

Evidence-based Practices and Programming Subgroup: Contracting and Community Investment in Evidence-based Services

Overview

Expanding the use of evidence-based services in the community through funds to counties or local districts has resulted in reductions of the number of youth in out-of-home placement and produced a cost benefit to states, as well as reduced recidivism.

Kansas Specific Findings

- KDOC funds Case Management and oversees provider contracts
- Majority of non-secure population is in YRCIs, but study showed most YRCIs do not provide funding for services
- Evidence-based program MST with Wyandotte County has contributed to 26% decrease in out-of-home placements

Research

Out-of-home placements do not improve outcomes for most youth

- Residential placements do not necessarily reduce juvenile reoffending and may increase recidivism for certain youth
- It is possible to reduce the rate and duration of institutional placements for certain offenders and increase the level of community-based services while protecting public safety

No convincing evidence that longer lengths of stay in out-of-home placements reduce recidivism

- A recent study showed no change in re-arrest rates for youth staying more than 3 months out of home

Investing in evidence-based programs monitored for quality, ensuring appropriate intensity lowers recidivism, improves outcomes

- Community-based services can reduce reoffending and improve other outcomes
- Many with identifiable problems (e.g., substance abuse problems) linked to their offending do not receive services
- Higher quality program implementation is strongly and consistently associated with bigger effects on recidivism
- Programs must be implemented with fidelity to meet recidivism reduction goals

State Examples

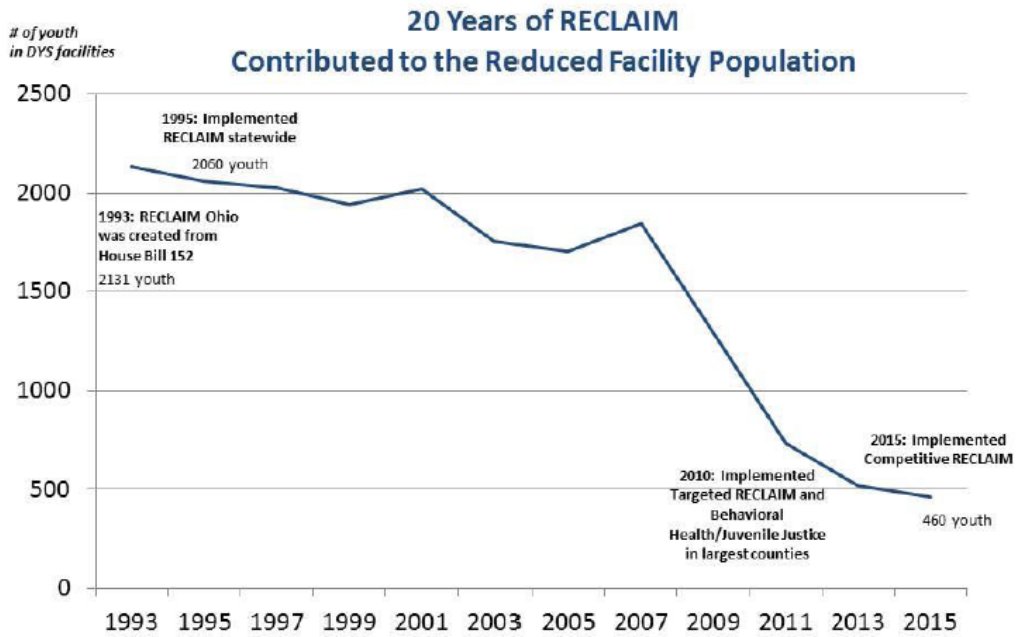
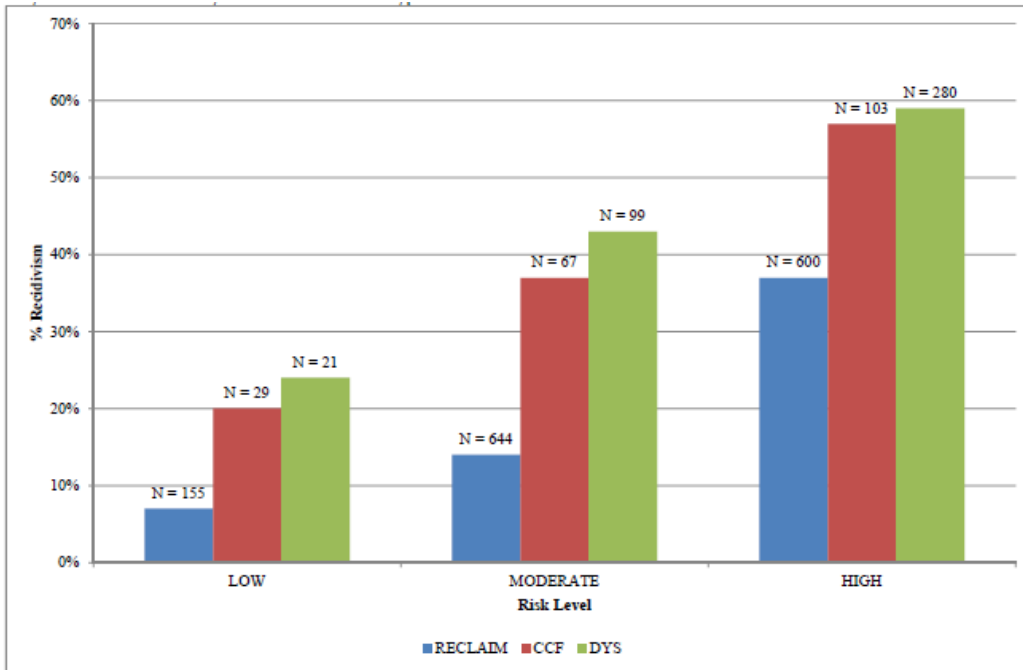
- Georgia
 - As a result of Georgia's juvenile justice reforms [HB242](#), the state initiated a Juvenile Reinvestment Grant Program, a voluntary program to encourage counties to develop evidence-based programs for youth. Grants were awarded through a competitive process, and recipients had to meet certain criteria (including the use of one of seven model evidence-based programs demonstrated to reduce juvenile recidivism) and performance goals (including a 20 percent reduction in commitments to state facilities).
 - In order for a youth to be eligible for grant funding, they must score medium or high on the state's risk assessment tool.

- In the first year of the grant program, there were 29 awards totaling, \$5.6M, representing 49 counties and serving 1,122 youth.
 - Grantee courts exceeded the goal of reducing out-of-home placements by 15%
 - 62% reduction in STPs and felony commitments
 - The 49 counties where youth were served are home to almost 70% of Georgia's at-risk population.
- In the second year of the grant (FY15), 30 awards that included 60 counties were made in the amount \$6.82M
 - As of March 31st, approximately 1242 youth had been served across Georgia (exceeding the number from the last grant cycle)producing a 42% reduction in felony commitments or short term placements.
 - The most used evidence-based programs are FFT, Thinking for a Change, Aggression Replacement Training, and MST.
- Georgia is currently working with OJJDP on monitoring the model fidelity of their evidence-based programs.
- Illinois
 - Redeploy Illinois ([730 ILCS 110/16.1](#)) was created to encourage the deinstitutionalization of juvenile offenders by establishing projects in counties that “reallocate State funds from juvenile correctional confinement to local jurisdictions, which will establish a continuum of local, community-based sanctions and treatment alternatives .” The program does this by allotting funds based on a formula that rewards localities for establishing or expanding local alternatives to incarceration, and requires them to pay for using incarceration as a standard.
- Ohio
 - Ohio's RECLAIM program provides a formula-based allotment to counties, which is reduced by a certain amount for each juvenile committed to an institution.
 - RECLAIM youth have much lower recidivism rates than youth placed out of home, resulting in significant cost savings.
 - The 2014 evaluation report shows that low- and moderate-risk youth served in the community under RECLAIM offend at rates 2 to 3 times lower than those in CCF or DYS facilities.¹
 - Along with generating large recidivism reductions, RECLAIM is much less expensive than secure placement.
 - Average Cost of Juvenile Processing in Ohio:²
 - Reclaim \$9,995
 - CCF \$42,252
 - DYS/DRC \$113,160

¹ <http://www.dys.ohio.gov/DNN/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=JtVZ6JcbUc4%3d&tabid=131&mid=764>

² Latessa et al. (2014), "What We Have Learned: 2014 RECLAIM and OYAS Studies"

Recidivism (felony adjudication or DYS/DRC Commitment) by Risk Level and Placement Type³



of youth by average daily facility population by calendar year

³ Latessa, Lovins, and Lux. 2014. *Evaluation of Ohio's RECLAIM Programs*. University of Cincinnati Center for Criminal Justice Research (April), p. 35; Ohio Department of Youth Services. 2015. "Ohio Department of Youth Services Recognizes 20th Anniversary of RECLAIM" (July 8)