

Appendix F: Administrative Data Methods and Processing

Data Sources

BOGAP Engagement Data

BOGAP participant engagement recorded by Osborne staff included participant characteristics (demographics) and other important information collected at intake, such as employment status, housing stability, and educational attainment. Osborne data also included the types and frequencies of group and individual services received, various referrals made for additional or follow-up services, and milestones achieved during a participant's engagement with the program. Data collection started with intake and continued until the end of the cooling-off period (approximately 15 months).¹

Case Processing Data

The Bronx District Attorney's Office shared with the research team a file comprised of all first-time offender cases considered for BOGAP. The primary data extract included 492 individuals with gun possession charges in the Bronx, 46 of whom were referred to BOGAP and the rest who were considered and/or screened by the Bronx DA's office but ultimately not referred (for reasons related to public safety, program fidelity, employment or education conflicts, etc.). Another data extract comprised the pre-evaluation study group, i.e., BOGAP participants from cohorts one to four (Note: two individuals from this pre-study group later joined Cohorts five and seven). This subset of individuals was not part of the evaluation study and was therefore not subject to Bronx DA's filtering and randomization process that cohorts five and beyond underwent.

The Bronx DA data extract included the following elements for each person: case information, defendant demographics, details of the BOGAP screening/referral process, key dates (arrest, indictment, and disposition), case outcomes, and sentencing information. Data collection began prior to Osborne's involvement and continued through the end of someone's cooling-off period and the final disposition of their case. It is important to note that although all 84 study cases were disposed of, some individuals were awaiting sentencing at the time data collection ended.

¹ According to program staff, data on individual services were not consistently entered across cohorts and, therefore, do not accurately reflect program engagement. Individual services include supportive counseling, case management sessions, assistance with tech devices, and obtaining formal documents such as driver's licenses.

Using Bronx DA case processing data, researchers tallied disposition outcomes, i.e., the final resolution or outcome of a participant's legal case (conviction, dismissal, etc.)

Criminal History Data

DCJS Top Charge Criminal History Data consists of detailed information about individual contacts with the criminal justice system, including demographic, arrest, and disposition data. JohnJayREC inspected and standardized individual information (including name, sex, race, date of birth, Social Security number, and NYSID) from Bronx DA records before requesting a demographic and criminal history match for each name from DCJS. Through an existing data-sharing agreement with DCJS, researchers obtained de-identified, fingerprintable criminal history records (including sealed records) on BOGAP participants, individuals considered for BOGAP programming but were not referred to Osborne Association, as well as an additional pool of anonymized Top Charge criminal history records from which to create a matched comparison group similar to the BOGAP-treated group. Individuals considered for BOGAP but did not ultimately enroll were excluded from the pool of possible comparison units.

Researchers used DCJS data to identify possible recidivism (rearrest or reconviction) events following participants' graduation from the program. Researchers then compared and contrasted recidivism outcomes with a matched comparison sample (i.e., individuals who were never treated for or enrolled in BOGAP but were as similar to the BOGAP-treated group as possible). Researchers used program engagement and Top Charge criminal history data to examine whether BOGAP participants have fewer re-arrests and re-convictions than similar non-treated individuals.

Data Preparation

Osborne program engagement data, participant survey data, and Bronx DA case processing data were inspected for duplicate responses, missing values, and out-of-range or outlier values. Once data was collected and cleaned, each file was merged to create a participant-level file to track changes in attitudes and beliefs at the beginning, end, and after the intervention, along with demographic, case management, job placement, and program participation data.

All data were identified using alphanumeric identifiers comprised of a person's first and last initial, followed by their birth month and birth day. This identifier was used to link records across program participation, survey, and case processing data. Questions about the administrative program engagement/participation data were resolved with assistance from the Osborne Association. To request DCJS data, the research team mapped these alphanumeric values into identifiers that are completely numeric (transforming letters into two-digit numbers according

to their ordered values in the alphabet). DCJS criminal history data was similarly inspected for duplicate responses, missing values, and unusual values. Both data sets were identified by a numeric identifier created by the research team.

The research team reviewed all available data (administrative data, survey data, case processing/outcome data, and criminal history records) to develop a picture of who enrolls in BOGAP, who completes the program, and what happens to participants post-program.