

Jail-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Program In Montgomery County, Maryland, Reduces Recidivism

Initial findings from the Jail Addiction Services (JAS)^p Demonstration Project in Montgomery County, Maryland, show that intensive treatment significantly reduces recidivism among chronic offenders with substance abuse problems. Thirty-four percent of those participating in the JAS program were rearrested within a year of release compared to 48% of those in the control group. JAS participants reside in a separate housing unit in the jail and participate in a minimum of 40 hours of treatment a week. The treatment curriculum consists of community meetings; group educational or therapeutic activities; individual counseling; self-help group meetings; peer counseling; treatment task activities; cognitive behavior skill-building sessions; and aftercare activities.

Rearrest Within One Year of Release from Jail for Jail Addiction Services (JAS) and Control Group Subjects,

Type of Recidivism ^a	JAS (N = 323)	Control ^b (N = 324)
Rearrest for New Offense	20%	31%
Technical Violation	14%	17%
TOTALS	34%	48%

- ^a The recidivism analysis was conducted on those offenders who were in the community for one year.
- ^b The control group was matched to the sociodemographic and criminal history characteristics of the treatment group.
- ^c Statistically significant difference, using a chi-square test, $p < .05$.

^p This demonstration project and evaluation are funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Maryland Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission, and the Montgomery County Government.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from F.S. Taxman and D.L. Spinner (1994). "Recidivism Reduction: The Jail Addiction Services (JAS) Demonstration Project in Montgomery County, Maryland Overview of Initial Findings." Institute for Law and Justice or University of Maryland. For more information about the JAS Project, contact Dr. Faye Taxman, David Spinner at (703) 684-5300 or (301) 405-4781 or Dr. Peter Luongo, Montgomery County Government at (301) 217-1340.

**CESAR SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS MR. JAY CARVER,
Director of D.C. Pretrial Services, on "The New D.C. Drug Court Experiment"**
The lecture will be held at 3:00 pm on May 24, 1994, in the Atrium of the Stamp Student Union at the University of Maryland at College Park.

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