

Data Trends

From: Data Trends
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From the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health,
Tampa, Florida...

This News brief alerts you to the following article: Wasserman, G. A., Jensen, P. S., Ko, S. J., Coccozza, J., Trupin, E., et al. (2003). Mental health assessments in juvenile justice: Report on the Consensus Conference. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 42(7), 752-761.

A nationally recognized group of more than 20 expert mental health assessment researchers and expert juvenile justice practitioners developed a list of six recommendations for conducting assessments in juvenile justice settings. Targeted for use by administrators and directors of juvenile justice facilities and their clinical staff, the recommendations follow. The article provides an in-depth discussion (e.g., rationale, components, legal considerations, etc.) of each recommendation.

1. Emergent Risk - Provide an evidence-based, scientifically sound mental health screen within the first 24 hours of a youth's arrival at a facility.
2. Mental Health Service Needs - Provide an evidence-based, scientifically sound mental health screening and/or assessment for all youths as early as possible in order to determine need for mental health services.
3. Mental Health Assessment Components - A comprehensive mental health assessment must be based on careful review of information from multiple sources and must measure a range of mental health concerns.
4. Community Re-Entry - Provide an evidence-based and scientifically sound screening or assessment for all youths preparing to leave a postadjudicatory secure facility and return to their communities.
5. Reassessment - Provide evidence-based, scientifically sound screening/assessment on a regular basis for all youths.
6. Staff Training - Ensure that mental health staff are professionally credentialed or are directly supervised by credentialed staff. Provide training for staff appropriate to their role for assessment in evidence-based, scientifically sound mental health screening/assessment procedures.

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and Human Services. There are two Data Trends products: 1) Summaries (ISSN# 1537-0399), which detail recent, published articles on systems of care for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities and their families, and; 2) News briefs (ISSN# 1537-0402), which highlight related items or events of interest to the field.