



# Challenge of Dual Status Youth

CHILDREN WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE CHILD WELFARE HAVE AN  
INCREASED RISK OF ENTERING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

# WHO ARE DUAL STATUS YOUTH

- **Dually Identified Youth:** Youth who are currently involved with the juvenile justice system and have a history in the child welfare system, but are not currently involved.
- **Dually Involved Youth:** Youth who have concurrent involvement (diversionary, formal or combination of the two) with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- **Dually Adjudicated Youth:** Youth who are concurrently adjudicated in both the child welfare and juvenile systems (both dependent and delinquent).



# THE STATS

- ONE INSTANCE OF MALTREATMENT INCREASES A CHILD'S CHANCE OF ENTERING INTO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM BY 47%-59%
- 2/3RDS OF THE CHILDREN INVOLVED WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE HAVE HAD SOME CONTACT WITH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
- CHILDREN WHO HAVE HAD INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM ARE MORE LIKELY
  - TO BE DETAINED OR ON INTENSIVE PROBATION
  - ENTER THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AT AN EARLIER AGE
  - HAVE MORE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE

# STATS continued

- Dual Status Youth are more likely to face struggles with:
  - Trauma and typically multiple traumatic events
  - Family Stability
  - Drug Use
  - Sex Abuse



# THE STATS, continued

- Girls and youth of color are disproportionately represented in the dual status youth population.
  - Youth of color are overrepresented in both the child welfare and juvenile justice system
  - Girls make up approximately 20-25% of the delinquency population, but account for 33-50% of the dual status youth population

# CHALLENGING OUTCOMES FOR DUAL STATUS YOUTH

- Youth involved in child welfare and juvenile justice systems are:
  - More likely to recidivate by as much as 51% - 70% compared to 34 – 42% where there was no child welfare involvement
  - 28% more likely to enter the adult criminal justice system than their peers with no child welfare involvement
  - More likely to have mental health issues, drug issues and poor health care outcomes



# SYSTEM CHALLENGES

- Information Sharing
- Collaboration
- Limited Community Resources

# OHIO

- Ohio Population: 11.69 million (2019)
  - White: 81.7%
  - Black: 13.1%
  - Hispanic: 4%
  - Asian: 2.5%
- Decentralized with 88 counties
  - Department of Job and Families Services ([jfs.ohio.gov](http://jfs.ohio.gov))
  - Court System ([supremecourt.ohio.gov](http://supremecourt.ohio.gov))



# CLARK COUNTY, OHIO

- Located in the southwest quadrant of Ohio and is a mix of rural and urban life
- Springfield is the county seat
- Clark County Population is 134,083 (2019)
  - White: 86.9%
  - Black: 9%
  - Hispanic: 3.6%
- 80% of our juvenile justice and child welfare cases are residents of Springfield
- 37.8% of the children who reside in Springfield City School District live in poverty (2017)

# Beginning in Clark County, Ohio

- ▶ Why we wrote for the grant
  - ▶ Recognized that there may be a casual link between involvement in child welfare and juvenile justice
  - ▶ Recognize this initiative will expose your community's need for change
- ▶ Initial discussion with community stakeholders
  - ▶ Engagement with all partners
  - ▶ If you can, do some data collection prior to determine what percentage of youth have had involvement in both systems.



# Clark County Dual Status Youth

- Who to invite to the initial meeting and the why needed to motivate enthusiasm for the collaboration to move the initiative forward
  - Job and Family Services
  - Family and Children First Council
  - Prosecutor
  - Public Defender
  - Education
  - Law Enforcement
  - Mental Health
- Formation of the Executive Committee

# Target Population

- Define the target population
  - Dually identified youth
  - Dually involved youth
  - Dually adjudicated youth
- Executive Committee discussions



# Clark County's Target Population

- Dually Involved Youth (DIY) with 2 pathways into the program:
  - ▶ Youth will be considered and treated as dually involved youth when they enter the juvenile justice system and the family currently has an open case with the child welfare system or
  - ▶ Become involved with the child welfare system within thirty (30) days of entering the juvenile justice system.
- Specific Exclusions
  - Serious violent offenders but with commitment to re-evaluate in one year
  - Sex Offender on a case by case basis

# Sub-committees

1. Resource and Practice
  - ▶ Development of the process
2. Law and Policy
  - ▶ Focus on the legal aspects of information sharing/confidentiality/use of information
  - ▶ Development of the Memorandum of Understanding
3. Data Collection
  - ▶ Outcomes and data points



# Development of the Procedure

- Critical points
  - Identification of a youth as DIY as quickly as possible
  - Information sharing between juvenile court and family and children services
  - Family engagement as a collaborative effort
  - Community response as a team approach and family and youth as a vocal members of the team
  - The procedural narrative should be a living document that is reviewed and discussed at regular intervals for what is and is not working
  - Data should be collected and evaluated to determine if outcomes are being met and to identify the characteristics of the target population

# Clark County DIY Procedural Narrative

- ▶ Pathway 1 DIY youth are identified within one business day of receiving charges and within hours if youth is detained.
- ▶ Pathway 2 DIY are identified when juvenile court is made aware of child welfare involvement



# DIY Procedural Narrative, cont.

- ▶ Relevant and critical information is shared between juvenile court intake worker and JFS case worker:
  - ▶ Juvenile Court to JFS:
    - ▶ Whether or not youth is detained
    - ▶ Date of next court hearing/event
    - ▶ Current and historical delinquent/unruly cases
    - ▶ Probation/diversion services previously provided
    - ▶ Names of other known professionals working with the youth/family
    - ▶ Current/ongoing concerns regarding juvenile behaviors
    - ▶ Safety issues in regards to the parents and/or juvenile
  - ▶ JFS to Juvenile Court:
    - ▶ Status of case
    - ▶ Current/previous services provided
    - ▶ Concerns regarding juvenile behaviors
    - ▶ Safety issues in regards to the parents and/or juvenile
    - ▶ List of other agencies working with the youth/family for the purpose of completing a release of information
    - ▶ Dates of upcoming meetings

# DIY Procedural Narrative, cont.

- ▶ Juvenile court also notifies the prosecutor's office that the identification of DIY youth
- ▶ A meeting with the DIY intake officer, case worker, parent and youth is scheduled within 5 business days of identification and if possible at the family home
  - ▶ Intake officer will administer the JIFF (Juvenile Inventory for Functioning), ACE and OYAS and obtain signed releases of information from custodian
  - ▶ We need to add an active trauma screening tool (CANS)
  - ▶ If appropriate, a request will be made for a mental health assessment of the youth



# DIY Procedural Narrative, cont.

- ▶ Multi-Disciplinary Team
  - ▶ Family Stability
  - ▶ Team Members:
    - ▶ DJFS Facilitator
    - ▶ DIY intake
    - ▶ Mental health
    - ▶ Education (recently vacated – had been McKinney-Vento liason)
    - ▶ Family support person as identified by family
    - ▶ Direct service providers as needed
  - ▶ Primary goal of MDT family preservation, safety of children and communities and stabilization of families in crisis. The committee brainstorms different ways to meet the physical and emotional needs of families to avoid further penetration into the juvenile justice and/or child welfare system. The team makes the necessary recommendations for utilization of community resources, cross system coordination, and intervention practices that are youth and family focused.
  - ▶ MDT agency members are to review the referral and research previous history with family
  - ▶ Team lead is the referral source



# DIY Procedural Narrative, cont.

- ▶ MDT Meeting:
  - ▶ Introductions
    - ▶ The team members will say who they are, the agency they represent/services offered (if applicable), and their relationship to the family/youth.
  - ▶ State the purpose of the MDT
  - ▶ Detail the ground rules
  - ▶ Strength-based
    - ▶ facilitator recognizes that sensitive issues will be discussed
    - ▶ assurance of confidentiality
    - ▶ Discussion will not include details of offense if the youth has not been adjudicated
    - ▶ One person will speak at a time
    - ▶ Turn off electronics
    - ▶ A healthy break will be utilized if needed - anyone can ask for a break
    - ▶ The youth and family will be encouraged to participate and will be asked direct questions
  - ▶ Review concerns/needs/risks
    - ▶ Facilitator summarizes the information contained in the referral
    - ▶ Facilitator invites input from MDT, beginning with family
    - ▶ The MDT team adopts a trauma – informed response to youth and families, including consideration of trauma-specific treatment if appropriate
    - ▶ Facilitator attempts to gain consensus amongst all parties
    - ▶ Facilitator mediates amongst parties as needed
    - ▶ Review JIFF assessment to frame the discussion around risk/need services(Probation Officer)
    - ▶ Review Safety Factors and Protective Capacities (Case worker)
  - ▶ Dispute Resolution Process



# DIY Procedural Narrative, cont.

- ▶ There will be times the MDT will not come to a consensus with recommendations for the family/youth. When a dispute between the MDT members occurs:
  - ▶ The facilitator will acknowledge the dispute, capture the essence of what has been said, and summarize all of the considered recommendations
  - ▶ Each team member will have the opportunity to explain why they are recommending the option they chose
  - ▶ In instances where there is a dispute regarding specific recommendations, the MDT facilitator will follow up with the agency representative and/or agency supervisor regarding guidance on recommendation
  - ▶ The facilitator will call to follow up with the family regarding their perspective on the MDT.
    - ▶ Confirm family understanding of the meeting/process/recommendations
  - ▶ Court and/or JFS supervisors/administration will review and consider recommendations made by the MDT when making decisions to proceed with the handling of the case
- ▶ A written report with recommendations will be provided to the family. The recommendations are designed to prevent further penetration into the child welfare and juvenile justice system.

# Infograph shared with the family by the MDT Facilitator





# DIY Procedural Narrative, cont.

## ▶ Monitoring

- ▶ The court intake officer shall communicate with the family and case worker within 5 business days following the MDT meeting
  - ▶ Notify case worker of family communication
- ▶ Allows service barriers to be identified
- ▶ A 30 day review meeting will take place to include the family, case worker, probation officer/court staff, and direct service providers
- ▶ The review meeting date will be determined at the MDT, and included in the MDT recommendations.
- ▶ Family progress on the MDT recommendations will be discussed at the review meeting.
- ▶ The case will be placed on the Interagency Review Committee (IRC) schedule to be reviewed within 60 days following the MDT meeting
  - ▶ Subsequent IRC case reviews will be scheduled on an “as needed” basis
- ▶ The case team leader will forward the review meeting notes to the IRC facilitator for presentation and review by the committee



# DIY Procedural Narrative, cont.

- ▶ Modification of MDT recommendations
  - ▶ If needs of the youth and family change, the MDT will reconvene to address those needs and modify the recommendations
- ▶ If necessary, IRC will have frequent meetings to review and address progress or further needs of the youth and family
- ▶ Many of our DIY youth have daily contact with the DIY officer



# DIY Procedural Narrative

- ▶ Case Closure: When a DIY case closes in either the juvenile justice or child welfare systems:
  - ▶ A case closure meeting will be scheduled to include direct service providers and the family
    - ▶ The agency closing the case will be responsible for the scheduling the meeting
    - ▶ The children services case plan may be reviewed and additional recommendations may be made at that time
    - ▶ The agency closing the case will write a case closing summary to include any recommendations that are made to the family
    - ▶ The family will receive a copy of the case closing summary
    - ▶ Agency representatives from juvenile court and children services agree to be available for future case discussion/consultation
  - ▶ The case will no longer be monitored by the IRC committee

# Data Collection

- ▶ Outcomes:
  - ▶ Reduce Recidivism
  - ▶ Reduced Entry into Custody of CCDJFS
  - ▶ Stabilization in Placement
  - ▶ Stabilization in Mental Health
  - ▶ Stabilization in Education
  - ▶ Adoption Disruption
- ▶ Costs are tracked
  - ▶ Placement – any placement outside the home
- ▶ Survey: completed through Survey Monkey
  - ▶ Youth MDT
  - ▶ Youth Services
  - ▶ Caregiver MDT
  - ▶ Caregiver Services
  - ▶ Practitioner
  - ▶ Executive Committee



# Data Collected

- ▶ Reporting: The Data Subcommittee prepares Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Reports for the Executive Committee
- ▶ Data Schedule:
  - ▶ Data Source (Court, Child Welfare, Survey)
  - ▶ Outcome
  - ▶ How Often Data is Extracted (Weekly or Quarterly)
  - ▶ Who is Responsible for Extracting Data (Agency/Position)
  - ▶ Analysis (Name of the Database)
  - ▶ Who is Responsible for Entering Data into Analysis Database (Agency/Position)
  - ▶ Who is Responsible for Analyzing it (Agency/Position)
  - ▶ When Reported (Monthly, Quarterly, Semi-Annually)

# Data Collected, cont.

- ▶ Outcomes

- ▶ Outcome 1: Recidivism
- ▶ Outcome 2: Custody
- ▶ Outcome 3: Placement
- ▶ Outcome 4: Behavioral
- ▶ Outcome 5: Educational
- ▶ Outcome 6: Adoption Disruption



# Data Collected, cont.

- ▶ Additional Data
  - ▶ Services Delivered
  - ▶ Demographics
  - ▶ Costs
  - ▶ Surveys

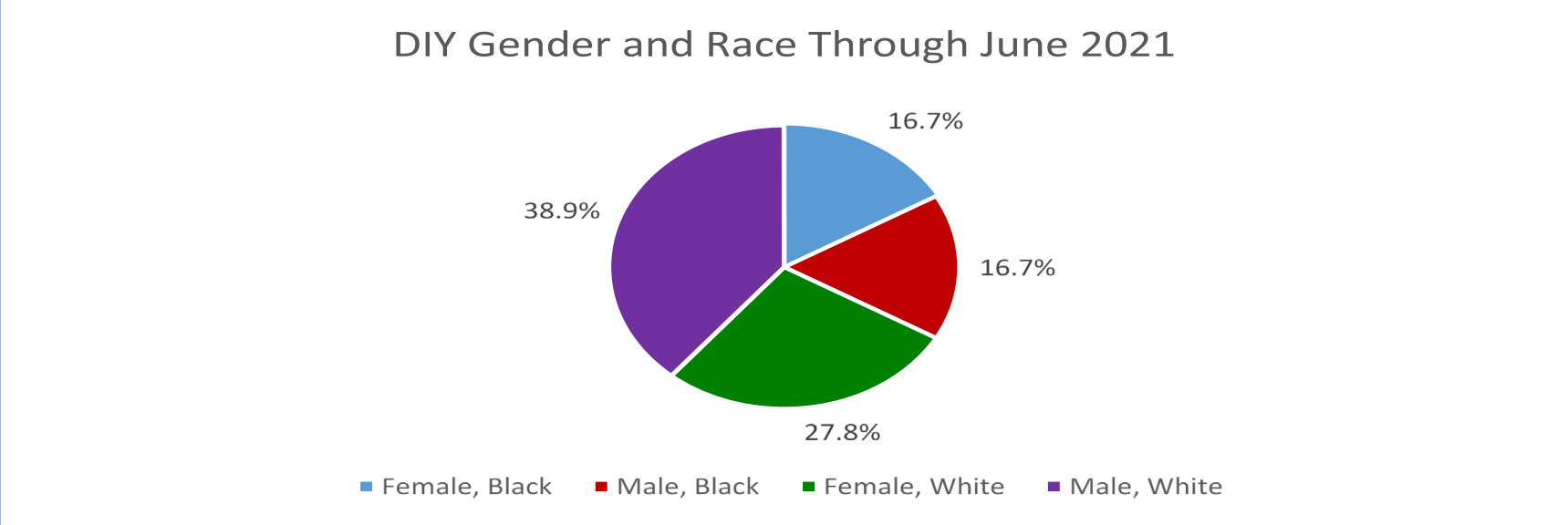
# Data Collected, cont.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Gender and Race

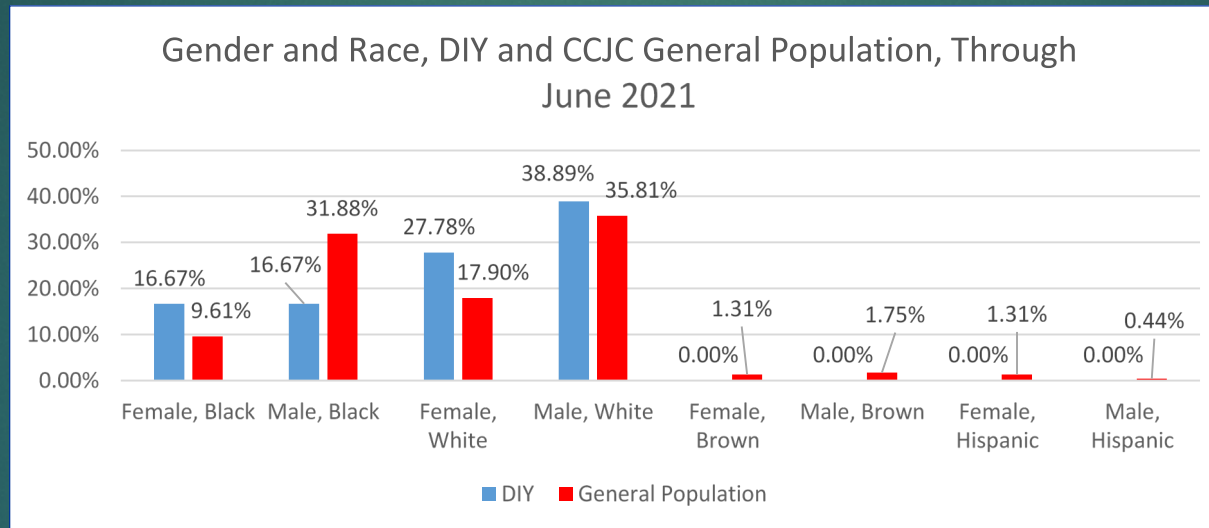
Both race and gender data were available for 18 of the 20 DIY at the time this report was written. Both of these identifiers are based on the youth’s self-reporting. White males continue to be the largest group amongst DIY. The second largest DIY group is white females. These data are presented in “DIY Race and Gender Through June 2021” below.



How do these demographic percentages compare with the CCJC general population? Both gender and race are available for 229 of the 281 youth in the general population. The following chart, “Gender and Race, DIY and CCJC General Population, Through June 2021”, presents data for comparison.



# Data Collected, cont.



In general, compared to the general population, the DIY have notably higher percentages of Female Blacks and Female Whites and notably lower percentages of Male Blacks. The percentages of Male Whites are fairly close.

# Successes

- ▶ DIY officer devoted to just DIY youth
- ▶ Collaboration in the identification of target population
- ▶ Timeframes are consistently met on family meetings and MDT
- ▶ Data collection has been extraordinarily informative
- ▶ Executive Team collaboration
- ▶ Training and Launch
- ▶ RFK has extended their technical assistance an additional year



# Probation Transformation

- ▶ Our approach to probation changed – more specialized and incentive based
  - ▶ Intake
  - ▶ DIY officer
  - ▶ Diversion
  - ▶ Intensive Probation
- ▶ We also modified our approach to detainment
- ▶ Data provides an accurate narrative
- ▶ FFT from an provider outside our community
- ▶ Family First Prevention Services Act in Ohio recommends the CANS as an active trauma screening tool allowing for collaboration on this with child welfare



# Challenges

- ▶ Access to mental health services
  - ▶ In 2020 Clark County the access to mental health services ratios indicate a disparity of population to provider as 600:1, in Ohio as 380:1 and national top performers ratio as 270:1 ([countyhealthrankings.org](http://countyhealthrankings.org))
  - ▶ DIY has a family stability and functioning aspect that separates other delinquent youth from a DIY youth. There are no local providers for Family Functioning Therapy (FFT) or Multi-system Therapy (MST) which are gold evidence based standard therapies for families
- ▶ Community resources in general for youth are limited for this high needs and high risk population
- ▶ We are still in need of an active trauma screening tool
- ▶ Our community struggles with issues of poverty
  - ▶ Single parent household
  - ▶ Housing
- ▶ Multi-Disciplinary Team: the concept is excellent, most of the members are engaged, but not all. There is minimal evidence based training for MDT facilitator which would be helpful for family and community engagement and problem solving
- ▶ Data collection is complicated as a result of information flow between two agencies and as a result we have many keeping data information in different places resulting in duplication of efforts
- ▶ Keeping the motivation strong and consistent for the initiative
- ▶ Pandemic



# Challenges, cont.

- ▶ FCS does not have one designated/dedicated social worker to the DIY caseload. Thus multiple social workers involved with the DIY youth population and the social worker's understanding of the process may be limited.
- ▶ Engaging families in the process who are resistant to system involvement and participation in the program.
- ▶ Managing case closure is a challenge due to mandates are different in each system.
- ▶ FCS is currently experiencing greater turnover than normal that has left the agency short an entire ongoing unit and ongoing supervisor.



# Resources

- ▶ “Multisystem Youth” Halemba NJCC 2004
- ▶ RFK Models for Change Resource Center Partnership, “From Conversation to Collaboration: How Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Agencies Can Work Together to Improve Outcomes for Dual Status Youth” May, 2014
- ▶ [Jje.org/hub/dual-status-youth/key issues](http://jje.org/hub/dual-status-youth/key-issues)
- ▶ “Child Maltreatment and juvenile delinquency: Investigating the role of placement and placement instability” Ryan and Testa (2005)
- ▶ “Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration” RFK Children’s Action Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Wiig and Tuell (2013)
- ▶ RFK Workbook