

Survey of Programs of Youth-serving Agencies in Marion County

2008

Marion County Early Intervention Planning Council

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This document reports the results of a survey of youth-serving programs in Marion County. The survey was developed, implemented, and analyzed under contract by Dr. Eric R. Wright and staff at the Indiana University Center for Health Policy, 334 N. Senate Ave., Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46204. This report would not have been possible without the efforts of Lynette Kouns who oversaw the survey collection. An electronic copy of this document is available at <http://www.policyinstitute.iu.edu/health/projectDetail.aspx?ProjectID=4339>.

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Executive Summary

This report documents the findings of a survey of youth-serving (individuals under the age of 25) programs in Marion County commissioned by the Early Intervention Planning Council (EIPC) of the City-County Council of Indianapolis and Marion County. The survey is a follow up to the agency survey and seeks to gather further information on the programs that the agencies administer. This information will be included in a directory of youth-serving agencies and programs. This directory will facilitate the location of relevant programs by those seeking services and those working to coordinate care, research, and funding of youth-serving programs.

Information was collected on youth-serving programs including details on the amount and source of their revenues, the number of employees (adult and youth) and volunteers, the programs offered by each agency, and the respondents' perceptions of their own programs.

Introduction

The Early Intervention Planning Council (EIPC) was appointed by the City-County Council of the city of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana, in May 2006, to develop a comprehensive plan for early intervention that will provide services tailored to the needs of children who have been either adjudicated or delinquent, and children and adolescents who have been identified by the Office of Family and Children as substantially at risk of becoming delinquent children, or have been referred to the Marion County Office of Family and Children Services. As outlined in City-County General Ordinance No. 70, 2005, the EIPC is chaired by the director of the Marion County Office for Family and Children and includes representatives of the major child-serving systems as well as other organizations serving children, youth, and their families. For the purposes of this report, youth includes anyone under 25 years of age. Under the City-Academic Partnership agreement between the City-County Council and Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Professor Eric R. Wright and staff at the Center for Health Policy at IUPUI provided logistical and technical support under contract to the EIPC.

As part of this partnership, the Center for Health Policy conducted a survey of youth-serving programs in Marion County. The survey was sent to youth-serving programs administered by nonprofit, for-profit, and government agencies in Marion County. The purpose of this survey was to obtain information from youth-serving programs to assist in strategic planning and improving youth services in Marion County. The survey collected information regarding revenues and revenue sources, employees and volunteers, services each program provides, opinions on existing services and gaps in services, interactions with other agencies, opinions about the respondent's own program, and the respondents' opinions regarding an organization to coordinate research, evaluation, and fundraising for youth-serving programs.

Data Collection

The EIPC Program Survey was distributed to nonprofit, for-profit, and government organizations which provide services to youth (24 and under) in Marion County. Surveys were distributed online and were completed by interviewers on location at the programs. Survey distribution began in April 2008 and continued through September of the same year. A list of 355 potential programs was created. Of these 355 organizations, 326 responded, generating a response rate of 92 percent.

Description of Programs

Employees and Volunteers

Each program was asked to report the number of adult and youth full time-employee equivalents. Youth employees are defined as employees under 25 years of age. The average number of adult FTEs was 38 and the median number was six (see Table 1). The average number of youth FTEs was one and the median was zero.

Table 1. Number of Employees and Volunteers

	Mean	Median
Adult FTEs	38	6
Youth FTEs	1	0
Volunteer FTEs	33	4

Each program was also asked whether or not the program uses any volunteers other than those who serve on the board of directors. Of the 326 programs responding to this question, 161 do use volunteers, 163 do not, and 2 respondents did not know if their program used volunteers. A total of 132 programs reported the number of volunteers. The mean number of volunteers was 527 and the median was 35. Only 99 programs reported the number of volunteer FTEs that their programs used. Among these, the mean number of volunteer FTEs was 33 and the median was 4.

Respondents were also asked whether or not any of the staff providing youth services have professional credentials or licenses that are used in the delivery of services. Of the 326 programs responding to this question, 198 reported they did have staff that used professional credentials or licenses in the provision of services, 115 replied no, and 2 did not know. Table 2 shows that 193 firms report the number of licenses that their employees have. The average total number of licenses is 8.2 and the median is 8.

Table 2. Number of Licenses

Mean	Median	Std. Deviation	N
8.24	8.00	6.48	193

Services

Programs reported the services that they provide to youth. Among the programs reporting, 92.3 percent provided some form of prevention services, 78.8 percent provided some type of intervention service, and 45.5 percent provided some type of treatment service (see Table 3). Tables 4 through 6 below contain details on the provision of specific types of prevention, intervention, and treatment services.

Table 3. Services Provided

	Yes	No	Total
Prevention Services	92.3%	7.7%	326
Intervention Services	78.8%	21.2%	326
Treatment Services	45.4%	54.6%	326

The most widely provided prevention services include parent involvement (60.2 percent), recreation and enrichment (65.0 percent), character education (60.9 percent), and health education (58.4 percent). The least commonly provided services are prenatal education (6.0 percent) and prenatal care (3.2 percent).

Table 4. Prevention Services

	Yes	No	Total
Prenatal Education	6.0%	94.0%	319
Prenatal Care	3.2%	96.8%	317
Parent Involvement	60.2%	39.8%	322
Recreation and Enrichment	65.0%	35.0%	317
Preventative Healthcare	37.6%	62.4%	319
Character Education	60.9%	39.1%	320
Pregnancy Prevention	11.0%	89.0%	318
Violence Prevention	42.1%	57.9%	323
Dropout Prevention	31.7%	68.3%	319
Child Care	18.9%	81.1%	318
Health and Safety Education	58.4%	41.6%	322
Drug and Alcohol Education	38.7%	61.3%	318

The most widely provided intervention services include family support (58.2 percent) and short-term counseling (42.2 percent). The least widely provided intervention services are literacy (23.0 percent), tutoring (25.3 percent), and family preservation (22.6 percent).

Table 5. Intervention Services

	Yes	No	Total
Mentoring	33.5%	66.5%	313
Literacy	23.0%	77.0%	318
Tutoring	25.3%	74.7%	320
Family Support	58.2%	41.8%	325
Short-Term Counseling	42.2%	57.8%	322
Dispute Resolution	31.0%	69.0%	310
Family Preservation	22.6%	77.4%	314

Fewer programs report providing treatment services than report providing both prevention and intervention services. The most commonly reported treatment service is emergency crisis treatment (42.7 percent) and the least commonly reported is transition support for long-term treatment (15.7 percent).

Table 6. Treatment Services

	Yes	No	Total
Long-Term Therapy	24.3%	75.7%	321
Emergency Crisis Treatment	42.7%	57.3%	323
Transition Support for Long-Term Treatment	15.7%	84.3%	318
Intensive Case Management	28.9%	71.1%	322

Respondents were also asked to describe the geographic area which they served. However, a fraction of respondents answered this question with a programmatic or demographic description of those they serve while others answered with a geographic definition of their service area. Because of the wide variation of responses, this question was not analyzed.

Challenges to Access

Respondents were asked whether their clients faced any challenges in accessing their services. Of the 325 programs that responded to this question, 60 percent indicated that clients faced challenges to access, nearly 40 percent reported that their clients faced no challenges, and one program indicated that they did not know whether or not their clients faced challenges to access.

Respondents were also asked to list common barriers to access. Commonly mentioned barriers include:

- Financial barriers (mentioned by 89 programs),
- Transportation (mentioned by 56 programs),
- Awareness of programs (mentioned by 30 programs),
- Exclusivity of programs and restrictions on who can be served (mentioned by 21 programs), and

- Geographic location (mentioned by 18 programs).

Percentage of Youth Served

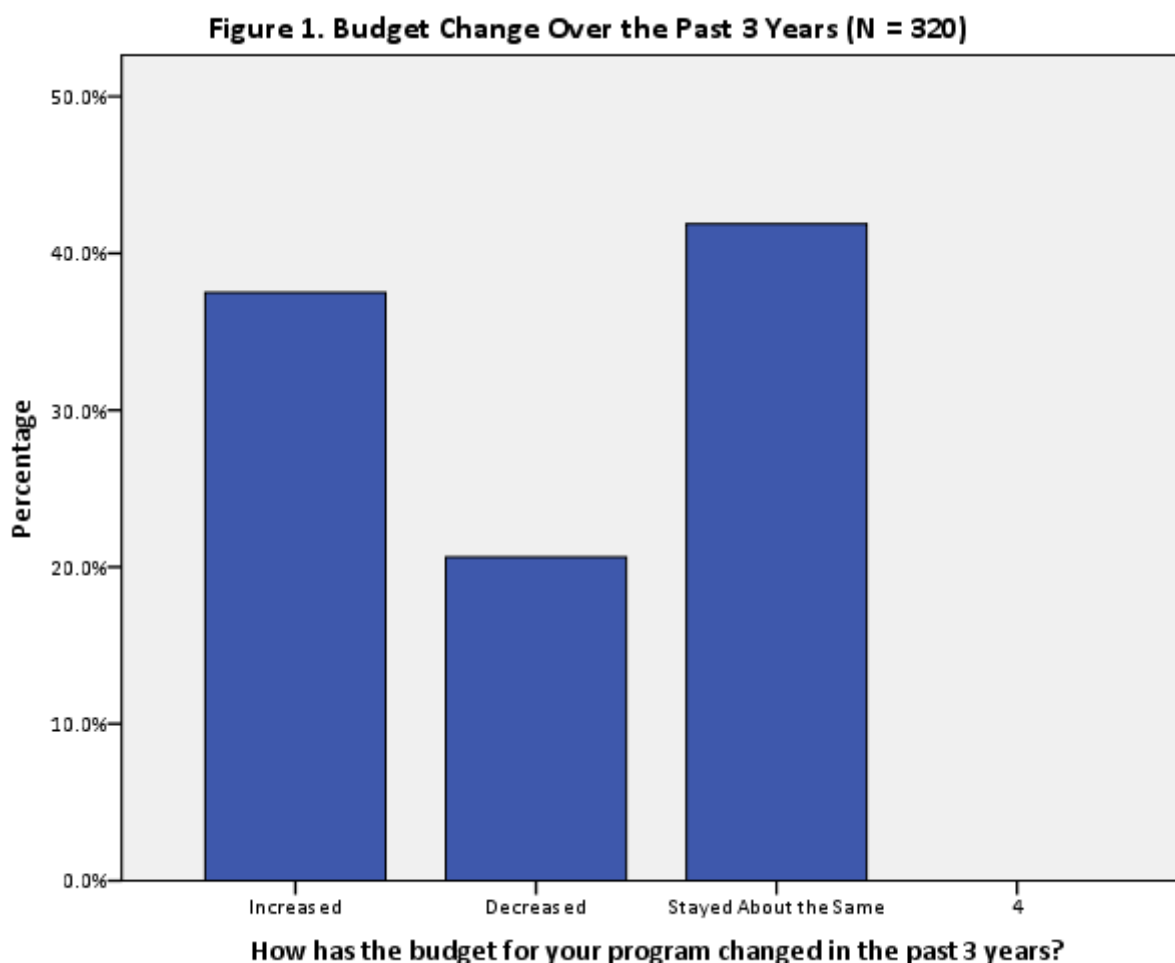
Each program was asked to report the percent of the eligible population served by their program, the percent served by other programs, and the percent not served by any program. There was wide variance in the responses of individuals programs, as can be seen by the value of the standard deviation below. This variance is not surprising as each program has its own eligible population. On average, respondents reported that their program served 26 percent of the eligible population, other programs served 25 percent of the eligible population, and that 49 percent of the eligible population is not served by any program (see Table 7). On average, respondents believe that nearly half of the eligible population is not being served, a very large gap between services provided and those in need of services.

Table 7. Percent of Eligible Population Served

	Mean	Standard Deviation	Count
Percent Served by Own Program	26%	21%	326
Percent Served by Other Program	25%	21%	326
Percent Not Served by Any Program	49%	26%	326

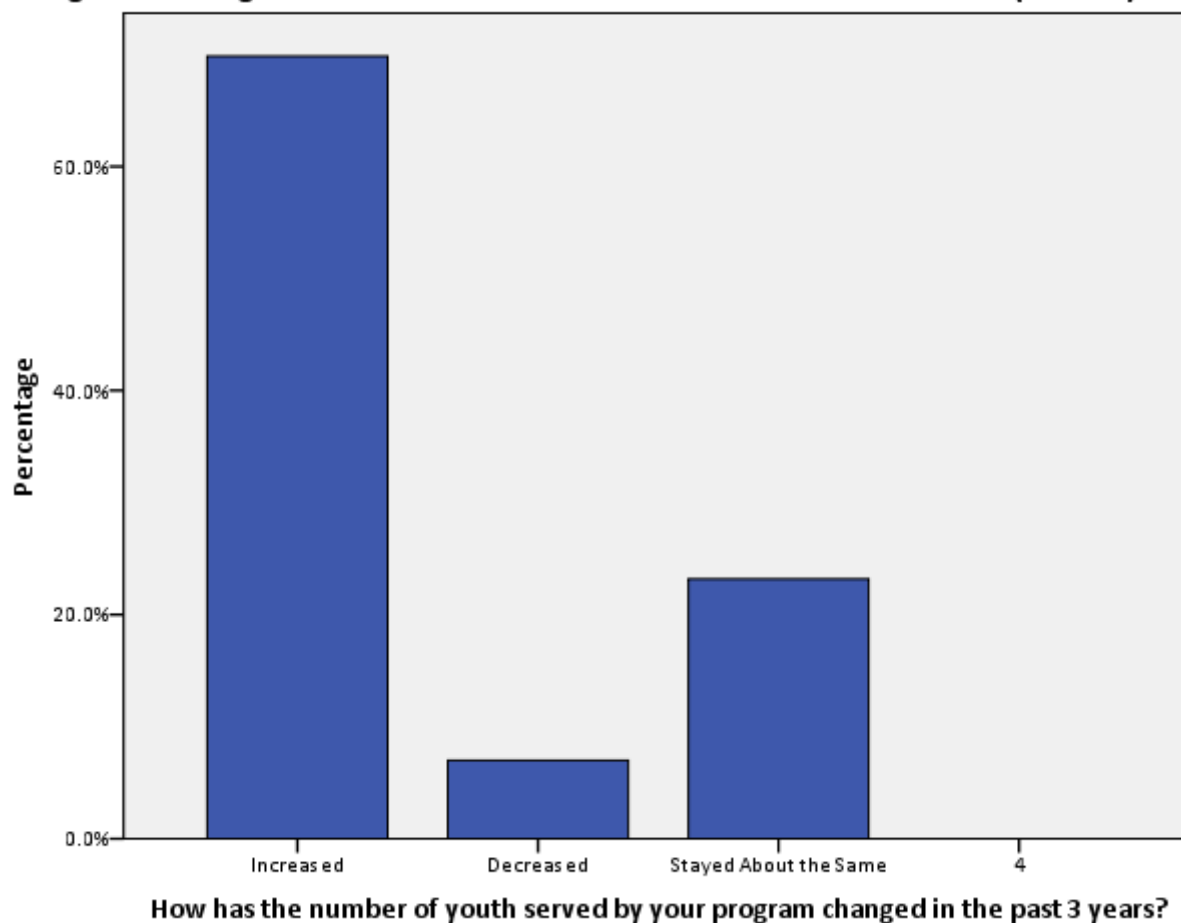
Budget

Respondents were also asked how their budget changed over the past three years. Of the 320 programs responding to this question, 120 (37.5 percent) indicated that the budget for their program increased over the past three years, 134 (41.9 percent) said their budget stayed about the same, and 66 (20.6 percent) indicated that their budget decreased (see Figure 1).



Change in Number of Youth Served

When asked how the number of youth served by their program changed in the last three years, 220 respondents indicated that the number of youth served increased. The majority of programs (69.8 percent) reported that the number of youth served had increase. Only 73 (23.2 percent) stated that the number of youth served stayed about the same, and 22 (7.0 percent) indicated a decrease in the number of youth served (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Change in the Number of Youth Served Over the Past 3 Years (N = 315)

Rating Existing Services

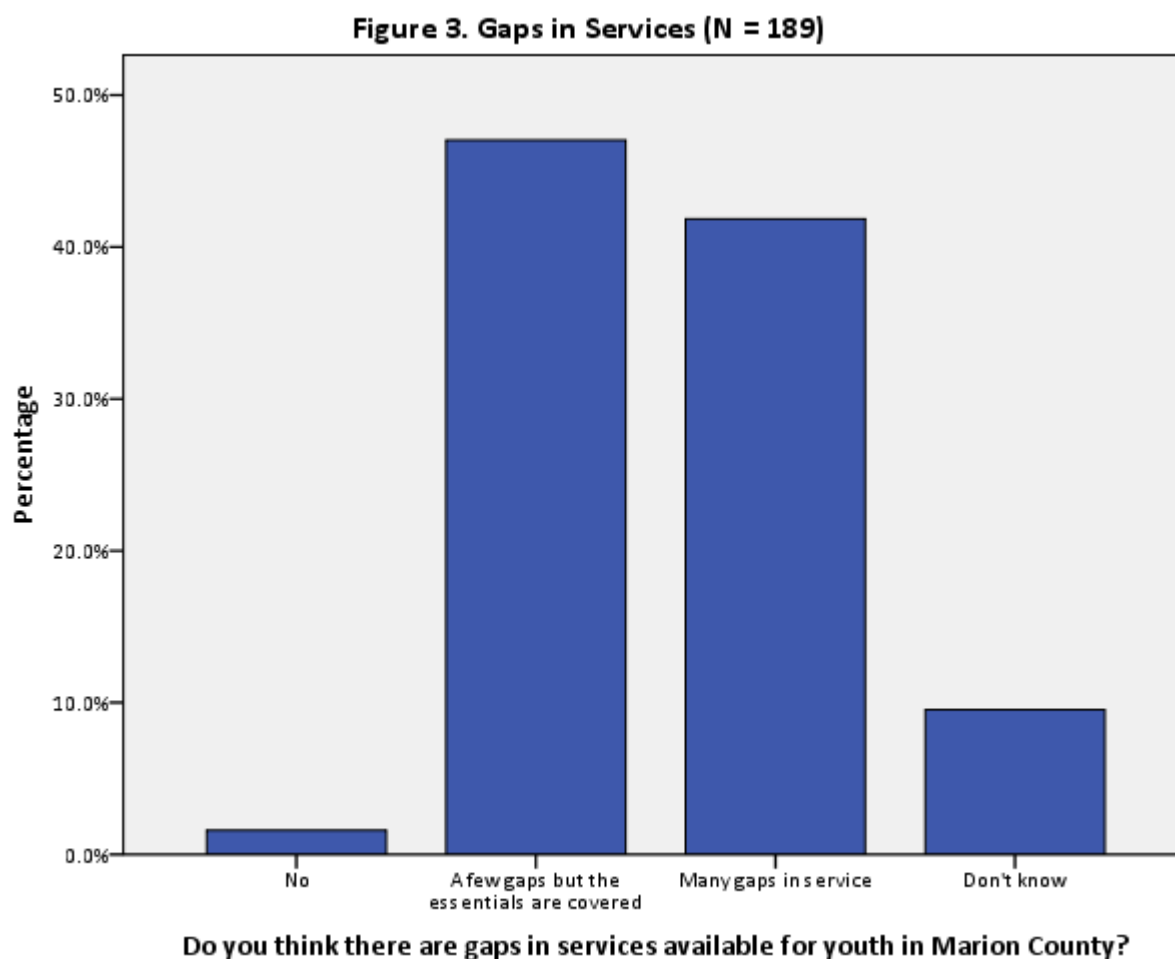
Respondents were asked to rate prevention, intervention, and treatment services for youth in Marion County. The rating scale included: excellent, good, fair, and poor. Because these questions were not program specific and there were many programs which had the same contact, these responses were weighted so that each individual contact was only counted once. The majority of those responding rated each category of services as fair or poor. Prevention services received the lowest ratings, with 68.9 percent rating prevention services as either fair or poor. Intervention services were rated as either fair or poor by 62.5 percent of respondents, and treatment services were rated as fair or poor by 65.8 percent of respondents (see Table 8).

Table 8. Ratings of Youth Services for Marion County

	Prevention Services		Intervention Services		Treatment Services	
	Respondents	Percent	Respondents	Percent	Respondents	Percent
Excellent	2	1.3%	1	.6%	3	1.9%
Good	46	29.8%	59	36.9%	50	32.2%
Fair	84	53.8%	79	49.9%	79	50.9%
Poor	23	15.1%	20	12.6%	23	14.9%

Gaps in Services

Respondents were asked whether there were gaps in services. Because these questions were not program specific and there were many programs which had the same contact, these responses were weighted so that each individual contact was only counted once. Of the 189 contacts responding, 41.8 percent indicated that there are many gaps in services and 47 percent indicated that there are a few gaps but the essentials are covered (see Figure 3). Just under two percent of the respondents indicated that there were no gaps. The majority of respondents indicate that there are gaps in services, but are almost evenly split with respect to the number of gaps.



Youth Service Gaps

Respondents were asked to name the three most important gaps in youth services in Marion County. The most common responses include:

- Lack of funding (77 mentions),
- Lack of appropriate programs (68 mentions),
- Lack of coverage for specific demographic groups and needs (48 mentions),
- Lack of easy and timely access (42 mentions), and
- Insufficient prevention services (42 mentions).

Respondents were asked to indicate their agreement with several possible reasons for gaps in service to youth. Possible responses are: strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree.

Lack of funds is by far the biggest concern. Of the individual contacts answering this question, 39.1 percent strongly agree and 56.7 percent agree that this is a reason for gaps in services (see Table 9). Lack of knowledge of current programs is also identified as a cause of gaps by many respondents. Of the individual contacts answering this question, 86.7 percent strongly agreed or agreed and only 6.3 percent disagreed.

The statement least agreed with was the statement that too many overlapping services was a reason for the gaps in youth services in Marion County. Only 1.1 percent of respondents strongly agreed, 27.0 percent of respondents agreed, and 55.3 percent of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. Overlapping services are not widely perceived as a cause of gaps in services for youth in Marion County.

Table 9. Level of Agreement with Reasons for Gaps in Youth Services

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Poor interagency cooperation	9.6%	50.0%	19.9%	20.0%	.5%
Proper programs are not available	11.7%	51.3%	17.6%	19.4%	0%
Mental health services are not available	13.8%	29.7%	31.8%	23.7%	1.1%
Changes in the youth population	12.2%	56.1%	17.3%	14.4%	0%
People do not know about current programs	20.2%	66.5%	7.0%	6.3%	0%
Geographical gaps in services	12.8%	63.5%	17.6%	5.5%	.5%
Too many overlapping services	1.1%	27.0%	16.8%	52.6%	2.7%
Population served is too narrow	4.5%	43.0%	19.7%	31.2%	1.6%
No one program is comprehensive enough	5.5%	50.4%	21.7%	21.3%	1.1%
Lack of funds	39.1%	56.7%	2.7%	1.6%	0%
Political problems	21.3%	41.0%	29.6%	8.0%	0%
Focus on treatment not prevention and intervention	17.4%	43.9%	26.9%	11.8%	0%

Youth-serving Program Interaction

The view of youth–agency interaction tends to be a positive one. There is much agreement that the complexity of problems require an integrated approach and that youth services can accomplish more by working together. There is also overwhelming agreement that youth with serious problems receive more comprehensive services and that interagency coordination helps to keep children from falling through the cracks. Detailed response data are shown in Table 10. The majority of respondents either strongly agree (5.8 percent) or agree (76.6 percent) that their experiences in working with other youth agencies are largely positive. Only 5.9 percent of respondents disagree with this statement and none of the respondents strongly disagree.

Table 10. Level of Agreement with Statements Regarding Youth Service Interaction

		Neither Agree nor			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The complexity of the problems facing youth in this community requires an integrated interagency approach.	36.2%	59.0%	3.2%	1.6%	0%
Youth service organizations can accomplish much more by working together than by working separately.	43.7%	53.6%	2.1%	0%	.5%
Youth with serious problems receive more comprehensive services and treatment when agencies coordinate their actions.	35.2%	55.5%	7.7%	1.6%	0%
Interagency coordination prevents youth with serious problems from falling through the cracks in the service.	27.2%	55.2%	10.1%	7.4%	0%
Mandated service coordination is imposed by outsiders who are insensitive to the needs of participants.	6.4%	37.3%	38.7%	16.5%	1.1%
My professional values differ so much from those of other organizations staff that we have difficulty working effectively together.	2.2%	10.9%	27.1%	48.8%	11.0%
My experiences in working with other youth serving agencies are largely positive.	5.8%	76.6%	11.6%	5.9%	0%
The specialized nature of each agency's clients means that interagency collaboration cannot be effective.	.5%	5.4%	8.0%	72.9%	13.2%
In working with other agencies my agency is expected to give up too much of its independence.	.5%	3.4%	26.0%	66.2%	3.9%
Radically different professional philosophies among youth-serving agencies prevent them from working well together.	0%	23.4%	18.2%	57.3%	1.1%
Most youth-serving professionals have a strong desire to increase interagency integration.	6.2%	63.0%	25.4%	4.8%	.5%

Own Organization

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their perceptions of their own organization. Table 11 summarizes the responses for these questions. There was wide agreement among respondents that their organization had an emphasis on continuous improvement, with 97 percent of respondents either strongly agreeing or agreeing. There was also wide agreement that managers seek out unusual, novel solutions to problems via brainstorming and the use of *idea people*. The two questions with which the highest percent of respondents that either disagree or strongly disagree are:

- Our organization is characterized by risk taking by key managers or administrators in seizing and exploring chancy growth opportunities, and
- A live and let live philosophy in dealing with competitors, funding, or clients.

Of the respondents, 2 percent strongly disagree that managers take risk in seizing and exploring chancy growth activities, 24 percent disagreed and 29 percent of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed. There was even more disagreement with the statement that their organization has a *live and let live philosophy*. Only 27 percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with this statement while 31 percent either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

Table 11. Level of Agreement with Statements Regarding Own Organization

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A high rate of new program and service introduction compared to our competitors (including new program or service features and improvements)	13.8%	42.9%	22.1%	19.0%	2.1%
An emphasis on continuous improvement in methods of operation or service delivery	40.2%	56.7%	2.8%	.3%	0%
Risk taking by key managers or administrators in seizing and exploring chancy growth opportunities	20.6%	25.2%	29.1%	23.6%	1.5%
A live and let live philosophy in dealing with competitors or funding or clients	4.3%	23.0%	41.7%	25.8%	5.2%
Seeking of unusual novel solutions by senior managers to problems via the use of idea people brainstorming, etc.	20.2%	50.3%	23.0%	5.8%	.6%
A top management philosophy that emphasizes proven services programs and approaches and the avoidance of heavy new development costs	14.8%	36.9%	32.9%	13.8%	1.5%

Individuals were also asked a series of questions regarding their organization's top level decision making. Responses are show in Table 12. There is strong agreement that one's own organization is actively seeking new opportunities; taking cautious, pragmatic, one step at a time adjustments to problems; and making compromises among the conflicting demands of stakeholders. There is less agreement that rapid growth or major social change is the dominant goal; that large bold decisions are made despite uncertainties of the outcomes; and that adherence to the status quo, steady growth, and stability are primary concerns.

Table 12. Level of Agreement with Statements Regarding Own Organization's Top Level Decision Making

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor		Strongly Disagree
			Disagree	Disagree	
Cautious, pragmatic, step-at-a-time adjustments to problems	3.1%	46.3%	27.0%	21.2%	2.5%
Active search for new opportunities	29.1%	62.0%	5.2%	3.7%	0%
Rapid growth or major social change as the dominant goal	4.0%	24.8%	33.1%	35.6%	2.5%
Large bold decisions despite uncertainties of the outcomes	4.3%	16.6%	23.3%	51.8%	4.0%
Compromises among the conflicting demands of stakeholders (board members, management, employees, clients, suppliers government, etc.)	3.4%	44.9%	24.3%	24.3%	3.1%
Adherence to the status quo steady growth and stability as primary concerns	4.9%	32.6%	31.7%	28.0%	2.8%

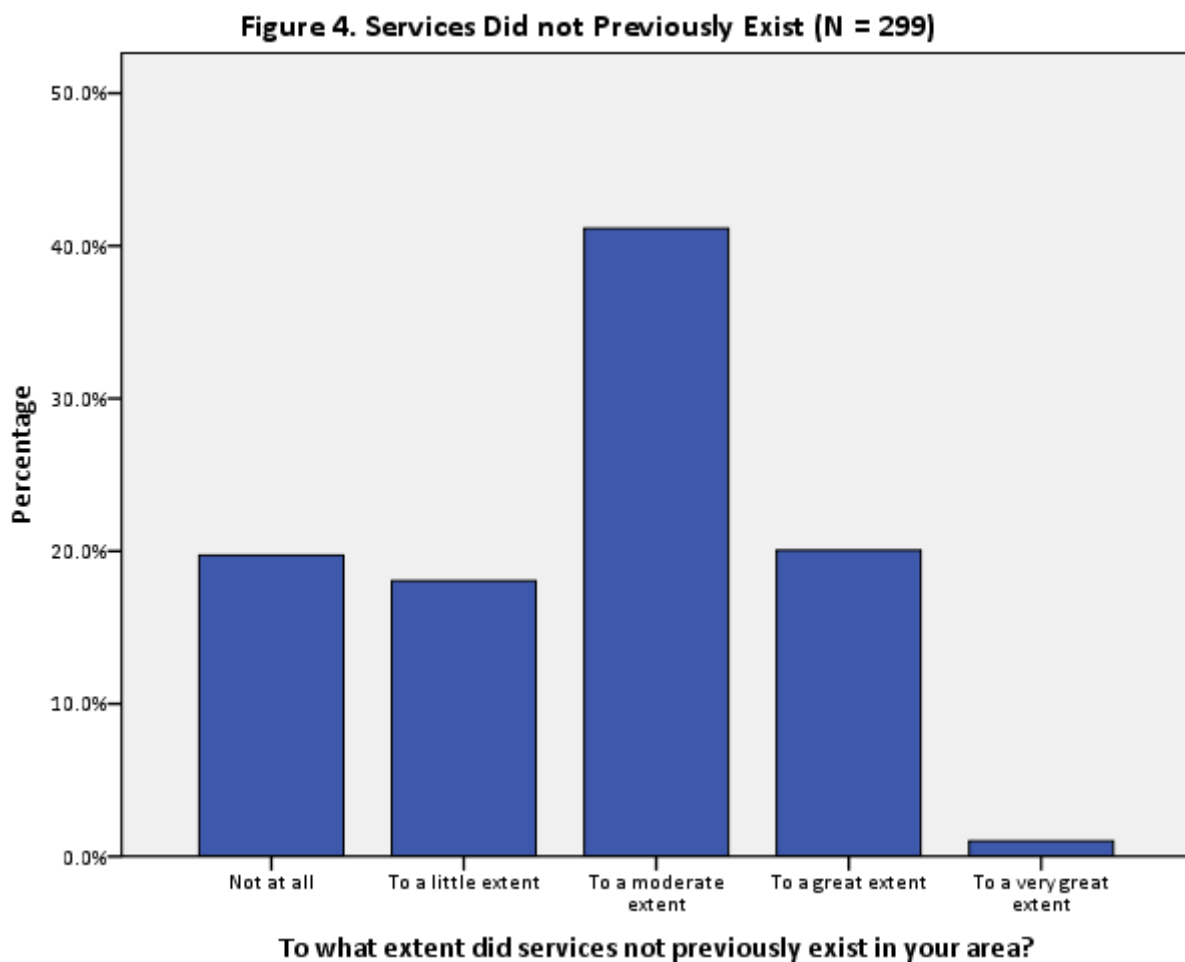
New, Revised, and Improved Programs and Procedures

Several questions regarding new and improved programs introduced by their agency were included in the survey. First, respondents were asked how many new programs their organization introduced during the last two years. A total of 282 program representatives answered this question. The mean number of new programs was 3.2 and the median was 2. While three-quarters of agencies reported three or fewer new programs, the maximum number of new programs reported was 30. Contacts were also asked to report the number of revised programs. A total of 284 respondents answered this question. The mean number of programs revised or improved in the last two years was 3.1 and the median was 2. Three-quarters of agencies reported revisions or improvements to three or fewer programs, while the maximum number of reported revisions or improvements was 30.

Contacts were also asked about new and revised procedures implemented at their organization, and 281 program representatives answered the question regarding the number of new procedures in the past two years. The mean number of new procedures in the last two years was 4.5 and the median was 2. Three-quarters of agencies reported five or fewer new procedures, while the maximum number of new procedures reported was 50. Contacts were

also asked to report the number of revised procedures. A total of 280 respondents answered this question. The mean number of revised procedures in the last two years was 5.8 and the median was 3. Three-quarters of agencies reported five or fewer revised procedures, while the maximum number of revised procedures reported was 100

Respondents were also asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed that their agency's new, revised, and improved programs provided services that did not previously exist in their service area (see Figure 4). The majority of respondents indicated that the new services did not exist to a moderate (41.1 percent), great (20.1 percent), or very great extent (1 percent). Only 18.1 percent of respondents indicated that the services did not exist to a little extent and another 19.7 percent thought the new programs introduced by their organization did not provide any new services.



Respondents were asked what their top three priorities would be if they received an unexpected 25 percent increase in unrestricted funds. The most commonly mentioned priorities are:

- New programs and expansion of existing programs (233 mentions),
- Add staff and/or equipment (185 mentions),
- Increase coverage and outreach to youth and family (142 mentions),
- Scholarships or fee reductions (61 mentions), and
- Additional prevention services (41 mentions).

Juvenile Rehabilitation

Respondents were asked series of questions to determine their attitudes toward juvenile rehabilitation and juvenile punishment. As can be seen in Table 13, only 2.2 percent agreed or strongly agreed that punishment is the best way to get juveniles back on the right path while 98.1 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that rehabilitation should be available to all youth. While there was strong agreement that the best way to rehabilitate youth is to help them change their values (66.2 percent agree or strongly agree); there was even greater agreement that helping youth with emotional or psychological problems is the best way to rehabilitate them (95.5 percent agreed or strongly agreed). Of the respondents, 52.1 percent agreed or strongly agreed that their organization focuses on getting juveniles on the right track by holding them accountable for their misbehavior and only 7.6 percent of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. Finally, less than one percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed, while 83.7 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed that sending juveniles to court is consistent with their organization's philosophy.

Table 13. Juvenile Rehabilitation and Punishment

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The best way to get juveniles back on the right path is to punish them for misbehavior	0%	2.2%	17.4%	59.0%	21.5%
Rehabilitation programs should be available to all youth even those who have been involved in a lot of misbehavior	23.2%	74.9%	1.6%	.3%	0%
The best way to rehabilitate juveniles is to help them change their values	8.8%	57.4%	13.2%	20.2%	.3%
The best way to rehabilitate juveniles is to help them with emotional or psychological problems that caused them to get in trouble	17.0%	78.5%	4.1%	.3%	0%
Our organization focuses on getting juveniles on the right path by holding them accountable for their misbehavior	3.5%	48.6%	40.4%	7.6%	0%
Sending more juvenile offenders to adult court is consistent with our organization's philosophy of getting youth back on the right path by holding them accountable	0%	.6%	15.6%	57.3%	26.4%

When asked whether spending on programs to rehabilitate juveniles should be increased, 92.3 percent indicated that spending on rehabilitation should be increased, 7.5 percent said spending should be kept at the same level and none thought that spending on rehabilitation should be decreased. When asked if spending on punishment should be increased, 3.8 percent said spending on punishment should be increased, 67.0 percent said spending should be held at the same level, 23.7 percent thought spending should decrease, and 5.4 percent thought that spending on punishment should be stopped altogether.

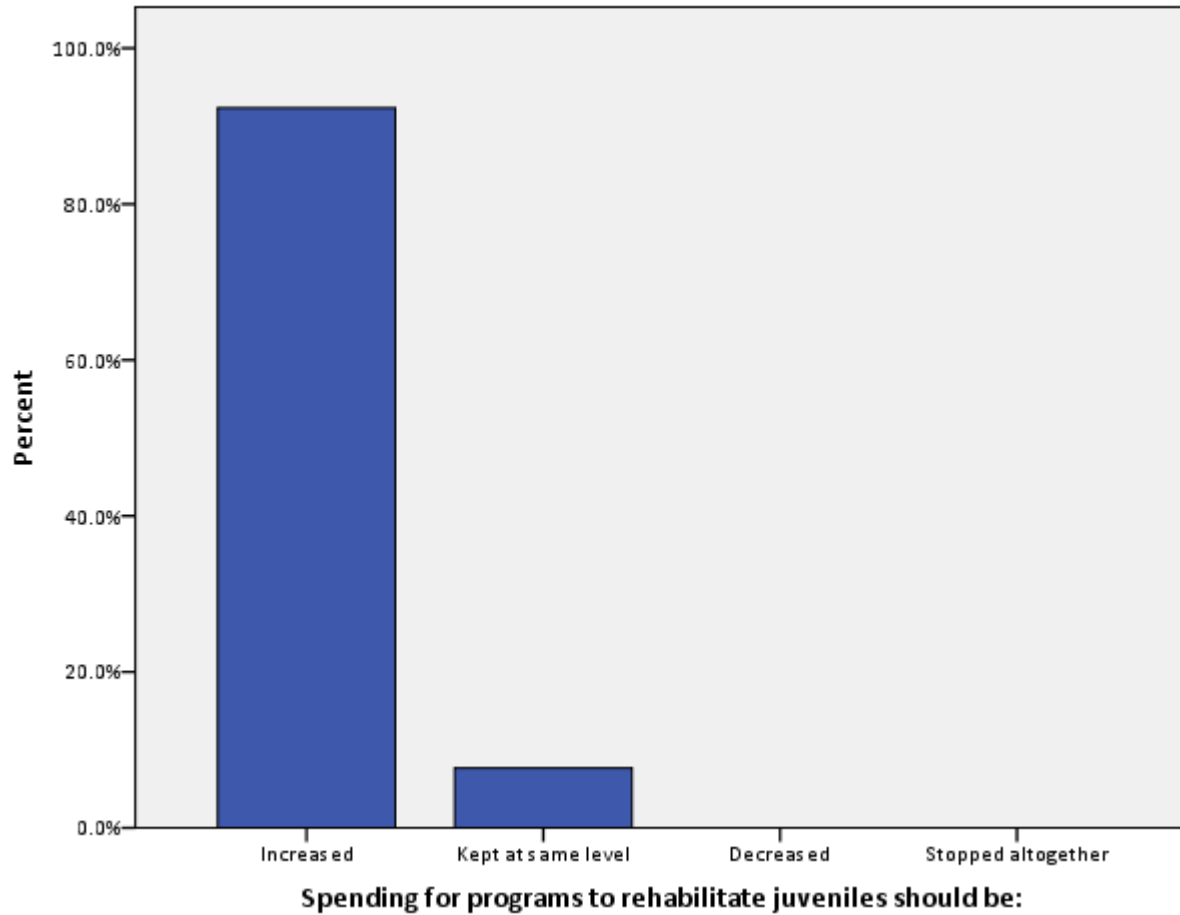
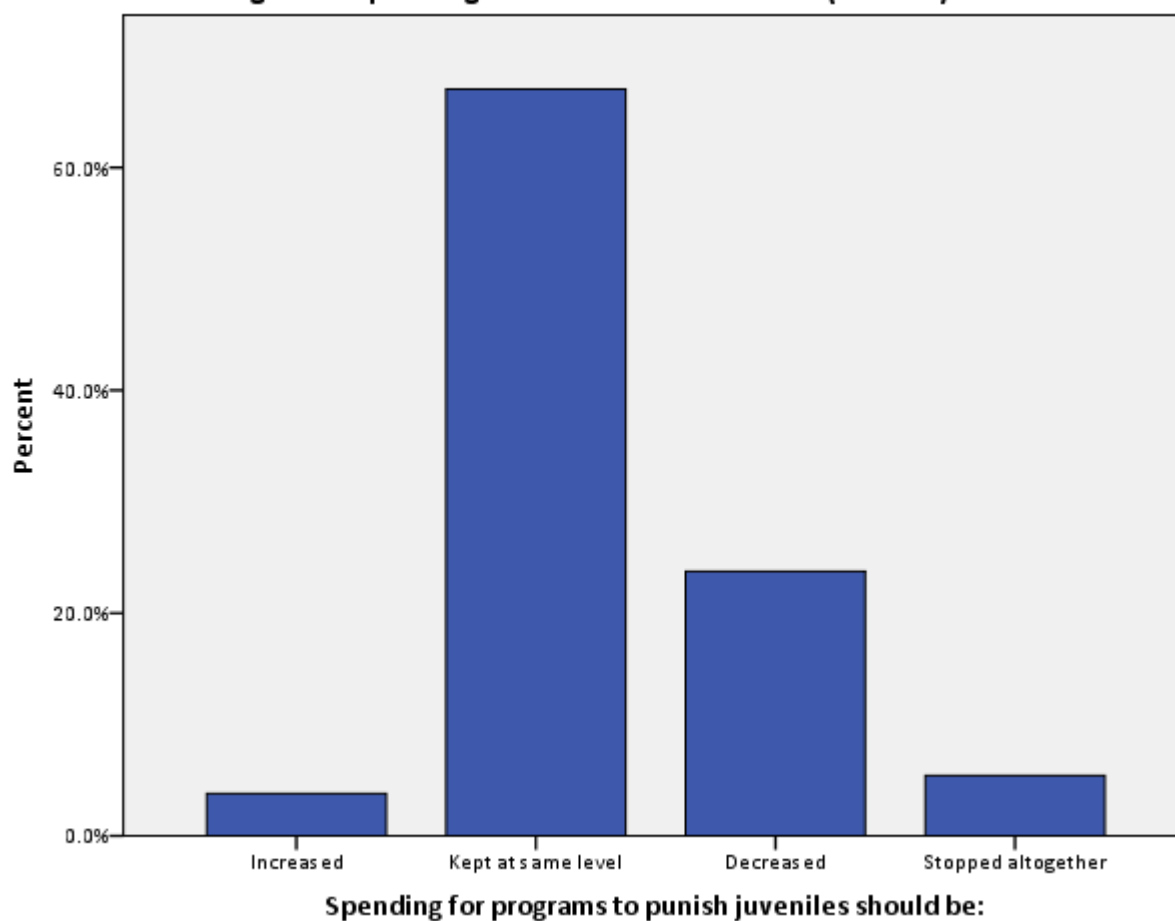
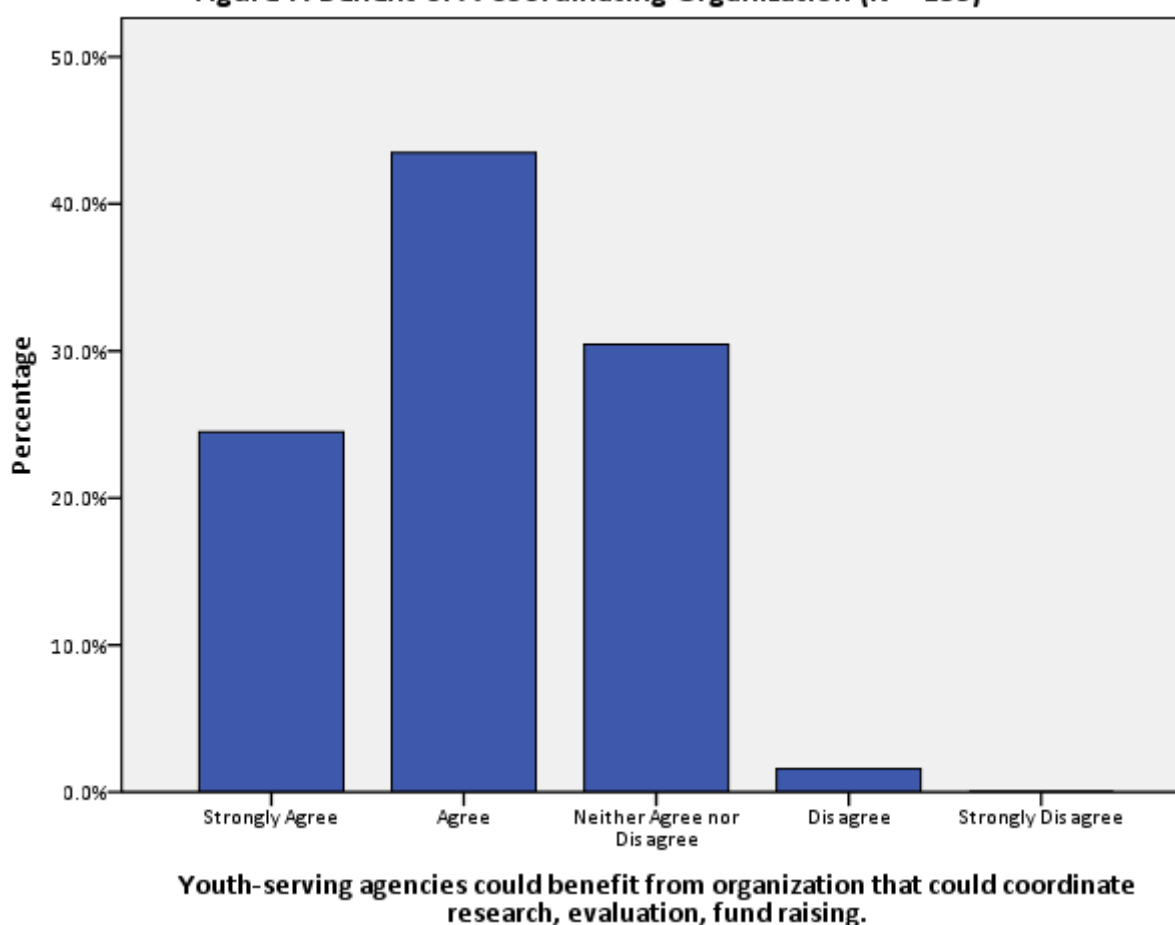
Figure 5. Spending for Juvenile Rehabilitation (N = 185)

Figure 6. Spending for Juvenile Punishment (N = 184)

Coordinating Agency

The Early Intervention and Planning Council is considering establishing an agency to coordinate research, evaluation, and fundraising for youth services in Marion County. To learn more about perceptions regarding such an agency, we asked several questions regarding a coordinating agency.

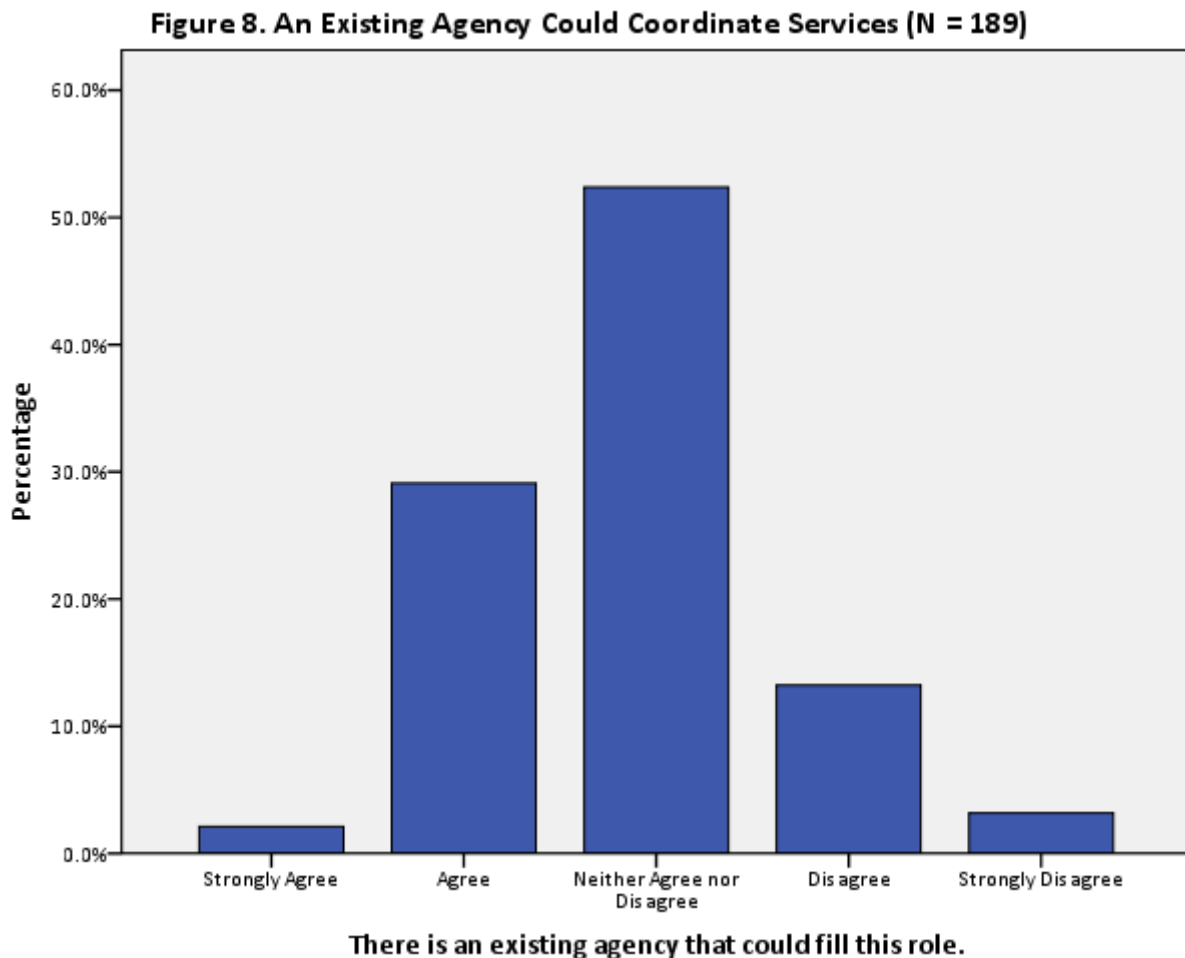
Figure 7. Benefit of A Coordinating Organization (N = 189)



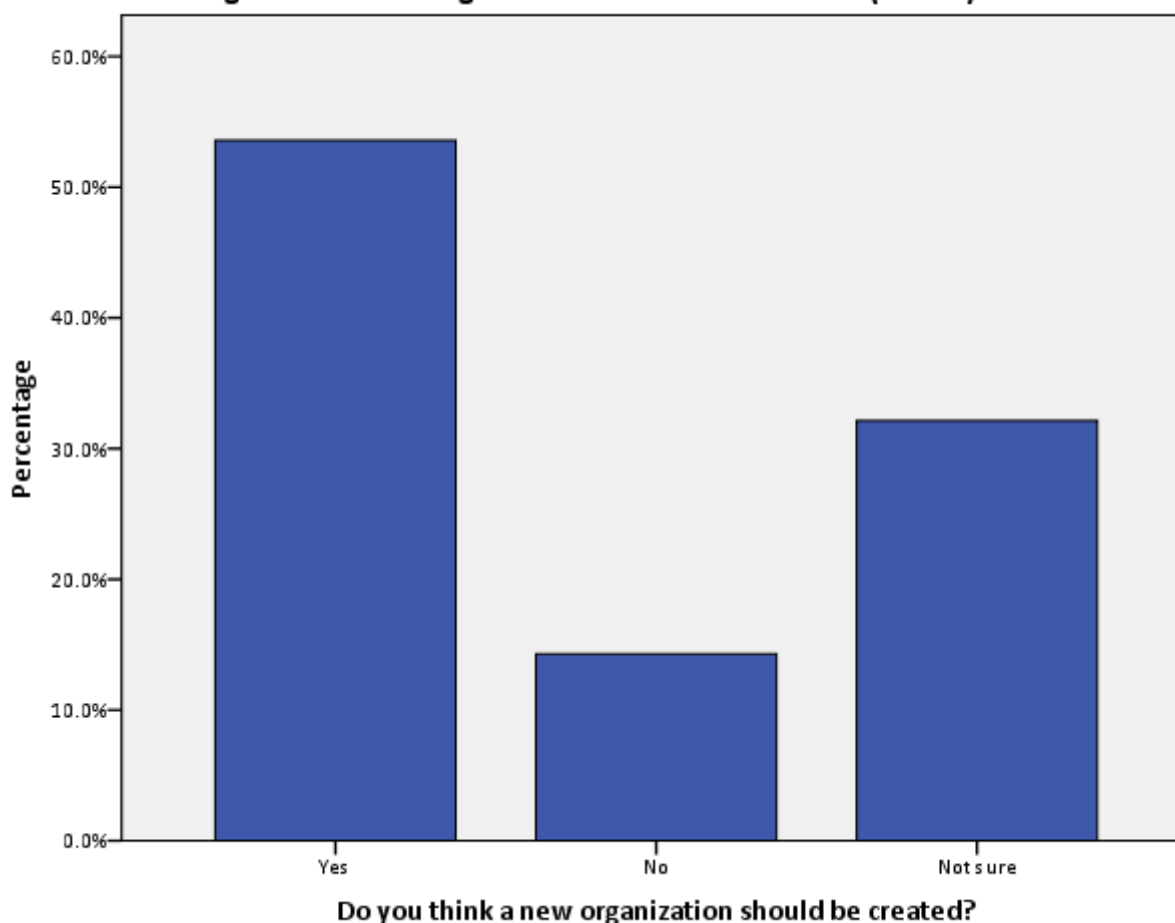
There was relatively strong agreement that youth-serving agencies in Marion County would benefit from a coordinating agency. Fully 68 percent of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that such an organization would prove beneficial and less than 2 percent either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Opinion was more evenly split on whether an existing agency could fill this role, with 31.2 percent either strongly agreeing or agreeing that such an agency exists, 52.4 percent neither agreeing nor disagreeing, and 16.4 percent either strongly disagreeing or disagreeing.

To investigate why so many individuals reported neither agree nor disagree that an existing agency could coordinate youth services, the number of agencies with which programs had a

relationship with other agencies was compared with the response to this question. Those individuals who reported they neither agreed nor disagreed that an existing agency could provide coordinating services were associated with programs that reported having relationships with an average of three other agencies. Those individuals who did express an opinion were associated with programs that reported having relationships with an average of ten other agencies. This strongly suggests that those who neither disagree nor agree do so because they are not as familiar with other agencies as are other respondents.



Those who disagreed that there is an existing agency that could fill this role were then asked if they believed such an agency should be created. Only 28 distinct contacts replied to this question (see Figure 9). Of those who answered, 53.6 percent said that such an agency should be created and 14.3 percent said that such an agency should not be created. The remaining 32.1 percent were not sure if a new agency should be created.

Figure 9. A New Organization Should Be Created (N = 28)

Those who responded that there is an existing agency that can fill this role were asked to name the agency that could fill this role. The most frequent responses include:

- McCoy (37 mentions),
- Choices (7 mentions), and
- Indiana Youth Institute (5 mentions).

McCoy stands out as the program most frequently mentioned.

Religious Organizations

Religious organizations are increasingly becoming involved in service delivery. Respondents were asked several questions to determine how involved religious organizations are with youth-serving organizations in Marion County.

Only 24.2 percent of programs reported a formal tie to one or more faith-based organizations; however, 59.3 percent reported having informal ties to one or more faith-based organizations (see Table 14). Religion and religious themes played an important role in only 28.3 percent of

programs and only 12.6 percent of programs reported being co-located with a faith-based organization.

Table 14. Involvement with Faith-based Organizations

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Our organization is formally tied to or affiliated with faith-based organization(s).	24.2%	74.5%	1.2%
Our organization has informal ties with or affiliations to faith-based organization(s).	59.3%	39.2%	1.5%
Religion or religious themes play an important role in the programs offered to juveniles by this organization.	28.3%	70.5%	1.2%
Our program is co-located at a faith-based organization.	12.6%	84.6%	2.8%

Conclusion

Information was collected on youth-serving programs of various agencies in Marion County. This information will be included in a directory of youth-serving agencies and programs. The directory will facilitate the location of relevant programs by those seeking services as well as those working to coordinate care, research, and funding of youth-serving agencies.

The survey also revealed some important perceptions of youth-serving agencies in Marion County. Service ratings were low with 68.9 percent rating prevention services as fair or poor, 62.5 percent rating intervention services as fair or poor, and 65.8 percent rating treatment services as fair or poor. There is also strong agreement that there are gaps in services, with 41.8 percent of respondents indicating there are many gaps in youth services in Marion County and another 47.0 percent indicating that there are a few gaps but the essentials are covered. When asked what proportion of the eligible population was being served by their program or similar programs, the average response was that nearly half of the eligible population was not being served by any program. This is further evidence of the gap in services.

When asked about reasons for gaps in youth services, lack of funds was the biggest concern with 95.8 percent of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that this is a reason for gaps in services. Lack of knowledge of services was also considered a reason for gaps in services

by 86.7 percent of respondents. When asked about their budgets, 62.5 percent of programs indicated that their budget has stayed about the same or decreased during the past three years. Despite the decreasing or stable budgets, 69.8 percent of programs indicated that the number of youth served has increased. It would appear that some agencies are managing to increase the number of youth served despite little or no budget growth. Also, the majority of programs that reported new services (62.2 percent) indicated that the new services did not previously exist in their area to a moderate, great, or very great extent.

Respondents largely had a positive view of youth-serving program interactions, with 82.4 percent of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that their experiences in working with other youth agencies are largely positive. Respondents largely agreed that youth-serving agencies would benefit from an agency to coordinate research, evaluation, and fundraising. Respondents were evenly split on whether an agency that could fill this role currently existed. Among those who thought such an agency existed, McCoy was mentioned most frequently. Among those who thought no such agency currently existed, responses were split evenly regarding whether or not such an agency should be created. Overall there is an abundance of support for a coordinating agency, but less agreement regarding whether an existing agency should fill this role or a new agency should be created.