

**Offender Program for Persons who Solicit
City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office/ Catholic Charities DIGNITY Diversion Program
Program period: 7.2010-4.2014**

Program Evaluation conducted by:

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Summary

This evaluation of the City of Phoenix diversion program, entitled the Offender Program for Persons who Solicit (OPPS), has found successful outcomes with positive changes of attitudes and beliefs of the 422 program participants as indicated on pre and post surveys. Also, within the City of Phoenix arrest records, the participants show a zero rate of recidivism. The OPPS has saved the City of Phoenix millions of dollars in jail cost savings, the participants have no re-arrests (in the City of Phoenix), and appears to significantly change participants regarding how they think and feel about prostitution and their behavior.

Introduction

The OPPS provided by Catholic Charities DIGNITY programs was a one-day diversion program for adults arrested for soliciting a prostitute in the City of Phoenix, Arizona. Adults who are arrested for soliciting a prostitute are given the option for a plea agreement to complete the OPPS program. The OPPS program began as a pilot diversion program in 2005 and was implemented as a permanent diversion program in 2006. The goal of the program was to educate the defendants on the harm of soliciting sex, not only to themselves but also to their families, the persons they buy sex from, and the community. The Catholic Charities DIGNITY OPPS program elements included:

- The prosecution and enforcement of laws relating to prostitution.
- The effects of prostitution on women, children and the community
- Sex trafficking of minors
- The effects of soliciting on the offender and his/her family
- The risk and effects of sexual addiction
- Community involvement in changing views toward sex buyers and how their behavior affects neighborhoods
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Attitudes towards women, gender roles and expectations in relationships
- Relapse prevention
- Stories from survivors

Recidivism

A review of cases from the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office resulted in no cases (0%) of re-offending on a solicitation charge. This review is only on the City of Phoenix arrest records and does not account for other locations in Arizona; therefore, this change may be related to displacement of offender behavior.

Jail Cost Savings

Since the program inception in January 2005 through April 2014 the program has saved the City of Phoenix \$2,527,551 in jail costs. This evaluation is limited to June 2010 to April 2014 when specific pre and post surveys were developed to evaluate the complex attitudes and beliefs surrounding an attempt to purchase sex.

Evaluation:

Participants completed anonymous surveys (in English or Spanish) at the beginning (pre-surveys) and end (post-surveys) of the eight-hour diversion program. The pre- and post-surveys were matched by the participant and then given to the program facilitator. The surveys included demographic information and questions using a five point scale related to the beliefs and attitudes towards prostitution and their behavior. This evaluation was conducted for three reasons:

1. To gain knowledge about the personal characteristics, motives and behaviors of men charged with soliciting a prostitute in Phoenix, Arizona.
2. To determine if the participants changed their attitudes and beliefs about prostitution and their behavior.
3. To identify attitudes or beliefs which were not changing (from pre- to post- surveys) which will lead to recommendations to modify the class to better target those topics.

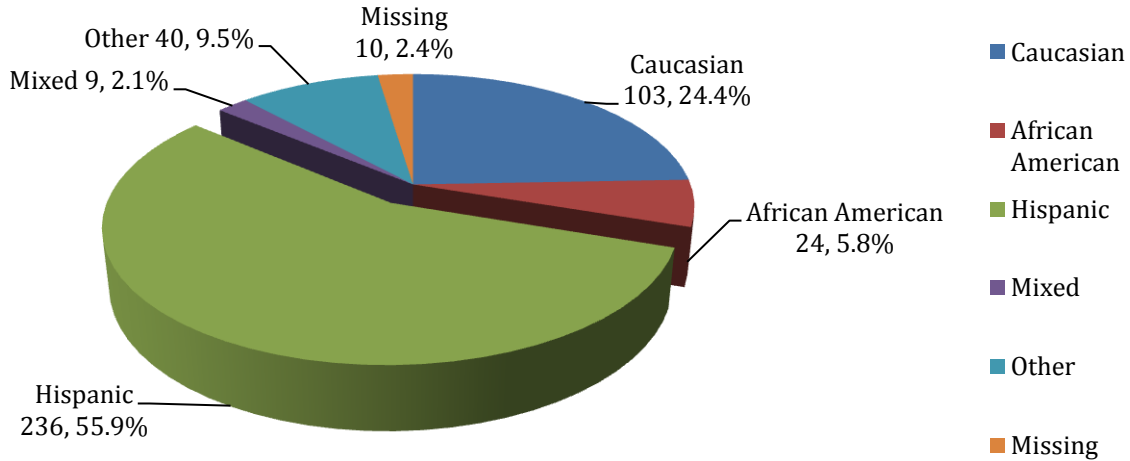
Participants

There were 422 clients who completed a survey from June 2010 to April 2014, from 43 groups with 3 to 19 attendees and averaging 9.79 attendees.

Demographics:

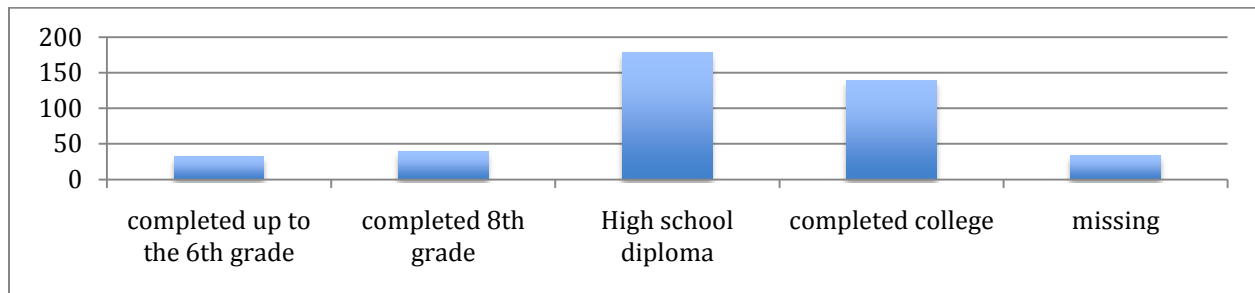
All participants (100.0%) in the OPPS one-day diversion program were male.

Race:



Education:

Most participants had achieved at least a high school diploma, with 178 (42.2%) completing high school and 139 (32.9%) completing college. Thirty-two (7.6%) participants only completed up to the sixth grade and 39 (9.2%) had achieved up to an 8th grade education. Data from 34 (8.1%) participants was missing.

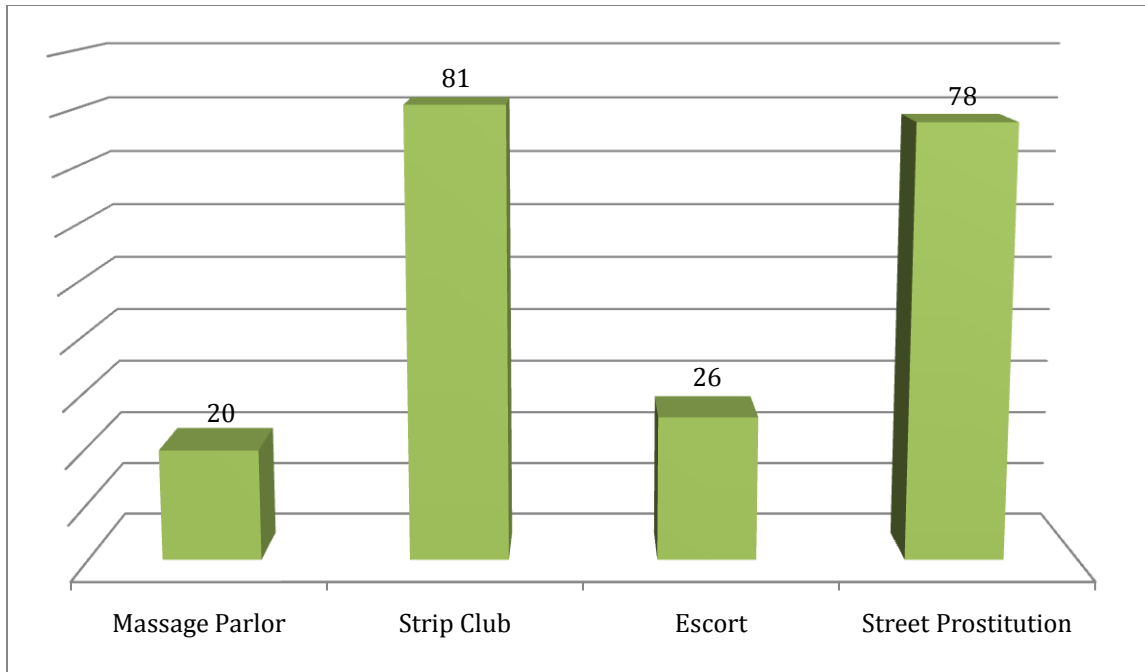


Family Status:

The marriage status of participants is fairly even, with 200 (47.4%) participants reporting being married and 211 (50%) reporting being single. Eleven (2.6%) participants left this answer blank. Over half (274, 64.7%) of the participants reported having children, with 114 (27%) reporting no children and 35 (8.3%) not answering the question.

Type of Sex Buying Behavior:

Participants identified the following types of sex-buying activity engaged in during the last year:



Participant Characteristics:

Fifty (11.8%) participants identified as a sex addict. Over half (66.7%) of participants agreed with the statement, “Most men prefer young prostitutes”. Almost a quarter of participants cited being away from a regular partner (99, 23.5%), being attracted to particular characteristics of a woman (97, 23%) or not currently being involved in a relationship (86, 20.4%) as reasons for soliciting a prostitute. The reasons for soliciting include:

Reason for Soliciting	n	%
Being away from a regular partner	99	23.5%
Being attracted to particular characteristics of a woman	97	23%
Not currently in a relationship	86	20.4%
Doesn't want a relationship and a prostitute doesn't ask for one	65	15.4%
Because it was risky and exciting	62	14.7%
For companionship	60	14.2%
Because you have a high sex drive	53	12.6%
For friendship	46	10.9%
Desire to have sexual experiences that your regular partner refuses	45	10.7%
Because it was less risky than starting an affair outside your marriage	43	10.2%
Because having a sexual experience with a prostitute is less work than convincing your regular partner to have sex	36	8.5%

Methodology

A paired-sample t-test was conducted to compare the scores on 27 questions on the pre and post-surveys regarding the participants' attitudes and beliefs towards prostitution and their behavior. The survey questions were drawn from the Attitudes Towards Prostitution Scale (Sawyer, Rosser, & Schroeder, 1998) as well as questions developed by a number of experts and stakeholders in the Phoenix OPPS program (including the program evaluator (D. Roe-Sepowitz), the contract manager (M. Perez-Loubert) and the Sr. Program Supervisor (C. Bauer).

The participants identified their answer by choosing from strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree. Some questions were reverse scored for variation in question position (positive or negative). The score for each question ranges from 1 to 4 (with the meaning different depending on the direction of the question).

Key Findings

Positive changes were found on the majority of the survey questions from pre-survey to post survey. These positive changes indicate that the participants are shifting their attitudes and beliefs towards prostitution and their solicitation behavior

The questions that demonstrated positive change of attitudes and beliefs include:

- Beliefs about the characteristics of prostituted women
 - Age; (participants' post-surveys reflected their acquired knowledge that the average age of entry into prostitution is younger than 18)
 - Most prostitutes make a lot of money
 - Women are prostitutes because they want to be - It's their choice
 - Prostitutes enjoy their work
 - Prostitutes genuinely like their clients
- Ideals about prostitution
 - There is nothing wrong with prostitution
 - Prostitution should be legalized
 - Most men go to prostitutes once in a while
- Risk factors for women involved in prostitution
 - Prostituting as a juvenile often leads to prostitution as an adult
 - The younger a person starts prostituting, the more mental health and physical problems they will have
 - Most prostitutes were abused in their childhoods
 - Most prostitutes live in poverty
 - Most prostitutes are drug addicts
 - Prostitutes are victims of pimps
- Ideals about how soliciting affects others
 - If my wife or partner does not satisfy me sexually, it is okay for me to go to a prostitute
 - Men who go to prostitutes have broken their marriage vows
 - Most prostitutes have to work very hard
 - Prostitution is a serious problem in our society

- Prostitution exists because of the demands of the customer

No or limited (non-significant) changes were found on a small number of survey questions. On questions about daughter and son involvement in prostitution and the impact of the intervention “regardless of what is told to me today, I will continue to solicit prostitutes” the score did not change from an initial strong negative answer.

- Ideals about prostitution
 - It would be okay if my daughter grew up to be a prostitute
 - It would be okay if my son went to prostitutes
 - Prostitutes provide an outlet that helps prevent divorces
- Ideals about how soliciting affects others
 - As long as a man's wife doesn't know about it, there is no harm done to the marriage if the man goes to prostitutes
 - Prostitution has no effect on the neighborhood in residential areas
- Attitudes toward soliciting
 - Regardless of what is told to me today, I will continue to solicit prostitutes

Implications

*The findings from the analyses indicate that **many of the participants’ attitudes and beliefs about prostitution and their behavior of soliciting a prostitute successfully change from pre-survey to post-survey during the 1-day OPPS intervention.***

Participants appear to change their attitudes about the ‘wrongness’ of prostitution, demonstrating a better understanding of the victimization and abuse histories of prostitutes and an understanding of the risk factors that exist for people in prostitution. Participants demonstrate improved understanding of myths about money, drug use and the idea that prostitutes enjoy and choose prostitution. Additionally, participants seem to better understand their role in the existence of prostitution, the meaning of sexual addiction, the seriousness of the problem of prostitution and the need for tougher laws regarding prostitution.

Attitudes and beliefs that did not significantly change during the intervention include moral issues, including the idea that if their wife doesn’t know about their use of prostitution then it isn’t wrong, that prostitution is an outlet that prevents divorce, and the impact of prostitution on the neighborhoods and communities and ideas about their children in relation to prostitution.

Recommendations

#1. Conduct a statewide recidivism check on participants (after 12 months of completion).

Conducting a statewide recidivism check would increase the validity of the 0% recidivism, as it is limited to the City of Phoenix arrest records.

#2. Include a wife’s perspective in the OPPS curriculum.

Consider including in the OPPS Diversion curriculum a wife’s perspective on prostitution,

which may impact the participants' understanding of the impact of soliciting a prostitute on his wife and their relationship. This added element could impact the participants' lack of changing attitudes and beliefs regarding prostitution and secrecy from a wife and how prostitution can prevent divorce.

Conclusion

This evaluation of the DIGNITY OPPS Program indicates that the participants' attitudes and beliefs towards prostitution and their solicitation behavior significantly positively changed during their involvement in the-one-day OPPS intervention.

Appendix A

Participants demonstrated significant changes in scores from pre- to post-surveys on the following questions:

Question	Pre-test Score		Post-test Score		t-value	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
There is nothing wrong with prostitution.	1.90	.843	1.55	.783	7.476	.001
Prostituting as a juvenile often leads to prostitution as an adult.	2.03	.898	1.85	.854	3.455	.001
Prostitution should be legalized.	2.93	.934	3.37	.792	-9.393	.001
Prostitutes are victims of pimps.	2.35	.891	2.12	5.051	0.893	.372
Most prostitutes make a lot of money.	2.40	.814	2.06	.826	7.479	.001
Most prostitutes hate what they have to do as a prostitute.	2.49	1.615	2.1	1.763	3.424	.001
Women are prostitutes because they want to be. It's their choice.	2.42	.088	1.87	.040	6.155	.001
Prostitutes enjoy their work.	2.06	.732	1.71	.670	8.841	.000
Prostitutes genuinely like their clients.	1.96	.732	1.76	.766	.923	.000
Most men go to prostitutes once in a while.	2.51	1.604	2.32	.786	2.230	.026
Most prostitutes were abused in their childhoods.	2.41	.772	2.01	.791	9.050	.000
Most prostitutes live in poverty.	2.47	.789	2.12	.800	7.864	.000
For a sex addict, ideas of sex dominate their thoughts and actions.	2.50	.846	2.24	.889	4.449	.000
Most prostitutes are drug addicts.	2.65	.762	2.89	.769	-5.474	.000
Most prostitutes have to work very hard.	2.53	1.311	2.15	.925	4.652	.000
The younger a person starts prostituting, the more mental health and physical problems they will have.	1.94	.761	1.74	.813	4.109	.000
If my wife or partner does not satisfy me sexually, it is okay for me to go to a prostitute.	1.64	.678	1.47	.668	4.762	.000
Prostitution is a serious problem in our society.	2.12	.888	1.72	.793	8.088	.000
Prostitution exists because of the demands of the customer.	2.41	.805	2.07	.838	7.266	.000

No matter what society tries to do, prostitution will always exist	2.85	.807	2.69	.857	3.232	.001
We need tougher laws to deal with prostitution.	2.40	1.371	2.08	.882	4.443	.000
Men who go to prostitutes have broken their marriage vows.	2.00	.926	1.89	.877	2.068	.039

Participants did not demonstrated significant changes in scores from pre- to post-test on the following questions:

Question	Pre-test Score		Post-test score		t-value	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
It would be okay if my daughter grew up to be a prostitute.	1.35	.707	1.36	.779	-.220	.826
As long as a man's wife doesn't know about it, there is no harm done to the marriage if the man goes to prostitutes.	3.40	.780	3.44	.834	-.868	.386
It would be okay if my son went to prostitutes.	1.55	1.226	1.43	.825	1.756	.080
Regardless of what is told to me today, I will continue to solicit prostitutes.	2.83	1.225	2.84	1.610	-.153	.878
Prostitutes provide an outlet that helps prevent divorces.	1.95	.817	1.91	.910	.976	.330
Prostitution has no effect on the neighborhood in residential areas.	2.59	.917	2.46	1.147	.920	.349