

**Report to the General Assembly of
North Carolina Regarding**

Boys & Girls Clubs

**Department of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency
Prevention**

February 2008

Executive Summary
Boys & Girls Clubs

In accord with the requirements of Section 18.4: Annual Evaluation of Community Programs, Session Law 2007-323 the Department of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention evaluated the program that grants funds to the local Boys & Girls Clubs that was established as a Pilot by Section 21.10 of S.L. 1999-237. In so doing the Department examined expenditures of State Appropriations on the Pilot Program as well as the operation and effectiveness of the Program. Additionally, the Department determined the number of juveniles served by the program and considered whether a juvenile's participation in any of the Pilot Program sites resulted in a reduction of court involvement. DJJDP also compared program activities with the goals and objectives of the *Juvenile Justice Reform Act*.

The Department's evaluation resulted in a determination that the funding strategy developed by the Department performs well and that the Clubs receiving funds do assist youths' heighten involvement with their community, develop self respect, and grow the skills needed to become responsible members of their community. In the process of conducting the evaluation the Department found that the Pilot Clubs are partnering with local agencies and law enforcement to promote respect for authority and appreciation of the law.

The eight (8) Pilot Clubs funded through this Program are located in Beaufort, Cumberland, Edgecombe/Nash, Halifax, Lee, Pender, Wayne, and Wilson Counties. Each Club is annually awarded \$50,000. These funds (a total of \$400,000) are used to provide Club Memberships for 1,256 (12.9%) of the Club's total members. The number of youths referred by the Juvenile Courts is second only to the number of youths referred by their parents. The Average annual cost per individual for the 1,256 referred youth was \$318.47. The Pilot Clubs raised additional funds to offset expenses.

The Mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs is to enable all young people, especially those who need the Clubs the most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible citizens. The mission is accomplished through providing: a safe place to learn and grow; ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals; life enhancing programs and character development experiences; hope; and, opportunity. The Clubs programs are designed to support positive self identity; Education; Employment; Social, Emotional, and Cultural Competencies.; Community and Civic Involvement; Health and Well Being; and, a Moral Compass.

These strategies are addressed through five Core Program Areas that focus on: the Arts, Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; and, Sports, Fitness and Recreation. Those referred to Memberships are predominantly male (64.7%), African-American (74.7%), and pre-teens (70.5%). Participants range in age from 6 to 17 years.

Outcomes for program participants are very good! Overall, 98.9% (1,242 of 1,256) of the youth referred to, and participating in, the Boys & Girls Clubs Programs,' by Law Enforcement, or the Courts, had no new offenses during the program year. Moreover, a sample of 504 program participants showed that 91% of the referred youth either improved (66%), or maintained (25%) their grades while participating in the Boys & Girls Club's Pilot Program. Additionally, six (6) of the eight (8) Pilot Clubs maintained Collaborative relations with at least four (4) local, community based referring organizations.

Introduction

In compliance with the requirements of Section 18.4: Annual Evaluation of Community Programs, Session Law 2007-323, the Department of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) has conducted an evaluation of the program that grants funds to the local organizations of the Boys & Girls Clubs that was established pursuant to Section 21.10 of S. L. 1999-237. In so doing, the Department examined the expenditure of State appropriations on the program, the operations and effectiveness of the programs, and determined the number of juveniles served through the program. Additionally, DJJDP has considered whether a juvenile's participation in the program results in a reduction of court involvement and identified whether the programs are achieving the goals of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, S. L. 1998-202. The Departments findings are presented herein.

Background

Evaluation has resulted in a conviction that the *Boys & Girls Clubs of America* has achieved a positive national reputation for outreach, service delivery, and the achievement of interpersonal change. Often the *Boys & Girls Clubs of America* represents one of the few, and sometimes, the only positive influence in a child's day to day activities. A similar 1999 realization by the North Carolina General Assembly resulted in the appropriation of funds to establish a Pilot Program for expanding the reach of the North Carolina Clubs. Under this initiative local Boys & Girls Clubs are required to match the State's appropriation. The mandates of the Pilot Program required DJJDP to develop a funding strategy and encourage the local Clubs to meet the physical, emotional, and educational needs of court-involved and/or at-risk youth. Additionally, DJJDP was encouraged to help the Pilot Clubs draw juveniles into programs that caused them to become involved in their community, develop self respect, and the skills needed to become responsible members of their community. Additionally, the Pilot Clubs were to partner with local agencies, including schools and law enforcement, to promote respect for authority and appreciation of the law while providing guidance and positive role models for the program participating juveniles.

The Department's funding strategy has been to partner with the *North Carolina Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs*. This *Alliance* is coordinated by the Wake County Club and comprised of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Beaufort, Cumberland, Edgecombe/Nash, Halifax, Lee, Pender, Wayne, and Wilson Counties. These low services, primarily rural, and often high commitment county Clubs deliver the Pilot Program authorized by the General Assembly in 1999.

Overview

Evaluation *findings* show the Pilot Boys & Girls Clubs to be autonomous, independent organizations that are affiliates of *Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA)*. Clubs nurture young people's self-esteem by instilling in them a sense of belonging, usefulness, influence, and competence. This is accomplished daily by providing young people one-on-one relationships with caring adult professionals and fun, age-appropriate, well-rounded programming. To support local Clubs in

their efforts to fulfill the *National Club's Youth Development Strategy*, BGCA offers tested, proven, and nationally recognized programs that provide young people with the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to pursue their dreams and succeed in life.

Mission

The Mission of Boys & Girls Clubs is to enable all young people, especially those who need the Club the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Services All Boys & Girls Club's Provide

- A safe place to learn and grow
- Ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals
- Life-enhancing programs and character development experiences
- Hope and opportunity

Clubs are open when youth need them most: after school, often until 8:00pm; and during the Summer for eight or more hours per day. Many Clubs are additionally open, and offer programming, on weekends.

Programs

Study reveals that Boys & Girls Clubs programs are carefully designed to support achievement of their Youth Development Outcomes strategy for young people leaving the Clubs at age 18. These strategies include:

- Positive Self-Identity
- Educational, Employment, Social, Emotional and Cultural Competencies
- Community and Civic Involvement
- Health and Well-Being
- A Moral Compass

In addition to programs developed locally, Club professionals can choose from more than 40 national programs to help meet the interests and needs of their Club members age 6-18 and achieve positive outcomes for them their families and their communities. The Clubs five (5) Core Program Areas, as well as some sample national programs from each area, are detailed below:

The Arts

Programs in this area enable youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts, and creative writing.

Program Examples:

- National Fine Arts Exhibit Program – This year-round program encourages artistic expression among Club members ages 6-18 through drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media and sculpture displayed at local and regional exhibits. A panel of distinguished judges selects works for

inclusion in the National Fine Arts Exhibit which is displayed throughout the ensuing year at *BGCA* events, including the annual National Conference.

- **Digital Arts Suite and Festivals** – Club Tech’s suite of self-directed digital arts courseware consists of Web Tech (Web page design), Design Tech (graphic design), Photo Tech (photo illustration) and Music Tech. Movie Tech contains detailed instructor materials for teaching members to write screenplays and facilitating the hands-on process of filming and editing digital moves. Once Club members have participated in these programs, they can submit their digital artwork to the annual Digital Arts Festivals competitions.

Character and Leadership Development

Programs in this Core Area empower youth to support and influence their Club and community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image and good character, participate in the democratic process, and respect their own and others’ cultural identities.

Program Examples:

- **Keystone Club** – Keystone Clubs are chartered leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 14-18. Keystoners elect officers and implement activities in six areas: service to Club and community; character and leadership development; education and career exploration; unity; free enterprise; and, social recreation.
- **Torch Club** – Torch Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service organizations for youth ages 11-13. A Torch Club is a powerful vehicle through which Club staff can help meet the special character development needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their development. Torch Club members learn to elect officers and work together to implement activities in four areas: service to Club and community; education; health and fitness; and social recreation.
- **Goals for Growth** – This program teaches young people ages 8-12 skills for setting and achieving goals, helps them identify their own strengths and enhances their self-esteem by reinforcing their progress and recognizing their success in realizing their goals. Members set goals in six areas: Club involvement; discovery of new knowledge; skills or pastimes; service to others; school improvement; personal improvement; and career awareness.

Education and Career Development

Programs in this Core Area enable youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, set goals, explore careers, prepare for employment and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.

Program Examples:

- **Project Learn** – Project Learn reinforces and enhances the skills and knowledge young people learn at school during the hours they spend at the Club. This comprehensive strategy is based on Dr. Reginald Clark’s research showing that students do much better in school with they spend their non-school hours engaged in fun, educational activities. Through Project Learn, Club staff use all the areas and programs in the Club to create opportunities for these *high-yield learning activities*, which include leisure reading, writing activities, discussions with knowledgeable adults, helping others, homework help and tutoring, games like Scrabble that develop young people’s cognitive skills, and incentives to reward Club members for positive academic participation.
- **Power Hour** – The program provides Club professionals with strategies, activities, resources and information to create an engaging homework help and tutoring program that encourages Club members to become self-directed learners.
- **CareerLaunch** – CareerLaunch encourages members ages 13-18 to assess their skills and interests, explore careers, make sound educational decisions and prepare to join our nation’s ever-changing work force.
- **Skill Tech** – The Skill Tech program develops Club members’ proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet and other productivity software through fun, hands-on, engaging lessons and projects for four age groups.

Health and Life Skills

Programs in this area develop young people’s capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals, and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.

Program Examples:

- **SMART Moves** – SMART Moves (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training) is a nationally acclaimed comprehensive prevention program that helps young people resist alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, as well as premature sexual activity. SMART Moves features engaging, interactive, small-group activities that increase participants’ peer support, enhance their life skill, build their resiliency, and strengthen their leadership skills.
- **Street SMART** – Street SMART counteracts the negative lures of gangs, violence and “street” influences on young adolescents ages 11-13. While building awareness and resistance skills, participants develop the confidence and knowledge to make intelligent choices. Street SMART’s three modules teach young people how gangs work and how to resist being recruited, how to recognize and resolve conflicts peacefully, and how to become positive peer helpers.

- **NetSmartz – NetSmartz teaches Internet safety skills through engaging multimedia activities and offline interaction with Club professionals, in three age-appropriate modules. Modules include personal safety, shopping safety, and ethical use of the Internet. BGCA collaborated with the *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children* to develop NetSmartz**

Sports, Fitness and Recreation

Programs in this area develop fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation of the environment, and social skills.

- **Triple Play: A Game Plan for the Mind, Body and Soul – The goal of Triple Play is to improve the overall health of Club members by increasing their daily physical activity, teaching them good nutrition and fitness habits, and encouraging them to develop healthy relationships. Triple Play is the first program of its kind developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.**
- **Fitness Authority – Fitness Authority promotes fitness in all youth through fun, engaging weekly activities and an annual competition at the local, regional, and national levels.**

Who Is Served

Outreach and Referral Program Participants

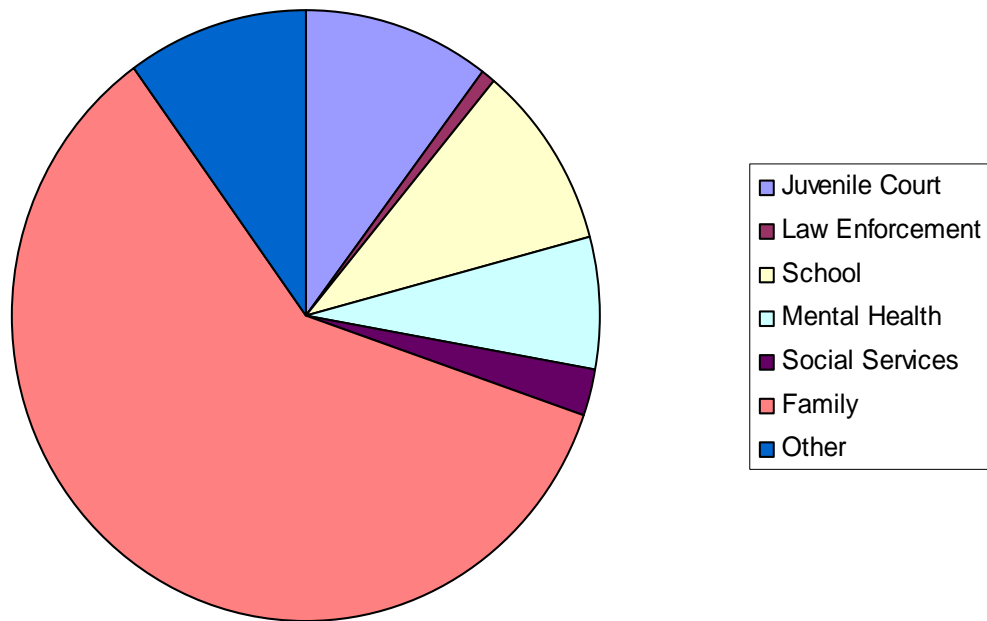
In 2006, the eight Pilot Boys & Girls Clubs organizations supported by DJJDP's Grant reported 9,759 total registered members, of whom 12.9% (1,256) were referred and made members through funds provided by the North Carolina General Assembly through the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

More than half (59.6%) of the youth participating in the programs of these eight Pilot Clubs were referred by their family members. The second largest group (10.3%) was referred by Juvenile Courts. Referrals ranged in age from 6 to 17, were predominantly male (64.7%), African-American (74.7%), and pre-teens (70.5%) as reflected in the following charts and graphs:

Participant Referral Source by Site

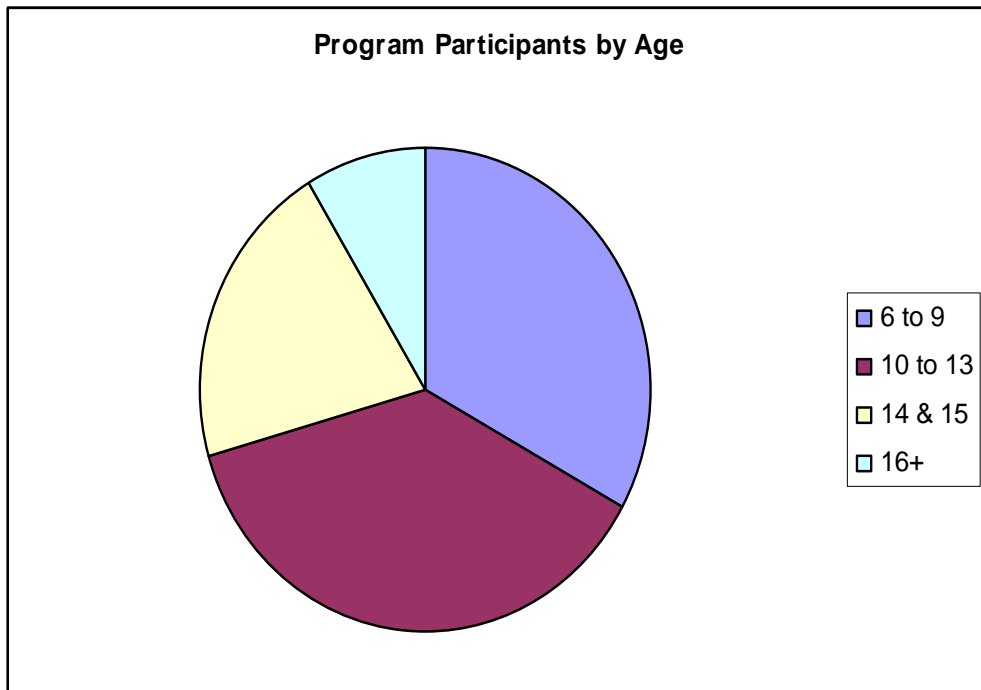
Organization	Juvenile Court	Law Enforcement	School	Mental Health	Social Services	Famiy	Other	Total
Beaufort	0	0	8	0	6	36	60	110
Cumberland	0	0	31	35	9	124	0	199
Edgecombe	1	0	4	0	4	136	3	148
Halifax	5	9	39	11	3	32	1	100
Lee	74	0	2	0	2	407	19	504
Pender	27	0	0	0	0	0	33	60
Wayne	19	0	15	0	0	14	11	59
Wilson	2	4	23	39	8	0	0	76
Total	128	13	122	85	32	749	127	1,256

Program Participants by Referral Source



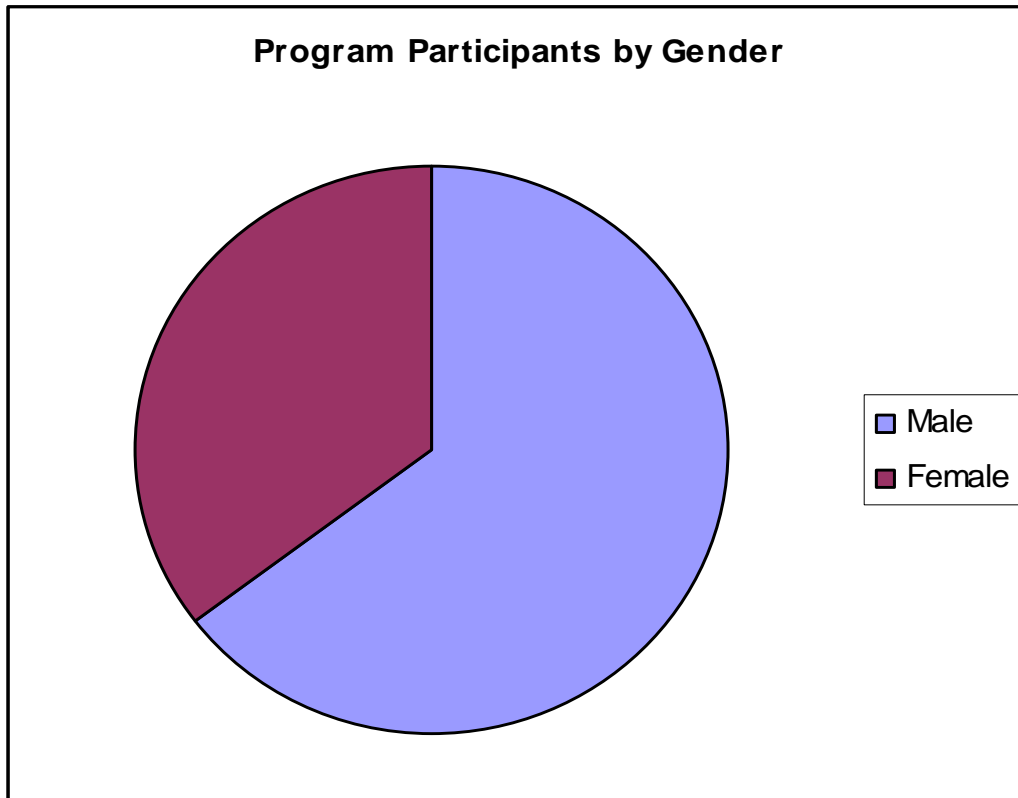
Program Participants by Age and Site

Organization	6 to 9	10 to 13	14 & 15	16+	Total
Beaufort	6	28	39	37	110
Cumberland	77	83	30	9	199
Edgecombe	63	56	25	4	148
Halifax	18	64	18	0	100
Lee	242	171	64	27	504
Pender	0	8	37	15	60
Wayne	1	28	17	13	59
Wilson	8	33	33	2	76
Total	415	471	263	107	1,256



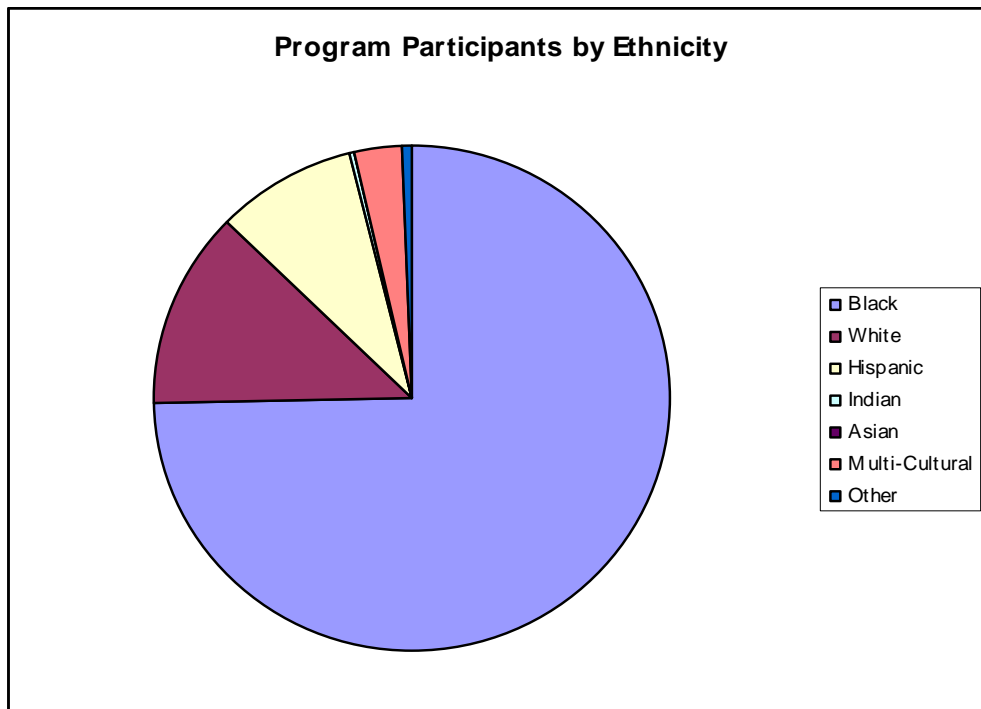
Program Participation by Gender and Site

Organization	Male	Female	Total
Beaufort	98	12	110
Cumberland	131	68	199
Edgecombe	85	63	148
Halifax	63	37	100
Lee	287	217	504
Pender	37	23	60
Wayne	45	14	59
Wilson	67	9	76
Total	813	443	1,256



Program Participants by Race/Ethnicity and Site

Race:	Bea	Cumber	Edgecombe	Halifax	Lee	Pender	Wayne	Wilson	Total
Black	104	177	141	84	294	22	49	67	938
White	0	7	2	11	90	35	8	3	156
Hispanic	3	7	3	2	89	0	2	6	112
Indian	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Asian	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Multi-Cultural	3	3	1	0	31	1	0	0	39
Other	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	6
Total	110	199	148	100	504	60	59	76	1,256

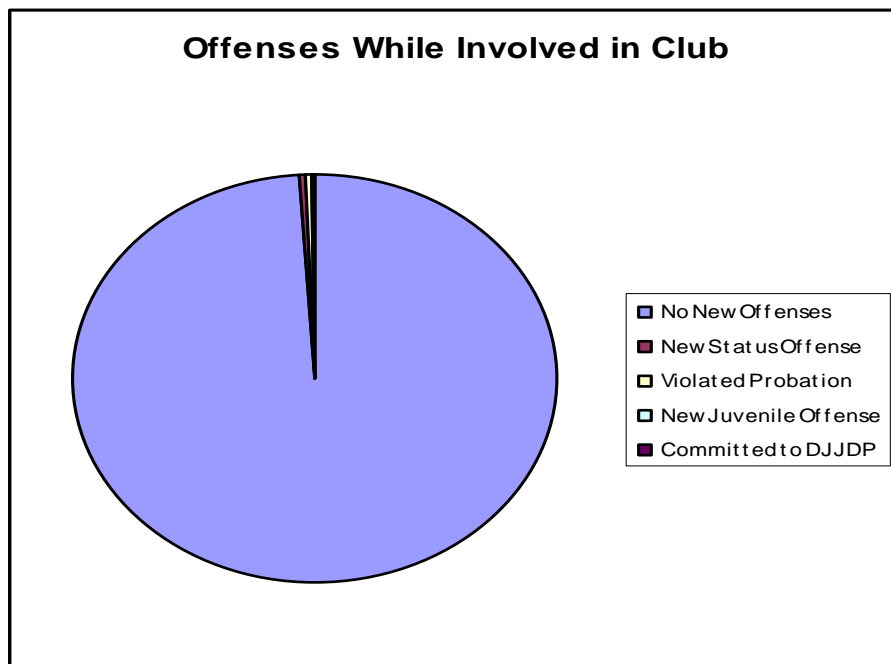


Outcomes

Staff in each of the participating Clubs tracked academic performance and behavioral information on the referred participants throughout the program year. The collected data shows that less than 2% of the youth referred to, and participating in, the Boys & Girls Clubs programs had any new involvement with Law Enforcement or the Courts. Indeed, the data revealed that 1,242 out of 1,256 youth participants (98.9%) were reported as having *no new offenses*. Furthermore, analysis of a sample of 504 end-of-year report cards revealed that 91% of referred youth improved (66%) or maintained (25%) their grades while participating in the Boys & Girls Clubs programs.

Number of Youth Involved in Offenses While Involved in Club

Organization	No New Offenses	New Status Offense	Violated Probation	New Juvenile Offense	Committed to DJJDP	Total
Beaufort	110	0	0	0	0	110
Cumberland	199	0	0	0	0	199
Edgecombe	148	0	0	0	0	148
Halifax	90	4	1	5	0	100
Lee	504	0	0	0	0	504
Pender	60	0	0	0	0	60
Wayne	59	0	0	0	0	59
Wilson	72	4	0	0	0	76
Total	1242	8	1	5	0	1,256



The General Assembly's support of this Pilot project provides benefits to the Clubs as a whole. By fostering collaboration between the Clubs and local agencies, at risk youths are identified and provided services and Club programs are supplemented with guest speakers and experienced volunteers. The benefit of this funding is seen across the *Alliance* and resulted in nearly every Club exceeding the *Alliance* target of maintaining at least four (4) collaborative partnerships with local, community based, referring organizations. The strong relationships among the collaborative partners returned many benefits for the 1,256 Club members these partners referred and enriched the lives of the thousands of other Club members as well. Examples of the agencies the Clubs partnered with during the 2006-2007 program year are outlined below:

Beaufort

- **Beaufort County Sheriff's Department**
- **Beaufort County Health Department**
- **HOPE**
- **CHILL**

Cumberland

- **NC Cooperative Extension 4-H**
- **Massey Hill Parks & Recreation**
- **Botanical Gardens**

Halifax

- **Scotland Neck Police Department**
- **Enfield Police Department**
- **Weldon Police Department**
- **Roanoke Rapids Police Department**
- **EFNEP (Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program)**
- **Scotland Neck Waterfowl**

Lee

- **Lee County School System**
- **Coalition for Families in Lee County**
- **Sanford Police Department**
- **Lee County Sheriff's Department**
- **HAVEN**
- **United Way**
- **Salvation Army**
- **Lee County Social Services**

Nash/Edgecombe

- **Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office**
- **Princeville Police Department**
- **Nash County Sheriff's Office**
- **Rocky Mount Police Department**

- Nashville Police Department
- Nash County JCPC

Pender

- Pender County Sheriff's Department
- Nu World Enterprises, Inc.
- Pender County Schools
- Pender County 4-H
- CFCC

Wayne

- Wayne County Cooperative Extension
- Wayne County Sheriff's Department
- Goldsboro Police Department

Wilson

- Pride in North Carolina
- Wilson Police Department
- Wilson DSS
- Barton College

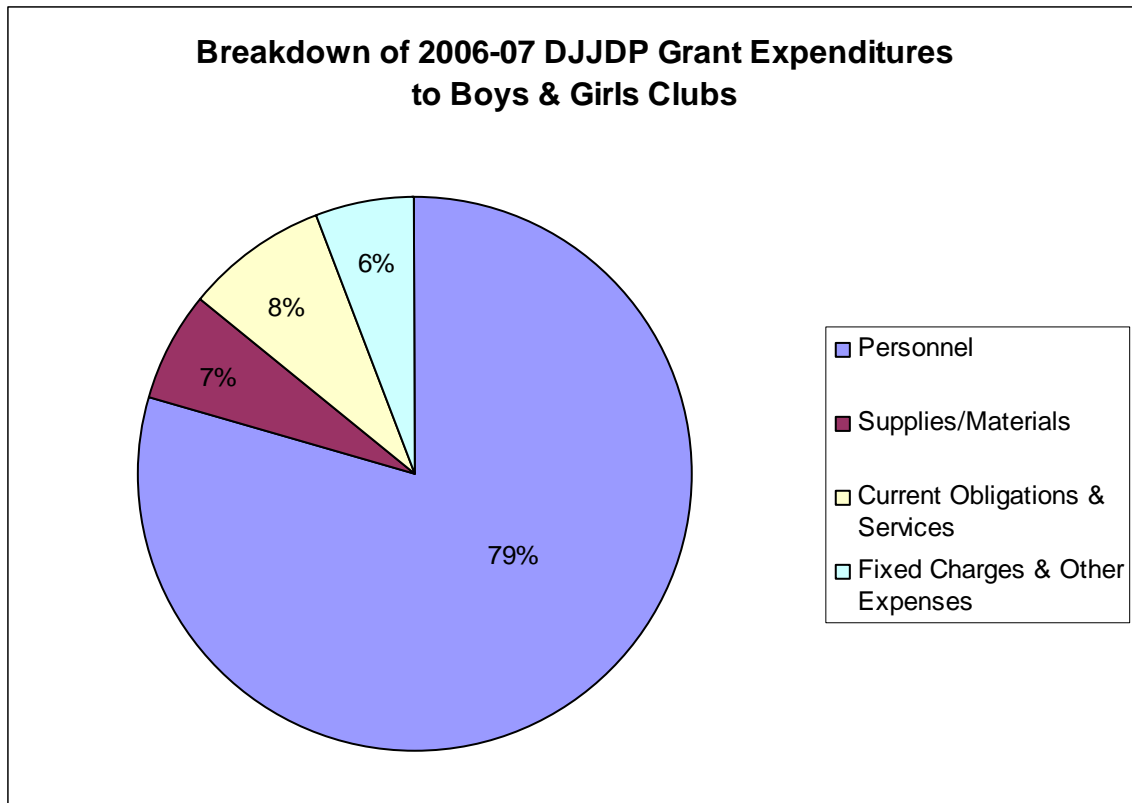
Fiscal Year Expenditures

The General Assembly Allocated \$400,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs through the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in FY 2006-07. Eight Boys & Girls Clubs organizations each received \$50,000 to provide programs to those referred by courts, law enforcement, and other sources. The \$400,000 was used to serve 1,256 referred youth at an average annual cost per youth of \$318.47. At the same time, the total cost to serve the average member in each of these organizations was for a year was \$627.16. Each organization made up the difference in costs through other donations including support from local communities. More than 98% of the referred youth had no new offenses and the vast majority improved (66%) or, maintained (25%) their school grades during the program year.

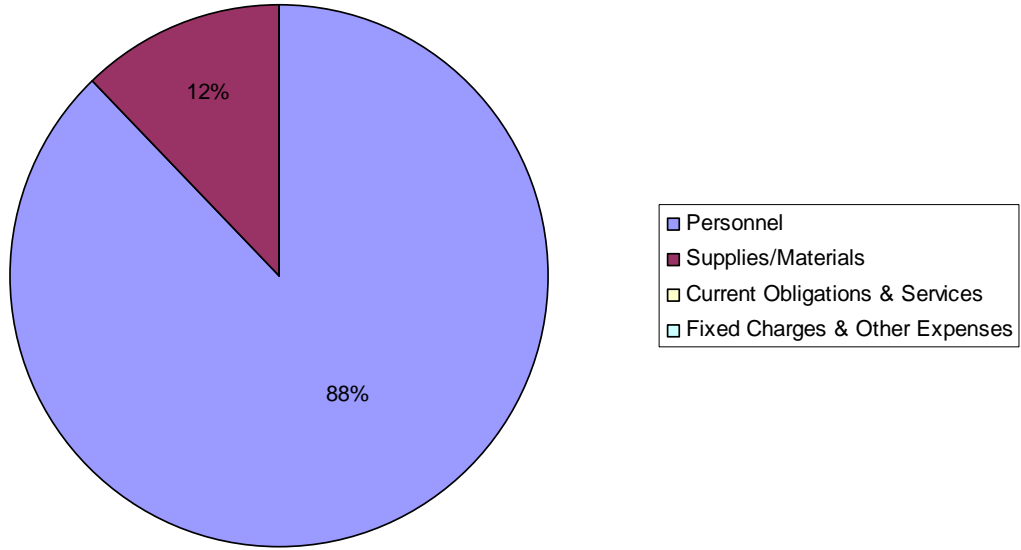
Actual funds received by Clubs through DJJDP for 2006-07

Beaufort:	\$50,000.00
Cumberland:	\$50,000.00
Nash/Edgecombe:	\$50,000.00
Halifax:	\$50,000.00
Lee:	\$50,000.00
Pender:	\$50,000.00
Wayne:	\$50,000.00
Wilson:	\$50,000.00
TOTAL:	\$400,000.00

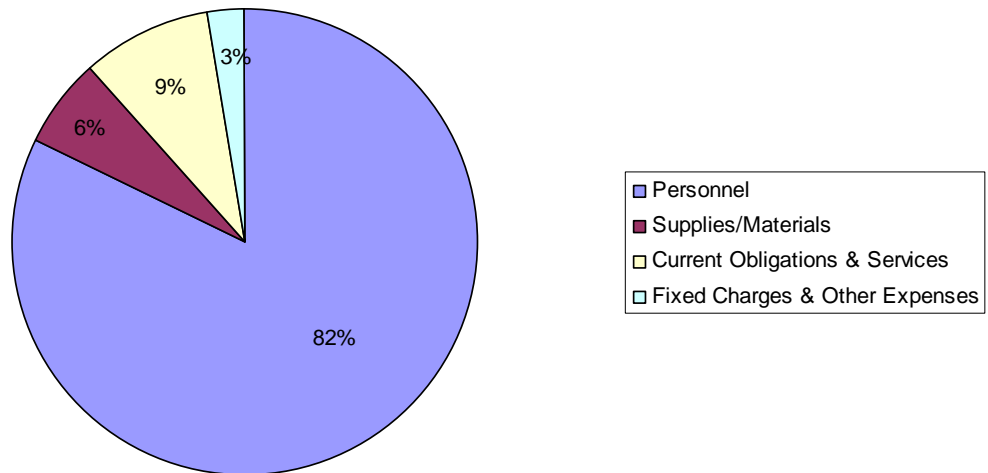
Expenditure Analysis by Club



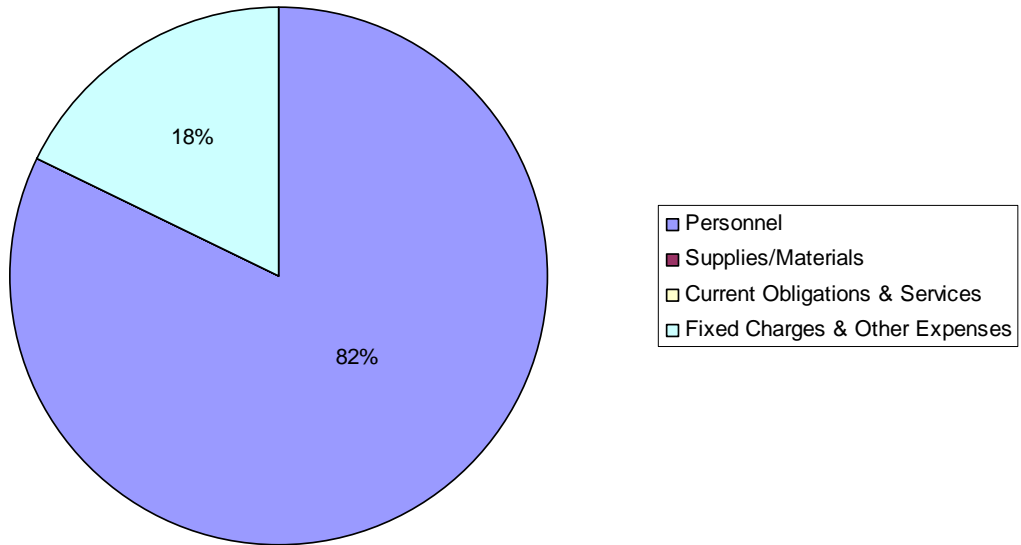
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Beaufort County
2006-07 DJJDP Grant Expenditures**



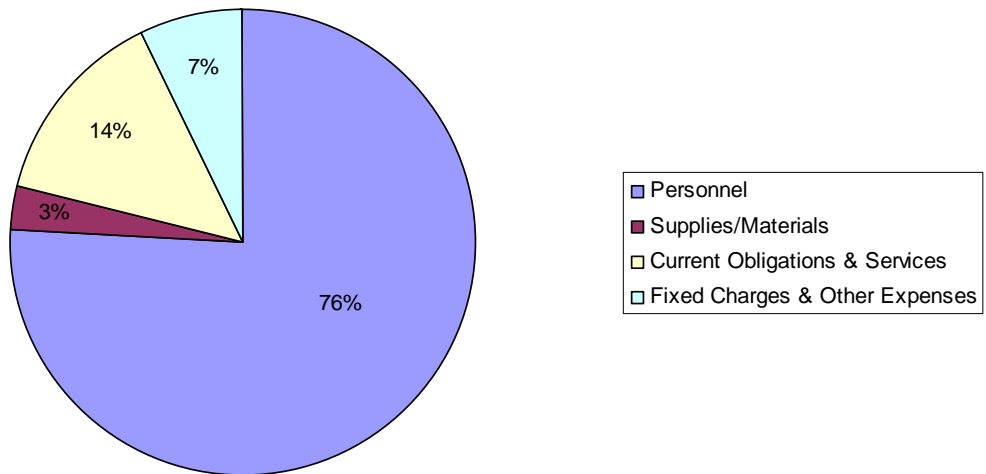
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County
2006-07 DJJDP Grant Expenditures**



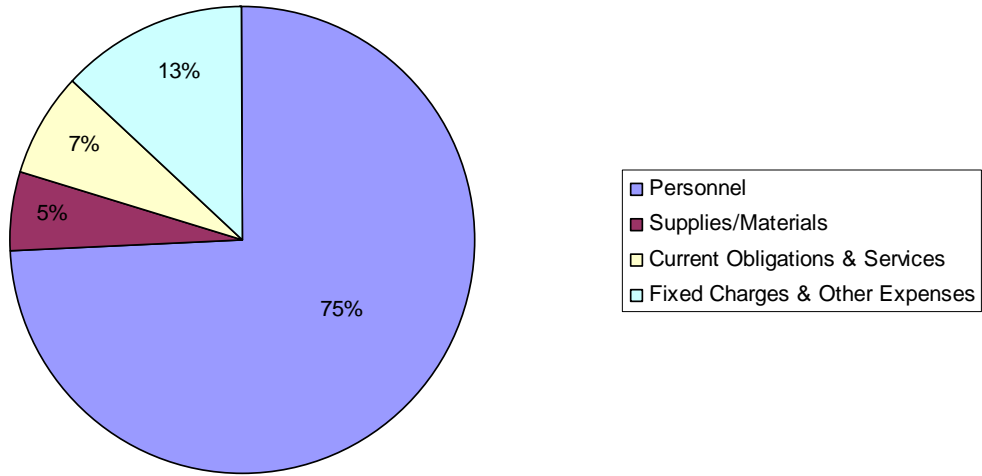
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Nash/Edgecombe Counties
2006-07 DJJDP Grant Expenditures**



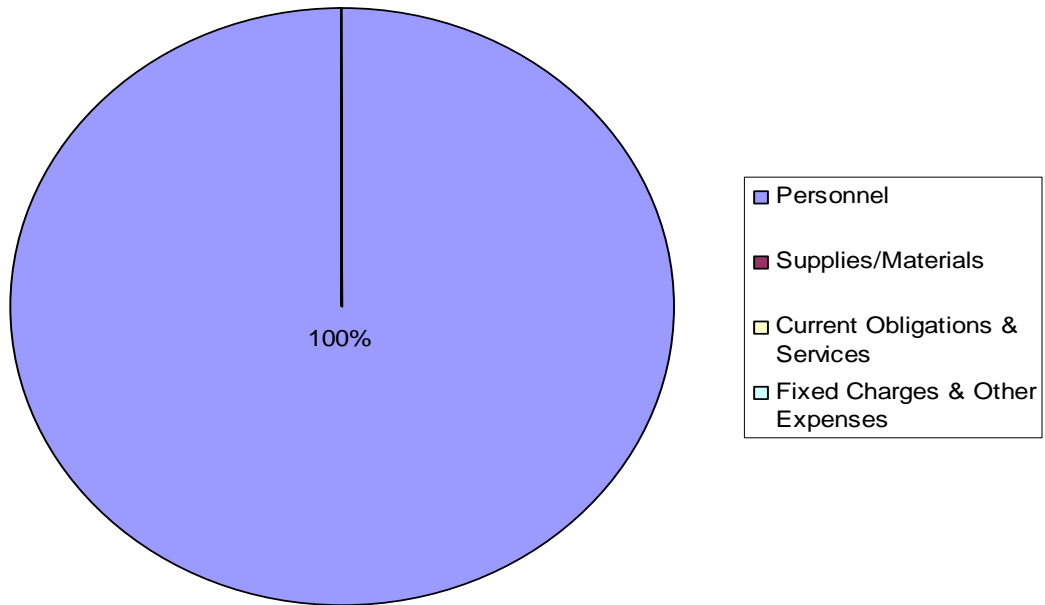
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Halifax County
2006-07 DJJDP Grant Expenditures**



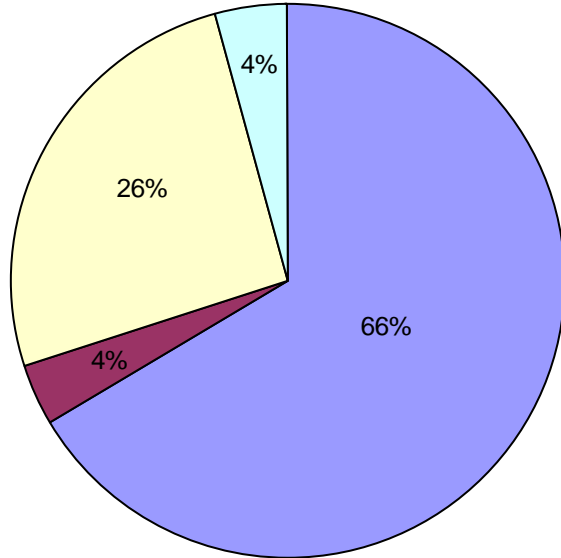
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Sanford/Lee County
2006-07 DJJDP Grant Expenditures**



**Brigade Boys & Girls Clubs (Pender County)
2006-07 DJJDP Grant Expenditures**

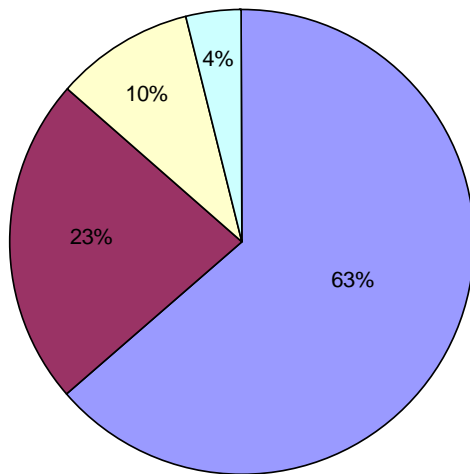


**Boys & Girls Clubs of Wayne County
2006-07 DJJDP Grant Expenditures**



- Personnel
- Supplies/Materials
- Current Obligations & Services
- Fixed Charges & Other Expenses

**The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Wilson
2006-07 DJJDP Grant Expenditures**



- Personnel
- Supplies/Materials
- Current Obligations & Services
- Fixed Charges & Other Expenses

Achievement of the Goals of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act S. L. 1998-202

The Juvenile Justice Reform Act supports change away from the traditional operational processes of Juvenile Justice in North Carolina. Its authors foresaw the need for different outcomes and provided a road map to achieve the envisioned ends. Prominent among the established goals are:

- Creation and operation of programs that meet the needs of juveniles receiving services
- Adoption of rules and regulations that implement the various provisions of the Act
- Development and coordination of comprehensive multidisciplinary services and programs for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, early intervention, and rehabilitation of juveniles
- Collection of data
- Assisting private agencies in the development of juvenile prevention services
- Purchase of services from private agencies
- The development of community based alternatives to YDC Commitment
- Working with communities to provide services and treatment options to meet the physical, emotional, and mental needs of juveniles and families

The Department's evaluation and ongoing experience with the *Boys & Girls Clubs Alliance*, and the individual Clubs funded through the General Assembly's appropriations, continuously validates program compliance with the goals and objectives of the *Juvenile Justice Reform Act*. The funds provided support prevention/intervention activities in high commitment, limited services counties and connect youth, and families, with need to proven helpful assistance while providing service resource aid to the agencies and staffs of the local Juvenile Justice Systems at a very low cost to the taxpayer.

Summary

The dollars provided make Club memberships available to more than 1200 at risk Law Enforcement and Court referred youth. And, while these youth are participating in the Clubs' programs, less than 2% are charged with new offenses and 66% show improvement in both academic performance and school grades. In short, the eight (8) Pilot Boys & Girls Clubs programs reduce delinquency while helping youths mature, contribute, and grow. This appropriation represents dollars well spent!