

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

CSAT Releases Results of DCI Experiment

The District of Columbia Treatment Initiative (DCI) was “an experiment designed to test the efficacy of providing inpatient and outpatient care of different durations to clients seeking treatment in Washington, D.C.” (p. iii). CESAR was funded by a subcontract from the federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment’s National Evaluation Data and Technical Assistance Center (NEDTAC) to conduct a follow-up study of clients randomly assigned to two therapeutic community programs with differing durations of inpatient and outpatient treatment. The standard program consisted of 10 months of inpatient treatment followed by 2 months of outpatient care, and the enhanced program consisted of 6 months of inpatient treatment followed by 6 months of outpatient care. Following are some of the highlights of the recently released results of the DCI:

- The only difference found between the standard and the enhanced programs was that standard program clients were more likely to be employed at follow-up than clients of the enhanced treatment program. This difference may be explained by the additional vocational services provided by the standard inpatient program.
- “Regardless of the program to which persons were assigned, those who completed 12 months of treatment were less likely to be rearrested after treatment, and less likely to test positive for cocaine at follow-up” (p. iii).
- “The results clearly indicate that completing the inpatient portion alone, whether 6 or 10 months long, was not effective in reducing drug use and criminal activity” (p. 42).
- Older clients, heroin-dependent clients, and clients who were on probation, parole, or pre-trial release at admission, were more likely to complete treatment. The type of treatment program attended (standard or enhanced) was not a significant predictor of treatment completion.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the National Evaluation Data and Technical Assistance Center (NEDTAC), “The District of Columbia Treatment Initiative (DCI),” February 1998. Prepared by CESAR, under a subcontract from NEDTAC that was sponsored by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. To obtain copies of the report, contact NEDTAC at 800-7-NEDTAC. For more information about the study, contact Susanna Nemes of CESAR at 301-403-8329.

The District of Columbia Treatment Initiative (DCI) Report Now Available from NEDTAC

Complimentary copies of the report, “The District of Columbia Treatment Initiative (DCI),” are now available from the National Evaluation Data and Technical Assistance Center (NEDTAC). To obtain a copy, contact NEDTAC by phone (800-7-NEDTAC), fax (703-385-3206), or e-mail (nedtac@calib.com).