

## CHAPTER 9

# AFTERCARE RESEARCH

### 9.1 Introduction

Incarcerated youths often have numerous needs that require comprehensive solutions, including treatment and education. However, treatment and quality educational services in a residential facility are not likely to have long lasting effects unless they are reinforced when youths leave the facilities and reenter their communities. Aftercare programming to assist juveniles returning to their home communities after release from residential facilities has rapidly developed throughout the country during the past several years. However, there have only been a handful of empirical studies on the effectiveness of aftercare services, and the reported results have been mixed, at best.

Because of the large number of youths in the juvenile system in Florida and the recent increase in aftercare services, a number of important research questions arise. As part of Florida's effort to increase educational effectiveness and successful community reintegration, the role of aftercare as a "most promising practice" must be determined. The literature promotes aftercare as integral to successful community reentry. Because the aftercare literature is largely descriptive, and without meaningful empirical results, it remains unclear as to what specific aftercare programs and services are appropriate and effective for particular groups of youths.

The purpose of this chapter is to evaluate aftercare services statewide, beginning with an analysis of program-level recidivism rates. A complete discussion of the ongoing role of the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEPP) in aftercare and community reintegration outcomes is discussed, emphasizing the need to go beyond official reporting of recidivism rates to measurable improvement in educational levels, employment gains, and other community outcomes.

This chapter reports on the initial stages of a statewide study of aftercare and includes six subsequent sections. Section 9.2 provides a review of the prior literature on aftercare services for juvenile justice youths. Section 9.3 describes aftercare services in Florida and includes a typology of aftercare programming. Section 9.4 discusses available quality assurance (QA) ratings for those aftercare programs reviewed. Section 9.5 describes the current study conducted by JJEPP, including methodology and findings. Section 9.6 discusses subsequent studies, including a statewide individual level analysis, an in-depth comparative case study, and JJEPP's longitudinal research efforts related to aftercare. Section 9.7 concludes the chapter with a summary discussion.

## 9.2 Prior Literature

Over the past two decades, numerous studies have emphasized the value of providing aftercare services to juveniles leaving juvenile justice institutions and returning to their respective communities. Most of the literature on aftercare services for juvenile justice youths has been concentrated upon high-risk youths. Some of the literature has addressed aftercare services for youths in specialized settings, such as boot camps or wilderness programs. In addition, programs offering aftercare services addressing special needs, such as substance abuse, have been reported.

Overall, the evaluations of intensive aftercare programs have been inconsistent, with mixed findings. Most studies addressing intensive aftercare services have not found significant differences in youths' subsequent behavior. In fact, research has shown that many past attempts at intensive supervision have resulted simply in more contact, rather than improvements in the quality of contact as intended (Altschuler & Armstrong, 1994; Goodstein & Sontheimer, 1997). Analyses of boot camp aftercare programs have been preliminary and have not shown consistent relationships between aftercare programming and successful outcomes. The empirical evidence on specialized substance abuse aftercare programs has been mixed as well. To date, no conclusive evidence on what type of aftercare services promote positive outcomes for certain types of youths has been identified. Table 9.2-1 provides a summary of the aftercare studies conducted from 1988 to date.

**Table 9.2-1: Aftercare Studies Conducted From 1988-2000**

Name of Program	Authors	Target Population	Program Model	Research Design	Aftercare Services	Location	Follow-Up	Findings
Intensive Aftercare Program (IAP)	OJJDP Altschuler & Armstrong (1988-1999)	High-Risk Serious, Habitual Offenders	Residential Facilities	Experimental EN = 262 CN = 221	Pre-release planning; intensive surveillance; enhanced service delivery	Colorado Nevada Virginia	— to date	Unknown
Intensive Aftercare Program (IAPP)	Goodstein & Sontheimer (1997)	High-Risk Serious, Habitual Offenders	Residential Facility	Experimental EN = 44 CN = 46	Pre-release planning; increased contact and supervision, reduced caseload for officers	Philadelphia	3-17 months Avg=11 months	Aftercare group reduced frequency, but not incidence of re-arrest
Violent Juvenile Offender Program (VJO)	Fagan (1990)	High-Risk Violent Youths	Residential Facilities	Experimental EN = 122 CN = 105	Pre-planning case management; reintegration through transition facility; supervision and community reintegration services	Memphis Newark Boston Detroit	24 months	Memphis/Newark - No effect Boston/Detroit – lower arrest rates and severity; longer times until re-arrest
Skillman Aftercare Program	Greenwood, Deschenes, & Adams (1993)	High-Risk Youths	Residential Facilities	Experimental EN = 132 CN = 87	Pre-release contacts and planning; intensive supervision contact; assistance with family counseling, community resources, etc.	Detroit Pittsburgh	12 months	No significant differences
Nokomis Challenge Program	Deschenes, Greenwood, & Marshall (1996)	Moderate-Risk Youths	Wilderness Program Residential Facility	Quasi- experimental EN = 97 CN = 95	Pre-release contacts planning; initial house arrest and contacts; surveillance; emphasis on family participation	Michigan	24 months	No significant differences
Boot Camp Aftercare	OJJDP Bourque et al (1996)	Moderate to High- Risk Youths	Boot Camps	Program Evaluation N = 273	Pre-release planning; intensive supervision; community services	Colorado New York Ohio Alabama	24 months	Mixed findings reported positive changes in attitude and behavior
Maryland Drug Treatment Program	Sealock, Gottfredson, & Gallagher (1997)	High-Risk for Substance Abuse	Residential for Drug Offenders	Quasi Experimental EN = 120 CN = 132	Pre-release planning; intensive supervision; special services with emphasis in addiction counseling	Baltimore City	18 months	No significant differences
Project ADAPT	Catalano, et al (1989) Haggerty et al. (1989)	High-Risk for Substance Abuse	Residential Facility	Field Experiment for AC Program N = 7	Pre-release reentry preparation; contact and monitoring; special services	Washington State	6-12 months	Reported positive skill changes in life skills and drug avoidance

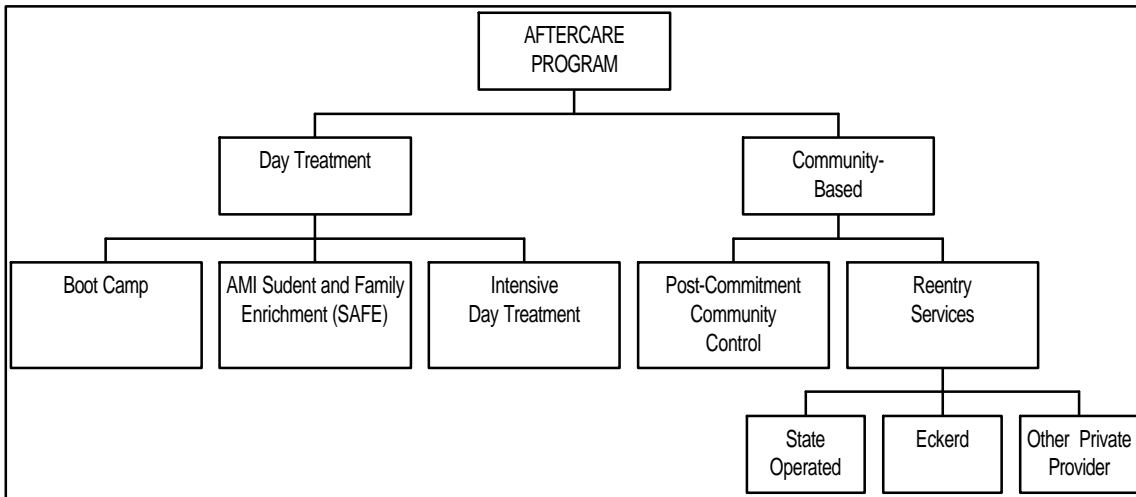
AC=Aftercare N=Number EN = Number in Experimental Group CN = Number in Control Group

## 9.3 Florida Aftercare

### Types of Aftercare

JJEEP has developed a typology of aftercare services for juvenile justice youths. The State of Florida provides a continuum of services ranging from maximum supervision and intensive services to minimal community monitoring. Ideally, placement in an aftercare program should be based upon the type of supervision required and an assessment of individual needs.

**Figure 9.3-1: Typology of Aftercare Services in Florida**



### Description of Aftercare Services

#### Day Treatment Aftercare

**Intensive Day Treatment**—These programs are designed for high-risk students released from residential facilities in need of intensive aftercare upon returning to the community. Day treatment aftercare services include education and counseling services on-site for up to 12 hours, 5 to 7 days a week. Students return home in the evening and receive intensive monitoring. The average length of services is six to nine months.

**Boot Camps**—Students attending the boot camp facility will transition into an aftercare phase of the program. They receive on-site education and counseling services and return home in the evening. Length of stay in the aftercare phase is typically three to four months.

**Associated Marine Institutes (AMI) SAFE**—Students are released from a residential facility into a marine institute, day treatment facility. Students attend the program during the day and are gradually transitioned full-time back into the community. Average length of services is six months.

## Community-Based Aftercare

### Reentry Services—(community-based services and supervision)

- ❑ Eckerd. Intensity of services is based upon need and student adjustment. Length of services can range from four months to several years. Services are terminated based upon progress, or the student’s 19th birthday.
- ❑ State operated. Students are intensely supervised upon release, and the number of required contacts is gradually reduced.
- ❑ Other privately operated programs. Services and supervision vary according to specific reentry program and provider.

### Post-Commitment Community Control (PCCC)—(community-based supervision)

The court sets conditions for continued supervision. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) juvenile probation officers (JPOs) provide supervision and services. Length of services averages three to six months.

## 9.4 Aftercare and Education Quality Assurance

Although there are approximately 100 aftercare and reentry programs operating throughout the state for juvenile justice youths, JJEEP reviews only a few of the day treatment type. These educational programs are located at the juvenile justice facility and were reviewed using JJEEP’s 2000 residential long-term commitment standards. Table 9.4-1 indicates the QA scores for the day treatment aftercare programs reviewed by JJEEP.

**Table 9.4-1: Day Treatment Aftercare Programs Reviewed by JJEEP During 2000 QA Review Cycle**

Program Name	School District	Education Provider	Standard One: Transition	Standard Two: Service Delivery	Standard Three: Administration	Standard Four: Contract Management	Overall QA Average Score
Marin County JOTC	Martin	District	5.50	7.33	6.50	6.00	6.44
Rattler Success	Leon	Youthtrack, Inc.	6.00	6.17	5.67	6.00	5.94
Stewart-Marchman Eastside	Volusia	District	4.83	4.67	5.00	6.00	4.83
Stewart-Marchman Westside	Volusia	District	5.50	5.83	5.00	6.00	5.44
Boley Young Adult Program	Pinellas	District	NA	NA	NA	NA	Deemed
Pinellas Boot Camp	Pinellas	District	6.83	6.50	5.83	6.00	6.39
Polk Boot Camp	Polk	District	NA	NA	NA	NA	Deemed
<b>AVERAGE QA SCORES</b>			<b>5.73</b>	<b>6.10</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>6.39</b>

The data shown in Table 9.4-1 indicate that the aftercare educational programs reviewed by JJEEP in 2000 are providing educational services in the high satisfactory range. In fact, none of the programs scored a partial for any of the indicators reviewed.

In Florida, all AMI programs are day treatment, with students on aftercare status integrated with level 2 students. JJEEP reviews the AMI day treatment programs, and because students from the AMI SAFE programs share the education program, these scores are reported in Table 9.4-2.

**Table 9.4-2: AMI Day Treatment Programs with SAFE Aftercare Students**

Program Name	School District	Education Provider	Standard One: Transition	Standard Two: Service Delivery	Standard Three: Administration	Standard Four: Contract Management	Overall QA Average Score
Alachua MI	Alachua	AMI	5.17	4.67	4.83	4.00	4.89
Central Florida MI	Polk	AMI	3.83	4.00	4.17	4.00	4.00
Dade MI North	Dade	AMI	NA	NA	NA	NA	Deemed
Dade MI South	Dade	AMI	NA	NA	NA	NA	Deemed
Emerald Coast MI	Okaloosa	AMI	5.17	5.33	5.33	6.00	5.28
Escambia Bay MI	Escambia	AMI	3.83	5.33	4.50	3.33	4.56
Florida Ocean Sciences MI	Broward	AMI	NA	NA	NA	NA	Deemed
Gulf Coast MI North	Manatee	AMI	6.50	6.50	6.33	5.33	6.44
Gulf Coast MI South	Sarasota	AMI	6.83	5.67	6.50	6.00	6.33
Jax MI East	Duval	AMI	4.00	5.33	4.83	1.33	4.72
Jax MI West	Duval	AMI	6.00	5.83	4.50	4.00	5.44
New Port Richey MI	Pasco	AMI	4.83	3.50	4.50	6.00	4.28
Orlando MI SAFE	Orange	AMI	6.50	6.25	5.67	6.00	6.07
Palm Beach MI	Palm Beach	AMI	2.33	3.33	2.50	4.67	2.72
Panama City MI	Bay	AMI	4.67	4.67	4.50	6.00	4.61
Pinellas MI	Pinellas	AMI	NA	NA	NA	NA	Deemed
Silver River MI	Marion	AMI	4.33	4.33	3.83	4.67	4.17
SW Florida MI	Lee	AMI	2.67	5.67	5.17	6.00	4.50
Tallahassee MI	Leon	AMI	3.17	6.17	5.83	6.00	5.06
Tampa MI	Hillsborough	AMI	5.33	6.00	6.17	6.00	5.83
<b>AVERAGE QA SCORES</b>			<b>4.70</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>4.96</b>	<b>4.93</b>

Table 9.4-2 indicates that the overall scores for the AMI programs serving aftercare students are in the satisfactory range. However, within each indicator, several programs received partial ratings.

For the 2001 cycle, JJEEP and the Florida Department of Education (DOE) have developed a set of standards specifically for day treatment programs, which will be used to review aftercare programs. The standard areas remain the same (Transition, Service Delivery, Administration, and Contract Management), with two new indicators added. Pre- and Post-Student Outcomes requires the reporting of student data to DOE. In addition, a Student Attendance indicator has been added to ensure regular student attendance in the educational program.

Additionally, in 2000 JJEEP and DOE developed a *Transition Guidebook for Educational Personnel of Juvenile Justice Programs: Providing a Continuum of Care for Delinquent Youth in Education, Treatment, and Conditional Release* (See Appendix F). This is a model designed to assist with successful reintegration of students into their homes, communities, peer groups, schools, and/or work settings. Several recommendations for the post-commitment transition process include ensuring that all pertinent educational and treatment information is provided to the appropriate aftercare and receiving school personnel; assisting with follow-through of educational, treatment, and employment goals after exit; and reviewing portfolios in order to assist students with attaining continuing education and/or employment options.

## 9.5 Current Research

### Aftercare Programming and Recidivism

**Purpose of Research**—A brief overview of aftercare studies in section 9.2 shows that prior literature focuses on recidivism measures in assessing aftercare success. The purpose of this assessment is to examine how different types of aftercare programming in Florida relate to re-arrest, reconviction, and re-commitment rates for youths exiting juvenile justice facilities. This assessment addresses several research questions at the program level.

#### Research Questions

- Do students receiving aftercare services appear to have lower recidivism rates?
- Do different types of aftercare services produce different recidivism rates?
- Is there a difference in recidivism rates by provider?
- Do aftercare programs in different regions produce different recidivism rates?

### Methodology

**Data Collection**—DJJ collects recidivism data at the program level, including aftercare day treatment and reentry programs. Four years of data (Fiscal Year (FY)95/96; FY96/97; FY97/98; FY98/99) are currently available for several types of comparisons.\*

#### Definition of Recidivism Measures

- “Arrest” measures the percentage of students from a particular program that are re-arrested for any reason within one year of exiting program.
- “Conviction” measures the percentage of students from a particular program found guilty by the court for a subsequent crime within one year of exiting the program.
- “Commitment” measures the percentage of students from a particular program that are sentenced to a subsequent juvenile justice facility within one year of exiting the program.

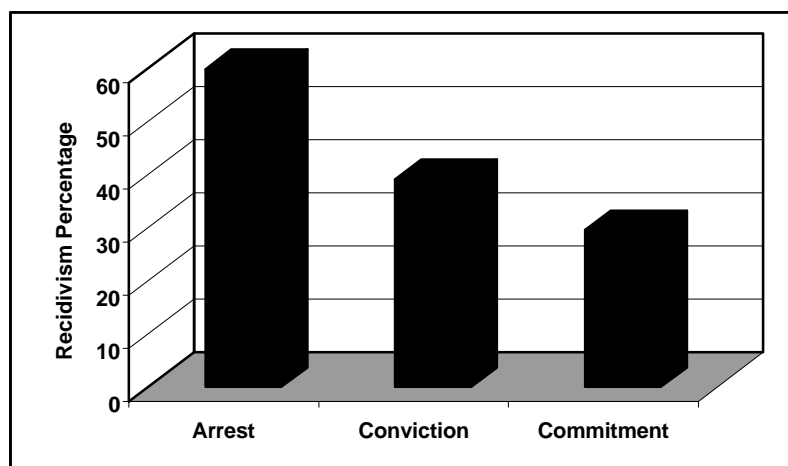
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\* JJEEP would like to thank DJJ's Rae Vinson and Karla Blagin in for providing aftercare program information and recidivism data for this chapter.

## Findings

For this assessment, programs with fewer than three students released during the fiscal year are excluded from the analyses to avoid skewing the recidivism data. As a result, 29 programs were lost. Eighty-four (84) aftercare programs are included for those students released FY98/99; 79 for FY97/98; 62 for FY96/97; and 4 for FY95/96, for a total of 229 cases. Overall, the average re-arrest rate for aftercare programs is 59.80%, with a conviction rate of 39.05% and re-commitment rate of 29.48%.

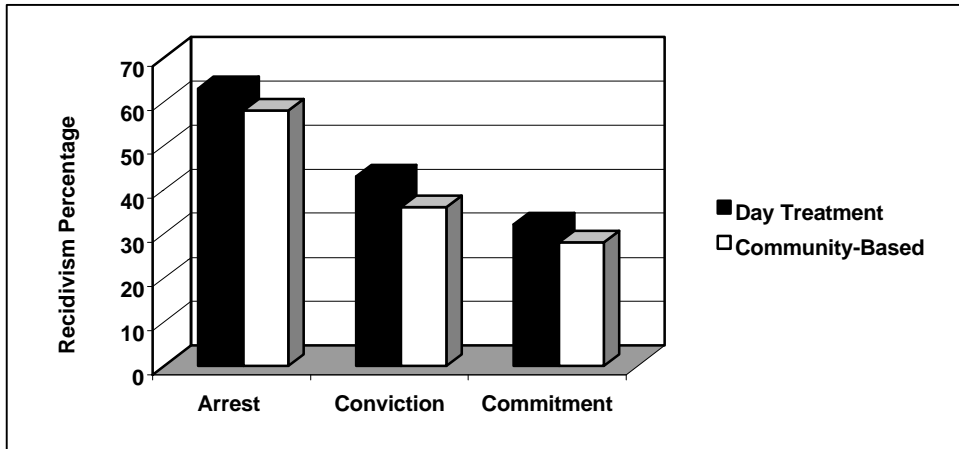
**Table 9.5-1: Recidivism Rates for Students Exiting Aftercare Programs During FY96/97 - FY99/00**



Sixty percent (60%) of youths were re-arrested within the year; 39% of those were convicted, and 29% were sent back to juvenile facilities.

Aftercare program recidivism rates were analyzed through comparison of descriptive statistics. Mean scores were compared using *t* tests or ANOVA to determine if significant differences exist between recidivism rates at the program level.

**Table 9.5-2: Recidivism Rates by Type of Aftercare Program During FY96/97 - FY99/00**



Facility-Based N = 04

Community-Based N = 123

Total N = 227

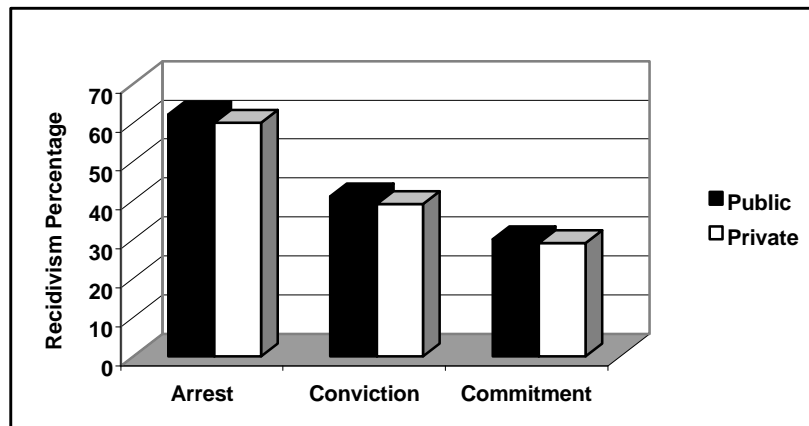
Differences in arrest rates are statistically significant at the .10 level.

Differences in commitment rates are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Day treatment aftercare programs were significantly higher than community-based programs for all recidivism measures. Re-arrest rates for day treatment programs reached 63%, compared to 58% for community-based programs. Forty-three percent (43%) of youths arrested in day treatment programs were found guilty of a crime, and 32% were re-committed to juvenile facilities. For community-based programs, these figures are 36% and 25%, respectively.

Day treatment aftercare programs in Florida are characterized by higher visibility and supervision. Therefore, this finding may be consistent with prior literature, suggesting that more supervision leads to increased visibility, and subsequently, an increase in recidivism rates. However, these results may simply reflect higher risk youths in day treatment programs.

**Table 9.5-3: Recidivism Rates by Provider of Aftercare Program During FY96/97 - FY99/00**

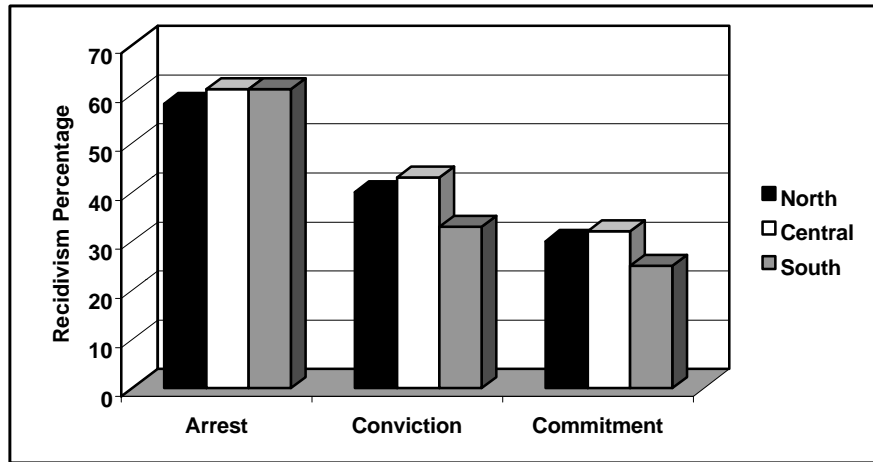


Publicly operated aftercare N = 32  
Privately operated aftercare N = 196  
Total N = 228

There were no significant differences in recidivism rates between state-operated aftercare programs and privately operated programs. Re-arrest rates were 62% for publicly operated programs and 60% for private programs; conviction rates were 41% for public programs and 39% for private aftercare programs, and commitment rates were 30% for public programs and 29% for privately operated programs.

The majority of aftercare programs in the state are privately operated; however, none has for-profit status. This is consistent with ongoing research conducted by JJEPP on private and public educational programs.

**Table 9.5-4: Recidivism Rates by Location of Aftercare Program During FY96/97 - FY99/00**

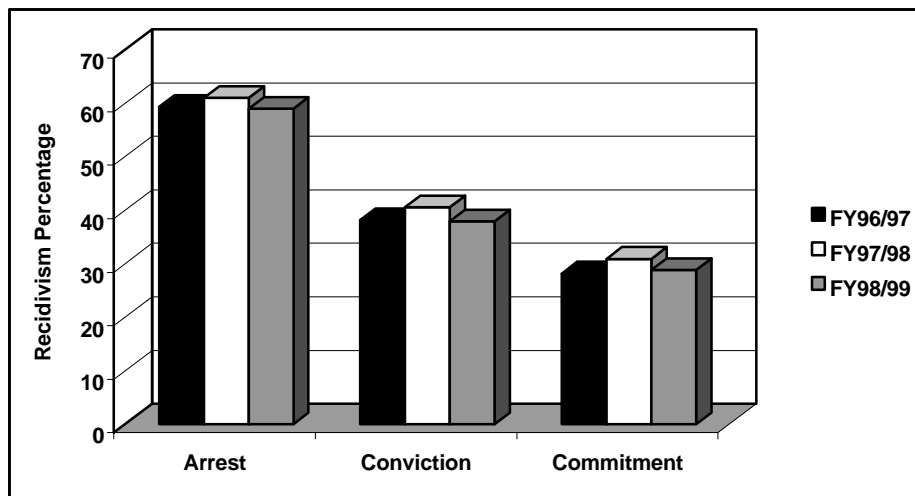


Northern Region N = 70  
 Central Region N = 92  
 Southern Region N = 59  
 Total N = 21

Differences in conviction and commitment rates between central and southern Florida reached statistical significance at the .05 level.

For a variety of reasons, such as job market, socio-economic status (SES), and/or judicial disparity, different geographic locations have been shown to produce different recidivism rates. Recidivism rates for students in aftercare programs were highest across all measures in central Florida. Re-arrest rates were similar across regions (58% for northern region, and 61% for both central and south Florida). However, re-conviction and re-commitment rates were significantly lower in south Florida. Conviction rates for northern Florida were 40% and 43% for central Florida, but dropped to 33% in the southern region of the state. Thirty percent (30%) of students in north Florida and 32% of students in central Florida were re-committed to a juvenile facility, with a significantly lower percentage (25%) of students in the south returning to a juvenile justice facility.

**Table 9.5-5: Recidivism Rates for Aftercare Students Across Three Years**



FY96/97 N = 62  
 FY97/98 N = 79  
 FY98/99 N = 84  
 Total N = 225

There was a slight increase in recidivism rates from FY96/97 to FY97/98 across all three measures. Re-arrest rates increased from 59% to 61%, re-conviction rates increased from 38% to 40%, and re-commitment rates increased from 28% to 31%. This pattern was not in the expected direction. In fact, overall, juvenile crime has decreased in recent years, both nationally and in Florida. However, as expected, the rates do drop slightly for youths exiting aftercare programs the following year (FY98/99). Re-arrest rates dropped from 61% back to 59%, re-conviction rates dropped from 40% back to 38%, and re-commitment rates dropped from 31% to 29%.

### Limitations

There are several limitations to this study. First, these data are incomplete. Recidivism rates for aftercare programs are not consistently collected for all aftercare programs. For instance, PCCC is considered one type of aftercare, and these recidivism rates are not available at the program level. Therefore, comparisons across all types of aftercare used in the state are not possible with currently available data. Second, it is not possible to control for important variables. Without individual-level data, important offender characteristics, such as education level, age, sex, and race; and offense variables, such as offense severity and prior delinquency history cannot be controlled. Third, residential program rates cannot be disaggregated from aftercare program rates. Aftercare cannot be used as an intervening variable because it is not possible to reliably match program recidivism rates with aftercare program recidivism rates. For these reasons, individual-level recidivism data need to be collected to address what types of aftercare services produce lower recidivism rates, and for what type of youth.

## 9.6 Subsequent Studies

### Comparative Case Study

Recidivism is only one of several important measures of community adjustment. For several reasons, recidivism measures can be misleading, and additional measures to determine future behavior and successful community adjustment are important in understanding the effectiveness of aftercare services. This case study will allow educational, employment, community, peer, and family outcomes to be examined in depth.

Most of the aftercare literature has focused on high-risk youths. In fact, all the empirical studies have addressed the need for intensive aftercare services for high-risk youths, those typically characterized by habitual and serious offending, and often with a history of substance abuse. However, results have been mixed, and it is still unknown what type of aftercare programming is effective in producing positive outcomes for these youths reentering their communities.

Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys (Dozier) and Jackson Juvenile Offender Corrections Center (JJOCC) are residential facilities that serve high-risk male offenders. Dozier has been in operation since 1899 and was the first juvenile facility in the State of Florida. JJOCC is located directly across from Dozier and has been in operation for two years. The educational programs are operated by the Washington County School District, while the facilities are operated by DJJ. Both residential programs serve juveniles with long histories of delinquency. These youths often have histories of drug offenses and violent offenses. In addition, the programs serve a large population of sexual offenders. The youths exiting Dozier and JJOCC come from all over Florida, but are concentrated in a northern tri-state area, extending from Orlando to Pensacola to Jacksonville.

Since the inception of QA reviews for the juvenile justice education programs, Dozier has been recognized for its extensive treatment programs and continuous high quality academic and vocational training. JJOCC began operation in 1998, and the educational program has received high satisfactory ratings for the past two years. Table 9.6-1 provides brief program descriptions of youths exiting Dozier and JJOCC.

**Table 9.6-1: Program Descriptions of Youths Exiting Dozier and JJOCC for Case Study**

Program Descriptions	Dozier	JJOCC	Combined
Sample Size	72	64	136
Range of Stay	1-35 mo.	3-17 mo.	1-35 mo.
Average Length of Stay	13.3 mo.	11.3 mo.	12.6 mo.
Age Range	14.8-19.0	16-18.9	14.8-19
Average Age	17.6	17.4	17.5
Range of Total Number of Offenses	1-88	1-34	1-88
Average Number of Charges	16	16	16
1998 QA Rating	Deemed	NA	NA
1999 QA Rating	Deemed	5.67	NA
2000 QA Rating	7.00	6.06	6.53

Due to the full range of aftercare services youths receive upon return to their communities, this would be a useful comparative study. The types of aftercare services these youths receive will range in type, from minimal community-based monitoring services to intensive day treatment services. The intensity and duration of aftercare services will vary, along with the quality of service delivery. Program variables, such as educational, vocational, and treatment gains can be controlled. Individual variables, such as age, race, and educational achievement; and legal variables, such as offense seriousness, prior offense history, and judicial jurisdiction, can be controlled. Additionally, various community, family, and peer group variables can be controlled, such as SES, parental abuse or neglect, family conflict, and association with delinquent peers.

Comparison analyses will provide answers to several research questions regarding the effectiveness of aftercare services and the continuum of care for high-risk youth offenders in the State of Florida. Community reintegration variables can be analyzed, such as continuing education and gainful employment, in addition to variables such as self-esteem, family and peer relations, community involvement, and delinquent activity.

Additionally, one of JJEEP's research efforts includes a longitudinal research project. The purpose of this research is to determine if higher QA performing programs are producing expected educational outcomes, resulting in more positive community reintegration. Students exiting six juvenile justice programs during the calendar year 1999 will be followed for several years. Programs were selected based on type of program and QA performance. Clearly, aftercare is a crucial part of this process and will be an important component of the longitudinal outcome analyses.

## **9.7 Summary**

The aftercare literature to date has mainly focused on high-risk youths exiting juvenile justice facilities. In Florida, there are a variety of aftercare programs available, ranging from low levels of monitoring to intensive day treatment programs with night and weekend surveillance. Further, within each general category, the supervision and services the students receive varies. In addition, while the type of aftercare services a youth receives ideally depends on security risk to the community and individual needs, it is often subject to location of home county. In sum, aftercare seems to be a term that encompasses a wide range of services for juvenile justice youths in Florida.

Overall, the aftercare programs reviewed by JJEEP during 2000 had satisfactory performance. The specific day treatment aftercare programs produced slightly higher QA ratings than the AMI programs with SAFE students. However, there are several more day treatment aftercare programs operating throughout the state, and JJEEP should consistently review all aftercare programs with an on-site educational component.

Since the inception of JJEEP, research has been one of the main functions, and the study of aftercare is one of JJEEP's ongoing research projects. In order to conduct a complete

statewide analysis, research involves starting at the program level to determine how state aftercare programming operates. JJEEP has developed a typology of aftercare services available throughout the state and was able to assess how different types of programs, based on type, provider, and location relate to recidivism outcomes. Findings showed that day treatment aftercare programs tend to produce higher recidivism rates than community-based programs. While there were no significant differences between the publicly operated aftercare programs and the private not-for-profit programs, different regions of the state appeared to produce different recidivism outcomes.

Subsequent aftercare research will extend beyond official recidivism rates to determine the role of aftercare on specific community outcomes, such as education, employment, and family and peer relations. Further, in this ongoing research, it is recommended that the intensity level within each type of aftercare be evaluated with regard to services received. Additionally, because aftercare appears to be a term still in search of a definition, it is crucial in JJEEP's research to clearly define these services with regard to program philosophy, goals, and delivery of service. In DJJ's reorganization during 2000, the term "aftercare" has been changed to "conditional release," and the name alone suggests a shift in the concept from a continuum of care to an extended sentence.

With JJEEP's current aftercare research, including a comparative aftercare case study on high-risk offenders and longitudinal research examining the effects of quality education, JJEEP can move to discussion of how the role of aftercare affects successful community reintegration for particular groups of juvenile justice students.

