

## Juvenile justice diversion and the likelihood of rearrest among a sample of high risk youth

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### Study aims

- Describe the children and youth served Florida's out-of-home (OOH) care mental health treatment programs in FY2004-2007 (N=5,365).
- Describe rates of juvenile justice contacts before and after OOH treatment in terms of severity of charges, disposition and likelihood of post-treatment juvenile justice encounters.

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### Methods

- Descriptive statistics
- Logistic regression

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### Why examine pre-treatment encounters v. encounters during treatment

- Juvenile justice encounters in the pre-period may be associated with the type of mental health treatment program a child or youth is placed in
- Juvenile justice encounters during treatment differ from those prior and may be due to differences by program or location, or indicative of children with greater psychiatric impairment

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### Primary diagnoses

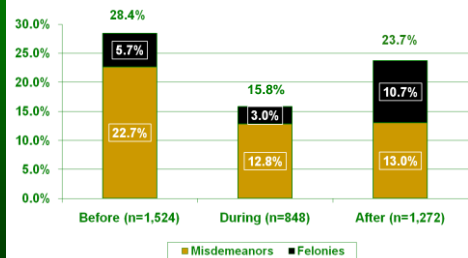
| Diagnostic categories                     | n     | %     |
|---|-------|-------|
| Mood & Affective                          | 1,726 | 32.2% |
| Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders | 1,283 | 23.9% |
| Disruptive Behavior Disorders             | 977   | 18.2% |
| Anxiety & Stress                          | 741   | 13.8% |
| Schizophrenia & Psychoses                 | 260   | 4.9%  |
| Other non-psychotic                       | 378   | 7.1%  |

N=5,365

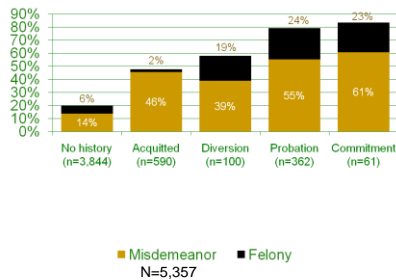
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### JJ contacts and felonies: before, during & after OOH treatment

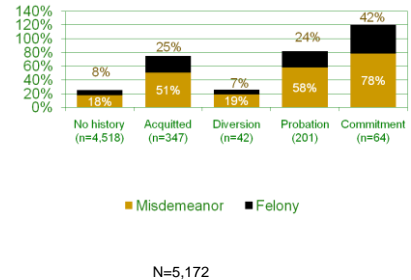


### Disposition of Justice Encounters 6 Months Prior to Treatment



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### Disposition of Justice Encounters During Treatment



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### Juvenile justice encounters prior to treatment

- Independent variables: Program type, race/ethnicity, gender, age group, diagnostic category, involuntary commitment, disposition prior to treatment episode and commission of a felony prior to treatment
- Dependent variable: juvenile justice encounter within six months after treatment

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### Juvenile justice encounters during treatment

- Independent variables: Program type, race/ethnicity, gender, age group, diagnostic category, involuntary commitment, disposition prior to treatment episode and commission of a felony DURING treatment
- Dependent variable: juvenile justice encounter within six months post-treatment

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### Similarities – Logistic regression results

| Variable                   |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Race = White               | White youth were less likely to have post-treatment JJ contact                          |
| Age effect                 | Children & youth in the 6-12 age group most likely to have post-treatment JJ encounters |
| Diagnoses                  | Children & youth with DBDs were more likely C&Y with ADHD to have JJ encounters post    |
| No JJ history              | C&Y w/o a JJ history less likely to have a post-treatment JJ contact                    |
| Acquittal/ no consequences | Acquittal increases odds of post-treatment encounters significantly.                    |
| Receiving probation        | Probation significantly increases odds of post-treatment encounters.                    |
| Committing a felony        | Committing a felony decreases odds of post-treatment JJ encounters?                     |

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### Differences – Logistic regression results

| Variable                |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Program effects         | TGC youth with JJ encounters in the pre period had greatest likelihood of JJ encounters. SIPP youth with JJ encounters in the during period were more likely. |
| Involuntary commitments | For youth with JJ encounters while they were in treatment, involuntary commitment was associated with post-treatment JJ encounters                            |
| Diagnoses               | Children & youth with DBDs were more likely C&Y with ADHD   |
| Diversion               | For children and youth with JJ encounters while in treatment, prior enrollment in a diversion program decreased likelihood of post-treatment JJ encounters.   |

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## Discussion

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- There are demographic characteristics associated with post-arrest encounters (latency age, white).
- Any child or youth with a prior JJ encounter entering treatment deserves greater supervision to prevent future JJ encounters, especially those who were acquitted, put on probation or committed.
- Program differences in the models and previous evaluations suggest need to examine policy and staff behavior by type of program and by location

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