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From Information to Implementation: Promoting Evidence-Based DUD Intervention in the Criminal Justice System

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Abstract

Background: For almost 30 years, the treatment of drug users in Taiwan's criminal justice system has been dominated by compulsory treatment in a closed environment. Post- COVID-19, over 70% of drug users in the justice system were subjected to such treatment. However, this approach often does not lead to an improvement in drug use disorders and has a negative impact on human rights and health.

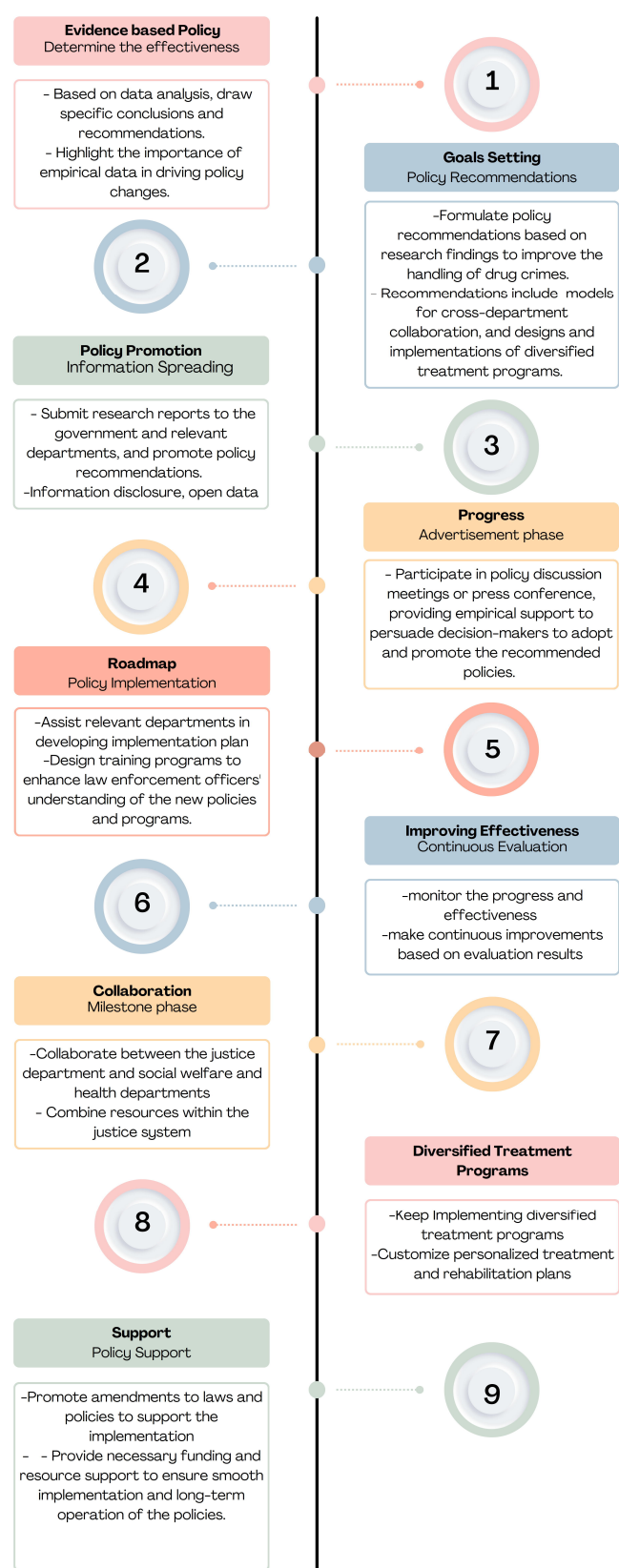
Methods: To promote community-based treatment for people with drug use disorders (PDUD), this study analyzed 2, 391 PDUD in community settings under deferred prosecution with conditions to complete treatment (DPCCAT). Relapse rates and time to relapse were compared between PDUD who did not complete treatment (n = 1, 008) and PDUD who completed treatment (n = 1, 386). Kaplan-Meier and Cox Proportional Hazard (PH) Regression was adopted.

Results: The study indicates that the duration of relapse to drug use is significantly longer in the treatment- completed group than in the treatment-incomplete group. Treatment completion can reduce the risk of relapse by 66.3% after controlling for gender, age and region. Compared with compulsory treatment, the risk was significantly better inhibited by administering DPCCAT. These results have prompted the Taiwanese government to publicly endorse evidence-based drug policies that support PDUD to lead a socially functional, healthy lifestyles.

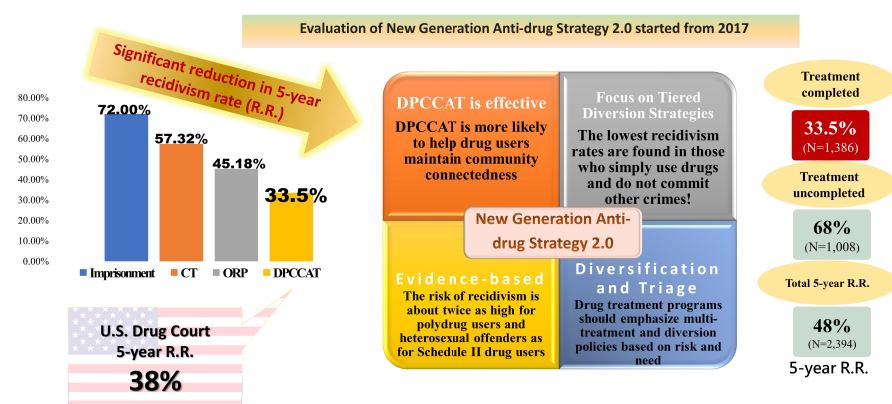
Conclusion: The study highlights the integration of research into policy making and discusses Taiwan's strategies for combining resources from the social welfare, health, and criminal justice systems to develop various treatment options under DPCCAT, illustrating a significant shift toward more humane and effective drug policy approaches.

Bridging Research Evidence and Drug Policy Promotion in Criminal Justice Research under DPCCAT in Taiwan

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CT = Compulsory Treatment, ORP = Observational Rehabilitation Penalty, Drugs included: Opium poppy, Coca, Cannabis, Amphetamines, Pethidine, Pentazocine, and their derivative products.

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Note: The study is attributed to the Academy for the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Taiwan. This study is part of the results from the project of Big Data Analytics Project on Drug Use

with AI for Recidivism Prevention: Natural Language Analysis of Prosecutorial Documents, please visit the website: <https://reurl.cc/kOQzAG>

