



# NIJ School Safety Study

Assessing a school, justice, and behavioral health collaborative approach to improving school safety

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to determine whether there is evidence-based support for the use of the SJMHC and AMHT-SRO programs as approaches to increase school safety, improve school climate, and support enhanced outcomes for youth with behavioral health conditions.

## GOALS

- 1 To examine the effects of the SJMHC and AMHT-SRO, both independently and collectively, on key outcome measures including:
  - School safety and climate,
  - Access to community-based services and supports for children with behavioral health needs, and
  - Juvenile justice involvement.
- 2 To measure any differences in the above outcomes due to local variations in resources.

## PARTICIPANTS

The 16 schools participating in this study are divided into 3 groups that will test the two interventions both together and separately.

A fourth group will act as a control group, which will receive both interventions at the conclusion of the experimental period.

Each group consists of two high schools in Louisiana and two high schools in Michigan, for a total of four schools in each of the four groups.

### GROUP A

SJMHC & AMHT-SRO

### GROUP C

AMHT-SRO only

### GROUP B

SJMHC only

### GROUP D

Control group

## AMHT-SRO

The Adolescent Mental Health Training for School Resource Officers (AMHT-SRO) is a 1.5 day training developed by the NCMHJJ to help SROs develop the critical skills and capacity for appropriately responding to the many predictable behaviors typically observed among adolescents with mental health problems.

## SJMHC

The School Justice Mental Health Collaborative (SJMHC) is a method for implementing the School Responder Model (SRM) in order to improve school and community responses to students with behavioral health needs, keeping them in school and reducing reliance on justice system referral and exclusionary school discipline.



NCYOJ will house the lead research & program implementation teams



CHDI experts will provide training & support on SJMHC



The LSU School of Public Health will act as a research partner