

# Pinellas County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Data Collaborative

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Pinellas County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Data Collaborative Members

**FROM:** Annette McGaha & Diane Haynes, PSRDC, MHLP, FMHI, USF

**DATE:** July 23, 2002

**RE:** Access to Services for Pinellas Youths with a Baker Act Initiation (Still in Analysis)

First a brief recap of what this study was about: The study identifies Pinellas County Youths who have had a Baker Act initiation, who were between the ages of 5 through 17, at the time of their initiation. We are proposing to look at their access to and use of services. We are looking for patterns differences by gender, age, type of professional initiating the Baker Act, and evidence type etc. This is an initial analysis to help direct future questions about youths dealing with mental health problems within Pinellas County.

### Identification of youths

Youths were identified using the Baker Act data. All youths between the ages of 5 through 17 at the time of initiation over a three-year period (July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2001). The Baker Acts were either initiated in Pinellas County or with youths who resided in Pinellas County.

A total of 1,669 youths were found to be in the Baker Act system between the ages of 5 and 17. This makes up 15.77% of the total Baker Act Population found in Pinellas. Of those 1,669 Baker Act individuals where had Baker Act initiations, the majority Baker Act initiations were done by law enforcement (1,109 / 66.45%), the mental health professionals initiated 724 (43.38 % ) Baker Acts, and judges initiated the remaining 108 Baker Acts (6.47%).

<b>Youth Population Identified for Baker Act Study</b>		
	<b>Nbr. Youths Identified</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Identified</b>
<b>Total Youths (ages 5 – 17)</b>	1,669	100%
<b>Initiated by a Judge</b>	108	6.47%
<b>Initiated by a Mental Health Professional</b>	724	43.38%
<b>Initiated by a Law Enforcement Officer</b>	1,109	66.45%

**NOTE:** Types are not mutually exclusive in this table

Number of Baker Act Exams per Individual

The table below is a frequency of how many Baker Act exams an individual received over the three-year period being studied.

<b>Number of Baker Act Exams per Individual Youth</b>						
	<b>Youths</b>		<b>Females</b>		<b>Males</b>	
<b>Nbr. Baker Act Exams</b>	<b>Nbr. Exams</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Nbr. Exams</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Nbr. Exams</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>1</b>	1,197	71.72	613	73.15	584	70.28
<b>2</b>	266	15.94	116	13.84	150	18.05
<b>3</b>	98	5.87	56	6.68	42	5.05
<b>4</b>	37	2.22	13	1.55	24	2.89
<b>5</b>	22	1.32	13	1.55	9	1.08
<b>6</b>	20	1.20	10	1.19	10	1.20
<b>7</b>	7	0.42	5	0.60	2	0.24
<b>8</b>	9	0.54	2	0.24	7	0.84
<b>9</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>10</b>	5	0.30	5	0.60	0	0.0
<b>11</b>	3	0.18	1	0.12	2	0.24
<b>12</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>13</b>	2	0.12	1	0.12	1	0.12
<b>14</b>	2	0.12	2	0.24	0	0.0
<b>15</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>16</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>17</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>18</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>19</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>20</b>	1	0.06	1	0.12	0	0.0
<b>Total Individuals</b>	1,669	100	838	100	831	100
<b>Total Baker Act Exams</b>	2,679		1,363		1,316	

Gender

The male/female distribution is approx 50/50 with 50.21% (838) being female and 49.79 (831) being male. Within gender and using the total population of individuals with a Baker Act Examinations in Pinellas, males and females made up 15.84, 15.35% respectively, within their gender group.

The females Baker Act initiations are only slightly more likely to be initiated by Mental Health Professionals and males are slightly more likely to have the initiation to come from Law enforcement professionals.

<b>Youth Population Identified for Baker Act Study by Gender</b>		
	<b>Nbr. Youths Identified</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Identified</b>
<b>Total Youths (ages 5 – 17)</b>	1,669	100%
<b>Females</b>	838	50.21%
<b>Initiated by a Judge</b>	63	7.52%
<b>Initiated by a Mental Health Professional</b>	378	45.11%
<b>Initiated by a Law Enforcement Officer</b>	542	64.68%
<b>Males</b>	831	49.79%
<b>Initiated by a Judge</b>	45	5.42%
<b>Initiated by a Mental Health Professional</b>	346	41.64%
<b>Initiated by a Law Enforcement Officer</b>	567	68.23%
<b>NOTE:</b> Types are not mutually exclusive in this table		

Age

The mean age for youths at the time of their first Baker Act initiation was 13 years. Female’s age was one year younger and males were one year older (females mean = 12; Males mean = 14).

<b>Age at Time of 1<sup>st</sup> Baker Act Initiation</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Youngest Age</b>	<b>Oldest Age</b>
<b>All Youths (N=1,669)</b>	13	5	17
<b>Females (N=838)</b>	14	5	17
<b>Males (N=831)</b>	12	5	17

Looking at age distribution, using age at first Baker Act initiation, the distribution was from age 5 through age 17, with 71.48% over the age of 12 before their 1<sup>st</sup> initiation was received.

<b>Age at time of 1<sup>st</sup> Baker Act Initiation</b>						
<b>Age</b>	<b>Nbr. Of Youths</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Nbr of Females</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Nbr. of Males</b>	<b>%</b>
5	13	0.78	1	0.12	12	1.44
6	24	1.44	2	0.24	22	2.65
7	48	2.88	5	0.6	43	5.17
8	44	2.64	14	1.67	30	3.61
9	58	3.48	15	1.79	43	5.17
10	70	4.19	16	1.91	54	6.50
11	86	5.15	24	2.86	62	7.46
12	133	7.97	67	8.00	66	7.94
13	179	10.72	103	12.29	76	9.15
14	243	14.56	147	17.54	96	11.55
15	274	16.42	161	19.21	113	13.60
16	257	15.4	138	16.47	119	14.32
17	240	14.38	145	17.3	95	11.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>100%</b>

Type of Certification

There was a noticeable increase in judge initiated Baker Act examines at the age of 15, even when just comparing age 15 to the other ages over twelve years of age across all three types of professionals able to initiate Baker Acts.

<b>Baker Act Initiations by Age and Types of Professionals</b>						
<b>Certification Type</b>	<b>Judge</b>		<b>Mental Health Professional</b>		<b>Law Enforcement Officer</b>	
<b>Age</b>	<b>NBR</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>NBR</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>NBR</b>	<b>%</b>
5	2	1.85	10	1.38	5	0.45
6	1	0.93	11	1.52	15	1.35
7	2	1.85	27	3.73	29	2.61
8	0	0.0	26	3.59	26	2.34
9	0	0.0	29	4.01	36	3.25
10	3	2.78	32	4.42	50	4.51
11	5	4.63	34	4.70	66	5.95
12	4	3.70	45	6.22	96	8.66
13	15	13.89	74	10.22	128	11.54
14	17	15.74	112	15.47	156	14.07
15	29	26.85	105	14.5	184	16.59
16	17	15.74	109	15.06	164	14.79
17	13	12.04	110	15.19	154	13.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>100</b>

**Note:** At Youths 1<sup>st</sup> Baker Act Initiation

An interesting pattern appears only after age and type of certification is broke down with gender. There is a significant difference in the pattern of distribution by age within females initiation by judges rather than mental health professionals and law enforcement,  $X^2(2, 838) = 10.14, p > .05$ . Judge s primary initiated Baker Act exams for females between the ages of 13 and 15 (68.25%).

<b>Baker Act Initiations by Age and Types of Professionals for Females Only</b>						
<b>Certification Type</b>	<b>Judge</b>		<b>Mental Health Professional</b>		<b>Law Enforcement Officer</b>	
	<b>Age</b>	<b>NBR</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>NBR</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>NBR</b>
<b>5</b>	0	0.0	1	0.26	0	0.0
<b>6</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.37
<b>7</b>	1	1.59	5	1.32	3	0.55
<b>8</b>	0	0.0	9	2.38	9	1.66
<b>9</b>	0	0.0	9	2.38	11	2.03
<b>10</b>	0	0.0	9	2.38	10	1.85
<b>11</b>	2	3.17	8	2.12	20	3.69
<b>12</b>	3	4.76	22	5.82	51	9.41
<b>13</b>	12	19.05	42	11.11	69	12.73
<b>14</b>	13	20.63	75	19.84	89	16.42
<b>15</b>	18	28.57	62	16.4	105	19.37
<b>16</b>	9	14.29	63	16.67	85	15.68
<b>17</b>	5	7.94	73	19.31	88	16.24
<b>Total</b>	63	100.00	378	100	542	100
<b>Note:</b> At Youths 1 <sup>st</sup> Baker Act Initiation						

Baker Act certifications that were initiated by Judges, showed the majority (91.67%) of individuals to have only one initiation. Even initiations by mental health providers were only one per youth 82.32 % of the time. Youths were 75.83% likely to have only one law enforcement initiation. Judges never showed any youth having more than 3 initiations, while the mental health professional group showed up to 6 and Law enforcement initiations went up to as many as 15 Baker Act initiations for an youth.

<b>Number of Baker Act Initiation by Certification Type</b>						
	<b>Youths</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Initiated by Judge</b>	108	100	63	100	45	100
<b>Only 1 Baker Act Initiation</b>	99	91.67	56	88.89	43	95.56
<b>2 Baker Act Initiation</b>	6	5.56	5	7.94	1	2.22
<b>3 Baker Act Initiation</b>	3	2.78	2	3.17	1	2.22
<b>Initiated by Mental Health Prof.</b>	724	100	378	100	346	100
<b>Only 1 Baker Act Initiation</b>	596	82.32	302	79.89	294	84.97
<b>2 Baker Act Initiation</b>	88	12.15	52	13.76	36	10.4
<b>3 Baker Act Initiation</b>	19	2.62	11	2.91	8	2.31
<b>4 Baker Act Initiation</b>	12	1.66	8	2.12	4	1.16
<b>5 Baker Act Initiation</b>	8	1.10	4	1.06	4	1.16
<b>6 Baker Act Initiation</b>	1	0.14	1	0.26	0	0.0
<b>Initiated by Law Enforcement</b>	1,109	100	542	100	567	100
<b>Only 1 Baker Act Initiation</b>	841	75.83	420	77.49	721	74.25
<b>2 Baker Act Initiation</b>	161	14.52	72	13.28	89	15.7
<b>3 Baker Act Initiation</b>	54	4.87	26	4.80	28	4.94
<b>4 Baker Act Initiation</b>	25	2.25	11	2.03	14	2.47
<b>5 Baker Act Initiation</b>	6	0.54	2	0.37	4	0.71
<b>6 Baker Act Initiation</b>	10	0.9	4	0.74	6	1.06
<b>7 Baker Act Initiation</b>	2	0.18	1	0.18	1	0.18
<b>8 Baker Act Initiation</b>	2	0.18	1	0.18	1	0.18
<b>9 Baker Act Initiation</b>	2	0.18	2	0.37	0	0.0
<b>10 Baker Act Initiation</b>	2	0.18	0	0.0	2	0.35
<b>11 Baker Act Initiation</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>12 Baker Act Initiation</b>	2	0.18	1	0.18	1	0.18
<b>13 Baker Act Initiation</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>14 Baker Act Initiation</b>	1	0.09	1	0.18	0	0.0
<b>15 Baker Act Initiation</b>	1	0.09	1	0.18	0	0.0

When looking at the lack of overlap between the certification types, 64% of those who have a Baker Act initiation by a judge, and 67% of those who have a Baker Act initiation by a mental health professional, do not show up as having either of the other two certification types; but if a youth has a law enforcement Baker Act initiation, they will have another, totally separate, Baker Act initiation by either a Judge or Mental Health Professional. Mental Health Professionals

The majority of the Evidence Types were for Harm (over 80%). Evidence type showed a pattern of having both (Harm & Neglect) as a value when the certification type was Judge for both males and females. There were no patterns by Harm Type.

Cross System Analysis

When looking at cross over of youths who had Baker Act initiations into other systems in Pinellas, it was interesting to find that a high number of youths (53.62%) had none or only one other. Of all the youths, 33.37% were found in the child welfare system. This is high, especially when we matched by SSN, as there are many in the child welfare system do not have an SSN, but a Psuedo SSN. This lowers the change of finding a match. Using PPE to match between child welfare and the youths identified in the Baker Act system, there were 35.44% found. Very few were found to crossover into the Dept. of Social Service System (>1%). This was expected because, children receive services through their parents DSS authorization and not independent of them, unless they are adults or emancipated youths, etc.

There are quite a few youths using EMS (27.32%) also, and since 5 to 17 year olds only make up 3.14% of the EMS system, Baker Act youths are more likely to use EMS than the other youths. Of all the systems the highest crossover were found in Medicaid and IDS services. This holds especially true for females and IDS as 60.32% Baker Act female youths who were initiated by Judges were also found in the IDS (substance abuse and mental health services). Males who had a Baker Act Exam initiated by law enforcement (57.85%) showed to have a higher chance to also be using IDS services (substance abuse and mental health services). Forty-four percent to 52.78% of all Baker Act youths show up in Medicaid, showing a financial aid need for at least health services. Again, another pattern with females whose Baker Act was initiated by a judge (55.56%) were more likely to received services in Medicaid, than if their Baker Act initiation came from the other two certification types (law enforcement, mental health professional). Finally there were no significant differences in the number of systems a youth interacted with by the certification type.

<b>System Interactions</b>						
<b>System</b>	<b>Child Welfare</b>	<b>IDSs</b>	<b>DSS</b>	<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>EMS</b>	<b>CJIS</b>
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Youths (N=1,669)</b>	33.37	48.77	0.45	44.10	27.32	2.58
<b>Females (N=838)</b>	32.34	44.03	0.72	48.01	22.98	1.07
<b>Males (N=831)</b>	34.42	23.55	0.36	40.21	31.62	0.48

The three tables below show a more detailed complex breakdown of how many systems individuals are interacting with over the 3-year period look at. It shows a very high number of individuals are not showing up in any other system than the Baker Act system. However, there is a need for further analyst to better understand the patterns found in this initial study.

<b>Number or systems involvement</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>All Youths (N=1,669)</b>		
<b>No Systems</b>	451	27.02
<b>Only one System</b>	444	26.6
<b>Two systems</b>	325	19.47
<b>Three systems</b>	318	19.05
<b>Four Systems</b>	131	7.85
<b>Judge (N= 108)</b>		
<b>No Systems</b>	26	24.07
<b>Only one System</b>	23	21.3
<b>Two systems</b>	24	22.22
<b>Three systems</b>	23	21.3
<b>Four Systems</b>	12	11.11
<b>Mental Health Pro. (N=724)</b>		
<b>No Systems</b>	194	26.8
<b>Only one System</b>	182	25.14
<b>Two systems</b>	131	18.09
<b>Three systems</b>	156	21.55
<b>Four Systems</b>	61	8.43
<b>Law Enforcement (N= 1,109)</b>		
<b>No Systems</b>	267	24.08
<b>Only one System</b>	289	26.06
<b>Two systems</b>	227	20.47
<b>Three systems</b>	228	20.56
<b>Four Systems</b>	98	8.84



<b>Number or systems involvement</b>		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>All Males (N=831)</b>			
	<b>No Systems</b>	213	25.63
	<b>Only one System</b>	205	24.67
	<b>Two systems</b>	176	21.18
	<b>Three systems</b>	178	21.42
	<b>Four Systems</b>	59	7.1
	<b>Judge (N=45)</b>		
	<b>No Systems</b>	12	26.67
	<b>Only one System</b>	15	33.33
	<b>Two systems</b>	5	11.11
	<b>Three systems</b>	9	20
	<b>Four Systems</b>	4	8.89
	<b>Mental Health Pro. (N=346)</b>		
	<b>No Systems</b>	88	25.43
	<b>Only one System</b>	75	21.68
	<b>Two systems</b>	66	19.08
	<b>Three systems</b>	88	25.43
	<b>Four Systems</b>	29	8.38
	<b>Law Enforcement (N= 567)</b>		
	<b>No Systems</b>	130	22.93
	<b>Only one System</b>	136	23.99
	<b>Two systems</b>	132	23.28
	<b>Three systems</b>	126	22.22
	<b>Four Systems</b>	43	7.58

<b>Number or systems</b>		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>All Females (N= 838)</b>			
	<b>No Systems</b>	238	28.4
	<b>Only one System</b>	239	28.52
	<b>Two systems</b>	149	17.78
	<b>Three systems</b>	140	16.71
	<b>Four Systems</b>	72	8.59
	<b>Judge (N=63)</b>		
	<b>No Systems</b>	14	22.22
	<b>Only one System</b>	8	12.7
	<b>Two systems</b>	19	30.16
	<b>Three systems</b>	14	22.22
	<b>Four Systems</b>	8	12.7
	<b>Mental Health Pro. (N= 378)</b>		
	<b>No Systems</b>	106	28.04
	<b>Only one System</b>	107	28.31
	<b>Two systems</b>	65	17.2
	<b>Three systems</b>	68	17.99
	<b>Four Systems</b>	32	8.47
	<b>Law Enforcement (N= 542)</b>		
	<b>No Systems</b>	137	25.28
	<b>Only one System</b>	153	28.23
	<b>Two systems</b>	95	17.53
	<b>Three systems</b>	102	18.83
	<b>Four Systems</b>	55	10.15

### Follow up

There needs to be further analysis to truly understand the flow of interactions these youths have had with the Baker Act system as well as the other five systems. This includes looking at the types of services and circumstances that can be in the secondary data as well as the understanding of the whole complete picture of the story secondary data can tell us about how and when he/she touch each of these systems. Do they access the Baker Act system first? Or for example is the EMS service provided at the same time as the Baker Act initiation is being done? What kinds of services had the youth received prior to have a Baker Act initiated against them? Does the types of services lower the changes of a youth having a Baker Act initiated against them in the future?