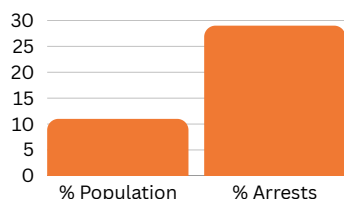


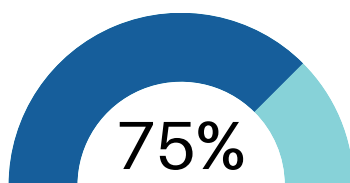
TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY EVALUATION FINDINGS

The Problem

Criminal justice system is failing emerging adults (ages 17-24 years old)



Emerging adults make up 11% of Texas's population but account for 29% of arrests.*



Emerging adults have the highest recidivism rate (75%) compared to other age groups.**



Emerging adults have distinct needs including underemployment, housing insecurity, mental health diagnoses and trauma.***

The Transformative Justice Program

- Phased approach - assessment, stabilization, transformation
- Emerging adult participants receive:
 - Individualized care plan
 - Case management
 - Services in the community
 - Life skills classes
 - Regular check-ins with case management team and other participants



The Study

We aim to answer 2 questions:

We conducted a randomized control trial, interviewed 14 program leaders and 14 program participants, observed court sessions and meetings, and analyzed costs.

1 Does a community-based services program led by team-based decision-makers improve emerging adults physical and mental health and reduce recidivism compared to the current criminal justice system?

2 What features of the program are driving these outcomes? What is working and not working?

Study Sample	No Program (n = 73)	In Program (n = 73)
Age	19.7	19.8
% Male	79%	73%
% White	78%	85%
% Hispanic	49%	47%

There are no distinct differences between groups meaning the samples are similar.

*Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2013). Crime in the United States, 2012. Washington DC: United States Department of Justice. Retrieved from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/38tabledatadecoverview.pdf> **Carson, E.A., and Golinelli, D. (2014). "Prisoners in 2012: Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991-2012." U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics. ***U.S. Department of Labor, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (accessed April 24, 2018), <http://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseee10.htm>; Council for State Governments, "Reducing Recidivism and Improving Other Outcomes for Young Adults in the Juvenile and Adult Criminal Justice Systems." (Nov. 2015); National Research Council, Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach. Committee on Assessing Juvenile Justice Reform, Richard J. Bonnie, Robert L. Johnson, Betty M. Chemers, and Julie A. Schuck, Eds. Committee on Law and Justice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press (2013); Velazquez, T. "Young Adult Justice: A New Frontier Worth Exploring." The Chronicle of Social Change (2013).



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Public Policy
Research Institute

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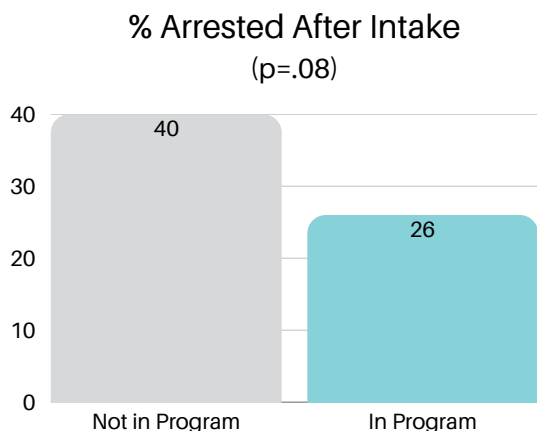
For questions, email gnaufal@tamu.edu

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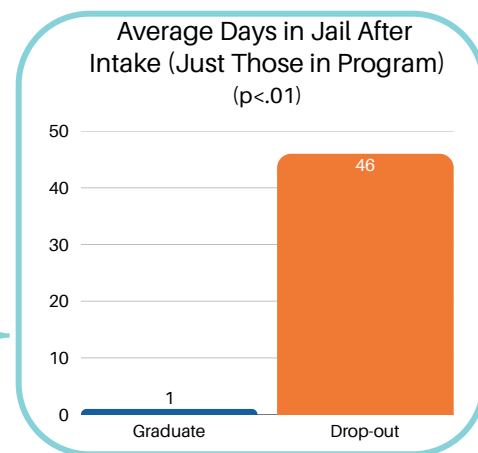
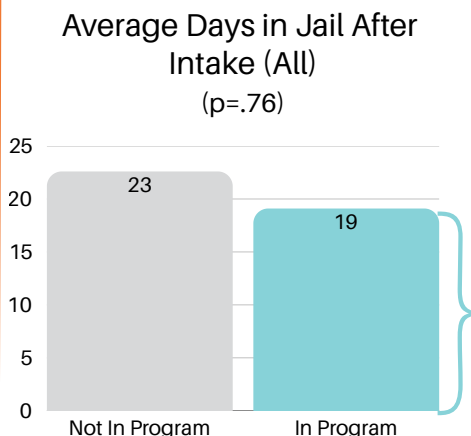
The Findings

After following each participant for two years, we compared outcomes.

Those in the program were 35% less likely to be arrested after intake compared to those not in program

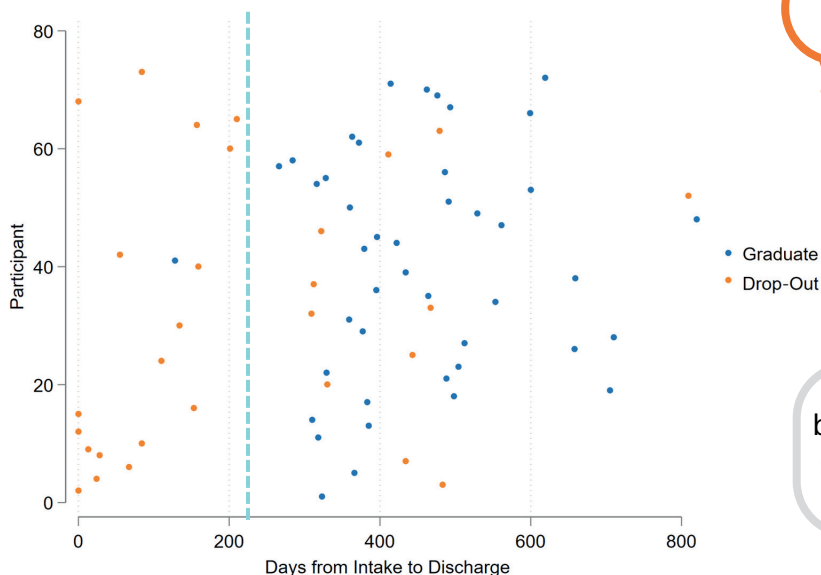


While there is not a statistically significant reduction in jail days between those in the program and those not, there is a difference between those in the program who graduate compared to those who drop out.



60% of those in the program graduated.

First 200 days in program seem to be crucial to participants graduating.



Graduates value the program and their experience.

"If it wasn't for the program, I would probably be dead."

"This program...gives us a chance in life and having a future. If it was not for this program, we would all have a bleak future. With a felony record or pending felony, we cannot even sign a lease for an apartment or we have to pay a lot more."

"I am a totally different person from who I was at the beginning of this program, so I am grateful and have a new perspective towards life. I can now reflect on my past and do not want to go back."

What went well:

- Community links to treatment, school, jobs, and life skills
- Case management that supports and holds accountable
- Personalized, phased services works
- Whole team builds trust with each participant
- Flexible program for varied needs
- Shifting mindset about the justice system

What was challenging:

- Limited access to transport, housing, and regular care
- Finding the right level of support is tough
- Managing outreach and services is labor-intensive
- Defendants may be reluctant to join or follow through

The Costs

- Program costs: \$10,000 per participant.
- Potential community savings from fewer jail days, arrests, supervision, and placement.
- Three models considered due to estimate uncertainty.
- Two models show annual savings of \$1,000–\$2,200 per participant; one shows \$700 lost
- Broader societal benefits (e.g., saved lives, reduced trauma, intergenerational effects) not fully captured in fiscal calculations, but likely substantial.

Dollars saved, multiple models

