

# Juvenile Crime Prevention Program 2007-2009 Evaluation Summary



*Submitted to:*

**Mickey Lansing, Executive Director**  
Oregon Commission on Children and Families  
530 Center St. NE, Suite 405  
Salem, OR 97301-3754

*Submitted by:*

**NPC Research**  
Portland, Oregon

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4380 SW Macadam Ave., Suite 530  
Portland, OR 97239  
(503) 243-2436  
[www.npcresearch.com](http://www.npcresearch.com)

# Juvenile Crime Prevention Program Evaluation Summary 2007-09

**Jerod M. Tarte, M.A.**

**Mary Beth Sanders, B.S.**

**Carrie J. Furrer, Ph.D.**

**Callie H. Lambarth, M.S.W.**

**Juliette R. Mackin, Ph.D.**

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*Informing policy, improving programs*



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- County and Tribal lead agencies, prevention staff, and data contact persons
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FINDINGS IN BRIEF.....	I
INTRODUCTION .....	1
JCP EVALUATION RESULTS .....	3
What is the demographic profile of assessed youth? .....	3
What is the risk and protective profile of served youth? .....	5
To what extent does the risk and protective profile change after receiving service? .....	8
What is the relationship between risk and protective factors and offending? .....	9
CONCLUSION.....	15
APPENDIX A: DATA TABLES .....	16

### LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Youth Served by JCP July 2007 – June 2009.....	3
Table 2. Race/Ethnicity Reported for JCP-Eligible Youth.....	4
Table 3. Risk Domain Profile of JCP-Eligible & Served Youth .....	6
Table 4. Risk Level of JCP-Eligible & Served Youth.....	7
Table 5. Changes in Total Risk Score by Risk Level .....	8
Table 6. Differences in Risk Level by Youth’s “Offender” Status .....	14

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Number of Risk Domains (JCP-Eligible & Served Youth) .....	5
Figure 2. Criminal Referrals 12 Months Post JCP Service.....	12
Figure 3. Proportion of Post JCP Criminal Referrals by “Pre-Offender” Type .....	12
Figure 4. Referral Rates of Non-Offenders in 12 Months Following JCP Assessment .....	13

## FINDINGS IN BRIEF

July 2007 – June 2009

JCP prevention programs/services have been implemented in every county and Tribe located within Oregon, providing services to youth at high-risk for delinquency (typically, youth with indicators in 2 or more risk domains on the JCP Assessment). JCP youth are showing reductions in risk factors and increases in protective factors after participation in JCP prevention programs/services.

### JCP PROVIDES INTERVENTIONS FOR YOUTH AT RISK OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

- Based on data collected on youth served July 2007 through June 2009, JCP prevention programs served 5,071 youth.
- Of these youth, 4,798 met the key JCP eligibility criterion (having a minimum of one or more indicators in 2 or more risk domains<sup>1</sup>).
- On average, eligible youth had 4 out of the 6 risk domains present at initial screening.
- On average, eligible youth had a risk score of 8 (out of a possible score of 30).

### JCP PROVIDES ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO AT-RISK YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- The JCP initiative allowed communities to fund services based on local needs. In general, services can be grouped into direct interventions (such as substance abuse treatment, tutoring, or family counseling), case management (including coordinated review and monitoring of a youth's needs and services), and support services (including the provision of basic needs services, such as housing assistance or medical assistance).
- On average, each youth spent about 11 months participating in JCP programs, with a range of 0-73 months.<sup>2</sup>
- Many programs/services addressed multiple issues including: School (37%), Peer (33%), Family (30%), Behavior (26%), Substance Use (24%) and Antisocial Attitudes, Values, & Beliefs (3%).

### JCP DECREASES PROBLEM BEHAVIOR AND REDUCES RISK FOR JUVENILE CRIME

- Youth who participated in JCP programs received a re-assessment of their progress on risk and protective factors at the completion of JCP services, or at 6 months after the start of services, for those continuing to participate at that time.
- Approximately 52% of all JCP youth showed an overall decrease in dynamic risk indicators at the re-assessment.
- Particularly large reductions in risk were seen in the behavior domain, with reductions ranging from 70% to 75% in that domain.

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<sup>1</sup> Some programs have a higher minimum for eligibility – these criteria are listed in the full report.

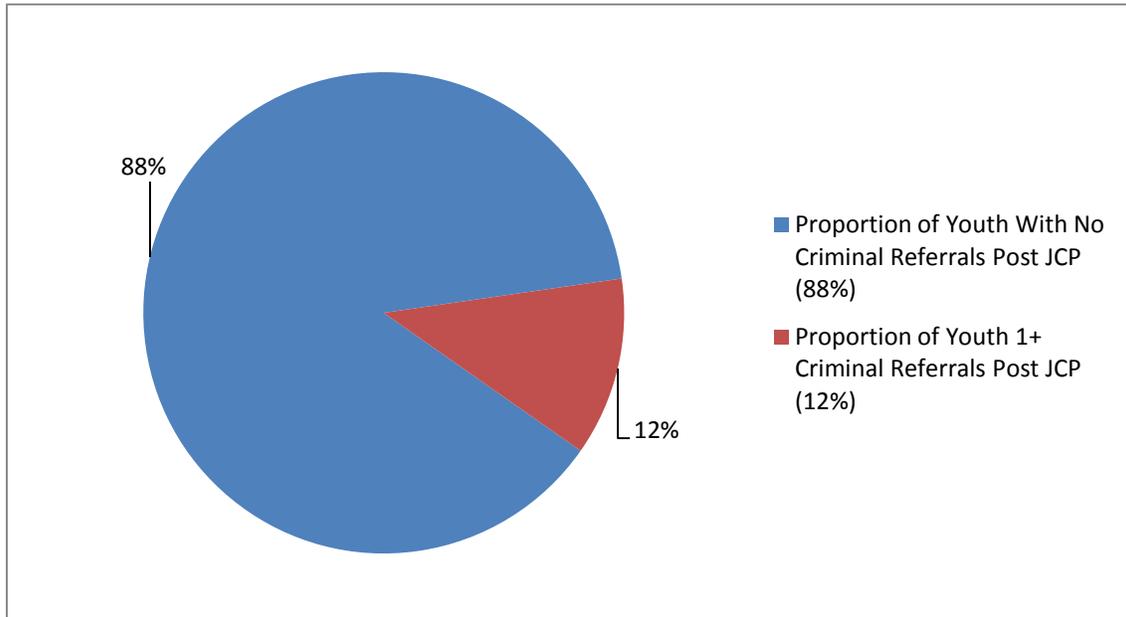
<sup>2</sup> Youth at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile received about 3 months of service, youth at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (median) received about 6 months of service, and youth at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile received about 12 months of service.

- Large increases in protective indicators were seen for the indicator “There is an adult in youth’s life (other than a parent) she/he can talk to” (62%) and “Has friends who are academic achievers” (42%).

**JCP REDUCES JUVENILE CRIME**

- The long-range goal of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Program is to reduce crime. To estimate the impact of JCP programs/services on future offending, the JCP evaluation compared the criminal referral rate of youth served in JCP programs/services before and after the start of programs/services. The JCP evaluation found that youth with criminal referrals prior participating in JCP prevention programs/services decreased their subsequent rate of referrals compared to the rate prior to JCP involvement.
- About half (49%) of the youth in this evaluation had no criminal referral in the 12 months prior to participating in JCP services. In contrast, 88% did not have a criminal referral in the 12 months after the start of JCP services.
- 79% of JCP youth with at least one prior criminal referral had no additional criminal referral in the 12 months after the start of JCP services.

**Criminal Referrals 12 Months Post JCP Service**



## INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Program (JCP) is a state of Oregon initiative that provides funds to Oregon counties and Tribes to pay for services supporting youth and families, with the goal of preventing young people from engaging in criminal behavior. JCP monies fund services and programs identified by each community to meet its specific needs and focus on identifying and intervening with youth at high risk to commit crimes. The JCP program began in 1999 and its evaluation began in 2001. The enabling legislation identified youth eligible for JCP-funded programs and services as those who have a presenting problematic behavior, and have more than one of the following risk factors (as determined by a validated JCP Assessment tool):

- School failure
- Poor family functioning or poor family support
- Substance abuse
- Negative peer association
- Behavior issues

The JCP Assessment assists counties and Tribes with determining the level and number of risk, helps communities decide on appropriate services for youth and families, and serves as the follow-up assessment to measure changes in risk and protective indicators over time. The past biennium included increased efforts (in part due to additional funds approved by the JCPAC) to bring focused training and technical assistance to JCP programs for the purpose of improving the quality of assessment and data collection.

NPC Research provided 9 regional JCP Assessment trainings across the state, training over 100 staff. The training material provided an overview on the need for assessment; what the JCP assessment tells the provider about the youth's risks, needs, and strengths; and what the state requirements are for using the JCP Assessment in determining program eligibility. The trainer led participants through the instrument, describing how to interpret and score responses to the assessment items. Participants had an opportunity read sample scenarios about a youth, conduct a mock JCP Assessment on those youth according to the information provided by the scenarios, and engage in group discussion and facilitator feedback about their scoring, how they made decisions and how to resolve areas in which little information is known.

In addition to the trainings, NPC staff answered ongoing technical assistance phone calls and e-mails during the biennium, and conducted 10 site visits to programs (identified as part of OCCF's stakeholder survey of JCP implementation conducted by Joe Christy) as needing additional support. NPC worked with 2H Systems and JJIS to obtain JCP Assessment data for these sites and presented those data during the site visits. During the visits, program stakeholders were given an opportunity to review and discuss the data that their program staff had collected. Stakeholders assessed their data's accuracy and worked with NPC staff to strategize data quality improvements. NPC staff also assisted the program stakeholders with interpreting the connection between the needs of their community as illustrated by their data, and the services they were providing.

Further, 2H Systems provided 68 2-hour online, interactive trainings to users of the JCP Data Manager. These training sessions were designed to increase program staff's understanding of the

Data Manager data entry system and assist users in creating custom reports based on their program's data. Additionally, 2H Systems developed several new reporting features in the Data Manager during the past biennium including:

- **Demographics Reports:** Provides a spreadsheet (Excel) and graphical displays of average risk and protective indicators by youth demographic characteristics, as selected by the user.
- **Change Reports:** Displays number and percent of youth served during a specified time period with reductions in overall risk and domain scores; describes reductions in individual risk indicators.
- **Assessment Status Report (Overdue Assessments):** Provides JCP program management staff with a report describing the number of days elapsed from the youth's initial assessment, and whether reassessments are timely, late, or over-due.
- **Zip Code Report:** Provides users with counts of youth served during a user-specified time period by specific zip codes in the county/Tribe/program service area.
- **Troubleshooting Reports:** Provides users with information about where potential data entry errors may have been made when entering youth and assessment information in the system.

In addition to ongoing access to OCCF Web Support, JCP Data Manager users also have access to a newly updated "Help Menu" providing Frequently Asked Questions, assistance with entering youth assessments, assistance running reports, and up-to-date "News Feeds" describing updates to the data management system. In response to users' input on difficulty they were having getting data and report summaries to answer their key questions, 2H Systems implemented an upgrade that significantly reduces difficulties in querying the system.

As the data collection becomes more reliable and, as a result, evaluations of effectiveness more dependable, the next task will be to look more closely at and better understand the programs that are producing the best results.

## JCP EVALUATION RESULTS

### What is the demographic profile of assessed youth?

5,071 youth were served during the period July 2007 through June 2009 and comprised the sample for this evaluation report. These youth either had an initial assessment during the biennium (started JCP services) or had a re-assessment during the biennium (started service before this biennium but were still receiving services after June 2007).

The initial JCP assessments for these youth were obtained from 33 of the 36 Oregon counties and all 9 of the federally recognized Oregon Tribes; whether or not the assessments were conducted during the biennium (approximately 17% of youth had assessments that were conducted prior to June 2007).

**Table 1. Youth Served by JCP July 2007 – June 2009**

<b>Number of Youth Served</b>	<b>Number of Youth Assessed Eligible<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Percent of Eligible Assessments From Juvenile Justice Information System</b>	<b>Percent of Eligible Assessments From JCP Data Manager</b>
5,071	4,798	46%	54%

<sup>3</sup> JCP program eligibility varies by county, with most counties defining eligibility as youth having 1 or more risk in 2 or more domains. Crook, Jackson, and Washington Counties require youth to have 3 or more risk domains in order to be eligible for JCP service; Lane County requires that both 3 domains and 14 or more risk factors be identified for JCP; and Malheur County requires 2 domains and 3 or more risk factors.

Youth who were assessed as eligible for JCP were slightly more likely to be male (60%). The average age was approximately 14 years of age (the age range of eligible youth was approximately 7 – 20 years). The racial/ethnic backgrounds of JCP-eligible youth can be found in Table 2.

**Table 2. Race/Ethnicity Reported for JCP-Eligible Youth**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number (%) of Youth Assessed Eligible</b>
White/Caucasian	2,947 (61%)
Hispanic/Latino/Mexican	752 (16%)
Native American/Alaskan Native	367 (8%)
Black/African American	204 (4%)
Asian	32 (1%)
Other race/ethnicity	58 (1%)
Multiracial/multiethnic (one or more of above)	242 (5%)
Unreported	196 (4%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,798</b>

**PRESENTING BEHAVIOR**

Assessments on youth referred to community JCP programs/services indicated (from a list of 29) which presenting behavior brought the youth to the attention of the JCP assessor.<sup>4</sup> Presenting behaviors were categorized into the 6 risk areas and mental health. The frequently of presenting behaviors (by risk area) were:

- School Issues (32%)
- Behavior Issues (26%)
- Family Issues (17%)
- Substance Use Issues (16%)
- Peer Issues (5%)
- Mental Health Issues (4%)
- Anti-Social Attitude Issues (1%)

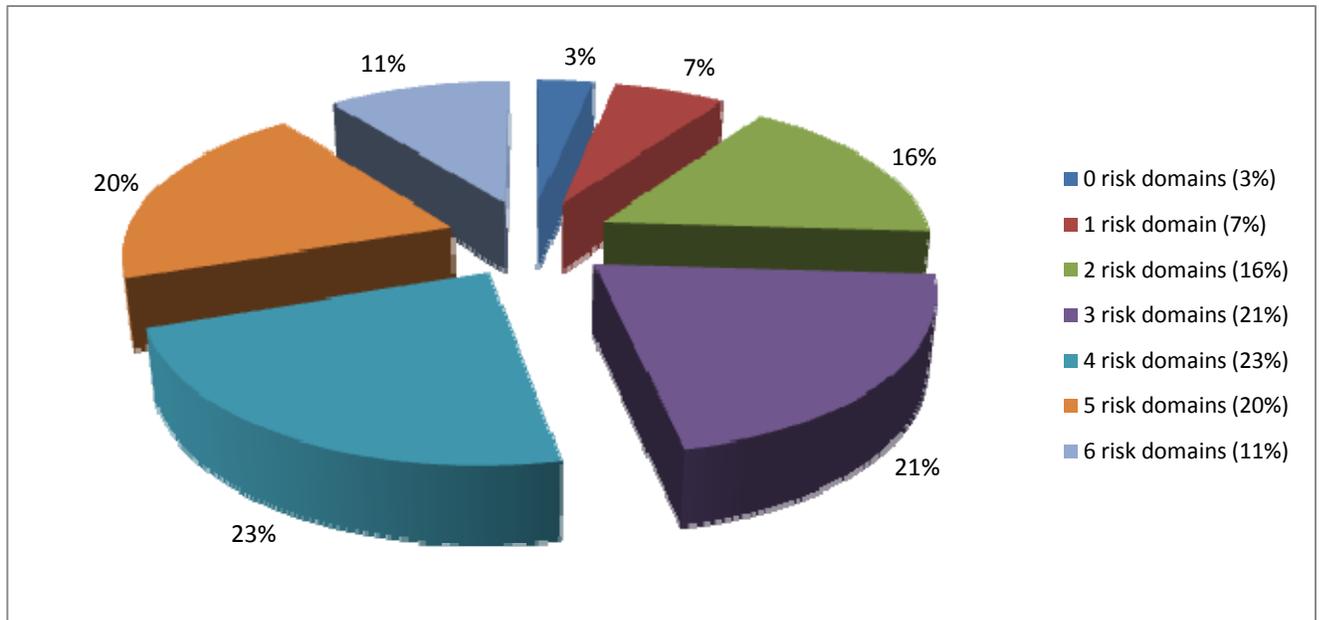
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<sup>4</sup> Only assessments conducted in community programs are asked to include the youth’s presenting behavior. This information helps us understand the reasons for the youth coming to the attention of the community agency. Youth seen through juvenile departments are typically there as a result of a law violation, which is included in the record on the youth accompanying the assessment.

## What is the risk and protective profile of served youth?

The average number of risk domains for youth was approximately 4 out of 6 possible domains. Figure 1 describes the number of risk domains JCP youth have.<sup>5</sup> Youth might have any combination of risk domains. For example, in the group of youth with two risk domains, some may have school failure and poor family functioning; others may have negative peers and substance abuse.

**Figure 1. Number of Risk Domains (JCP-Eligible & Served Youth)**



<sup>5</sup> Youth who had a valid reassessment regardless of whether they met eligibility, were considered eligible for service in these analyses since the programs made a decision to serve the youth.

Table 3 describes the percentage of youth with and without at least one risk indicator in each of the six risk domains. Youth tended to frequently have risks in the peer and behavior domain (84% and 81% respectively); fewer youth had issues in the attitudes, values and beliefs domain (27%).

**Table 3. Risk Domain Profile of JCP-Eligible & Served Youth**

<b>Risk Domain</b>	<b>Percent With Domain on the Initial Assessment</b>	<b>Percent Without the Domain on the Initial Assessment</b>
School Issues	62%	38%
Peer Relationships	84%	16%
Behavior Issues	81%	19%
Family Functioning	67%	33%
Substance Use	40%	60%
Attitudes, Values & Beliefs <sup>6</sup>	27%	73%

**RISK AND PROTECTIVE INDICATORS**

The JCP Assessment has 24 scored risk indicators and 6 scored protective factors (discussed in more detail below). The youth’s risk score is the total number of present risk indicators and missing protective indicators (to a maximum total score of 30). JCP-eligible youth had an average risk score of 8 (range = 0 – 28).

In addition to having risk indicators assessed, youth are also assessed on a variety of protective indicators—strengths in our environment, family, or ourselves that help keep us healthy and support us making positive decisions. As such, youth who have greater numbers of protective factors or who are able to increase their number of protective factors over time are less likely to commit crimes than youth with fewer protective factors. JCP-eligible youth had an average of 3 protective indicators (range = 0 – 6).

Risk and protective scores can also be categorized into 3 risk levels (low, medium, and high) based on the presence of risk indicators and the absence of protective indicators. Table 4 describes the percentage of all JCP-eligible youth as well as the subset of JCP youth with a reassessment at these various risk levels.

Validation work<sup>7</sup> conducted on an earlier version of the JCP Assessment suggested that for those youth with 4 risk indicators, there is an approximate 25% chance (probability) that they will commit a new criminal offense within the next 12 months. Youth with 9 risk indicators have approximately a 50% chance of re-offending. Finally, there is a 75% chance of re-offense for those youth with 14 risk indicators.

<sup>6</sup> This domain is currently based on a single risk indicator only.

<sup>7</sup> Seljan, B. J., Mackin J. R. & Tarte, J. M. (November 2002). Development of a state-wide risk and protective factor assessment for crime prevention and case planning. Paper presentation delivered at American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL.

**Table 4. Risk Level of JCP-Eligible & Served Youth**

<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>Number (%) of Youth at Each Risk Level (on Initial Assessment)</b>	<b>Number (%) of Youth (with Reassessments) at Each Risk Level (on Initial Assessment)</b>
<b>Low Risk<sup>8</sup></b> (0-5 risk indicators present and/or protective indicators lacking)	1,907 (40%)	1,429 (43%)
<b>Medium Risk</b> (6-13 risk indicators present and/or protective indicators lacking)	2,042 (43%)	1,334 (40%)
<b>High Risk</b> (14 or more risk indicators present and/or protective indicators lacking)	849 (18%)	555 (17%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,798</b>	<b>3,318</b>

**MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS**

The JCP Assessment also includes five screening items that indicate possible mental health concerns and suggest a referral for a mental health assessment may be warranted. Mental health issues, while not directly predictive of delinquency, are important to identify and treat to help the youth be most successful in her/his life.

The five JCP mental health indicators (in order of prevalence for this group of youth) were:

- Depressed or withdrawn (24%)
- Social isolation: Youth is on the fringe of her/his peer group with few or no close friends (17%)
- Difficulty sleeping, or eating problems (16%)
- Actively suicidal or prior suicide attempts (5%)
- Hallucinating, delusional, or out of touch with reality, while not on alcohol or drugs (2%)

<sup>8</sup> Youth with 2 or fewer risk indicators at the initial screen who received service (and have a reassessment) from a JCP program based on local decisions are included in these analyses.

## To what extent does the risk and protective profile change after receiving service?

Based on a sample of 3,318 youth with information at both the initial assessment and re-assessment, youth spent about 328 days (11 months) in JCP programs/services.<sup>9</sup> Many JCP programs and services addressed a specific domain area, or combination of areas. In this sample, youth received services that were focused on school issues (37%), peer issues (33%), family issues (30%), behavior issues (26%), substance use issues (24%), and antisocial attitudes (3%). Many youth received services addressing more than one area.<sup>10</sup>

Table 5 shows the proportion of youth whose total risk score (out of a possible 20 dynamic risk and protective indicators) increased, decreased, or stayed the same from the initial assessment to the follow-up assessment. Many youth (52%) saw a decrease in their total risk score over time<sup>11</sup> (this decrease was statistically significant). However, youth who had higher total risk scores on the initial assessment had greater decreases in total risk score over time. Specifically, 62% of youth with a medium total risk score on the initial assessment and 71% of youth with a high total risk score on the initial assessment had a decrease in their total risk score, compared to 36% of youth who scored low risk on the initial assessment.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 5. Changes in Total Risk Score by Risk Level**

<b>Risk Level at Initial Assessment</b>	<b>Percent with Reduced Risk Score</b>	<b>Percent with No Change in Risk Score</b>	<b>Percent with Increased Risk Score</b>
<b>Low Risk</b>	36%	35%	29%
<b>Medium Risk</b>	62%	14%	24%
<b>High Risk</b>	71%	11%	18%
<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>

<sup>9</sup> Youth at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile received about 3 months of service, youth at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (median) received about 6 months of service, and youth at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile received about 12 months of service.

<sup>10</sup> Service data categories and language are currently being reviewed by JJIS and OCCF in an attempt to have users enter this information on participating JCP youth. At the time of this report, the data were unable to be analyzed due to data quality issues; however, it is expected that these data will be updated and available for inclusion in future reports.

<sup>11</sup> Changes in scores show a similar pattern when inclusions of the 10 static risk factors are also included in the analyses (this brings the total number of indicators from 20 to 30): 53% of youth had a decrease in their score, 26% increased their score, and 21% had no change.

<sup>12</sup> It is important to keep in mind, however, that a youth scoring low risk on the initial assessment (4 or fewer risk indicators) has very little room to show improvement compared with youth who start off with more risks on the initial assessment.

## RISK INDICATORS SHOWING GREATEST/LEAST CHANGE OVER TIME

Risk indicators in the behavior domain showed the greatest amount of change. Specifically:

- The item “Behavior harms others [past month]” was reduced by 75% (540 youth had the risk indicator on the initial assessment. Of those, 137 had it on the reassessment),
- The item “Aggressive behavior at school [past month]” was reduced by 74% (587 youth had the risk indicator on the initial assessment. Of those, 151 had it on the reassessment), and
- The item “Recent runaway [past month]” was reduced by 70% (266 youth had the risk indicator on the initial assessment, of those 80 had it on the reassessment).
- The risk indicators showing the least amount of change included:
- The item “Criminal family members” was reduced by 34% (767 youth had the risk indicator on the initial assessment. Of those, 505 still had it on the reassessment),
- The item “Friends engage in unlawful or serious acting out behavior” was reduced by 23% (1,393 youth had the risk indicator on the initial assessment. Of those, 1,069 had it on the reassessment), and
- The item “Has friends who have been suspended or expelled or dropped out of school” was reduced by 12% (1,858 youth had the risk indicator on the initial assessment. Of those, 1,632 had it on the reassessment).

The protective indicators with the greatest amount of change were:

- The presence of an adult in the youth’s life (other than a parent) who the youth can talk to increased by 62% (592 youth lacked the protective indicator on the initial assessment. Of those, 228 lacked it on the reassessment), and
- Youth has friends who are academic achievers increased by 42% (728 youth lacked the protective indicator on the initial assessment. Of those, 426 lacked it on the reassessment).
- The protective indicators showing the least amount of change included:
- The item “Friends disapprove of unlawful behavior” was increased by 38% (1,164 youth lacked the protective factor on the initial assessment. Of those, 720 lacked it on the reassessment), and
- The item “Involved in extra-curricular activities” was increased by 26% (1,789 youth lacked the protective factor on the initial assessment. Of those, 1,321 lacked it on the reassessment).

## What is the relationship between risk and protective factors and offending?

For analysis of the relationship between risk/protection and offending, NPC categorized youth into two groups: (1) those who had no criminal referrals in the 12 months prior to JCP (non-offenders), and (2) those with any criminal referrals in the 12 months prior to JCP. In addition, research staff compared youth who had different numbers of referrals (0, 1-2, and 3+) to look for demographic differences between these groups.

Criminal referrals to a juvenile justice agency (and recorded in the Juvenile Justice Information System [JJIS]) were categorized as being either (1) up to 12 months prior to the youth’s JCP initial assessment, (2) more than 12 months prior to the youth’s JCP initial assessment, (3) up to 12

months after the youth's JCP initial assessment, and (4) more than 12 months after the youth's JCP initial assessment. Youth with 3 or more criminal referrals are considered chronic offenders. Findings are described below.

### DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Average age of youth was similar between the groups. Youth who were non-offenders were slightly younger than youth who had referrals prior to their JCP involvement (ages 13 and 14, respectively). Youth who had 3 or more criminal referrals in the 12 months prior to JCP were slightly older yet (15 years old). The proportion of males increased in the population of youth with criminal referrals (54% male for non-offenders compared to 72% male for those with any referral, and 77% male for those with 3 or more referrals).

The racial/ethnic composition was fairly similar across the offender and non-offender groups, as was gender. Caucasian youth represented 66% of the non-offenders and 61% of the offenders. However, racial/ethnic disproportionality was most noticeable among the group of youth with 3 or more criminal referrals. Caucasian youth made up only 50% of this population and African Americans comprised 30% of this population (whereas African Americans were only 10% of the population with any criminal referral—the over-representation of African Americans in the chronic offender population compared to the overall offender population is statistically significant).

- Youth who had a criminal referral prior to their JCP involvement were more likely to be male, have a slightly higher risk score and be classified as high-risk (a larger percentage of offender than non-offender youth had 14 or more risk indicators).
- Youth who were chronic offenders (those with 3 or more criminal referrals) prior to their JCP involvement were also much more likely to be male, African American (and less likely to be Caucasian), and have much higher risk scores (over half the youth were classified as high-risk with 14 or more risk factors).

A detailed description of demographic differences can be found in Appendix A, Table 1.

### PROFILE COMPARISONS

- As can be expected, the risk profile of youth who were offenders prior to JCP was higher than youth who were non-offenders (and chronic offenders were even higher risk):
- Offenders, on average, had 1 risk domain more than non-offenders (chronic offenders had an average of 2 risk domains more than non-offenders)
- Offenders, on average, had 2 risk indicators more than non-offenders (chronic offenders had an average of 6 more risk indicators than non-offenders)
- Offenders, on average, had the same number of protective indicators as non-offenders, however chronic offenders, on average, had one fewer protective indicator
- Overall, a larger proportion of offenders were scored as “high risk” (28%) compared to non-offenders (8%). The proportion of “high-risk” youth in the chronic offender group was even higher (51%)

## **DIFFERENCES IN RISK AND CRIMINAL REFERRALS AFTER JCP SERVICES**

Those youth who had at least one criminal referral after their JCP assessments also had different risk profiles than those youth who did not have a subsequent criminal referral. Youth with criminal referrals after starting JCP tended to have more risk indicators at both the initial assessment and the re-assessment compared with youth who did not offend after starting JCP.

This group of youth with post-referrals also were more likely to have high risk levels (of 14 or more indicators) at both assessment time periods, and less likely to have low risk levels (of 5 or fewer indicators) at both assessment time periods.

Specifically:

- Youth with criminal referrals after JCP services had higher initial assessment risk scores (12 for youth with 1-2 criminal referrals, 11 for youth with 3+ criminal referrals) compared to youth with no criminal referrals after JCP services (who had an initial assessment risk score of 7 out of 30)
- Youth with criminal referrals after JCP services had a JCP reassessment risk score of 10 (out of 30) compared to youth with no criminal referrals (who had a reassessment risk score of 5 after JCP services)
- Youth who became chronic offenders (3+ criminal referrals) after JCP service had a shorter time to their first post-JCP offense compared to youth who had 1-2 offenses after JCP service (183 days versus 211 days)

A description of additional differences in risk and referral profiles post JCP can be found in Appendix A, Table 2.

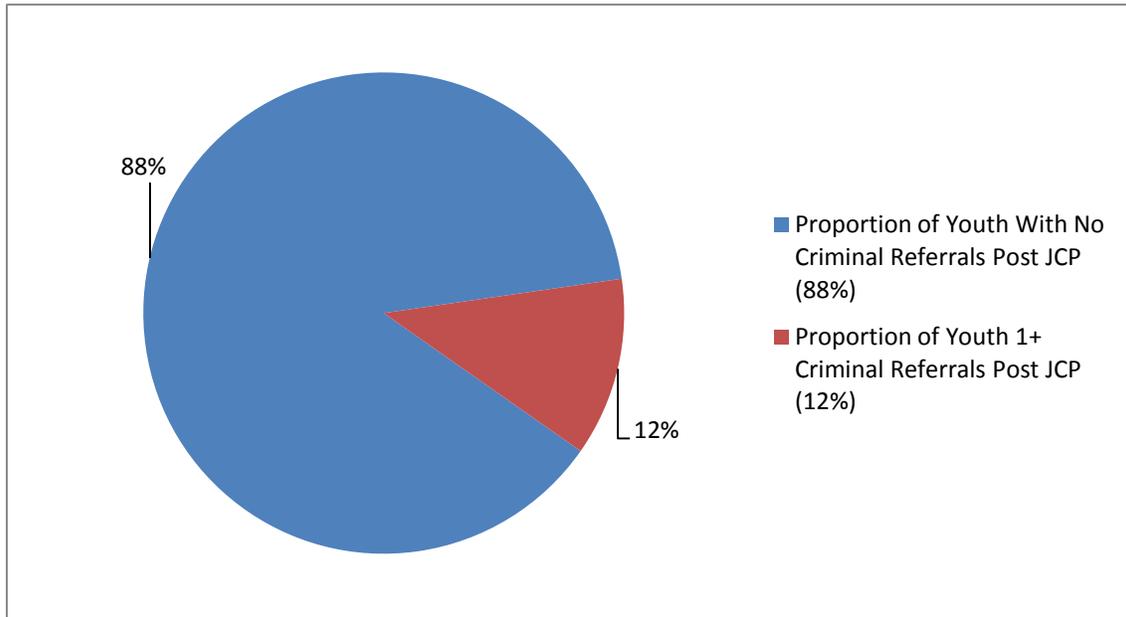
## **TIMING OF CRIMINAL REFERRALS AFTER JCP ENTRY**

Figure 2 describes the proportion of youth with and without criminal referrals in the 12 months after starting JCP services. Of this sample, 88% of JCP-involved youth did not have a criminal referral by the end of 12 months after starting JCP.

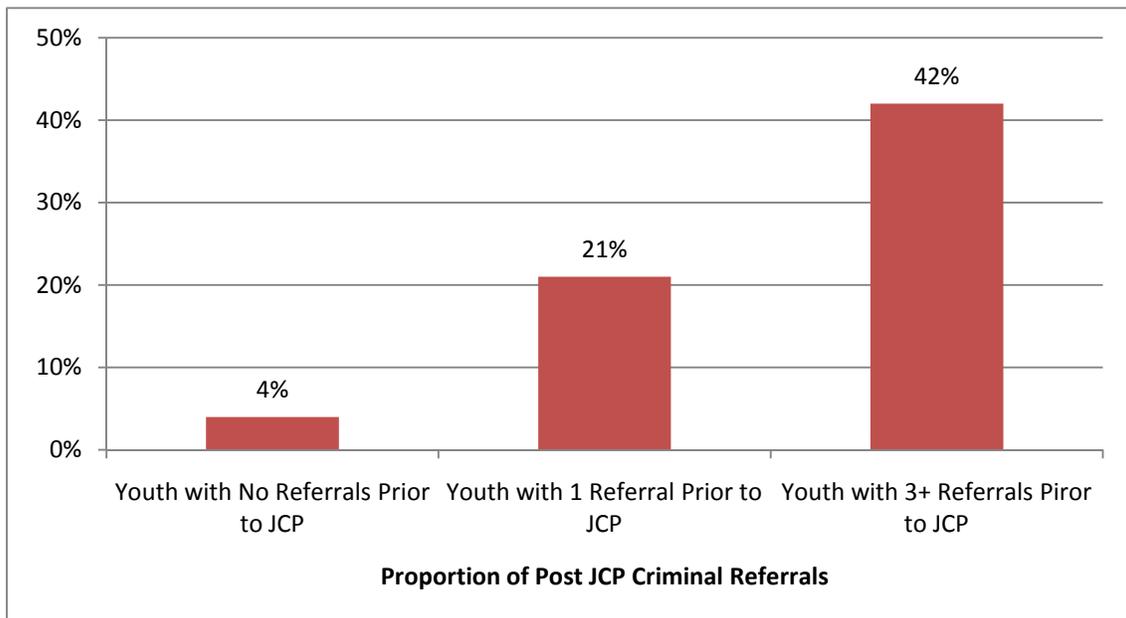
Additionally, Figure 3 describes that 96% of the youth brought to the attention of JCP services with no criminal referral in the 12 months prior to their JCP involvement continued to be free of criminal referrals in the 12 months after their start of JCP services (for more on non-offender youth, see below).

Further, 79% of youth who had at least one criminal referral prior to JCP did not have a criminal referral in the 12 months after the start of JCP. Of those youth who were chronic offenders (3 or more referrals within 12 months) prior to JCP involvement, 58% did not have a subsequent referral after their JCP assessment.

**Figure 2. Criminal Referrals 12 Months Post JCP Service**



**Figure 3. Proportion of Post JCP Criminal Referrals by “Pre-Offender” Type**

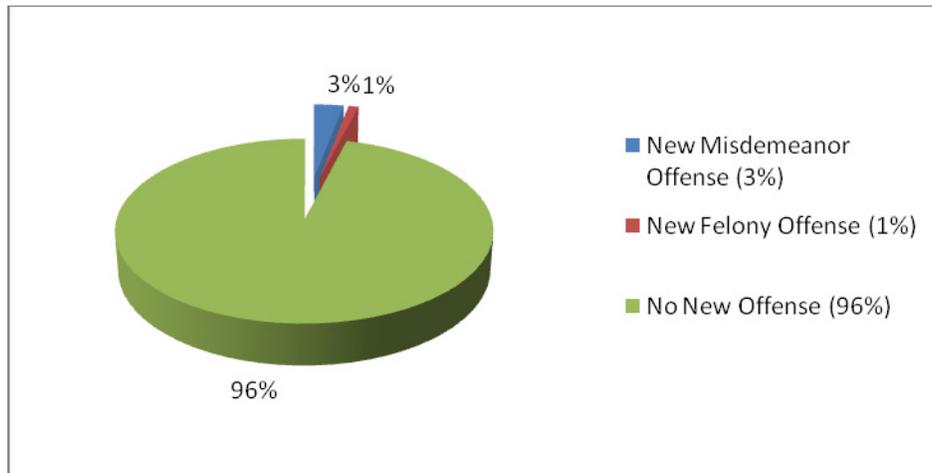


## NON-OFFENDERS

About half of the youth served in JCP prevention programs/service through community providers were referred to those services due to problematic behavior that had not yet resulted in a criminal referral to a juvenile justice agency. While the providers were not required or expected to know if youth were truly non-offenders, the evaluation team did run a statistical matching program, using name, date of birth, gender, and county of residence, to identify those youth in the community database who had a referral in JJIS prior to their JCP entry. Those youth who did not “match” as having a juvenile department referral prior to their JCP entry were considered “non-offenders.”

The majority of youth who began JCP services as non-offenders did not have any referrals in the 12 months following their JCP entry. About 4% of these youth had a subsequent criminal referral, and about 1% of the sample had a felony referral. Figure 4 illustrates the percentage of non-offender youth who had a criminal referral recorded in JJIS in the 12 months following JCP entry.

**Figure 4. Referral Rates of Non-Offenders in 12 Months Following JCP Assessment**



## RISK LEVEL AND CRIMINAL REFERRAL STATUS

An examination of JCP initial assessment risk level, and the youth’s criminal referral status before and after JCP programs, suggests that the JCP tool may differentiate between some groups of youth. A higher proportion of youth who had criminal referrals after JCP service had high risk levels on their initial JCP assessment compared to those youth who did not have a criminal referral after their JCP assessment. Specifically:

- Of youth who had no criminal referrals prior to entering JCP service, but had at least one criminal referral after the start of service, 30% scored high risk on their initial assessment
- Of youth who had both a criminal referral prior to entering JCP service and had at least one criminal referral after the start of service, 41% scored high risk on their initial assessment
- About 24% of youth who began JCP service with a criminal referral but did not have any subsequent criminal referrals in the 12 months after JCP services began were screened as high risk on their initial assessment
- Few youth (8%) who began JCP services as non-offenders and remained non-offenders in the 12 months after JCP services began were screened as high risk on their initial assessment.

**Table 6. Differences in Risk Level by Youth’s “Offender” Status**

<b>Risk Level at Initial Screen</b>	<b>Non-Offenders Pre and Post JCP Service (n = 1,230)</b>	<b>Non-Offenders Pre JCP who Became Offenders Post JCP (n = 30)</b>	<b>Offenders Pre JCP who became Non-Offenders Post JCP (n = 1,072)</b>	<b>Offenders Pre and Post JCP Service (n = 278)</b>
<b>Low Risk</b>	48%	23%	41%	13%
<b>Medium Risk</b>	44%	47%	36%	46%
<b>High Risk</b>	8%	30%	24%	41%

## CONCLUSION

**T**he Juvenile Crime Prevention Program served over 5,000 youth during the 2007-09 biennium who were identified at risk for delinquency. A large majority of these youth, even those with prior history in the juvenile justice system, did not receive a criminal referral during the 12 months after starting JCP services. This program appears to be effectively identifying and serving youth, reducing risk factors for delinquency, increasing protective factors, and decreasing juvenile crime.

## **APPENDIX A: DATA TABLES**

**Table 1. Comparison of Offender and Non-Offender Youth at JCP Entry**

	All JCP-Eligible Youth (In Referral Check Sample)	Non-Offenders in 12 Months Prior to JCP	Offenders in 12 Months Prior to JCP	Of Offenders, Youth with 1-2 Referrals in 12 months Prior to JCP	Of Offenders, Youth with 3+ Referrals <sup>13</sup> in 12 months Prior to JCP
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>2,628</b>	<b>1,278 (49%)</b>	<b>1,350 (51%)</b>	<b>1,160 (44%)</b>	<b>190 (7%)</b>
• Average (mean) age	14	13	14	14	15
• Male	63%	54%	72%	71%	77%
• Female	36%	45%	28%	29%	23%
• Caucasian	64%	66%	61%	63%	50%
• Hispanic/Latino	16%	14%	18%	19%	14%
• African American	6%	2%	10%	6%	30%
• Native American	4%	6%	3%	3%	2%
• Asian	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
• Other race/ethnicity	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%
• Multiracial	5%	7%	2%	3%	2%
• Race unreported	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
<b>INITIAL RISK PROFILE</b>					
• Domains, out of 6	3	3	4	3	5
• JCP Total Score, out of 30	8	6	9	8	15
• Scored Risk Indicators, out of 24	6	5	7	6	11
• Scored Protective Indicators, out of 6	3	3	3	3	2

<sup>13</sup> Youth with 3 or more criminal referrals are referred to as Chronic Offenders.

<sup>14</sup> Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

	All JCP-Eligible Youth (In Referral Check Sample)	Non-Offenders in 12 Months Prior to JCP	Offenders in 12 Months Prior to JCP	Of Offenders, Youth with 1-2 Referrals in 12 months Prior to JCP	Of Offenders, Youth with 3+ Referrals <sup>13</sup> in 12 months Prior to JCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent “Low” Risk (0-5 indicators)</li> </ul>	41%	47%	35%	40%	4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent “Medium” Risk (6-13 indicators)</li> </ul>	41%	44%	38%	37%	40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent “High” Risk (14 + indicators)</li> </ul>	18%	8%	28%	23%	51%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average (mean) number of criminal referrals (12 months prior)</li> </ul>	1	0	2	1	4

**Table 2. Differences in Risk Profile of Youth by Number of Referrals After JCP Programs/Services**

	<b>No Criminal Referrals After JCP Entry (n = 2,302)</b>	<b>1-2 Criminal Referrals After JCP Entry (n = 251)</b>	<b>3+ Criminal Referrals After JCP Entry (n = 75)</b>
Age (mean)	14	14	15
Number of prior criminal referrals (average)	1	2	2
Risk domains at initial assessment (out of 6)	3	4	4
Risk indicators at initial assessment (out of 24)	5	9	8
Protective indicators at initial assessment (out of 6)	3	2	2
JCP Total Score at initial assessment (out of 30)	7	12	11
Percent "Low" Risk (0-5 indicators) at initial assessment	45%	14%	17%
Percent "Medium" Risk (6-13 indicators) at initial assessment	40%	47%	44%
Percent "High" Risk (14 + indicators) at initial assessment	15%	39%	39%
JCP Total Score at re-assessment (out of 30)	5	10	10
Percent "Low" Risk (0-5 indicators) at re-assessment	67%	33%	26%
Percent "Medium" Risk (6-13 indicators) at re-assessment	25%	28%	32%
Percent "High" Risk (14 + indicators) at re-assessment	8%	39%	41%
Number of days to <u>most serious</u> criminal referral after initial assessment	NA	211	183