

DJJS R&D Study

Purpose:

In accordance with the wishes of the Judge, the Pre-Disposition Sub-Committee and the Court Processes Sub-Committee have developed and conducted a preliminary investigation into the shortening of both the R&D process and the Report and Disposition itself. To accomplish this task, attention was focused on three areas identified as being significant to the stated goal: a study of recent statistical trends related to the R&D calendars, a deconstruction and analysis of the key components of an R&D, and the system-related processes surrounding R&D's.

Assumptions:

The primary assumption driving this investigation is that by reducing the length of the R&D (both physically and in process), the Average Length of Stay (ALOS) and Average Bed Days (ABD) in Detention can be reduced. Prior to the examination of statistical trends, there were several assumptions and questions surrounding R&D's in the DJJS Court System, including:

- ❑ What is the avg. Petition # for cases being referred to R&D?
- ❑ What is the classification breakdown for Critical Charges being referred to R&D?
- ❑ What is the ALOS for a youth pending R&D?
- ❑ What are some of the identifiable delays in the R&D process?

Background:

The primary purpose of the R&D is to provide information to the Court that is essential to the Judge in formulating an appropriate disposition. Complete and accurate information about all aspects of the case, with a recommendation when appropriate, enhances the Court's ability to order a disposition that represents the best interests of the juvenile, the family, and the community.

The writing of the R&D is a person-to-person task. The probation officer must interview the juvenile and parent(s)/guardian(s) and gather pertinent information and evaluations to the particular case, as well as discern (if possible) the attitudes, personality, home situation, school history, prior record, etc. of the juvenile. The probation officer then analyzes this information to develop a recommendation to the court for disposition of the youth.

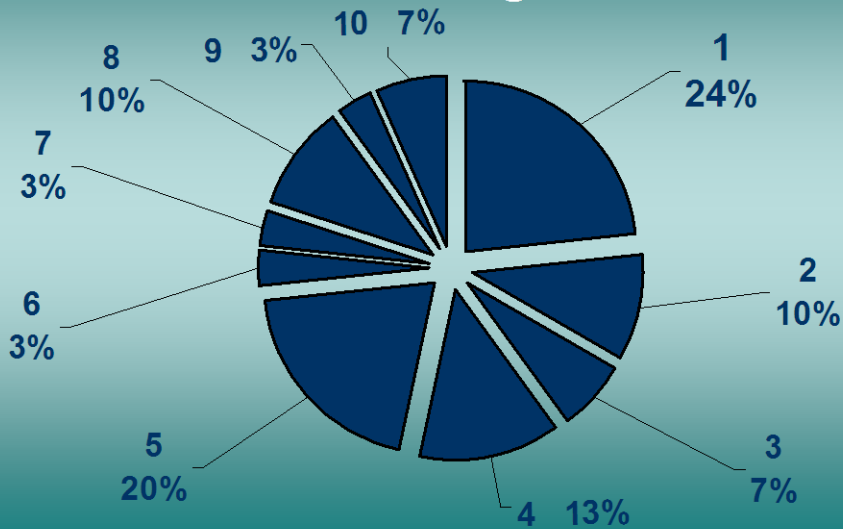
Study Results:

As the answers to the questions being posed were of a nature unattainable through standard report measures, a manual survey was necessary to obtain the data being sought. To create a blind data snapshot as unbiased by daily or weekly trends/circumstances as possible, thirty R&D reports were randomly pulled over a five-week sample period. The statistical data that follows was extracted and compiled from the blind samples.

DJJS R&D Study Findings

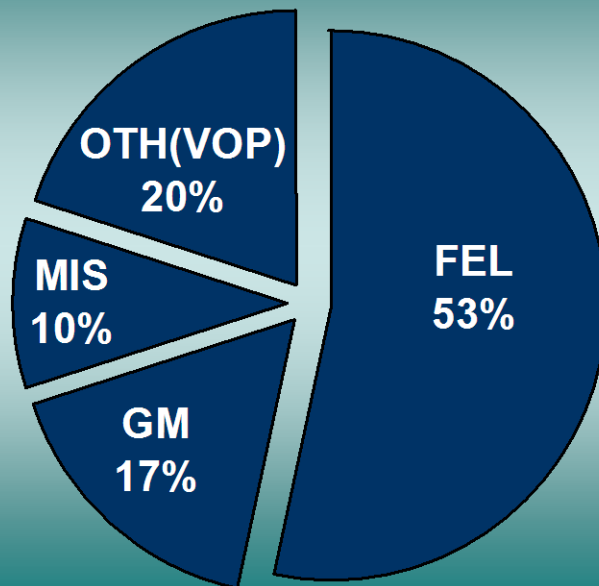
- ✓ 30 Dispositional Reports were randomly pulled & tracked over 5-week sample period.
- ✓ The avg. Petition #: 3.5, breakdown: 1(7-23%), 2(3-10%), 3(2-6%), 4(4-13%), 5(6-20%), 6(1-3%), 7(1-3%), 8(3-10%), 9(1-3%), 10(2-6%)
- ✓ Breakdown of Critical Charges: FEL-16 (53%), GM-5 (17%), MIS-3 (10%), OTH (VOP)-6 (20%)
- ✓ There is an inversion of Petition to Critical Charge: Early Petition (1-5) R&D's were for FEL & GM charges, while later Petitions (6-10) were for lower classifications, i.e. MIS & OTH(VOP)
- ✓ Overall avg. # of days from DH to R&D: 30.8
- ✓ Overall avg. # of days from Plea to R&D: 19.9
- ✓ Avg. # of days if straight through; DH, Plea, R&D: 25.7
- ✓ Of 10 that were set for CH, avg. # of days added: 29.7
- ✓ Of the 15 who were Detained and have since been Released/Placed, the ALOS: 34 days
- ✓ Of 15 Ordered, avg. # of days for Psych. Eval. to be completed: 11.2 (with 1 placed at Montevista before eval. completed)
- ✓ Outcomes: FP-12 (40%), ALP-2 (7%), RTC-3 (10%), ROP-2 (7%), SMYC-8 (26%), DCFS-3 (10%)
- ✓ None were Continued due to "Report not finished."

Avg. Petition # for Referral to R&D - Overall Avg. = 3.4



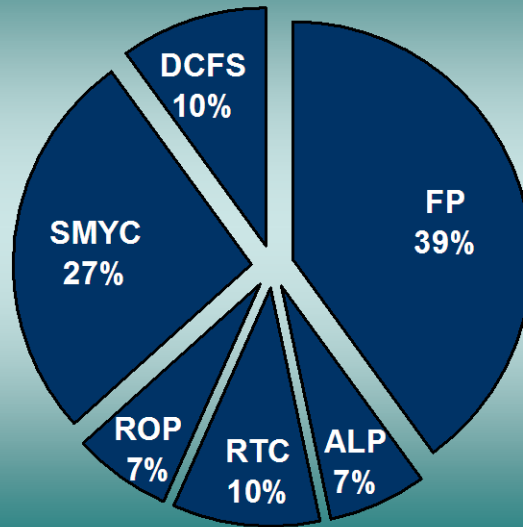
Pet. # 1(7), 2(3), 3(2), 4(4), 5(6), 6(1), 7(1), 8(3), 9(1), 10(2)

Breakdown of Critical Charges



FEL-16, GM-5, MIS-3, OTH(VOP)-6

Final Outcome of R&D



FP-12, ALP-2, RTC-3, ROP-2, SMYC-8, DCFS-3

Bed Days Related to R&Ds

