

Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

JUVENILE MENTORING

PERFORMANCE REPORT

January-June 2018

ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH

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INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Mentoring program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), helps national, regional, and local nonprofit organizations strengthen and expand their youth mentoring activities. Mentoring activities include direct one-on-one, group, peer, or a combination of mentoring services to support a match between a mentor and one or more youth. Mentoring promotes positive behaviors, attitudes, and outcomes for youth and reduces risk factors associated with delinquency and juvenile justice system involvement, such as poor school performance and substance use.

OJJDP requires grantees to report on performance measures to demonstrate whether the Juvenile Mentoring program achieved its goals and to improve program and policy decisions. This report presents the Juvenile Mentoring program activities occurring between January and June 2018 and highlights grantee results achieved with OJJDP funding.

Highlights

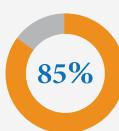
145,630

NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED

Demonstrating Positive Behavior Change



Matched with a Mentor



Youth Offending



Grantees Implementing Evidence-based Programs



OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

Between January and June 2018, OJJDP's Juvenile Mentoring program included 83 grantees, including both national and regional organizations. Seventy grantees were operational (or provided mentoring and supportive services during the activity period) and received awards totaling over \$179 million in OJJDP funding (figure 1).¹ Fifty-four percent of grantees subawarded some or all their funds to local chapters or subgrantees, resulting in 371 subgrantees providing mentoring services during the activity period.

Figure 1. Award Details

83
Total Grantees

84%
Compliant with Reporting Requirements

70 Operational Grantees
(provided services during the period)

371 Operational Subgrantees
(provided services during the period)

\$179.4
Total Funding (in millions)

¹ Funding amounts represent the total funding for the life of the awards and does not represent actual grantee spending during the activity period.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

OJJDP supports evidence-based practices and programs among grantees and their subgrantees. Evidence-based practices and programs include models shown to be effective at reducing delinquency and improving youth outcomes. Evidence-based mentoring practices align with six core standards of practice in recruitment, screening, training, matching and initiation, monitoring, and support services.² During the January–June 2018 activity period, 90 percent of Juvenile Mentoring program grantees and subgrantees used federal funds to implement an evidence-based program or practice ($n = 382$).

YOUTH SERVED

OJJDP-funded mentoring programs achieved significant growth in youth participating during the January–June 2018 activity period, serving 25 percent more youth than the previous activity period.³ Grantees and subgrantees served a total of 145,630 youth during the activity period, compared with 116,440 youth served during the July–December 2017 activity period.

YOUTH MATCHED WITH A MENTOR

A primary goal of the Juvenile Mentoring program is to strengthen the capacity of mentoring programs to increase the number of youth engaged in a mentoring relationship. OJJDP's funding resulted in grantees and subgrantees recruiting over 23,000 new mentors during the January–June 2018 activity period, an increase of 19 percent from the July–December 2017 activity period, for a total of 53,736 mentors enrolled (figure 2). The recruitment efforts resulted in 85 percent of enrolled youth successfully matched with a mentor during the activity period. Additionally, grantees and subgrantees achieved high mentor retention, reporting 91 percent of mentors remaining active with the program at the end of the activity period.

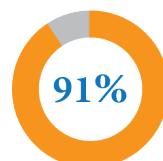
Figure 2. Mentor Recruitment and Youth Matched



Youth Matched



Mentors Retained



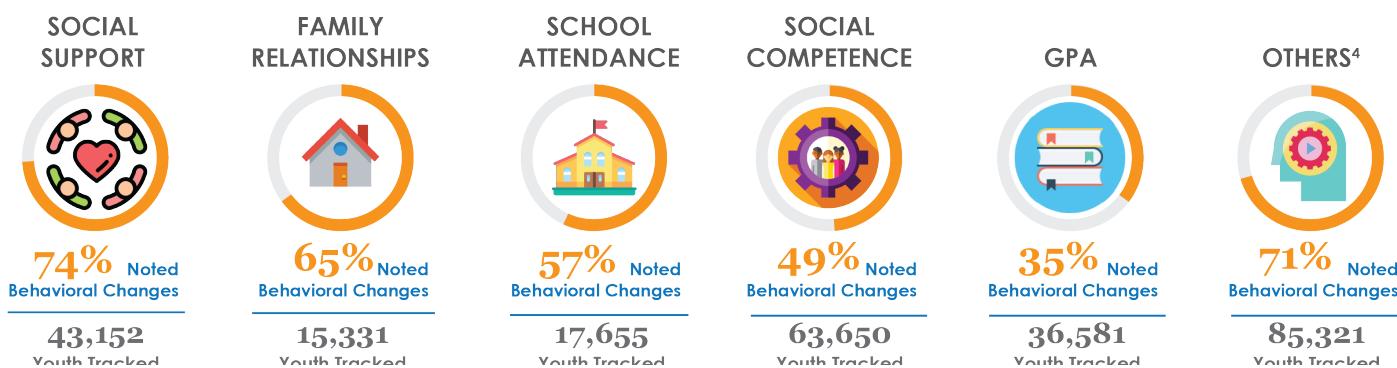
² National Mentoring Resource Center. *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring*. <https://www.mentoring.org/program-resources/elements-of-effective-practice-for-mentoring/>

³ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Overview of the PMT Data for Juvenile Mentoring Grantees: January–December 2017*. <https://ojdppmt.ojp.gov/help/MentoringJanDec2017.pdf>

TARGET BEHAVIORS

The purpose of the Juvenile Mentoring program is to promote positive youth outcomes, such as improved academic performance, and reduce negative outcomes, such as substance use and gang participation. To measure the impact of mentoring programs on the lives of enrolled youth, grantees and subgrantees report on behavior changes in several targeted areas (e.g., family relationships, substance use, and school attendance). During the January–June 2018 activity period, grantees and subgrantees observed the largest short-term improvement among youth receiving services to improve their perception of social support, with 74 percent of youth demonstrating a positive change while in the program or within 6 months of exiting (figure 3). In the short-term overall, 60 percent of program youth showed improvement in a targeted behavior.

Figure 3. Short-term Outcome Percentages for the Specified Target Behaviors



YOUTH EXITING SUCCESSFULLY

Mentoring programs create and define the specific requirements for youth to successfully complete their program. Youth who fulfilled all program obligations and requirements have successfully exited, while those who failed to complete the requirements, such as those expelled or who left voluntarily, are considered to have unsuccessfully exited the program. Of the 58,618 youth who exited the mentoring program during the activity period, grantees and subgrantees reported 82 percent successfully exited (figure 4).

Figure 4. Percent of Youth Exiting Successfully



⁴ Others including antisocial behavior; prosocial behavior; GED, substance use, gang resistance, community involvement, and occupational skills.

YOUTH DELINQUENCY

To track their program's success at reducing delinquency and improving outcomes for participants, grantees and subgrantees monitor youth for offenses and recidivism during and following a youth's involvement in the mentoring program. Grantees and subgrantees monitored over 80,000 program youth during the January–June 2018 activity period, of which less than one percent had an arrest or delinquent offense in the short-term (figure 5). Recidivism rates were also low, with less than 1 percent of the program youth tracked during the activity period reoffending in the short-term (figure 5).

Figure 5. Short-term Youth Delinquency Outcomes

0.4% of program youth tracked
OFFENDED

354/80,882

0.1% of program youth tracked
RE-OFFENDED

24/17,157

YOUTH VICTIMIZATION

Violent victimization, childhood exposure to violence, and child maltreatment are risk factors that increase a youth's likelihood of engaging in delinquency or other problem behaviors.⁵ Positive mentoring relationships can serve as protective factors to counter the risks of childhood and youth victimization.⁶ Mentoring grantees and subgrantees reported out of 2,849 program youth tracked, 8 percent were victimized during the activity period (figure 6). Of youth previously identified as victims, 3 percent experienced re-victimization during the activity period (figure 6).

Figure 6. Short-term Victimization Outcomes

8% of program youth tracked
VICTIMIZED

218/2,849

3% of program youth tracked
RE-VICTIMIZED

67/2,369

⁵ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (December 2015). *Risk Factors for Delinquency*. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/Resource/LitReviews/Risk%20Factors.pdf>

⁶ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (February 2011). *Mentoring*. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Mentoring.pdf>

VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

OJJDP funds the Specialized Services and Mentoring for Child and Youth Victims of Sex Trafficking Initiative to increase the availability of mentoring opportunities and support services for children and youth identified as victims of human trafficking. Under this mentoring initiative, grantees and subgrantees identified 105 program youth as victims of sex trafficking during the activity period. In addition to receiving mentoring services, 101 youth trafficking victims received services to address basic needs, such as food and clothing, and 100 victims received case management.

To facilitate outreach efforts and develop communities' capacities to serve youth trafficking victims, grantees and subgrantees held 66 training events on human trafficking during the activity period. Attendees at these events included 3,034 community members and 163 program staff (figure 7).

Figure 7. Youth Trafficking Victims



CONCLUSION

Through the Juvenile Mentoring program, OJJDP provides national leadership to strengthen and expand the delivery of high-quality mentoring opportunities to a diverse and growing population of youth at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system. Research demonstrates that mentoring can strengthen youth's protective factors by improving academic performance, social skills, and job skills; support behavioral and personal development; and reduce substance use and other risky behaviors.⁷ The results reported by OJJDP's Juvenile Mentoring grantees for this activity period reinforces the research on the positive impact of youth mentoring opportunities.

During the January–June 2018 activity period, 441 mentoring grantees and subgrantees served a total of 145,630 youth with the support of OJJDP funding. Grantees and subgrantees increased the number of mentors recruited by 19 percent compared to the previous activity period, resulting in 85 percent of program youth matched with a mentor during the activity period. Ninety-one percent of mentors remained with the program at the end of the activity period. Overall, 60 percent of program youth showed a behavioral improvement, including improvements in perception of social support, family relationships, and school attendance and performance. Grantees and subgrantees especially succeeded at preventing delinquency during this activity period. Over 99 percent of youth served did not offend. These results demonstrate the positive impact of mentoring programs at improving the outcomes for youth and reducing risk factors associated with delinquency and juvenile justice system involvement.

⁷ National Institute of Justice Mentoring. <https://www.crimesolutions.gov/TopicDetails.aspx?ID=290>