



REVELATIONS IN **RECIDIVISM**

*Reducing Recidivism in Returning Offenders with Alcohol and Drug Related Offenses:
Contracts for the Delivery of Authentic Peer Based Recovery Support Services*

Dr. Sarah Scarbrough conducted a 4-year research study of Kingdom Life Ministries (KLM) as the basis for her doctoral dissertation en route to earning a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her findings clearly illustrate that the fight against substance abuse and recidivism is not hopeless. The effectiveness of KLM and other private organizations provide more cost-effective and efficient services than public programs.



THE MOST VIOLENT TIER OF THE RICHMOND CITY JAIL

*was transformed into a beacon of hope
that saved the Commonwealth of Virginia*

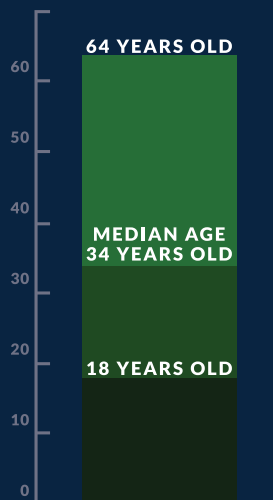
NEARLY
\$8 MILLION
IN A 4-YEAR SPAN

Study Demographics

Study sample size

489
MEN INCLUDED IN
SAMPLE

Study sample age range



Study sample racial breakdown

86%

AFRICAN AMERICAN

9%

CAUCASIAN

2%

NATIVE AMERICAN

1%

HISPANIC

Remaining 2% was comprised of various other races.

DISCOVERIES

Study Findings & Statistics

Three most significant variables found in predicting recidivism:

- ➔ **Number of times in jail**
- ➔ **Type of crime committed**
- ➔ **Length of time since release**



Of those sampled,

Someone who has been to jail one time



has a 2 to 4% percent likelihood to recidivate.

However, if they have been incarcerated more than **2 times...**



that percentage rises to 75%.

Does the **CRIME FIT?**

The most prevalent crimes committed by the men involved in the study included but was not limited to the following:

Drug Crimes



32%

Stealing / Theft



15%

Probation / Parole Violations



12%

Driving Violations



7%

Illegal Firearm Possession



5%

Results showed that inmates convicted of the following crimes were more likely to recidivate:

- Assault
- Drug pos. w/ intent to distribute, cocaine
- Driving charges
- Drug distribution, heroin
- Drug pos. w/ intent to distribute, general
- Drug pos. w/ intent to distribute, marijuana
- Drug possession, marijuana
- Drug possession, cocaine
- Drug possession, heroin
- Drug possession, pills
- Drug distribution, cocaine
- Drugs (no details)
- Eluding police
- Failure to register
- Hit and Run
- Murder
- Not paying child support
- Probation Violation
- Reckless driving
- Shoplifting
- Stealing a car

THE TIMING

Simply put, the longer a member of the study sample was out of jail, the more likely it was for them to recidivate.

of Recidivism



28%

of those who had been out for **1.5 to 2 years** recidivated.

40%

of those who had been out for **2 to 2.5 years** recidivated.

REFUGE & *Recovery*

Residence in KLM's recovery house following release from jail proved to be a significant deterrent to recidivating. Those men finding refuge in the home had a 5% lower chance of recidivating.



Overall, inmates that participated in the Kingdom Life Ministries program (*the study group*) recidivated at a rate of 34% — **18% lower than rate of the control group.**



Cost Savings for the Commonwealth

\$7 MILLION

It costs approximately \$25,000 annually to incarcerate someone in Virginia. The increased time between incarcerations among the men who go through the program saves the commonwealth an average of \$14,500 per person. This multiplied by all of the men in the program over the study period, results in a savings over \$7 million.

\$25,000

\$14,500

\$840,000

ADDITIONAL SAVINGS



Additional savings to the commonwealth deal with the health of the prisoners. Inmate trips to the emergency room due to violence cost approximately \$2,000 per visit. Prior to the initiation of the KLM program, the tier sampled in this study sent an average of 2 to 3 inmates to the hospital each week, equating to an alarming expense of \$240,000 a year. Since the KLM program began, there has not been a single inmate sent to the emergency room.

Conclusions

The results of this study are beneficial not only to the fields of public policy and criminal justice, but to multiple other fields, all of which can use the results to enhance awareness, assessments, interventions, and protocols. The results inform, reinforce, and illustrate the necessity for progression as it relates to models of services offered (or not) and the methods used to deliver treatment.

Our hope is that the criminal justice system and policymakers use this study to deepen their understanding of what is needed and what may be done in order to improve the system and services rendered. Significant improvements are attainable so long as we use studies such as this to validate the efforts of programs such as KLM, as well as create more educated processes in the allocation of state funds dedicated to improve re-entry, substance abuse treatment, and rehabilitation.

More information regarding this study, including a downloadable pdf copy of Dr. Scarbrough's dissertation can be found online at:
<http://www.sarahscarbrough.com>.

More information regarding Kingdom Life Ministries can be found online at:
<http://www.klmrecovery.org>.

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