



Data and Information Systems — The Fuel that Drives the Juvenile Drug/Treatment Court Bus

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Learning Objectives

- Understand the importance of data for program improvement and sustainability
- Highlight key considerations in selecting performance indicators; accessing and sharing data; and monitoring performance
- Highlight tools and leadership that can help you become data-driven

*Improving
Family
Outcomes*

*Strengthening
Partnerships*



Definitions

Research and Evaluation

Concerned with questions of attribution

Performance Measures/Indicators

Carefully chosen set of indicators of performance in critical areas of functioning

Data Elements

Data points that make up performance measures

Why are data important?



**Program
Improvement**



Garner Resources

Why else?

How Data Driven is Your Program?



- We currently do not collect data or monitor performance
- We collect data mainly for compliance or grant requirements
- Data collection is in place but used sparingly to make decisions
garner resources
- Data collection and performance monitoring is a part of business as usual and is regularly used to make decisions and garner resources

Research on Research



Studies find that courts that monitor their own effectiveness outperform programs that don't by a significant margin

Data Driven Decision Making

Application of data should focus on continuous quality improvement rather than efforts to satisfy compliance

Campie and Sokolsky, 2016

Evidence-Based Practice Recommendations

Recommendation #1: A sustainable outcome monitoring process should be in place that collects information on key program characteristics and youth outcomes.

Recommendation #2: Information collected through the outcome monitoring process should be stored electronically, so that data analysis and report development can be easily completed.

Recommendation #3: A clear data collection process should be articulated.

Recommendation #4: Data collected as a part of the outcome monitoring process should be reviewed on a regular basis.

Recommendation #5: Information collected should be summarized and disseminated to key stakeholders.

Recommendation #6: Juvenile drug courts should seek out support for conducting a full outcome evaluation.

Building Trust – Cross-System Collaboration

A group of diverse people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are holding hands in a circle. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, golden light overlay, suggesting a sense of community and shared purpose. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green grass and trees.

Partners across systems have:

- Agree upon shared mission
- Identified shared goals
- Obtained knowledge about their own and each other's data system capacities
- Established cooperative working relationships to track families involvement across systems
- Secured support and buy-in for performance monitoring at all levels



What data should
juvenile drug treatment
courts be collecting?

Program Level: Outcome Monitoring Questions

- Is the program being implemented as it was designed (screening dates, court dates, timely development of case plan, documentation of services delivered, etc.)?
- Is the program serving the population that it was targeted for (age, gender, diagnosis, juvenile justice history, etc.)?
- Are there characteristics or differences among participants or services that determine which youth are successful and which youth have difficulty in achieving the program's intended outcomes?

A group of people of various ethnicities are holding hands in a circle, symbolizing unity and support. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing text.

Client Level: Key Measures

- Recidivism
- Re-arrests
- Substance use
- School attendance
- School performance

A quote from *Strategies in Practice*:

“Try not to limit outcome measures to recidivism and program completion. If feasible, also incorporate other important indicators of the program’s impact, such as school performance, AOD use, and mental health status. Base recidivism measures on official juvenile justice records. Track reconviction and reincarceration as well as rearrest.”

Elements Capturing Progress and Success

Progress or status variables could include:

- Program phases achieved
- Sanctions or incentives delivered
- In-program/ post-program arrest data, sentence types and lengths
- Educational / vocational benchmarks achieved
- Other success measures identified by team/stakeholders

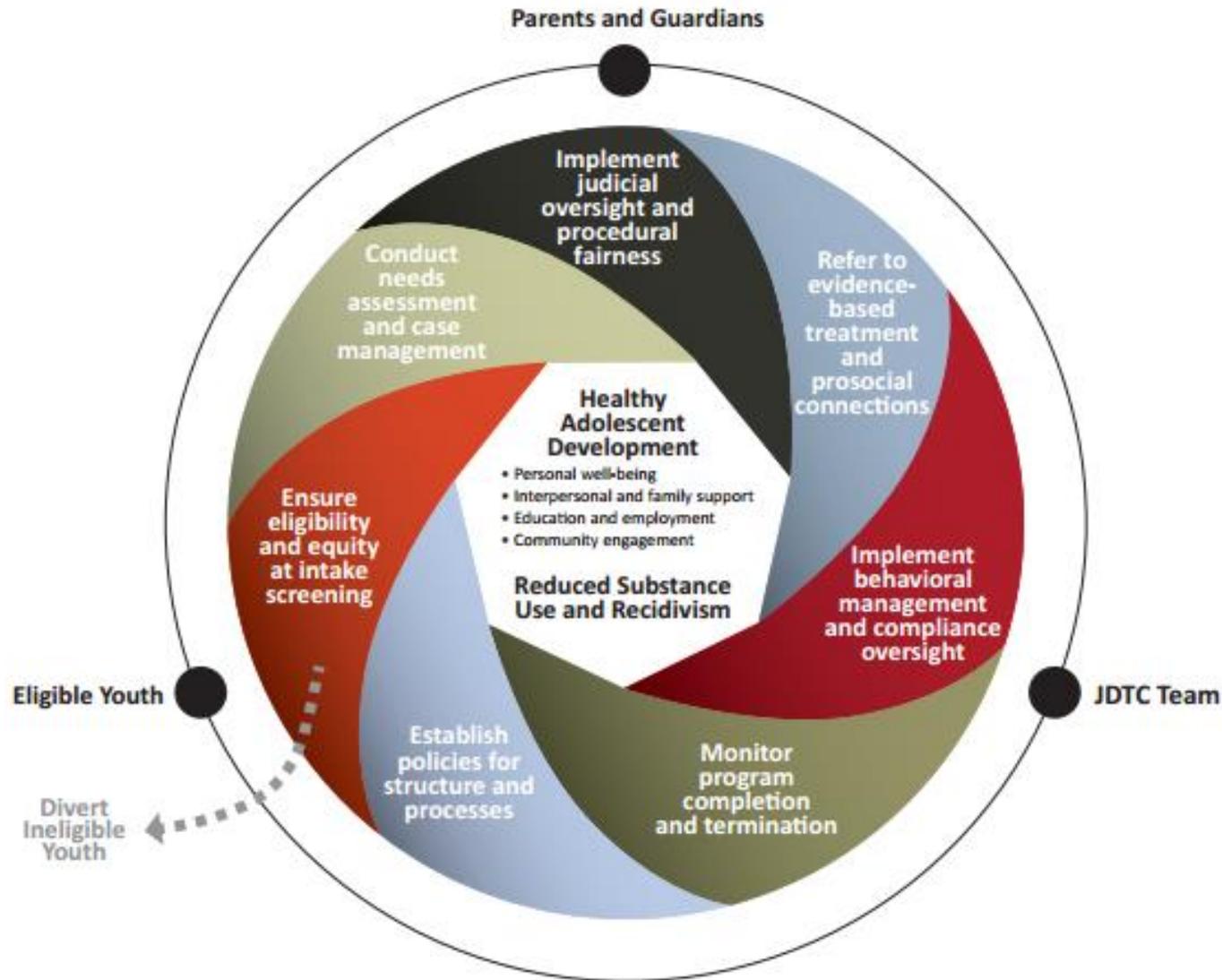
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines

Youth substance abuse is a serious and widespread problem in the United States. It often co-occurs with mental health disorders and can negatively impact adolescent development. Effectively addressing the needs of such youth is a challenge frequently faced by juvenile courts. Not all system-involved youth charged with substance-related crimes have substance use disorders, so it is important for courts to work with young people and their families to identify the mental, social, and emotional issues that may be contributing to youth's substance-related crimes.

A juvenile drug treatment court (JDTC) is a court calendar or docket that provides specialized treatment and services for youth with substance use or co-occurring mental health disorders. Historically, this type of court approach has varied in how the programs were implemented and how effective they were.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the American Institutes for Research are working with the field to establish guidelines for JDTCs, offering a more uniform approach to providing treatment and services based on current research in adolescent development, substance abuse, youth interventions, family engagement, juvenile courts, and juvenile drug courts, and the moderating or contextual factors that influence positive youth outcomes.

Learn more:
ojjdp.gov/Juvenile-Drug-Treatment-Court-Guidelines.html



Elements to Capture

- Family-related factors such as family cohesion, home functioning, and communication.
- General recidivism during the program and after completion, drug use during the program, and use of alcohol or other drugs after the program ends.
- Program completion and termination, educational enrollment, and sustained employment.
- Involvement in prosocial activities and youth-peer associations.

Learning Activity

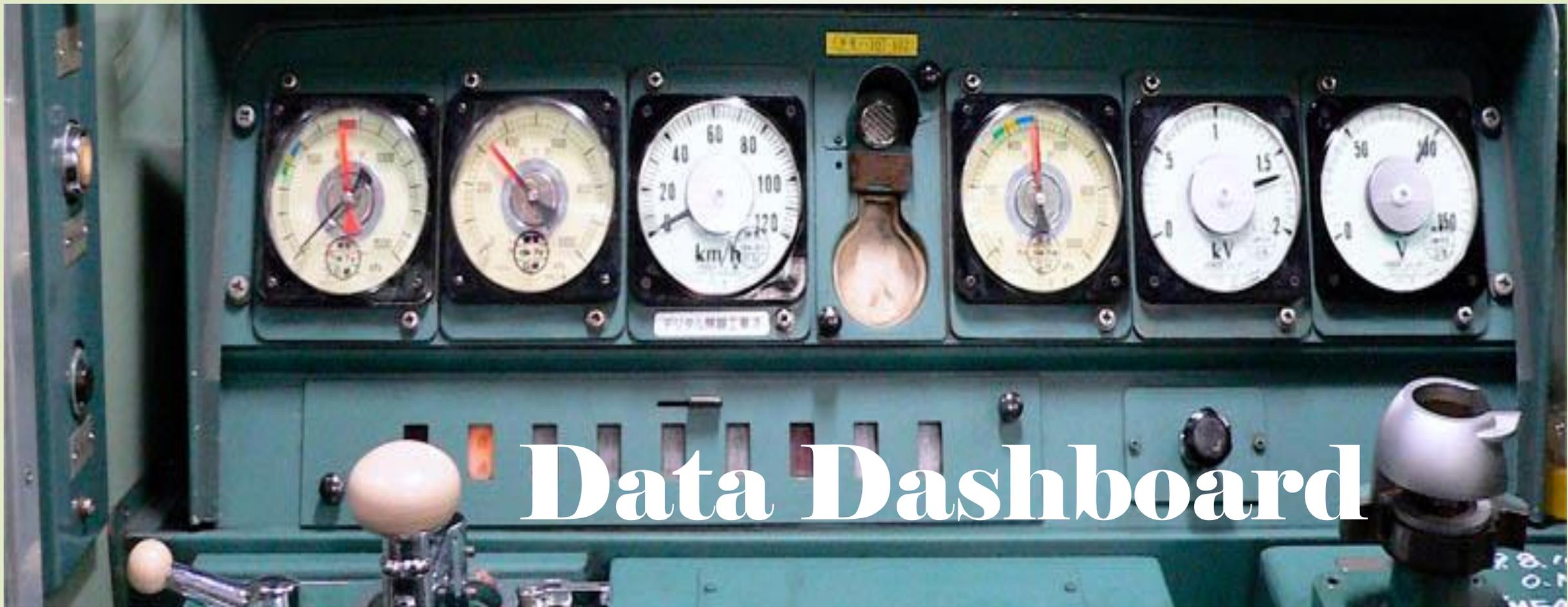


- **In small groups, identify one measure of success for your program.**
- **What data do you need to monitor this performance measure?**
- **Who collects this data already? If it's not currently being collected, is there anyone/any agency that could collect it?**



Feasibility

What data already exist?
What data do we need to collect?



Data Dashboard

- Have you established common outcome measures?
- How are you monitoring outcomes of information sharing?
- How are you using data reports to modify policy and practice?

In Review





Resources



Juvenile Drug Court Information Center

Resources and Data Collection tools

<http://www.ncjfcj.org/monitoring-and-evaluation>

Webinar: *Evaluation in Juvenile Drug Court*

<http://www.ncjfcj.org/monitoring-and-evaluation>

Starting a Juvenile Drug Court: A Planning Guide

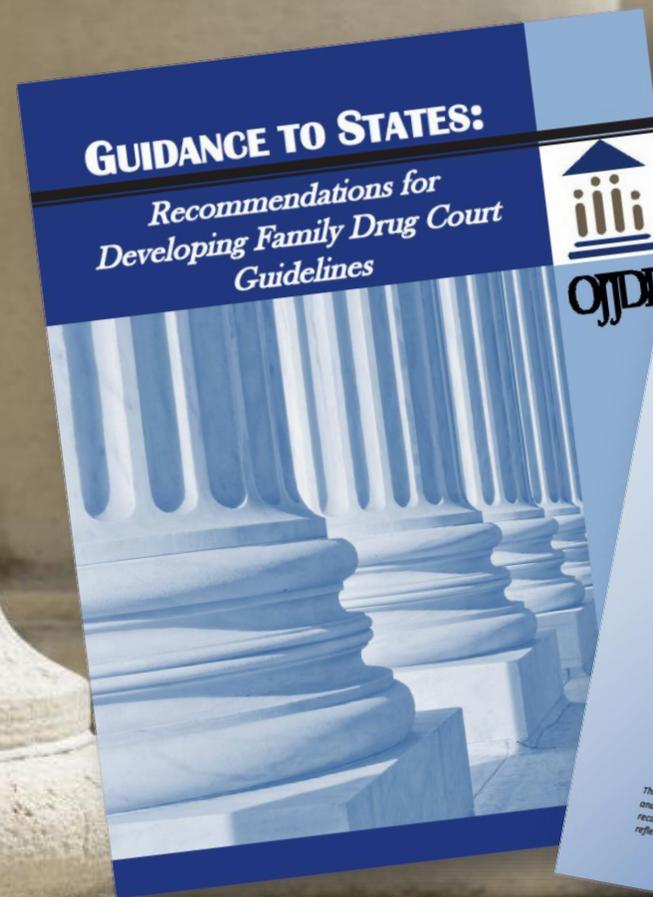
http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/NCJFCJ_JDC_PlanningGuide_Final.pdf

Initiative to Develop Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/Juvenile-Drug-Treatment-Court-Guidelines.html>

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Resources

NCSACW Online Tutorials

1. Understanding Substance Abuse and Facilitating Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Workers
2. Understanding Child Welfare and the Dependency Court: A Guide for Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals
3. Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Legal Professionals

Please visit: <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/>



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