

CONVICTED DRUNK DRIVERS IN ELECTRONIC MONITORING HOME DETENTION AND DAY REPORTING CENTER: A COMPARISON

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ABSTRACT

In Vigo County, Indiana (USA), convicted drunk drivers are sentenced to Electronically Monitored Home Detention (EMHD) and day Reporting Program (DRC) programs. Previous researchers did not conduct a comparative study on these offenders placed in the two programs in the same jurisdiction. This study focuses on those convicted drunk drivers who were placed in the two programs in Vigo County, and completed their sentences from January 2002 through December 2003. Afterwards, the successful participants were followed through the end of June 2004 for recidivism reports. Discriminant analyses were used to determine whether there was any difference between the two groups of similar offenders in terms of "exit status" and "post-program recidivism" during the study period. The data analyses demonstrated that participation in DRC program was more effective than EMHD in terms of exit status and post-program recidivism.

Key words: *Drunk drivers, electronic monitoring, home detention, day reporting centre*

1. INTRODUCTION

Overcrowding in detention facilities, court-orders to reduce or restrain overcrowding in jails and prisons, and tight government budgets have all compelled criminal justice scholars as well as practitioners to have a renewed interest in community-based correctional programs. Among the new innovations are several pragmatic intermediate sanctions which fall in the spectrum between regular probation and imprisonment. Two of these sanctions - electronic monitoring home detention (EMHD) programs and day reporting centers (DRC) have increasingly been implemented across the United States since the 1980s.

The first EMHD program for adult offenders was started in Palm Beach County, Florida in 1984 by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department in-house arrest work release program (Brown and Roy, 1995).

In 1986, the Crime and Justice Foundation in Boston worked with Hampden County Sheriff's Department in Springfield, Massachusetts, to establish the first DRC in the United States (Curtin, 1996). Both these programs are utilized by our criminal justice system at pre-trial (as a diversion) and also post-trial (as a sentence) stages. Additionally, both these programs are non-residential; hence, the common factor is that the participants are allowed to stay at their own homes and continue their employment and/or education (Lurigio, Olson, and Sifferd, 1999).

Empirical studies on the EMHD programs in the United States have been reported since the late 1980s, while such studies focusing on DRCs in our country have been reported since 1990. Both these programs across the United States include varied types of offenders as participants, e.g. offenders charged with and also convicted for drunk