

Improve Outcomes & Save Money

Evidence-Based Programs and Policy:

*Picking Them, Passing Them, Doing Them,
& Holding Them Accountable*

—Washington State's (Evolving) Approach—

Seattle City Council

June 1, 2010

Steve Aos

Assistant Director

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Phone: (360) 586-2740

E-mail: saos@wsipp.wa.gov

Institute Publications: www.wsipp.wa.gov

Washington State Institute for Public Policy



Washington legislature has asked WSIPP this question:

“Are There Evidence-Based Policy Options That Improve Public Outcomes, but at Less Cost?”

Our 3-Step Research Approach

1. What works, and what doesn't?

We analyze **ALL**, **RIGOROUS** evaluations of **REAL WORLD** ways to improve key public outcomes.

2. What are the economics?

We compute benefits and costs (ROI) to the people of Washington for each policy option.

3. Statewide, how would alternative investment “portfolios” affect big picture outcomes?

Exhibit 4
Reducing Crime With Evidence-Based Options: What Works, and Benefits & Costs

Washington State Institute for Public Policy
Estimates as of October, 2006

Notes: Table means not estimated at this time. Prevention program costs are partial program costs, pro-rated to match crime outcomes.	Effect on Crime Outcomes Percent change in crime outcomes, & the number of evidence-based studies on which the estimate is based (in parentheses)	Benefits and Costs (Per Participant, Net Present Value, 2006 Dollars)			
		Benefits to Crime Victims (of the reduction in crime)	Benefits to Taxpayers (of the reduction in crime)	Costs (marginal program costs, compared to the cost of alternative)	Benefits (total) Minus Costs (per participant)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Programs for People in the Adult Offender System					
Vocational education in prison	-9.0% (4)	\$8,114	\$6,806	\$1,182	\$13,738
Intensive supervision: treatment-oriented programs	-16.7% (11)	\$9,318	\$9,369	\$7,124	\$11,563
General education in prison (basic education or post-secondary)	-17.0% (17)	\$9,325	\$5,309	\$962	\$10,669
Cognitive-behavioral therapy in prison or community	-6.3% (25)	\$5,658	\$4,746	\$105	\$10,299
Drug treatment in community	-6.3% (6)	\$5,133	\$5,495	\$574	\$10,054
Correctional industries in prison	-5.9% (4)	\$5,360	\$4,496	\$417	\$9,439
Drug treatment in prison (therapeutic communities or outpatient)	-5.7% (20)	\$5,133	\$4,306	\$1,604	\$7,835
Adult drug courts	-6.0% (57)	\$4,395	\$4,705	\$4,333	\$4,767
Employment and job training in the community	-4.3% (16)	\$2,373	\$2,386	\$400	\$4,359
Electronic monitoring to offset jail time	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	-\$970	\$970
Sex offender treatment in prison with aftercare	-7.0% (6)	\$6,442	\$2,895	\$12,295	-\$3,258
Intensive supervision: surveillance-oriented programs	0% (23)	\$0	\$0	\$3,747	-\$3,747
Washington's Dangerously Mentally Ill Offender program	-20.0% (1)	\$18,020	\$15,116	n/e	n/e
Drug treatment in jail	-4.5% (9)	\$2,481	\$2,456	n/e	n/e
Adult boot camps	0% (22)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Domestic violence education/cognitive-behavioral treatment	0% (8)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Jail diversion for mentally ill offenders	0% (11)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Life skills education programs for adults	0% (4)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Programs for Youth in the Juvenile Offender System					
Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (v. regular group care)	-22.0% (3)	\$51,828	\$32,915	\$6,945	\$77,798
Adolescent Diversion Project (for lower risk offenders)	-19.9% (6)	\$24,328	\$18,208	\$1,813	\$40,623
Family Integrated Transitions	-13.0% (1)	\$30,706	\$19,522	\$9,665	\$40,545
Functional Family Therapy on probation	-15.9% (7)	\$19,529	\$14,617	\$2,325	\$31,821
Multisystemic Therapy	-10.5% (10)	\$12,855	\$9,622	\$4,284	\$18,213
Aggression Replacement Training	-7.3% (4)	\$8,807	\$6,659	\$897	\$14,660
Teen courts	-11.1% (5)	\$5,907	\$4,238	\$936	\$9,208
Juvenile boot camp to offset institution time	0% (14)	\$0	\$0	-\$8,077	\$8,077
Sex offender cognitive-behavioral treatment	-10.2% (5)	\$32,151	\$8,377	\$33,964	\$7,329
Restorative justice for low-risk offenders	-8.7% (21)	\$4,628	\$3,320	\$880	\$7,067
Integrative coordination programs	-2.5% (15)	\$5,084	\$2,308	\$205	\$5,186
Juvenile drug courts	-3.5% (15)	\$4,232	\$3,167	\$2,777	\$4,622
Regular surveillance-oriented parole (v. no parole supervision)	0% (2)	\$0	\$0	\$1,201	-\$1,201
Juvenile intensive probation supervision programs	0% (3)	\$0	\$0	\$1,598	-\$1,598
Juvenile wilderness challenge	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	\$3,085	-\$3,085
Juvenile intensive parole supervision	0% (10)	\$0	\$0	\$6,460	-\$6,460
Scared Straight	+8.8% (10)	-\$8,355	-\$6,253	\$58	-\$14,667
Counseling/psychotherapy for juvenile offenders	-18.9% (6)	\$23,126	\$17,309	n/e	n/e
Juvenile education programs	-17.5% (3)	\$41,151	\$26,153	n/e	n/e
Other family-based therapy programs	-12.2% (12)	\$15,096	\$11,231	n/e	n/e
Team Child	-10.9% (2)	\$5,759	\$4,131	n/e	n/e
Juvenile behavior modification	-8.2% (4)	\$19,271	\$12,238	n/e	n/e
Life skills education programs for juvenile offenders	-2.7% (3)	\$6,441	\$4,091	n/e	n/e
Diversion progs. with services (v. regular juvenile court)	-2.7% (20)	\$1,441	\$1,034	n/e	n/e
Juvenile cognitive-behavioral treatment	-2.5% (8)	\$3,123	\$2,337	n/e	n/e
Court supervision vs. simple release without services	0% (8)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Diversion programs with services (v. simple release)	0% (7)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Juvenile intensive probation (as alternative to incarceration)	0% (5)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Guided Group Interaction	0% (4)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Prevention Programs (crime reduction effects only)					
Nurse Family Partnership-Mothers	-56.2% (1)	\$11,531	\$8,161	\$5,409	\$14,283
Nurse Family Partnership-Children	-16.4% (1)	\$8,632	\$4,922	\$733	\$12,822
Pre-K education for low income 3 & 4 year olds	-14.2% (8)	\$8,145	\$4,644	\$593	\$12,196
Seattle Social Development Project	-16.6% (1)	\$1,605	\$4,341	n/e	n/e
High school graduation	-10.4% (1)	\$1,738	\$2,851	n/e	n/e
Guiding Good Choices	-8.1% (1)	\$570	\$2,692	n/e	n/e
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy	-3.3% (1)	\$268	\$784	n/e	n/e
Program types in need of additional research & development before we can conclude they do or do not reduce crime outcomes:					
Programs needing more research for people in the adult offender system					
Case management in the community for drug offenders	0% (13)				Comment
COCA (Faith-based supervision of sex offenders)	-22.3% (1)				Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
Day fines (compared to standard probation)	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Domestic violence courts	0% (2)				Too few evaluations to date.
Faith-based programs	0% (5)				Too few evaluations to date.
Intensive supervision of sex offenders in the community	0% (4)				Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
Medical treatment of sex offenders	-21.4% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Mixed treatment of sex offenders in the community	0% (2)				Too few evaluations to date.
Regular parole supervision vs. no parole supervision	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Restorative justice programs for lower risk adult offenders	0% (6)				Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
Therapeutic community programs for mentally ill offenders	-20.8% (2)				Too few evaluations to date.
Work release programs (from prison)	-4.3% (4)				Too few recent evaluations.
Programs needing more research for youth in the juvenile offender system					
Dialectical Behavior Therapy	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Increased drug testing (on parole) vs. minimal drug testing	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile curfews	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile day reporting	0% (2)				Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile jobs programs	0% (3)				Too few recent evaluations.
Juvenile therapeutic communities	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Mentoring in juvenile justice	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.

Our "Consumer Reports" Lists:

What Works?
What Doesn't?
What Can Give Washington Taxpayers a Good Return on Their Money?

Reports available for downloading
www.wsipp.wa.gov

Some Major Washington Legislative Actions

- ✓ **Started funding several evidence-based juvenile justice programs in late 1990s and early 2000s.**
- ✓ **2007 Legislature began substantial funding of a portfolio of evidence-based criminal justice programs in adult and juvenile corrections, and prevention.**
- ✓ **Early childhood education passes the economic test and the legislature has taken steps to include it as part of Washington's basic education program.**

***Three Evidence-Based Implementation Issues
(Completed or Being Completed/Refined)
in Washington State***

- ✓ ***Formal Assessment Process (Tools)***
*to align participants with the right programs,
and to focus resources on higher risk populations*

- ✓ ***State-Funded Quality/Fidelity System***
to assure better adherence to the funded:
 - *assessment system, and*
 - *the intervention program models*

- ✓ ***Funding Formulas with the Right Incentives***
*to encourage interest, adherence, and innovations in EB
programs. Other issues: block grants vs. categoricals;
a state EB list coupled with local choice from the list*

Keeping Track of the Investments & Tying Them to State Budgets

Key Development → WA now ties, explicitly each year, the official state prison forecast to the expected effects of the funded portfolio.

- **State and local agencies must submit annual data on program implementation**
- **Comparison-group outcome evaluations of individual programs underway**
- **Encouraging (early) signs of less crime and gains in controlling the criminal justice cost curve.**

