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PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SCREENING INSTRUMENT (MAYSI-2)

Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system relies on an Evidence-Based Informed Intake (EBII) to guide decisions regarding diversion, informal adjustment, or formal processing. Grounded in Balanced and Restorative Justice principles, EBII enhances professional judgment by adding structure to protect communities, address victim impact, and support youth success. Within this framework, the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2) serves as a brief behavioral health screen administered by juvenile probation officers and facility staff. Youth complete a brief, self-report screen regarding their recent thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The MAYSI-2 yields critical information early in the intake process across six primary scales: alcohol/drug use, angry/irritable, depressed/anxious, somatic complaints, suicide ideation, and thought disturbance (boys).

DEFINITIONS

Critical Case: is identified if the Suicide Ideation Scale is scored as a Caution or Warning OR if two or more Scales are scored as a Warning.

Second Screening: is required when any Scale is scored as a Warning OR the youth scores as a Caution on the Suicide Ideation Scale.

Somatic complaints: Bodily discomfort and physical pain caused or worsened by distress, anxiety, or depression.

2,949

MAYSI-2
COMPLETED
STATEWIDE



14%

Of MAYSI-2 Assessments
REQUIRED A SECOND
SCREEN

86%

COMPLETED FIRST
MAYSI-2 SCREENING ONLY*

Most Common Scale to Present as

CAUTION

SOMATIC COMPLAINTS

39%

FEMALES

14%

MORE LIKELY
than Males to be
Considered a
CRITICAL CASE

Most Common Scale to Present as

WARNING

THOUGHT DISTURBANCE

14%

38

Counties
COMPLETED
MAYSI-2s IN 2025



*Did not require a secondary screen.
Note: Based on all 2025 MAYSI-2
Screenings



Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges' Commission