

HOPE Evaluation Findings

The National Institute of Justice recently released findings from a DOJ-sponsored evaluation of HOPE conducted by Dr. Angela Hawken of Pepperdine University. The full report is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/229023.pdf>

The evaluation was a randomized controlled trial; considered the “gold standard” of research designs. Due to randomization, the control group was not statistically different from the HOPE group in terms of age, sex, race/ethnicity, risk level or criminal history. Baseline statistics indicate that nearly half of all participants were assessed as high risk, with the typical probationer having more than a dozen prior arrests.

In a one-year observation period, HOPE probationers were

- 55% less likely to be arrested for a new crime,
- 72% less likely to use drugs,
- 61% less likely to skip appointments with their supervisory officer, and
- 53% less likely to have their probation revoked.
- As a result, they served or were sentenced to, on average, 48% fewer days of incarceration than the control group.

