

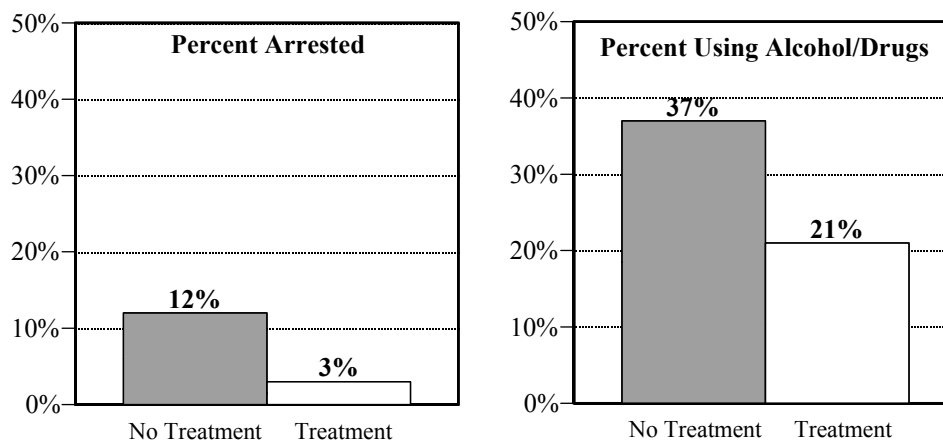
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Prison-Based Residential Drug Treatment Program Reduces Post-Release Arrests and Drug Use

Inmates who participated in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) residential drug abuse treatment program during their imprisonment were less likely to be re-arrested or to use drugs following their release, according to the preliminary results of a study released last month by the BOP. The BOP's residential treatment program is unit based (all participants live together apart from the general population) and provides up to 1,000 hours of treatment focusing on individual responsibility and changing future behavior. Inmates who completed the residential treatment program were 73% less likely to be re-arrested in the 6 months after release from prison than inmates who did not participate in treatment (3.3% versus 12.1%). Treatment completers were also 44% less likely to have evidence of post-release alcohol and drug use than inmates who did not receive treatment (20.5% vs. 36.7%). According to the authors, "future analyses will evaluate whether these effects are sustained over a longer followup period" (p. 10).

**Percentage of Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmates Arrested and
Using Alcohol/Drugs Six Months Post-Release, by Drug Treatment Status**
(n=1,866)



NOTE: Evidence of post-release alcohol/drug use was defined as the first occurrence of one of the following, as reported by U.S. probation officers: a positive urinalysis, refusal to submit to a urinalysis, admission of drug use to the probation officer, or a positive breathalyzer test.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, "Triad Drug Treatment Evaluation Six-Month Report Executive Summary," February 1998. For more information, contact Bernadette Pelissier at 919-575-4541, extension 4480.