Behavioral and Disciplinary Outcomes of PBIS in Texas Secure Juvenile Facilities
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Abstract
In 2009, the Texas Legislature mandated a large-scale systems change in preliminary behavioral outcomes of the first semester of schoolwide PBIS implementation in the spring of 2011. We looked at the impact of schoolwide PBIS on minor and major behavior incidents and their primary consequences (referral or security administrative segregation), with and without an admittance) at 9 male facilities and 1 female facility. We also looked at the impact at the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU).
Results:
1. Agency-wide: There was a 63% decrease in major incidents and a 45% decrease in minor incidents with a security referral and an admittance.
2. Non-school settings: Agency-wide, there was a 31% decrease in major incidents with a security referral but no admittance, and a 20% decrease in major incidents with a security referral and an admittance.

Introduction
In 2009, the Texas Legislature required that the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) adopt system-wide classrooms and individual positive behavior supports that incorporate a continuum of prevention and intervention strategies. Facility Leadership Team training was conducted in the summer and fall of 2010, and implementation of schoolwide PBIS began in January 2011 in 10 secure care facilities (9 male and 1 female). One of the male facilities housed the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), which houses youth who are in acute psychological distress (i.e., suicidal ideation or intent). This study reports preliminary behavioral outcome data for the spring semester of 2011 for the entire agency, as well as additional data collected specifically at the CSU.

Method
Data of minor and major incidents and their consequences (i.e., referred and admittance) were collected from all 10 facilities (9 male and 1 female) for the 2010-2011 school year. Rates of behavioral incidents in the Spring, 2011 semester (i.e., before schoolwide PBIS implementation had begun) were compared to the rates of behavioral incidents in the Fall, 2011 semester (i.e., before schoolwide PBIS implementation had begun).

Results:
School setting:
- Agency-wide there was a 45% decrease in major incidents with a security administrative segregation referred by no admittance, and a 63% decrease in major incidents with a security referral and admission.

Non-school setting:
- Agency-wide there was a 31% decrease in major incidents with a security referred but no admittance, and a 20% decrease in major incidents with a security referral and administration.

Crisis Stabilization Unit:
- Over 2-month period there was an 88% reduction from baseline in challenging behavior.

Discussion:
The impact of PBIS on challenging behaviors was evident even for those youth in the most acute distress—those at the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

Crisis Stabilization Unit:
Method: A partial interval time-sampling procedure was used to collect data in which 9 possible categories of behavior could be noted per interval.

References: