EVALUATION RESULTS
SONOMA COUNTY PROBATION
April 2019

AB 109 DRC Outcome Evaluation
In 2018, the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) contracted with Resource Development Associates (RDA) to conduct an outcome evaluation for individuals receiving services at Sonoma County Probation’s Day Reporting Center (DRC). The evaluation included analyses of: (1) program-specific outcomes, and (2) the association between DRC participation and recidivism.

DRC Background:
The DRC is a service center where individuals on probation can receive services designed to change behavior and increase positive supports. DRC activities, which include assessments, team case coordination and DRC programming, are designed based on evidence that these activities promote behavior change that ultimately leads to the reduced incidence of recidivism. Staffed by Probation Officers and other Probation staff since 2015, in collaboration with co-located system partners and service providers, services include: cognitive behavioral programming, substance abuse outpatient treatment, employment and education services, and eligibility services for public benefits. The outcome evaluation conducted included participants receiving DRC services between January 2015 and September 2018.

Key Evaluation Findings:
- **DRC service completion rates ranged** from 35% for Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI) to 67% for Aggression Replacement Training (ART).
- Assessment results showed a 19% increase in participants’ use of prosocial skills and a 10% decrease in pro-criminal attitudes. There were no meaningful changes in cognitive distortions or aggression.
- **DRC participants with higher dosage levels (60+ hours) were less likely to recidivate within two years** compared to participants with lower dosage levels. The following graph, referred to as a “survival curve,” shows the likelihood of recidivating over time, broken out by four different dosage categories. The flatter the curve, the fewer individuals estimated to recidivate over time. DRC participants that

DRC Participant Snapshot
- **Annual Enrollment:** About 250 participants
- **Probation Type:** 56% on Formal Probation and 44% AB 109 population (30% Post Release Community Supervision and 14% Mandatory Supervision)
- **Risk Level:** 67% are High Risk, 24% Moderate Risk
- **Gender:** 85% Male and 15% Female
- **Race/Ethnicity:** 62% White, 23% Hispanic, and 10% Black

Data Sources
Nine data sources were used for the evaluation, including: DRC and Probation datasets, ONA and Risk Assessment scores, arrest and booking data, and DRC participant assessments.

Recidivism Definition
For purposes of the evaluation, a recidivism event is defined as a conviction for a new misdemeanor or felony offense.
received high dosage (represented by the blue line) were 58% less likely to recidivate compared to those received less than 10 hours (orange line).

- When comparing DRC participants to a comparison group of non-DRC participants on Probation, there was no meaningful difference between the recidivism rates for the two groups. However, it is likely there are differences between the two groups that could not be controlled for in the analysis that could account for different recidivism outcomes. In particular, we do not know what criteria probation officers consider when making DRC referrals; therefore, these criteria could not be controlled for in the analysis.

View the full report here