

Reentry Services Project

Quarterly Report to the Advisory Board: April 2006

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Reentry Services Project April 2006 Advisory Board Report

As of April 1, 2006 the Reentry Services Project has 63 closed and coded case files. There are an additional 30 cases currently active or recently closed but not yet coded including 11 reopened cases. The details of this report include information on the 63 closed and coded cases.

The average age of the 63 clients upon release back to the community is 16.3 years. Seventy-one percent of the clients are male. Forty-four percent of the clients are White, 33 percent Native American or Alaskan native, 21 percent are Hispanic, and 2 percent are African American.

On average, these clients have 4.4 prior official contacts including 5.13 charges prior to their most recent out of home placement. Forty-six percent of clients have a prior felony charge, and 57 percent have a prior persons charge (e.g. assault). On average the clients spent 19.9 months on probation prior to returning to the community after their most recent placement. All of the clients were on indefinite probation. Sixty-four percent of the clients were on maximum or intensive supervision upon release back to the community.

On average the clients have 3.5 out-of-home placements (1.6 prior long-term – 30 days or more) and have spent on average 188 days in out-of-home placement (162 days in restrictive out-of-home placement) upon entering the Reentry Services Project.

Twenty-four percent of the clients' most recent charge was a felony offense, 70 percent a misdemeanor, and 6 percent a status offense. Thirty percent of the clients' most recent charge was a persons offense, 41 percent property, 2 percent illegal drugs, 18 percent public order (e.g. disorderly conduct), and 9 percent traffic or alcohol or tobacco related (e.g. minor consuming, possession of tobacco). The clients' most recent placement averaged 125 days (101 days restrictive), and was most commonly a residential treatment (e.g. Thistledeew, Valley Lake Boys Home), detention (detention or sheltercare) or treatment center (e.g. substance abuse treatment).

Seventy percent of these clients have a history of violence, 86 percent have a history of school problems, 73 percent have a history of mental health problems, and 78 percent have a history of substance abuse. In addition, 94 percent of these clients have a history of multiple risk factors (two or more of violence, substance abuse, school, or mental health problems), and 35 percent have all four.

Initial YLS / CMI Scores

Fifty of the 63 clients received an initial YLS/CMI assessment. The average initial YLS/CMI risk/need score for these clients is below.

Domain	Average Score	Risk Level (associated with Average Score)	Percent of clients with strength identified
Prior / Current Offenses	1.88	Moderate	
Family / Parenting	3.22	Moderate	8%
Education / Employment	3.46	Moderate	16%
Peer Relations	2.88	Moderate	10%
Substance Abuse	2.76	Moderate	12%
Leisure / Recreation	1.86	Moderate	14%
Personality / Behavior	2.94	Moderate	6%
Attitudes / Orientation	2.06	Moderate	12%
Overall	21.06	Moderate	

Initial YLS / CMI Summary:

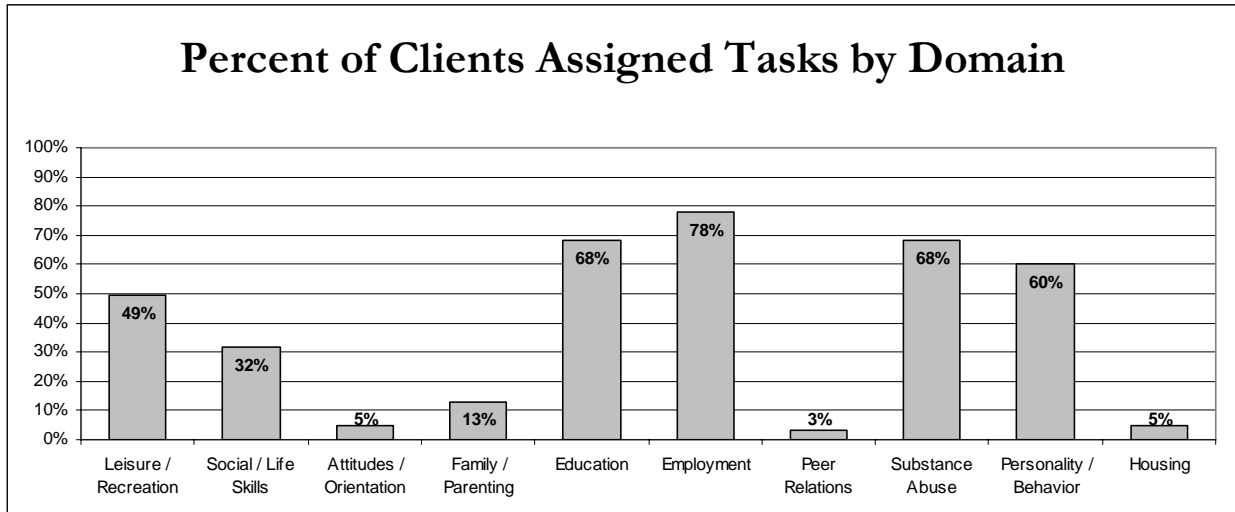
While none of the averaged scores rank “high” according to the intake YLS/CMI, the domains that are closest to scoring in the “high” range are Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Education / Employment,. Accordingly, goals and tasks assigned in transitional case plans and referrals and services should focus on these domains.

Transitional Case Plans

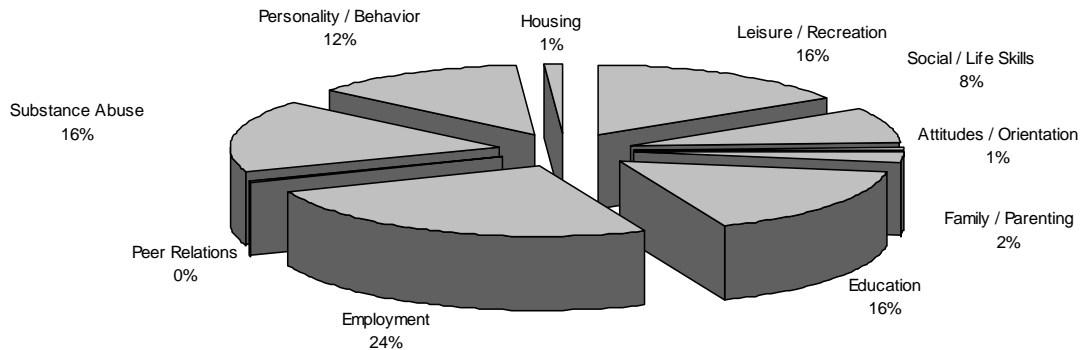
Transitional case plans were created for 62 of these 63 clients. The table below indicates the average number of goals and tasks assigned to clients in each of the categories.

Area	Average Number of Goals Assigned; (range)	Average Number of Tasks Assigned; (range)
Competency Development	2.79 (0-11)	14.13 (0-79)
Restorative Accountability	.94 (0-3)	2.47 (0-10)
Community Safety	1.74 (0-7)	5.66 (0-40)
All	5.47 / client	22.26 / client

The charts below indicate the percent of all clients who were assigned at least one task by domain, and the breakdown of all tasks assigned by domain.



Transitional Case Plan Tasks



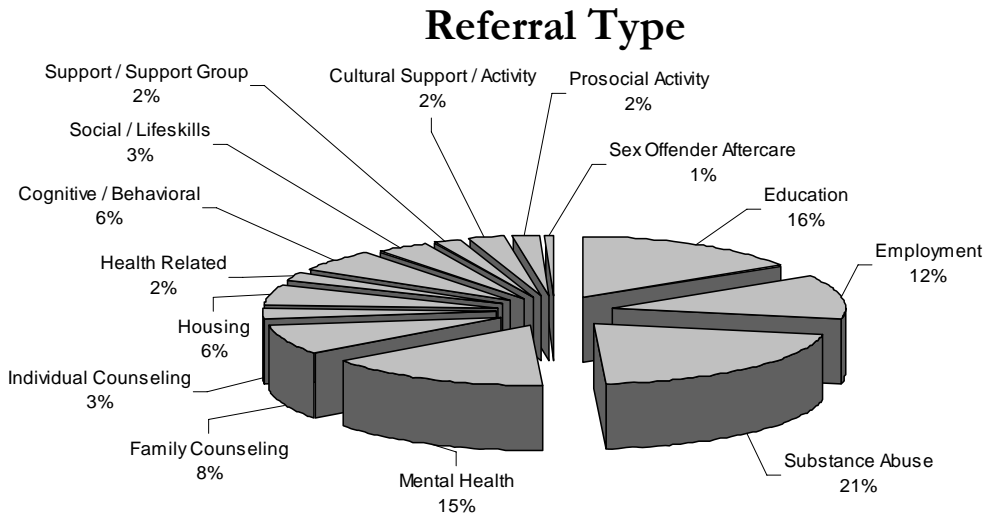
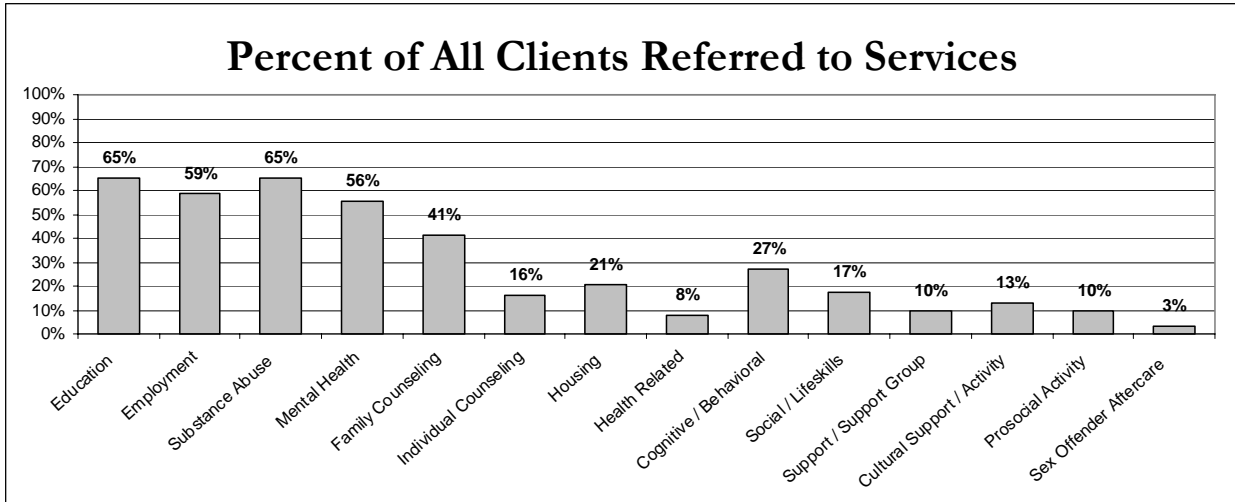
Transitional Case Plans Summary:

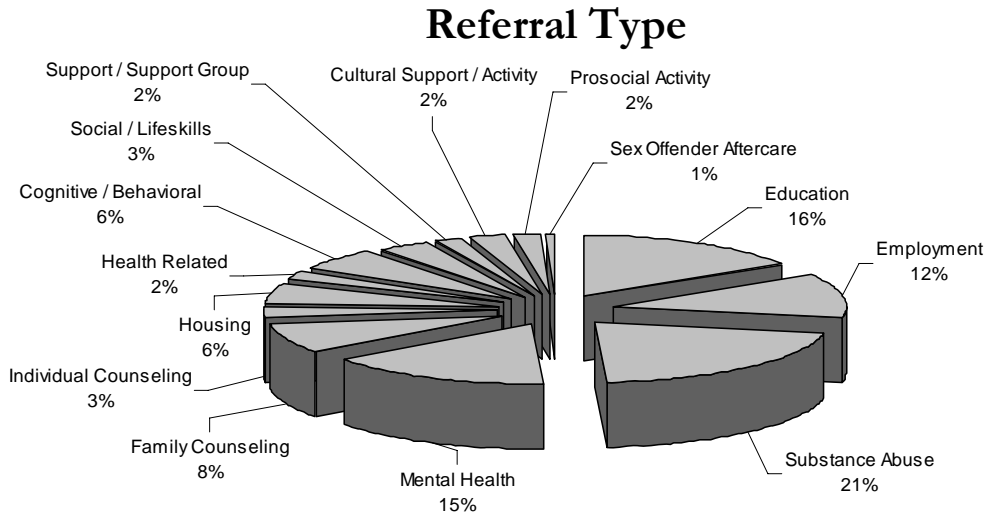
Recall that the domains of the YLS/CMI with the highest risk / needs scores were Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Education/Employment. The majority of clients received at least one task in the areas of Employment, Education, Substance Abuse, and Personality/Behavior, and half have a task assigned in the Leisure/Recreation domain. The most common task assignments were in the domains of Employment, Education, Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Personality/Behavior.

It appears that tasks assigned in transitional case plans reflect appropriate focus on the areas of highest risk/need based on the intake YLS/CMI.

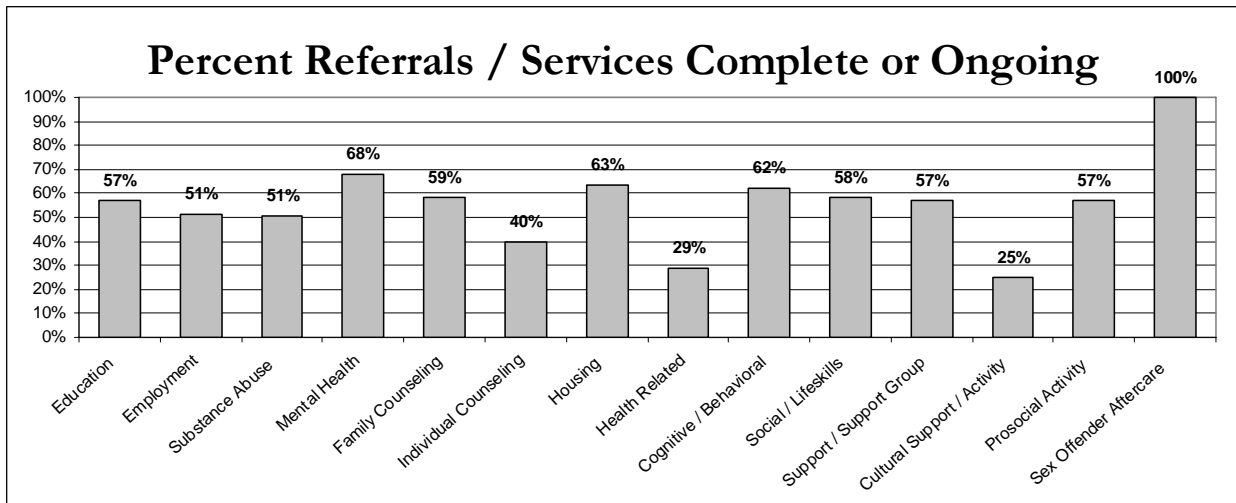
Referrals / Services

Ninety-eight percent (62 of 63) of these clients received at least one service or service referral. A total of 347 referrals were made for these clients (average 5.5 per client). A breakout of the number of clients referred to each type of service and the total number of referrals of each type is presented below:





Fifty-six percent of the 345 referrals (average 3 per client) were considered “complete” or “ongoing” at the end of the clients’ participation in the program. The breakdown of completion rate by referral type is provided in the following chart:



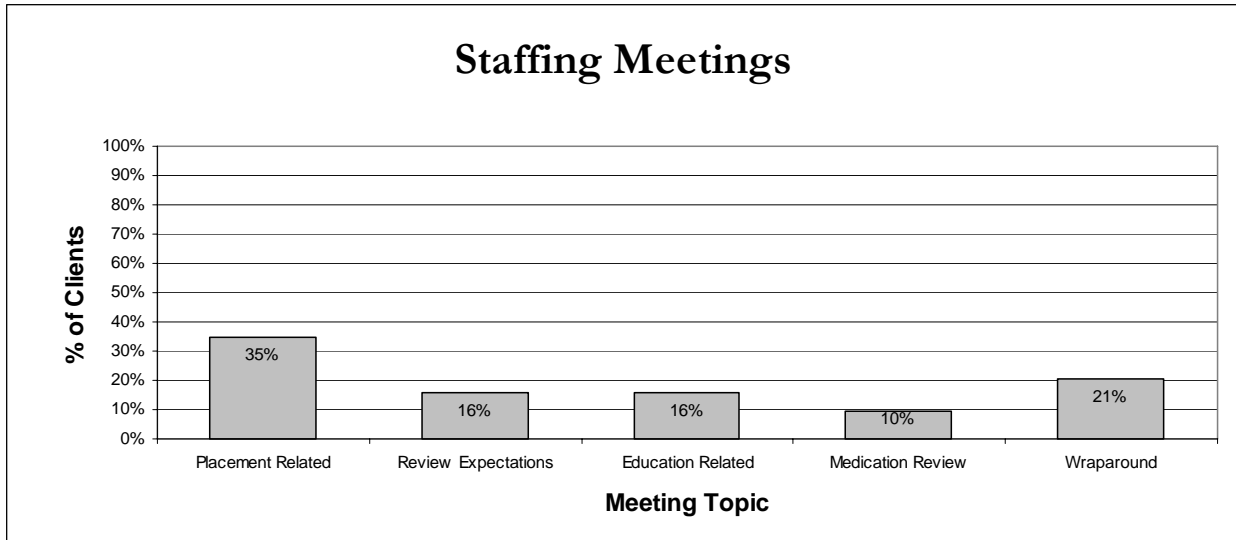
Referrals / Services Summary:

Recall that the domains of the YLS/CMI with the highest risk / needs scores were Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Education/Employment. The primary domains for task assignment were Employment, Education, Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Personality/Behavior

More than half of these clients received a referral for education, employment, substance abuse, and mental health services. Substance abuse, mental health, education, and employment were the most common areas for service referral. In addition, the majority of these services were considered 'complete' or 'ongoing' at the time of program completion. The referrals for services appear to match risks/needs and transitional case plan tasks.

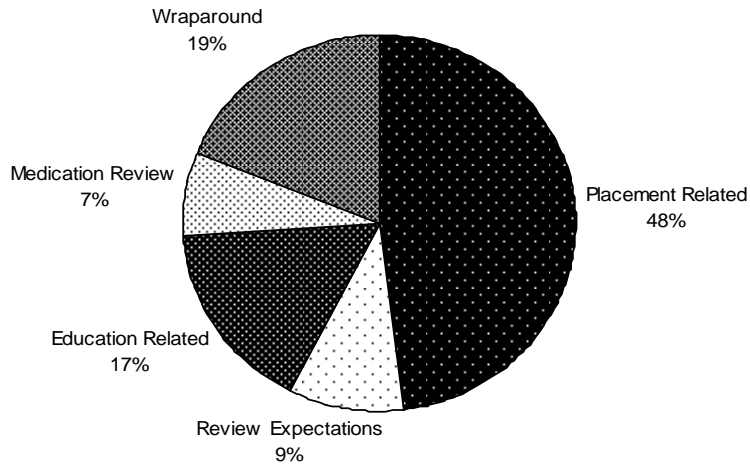
Staffing Meetings

Probation Officers and Transitional Coordinators participated in at least one “staffing” meeting for 36 of these 63 clients (57%). The percent of all clients receiving staffing meetings in each of the topic categories is indicated below.



Transitional Coordinators and Probation Officers participated in a total of 127 staffing meetings for these clients. Staffing meeting participants included clients, parents, treatment providers, mental health Officers, and social services. The major topic of these 127 meetings is presented in the following chart:

Topic of Staffing Meetings



Other Program Activity Data

These clients spent an average of 6.7 months in the Reentry Services Program. During this time Transitional Coordinators averaged 32 contacts with clients, 12 parent contacts, and 11 agency partner contacts. Probation Officers averaged 10 contacts with clients, 7 parent contacts, and 12 agency partner contacts.

Seventy-six percent (48 of 63) of these clients were subjected to at least one drug test during program participation; 38 percent were tested 3 or more times. Of those clients tested, 54 percent (26) had no positive tests, 23 percent (11) had one positive test, and 23 percent (11) had 2 or more positive tests.

On average, the Transitional Coordinators spent 46 hours with each of these clients during program participation, and an addition hour after the clients had completed the program.

Outcome Data

Three key objectives have been defined for the Reentry Services Project. They include a 75% compliance rate with transitional case plan tasks, a 20% reduction of the risk / need levels on the YLS/CMI, and a 20% increase in strengths identified on the initial YLS/CMI. Additional outcome measures include recidivism, technical violations, and additional out of home placements.

Compliance with transitional case plans

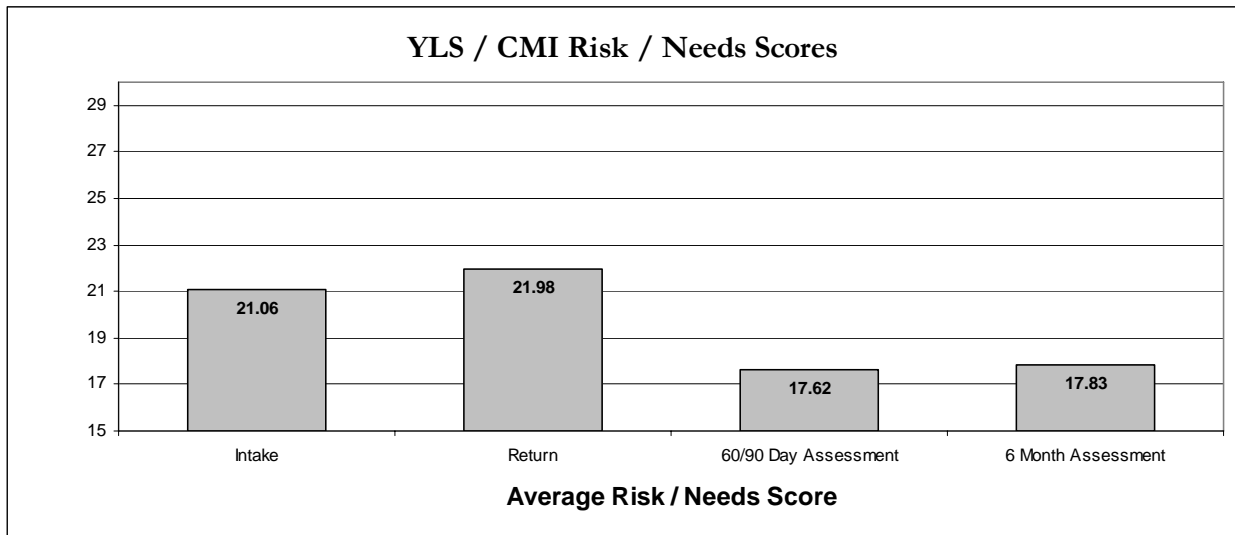
Seventy-seven percent of these 63 clients' case plan tasks were considered complete (1,081 of 1,396 tasks assigned). The majority of tasks assigned are in the areas of employment, education, leisure/recreation, substance abuse, and personality/behavior. Task completion rates in these domains are 82 percent, 63 percent, 87 percent, 68 percent, and 76 percent respectively.

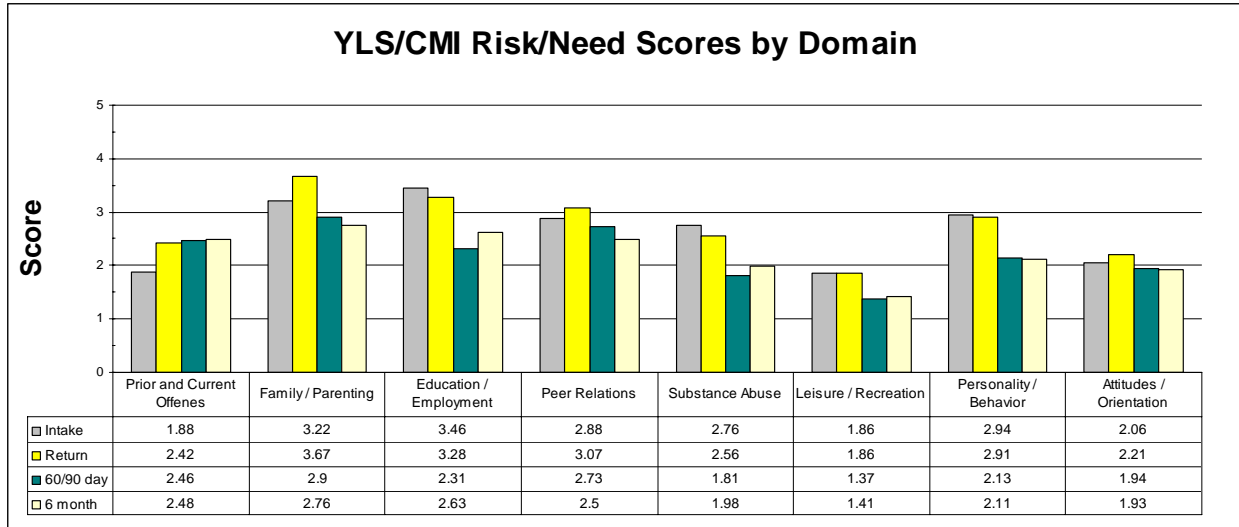
Reduction in Risk / Needs Score

Both YLS/CMI risk/need and strength scores may reflect a difference in YLS/CMI screener ratings of the juveniles, rather than improvement in the actual strengths of clients. For instance, risk/needs scores in the return assessment are generally higher than in the intake assessment. Additionally, very few clients have strengths identified in their initial YLS/CMI (generally completed by out-of-home placement staff); most clients have one or more strength identified in their second and third YLSI/CMI (completed by Probation Officers and Transitional Coordinators). Reentry Service Project staff have added an additional assessment (upon initial return to the community) to assist making in future comparisons more credible. This assessment was added in April of 2004.

To adequately assess changes in risk/needs, and strengths scores data are presented that reflect a) differences in the intake and return assessments; b) differences (changes) between the intake assessment to six month post return, and c) differences (changes) between the return assessment to the six month post return assessment.

Fifty of these 63 clients received the intake assessment, 43 received the return assessment, 52 received the 60/90 day assessment, and 46 received the six month assessment. Overall risk / needs scores declined 15 percent from the intake assessment to six month assessment (from 21.06 to 17.83) and 19 percent from the return assessment to the six month assessment (from 21.98 to 17.83). Risk/need scores by domain, and changes by domain are included in the following charts:





Change in YLS/CMI Risk/Needs by Domain			
Domain	% change from Intake to Return	% change from Intake to 6 Months	% change from Return to 6 Months
Prior / Current Offenses	29%	32%	2%
Family / Parenting	14%	-14%	-25%
Education / Employment	-5%	-24%	-20%
Peer Relations	7%	-13%	-19%
Substance Abuse	-7%	-28%	-23%
Leisure / Recreation	0%	-24%	-24%
Personality / Behavior	-1%	-28%	-27%
Attitudes / Orientation	7%	-6%	-13%
Overall	4%	-15%	-19%

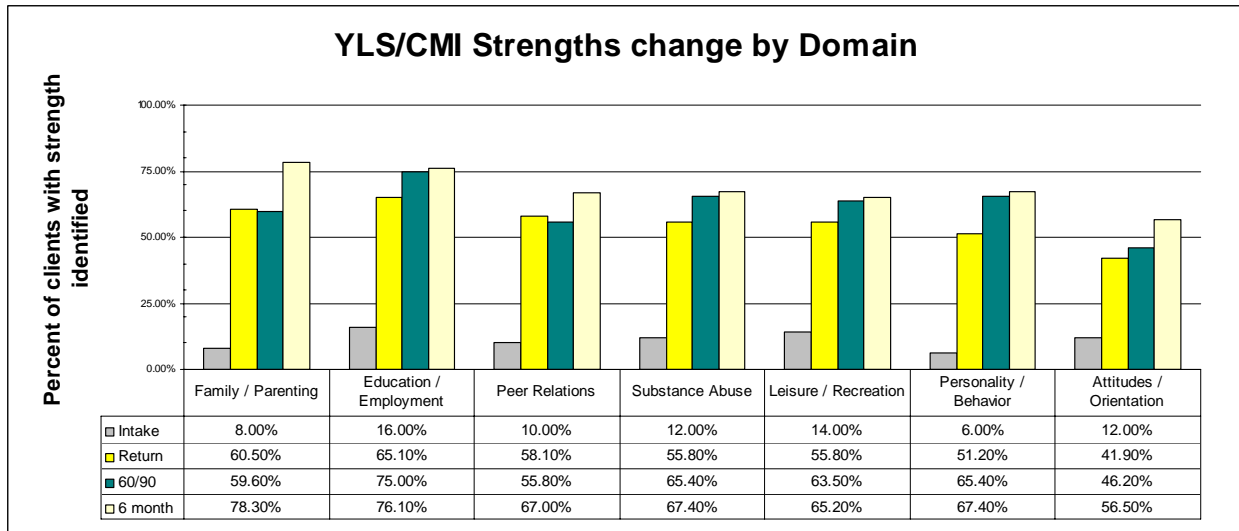
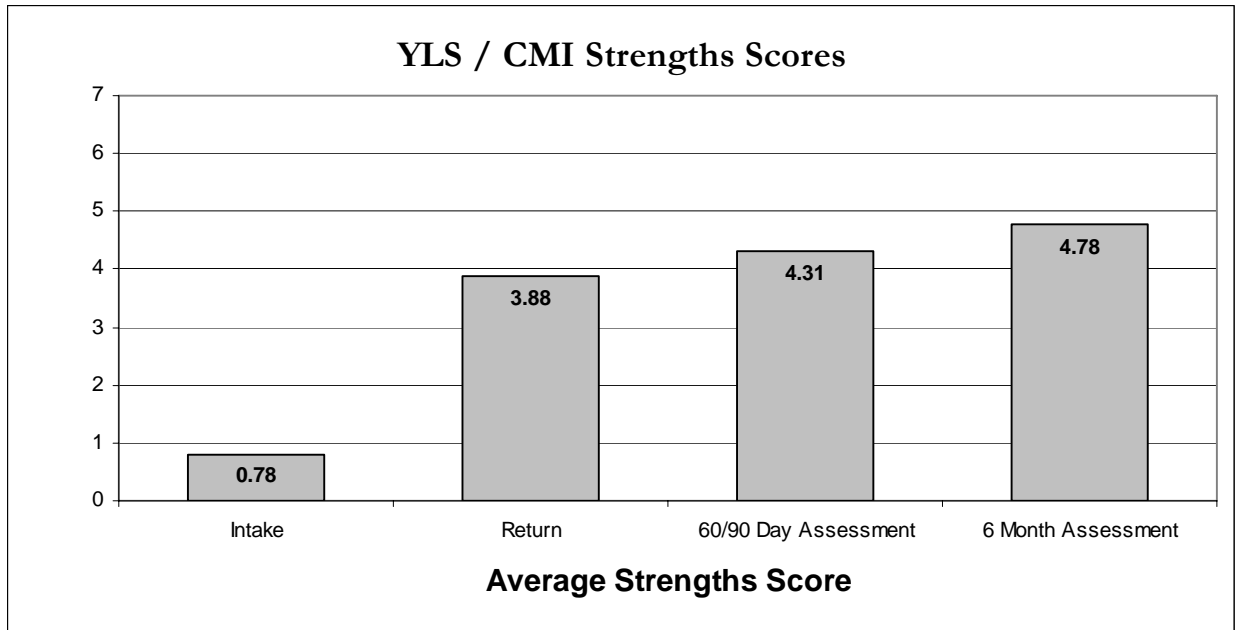
Risk / Need Reduction Summary:

The most substantial reductions in risk/needs scores are in the domains of Personality/Behavior, Family/Parenting, Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Education/Employment, with reductions in risk/need of 20 percent or more in these areas. Recall that Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Education/Employment were the key domains for focus according to intake risk/needs scores. The primary areas of task assignment were in the domains Employment, Education, Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Personality/Behavior. The most common referrals were those related to Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Education, and Employment.

The reductions in the domains highest in risk, the focus of tasks in those areas, and the match of referrals to those domains appears to demonstrate that the activities of the Reentry Services Project are targeted at the identified risks / needs and that these activities are producing the desired impacts.

Improvement in Strengths Score

Fifty of these 63 clients received the intake assessment, 43 received the return assessment, 52 received the 60/90 day assessment, and 46 received the six month assessment. Overall strengths scores increased 513 percent from the intake assessment (.78) to 6 month assessment (4.78), and 23 percent from the return (3.88) to six month (4.78) assessment. The percent of clients with a strength identified in each of the domain at each assessment is provided in the following charts:



Strengths Improvement Summary:

Strength scores clearly increase more from the intake assessment to the six month assessment than from the return assessment to the six month assessment. Since the rater is generally consistent in the return and six month assessments (both generally completed by the Transitional Coordinator), comparisons between these two assessments are probably most appropriate.

In Program Recidivism, Technical Violations, and Additional Out-of-Home Placements

Fifty-nine percent (37) of these clients had no probation violations while participating in the Reentry Services Project. Of the 26 clients with probation violations, 14 had more than one violation.

Sixty percent (38) of these clients had no new charges during program participation. Of the 25 clients with new charges during program participation, 10 had more than one new charge. The highest level of new charges was most commonly misdemeanor (17 of 25 clients with new charges), followed by felony (5), and status level (3). Five clients had a new persons-related charge during program participation; the most serious behavior type for the remaining clients with new charges was property (11); public order (3); alcohol and tobacco (2), and traffic (3), and status (1).

Fifty-one percent (32) of the clients experienced no new out-of-home placements while participating in the program. A total of 48 new out-of-home placements were experienced by the 31 clients with additional out-of-home placements during the program. About half of these placements were short-term (23 of 48 were less than 30 day placements). Clients spent a total of 188 days in short term out-of-home placements that began while the client was participating in the program (average length 3 days), and a total of 3,066 (average 49 days) in long-term placements (30 days or more) that began while the client was participating in the program. The majority of this time was spent in restrictive out-of-home placement (93% of short-term placement time and 84% of long-term out of home placement time)

Of the 48 new out-of-home placements that occurred while clients were participating in the program, 27 (56%) were the result of probation violations, 14 (29%) were the result of new charges, and the remainder were for protection of the client (4) or unknown (3) reasons.

Comparison Group Progress

A detailed examination of the program design, intended and actual service delivery was completed in December of 2005 (“Reentry Services Project Process and Outcome Evaluation – Final 2 Year Report”). In addition, this report included a short-term outcome comparison of the first 52 clients served by the Reentry Services Project and 52 comparison clients.

Coding of Reentry Services and comparison group clients will continue over the next 1.5 years including the addition of new clients and updated follow-up with existing clients. This will allow for longer-term follow-up of the Reentry Services Project clients, and a comparison of outcomes between those clients and comparisons (probation only) when controlling for background characteristics (demographics, prior offense and out of home placement history).

Client Achievement / Participation

Early in 2004 the Transitional Coordinators began tracking individual social factors and service information for each client. This information reveals that while participating in the program...

- 54 percent of clients who did not have their GED attended school regularly. Ten percent of clients took their GED tests while participating in the program.
- 13 clients (21%) were homeless at some time during program participation while only 2 (3%) were homeless upon program completion.
- Transitional coordinators felt that employment was appropriate for 52 of these 63 clients (83%); of those clients, 86 percent searched for a job, 65 percent were employed at some time during program participation, and 38 percent were employed upon program completion.
- In all, 51 percent of all clients were “clean” upon program completion. Among clients with a history of substance abuse, 43 percent regularly attended treatment, 49 percent regularly participated in AA/NA, and 43 percent were “clean” upon program completion.
- Of those with a history of mental health problems, 54 percent received mental health services and 41 percent complied with mental health recommendations while participating in the program.
- Fifty-two percent of client’s families participated in at least one outing or activity, 16 percent regularly participated in outings and activities.
- Forty-one percent of client’s families were involved in services.
- 43 percent of the 35 minority clients received at least one culturally specific service, and 14 percent regularly participated in culturally specific services.
- 56 percent of the 18 female clients received at least one gender specific service, and 50 percent regularly participated in gender specific services during program participation.

Summary

Based on these initial cases, the program appears to provide increased contacts with clients, parents, and agency partners. Program staff appear to be targeting areas of greatest risk/need in case plans and referrals for services. The reduction in risk/needs and strengths improvements, and case plan compliance objectives are on track, but in-program misbehavior continues.

While the short-term outcome assessment (“Reentry Services Project Process and Outcome Evaluation – Final 2 Year Report”) revealed few statistically significant differences in later offending behavior between RSP and comparison clients when controlling for prior offending history and demographic variables, this analysis was limited due to small sample sizes. In addition, it could be that the benefits of RSP participation take longer to materialize. A longer-term analysis with larger samples may reveal more positive results.