

Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE REPORT

January-June 2020

ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH

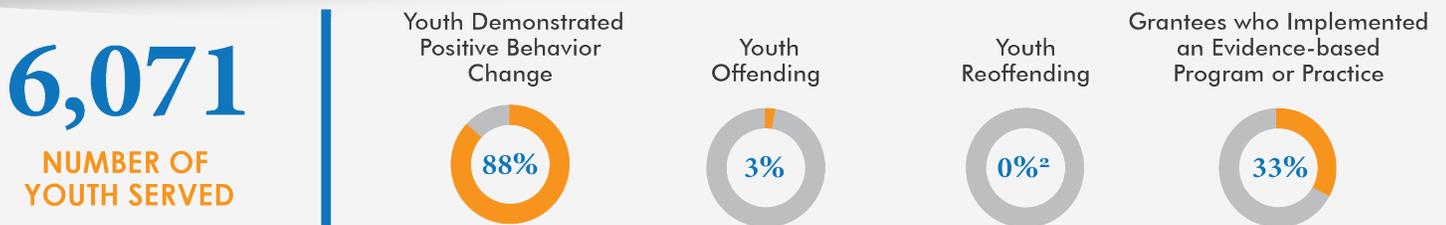
This report was produced by Booz Allen Hamilton under contract number DJO-BJA-16-S-0272, awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this report are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. The accuracy of the data in this document is dependent on the precision of grantee data entry. All information included reflects self-reported data provided by OJJDP grantees.

INTRODUCTION

The Tribal Youth Program (TYP), administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), seeks to enhance tribal efforts to address juvenile delinquency and increase the number of tribal youths with safe, productive lives. A primary goal of TYP is to develop comprehensive, culturally appropriate prevention and treatment services for at-risk youth and other court-involved tribal youth.¹

OJJDP requires grantees to report on performance measures to demonstrate whether the TYP achieved its goals. This report presents the TYP program activities occurring between January and June 2020 and highlights grantee results achieved with OJJDP funding.

Highlights



OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

Between January and June 2020, OJJDP’s TYP funded 60 awards, with 87 percent of grantees completing their reporting requirements (figure 1). Of the 60 funded awards, 52 TYP awards were operational (expending grant funds during the period). The total available funding during the period exceeded \$17 million. Of the types of activities implemented by grantees, the majority (68 percent) implemented prevention services (figure 2).

Figure 1. Award Details



Figure 2. Types of Program Activities Reported by Grantees³



¹ Coordinated Youth Tribal Youth Solicitation. 2016. <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/file/934626/download>

² Only 9 out of the 52 operational grantees reported on this measure

³ No grantees reported indigent defense program activities.

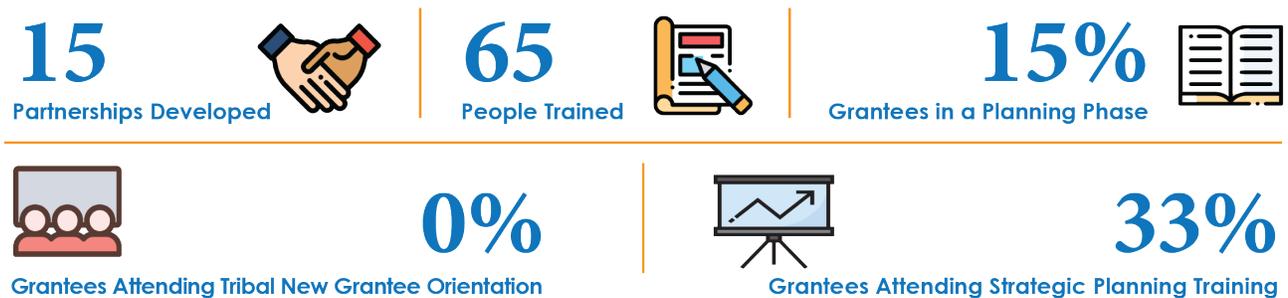
EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS⁴

OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based programs. Evidence-based programs include program models shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. TYP grantees implement specific evidence-based programs and practices that use culturally based strategies to address individual youth needs. During the January–June 2020 activity period, 33 percent of TYP grantees used OJJDP funds to implement an evidence-based program or practice. Existing research on evidence-based programming in tribal communities is limited because empirically supported practices are developed for non-native populations. Additionally, tribes adapt evidence-based programs and practices from traditional models, to represent tribal culture and values.⁵

PLANNING YEAR ACTIVITIES

OJJDP requires TYP to engage and report on planning activities during their first year, which includes strategic planning, collecting data, establishing activities, attending OJJDP sponsored trainings, and partnership development. The planning phase supports grantees through a strategic planning process designed to identify program challenges and strategies when developing their mission, organizational structure, and action plan. This process allows them to create necessary partnerships for program implementation and sustainability. During the January–June 2020 activity period, 15 percent of grantees engaged in planning activities (see figure 3). Collectively, grantees in this planning phase developed 15 new partnerships and trained 65 people.

Figure 3. Planning Activities



YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED

TYP grantees are required to report on the number of youth and families served during each activity period. During the January–June 2020 activity period, TYP grantees served a total of 13,578 youth and families, 45 percent of which were youths ($n = 6,071$), and 55 percent were families ($n = 7,507$).

6,071
Number of
Youth Served

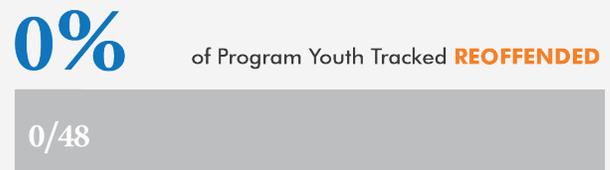
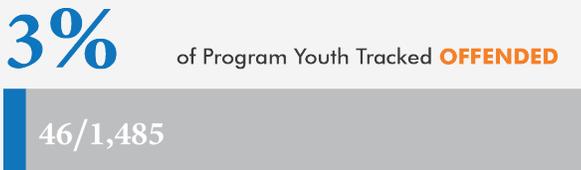
⁴ Existing research is limited on the success of evidence-based programming in tribal communities. Widespread usage of evidence-based practices among tribes is difficult to implement and track due to varying tribal cultures and values. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Tribal-youth-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf>

⁵ Tribal Youth in the Juvenile Justice System. 2016. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Tribal-youth-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf>, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

PROGRAM YOUTH OFFENSES AND RECIDIVISM

Grantees report short-term⁶ data on program youth who offend and recidivate to help gauge the program’s success at reducing delinquency and improving outcomes for participants. During the January–June 2020 activity period, 3 percent of tracked youth offended in the short term (figure 4), a 3 percent decrease from the previous reporting period. Zero percent of tracked youth reoffended in the short term, an 11 percent decrease from the previous reporting period (figure 4).

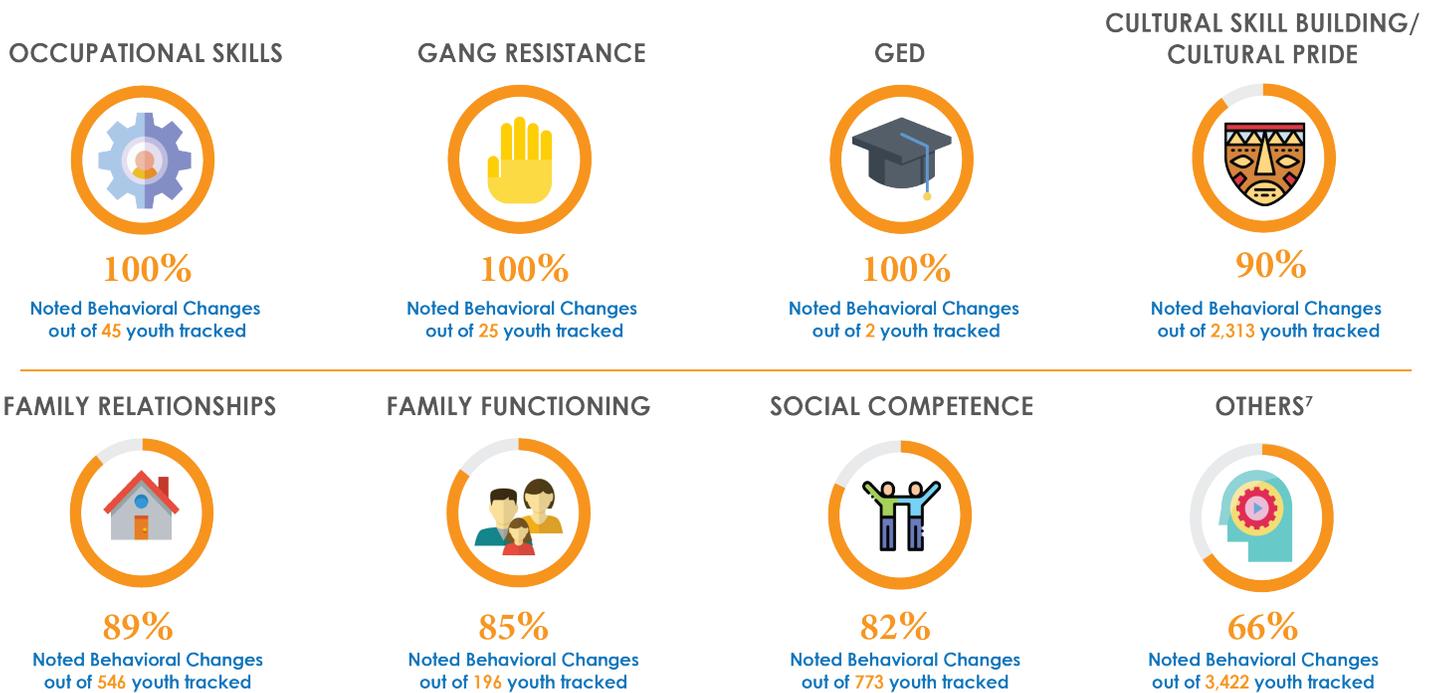
Figure 4. Short-term Offending and Reoffending Data



TARGET BEHAVIORS

Youth participating in TYP programs are tracked for short-term behavior changes to measure the program’s impact on youths’ performance in several targeted areas, such as family relationships, social behaviors, and cultural skill building. During the January–June 2020 activity period, 100 percent of youth served for GED, gang resistance, and occupational skills improvement demonstrated the most positive change. Additionally, 90 percent of youth exhibited an improvement in cultural skill building/cultural pride. Overall, 88 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in a targeted behavior.

Figure 4. Short-term Outcome Percentages for the Specified Target Behaviors



⁶ Short term includes youth tracked for the behavior of interest who received services during the activity period or youth who exited the activity period.

⁷ Other target behaviors include grade point average, high school completion, family relationships, antisocial behavior, community involvement, school attendance, and substance use.

CONCLUSION

OJJDP recognizes that tribes present varying challenges and strengths, which impact their ability to respond to the needs of tribal youth. Tribes use OJJDP funds to expand culturally appropriate approaches to provide prevention and intervention services for at-risk tribal youth and court-involved youth, and systems improvement for juvenile justice and tribal youth-serving systems. Through TYP, OJJDP supports efforts to understand the disproportionate representation of American Indian and Alaskan native youth in the juvenile justice system, and their lack of access to direct service resources.⁸ The services may include developing intake and vulnerability assessments, implementing mental health treatment and trauma-informed programs, and training and technical assistance for juvenile justice and other tribal youth-serving systems.

During the January–June 2020 activity period, 52 TYP operational awards served a total of 13,578 youth and families. In addition, 15 percent of grantees conducted planning activities, which resulted in 15 new partnerships and training for 65 individuals. Of those served ($n = 6,071$), 45 percent were youths and 55 percent ($n = 7,507$) were families. Overall, 88 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in targeted behaviors in the short term, with GED, gang resistance, and occupational skills showing the greatest improvement. Lastly, 97 percent of youth did not offend in the short term and 100 percent did not recidivate.

⁸ *Tribal Youth Program Fact Sheet*. 2016. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Tribal-youth-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf>