



Risk Reduction Strategies

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Agenda

- **Risk Reduction Strategies**
 - **8 Principles of Evidence Based Practices for improving public safety**
- **Examples from Other States**
- **Recommendations for Consideration**

Why use EBP practices and policies?

- To **reduce new crime & new victims** in our communities
- To know if what we are doing works - relying on facts
 - *Better **return on investment** of limited resources*
- To be held accountable for public safety outcomes
 - ***Ethical commitment** to do public good and not do harm*

What are the 8 Principles?

1. Assess Actuarial Risk/Needs
2. Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
3. Target Interventions (Risk, Need, Responsivity, Dosage and Program Integrity)
4. Skill Train with Directed Practice
5. Increase Positive Reinforcement
6. Engage Ongoing Support in Natural Communities
7. Measure Relevant Processes/Practices
8. Provide Measurement Feedback

1: Actuarial Assessment

- Risk and Need
 - Level of threat to public safety
 - Areas to address that make one prone to re-offending
- 3rd or 4th generation risk and need assessment tools
- Driver of resource allocation

Impact of Treatment on Recidivism by Offender Risk Level

<u>Offender Risk Level</u>	<u>% Recidivism: Tx by Risk Level</u>		<u>Impact on Recidivism</u>	<u>Authors of Study</u>
	<u>Minimum Tx</u>	<u>Intensive Tx</u>		
Low Risk	16%	22%	(↑ 6%)	O'Donnell et al, 1971
High Risk	78%	56%	(↓ 22%)	
Low Risk	3%	10%	(↑ 7%)	Baird et al, 1979
High Risk	37%	18%	(↓ 19%)	
Low Risk	12%	17%	(↑ 5%)	Andrews & Kiessling, 1980
High Risk	58%	31%	(↓ 27%)	
Low Risk	12%	29%	(↑ 17%)	Andrews & Friesen, 1987
High Risk	92%	25%	(↓ 67%)	

The Risk Principle

1. Target those offenders with a higher probability of recidivism
2. Provide the most intensive treatment to higher risk offenders
3. Intensive treatment for lower risk offenders can increase recidivism

The Need Principle

1. Assess and identify criminogenic needs
2. Target criminogenic needs.
3. Must be focused intervention.
4. If this is followed recidivism rates can be lowered.

2: Enhance Intrinsic Motivation

- True or False – People don't change unless they want to change
- True or False – There are things we in the Criminal Justice system can do to move people through the stages of change

3: Target Interventions

- True or False – If you have high cholesterol you go to the dermatologist
- Match the assessed risk and needs to what we do with offenders
 - How we supervise and punish
 - Which services/programs
- Not all treatment is created equally

4: Skill Train with Directed Practice

- Its easy to go back to old ways, its hard to learn new skills (takes time and practice)
- Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Methods
 - Think, act and respond differently
- True or False – The treatments needed to address assessed risks and needs are readily available

5: Increase Positive Reinforcement

- It's all about carrots and sticks
- More positive reinforcement than negative
- Requires clear rules that are consistently (and swiftly) enforced with appropriate graduated rewards and consequences
- Offenders and people in general, will tend to comply in the direction of the most rewards and least punishments

Goals of Sanctions

- Make community supervision more effective in **protecting the public** by responding to supervision violations **swiftly and with certainty**
- **Reduce the number of violators** who require revocation by responding to violating behavior before it reaches a level of seriousness requiring incarceration
- **Reduce the cost to the public** associated with judicial/board conducted violation hearings and effect future cost reductions
- Set **priorities** for the use of criminal justice resources and provide more **consistent** use of intermediate sanctions

*Adapted from the Oregon Department of Corrections

Sanction Principles

- Responses to violations must be swift, sure, fair and just
- The length/severity of the sanction is determined by a grid that takes into account the risk level of the offender, his or her crime of conviction, and violation severity
 - **Similar responses** for similar types of offenders with similar violations
 - Can be handled at **various levels of authority**
- Responses reflect **evidence based practices**:
 - Custodial sanctions alone are not effective in lowering recidivism
 - Shorter custodial sanctions are no less effective in lowering recidivism
 - Custodial sanctions should have a rehabilitative component included
 - Treatment and rehabilitative resources **COMBINED** with surveillance and enforcement, are most effective in reducing recidivism

6: Ongoing Support in Natural Communities

- Keeps offenders from coming back into the criminal justice system
- Improve bonds and ties to pro-social community members
- Pro-social ties can actively reinforce preferred behaviors

7: Measure Relevant Processes/Practices

8: Provide Measurement Feedback

- True or False – It's a good idea keep track of your investments
- Show me the data!!!
- Agencies practicing EBP are not really doing it unless they continually evaluate performance and adjust accordingly through a feedback and accountability process

Summary

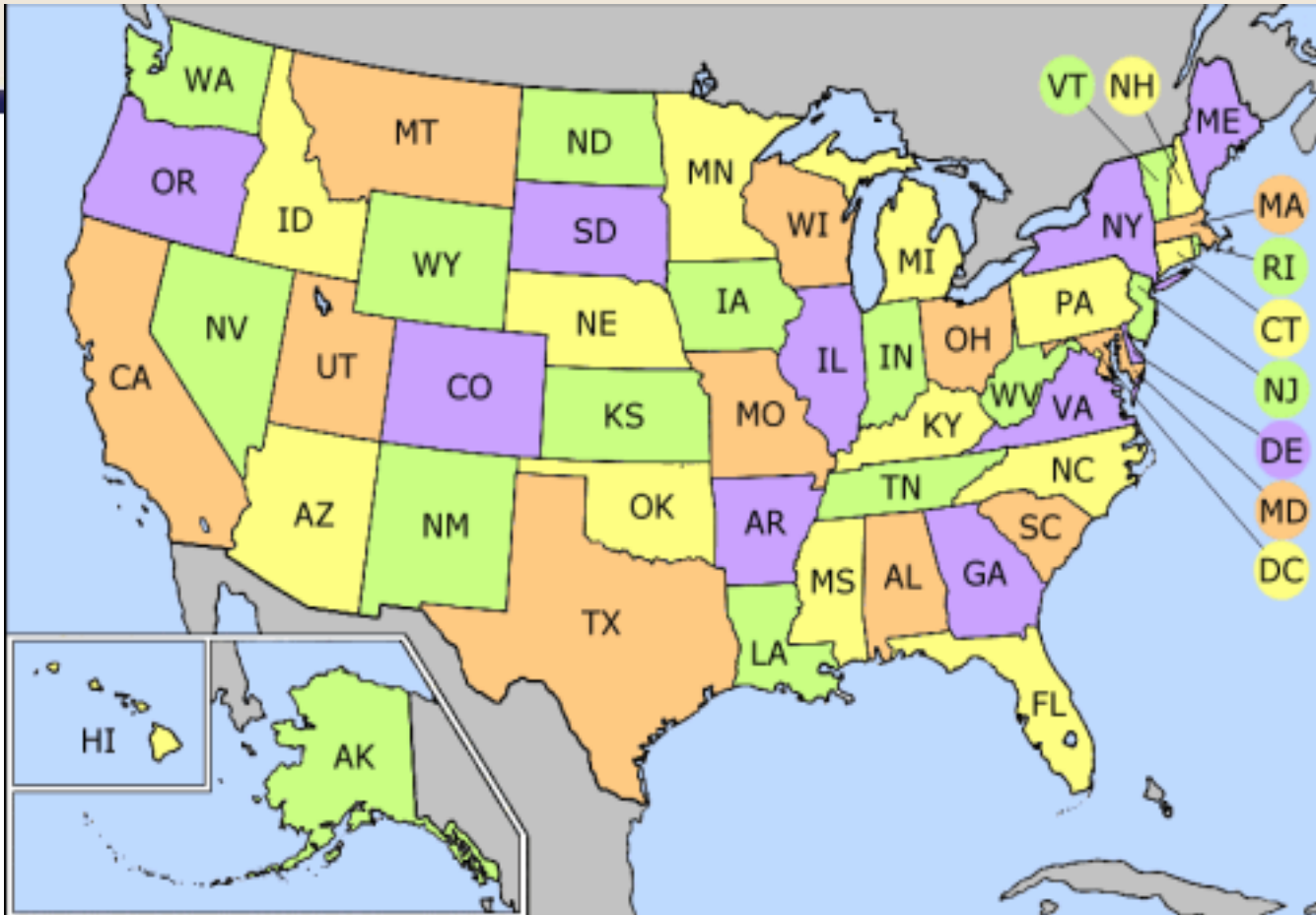
- Who? – Assess and Focus Resources on Moderate to High Risk
- What? – Factors that Drive Criminal Behavior
- How? – Teaching Offenders to Think and Behave Differently
- How Much? – Frequency and Duration
- How Well? – Results and Feedback

Benefits of EBP

- Lets us know if our offenders, agencies, programs and system are working
- Reduces bias about what works and what doesn't work
- Helps better utilize resources and guide decision making
- Improves public safety while reducing recidivism and victimization



Evidence-Based Corrections Policy


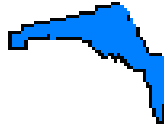



What Are Other States Doing? Examples from Across the Country

Kansas Model (SB 14)

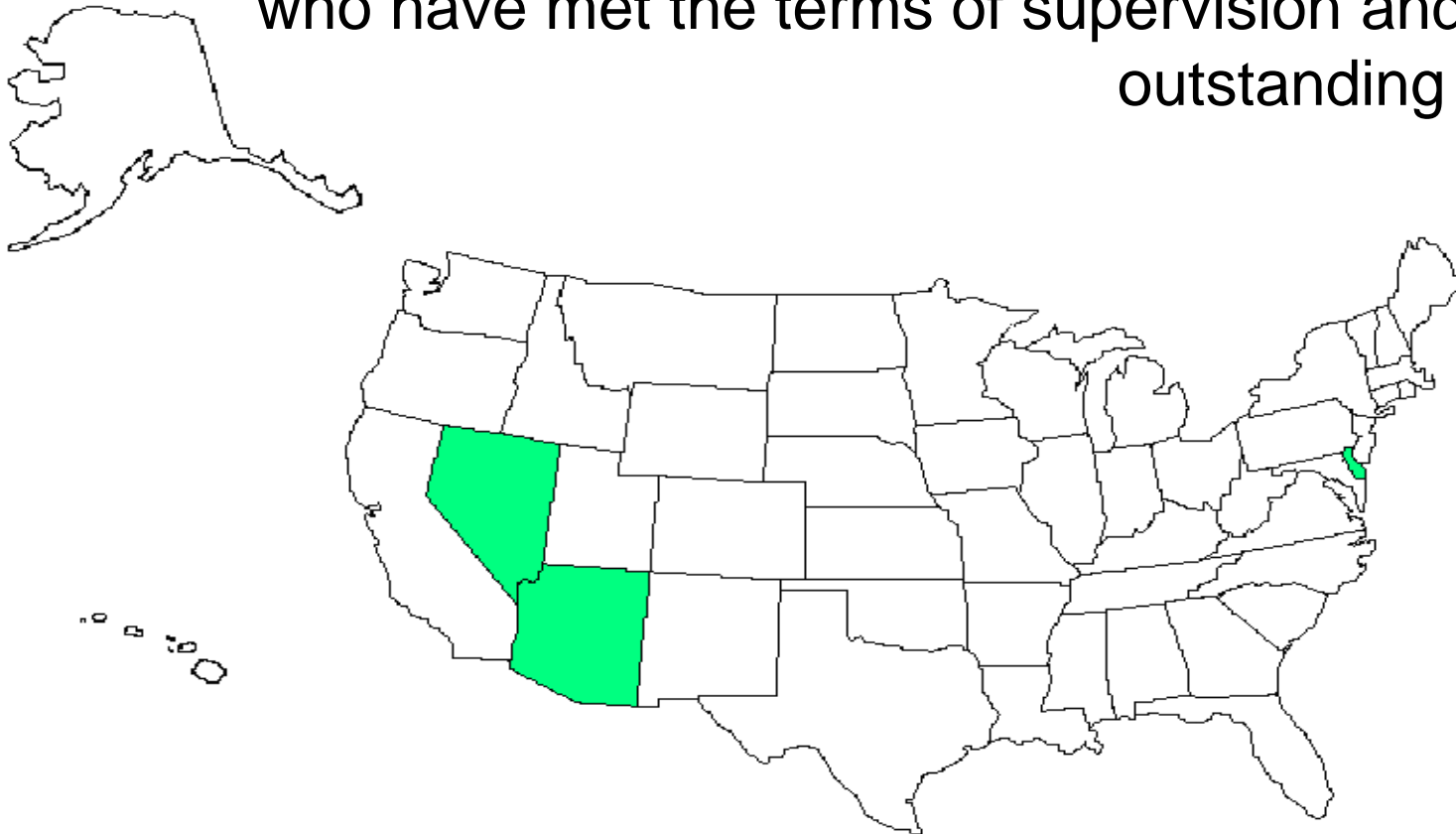
- Established a community corrections grant program administered by DOC to:
 - Increase public safety
 - Reduce the risk of offenders on community supervision
 - Reduce revocation rates by 20%
- Provides 12 EBP consistent grant requirements
 - e.g., assessment instruments, target moderate and high risk, provide needed supervision and services, use intermediate sanctions, provide staff training, and establish an accountability system

Evidence-Based Practices




<p>Oregon</p> 	<p>Requires that a specified portion of interventions in the DOC, Youth Commission, and Criminal Justice Commission are evidence-based. Failure to comply affects future appropriations.</p>
<p>Maryland</p> 	<p>The Proactive Community Supervision Model has realized a 28% reduction in arrest on new charges for individuals under supervision through the use of assessments, case plans, appropriate interventions, and a prosocial environment.</p>
<p>Kansas</p> 	<p>The Community Corrections Act list possible eligibility criteria that an individual is high risk, high, need, or both.</p>

Earned Compliance Credits

Policies providing for the early termination of offenders who have met the terms of supervision and paid all outstanding monies.

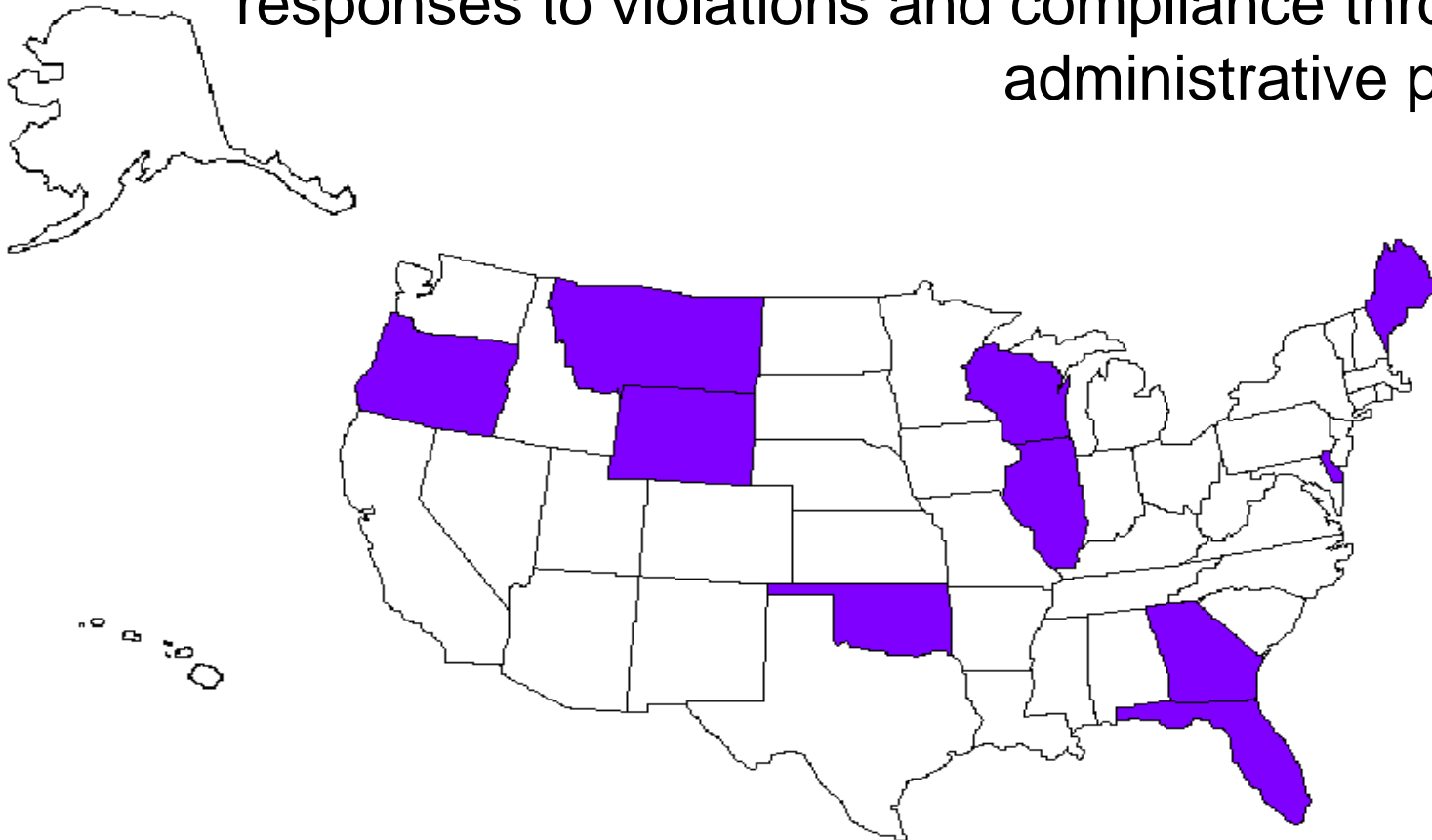


Earned Compliance Credits




<p>Arizona</p> 	<p>The court has statutory authority to reduce an offender's term of probation by up to twenty days per month if the offender meets specific compliance goals.</p>
<p>Nevada</p> 	<p>Reduction of sentence credits are available to probationers, parolees, and state prison inmates who participate in programs shown to reduce recidivism.</p>
<p>Delaware</p> 	<p>In a pilot program leading to the Probation Reform Act, 65% of participating probationers were able to meet program goals and receive an early discharge.</p>

Administrative Sanctions

Policies requiring or promoting intermediate/graduated responses to violations and compliance through an administrative process.



Administrative Sanctions

<p>Delaware</p> 	<p>Grants statutory authority to the DOC to move offenders between supervision levels, including financial-only, and impose sanctions for violations up to five days in jail (but no more than ten days annually)</p>
<p>Georgia</p> 	<p>For certain offenses authorized by a sentencing judge, Chief Probation Officers and DOC hearing officers may impose administrative sanctions, including placement in secure residential facilities.</p>
<p>Oklahoma</p> 	<p>Grants statutory authority to a hearing judge to make a determination on technical violations and apply an appropriate sanction from the Intermediate Sanctions Matrix.</p>



Evidence-Based Corrections Policy

Recommendations for Consideration

Recommendation #1

- Focus resources (supervision and services) on moderate and high risk offenders
- This can be done through the implementation of an appropriate risk and need assessment tool. Assessments should:
 - Prioritize resource allocations
 - Drive case plans to target risks and needs

Risk and Need Assessment

Requires:

Use of a validated assessment tool which includes dynamic and static factors

Significant training, experience and quality assurance

Evaluation systems to determine predictive validity, effectiveness and accuracy

Clarification of role in classification, case planning and treatment

Funding for all the above

Risk and Need Assessment

Benefits:

Conserves resources for a greater impact on public safety (diverts low risk, treats moderate and high risk, provides more bed space for those that need intensive services and/or incarceration)

Increased opportunities for collaboration among law enforcement and provider agencies

Increased professionalism among correctional personnel (DOC and PPP)

Institutes the foundational element for any/all risk reduction strategies

Recommendation #2

- Establish a system to respond to violation activity in an efficient and effective manner
- This can be done through a variety of options (e.g., legislatively mandated administrative procedures). Responses should be:
 - Based on offender, offense and severity of the violation(s)
 - Imposed quickly as possible
 - Consistent with EBP principles

Revocation Alternatives

Requires:

A set/grid of intermediate sanctions and rewards that are swift, certain and proportionate

Various levels of authority to assign and reassign offenders to sanctions without delay

An array of institutional and community based options for responding to violations (e.g., treatment and punishment)

Significant training, experience and quality assurance

Evaluation systems to determine consistency and impact

Clarification of role in supervision and sanctioning

Funding for all the above

Revocation Alternatives

Benefits:

Swift, certain and proportionate sanctions can improve compliance and change behavior

Reduces the number of violators sent to costly cells (before and after revocation proceedings) and frees up space for more dangerous inmates

Avoids delayed responses to violations which can give offenders the idea they do not have to comply

An administrative structure enhances the likelihood of timeliness and effectiveness of the sanction

Increases consistency in how offenders are sanctioned and prioritizes limited resources

Decreases the amount of time officials spend on revocations



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