

JMATE2010

**Juvenile Assessment, Referral, Placement,
and Treatment Practices (JARPP) Survey Findings:
Collaboration in the Juvenile Justice System**

Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness

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The JARPP Study

- Examines the effect of training and staff development protocols on the utilization of assessment, treatment planning, and service case management procedures by DJS line staff
- Goals are to:
 - assess the impact of a new juvenile assessment, referral, and placement strategy on youth utilization of services
 - assess the impact of different training and staff development components
 - analyze the impact of a new case management component on youth outcomes

Collaboration in the Juvenile Justice System

- Part of the JARPP study involves examining how well DJS staff collaborate and communicate with external service providers and justice actors
- External agencies were surveyed on:
 - Collaboration with DJS offices
 - Information sharing with DJS offices
 - Perception of DJS policies and training needs
 - Availability of services and perceived barriers to service provision
 - Perceived relationship with DJS

Research Questions

- How do external agencies' perceptions of DJS affect their willingness to collaborate?
- Does a positive relationship between DJS and its external support agencies lead to more service utilization by juveniles in the system?
- Do external agencies' perceptions of their relationship with DJS differ from those of DJS staff?
 - If so, does this inconsistency in views affect the level of collaboration and/or service utilization?
- Are collaborative activities with external agencies increased in regions where DJS staff received enhanced training?

Total Sample

- Responses were from 137 agencies across Maryland
- 169 service providers
 - 39% program or clinical directors
 - 26.8% direct service providers (e.g., counselor)
 - 20% supervisory positions
- 111 justice actors
 - 26.9% judges, 12% other court personnel (e.g., clerk)
 - 19.4% defense attorneys or public defenders
 - 15.3% prosecutors
 - 16.2% law enforcement

Respondent Characteristics

- In both samples, around 40% of respondents were over 50 years old
- Gender was evenly split in the justice actor sample, but service providers were predominately female (69.9%)
- Respondents in both samples were mostly white (85.8% justice, 71.7% service)
- The majority of respondents in both samples had advanced degrees; only 33% in justice and 24.6% in service had a Bachelor's or lower

Scale measures—Justice

Working Relationship with DJS:

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your agency's relationship with DJS. *(Please check one for each row)*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a. Your ideas and suggestions for DJS youth get fair consideration by DJS staff.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
g. The formal communication channels with DJS work very well.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
h. Opportunities are provided for you to attend DJS training or other developmental opportunities with DJS.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
j. The informal communication channels with DJS work very well.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
k. DJS staff always keep you well informed.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
n. You always feel free to ask questions and express concerns to DJS staff.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

Collaboration:

Please indicate how frequently you engage with DJS staff in the following activities when working with DJS youth. *(Please check one for each row)*

Taking part in....	Never	Occasionally	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time
a. Specifying case management and treatment/service goals for youth	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Specifying sanctions for non-compliance with case management or treatment plan	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
c. Specifying incentives or rewards for compliance with case management or treatment plan	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
d. Determining and specifying court recommendations/orders	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
e. Assist with the supervision of DJS youth	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>

Scale Correlations—Justice

	Collaboration w/DJS	Availability of service programs	Barriers to services	Evaluation of DJS staff practices	Information sharing w/DJS	Contact with other agencies	DJS staff training needs
Attitude about DJS	r=-.06	r=.03	r=-.34*	r=.54*	r=.39*	r=.12	r=-.42*
Working relationship w/DJS	r=.05	r=.08	r=-.38*	r=.70*	r=.52*	r=.10	r=-.57*

*p<.01

- Attitudes about DJS and working relationship were significantly correlated with:
 - Evaluation of DJS staff practices
 - Information sharing
 - Perceived barriers to service provision
 - Perceived training needs among DJS staff
- Attitude/Working relationship NOT significantly correlated with collaborative activities

Scale Measures—Service

Collaboration:

Please indicate how frequently you engage with DJS staff in the following activities when working with DJS youth. *(Please check one for each row)*

I work with DJS staff in...	Never	Occasionally	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time
a. Attending a treatment or service planning meeting (such as a staffing) for the youth.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Specifying case management and treatment/service goals for youth.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
c. Specifying sanctions for non-compliance with a case management or treatment plan.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
d. Specifying incentives or rewards for compliance with a case management or treatment plan.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>

Activities Shared with DJS:

Below is a list of common activities between agencies. Please check all activities that apply to your program/agency's working relationship with DJS. *(Check all that apply)*

- a. We share information on youth needs for treatment services.
- b. We have agreed on specific requirements youth must meet to be eligible for programs.
- c. We hold joint staffings/case reporting consultations.
- d. We have developed joint policy and procedure manuals.
- e. We have pooled funding for some youth services.
- f. We share operational oversight of some programs.
- g. Our organizations cross-train staff on service or treatment issues.
- h. We have written protocols for sharing youth information.

Scale correlations—Service

	Assessment of DJS youth	Extent of services provided	Collaboration w/DJS	Information sharing w/DJS	Extent of DJS referral/ monitoring procedures	Barriers to services	Common activities shared with DJS	Contact with other agencies	DJS staff training needs
Attitude about DJS	r=.12	r=.16**	r=.20**	r=.31*	r=.29*	r=-.28*	r=.23*	r=.18**	r=-.27
Agency relationship w/DJS	r=.08	r=.19**	r=.39*	r=.59*	r=.50*	r=-.33*	r=.45*	r=.24*	r=-.25*

*p<.01

**p<.05

- Attitudes about DJS and working relationship were significantly correlated with:
 - Services provided to DJS youth
 - Collaborative case management activities
 - Perception of DJS referral & monitoring procedures
 - Perceived barriers to service provision
 - Contact with other agencies
 - Perceived training needs among DJS staff
- Attitude/Working relationship NOT significantly correlated with assessment of DJS youth

Dependent Variable: Relationship With DJS

- Compiled from subscales
 - Evaluation of DJS practices
 - Extent to which respondents agreed with statements of the effectiveness of DJS staff referral, monitoring, and other practices
 - Attitude about DJS
 - 5-point Likert scale item, from “very unfavorable” to “very favorable”
 - Agency relationship with DJS
 - Extent to which respondents agreed with statements of their agency’s working relationship with DJS
 - Shared activities (only in service provider survey)
 - Additive measure of dichotomous items assessing shared activities that contribute to a positive working relationship

Linear Regression—Justice

- Best fit model: explains 63.7% of variance in DJS relationship

	Beta	t	Sig.
Gender of respondent	.139	2.345	.021
Barriers to successful services to DJS youth	-.245	-3.827	.000
Level of information sharing between agency and DJS	.307	5.024	.000
Extent to which DJS staff need additional guidance and training	-.473	-7.288	.000

Linear Regression—Service

- Best fit model: explains 51.5% of variance in DJS relationship

	Beta	t	Sig.
Level of collaboration between agency and DJS staff	.300	4.111	.000
Level of information sharing between agency and DJS	.492	6.563	.000
Barriers to successful services to DJS youth	-.154	-2.573	.011
Extent to which DJS staff need additional guidance and training	-.172	-2.885	.004

Conclusions

- In both samples, a positive relationship with DJS was significantly connected with:
 - More information sharing
 - Fewer perceived barriers to service provision
 - Fewer perceived DJS training needs
- In the service sample, positive relationship was also significantly related to collaborative case management activities

Questions?



For more information, check out George Mason University's
Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!)

<http://gemini.gmu.edu/ebct/>