

Do People Arrested for Drug Possession Benefit From Prime For Life®?

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Background

Some state systems require attendance at Prime For Life® (PFL) for arrests due to drug possession. A logical question is “Does this population benefit from participation in PFL?” Prevention Research Institute (PRI) examined data from 287 drug possession offenders who participated in the most recent PFL program evaluation (2011-2012) to answer this question.

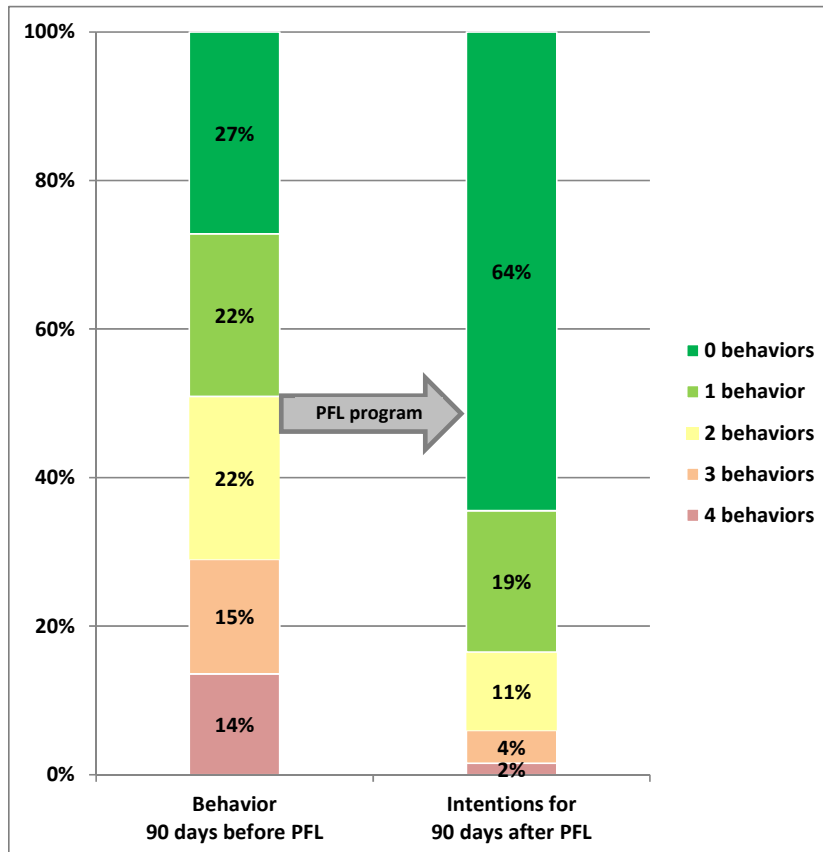
Summary of Findings

- People arrested for drug possession showed considerable benefit
- Many intended to engage in fewer problematic behaviors in the future
- Many demonstrated increased perception of risk and motivation to engage in low-risk behaviors
- Most rated PFL as helpful

Findings and Figures

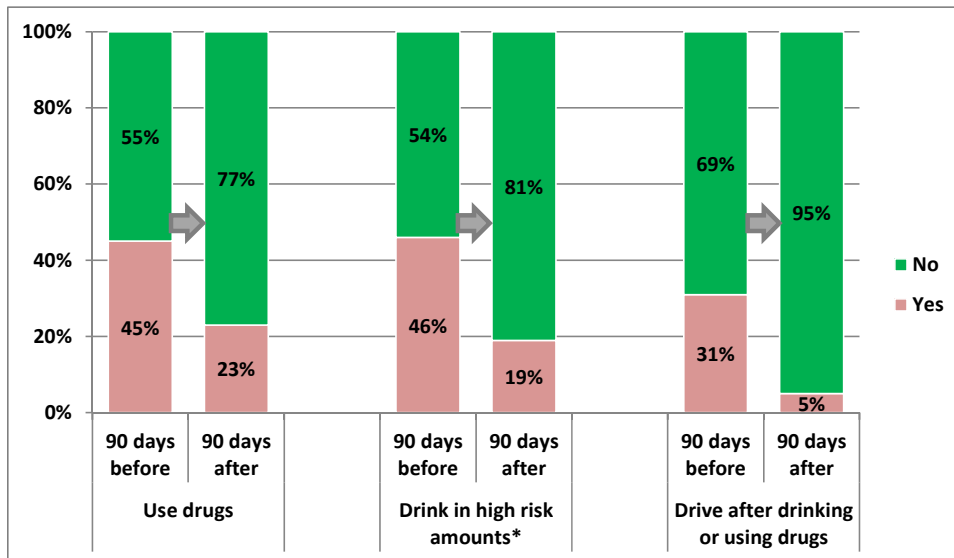
1. Drug possession offenders showed benefits. Fewer intended to engage in multiple high-risk behaviors after completing PFL. High-risk behaviors included using drugs, typically drinking in high-risk amounts, occasionally drinking in high-risk amounts, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Figure 1. Number of high-risk behaviors 90 days before PFL and intentions for 90 days after



2. The improvements shown in Figure 1 occurred across all high-risk behaviors.

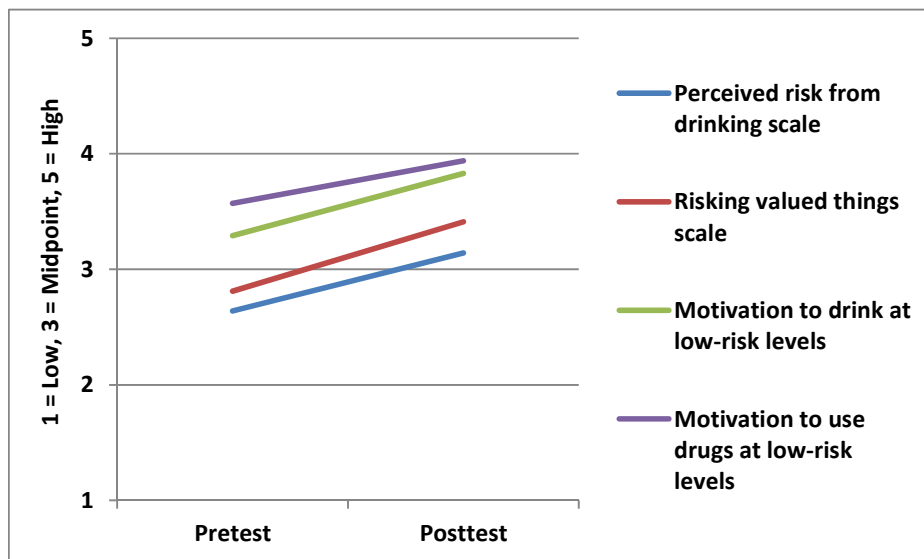
Figure 2. High-risk behaviors 90 days before PFL and intentions for 90 days after



(*Note: drinking in high risk amounts defined as usually or at least sometimes having 4 or more drinks in a day)

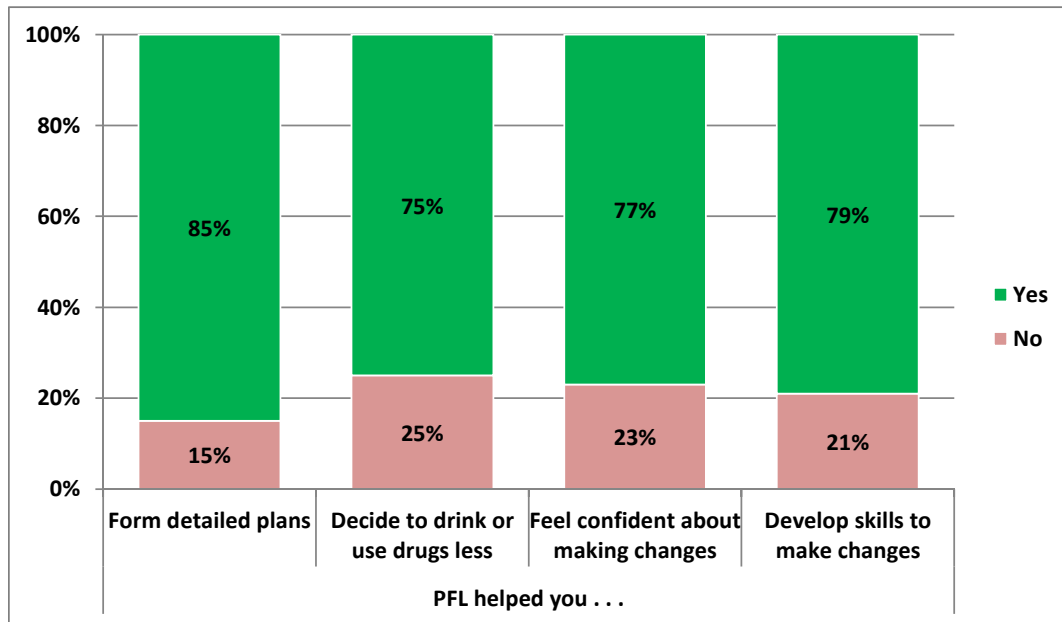
3. Drug possession offenders also showed improvements in perceived risk and motivation.

Figure 3. Perceived risk and motivation of drug possession attendees



4. Drug possession attendees rated the program as helpful.

Figure 4. Ratings of program helpfulness by drug possession attendees



Conclusions

- Prior analyses have shown that PFL attendees arrested for a wide range of offenses (e.g., driving under the influence, underage drinking, drug possession) show positive changes and rate the program as helpful
- The analyses here separated out people arrested for drug possession to see if these general trends hold true for this group specifically, and they do.