

Annual OBE Report - Sample

Introduction

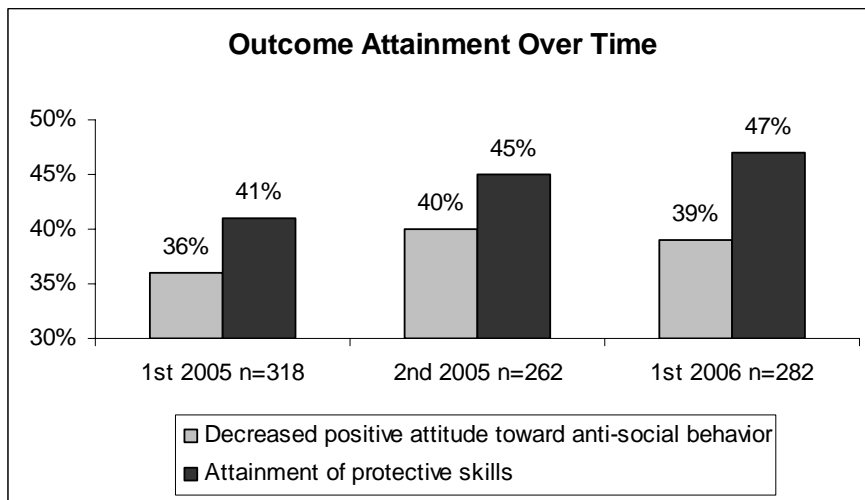
The Pierce County Juvenile Court Probation Department monitors youth who have committed criminal offenses and have been court ordered to community supervision. The length of time that a youth spends on community supervision is determined by the Judge, and usually ranges from three months to one year. Youth in this population are at a moderate or high risk to commit a criminal re-offense without any intervention. Probation services work with youth to identify risk and protective areas for behavioral or attitude changes while on probation.

During the last several years the Juvenile Court has been reviewing literature and has come across some interesting work conducted by the Centers for Disease Control; The Adverse Childhood Experience Study. This study determines the number of different types of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and calculates a score. The higher the score the more at risk a person is for negative health consequences. The Pierce County Juvenile Court decided to review the ACE scores for youth on probation to see if they correlated with the outcomes the Court is working to achieve. For this report, youth who have a high ACE score have had more and different types of childhood trauma. We would expect that the more traumas a youth has the less likely they would be to attain probation outcomes.

Question 1: Using 18 months of Outcome data and at least one other performance measure; explain the learnings that have occurred in this program using performance measures.

The Pierce County Juvenile Court uses two outcomes to understand how Community Supervision is performing. The first is *increased attainment of protective skills*; the second is *decreased positive attitude toward anti-social behavior*.

Chart 1. Outcome Attainment over Time



The graphic to the left depicts a slight increase in the *protective skills* from 41% to 47% over the 18-month view. At the same time there was an increase in the percentage of youth attaining the *attitude outcome* from 36% to 39%. This view of the data provides us with a long-term perspective; however we are also very interested in answering the following questions to

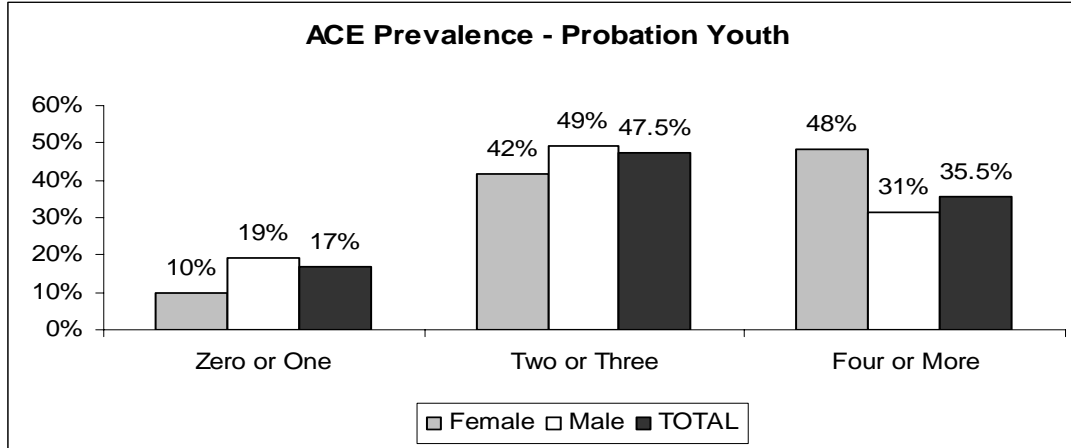
better inform our future plans.

- How are youth represented across ACE score category?
- How does the ACE score category influence the outcome attainment?

The second performance measure presented is the prevalence of ACE score category for all youth who participated in probation services from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006.

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Chart 2. ACE Score Category Prevalence



Eighty-three percent of the youth on probation have two or more adverse childhood experiences. It jumps to 90% for girls! Almost half of the boys on probation had 2 or 3 ACEs and almost half (48%) of the girls had Four or more ACEs. While this information doesn't surprise the Court, it is important in our understanding how trauma might be influencing behavior.

The second question posed by the Court was to help us understand if ACE category influences outcome attainment. Table 1 and Table 2 below summarize the outcome attainment by ACE category over time. The data illustrates that youth with Zero or One ACE achieves both outcomes at a higher percentage than youth with Four Plus ACEs. In only one instance (2nd 2005) did youth with Two or Three ACEs out-perform youth with Zero or One ACE in the *attitude outcome*; 38% for Zero or One compared to 45% for Two or Three.

Improvement in outcome attainment over-time is present in most of the ACE categories. For youth with Two or Three outcomes; attitude outcome attainment improved from 38% to 43% over the 18-month time period. At the same time these youth also improved in attaining protective skills from 39% to 50%. This improvement across ACE category is important because it could mean that the efforts to train probation officers in ART and conduct ART in house were effective regardless of ACE category.

Table 1. Decreased positive attitude toward anti-social behavior by ACE Category over time.

Decreased positive attitude toward anti-social behavior			
	1st 2005	2nd 2005	1st 2006
Zero or One	41%	38%	51%
Two or Three	38%	45%	43%
Four Plus	32%	20%	30%
Total	36%	40%	39%

Table 2. Increased attainment of protective skill by ACE Category over time.

Increased attainment of protective skills			
	1st 2005	2nd 2005	1st 2006
Zero or One	54%	53%	58%
Two or Three	39%	50%	50%
Four Plus	36%	30%	39%
Total	41%	45%	47%

Summary of Learnings

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- Protective skill attainment increased from 41% to 47% over the 18-month time frame. Why we think this happened: During this period the Court instituted a new training policy, where all probation officers were required to complete Aggression Replacement Training classes. In addition, the probation officers began teaching ART to probation youth, increasing the graduation rates from 30% to 75%.
- The prevalence of ACEs in youth on probation is with 48% of the girls have Four Plus ACEs and 81% of the boys with 2 or more ACEs. This data has turned our attention to opportunities for understanding how trauma influences criminal behavior.
- ACE category influences the attainment of both outcomes. The higher the ACE category the less likely a youth was to achieve the outcome. E.g. roughly 34% of youth with Four Plus ACEs achieved the protective skills attainment outcome, compared to 54% of youth with Zero or One ACE and 48% of youth with Two or Three ACEs.

Question 2: Given these lessons please describe your plans for the program for the next 6-12 months.

The Pierce County Juvenile Court probation department has made some significant strides to improve services that will enhance attainment of the outcomes. It is clear from the data that moderate improvements in outcome attainment for both protective skills and attitude toward criminal behavior are underway. The additional view of ACEs as a performance measure showed us the prevalence of ACEs and provides the Court with a new perspective for opportunities to assist youth to make positive behavioral changes. The plan for the next six to twelve months is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Future Plans

Activity	Relevant Data	Time Frame
Monitor the prevalence of ACEs in probation youth.	17% - Zero or One ACE 48% - Two or Three ACEs 35% - Four Plus ACEs	Begin – January 1 2007 – ongoing, to be collected annually. First collection in February 2008.
Identify strategies to increase protective skill attainment for youth with Four Plus ACEs	In the latest time period 50% or better of youth with three or fewer ACEs attained protective skills, compared to 39% of youth with Four Plus ACEs	Begin in July 2007 with a review of best practices, literature and interview probation officers. By January 2008 have a list of potential strategies for increasing protective skill attainment in youth with Four Plus ACEs.
Establish a practice of identifying the ACE Score at probation intake	ACE prevalence data (see above) indicates that we should know this information at the front end of services.	Beginning in January 2008, work with the software company to make the ACE score part of the intake report. Completion by September 2008.

In addition to these future plans the Pierce County Juvenile Court is committed to understanding how ACE score impacts felony re-offense post-discharge from probation. We will answer these questions for youth discharged in 2005; How does ACE category influence felony re-offense post-discharge from probation? Is there a relationship between felony re-offense and outcome attainment, when ACE category is included? This data will be available 2 years after a youth is discharged from probation, so by the time the next report is due we will have the relevant re-

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offense data for youth discharged in 2005. While this will not provide 18-months of data it should give us an initial understanding regarding this relationship.

Question 3: What else would you like your funder to know about the effectiveness of your program?

The Pierce County Juvenile Court reviews all outcome, output, re-offense and ACE data, by gender and ethnicity. If the Funders are interested in this view of the data please contact us.