

# Rapides Parish FINS Cases Data Analysis for the Rapides Parish Court and FINS Program

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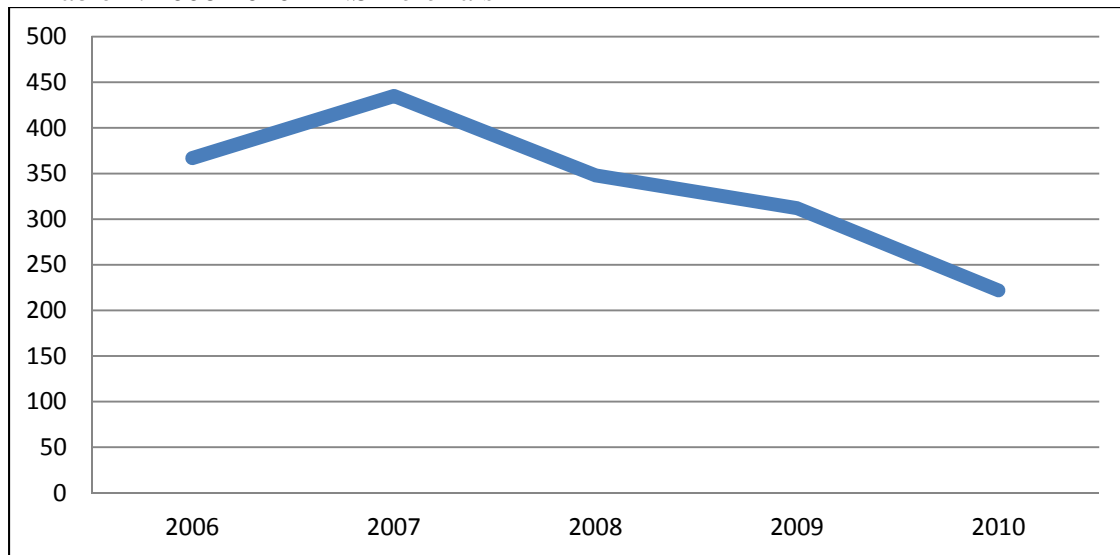
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## INTRODUCTION

As part of the Models for Change Initiative in Rapides Parish, LSUHSC-SPH was asked in 2008 to assist with determining the needs of FINS clients in order to help steer discussions regarding programming to serve the needs of these clients. This resulted in the first *Rapides Parish FINS Cases Data Analysis* (Phillippi & Below, 2009), which looked at a sample of 100 youth referred in 2007 and made specific recommendations regarding the expansion of data collection and analysis for future use. This was followed by similar analysis and report in 2009. The current FINS analysis is also done at the request of the Rapides Parish Court and mirrors the reports of 2007 and 2009. As this is the third analysis of MAYSI data in the Rapides Parish FINS program, point in time trends are offered. Beyond the trend data, any comparison to the 2007 and 2009 reports are limited due to a lack of information in the current data set. The current data set does not appear to reflect the recommendations made to expand the data collected on FINS cases in Rapides Parish (e.g. referral source, level of processing, service referral information, and case management outcomes).

According to the Rapides Parish Court data, in 2010, 222 youth were referred to FINS. This is a decrease from previous years and follows a consistent downward trend, as illustrated in Table 1 below (Source Louisiana Supreme Court FINSAP data in Childs & Frick [2011] *Summary of Rapides Parish Informal FINS Data*)

Table 1. 2006-2010 FINS Referrals



This current FINS sample comes from referrals between July 2010 and June 2011. This sample of 97 cases was selected by the FINS staff at random and the resulting dataset was provided to the LSUHSC-SPH in the format maintained by the Rapides court staff. Below is an analysis of that dataset.

## FINS SAMPLE POPULATION DESCRIPTION

### Gender, Race and Age

This sample of 97 FINS cases is comprised of mostly male youth. Demonstrated in this sample, Black/African-American youth were referred at almost the same rate as White/Caucasian youth. Further analysis reveals that over about one third were Black/African American males, over one-quarter were White/Caucasian males, under one-fifth were Black/African American females, and, and one-fifth were White/Caucasian females. The sample ranged in age from eight to seventeen. The average age of the sample was slightly under fourteen years of age, with fourteen years of age being the most frequently reported.

Table 2: Gender

<i>Male</i>	61 (63%)
<i>Female</i>	36 (37%)

Table 3: Race

<i>Black/Afri-Amer</i>	48 (49%)
<i>White/Caucasian</i>	49 (51%)
<i>Biracial</i>	0 (0%)
<i>Unknown</i>	0 (0%)

(NOTE: Hispanic ethnicity was a variable; however no Hispanics were noted in the sample.)

Table 4: Gender & Race

<i>Black Males</i>	<i>White Males</i>	<i>Black Females</i>	<i>White Females</i>	<i>Biracial Males</i>	<i>Biracial Females</i>	<i>Unknown Males</i>	<i>Unknown Females</i>
32 (33%)	29 (30%)	16 (16%)	20 (21%)	0	0	0	0

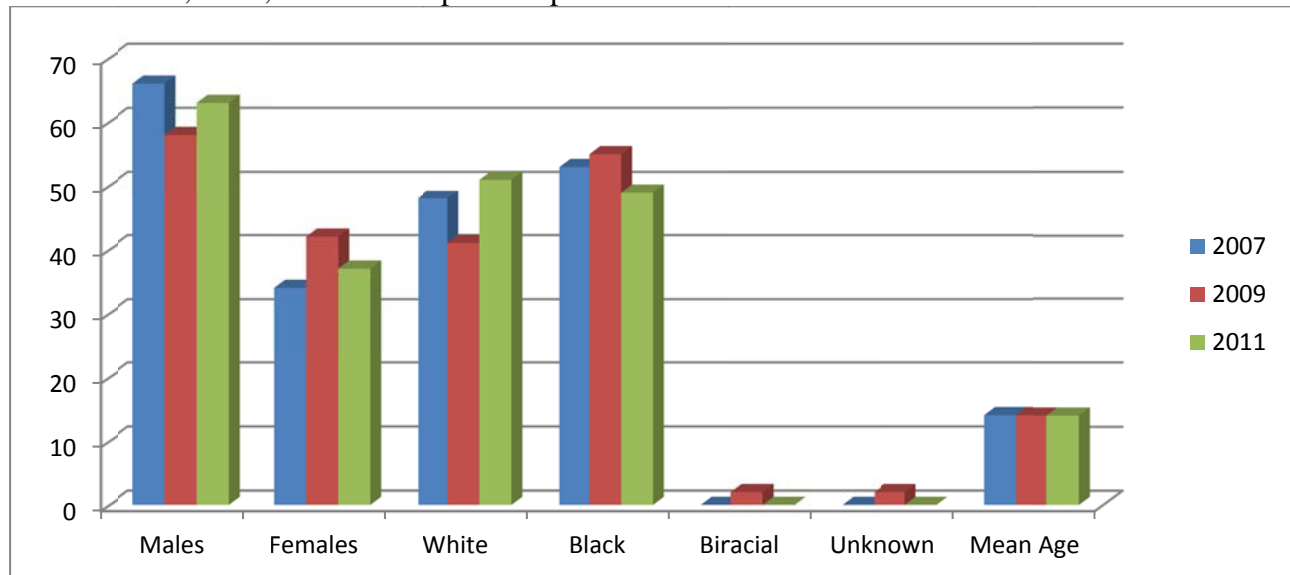
Table 5: Age (at referral)

<10y.o.	10 y.o.	11 y.o.	12 y.o.	13 y.o.	14 y.o.	15 y.o.	16 y.o.	17 y.o.
2 (2%)	6 (6%)	6 (6%)	13 (13%)	15 (15%)	19 (20%)	18 (19%)	16 (16%)	2 (2%)

NOTE: mean= 13.6 and mode= 14

In comparing 2011 data to those data collected in 2007 and 2009, there is an overall reduction in male referrals and an increase in female referrals; however, any consistent trend is not observable. The self-identified race of referrals also appears to fluctuate without a consistent trend. The average age of the three samples is stable with a very slight decrease each year.

Table 6: 2007, 2009, & 2011 Sample Comparison



## PROCESSING & DISPOSITION

Referral Type

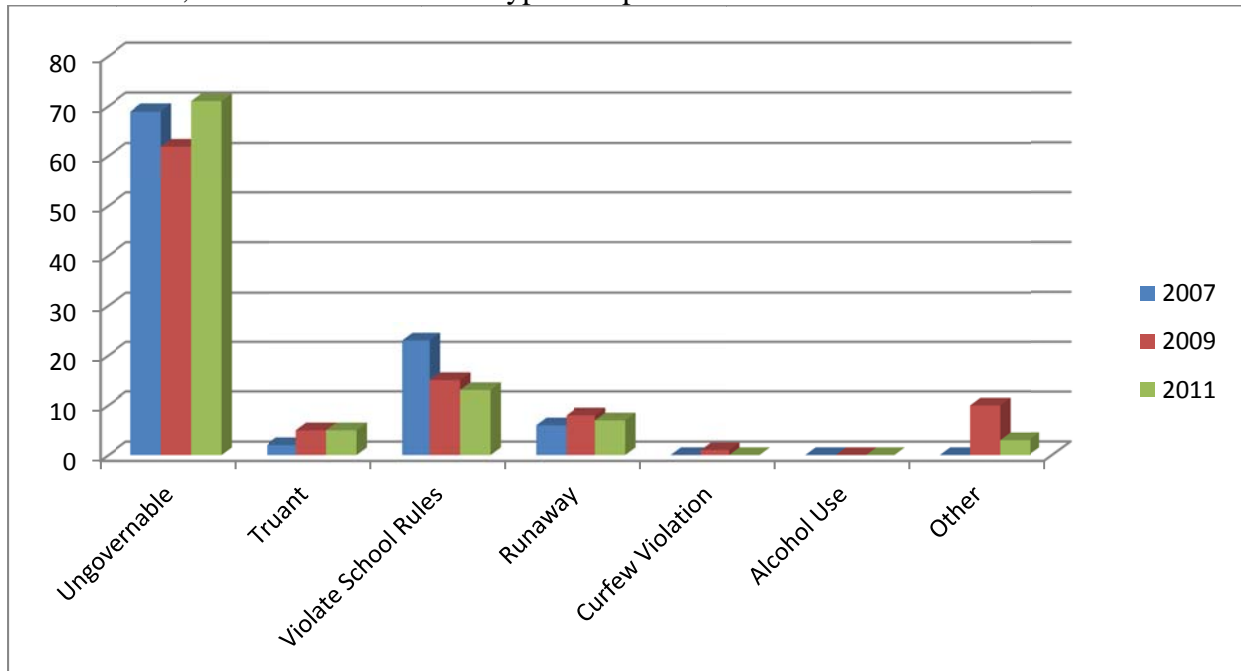
Just under three-quarters of the sample (71%) was referred for ungovernable (defined by the Louisiana Children’s Code as the child's habitual disregard of the lawful and reasonable demands of his caretakers and that the child is beyond their control), with the largest proportion of referrals for ungovernable (38%) identified as White/Caucasian males. Thirteen percent of the referrals were for repeatedly violating school rules, which was the second highest described reason for referral. Black/African-American males accounted for the majority of those referrals (85%). This rate is a much higher proportion than the sample’s general race/gender breakdown where Black/African-American males account for only 33% of the sample.

Table 7: Referral Type

	Ungovernable	Truant	Violates School Rules	Runaway	Curfew Violation	Alcohol Use	Other
Blk/Female	11	2	1	2	0	0	0
Wht/Female	14	1	1	3	0	0	1
Blk/Male	18	2	11	1	0	0	0
Wht/Male	26	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>69 (71%)</b>	<b>5 (5%)</b>	<b>13 (13%)</b>	<b>7 (7%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	<b>3 (3%)</b>

In comparing 2007, 2009, and 2011 data, there is a reduction in “violation of school rules” referrals. There does not appear to be consistent three year trends in referral types, with the exceptions that “ungovernable” remains the top reason for referral; “alcohol use” has not been identified as a reason for referral in any of the samples; and “curfew violations” are rarely identified.

Table 8: 2007, 2009 & 2011 Referral Type Comparison



Risk/Need Areas by Race & Gender

NYSAP performed a more extensive analysis of the 2007 dataset as it relates to the MAYSI-2 data including a comparison with national norms (see NYSAP Report to Rapides Parish Juvenile Court & FINS Program: Final Review of Current Screening & Assessment Practices December 2008). Below are summaries of the race and gender breakdown for the MAYSI-2 scores recorded between July 2010 and June 2011. These scores reflect the highest level of risk/need scored (i.e. duplicate counts were removed as those that scored at the “warning” level had also identified at the “caution” level.). According to this sample some of the highest risk areas for the FINS population are angry irritable moods (19% endorsed at the warning level); suicide ideation (15% endorsed at the warning level); and thought disturbance (19% endorsed at the warning level). There are several gender and race differences in the item endorsements described in the tables below. (Note: “None” in the charts below means that the respondent endorsed no individual items for that risk area.)

Table 9a: Alcohol/Drug Use

	Alcohol/Drug Use		
	None	Caution	Warning
Blk Male	23	2	0
Wht Male	24	0	2
Blk Female	14	0	0
Wht Female	14	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

Table 9b: Anger Irritable

	Anger Irritable		
	None	Caution	Warning
Blk Male	0	14	6
Wht Male	5	6	6
Blk Female	1	5	3
Wht Female	2	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>

Table 9c: Depressed/Anxious

	Depressed/Anxious		
	None	Caution	Warning
Blk Male	4	11	3
Wht Male	11	5	1
Blk Female	2	7	1
Wht Female	4	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 9d: Somatic Complaints

	Somatic Complaints		
	None	Caution	Warning
Blk Male	5	10	2
Wht Male	9	7	1
Blk Female	3	7	1
Wht Female	2	8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>

Table 9e: Suicide Ideation

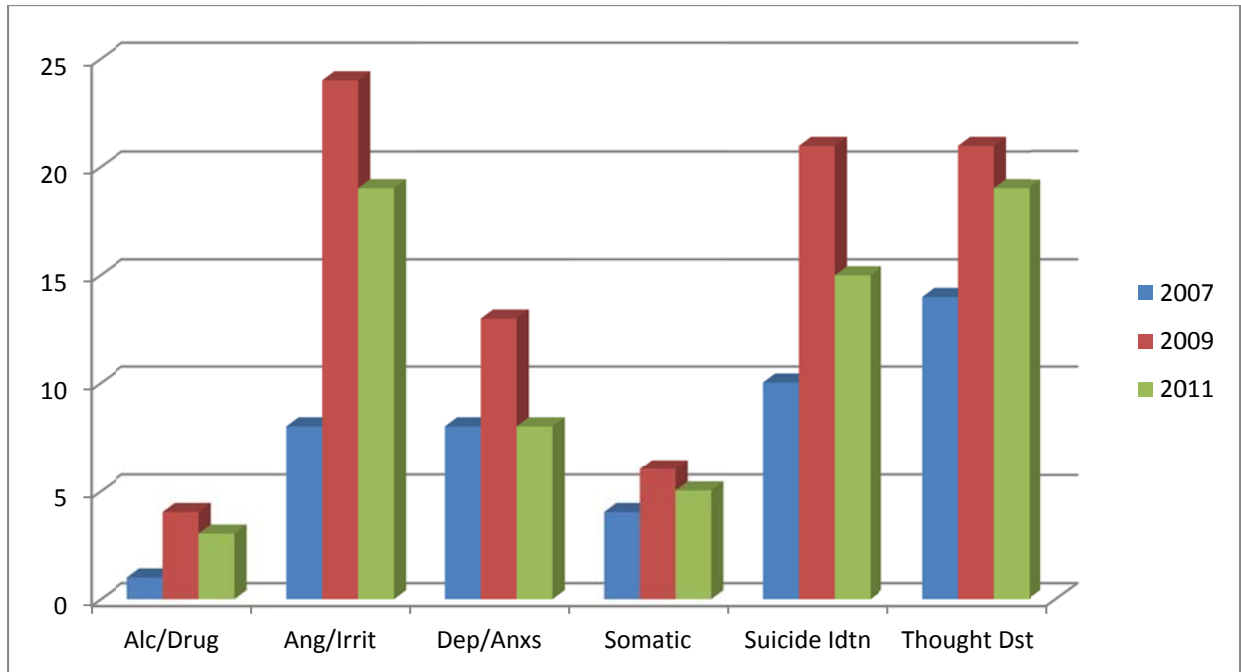
	Suicide Ideation		
	None	Caution	Warning
Blk Male	19	3	2
Wht Male	23	1	5
Blk Female	6	2	6
Wht Female	12	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>

Table 9f: Thought Disturbance

	Thought Disturbance		
	None	Caution	Warning
Blk Male	11	11	9
Wht Male	22	3	5
Blk Female	8	6	2
Wht Female	11	7	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>

In comparing 2007, 2009, and 2011 data, “angry/irritable,” “suicide ideation,” and “thought disturbance” are the most commonly endorsed risk areas to be flagged at the “warning” level of the MAYSI-2.

Table 10. 2007, 2009, 2011 Comparison of MAYSI-2 “Warning” Level Risk Areas



***Risk/Need Areas by Offense***

Below are summaries of the MAYSI-2 scores as related to the offense type identified as the reason for the FINS referral. These scores reflect the highest level of risk/need scored (i.e. duplicate counts were removed as those that scored at the “warning” level had also identified at the “caution” level.). The percentage (%) adjacent to the count denotes the percent of youth in that risk/need area that scored at “none” (no items endorsed), “caution,” or “warning” level. For example:

- Over a quarter (29%) of ungovernable referrals also scored at warning risk for “thought disturbance” and just under one in five (19%) scored at warning levels for “anger/irritable.”
- Over one third (40%) of truant referrals scored at warning levels for both “anger/irritable” and “thought disturbance.”
- Just under half (43%) of runaway referrals scored at warning levels for “thought disturbance.”

Table 11a: Alcohol/Drug Use

	Alcohol/Drug Use		
	None	Caution	Warning
Ungovernable	54 (81%)	2 (3%)	2 (3%)
Truant	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
V. Schl Rule	12 (92%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Runaway	4 (57%)	0 (0%)	1 (14%)
Curfew	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

Table 11b: Anger Irritable

	Anger Irritable		
	None	Caution	Warning
Ungovernable	7 (10%)	22 (32%)	13 (19%)
Truant	0 (0%)	2 (40%)	2 (40%)
V. Schl Rules	0 (0%)	4 (31%)	1 (8%)
Runaway	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	1 (14%)
Curfew	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>

Table 11c: Depressed/Anxious

	Depressed/Anxious
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Table 11d: Somatic Complaints

	Somatic Complaints
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	None	Caution	Warning
Ungovernable	15 (22%)	20 (29%)	5 (7%)
Truant	0 (0%)	2 (40%)	1 (20%)
V. Schl Rule	4 (31%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)
Runaway	1 (14%)	4 (57%)	0 (0%)
Curfew	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>

	None	Caution	Warning
Ungovernable	14 (20%)	22 (32%)	4 (6%)
Truant	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)
V. Schl Rules	4 (31%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)
Runaway	0 (0%)	5 (71%)	0 (0%)
Curfew	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)	2 (67%)	0 (0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>

Table 11e: Suicide Ideation

	Suicide Ideation		
	None	Caution	Warning
Ungovernable	45 (65%)	5 (7%)	11 (16%)
Truant	3	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
V. Schl Rule	9 (69%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)
Runaway	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)
Curfew	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

Table 11f: Thought Disturbance

	Thought Disturbance		
	None	Caution	Warning
Ungovernable	38 (55%)	20 (29%)	11 (29%)
Truant	2 (40%)	1 (20%)	2 (40%)
V. Schl Rules	8 (62%)	4 (31%)	1 (8%)
Runaway	3 (43%)	1 (14%)	3 (43%)
Curfew	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>

No analysis was able to be undertaken to compare the MAYSI-2 identified potential needs to the service linkage and processing indicators since the data was not recorded in the current dataset as it was in the 2007 analysis.

### Recommendations

- It is recommended that the levels of processing and case management outcome data be reintroduced to this dataset for future use and analysis (see December 2008 Rapides Parish FINS Case Analysis as an example).
- It is recommended that more specific characteristics regarding the nature of a child's ungovernable behavior be sought and captured in future datasets.
- Based on the possible needs suggested by the MAYSI screening, service development and/or improved utilization for the assessment and treatment of mood and thought disorders is recommended.