

Tennessee Integrated Court Screening and Referral Project

Identifying and Addressing the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Needs of Youth in Juvenile Court

Project Overview

- From Oct. 2010 to the present, trained and certified 43 Youth Service Officers (YSOs) in 10 juvenile courts to administer the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)
- The CANS is a standardized assessment tool that provides information about child and family needs and strengths
- CANS information has been used to improve referral to mental health and substance abuse services

By the Numbers

- 1,737 youth screened
 - 64% male; 36% female
 - 63% white; 32% black
 - Most are 16-18 y.o.
- 61% of screened youth were referred for at least 1 service
- 9% of screened youth were referred for multiple services
- Youth were referred most frequently for family services
- Very few youth were referred directly to mobile crisis

Youth Mental Health Needs

- The most prevalent needs were with:
 - Judgment
 - Anger
 - Negative peer influences
 - Oppositional behavior
- Nearly 1 in 5 youth had difficulties with adjustment to trauma

Survey of Participating Courts

- 9 of 10 courts responded to the survey request
- Only 1 court used a standardized assessment prior to the project
- 8 courts reported that using the CANS helped make referrals for services

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