

Juvenile Re-offense Rates Reduced with Family Solutions

In a recent study conducted by Dr. Ellen Breazel at Clemson University on the effectiveness of the Family Solutions Program, 1117 juvenile first offenders referred to the Family Solutions Program by juvenile justice agencies in Georgia and South Carolina who completed the program were compared to 424 juvenile first offenders referred to the program who dropped out or were assigned another case disposition or intervention.

Of the 1117 youth who completed the Family Solutions Program, 221 committed a re-offense, or 20%. Of the 424 youth either referred to the Family Solutions Program who dropped out or were assigned another intervention, 155 committed a re-offense, or 37%.

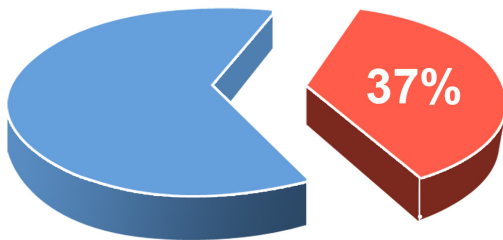
In addition to the favorable re-offense outcome rate for Family Solutions Program graduates, Dr. Breazel found that **children report improved**

Dr. Breazel reports that a chi-square statistic indicates that this difference is statistically significant at the $p < 0.000$ level, indicating that the proportion of those graduates of FSP who re-offend is significantly less than the proportion of those who re-offend who do not complete FSP or who are assigned another intervention.

communication with their parents between the inception of the Family Solutions Program and its completion that is statistically significant based on the Olson and Barnes Parent-Adolescent Communication Scale.

Finally, Dr. Breazel found that based on the Parent Stress Inventory (Abidin) **parents reported a drop in stress level between the inception of the FSP and its completion that was statistically significant.** This is an important finding considering that parent stress has been found in the literature to be a correlate of child abuse; thus, parent participation in FSP may lower the probability of incidents of abuse or neglect by parents.

Juvenile First Offenders Who Did Not Complete FSP: Percentage of Re-Offenders



Juvenile First Offenders Who Completed FSP: Percentage of Re-Offenders

