

Evaluating Problem Solving Courts as a Public Health Intervention to Prevent Fatal and Non-Fatal Opioid Overdose Events



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Indiana State Department of Health
Management Performance Hub

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Individuals arrested for drug misuse can be sentenced to traditional correctional facilities or, in some cases, can participate in Problem Solving Courts – specialized dockets that seek to treat the underlying problems contributing to criminal behavior. In 2019, the Research Team received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to evaluate and model interventions offered by adult Problem Solving Courts that may affect morbidity and mortality. This study will analyze data from 01/01/2018 - 06/30/2021.



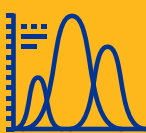
LEGAL DATASETS

- Protocols and program information from 30 Problem Solving Courts throughout Indiana will be coded to identify the specific interventions individuals received during their programs.
- The coded data will then be linked to datasets housed at the Management Performance Hub, including emergency department visits, EMS calls, rearrest, and deaths, to understand what happened to these individuals 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 6 months, and 1 year post-release.



QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS

- Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with Indiana Problem Solving Court Committee representatives, Problem Solving Court team members, addiction recovery staff, and assistant wardens to further inform what interventions were offered in Problem Solving Court programs and correctional facilities.



BIOSTATISTICAL ANALYSES

- Difference-in-Difference analysis will be performed on the linked datasets to estimate the effect of specific interventions given to Problem Solving Court participants compared to those offered to incarcerated individuals.
- Time-to-Event analysis will compare emergency department presentations, EMS calls, rearrest, or fatal events at certain post-release intervals for the Problem Solving Court participants and those in traditional correctional facilities.



MODELING

- A large scale agent-based model will be developed to create visualizations of the impacts interventions could have if introduced into communities.



DELIVERABLES

- Based upon partner preferences, deliverables may include white papers, dashboards, infographics, and county specific reports.

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