



Perspective January 2015

Snapshot of the conditions of confinement and quality of life in secure facilities for young offenders

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 facilities who choose to participate in PbS and share PbS' commitment to treating all youths in custody as one of our own. In October 2014, 159 facilities in 32 states participated in PbS: 96 correction, 48 detention and 15 assessment. The PbS Perspective provides a snapshot of data reported in areas research shows impact the safety and healthy development of youths: isolation, connection to family, trauma-informed care, educational programming and helpful and nurturing relationships with staff.

Less Isolation

Average Time Continues to Drop

PbS participants have made reducing isolation/room confinement a priority for the past several years and results continue to show the practices have changed:

- The average time of isolation for youths in correction facilities was 12.8 hours in October 2014, a 48% decrease from 24.43 hours in October 2010;
- The average time of isolation for youths detention facilities was 6.14 hours in October 2014, a 50% decrease from 12.27 hours in October 2010; and
- The average time of isolation for youths in assessment centers was 4.7 hours, a 71% decrease from 15.95 hours in October 2010.
- In all facilities the majority of isolation cases were less than four hours (70% corrections, 69% detention and 78% assessment facilities.)

Connecting with Family

Positive Results

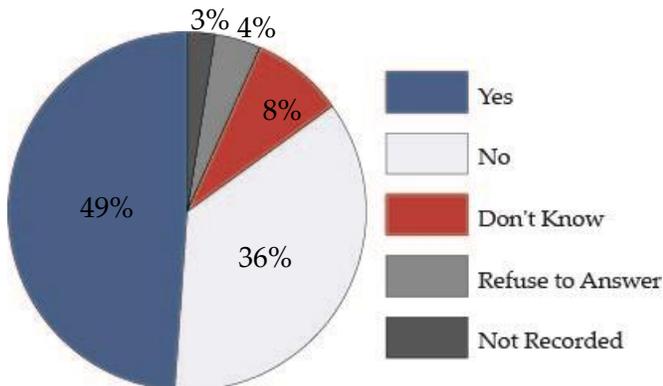
PbS launched the first national family standards initiative in 2012 to strengthen and support relationships between incarcerated youths and their families and facility staff and families. The results currently are for correction facilities only and are encouraging:

- Of the 767 family members surveyed for October 2014, 95% said staff treated them with respect and 91% said staff value their opinion regarding their child's rehabilitation;
- Most family members (91%) said staff make it easier to stay in contact with their child and 76% of family members reported that they had visited their child or youth.
- Of the 4,230 staff surveyed in October 2014, 79% of staff said they value family members as partners in their work with the youths.

Introducing Trauma Data

In 2012 PbS began working with trauma-informed care experts to add questions to PbS surveys that will indicate the effectiveness and extent trauma-informed care principles and practices are impacting youths, staff and families. Youths were asked 10 new questions starting in April 2014; October's results remained similar to April's:

- Of the 3,657 youths surveyed in October 2014, 49% said that someone from the facility had explained what trauma is and why it matters. Please see the pie chart below for additional details.



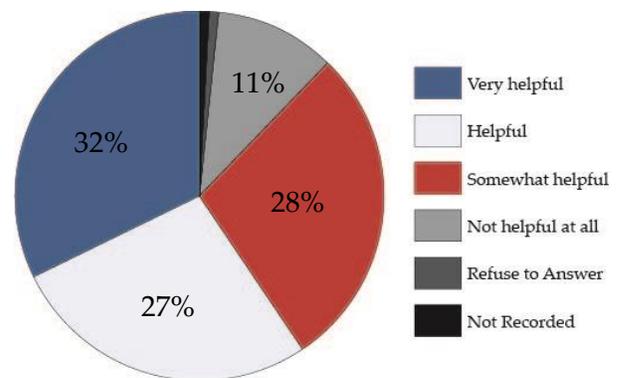
Youths report whether someone in the facility explained what trauma is and why it matters.

- Of those same youths, 54% said that someone from the facility asked if any bad or upsetting things ever happened to them; and
- About two-thirds (69%) said overall they trust staff at the facility.

Improving Educational Services

Time in custody can greatly improve a youth's chances for success and reduce the likelihood of repeat offending when it includes a strong academic component that improves and furthers youths' education. Most youths in PbS facilities show positive education experiences:

- Slightly more than half (56%) of youths who were confined for over six months had increased math and reading scores between admission and discharge.
- Nearly three quarters (74%) of youths surveyed said that the facility has a good school program and about half (59%) of youths who attend school said it was being very helpful or helpful.
- Youths in correction facilities felt most positively about their school experience, with 62% saying it is "very helpful" or "helpful," compared to 46% of youths in detention facilities and 53% of youths in assessment facilities.



Youths who attend school rate the helpfulness.

Staff

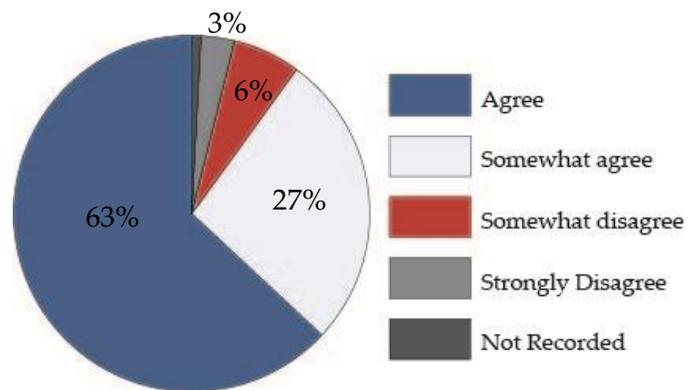
Training

Research done by Snyder and Kupchik in 2011 to help the national discussion of the “best” staff-to-youth ratio concluded that more important than the numbers was the quality of the training staff received and the level of support they experienced from their supervisor. The research showed a clear linear effect: the more staff responding positively to training and support questions, the more positive outcomes for youths. PbS facilities have been using that research and their data to improve both the training and support provided to staff.

- Of the 4,230 staff surveyed in October 2014, 63% of staff in correction and detention facilities and 69% in assessment centers said they received the training they needed to perform their job. Of all surveyed, 90% agreed or somewhat agreed. Please see the pie chart for more information.

Support

- Less than half (41%) of staff rate the support and guidance of their supervisor as excellent and 36% rate it as good.
- Half of the staff in assessment facilities rated the support and guidance as excellent, compared to 41% in correction facilities and 40% in detention facilities.



Staff report whether they received the training they need to perform their job.

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. You can’t change what you don’t measure. 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. PbS data looks at facility safety, order, security, education, programming, fairness, positive youth development, connection to family and community and health, mental health, substance use, trauma and reentry treatment and services.

For more information, visit <http://pbstandards.org>.