

Group Therapy for Sex Offenders: Summary of Measurement Findings in the Outcome Initiative Pilot

Michael Philippov ✦ Tali Topilsky ✦ Tal Arazi

The study was initiated and funded by the Research, Planning and Training Division of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Adult Probation Service

Group Therapy for Sex Offenders: Summary of Measurement Findings in the Outcome Initiative Pilot

Michael Philippov Tali Topilsky Tal Arazi

The study was initiated and funded by the Research, Planning and Training Division of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Adult Probation Service

Hebrew editor: Ronit Ben Nun

English translation: Evelyn Abel (Abstract and Executive Summary)

Production and Print Layout: Anat Perko Toledano

Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute

The Division for Quality in Social Services

P.O.B. 3886

Jerusalem 9103702, Israel

Tel: (02) 655-7400

Fax: (02) 561-2391

Website: brookdale.jdc.org.il

Related Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute Publications

Topilsky, T.; Philippov, M.; Arazi, T. 2015. **Group-Therapy Program for Sexually-Abusive Boys: Summary of Measurement Results of the Outcomes Initiative Pilot.** RR-753-17

Arazi, T.; Sher, N. 2017. **An Intervention Planning and Outcome Measurement System in the Service for Youth and Young Adults: Concept Development and Insights from the Experience - Stage I.** RR-754-17

The publications are available on the institute website: www.jdc.org.il/brookdale

Abstract

Background

Israel's Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), with the assistance of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute (MJB), has been advancing measures to establish and routinize outcome thinking (OT) in all ministry units and auxiliaries. The procedure includes developing supportive infrastructures and an apparatus to measure the outcomes of the various interventions implemented by MOLSA.

At the level of fieldworkers, these systems help construct data-collection procedures, plan outcome-oriented interventions, and follow up on the extent of outcome achievement. At the managerial and head-office levels, they may help focus the field data systematically, facilitate a deeper, more sophisticated understanding of processes in the therapeutic field, and conduct policy modifications driven by reliable knowledge.

The report summarizes the development process and findings of a pilot measuring the outcomes of group therapy among sex offenders at the Adult Probation Service (APS). The pilot was conducted in 2016 by staff of the Unit for Outcome Thinking at MJB's Center for Quality Promotion Systems, in cooperation with a multi-level APS staff.

Goal

To help develop and routinize an apparatus for ongoing follow-up of intervention outcomes in a group therapy program for sex offenders.

Methods

During the pilot:

- a. The logic model of the intervention program was formulated and its underpinning theory of change was examined.
- b. The suitability of the apparatus for ongoing outcome measurement was examined in the case of APS sex offenders.
- c. The apparatus developed was used to measure results for group participants, regarding: (1) greater awareness of their violations; (2) their development of personal strategies to prevent recurrence.

Outcomes and Conclusions

- a. The apparatus accommodated the ongoing outcome measurement of the intervention with the therapy groups of sex offenders. It managed to reflect the participants' progress over time validly and reliably.
- b. The measurement findings indicate improvement in the area of awareness: following therapy, most of the participants were more aware of the violations they had committed, able to analyze the causes, point to the planning stages, and even describe the justification mechanisms they had employed.

- c. Change in the area of developing personal strategies to avoid recurrent violations was more moderate, especially among offenders in closed frameworks.

Summary

The pilot's conclusions corroborate the suitability of the apparatus for ongoing outcome measurement. It can support the decision-making of probation officers as they assess the progress of rehabilitation and thus also the need for, and scope of, further supervision. Its use in ongoing data collection as a matter of routine should help the service formulate policy and adjust therapeutic responses more precisely. Furthermore, the report maps the many challenges accompanying the integration of outcome thinking in ongoing therapeutic work; challenges linked to measurement methods, the presentation of the outcomes, and their interpretation.

Table of Contents

1. Background	1
2. Work Process in Pilot and Measurement Method	2
2.1 Work Process in Pilot	2
2.2 Measurement Method and Tools	3
3. Measurement of Pilot Outcomes – Comparing the Two Measurements	7
3.1 Background Characteristics of Participants	7
4. Needs	10
4.1 Main Needs: Description of Offense	10
4.2 Secondary Needs	12
4.3 Outputs	13
4.4 Intervention Outcomes	13
5. Summary of Findings and Applied Recommendations prior to Routinizing Ongoing Measurement	19
5.1 Main Findings of Measurement	19
5.2 Insights and Challenges regarding the Measurement Process and Analysis of Findings	20
Sources	23
Appendix I: The Logic Model of the Group Therapy Program for Sex Offenders	24
Appendix II: The Cycle of Offense	25
Appendix III: Measurement Apparatus – Pilot 20: Adult Probation Service	26
Appendix IV: Results of Pre-Test for Moderators of Therapy Groups for Sex Offenders	29
Appendix V: Guidelines for Working with the Outcome Measurement Tool for Sex Offenders	33
Appendix VI: Informed Consent Form	35
Appendix VII: Tool for Background Characteristics and RP Scores	36
Appendix VIII: RP Self-Completion Tool	46
Appendix IX: Coding Guidelines for Responses for RP Tool	52