

UTAH BOARD OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) serves as the federally designated State Advisory Group under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002. Under the Act, the Board must prepare a comprehensive plan for advancing the goals of the Act in Utah, leveraging both federal and state resources.

After careful review of data from throughout the state, the Board established funding priorities for the coming year. Those priorities and some of the justification are:

Prevent the use of alcohol and drugs by youth.

- Approximately 29% of youth ages 12 to 20 have used alcohol illegally.
- 86,000 Utah teens, ages 11-17, have tried alcohol, 23,000 teens binge drink and 13,000 need alcohol treatment. Less than 25% will receive it.
- About 40% of those who start dinking at age 15 or younger develop alcohol dependence. That figure drops to 10% for those who start drinking at age 21 or older.
- 47.4% of all referrals for substance abuse treatment in Utah are generated by the criminal justice system.

Early delinquency intervention and prevention.

Family and community violence and academic failure are considered significant risk factors for delinquency.

- The number of Child Protective Services (CPS) referrals with domestic violence allegations rose from 3,240 in FY 2002 to 4,645 in FY

2004, a 43.3% increase.

- Ethnic minority youth accounted for 17.4% of school enrollment in 2004, yet they made up 31.6% of the dropout rate.
- Gang related shootings in Salt Lake City were up over 30% in 2005. Drive-by shootings have increased from 31 in 2004 to 41 in 2005.
- A majority of youth in Extended Day Programs are referred due to academic and/or social concerns. More than 50% are English Language Learners.

Reduce the disproportionate representation of minority youth at decision points within the juvenile justice system.

- Hispanics are more than twice as likely as Whites to be arrested.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders are almost three times as likely as Whites to be arrested.
- Minorities in Utah remain significantly more likely than Whites to be referred to juvenile court; however, the discrepancy between the two groups is lessening.
- Minorities in Utah remain more likely than Whites to be sent to short-term secure detention.
- Minorities in Utah are more likely than Whites to have their cases petitioned in juvenile court (about 7%); this has remained stable over the past three years.

Increase success of girls in the juvenile justice system through gender specific/female-responsive services with priority given to projects providing services to minority girls.

- Girls represented about 30% of all youths admitted to locked detention during FY 2005,

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**Youth Members*

- just over one in every four admissions.
- 20% of youth placed in JJS community programs were girls, an increase from 15% in FY 2003 and 16% in FY 2004.
- 13% of all youth placed in secure facilities were girls, nearly double the percentage in FY 2003.
- Few gender specific services are available for female offenders. Additional programming is necessary to provide service throughout the system.

Increase and improve crisis intervention and treatment needs of youth in the juvenile justice system with mental health problems or developmental disabilities.

- 65-70% of youth entering the juvenile justice system meet the criteria for at least one mental health disorder. Of those, 79% meet the criteria for two or more diagnoses.
- At least one in five juveniles who has been arrested has serious mental health problems.
- Over 90% of juvenile suicide completers demonstrated psychiatric disorders.
- Suicide risk increased in youth with seven or more referrals with an odds ratio of 4.9-1.
- There is an increased number of youth requiring high cost mental health placements.

Juvenile justice system improvement through implementation of Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines, as recommended by OJJDP and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, in Utah.

- Child Welfare cases constitute about 7% of the cases handled by Juvenile Court, yet require almost 58% of a judge's time.
- Non-detained youth wait as long as 78 days from the date of offense to adjudication. Implementing the guidelines could reduce this time to 45-60 days.

UBJJ OUTCOME MEASURES EVALUATION

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) Outcome Evaluation Monitoring Project is a system wide effort to gather and analyze data on the impact of prevention and intervention programs receiving federal grant dollars. The goal is to assess and improve outcomes for participating at-risk and delinquent youth. The monitoring project also assists

in establishing accountability for the expenditure of public funds.

The evaluation project utilizes two broad-based measures designed to assess changes in the most common behavioral and psychological difficulties exhibited by adolescents: the Risk and Protective Factor model of prevention and the Youth Outcome Questionnaire. The project compares program participants to the State's general population and seven similar states. Participating providers use this information to drive program change and adapt programs to meet the needs of the youth they serve.

The evaluation also provides guidance to UBJJ members for the following:

- Is there a need for the program?
- Is the program using empirically based practices and principles?
- Does the program serve youth who can benefit?
- Is the program working?

Results for Fiscal Year 2006 show the total number of youth completing UBJJ funded programs increased by 3% over the previous year (2005) and 7% over the total number of youth for 2004. All UBJJ programs, except one, target youth who are at greater risk than their peers for delinquent behavior. Funded programs have also targeted a high number of female (44%) and minority youth (85%), two foci of UBJJ funding goals.

Overall, 56% of targeted risk and protective factors showed positive change, four percent below the performance level of 60% set by the board. Most UBJJ programs have a component designed to decrease school related delinquency. Results show that 80% of UBJJ programs targeting this area significantly reduced risk factors and increased protective factors related to school problems. Factors related to the family are the second most common target for UBJJ programs. Of the programs targeting this area,

just under half show decreases in family conflict, poor family management, or increases in prosocial involvement; all are risk factors affecting a youth's likelihood of participating in delinquent behavior. The third most common targeted area is social skills. Seventy-five percent of UBJJ programs that target this area obtained significant increases in this protective factor.

The Outcome Evaluation Monitoring Project has proven extremely valuable in determining program need and efficacy. The project is unique, and seen as a model throughout the County.

Second Year Projects \$206,000

Salt Lake Co.	\$36,000 - Polynesian Young Women's Self Esteem Group, Child & Family Empowerment
Tooele Co.	\$36,000 - Grandfamilies, Children's Service Society
Salt Lake Co.	\$41,250 - Discovering Possibilities, Salt Lake County Youth Services
Weber Co. \$67,500 -	The Dream Team, Colors of Success
Statewide	\$25,250 - Protective/Risk Assessment Enhancement for Females, Juvenile Justice Services

Third Year Projects \$148,584

Salt Lake Co.	\$30,188 - Family & Youth Connections, Colors of Success
Salt Lake Co.	\$12,375 - Ocho Pasos (Eight Steps to Success), Poder Para La Familia Hispana
Rural Utah	\$28,000 - Truancy Mediation, Utah Administrative Office of the Courts
Box Elder Co.	\$36,557 - Youth & Families Technology Literacy, Boys & Girls Clubs of Brigham City
Summit Co.	\$41,464 - South Summit Mentoring & Tutoring, South Summit Healthy Community Coalition

Fourth Year Title II Projects \$103,500

Washington Co.	\$31,000 - Southern Utah Mentoring Program, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Utah
Salt Lake Co.	\$15,000 - Vietnamese Youth Delinquency Prevention, Vietnamese Volunteer Youth Association
Utah Co.	\$40,000 - Legal Resources for Minority Youth, Legal Equity for Minority Youth Inc.
Wasatch Co.	\$17,500 - Kids-At-Home,
Box Elder Co.	Boys & Girls Clubs of Brigham City

On-Going Title II Projects \$145,080

Statewide	\$75,700 - JJDP Act Compliance Monitoring, Division of Juvenile Justice Services
Statewide	\$19,000 - Juvenile Jail Removal, Division of Juvenile Justice Services
Statewide	\$50,380 - Outcome Evaluation Survey, University of Utah Criminal Justice Center

Title V Community Delinquency Prevention \$85,249

Millard Co.	\$38,224 - Reconnecting Youth, Delta City & Community First
Salt Lake Co.	\$47,025 - Granite Park Youth Development, South Salt Lake City

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