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# The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative: INVESTING IN PROGRAMS THAT WORK

April 15, 2014

### **The Policy Challenge**



- Though policymakers strive to make strategic choices, the budget process often relies on inertia and anecdote
- Governments have limited data on:
  - What programs are funded
  - What each costs
  - What programs accomplish
  - How they compare



#### The Results First Solution: Bring Evidence into the Process





- Identify effective programs using rigorous evidence
- Use cost-benefit analysis to identify those that generate high returns on investment
- Seek dramatic improvements without increased spending

#### States Are Increasing Use of Cost-Benefit Analysis



# Recent report addressed three questions:



Are states conducting costbenefit analyses?

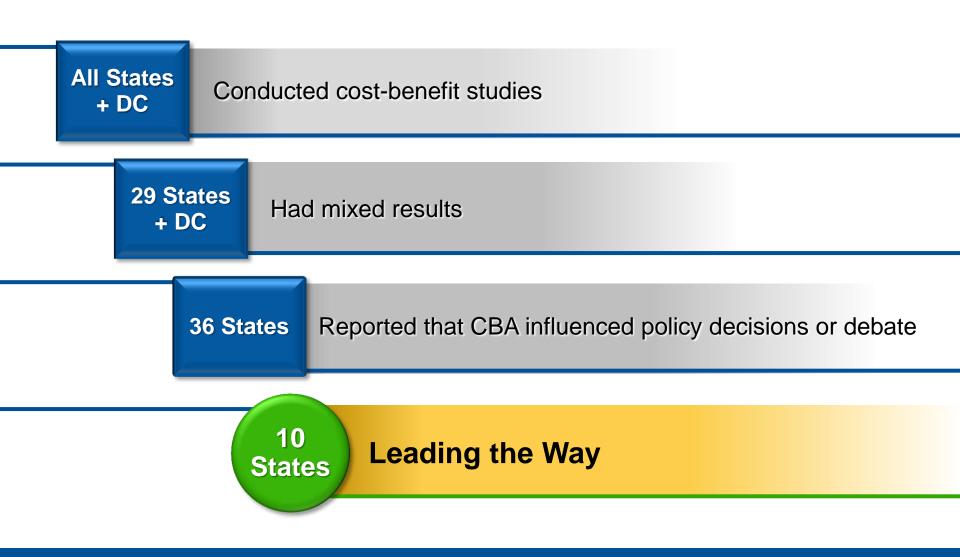
- 2
- Do they use the results when making policy and budget decisions?
- 3
- What challenges do states face in conducting and using these studies?



States' Use of Cost-Benefit Analysis Improving Results for Taxpayers

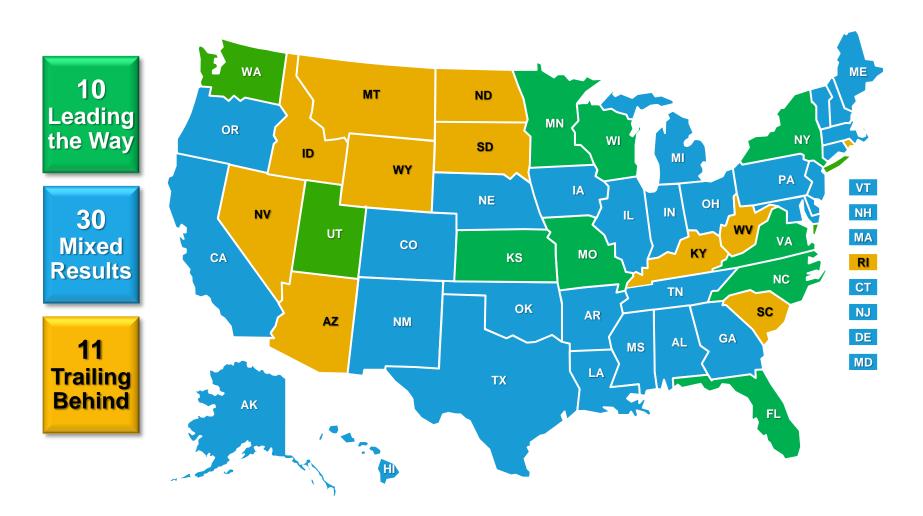






#### Overall — 10 States Lead the Nation







# **Results First Approach**



- Results First provides a national database of evidence on program effectiveness.
- 2 The state adds and analyzes their own state-specific population and cost data.
- 3 The model calculates long-term costs and benefits for each program.
- 4 The model ranks programs according to their return on investment.
- 5 Policymakers consider the information during the budget process.

### For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/resultsfirst



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**Inventory** currently funded programs



Identify program costs



Predict and monetize program **impacts** using state-specific data



Calculate and compare long-term **costs** and **benefits** 

#### STEP 1: Conduct Program Inventory



#### CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS

Alternative Response

SafeCare

Triple P Positive Parenting Program

Intensive Family Preservation Services (Homebuilders)

Nurse Family Partnership

**Other Family Preservation Services** 

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Aggression Replacement Training

**Coordination of Services** 

Drug Court

Scared Straight

#### **Example:** Rhode Island Program Inventory



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#### Rhode Island Results First: Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice Programs

| Results First<br>Program Category<br>(see Definitions)<br>Drug Court for Juve |   | Oversight<br>Department | Service Provider(s)  | Primary Participant<br>Population   | Average<br>Duration of<br>Program                        | Capacity (#<br>spots available) | Total Eligible<br>for Program   | Participants<br>Served in FY<br>2012   | Average<br>Participant<br>Population Age | Program Last<br>Evaluated |
|---|---|-------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---------------------------|
|   | Rhode Family Court Juvenile Drug<br>Court                             | Judiciary               | Outpatient Substance Abuse<br>approx. 75 providers<br>Intensive Outpatient Treatment 2<br>providers<br>Residential Substance Abuse 4<br>providers<br>Residential Non-Substance Abuse<br>10 providers<br>Home-Based Services 8 providers<br>Lab Services 1 provider | Juvenile offenders<br>between ages of 11 and<br>17 with a<br>wayward/delinquent<br>petition before the<br>Family Court. Youth<br>are identified as high<br>risk through<br>assessments, petition<br>information, parental<br>involvement, and<br>collateral information.  | Post-<br>Adjudic.: 218<br>days<br>Diversion:<br>139 days | open                            | 305 (referred<br>to the<br>program in<br>CY 2012<br>based on<br>initial<br>screening) | 211 of the<br>305 referrals<br>entered the<br>program<br>(Since<br>program is<br>voluntary,<br>not all<br>referrals may<br>participate.) | 16                                       | Not evaluated             |
| Juvenile Sex Offend   | Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment (youth in state institutions)         |                         |  |   |  |                                 |   |  |  |                           |
|   | Sex Offender Treatment - Specialized<br>Treatment & Clinical Services | DCYF                    | Lifespan/Physicians Professional<br>Services Organization  | Adjudicated youth<br>between the ages of 13 -<br>19 who have<br>committed a sexal<br>offense or have<br>exhibited sexually<br>abusive behaviors   | 186 days<br>(ongoing<br>through end<br>of sentence)      | up to 12 at a<br>time           | unknown   | 17   | 16                                       | Not evaluated             |
| Multisystemic The   | rapy (competent) for juvenile offenders                               | (community-b            | ased)  |   |  |                                 |   |  |  |                           |
|   | Multisystemic Therapy (MST)   | DCYF                    | Communities for People, Inc. (CFP)<br>Community Solutions Inc. (CSI)<br>North American Family Institute<br>(NAFI)<br>Providence Center<br>Tides Family Services  | Youth ages 12-17<br>*Delinquent or<br>antisocial youth<br>*Youth at imminent risk<br>for placement.<br>*Youth may be<br>adjudicated<br>*Physical aggression at<br>home, school or in the<br>community<br>*Verbal aggression,<br>verbal threats to harm<br>others<br>*Substance abuse<br>*Youth who have an<br>identified primary<br>caregiver | 131 days   | 198                             | unknown   | 215  | 15                                       | 2013                      |

#### STEP 2: Identify Program Costs





#### **STEP 3: Predict and Monetize Outcomes**

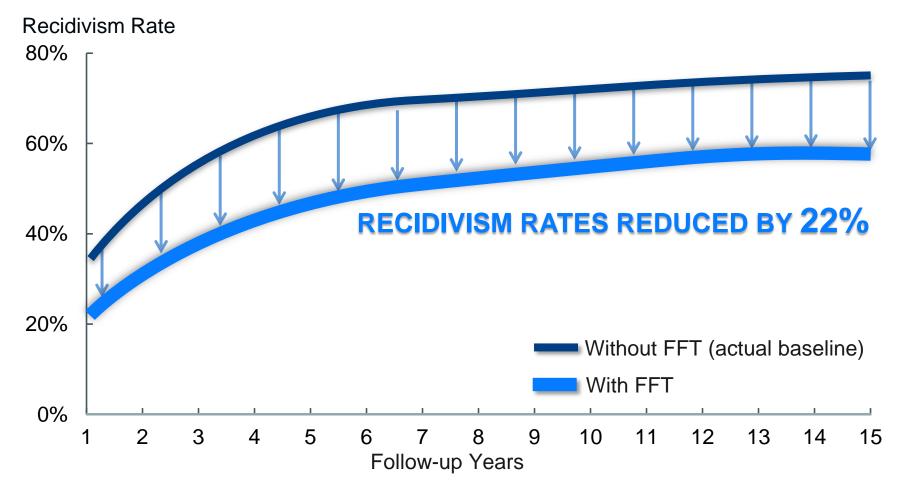


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| CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS                                   | COST    | LONG-TERM<br>BENEFITS |
|--|---------|-----------------------|
| Alternative Response                                     | \$98    | \$1,338               |
| SafeCare   | \$177   | \$2,112               |
| Triple P Positive Parenting Program                      | \$146   | \$1,127               |
| Intensive Family Preservation<br>Services (Homebuilders) | \$3,354 | \$11,718              |
| Nurse Family Partnership                                 | \$9,788 | \$16,956              |
| Other Family Preservation Services                       | \$3,099 | -\$5,053              |
| JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS                                |         |                       |
| Aggression Replacement Training                          | \$1,543 | \$55,821              |
| Coordination of Services                                 | \$403   | \$6,043               |
| Drug Court   | \$3,154 | \$11,539              |
| Scared Straight  | \$66    | -\$12,998             |

#### **EXAMPLE:** Meta-analysis of Functional Family Therapy





Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy

#### **Step 3: Monetize Outcomes**

Key Child Welfare Outcomes:

- Avoiding a <u>substantiated</u> case of child abuse and neglect
  - First case (prevention population) and recurrence (indicated population)
- Avoiding out of home placement
  - First case (prevention population) and recurrence (indicated population)





#### **Step 3: Monetize Outcomes**

Considers all relevant child welfare system costs:

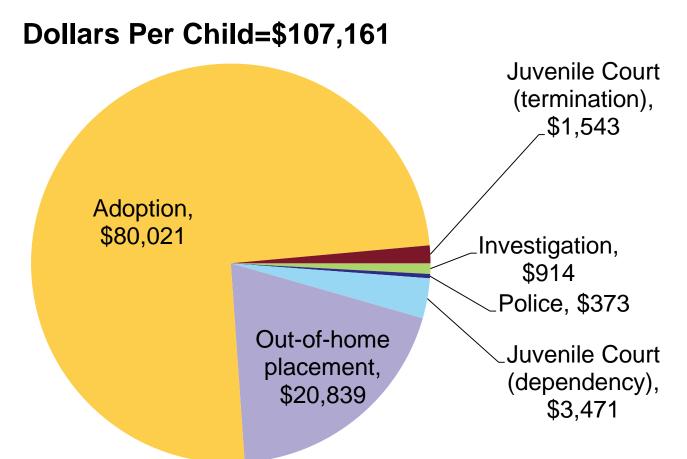
- Investigations
- Police involvement
- Court involvement (dependency and termination cases)
- In-Home services
- Protective custody
- Adoptions





## Estimated costs of a case of CAN resulting in adoption in New Mexico





### **Linked Outcomes for CAN**

- High school graduation
- Crime
- Health care
- Special education
- Substance abuse
- Mental health





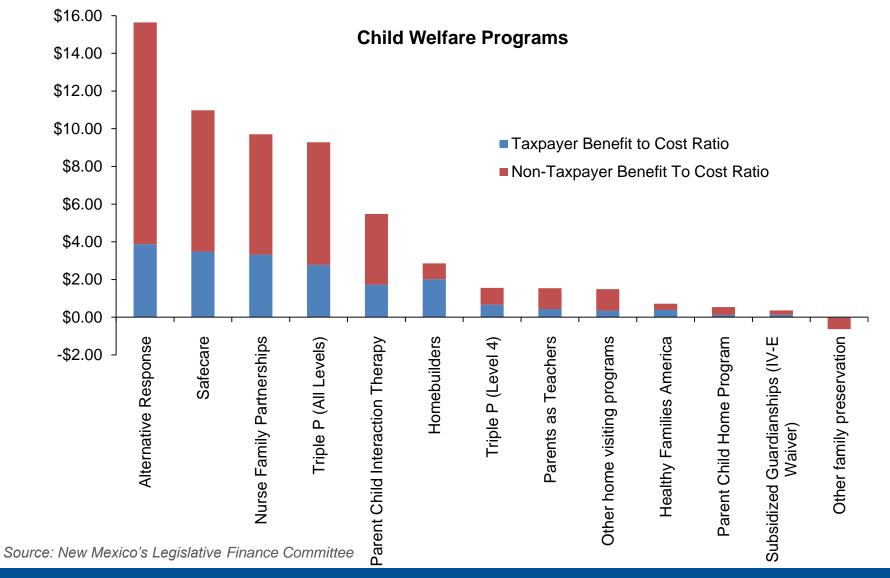
#### **STEP 4: Compare Costs & Benefits**



| CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS                                   | COST    | LONG-TERM<br>BENEFITS | BENEFIT TO<br>COST RATIO |  |
|--|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Alternative Response                                     | \$98    | \$1,338               | \$14.67                  |  |
| SafeCare   | \$177   | \$2,112               | \$12.92                  |  |
| Triple P Positive Parenting Program                      | \$146   | \$1,127               | \$8.74                   |  |
| Intensive Family Preservation<br>Services (Homebuilders) | \$3,354 | \$11,718              | \$4.49                   |  |
| Nurse Family Partnership                                 | \$9,788 | \$16,956              | \$2.73                   |  |
| Other Family Preservation Services                       | \$3,099 | -\$5,053              | -\$.63                   |  |
| JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS                                |         |                       |                          |  |
| Aggression Replacement Training                          | \$1,543 | \$55,821              | \$37.19                  |  |
| Coordination of Services                                 | \$403   | \$6,043               | \$16.01                  |  |
| Drug Court   | \$3,154 | \$11,539              | \$4.66                   |  |
| Scared Straight  | \$66    | -\$12,998             | -\$195.61                |  |

#### Example: New Mexico Benefit-Cost Ratios



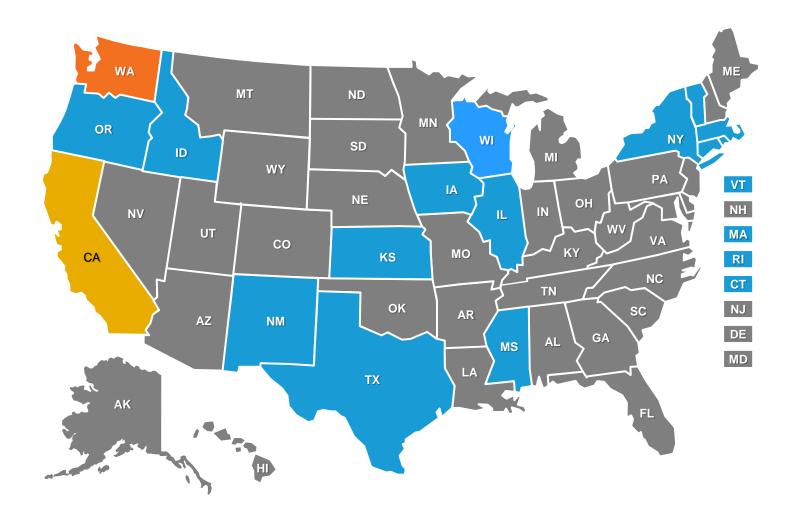




## **Results First Work in States**

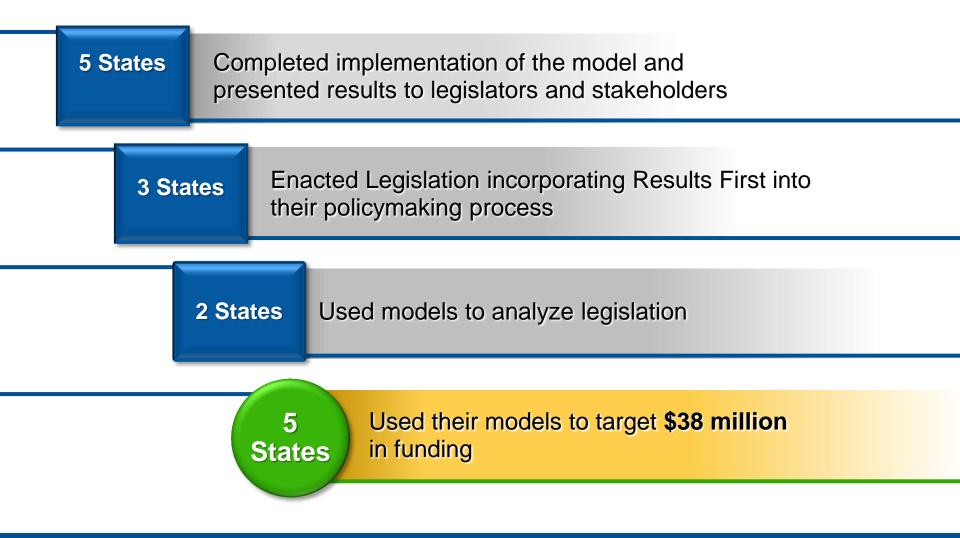


#### **Participation in Results First**



#### Key Results First State Activity During 2013

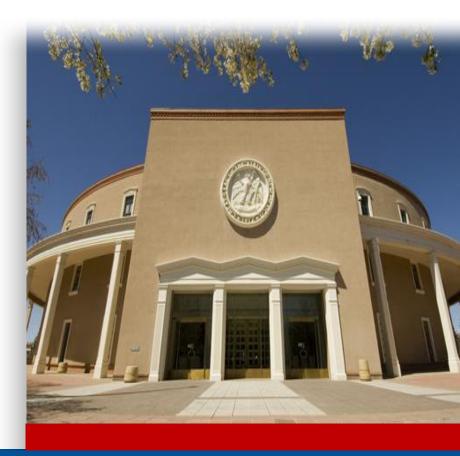






#### **New Mexico**

- Implemented in all available policy areas
- Produced Innovative Reports:
  - "Cost of Doing Nothing"
  - Report on Impact of State Budget Cuts
- Used Results First model to target \$17M for evidence-based programming in early education and criminal justice





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- Replaced ineffective domestic violence treatment program with new pilot program
- Expanding Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and vocational education programs
  - Received federal grant funding to train staff on new CBT programs
- Used model to analyze sentencing reform proposals and determine optimal caseload for state probation officers

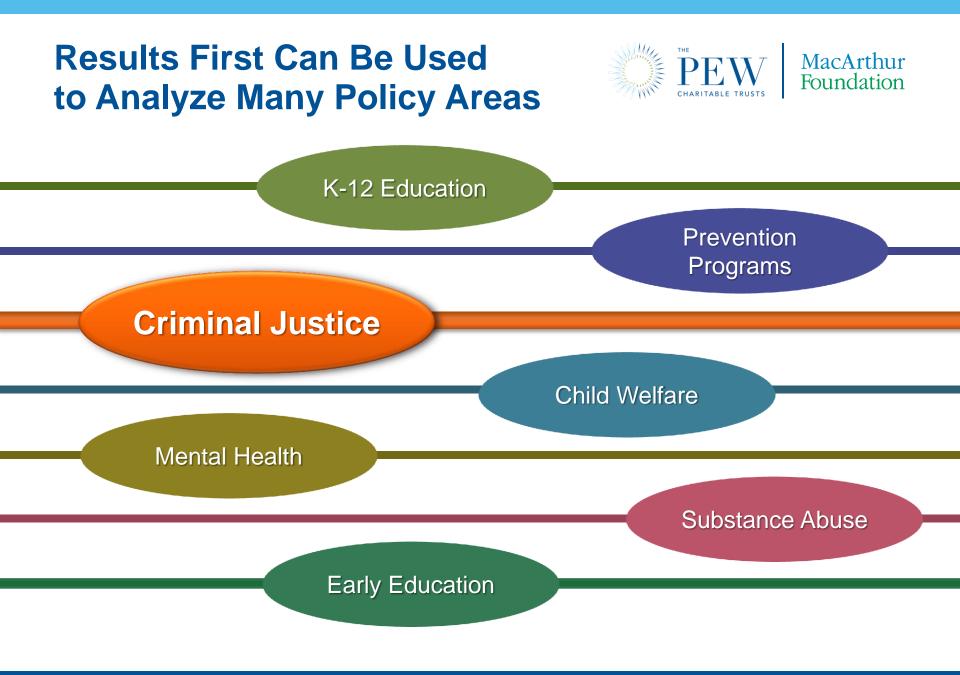


#### **New York**



- Used model to develop Governor's public safety budget
  - Referenced in 2013 State of the State Address
- Restructuring \$11.4M in Alternatives to Incarceration funds to prioritize cost-effective programs
  - \$5M allocated through competitive grant process incorporating cost-benefit analyses







# What Does It Take to Become a Results First State?



## STATE SELECTION CRITERIA

Commitment to evidence-based decision making

Ability to provide necessary data

Willingness to dedicate resources



2

3

#### **The Role of Partner States**



- Secure leadership support
- Appoint a policy work group
- Establish a staff work group with project manager
- Collaborate with Results First to strengthen the model and build a learning community of states



#### Services Provided by Results First



- Provide software
- Train staff in the approach
- Provide ongoing technical assistance
- Help interpret results for policymakers
- Compile and share lessons learned with other participating states
- Expand and update model





# **Discussion Questions**

#### **Discussion Questions**



- Have you seen a push towards evidence-based policymaking in your field/state? Where is it coming from? Are there any incentives to adopt this approach?
- 2. What are the challenges you foresee in using the Results First approach in your state? What could be done to overcome any of these challenges?



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www.pewstates.org/ResultsFirst