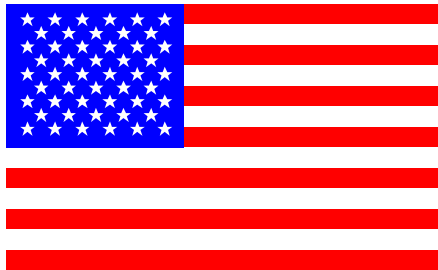
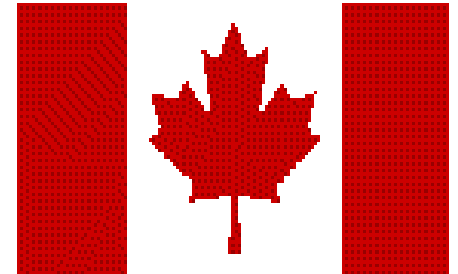


Evidence-Based Practice: Principles for Enhancing Correctional Results in Prisons

Presentation to American Correctional Association



15 August 2006
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Outline

- What is Evidence-Based Practice?
- How does EBP apply to corrections?
- Implications – why should we care?
- Where to seek assistance?



What is Evidence-Based Practice?

- Using research findings NOT ideology to inform the best way to assess, intervene & manage offenders
- Application in corrections
 - Risk assessment (risk/need measures with static & dynamic factors)
 - Supervision standards
 - Prison classification
 - Correctional programming
- Best practices reduce crime – it is NOT getting soft on crime, it is addressing criminal risk factors



Major Themes

- Interconnectedness in corrections
- Using research to inform policy & practice
- Transition to community
- Efficiency (saving \$\$\$)
- Ethics



Branch
Dec 17 1987

THIS SHOULD KEEP STATE PRISONS FROM BECOMING OVERCROWDED. JUDGE - WHAT DO YOU THINK?...

NO VACANCY

COUNTY JAILS

John Branch/San Antonio Express-News



Interconnectedness

- Probation, jails, prisons & community corrections are all connected – an action (or inaction) at one level is felt at another level
- ALL staff are connected; advances made in jails has a positive influence on probation & prisons



Transition to community

- 600,000 inmates are returned to their communities from prison per year
 - 459,000 US parolees discharged
 - 42% returned (11% new sentence; 31% other reasons)
- Inmates **need** aftercare, the public **wants** safety
- EBP provides a model to follow



Using research to inform policy & practice

- EBP demonstrates methods to improve practice
 - “right” programs
 - “right” assessment tools
 - “right” training for staff
- “Matching” services to inmates



Efficiency (saving \$\$\$)

- 1% improvement in community outcomes (e.g., through programming or supervision) would reduce re-admissions by 1,423 inmates
- **Savings** = \$28.1 million per annum
- EBP indicates effect sizes between 20-40%, not 1%



Ethics

- Corrections is about people
- Evidence-Based Practice is about meeting the needs of agencies & people
- Ideology should not inform practice. If there exists evidence regarding the “right” way to do things, we cannot ignore this

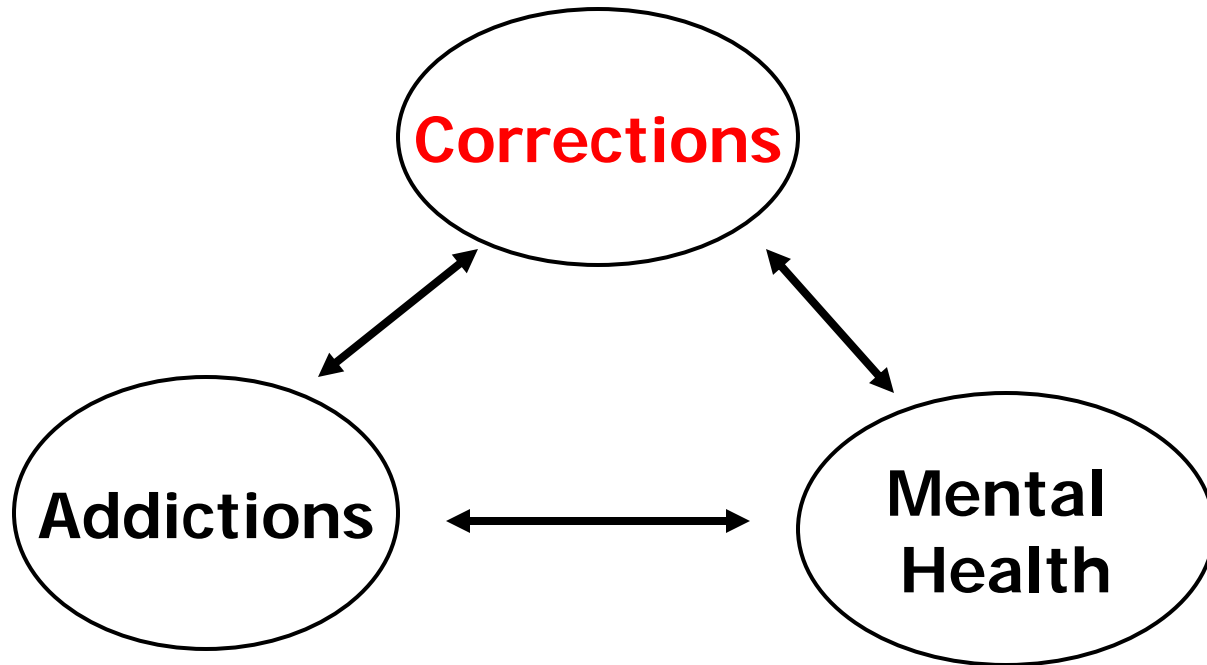


Other Considerations

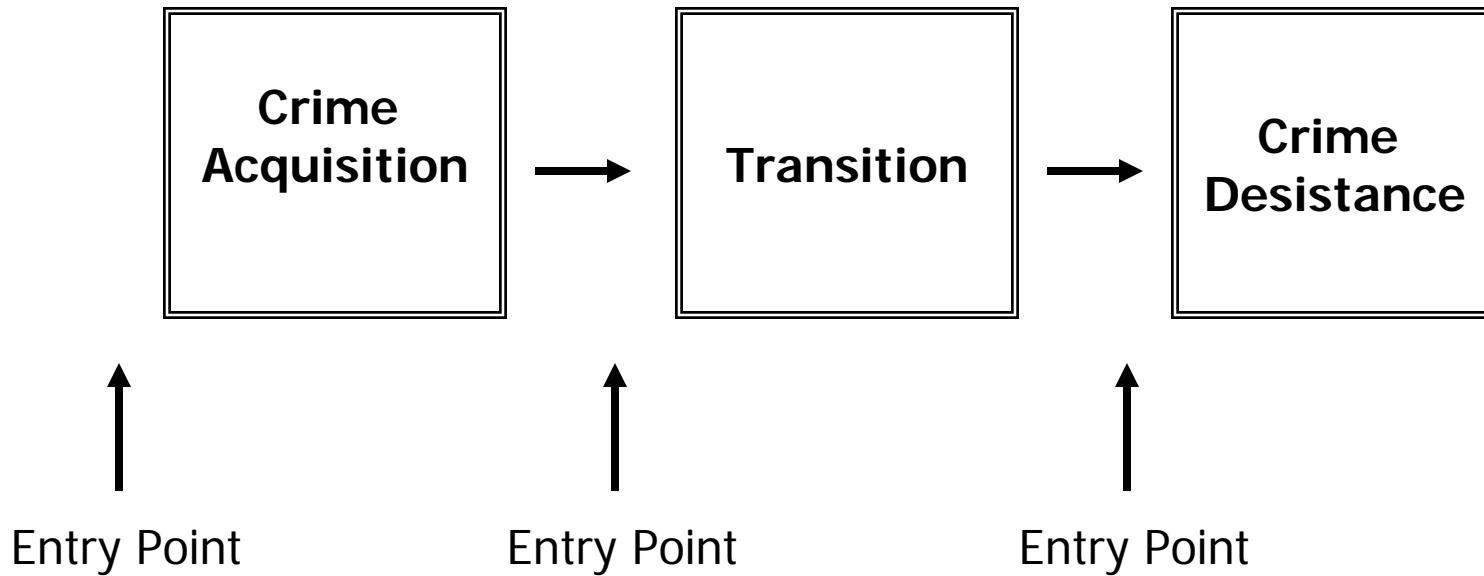
- Offenders are inter-agency users
- Transition to crime desistance



Inter-Agency Users



Transition to Crime Desistance





Bottom Line

1. Evidence-Based Practice can make prisons safer
2. Prisons should prepare inmates for safe release to the community
3. Co-ordination between community & institutional corrections can improve public safety through lower recidivism (which lowers costs)



Assistance?

- Don't re-invent the wheel!!
- NIC has position papers & training initiatives are planned
- Key books, user manuals & online documents are available
 - Prison classification
 - Offender assessment
 - Correctional programming
- Purpose of today's session is to encourage discussion & develop strategic partnerships