



RECLAIMING
FUTURES

Public Health, Justice, Equity.

CROSS-SYSTEM COLLABORATION: CREATING OFF-RAMPS TO COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

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ABOUT THIS SESSION



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- ▶ A discussion of the evolution of the current treatment-oriented juvenile justice paradigm
- ▶ Why treatment is critical to youth justice outcomes
- ▶ A review of national trends and data here in Wisconsin
- ▶ Targeted strategies for improving outcomes:
 - ▶ The Reclaiming Futures public health blueprint for juvenile justice
 - ▶ Family and community engagement
 - ▶ System integration
 - ▶ Addressing disparities

TODAY'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Juvenile courts are educated consumers of treatment



The probation workforce reflects social work training



Community-based treatment alternatives abound



The field is trauma informed

Assessing treatment need is a top priority



Juvenile treatment courts have proliferated



Detention and Placement are less common



Gender responsive programs

**LET'S GO BACK A STEP
AND LOOK AT HOW WE
GOT HERE...**

MID 1990's – EARLY 2000's

The 90's were the era of the “super predator”

Juvenile crime rates begin to plummet

Annie E. Casey Foundation launches Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation launches Reclaiming Futures

MacArthur Foundation launches Models for Change

Northwestern University launches Juvenile Project

WHAT EMERGED IN THE WAKE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS?

- ▶ Expansion of juvenile treatment courts
- ▶ Drop in the use of detention and incarceration
- ▶ Increase in trauma-informed practice
- ▶ Schools question zero tolerance policies and reliance on the courts
- ▶ Adolescent brain science advances
- ▶ Emergence of evidence-based approaches

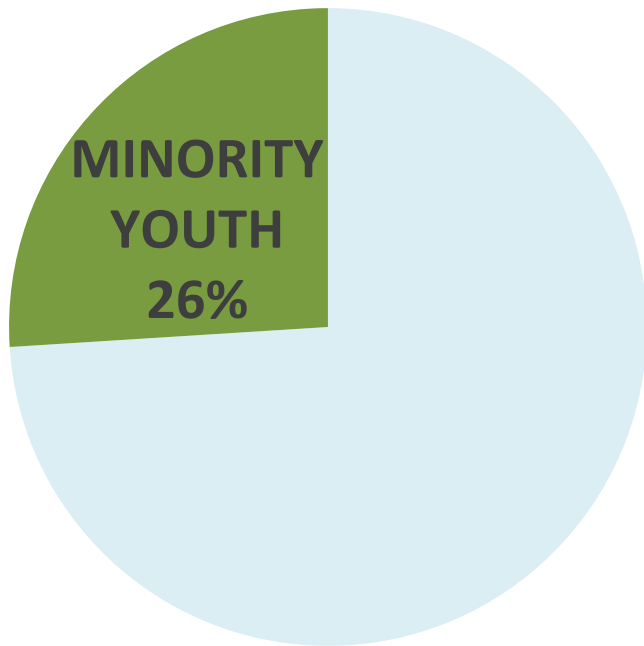
THE REPORT CARD?

- ▶ Vulnerable youth continue to penetrate deeper into the system without getting treatment
- ▶ Conditions of confinement remain very poor
- ▶ Truancy and school safety referrals still flood the courts
- ▶ Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts struggle with outcomes
- ▶ None of these reforms have moved the needle on equity
- ▶ High recidivism still plagues most states

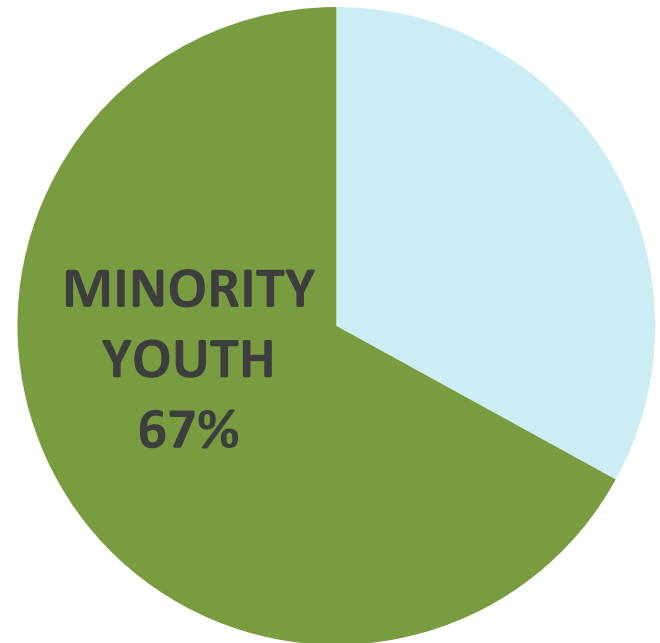
RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES HAVE WORSENERD...

- ▶ Juvenile arrests have dropped by 30%, disparities have widened by 24%
- ▶ Risk assessment tools reduced detention use, but increased inequity in detention
- ▶ Youth of color are 10% less likely to be diverted from formal court processing
- ▶ Juvenile incarceration rates dropped by more than 50% in many states, while the racial gap increased by 15%

Minority Proportion of General Population vs. Incarcerated Population in Wisconsin 2017



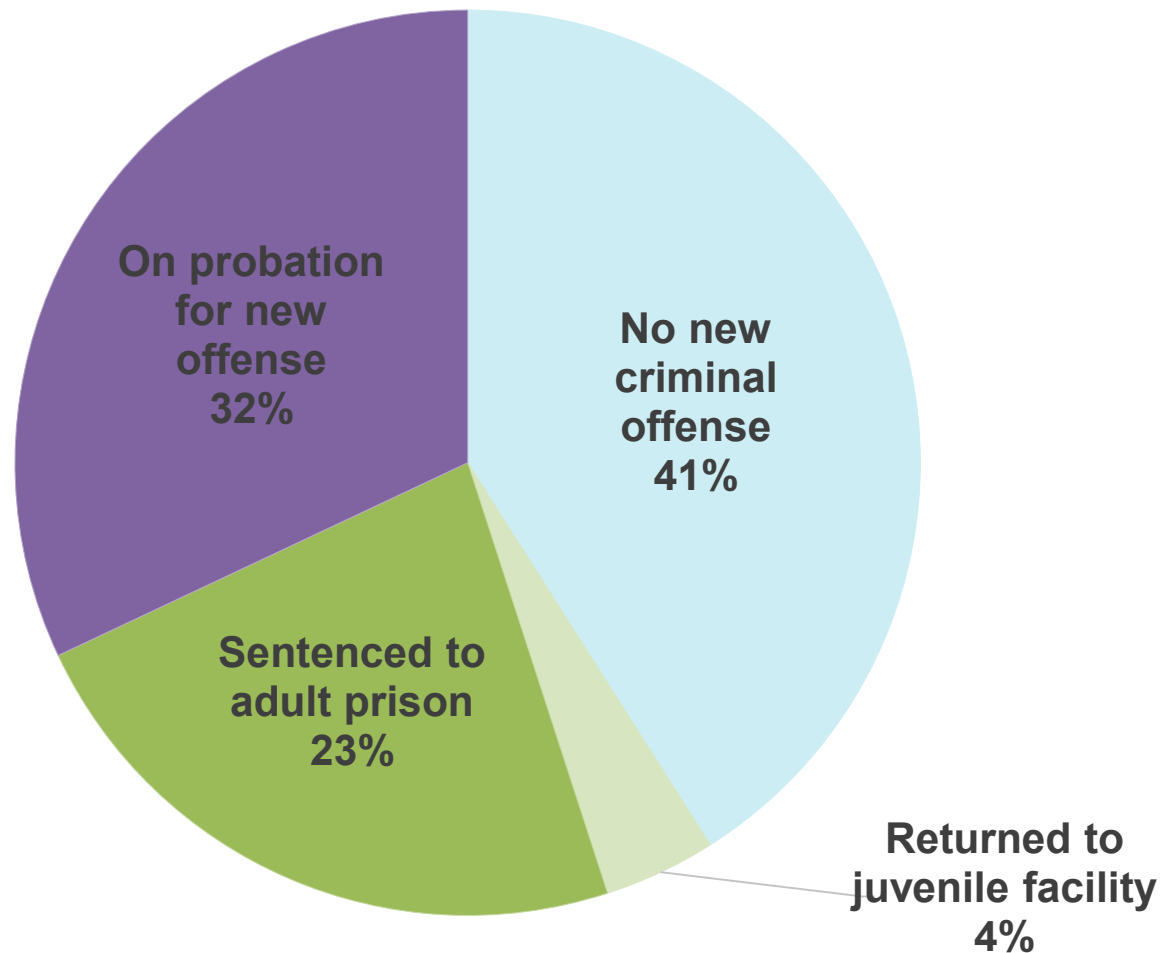
GENERAL POPULATION



INCARCERATED POPULATION

Recidivism: National and State Data

- Nationally, 3-year recidivism rates hover around 40%
- In Wisconsin, 3-year recidivism rates were roughly 59% in 2017



Source: Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau (2019)



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**DESPITE THE PARADIGM SHIFT
TOWARD TREATMENT, MOST
JURISDICTIONS STILL STRUGGLE
WITH OUTCOMES.**

**WHERE CAN WE GAIN
TRACTION?**

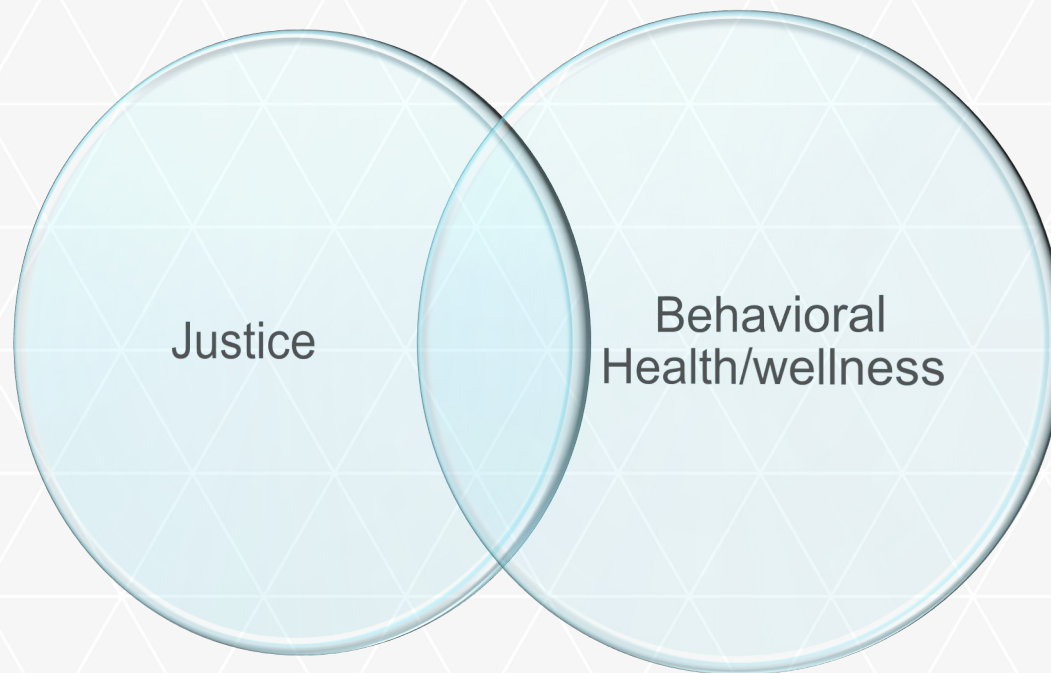


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BALANCING JUSTICE AND RESPONSIVENESS TO TREATMENT NEED

WEXLER'S CONCEPT OF "THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE"



MANAGING OVERLAPPING DECISION-MAKING LENSES IN YOUTH JUSTICE



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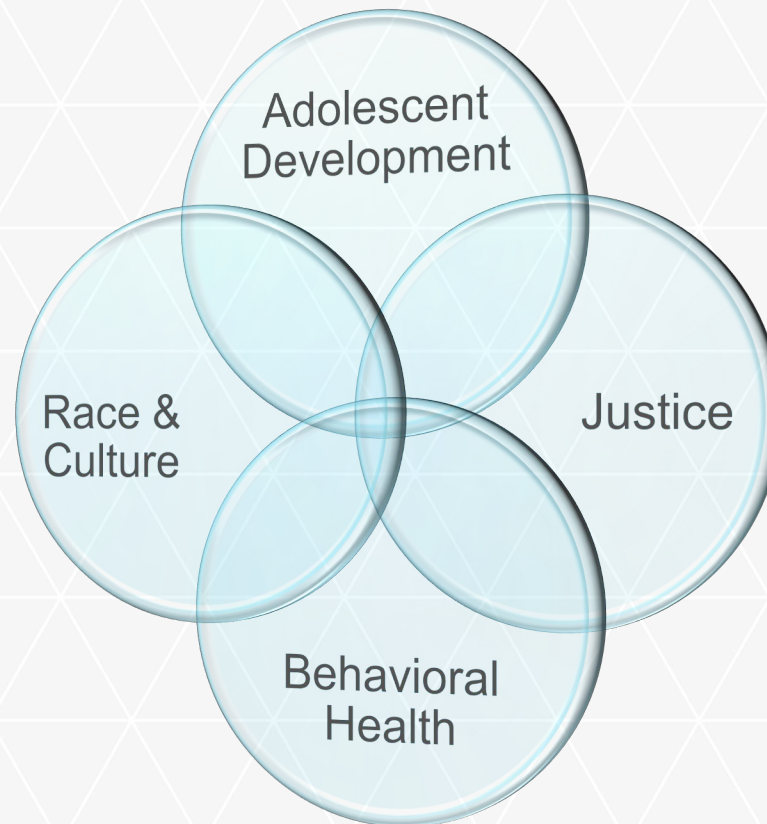


ACKNOWLEDGING AND EXAMINING RACE AS A KEY VARIABLE



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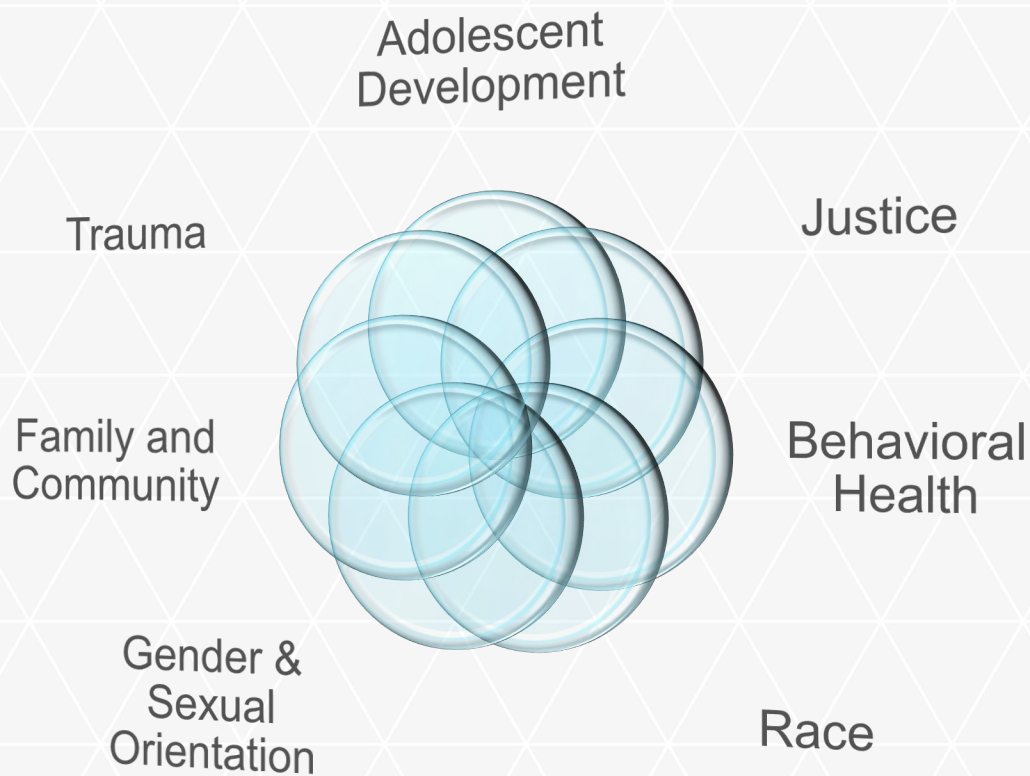


INCREASING COMPLEXITY IN YOUTH JUSTICE



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RECLAIMING FUTURES: IMPROVING TREATMENT OUTCOMES WITH SYSTEM INTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

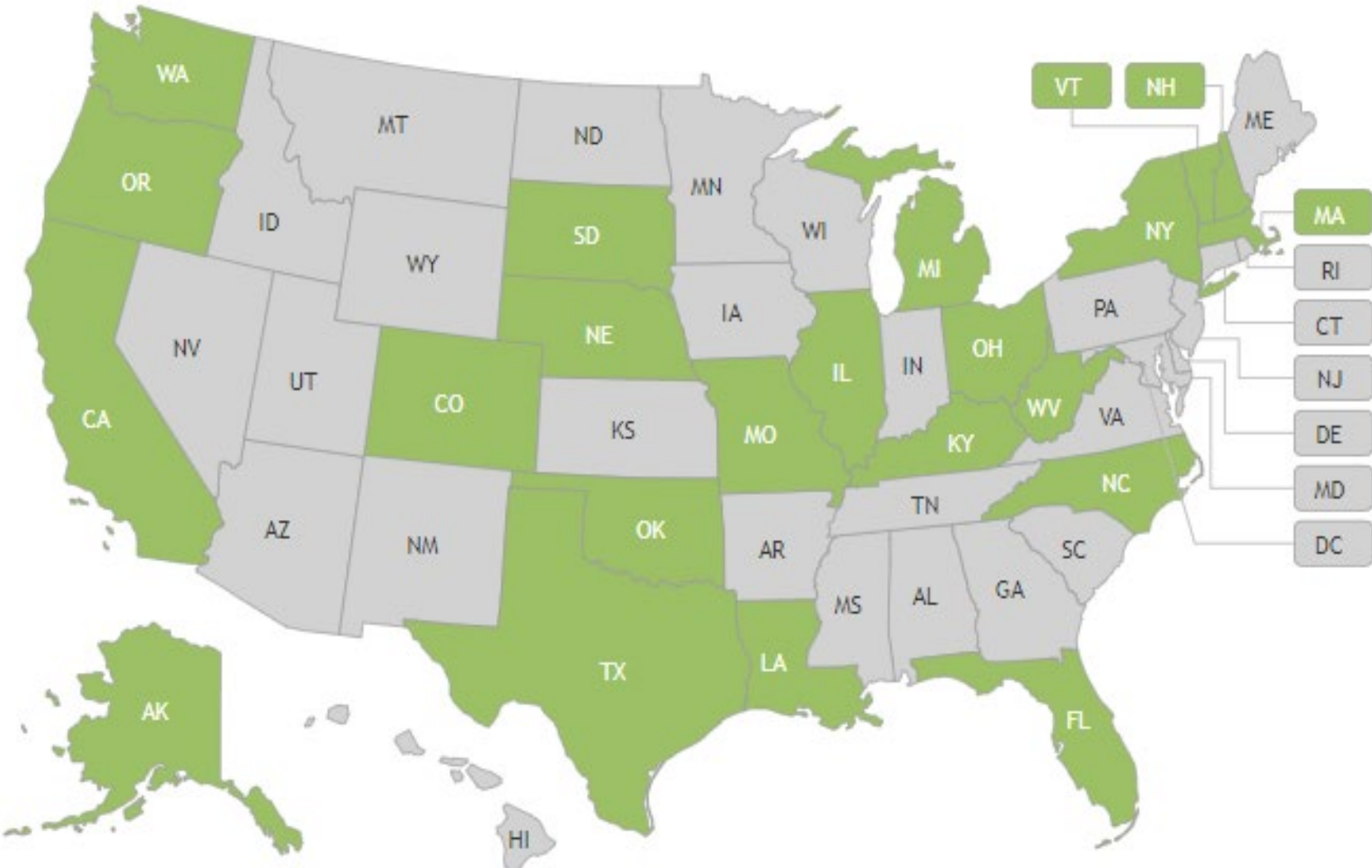


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- ▶ The key players in a youth's recovery are often not at the table: family, treatment providers, natural community supports, cultural elements
- ▶ Efforts to integrate these elements must be deliberate and authentic
- ▶ The court and probation can invite community stakeholders to play a more active role
- ▶ A public health approach recognizes a continuum that extends to the community and includes prevention and promotion
- ▶ Aligning state policy so that local adaptation can succeed

RECLAIMING FUTURES' NATIONAL FOOTPRINT



BUILDING AN INFLUENTIAL LOCAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Establish a cross-system governance structure that includes a project director and senior decision-makers in 4 key professional domains

That team includes:

- A judge
- A senior-level juvenile justice leader
- A leader/expert in the local treatment system
- A leader in community and/or youth development

SITES PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Our “national learning collaborative” is critical to successful local implementation and sustainability:

- Provides a teaching platform for the national office
- Provides peer support and political cover for sites to take risks in reform and innovation
- A vehicle for monitoring fidelity
- Particularly valuable for rural sites to connect with national peers engaged in best practices

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND A LOCALIZED IMPLEMENTATION BLUEPRINT

- Intensive up-front assessment of assets and gaps in the local jurisdiction
- Strategic planning and the establishment of an implementation blueprint with the assistance of an assigned coach
- Establishment of a training and technical assistance curriculum to support the strategic plan

COACHED IMPLEMENTATION OF A 6-STEP PUBLIC HEALTH MODEL

- Universal screening
- Brief Intervention
- Validated Assessment
- Rational level of care decision-making
- Effective engagement in evidence-based treatment
- Wraparound community supports

COORDINATE TREATMENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS WITH LOCAL JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS

- Informal diversion of low-level offenders
- Status offender or PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision) diversion programming
- Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts
- Reentry programs

FINDINGS FROM THE RECLAIMING FUTURE'S MULTI-YEAR EVALUATION



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- Significant improvements in treatment outcomes compared to juvenile treatment court as usual
- Significant reductions in recidivism
- \$86,000 per youth cost savings
- \$200,000 per youth cost savings for high risk/high need youth
- Matching youth to culturally and gender-appropriate programming produced improved outcomes

Source: Southwest Institute for Research on Women (2016)



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Case Example: Family and Community Engagement and the Reclaiming Futures Implementation in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana

- Created a unique, community-based intake strategy
- Situated outside of court
- Family-centered screening, brief intervention, referral and navigation
- Used for the full range of juvenile justice and court programs
- 95+% completion rates
- Results in youth as well as family referrals for treatment and support



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Local adaptation of national practices is critical and needs the support of state policymakers and funders
- This is particularly true of the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court model
- Racial and ethnic disparities persist despite significant improvements in juvenile justice practices – a concerted data-driven approach is needed to move the needle
- Community and family engagement are critical to outcomes and there are no shortcuts to achieving meaningful engagement