



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY &
PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY
RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

EXPEDITED REVIEW RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT

DATE: August 11, 2005

I. RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Principal Researcher: Calvin C. Johnson, CSOSA Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) and Project Lead. Other ORE staff include David Huffer (Senior Statistician), and Michelle Pelzer (Program Analyst).

Title: Exploratory Analyses of CSOSA's Substance Abuse Outcome Data

Institution: CSOSA, ORE, Washington, DC

Type of Data: Aggregate-level data.

Subjects: The research will use sample selections to generalize findings to the overall offender population. Most sample selections will involve extracting either an entry or exit offender cohort. All data will be extracted from archived versions of SMART and/or WinTox (starting FY03).

Description: The primary objectives of this research exercise are to:

1. Explore the screening and assessment protocols for identifying chronic substance abusers that present public safety risk,
2. Assess the treatment pathways for offenders placed in a treatment continuum,
3. Identify factors associated with treatment completion,
4. Identify factors associated with pre-post changes in persistent drug use

These exercises are expected to result in a set of exploratory analyses that will help guide decision-making with respect to prioritization of substance abuse treatment delivery. Specifically, these exercises will (1) describe the process flow general supervision screening to substance abuse assessment, (2) describe the existing clinical pathways for difference categories of substance abuse presentations, (3) produce

descriptive statistics that describe the rate of treatment completion, and (4) produce descriptive statistics that describe pre-post changes in persistent drug use.

This study pertains only to CSOSA.

II. QUALIFICATION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW

This is a request for aggregate-level data which poses no risk to individual offenders, does not require Agency resources in excess of those already allocated toward ORE staffing, and does not require participation by community supervision officers.

III. RECOMMENDATION

The RRC recommendation for this study:

Support Support with Conditions Do Not Support

The RRC recommends support of this request as described in the researcher's proposal.

III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Regulatory:

The proposed research shows no evidence of non-compliance with Agency policies pertaining to research.

Benefits to Agency:

The proposed research is consistent with Agency priorities and/or interests as follows:

- Research findings are anticipated to highlight areas of opportunity to employ evidence-based approaches to providing sanction-based treatment with high-risk offenders as the priority.
- CSOSA will experience a higher rate of successful completion among treatment participants (**CSF: Treatment and Support Services**). These participants are expected to experience lower rates of substance use during the first 180-days following completing of the treatment continuum (**CSF: Intermediate Outcome [Drug Use]**).
- CSOSA will be in position to provide ongoing process and outcome evaluations of its treatment programs.
- These evaluations will likely become an integral component supporting program enhancements, re-prioritization schemes, and budget justifications.

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- Such an approach will ensure that CSOSA is utilizing resources in a manner that has been demonstrated to effectively provide treatment to targeted population.

Related Issues or Concerns:

- None

I ACCEPT the RRC recommendation	I DO NOT ACCEPT the RRC recommendation
	
Paul A. Quander, Jr., Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	
Comments:	

(1) Name(s) and current Agency and Agency component of the employee(s) conducting the research;

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(2) Title of the study

Exploratory Analyses of CSOSA's Substance Abuse Outcome Data

(3) Purpose of the project

CSOSA provides contract substance abuse treatment to offenders with special conditions in their release orders as well as to offenders who screened into treatment following drug use surveillance. Because CSOSA's contract substance abuse treatment resources are limited, it becoming more apparent that the agency will need to move towards an evidence-base approach to treatment prioritization. Such an approach will ensure that CSOSA is utilizing resources in a manner that has been demonstrated to effectively provide treatment to targeted population. (Note: CSOSA treatment prioritization begins with an assessment of chronic substance abuse patterns and risk to public safety.)

The primary objectives of this research exercise are to:

1. explore the screening and assessment protocols for identifying chronic substance abusers that present public safety risk,
2. assess the treatment pathways for offenders placed in a treatment continuum,
3. identify factors associated with treatment completion,
4. identify factors associated with pre-post changes in persistent drug use

We expect that these exercises will result in a set of exploratory analyses that will help guide decision-making with respect to prioritization of substance abuse treatment delivery. Specifically, these exercises will (1) describe the process flow general supervision screening to substance abuse assessment, (2) describe the existing clinical pathways for difference categories of substance abuse presentations, (3) produce descriptive statistics that describe the rate of treatment completion, and (4) produce descriptive statistics that describe pre-post changes in persistent drug use.

The benefits to CSOSA are multifold. CSOSA will be in position to provide ongoing

process and outcome evaluations of its treatment programs. These evaluations will likely become an integral component supporting program enhancements, re-prioritization schemes, and budget justifications.

(4) Location of the project

The project will be conducted at 633 Indiana Avenue NW with site visits to each of the 6 satellite offices.

(5) Research methods to be employed

The Office of Research and Evaluation will incorporate a mix of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods include sampling of offender cohorts, extraction of offender drug testing data from WinTox, offender treatment data from SMART, and interviews with staff in Community Supervision Programs and Community Justice Programs. Qualitative data collection will support our understanding of the quality of data used to complete this study. Specifically, we will follow-up with CSOSA staff familiar with relevant records data regarding limitations that must be considered.

When appropriate, the data will be analyzed using descriptive and/or multivariate statistics. After collecting data, we will analyze data and present findings in easy to read evaluation updates.

(6) Anticipated results

We anticipate that research findings will highlight areas of opportunity to employ evidence-based approaches to providing sanction-based treatment with high-risk offenders as the priority.

(7) Duration of the study

These research exercises will be conducted throughout the course of the each fiscal year in support of CSOSA's performance measurement and budget activities.

(8) Sample size required and/or time frame for sample collection

When appropriate, the Office of Research and Evaluation will employ sampling techniques to determine the effective strategies required to generalize findings to the overall offender population. Most sample selections will involve extracting either an entry or exit offender cohort. All data will be extracted from archived versions of SMART and/or WinTox (starting FY03).

All data will be analyzed using an identification code that protects the identity of all respondents and associated data. The identification code is a linkable value that requires a level of access not offered to staff outside OIT/ORE.

(9) Number of agency staff needed to support the study and description of the support needs

1. Calvin C. Johnson (Project Lead) will direct the implementation of study methods and analytical approach.
2. David Huffer (Senior Statistician) will lead sampling extraction and statistical analysis.
3. Michelle Pelzer (Program Analyst) will conduct initial data extraction and cleaning activities.

(10) Specific resources required from the Agency

Most of the Agency resources required to implement this project are already in place. Specifically, we will need to have ongoing connectivity to the ORE server that contains monthly instances of SMART (backup copies) as well as nightly SMART backups. Whenever we experience database-related problems, we will need to coordinate corrective actions with Database Administrator in CSOSA OIT. Finally, we will need CSOSA OIT staff to ensure that statistical and statistical support applications are accessible and available for use between normal business hours.

(11) Description of any anticipated effects of the research project on Agency programs and operations

As mentioned above, we anticipate producing findings that will help guide decision-making with respect to prioritization of substance abuse treatment delivery. Specifically, the objective is to begin to describe the patterns of treatment outcomes with an eye toward predicting those outcomes with data known immediately prior to treatment placement.

Additionally, we expect that CSOSA will experience a higher rate of successful completion among treatment participants (*CSF: Treatment and Support Services*). These participants are expected to experience lower rates of substance use during the first 180-days following completing of the treatment continuum (*CSF: Intermediate Outcome [Drug Use]*).

(12) List of deliverables

1. Evaluation Updates (yearly)
2. Special Studies (yearly – when approved by AD for Community Justice Programs)
3. Summary Findings for FY Congressional Budget Justification (Performance Budget Sections)