

Early Intervention Systems: What We Know & What We Need to Learn

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Overview

- What we know
 - Promise of EI systems
 - Structure of EI Systems
 - Processes
 - Outcomes
- Our current research
- What we need to learn
 - Identification, selection, and assessment
 - Intervention impacts
 - EIS structure and oversight



What We Know

- Promise of early intervention
 - “Problem” officers
- Structure of EI systems
 - Performance indicators
 - Identification/selection
 - Intervention(s)
 - Post-intervention monitoring
- Processes
 - Importance of administrative commitment
- Outcomes
 - Evidence on intervention impacts is thin



Our Current Research

- Supported by the National Institute of Justice
- Agency survey
 - Population: 344 agencies that reported having an EIS in 2007 LEMAS survey
 - 274 agencies responded
 - 243 reported having an EIS in 2014
 - Information on indicators, selection criteria, interventions, post-intervention monitoring
- Case studies of individual agencies' EI systems
 - Selected from among survey respondents
 - Process and outcome studies



What We Need to Learn

- Identification, selection and assessment
 - False positives & false negatives
 - Ambiguity of indicators: smoke or exhaust?
 - Utility of peer comparisons or ratios
 - Utility of data over extended time periods
 - Estimate and improve predictive accuracy
 - Second-stage review/assessment & diagnosis
- Intervention impacts: intended and unintended
- Relationship of EIS to patterns of first-line supervision



What We Need to Learn (cont.)

- EIS structure and oversight
 - Role of line and/or staff command personnel in selection, assessment, monitoring



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