

Overview of the DCTAT Data for 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, 2013. 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 1,711 sets of program data, indicating a reporting compliance rate of 79 percent for all awards (Table 1).¹ During the April 2012–March 2013 reporting period, data entry was completed for 218 out of 242 awards.

Table 1. Status of Award Reporting by Period: April 2004–March 2013

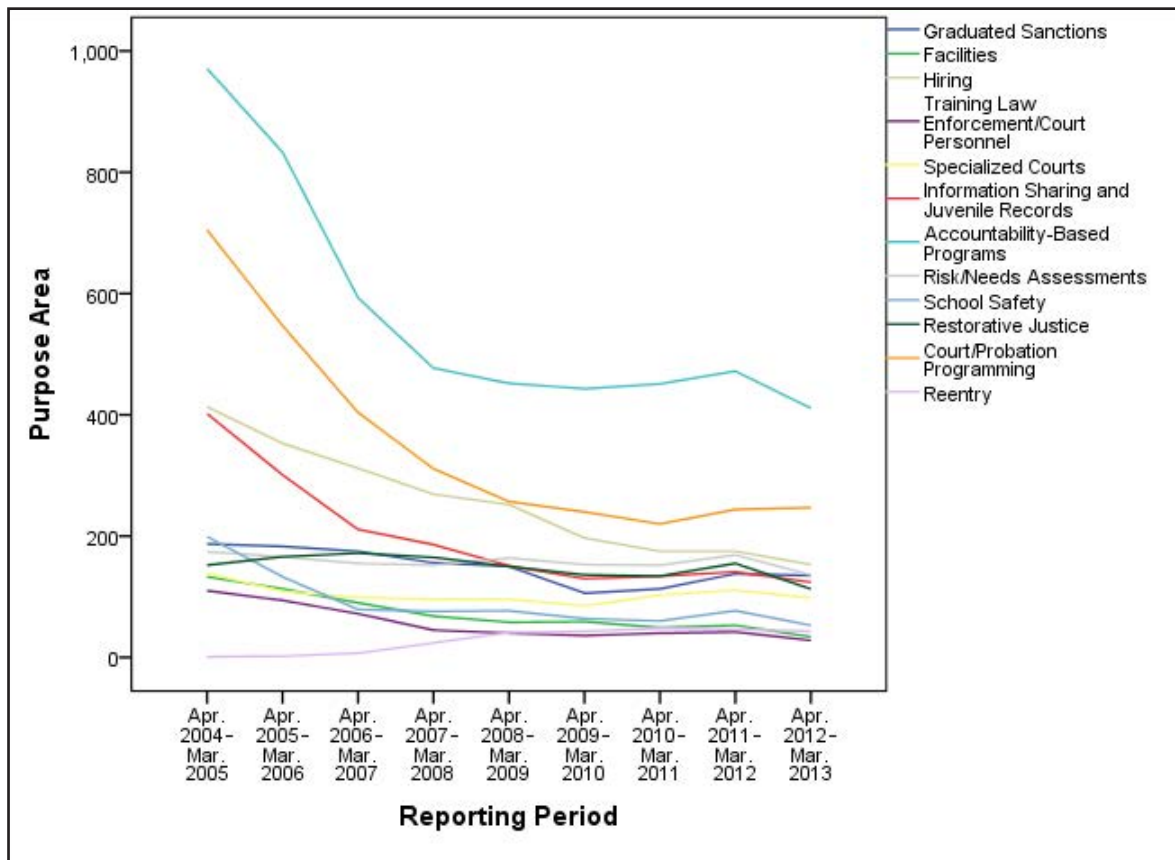
Data Reporting Period	Status				Total
	Not Started	In Progress	Ready for State Complete	Complete	
April 2004–March 2005	119	111	0	8	238
April 2005–March 2006	26	18	0	195	239
April 2006–March 2007	7	13	0	211	231
April 2007–March 2008	14	16	0	207	237
April 2008–March 2009	2	14	0	229	245
April 2009–March 2010	1	6	7	234	248
April 2010–March 2011	14	26	6	199	245
April 2011–March 2012	18	11	3	210	242
April 2012–March 2013	17	7	0	218	242
Total	218	222	16	1,711	2,167

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). A new JABG purpose area, Indigent Defense, will be available for selection for the April 2013–March 2014 data collection period.

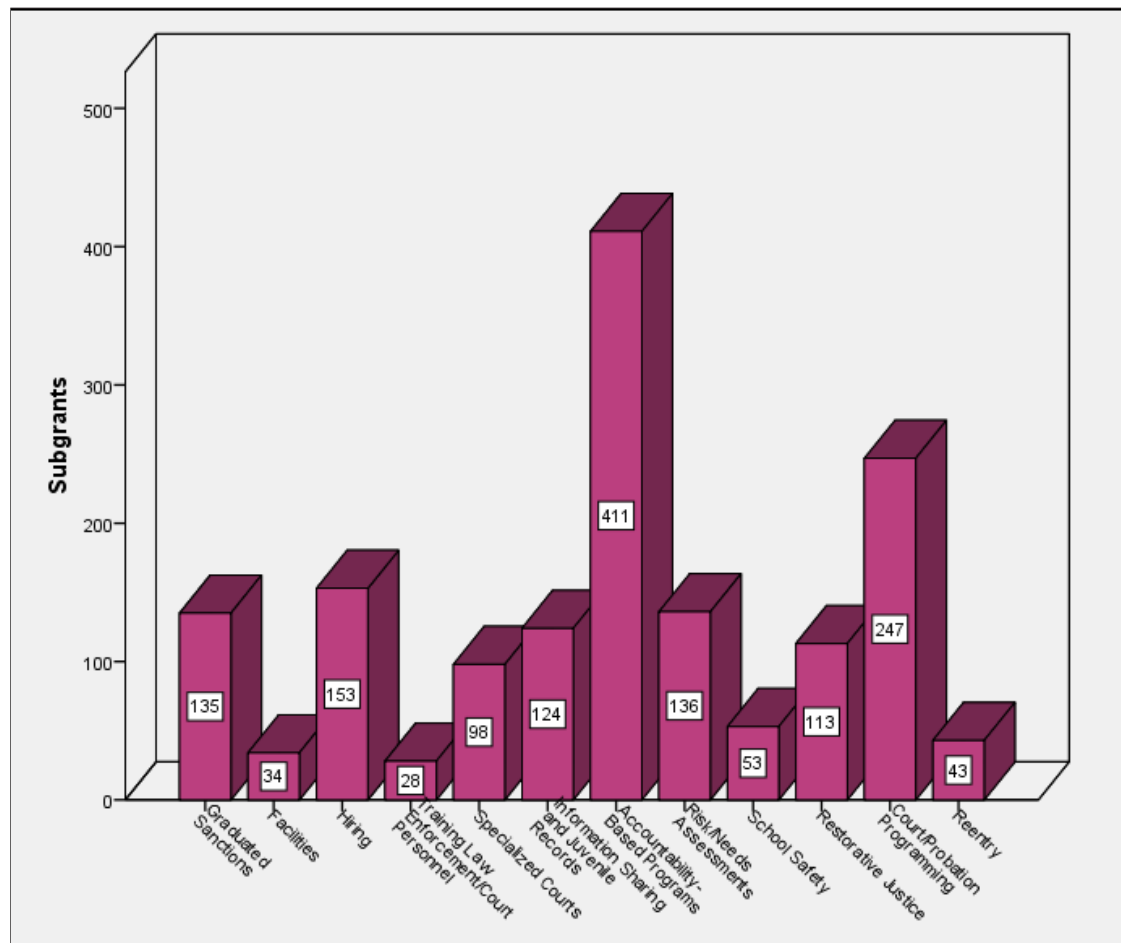
Figure 1. Awards by Purpose Area: April 2004–March 2013



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Figure 2 shows the distribution of subgrants by purpose area during the April 2012–March 2013 reporting period. Accountability-based programs represented 411 subgrants (26 percent), followed by court/probation programming with 247 (16 percent).

Figure 2. Distribution of Subgrants by Purpose Area: April 2012–March 2013



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

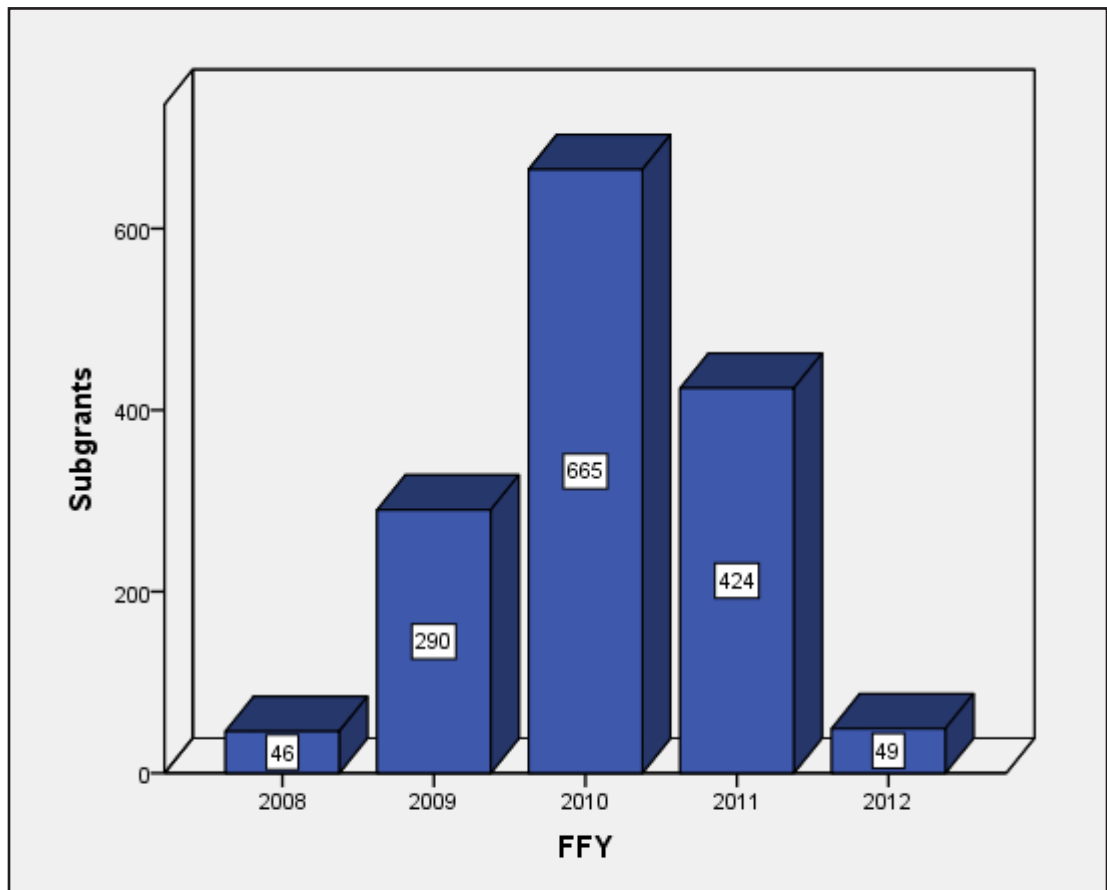
Table 2. Grant Amount by State, District, or Territory (Dollars): April 2012–March 2013

Grantee State, District, or Territory	Grant Amount (Dollars)	Grantee State, District, or Territory	Grant Amount (Dollars)
AK	\$ 186,852	MS	\$1,056,752
AL	1,053,491	MT	505,804
AmSa	390,481	NC	2,193,334
AR	36,013	ND	238,697
AZ	2,988,039	NE	936,032
CA	3,959,128	NH	901,295
CO	1,156,742	NJ	1,463,763
CT	756,857	NM	471,545
DC	499,748	NV	848,421
DE	568,396	NY	4,227,947
FL	4,505,460	OH	1,498,482
GA	957,588	OK	1,276,021
GU	966,929	OR	885,859
HI	517,798	PA	1,761,924
IA	933,279	PR	1,223,187
ID	629,329	RI	396,399
IL	3,251,811	SC	430,003
IN	1,165,534	SD	738,141
KS	640,212	TN	638,322
KY	1,936,333	TX	4,869,691
LA	884,572	UT	905,571
MA	345,888	VA	1,430,579
MD	1,607,549	VI	88,743
ME	893,819	VT	89,063
MI	1,650,886	WA	1,225,455
MN	1,033,665	WI	838,384
MO	2,380,224	WV	756,511
MP	154,716	WY	206,439

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Figure 3 illustrates the number of subgrants by Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) during the April 2012–March 2013 reporting period. The most awards (665) were financed by 2010 funds, followed by FFY 2011 with 424 subgrants.

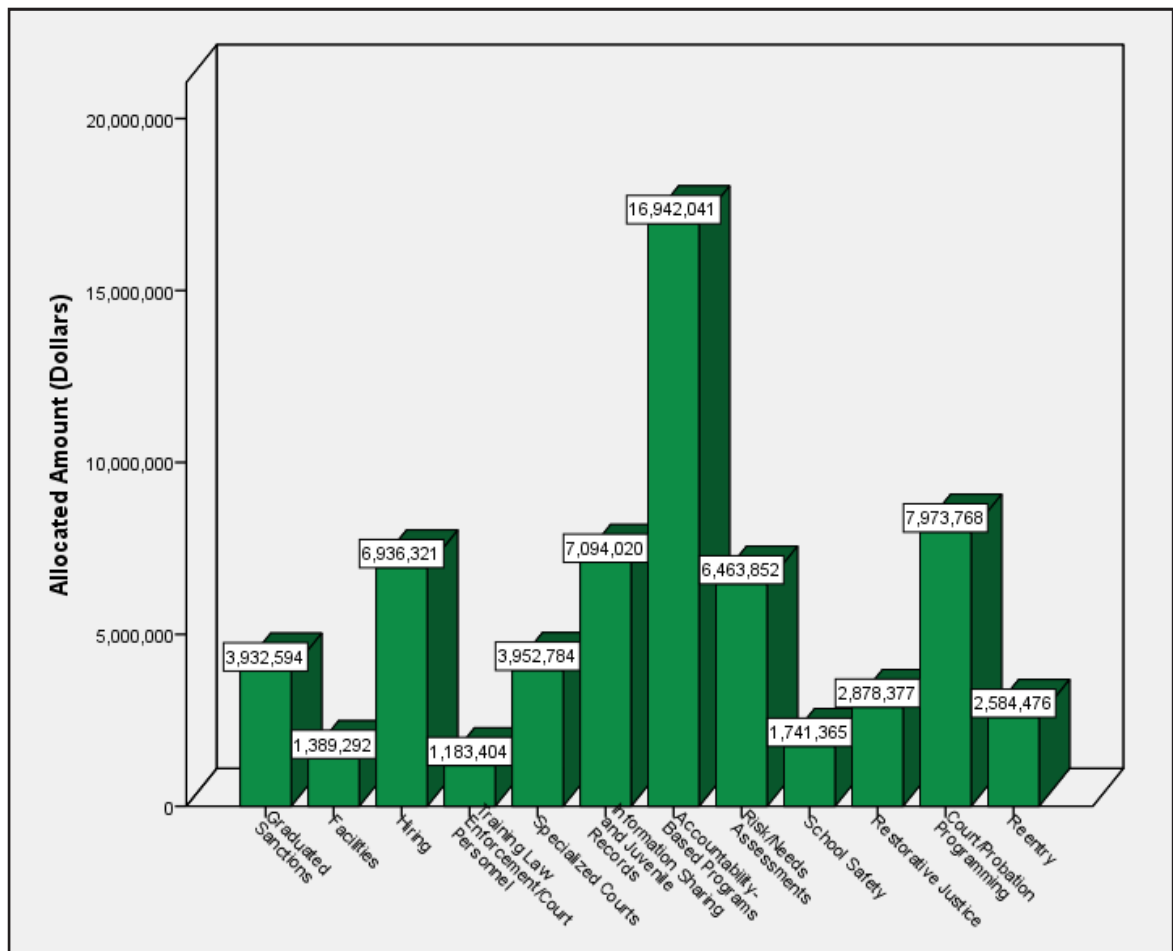
Figure 3. Subgrants by FFY: April 2012–March 2013



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Figure 4 shows award amount allocations by purpose area for the April 2012–March 2013 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 2012–March 2013

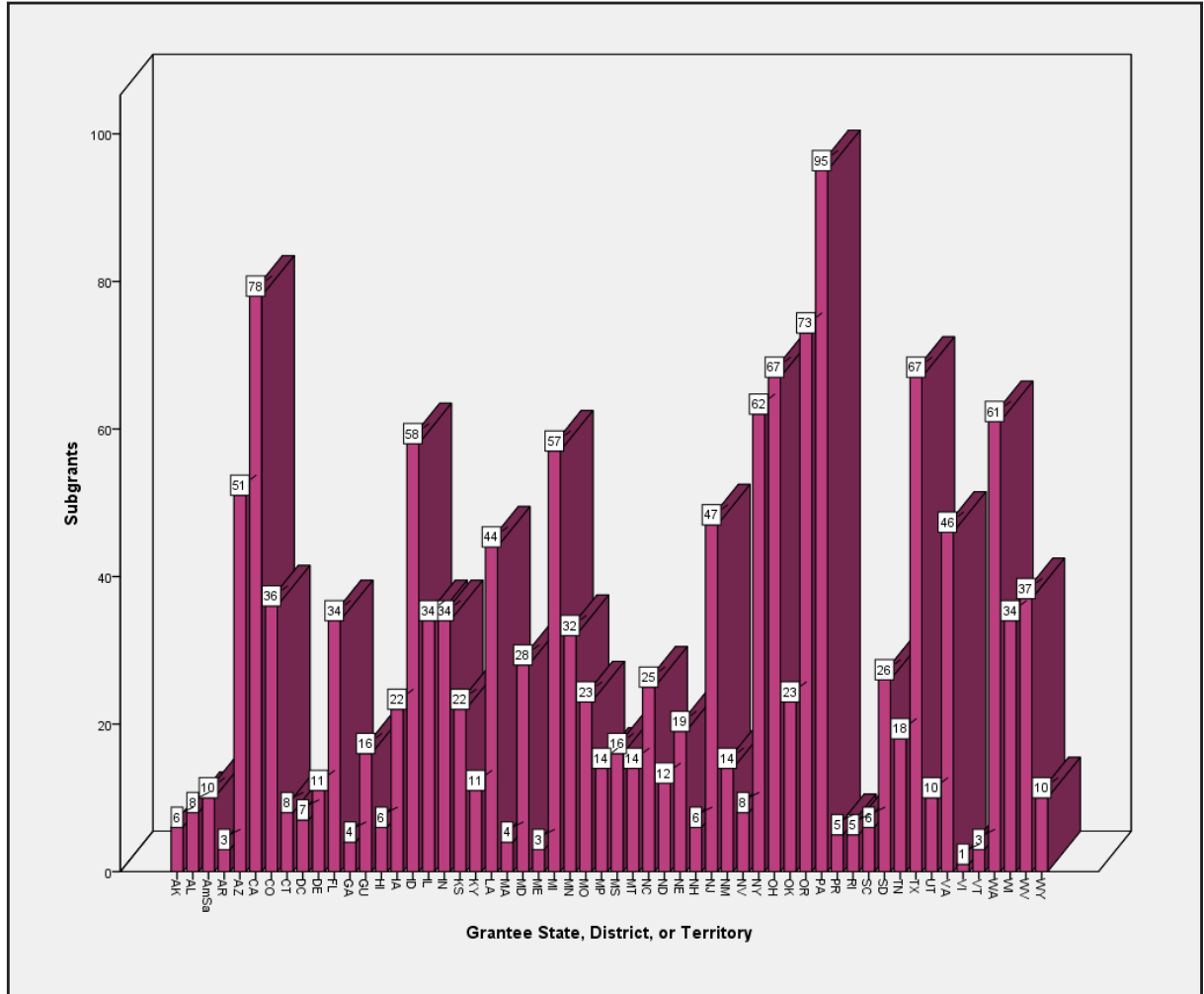


² Information Sharing and Juvenile Records are different purpose areas in the DCTAT. However, for the purposes of this report, they are combined here. The category Hiring is also an aggregate of Hiring Court Staff/Pretrial Services, Hiring Prosecutors, Funding for Prosecutors, and Hiring Detention/Corrections 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. Pennsylvania awarded the largest number of subgrants, with 95, followed by California with 78.

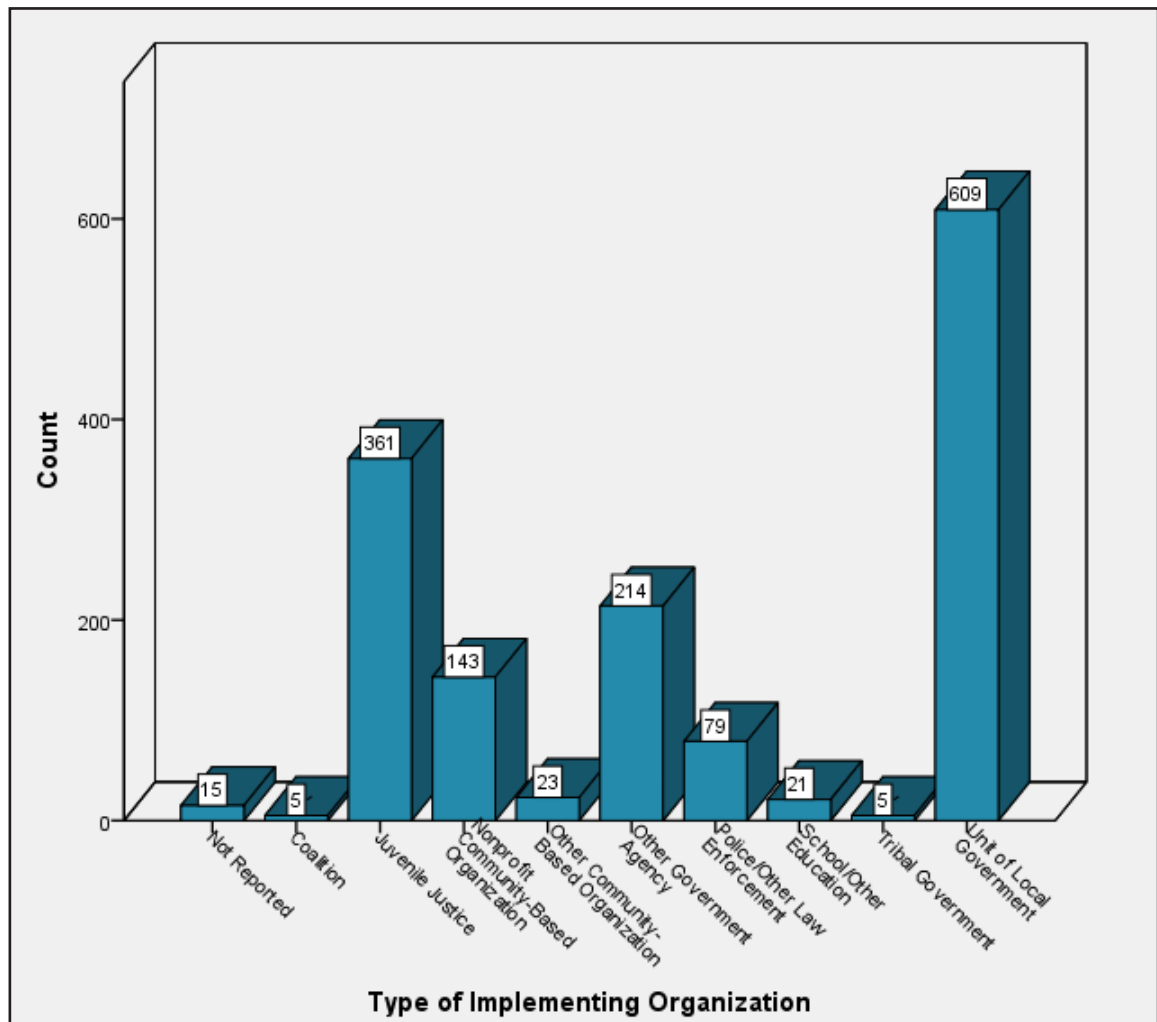
Figure 5. Subgrants by State, District, or Territory: April 2012–March 2013



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Analysis of implementing agencies for this period revealed that the largest numbers of programs (609) were with units of local government. Juvenile justice and other government agencies accounted for 361 and 214 awards, respectively (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Implementing Agencies: April 2012–March 2013



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Table 3 provides an aggregate of demographic data for the April 2012–March 2013 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 2012–March 2013

	Population	Grantees Serving Group During Project Period
RACE/ETHNICITY	American Indian/Alaskan Native	553
	Asian	622
	Black/African American	1,053
	Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	961
	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	415
	Other Race	605
	White/Caucasian	1,021
	Caucasian/Non-Latino	619
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	223
JUSTICE SYSTEM STATUS	At-risk Population (No Prior Offense)	502
	First-time Offenders	1,022
	Repeat Offenders	874
	Sex Offenders	339
	Status Offenders	571
	Violent Offenders	462
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	219
GENDER	Male	1,173
	Female	1,122
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	215
AGE	0–10	319
	11–18	1,179
	Over 18	215
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	219
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	Rural	821
	Suburban	661
	Tribal	143
	Urban	620
	Youth Population Not Served Directly	216
OTHER	Mental Health	573
	Substance Abuse	681
	Truant/Dropout	653

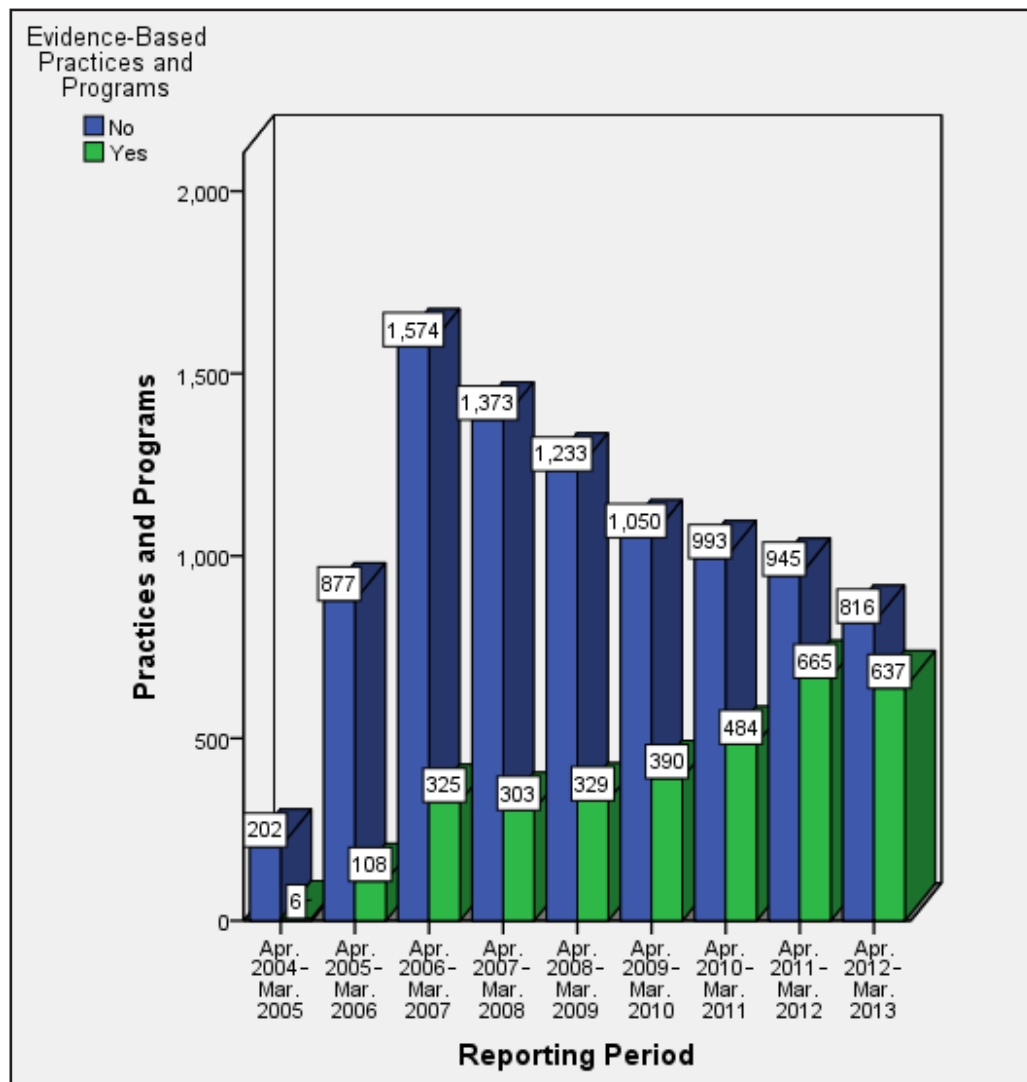
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2. Analysis of Core Measures

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 2012–March 2013 reporting period, 637 programs implemented such practices (Figure 7).

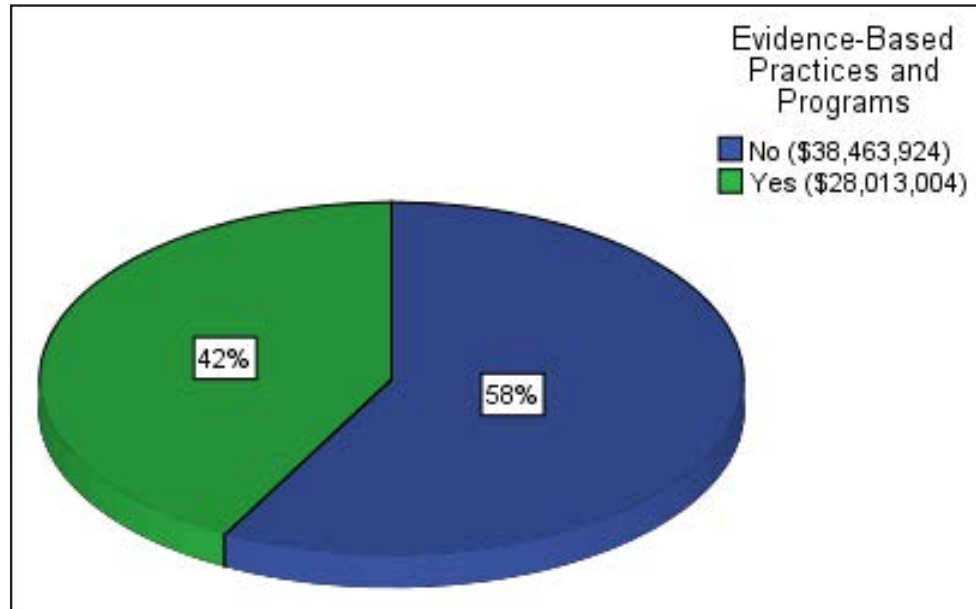
Figure 7. Evidence-Based Practices and Programs by Reporting Period: April 2004–March 2013



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During the April 2012–March 2013 reporting period, 42 percent of grant funds (\$28,013,004) was spent by grantees who had implemented evidence-based programs and practices (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Grant Funds for Evidence-Based Practices and Programs: April 2012–March 2013



The next section presents an aggregate of performance measures data (Table 4). Of the 195,020 youth served by JABG grantees, 129,274 youth (66 percent) were served using an evidence-based program or practice. In addition, 79 percent (131,273) of eligible youth exited programs after completing program requirements.

Table 4. OJJDP Core Measures: April 2012–March 2013

Performance Measure	Youth		
Total number of youth served during the reporting period	195,020		
Number of youth served using an evidence-based program or practice	129,274		
Performance Indicator	Completed	Total Number	Percent
Percent of program youth who complete program requirements	131,273	166,164	79

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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, 10,120 youth had an arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 3,511 were committed to a juvenile facility, 102 were sentenced to adult prison, and 1,318 received another sentence as a result of an arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period.

Long-term measurement of offending outcomes revealed that 3,122 youth who exited the program 6–12 months earlier had an arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 1,294 were committed to a juvenile facility, 27 were sentenced to adult prison, and 790 received another sentence as the result of an arrest or delinquent offense.

Table 5. Offending Indicators: April 2012–March 2013

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	108,919
Program youth who had an arrest or delinquent offense	10,120
Program youth who were committed to a juvenile facility	3,511
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	102
Youth who received another sentence	1,318
Percent Offending	9% (10,120/108,919)
Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked (long-term outcome)	27,696
Program youth who had an arrest or delinquent offense	3,122
Program youth who were committed to a juvenile facility	1,294
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	27
Youth who received another sentence	790
Percent of Long-Term Offending	11% (3,122/27,696)

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As shown in Table 6, 11,107 youth had a new arrest or new delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 2,929 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 234 were sentenced to adult prison, and 980 received another sentence as a result of a new arrest or new delinquent offense during the reporting period.

Long-term recidivism showed that 4,109 youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago had a new arrest or new delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 1,444 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 442 were sentenced to adult prison, and 757 received another sentence as the result of a new arrest or new delinquent offense.

Table 6. Recidivism Indicators: April 2012–March 2013

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	128,558
Program youth who had a new arrest or new delinquent offense	11,107
Program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	2,929
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	234
Youth who received another sentence	980
Percent Recidivism	9% (11,107/128,558)
Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked (long-term outcome)	29,226
Program youth who had a new arrest or new delinquent offense	4,109
Program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	1,444
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	442
Youth who received another sentence	757
Percent of Long-Term Recidivism	14% (4,109/29,226)

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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 cultural skill-building/cultural pride (95 percent) and family functioning (92 percent).

Table 7. Target Behaviors: April 2012–March 2013

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Noted Behavior Change	Percent of Youth with Noted Behavior Change
Social Competence	18,669	15,670	84
School Attendance	7,466	5,526	74
Grade Point Average (GPA)	842	557	66
General Education Development (GED) Test Passed	641	361	56
High School Completion	1,035	474	46
Job Skills	1,235	792	64
Employment Status	555	182	33
Family Relationships	5,735	4,552	79
Family Functioning	2,091	1,932	92
Antisocial Behavior	36,219	27,168	75
Substance Use	24,131	17,539	73
Gang Resistance/Involvement	1,011	835	83
Cultural Skill-Building/Cultural Pride	654	623	95
Total	100,284	76,211	76

3. Overview of Narrative Data

Program Goals Accomplished: April 2012–March 2013

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, Tennessee used Federal Formula Grant and JABG funds in a variety of ways to encourage juvenile justice reform efforts. The Florence Crittenton Agency, a private, nonprofit organization providing a combination of residential and outreach programs, developed a comprehensive assessment for implementing effective and efficient treatment plans. Tennessee’s Montgomery County Government electronically digitized a large number of juvenile court files. In addition, Madison County Juvenile Court, Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency, and Children and Family Services established and maintained community-based programs serving delinquent youth.

Similarly, Alabama’s Department of Youth Services (DYS) Continuum of Care (COC) Program now offers services to over 20 counties. The DYS COC staff attended multiple workshops to enhance their professional development during the reporting period, including an ethics conference for Alabama mental health workers, an educational session with law enforcement regarding investigations, a workshop focused on building social skills

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with adolescents, the Safe Path Children's Advocacy Center workshop, and a workshop about trauma and brain development in children and adolescents.

During the reporting period, New Mexico used its JABG funds on 13 continuum sites throughout the state. The JABG funds have allowed these sites to be established in rural communities where services are greatly needed and appreciated. In addition, these programs have helped in deterring juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system. The state's graduated sanctions approach has also allowed for the fair treatment of its youth, yielding positive outcomes in youth behavior and preventing situations from escalating into delinquency.

In Texas, the Travis County JABG Local Juvenile Assessment Center provided services to 2,117 program youth who were assessed for services and challenges pertaining to substance abuse, mental health, and educational needs. The Center then expedited linkage to identified services and provided recommendations to the Court. The Lubbock County Multi-Jurisdictional Truancy Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program also promoted and expanded the use of ADR in truancy-related cases for 1,365 program youth. This project was successful in reducing absences, increasing family commitment to school, and maintaining low recidivism—all of which will have an economic impact on the schools and the community as a whole. In addition, PaxUnited's program PeaceKeepers Plus: An Accredited School Team Mediation Course provided training to teachers, counselors, and administrators statewide, who then trained students as peer mediators to resolve conflicts between students in Texas schools. This initiative created safer and more productive school environments throughout Texas.

In South Carolina, the city of Spartanburg increased the use of alternatives to detention programming, assisted juveniles in refraining from committing new crimes pending court, provided intervention/prevention programs, assisted juvenile offenders and their families with support services, and made appropriate referrals for services. In addition, the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office continued to fulfill its primary goal of addressing the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency through individual and small group counseling sessions, regular court appearances, and other specialized components tailored to each participant's unique circumstances. The grantee noted that one of its program's biggest accomplishments during the reporting period was making the transition from being grant supported to operating without Federal assistance. The program will now be supported by a combination of state and local funding.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice also reported numerous accomplishments, including developing, implementing, and administering graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders, and training court personnel with respect to preventing and controlling juvenile crime. They also established and maintained interagency information-sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal justice systems, schools, and social service agencies to make more informed decisions regarding the early identification, control, supervision, and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit serious delinquent or criminal acts.

Florida has also established and maintained programs to conduct risk and needs assessments that facilitate effective early intervention and the provision of comprehensive services (including mental health screening and treatment and substance abuse testing and treatment) to juvenile offenders. The state has also established and maintained restorative justice programs; hired detention and corrections personnel, and established and maintained training programs for these personnel; and established, improved, and coordinated pre-release and post-release systems and programs to facilitate the successful reentry of juvenile offenders from state and local custody into the community.

Problems or Barriers Encountered: April 2012–March 2013

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. Overall, grantees reported receiving less funding, which made programmatic decisions difficult and accounted for many challenges within several states. The decrease in Federal funding has forced some providers to lower their level of service or, in some cases, terminate programs. Some agencies have not been able to fund any new programs for the past

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several years. In addition, a few grantees noted that reductions in planning and administrative funds have also had a devastating impact on their state's ability to maintain sufficient staff for optimal program administration. This reduction, coupled with state funding reductions, has resulted in the loss of staff.

In general, the loss of staff represented another major barrier during the reporting period: 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. Likewise, another grantee noted its local award process was delayed as a result of recent Federal changes and legislative mandates.

Requested OJJDP Assistance: April 2012–March 2013

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 performance measures data 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.

Some states would also like OJJDP to provide guidance on how to best address the lack of parental participation in programs.