

Data Trends

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This News brief alerts you to the following Bulletin: Wasserman, G. A., Ko, S. J., & McReynolds, L. S. (2004, August). Assessing the mental health status of youth in juvenile justice settings [*Juvenile Justice Bulletin, NCJ 202713*]. Washington DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

From the Introduction: This Bulletin reports the results of a study that used a computerized, self-administered version of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC) to screen for psychiatric disorders in youth newly admitted to juvenile assessment centers in Illinois and New Jersey. The study assessed rates of psychiatric disorders and tested the feasibility of using this assessment instrument among youth in the juvenile justice system. Based on a comparison of the rates of psychiatric disorder identified in this study with those found in other studies using earlier versions of the DISC, the authors recommend best practices in assessing the mental health of juvenile offenders. This Bulletin provides guidance to juvenile justice professionals seeking to establish guidelines for mental health assessment in juvenile justice facilities (p. 1).

This Bulletin is available at: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11733>

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