

Reduced Recidivism

- In Georgia, researchers at Emory University School of Medicine found that offenders who did not complete the program recidivated at the rate of 27.1%, compared to a rate of 12.5% for those who did complete (Marsteller, Rolka, & Falik, 1997). Between July 1991 to June 1996, 230,691 offenders were studied. Fifty-eight percent had completed the program.
- Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation conducted a three-year study (Engen, Richards, & Patterson, 1995). Recidivism data were available and derived for 1,598 individuals, at 30 days, 180 days, 360 days, and 450 days post-training. Rates for these timeframes were 0.4%, 3.8%, 5.8%, and 7.0%, well below rates described elsewhere. Comparative rates between first-time and multiple offenders did not diverge until the 450 day timeframe. A 1998 follow-up for the same cohort (at 2½ years) revealed a recidivism rate of 15.4% for first-time offenders, and 19.3% for multiple offenders, still below rates described elsewhere (Wells-Parker et al., 1995).
- In Nashville, the two-three year recidivism rate for first offenders receiving only PRIME For Life was 7.8% for any alcohol or drug re-arrest and 4.5% for a DUI re-arrest (Reynolds, 2004). For first offenders receiving PRIME For Life plus treatment, the recidivism rates were 12.7% for any alcohol/drug re-arrest and 7.7% for a DUI re-arrest. For multiple offenders completing treatment only, the recidivism rate was 12.9% for any alcohol/drug re-arrest and 9.0% for a DUI re-arrest. This study was replicated in 2005 (Reynolds, 2005). First offenders receiving only PRIME For Life recidivated at 5.8%. Offenders who received only treatment recidivated at 9.5%. Offenders who received PRIME For Life plus treatment recidivated at the rate of 6.3%.
- In South Carolina an analysis found 7.2% (Group 1) of clients receiving only PRIME For Life recidivated over a three-year period (Nalty, 2003). For clients receiving PRIME For Life plus treatment, the three-year recidivism rate was 8.5% (Group 2). For clients receiving treatment only, the rate was 9.9% (Group 3). Of Group 1 participants, 21.8% were diagnosed with alcohol dependence. Of Groups 2 and 3, 41% and 47.8%, respectively, were diagnosed with alcohol dependence. Since the treatment-only group and the PRIME For Life plus treatment group had rather comparable rates of alcohol dependence diagnosis, it seems that PRIME For Life can be a very powerful pre-treatment component.
- In Indiana, data 2188 PRIME For Life participants and 2188 comparison participants was collected from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2004 (Lowenkamp, Latessa, & Bechtel, 2007). A risk composite measure was developed to control for differences in risk between the PRIME For Life and comparison groups. Follow-up period for recidivism was one year-- calculated based on the date of discharge from the program. Nineteen percent of the PRIME For Life group was re-arrested for a misdemeanor or felony (of any type) within one year after the discharge date, while about 29% of the comparison group was re-arrested within one year following their completion of probation. Controlling for differences in risk between the participant and comparison groups, the probationers/comparison group was significantly more likely to be re-arrested than the PRIME For Life group.