

# Measuring restrictiveness of living environments

- ► Environmental restrictiveness is a critical outcome in determining effectiveness of care for children/youth
- The Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale (ROLES) has been used since 1992 as a descriptive measure of program restrictiveness
- ▶ Conceptual Definition of the ROLES
  - A living environment can be made restrictive by :
     the physical facility, appearance and layout;

    - the rules and requirements that affect free movement, activity or choice;
    - ▶ and the voluntariness with which children and youths enter or leave the setting permanently

#### **ROLES**

- Jail
- State mental Hospital
- ► County detention center
- Youth correctional center
- ▶ Intensive treatment unit
- Drug-alcohol rehabilitation center
- Medical hospital (inpatient)
- ▶ Wilderness camp (24-hour, yearround)
- Residential treatment center
- Group emergency shelter ▶ Residential Job Corps center
- Group home

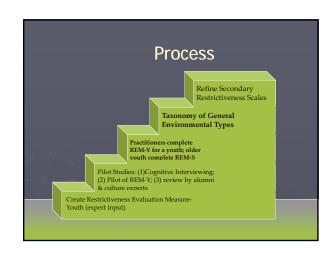
- ▶ Foster-family-based treatment
- ▶ Individual-home emergency
- Specialized foster care
- Regular foster care
- ▶ Supervised independent living
- ► Home of a family friend
- Adoptive home
- ► Home of a relative
- School dormitory
- ▶ Home of natural parents (for a
- ► Home of natural parents (18+)
- ▶ Independent living with friend
- Independent living by self

#### Research Questions

- ▶ Is it possible to create a conceptually-based reliable and valid supplementary measure of restrictiveness that permits greater precision in measuring environmental restrictiveness?
- ► Can this measure empirically describe the environments and provide the basis for general types of restrictiveness that are intuitive and flexible?

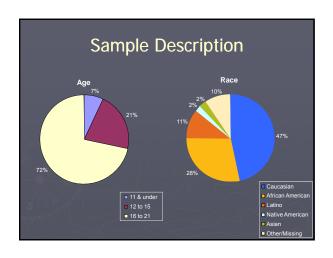
# **New Conceptual Definition**

Restrictiveness is the ways in which adults in a child's life have anticipated that limits need to be made for the child's safety, developmental and therapeutic needs.

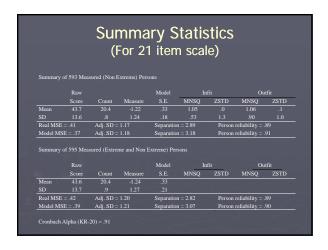


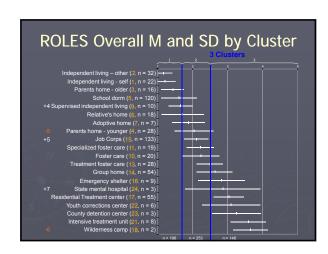
# 22nd Annual RTC Conference Presented in Tampa, March 2009

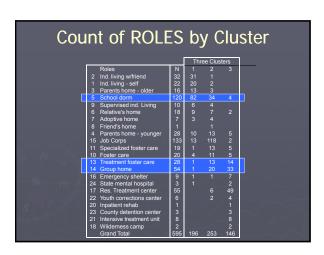
# Methods Email sent to 1000+ organizations and associations with link to the REM-Y Networking approach & direct appeals Sample of older youth from Casey Family Programs and Boy's Town Sample of older youth from several colleges The REM-Y or REM-S was completed on 595 youth











#### Limitations

- ▶ Small numbers in some of the settings (state hospital, inpatient rehabilitation) and none in others (jail, medical
- Some settings not in the ROLES were not added to the REM-Y e.g. military and homelessness
- ▶ Self-selection in respondents
- Preliminary-need to continue to establish the validity of the REM-Y and REM-S
- ▶ The REM-Y and REM-S was conceptualized by an adult perception of what makes an environment restrictive
  - Culture and gender bias needs to be further investigated

#### Conclusions

- ▶ ROLES needed to be revised
  - It is confounded by related issues such as normality, social desirability, etc.
  - Settings out of order, some obsolete, new settings not included
- ▶ The REM-Y is psychometrically sound
  - Development and review process worked to provide a broad range of restrictiveness items
     IRT helped refine items and supports the soundness of measure
- Cluster analysis supports and provides the basis for development of the General **Environment Types**

#### How would you use the REM-Y

- ▶ REM-Y could provide empirical information about the level of restriction, helping to support the evidence basis for communitybased interventions
- ▶ REM-Y could be used to assist with prospective individualized planning for services
- ► The REM-Y is free

# **Contact Information**

- ▶ Ron Thompson
  - thompsonr@boystown.org
- ▶ Peter Pecora
  - ppecora@casey.org

### **Sponsors**







#### Collaborators

- ▶ Jonathan C. Huefner, Ph.D.
  - Boys Town
- ► Mary Beth Rautkis, Ph.D.
  - University of Pittsburgh
- ► Kirk O'Brien, Ph.D.
  - Casey Family Programs

# **Appendix**

