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Evaluation of the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) *Choices Program*

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| | |
|--|----|
| Executive Summary..... | v |
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| Methodology..... | 1 |
| Participant Profiles..... | 3 |
| Participant Demographic Attributes..... | 3 |
| Participant Delinquent Activity..... | 8 |
| Participant Perceptions Regarding Conflict Resolution and Friends..... | 13 |
| Pre- and Post-Survey Results..... | 14 |
| Program Impact..... | 16 |
| Open-ended Responses..... | 17 |
| Conclusion..... | 18 |
| Appendix A: <i>Choices</i> Survey Administration by Date and Location..... | 19 |
| Appendix B: <i>Choices</i> Pre-Survey..... | 20 |
| Appendix C: <i>Choices</i> Post-Survey..... | 28 |



Index of Tables

| | |
|--|----|
| Table 1: Number and percentage of pre- and post-surveys completed by location | 2 |
| Table 2: Participant demographics | 4 |
| Table 3: Participant demographics by location | 6 |
| Table 4: Participant living situation | 7 |
| Table 5: Participant family history of incarceration..... | 7 |
| Table 6: Percentage of respondents that report prior experience (1 or more times) with risky and illegal behavior, by location, gender, and age | 9 |
| Table 7: Expectation of being shot by age 25, by location, gender, and age | 9 |
| Table 8: Percentage of respondents that report being victimized by gun or other weapon, by location, gender, and age | 10 |
| Table 9: Number and percentage of respondents reporting arrests and convictions, by location, gender, and age..... | 11 |
| Table 10: Number of pre-survey respondents reporting prior arrest and conviction, by type, location, and gender..... | 12 |
| Table 11: Number and percent of respondents that indicate gang involvement | 12 |
| Table 12: Percentage of respondents that “agree” or “strongly agree” with statements on pre-surveys, by location and gender | 13 |
| Table 13: What would you do if a friend came and asked you to hide their gun for them? (Mark all that apply) | 15 |
| Table 14: Respondents’ knowledge of firearms laws (percentage indicating “yes” or “true”) by pre- and post-surveys | 15 |
| Table 15: Percentage of respondents that “agree” or “strongly agree” with statements on pre-and post-surveys..... | 16 |
| Table 16: Percentage of respondents that “agree” or “strongly agree” with statements post-surveys regarding the <i>Choices</i> program, by location and gender | 17 |



Executive Summary

Choices began in 2006 as a program aimed at young women at risk of being incarcerated and involved with gun violence. The program is sponsored by the Indiana Department of Education in partnership with Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) and a number of other partners. The program begins with a 20-minute video documentary that underscores the importance of making good choices and highlights three incarcerated female offenders who have been convicted of crimes involving firearms. One of the women profiled in the documentary (Ramona Johnson) attends each session, makes a presentation about her own experience following the video presentation, and leads a discussion about "making choices." Since 2006, the *Choices* program has been delivered in numerous settings to a variety of youth.

The Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) was asked, as local PSN research partner, to assist in evaluating the impact of the *Choices* program. CCJR researchers employed a pre/post survey approach to measure short-term changes in participants' perceptions. The surveys covered a range of topics, focusing on knowledge and attitudes that one would expect to be influenced by the program. The pre-survey questionnaire addressed participant demographics, delinquent activity, school experience, living situation, gun and gang activity, drug use, conflict resolution, and attitudes regarding each. Post-program survey questions, a number of which were repeated from the pre-survey, dealt with conflict resolution, knowledge of firearms laws, attitudes regarding good choices, and participants' perceptions of the impact of the *Choices* presentation. CCJR researchers analyzed survey results to assess whether significant changes in knowledge or attitudes occurred following the program presentation.

The program evaluation was conducted between the summer of 2008 and summer 2009. Surveys were administered at several locations on multiple occasions where the *Choices* program was presented (see Appendix A). These included 12 groups of males and females at the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center (Juvenile Detention Center), one group at the Indiana Department of Correction facility Kinsey Youth Center (Kinsey Center), and two classes of IUPUI students. Overall, 222 participants completed surveys.

Participant demographic information was collected as part of the evaluation process. Results demonstrate that nearly one-half of all respondents in the sample were female and 39 percent were male. With regards to age, one-third were 16 to 18 years old, 28 percent were 13 to 15 years, and one-quarter were over 18 years old (all were IUPUI students). Nearly three-quarters of respondents identified as black or African American (36 percent) or white or Caucasian (37 percent). One-quarter were high school graduates (the IUPUI group), and 17 percent had completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

Results of the analysis, which are presented in detail within the body of the report, indicate that program participants reflect an audience(s) that could potentially benefit from the program. Most participants, in particular those at the Juvenile Detention Center and Kinsey facility, reported not only engaging in a variety of risky and illegal behaviors, (some specifically involving firearms), but also having experienced criminal victimization. The analysis also revealed differences according to demographic indicators—specifically age and gender—that may inform additional tailoring of the *Choices* program presentation for specific audiences.

Overall, survey results demonstrate that *Choices* produced some short-term changes in participants' knowledge and attitudes, particularly among females. This is revealed by statistically significant increases in respondents' knowledge that people other than the shooter can be charged with gun crimes, the desirability of using verbal conflict resolution techniques, and greater awareness of the consequences of potentially harmful individual choices and actions. In addition, nearly all respondents agreed that *Choices* had positive effects on them, and would be helpful for other youth.





Introduction

Choices is a program sponsored by the Indiana Department of Education in partnership with Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Office of the United States Attorney for Southern District of Indiana.¹ The Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program is part of a U.S. Department of Justice National Initiative that targets gang and gun violence in communities. The *Choices* program begins with a 20-minute video documentary that emphasizes the importance of making good choices, especially for young women. The documentary highlights three incarcerated female offenders who have been convicted of crimes involving firearms. In the video, the women discuss the circumstances that led to their incarceration, each of which involved gun violence and highlights poor choices the women made, and the consequences that followed. In addition to the video, one of the women profiled in the documentary, Ramona Johnson, attends each session and makes a presentation about her own experience. She then leads a discussion among participants about “making choices.” Since it began in 2006, the *Choices* program has been presented at schools, juvenile detention centers, alternative education programs, youth-serving agencies, and to the faith community. In its capacity as local research partner for PSN, CCJR was asked to assist in evaluating the impact of the *Choices* program.

Methodology

CCJR employed a pre/post survey approach to measure short-term changes in participants' perceptions following the *Choices* program presentation. The surveys were designed by CCJR research staff and covered a range of topics, focusing on knowledge and attitudes one would expect to be influenced by the *Choices* program. The pre-survey consisted of 64 questions and addressed participant demographics, delinquent activity, school experience, living situation, gun and gang activity, drug use, conflict resolution, and attitudes regarding each. Post-program surveys consisted of 22 questions, 9 of which were repeated from the pre-survey, dealing with conflict resolution, knowledge of firearms laws, attitudes regarding good choices, and participants' perceptions of the impact of the *Choices* presentation. CCJR researchers analyzed respondents' pre/post responses to assess whether significant changes in knowledge or attitudes occurred following the program presentation. (See the appendices for dates and locations of survey administration as well as copies of the pre- and post-surveys.)

Over the course of the evaluation period—summer 2008 through summer 2009—the *Choices* program was presented to youth at several locations on multiple occasions. These included 12 groups of males and females at the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center (Juvenile Detention Center), one group at the Indiana Department of Correction facility Kinsey Youth Center (Kinsey Center), and two classes of IUPUI students. CCJR staff assisted with administering the majority of pre- and post-surveys to program participants at each location. Prior to the video and Ramona Johnson's presentation, participants were asked to complete pre-program surveys, and at the conclusion of the presentation (in most cases), participants completed post-program surveys. Overall, 222 participants completed surveys. Participant completion of both surveys was voluntary and anonymous. For some presentations, surveys were administered by Cathy Danyluk of the Indiana Department of Education.

All completed pre- and post-surveys were collected by or delivered to CCJR researchers and results were entered into a database for analysis. To match pre- and post-surveys, and to ensure respondents' anonymity, participants were asked to provide the last four digits of a phone number they remembered on

¹ Other partners include the Indiana Women's Prison, the Indianapolis Commission on African American Males, the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, and WXIN-59. (*Department of Education Emphasizes “Choices”*. Available at: <http://www.doe.in.gov/news/2006/04-April/choices041206.html>)



the cover page of each survey instrument. These four digits served as a unique identification number to match each pre- and post-survey.

As shown in Table 1, 222 respondents completed pre- and/or post-surveys. Nearly one-half (105) of all respondents were from the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center (Juvenile Detention Center) and one-quarter (53 respondents) were IUPUI students. Twenty-two participants completed surveys as part of a presentation at the Kinsey Youth Center. Forty-two surveys did not include specific location information.

The individual pre- and post-survey analyses were limited to 143 matched respondents. There were 52 unmatched pre-surveys and 27 unmatched post-surveys or partially completed pre-surveys that had to be excluded from the individual pre/post comparisons. While some of the unmatched surveys can be attributed to identification numbers that did not correspond, in some cases, the presentation and discussion did not allow sufficient time to administer post-surveys immediately following the presentation. In most of these cases, surveys were administered by facility staff the following day and remitted to CCJR researchers. However, on several occasions, there was no opportunity for participants to complete the surveys.

Table 1: Number and percentage of pre- and post-surveys completed, by location

| | Overall | | Pre-Survey Only | | Partial Pre- or Post-Survey Only | | Matched Pairs | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Location | Number of Respondents | Percent | Number of Respondents | Percent | Number of Respondents | Percent | Number of Respondents | Percent |
| Juvenile Detention | 105 | 47% | 33 | 63% | 1 | 4% | 71 | 50% |
| Kinsey Center | 22 | 10% | 9 | 17% | 1 | 4% | 12 | 8% |
| IUPUI | 53 | 24% | 1 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 52 | 36% |
| Unknown | 42 | 19% | 9 | 17% | 25 | 93% | 8 | 6% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 52 | 100% | 27 | 100% | 143 | 100% |



Participant Profiles

Participant Demographic Attributes

Demographic information was requested as part of the pre-survey. As Table 2 illustrates, nearly one-half of all respondents in the sample were female and 39 percent were male. Among respondents that completed both pre- and post-surveys, nearly 70 percent were female and just under one-third were male. Demographic information was not available for approximately 15 percent of the overall sample.

Survey participants were asked to indicate their age by checking a corresponding box—including 10 years or younger, each subsequent possibility between 11 and 18 years, and another category for over 18 years of age. For analytical purposes, responses were collapsed into three categories—*13 to 15 years old*, *16 to 18 years old*, and *over 18 years old*. None of the respondents were under 13 years of age. Thirty-six percent were 16 to 18 years old, 28 percent were 13 to 15 years, and one-quarter were over 18 years old.

With regards to race/ethnicity, roughly equal percentages of respondents identified as black or African American (36 percent) or white or Caucasian (37 percent) overall. Among matched pairs the percentage of white respondents was close to 50 percent, and 38 percent were African American. Those who identified as Hispanic or Latino/Latina accounted for 5 percent of the overall sample and 4 percent of matched pairs. Race/ethnic information was unavailable for 14 percent of respondents.

Participants who completed the pre-survey also were asked to indicate the grade they had most recently completed—from less than 6th grade, each subsequent grade (7-12), high school graduate, to completed GED. Responses were collapsed into four groups—*grade 6 to 8*, *grade 9 to 11*, *high school graduate*, and *GED*. Forty-two percent of respondents indicated they had completed grade 9, 10, or 11. One-quarter were high school graduates, and 17 percent had completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. Among 35 respondents, (16 percent of the overall sample), the most recent grade completed was unavailable.



Table 2: Participant demographics

| | Overall | | Pre-Survey Only | | Partial Pre- or Post-Survey Only | | Matched Pairs | |
|--|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Number of respondents | Percent | Number of respondents | Percent | Number of respondents | Percent | Number of respondents | Percent |
| Gender | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 107 | 48% | 9 | 17% | 0 | 0% | 98 | 69% |
| Male | 87 | 39% | 41 | 79% | 2 | 7% | 44 | 31% |
| Unknown | 28 | 13% | 2 | 4% | 25 | 93% | 1 | 1% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 52 | 100% | 27 | 100% | 143 | 100% |
| Age Categories | | | | | | | | |
| 13-15 years old | 62 | 28% | 22 | 42% | 1 | 4% | 39 | 27% |
| 16-18 years old | 81 | 36% | 29 | 56% | 1 | 4% | 51 | 36% |
| Over 18 years old | 53 | 24% | 1 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 52 | 36% |
| Unknown | 26 | 12% | 0 | 0% | 25 | 93% | 1 | 1% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 52 | 100% | 27 | 100% | 143 | 100% |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 2 | 1% | 1 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% |
| Asian or Asian American | 1 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% |
| Black or African American (non-Hispanic) | 81 | 36% | 25 | 48% | 2 | 7% | 54 | 38% |
| Hispanic or Latino/Latina | 11 | 5% | 5 | 10% | 0 | 0% | 6 | 4% |
| White or Caucasian (non-Hispanic) | 83 | 37% | 13 | 25% | 0 | 0% | 70 | 49% |
| Other | 13 | 6% | 5 | 10% | 0 | 0% | 8 | 6% |
| Unknown | 31 | 14% | 3 | 6% | 25 | 93% | 3 | 2% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 52 | 100% | 27 | 100% | 143 | 100% |
| Last grade completed | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 6 to 8 | 37 | 17% | 14 | 27% | 1 | 4% | 22 | 15% |
| Grade 9 to 11 | 94 | 42% | 33 | 63% | 1 | 4% | 60 | 42% |
| High school graduate | 53 | 24% | 3 | 6% | 0 | 0% | 50 | 35% |
| GED | 3 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 2% |
| Unknown | 35 | 16% | 2 | 4% | 25 | 93% | 8 | 6% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 52 | 100% | 27 | 100% | 143 | 100% |



As noted earlier, pre- and post-surveys were administered prior to and following the *Choices* program presentation at three locations—Juvenile Detention Center, Kinsey Youth Center, and IUPUI. Table 3 provides respondent demographic data according to location. When compared with IUPUI students, participants at the Juvenile Detention Center and Kinsey Center represent similar groups in terms of a number of factors (such as age, education level, at risk behavior, and delinquent activity) and were combined for analytical purposes. With regards to gender distribution, a large share of those that completed the surveys at the Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers was male—54 percent of participants—compared to 43 percent females. The vast majority of participants at the IUPUI were female (94 percent).

With regard to age, all IUPUI participants were over 18 and high school graduates. Among Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers survey respondents, 54 percent were 16 to 18 years old and 46 percent were 13 to 15 years old. Fifty-six percent of participants at the Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers that completed surveys identified as African-American, 26 percent as white, 6 percent as Hispanic or Latino/Latina and 9 percent specified "other." A substantial majority of IUPUI participants—85 percent—identified themselves as white.

The majority of respondents at the Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers (63 percent) reported 9th, 10th, or 11th grade completion, and close to 30 percent indicated they had finished grades 6, 7, or 8. Respondents also were asked about school disciplinary issues, including suspensions and expulsions. Sixty-nine percent of those who answered the questions indicated they had been suspended from school and 47 percent reported being expelled. (These results are not depicted in a table.)



Table 3: Participant demographics by location

| | Overall | | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | | IUPUI | | Unknown | |
|--|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Number of respondents | Percent | Number of respondents | Percent | Number of respondents | Percent | Number of respondents | Percent |
| Gender | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 107 | 48% | 55 | 43% | 50 | 94% | 2 | 5% |
| Male | 87 | 39% | 69 | 54% | 3 | 6% | 15 | 36% |
| Unknown | 28 | 13% | 3 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 25 | 60% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 127 | 100% | 53 | 100% | 42 | 100% |
| Age Categories | | | | | | | | |
| 13-15 years old | 62 | 28% | 58 | 46% | 0 | 0% | 4 | 10% |
| 16-18 years old | 81 | 36% | 68 | 54% | 0 | 0% | 13 | 31% |
| Over 18 years old | 53 | 24% | 0 | 0% | 53 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Unknown | 26 | 12% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 25 | 60% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 127 | 100% | 53 | 100% | 42 | 100% |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 2 | 1% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 2% |
| Asian or Asian American | 1 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 2% | 0 | 0% |
| Black or African American (non-Hispanic) | 81 | 36% | 71 | 56% | 5 | 9% | 5 | 12% |
| Hispanic or Latino/Latina | 11 | 5% | 7 | 6% | 1 | 2% | 3 | 7% |
| White or Caucasian (non-Hispanic) | 83 | 37% | 33 | 26% | 45 | 85% | 5 | 12% |
| Other | 13 | 6% | 11 | 9% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 5% |
| Unknown | 31 | 14% | 4 | 3% | 1 | 2% | 26 | 62% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 127 | 100% | 53 | 100% | 42 | 100% |
| Last grade completed | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 6 to 8 | 37 | 17% | 33 | 26% | 0 | 0% | 4 | 10% |
| Grade 9 to 11 | 94 | 42% | 83 | 65% | 0 | 0% | 11 | 26% |
| High school graduate | 53 | 24% | 3 | 2% | 49 | 92% | 1 | 2% |
| GED | 3 | 1% | 2 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 2% |
| Unknown | 35 | 16% | 6 | 5% | 4 | 8% | 25 | 60% |
| <i>Total</i> | 222 | 100% | 127 | 100% | 53 | 100% | 42 | 100% |



Survey respondents were asked to describe their current living situation or where they lived prior to jail/detention. As shown in Table 4, just over one-quarter (28 percent) indicated they resided with both or alternated between parents. Forty-five percent lived with only one parent and 7 percent lived with other relatives. Other options included friend's home (4 percent), a home with more than one family (2 percent), foster home or group care (2 percent), motel or migrant housing (2 percent), or other (14 percent).

Table 4: Participant living situation

| | Number of respondents | Percent |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| <i>What best describes where you currently live or lived prior to being in jail/detention center? (Mark all that apply)</i> | | |
| <i>A home with only one parent</i> | 87 | 45% |
| <i>A home with both parents/alternate between parents</i> | 54 | 28% |
| <i>Other relatives home</i> | 14 | 7% |
| <i>Friend's home</i> | 8 | 4% |
| <i>A home with more than one family</i> | 4 | 2% |
| <i>Foster home, group care, or waiting placement</i> | 3 | 2% |
| <i>Motel or migrant housing</i> | 3 | 2% |
| <i>Other living arrangement</i> | 27 | 14% |
| Total number of respondents | 195 | |

With regard to whether anyone in their family had been incarcerated in jail, prison, or a detention center, the majority—70 percent—indicated they had a family member who had been incarcerated at some time (see Table 5). Participants were asked to specify which family member(s). Respondents' male relatives were more likely to be (or have been) incarcerated than respondents' female family members. The most frequently mentioned male relatives included father (39 percent), uncle (38 percent), brother (30 percent), followed by mother (28 percent), aunt (22 percent), sister (14 percent), and grandparent (9 percent).

Table 5: Participant family history of incarceration

| | Number of respondents | Percent |
|--|-----------------------|---------|
| <i>Has anyone in your family been incarcerated in jail, prison, or a detention center?</i> | 130 | 70% |
| <i>Family member incarcerated (Mark all that apply)</i> | | |
| <i>Father</i> | 72 | 39% |
| <i>Uncle</i> | 71 | 38% |
| <i>Brother</i> | 55 | 30% |
| <i>Mother</i> | 52 | 28% |
| <i>Aunt</i> | 41 | 22% |
| <i>Sister</i> | 26 | 14% |
| <i>Grandparent</i> | 17 | 9% |
| Total number of respondents | 186 | |



Participant Delinquent Activity

Pre-survey questions also addressed participants' experiences with risky and illegal behavior. For example, respondents were asked whether they had *been in a physical fight*, *carried a gun*, or *used marijuana*. On the survey, respondents were also asked to indicate the degree to which they had engaged in such activities (number of times—*0 times*, *1 time*, *2-3 times*, or *4 or more times*) over the past 12 months. Table 6 presents overall findings as well as results by location, gender, and age. For purposes of analysis, three categories of responses were collapsed to into one—*1 or more times*—to reflect that the behavior or incident had occurred at least once.

Overall, *Choices* program participants reported engaging in a variety of risky and illegal behaviors. Fifty-eight percent admitted to *being in a fight*, 33 percent had *carried a weapon*, and 28 percent had *used a weapon to threaten or bully someone*. With respect to each of these behaviors, responses varied by location. Among Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers respondents, 81 percent admitted to being a physical fight, 45 percent carried a weapon, and 39 percent used a weapon to threaten or bully someone.

Responses varied by gender, with males substantially more likely to report engaging in these behaviors. Eighty-one percent of males indicated they had been in a physical fight, compared with 40 percent of females. Other behaviors that reveal gender differences included 54 percent of males that reported having carried a weapon, in contrast to 17 percent of females. In response to the question regarding whether they had used a weapon to threaten or bully someone, 41 percent of males compared to 19 percent of females admitted to having engaged in this behavior. Similarly, when compared by age, younger respondents (13 to 15 year olds), were more likely to report having been in a physical fight (84 percent). Older respondents in the 16 to 18 year old age category were more like to admit carrying or using a weapon.

Results presented in Table 6 also show that respondents have experienced criminal victimization. Overall, 45 percent had been physically assaulted (*been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, or kicked by someone who wasn't just playing around*) and an equal proportion (45 percent) reported having *property that was stolen or deliberately damaged*. Males were more likely to have experienced victimization. Fifty-eight percent of males have been physically assaulted compared with 34 percent of females, and more males (54 percent) indicate they have had property stolen or damaged than females (37 percent) in the sample.

With respect to substance use, overall, 63 percent of respondents admitted having been drunk. This was the only category in which IUPUI participants exhibited a pattern similar to respondents at the other two locations. Overall, nearly one-half of respondents indicated they have *used marijuana* and 46 percent report having *been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug*. Sixty-two percent of respondents at the Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers, 61 percent of males, and 72 percent of 16 to 18 year olds reportedly have used marijuana.



Table 6: Percentage of respondents that report prior experience (1 or more times) with risky and illegal behavior, by location, gender, and age

| | Overall | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | IUPUI | Female | Male | 13-15 years old | 16-18 years old | Over 18 years old* |
|---|---------|--|-------|--------|------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Been drunk</i> | 63% | 61% | 63% | 62% | 64% | 60% | 65% | 63% |
| <i>Been in a physical fight</i> | 58% | 81% | 2% | 40% | 81% | 84% | 77% | 2% |
| <i>Skipped school</i> | 54% | 64% | 24% | 46% | 64% | 60% | 69% | 24% |
| <i>Seen someone carrying a gun</i> | 51% | 64% | 14% | 42% | 62% | 68% | 62% | 14% |
| <i>Used marijuana</i> | 49% | 62% | 14% | 40% | 61% | 51% | 72% | 14% |
| <i>Been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug</i> | 46% | 59% | 12% | 38% | 55% | 57% | 61% | 12% |
| <i>Had property stolen or deliberately damaged</i> | 45% | 55% | 18% | 37% | 54% | 55% | 55% | 18% |
| <i>Carried a weapon (gun, knife, club, etc.)</i> | 33% | 45% | 2% | 17% | 54% | 42% | 49% | 2% |
| <i>Used any other illegal drug</i> | 27% | 35% | 8% | 25% | 32% | 33% | 38% | 8% |
| <i>Used a weapon to threaten/bully someone</i> | 28% | 39% | 0% | 19% | 41% | 35% | 43% | 0% |
| <i>Been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, or kicked by someone who wasn't just playing around</i> | 45% | 57% | 8% | 34% | 58% | 67% | 53% | 8% |
| Total respondents | 183 | 118 | 52 | 103 | 78 | 56 | 75 | 52 |

*All respondents over 18 years old in the sample were IUPUI students.

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses.

Respondents were asked if they expected to be “shot at” before they reached the age of 25. As illustrated in Table 7, the majority (72 percent) indicated they did not, while 12 percent reported that they *had already been shot at and wounded*. When considering location, 15 percent of Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers respondents indicate they have *already been shot at, but not wounded*. Seven percent of Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers respondents had been shot at *and* wounded. When comparing responses by gender, 79 percent of females and 62 percent of males did not expect to be shot at by the age of 25. An additional 17 percent of males and 8 percent of females had already been shot at, but not wounded. While the expectation of being shot at declined with age, the likelihood of having been shot at increased with age (excluding the IUPUI group). The vast majority (96 percent) of IUPUI respondents (also over 18 years of age) did not expect to be shot at by the age of 25.

Table 7: Expectation of being shot by age 25, by location, gender, and age

| | Overall | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | IUPUI | Female | Male | 13-15 years old | 16-18 years old | Over 18 years old* |
|--|---------|--|-------|--------|------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>No</i> | 72% | 65% | 96% | 79% | 62% | 68% | 58% | 96% |
| <i>Yes</i> | 10% | 13% | 2% | 9% | 12% | 18% | 9% | 2% |
| <i>Already have been shot and wounded</i> | 6% | 7% | 2% | 4% | 9% | 4% | 11% | 2% |
| <i>Already have been shot at but not wounded</i> | 12% | 15% | 0% | 8% | 17% | 11% | 22% | 0% |
| Total respondents | 182 | 115 | 51 | 102 | 77 | 56 | 74 | 51 |

*All respondents over 18 years old in the sample were IUPUI students.



Table 8 presents results for questions regarding victimization by guns or other weapons. Thirty-four percent of respondents reported they had been *wounded by a gun, knife, or other weapon*, 57 percent *knew someone who had been the victim of a crime with a gun*, and 41 percent had *witnessed another person seriously wounded or killed by a gun, knife or other weapon*. Nearly one-third (31 percent) of IUPUI participants knew someone who had been the victim of a crime with a gun. Forty-seven percent of Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers respondents have been wounded by a gun or other weapon, and nearly two-thirds knew someone who had been the victim of gun crime. Fifty-three percent had also witnessed someone else being seriously wounded or killed by a gun, knife, or other weapon.

When considering gender, nearly one-half of males had been wounded by a gun or other weapon, compared with 22 percent of females. Fifty-nine percent of males also knew someone who was the victim of gun crime and 55 percent had witnessed someone else wounded or killed by a gun or other weapon. Among females, 55 percent knew someone who had been the victim of a gun crime, and 30 percent witnessed another young person being seriously wounded or killed by a gun, knife, or other weapon.

Participants also were asked how often they were *armed with a gun when they had committed a crime* in the past. Although the overall majority, across locations and by gender and age indicated they never were armed, some results are noteworthy. Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of all respondents admitted that at one point, they had been armed. Twenty-seven percent of Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers participants, one-third of all male respondents, and close to one-third of 16 to 18 year olds reported having been armed during the commission of a crime at some point.

Table 8: Percentage of respondents that report being victimized by gun or other weapon, by location, gender, and age

| | Overall | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | IUPUI | Female | Male | 13-15 years old | 16-18 years old | Over 18 years old* |
|---|---------|---|-------|--------|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Have you ever been wounded by a gun, knife, or other weapon?</i> | 34% | 47% | 2% | 22% | 49% | 43% | 48% | 2% |
| <i>Has anyone you know ever been the victim of a crime with a gun?</i> | 57% | 64% | 31% | 55% | 59% | 63% | 70% | 31% |
| <i>Have you personally seen other youth seriously wounded or killed by a gun, knife, or other weapon?</i> | 41% | 53% | 8% | 30% | 55% | 41% | 66% | 8% |
| <i>If you have committed a crime in the past, when you committed that crime, how often were you armed with a gun?</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Always</i> | 4% | 4% | 0% | 1% | 5% | 2% | 7% | 0% |
| <i>Usually</i> | 6% | 7% | 0% | 2% | 9% | 5% | 8% | 0% |
| <i>Sometimes</i> | 7% | 8% | 0% | 4% | 11% | 9% | 8% | 0% |
| <i>Almost never</i> | 7% | 8% | 0% | 6% | 8% | 9% | 8% | 0% |
| <i>Never</i> | 77% | 73% | 100% | 86% | 67% | 75% | 68% | 100% |
| Total respondents | 187 | 118 | 53 | 105 | 79 | 59 | 75 | 53 |

*All respondents over 18 years old in the sample were IUPUI students.

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses.



Arrests and Convictions

Pre-survey questions also addressed participant arrest and conviction history. As Table 9 illustrates, among those who responded to the question, two-thirds reported at least one previous arrest. Participants also were asked whether they had ever been convicted of a crime. Overall, 44 percent reported being convicted. Eighty-nine percent of respondents at the Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers indicated being arrested, compared with 6 percent of IUPUI participants. The rate of reported arrest was much higher among male (85 percent) than female respondents (52 percent). Among 13 to 15 year olds, 87 percent reported being arrested, compared with 92 percent of 16 to 18 year olds. With regards to conviction of a crime, 59 percent of participants at Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers reported conviction compared with six percent of IUPUI respondents. More males (59 percent) indicated conviction compared with their female counterparts (32 percent). Sixty-four percent of 16 to 18 year olds and over one-half of 13 to 15 year olds reported being convicted of a crime.

Table 9: Number and percentage of respondents reporting arrests and convictions, by location, gender, and age

| Table 7: Number and percentage of respondents reporting arrests and convictions, by location, gender, and age | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Overall | Location | | Gender | | Age | | |
| | | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | IUPUI | Female | Male | 13-15 years old | 16-18 years old | over 18 years old* |
| <i>Have you ever been arrested?</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Number arrested | 128 | 109 | 3 | 56 | 70 | 52 | 72 | 3 |
| Total respondents | 192 | 122 | 53 | 107 | 82 | 60 | 78 | 53 |
| Percent arrested | 67% | 89% | 6% | 52% | 85% | 87% | 92% | 6% |
| <i>Have you ever been convicted of a crime?</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Number convicted | 82 | 69 | 3 | 34 | 47 | 31 | 47 | 3 |
| Total respondents | 187 | 117 | 53 | 105 | 80 | 60 | 73 | 53 |
| Percent convicted | 44% | 59% | 6% | 32% | 59% | 52% | 64% | 6% |

*All respondents over 18 years old in the sample were IUPUI students.

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses.

As shown in Table 10, among respondents that reported being arrested and also among those that were convicted of a crime, the most common type of offenses was battery/fighting (34 arrested/18 convicted). These were followed by theft/auto theft (17 arrested/15 convicted), and burglary/robbery/breaking and entering (12 arrested/7 convicted). Among participants at the Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers, the most common offense reported for both arrest and conviction was battery/fighting (30 arrested/16 convictions), followed by theft/auto theft (17/15), and burglary/robbery/breaking and entering (11/7). Only three IUPUI respondents indicated they had been arrested or convicted. The most common offenses among female participants were battery/fighting (20/12), followed by theft/auto theft (5 /4), and burglary/robbery/breaking and entering (4 /3). The most frequently reported offenses were similar among male respondents.



Table 10: Number of pre-survey respondents reporting prior arrest and conviction, by type, location, and gender

| Type of offense | Overall | | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | | IUPUI | | Female | | Male | |
|--|---------|------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| | Arrest | Conviction | Arrest | Conviction | Arrest | Conviction | Arrest | Conviction | Arrest | Conviction |
| Battery/ fighting | 34 | 18 | 30 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 12 | 14 | 6 |
| Theft/ auto theft | 17 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 11 |
| Burglary/ robbery/ breaking & entering | 12 | 7 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Runaway | 8 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Drug offense | 11 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 5 |
| Gun offense | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Other | 17 | 11 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| No answer | 25 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 14 |
| Total respondents | 128 | 82 | 109 | 69 | 3 | 3 | 49 | 34 | 70 | 47 |

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for these questions.

Gangs

A series of pre-survey questions dealt with gang involvement. Respondents were asked whether they *consider [themselves] a member of a street or youth gang*, and if not, whether they would *ever consider joining a gang*. Overall, 12 percent considered themselves members and 8 percent reported that they would consider joining a gang. (See Table 11) Among those who answered the question about gang involvement, only 9 percent of female respondents thought of themselves as gang members, compared with 23 percent of males. Only 5 percent of females and 13 percent of males would consider joining a gang. (Gender breakdowns not shown in table.)

Respondents could choose several responses as to why they joined a gang. The most common reason given for joining a gang was *respect*. This reason was cited by 91 percent of respondents, followed by *friends* (68 percent), or *relatives were members* (55 percent) as rationale for becoming a gang member. One-half of all respondents specified *protection*, as the primary reason for joining a gang. Overall, 55 percent of respondents indicated they had *relatives who were gang members* and two-thirds report that their *gangs sell drugs*. Males joined primarily for respect and females joined mainly because friends were gang members. Ten percent of females and 18 percent of males indicated that relatives were gang members. (Gender breakdowns not shown in table.)

Table 11: Number and percent of respondents that indicate gang involvement

| Questions about gang involvement | Positive response | Total respondents | Percent |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <i>Do you consider yourself a member of a street or youth gang?</i> | 22 | 187 | 12% |
| <i>Would you ever consider joining a gang?</i> | 14 | 165 | 8% |
| <i>Why did you join a street or youth gang?</i> | | | |
| Protection | 11 | 22 | 50% |
| Friends are members | 15 | 22 | 68% |
| Respect | 20 | 22 | 91% |
| Relatives are members | 12 | 22 | 55% |
| Other | 12 | 22 | 55% |
| <i>Do members of your gang sell drugs?</i> | 22 | 33 | 67% |
| <i>Do you have relatives that are members of a street or youth gang?</i> | 27 | 49 | 55% |

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions.



Participant Perceptions Regarding Conflict Resolution and Friends

In the pre-test, participants were asked to indicate the degree to which they agreed or disagreed with statements regarding conflict resolution, gangs, drugs, and their friends. Possible responses included *strongly agree*, *agree*, *disagree*, and *strongly disagree*. Categories were collapsed to *agree* and *disagree*. Table 12 shows the percentage of respondents that indicated they agreed or strongly agreed with each statement, by location and gender. Fully three-quarters of respondents indicated they *can say no to friends that want them to do something wrong* and they *won't be talked into doing anything wrong*, but nonetheless large proportions of respondents reported substantial involvement in potentially risky decisions and rash actions.

Forty-four percent of respondents reported that when angered they often react without considering the consequences. Roughly one-third of respondents indicated that when angered, they *feel more like hurting someone than talking about the situation* (36 percent), *sometimes find it exciting to do things which they might get in trouble for* (33 percent), and are *often in situations where people encourage them to do something that might be illegal* (30 percent). Two-thirds of respondents reported that *to get along and be liked, they tend to be what other people expect them to be*. Sixty-two percent of Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers respondents admitted that *when they are angered they often react without considering the consequences* and 42 percent agree that they are *often in situations where people encourage them to do something that might be illegal*.

Male respondents were consistently more likely to agree with statements highlighted above. In particular, 57 percent of males, compared with 36 percent of females, indicated that *when angry with someone, they often react without considering the consequences*. Twenty-one percent of males also conveyed that they have to be *willing to break some rules if they want to be popular with their friends* (versus 7 percent of females).

Table 12: Percentage of respondents that "agree" or "strongly agree" with statements on pre-surveys, by location and gender

| | Overall | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | IUPUI | Female | Male |
|--|---------|--|-------|--------|------|
| <i>If a close friend of mine committed a crime I would no longer associate with them.</i> | 30% | 25% | 40% | 25% | 38% |
| <i>I often act on the spur of the moment without stopping to think.</i> | 53% | 75% | 8% | 48% | 61% |
| <i>I am often in situations where people encourage me to do something that might be illegal.</i> | 30% | 42% | 4% | 26% | 37% |
| <i>To get along and be liked, I tend to be what other people expect me to be.</i> | 68% | 70% | 63% | 67% | 70% |
| <i>I sometimes find it exciting to do things for which I might get in trouble.</i> | 33% | 48% | 6% | 23% | 50% |
| <i>Often when I'm angry at people, I feel more like hurting them than talking to them about why I am angry</i> | 36% | 51% | 2% | 30% | 45% |
| <i>I can say "no" to my friends if they want me to do something wrong and they won't be able to talk me into doing anything wrong.</i> | 78% | 76% | 83% | 77% | 79% |
| <i>Programs put on by adults are boring.</i> | 29% | 36% | 8% | 21% | 41% |
| <i>I have to be willing to break some rules if I want to be popular with my friends.</i> | 12% | 17% | 0% | 7% | 21% |
| <i>When I get angry with someone, I often just react without considering the consequences.</i> | 44% | 62% | 6% | 36% | 57% |
| Total respondents | 171 | 106 | 52 | 104 | 67 |

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses.



Pre- and Post-Survey Results

The matched sample consisted of 143 completed pre- and post-surveys that researchers were able to pair according to unique identification numbers provided by participants on each survey. As shown in Table 1, all locations are represented in the matched pair comparison. By specifically comparing responses from pre- and post-surveys, analysis can determine whether the delivery and content of the program resulted in any short-term changes in respondents' knowledge and attitudes.

The first question on both the pre- and post-survey instruments presented a hypothetical situation—*what would you do if a friend came and asked you to hide their gun for them*. Respondents were allowed to select up to five different responses. Of the five responses, three would be considered constructive responses (*tell them "no" and walk away*, *tell an adult that the friend has a gun*, *talk them into giving themselves up*) involving no legal consequences, and two would be considered detrimental responses (*take the gun and hide it*, *give them names of places to hide the gun*) which could result in criminal charges for both individuals in the situation.

Table 13 presents pre- and post-survey results for the above question, according to location and gender. A pattern of responses consistent with at least some short-term change in respondents' views on the prudence of aiding a friend to hide a gun is evident. Overall, the percentage of respondents selecting constructive responses increased, in particular for *tell them "no" and walk away*, which increased from 47 to 59 percent.² Eighteen percent of all respondents agreed that they would *take the gun and hide it* on the pre-program survey. However, this dropped to 13 percent on the post-survey. One-quarter of respondents at the Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers indicated on the pre-survey that they would take the gun and hide it, which dropped to 19 percent on the post-survey. The percentage of respondents at these locations that indicated they would tell a friend "no" and walk away increased from 34 percent on the pre-survey to 49 percent on post-surveys. Among females, the percentage that would choose this option rose from 53 to 65 percent.³ Fourteen percent of females indicated they would assist a friend by hiding the gun, which dropped to 9 percent following the program.⁴ A decrease was also evident for *give them names of places to hide the gun*, with the percentage of females conveying such a response falling from 10 percent on the pre-survey to 3 percent on the post-survey.⁵ Among males, a slightly inexplicable trend was observed in which there was a pre-to-post increase (from 20 to 25 percent) in the proportion who would assist a friend *providing names of places to hide the weapon*.

² Overall, the difference between the pre- and post-survey results for this question was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level.

³ Among female respondents, the difference between the pre- and post-survey results for this question was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level.

⁴ Among female respondents, the difference between the pre- and post-survey results was found to be statistically significant at the .10 level.

⁵ Among female respondents, the difference between the pre- and post-survey results for this question was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level.



Table 13: What would you do if a friend came and asked you to hide their gun for them? (Mark all that apply)

| | Overall | | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | | IUPUI | | Female | | Male | |
|--|---------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------|-------|------|--------|-------------|------|------|
| | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post |
| <i>Take the gun and hide it</i> | 18% | 13% | 25% | 19% | 2% | 2% | 14% | 9%** | 27% | 20% |
| <i>Give them names of places to hide the gun</i> | 13% | 10% | 19% | 13% | 2% | 0% | 10% | 3%* | 20% | 25% |
| <i>Tell them "no" and walk away</i> | 47% | 59%* | 34% | 49% | 69% | 77% | 53% | 65%* | 34% | 45% |
| <i>Tell an adult that the friend has a gun</i> | 17% | 19% | 7% | 7% | 35% | 38% | 19% | 23% | 11% | 9% |
| <i>Talk them into giving themselves up</i> | 13% | 17% | 8% | 13% | 21% | 25% | 14% | 20% | 9% | 9% |
| Total respondents | 143 | 143 | 83 | 83 | 52 | 52 | 98 | 98 | 44 | 44 |

* The difference between the pre- and post-survey results is statistically significant at the .05 level.

** The difference between the pre- and post-survey results is statistically significant at the .10 level.

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this question. Some questions had fewer responses.

With regard to knowledge of firearms laws, participants were asked one yes/no question and two true/false questions about this topic on both pre- and post-surveys. As shown in Table 14, nearly all respondents possessed accurate knowledge of firearms laws. There was a high percentage of correct (true) responses on the pre-survey to the questions *you can go to jail/prison for holding a gun for someone else* (96 percent) and *people other than the shooter can be charged for a crime involving a gun* (93 percent). Correct responses to the latter increased to 98 percent on the post-survey, and the difference between results was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level. Among Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers respondents, accurate responses rose from 88 percent on the pre-survey to 96 percent on the post-survey.⁶ The question *is it illegal for you to carry a gun* received lower percentage yes responses, but still high overall at 79 percent. This increased to 85 percent on post-surveys. With this particular question, the post-survey version was worded slightly differently, as follows: "As a minor, is it illegal for you to carry a gun?" For all firearms law questions, similar patterns were observed across locations and by gender.

Table 14: Respondents' knowledge of firearms laws (percentage indicating "yes" or "true") by pre- and post-surveys

| | Overall | | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | | IUPUI | | Female | | Male | |
|--|---------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------|------|--------|------|------|--------------|
| | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post |
| <i>Is it illegal for you to carry a gun?*</i> | 79% | 85% | 80% | 86% | n/a | n/a | 81% | 90% | 76% | 80% |
| <i>You can go to jail/prison for holding a gun for someone else.</i> | 96% | 96% | 95% | 94% | 98% | 100% | 97% | 98% | 95% | 91% |
| <i>People other than the shooter can be charged for a crime involving a gun.</i> | 93% | 98%** | 88% | 96%** | 100% | 100% | 97% | 98% | 85% | 98%** |
| Total respondents | 139 | 142 | 80 | 82 | 52 | 52 | 97 | 97 | 41 | 43 |

*The post-survey question was worded slightly differently, as follows: "As a minor, is it illegal for you to carry a gun?" For this analysis, respondents aged 18 or older (IUPUI students) were excluded.

** The difference between the pre- and post-survey results is statistically significant at the .05 level.

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses.

⁶ Among Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers respondents, the difference between the pre- and post-survey results for this question was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level.



The final five questions on both pre- and post-surveys asked respondents to indicate if they *strongly agreed*, *agreed*, *disagreed*, or *strongly disagreed* with various statements. Categories were combined to *agree* and *disagree*, and the results are shown in Table 15.

The consistent pattern of an increase in constructive responses, from pre- to post-, is encouraging and suggests the *Choices* program has at least a short-term impact. In response to the statement, *the best way to solve an argument is to talk things out, even if it takes an hour or two*, the majority of respondents (80 percent) either agreed or strongly agreed on the pre-survey; this increased by 12 points to 92 percent, on the post-survey.⁷ Similarly, 39 percent agreed or strongly agreed with the statement *the stuff I get into may someday put me in prison* on the pre-survey, which rose to 47 percent on the post-survey—a difference that is statistically significant at the .05 level. Among Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers participants, responses also revealed an increase in constructive responses. Female participants exhibited a similar trend. Male participants did not demonstrate as much change, other than in response to the statement, *the best way to solve an argument is to talk things out, even if it takes an hour or two*, which increased from 64 percent to 85 percent.⁸

Table 15: Percentage of respondents that "agree" or "strongly agree" with statements on pre- and post-surveys

| | Overall | | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | | IUPUI | | Female | | Male | |
|--|---------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------|---------------|--------|--------------|------|--------------|
| | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post | Pre | Post |
| <i>If a person cares about you, they wouldn't put you in a situation where you would get hurt or in trouble.</i> | 83% | 87% | 78% | 87% | 90% | 90% | 83% | 90% | 82% | 82% |
| <i>The best way to solve an argument is to talk things out, even if it takes an hour or two.</i> | 80% | 92%** | 71% | 89%** | 98% | 98% | 86% | 95%** | 64% | 85%** |
| <i>Being in prison wouldn't be too bad; you can go to school, get 3 meals a day, a bed to sleep on.*</i> | 15% | 13% | 19% | 16% | 2% | 4% | 5% | 7% | 30% | 24% |
| <i>The stuff I get into may someday put me in prison.</i> | 39% | 47%** | 59% | 73%** | 6% | 18%*** | 26% | 42%** | 68% | 68% |
| Total respondents | 135 | 138 | 76 | 80 | 52 | 52 | 96 | 97 | 39 | 41 |

* Responses to this statement may have varied between pre- and post-surveys due to a wording change. The post-survey question was worded as follows: "It wouldn't be too bad to be in prison."

** The difference between the pre- and post-survey results is statistically significant at the .05 level.

*** The difference between the pre- and post-survey results is statistically significant at the .10 level.

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses.

Program Impact

The post-survey also included several additional questions regarding how *Choices* might have affected respondents' attitudes, as well as their perceptions of the program itself. Table 16 presents responses to these questions by location and gender. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement.

The majority of participants indicated that the program was helpful to them. Large proportions of all site respondents agreed that *Choices* had positive and constructive effects on them. Overall, the vast majority of

⁷ Overall, the difference between the pre- and post-survey results for this question was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level.

⁸ Among male respondents, the difference between the pre- and post-survey results for this question was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level.



respondents (97 percent) agreed with the statement *it would be helpful for other kids my age to see this program*, and results for this question did not vary a great deal by gender or location. However, among Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers participants, 87 percent agreed that the *video presentation made [them] realize [they were] heading in the wrong direction in life*, and 91 percent indicated they were *likely to change [their] activities and friends based upon what [they] had learned*. Similar trends were observed among male participants. Additionally, 50 percent of male respondents compared with 32 percent of females agreed that the *girls in the video reminded me of myself*.

Table 16: Percentage of respondents that "agree" or "strongly agree" with statements post-surveys regarding the Choices program, by location and gender

| | Overall | Juvenile Detention & Kinsey centers | IUPUI | Female | Male |
|--|---------|--|-------|--------|------|
| <i>This program will help keep me out of trouble.</i> | 93% | 94% | 96% | 97% | 86% |
| <i>This program gives me lots to think about.</i> | 95% | 94% | 98% | 98% | 86% |
| <i>In the future, because of this program I will be careful about who I am friends with.</i> | 93% | 93% | 96% | 96% | 91% |
| <i>In the future I will concentrate more on school and completing my education so I can get a good job or go on to college or vocational school.</i> | 93% | 95% | 98% | 97% | 93% |
| <i>I have recently seen other programs on making good decisions.</i> | 69% | 70% | 56% | 63% | 74% |
| <i>It would be helpful for other kids my age to see this program.</i> | 97% | 99% | 100% | 99% | 98% |
| <i>The video presentation made me realize I am heading in the wrong direction in life.</i> | 67% | 87% | 8% | 62% | 74% |
| <i>The girls in the video reminded me of myself.</i> | 40% | 49% | 8% | 32% | 50% |
| <i>I am likely to try and change my activities and friends based upon what I learned today.</i> | 76% | 91% | 33% | 74% | 81% |
| <i>It would be easy to change the friends that I associate with.</i> | 52% | 56% | 35% | 46% | 60% |
| <i>I don't know how to get my life turned around.</i> | 20% | 23% | 4% | 14% | 26% |
| Total respondents | 165 | 82 | 52 | 97 | 43 |

Note: Total respondents represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses.

Open-ended Responses

Following the program and as part of the post-surveys, participants were asked a series of open-ended questions about the program and personal goals. Some of their responses are highlighted here. In response to *I liked the video because . . .*, 36 participants indicated that they appreciated that the documentary profiled individuals they could relate to and 22 were inspired to change their lives in some way. Ten participants conveyed that it made them think about the reality and constraints of prison life. Collectively, in response to the question, *please describe the part of the presentation that made you think the most*, many participants were struck by Ramona's personal story (36), the length of the documentary subjects' prison sentences (15), separation from family (12), and the serious consequences of even peripheral association with a crime (12). Participants were also asked about their *goals in life*. Many conveyed the desire to finish school (24) and to pursue a professional career (38). In terms of how they *plan on reaching those goals*, many stated an intention to finish school (31) and 56 respondents conveyed a desire to engage in more constructive behavior and make better choices.



Conclusion

Since it began in 2006, the *Choices* program has been delivered in a number of settings to a variety of youth of both genders, from a variety of racial/ethnic backgrounds, and with varying degrees of risk for criminal activity. Program participants surveyed as part of this evaluation, in particular respondents at the Juvenile Detention/Kinsey centers, reported risk factors that reflect an audience to whom *Choices* program is geared and who could benefit from the program.

With regard to risk indicators overall, the majority of all respondents indicated that they had a family member who had been incarcerated at some time. Many survey respondents also admitted to engaging in prior risky behaviors. For instance, over one-half acknowledged having been in a physical fight, one-third to carrying a weapon, and nearly one-third to having used a weapon to threaten or bully someone. Program participants also reported having experienced criminal victimization. Nearly one-half have been physically assaulted and the same proportion of respondents has had property stolen or deliberately damaged. Most knew someone who had been the victim of a gun crime; one-third have been wounded by a gun, knife, or other weapon themselves; and more than one-third have witnessed another person seriously wounded or killed by a gun, knife, or weapon. Nearly one-quarter of respondents admit that at one point, they themselves have been armed during the commission of a crime.

The analysis also revealed differences according to demographic indicators—with age and gender—that may inform additional tailoring of the *Choices* program presentation to specific audiences. For example, younger respondents, between the ages of 13 and 15, were more likely to report having been in a physical fight and older respondents, 16 to 18 years of age, were more likely to admit to carrying or using a weapon. While the expectation of being shot at declined with age, the likelihood of actually being shot at increased with age. In terms of gender, male respondents were substantially more likely to report engaging in risky and illegal behaviors. For instance, nearly one-half of males have been wounded by a gun or other weapon, compared with less than one-quarter of females. Males were also more likely to have experienced victimization, such as physical assault.

Overall, survey results demonstrate that *Choices* produced some short-term changes in participants' knowledge and attitudes, particularly among females. This is revealed by statistically significant increases in respondents' knowledge that people other than the shooter can be charged with gun crimes, the desirability of using verbal conflict resolution techniques, and greater awareness of the consequences of potentially harmful individual choices and actions. In addition, nearly all respondents agreed that *Choices* had positive effects on them, and would be helpful for other youth. The target audience for this program was high risk juvenile girls, and the results showed this population was most affected by the program. Therefore, it is recommended that future presentations focus on this audience.



Appendix A

Choices Survey Administration by Date and Location

| Date | Location |
|--------------------|--|
| July 19, 2008 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| August 23, 2008 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| September 13, 2008 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| September 16, 2008 | IUPUI |
| October 23, 2008 | IUPUI |
| November 1, 2008 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| January 31, 2009 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| February 14, 2009 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| February 16, 2009 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| February 17, 2009 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| February 18, 2009 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| March 12, 2009 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| March 14, 2009 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| March 21, 2009 | Marion County Juvenile Detention Center |
| July 8, 2009 | Kinsey Youth Center (Indiana Department of Correction) |



Appendix B

Choices Pre-Survey

Please place the last four digits of a phone number you always can remember here. This can be your home phone, your cell phone or a friend's number. This will be your only identification number for the survey. This must be the same number you put down on the pre-program survey.

Last four digits of your phone number _____





Date _____ Place _____

WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY ASKING YOU SOME BACKGROUND QUESTIONS. PLEASE CHECK THE BOX FOR THE **BEST** RESPONSE FOR EACH QUESTION.

1. How old are you?

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 years old or younger | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> over 18 years old |

2. What is your gender? ☐ Male ☐ Female

3. Are you currently enrolled in school? If you are currently in jail/detention center, were you enrolled in school prior to being placed in jail/detention center? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. If yes, what grade? If no, what grade did you last complete?

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 6 th grade | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 th grade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 th grade | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 th grade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 th grade | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 th grade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 th grade | <input type="checkbox"/> High School Graduate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 th grade | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed GED |

5. How would you describe yourself?

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino/Latina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian (non-Hispanic) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American (non-Hispanic) | |

6. What best describes where you currently live or lived prior to being in jail/detention center? A home includes a house, apartment, trailer, or mobile home. (Mark all that apply)

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A home with both parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate between parents |
|---|--|



- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A home with only one parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other relative's home | <input type="checkbox"/> On the street (no fixed housing), car or van, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A home with more than one family | park campground or abandoned building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend's home | <input type="checkbox"/> Other transitional or temporary housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster home, group care, or waiting placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other living arrangement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel or motel | <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant housing |

7. Which one of the following BEST applies to your father's employment? (Mark only one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Takes care of house | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Full Time | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Part Time | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, but looking for work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

8. Which one of the following BEST applies to your mother's employment? (Mark only one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Takes care of house | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Full Time | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Part Time | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, but looking for work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

9. Have you ever been arrested? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. If yes, what were you arrested for? If more than one offense, list all.

11. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? ☐ Yes ☐ No

12. If yes, what were you convicted of? If more than one offense, list all.

13. Have you ever spent time in jail or in a detention center? ☐ Yes ☐ No



14. If yes, how long have you spent in the jail or detention center total? _____

15. Has anyone in your family been incarcerated in jail, prison, or a detention center?

☐ Yes ☐ No

16. If yes, which family member? (Mark all that apply)

☐ Father ☐ Sister
☐ Mother ☐ Uncle
☐ Brother ☐ Aunt
☐ Grandparent

PLEASE MARK THE **ONE** BEST RESPONSE TO EACH QUESTION. (IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN A DETENTION CENTER OR JAIL PLEASE RESPOND RELATING TO THE TIME PRIOR TO BEING IN JAIL/DETENTION.)

17. Which **ONE** of the following best describes your most recent grade average? (Mark only **ONE**)

☐ A+ ☐ A ☐ A- ☐ B+ ☐ B ☐ B-
☐ C+ ☐ C ☐ C- ☐ D+ ☐ D or below

18. Have you ever been suspended from school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

19. If yes, how many times? _____

20. Have you ever been expelled from school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

21. If yes, how many times? _____

IN THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, PLEASE CIRCLE THE LETTER CORRESPONDING TO THE BEST RESPONSE.

DURING THE PAST **12 MONTHS** (IF IN JAIL OR DETENTION, CONSIDER THE TIME PRIOR TO BEING HERE) HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU.....

| | 0 Times | 1 Time | 2-3 Times | 4 or More Times |
|--|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|
| 22. been in a physical fight? | A | B | C | D |
| 23. used a weapon to threaten/bully someone. | A | B | C | D |
| 24. carried a weapon (gun, knife, club)? | A | B | C | D |
| 25. skipped school? | A | B | C | D |



- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 26. used marijuana? | A | B | C | D |
| 27. used any other illegal drug? | A | B | C | D |
| 28. been drunk? | A | B | C | D |

DURING THE PAST **12 MONTHS** (IF IN JAIL OR DETENTION, CONSIDER THE TIME PRIOR TO BEING HERE)
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU.....

- | | 0
Times
<hr/> | 1
Time
<hr/> | 2-3
Times
<hr/> | 4 or More
Times
<hr/> |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 29. been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, or kicked by someone who wasn't just playing around? | A | B | C | D |
| 30. been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug? | A | B | C | D |
| 31. seen someone carrying a gun? | A | B | C | D |
| 32. had your property stolen or deliberately damaged? | A | B | C | D |

GANG SECTION

33. Do you consider yourself a member of a street or youth gang? ☐ Yes ☐ No

34. If yes, how many people are in your gang?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 or 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 to 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> more than 20 |

35. If no, would you ever consider joining a gang? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF A STREET OR YOUTH GANG OR CURRENTLY ARE A MEMBER,
PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS – OTHERWISE **SKIP TO QUESTION 40.**

36. How long were you or have you been a member of a street or youth gang?



_____ years and/or _____ months

37. Why did you join a street or youth gang? (Mark ALL that apply)

- ☐ protection ☐ respect
☐ friends are members ☐ relatives are members
☐ other _____

38. Do members of your gang SELL drugs? ☐ Yes ☐ No

39. Do you have relatives that are members of a street or youth gang? ☐ Yes ☐ No

GUN SECTION

40. Do you expect to be shot at before you are age 25?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already have been shot and wounded ☐ Already have been shot at but not wounded

41. Has anyone you know ever been the victim of a crime with a gun? ☐ Yes ☐ No

42. Have you ever been wounded by a gun, knife, or other weapon? ☐ Yes ☐ No

43. Have you personally seen other youths seriously wounded or killed by a gun, knife, or other weapon?
☐ Yes ☐ No

44. If you have committed a crime in the past, when you committed that crime, how often were you armed with a gun? (Check ONE response)

- ☐ Always ☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Almost Never ☐ Never

45. What would you do if a friend came and asked you to hide their gun for them? (Mark all that apply)

- ☐ take the gun and hide it
☐ tell them "no" and walk away
☐ tell an adult that the friend has a gun
☐ give them names of places to hide the gun
☐ talk them into giving themselves up



☐ other – explain _____

46. Is it illegal for you to carry a gun? ☐ Yes ☐ No
47. You can go to jail/prison for holding a gun for someone else. ☐ True ☐ False
48. People other than the shooter can be charged for a crime involving a gun. ☐ True ☐ False
49. Is there a gun in your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No
50. Even though you did not pull the trigger, you can still go to prison for murder. ☐ True ☐ False

USING THE SCALE BELOW, PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

| Strongly | | Strongly | |
|----------|-------|----------|----------|
| Agree | Agree | Disagree | Disagree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

- ____ 51. If a person cares about you, they wouldn't put you in a situation where you would get hurt or in trouble.
- ____ 52. If a close friend of mine committed a crime I would no longer associate with them.
- ____ 53. The best way to solve an argument is to talk things out, even if it takes an hour or two.
- ____ 54. I often act on the spur of the moment without stopping to think.
- ____ 55. I am often in situations where people encourage me to do something that might be illegal.
- ____ 56. To get along and be liked, I tend to be what other people expect me to be.



- _____ 57. I sometimes find it exciting to do things for which I might get in trouble.
- _____ 58. Being in prison wouldn't be too bad; you can go to school, get 3 meals a day, a bed to sleep on.
- _____ 59. Often when I'm angry at people, I feel more like hurting them than talking to them about why I am angry.
- _____ 60. I can say "no" to my friends if they want me to do something wrong and they won't be able to talk me into doing anything wrong.
- _____ 61. Programs put on by adults are boring.
- _____ 62. The stuff I get into may someday put me in prison.
- _____ 63. I have to be willing to break some rules if I want to be popular with my friends.
- _____ 64. When I get angry with someone, I often just react without considering the consequences.

THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING.



Appendix C

Choices Post-Survey

Please place the last four digits of a phone number you always can remember here. This can be your home phone, your cell phone or a friend's number. This will be your only identification number for the survey. This must be the same number you put down on the pre-program survey.

Last four digits of your phone number _____



1. What would you do if a friend came and asked you to hide their gun for them? (Mark all that apply)

☐ take the gun and hide it

☐ tell them "no" and walk away

☐ tell an adult that the friend has a gun

☐ give them names of places to hide the gun

☐ talk them into giving themselves up

☐ other – explain _____

2. As a minor, is it illegal for you to carry a gun? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. You can go to jail/prison for driving the getaway car for someone else. ☐ True ☐ False

4. People other than the shooter can be charged for a crime involving a gun. ☐ True ☐ False

USING THE SCALE BELOW, PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

| Strongly | | Strongly | |
|----------|-------|----------|----------|
| Agree | Agree | Disagree | Disagree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

____ 5. The best way to solve an argument is to talk things out, even if it takes an hour or two.

____ 6. If a person cares about you, they would never put you in a situation where you would get hurt or in trouble.

____ 7. This program will help keep me out of trouble.

____ 8. The stuff I get into may someday put me in prison.

____ 9. This program gave me lots to think about.



- _____ 10. In the future because of this program I will be careful about who I am friends with.
- _____ 11. In the future I will concentrate more on school and completing my education so I can get a good job or go on to college or vocational school.
- _____ 12. I have recently seen other programs on making good decisions.
- _____ 13. It wouldn't be too bad to be in prison.
- _____ 14. It would be helpful for other kids my age to see this program.
- _____ 15. The video presentation made me realize I am heading the wrong direction in life.
- _____ 16. The girls in the video reminded me of myself.
- _____ 17. I am likely to try and change my activities and friends based upon what I learned today.
- _____ 18. It would be easy to change the friends that I associate with.
- _____ 19. I don't know how to get my life turned around.

20. I liked the video because _____

21. Please describe the part of the presentation that made you think the most. _____

22. My goals in life are to _____

and I plan on reaching those goals by doing _____

THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING.



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