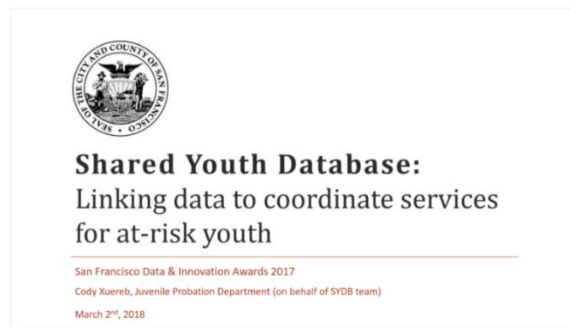


## Shared Youth Database: JPD recognized for work to link data on youth who cross multiple agencies



*Left: Chief Nance, Cody Xuereb & the rest of the SYDB project team at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Data & Innovation Awards*

**Last Friday, JPD was one of six winning teams at the 2<sup>nd</sup> SF Data & Innovation Award for its role in working with HSA, DPH and SFUSD to link data to better coordinate services for ‘crossover’ youth.**

Identifying and helping youth involved with multiple social service agencies is a well-documented challenge for local governments. A recent study found that 83% of youth with intensive probation involvement were referred to child protection; almost half of these substantiated cases. Fragmented data systems and institutional siloes hinder identification of these ‘crossover’ youth and coordination of care, leading to duplication and ineffective service interventions to decrease longer-term involvement with these agencies.

For over 15 years, San Francisco agencies have been tackling this issue by manually sharing and analyzing data. In 2003, HSA, JPD and DPH obtained a court order to do a one-time link of data on their youth. They identified approximately 2,000 families consuming more than half of the resources of each department. In DPH, 10% of children used \$16.5 million of health services – 40% of them had been in foster care.

While this data linkage provided valuable insights and spurred greater collaboration, there was still no single operational database which could be used to identify crossover youth in ‘real-time’ and provide alerts to caseworkers to enable collaboration. This was the genesis of the Shared Youth Database and unlocking the power of linked data and algorithms to generate automated alerts.

After the initial data linking, HSA, DPH, and JPD leaders identified the need for a single ‘Shared Youth Database’ that could link data in ‘real time’ across the agencies and provide automated alerts to relevant caseworkers to coordinate care for crossover youth. However, implementing this database would require overcoming significant legal, technical, and institutional hurdles that would take almost 15 years to resolve.

Finally, in 2017, the agencies convened a working group to tackle the significant work of securely supplying data to the Database, developing and implementing automated alerts, and identifying key areas of crossover between agencies. The Database went live in October 2017, with data on youth contacts and caseworker information from all four agencies being supplied regularly and linked. **Over 100,000 youth records were initially supplied with 11,000 youth crossing at least two agencies.** Of the almost 11,000 SFUSD students identified as ‘at risk’ in 2016/17, a quarter had contact with at least one other agency and 13% had contact with two or more agencies. **However, this is just the beginning: this analysis was presented to the SF Sentencing Commission and five different types of alerts have already been identified for piloting in 2018.**

Find out more at Data SF: <https://datasf.org/blog/the-data-shakers-and-innovators-return/#bridge-builder>