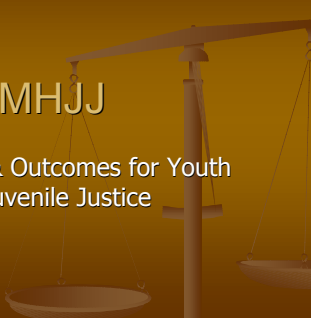


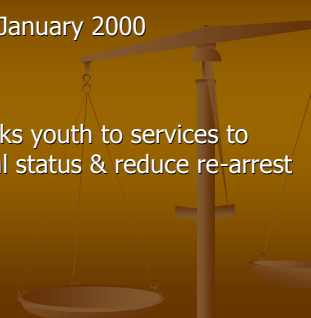
MHJJ

Strengths & Outcomes for Youth in Juvenile Justice



Background & History

- Established in January 2000
- Initiative
- Liaisons
- Identifies & links youth to services to improve clinical status & reduce re-arrest

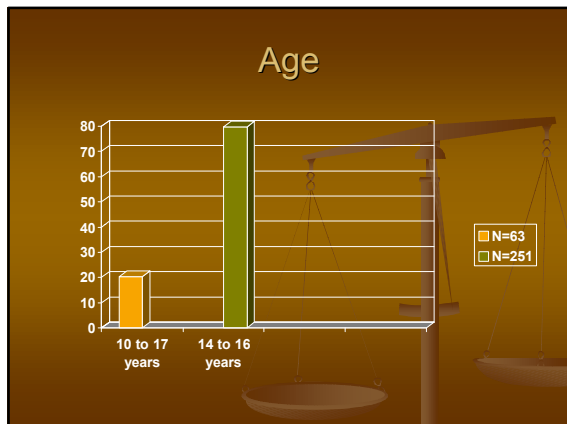
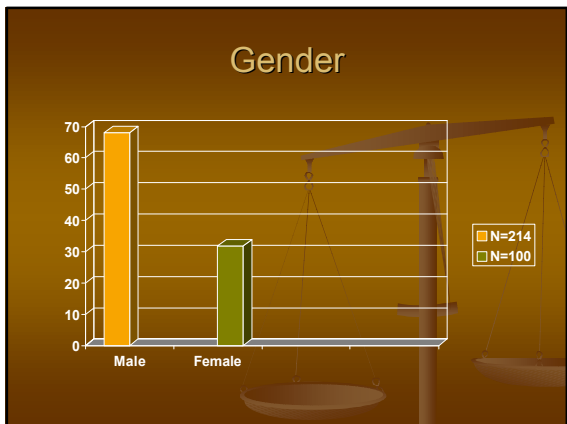


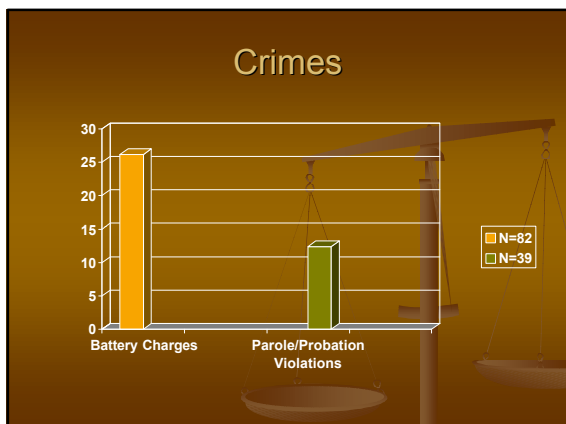
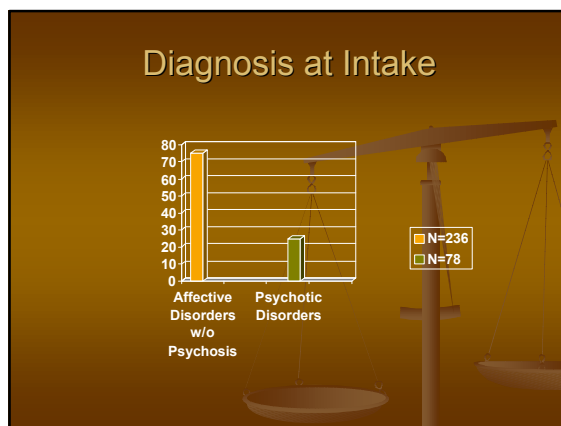
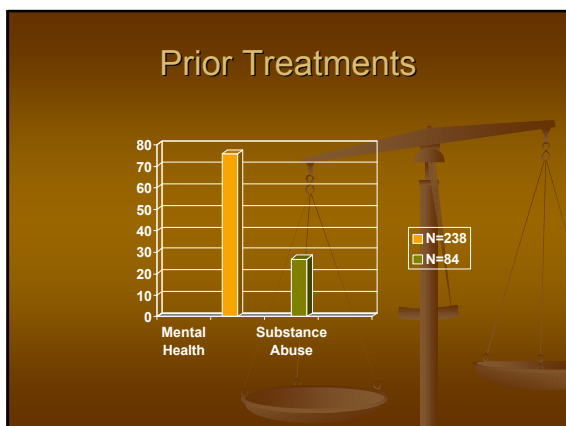
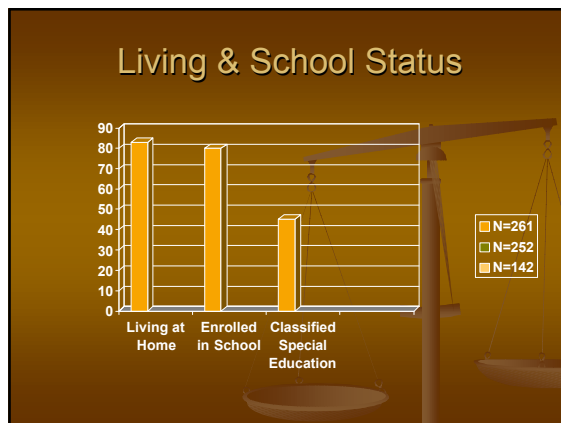
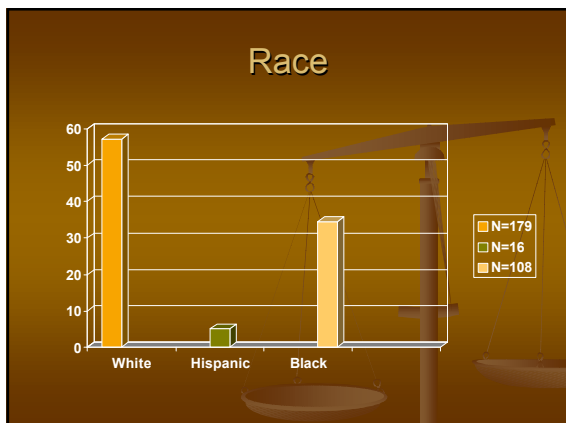
Program Design

- Strengthen linkages
- Coordinated care
- Family advocacy
- Wrap-around funds
- On-going training & technical assistance
- Evaluation



Methods

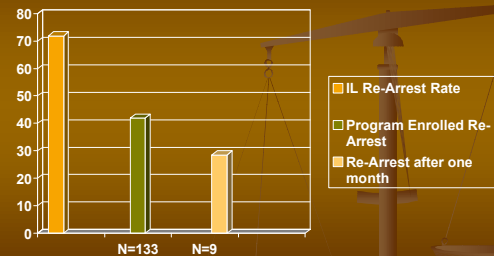




Mental Health Outcomes

- Youths w/Psychosis had greater reductions in presenting problems. (Nearly twice as much as those youth diagnosed w/ an affective disorder.)
- Youths w/Affective Disorders had significant improvement in Strengths at program discharge.

Forensic Outcomes



Factors Predicting Re-Arrest

- Running Away: Increased risk
- Sexually Abusive Behavior: Decreased risk
- Spiritual/Religious Strength: Decreased risk
- Talents & Interests: Decreased risk
- Improvements in Symptoms & Risk Behavior over 3 months: Decreased risk

School Outcomes

- 1 in 5 youths suspended during service episode.
- Per CANS analysis, predictors of a suspension:
 - 1) low level of Substance Abuse
 - 2) consistency of symptoms over situations
 - 3) low level of Crime/Delinquency
 - 4) when there are fewer Vocational strengths

Implications for Strength-Based Service Planning

- Youths with Affective Disorders: 'strengths' improved at program termination
- Having a Religious/Spiritual and/or Talent/Interest strength reduced the risk of re-arrest
- Lesser chance of a school suspension when the child has a Vocational strength

Inclusion of Strengths in Service Planning

- Completion of an assessment that includes a strength identification component (i.e. CANS, Empowerment Approach, Strengths Perspective, CAFAS, etc.)
- Going over the results of the assessment with the family (recommend: clinician/family advocate team)
- Ascertain what needs and strengths the child and family want to work on

Inclusion of Strengths in Service Planning Con't

- Based on the needs and strengths identified and agreed upon by the child and family, establish a Treatment/Service Plan
- Identify the need/strength, who is it for (child or family), who will implement, when it will begin and when it will be reviewed for efficacy

Strengths Resource Directory

- Historically, problems identified
- Currently, problems as well as strengths identified
- Challenge: build upon the strengths
- Possible solution: develop a local resource directory.

Strengths Resource Directory

- Through flex funding, employ an activities worker, youth advocate
- Works with the child to assist in identifying an interest (when strengths have not yet been identified)
- Links the child with an interest or current strength within the child's community
- Activities worker/youth advocate explore the strength with the child and integrate the child into the activity while having the parent on board to pick up where worker/advocate leave off

Finding Resources

- Focus groups with children: what are their interests, where have they explored interests
- Girls/Boys Clubs
- YMCA/YWCA
- Schools (guidance counselors)
- Art Institutes/Community Colleges
- Pennysavers/local/town papers

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