Targeted RECLAIM University of Cincinnati Outcome Study

JANUARY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012

Final Report

REPORT SUBMITTED TO:

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OUTCOME EVALUATION

OYAS Validation

The Targeted RECLAIM sample for this evaluation was compiled in a two-step process. First, a list of all youths served through Targeted RECLAIM funds between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011 was extracted from the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) computerized database. Second, a county contact person from each county was sent a copy of this list and was asked to add to it the names of any missing youth(s) that received services through Targeted RECLAIM funds during this time period. This process identified a total of 239 youths. The sample includes all youths regardless of the type of services received (e.g., CBT, EPICS, MST).

Risk information for these youths was obtained through the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) computerized database. There were five different types of assessments used to classify the Targeted RECLAIM youths: OYAS-Dispositional (n = 149), OYAS-Residential (n = 64), OYAS-Detention (n = 9), OYAS-Reentry (n = 2), and Risk/Needs Assessment (n = 15). Recidivism is defined here as any incarceration to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) or Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) custody after the youth began any type of Targeted RECLAIM funded services. Data collection for outcome measures on program participants admitted during this time period ended on June 30, 2012.

Figure 1 presents information regarding the predictive validity of the OYAS for the sample of Targeted RECLAIM youth. The chart illustrates the percentages of offenders in each risk category that recidivated. Specifically, for overall risk level, 6.7% of low-risk offenders were incarcerated, 7.6% of moderate-risk offenders were incarcerated, and 15.7% of high-risk offenders were incarcerated. Table 41 displays the bivariate correlations of the OYAS risk

categories and incarceration. The r value of .12 provides further indication that the OYAS assigned levels of overall risk are able to significantly distinguish between groups that have progressively higher rates of recidivism.

Figure 1 and Table 41 also examines the predictive utility of the individual subscale domains of the OYAS system. The domain of juvenile justice system history also displays an ability to distinguish between groups that have progressively higher rates of recidivism (r = .16, p < .05). The only other significant subscale is the peers domain (r = .12, p < .10); however, as illustrated in Figure 1 its risk categories do not progress from lower to higher recidivism rates. Rather, in this domain the low-risk are reincarcerated at a higher rate than the moderate-risk. While the remaining subscales are not statistically significant the high-risk category is consistently the most likely to be incarcerated.

Figure 1

Predictive Validity of Ohio Youth Assessment System and Domains for Targeted RECLAIM Youth

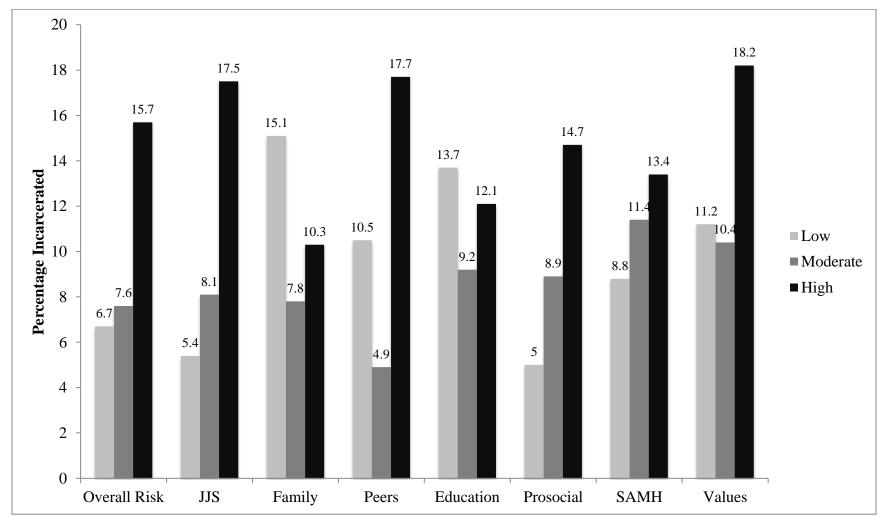


Table 41

Bivariate Correlations of OYAS Risk Categories and Incarceration

	Pearson Correlation	
	(r)	
verall Risk	.12*	
JJS	.16**	
Family	07	
Peers	.12*	
Education	02	
Prosocial	.11	
SAMH	.05	
Values	.04	

Note: * *p* < .10. ** *p* < .05.

DYS Comparison Group

A control group of youth released from DYS custody during this same time was matched to the Targeted RECLAIM group (n=239). To create the comparison group, each Targeted RECLAIM youth in the study was matched to a youth released from DYS custody during the calendar year 2011. The DYS sample was matched to the Targeted RECLAIM sample on the characteristics of county of conviction, gender, race, risk level, and time at risk. Although the time at risk varied for the treatment and comparison group, the differences were controlled by calculating the length of time in the community for the DYS group and then applying it to the Targeted RECLAIM matched case. For example, if the DYS offender was in the community for six months, the same length of time was applied to the Targeted RECLAIM matched youth to determine if he or she recidivated during that time.

Table 42 shows the frequencies and percentages of youths in each group type by gender, race, age, risk level and county of commitment. The majority of this sample is male (95%) and non-white (78.2%). The Targeted RECLAIM youths were significantly different than DYS youths on the variable years of age, t (475) = 10.15, p < .001, d = .93. Inspection of the two

group means indicates that the average age for Targeted RECLAIM youths (M = 15.7) is significantly lower than the age (M = 16.9) of the DYS youths. This difference is considered large using Cohen's (1988) guidelines.

Table 42

Descriptive Characteristics for the Sample

	Targeted RECLAIM		DYS	
Characteristic	n	%	n	%
Male	227	95.0	227	95.0
White	52	21.8	52	21.8
Mean age (SD)	15.7	1.3	16.9	1.2
Risk level				
Low	45	18.8	46	19.2
Moderate	105	43.9	108	45.2
High	89	37.2	85	35.6
County				
Cuyahoga	53	22.2	61	25.5
Franklin	46	19.2	63	26.4
Hamilton	12	5.0	37	15.5
Lucas	19	7.9	26	10.9
Montgomery	44	18.4	19	7.9
Summit	65	27.2	33	13.8

A one for one matching of youths from DYS to Targeted RECLAIM kids was not possible on the variable county of commitment. This is because there were two counties, Montgomery and Summit, in which there were more kids receiving Targeted RECLAIM services in 2011 than were released from DYS custody. In order to obtain an equal size comparison group, youths from the remaining counties were selected. To investigate the strength of the association between group type and county of commitment, a chi-square test was conducted.

The analysis indicated a significant relationship between group type and county of commitment, $\chi^2 = 37.43$, df = 5, p < .001.

Outcome Results

Figure 2 provides the results of the outcome evaluation. Of the 478 youths included in the treatment and comparison groups, 25.1% of the DYS sample (or 60 offenders) was incarcerated during the follow-up compared to only 10.5% of the Targeted RECLAIM youths (or 25 offenders). This difference was significant beyond the .001 level. This means the DYS sample was 2.4 times more likely to be incarcerated during follow up than the Targeted RECLAIM youths. Another way to interpret this finding is that without Targeted RECLAIM services available, feasibly these youth would have went to DYS. If the Targeted RECLAIM youth went to DYS, it would be expected that they would be incarcerated at the same rate as the DYS sample. However, because they did not go to DYS and remained in the community through Targeted RECLAIM services, 35 kids remained incarceration free. While this difference is significant, the effect size $\Phi = -.19$, p < .001, is considered small according to the behavioral sciences (Cohen, 1988).

Figure 2

Comparison of Incarceration Rates for Targeted RECLAIM and DYS Samples

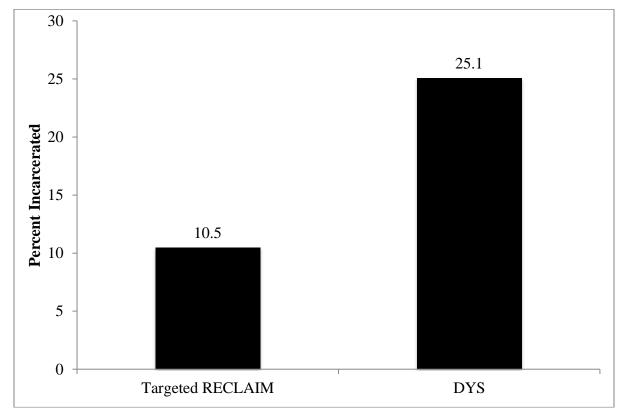


Table 43 examines the incarceration rates by group type and risk level. Of the 91 low-risk offenders included in the treatment and comparison groups, 23.9% of the DYS sample (or 11 offenders) was incarcerated during the follow-up period compared to only 6.7% of the Targeted RECLAIM youths (or 3 offenders). Of the 213 moderate-risk offenders included in the treatment and comparison groups, 18.5% of the DYS sample (or 20 offenders) was incarcerated during the follow-up period compared to only 7.6% of the Targeted RECLAIM youth (or 8 offenders). Of the 174 high-risk youth included in the treatment and comparison groups, 34.1% of the DYS sample (or 29 offenders) was incarcerated during the follow-up period compared to only 15.7% of the Targeted RECLAIM youths (or 14 offenders). These findings suggest low-risk offenders are 3.56 times as likely to be incarcerated in DYS sample than in TR sample,

moderate-risk offenders are 2.43 times as likely to be incarcerated in the DYS sample than in TR sample, and high-risk offenders are 2.17 times as likely to be incarcerated in the DYS sample than in TR sample. Chi-square tests reveal that the differences between risk level and group type are significant beyond the .05 level. The phi values for low-risk is -.24, moderate-risk is -.16, and for high-risk is -.21. The effect sizes for these three levels are considered small for the behavioral sciences (Cohen, 1988).

Table 43

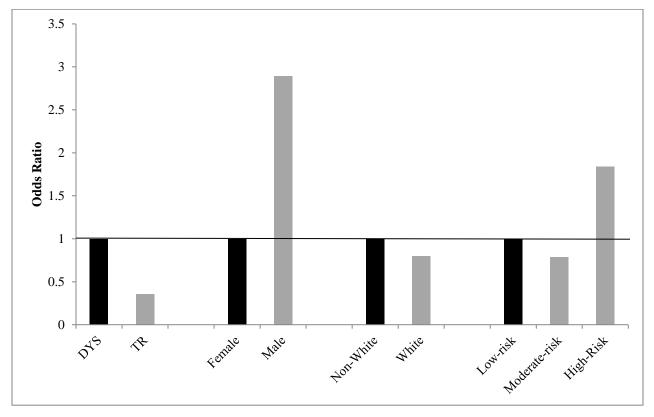
Incarceration by Group and Risk Level

Risk Level	Targeted RECLAIM	DYS		
	n	%	n	%
Low	3	6.7	11	23.9
Moderate	8	7.6	20	18.5
High	14	15.7	29	34.1

Binary logistic regression was conducted to assess whether the four predictor variables, Targeted RECLAIM participation, gender, race, and risk, significantly predicted whether or not a juvenile was incarcerated during the follow-up period. When all four variables are considered together, they significantly predict whether or not a juvenile is incarcerated during the follow-up period, $\chi^2 = 30.61$, df = 5, p < .01. Figure 3 depicts the odds ratios, which suggest that the odds of incarceration are lower for juveniles that received Targeted RECLAIM services (compared to those that went to DYS). A summary of the binary logistic regression model is provided in Appendix C.

Figure 3

Odds Ratios of Four Independent Variables Predicting Incarceration



DISCUSSION

This study employed a quasi-experimental design and made use of comparison group and pretest information. This report addressed many of the limitations that were present in the previous Targeted RECLAIM evaluation. First, the sample size of this study (n = 478) is larger than the previous year (n = 374). Second, unlike the previous report that compared a 2010 Targeted RECLAIM group to a 2009 DYS sample, the two groups under investigation in this report are from the same time period. By comparing youths that received Targeted RECLAIM services during 2011 to DYS offenders that were released during 2011 we eliminated many of the historical threats to validity that were present in the previous study. Similar to the previous years report, the follow-up time for the two groups varied (M = 12.4 month follow-up for

comparison compared to M=15.5 month follow-up for the treatment group). It should be noted, however, as in the previous report, the length of time followed was controlled. The results of these analyses indicate that youth served through Targeted RECLAIM services recidivated less than similar youth that were sent to DYS.