

Overview of the DCTAT Data for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program: 2014–2015

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, 2015. 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

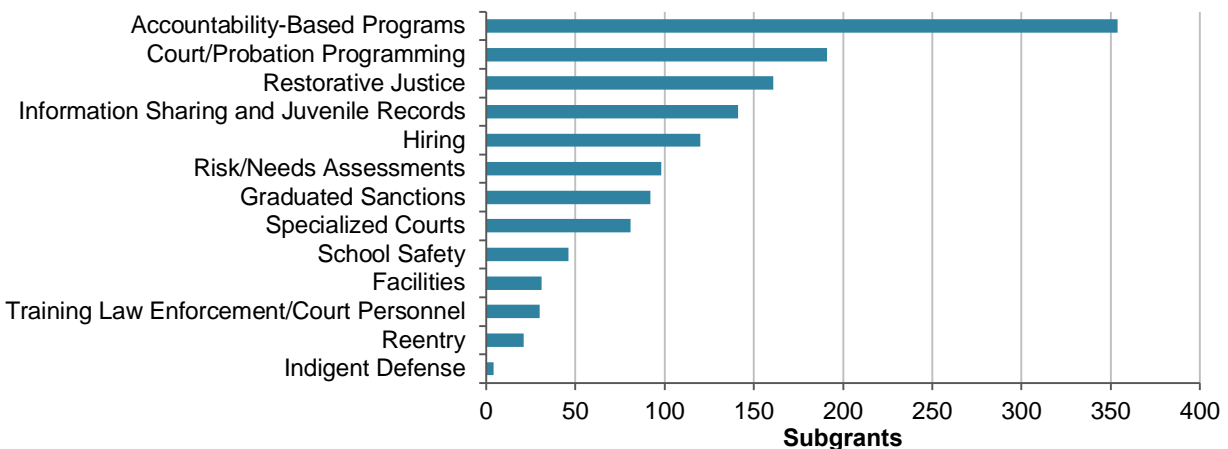
Since 2010, grantees have input 1,029 sets of program data, indicating a reporting compliance rate of 84 percent for all awards (Table 1).¹ During the April 2014–March 2015 reporting period, data entry was completed for 185 out of 216 awards.

Table 1. Status of Award Reporting by Period: April 2010–March 2015

Data Reporting Period	Status				Total
	Not Started	In Progress	Ready for State Complete	Complete	
April 2010–March 2011	3	28	17	199	247
April 2011–March 2012	4	25	7	212	248
April 2012–March 2013	5	20	8	220	253
April 2013–March 2014	10	30	5	213	258
April 2014–March 2015	10	18	3	185	216
Total	32	121	40	1,029	1,222

Figure 1 shows the distribution of subgrants by purpose area during the April 2014–March 2015 reporting period. Accountability-based programs represented 354 subgrants (26 percent), followed by court/probation programming, with 191 (14 percent).

Figure 1. Distribution of Subgrants by Purpose Area: April 2014–March 2015



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.

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 2014–March 2015

Grantee State, District, or Territory	Grant Amount (Dollars)	Grantee State, District, or Territory	Grant Amount (Dollars)
AK	820,889	MS	1,501,173
AL	1,928,531	MT	534,779
AS	162,091	NC	3,267,674
AR	1,436,234	ND	481,016
AZ	2,589,183	NE	1,136,774
CA	11,598,802	NH	581,894
CO	2,038,057	NJ	3,012,590
CT	1,557,425	NM	747,350
DC	452,681	NV	861,654
DE	847,535	NY	5,750,639
FL	7,460,225	OH	3,800,523
GA	3,589,447	OK	1,683,944
GU	417,076	OR	1,747,046
HI	949,271	PA	2,387,000
IA	896,113	PR	1,065,906
ID	1,098,323	RI	536,852
IL	5,784,291	SC	1,868,081
IN	3,459,377	SD	520,177
KS	1,960,145	TN	1,456,962
KY	1,112,428	TX	8,632,164
LA	1,186,498	UT	1,619,512
MA	1,405,347	VA	2,766,505
MD	1,353,488	VI	269,522
ME	571,186	VT	1,057,853
MI	2,067,407	WA	2,440,566
MN	2,091,029	WI	2,154,913
MO	2,277,602	WV	1,059,080
MP	95,734	WY	760,027

Figure 2 illustrates the number of subgrants by Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) during the April 2014–March 2015 reporting period. Most awards (416) were financed by 2012 funds, followed closely by FFY 2011, with 402 subgrants.

Figure 2. Subgrants by FFY: April 2014–March 2015

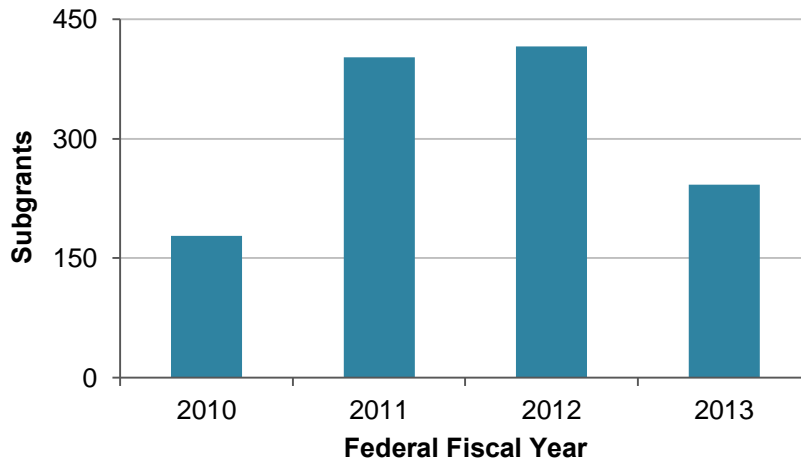
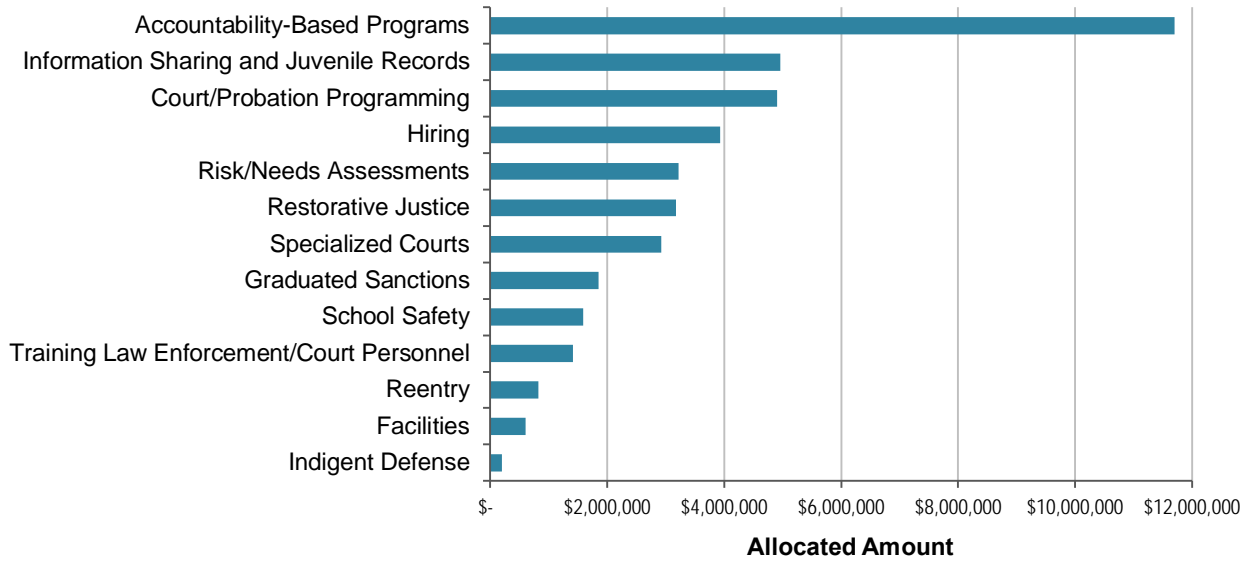


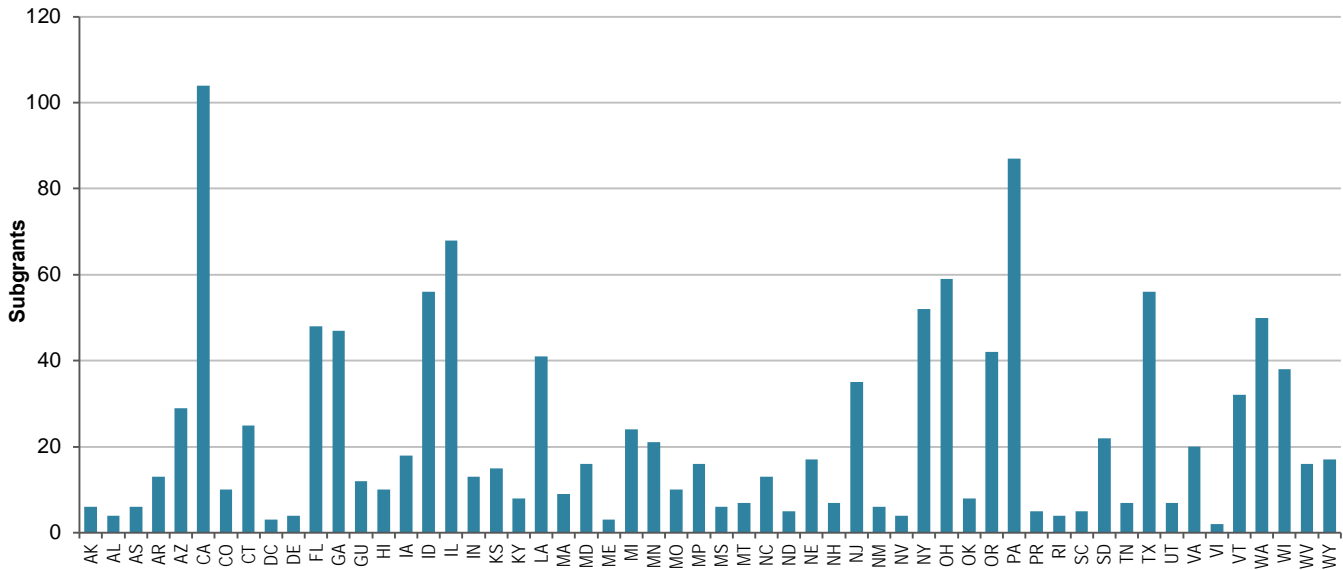
Figure 3 shows award amount allocations by purpose area for the April 2014–March 2015 reporting period. Accountability-based programs represented JABG’s highest-funded purpose area (\$11,704,080), followed by information sharing and juvenile records (\$4,955,679).²

Figure 3. Allocated Amounts by Purpose Area (Dollars): April 2014–March 2015



The number of subgrants by state, district, or territory is shown in Figure 4. California awarded the largest number of subgrants, 104, followed by Pennsylvania, with 87.

Figure 4. Subgrants by State, District, or Territory: April 2014–March 2015



Analysis of implementing agencies for this period revealed that the largest number of programs (613) was with units of local government. Juvenile justice and other government agencies accounted for 284 and 138 awards, respectively (Figure 5).

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.

Figure 5. Implementing Agencies: April 2014–March 2015

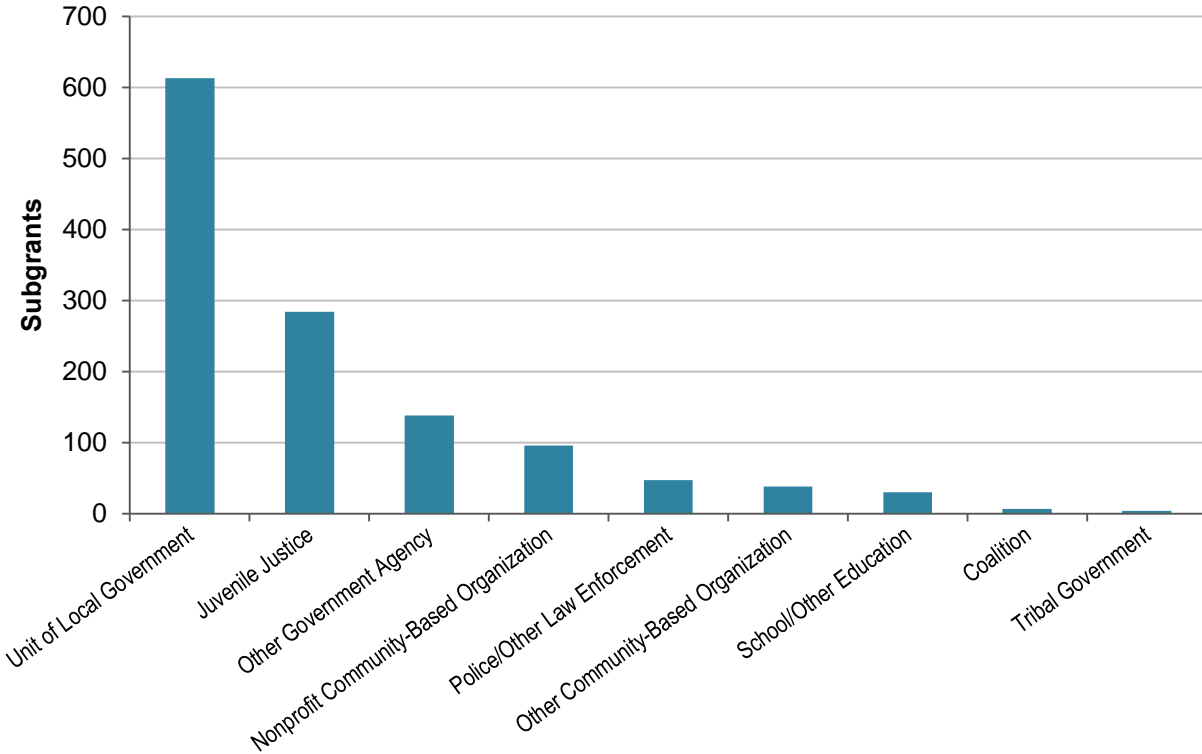


Table 3 provides aggregate demographic data for April 2014 to March 2015 and the number of grantees serving each population. Targeted services include any approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the intended population (e.g., gender-specific, culturally based, and developmentally appropriate services).

Table 3. Target Population Served: April 2014–March 2015

Population	Number of Grantees Serving Group During Reporting Period
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian/Alaska Native	385
Asian	522
Black/African American	1,007
Caucasian/Non-Latino	784
Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	278
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	516
Other Race	831
White/Caucasian	628
Youth Population Not Served Directly	266
Justice System Status	
At-Risk Population (No Prior Offense)	481
First-Time Offenders	797
Repeat Offenders	728
Sex Offenders	268
Status Offenders	409
Violent Offenders	344
Youth Population Not Served Directly	256
Gender	
Male	959
Female	929
Youth Population Not Served Directly	261

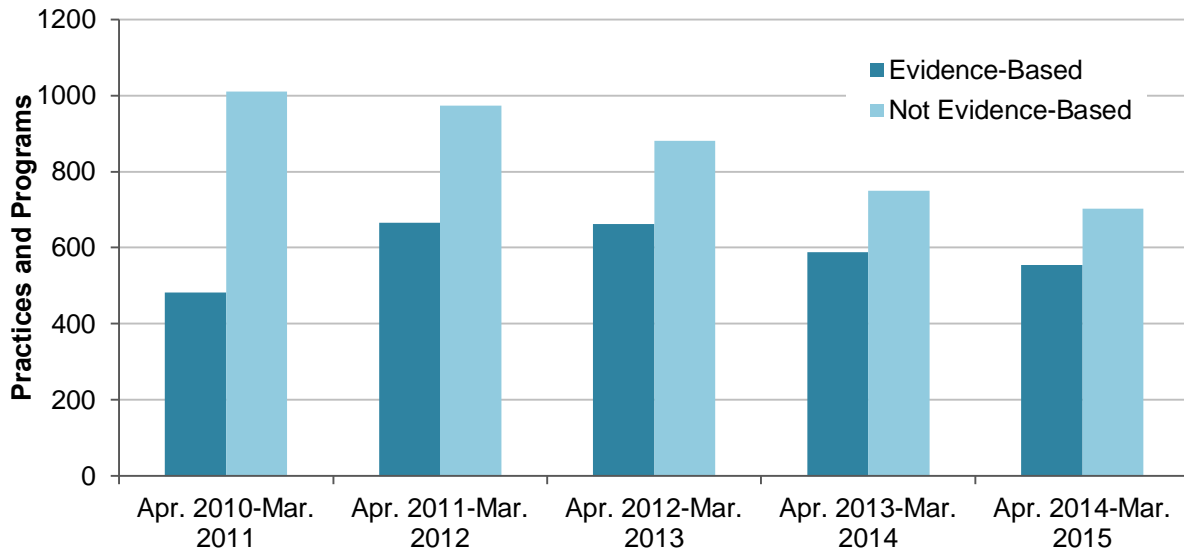
Age	
0–10	247
11–18	969
Over 18	252
Youth Population Not Served Directly	259
Geographic Area	
Rural	667
Suburban	584
Tribal	106
Urban	558
Youth Population Not Served Directly	254
Other	
Mental Health	470
Substance Use	557
Truant/Dropout	529

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, such as 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.

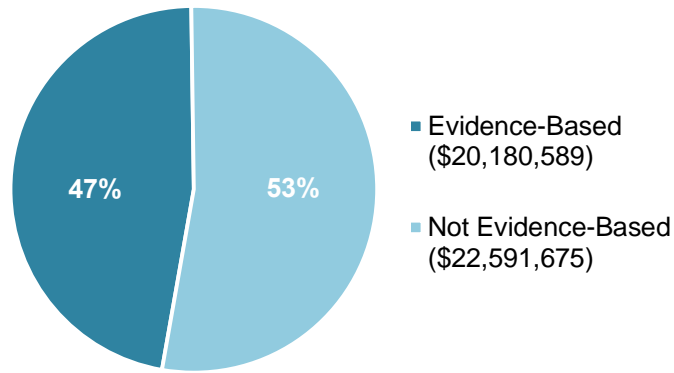
The proportion of JABG grantees implementing evidence-based practices has grown over time. During the April 2014–March 2015 reporting period, 555 programs (44 percent) implemented such practices (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Evidence-Based Practices and Programs by Reporting Period: April 2010–March 2015



During the April 2014–March 2015 reporting period, 47 percent of grant funding (\$20,180,589) was spent by grantees who had implemented evidence-based programs and practices (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Grant Funds for Evidence-Based Practices and Programs: April 2014–March 2015



The next section presents an aggregate of performance measures data (Table 4). Of the 165,515 youth served by JABG grantees, 117,819 youth (71 percent) were served using an evidence-based program or practice. In addition, 86 percent (71,702) of eligible youth exited programs after completing program requirements.

Table 4. OJJDP Core Measures: April 2014–March 2015

Performance Indicator	Youth
Total number of youth served during the reporting period	165,515
Number of youth served using an evidence-based program or practice	117,819

Performance Indicator	Completed	Total Number	Percent
Percent of program youth who complete program requirements	71,702	83,265	86

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, 9,666 youth (11 percent) had an arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 4,731 were committed to a juvenile facility, 347 were sentenced to adult prison, and 3,253 received another sentence as a result of an arrest or delinquent offense.

Long-term measurement of offending outcomes revealed that 6–12 months after exiting the program, 3,370 youth (16 percent) had an arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 1,856 were committed to a juvenile facility, 36 were sentenced to adult prison, and 718 received another sentence as the result of an arrest or delinquent offense.

Table 5. Offending Indicators: April 2014–March 2015

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	90,235
Program youth who had an arrest or delinquent offense	9,666
Program youth who were committed to a juvenile facility	4,731
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	347
Program youth who received another sentence	3,253
Percent Short-Term Offending	11% (9,666 / 90,235)

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked (long-term outcome)	20,696
Program youth who had an arrest or delinquent offense	3,370
Program youth who were committed to a juvenile facility	1,856
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	36
Program youth who received another sentence	718
Percent Long-Term Offending	16% (3,370 / 20,696)

As shown in Table 6, 5,862 youth (7 percent) had a new arrest or new delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 2,491 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 701 were sentenced to adult prison, and 2,317 received another sentence as a result of a new arrest or new delinquent offense.

Long-term recidivism showed that 2,758 youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago (14 percent) had a new arrest or new delinquent offense during the reporting period. Of those, 2,138 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 184 were sentenced to adult prison, and 680 received another sentence as the result of a new arrest or new delinquent offense.

Table 6. Recidivism Indicators: April 2014–March 2015

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	89,546
Program youth who had a new arrest or new delinquent offense	5,862
Program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	2,491
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	701
Program youth who received another sentence	2,317
Percent Short-Term Recidivism	7% (5,862 / 89,546)
Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked (long-term outcome)	19,869
Program youth who had a new arrest or new delinquent offense	2,758
Program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	2,138
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	184
Program youth who received another sentence	680
Percent Long-Term Recidivism	14% (2,758 / 19,869)

Table 7 presents program data on youth whose selected target behaviors improved during the reporting period and 6–12 months after exiting the program. In the short term, participating youth showed the most improvement in target behavior change for cultural skill-building/cultural pride (100 percent) and family functioning (86 percent). Youth who were tracked 6–12 months after exiting the program showed the most improvement in target behavior change for gang resistance/involvement and cultural skill-building/cultural pride (100 percent in each category).

Table 7. Target Behaviors: April 2014–March 2015

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Noted Behavior Change (short term)	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	12,108	9,654	80
School Attendance	9,176	5,239	57
Grade Point Average (GPA)	2,002	1,336	67
General Education Development (GED) Test Passed	463	82	18
High School Completion	1,480	342	23
Job Skills	964	703	73
Employment Status	760	516	68
Family Relationships	6,948	3,785	54
Family Functioning	631	543	86
Antisocial Behavior	18,487	10,963	59
Substance Use	21,109	14,980	71
Gang Resistance/Involvement	1,117	708	63
Cultural Skill-Building/Cultural Pride	147	147	100
Total	75,392	48,998	65
Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Noted Behavior Change (long term)	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	7,595	6,245	82
School Attendance	3,289	1,584	48
Grade Point Average (GPA)	405	342	84
High School Completion	109	44	40
Job Skills	361	249	69
Employment Status	177	145	82
Family Relationships	2,360	839	36
Antisocial Behavior	6,521	3,475	53
Substance Use	6,504	3,433	53
Gang Resistance/Involvement	64	64	100
Cultural Skill-Building/Cultural Pride	56	56	100
Total	27,441	16,476	60

3. Overview of Narrative Data

Program Goals Accomplished: April 2014–March 2015

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. Texas used JABG funds to support a variety of direct services for system-involved and at-risk youth. More than 22,000 at-risk middle-school students were served through the Do the Write Thing Texas Challenge, which promotes critical thinking and empathy to protect youth from violence, illicit drug use, and other antisocial influences. In Travis County, the JABG Local Juvenile Assessment Center identified the educational, substance abuse, and mental health needs of 2,088 youth referred to the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department, and linked them to services. The Denton County Female Juvenile Impact program assisted 254 girls by providing female-focused services around issues such as domestic and dating violence, sexual health, teen pregnancy, family relationships, and substance abuse. Meanwhile, the Jacksboro School Resource Officer program helped provide a safe learning environment for 994 youth by reducing school violence and improving relationships among students, staff, and law enforcement officers.

In New York, JABG funds supported both new and ongoing collaboration and information-sharing efforts. The New York State Unified Court System continued to hold State and Regional School-Justice Partnership Summits for school, justice, and social service professionals on improving school climate. It also hired a full-time Juvenile Justice Liaison to help enhance judicial engagement in the juvenile justice system statewide. The state expanded its network of Regional Youth Justice teams dedicated to building sustainable community capacity to address regionally identified high-priority juvenile justice issues. JABG awards also supported efforts to improve data collection, namely New York City's Juvenile Justice Database project, which has been instrumental in guiding the city's juvenile justice policies and practices. Suffolk County also improved its capacity to collect and manage juvenile justice data by developing county-specific measures. In addition to these efforts, Family Court Dispositional Specialists in New York City continued to assist attorneys in crafting the least restrictive dispositional alternatives for court-involved youth, and the Queens Engagement Strategies for Teens (QUEST) project reduced the rearrest and failure-to-appear rates of the 93 youth it served to well below program goals.

Hawaii enhanced its continuum of graduated sanctions and expanded its accountability-based programming to prevent the unnecessary placement of youth at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF). Since receiving JABG funding, the HYCF resident population has dropped from approximately 80 to 90 youth per day to approximately 25 to 30 youth per day. During the reporting period, nearly 1,000 youth were served through a variety of programs, including the Teen Court in the County of Kauai; the Family Management Program in the County of Hawaii; a diversion program within the County of Maui's Police Department; and a Juvenile Justice Center that accommodates referrals from the Honolulu Police Department, Family Court, and families seeking assistance with troubled youth. Youth and their families were also provided culture-based programming through a Community Youth Justice program that emphasized the values of participants' own cultures, such as healing and forgiveness.

In Vermont, JABG funding helped to train practitioners, boost collaboration among service providers, and expand accountability-based programming. The Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families trained social workers in recidivism reduction and youth engagement. As a result, 12 certified practitioners are now available to assist community-based program staff statewide in applying these techniques to their work with youth. Meanwhile, staff at the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center were taught how to use motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral therapy with detained youth. More than 250 youth care workers attended the 9th Annual Vermont Working with Youth Conference on May 23, 2014, which included a youth panel and 27 workshops. In addition to these education and training events, Vermont made strides in Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance with the hiring of a PREA coordinator who worked closely with four youth facilities through their first audit.

Massachusetts reported success in expanding accountability-based programming for youth in the areas of case management, restorative justice, and mentoring. The Cambridge Police Department provided case management services for at-risk and system-involved youth, using risk and needs assessments to identify the unique needs of individual youth and matching them to appropriate services. Officers were also trained in cultural competence and led youth in activities such as boxing and basketball, which improved their relationship with police and introduced them to positive role models. In Plymouth County, the District Attorney's Office partnered with the nonprofit

Coaching for Change to pair more than 100 youth with college mentors, who helped them improve their skills in the areas of education, employability, and prosocial relationships.

Massachusetts also increased its capacity and commitment to using restorative practices. Youth in Middlesex County were diverted from prosecution through circles and other restorative practices, which also assisted victims in the constructive resolution of their cases. Teachers, staff, and students in Boston Public Schools—the state’s largest school district with the highest percentage of minority students—participated in restorative justice trainings, workshops, and coaching. Students in two middle schools and one high school in another school district were also taught about restorative justice principles, conflict management, and bullying prevention.

Maine was another state that prioritized restorative justice efforts during the reporting period. It achieved a major milestone by developing its Community Justice Collaborative (CJC) model, which provides communities statewide with a platform for establishing restorative practices. The model ensures both the sustainability of restorative justice efforts and consistency throughout this new statewide restorative network. By the end of the reporting period, five communities were in the process of developing their own CJs. The model helped these communities assemble key stakeholders, identify local needs and resources, and launch restorative programs. In Augusta, for instance, the Boys and Girls Club integrated with diversion programs to help implement new restorative practices. In Lewiston, the Tree Street Youth Center became a site where youth could access restorative services, with a focus on reducing disproportionate minority contact.

Problems or Barriers Encountered: April 2014–March 2015

In addition to their accomplishments, JABG grantees described a few significant barriers that prevented them from reaching their goals during this reporting period. Many cited the gradual decline and permanent loss of JABG funding as a serious blow to their programs, limiting their ability to hire and train staff and ultimately reducing the number of youth who were able to participate. As a result, some youth have been sent to secure detention instead of being served in their communities, and those who were placed on waiting lists did not receive the swift sanctions that these programs are meant to provide. Scarce funding has also prevented some grantees from reaching their goals of raising awareness about the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and ensuring that youth facilities are JJDP compliant.

Conversely, some grantees described logistical challenges that left them with unspent funds at the end of the reporting period. Hurdles included delays in the subgranting process and longer planning periods than anticipated prior to launching programs. In some cases, demand for services was simply lower than expected. These unforeseen issues prevented programs from meeting some of their goals.

A major concern expressed by many grantees was high staff turnover. Programs that found themselves constantly rehiring staff were forced to expend a great deal of time and resources on training people who did not stay for long. This turnover also affected the overall health of programs that had to suspend operations while training new staff, which led to a loss of community engagement and therefore a reduction in referrals. Many programs rely on referrals from other agencies to reach their goals, so this loss is a serious threat to their success. Some explained that for a variety of reasons, they struggled to get timely and consistent referrals from schools, courts, and police to meet their target number of youth participants.

Another barrier to meeting these targets was resistance from both youth and their parents. Several programs reported low youth engagement, especially among those with mental health and substance abuse challenges, and limited cooperation from parents and families.

A final challenge described by many grantees was data collection. Some programs struggled to measure outcomes because laws and school policies prevented data on youth from being released. In other cases, partner agencies found that because they collected data differently, it was difficult to combine their information into a single understanding of the problems facing youth in their communities. Lastly, some noted that they lacked a reliable observation tool that would allow them to monitor implementation across sites and assess fidelity of practices.

Requested OJJDP Assistance: April 2014–March 2015

Several JABG grantees requested assistance from OJJDP in addressing the challenges they faced during this reporting period. Many expressed interest in training and technical assistance, though the specifics of their requests varied widely. Some sought technical assistance in particular subject areas, such as juvenile sex offender treatment, substance abuse treatment, therapeutic foster care, community-based multisystemic therapy, and

prevention programming. One grantee requested technical assistance and support in data collection, expressing a desire to collect data more effectively and efficiently by designing a reporting system that would match subgrantees' project activities with the required performance measures. Another grantee asked for training and technical assistance in capacity building and sustainability. This grantee also requested that training be continuously available, given high rates of staff turnover.