

July 2009

Traffic Light: Delinquent Behavior and Out of Home Placements

Caregivers and Youth in the Systems of Hope Evaluation complete surveys when they enroll in the program and every 6 months asking about the youth's placements during the previous 6 months and any delinquent or runaway behavior. Intake and 6 month follow-up data were compared.



Red Light (Concern):

- Youth in SOH continue to have multiple placements and multiple out of home placements.
- More than 40% of SOH youth were out of the home at some point in the previous 6 months, some for the entire time.

Yellow Light (Caution/ Monitor):

- More than half of SOH youth are on/ have been on probation, and this increased over time; thus collaboration with the probation/ justice system is increasingly important.
- About 20% of youth have run away. Even if short episodes were not cited (by the family) as out of home placements, they create much stress on the family and potential for further legal involvement.

Green Light (Good news):

- Multiple types of delinquent behavior decreased in SOH youth (e.g. hitting someone/ physical fights, property damage.)
- Legal and police involvement decreased in SOH youth (e.g. being questioned by police and being convicted of a crime.)
- Most SOH youth on probation are following their probation agreements successfully.