

CRIMINAL JUSTICE



2016 San Diego County Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Evaluation Report

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Research findings from the Criminal Justice Research Division

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San Diego County Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Evaluation Report Fact Sheet

Introduction

In 2001, the San Diego County Probation Department applied for and received state funding through the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act of 2000, now referred to as the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). Based on information compiled by a Technical Working Group, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) recommended to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors that JJCPA funds be used to (1) continue existing and proven programs for which grant funds were expiring; and (2) augment existing and proven programs to meet the needs/gaps in the identified communities. Five programs in FY 2015–2016 received JJCPA funds: Community Assessment Teams (CAT), which is a prevention program; Truancy Supervision Program (TSP)¹, which is a supervision program; and three treatment programs: Juvenile Drug Court, which includes Substance Abuse Services (SAS); Breaking Cycles (BC); and the Juvenile Forensic Assistance for Stabilization and Treatment (JFAST) program.

As part of the evaluation, the Criminal Justice Research Division of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is utilizing a quasi-experimental design in which program participants are compared to previous participants on probation compliance and recidivism measures. In addition, pre-post comparisons are made for program participants related to changes in risks and needs, as well as treatment-related outcomes. The results of this evaluation are presented in this report.² Additionally, case studies of successful program participants are highlighted throughout the report to display how the different programs have impacted these juveniles' lives.

Brief history

Figure 1 outlines the overall history of the JJCPA evaluation in San Diego County. For a more detailed description about the project history, please see Appendix A.

JJCPA FY 2015–2016 successes

CAT program participants' recidivism outcomes remain low such as having an arrest (3%), probation referral (1%), and no institutional commitment (0%).

None of the TSP program participants were expelled and only 7 percent of participants had a suspension.

Positive drug tests dropped by nearly half of the SAS participants (50% at intake compared to 28% at exit).

Fewer Drug Court participants tested positive for drug use during the last 30 days before program exit (36%) compared to the first 30 days of program entry (69%).

The proportion of BC felony level sustained petitions for the current sample was lower than the reference group (6% versus 7%).

JFAST youth had no new institutional commitments due to a new arrest/referrals (0%) this past fiscal year.

¹ The TSP was removed from the evaluation in FY 2009–2010 due to fiscal constraints but was added back in FY 2012–2013 due to an increase in the budget.

² In 2015, California enacted Assembly Bill No. 666 that instituted automatic sealing of juvenile records by the court at no cost to juveniles and their families. However, the bill still allows the sealed records to be opened in order to comply with data collection or data reporting requirements. This process may have impacted data outcomes for FY 2015–2016 and SANDAG is working with the San Diego County Probation Department on establishing protocols and procedures on obtaining the data for data reporting requirements.

Figure 1

Historical timeline of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act evaluation

1996	1997	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2009	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Board of Supervisors appoints a 22-member JJCC to refine juvenile justice plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JJCC completes and submits San Diego's first Local Action Plan that contains strategies to prevent and reduce juvenile crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act (now referred to as JJCPA) calls for an in-depth evaluation of local juvenile justice systems to develop local juvenile justice strategies to provide a continuum of responses to juvenile crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The San Diego County Probation Department applies for and receives funding through the JJCPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JJCPA evaluation begins with seven programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAT - TSP - CYC - WINGS - ROPP - DC - BC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in funding and programming occurs JJCPA programs modified to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAT - TSP - ROPP - DC/PMSA - BC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in funding and programming occurs JJCPA programs modified to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAT - TSP - DC/PMSA - BC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in funding and programming occurs JJCPA programs modified to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAT - SAS - DC - BC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in funding and programming occurs JJCPA programs modified to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAT - TSP - SAS - DC - BC - JFAST

SOURCE: San Diego County Probation Department

Evaluation methodology

Before presenting research findings, this section outlines the methodology used in the research evaluation.

Justice-related outcome measures

The JJCPA evaluation for San Diego County is conducted by the Criminal Justice Research Division of SANDAG as part of the cross-site evaluation for all JJCPA programs across the state. A number of standardized data elements are collected for JJCPA program participants and reference groups. Program participants exiting each program during FY 2015–2016 who did not enter another JJCPA program served as the study sample groups.³ For comparison purposes, reference groups were created to reflect an “absolute goal” for the different measures based on the average performance of prior years’ participants, as described in each program section. These reference groups were selected because random assignment to the program was not possible, equitable samples of non-program participants were not available, and baseline measures used previously were not consistent across the programs and gave the perception that change should be realized every year, when maintaining strong performance could better describe the overall goal. The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) data elements, which were tracked during the period of program participation, include:

- number of arrests for a new criminal offense
- number of sustained petitions for new offenses
- number of probation violations
- number of institutional commitments
- completion of probation
- completion of restitution
- completion of community service

In addition, the SANDAG researchers also track a number of outcomes which are of interest to local leaders, including:

- number of referrals to probation
- level and type of highest referral charge
- level and type of highest sustained petition charge

³ Data for youth who were enrolled in more than one program during the fiscal year are included only in the higher program based on the following hierarchy: CAT, TSP, SAS, JDC, BC, and JFAST.

Risk reduction measure

To examine changes in risk and protective factors over time, the San Diego Regional Resiliency Checkup (SDRRC) data for each youth are analyzed. This two-page, research-based screening and assessment tool has been used across systems (probation, law enforcement, schools, service providers, etc.) in San Diego County since May 1998. Over 20 community and county agency participants commenced development of this universal, strength-based assessment tool that was subsequently piloted in the CAT program.

The SDRRC provides assessment information to families and multi-disciplinary team members so they can gain insight concerning areas of strength and risk. Assessment results outside the average range provide an alert to existing conditions that might indicate the likelihood of delinquency problems. The assessment also provides a framework for the creation of a service plan.

When reviewing these results, it is important to note that even though the staff from the programs who administered this standardized instrument received similar training and direction, variation in their backgrounds or differences in who administered the instrument could be related to variation in the results. For example, staff members from community-based organizations (CBOs) administer the assessment to CAT youth, while probation officers (POs) administer it to JDC youth. In addition, some staff do not finalize the SDRRC until the youth is engaged for over a month, so they may have had more information than other programs when the instrument was administered immediately at intake. As part of this assessment, youth are rated on 30 risk and 30 protective factors, each of which is grouped into 6 dimensions: family, peer, individual, education, delinquency, and substance use. Each factor can be rated as “yes,” “somewhat,” or “no.” For the analyses presented here, a youth is rated as having a risk factor if “yes” or “somewhat” is coded because there still is room for improvement. Similarly, s/he is categorized as having a protective factor only if “yes” is coded. For the pre-post comparisons analyses, data are presented only when an assessment had been completed for that individual at both points in time. Details of the SDRRC measurement and its validity have been discussed elsewhere.⁴ Information from the SDRRC is collected for JJCPA participants in CAT, JDC, and BC, and comparisons are made over time.

⁴ Additional information about the validity and reliability of the SDRRC can found in: Little, J. (no date). *An Evaluation of the San Diego Risk and Resiliency Check Up*. Boulder, CO: Social Science Data Analysis Center, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, Boulder. Turner, S., Fain, T., and Sehgal, A. (2005). *Validation of the Risk and Resiliency Assessment Tool for Juveniles in the Los Angeles County Probation System*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

Other measures

Project-specific outcome measures are collected that relate to specific elements for each program. Data for the CAT program include client satisfaction surveys that are administered to both youth and parents as they leave the program (a post-test only convenience sample). For JDC and SAS, drug test results are compiled for both program entry and exit (a pre-test/post-test design). Client satisfaction questionnaires also are administered to participants in the SAS program (post-test only convenience sample). Throughout the discussion of results, significant differences are determined using the 0.05 threshold. That is, there is 95 percent confidence that the results are not due to chance. All significant differences are shown in Appendix Table B14.

Program overviews and evaluation results

The following section describes each of the JJCPA programs and provides outcomes based on the evaluation. All the programs exceeded the target number to be served in FY 2015–2016 and displayed positive results across the various outcome measures.

Healing through justice

Zoe was referred to the CAT program by her school counselor due to concerns about her mental health. When Zoe first started working with the program, she expressed feelings of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Zoe's issues with mental health started impacting her grades and attendance at school, which put her at risk of not graduating with her class.

Zoe was able to access individual counseling and trauma-informed support groups through the CAT program. Once she started engaging in these services and increasing her awareness about trauma, Zoe was able to speak up to her family about sexual abuse she experienced when she was younger. Zoe's mother and father began attending a parent support group and received additional guidance from program staff during the process of filing a police report against Zoe's perpetrators.

Zoe was able to make the most out of her involvement in the programs and completed all of her goals successfully. She graduated with her high school class and is now preparing to move away to college. Zoe expressed feeling empowered by the coping skills and awareness she gained while in CAT and plans to continue using these skills. She and her family were extremely grateful for all of the support they received through CAT.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

Community assessment teams

Program description

CAT, implemented in 1998, and Working to Insure and Nurture Girls' Success (WINGS), implemented in 1999, represents two successful programs that are community-based and family-oriented. Both utilize multi-disciplinary teams to provide case management to youth.

The teams are comprised of case managers, POs, alcohol and drug specialists, parent educators, mental health professionals, school representatives, and other specialists. While CAT represents the prevention component, WINGS provides gender-responsive intervention for juvenile female wards of the court that had little or no prior contact with the juvenile justice system. In July 2003, the CAT and WINGS programs were integrated into one blended program (now referred to solely as CAT), creating an innovative and efficient program that currently provides a broader array of services that address the wide range of needs of the target population and has been nationally honored by the American Probation and Parole Association's Excellence in Community Crime Prevention award. This award recognizes programs that integrate community crime prevention initiatives into traditional methods of supervision and sanctioning offenders.

The CAT program represents collaboration among the San Diego County Probation Department and various CBOs throughout the region. The County contracts with community agencies to provide the services with the agencies collaborating with POs assigned to the regions. Five community-based agencies provide services in the five regions: Central (Social Advocates for Youth); South Bay (South Bay Community Services); North Coastal (North County Lifeline, Inc.); North Inland (Mental Health Systems, Inc.); and East County (San Diego Youth Services). Youth are referred to the program primarily by Probation, schools, law enforcement, community-based agencies, and self-referral. Prevention and low-level intervention services are provided to address anger management problems, violence, alcohol and other drug use, gang involvement, school problems, and other anti-social behaviors, as well as many additional issues. After a brief initial screening, the youth and family may be referred directly to services outside the program (direct connections), or a family assessment is completed and the case manager works with the youth and family to cooperatively develop a case plan for increasing strengths and addressing issues.

Providing the chance to heal

Priscilla was referred to the CAT program by her school due to her low academic progress. Upon enrollment, her mother expressed that she also was very concerned about Priscilla's mental health. Her mother disclosed that their family had lived through many traumatic experiences, including the death of Priscilla's father. She felt that Priscilla's grief and inability to cope was impacting her performance in school. Priscilla also was having issues adapting to school since she was new to the school and to the English language.

Priscilla participated in family counseling services where she learned positive coping skills to address the death of her father. Priscilla also was able to access tutoring services to improve her academic performance and her English. Priscilla's whole family also was able to obtain medical insurance and moved into more stable housing. Priscilla and her family were able to make the most out of their involvement in the program, successfully completing all of their goals.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

Through the WINGS component of the program, gender-responsive services are provided to female wards, as well as girls who are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. WINGS participants may receive services for up to nine months, which includes intensive home visitation, family conflict mediation, and girls' groups. Gender-responsive services for both males and females may be incorporated into non-WINGS client case plans based upon assessed need.

In FY 2014–2015, diversion services moved from the San Diego County Department of Health and Human Services to the Probation Department under the CAT/WINGS program. This change allowed for the continuum of services for at-risk youth county-wide to be served under the same umbrella of family-based services.

FY 2015–2016 program changes

This fiscal year, JJCPA provided a one-time 1 percent increase to the contracted budget for each of the five CAT providers. The providers were able to hire case managers, therapists, and other staff to support the increased number of youth needing services.

The CAT providers participated in several different community collaboratives and continued to foster positive relationships with community partners to provide services county-wide. Additionally, the CBOs continued to adjust and expand programming to meet the needs of the clients.

Research overview

The CAT program objective is to receive an average of 5,200 referrals each year from the target population of at-risk youth and their families residing in San Diego County. Between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, the program received 5,435 referrals. Among those, it was determined that 2,677 could be served most effectively by directly connecting them with services outside of the CAT program. The remaining youth were assessed to be served in the CAT program and received case management, either short-term (less than 3 months; 1,703 youth), long-term (3 to 9 months; 176 youth), or the new population of diversion clients (cases could be short-term or long-term; 756 youth) for a total of 2,709 program entries in FY 2015–2016. Of these entries, 73 youth participated in WINGS.

To determine the effectiveness of the program, outcomes for the CAT sample are compared to a reference group. The reference group consists of 9,896 prior CAT participants from FY 2005–2006 through FY 2010–2011. As previously mentioned, the change in the reference group outcomes reflects an "absolute goal" or benchmark that each year's sample should try to meet or improve upon.

Learning to communicate

Debbie was referred to WINGS after being placed on probation for battery against her adoptive mother. At intake, Debbie and her mother disclosed that they had been having communication issues that often led to physical fights. Debbie was defiant, constantly ran away from home, and was failing all of her classes at school.

Through WINGS, Debbie and her mother were able to access and engage in family counseling, which improved communication between them and their overall relationship. Debbie also participated in a girls' support group, where she explored her leadership abilities and often provided other girls with sound and honest advice. As a result, Debbie joined a peer-mediation class at school and became part of a student body, which is actively involved in trying to resolve issues such as bullying and relational aggression. Debbie was able to begin her senior year with vast improvements in her grades and attendance; she is now preparing to apply to both California State University and University of California colleges.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

The FY 2015–2016 CAT sample includes 2,350 case-managed youth (54 WINGS, 191 long-term, 1,358 short-term, and 747 diversion) who exited the program between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, regardless of when they entered.

Appendix Table B1 presents program outcomes, including information regarding youth criminal activity during program participation for both the CAT sample and reference group. In order to ensure comparability between the two groups, statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 90 days of the program, or through the end of the program if less than 90 days. In addition, data from program satisfaction surveys completed by youth and their parents/guardians are shown in Appendix Tables B2 and B3 and SDRRC results (which were administered at intake and exit) are presented in Appendix Table B14.

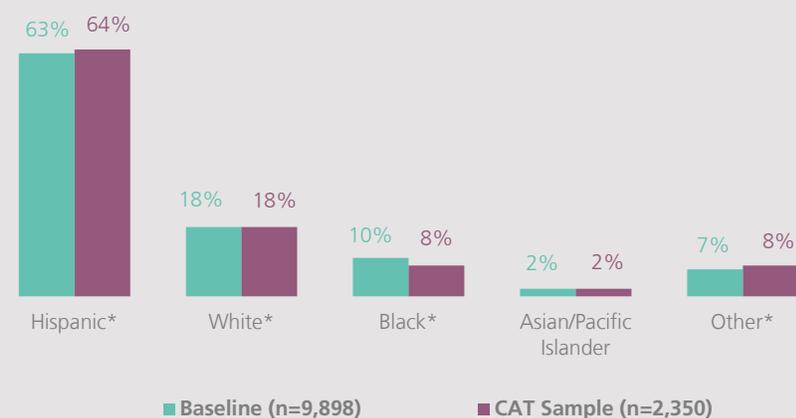
Sample descriptions

Of the 2,350 cases in the CAT sample, 64 percent were Hispanic, 18 percent were White, 8 percent were Black, 8 percent were Other ethnicities, and 2 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander (Figure 2).

The average (mean) age of CAT participants was 13.4 years (standard deviation [SD] = 2.9, range 5 to 19), which was similar to the reference sample (13.1 years, SD = 2.8, range 4 to 18). With respect to duration of time spent in the program, sample youth received services about the same number of days (median⁵ 84 days, SD = 42.7, range 1 to 452⁶) compared to reference youth (median 88 days, SD = 81.6, range 1 to 1,127) (Figure 3).

Figure 2

CAT sample and reference group ethnicity



* Significant at $p < 0.05$

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: CAT Client Data, Probation Compliance Exit Form

⁵ The median is a more appropriate measure of central tendency than the mean because the data are skewed.

⁶ Partner agencies request extended services beyond the 270 days for youth when needed to ensure successful completion of their case plan.

Figure 3

CAT sample and reference group average age and medians days in the program



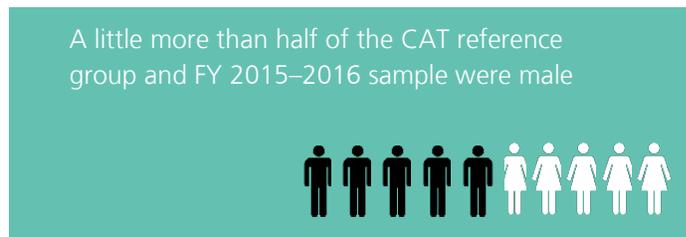
SOURCE: CAT Client Data, Probation Compliance Exit Form

There was no significant difference between the two groups with respect to gender, with males accounting for 58 percent of the CAT sample, compared to 55 percent of the reference group (Figure 4).

As shown in Figure 5 (and the Appendix Tables previously noted), youth who exited CAT in FY 2015–2016 demonstrated positive change. Specifically, youth had little contact with the juvenile justice system; a growth in resiliency, as measured by the standardized assessment; and positive feedback about the program.

Figure 4

CAT sample and reference group gender proportions



SOURCE: CAT Client Data, Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 5

CAT highlights for FY 2015–2016

Recidivism outcomes for the current year sample remained low with less violent referrals (<1%) and no institutional commitments (0%)

At program exit, a higher proportion of CAT youth reported they liked school (82% compared to 59% at program entry)

CAT youth average resiliency scores improved significantly at intake to exit (1.4 to 8.0), indicating increased protective factors and reduced risk

The majority of youth (88%) and parents/guardians (99%) said they would refer a friend to the program and 96 percent of youth and 98 percent of parents/guardians reported being satisfied with the services they received

SOURCES: Probation Case Management System Records, Probation Compliance Exit Form, San Diego Regional Resiliency Checkup, and CAT Youth and Parent/Guardian Satisfaction Questionnaires

Truancy supervision program

Program description

The TSP is a collaborative effort between the Juvenile Court, District Attorney's (DA) Office, Probation Department, County Office of Education, and various school districts across the county. It is an expansion of the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), originally implemented in 1988, in which Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) were assigned to six school districts to provide prevention and early intervention services.

Beginning July 1, 2001, JJCPA funds were used to augment the TIP by adding DPOs and Correctional Deputy Probation Officers to provide intensive supervision and case management services for youth who were made wards of the court (601 wards) due to non-criminal, truancy, and out-of-control behavior. Initially known as the Truancy Suppression Project, the name was changed in FY 2003–2004 to better reflect the services provided by the program.

As part of TSP, the POs provide intensive supervision throughout the entire San Diego region, make referrals for truancy prevention and academic enhancement services, and assist in monitoring the juvenile's attendance through direct contact with the truant juvenile and his/her family. In addition, TSP POs provide crisis intervention, work with collaborative partners, and provide alternatives to confinement. TSP POs are mobile, which allow them to make home and school visits, as needed. The program has been recognized nationally, receiving the National Association of Counties award in 2003 for its innovative approach in dealing with truancy, resulting in significant improvement in school attendance and grades.

FY 2015–2016 program changes

The program reported several staffing changes over the past year with the largest one concerning the retirement of the program's Supervising Probation Officer (SPO) in March 2016 and a new SPO filling the position. Lastly, a DPO was added to the unit at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Research overview

For the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, the target population for TSP was 200 youth from the Truancy Diversion Court. During the fiscal year, 484 juveniles began or continued to be served by the TSP program.

Safety promotes growth

When Azaiah entered TSP, he was anti-social, suffered from anxiety, and had a hard time fitting in with peers due to his sexuality. The minor never met his biological father and his biological mother resided outside of state. Azaiah was habitually truant and credit deficient. As a result, he was referred to a charter school and after enrollment, began earning good grades, earned more credits, and completed all of his court-ordered requirements, including community service and counseling. Azaiah also became more social and volunteered three times a week at a local community based organization for six months while in the program. He also became a peer mentor and soon afterwards was successfully terminated from probation and graduated high school.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

The FY 2015–2016 client sample includes the 133 youth who exited TSP, regardless of when they entered. For comparison purposes, reference groups were created to reflect a “baseline” for the different measures based on the average performance of prior years’ participants. The TSP reference group was reconfigured to consist of 1,178 wards referred to Probation for truancy from FY 2004–2005 through FY 2009–2010. Information regarding criminal activity and completion of probation obligations is presented in Appendix Table B5 for both groups. Statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 120 days of the program or through the end of the program if less than 120 days.

Data on school performance and attendance were collected for the TSP sample at intake and exit and comparisons were made over time. Detailed results of these analyses are included in Appendix Table B6. SDRRC results (which were administered at intake and exit) are presented in Appendix Table B14.

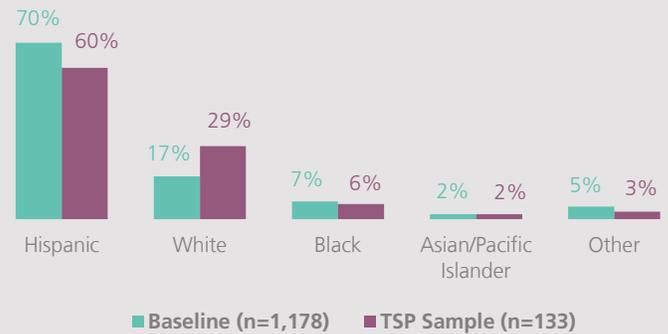
Sample descriptions

In the current sample, gender is split about evenly with 56 percent males and 44 percent females, similar to the baseline sample which consisted of 50 percent males and females. Additionally, 60 percent of the sample was Hispanic, 29 percent White, 6 percent Black, 2 percent Asian, and 3 percent identified as an Other ethnicity. This differed significantly from the reference group as the reference sample had significantly fewer White participants (17%) and more Hispanic participants (70% compared to 60%) than the FY 2015–2016 sample (Figures 6 and 8).

The current sample participants and reference group were similar in age (14.7, SD = 1.39, range = 10 to 17 for current year and 14.9, SD = 1.17, range = 11 to 17 for the reference group) (Figure 7). Both groups of participants also spent a similar amount of time in the program, with the current sample being in the program only slightly longer (338 days, SD = range 19 to 1,075, compared to 387 days, SD = 266.65, range 1 to 1,541) (not shown).

Figure 6

TSP sample and reference group ethnicity

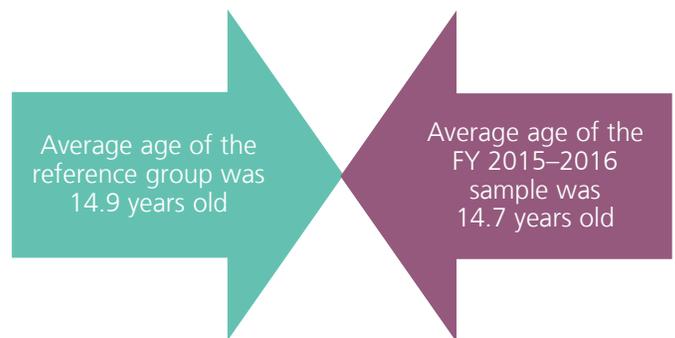


NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 7

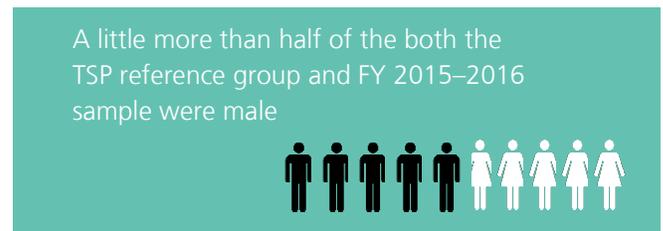
TSP sample and reference group average age and median days in the program



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 8

TSP sample and reference group gender proportions



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Outcomes

The Appendix Tables previously noted provide more details in how TSP program participants who exited in FY 2015–2016 performed while on probation. The reference group, also referred to as the Absolute Goal in Appendix B, provides a historical benchmark to compare the current sample to. However, it should be kept in mind that the goal is only to meet these benchmarks, so significant differences are not considered here. In the most current sample, 21 of the 23 benchmarks set by the baseline group were met or passed. Only 3 percent of participants were arrested, compared to 8 percent of the baseline group, and only 4 percent obtained a referral (compared to 6%). The current year also met the benchmark for completion of probation requirements (67% for both groups). Additionally, with the exception of violent referrals and violent petitions, the current sample met or exceeded each of the referral and petition measures. In addition to the two mentioned above, the only other benchmark not met was participants who completed community service, where only 69 percent of the current sample did so while the baseline achieved an 85 percent completion rate. Figure 9 highlights some of the programs achievements.

Figure 9

TSP highlights for FY 2015–2016

Only 3 percent of participants were arrested and 4 percent received a referral (compared to 8% and 6%, respectively)

Ninety-nine (99) percent of participants had no school suspensions and 95 percent had no expulsions while in the program

The grades of participants increased from the average GPA of 1.00 to 1.35 by program exit

SOURCES: Probation Case Management System Records, TSP School Data

The turnaround

Mayra successfully completed the TSP program and graduated in June 2016. She worked with a TSP officer for almost two years and had only 25 credits and failing grades when she began TSP. She also was defiant at home and often returned home late. The minor liked smoking marijuana and had to go through the Teen Recovery Center (TRC) out-patient drug treatment program twice before she successfully completed that program as well. When she first started working with the TSP officer, the minor acknowledged that anger management was something she needed to work on. She enrolled in individual counseling and her attitude improved. The minor graduated from high school with 222 credits, two credits over the 220 credits needed. Her mother is very proud of her turnaround. Mayra has future plans to work in the medical field.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

Substance abuse services

Program description

In contrast to the JDC program, which will be described in the next section, SAS was designed for youth with no prior substance abuse treatment experience. In FY 2003–2004, JJCPA funds previously allocated to the CAT program for the provision of substance abuse services were separated out from that program to provide these same services via a stand-alone contract with a new service provider in what became known as SAS.⁷

Through SAS, Juvenile Resource Specialists (JRS) provide case management, regular drug testing, and referral services through the contractor, Vista Hill. Youth with less severe substance abuse issues submit to a drug test three times per month as long as they are able to stay clean at this lower level of supervision. Youth with a higher level of need are enrolled in a treatment program that includes more intensive probation supervision, as well as classes related to substance use. These youth are tested an additional two times per month by Probation on top of the standard three drug tests per month by the treatment program.

FY 2015–2016 program changes

The SAS program remained stable over the past year with the staff changes being the addition of a full-time JRS to provide services to female minors in the program and an additional co-facilitator to assist with the family groups. Additionally a third track was created for diversion and informal supervision of participants. Upon program entry, each participant is assigned a JRS who tracks their case on a regular basis. The JRS staff can make recommendations for higher levels of service if needed but the final decision is made by the referring probation officer.

Research overview

The target population for SAS from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, was 400 wards of the court. In FY 2015–2016, 532 wards began or continued receiving program services, regardless of whether they exited by the end of the year.

Providing lasting services

Luis entered the SAS program and continued to fail the drug tests, but after continuing to participate in the program, he began to test clean. Along with his mother, Luis attended the Multi-Family Group on a regular basis. Through the support of the program, Luis began to do better in school and was successfully terminated from probation. He and his mother continue to attend the group sessions on a regular basis.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

⁷ SAS was initially one component of the Parenting, Mentoring and Substance Abuse program, which also included parenting and mentoring services. As mentioned previously, the parenting and mentoring components were eliminated in FY 2008–2009.

For the purpose of this evaluation, the current SAS sample consists of 340 youth who exited the program in FY 2015–2016. Outcome measures for SAS include data on criminal activity and completion of program obligations (Appendix Table B7), presence of positive drug tests (Appendix Table B8), and a client satisfaction questionnaire (CSQ) administered at program exit (Appendix Table B9). For comparison purposes, reference groups were created to reflect a “baseline” for the different measures based on the average performance of prior years’ participants.

The SAS reference group consists of 2,231 wards previously referred to the SAS program from FY 2005–2006 through FY 2010–2011. Criminal activity statistics for SAS youth were tracked for the first 240 days of the program, or through the end of the program if less than 240 days.

Sample descriptions

There were no significant differences in average age between the current year sample and reference group or in gender distribution. Both groups averaged about 17 years of age upon entry (current group was 16.5, SD = 1.16, range = 13 to 18 and reference group was 16.6, SD = 1.16, range = 11 to 19) and over 4 out of 5 participants were male (89% for FY 2015–2016 sample and 84% for the reference group) (Figure 11). However, there were differences in the average time spent in the program and the race of the clients. Specifically, the reference group spent significantly more time in the program (median =179 days, SD = range 11 to 1,382) compared to the FY 2015–2016 sample (median = 118, range 12 to 824).⁸ Additionally, the FY 2015–2016 sample were more likely to be Hispanic (60% versus 50% reference group), less likely to be White (20% versus 33% reference group), and more likely to consider themselves an Other ethnicity (6% versus 3%). The two groups were similar in participants who reported themselves as Black (14% current sample and 13% baseline) and Asian (1% for both groups) (Figure 10).

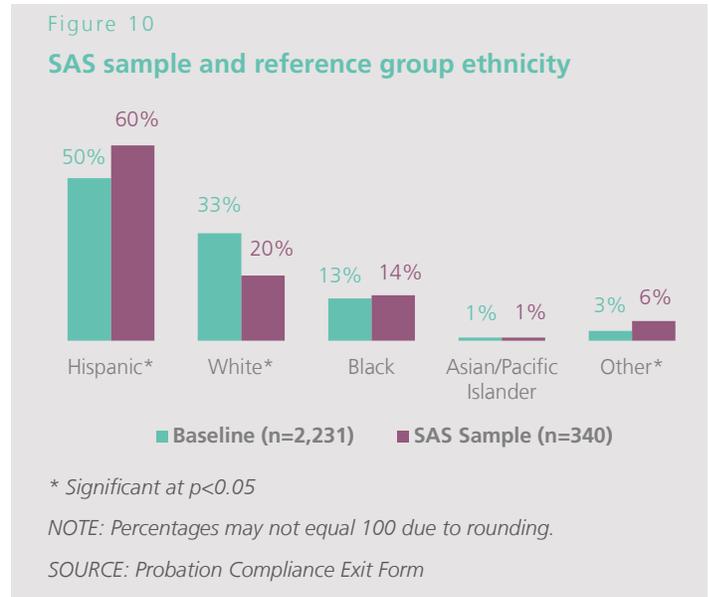
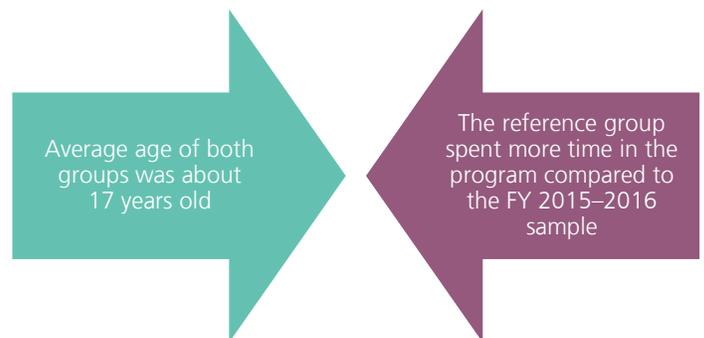


Figure 11
SAS sample and reference group average age and median days in the program



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 12
SAS sample and reference group gender proportions



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

⁸ The median is a more appropriate measure of central tendency than the mean because the data are skewed.

Outcomes

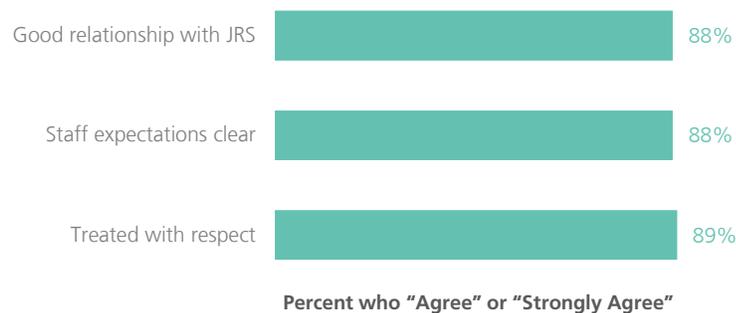
The reference group, also referred to as the Absolute Goal in Appendix B, provides a historical benchmark to compare the current sample to. As Figure 14 mentions, this fiscal year, 19 of the 23 benchmarks set by the baseline group were met or exceeded. Specifically, the current sample met or exceeded each of the criminal activity benchmarks. Notably, only 11 percent of the FY 2015–2016 sample was arrested compared to 19 percent of the baseline. Participants in the current year sample also had fewer referrals to probation (4% versus 11%), sustained petitions (2% versus 7%), and institutional commitments (1% versus 3%). However, not all the benchmarks were met and more of the current sample received a probation violation compared to the baseline sample (35% versus 26%). Likewise, the current year sample did not meet the other benchmarks for completing probation requirements, restitution, or community services requirements. The Appendix Tables previously noted provide more details on how participants who exited FY 2015–2016 performed while on probation.

Clients in the SAS program also complete a CSQ. Figure 13 shows the top three statements clients agreed the most with in regards to the program. Overall, the clients felt the program was helpful and aided in changing behaviors.

Lastly, participants are required to complete regular drug tests through the supervision period and the percentage of participants who test positive in the first 30 days of program participation is compared to the last 30 days. This year, positive drug tests declined⁹ from 48 percent testing positive upon entrance compared to 19 percent upon exit (Figure 14 and Appendix Table B8).

Figure 13

Participants generally felt the program had positive effects



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SAS Customer Satisfaction Questionnaire

⁹ Drug tests information are collected for all program participants regardless of whether or not they successfully completed the program. Additionally, urinalysis information is only analyzed if the participants had drug tests conducted in their first and last 30 days of program participation.

Figure 14

SAS highlights for FY 2015–2016

Positive drug tests declined from 48 percent testing positive in the first 30 days of the program compared to 19 percent in the last 30 days of the program

The current sample met or surpassed most of the criminal activity benchmarks with the exception of probation violations

Almost nine of ten participants staff was concerned with their well-being

SOURCES: Probation Compliance Exit Form, Probation Case Management System Records, and SAS Customer Satisfaction Questionnaire

Juvenile drug court

Program description

The Juvenile Drug Court (JDC), a partnership between the Juvenile Court, the Public Defender, the DA, Probation, treatment providers, and law enforcement is part of the continuum of services for wards with substance abuse issues. JJCPA funds initially were used to replace expiring grants effective July 1, 2001 and to augment the four-phase program by adding a fifth JDC session. Juveniles who have been non-compliant in drug treatment and who need increased monitoring and supervision by the court while living in the community are ordered into this program, which initially was designed to last 12 months.

The program goal is to help youth eliminate dependency/addiction and achieve sobriety through day treatment. Program elements include frequent JDC appearances, outpatient services, intensive supervision, frequent drug testing, peer group support, rewards and praise for compliant behavior, and immediate consequences/sanctions (e.g., institutional commitments) for non-compliant behavior. Non-compliant events include testing positive for alcohol or other drugs, failing to attend treatment, refusing to participate in treatment, not attending school, or failing to abide by the rules of their home or placement.

Upon entry into JDC, a JRS assigned to the Substance Abuse/JDC Unit refers the minor to a substance abuse treatment program in his/her neighborhood. Substance abuse treatment providers report on the minor's progress to the JRS. In addition, the JRS conducts field visits and drug testing at the schools and homes of JDC youth.

On a weekly basis, the probation officer provides case management and a youth progress report to the court on community, school, and family issues. Before each JDC session, the JDC Team reviews each minor's progress, including treatment and his/her behavior in the community and at home. Clean and sober, law-abiding behavior is required for program graduation.

Youth who successfully complete JDC are honored in an annual graduation ceremony. These graduations are supported by the community through donations for gifts to the youth and by representation from elected officials. The graduates serve as examples to participating clients through their successful completion and accomplishment of goals, such as being accepted to college, receiving awards for academic achievement, or finding a job.

In FY 2004–2005, the JDC program design was modified to become a three-phase program lasting nine months, instead of a 12-month, four-phase program. This change utilized JDC best practices, as adolescents can focus more easily on the shorter time periods to follow through with short-term goals. An aftercare component was added as part of phase three, during which youth prepare to graduate from the program and transition off probation.

Getting back on track

Javier was accepted into JDC with a history of marijuana abuse and poor academic grades. He was assigned a JRS and enrolled into a TRC, which he attended as required; however, he continued to use marijuana. He received counseling services and custodial sanctions, which frustrated Javier, as well as his mother. He had a hard time breaking habits and creating positive goals for himself. After several attempts with different interventions, Javier was committed to the Drug Dorm program at Camp Barrett. He received individual therapy and began journaling about his daily stresses. Upon completion of his commitment, Javier created new goals for himself and focused on completing high school. He attended a substance abuse family support group with his mother to help them understand and communicate with each other better and began a coaching position with a tee-ball league. His new goals helped Javier focus on more positive activities, and he was able to break bad habits, which were keeping him from progressing. After the season for the tee ball league ended, Javier discovered he really enjoyed working with children in a coaching capacity and looks forward to helping again next season. Javier completed the family support group with his mother and earned his high school diploma. His relationship with his family improved dramatically since achieving several of his goals, and he is spending more quality time with them. Javier currently is seeking employment and looking forward to his first semester in college.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

The eligibility requirements for JDC also were revised, allowing for a larger group of probationers to be screened. Specifically, while eligible youth must have been non-compliant in a substance abuse treatment program, this situation could have happened in school or a private treatment setting and not necessarily while the youth was on probation. This policy allows JDC to screen probationers who may have a high level of need though they have not been wards of the court previously. It also allows Probation staff to intervene before the youth reaches a higher level of substance abuse and delinquency. Another change in the eligibility criteria was to accept youth with co-occurring disorders. There also is more latitude in the screening process, with cases being reviewed on an individual basis. For example, while youth with any history of arson or violent offenses previously were not admitted to JDC, the program now has the option to request a psychological evaluation as part of the JDC screening for youth with histories of arson (over two years prior) or less serious violent offenses for possible inclusion in the program. Finally, some of the out-of-home placement options utilized by the program changed over time as well.

FY 2015–2016 program changes

This fiscal year, the JDC program saw several changes in staff positions. Due to the decrease in population served, a DPO position was removed, and a therapist left the program after completing her internship. Additionally, due to staff turnover, a therapist and a JRS position were filled. Lastly, the North County team saw the arrival of a new judge and a change in the Deputy District Attorney.

A large change that occurred in FY 2015–2016 was the closure of the program’s local residential treatment facility. The closure left a gap in service and youth must now be sent to another county when ordered to complete this type of program.

The program encountered another new challenge this year as staff is now responsible for transporting program participants from the Vista courthouse whenever a youth is remanded into custody. However, the caseload is too small to support another full-time position. This issue is under further review as options are explored.

On a positive note, JDC reported an increase in program participants graduating high school or completing their GED while in the program. Additionally, the program nearly doubled their numbers of participants obtaining employment while still in the program.

Research overview

The target population for July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, for JDC was 120 non-violent, first- or second-time wards of the court with substance abuse problems. A total of 131 youth began or continued receiving JDC services during FY 2015–2016.

The JDC sample described here includes 54 cases exiting the program in FY 2015–2016, regardless of when they entered. The reference group is based on data collection from 554 prior participants from FY 2006–2007 through FY 2010–2011. Information regarding criminal activity and completion of probation obligations during the period of program participation was tracked as part of the evaluation and is presented in Appendix Table B11. Statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 240 days of the program or through the end of the program if less than 240 days. In addition, drug test results were analyzed as a measure of program success and are presented in Appendix Table B10, and risk and resiliency assessment information for the sample was collected and is presented in Appendix Table B14. When interpreting the drug test results, it is important to note that the JDC serves a challenging target population and that initial failures do not result in immediate termination, which is consistent with the philosophy that relapse is part of recovery. Thus, during initial phases of the program, the participant may have several positive drug tests but can remain in the program if s/he continues to make efforts to change. When interpreting the urinalysis results drug tests are collected for all program participants regardless if they were successful in program participation. Additionally, analysis is only conducted on participants that have drug tests conducted within their first and last 30 days of program participation and also does not include youth that could have had drug tests conducted in residential treatment facilities.

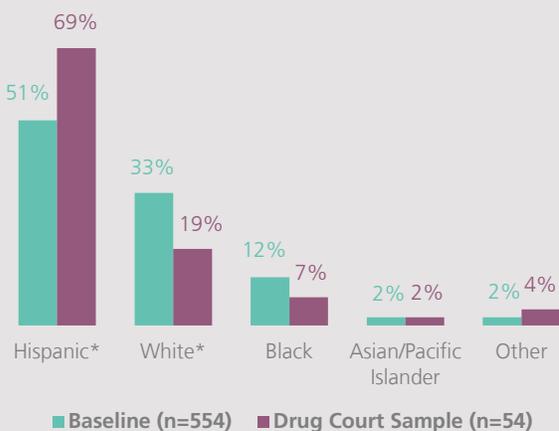
Sample descriptions

The two samples were largely similar, with both the FY 2015–2016 sample and the reference group consisting mostly of male participants (72% and 85%, respectively). In terms of age, the two samples differed slightly, though not significantly, with an average age of 16.2 years (SD = 0.77, range 15 to 17) for the current, while the baseline was 16.1 (SD = 0.80, range 14 to 17). With respect to duration of time spent in the program, the sample youth also spent more days in the program than the reference group (median 413 days, SD = 193.74, range 27 to 913) compared to the reference group (median 366 days, SD = 174.74, range 20 to 1,110); however, this difference also was not significant (Figures 16 and 17).

The ethnic makeup of the current sample differed significantly in two areas: More youth identified as Hispanic compared to the reference group (69% to 51%) and fewer identified as White (19% current sample versus 33% reference group) (Figure 15).

Figure 15

DC sample and reference group ethnicity

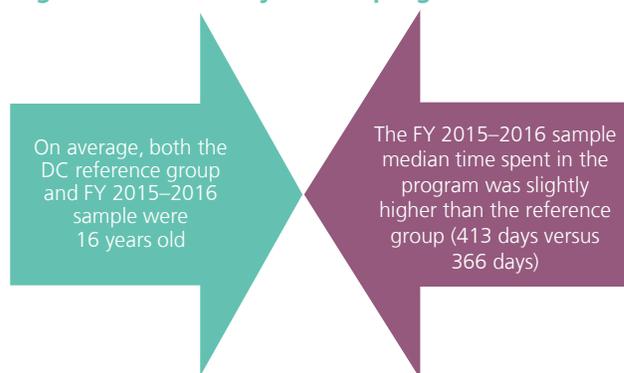


NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 16

DC sample and reference group average age and median days in the program



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 17

DC sample and reference group gender proportions



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Outcomes

The reference group, also referred to as the Absolute Goal in Appendix B, provides a historical benchmark to compare the current sample to. However, it should be kept in mind that the goal is only to meet these benchmarks, so significant differences are not considered here. The current year sample met or surpassed all but 3 of the 24 outcome measures. Notably, only 9 percent of youth were arrested while in the program, as compared to 33 percent in the reference group. Additionally, no youth had a sustained petition (as compared to the 17% benchmark) and only 4 percent received a referral to Probation (compared to 26%). The only measures the current year did not meet were probation violations, percent of those who completed their probation requirements, and completed community service requirements. Appendix B provides more detailed information about the program's outcomes over the past five years compared to the Absolute Goal (Appendix Tables B10, B11, and B14).

Figure 18

DC highlights FY 2015–2016

Not one of the participants in the current year had any sustained petitions compared to 17 percent of reference group participants

Positive drug tests dropped from 54 percent to 46 percent by the last 30 days of program participation

Only 4 percent of FY 2015–2016 participants received a Probation referral compared to 26 percent of the baseline group

SOURCES: Probation Compliance Exit Form, Probation Case Management System Records

Breaking cycles

Program description

Breaking Cycles is a graduated response¹⁰ program designed to serve approximately 500 high-risk youth, ages 12 to 18, on any given day. Youth are committed to BC by the Juvenile Court for a period of 150, 240, or 365 days. A multi-disciplinary team assessment process is used to review risk and needs and to develop a comprehensive case plan in response to the risks and needs assessed. Parents/caregivers and other family members are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the program, including parent support groups to ensure the youth is successful. Utilizing a team approach with the probation officer as the lead, BC provides a seamless continuum of services and graduated responses, with the ability to move the probationer up or down the continuum without returning to Juvenile Court, provided there is no new arrest.

This continuum of services assists in the transition from custody to the community and from program to program, thereby ensuring greater success for the youth in maintaining a crime-free and drug-free lifestyle. The BC umbrella of services includes assessment and reassessment teams, alcohol and drug treatment, mental health services, individual and family counseling, community supervision, case management, and the following programming options:

- Juvenile Ranch Facility (custody programs for boys) was an option until the facility was closed in August 2015 but programming was moved to Camp Barrett and is still a custodial component for boys
- Girls' Rehabilitation Facility (custody programs for girls)
- Youth Day Center-Central (day treatment as a step-down from or an alternative to custody, with a focus on family-centered services)
- Reflections Central day treatment program
- (a MediCal-certified site focusing on mental health and family issues, which provides day treatment as a step-down from custody or an alternative to an out-of-home placement in a residential treatment facility)
- North County Youth Day Center (day treatment as a step-down from or alternative to custody, with a focus on family-centered services)
- North County Reflections day treatment program (day treatment as a step-down from custody or an alternative to an out-of-home placement in a residential treatment facility, with a focus on mental health and family issues)
- Community Unit (an intensive, community-based, multiagency supervision and treatment program)

¹⁰ Originally known as a graduated *sanctions* program, the term was changed to graduated *response* to reflect current language used in evidenced-based practices and state legislation proposals.

Creating the desire to change

When he first arrived at Reflections, James had significant behavioral issues in the program and in the community. He was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and began to take medication to manage the symptoms. James also had a history of being sexually abused, and the trauma from this continued to express itself in his negative behaviors. He used alcohol and other drugs to self-medicate on a regular basis. While at the program, he participated in individual therapy with a counselor to process his past trauma and explore his behaviors, motivations, and patterns. James also attended daily groups at the program which provided him with a better understanding of the issues he was dealing with in his own life including gang involvement, drug abuse, depression, and family chaos. After months of resistance and ambivalence, James started to express a desire to change. He joined the running club at Reflections and started to thrive on the structure the program provided. He engaged in his groups and individual therapy and became an example for the rest of the students at the program. James graduated from Reflections in March, 2016, and transferred to a local high school to complete his education. In June, 2016, he graduated with his high school diploma and successfully completed probation shortly after. James is deciding between college and a career in the military, but in the meantime, he is working in order to save some money and help his mother.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

The JJCPA allocation replaced Challenge I grant funds that expired in June 2001. The JJCPA funds were utilized to retain and augment program staff and services. Adding staff to the program resulted in a significant increase in the number of available interventions, such as alcohol and drug-abuse counseling and treatment, individual and family counseling, mentoring, tutoring, vocational training, crisis intervention, conflict resolution, and life skills training.

FY 2015–2016 program changes

In FY 2015–2016 the BC program completed the Correctional Program Checklist which provided the program with recommendations to better address criminogenic needs in the population served. As a result of these recommendations, additional gender specific programs and a new curriculum to focus on criminogenic needs have been implemented, and written monthly progress reports are provided to parents.

Another notable change was that Social Advocates for Youth San Diego secured a grant to implement a therapeutic writing program. The intention of the program is to increase insight and sensitivity in the youths, as well as provide a healthy way for youths to express their emotions and an outlet to discuss trauma in their lives.

Similar to last fiscal year, a challenge for the BC program was the continued absence of an on-site psychiatrist at Youth Day Center Central since many youth have mental health issues and require psychotropic medication. In order to address this issue, staff worked with interns to formulate a plan for youth who needed medication and made referrals to local service providers in order to properly address any psychiatric needs.

Research overview

On an annual basis, BC targets medium- to high-risk wards of the court, ages 12 to 18, who are committed to the program by the Juvenile Court, along with their siblings and families. All areas of the County are served. Between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, 822 juveniles began or continued serving a BC commitment.

Of the BC youth, 110 exited during FY 2015–2016 and were tracked as part of this evaluation effort. The reference group for this program was comprised of juveniles who were committed to BC between FY 2006–2007 through FY 2010–2011.

Criminal activity information was collected for both groups for the first 240 days of program participation, or through the end of the program if less than 240 days, and information regarding completion of probation obligations was provided by program staff (Appendix Table B12).

Star student

Prior to attending Reflections, Suzanna was having difficulty with her relationship with her parents, substance abuse issues, and low self-esteem. While in the program, Suzanna really began to believe in herself and started to apply herself in the classroom. For example, she submitted a poem to and received the first place ribbon in her poem category. This continued to inspire her, and shortly after she successfully completed the Reflections North program, she was terminated from Probation successfully. Just a few months later, she received her high school diploma. Suzanna has been off Probation for several months now, but she has continued to return to meet with staff and ask for guidance.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

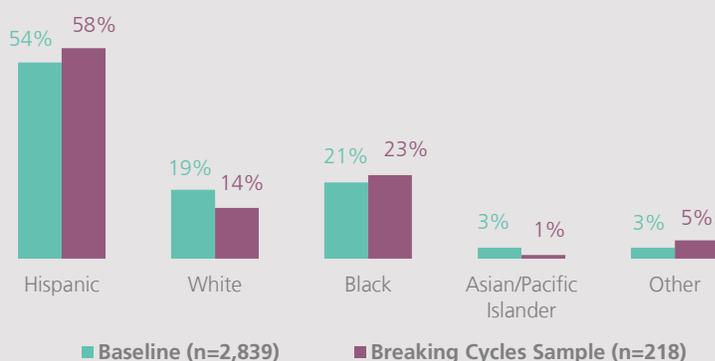
Sample descriptions

As Figure 19 shows, the ethnic composition of the FY 2015–2016 BC sample and reference group was similar. The groups also had similar average (mean) ages (15.8 years, SD = 0.99, range 13 to 17 for sample and 15.8 years, SD = 0.91, range 12 to 18 for reference group) and time spent in the program (median 237, SD = 101.15, range 78 to 629 for the sample and median 238, SD = 86.59, range 17 to 734 for the reference group) (Figure 20). Time in the program beyond 365 days was due to commitment extensions.

However, there was a significant difference in the gender makeup between both groups with more males in the current year sample than the reference group (80% versus 69%) (Figure 21).

Figure 19

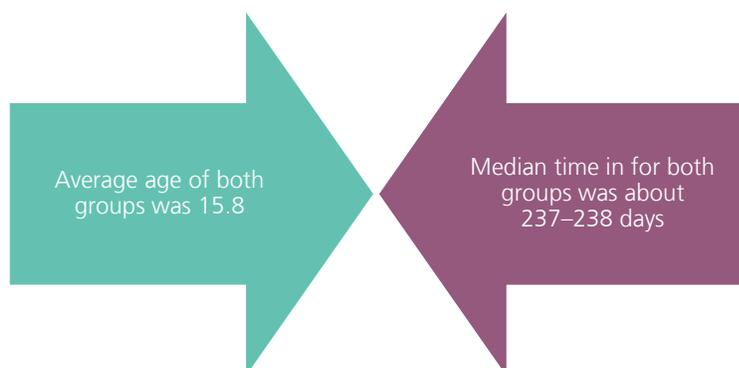
Breaking Cycles sample and reference group ethnicity



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 20

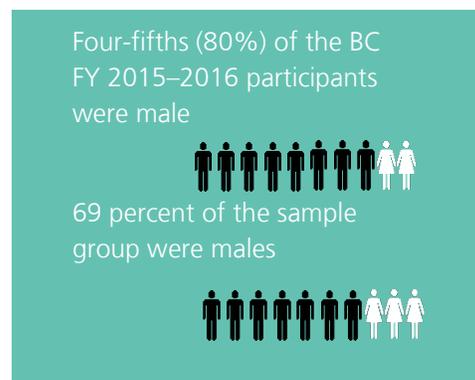
Breaking Cycles sample and reference group average age and median days in the program



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 21

Breaking Cycles sample and reference group gender proportions



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Outcomes

The average number of protective factors increased significantly over time for the most recent BC sample with an average increase of almost three points. However, there was no significant change in risk or resiliency scores (Appendix Table B14).

The reference group, also referred to as the Absolute Goal in Appendix B, provides a historical benchmark to compare the current sample to. However, it should be kept in mind that the goal is only to meet these benchmarks, so significant differences are not considered here. The current year sample met or surpassed 20 of the 24 outcome measures set by the reference group. Only ten percent of the current year sample were arrested while in the program (compared to the 17% benchmark), while only 9 percent obtained a referral (compared to 14%), and 5 percent had a sustained petition (compared to 10%). Of the outcome benchmarks that were not met, the largest difference was seen with 52 percent of the current sample receiving a probation violation where only 21 percent of the reference group received one. Other measures included the current year sample receiving slightly more drug and "other" referrals (2% versus 1% and 5% versus 4%, respectively). Appendix Table B12 provides more detailed information about the program's outcomes over the past five years compared to the Absolute Goal.

Figure 22

FY 2015–2016 Breaking Cycles highlights

FY 2015–2016 had fewer participants arrested than the reference group (10% compared to 17%)

The current year sample met or surpassed 20 of the 24 outcome measures set by the reference group

SOURCES: ARJIS Records, Probation Case Management System Records

Juvenile forensic assistance for stabilization and treatment

Program description

JFAST is a rehabilitation program for mentally ill youth that provides access to individualized treatment and strengthens family stability. Implemented in July 2010, JFAST incorporates an evidence-based drug court model to address the mental health needs of youth within the criminal justice system. Partners from the Juvenile Court; Public Defender; DA; Stabilization, Treatment, Assessment and Transition program; Vista Hill Clinic; and the Probation Department make up the JFAST team. The team meets weekly to review candidates for the program, develop treatment plans, and assess youth progression/graduation.

The program's objective is to enroll participants in individualized mental health programs that utilize a community treatment approach and can include individual and/or group therapy, case management, wrap-around services, education assistance, and referral to medication assistance. The program also uses a combination of incentives to encourage positive behavior or sanctions to address program noncompliance. Youth who are accepted into the JFAST program typically have chronic alcohol and/or other drug abuse issues, take prescription medication related to mental health, and have a mental health diagnosis beyond an Axis I — Conduct Disorder. The JFAST program works with participants who have experienced significant mental health episodes, which threaten in-home placement and place them at risk for removal to a group home or residential treatment facility.

JFAST's overall goal is to promote rehabilitation and public safety while reducing recidivism because it is one of the last viable options to keep youth in their home and community prior to a recommendation to the court for a commitment into a residential treatment facility. JFAST was added to JJCPA formal evaluation in FY 2012–2013 at the recommendation of the JJCC because it provided services to San Diego youth and families whose needs were not adequately being addressed. In November 2012, the JFAST program was moved from Probation's Placement Unit to the BC Division. This transfer allowed probation officers to provide greater supervision and case management services to youth.

Addressing the real problem

Prior to JFAST, Gabriela was struggling with substance abuse, as well as emotional, family, and compliance issues with Probation conditions. It appeared that her mental health and trauma could be a source of her lack of progress, and so she was screened for the behavioral health court.

Upon her acceptance into the JFAST program, she received individual therapy, alcohol and drug services, and wrap-around services to help improve her home life. When she discovered she was pregnant, she continued to excel within her probation requirements and took an active role in educating herself on her pregnancy. Despite this additional challenge, she participated in wrap-around services, maintained sobriety, and continued to work toward her high school diploma. Gabriela's new focus was taking care of her baby and successfully graduated from the JFAST program.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

FY 2015–2016 program changes

A significant change for the JFAST program this most recent fiscal year was that it was moved from the BC Division to the Placement Division as a result of restructuring and realignment changes within Probation. This move helped to provide continuous case management, and eliminated the transition from one division to the next that also required the assignment of a new probation officer. This change was welcome and the transfer took place without any issues or disruptions.

The JFAST program also saw a number of significant staff changes as a result of the move from the BC Division to the Placement Division. Within Probation, the Division Chief of the Placement Division assumed oversight of the program and a new SPO within the Placement Division was assigned to oversee the JFAST program. Amongst the judicial partners, the originating Public Defender and Deputy District Attorney transferred and were replaced. Lastly, among service providers, a new supervising clinician assumed oversight of the counseling team, and two new counseling positions were added to the program.

Research overview

On an annual basis, JFAST targets approximately 40 at-risk wards of the court ages 12 to 18 with mental health issues and who are committed to the program by the Juvenile Court, along with their siblings and families. Between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, 57 juveniles began or continued serving a JFAST commitment. Of these 57 youth, 24 exited during FY 2015–2016 and were tracked as part of this evaluation effort. The reference group for this program was comprised of a sample of 38 juveniles who exited the JFAST program in FY 2011–2012.

Criminal activity information was collected for both the JFAST sample and reference groups for the first 240 days of program participation, or through the end of the program if less than 240 days, and information regarding completion of probation obligations was provided by program staff (Appendix Table B13). In addition, SDRRC data were analyzed for the current sample (Appendix Table B14).

Stepping in to save lives

Matthew initially was placed on probation for threats against his brother. While on regular supervision, he struggled academically and was unable to complete his community service hours. Matthew presented numerous mental health challenges and was hospitalized on at least one occasion for suicidal ideation as well as self-harming behaviors. During a stint in juvenile hall, he was placed on suicide watch after an officer observed him sitting by his bunk with a sheet around his neck. After just over a year of regular supervision, Matthew was referred to and accepted in the JFAST program. While in the JFAST program, Matthew was supported by wrap-around services, individual and family therapy, an educational advocate, and psychiatric services for medication. He struggled with his coping skills and was taken to the hospital on two occasions. However, with the support of Probation, the Court and his JFAST team, he was able to improve. Matthew mended his family relationships, maintained medication compliance, remained drug free, obtained appropriate special education services, and strengthened his coping skills. Matthew successfully graduated from the JFAST program and had his entire petition dismissed by the Court.

NOTE: Name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.

Sample descriptions

The ethnic makeup of both groups was very similar, with only slightly more participants identifying as Hispanic in the current sample (48% versus 40%) (Figure 23). The groups also were similar on Other average (mean) age (16.1 years, SD = 0.88, range 14 to 18, for sample and 16.3 years, SD = 0.89, range 14 to 18 for reference group (Figure 24). There also was only a slight difference in the median time spent in the program with the current year sample spending 287 days (SD = 132.79, range 35 to 596) in the program and the baseline group spending 265 days (SD = 112.36, range 35 to 495) in the program (Figure 24).

As in the past (not shown), the current sample tended to consist of more male participants than the baseline sample (79% versus 53%); however, due to the small group sizes this year, this difference was not significant (Figure 25).

Figure 23

JFAST sample and reference group ethnicity

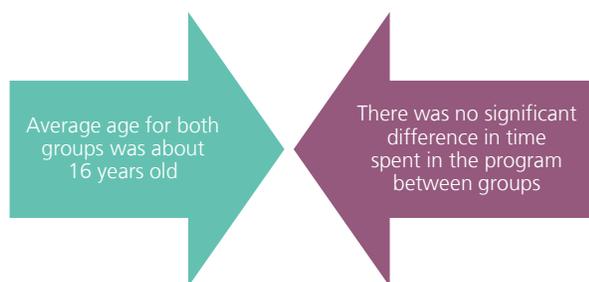


NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Cases with missing data are not counted.

SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 24

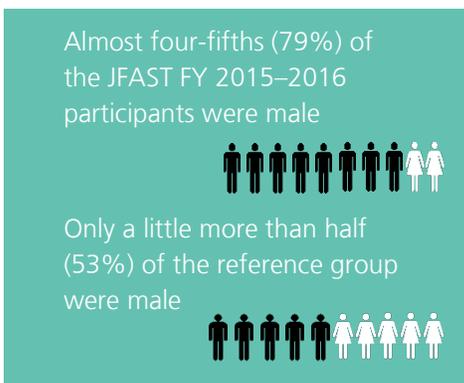
JFAST sample and reference group average age and time spent in the program



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Figure 25

JFAST sample and reference group gender proportions



SOURCE: Probation Compliance Exit Form

Outcomes

The reference group, also referred to as the Absolute Goal in Appendix B, provides a historical benchmark to compare the current sample to. However, it should be kept in mind that the goal is only to meet these benchmarks, so significant differences are not considered here. The current year sample met or surpassed all but 2 of the 24 outcome measures set by the reference group. Most notably, the current year sample had no sustained petitions, compared to 5 percent of the baseline group, and no institutional commitments, compared to 3 percent (Figure 26 and Appendix Table B13). Additionally, the current year sample had slightly fewer arrests (13% versus 16%) and markedly fewer referrals to Probation (4% versus 11%). The current year sample met all of the criminal activity benchmarks only with the exception of “other” referrals received, where the current year received slightly more (4% versus 3%). Moreover, in the Probation measures, the current year surpassed all but one measure (Appendix Table B13).

Figure 26

JFAST highlights for FY 2015–2016



SOURCES: ARJIS Records, Probation Case Management System Records, Probation Compliance Exit Form

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Appendix A

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History and background

Development of the Comprehensive Strategy

During the 1990s, San Diego County experienced an increase in juvenile crime and violence. It was recognized that a new method of perceiving, approaching, and resolving juvenile delinquency issues was needed. The goals of the new strategy were to prevent and reduce juvenile crime and delinquency, promote positive development of youth, and increase the safety of communities. The pursuit of an innovative, comprehensive, integrated, and collaborative system of prevention, intervention, and treatment services for youth and families resulted in San Diego County becoming one of the first three sites in the nation to be provided with technical assistance from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for the implementation of a “Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offenders.” As part of the implementation, consultants hired by the OJJDP from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and Development Research Programs conducted a local site visit to San Diego and provided training to county and community policymakers, other key leaders, and 200-line staff and community members in December 1996. During this training, participants made a commitment to join and participate in the San Diego County Comprehensive Strategy Team. Two task forces (Graduated Sanctions and Prevention) were formed (and later combined) with the purpose of continuing the planning process for the Comprehensive Strategy by focusing on the issues of resource development, coordination, community engagement, advocacy, key leader buy-in, and information sharing. These efforts culminated in a two-day workshop in October 1997 with more than 150 participants developing six promising approaches to fill the needs and gaps identified in the continuum of services, from prevention through graduated sanctions. In the fall of 1998, the San Diego County Comprehensive Strategy for Youth, Family, and Community was published and widely distributed to stakeholders and others throughout the region.

The San Diego County Comprehensive Strategy proposed an integrated systems approach, with the expectation of sustained and measured results, that was based upon the shared vision that all of San Diego’s youth could develop into Caring, Literate, Educated, and Responsible (CLEAR) community members. Borrowing from OJJDP, the San Diego County Comprehensive Strategy began with the same five general principles: (1) strengthening families; (2) supporting core social institutions in their roles of developing capable, mature, and responsible youth; (3) promoting prevention as the most cost-effective and humane approach to reducing juvenile delinquency; (4) intervening immediately and effectively when delinquent behavior occurs; and (5) identifying and sanctioning a small group of the most serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's role

In 1996, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors appointed a 22-member Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) that combined expertise from all areas of the juvenile justice system in San Diego County. The JJCC represents a regional coordinated effort with the goal of working to strengthen communities and families to develop healthy and responsible youth through prevention, intervention, and, when appropriate, graduated sanctions. The JJCC is involved in continually refining the juvenile justice plan and selecting and designing best practice, proven programs to fill the identified gaps in the continuum of juvenile justice services.

In December 1996, with funding from a planning grant through the California Board of Corrections (BOC) (now called the Corrections Standards Authority), the JJCC was tasked with completing the Senate Bill 1760 Local Action Plan (LAP), as well as coordinating the San Diego County Comprehensive Strategy planning process. By early 1997, San Diego's first LAP, with strategies to prevent and reduce juvenile crime, was completed and submitted to the BOC, along with a grant proposal in response to their Challenge I solicitation for juvenile programming. San Diego County was successful in this endeavor and began implementation of the Breaking Cycles (BC) Demonstration Project in July 1997. At this time, BC consisted of two components: a graduated sanctions program and a prevention program called the Community Assessment Teams (CAT).

Additional Challenge Grant funds became available in 1998, providing San Diego with the opportunity to offer gender-responsive services for at-risk young female offenders when they first enter the juvenile justice system. The 1997 LAP was updated, published, and submitted in 1999, along with a proposal to implement the Working to Insure and Nurture Girls' Success (WINGS) program. This grant also was awarded, and the WINGS program commenced on July 1, 1999.

Recognizing the valuable input service providers have with respect to meeting the needs of at-risk youth while being sensitive to conflict-of-interest issues, the composition of the JJCC was changed, and a separate entity, the Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy Task Force (JJCST), was formed in February 2006. The purpose of this new group was for service providers, legislators, and the general public to have input in the process without direct involvement in funding decisions. The purpose of the JJCC remained the same, and it continues to be chaired by the Chief Probation Officer and is comprised of members from the District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, city police, Board of Supervisors, Health and Human Services, and education departments, as well as the faith and business communities. Community-based agencies also participate as long as they are not recipients of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds. The JJCC and the JJCST continue to meet on a regular basis. This two-pronged structure enables the JJCC to ensure equitable and unbiased funding decisions, while maintaining the flow of information critical in addressing the needs of at-risk youth and their families. The JJCC receives input from the JJCST, provides oversight for the Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan, and has made great strides in improving outcomes for San Diego.

JJCPA planning process

In 2000, the JJCPA provided another opportunity for San Diego to expand delinquency-prevention and intervention programs. The JJCPA called for an in-depth evaluation of local juvenile justice systems to identify and prioritize neighborhoods, schools, and communities facing significant juvenile crime and public safety risk. The JJCPA also sought to develop local juvenile justice strategies that would provide a continuum of responses to juvenile crime.

In August 2000, members from the JJCC, the Comprehensive Strategy Coordinator, and Probation staff formed a Technical Working Group (TWG). The purpose of this group was to gather and review information (including previous LAPs that accompanied BOC Challenge I and Challenge II grant applications, as well as arrest, probation referral, and placement statistics) and formulate specific recommendations for the full Council to consider. In addition to meeting on a weekly basis, the TWG also distributed a community survey to over 700 local stakeholders and used the responses to help guide the discussion regarding regional and community risk factors, needs, and issues. After reviewing the compiled information and the recommendations of the TWG, the Council identified the top risk factors for juvenile delinquency in San Diego County: Family management problems, substance abuse and the availability of drugs, negative peer influence, and lack of school commitment. Based upon these risk factors, the top needs/gaps in the system were identified as:

- Family services
- Positive peer influence
- Truancy programs/services
- Mentoring
- Competency building

On November 1, 2000, the JJCC voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that JJCPA funds be used in FY 2001–2002 to continue existing and proven programs where grant funds were expiring and to augment existing and proven programs to meet the needs/gaps in the identified communities. Two weeks later, the JJCC identified seven programs for JJCPA funding and adopted a draft proposal. These originally included three prevention programs (CAT, the Truancy Suppression Project, and the Community Youth Collaborative); one intervention program (WINGS); two supervision programs (Repeat Offender Prevention Program and Juvenile Drug Court); and a graduated sanctions program (BC). However, it should be noted that categorizing each of the programs is somewhat artificial, as they often encompass a continuum of services that include prevention, intervention, supervision, and treatment.

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Appendix B

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Table B1
CAT outcome statistics by sample year

	Absolute goal	2011–2012 sample	2012–2013 sample	2013–2014 sample	2014–2015 sample	2015–2016 sample
Arrested	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%
Probation referral	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Felony-level referral	1%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	0%
Referral type						
No referral	98%	98%	99%	98%	98%	99%
Violent	1%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%
Property	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%
Drug	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%
Other	1%	1%	<1%	2%	1%	<1%
Status	0%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%
Municipal Code/infraction	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sustained petition*	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%
Felony-level sustained petition*	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Sustained petition type						
No sustained petition	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%
Violent*	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Property*	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Drug	0%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Other*	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%
Status	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infraction	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Institutional commitment*	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Total	9,896	1,859	1,557	1,329	2,485	2,350

* Significant difference between FY 2015–2016 sample and absolute goal. Significant differences are determined using the 0.05 threshold.

NOTE: Statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 90 days of the program, or through the end of the program if less than 90 days. The CAT "absolute goal" consists of 9,896 wards referred to Probation from FY 2006-2007 through FY 2010–2011. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: ARJIS, PCMS Records

Table B2
CAT FY 2015–2016 youth customer satisfaction questionnaire results

	Intake	Exit
Client knowledge of community resources*		
None	63%	10%
1 or 2	29%	57%
3 or 4	6%	20%
5 or more	3%	13%
Client use of community resources*		
None	75%	20%
1 or 2	22%	69%
3 or 4	2%	9%
5 or more	1%	2%
Client perceptions about school		
Regularly attending school*	88%	96%
Feels doing well/very well in school*	61%	93%
Feels positive about school*	59%	82%
Client perception of ability to manage conflict and solve problems		
Always/sometimes handles problems with others well*	69%	96%
Client satisfaction with services		At exit
Would refer a friend to the program		88%
Somewhat/very satisfied with program services		96%
Total		1,497–1,526

* Significant at $p < 0.05$

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CAT Youth Customer Satisfaction Questionnaire

Table B3
CAT FY 2015–2016 parent customer satisfaction questionnaire results

	Intake	Exit
Parent/guardian knowledge of community resources*		
None	56%	7%
1 or 2	34%	54%
3 or 4	7%	26%
5 or more	2%	13%
Parent/guardian use of community resources*		
None	65%	7%
1 or 2	32%	74%
3 or 4	3%	16%
5 or more	1%	3%
Parent/guardian perception of how child doing in school		
Feels doing well/very well in school*	41%	85%
Parent/guardian perceptions of positive family communication and influence of child's peers		
Family communicates well/very well*	51%	92%
Friends are a positive influence*	44%	87%
Parent/guardian satisfaction with services		
Would refer a friend's family to program	99%	
Somewhat/very satisfied with program services	98%	
Total	533–544	

* Significant at $p < 0.05$

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CAT Parent/Guardian Customer Satisfaction Questionnaire

Table B4
Median number of days in CAT program by fiscal year

	Absolute goal	2013–14 sample	2014–15 sample	2015–16 sample
All clients				
Median days in program	88.0	85.0	85.0	84.0
Range	1–1,127	4–362	8–479	1–452
Total	9,896	1,329	2,485	2,349

SOURCE: CAT Client Data

Table B5
TSP outcome statistics by sample year

	Absolute goal	2012–2013 sample	2013–2014 sample	2014–2015 sample	2015–2016 sample
Arrested	8%	4%	8%	7%	3%
Probation referral	6%	9%	6%	5%	4%
Felony-level referral	2%	1%	3%	3%	2%
Referral type					
No referral	94%	97%	94%	95%	96%
Violent	1%	1%	<1%	1%	2%
Property	2%	1%	3%	3%	1%
Drug	<1%	0%	<1%	1%	0%
Other	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%
Status	<1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infraction	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sustained petition	4%	1%	3%	2%	2%
Felony-level sustained petition	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Sustained petition type					
No sustained petition	96%	99%	97%	98%	98%
Violent	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Property	2%	0%	3%	1%	0%
Drug	<1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Status	<1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infraction	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Institutional commitment	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Probation violation	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Total	1,178	136	153	105	133
Complete probation requirements	67%	68%	65%	73%	67%
Total	1,178	136	153	105	133
Complete community service*	85%	78%	75%	79%	69%
Total	1,161	130	126	84	93

* Significant difference between FY 2015–2016 sample and absolute goal. Significant differences are determined using the 0.05 threshold.

NOTE: Statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 120 days of the program, or through the end of the program if less than 120 days. The TSP “absolute goal” consists of 1,161 wards referred to Probation for truancy from FY 2004–2005 through FY 2009–2010. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: ARJIS, PCMS Records, Probation Compliance Exit Form

Table B6
TSP clients' FY 2015–2016 school-related outcomes

	Intake	Exit
Average GPA*	1.00	1.35
Average days attended	72%	64%
At appropriate grade level at exit		98%
No suspensions during program		99%
No expulsions during program		95%
Total		98–133

* Significant at $p < 0.05$

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: School Records

Table B7
SAS outcome statistics by sample year

	Absolute goal	2011–2012 sample	2012–2013 sample	2013–2014 sample	2014–2015 sample	2015–2016 sample
Arrested*	19%	17%	17%	17%	19%	11%
Probation referral*	11%	10%	11%	9%	7%	4%
Felony-level referral*	5%	6%	5%	3%	2%	2%
Referral type						
No referral	89%	90%	88%	91%	93%	96%
Violent	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%
Property*	4%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Drug	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Other*	3%	1%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Status	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infracton	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
Sustained petition*	7%	7%	7%	4%	3%	2%
Felony-level sustained petition	4%	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Sustained petition type						
No sustained petition	93%	93%	93%	96%	97%	98%
Violent	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	<1%
Property*	3%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%
Drug	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	<1%
Other*	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Municipal Code/infracton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Institutional commitment*	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Probation violation*	26%	44%	40%	43%	17%	35%
Total	2,231	280	338	287	162	340
Complete probation requirements*	62%	71%	64%	68%	68%	52%
Total	2,231	280	338	287	162	340
Complete restitution*	59%	58%	54%	52%	41%	50%
Total	835	109	153	97	56	97
Complete community service*	71%	77%	81%	81%	74%	59%
Total	1,734	236	271	226	133	285

* Significant difference between FY 2015–2016 sample and absolute goal. Significant differences are determined using the 0.05 threshold.

NOTE: Statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 240 days of the program, or through the end of the program if less than 240 days. The SAS "absolute goal" consists of 2,231 wards referred to Probation from FY 2006-2007 through FY 2010–2011. Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: ARJIS, PCMS Records, Probation Compliance Exit Form

Table B8
SAS FY 2015–2016 positive drug tests

	Intake	Exit
Positive drug tests*	48%	19%
Total	171	

* Significant differences are determined using the 0.05 threshold

SOURCE: Substance Abuse Services Drug Test Results

Table B9
SAS client satisfaction with program and staff

Treated with respect	89%
Staff expectations clear	88%
Good relationship with Juvenile Recovery Specialist	88%
Staff concerned with well-being	87%
Satisfied with the substance abuse services	86%
Helped stop substance use	85%
Satisfied with program experience	85%
Treatment fits needs	85%
Changed feelings about substance abuse	84%
Learned a lot in alcohol and drug class	83%
Would recommend the program to a friend	81%
Learned a lot in relapse prevention class	80%
Total	204–234

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages include clients who responded "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" on a five-point scale.

SOURCE: Substance Abuse Services Client Satisfaction Survey

Table B10
Drug Court FY 2015–15 positive drug tests

	Intake	Exit
Positive drug tests	54%	46%
Total	26	

* Significant differences are determined using the 0.05 threshold

SOURCE: PCMS Records

Table B11
Drug Court outcome statistics by sample year

	Absolute goal	2011–2012 sample	2012–2013 sample	2013–2014 sample	2014–2015 sample	2015–2016 sample
Arrested*	33%	25%	23%	37%	29%	9%
Probation referral*	26%	22%	20%	26%	26%	4%
Felony-level referral*	14%	11%	6%	6%	9%	0%
Referral type						
No referral	74%	78%	80%	74%	74%	96%
Violent	3%	5%	1%	2%	3%	0%
Property	11%	8%	7%	8%	9%	2%
Drug	5%	4%	9%	6%	0%	0%
Other	7%	5%	9%	8%	14%	0%
Status	<1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infraction	<1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Sustained petition*	17%	13%	17%	11%	17%	0%
Felony-level sustained petition*	12%	9%	7%	3%	6%	0%
Sustained petition type						
No sustained Petition	83%	87%	83%	89%	83%	100%
Violent	2%	2%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Property*	10%	7%	3%	5%	9%	0%
Drug	2%	3%	3%	5%	0%	0%
Other	3%	2%	6%	2%	9%	0%
Status	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infraction	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Institutional commitment+	8%	5%	9%	2%	3%	0%
Probation violation	8%	9%	3%	0%	0%	15%
Total	554	106	69	65	35	54
Complete probation requirements*	71%	81%	81%	83%	51%	44%
Total	532	106	69	65	35	54
Complete restitution	69%	73%	75%	88%	75%	78%
Total	203	44	24	33	16	14
Complete community service	85%	73%	92%	72%	88%	81%
Total	264	80	63	63	32	53

* Significant difference between FY 2015–2016 sample and absolute goal. Significant differences are determined using the 0.05 threshold.

+ Institutional commitment is one of the many sanctions included in the program design. Only court-ordered institutional commitments over 90 days that are received due to new charges are included. Institutional commitment rates for the current sample and Absolute Goal may not be comparable due to changes in the out-of-home placement options available to and utilized by the Drug Court over time.

NOTE: Statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 240 days of the program, or through the end of the program if less than 240 days. The Juvenile Drug Court "absolute goal" is based on data collection of 554 youth from FY 2006–2007 through FY 2010–2011. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: ARJIS, PCMS Records, Probation Compliance Exit Form

Table B12
Breaking Cycles outcome statistics by sample year

	Absolute goal	2011–12 sample	2012–13 sample	2013–14 sample	2014–15 sample	2015–16 sample
Arrested	17%	18%	16%	19%	22%	10%
Probation referral	14%	15%	13%	13%	18%	9%
Felony-level referral	9%	7%	6%	7%	9%	4%
Referral type						
No referral	86%	85%	87%	86%	82%	91%
Violent	4%	5%	2%	3%	4%	3%
Property*	5%	4%	5%	7%	9%	0%
Drug	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Other	4%	4%	6%	2%	3%	5%
Status	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infraction	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%
Sustained petition	10%	8%	8%	9%	13%	5%
Felony-level sustained petition	7%	3%	5%	6%	6%	3%
Sustained petition type						
No sustained petition	90%	92%	92%	91%	87%	96%
Violent	3%	2%	3%	2%	4%	2%
Property*	4%	3%	4%	6%	6%	0%
Drug	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%
Other	3%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Status	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infraction	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Institutional commitment ⁺	5%	2%	4%	4%	7%	2%
Probation violation* [^]	21%	24%	27%	37%	36%	52%
Total	2,839	474	420	332	218	110
Complete probation requirements*	74%	73%	72%	69%	59%	65%
Total	2,839	474	420	332	218	110
Complete restitution	44%	46%	46%	38%	34%	53%
Total	1,322	223	188	122	94	38
Complete community service*	68%	81%	70%	61%	54%	54%
Total	2,070	377	329	251	179	92

* Significant difference between FY 2015–2016 sample and absolute goal. Significant differences are determined using the 0.05 threshold.

+ Institutional commitment is one of the many sanctions included in the program design. Only court-ordered institutional commitments over 90 days that are received due to new charges are included.

[^] Probation has the ability to impose custodial or other sanctions without returning the minor to court as long as they have an active Breaking Cycles (BC) commitment. BC utilizes this continuum of responses and, only in certain circumstances, does not return a ward to court for violation proceedings unless the ward has a new charge. As a result, the probation violation rate outcome reflects an improved response to probation violations.

NOTE: Statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 240 days of the program, or through the end of the program if less than 240 days. The absolute goal for this program was comprised of a data collected on 2,839 juveniles who were committed to BC between FY 2006-2007 through FY 2010–2011. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: ARJIS, PCMS Records, Probation Compliance Exit Form

Table B13
JFAST outcome statistics by sample year

	Absolute goal	2012–2013 sample	2013–2014 sample	2014–2015 sample	2015–2016 sample
Arrested	16%	25%	15%	34%	16%
Probation referral	11%	16%	10%	31%	8%
Felony-level referral	8%	13%	2%	9%	0%
Referral type					
No referral	89%	84%	90%	69%	92%
Violent*	0%	3%	2%	16%	4%
Property	8%	6%	7%	6%	0%
Drug	0%	3%	0%	3%	0%
Other	3%	3%	0%	6%	4%
Status/probation violation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infracton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sustained petition	5%	9%	0%	9%	4%
Felony-level sustained petition	0%	9%	0%	3%	0%
Sustained petition type					
No sustained petition	95%	91%	100%	91%	96%
Violent	0%	0%	0%	9%	4%
Property	3%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Drug	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Other	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Status	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Municipal Code/infracton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Institutional commitment ⁺	3%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Probation violation [^]	42%	22%	46%	3%	28%
Total	38	32	33	32	25
Complete probation requirements	92%	97%	81%	77%	72%
Total	38	32	33	31	25
Complete restitution	75%	60%	36%	71%	83%
Total	4	5	4	7	6
Complete community service	76%	72%	70%	77%	81%
Total	33	25	33	22	21

* Significant difference between FY 2015–2016 sample and absolute goal

+ Institutional commitment is one of the many sanctions included in the program design. Only court-ordered institutional commitments over 90 days that are received due to new charges are included.

[^] Probation has the ability to impose custodial or other sanctions without returning the minor to court as long as they have an active Juvenile Forensic Assistance for Stabilization and Treatment (JFAST) commit. JFAST, similar to BC utilizes this continuum of responses and, only in certain circumstances, does not return a ward to court for violation proceedings unless the ward has a new charge. As a result, the probation violation rate outcome reflects an improved response to probation violations.

NOTE: Statistics related to criminal activity were tracked for the first 240 days of the program, or through the end of the program if less than 240 days. The absolute goal group for this program was comprised of a sample of 38 juveniles who were committed to JFAST between FY 2010–2011 and FY 2011–12. Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: ARJIS, PCMS Records, Probation Compliance Exit Form

Table B14
Average FY 2015–16 protective, risk, and resiliency scores by program

	Protective		Risk		Resiliency	
	Intake	Exit	Intake	Exit	Intake	Exit
CAT (n = 2,177)	7.4	12.3*	6.0	4.3*	1.4	8.0*
TSP (n = 112)	5.0	6.8*	10.3	10.0	-5.4	-3.2*
Drug Court (n = 42)	3.4	7.0*	12.5	12.7	-5.7	-9.1
Breaking Cycles (n = 68)	3.3	6.1*	13.1	13.6	-7.5	-9.8
JFAST (n = 22)	2.3	6.5*	11.2	11.6	-8.9	-5.1

* Significant at $p < 0.05$

SOURCE: San Diego Regional Resiliency Checkup