



The Impact of COVID-19 on Ohio's Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative

Overview

Ohio's Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) initiative, funded by the Ohio Departments of Youth Services and Behavioral Health, diverts youth with mental health and substance use needs away from detention and into community-based treatment programs.

This infographic presents KEY findings from a two-part evaluation:

Part 1: Examined how COVID impacted youth and families, data were compared from 1,280 youth enrolled before COVID (2016-2019) and 614 youth enrolled after COVID (2021-2024).

Part 2: Assessed post-COVID outcomes, changes from intake to termination were examined for the 614 youth enrolled post-COVID (2021-2024).



Part 1: Pre- and Post-COVID Intake Comparisons

Pre- and post-COVID groups were similar in age, race, & sex. Notably, suicidal ideation rates were also similar.

Some intake items **IMPROVED** pre- to post-COVID:

- **Socioeconomic status:** families earning above \$25,000 increased from 38% to 54%.
- **Problem severity** decreased and **functioning** increased for **Black males**.

Many intake items indicated **INCREASED NEED AND COMPLEXITY POST-COVID:**

- Increase in **Anxiety Disorders** (6% to 18%), **PTSD** (9% to 19%), and **Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders** (2% to 9%).
- Increase in **self-reported trauma symptoms**, (e.g. anger, dissociation, especially for females).
- Increase in **domestic violence exposure for females** (34% to 47%).
- Decrease in **resiliency for females**.
- Increase in use of **cannabis** (58% to 73%), **alcohol** (53% to 64%), and **hallucinogens** (4% to 11%) for **females**.
- Increase in **loneliness for males** (37% to 46%).



Part 2: Post-COVID Outcomes

Youth who enrolled and terminated post-COVID significantly **IMPROVED** on:

- **All six domains** of the **Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children**
- **Youth problem severity** and **functioning** on the **Ohio Scales**



Other key areas of **IMPROVEMENT** included:

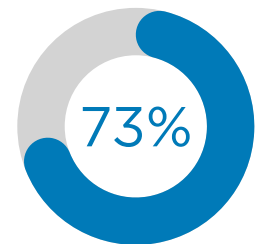
ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE
% receiving mostly A's, B's, C's

RISK FOR OUT OF
HOME PLACEMENT

REDUCED CONTACT
WITH LAW
ENFORCEMENT
DURING BHJJ

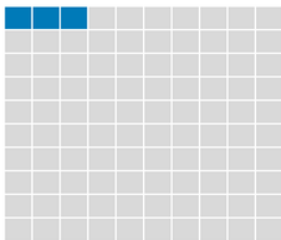
33% → 52%
INTAKE TERMINATION

DECREASED
↓ 44%

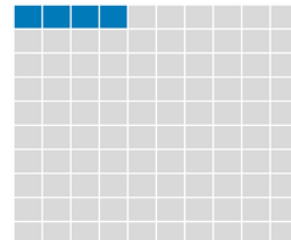


Commitment rates after BHJJ enrollment were **low**.

3% (20 YOUTH) WERE
COMMITTED TO A COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS FACILITY (CCF)

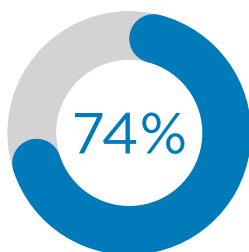


4% (22 YOUTH) WERE
COMMITTED TO AN OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH
SERVICES (ODYS) FACILITY



The post-COVID **success rate** was **high** and **increased** for **Black youth**.

POST-COVID **SUCCESSFUL
COMPLETION RATE**



**SUCCESSFUL
COMPLETION RATE FOR
BLACK YOUTH**

62% → 71%
PRE-COVID POST-COVID