

Reentry Services Project

Quarterly Report to the Advisory Board: October 2006

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Reentry Services Project October 2006 Advisory Board Report

As of October 1, 2006 the Reentry Services Project has 76 closed and coded case files. There are an additional 21 cases currently active or recently closed but not yet coded and 9 reopened cases. The details of this report include information on the 76 closed and coded cases.

The average age of the 76 clients upon release back to the community was 16.2 years. Seventy-one percent of the clients were male. Forty-eight percent of the clients were White, 29 percent Native American or Alaskan native, 22 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent were African American.

On average, these clients had 4.2 prior official contacts including an average of 4.9 charges prior to their most recent out of home placement. Forty-one percent of clients had a prior felony charge, and 58 percent had a prior persons charge (e.g. assault). On average the clients spent 19 months on probation prior to returning to the community after their most recent placement. Ninety-nine percent of the clients were on indefinite probation. Sixty-two percent of the clients were on maximum or intensive supervision upon release back to the community.

On average the clients experienced 3.4 out-of-home placements (1.5 prior long-term – 30 days or more) and had spent on average 203 days in out-of-home placement (175 days in restrictive out-of-home placement) upon entering the Reentry Services Project.

Twenty-one percent of the clients' most recent charge was a felony offense, 72 percent a misdemeanor, and 7 percent a status offense. Thirty-two percent of the clients' most recent charge was a persons offense, 40 percent property, 1 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 139 days (113 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-one percent of these clients had a history of violence, 87 percent had a history of school problems, 74 percent had a history of mental health problems, and 75 percent had a history of substance abuse. In addition, 94 percent of these clients had a history of multiple risk factors (two or more of violence, substance abuse, school, or mental health problems), and 34 percent had all four.

Initial YLS / CMI Scores

Sixty-one of the 76 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	1.77	Moderate	
Family / Parenting	3.18	Moderate	7%
Education / Employment	3.49	Moderate	13%
Peer Relations	2.85	Moderate	10%
Substance Abuse	2.64	Moderate	15%
Leisure / Recreation	1.90	Moderate	12%
Personality / Behavior	3.03	Moderate	5%
Attitudes / Orientation	2.08	Moderate	10%
Overall	20.95	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.

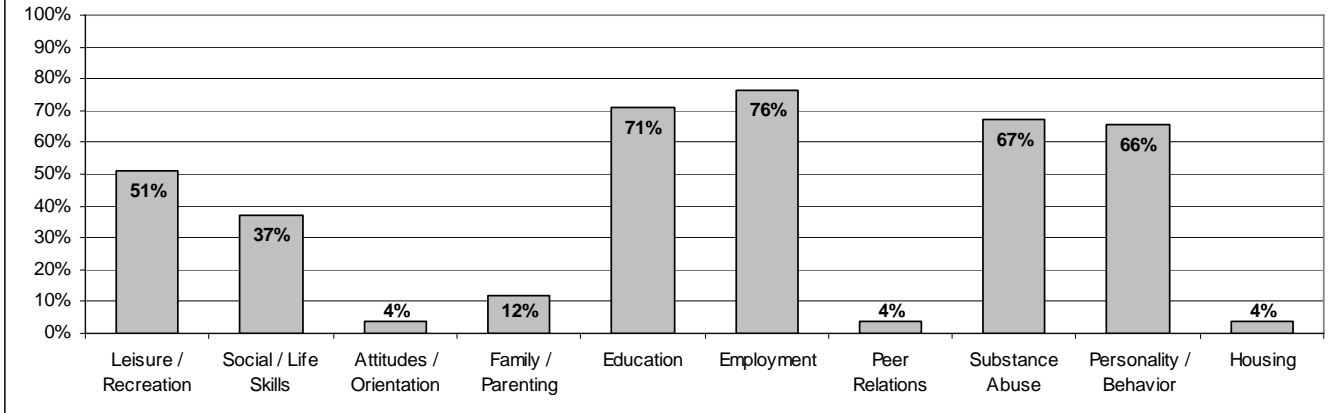
Transitional Case Plans

Transitional case plans were created for 75 of these 76 clients. The table below indicates the average number of goals and tasks assigned to clients in each of the categories.

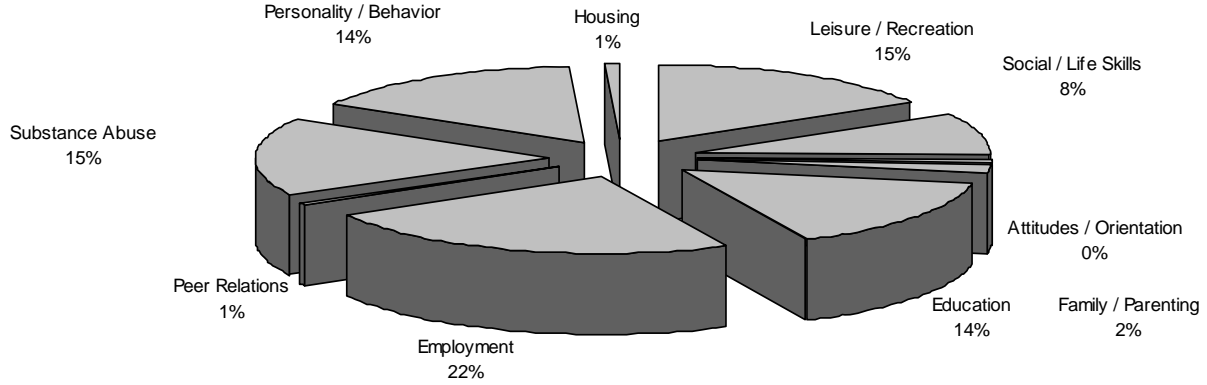
Area	Average Number of Goals Assigned (range)	Average Number of Tasks Assigned (range)
Competency Development	3.32 (0-11)	18.32 (0-79)
Restorative Accountability	.84 (0-3)	2.31 (0-10)
Community Safety	1.60 (0-7)	5.17 (0-40)
All	5.76 / client	25.80 / client

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.

Percent of Clients Assigned Tasks by Domain



Transitional Case Plan Tasks



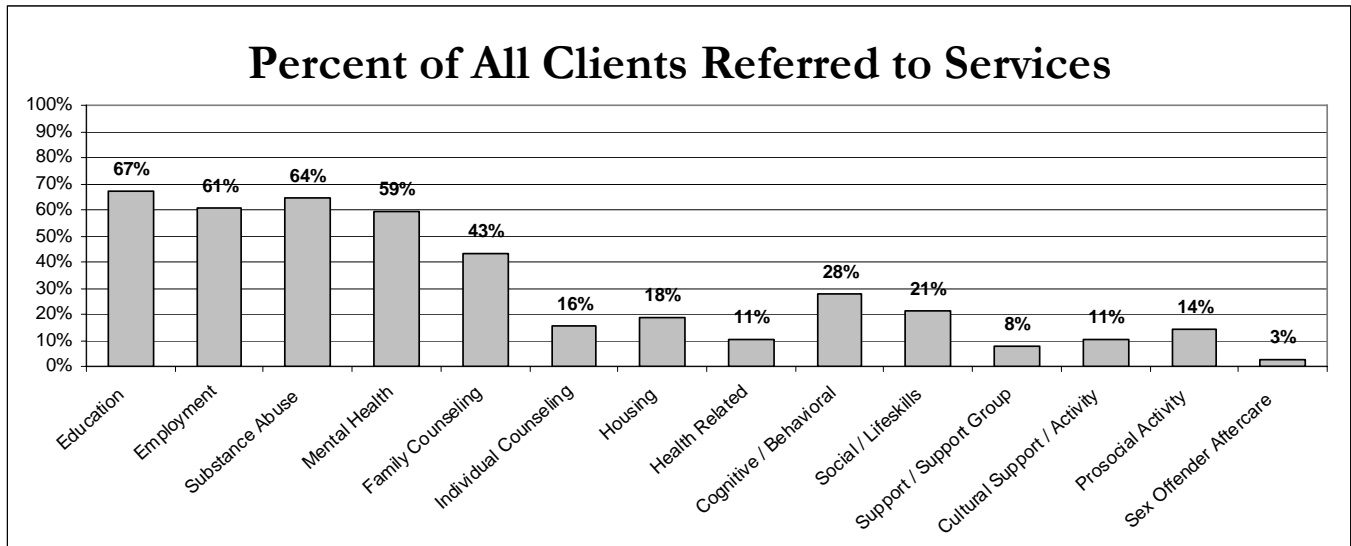
Transitional Case Plans Summary:

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 each of these areas. The most common task assignments were in the domains of Employment, Education, Leisure/Recreation, Substance Abuse, and Personality/Behavior.

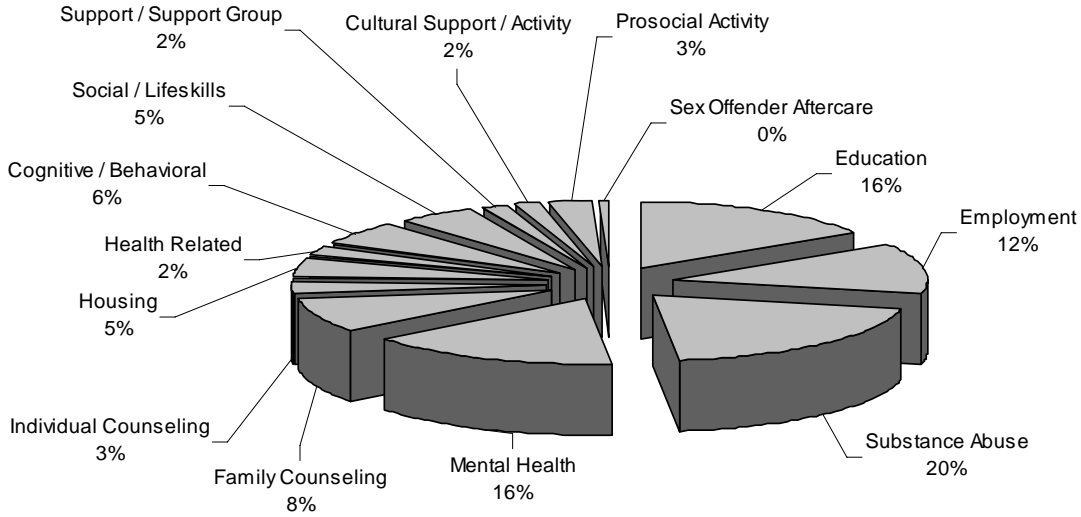
It appears that tasks assigned in transitional case plans reflect appropriate focus on the areas of highest risk/need based on the intake YLS/CMI.

Referrals / Services

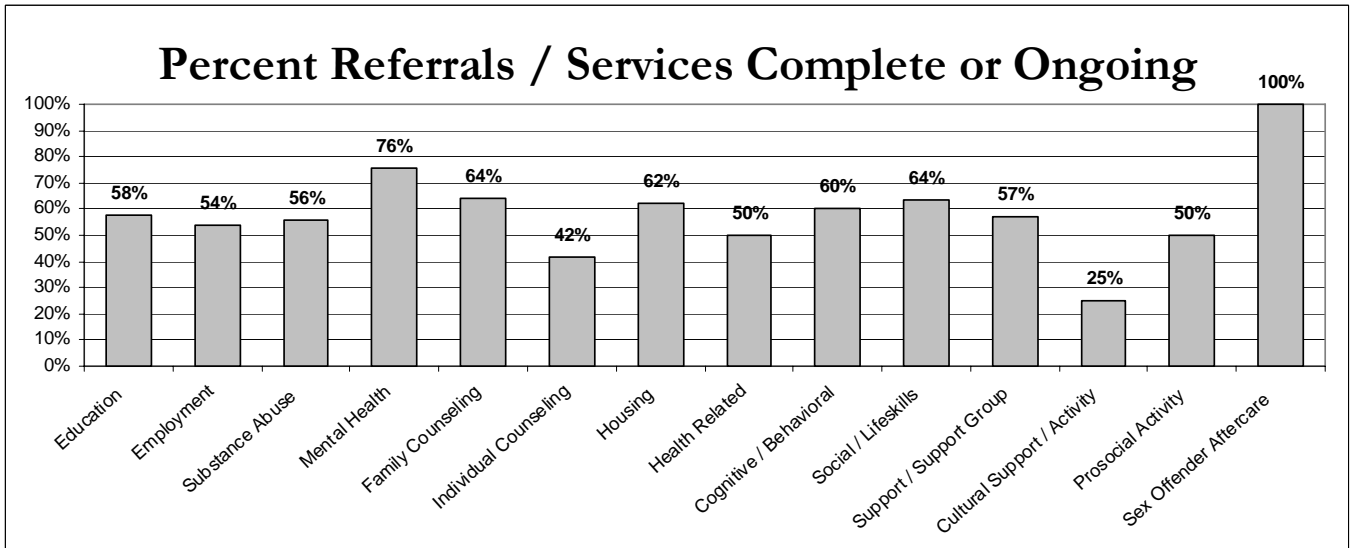
Ninety-nine percent (75 of 76) of these clients received at least one service or service referral. A total of 439 referrals were made for these clients (average 5.9 per client). A breakout of the number of clients referred to each type of service and the total number of referrals of each type is presented below:



Referral Type



Fifty-seven percent of the 389 referrals (average 3.1 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:



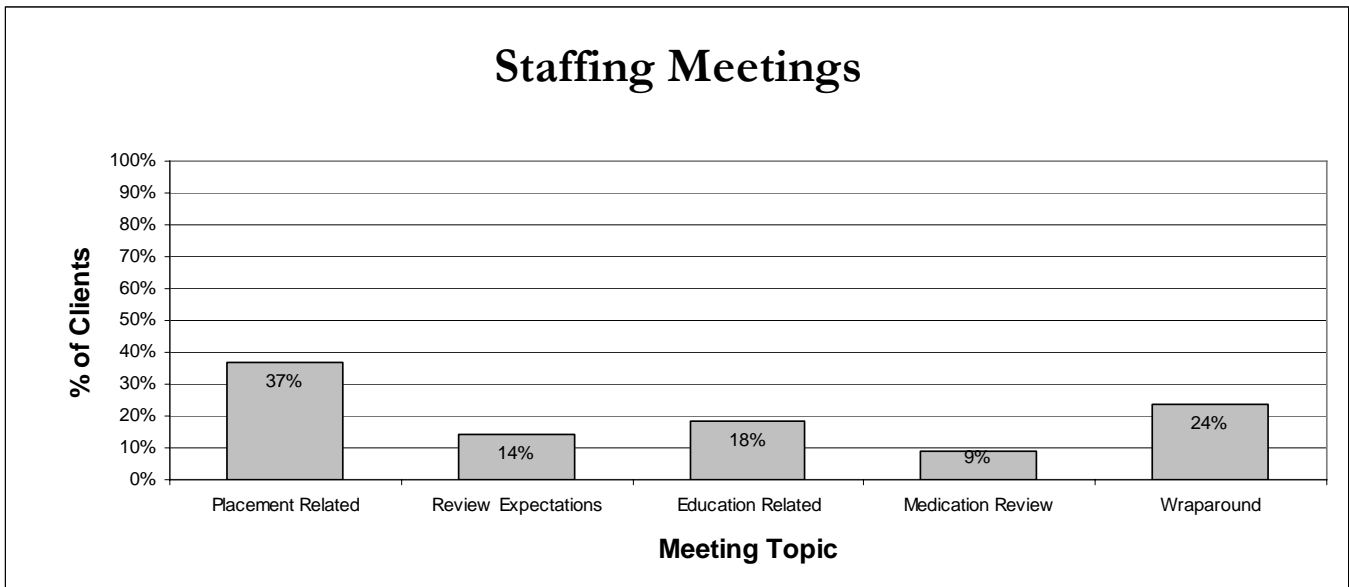
Referrals / Services Summary:

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 more than half of referrals in each of these areas 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.

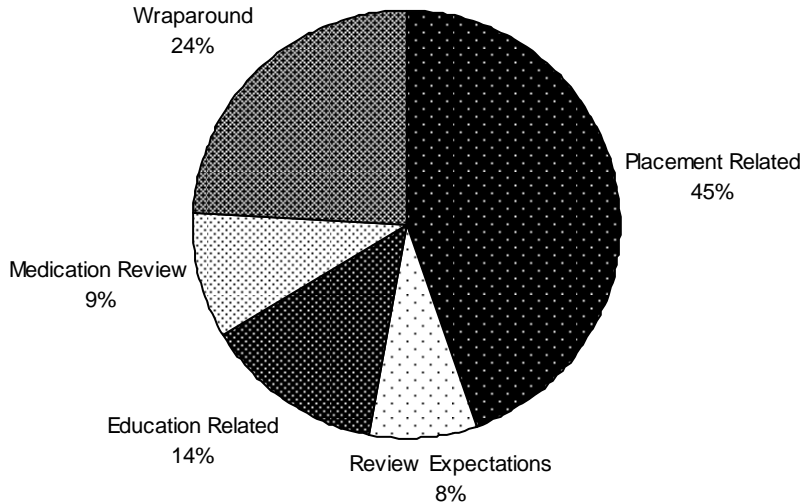
Staffing Meetings

Probation Officers and Transitional Coordinators participated in at least one “staffing” meeting for 44 of these 76 clients (58%). 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 161 staffing meetings for these clients. Staffing meeting participants included clients, parents, treatment providers, mental health Officers, and social services. The major topic of these 161 meetings is presented in the following chart:

Topic of Staffing Meetings



Other Program Activity Data

These clients spent an average of 7 months in the Reentry Services Program. During this time Transitional Coordinators averaged 32 contacts with clients, 13 parent contacts, and 11 agency partner contacts. Probation Officers averaged 9 contacts with clients, 7 parent contacts, and 14 agency partner contacts.

Seventy-five percent (57 of 76) of these clients were subjected to at least one drug test during program participation; 37 percent were tested 3 or more times. Of those clients tested, 53 percent (30) had no positive tests, 24 percent (14) had one positive test, and 23 percent (13) had 2 or more positive tests.

On average, the Transitional Coordinators spent 48 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

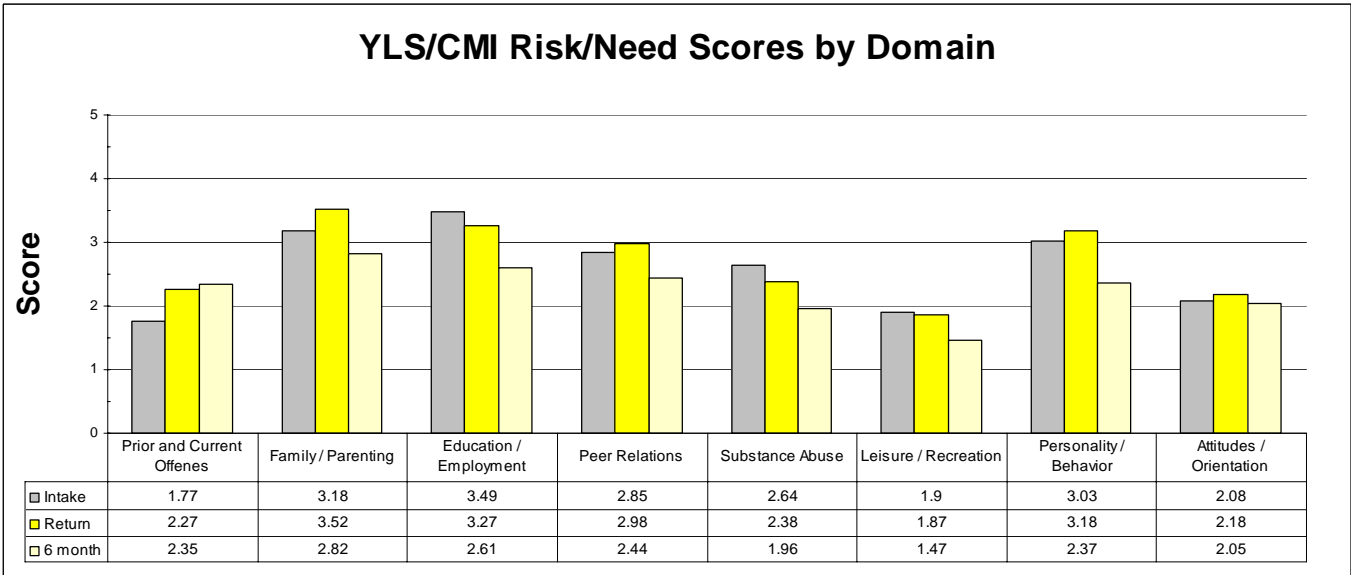
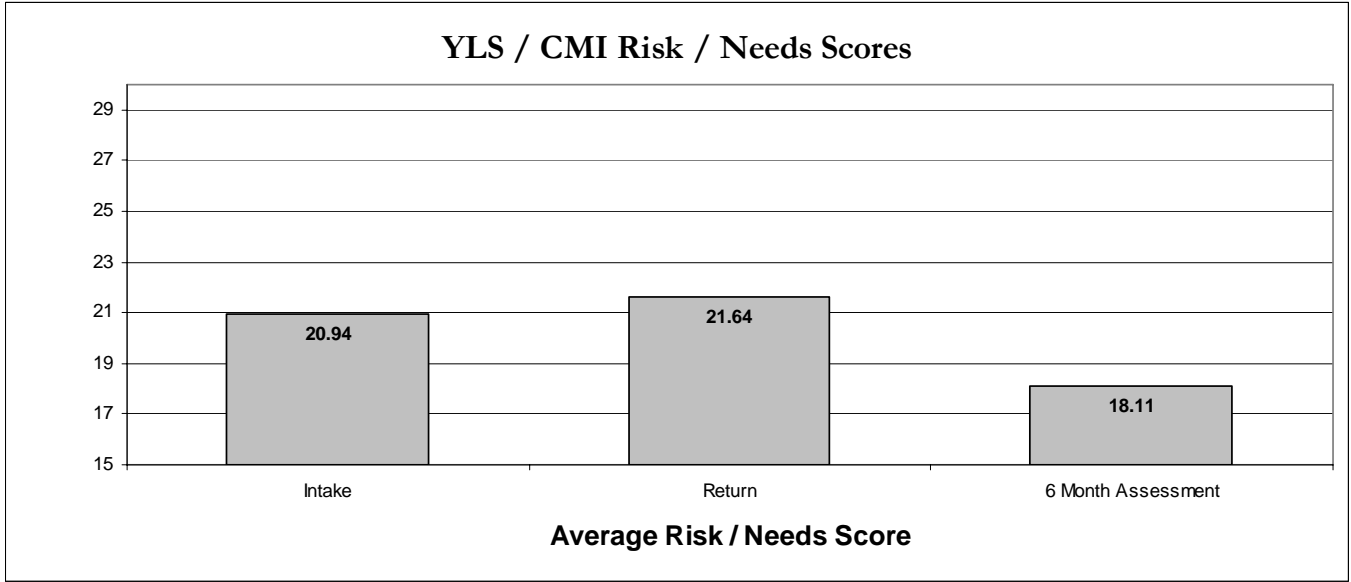
Seventy-six percent of these clients' case plan tasks were considered complete (1,500 of 1,966 tasks assigned). The majority of tasks assigned are in the areas of employment, education, leisure/recreation, substance abuse, and personality/behavior. Task completion rates in these domains were 86 percent, 64 percent, 86 percent, 71 percent, and 67 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.

Sixty-one of these 76 clients received the intake assessment, 56 received the return assessment, and 57 received the six month assessment. Overall risk / needs scores declined 14 percent from the intake assessment to six month assessment (from 20.94 to 18.11) and 16 percent from the return assessment to the six month assessment (from 21.64 to 18.11). 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	28%	33%	4%
Family / Parenting	11%	-11%	-20%
Education / Employment	-6%	-25%	-20%
Peer Relations	5%	-14%	-18%
Substance Abuse	-10%	-26%	-18%
Leisure / Recreation	-2%	-23%	-21%
Personality / Behavior	5%	-22%	-25%
Attitudes / Orientation	5%	-1%	-6%
Overall	3%	-14%	-16%

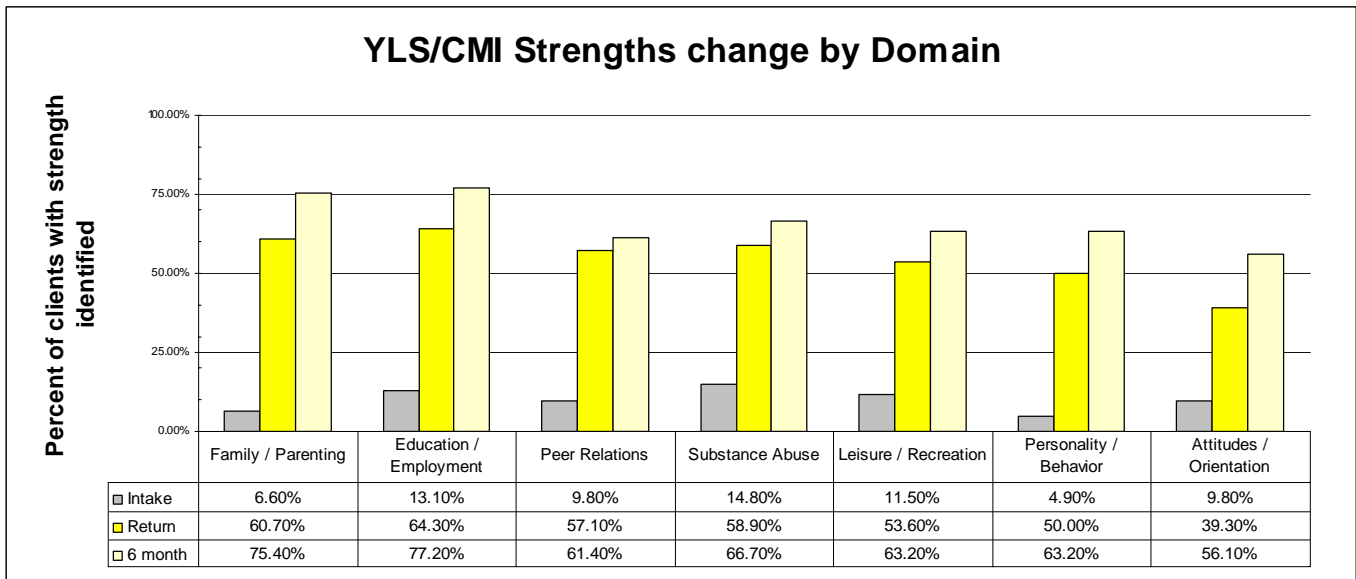
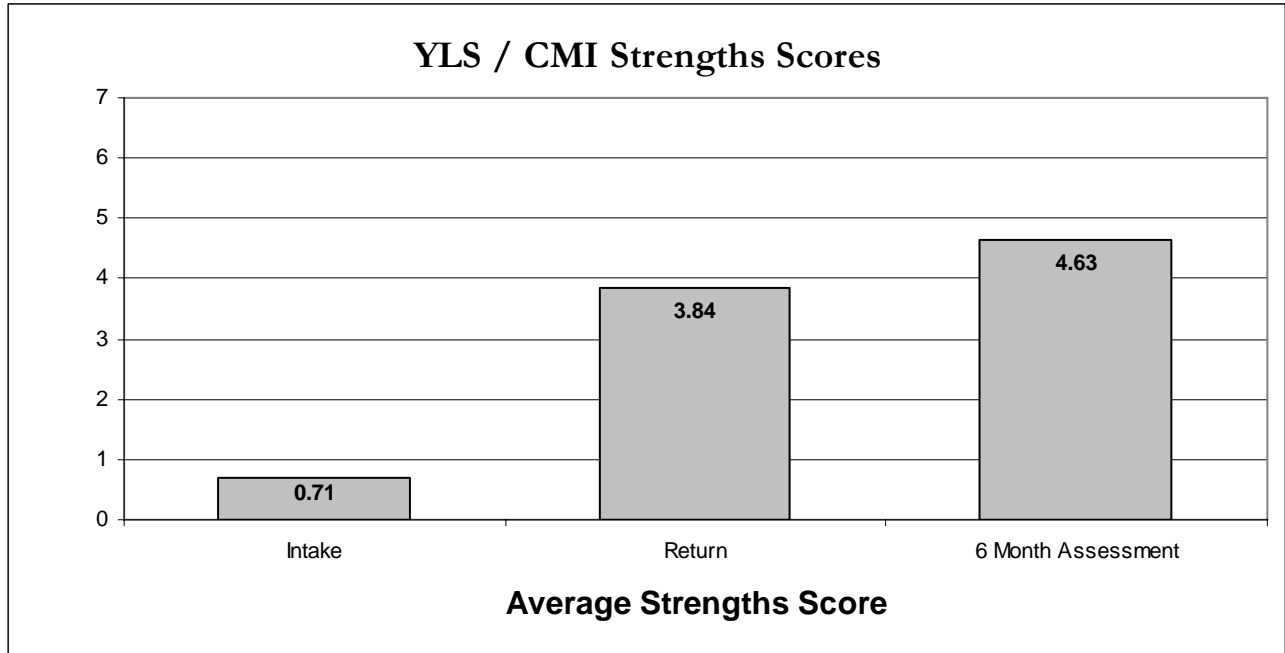
Risk / Need Reduction Summary:

The most substantial reductions in risk/needs scores are in the domains of Personality/Behavior, Leisure/Recreation, Family/Parenting, and Education/Employment. 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

Sixty-one of these 76 clients received the intake assessment, 56 received the return assessment, and 57 received the six month assessment. Overall strengths scores increased 557 percent from the intake assessment (.71) to 6 month assessment (4.63), and 21 percent from the return (3.84) to six month (4.63) 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 more appropriate.

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

Fifty-seven percent (43) of these clients had no probation violations while participating in the Reentry Services Project. Of the 33 clients with probation violations, 19 had more than one violation.

Sixty-two percent (47) of these clients had no new charges during program participation. Of the 29 clients with new charges during program participation, 10 had more than one new charge. The highest level of new charges was most commonly misdemeanor (20 of 29 clients with new charges), followed by felony (5), and status level (4). Six clients had a new persons-related charge during program participation; the most serious behavior type for the remaining clients with new charges was property (13); public order (3); alcohol and tobacco (3), and traffic (3), and status (1).

Forty-six percent (35) of the clients experienced no new out-of-home placements while participating in the program. A total of 64 new out-of-home placements were experienced by the 41 clients with additional out-of-home placements during the program. Half of these placements were short-term (32 of 64 were less than 30 day placements). Clients spent a total of 249 days in short term out-of-home placements that began while the client was participating in the program (average 8 days per placement), and a total of 3,974 (average 124 days per placement) 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 73% of long-term out of home placement time)

Of the 64 new out-of-home placements that occurred while clients were participating in the program, 58 percent were the result of probation violations, 27 percent were the result of new charges, and the remainder were for protection of the client or unknown 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 year 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...

- 55 percent of clients who did not have their GED attended school regularly. Eight percent of clients took their GED tests while participating in the program.
- 16 clients (21%) were homeless at some time during program participation while only 2 (3%) were homeless upon program completion and 79 percent had stable residences while participating in the program.
- Transitional coordinators felt that employment was appropriate for 63 of these 76 clients (83%); of those clients, 87 percent searched for a job, 65 percent were employed at some time during program participation, and 40 percent were employed upon program completion.
- In all, 54 percent of all clients were “clean” upon program completion. Among clients with a history of substance abuse, transitional coordinators felt that 83 percent needed treatment services, and 41 percent regularly attended treatment. In addition, transitional coordinators felt that 89 percent needed AA/NA, and 48 percent regularly participated in AA/NA while in the program.
- Of those with a history of mental health problems, transitional coordinators felt that 78 percent needed mental health services while participating in the program. Sixty-three percent of clients with a history of mental health problems received mental health services while participating in the Reentry Services program and 41 percent of clients complied with mental health recommendations.
- Fifty-four percent of client’s families participated in at least one outing or activity, 15 percent regularly participated in outings and activities.
- Forty-one percent of client’s families were involved in services.
- Forty percent of the 40 minority clients received at least one culturally specific service, and 13 percent regularly participated in culturally specific services.
- Fifty-nine percent of the 22 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 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 (planned for Fall of 2007) with larger samples may reveal more positive results.