

## LOUISIANA MfC BRIEF

### Louisiana Juvenile Justice Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Services Inventory

#### DESCRIPTION

A fundamental tenet of the Louisiana Models for Change initiative is that all reforms should be data-driven. Such data-driven decision making ensures that the initiative's efforts are targeted at critical gaps in the system, that limited resources are used efficiently, and that improvements can be monitored as the initiative progresses. At both the state and local level, innovative needs assessment and data collection efforts have driven reform in the state.

Similarly, a critical first step to building evidence-based practices at the local level is ensuring that planning entities have sufficient knowledge about the current state of affairs within their parishes or regions about the use of scientifically sound screening and assessment instruments, and evidence-based or promising practices. To assist in this assessment, a web-based survey tool was created and is available to all parishes seeking to conduct a an inventory of their juvenile justice related services and interventions.

#### *The Juvenile Justice System Screening, Assessment and Treatment Services Inventory.*

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ) and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) jointly developed a *Juvenile Justice System Screening, Assessment and Treatment Services Inventory* that can be easily administered in

parishes and regions to inform decision makers and planning boards about the current state of affairs in their area. The *Inventory*, which has been successfully implemented in nine Louisiana parishes and Office of Juvenile Justice to date, is a web-based tool housed at LSUHSC. It is available to all parishes seeking to conduct a needs assessment around the use of EBPs and screening and assessment tools.

In addition to serving as a planning tool for local jurisdictions, the *Inventory* has provided Louisiana with a mechanism to monitor the extent of EBP adoption as reform has progressed. In

fact, significant changes have already been observed since the initial implementation of the survey in 2006.

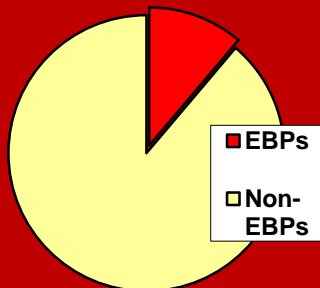
#### TARGET AUDIENCE

This tool is meant to be utilized by state agency administrators, regional directors, parish governments, and Children & Youth Planning Boards.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

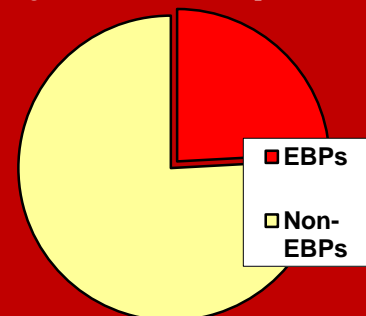
To learn more or use this tool, visit <http://publichealth.lsuhsoc.edu/iphj/default.html> or contact [sphil2@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:sphil2@lsuhsc.edu).

*In 2006, only 11% of Louisiana juvenile justice providers surveyed were utilizing an evidence-based practice*



*leaving youth with a 9 out of 10 chance of receiving a non-proven service.*

*In 2009, 32% of Louisiana juvenile justice providers surveyed were now utilizing an evidence-based practice*



*One out of five youth being served may now have a chance of receiving a research proven service.*