

## Trauma, Sensory Processing, and the Impact of Occupational Therapy on Youth Behavior in Juvenile Corrections

Rachel Snodgrass<sup>2,3</sup>, Joanne Estes<sup>1</sup>, Marisa Grimes<sup>1</sup>, Amanda McClellan<sup>1</sup>, Allison Miller<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Rudolph<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, <sup>2</sup>Ohio Department of Youth Services, Ohio, USA, <sup>3</sup>ABC Therapies, Inc., Powell, Ohio, USA

**Introduction:** The juvenile justice system in the United States strives to provide trauma-informed rehabilitation to over 50,000 underage offenders (OJJDP). In 2007, Ohio adopted a unique model in and added occupational therapy services to provide sensory-based intervention to mitigate effects of trauma and positively impact youth behavior. A collaborative research project began in 2017 to investigate the impact of these services and establish the importance of occupational therapy in juvenile offender rehabilitation.

**Objectives:** The study aimed to explore: a) the relationship between experiences of childhood trauma and sensory processing patterns, b) correlation between sensory-based occupational therapy intervention and number of acts of violence, c) the number of acts of violence for youth receiving occupational therapy compared to the number for youth not receiving occupational therapy, and d) teacher and caseworker's perceptions of changes in youth skills and behavior learned in occupational therapy intervention.

**Method:** A retrospective record review will be completed at a state facility in the Midwestern United States with a sample size of approximately 40 youth. Data to be gathered includes youths' scores on the Adult/Adolescent Sensory Profile, the Adverse Childhood Experience tool, number of acts of violence, and number of occupational therapy minutes. Primary data will be analyzed using correlation statistical analysis with descriptive survey data further informing the results.

**Results:** Study is not yet complete. Results will be available in February, 2018

**Conclusion:** Available in February 2018.

*OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book. Online. Available:*

*<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/corrections/qa08201.asp?qaDate=2014>. Released on August 03, 2016.*