Implementation Science Applied: Expansion of Evidence-Based Programs in Louisiana

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According to the most recent 2021 US Census Bureau data, Louisiana ranks as the 2nd most impoverished state in the country[[1]](#footnote-1), with approximately half of its children enrolled in Medicaid[[2]](#footnote-2). Given that behavioral health conditions can develop in children whose vulnerabilities make them susceptible to poverty's effects[[3]](#footnote-3), it is understandable that Medicaid is the US's largest payer of behavioral healthcare services[[4]](#footnote-4). Research has shown that evidence-based programs (EBPs), referred to as the "gold standard," are more effective in improving children's long-term behavioral health outcomes and reducing the amount entering the juvenile justice system[[5]](#footnote-5)[[6]](#footnote-6)[[7]](#footnote-7). There has been a notable growth of EBP provider teams from 2006 to the present[[8]](#footnote-8). The Center for Evidence to Practice (The Center), in collaboration with LDH/OBH, works to expand the breadth of the utilization of EBPs in Louisiana by providing training to clinicians, mapping services and providers and monitoring EBP use across Louisiana[[9]](#footnote-9)[[10]](#footnote-10). The Center is currently tracking three interventions: Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), and Home Builders; they are presently identifiable in Medicaid claims based on their use of tracking codes termed EBP modifiers. The Center has tracked the provision of these services by offering a public online mapping service utilizing ArcGIS, providing the geolocation of EBP providers in Louisiana. Louisiana has remained the nation's first and second in terms of FFT and MST usage, per capita, since 2014[[11]](#footnote-11). Combining a top-down, bottom-up approach to implementation science, Louisiana matches state-supported EBP dissemination standards and addresses grass-roots community needs. The collected data will be used to continue monitoring behavioral healthcare access in Louisiana and identify gaps in EBP uptake. These data outcomes are promising from the currently tracked EBPs and provide a template for the potential proliferation of other EBPs used statewide.

 Note: No IRB #: Research is not considered human subjects research.

1. "Poverty in the United States: 2021," last modified September, accessed February 15, 2022, <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf.> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. "Medicaid in Louisiana ," last modified October, accessed February 15, 2023, <https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-LA.> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Stephen Phillippi et al., "Identifying Gaps and using Evidence-Based Practices to Serve the Behavioral Health Treatment Needs of Medicaid-Insured Children," *Children and Youth Services Review* 115 (2020), 105089. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105089. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740920303509.> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Phillippi, "Identifying Gaps and using Evidence-Based Practices to Serve the Behavioral Health Treatment Needs of Medicaid-Insured Children," , 105089 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Phillippi, "Identifying Gaps and using Evidence-Based Practices to Serve the Behavioral Health Treatment Needs of Medicaid-Insured Children," , 105089 Cam Escoffery et al., "A Systematic Review of Adaptations of Evidence-Based Public Health Interventions Globally," *Implementation Science* 13, no. 1 (Sep 26, 2018), 125. doi:10.1186/s13012-018-0815-9. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30257683.> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Escoffery, "A Systematic Review of Adaptations of Evidence-Based Public Health Interventions Globally," , 125 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Stephen W. Phillippi, Joseph Cocozza and Debra K. DePrato, "Advancing Evidence-Based Practices for Juvenile Justice Reform through Community Development," *Journal of Community Practice* 21, no. 4 (Oct 1, 2013), 434-450. doi:10.1080/10705422.2013.849636. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10705422.2013.849636.> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Phillippi, "Advancing Evidence-Based Practices for Juvenile Justice Reform through Community Development," , 434-450 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. "Patterns in Medicaid Behavioral Health Client and Provider Data in   
   Louisiana Amidst Covid-19, and Other Natural Disasters," last modified October, <https://laevidencetopractice.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/E2P-Study-Brief_Oct.-22_Patterns-in-Medicaid-Behavioral-Health-Client-and-Provider-Data-in-Louisiana_11.10.22-1.pdf.> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Phillippi, "Identifying Gaps and using Evidence-Based Practices to Serve the Behavioral Health Treatment Needs of Medicaid-Insured Children," , 105089 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Paula Zeanah et al., "Enhancing   
    Developmental Trajectories: The Critical Importance of Increasing & Supporting Evidence-Based Services for   
    Louisiana’s most Vulnerable Citizens," (April, 2021). <http://www.picardcenter.louisiana.edu/.> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)