Survey of Youth-serving Agencies in Marion County

2008

Marion County Early Intervention Planning Council

Prepared by:

CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY

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Contents

Executive Summary

This report documents the findings of a survey of youth-serving agencies in Marion County commissioned by the Early Intervention Planning Council (EIPC) of the City-County Council of Indianapolis and Marion County. The goal of the survey was to catalog the agencies serving youth in Marion County and the programs these agencies administer. This information will be included in a directory of youth-serving (individuals under the age of 25) 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 agencies.

Information collected on youth-serving agencies included 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 agencies.

This survey also revealed some important perceptions of youth-serving agencies in Marion County. Service ratings were low for prevention, intervention, and treatment services with prevention services receiving the worst rating of the three. There was also strong agreement that there are gaps in services, with 66 percent of respondents indicating there are many gaps in youth services in Marion County. When asked to identify reasons for gaps, respondents most commonly mentioned education, affordability and cost, mental health care, and prevention.

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. Thus, we see an abundance of support for a coordinating agency, but less agreement regarding which agency should fill this role.

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

Data Collection

The EIPC Agency 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 agencies. The surveys were distributed on December 21, 2007. The survey was scheduled to end on June 30, but some responses were received after that date. A list of 148 potential agencies was created. After removing programs that were discontinued, did not provide services to youth, or were not locatable, the list was narrowed to 110 candidates. Of these 110 organizations, 77 responded, generating a response rate of 70 percent.

Description of Agencies

Of the 77 agencies responding, 75 reported whether their agency was a for-profit, nonprofit, or government organization. The majority of the agencies responding (64) are nonprofits. Only 7 for-profit organizations responded, 2 county agencies, and 1 each of federal and city government agencies responded (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Distribution of Agencies by Type (N = 75)
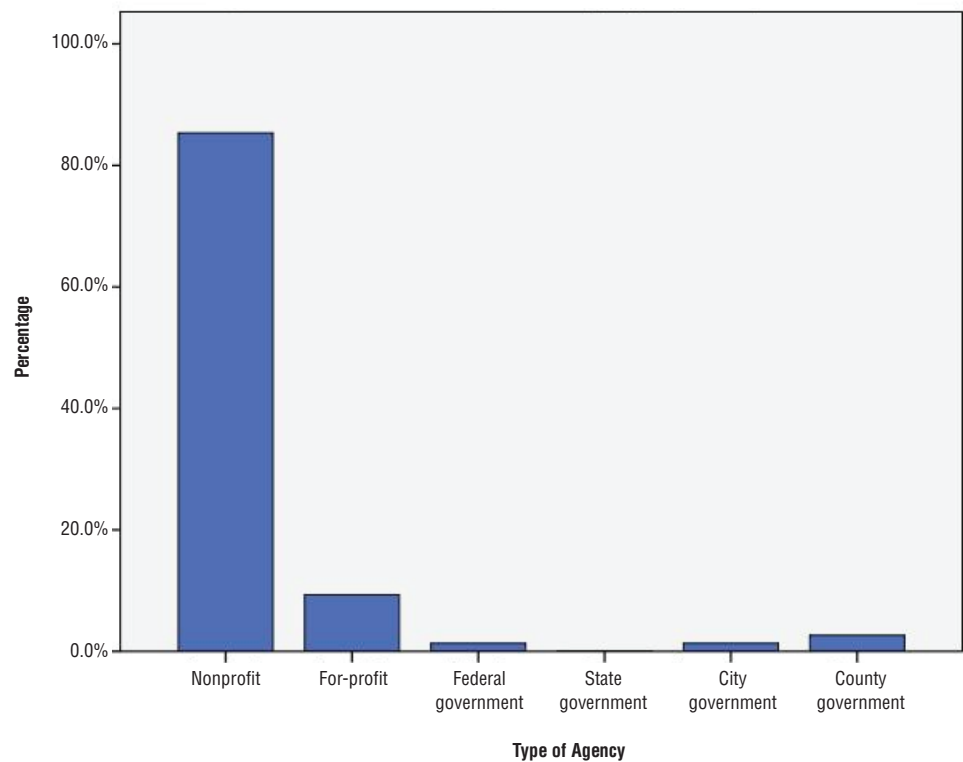
Revenues

The mean annual revenue of the agencies is $6,002,897, but the median revenue is only $1,500,000. The mean revenue is much larger than the median because of the few organizations with large revenues. Twenty-five percent of responding agencies reported annual revenues at or below $660,041 and 75 percent reported annual revenues at or below $7,235,511.

Table 1 shows mean and median annual revenues along with the standard deviation of annual revenues by the type of agency. As can be seen, the mean annual revenue is highest for government organizations and is lowest for nonprofit organizations; however, the median annual revenue is highest for those agencies that are for-profit and lowest for the nonprofit agencies.

Table 1. Annual Revenue by Agency Type

		Agency Type			
		Mean	**Median**	**Standard Deviation**	**Sample Size**
Annual Revenue	All Agencies	**$6,002,897**	**$1,500,000**	**$9,563,279**	**75**
	Nonprofit	**$5,739,045**	**$1,221,414**	**$9,607,307**	**64**
	For-profit	**$6,900,000**	**$5,000,000**	**$6,850,547**	**7**
	Government	$9,023,991	$3,182,281	$12,343,565	4

Respondents were asked to state the percentages of their revenue coming from private, federal, state, and city/county sources. Respondents were also asked what percent of their revenues is self-generated. Self-generated income includes membership dues, program and service revenues, and other fees charged by the agency. The mean percent of revenues from each source is as follows:

- Private revenue – 37.4%
- Federal revenue – 11.2%
- State revenue – 15.0%
- Local revenue – 11.6%
- Self-generated revenue – 25.0%

Table 2 shows the mean percent of revenue from each source broken down by the type of agency.

Table 2. Revenue Sources by Agency Type

	Agency Type		
	Nonprofit	**For-profit**	**Government**
	Mean	**Mean**	**Mean**
Percent of revenue from private sources	**42%**	**0%**	**2%**
Percent of revenue from federal sources	**12%**	**3%**	**6%**
Percent of revenue from state sources	**13%**	**50%**	**22%**
Percent of revenue from city or county sources	**8%**	**43%**	**42%**
Percent of revenue that is self-generated	**26%**	**3%**	**28%**

As can be seen in Table 2, on average, private revenues make up the largest share (42 percent) of revenue for nonprofits. Self-generated revenues account for the second largest share (26 percent) for nonprofits. For-profit agencies, on average, report receiving most of their revenues from state government sources (50 percent) and city or county government sources (43 percent). Responding government agencies indicate that they receive most of their revenues from city or county government sources (42 percent), state government sources (22 percent), and self-generated revenue (28 percent).

Foundations and endowments accounted for the majority of the named sources of private income. Frequently mentioned foundations and endowments include:

- United Way of Central Indiana (26 mentions),
- The Lilly Endowment (10 mentions),
- The Central Indiana Community Foundation (8 mentions),
- The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust (4 mentions), and
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation (3 mentions).

The most commonly cited federal sources of revenue include:

- The Department of Health and Human Services (7 mentions),
- Medicaid and Medicare (6 mentions),
- The Department of Agriculture (5 mentions), and
- The Department of Housing and Human Development (4 mentions).

The most commonly cited sources of state income are:
- The Department of Education (9 mentions),
- The Department of Child Services (8 mentions),
- The Division of Mental Health and Addiction (6 mentions),
- Medicaid (6 mentions),
- The Family and Social Services Administration (4 mentions),
- The Indiana State Department of Health (3 mentions), and
- The Department of Corrections (2 mentions).

The most commonly mentioned sources of city and county income were:
- Marion County (9 mentions),
- The Department of Child Services (6 mentions),
- Community Development Block Grants (3 mentions),
- The Arts Council of Indianapolis (2 mentions),
- The city of Indianapolis (2 mentions),
- Drug Free Marion County (2 mentions), and
- Indianapolis Public Schools (2 mentions).

The most commonly cited sources of self-generated income are:
- Fees for services (70 mentions),
- Interest and investment income (4 mentions),
- Facility rentals and/or leases (4 mentions), and
- Sale of merchandise (3 mentions).

Nearly 50 percent of the 65 agencies responding to this question reported having increased revenues over the past three years, as shown in Figure 2. Only 12 agencies (18.5 percent) reported decreasing revenues over the past three years. The remaining 32.3 percent of the responding agencies reported that their revenues stayed about the same over the past three years. Two of the four responding government agencies reported that they expected a decrease in revenues, while 10 of the 57 (18 percent) non-profits expected decreasing revenues. None of the four responding for-profit agencies reported expecting declining revenues.

Figure 2. Change in Revenues Over the Last Three Years (N = 65)

How have revenues changed over the last three years?
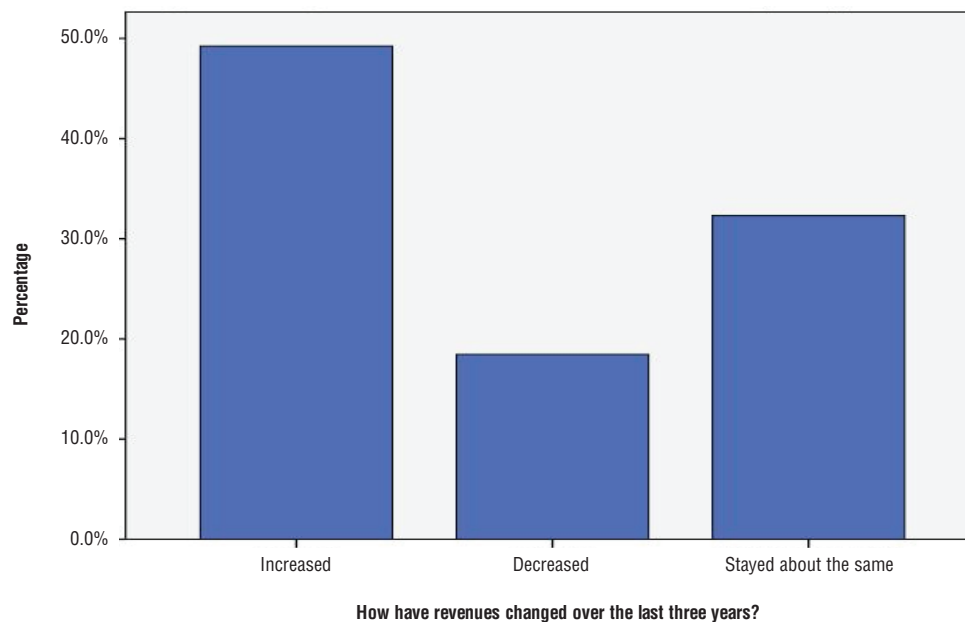
Agencies were asked to report the percent of their revenue spent on youth services. The average was 63 percent of revenues and the median was 78 percent. The breakdown by agency is as follows: nonprofits spend 65 percent of their revenues on youth services, for-profits 73 percent, and government agencies 33 percent.

Employees and Volunteers

Each agency 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 71 and the median number was 20. The average number of youth FTEs was three and the median was zero. Breaking employment down by agency type (see Table 3), we find that government agencies have the highest average number of adult FTEs (135). Both nonprofit and for-profit agencies have an average of 67 adult FTEs. Nonprofit agencies have an average of just over three youth FTEs, while government agencies average less than one youth FTE. None of the for-profit agencies reported having any youth employees.

Across all agencies, an average of 59 percent of adult FTEs directly serve youth. At nonprofits an average of 56 percent of adult FTEs directly serve youth, at for-profits the average is 94 percent, and at government agencies the average is 64 percent. Across nonprofit and government agencies, an average of 82 percent of youth FTEs directly serve other youths. The average for nonprofits is 80 percent and for government agencies the average is 100 percent.

Table 3. Employees and Volunteers by Agency Type

| | Agency Type | | |
| | Nonprofit | For-profit | Government |
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Adult FTE employees	67.28	67.25	135.30
Percent of adult FTE's serving youths	56%	94%	64%
Youth FTE employees	3.21	0	.28
Percent of youth FTE's serving youths	80%	0	100%
Total number of volunteers	581	0	312

When asked if they use any volunteers other than those serving on the board of directors, 68 agencies responded. Of these, 56 reported using other volunteers. The remaining 12 responded that they did not use volunteers other than those serving on the board of directors. The average number of volunteers reported was 570 while the median was only 90 volunteers and the third quartile was 300 volunteers. This is because the few organizations that use many volunteers pull the average upward. In fact, the largest number of volunteers reported by one agency was 11,000 and another agency reported 5,000 volunteers. Removing these two outliers, we find a mean of 254 volunteers and a median of 80 volunteers. Agencies also reported the number of volunteer FTEs. The average of the reported values was 79 while the median was 5 volunteer FTEs. The mean lies above the median because of the few agencies with a large number of volunteer FTE's. The maximum reported volunteer FTEs is 1,500.

Programs

The average number of youth-serving programs reported by each agency was 6.52 and the median was 5. Seven agencies did not list any programs. The remaining agencies listed from 1 to 48 programs. Nonprofit agencies had, on average, 7 programs, for-profits 4, and government agencies 8, as can be seen in Table 4.

Several agencies did not report information on any of their programs and some only reported information for a subset of their programs. Data on the number of prevention programs, intervention programs, and treatment programs are based only on the programs for which data were obtained. Also, note that a particular program can be categorized as a prevention, intervention, and treatment program. Thus program categories are not mutually exclusive. The average nonprofit agency reported more

prevention programs than for-profit and government agencies. For-profit agencies, on average, have more treatment programs than do the other types of agencies, and government agencies have the most intervention programs by a small margin. Based on data for the programs that were reported, government agencies serve the most children on average (12,260 children, see Table 4), followed by nonprofits (4,650 children). For-profit agencies serve the fewest number of children on average (813).

Table 4. Total Number of Programs, Number of Programs by Type, and Number of Children Served

| | Agency Type | | | | | |
| | Nonprofit | | For-profit | | Government | |
	Mean	Sample Size	Mean	Sample Size	Mean	Sample Size
Number of programs	7	57	4	6	8	3
Prevention programs	3.10	52	1.00	6	2.67	3
Intervention programs	1.88	52	1.83	6	2.00	3
Treatment programs	1.38	52	3.50	6	3.00	3
Number of children served	4,605.29	45	812.50	6	12,259.50	2

Services in Marion County

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. Prevention services received the lowest ratings, with 53.6 percent rating prevention services as fair and 17.4 percent rating prevention services as poor. The comparison between intervention and treatment services is less clear. Ratings of intervention services were less extreme (1.4 percent rated intervention services as excellent and 5.8 percent rated intervention services as poor, see Table 5) than those for treatment services (2.9 percent excellent and 11.8 percent poor). Just over 43 percent of respondents rated intervention services as either excellent or good compared to just over 38 percent of respondents giving the same ratings to treatment services.

Table 5. Ratings of Youth Services for Marion County

	Prevention services - rating		Intervention services - rating		Treatment services - rating	
	Respondents	Percent	Respondents	Percent	Respondents	Percent
Excellent	2	2.9%	1	1.4%	2	2.9%
Good	18	26.1%	29	42.0%	24	35.3%
Fair	37	53.6%	35	50.7%	34	50.0%
Poor	12	17.4%	4	5.8%	8	11.8%

Gaps in Services

When asked if there are gaps in services, 66 percent of the 67 respondents indicated that there are many gaps in services (see Figure 3). Only 25 percent of the respondents indicated that there were few or no gaps. There is wide agreement among respondents that there are gaps in service.

Figure 3. Gaps in Services (N = 67)

Do you think there are gaps in services available for youth in Marion County?
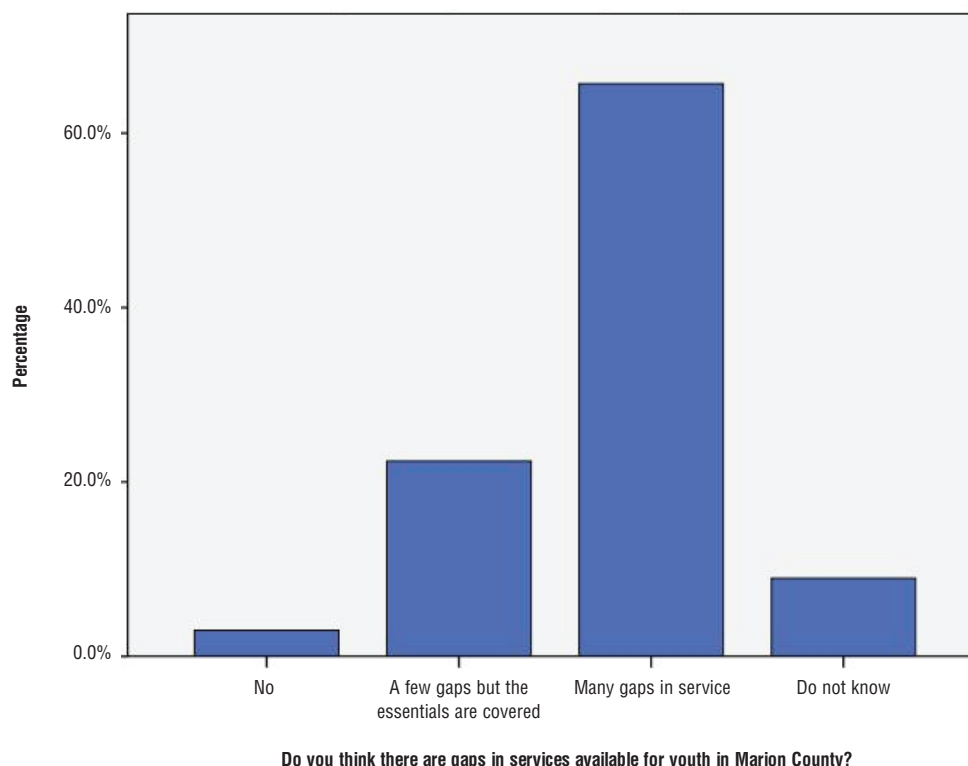
Youth Service Gaps - Open Response Questions

Respondents were asked what they considered to be the three most critical gaps for youth services in Marion County. This was an open response question and a wide variety of answers were received. Responses were coded into several broad areas. A comment addressing more than one of these areas would be coded as a response for each pertinent area. The broad topics most widely addressed include:

- Education (21 responses),
- Affordability and cost (14 responses),
- Mental health (11 responses),
- Prevention (10 responses),
- Transition services (8 responses),
- Employment services (7 responses), and
- Intervention services (7 responses).

Other areas mentioned include substance abuse programs (for parents as well as children), family programs, mentoring, access to services, health care and insurance, violence and gangs, community programs, transportation, sexual and reproductive health, youth activities, assessment (of both youth and programs), and reentry programs for juvenile offenders.

Youth Service Gaps - Closed Response Answers

Respondents were also 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 69 respondents answering this question, 62 percent strongly agree and 29 percent agree that this is a reason for gaps in services (see Table 6). Lack of knowledge of current programs is also identified as a cause of gaps by many respondents. Of the 67 respondents answering this question, 81 percent strongly agreed or agreed and only 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. No individuals strongly agreed, only 22 percent of respondents agreed, and 49 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 6. Level of Agreement with Reasons for Gaps in Youth Services

	Strongly agree Percent	Agree Percent	Neither agree nor disagree Percent	Disagree Percent	Strongly disagree Percent
Poor interagency cooperation	7.5%	43.3%	28.4%	20.9%	.0%
Proper programs are not available	13.2%	51.5%	22.1%	13.2%	0%
Mental health services are not available	16.4%	32.8%	25.4%	23.9%	1.5%
Changes in the youth population	13.0%	46.4%	24.6%	15.9%	0%
People do not know about current programs	26.9%	53.7%	16.4%	3.0%	0%
Geographical gaps in services	23.5%	39.7%	27.9%	8.8%	0%
Too many overlapping services	0%	22.4%	28.4%	38.8%	10.4%
Population served is too narrow	4.4%	36.8%	29.4%	25.0%	4.4%
No one program is comprehensive enough	11.8%	42.6%	27.9%	17.6%	0%
Lack of funds	62.3%	29.0%	5.8%	2.9%	0%
Political problems	26.5%	30.9%	33.8%	8.8%	0%
Focus on treatment, not prevention and intervention	28.4%	29.9%	23.9%	17.9%	0%

Youth-Serving Agency 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 7. Very few respondents strongly agree that their experiences in working with other youth agencies are largely positive (6 percent) but a large fraction agree (67 percent) or neither agree nor disagree (24 percent) with that statement.

Table 7. Level of Agreement with Statements Regarding Youth Service Interaction

	Strongly agree Percent	Agree Percent	Neither agree nor disagree Percent	Disagree Percent	Strongly disagree Percent
The complexity of the problems facing youth requires an integrated approach.	47.8%	39.1%	10.1%	2.9%	0%
Youth service organizations can accomplish more by working together.	50.0%	40.0%	5.7%	4.3%	0%
Youth with serious problems receive more comprehensive services.	40.3%	41.8%	16.4%	1.5%	0%
Interagency coordination prevents youth from falling through cracks.	26.5%	47.1%	17.6%	8.8%	0%
Mandated service coordination is imposed by outsiders who are insensitive.	4.5%	22.7%	59.1%	12.1%	1.5%
My professional values differ so much from those of other organizations' staffs that we have difficulty working effectively together.	1.5%	9.1%	30.3%	47.0%	12.1%
My experiences in working with other youth agencies are largely positive.	6.0%	67.2%	23.9%	3.0%	0%
The specialized nature of each agency's clients means that collaboration cannot be effective.	0%	7.5%	25.4%	50.7%	16.4%
In working with other agencies, my agency gives up too much independence.	1.5%	11.9%	29.9%	53.7%	3.0%
Radically different professional philosophies prevent agencies from working well together.	1.5%	24.2%	27.3%	45.5%	1.5%
Most youth-serving professionals have a strong desire to increase integration.	9.2%	53.8%	29.2%	6.2%	1.5%

Own Organization

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their perceptions of their own organization. Table 8 displays the response rates for these questions. There was wide agreement among respondents that their organization had an emphasis on continuous improvement, with 94 percent 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 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.

While no one strongly disagrees that managers take risk in seizing and exploring chancy growth activities, 30 percent of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and 26 percent disagreed. There was even more disagreement with the statement that their organization has a *live and let live philosophy*. Only 30 percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with this statement while 43 percent either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

Table 8. Level of Agreement with Statements Regarding Own Organization

	Strongly agree Percent	Agree Percent	Neither agree nor disagree Percent	Disagree Percent	Strongly disagree Percent
A high rate of new program and service introductions compared to competitors	11.8%	36.8%	26.5%	20.6%	4.4%
An emphasis on continuous improvement	47.8%	46.3%	3.0%	3.0%	.0%
Risk taking by key managers or administration	21.2%	22.7%	30.3%	25.8%	.0%
A live and let live philosophy in dealing with competitors, funding, clients	3.0%	26.9%	26.9%	37.3%	6.0%
Seeking out unusual, novel solutions by senior managers to problems via idea people	22.1%	48.5%	25.0%	4.4%	.0%
A top management philosophy that emphasizes proven services	22.4%	32.8%	23.9%	16.4%	4.5%

Individuals were also asked a series of questions regarding their organization's top level decision making. Responses are shown in Table 9. 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 9. Level of Agreement with Statements Regarding Own Organization's Top Level Decision Making

|	Strongly agree Percent	Agree Percent	Neither agree nor disagree Percent	Disagree Percent	Strongly disagree Percent
Cautious, pragmatic, step-at-a-time adjustments to problems	4.4%	52.9%	25.0%	16.2%	1.5%
Active search for new opportunities	30.4%	55.1%	10.1%	4.3%	0%
Rapid growth or major social change as the dominant goal	11.8%	22.1%	29.4%	33.8%	2.9%
Large, bold decisions despite uncertainties of the outcomes	2.9%	25.0%	20.6%	42.6%	8.8%
Compromises among the conflicting demands of stakeholders	4.4%	44.1%	27.9%	19.1%	4.4%
Adherence to the status quo, steady growth, and stability as primary concerns	0%	26.5%	30.9%	33.8%	8.8%

New, Revised, and Improved Program

Several questions regarding new and improved programs were included in the survey. First, respondents were asked how many new programs their organization introduced during the last two years. A total of 64 respondents answered this question. The mean number of new programs was 7.1 and the median was 2. While three-quarters of agencies reported 3 or fewer new programs, the maximum number of new programs reported was 300.

A total of 62 respondents answered the question regarding the number of revised or improved programs in the past two years. The mean number of programs revised or improved in the last two years was 13 and the median was 2. Three-quarters of agencies reported revisions or improvements to 4 or fewer programs, while the maximum number of reported revisions or improvements was 600.

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. Nine percent of respondents indicated that the new services provided did not exist to a very great extent, 29 percent of respondents said the new services did not exist to a great extent and 38 percent stated that the services did not previously exist to a moderate extent. Only 12 percent of respondents indicated that the services did not exist to a little extent and another 12 percent thought the new programs introduced by their organization did not provide any new services.

Figure 4. Services Did not Previously Exist (N = 58)

**To what extent did services not previously exist in your area?**
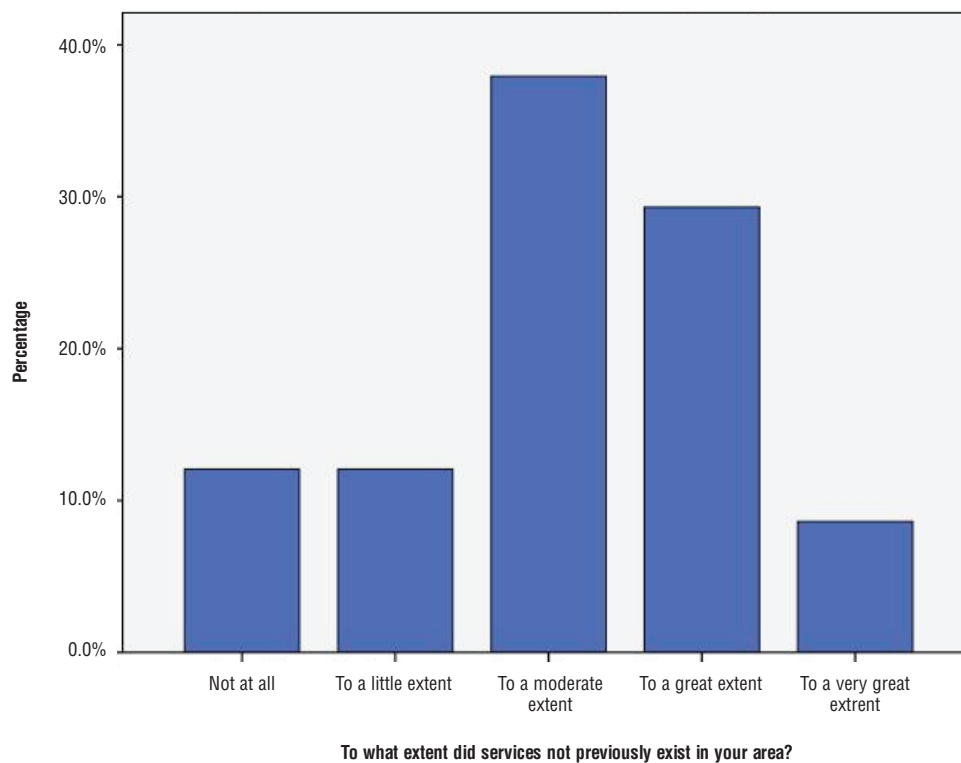
 Respondents were also asked the number of new internal processes or methods of operation that their organization has implemented in the past two years. Examples include new marketing approaches, new recordkeeping methods, new approaches to funding, and new human resource management systems. The average number of new processes reported was 4.8 and the median number was 3. The largest number of new processes reported by any agency was 20. Finally, respondents were asked to estimate the number of major improvements made to existing internal processes and methods during the past two years. The average number of reported improvements was 7.8 and the median was 3. The largest number of improvements reported by any one agency was 100.

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 5. Benefit of A Coordinating Organization (N = 70)

Youth-serving agencies could benefit from organization that could coordinate research, evaluation, fundraising.
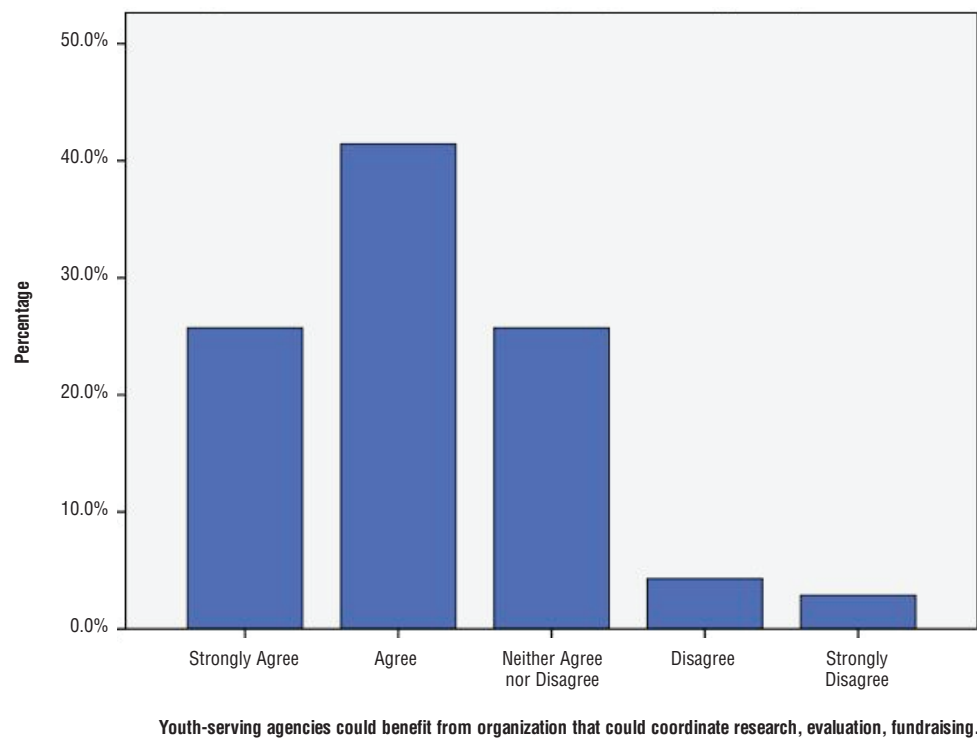
There was relatively strong agreement that youth-serving agencies in Marion County would benefit from a coordinating agency. Fully 67 percent of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that such an organization would prove beneficial and only 7 percent either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Opinion was more evenly split on whether an existing agency could fill this role, with 22 percent either strongly agreeing or agreeing that such an agency exists, 53 percent neither agreeing nor disagreeing, and 26 percent either strongly disagreeing or disagreeing.

Figure 6. An Existing Agency Could Coordinate Services (N = 70)

There is an existing agency that could fill this role.
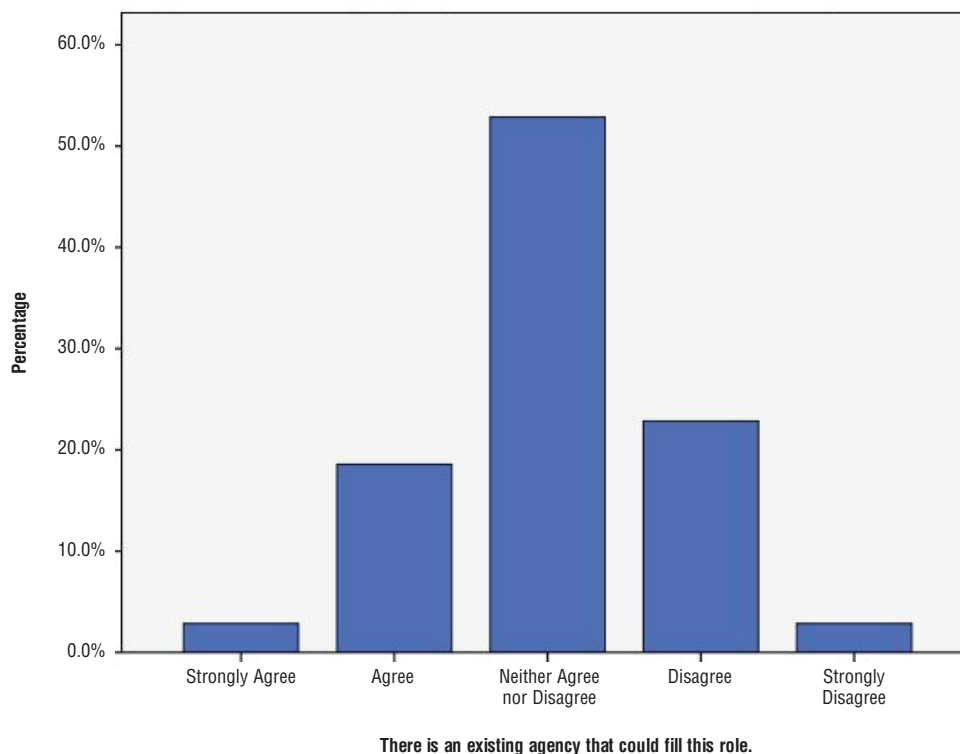
Those who disagreed that there is an existing agency that could fill this role were then asked if they believed such an agency should be created. Only 17 individuals replied to this question (see Figure 7). Of those who answered, 24 percent said that such an agency should be created and another 24 percent said that such an agency should not be created. The remaining 53 percent were not sure if a new agency should be created.

Figure 7. A New Organization Should Be Created (N = 18)

Do you think a new organization should be created?
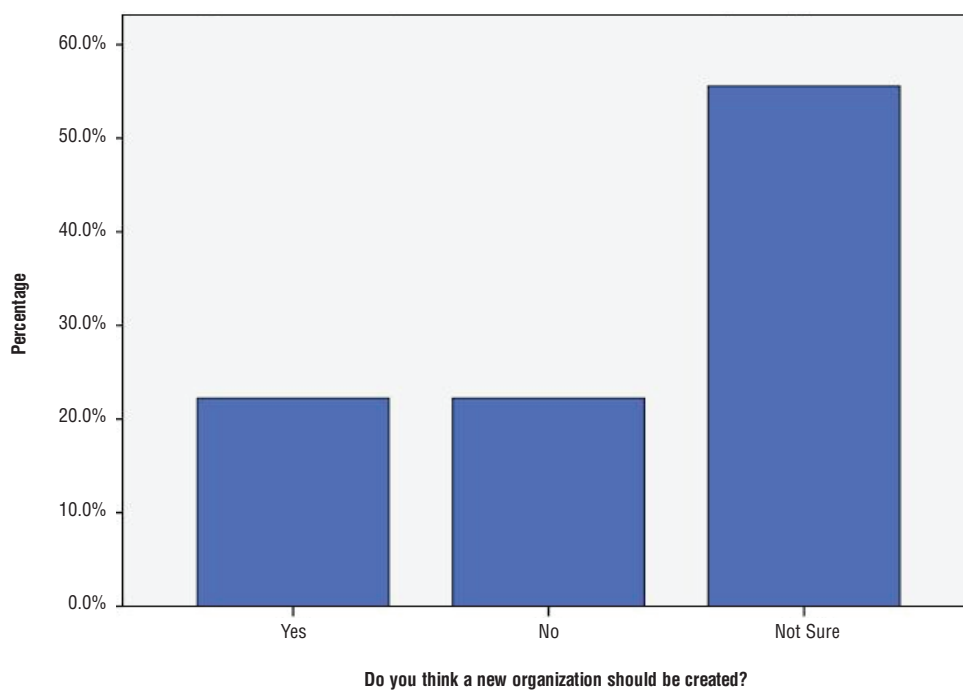
Those who responded that there is an existing agency that can fill this role were asked to name the agency or agencies (up to three responses) that could fill this role. A total of 14 individuals answered this question. Responses include:

- McCoy (10 mentions),
- Indiana Youth Institute (4 mentions),
- Central Indiana United Way (3 mentions),
- The Child and Adolescent Placement Program (1 mention),
- Indiana YouthPRO (1 mention),
- Indiana Youth Service Association (1 mention), and
- Choices (1 mention).

While this is a small sample, McCoy and the Indiana Youth Institute stand out as the two programs mentioned most frequently.

Additional Comments

Respondents were given a chance to give additional, open comments. Topics addressed include:

- Presence of discrimination against LGBT youth by professionals and other adults in the youths' homes, schools, and service systems
- The need to serve the parents of youth in order to more effectively serve the youth
- Funding is a major barrier
- Too many task forces convened that are narrowly problem focused, short term, and often exclusive
- Regarding healthy adolescent sexual development, politics too often trumps science
- Poor quality of service is due to a lack of clinically skilled care providers
- There is a collaborative spirit between mental health centers at the staff level which is lacking at the administrative level.

Conclusion

This survey has collected extensive information on agencies and their youth-serving programs in Marion County. 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 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 for prevention, intervention, and treatment services with prevention services receiving the worst rating of the three. There is also strong agreement that there are gaps in services, with 66 percent of respondents indicating there are many gaps in youth services in Marion County. When asked to identify reasons for gaps, respondents most commonly mentioned education, affordability and cost, mental health care, and prevention.

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. Thus, we see an abundance of support for a coordinating agency, but less agreement regarding what agency should fill this role.