



A Framework for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems

Starter Kit

4a: Understanding Your Agency: Conducting an EBP Knowledge Survey

Appendix 1: EBP Survey with Answer Key

	Evidence-Based Practices Survey	Answer
1	True or false? Most offenders don't handle stress well, so anxiety and stress reduction programs such as yoga and meditation are helpful in reducing the likelihood of rearrest.	F
2	Of the following, which is the most effective method to determine the likelihood that an individual will be rearrested? a. A validated assessment instrument b. Professional judgment by an individual with extensive experience c. None of the above; there is little evidence that an instrument or professional judgment predicts arrest patterns	A
3	Which of the following interventions best reduces recidivism in the long term? a. Boot camps b. AA c. Sanctions for non-compliance d. Programs that build thinking skills e. Victim empathy classes	D
4	To best achieve offender behavioral change, professionals should use social learning techniques that reduce recidivism. Which of the following is <i>not</i> a social learning technique? a. Modeling: demonstrating desired behavior b. Reinforcement: rewarding behaviors you want repeated c. Redirection: confronting and redirecting antisocial thinking d. Relationship: developing a meaningful working alliance with the offender e. Leadership: enhancing character through opportunities to demonstrate leadership f. Practice: teaching concrete problem solving skills by having the offender practice the desired skills	E
5	Which of the following statements is true? a. Validated risk assessment instruments predict the likelihood of reoffense better than professional judgment. b. Validated risk assessment instruments do not work as well as the judgment of an experienced, veteran professional. c. Validated risk assessment instruments are so consistently reliable that professional judgment should not be used to override the results of the instrument.	A
6	Which individual trait or circumstance, when present in a person's life, does <i>not</i> likely contribute to whether that person commits a crime? a. Depression	A

	b. Friends who have low regard for the law c. Low victim empathy d. Unemployment	
7	True or false? Placing offenders with low self-esteem in programs that increase their confidence does <i>not</i> reduce the likelihood of rearrest.	T
8	True or false? It is generally true that treatment does <i>not</i> work in reducing rearrest rates.	F
9	True or false? Lack of employment is among the top four influences that can lead an individual to commit a subsequent crime.	F
10	True or false? Lack of education is among the top four influences that can lead an individual to commit a subsequent crime.	F
11	Which statement is most accurate when trying to maximize the effectiveness of programming for medium and high risk offenders? a. Treatment should be intense over approximately a four-week period. b. Treatment is largely ineffective for this group of individuals. c. Treatment should last as long as possible—preferably 24 months or more. d. Approximately 200 hours of treatment time gets maximum effect.	D
12	True or false? Failure of a sex offender to register has a direct correlation to convictions for new sex crimes.	F
13	Which one of the following programs reduces recidivism over the long term? a. Gardening and horticulture b. Yoga c. Drum circles d. Lectures designed to give insight e. AA f. None of the above	F
14	True or false? It is better to invest in interventions for low risk offenders than for high risk offenders because their criminal tendencies are less hardened, or “fixed.”	F
15	True or false? Programs like “Scared Straight” and boot camps are particularly effective for youthful offenders between the ages of 16 and 25.	F
16	True or false? Jails and prisons are effective in changing future offender behavior after release if the conditions are severe enough that the offenders don’t want to return.	F
17	True or false? Giving offenders positive reinforcement and feedback when they exhibit prosocial behaviors supports positive changes in the future.	T
18	True or false? Of those probationers who are revoked from supervision and incarcerated, most are <i>not</i> revoked from supervision for new crime behavior.	T
19	True or false? Medium and high risk offenders benefit more from punishment than treatment.	F
20	Research suggests that the onset and use of drugs is different for female offenders than for male offenders. Which one of the following statements is <i>not</i> true about female offenders when compared to male offenders? a. Women describe the onset of drug use as sudden, rather than gradual. b. Women tend to report that their drug use begins as a result of a specific emotion or situation, such as depression or family problems. c. Women experience the adverse physical effects of alcohol more slowly than men. d. Women are more likely than men to be introduced to drugs by a sexual partner and to continue using drugs to maintain the relationship. e. Women who abuse drugs have higher rates of childhood physical and sexual abuse than men and non-substance-abusing women.	C