Evaluation of the Cleveland County Second Chance Advocacy Program for Women (S-CAP)

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Description: A pilot study which evaluates the Second Chance Advocacy Program for Women (S-CAP) through the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office. The S-CAP is an intervention and re-entry program for female jail inmates that provides wrap-around services and mentoring to prevent recidivism/re-arrest and facilitates family reunification. No prior research has compared women who participate in this program with women who do not, so an initial evaluation will be conducted based on qualitative interviews with program participants and in investigation of jail records. Then, controlling for participation in S-CAP as well as types and frequency of services, recidivism rates will be examined using both logistic and multiple regression analyses. In-depth interviews are currently being conducted with 20 S-CAP program participants about their experiences with the program. Focus of these interviews will be their perceptions of program effectiveness, problems that S-CAP did not help them address, and their recommendations for the program. It is anticipated that two journal articles will be generated from this research, as well as an external grant proposal to the National Institute of Justice for a longer-term evaluation under the researcher-initiated program in spring 2015.