



Quick Stats

Agency	Program/Policy Start Date	Number Served Annually	Annual Budget
Department of Correction	September 2012	2,500	\$2,400,000

Problem Statement Those who enter jail as adolescents have a high likelihood of re-entering the system in the years following their release. In fact, nearly 50% of adolescents who leave Rikers return within one year.

Research and Evidence Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is an evidence based intervention that has been tested in multiple settings with differing populations for decades. Outcome studies on CBT-treated youth in juvenile facilities as well as various juvenile probation sites show that participants have lower recidivism than control groups. A meta-analysis on CBT conducted by Mark Lipsey in 2007, found a 20%-30% reduction in recidivism attributable to CBT interventions.

Program Description The goal of the ABLE program is to decrease participants' likelihood of future criminal behavior and reincarceration. The project is being funded as part of the nation's first social impact bond and is using private financing that will be repaid by the government if the outcomes are met.

Program: Adolescent Behavioral Learning Experience ("ABLE")

- Provide evidence-based intervention in-jail and post release to 16-18 year olds in DOC custody at Rikers Island
- Improve social skills, problem solving, self-control and impulse management.
- The Osborne Association and Friends of Island Academy will deliver the intervention through trained facilitators working closely with DOE and DOC staff

Target Population According to DOC estimates, over 3,000 youth (aged 16-18) would be eligible for CBT per year. The CBT program will serve adolescents admitted into the city's jail system as detainees or sentenced inmates for more than four days.

As of June 2013, the program participant demographics are:
 Male: 90%
 Black: 67%
 Hispanic*: 27%

*Black and Hispanic are reported as mutually exclusive demographic indicators.

Expected Outcomes The goal of the program is to reduce overall readmission to DOC by at least 10%. The program is also expected to contribute to a reduction in the number and severity of in-facility incidents of acting-out and impulsiveness