

OHIO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH / JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE [BHJJ]

BHJJ is a diversion program for juvenile justice-involved youth ages 10-18 with mental health or substance abuse issues. In lieu of detention, youth are diverted into local, evidence-based behavioral health treatment.

4,338 youth enrolled in BHJJ

2006—
present

15.6 years old—average age

53% were non-white

63% were male



Mental health assessments revealed:

The most common DSM diagnoses were ADHD, cannabis disorders, ODD, and depressive disorders.

The majority of youth had a history of mental health and substance use issues in their families.

49% of females talked about suicide and 23% attempted suicide at least once.

Treatment outcomes indicated:



2 out of 3 youth completed treatment successfully



Treatment led to significant improvements in problem severity and functioning



Grades improved and school suspensions/expulsions were greatly reduced



BHJJ led to a 55% reduction in risk for out of home placement



Youth reported significant reductions in trauma symptoms and substance abuse



On average, BHJJ costs about \$5,000 per youth compared to \$180,000 to commit a youth to ODYS



Over 96% of youth were NOT sent to an ODYS institution following services