



Roca, Harvard, DOJ Release a Report on a Model to Reduce Young People's Crime

Paper Highlights Use of Evidence-Based Practices to Achieve Better Outcomes

Boston, MA—October 18, 2017— This week, Roca, the Harvard Kennedy School, and the National Institute of Justice, celebrated the release of a new paper discussing an effective way to reduce crime among high-risk young people. Titled [*From Evidence-Based Practices to a Comprehensive Intervention Model for High-Risk Young Men: The Story of Roca*](#), the paper highlights how Roca used established research, various theories, and almost 30 years of experience, to develop an innovative approach to justice-involved young people with better outcomes.

The report outlines Roca's intervention model – a first-of-its-kind intervention, and the only community corrections model in the country that focuses exclusively on high-risk individuals, which is not mandated by a court or any other agency. The report also shares important lessons for other agencies interested in learning from Roca's success, including focusing on a specific target population; attention to combination between various practices; and the need to balance between program fidelity and ongoing adaptations based on the field's needs.

[Download the report here.](#)

“Our model is designed for the young people who so many people have given up on, or are just too afraid to deal with. We believe that even the highest-risk young people belong, and that each one of them can succeed. And we have the data to show that,” said Molly Baldwin, Roca's founder and CEO. “Our work with the Executive Session at Harvard and NIJ is a unique opportunity to share what we learn, and keep showing that jail is not a solution.”

Vincent Schiraldi, Senior Research Scientist/Adjunct Professor at Columbia University, praised the report: “As justice systems increasingly grapple with how to create a developmentally appropriate response to offending by young adults, this report shows that the Roca model of relentless follow up and meticulous attention to data are a winning combination for policy makers to pay attention to.”

Glenn Martin, Founder and President, JustLeadershipUSA, added: “As America moves away from its failed experiment with mass incarceration which has produced so much human carnage, it is vital that successful community-based crime prevention programs like Roca be recognized, supported, and replicated. The Story of Roca is an important contribution to a growing body of literature that proves

that even the people considered most at risk can turn their lives around if given the supports and opportunities they deserve. This paper is a must read for criminal justice policy makers at all levels-- federal, state and local.” –

Christine Cole, Executive Director of the Crime and Justice Institute, added: “Across its lifespan, Roca has informed its practice and interventions using cutting edge research. Effective and consistent use of data to understand Roca’s clients, interventions, and success has built the Roca Model. There are lots of interventions that ‘feel right’ but only some interventions are demonstrated to reduce the behavior that leads to criminal activity. What is impressive about Roca is, that with every intervention, they are interested in study and evaluation to the benefit of their clients and the community.”

The report is part of a series of papers with the Executive Session on Community Corrections at Harvard Kennedy School, where they explore the role of community corrections and communities in interest of justice and public safety.

To read the full paper, visit: <http://rocainc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/From-EBP-to-Roca-HKS-NIJ-Paper-MB-YZ.pdf>