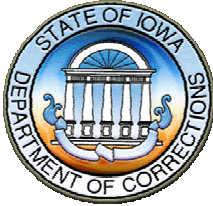
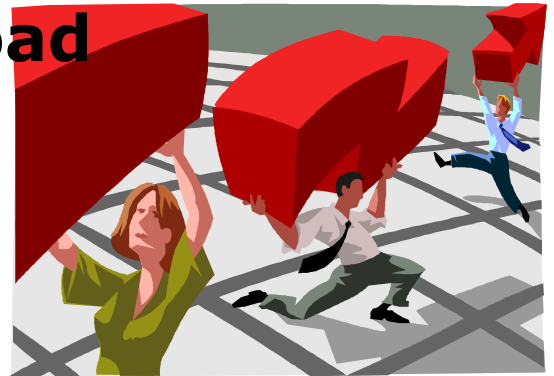


Lettie Prell
Director of Research

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Data Download



“Working Alliance” Works Best

Within the last few years correctional research has clearly shown that the working alliance or rapport between correctional officer/staff member and offender is a critical component in reducing recidivism. Some research even attributes up to 40% of offender change or success to this relationship.

There are a number of tools available for measuring the working alliance with counseling patients. However, the Working Alliance Inventory-Short Revised – Offender Version is the only known tool that has been validated and reliable for measuring the working alliance in offender populations.

Results from a recent (Nov., 2010) administration of the WAI-SR Offender Version to offenders participating in the 5th District’s Sex Offender Treatment Program revealed that, out of 137 offender surveys, **90%** reported their working alliance with their probation/parole officer (PPO) and treating psychologist as **High Average or High**. Scoring options included Low, Low Average, Average, High Average, and High.

Given the “non-voluntary” nature of the offenders participating in sex offender supervision and treatment, and the amount of personal disruption the SOTP rules can impose (e.g., no contact with minors, residency restrictions, electronic monitoring), these results are very encouraging and reaffirming of the great work the 5th District’s SOTP staff are doing.

Data is currently being gathered that will allow us to measure the relationship between working alliance scores and technical violations and revocations. Preliminary data suggests, as one would expect, that offenders who have strong relationships with their PPOs have lower rates of both technical violations and revocations, regardless of level of offender risk. When more findings become available, we will report these results in a future *Data Download*.

A special thanks to Tony Tatman, Ph.D., of the 5th Judicial District DCS for his involvement in this study. If you are interested in this tool, please contact Tony Tatman at (515) 242-6582 or tony.tatman@iowa.gov.