Rapides Parish 2009 Ungovernable Referrals to Informal FINS

Current Louisiana statute allows for youths who are deemed "ungovernable" to be served as part of the Louisiana Supreme Court's Families in Need of Supervision (FINS) program. According to the Louisiana Children's Code (CHC 730.2), ungovernable is defined as "the child's habitual disregard of the lawful and reasonable demands of his caretakers and that the child is beyond their control." In 2009, 312 youth were referred to the Rapides Parish Informal FINS program and almost 60% were referred for ungovernable behavior. Unfortunately, this term does not provide a clear description of the types of behaviors or problems being displayed by the youth. This lack of clarity hinders obtaining a clear description of the FINS population served in Rapides Parish. Thus, as part of the Louisiana Models for Change in Juvenile Justice Initiative, funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Rapides Parish Juvenile Court requested that the University of New Orleans (UNO) collect data to provide a description of the ungovernable population in Rapides Parish Informal FINS program.

The data reported were obtained from the Intake Forms filled out by the Informal FINS case managers at the time of referral to the program. All of the information in the report is reported by the parent at the time of intake. A list of all youth referred to the Rapides Parish Informal FINS program for ungovernable behavior in 2009 was obtained from the FINSAP data that is provided to UNO from the Louisiana Supreme Court. The list contained 186 names of youth who were entered into FINSAP in 2009 for an ungovernable referral. Each case was assigned a study ID number. Then, Informal FINS staff went through the internal case management paper files to identify each case, remove all identifying information, and then photo copy the FINS intake form (see Appendix A). These forms were sent to UNO for coding and analysis.

Based on the intake form, three broad categories were created: School Comments, Family Problems, and School Problems Reported by the Family. In total, 51 behaviors/problems, including an "other" item for each of the three categories, were coded from the Intake Form. In order to ensure reliability of the data coding process, two coders independently entered the data from all available intake forms into separate excel files. Based on the information reported on each intake form, the coders chose which of the 51 behaviors/problems were reported by selecting "yes" or "no." The rate of agreement between the two coders was used as an estimate of the reliability of this coding system. On average, 94% of the items were coded the same by each of the coders with level of agreement ranging from 80% to 100% across items. A Cohen's Kappa coefficient of inter-rater agreement, which corrects for the amount of agreement expected due to chance, was calculated for each item. Results indicated satisfactory interrater agreement (Average kappa = 0.621, range 0.195-1.00) (see Appendix B). Discrepancies between raters were reviewed by a third rater and a final rating was based on a second review of the form. Additional socio-demographic information was obtained from the Intake Form as well. This information provides a description of the race, gender, age, school information, income, and legal history of the youth.

Finally, data from the FINSAP system was merged with the Intake Form data. FINSAP is the Louisiana Supreme Court's administrative data system used by Informal FINS offices across the state. Referral source and additional problem behaviors listed in FINSAP were used to provide additional

descriptors of the population. The date of the referral entered into FINSAP was also used to compare the date specified on the Intake Form to ensure that the right cases were being coded. Based on this process, 20 cases were removed from the data file due to inconsistency in dates.

Of the original list of youth sent to the Rapides Parish Informal FINS office (n=186), 10 cases did not have intake forms and five were duplicate cases. This resulted in a sample size of 171 cases with some data. After removing the 20 cases with inconsistent referral dates, the final sample size was 151 referrals to the Informal FINS office in 2009 for ungovernable behavior. Of the 151 cases with some information included on the Intake Form, there was a considerable amount of missing information (i.e., section on the intake form left blank). For instance, only 35% of the sample had school comments reported on the intake form. Similarly, the Mental Health History, Law Enforcement and Drug Related Issues, and Juvenile Court History were left blank in many cases. This lack of information limited the amount of information that could be gained from these data.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics

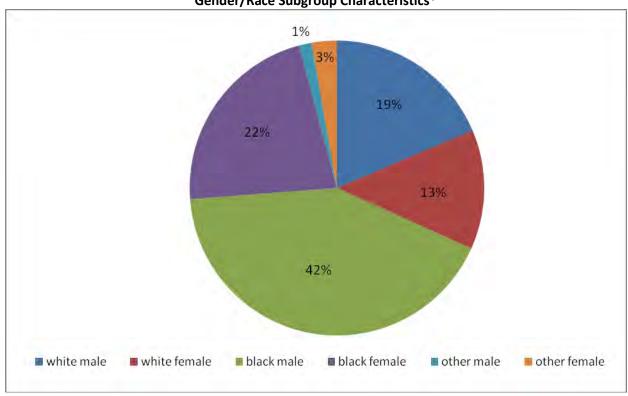
Sixty-four percent of the youth referred for ungovernable were Black, compared to 37% of the youth population (aged 10-17) residing in Rapides Parish in 2009 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). As can be seen below, Black males accounted for the largest proportion of the sample. The average age was 13.8 with a standard deviation of 2.1 (range = 5-17). Seventy-eight percent of the sample resided with a biological parent, 12% resided with a grandparent, and 10% with a legal guardian. Over three-fourths of the sample received some form of financial assistance (i.e., free lunches, food stamps, or both).

Gender and Race Characteristics

	# of Cases*	% of Cases
Gender		
Male	90	61.2
Female	57	38.8
Race		
White	46	31.5
Black	94	64.4
Other	6	4.1

^{* 4} cases were missing gender information and 5 cases were missing race information.

Gender/Race Subgroup Characteristics*



^{* 6} cases were missing race and/or gender information.

Proportion of Sample Receiving Financial Assistance

	# of Cases*	% of Cases
Receiving Free Lunch at School		
Yes	91	77.8
No	26	22.2
Receiving Food Stamps		
Yes	49	43.4
No	64	56.6

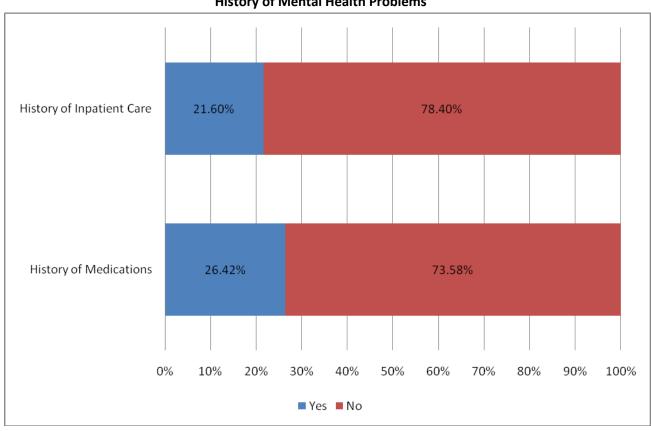
^{* 34} cases were missing lunch information and 38 cases were missing food stamps information.

History of Legal Problems

	# of Cases*	% of Cases
Prior Involvement with Police	34	29.6
Held in Renaissance Detention Center	6	5.0
Been in Juvenile Court	13	10.7

^{*} Missing data for this information ranged from 30 cases to 36 cases.

History of Mental Health Problems



^{* 49} cases were missing inpatient information and 45 cases were missing medication information.

School Information

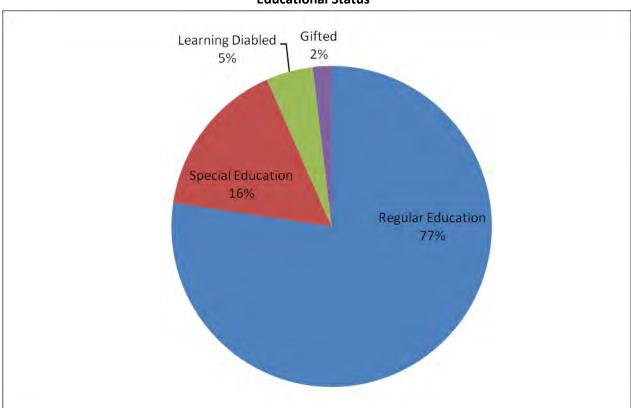
The average grade level for this sample was 7.43 with a standard deviation (SD) of 2.2 (range = 1-12). The average number of suspensions per child was 1.79 (SD = 1.89). Twenty-four percent of the sample did not have any previous suspensions reported. Nearly three-quarters of the sample did not have any expulsions reported.

Top Six Schools Attended

	# of Cases*	% of Cases
LEAD Center	13	8.6
Pineville Junior High	10	6.6
Tioga High	10	6.6
Arthur Smith	9	6.0
Brame Junior High	9	6.0
Tioga Junior High	9	6.0

 $^{^{*}}$ 15 cases were missing schools name. These six school account for 40% of the sample.

Educational Status*



^{* 45} cases were missing educational status.

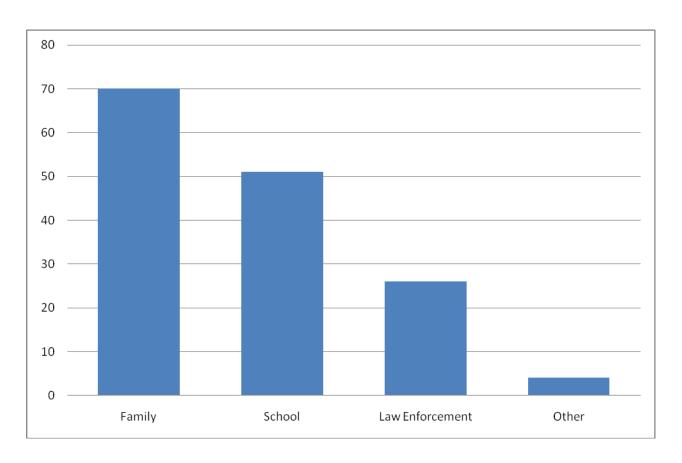
Sources of Ungovernable Referrals

Family referrals accounted for the largest number of ungovernable referrals, followed by school referrals, and law enforcement. There was wide variation in the schools that referred youth for ungovernable. The most common school was the LEAD Center with 6 (11.8%) referrals, followed by Brame Junior High with 5 (10%) referrals (this information was based on the school the child was attending at the time of FINS referral).

Referral Source (n=151)*

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Family	70	46.4
School	51	33.8
Law Enforcement	26	17.2
Other	4	2.6

^{*} These data were taken from the 2009 FINSAP data.



Number and Type of Behaviors/Problems Reported

The average number of behaviors/problems reported on the Intake Form or with supplemental information (e.g., police report, FINSAP) was 4.02 (SD=2.84). As can be seen, the most common behaviors reported were family problems. Based on the referral source listed in FINSAP, when school problems were the only type of problems reported, schools accounted for over three-fourths of the referrals. When family problems were reported, family referrals accounted for the largest portion of referrals.

Total Number of Behaviors/Problems Reported

	# of Cases	Average	SD	Range
School Comments	52	2.25	1.33	1-6
School Problems Reported by the Family	51	1.39	0.60	1-3
Family Problems	120	2.58	1.72	1-10
Total Behaviors/Problems Reported	148*	4.10	2.81	1.14

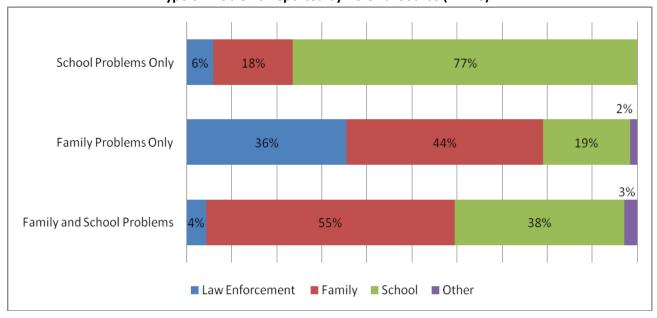
^{*} Three cases did not have any behaviors reported.

Type of Problems Reported

	# of Cases*	% of Cases
School Problems Only**	17	11.5
Family Problems Only	62	41.9
School and Family Problems	69	46.6
Total Cases	148	

^{*} Three cases did not have any behaviors reported.

Type of Problems Reported by Referral Source (n=148)



^{*} Three cases were missing behavior information.

^{**} School Problems include information in the school comments section and/or school problems reported by family.

Behaviors/Problems Resulting in an Ungovernable Referral to Informal FINS

This information represents all types of behaviors/problems reported on the intake form, family problems section and school comments section of the intake form, additional problem behaviors listed in FINSAP, additional FINS behaviors checked on the intake form, and supplemental forms attached to the intake form (e.g., police report).

Behaviors/problems reported from different sources were combined into an overall category indicating if the behavior/problem was reported by one or more of the sources (=1) or if the behavior/problem was not reported by any of the sources (=0). The 15 categories reported below encompass all of the 51 original behaviors/problems coded (see the note below for a description of each category).

Disobedience at home (e.g., talks back, won't listen, doesn't follow rules) and disobedience at school (e.g., talks in class, violates school rules) were the most common behaviors/problems. Over one-third of the sample was also referred for running away/leaving home, truancy, and aggressive behavior.

Type of Behaviors/Problems Reasons for an Ungovernable Referral to Informal FINS (n=148)*

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Disobedience at Home	83	56.1
Disobedience at School	64	43.2
Running Away/Leaving Home without Permission	57	38.5
Truancy	56	37.2
Aggressive Behavior	49	33.1
Substance Use	34	23.0
Arguing with Family Members	26	17.6
Illegal Behavior	23	15.5
Suspensions/Expulsions	18	12.2
Negative Peers/Gangs	14	9.5
Mental Health Problems	13	8.8
Problems with School Work	13	8.8
Experience of Adverse Events	9	6.1
Lying	8	5.4
Other	4	2.7

^{*} Three cases were missing behavior information. The average number of behaviors reported was 4. These categories are not mutually exclusive.

Note: Running away/Leaving without Permission includes a history of running away, leaves home without permission, sneaks out, and curfew violations; Truancy includes skips school, leaves school without permission, additional FINS offense of Truancy; Aggressive Behavior includes bullying, physical fighting with parents or siblings, fighting at school, violent at home or school, loses temper, angry or aggressive at school, verbal threats, and physical threats; Substance Use includes marijuana, "drug use", drinks alcohol, or smokes cigarettes; Illegal Behavior includes stealing at home or at school, sexual harassment, selling drugs, bringing weapons to school, and breaking and entering; Negative Peers/Gangs includes negative peers and gang-related activity; Mental Health Problems includes depression, ADHD, harm to self, family seeking help, and suicidal; Problems with School Work includes poor grades, doesn't complete assignments, and failing; Experience of Adverse Events includes divorce, experience of trauma (e.g., family member died, family member incarcerated), and a history of abuse.

Referrals for Disobedience

This information summarizes the additional referral reasons for youth who were described as disobedient at home and disobedient at school. This information represents all behaviors/problems listed on all available sources of information (i.e., intake form, FINSAP, supplemental information).

For youth described as disobedient at home, over half were also described as having a history of running away or leaving home without permission. Disobedience at school, aggressive behavior, and truancy were also reported for over 40% of the ungovernable referrals. For youth described as disobedient at school, over 60% were also described as disobedient at home.

Additional Behaviors/Problems Reported for Youth who were Reported Disobedient at Home (n=83)

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Running Away/Leaving Home without Permission	44	53.0
Disobedience at School	39	47.0
Aggressive Behavior	37	44.6
Truancy	34	41.0
Substance Use	25	30.1
Arguing with Family Members	22	26.5
Negative Peers/Gangs	13	15.7
Illegal Behavior	9	10.8
Suspensions/Expulsions	8	9.6
Mental Health Problems	3	3.6
Problems with School Work	7	8.4
Lying	7	8.4
Experience of Adverse Events	1	1.2
Other	1	1.2

^{*} The average number of behaviors reported for youth were reported as disobedient at home was 5.02 (SD=2.94).

Additional Behaviors/Problems Reported for Youth who were Reported Disobedient at School (n=64)

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Disobedience at Home	39	60.9
Truancy	31	48.4
Aggressive Behavior	21	32.8
Running Away/Leaving Home without Permission	19	29.7
Substance Use	14	21.9
Suspensions/Expulsions	14	21.9
Problems with School Work	8	12.5
Arguing with Family Members	8	12.5
Negative Peers/Gangs	5	7.8
Illegal Behavior	5	7.8
Mental Health Problems	4	6.2
Lying	4	6.2
Experience of Adverse Events	2	3.1
Other	1	1.0

^{*} The average number of behaviors reported for youth were reported as disobedient at school was 4.83 (SD=2.76).

Family Problems

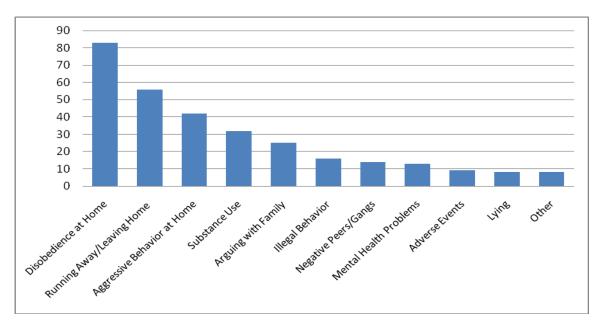
The following sections separate the behaviors/problems by family or school problems. The section below describes the family problems that were reported for youth that had at least one family problem reported (n=120). The next section summarizes the school problems that were noted on all youth with at least one school problem reported (n=86). For each of the broad categories, an overall description/categorization (similar to the categories above) of behaviors/problems is presented. Then, a list of the specific items coded from the intake forms follows.

The information below summarizes the types of family problems reported on the intake form and any supplemental information. As can be seen, nearly 70% of cases were described as disobedient at home (e.g., talks back, doesn't follow rules, bad language). Running away from home/leaving without permission, aggressive behavior at home, and substance use were also reported in over one-fourth of the referrals to the Informal FINS office for ungovernable behavior.

Type of Family Problems Reported (n=120)

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Disobedience at Home	83	69.2
Running Away/Leaving Home without Permission	56	46.7
Aggressive Behavior at Home	42	35.0
Substance Use	32	26.7
Arguing with Family	25	20.8
Illegal Behavior	16	13.3
Negative Peers/Gangs	14	11.7
Mental Health Problems	13	10.8
Adverse Events	9	7.5
Lying	8	6.7
Other	8	6.7

^{*} The average number of family problems reported was 2.58 (SD=1.72). These categories are not mutually exclusive.



Specific Family Problems

Of the 151 cases with valid data, 120 (80%) had comments written about the family in the "family problems" section. Nearly 70% of family problems involved disobedience (e.g., doesn't follow rules, talks back). Additional behaviors/problems that were commonly noted on the intake form included leaving the house without permission/staying out past curfew (28%), easily angered/loses temper (22%), and arguing with parents (16%).

Specific Family Problems Reported by the Family (n=120)

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Disobedience	83	69.2
Leaving without Permission/Curfew	33	27.5
Angry/Temper	26	21.7
Arguing with Parents	19	15.8
Stealing at Home	14	11.7
Negative Peers/Gangs	13	10.8
Running Away	11	9.2
Physically Fighting with Parents	10	8.3
Drug Use (Marijuana and other illegal drugs)	10	8.3
Lying	8	6.7
Physical Threats	8	6.7
Verbally Threatening/Bullying	7	5.8
Physically Fighting with Siblings	7	5.8
Violent Behavior	7	5.8
Depression	6	5.0
Parents Divorced	5	5.0
Tobacco	5	4.2
Cursing/Poor Language	5	4.2
Seeking Help	5	2.5
Arguing with Siblings	4	3.2
Experienced Trauma	4	3.3
Sexually Active	3	2.5
Alcohol	3	2.5
Harm to Self	2	1.7
History of Abuse	2	1.7
Other*	6	5.8

^{*} Other includes ADHD, borderline personality disorder, unstable living environment, throwing rocks at houses, arson, and sexual harassment.

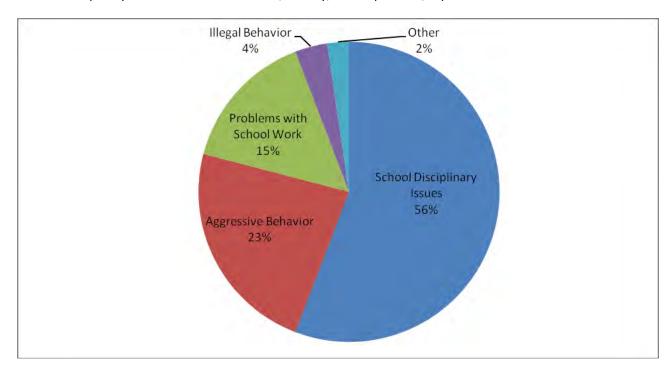
School Problems

This information includes school problems reported in the school comments section of the intake form, by family members, additional FINS offenses, or additional problem behaviors entered into FINSAP. As can be seen, over half of the 86 cases with problems at school had disciplinary problems. Of the youth with school disciplinary problems, and almost a quarter were referred for aggressive behavior at school.

Types of School Problems Reported (n=86)

	# of Cases	% of Cases
School Disciplinary Issues	48	55.8
Aggressive Behavior at School	20	23.3
Problems with School Work	13	15.1
Illegal Behavior at School	3	3.5
Other	2	2.3

^{*} School disciplinary issues include disobedience, truancy, and suspensions, expulsions.



School Disciplinary Issues Broken Down by Type of Behavior/Problem (n=48)

	# of Cases	% of Cases
School Disobedience	34	70.8
Truancy	30	62.5
Suspensions	6	12.5
Expulsions	5	10.4

^{*} The average number of school problems reported for youth with school disciplinary issues was 1.69 (SD=1.09). These categories are not mutually exclusive.

Specific Behaviors/Problems Reported in the School Comments

Of the 151 cases with valid information, only 52 (34.4%) had school comments written in the "school comments" section of the intake form. Based on the 52 cases with valid data, almost two-thirds were described as disobedient in school (e.g., not listening, talks in class, doesn't follow rules). Other common behaviors/problems were fighting at school (27%), truancy (25%), and a history of suspensions (21%).

Specific Behaviors/Problems Reported by the School (n=52)

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Disobedience at School	34	64.2
Fighting at School	14	26.9
Truancy	13	25.0
Suspensions	11	21.2
Refuses to Do School Work	8	15.4
Physical Threats at School	7	13.5
Verbal Threats at School	5	9.6
Angry/Aggressive at School	4	7.7
Bringing Weapons to School	3	5.8
Stealing at School	3	5.8
Poor Grades/Failing	2	3.8
Expulsions	2	3.8
Harm to Self	1	1.9
Other**	11	21.2

^{*} Some youth are included in multiple behavioral items. The average number of behaviors reported in the "school comments" section of the intake form was 2.25 (SD=1.32).

Specific School Problems Reported by the Family

Of the 151 cases with valid information, only 51 (33.8%) had comments about school written in the "Family Probations" section of the intake form. Based on the 51 cases with valid data, almost half were described as disobedient in school. Truancy was also commonly reported by the family (41%).

Specific School Behaviors/Problems Reported by the Family (n=51)

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Disobedience at School	25	49.0
Truancy	21	41.2
Refuses to Do School Work	5	9.8
Poor Grades/Failing	5	9.8
Expulsions	5	9.8
Fighting at School	4	7.8
Suspensions	3	5.9
Verbal Threats at School	2	3.9
Bringing Weapons to School	1	2.0

^{*} Some youth are included in multiple behavioral items. The average number of behaviors reported in the "school comments" section of the intake form was 1.39 (SD=0.60).

^{**} Other includes behaviors that were reported once. Examples include: ADHD, sexual harassment, and gang labels.

Additional Sources of Behavioral Information

In addition to the three main categories of behaviors/problems reported above, supplementary sources of information were also available including police reports (n=17) attached to the intake form, other FINS behaviors reported in FINSAP (n=41), and additional FINS offenses marked on the intake form. All of the cases that are included in the data below also had information in at least one of the three categories referenced above (i.e., school comments, school problems reported by the family, and family problems).

Specific Behaviors/Problems Reported from Supplemental Sources of Information

	# of Cases	% of Cases
Police Report	17	11.3
Behaviors Reported on the Police Report		
Stealing	6	35.3
Fighting/Arguing with Family	6	35.3
Running Away	3	17.6
Other	2	11.8
FINSAP	41	27.2
Additional Problem Behaviors Reported in FINSAP		
Violate School Rules	21	51.2
Truancy	10	31.7
Runaway	5	3.3
Tobacco	1	2.4
Curfew	1	2.4
Intake Form		
Additional FINS offenses Marked on Intake Form		
Truancy	28	59.6
Violate School Rules	16	34.0
Runaway	2	4.3
Caretaker Contributes to Behavior	1	2.1

Appendix A: Informal FINS Intake Form

Families in Need of Services Intake

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	Date: 1	
Clients Demographics:		
First Name:	Last Name:	
Date of Birth:/	Current Age: Sex:	Race:
Height:'" Weigh	t:lbs. Eye Color: I	Hair Color:
SS#:	Place of Birth:	
Identifying Marks:		
Guardians Information:		
Guardians Name:	Relations	hip: Biological Parent(s)
		Grandparent Legal Guardian
City:Zip:	Home Phone:	Relative: Foster Parent
Work Phone: ()	Cell Phone:	Other:
Do you live: in City Limits?	Y or N Do you have reliable transportat	tion? Yor N
List of Others in Home:		
Name:	Relationship:	Age:
Place of Employment:	Househo Do they contribute to household in	old Income: \$(Monthly)
Receive Food Stamps? Y of	Receive Child Support? Y or N	
Anyone Receiving SSI? Y or	N (explain)	
Free or reduced lunch? Y) or 1	N	
School Information:	*(This School Year)*	
School Attending:		Grade:
Ever Been Suspended?	How Many Times? From Whi	ch School?
Ever Been Expelled?	How Many Times? From Which S	chool?
Regular Ed: Special	Ed: Learning Disabled:	Gifted:
School Comments:		

Childs Name: Last Name: DOB: /
Mental Health History:
Doctor: Last Visit:
Medications: Dosages: Taken When:
Been treated Inpatient for Mental Health? Y or N Where?
How Long Ago? How Many Times? Medical Insurance?
Prior Self Harm? Y or N How?
Law Enforcement and Drug related Issues:
Minor Ever Runaway? Y or N For How Long? How Many Times?
Prior involvement with the police? Y or N For What? Agency:
Any Suspected Drug Use? y or N What kind? How Much?
When? How Often? Use Alcohol?
Juveniles Court History:
Has your child been held in Renaissance Detention Center? Y or N Why?
Been in Juvenile Court Before? Y or N Charged With?
Outcome of Court? Probation (officer:) Group Home Placement Community Service Charge Dropped Still in process Other:
Families Problem: **Brief description of what is going on. ** DISOBERIENT BT SCHOOL DAD HOME WET RESTER POL ANGLE FIGURE NOT A BOD BED HUNCUER HE TRYS TO BE
Services I am interested in: Mental Health Assessment Community Service LaChip Tutoring Anger Mgt. Education Counseling Other: Alternative schooling Self Esteem Ed. Parenting Other: OCS Referral Special Ed. Referral Boot Camp **STAFF ONLY:** Interview By:
Officers Comments:CourtPoliceSchoolParentLafargueOther:

Appendix B: Inter-Rate Agreement Information

	Cohen's Kappa	Proportion the Same
School Comments (n=52)		
Fighting at School	.708	89%
Self Harm at School	**	98%
Physical Threats	.692*	93%
Verbal Threats	.646*	96%
School Disobedience	.710*	87%
Truancy	.566*	84%
Stealing at School	.656*	98%
School Suspensions	.695*	89%
Expulsions	.464*	91%
Problems with School Work	.559*	91%
Poor Grades	.656*	98%
Bringing Weapons to School	.789*	98%
Angry/Aggressive at School	.643*	96%
Other Problems at School	.129*	67%
School Problems Reported by the Family (n=51)		
Fighting at School	.641*	95%
Physical Threats	**	98%
Verbal Threats	.658*	98%
Disobedience at School	.599*	80%
Truancy	.927*	96%
Problems with School Work	.312*	93%
Poor Grades/Failing	.641*	95%
Suspensions	.647*	96%
Expulsions	.637*	95%
Other Problems at School	.195	89%
Family Problems (n=120)		
Physical Fighting with Siblings	.757*	98%
Harm to Self at Home	.494*	99%
Verbal Threats	.425*	96%
Physical Threats	.399*	94%
, Marijuana Use	.653*	97%
Gang-Related Behavior	1.00*	100%
Negative Peers	.802*	97%
Sexual Behavior	.658*	96%
Seeking Help	**	95%
Alcohol Use	1.00*	100%
Tobacco Use	1.00*	100%
Arguing with Parents	.550*	89%
Arguing with Siblings	.485*	97%
Physical Fighting with Parents	.718*	96%
Violent at Home	.335*	92%
Running Away from Home	.484*	92%
Disobedience at Home	.740*	89%
Angry/Loses Temper	.814*	94%
Stealing at Home	.830*	97%
Curfew Violations	.766*	92%
Lying	.189*	94%
Divorce	.853*	99%
History of Abuse	**	96%
Experience of Trauma	.885*	99%
Poor Language	.276*	97%
Depression	.488*	97%
Other Problems at Home	.405*	91%
* p < .001.		

^{*} p < .001.

^{**} Cohen's Kappa coefficient could not be estimated because one of the raters selected "no" for all cases.