

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2016

This update on evidence-based policymaking and budgeting is prepared by the [Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy \(IMRP\)](#). The IMRP manages the [Results First Initiative in Connecticut](#) – an evidence-based approach to policymaking and budgeting sponsored by the Pew-MacArthur collaboration. This letter intends to provide you with an interesting and useful avenue for news on the practice of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting. We intend to bring you information from a variety of sources and at various levels of government.

CONNECTICUT ACTIVITY

Results First Connecticut was involved in a study to be released shortly entitled “Recidivism Among Adjudicated Youth on Parole in Connecticut.” According to the legislative charge, in section 84 of PA 14-217, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University shall assess the effectiveness of juvenile parole services programs administered by the Department of Children and Families for persons who are committed to the custody of the department. Such assessment shall consider findings from the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative’s cost-benefit analysis model with respect to such programs. After conducting such assessment, said institute, in consultation with the department, shall recommend program changes that may be implemented to improve the cost effectiveness of such programs.

The study will produce important juvenile recidivism data by risk level which is a necessary element of the Results First econometric model. With the data in this report, IMRP can now apply the Results First model to those programs, which are: (1) evidence-based as substantiated by rigorous research and included in the model and (2) have costs expressed appropriately (i.e., marginal costs per participant).

The next phase of the study is expected to produce information to update the juvenile program statistics in the model allowing it to analyze Connecticut programs, giving agency administrators the data to inform and produce improved outcomes.

NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

Pennsylvania

The State of Pennsylvania operates an organization based at Pennsylvania State University called the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center or “EPISCenter.” Its vision is to lead the world in translating prevention science to practice and its mission is to connect research, policy and real-world practice. Further, according to the [website](#), “the EPISCenter aims to promote the greater use of prevention and intervention programs that have proven their effectiveness in rigorous scientific evaluations.” Please see the website for information on its research and activities and more.



INSTITUTE FOR MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL POLICY
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NATIONAL/FEDERAL

[What Works for America](#)

On October 24, 2016, Bloomberg Philanthropies’ announced that its What Works Cities initiative has reached a critical benchmark: 55 mid-sized U.S. cities are now working to better use data and evidence to improve services for residents, inform local decision making, and engage citizens. All together these 55 cities come from 33 states, represent 19 million residents, and have annual budgets exceeding \$63 billion.

Hartford, Connecticut was included amongst the 16 new What Works cities announced in October. According to What Works America, these cities will collaborate with What Works Cities’ expert partners to expand their use of data and evidence.

Cities will:

- Improve open data practices in order to make municipal data more accessible and engage residents around government priorities and services.
- Establish and improve performance management programs to set, track and share progress toward priority goals, strengthen accountability and achieve better results.
- Develop the capacity to conduct low-cost, real-time evaluations of their programs so that managers have better information to make adjustments and improve results.
- Shift contracting practices to focus on structuring and managing contracts to deliver better results, bringing greater accountability to how public funds are spent.

[Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking \(CEP\)](#)

The CEP’s next meeting on December 12, 2016 will address Data Management and Infrastructure. This meeting will be in Washington, DC.



Thank you for your interest in this work and taking the time to read this issue. We hope to continue to provide fresh updates and insights periodically in the future. Please let us know if this is a valued resource in enhancing your understanding and use of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting practices. Visit our website: www.resultsfirstct.org.