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## Appendix D

# **Report to Science Advisory Board**

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## **Evidence Translation and Integration**

**Sub-committee**

**Interim Report  
July to December 2011**

**Dr. Tony Fabelo, Chair**

**Dr. Frank Cullen**

**Sheriff Andrea Cabral**

**January 20, 2012**

# Subcommittee Activities

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- **Subcommittee meetings**

- ✓ September 8

- Pre-conference call by Fabelo with Development Services Group (DSG) to review scoring system for “CrimeSolutions.gov”
- Post-meeting follow-up by Cullen with DSG
- Post-meeting follow-up with CSG by Fabelo and Cabral

- ✓ October 5

- Review of issues and follow-up with emails with relevant parties

- ✓ December 5

- Review of report and recommendations

# Issues Reviewed

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- **Methodology and Scoring Process**
    - ✓ Are there any salient issues that need to be addressed related to the peer review methodology and scoring process?
      - Particular review of what “insufficient evidence” means and why is this not reported as a scoring category
        - Scoring categories: Effective, Promising, No Effects
  - **Crimesolutions as main “portal”**
    - ✓ Should “CrimeSolutions.gov” be the main “portal” for evidence-translation for all OJP?
      - Review of similar efforts within OJP offices
        - Example: OJJDP Model Program Guide
      - Review of similar efforts outside OJP but sponsored by OJP
        - Example: CSG “What Works” for Re-entry sponsored by OJP
  - **Informal survey of practitioners**
    - ✓ Can we get an informal, non-scientific idea of the extent that practitioners are familiar with CrimeSolutions.gov?
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# Crimesolutions Methodology and Scoring Process


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- **Review of general methodology**
  - ✓ Administered by a professional well-trained staff per requirements with Development Services Group
  - ✓ 50 to 70 reviewers trained on how to apply the methodology
  - ✓ Inter-reliability testing among reviewers
  - ✓ Conflict-of-interest provisions
  - ✓ Speed of process appropriate to meet quality of review process without lingering debates
  - ✓ Dispute resolution process in place
  - ✓ Transparent description of process in “CrimeSolutions.gov”
- **Findings**
  - ✓ General process seems to meet scientific integrity
  - ✓ Issue for further examination is reporting of programs under category of “insufficient evidence”

# Classifications

Evidence Rating*	Study Classification				
	Class 1 - Strong Evidence of Positive Effect	Class 2 - Some Evidence of Positive Effect	Class 3 - Strong Evidence of Negative Effect	Class 4 - Strong Evidence of Null Effect	Class 5 - Insufficient Information
<b>Effective</b>  Programs have strong evidence to indicate they achieve their intended outcomes when implemented with fidelity.	Must have <b>at least 1</b> study in Class 1	May have up to 2 studies in Class 2	Must have <b>0</b> studies in Class 3	May have <b>up to 1</b> study in Class 4	Studies do not determine Evidence Rating
<b>Promising</b>  Programs have some evidence to indicate they achieve their intended outcomes.	Must have <b>0</b> studies in Class 1	Must have <b>at least 1</b> study in Class 2	Must have <b>0</b> studies in Class 3	May have <b>up to 1</b> study in Class 4	Studies do not determine Evidence Rating
<b>No Effects</b>  Programs have strong evidence indicating that they had no effects or had harmful effects when implemented with fidelity.	Must have <b>0</b> studies in Class 1	Must have <b>0</b> studies in Class 2	Must have <b>at least 1</b> study in either Class 3 or Class 4		Studies do not determine Evidence Rating

\*  A single study icon is used to identify programs that have been evaluated with only one study.

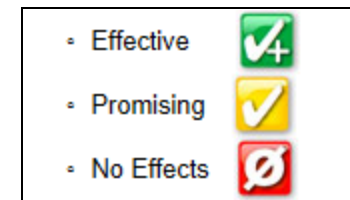
 A multiple studies icon is used to represent a greater extent of evidence supporting the evidence rating. The icon depicts programs that have more than one study in the evidence base demonstrating effects in a consistent direction.

# “Insufficient Evidence”

The screenshot shows the CrimeSolutions.gov website. The header includes the Office of Justice Programs logo and navigation links: Home, Help, Contact Us, Site Map, Glossary. The main banner features the 'Crime SOLUTIONS .gov' logo and the tagline 'RELIABLE RESEARCH. REAL RESULTS.' Below the banner is a search bar and a navigation menu with options: TOPICS, All Programs, About CrimeSolutions.gov, Research at OJP, FAQs, and Nominate a Program. The main content area is titled 'Programs with Insufficient Evidence' and includes a description: 'CrimeSolutions.gov periodically updates this list of programs that have been reviewed by Study Reviewers, but not assigned an evidence rating due to lack of evidence. A program is placed on the insufficient evidence list if the study (or studies) reviewed received only Class 5 study ratings indicating that there were significant limitations in the study design such that it was not possible to establish a causal relationship to the program's justice-related outcomes.' A list of programs is provided: 4Rs Program, Aggressors, Victims, Bystanders, Anchorage (Alaska) Wellness Court, Auto Parts Marking and Anti-Theft Devices, Bay County (Mich.) DUI Court, and Blitz to Bloom. A URL is also provided: [http://www.crimesolutions.gov/about\\_insufficient.aspx](http://www.crimesolutions.gov/about_insufficient.aspx). A sidebar on the left contains links for 'Tips for Using CrimeSolutions.gov', 'Program Review and Rating from Start to Finish', 'Programs with Insufficient Evidence', 'OJJDP's Model Programs Guide', 'Scoring Instrument', 'CrimeSolutions.gov Researchers and Reviewers', and 'Nominate a Program'.

List of programs presented in a “footnote” as part of the methodology pages

Program not listed under pages reporting on programs as:



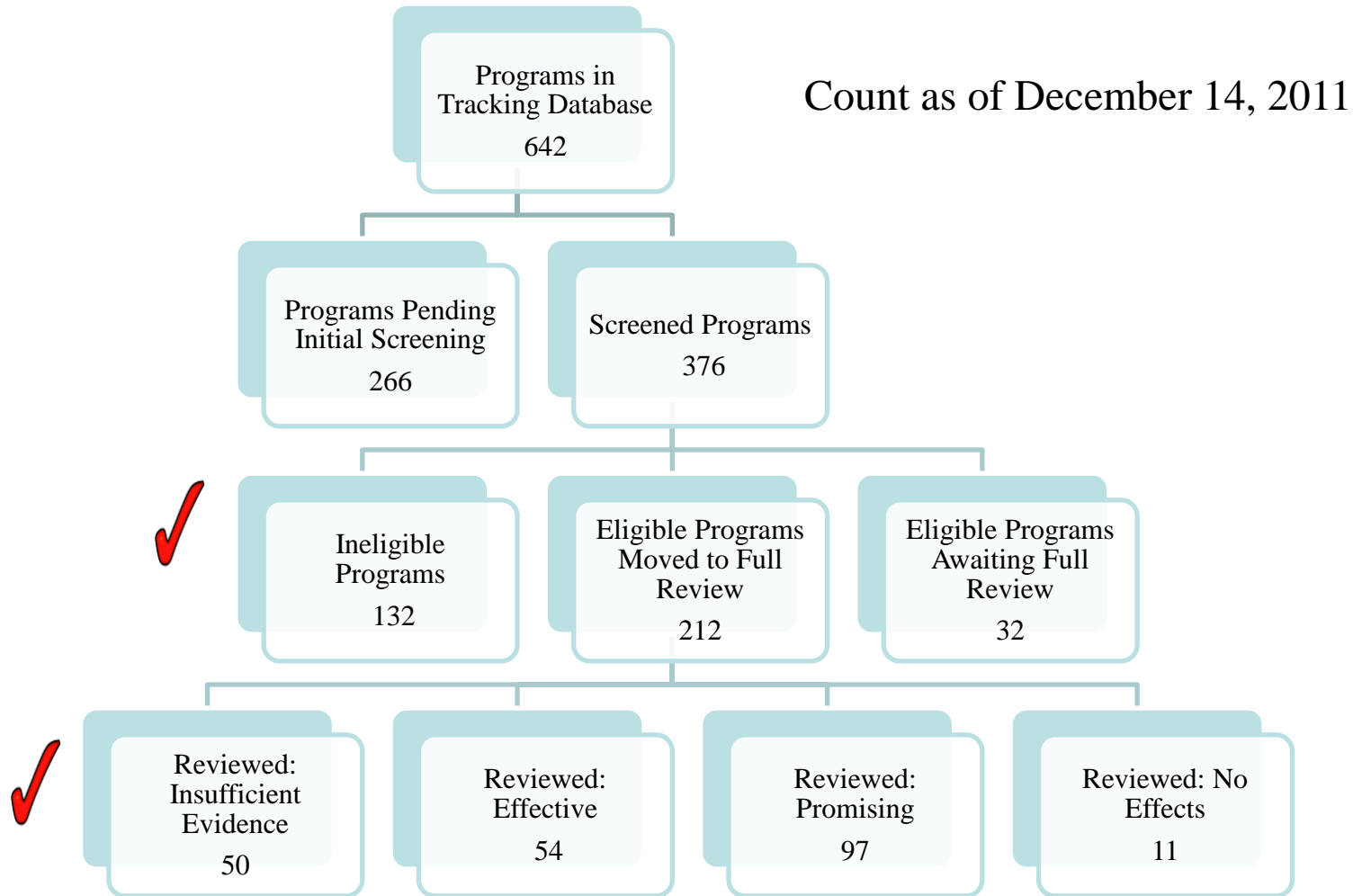
# Issue of Insufficient Evidence

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- **Insufficient Evidence:**
  - ✓ Studies meet minimum criteria;
  - ✓ Studies were subject to review by two reviewers;
- **But:**
  - ✓ There were significant limitations in the study design such that it was not possible to establish a causal relationship to the program's justice-related outcomes
  - ✓ There were significant limitations in the fidelity to the program and outcome evidence such that it was not possible to establish a program's overall effectiveness
- **Therefore:**
  - ✓ Programs were listed with "insufficient evidence"
- **Compared to studies and program that are not listed because:**
  - ✓ Did not make it beyond the screening stage, usually because the rigor of the design is clearly not sufficient
  - ✓ These programs were not reviewed



# Big Picture on Numbers of Studies Screened and Reviewed



# Rationale for “Insufficient Evidence” Framework

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- **Project Mandate**
  - ✓ The project’s mandate has always been to provide a broad array of programs and practices found to have some methodologically rigorous evidence on their effectiveness (or lack of effectiveness)
- **Assumption about Target Audience Needs**
  - ✓ Assumption that target audiences visit the site primarily to find programs and practices that likely can help them achieve certain objectives and audiences are alerted to programs they should avoid (“No Effects” programs)
- **Insufficient Evidence as a Footnote**
  - ✓ “Insufficient Evidence” category a presently listed at least show programs that site visitors should at best approach cautiously
- **Insufficient Evidence as Score May “De-value” Utility**
  - ✓ An “Insufficient Evidence” in the scoring category could over time “muddy the waters” since the number of programs with insufficient evidence could quickly outnumber those with evidence, and site visitors might be confused about how to use such information

# Consensus and Recommendations Regarding Issue of Insufficient Evidence

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- **Subcommittee Consensus:**

- ✓ It is important to know which programs had some evidence but in which we cannot say if they work or not work
- ✓ Programs that are politically “hyped” as successful may be in the category of “insufficient evidence” and stating this is important

- **Recommendations:**

- ✓ Make the list of insufficient-evidence programs more consumer friendly
- ✓ This might involve at least two revisions:
  - A) Have a more informative statement as to how programs arrive on this list by incorporating and updating the flowchart for the selection criteria presented here
  - B) Make distinction between programs that did not make the list because of “inadequate” evidence vs. programs in which the evidence was “insufficient” to draw a conclusion
- ✓ Then say that we are listing these programs for two reasons:
  - (1) To inform practitioners and policymakers that these programs should be viewed as having insufficient evidence; and,
  - (2) To highlight possible programs that should be evaluated further whether at the federal, state, or local level

# CrimeSolutions.gov as Main Portal for OJP Translation Efforts





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- **Goal Seems to be CrimeSolutions.gov as Main Portal for OJP**
  - ✓ Stated goal of CrimeSolutions.gov:
    - “A single, credible, online resource to inform practitioners and policymakers about what works in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services”
      - o June 20, 2011 presentation of OJP in NIJ Conference
- **Issue**
  - ✓ There are other OJP or OJP-sponsored web sites with “translating evidence” information
    - NIJ has as a priority the translation of evidence initiative
    - OJJDP has a “model programs” site that also “scores” evidence
    - OJP is also sponsoring the “what works” re-entry library administer by CSG

# Example of OJP Translation Efforts

**TOPICS** ▾ | **All Programs** | **About CrimeSolutions.gov** | **Research at OJP** | **FAQs** | **Nominate a Program**

[Home](#) > [About CrimeSolutions.gov](#) > The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)'s Model Programs Guide

 |  |  |  | A A A

## About CrimeSolutions.gov

### The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)'s Model Programs Guide

Many of the juvenile justice-related programs included on CrimeSolutions.gov also appear in OJJDP's Model Programs Guide (MPG), but the criteria and ratings used by the two sites differ. (MPG currently rates programs as: "Exemplary," "Effective," or "Promising.")

In order to leverage OJJDP's investment in the MPG and ensure that the full spectrum of programs from criminal justice, victims of crime, and juvenile justice was represented on CrimeSolutions.gov, MPG programs were reviewed to ensure conformity with CrimeSolutions.gov criteria and standards. The following outlines how MPG's existing database is utilized for CrimeSolutions.gov:

- MPG programs were examined to ensure that they met the CrimeSolutions.gov screening criteria.
- New studies were identified and reviewed to determine whether they should be included in the evidence base used to rate a particular MPG program. (This process is being completed first for MPG's "Exemplary" rated programs. MPG's "Effective" and "Promising" programs will be re-assessed at a later date.)
- Using the CrimeSolutions.gov Scoring Instrument, the studies were reviewed and re-rated, if necessary.
- New evaluation methodology and outcomes sections were written to reflect any new studies included in the evidence base.

**Left Sidebar Links:**

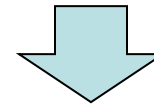
- [Tips for Using CrimeSolutions.gov](#)
- [Program Review and Rating from Start to Finish](#)
  - [Programs with Insufficient Evidence](#)
  - [OJJDP's Model Programs Guide](#)
  - [Scoring Instrument](#)
- [CrimeSolutions.gov Researchers and Reviewers](#)
- [Nominate a Program for CrimeSolutions.gov](#)
- [Updating an Evidence Rating](#)

[http://www.crimesolutions.gov/about\\_MPG.aspx](http://www.crimesolutions.gov/about_MPG.aspx)

# NIJ Translational Criminology

The image shows two screenshots of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) website. The top screenshot is a page titled "Translational Criminology" featuring a quote from NIJ Director John H. Lauth dated March 1, 2011. The quote discusses the importance of translational research in criminology, emphasizing the need to bridge the gap between basic research and practical application. The bottom screenshot shows the "Publications and Multimedia" section of the website, which includes a search bar, a list of recently added publications, and a search interface with options for search type and criteria.

Is this study going to eventually listed in “Crimesolutions”?



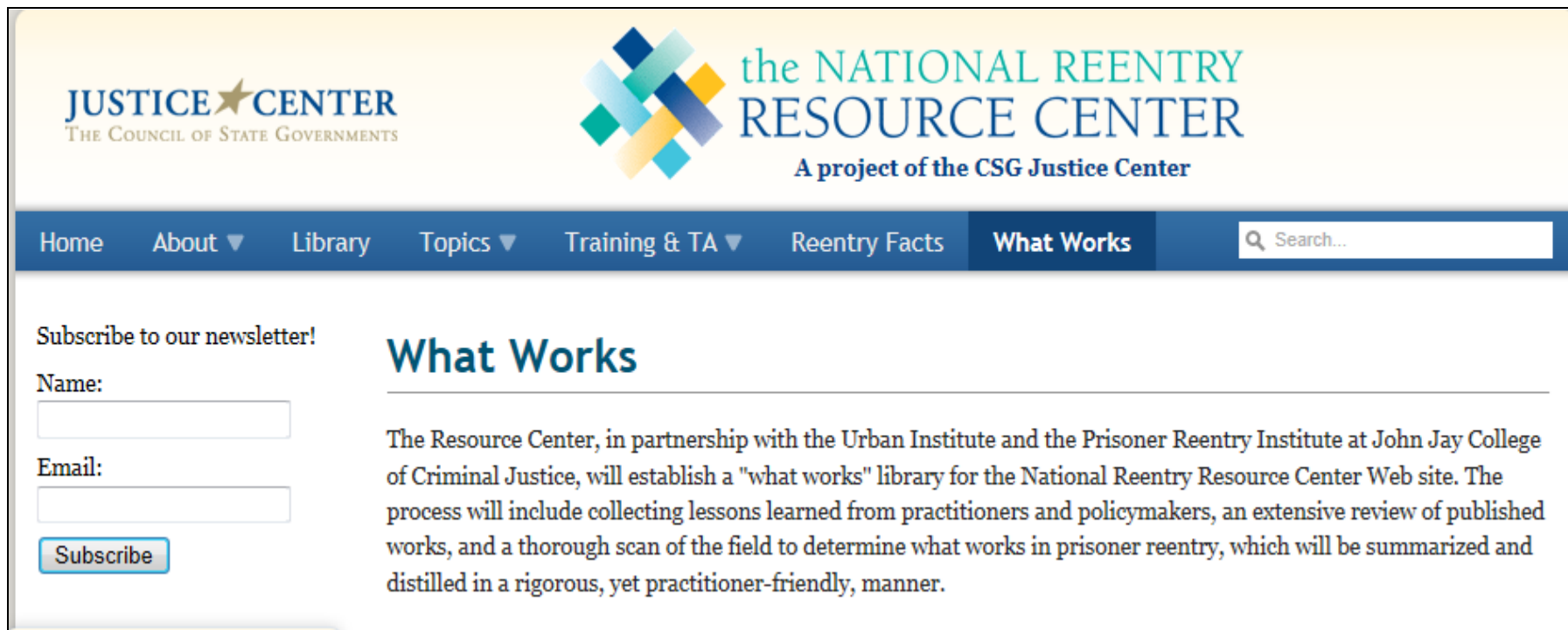
## A Randomized Trial of Healthy Families New York (HFNY): Does Home Visiting Prevent Child Maltreatment?

Authors: Kimberly DuMont, Kristen Kirkland, Susan Mitchell-Herzfeld, Susan Ehrhard-Dietzel, Monica L. Rodriguez, Eunju Lee, China Layne, and Rose Greene


This study evaluated the effectiveness of a state-administered home visit program, Healthy Families New York, based on the Healthy Families America (HFA) model, in preventing child maltreatment and risk of delinquency. This study presents evidence to suggest that involving families in home visiting services early on promotes positive experiences within the home during the early years of life for both the mother and child. These benefits include healthier birth outcomes, healthy parenting and positive school experiences. Researchers concluded that HFA-based programs can produce lasting effects with a diverse population.

Read the complete report [A Randomized Trial of Healthy Families New York \(HFNY\): Does Home Visiting Prevent Child Maltreatment? \(pdf, 156 pages\)](#)

# Upcoming CSG “What Works” in Re-entry Library



**JUSTICE CENTER**  
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



the NATIONAL REENTRY  
RESOURCE CENTER  
A project of the CSG Justice Center

Home About ▼ Library Topics ▼ Training & TA ▼ Reentry Facts **What Works**

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## What Works

The Resource Center, in partnership with the Urban Institute and the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, will establish a "what works" library for the National Reentry Resource Center Web site. The process will include collecting lessons learned from practitioners and policymakers, an extensive review of published works, and a thorough scan of the field to determine what works in prisoner reentry, which will be summarized and distilled in a rigorous, yet practitioner-friendly, manner.

# Recommendations Regarding CrimeSolutions.gov as Main Portal


- **Recommendations:**

- ✓ OJP should examine how to integrate key components of other “evidence-translation efforts” into “CrimeSolutions.gov”
  - Select from NIJ studies key studies to highlight in CrimeSolutions.gov
  - Link or merge with “what works” library of CSG
- ✓ Start exploring the utility of “meta analysis” to make statements in cohesive program or policy areas that merit examination
- ✓ Start exploring adding a section to CrimeSolutions.gov on elements of effective programs (“take away messages” for each area)
  - Example of Latessa’s presentation to OJP



**Reviewing the Evidence:  
A Review of Evidence-Based Programs in  
CrimeSolutions.gov**

Edward Latessa  
University of Cincinnati



**Themes From Promising Programs  
in Corrections**

- **Intensive correctional treatment for substance abuse** may lead to more days between and fewer reincarcerations after release.
- **Highly structured transition centers that are a step in between prison and regular parole** may reduce rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration.
- **Social service assistance, mentoring, and vocational development** may reduce arrests for violent crimes and recidivism.

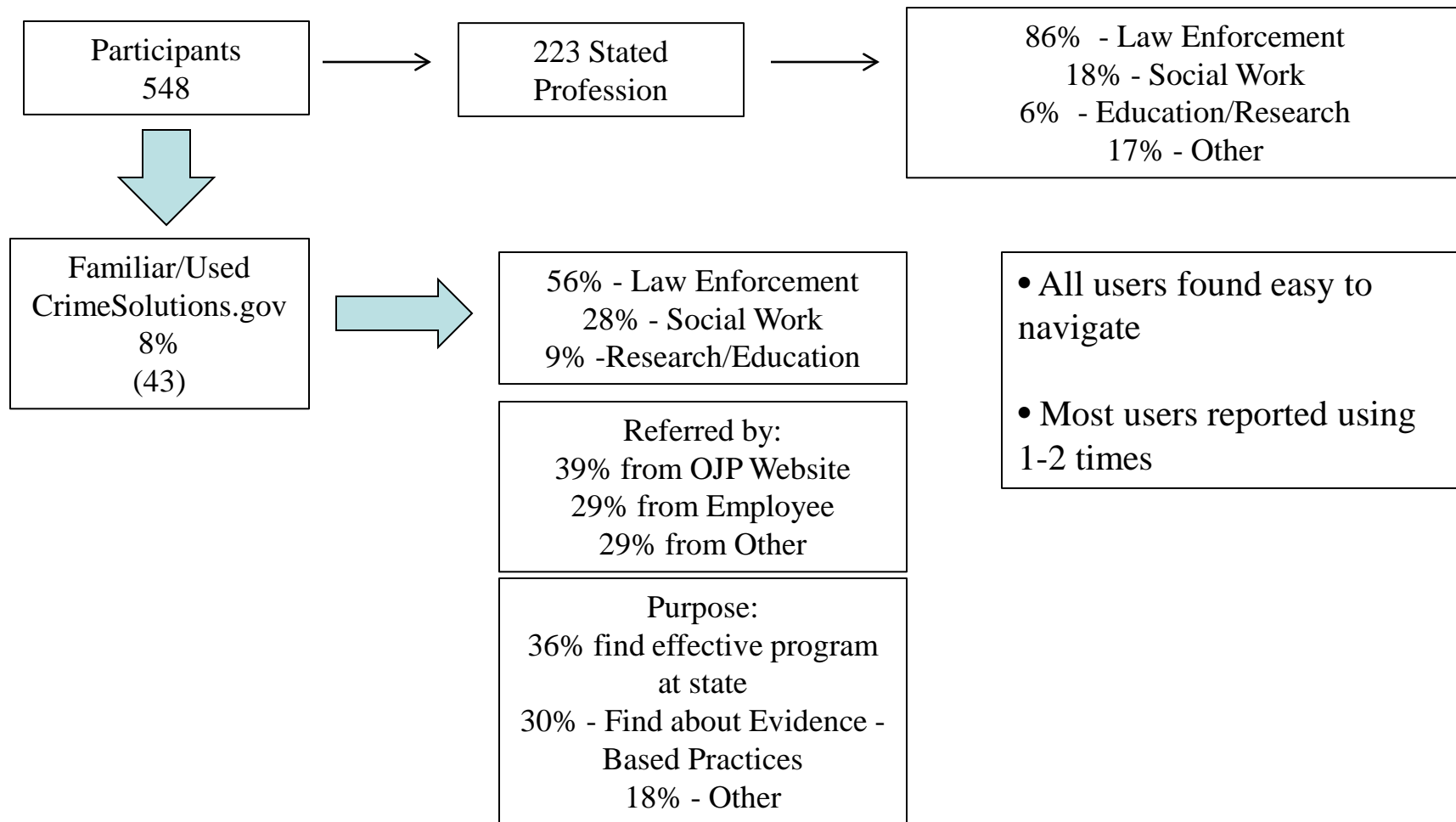


# Non-scientific Survey of Practitioners

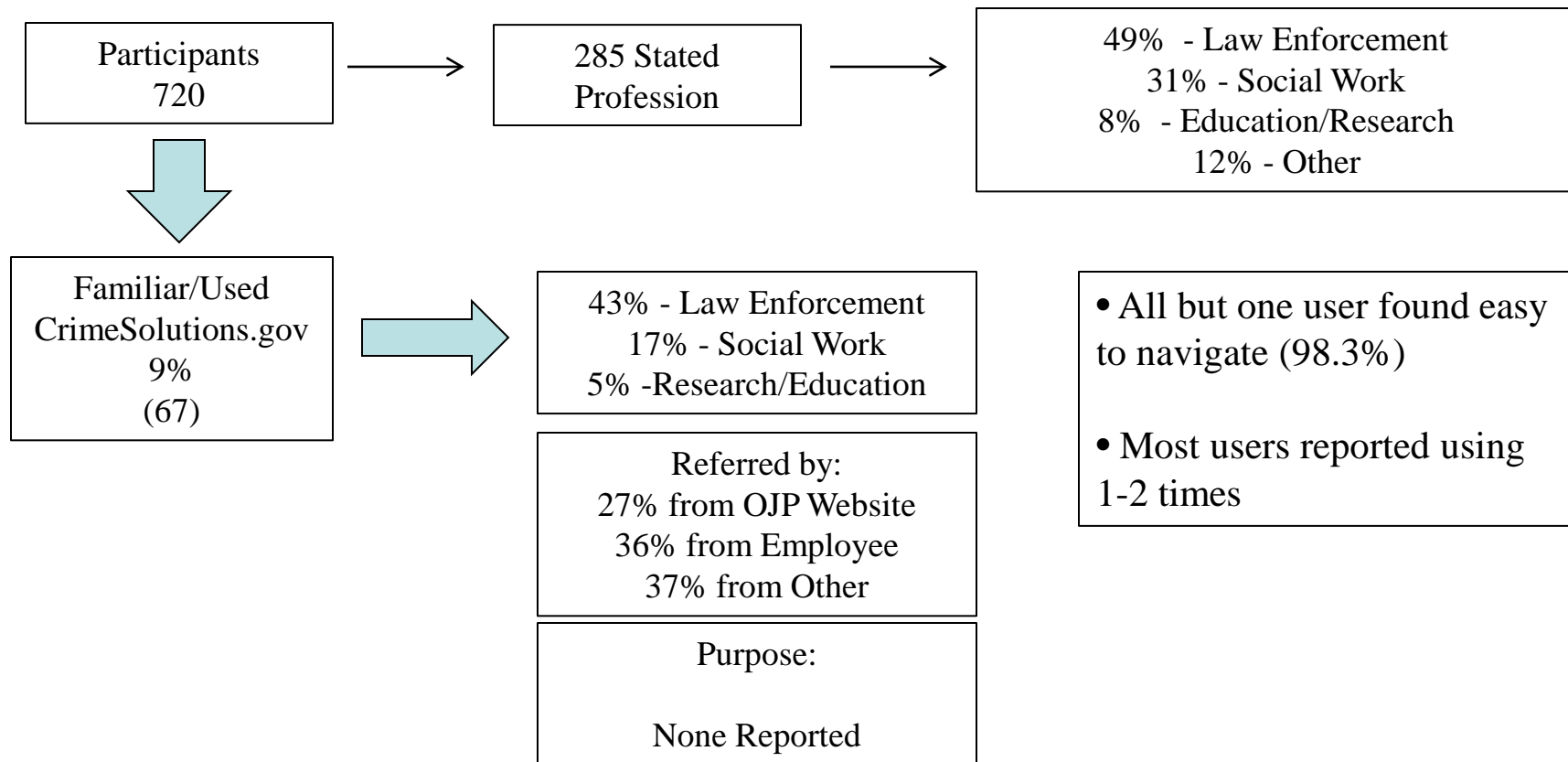
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- **Issue:**
  - ✓ Feedback from practitioners regarding familiarity and use of “CrimeSolutions.gov”
- **Method:**
  - ✓ Simple and non-scientific due to best available resource at this time for a survey
  - ✓ Short survey given to practitioners participating in three CSG sponsored webinars in October and November
- **Webinar Titles and Dates**
  - ✓ Innovations in Substance Abuse Treatment: Continuing Care and Medicated-Assisted Treatments for the CJ Population – October 25, 2011
  - ✓ Evidence-Based Practices of Community Supervision: Part I, A Focus on Current Issues and Trends - November 10, 2011
  - ✓ How and Why Probation Departments Should Partner with Families? - November 22, 2011

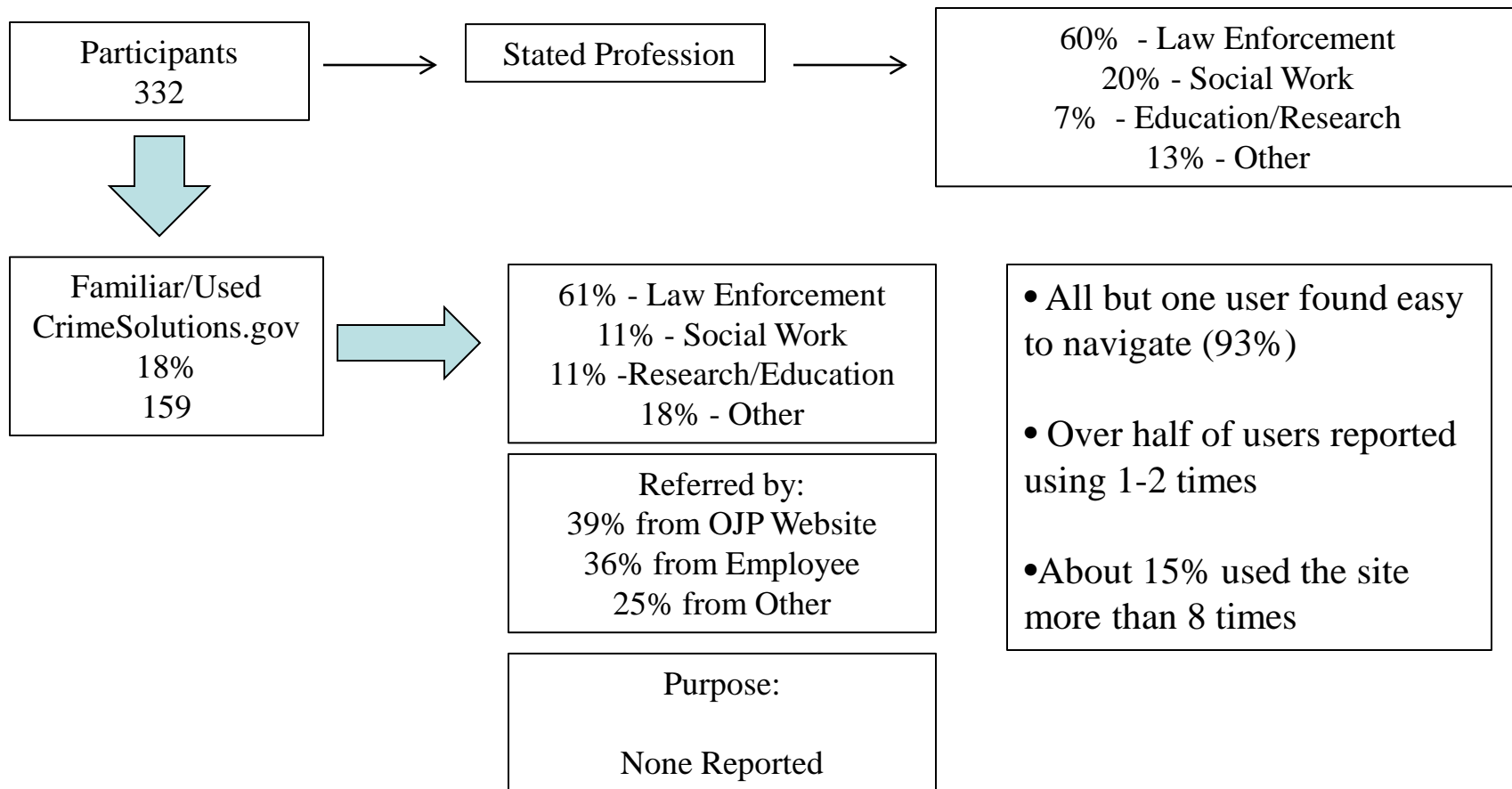
# Innovations in Substance Abuse Treatment: Continuing Care and Medicated-Assisted Treatments for the CJ Population – October 25, 2011



# Evidence-Based Practices of Community Supervision: Part I, A Focus on Current Issues and Trends - November 10, 2011



# How and Why Probation Departments Should Partner with Families? - November 22, 2011



# Issue and Recommendations Regarding Familiarity with CrimeSolutions.gov

- **Issue**

- ✓ Non-scientific survey of practitioners indicate low familiarity with CrimeSolutions.gov

- **Web metric report below**

Biweekly Dates	Unique Visitors	Average Visits per Visitor	Visits	Average Visits per day	Return Rate
June 17-30	16,108	1.44	23,245	1,660	17.4%
July 1-15	7,651	1.8	13,739	915	19.4%
July 16-31	6,365	1.9	12,088	755	21.7%
August 1-15	3,934	2.27	8,941	596	23.2%
August 16-31	5,573	2.2	12,240	765	21.0%
September 1-15	5,501	2.13	11,707	780	18.5%
September 16-30	4,772	2.32	11,063	737	21.8%
October 1-15	3,863	2.68	10,355	690	22.6%
October 16-31	4,861	2.44	11,881	742	21.7%
November 1-15*	6,336	2.01	12,750	850	20.5%
November 16-30**					
December 1-15*	7,502	1.89	14,150	943	21.3%

\*From Nov. 13th -Dec. 5th two of three servers were not generating data, so these numbers may actually be larger.

\*\*Due to server issues there is no data during this biweekly period.

# Issue and Recommendations Regarding Familiarity with CrimeSolutions.gov (continued)

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- **Recommendations**

- ✓ OJP needs to develop a communications plan to publicize the web site
  - Publicity in “trade” group and associations
  - Publicity as part of program funding announcement
  - Publicity by other OJP agencies
- ✓ OJP should conduct a more scientific survey to get more comprehensive feedback on use/utility of CrimeSolutions.gov
- ✓ Should expand reach of “hyper links” back to CrimeSolutions.gov
  - Presently 93 hyper links
    - Example, link from [dc.state.fl.us](http://dc.state.fl.us)

# Issues Discussed as Potential Next Areas to Explore

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- **Explore “science opportunities” with BJA**
- **Relationship between “Diagnostic Center” and the CrimeSolutions.gov effort**
  - ✓ “Diagnostic Center” update needed for further discussion
- **Plans for integrating “meta analysis” into CrimeSolutions.gov**
- **Plan for expanding/adding “take away” messages from each area**
  - ✓ Principles of effective programs
- **More in-depth focus group on the use and utility of CrimeSolutions.gov**