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DYS Recidivism Reporting: A Brief Overview



Agenda

- **Definition of Juvenile Recidivism**
- **Positives of this Definition**
- **Challenges in Measuring Recidivism**
- **Recommendations**



Recidivism Reporting

- 31 years of recidivism reporting
- One-, two-, and three-year rates



Recidivism Reporting

- 31 years of recidivism reporting
- One-, two-, and three-year rates
- Reports are due annually on July 1st to the Legislature (per statute)
- Juvenile Justice agencies in Colorado are mandated to share a uniform definition of recidivism as initiated by SB 19-108 (Juvenile Justice Reform Bill)



Recidivism Defined

Recidivism



A new adjudication or conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense after youth are discharged from all supervision, including time spent on parole.



Legislatively Mandated Reporting

C.R.S., 19-2.5-1501(4) details:

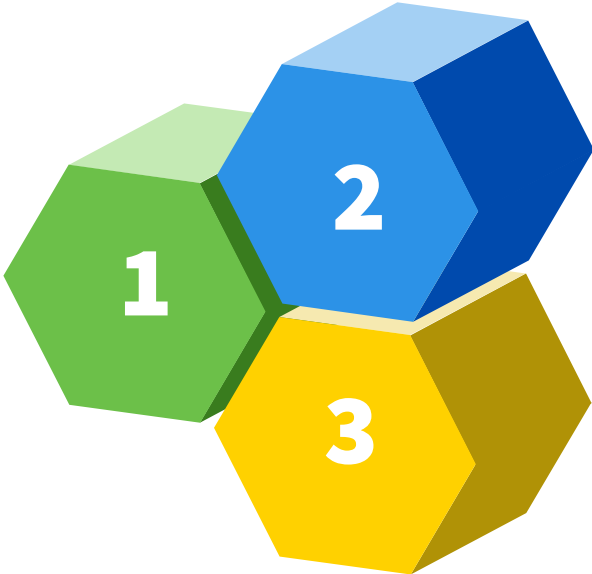
“In collecting the recidivism data, the department of human services shall include any juvenile adjudication or adult conviction of a criminal offense within three years after parole discharge.

The report *must denote the demographic characteristics* of the population considered in the report. In reporting on recidivism rates, *the report must denote the types of criminal offenses committed, delineating between felonies and misdemeanors and between crimes that are included as a ‘crime’ pursuant to Section 24-4.1-302(1) and other crimes.*”



No National or Federal Definition of Recidivism Exists

Arrest or Court Filing



Return to State Secure Custody

Adjudication/Conviction*

Three common definitions of recidivism used in other states

***The universal definition adopted by juvenile justice agencies in Colorado**



Why This Definition?

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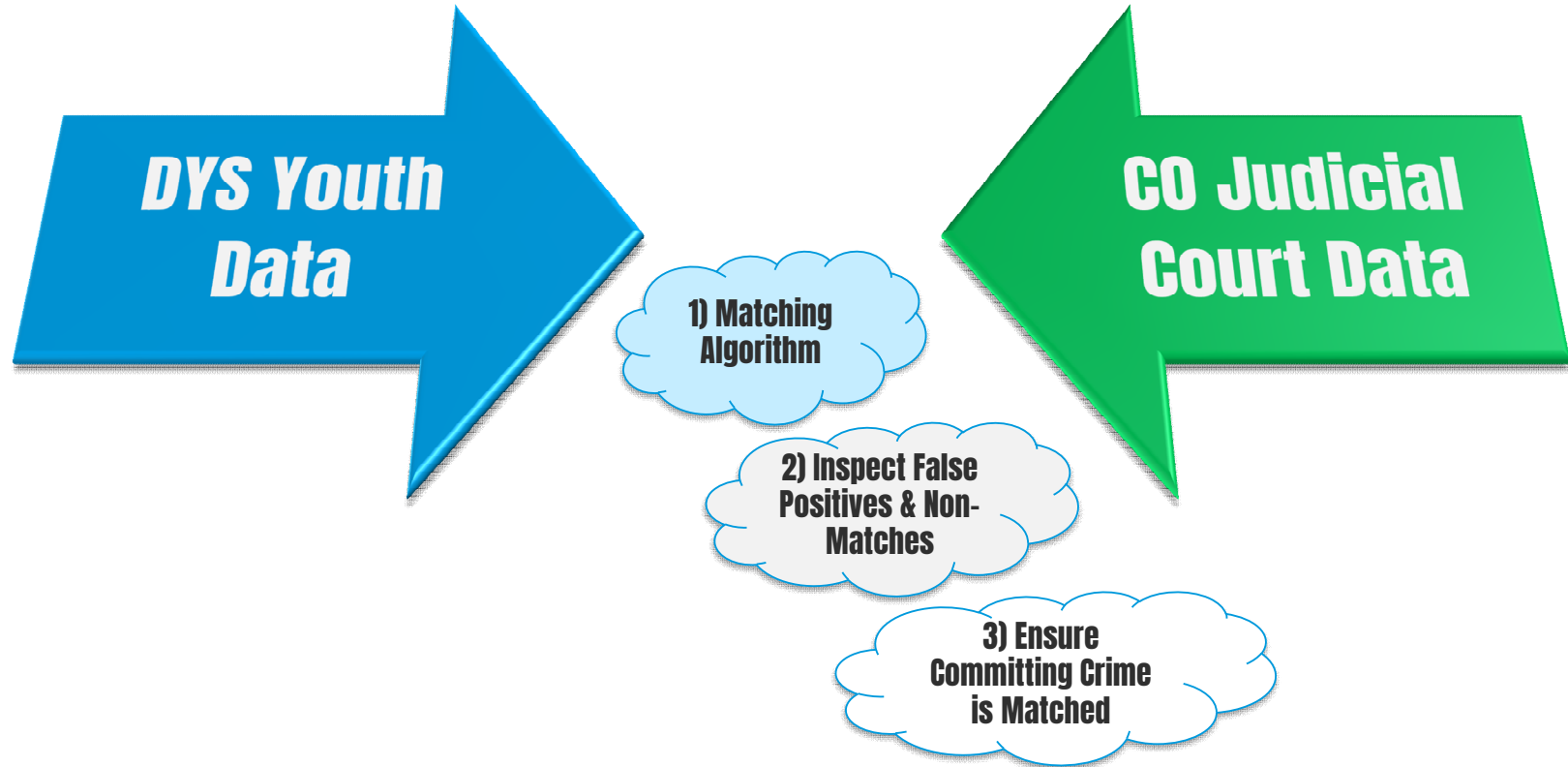


Why This Definition?

- **Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA) recommendation to all Juvenile Justice agencies**
- **JJRC Recommendation**
- **Compare rates between states**
- **Scientifically rigorous**



Challenges: How are Recidivists Identified?



Considerations

01

Statute change

02

Definition and Included Offenses

03

Cohort Studied

04

Follow-Up Period(s) (length) and Clock Start

05

Data Sources and Timing of Reporting

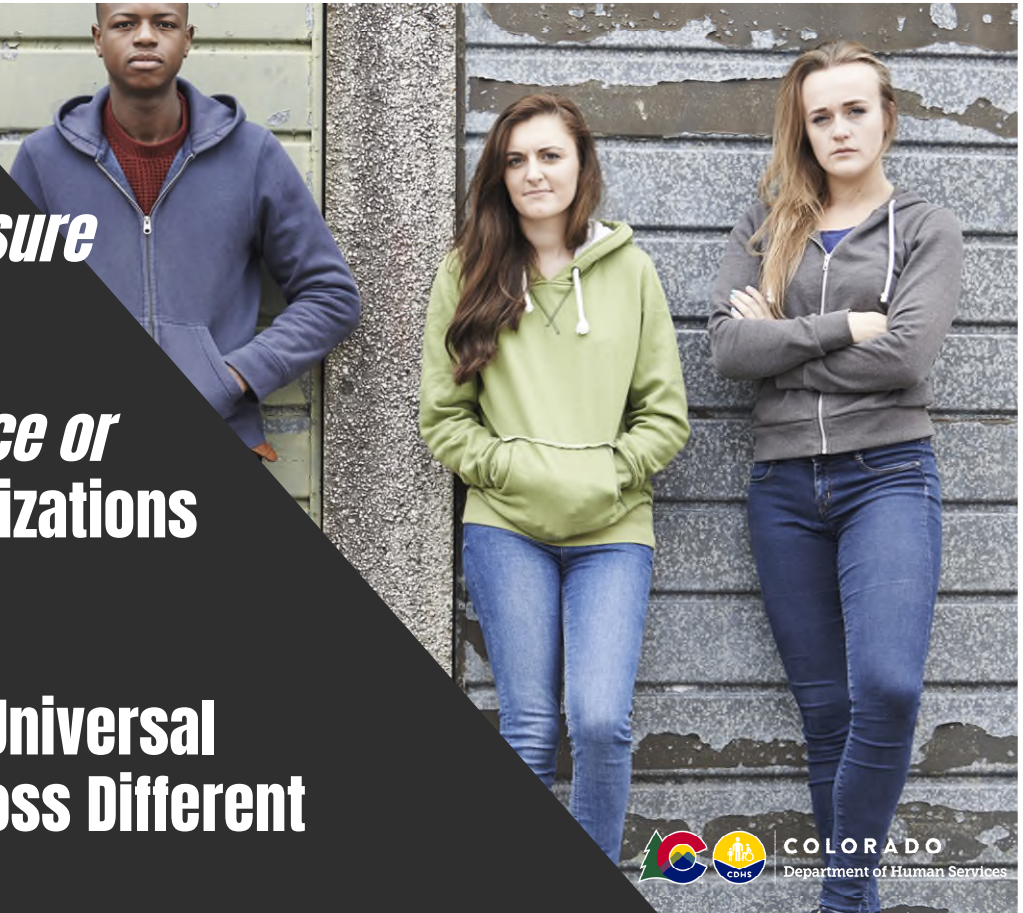
Definition is important, but *methodology* is equally important

Other Factors:

Recidivism is Just *one Measure* of System Success

Promotes a *False Equivalence or Comparison* between Organizations and Populations

What is the Intent Behind a Universal Definition of Recidivism across Different Populations?



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Questions ?

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