

# Fact Sheet on OJJDP Second Chance Act Grant Program Accomplishments

July 2009–June 2015

## Introduction

The Second Chance Act (SCA) of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-199) authorized \$165 million in grants to State and local government agencies and community organizations. This funding provides employment and housing assistance, substance abuse treatment, family programming, mentoring, victim support, and other services that help people returning from prison and jail to safely and successfully reintegrate into the community.

The SCA Juvenile Mentoring Initiative, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), provides grants to help organizations offer a combination of mentoring and other transitional services to juveniles. These services are essential in helping juvenile offenders reintegrate successfully into their communities.

The SCA Reentry and Co-Occurring Disorders Grants Programs for juveniles are also administered by OJJDP. The programs support State, local, and Tribal agencies that provide reentry services for juveniles. These services begin pre-release and continue post-release. They include activities such as substance abuse treatment, mental health services, educational services, and housing assistance. Recipients of Co-Occurring Disorders grants provide integrated treatment services that focus on treating mental health and substance abuse dependency together.

OJJDP collects semiannually grantee-reported participant- and program-level data through the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT). Data collection for the Mentoring program began in July 2009, and data collection for the Reentry program began a few months later, in October 2009.<sup>1</sup> This fact sheet provides data for these programs, from their creation in the DCTAT system through June 30, 2015.

## Program Accomplishments

Since data collection began, 23,995 youth have been served by SCA grantees (Table 1). This total includes youth who have received both pre- and post-release reentry services. Of those, 19,049 youth (79 percent) were served using an evidence-based program or practice. Evidence-based models and programs include those that have been shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors, such as substance abuse.

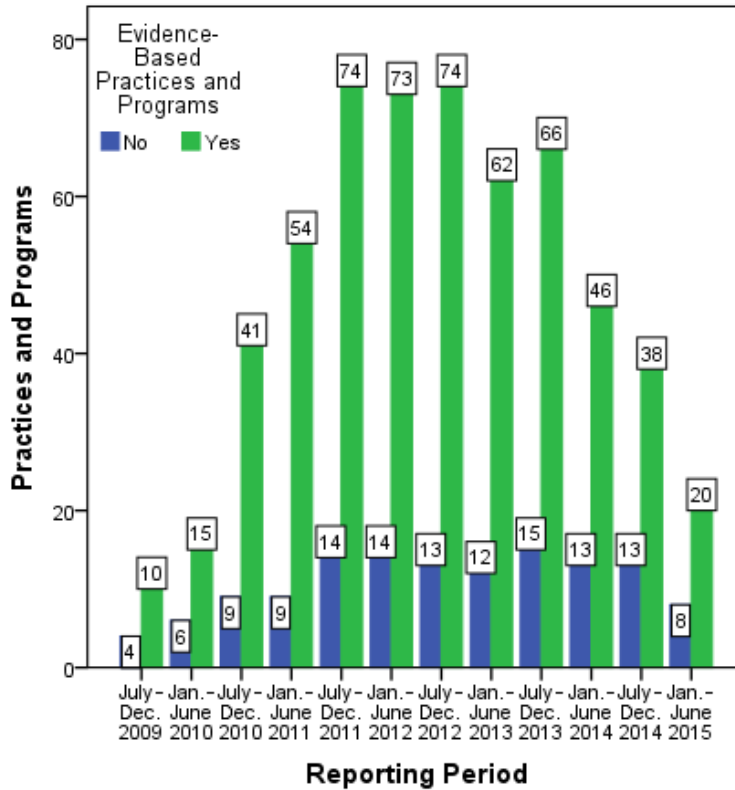
Table 1. Youth Served by SCA Program <sup>2</sup>

| SCA Program            | Number Served | Number Served Using Evidence-Based Practices |
|------------------------|---------------|--|
| Mentoring              | 11,163        | 8,652  |
| Reentry & Co-Occurring | 12,832        | 10,397                                       |
| <i>Overall</i>         | <i>23,995</i> | <i>19,049</i>                                |

<sup>1</sup> The performance measures data for SCA Reentry and Co-Occurring grantees reflect an initial reporting period of October 2009–June 2010. Since June 2010, the reporting periods have been January–June and July–December of each year. Totals are calculated from the beginning of DCTAT data collection for each respective program.

<sup>2</sup> The calculation of the total number of youth served for each program is determined using the total number of enrolled youth in the first reporting period plus the number of new admissions in subsequent reporting periods. However, because this calculation includes both pre- and post-release participants, there is the possibility that some youth are being double counted in this total, as they might have received both pre- and post-release services over the life of the grant award. As such, this number should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 1. Evidence-Based Practices and Programs by Reporting Period



As Figure 1 shows, the majority of SCA grantees and subgrantees are implementing evidence-based practices.<sup>3</sup> There has been a dramatic decline in the number of SCA Mentoring grantees reporting in the DCTAT as they close out their awards. OJJDP awarded grants for mentoring projects that target youth returning from juvenile justice facilities from 2009 to 2011. OJJDP has not released a Second Chance Act mentoring solicitation since 2011.

## Analysis of Core Measures

The next section presents an aggregate of performance measures data. The success of the SCA programs is largely dependent on the reoffending rates of the program youth. Technical violations and actual new adjudications are measured separately to give a better understanding of the population served by the grants. As shown in Table 2, 16,147 youth have been tracked for technical violations since DCTAT data collection first began for these programs in 2009. Of those, 1,268 were committed to a juvenile residential facility, 29 were sentenced to adult prison, and 830 received some other sentence as a result of a technical violation.

Long-term measurement of technical violations revealed that 6,008 youth who exited these programs 6 to 12 months prior to the reporting period have been tracked for technical violations. Of those, 366 were committed to a juvenile residential facility, 35 were sentenced to adult prison, and 248 received some other sentence as the result of a technical violation.

<sup>3</sup> Data from the initial reporting period for SCA Reentry and Co-Occurring Disorders are included in the January–June 2010 reporting period for this figure.

Table 2. Technical Violation Measures

| Performance Measure  | Youth               | Percent   |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)   | 16,147              | n/a       |
| Program youth committed to a juvenile residential facility   | 1,268               | 8         |
| Youth sentenced to adult prison  | 29                  | <1        |
| Youth who received some other sentence   | 830                 | 5         |
| <b>Short-Term Total</b>  | <b>2,127/16,147</b> | <b>13</b> |
| Performance Measure  | Youth               | Percent   |
| Program youth who exited program 6–12 months ago (long-term outcome)                                   | 6,008               | n/a       |
| Program youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and were committed to a juvenile residential facility | 366                 | 6         |
| Youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and were sentenced to adult prison                            | 35                  | 1         |
| Youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and received some other sentence                              | 248                 | 4         |
| <b>Long-Term Total</b>   | <b>649/6,008</b>    | <b>11</b> |

As shown in Table 3, of the 20,281 program youth who have been tracked for adjudications, 1,031 (5 percent) were committed to a juvenile residential facility as the result of a new adjudication. Moreover, 296 were sentenced to adult prison, and 985 were given some other sentence since the initial reporting period.

Long-term recidivism showed that a total of 6,165 youth who exited these programs 6 to 12 months prior to each reporting period have been tracked for new adjudications. Of those, 487 (8 percent) were recommitted to a juvenile residential facility, 141 were sentenced to adult prison, and 383 were given some other sentence.

Table 3. Recidivism Measures

| Performance Measure  | Youth               | Percent   |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Program youth tracked for adjudications (short-term outcome)   | 20,281              | n/a       |
| Program youth committed to a juvenile residential facility   | 1,031               | 5         |
| Youth sentenced to adult prison  | 296                 | 1         |
| Youth given some other sentence  | 985                 | 5         |
| <b>Short-Term Total</b>  | <b>2,312/20,281</b> | <b>11</b> |
| Performance Measure  | Youth               | Percent   |
| Program youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and were tracked for new adjudications (long-term outcome)  | 6,165               | n/a       |
| Program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were recommitted to a juvenile residential facility | 487                 | 8         |
| Youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and were sentenced to adult prison                                  | 141                 | 2         |
| Youth who exited program 6–12 months ago and were given some other sentence                                  | 383                 | 6         |
| <b>Long-Term Total</b>   | <b>1,011/6,165</b>  | <b>16</b> |

Data are also collected on the number of youth who demonstrate a positive change for a targeted behavior in each reporting period. Target behaviors measure a positive change among program participants, and such positive behavioral changes can help decrease their likelihood of recidivating. Table 4 presents program data on youth whose selected target behaviors improved in the short term. Participating youth have shown the most improvement for perception of social support (81 percent) and social competence (76 percent).<sup>4</sup>

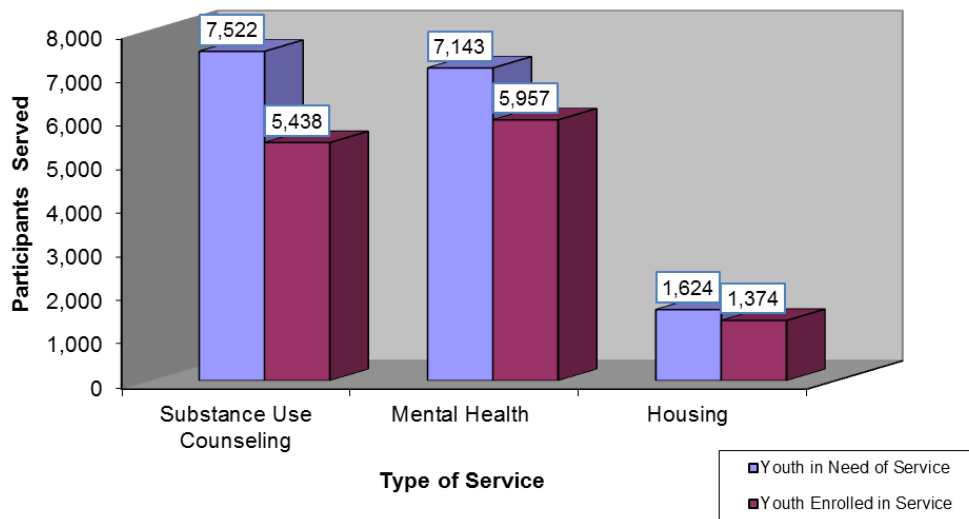
Table 4. Target Behaviors

| Target Behavior                                 | Youth Served  | Youth with Intended Behavior Change | Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Social Competence                               | 4,845         | 3,677                               | 76   |
| School Attendance                               | 6,774         | 4,434                               | 65   |
| Grade Point Average                             | 2,759         | 1,707                               | 62   |
| General Education Development (GED) Test Passed | 1,246         | 373                                 | 30   |
| Perception of Social Support                    | 4,350         | 3,517                               | 81   |
| Family Relationships                            | 5,249         | 3,483                               | 66   |
| Antisocial Behavior                             | 9,067         | 6,042                               | 67   |
| Substance Use                                   | 2,779         | 1,964                               | 71   |
| Gang Resistance/Involvement <sup>5</sup>        | 497           | 332                                 | 67   |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>37,566</b> | <b>25,529</b>                       | <b>68</b>                                      |

SCA grantees provide a range of services to youth to help facilitate their successful reentry into society, including substance use counseling, mental health, and housing services. Mental health services focus on helping youth overcome issues that have adversely affected their socialization, learning, and development. Substance use counseling services are designed to deter, reduce, or eliminate substance abuse and chemical dependency among program youth. Housing services also help youth and their families locate and obtain or retain stable, affordable housing.

Of the 7,522 youth who have been identified as needing substance use counseling, 5,438 youth (72 percent) actually received this service (Figure 2). In addition, 5,957 eligible youth (83 percent) have received mental health services, and 1,374 youth (85 percent) have successfully found housing since grantees began tracking this measure. There is clearly a continued need for all these services—more than can currently be provided by these grants.

Figure 2. Types of Services Provided to Participants



<sup>4</sup> When interpreting the data on target behaviors, keep in mind that program youth can receive services for multiple target behaviors during each reporting period.

<sup>5</sup> Data have not been reported for this target behavior for the Mentoring program.

## Conclusion

Since 2009, SCA grant recipients have provided educational, housing, mental health, substance use counseling, and other services to nearly 24,000 youth. These services have undoubtedly contributed substantially to program participants safely and successfully reintegrating into the community. With continued funding, SCA programs can further facilitate successful reentry for juvenile offenders returning to their communities from jails, prisons, and juvenile facilities while increasing public safety and reducing correctional spending.