

Overview of the DCTAT Data for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program

Since 2002, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has administered the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) program, which seeks to reduce juvenile offending through both offender- and system-focused initiatives that promote offender accountability. The program imposes graduated sanctions according to the nature and severity of the offense. It also attempts to strengthen juvenile justice systems so they are better able to track juveniles through the system and to provide better alternatives such as restitution, community service, victim–offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions.

This performance report is an overview of the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) data for JABG grantees as reported through March 31, 2012. The report is divided into three sections. Section 1 introduces program information for JABG grantees, Section 2 gives an analysis of core JABG measures, and Section 3 offers an overview of grantee narrative responses.

1. Examination of Program Information

Across all reporting periods, grantees have input 1,497 sets of program data, indicating a reporting compliance rate of 78 percent for all awards (Table 1).¹ During the April 2011–March 2012 reporting period, data entry was completed for 213 out of 242 awards.

Table 1. Status of Award Reporting by Period: April 2004–March 2012

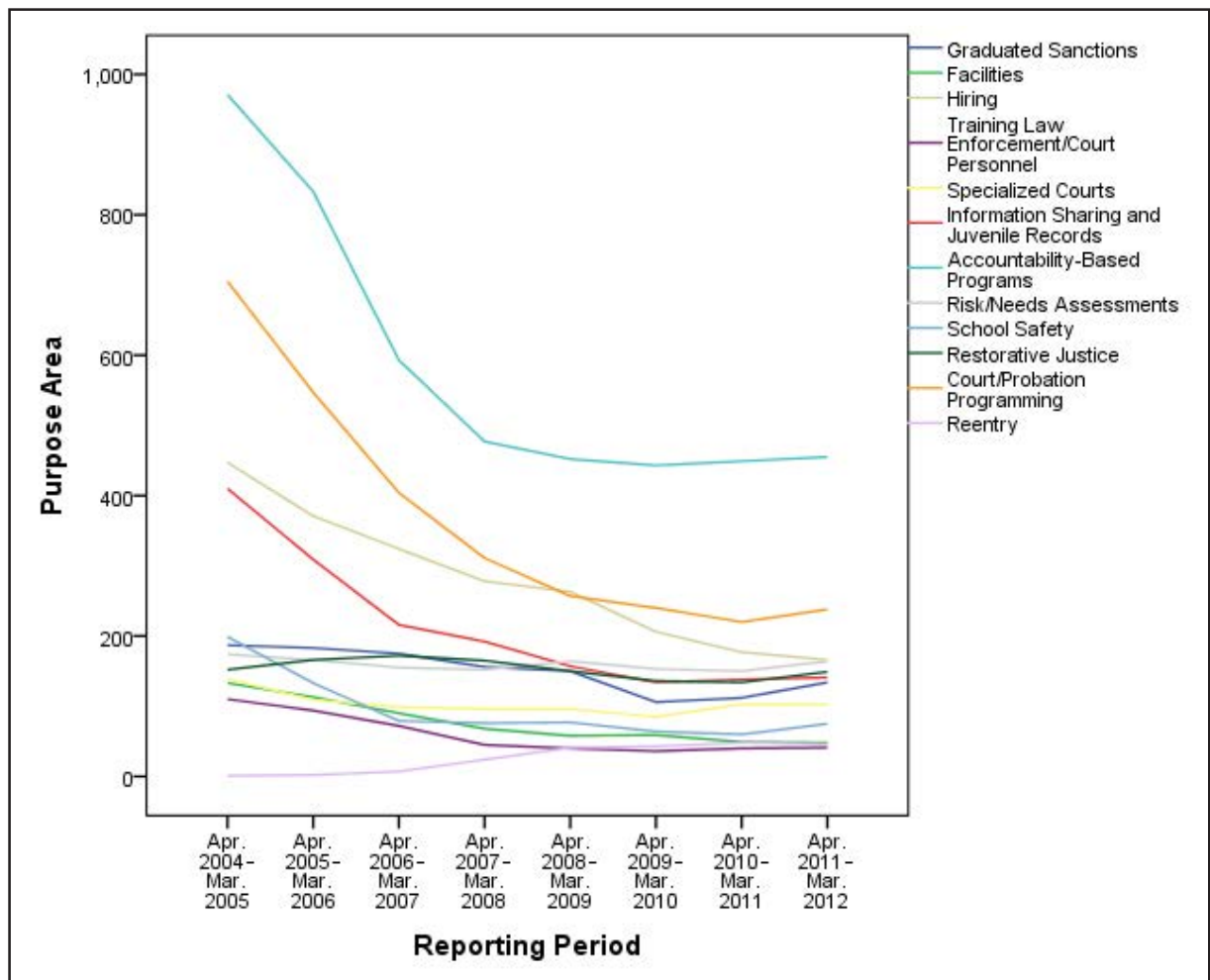
Data Reporting Period	Status				Total
	Not Started	In Progress	Ready for State Complete	Complete	
April 2004–March 2005	119	111	0	8	238
April 2005–March 2006	26	18	0	195	239
April 2006–March 2007	8	13	0	211	232
April 2007–March 2008	14	16	0	207	237
April 2008–March 2009	3	14	0	229	246
April 2009–March 2010	0	6	7	235	248
April 2010–March 2011	13	26	6	199	244
April 2011–March 2012	18	10	1	213	242
Total	201	214	15	1,497	1,926

¹ Funds are provided as block grants to states for programs promoting greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. Local and tribal governments can then apply to the states for funds to support local accountability programs.

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Purpose area selection varied across the reporting periods. The largest numbers of subgrants represented accountability-based programs, followed by court/probation programming. Initially, reentry programming accounted for the smallest number of subgrants. This remained steady throughout the first three reporting periods but has risen slightly in more recent years, most likely due to a renewed emphasis on reentry programs (Figure 1).

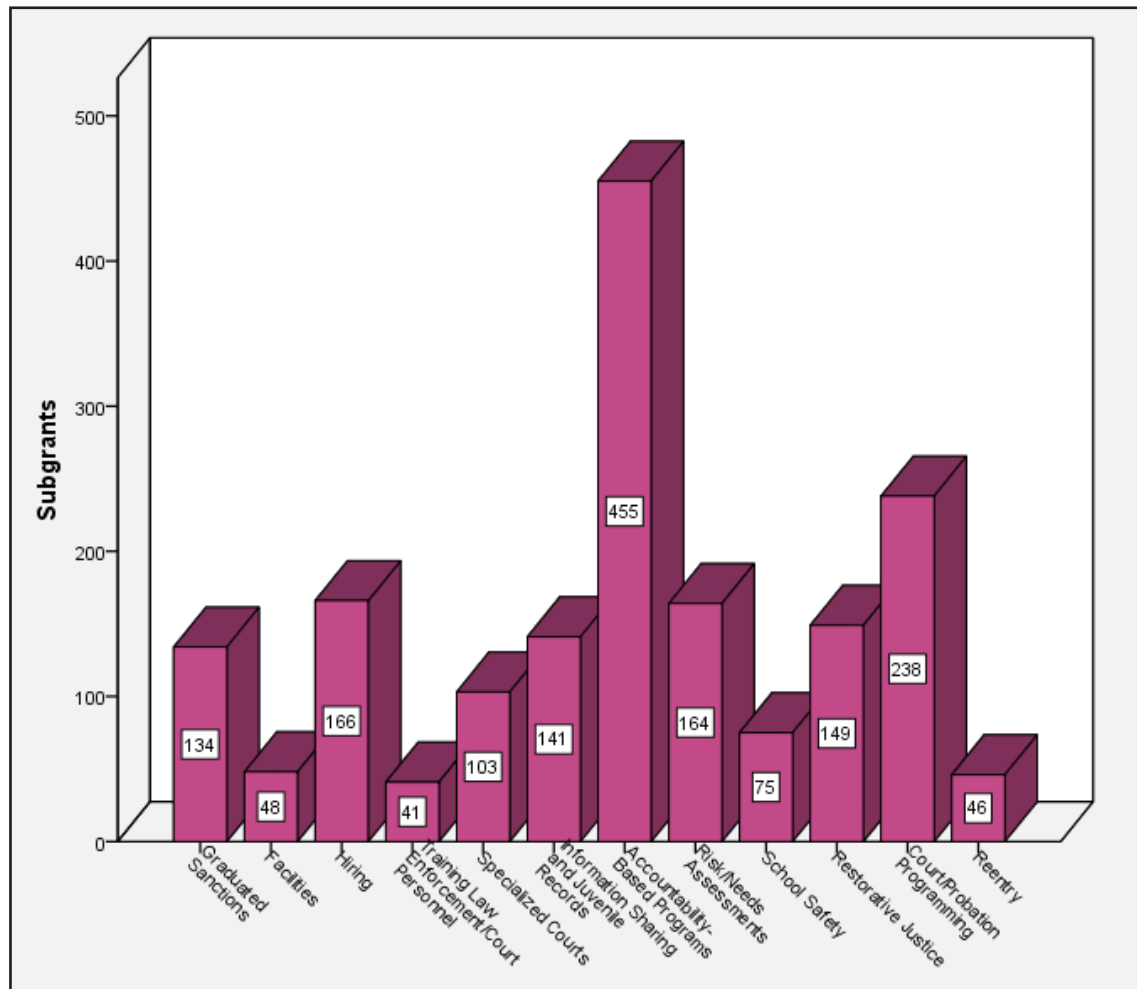
Figure 1. Awards by Purpose Area: April 2004–March 2012



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Figure 2 shows the distribution of subgrants by purpose area during the April 2011–March 2012 reporting period. Accountability-based programs represented 455 subgrants (26 percent), followed by court/probation programming with 238 (14 percent).

Figure 2. Distribution of Subgrants by Purpose Area: April 2011–March 2012



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In examining JABG grant amounts by state, district, or territory for the most recent reporting period, California received the most funds, followed by Texas and Florida (Table 2).

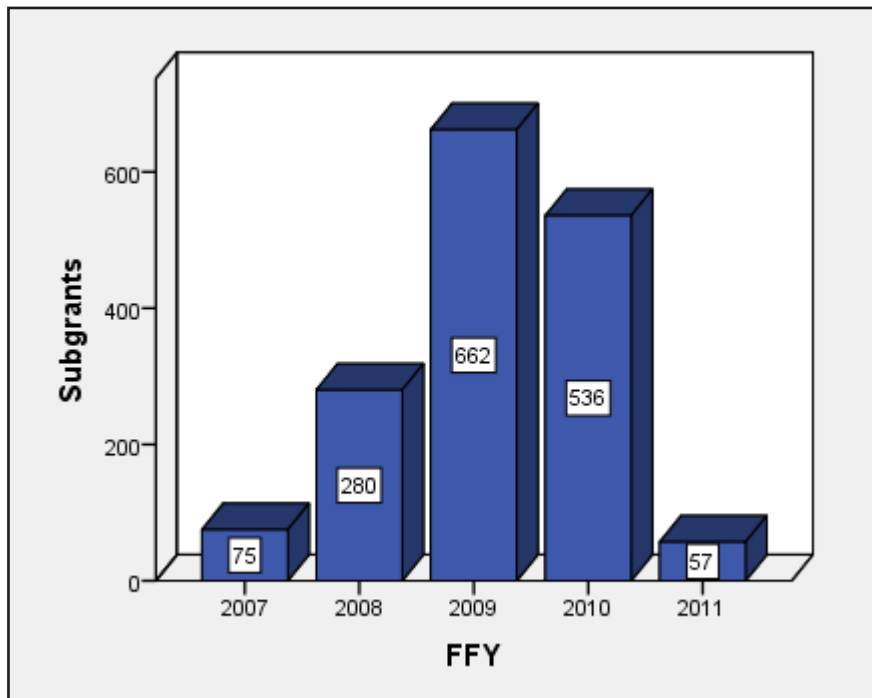
Table 2. Grant Amount by State, District, or Territory (Dollars): April 2011–March 2012

Grantee State, District, or Territory	Grant Amount (Dollars)	Grantee State, District, or Territory	Grant Amount (Dollars)
AK	\$ 189,782	MS	\$ 1,269,624
AL	1,626,795	MT	719,208
AmSa	341,515	NC	1,777,991
AR	381,030	ND	250,650
AZ	4,917,045	NE	781,070
CA	10,580,338	NH	1,034,700
CO	1,358,691	NJ	1,800,205
CT	908,556	NM	473,630
DC	143,001	NV	1,012,929
DE	617,461	NY	3,777,129
FL	4,930,461	OH	2,118,461
GA	2,189,049	OK	1,470,155
GU	1,143,706	OR	1,005,283
HI	793,213	PA	2,534,371
IA	997,568	PR	1,223,902
ID	739,920	RI	564,921
IL	3,632,701	SC	763,613
IN	887,995	SD	699,012
KS	1,234,630	TN	974,904
KY	2,261,388	TX	6,797,794
LA	1,348,350	UT	574,727
MA	974,552	VA	1,918,807
MD	1,641,998	VI	88,743
ME	1,055,500	VT	316,812
MI	1,174,863	WA	1,475,039
MN	1,159,414	WI	1,095,774
MO	1,621,908	WV	914,882
MP	154,716	WY	322,876

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Figure 3 illustrates the number of subgrants by Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) during the April 2011–March 2012 reporting period. The most awards (662) were financed by 2009 funds, followed by FFY 2010 with 536 subgrants.

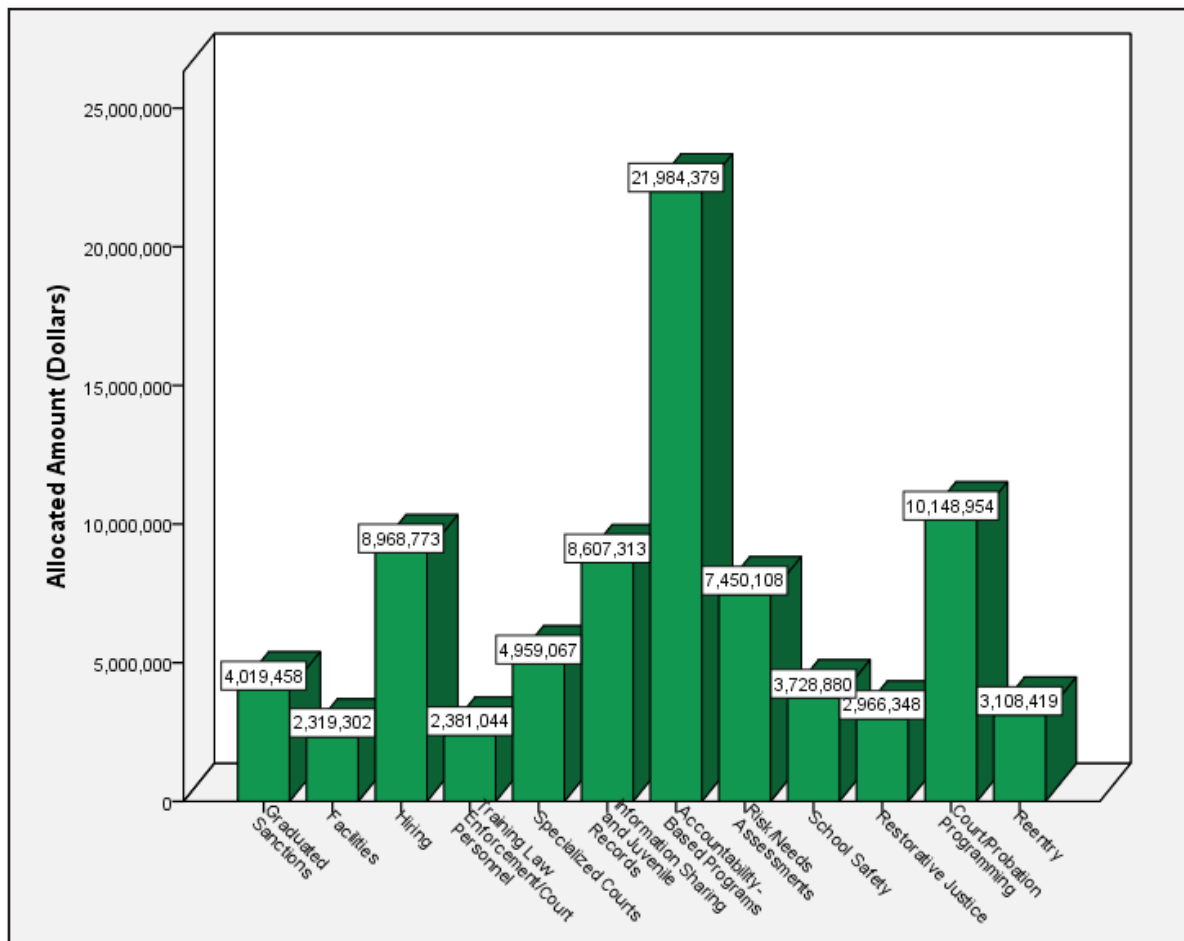
Figure 3. Subgrants by FFY: April 2011–March 2012



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Figure 4 shows award amount allocations by purpose area for the April 2011–March 2012 reporting period. Accountability-based programs have consistently represented JABG’s highest-funded purpose area, followed by court/probation programming during this reporting period.²

Figure 4. Allocated Amounts by Purpose Area (Dollars): April 2011–March 2012

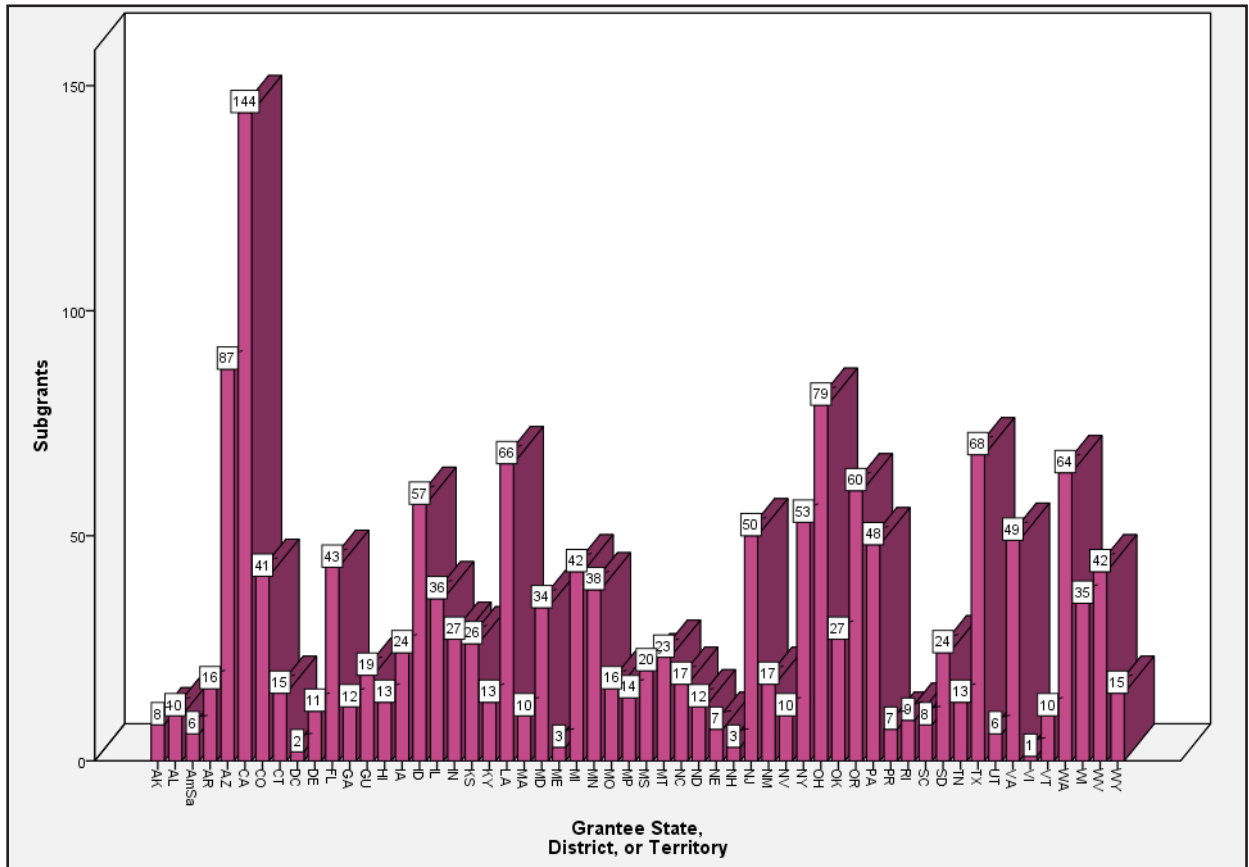


² Information Sharing and Juvenile Records are different purpose areas in the DCTAT. However, for the purposes of this report, they are combined here. The category Hiring is also an aggregate of Hiring Court Staff/Pretrial Services, Hiring Prosecutors, Funding for Prosecutors, and Hiring Detention/Corrections Staff. In addition, the purpose areas Gun Courts and Drug Courts were combined into Specialized Courts.

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The number of subgrants by state, district, or territory is shown in Figure 5. California awarded the largest number of subgrants, with 144, followed by Arizona with 87.

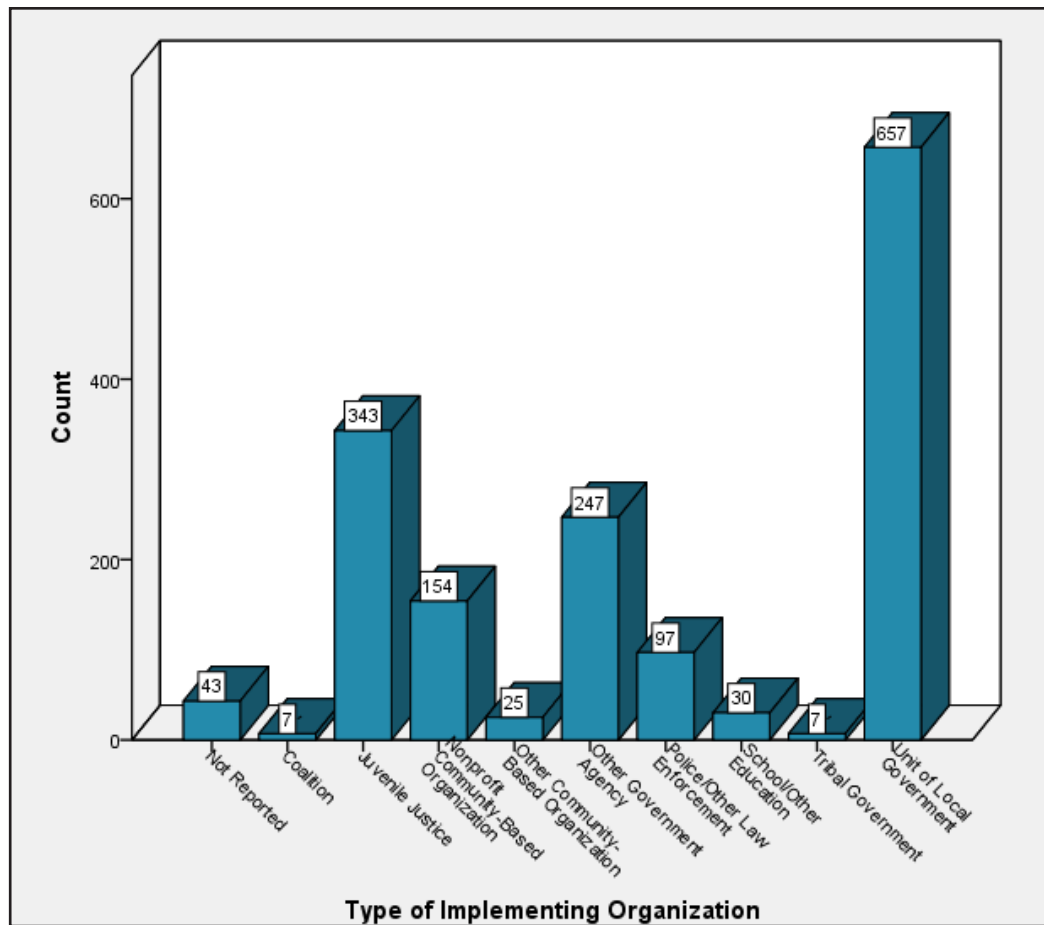
Figure 5. Subgrants by State, District, or Territory: April 2011–March 2012



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Analysis of implementing agencies for this period revealed that the largest numbers of programs (657) were with units of local government. Juvenile justice and other government agencies accounted for 343 and 247 awards, respectively (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Implementing Agencies: April 2011–March 2012



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Table 3 provides an aggregate of demographic data for the April 2011–March 2012 reporting period. More specifically, these numbers represent the population actually served by JABG grantees during their project period. Targeted services include any approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the intended population (e.g., gender-specific, culturally based, and developmentally appropriate services).

Table 3. Target Population: April 2011–March 2012

	Population	Grantees Serving Group During Project Period
RACE/ETHNICITY	American Indian/Alaskan Native	561
	Asian	648
	Black/African American	1,153
	Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	1,069
	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	383
	Other Race	654
	White/Caucasian	1,157
	Caucasian/Non-Latino	482
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	235
JUSTICE SYSTEM STATUS	At-risk Population (No Prior Offense)	559
	First-time Offenders	1,127
	Repeat Offenders	962
	Sex Offenders	377
	Status Offenders	609
	Violent Offenders	540
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	231
GENDER	Male	1,292
	Female	1,244
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	229
AGE	0–10	235
	11–18	1,103
	Over 18	158
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	233
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	Rural	868
	Suburban	688
	Tribal	113
	Urban	664
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	229
OTHER	Mental Health	622
	Substance Abuse	772
	Truant/Dropout	682

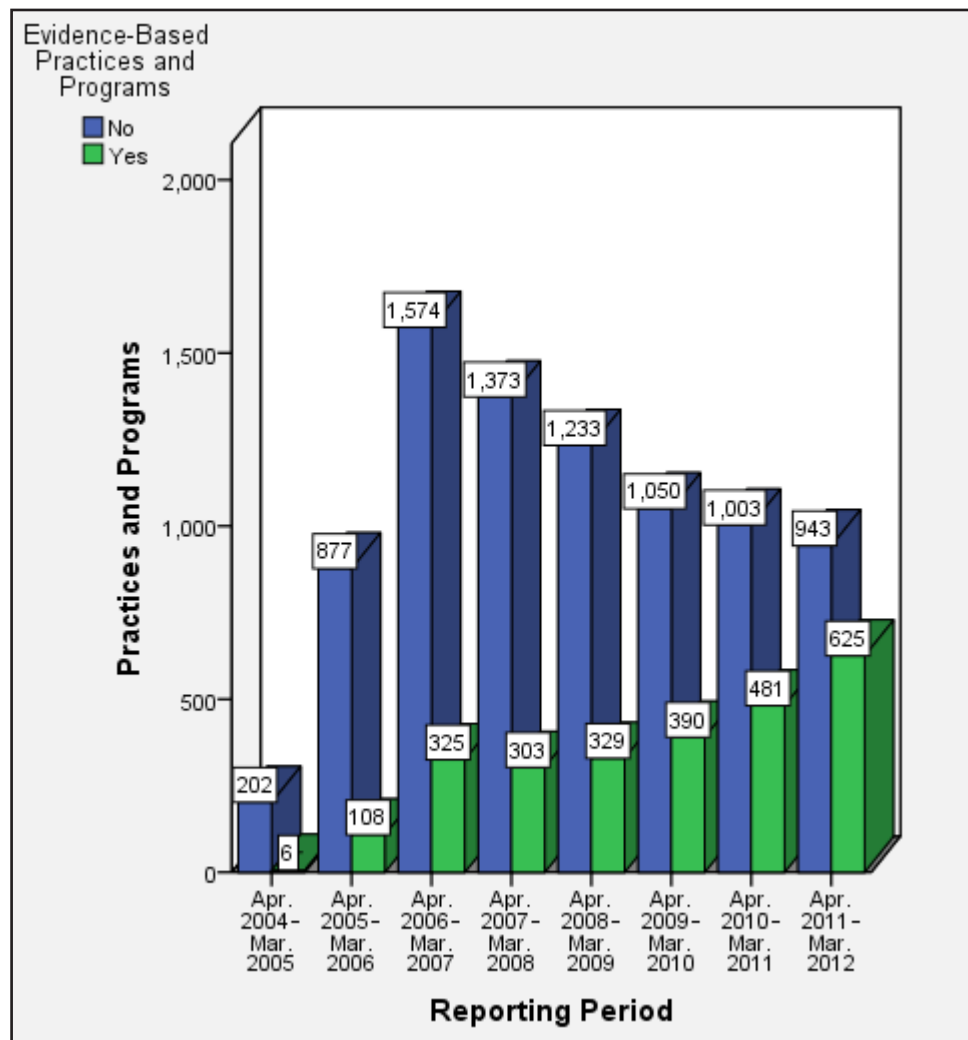
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2. Analysis of Core Measures

The April 2010–March 2011 reporting period introduced a new format for reporting on core measures—measures that OJJDP uses in all of its funded programs. OJJDP uses these data to report on how it funds programs and services for youth nationwide, from prevention through reentry assistance. The goal is to prevent double-reporting of data for the core measures previously replicated across purpose areas within a single Federal program, like JABG. Through a category called “Core Measures,” data reported represent all youth who participate in all programs and services funded by a specific Federal-year JABG award.

Many JABG grantees are implementing evidence-based practices. During the April 2011–March 2012 reporting period, 625 programs implemented such practices (Figure 7).

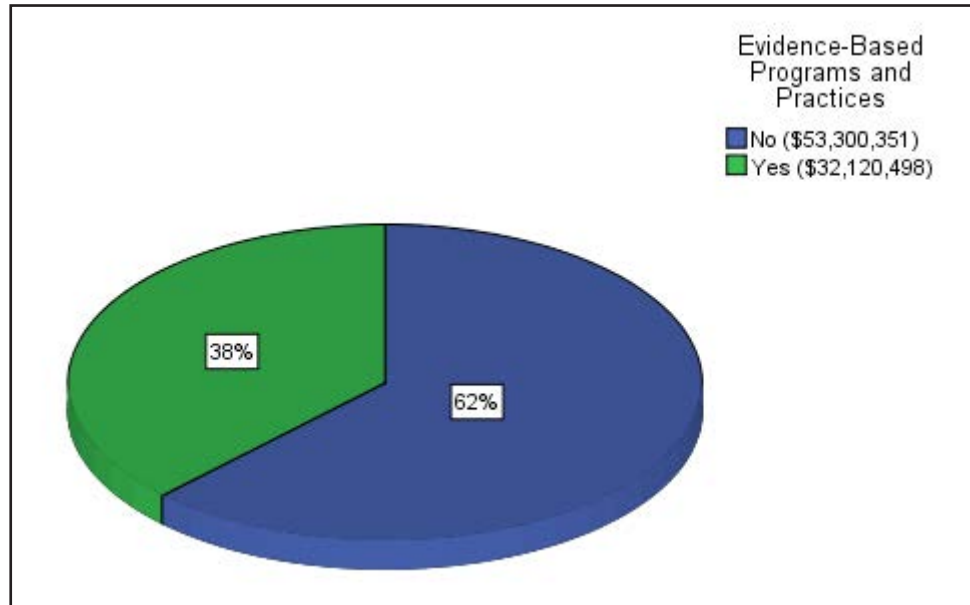
Figure 7. Evidence-Based Practices and Programs by Reporting Period: April 2004–March 2012



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During the April 2011–March 2012 reporting period, 38 percent of grant funds (\$32,120,498) was spent by grantees who had implemented evidence-based programs and practices (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Grant Funds for Evidence-Based Programs and Practices: April 2011–March 2012



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The next section presents an aggregate of performance measures data (Table 4). Of the 220,446 youth served by JABG grantees, 132,013 youth (60 percent) were served using an evidence-based program or practice. In addition, 82 percent (155,284) of eligible youth exited programs after completing program requirements.

Table 4. OJJDP Core Measures: April 2011–March 2012

Performance Indicator	Youth		
Total number of youth served during the reporting period	220,446		
Number of youth served using an evidence-based program or practice	132,013		
Performance Indicator	Completed	Total Number	Percent
Percent of program youth who complete program requirements	155,284	188,793	82

The success of the JABG program is largely dependent on the offending and reoffending (or recidivism) rates of the program youth. As shown in Table 5, 11,491 youth had an arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 2,925 were committed to a juvenile facility, 133 were sentenced to adult prison, and 611 received another sentence as a result of an arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period.

Long-term measurement of offending outcomes revealed that 12,451 youth who exited the program 6–12 months earlier had an arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 1,173 were committed to a juvenile facility, 22 were sentenced to adult prison, and 284 received another sentence as the result of an arrest or delinquent offense.

Table 5. Offending Indicators: April 2011–March 2012

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	126,452
Program youth who had an arrest or delinquent offense	11,491
Program youth who were committed to a juvenile facility	2,925
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	133
Youth who received another sentence	611
Percent Offending	9% (11,491/126,452)
Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked (long-term outcome)	38,676
Program youth who had an arrest or delinquent offense	12,451
Program youth who were committed to a juvenile facility	1,173
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	22
Youth who received another sentence	284
Percent of Long-Term Offending	32% (12,451/38,676)

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As shown in Table 6, 10,812 youth had a new arrest or new delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 2,031 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 172 were sentenced to adult prison, and 1,082 received another sentence as a result of a new arrest or new delinquent offense during the reporting period.

Long-term recidivism showed that 3,671 youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago had a new arrest or new delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 1,099 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 180 were sentenced to adult prison, and 655 received another sentence as the result of a new arrest or new delinquent offense.

Table 6. Recidivism Indicators: April 2011–March 2012

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	121,495
Program youth who had a new arrest or new delinquent offense	10,812
Program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	2,031
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	172
Youth who received another sentence	1,082
Percent Recidivism	9% (10,812/121,495)

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked (long-term outcome)	24,629
Program youth who had a new arrest or new delinquent offense	3,671
Program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	1,099
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	180
Youth who received another sentence	655
Percent of Long-Term Recidivism	15% (3,671/24,629)

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Table 7 presents program data on youth whose selected target behaviors improved in the short term. Participating youth showed the most improvement in a target behavior change for family functioning and cultural skill-building/cultural pride (83 percent each).

Table 7. Target Behaviors: April 2011–March 2012

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Noted Behavior Change	Percent of Youth with Noted Behavior Change
Social Competence	13,839	10,338	75
School Attendance	7,542	5,712	76
Grade Point Average (GPA)	1,479	1,017	69
General Education Development (GED) Test Passed	2,380	279	12
High School Completion	2,430	485	20
Job Skills	2,363	1,753	74
Employment Status	1,283	291	23
Family Relationships	7,669	5,769	75
Family Functioning	2,726	2,273	83
Antisocial Behavior	28,048	20,386	73
Substance Use	18,948	14,465	76
Gang Resistance/Involvement	2,540	1,547	61
Cultural Skill-Building/Cultural Pride	612	509	83
Total	91,859	64,824	71

3. Overview of Narrative Data

Program Goals Accomplished: April 2011–March 2012

An analysis of JABG narrative response data revealed several significant accomplishments among the grantees during this reporting period. This section presents just a few examples of their remarkable achievements.

Overall, grantees were busy expanding and enhancing their existing programs and services. For example, the Government of Guam continued to provide comprehensive consultation, referral services, and psychological evaluations to court-ordered juveniles and other youth who were referred by Guam's Department of Youth Affairs (DYA) for evaluation. The grantee also reported success in linking up with other child-serving agencies to provide and prevent duplication of these services.

Similarly, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services continued to make substantial progress in meeting its goals and objectives, while expanding and improving its programming. For example, New York City remained successful in handling system-involved youth via its Family Court Dispositional Specialists, who assist attorneys in crafting the least restrictive and most appropriate dispositional alternatives. In Syracuse, the Detention Expeditor project also continued to ensure that youth spend as little unnecessary time in detention as possible (sometimes none). The project staff assessed and serviced 24 more youth within 48–72 hours of detainment compared with last year. Likewise, the second-year Girls Circle project completed 2 cycles serving

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21 juvenile justice-involved girls. In Rochester, the Juvenile Accountability Conferencing Program (JAC) served 105 youth during the program period and developed 15 behavioral contracts with a 93% compliance rate.

During the reporting period, California used JABG funds to support numerous activities aimed at reducing juvenile offending through accountability-based programs focusing on offenders and juvenile justice systems. The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA), as the Designated State Agency administering JABG funding for California, provided oversight and support for 67 grant projects at the local level and 3 projects that supported a statewide grant initiative. California's State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) has also continued to increase its activities and leadership related to the priority focus areas it has established for Federal funding.

In California, projects funded through a direct JABG allocation provided a wide array of services based on the unique needs of each local jurisdiction. CSA successfully responded to the special needs of every project while supporting each with the technical assistance, administrative guidance, and monitoring required by JABG program guidelines to achieve effective, meaningful, and responsible outcomes.

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services also made great progress since the last reporting period. This includes training and certification of correctional staff, implementation of the Thinking for a Change program statewide and at different levels of intervention, and safety and security audits by national leading experts to identify concerns within the state's juvenile correctional facilities.

Florida's Department of Juvenile Justice accomplished several goals related to its grant application, including creation of delinquency prevention programs, civil citation, community programs, and use of system improvement projects in all aspects of juvenile justice.

The JABG initiative of Montana has funded a fully operational youth treatment court in Sidney, the hub of the Bakken oil field. This area has seen an increase in crime and drug use, including among its juvenile population. Less than an hour away in Dawson County, the same judicial district added another juvenile probation officer, allowing the youth services department to spend more time with youth and their families. The Hill County Reporting Center, well planned and expertly launched, is receiving referrals not only from the probation office, but also from the schools, making it truly a community solution to juvenile delinquency. In the northwest corner of Montana, the Center for Restorative Youth Justice also offers individual accountability options for youth in Flathead County through its Youth Connections program.

Problems or Barriers Encountered: April 2011–March 2012

In addition to their accomplishments, JABG grantees described a few significant problems and barriers this reporting period that prevented them from reaching their goals or milestones. For example, one grantee reported waiting lists for services, with some agencies unable to provide services at all. This resulted in longer incarceration times for juveniles assessed as needing services. The grantee also reported that it could not provide correctional personnel with additional training due to operational demands, a lower staffing level, and a high population of detainees.

Likewise, another grantee noted its expansive geographic area and the scarcity of services as its most significant challenges. The greatest obstacles often stem from a lack of resources and support services, often coupled with a remote location. For example, one subgrantee noted that local therapists are not specifically trained to address the social and behavioral needs of the youth who participate in its treatment court program. Obtaining regular appointments is difficult because there are not enough service providers available to address the needs of this population.

Agencies also experienced issues with personnel as staff tried to learn about the JABG program and its requirements as quickly as possible. This resulted in programmatic concerns when grantees tried to implement their projects. In general, the loss of staff represented another major barrier during the reporting period:

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Grantees were able to keep their activities and projects in place, but not necessarily as described in their grant applications. For example, organizations often found that identifying and hiring suitable candidates was difficult.

The subgranting process also caused late contract approvals, which led to some subgrantees accumulating large balances of unspent funds. Staff then had to decide how best to reallocate these funds before the lapse date. This presented a challenge for some staff members, who had to keep in mind the program's initial goals, funding splits, and lapse dates, all while ensuring program fidelity. As a result, goals may not have yet been reached by some subgrantees at the end of the reporting period.

Requested OJJDP Assistance: April 2011–March 2012

A number of JABG grantees answered yes when asked whether OJJDP could help them address the problems or barriers they have encountered this reporting period. Many of these requests were program specific. For example, one organization asked for technical assistance and support related to data collection. Specifically, the grantee would like help in identifying how it can be more effective and efficient in collecting meaningful data from its subgrantees. It wants to design a reporting system for its subgrantees that matches their project activities with the relevant Federal data elements required.

Another grantee requested that OJJDP continue working with states to gather data for evidence-based practices, which will help them to sustain or increase their award allocations in an era of funding cuts.

Grantees also noted a need for training and technical assistance on substance abuse treatment, therapeutic foster care, and community-based multisystemic therapy (MST).