



dc choices

FY 2009-2010

WRAPAROUND DC REPORT

about dc choices



Our mission is to strengthen individuals and families by advancing community systems of care.

DC Choices is the lead administrator of the Wraparound DC initiative, serving youth via two projects - **community wrap (through DC Choices)** and **school wrap (through Full Service Schools)**. These two initiatives utilize a funding structure that allows for access to a wide array of support and resources for youth and their families, ranging from highly intensive services such as respite care, to community-based and natural supports. Choices has been successful in supporting youth to keep them with their families, in their communities and in school.

Our work is guided by the wraparound values and system of care principles. Wraparound is an approach of coordinating highly individualized, family-centered plans of care that focus on the unique needs and strengths of each youth and family. Choices works to strengthen systems of care: a framework for providing a wide array of supports to individuals, from a strengths-based perspective. This approach is family-centered and builds on agency collaboration to provide individualized, flexible support in the least restrictive environment possible. A well balanced and supported system of care is the ideal environment for the wraparound approach. Adhering well to the principles of wraparound is known as fidelity - Choices has received among the nation's best scores in wraparound fidelity.

Youth referred to the wraparound process in Washington DC all have a variety of mental, emotional and behavioral needs, are involved with multiple youth-serving systems and are facing challenges in their homes, community and schools. To determine the unique needs and strengths of each youth served, a CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) assessment is performed.

What is the CANS?

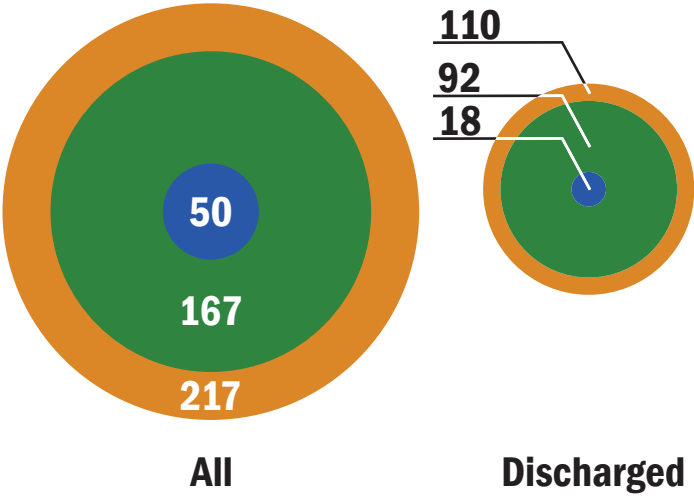
The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment is an important part of individualized treatment planning, which serves as the primary clinical assessment tool for Choices care management entities. The Dawn Project, Hamilton Choices, Maryland Choices and DC Choices all rely on data to inform decisions at multiple levels. At the clinical level, CANS data inform treatment planning, training and quality improvement efforts. At the service level, the CANS helps make level of care and placement decisions through the use of locally developed algorithms. Finally, at the system level, the CANS is used to measure outcomes that influence funding and organizational or governmental research-informed decisions.

Why the CANS is Valuable

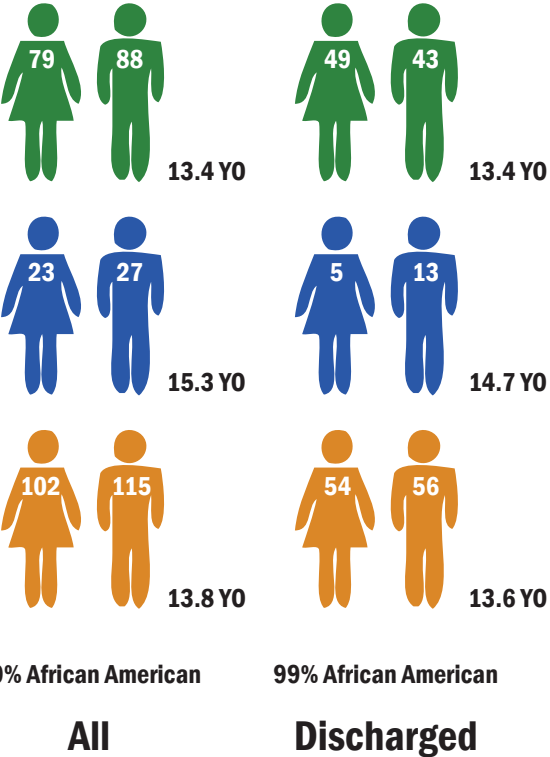
Several studies have demonstrated the relationship between symptoms of psychiatric disorders and strengths. John Lyons, Ph.D, creator of the CANS, states in his book *Redressing the Emperor*, "Independent of the severity of symptoms, if the child has strengths the higher his or her functioning remains and the less likely he or she is to engage in high-risk behavior. This suggests that both needs and strengths are important. The sole reliance on one or the other limits one's possibilities for a successful intervention." The CANS helps Choices care coordinators truly individualize treatment plans based on the needs of families. A treatment plan based on the CANS becomes a dynamic document that is changed as strengths increase and needs are reduced.

Since 2009, DC Choices has been administering the Wraparound DC process for youth in the community (**community wrap**) and youth in school (**school wrap**). **In total, 217 youth have been served since the inception of the Wraparound DC process.** The program has been successful, and continues to make significant improvements. Throughout this report you will find data highlights covering both the community (**community wrap in blue**) and school (**school wrap in green**) initiatives taking place in Washington DC. **Data in orange reflects all of Wraparound DC.**

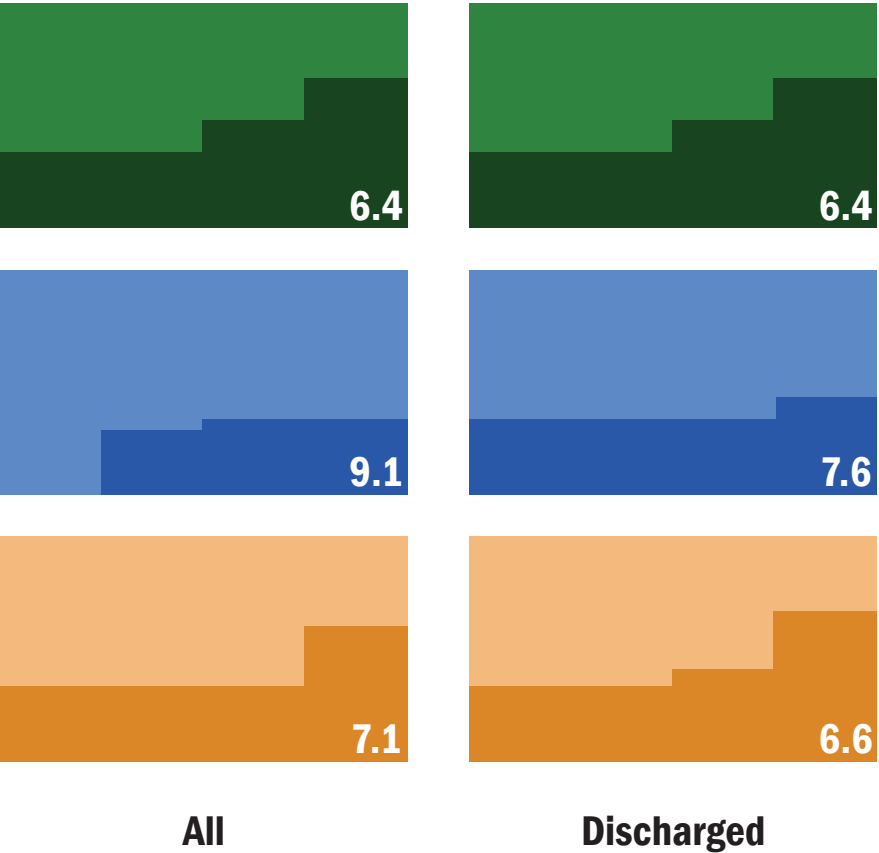
Youth Served



Gender, Race, Age



Average Length of Stay (Months)



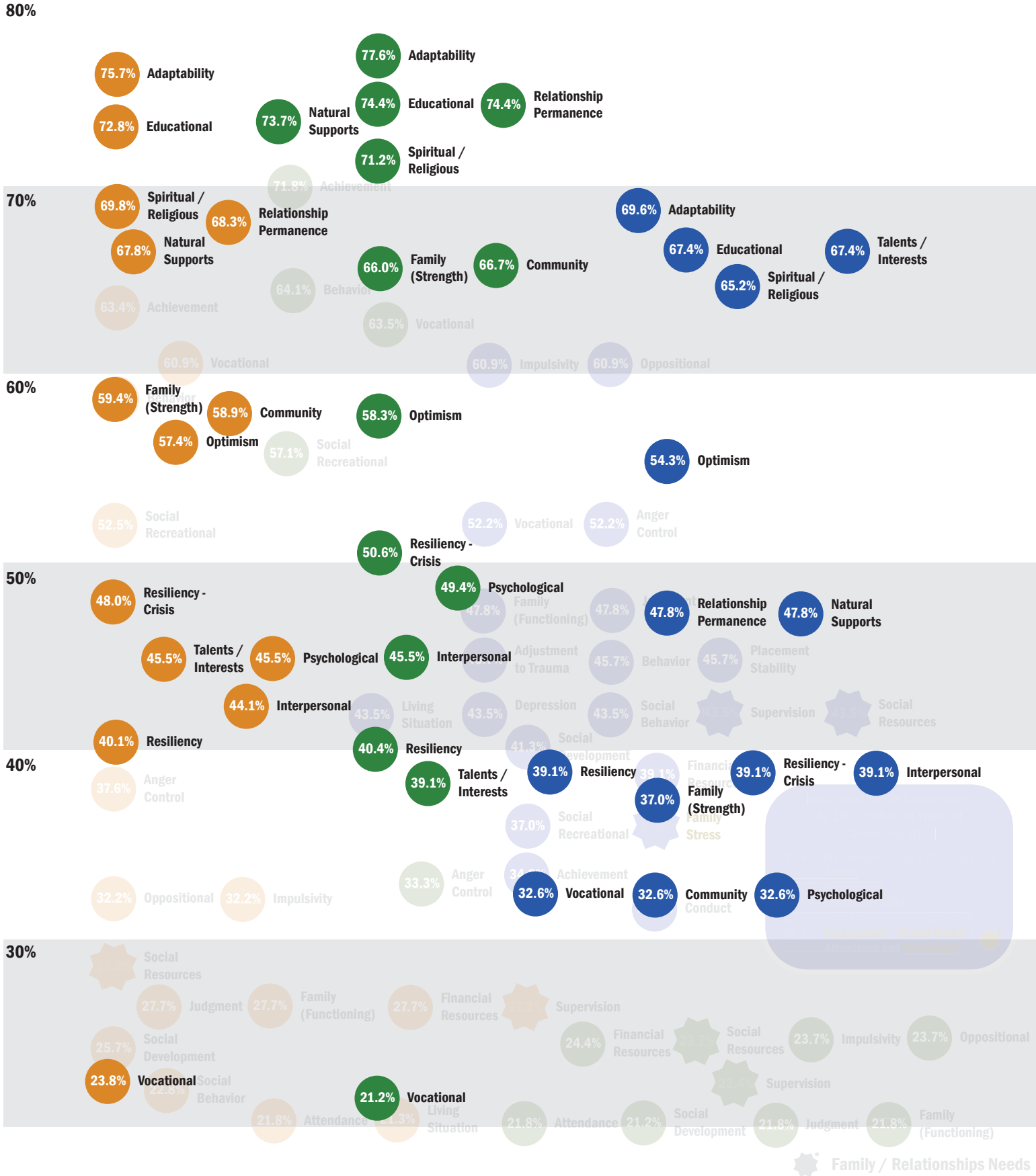
needs of youth - intake



Family / Relationships Needs

strengths of youth - intake

● Wraparound DC ● School Wrap ● Community Wrap



achieving positive results

2009

14%

N=1

2010

40%

N=4

14%

N=7

44%

N=11

<2%

N=1

14%

N=5

57%

N=4

40%

N=4

18%

N=10

23%

N=8

14%

N=1

20%

N=2

14%

N=1

30%

N=3

functioning in school

In FY 2009, the percentage of youth behaving appropriately in school increased 14%, compared to a 40% increase in FY 2010. **53% of youth (9) enrolled in community wrap were behaving appropriately at the time of discharge.**

In FY 2009, the percentage of youth making achievements in school increased by 14%, compared to a 40% increase in FY 2010. **51% of youth (38) in school wrap had satisfactory achievement in school at the time of discharge.**

In FY 2009, the percentage of youth, across all Wraparound DC, attending school regularly dropped by 2%. In FY 2010, the percentage of youth attending school regularly improved by 14%. **76% of youth (65) in Wraparound DC were attending school regularly at the time of discharge.**

functioning in the community

In FY 2009, the percentage of youth engaging in delinquent behaviors dropped by 57%, compared to a 40% decrease in FY 2010. **However, at the time of discharge, 94% of youth (16) in community wrap were not engaging in delinquent behaviors.**

In FY 2009, the percentage of youth engaging in delinquent behaviors dropped by 18%, compared to a 23% decrease in FY 2010. **Overall, 98% of youth (90) enrolled in the Wraparound DC process were not engaging in delinquent behaviors at the time of discharge.**

individual functioning

In FY 2009, the percentage of youth with behavioral needs decreased by 14%, compared to a 20% decrease in FY 2010. **Across both fiscal years, 77% youth (13) in community wrap had behavioral needs, compared to 94% (16) at intake.**

caregiver functioning

In FY 2009, the percentage of caregivers of youth with parenting skills needs decreased by 14%, compared to 30% in FY 2010. **Across both fiscal years, 59% of caregivers (10) for youth in community wrap had parenting skills needs at discharge, compared to 77% (13) at intake.**

functioning at home

95% Diverted from PRTF

Since the inception of the Wraparound DC process, 86 of 91 youth have been diverted from residential treatment.