

CANSnews

June 2011

CANSnews is a new way to communicate updates, news, helpful tips, and reminders to each court participating in the CANS pilot.

As CANS forms are submitted, we are able to see patterns both on the court level as well as all the pilot sites combined. For example, here are the total times the following services have been requested thus far:

Drug/Alcohol	151
Family Services	650
Mental Health	169

Scoring the CANS

- 0 – No evidence
- 1 – Watchful waiting
- 2 – Take action
- 3 – Take action now

Here's a quick shorthand to help make a decision about scoring:

0 or 1 indicates No Action at this time. 2 or 3 says something needs to happen, it is only a question of how soon and how intensely.

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Item Spotlight

Psychosis

The primary symptoms of psychosis include hallucinations (experiencing things others do not experience), delusions (a false belief based on an incorrect inference about reality that is firmly sustained despite the fact that nearly everybody thinks the belief is false or proof exists of its inaccuracy), and/or bizarre behavior.

0	No evidence
1	History or suspicion of problems associated with psychosis
2	Clear evidence of psychosis
3	Clear evidence of psychosis which places the youth or others at risk for harm

How would you score Psychosis on this vignette?

Amber is 16 and was arrested for trespassing in a neighbor's home. When the neighbor found her, she was crouched under the dining room table holding a knife while rocking back and forth and refusing to speak. During the intake process she reported "they" were looking for her so she had to hide and she had to have the knife to protect her. She wasn't sure who was after her, but she had seen floating shadows in her home and at school and knew they had been watching her.

Score this item as a 3 since there is clear evidence of hallucinations and delusions. This would not be a 2 because the youth and others are at risk for physical harm as she has a knife to protect herself.