

Programs for Special Populations

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Planner, Research and Planning

The new evidence-based programming

- Blue prints programs
 - Empirical research evidence of program effects.
- Evidence-based programming
 - Research results/evidence
 - Fidelity
- Evidence-based programming based on meta analysis
 - Results points to **program types and program components/activities/factors** that work to reduce recidivism and improve juvenile justice outcomes.

Program types that work

Therapeutic – more effective

- Restorative (e.g. restitution, VOM)
- Skill building (e.g. Cognitive-behavioral techniques, social skills etc.)
- Counseling (individual, group, family, mentoring)
- Multiple coordinated services (e.g. case management)

Control focused- not effective

- Discipline focused e.g. boot camps
- Deterrence through fear (e.g. Scared Straight)
- Surveillance to detect bad behavior (e.g. intensive probation or parole)

Lipsey et. al (2010). *Improving Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Programming: A new perspective on evidence-based practice*. Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. Georgetown University.

<http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/284>

Factors in good programming

- The duration of the program matters (Length of Stay)
- The number of contact hours matters
 - Aim for at least average length and contact hours for the specific program type
- Implementation: mirror the model program

Factors in good programming

- Noticeable improvements can be done in program effectiveness by making better use of risk and needs assessments
- Careful matching of programs with treatment needs
 - Better understanding of risk reduction by providers
 - Better understanding of treatment protocols by court and juvenile justice staff.

TJJD Program Registry

- Program Type
- Expected Length of Stay
- Hours of completion
- Number served per year
- Program Goal/s
- Program Description
- Program Components → activities
- Target population: serves, gender, age range, offense level, offense type, supervision level, special eligibility criteria

Example: DMC Court in Dallas County

- Data-informed program design
 - What will be the overall purpose of the program?
 - Who are the kids in the program?
 - How many should or can the program serve
 - REGGO-analysis
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Geography
 - Offense



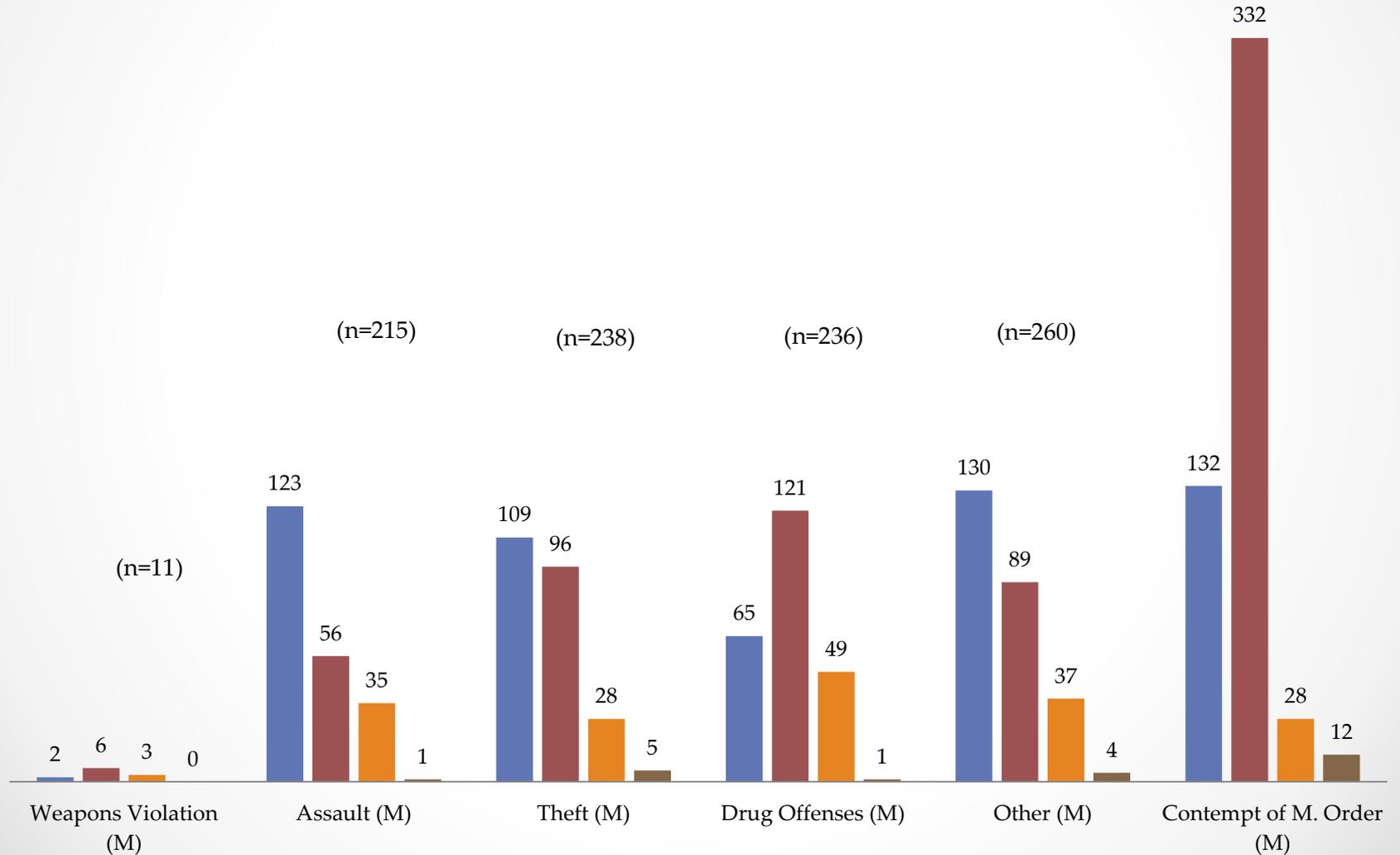
First data exploration: Misdemeanor offenders

- Deferred prosecution program with aim to divert minority males from formal court processing
- What does the population of kids look like who would be eligible?
 - How many youth ?
 - What offense types/categories ?

1st-time Misdemeanor Offenders 2011

(n=504)

■ African American ■ Hispanic ■ White ■ Other



Deferred Supervision Outcomes 2011

males only

Supervision Outcome	African American		Hispanic		White	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Completed	328	69%	497	74%	124	78%
Failure to Comply	141	30%	171	26%	33	21%
Transferred	3	1%	1	0%	1	1%
Total	472	100%	669	100%	158	100%



Program design considerations

- But, first-time misdemeanor minority males are already getting deferred prosecution!
- Do we really need a specialty court/deferred prosecution program for them? No!
- We want to divert Hispanic and African American males from formal processing, increasing the number on deferred and reducing the number on probation supervision
- The target population is going to be more like those currently receiving probation dispositions!



First-time offenders on probation

- How many minority males currently on probation might be eligible for deferred prosecution?
- What JD district do they live in? Should the program be piloted in a specific district?
- What offenses are they on probation for? Target a specific offense type or types?
- What is the age distribution?
- What is their risk and needs level? Should the program focus on minority boys with low to moderate risk and needs levels? How many are those?

Second data exploration: First offenders on probation

Key questions:

- How many minority males were adjudicated to probation for a first-time offense in 2011?
- What offense types/categories were they adjudicated for?
- What juvenile department districts were they residing in?
- What were their risk and needs levels?

Diversiónary Male Court

Mission Statement: *The goal of Diversion Male Court is to reduce the disproportionate representation of minority male youth in the Juvenile Justice System by diverting these youth from the court process by providing community-based alternatives that promote positive empowerment to the youth and family.*

GOALS:

- Divert the minority males from becoming involved in the Juvenile Justice System, by providing opportunities and guided alternatives.
- Assist minority males and their families by encouraging positive interactions within the structure of the home.
- Educate families on community resources and encourage increased family involvement with, and stronger advocacy for, their children.
- Maximize department resources while improving outcomes for the families.
- Facilitate successful program completion by providing continuity of Judge, Probation Officer and service provider.

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Diversionary Male Court

GOALS:

- Address the **needs of the target population by providing wraparound/family services (if needed)**, which includes PO supervision utilizing home and school visits, and electronic monitoring if needed.
- **Utilize available community-based resources first and Department services as needed**, ensuring clients have access to supervision, clinical services, medical care, and substance abuse services. The family can continue to access community resources after discharge from the Diversionary Program.
- **Increase family involvement** by providing support services for the family as well as the youth.
- Provide an exit plan for success after diversion.
- Assist minority males and provide them with additional skills in order to ensure more positive roles in the community and society.

Diversionary Male Court

REFERRALS:

Probation Intake Officers, Psychology staff, Deferred Prosecution Officers, DA Liaison Officer can refer youth to the Diversion Male Court program if any of the following criteria apply:

A psychological/psychiatric screening or evaluation reveals that the youth is appropriate for the program due to referral/offense status, is a minority male or has a recommendation;

The Detention Intake Screening process or the Intake Screening Officer determines that

- the juvenile may benefit from on-going clinical services in the community; and the juvenile qualifies for a diversion program;
- the juvenile is currently participating in therapy or counseling in the community and might benefit from additional services and monitoring.



Diversionsary Male Court

- **STAFFING:**
- *1-Judge – George Ashford*
- *1-District Attorney Representative*
- *1-Coordinator*
- *1-Psychiatrist*
- *1-Psychologist*
- *1-FFT Therapist*
- *2-Juvenile Probation Officers*

Diversionary Male Court

OBJECTIVES:

- Intervene at the pre-adjudication point to address problem areas quickly and without further Juvenile Court intervention.
- Provide **services to the family** that meet the needs identified by an assessment, **using community resources and/or services** from the Department.
- Develop and implement **a clear and concise case plan involving the youth, parents and probation officer.**
- Make **appropriate referrals for the identified services needed; to include mental health, educational, vocational, and family health care.**



Diversionsary Male Court

OBJECTIVES:

- Diligently monitor each juvenile's attendance in school, their behavior at home and their progress in therapy and/or community based services.
- Implement the **use of immediate and appropriate incentives and/or responses for both compliance and noncompliance** with the Diversion Male Court requirements.
- Provide **judicial oversight and coordination** of all services
- Provide character development skills and **behavior strategies**.
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Diversionsary Male Court

ELIGIBILITY:

- *The juvenile must have a pending charge alleging an offense other than truancy, a sexual offense or runaway, and has not previously been adjudicated on any charge. The juvenile is found to be appropriate for supervision through a deferred prosecution program. The juvenile and their family must agree to participate in the program.*