



DSHS | Integrated Treatment Model Outcomes

Number 2.22 | A first look at ITM outcomes

PRELIMINARY | Integrated Treatment Model improves employment and re-arrest outcomes for youth served by Washington State’s Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration

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THE WASHINGTON STATE Department of Social and Health Services’ Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) has implemented the Integrated Treatment Model (ITM) throughout their system of care that serves the most serious juvenile offenders in the state. ITM combines a set of evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) approaches shown to reduce recidivism and improve clinical outcomes for seriously troubled youth. Key skills addressed in ITM residential treatment reflect clinical needs of JRA youth: interpersonal effectiveness, emotion regulation, distress tolerance, problem solving, and mindfulness or observing. All JRA residential staff—from superintendents to cooks—are trained in CBT principles. Parole staff receive training in Functional Family Parole (FFP), which focuses on family and community integration components specific to this phase of re-entry. This paper presents preliminary employment and re-arrest outcomes for youth served by JRA since system-wide implementation of ITM (see timeline below). Preliminary comparisons suggest that the Integrated Treatment Model has had a positive impact on long-term functioning, specifically employment and recidivism, for youth leaving JRA.



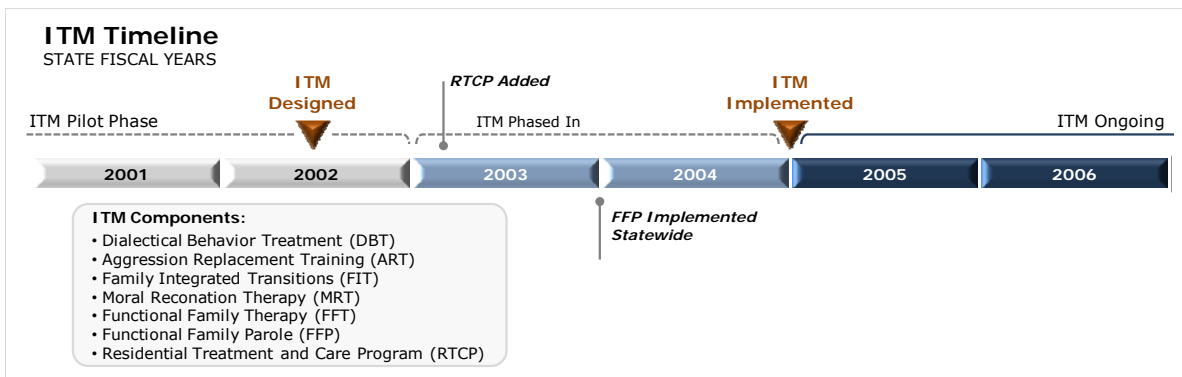
Preliminary Findings

Employment rates among youth served by JRA increased by 34 percent:

- Employment rates increased from 41 percent for youth who left JRA in SFY 2002 to 55 percent for youth who left JRA in SFY 2006.
- Employment rates for the same time periods did not increase among a comparison group of DSHS low income youth.

Re-arrest rates among JRA youth declined by 10 percent:

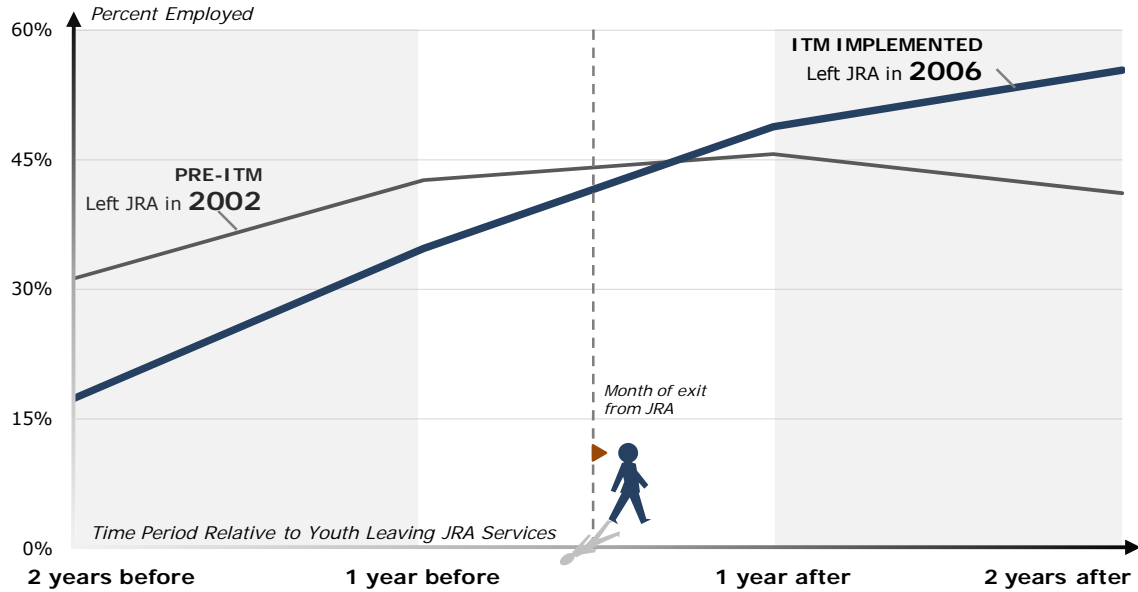
- Re-arrests among youth age 17 and older who left JRA in SFY 2006 was 56 percent.
- Re-arrests among the youth who left JRA in SFY 2002 was 62 percent.



ITM Preliminary Findings: Employment Is Up

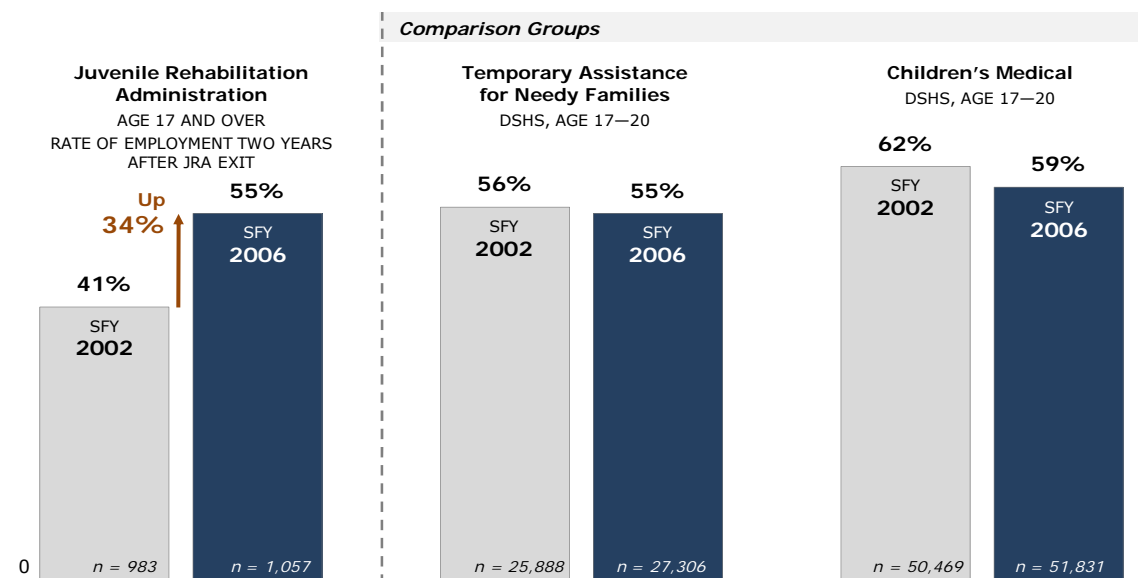
Two-year post-JRA employment rates increased by 34 percent for youth age 17 and older leaving JRA following ITM implementation in SFY 2006 compared to youth leaving in SFY 2002. The employment rate changes appear to increase in size for each year following JRA exit.

ITM Preliminary Findings: Employment Rates are Increasing for Youth who Leave JRA

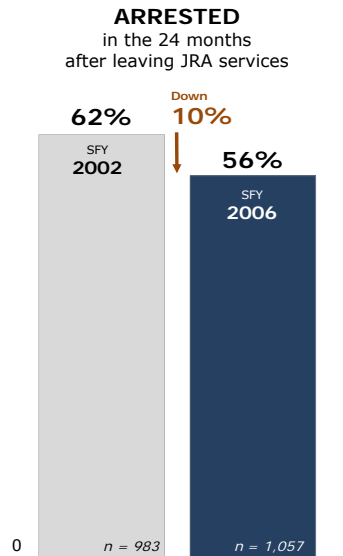


To account for potential changes in economic conditions, we also compared JRA employment rates with those of DSHS medical clients ages 17-20 who were eligible for TANF and children’s medical benefits during SFY 2002 and SFY 2006. Youth with DSHS TANF or Children’s Medical coverage did not have similar increases in employment rates. **The employment rates for youth leaving JRA in SFY 2006 have increased to a level similar to other youth receiving DSHS medical services.**

ITM Preliminary Findings: Pre- and Post-ITM Implementation Employment Rates for JRA Youth and Other DSHS Youth



ITM Preliminary Findings: Re-arrests Are Down



ITM Preliminary Findings: Arrest Rates are Declining for Youth who Leave JRA

Re-arrest rates decreased by 10 percent for youth age 17 and older leaving JRA following ITM implementation in Fiscal Year 2006 compared to youth leaving in State Fiscal Year 2002. The percentage of youth who left JRA in 2002 who were arrested in the 24 months following exit from any JRA service was 62 percent. For youth who left JRA services in SFY 2006, the rate of re-arrest in the 24 months following exit was 56 percent.

Summary

ITM appears to have had a major impact on both employment and arrest rates for JRA youth. These results are preliminary, however, because they do not control for demographic differences and prior arrests for the 2002 and 2006 cohorts of JRA youth. Further work is warranted to measure the impact of this innovative model given the strength of these preliminary findings.

Along these lines, future analyses are planned that will control for race, ethnicity, age, and prior employment and arrests in regression models that will allow us to make more definitive conclusions about ITM. These analyses will involve a robust quasi-experimental design and multivariate statistical approaches using data from the RDA Integrated Client Database <http://publications.rda.dshs.wa.gov/1394/>. Once outcomes for the complete cohort of “JRA leavers” in the pre-ITM and ITM study periods are compared, using methods that control statistically for non-treatment differences between those two cohorts, we will be able to draw more definitive conclusions about the impact of ITM.

METHOD

JRA Cohorts

JRA youth are defined as any youth who received JRA services during the following defined time periods.

- Pre-ITM : left JRA services during SFY 2002
- ITM Implementation Phase: left JRA services during SFY 2003 through SFY 2004
- ITM: left JRA services during SFY 2005 through SFY 2006

Low Income Comparison Groups

- DSHS TANF: Youth ages 17 to 20 who had DSHS Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligibility for at least one month during the SFY.
- DSHS Children’s Medical: Youth ages 17 to 20 who had DSHS Children’s Medical eligibility for at least one month during the SFY.

JRA services are defined as follows:

- Institutions
- Dispositional Alternatives
- Community Placement
- Parole

Employment

For employment, we looked at whether any wages were earned during the first and then second years following the index month. The index month was defined as the first month for which no JRA services were recorded. For the DSHS youth comparison, we looked at DSHS medical clients ages 17-20, with TANF and children’s medical eligibility during SFY 2002 and SFY 2006. Employment rates for DSHS medical youth were based upon any earnings during the follow up period of interest.

Arrests

For the re-arrest analysis, we looked at any arrest recorded in the Washington State Patrol arrest database during a 24 month period following the month JRA services were discontinued.

Data Sources

The following sources provided data to the RDA Integrated Client Services Database that were used for this study:

- JRA’s Automated Client Tracking system (ACT) data system provided data on JRA services received.
- Employment Security Department (ESD) unemployment insurance quarterly wage data provided earnings data.
- The Office of Financial Management (OFM) Span eligibility file provided information on clients’ medical coverage.
- Washington State Patrol (WSP) arrest data provided information on arrests in the reported time periods. Local law enforcement agencies report primarily felony and gross misdemeanor offenses into the WSP arrest database.

This paper was prepared as a preliminary briefing. Permission to release the contents may be obtained by calling 360.902.0701.



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