

BETAGOV

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Hello, Pracademics!



Hello Practitioner Partner,

Spring is here, and the month of April is already nearly gone. Your colleagues from around the country have been busy this month planning and implementing trials. Here's the latest:



Hot Off the Press

Pennsylvania's State Correctional Facility (SCI) Mahanoy recently completed a trial assessing an individualized art program aiming to reduce inmate anxiety and improve behavior. The state's SCI Benner Township also recently completed two trials - one that tests an application of Swift Certain Fair (SCF) in the facility's general population E Unit, and another that tests the efficacy of

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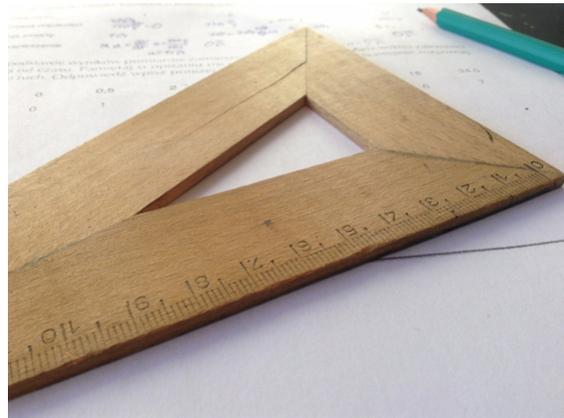
soothing sounds in reducing misbehaviors, violent assaults, and psychiatric crises.

Also, don't miss [the latest](#) from the BetaGov blog: find out why BetaGov co-director Dr. David Farabee thinks ignorance is exactly what can fix the criminal justice system.

Learning Corner

Randomization means assigning individuals to trial groups based on chance alone, removing the human bias that could affect results. This critical component of a randomized controlled trial (RCT) is what makes this testing method the gold standard in the world of research.

If you test your idea using an RCT, you can be confident that your data will be reliable and hold up to scrutiny.



[Key Items to Get Right When Conducting Randomized Controlled Trials of Social Programs](#)

[Random Harvest: Once Treated With Scorn, Randomized Controlled Trials are Coming of Age](#)



News and Updates

Denise O'Donnell, Director of the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) under President Obama, has recently joined Litmus, BetaGov's parent research group at New York University.

[Read more](#)

Partner Spotlight: "We Want to Do What Works"

Dr. Kristofer (Bret) Bucklen, director of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Office of Planning, Research & Statistics, discusses the department's relationship with BetaGov, the logistics of gathering innovative ideas from a 15,000-person agency, and how practitioner-led trials have changed the way PADC operates.



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Have an inspired pracademic day!

The BetaGov Team

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