

## Overview of the DCTAT Data for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program: April 2015–March 2016

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 and improve their ability to track juveniles and provide better alternatives such as restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions.

This performance report provides an overview of the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) data for JABG grantees as reported through March 31, 2016, and analyzes the data collected.

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.

### Report Highlights for the April 2015–March 2016 Reporting Period

- Grantees completed data entry for 120 out of 150 awards; this means 80 percent of grantees completed their reporting requirements.
- The purpose area accountability-based programs represented 162 subgrants (22 percent), followed by information sharing and juvenile records, with 115 subgrants (15 percent). Accountability-based programs was JABG's highest-funded purpose area (\$6,649,143), and information sharing and juvenile records was the next highest (\$4,543,726). The lowest-funded purpose areas were facilities (\$309,953) and indigent defense (\$170,324).
- The proportion of JABG grantees implementing evidence-based practices has grown over time. A total of 356 programs (54 percent) implemented such practices. A total of 56 percent of grant funding (\$14,775,447) was spent by grantees that had implemented evidence-based programs and practices.
- Short-term offending measurement outcomes revealed that 7,103 youth (13 percent) had an arrest or delinquent offense. Long-term measurement of offending outcomes revealed that 6–12 months after exiting the program, 2,054 youth (20 percent) had an arrest or delinquent offense.

## 1. Examination of Program Information

Since 2010, grantees have input 1,149 sets of program data, for a reporting compliance rate of 84 percent for all awards (Table 1).<sup>1</sup> During the April 2015–March 2016 reporting period, grantees completed data entry for 120 out of 150 awards (an 80 percent compliant rate).

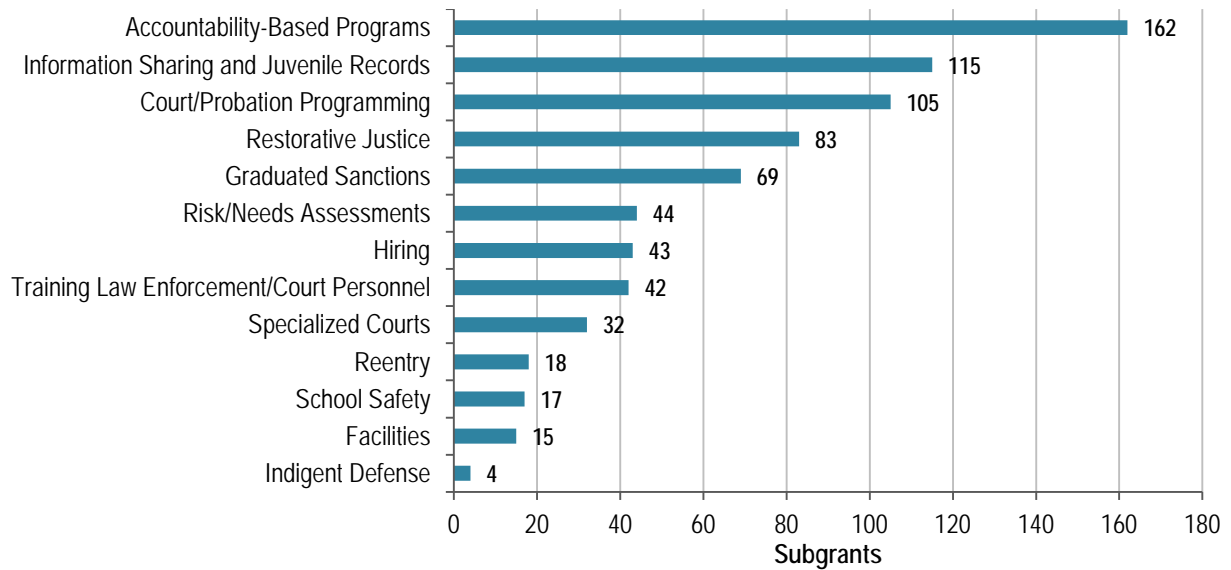
**Table 1. Status of Award Reporting by Reporting Period: April 2010–March 2016**

Data Reporting Period	Status				Compliance Rate Percent
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total	
April 2010–March 2011	3	28	199	247	81
April 2011–March 2012	4	25	212	248	85
April 2012–March 2013	5	20	220	253	87
April 2013–March 2014	10	30	213	258	83
April 2014–March 2015	10	18	185	216	86
April 2015–March 2016	12	13	120	150	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>84</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of subgrants by purpose area. Accountability-based programs had the most, with 162 subgrants (22 percent), followed by information sharing and juvenile records, with 115 subgrants (15 percent). The programs with the least number of subgrants were facilities, with 15 subgrants (2 percent), and indigent defense, with 4 subgrants (0.5 percent).

**Figure 1. Distribution of Subgrants by Purpose Area: April 2015–March 2016<sup>2</sup>**



For JABG grant amounts by State, district, or territory, Illinois expended the most funds, followed by California and Florida (Table 2).

**Table 2. Grant Amount by State, District, or Territory (Dollars): April 2015–March 2016**

Grantee State	Grant Amount (Dollars)	Grantee State	Grant Amount (Dollars)
AK	166,762	NC	80,244
AR	1,231,683	ND	148,464
AZ	940,868	NE	21,642
CA	2,538,870	NH	203,869
CO	484,146	NJ	57,637
CT	944,324	NM	160,073
DC	124,143	NY	2,156,334
DE	292,910	OH	587,156
FL	2,432,543	OK	198,140
GA	1,135,062	OR	193,107
HI	216,051	PA	194,951
IA	191,827	PR	202,274
ID	219,126	RI	56,805
IL	2,657,839	SC	173,184
IN	557,047	SD	170,126
KS	138,400	TN	434,485
KY	850,326	TX	1,376,067
LA	287,596	UT	283,346
MD	237,943	VA	444,635
MI	624,157	VT	240,796
MN	252,846	WA	133,492
MO	1,417,475	WI	583,688
MP	20,007	WV	152,347
MS	203,152	WY	43,873

<sup>2</sup> Information sharing and juvenile records are two different purpose areas in the DCTAT. However, they are combined for this report. The category “hiring” is an aggregate of the following purpose areas: 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 the category “specialized courts.”

The number of subgrants awarded by State, district, or territory is shown in Figure 2. California awarded the largest number of subgrants, 64, followed by Illinois, with 49. North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Rhode Island awarded the least number of subgrants; each State awarded 1 subgrant.

**Figure 2. Subgrants by State, District, or Territory: April 2015–March 2016**

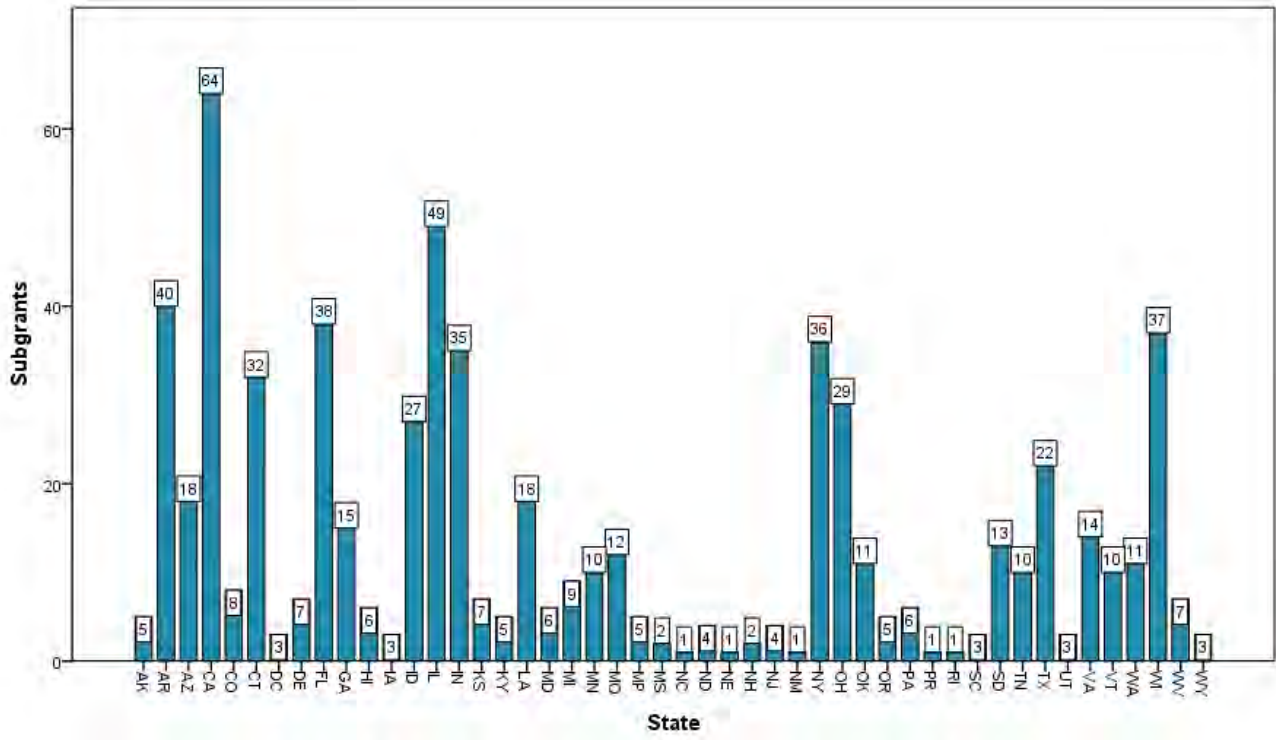


Figure 3 illustrates a count of the number of subgrants by the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) they were awarded during the April 2015–March 2016 reporting period. Most awards (258) were financed by 2013 funds, followed by FFY 2012, with 220 subgrants.

**Figure 3. Subgrants by FFY: April 2015–March 2016**

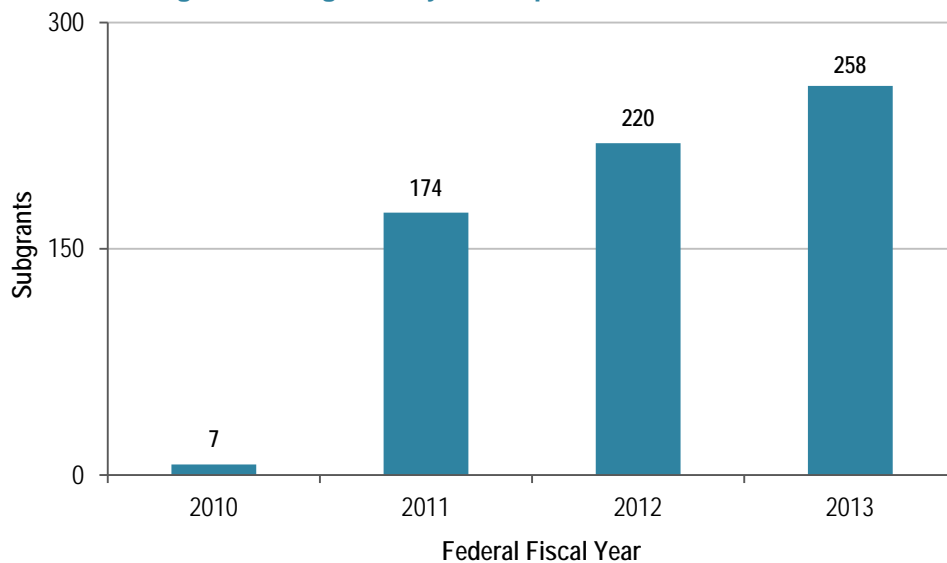
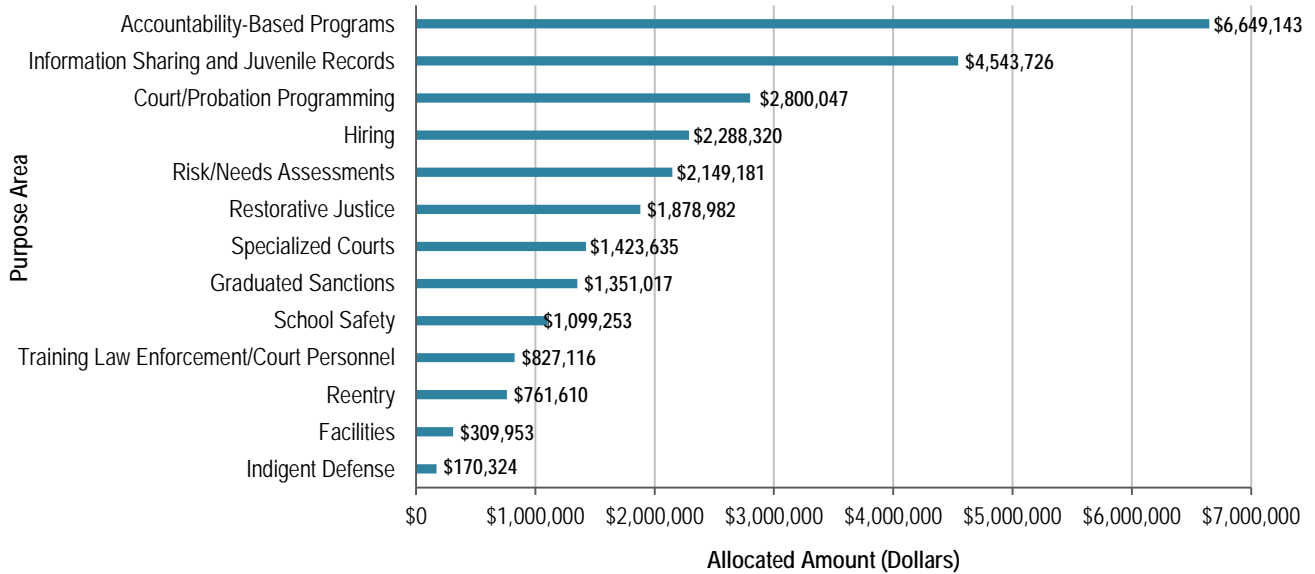


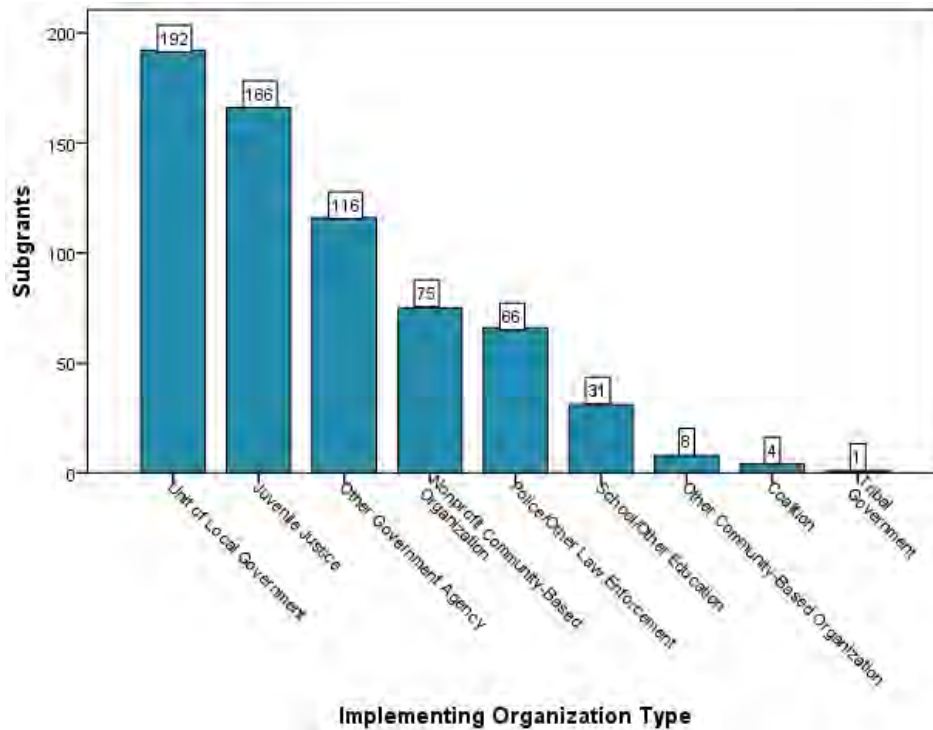
Figure 4 shows award amount allocations by purpose area. Accountability-based programs received the most funds (\$6,649,143), followed by information sharing and juvenile records (\$4,543,726). The purpose areas receiving the fewest funds are facilities (\$309,953) and indigent defense (\$170,324).

**Figure 4. Allocated Amounts by Purpose Area (Dollars): April 2015–March 2016<sup>3</sup>**



Analysis of implementing agency types revealed that the largest numbers of programs (192) were implemented by a unit of local government. The agency types juvenile justice and other government agency accounted for 166 and 116 awards, respectively (Figure 5).

**Figure 5. Implementing Agencies: April 2015–March 2016**



<sup>3</sup> Information sharing and juvenile records are different purpose areas in the DCTAT. However, they are combined for this report. The category “hiring” is an aggregate for the following purpose areas: 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 the category “specialized courts.”

Table 3 provides aggregate demographic data 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 2015–March 2016**

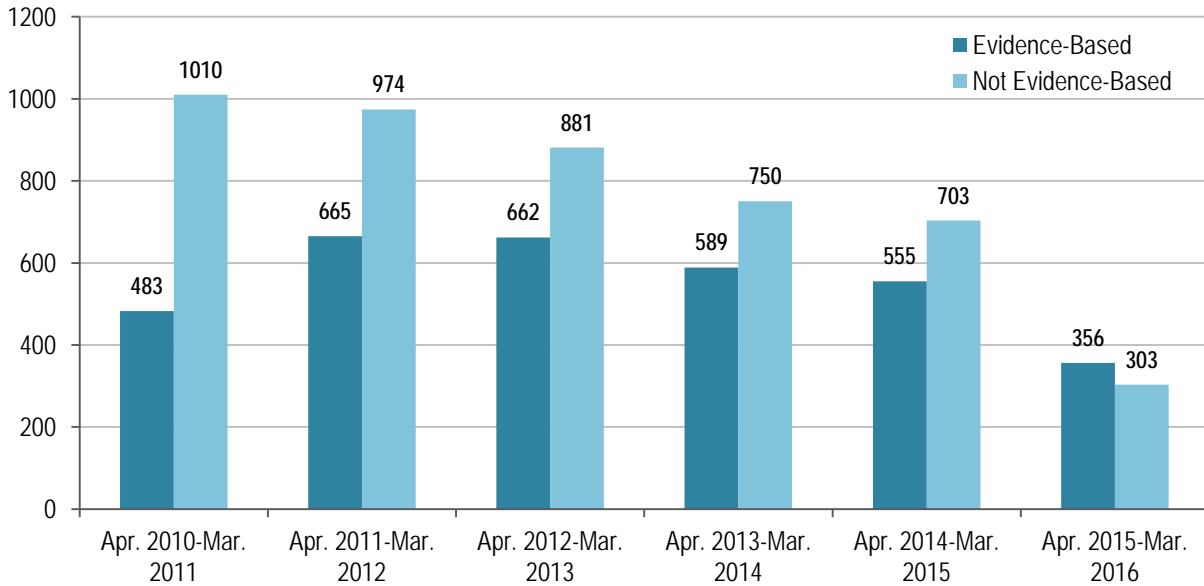
Population	Number of Grantees Serving Group During Reporting Period
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
American Indian/Alaska Native	228
Asian	294
Black/African American	448
Caucasian/Non-Latino	334
Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	426
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	135
Other Race	291
White/Caucasian	432
Youth Population Not Served Directly	157
<b>Justice System Status</b>	
At-Risk Population (No Prior Offense)	269
First-Time Offenders	412
Repeat Offenders	362
Sex Offenders	118
Status Offenders	193
Violent Offenders	165
Youth Population Not Served Directly	161
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	494
Female	481
Youth Population Not Served Directly	156
<b>Age</b>	
0–10	124
11–18	497
Over 18	138
Youth Population Not Served Directly	157
<b>Geographic Area</b>	
Rural	335
Suburban	302
Tribal	59
Urban	322
Youth Population Not Served Directly	156
<b>Other</b>	
Mental Health	240
Substance Use	296
Truant/Dropout	296

## 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. Through the core measures, data reported represent all youth who participate in all programs and services funded by a specific Federal-year JABG award. This section shows data that grantees reported in the following core measures: implementation of evidence-based programs, number of youth served, number of youth offending and reoffending short and long term, and number of youth achieving target behaviors.

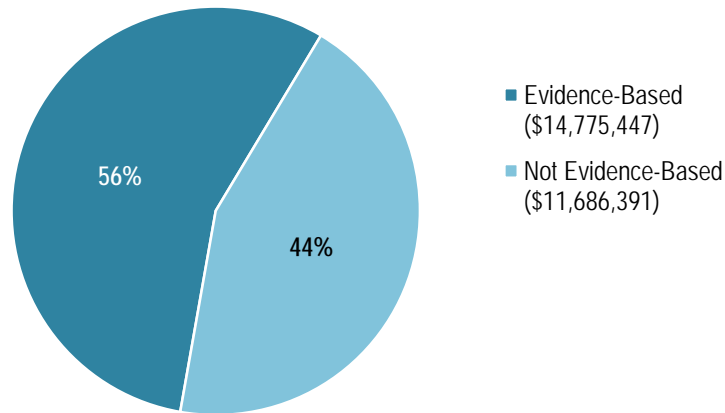
The proportion of JABG grantees implementing evidence-based practices has grown over time, despite a decrease in Federal funds. A total of 356 programs (54 percent) implemented such practices (Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Evidence-Based Practices and Programs by Reporting Period: April 2010–March 2016**



A total of 56 percent of grant funding (\$14,775,447) was spent by grantees that had implemented evidence-based programs and practices (Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Grant Funds for Evidence-Based Practices and Programs: April 2015–March 2016**



The next section presents an aggregate of core performance measures data (Table 4). Of the 100,907 youth served by JABG grantees, 86 percent of the youth (86,562) were served using an evidence-based program or practice. In addition, 79 percent of youth (51,784) exited programs after completing program requirements.

**Table 4. OJJDP Core Measures: April 2015–March 2016**

Performance Indicator	Youth		
Total number of youth served during the reporting period	100,907		
Number of youth served using an evidence-based program or practice	86,562		
Performance Indicator	Completed	Total Number	Percent
Percent of program youth who complete program requirements	51,784	65,461	79

The success of the JABG program is largely dependent on program youths' offending and reoffending (or recidivism) rates. As shown in Table 5, short-term offending measurement outcomes revealed 7,103 youth (13 percent) had an arrest or delinquent offense. Of those, 2,090 were committed to a juvenile facility, 25 were sentenced to adult prison, and 2,579 received another sentence.

**Table 5. Short-Term Offending Indicators: April 2015–March 2016**

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	53,742
Program youth who had an arrest or delinquent offense	7,103
Program youth who were committed to a juvenile facility	2,090
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	25
Program youth who received another sentence	2,579
<b>Percent Short-Term Offending</b>	<b>13%</b> <b>(7,103 / 53,742)</b>

Long-term measurement of offending outcomes revealed that 6–12 months after exiting the program, 2,054 youth (20 percent) had an arrest or delinquent offense (Table 6). Of those, 688 were committed to a juvenile facility, 100 were sentenced to adult prison, and 365 received another sentence.

**Table 6. Long-Term Offending Indicators: April 2015–March 2016**

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked	10,377
Program youth who had an arrest or delinquent offense	2,054
Program youth who were committed to a juvenile facility	688
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	100
Program youth who received another sentence	365
<b>Percent Long-Term Offending</b>	<b>20%</b> <b>(2,054 / 10,377)</b>

As shown in Table 7, short-term recidivism measurement outcomes showed that 2,976 youth (8 percent) had a new arrest or new delinquent offense. Of those, 985 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 452 were sentenced to adult prison, and 616 received another sentence.

**Table 7. Short-Term Recidivism Indicators: April 2015–March 2016**

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	35,565
Program youth who had a new arrest or new delinquent offense	2,976
Program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	985
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	452
Program youth who received another sentence	616
<b>Percent Short-Term Recidivism</b>	<b>8%</b> <b>(2,976 / 35,565)</b>

Long-term recidivism showed that 1,899 youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago (17 percent) had a new arrest or new delinquent offense (Table 8). Of those, 850 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 106 were sentenced to adult prison, and 497 received another sentence.

**Table 8. Long-Term Recidivism Indicators: April 2015–March 2016**

Performance Indicator	Youth
Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were tracked	10,885
Program youth who had a new arrest or new delinquent offense	1,899
Program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	850
Program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	106
Program youth who received another sentence	497
<b>Percent Long-Term Recidivism</b>	<b>17%</b> <b>(1,899 /10,885)</b>

Table 9 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 a target behavior change for Substance Use (96 percent).

**Table 9. Short-Term Target Behaviors: April 2015–March 2016**

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Noted Behavior Change	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	8,082	6,719	83
School Attendance	5,751	3,791	66
Grade Point Average (GPA)	1,231	575	47
General Education Development (GED) Test Passed	328	108	33
High School Completion	505	189	37
Job Skills	479	296	62
Employment Status	331	91	27
Family Relationships	3,824	2,921	76
Family Functioning	638	528	83
Antisocial Behavior	7,602	5,689	75
Substance Use <sup>4</sup>	22,816	21,813	96
Gang Resistance/ Involvement	321	226	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,908</b>	<b>42,946</b>	<b>83</b>

<sup>4</sup> Two organizations had significantly higher values to report for substance use (both short-term and long-term) than did other organizations.



Youth who were tracked 6–12 months after exiting the program showed the most improvement in a target behavior change for cultural skill-building/cultural pride (100 percent) (Table 10). The 99 youth served for this target behavior were reported by one organization. Other long-term target behaviors where youth showed significant improvements were social competence, job skills, employment status, and family relationships.

**Table 10. Long-Term Target Behaviors: April 2015–March 2016**

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Noted Behavior Change	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Social Competence	2,773	2,233	81
School Attendance	1,371	887	65
Grade Point Average (GPA)	821	444	54
High School Completion	85	50	59
Job Skills	127	103	81
Employment Status	305	264	87
Family Relationships	1,367	1,102	81
Antisocial Behavior	1,867	1,480	79
Substance Use	16,550	11,535	70
Cultural Skill-Building/Cultural Pride	99	99	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,365</b>	<b>18,197</b>	<b>72</b>

### 3. Overview of Narrative Data

#### *Program Goals Accomplished: April 2015–March 2016*

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

Overall, grantees were busy expanding and enhancing their existing programs and services. California, which had the largest number of active subgrants, expended its funds in various ways. Most of the subgrantees’ accomplishments focused on training law enforcement officers, training staff in evidence-based practices and further developing their methods in addressing individual youth needs, and launching new case management systems to improve the communication between court and probation departments and to enhance statistical reports. A subgrantee in Arkansas enrolled 16 youth in the Graduated Sanctions Program. Participants were fitted with a GPS monitor, and the monitors would be removed based on their compliance with the program’s requirements. Ten youth successfully completed the program, three youth were removed from the program due to lack of cooperation, and three youth still remain in the program. In New York, the New York State Office of Child and Family Services teamed up with the ANDRUS Sanctuary Institute to focus on bringing trauma-informed practices to the residential facilities and detention centers as well as to the community multiservice offices that serve in the Department of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth continuum of care.

#### *Problems or Barriers Encountered: April 2015–March 2016*

In addition to their accomplishments, some JABG grantees described a few significant barriers that prevented them from reaching their goals. 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 were sent to secure detention facilities instead of being served in their communities. Scarce funding also prevented some subgrantees from purchasing essential items such as GPS monitors and curriculums.

Another barrier to meeting these targets was resistance from both youth and their parents. Several programs reported low youth engagement/commitment and limited parental involvement. Another common problem among

some of the programs was a high level of resistance from law enforcement regarding arresting and/ or charging juveniles for drugs, alcohol, and paraphernalia possession. Other subgrantees stated that lack of or decline of referrals was a major barrier. Furthermore some of the referrals who did participate did not successfully complete the program due to lack of attendance and delinquency issues.

### *Requested OJJDP Assistance: April 2015–March 2016*

A few JABG grantees requested assistance from OJJDP in addressing the challenges they faced. One subgrantee asked for suggestions on how it could educate and heighten the awareness of law enforcement officers as to the damage, potential damage, and disservice they were doing to its program youth. Another subgrantee requested OJJDP to continue to share the best practices on reporting recidivism and the use of evidence-based programs. Subgrantees requested more funding for various reasons, including updating computers for the classroom, establishing accountability-based juvenile diversion programs to eliminate some of the barriers mentioned, offering transportation, providing court programs, helping to continue the decline of recidivism, and hiring a full-time co-facilitator and case manager to increase the quality of service provided to high-need families.

## Summary for the April 2015–March 2016 Reporting Period

Grantees completed data entry for 120 out of 150 awards, an 80% reporting compliance rate. The program area with the most subgrants was “accountability-based programs,” with 162 subgrants (22 percent); it was also the highest-funded purpose area (\$6,649,143). “Information sharing and juvenile records” had the next highest number of subgrants, with 115 (15 percent), and was the second largest funded program area (\$4,543,726). The programs with the least number of subgrants were “facilities,” with 15 subgrants (2 percent), and “indigent defense,” with 4 subgrants (0.5 percent). They were also the lowest funded program areas, with “facilities” receiving \$309,953 and “indigent defense” receiving \$170,324.

Illinois expended the most JABG grant funds, followed by California and Florida. California awarded the largest number of subgrants, with 64, followed by Illinois, with 49. North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Rhode Island awarded the least number of subgrants, at 1 each. Most awards (258) were financed by 2013 funds, followed closely by FFY 2012, with 220 subgrants.

The largest numbers of programs (192) were implemented by the agency type unit of local government. Agency types juvenile justice and other government agency implemented 166 and 116 awards, respectively. The proportion of JABG grantees implementing evidence-based practices has grown over time, despite a decrease in Federal funds. A total of 356 programs (54 percent) implemented such practices. Grantees that implemented evidence-based programs and practices spent 56 percent of grant funding (\$14,775,447).

Short-term offending measurement outcomes revealed 7,103 youth (13 percent) had an arrest or delinquent offense. Short-term recidivism measurement outcomes showed that 2,976 youth (8 percent) had a new arrest or new delinquent offense. Of those, 985 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 452 were sentenced to adult prison, and 616 received another. Long-term measurement of offending outcomes revealed that 6–12 months after exiting the program, 2,054 youth (20 percent) had an arrest or delinquent offense. Long-term recidivism measurement outcomes showed that 1,899 youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago (17 percent) had a new arrest or new delinquent offense. Of those, 850 were recommitted to a juvenile facility, 106 were sentenced to adult prison, and 497 received another sentence. In the short term, participating youth showed the most improvement in a target behavior change for substance use (96 percent). Youth who were tracked 6–12 months after exiting the program showed the most improvement in a target behavior change for cultural skill-building/cultural pride (100 percent).

JABG narrative response data revealed several significant accomplishments among the grantees. Most of the subgrantees' accomplishments focused on training law enforcement officers, training staff in evidence-based practices and further developing their methods in addressing individual youth needs, and launching new case management systems to improve the communication between court and probation departments and to enhance statistical reports. Significant barriers described by JABG grantees that prevented them from reaching their goals included the gradual decline and permanent loss of JABG funding, which was a serious blow to their programs. Other barriers were resistance from youth and their parents, low youth engagement/commitment, and limited parental involvement, a high level of resistance from law enforcement regarding arresting and/ or charging juveniles, and a lack of or decline of referrals. A few JABG grantees requested assistance from OJJDP in addressing the challenges they faced. Subgrantees requested assistance in the form of suggestions on how to educate and heighten awareness among law enforcement staff, suggestions on the best practices on reporting recidivism, and providing more funding.