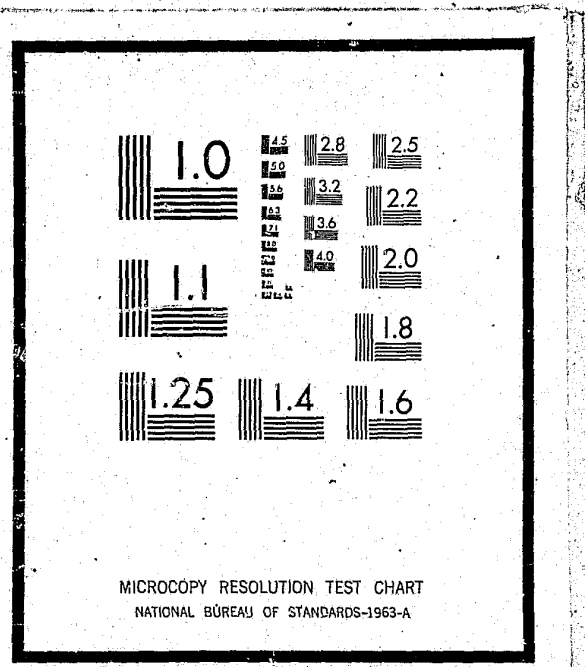


NCJRS

JUL 31 1975

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed

11/6/75

Philadelphia -
 North Central Youth Academy -
 PH-246-74A

(Note: 'FINAL EVALUATION REPORT' is circled in the original image)

Evaluation Completed By:
Educational Management Associates
801 Penn Square Building
1317 Filbert Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
(215) LO 9-1020

27056

Evaluation

The North Central Youth Academy is an adjunct to NETWORK which provides counseling and referral services to youths in North Central Philadelphia. The offices of the NCYA are located at 2318 West Columbia Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

The major activities of the program are the recruitment of gang affiliated youths into the activities of the program which include individual counseling and referral to one or more social service agencies. Major program and referral areas are education and employment. More than 300 referrals to a variety of agencies were made this year. With over 150 referrals for employment NCYA has been able to make over 50% successful placements, mainly through the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

Follow up on Refunding Report Recommendations.

The Academy suffered from a hiatus in leadership in February and March 1975. As a consequence, a considerable part of the time was spent in re-establishing administrative procedures and reviewing operating policy. The suggested goal of 500 referrals and 250 placements was not achieved by June 1975 but has been exceeded in July with additional Neighborhood Youth Corps placements which were made after the close of public school.

The review of client files which was recommended has been completed. New forms for record keeping have been developed and youth workers are continuing to up-date their records. Follow-up procedures have been instituted where a client has not been in contact with the Academy for more than two months.

Coachworkers and counselors have been directed to use the appropriate program identification in making referrals and the new Project Director has instituted a visitation program to referral agencies to apprise them of the services of the Academy. These activities should improve the level of project identification.

The NCYA will establish interim project goals coincident with the Quarterly reporting period for intermediate range progress assessment.

The project Director has initiated contacts with the Philadelphia Police with respect to data collection for impact measures related to crime statistics. At the present time, progress is uncertain and no specific measures have been established.

Additional Evaluation Activities.

As a follow up to the earlier survey of agency personnel, a survey of community residents and businessmen was undertaken with the assistance of NCYA personnel. A cluster sampling design was used. The twenty clusters coincided roughly with the fourteen gang corner areas where the NCYA staff are assigned plus six other areas of residential and business concentration within the project area. A judgement sample of twenty five was selected from each cluster interviewing roughly every tenth household along each street front in each cluster. From the total of 500 potential respondents, usable responses were received from 440. A summary of the results follows.

Comments on Methodology,

The community survey of the NCYA community yielded 440 completed questionnaires. The total number of responses for each item varied considerably from this number. Where the item totals were less than 440, this can be attributed to incomplete responses. Where the item totals are more than 440 errors in tabulation are most probable.

Given these variations the data was treated in several different ways. Where item totals were less than 440, the data were analyzed as tabulated except that one item, #IV, 4 ("The program could be better organized to achieve its objectives") was omitted in that the N of 189 was too discrepant for an assumption of reliability.

Where item totals were in excess of 440, two methods were used. Where the discrepancy was relatively small (around 10%), the data was smoothed by subtracting the difference between 440 and the higher figure from the response category with the highest frequency.* This was done in items II, 1 ("I have all the information I want about this program"); II, 6, ("I think that the physical resources (building and supplies) of this program are adequate"); and III, 1 ("This program meets my needs and/or those of my family.").

Where the data indicated an item total in excess of 10% of the base of 440 those items were omitted from the data analysis. Two items were so omitted: IV, 3 ("There are other programs in our community which serve the same purpose") and one of the demographic items concerning employment.

FINDINGSSection I: Attitude About Community & Section V. Demographic Data:

The respondents were primarily female (71%) apartment dwellers. They appear to be rooted in the community in that only 29% considered the possibility of moving out of the community. Crime is clearly a concern of these respondents, in that 14% report having been a victim of a crime within the past three months.

In light of the 1974 LEAA nationwide survey on underreporting of crimes one notes that only 18% reported the crimes to the police. This accords well with the LEAA findings in Philadelphia where the survey estimated a nonreport figure 4-5 times the actual incidence of crime.

When queried as to whom they attributed these crimes to the respondents overwhelmingly selected young adults (age 19-20) and gang members as the most likely. They were unanimous in selecting males as the criminals and considered drug problems to be involved in most cases.

*In no such case was the outcome with respect to the question response affected significantly (i.e. the conclusions with respect to the item did not change as a consequence of this adjustment).

In summary, then, this group of community residents are troubled by crime and target 19-20 year old drug-involved males as the likely group. They experience crime personally, don't bother to report it and, for one reason or another, see themselves as stable members of the community - not likely to change residence to another neighborhood.

Section II Recognition:

All six items in this section revealed a remarkably high level of agreements among the 440 respondents. They felt well informed about the program (77%), believed that it received governmental support from the city (78%), felt that most of their neighbors knew about the program (75%) and thought that staff members were effective (73%).

The same unanimity prevailed around two other items; 67.5% did not know if the Philadelphia police department supported NCYA and 77% did not know whether or not the physical resources were adequate.

One can conclude that the program is known, at least within the frame of reference of the respondents and that this knowledge is a community property. The program is seen as receiving official support although the respondents can not commit themselves as to police involvement. Surely this response is consistent with the previous underreporting of crimes - inasmuch as it indicates a distance between residents and police.

In this crime-troubled community the staff members of NCYA are seen as being effective in roles which have as one purpose the reduction of criminal behavior in the community.

Section III. Project Impact:

Two patterns emerge in the responses to the five items in this section. On the one hand the program is seen as meeting the needs of respondents (82.5%) and in reducing crime in the area (76.5%). At the same time, items which ask for evaluation of respondent-staff member contact indicate a lower level of positive response. Only 61% indicated that they thought staff members were helpful and 59.5% felt that if they called on a staff member for help they would get it.

If we refer back to Section II of the survey, we note that 77% of the respondents didn't know about the physical resources of the program. It may well be that the positive regard residents have for this program is not necessarily based on face-to-face contact with staff members but rather on the residents own estimate of neighborhood impact of a program as such.

That is, respondents apparently were not acquainted with the headquarters of NCYA and not necessarily thoroughly informed about its operations. The effect of these operations however, were seen by the respondents as essentially positive.

Section IV. Evaluation.

Analysis is limited here in that two of five items are omitted because of discrepant item response totals. However, of the 3 items remaining the pattern of positive regard for the program continues. A hearty 79.5% feel the program reduces crime and 71% disagree that the program is not needed in the community. 71% think the program has all the resources it needs to achieve its objectives.

The last item is not clear - one supposes it means that the respondents feel that the program, which is clearly satisfactory to them is doing all right and there is no need for anything more. However one would suspect, on the other hand, that respondents would want more resources for a good program. One suspects some ambiguity in respondents to this item.

Survey Conclusions,

The neighborhood in which NCYA operates appears to be appropriate for its objectives. Respondents have first-hand experience with crime and are concerned about young people as the person responsible for criminal behavior.

The findings clearly indicate that respondents see NCYA as a valuable resource in reducing crime in their neighborhood. Given the distance between respondents and the police department this resource is probably even more highly valued.

It would appear that NCYA has been effective in making its presence known in the community although respondents may lack some information about its actual operations and structure.

Overall the findings indicate a remarkably positive attitude towards the NCYA program. The somewhat less positive attitude towards staff members as interpersonally experienced is puzzling. It may well be that, whatever the contacts with staff may be, respondents see the effect of their efforts as valuable. That is the persons and the program are seen as separate - which is reasonable.

Whether the fact that most respondents were female introduced any particular bias is moot. It is not known if this reflects actual male-female distribution in the neighborhood or is an artifact of the survey method. The strikingly high agreement among respondents, however, gives confidence in the findings, even when this factor is considered.

Conclusions and Recommendations.

As confirmed by the survey results, it is our opinion that this project is an appropriate means for addressing the problems of crime in this North Philadelphia community. Although it has not been possible to date, to obtain an accurate quantitative measure of project impact it is important to note that subjectively, people within the community perceive that this program is effective in reducing crime and is addressing itself to a priority area (i.e., gang affiliated youth).

The survey results also tend to confirm observations made about the program last year, as well as this, to the effect that additional effort is needed to make known the details of the program. This would include more face-to-face contact with local residents, community leaders, and agency officers, at the project headquarters. While it is recognized that such an effort will divert some energy from working with gang youth, it is possible that the project staff may have overlooked the importance of the constituency made up of adults and some effort should be made in reaching this group more directly. Descriptive literature and/or open house type activities are suggested possibilities.

Continuation of effort in clearing the files and keeping accurate records for reporting purposes is urged. A copy of the project's quarterly reports should be provided to the evaluator routinely.

Interim project goals which coincide with quarterly reporting dates should be established, with the assistance of the evaluator, not later than September 15th, 1975.

END