

Table 3c. Impacts of Programs for Older Youths on Social and Emotional Well-Being and Best Bets for Promising Programs

YOUTH OUTCOMES	EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATIONS*			NON-EXPERIMENTAL FINDINGS
	PROGRAMS FOR OLDER YOUTHS WORK	PROGRAMS FOR OLDER YOUTHS DON'T WORK	MIXED REVIEWS	"BEST BETS"
Delinquent behaviors	<p>In comparison to control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program participants report significantly fewer convictions and violations of probation (.10 and .06 convictions vs. .27).^{NHV2} Impacts are greatest for children of unmarried, low SES mothers.^{NHV2} Program participants are less likely to spend time in jail (21 percent vs. 24 percent).^{JC2} 		<p>In comparison to control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program participants report fewer convictions for a crime (22 percent vs. 25 percent).^{JC2} Program participants show no difference in average number of weeks in jail.^{JC2} 	
Arrest rate, short-term	<p>In comparison to control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants have lower arrest rates in the first year after assignment to the program.^{JC1, JS2} Results are particularly strong for young men without prior arrest records.^{JS2} Impacts are greatest for older participants.^{JC1} Program effects are greatest for 16- and 17-year-olds (38 vs. 41 percent).^{JC2} Program participants are less likely to be arrested (12 percent vs. 17 percent).^{YC} 			

* Program symbols: ASTP Alcohol Skills Training Program JTPA Job Training Partnership Act SADP School Attendance Demonstration Project
 AC AmeriCorps NC New Chance SBCU Skill-Based Intervention on Condom Use
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 JS JOBSTART LEAP Ohio Learning, Earning, and Parenting Program YC Youth Corps

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Arrest rate, long-term	<p>In comparison to control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program participants report significantly fewer arrests (.17 and .16 arrests vs. .36 arrests).^{NHV2} Program participants show lower arrest rates by 16 percent over 48-month follow-up period.^{JC2} 	<p>In comparison to control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants show no significant impact 21 and 36 months after assignment to the program.^{JTPA} Male youths without a prior arrest record show increased arrest rates at both follow-ups.^{JTPA} Program participants (high school dropouts) exhibit no difference in the "ever arrested" outcome in years 2, 3 and 4 after the program ended.^{JS2} 		
Social supports	<p>In comparison to control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program participants report greater help assessing services and supports (as measured by the HOME scale) in the following areas: transportation (48 percent vs. 16 percent), clothing (17 percent vs. 5 percent), baby clothing and diapers (26 percent vs. 9 percent), baby furniture and toys (22 percent vs. 4 percent), and health care (45 percent vs. 30 percent).^{NHV3} Female participants report an increase in social support, as measured by the Norbeck Social Support Questionnaire (NSSQ).^{NHV3} Female participants experience a significant increase in the number of people in their support network.^{NHV3} Program participants use more services.^{JS2} 	<p>In comparison to children of control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children of program participants exhibit no impact on the physical home environment, as measured by the HOME scale.^{TPD2} 		

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Positive relationships with peers and adults				Participants in a program whose primary focus is community service show greater gains than control group in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communication life skills (.56 vs. .001 gains in score on the Life Skill Inventory).^{AC} interpersonal life skills (.51 vs. .001 gains in score on the Life Skill Inventory).^{AC}
Parenting skills	In comparison to control group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program participants report more emotional support, as measured by the HOME scale, at the 18-month follow-up.^{NC1} Program participants report less dislike of the parenting role, as measured by the Parenting Stress Scale, at the 18-month follow-up.^{NC1} Program participants report less parenting stress, as measured by the Parenting Stress Scale, at the 42-month follow-up.^{NC1} 	In comparison to control group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program participants show no difference at the 18-month follow-up on parenting stress^{NC1} or the 42-month follow-up on emotional support.^{NC1} Program participants report more aggravation with their children, as measured by the Parenting Stress Scale, at the 42-month follow-up.^{NC1} 		
Parent-child closeness	In comparison to control group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program participants have higher scores on mother-infant interaction as measured by two observer rating procedures (100 and 99).^{NHV4} 			

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Child development outcomes	<p>In comparison to children of control group, children of program participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibit significantly less emotional vulnerability to fear stimuli (16 percent vs. 25 percent).^{NHV4} Exhibit less emotional response to anger stimuli (19 percent vs. 28 percent).^{NHV4} Are less likely to have language delays (6 percent vs. 11 percent).^{NHV4} Have higher levels of language development at 21 months as measured by the Preschool Language Scale (score of 102 vs. 99).^{NHV4} Have slightly higher levels of mental development at 24 months as measured by the Mental Development Index (scores of 90 vs. 89).^{NHV4} 	<p>In comparison to children of control group, children of program participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have similar scores on the Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) scale at the 42-month follow-up.^{NC1} Have similar scores on cognitive development as measured by the School Readiness Component of the Bracken Basic Concept Scale.^{NC1} Are rated by their mothers as having more behavior problems as measured by the Behavior Problem Index (110 vs. 109) and exhibiting less positive behavior as measured by the Positive Behavior Scale (192 vs. 197). Findings are similar for black and for male children of participants; among Hispanics, children of program participants score lower on the Bracken Basic Concept Scale.^{NC1} 	<p>In comparison to children nationally, children of program participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score one deviation lower (15 points) on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, revised edition (PPVT-R), a difference that is not significant.^{TPD2} Score slightly higher on measures of problem behaviors.^{TPD2} Show no significant differences on child reports of effort in school and parental encouragement with regard to school.^{TPD2} Show no significant differences in regard to parents' reports of children's academic behavior.^{TPD2} 	
Self-esteem		No differences appear between program participants and control group on measures of self-esteem. ^{NHV3}		
Planning ahead and time management				Participants in a program whose primary focus is community service show greater gains than control group in understanding organizational systems life skills (.46 vs. .0002 gains in scores on the Life Skills Inventory). ^{AC}

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Voting			In comparison to counterparts in control group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male African American program participants are more likely to have voted in the last election (22 percent vs. 4 percent).^{YC} 	
Social responsibility			In comparison to counterparts in control group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male African American program participants score higher on measures of personal and social responsibility (50 vs. 47).^{YC} 	
Volunteering			In comparison to counterparts in control group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male African American program participants score higher on measures of community involvement (17 vs. 16).^{YC} 	99 percent of participants in a program whose primary focus is community service plan to continue community service after the program ends. ^{AC}

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