

Programming Reduces Criminal Thinking

FACILITY:

Lumberton CRV · Robeson County, NC

POPULATION:

Probation Violators

CUSTOMER:

North Carolina Department of Corrections

PROGRAM LENGTH:

90 Days

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

GEO Reentry Services provides comprehensive treatment programs tailored to meet individual offender’s risks and needs. At the foundation of GEO’s treatment is evidence-based programming designed to address criminogenic needs as identified through the assessment process. GEO Reentry’s model includes the following: Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT), substance abuse treatment, life skills training, anger management skills, and family relationship reconciliation. Programming is delivered through group and individual sessions.

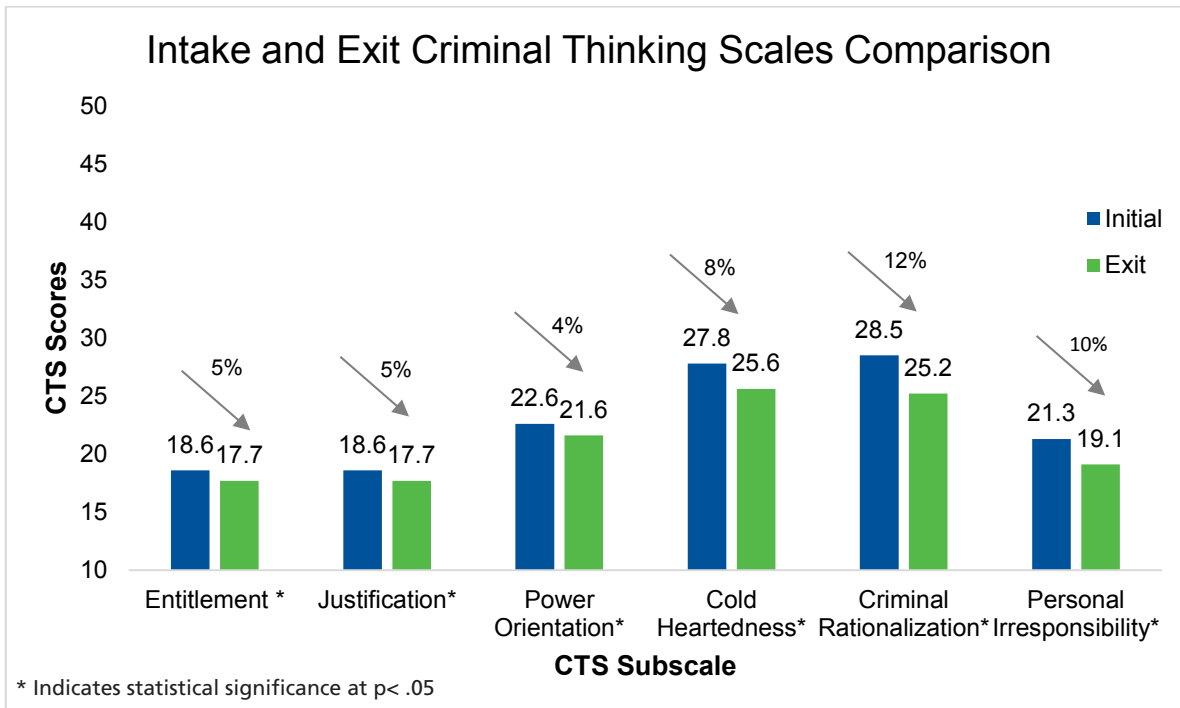
WHY IS A REDUCTION IN CRIMINAL THINKING IMPORTANT?

Criminal thinking domains, such as antisocial cognitions and antisocial attitudes, are frequent targets for change in correctional treatment, and are described in current theories of criminal behavior.¹ The research on “What Works” to reduce recidivism indicates that antisocial cognition and antisocial attitudes (criminal thinking) are among the top three risk factors as drivers of recidivism. The Texas Christian University Criminal Thinking Scales (CTS), a reliable and validated instrument, measures the effect of GEO’s programming on antisocial cognition and attitudes. The results of this report indicate that GEO’s programs reduce criminal thinking patterns as measured by the CTS, and therefore lower the potential for future recidivism.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

The evaluators located the pre-test and post-test CTS scores for 281 participants from the Lumberton CRV. The participants were discharged between September 2016 and May 2017. The average treatment episode for the participants was 69 days. The participants completed an average of six Moral Reconciliation Therapy® (MRT) steps. The average CTS score reduction was 7% (2 points) across the six domains.

The results indicated that the programming at the Lumberton CRV facility significantly reduced criminal thinking for participants in the sample as evidenced by the changes in their CTS scores from pre-test to post-test.



Other findings included the following:

- Individuals who completed more MRT steps had a greater reduction in their criminal thinking than those who did not.
- Additionally, even controlling for the length of stay in the program, the number of MRT steps completed significantly lowered the CTS scores.
- There was a statistically significant reduction in CTS scores for all participants.

¹Knight, K., Garner, B.R., Simpson D.W. Morey, J.T., & Flynn, P.M. (2006). “An assessment for criminal thinking” *Crime & Delinquency*, Vol. 52, No. 1, 159-177

MRT IMPACT ON CTS REDUCTION:

- The chart below shows those individuals who completed seven or more MRT steps, while at the Lumberton CRV facility, had a greater reduction in their CTS scores than those who did not.
- Additional analyses found that the number of completed MRT steps significantly decreased CTS scores for all subscales except Cold Heartedness - even controlling for the length of stay in the program.

MRT Step Completion Comparison

CTS SCALES	0-6 MRT STEPS COMPLETED AVG. LOS = 63 DAYS		7-12 MRT STEPS COMPLETED AVG. LOS = 77 DAYS	
	Initial CTS Scores	Exit CTS Scores	Initial CTS Scores	Exit CTS Scores
Entitlement	18.9	18.4	18.3	16.6
Justification	18.9	18.5	18.3	16.7
Power Orientation	23.2	22.7	21.8	20.3
Cold Heartedness	28.8	26.1	26.7	24.9
Criminal Rationalization	28.3	26.0	28.6	24.0
Personal Irresponsibility	21.2	19.9	21.4	18.1

*Scores in Green are Significantly Different

Criminal Thinking Scales

ELEMENTS	DESCRIPTION
Entitlement	Focuses on a sense of ownership and privilege. High scores are associated with the offender's belief that the world "owes them" and they deserve special consideration.
Justification	Refers to patterns of thought that minimize the seriousness of antisocial acts and by justifying actions based on external circumstances. High scores may be associated with perceived social injustice.
Personal Irresponsibility	Assesses the degree to which an offender is willing to accept ownership for criminal actions. Therefore, high scores are associated with non-acceptance of criminal actions and often blaming others.
Power Orientation	Measures the need of power and control. High scores are associated with higher levels of aggression and controlling behaviors.
Cold Heartedness	High scores reflect a lack of emotional involvement.
Criminal Rationalization	High scores on this scale are associated with negative attitude towards the law and authority figures.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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