

# A Demographic-Economic Model for Adolescent Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention

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# Purposes



- Addresses a major public policy problem of drug use and addiction in adolescents and young adults as well as associated crime outcomes
- To estimate the impact of evidence-based, substance-abuse social intervention that addresses delinquent crime

# Background



## Examines

- Population projections from 2000-2010 for African Americans and Whites by age
  1. African American and White youth use drugs at same rate.
  2. African American youth have higher rates of drug offenses.
  3. African American youth incarcerated at much higher rates

# Residential Placements



- 2010

	<u>15-19Yr</u>	<u>20-24Yr</u>	<u>25-29Yr</u>
African Amer.	61,192	157,759	140,784
White	51,692	113,022	106,163

Intervening with MST to address large racial disparities in incarceration rates.

Assumes 50% reduction in placement, consistent with MST clinical trials.

# Cost Benefit Scenario “A” for African American Youth



MST ramping up to support a 3% annual reduction in residential placements nationwide.

## From 2000 to 2010:

Placements:	31,803 to 21,052 (35% overall)
# Treated:	1871 to 13,019
Cost of MST:	\$10,181,968 to \$94,095,358\
Benefit:	\$14,488,587 to \$133,894,435
Net Benefit:	\$4,306,620 to \$39,799,076

# Conclusions



“Thus, a national grant program would have a large and targeted effect on youth in the various states.”

“The quality of the intervention suffers when it deviates from the implementation standards that are necessary for effective treatment.”

“Treatment costs would appear to be wasted without strong quality commitment.”