

Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument- Version 2 (MAYSI-2) Data Report
Clark County, WA (ESD 112) Truancy Project
(09/14/10 to 06/20/11)

Report prepared by the National Youth Screening & Assessment Project
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PURPOSE AND OUTLINE OF REPORT

The purpose of this brief report is to summarize the results of the MAYSI-2/MAYSIWARE data for the Clark County Truancy Project in Clark County, Washington. First, we briefly describe the MAYSI-2 and then present descriptive data on the Clark County sample's performance on the tool's scales. Finally, we report the proportion of youth 'screened in' for further attention (first tier needs assessment).

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAYSI-2

The MAYSI-2 is a scientifically valid and reliable brief screening tool for use in the juvenile justice system to identify youth who might have special behavioral health needs. This tool consists of 52 'yes/no' questions concerning whether something has been true for them "*in the past few months*". The MAYSI-2 was normed for use with youths ages 12 to 17 and is scored on six clinical scales including suicide ideation, depressed-anxious, angry-irritable, somatic complaints, thought disturbance (for boys only), and alcohol/drug use (see table below). The traumatic experiences scale is included in the MAYSI-2 for research purposes and was not normed as a scale for clinical use.

Alcohol/Drug Use	Pattern of frequent use of alcohol or drugs, with risk for substance abuse
Angry-Irritable	Experiences frustration, lasting anger, and moodiness
Depressed-Anxious	Experiences a mix of depressed and anxious feelings
Somatic Complaints	Experiences bodily aches and pains associated with emotional distress
Suicide Ideation	Thoughts and intentions to harm oneself
Thought Disturbance	Has unusual beliefs or perceptions suggestive of thought disorder (<i>boys only</i>)
Traumatic Experiences	Lifetime exposure to traumatic experiences (e.g., abuse, beatings, rape, observed death of another)

The MAYSI's six clinical scales were developed with two levels of cut-off scores (the Traumatic Experiences scale is not a clinical scale for the reason mentioned above). The first is the 'Caution' cut-off score. When a youth scores above this cut-off on a given scale, the youth has scored at a level that can be said to have 'possible clinical significance'. The second is the 'Warning' cut-off score. These scores are intended to alert staff that the youth has scored exceptionally high in comparison to other youths in the juvenile justice system. These cut-off scores were set at the point that identified approximately the highest 10% of youths on a given scale in the study that was done to develop the tool. Warning cut-off scores on all of the scales are higher than Caution cut-off scores. That is, they identify a subset of all the youths above the Caution cut-off who are most in need of attention.

RESULTS FOR THE TOTAL CLARK COUNTY SAMPLE

The content of this section of the report represents NYSAP's standard MAYSI-2 descriptive data summary, including a comparison to the national norms for *intake probation* by gender.

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS: The MAYSI-2 was completed for a sample of 95 youth entering the Clark County Truancy Program during the period from 9/14/10 to 6/20/11. Approximately, 47% of the youth in the sample are female. The racial composition is 60% White, 26.3% 'Other', 4.2% Black, 5.3% Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, 2.1% Alaskan Native, and 2.1% American Indian. Twenty-six of the youth in the sample (27.4%) self-identified as being of Hispanic ethnicity. The ages of the youth in the Clark County sample range from 12 to 17 years with an average age of 15.2 (standard deviation = 1.3). It took youth between 0.5 and 26.1 minutes to complete the MAYSI-2 using MAYSIWARE (average=5.1 minutes, standard deviation = 3.7).

Percent of cases with any Caution or Warning—total sample

Any Caution	71.6% of cases scored above the caution cut-off ("clinically significant range") of at least one MAYSI-2 scale
Any Warning	26.3% of cases scored above the warning cut-off (top 10% of youth taking the MAYSI-2) of at least one MAYSI-2 scale

Means, standard deviations, and percents for Caution and Warning for all scales—total sample

MAYSIWARE Scale	Mean	SD	% Caution	% Warning	Explanation of Results
Alcohol/Drug Use (n=95)	0.82	1.4	7.4	1.1	7.4% of cases scored in the caution range; 1.1% scored in the warning range of the alcohol/drug use scale
Angry-Irritable (n=95)	3.23	2.7	31.6	10.5	31.6% of cases scored in the caution range; 10.5% scored in the warning range of the angry-irritable scale
Depressed-Anxious (n=95)	2.03	2.2	33.7	10.5	33.7% of cases scored in the caution range; 10.5% scored in the warning range of the depressed-anxious scale
Somatic Complaints (n=95)	2.57	1.9	48.4	7.4	48.4% of cases scored in the caution range; 7.4% scored in the warning range of the somatic complaints scale
Suicide Ideation (n=95)	0.54	1.1	11.6	6.3	11.6% of cases scored in the caution range; 6.3% scored in the warning range of the suicidal ideations scale
Thought Disturbance (n=50→males only)	0.48	0.9	34.0	6.0	34% of cases scored in the caution range; 6% scored in the warning range of the thought disturbance scale
Traumatic Experiences (n=95)	1.48	1.4	-----	-----	

Percent of cases with any Cautions or Warnings by gender*

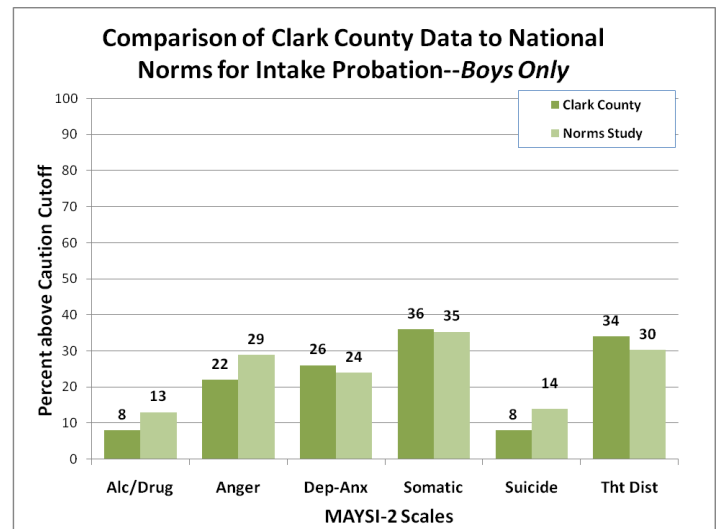
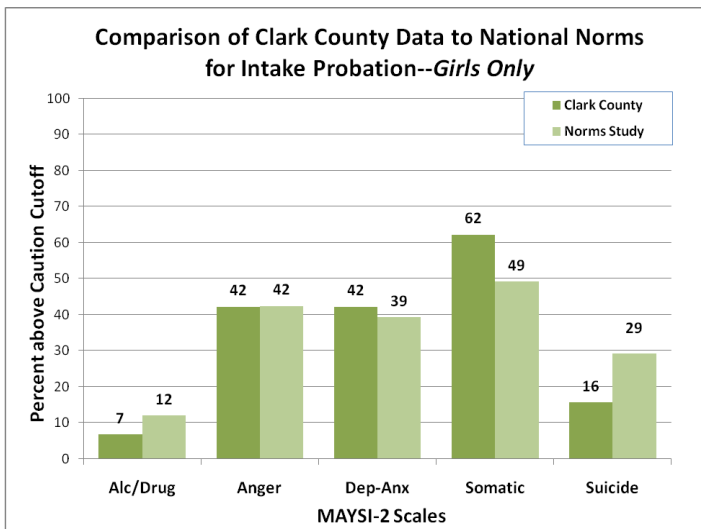
	Males (n=50)	Females (n=45)
Any Caution	66% of males scored in the caution range of at least one MAYSI-2 scale	77.8% of females scored in the caution range of at least one MAYSI-2 scale
Any Warning	14% of males scored in the warning range of at least one MAYSI-2 scale	40% of females scored in the warning range of at least one MAYSI-2 scale

*There was a statistically significant difference between boys and girls on the % in Warning ranges on one or more scales.

Percent of Youth Scoring in Caution and Warning ranges by gender

	% Caution			% Warning	
	Males (n=50)	Females (n=45)		Males (n=50)	Females (n=45)
Alcohol/Drug Use	8.0	6.7	Alcohol/Drug Use	2.0	0.0
Angry-Irritable	22.0*	42.2*	Angry-Irritable	2.0*	20.0*
Depressed-Anxious	26.0	42.2	Depressed-Anxious	4.0*	17.8*
Somatic Complaints	36.0*	62.2*	Somatic Complaints	2.0*	13.3*
Suicide Ideation	8.0	15.6	Suicide Ideation	2.0	11.1
Thought Disturbance	34.0	-----	Thought Disturbance	6.0	-----

* The differences between boys and girls on these scales are statistically significant (p values are less than or equal to .05)



SUMMARY:

The percentage of girls in this sample scoring above the Caution cutoff (in the “clinically significant” range of symptoms) on the somatic complaints scale was greater than for girls seen in probation intake nationally. The percentage of girls scoring over the Caution cutoff on the angry/irritable and depressed/anxious scales are similar in the two samples. However, a lower percentage of girls in Clark County scored above the Caution cutoff on the alcohol/drug use and suicide ideation scales than in the national sample.

The percentage of boys scoring over the Caution cutoff on the depressed/anxious, somatic complaints, and thought disturbance scales are similar in the two samples. However, a lower percentage of boys in the Clark County sample scored above the Caution cutoff on the alcohol/drug use, angry/irritable, and suicide ideation scales than in the national sample.

Both boys and girls in the Clark County sample report fewer symptoms of problem alcohol-drug use than youth in the national sample. We suspect, though, that this is mostly a matter of differences in what youths will tell adults in authority under different circumstances. Youths completing a mental health screen in a Truancy Program are simply unlikely to admit to staff that they are using drugs or alcohol a lot. This suggests that in this truancy program, a youth's low ADU score should not be used draw any conclusions about the youth's possible drug or alcohol use. A high score, however, should raise concern.

MAYSI-2 CRITICAL CASE CRITERIA THRESHOLD: The MAYSI-2 critical case criteria used by Clark County are those used state-wide in Pennsylvania (PA) juvenile detention and probation and in the majority of juvenile justice programs that use the MAYSI-2. Applying these criteria, about 19% of the youth in the Clark County sample would be considered 'critical cases'. This is a typical percentage for programs throughout the U.S. who use the PA criteria. The table below shows the breakdown in percent of cases 'screened in' by gender.

Percent 'screened in' by gender using current criteria

Formula	Males (n=50)	Females (n=45)	Total (n=95)
Over the Caution cutoff on Suicide Ideation OR over the Warning cutoff on any two scales	8%	31.1%	18.9%