

WIA Youthful Offender Initiative

See our program website at http://www.doleta.gov/youthful_offender

Analysis

- The Youthful Offender Appropriation funds a variety of projects, some aimed at young adult offenders, others at juvenile offenders, and still others at a combination of juvenile offenders and at-risk youth. Changes in the placement rates over time do not for the most part reflect changes in program effectiveness, but rather changes in the mix of projects and participants being funded at any given time.
- Changes over time in placement rates also reflect whether at a given time there are a higher proportion of newer projects being funded versus a higher proportion of mature projects. Newer projects tend to have lower placement rates than older projects.
- The placement rates of youth offender projects also reflect that these grants primarily have open enrollment policies serving any eligible youth as opposed to selecting only applicants with reading scores above a certain level, or only applicants with certain grades in school, or only applicants who are high school graduates, or only motivated applicants.

Charting Program Performance

Performance Measure	12/31/07	12/31/08
Placement rate for youth ages 18 and above	55%	47%
Recidivism rate for youth ages 14 to 17	N/A	16%
Recidivism rate for youth ages 18 and above	N/A	17%

Note: Accurate recidivism rate data are not available prior to the June 30, 2008 quarter.

Performance in the Past Eight Quarters

Quarter	Placement Rate for Enrollees Ages 18+
12/31/2008	47 %
9/30/2008	48 %
6/30/2008	49 %
3/31/2008	47 %
12/31/2007	48 %
9/30/2007	50 %

Program Description

The Employment and Training Administration uses its Youthful Offender Appropriation to fund a variety of projects aimed at both young offenders and youth at-risk of becoming involved in crime and gangs. Major multi-site projects operated by the National Urban League, Nueva Esperanza, the Latino Coalition, YouthBuild, and the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps have either recently ended or are winding down. New projects involving reducing violence in schools, enhancing alternative schools for youth offenders, and expanding model juvenile offender projects are now getting underway.

Other Program Highlights and Innovations

Last summer, the Department awarded grants to school districts for projects in nine high schools that have been designated by their state board of education as persistently dangerous. Seven of these high schools are located in Philadelphia, one in Baltimore, and one in upstate New York. These schools are going through a year of planning before starting comprehensive new programs at the start of the next school year.