

After 2 Years, Children and Youth Continue to Show Improvement

This report provides an annual update on the evaluation of I Famagu'on-ta, Guam's System of Care. Evaluation results show that after 2 years, children and families continue to experience positive outcomes. Youth continue to do better in school, have less involvement in the juvenile justice system, and are experiencing better behavioral and emotional health.

I Famagu'on-ta was funded in 2002 by the Center for Mental Health Services to develop and implement a system of care. A system of care is "a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that is organized to meet the challenges of children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families. Families and youth work in partnership with public and private organizations so services and supports are effective, build on the strengths of individuals, and address each person's cultural and linguistic needs. A system of care aims to help children, youth and families function better at home, in school, and in the community throughout life¹."

I Famagu'on-ta began receiving referrals in 2004 and has provided services to 324 children and youth². Services include referral, assessment, traditional mental health services, Wraparound care coordination, informal supports provided by Family Partners, respite, flex funds, youth activities, and transportation. Through a Wrap Plan additional services are provided to youth and families through collaborative partnerships with other child serving agencies and community organizations.

About this Report

Demographic and descriptive information are presented for all youth referred to I Famagu'on-ta who provided consent for the sharing of evaluation data. Outcome data is presented on youth and families who enrolled in the longitudinal research study and who have received services for at least two years.

¹ From *Thriving in the Community*, May 2008 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.

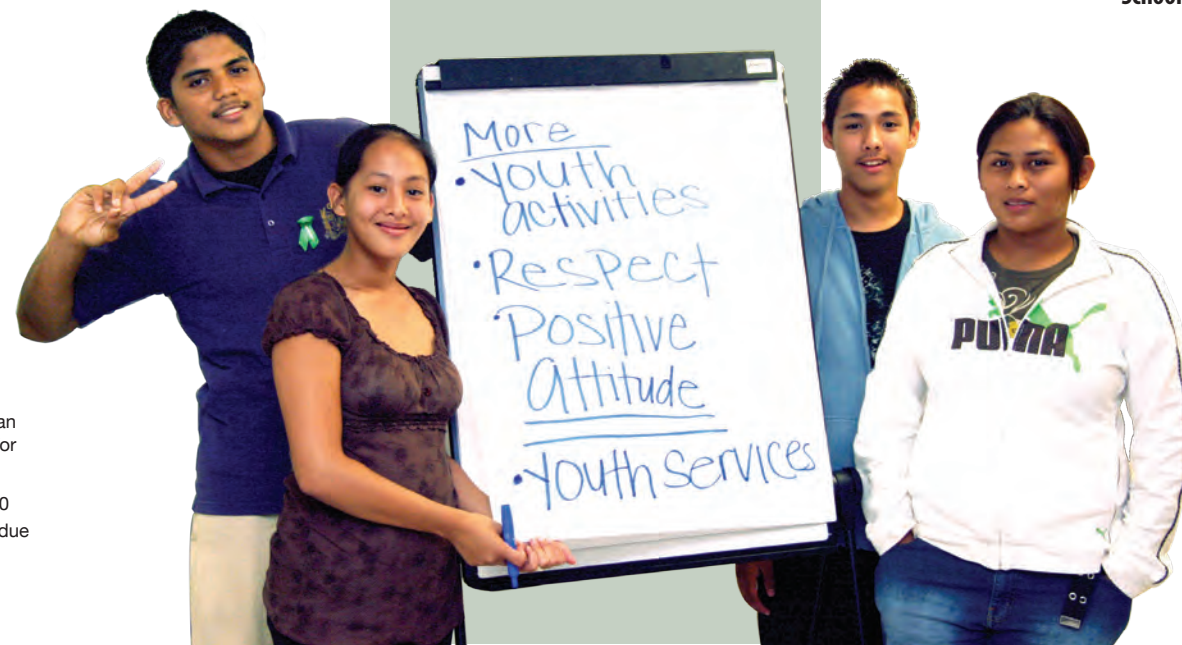
² Based on data collected from December 2004 – March 2008. Approximately 50 additional youth received services prior to December 2004 but are not included due to incomplete data.

YOUTH VOICES

A system of care is guided by a set of principles, including the belief that services should be youth guided. In February 2008, the Youth Evaluation Team was formed to put this principle into action. The Team planned and conducted focus groups to learn from youth more about their lives and experiences in Guam's System of Care.

Results show that:

- Youth face a range of complex problems on a daily basis
- Youth are able to identify their strengths and appropriate coping strategies
- Youth want adults to take time to be involved in their lives, to listen without judgment and to offer advice
- Youth want service providers who are professional, show respect, and maintain a positive attitude
- Youth want more activities and services



Characteristics of Youth Served

- Average age is 12 years
- 75% are male
- 77% are of Chamorro descent
- 83% live with their biological families

Risk Factors

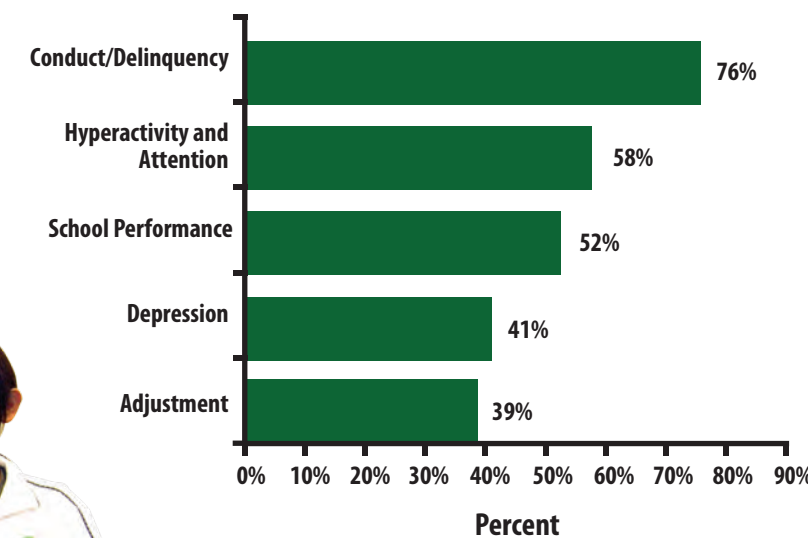
- 50% live in a family with a history of substance abuse
- 52% have witnessed domestic violence
- 54% come from homes with an annual income of less than \$15,000



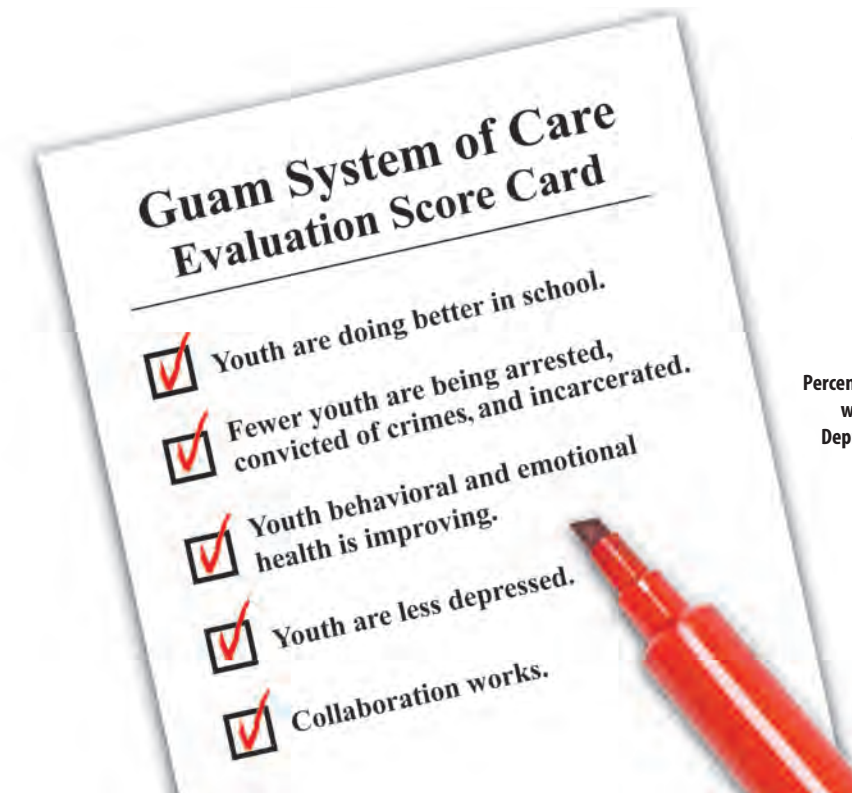
SUICIDALITY

Nationally, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among youth ages 10 – 24 years. Children and youth with serious mental health needs are at increased risk for suicide. Twenty-seven percent of youth referred to I Famagu'on-ta reported suicidal ideation or self-injurious behavior at intake, compared to 17% of youth across all current national System of Care project sites.

5 Most Frequent Problems Experienced by Youth



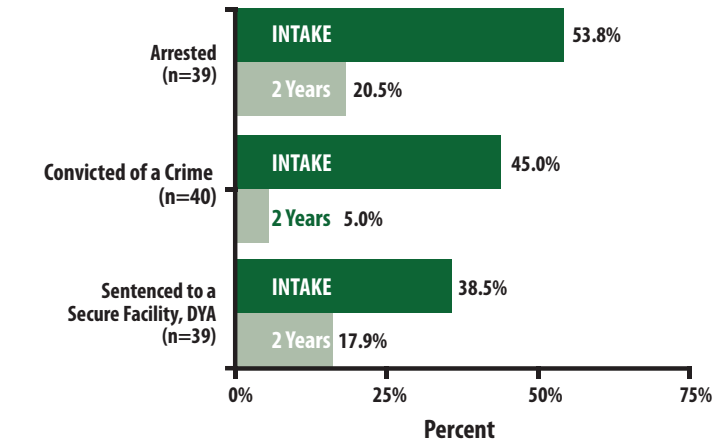
Five most frequently reported youth problems identified at intake on the Enrollment and Demographic Information Form (EDIF). Caregiver report, n = 321.



Areas of Improvement

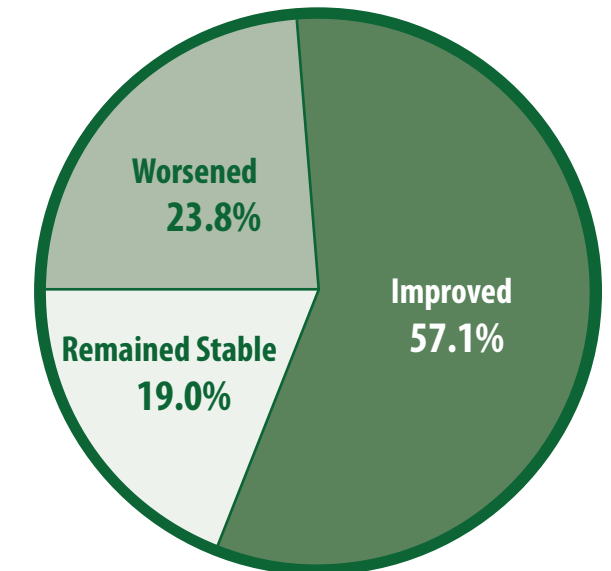
Juvenile Justice Involvement

In the past 6 months, have you been....?



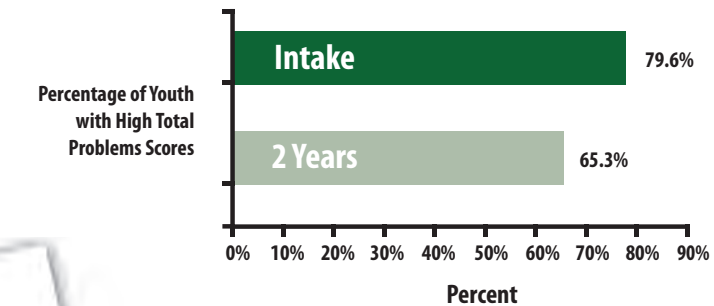
Percent arrested, convicted, and sentenced to a secure facility at intake and 2 years. Delinquency Survey-Revised (DS-R), Youth self-report at intake and 2 years.

School Performance



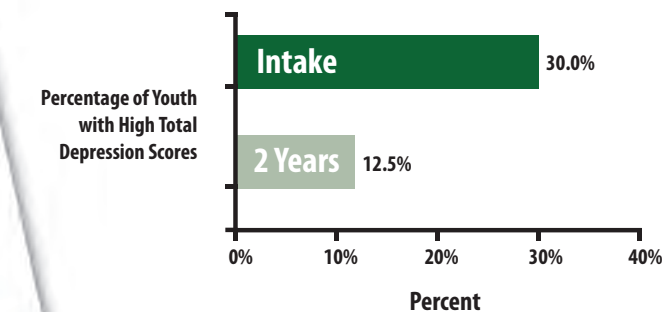
57.1% of youth who reported school performance problems as a reason for referral showed improvement after 2 years on the Education Questionnaire-Revised (EQ-R). Caregiver report, n=21.

Behavior and Emotional Problems



Percent scoring above the clinical range of behavioral and emotional problems at intake and 2 years on the CHILD BEHAVIOR CHECKLIST (CBCL). Caregiver report, n=49.

Depression



Percent scoring above the clinical range of depression at intake and 2 years on the REYNOLDS ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION SCALE (RADS). Youth self-report, n = 40.

"With great achievement comes true happiness.....I finally graduated from high school, and I am proud and happy with myself! College, here I come!"
- Esther Santos, Southern High School Class of 2008



EMPOWERING FAMILIES THROUGH COLLABORATION

I Famagu'on-ta provides services to youth with serious emotional and behavioral disorders and their families through a team approach to service planning and delivery. Upon enrollment in I Famagu'on-ta, the staff spends time with the family, getting to know them, learning about their strengths and culture, and listening to their personal stories.



After establishing a personal relationship, the staff is better able to serve as effective advocates, making sure the family gets the help they want and need. I Famagu'on-ta Wrap Coordinators, Family Partners, and the Youth Coordinator then partner with other agencies, and the youth and family, to form a Wrap Team that creates options and secures needed resources. Through this collaboration, appropriate services and supports are provided and families become empowered.

Gregorio's Story

Gregorio, a Filipino-Chamorro male, is a typical sixth grader in many ways. He loves sports and lives at home with his parents, brother, and two sisters. Gregorio was initially referred to I Famagu'on-ta because of his behavior, and due to his emotional and behavioral needs, he has attended a self-contained special education program for the past several years.

When the family first enrolled in I Famagu'on-ta, Gregorio's brother and sister also had behavior problems, often throwing the family into crisis mode. At first, Gregorio's mother called the Wrap Team frequently, asking for help in dealing with her children's misbehavior. Then, as part of their service plan, Gregorio's parents were taught new ways to monitor and deal with their children's

behavior. They also learned effective ways to handle their own stress, to calm down when upset, and to manage their frustration and anger.

In getting to know Gregorio's parents, the Wrap Team learned that his mother regretted not finishing school, so the Family Partner helped her connect with Job Find, a service offered by I Famagu'on-ta, and Asmuyao, an alternative school. Through Job Find, she was able to complete a three-week computer skills course offered by the Micronesian

Business Association. She also earned her high school diploma through Asmuyao.

Gregorio's father has been supportive of his family's involvement with I Famagu'on-ta and has participated in family counseling, wrap meetings, and family support meetings. As the situation at home improved, Gregorio was motivated to pursue his love for sports and joined a basketball team. Gregorio's father even volunteered to coach the team, providing him with opportunities to spend quality time with his son.

Both parents have an excellent relationship with their Wrap Team. They are sharing parenting responsibilities and are more active and involved in managing their children's needs. Now, when Gregorio's mother calls the Wrap Coordinator or Family Partner, she talks about Gregorio's progress. In fact, she has become his biggest advocate. Gregorio is doing better in school and will be transitioning from the self-contained special education program to general education classes next school year. Through a team approach and collaboration, Gregorio and his family have been empowered to make positive changes in their lives.

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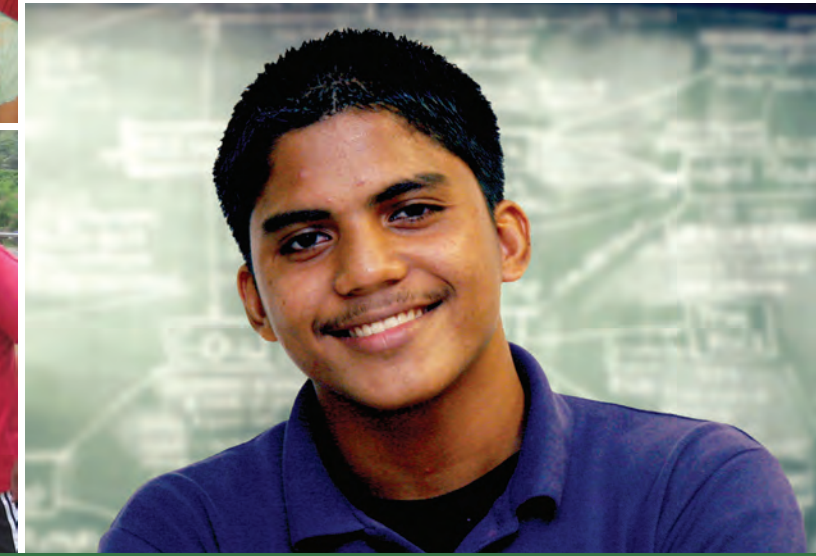
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I FAMAGU'ON-TA (OUR CHILDREN) Evaluation Report GUAM SYSTEM OF CARE



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