

TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE REENTRY COURT MODEL: THE HARLEM PAROLE REENTRY COURT

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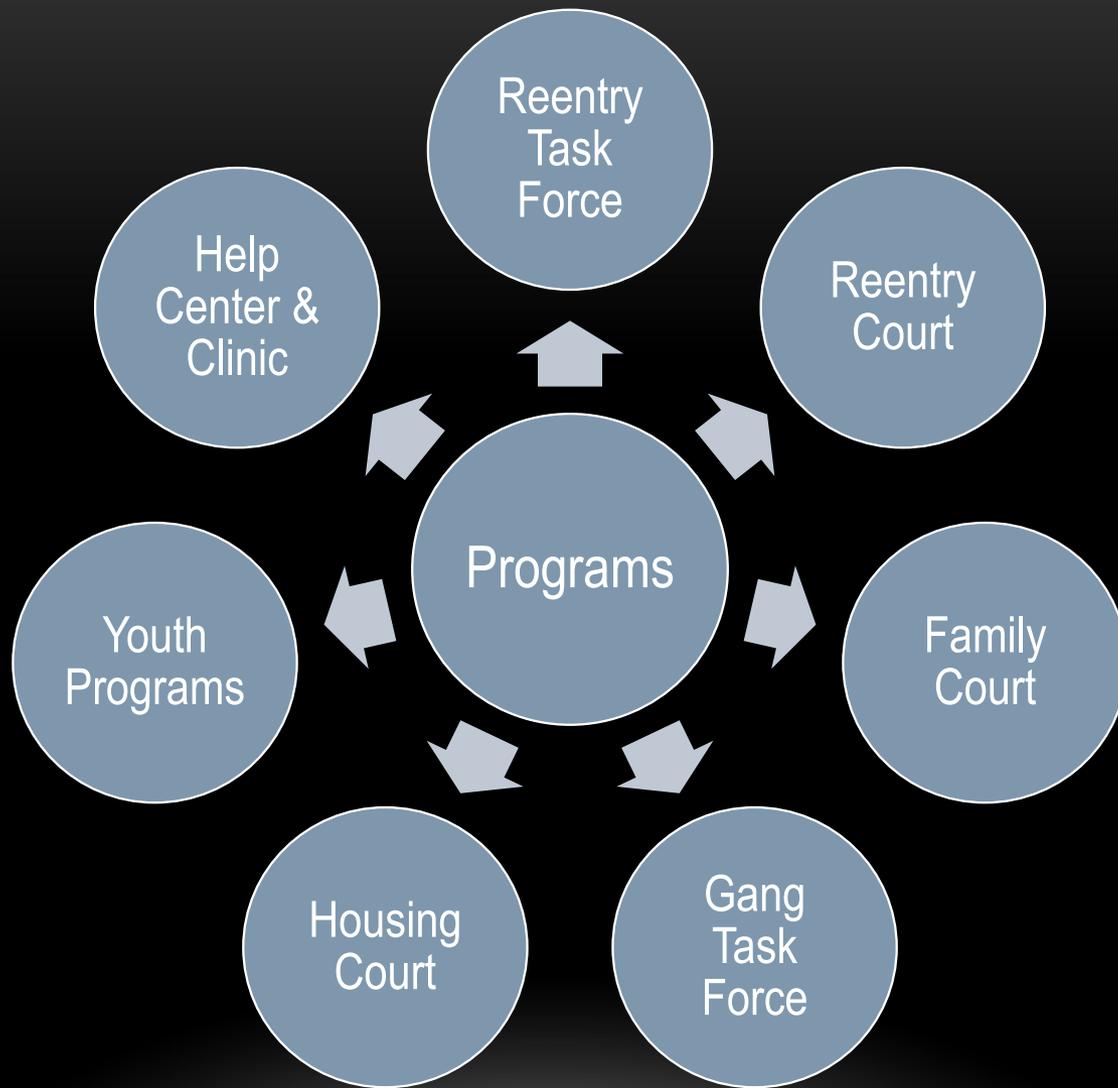
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THE PROBLEM OF REENTRY IN HARLEM

- Upper Manhattan a key reentry area.
 - 2,200 released to parole annually-- roughly 50 % of all Manhattan parolees (NYS Division of Parole, 2006)
- Reentry hot spot in East Harlem.
 - Seven block stretch a “reentry corridor.”
 - 1 in 20 men have been incarcerated.
 - High rates of poverty, jail admissions, & unemployment.
(Justice Mapping Center)
- Poor relationship between the justice system and community.

HARLEM REENTRY COURT

- In operation since 2001.
- Six month two phase program.
- Partnership between New York State Division of Criminal Services, Division of Parole, NYC Office of the Mayor and Center for Court Innovation; also closely aligned with the Upper Manhattan Reentry Task Force project.
- Attempts to reduce recidivism by:
 - Increasing the quality of discharge planning.
 - Providing judicial supervision (Parole Administrative Law Judge).
 - Greater attention during early transition.
 - Greater coordination and access to needed services.
- Received SCA Funding in 2009.

DO REENTRY COURTS REDUCE
RECIDIVISM?

STUDY DESIGN

- Reentry Court participants.
 - November, 2002 through February, 2008.
 - N=317
- Comparison
 - Traditional parolees released same time frame in Manhattan.
 - DCJS identified 20,750 parolees eligible.
 - Propensity score matching – 2:1 (N=634).

OUTCOME FINDINGS

- Rearrests:
 - Reentry Court parolees are re-arrested less.
 - Statistical Significance Year 1: misdemeanor arrests.
 - Reentry Court parolees are re-arrested less and experienced more time to re-arrest.
- Reconvictions:
 - Reentry Court parolees are re-convicted less.
 - Statistical Significance Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3.
- Revocations:
 - Reentry Court parolees are revoked more and experienced less time to revocation.
 - Statistical Significance Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3: Technical Violations.
 - Statistical Significance Year 3: Total Revocations.
 - Statistical Significance Year 3: Revocations for New Convictions.

PREDICTING GRADUATION SUCCESS

- Graduation rate for this study sample was 54%.
- Significant predictors of successful graduation:
 - Prior parole term:
 - Individuals with a prior parole term are less likely to graduate than individuals who are experiencing their first term on parole.
 - Marriage/Cohabitation:
 - Individuals who are married or cohabitating with a partner are more likely to graduate than those who are single.
 - High School Graduate/GED:
 - Individuals who are high school graduates or have their GED are more likely to graduate than those without.
 - Prior Drug Treatment:
 - Individuals who have experienced prior drug treatment are more likely to graduate than those who have no prior drug treatment experience.

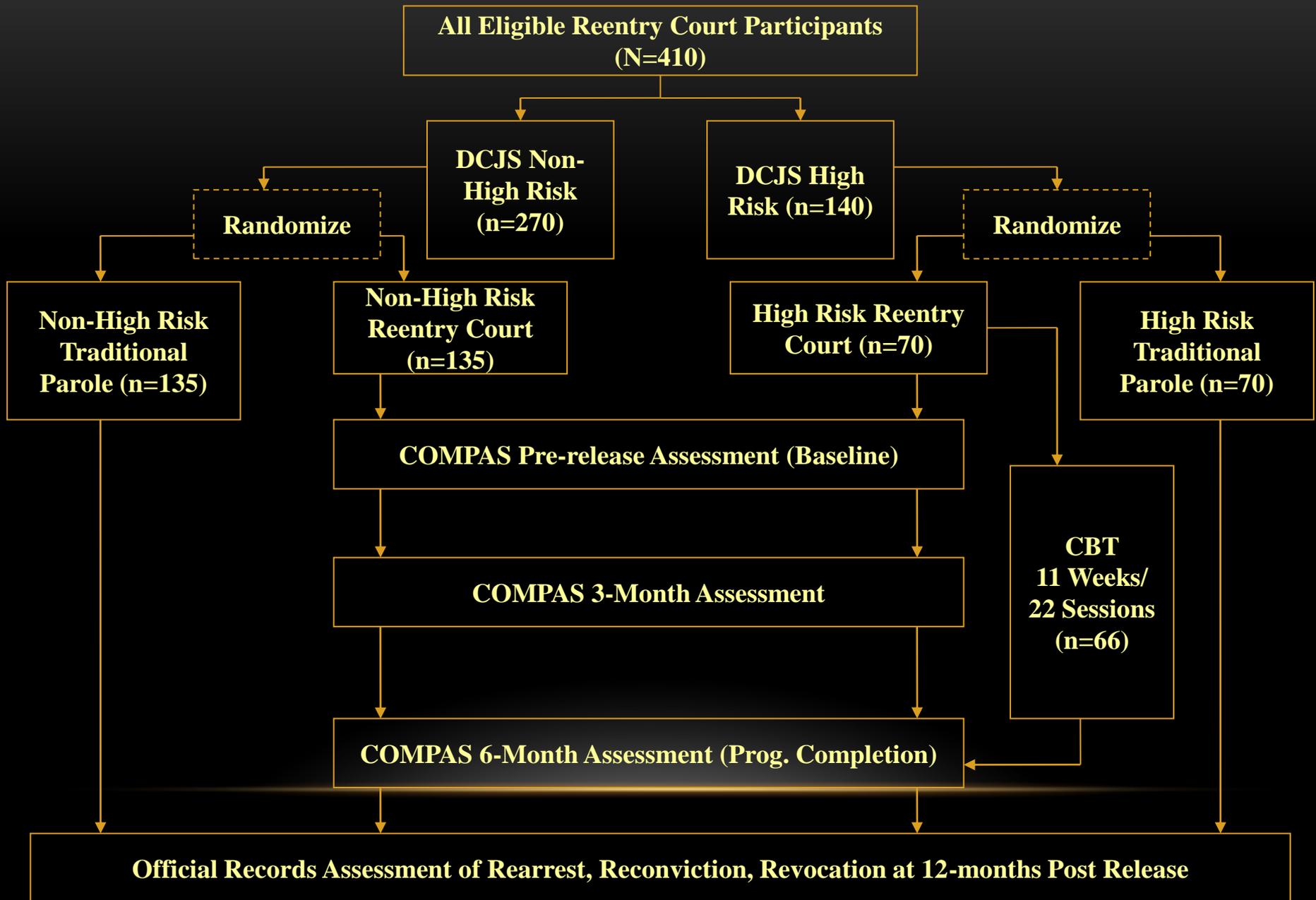
PROGRAM IMPACT

- Reentry Court prevents new crime.
 - Negative impact - technical violations.
 - Beginning around 6 months.
 - Supervision effects.
 - Caseload, increased collaboration and intensity.
 - Similar to ISP and some drug court.
 - Predictors of graduation.
 - Strength of re-parole association – churning.
 - Substance abusers positive impact.
 - Swifter and greater range of options.
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EVIDENCE-BASED ENHANCEMENTS



Reentry Court Enrollment & Study Design



ASSESSMENT

- Capacity: 200 Parolees.
 - Duration: 6 months.
 - Pre-Release engagement.
 - COMPAS Risk and Need Assessment.
 - COMPAS Training for Parole and Clinical staffs.
 - Parole: Judge, Senior Parole Officer, Parole Officers (2).
 - HCJC Staff: Coordinator, Case Managers (2), Case Aide, CBT Group Worker, Researcher.
 - Motivational Interviewing.
 - Supervision plan finalized pre-release.
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PAROLE REPORTING PROCESS

- Initial hearing within the first week of release at the Justice Center to review supervision requirements; frequency is reduced after Phase 1 (first two months) based on compliance.
 - Update hearings can happen weekly.
 - Weekly report meeting with PO on-site.
 - Weekly “micro-team” meetings to apply graduated responses and discuss clinical/supervision needs.
 - Monthly “macro-team” meetings to discuss operational issues.
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COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY

- Model: Thinking For a Change.
 - Parole staff and clinical staff trained in CBT.
 - High-risk clients only.
 - 22-sessions twice a week in cycles.
 - Random assignment.
 - Use of incentives to motivate participants.
 - Replaces anger management requirement for most parolees.
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GRADUATED RESPONSE

- Developed by the Vera Institute of Justice for the NYS Division of Parole.
 - Response matrix tied to risk level and behavior.
 - Incentive protocol designed to reward positive behavior.
 - Reentry Court is field testing the Protocol.
 - PO's can override recommendation.
 - Tracking responses.
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CHALLENGES

- Aligning program to best practices and state policy.
 - Overcoming bureaucracy
 - Team-building
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Acknowledgement & understanding
 - Scheduling
 - Fostering pro-social thinking and motivation among clients
 - Role of the Judge
 - Information sharing
 - Measuring results
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EVALUATION MATTERS

- Evidence should be used to support practice AND policy decisions.
- Evidence-based Practices (EBP) and evaluations allow:
 - Changes that will yield better results.
 - Wise investment of limited resources.
 - Potential to reduce recidivism and make a difference.
- Understanding failure is critical to continuous improvement and policy development.
- Good data is important!
 - Outline desired outcomes and how they will be measured.
 - Collect data that revolves around measuring desired outcomes.
 - Ensure complete understanding by all program staff about what data to enter and how to enter it.
 - Designate a staff member who will conduct data check-ups to ensure data quality.

RESOURCES

Justice Center's Reentry Blog: <http://rethinkingreentry.blogspot.com/>

Center for Court Innovation: <http://www.courtinnovation.org/>

National Reentry Resource Center: <http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>

Reentry Court Solutions: <http://www.reentrycourtsolutions.com/>
