

The Evaluation Report
For
**Targeted Re-Entry Program of the Boys and Girls Clubs of
Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme**



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Executive Summary

Crime devastates victims, communities, and even perpetrators. Over the last several decades, the United States has faced serious problems with its criminal justice system. The population of incarcerated Americans has grown tenfold since 1970 and those who have been released from prison are more likely than not to return to prison. The vicious cycle of imprisonment, release, and imprisonment need to be reduced and if possible stopped.

In the last decade, there has been renewed interest in programs that are intended to reduce the recidivism rate of released prisoners. The Targeted Reentry Program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme is one such program that focuses on the needs of at-risk juvenile offenders. The program provides services to youth offenders from the time they are detained in juvenile facilities through their release and reintegration with the community.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme rely on several collaborators to provide specialized services that are beyond their purview. These collaborators include:

- Palmer Drug Abuse Program
- Ventura County Public Health
- The Ventura County Probation Agency
- The Coalition to End Family Violence

This study has worked to collect data both from the management of and participants in the Targeted Reentry Program in order to determine the effectiveness of the services provided. Based on these findings, the program proves to be an effective resource in the lives of these young people. Participants perceive the services to be effective and they consistently utilize everything that the program has to offer. Moreover, the rates of recidivism are relatively low and they seem to be gainfully engaged in the community upon release.

Data collected through studying the records of program management indicate the following:

- Significant proportions (36%) of youths who have received the program services are currently employed.
- 84% of those who have participated in the Targeted Reentry Program are either currently in school or they have earned academic credentials that could help them become employed. Most encouragingly, 10% are currently pursuing secondary education beyond high school.
- 36% of program participants received counseling services while they were inside the juvenile facility.
- 86% of those who received counseling while they were in detention continued to receive counseling after they left the facility and began reintegrating into their communities.
- The vast majority of respondents (70%) received substance abuse treatment inside the juvenile facility. This is a significant finding. First, it speaks to the success and ability of the Targeted Reentry Program to provide a service to a large number of program participants. Second, it indicates just how many of the youths entering the program is in need of substance abuse

treatment. The majority of participants (52%) who received substance abuse treatment within the Juvenile Facility indicate that they continued to receive such treatment after they released into the community.

- 85% of those who participated in the Targeted Reentry Program were not returned to the juvenile facility after their release only for a new offense.

In addition to consulting the records of program management, the research team prepared a survey that was administered to program participants. The results of the survey are as follows:

- At the time respondents filled out the questionnaire, a majority (53.5%) were legal adults over the age of eighteen.
- When entering the program, juvenile offenders were between the ages of 14 and 17. The largest share of respondents (46.7%) was 17 when beginning the program.
- Nearly three-fourths of respondents (73.3%) are males.
- 53.3% of respondents indicate that they are full-time high school students not currently employed. An additional 13.4% are also studying; 6.7% are attending community college full-time while another 6.7% are attending college while working. An additional third of respondents are no longer pursuing an education. 20% are working full-time while 13.3% are working part-time jobs.
- All respondents to the survey are either working or studying. This means that all these individuals are on the path to having a more stable life.
- The findings of the program participant survey are quite promising. Only 13.3% of survey respondents indicate that they have had new charges filed against them after exiting the Targeted Reentry Program for the first time. This level of recidivism is significantly less than national levels that are generally in excess of 60%.
- All survey respondents believed that the Targeted Reentry Program helped them to “find [the] real sources of my [their] problems.” Specifically, 60% believed the program was very successful while 40% believed it to be only successful in this regard.
- All survey respondents indicated that the program changed the way they deal with their problems for the better. This is further evidence that the services of the program are helping to develop pro-social behavior among participants.
- All survey respondents indicated that the program was successful in making them more hopeful about their lives. This is the third question in which program participants indicate unanimously that the program has encouraged pro-social behavior.
- 93.3% of respondents indicate that the program successfully gave them the opportunity to meet people who care about them and their wellbeing.
- All survey respondents believe that the program taught them the value of an education for a better life in the future. Such motivation may help them become more likely to take their education seriously.
- 86.7% of respondents believe that the program was successful in teaching them useful skills that will help them succeed in the job market. Once again, this finding touches on the issue of

employability and the need for helping these youth offenders find stable livelihoods that will encourage them to avoid criminal activity.

- Another area in which the program seems to help participants is in allowing them to appreciate the importance of health living. Respondents unanimously believed that the program was successful in teaching them the importance of healthy living.

1) Background Information on Program and Services

The Targeted Reentry program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme (BGCOP) is a service modeled upon the Intensive Aftercare Program (IAP) designed by Dr. David Altschuler and Dr. Troy Armstrong. This comprehensive system provides specific programming to youths from the time they are in juvenile detention centers through their release and even while they are transitioning back into their communities. Throughout the entire process, case management services are provided to ensure that the youths receive the services they need within and beyond their time in detention.

The goal of such a service is to help these youths transition seamlessly from detention back into the general society in a manner that reduces the likelihood they will engage in further criminal activities. Youths who engage in criminal activity are often in need of resources and services that can pull them out of the vicious cycle crime can breed. The Targeted Reentry Program provides the supervision and guidance such youths need to succeed and improve their lives. The beneficiaries of these efforts include not only the juvenile detainees but the communities who would otherwise be victimized if such youths were not rehabilitated.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme provide a variety of services to these youths; most notably they provide youth offenders access to mentors. Nevertheless, the BGCOP is not alone in these efforts. The management of the Targeted Reentry Program works closely with various partners who can provide the additional services needed by the youths in the program. Collaborating organizations include:

- **Palmer Drug Abuse Program** is a vital resource for youth offenders whose rehabilitation can be stunted by substance abuse. The program provides intervention and treatment programs in addition to individual and family counseling during and after incarceration. This partnership is particularly important given the fact that national studies find that 57% of former prisoners suffer from drug abuse problems (Bloom 2).
- **Ventura County Public Health** provides public health nursing services to those who would otherwise not afford access to healthcare. The services provided to youths during and after detention not only educate youths about their health but it also evaluates them for their needs.
- **The Ventura County Probation Agency** focuses on improving the youths' problem-solving skills and social development. Programs encourage youths to build their personal strengths, pro-social behavior, and victim awareness. Such programming is to incarcerated youths in detention and commitment units.
- **The Coalition to End Family Violence** works with the families, children, and individuals who are victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault. Services provided by the program include mental health counseling to youths both while they are in and when they leave the detention facility.

These partnerships are critical to the success of the Targeted Reentry Program. They ensure a steady and secure source of needed services to youths in the program during and after their incarceration. Such stability and continued support is critical to ensuring positive outcomes for youth offenders.

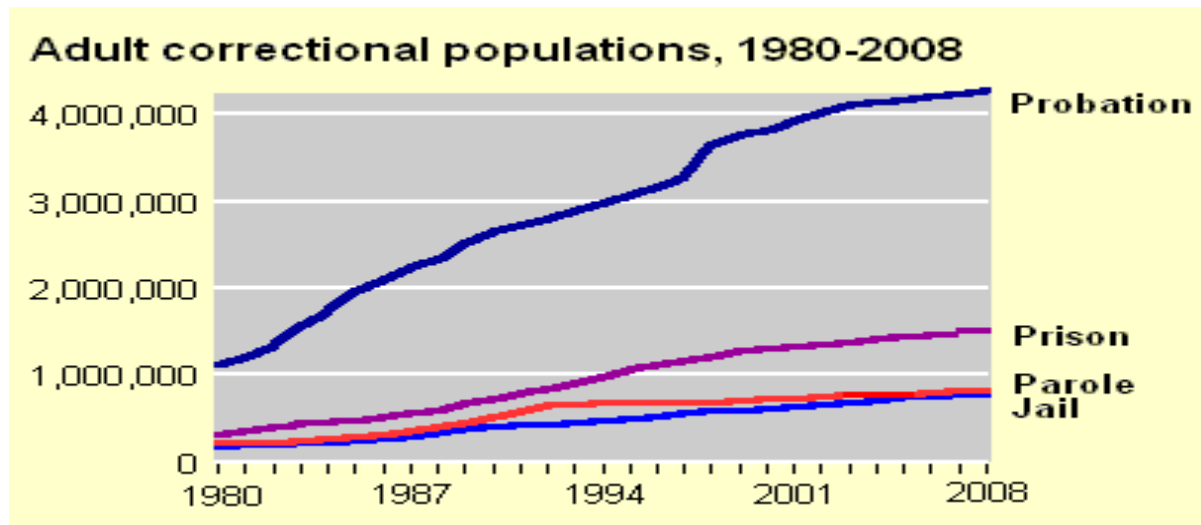
The “reintegrative continuum” of services provided by the Targeted Reentry Program is provided during three distinct, yet overlapping phases of activity (“Targeted Reentry” Par. 12). The phases of the program are as follows:

1. Pre-release planning during confinement
2. Structured reentry involving the active participation of both residential and community based agency staff
3. Long-term reintegrative activities

Research indicates that programs using such models that provide services before and after detention tend to have the greatest likelihood of success (Bloom iii). Doing everything that is possible to ensure successful reentry is critical given the serious societal need to reintegrate youth offenders back into society to reduce rates of criminal recidivism.

1.1) The Role and Need for Reentry Programs

In 1970, 200,000 people were incarcerated in the United States; in 2002, this number grew to 2,000,000 (Farole 3-4). As more people go to prison, the number of people who are reintroduced from prison into communities across this country grows since 93% of those who enter prison eventually leave (Farole 4). A variety of causes can explain the growing number of incarcerations in our society. One particularly troubling factor is the increase in average prison sentences have grown from 22 months to 28 months between 1990 and 1998 (Lindquist 2).



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Correctional Surveys¹ (<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/glance/corr2.cfm>)

¹ Probation is a “court-ordered period of correctional supervision in the community generally as an alternative to incarceration. In some cases probation can be a combined sentence of incarceration followed by a period of community supervision. These data include adults under the jurisdiction of probation agency, regardless of supervision status (i.e., active supervision, inactive supervision, financial conditions only, warrant status, absconder status, in a residential/other treatment program, or supervised out of jurisdiction).” Prison is defined as “confinement in a state or federal correctional facility to serve a sentence of more than 1 year, although in some

The above picture paints a more detailed portrait of the correctional population of the United States. When considering all correctional populations, in 2008 there were 7.3 million people under some form of correctional supervision.

As more people enter and leave prison, it also seems that former inmates are less able to integrate effectively into their communities. Between 1985 and 1998, the success rate of parole has fallen from 70% to 45% (Farole 4). Within three years of being released from prison, 60% of former prisoners are rearrested while 40% are re-incarcerated (Lindquist 3). This data paints a bleak portrait of the criminal justice problem facing the United States.

There are a variety of reasons that can explain why those released from incarceration can have trouble returning to their communities to lead fulfilling crime-free lives. The barriers to successful reintegration can include the following (Farole 7):

- Substance and Alcohol Abuse Problems
- Lack of Employment Experience
- Lack of Education
- Severe Health Risks
- High Rates of Mental Illness
- Difficulty obtaining Housing

All these problems can make it difficult for former inmates to find stable lives in the community. Without stability it is much easier to relapse into the criminal lifestyle. Programs are necessary that can help such individuals cope and overcome the significant barriers they face. Failure to overcome these barriers not only hurts the individual criminal but it also hurts future victims of crime and taxpayers who pay for the criminal justice system.

Moreover, the acute need to address the problem of recidivism is felt most in certain communities. Research finds that “core urban communities tend to be disproportionately impacted by the increasing number of prison releases” (Lindquist 3). Such communities have a special incentive to provide services to help these individuals reintegrate. Having a high number of former inmates may reduce the social stigma associated with arrest in such communities thereby only further encouraging crime (Farole 5). Unfortunately, the ability of these communities to provide services can be limited since these communities often have scarce resources and high levels of poverty.

Juveniles are in particular need of reentry services. While much of the existing literature discusses recidivism and reintegration of the general prison population, juveniles face special circumstances that

jurisdictions the length of sentence which results in prison confinement is longer.” Jail is defined as “confinement in a local jail while pending trial, awaiting sentencing, serving a sentence that is usually less than 1 year, or awaiting transfer to other facilities after conviction.” Parole is a “period of conditional supervised release in the community following a prison term, including prisoners released to parole either by a parole board decision (discretionary parole) or according to provisions of a statute (mandatory parole). These data include adults under the jurisdiction of a parole agency, regardless of supervision status (i.e., active supervision, inactive supervision, financial conditions only, absconder status, or supervised out of state).” <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/glance/corr2.cfm>

must be addressed. Often times those going through the juvenile justice system are on the first step of a vicious cycle of criminal activity that leads to the adult criminal justice system. Several studies across the country have verified this intuitive conclusion:

- A study of 1,222 youths across the country who were arrested for a violent offense at least once as juveniles found that, of the institutionalized juveniles, 76% were eventually rearrested as adults (Wiebush 3).
- A Minnesota study of parolees from two juvenile correctional facilities that followed the subjects for 5 years found that 90% were arrested as adults and two-thirds were sentenced to prison (Wiebush 3).

Given all the problems noted about the adult criminal justice system, it is imperative to do all that is possible to save youths from the criminal lifestyle as early as possible.

In recognition of the dire and special needs of the juvenile offender population, the Intensive Aftercare Program model was developed in 1987 with the support of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The IAP model emphasizes a coordinated case-management system that provides juvenile offenders structured support during incarceration through their transition and reintegration into the community. The Targeted Reentry Program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oxnard and Port Hueneme is inspired by this nationally tested system.

The various IAP services across the country attempt to grapple with the major problem facing the juvenile justice system: “how to effectively intervene with high-risk incarcerated juvenile offenders who in the past have demonstrated high recidivism and continued their offending patterns into their adult years” (Wiebush 1). The hope of successful intervention is the motivation for the Targeted Reentry Program. By saving as many youths as possible from entering a life of criminal activity as adults, the program helps not only the juvenile offender but also the community and victims who will suffer if the youth pursues a life of crime.

1.2) Methodology of Research and Data Gathering

This research used both the existing data from current literature and those that have been produced over time by the management of the program for various administrative and evaluative purposes. In addition, primary data was collected through the use of surveys and direct inquiries for the purpose of conducting this research. The survey was given to the youth that were available without any particular selection criteria and collaborators were contacted to provide their feedback, again, without any specific selection criteria.

We gathered all the available in-house information about basic demographic of the youths that were referred to the detention center. All cases were recorded for their date of entry and release, new offences, use of various facilities and services that they were offered and used while they were in the facility and continuation of employing such services after being release. Tracking released youths and learning about their latest living condition was a hard task but highly relevant for assessing the impact of the program on the lives of these young people.

In order to have better information about how the youth feel about their experiences with the Targeted Reentry Program, we designed and conducted a survey of such youth. We also made an attempt and inquired about the opinion of collaborators who participated in the program. Both such inquiries were based on the attempt to determine the outcome of this experience. The following themes highlight some of the principal elements of the youth survey:

- Social and economic environment before and after detention. Factors analyzed include schooling, jobs, length of stay in the program, and substance abuse and counseling attendance before and after leaving the detention facility.
- Demographics profile such as their age, gender, ethnicity, years of schooling, current job situation, current school status, and age when entering the program.
- Self reflection and personal assessment of the impact of the program on their lives.

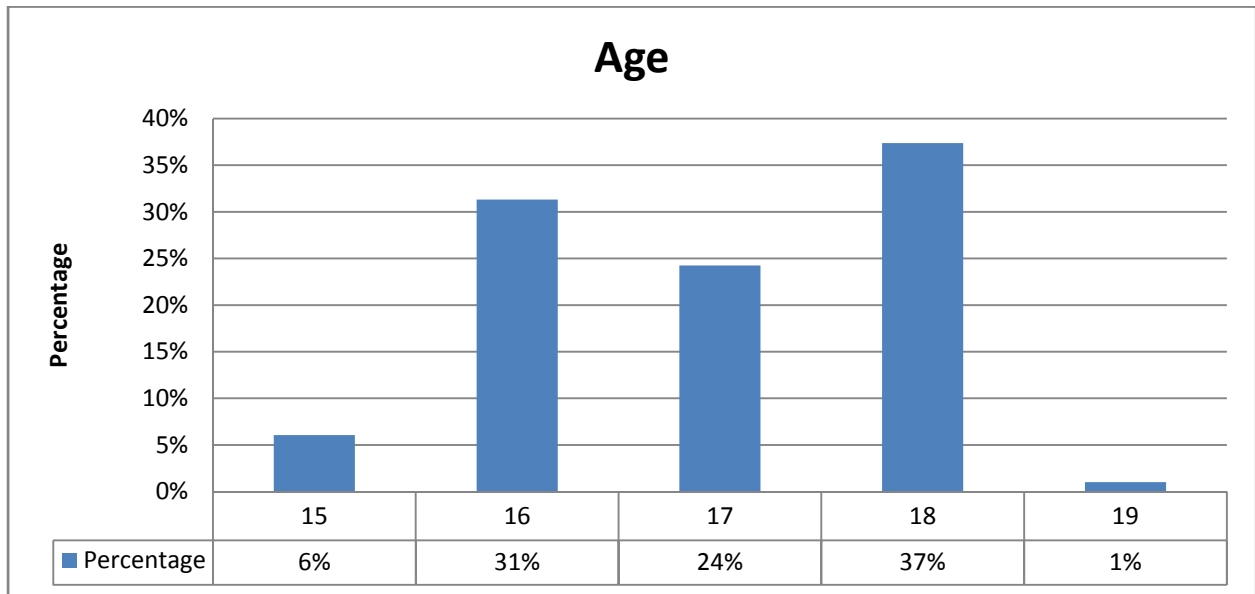
We also asked questions from a number of collaborators who have had close contact with the program to seek their opinion about the impact of the program.

2) Research Findings

2.1) Data Based on Management Records

The management of the Targeted Reentry Program has been able to collect information about the juvenile offenders receiving its services. This information has been collected during the incarceration of the juveniles through their release and reintegration into society. Our research team studied these records and this section presents several statistics about the program participants.

We begin by presenting basic information about the profile of offenders receiving services, namely their age:

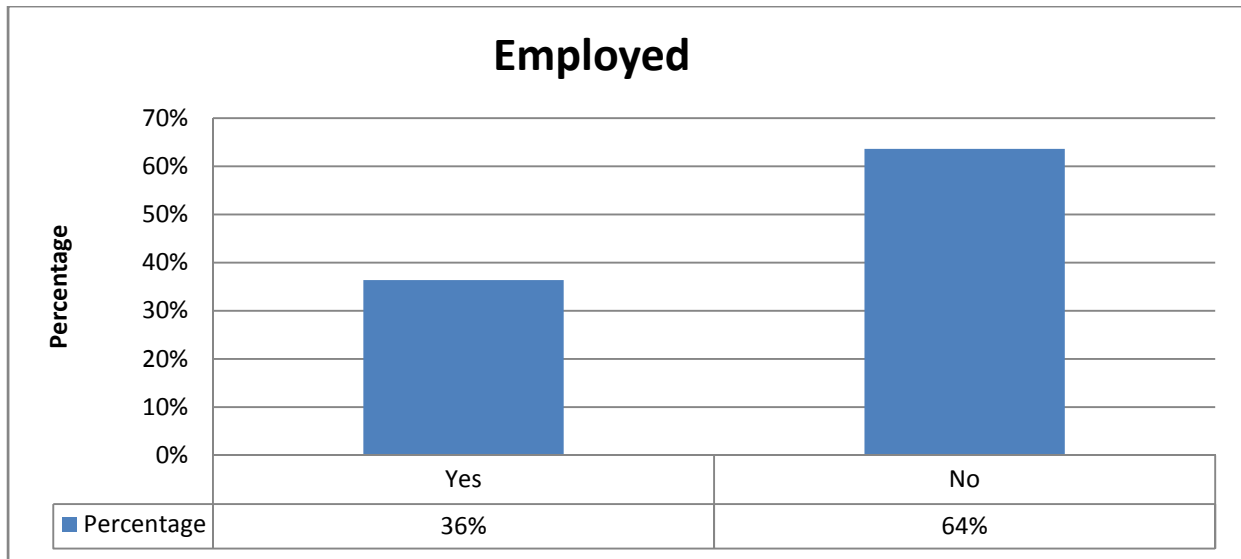


Youths 16 to 18 years of age make up the vast majority (93%) of those served by the program. This population is particularly at-risk since they are nearly at the age when they could be charged as an adult for criminal behavior. Rehabilitative services such as those provided by the Targeted Reentry Program are the last chance to save these youths before they could face the risk of entering the adult criminal justice system.

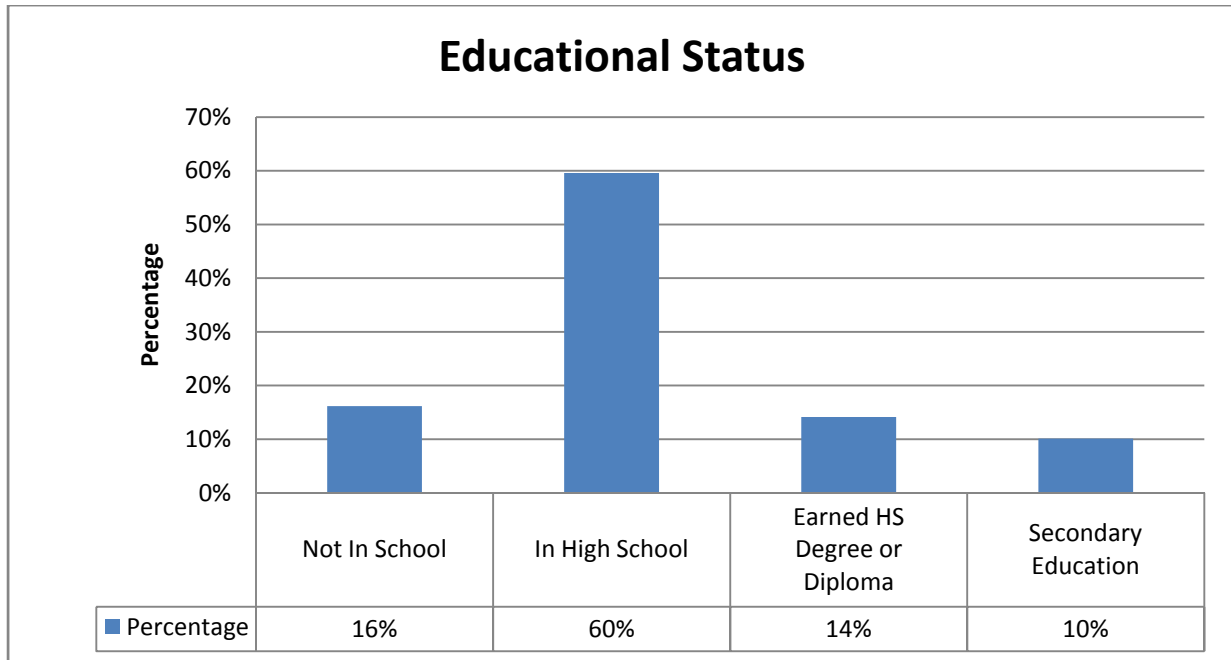
2.1.1) Employment and Education Status

An important way to save someone from a life of crime is to ensure that they are in a stable environment earning a decent livelihood. Stability and a job can motivate somebody to think twice before risking incarceration and criminal prosecution. It is easiest to commit a crime when one has nothing to lose.

As such, an important indicator of whether those served by the program are at-risk of recidivism is to see whether they are in a stable professional situation. This can be measured by learning how many are employed. Additionally, data regarding current educational pursuits or attainment can determine whether the individuals in question are more or less likely to eventually be employed in a stable line of work.



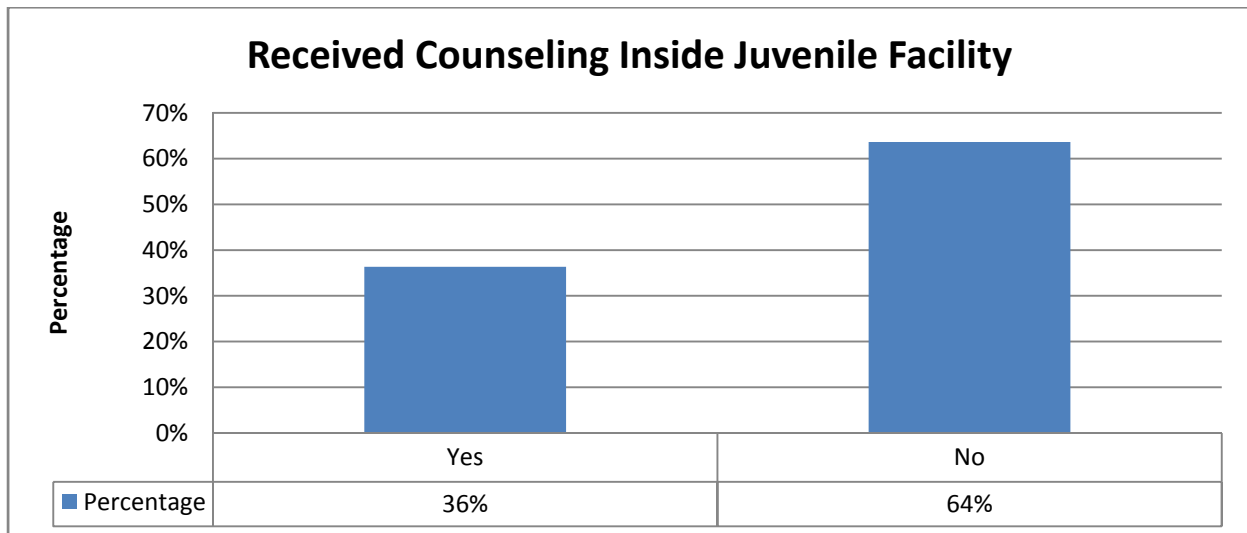
Significant proportions (36%) of youths who have received the program services are currently employed. This is a sizeable group given the age of program participants. It indicates that many are in a position to earn an income without resorting to criminal activity.



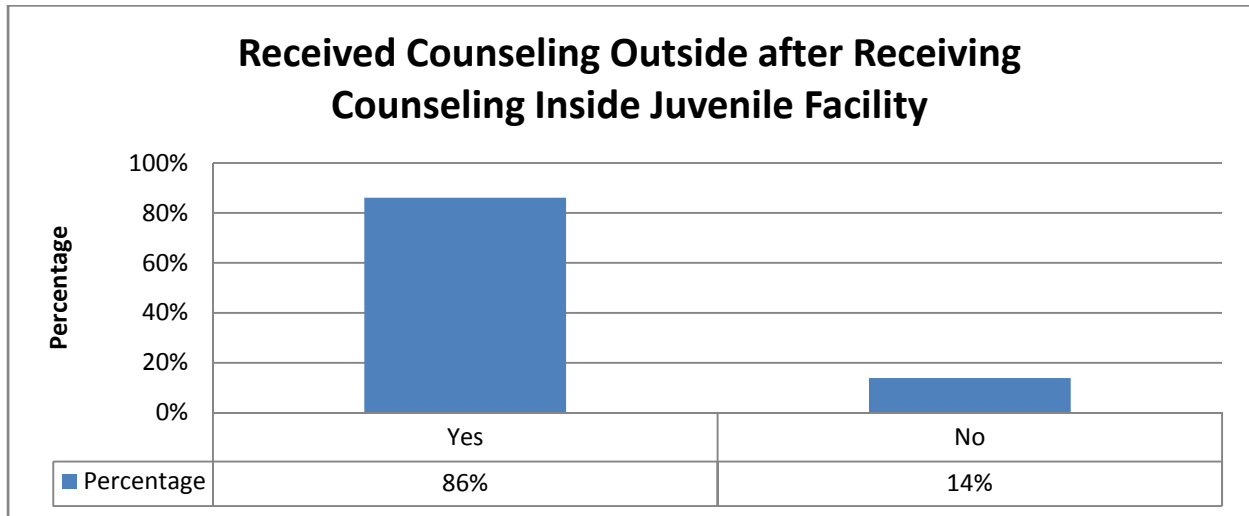
84% of those who have participated in the Targeted Reentry Program are either currently in school or they have earned academic credentials that could help them become employed. Most encouragingly, 10% are currently pursuing secondary education beyond high school.

2.1.2) Utilization of Program Services

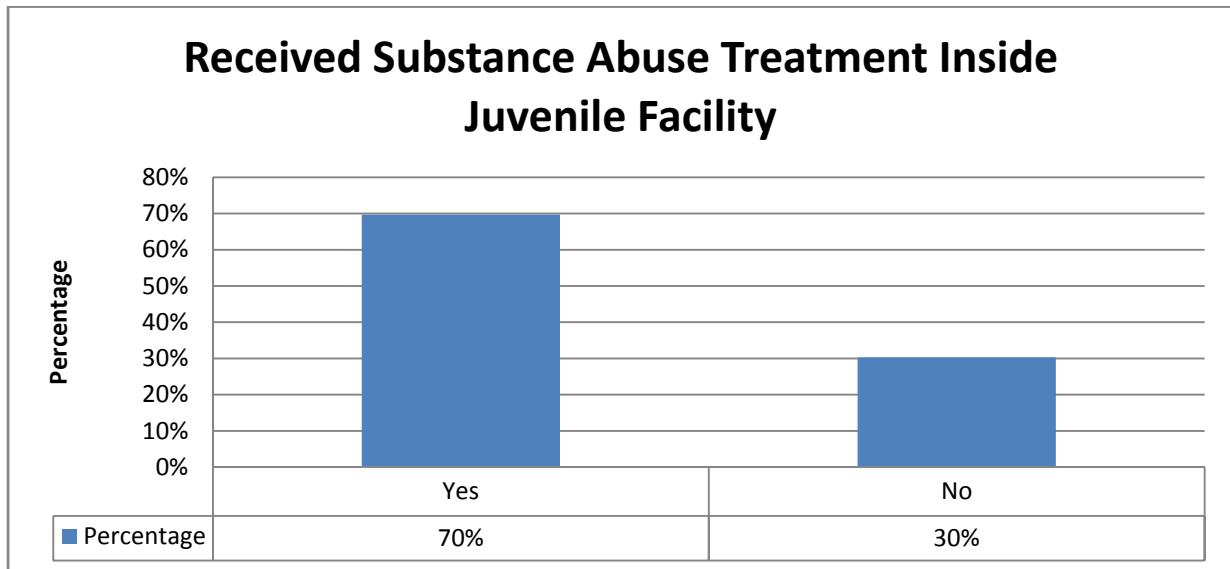
In order for youth offenders participating in the Targeted Reentry Program to derive any true value from their participation, they need to utilize the various services offered to them through the program. As such, this study examined management records to track the utilization of counseling and substance abuse treatment.



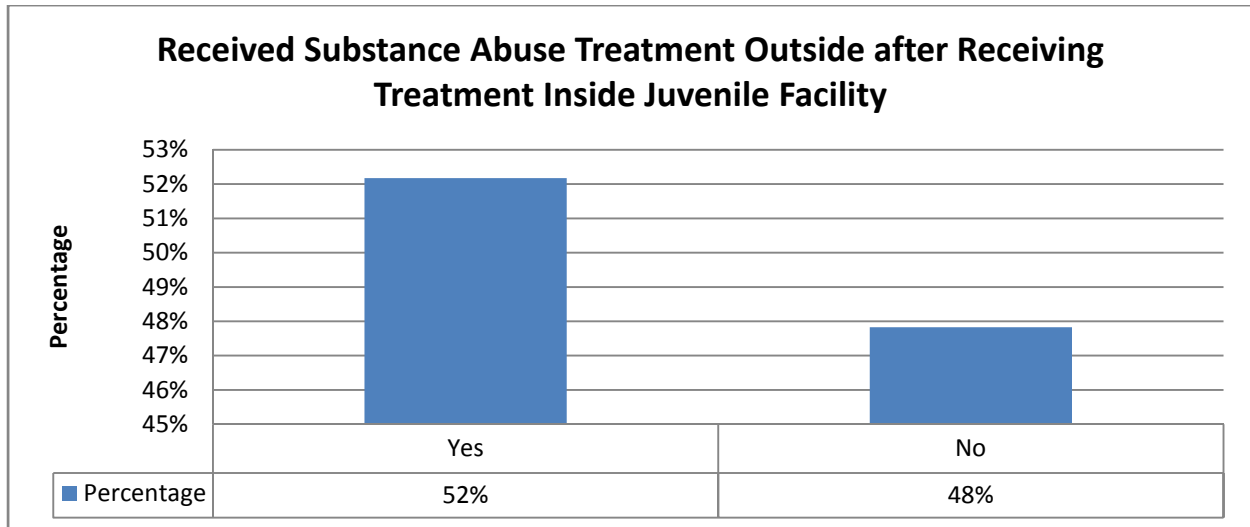
36% of program participants received counseling services while they were inside the juvenile facility. This is a respectable proportion given the fact that it is unclear what proportion of the population in question is in need of such services.



Even more encouraging, is the retention rate of those receiving such services when they leave the juvenile facility. 86% of those who received counseling while they were in detention continued to receive counseling after they left the facility and began reintegrating into their communities.



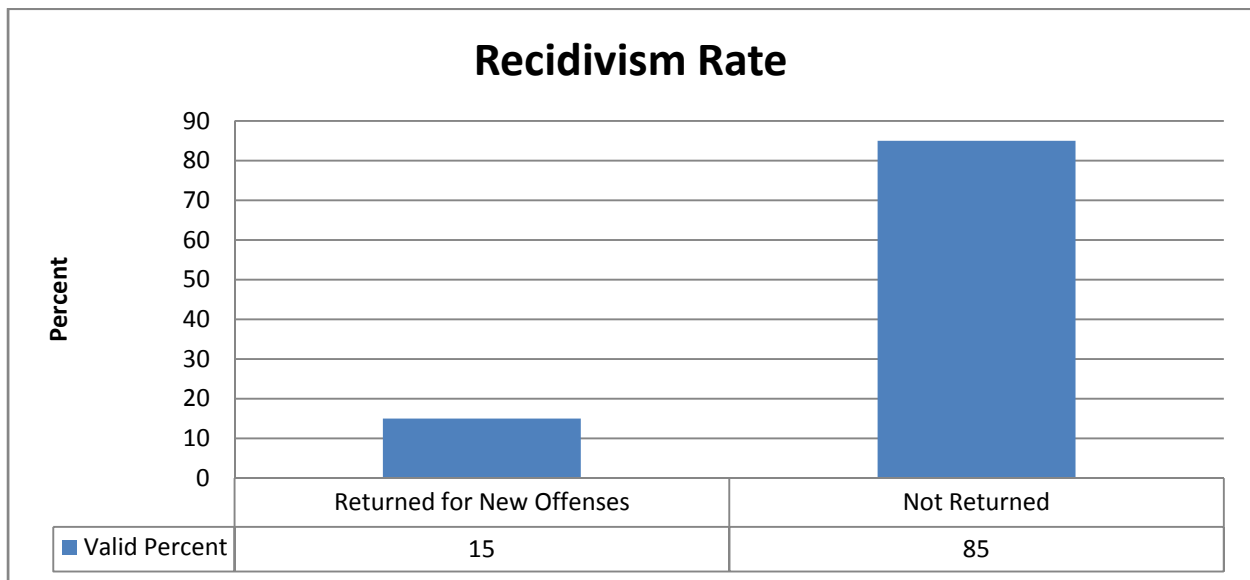
The vast majority of respondents (70%) received substance abuse treatment inside the juvenile facility. This is a significant finding. First, it speaks to the success and ability of the Targeted Reentry Program to provide a service to a large number of program participants. Second, it indicates just how many of the youths entering the program is in need of substance abuse treatment. Without the Targeted Reentry Program and this particular service, it is unclear whether the underlying issue of substance abuse could be adequately addressed for these youth offenders.



The majority of participants (52%) who received substance abuse treatment within the Juvenile Facility indicate that they continued to receive such treatment after they released into the community.

2.1.3) Recidivism Rate

One of the most important factors in measuring the success of the program is whether those who participated in the program continued to engage in criminal behavior upon their release from prison. The outcomes are quite impressive for the Targeted Reentry Program.

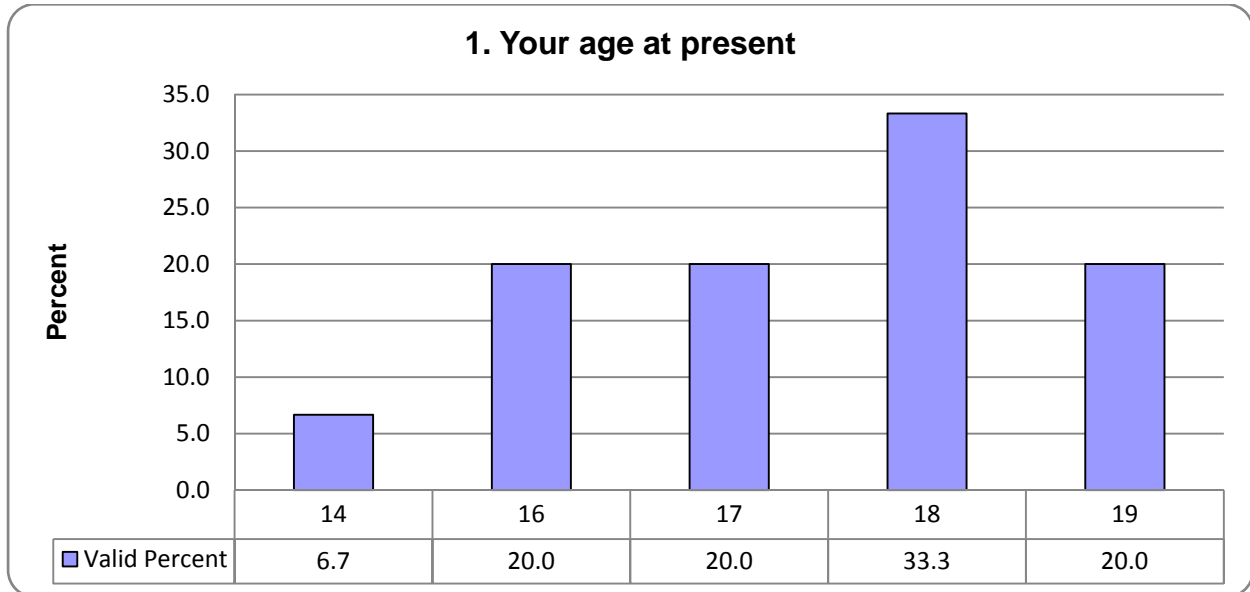


85% of those who participated in the Targeted Reentry Program were not returned to the juvenile facility after their release only for a new offense. Although a small minority of 15% did commit a new offense and return to the facility, this rate of recidivism is small when compared to similar rates across the nation.

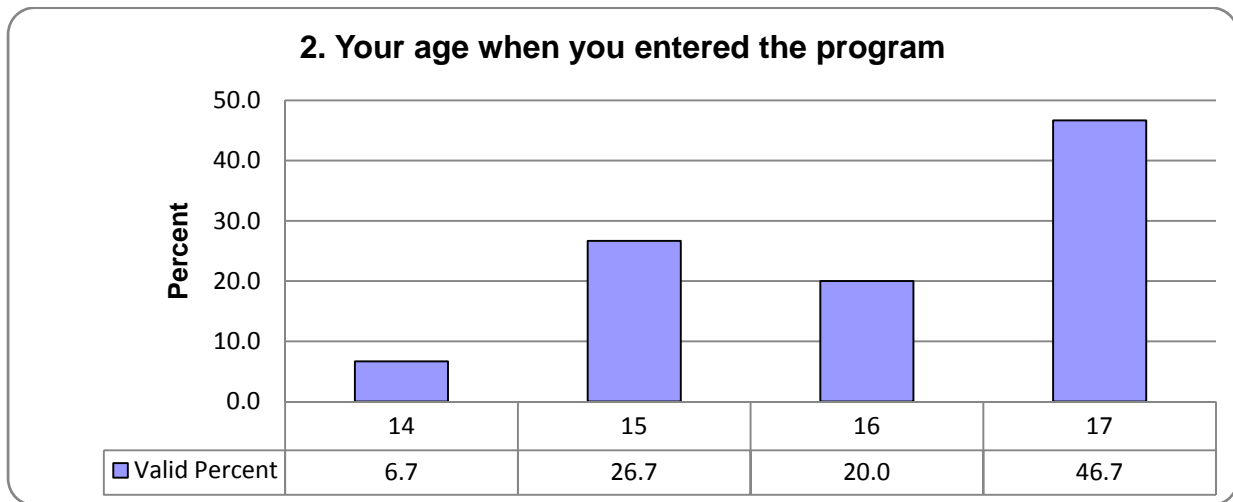
2.2) Findings from Program Participant Questionnaire

2.2.1) Demographic Profile

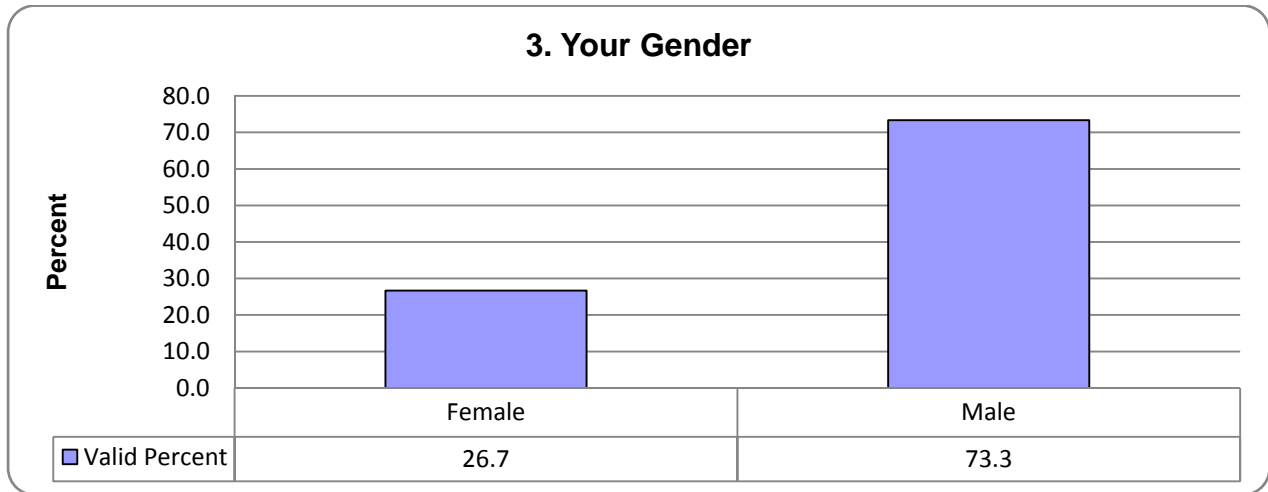
When understanding the value of and need for a program, it is helpful to know as much as possible about the people served by the program. To this end, the survey of Target Reentry Program participants included several demographic questions.



High-risk juvenile offenders tend to be near the legal adult age of eighteen. At the time respondents filled out the questionnaire, a majority (53.5%) were legal adults over the age of eighteen. Of course, many respondents filling out the questionnaire have already received the services of the program. This indicates that a decent number of participants in the program have continued to be involved as adults. This would seem to indicate that the program has succeeded in providing long-term support and supervision for the juvenile offenders that it serves.



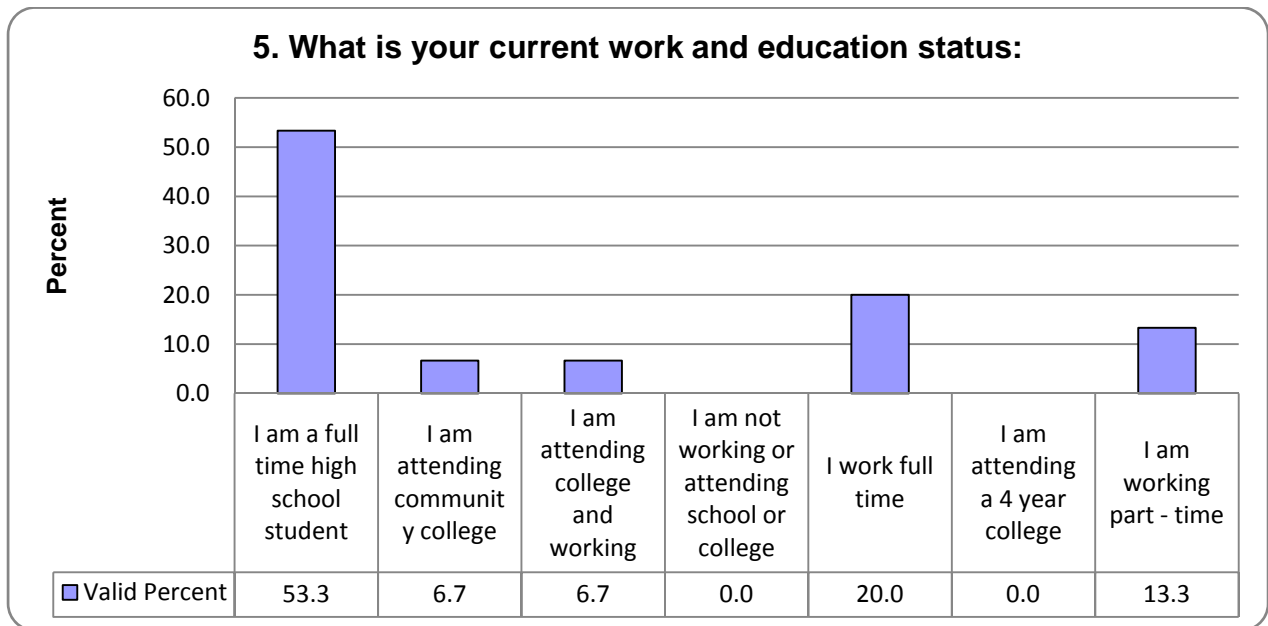
When entering the program, juvenile offenders were between the ages of 14 and 17. The largest share of respondents (46.7%) was 17 when beginning the program. This is a particularly important group to serve since they have nearly reached adult status. As adults, these offenders could go through the regular criminal justice system. It is important that the program helps such individuals successfully reenter society and avoid recidivism since they would likely be charged as adults for their next offense.



Nearly three-fourths of respondents (73.3%) are males.

2.2.2) Employment and Educational Status

As discussed in the previous section of the report, employability and educational status are important factors in helping to determine whether an individual is likely to pursue criminal activity. As such, the survey of program participants sought to learn more detailed information about the current educational and employment status of respondents.

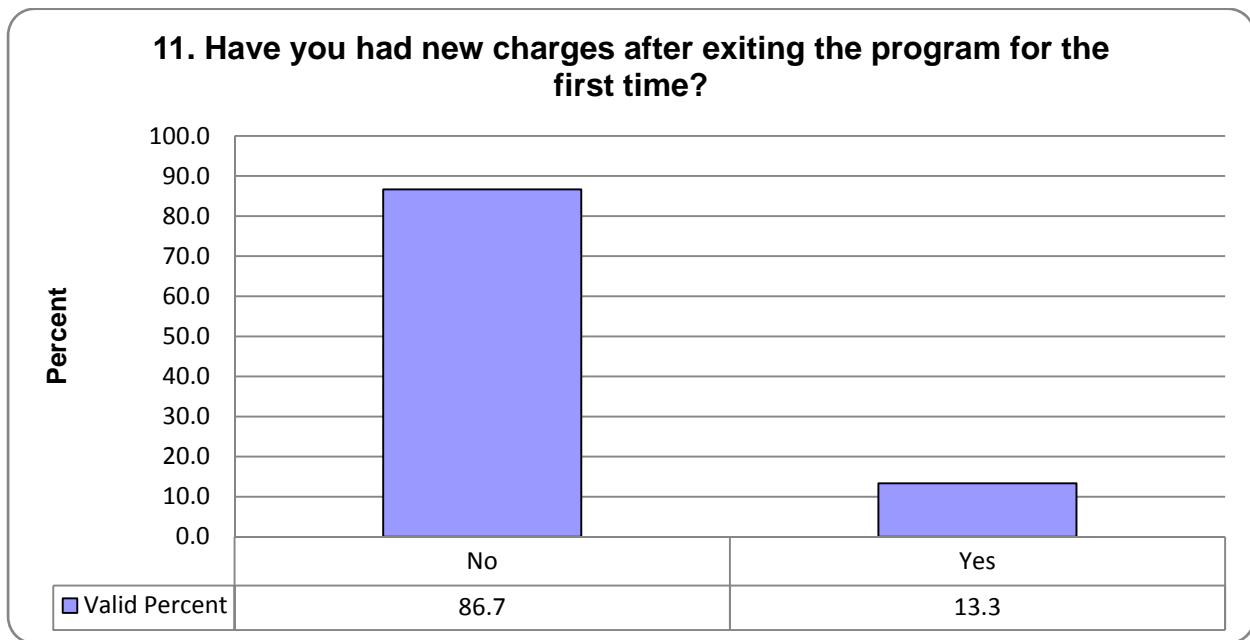


The majority of respondents (53.3%) indicate that they are full-time high school students not currently employed. An additional 13.4% are also studying; 6.7% are attending community college full-time while another 6.7% are attending college while working. An additional third of respondents are no longer pursuing an education. 20% are working full-time while 13.3% are working part-time jobs.

The most significant and encouraging finding from this question is that not a single respondent to the survey is neither employed nor pursuing education. In other words, all respondents are either working or studying. This means that all these individuals are on the path to having a stable livelihood.

2.2.3) Recidivism

One of the most important statistics that can verify whether the program is a success or a failure is whether those who participated in the program continued to engage in criminal behavior upon their release from prison. Indeed, one of the motivations for Intensive Aftercare Programs that were the model for the Targeted Reentry Program is to break the vicious cycle of criminal activity that seems to plague those freed from incarceration



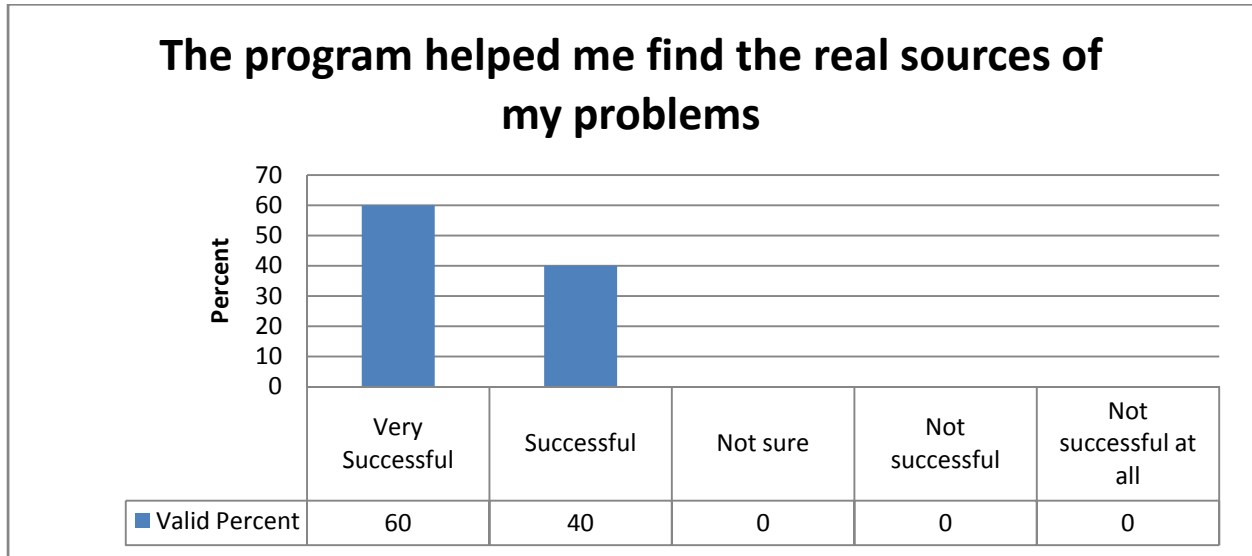
The findings of the program participant survey are quite promising. Only 13.3% of survey respondents indicate that they have had new charges filed against them after exiting the Targeted Reentry Program for the first time. This level of recidivism is significantly less than national levels that are generally in excess of 60%.

2.2.4) Youths' Perception of the Program's Impact

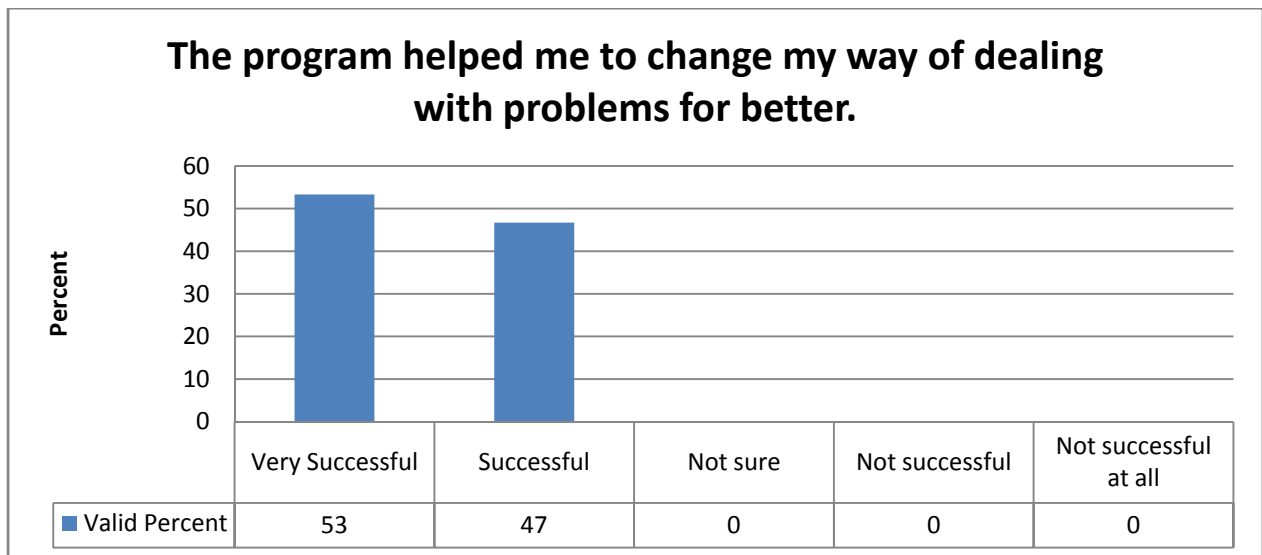
There are various ways to gauge the success of the program. One important consideration should be the perception of juvenile offenders going through the program regarding its effectiveness. If youths view the program to be effective, then they are more likely to take the services rendered through it seriously. The nature of various services such as drug abuse counseling and the like requires that the participants

voluntarily dedicate themselves to self-improvement. If youths do not take the program seriously, then it is unlikely that they will approach the services with the right attitude.

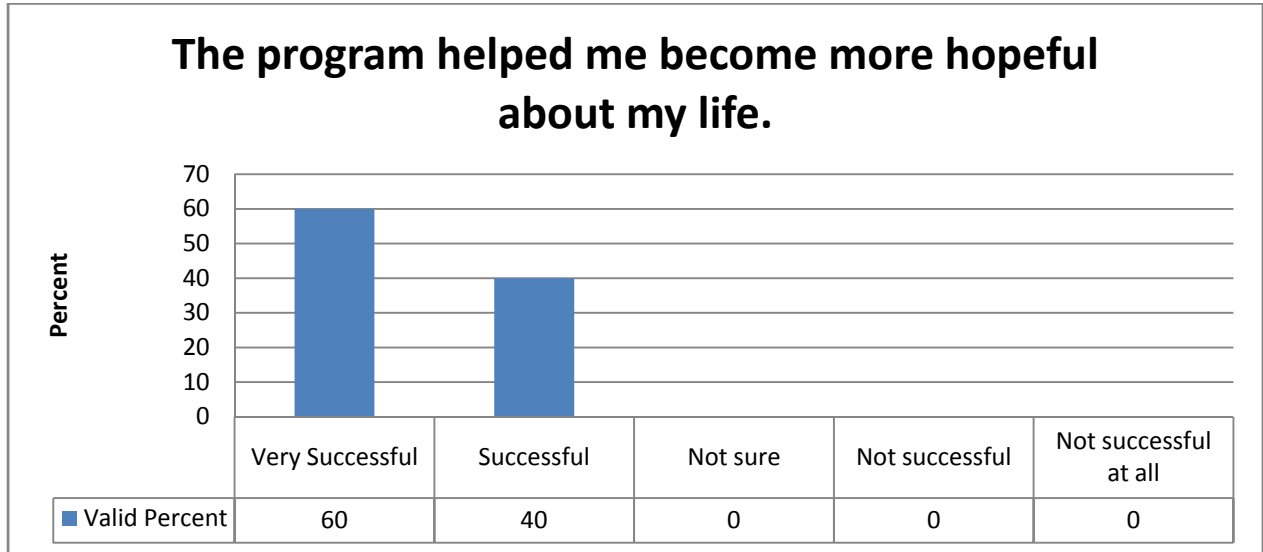
As such, the survey of youth offenders included seven areas in which we gauged the perception of program participants regarding its effectiveness in various categories. The results were overwhelming and nearly unanimously positive.



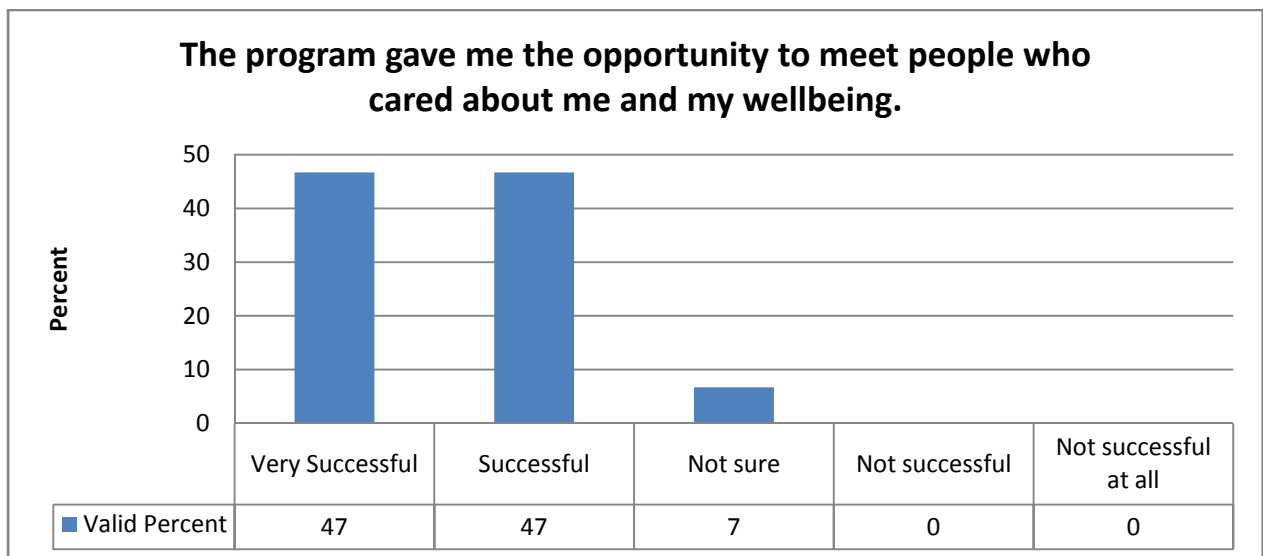
All survey respondents believed that the Targeted Reentry Program helped them to “find [the] real sources of my [their] problems.” Specifically, 60% believed the program was very successful while 40% believed it to be only successful in this regard. Many juvenile offenders have difficult personal backgrounds that may in part motivate their behavior. Services such as counseling can help them become self-aware of the problems that they face. Acknowledging a problem is the first step in finding a solution for that problem. By helping youths take the important step of finding the source of their problems, the program has helped students take the first step towards more pro-social behavior.



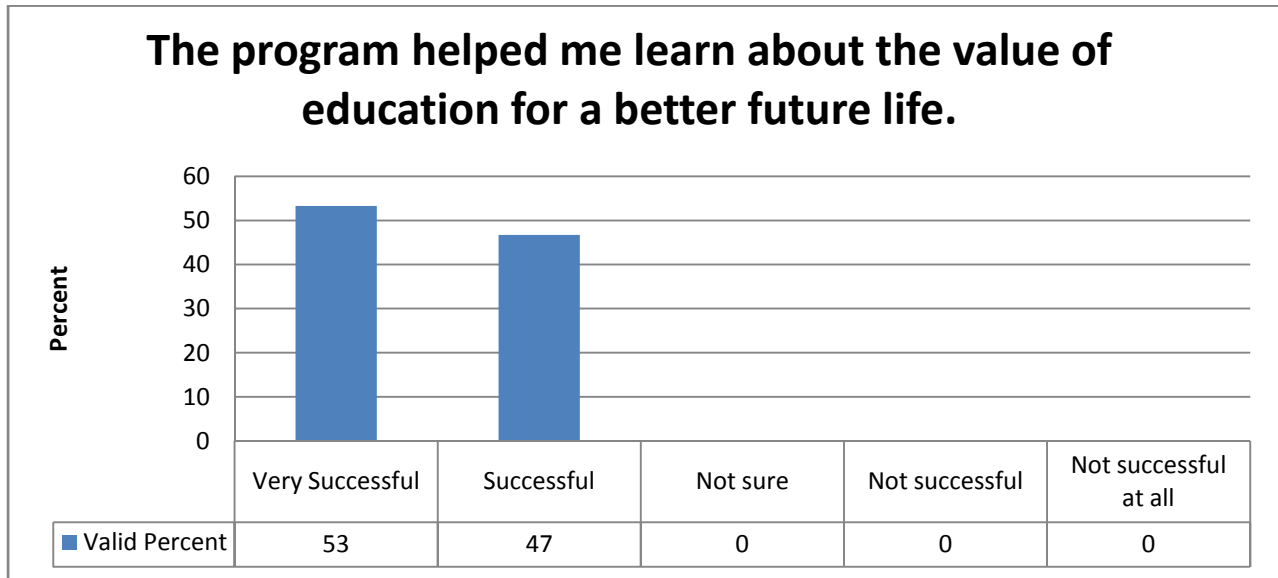
All survey respondents indicated that the program changed the way they deal with their problems for the better. This is further evidence that the services of the program are helping to develop pro-social behavior among participants. By finding better way to deal with problems, respondents are less likely to engage in the negative, criminal behavior in the future.



Finally, all survey respondents indicated that the program was successful in making them more hopeful about their lives. This is the third question in which program participants indicate unanimously that the program has encouraged pro-social behavior. The tremendous power of hope cannot be overlooked. By giving program participants hope, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oxnard and Port Hueneme and its collaborators have given these youth offenders a reason to lead a more productive and fulfilling life free of crime. If somebody has something to look forward to in their life, they are less likely to jeopardize themselves and their future by engaging in criminal activity.

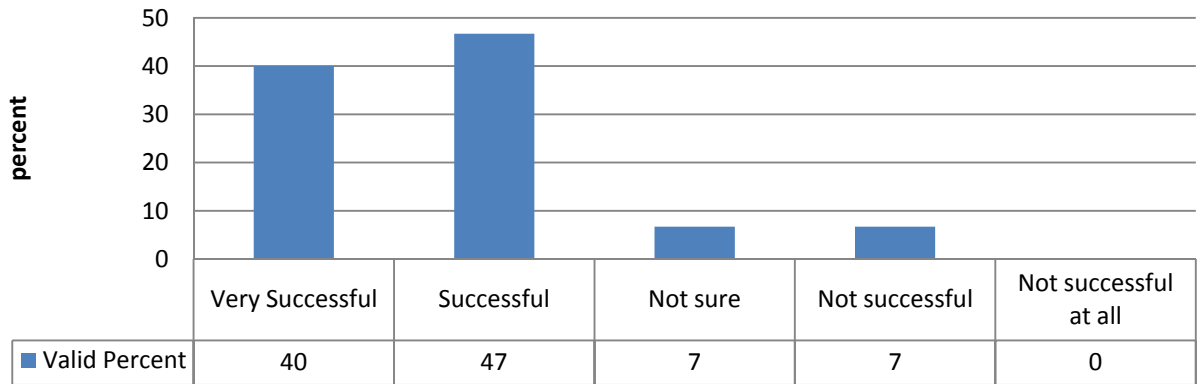


The vast majority of respondents (93.3%) indicate that the program successfully gave them the opportunity to meet people who care about them and their wellbeing. This shows that those service providers within the clubs and its collaborators have shown sufficient care for the youth offenders. It is critical to have strong support systems when going through difficult situations. The Targeted Reentry Program is apparently providing such a support system to youths who are desperately in need of it.



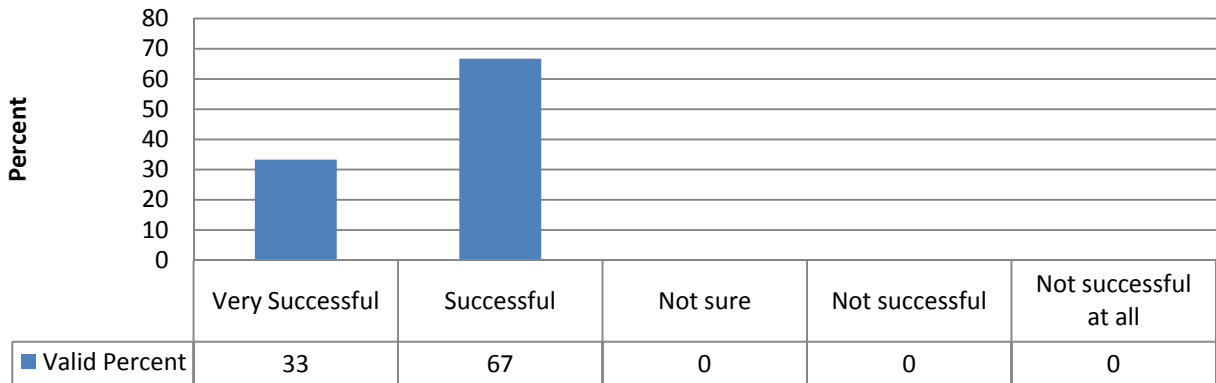
Pursuing an education whether it be completing high school or earning a college degree can help an individual be more competitive in the job market and, thereby, able to earn a living without pursuing illegal means to make a living. Many people who have recently left incarceration have lower levels of education along with other factors such as poor health that makes it difficult for them to find steady employment (Bloom 2). Fortunately, juveniles are still young enough to pursue an education upon leaving detention. Survey results indicate that those respondents who participated in the program believe unanimously that the Targeted Reentry Program taught them the value of an education for a better life in the future. Such motivation may help them become more likely to take their education seriously thereby making them more likely to attain steady employment in the future.

The program helped me learn useful skills for succeeding in job market.



A vast majority of respondents (86.7%) believe that the program was successful in teaching them useful skills that will help them succeed in the job market. Once again, this finding touches on the issue of employability and the need for helping these youth offenders find stable livelihoods that will encourage them to avoid criminal activity. By teaching youths such useful skills, the program is helping them to increase their chances of leading a secure life earning an honest income.

The program helped me learn about the importance of healthy living.



Another area in which the program seems to help participants is in allowing them to appreciate the importance of health living. Respondents unanimously believed that the program was successful in teaching them the importance of healthy living. This may be due to the partnership formed with Ventura County Public Health which provides juvenile offenders public health nursing services.

2.3) Views of Collaborators

The views and opinions of collaborators regarding the success of the program must be taken into account when assessing the effectiveness of the Targeted Reentry Program. Collaborators are in a position to see the impact of the program on the youth from a different perspective which might differ from the youth themselves and the program administrators. We asked a number of questions seeking to find the views of collaborators about the impact of the program on the youth and how in their opinion the program has been effective. We also asked them to offer their suggestions for improvements that can be made in the future, when hopefully the program receives funding and is able to extend its services to a larger group of youth who might be in need of a similar assistance.

The opinions reported in here come from four individuals representing the different collaborators working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme. The individuals considered include the certified addiction treatment counselor, an individual from the coalition to end family violence, supervising DPO, and the program therapist.

The overwhelming majority of the respondents gave thumbs up regarding the success of the program and at the same time gave good comments about how the program can further assist the youth in the upcoming cycles of the program. Below are some of the most important responses areas asked in the survey and the response of the collaborators:

- All responded that the program was either very successful or successful in instilling self-respect amongst the youths.
- 50% said that the program was either very successful or successful in rehabilitating youth with their drug problems. The other 50% indicated that they did not have enough information to make an assessment.
- 50% of respondents said that the program was very successful or successful in preparing them to do better at school. The other 50% said that they do not have enough information to respond.
- All respondents indicated that the program was very successful or successful in encouraging program participants to stay in school and become educated.
- All respondents indicated that the program was very successful in helping youths develop a desire for higher education.
- 50% of respondents indicated that the program was successful in helping participants learn useful skills for job market. The other 50% said that they do not have enough information to answer this question.
- 75% said successful and 25% said they do not have enough information to determine whether the program helped participants manage their anger.
- 50% of respondents said the program was very successful or successful in helping participants develop healthy habits. The other 50% said that they did not have enough information to respond.
- All respondents indicated that the program allowed participants to learn non-violent way of resolving problems.

- 75% of respondents indicated that the program helped participants become more respecting of other people's opinions. 25% said there is not enough information to respond to this question.
- 50% of respondents said that the program was successful in helping participants become more hopeful for a better life. 25% indicated that the program was not successful in this regard and the remaining 25% said there is not enough information to respond.
- All respondents indicated that the program helped participating youths receive help for mental health problem that the participants may have.

Respondents were asked to mention 2 to 3 aspects of the program that were effective in their view. The following areas were highlighted in this section of the survey as effective:

- "Providing aftercare services"
- "Having groups in classroom where they feel safe from probation and other staff"
- "Program providers-club, D/A, therapy"
- "TRE monthly review"
- "Alcohol and drug counselor who provides services both in the facility and in the community"
- "Allowing contact with outside sponsorship in 12 step program before being released so that they can already have a connection when going to 12 step meetings."
- "Spending time with youth."
- "Working with probation / PDAP"
- "Being allowed to take youth to meetings and introduce them to young sober members of the society, Mentors working with wards, therapist, artist etc that are using resources to assist wards before and during their stay at JJF."
- "The focus on recreational activities to develop a relationship of trust."
- "Support of all the providers."
- "The support for youth."

Collaborators were also asked to provide 2 or 3 recommendations for further improvement of the program. The following responses were given as areas in this section of the survey where further improvement of the program is possible:

- "Communication between all agencies increase."
- "Instead of waiting for the wards to ask for help, be there, nudging them and encouraging them to apply themselves to programs that are being offered. go the length that makes a difference."
- "More communication between case mentors and facility and the field DPO's."
- "Collaboration."
- "More comprehensive allotment of time to job search for 18 year olds."
- "There schedule is not changed by CSO's or probation without telling the other agencies."
- "When wards are using the recreational are in JJf, all TRE staff should be a part of this activity to bound and teach them how to interact."

- “Develop more programming to keep them actively learning rather than just having one recreational personnel playing video games.”
- “Resume writing instruction and completion prior to release from custody.”

3) Summary of Findings

This study has worked to collect data both from the management of and participants in the Targeted Reentry Program in order to determine the effectiveness of the services provided. Based on these findings, the program seems to be an effective resource in the lives of these young people. Participants perceive the services to be effective and they consistently utilize everything that the program has to offer. Moreover, the rates of recidivism are relatively low and they seem to be gainfully engaged in the community upon release.

Data collected through studying the records of program management indicate the following:

- Significant proportions (36%) of youths who have received the program services are currently employed.
- 84% of those who have participated in the Targeted Reentry Program are either currently in school or they have earned academic credentials that could help them become employed. Most encouragingly, 10% are currently pursuing secondary education beyond high school.
- 36% of program participants received counseling services while they were inside the juvenile facility.
- 86% of those who received counseling while they were in detention continued to receive counseling after they left the facility and began reintegrating into their communities.
- The vast majority of respondents (70%) received substance abuse treatment inside the juvenile facility. This is a significant finding. First, it speaks to the success and ability of the Targeted Reentry Program to provide a service to a large number of program participants. Second, it indicates just how many of the youths entering the program is in need of substance abuse treatment. The majority of participants (52%) who received substance abuse treatment within the Juvenile Facility indicate that they continued to receive such treatment after they released into the community.
- 85% of those who participated in the Targeted Reentry Program were not returned to the juvenile facility after their release only for a new offense.

In addition to consulting the records of program management, the research team prepared a survey that was administered to program participants. The results of the survey are as follows:

- At the time respondents filled out the questionnaire, a majority (53.5%) were legal adults over the age of eighteen.
- When entering the program, juvenile offenders were between the ages of 14 and 17. The largest share of respondents (46.7%) was 17 when beginning the program.
- Nearly three-fourths of respondents (73.3%) are males.

- 53.3% of respondents indicate that they are full-time high school students not currently employed. An additional 13.4% are also studying; 6.7% are attending community college full-time while another 6.7% are attending college while working. An additional third of respondents are no longer pursuing an education. 20% are working full-time while 13.3% are working part-time jobs.
- All respondents to the survey are either working or studying. This means that all these individuals are on the path to having a more stable life.
- The findings of the program participant survey are quite promising. Only 13.3% of survey respondents indicate that they have had new charges filed against them after exiting the Targeted Reentry Program for the first time. This level of recidivism is significantly less than national levels that are generally in excess of 60%.
- All survey respondents believed that the Targeted Reentry Program helped them to “find [the] real sources of my [their] problems.” Specifically, 60% believed the program was very successful while 40% believed it to be only successful in this regard.
- All survey respondents indicated that the program changed the way they deal with their problems for the better. This is further evidence that the services of the program are helping to develop pro-social behavior among participants.
- All survey respondents indicated that the program was successful in making them more hopeful about their lives. This is the third question in which program participants indicate unanimously that the program has encouraged pro-social behavior.
- 93.3% of respondents indicate that the program successfully gave them the opportunity to meet people who care about them and their wellbeing.
- All survey respondents believe that the program taught them the value of an education for a better life in the future. Such motivation may help them become more likely to take their education seriously.
- 86.7% of respondents believe that the program was successful in teaching them useful skills that will help them succeed in the job market. Once again, this finding touches on the issue of employability and the need for helping these youth offenders find stable livelihoods that will encourage them to avoid criminal activity.
- Another area in which the program seems to help participants is in allowing them to appreciate the importance of health living. Respondents unanimously believed that the program was successful in teaching them the importance of healthy living.

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APPENDIX A: Survey of Youth

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard Boys and Port Hueneme Targeted Re-Entry Youth Survey

Thank you for taking time to participate in this survey. Our goal is to learn about your experience in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme Targeted Re-Entry Program and how you feel about the impact of this experience on your life as a young person. The information you provide will help us to improve the quality of our program and help many other young people like yourself to succeed in their lives. Please answer the questions below to the best of your knowledge. We truly appreciate the effort you are making to answer the questions accurately. **This is a TOTALLY anonymous survey and the answers will NOT be linked to the respondents.**

1) Your age at present: _____ 2) Your age when entered the program: _____
 3) Your Gender: _____ 4) Your Ethnicity: _____

5) What is your current work and education status (select all that may apply)?
 I am a full time high school student I work full time
 I am attending community college I am attending a 4 year college
 I am attending college and working I am working part time
 I am not working or attending school or college

6) What was the reason for being asked to attend TRE Program? _____

7) While in the program did you attend Drug and Alcohol Counseling?
 Yes No Not Applicable

8) I have attended Drug and Alcohol Counseling after exited the program.
 Yes No Not Applicable

9) While in the program, were you referred to Public Health Nurse?
 Yes No Not Applicable

10) I have attended Public Health Nurse after exited the program?
 Yes No Not Applicable

11) Have you had new charges after exiting the program for the first time?
 No Yes If yes, how many times? _____

12) Please think carefully and if possible rank your response to the following questions that express your views about the program, its impact on your life at present and in the future. Each question starts with "The program....."

Observation	Very Successful	Successful	Not Sure	Not Successful	Not at all Successful
12.1) helped me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

find real sources of my problems					
12.2) helped me to change my way of dealing with problems for better.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.3) helped me become more hopeful about my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.4) gave me the opportunity to meet people who cared about me and my wellbeing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.5) helped me learn about value of education for better future life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.6) helped me learn about importance of healthy living.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.7) helped me learn useful skills for succeeding in job market.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13) Please list 2-3 aspects of this program that worked best for you:

- i) _____
- ii) _____

iii) _____

14) Please list 2-3 aspects of this program that you would like to see improved:

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

15) Please use the following space to make other comments that you may have.

Thank you so much for your time and efforts