



Tribal Youth Resource Center

Strategic Planning Tools- Data Collection in the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court

Engaging in Effective Data Collection and Supporting Informed Decision Making

Data collection and evaluation are important activities that can support the ongoing development and enhancement of the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court. “Process measurement, performance measurement, and evaluation are tools to monitor and evaluate the achievement of program goals, identify needed improvements to the Tribal Healing to Wellness Court and to the tribal court process, determine participant progress, and provide information to governing bodies, interested community groups, and funding sources.”¹ Data collection is an important process to begin early on, as “successful Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts carefully collect, organize, analyze and evaluate information from the beginning of the planning stage and throughout operations.”²

Data Collection- Project Planning Period

Assessing Community Readiness and Awareness of Issues

Ready to tackle an issue impacting the community? Gathering information to assist your team is essential to productive planning. It can be helpful to gain an awareness of how the issue is impacting the community and what community members think or know about the particular issue to be addressed.

- **Community Readiness Assessment:** A tool that can be easily utilized to assess community understanding and awareness is the Community Readiness Assessment. https://tec.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CR_Handbook_8-3-15.pdf
- **Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)/Gathering of Alaska Natives (GOAN):** An approach that reflects AI/AN cultural values, traditions, and spiritual practices. Focuses on four themes: Belonging, Mastery, Interdependence, and Generosity. GONA/GOAN is an adaptable approach to address a variety of important issues within the community. <https://cncfr.ibsinternational.com/node/593>

¹ Tribal Law and Policy Institute, Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: The Key Components, 2nd Ed., 2014, at 64 <http://wellnesscourts.org/files/Tribal%20Healing%20to%20Wellness%20Courts%20The%20Key%20Components.pdf>

² Ibid.

Assessing Currently Available Data

There are many ways to collect data and information. There are many options for collecting useful information.

Ways to Collect Information ³
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Environmental or community scans;❖ Interviews, surveys, or public hearings with key audiences (e.g., formal/informal leaders, program advocates, service providers to targeted audiences, [elders] and [youth] end-users);❖ Interviews with specialists (e.g., legislators, administrative consultants, and internal/external evaluators [tribal leadership]);❖ Site visits or observation of a setting (e.g., climate, attitudes of specific personnel, professional practices, resources and support services, facilities, and budget allocations);❖ Analysis of written and online documents (e.g., organizational charts, management plans, budgets, proposals, training materials and curricula, and minutes of meetings);❖ Interaction with existing groups (e.g., [tribal community leaders], policy makers, advisors, clients, management teams, and staff);❖ Case studies and success stories;❖ Training evaluations; and❖ Questionnaires, rating scales, and inventories.

Resources for Federal and State-Level Data

- **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention** <https://www.ojjdp.gov>
- **OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book:** This site provides comprehensive national datasets for a wide range of juvenile justice-related topics and subtopics as well as data analysis tools, frequently-asked questions and answers, and links to other statistical resources. Also included are links to data-focused OJJDP publications.
<https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/default.asp>
- **OJJDP Compendium of National Juvenile Justice Data Sets:** This is a resource for researchers in the areas of juvenile offending, victimization, and contact with the juvenile justice system that both publicizes useful data sources and provides information intended to help with the practical aspects of obtaining and analyzing data.

³ Table adapted from list in Crane et al., Essential Tools, Community Resource Mapping, ICI Publications Office, May 2005 at 20
https://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/172995/NCSET_EssentialTools_ResourceMapping.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

<https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/Compendium/default.asp>

- **National Criminal Justice Reference Service** <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/new-ojp-resources> - **Juvenile Justice Section:** <https://www.ojp.gov/topics/juvenile-justice?TopicID=122>

Tribal-Specific Resources

- **Tribal Youth Data:** “Datasets of AI/AN juvenile justice data are difficult to compare because AI/AN youth involved in multiple jurisdictions may be documented in one or more jurisdiction dataset(s) or not at all.” (NCAI, 2020). See a Juvenile Justice Data Source Guide in the publication “American Indian and Alaska Native Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: A Guide to the Data,” National Congress of American Indians, 2020. https://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/NCAI_Policy_Research_Center_AIAN_Juvenile_Justice_Data_FINAL_1_2020.pdf
- **Understanding the Need for Data Collection:** The Data Use Toolkit, American Indian Development Associates; a free resource to support understanding concepts related to data collection, management, and use. https://www.aidainc.net/uploads/1/3/5/7/135765361/data_toolkit.pdf
- **The State of Tribal Data Capacity in Indian Country:** Key Findings from the Survey of Tribal Data Practices, National Congress of American Indians, October 2018. https://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/Tribal_Data_Capacity_Survey_FINAL_10_2018.pdf

Local-Level Data Collection

Work with local departments to gather and collect relevant data. Memorandum of Agreements or Understanding (MOA/MOU) can be developed to support information sharing.

- Law enforcement reports
- Census data
- Employment statistics
- Public Health Information
- School/Education Settings
- Social/Family Services

Sample Data Sharing Agreements

- Visit the Tribal Information Exchange <https://tribalinformationexchange.org/index.php/sharingagreements/> for sample data

sharing agreements. See a sample data sharing agreement here⁴<https://tribalinformationexchange.org/index.php/sharingagreements/>

Data Collection- Service Delivery Period

The wellness court implements “team-based” case management to support court participants. Case management plays an integral part in⁵

- Linking participants to necessary services;
- A collaborative monitoring of the participants’ services and progress; and
- Gathering and sharing information for and within the wellness court team.

The case manager must track data concerning each participant and their interaction with services. Case managers should track what services have been referred, how long it was before a participant received those services, and whether those services have been completed.⁶

Gathering Information to Support Youth Participants

Case managers may utilize screening and assessment processes to ascertain information about youth participants. This information gathering can occur through a number of processes including individual interviews, client self-reports, parent/caregiver reports, and other screening and assessment tools. There are numerous tools used by juvenile justice systems. Tribal communities may wish to select tools that best work for youth within their community. Tribal communities may also choose to adapt tools and processes to support the needs of local youth.

Legal Screening

- Baird et al., “A Comparison of Risk Assessment Instruments in Juvenile Justice,” December 2013⁷ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/grants/244477.pdf>
- Development Services Group, Inc., “Risk/Needs Assessments for Youths,” 2015 <https://ojdp.ojp.gov/mpg/literature-review/risk-needs-assessments-for-youths.pdf> Literature Review. Washington D.C., Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

⁴ Data sharing agreements should be reviewed and approved by local administrators and be in accordance with all locally governing laws and policies.

⁵ Garrow et al., “Case Management, Tribal Law and Policy Institute, May 2018, at 5 <http://wellnesscourts.org/files/HTWC%20Case%20Management.pdf>

⁶ Id at 16.

⁷ A caveat to risk-assessment tools is the validity of such tools within a Tribal community- see “Turning Native Kids Into Criminals,” Indian Country Today, September 13, 2018 <https://indiancountrytoday.com/archive/turning-native-kids-into-criminals> regarding bias in screening instruments/tools. Communities should select and/or adapt tools that are most applicable to their community’s youth.

Examples of tools for identifying youth at risk of offending (screening tools)*⁸

- Behavioral and Emotional Screening System (BASC-2 BESS)
- School Social Behavior Scales (SSBS)
- Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory - Adolescent Version (SASSI-A2)
- Problem-Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers (POSIT)
- Detection of Alcohol and Drug Problems in Adolescents (DEP-ADO)
- Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory - Screening Version (YLS/CMI-SV) (a version of this tool is also used as a risk assessment tool)
- Social Skills Improvement System (SSIS) (also used as a risk assessment tool)
- Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument - Pre-Screen Version (YASI™) (a version of this tool is also used as a risk assessment tool)

Social Needs

- Indigenous Youth-Developed Self-Assessment: the Youth Personal Balance Tool: [Youth Personal Balance Tool](#), Developed by the Fresno Indian Health Project (FAIHP). The Youth Personal Balance Tool is a strength-based, holistic, and youth-friendly self-assessment tool grounded in the Medicine Wheel, a framework and theoretical orientation for teaching wellness in many tribal communities.
- Healthy Native Youth, health promotion curricula and resources for American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Health Curricula: <https://www.healthynativeyouth.org/curriculum/>
- See ACTforYouth for resources and templates to help gather information about individual youth assets and strengths: http://actforyouth.net/youth_development/professionals/sel/self-awareness.cfm

Substance Use and Behavioral Health

- MAYSI-2: A brief behavioral health screening tool designed especially for juvenile justice programs and facilities [MAYSI-2](#) or Global Appraisal of Individual Needs- Short Screener [GAIN Tools](#)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse, Screening and Assessment Tools Chart: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/screening-tools-resources/chart-screening-tools>

⁸ Savignac et al., Tools to Identify and Assess the Risk of Offending Among Youth, 2010, National Crime Prevention Centre. *Tools mentioned in this resource sheet are for reference only and no recommendation is made as to the selection of tools for individual communities. Tools should be selected by the local community after careful review.

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, Screening Tools for Adolescent Substance Use: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/screening-tools-resources/screening-tools-for-adolescent-substance-use>

Considerations for Collecting and Sharing Participant Data

- Data collection will occur ongoing. Case Managers can implement team reporting processes to engage in the ongoing collection of youth participant data.
- Data collection does not require costly software. Data can be managed through in-house word processing software, if needed. There are virtual and cloud-based data management systems that can assist with team communication.
- Data collection will contribute to the ongoing development, enhancement, and evaluation of the Tribal JHWC.
- Teams should consider best practices related to client confidentiality and respect for all applicable laws related to the sharing of participant private health information.

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Need additional assistance? Email us at TribalYouth@TLPI.org

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Anna Clough, JD