Overview of the PMT Data for Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Grantees: July–December 2017

The Second Chance Act (P.L. 110-199)[1] authorizes grants to government agencies and nonprofit groups to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims' support, and other services that are designed to help adults and juveniles transition successfully from incarceration or detention back into the community. The Second Chance Act (SCA) Juvenile Mentoring Grant programs, 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 juveniles reintegrate successfully into their communities. Program initiatives include SCA Strengthening Relationships Between Young Fathers, Young Mothers, and Their Children; and SCA Supporting Latino/a Youth from Out-of-Home Placement to the Community, which provides funding to nonprofit organizations that provide community-based reentry programs and services to Latino/a youth.

Report Highlights

This report presents an overview of the July–December 2017 data for SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees as reported in the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). Performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the federal program has achieved its goals and objectives and may be used to improve program and policy decisions at the federal level. The report is divided into two sections:

1. An examination of program information for SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees.
2. An analysis of the SCA Juvenile Mentoring performance measures.

Key findings from the analysis for the July–December 2017 reporting period include:

- A total of 35 program grantees completed their reporting requirements resulting in a reporting compliance rate of 83 percent.
- During the July–December 2017 reporting period, 20 grantees, or 83 percent, implemented evidence-based practices.
- Texas received the most funds ($1,587,769), followed by California and Oregon ($903,333).
- All of the 564 youth served by SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees were served using an evidence-based program or practice.

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[1] https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ199/pdf/PLAW-110publ199.pdf

- During the reporting period, 66 new program mentors were recruited, and grantees reported a 92 percent mentor retention rate.
- In the short-term,[2] 14 percent of program youth had a technical violation, and 8 percent of youth were adjudicated for a new offense during the reporting period.
- Overall, 88 percent of the program youth had a desired change in the targeted behavior in the short-term.

1. Examination of Program Information

1.1 Reporting Compliance

Grantees are required to report semi-annually for each active federal award. Table 1, below, presents the compliance rate for grantees reporting for the July–December 2017 reporting period. As the table illustrates, 35 grantees completed reporting requirements, resulting in a compliance rate of 83 percent.[3]
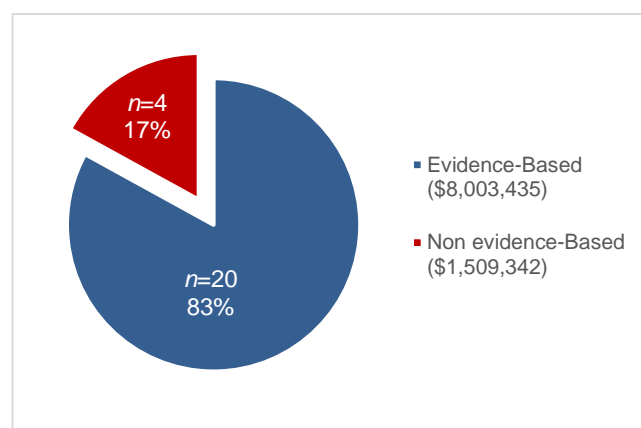
Table 1: Status of Grantee Reporting (July–December 2017)[4]

Data Reporting Period	Status			
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total
July–December 2017	6	1	35	42

1.2 Evidence-Based Programming

OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based practices in their programs. Evidence-based programs and practices include program models that have been shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. During the July–December 2017 reporting period, 83 percent ($n = 20$) of SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees implemented evidence-based programs and practices (see figure 1), totaling $8,003,435.

Figure 1: Grantees Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices (July–December 2017)

n=4
17%

n=20
83%

- Evidence-Based ($8,003,435)
- Non evidence-Based ($1,509,342)

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[2] Short-term outcomes refer to benefits or changes that youth experience while enrolled in the program for 0 to 6 months after completing the program's requirements. Long-term outcomes refer to benefits or changes that youth experience 6 to 12 months after that participant completes program requirements.

[3] Of the 35 grantees who completed reporting requirements, only 24 were operational during the reporting period, meaning they expended grant funds toward program activities. Grantees that were not operational did not provide services and were thus excluded from the analysis of the program information and performance measures.

[4] *N*=42

1.3 Funding Information

In examining SCA Juvenile Mentoring award amounts by state or district for the most recent reporting period, Texas received the most funds ($1,587,769), followed by California and Oregon ($903,333). A more comprehensive comparison of grant amounts is shown in table 2.[5]

Table 2: Award Amount by State or District (Dollars) (July–December 2017)[6]

State	Number of Awards	Amount Awarded	State	Number of Awards	Amount Awarded
TX	4	$1,587,769	NM	1	$419,999
CA	2	$903,333	NY	1	$342,858
OR	2	$903,333	RI	1	$342,858
HI	2	$761,926	DC	1	$341,575
LA	2	$672,825	GA	1	$341,575
AZ	1	$483,334	IN	1	$341,575
NV	1	$483,334	VA	1	$341,575
MA	1	$483,333	WI	1	$341,575
CT	1	$420,000			

2. Analysis of Performance Measures

Grantees reported on a number of performance measures, including core measures that are related to OJJDP's mission to provide national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. Core measures include "number of youth served" and "number of youth served with an evidence-based program or practice."

2.1 Youth Served/Completing Program Requirements

All youth served ($n = 564$) by SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees, were served using an evidence-based program or practice (see table 3). Other measures grantees collect data for includes the number of youth who successfully exit the program. As table 3 displays, 54 percent of the eligible youth ($n = 79$) successfully completed program requirements. This is up from 18 percent of youth who successfully exited programs during the January–June 2017 reporting period.[7] Each grantee defines the requirements needed for a youth to complete each program. Sometimes a program cannot be completed in the 6 months represented by the

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[5] The amounts represent the grant program for the life of the award, regardless of when it was awarded, and these amounts do not account for how much funding has been spent during the reporting period.

[6] *N*=24.

[7] Reference January–June 2017 SCA Mentoring Performance Report table 4. Performance Measures for Program Youth Served/Completing Program Requirements: January–June 2017

reporting period. For example, in one program, youth have to complete 9 months of mentoring to be considered successful. If a youth exits such a program for any reason before 9 months of mentoring is complete, he or she is considered unsuccessful. The lack of a shorter term definition for program completion therefore decreases the overall program completion rate.

Table 3: Program Youth Served/Completing Program Requirements (July–December 2017)[8]

Performance Measure	Number of Youth	Completed	Percentage
Program youth served	564	N/A	N/A
Program youth served using an evidence-based program or practice	564	N/A	100%
Program youth completing program requirements	145	79	54%

2.2 Program Youth Recidivism

The success of the SCA Juvenile Mentoring grant programs is also measured by the reoffending rates of the program youth. Grantees reported the number of youth adjudicated for a short-term violation of the terms of their supervision, commonly referred to as a technical violation, and the number of youth adjudicated for a new delinquent offense during the reporting period. Examples of technical violations include: testing positive for drug or alcohol use, missing a curfew, or lack of employment or attendance at school. Technical violations and new adjudications are measured separately to allow for a better understanding of the population being served by the grant. As table 4 reveals, 249 youth were tracked for technical violations. Of those, 17 youth were committed to a juvenile residential facility, 4 youth were sentenced to adult prison, and 15 youth received some other sentence. Overall, 14 percent of program youth had technical violations during the reporting period, down 9 percent from the previous reporting period.[9]

Table 4: Adjudications for Technical Violations for Program Youth (July–December 2017)[10]

Performance Measure	Number of Youth	Percentage
Program youth tracked (short-term outcome)	249	N/A
Program youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	17	7%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	4	2%
Youth who received some other sentence	15	6%
Total	**36/249**	**14%**

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[8] Number of grantees reporting on these measures range from 7 to 17.
[9] Reference January–June 2017 SCA Mentoring Performance Report table 7. Adjudications for Technical Violations for Program Youth: January–June 2017
[10] 11 grantees reported on this measure.

As shown in table 5, of the 237 program youth who were tracked for adjudication for a new delinquent offense, 8 percent (*n* = 19) were adjudicated during the reporting period. This includes program youth committed to a juvenile residential facility and youth sentenced to adult prison. When compared to the previous reporting period, the short-term recidivism rate decreased more than 50 percent.[11] This notable drop suggests that mentoring grant programs are having a positive impact on the youth being served.

Table 5: Recidivism Measures for Program Youth Tracked (July–December 2017)[12]

Performance Measure	Number of Youth	Percentage
Program youth tracked for adjudications (short-term outcome)	237	N/A
Program youth committed to a juvenile residential facility	5	2%
Youth sentenced to adult prison	9	4%
Youth given some other sentence	5	2%
Total	**19/237**	**8%**

2.4 Youth Target Behaviors

Table 6 presents program data on youth whose selected target behaviors improved in the short-term. A target behavior is one that a grantee has chosen to track for youth served by a particular program; it measures a positive change in a behavior such as social competence, family relationships, antisocial behavior, and community involvement. The largest improvement was observed with youth receiving services for substance use with 96 percent of youth served demonstrating a positive change. This was followed by positive parenting behaviors (92 percent). Overall, 88 percent of program youth had a desired change in a targeted behavior.

Table 6: Change in Short-Term Target Behaviors Among Program Youth (July–December 2017)[13]

Target Behavior	Youth Served	Youth with Intended Behavior Change	Percentage of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
Substance Use	46	44	96%
Positive Parenting Behaviors	168	154	92%
Prosocial Behavior	63	57	90%
Social Competence	73	65	89%
Community Involvement	99	87	88%
Perception of Social Support	45	39	87%
Employment Status	111	97	87%
Antisocial Behavior	83	69	83%
Family Relationships	114	94	82%
Overall	**802**	**706**	**88%**

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[11] Reference January–June 2017 SCA Mentoring Performance Report table 8. Recidivism Measures for Program Youth Tracked: January–June 2017
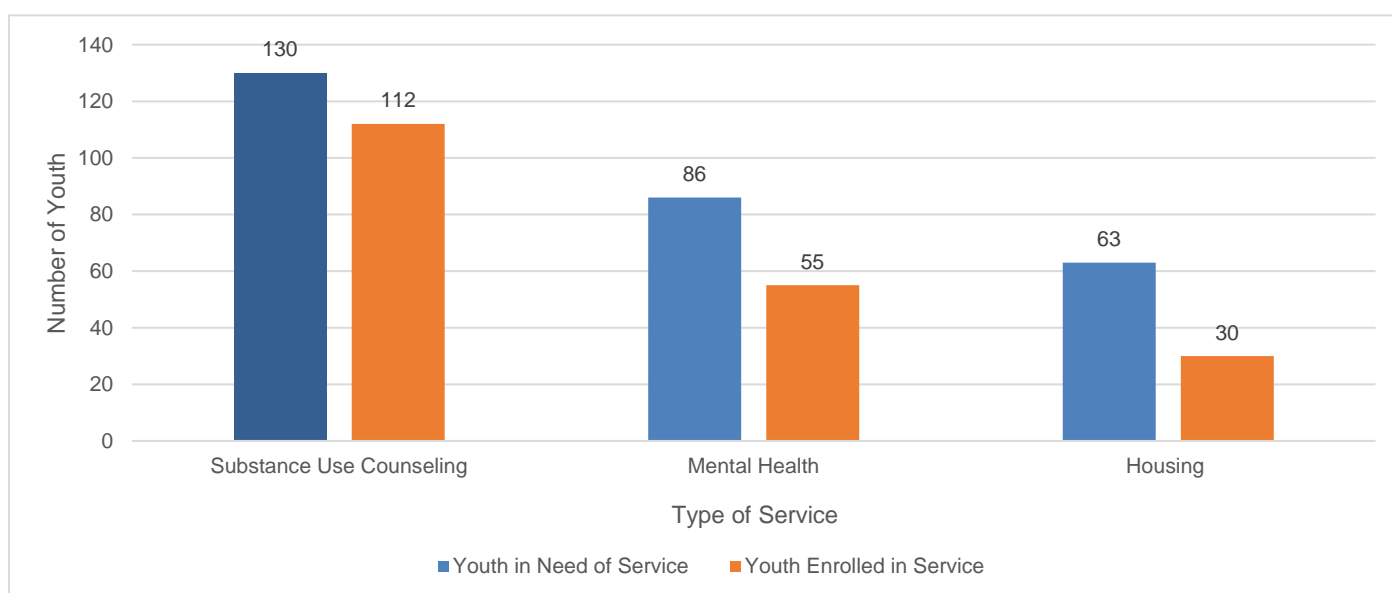
[12] 10 grantees reported on this measure.

[13] Number of grantees reporting on this measure during the reporting period varies from 3 reporting on prosocial behavior, community involvement, and perception of social support and 8 grantees reporting on family relationships.

2.3 Program Youth Services

Grantees also provided youth with substance-use counseling, mental health, and housing services (figure 2). Of the 130 youth identified as needing substance-use counseling, 112 youth, or 86 percent, actually received this service. In addition, 64 percent of eligible youth ($n = 55$) received mental-health services, and 48 percent ($n = 30$) of youth in need of housing successfully found housing during the reporting period. The number of youth assessed as needing services compared with the actual enrollment in the provided services could differ within the reporting cycle. Youth may have been assessed in a prior reporting period, and actual enrollment could be delayed into a future reporting period. In addition, SCA Juvenile Mentoring programs also accept referrals for participants who have been assessed from another agency. These two factors contribute to the variation in the number of participants assessed as needing various services compared with the number enrolled.

Figure 2: Program Youth Needing Services Versus Those Enrolled, by Type of Service (July–December 2017)[14]

2.5 Program Mentors

Performance measure data about the program mentors were also collected. During the reporting period, 66 new program mentors were recruited (table 7). Grantees reported that 100 out of 114 mentors, or 88 percent, who began training successfully completed training during the reporting period. Moreover, of those mentors tracked for increased knowledge following training, 72 percent reported that they learned more about their program after completing training.

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[14] Number of grantees reporting on these measures range from 11 to 13.

Table 7: Program Mentor Recruiting and Training (July–December 2017)[15]

Performance Measure	Number of Mentors	Completed	Percentage
Program mentors recruited	66	N/A	N/A
Mentors successfully completing training	114	100	88%
Trained mentors with increased knowledge of program area	103	74	72%

2.6 Mentor Retention

Finally, grantees reported on the number of program mentors retained by the program within the reporting period. Recruiting and retaining mentors is a major challenge for mentoring organizations, and research has shown that individuals are more likely to remain in mentoring programs if they feel adequately prepared to serve as mentors.[16] The mentor retention rate was 92 percent during the reporting period (table 8), which suggests mentors are equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to successfully perform their duties.

Table 8: Mentor Retention Rate (July–December 2017)[17]

Performance Measure	Number of Mentors	Number of Active Mentors	Percentage
Mentor retention rate	153 mentors	141 active mentors[18]	92%

Summary

Overall, 35 grantees completed reporting requirements for a compliance rate of 83 percent. Additionally, 83 percent of SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees implemented evidence-based programs and practices, which are proven to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. All of the 564 youth served by SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees were served using an evidence-based program or practice. Additionally, more than half, or 54 percent of youth successfully completed program requirements, an 18 percent increase from the previous reporting period. During the reporting period, 66 new program mentors were recruited, and grantees reported a 92 percent mentor retention rate. The high retention rate could be attributed in part to the number of grantees who reported an increase in knowledge following training, since mentors who feel as though they are adequately prepared are more likely to stay in programs. Grantees reported that 88 percent of mentors who began training successfully completed training during the reporting period, and of those

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[15] Number of grantees reporting on these measures range from 10 to 12.
[16] See Adrienne Fernandes-Alcantara. Vulnerable Youth: Federal Mentoring Programs and Issues, (Congressional Research Service, 2017) https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34306.pdf
[17] 16 grantees reported on this measure.
[18] Active mentors are the number of mentors retained during the reporting period.

mentors tracked for increased knowledge following training, 72 percent reported that they learned more about their program after completing training. Actively partnering with other agencies and organizations contributes to the success of mentoring programs. Success is also measured by the reoffending rates of the program youth, and compared to the last reporting period, the percentage of youth with a technical violation decreased (from 23 percent to 14 percent), and the percentage of youth adjudicated for a new delinquent offense dropped by more than half, from 19 percent to 8 percent. About half of the youth with a technical violation ($n = 17$) were committed to a juvenile residential facility, and about half of the youth adjudicated for a new offense during the reporting period ($n = 9$) were sentenced to adult prison. Grantees were also asked to report on services they have provided youth, including substance-use counseling and mental-health and housing services. Although 130 youth were identified as needing substance-use counseling, 86 percent actually received this service, 64 percent of eligible youth received mental-health services, and 48 percent of youth in need of housing successfully found housing during the reporting period. As stated above, the number of youth assessed as needing services compared with the actual enrollment in the provided services could differ within the reporting cycle. Finally, 88 percent of program youth demonstrated desired changes in behaviors targeted for improvement in the short-term, including antisocial behavior. Youth who received services for substance-use had the largest improvement with 96 percent of youth served demonstrating a positive change.