



Survey Results Summary

Identification of Issues of Great Importance and Difficulty

May 3, 2009

The following is a brief summary of the results of a recent Center for Juvenile Justice Reform survey of juvenile justice professionals. The survey was distributed by Ned Loughran, Executive Director of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, and Carl Wicklund, Executive Director of the American Probation and Parole Association to their organization's membership during the last week of February 2008.

Response Rate

A total of 48 surveys were started by recipients and 40 were completed, for a completion rate of 83.3%.

Most Important Operational Issues Facing Department/Agency

Issues receiving the highest scores for *most important issues to the agency* received a modal rating of 7 on a scale measuring the importance of the issue to the respondent's agency, from 1 (not important) to 7 (extremely important). The most important issues included (in order of most frequent rating of 7):

1. Community based services;
2. Aftercare;
3. Family engagement;
4. Risk, needs and services assessments; and
5. Racial disproportionality and disparities.

Top issues that received a score of either 6 or 7 (in order of most frequent total of 6 or 7 rating) included: Family engagement; Community based services; Behavioral health services; Education supports and services; Aftercare; and Risk, needs and services assessments.

Most Difficult to Address Operational Issues Facing Department/Agency

Perhaps not surprisingly, there was a good deal of overlap between the issues rated as most important and those rated as *most difficult to address*. The operational issues that were ranked as most difficult for respondent's agencies to address included (in order of average score):

1. Family engagement;
2. Community based services;
3. Aftercare;
4. Racial disproportionality and disparities; and
5. Behavioral health services.

Issues of Significant Concern Regarding Institutional Care

When asked to identify issues of serious concern pertaining to juveniles in institutional care, the most commonly cited issues included:

1. Family involvement;
2. Availability of behavioral health services;
3. Adequate staffing and Aftercare (tied); and
4. Qualified staff.

Family involvement was ranked as a serious concern by over 85% of respondents, and the availability of behavioral health services was ranked as serious concern by over 70% of respondents.