



Reduce Recidivism, Prison Violence & Related Costs in California: Train Social Service Providers in Safe & Cost-Effective Ear Acupuncture

The Problem: The Revolving Door

Inadequate addiction services in the community often contributes to the prison “revolving door”, increasing taxpayer burden and leaving related mental health problems unresolved

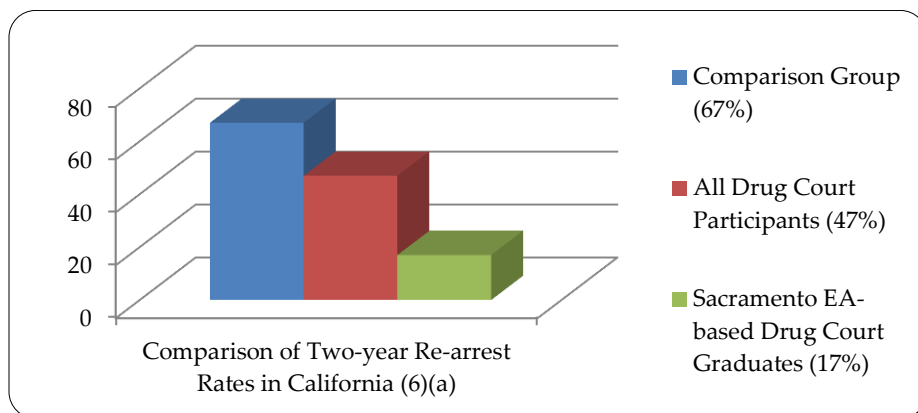
Impact of Ear Acupuncture on Prisons, Recidivism & Costs

130 UK prisons reduce violence using EA provided by trained correctional staff²

Reduced psychiatric drug use within severe psychiatric prison units³

EA-based drug court saved Oregon taxpayers estimated \$79m over 10 years⁴

Positive reports of long-term outcomes for 163 inmates receiving EA (2004)⁵



Harnessing the Power of EA & Frontline Workers

EA enables positive choice and change: most studies suggest that acupuncture can modulate affect and cognition⁷

Ear acupuncture (EA) provides a clinically effective and economical treatment when provided by in-house trained staff: \$0.63 per treatment (Mercier, 1992)(b)

Helps ensure continuity of client care, despite staff attrition

Helps maintain program resilience in the face of budget constraints

Expands provider base by thousands, to include: correctional workers, doctors, social workers, nurses, counselors, therapists, harm reduction workers, first responders, homeless shelter workers and scores of other allied health workers

Safety, Training and Trends

NADA-trained workers verified as safe by acupuncture insurance provider (c)

“Clean needle” NADA ear acupuncture instruction approved in 18 states (d)

Seventeen US states, many Canadian provinces, and countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and South America, permit other licensed health professionals to provide ear acupuncture

Backed by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives Utilized by Yale University Connecticut Mental Health Center since 1996

“I was skeptical at first, but everyone I talked to said [EA] helped. I became a believer.”—Former Attorney General Janet Reno, who oversaw the first NADA-based drug court in the United States

“The Texas Department of State Health Services very much supports the use of [EA] and finds it extremely effective.”—John Keppler, MD, Former Director, Texas Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division Department of State Health Services (2008 NADA Conference)

“[EA] has been shown to reduce drug and alcohol cravings, reduce withdrawal symptoms, and in conjunction with group counseling, can facilitate the seeking of more comprehensive treatment...[EA] is cheap and a very effective on-the-ground treatment modality when coupled with other psychosocial interventions.”—State of New Mexico, Governor Richardson’s Task Force on Prison Reform⁹

“In my experience (since 1997) [EA] is the best support for...comprehensive treatment...I have ever seen. Whether court mandated...or out of prison we see improved engagement and retention...with [EA].”—Janet F. Martini, M.Ed., LPC/S, Executive Director, Keystone Substance Abuse Services, Rock Hill, SC: www.keystoneyork.org

“From where [Biscailuz’ correctional staff] sit, [EA] makes our job easier. The [inmates] are more willing to learn. I know the guys coming in withdrawing from heroin...it helps them...[EA] takes away headaches, body aches, cravings for...drugs.”—Luis Lopez, Program Supervisor, Biscailuz Recovery Center (f)

“...[EA] in the treatment of PTSD provides an element of patient engagement not possible with traditional therapies alone,”—Navy Capt. Robert L. Koffman, MD, MPH, department chief for clinical operations at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence in Bethesda, Md.



Notes

- (a) Time spent in program correlated with lower recidivism rates, i.e., the longer the client remains in the program, the lower his or her risk of recidivism.
- (b) Based on the Mercier (1992) study findings that programs utilizing trained in-house staff operated at 1/16 the cost of those dependent on contracted, licensed acupuncturists
- (c) The American Acupuncture Council is the major acupuncture insurance company in the field
- (d) State legislatures, governmental regulatory and health agencies have reviewed the NADA Clean Needle Training content and found that it appropriately addresses safety. These states include: AZ, CO, CT, DE, GA, IN, LA, MD, MI, MO, NM, NY, SC, TN, TX, VT, VA, and WA.
- (f) Discovery Channel report: retrieved from www.youtube.com/watch?v=82--kr-Hog4
- (g) Example of an "exemption law" that permits trained, non-acupuncturist providers to deliver ear acupuncture:
http://acudetox.com/images/stories/NADA_Files/CO_ADS_law.pdf

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