

# NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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### **Promising Trends Surround the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) First-Year Study**

Lincoln -- An evaluation recently completed under the direction of Dr. Kathleen Grant and the University of Nebraska Medical Center provides promising trends of felony drug offenders involved in SSAS. The study compared offenders involved in the SSAS program with similar offenders who did not participate in SSAS, but instead received a more traditional probation sentence. Highlights of the study include:

- SSAS offenders were involved in substance abuse treatment or a 12-Step program at a significantly higher rate than non-SSAS offenders.
- While SSAS Offenders were less likely to be employed at the onset of probation, they were more likely to be employed at six months than non-SSAS offenders.
- SSAS offenders entered probation with more risk factors (unemployment and mental health issues) in comparison to non-SSAS offenders but trended towards a better overall outcome.
- Fewer SSAS probationers had technical, law or total violations and fewer were incarcerated for probation violations during the first six months of their probation.
- A significant indicator for offender success is directly correlated to an SSAS officer's use of incentives.
- SSAS officers are significantly more likely to employ evidence-based supervision practices.
- There was a difference between violations of SSAS and non-SSAS offenders resulting in incarceration:
  - SSAS violations were most frequently driven by an offender absconding.
  - Non-SSAS violations were most frequently driven by "failure to complete" programming.
- There was a trend towards more positive outcomes (still on probation, successfully discharged) in SSAS than non-SSAS offenders.

The full evaluation is expected to be released in September and a formal presentation of the results will be made in October before the Community Corrections Council.

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