



New Publication Explores How Data Can Be Used to Understand the Needs of People in Local Jails

To make informed decisions on operational costs, diversion opportunities, healthcare services, and jail, community, and reentry collaborations, communities must understand the needs and trends of people within their local jails. A new brief by Senior Project Associates Regina Huerter and Ashley Krider explores how jurisdictions can use data to understand the needs and trends of people incarcerated within local jails.

The brief, *Creating Data-Informed Strategies to Understand the Needs of People in Your Jail*, highlights how communities can access and aggregate health information across the jail custody, management, and healthcare systems to develop clear, actionable insights.

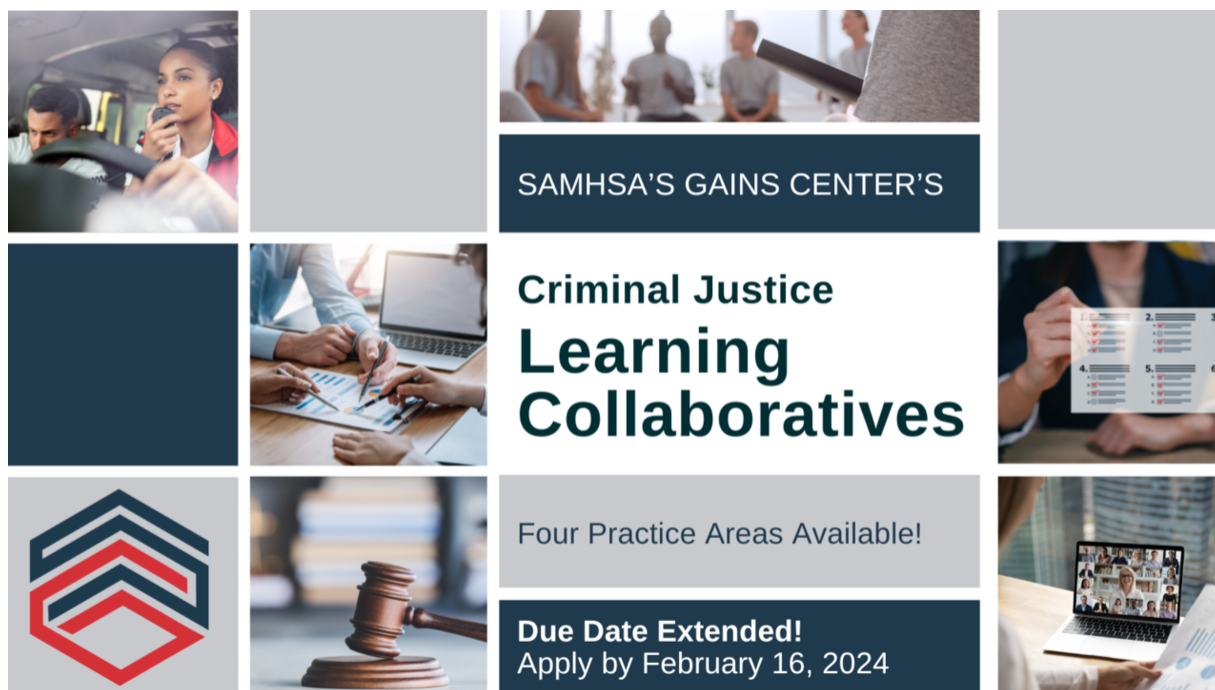
The brief provides step-by-step instructions on how community partners can crosswalk their data systems, complete a data landscape scan, and develop consensus on key terms. It also offers detailed instructions on how to build and enhance data collection processes that comply with national and state standards.

The brief offers examples of aggregate-level indicators that facility administrators should consider when creating strategies to address needs. The indicators are coupled with follow-up questions for community partners.



[Download the Brief Now](#)

Submission Date Extended: GAINS Center's Criminal Justice Learning Collaboratives



SAMHSA'S GAINS CENTER'S

Criminal Justice Learning Collaboratives

Four Practice Areas Available!

Due Date Extended!
Apply by February 16, 2024

New due date: February 16, 2024

SAMHSA's GAINS Center has extended the application period for jurisdictions interested in collaborating with subject-matter experts through Criminal Justice Learning Collaboratives focused on:

- Creating and Enhancing Community-Level Partnerships Among First Responders and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics
- Diversion and Support for Transition-Age Youth
- Implementing Risk-Need-Responsivity Principles in Adult Drug Courts and Reentry Programs
- Trauma-Informed Treatment Courts

The Learning Collaborative model brings together local jurisdiction teams to create coordinated local strategic plans and implementation strategies for the topic of focus. Selected teams for each topic will work intensively to determine optimal ways to implement best practices and define success indicators.

[Submit Your Application Today](#)

Elan Hope Releases First Issue as Editor of the *Journal of Adolescent Research*

In January 2024, Research and Evaluation Director Dr. Elan Hope released her first issue as editor of the *Journal of Adolescent Research* (JAR). Dr. Hope was named editor in October 2023. JAR provides research focused on adolescence and early adulthood development.

Dr. Hope's first issue as editor covered a range of topics, including the following:

- LGBTQ+ adolescents' experiences in junior high schools
- How transgender adolescents experience gender identity expression
- The benefits of natural mentoring for African American LGBTQ+ adolescents
- Identity supports for transgender and nonbinary adolescents



Dr. Hope has written a [welcome letter](#) (published OnlineFirst), highlighting her long-standing relationship with JAR and her alignment with JAR's focus on mixed-methods research. She outlined the following three goals for her tenure as editor:

1. Sharing youth voice with intention and attention
2. Growing methodological diversity within qualitative and mixed-methods research
3. Highlighting author positionality and reflexivity

Dr. Hope concluded her welcome letter by saying, "Over the past 38 years, JAR has provided a space for high-quality qualitative and mixed-methods research in adolescent and emerging adulthood developmental science. I look forward to working with our current Associate Editors and Editorial Board to continue the fantastic legacy of JAR."

[Access the Journal](#)

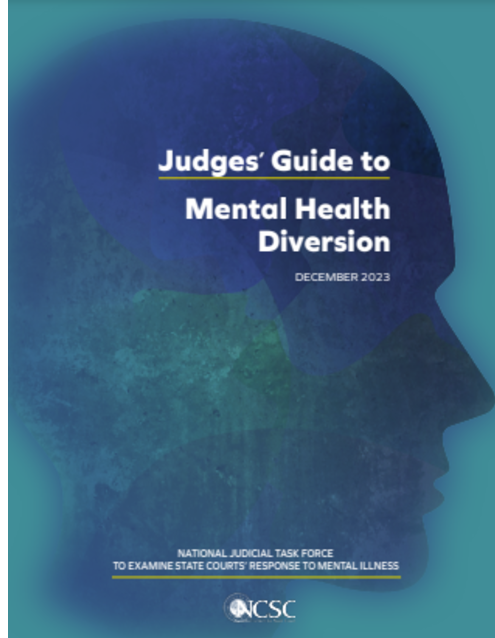
Partner Release: Updated *Judges' Guide to Mental Health Diversion*

The National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness, operated by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), has released an updated *Judges' Guide to Mental Health*

Diversion. The guide, first published by Policy Research in 2010, serves as a quick reference guide for judges and courts interested in implementing and promoting jail diversion programs for people with behavioral health conditions.

[Policy Research](#) developed the guide through the Center for Mental Health Services National GAINS Center through involvement with the Judges Leadership Initiative. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded the work.

Advances in the field necessitated an update to the *Judges' Guide*. To support the revisions, Policy Research worked with NCSC to transfer primary ownership to NCSC, where the necessary updates could be completed through the work of the National Judicial Task Force.



[Access the Updated Guide](#)

Upcoming Webinars

[GAINS: Navigating the Competency to Stand Trial System for Individuals With Intellectual and Developmental Disability](#)

February 15, 2024, 1:30–3:00 p.m. ET

This webinar will discuss considerations related to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities regarding raising the question of competence, competency evaluations, and competence restoration processes.

[SOAR: Strategies and Considerations for Representing Older Adults With SSI/SSDI Claims](#)

February 27, 2024, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET

This webinar will address the growing population of older adults with disabilities who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and the specific challenges they face, including accessing SSI/SSDI benefits and other needed assistance.

[HHRC: Expanding Harm Reduction Through Increased Syringe Access](#)

February 28, 2024, 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

This webinar will discuss the ways in which health centers and other community-based organizations can expand harm reduction services by offering syringe access to participants through direct service delivery and partnership.

GAINS: Planning for the Future: Ensuring Sustainability for Drug Treatment Courts

February 29, 2024, 1:30–3:00 p.m. ET

This webinar will discuss how drug treatment courts can plan for long-term sustainability through a multifaceted approach.

Policy Research at an Event Near You

Housing First Partners Conference 2024

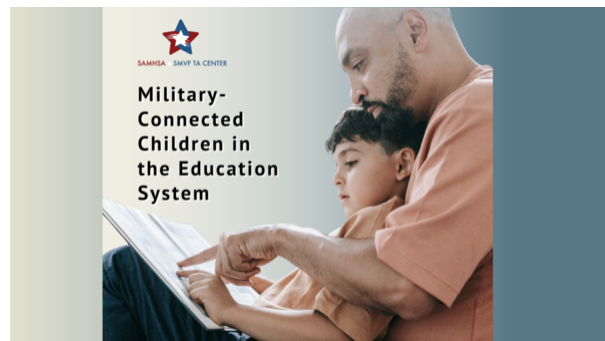
April 8–11, 2024, Atlanta, Georgia

Join SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance Center Assistant Director Dazara Ware and Project Associate Amanda Starkey at the Housing First Partners Conference for their session, "[SOAR: Income Support to Leverage Housing Opportunities for Diverse Populations](#)." The session will take place April 10, 2024, from 3:45–5:00 p.m. ET in Room 210-211.

Recent Stories From the Policy Research Blog



*Breaking the Cycle of Frequent Jail Contact:
Insights From a Multi-Year Study*



*Supporting Military-Connected Children:
Insights From the Service Members,
Veterans, and Their Families Technical
Assistance Center Webinar*

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