Youth in High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) committed fewer offenses, were less likely to be arrested before any DJJ involvement than those in Treatment As Usual (TAU).

Most Youth entered the child welfare system (DCF) before any DJJ involvement. Of those youth investigated first:

- Youth were 7.9 years old, on average, during their first DCF investigation.
- They went an average of 6.7 years between their first DCF investigation and first DJJ offense.

After six months of services, there are some apparent differences in arrests. Youth in both groups followed similar trajectories for the first 180 days, at which point about 40% of youth in both groups had been arrested at least once. For the remaining 100 days, no more HFW youth experienced the start of services.

Difference was not statistically significant, but may become so if trend holds in Year Two.

In Year Two, we plan to watch these trends to examine longer-term effects.

Twice as many HFW youth moved to a less restrictive living arrangement.

Youth involved in juvenile justice and child welfare were randomly assigned to “high fidelity Wraparound” or treatment as usual. WERT used an experimental design to compare the outcomes achieved by youth enrolled in HBH’s new pilot High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) program to those achieved by youth in “treatment as usual” (TAU). This is a natural experiment. Because of the limited number of slots in the pilot, the collaborating entities randomly assigned eligible youth in the pool to HFW or TAU, allowing for a rigorous evaluation of outcomes without the researchers intervening with the youth or their service receipt in any way.

All Youth
- 14-19 years old
- Wards of the state
- Receiving routine child welfare (casework contacts and transitional living support) and juvenile justice (probation, parole) services

Youth in High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW)
- 24 youth
- Assigned a Master’s level facilitator with a small caseload of 7-8
- 9 also working with a peer advocate
- Wraparound generally provided in addition to other “usual” services

Youth in Treatment As Usual (TAU)
- 23 youth
- Many also receiving other case management services provided by local congregate care and residential treatment providers

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Initial results from year one of a randomized control trial of high-fidelity Wraparound for dually-involved youth

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Change in Living Restrictiveness between 1/1/15 and 9/30/15

N of Youth who Ended in a Less Restrictive Setting

Difference was not statistically significant, but may become so if trend holds in Year Two.

After nine months of services, several between-group differences emerged. Although non-significant, these warrant continued exploration:

1. Youth in HFW committed fewer offenses, were less likely to be arrested at all, and were arrested fewer times in total if they were arrested at all. Differences in experiencing a first arrest aren't apparent until after six months of service. We will continue to monitor these outcomes for another year.
2. HFW youth were also more likely to experience a positive change in their living situation. Similar to between-group differences in arrest rates, these are not significant but potentially meaningful, and may become significant if they hold over time.

It may be that the true impact of Wraparound services take time to fully materialize. Care coordination is a complex process and the youth enrolled in this pilot have long-standing, complex needs. Engagement in new services can be difficult and take time. The continuation of this randomized control trial for another year will hopefully allow us to more conclusively determine whether HFW truly is having a differential and positive impact on the youth it has engaged, as well as what other factors may relate to youth outcomes.