

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 counseling and job training (transitional reentry from incarceration into the community) | Aug. 2016 | \$43,516 | \$13,487 | \$30,029 | (\$2,567) | \$40,949 | \$16.95 | 90 % |
| Offender Reentry Community Safety Program (for individuals with serious mental illness) | Apr. 2012 | \$73,528 | \$25,141 | \$48,387 | (\$38,668) | \$34,860 | \$1.90 | 97 % |
| Circles of Support and Accountability | Nov. 2016 | \$30,127 | \$7,312 | \$22,814 | (\$4,123) | \$26,004 | \$7.31 | 92 % |
| Correctional education (post-secondary education) | Jul. 2016 | \$26,018 | \$7,096 | \$18,922 | (\$1,318) | \$24,701 | \$19.74 | 100 % |
| Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for persons convicted of drug offenses) | Nov. 2016 | \$23,954 | \$7,126 | \$16,829 | (\$1,717) | \$22,238 | \$13.96 | 99 % |
| Vocational education in prison | Jul. 2016 | \$18,834 | \$5,219 | \$13,615 | (\$1,577) | \$17,257 | \$11.94 | 98 % |
| Case management ("swift, certain, and fair") for drug-involved persons | Nov. 2016 | \$15,827 | \$4,608 | \$11,219 | \$402 | \$16,229 | n/a | 99 % |
| Electronic monitoring (probation) | Dec. 2014 | \$14,583 | \$4,122 | \$10,462 | \$1,200 | \$15,784 | n/a | 95 % |
| Mental health courts | Oct. 2016 | \$18,176 | \$5,269 | \$12,907 | (\$3,272) | \$14,904 | \$5.56 | 97 % |
| Intensive supervision (surveillance and treatment) | Dec. 2016 | \$13,925 | \$4,121 | \$9,804 | (\$857) | \$13,068 | \$16.25 | 100 % |
| Reentry courts | Aug. 2016 | \$17,826 | \$5,432 | \$12,394 | (\$5,191) | \$12,635 | \$3.43 | 94 % |
| Inpatient or intensive outpatient drug treatment during incarceration | Nov. 2016 | \$13,786 | \$3,847 | \$9,939 | (\$1,360) | \$12,426 | \$10.13 | 98 % |
| Therapeutic communities (in the community) for individuals with co-occurring disorders | Nov. 2016 | \$17,432 | \$5,167 | \$12,265 | (\$5,372) | \$12,060 | \$3.24 | 68 % |
| Correctional education (basic skills) | Jul. 2016 | \$12,702 | \$3,553 | \$9,149 | (\$1,318) | \$11,385 | \$9.64 | 98 % |
| Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for persons convicted of property offenses) | Nov. 2016 | \$13,070 | \$3,999 | \$9,071 | (\$1,717) | \$11,354 | \$7.61 | 72 % |
| Outpatient or non-intensive drug treatment during incarceration | Nov. 2016 | \$11,100 | \$3,057 | \$8,043 | (\$790) | \$10,310 | \$14.06 | 99 % |
| Outpatient or non-intensive drug treatment in the community | Nov. 2016 | \$10,884 | \$3,241 | \$7,643 | (\$811) | \$10,073 | \$13.42 | 100 % |
| Electronic monitoring (parole) | Dec. 2014 | \$8,695 | \$2,152 | \$6,542 | \$1,200 | \$9,895 | n/a | 100 % |
| "Swift, certain, and fair" supervision | Jan. 2017 | \$9,706 | \$2,677 | \$7,029 | \$71 | \$9,778 | n/a | 66 % |
| Therapeutic communities (during incarceration) for individuals with substance use disorders | Nov. 2016 | \$11,780 | \$3,136 | \$8,644 | (\$2,319) | \$9,461 | \$5.08 | 64 % |
| Drug courts | Aug. 2016 | \$14,646 | \$5,141 | \$9,505 | (\$5,191) | \$9,455 | \$2.82 | 100 % |
| Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) | Aug. 2016 | \$24,056 | \$8,573 | \$15,483 | (\$15,311) | \$8,745 | \$1.57 | 90 % |
| Risk Need and Responsivity supervision (for individuals classified as high- and moderate-risk) | Dec. 2016 | \$10,054 | \$3,090 | \$6,963 | (\$1,447) | \$8,607 | \$6.95 | 98 % |
| Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) (for individuals classified as high- or moderate-risk) | Dec. 2016 | \$9,290 | \$2,871 | \$6,419 | (\$1,472) | \$7,818 | \$6.31 | 98 % |
| Therapeutic communities (in the community) for individuals with substance use disorders | Nov. 2016 | \$10,759 | \$3,252 | \$7,508 | (\$3,991) | \$6,769 | \$2.70 | 58 % |
| Case management (not "swift, certain, and fair") for drug-involved persons | Nov. 2016 | \$6,596 | \$1,655 | \$4,941 | (\$406) | \$6,190 | \$16.24 | 61 % |
| Correctional industries in prison | Jul. 2016 | \$6,491 | \$1,794 | \$4,697 | (\$512) | \$5,980 | \$12.69 | 100 % |
| Housing assistance without services | Aug. 2016 | \$8,021 | \$2,606 | \$5,415 | (\$2,115) | \$5,906 | \$3.79 | 92 % |

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|--|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Work release | Jul. 2016 | \$4,491 | \$1,124 | \$3,368 | \$531 | \$5,022 | n/a | 99 % |
| Police diversion for low-severity offenses (pre-arrest) | Mar. 2017 | \$4,121 | \$1,173 | \$2,948 | \$585 | \$4,707 | n/a | 86 % |
| Day reporting centers | Oct. 2016 | \$8,302 | \$2,989 | \$5,312 | (\$4,205) | \$4,097 | \$1.97 | 77 % |
| Employment counseling and job training with paid work experience in the community | Aug. 2016 | \$8,613 | \$3,566 | \$5,047 | (\$5,667) | \$2,946 | \$1.52 | 57 % |
| Treatment in the community for individuals convicted of sex offenses | Jan. 2017 | \$4,177 | \$1,237 | \$2,939 | (\$2,550) | \$1,627 | \$1.64 | 59 % |
| Treatment during incarceration for individuals convicted of sex offenses | Jan. 2017 | \$6,237 | \$1,889 | \$4,348 | (\$4,824) | \$1,414 | \$1.29 | 63 % |
| Jail diversion for individuals with mental illness (post-arrest) | Mar. 2017 | \$530 | (\$23) | \$553 | \$728 | \$1,257 | n/a | 51 % |
| Restorative justice conferencing | Feb. 2017 | \$2,396 | \$913 | \$1,483 | (\$1,168) | \$1,227 | \$2.05 | 54 % |
| Intensive supervision (surveillance only) | Dec. 2016 | \$438 | \$142 | \$296 | (\$113) | \$325 | \$3.88 | 52 % |
| Employment counseling and job training in the community | Aug. 2016 | \$1,323 | \$677 | \$646 | (\$2,072) | (\$749) | \$0.64 | 41 % |
| Sex offender registration and community notification | Nov. 2016 | (\$1,946) | (\$400) | (\$1,546) | (\$369) | (\$2,315) | (\$5.27) | 33 % |
| Inpatient or intensive outpatient drug treatment in the community | Nov. 2016 | (\$1,610) | (\$120) | (\$1,489) | (\$938) | (\$2,548) | (\$1.72) | 45 % |
| Life skills education | Dec. 2016 | (\$1,714) | (\$295) | (\$1,419) | (\$1,208) | (\$2,922) | (\$1.42) | 33 % |
| Driving Under the Influence (DUI) courts | Aug. 2016 | \$4,617 | \$2,681 | \$1,936 | (\$8,261) | (\$3,644) | \$0.56 | 20 % |
| Domestic violence perpetrator treatment (Duluth-based model) | Aug. 2014 | (\$2,246) | (\$425) | (\$1,821) | (\$1,528) | (\$3,774) | (\$1.47) | 25 % |
| Violence reduction treatment | Dec. 2016 | (\$399) | \$606 | (\$1,005) | (\$5,354) | (\$5,753) | (\$0.07) | 28 % |
| Housing assistance with services | Aug. 2016 | \$1,188 | \$2,090 | (\$902) | (\$12,186) | (\$10,998) | \$0.10 | 2 % |
| Community-based correctional facilities (halfway houses) | Aug. 2016 | (\$6,337) | (\$510) | (\$5,827) | (\$8,836) | (\$15,173) | (\$0.72) | 0 % |
| Police diversion for individuals with mental illness (pre-arrest) | Mar. 2017 | (\$13,747) | (\$2,000) | (\$11,747) | (\$5,036) | (\$18,783) | (\$2.73) | 24 % |
| Injectable naltrexone for opioid use disorder for adults post-release | Mar. 2021 | (\$2,977) | \$1,083 | (\$4,060) | (\$17,437) | (\$20,414) | (\$0.17) | 0 % |
| Methadone for opioid use disorder for adults post-release | Apr. 2021 | (\$9,126) | \$216 | (\$9,341) | (\$19,599) | (\$28,725) | (\$0.47) | 0 % |
| Policy | | | | | | | | |
| For individuals classified as lower risk, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months | Oct. 2013 | (\$4,531) | (\$889) | (\$3,642) | \$6,196 | \$1,664 | n/a | 69 % |
| For individuals classified as moderate risk, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months | Oct. 2013 | (\$16,012) | (\$2,563) | (\$13,449) | \$6,196 | (\$9,817) | n/a | 10 % |
| For individuals classified as high risk, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months | Oct. 2013 | (\$34,313) | (\$4,945) | (\$29,368) | \$6,196 | (\$28,117) | n/a | 0 % |
| Police (results per-officer) | | | | | | | | |
| Deploy one additional police officer with hot spots strategies | Oct. 2013 | \$541,239 | \$70,305 | \$470,934 | (\$101,787) | \$439,452 | \$5.32 | 100 % |
| Deploy one additional police officer with statewide average practices | Oct. 2013 | \$471,141 | \$60,725 | \$410,416 | (\$96,939) | \$374,201 | \$4.86 | 100 % |

Other Adult Criminal Justice topics reviewed:

| Program name | Date of last literature review | Notes |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Buprenorphine for opioid use disorder for adults post-release | Mar. 2021 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Civil legal aid | Mar. 2017 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Day fines | Feb. 2017 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Deferred prosecution of DUI offenses | Mar. 2017 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Dialectical behavior therapy | Sep. 2015 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Domestic violence perpetrator treatment (Non-Duluth models) | Aug. 2014 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Ignition interlock devices for alcohol-related offenses | Mar. 2014 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Legal financial obligation repayment interventions | Jan. 2017 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Mandatory arrest for domestic violence | Jun. 2022 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Parenting programs (for incarcerated parents) | Aug. 2016 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Revocation reduction programs | Mar. 2017 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Therapeutic communities for individuals with personality disorders | Dec. 2016 | Click for meta-analytic results |
| Banning criminal record check boxes in hiring | Nov. 2016 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Cautioning for cannabis offenses | Mar. 2017 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Child support barriers | Mar. 2017 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Mentoring programs | Mar. 2017 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Pretrial detention | Feb. 2017 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Project Sentry | Mar. 2017 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| State ID provision | Mar. 2017 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Veteran's courts | Jul. 2016 | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Adult boot camps | Oct. 2006 | See previous WSIPP publication for past findings. |

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Printed on 09-22-2023



Washington State Institute for Public Policy

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