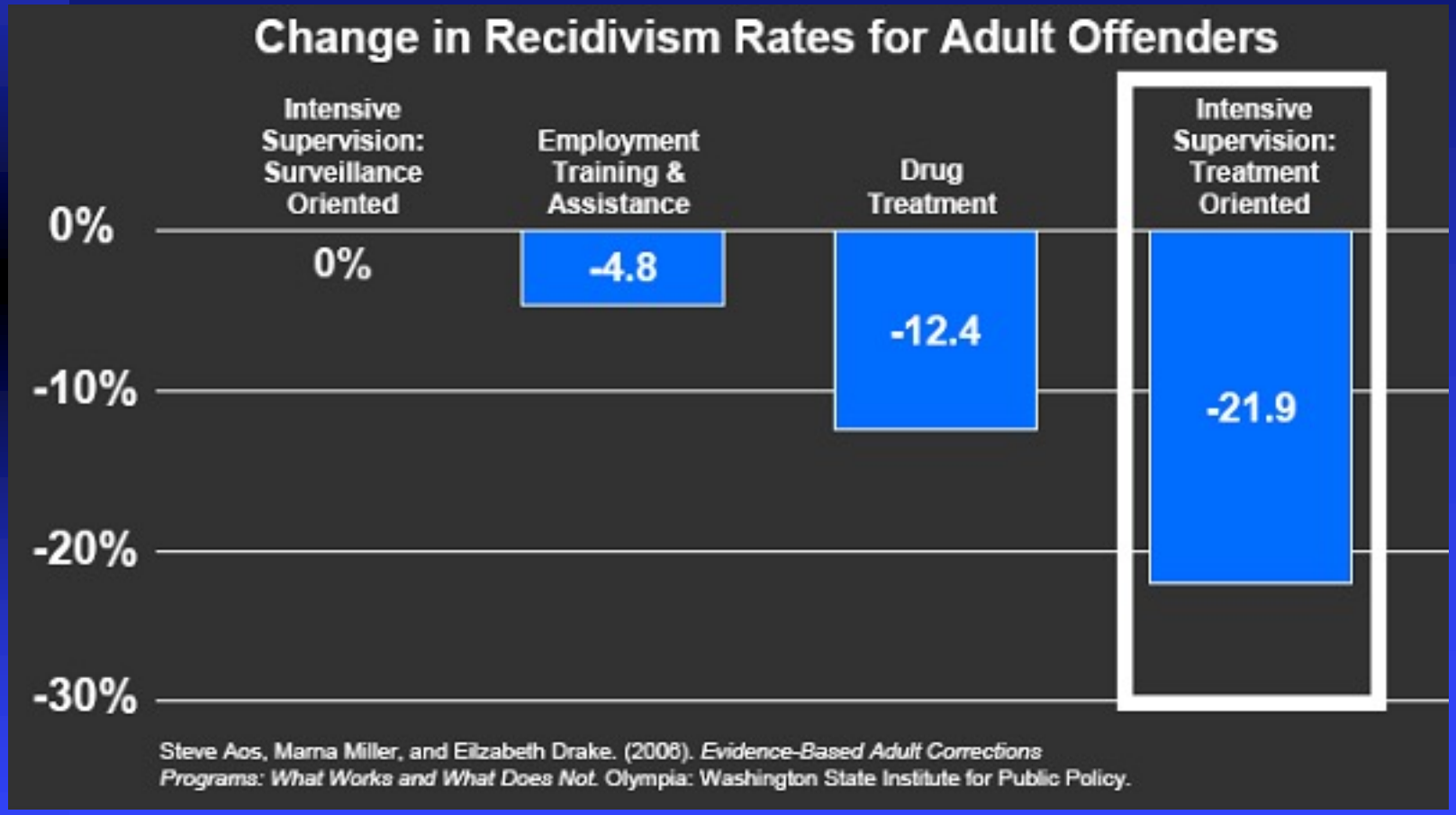
What Doesn't Work in SUD Treatment in the Criminal Justice System

Sanctions and Supervision aren't Effective without SUD Treatment

- No reductions in recidivism for **criminal sanctions without SUD treatment**
- **Community supervision does not reduce recidivism** without SUD treatment

(Aos et al., 2006)

Combining Treatment and Supervision Reduces Recidivism



the NATIONAL REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER

What Doesn't Work in Justice System Treatment?

- Drug education
- Films
- Confrontation without support
- Self-help groups without intensive treatment
- Building self-esteem as primary focus
- Targeting participants with low criminal risk

What Doesn't Work in Justice System Treatment?

- Targeting participants with mild substance use disorders
- Mixing high risk and low risk participants
- Use of only one type of treatment (e.g. detoxification or residential treatment only)
- Non-manualized treatment

Thank You!

Roger Peters, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor, University of South Florida
Consultant, U.S. Department of State/INL
and the Colombo Plan
ICUDDR Vice President
ICATI Executive Leadership Team
rhp@usf.edu