Chicago Study of IPS for People with Justice Involvement

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Supported Employment Program Project Director Learning Community Call

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IPS Research for This Population

- LePage (2016) study of employment program “using IPS principles” with formerly incarcerated vets:
  - 46% of IPS clients vs. 21% of controls found employment in 6 months
  - Note: Low IPS fidelity rating

Self-Reported Justice Involvement in Study Population

Past events disclosed at admission	Receiving IPS Services		Admitted During 2009	
Arrests	345	38%	546	50%
Charges	255	28%	389	36%
Convictions	203	22%	338	31%
Incarcerations	156	17%	273	25%
Total	913		1,085	

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Hypotheses

- Clients with justice involvement receiving IPS will have better employment outcomes than those receiving usual vocational services
- IPS clients also will have lower rates of justice involvement during follow-up
- Client who obtain employment will have lower rates of justice involvement during follow-up

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Study Design

- Randomized controlled trial
- 2-group comparison
  - IPS
  - Work Choice (job club)
- One-year follow-up

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Comparison of Two Employment Models

	IPS	Work Choice
Origins of Model	Community Mental Health	Criminal Justice
Staffing	Team of full-time employment specialists	Part-time instructor and part-time peer specialist
Caseload Ratio	20-1 per 1.0 FTE	40-1 per 0.8 FTE
Locus of Services	Mostly in community	Office-based
Identifying Jobs	Individualized job search based on client preferences	Internet search and word of mouth
Preparation for Job Search	Brief vocational assessment followed by rapid job search	Job club: resume preparation, practice role-playing interview
Job Search Approach	Employment specialist contacts employers and accompanies clients on interviews (if client's preference)	Self-directed job search

Eligibility Criteria

- Current Thresholds client
- Past justice involvement
- Not competitively employed
- Attend two information groups
- Consent to study

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One-Year Employment Outcomes

	IPS (N=42)	Work Choice (N=43)	Sig.
Started a competitive job	13 (31%)	3 (7%)	$p < .01$
Mean days employed	40.5	15.9	$p < .01$

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Most Common Barriers to Employment (IPS and Work Choice Staff Ratings)

	IPS	Work Choice
Failure to engage	37%	32%
Disengagement	42%	27%
Substance abuse	21%	23%
Physical health	21%	14%
Lack of prerequisites	9%	23%
Criminal justice	12%	18%
Mental health	16%	11%
No job goal	2%	18%

One-Year Negative Outcomes

	IPS (N=41)	Work Choice (N=43)
Arrested	10 (24%)	8 (19%)
Hospitalized	21 (49%)	17 (40%)
Reasons for hospitalization:		
--Psychiatric	11 (27%)	12 (28%)
--Substance use	5 (12%)	2 (5%)
--Physical condition	9 (22%)	7 (16%)

Conclusions

- First controlled study of IPS for this population
- IPS effective in helping people with justice involvement gain employment
- No impact found on justice involvement
- IPS programs need to focus especially on engagement and integration with treatment

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