# Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our Technical Documentation.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

## Adult Criminal Justice

| Program name | Date of last literature review | Total benefits | Taxpayer benefits | Non-taxpayer benefits | Costs | Benefits minus costs (net present value) | Benefit to cost ratio | Chance benefits will exceed costs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Employment & job training assistance during incarceration | Sep. 2015 | $34,860 | $10,092 | $24,768 | ($465) | $34,396 | $75.04 | 99 % |
| Electronic monitoring (probation) | Dec. 2014 | $25,739 | $7,160 | $18,579 | $1,124 | $26,863 | n/a | 94 % |
| Therapeutic communities for offenders with co-occuring disorders | Nov. 2014 | $25,848 | $7,975 | $17,872 | ($3,738) | $22,109 | $6.91 | 99 % |
| Correctional education (basic or post-secondary) in prison | Oct. 2015 | $21,788 | $6,449 | $15,339 | ($1,187) | $20,601 | $18.36 | 100 % |
| Offender Re-entry Community Safety Program (dangerously mentally ill offenders) | Apr. 2012 | $55,488 | $22,404 | $33,083 | ($36,283) | $19,204 | $1.53 | 90 % |
| Day reporting centers | Mar. 2015 | $22,489 | $6,958 | $15,531 | ($3,940) | $18,549 | $5.71 | 92 % |
| Vocational education in prison | Aug. 2015 | $20,064 | $6,017 | $14,048 | ($1,653) | $18,411 | $12.13 | 100 % |
| Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for drug offenders) | Apr. 2012 | $19,867 | $5,875 | $13,993 | ($1,610) | $18,257 | $12.34 | 98 % |
| Mental health courts | May. 2014 | $19,080 | $5,941 | $13,140 | ($3,067) | $16,014 | $6.22 | 99 % |
| Electronic monitoring (parole) | Dec. 2014 | $14,342 | $3,963 | $10,379 | $1,125 | $15,467 | n/a | 100 % |
| Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (incarceration) | Nov. 2014 | $15,060 | $4,475 | $10,585 | ($935) | $14,125 | $16.10 | 100 % |
| Swift and Certain sanctions for offenders on community supervision | Oct. 2015 | $13,356 | $3,699 | $9,658 | $696 | $14,052 | n/a | 100 % |
| Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (incarceration) | Nov. 2014 | $15,445 | $4,682 | $10,763 | ($1,599) | $13,846 | $9.66 | 100 % |
| Sex offender treatment in the community | Dec. 2013 | $14,464 | $3,478 | $10,987 | ($1,664) | $12,800 | $8.69 | 93 % |
| Risk Need & Responsivity supervision (for high and moderate risk offenders) | Dec. 2013 | $17,125 | $5,642 | $11,483 | ($5,005) | $12,121 | $3.42 | 100 % |
| Jail diversion programs for offenders with mental illness (post-arrest programs) | Mar. 2015 | $5,044 | ($3,760) | $8,803 | $5,618 | $10,661 | n/a | 61 % |
| Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) (for high- and moderate-risk offenders) | Aug. 2014 | $10,483 | $3,079 | $7,405 | ($433) | $10,050 | $24.19 | 100 % |
| Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (community) | Nov. 2014 | $11,503 | $3,499 | $8,004 | ($1,562) | $9,941 | $7.37 | 100 % |
| Case management: swift & certain/graduated sanctions for substance abusing offenders | Dec. 2012 | $14,263 | $4,762 | $9,501 | ($4,996) | $9,267 | $2.85 | 95 % |
| Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for property offenders) | Dec. 2012 | $10,627 | $3,249 | $7,378 | ($1,609) | $9,018 | $6.60 | 70 % |
| Drug courts | Aug. 2014 | $13,015 | $4,098 | $8,917 | ($4,984) | $8,031 | $2.61 | 100 % |
| Employment & job training assistance in the community | May. 2015 | $8,441 | $2,469 | $5,972 | ($464) | $7,977 | $18.17 | 99 % |
| Work release | Aug. 2015 | $6,450 | $1,959 | $4,492 | ($693) | $5,757 | $9.30 | 99 % |
| Correctional industries in prison | Aug. 2015 | $6,437 | $2,071 | $4,366 | ($1,493) | $4,945 | $4.31 | 100 % |
| Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (incarceration) | Nov. 2014 | $9,892 | $3,590 | $6,303 | ($5,004) | $4,888 | $1.98 | 94 % |
| Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (community) | Nov. 2014 | $4,712 | $1,461 | $3,251 | ($854) | $3,858 | $5.52 | 91 % |
| Sex offender treatment during incarceration | Dec. 2013 | $8,813 | $2,602 | $6,212 | ($5,222) | $3,591 | $1.69 | 75 % |
| Intensive supervision (surveillance & treatment) | Apr. 2012 | $11,508 | $4,440 | $7,069 | ($8,231) | $3,278 | $1.40 | 73 % |
| Restorative justice conferencing | Oct. 2015 | $3,767 | $1,224 | $2,543 | ($1,081) | $2,686 | $3.49 | 70 % |
| Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (community) | Nov. 2014 | $1,233 | $501 | $732 | ($1,045) | $188 | $1.18 | 51 % |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Case management: not swift and certain for substance abusing offenders | Nov. 2015 | $3,183 | $1,614 | $1,569 | ($5,000) | ($1,817) | $0.64 | 33 % |
| Intensive supervision (surveillance only) | Apr. 2012 | ($3,316) | ($326) | ($2,990) | ($4,330) | ($7,646) | ($0.77) | 5 % |
| Domestic violence perpetrator treatment (Duluth-based model) | Aug. 2014 | ($8,000) | ($2,074) | ($5,925) | ($1,434) | ($9,433) | ($5.58) | 17 % |
| **Prison** | | | | | | | | |
| For lower risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months | Oct. 2013 | ($4,140) | ($790) | ($3,350) | $5,814 | $1,673 | n/a | 71 % |
| For moderate risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months | Oct. 2013 | ($14,510) | ($2,237) | ($12,273) | $5,818 | ($8,693) | n/a | 11 % |
| For high risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months | Oct. 2013 | ($40,980) | ($5,272) | ($35,708) | $5,818 | ($35,163) | n/a | 1 % |
| **Police (results per-officer)** | | | | | | | | |
| Deploy one additional police officer with hot spots strategies | Oct. 2013 | $569,197 | $70,385 | $498,811 | ($95,560) | $473,637 | $5.96 | 100 % |
| Deploy one additional police officer with statewide average practices | Oct. 2013 | $491,414 | $60,352 | $431,062 | ($91,001) | $400,413 | $5.40 | 100 % |

## Other Adult Criminal Justice topics reviewed:

| Program name | Date of last literature review | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Dialectical Behavior Therapy | Sep. 2015 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Domestic violence perpetrator treatment (Non-Duluth models) | Aug. 2014 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Driving Under the Influence (DUI) court | Feb. 2014 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Housing supports for offenders returning to the community | Apr. 2012 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Ignition interlock devices for alcohol-related offenses | Mar. 2014 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Parenting programs (during incarceration) | Nov. 2014 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Veteran's courts | Nov. 2014 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Adult boot camps | Oct. 2006 | See previous WSIPP publication for past findings. |
| Life skills education programs | Oct. 2006 | See previous WSIPP publication for past findings. |
| Sex offender community notification and registration | Jun. 2009 | See previous WSIPP publication for past findings. |

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Insititute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors-representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities-governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.