

# *The Risk And Needs Assessment Tool: What Statewide Data Reveal*



*Texas Juvenile Probation Commission  
2010 Data Coordinator's Conference  
Austin, TX*

# *Agenda*

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- Purpose and Use
- How to use the web-based instrument
- What the data reveal

# *Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument*

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*Purpose and Use*

# *TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument*

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- The TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment was developed in the spring of 2009
- The assessment was piloted in 8 juvenile probation departments throughout the state
- Statewide roll-out of Assessment beginning in February 2010

# *TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument*

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- The TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment includes 11 risk and 7 needs factors
- Separate assessment for males and females
  - Factors the same, scoring is different
- Assessment valid for juveniles in Texas

# *Purpose of the Risk Assessment*

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- The Risk Assessment is designed to identify juveniles who are at risk of becoming chronic offenders
  - Assessment classifies a juvenile's risk as “Low” , “Medium” or “High”

# *Purpose of the Needs Assessment*

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- The Needs Assessment identifies factors that, although not predictive of re-offense, target juveniles for more intensive or specialized services
  - Assessment classifies the needs of the juvenile into “Low” , “Medium” and “High”

# *Purpose of the Assessment Instrument*

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- The assessment is designed to help departments determine the appropriate supervision and services for juveniles
  - Identification of youth most at risk of committing subsequent offenses allows for targeting of supervision and services
  - Identification of youth with highest levels of need allows for targeting of programs and services

# *Purpose of the Assessment Instrument*

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- Ultimate purpose of assessment instrument is to reduce recidivism
  - Targeting supervision and services early rather than later for medium and high risk juveniles should reduce recidivism

# *Use of the Assessment Instrument*

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- Assessment Instrument should be completed prior to the disposition of a juvenile's case
  - “A juvenile probation department must, before the disposition of a child's case and using a validated risk and needs assessment instrument or process provided or approved by the commission, complete a risk and needs assessment for each child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile probation department.”

# *Use of the Assessment Instrument*

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- A Risk and Needs Assessment is required for all dispositions
- *Exception: Cases dropped, dismissed or non-suited*
- *Exception: Cases where juvenile is 18 or older*

# *Use of the Assessment Instrument*

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- You do not have to complete multiple assessments for a juvenile with multiple referrals disposed on the same day
  - One assessment per “disposition event”
- Review circumstances to determine if need new assessment for juvenile with assessment completed within 14 days

# *Use of the Assessment Instrument*

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- TJPC recommends the Assessment be completed as part of the disposition decision process
- Most useful if completed prior to making a final decision on the juvenile's disposition

# *Use of the Assessment Instrument*

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- The assessment itself will take only minutes to complete

**IF**

- the information about the juvenile has been gathered completely!

# *Use of Assessment Instrument*

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- It is important to complete the assessment as accurately and thoroughly as possible.
- It is important to use the most current information available for the juvenile.
- Incomplete or inaccurate information used in the assessment instrument will result in miscalculation of the juvenile's risk and needs classification.

# *Use of the Assessment Instrument*

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- It is also essential that all staff completing the assessment use the same definitions for each of the factors included on the assessment
  - Differences in the interpretation of risk and need factors will lead to similar juveniles being classified differently

# *Use of the Assessment Instrument*

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- Upon completion of the assessment the juvenile will have an assigned risk and needs level
- Please enter risk and needs scores in CASEWORKER.
- At a minimum:
  - Recommend supervision and services for “Medium” or “High” Risk and/or Needs juveniles

# *Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument*

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*How to use the web-based tool*

# *Completing the Assessment Form*

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- The TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment instrument should be completed electronically
  - Web-based application allows for the easy entry and retrieval of information
  - <https://www.tjpc.state.tx.us/rana>
- A paper copy of the form can be used to gather the information, if needed

# Paper Assessment Form

## TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION RISK and NEED ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT - MALE

### PART I – JUVENILE INFORMATION

Headquarter County:	Juvenile's Name:	PID#:	Referral #:
Date of Referral:	Date of Birth:	Gender: <b>Male</b>	Date of Assessment:

### PART II – RISK ASSESSMENT

	Score	Notes / Comments
<b>1. AGE AT FIRST REFERRAL:</b> _____		
10 - 12 years of age.....	2	
13 - 15 years of age.....	1	
16 years of age or older.....	0	
<b>2. TOTAL REFERRALS TO JUVENILE PROBATION:</b> _____		
4 or more referrals (including current).....	1	
1 to 3 referrals (including current).....	0	
<b>3. DRUG USE:</b>		
Frequent use.....	3	
Occasional use.....	2	
None or rare use.....	0	
<b>4. PARENT GUARDIAN SUPERVISION/CONTROL:</b>		

# Web-Based Assessment Form



**TJPC**  
**Risk And Needs Assessment**

Search for existing assessment | Create new assessment | Reports | Help

Welcome Training Account! | Log Out

### Risk and Needs assessment form for - TJPC - ADD

#### Juvenile Information:

(\*) Denotes Required Field & \*Tab\* advances fields

PID Number: *	Referral Number: *	Referral Date: *(MM/DD/YYYY)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name: *	Middle Name:	Last Name: *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Gender: *	Date of Birth: *(MM/DD/YYYY)	Date of Risk Assessment: (MM/DD/YYYY)
Select One	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

#### Risk Assessment:

Age at 1st Referral: *	<input type="text"/>	Score:	<input type="text"/>	Total Referrals (including current): *	<input type="text"/>
Drug Use: *	Pending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent or Guardian Supervision/Control:	Pending
Parent/Guardian has Criminal History:	Pending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number of Runaways:	<input type="text"/>
Number School Discipline Referrals in Previous Year: *	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ever Failed a Grade:	Pending
Juvenile is Chronically Truant: *	Pending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What type of Peers does the Juvenile have:	Pending
Juvenile exhibits Aggressive Behavior:	Pending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

#### Needs Assessment:

Prior Traumatic Event(s):	Pending	Score:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental Health Needs:	Pending
Is Current Offense a Violent Felony: *	Pending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Failing under Supervision:	Pending

# *Completing the Web-Based Assessment*

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- The web-based assessment provides drop-down lists for each risk and needs factor
  - Select from the drop-down list or type the first letter of your response
- Automatic error checking prohibits the entry of most incorrect information
  - User notified of error when saving the assessment

# *Completing the Web-Based Assessment*

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- Risk and Needs scores are calculated for the user
  - Risk and Needs Levels appear on the form when information for all of the factors have been completed
- Able to save partially completed forms
  - Enter information you have and come back to the assessment with additional information

# *Completing the Web-Based Assessment*

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- Able to update a completed assessment if receive additional information
- Can retrieve information from completed assessments
  - Re-assessment of existing referral
  - New referral for juvenile already in the system

# *Completing the Assessment Form*

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- Able to print both pending and completed assessments
- Reports allow user to pull information from the database and save to PDF or to Excel

# *Completing the Assessment Form*

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- The assessment is divided into sections:
  - Part I: Juvenile Information
  - Part II: Risk Assessment
  - Part III: Needs Assessment
  - Part IV: Case Plan Domains
  - Part V: Disposition and Contacts

*Risk and Needs Assessment  
Instrument*

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*Web-Based Application*

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

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- Why won't my assessment print?
  - Check your pop-up blocker. In Internet Explorer to the "Tools" Menu, select the "Pop-up Blocker" option and select "Turn Off Pop-up Blocker".

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

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- What dispositions do I have to do the risk assessment for?
  - An assessment is necessary for:
    - All dispositions except dropped, dismissed, non-suited or certified (if the child is 18 years or older).
    - Dispositions for Formalized or Paper Formalized Referrals
    - Dispositions not within 14 calendar days of a previous assessment.

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

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- Do I need to do an assessment on Supervisory Caution disposition?
- Yes, you must complete the assessment for all dispositions except dismissed, dropped or non-suited.

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- What if the case is transferred? Do I still have to complete the assessment?
  - You must complete the assessment for child with a disposition in your county.

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

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- Can I use the Firefox web browser to complete the assessment?
- No. Only the Internet Explorer web browser can support the risk assessment we application.

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

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- How do I look at my data?
- Select the “Reports” menu from the top of the assessment screen. Select the way you want to select the data (by Assessment Date, by Referral Date, etc). Export to Excel.

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

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- Does the Risk Assessment replace other required assessments (such as the Sex Offender Assessment)?

No.

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

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- How do I obtain a user ID and password?
- Request a User Authorization Form for the Risk and Needs Assessment from the TJPC Research or MIS Divisions and fax the completed form to (512) 424-6717, attention MIS. You will receive a verification email that you **MUST** respond to in order to receive your user ID and password information.

# *Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument*

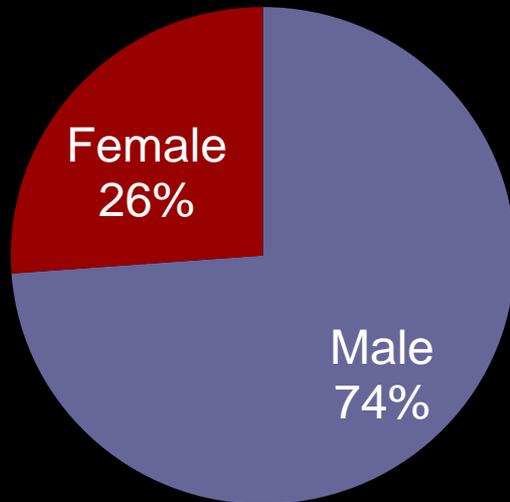
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*What the statewide data reveal*

# Statewide Data Reveal

- Between March 16 and September 3, 2010 there have been 6,757 completed assessments across the state.

## Completed Risk Assessments

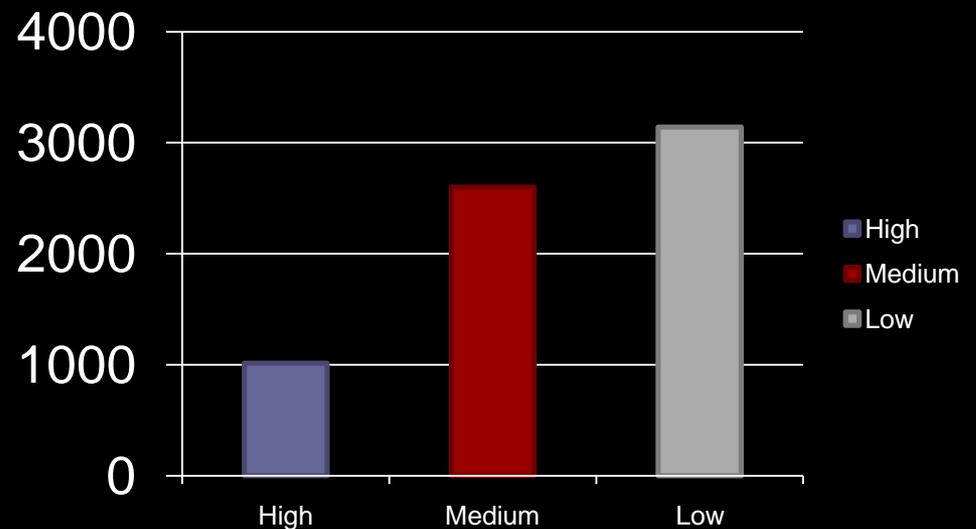
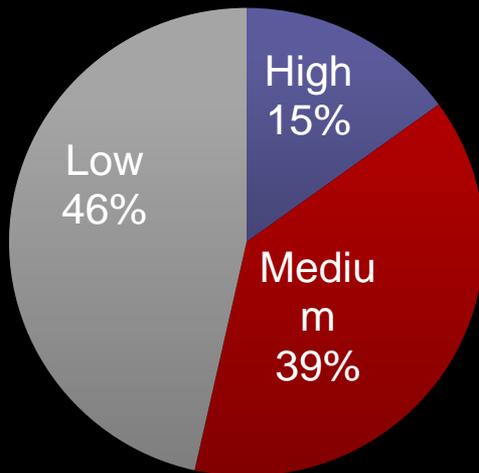


Risk Level	F	M
High	178	836
Medium	580	2022
Low	1009	2132
Total	1767	4990

# Statewide Data Reveal

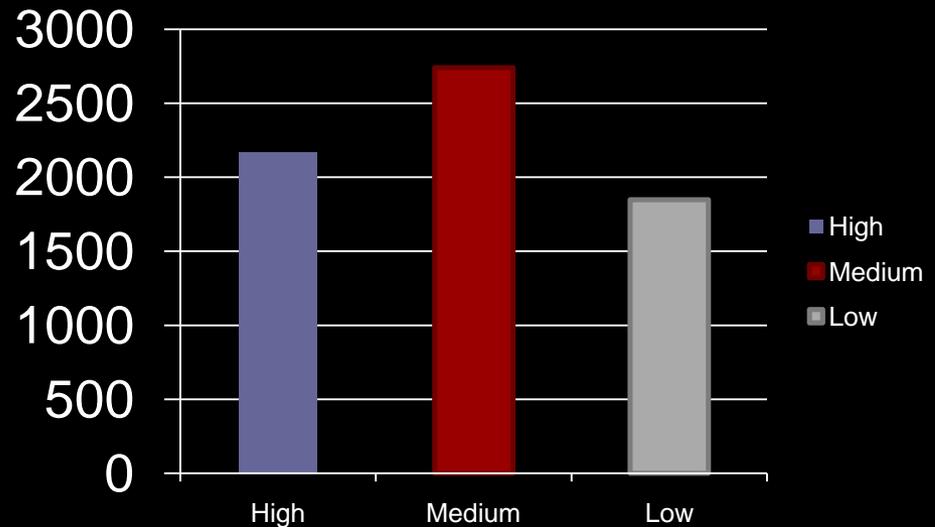
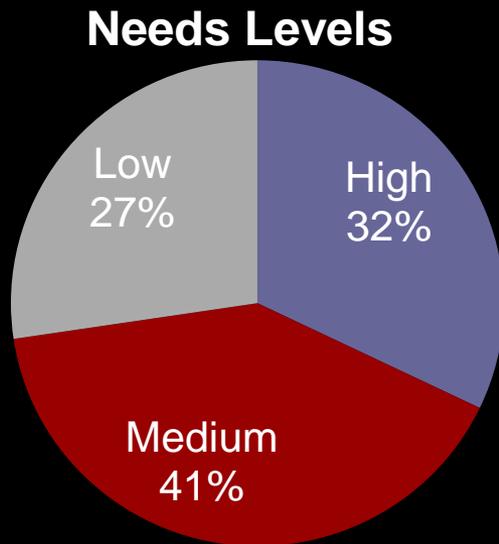
- 54% were classified as “High” or “Medium” risk level.

Risk Levels



# Statewide Data Reveal

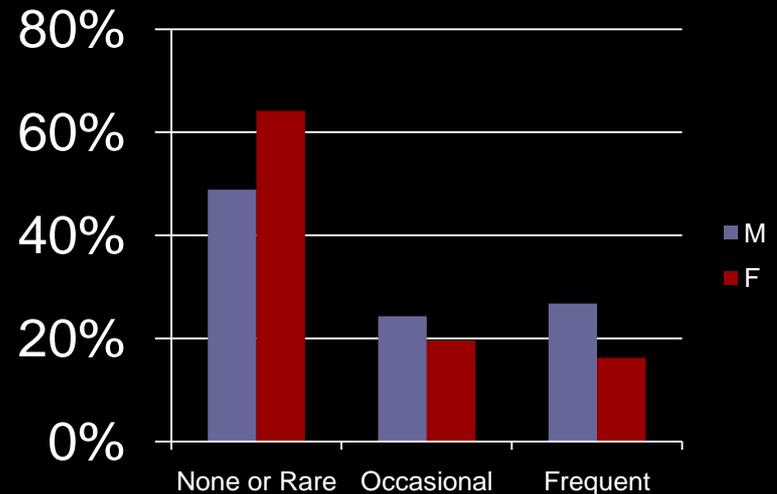
- 73% were classified as “High” or “Medium” need level.



# Statewide Data Reveal

- 51% of males had occasional or frequent substance use compared to 36% of females.

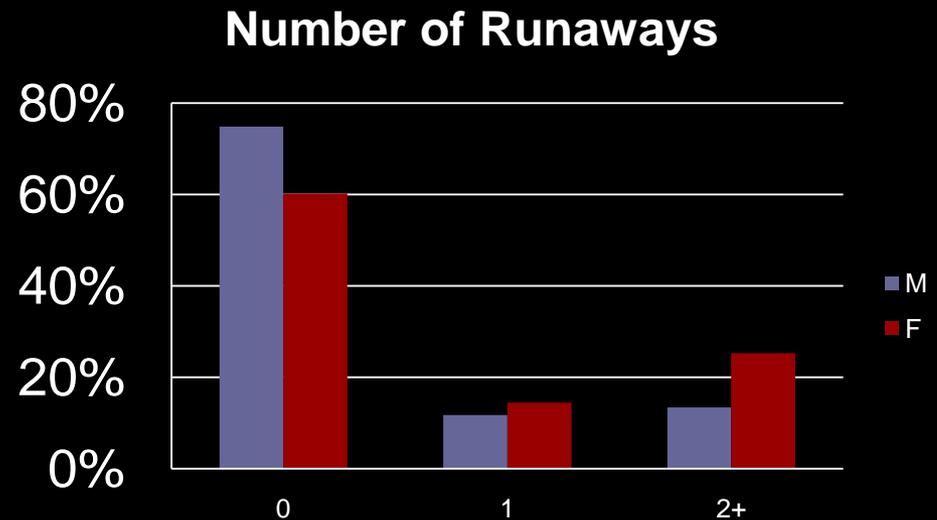
Drug Use	M	F
None or Rare	49%	64%
Occasional	24%	20%
Frequent	27%	16%



# Statewide Data Reveal

- 40% of females had at least one runaway compared to 25% of males.

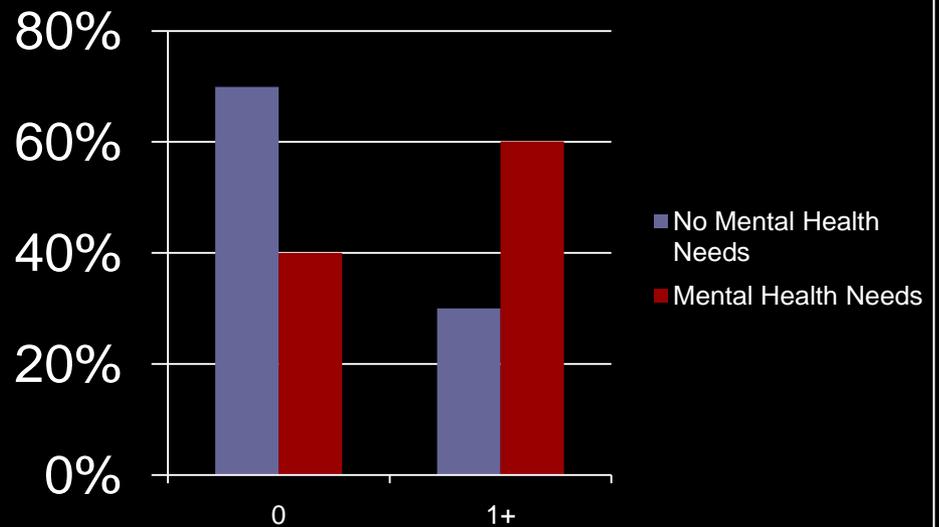
Runaways	M	F
0	75%	60%
1	12%	14%
2+	13%	25%



# Statewide Data Reveal

- The percentage of females with a prior runaway was *twice as high* for those with a mental health need compared to those with no mental health need.

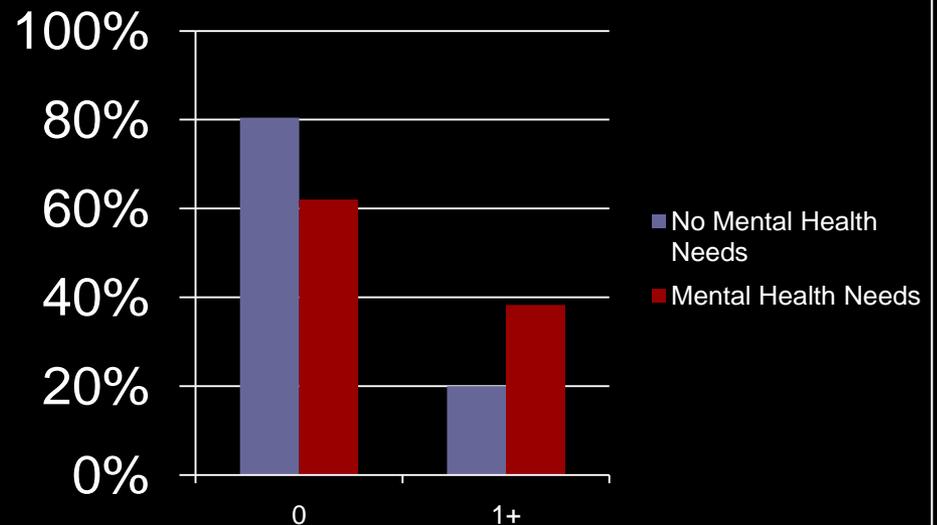
	No Mental Health Needs	Has Mental Health Needs
No Runaways	70%	40%
1+ Runaways	30%	60%



# Statewide Data Reveal

- The percentage of males with a prior runaway was 18% higher for those with a mental health need compared to those with no mental health need.

	No mental Health Needs	Mental Health Needs
No Runaways	80%	62%
1+ Runaways	20%	38%



# *For Assistance or Questions Contact:*

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■ Monica Peters      512-383-7086

[monica.peters@tjpc.state.tx.us](mailto:monica.peters@tjpc.state.tx.us)

■ Courtney Norris      512-424-6706

[courtney.norris@tjpc.state.tx.us](mailto:courtney.norris@tjpc.state.tx.us)

RANA Help Desk: [RANASupport@tjpc.state.tx.us](mailto:RANASupport@tjpc.state.tx.us)