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# Using Data to Enhance Decision Making: Practical Uses of Data in Juvenile Justice

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## Why Be Data Driven?

- Diagnoses Needs
- Enhances efficiency
- Promotes optimal resource allocation
- Guides improvements
- Evaluates changes
- Gets you money



## University Partnerships

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- Expertise
  - Knowledge of data and statistics
- Efficiency
  - Often cheaper than hiring staff
- Effectiveness
  - Easier to sustain with local partners



## Example 1: System Mapping

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- Collect data on key decision points in Jefferson and Rapides Parish juvenile justice system in 2007 and 2011
- Purpose:
  - Guide reform efforts
  - Make the decision-making procedures at each point transparent to foster communication among stakeholders
  - Evaluate effectiveness of reform
  - Maintain data for funding opportunities



## Specific Goals of Mapping

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- Describe youth at key decision points
- Describe the most common and important decisions that are made for youth at each point
- Describe how these decisions are made
- Assess satisfaction with decision-making process
- Describe what data are obtained, stored, and shared related to these decisions.



## The Mapping Process

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- Meet with key stakeholders:
  - To obtain buy-in
  - Define key decision points
  - Define “useful” information
  - Identify local partners
- Develop and disseminate survey
- Conduct follow-up interviews to collect additional information
- Prepare report summarizing results
- Review results with local partners
- Determine methods for widespread dissemination
- Discuss uses of data
- Repeat process in 2010



## Jefferson Parish: Initial Data

Decision Point	Source of Entry	Number of Youth (2006)
Court	Delinquency petitions by DA	1,393
	Formal FINS	402
	Traffic	739
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	Total	2,534
Informal FINS	School	1,625
	DA	51
	Caretaker	50
	Other	9
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	Total	1,794
Detention	Total	1,533



## Key Decision Points and Methods: Jefferson Parish

Decision Point	Important Decisions	Standardized Tools	Other Tools	Persons Involved
Sheriff's Office	Detain/release	None	Arrest reports/ offending history Intake interview	On duty intake supervisor
DA	Accept/reject charge FINS petitions Diversion	None	Available physical and testimonial evidence Arrest reports/offending history Academic history	Assistant DA DA investigator
Court	Guilt/innocence Detain/release Informal Adjustment Agreement (IAA) Post – disposition services	MAJOR	Arrest reports/offending history Mental health history Academic history Interviews with youth and parent FINS history OCS investigations	Judge Court probation officer Case manager
FINS	Accept/reject complaint Needed services for child/family Refer for formal FINS	MAJOR	Arrest reports Interviews with youth and parent School reports	Hearing officers Attorney Counselor
Detention	Dangerousness to self/others	None	Arrest reports Suicide interview Previous psychological evaluations	Probation officers OYD officers



## Jefferson Parish: Looking Deeper and Reforming

- Detention decisions made by law enforcement without set criteria and a large number of youth were detained for minor offenses
  - Implemented standard detention screening instrument
- Many first-time FINS cases were formally processed
  - First-time FINS referrals to DA are diverted to Informal FINS office
- Disproportionate number of Informal FINS referrals came from a minority of schools and it was unclear if schools were considering other options prior to FINS referral
  - Implemented training of school resource officers



## Jefferson Parish: Follow-up Data

Decision Point	Source of Entry	Number of Youth (2006)	Number of Youth (2010)
Court	Delinquency petitions by DA	1,393	1,106
	Formal FINS	402	333
	Traffic	739	406
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	Total	2,534	1,845
Informal FINS	School	1,625	722
	DA	51	55
	Caretaker	50	42
	Other	9	88
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	Total	1,794	897
Detention	Total	1,533	1,278



## Example 2: SAVRY Implementation

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- Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) implemented the SAVRY in 2009
- Goals:
  - Objectively measure risk for future violent and nonviolent behavior
  - Assist dispositional decision-making
  - Tool for treatment planning
- Has the implementation of the SAVRY effectively met these goals?



## Study Development

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- Collaborative effort:
  - UNO and LSUHSC
  - DJS
- Several sources of information
  - Outcome monitoring sheet (Green Sheet)
  - Treatment tracking file
  - Automated Records Management and Mapping System (ARMMS)
  - Probation paper files
- Data collection occurred over a three-month period



# Results of the Study: Goal 1

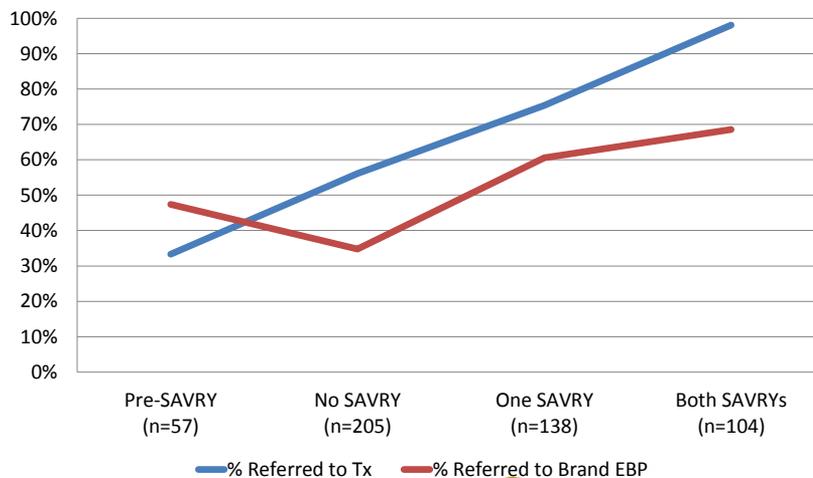
Goal 1: Test whether the implementation of the SAVRY resulted in an increase in treatment referral and positive youth outcomes.

## Results:

- ✓ Significant increase in referrals to EBPs following SAVRY implementation
- ✓ Youth with one or more SAVRY administrations were on probation an average of 7 months shorter than the originally ordered probation



## Implementation of SAVRY & Treatment Referral



## Results of the Study: Goal 2

Goal 2: Both within and across types of treatments, compare SAVRY scores pre and post-treatment.

Results:

	# of Cases	% Stable Low	% Decrease	% Increase/Stable High
<b>Delinquency Risk</b>				
Referred to Brand EBP	70	31.4	<b>41.4</b>	31.4
Not referred to Brand EBP	34	38.2	<b>23.5</b>	38.2
<b>Violence Risk</b>				
Referred to Brand EBP	70	25.7	<b>40.0</b>	34.3
Not referred to Brand EBP	34	29.4	<b>29.4</b>	41.2



## Results of the Study: Goal 3

Goal 3: Compare probation outcomes and recidivism across changes in SAVRY risk scores.

Results:

	#	Reason for Probation Release			Recidivism
		% Complete	% Unsuccessful	% Revoked	% Arrested
<b>Delinquency Risk</b>					
Stable Low	35	94.3	5.7	--	28.6
Decrease	37	81.1	8.1	10.8	24.3
Stable High/Increase	31	35.5	9.7	<b>54.8</b>	<b>40.6</b>
<b>Violence Risk</b>					
Stable Low	28	92.9	7.1	--	32.1
Decrease	38	94.7	2.6	2.6	18.4
Stable High/Increase	37	32.4	13.5	<b>54.1</b>	<b>42.1</b>



## Example 3: Evaluation of the Detention Screening Instrument (DSI)

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- DSI was created in 2008
  - In response to Mapping Survey Results
- Goals:
  - Public safety
  - Identify need for secure placement
  - Reduce DMC in Rapides Parish
- Collaborative effort between UNO, CCLP, and Rapides Parish stakeholders



## Rapides Parish Detention Screening Instrument

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- Assigns numerical values:
  - Most serious current offense
  - Additional offenses
  - Prior criminal history
  - History of failing to appear
  - History of escape or runaway
  - Aggravating factors
  - Mitigating factors
- List of mandatory and administrative overrides
- Decision guidelines:
  - 13+ or an override = secure detention
  - 8 -12 = detention alternative
  - < 8 = release



## Development of the Study

- Data collection occurred over a 3-month period
- Three law enforcement agencies
- Information obtained from:
  - DSI
  - Contact sheet
  - Impression questionnaire
- Juvenile detectives, renaissance detention center, and juvenile probation officers submitted data to UNO monthly



## Results of the Study: Question 1

Question 1: Is the DSI a better predictor of a youth's threat to public safety and need for secure placement than the subjective decision-making procedures that were previously employed by law enforcement?

Results:

	No on Both	Yes on Both	No DSI, Yes Imp	Yes DSI, No Imp
	N = 112	N = 17	N = 13	N = 10
Males*	63%	82%	92%	90%
Black	62%	65%	69%	90%
Violent Crime*	12%	19%	23%	50%
Felony Crime**	5%	31%	46%	20%

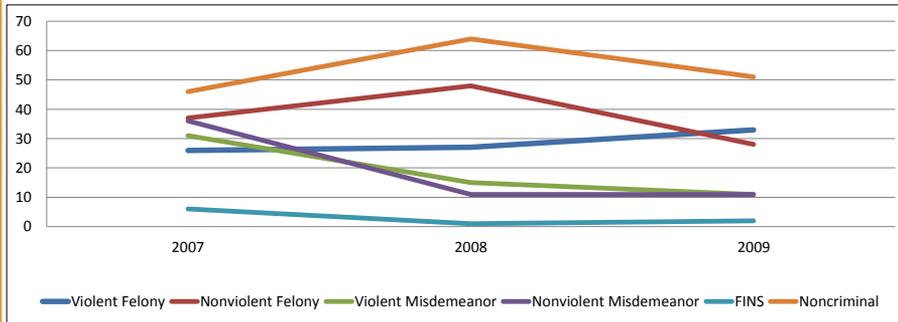
\* p < .05, \*\* p < .01



## Results of the Study: Question 2

Question 2: Does the use of the DSI reduce secure placements?

Results:



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## Results of the Study: Question 3

Question 3: Does the use of the DSI reduce DMC?

Results:

	Aug. – Oct. 2007 (n = 27)	Aug. – Oct. 2008 (n = 18)*
Boys	85%	72%
Black	<b>82%</b>	<b>50%</b>
Violent Crime	22%	22%
Felony Crime	52%	22%

\* Only cases with a DSI are included. In total, there were 24 detention admission from 8/15/08 – 10/31/2008.

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## Example 4: Developing a Database to Track DA Decisions

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- Occurred in Rapides Parish District Attorney's Office in 2009-2010
- Process:
  - What do you want to know?
  - Where can we find this information?
  - What type of system is best suited for the agency's needs and available resources?
  - How should this information reported?



## What do you want to know?

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Demographics  
Arrest data  
Case processing information  
Offense data  
Charge amendments  
Pre-adjudication status  
DA decisions  
Referrals to outside agencies  
Court orders  
Disposition  
Victim information  
Prior charges



## Next Steps

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- Where can we find this information?
  - AS400
  - Paper files
  - Treatment agencies
- What type of system is best suited for the agency's needs and resources?
  - Electronic data base
    - Excel
    - IJJIS



## Standard DA Reports

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### Standard Reports

- Offender residence by police zone
- Days from arrest to referral
- DA Referrals to Court
- New Referrals
- New Referrals by Offense
- Transfers to adult court

### Selection Criteria

- Age
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Offense
- Referred by agency
- DA decision
- Complaint start/end date
- Received start/end date
- Screened start/end date



# Benefits of University/Agency Partnerships

- Role of the university
  - Helped identify the “questions” that stakeholders wanted to answer
    - \*Conceptualization
  - Data collection, analysis, and reporting results
  - Worked as the liaison between different agencies
  - Local, state, and national dissemination
- Benefit to stakeholders:
  - Empirical evidence of effectiveness
  - Increased objectivity in decision-making
  - Provides a baseline for future evaluations
  - Identified areas in need of revision



## Quick Resources

### [University Partnerships as a Strategy for Promoting Data-Driven Decision Making in Juvenile Justice](http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/Websites/Isupublichealth/images/pdf/iphj/LA_ Univ_Partnership_-_Inno_Brief_2013.pdf)

- [http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/Websites/Isupublichealth/images/pdf/iphj/LA\\_ Univ\\_Partnership\\_-\\_Inno\\_Brief\\_2013.pdf](http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/Websites/Isupublichealth/images/pdf/iphj/LA_ Univ_Partnership_-_Inno_Brief_2013.pdf)



### [Indicators of Success: Developing System and Youth Outcome Measures for Juvenile Justice Agencies](http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/Websites/Isupublichealth/images/pdf/iphj/LaMfC_Innovations_Brief_Indicators_Youth_Outcome_Measures_for_JJ_FINAL.pdf)

- [http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/Websites/Isupublichealth/images/pdf/iphj/LaMfC\\_Innovations\\_Brief\\_Indicators\\_Youth\\_Outcome\\_Measures\\_for\\_JJ\\_FINAL.pdf](http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/Websites/Isupublichealth/images/pdf/iphj/LaMfC_Innovations_Brief_Indicators_Youth_Outcome_Measures_for_JJ_FINAL.pdf)



# Contact Information

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