

National Institute of Corrections/ Evidence-Based Decision Making

In 2008, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) launched the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) in Local Criminal Justice Systems initiative. In 2015, the initiative expanded its work to the state level. The EBDM initiative's overarching goal is the creation and implementation of a framework designed to improve justice system outcomes through collaborative partnerships, systemic use of research, and a shared vision of desired outcomes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- EBDM is a disciplined approach to using data and research to inform and guide decision making across the justice system.
- Application of EBDM requires input and participation from all of the stakeholders in the justice system, including law enforcement, prosecution, defense, the court, probation and parole, corrections, victim service providers, and others.
- NIC provides leadership and guidance on implementing the EBDM framework while, at the same time, providing participating sites with the flexibility to identify their specific goals and strategies for advancing their justice system.

PHASES

- **Phase I**—Framework Development: NIC, the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP), and their project partners worked with a multidisciplinary advisory committee to develop the framework.
- **Phase II**—Planning Process: NIC and its project partners competitively selected seven local jurisdictions, and assisted them in building truly collaborative teams and the capacity to implement EBDM locally.
- **Phase III**—Pilot Site Implementation: NIC and CEPP provided support and guidance to the EBDM sites as they implemented their change strategies and expanded their activities to more fully become systems characterized by evidence-based decision making.
- **Phase IV**—Statewide Expansion: NIC and CEPP partnered with teams in the five EBDM states to engage additional in-state partners, build awareness, and plan for EBDM expansion to additional local teams and to state-level teams.
- **Phase V**—Statewide Planning: NIC and CEPP are currently working with 21 teams in 3 states to develop system wide change strategies, advance EBDM locally and at the state level, and align local and state jurisdictions with one another and with the principles of EBDM.

PILOT SITES

In Phase II of the initiative, NIC selected seven local sites that were interested in and well positioned to pilot the framework. These sites were:

- Grant County, Indiana
- Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
- Charlottesville/Albermarle County, Virginia
- Mesa County, Colorado
- Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
- Ramsey County, Minnesota
- Yamhill County, Oregon

PHASE V PARTICIPATING TEAMS

In March 2015, NIC announced the selection of three states deemed ready to expand their EBDM efforts beyond the Phase II/Phase III local teams to include state-level executives and four to six additional local jurisdictions.

Indiana

Indiana State EBDM Team
Bartholomew County
Hamilton County
Hendricks County
Jefferson County
Porter County
Tipton County

Virginia

Virginia State EBDM Team
Chesterfield County/
Colonial Heights
City of Norfolk
City of Petersburg
City of Richmond
City of Staunton/Augusta
County/Waynesboro
Prince William County/
Manassas/Manassas Park

Wisconsin

Wisconsin State EBDM Team
Chippewa County
La Crosse County
Outagamie County
Marathon County
Rock County
Waukesha County

PUBLICATIONS & OTHER RESOURCES

- Dosage Probation: Rethinking the Structure of Probation Sentences
- Evaluation of Phase II Technical Assistance for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems
- Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems Initiative AND EBDM OneLess
- A Framework for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems
- Toward Evidence-Based Decision Making in Community Corrections: Research and Strategies for Successful Implementation, [click here](#).