

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Juvenile Justice

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Functional Family Therapy (FFT) for youth post-release	Mar. 2019	\$165,893	\$38,110	\$127,782	(\$8,857)	\$157,036	\$18.73	100%
Dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) for youth in state institutions	Jun. 2019	\$55,193	\$11,616	\$43,577	(\$1,693)	\$53,499	\$32.59	93%
Intensive supervision for court-involved youth (vs. confinement in state institutions)	Jul. 2019	\$19,243	\$968	\$18,276	\$29,097	\$48,340	n/a	100%
Other (non-name brand) family-based therapies for court-involved youth	Jul. 2019	\$45,682	\$11,923	\$33,759	(\$3,355)	\$42,327	\$13.62	92%
Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) for court-involved/post-release youth	Jul. 2019	\$35,164	\$8,525	\$26,639	\$3,101	\$38,265	n/a	100%
Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) (vs. group homes) for court-involved youth	Jun. 2019	\$45,436	\$12,815	\$32,620	(\$10,555)	\$34,880	\$4.30	90%
Therapeutic communities for youth in state institutions with substance use disorder	Aug. 2017	\$40,269	\$9,568	\$30,701	(\$5,556)	\$34,714	\$7.25	99%
Mentoring for youth post-release (including volunteer costs)	Jun. 2019	\$37,247	\$8,461	\$28,787	(\$3,973)	\$33,274	\$9.37	94%
Other (non-therapeutic communities) substance use disorder treatment for youth in state institutions	Aug. 2017	\$32,531	\$7,153	\$25,377	(\$3,826)	\$28,705	\$8.50	71%
Step Up for court-involved youth	Feb. 2019	\$27,613	\$7,086	\$20,526	(\$1,554)	\$26,059	\$17.77	82%
Adolescent Diversion Project (ADP) (vs. traditional juvenile court processing)	Jun. 2019	\$25,459	\$6,540	\$18,919	\$395	\$25,854	n/a	100%
Education and Employment Training (EET, King County) for court-involved youth	Feb. 2019	\$28,630	\$7,868	\$20,762	(\$3,411)	\$25,219	\$8.39	99%
Teaching-Family Model group homes (vs. other group homes) for court-involved youth	Mar. 2019	\$29,441	\$7,707	\$21,734	(\$5,557)	\$23,884	\$5.30	88%
Mentoring for court-involved youth (including volunteer costs)	Jun. 2019	\$24,930	\$7,257	\$17,673	(\$3,064)	\$21,867	\$8.14	85%
Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for court-involved/post-release youth	May. 2019	\$28,562	\$8,069	\$20,493	(\$9,486)	\$19,076	\$3.01	99%
Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) for youth in state institutions	Jul. 2019	\$18,495	\$4,023	\$14,472	(\$352)	\$18,144	\$52.60	70%
Functional Family Probation and Parole (FFP) for court-involved/post-release youth	Aug. 2019	\$20,889	\$5,156	\$15,733	(\$4,636)	\$16,253	\$4.51	74%
Teen courts (vs. traditional juvenile court processing)	May. 2019	\$12,186	\$3,025	\$9,161	\$1,448	\$13,634	n/a	85%
Diversion, no services (vs. traditional juvenile court processing)	May. 2019	\$9,420	\$2,248	\$7,172	\$1,799	\$11,219	n/a	99%
Multisystemic Therapy-Problem Sexual Behavior (MST-PSB) for court-involved youth	May. 2019	\$25,668	\$9,459	\$16,210	(\$16,566)	\$9,102	\$1.55	59%
Vocational and employment training for court-involved youth	Jul. 2019	\$10,451	\$2,964	\$7,486	(\$2,513)	\$7,938	\$4.16	82%
Diversion with services (vs. traditional juvenile court processing)	May. 2019	\$6,196	\$1,477	\$4,719	\$1,431	\$7,628	n/a	100%
Boot camps (vs. confinement in state institutions)	Apr. 2018	\$2,164	\$106	\$2,058	\$3,374	\$5,539	n/a	61%
Multisystemic Therapy-Substance Abuse (MST-SA) for court-involved youth	May. 2019	\$15,134	\$5,008	\$10,126	(\$9,605)	\$5,529	\$1.58	59%

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Coordination of Services (COS) for court-involved youth	Feb. 2019	\$5,667	\$1,637	\$4,030	(\$494)	\$5,172	\$11.46	95%
Drug court	Jul. 2019	\$3,144	\$817	\$2,328	(\$59)	\$3,086	\$53.55	65%
Restorative justice conferencing or victim offender mediation for court-involved youth	Aug. 2019	\$1,925	\$368	\$1,557	\$1,099	\$3,024	n/a	78%
Multisystemic Therapy-Family Integrated Transitions (MST-FIT) for youth in state institutions	Feb. 2019	\$16,496	\$5,089	\$11,407	(\$14,083)	\$2,413	\$1.17	53%
TeamChild for court-involved youth	Mar. 2019	\$3,065	\$970	\$2,095	(\$1,820)	\$1,245	\$1.68	57%
Therapeutic communities (vs. group homes) for court-involved youth with substance use disorder	Aug. 2017	\$1,358	\$701	\$657	(\$2,482)	(\$1,123)	\$0.55	48%
Diversion with services (vs. simple release)	May. 2019	(\$544)	\$8	(\$551)	(\$1,144)	(\$1,688)	(\$0.48)	33%
Other (non-therapeutic communities) substance use disorder treatment for court-involved youth	Aug. 2017	\$1,201	\$1,010	\$191	(\$3,508)	(\$2,306)	\$0.34	44%
Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) for court-involved youth	Jul. 2019	(\$2,312)	(\$558)	(\$1,754)	(\$166)	(\$2,478)	(\$13.96)	41%
Vocational and employment training for youth in state institutions	Jul. 2019	(\$1,756)	(\$202)	(\$1,553)	(\$938)	(\$2,693)	(\$1.87)	44%
Functional Family Therapy (FFT) for court-involved youth	Jun. 2023	\$1,563	\$974	\$588	(\$4,574)	(\$3,011)	\$0.34	41%
Intensive supervision for court-involved youth (vs. traditional probation)	Jul. 2019	(\$3,245)	(\$781)	(\$2,464)	(\$593)	(\$3,839)	(\$5.47)	29%
Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for court-involved/post-release youth	Jun. 2019	(\$2,842)	(\$480)	(\$2,362)	(\$1,889)	(\$4,731)	(\$1.50)	23%
Sexual Abuse Family Education and Treatment Program (SAFE-T) for court-involved youth convicted of a sex offense	Jun. 2019	\$16,856	\$8,685	\$8,172	(\$28,652)	(\$11,795)	\$0.59	24%
Teen courts (vs. diversion, no services)	May. 2019	(\$16,934)	(\$4,253)	(\$12,681)	(\$351)	(\$17,284)	(\$48.28)	2%
Intensive supervision for youth post-release (vs. traditional post-release supervision)	Jul. 2019	(\$12,959)	(\$2,278)	(\$10,681)	(\$5,465)	(\$18,424)	(\$2.37)	5%
Juvenile awareness programs (including Scared Straight) for court-involved youth	Apr. 2019	(\$20,005)	(\$5,136)	(\$14,870)	(\$32)	(\$20,037)	(\$629.90)	3%
Youth Villages LifeSet (YV LifeSet) for court-involved/post-release youth	Jul. 2019	(\$16,130)	(\$2,848)	(\$13,282)	(\$11,545)	(\$27,675)	(\$1.40)	2%

Other Juvenile Justice topics reviewed:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
Adolescent Diversion Project (ADP) (vs. simple release)	Jun. 2019	Click for meta-analytic results
Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for youth in state institutions	Jun. 2019	Click for meta-analytic results
Equipping Youth to Help Each Other (EQUIP) for youth in state institutions	Jun. 2019	Click for meta-analytic results
Functional Family Therapy (FFT) for post-release youth convicted of a sex offense	Jul. 2019	Click for meta-analytic results
Canine training programs for youth in state institutions	May. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Comprehensive Homicide Initiative	Feb. 2020	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Connections Wraparound for court-involved youth	Jun. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) for substance use disorder: Integrated Treatment Model for youth in state institutions	Jun. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Electronic monitoring for court-involved/post-release youth	Jun. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Gang Reduction Program (Los Angeles, CA)	May. 2020	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Gang Reduction Program (Richmond, VA)	May. 2020	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Girls Only Active Learning (GOAL)	Jun. 2020	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Group homes (Sanctuary Model) for youth in state institutions	May. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)	May. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Project Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development (Project BUILD) for youth in state institutions	May. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
The Missouri Approach (Missouri Model) for youth in state institutions	May. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET) for youth involved in the juvenile justice system	May. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Wayne County (Michigan) Second Chance Reentry Program	May. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
You Are Not Your Past	May. 2019	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Youth Advocate Programs—Mentoring	Aug. 2018	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Wilderness adventure therapy for court-involved youth	Dec. 2021	No rigorous evaluations measuring outcome of interest.

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Printed on 03-20-2024



Washington State Institute for Public Policy

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