Recidivism Rates for a Motivation-Enhancing Intervention Versus Other or No Program

Pamela A. Stafford, MA1, Michele A. Crisafulli, MA2, Blair Beadnell, PhD1, & David B. Rosengren, PhD1
1Prevention Research Institute, Lexington, KY; 2University of Maryland, Baltimore County

INTRODUCTION
• After being arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs (OUI), many offenders will continue to drive impaired and be rearrested
• Averaged across studies, 19% of people who receive only legal sanctions (such as jail or fines) for an alcohol-related OUI are rearrested, and rates for drug-related OUIs are even higher
• Research has pointed to brief motivational intervention as an effective tool for reducing OUI recidivism
• PRIME For Life (PFL) is a widely-used group delivered intervention for this population. Its content is manualized, theoretically-guided, empirically-derived, and motivationally-based

PURPOSE
• Summarize findings from multiple evaluations about PFL’s effectiveness in reducing OUI recidivism

STUDIES 1-3: PFL COMPLETERS VERSUS NONCOMPLETERS

BACKGROUND
• Some organizations using PFL have conducted independent program evaluations
• We chose the most rigorous out of a number of evaluations
• To be included, each must include data on rearrest for drug- and alcohol-related infractions, have a written summary of findings available, compare PFL participants with a comparison group, and account for any known differences between the PFL and comparison groups

METHOD
• Lowencamp et al. (2007) compared PFL completers to two groups: those who did not attend PFL and those who attended but never completed
• Marsteller et al. (1997) compared PFL participants to those who did not participate in PFL
• Fuchs & Hinton (1995) compared youth completing an early PFL version to those who did not

RESULTS
• All three external evaluations found that recidivism rates were lowest amongst those who completed PFL

SUMMARY AND LIMITATIONS
• Recidivism studies of indicated prevention programs are challenging to implement and rare
• Each of the studies here has strengths and weaknesses
• Across these studies, the results consistently show lower recidivism among OUI offenders completing PFL

STUDY 4: PFL VERSUS AN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND
• PRI conducted an evaluation of PFL’s effectiveness by comparing recidivism rates before and after a program transition in the state of Maine
• In Maine, individuals arrested for an OUI must complete an education program (which may or may not be followed by substance abuse treatment) to reinstate their license
• There were two Cohorts: Cohort 1 received either a two-hour Adult Assessment Program (AAP) or the 22-hour Weekend Intervention Program (WIP), and Cohort 2 received a 20-hour version of PFL

METHOD
• We compared the two cohorts’ three-year recidivism rates (among people 18 years and older)
• Participants received their OUI or completed their intervention 9/1/1999 to 8/31/2000 (Cohort 1) or 9/1/2002 to 8/31/2003 (Cohort 2)
• Analyses controlled for age, gender, prior OUI, and completion of a prior prevention program

RESULTS
• Recidivism for noncompleters was similar between the two cohorts
• Recidivism was lower for PFL and PFL+treatment completers than completers of the earlier program

We wish to thank Susan Long, manager of Maine’s Driver Education and Evaluation Programs (DEEP), for her support, assistance, and consultation on the study in Maine.