Correctional Programming and Research Design:
What the Project Greenlight Evaluation Can Tell Us

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Project Greenlight

- Partnership between
  - NYS Dept. of Correctional Services
  - NYS Division of Parole
  - Vera Institute of Justice
- Eight weeks of intensive prison-based pre-release programming
- Evaluation funded by Jeht Foundation and NIJ
- Designed as 3-year evaluation
- Program terminated after one year due to funding issues.
Project Greenlight Overview

- Eight weeks of intensive programming (9 am - 5 pm, 5 days a week) including:
  - Cognitive Behavioral Skills Training (R & R)
  - Housing
  - Job Readiness
  - Practical Skills
  - Substance Abuse Awareness & Relapse Prevention
  - Building Network of Community Supports
  - Family Reintegration Sessions (at night)
  - Parole Conditions
  - Individual release planning sessions with a case manager
Mixed Research Design

- Three Groups
  - Greenlight—Intervention group (N=349)
  - TSP—Comparison group (N=276)
  - Upstate—Comparison group (N=114)

Relationships with DOCS and Parole
  - *Sequential Haphazard Assignment* – first 5 months
  - *Trickle-Process Randomized* design – final 5 months
Interim Outcomes (3 months after release)

- *Parole Knowledge*—GL more familiar with and more positive about parole.

- *Service Referrals and Contacts*—GL received more service referrals and reported more contacts with community services.

- *Housing*—No difference.

- *Employment*—No difference.

- *Family Relationships*—No difference.

- *Adhere to Parole Conditions*—No difference.
## Initial Findings: Arrests, Felony Arrests, Revocations at 12 months*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greenlight</th>
<th>TSP</th>
<th>Upstate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fel Arrests</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revocations</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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## Comparing ReArrests (%) at 12 and 36 Months

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<th>Greenlight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Months</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>36 Months</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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Percentage ReArrested, by Risk Level, After 36 Months.

<table>
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<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Greenlight</th>
<th>TSP</th>
<th>Upstate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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Explaining The Results

- Implementation, Program Design and Risk Level of Study Participants
  - Indications that early negative effects associated with specific case managers
  - Design: 26 per class; 5 days a week; tutor training
  - Broad-based program serving everyone—no risk/needs assessment
  - High-risk or low-risk offenders
For More Information about Greenlight or the Research:

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