

Source: Mendel, Richard A. (2001). *Less cost, more safety: Guiding lights for reform in juvenile justice*. Washington, DC: American Youth Policy Forum. On-line. [Available: <http://www.aypf.org/lesscost/>].

A new report issued by the American Youth Policy Forum highlights programs and systems that have had success in reducing adolescent crime at a reduced cost. Among the initiatives that are highlighted is Wraparound Milwaukee. The report indicates that, "Countywide, the program has reduced the daily population in residential treatment programs from 360 (plus wait list) down to 135 per day. In addition, psychiatric hospitalization of adolescents has declined by 80 percent since Wraparound Milwaukee went into effect" (p. 37).

The report further indicates that, "Among 169 delinquent youth for whom one year follow-up data were available in October 2000, the average number of arrests per participant declined from 2.32 arrests during the year prior to enrollment in Wraparound Milwaukee, to .98 arrests per participant during the year of enrollment, to .63 arrests per participant in the year following treatment" (p. 38).

Although Wraparound Milwaukee has never been included in a formal study that compares it with other communities, nor had a thorough independent evaluation, it has received considerable favorable attention as a result of the very positive data that it does collect. These data are also consistent with some of the data presented in the comparison study of the national evaluation, which indicates favorable outcomes on delinquency in the comparison between Stark and Youngstown, and is part of a growing picture showing positive results with youth in the juvenile justice system.

Information on this report was disseminated through the Child Welfare League of America list serve on juvenile justice issues. The report can be viewed at <http://www.aypf.org/lesscost/>

The American Youth Policy Forum is a non-profit professional development organization based in Washington, DC. Its goal is to provide policy relevant information for policymakers and their aides. The report identifies eight challenges facing the juvenile justice system, and presents information on programs that address each of these challenges. The challenges are:

- 1) Reducing over reliance on incarceration for non-dangerous youthful offenders;
- 2) Developing a continuum of community-based sanctions and interventions for delinquent but non-dangerous youth;
- 3) Employing research-proven program strategies to reduce delinquency;
- 4) Identifying and intervening intensively with youth at extreme risk for chronic delinquency;
- 5) Providing comprehensive support to youth with behavioral disturbances;
- 6) Ensuring quality treatment and youth development services for incarcerated youth;
- 7) Providing quality education and career development services to help youth outgrow delinquency and assume productive roles in society;
- 8) Reducing inappropriate detention for youth awaiting trial or pending placement.