



Multijurisdictional Juvenile Justice Data Sharing Project

JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA SHARING



Juvenile justice is a difficult area in which to achieve successful information sharing in support of evidence-based practices, since it includes multiple justice disciplines and requires a rehabilitative approach, and information must be shared with non-justice organizations. In 2013, the 20th Circuit Court, Ottawa County, Michigan, in conjunction with a statewide grassroots juvenile justice organization called Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20, led the charge to develop a juvenile justice information sharing model in Michigan with the goal of developing a multijurisdictional data sharing platform that ultimately could improve services to court-involved youth and families. The courts targeted for the initial data exchange were Berrien, Kent, Macomb, Washtenaw, Kalamazoo, and Ottawa juvenile courts.



Originally, the pilot courts included courts that used different case management systems in an effort to capture the nuances of each system and allow for broader understanding of the needs of the courts as related to the application of technology within the context of sharing data. A Data Dictionary was developed to ensure consistent definition and application of terms, and a data sharing model—including data sharing agreements—was implemented with proof of concept across jurisdictional lines utilizing Global Reference Architecture and National Information Exchange Model standards. Additional courts were integrated into the Model following the successful proof of concept.



This project continues to integrate additional courts into the Juvenile Justice Data Sharing Model. As more courts are added, the ability to share juvenile justice information across the participating court systems, such as identifying juveniles who are in the system, past court actions regarding those juveniles, and their past/current locations, will greatly improve the performance of the Michigan juvenile court system and services to youth and families.



What's in it for the juvenile courts?

As the project continues to develop and grow in implementation, the following outcomes and value to the courts will be realized:

- ✓ Share near or real-time data, resulting in more effective and responsive service to youth; increased efficiency in the courts; and prevention of dual jurisdiction youth
- ✓ Develop a common language/term definitions among courts and stakeholders through utilization of the Data Dictionary
- ✓ Improve the quality of juvenile justice data so it is more accurate and reliable
- ✓ Protect confidentiality and privacy of data by retaining data at the local source and querying the data rather than storing it in a warehouse
- ✓ Answer commonly asked questions at both state and local levels through continual model development
- ✓ Inform public policy and funding decisions made at the state and local levels

Resources

Numerous documents have been developed in support of this project, including the following:

Juvenile Justice Data Sharing Implementation Project Data Dictionary: Definitions of Data Elements

The Data Dictionary was developed in early 2014 by a small, representative working group to improve uniformity, consistency, and accuracy in juvenile justice data across the state of Michigan. The dictionary is considered a living document and will be updated and further developed periodically. The dictionary can be accessed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/juvenilejusticevision2020/publications-8.htm>.

Juvenile Justice Data Dictionary Elements Survey:

This survey document allows courts to review a listing of elements such as name, date of birth, gender, aliases, and others and indicate whether the elements are already being collected to inform the process. Participation is honored by request.

Memorandum of Understanding: This M.O.U. was created to document agreement to delineated data sharing protections by the participating pilot courts in the Multijurisdictional Juvenile Justice Data Sharing Project.

Michigan Juvenile Offender Risk Assessment Survey Report

Structured risk assessment is critical for effectively serving Michigan's youth and their families. Before this initiative, no comprehensive survey had been conducted to determine the nature and types of risk assessments being done in juvenile courts across the state. Little organized information existed to inform practical and policy decisions at the state and local levels. The starting point for this project was to remedy this information gap through a statewide survey to determine the use and patterns of use of risk assessments across Michigan jurisdictions. The goal of this report is to highlight the choices, decisions, and logistics involved in identifying and implementing a risk assessment tool and to promote the use of a structured tool for assessing risk of continued delinquency involvement for juveniles in local and state juvenile justice systems. The report can be accessed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/juvenilejusticevision2020/publications-8.htm>.

For More Information

To learn more about the Multijurisdictional Juvenile Justice Data Sharing Project, please visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/juvenilejusticevision2020/action-teams-2.htm>. This project is described under Action Team 3: Juvenile Court Operational Performance.

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