

What is EBDM?

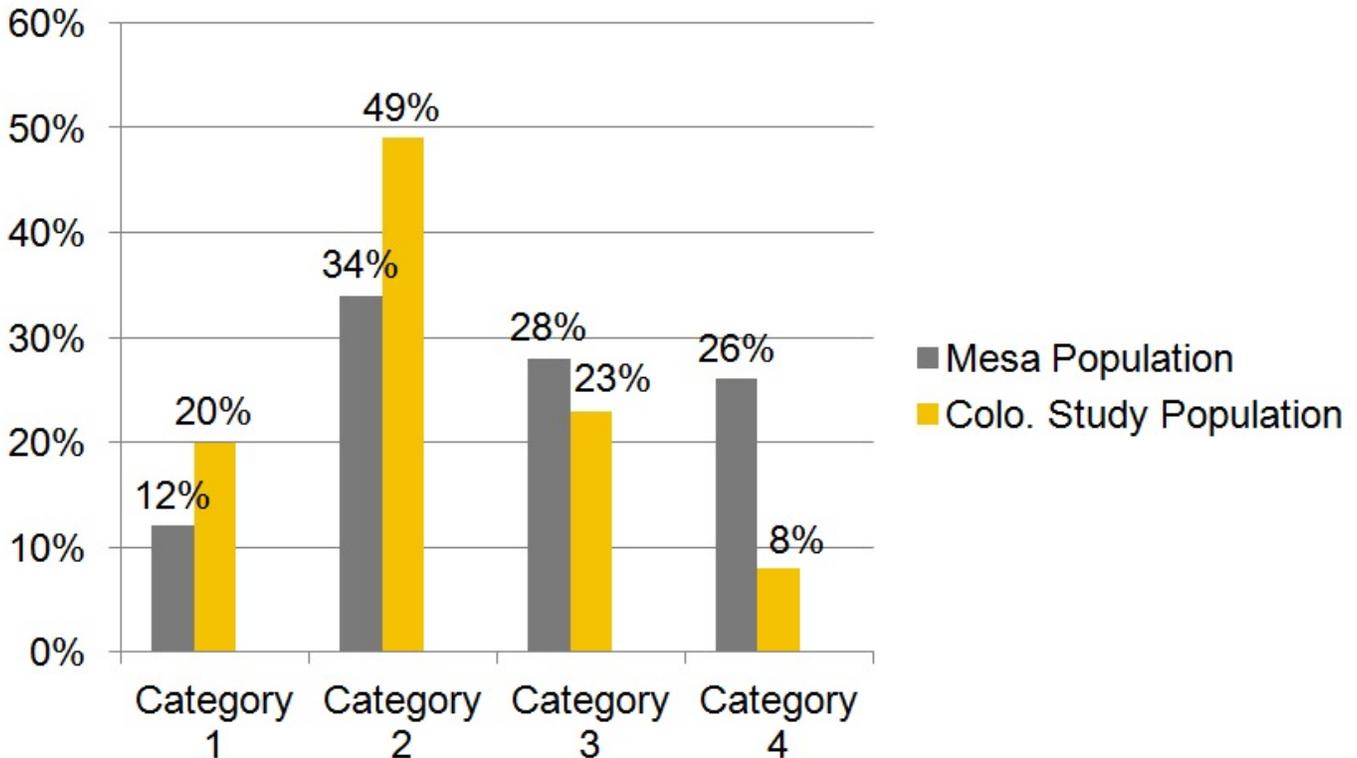
"Evidence-based decision making" (EBDM) is the practice of using research findings to inform or guide decisions across the justice system

An Initiative of the National Institute of Corrections: A Collaborative Project Among the Center for Effective Public Policy, Pretrial Justice Institute, Justice Management Institute and the Carey Group.

YOUR LOCAL EBDM EXECUTIVE TEAM:

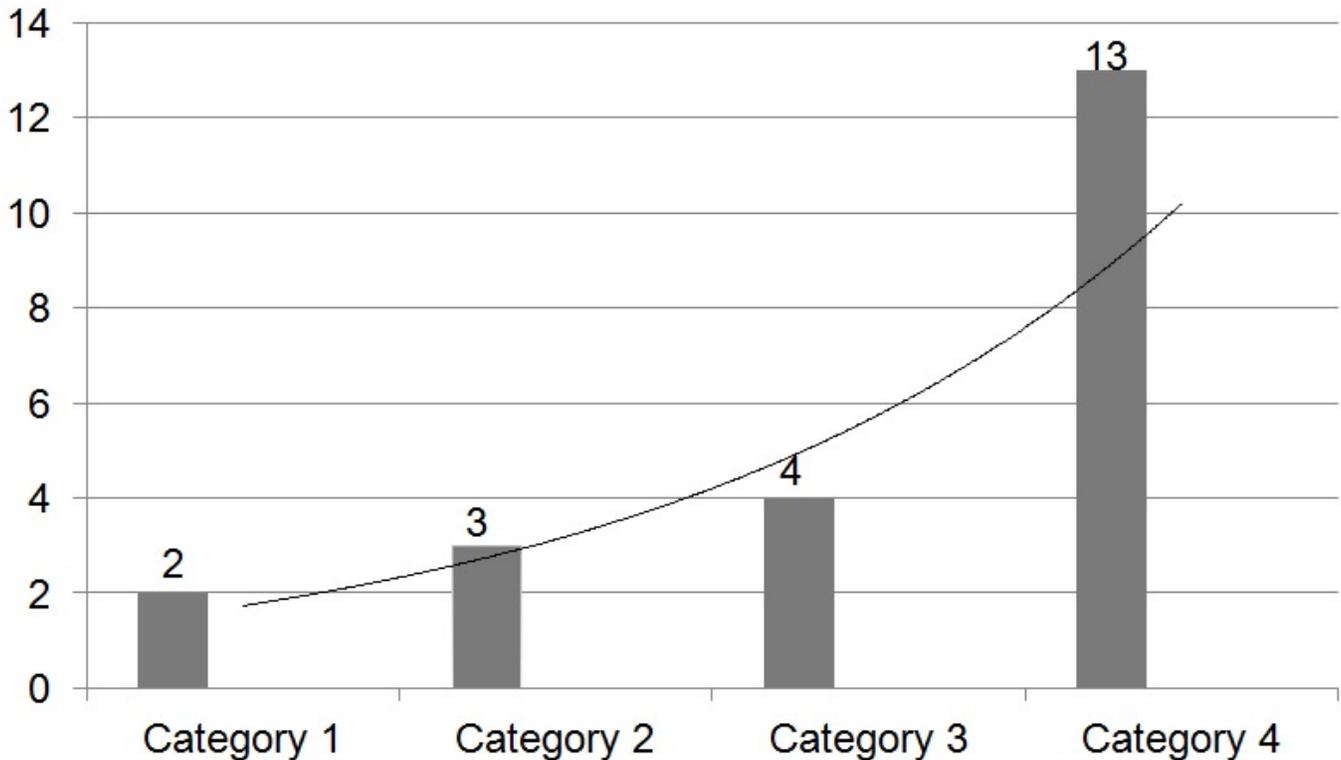
- The Honorable David Bottger, Chief Judge, 21st Judicial District
 - Craig Henderson, County Court Judge, 21st Judicial District
 - Pete Hautzinger, District Attorney, 21st Judicial District
 - Stan Hilkey, Sheriff, Mesa County (Co-Chair)
 - Linda Robinson, Chief Probation Officer, 21st Judicial District
 - Dennis Berry, Director, Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Department
 - Trish Mahre, Chief Deputy District Attorney, 21st Judicial District
 - Bert Nieslanik (Co-Chair), Deputy Director, State of Colorado Alternate Defense Counsel,
 - Jennifer Sheetz, Criminal Justice Data Analyst, Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Department/ DA's Office.
- Contact: Sue Gormley, Local Initiative Coordinator, sgormley23@gmail.com

COMPARISON OF MESA COUNTY CPAT DISTRIBUTION VS CPAT NORMING STUDY (JANUARY TO MAY 2013)



DAYS TO BOND OUT OF JAIL BY CPAT RISK CATEGORY—AVG IS 4.8 DAYS

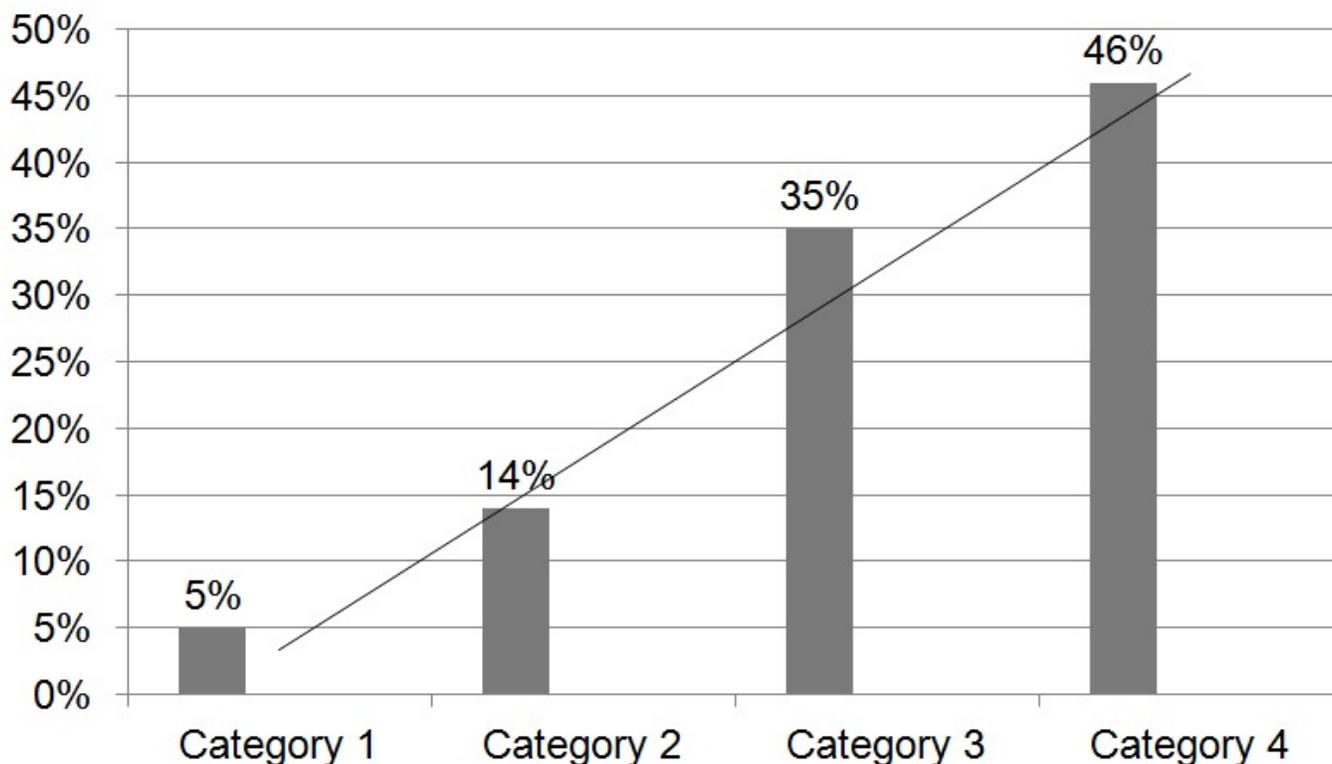
JANUARY TO MAY 2013



Pretrial Services Manager Receives National Honor

Joel Bishop, Pretrial Manager for Mesa County is the co-recipient of the Bruce Beaudin Award presented by the National Association of Pretrial Services (NAPSA) at its national conference held in mid September in Orlando, Florida. According to Cherise Fanno Burdeen, NAPSA President, Joel was recognized for his accomplishments as a line staff pretrial worker who exemplifies the goals and objectives of the pretrial services profession. Dennis Berry, Criminal Justice Services Division Director notes that Joel is an integral part of the Mesa County EBDM initiative and is an emerging leader in the pretrial field in Colorado and his work has brought him invitations to speak on these topics throughout the country. Joel developed the first computerized form of the Colorado Pretrial Assessment Tool that has been implemented in Mesa County and is now being implemented across the state. Of the recognition, Joel credits the hard work and perseverance of the **Pretrial Work Group**.

PERCENTAGES OF CPAT INTERVIEWED DEFENDANTS THAT WERE GIVEN PRETRIAL SUPERVISION—JANUARY TO MAY 2013



For more [information—jennifer.sheetz@mesacounty.us](mailto:jennifer.sheetz@mesacounty.us)

Prevention

By Sheriff Stan Hilkey from a recent article written for PJI (Pretrial Justice Institute)

Law enforcement officers are familiar with the term “prevention” and understand that anytime you can be proactive and direct energy towards problems, rather than simply reacting to them, you nearly always have positive outcomes. Prevention in the context of “recidivism” may be less familiar to us, though, and so we may be missing out on some of the most meaningful reform in the criminal justice system.

At those times when a crime occurs, law enforcement, specifically the cops on the street, have perfected the process of walking a person to the front door of the justice system and pushing them inside—and this is the point at which we have traditionally stood back, dusted off our hands, and declared it’s up to the “system” no to deal with this person. We are also often the biggest critics of the system as we stand on the front step as spectators of what occurs after the arrest.

There is now a large body of research available to us that demand our action to improve the front end of the system. It turns out that interventions on reducing recidivism should start at the point of arrest, rather than starting at the point of trial or conviction, and the entire front end of the justice system, prior to trial or conviction, has remarkable ramifications for recidivism and our officer safety.

We know that most people charged are eligible to be released from jail prior to plea or trial, but traditionally the process for determining release does not have a mechanism to consider a person's risk in a way that is supported by research. Usually, people are told a dollar amount based on the offense for which we arrested them. As a result, high-risk people are frequently released back to the community, while low-risk people sit in jail. That is a backwards scenario and is harmful on both ends. It is time that law enforcement leaders, managers, and officers become knowledgeable of, involved in, and supportive of pretrial release programs that use research-based risk assessment as a foundation for pretrial release decisions.

There are three primary reasons that we must support and be involved in this reform. First, at its core, pretrial release without research-based risk assessment creates a fundamental unfairness that very often favors the most risky and punishes, prior to conviction, the lower risk people. As defenders of civil liberties, our action is demanded. Second, when we look our communities in the eye, we must be able to assure them that we are involved in and supportive of practices that endeavor to keep high risk people contained and we thoughtfully manage those that can be released in terms of the long-range goal of reducing recidivism in our country. Finally, in the interest of the protection of our own, we should absolutely support systems that use limited jail bed space for those that are the most risky to our officers.

This reform, supported by resolutions from the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs' Association along with many other national justice organizations, is coming, and our opportunity to shrink the ever-expanding universe of our criminal justice system and make our communities safe is coming with it.

Mesa County Representatives Accept Rupert-Tate Award

Local representatives Bert Nieslanik, Dennis Berry, Steve Colvin and Pam Sharp accepted the Rupert-Tate Game Changer Award presented by the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) at its annual banquet in Denver, September 21 honoring the work of Mesa County's EBDM project. The award recognizes the work of Mesa County on criminal justice reform and is only its second award recipient since its inception in 1999. Bert Nieslanik, EBDM co-chair noted the comment, "If you want to see true change in the criminal justice system, go to Mesa County, they are leading "change" in Colorado."

Twenty -First Judicial District Judge Travels State

Chief Judge Dave Bottger has traversed the State of Colorado these past months speaking to various judicial district staff in Golden, Lamar, Trinidad, Fort Collins, Alamosa and Brighton on "Sentencing to Reduce Recidivism". Over 250 judges, probation officers, district attorneys and public defenders attended. According to the Chief Judge, feedback from his presentations has "started the conversation" and he is pleased with the response so far.

First Five Months---Linda Robinson, Chief Probation Officer

Sue asked me to write about my first few months as Chief Probation Officer. This is a great excuse for me to slow down and reflect on the last five months. I cannot believe it is the end of September--time has flown by since May 1s! In reflection, I've thought about budgets, trainings, and statistics—but mostly I've thought about what great and inspiring people I have the privilege to work with as CPO. I decided this is a great opportunity to say "Thank you!"

I find myself consistently grateful to work within such welcoming and supportive criminal justice community. Thank you! I'm appreciative to Judge Bottger, the entire bench, Sandy Casselberry, and my community mentors who have assisted me during this transition and given me much needed advice. Thank you! I have appreciated words of wisdom including. . .make notes, "get ready", go slow to go fast, "learn to say no", e-mail never ends, add color to your office, invest in your great staff, read anything by John Wooden, and take care of yourself. . .Thank you!

When I started with the 21st, I supervised a juvenile caseload. It's been great seeing familiar faces and meeting new providers dedicated to the youth in our community. I've also been connecting with many agencies that provide services to adult probationers. Thank you to our partner agencies!

I am especially thankful to my team—the 21st Judicial District Probation Department. We held two transition meetings and their input has been invaluable. Our teamwork, dedication, and professionalism have made my transition to CPO a very positive experience. Thank you for making our department a great place to work!!

Over the past few months I had good intentions of scheduling meetings with all criminal justice leaders and partner agencies. I've accomplished some of those and have upcoming meetings on my calendar. However, if you are reading this and I haven't met with you yet, please call me to schedule coffee or lunch—257-8719.

EBDM RESEARCH LIBRARY

Jmijustice.blogspot.com

Urban Institute published JRI <http://www.urban.org/publications/412879.html>

EBDM MEETING CALENDAR

PRETRIAL WORK GROUP— CJS BRIDGER BUILDING, Contact Joel Bishop at Joel.Bishop@mesacounty.us

PSIR—PROBATION CONFERENCE ROOM, NOON TO 1:00 P.M. Contact Bert Nieslanik, bert@laddercanyonranch.com

EBDM

The Evidence-Based Decision Making
in Local Criminal Justice Systems Initiative



**SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES GROUP—JUSTICE CENTER,
COURTROOM #6, Noon to 1:00 P.M. Second Wednesdays. Contact Joel Bishop at
Joel.Bishop@mesacounty.us**

**EBDM EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—October 3, November 7 and December 5, 2013 JUSTICE
CENTER, COURTROOM #6, 7 A.M. TO 8:30.**

**EBDM LEADERSHIP GROUP—October 17, 2013, Sheriff's Office Training Room, Noon to 1
p.m.**

FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO A COLLEAGUE!