



Measurement and data in youth justice systems and programmes

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**Research Evidence into Policy,
Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Project**



Data study in 6 jurisdictions and Ireland's system and its programmes / projects

- **Why measure** the outcomes for young people
- **How systems measure** the impacts of youth justice responses
- **What is measured** in youth justice systems and programmes
- **The need** to include more data about changes in young people's lives - soft data - within assessments of programmes

Information is a powerful lever, particularly in the delivery of public services.

- Policy and programming decisions are influenced by the information that policy-makers and those leading government departments receive
- Essential that the data informing decisions is of high quality (i.e. accurate, timely, and responsive to information needs)
- Important issues and problems may be overlooked because data and statistics fail to identify the problem and/or capture the scope of the problem
- A lack of quality data may cause valuable programmes to lose funding because their effectiveness cannot be determined
- State/service provider accountability - in tackling youth crime and ASB and protecting children's and victims rights

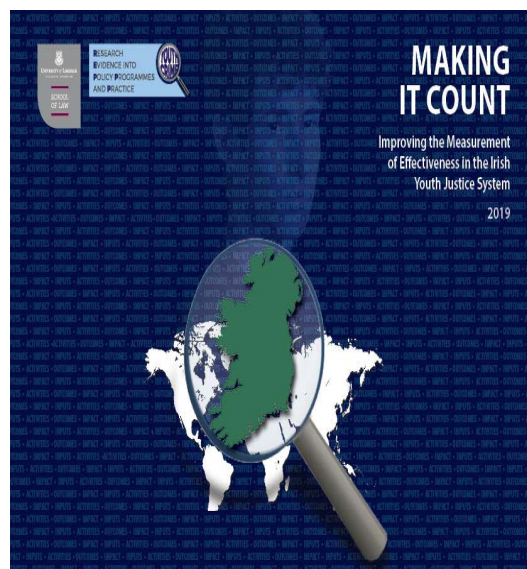


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Ireland's response - overview

- Diversion mostly and rehabilitating young offenders – 105 GYDPs (3500-4000 yp) , YPP Service, Oberstown CDC
- Multi-agency system - welfare, development, and educational, and restorative programmes
- That encourage prosocial behaviour, discourage reduce ASB and offending/reoffending
- Data is collected from young people as they interact with justice services & programmes
- The Garda Pulse system, admin procedures, risk assessment and case management, and from case review processes



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What does a Data Infrastructure look like? Findings

Strategies and Processes	Wash	Penn	Ned	Eng /Wal	Swe	Scot	Ire
Agencies/bodies with specific responsibility for data and measurement processes in youth justice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Risk assessment/Case management processes (mostly electronic based)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
System-wide electronic youth justice data collection and reporting hubs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Youth justice-specific databases (youth crime monitor, EBP databases)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Research partnerships with research bodies/universities concerning youth justice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Research and evaluation of youth justice – systematic reviews, randomised and experimental research, and inventories of EBP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expert (accreditation) committees to evaluate and benchmark EBPs and interventions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Reporting on youth justice (incl. statistics) (accessible to practitioners/public)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Youth (specific) crime surveys (longitudinal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

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Pennsylvania – admin data

Context – the circumstances of young offenders	Inputs – Youth justice system actions	Outputs – what was provided by the youth justice system	Outcomes and Impacts – what was achieved by the youth justice system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of offenses committed by youth; Alleged offenses committed by youth; Serious, violent, and/or chronic offenders Demographic variables of young offenders; Youth behaviour and attitudes to crime, antisocial behaviour; School attendance; Delinquency risk factors Child welfare and protection; and Health variables and socio-economic, education variables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court processes in juvenile justice – reported arrests, sentencing; Number of and length of cases requiring a period of supervision; Number of out-of-home placements; Number of restitution orders issued; Number of secure detention admissions and utilisation rates for detention facilities; Rate of programme admission / participation and programme type - development activity, addiction, educational or vocational activity; and The number of youth ordered to pay into Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average length of stay (in months) of juveniles in out-of-home placement; Dispositional and placement reviews; Duration of custodial confinement; Completed of juvenile justice programmes; Completed community service obligations; Completed victim awareness programmes; and Compliance with conditions of supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recidivism rates – where reoffending occurred and did not; Improved development and life skills; Victim-reporting satisfaction; Community service hours completed – and associated monetary value to communities; Annual monetary amount collected through restitution orders and the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund; and Evidence of self-reported prosocial attitudes and values;

England and Wales – admin data

Context – the circumstances of young offenders	Inputs – Youth justice system actions	Outputs – what was provided by the youth justice system	Outcomes and Impacts – what was achieved by the youth justice system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of offenses; • Demographics, gender and race / ethnicity variables of young offenders; • Number and types of offenses committed by youth; • History of criminal / antisocial activity; • Experiences of bullying and victimisation; • Youth behaviour, substance use, lifestyle variables; • Attitudes to crime and antisocial behaviour; • Motivation to change; • Location and regional youth crime data; • Family environment and accommodation; • Social / peer relationships; and • Psychological wellbeing and suicide attempts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and rates of custodial and secure detention of youth; • Court processes in youth justice – reported arrests, sentencing outcomes; • Number of and length of cases requiring a period of supervision; and • Number of out-of-home placements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention and diversionary interventions available in the system; • Completed youth justice programmes; • Duration of custodial confinement; • Out-of-home placements and treatments provided / completed; and • Completed community service obligations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recidivism rates / statistics; • Youth in custody behavioural change; • Youth experiences of young offender institutions; and • Juvenile crime trends.

The Context of Youth Crime in 2017

402,125
children
aged 10 to
17 years in
Ireland
(2016)

20,006 criminal offences
and incidents involving
10,607 children

3,303
juvenile orders
made by the
Courts

Juvenile Court Orders in
2017

- Public order 902
- Larceny, fraud, robbery 868
- Road traffic 773
- Drugs 224
- Sexual 6
- Other 530

20,006 youth
criminal offences
is 10% of total
offences

4,164 cases
against children
at the Children
Court

7,551 informal cautions
3,940 formal cautions
477 restorative cautions

Youth Justice Input and Output Data Reported in 2017

€51 million spent on youth justice in 2017

6,004 children referred to Diversion had informal cautions
2,029 had formal cautions

3,765 youth admitted to GYDPs, €12M spent

561 new youth referrals from the Courts to Probation in 2017

10,607 referred to the Diversion Programme
8,033 admitted

Detention/Secure Care for 147 youth costs €33M

€6M spent on YPP community-based programmes for 634 youth

101 GYDPs implemented nationwide in 2017

16 Young Person's Probation projects for 600 youth

69 children detained at Oberstown in the first quarter of 2017
36 on Remand Orders
33 on Detention Orders

Diversion Referrals
Dublin Region 6,745
Southern Region 3,682
Eastern Region 2,816
Northern Region 2,302
South Eastern Region 2,245
Western Region 2,216

75% of GYDP participants were boys

176 Children subjected to Remand Orders
45 subjected to Committal Orders

493 youth referrals to Probation were males and 68 were females

135 young people were detained in Oberstown during 2017

1,402 unsuitable for Diversion Programme

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Impacts / outcomes data

Regional or national youth crime trends and patterns*

Trends in local area youth crime/arrests/orders made*

Number, demographic/geographical trends of youth in justice programmes*

Use of evidence-based programmes

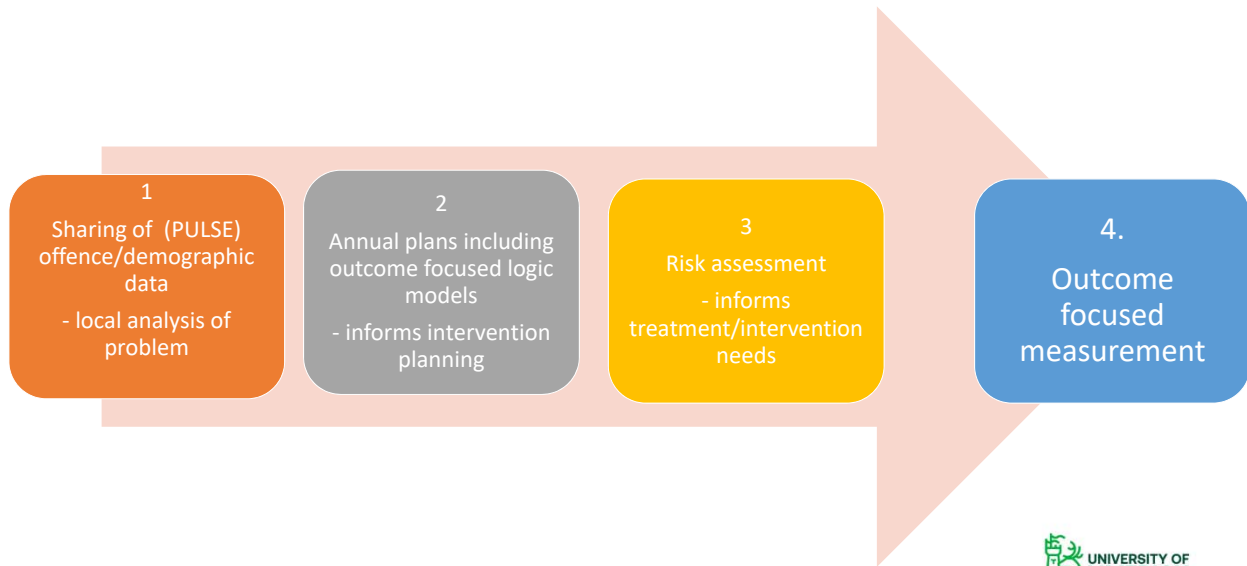
Findings from evaluations (2 YJ interventions evaluated and they were unpublished in 2017/2018)

* Without supporting evidence to demonstrate that improvements reported can be attributed to the contribution made by YJ interventions, this data could also be described simply as contextual.

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Evidence use in practice... the Garda Youth Diversion Projects since 2010



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We need more evidence of the changes in a young person's lives and how and if a programme contributed to the change

2020

- To incorporate data from practice about the outcomes for young people (with all the other currently data collected and reported)
- Measure change in the social and emotional capabilities of young people (soft outcomes) – e.g. behaviour change, change in attitudes, self-esteem, impulsivity and to be able to better regulate emotions
- Practitioner observation and recording of changes 'soft' – reflective - data
- Developing with GYDPs a template for collecting soft data and then to test and trial this method with 16 projects in 2021

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- Reddy, J. and Redmond, S. (2019) *Improving the Measurement of Effectiveness in the Irish Youth Justice System*. Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Project, University of Limerick. Available from <https://ulir.ul.ie/handle/10344/7684>
- Reddy, J. and Redmond S. (2018) *Improving the Measurement of Effectiveness in the Irish Youth Justice System: International Review of Youth Justice Systems*. Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Project, University of Limerick. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10344/7848>
- Reddy, J. (2018) *Improving the Measurement of Effectiveness in the Irish Youth Justice System: The Youth Justice System in Ireland*. Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Project, University of Limerick. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10344/7286>
- Reddy, J. (forthcoming in 2020) *Measuring Outcomes in Youth Justice Programmes: A Review of research and practice evidence*. Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Project, University of Limerick.
- Reddy, J. (forthcoming in 2020) *Improving how we Measure Effectiveness in Youth Justice: Ireland Report*. Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Project, University of Limerick

Q How best to balance performance related data and evidence of outcomes for young people (changes in their lives)?



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Thank you

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