

University of Cincinnati (UC) Study Positive Speaking Points

The following are some highlights to share with ODRC and the media concerning the recent research on Halfway Houses conducted by the University of Cincinnati:

Halfway Houses:

- ***Across the state, the study consistently showed an 11.8% overall reduction in recidivism in the Transitional Control population. 73.8% of Transitional Control Program participants did not return to prison.***
- Recidivism for high risk / high need offenders who completed a halfway house program was reduced by 10.4% statewide - demonstrating that halfway houses have nearly doubled their success rates with high risk offenders since the 2002 UC study.
- Our overarching goal in everything that we do is to provide programs and services that help our clients to live productive lives rather than returning to a life of crime. Halfway Houses continued a 5.5% overall reduction in recidivism and the most effective program reduced recidivism by 16.7%. Statewide, on average 67.5% of Halfway House program participants did not return to prison.
- Halfway House placements saved precious taxpayer dollars by decreasing state prison referrals and reducing prison lengths of stay for 7,108 eligible offenders.¹ According to the FY 09 ODRC Fact Sheet, the cost to treat an F3, F4 and F5 offender in a halfway house is \$5,608 per offender, compared to an annual rate of \$23,381 in prison.

Cost Benefit Analysis:

Looking solely at the results achieved for the Transitional Control population in the UC study, **halfway houses saved Ohio taxpayers \$25,345,004** in FY 09 as a result of reducing recidivism.² In addition, individuals on Transitional Control paid \$922,438 in subsistence payments back to the State of Ohio, resulting in a **total savings of \$26,263,442**

Additionally, in FY 09, Halfway House clients:

- Paid **\$59,688** in Court Costs/Fines;
- Paid **\$12,676** in Restitution;
- Paid **\$193,021** in Child Support;
- Earned **\$5,419,555** in income/wages;
- Paid **\$541,956** in taxes; and
- Contributed **63,415** hours of community service.

Positive Opportunities to Improve:

- The UC study has shown repeatedly that offenders at highest risk to re-offend are best served in community corrections programs.
- Our programs are vital partners in the corrections continuum and we are keenly aware of the need for quality and evidence-based programming. ODRC and UC are committed to investing time and energy into working with programs to achieve better results. We take great pride in our programming and are always looking for means to provide enhancements to the quality programming we already have in place.
- Programs will work with UC and ODRC to improve the overall fidelity of evidence based implementation. Programs that did well in both the current and the 2002 study will be reviewed and efforts will be made to replicate those practices across the state.
- Ohio recently began using the Ohio Risk Assessment System - or ORAS - which is a risk-needs assessment that helps us to determine clients' needs. This assessment was developed by UC working with ODRC and is designed to provide seamless assessment beginning in the institution and continuing through a community setting. Better assessments mean we are less likely to put individuals into our programs that will not benefit from them and we are better equipped to work on the specific needs of individuals in our programs. We hope that using the new ORAS tool will help ODRC and community corrections providers to be more successful in their collaborative efforts to reduce recidivism.
- The UC study noted the high quality of programs across the state but there are still many factors that influence recidivism once a client leaves a community corrections program. Reentry is not solely a corrections issue - it is a community issue. Hopefully, we can all work together to see that returning prisoners get the support from communities, families, and public service systems that research has shown contributes to reduced recidivism.

¹ In FY 09, Halfway Houses served a total of 7,108 offenders - 2,332 were Transitional Control and the remaining 4,776 were in a halfway house either as condition of community control or post release control / parolee.

² The UC study looked at 2,332 Transitional Control clients who participated in a halfway house program. Sixty-three percent (1,469) successfully completed the program. Out of 1,469 Transitional Control completers, 73.8% (1,084) did not go back to prison within two years. The current cost to incarcerate an individual is \$23,381 per year and when this is multiplied by the 1,084 offenders who were not re-incarcerated as a result of participating in a halfway house program, it equals the \$25,345,004 savings.

Cost Benefit Analysis - Transitional Control:

In FY 09, Halfway Houses served 7,108 offenders and out of this total 2,332 were Transitional Control and the remaining 4,776 were in a halfway house either as a condition of community control or post release control/parolee.

Out of the 1,469 Transitional Control Completers, 73.8% or 1,084 offenders will not go back to prison in two years. This results in a "recidivism savings" of \$25,345,004 (future possible incarceration costs = 1,084 offenders x \$23,381 prison costs).

When you include the Transitional Control offenders paying \$922,438 in subsistence payments back to the State of Ohio, and add it to the recidivism savings of \$25,345,004 **Halfway Houses saved Ohio taxpayers \$26,267,442 in FY 09 on the Transitional Control population alone.**

Cost Benefit Analysis - HWH Total:

Halfway Houses Statewide Cost Savings Based on FY 09 Successful Releases and Projected Recidivism Reduction as reported in the 2010 UC Research Study

Out of 4,478 Successful Halfway House Completers, 67.5% or 3,023 Offenders will not go back to prison in two years. This results in a "recidivism savings of \$70,680,763 (future possible incarceration costs = 3,023 offenders x \$23,381 prison costs)

Further, even if the total cost to fund all halfway houses state-wide of \$39,900,000 would be subtracted from the \$70,680,763 of recidivism savings, halfway houses remain a net savings to Ohio taxpayers in the sum of **\$30,780,768 savings***.

When you add the Transitional Control Offenders paying \$922,438 in subsistence payments back to the State of Ohio, and add it to the recidivism savings of \$30,780,768 **Halfway Houses saved Ohio Taxpayers \$31,703,206 in FY 09 alone.**