Enhancing offender programs to address recidivism
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Working in collaboration – education and enforcement

Greater positive changes in prevalence and recidivism
Comparing two road safety programs with best practice
This project involved two phases:

- A review of the literature
- A comparison of best practices
Limitations of existing evaluations

• Few evaluations conducted
  > costly to conduct
  > no longitudinal studies identified

• Methodological limitations
  > outcome measure typically based on crash or recidivism rates
  > challenges in accessing data
Initially evolved as alternatives to punishment-based interventions
The focus within road safety

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Strategies
Evaluations have shown:

- Reductions in violations
- Longer programs having longest effect
- Short education program can assist in motivation for change

Sanctions and education work better together
Best practice traffic offender programs

- Theoretically based
- Target group characteristics
- Key messages
- Participant engagement
- Optimal program content
- Program facilitators and presenters
A snapshot
Program's designed to

• Commitment to engage in official licensing process and legislation
• Reduce risk of further offending
• Understanding impact on self and others
• Reduce road trauma

• Confronting and evaluating participants’ belief systems
• Shifting from blame to choice
• Assisting participants in identifying and managing precursors to offending

• Emergency Service accounts
• Practical activities
• Volunteer personal stories
• Peer discussion and problem solving
Restorative justice principles

Three psychological models

• Narrative discourse
• Experiential learning
• Cognitive behavioural therapy

Process of education, reflection and prevention
• First time and recidivist offenders
• Regular
• Small group
• Targeted programs
• User pays and short intervention

• Tailored to group needs
• Interactive
• Facilitators skills and education
• Volunteer presenter
• Connection
• Generally met best good practice requirements

• Recommendations for enhancement
  – Therapeutic approach additions
  – Target group considerations
  – Additions to program content
  – Key messages
  – Appropriate and measurable variables
  – Evaluation long-term
• Cost effective
• Exploration of risks
• Alternatives
• Complement existing enforcement
• Collaborative approach
References


References


References


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