



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

Example: Knowledge Survey Summary Report from One County

The following chart is an excerpt from a larger report that summarizes the percentage of respondents in a select number of agencies who provided the correct answer to each question in an EBP knowledge survey.¹ This report highlights the differences between four agencies.

Question	Agency 1 N=20	Agency 2 N=16	Agency 3 N=22	Agency 4 N=106	All Respondents N=228
1. 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.	25%	88%	45%	59%	58%
2. Of the following, which is the most effective method to determine the likelihood that an individual will be rearrested?	85%	100%	55%	39%	50%
3. Which of the following interventions best reduces recidivism in the long term?	100%	94%	45%	67%	65%
4. To best achieve offender behavioral change, professionals should use social learning techniques. Which of the following is <i>not</i> a social learning technique that helps reduce recidivism?	45%	38%	40%	13%	20%
5. Which of the following statements is true about the use of validated risk assessment instruments to determine risk of reoffense?	90%	75%	62%	52%	59%
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?	65%	69%	43%	35%	45%
7. Placing offenders with low self-esteem in programs that increase their confidence does <i>not</i> reduce the likelihood of rearrest.	5%	56%	33%	35%	34%
8. It is generally true that treatment does <i>not</i> work in reducing rearrest rates.	95%	69%	81%	73%	75%

¹ For more information, see 4a: Understanding Your Agency: Conducting an EBP Knowledge Survey.

9. Lack of employment is among the top four influences that result in whether an individual commits a subsequent crime.	10%	19%	30%	13%	18%
10. Lack of education is among the top four influences that result in whether an individual commits a subsequent crime.	15%	63%	14%	21%	23%
11. Which statement is most accurate when trying to maximize the effectiveness of programming for medium and high risk offenders?	21%	7%	10%	10%	10%
12. Failure of a sex offender to register has a direct correlation to convictions for new sex crimes.	85%	38%	91%	31%	44%
13. Which one of the following programs reduces recidivism over the long term?	55%	69%	38%	61%	57%
14. 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."	90%	87%	60%	53%	56%
15. Programs like "Scared Straight" and boot camps are particularly effective for youthful offenders between the ages of 16 and 25.	80%	81%	48%	47%	51%
16. 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.	95%	94%	86%	62%	72%
17. Giving offenders positive reinforcement and feedback when they exhibit prosocial behaviors supports positive changes in the future.	100%	100%	100%	85%	90%
18. Of those probationers who are revoked from supervision and incarcerated, most are <i>not</i> revoked from supervision for new crime behavior.	75%	63%	71%	66%	64%
19. Medium and high risk offenders benefit more from punishment than treatment.	95%	100%	91%	65%	71%
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?	40%	31%	33%	20%	27%