

The IARCA Outcome Measures Project

Executive Summary 2019



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES
AND CHILD ADVOCACY



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What is the IARCA Outcome Measures Project?

The IARCA Outcome Measures Project (referred to as the IOMP) assesses the effectiveness of services provided to children and families by IARCA member agencies. With a beginning more than 25 years ago, the IOMP has collected data on a statewide basis and reported results annually since 1998. Results consist of agency submitted data on youth and their families collected when a service or program is initiated (intake), when a service or program is completed (discharge), and several months after discharge (follow-up)¹. 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 Treatment². In 2019, 51 agencies contributed information on youth receiving services in their programs.

Youth Entering Services in 2019

- ✓ Across all programs, 4,976 children were assessed at intake.
 - ✓ The average age of youth who entered a service was 11.4 years, with a range in age at intake from less than 1 year to up to 25 years.
 - ✓ Five (5) out of every 8 youth who entered care in 2019 were Caucasian (62.5%), one-fifth were African American (19.5%), and one in 20 were Latino/Hispanic (4.6%). About 1 in 7 youth were of other ethnicities or identified as multiracial (13.4%).
 - ✓ The average number of previous out-of-home placements reported for all youth entering care was 1.9, with a range from 0 to 30 prior placements.
 - ✓ About half of all youth at intake had a history of reported / substantiated neglect (49.7%).
 - ✓ Histories of suspected or substantiated physical abuse were reported in just over one-fifth of all youth (22.2%) entering care and more than 3 of every 10 youth who were admitted into care reportedly had witnessed domestic violence (31.5%).
 - ✓ More than 1 in 5 youth had received special education services (23.4%), and approximately one-third were taking psychotropic medication (33.3%).
 - ✓ More than two-fifths of the youth came from a single parent family (44.2%).
 - ✓ Approximately half had a parent who had abused substances (51.3%).
 - ✓ Nearly 2 of every 5 youth had a parent with an incarceration history (39.5%).
 - ✓ Almost 1 of every 5 youth who entered care had experienced the termination of parental rights for at least one parent (19.4%).
- ✓ The 194 youth who were placed into **Transitional Living** programs were, on average, 17.1 years of age. Nearly three of every five youth (57.2%) entering Transitional Living programs had at least one parent whose rights had been terminated (18.0% one biological parent, 39.2% both biological parents). More than two-fifths of youth entering Transitional Living programs had a parent with an incarceration history (41.2%).

¹ Consult the Annual report for detailed information on data collection methods and efforts.

² 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 2019

- ✓ Of the 64 youth who were placed into **Day Treatment** programs, more than 2 of every 5 were referred by the Department of Education (42.2%). Nearly two-thirds of youth entering Day Treatment had histories of placement in special education (64.1%).
- ✓ In **Home-Based** programs, where 960 youth were placed, more than half had a parent with known or suspected substance abuse (53.6%). Likewise, nearly half had a parent with an incarceration history (48.9%), and / or were classified as a child in need of services (CHINS) (48.0%).
- ✓ Youth in **Foster Care** programs (1,466 youth) were on average 7.0 years of age at program admission. Four (4) of every 5 youth were victims of substantiated or suspected neglect (79.9%). Nearly half had a parent with substance abuse issues identified (49.6%).
- ✓ More than 2 of every 5 (41.9%) of the 515 youth who entered **Shelter Care** programs were from a single-parent household. Likewise, nearly 2 in 5 youth had a history of being prescribed psychotropic medication (35.9%) or had been adjudicated delinquent (39.2%).
- ✓ Of the 1,292 youth who entered **Residential Care** programs, nearly half had previously received home-based services (46.7%). The average number of prior placements for youth in Residential Care was 3.1, half were adjudicated delinquent (49.6%), and nearly 3 in 5 were on psychotropic medication (57.7%) and / or had a parent with substance abuse issues identified (56.6%).
- ✓ More than two-thirds of the 364 youth who entered **Crisis Stabilization** programs had a parent with a history of substance use/abuse (71.7%), and 4 of every 5 had a parent with a known or suspected psychiatric diagnosis (80.5%).

Characteristics of Youth Served in 2019

Child Risk Factor Survey - By Program Type (2019)

Variable	All Programs	Transitional Living	Day Treatment	Home-Based	Foster Care	Shelter Care	Residential Care	Crisis Stab.	Outpatient Treatment
Intake packets*	4,976	194	64	960	1,466	515	1,292	364	121
Age (<i>Mean</i>)	11.4	17.1	13.7	10.5	7.0	14.5	14.6	12.8	10.7
Gender									
Male	52.6	41.2	73.4	52.5	51.4	48.7	59.8	39.8	52.1
Female	47.4	58.8	26.6	47.5	48.6	51.3	40.2	60.2	47.9
Ethnicity									
Caucasian	62.5	55.7	68.8	55.2	54.4	59.4	70.0	87.6	81.8
African-American	19.5	28.9	15.6	14.3	28.9	18.4	17.6	3.0	6.6
Hispanic	4.6	4.6	4.7	5.7	4.0	6.2	4.6	2.5	2.5
Other	13.4	10.8	11.9	24.8	12.7	16.0	7.8	6.9	9.1
# Previous placements (<i>Mean</i>)	1.9	3.3	0.6	0.8	1.7	2.2	3.1	0.9	1.0
Past home-based services	35.3	49.0	21.9	28.1	30.7	30.1	46.7	42.3	14.0
Pregnant	0.5	3.6	1.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0
Have child(ren)	1.6	5.7	0.0	2.3	0.6	1.7	2.0	0.0	0.8
CHINS	49.3	65.5	15.6	48.0	83.8	30.9	31.7	9.1	19.0
Delinquent	21.7	8.8	9.4	20.2	1.2	39.2	49.6	0.0	4.1
Neglect	49.7	42.3	18.8	49.7	79.9	30.1	40.6	3.3	32.2
Physical abuse	22.2	22.2	15.6	15.1	15.6	24.7	34.8	22.5	16.5
Sexual abuse	16.0	16.5	15.6	8.0	7.8	20.0	27.1	26.4	11.6
Witness domestic violence	31.5	35.6	12.5	35.9	25.3	21.2	36.1	42.9	34.7
Grade retention	8.6	21.1	7.8	9.1	3.3	6.4	11.1	17.3	5.0
Special education	23.4	23.2	64.1	17.8	12.5	19.8	38.9	29.1	11.6
Psychotropic medication	33.3	25.3	31.3	15.8	16.1	35.9	57.7	64.6	28.1
Parent substance abuse	51.3	48.5	7.8	53.6	49.6	32.0	56.6	71.7	44.6
Parent incarceration	39.5	41.2	14.1	48.9	28.8	32.0	47.4	46.4	33.9
Parent psychiatric diagnosis	22.6	23.7	7.8	25.0	5.9	11.1	28.8	80.5	21.5
Single-parent family	44.2	46.9	42.2	52.3	29.4	41.9	51.9	52.5	58.7
Parental rights terminated	19.4	57.2	17.7	11.5	10.8	20.8	29.0	20.0	16.3
One parent	4.7	18.0	3.2	3.3	1.2	4.0	7.3	8.5	2.6
Both parents	14.4	39.2	14.5	8.0	9.1	16.4	21.5	11.5	13.7
Adoptive parents	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0
Risk Score (<i>Mean</i>)	4.5	5.2	3.0	4.2	3.8	3.8	5.6	5.0	3.5

* 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 2019

- ✓ 4,480 children were assessed at discharge.
- ✓ Across all programs, a positive educational outcome at discharge was reported for the majority of youth (78.3% for the combined IARCA sample). Positive education is noted if 2 of the following 3 areas: attendance, behavior, and/or achievement are rated positively. Thus, a child would receive a positive outcome if they were attending school and not engaging in problematic behavior.
- ✓ At discharge, 3 in 10 of youth aged 16 and older were employed (29.5%).
- ✓ Nearly 2 of every 3 youth in the combined IARCA sample were discharged to a placement of less restrictiveness (63.1%).
- ✓ When a permanency plan was reported, more than half of youth achieved their permanency plan when discharged from care (54.3%).
- ✓ Nearly 3 of every 4 of the 94 youth who left **Transitional Living** programs had a positive education outcome at discharge (71.2%); more than 2 out of every 5 youth age 16 and older, were employed at discharge (43.0%).
- ✓ Nearly all of the 57 youth who were discharged from **Day Treatment** programs had a positive education outcome at discharge (98.2%); more than one-fourth of youth age 16 and older leaving Day Treatment programs were employed at discharge (27.8%).
- ✓ There were 824 youth discharged from **Home-Based** programs. A positive education outcome was found for nearly 3 of every 4 youth (71.0%); more than one-third of youth age 16 and older were employed at discharge (35.0%).
- ✓ Youth from **Foster Care** (1,256 youth) programs had a positive education outcome at discharge for about 3 of every 4 school-aged youth (73.7%); nearly 2/5 (36.8%) of youth age 16 and older were employed at discharge.
- ✓ More than half of the 493 youth who'd been placed into **Shelter Care** programs were discharged to a less restrictive setting (54.8%).
- ✓ More than 4 in 5 of the 1,265 youth who left **Residential Care** programs had a positive educational outcome (83.5%). For youth age 16 and older, nearly one in four were employed at discharge (23.4%).
- ✓ Nearly all of the 363 youth who were discharged from **Crisis Stabilization** programs went to settings with lower levels of restrictiveness (99.7%).

Discharge Outcome Summary - By Program Type (2019)

Variable	All Programs	Transitional Living	Day Treatment	Home-Based	Foster Care	Shelter Care	Residential Care	Crisis Stab.	Outpatient Treatment
Discharge packets*	4,480	94	57	824	1,256	493	1,265	363	128
Length of Stay: <i>Mean</i>	243.9	435.1	255.3	236.2	379.5	27.8	235.2	7.7	406.5
<i>Median</i>	155.0	298.0	219.0	174.0	221.5	18.0	203.0	7.0	277.5
Clinical Outcomes									
CPC at discharge (<i>Mean</i>)	4.0	3.2	3.5	2.9	2.9	6.7	5.2	2.1	3.5
FRS at discharge (<i>Mean</i>)	0.40	n/a	0.58	0.40	0.39	n/a	0.39	n/a	0.35
FPC at discharge (<i>Mean</i>)	2.1	n/a	3.7	2.1	1.9	n/a	2.3	n/a	1.4
Functional Outcomes									
Positive education at discharge	78.3	71.2	98.2	71.0	73.7	n/a	83.5	n/a	72.3
Employed at discharge	29.5	43.0	27.8	35.0	36.8	n/a	23.4	n/a	43.8
Placement Outcomes									
ROLES at discharge									
More restrictive	13.5	16.0	3.5	12.4	9.1	37.9	13.7	0.3	8.6
Similar restrictiveness	20.4	3.2	91.2	62.8	11.3	1.4	6.9	0.0	82.0
Less restrictive	63.1	73.4	5.3	23.2	77.3	54.8	75.0	99.7	8.6
Runaway	3.0	7.4	0.0	1.6	2.3	5.9	4.4	0.0	0.8
Permanency plan achieved	43.4	50.0	0.0	33.8	57.5	36.4	54.6	n/a	19.6
(only those with required plan)	54.3	42.9	0.0	50.3	55.7	49.5	56.6	n/a	66.7
Nature of discharge									
Planned	73.7	56.4	89.5	65.9	71.8	86.4	71.6	96.7	55.5
Removed by referring source	6.9	12.8	10.5	5.0	5.6	2.7	11.7	3.1	4.7
Administrative discharge	16.1	23.4	0.0	27.6	19.9	5.3	11.7	0.3	38.3
Runaway	3.3	6.4	0.0	1.6	2.7	5.5	5.1	0.0	1.6

* Sample sizes for individual items may be lower than the number of discharge packets due to missing data. Two youth died while in care (1 in Transitional Living; 1 in Foster Care - Treatment). These cases are not included in the percentages reported. 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/employment are reported for percent of youth who are of appropriate age.

n/a = data not collected on this item for the program type.

Follow-Up I from Youth Leaving Services in 2019

- ✓ Nearly 3 out of 5 (58.6%) eligible youth (987 out of 1,684) were contacted at follow-up I. Across the program types, the proportion of youth contacted at Follow-up I ranged from 3 in 7 youth (42.6% in Foster Care) to nearly all youth (95.5% in Day Treatment programs).
- ✓ Of the youth contacted at follow-up I, 9 in 10 had a positive education outcome (90.1%); more than 1 in 3 youth aged 16 and older were employed (36.1%); most had no newly substantiated abuse (98.4%); and about 1 in 10 had returned to court on new charges (90.5% had not been back in court).
- ✓ More than two-thirds of the 40 youth contacted from **Transitional Living** programs had a positive education outcome at follow-up I (68.8%); nearly 7 in 10 were employed (69.2%); since discharge, 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 (94.6%).
- ✓ All of the 42 youth who were contacted from **Day Treatment** programs had a positive educational outcome (100%). Since discharge, no new abuse was substantiated (100% had no abuse) in those youth contacted; no families experienced newly substantiated abuse (100.0% no abuse in families); and no youth had court involvement as a result of new offenses (100%).
- ✓ More than 9 out of 10 of the 167 youth contacted from **Home-Based** programs had no new abuse substantiated after being discharged from treatment (95.7% reported no new abuse); almost none were living in homes where abuse was substantiated (96.8%); and more than 9 of every 10 had not experienced court involvement (94.6%) for a new infraction.
- ✓ For the 260 youth who were contacted from **Foster Care** programs, most had positive educational outcomes rated (97.4%) and no new substantiated abuse since discharge (96.6%). Few of those contacted had substantiated instances of abuse in the home (98.3% no abuse in families) or had returned to court for new infractions (96.6% no new infractions).
- ✓ For the 436 youth contacted from **Residential Care** programs, nearly 9 out of 10 (88.2%) had positive educational outcomes; 3 in 10 (32.4%) youth over the age of 16 were employed; few had been subject to substantiated abuse (99.7% no new abuse); and more than 4 of 5 youth (83.1%) were not involved with the court on new charges.

Follow-up I Outcome Summary - By Program Type (2019)

Variable	All Programs	Transitional Living	Day Treatment	Home-Based	Foster Care	Residential Care	Outpatient Treatment
Follow-up packets completed*	987	40	42	167	260	436	41
Could not contact at follow-up	697	48	2	68	351	213	15
Functional Outcomes							
Positive Education	90.1	68.8	100.0	96.0	97.4	88.2	n/a
Employed	36.1	69.2	29.2	21.7	59.1	32.4	n/a
No new abuse of child	98.4	100.0	100.0	95.7	96.6	99.7	100.0
No new abuse in family	99.0	97.4	100.0	96.8	98.3	100.0	100.0
No new court involvement	90.5	94.6	100.0	94.6	96.6	83.1	96.7
Placement Outcomes							
ROLES							
More restrictive	9.0	10.5	0.0	2.1	9.4	12.3	0.0
Similarly restrictive	78.4	71.1	92.9	94.7	79.1	72.3	83.9
Less restrictive	12.4	18.4	7.1	3.2	11.5	15.1	16.1
Runaway	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0

* 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.

ROLES=Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale

n/a = data not available on this item.

Follow-up II Outcome Summary - By Program Type (2019)

Variable	All Programs	Transitional Living	Day Treatment	Home-Based	Foster Care	Residential Care	Outpatient Treatment
Follow-up packets completed*	727	25	39	166	130	334	32
Could not contact at follow-up	714	43	3	66	346	312	29
Functional Outcomes							
Positive Education	90.0	75.0	88.2	90.0	100.0	89.5	n/a
Employed	42.1	72.7	20.8	26.1	25.0	44.2	n/a
No new abuse of child	97.3	100.0	100.0	98.2	90.2	99.6	100.0
No new abuse in family	99.0	95.7	100.0	96.0	99.1	100.0	100.0
No new court involvement	87.5	87.0	86.8	92.0	97.4	82.1	87.0
Placement Outcomes							
ROLES							
More restrictive	10.9	8.3	7.7	5.1	14.3	11.2	16.7
Similar restrictiveness	68.3	66.7	79.5	88.6	71.4	59.2	70.8
Less restrictive	19.6	25.0	12.8	5.1	14.3	27.3	12.5
Runaway	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.2	0.0

* 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.

ROLES=Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale

n/a = data not available on this item.

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 2019, 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 22 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 (2019) continues to find that the majority of youth entering care have reported histories containing multiple placement risks. Some of these risks are in the youth themselves or are within their families. While not possible to conclude that any youth improved over time or due to program participation, information collected at discharge show that outcomes are generally positive. The data does provide benchmarks and those involved in the systematic care of youth across the state (e.g., referral sources, youth and their parents/families, program administrators, program therapists and other interested parties) are encouraged to review this year's *Annual Report* and the *Executive Summary*. Exploring the data in these documents may be a useful way to examine the consistent and unique features of youth placed in these care settings and how these characteristics may relate to similarities and differences seen in outcomes.