

BETAGOV

April 11, 2017

Hello, Pracademics!



Lavender has been found to be an uplifting and soothing scent that helps reduce stress, anxiety, and insomnia. Several correctional facilities in Pennsylvania have launched in-custody trials aimed at testing the usefulness of aromatherapy in such settings.

Hello Practitioner Partner,

BetaGov is proud to announce the launch of our newsletter series. Our goal is to make it easier than ever for pracademics like you to access the information and inspiration you need to complete your randomized controlled trial (RCT) and create positive change within your agency.

If you are helping to lead a BetaGov trial and have attended one of our training webinars, *you* are a pracademic. Welcome aboard!

Hot Off the Press

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Nebraska's Tecumseh State Correctional Institution just launched a new trial that tests whether the use of peer mentors reduces misbehavior among inmates in a restricted housing unit.

Meanwhile, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PADOC) has completed several trials focusing on new interventions including [lavender aromatherapy](#), updated contraband notification policies, the use of

candy as an incentive for mentally ill inmates, a training academy for correctional staff, and the effects of Vitamin D supplements on inmate behavior.

Learning Corner

"What is so different about BetaGov? Why shouldn't I just implement changes in my agency as I have in the past?"

These are questions we hear all the time. The short answer is that traditional academic research is [slow and expensive](#). We know that you need sound data, and that you need it quickly and inexpensively. How can an RCT help solve your agency's most vexing and entrenched challenges?

[Learn more](#)



News and Updates

BetaGov will be hosting two upcoming Pracademia trial training webinars on the following dates:

[April 17, 2017 at 2pm EDT](#)

[May 16, 2017 at 1pm EDT](#)

Interested in attending? Want to invite your whole project team? Please contact kelly.smith@nyu.edu for more information.

Partner Spotlight: Policies Under Construction

Andrew Wiens, Director of Policy and

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how RCTs have allowed his agency to uncover simple but effective policy solutions, enabling him to make meaningful operational changes that directly impact the people he serves.

[Learn more](#)



We are so pleased that you are a part of our growing community of practitioners who innovate and test within their agencies. Leaders like you will discover ways to improve efficiency and outcomes. Thank you for everything you do.

Have an inspired pracademic day!

The BetaGov team

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