

Evaluation of Correctional Service of Canada substance abuse programs (R-16, 1991)

This report evaluates the Correctional Service of Canada's substance abuse program using the Correctional Program Evaluation Inventory (CPEI) which was adapted to accommodate this survey.

CPEI consists of a variety of items that assess several factors found to have been associated with the literature on "what works" with offenders. These factors are program implementation, client assessment, treatment modalities, staff characteristics or practices and program evaluation. The CPEI allows for a comprehensive summary of the current functioning of a program as well as a rating of the program for its potential effectiveness.

The survey, national in scope, was sent to 170 substance abuse programs directly operated by the Correctional Service of Canada; 112 were returned. Deficits were discovered across all areas of programming activity. Programs were also assessed as to "quality." Most programs were found to be less than adequate, although several satisfactory programs were identified.

While it defines the limitations of the study, the report also suggests that the findings will allow policy makers and clinicians to target deficits in a rational, constructive and positive manner.