The Threat to Returning Citizens

- Nearly all chronic substance users enter the criminal justice system at some time in their use career. Drug use is closely associated with crime, and its prevalence among offenders is high (MacCoun et al., 2003; Newcomb et al., 2001).
- Relapse to drug use tends to occur within the first few months of release from incarceration (Prendergast et al., 2003; Siegal et al., 2002), highlighting the importance of providing intervention options at the pre-release or reentry phase of the offender’s incarceration.
- Using data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Belenko and Peugh (2005) reported that among state inmates classified as being at the most severe level of drug use, only 20% reported having received previous drug or alcohol treatment.
- Adults released from prison are at high risk of non-fatal overdose, particularly in the first 14 days after release.
What is SBIRT?

• Screening: The application of a simple test to determine if a patient is at risk for or may have an alcohol or substance use disorder.

• Brief Intervention: The explanation of screening results, information on safe use, assessment of readiness to change and advice on change.

• Referral to Treatment: Patients with positive results on screening are referred for in depth assessment and/or treatment.

• SBIRT is **not** an assessment and cannot be used to make a diagnosis.
Why Intervene in Criminal Justice Settings?

• It is an opportunity to begin to normalize the conversation around alcohol and drug use as a health issue

• Brief interventions are proven to reduce or eliminate substance use and help individuals get into needed treatment

• Opportunity to build on relationships in a safe, confidential and accessible environment

• Through doors already open to detainees, quick and easy screening can uncover a need for further counseling
How it works

• Universal screening of all detainees (at multiple touchpoints)
  • Booking
  • Classification
  • Medical

• Brief Interventions conducted by team members
  • Medical
  • Classification
  • Officers
  • Peers

• Referrals to treatment and community support
  • Behind the walls
  • Coordinated referral to community-based peer recovery support
What is a Brief Intervention?

• A brief intervention consists of one or more time-limited conversations (3-5 minutes) between an at-risk drinker or substance user and a provider

• Brief interventions are motivation enhancing discussions focused on increasing insight and awareness of substance use disorders
SBIRT Data

(Reporting Period: November 2017 – June 2018)

Cumulative SBIRT Totals - Detention Centers

- **SBIRT SCREENINGS**: 5,137
- **POSITIVE SCREENS**: 1,722
- **BRIEF INTERVENTIONS**: 1,444
- **REFERRALS TO TREATMENT**: 837

Data Summary includes the following counties: Allegany, Baltimore City, Dorchester, Howard, Talbot, and Wicomico
Questions
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