

Lucas County TASC, Inc.  
Community Reentry Partnership  
Report

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## **Introduction**

In 2001 the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) in partnership with the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) identified seven counties in Ohio to implement reentry programming for youthful parolees. Funding is provided by the ODADAS to the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Lucas County to facilitate the development of substance abuse treatment services and aftercare programming for youth exiting ODYS facilities. The Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Lucas County contracted Lucas County Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC), Inc. to act as the lead organization in the implementation of this project known as the Lucas County Community Reentry Partnership.

The project is provided two hundred and forty thousand dollars annually to provide services to a minimum of 90 youth. Community partners involved during this evaluation period include; the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Lucas County, Lucas County TASC, Inc., Connecting Point, Inc., ODYS Toledo Regional Office and Lucas County Juvenile Court.

## Client Profile

During the period of June 2001 through November 2004 the Lucas County Community Reentry Partnership (CRP) program admitted 213 youth<sup>2</sup>. Most (89.2%) of those admitted were young men. Young women made up 10.8% of the clients. One hundred and twenty-two (57.5%) of the clients self identified as black and 90 (42.5%) of the clients self identified as white<sup>3</sup>. Of the 90 clients identifying themselves as white, 19 (21.1%) stated they were Hispanic. Of the 122 black clients only one (.8%) self identified as Hispanic.

At CRP admission, clients ranged in age from 14 to 20 years of age. The most common age at admission (mode) was 17 years of age. The average (mean) age at admission was 17.28 years. Only 36 (17%) of the clients had completed high school or had attained a GED<sup>4</sup>. The average level of educational attainment for the 213 clients was completion of ninth grade. Over 92% of the clients were not employed on a full or part-time basis at the time of admission.

All youth admitted to the program had a history of involvement in the juvenile justice system. On average, a youth admitted to the program had a history of 20.66 charges. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the average number of charges in the youths' histories by nature of offenses.

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<sup>2</sup> The 213 admissions represent an unduplicated count of 164 youth. Some youth were admitted two or more times during the tracking period.

<sup>3</sup> In one case there was missing data on race.

<sup>4</sup> GED refers to General Equivalence Diploma

**Table 1: Nature of Charges and Average Number of Charges Prior to Admission**

<b>Nature of Offense</b>	<b>Average Number of Charges</b>
Status Offense	1.7
Non-Violent Misdemeanor	11.48
Violent Misdemeanor	2.03
Non-Violent Felony	2.84
Violent Felony	2.61
Total	20.66

Table 1 shows that the youth admitted to the Lucas County CRP program had extensive histories of arrests. The most common type of offenses on which youth had been arrested were non-violent misdemeanors. Additionally, youth averaged nearly three arrests for non-violent felonies. Drug charges made up 32.4 % of all prior arrests. Drug offenses were typically charged as non-violent misdemeanors and non-violent felonies. There were also a number of youth with histories of arrests for offenses of violence. On average, youth admitted to the program had over four violent charges (2.03 misdemeanors and 2.61 felonies) in their histories. Clearly the youth entering the program had extensive histories of serious charges. On average, these youth had spent 13.83 months in a detention facility prior to admission to the program.

All youth admitted to the Lucas County CRP program had an Alcohol and/or other drugs problem or were determined to be “at risk.” Marijuana was the most commonly used drug with 89.6% of the youth reporting a history of marijuana use. Alcohol was the second most commonly used drug with 83.5% of the youth reporting a history of use. Cocaine was reportedly used by 10.9% the youth, crack by 1.4%, heroine by 1.9%, methamphetamine by .5% and other drugs by 10.4%<sup>5</sup> . Table 2 shows the

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<sup>5</sup> Other drugs include but are not limited to hallucinogens and barbiturates.

average number of months youth reportedly used specific drugs prior to program admission.

**Table 2: Types of Drugs and Average Length of Use by Users Prior to Admission**

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Number of Users</b>	<b>Average Months of Use<sup>6</sup></b>
Alcohol	177	38.50
Marijuana	189	42.71
Cocaine	23	13.61
Crack	3	16.33
Heroin	4	11.75
Methamphetamine	1	48.00
Other Drugs	22	12.38

The youth admitted to the Lucas County CRP program had a multiplicity of problems. These youth had numerous serious charges and most had extensive drug use in their histories. In addition to their history of juvenile offenses and drug abuse, these youth had educational deficits and lacked employment.

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<sup>6</sup> Only youth reporting use of a given drug were used to compute the average (mean) months of use.

## **Program Participation**

Youth stayed in the Lucas County CRP program for an average of 153 days. Twenty five percent of the youth remained in the program for 91 days or less, 25% of the youth were active in the program for 92 to 136 days, and 25% of the youth were in the program for 137 to 201 days. The remaining 25% of the youth were active in the program for more than 201 days.

During the course of participation in the program youth receive intensive case management and mentoring services. Each youth in the program has a case management plan with set objectives and activities leading to those objectives. Youth participate in two weekly groups, each lasting approximately two and a half hours. TASC staff facilitates groups on cognitive behavioral therapy. Connecting Point facilitates the substance abuse treatment groups which are held on site at TASC. Continuing education is promoted and youth have access to educational resources. The importance of constructive social activities is stressed. Youth are provided with the opportunity to participate in social activities, including but not limited to games and sports. For youth admitted to the program who do not have a stable living environment, housing assistance is available. Transportation is a service provided by the program. This enables youth to access needed services and attend off-site activities.

A judicial hearing is held twice per month at TASC. This hearing addresses youth who are experiencing barriers in meeting their case plans. A magistrate, the youth, the youth's parent/guardian, a parole officer a TASC case manager and the treatment provider attend this hearing. The intent of the hearing is to encourage the youth's compliance with his/her program plan.

### Program Outcomes

At discharge the overwhelming majority of youth were living in a non-institutional setting. Most (58.2%) of the youth were living with family. Table 3 shows the living situations of youth at the time of their discharge from Lucas County CRP program.

**Table 3: Living Situation at Discharge**

Living Situation	Number	Percent
Family	124	58.2%
Group Home	13	3.8%
Independent Living	8	3.8%
Foster Care	6	2.8%
Other Community Housing	23	10.8%
Juvenile Corrections Institution	4	1.9%
Adult Corrections Institution	4	1.9%
No Permanent Housing	10	4.7%
Whereabouts Unknown	21	9.9%
Total;	213	100%

There were positive educational and employment outcomes after program discharge. At admission only 17% of the clients had completed high school or attained a GED. At discharge 32.8% of the youth had completed high school or were participating in classes to complete their high school degree or GED. At admission only 16 (7.5%) of the 213 youth were employed on a full-time or part-time basis. At discharge 44 (20.7%) of the youth were gainfully employed.

At discharge, 46 (21.6%) of the youth were recognized as successfully completing the program. Another 16 (7.5%) were discharged in neutral status, meaning that through

no fault of their own they had to leave the program. The remaining 151 (70.9%) of the youth were discharged from the program without recognition for successful completion<sup>7</sup>.

Bi-variate analysis showed a statistically significant association ( $p > .001$ ) between length of program participation and program completion<sup>8</sup>. The longer a youth was in the program, the greater his/her likelihood of completion. Bi-variate analysis also showed program completion was significantly associated with employment ( $p > .001$ ) as well as educational achievement ( $p > .001$ ) at discharge.

Ninety (42.3%) of the 213 youth were arrested on a serious new charge<sup>9</sup> within six months of discharge. One hundred and eleven (52.1%) of the 213 youth were arrested within one year of discharge. A total of 127 (59.6%) of the 213 youth were arrested within 24 months of their discharge. Seventy (55.1%) of the 127 youth arrested were charged with a drug offense. Eighty six (40.4%) of the 213 youth sustained for 24 months or more without arrest on a serious new charge.<sup>10</sup> Table 4 show the recidivism of youth following program discharge

**Table 4: Post- Discharge Arrests on Serious New Charges**

Time Period from Discharge	Arrest	No Arrest	
6 months of less	42.5%	57.7%	100%
6 months plus to 12 months	52.1%	47.9%	100%
12 month plus to 24 months	59.6%	40.4%	100%

<sup>7</sup> Forty four (29%) of the youth who failed complete the program left the program within the first 90days following admission. Twenty four (55%) of the 44 youth who left the program within 90 days did so within the first 60 days.

<sup>8</sup> Neutral discharges were treated as missing data in the analysis.

<sup>9</sup> Serious new charge refers to juvenile and adult drug charge, violent misdemeanor and any felony charges

<sup>10</sup> Serious new charge refers to juvenile and adult drug, violent and/or felony charges.

In bi-variate analysis, there was a statistically association between successfully completing the program and being arrest free following discharge. Program completion was significantly associated with being arrest free on drug charges. Only 17.4% of the clients who successfully completed the program were arrested on a drug charge, while 43% of the clients who did not successfully complete the program had a drug charge arrest.

Logistic regression was used to determine the influence of multiple factors on arrest following discharge. The dependent variable was arrest on a serious new charge. The independent variables included gender, race, age, length of substance abuse by substance abused<sup>11</sup>, arrest on serious charges prior to Lucas County CRP admission, length of time since program discharge, educational level at discharge, employment status at discharge, time in the program and program completion. Table 5 on page 10 presents the results of the logistic regression.

The variables of gender, arrest prior to intake on a serious charge, length of time from program discharge to follow-up, educational level at discharge and employment status at discharge showed a statistically significant association with arrest on a serious new charge following discharge. These four variables account for 23% to 37% of the variance in arrest after discharge.

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<sup>11</sup> Use of crack, heroine and methamphetamine were excluded from the analysis because of the low number of reported users.

The findings of the logistic regression on factors directly affecting arrest on a serious new charge can be summarized as follows:

- Men were more likely than women to be arrested on a serious new charge following discharge from the Lucas County CRP program.
- Youth who had a pre-intake history of arrests on serious charges were more likely to be arrested on such charges after discharge.
- The longer the time between Lucas County CRP program discharge and follow-up, the greater the likelihood of arrest on a serious new charge.
- The higher a youth's educational achievement at the time of discharge, the greater likelihood the youth will remain arrest free following discharge.
- Youth who are employed at discharge are more likely than unemployed youth to remain arrest free following discharge.

**Table 5: Arrests on Serious New Charges Following Discharge  
Logistic Regression**

Variables	B	Exp. B	Significance
<b>Gender**</b>	2.216	9.174	.002
Age	.196	1.216	.419
Race	.169	1.184	.794
<b>Arrests before Intake **</b>	2.824	16.849	.007
Length of Alcohol Use	.809	2.246	.217
Length of Marijuana Use	.207	1.230	.806
Length of Cocaine Use	-.573	.564	.509
Length of Other Drug Use	1.888	6.604	.100
<b>Time from Discharge to Follow-up***</b>	.002	1.003	.001
<b>Employment at Discharge *</b>	.090	.272	.032
<b>Educational Level at Discharge **</b>	-.291	.5.94	.009
Time in Lucas County CRP Program	.000	1.002	.559
Lucas County CRP Program Completion	-.256	.594	.495
Cox and Snell R Square	.227		
Nagelkerke R Square	.371		

Coding: Post-discharge arrest on a drug charge (yes = 1 no=0);

Gender (male = 1 female=0); Age (years); Race (black = 1 white=0); Arrests before intake (arrest on a serious charge yes=1 no=0); Alcohol and drug use (months of use);

Time from discharge to follow-up (number of days from the date of discharge to the date of follow-up);

Employment (yes=1 no=0) Education (highest grade level completed at discharge); Time in CRP (number of days from admission date to discharge date); CRP program completion (yes = 1 no=0).

\*  $p > = 0.05$       \*\*  $p > = 0.01$       \*\*\*  $p > = 0.001$

The finding that educational achievement and employment were associated with a reduced likelihood of criminal recidivism leads to the question: What factors are associated with educational achievement and employment at discharge?

A logistic regression was constructed to examine factors that were associated with educational achievement at discharge. The results of that logistic regression are provided in Table 6 on page 13.

The variables of age, length of time in the program and program completion showed a statistically significant association of educational achievement. These three variables account for 26% to 35% of the variance in educational achievement. ***Both participation time in the Lucas County CRP program and program completion showed a higher level of statistical significance with educational achievement than did age.***

The findings of the logistic regression on factors directly affecting educational achievement summarized as follows:

- The older youth are at discharge, the greater their level of educational achievement.
- The longer youth spend in the Lucas County CRP program, the greater their educational achievement at discharge.
- Youth who successfully complete the Lucas County CRP program have a higher educational achievement at discharge than youth who do not successfully complete the program.

***These findings suggest that participation time in the Lucas County CRP program and successful completion of the Lucas County CRP program are related to general recidivism reduction through their affects on educational achievement.***

**Table 6: Factors Associated with Educational Achievement at Discharge  
Logistic Regression**

Variables	B	Exp. B	Significance
Gender	-.377	.668	.547
<b>Age *</b>	.379	1.461	.027
Race	.480	1.617	.294
Arrests before Intake	1.947	7.009	.131
Length of Alcohol Use	-.785	.456	.142
Length of Marijuana Use	.495	1.640	.439
Length of Cocaine Use	-.379	.685	.611
Length of Other Drug Use	-1.146	.318	.147
Time from Discharge to Follow-up	-.001	.999	.260
Employment at Discharge	.568	1.765	.248
<b>Time in Lucas County CRP Program ***</b>	.010	1.010	.000
<b>Lucas County CRP Program Completion **</b>	-1.268	3.554	.010
Cox and Snell R Square	.261		
Nagelkerke R Square	.353		

Coding: High school graduation or the process of completion (yes = 1 no=0);

Gender (male = 1 female=0); Age (years); Race (black = 1 white=0); Arrests before intake (arrest on a serious charge yes=1 no=0); Alcohol and drug use (months of use); Time from discharge to follow-up (number of days from the date of discharge to the date of follow-up); Employment (yes=1 no=0) Education ( highest grade level completed at discharge): Time in CRP (number of days from admission date to discharge date); CRP program completion (yes = 1 no=0).

\*  $p > = 0.05$       \*\*  $p > = 0.01$       \*\*\*  $p > = 0.001$

A logistic regression analysis (not shown) was conducted to examine factors associated with employment at discharge. The findings of that analysis showed youth who successfully completed the Lucas County CRP program have a higher likelihood of employment than youth who did not successfully complete the program. The only other variable that was associated with employment at discharge was educational level. The higher the youths educational level the greater the likelihood of employment at discharge.

An additional multi-variate analysis was conducted to examine the factors specifically related to drug arrests. In this analysis the dependent variable was arrest on a drug charge following discharge. The dependent variable was arrest on a serious new charge. The independent variables included gender, race, age, length of substance abuse by substance abused<sup>12</sup>, arrests for drug charges prior to Lucas County CRP admission, length of time since program discharge, educational level at discharge ,employment status at discharge, time in the program and program completion. The results of this logistic regression are found in Table 7 on page 15.

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<sup>12</sup> Use of crack, heroine and methamphetamine were excluded from the analysis because of the low number of reported users.

**Table 7: Arrests on Drug Charges Following Discharge  
Logistic Regression**

Variables	B	Exp. B	Significance
Gender	.829	2.291	.212
<b>Age *</b>	.2951	1.484	.023
<b>Race **</b>	1.188	3.280	.008
Drug Arrests before Intake	8.728	71.240	.677
Length of Alcohol Use	-.078	.925	.875
Length of Marijuana Use	.376	1.457	.513
Length of Cocaine Use	-.075	.928	.915
Length of Other Drug Use	-.238	.789	.752
Time from Discharge to Follow-up	.001	1.001	.083
Employment at Discharge	-.864	.421	.142
Educational Level at Discharge	-.270	.763	.079
Time in Lucas County CRP Program	.001	1.001	.621
<b>Lucas County CRP Program Completion *</b>	-1.036	.355	.045
Cox and Snell R Square	.236		
Nagelkerke R Square	.322		

Coding: High school graduation or the process of completion (yes = 1 no=0);

Gender (male = 1 female=0); Age (years); Race (black = 1 white=0); Drug arrests before intake (arrest on charge yes=1 no=0); Alcohol and drug use (months of use); Time from discharge to follow-up (number of days from the date of discharge to the date of follow-up); Employment (yes=1 no=0) Education ( highest grade level completed at discharge):Time in CRP (number of days from admission date to discharge date); CRP program completion (yes = 1 no=0).

\*  $p > = 0.05$       \*\*  $p > = 0.01$       \*\*\*  $p > = 0.001$

The variables of age, race and successful completion of the Lucas County CRP program showed a statistically significant association with arrest on a drug charge following discharge. These variables account for 24% to 32% of the variance in drug arrest after discharge. The findings of the logistic regression on factors associated with arrest on a drug charge can be summarized as follows:

- The older a youth, the greater the likelihood of arrest on a drug charge.
- Blacks were more likely than whites to be arrested on a drug charge following discharge from the Lucas County CRP program.
- Successful completion of the Lucas County CRP program reduced the likelihood of youth being arrested on a drug charge following their discharge.

## **Summary and Implications**

The Lucas County CRP program is serving youth with extensive arrest histories. On average a youth admitted to the program had 20.66 charges in his/her history. Nearly one third of the youths' arrests were on a drug charges. All of the youth in the program had histories or were at risk of developing drug abuse. Marijuana and alcohol were the most commonly used drugs with reported periods of use averaging over three years. At the time of program admission only 17% of the youth had completed high school or had attained a GED. The average level of educational attainment for the 213 youth entering the program was ninth grade. Over 92% of the youth were not employed on a full or part-time basis at the time of admission. Given their histories, the youth in the Lucas County CRP program are at very high risk of future involvement with the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.

Most (57.7%) of the youth in the Lucas County CRP program did not recidivate on a serious new charge in the six month immediately following their discharge. In the first year following discharge, 47.9% still remained arrest free. In the two year period directly following discharge, 40.4% were still free of an arrest on serious new charge. The number of youth who remained arrest free is impressive, particularly given the extensive arrest histories of these youth prior to admission, their extensive histories of substance abuse and their limited educational and vocational achievement.

The Lucas County CRP program has made a difference in the lives of participating youth, particularly those who complete the program. The majority of youth had stable living situations at the time of discharge. There were positive educational and employment outcomes associated with successful completion of the program. Completing the Lucas County CRP program was associated with increased educational achievement and increased likelihood of employment.

This study found that educational achievement and employment were directly associated with avoiding arrest on serious charges after discharge. The implication of this finding is as follows: *The more the Lucas County CRP program enables the educational advancement and employability of participating youth, the less likely those youth will be to recidivate.*

Youth who successfully completed the Lucas County CRP program had significantly lower rates of arrests on drug offenses than youth who were discharged without successful completion. This association between program completion and a reduced likelihood of arrest on drug charges was retained in multi-variate analysis with demographic variables, juvenile drug arrest history, length and type of drug used, length of time in the program and length of time from discharge to follow-up. Successfully completing the Lucas County CRP program significantly increased a youth's likelihood of remaining free of arrests on drug charges.

Based on the reviewed data and the presented analysis, this researcher has concluded the following: *The Lucas County CRP program is having positive effects in the lives of the youth served by the program.*