

***Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice Options
To Reduce Prison Construction,
Criminal Justice Costs, and Crime Rates***

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Juvenile Justice Topics

- 1. What Works? What's Economic?**
- 2. Economics and the Risk Principle**
- 3. Real World Results**

Our Research Approach

3 Steps

1. What works & what doesn't?

- ✓ We located 571 **rigorous** (comparison group), **real world** evaluations of **adult** and **juvenile** corrections programs, & **prevention**

2. What are the economics of each option?

- ✓ We estimated the **taxpayer** and **crime victim** benefits and costs to people in Washington

3. How would alternative “portfolios” affect future prison demand, spending, & crime?

- ✓ We assessed market potential & developed **Current Level**, **“Moderate”** & **“Aggressive”** portfolios

Evidence-Based Programs: **Selected Results**

	Expected Change In Crime (# of EB Studies)	Benefits Minus Costs (per-person, life cycle)
<u>Juvenile Offenders</u>		
Functional Family Thpy.	-15.9% (7)	\$31,821
Family Int. Transitions	-13.0% (1)	\$40,545
Aggression Repl. Trng.	-7.3% (4)	\$14,660
Restorative Justice (low risk)	-8.7% (21)	\$7,067
ISParole, no treatment	-0.0% (10)	-\$6,460
ISProbation, no treatment	-0.0% (2)	-\$1,201
Juvenile Drug Court	-3.5% (15)	\$4,622
Scared Straight	+6.8% (10)	-\$14,667
Teen Courts	-11.1% (5)	\$9,208
Multi-D Tx Foster Care	-22.0% (3)	\$77,798
Diversion low risk (versus reg juv crt)	-2.7% (20)	\$n/e
Juvenile Boot Camp	-0.0% (14)	\$8,077
<u>Prevention</u>		
Pre-School* (low income)	-14.2% (8)	\$12,196
Nurse Family Partnership*	-36.3% (2)	\$27,105

Benefit-Cost Analysis & the Risk Principle

	A	B	C
1	Type of Offender (re-offense information)	More Serious	Less Serious
2	Percent reconvicted for a new felony after X years	50%	20%
3	Of those reconvicted, the avg. # of new felonies	3.0	1.5
4	Cost per average new conviction <u>to taxpayers</u>	\$30,000	\$15,000
5	Cost per average new conviction <u>to victims</u>	\$40,000	\$15,000
6			
7	Let's Do Some Evidence-Based Treatment		
8	Number of offenders treated	100	100
9	Cost per treatment	\$2,500	\$2,500
10	% change in recidivism rate because of treatment	-20%	-20%
11			
12	What Have We Gained in Terms of Reduced Crime?		
13	<u>Without</u> treatment, how many will re-offend?	50	20
14	<u>With</u> treatment, how many will re-offend?	40	16
15	The Gain: the # who no longer re-offend	10	4
16	The Gain: the # of felonies avoided	30	6
17			
18	Bottom Line		
19	Total costs to provide treatment	\$250,000	\$250,000
20	Total benefits of the treatment	\$2,100,000	\$180,000
21	Benefit-to-Cost Ratio	\$8.40	\$0.72

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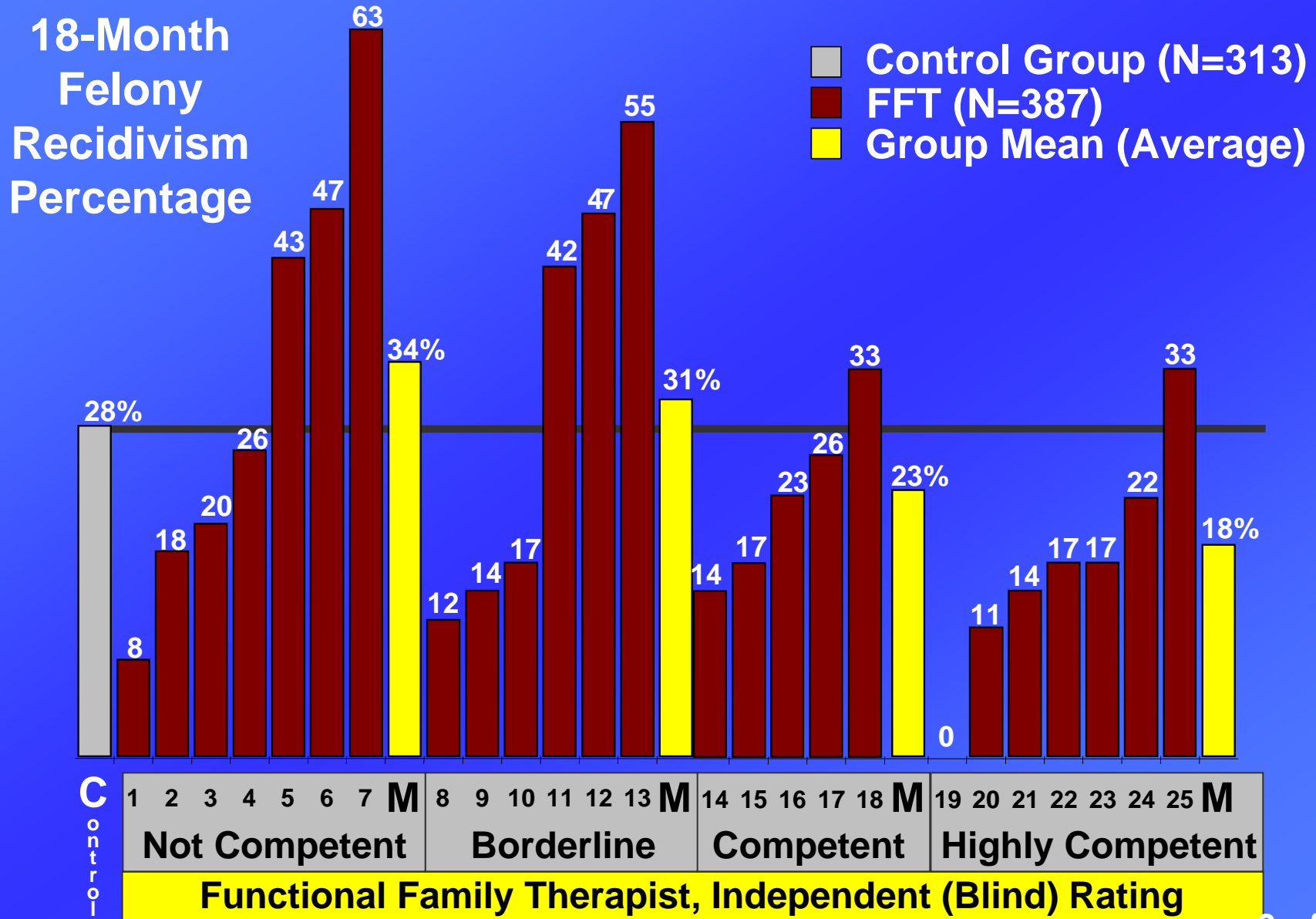
s9

talking generally about bc, but specifically following our recipe

saos, 5/13/2005

In the Real World Things Get Messy:

Results of Functional Family Therapy in WA



Bottom Line

- 1. Some Juvenile Justice Policy Options are:**
 - **Well researched**
 - **Reduce crime**
 - **Save more money than they cost**
- 2. Some Aren't**
- 3. Focus on Higher Risk Offenders**
- 4. Quality Control Matters**



Thank You!

“Back of the Envelope” Benefit-Cost Analysis of a Juvenile Justice Program

\$ 60,000

BENEFITS (P): the amount taxpayers & victims save each time a felony conviction is avoided.

\$3,000

COSTS (C): the amount taxpayers pay, per youth, to run a typical juvenile program.

1 : 20

To **BREAK EVEN**, you need one success out of every 20 offenders in the program

Question: What do we expect would happen to the 20 juveniles in the long run **WITHOUT** the program?

10

Will be re-convicted for another felony

10

Will not be re-convicted for a felony

1:10 = 10%

Therefore, we need a 10% reduction in recidivism rates to **BREAK EVEN**.

That is, recidivism must drop from 50% to 45%