



# PbS Research Primer

*Committed to treating all youths in custody as one of our own.*

## About PbS

Performance-based Standards (PbS) is a tool for juvenile justice professionals to continually improve the quality of life and service in juvenile facilities nationwide. It is one of the largest and most timely juvenile justice databases in the United States. PbS sets national standards for facility operations and trains participating facility staff and leadership to collect and report data that is accurate, comprehensive, valid, reliable, and timely in order to achieve those standards.

Through this extensive database, PbS provides comprehensive biannual snapshots of facility life, practices, services and programs. We want researchers to use this data to contribute to the field's understanding of what works inside youth residential placements.

## Data Quality

In order to be included in the PbS database, all reported information reported must undergo a multi-layered data quality process that involves state-of-the-art technology, training participants, internal accuracy checks and external on-site verification. All deliverable data comes from sites who have undergone two uncollected trial data collection periods, in order to ensure compliance with PbS' standards. Additionally, each data collection may have different groups of participating facilities. At this time, PbS is unable to identify missing or additional facilities across data collection periods.

## Privacy, Anonymity & Confidentiality

PbS regards the confidentiality of survey data to be of primary importance. Given the sensitive nature of the information PbS collects, at no point throughout the data collection process are personally identifiable pieces of information solicited, recorded or required. Identifying information which could be connected to a respondent (including the facility name, state and jurisdiction) will be removed (a generic persistent facility identifier will remain, so responses can be grouped for analysis).

## Process

All information collected and created by PbS should be considered proprietary and can only be used on a pre-approved basis. For more information on the use and proprietary nature of PbS datasets, questions, instruments, and other intellectual property, review the Individual Investigator Agreement.

To apply for access to PbS data, please contact [help@pbstandards.org](mailto:help@pbstandards.org). Your request must include electronically signed versions of the Individual Investigator Agreement for each investigator and a completed Research Request Form. Research inquiries are handled and approved on a case-by-case basis. PbS will respond to all access requests within two weeks.

## Datasets Available to Investigators

PbS collects the following available datasets from approximately 150-200 participating facilities. All datasets contain sortable variables, including general location, site type, respondent gender, etc. Datasets are available for each survey for multiple data collection periods (every April and October) starting with April 2010. Several surveys have undergone minor changes (e.g. addition of questions, changes of phrasing and tense) throughout their histories; these differences are reflected in the datasets themselves but not individually noted. All datasets are presented in standard SPSS file format.

Finally, several Community-Residential instruments exist as analogues to their secure counterparts with substantially reduced response rates. Please contact PbS for information on Community datasets.

### Available Datasets

Survey Name	Description	Sample Size per Facility	n per Data Collection	Surveyed Sites	Community Residential Analogue Available?
Incident Report	Each facility completes an incident report for any event or crisis that may compromise the security of the facility or safety of staff or participants. Type of data collected on incident reports includes type of incident, number of youths and staff involved, and restraints, injuries, and isolation details.	100% of reportable incidents	~6,500	Correction Detention Assessment	No
Youth Record	The Youth Record contains information about youths' experiences and services received during their time at the facility. Data collected includes screenings, assessments, education, programming and aftercare planning (if applicable).	> 30 randomly selected youth	~4,300	Correction Detention Assessment	Yes
Youth Exit Interview	Correction facilities conduct exit interviews of all youths released to provide a youth's perspective on his or her experience while at the facility, programming, perception of staff, and preparedness for leaving.	100% of released youths	~4,000	Correction	No
Youth Climate Survey	The Youth Climate Survey solicits feedback about facility conditions, quality of life, staff-youth relationships, and services offered from the point-of-view of youth.	> 30 randomly selected youth	~4,000	Correction Detention Assessment	Yes
Staff Climate Survey	The Staff Climate Survey solicits feedback about facility conditions, quality of life, staff-youth relationships, and services from the point-of-view of direct care staff.	> 30 randomly selected staff	~5,000	Correction Detention Assessment	Yes
Two Family Surveys	Facilities survey all families of all youths leaving the facility to learn about the families' experiences with the facility, relationships with staff and ability to stay connected to their child.	N/A	C: ~1,000 D/A: ~400	Correction Detention/ Assessment*	Yes