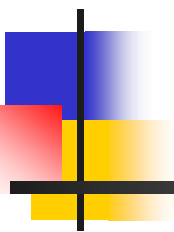


Taking Another Look at Boot Camp: Does Aftercare Make a Difference?



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Pennsylvania's Motivational Boot Camp Program

- Legislative concerns [Act 215 of 1990]
 - Overcrowding
 - Relationship between substance abuse and crime
 - Alternative to reduce criminal behavior
 - Provide discipline and structure
 - Substance abuse treatment
- Opened in June 1992
- Six-month program



Getting into Boot Camp

- Statutorily eligible
 - State Prison
 - Minimum of two years or less
 - Maximum of 5 years or less
 - OR minimum of 3 years and serve 1 year prison
 - Not a serious violent offense
 - Under age 35
- Offender applies
- Recommended by judge
- Accepted by DOC



Study Background

- Legislative mandate for Sentencing Commission to report annually on the progress of the Program.
 - Part I: Who goes to Boot Camp?
 - Part II: Boot Camp Offender Survey
 - Since October 2000
 - Three waves: admission, graduation, parole
 - Self Report Information
 - 7 Scales: Expectations, Self-Control, Self-Efficacy, Decision-making, Motivation for Treatment, Family Warmth, Friends in Trouble Scale.
 - Part III: Recidivism of Boot Camp Offenders



Boot Camp Offender Recidivism - Nationwide

- Inconsistent findings - many of the differences due to variations in research design
 - Comparison group [probationers, prison, BC dropouts]
 - Recidivism measure [technicals, arrests, convictions, return to prison]
 - Length of tracking [ranging from 12 months to 5 years]
 - Use of control variables
 - Program types [quasi-military vs. rehabilitative]
 - Program length
- Overall, not a panacea for crime reduction
- However, Boot Camps that provide a strong rehabilitative component show more success.



Boot Camp Offender Recidivism - Pennsylvania

- Previous studies by the Sentencing Commission found:
 - Attitudinal changes that may impact recidivism:
 - less impulsive
 - more control over their temper
 - better at decision-making skills
 - Self-reported behavioral changes that may impact recidivism:
 - more likely to be employed full time
 - less likely to use drugs
 - fewer 'friends in trouble'
 - However, using official arrest records, no difference in the recidivism of offenders graduating from Boot Camp and those released from prison
 - Employment status most significant predictor of recidivism regardless of Boot Camp or prison.



Need for Aftercare

One reason that Boot Camps are not achieving their goal of lowering recidivism is the 'insufficient preparation of boot camp inmates for reentry into the community.'" [Parent, NIJ Report, 2003]



Policy Change

- Implementation of 90 day mandatory residential aftercare program for all Boot Camp graduates.- eff. March 2002
 - 'structured re-entry program that includes a detailed prescriptive program for each inmate,cognitive behavior therapy, job readiness skills, job acquisition, and D&A follow-up'



Current Research

- Does aftercare reduce recidivism among Boot Camp graduates?



Multi-Agency Involvement


- Boot Camp Program
 - Provide Admission Information
 - Administer Admission & Graduation Surveys
- Department of Corrections
 - Technical violator information
- State Police
 - Arrest Information
- Parole Board
 - Provided aftercare facility information
 - Administer Parole Surveys
- 23 Aftercare Facilities
 - Survey about Aftercare Program- 100% response rate



Research Design

- Natural experiment: pre/post aftercare
- Sample
 - No aftercare group: N=383
 - 90 day aftercare: N=337
- Two year tracking period
- Logistic regression and multivariate survival modeling

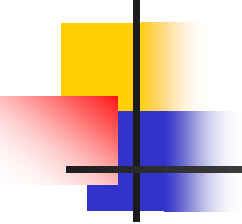
Sample: Key Demographic Variables



	<u>pre 90 day group</u>	<u>post 90 day group</u>
Mean Age	25	25
Male	97%	96%
Non-White	69%	68%
Married	17%	17%
High School Diploma	55%	53%
Employed	53%	53%
Drug Offense	72%	69%
Prior Arrests	82%	78%

**Many more demographic variables were explored in the study as well and no statistically significant differences were found in between the groups on any demographic variables measured.*

Sample: Attitudinal and Behavioral Scales



	<u>pre 90 day group</u>	<u>post 90 day group</u>
■ Risk-Taking	7.9	8.0
■ Help Seeking	16.2	15.8
■ Problem Recognition	7.1	7.1
■ Task Orientation	6.1	6.5**
■ Impulsivity	6.8	7.1*
■ Decision-Making	31.4	30.6***
■ Expectations	27.8	27.3
■ Self-centered	8.9	9.1
■ Temper	9.5	9.8

* sig. at .05 level ** sig. at .01 level *** sig. at .001 level



Aftercare Facility Survey

- All facilities accredited – most w/ ACA
- Avg. yrs. in operation – 17 years
- Mean staff/client ratio - 1 to 10
- Individualized treatment plans
- 22% offered special programming for BC grads
- All offered
 - Education classes
 - Life skills counseling
 - Job placement
 - Problem solving skills
 - Anger management classes
 - Relapse prevention



Bivariate Results

	Arrest	No Arrest
OVERALL	28%	72%
Aftercare Group **		
pre 90-day aftercare	33%	67%
post 90-day aftercare	23%	77%
Race ***		
White	17%	83%
Non-white	33%	67%
Employment Prior to Boot Camp **		
Employed	24%	76%
Unemployed	33%	67%
Number of Prior Arrests ***		
mean	3.9	2.5
Age at First Arrest **		
mean	17 years	18 years

** sig. at .01 level *** sig. at .001 level



Bivariate Results

SCALES	Arrest	No Arrest
Expectations of Boot Camp * mean score at admission [range=7-35]	29.6	30.3
Temper ** mean score at graduation [range=4-20]	10.3	9.4
Impulsivity * mean score at graduation [range=4-20]	7.2	6.8
Completing Tasks *** mean score at graduation [range=3-15]	6.7	6.1
Self-Centered *** mean score at graduation [range=3-15]	9.7	8.8
Family Warmth ** mean score at admission [range=8-40]	32.4	33.9
Friends-in-Trouble * mean score at admission [range=7-35]	18.7	17.8
* sig. at .05 level sig. at .01 level *** sig. at .001 level		



Summary of Bivariate Findings

- Offenders were significantly less likely to recidivate:
 - In 90 day aftercare program
 - White
 - Employed
 - Fewer prior arrests
 - Older at age of first arrest
 - Had higher expectations of Boot Camp
 - Better at controlling their temper
 - Less impulsive
 - Better at complex tasks
 - Higher degree of 'family warmth'
 - Had fewer 'friends in trouble'



Multivariate Results

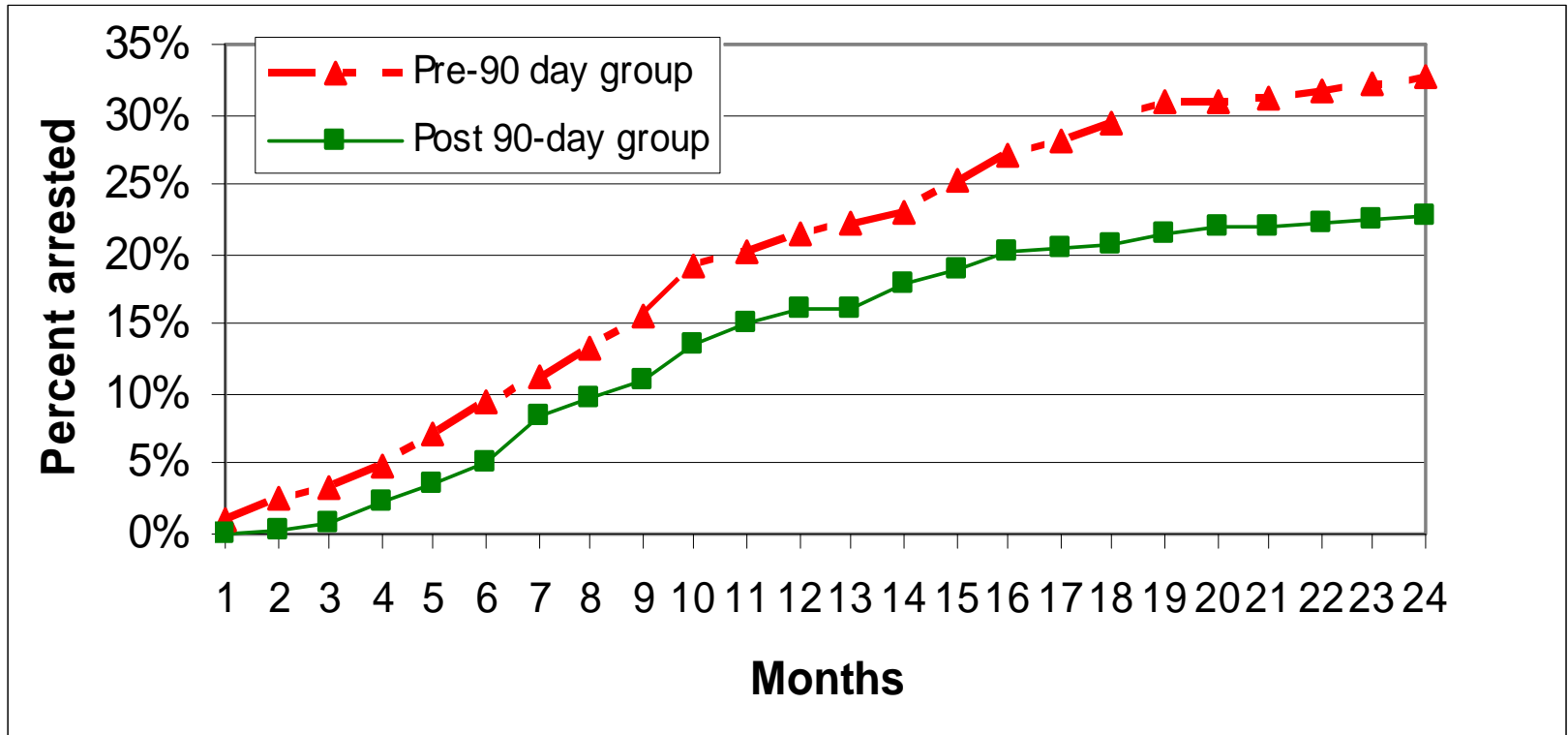
Variable	Logit Coefficient	Odds of Re-arrest
Non 90-day aftercare group	.542**	1.719
Race - non-white	0.808***	2.243
Number of prior arrests	.160***	1.174
Employed prior to Boot Camp	-0.247	.781
Age at First Arrest	-0.036	.964
Expectations of Boot Camp	-0.021	.979
Temper	.088**	1.09
Family Warmth	-0.015	.985
Friends-in-Trouble	0.001	1.001

Odds of re arrest increase by 72% for offenders who did not receive 90 days of aftercare.

Note: Factors in bold are significantly related to re-arrest.

* Significant at .05 level ** Significant at .01 level *** Significant at .001 level

Cumulative Percent Re-arrested Over Time





Conclusions

- Findings important for both Boot Camp Programs and Offender Re-entry in general.
- Adding a residential aftercare component has potential to reduce:
 - Failure rates
 - Time to failure



What is Next?

- In December 2002, the aftercare provision was reduced to 30 days.
- Next study – Does length of aftercare make a difference?