



Day Reporting Center (DRC) Evaluation Study

November 6, 2013

Background:

In response to the increasing need for evidence-based programs (EBP) to treat offenders, the Kern County Probation Department teamed with BI Incorporated (BI) in September 2010 for the development of a Day Reporting Center (DRC). BI was founded in 1978 and provides a number of services including DRC's, a variety of compliance technologies, and other services aimed towards reducing recidivism. BI currently provides services and products for more than 1,000 agencies nationwide. DRC's provide evidence-based services, programs, and increased supervision in order to reduce participant's criminogenic needs. The initial agreement provided a six-month program to 50 participants at any given time. In October 2011, the CCP approved funding for the BI agreement to serve 100 participants at any given time. On November 6, 2013, the CCP showed its further commitment to evidence-based treatment by expanding the program once again to serve 200 participants.

Kern Day Reporting Center (DRC):

The DRC is an evidence-based intensive program which focuses on young, moderate to high-risk probationers to reduce the likelihood of lengthy jail/prison commitments. The Kern DRC provides services in the areas of substance abuse, mental health, employment training, and various educational services, as well as intensive supervision to reduce participant's criminogenic needs. The DRC also focuses on "Community Connections" which introduces participants to community-based organizations that can be utilized during and after participation in the DRC. This gives participants organizations within the community to rely on after DRC completion, which aids in creating community buy-in. Participants are required to participate in the DRC's various services and programs throughout all phases of the program.

The DRC has three supervised phases and an aftercare phase. Phase I, "Intensive Supervision," requires participants to check in seven days a week and drug test once a week. Phase II, "Intermediate Supervision," requires participants to check in five days per week and drug test twice per month. Phase III, "Regular Supervision," requires participants to check in three days per week and drug test once per month. The Aftercare Phase requires participants to check in once a month with no drug testing requirements. All participants are given a breathalyzer test each time they report to the DRC.

Evaluative Study of the Kern DRC:

The focus of this study was to determine if the Kern DRC has an impact on recidivism, and if so, to what degree. Probation staff from the Research, Analysis and Data Unit, conducted a study to determine the effectiveness of the Kern DRC by examining the recidivism rates of three groups: “Graduates,” “Control” and “Participants.” For the purpose of this study, “recidivism” was defined as a new conviction. The evaluation findings show not only a reduction in recidivism, but also a reduction in the severity of recidivism. This equates to a significant annual cost savings to the county in law enforcement, incarceration, prosecution, defense, courts, supervision, victimization, and public safety. Though there have been numerous studies on the effectiveness of DRC’s, Probation wanted to ensure the effectiveness of the Kern DRC with its own evaluation.

1) Methodology & Definitions:

Staff obtained a list of all participants including their start date, current program status, length of stay, risk level, and identifying information from the DRC. From this list staff created two groups: a Graduate Group and a Participant Group. The Graduate Group is defined as those who completed all phases of the program from November 22, 2010 to December 31, 2012. The Participant Group is defined as those who participated for 90 days or more but did not graduate, with a start date between November 22, 2010 and December 31, 2012. The Control Group is defined as a random selection of probationers who did not participate in the DRC, but have similar characteristics, such as risk level, supervision start date similar to participant’s DRC start date, and age. Using the Criminal Justice Information System and Probation’s Case Management System ISIS, staff reviewed the case history of every individual, documenting all new convictions after the individual’s start date, the number of convictions, and type of conviction (Misdemeanor or Felony). Since this study serves to compare those offenders who graduated from the DRC and a Control Group that did not, these two groups are the two direct comparison groups. However, to further lend credibility to the study, Probation staff also compared these groups to the Participant Group.

2) Discussion of Data, Charts & Tables:

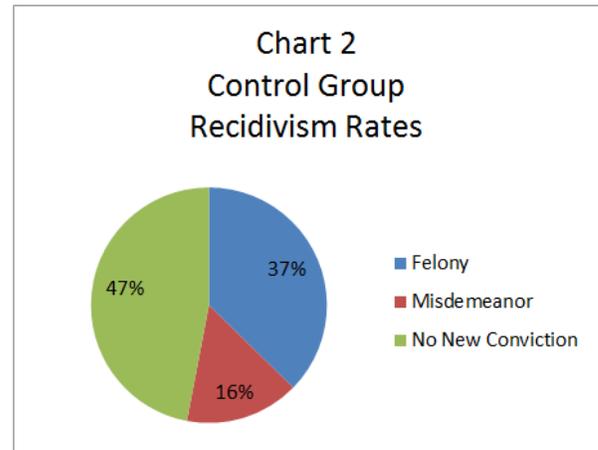
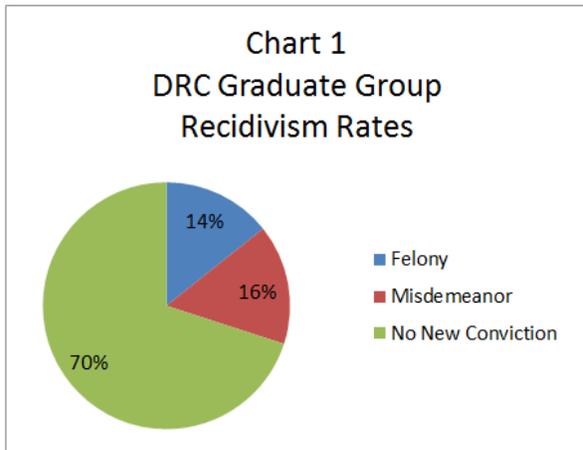
The Kern DRC focuses on moderate to high-risk offenders in an effort to reduce recidivism in groups that are more likely to recidivate and at a higher level. The majority of the Graduate and Control Groups were high-risk and moderate offenders, as indicated by tables 1 and 2 below. Studies have shown that reducing recidivism in these groups will have the greatest positive impact on law enforcement, incarceration, prosecution, defense, courts, supervision, victimization, and public safety.

Table 1 DRC Graduate Group	
High	77%
Moderate	22%
Low	1%
Total	100%

Table 2 Control Group	
High	71%
Moderate	22%
Low	7%
Total	100%

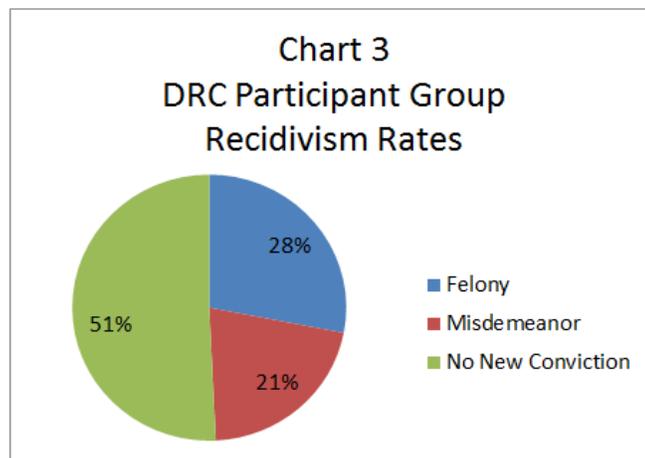
These tables indicate that the DRC is providing the majority of its services to the target populations.

Since the focus of this study was to determine if the DRC had an impact on recidivism, Charts 1 and 2 below illustrate the recidivism rates of the DRC Graduate Group compared to the Control Group.



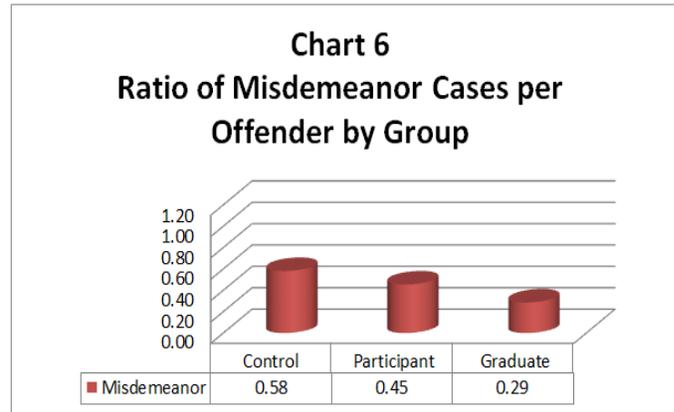
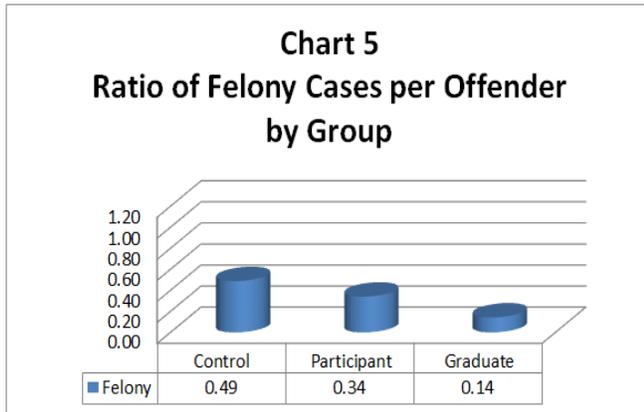
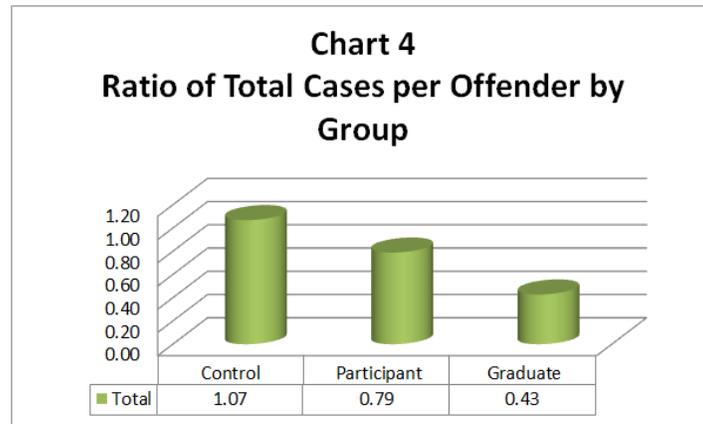
- **Chart 1** shows 70% of the Graduate Group did not recidivate. Of those that did recidivate, 14% were convicted of at least one felony and 16% were convicted of no felonies, but at least one misdemeanor.
- **Chart 2** shows 47% of the Control Group did not recidivate. Of those that did recidivate, 37% were convicted of at least one felony and 16% were convicted of no felonies, but at least one misdemeanor.

The study also indicated a reduction in recidivism for the Participant Group. Chart 3 below illustrates the recidivism rates for the Participant Group.



- **Chart 3** shows 51% of the Participant Group had no new convictions, compared to 47% for the Control Group, and 70% for the Graduate Group. Of those that did recidivate 28% were convicted of at least one felony and 21% were convicted of no felonies, but at least one misdemeanor.

The impact the DRC has on the recidivism rates of Participants and Graduates becomes clearer when looking at the ratio of cases per individual. This means the total number of new cases by a group divided by the number of offenders within that group. Charts 4, 5, and 6 below, show the ratio of cases per offender by group for total cases, felony cases, and misdemeanor cases.



*** Cases resulting in convictions**

- **Chart 4** shows a ratio of 1:1.07 total cases for the Control Group. For every offender in the Control Group there were 1.07 cases. The number of offenders who recidivated in the Control Group had multiple cases creating a ratio of 1.07 cases per offender. The Participant Group had a ratio of 1:0.79; for every offender there were 0.79 cases. The Graduate Group had a ratio of 1:0.43; for every offender there were 0.43 cases. This is a reduction of 0.28 total cases per offender for the Participant Group and 0.64 total cases per offender for the Graduate Group.
- **Chart 5** shows a ratio of 1:0.49 felony cases for the Control Group, 1:0.34 for the Participant Group, and 1:0.14 for the Graduate Group. This is a reduction (from the Control Group) of 0.15 felony cases per offender in the Participant Group, and 0.35 felony cases per offender for the Graduate Group.
- **Chart 6** shows a ratio of 1:0.58 misdemeanor cases for the Control Group, 1:0.45 for the Participant Group, and 1:0.29 for the Graduate Group. This is a reduction (from the Control Group) of 0.13 misdemeanor cases per offender in the Participant Group, and 0.29 misdemeanor cases per offender for the Graduate Group.

Key Findings:

Finding 1 – DRC graduates recidivated at a much lower rate than non-DRC participants. DRC graduates have a 30% recidivism rate compared with a 53% rate of the Control Group. In other words, 70% are NOT recidivating compared to 47% in the Control Group. There is a strong correlation between a high-risk offender graduating from the DRC and not recidivating. Reducing the number of offenders that recidivate is essential to reducing the current strains on our criminal justice system.

Finding 2 – The rate at which DRC graduates recidivated was much less severe. Although these groups have similar recidivism rates in misdemeanor convictions (16% respectively), the felony rate for the Graduate Group is 14% compared to 37% for the Control Group. This is significant in that if a DRC graduate recidivates, he/she is less likely to commit a felony compared to the Control Group. This is evident in the most significant impact the DRC contributed to found in the reduction of felony convictions. The Graduate Group had 0.35 fewer felony convictions per offender compared to the Control Group.

Finding 3 – The rate at which DRC Participant Group recidivated was lower than the Control Group. The Control Group had 0.28 more cases per offender than the Participant Group. Those offenders who participate in the DRC for at least 90 days have fewer cases than those who have no contact with the DRC. The Participant Group had 0.15 fewer felony cases per offender compared to the Control Group.

Finding 4 – The DRC appropriately provided the majority of its services to and is most effective with high-risk offenders. High-risk offenders are at the highest risk of recidivating and generally have longer jail/prison commitments. Appropriate services are being provided and are adapted to high-risk offenders. This validates that high-risk offenders are being referred and are most affected by this program. We would not send low-risk offenders to a high-risk offender program. By focusing resources on this population, the DRC is contributing to a reduction in recidivism and the severity of recidivism for those most likely to recidivate which has the greatest societal impacts.

Conclusions:

- 1) The DRC is a proven, evidence-based program aimed at reducing recidivism in young, high risk offenders nationwide. This study shows that the Kern DRC significantly reduces recidivism and the severity of those that do recidivate.
- 2) Reducing the reoccurrence of crime makes our community safer and saves the taxpayers a significant amount of money through a reduction in incarceration, prosecution, defense, courts, supervision, and victimization costs