INPUT/RESOURCES

- Vermont Constitution
- Vermont Pretrial Statutes
- Vermont Attorney General's Office, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Law Enforcement, states' attorneys, public defense attorneys, Vermont Judiciary, and victim's advocates
- Vermont Pretrial Service Coordinators
- Existing Vermont Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool
- National Institute of Corrections "Essential Elements of High Functioning Pretrial Justice Programs"
- Vermont information technology system
- Vermont Court and Jail Data
- Outside research experts
- Vermont Pretrial Advisory Committee

ACTIVITIES

- Assess risk of flight and failure to appear data using an efficient, evidence-based tool.
- Examine available tools and resources.
- Define and distinguish between risk of flight and risk of failure to appear.
- Examine evidence-based tools that assess risk of harm to individuals or broader community to inform pretrial release decisions.
- Examine and develop a system for notifying defendants of court hearings
- Develop a comprehensive integrated law enforcement, court, and jail data tracking and analysis system
- Identify and analyze the impact of money bail in Vermont.
- Improve afterhours/weekend bail decisions.
- Screen defendants and promptly connect with appropriate services.
 Review data on violations of conditions of release.
- Review Sec of AHS work identifying gaps in services.
- Hold quarterly meetings of the Vermont Pretrial Advisory Committee.

OUTPUTS

- Risk of flight and risk of failure to appear distinguished, defined, and data tracked
- Evidence-based tools for risk of violence and lethality identified and implemented to inform judges' decisions on detention, bail-setting, and release conditions
- Defendant court notification system developed and implemented
- Comprehensive integrated law enforcement, court, and jail data tracking and analysis system developed and utilized universally.
- New protocols developed to align after-hours bail decisions with Vermont law
- Number of defendants referred by Pretrial Service Coordinators tracked as result of evidence-based risk assessment tools informing case management plans.
- Number of defendants referred for treatment and other services by Pretrial Service Coordinators using mental health and substance use screening tools.
- Number of meetings of collaborative stakeholders employing evidence-based decision-making tracked to ensure a high functioning pretrial system.

OUTCOMES

- Notification system implemented in judicial districts, improving communication between court and defendant
- Reduced rates of failure to appear at court hearings.
- Increased rates of low risk defendants released on their own recognizance
- Fewer defendants detained on eash bail as a result of evidence-based assessment of risk of flight, failure to appear, or threat to victim or community.
- Improved rates of defendant appearance in court.
- Improved data systems providing Pretrial Services information required to conduct effective casemanagement and evaluation.
- Defendants at low risk of flight, failure to appear, or re-offense experience fewer collateral consequences stemming from pretrial detention.
- Improved consistency and compliance with law in afterhours bail decision-making process; fewer changed decisions during subsequent court appearances.
- Quicker connections for appropriate defendants to mental health and substance use treatment.
- Vermont law and its pretrial justice system are aligned with evidence-based best practices.
- Reduced rates of re-offense and violations of conditions of release during the pretrial period.

IMPACTS

Improved Public Safety.
Improved Safety for Victims.

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