

# The Characteristics, Experiences and Outcomes of Youth Involved with the Child Welfare System and Receiving Wraparound Services

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## INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), established a community-based initiative to improve the lives of children and families in Maine. Wraparound Maine is an intensive level of case planning/management for youth with complex needs and is expected to serve as an alternative to high-cost residential treatment. This project has been designed, implemented and monitored to assure high fidelity to National Wraparound Initiative standards. Wraparound Maine began by serving six diverse communities in Maine and has since expanded to serve all DHHS districts in the State.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### REPORT PERIOD:

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011

### SAMPLE SIZE:

During this time period, 574 youth were discharged from Wraparound Maine. Of those discharged, 317 (55%) had Child Welfare System Involvement when they enrolled in Wraparound Maine. Data included in this poster is predominantly reflective of the youth involved with Child Welfare and Wraparound Maine.

### DATA SOURCES:

Administrative Data: Data such as demographics and State System Dependence is collected by wraparound providers and entered into a multi-site database.

Intake and Discharge Surveys: These surveys were designed by the University of Southern Maine and are administered to caregivers of youth enrolled in Wraparound Maine at the time of intake and discharge.

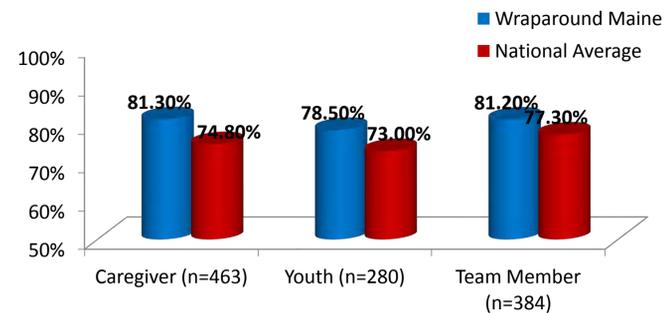
Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS): Developed by Dr. Kay Hodges, this scale measures the day-to-day functioning of youth and is widely utilized throughout the U.S.

Wraparound Fidelity Index, version 4 (WFI): The Wraparound Fidelity Index was developed by the National Wraparound Initiative to measure adherence to the Wraparound Model. The WFI is administered to youth, team members and caregivers after three months in the program.

## EXPERIENCES

### FIDELITY:

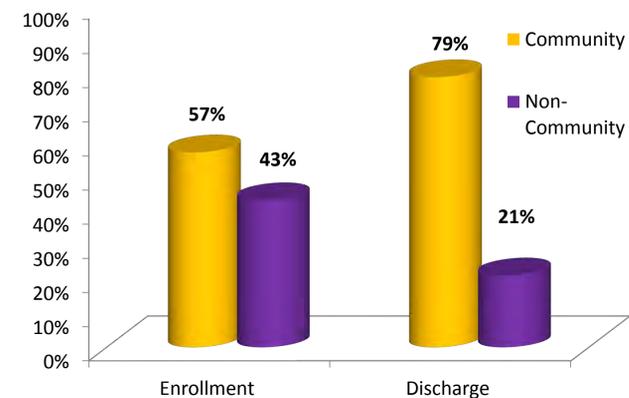
Existing research indicates that youth and families that receive high fidelity wraparound services are more likely to experience positive outcomes. Below are results of all WFI interviews completed with caregivers, youth and team members involved in Wraparound Maine during the reporting period. National WFI averages are also reported.



### SERVICE USE n=156

SERVICE USED	Before Wraparound	During Wraparound	P Value
ER- PSYCHIATRIC	47%	31%	.001*
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	58%	37%	.000*
POLICE INVOLVEMENT	52%	40%	.016*
ARRESTS	18%	13%	.195
ADJUDICATIONS	13%	12%	.671

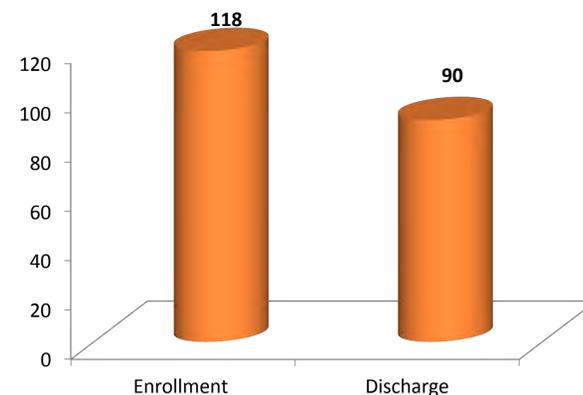
### COMMUNITY LIVING n=317



Community Environments include: Independent Living (Supervised, by self or with a friend); Home of Natural Parents (For a child or adult); Home of a Relative; Adoptive Home, Home of a Family Friend; Regular Foster Care and Foster Family Based Treatment Homes.

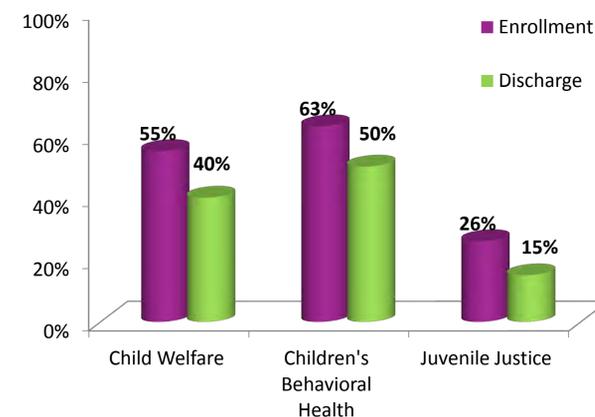
## OUTCOMES

### CHANGE IN CAFAS SCORE ENROLLMENT TO DISCHARGE n=110



Note: A decrease in score indicates an increase in functioning.

### SYSTEM DEPENDENCE ENROLLMENT TO DISCHARGE n=574



## SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

### GENDER: (n=315)

62% Male  
38% Female

### AGE: (n=314)

MIN: 3 years  
MAX: 20 years  
AVERAGE: 14 years

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY: 253 days

## CONCLUSIONS

- There is an overall decrease in dependence on State Systems (Child Welfare, Children's Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice) at the time of discharge from Wraparound Maine, as compared to the time of enrollment.
- The day-to-day functioning of youth, as measured by the CAFAS, is improved at the time of discharge from Wraparound Maine, indicated by a difference in average CAFAS scores of 28 points from enrollment to discharge.
- More youth are living in community environments at the time of discharge from Wraparound Maine, as compared to enrollment.
- The use of high cost services such as psychiatric hospitalization and residential treatment decreases during wraparound as compared to 12 months prior to wraparound. In addition, police involvement, arrests and adjudications decrease during wraparound as compared to the 12 months prior.
- Youth and families served by Wraparound Maine are receiving wraparound services that adhere to the national model, as measured by average to above average overall scores, reported by caregivers, youth and team members involved in the process. Wraparound Maine scores above the national average across all respondents.

## REFERENCES & CONTACT INFORMATION

Bruns, E.J., Sather, A.K. (2010). Wraparound Fidelity Index, version 4: Summary of relevant psychometrics, reliability, and validity studies. Retrieved August 15<sup>th</sup> from: [depts.washington.edu/wrapeval/docs/Psychometrics\\_WFI\\_April\\_26\\_2010.pdf](https://depts.washington.edu/wrapeval/docs/Psychometrics_WFI_April_26_2010.pdf)

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