



**The author(s) shown below used Federal funding provided by the U.S. Department of Justice to prepare the following resource:**

**Document Title:** Model Data Project 3D Data Capacity Assessment: Indicators of Juvenile Justice System Involvement

**Author(s):** Teri Deal, Wendy Schiller, Moriah Taylor, Julie Boc

**Document Number:** 252014

**Date Received:** August 2018

**Award Number:** 2015-JF-FX-K003

**This resource has not been published by the U.S. Department of Justice. This resource is being made publically available through the Office of Justice Programs' National Criminal Justice Reference Service.**

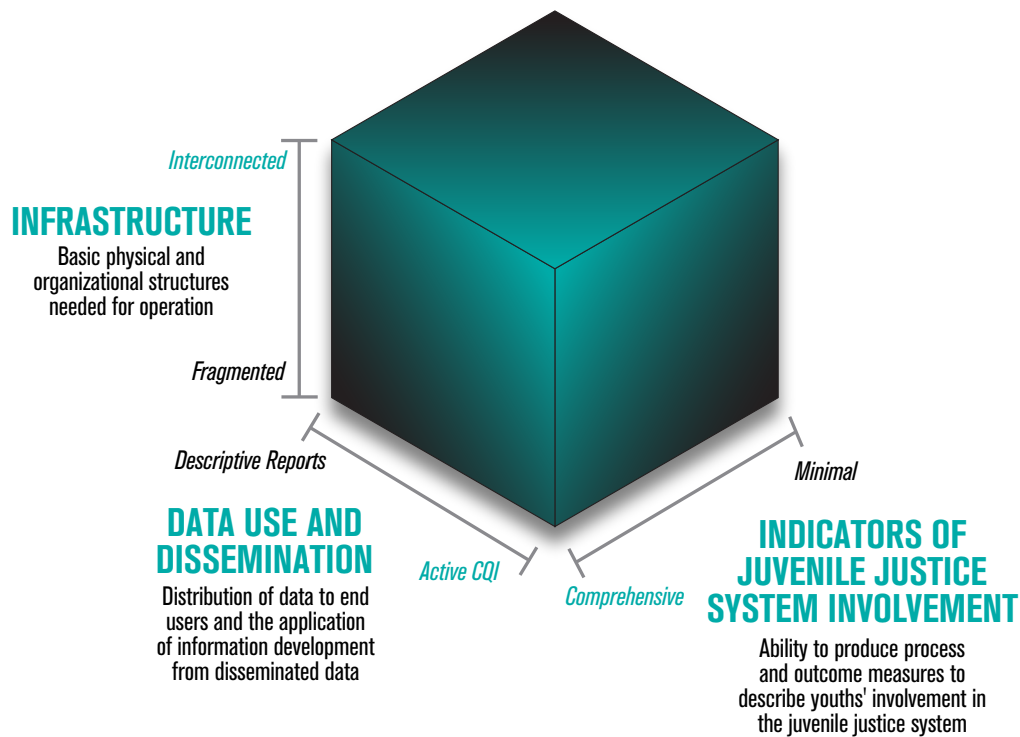
**Opinions or points of view expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.**

# Juvenile Justice Model Data Project

## 3D DATA CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

03

### INDICATORS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT



The Juvenile Justice Model Data Project 3D Data Capacity Assessment is a tool for juvenile justice practitioners to strategically examine the data capacity of their juvenile justice system and reflect on their own use of data to inform decisions and drive improvements. The assessment indicates areas where system-wide, agency-level, and staff-level improvements can be made, and the responses listed inform improvement plans. The assessment has three sections: **Infrastructure**, **Data Use and Dissemination**, and **Indicators of Juvenile Justice System Involvement**.

This section, Indicators of Juvenile Justice System Involvement, is intended to help juvenile justice practitioners understand the extent to which their agency and juvenile justice system have the data elements available to them to generate the model measures of juvenile justice recommended by the Juvenile Justice Model Data Project.

## INDICATORS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) “envisions a nation where our children are free from crime and violence. If they come into contact with the justice system, the contact should be both just and beneficial to them.” It is incumbent on juvenile justice systems to effectively monitor whether or not policies and practices lead to fair and beneficial treatment of youth who come in contact with the system by collecting data and using those data to inform decisions.

It is beneficial to think about system involvement in three inter-related ways:

1. **Counting** – The number of youth involved at various points of the system as well as the number of key system processing events including arrests, admissions to detention, juvenile referrals to court, and dispositions
2. **Responses** – Describing the timeliness and equity with which the system responds to youth behavior
3. **Results** – Identifying the ways in which youth change both while involved with the system and after their involvement

The following 26 questions allow juvenile justice system practitioners to determine the extent to which they have access to the data elements required to apply recommended model measures of juvenile justice system involvement. Items represent two levels (System and Agency), and each item is scored along a four-point scale (No Capacity, Minimal, Moderate, and Optimal). The scale itself illustrates recommended practice. For example the following instances, taken from the assessment, highlight “optimal” practice at the system and agency level:

- **System: Systemwide Mission Statement** – There is a documented measurable mission statement, and it is measured regularly.
- **Agency: Risk/Needs Assessment Data** – There is a policy to use a specific risk/needs assessment, and data are captured in data system and able to be analyzed.

Optimal practice and the approaches used to get there may look different depending on a jurisdiction’s structure, policies, and resources; however, the responses provided are intended to illustrate one example of how a jurisdiction can improve data capacity. In practice, this means that juvenile justice administrators and/or agency leadership, have rated *Agency: Does your agency consistently use a standardized risk/needs assessment?* as “No Capacity” will be able to implement optimal practice by formalizing the use of standardized risk/needs assessment and modifying the data system to store assessment scores.

1. creating a list of assessments currently in use across all agencies, as well as throughout the state;
2. working as a multi-stakeholder group to determine where gaps, differences, and/or similarities in use of a risk/need assessment;
3. determining if there is a possibility to make a statewide change in practice regarding the implementation of a single standardized assessment; and
4. following with policy or legislative changes that are needed to achieve a uniform statewide process.

## INSTRUCTIONS

The 3D Data Capacity Assessment is most effective when a group of individuals from different juvenile justice-related agencies and different departments within each agency who have diverse perspectives and roles completes it. Juvenile justice-related agencies may vary across jurisdictions, but usually include the juvenile court; probation, detention, corrections and parole agencies; legal representatives; law enforcement; and community service providers. We recommend convening a group to complete the assessment together or to complete the assessment individually and then meet to compare and discuss responses. Some items on the assessment may not be relevant to all juvenile justice-related agencies; however, it can still be beneficial for everyone to hear and learn from their partners.

Please carefully review each item. Respond to each item taking into account current activities and procedures of the system, agency, and practitioners.

<b>SYSTEM QUESTIONS</b>				
<b>Does your state's juvenile justice system stakeholder group have a measurable mission statement?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No mission statement exists	There is a mission statement, but no way of measuring it	There is a documented measurable mission statement, but it is not currently being measured	There is a documented measurable mission statement, and it is measured regularly
<b>Can your state's juvenile justice system access data to determine how many youth are arrested each year in your jurisdiction?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, I cannot access that information	Yes, but there are some subsets of arrests that are not accounted for in the number	Yes, we have to request this information from another agency	Yes, we have immediate or routine access to this information
<b>Can your state's juvenile justice system access data to determine how many youth or cases are referred to court each year?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, I cannot access that information	Yes, but there are some petitions that are not accounted for in the number	Yes, we have to request this information from another agency	Yes, we have immediate or routine access to this information
<b>Can your state's juvenile justice system access data to determine how many youth or cases are petitioned to juvenile court each year?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, I cannot access that information	Yes, but there are some referrals that are not accounted for in the number	Yes, we have to request this information from another agency	Yes, we have immediate or routine access to this information

<b>Can your state's juvenile justice system access data to determine how many youth or cases are adjudicated each year?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, I cannot access that information	Yes, but there are some adjudications that are not accounted for in the number	Yes, we have to request this information from another agency	Yes, we have immediate or routine access to this information
<b>Can your state's juvenile justice system access data to determine how many youth are admitted to detention each year both pre-disposition and post-disposition?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, I cannot access that information	Yes, but there are some detentions that are not accounted for in the number	Yes, we have to request this information from another agency	Yes, we have immediate or routine access to this information
<b>Can your state's juvenile justice system access data to determine how many youth are under community supervision each year?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, I cannot access that information	Yes, but there is not enough detail to describe the type or level of supervision	Yes, we have to request this information from another agency	Yes, we have immediate or routine access to this information
<b>Can your state's juvenile justice system access data to determine how many youth are admitted to an out-of-home placement each year?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, I cannot access that information	Yes, but there are some placements that are not accounted for in the number	Yes, we have to request this information from another agency	Yes, we have immediate or routine access to this information
<b>Are there efforts to understand the financial cost of system involvement?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, we have not engaged in efforts to understand the financial costs of the system	Yes, we have an understanding of the budget for each sector of the juvenile justice system	Yes, we understand the marginal costs related to residential placements and supervision	Yes, we conduct cost analyses and/or have been involved with cost-benefit evaluations

## AGENCY QUESTIONS

**To what extent is your agency able to report on these key demographic characteristics?**

- **Age**
- **Sex**
- **Race/Ethnicity**
- **Residence**
- **Prior involvement in justice system**
- **Involvement with other systems**
- **Current living situation**
- **Academic performance**
- **Employment status**

UNSURE	NO CAPACITY	MINIMAL	MODERATE	OPTIMAL
I do not know/ Unsure	We do not collect the data elements necessary to report measures based on demographics	We report measures by age, gender, and race/ethnicity	We regularly report measures by at least five of the characteristics listed	We regularly report measures by all characteristics listed

**Do all data systems used by your agency share a common method for coding race and ethnicity categories?**

UNSURE	NO CAPACITY	MINIMAL	MODERATE	OPTIMAL
I do not know/ Unsure	No, all systems use different terminology for race and ethnicity coding	No, but we have agreed on one coding structure that is preferred	Yes, we have agreed to use the same terminology, but there is no specific strategy that is outlined in a document accessible to everyone	Yes, we have a standardized coding strategy that is outlined in a document accessible to everyone

**How consistent is the coding of offense types in similar agencies in your state?**

UNSURE	NO CAPACITY	MINIMAL	MODERATE	OPTIMAL
I do not know/ Unsure	Every jurisdiction or agency has its own method of coding offense types	There is no statewide crosswalk, but our agency has a structure for rolling statutes or offense detail up into general offense types	A statewide crosswalk exists that matches statutes to offense codes, but it is outdated or cumbersome to implement	All agencies apply a statewide offense crosswalk where statutes are matched to offense codes and offense detail can be rolled up to general offense types

**Does your agency collect information on source of court referral (i.e., the manner in which a youth entered the juvenile justice system) such as law enforcement, school or public agency, etc.?**

<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	We do not collect this information	We have access to this information in paper files, but it is not in our primary data system	We have access to source of referral in our primary data system, but there is either not enough detail or too much detail for the information to be useful	We have access to source of referral in our primary data system and have a method for rolling multiple detailed categories into broader categories for reporting purposes

**Does your agency collect information on legal representation?**

<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	Our agency does not collect this information	Information on whether or not youth have representation is contained in paper files and not stored electronically	Information on whether or not youth have representation is collected and stored electronically and we can report this information, but it either lacks detail on type of representation OR the information isn't specific to type of hearing	We regularly report on the number of youth represented by type (retained, appointed, public defender) and those unrepresented (waived), and which hearings the youth was represented

**Does your agency collect information on youth diverted from further juvenile justice system involvement?**

<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	We do not collect this information	We can calculate or determine the number of youth diverted for at least one possible point of diversion	We regularly report on the number of youth diverted, but do not collect information on whether or not diversions are completed (if applicable)	We regularly report on not only how many youth are diverted, but also whether they completed their diversion (if applicable), and if they returned to court within a specified period of time

<b>Does your agency's data system track start and end dates for programming?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, we may track some dates related to events, like hearings or home visits, but not start and end dates	Yes, we have start and/or end dates for their involvement with our agency	Yes, we have start and end dates for their involvement with our agency as well as for supervision levels	Yes, we have start and end dates for their involvement with our agency, supervision levels, and specific interventions
<b>Does your agency consistently use a standardized risk/needs assessment?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, there is no use of a standardized risk/needs assessment	No, there is not a risk/needs assessment specified by policy, but there are some are used in practice	Yes, there is a policy to use a specific risk/needs assessment, but data are not contained in our data system	Yes, there is a policy to use a specific risk/needs assessment; data are contained in our data system and able to be analyzed
<b>Does your agency consistently use behavioral health screenings?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, there is no consistent use of behavioral health screenings	No, there is not a behavioral health screening specified by policy, but there are some used in practice	Yes, there is a policy to use specific behavioral health screenings, but data are not contained in our data system	Yes, there is a policy to use specific behavioral health screenings and data are in the database when youth are flagged for further assessment
<b>Does your agency systematically collect information on a youth's family's presenting issues?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, the information may be captured in case notes, but it is not systemic	Yes, family presenting issues are identified, but the information is stored in paper files	Yes, strengths and protective factors are systematically assessed and the information is entered into a database, and is used primarily for individual case planning	Yes, family presenting issues are systematically assessed and the information is entered into a database and used for both individual case planning and aggregate reporting



<b>Does your agency systematically collect information on a youth's strengths and protective factors?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, the information may be captured in case notes, but it is not systemic	Yes, strengths and protective factors are assessed, but the information is stored in paper files	Yes, strengths and protective factors are systematically assessed and the information is entered into a database, and is used primarily for individual case planning	Yes, strengths and protective factors are systematically assessed and the information is entered into a database and used for both individual case planning and aggregate reporting
<b>Does your agency systematically collect information on incentives provided to youth for compliance or progress?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, the information may be captured in case notes, but it is not systemic	Yes, but the information is stored in paper files	Yes, we document these events in the database, but not in a way that is easily aggregated	Yes, incentives are systematically documented in a database and reports on their use are reviewed regularly
<b>Does your agency systematically collect information on the use of detention, isolation, and/or restraints as sanctions?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	No, the information may be captured in case notes, but it is not systemic	Yes, some of this information is collected but it is stored in paper files	Yes, we document these events in the database, but not in a way that is easily aggregated	Yes, information on the use of detention, isolation, and/or restraints as sanctions is systematically documented in a database and reports on their use are reviewed regularly
<b>Does your agency collect information on the reason why a case was closed?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	We do not collect this information	The information may be captured in case notes or an open text field in the primary data system, but it is not able to be analyzed	This information is collected and has specific codes in our data system; however, we do not use it for aggregate reporting	We regularly report on the number of case closures by reason and have benchmarks associated with the measure

<b>Has your agency documented measurable short-term outcomes (i.e., events or changes expected prior to case closure)? For example, completion of community service hours, restitution collected, or treatment completion.</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	We have not documented short-term outcomes	We have documented short-term outcomes, but do not or cannot currently measure them	We have documented measurable short-term outcomes and can measure them, but have not determined benchmarks or a plan for how the information will be used	We have documented measurable short-term outcomes, set benchmarks, and report regularly on short-term outcome measures
<b>Has your agency documented measurable long-term outcomes (i.e., events or changes expected a specified time after case closure)? For example, recidivism, progression in education, or obtaining employment.</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	We have not documented long-term outcomes	We have documented long-term outcomes, but do not or cannot currently measure them	We have documented measurable long-term outcomes and can measure them, but have not determined benchmarks or a plan for how the information will be used	We have documented measurable long-term outcomes, set benchmarks, and report regularly on long-term outcome measures
<b>Does your agency collect information on victim services?</b>				
<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NO CAPACITY</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>OPTIMAL</b>
I do not know/ Unsure	We do not collect this information	We have access to information on what services victims received on paper, but is it not in our primary data system	We have access to what services victims were offered in our primary data system, but do not know if the services were completed	We have access to what services victims were offered in our primary data system and whether services were completed as well as other outputs

## THE JUVENILE JUSTICE MODEL DATA PROJECT

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) invested in improving juvenile justice data and increasing its consistency across states and localities through the Juvenile Justice Model Data Project (MDP). The MDP developed model measures and analyses to monitor trends and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of juvenile justice systems and provided guidance to the field on the data elements and coding categories required to calculate the model measures. Organizations representing all sectors of juvenile justice—from law enforcement through the court process and juvenile corrections—contributed to the measures. This assessment is one of the products from the MDP. Please see <https://www.ojjdp.gov/research/juvenile-justice-model-data-project.html> for more information.

## SUGGESTED CITATION

Deal, T., Schiller, W., Taylor, M., & Boc, J. (2018). *Model Data Project 3D Data Capacity Assessment: Indicators of Juvenile Justice System Involvement*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-JF-FX-K003 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

