

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #18

1. Title:

Applying a systematic approach to evaluate correctional program integrity

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2. Key words:

Correctional Program Checklist; program integrity; correctional interventions; evaluation

4. Abstract:

a. Background and aims

Supporting successful rehabilitation of offenders is a key priority for the Singapore Prison Service (SPS), and the Pre-Release Centre (PRC) program for high-risk offenders is one key intervention that was introduced in 2012 to do this. While focus has been conventionally placed on designing evidence-informed interventions, it has become apparent that program implementation plays a critical role in achieving the desired program outcomes. As a result, there is an impetus to evaluate program integrity to assess how well a program has been implemented as planned. An evaluation of PRC program integrity was conducted, and recommendations to improve the program were made to enhance successful program outcomes.

b. Methods

The Correctional Program Checklist (CPC), developed by University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute, was adopted to assess how closely the PRC program adhered to the best practices identified in the corrections field. Through systematic data collection, five domain areas in the program were examined: Program Leadership and Development; Staff Characteristics; Offender Assessment; Intervention Characteristics; and Quality Assurance.

c. Results

Overall, the PRC program demonstrated a satisfactory level of adherence to evidence-based practices, specifically in the area of offender assessment. The program design was based on a well-researched correctional rehabilitation model and incorporated various effective intervention elements. However, several factors that could compromise the program's ability to deliver interventions consistently were observed. Recommendations to promote program fidelity over time were proposed.

d. Conclusion

The CPC assessment was useful in evaluating program implementation and serves as a standard to facilitate program improvement and enhance effectiveness.

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