



Predictors of Successful Graduation and Retention in an Outpatient Jamaican Drug Treatment Court

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Introduction

- Drug treatment courts (DTC)-globally is a relatively new diversion program for SA offenders

DTC in USA from 1989, in Jamaica began 2001

Predictors used in previous research in the USA

- Determining predictors of successful retention and graduation from one DTC outpatient in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Method

- Data was reviewed as part of a retrospective program evaluation of a Jamaican DTC: July, 2001- June 2006.
Predictor variables were collected as part of the intake process
- The progress notes provided data such as the outcome measures.

Data Analysis

- SPSS version 15
- Descriptive analysis was done to characterize the study population.
- Potential independent predictors for the logistic regressions
- A series of multiple logistic regression analyses were done
- All Hosmer and Lemeshow goodness-of-fit indices were not significant indicating a good model.

Results

Description of the Population

- Participants-194
- Participants were young (Mean 24.96 ± 7.68 years), unemployed (50.3%) males (95.4%) who were married or partnered (57.9%)
- Most (69.7%) used cannabis exclusively, and most (63.0%) were marijuana possession offenders (Table 1).

Table 1

TABLE 1. Demographics

Variables		Freq	Percent
Age	Mean	24.96	
	SD	7.68	
Gender	Male	185	95.4
	Female	9	3.6
Marital Status	Single	74	40.4
	Married/Partnered	106	57.9
	Divor/Sep.	2	1.1
	Other	1	0.6
Education Level	Primary	46	24.3
	Second/Tert	143	75.7

Table 1(Demo)

Variables		Freq	Percent
Job Status	Employed	92	49.7
	Unemployed	93	50.3
Type of Offence	Marijuana Possession	119	63.0
	Other	70	37.0
Family Subst. Use	Yes	46	28.0
	No	118	72.0
Primary Drug	Marijuana	131	69.7
	Other	57	30.3
No. Previous of Conviction	None	119	66.5
	1 or more	60	33.5

Results(Cont'd)

- 1. 91 clients remained in the program for at least 17 weeks.
- Predictor variables were entered into logistic regression equations.

Results

- 2. Significant predictors of at least 17 weeks of retention in drug court
 - *Employed (OR: 2.37; 95% CI: 1.13-4.96)
 - *Marijuana possession criminal offense (OR: 3.21; 95% CI: 1.21-8.50) (Table 2).

Results

- 3. Predictors of successful graduation (at least 9 months of drug court):

- *Employed (OR: 2.80; 95% CI: 1.31-5.96)

- *Marijuana possession criminal offense (OR: 3.01; 95% CI: 1.04-8.68) (Table 3).

Table 2

TABLE 2. Relationship between predictor variables and retention of 17 weeks or more

<i>Predictor Variable</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>	<i>95.0% Confident Interval</i>		<i>P value</i>
		Lower Limit	Upper Limit	
<i>Age</i>	0.96	0.89	1.04	0.37
<i>Single</i>	0.96	0.46	2.03	0.92
<i>Primary</i>	0.67	0.26	1.69	0.39
<i>Employed</i>	2.37	1.13	4.96	0.02
<i>No Previous Convictions</i>	0.92	0.37	2.27	0.85
<i>Marijuana Only</i>	2.38	0.67	8.45	0.18
<i>Marijuana Possession</i>	3.21	1.21	8.50	0.02
<i>No Family Substance Use</i>	0.80	0.35	1.84	0.60

Table 3

TABLE 3. Relationship between predictor variables and graduation

<i>Predictor Variable</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>	<i>95.0% Confident Interval</i>		<i>P value</i>
		Lower Limit	Upper Limit	
<i>Age</i>	0.96	0.88	1.05	0.35
<i>Single</i>	0.90	0.42	1.93	0.79
<i>Primary</i>	0.52	0.20	1.37	0.19
<i>Employed</i>	2.80	1.31	5.96	0.01
<i>No Previous Convictions</i>	1.00	0.39	2.58	1.00
<i>Marijuana Only</i>	3.36	0.87	13.04	0.08
<i>Marijuana Possession</i>	3.01	1.04	8.68	0.04
<i>No Family Substance Use</i>	0.90	0.38	2.11	0.80

Conclusion

- 1. Exclusion of unemployed and non-drug possession offenders increases positive program outcomes.
- 2. Findings can be important in establishing criteria for admission to outpatient DTC programs in Jamaica.
- 3. Findings could aid in client-treatment matching process.

Conclusion

- 4. Findings here and in subsequent studies potentially refine DTC recruitment, program characteristics and retention strategies.
- 5. Such refinement should improve DTC outcome