From 2012-2014, Monroe County Office of Probation received funding from New York State to:

1) Reduce the number of juveniles detained overnight after an arrest, and
2) Increase the number of juvenile cases diverted from court (in other words, decrease petitions to court).

Reform 1: Change the process for detaining juveniles arrested outside of regular business hours:

Reform 2: Change how juvenile cases on diversion (being handled outside of court) get sent to court:

Introduction

Basic Results: Goals Achieved

Goals 1 and 2: Reduce the number of juveniles detained and the number of juvenile cases petitioned to court

- Detentions down 60% compared to previous 27-months.
- Petitions down 58% compared to previous 27-months.

Reform 2: Change how juvenile cases on diversion (being handled outside of court) get sent to court:

Top 5 factors that determined if a juvenile was detained:

1. Most severe charge/crime committed (see chart below)
2. Whether they had prior contact with probation
3. Whether they had been arrested before after-hours
4. Race/ethnicity
5. Whether the charge(s) were felonies, misdemeanors, or a mix of both

Better statistical tests to determine why outcomes occurred

Mean Median
If given Regular Appearance Tickets (old method) (n=39)
27 days 19 days
If given Expedited Appearance Tickets (new, reform) (n=59)
2.5 days 1 day

Top 5 factors that determined if a case was diverted:

1-3. Whether they were detained, given an expedited appearance ticket, or given a regular appearance ticket upon arrest (if detained, much less likely to be diverted)
4. Score on the risk assessment instrument (see below)
5. Gender

Conclusion and Recommendations

All goals were met. The number of detentions and petitions were already decreasing before the reforms, but accelerated after the reforms.

Probation was able to achieve a difficult logistical implementation across several agencies

Recommendations

- Risk assessment instrument should include situational variables
- Review processes for efficiency: some may not have as strong an impact yet consume a lot of time/resources
- Explore why the number of juvenile arrests decreased
- Investigate how police officers are affected by the reforms (this was not possible in our analysis)

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