

## Overview of the DCTAT Data for Formula Grants

This memo provides an overview of the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) data for Formula grants program grantees as collected October 1, 2014–September 30, 2015.<sup>1</sup>

The Formula grants program supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. Through this program, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provides funds directly to states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia to help them implement comprehensive state juvenile justice plans based on detailed studies of needs in their jurisdictions. The Formula grants program is authorized under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.).

### 1. Examination of Program Information

#### 1.1 Trend Analysis of Formula Data

For the most recent period, October 2014–September 2015, 144 total Federal awards were active, grantees completed reporting for 130 awards, 1 was in progress, and 13 were not started, for a compliance rate of 90 percent (Table 1). Whereas some grantees spent their funds directly, others subawarded their funds to other agencies. As a result, data were reported for 783 subgrant awards. The numbers reported in Table 1 do not include subrecipients, but subrecipients are included in the rest of the tables and figures.

**Table 1. Status of Federal Awards Reporting by Period**

Data Reporting Period	Status			Total
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	
Oct. 2012–Sept. 2013	9	16	211	236
Oct. 2013–Sept. 2014	7	16	176	199
Oct. 2014–Sept. 2015	13	1	130	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>579</b>

The Formula grants program consists of 35 program areas. Although the program areas may overlap in category, for the purposes of this data memo, they have been condensed into three larger categories: (1) prevention programs, (2) intervention programs, and (3) system improvement. Table 2 presents a breakdown of the program areas by their respective categories.

<sup>1</sup> The data reported to OJJDP have undergone system-level validation and verification checks. In addition, OJJDP reviews the aggregate data findings and grantee-level data reports for obvious errors or inconsistencies. A formalized data validation and verification plan was piloted for 12 Formula Grant-funded programs in 2014.

**Table 2. Program Areas Organized by Categories of Services**

Prevention/Intervention Programs		System Improvement
Child Abuse and Neglect	Aftercare/Reentry	Community Assessment
Children of Incarcerated Parents	Alternatives to Detention	Compliance Monitoring (State Level)
Delinquency Prevention	Court Services	Juvenile Justice System Improvement
Disproportionate Minority Contact (State and Subgrantee Level)	Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (State and Subgrantee Level)	State Advisory Group (SAG) Allocation
Gangs	Diversion	Youth Courts
Job Training	Gender-Specific Services	Strategic Community Action Planning (SCAP)
Mentoring	Graduated Sanctions	
Native American Programs	Gun Programs	
Rural Area Juvenile Programs	Hate Crimes	
School Programs	Jail Removal (State and Subgrantee Level)	
Youth Advocacy	Mental Health Services	
	Probation	
	Restitution/Community Service	
	Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates (State and Subgrantee Level)	
	Serious Crime	
	Sex Offender Programs	
	Substance Abuse	

Over the three most recent reporting periods, the number of (operational only) grantees reporting data for the different program areas have varied. During the October 2014–September 2015 reporting period, the largest number of grantees provided data under the prevention programs subcategory, followed by intervention programs and system improvement.

**Figure 1. Awards by Program Area Across Reporting Periods**

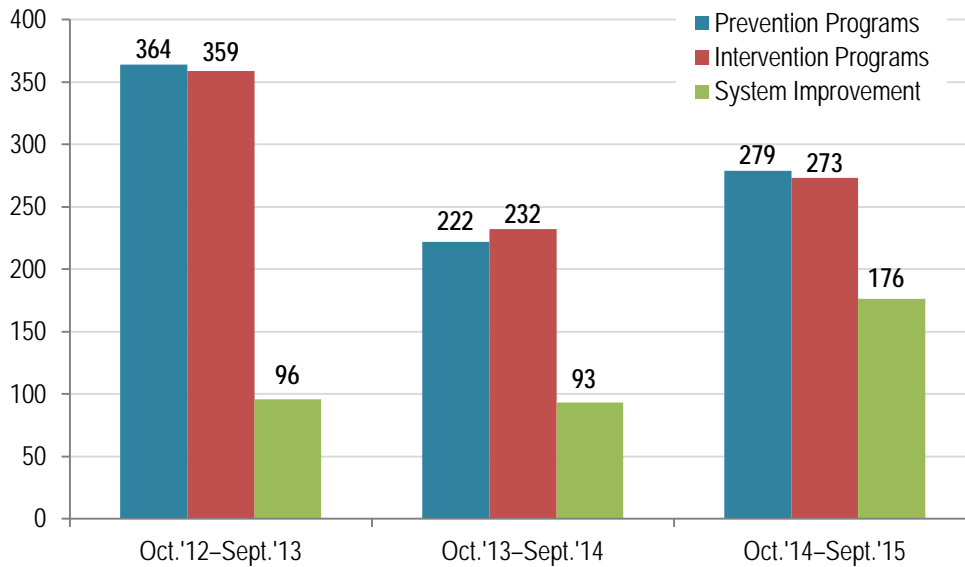
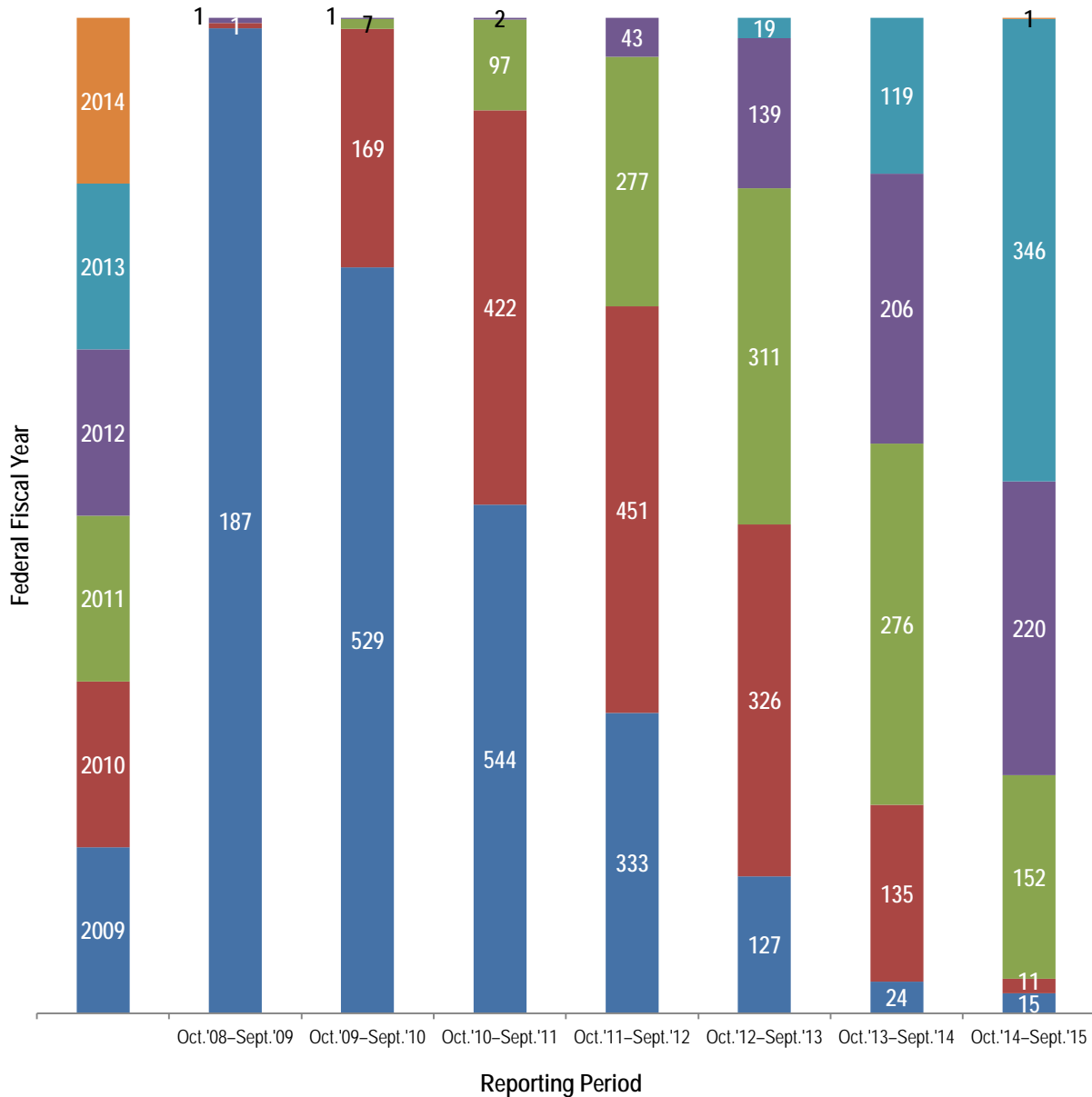


Figure 2 depicts the number of subgrants by Federal fiscal year (FFY). During October 2014–September 2015, the most subgrants were made from FFY 2013 funding. In the most current reporting period, 346 subgrants were awarded from FFY 2013 funding. Overall, across the past seven reporting periods, the amount of Formula subgrants has steadily declined.

**Figure 2. Number of Subgrants by FFY 2009–2014**



In examining Formula grant amounts by state, district, or territory for the most recent reporting period, California received the most funds, followed by Florida and Pennsylvania (Table 3).

**Table 3. Grant Amount by State, District, or Territory (Dollars): October 2014–September 2015**

Grantee State, District, or Territory	Grant Amount (Dollars)	Grantee State, District, or Territory	Grant Amount (Dollars)
AK	\$ 856,150	MT	\$ 437,093
AL	525,515	NC	200,220
AS	75,921	ND	330,607
AR	1,914,896	NE	1,872,761
AZ	2,479,880	NH	571,507
CA	10,023,896	NJ	1,512,313
CO	764,606	NM	50,000
CT	874,893	NV	460,000
DC	355,000	NY	3,269,366
DE	471,862	OH	2,706,733
FL	7,159,803	OK	795,216
GA	1,804,202	OR	709,243
HI	2,426,605	PA	4,381,504
IA	332,836	PR	316,242
ID	242,647	RI	602,636
IL	2,071,258	SC	678,317
IN	1,324,090	SD	781,880
KS	376,030	TN	688,731
KY	451,392	TX	2,631,180
LA	1,850,527	UT	560,452
MA	731,778	VA	226,370
MD	1,576,427	VI	43,749
ME	728,231	VT	393,285
MI	924,504	WA	674,525
MN	1,255,230	WI	957,734
MO	530,421	WV	479,844
MS	510,404	WY	21,850

*1.2 Demographic Data for Program Participants, October 2014–September 2015*

Table 4 presents an aggregate of demographic data for the reporting period and the number of Formula grantees that serve each population. Targeted services include any approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the population (e.g., gender-specific, culturally based, developmentally appropriate services).

**Table 4. Target Population, October 2014–September 2015**

Population	Grantees Serving Group During Project Period
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
American Indian/Alaska Native	225
Asian	198
Black/African American	440
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	412
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	96
Other Race	220
White/Caucasian	387
Caucasian/Non-Latino	243
Youth Population Not Served Directly	242

<b>Justice System Status</b>	
At-Risk Population (no prior offense)	391
First-Time Offenders	318
Repeat Offenders	203
Sex Offenders	63
Status Offenders	145
Violent Offenders	83
Youth Population Not Served Directly	243
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	510
Female	517
Youth Population Not Served Directly	241
<b>Age</b>	
0–10	188
11–18	517
Over 18	115
Youth Population Not Served Directly	80
<b>Geographic Area</b>	
Rural	313
Suburban	250
Tribal	62
Urban	325
Youth Population Not Served Directly	239
<b>Other</b>	
Mental Health	190
Substance Abuse	193
Truant/Dropout	207

## 2. Analysis of Core Measure Data, October 2014–September 2015

### 2.1 Analysis of Target Behaviors

Targeted behaviors measure a positive change in behavior among program participants. Ideally, data are collected on the number of youth who demonstrate a positive change for a targeted behavior in each reporting period. Tables 5 and 6 show a list of measures for which grantees were required to evaluate performance and track data for certain target behaviors in each program category. The tables list short-term (Table 5) and long-term (Table 6) percentages for the specified target behavior for all program categories. In all, 119,256 youth participants were served in various programs funded by Formula grants. Of that number, approximately 90 percent completed the defined program requirements successfully.

Table 5 shows that 66 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior in the short term.

**Table 5. Short-Term Performance Measures Data, October 2014–September 2015**

Target Behavior	Youth Receiving Services for Target Behavior	Youth with Noted Behavioral Change	Percent of Youth with Noted Behavioral Change
Antisocial Behavior	5,607	4,398	78
Anxiety	24	24	100
Coping Skills	45	45	100
Depression	22	22	100
Job Skills	432	291	67
School Attendance	16,896	8,891	53
Family Relationships	5,693	4,863	85
Substance Use	3,727	2,693	72
Social Competence	3,356	2,261	67
Self Esteem	725	399	55
Perception of Social Support	202	168	83
Body Image	487	360	74
Employment Status	40	40	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,256</b>	<b>24,455</b>	<b>66</b>

Table 6 lists the percentages for the long-term outcomes of the specified target behaviors for all program categories. Long-term outcomes are the ultimate outcomes sought for participants, recipients, the juvenile justice system, or the community. They are measured within 6–12 months after youth leave or complete the program. Overall, 81 percent of program youth had a desired change in the targeted behavior.

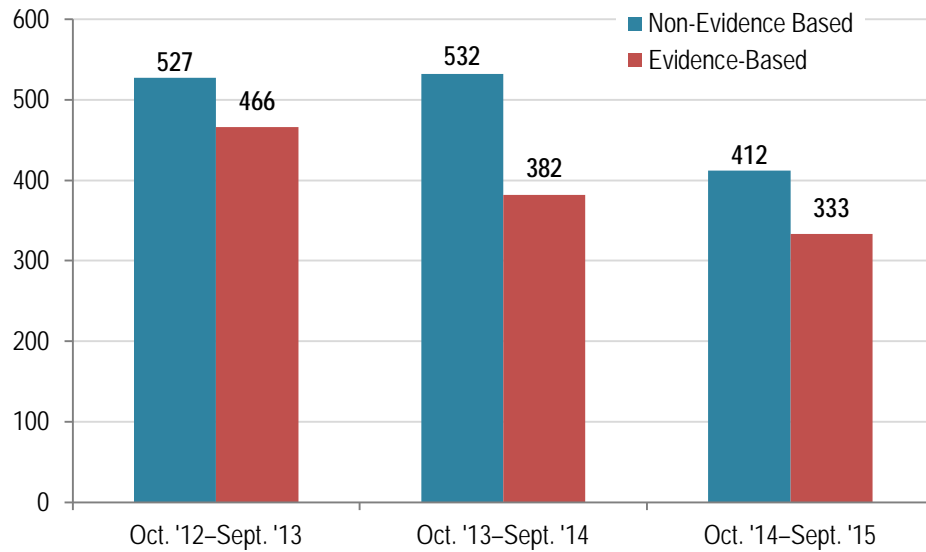
**Table 6. Long-Term Performance Measures Data, October 2014–September 2015**

Target Behavior	Youth Receiving Services for Target Behavior Who Exited 6–12 Months Ago	Youth with Noted Behavioral Change	Percent of Youth with Noted Behavioral Change
Antisocial Behavior	694	578	83
School Attendance	524	403	77
Family Relationships	343	245	71
Perception of Social Support	90	68	76
Substance Use	198	159	80
Social Competence	39	39	100
Self Esteem	40	40	100
Body Image	195	195	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>81</b>

## 2.2 Analysis of Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices

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. A significant number of programs funded through Formula grants are implementing evidence-based programs and/or practices (Figure 3). In October 2014–September 2015, 45 percent of grantees and subgrantees ( $n = 333$ ) implemented evidence-based programs and/or practices.

**Figure 3. Programs Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and/or Practices (Cumulative Total of Evidence-Based Programs/Practices N=1,181)**



### 2.3 Analysis of the Recidivism Measure

Included in the core measures are those that gauge reoffending outcomes for youth served by the program. The term “reoffending” (or recidivism) refers to a subsequent new offense. Youth who reoffend are already in the system and are adjudicated for a new delinquent offense. These youth are typically served in intervention programs that have a goal of preventing subsequent offenses.

Recidivism levels among the youth served while in the program (short-term data) were relatively low: 6 percent of the youth tracked reoffended while in the program. A number of youth who exited the program were tracked for reoffenses 6-12 months earlier (N = 4,042). Of those tracked, 618 committed a new offense. Short-term juvenile reoffending rates are shown in Table 7, and long-term reoffending rates are in Table 8.

**Table 7. Short-Term Reoffending Data, October 2014–September 2015**

Performance Measure	Data
Number of program youth tracked	15,880
Program youth with new arrest or delinquent offense	923
Number of program youth who were recommitted to juvenile facility	215
Number of program youth sentenced to adult prison	6
Number of youth who received another sentence	278
Percent of program youth who reoffend (recidivism)	923/15,880 <b>(6%)</b>

**Table 8. Long-Term Reoffending Data for Youth Exiting Programs 6–12 Months Earlier, October 2014–September 2015**

Performance Measure	Data
Number of program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago who were tracked	4,042
Of those tracked, the number of program youth who had a new arrest or delinquent offense	618
Number of program youth who were recommitted to a juvenile facility	71
Number of program youth who were sentenced to adult prison	2
Number of youth who received another sentence	69
Percent of program youth who reoffend (recidivism)	618/4,042 <b>(15%)</b>

### 3. Narrative Response Data

#### 3.1 Grant-Related Accomplishments: October 2014–September 2015

Grantees were asked to answer four questions about their overall accomplishments and what barriers they had encountered during the reporting period. The narrative responses present a story to go with the numeric data that each grantee reported. States reported accomplishments in areas such as staff training in juvenile facilities, educational enhancements, and reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within the juvenile justice system. Other accomplishments included significant reductions in juvenile delinquency through the implementation of various prevention programs.

For example, New Jersey used funding to support two aftercare/reentry programs that served the state’s northern and southern regions. The two programs assisted the transition of youth returning from a Juvenile Justice commission facility back to their community. The staff worked with youth and their families to facilitate reintegration by providing life skills and employability training. Youth also participated in a supported work program where they gained valuable professional experience.

California reported many individual project accomplishments, including: establishing evening reporting centers offering probation students enriching alternatives to involvement in the juvenile justice system, creating stronger relationships with probation departments through ongoing trainings to help divert youth to community services, establishing youth courts focusing on the special needs of young women involved in the system; providing trainings on the nonvictimization of commercially sexually exploited youth; and offering linkages for families and youth to mental health and primary health care services.

In South Carolina, a new program provided by Carolina Family Services, Inc., called Project Connect, actively worked to reduce the number of juvenile detentions, DMCs, and the unnecessary institutionalization of status offenders in local counties. Project Connect offered community-based, culturally competent, and strength-based alternatives to costly secure detention for low-risk juvenile offenders through independent service providers in coordination with community-based agencies. These services helped juveniles and their families to address factors influencing their behavior. Additionally, the family advocate worked to strengthen parenting skills while helping participants learn to navigate the educational, vocational, mental health, juvenile justice, and social systems in which they lived.



### *3.2 Problems and Barriers Encountered: October 2014–September 2015*

Although the grantees had many accomplishments in this reporting period, many also acknowledged several barriers that prevented them from achieving program goals.

One grantee described how issues with the internal contract process prevented one program from signing an extension due to the lengthy process their state used. The grantee mentioned that although the state advisory group makes funding decisions, the governor and council should approve all state contracts.

Another grantee reported that there had been considerable staff turnover over the past year. Currently, its JJDP unit has four vacant positions, which has caused tremendous hardship on staff who lacked knowledge of the reporting requirements. Unfortunately, this has resulted in late reports and frozen funds.

An additional barrier prevalent among several states was related to the lack of funding. Some states attributed their challenges to the decrease in funding, and others attributed challenges in program implementation due to the delay in subgrantee funding. One state reported that delayed funding resulted in subgrantees not being able to report on designated areas, and the reductions in funding did not allow for expansions of many projects. Additionally, another grantee stated that the reduction in funding caused them to have to cut back funding for many excellent programs.

Data management continued to be a problem for some states; for example, one state reported difficulty in obtaining the necessary data for DMC and secure data for compliance monitoring because many agencies are hesitant to supply this information.

### *3.3 Requested OJJDP Assistance: October 2014–September 2015*

A few states asked for additional funding to help reach their objectives; for example, one state requested discretionary funding for rural and frontier states to continue work on DMC. Another state voiced the need for states to become involved in policy development, and another requested training and technical assistance on compliance monitoring.