Youth with behavioral health conditions are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system. The majority have experienced child trauma. Too often, youth are unnecessarily placed in or referred to the juvenile justice system in a misguided attempt to obtain treatment services.

Over the last decade, significant advances in research and program development have resulted in a wide array of new tools and knowledge that can help the juvenile justice and related child-serving systems improve their response to youth with behavioral health needs.

CRITICAL INTERVENTION MAPPING
Through a critical intervention mapping activity, communities:

- Develop a local "map" to show how youth come in contact with and move through the juvenile justice system
- Conduct a self-assessment to identify gaps and strengths across the continuum
- Identify opportunities for improving responses to justice-involved youth
- Leverages local data to establish action steps for change and identify quantifiable outcomes

Prevalence Comparison Data Between Youth in Contact with the Juvenile Justice System (Outside Ring) and Youth in the General Population (Inside Ring)

- Mental Disorder: 70% vs. 20%
- Substance Use Disorder: 46.2% vs. 8%
- Traumatic Event Exposure: 90% vs. 25%

CRITICAL INTERVENTION POINTS
- Schools and Community
- Initial Contact and Referral
- Intake
- Judicial Processing
- Detention
- Probation Supervision
- Secure Placement
- Reentry

NCYoj
Research. Policy. Practice.

ABOUT NCYOJ
The National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice aims to improve life opportunities for youth by advancing policy and practice improvements that ensure the well-being of youth, families, and communities.

ABOUT PRA
Policy Research Associates, Inc. is a national leader in behavioral health services research and its application to social change. Since 1987, PRA has assisted over 200 communities nationwide through a broad range of services to guide policy and practice.

LEARN MORE
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