New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

REINTEGRATION STUDY

PART 3: TRANSITIONAL PLANNING & SUPPORT

The goal of this study is to study programs and services that assist the offender with preparing for reintegration and successful independent living within the community.

April 2016 – March 2017

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90 Day Study

Introduction

This section of the Reintegration Study will focus on the method, means and potential impact of an individual's actual transition from an NHDOC facility back into their community. Independently published research papers indicate that the Parole and Transitional Housing programs both help to improve rates of reintegration. A sample of this type of research was published by Clark et. al in a paper submitted to the *National Institute of Justice* which "indicate[s] that post-prison supervision (Parole) is a significant predictor of reduced recidivism outcomes", going so far as to state that this supervision even helps in "increasing the odds of [individuals] obtaining employment after release from prison (Clark et. al., 2). Research published by the Macrothink Institute in 2015 indicates that the use of transitional housing programs "produces short-term and long-term positive effects," even going so far as to illustrate that those who did "were almost half as likely to recidivate" as others who did not (Costanza, 49-50). Gaining a better understanding of the impacts of these programs will help to further illuminate their place in an individual's reintegration back into their community.

This study does not attempt to recreate established research results, but to identify NHDOC programs and services that fall within those researched areas and to measure the impact of programs/services offered against the established baseline of individuals released. While there are many factors that impact an individual's ability to stay within the community, this study will focus on areas that are within the Department's ability to influence. We will look at programs and services based on available NHDOC data.

This study will review the first 90 days post-release for the most recent 12-month period where re-entry and return data is available[1]. This will allow for a more-rapid identification of trends and let NHDOC evaluate the impact of changes within a service or program that may have occurred. The baseline reintegration rates[2] will be used as the basis of comparison for the duration of this study. Each period's baseline rate will be compared against the reintegration rates for:

- Those individuals who were rated as Low risk on the ORAS-CST survey prior to re-entering the community
- Those individuals who were rated as High risk on the ORAS-CST survey prior to re-entering the community

Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)

It is understood that not all individuals who are released from NHDOC facilities have the same level of risk of re-offending. A recent goal of the DOC has been to find a way in which to "separate adult offenders into risk groups determined by their likelihood of recidivating, and to identify dynamic risk factors… to guide and prioritize appropriate and effective programmatic intervention" (ORAS, 1). One of the means in which personnel achieve this is through the use of the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS). The ORAS offers six different assessments that cover an individual from pre-trial all the way through to Re-Entry. The tool in question for this section is the Community Supervision Tool (ORAS-CST), which primarily seeks to measure and predict the number of technical violations a person may receive, as well as their potential for re-offending; the higher the score, the greater the likelihood of an individual re-offending.

The study of the ORAS-CST seeks to answer whether the rates of reintegration differ between individuals who scored in different risk level ranges at the time of their re-entry into the community as compared to the baseline of all individuals released. The risk level ratings assessed (out of a possible score of 49) include:

- Low Risk Level (0-14)
- High Risk Level (24 and over)

We also will look to see how many individuals classified with this score and rating combination and map the level of impact this service has on identifying successful reintegration over a 90-day time frame.

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[1] Re-Entry and return data for a month is not available until 90 days later. Ex: Complete re-entry data for January is available beginning in April.

[2] Established in **Reintegration Study: Baseline Rates & Overall Findings** report. See Appendix A for these tables

Population Measured: ORAS-CST Rating

To determine ORAS-CST reporting numbers for this assessment, data was taken from the offender management system to determine which individuals had been surveyed with the ORAS-CST prior to their re-entry into the community[3]. The ORAS-CST is only available for administration to those individuals who will be under some form of supervision upon re-entering the community; specifically, only those who are released to either Probation or Parole may be assessed with this tool. Of the 1508 total releases, 1451 individuals (96.2%) were released to either Probation or Parole and qualified for being surveyed with the ORAS-CST. Of these individuals, 360 people (23.9% of the baseline group) were surveyed with the ORAS-CST at the time of their re-entry.

Data was then filtered to isolate an individual's score on the ORAS-CST (scoring range of 0 – 49) if it was administered at the time of release. Further refinement was done to isolate the score an individual received on the CST, the rating given to them, and whether that rating was overridden for any reason. This process yielded out of the total baseline group of 360 people surveyed, 54 scored in the High range (score greater than 24), 203 scored in the Moderate range (score of 15 – 23), and 103 scored in the Low range (score of 0 -14). A total of 1091 individuals from the baseline group were not surveyed; no reason for the lack of survey is available at this time.

Rate of Reintegration: ORAS-CST Low-Risk Rating

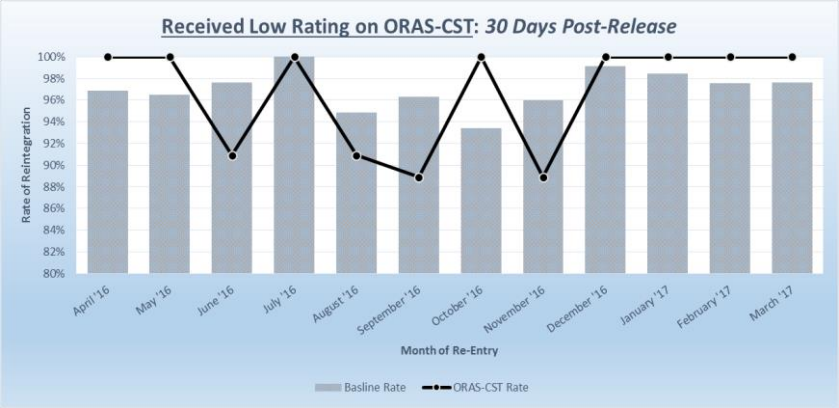
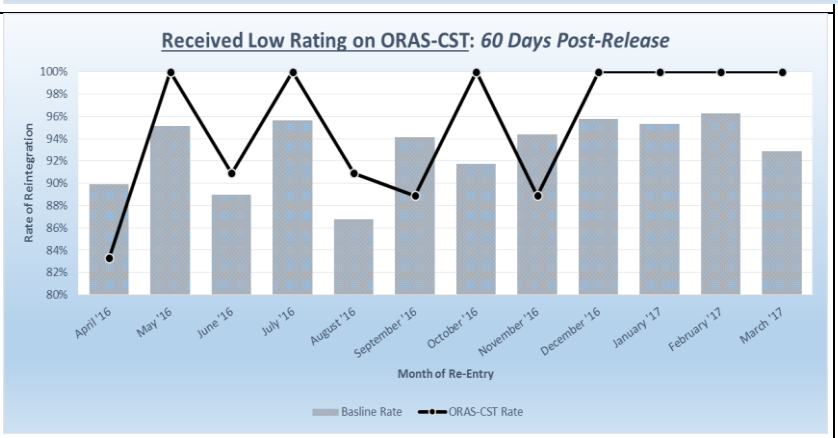
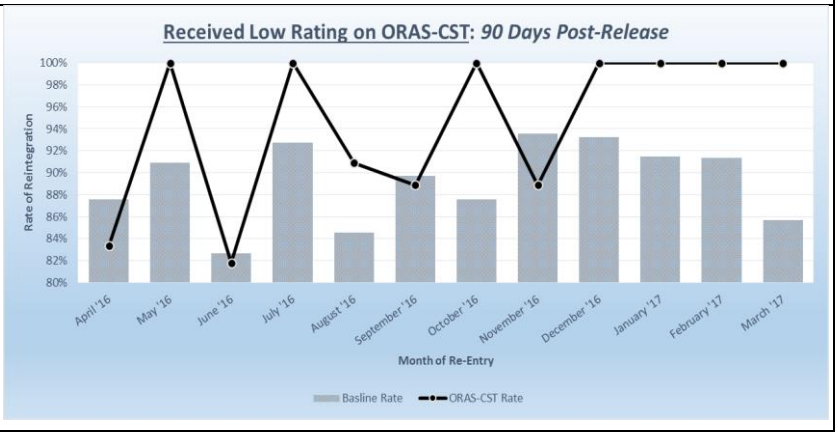
The average rate of those individuals who were surveyed prior to entering the community who scored in the Low risk range on the ORAS-CST at the time of their re-entry comprised 6.8% of the baseline population. An average of 126 individuals re-entered the community each month, and on average 8.6 of these individuals were rated in the Low risk range on the ORAS-CST. Those numbers can be seen below:

Table 1:

	Valid Re-Entries to the Community	Rated Low on ORAS-CST	Percentage of Overall Re-Entries Each Month
Apr '16	129	6	4.7%
May '16	143	9	6.3%
Jun '16	127	11	8.7%
Jul '16	138	7	5.1%
Aug '16	136	11	8.1%
Sep '16	136	9	6.6%
Oct '16	121	6	5.0%
Nov '16	124	9	7.3%
Dec '16	118	8	6.8%
Jan '17	129	7	5.4%
Feb '17	81	9	11.1%
Mar '17	126	11	8.7%
Totals & Averages	1508	103	6.8%

For two of the three 30 day-periods reviewed in this assessment the rates of reintegration were higher than the baseline population. The average percentage of those people who scored Low Risk on the ORAS-CST and subsequently remained in the community were 96.6% (0.4% lower), 95.2% (2.2% higher) and 94.5% (5.2% higher) for each time period reviewed. Overall it appears that the Low Risk score is fairly accurate indicator of successful reintegration into the community based on averages among the individuals reviewed.

[3] Client_ORAS_Rating_lookup_TBL

CHART 1: 0-30 DAY RETURNS On average, 0.4% lower than baseline A total of 96.6% of the individuals who scored in the Low Risk range on the ORAS-CST remained in the community, compared to the 97% of the baseline group Eight months had 100% reintegration rates Trending indicates that rates were higher in the latter half of the months reviewed	
CHART 2: 31-60 DAY RETURNS On average, 2.2% higher than baseline A total of 95.2% of the individuals who scored in the Low Risk range on the ORAS-CST remained in the community, compared to the 93.1% of the baseline group Seven months still had 100% reintegration rates Trending indicates that rates remained higher in the latter half of the months reviewed	
CHART 3: 61-90 DAYS On average, 5.2% higher than baseline A total of 94.5% of the individuals who scored in the Low Risk range on the ORAS-CST remained in the community, compared to the 89.3% of the baseline group Seven months still had 100% reintegration rates Trending indicates that rates were still higher in the latter half of the months reviewed	

Rate of Reintegration: ORAS-CST High-Risk Rating

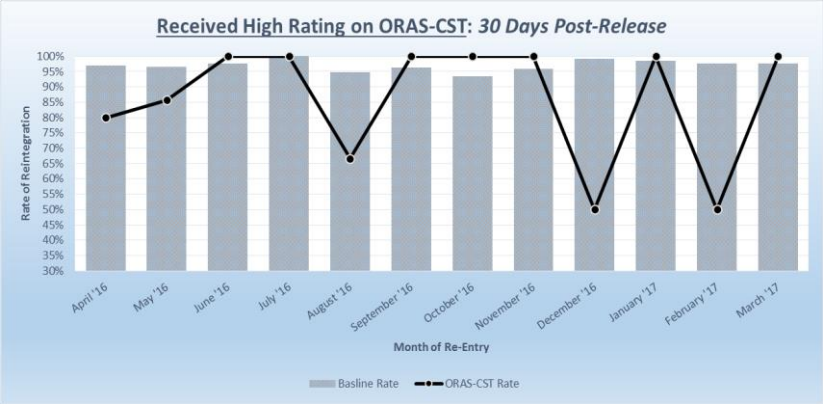
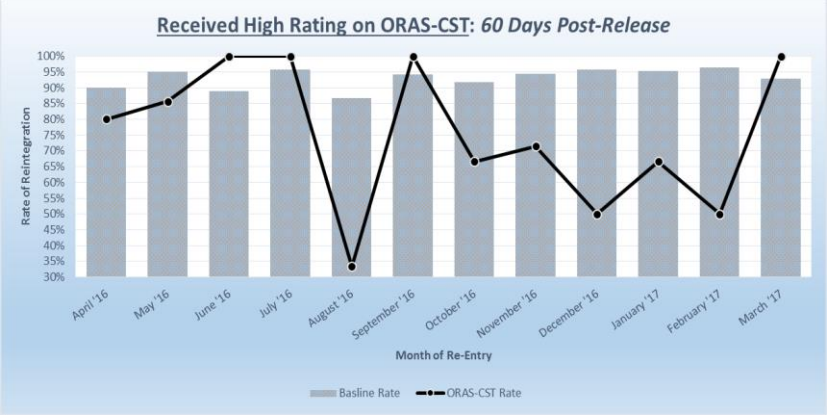
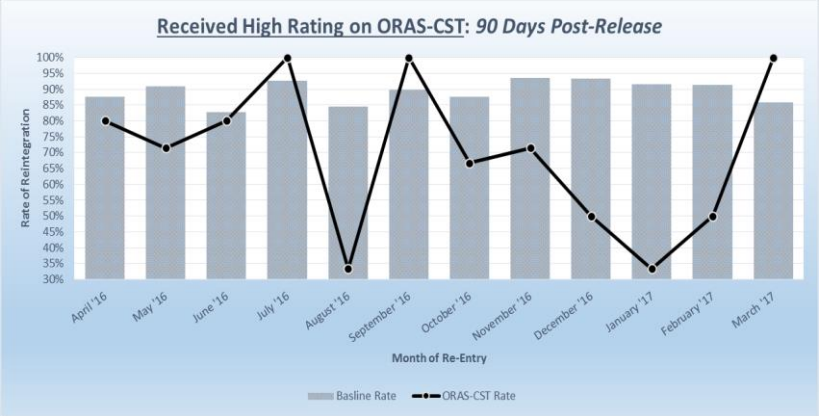
The average rate of those individuals who were surveyed prior to entering the community who scored in the High risk range on the ORAS-CST at the time of their re-entry made up 3.6% of the baseline population. An average of 126 individuals re-entered the community each month, and on average 4.5 of these individuals were rated in the High risk range on the ORAS-CST. Those numbers can be seen below:

Table 1:

	Valid Re-Entries to the Community	Rated High on ORAS-CST	Percentage of Overall Re-Entries Each Month
Apr '16	129	5	3.9%
May '16	143	7	4.9%
Jun '16	127	5	3.9%
Jul '16	138	7	5.1%
Aug '16	136	3	2.2%
Sep '16	136	6	4.4%
Oct '16	121	3	2.5%
Nov '16	124	7	5.6%
Dec '16	118	2	1.7%
Jan '17	129	3	2.3%
Feb '17	81	2	2.5%
Mar '17	126	4	3.2%
Totals & Averages	1508	54	3.6%

For each 30 day-period reviewed in this assessment the rates of reintegration were lower than the baseline population. The average percentage of those people who scored High Risk on the ORAS-CST and subsequently remained in the community were 86% (11% lower), 75.3% (17.8% lower) and 69.7% (19.6% lower) for each time period reviewed. Overall it appears that the High Risk score is fairly accurate indicator of community reintegration based on averages among the individuals reviewed.

As stated previously in this study, the overall goal of the ORAS-CST is not simply to assess an individual's potential risk for returning to a DOC facility; it is to "guide and prioritize appropriate and effective programmatic intervention" (ORAS, 1). Additional programming may help mitigate the observed differences in reintegration rates among those who scored as Low risk and High risk on the ORAS-CST.

CHART 4: 0-30 DAY RETURNS On average, 11% lower than baseline A total of 86% of the individuals who scored in the High Risk range on the ORAS-CST remained in the community, compared to the 97% of the baseline group Seven months had 100% reintegration rates Trending indicates that rates were higher in the earlier months reviewed	
CHART 5: 31-60 DAY RETURNS On average, 17.8% lower than baseline A total of 75.3% of the individuals who scored in the High range on the ORAS-CST remained in the community, compared to the 93.1% of the baseline group Four months still had 100% reintegration rates Trending indicates that rates were higher in the earlier months reviewed	
CHART 6: 61-90 DAYS On average, 19.6% lower than baseline A total of 69.7% of the individuals who scored in the High Risk range on the ORAS-CST remained in the community, compared to the 89.3% of the baseline group Three months still had 100% reintegration rates Trending indicates that rates were higher in the earlier of the months reviewed	

Appendix A: Baseline Population Study

The baseline for this period (April 2016 – March 2017) is as follows:

	Total Monthly Re-Entries	Excluded Re-Entries	Valid Re-Entries	30-Day Rate	Individuals Returned to Facility	60-Day Rate	Individuals Returned to Facility	90-Day Rate	Individuals Returned to Facility
Apr '16	134	5	129	96.9%	4	89.9%	9	87.6%	3
May '16	149	6	143	96.5%	5	95.1%	2	90.9%	6
Jun '16	129	2	127	97.6%	3	89.0%	11	82.7%	8
Jul '16	141	3	138	100.0%	0	95.7%	6	92.8%	4
Aug '16	140	4	136	94.9%	7	86.8%	11	84.6%	3
Sep '16	141	5	136	96.3%	5	94.1%	3	89.7%	6
Oct '16	126	5	121	93.4%	8	91.7%	2	87.6%	5
Nov '16	125	1	124	96.0%	5	94.4%	2	93.5%	1
Dec '16	118	0	118	99.2%	1	95.8%	4	93.2%	3
Jan '17	132	3	129	98.4%	2	95.3%	4	91.5%	5
Feb '17	83	2	81	97.5%	2	96.3%	1	91.4%	4
Mar '17	134	8	126	97.6%	3	92.9%	6	85.7%	9
Total & Averages	1552	44	1508	97%	45	93.1%	61	89.3%	57

Appendix B: Works Cited

Clark, Catie et. al. "Assessing the Impact of Post-Release Community Supervision on Post-Release Recidivism and Employment." Florida Department of Corrections & Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Jus*tice*, (December 2015)

Costanza, S.E. et. al. "The Impact of Halfway Houses on Parole Success and Recidivism." *Journal of Sociological Research*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (2015)

ORAS. *The Ohio Risk Assessment System*. The University of Cincinnati – Center for Criminal Justice Research.