

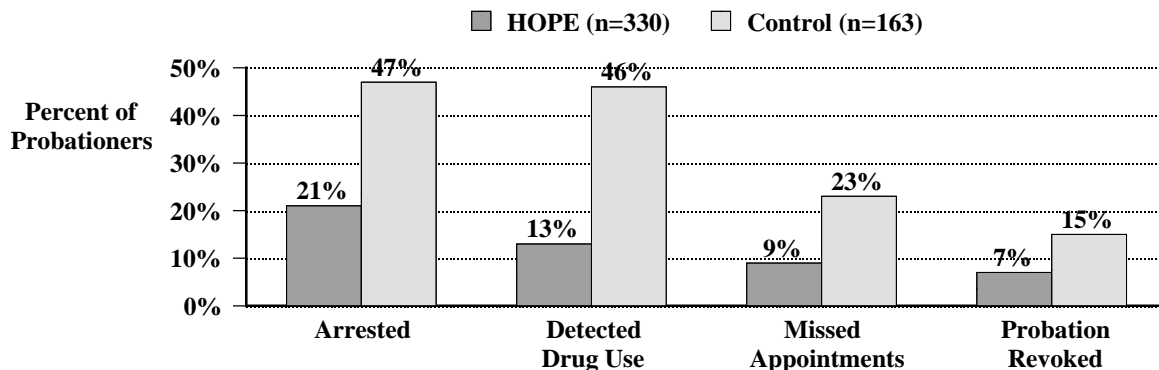
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Hawaii's HOPE Probation Program Demonstrates Effectiveness of Swift and Certain Consequences*

Providing swift and certain consequences results in more positive outcomes among probationers, according to the results of a randomized controlled trial of the Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program. Piloted in 2004 by Judge Steven Alm, the HOPE program is a high-intensity supervision program in which probationers receive swift, predictable, and immediate sanctions for each detected violation.\* The evaluation found that compared to a control group of probationers receiving probation-as-usual, HOPE probationers were less likely to be arrested for a new crime, use drugs, miss appointments with their probation officer, or have their probation revoked (see figure below). According to Judge Alm, "this is not a miracle—any probation department in the country can do this with the right leadership, strong management, appropriate resources, technical assistance and rigorous performance tracking."<sup>1</sup> The Honest Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) Initiative Act of 2009 (HR 4055), which would authorize a national grant program to establish probation programs similar to Hawaii's HOPE program, is currently being considered by a House Judiciary Subcommittee. Dr. Robert DuPont will present findings from the HOPE program at an upcoming one-day symposium at the University of Maryland (see box below).

#### Probation Outcome Measures, HOPE vs. Control Probationers, October 2007 to October 2008



\*HOPE probationers are required to call into a hotline every weekday morning to find out if they have been randomly selected to take a drug test that day. If probationers test positive, they are arrested immediately. If they fail to appear for the test or violate other terms of their probation (e.g., missing a scheduled probation appointment), warrants for their arrest are issued immediately. Once apprehended, a probation modification hearing is held two days later. Violators are typically sentenced to a short jail term, with jail time increasing for subsequent violations. Repeat offenders may be mandated into residential treatment.

<sup>1</sup>Alm, Steven S., Testimony before the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, May 11, 2010. Available online at <http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/pdf/Alm100511.pdf>.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Hawken, A. and Kleiman, M., Managing Drug Involved Probationers with Swift and Certain Sanctions: Evaluating Hawaii's HOPE, Appendix 3 – Summary of Results of the Randomized Controlled Trial of HOPE, U.S. Department of Justice, 2009. Available online at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/229023.pdf>. The randomized controlled trial was conducted by Pepperdine University, with support from the Smith Richardson Foundation and the National Institute of Justice.

#### Technology, Crime & Terrorism: A One-Day Symposium at the University of Maryland

The University of Maryland's College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is sponsoring a one-day symposium, "Technology, Crime & Terrorism," on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. CESAR is hosting the afternoon panel, "Research and Policy Applications of Drug Testing Technology," with Dr. Robert DuPont. For more information, please go to <http://www.umd.edu/tctsymposium>. The symposium can be viewed live at <http://bit.ly/tct2010stream>.