

# An Initial Examination of Intensive Delinquency Diversion Services: Issues and Recommendations

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*A Report Submitted to the:*  
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
Jeb Bush, Governor  
W.G. "Bill" Bankhead, Secretary

*Presented by:*  
The Justice Research Center  
443 E. College Ave  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

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## Introduction

The continuum of services offered by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) includes programs designed to divert juveniles referred for delinquency from entering the judicial process for the first time, or from further involvement with the juvenile justice system. In 2000, DJJ developed a new diversionary program called Intensive Delinquency Diversion Services (IDDS). IDDS programs are a diversionary alternative to formal court involvement and supervision for youth determined to be high risk for becoming chronic offenders. The stated goals of IDDS include: protecting the public, reducing recidivism and increasing responsible behavior. A request for proposals (RFP) to develop IDDS programs resulted in 13 different providers being funded to operate programs in 19 of the 20 judicial circuits. In October 2000 the first programs began accepting youth.

DJJ created IDDS to focus on the subgroup of youth identified in *The 8% Solution: Preventing Serious Repeat Juvenile Crime*.<sup>1</sup> Research done in Orange County, CA identified a small portion of offenders (8%) who are responsible for over one-half of all referrals within a 3-year period<sup>2</sup>. The 8% subgroup of youth exhibited a set of problems or risk factors that are related to higher likelihood of continuing delinquent behavior. These risk factors include disrupted families, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse, and pre-delinquent behaviors such as running away, stealing and gang ties.

This report focuses on the first year of operations of IDDS and provides a description of the program design, a list of providers, a profile of the youth served, criteria for admissions, program completion rates and re-arrest within six months of admission. In addition, recommendations for improving program operations are made. Data collected in the first year program operation often do not provide an accurate picture of how the program has evolved. Due to the inconsistency between the management reports and data in the Juvenile Justice Information System in identifying youth served by IDDS programs, and the limited number of youth for whom risk information is available the figures in this report should be viewed as preliminary.

## IDDS Program Design

IDDS is designed to serve juveniles referred to DJJ for behavior, which if committed by an adult, would be a criminal act. The targeted age group is youth under 16 years of age. IDDS is focused on those youth who are determined to be most at risk of becoming serious or chronic offenders. Assessment of risk is based on the presence of at least three of the four risk factors identified in *The 8% Solution: Preventing Serious Repeat Juvenile Crime*: school behavior and performance problems, family problems, high risk pre-delinquent behaviors, and substance abuse issues, including any regular use of alcohol or drugs, other than experimentation.

IDDS programs provide intensive case management services to those youth and their families. The contract with DJJ requires that services be provided six days per week, and

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<sup>1</sup> Schumacher, Michael and Gwen Kurz (2000) *The 8% Solution: Preventing Serious, Repeat Juvenile Crime*. CA: Sage Publications.

<sup>2</sup> Schumacher, Michael and Gwen Kurz (2000) *The 8% Solution: Preventing Serious, Repeat Juvenile Crime*. CA: Sage Publications, p. 4.

include services outside the normal 8 am to 5 pm work day to ensure that youth and families have appropriate access. Delivery of case management services address the following components:

1. Treatment plan supervision
2. Staff qualifications and training
3. Diagnostic evaluation services
4. Behavior management
5. Social skill enhancement
6. Self sufficiently skill enhancement
7. Life skill enhancement
8. Mental health and counseling services
9. Substance abuse counseling
10. Education/academic assistance
11. Pre vocational services
12. Community service
13. Restitution
14. Transportation

An integral part of service delivery is the establishment of appropriate linkages with local resources who can provide services at a reduced cost. The length of participation is designed to be between five and seven months. Release from the program is based on the youth's performance in the program, and an assessment of the potential for re-offending.

## IDDS Providers

The table below lists the IDDS providers and program characteristics. IDDS programs are contracted to 13 private providers located in 19 of the 20 judicial circuits (Circuit 7 does not currently operate an IDDS program). Program capacity ranges from 18 in

**Profile of IDDS Programs**

Judicial Circuit	Contract Provider Agency	Major County	Date of 1st Admission	Capacity	Admissions through 8/31/01 based on JJIS
1	University of West Florida	Escambia	Feb-01	34	38
2	Disc Village, Inc.	Leon	Jan-01	33	37
3	White Foundation	Suwannee	Feb-01	30	24
4	State Attorney's Office 4th Judicial Circuit	Duval	Dec-00	107	115
5	Mad Dad's of Greater Ocala	Marion	Dec-00	60	139
6	Juvenile Services Program, Inc.	Pinellas	Nov-00	95	144
8	White Foundation	Alachua	Feb-01	49	20
9	First Step II	Orange	Dec-00	88	106
10	Bay Area Youth Services, Inc.	Polk	Oct-00	76	136
11	Department of Human Services Miami-Dade	Dade	Apr-01	63	54
12	Bay Area Youth Services, Inc.	Sarasota	Oct-00	59	71
13	Bay Area Youth Services, Inc.	Hillsborough	Oct-00	135	184
14	University of West Florida	Bay	Feb-01	18	18
15	Juvenile Services Program, Inc.	Palm Beach	Dec-00	102	145
16	Monroe County Sheriff's Office	Monroe	Jan-01	43	68
17	Psychotherapeutic Juvenile Services, Inc.	Broward	Dec-00	189	359
18	Crosswinds Youth Services, Inc	Brevard	Mar-01	68	68
19	STARR - Services to Teens at Risk of Reoffending	Martin	Nov-00	25	42
20	Juvenile Services Program, Inc.	Lee	Mar-01	62	95

Circuit 14 (Bay) to 189 in Circuit 17 (Broward County). A total of 1,336 youth can be served statewide. The first three programs began accepting youth in October 2000.

## Data Sources

Two sources of data were used for this report. DJJ’s Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) has only limited data for the first year of IDDS admissions. JJIS contains a record of the admission date for youth served by IDDS programs, as well as demographic data and a history of juvenile offending. There is no release information so lengths of stay and completion stays can not be determined from JJIS. Information regarding risk factors is available from the Supervision Risk Classification Instrument (SRCI) on the JJIS\_WEB.

A management report (titled “Exhibit 6” in the contract) created by each provider is the second source of data on youth in IDDS programs. These 19 reports contain the following information: the names of youths served, admission dates, release dates, release reasons, restitution amounts, and community service hours ordered and performed. Reports covering the time period through August 2001 were obtained from each of the providers.

## Data Collection Issues

In examining the data required for this report, a number of data collection issues were discovered. The most critical issue was the inconsistency between the list of youth in JJIS and the list from the providers’ management reports. In trying to identify whom IDDS programs in fact served, it became clear that there was significant inconsistency between the two databases. The table below presents a comparison of the two databases. There are over 400 youth whom providers reported serving who are not listed in JJIS under a specific IDDS program. There was an additional 179 youth listed in JJIS that the providers did not report serving.

**Comparison of Youth Served as Reported on the Management Reports and in JJIS**

Judicial Circuit	Contract Provider Agency	Major County	Not on Management Report	Not in JJIS as of 01/02	Both Databases Agree	Total in Both Databases
1	University of West Florida	Escambia	4	6	34	44
2	Disc Village, Inc.	Leon	4	7	36	47
3	White Foundation	Suwannee	0	29	23	52
4	State Attorney’s Office 4th Judicial Circuit	Duval	2	36	83	121
5	Mad Dad’s of Greater Ocala	Marion	12	25	174	211
6	Juvenile Services Program, Inc.	Pinellas	1	22	148	171
8	White Foundation	Alachua	2	49	15	66
9	First Step II	Orange	28	52	82	162
10	Bay Area Youth Services, Inc.	Polk	33	11	100	144
11	Department of Human Services Miami-Dade	Dade	16	14	6	36
12	Bay Area Youth Services, Inc.	Sarasota	4	19	74	97
13	Bay Area Youth Services, Inc.	Hillsborough	28	46	151	225
14	University of West Florida	Bay	1	5	16	22
15	Juvenile Services Program, Inc.	Palm Beach	3	4	14	148
16	Monroe County Sheriff’s Office	Monroe	3	2	59	64
17	Psychotherapeutic Juvenile Services, Inc.	Broward	0	103	377	480
18	Crosswinds Youth Services, Inc	Brevard	0	6	64	70
19	STARR - Services to Teens at Risk of Reoffending	Martin	1		41	42
20	Juvenile Services Program, Inc.	Lee	37	5	65	107
<b>Totals</b>			<b>179</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>2,265</b>

A clean up process, based on JRC’s identification of these inconsistencies between the two databases was begun on February 27, 2002. Probation and Community Corrections

has requested that each circuit add to JJIS youth whom the providers report serving. Youth referred to IDDS, but never served will be removed from JJIS or have an appropriate release reason added.

A second data collection issue is related to the requirement in the IDDS contract that the management report be "...completed in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet or a compatible spreadsheet and submitted on disk or by e-mail to the Circuit Office with a copy to the Probation and Community Corrections branch". In attempting to obtain copies the reports the Justice Research Center (JRC) determined that in almost all cases these reports were being compiled, but were not being submitted to the Circuits or Probation and Community Corrections.

The final data collection issue applies to data covering the first year of operations. Because release reasons and release dates were originally not entered in JJIS, the 19 individual management reports are the only source of completion data and length of stay figures. After August 20, 2001, when the JJIS business rule was changed to require that IDDS cases be left open, and release dates and release reasons be entered, this data has become available in JJIS. Since August 2001 it appears that, except in Broward County where a large percentage of admission still being closed on the day of admission, the new rules are being followed in the vast majority of the cases. This will allow completion status and length of stay figures to be calculated from the statewide database for subsequent years.

Due to the inconsistency between the management reports and JJIS in identifying which youth were served by IDDS programs, the figures in this report must be viewed as preliminary.

## **Profile of Youth**

The profile of youth served by IDDS programs is based on data in JJIS as of January 15, 2002. Youth were admitted between Oct 2000 and January 15, 2002.

### **Demographic Characteristics**

The majority of youth admitted to IDDS programs are male (73%), white (62%) and 42% are between 12 and 14 years of age. Seventy-six percent are under 16 years of age.

### **Priors**

Examining 2,439 youth listed in JJIS as having been admitted to IDDS programs through January 15, 2002, it was found that 56% had a referral prior to the offense that resulted in the placement in IDDS. The percentage of youth with priors varied for a low of 18% for Escambia IDDS, to a high of over 65% for Suwannee, Polk, and Martin IDDS programs.

Eight percent had been adjudicated for an offense or were adjudicated for the offense that led to IDDS placement. Again there are substantial differences among the programs from a high of 24% in Suwannee IDDS to less than 5% in Leon, Alachua and Lee. The overall

referral seriousness index is a 7.5<sup>3</sup>. The average referral index ranged from a high of over nine in Palm Beach and Martin counties to less than five in Escambia and Dade counties. These data make clear that there are substantial differences in the delinquency histories of the youth being served in the various IDDS programs.

### Prior Referral Information for IDDS Admissions

Program	N	Percent with:		Average Referral Index
		Prior Referrals	Prior Adjudications <sup>1</sup>	
Escambia IDDS	45	18%	9%	2.7
Leon IDDS	48	44%	4%	5.7
Suwannee IDDS	45	78%	24%	7.9
Duval IDDS	130	55%	5%	6.2
Marion IDDS	179	60%	11%	8.5
Pinellas IDDS	200	64%	12%	8.6
Orange IDDS	152	59%	16%	7.5
Polk IDDS	164	71%	6%	7.1
Sarasota IDDS	113	54%	11%	8.0
Hillsborough IDDS	296	58%	5%	8.0
Bay IDDS	22	59%	5%	7.3
Palm Beach IDDS	190	63%	6%	10.0
Broward IDDS	417	44%	9%	6.3
Martin IDDS	51	71%	8%	9.5
Alachua IDDS	42	43%	2%	6.7
Monroe IDDS	81	53%	9%	8.5
Lee IDDS	118	53%	3%	7.1
Dade IDDS	60	60%	7%	4.8
Brevard IDDS	86	63%	6%	8.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes youth adjudicated for offense that led to IDDS.

### Criteria for Admission

IDDS is a voluntary program for youth who want to avoid formal court processing. Generally a JPO will recommend a youth for IDDS at intake. The final decision to divert the case is up to the State Attorney. A referral by a JPO should be based on an assessment of risk as determined by the presence of at least three of the following factors identified in *The 8% Solution: Preventing Serious Repeat Juvenile Crime*<sup>4</sup>:

<sup>3</sup> The average referral index is calculated based on assigning the following point values for each previous charge: 8 point for a violent felony, 5 points for a property felony, 2 points for a misdemeanor and 1 point for any other charge. For commitment and probation the seriousness index is comprised of the sum of all scores for prior charges adjudicated or adjudication withheld and is not comparable to this seriousness index score.

<sup>4</sup> Schumacher, Michael and Gwen Kurz ( 2000) *The 8% Solution: Prevention Serious Repeat Juvenile Crime*. CA: Sage Publications.

1. At least one of the following school behavior and performance problems:
  - Attendance problems
  - Suspension or expulsion
  - Failure in two or more academic classes during the previous six months or comparable academic period
2. At least one of the following family problems:
  - Poor parental supervision or control
  - Documented circumstances of domestic violence
  - Child abuse and/or neglect
  - Family members who have engaged in criminal activities
3. Substance abuse issues, including any regular use of alcohol or drugs by the youth, other than experimentation
4. At least one of the following high risk pre-delinquent behaviors:
  - A pattern of stealing
  - Chronic running away from home
  - Gang membership or association

### **Determining Percentage of Youth Who Met IDDS Admission Criteria**

No information specific to IDDS admission criteria is available in JJIS. The only data available to determine what percentage of admissions fit the *8% Solution* criteria is the information on risk factors on the Supervision Risk Classification Instrument (SRCI). The SRCI is a risk assessment instrument that is completed at intake by the JPO on each referral (see Appendix A). The SRCI requires the JPO to assess the youth on most of the risk factors relevant to determining IDDS admission criteria. Information *not* on the SRCI or in JJIS includes:

- Chronic running away from home,
- Documented circumstances of domestic violence,
- Family members who have engaged in criminal activities, and
- Failure in two or more academic classes during the previous six months.

Of the 1,863 admissions during the first year, 970 had a SRCI filled out on the web. The table below examines the percentage of the 970 youth are rated on the SRCI as having each of the four risk factors. Fifty-eight percent of youth are identified as having family problems, making this the most prevalent risk factor. Slightly over one-half of the youth are identified as having school problems.

A pattern of stealing is one of the high-risk pre-delinquent risk factors identified in the *8% Solution*. Since this type of behavior pattern is not recorded in JJIS, if the current offense involved theft the youth was determined to have exhibited a pattern of stealing. While this measure both underestimates the prevalence of this behavior for youth who are not caught, and over-estimates the prevalence of this risk factor for youth with only one

arrest for theft, it is the best approach given the limited data. Gang membership or gang friends is noted for only 5% of those admitted.

<b>Frequency of Each Risk Factor</b>	
<b>Risk Factor</b>	<b>Percentage of Admissions Exhibiting Each Risk Factor</b>
School Problems	52%
Family Problems	58%
Drug or Alcohol Abuse	43%
Gang Involvement	5%
Current offense involves stealing (as a proxy for a pattern of stealing)	37%

Admission to IDDS requires three or more risk factors identified by the *8% Solution*. For the admissions on which SRCI information was available, just over one-third of admissions to IDDS during the first year of operations met this requirement. On the SRCI that was filled out as part of the referral that led to IDDS placement, 12% had no risk factors noted

<b>Distribution of Risk Factors</b>	
<b>Number of Risk Factors</b>	<b>Percentage of Admissions</b>
0	12%
1-2	54%
3 or more	34%

While it is possible that the percentages of admissions who have three or more risk factors would increase if some of the unmeasured risk factors were measured (especially chronic running away from home and documented circumstances of domestic violence), given that most of the admissions with two risk factors already are “scored” as having family problems, the percentage of youth with three or more risk factors would mostly likely not exceed 43%.

**Gender and Race Differences.**

The percentage of females who met the admission criteria was higher than the percentage of males; 42% of the females admitted met the criteria, while only 32% of the males met the criteria. The difference between black and white youths is even greater. While 40% of the white youth for whom SRCI’s were completed had three or more risk factors, only 24% of the black youth did.

## **Outcomes**

### **Program Completions**

The IDDS contract sets the minimal successful completion rate for youth admitted to the program at 80%. The only completion data available for the first year of operation is in the management reports. Providers are asked to indicate if the youth was successful or unsuccessful. There are no definitions supplied for these terms. It appears that the unsuccessful category contains youth referred to IDDS, but who are released for a variety of reasons including:

1. Failure to comply with program requirements
2. New law violations
3. Parents refusal to enroll
4. Youth refused to enroll
5. Youth moved (left service area).

Program completion rates are typically computed as the percentage of youth admitted to the program who complete the program. Due to the inclusion in the “admission” figures of youth who never received services due to failure to enroll, these data under-estimate the percentages of successful completions. The data from the management reports indicates, as of August 31, 2001, providers reported that of the 440 youth who had left the programs, only 206 (47%) are successful completions.

With the change in JJIS business rules after August, 2001 it should be possible to determine the following percentages:

1. Recommended to IDDS but never served;
2. Enrolled, but failed to comply;
3. Enrolled, but commit new offense; and
4. Enrolled and successfully completed.

This will allow both enrollment rates as well as successful completion rates to be calculated. Accurately tracking enrollment rates will help identify issues related to how different programs are approaching perspective clients, and determine which programs are having the greatest success in convincing youth and their families to enroll.

### **Offending Within Six Months of Admission**

The lack of release dates in JJIS prevents the calculation of offending during supervision or recidivism rates. As an alternative, re-offending rates within six-months of admission were calculated. Based on a data extract covering the time period through December 13, 2001 this provided a six-month follow-up period elapsed for 1,437 youth. Of those 1,437 youths, 331 (23%) were re-arrested within six-months of their admission date in JJIS. While this is not exactly a measure of re-offending during program participation, the result is better (77%) than the contract requirement that “a minimum of 70% of the youth placed in the program shall remain crime free during program participation.”

Almost half of those arrested were arrested for felonies. Misdemeanor assault and battery is the most frequent charge (16%). Burglary and petit larceny are also frequent charges. Note that these offenses were the original arrest charges, and may not reflect what charges the State’s Attorney filed.

**Race, Gender and Age Differences.**

Re-offending rates for males and females are within 1.4 percentage points. There are more substantial differences between white youths and black youths (21.7% versus 25.7% respectively). Re-arrest rates generally increase with age until age 13, and then exhibit a general pattern of decline.

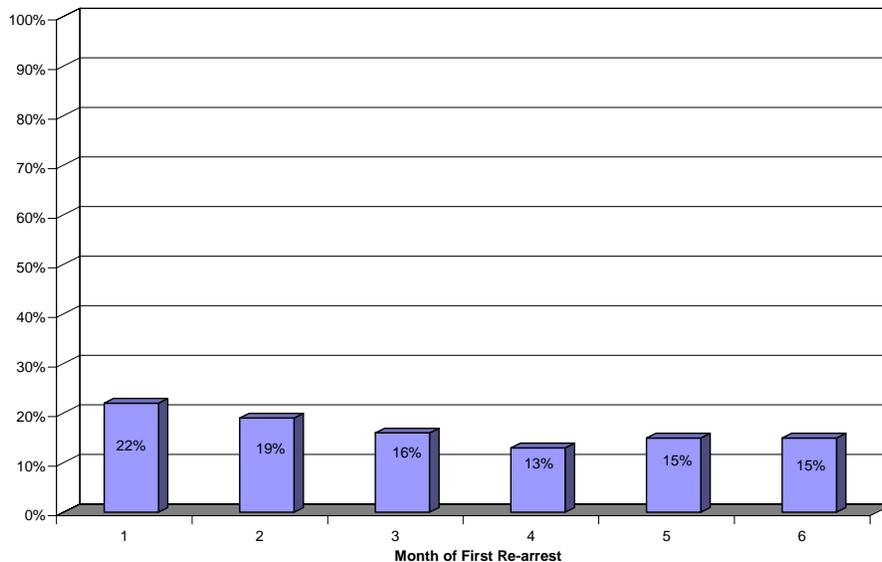
**Re-Arrest Rates by Age at Admission**

Age at Admission	N	Percent Re-arrested
7	10	10%
8	25	8%
9	36	14%
10	45	7%
11	96	15%
12	136	24%
13	207	31%
14	253	25%
15	285	25%
16	208	26%
17	118	19%
18	18	0%

**Time to First Re-Arrest**

Of the 23% of admissions who re-offended within six-months, almost one-quarter re-offended within the first month after admission. While each month after the first accounts for a lower percentage of re-offenders, there is not a dramatic decrease.

**Percent of Recidivists by Month of First Re-Arrest**



## Re-arrest Within Six Months and SRCI

Next the relationship between re-arrest rates and the SRCI recommendation is examined. Of the 1,437 IDDS youth who can be tracked for six months, 589 had SRCIs completed on JJIS-Web and could be further analyzed. Seventy-six percent of the 589 youth had a score that indicated diversion. In the other 24% of the cases the SRCI indicated formal judicial processing(i.e. probation or commitment).

The relationship between the SRCI recommendation and re-arrest within six months is clear. As the recommended disposition becomes more intensive, the re-arrest rates increases. For example, youth who the SRCI recommended diversion had a 27% re-arrest rate compared to a 43% re-arrest rate for youth who the SRCI indicated should receive intensive probation and a 63% re-arrest rate for the few who the SRCI indicated should have been committed. This suggests that IDDS is less successful with the more serious youth.

### Case Disposition Recommended by SRCI and Re-arrest Rates

	N	Percent Re-arrested within Six Months
<b>Diversion</b>	445	23%
<b>Minimum Probation</b>	68	31%
<b>General Probation</b>	40	33%
<b>Intensive Probation</b>	28	43%
<b>Commitment</b>	8	63%

## Risk Factors and Re-arrest Rates

The table below compares the relationship between the number of risk factors and re-offending within six-months. Youth with one risk factor has the lowest rate of re-offending, while youth with three or more risk factors had the highest rate. This raises the question of whether IDDS as currently designed is appropriate for these multi-problem youths. Without a comparison group of youth with the same level of risk, it is impossible to determine whether these recidivism rates differ from what would have been observed if IDDS services had not been provided.

### Risk Factors and Re-Arrest Rates

Number of Risk Factors	N	Percent Re-arrested within Six Months
<b>0</b>	894	21%
<b>1</b>	160	22%
<b>2</b>	204	28%
<b>3 or more</b>	179	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1437</b>	<b>23%</b>

## **Length of Services Received**

Data on the length of services was available from the management reports for 284 youth who completed the program between August 2001 and December 2001. The average length of services was 176 days with one half staying six months or more and one half staying less. The range was between 50 and 302 days.

## **Recommendations**

Due to the inconsistency between the data in the management reports and in JJIS, and the limited number of youth for whom risk information is available the figures in this report must be viewed as preliminary. As the data in JJIS becomes more complete, and a clearer picture emerges of the youth served emerges, these recommendations may become obsolete.

## **Data Issues**

1. There are significant inconsistencies between the list of IDDS youth in JJIS and the providers' management reports that covered the time period through August 2001. All youth on the management report should be properly entered into JJIS. A procedure needs to be developed by DJJ to ensure that all youth being served are entered into JJIS. A monthly pull of data in JJIS could be sent to the provider to determine if the list is complete. A staff person in each circuit should be designated to oversee this. An alternative would be to allow providers access to JJIS\_WEB. This would allow them to determine whether all youth being served are listed in JJIS. Discussions concerning allowing IDDS providers access to the Youth Requirements screen in JJIS\_WEB are ongoing.
2. It appears that some youth are referred for IDDS, but never served. Some of these youth have been entered in to JJIS. A policy needs to be developed as to whether these youth should even be entered into JJIS at all, and if so, how their lack of actual participation should be noted with an appropriate release reason indicating they were never served. Currently JJIS release reasons include "Family Refused Services-Referred to State Attorney" and "Unable to Locate-Referred to State Attorney".
3. A JJIS business rule issued in August 2001 requires that JJIS be used to track release dates, release reasons and length of stay. Given the new business rule, DJJ should reconsider whether the management report from the providers continues to be necessary. However if the management report is continued, DJJ should ensure that these reports are submitted to the Circuit Managers and HQ as required in the contract.
4. The management reports are currently the only source of information on restitution and community service hours. Discussions concerning allowing IDDS providers access to the Youth Requirements screen in JJIS\_WEB are ongoing. If this access were allowed, restitution and community service hours would be recorded on JJIS\_WEB and be accessible to DJJ in an automated form. At that point, the management report would be redundant. However, until that time the

management reports provide the only source of information about restitution and community service hours and DJJ should ensure that they are being submitted the Circuit Managers and HQ as required in the contract.

5. There is a lack of consistency regarding when a youth is considered admitted to IDDS and his admission date in JJIS. Some youth are entered in JJIS when the referral to the program is made, even if actual services may not start for days or weeks. The admission and release dates in JJIS need to reflect actual days of service. A JJIS Business rule should be developed that standardizes entry across the state.

### **Admission Criteria**

1. Based on the information on the SRCI, it appears that a large proportion of the youth being served by IDDS do not meet the *8% Solution* criteria. In fact, this may reflect inaccurate completion of the SRCI rather than an absence of risk factors among the IDDS youth. It may also be the case that the high percentage of missing SRCI's is skewing the picture of the type of youth IDDS programs are serving. If this is the case, additional training on the importance of collecting information about the youth in order to accurately complete the SRCI may be necessary.

On the other hand, if the SRCI are providing an accurate picture of the risk levels of IDDS youth, further training may be necessary to ensure that JPO's understand the type of youth IDDS is designed to serve, as this is a departure from the manner in which these youths were handled in the past. Furthermore, based on the scoring of the SRCI, most youth who qualify for IDDS would not receive a score that indicates diversion. To recommend IDDS, the JPO has to override the instrument and receive a supervisor's signature. That this is an acceptable, and even desirable, course of action may need to be reiterated to JPO's and their supervisors.

2. Differences between the design of IDDS and the *8% Solution* program may be significant enough that IDDS services are not sufficient for this high-risk population. The *8% Solution* in Orange County, CA involved a day treatment center to which youth are transported at 7:30 am in the morning and remain there until at least 3 pm. . In California, youth attend school on the premises; receive substance abuse counseling, and mental health services. In-home counseling is used for the most challenging families. The average length of stay is 18 months and the cost of the California program is estimated per youth at \$14,000. IDDS services are not facility based and while it is possible that they provide the same level of services, either through program service provision or through a referral to community partners, they do not provide the same level of supervision.

### **Admission Procedure**

1. A substantial number of youth in IDDS did not have a SRCI form recorded in JJIS WEB. Supervisors need to ensure that this is completed as part of the intake process.

2. A clearer understanding of the selection procedures being used in the various circuits is needed. It appears that the roles that the State's Attorney, DJJ and the provider play in regard to client selection differ from circuit to circuit. While it may not be desirable that these roles be standardized, DJJ should obtain a clear understanding of circuit variations. A providers meeting that was originally scheduled for September 12, 2001 and was rescheduled for March 4, 2002 will provide an opportunity to discuss this issue. The questions to be addressed should include:
  1. What role do the JPO, State's Attorney and provider play in identifying youth for IDDS?
  2. Does the provider have the ability to reject a youth whom they feel is either under qualified or inappropriate for IDDS?
  3. What happens when the State's Attorney refers a youth to IDDS when there are no spaces available?
  4. Is a "waiting list" allowed or should these youth be directed towards another diversionary program?
  5. What is the policy concerning admitting youth to IDDS programs multiple times?

### **Performance Measures**

1. The four performance measures in the IDDS contract need to be reexamined. As a group they are inconsistent. For example, while a minimum of 80% of the youth admitted to the program are required to successfully complete the program, only 70% must remain crime free while in the program. Requiring that the completion rate be higher than the crime free rate implies that a significant percentage (a minimum of 10%) of the youth who are re-arrested would go on to successfully complete the program, and that the rate of removal from the program for non-compliance (other than law breaking) would be very low. In fact we would expect based on past performance of JASP and probation youth, that non-compliance will account for a substantial percentage of unsuccessful completions.
2. The performance measures also require that 80% of youth complete required restitution and 90% of youth complete required community service hours. The requirement that a greater percentage of youth complete community service hours (90%) than are required to successfully complete the program seems unrealistic (80%).

**Appendix A: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Supervision Risk Classification Instrument (SRCI)**

<p>1. <u>      </u> <b>Prior Referrals</b></p> <p>5= 7 or more 3= 5 or 6 2= 3 or 4 1= 1 or 2 0= None</p>	<p>6. <u>      </u> <b>Peer Relationships</b></p> <p>2= Gang involvement or peers are gang members 1= Primarily negative peers/no peers 0= Primarily positive peers</p>
<p>2. <u>      </u> <b>Highest Level of Prior Disposition or Current Status</b></p> <p>2= Committed 1= Community Control 0= None of the above</p>	<p>7. <u>      </u> <b>Parental Control</b></p> <p>2= No control or supervision 1= Limited control or supervision 0= Effective control or supervision</p>
<p>3. <u>      </u> <b>Age at the Time of Current Arrest</b></p> <p>4= 13 or under 2= 14 or 15 years old 0= 16 or over</p>	<p>8. <u>      </u> <b>History of Abuse/Neglect</b></p> <p>2= History of physical or sexual abuse of youth 1= History of neglect of youth 0= None</p>
<p>4. <u>      </u> <b>Drug or Alcohol Use</b></p> <p>2= Chronic use w/serious disruption of functioning 1= Occasional use w/some disruption of functioning 0= No use or no interference with functioning</p>	<p>9. <u>      </u> <b>Mental Health</b></p> <p>2= Current Diagnosis, in treatment or prescribed medication 1= Mental health assessment needed 0= None</p>
<p>5. <u>      </u> <b>School Adjustment</b></p> <p>2= Suspended, Expelled, Dropped Out (or history of) 1= Chronic Tardiness or Truancy 0= Regular attendance, GED or H.S. Diploma</p>	<p>10. <u>      </u> <b>Employment</b></p> <p>2= 16 or over, not employed, and not pursuing an education 0= All others</p>

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:

**0-5 = Low Risk**

**6-10 = Moderate Risk**

**11-15 = High Risk**

**16 + = Very High Risk**

**Juvenile Supervision**

**Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Override Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Justification:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor's Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix A (continued): Florida Department of Juvenile Justice’s  
Supervision Risk Classification Matrix**

<b>MOST SERIOUS CURRENT CHARGE</b>	<b>LOW RISK ( 0-5 )</b>	<b>MODERATE RISK ( 6-10 )</b>	<b>HIGH RISK ( 11-15 )</b>	<b>VERY HIGH RISK ( 16+ )</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Felony or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Violent Felony	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation	Recommend Commitment	Recommend Commitment
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Felony or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Violent Felony	Intensive Probation or General Probation	Intensive Probation or General Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation	Recommend Commitment
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony or 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Violent Misdemeanor	Diversion or Minimum Probation	General Probation or Minimum Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Misdemeanor or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Misdemeanor	Diversion	Diversion	General Probation or Minimum Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation

Staff should use professional judgment to choose the most appropriate level of supervision when a cell offers more than one choice.