



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES  
AND CHILD ADVOCACY

# THE IARCA OUTCOME MEASURES PROJECT

**Executive Summary**  
**2018**

**INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF  
RESOURCES AND CHILD ADVOCACY**

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# THE IARCA OUTCOME MEASURES PROJECT

## Executive Summary Report for Calendar year 2018

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### What is the IARCA Outcome Measures Project?

The IARCA Outcome Measures Project (referred to as the IOMP) aims to evaluate the effectiveness of services provided to children and families by IARCA member agencies. The IOMP has been evaluating services provided by IARCA-member agencies since 1998, when the project began collecting data statewide. Agencies submit data on youth they serve when youth are placed into care, when they leave care, and several months after they've been discharged. Currently, there are 12 distinct program types / subtypes participating in the IOMP: Transitional Living; Day Treatment; Home-Based; Traditional Family Foster Care; Treatment Foster Care; Shelter Care; Residential Programs Utilizing Public Schools; Residential Programs Utilizing Both Public and On-Grounds Schools; Residential Locked and Staff-Secure Programs; Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities; Crisis Stabilization; and Outpatient Treatment<sup>1</sup>. In 2018, 49 agencies contributed information on youth receiving services in their programs.

### Youth Entering Services in 2018

- ✓ Across all programs, 5,817 children were assessed at intake.
  - ✓ The average age of youth who entered a service was 11.1 years, with a range from under 1 to 25 years of age.
  - ✓ Just over three-fifths of all youth who entered care in 2018 were Caucasian (61.9%), one-fifth were African American (20.0%), and one in 20 were Latino/Hispanic (4.2%). About 1 in 7 youth were of other ethnicities or identified as multiracial (13.9%).
  - ✓ The average number of previous out-of-home placements reported for all youth entering care was 1.8, with a range from 0 to 47 prior placements.
  - ✓ More than half of all youth at intake had a history of reported / substantiated neglect (52.4%).
  - ✓ Histories of suspected or substantiated physical abuse were reported in just over one-fifth of all youth (20.9%) entering care and more than 3 of every 10 youth admitted into care reportedly had witnessed domestic violence (30.2%).
  - ✓ Approximately half of the youth came from a single parent family (47.4%) and / or had a parent who had abused substances (53.0%).
  - ✓ Nearly 2 of every 5 youth had a parent with an incarceration history (38.4%).
  - ✓ Almost 1 of every 6 youth who entered care had experienced the termination of parental rights for at least one parent (17.0%).
- ✓ The 134 youth who were placed into **Transitional Living** programs were, on average, 17.2 years of age. At least one parent had lost their rights for just over 2 of every 5 youth in Transitional Living programs (43.6%).
- ✓ Of the 182 youth placed into **Day Treatment** programs, more than 2 of every 5 were referred by probation departments (44.0%). Two-fifths of youth entering Day Treatment had histories of placement in special education (40.7%).
- ✓ In **Home-Based** programs, where 1,158 youth were placed, nearly 3 in 5 had a parent with known or suspected substance abuse (59.6%). Likewise, nearly half had a parent with an

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<sup>1</sup> Outpatient Treatment and program sub-types for Foster Care and Residential Care are included in the IOMP; information is not reported on these program types and sub-types in the Executive Summary.

## Characteristics of Youth Served in 2018

incarceration history (46.5%), and more than half of these youth were classified as a child in need of services (CHINS) (54.7%).

- ✓ Youth in **Foster Care** programs (1,868 youth) were on average 6.8 years of age at program admission. Over 4 of every 5 youth were victims of substantiated or suspected neglect (84.8%). Nearly half had a parent with substance abuse issues identified (48.3%).
- ✓ More than three of every five (62.6%) of the 511 youth who entered **Shelter Care** programs were from a single-parent household. About 2 of every 5 had a history of being prescribed psychotropic medication (40.7%).
- ✓ Of the 1,442 youth who entered **Residential Care** programs, nearly half had previously received home-based services (48.6%). The average number of prior placements for youth in Residential Care was 2.9, half were adjudicated delinquent, and nearly 3 in 5 were on psychotropic medication (58.7%).
- ✓ Two thirds of the 360 youth who entered **Crisis Stabilization** programs had a parent with a history of substance use/abuse (66.7%), and more than 7 of every 10 had a parent with a known or suspected psychiatric diagnosis (72.5%).

## Characteristics of Youth Served in 2018

### Child Risk Factor Survey – By Program Type (2018)

| Variable                           | All Programs | Transitional Living | Day Treatment | Home-Based | Foster Care | Shelter Care | Residential Care | Crisis Stab. | Outpatient Treatment |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Intake packets*                    | 5,817        | 134                 | 182           | 1,158      | 1,462       | 511          | 1,442            | 360          | 162                  |
| Age ( <i>Mean</i> )                | 11.1         | 17.2                | 14.3          | 10.2       | 6.8         | 14.5         | 14.9             | 13.0         | 11.0                 |
| Gender                             |              |                     |               |            |             |              |                  |              |                      |
| Male                               | 54.1         | 36.6                | 73.6          | 55.4       | 51.3        | 55.4         | 58.6             | 42.2         | 56.8                 |
| Female                             | 45.9         | 63.4                | 26.4          | 44.6       | 48.7        | 44.6         | 41.4             | 57.8         | 43.2                 |
| Ethnicity                          |              |                     |               |            |             |              |                  |              |                      |
| Caucasian                          | 61.9         | 68.7                | 45.6          | 51.0       | 55.2        | 67.1         | 71.9             | 85.3         | 67.9                 |
| African-American                   | 20.0         | 19.4                | 36.3          | 17.0       | 29.2        | 16.8         | 15.7             | 2.8          | 11.7                 |
| Hispanic                           | 4.2          | 2.2                 | 12.1          | 4.4        | 3.5         | 4.9          | 4.4              | 1.9          | 4.9                  |
| Other                              | 13.9         | 9.6                 | 6.0           | 27.6       | 12.1        | 11.2         | 8.1              | 10.0         | 15.4                 |
| # Prior placements ( <i>Mean</i> ) | 1.8          | 2.1                 | 0.5           | 0.9        | 2.7         | 1.9          | 3.5              | 0.8          | 0.9                  |
| Past home-based services           | 35.4         | 47.0                | 20.3          | 33.2       | 27.3        | 37.8         | 48.7             | 35.0         | 16.7                 |
| Pregnant                           | 0.6          | 3.7                 | 0.5           | 0.7        | 0.2         | 1.0          | 0.8              | 0.0          | 0.6                  |
| Have child(ren)                    | 1.5          | 9.0                 | 1.6           | 1.0        | 0.6         | 1.4          | 2.3              | 1.1          | 0.6                  |
| CHINS                              | 51.5         | 59.0                | 15.4          | 54.7       | 81.4        | 34.4         | 30.2             | 7.5          | 18.5                 |
| Delinquent                         | 22.1         | 9.7                 | 21.4          | 21.1       | 1.0         | 43.1         | 51.3             | 0.6          | 6.2                  |
| Neglect                            | 52.4         | 45.5                | 5.5           | 53.3       | 83.5        | 34.8         | 40.1             | 1.4          | 23.5                 |
| Physical abuse                     | 20.9         | 19.4                | 8.8           | 15.1       | 12.9        | 29.7         | 34.2             | 23.1         | 8.6                  |
| Sexual abuse                       | 14.0         | 8.2                 | 11.0          | 8.5        | 5.5         | 14.7         | 26.2             | 25.3         | 11.1                 |
| Witness domestic violence          | 30.2         | 33.6                | 12.6          | 34.9       | 22.8        | 25.7         | 40.4             | 33.6         | 17.9                 |
| Grade retention                    | 11.2         | 6.8                 | 14.9          | 14.1       | 3.9         | 7.1          | 12.3             | 14.7         | 11.8                 |
| Special education                  | 21.3         | 16.4                | 40.7          | 14.4       | 12.2        | 23.7         | 35.3             | 21.7         | 20.4                 |
| Psychotropic medication            | 32.2         | 8.2                 | 18.1          | 16.8       | 17.2        | 40.7         | 58.7             | 62.2         | 25.3                 |
| Parent substance abuse             | 52.2         | 48.5                | 21.4          | 59.6       | 45.3        | 42.7         | 57.1             | 66.7         | 37.0                 |
| Parent incarceration               | 38.4         | 44.0                | 13.2          | 46.5       | 29.8        | 41.7         | 44.9             | 36.9         | 38.9                 |
| Parent psychiatric diagnosis       | 19.4         | 14.2                | 1.6           | 22.4       | 7.8         | 10.6         | 25.4             | 72.5         | 18.5                 |
| Single-parent family               | 47.4         | 40.3                | 36.8          | 54.8       | 29.4        | 62.6         | 55.0             | 61.9         | 53.1                 |
| Parental rights terminated         | 17.5         | 43.6                | 16.8          | 9.4        | 12.0        | 21.2         | 30.7             | 12.2         | 14.9                 |
| One parent                         | 5.5          | 18.8                | 7.8           | 3.8        | 2.0         | 6.4          | 9.6              | 5.8          | 5.0                  |
| Both parents                       | 11.6         | 23.8                | 8.4           | 5.4        | 9.5         | 14.6         | 20.3             | 6.4          | 9.9                  |
| Adoptive parents                   | 0.4          | 1.0                 | 0.6           | 0.2        | 0.5         | 0.2          | 0.9              | 0.0          | 0.0                  |
| Risk Score ( <i>Mean</i> )         | 4.3          | 4.0                 | 2.4           | 4.2        | 3.7         | 4.3          | 5.4              | 4.4          | 3.0                  |

\* Sample size for individual items may be lower than the number of intake packets due to missing data. Unless otherwise noted, numbers refer to percentages of affirmative responses.

## Youth Leaving Services in 2018

- ✓ 5,147 children were assessed at discharge.
- ✓ Across all programs, a positive educational outcome at discharge was reported for the majority of youth (78.9% for the combined IARCA sample). Positive education is noted if the youth graduates from high school, or is rated positively in 2 of the following 3 areas: attendance, behavior, and/or achievement. Thus, a child would receive a positive outcome if they were attending school and not engaging in problematic behavior.
- ✓ At discharge, just over one-fourth of youth aged 16 and older were employed (26.4%).
- ✓ Nearly 2 of every 3 youth in the combined IARCA sample were discharged to a placement of less restrictiveness (63.5%).
- ✓ When a permanency plan was reported, more than 3 of every 5 youth achieved their permanency plan when discharged from care (61.3%).
- ✓ Nearly 3 of every 4 of the 110 youth leaving **Transitional Living** programs had a positive education outcome at discharge (76.1%); nearly half of youth aged 16 and older were employed at discharge (46.3%).
- ✓ About 7 in every 10 of the 126 youth leaving **Day Treatment** programs had a positive education outcome at discharge (70.6%); about 1 of every 8 of youth age 16 and older leaving Day Treatment programs were employed at discharge (12.5%).
- ✓ There were 1,063 youth discharged from **Home-Based** programs. A positive education outcome was found for approximately 3 of every 4 youth (74.6%); about three-tenths of youth age 16 and older were employed at discharge (31.0%).
- ✓ Youth from **Foster Care** (1,556 youth) programs had a positive education outcome at discharge for about 3 of every 4 school-aged youth (74.4%); nearly 2/5 (37.0%) of youth age 16 and older were employed at discharge.
- ✓ More than half of the 493 youth placed into **Shelter Care** programs were discharged to a less restrictive setting (57.4%).
- ✓ About 9 in 10 of the 1,319 youth leaving **Residential Care** programs had a positive educational outcome (86.4%). For youth age 16 and older, one in five were employed at discharge (19.6%).
- ✓ Nearly all of the 356 youth discharged from **Crisis Stabilization** programs went to settings with lower levels of restrictiveness (99.4%).

**Discharge Outcome Summary - By Program Type (2018)**

| Variable                                     | All Programs | Transitional Living | Day Treatment | Home-Based | Foster Care | Shelter Care | Residential Care | Crisis Stab. | Outpatient Treatment |
|--|--------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Discharge packets*                           | 5,147        | 110                 | 126           | 1,063      | 1,556       | 493          | 1,319            | 356          | 124                  |
| <b>Length of Stay: Mean</b>                  | 234.0        | 352.8               | 179.3         | 234.7      | 343.7       | 29.2         | 231.2            | 7.3          | 295.0                |
| <i>Median</i>                                | 147.5        | 274.0               | 128.0         | 166.8      | 187.5       | 18.8         | 186.3            | 6.3          | 213.0                |
| <b>Clinical Outcomes</b>                     |              |                     |               |            |             |              |                  |              |                      |
| CPC ( <i>Mean</i> )                          | 4.0          | 2.7                 | 3.9           | 2.7        | 3.3         | 6.3          | 5.1              | 2.4          | 4.8                  |
| FRS ( <i>Mean</i> )                          | 0.40         | n/a                 | 0.53          | 0.40       | 0.42        | n/a          | 0.39             | n/a          | 0.41                 |
| FPC ( <i>Mean</i> )                          | 2.2          | n/a                 | 1.8           | 2.2        | 2.2         | n/a          | 2.2              | n/a          | 2.2                  |
| <b>Functional Outcomes</b>                   |              |                     |               |            |             |              |                  |              |                      |
| Positive education                           | 78.9         | 76.1                | 70.6          | 74.6       | 74.4        | n/a          | 86.4             | n/a          | 59.1                 |
| Employed                                     | 26.4         | 46.3                | 12.5          | 31.0       | 37.0        | n/a          | 19.6             | n/a          | 36.4                 |
| <b>Placement Outcomes</b>                    |              |                     |               |            |             |              |                  |              |                      |
| <b>ROLES</b>                                 |              |                     |               |            |             |              |                  |              |                      |
| More restrictive                             | 13.1         | 13.6                | 15.9          | 13.5       | 7.6         | 35.5         | 13.8             | 0.6          | 13.8                 |
| Similarly restrictive                        | 21.3         | 0.9                 | 73.0          | 60.5       | 9.7         | 4.9          | 6.8              | 0.0          | 79.7                 |
| Less restrictive                             | 63.5         | 75.5                | 11.1          | 24.7       | 80.5        | 57.4         | 76.6             | 99.4         | 6.5                  |
| Runaway                                      | 2.1          | 10.0                | 0.0           | 1.3        | 2.3         | 2.2          | 2.9              | 0.0          | 0.0                  |
| Permanency plan achieved (All cases)         | 45.3         | 47.3                | 10.4          | 38.9       | 60.7        | 43.8         | 51.8             | n/a          | 8.1                  |
| Permanency plan achieved (Cases with a plan) | 61.3         | 61.2                | 72.2          | 57.2       | 62.0        | 59.0         | 63.2             | n/a          | 83.3                 |
| <b>Nature of Discharge**</b>                 |              |                     |               |            |             |              |                  |              |                      |
| Planned                                      | 73.9         | 65.5                | 87.2          | 62.4       | 73.0        | 88.0         | 73.6             | 98.6         | 54.0                 |
| Removed by referral                          | 5.0          | 6.4                 | 0.8           | 3.8        | 5.0         | 1.6          | 8.4              | 0.8          | 8.9                  |
| Administrative                               | 18.4         | 15.5                | 12.0          | 32.0       | 19.1        | 7.6          | 14.7             | 0.3          | 34.7                 |
| Runaway                                      | 2.7          | 12.7                | 0.0           | 1.8        | 2.7         | 2.9          | 3.3              | 0.3          | 2.4                  |

\* Sample sizes for individual items may be lower than the number of discharge packets due to missing data. Unless otherwise noted, numbers refer to percentages of affirmative responses.

CPC=Child Problem Checklist. FRS=Family Risk Scales, Parent Centered Risk. FPC=Family Problem Checklist. ROLES=Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale. Permanency Plan achieved refers to either primary or concurrent plan achieved. Education and employment are reported for the percent of youth who are of appropriate age.

n/a = data not available on this item.



## Follow-Up I from Youth Leaving Services in 2018

- ✓ Over two of every 5 (42.7%) eligible youth (1,064 out of 2,307) were contacted at follow-up I. Across the program types, the proportion of youth contacted at Follow-up I ranged from 1 in 3 youth (30.0% in Foster Care) to just over 3 in 4 youth (76.8% in Day Treatment programs).
- ✓ Of the youth contacted at follow-up I, 9 in 10 had a positive education outcome (91.8%); about 1 in 3 youth aged 16 and older were employed (32.7%); most had no newly substantiated abuse (98.0%); and just over 1 in 8 had returned to court on new charges (86.2% had not been back in court).
- ✓ Nearly 3 in 4 of the 34 youth contacted from **Transitional Living** programs had a positive education outcome at follow-up I (76.2%); about 3 in 5 were employed (61.8%); since discharge, almost no new abuse was substantiated in this group of youth (100.0% had no abuse); and just over 9 of 10 had not returned to court on new charges (i.e., 93.9%).
- ✓ All of the 84 youth contacted from **Day Treatment** programs had a positive educational outcome (100%). Since discharge, almost no new abuse was substantiated (98.7% had no abuse) in those youth contacted and no families experienced newly substantiated abuse (100.0% no abuse in families); and most had no court involvement as a result of new offenses (88.1%).
- ✓ None of the 112 youth contacted from **Home-Based** programs had new abuse substantiated after being discharged from treatment (100.0% reported no new abuse); almost none were living in homes where abuse was substantiated (99.1%); and more than 9 of every 10 had not experienced court involvement (94.5%) for a new infraction.
- ✓ For the 269 youth contacted from **Foster Care** programs, most had positive educational outcomes rated (97.8%) or new substantiated abuse since discharge (95.0%). Few of those contacted had substantiated instances of abuse in the home (97.7%) or had returned to court for new infractions (97.7%).
- ✓ For the 527 youth contacted from **Residential Care** programs, nearly 9 out of 10 (89.6%) had positive educational outcomes; 3 in 10 (31.5%) youth over the age of 16 were employed; few had been subject to substantiated abuse (98.9%); and about 4 of 5 youth (77.1%) were not involved with the court on new charges.

**Follow-up I Outcome Summary - By Program Type (2018)**

| <b>Variable</b>                | <b>All Programs</b> | <b>Transitional Living</b> | <b>Day Treatment</b> | <b>Home-Based</b> | <b>Foster Care</b> | <b>Residential Care</b> | <b>Outpatient Treatment</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Follow-up packets completed*   | 1,064               | 34                         | 84                   | 112               | 269                | 527                     | 38                          |
| Could not contact at follow-up | 1,243               | 43                         | 11                   | 212               | 576                | 364                     | 37                          |
| <b>Functional Outcomes</b>     |                     |                            |                      |                   |                    |                         |                             |
| Positive Education             | 91.8                | 76.2                       | 100.0                | 97.0              | 97.8               | 89.6                    | n/a                         |
| Employed                       | 32.7                | 61.8                       | 15.2                 | 26.5              | 36.7               | 31.5                    | n/a                         |
| No new abuse of child          | 98.0                | 100.0                      | 98.7                 | 100.0             | 95.0               | 98.9                    | 97.4                        |
| No new abuse in family         | 98.6                | 91.2                       | 100.0                | 99.1              | 97.7               | 99.2                    | 97.4                        |
| No new court involvement       | 86.2                | 93.9                       | 88.1                 | 94.5              | 97.7               | 77.1                    | 97.4                        |
| <b>Placement Outcomes</b>      |                     |                            |                      |                   |                    |                         |                             |
| <b>ROLES</b>                   |                     |                            |                      |                   |                    |                         |                             |
| More restrictive               | 11.6                | 5.9                        | 6.0                  | 6.3               | 13.5               | 13.7                    | 2.6                         |
| Similarly restrictive          | 72.8                | 79.4                       | 85.7                 | 86.6              | 72.2               | 66.9                    | 81.6                        |
| Less restrictive               | 15.1                | 14.7                       | 8.3                  | 7.1               | 14.3               | 18.3                    | 15.8                        |
| Runaway                        | 0.6                 | 0.0                        | 0.0                  | 0.0               | 0.0                | 1.2                     | 0.0                         |

ROLES=Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale  
n/a = data not available on this item.

**Follow-up II Outcome Summary - By Program Type (2018)**

| <b>Variable</b>                | <b>All Programs</b> | <b>Transitional Living</b> | <b>Day Treatment</b> | <b>Home-Based</b> | <b>Foster Care</b> | <b>Residential Care</b> | <b>Outpatient Treatment</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Follow-up packets completed*   | 717                 | 17                         | 80                   | 104               | 122                | 368                     | 26                          |
| Could not contact at follow-up | 1,217               | 46                         | 13                   | 277               | 453                | 390                     | 38                          |
| <b>Functional Outcomes</b>     |                     |                            |                      |                   |                    |                         |                             |
| Positive Education             | 89.5                | 90.0                       | 100.0                | 94.2              | 98.3               | 86.0                    | n/a                         |
| Employed                       | 34.8                | 64.3                       | 13.5                 | 27.0              | 0.0                | 38.7                    | 0.0                         |
| No new abuse of child          | 97.9                | 100.0                      | 98.7                 | 99.0              | 93.2               | 98.6                    | 100.0                       |
| No new abuse in family         | 99.1                | 100.0                      | 100.0                | 98.0              | 99.2               | 99.2                    | 100.0                       |
| No new court involvement       | 84.5                | 100.0                      | 88.8                 | 93.1              | 100.0              | 74.9                    | 88.5                        |
| <b>Placement Outcomes</b>      |                     |                            |                      |                   |                    |                         |                             |
| <b>ROLES</b>                   |                     |                            |                      |                   |                    |                         |                             |
| More restrictive               | 12.8                | 5.9                        | 11.3                 | 2.9               | 24.4               | 13.3                    | 0.0                         |
| Similar restrictiveness        | 66.8                | 70.6                       | 72.5                 | 84.5              | 68.1               | 58.3                    | 88.0                        |
| Less restrictive               | 20.3                | 23.5                       | 16.3                 | 12.6              | 7.6                | 28.1                    | 12.0                        |
| Runaway                        | 0.1                 | 0.0                        | 0.0                  | 0.0               | 0.0                | 0.3                     | 0.0                         |

ROLES=Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale  
n/a = data not available on this item.

## Summary and Conclusions

The IARCA Outcome Measures Project (the IOMP) has monitored youth placed into member agency programs across Indiana since 1998; examining characteristics of youth entering care and the outcomes of services provided. In 2018, characteristics and outcomes of youth were examined in the following 12 broad programs and program subtypes: Transitional Living; Day Treatment; Home-Based; Traditional Family Foster Care; Treatment Foster Care; Shelter Care; Residential Programs Utilizing Public Schools; Residential Programs Utilizing Both Public and On-Grounds Schools; Residential Locked and Staff-Secure Programs; Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities; Crisis Stabilization; and Outpatient Treatment. During the last 21 years, results of these examinations have been published in an Annual Report and Executive Summary (formerly Executive Summary with Cross-Year Comparisons) to provide stakeholders with benchmarks, or aggregated information, for programs within participating IARCA member agencies.

Results from the most recent year's analysis (2018) continues to find that many youth entering care are reported to have histories of multiple placement risks, either those in themselves or within their family. Also consistent with that found in the past, at discharge from service(s) youth and their families were reportedly doing somewhat better. While it is not possible to conclude that any youth or their families actually improved over time or due to program participation given that this data is not collected to conduct such analyses, it does show that for those historically at risk of placement, positive outcomes are seen.

Referral sources, youth and their parents/families, and other interested parties are encouraged to review this year's *Annual Report* and the *Executive Summary* to examine the benchmark data identified for youth across the program and sub-program types. The aggregate data is helpful as a method by which to contrast agency and statewide results to examine how youth may have unique problems and/or risks that could explain similarities and differences in outcomes.