



Results First Mississippi

Key Point Summary of Issue Brief #2: Opportunities for Improving the Outcomes of Juvenile Justice Intervention Programs at the Oakley Youth Development Center September 22, 2018

Note: The full text of Issue Brief #2 is available at www.peer.ms.gov, Performance Accountability.

Key Points:

What is the primary objective of juvenile justice intervention programs?

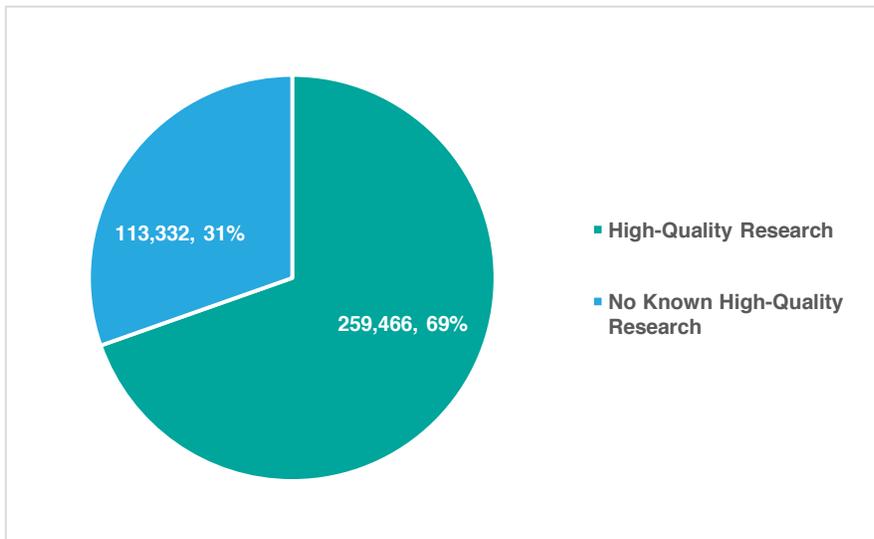
The primary objective of juvenile justice intervention programs is to provide rehabilitative and skill-building treatments designed to improve youth development outcomes and promote prosocial behavior thereby reducing recidivism and avoiding its associated cost.

How much did the state spend on juvenile justice intervention programs at Oakley Youth Development Center (OYDC) in FY 2017?

An estimated **\$373,000** (representing 2.6% of total OYDC expenditures) was expended on juvenile justice intervention programs in FY 2017. When implemented with fidelity to program design, programs supported by high-quality research have the potential to result in cost savings to the state.

What percentage of intervention program expenditures were for programs supported by high-quality research?

As shown in the following graph, approximately **69%** of estimated FY 2017 expenditures on juvenile justice intervention programs were for programs supported by high-quality research. At the time of this issue brief, it is not known whether these programs are being run in accordance with the program design evaluated in the research.



SOURCE: Self-reported expenditure data provided by OYDC and legislative staff analysis of published program research.

- Commitment of a youth offender to OYDC, the state's only secure residential facility is the most restrictive and highest cost of the disposition options available to Mississippi's youth court judges. The majority of OYDC financial resources are expended on operational costs associated with providing for the well-being and safety of the youth offenders housed therein.
- Six of the 18 intervention programs offered at OYDC were supported by high-quality research. These programs focused on non-core academic instruction (e.g., career technical educational) and cognitive behavior therapy for substance use disorder.
- Opportunity exists to improve the outcomes that OYDC is achieving by ensuring the limited resources that it currently expends on juvenile justice intervention programs are spent on programs supported by high-quality research.

How much was spent on juvenile justice intervention programs with no known research supporting their effectiveness in FY 2017?

In FY 2017, OYDC expended an estimated **\$113,332** (31%) on programs for which there is no known high-quality research showing their effectiveness in reducing recidivism or achieving other targeted outcomes for justice-involved youth.

What are some potential replacement programs for OYDC juvenile justice intervention programs that were not known to be supported by high-quality research?

Most of the potential replacement programs listed in the following table could be less costly to implement than the current OYDC programs that are not supported by high-quality research. While two of the programs (the Family Integrated Transitions Multi-Systemic Therapy program and the Aggression Replacement Training® program) are shown to be effective by high-quality research, their high costs per participant could make them unfeasible as replacement options. Further research would have to be conducted to determine whether the monetized benefits of implementing these two programs in Mississippi would exceed the high costs.

Current OYDC Programs Not Known To Be Supported by High-Quality Research	Potential Replacement Programs Shown To Be Effective by High-Quality Research	Target Population	Cost Per Participant or Resource Cost for Replacement Programs
Anger Management for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Clients	Residential Student Assistance Program	alcohol and other drug (AOD) use among high-risk multiproblem youth	\$220.00 (resource cost)
Anger Management Workbook: Hazelden Youth Life Skills Program	Aggression Replacement Training®	youth with a history of serious aggression and antisocial behavior	\$745.00 (per-participant)
Pesky gNATs Workbook	Equipping Youth to Help One Another	juvenile delinquents and other youth with conduct disorders	\$69.99 (per participant)
	School-based Social and Emotional Learning*	universal, target all students in the school and not only those exhibiting problem behaviors	Free
Behavior Incentive System: The Honors Program	Safe & Civil Schools Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Model	schoolwide intervention to help educators establish proactive, positive (nonpunitive), and instructional schoolwide discipline policies	Price range: \$20.00 through \$1,500.00 (resource cost)
Interactive Journaling and Behavioral Health Needs	Say it Straight	communication training program designed to help students develop empowering communication skills	\$300 (resource cost)
Character Counts	CharacterPlus Way®	schoolwide intervention to foster students' ethical, social, and cognitive development	\$1.00 per student, for schools with fewer than 3,999 students (per participant)
Pre-Release Transitional Services	Family Integrated Transitions Multi-Systemic Therapy	juvenile offenders who have co-occurring mental health and chemical dependency disorders. Services are provided during a juvenile's transition from incarceration back into the community	\$10,795.00 (per-participant)

SOURCE: Legislative staff analysis of high-quality research on juvenile justice intervention programs. Replacement programs resulted either from PEW-McArthur Results Clearinghouse Database or directly from the website of the national searchable online registry.

What steps can OYDC take to improve the impact of juvenile justice intervention program dollars?

1. Move financial resources out of programs with no known high-quality research of their effectiveness into programs that high-quality research shows to be effective.
2. Ensure delivery of high-quality programs with fidelity to the critical elements of program design.
3. To achieve the monetized benefits that will accrue to the state and society from a reduction in subsequent delinquent contact with the juvenile justice system and potential future involvement in the adult criminal justice system, it is more effective to faithfully execute a few high-quality programs than to execute many high-quality programs poorly.