



Introduction

Performance-based Standards (PbS) is a data-driven improvement model that collects and reports both quantitative administrative record data and qualitative survey data from youths, staff and families to provide a holistic and comprehensive picture of the conditions of confinement and quality of life in secure facilities for young offenders. The data is collected and reported every April and October by participating facilities. In October 2015, 160 facilities in 34 states participated: 95 correction, 51 detention and 14 assessment. The PbS Perspective provides a snapshot of PbS facilities' performance in areas research shows impact youths' safety and healthy development: isolation, fairness, staff training, education achievement, connection to family and trauma-informed care.

Isolation Continues to Decrease

PbS participants have made reducing the use and duration of isolation/room confinement a priority. Aggregate results for October 2015 show:

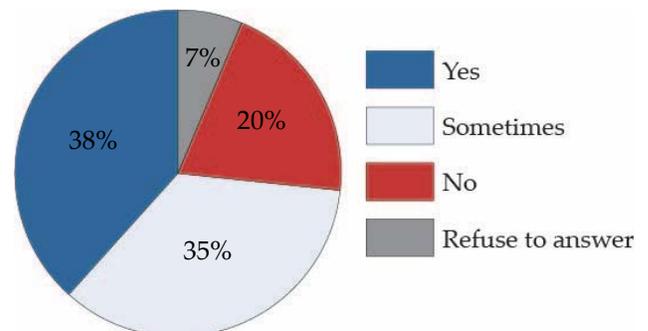
- The number of times isolation/room confinement was used decreased in correction facilities for the sixth consecutive data collection period. The average time youths in corrections facilities spent in isolation was 15.03 hours, down from 15.23 hours six months ago, but still more than the lowest point of 9.12 hours in October 2013; and
- Detention centers decreased the number of times isolation/room confinement was used—the first data collection to see a decrease since October 2013. Like the correction facilities, the average time the youths spent in isolation continued to decrease to 5.01 hours, compared to 5.97 hours in the last data collection.

Ensuring Fairness

Youths' perceptions of fairness continues to be identified by research as having a significant impact on youths' antisocial activity and continued offending behavior. Results of the October 2015 PbS Youth Climate Survey show:

- The majority of youths (61%) reported that the rules at the facility are fair;
- When asked how fair staff are in applying the rules regarding telephone calls, 62% of youths reported very fair or fair; and
- Additionally, 73% of youths reported that staff are fair about discipline issues.

Youths report whether staff are fair about discipline issues

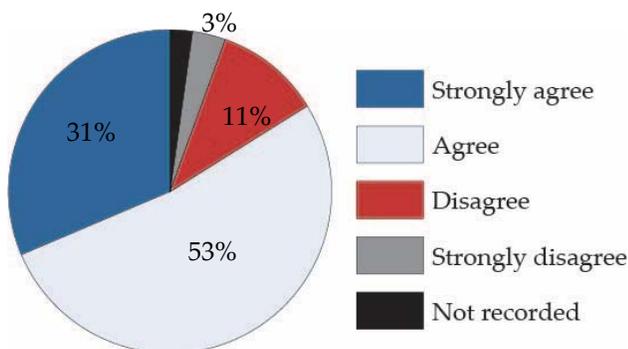


Training of Staff

Research conducted to learn the “ideal” staff-to-youth ratio instead concluded that staff perceptions of the quality of their training and supervision had a greater impact on facility safety. If staff reported positively, the facility had more positive safety outcomes. If staff reported negatively, there were more negative outcomes. The responses to the October 2015 PbS Staff Climate Survey show:

- Nearly all staff (92%) agreed or somewhat agreed that they received the training they need to perform their job and 90% said the training they received while at the facility improved their job skills;
- Nearly all staff (92%) strongly agreed or agreed that they know what their job expectations are and 83% of staff reported that they received the information they needed to perform their job effectively; and
- Most staff (84%) reported that they were satisfied with their job.

Staff report whether they are satisfied with their job

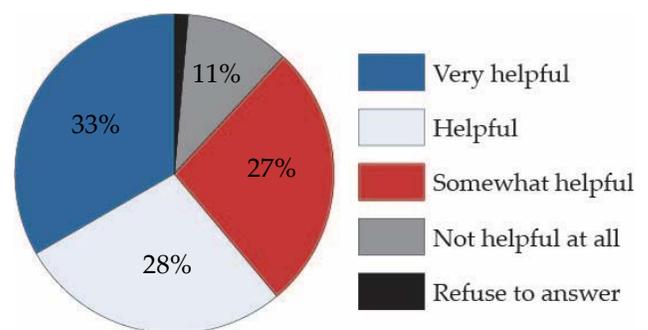


Improving Educational Services

Educational achievement is central to all youths’ path to adulthood. Time in custody must include a strong academic component that improves and furthers youths’ education. In October 2015, most youths in PbS facilities reported positively about their educational experiences:

- Over three-quarters of youths (80%) reported attending school since being in the facility. An additional 7% reported that they sometimes attend school; and
- Nearly three-quarters of youths (73%) said that the facility has a good school program and almost two-thirds of youths (61%) who attend school said it was very helpful or helpful.

Of youths who attend school, the helpfulness the youths report of the school program



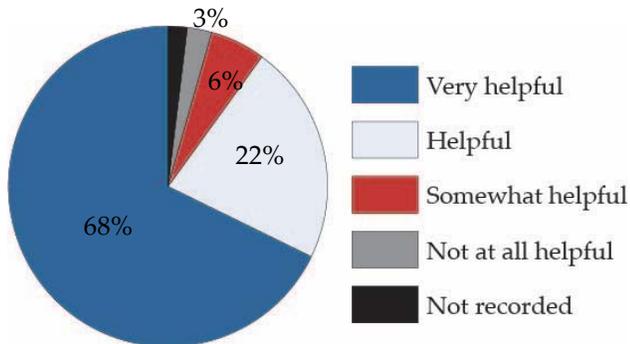
- Youths who reported attending school regularly were more positive in their responses with 63% rating school as very helpful or helpful. Of youths who reported sometimes attending school, only 36% said that school was very helpful or helpful.

Connecting with Family

PbS' family initiative began by adding the PbS Family Survey in 2012 first for correction facilities. Over the past year the PbS Family Survey for detention and assessment centers has been developed and pilot tested. The survey is administered to families when they come to the facility and asks for current experiences and immediate perceptions. Results from the pilot survey in October 2015 show:

- Nearly all family members (90%) reported that staff were very helpful or helpful in arranging the family member's visit; and

Families rate the helpfulness of staff in arranging the family member's visit



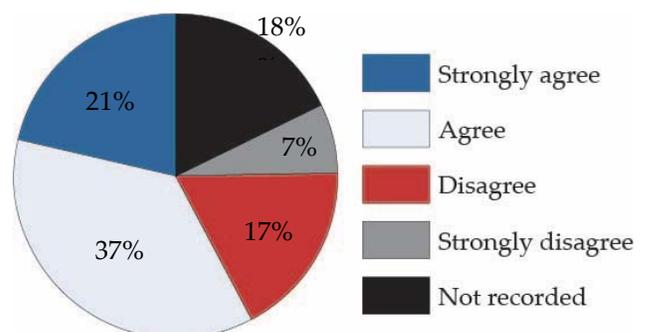
- About one-third of family members (35%) reported they were invited to facility events.

Gauging Trauma-Informed Care

Continuing to incorporate measures gauging trauma-informed care into PbS, new questions were added to the PbS Youth Exit Interview for correction facilities. (Questions have been added to the PbS surveys for youth, staff and families as well.) Some of the Exit Interview results from October 2015 show:

- Over half of youths (56%) said that they were told ahead of time that staff members they interact with were changing; and
- Nearly three-fifths of youths (58%) reported that they were asked their opinions at unit team meetings.

Youths report whether they were asked their opinions at unit team meetings



The PbS Perspective is published twice a year after each of the two PbS data collections periods (April and October) because we've learned over the past 20 years that looking at data is the first, fundamental step to positive change and reform and that continuous measuring is necessary to sustain and improve juvenile justice facilities' operations, programs and services. PbS' aggregate data is one of the largest, timely, uniform and comprehensive available that describes conditions of confinement and quality of life with both quantitative administrative data and qualitative descriptive data that is uniformly reported and undergoes a multi-tiered data quality process. For more information, visit <http://pbstandards.org>.