



INCORRIGIBILITY PROJECT

2004 Annual Report

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Incorrigibility Project

The mission of the incorrigibility project is to work toward the development of a system of services for incorrigible youth in Erie County that is accessible, coordinated, effective, and accountable, minimizing the need for formal child welfare or juvenile probation involvement with affected children and families.

According to the Juvenile Act, incorrigibility is defined under “Dependent Child” as a youth who: (6) has committed a specific act or acts of habitual disobedience of the reasonable and lawful commands of his parent, guardian or other custodian and who is ungovernable and found to be in need of care, treatment or supervision.

The Incorrigibility Project set out a strategy as follows: from the current relatively independent, fragmented services available to this population, create a network of services with: a) a single tracking system, b) defined outcomes for each component of the network, c) mechanisms to monitor and document outcomes, d) mechanisms to revise programs when necessary, and e) mechanisms to allocate resources based on outcomes.

A Management Team consisting of Erie County funders directs the Incorrigibility Project. More specifically, representatives from the Erie County Department of Human Services, Erie County Office of Children and Youth, Erie County Juvenile Probation Department, and the School District of the City of Erie provide direction to an Implementation Team composed of program supervisors. The Implementation Team follows through with requests from the Management Teams as well as provides information and recommendations to them.

Over the past year, the Implementation Team has continued to meet regularly to coordinate effective and efficient services for incorrigible youth in Erie County. These efforts have increased and strengthened the collaboration among the individual programs. Seven programs have been identified as serving Erie County incorrigible youth. These include the After School Support Program (ASSP), Alternative Education Program (AEP), Delinquency Prevention

Program (DPP), Families Together, Intensive Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program (IJDPP), Project Intercept, and the Student Assistance Program (SAP). Collaboration taking place within the individual programs has continued to include the following: the Intensive Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program now meets monthly with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth Truancy Department Supervisor in order to coordinate efforts on curbing truancy; the Intensive Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program has also opened their parenting classes up to parents of juveniles on school-based probation; the Alternative Education Program is currently working with not only the Student Assistance Program and Delinquency Prevention Program, but also the After School Support Program on providing a smoother transition for youth who are returning to their home schools; one Alternative Education Program classroom is operating out of the Boys and Girls Club, home of Project Intercept.

The effectiveness of the ongoing collaboration between programs is evidenced in the following report by the low placement rate of juveniles being serviced by these programs.

System Level Interpretation and Evaluation

Data in this report represent those youth who were enrolled between January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004 in all of the programs listed above with the exception of the Student Assistance Program and the Delinquency Prevention Program. The Delinquency Prevention Program is implemented in entire elementary grades and is not specifically targeting high-risk youth. Similarly the Student Assistance Program services a youth with a variety of concerns that may or may not include incorrigible behavior.

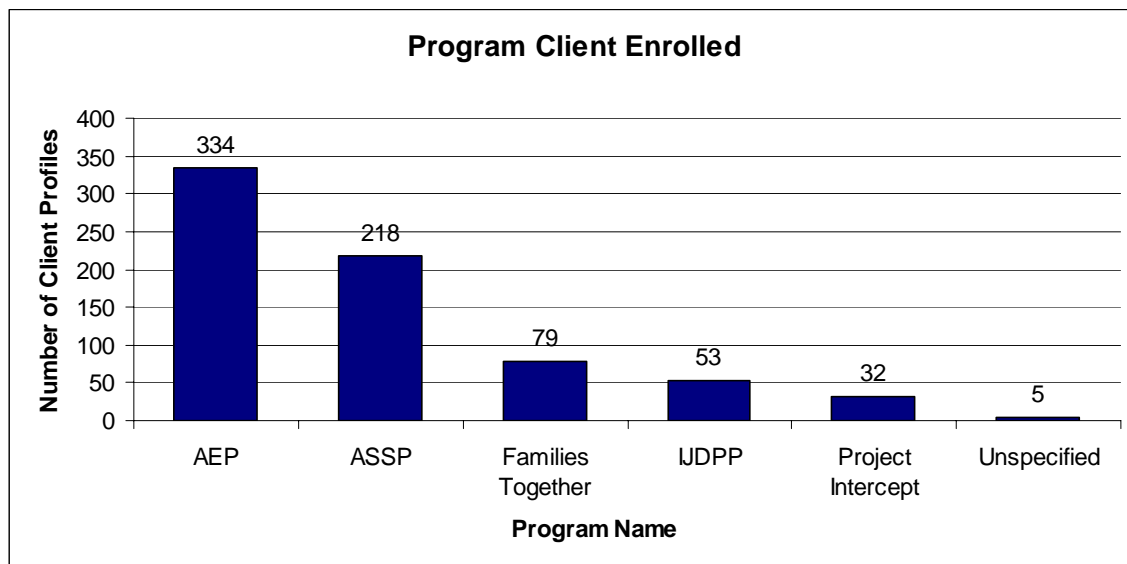
The methodology used in this research project was quantitative analysis of data collected through surveys or “client profiles.” A client profile, consisting of 11 questions, was completed by program staff for each client accepted into their program and then forwarded to a researcher who entered the data into the database that was started in 2000.

Section I: Client Data for July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

Program Involvement

In the first section, descriptive information from the client profile forms is presented pertaining to the youth that were served within the constellation of incorrigibility programs from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004 (N=721). Of the client profiles completed for those clients enrolled in incorrigibility programming, 30% were identified as being enrolled in the After School Support Program, 46% were enrolled in the Alternative Education Program, 11% enrolled in the Families Together Program, 7% in the Intensive Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program, and 4% in Project Intercept (see Figure 1). The numbers for program involvement are reflective of new intakes and are not reflective of total client enrollment for each program, as many programs have clients enrolled over the course of more than one year.

Figure 1:



Clients of the incorrigibility programs are referred by other sources. Forty-seven percent of clients were referred by their schools, while 22% were referred by the Northwest County Intermediate Unit (IU) and 12% were referred by the Erie County Office of Children and Youth. The Alternative Education Program utilizes the school as their primary referral source while the After School Support Program frequently obtains referrals from the IU, and Families Together from OCY, which is reflected by the higher level of referrals recorded by these three sources. All other referral sources were widely varied.

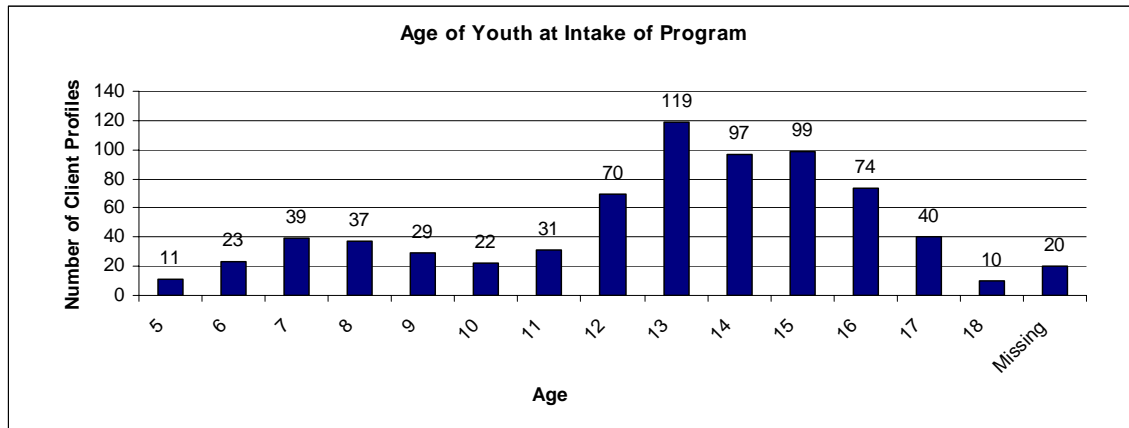
CIRCLE, a centralized intake, tracking, and referral service for youth, was implemented in 2001 and accounted for one percent of referrals to incorrigibility programs as identified by client profiles. CIRCLE, however, serviced 310 calls during 2004, providing referrals to any of the incorrigibility programs (callers can receive more than one referral depending on each individual

caller's needs). It is the responsibility of the parent/guardians to follow through with initiating contact with the services recommended through CIRCLE.

Client Demographics

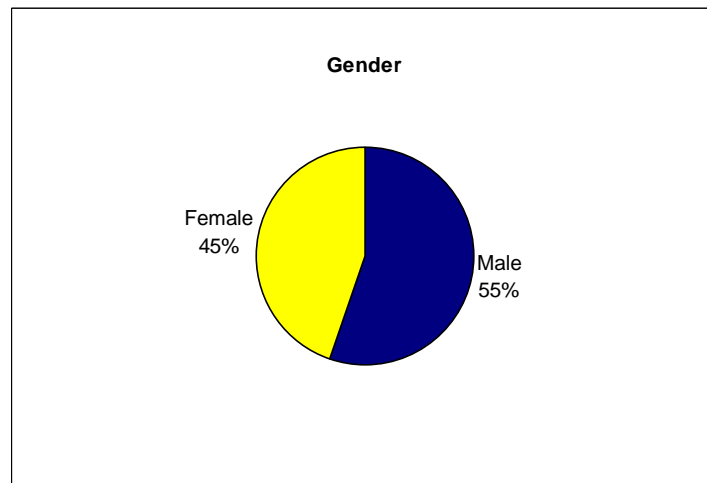
The age range of the typical incorrigible client varies; however, thirteen year olds account for the largest population at 17%, followed by fourteen and fifteen year olds both at 14% accounting for nearly 25% of the total client population (see Figure 2).

Figure 2.



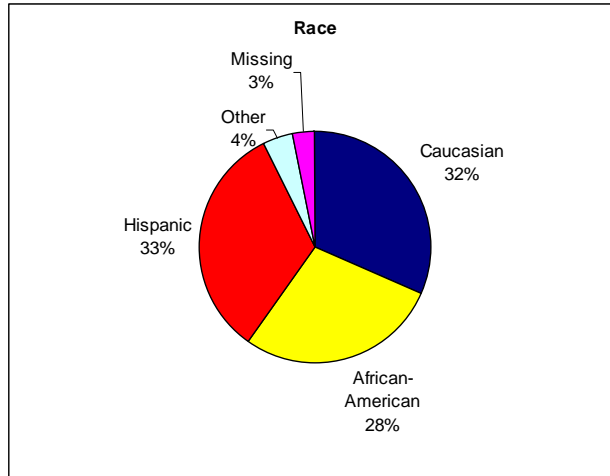
There are slightly more males (55%) being served by the constellation of incorrigibility services than are females (45%) (See Figure 3).

Figure 3.



Caucasian youth represent 32% of the entire enrolled population, African-American youth represent an additional 28%, and Hispanic youth make up 33% of those enrolled (see Figure 4). Due to the After School Support Program primarily accepting migrant students, this sample is not universally reflective of all programs.

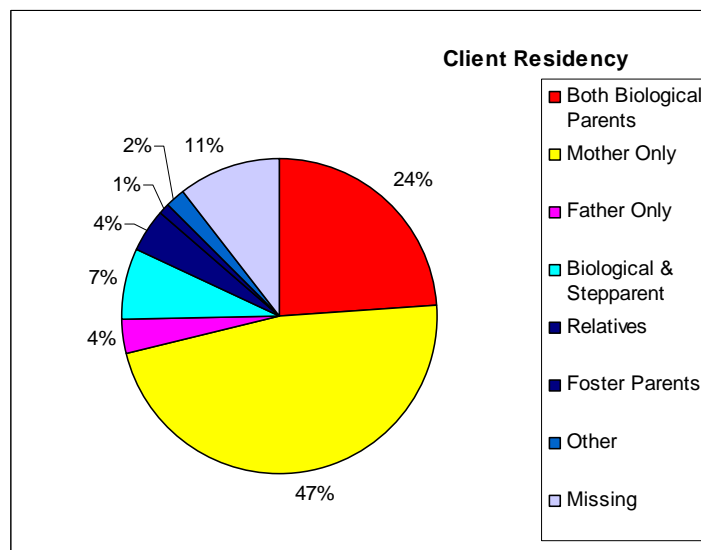
Figure 4.



Multiple Risk Factors

Many of the youth being served in the spectrum of incorrigibility services face difficult situations. In the analysis, 47% reside with their mothers only while only 4% reside with their fathers only. Twenty-four percent were reported to reside with both biological parents while 7% were identified as residing with a biological parent and stepparent. Four percent were reportedly residing with relatives (see Figure 5). The low percentage of youth living in two parent households may, according to much of the research, indicate family stress and disruption that often translates into greater risk of delinquent behaviors, school failure, or alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

Figure 5.



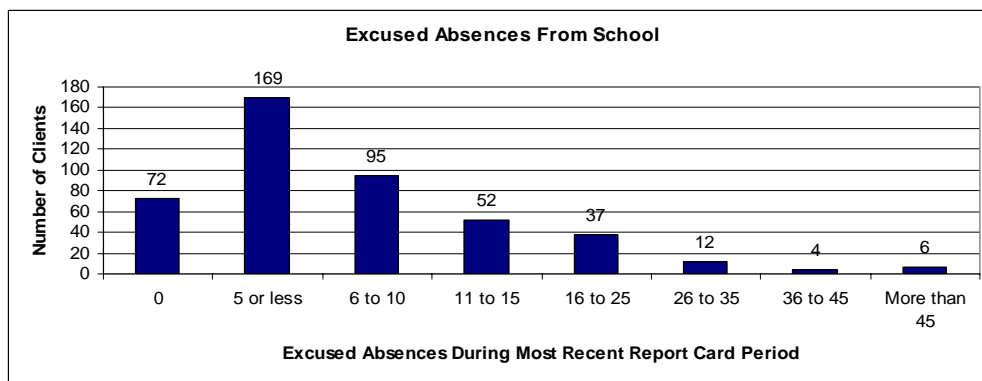
Educational Status

The majority of incorrigibility clients were enrolled in a regular educational placement curriculum. Sixty-five percent are enrolled in regular educational placement; 26% are enrolled in a special education program; and 9% of educational enrollment was missing.

The number of excused days absent from school, the number of days unexcused from school, and grade point averages continue to be difficult to obtain. Thirty-seven percent of client absences, 43% of client unexcused absences, and 66% of client grade point averages were not reported.

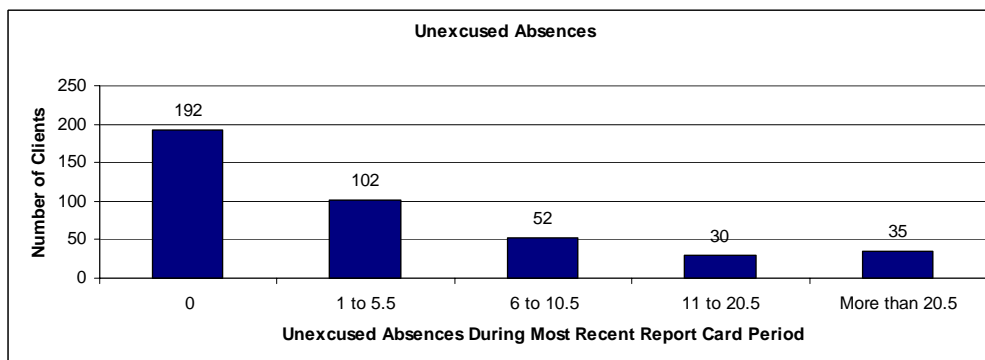
Based on available data for excused absences, 16% of clients were absent zero days during their most recent report card period (see Figure 6). Thirty-eight percent of clients were absent between one to five days, which was the most common category of client absences among the entire reporting client population. Roughly 21% were reported to have been absent six to ten days, and 12% reported between 11 and 25 absences. Roughly 5% of clients were reported to have missed more than 25 days.

Figure 6.



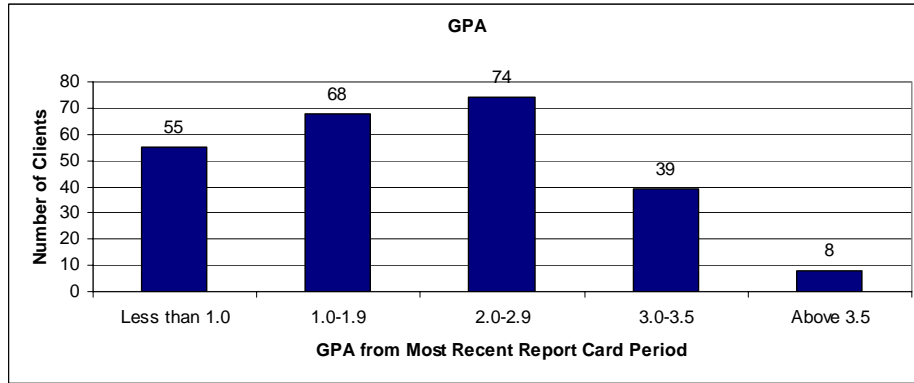
Data of unexcused absences revealed that of those reporting, 47% of youth did not report an unexcused absence during their most recent report card period (see Figure 7). However, roughly 25% of clients had between one and five unexcused absences, 13% reported between six and ten unexcused absences, 7% reported between 11 and 20 unexcused absences, and 9% reported over 20 unexcused absences.

Figure 7.



Thirty percent of clients reported having a grade point average (GPA) between 2.0 and 2.9, representing the most common GPA range (see Figure 7). This was followed by 28% reporting between a 1.0 and 1.9. Twenty-three percent of clients had below a 1.0 while 5% had above a 3.0.

Figure 8.



Involvement with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth and the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department

At the time the client profile surveys were completed, five percent of the youth involved in the incorrigibility programs were reported to be involved with the Erie County Office of Children and 6% were reported to be involved with the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department.

Section II: Data of Clients Placed

The second section presents data pertaining to client profiles completed for the youth who have been served within the constellation of incorrigibility programs beginning January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2004 who have been placed by Erie County Juvenile Probation or the Erie County Office of Children and Youth following incorrigibility program entry (N=389).

Evaluation of juvenile probation and child welfare placements beginning January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2004 revealed that of the 3,872 client profiles completed at intake of incorrigibility programs, 390 (10%) had been placed following program enrollment (see Figure 9). Sixty-five youth had been placed two times, 13 placed three times, and two had been placed four times. Those 390 client profile placements; however, can be attributed to 293 unduplicated youth.

Figure 9.



Of those youth served by incorrigibility programs that have been placed, 65% were enrolled in the Alternative Education Program. The Alternative Education Program is unique from other incorrigibility initiatives in that the program receives referrals from school districts and participation is not voluntary. Twelve percent of clients placed had been enrolled in IJDPP, 8% in the Families Together Program, 9% in ASSP, and 5% in Project Intercept.

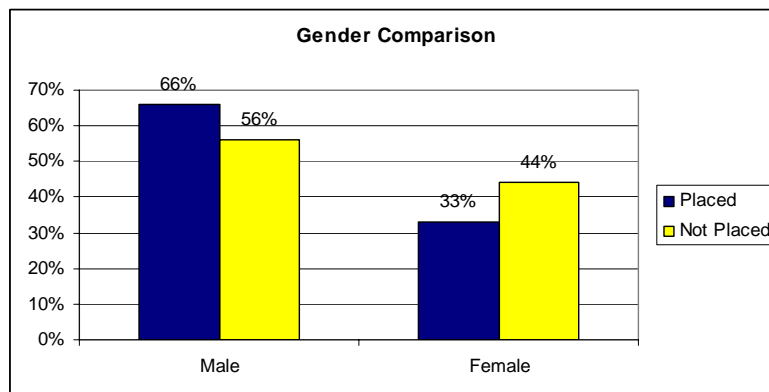
Section III: Comparison of Clients Placed and Total Clients Served

Demographic Comparison

The third section offers a comparison between those youth who have been served by incorrigibility programming and have been maintained in the community/home and those youth who have been served by incorrigibility programming and have been placed through the Erie County Office of Children and Youth or Erie County Juvenile Probation.

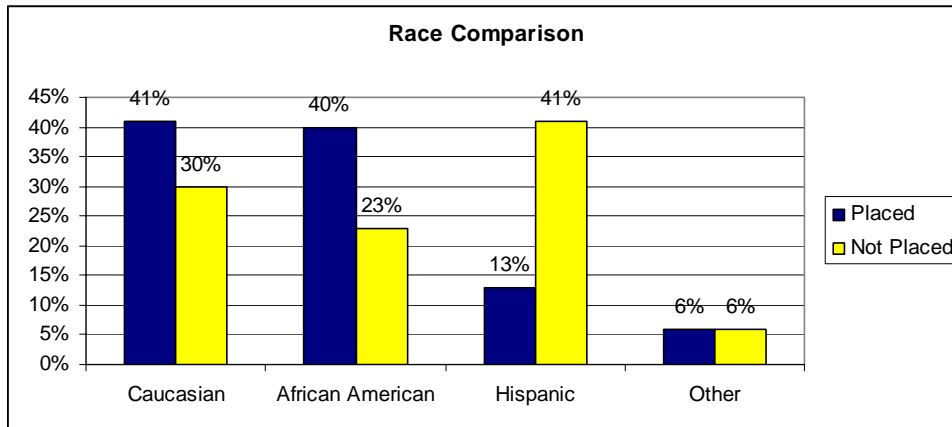
The percentage of males is slightly higher for clients who were placed than for the general client population (see Figure 10).

Figure 10.



Caucasian and African American clients are placed at rates greater than their proportion of the total population served while Hispanic clients, representing roughly 33% of the total population served only account for 13% of clients placed (see Figure 11).

Figure 11.



Education Status Comparison

The number of absences, number of unexcused absences, and grade point averages of clients has not been consistently reported since the beginning of data collection. Thirty-seven percent of client absences, 43% of client unexcused absences, and 66% of client grade point averages were not reported. Therefore, due to the significant amount of missing data, the following findings should be interpreted with great caution.

Based on available data, clients who do not miss school are much less likely to be placed than others (see Figures 12 & 13). Clients who had been placed had a higher percentage of GPAs below 1.0 than the general client population (see Figure 14). In addition, clients placed are more likely to be in special education (see Figure 15). These findings are consistent with reports from previous years.

Figure 13.

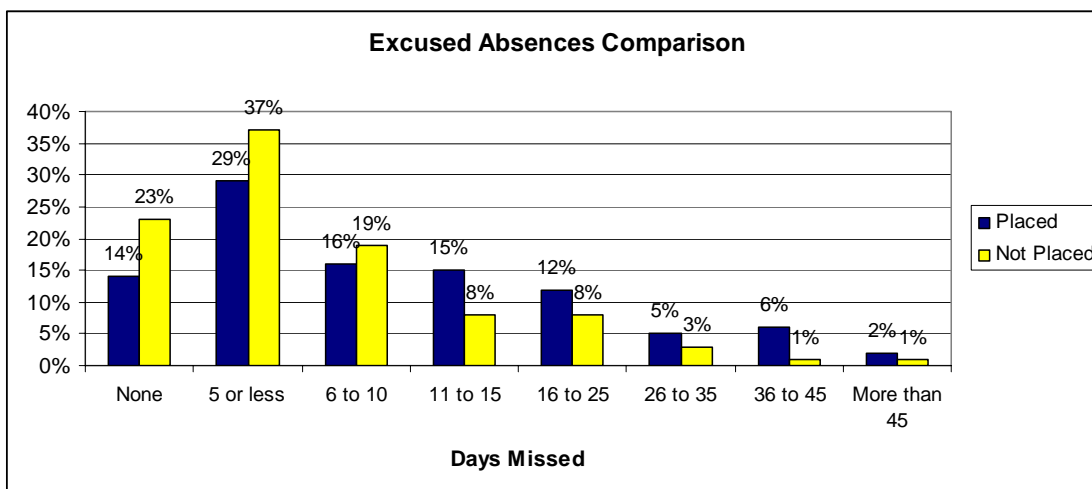


Figure 14.

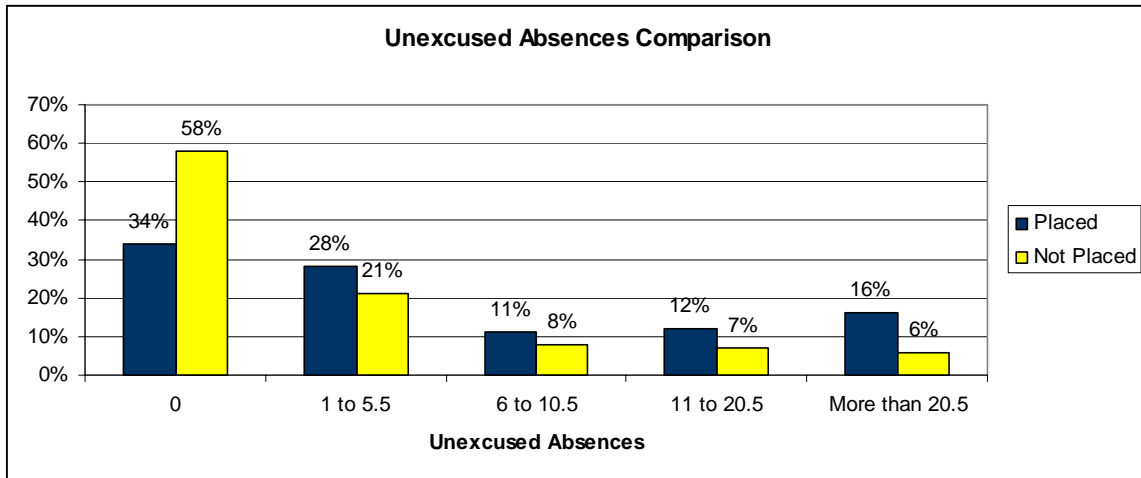


Figure 15.

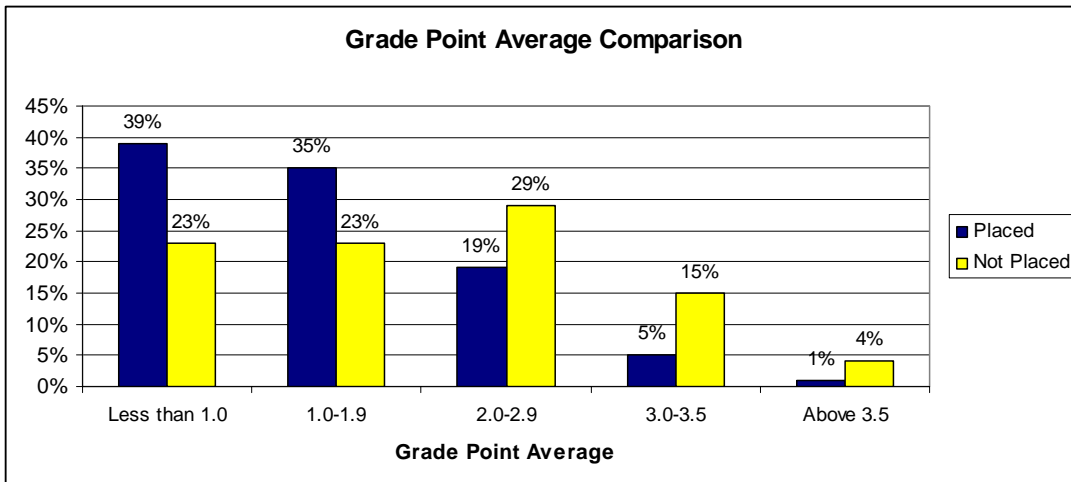
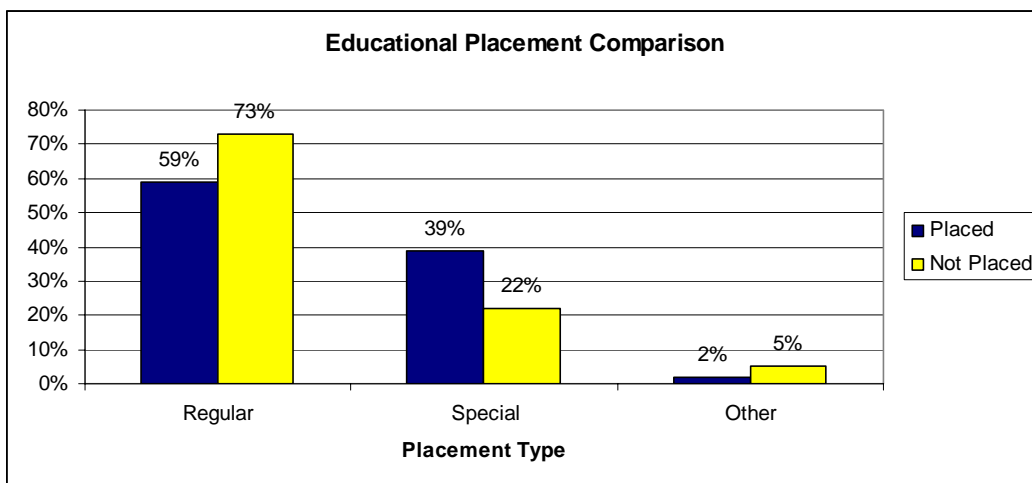


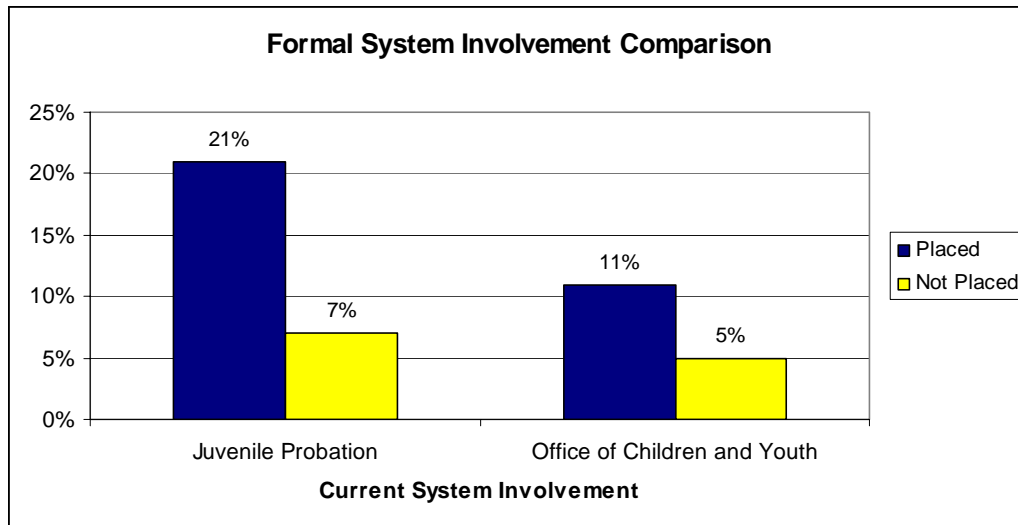
Figure 16.



Involved with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth and the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department Comparison

Comparing client involvement with Juvenile Probation and Child Welfare, the percentage of placed clients involved with Juvenile Probation and Child Welfare at the time of incorrigibility program intake was slightly higher than that of the general client population, especially relative to Juvenile Probation involvement; however, the majority of clients placed and not placed clients did not have current involvement in either system at the time of acceptance into their respective incorrigibility program (see Figure 17).

Figure 17.



Section IV: Individual Program Outcome Summary

Due to the individual nature of many of the incorrigibility programs, program supervisors were requested to revise and submit updated logic models reflecting the individualized goals of each of the programs in 2003. The outcomes identified by these logic models were to be tracked by each program starting July 1, 2003. Of those programs that submitted individualized program outcomes, those findings are highlighted below.

Project Intercept

Project Intercept identified the average length of enrollment for a client in the program is approximately seven and a half months. Of the 88 clients served during from July 2003- June 2004, the 2002-2003 school year, 92% of clients achieved the goal of maintaining a daily school attendance of at least 97%. In addition, 99% of clients were promoted to the next grade level for the following school year. Finally 99% of Project Intercept participants did not require residential placement.

Erie City School District Student Assistance Program (SAP)

According to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) end of the year report for the 2004-2005 school year, SAP received 1,537 referrals. Eight hundred and seventy five students were referred by SAP Teams to Mental Health Specialists. The total number of direct service hours to

students, individually and in groups, was 3,251.75 hours. Over a 12 month period, 13,587 clients were seen by mental health specialists in all school levels.

After School Support Program

According to the ASSP/STARS End of Year Report for the 2004 – 2005 school year, 232 students were referred to the program. Of those 232, 212 (92%) were migrant students and 62 (27%) were known to the Erie County Office of Children and Youth. According to the eligibility checklist, 75% of participants were from low income families, 50% had a prior history of delinquent behaviors, and 31% had poor academic achievement. Two hundred and ten (91%) students were reported to have completed the program. The following chart illustrates the overall outcomes documented by the program (see Figure 18).

Figure 18.

Skill Area	Pre-Test Average Score	Post-Test Average Score	Outcome
Language Art Skills (reading/writing)	2.4	3.0	25% Increase
English Language Proficiency	2.7	3.3	22% Increase
Written Language Proficiency	2.4	3.1	29% Increase
Math Skills	2.7	3.4	26% Increase
School Attendance	3.7	4.1	11% Increase
Homework Completion	3.2	3.8	19% Increase
Social Skills	3.0	3.7	23% Increase
Conflict Resolution Skills	2.9	3.5	21% Increase
Follow Directions	3.0	3.6	20% Increase
Overall Academic Rating	2.7	3.4	26% Increase
Overall Behavior Rating	3.2	3.7	16% Increase
OVERALL AVERAGE	2.9	3.5	21% Increase

Section V: Looking Ahead

Completion and submission of client profiles of youth involved in the incorrigibility spectrum will continue to be an ongoing data collection process. For the upcoming year, the goal will be to continue to strive for completed data for all clients from all of the incorrigibility initiatives. In addition, emphasis will be placed on tracking individual program outcomes as identified through each program's logic models.