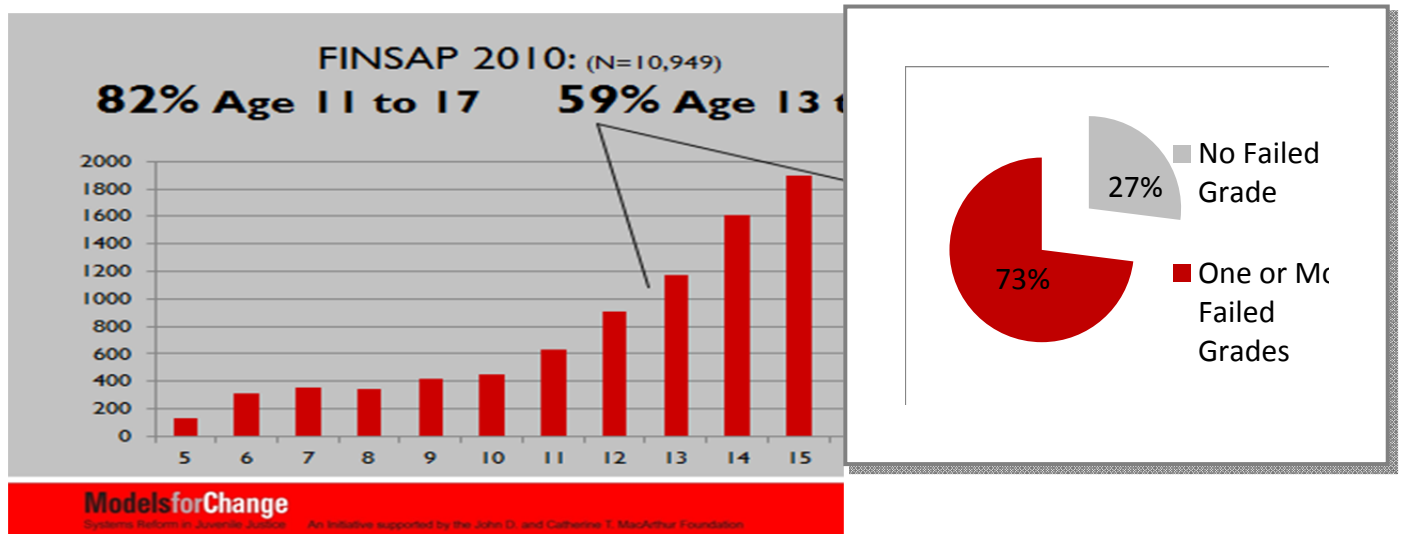


Summary of Available and Relevant Louisiana Status Offender Data to Highlight Service Needs

Based on the 2010 Informal FINS Referrals report developed by the LA Supreme Court (LASC), there were 11,269 referrals to Informal FINS in 2010. Below is a summary of findings of this report:¹

- Fourteen per 1,000 youths (ages 10-17) were referred to Informal FINS Louisiana in 2010, with the mean age of 13 (standard deviation =3.04). Over half (59%) were between the ages of 13 and 16.



- Fifty-eight percent of referrals were male.
- Sixty-one percent of referrals were Black and 37% were White.
- Schools accounted for over two-thirds (68%) of referrals and most referrals (73%) had failed at one or more grades. Families (11%) and law enforcement (8%) accounted for the other most frequent referral source.
- Truancy was the most commonly referred behavior, accounting for 55% of all Informal FINS referrals, and was the top reason for school referral. Ungovernable accounted for 28% of all referrals and was the primary reason for family referrals. Runaway accounted 2% of referrals and was second to ungovernable as the primary reason for law enforcement referrals.
- Of those referred for “truancy,” (n= 6,267) the average grade level was 7th grade and the average number of days unexcused was 10.8 days.
 1. 44% had less than 10 unexcused absences
 2. 70% had less than 20 unexcused absences
 3. Most prevalent reported absences were 5, 6, and 8 days.
- Of school referrals, 73% had failed one or more grades and 19% reported to be in special education.

¹ Data were obtained via FINSAP which is the LASC’s administrative data base that tracks FINS referrals statewide.

- The average time for a referral to be active in the FINS process was 6.5 months (standard deviation = 4 months) with about the same likelihood of being closed as successful (30%) vs. being closed unsuccessful (32%).

Louisiana service providers have also participated in a series of surveys administered by the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Public Health and the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. Between 2006 and a re-administration of the survey in 2009, Parish providers described just over two-hundred programs and services actively engaging youth and families affiliated with the juvenile justice system. Highlights of those surveys include: ²

- Approximately 37% of programs reported receiving referrals from FINS.
- Programs and services surveyed in 2009, reported that 32% were associated with nationally known evidence-based programs.
- In 2009, 2440 (20%) of the 12,252 youth those programs reported serving were reported to be receiving an evidence-based practice, leaving youth a 4 in 5 chance of not receiving an evidence-based practice.

The Vera Institute for Justice reached out to FINS Officers in a 2007 telephone survey that captured information from 42 Judicial Districts. That survey asked several open-ended questions including, “What are the types of presenting behaviors you typically see in FINS cases?”; “Which types of services do you refer to?”; “Do you experience waiting lists for services?”; and, “Can you identify any service gaps for informal FINS?” ³

- 93% reported the presenting behaviors typically seen as ungovernable, 79% truancy, 48% runaway, 26% drugs and alcohol, 24% mental health, and 21% violation of school rules.
- 64% reported referring to mental health services, 64% drug and alcohol services, 62% individual and/or family counseling, 45% parenting skills, 40% anger management, 29% tutoring, and 7% supervision.
- 41% reported encountering waiting lists for mental health services and 10% waited for substance abuse services.
- 22% reported their greatest service gaps in mental health services, 9% substance abuse services, 6% transportation, and 3% services for girls.

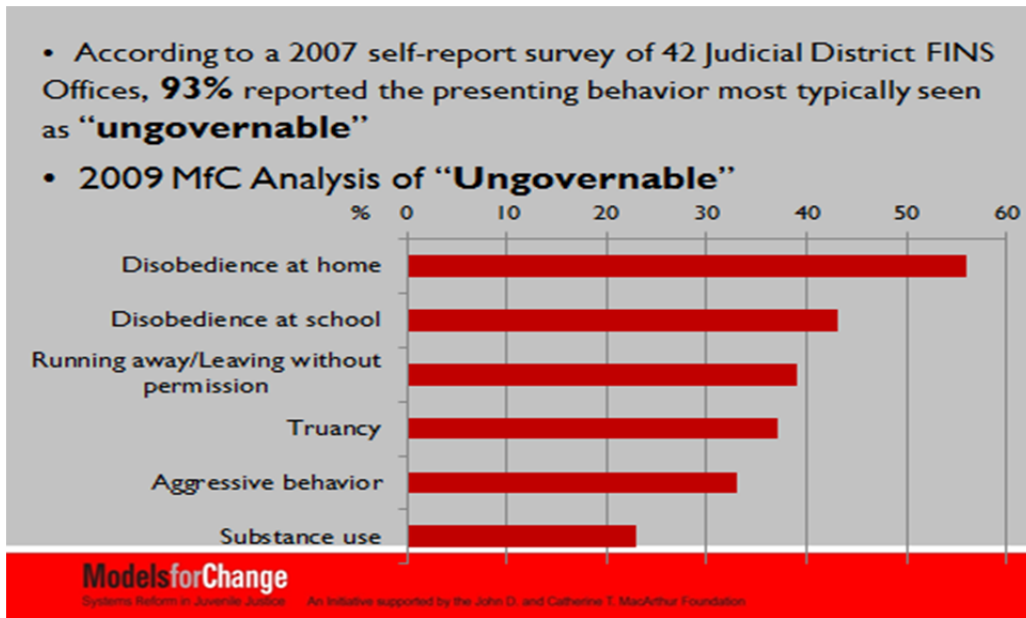
With such a high concentration of school, parent, law enforcement, and truancy referrals being described as “ungovernable,” UNO worked with local MfC sites to disaggregate what that behavioral description was representing. In a 2009 analysis of “ungovernable,” which made up 60% of all referrals in Rapides Parish that year, 56% of the ungovernable referrals were described as “disobedience at home” (e.g., talks back, won’t listen, doesn’t follow rules.). These data are summarized below.⁴ This was also very similar to information gleaned in the 2008 MfC review of Jefferson Parish’s Informal FINS files by UNO. Of the 200 files reviewed, the “Child Behavior Checklist” as reported by the Parent, demonstrated that the five most common behavior complaints were “answering back” (40%), “not

² These data were obtained via the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Service Provider Survey maintained at LSUHSC.

³ These data were obtained via VERA Institute 2007 Louisiana FINS System Telephone Survey.

⁴ These data were obtained via 2009 MfC Rapides Ungovernable Analysis by UNO.

doing homework” (34%), “not going to bed on time” (30%), “problems getting up for school” (28%), and “disrespect towards adults” (27%).



As part of Louisiana Models for Change, LSUHSC was asked to assist with determining the mental health needs of FINS clients in Rapides Parish. Below is a brief summary of a random sample of approximately 100 youth each year from 2007, 2009, and 2011 (N=297). The top three mental health concerns screened were:⁵

- 18% Anger/Irritable
- 18% Thought Disturbance
- 16% Suicide Ideation
- 10% Depression/Anxiety
- >5% Alcohol/Drug Abuse

Data from five LaMfC sites provided to UNO as part of the LaMfC initiative also illustrate how youth arrive in OJJ when FINS fails to keep youth from penetrating the system further. The following summarizes OJJ admissions from the five sites from 2006 to 2009:

- Across the five sites, a total of 296 youth were referred to OJJ for a FINS offense. Of these youth, 49% (n=144) were sent to an out of home placement (i.e., Non-Secure FINS).
- Of the 144 youth placed in Non-Secure FINS, 73% were for ungovernable.
- The average length of custody for Non Secure FINS was 9.5 months (SD= 4.5 months)
- There were no secure confinement placements for FINS youth during the time period.

⁵ These data were obtained via random sample of accepted FINS referrals in Rapides Parish and reported in *Rapides FINS Case Analysis* (2007, 2009, 2011).