

# Measuring Key Factors in Your Residential Agency: A Compendium of Tools for ACRC Members and Friends

ACRC Data Metrics Subcommittee, ACRC Research Committee

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## INTRODUCTION

- Collecting data in youth residential agencies allows those agencies to assess the needs and strengths of their population, monitor treatment outcomes, and understand how alternative interventions may impact outcomes.
- Many factors make it difficult to collect data for research or evaluation purposes in youth residential programs, including the lack of any centralized resource for finding measurement tools appropriate for a particular topic and population.
- The ACRC Data Metrics Subcommittee, a subgroup of the ACRC Research Committee, was tasked with compiling a resource for member agencies to help with identifying measures relevant to these topics.

## METHODS

Subcommittee members combined and de-duplicated measurement tools listed in the following sources:

- “Building Consensus on Residential Measures: Recommendations for Outcome and Performance Measures,” a report by the National Building Bridges Initiative
- The “Foster Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA) Evidence-based Practice Resource Guide”
- Measures reported in-use by members on the 2019 ACRC Members Survey
- Measures used in research articles published in *Residential Treatment for Children and Youth* in 2018-2019.
- Previously compiled lists of measures informally provided by Pressley Ridge and Think:Kids at Massachusetts General Hospital

Members discussed and agreed on which descriptive factors would be included for each measure. Each member then researched and documented available information for measures on the list, and the final list was reviewed by the Subcommittee Chair for clarity, accuracy, and consistency before release in August 2021.

## RESULTS

The Residential Metrics Compendium (Version 1.0) includes information on over 100 measures that capture factors relevant to youth in residential care, including:

- Youth Symptoms/Behavior
- Youth Functioning
- Youth Diagnosis
- Youth Strengths
- Family Behavior/Functioning
- Social/Environmental History
- Level of Risk/Level of Service
- Beliefs/Perceptions
- Other Factors

The spreadsheet format allows a user to filter results based on their needs.

## DISCUSSION

The compendium will be released at the ACRC Annual Conference in 2021. The subcommittee will accept comments and suggestions from the community throughout the year, with the intention of releasing an updated version at the next annual conference.

Comments, corrections, and suggestions can be sent to the Subcommittee Chair at: [apollastri@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:apollastri@mgh.harvard.edu)



Have you ever wanted to collect information about symptoms or other outcomes, but you weren't sure what measures exist or where to start?

ACRC's Data Metrics Subcommittee has you covered.

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Scan here with a smartphone or go to [tinyurl.com/ACRC-compendium](https://tinyurl.com/ACRC-compendium) before August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to download the file.