

Differences Between Credit Counseling Clients and Non-clients After One Year in a DMP Program: Preliminary Cut of a Very Small Sample of Data

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Active credit counseling clients are those who have remained in a debt management program for over a year. Non-clients are those who contacted a credit-counseling agency for assistance but never committed to a debt management program or dropped out of it soon after commencing the program. Active credit counseling clients in January 2001, when compared to non-clients similarly situated financially a year earlier, report:

Financial Wellness

Lower level of financial stress

Better financial wellness today

Feeling better about current financial situation

Doing better financially

More satisfied with present financial situation

Doing better at paying rent/mortgage, credit cards and utility bills on time, handling minor financial emergencies

Not been pre-occupied with financial concerns at home.

Determined how much is needed for retirement.

Contributed to retirement plan.

Feel more secure about retirement

Work Life

Less frequency of financial concerns interfering with work.

Missed less time from work because of inability to pay for child or elder care.

Missed less time from work to take care of personal financial matters.

Similar or less job productivity, quality of work, job performance rating, and commitment to employer, plus more tardiness and absenteeism at work

Health

Similar overall physical health compared to other people the same age and less frequently bothered with health problems.

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