

Return-on-Investment for Three Years of Multisystemic Therapy in Pennsylvania

High Quality Evidence-based Programs Improve Youth & Family Functioning, Reduce Future Crime, and Save Money

Multisystemic Therapy is projected to save Pennsylvania **\$21 to \$50 Million**, based on future crime reduction among youth served during the past three years.

Population	Program Cost ¹	Benefits ²	Benefits Minus Cost	Youth Discharged FY 2012-2014 ³	Total
Juvenile Justice Youth	\$10,661	\$23,082	\$12,421	1,702	\$21,140,542
All Youth Served	\$10,661	\$23,082	\$12,421	4,026	\$50,006,946

Studies of MST have demonstrated reductions in future criminal offending and incarceration and improved educational attainment for youth who participate in MST as compared to youth who receive “usual services” or individual therapy. This reduction is in turn associated with long-term monetary benefits.²

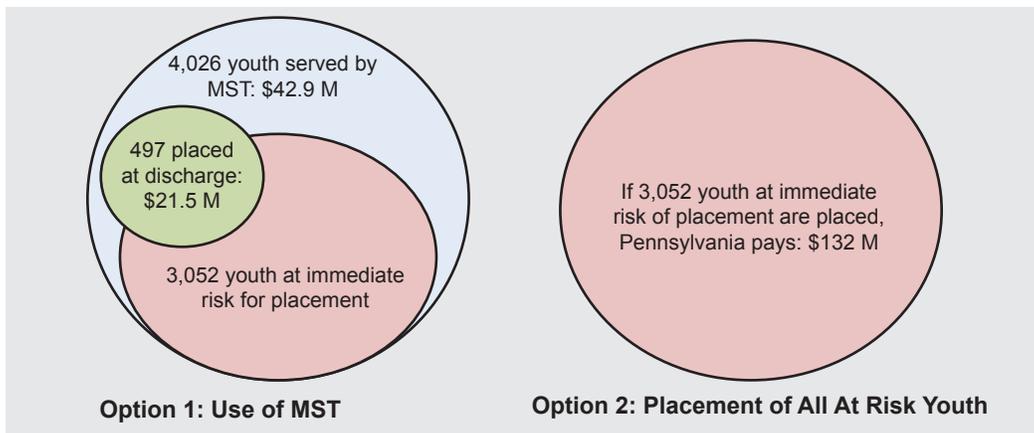
Keeping Youth At Home and Out of Placement Saves Money Today

In the short-term, MST saves money by diverting youth from costly out-of-home placements through the use of less expensive community-based treatment.

Of 4,026 youth clinically discharged from MST in FY 2012-2014:

- 3,052 youth were at high risk of placement upon admission.
- Only 497 were discharged from MST to restrictive, out-of-home placement.

This translates into **an immediate savings of \$67.6 Million**.



Option 1, using MST in an effort to divert youth from placement as well serving a broader population of youth, represents a savings of \$67.6 Million when compared to Option 2, foregoing the use of MST and placing all youth who were at risk of placement at the time of referral.

When the comparison is limited to Juvenile Justice-referred youth – the group upon which average placement cost is based – an estimated \$27.3 Million is saved.

¹ Based on average BH-MCO rate and hours billed per completed case, as reported by Pennsylvania MST providers in a 2012 survey.

² Washington State Institute of Public Policy estimates as of December 2014. Estimated benefits are based upon competent, model-adherent delivery of MST with a juvenile justice population.

³ Includes all youth clinically discharged from MST July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014. Administrative discharges (e.g., youth who moved out of the area or lost funding) and youth receiving MST for Problem Sexual Behavior are not included.

⁴ Calculation uses an average cost of \$10,661 per completed MST case, based on a 2012 Pennsylvania survey, and a median cost of \$43,248 per juvenile justice placement. Placement cost is derived using an average per diem of \$209 and 6.8 month median for counties' median length of stay, as reported by the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. Placement risk is indicated by provider at time of enrollment, based on available case information.