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Chopping for Change

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Chopping for Change

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, ODRC and Cuyahoga County Office of Re-Entry

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY
LEARNING
SHOWCASE
A DAY OF DISCOVERY

Abstract

Of the 27.5% of returning citizens who recidivated in Ohio in 2015, how many re-offended because they felt they had no other way of supporting themselves or their families?

- For over 40 years, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (Cleveland, OH) has been providing re-entry services, including job training, for individuals returning from incarceration.
- 90% of those who graduate from LMM's job readiness programs, many of whom have a history with the criminal justice system, go on to find long-term employment.
- Yet for those recently released from prison, waiting to earn an income until completing a training program can be a significant challenge.

Program Goals

The Chopping for Change program tests the theory that we can reduce recidivism by providing job training prior to release, so that former inmates are ready to join the workforce as soon as they re-enter society.

If pre-release, community-based job training is shown to have an impact on recidivism rates, the Chopping for Change program is poised to become a next practice both across the state and nationwide.

Tracking Recidivism Rates

- The first cohort of the Chopping for Change program graduated at the end of July. None of the participants who have since been released have recidivated.
- LMM will continue to track recidivism rates and compare them to a control group of other offenders eligible to work in the community while under supervision.



Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry

Since 1969, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM) has focused on serving people who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting including individuals who are homeless, unemployed and involved in the criminal justice system and individuals with behavioral health, guardianship and life-skill needs. LMM helps empower nearly 8,000 individuals every year to overcome barriers, obtain job skills, gain employment, locate stable housing, access counseling and support services, stay out of prison, secure second chances and become self-sufficient, productive members of our community.

Re-Entry Impact Data 2012-2015

Total Served	122
Total Recidivisms	9
Program Recidivism Rate	7.0%
Projected Recidivism Rate w/o Intervention	7.8%
Rate Change	-10.2%
Days of Incarceration Reduced	2396
Incarceration Savings	\$162,357

- Total Served:** is the number of individuals served who were incarcerated at the state level according to ODRC online database. In both cases this is lower than the actual number of served because program entry criteria were more broadly defined.
- Program Recidivism Rate:** is the overall rate of recidivism among program participants, regardless of cohort, release date, or likelihood of recidivism.
- Projected Recidivism Rate w/o intervention:** is the projected recidivism rate based on the release dates and statewide recidivism averages.
- Rate Change:** is the change between recidivism rate w/o intervention and program recidivism rate w/ intervention. A negative rate indicates a decrease in recidivism rates and a positive rate indicates an increase in recidivism rates.
- Days of Incarceration Reduced / Incarceration Savings:** calculated by predicting the individual recidivism rate for each individual in the programs based on the year they were released, using ODRC data. Total savings based on an annual incarceration rate of \$24,728.
- The Recidivism Rates above are not the same as the 3-year recidivism rates typically discussed. They are a projected rate of recidivism for individuals between 1 to 20 years after incarceration. The rate is a weighted average based on the composition of participant release dates within the programs.
- A higher "recidivism rate w/o intervention" indicates the overall average of the participants was a higher recidivism rate and more recent release date.



Program Partners

- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Cuyahoga Count Office of Re-Entry
- Wheat Ridge Ministries

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