

CAMP KILPATRICK AWARE

Program Evaluation Study

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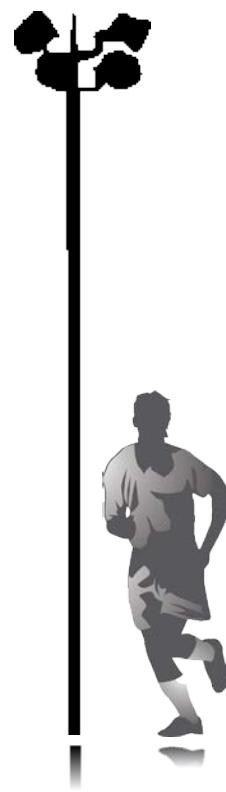


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Camp Kilpatrick AWARE Program Evaluation Study

Executive Summary

This study represents an important development in the evolution of the Los Angeles Probation Department. Over the past 10 years, the Department has faced several issues and problems in the camps (Newell & Leap, 2013). While the Department has previously focused on compliance to mandates directed at these problems, this study marks an important advancement in Probation's approach to reform. Rather than taking a reactionary approach to a problem, Probation is driving practice with discussions of "what works" in order to benefit the long-term success of Probation youth, their families, and their communities.

The primary hypothesis tested in this study was whether AWARE youth would have better outcomes than Non-AWARE youth. Data were retrieved from the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) for 112 youth who arrived at Camp Kilpatrick and participated in the AWARE Program between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011. A matched group of 112 youth (based on age, race, and risk score at arrival to camp) entering other camps during this time were identified as a Non-AWARE comparison group. In addition to PCMS data, data were extracted from case files for 35 youth (31% of 112) drawn from each of these groups for a total of 70 youth. Both the PCMS data and the case file data provided substantial insight into the experiences of AWARE and Non-AWARE youth 1 year prior to the arrest/petition that led to their placements in Camp Kilpatrick or a different camp (Time 1), at the time of the arrest/petition leading to their placements (Time 2); during their camp placements (Time 3); upon exit from their camp placements (Time 4); and 1 year after exit from camp or when the case terminated—whichever came first (Time 5).

Better outcomes in the current study are defined and measured as improvement in social and educational functioning and a decrease in antisocial and criminal behavior. Findings from this report are synthesized and reported relative to each desired outcome. As these findings are reviewed, it is important to consider the trends and patterns that arise as well as the statistically significant differences—in other words, the trends found in the data should be considered seriously (albeit cautiously) when making conclusions about the impact of the AWARE Program. Given the small number of cases used in the case file reviews, true differences may not reach significance because there is not enough "statistical power;" thus the absence of statistical significance should not be taken as evidence to disregard the finding.¹

¹ Cases were limited to 35 cases per group because of study time constraints. Case file reviews require between 6-8 hours of review and coding to ensure all available information is reviewed and recorded in an accurate way.

Demographics and Characteristics of AWARE and Non-AWARE Youth

- ❖ Youth in the AWARE and Non-AWARE groups were largely African-American or Latino and were, on average, 16 (Non-AWARE) to 17 (Aware) years old at the time of the arrest that led to the study camp placement.
- ❖ Over half of the youth in both groups came from Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 6, 7 and 8.
- ❖ Youth in both groups were most often charged with robbery, burglary, or weapon offenses for their arrest that resulted in the camp placement identified in this study.
 - From the case file reviews, we also know that a third of all charges occurred at school and another third were related to their living situation at the time (e.g., home, group home, foster care, etc.).
- ❖ Two-thirds or more of youth in all groups had previous contact with the juvenile justice system prior to the current Probation involvement, and the majority of these youth were classified as high risk or moderate risk by the LARRC tool.
- ❖ Most AWARE and Non-AWARE youth were on probation supervision and had experienced placement in juvenile hall, suitable placement (group homes), and/or camp in the prior year when they received a new arrest or a violation that led to the study camp placement.
- ❖ Using the arrest that eventually led to the study camp placement, youth spent just under two years (on average) between their arrest/petition and exit from the study camp placement, and these youth spent approximately 5 to 6 months (on average) in camp during this time.
- ❖ From the case file reviews, we also know the following about the behavioral health of AWARE and Non-AWARE youth at the time of arrest:
 - A mental health problem and/or a substance abuse problem was indicated in three-quarters or more of youth in both groups.
 - The types of behavioral health interventions most often received by these youth before and during their probation supervision were (in order of those most prevalent) individual therapy, family therapy (general), alcohol/drug education, group therapy, and alcohol/drug outpatient treatment.
- ❖ From the case file reviews, we also know the following about the educational performance of AWARE and Non-AWARE youth at the time of arrest:

- Almost all youth in both groups experienced academic, attendance, and behavioral problems at school.
 - The types of educational interventions most often received by these youth were (in order of most prevalent) an Individualized Education Plan meeting request, tutoring services, and/or school-based counseling.
- ❖ For AWARE youth, the most frequently played sports were baseball and soccer followed by football, track, and basketball. One-fifth of the participants played more than one sport during their participation in the AWARE Program.

Findings for Behavioral Outcomes

Findings in this section are based on analysis of data derived from Probation Case Management System and from case files on a sub-sample of AWARE and Non-AWARE youth. The results are synthesized and reported relative to the impact of the AWARE Program on educational performance, disciplinary problems, risk levels, recidivism, and involvement with Probation.

❖ Educational performance

Both AWARE and Non-AWARE improved noticeably on several educational indicators; however, AWARE youth were more likely to show statistically significant change on regular attendance and were doing well academically during the tracking period. In fact, the difference between improvement exhibited by AWARE and non-AWARE youth for regular attendance was marginally significant ($p < .10$). With regard to doing well academically, the change from arrest/petition to tracking was statistically significant for AWARE youth, but the overall difference between groups was not statistically significant.

❖ Disciplinary problems

Behavior at school and outside of school improved dramatically for both AWARE and Non-AWARE youth over time. The decreases were particularly large for AWARE youth on all behavior measures. As evidence of improved behavior during their camp placements, AWARE youth were almost twice as likely to be released early from Camp Kilpatrick for good behavior as their Non-AWARE counterparts. Despite larger reductions for AWARE youth on all disciplinary measures, these differences were not significantly different across AWARE and Non-AWARE youth.

- ❖ Risk Level as Measured by the Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup (LARRC)

Changes in average LARRC scores were examined using regression models that showed no statistically significant change between AWARE and Non-AWARE youth on their LARRC scores from the time they were placed in camp and at the time they were released. A better measure of reduced risk would be to test initial LARRC scores with scores collected at the end of the tracking period; however, the data available had too much missing data to compare the scores in this manner.

- ❖ Recidivism

AWARE youth were less likely to have new juvenile arrests between their arrest/placement and camp exit and this difference was significant using a Chi-Square test of significance; however, when regression models were used, juvenile recidivism did not vary significantly across groups by any measure. Similarly, recidivism measured by adult arrests and convictions did not vary across AWARE and Non-AWARE youth over time.

- ❖ Involvement with Probation.

Overall, more youth were spending time at home during the tracking period than 1 year prior to the arrest/petition that lead to the study camp placement, fewer youth were placed in juvenile hall, and fewer youth were placed in suitable placement. This pattern was similar across both groups.

Findings from Interviews with Previous AWARE Program Participants

Twenty-one men who previously participated in the Camp Kilpatrick AWARE Sports Program were interviewed for this study. These men were identified through a combination of (1) snowball sampling within community-based organizations that serve former probation youth and emerging adults, and (2) young men (18 years old or older) who had participated in the AWARE program and were still the under supervision of the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

The interview protocol was designed to cover three distinct time periods: Early Childhood and Pre-Camp Kilpatrick, Camp Kilpatrick (6-9 months, generally), and Life After Camp Kilpatrick. The majority of interviewees (52%) were 18 years old, followed by 19% of participants who were 19 years old. The remaining 29% of interviewees spanned 22 to 39 years old. Youth of color made up most of the study sample, comprising 86% of individuals interviewed. More than half of participants (53%) interviewed were Latino, followed by 33% African American, with the remaining 14% of interviewees classified as White.

The responses from previous AWARE participants reinforced the findings from the case file data and provided additional details to more directly understand their experience in the AWARE Program, including the following:

- ❖ Prior to entering Camp Kilpatrick and participating in the AWARE Program, respondents faced a number of challenges in their lives: many had no father present in their lives, experienced school problems, engaged in drug use, and were associated with gangs.
- ❖ Most had a previous history in the juvenile justice system, including previous camp placements.
- ❖ Respondents reported playing sports at school as a way to keep them out of trouble.
- ❖ Participation in AWARE was viewed as a positive experience by all the respondents. Specifically, they reported that their participation helped in several ways, including:
 - Providing male role models that helped to offset the experience of having an absentee father;
 - Instilling hope and belief in their success—the coaches made them feel trusted and capable;
 - Stressing teamwork, which provided a reprieve from gang and racial tensions;
 - Providing the opportunity to connect to family by inviting them to games;
 - Providing incentives to behave during their camp stay; and,
 - Developing positive relationships with adults who cared.
- ❖ Respondents were not critical of AWARE; however, they offered the following recommendations based on their experiences:
 - Access to more extracurricular activities (e.g., art, music, shop, etc.) for all youth at the camp;
 - More access to counseling and practical educational opportunities (e.g., domestic violence programs, parenting programs, etc.) to support the physical, mental, and emotional health of youth;
 - More family involvement and connections while in camp; and
 - More follow-up/connection after they were released from the camp.
- ❖ At the time of the interview, the majority of respondents were performing well educationally, having finished their high school education, and attending or completing college or trade school.
- ❖ Most of the respondents reported having a stable living environment and working in either full or part-time employment.
- ❖ Respondents also reported minimal contact with the criminal justice system. Only a quarter of those interviewed were re-incarcerated post-Camp Kilpatrick due to probation violations, and no one reported being re-incarcerated for committing a new crime.

Taken together, how youth are treated while they are “locked-up” matters, and it *will* have a profound effect on their lives. For these respondents, the AWARE program provided a “value added” beyond its immediate activities. The majority of the sample drew upon the behavior of coaches and staff as role models, remembered their advice and several have maintained relationships long after camp, still turning to these men in times of need. The men interviewed have taken the lessons of camaraderie, discipline, and hope,

and had successfully integrated them into their own lives and those of their families. While sports clearly contributed to the resiliency of respondents, athletic involvement was decidedly *not* the most meaningful part of this program, instead having programming for youth development, encouraging team-building, having male adult mentors, and fostering pro-social relationships had the most significant and sustainable impact.

Study Recommendations

Based on the findings summarized above, we offer the following recommendations for consideration.

Programmatic Recommendations

The current study provides evidence that the AWARE Program has positive impact for those who participate; however, participation in this program is not a panacea for all the emotional and environmental challenges faced by participants, particularly when they leave Camp Kilpatrick. Its impact was positive but also limited in the current study. Although this study provides support for continuing the AWARE Program, its continuation should be considered within the context of other issues such as:

- ✓ *Building relationships:* What seemed to make the most significant, long-standing impact on previous AWARE participants were the relationships they made with coaches and teammates. In particular, their participation inspired and reinforced hope and the belief that they were bigger and more capable than their current circumstance. This element of the AWARE Program is perhaps its most critical component and should be expanded to all youth in camps.
- ✓ *Expanding the opportunity:* The AWARE Program is a positive youth development activity that generated positive, supportive relationships, hope, belief in oneself, and motivation to succeed among its participants. The benefits of such programming should not be limited to a few youth; rather, if AWARE continues, other extracurricular activities (including intermural sports, art, music, and shop to name a few) should be available for all youth at the camps. It is important to note that interview respondents did not emphasize the importance of the privileges as significant to their success. Instead, they remembered and learned from the relationships they built.
- ✓ *Connecting programming:* Positive youth development activities such as AWARE should be connected to appropriate treatment programs that meet the needs of the youth. The youth coming to camps and to the AWARE Program face a number of challenges in their communities and within their families. Many have experienced trauma in their lives and often find more incentives (and sometimes pressure) to make bad decisions than good ones. AWARE and other positive youth development programs are critical to the healing process for youth in camps, but they need more skills, resources, and support to maintain positive change when they return to the community forces that originally propelled them into the juvenile justice system.

Practice Recommendations

The results from this study emphasize the need to consider current Probation practice for youth in camps and their transition back into the community. To reach its maximum effectiveness, in other words, the AWARE Program and any other type of positive youth development must fit within the larger context of Probation's mission, goals, practices, and policies. Efforts are currently underway to improve services for youth in camps and their reentry back into the community when they exit (e.g., CCTP), but this study raises the need to ensure these efforts and future ones address critical issues to support youth success.

- ✓ Integrate family interaction and programming into the youth's camp stay. Youth want and need to stay connected to family members during their stays, and family members need to be prepared—through education and support—to contribute to their child's success when he/she returns home.
- ✓ Create seamless transitions to appropriate educational placements should be a priority in the aftercare planning for these youth. The majority of youth are not enrolled in school upon exit, and enrollment rates remain lower than those at arrest/petition during tracking.
- ✓ Develop creative incentives for probation staff to build positive mentoring-type relationships with youth while in camp and continue the support when the youth is transitioned back into the community—to what extent is there "continuity of care" for these youth?
- ✓ Develop and implement ways to sustain the relationships and positive behaviors built in camp when youth return to the community.
- ✓ Assess youths' risks and needs and use this information to drive case planning and the connection to appropriate services for youth. The LARRC should be administered at regular intervals and directly connected to case planning decisions.
- ✓ Explore the role of violations in keeping youth under Probation supervision for long periods of time and how they potentially contribute to a rotating door of camp admissions and exits. If violations are being used as a tool to control bad behavior (i.e., a deterrent), is it an effective tool or would a different approach result in better outcomes for youth?
- ✓ In general, this study underscores the need for Probation to realign its work to achieve public safety and rehabilitation by accurately identifying and appropriately addressing the needs of the youth, providing effective programming and approaches to help youth make better decisions, and supporting youth as they experience changes and the challenges associated with those changes.

Data Recommendations

- ✓ PCMS is limited in its ability to track and assess outcomes for youth generally and program effectiveness specifically. Case files contain more information, but the data are not always easy to find because documentation is not consistent or standardized. Processes and systems should be implemented that allow real-time tracking of youth progress and the ability for Probation to measure what it is doing and how well it is doing it on a regular basis.
- ✓ Establish an infrastructure from which a deliberate and meaningful research agenda can be executed on a regular and consistent basis in order to (1) better understand the practices of Probation, (2) assess which of these practices is meaningful and effective, and (3) contribute to Probation decision-making around practices and policies intended to improve outcomes for youth, their families, and their communities.

Chapter 1: Background and Study Purpose

Background

In 1986, the Los Angeles County Probation Department and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) jointly designed and implemented the AWARE (Academics with Athletics Reaching Excellence) Sports Program at the Camp Kilpatrick youth correctional facility. This program is intended to expose high-risk youth in Camp Kilpatrick to positive experiences and achievement in academics and athletics. Academically, AWARE helps youth develop self-confidence and enthusiasm for learning by providing tutors from Pepperdine University and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

The athletic component of AWARE uses sporting events to develop participants' sense of fair play, teamwork, honesty and integrity. AWARE coaches serve as positive role models and work to build camaraderie between youth from different racial and ethnic groups and neighborhoods. They focus on positive youth development; attempt to foster an atmosphere of cooperation, enthusiasm and encouragement; and provide a structured approach to athletic competition. In particular, AWARE coaches help participants understand how practice, teamwork and skill-building exercises contribute to long-term success. Youth participation in athletics is also intended to build trust and interpersonal relationships among teammates as well as helping to build individual resiliency.

The AWARE participants may play in one or more of the following athletic teams: football, soccer, basketball, track, and baseball. Youth are "recruited" from other Probation camps and juvenile halls based on their athletic abilities, and transferred to Camp Kilpatrick where AWARE athletes are distinguished by dress and living quarters (i.e., they are housed in the "Sports Dormitory"). Additionally, they are allowed to travel to the sports games without restraints or handcuffs and family members are encouraged to attend. The program has full membership in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), which allows teams to engage in Alpha League competitions at the varsity and junior varsity levels. Approximately 100 youth participate in these programs annually.

Some critics of the AWARE Program question its ability to reach its program goals. In other words, do AWARE participants truly experience the positive outcomes the program espouses? Others argue that the elite status given to the participants creates disparities for youth who do not participate in the program, and yet another criticism involves the extent to which the programming truly benefits the participants.

Proponents of the program, on the other hand, believe the program plays a critical role in the rehabilitation of youth placed in camps. Participants have both a structure in which to learn and an incentive to make more positive decisions. Engaging in team sports not only provides physical activity but also exposes youth to team-building, encouraging respect and friendships across barriers of race/ethnicity and geography. These skills (and others), they argue, produce resiliency against risk factors faced by AWARE participants when they return to their communities.

This debate is interwoven into discussions of what should happen with the AWARE Program when Camp Kilpatrick is redesigned. In the absence of data, decisions are easily swayed by anecdotal information and emotion. With data, however, those same conversations can be directed in a productive way—using all the information to produce a thoughtful decision to improve outcomes for Probation youth and their families.

Study Purpose

This study examines whether AWARE Program participants have better outcomes than youth placed in camps who do not participate in this program. The Los Angeles Probation Department is currently reconstructing Camp Kilpatrick's programming and structure by building a state-of-the-art facility and incorporating best practices and evidence-based programming into its operation. Consistent with this vision, the Department commissioned this study to integrate empirical findings into the programming discussion, particularly as it relates to the maintaining the AWARE Sports Program in the new plan. To this end, we test whether the AWARE program produces better outcomes by testing the following research hypothesis:

Research Hypothesis: AWARE Sports Program participants will have better outcomes than youth from other camps during the same time who did not participate in the AWARE Sports Program.

Support for this hypothesis is drawn from evaluations of athletic programs for juvenile justice-involved youth. Although limited, research suggests that sports programs, in some circumstances, reduce delinquency. A report by Cameron and MacDougall (2000) investigated a number of sports programs that appeared to have a positive effect on reducing delinquency, including wilderness therapy programs and community sports events. The two wilderness programs had low recidivism rates (about 15 to 20%), and the "sports carnivals" (organized sporting events hosted in Australia) were successful in reducing drug use and preventing crime in the community.

More recently, Vermillion (2007) found that sports participation had a moderate impact on reducing negative behaviors. Youth who participated in sports spent more time per week on homework and exhibited a somewhat smaller number of troubling or delinquent behaviors such as being sent to the principal's office, getting into fights, and parental notification for poor behavior or grades.

One mechanism by which athletic programming may reduce delinquency is the intense physical activity required to play sports (Wilson & Lispey, 2000). A meta-analysis of wilderness challenge programs for delinquent youth found that youth who participated in these programs were 18% less likely to recidivate than similar youth who did not participate. The factors most predictive of program success were the high intensity of physical activity and the inclusion of a therapeutic component. Similarly, a 2007 cross-sectional survey of nearly 4,000 adolescents in Ontario also found a positive association between juvenile delinquency and vigorous physical activity among adolescent males (Faulkner et al., 2007).

The impact of athletic programming on delinquency may also be reflective of involving high-risk youth in positive youth development programming. Positive youth development programs recognize the importance of offering structured strengths-based activities during non-school hours and having interested adults work with troubled youth to broaden their perspectives, create trusting relationships, and enhance their social and life skills. Fraser-Thomas, et al. (2005), for example, tested the impact of positive youth development experiences derived from involvement in athletic activities on their subsequent behaviors. Participation in these programs reduced obesity and the likelihood of smoking and stress while increasing self-esteem, life satisfaction, social success, positive peer relationships, leadership skills, and academic performance. Additionally, this study highlighted the importance of positive “child–adult (parent/coach) relationships” as a critical component to program success. The authors summarized the key factors of an effective program:

The applied sport-programming model of positive youth development proposes that if policy-makers, sport organizations, coaches, and parents are successful in developing and implementing youth sport programs that consider youths’ stages of development, in conducting the programs appropriate settings, and in fostering developmental assets, youth will subsequently have positive sport experiences and emerge as competent, confident, connected, compassionate, character-rich members of society (p. 33).

Despite research supporting the effectiveness of athletic programming on improving developmental outcomes, other research suggests that sports programs may have limited efficacy in reducing delinquency. Thus, the contrary expectation to the research hypothesis is a test of “no difference”—also known as a null hypothesis.

Null Hypothesis: AWARE Sports Program participants will not have better outcomes than youth from other camps during the same time who did not participate in the AWARE Sports Program.

Some research supports the absence of positive effects for AWARE. In a summary of research, for instance, Robins (1990) found that sports programs neither reduced nor increased delinquency. Based on a longitudinal survey of 6,000 Chicago youth, Gardner et al. (2011) found higher rates for some types of non-violent crimes for boys participating in sports programs compared to their non-participating counterparts. Specifically, boys who participated in non-athletic activities were 39% less likely to participate in nonviolent delinquent acts than boys who participated in sports. Gardner et al. also found, however, that the relationship between sports participation and delinquency was mediated by “deviant peer affiliations” and “unstructured socializing.” In other words, participation in athletic activities was less effective if the youth was affiliated with delinquent peers and their time was spent socializing with peers in an unstructured setting.

The debate between these two perspectives continues as researchers seek to better understand the relationship between athletic programming and delinquency. This study intends to contribute to this body of knowledge by testing these hypotheses with a cohort of youth who participated in AWARE and a matched comparison group of youth in camps during the same timeframe. More specifically, the study analyses

Probation Case Management System (PCMS) data and Probation case file data to assess whether AWARE participants compared to Non-AWARE youth exhibited:

1. Decreases in disciplinary problems;
2. Improvement in educational performance;
3. Reduction in mental health and substance abuse problems;
4. Improvements in Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Check-up (LARRC) scores at exit from camp; and,
5. Decreases in recidivism and involvement with Probation.

Additionally, interviews with young men who previously participated in the AWARE program were conducted to capture, from their perspective, whether and how the program may have contributed to a successful reentry into the community.

The results of the PCMS and case file data analysis are presented in Chapter 2, and the themes identified from AWARE participant interviews are described in Chapter 3. Taken together, we hope the findings help the Los Angeles County Probation Department and its partner agencies better understand the impact of the AWARE program and contribute to informed decision-making around “what works” for this population.

Chapter 2: Assessing the Impact of the AWARE Sports Program–PCMS Data and Case File Reviews

A Brief Overview of Study Methodology

This study uses an ex post facto research design in which the “treatment” group (i.e., youth who participated in the AWARE program) is compared to a “comparison” group of youth who did not participate in the AWARE program. The treatment group includes all youth who entered Camp Kilpatrick between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011 and participated in the AWARE program. The “comparison” group was selected from youth who did not participate in AWARE and were entering from other camps during this timeframe.

Selection of comparison youth was accomplished using probabilistic matching procedures based on race/ethnicity, age, and LARRC scores at time of arrest. Statistical comparisons of the treatment and comparison group showed no significant differences on these factors, supporting the proposition that the two groups are equivalent in these critical ways. This procedure, however, can only ensure parity on matched factors. Other important factors (such as athletic ability, mental illness, gang membership, and family support/stability) are not measured in the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) and could not be matched across groups. While we have no reason to believe that these factors vary significantly between groups, results should be interpreted carefully given this limitation.

Case File Data Collection

In addition to the PCMS data, a subsample of 35 youth from both groups was randomly selected for more in-depth case file data collection. During the case file coding, some of the cases mistakenly classified as comparison group cases were discovered to be AWARE cases. These cases were coded and subsequently moved to the treatment group, which resulted in two complications. First, movement of cases from one group to another converted the AWARE subsample from a random sample to a convenience sample, and secondly, the matched group for comparison cases had to be re-selected. As a result, the Non-AWARE cases used for case file data collection represent the first matched sample, whereas the Non-AWARE cases used for PCMS data analysis represent a second matched sample. These events do not compromise the samples or results, but it is important to know that results for the Non-AWARE PCMS subsample should not be directly compared to the Non-AWARE case file subsample. Rather, the two groups represent similar but different samples from the larger “Other Camp” population.

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 display demographics and other important characteristics of the study groups found in the PCMS data, which not only provides a profile of the cases used for this study but also establishes the comparability between the two groups.

Differences across groups were tested using Chi-Square tests, and changes in behavior over time within groups from arrest/petition to tracking were tested using the McNemar test to determine if the change reached statistical significance. If the change was significant in one or both groups, multinomial regression was used to test whether the changes across time were significantly different between groups (i.e., AWARE v. Non-AWARE youth). It should be noted, however, that since the sample size for the case file review analysis is relatively small, true differences may not reach the level of statistical significance. As a result, findings are predominately presented in terms of trends and patterns demonstrated in the data within and across groups.

Table 2.1: Summary of Youth Characteristics across All Study Cases and Cases Selected for Case File Data Collection

	ALL CASES		CASE FILE CASES	
	All AWARE Cases (N=112)	Non-AWARE Cases (N=112)	AWARE Cases (N=35)	Non-AWARE Cases (N=35)
Race/Ethnicity				
African-American	44%	48%	46%	47%
Latino	48%	48%	43%	42%
Caucasian	8%	4%	11%	3%
Average Age	16.03 (1.32)	15.82 (1.33)	15.57 (1.48)	15.65 (1.26)
Service Planning Area				
SPA 1	7%	10%	14%	11%
SPA 2	11%	10%	3%	6%
SPA 3	10%	11%	11%	14%
SPA 4	9%	7%	14%	8%
SPA 5	4%	0	0	0
SPA 6	26%	29%	23%	20%
SPA 7	13%	7%	14%	9%
SPA 8	18%	22%	17%	31%
Charge Related Information				
<i>Original Charge</i>				
Robbery	32%	27%	29%	29%
Burglary	13%	17%	14%	23%
Weapon Offenses	12%	12%	11%	6%
Assault (PC 242-PC 245)	9%	9%	6%	11%
Vandalism (PC 594)	8%	6%	11%	9%
<i>Original Charge Type</i>				
Felony	87%	82%	80%	86%
Misdemeanor	12%	15%	17%	14%
<i>Arrest/Petition Charge Related to...</i>				
Living Situation	---	---	34%	29%
Occurred at School	---	---	34%	26%

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .05$. ¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .10$.

NOTE: Percentages across categories do not add to 100% due to missing data (SPA) and "Other Type" of charge in Charge Type (3%).

"---" indicates no data were available for this particular group or time period.

In general, the AWARE and Non-AWARE groups were similar for both PCMS data comparisons and for case file data collection comparisons—a conclusion underscored by the absence of statistically significant differences on any characteristic across groups (see Table 2.1). As shown in this table, youth in all groups were largely African-American or Latino and were, on average, 15 or 16 (years old at the time of their arrest). Over half of these youth came from Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 6, 7 and 8, and they were most often charged with robbery, burglary, or weapon offenses. Approximately, a third of all charges occurred at school and another third occurred at home (case file data collection only).

Table 2.2: Summary of Risk-Related Information across All Study Cases and Cases Selected for Case File Data Collection

	ALL CASES		CASE FILE CASES	
	All AWARE Cases (N=112)	Non-AWARE Cases (N=112)	AWARE Cases (N=35)	Non-AWARE Cases (N=35)
Risk To Reoffend Measures				
<i>Had a Prior Criminal History</i>	70%	67%	69%	66%
<i>LARRC Level before Admission</i>				
High	66%	67%	60%	46%
Moderate	32%	31%	34%	54%
Low	2%	2%	6%	0
Time in System (in Months)				
Time Between Arrest & Exit	18.35 (12.11)	21.24 (12.10)	19.39 (14.33)	19.91 (12.34)
Time Spent in Study Camp Placement	5.88 (2.21)	6.21 (3.28)	5.41 (2.37)	5.14 (2.44)

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.05$. ¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at .10 level.

Risk-related characteristics are presented in Table 2.2. Similar to Table 2.1, no statistically significant differences were found across groups for these characteristics, indicating that the AWARE and Non-AWARE groups are comparable to one another. According to these results, two-thirds or more of youth in all groups had previous contact with the juvenile justice system, and the majority of these youth were classified as high risk or moderate risk by the LARRC tool. Using the arrest that eventually led to the study camp placement, youth spent just under two years (on average) their arrest/petition and exit from the study camp placement, and these youth spent approximately 5 to 6 months (on average) in camp during this time.

Table 2.3 provides insight into the distribution of AWARE participants by the type of sport played. The most frequently played sports for these youth were baseball and soccer followed by football and track. Basketball was the least likely sport played by participants identified in this cohort (17%). One-fifth of the participants played more than one sport.

Table 2.3: Distribution of Sports Played by AWARE Participants

Type of Sport Played	N	%
Baseball	12	34%
Soccer	12	34%
Football	7	20%
Track	7	20%
Basketball	6	17%
Multiple Sports	8	21%

Study Timeframe for Case File Data Collection

Data collection and analysis of data for this study is based on a specific timeframe displayed in Figure 2.1. The “anchor” date for the case file data collection was the youth’s arrest or petition that directly or eventually led them to their placement in Camp Kilpatrick or another camp between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011. Using this date, historical information related to the youth’s status and experiences one year prior to this arrest was captured in the case files (*Time 1*). Next, information on the youth’s status at the time of the arrest/petition was gathered (*Time 2*). Data related to the youth’s trajectory was then captured for their stay in camp (*Time 3*), their exit from camp (*Time 4*), and one year after their exit from camp or when the case was terminated by the court—whichever came first (*Time 5*).²

Figure 2.1: Illustration of Study Timeframe for Case File Data Collection



Case File Findings

Findings from the case file data collection are presented in this section. Results from this analysis are broken down by time period and by characteristics. Table 2.4 provides insight into the situation of study youth leading up to the arrest/petition that resulted in or eventually led to the study camp placement (*Time*

² In some cases, the court terminated jurisdiction for youth prior to 1 year after the exit from camp. In these cases—71% of AWARE cases and 63% of Non-AWARE cases—the jurisdiction terminated date represented the end of the tracking period because Probation does not have access to data on youth once they leave Probation supervision. The average number of days under Probation supervision for cases that terminated was: 276 days for AWARE (range=177 to 360 days) and 263 days for Non-AWARE (range=180 to 338 days).

1). Tables 2.5 through 2.8 display findings across domains of characteristics and outcomes from the time of the arrest/petition (*Time 2*), during camp placement (*Time 3*), at the time of exit from camp (*Time 4*), and one year after exit or when the case was terminated—whichever came first (*Time 5*).

Characteristics of Youth 1 Year Prior to Arrest Leading to Camp Placement (Table 2.4)

According to the results in Table 2.4, the youth in this study were, for the most part, not new to the juvenile justice system. Almost two-thirds had a prior criminal offense, and almost all of the youth in both groups were under Probation supervision when something happened to lead them to a camp placement. Not surprisingly, during the year prior to the study arrest/petition, many youth experienced a variety of settings including: home on probation, juvenile hall, suitable placements, and camp placements. These youth

Table 2.4: Characteristics 1 Year Prior to Arrest/Petition that Directly or Eventually Led to Study Camp Placement (TIME 1)

	AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)	Non-AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)
Had a Prior Criminal History	69%	66%
Involvement with Probation 1 Year Prior to Arrest/Petition		
Home on Probation	71%	63%
Juvenile Hall	74%	69%
Camp Placement	34%	34%
Suitable Placement	32%	32%
Informal Probation	17%	20%
Placed in Special Handling Unit 1 Year Prior to Arrest/Petition (if in Camp or Juvenile Hall)		
% Placed in SHU of those in Camp or Juvenile Hall	43%	50%
Behavior at School 1 Year Prior to Arrest/Petition		
School Disruptions (i.e., school changes)	83%	83%
Disciplinary Problems at School	84%	84%
Behavior Problems at School		
School Attendance Problems	94%	83%
Insubordination to Adults/Staff	74%	69%
Uncooperative Behaviors	74%	69%
Disruptive Behaviors	71%	71%
Negative Peer Interactions	60%	54%
Fighting/Threatening to Fight	54%	43%
Profanity/Vulgarity/Obscenity	42%	29%
Behavior Outside of School 1 Year Prior to Arrest/Petition		
<i>Behavior Problems Outside of School</i>		
Running Away	63%	54%
Not Reporting to Probation Officer	49%	57%
Missing Curfew	46%	49%

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.05$. ¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $.p<.10$.

exhibited a number of behavior problems at school, outside of school, and in placement. Almost all of the youth experienced problems at school—both disciplinary and attendance—and two-thirds or more were reported to be uncooperative, disruptive, and disrespectful toward adults and staff. The majority of these youth also associated with negative peers, and about half of these youth were placed in the Special Handling Units (SHU) in juvenile hall and/or camp during the year prior to the study arrest/petition. No statistically significant differences were found between AWARE and Non-AWARE youth when comparing the groups on these characteristics.

[System Involvement and Living Situation, Family Contact and Employment Status across Time \(see Table 2.5\)](#)

AWARE Youth

- Almost all of the arrest/petition charges leading to the study camp placement occurred while AWARE youth were under Probation supervision. About a third of the youth had a new arrest while under supervision (34%) while 52% were charged with a violation.
- Most of these youth, however, lived at home at the time of their arrest/petition (86%). At the end of the tracking period, the majority of youth were also living at home (71%), but fewer were living in this setting compared to earlier. At the end of tracking, living at home decreased 15% while placements in camp increased by 14%.
- As mentioned above, AWARE youth were involved in the system in various ways during the year prior to their arrest/petitions. Most had been at home (71%), but 34% and 32% of these youth had spent time in a camp placement and/or a suitable placement (respectively), and 74% spent time in juvenile hall. During the tracking period, a greater percentage of youth spent time at home, and fewer youth were placed in juvenile hall and suitable placement. The change reported for youth at home was significantly different for AWARE youth (71% to 94%) but this decrease was not significantly different from that experienced by the Non-AWARE youth.
- Over time, AWARE youth maintained contact with their biological mothers, grandparents, and siblings, although the amount of contact with these family members decreased during their stay in placement. Contact with aunts/uncles and biological fathers, on the other hand, began to decrease during placement and remained lower during at the end of the tracking period (i.e., 1 year later or at the time case was terminated).
- Just under half (40%) of AWARE youth were released early from their study camp placement.
- Approximately one-fifth (20%) of AWARE youth were employed at the end of the tracking period.

Table 2.5: Living Situation and Contact with Family across the Study Timeframe for AWARE and Non-AWARE Youth

	AWARE Youth (N=35)				Non-AWARE Youth (N=35)			
	TIME 2 At Arrest/ Petition	TIME 3 During Camp	TIME 4 Exit from Camp	TIME 5 After Exit	TIME 2 At Arrest/ Petition	TIME 3 During Camp	TIME 4 Exit from Camp	TIME 5 After Exit
<i>Did Arrest/Petition Related to Study Camp Placement Occur While Under Probation Supervision?</i>								
Yes—For a Violation	52%	---	---	---	42%	---	---	---
Yes—For a New Arrest	34%	---	---	---	49%	---	---	---
Yes—Informal Probation	9%	---	---	---	11%	---	---	---
No	14%	---	---	---	9%	---	---	---
<i>Youth has DCFS Involvement</i>	11%	---	---	6%	20%	---	---	11%
<i>Living Situation</i>								
Home	86%	---	69%	71%	74%	---	69%	63%
Relative	3%	---	14%	0	3%	---	14%	0
Probation Group Home	9%	---	6%	9%	14%	---	6%	0
Camp	0	100%	3%	14%	0	100%	6%	14%
Other (Includes Juvenile Hall)	2%	---	6%	9%	9%	---	6%	23%
<i>Involvement with Probation</i>								
Home on Probation	71%	---	---	94%*	63%	---	---	94%*
Juvenile Hall	74%	---	---	60%	69%	---	---	46% ¹
Camp Placement	34%	---	---	34%	34%	---	---	23%
Suitable Placement	32%	---	---	17%	23%	---	---	9% ¹
Informal Probation	17%	---	---	0	20%	---	---	0

"---" indicates no data were available for this particular group or time period.

Table 2.5: Living Situation and Contact with Family across the Study Timeframe for AWARE and Non-AWARE Youth—Continued

	AWARE Youth (N=35)				Non-AWARE Youth (N=35)			
	TIME 2	TIME 3	TIME 4	TIME 5	TIME 2	TIME 3	TIME 4	TIME 5
	At Arrest/ Petition	During Camp	Exit from Camp	After Exit	At Arrest/ Petition	During Camp	Exit from Camp	After Exit
<i>Study Camp Placement Location</i>								
Camp Afflerbaugh	---	---	---	---	---	17%	---	---
Camp Gonzalez	---	---	---	---	---	3%	---	---
Camp Jarvis	---	---	---	---	---	11%	---	---
Camp Kilpatrick	---	100%	---	---	---	0	---	---
Camp McNair	---	---	---	---	---	14%	---	---
Camp Mendenhall	---	---	---	---	---	14%	---	---
Camp Miller	---	---	---	---	---	6%	---	---
Camp Munz	---	---	---	---	---	6%	---	---
Camp Onizuka	---	---	---	---	---	11%	---	---
Camp Paige	---	---	---	---	---	6%	---	---
Camp Resnik	---	---	---	---	---	6%	---	---
Camp Smith	---	---	---	---	---	3%	---	---
Dorothy Kirby	---	---	---	---	---	3%	---	---
<i>Was Released Early from Camp</i>	---	---	40%	---	---	---	26%	---
<i>Has Contact with...</i>								
Biological Mother	83%	86%	80%	86%	77%	77%	80%	71%
Biological Father	46%	37%	40%	37%	37%	29%	29%	26%
Grandparents	20%	17%	14%	23%	26%	23%	11%	14%
Aunt/Uncle	20%	11%	9%	11%	9%	14%	14%	20%
Siblings	54%	37%	43%	54%	40%	31%	29%	31%
<i>Employed Part-Time or Full-Time</i>	---	---	---	20%	---	---	---	17%

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .05$. ¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .10$.

"---" indicates no data were available for this particular group or time period.

Non-AWARE Youth

- Almost all of the arrest/petition charges leading to the study camp placement occurred while Non-AWARE youth were under Probation supervision. Just under half of the youth had a new arrest while under supervision (49%) and 42% were charged with a violation.
- Most of these youth, however, lived at home at the time of their arrest/petition (74%). At the end of the tracking period, the majority of youth were also living at home (63%), but fewer were living in this setting compared to earlier. At the end of tracking, living at home and group home placements decreased (11% and 14%, respectively).
- As mentioned above, Non-AWARE youth were involved in the system in various ways during the year prior to their arrest/petitions. Most had been at home (63%), but 34% and 23% of these youth had spent time in a camp placement and/or a suitable placement (respectively), and 69% spent time in juvenile hall. During the tracking period, a greater percentage of youth spent time at home and this decrease was significantly significant for Non-AWARE youth (63% to 94%). Fewer youth were placed in juvenile hall and suitable placement, but these decreases were marginally significant at p<.10.
- Over time, Non-AWARE youth lost contact with their biological mothers (-6%), biological fathers (-11%), grandparents (-12%), and siblings (-9%), but increased contact with aunts/uncles at the end of tracking (11%).
- One-quarter (26%) of Non-AWARE youth were released early from their study camp placement.
- Approximately one-fifth of Non-AWARE youth (17%) were employed at the end of the tracking period.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues (see Table 2.6)

AWARE Youth

- Over three-quarters of AWARE youth had a mental health problem indicated in their case files at the time of arrest/petition (80%), but the presence of such a problem decreased over time. Upon exit from placement, 74% of youth were reported to have a mental health problem, and at the end of tracking, this percentage fell to 69%.
- Almost all AWARE youth had a substance misuse/abuse problem at arrest/petition (91%), but this percentage fell over time to 77% at the end of the tracking period. Marijuana (91%) was the most prevalent drug used by these youth followed by alcohol (69%), and methamphetamine (11%). Consistent with the finding on substance misuse/abuse, two-thirds (68%) of drug-tested youth tested

positive for drug use at arrest/petition and 56% tested positive during the tracking period.

- With regard to further assessment, AWARE youth were most likely to receive an outpatient mental health assessment (40%) or some type of medical examination (26%) within the year prior to their arrest/petition. The same pattern held during the tracking period, but the percentage of youth who received these assessments decreased to 17% and 20%, respectively.
- Almost three-quarters of AWARE youth received individual therapy (71%) and between one-third and one-half of these youth received family therapy (43%), alcohol/drug education (40%), group therapy (34%), and/or alcohol/drug outpatient treatment (31%) at arrest/petition. Participation in alcohol/drug outpatient treatment and family therapy dropped while in placement but returned to previous levels (or higher in the case of alcohol/drug treatment) in the tracking period. Alcohol/drug education also increased while they were in camp but dropped to slightly higher than its previous level at arrest/petition.

Non-AWARE Youth

- Almost all of Non-AWARE youth had a mental health problem indicated in their case files at the time of arrest/petition (94%), but the presence of such a problem decreased over time. Upon exit from placement, 86% of youth were reported to have a mental health problem, and at the end of tracking, this percentage fell to 71%.
- Over three-quarters of Non-AWARE youth had a substance misuse/abuse problem at arrest/petition (86%), but this percentage fell over time to 77% at the end of the tracking period. Marijuana (83%) was the most prevalent drug used by these youth followed by alcohol (71%), and methamphetamine (23%). Consistent with the finding on substance misuse/abuse, 52% of drug-tested youth tested positive for drug use at arrest/petition and 54% tested positive during the tracking period.
- With regard to further assessment, Non-AWARE youth were most likely to receive an outpatient mental health assessment (43%) or some type of medical examination (37%) within the year prior to their arrest/petition. The same pattern held during the tracking period, but the percentage of youth who received these assessments decreased to 23%.
- Three-quarters of Non-AWARE youth received individual therapy (77%) and between one-third and one-half of these youth received family therapy (31%), alcohol/drug education (34%), group therapy (46%), and/or alcohol/drug outpatient treatment (37%) at arrest/petition. Access to group treatment and family therapy dropped while in placement. At tracking, family therapy returned to its previous level at arrest/petition, and while group therapy remained the same as placement. Alcohol/drug education also increased while youth were in camp but dropped back down to its previous level at arrest/petition during the tracking period.

Table 2.6: Mental Health & Substance Abuse Issues across the Study Timeframe for AWARE and Non-AWARE Youth

	AWARE Youth (N=35)				Non-AWARE Youth (N=35)			
	TIME 2 At Arrest/ Petition	TIME 3 During Camp	TIME 4 Exit from Camp	TIME 5 After Exit	TIME 2 At Arrest/ Petition	TIME 3 During Camp	TIME 4 Exit from Camp	TIME 5 After Exit
<i>Mental Health Status</i>								
Mental Health Problem Indicated	80%	86%	74%	69%	94%	91%	86%	71%
<i>Substance Misuse/Abuse Status</i>								
Total with Substance Problem	91%	86%	80%	77% ¹	86%	80%	74%	77%
Pattern of Abuse but No Diagnosis	71%	---	---	---	69%	---	---	---
Abuse Diagnosis	20%	---	---	---	11%	---	---	---
Dependency Diagnosis	0	---	---	---	6%	---	---	---
<i>Type of Drug Used</i>								
Marijuana	91%	---	---	---	83%	---	---	---
Alcohol	69%	---	---	---	71%	---	---	---
Methamphetamine	11%	---	---	---	23%	---	---	---
Cocaine/Crack	3%	---	---	---	9%	---	---	---
<i>Drug Testing Results</i>								
Positive Drug Tests (When Applicable)	68%	---	---	56%	52%	---	---	54%
<i>Further Assessments Received</i>								
Outpatient Mental Health Assessment	40%	37%	---	17%	43%	57%	---	23%
Other Medical Concerns	26%	11%	---	20%	37%	34%	---	23%
Alcohol/Drug Assessment	9%	3%	---	3%	3%	3%	---	0
<i>Behavioral Health Services Received</i>								
Individual Therapy	71%	71%	---	77%	77%	80%	---	71%
Family Treatment/Therapy (Generic)	43%	9%	---	43%	31%	11%	---	34%
Alcohol/Drug Education	40%	71%	---	49%	34%	60%	---	37%
Group Therapy	34%	34%	---	29%	46%	31%	---	31%
Alcohol/Drug Outpatient Treatment	31%	14%	---	46%	37%	40%	---	40%
Family Functional Therapy (FFT)	11%	0	---	11%	0	0	---	3%
Alcohol/Drug Inpatient Treatment	9%	0	---	0	3%	0	---	0
Medication Monitoring	6%	3%	---	3%	17%	17%	---	11%

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.05$. ¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.10$.

"---" indicates no data were available for this particular group or time period.

Educational Issues and Outcomes (see Table 2.7)

AWARE Youth

- In the 1 year prior to their arrest/petition, 83% of AWARE youth had at least one irregular change in their school setting (i.e., school change not due to normal grade progression).
- The majority of AWARE youth were enrolled in school (89%) at the time of arrest/petition, but this drops to 23% at exit from camp. 74% were in the process of enrolling upon exit, indicating that the majority of youth were not transitioning back into a school setting upon leaving their camp placements. Enrollment or graduation/GED completion increases to 77% for these youth at the end of the tracking period.
- Attendance was largely poor for AWARE youth at arrest/petition (58%), but over time, none of the youth had poor attendance; regular attendance went from 16% at arrest/petition to 70% at the end of tracking. This change was statistically significant, and the difference between AWARE and Non-AWARE youth on this improvement was marginally significant at $p < .10$.
- Only 3% of AWARE youth were categorized as "doing well" at school at the time of arrest/petition while 58% were "doing poorly." Progress in this category was made over time with 39% of AWARE youth "doing well" at the end of the tracking period and only 17% "doing poorly." This improvement was statistically significant for AWARE youth.
- This finding is consistent with the change in credit deficiency for AWARE youth and overall progress at school. Almost all AWARE youth were credit deficient at the time of arrest/petition (91%); however, this drops to 63% at the end of the tracking period—a statistically significant improvement.
- Additionally, 51% were deemed to be more stable at the end of tracking and 34% were considered less stable in their educational setting.
- Slightly more than a third of AWARE youth (38%) were identified as having or needing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for special education services at 1 year prior to their arrest/petition.
- With regard to educational services, AWARE youth were most likely to have an IEP meeting request (37%), tutoring services (31%), and/or school-based counseling (17%) during the year prior to their arrest/petition. Tutoring increased to 69% during placement but then fell to 17% at the end of tracking. IEP meeting requests and school-based services also decreased over time to about half their level at arrest/petition.

Non-AWARE Youth

- In the 1 year prior to their arrest/petition, 83% of Non-AWARE youth had at least one irregular change in their school setting (i.e., school change not due to normal grade progression).
- Almost two-thirds of Non-AWARE youth were enrolled in school (63%) at the time of arrest/petition, but this drops to 9% at exit from camp. 83% were in the process of enrolling upon exit, indicating that the majority of youth were not transitioning back into a school setting upon leaving their camp placements. Enrollment or graduation/GED completion increases to 63% for these youth at the end of the tracking period.
- Attendance was largely poor for Non-AWARE youth at arrest/petition (50%), but over time, poor attendance for these youth decreased to 25% while regular attendance increased from 27% at arrest/petition to 65% at the end of tracking.
- Only 14% of Non-AWARE youth were categorized as "doing well" at school at the time of arrest/petition while 50% were "doing poorly." At the end of the tracking period, only 10% of Non-AWARE youth were "doing well" and 40% were rated as "doing average." It is interesting to note that school performance appeared to be better for Non-AWARE youth while they were in their camp placement compared to the end of the tracking period.
- 34% were deemed to be more stable at the end of tracking and 34% were considered less stable in their educational setting.
- Despite their struggles at school, credit deficiencies improved over time. Almost all Non-AWARE youth were credit deficient at the time of arrest/petition (94%); however, this dropped to 69% at the end of the tracking period—a statistically significant improvement.
- Slightly less than half of Non-AWARE youth (43%) were identified as having or needing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for special education services at 1 year prior to their arrest/petition.
- With regard to educational services, Non-AWARE youth were most likely to have an IEP meeting request (34%), tutoring services (23%), and/or a special day class (14%) during the year prior to their arrest/petition. Tutoring increased to 31% during placement but then fell to 11% at the end of tracking. IEP meeting requests decreased over time and the use of a special day class increased to 20% while in camp and then decreased down to 11% at the end of the tracking period.

Table 2.7: Educational Issues and Outcomes across the Study Timeframe for AWARE and Non-AWARE Youth

	AWARE Youth (N=35)				Non-AWARE Youth (N=35)			
	TIME 2 At Arrest/ Petition	TIME 3 During Camp	TIME 4 Exit from Camp	TIME 5 After Exit	TIME 2 At Arrest/ Petition	TIME 3 During Camp	TIME 4 Exit from Camp	TIME 5 After Exit
<i>School Enrollment</i>								
Enrolled in School	89%	---	23%	66%	63%	---	9%	57%
Enrollment in Process	3%	---	74%	11%	3%	---	83%	37%
Graduated/Completed GED	0	---	0	11%	0	---	3%	6%
<i>School Disruptions (i.e., Change in Schools)</i>	83%	---	---	---	83%	---	---	---
<i>Attendance For Those Enrolled</i>								
Attends Regularly ¹	16%	---	---	70%*	27%	---	---	65%
Attends Sporadically	26%	---	---	17%	23%	---	---	10%
Poor Attendance	58%	---	---	0	50%	---	---	25%
Unknown	0	---	---	13%	0	---	---	0
<i>School Performance For Those Enrolled</i>								
Doing Well	3%	---	15%	39%*	14%	---	26%	10%
Doing Average	39%	---	60%	39%	32%	---	69%	40%
Doing Poorly	58%	---	20%	17%	50%	---	3%	25%
Unknown	0	---	6%	4%	4%	---	3%	25%
<i>Youth Has/Needs Individual Education Plan</i>	38%	---	---	---	43%	---	---	---
<i>Youth Needs Assistance Earning Credits</i>	91%	---	94%	63%*	94%		83%	69%*
<i>Progress in School</i>								
More Stability	---	---	---	51%	---	---	---	34%
Same Level of Stability	---	---	---	14%	---	---	---	31%
Less Stability	---	---	---	34%	---	---	---	34%
<i>Educational Services Received</i>								
IEP Meeting Request	37%	29%	---	20%	34%	23%	---	26%
Tutoring	31%	69%	---	17%	23%	31%	---	11%
School Based Counseling	17%	3%	---	9%	9%	3%	---	9%
Special Day Class	11%	11%	---	6%	14%	20%	---	11%
Behavioral Support Services	9%	0	---	3%	6%	11%	---	9%

GED Program	0	14%	---	14%	3%	20%	---	9%
-------------	---	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	-----	----

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .05$. ¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .10$. “---” indicates no data were available for this particular group or time period.

Behavioral Issues and Outcomes (see Table 2.8)

AWARE Youth

- At the time of arrest/petition, 60% of AWARE youth were identified as gang members by Probation.
- 84% of AWARE youth had disciplinary actions in the past year, but these decreased to 40% while in camp and then increased slightly to 50% during the tracking period. The improvement from arrest/petition to the tracking period was statistically significant for AWARE youth.
- Between half and three-quarters of AWARE youth exhibited behavior problems at school during the year prior to arrest/petition, ranging from fighting or threatening to fight (54%) to insubordination to adults/staff (74%). Without exception, though, the percentage of AWARE youth participating in these problem behaviors decreased by half (or more) while in camp and at an even greater rate when measured within the last three months prior to the end of tracking. For example, insubordination decreased from 74% at arrest/petition to 20% while in camp to 11% during the last few months of tracking. This pattern held for all the problem behaviors listed, and all of the decreases from arrest/petition compared to the tracking period were statistically significant.
- A similar pattern was apparent for behaviors outside of school. Running away decreased from 63% at arrest/petition to 6% in the last few months of tracking; not reporting to their Probation Officer decreased from 49% to 29%; and missing curfew decreased from 46% to 11%. All of these changes were statistically significant across time for AWARE youth.
- The most prevalent probation conditions and/or interventions for AWARE youth were drug testing, Community Detention Program (CDP), and placement in the gang unit. Drug testing increased slightly during tracking (from 57% to 66%), but the use of the CDP decreased from 54% to 31%, and placement on the gang unit essentially remained the same from arrest/petition to tracking (14% and 17%, respectively).
- AWARE youth were most likely to receive anger management (37%), gang prevention/intervention (23%), and life skills programming (23%) during the year preceding their arrest/petition. While in camp, participation in religious programs, arts/writing programs, and job preparedness increased, but they returned to their pre-placement levels during the tracking period. The one exception to this pattern was for job preparedness training which decreased following camp exit but remained higher than earlier levels (e.g., 9% at arrest/petition; 46% while in camp; and 31% during tracking).

NON-AWARE Youth

- At the time of arrest/petition, 77% of Non-AWARE youth were identified as gang members by Probation.
- 84% of Non-AWARE youth had disciplinary actions in the past year, but these decreased to 54% while in camp and then increased slightly to 63% during the tracking period. The improvement from arrest/petition to the tracking period was statistically significant for Non-AWARE youth.
- Just under one-half to three-quarters of Non-AWARE youth exhibited behavior problems at school during the year prior to arrest/petition, ranging from fighting or threatening to fight (43%) to insubordination to adults/staff (69%). Without exception, though, the percentage of Non-AWARE youth participating in these problem behaviors decreased by about a quarter while in camp and at an even greater rate when measured within the last three months prior to the end of tracking. For example, insubordination decreased from 69% at arrest/petition to 51% while in camp to 23% during the last few months of tracking. This pattern held for all the problem behaviors listed. This pattern held for all the problem behaviors listed, and all of the decreases from arrest/petition compared to the tracking period were statistically significant.
- A similar pattern was apparent for behaviors outside of school. Running away decreased from 54% at arrest/petition to 11% in the last few months of tracking; not reporting to their Probation Officer decreased from 57% to 23%; and missing curfew decreased from 49% to 9%. All of these changes were statistically significant across time for Non-AWARE youth. In fact, the differences across groups were also statistically significant, indicating that Non-AWARE youth were slightly more likely than AWARE youth to report to their DPOs during the tracking period.
- The most prevalent probation conditions and/or interventions for Non-AWARE youth were drug testing, Community Detention Program (CDP), and placement in the gang unit. Drug testing increased slightly during tracking (from 54% to 66%), but the use of the CDP decreased from 43% to 26% and placement in the gang unit decreased from 14% to 6%.
- Non-AWARE youth were most likely to receive anger management (31%), life skills programming (31%), and gang prevention/intervention (20%) during the year preceding their arrest/petition. While in camp, life skills programming, participation in religious programs, arts/writing programs, and job preparedness increased, but they returned to pre-placement levels during the tracking period. The one exception to this pattern was for life skills training which decreased to a level below that at arrest/petition (e.g., 31% at arrest/petition; 40% while in camp; and 14% during tracking).

Table 2.8: Behavioral Issues and Outcomes across the Study Timeframe for AWARE and Non-AWARE Youth

	AWARE Youth (N=35)				Non-AWARE Youth (N=35)			
	TIME 2	TIME 3	TIME 4	TIME 5	TIME 2	TIME 3	TIME 4	TIME 5
	At Arrest/ Petition*	During Camp	Exit from Camp	After Exit	At Arrest/ Petition	During Camp	Exit from Camp	After Exit
<i>Association with Gangs</i>								
Gang Member, Tagging Crew, or Both	60%	---	---	---	77%	---	---	---
<i>Disciplinary Problems at School</i>	84%	40%	---	50%*	84%	54%	---	63%*
<i>Behavior Problems at School</i>								
Insubordination to Adults/Staff	74%	20%	---	11%*	69%	51%	---	23%*
Uncooperative Behavior	74%	34%	---	11%*	69%	51%	---	26%*
Disruptive Behaviors	71%	40%	---	20%*	71%	54%	---	20%*
Negative Peer Interactions	60%	23%	---	9%*	54%	31%	---	14%*
Fighting/Threatening to Fight	54%	17%	---	6%*	43%	23%	---	17%*
<i>Behavior Problems Outside of School</i>								
Running Away/Leave Without Permission	63%	---	---	6%*	54%	---	---	11%*
Not Reporting to Probation Officer*	49%	---	---	29% ¹	57%	---	---	23%*
Missing Curfew	46%	---	---	11%*	49%	---	---	9%*
<i>Probation Supervision Conditions</i>								
Drug Tested	57%	---	---	66%	54%	---	---	66%
Community Detention Program	54%	---	---	31%	43%	---	---	26%
Gang Unit	14%	---	---	17%	14%	---	---	6%
<i>Behavioral/Social Interventions Received</i>								
Anger Management (Not ART)	37%	31%	---	31%	31%	37%	---	31%
Gang Prevention/Intervention	23%	14%	---	34%	20%	6%	---	14%
Life Skills/Social Skills Programming	23%	54%	---	43%	31%	40%	---	14%
Church/Religious Program	20%	63%	---	23%	11%	20%	---	9%
Arts/Writing Program	14%	23%	---	11%	14%	20%	---	14%
Job Preparedness Training	9%	46%	---	31%	23%	74%	---	23%

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .05$. ¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .10$.

"---" indicates no data were available for this particular group or time period.

Recidivism Findings

Data were retrieved from Probation juvenile and adult information systems to examine the impact of Camp Kilpatrick on future offending as a juvenile and as an adult. First, recidivism was examined from the perspective of the juvenile justice system in three ways:

1. Number of new criminal charges
2. Number of petitioned criminal charges
3. Number of sustained criminal charges

All three of these measures were analyzed across three time intervals: (1) the period between the study arrest/petition and exit from camp, (2) 6 months after exit from camp; and (3) 1 year after exit from camp.

Next, adult arrests and convictions were examined for all young men included in the study. The time periods examined for recidivism in the adult system include: (1) 6 months after their exit from camp, and (2) 1 year after their exit from camp. Tables 2.9 through 2.12 display the results of these analyses for both AWARE and Non-AWARE cases in both the full cohort groups and the case file sample groups.

Recidivism as Measured by Juvenile Processing

The findings in Table 2.9 indicate that AWARE youth were less likely to engage in new criminal behavior than their Non-AWARE counterparts during the time between the study arrest and exit from camp; however, this finding did not retain significance in regression models that controlled for other factors. In all time periods after exit, AWARE youth were equally or slightly more likely to recidivate regardless of which of the three measures of recidivism was used (Note: These findings were replicated using regression models and were not statistically significant).

Results were more robust and favorable to the AWARE group in the case file group analysis, but these results should be considered carefully since the groups do not represent random samples from the population. Both the small number of cases and their non-random nature make them more susceptible to unknowable biases that may impact the accuracy of the results.

Table 2.9: Recidivism Rates for Arrests/Charges as a Juvenile across Different Time Intervals

	AWARE All Cohort Cases (N=112)	Non-AWARE All Cohort Cases (N=112)	Difference	AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)	Non-AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)	Difference
Charge Occurred between Arrest Related to Study Camp Placement & Camp Exit						
Arrests	59%	73%	-14%*	63%	69%	-6%
Petitions	49%	57%	-8%	46%	60%	-14%
Sustained	45%	55%	-10%	40%	54%	-14%
Charge Occurred within 6 Months After Camp Exit						
Arrests	26%	26%	0	29%	34%	-5%
Petitions	14%	13%	+1%	9%	29%	-20%*
Sustained	14%	13%	+1%	9%	26%	-17% ¹
Charge Occurred within 1 Year After Camp Exit						
Arrests	37%	31%	+6%	43%	54%	-11%
Petitions	21%	17%	+4%	17%	43%	-26%*
Sustained	21%	17%	+4%	17%	40%	-23%*
WIC 777 Violation Occurred within 1 Year After Camp Exit (from JAI)						
777 Charges	---	---	---	40%	34%	+6%
Sustained	---	---	---	14%	14%	0

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.05$ using Chi-Square tests for significance.

¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.10$ level using Chi-Square tests for significance.

"---" indicates no data were available for this particular group or time period.

Table 2.10 contains findings for the average number of offenses committed by time interval. When the average number of arrests was compared across groups and time periods, the same pattern continued: AWARE youth had fewer arrests between study arrest date and camp exit, but matched or slightly exceeded the average number of new arrests for subsequent time periods.

Overall, the results indicate that the level of activity (i.e., number of offenses) by young men in each group was similar with two exceptions. First, Non-AWARE youth were more likely to commit a higher number of offenses than AWARE youth in the time between arrest and camp exit. Secondly, using the case file groups, Non-AWARE youth had more petitions and sustained petitions than their AWARE counterparts (again, though, these results should be considered cautiously given the small number and non-random selection of the groups).

Table 2.10: Average Number of Offenses across Different Time Intervals

	AWARE All Cases (N=112)		Non-AWARE All Cases (N= 112)		AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)		Non-AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Number of Charges Occurring between Arrest Related to Study Camp Placement & Camp Exit								
Arrests	<u>1.50</u>	1.93	<u>2.09*</u>	2.18	<u>1.51</u>	1.87	<u>1.60</u>	1.88
Petitions	<u>1.00</u>	1.36	<u>1.16</u>	1.57	<u>0.86</u>	1.26	<u>1.17</u>	1.48
Sustained	<u>0.83</u>	1.24	<u>0.98</u>	1.32	<u>0.77</u>	1.21	<u>0.94</u>	1.19
Number of Charges Occurring 6 Months after Exit								
Arrests	<u>0.38</u>	0.75	<u>0.33</u>	0.62	<u>0.40</u>	0.69	<u>0.49</u>	0.78
Petitions	<u>0.17</u>	0.46	<u>0.15</u>	0.41	<u>0.09</u>	0.28	<u>0.31*</u>	0.53
Sustained	<u>0.17</u>	0.46	<u>0.15</u>	0.41	<u>0.09</u>	0.28	<u>0.29*</u>	0.52
Number of Charges Occurring 1 Year after Exit								
Arrests	<u>0.56</u>	0.96	<u>0.54</u>	0.97	<u>0.69</u>	0.96	<u>0.77</u>	0.84
Petitions	<u>0.28</u>	0.63	<u>0.24</u>	0.60	<u>0.29</u>	0.71	<u>0.51</u>	0.66
Sustained	<u>0.28</u>	0.63	<u>0.24</u>	0.60	<u>0.29</u>	0.71	<u>0.49</u>	0.66

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.05$ using Chi-Square tests for significance.

¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.10$ level using Chi-Square tests for significance.

Recidivism as Measured by Adult Processing

Table 2.11 contains similar findings for adult arrests and convictions for all groups. Overall, 22% of all AWARE cohort youth and 29% of all Non-AWARE cohort youth had an adult arrest within 6 months of exiting the study camp placement, and these percentages rose to 39% and 41%, respectively, at 1 year after their exit. AWARE youth had slightly better results at 6 months for arrests, but the difference across groups was not significant. At 1 year, the results are nearly identical across both groups. For youth who received convictions, AWARE youth were more likely to receive some sort of jail sentence compared to Non-AWARE youth, but it should be noted that (1) this difference was not statistically significant, and (2) jail sentences ranged widely in time—for example, some sentences only required 1-3 days in jail. It is also important to note that some youth in both groups had multiple arrests and received mixed sentences (e.g., probation and a jail sentence); thus, the percentages for recidivism across categories and for type of sentence do not sum to 100% in the tables.

Overall, the results for case files cases in Table 2.11 were more similar than different to the larger cohorts comparisons. The groups had similar rates of recidivism, although AWARE youth had a lower overall rate than Non-AWARE youth at 1 year after exit—this difference was marginally significant at $p<.10$. While it is

important to report this finding, the methodological limitations related to the case file samples (i.e., small number and non-random selection) weaken the ability to generalize the finding to larger populations of AWARE and Non-AWARE groups.

Table 2.11: Recidivism Rates for Adult Arrests and Convictions across Different Time Intervals

	AWARE All Cohort Cases (N=112)	Non-AWARE All Cohort Cases (N=112)	Difference		AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)	Non-AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)	Difference
Recidivism 6 Months After Camp Exit							
Overall	22	29	-7%		9	6	+3
Arrest Only	9	16	-7%		9	0	+9
Conviction	17	19	-2%		6	6	0
Recidivism 1 Year After Camp Exit							
Overall	39	41	-2%		14	31	-17% ¹
Arrest Only	17	21	-4%		9	14	-5%
Conviction	33	33	0		14	20	-6%
Type of Dispositions Received by Subjects							
Probation	21	20	+1%		6	9	-3%
Jail	20	8	+12%		11	6	+5%
Prison	11	12	-1%		3	11	-9%

NOTES: (1) Young men in the study could have more than one adult arrest and outcome (i.e., both an arrest only and a conviction for two separate charges) during this timeframe; thus, the percentages across categories will not sum to 100%. (2) Sentences often include a combination of outcomes—e.g., jail sentence and probation; thus, the percentages do not sum to 100%. Also, with regard to dispositions, jail sentences ranged from 1-3 days to 1+ year.

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .05$ using Chi-Square tests for significance.

¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p < .10$ level using Chi-Square tests for significance.

Findings for the average number of adult arrests and convictions in Table 2.12 were nearly identical across both groups in both comparisons (all cohort and case file cases). The only exception to this conclusion was for Non-AWARE case file youth arrests within 6 months after exit. For this group, none of the arrests received by this group were “arrest only;” rather, all of their arrests resulted in convictions.

Table 2.12: Average Number of Adult Charges across Different Time Intervals

	AWARE All Cases (N=112)		Non-AWARE All Cases (N= 112)		AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)		Non-AWARE Case File Cases (N=35)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Number of Charges Occurring 6 Months after Exit								
Arrests	.12	.47	.19	.46	.09	.28	.00	.00 ¹
Sustained	.23	.55	.24	.57	.06	.23	.06	.23
Number of Charges Occurring 1 Year after Exit.								
Arrests	.30	.89	.37	.80	.11	.40	.14	.35
Sustained	.52	.95	.53	.92	.17	.45	.20	.41

*Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.05$ using Chi-Square tests for significance.

¹Difference between groups is statistically significant at $p<.10$ level using Chi-Square tests for significance.

Summary

Overall, the findings presented in this chapter show consistent trends related to improvement for both AWARE and Non-AWARE youth on some of the desired outcomes. Although the differences are not always statistically significant, the improvements for AWARE youth were often steeper than for Non-AWARE youth (e.g., enrollment in school or completion of diploma/GED; attendance, performance, and exhibiting more stability). Additionally, reductions in behavior problems (in school and outside of school) were often greater (albeit not statistically significant) for AWARE youth compared to Non-AWARE youth.

AWARE youth had better recidivism outcomes for the period between arrest and camp exit; however, the statistical significance related to this outcome no longer occurred when other variables were included in regression models; thus, AWARE youth recidivism rates were statistically equivalent to Non-AWARE youth. The general pattern of findings, though, indicated that AWARE youth initially did better on juvenile recidivism measures, but over time matched the rates as their Non-AWARE counterparts. Their recidivism performance using adult arrests and convictions showed a similar pattern—they seemed to do better initially but then reach parity with their Non-AWARE counterparts by 1 year following their exit from camp.

Chapter 3: Assessing the Impact of the AWARE Sports Program— Interviews with Prior AWARE Participants

The qualitative component of this AWARE program evaluation draws upon a case study approach to augment the quantitative data and its analysis for several reasons. Michael Quinn Patton (2008) provides the following explanation and support for case studies:

Case studies...become particularly useful when intended users need to understand a problem, situation, or program in great depth, and they can identify cases rich in needed information—"rich" in the sense that a great deal can be learned from a few exemplars of the phenomenon of interest...case studies are context specific (p. 458).

In this way, the case study approach can be effectively employed to help understand broad questions given complex circumstances, a research challenge which characterizes the Camp Kilpatrick AWARE program evaluation. Additionally, according to Yin (1981) case studies prove most useful in the study of current rather than historical issues. Finally, and most importantly to the AWARE evaluation, case study research utilizes both qualitative and quantitative data (Patton, 2008). Qualitative methods prove most valuable when the questions being posed require an investigation into how and why a real life intervention has succeeded or failed. In this section of the AWARE evaluation, qualitative data collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews will provide individual anecdotes, key themes, and cultural context unaccounted for by the quantitative aspects of this study. In addition, in-depth interviews allow researchers to rely on the exact language of those who experienced the program – the young men and adults who participated in the AWARE program recount the experience in their own words. Both quantitative and qualitative components are necessary to fully portray the impact and challenges of the AWARE program; no one method is sufficient to capture all salient aspects of this intervention. For these reasons, a case study research design provides an ideal framework to supplement quantitative data presented in Chapter 2.

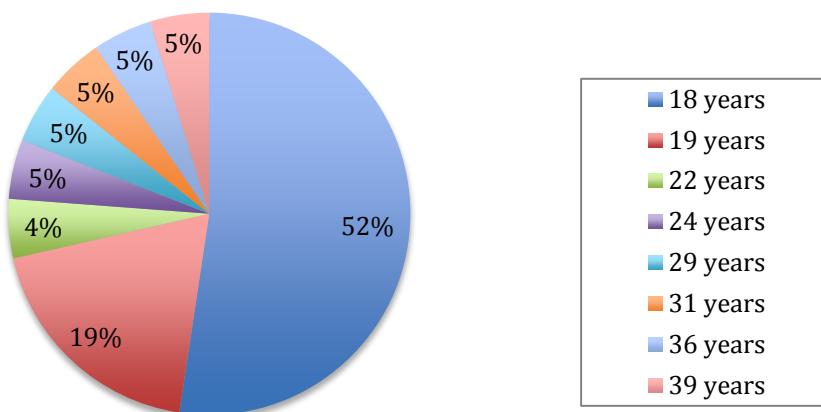
Methodology

The UCLA Evaluation Team interviewed 21 formerly incarcerated men who had participated in the Camp Kilpatrick AWARE Sports Program. To identify and recruit participants for the study, the research team used a purposive sampling method, working closely with staff members from community-based organizations that serve the target population of former probation youth and emerging adults. These 21 men were ultimately found through a combination of snowball sampling and referrals from the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Participation in the AWARE evaluation was completely voluntary and all participants received a gift card for completing the interview. Of the 21 men, two interviews were conducted via recorded phone calls because the men were pursuing college and work outside of Southern California. The research team contacted about 12 additional recruits, who expressed interest but did not follow through despite repeated attempts made by the team to contact them.

After a brief introduction, the 21 men were interviewed regarding how, and to what extent, the Camp Kilpatrick AWARE program had impacted their personal life circumstances. The interview protocol was

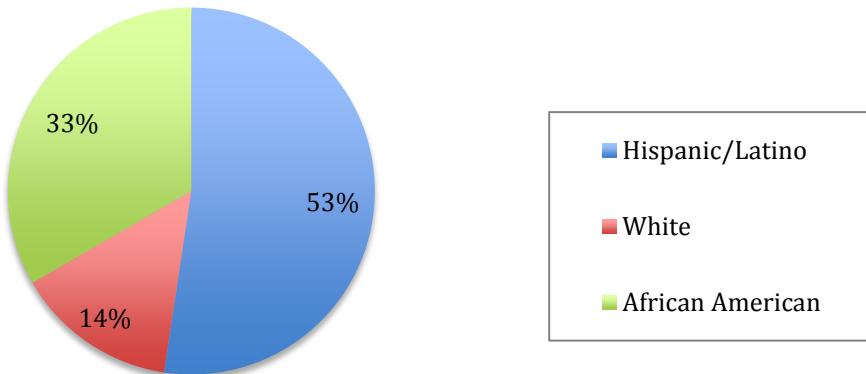
designed to flexibly guide the semi-structured interview as it covered three distinct time periods: Early Childhood and Pre-Camp Kilpatrick, Camp Kilpatrick (6-9 months, generally), and Life After Camp Kilpatrick. All of the individuals interviewed detailed specific ways in which the AWARE Program helped them more successfully re-enter the community after leaving juvenile probation camp. The majority of interviewees (52%) were 18 years old, followed by 19% of participants who were 19 years old. The remaining 29% of interviewees spanned 22 to 39 years old. Their varying ages provided insight into the more extensive range of events experienced by individuals immediately and long after community reentry. This aspect of the sample composition is portrayed in Figure 3.1, which indicates the participant breakdown based on age.

Figure 3.1: AWARE Participant Age Breakdown



Youth of color made up most of the study sample, comprising 86% of individuals interviewed. More than half of participants (53%) interviewed were Latino, followed by 33% African American, with the remaining 14% of interviewees classified as White. The diversity of the study interview sample reflects the racial/ethnic breakdown of Los Angeles County's probation camps. According to Los Angeles County 2012 Probation data, of the approximately 900 youth detained in probation camps, 65% were Latino, 30% Black, and 3% White. Based on the racial demographics of LA County, young people of color are over-represented (Newell & Leap, 2013). The racial and ethnic distribution of the interviewees is displayed in Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.2: AWARE Participant Racial/Ethnic Breakdown



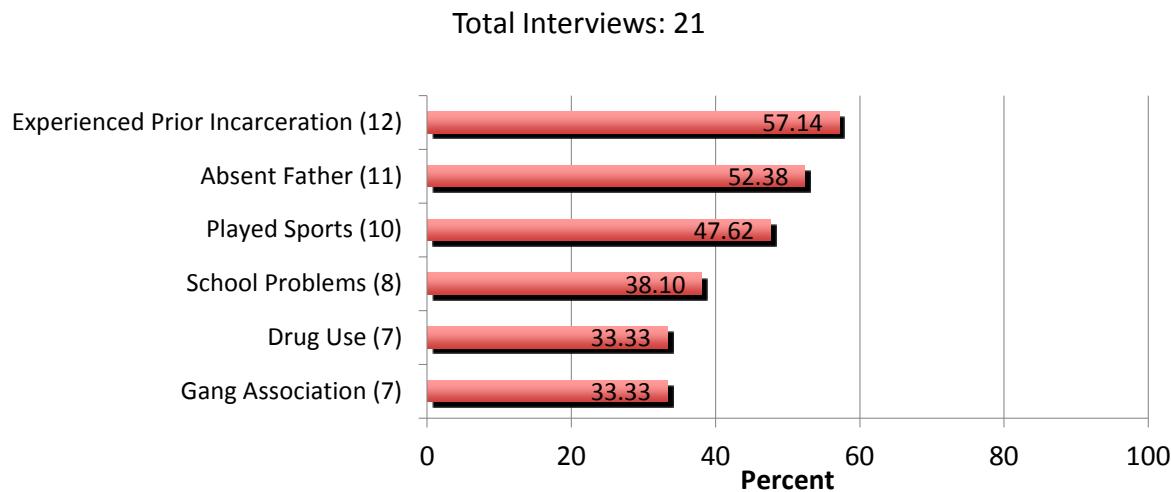
The qualitative interview protocol delved deeply into the experiences of individuals during their detention at Camp Kilpatrick and afterwards, as they reconnected with their families and re-entered their communities. There were three key areas that Probation Department staff and the research team collaborated on to specifically address: (1) education, (2) housing and living situation, and (3) job placement.

With permission from interview subjects, the evaluation team recorded all interviews. Transcripts were then coded beginning with an open coding process. To develop preliminary themes, members of the evaluation team listened to a random sampling of interviews and created a comprehensive list of over 100 line items. All interviews were then played back twice and coded based on this comprehensive list. Using codes developed from the open coding process, the second coding process created highly refined key themes for each of the three time periods mentioned above: Pre-Camp Kilpatrick, during the stay at Camp Kilpatrick, and Post-Camp Kilpatrick. At least one-third of the sample had to discuss ideas or use phrases that addressed a key theme in order to qualify as a theme discussed in this report. This coding process provided the evaluation team with the qualitative context for the tables and charts presented below. This data triangulation helped to ensure internal validity. The narrative outlines the most often discussed themes and corresponding participant frequencies as well as notable quotes from the 21 interviews.

Experiences Before Camp Kilpatrick

Youth described their pre-camp experiences from early childhood onwards. Six prominent themes emerged from coding. What was most striking was the cluster of three predominant themes: an absent father or father figure, incarceration or detention prior to Camp Kilpatrick, and experience playing sports. The men who were interviewed were articulate about the void in their lives – and how their experiences were filled with pain and loss.

Figure 3.3: Prominent Themes: Early Childhood and Pre-Camp Kilpatrick



Experienced Prior Incarceration--57% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth had a prior history of incarceration in the halls, Camps, or through CYA and DJJ.
2. Youth were sent away because of fighting, stealing, and school troubles (attendance).
3. Youth felt invincible – didn't expect they'd get caught.
4. Youth saw violence/incarceration as a symbol of adulthood.

Realize what life is. Their quotes are still stuck in my head. Camp Miller. Camp Afflerbaugh. Camp Kilpatrick. I was not caring about anything. They (my parents) brought my name to the cops. Made my name hot. They put me on probation. They tried to teach me a lesson. It just made me worse.

Back then, you think somebody tells you something or somebody looks at you wrong and what a real man does is go over there and beats him up, shoots him, or something like that...

Absent Father--52% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth grew up in a home without a father figure/male role model.
2. Youth cited father's death, incarceration, or abandonment.
3. Youth recall growing up in an "unstable family" with much conflict.
4. Youth did not have any home boundaries/rules.

My mom was really young when she had me. She was 14 and my dad wasn't around. My perception of what a man was back then was totally different from what it is now.

I had a solid childhood. A single parent home, father died young. There was a lot of financial strain. Which, in partial, led to my choices...I had pimps and murders, you know, drug users and dealers in my family.

They (the sports program coaches) used to talk to me like they was my father. They used to talk to my mom, and my mom used to tell them like 'he ain't got no father, ain't got nobody to talk to at home', so maybe, you know, I just need to get my mind right. I just need somebody to talk to that's like a man, so. They help me with a little understanding of how to get through life without nobody being there.

Played Sports--48% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth saw sports as the one thing that kept them out of trouble.
2. Youth attended school to socialize with friends and play sports.
3. Youth saw sports as a "way out" – to graduate and play in college.

My friends were in gang. So I ended up being in a gang. But I always played sports. Going into my senior season I got caught with a firearm.

I was in Chicago at a football program. That's when everybody found out I was talented. I could do a lot. And that I was going somewhere...I was still playing in different programs, from soccer to football. I messed up when I got to LA. I watched the movie, the Gridiron Gang.

School – I never really um, had a problem with school – I went to Vegas with my mom and went to high school out there, started playing football, then I came back, went to Crenshaw and I played football for Crenshaw, then, I had to go move back with my momma and I went to another high school I played football for in Vegas, and then after that, it got rocky, I ain't been to a regular high school since like 10th grade....

School Problems--38% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth were kicked out of one or more schools – forced to transfer.
2. Youth had negative influences/peer pressure.
3. Youth did not attend school for an extended period of time.
4. Youth dropped out of school.

I grew up in South Central...there was a lot of cops and shooting and stuff. First I went to Catholic School, then after that, I got kicked out and went to LA Academy, after LA Academy I went to Carver (Junior High), then after Carver I graduated, and went to Jefferson. Nah, like after the first year I started getting locked up...I graduated in jail.

School was just...nah...out of control. It started around 6th grade. Fights...I was going to High School. I got kicked out of my first one. Went to three different high schools and got kicked out too – I lasted in the first one like four days, I got in a fight the second day of school. The second school

I only went for a couple a days cause I didn't really want to be in that school, it was Continuation; there was nothing to it. I didn't go to school for one month or three months after that I went to Grant High. I stayed there for like three months and got kicked out for another fight. Gang-related fights.

Drug Use--33% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth used drugs from an early age and exhibited poor school behavior.
2. Youth associated drug use with fighting and anger problems.
3. Youth cited not only use, but also sale of drugs to earn extra money.

I was never home, when I was eight year old, because I was using drugs, and I had a lot of anger issues. And, from around that time, I used to fight a lot.

That's when I was really acting out. They were terrible. I hung out with the wrong people. People who did drugs. People who didn't care about anything. Stopped caring about school. I was acting dumb still. I got into trouble with my teachers.

Gang Association--33% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth "got into trouble" because of gang affiliation.
2. Youth had family members involved in gangs.
3. Youth's friends got them into gang involvement.

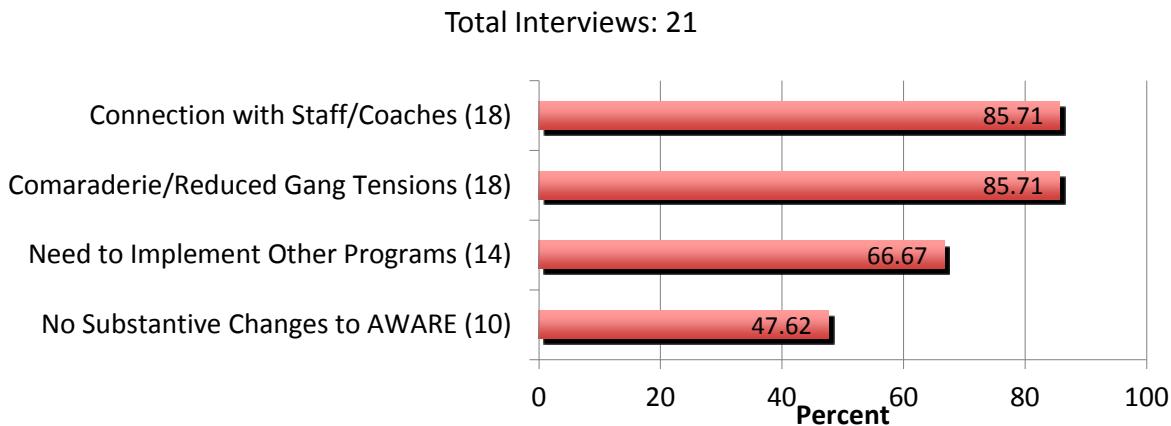
My mom wanted to get away from the family, cause there was family issues...I started getting famous, I started meeting everybody from everywhere, so then was like the gang banging, and that's what stopped me from playing High School football. I was 11. Everybody was involved. I lost focus. FAST.

That neighborhood. That's the Bloods. Struggles. I'm not a gullible person. I don't get influenced easy. I don't follow too many people. It's more based on the fact of who my family is and who I am – it's safer to keep one (a gun). It's complicated – it's what comes from who I am. It's before me.

Participation in the Camp Kilpatrick AWARE Sports Program

When asked specifically about the AWARE Sports Program, youth were open and responded with positive and glowing reviews. They spoke extensively about the significance of the program and with the exception of three individuals the entire sample clustered around two major themes: (1) the significance of the connection with AWARE staff and coaches and (2) the importance of teamwork and cohesion in the reduction of gang tensions. Although this was not within the scope of this project, it is clear that many of the coaches served as surrogate father figures. The consistency and depth of responses in this question area revealed the significance of the AWARE program in particular and the importance of camp programming in particular. The themes and representative quotes are portrayed below.

Figure 3.4: Prominent Themes: Camp Kilpatrick's AWARE Sports Program



Connection with Staff/Coaches--86% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth saw staff as role models or father figures that they had never had before.
2. Youth felt that staff gave them hope and instilled in them the desire to improve their behaviors.
3. Youth were inspired by the coaches with similar experiences (incarceration) and were motivated to succeed.

I actually, like, after being there awhile, I kinda built a relationship with them (staff/coaches), you know? I haven't lived with my dad since I was like 8 or 9. I would always talk to them. He (Coach) was like "just hang on, you'll be out (soon)." They were there through the whole time. The whole time

What helped me out was that parent figure. There was discipline there, where there was no discipline at home...the coaches were better and the staff that worked there (than those at other Camps). They worked with us. They tried to keep us motivated. I mean, I still call them to this day. I mean, I still call my P.O., call some of my coaches.

They (the coaches) were men, and my father died when I was five, you know, and I was fortunate enough to have a father up until five, but most people who are incarcerated don't have fathers alive or present. And to have that male figure around you that can give you a man's perspective, and to hear a man's voice. You know what I'm saying? It's priceless.

Camaraderie/Reduced Tensions--86% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth noted that they learned the importance of teamwork.
2. Youth saw reduced gang tensions amongst sports program participants. Youth felt it was valuable to work with other boys from rival gangs.
3. Youth saw the program as an incentive to reduce fighting/violence.

Being in a team changed me a little bit more mentally. I got to a point I was never at before. Put some goals for myself out there

(The sports program) blurred (gang tensions) out. You know, you start off at odds. On the streets, I was told I don't like Latinos or Mexicans or El Salvadorian people or black people, you know what I mean? But in here, though, we're all together. Not just are we all together, because we're just locked up together (I could still hold all those things) but now, we're running. We're tired together. We're sweating together. We're on the same unit. We're right next to each other. You develop a camaraderie, a love, a respect.

It's like, when you play a sport, you don't want to do nothing to mess that up. So fighting, any of that. I'm not going to mess up my chance to go out and play so I deal with you another day, another time. It suppresses a lot. Just based off the fact, it's like, which comes with anything, anywhere, there's gonna be people out there who don't like each other, but they, you know, forget about it and set it aside so they can win. You know, come together and be a team.

Implement Other Programs--67% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth thought that arts, music, and shop classes should be implemented.
2. Youth noted that the attitude and behavior of boys in the sports program was generally better than that of those not involved in the program.
3. Youth think Camp works more successfully if you are involved in a program (of any sort) rather than sitting idle.
4. Youth think that, in retrospect, counseling programs and more educational opportunities would be beneficial.

They should have different sections where people could do stuff. Artists, art, clean the bathroom; clean the whole camp up...As long as everybody could function together so everybody could be cool. Because if you're just doing it (based on one's racial background), its gonna be that tension. But if you put them together and, like, try to make it work, they is gonna be like 'Alright. Might as well.' Draw, music...if they do stuff like that it's going to help, too.

Definitely restore the (improvisation) program. Restore the drumming program, restore the poetry program. And also, yeah, like some visual arts programs. Or maybe through graffiti, turn it into murals or something. You know, that would be dope.

More counseling for a person's mental and emotional and spiritual health...Kilpatrick has the ability to be 100% holistic. Young fathers programs. How to treat women better. At that time, a lot of us didn't know, we were clueless about how to be respectful to (females). Learning about things like patriarchy, sexism. Learning about like oppression, like political education would be good so we could really learn about how to respect our brothers, our sisters...sexuality education.

No Substantive Changes--48% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth felt that program did not require any substantive changes.
2. Youth who felt changes could be made indicated that better equipment would be helpful.
3. Youth felt that family involvement or follow-up post-incarceration would be helpful.
4. Youth felt that they were not always adequately fed.

Maybe the only thing I could think of that would be more helpful would've been, maybe if they would've helped you after you got out. In some sense, or called you, or see how you were doing.

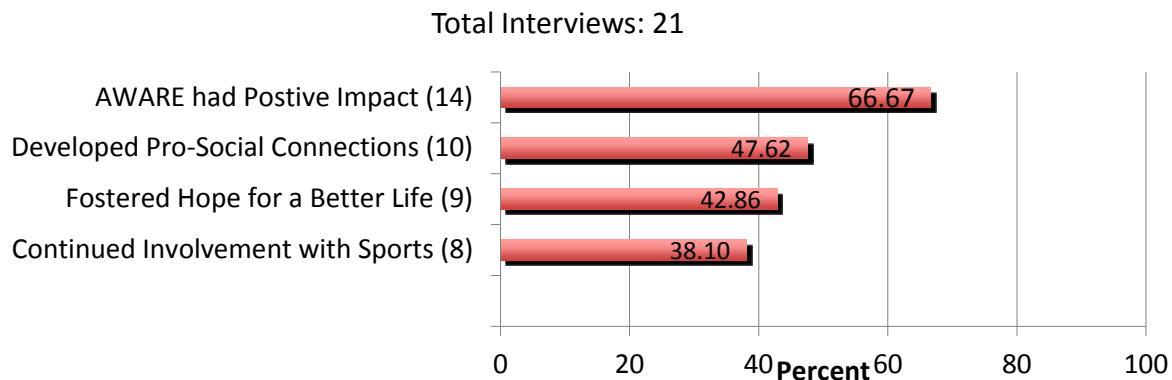
I think (family involvement) should be a condition of the probation. Somehow put not only the responsibility of the kid on probation, but somehow, because they are juveniles, for the parent. Maybe be some consequences for the parent if they don't participate in some classes or something.

Give youth more time to mingle with their family. Listen to the youth more. Like, implement the sports program around youth. Ask them how they want the sports program. If they think the sports program needs to evolve, ask those currently doing time now, because they might be different. Their opinions might be different. I would say, like, um, on some of the games, the staff didn't feed us after... I think the C dorm people, who didn't have anything to do with the sports program, find ways for them (to be involved). Like maybe helping with the equipment, taking care of it. Letting them go to games, too. Like, our dorms are just like 50 feet apart but the privilege in our dorm was like way up.

Experiences Following Exit from Camp Kilpatrick/AWARE Program

Overall, two-thirds of the individuals interviewed made statements that clustered around the theme that the AWARE Sports Program had a positive impact on their lives. Clearly, the program did not foster continued involvement in sports since only a small number described continued participation in sports, but it did foster a sense of connectedness and pro-social behaviors. The interview participants continued to struggle into young adulthood but their problems were characteristic of system-involved youth as well as youth of color in marginalized communities. Most of the sample did not exhibit retrospective or evaluative thoughts; most were focused on dealing with everyday challenges: schooling, work, and life stability. Their thoughts and observations about the impact of the AWARE program are portrayed in the chart and comments below.

Figure 3.5: Prominent Themes: Life After Camp Kilpatrick



Positive Impact: 67% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth appreciated the opportunity to invite their family to games and to rebuild relationships that had been damaged by incarceration.
2. Youth noted that traveling outside of Camp was an incentive for good behavior.
3. Youth felt that the coaches trusted them and wanted to give them some freedom.
4. Youth learned lessons that they still consider valuable.

And we got to visit our family, they got to come to the games and bring us food. Like, my mother came; I got to spend time with her, and like that was so important to me. (The Sports Program) made our families proud of us. Like that program not only gives hope like for people in there, but like families.

Kilpatrick gave me a lot of courage from the game. From playing the sports. Because I used to be embarrassed, like think, they know we're camp kids, they know we're lock ups. You can hear the parents talk when you're trying to concentrate. From there, now, when I go to people and I tell them, I say, "I was in Camp. Camp Kilpatrick. But I learned a lot of things." Because, I don't cuss as much as I used to, I don't drink as much as I used to. Because, one, I don't cuss as much as I used to because I'd hate how much the coach would cuss. I am never cussing that much again. And I don't drink as much as I used to because once I started getting more in shape, like why do I want to risk it? Like, I feel more happy with myself...All around, I haven't stolen, nothing...everything's just been going smooth sailing from here.

It (sports program) helped a lot because first, off the bat, for some people in Kilpatrick, playing sports is probably the best thing. And all the camps playing, going to that camp is probably the best camp because it's the only camp where you get to leave. You know, you get to leave and you're not in there when you leave, you're not all chained up, not locked up. You know, it's a big trust thing when you go there.

Pro-Social Connections--48% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth were given hope that they could successfully reintegrate.
2. Youth found more supportive group of friends.
3. Youth are able to resist pressures from friends who are still gang-involved.

I don't really do anything, so, it's like, I'm never going to go back there. I'm not going to commit any crimes. So, that place was horrible when I went I did not like it. When I got into the football program, I liked it but it's still, you know, still a jail. I don't like being in there. I like to be free.

Maybe I probably would have still been selling weed. That's what I think. I probably would have still been selling weed and, like, doing stupid shit, but since I got sent to camp, when I got out; I didn't want to sell weed no more. I got a job now, so I don't need to sell weed, but I mean, yeah, I guess it was positive. But who knows? Maybe I would've stopped selling weed and done something productive with those six months. (I learned) never go to camp. Stay away from jail.

The one thing that they teach you is dedication and staying on task. And to be honest to yourself. He said, "Because if you're not honest to yourself, then you're going to slack off. You're cheating you, you're cheating yourself the opportunity to learn, to do better." And the second thing, the dedication, would be, just be dedicated to it. So if you're dedicated to doing good, to doing this, to staying on task, to not getting into fights, you won't be kicked out of games and practice. Be dedicated to doing good.

Hope for a Better Life--43% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth suggest that sports program was what they needed to want to make positive changes.
2. Youth believe that they can succeed – something many of them had never felt before.
3. Youth believe that the program is the reason they have not been re-incarcerated.

Camp changed it all around... More confidence. I'd be less focused if I hadn't gone to camp. It actually changed me a lot. It really changed the way how I think, how I act. That's how much of an impact it was.

While I was in there I set me a couple goals. My main goal was to graduate high school, even though I was a year behind and all that. But my main goal was to graduate high school and to get off probation. And, I did both of those. I got off probation without getting a violation and there was no problems. I graduated high school, I went to prom...

Involvement with Sports--38% of interviewees stated one or more of the following:

1. Youth are still pursuing sports in higher education settings.
2. Youth believe that participation in sports program taught them valuable life skills.
3. Youth are turning to sports as a way to stay out of trouble.

I graduated in Kilpatrick, and after that, I saw everything just started going out good. I started playing soccer, and then some people from East Los Angeles College, they came to see me, they told me they wanted me to play for them and stuff like that and I told them I would play for them and that's what I'm doing right now.

I had a summer job working at the park with the kids or what not, and I kinda sorta like did some Kilpatrick type stuff working with the kids and we play football, sports, baseball, basketball, dodge ball. You know, I was working at Venice Park with the kids and whatnot for my job.

I played a little basketball, as far as, I'm still playing basketball as we speak. In D leagues and stuff like that. It's semi-pro. It's right before you go to pro. I played in a bunch of those leagues.... I'm going to see if I can go overseas to play.

Educational, Employment, and Living Environment Outcomes

Educational Outcomes for AWARE Participants:

- 47% of all interviewees graduated from high school.
- 9% of all interviewees obtained their GED.
- 24% of all interviewees are currently finishing high school.
- 48% of all interviewees are attending/have attended college.
- 14% of all interviewees have plans to attend college.
- 9% of all interviewees are attending trade school.

Of those who obtained a GED, 50% were Latino and 50% were African American. The individuals who reported they are still "working hard" or "determined" to finish high school were predominantly Latino (40%) and White (40%), with the remaining 20% African American. The majority of interviewees attending college are Latino (50%), followed by African American (40%), and White (10%). One African American interviewee has graduated college and is now on his way to earning a Master's Degree. The men who report plans to attend college are evenly distributed across each ethnic group – 1/3 are Latino, 1/3 are White, and 1/3 are African American. Those attending trade school are African American (50%) and Latino (50%).

Participant Living Environment Outcomes for AWARE Participants:

- 67% of all interviewees are residing in a stable living environment.

Of the interviewees who specified that they were living in a stable housing and living environment, over half (57%) were Latino, 29% were African Americans, and the remaining 14% were White. While their housing situation and living situations were described as stable, demographic information from the individuals interviewed indicated that employment remained a challenge.

Job Placement and Employment Outcomes for AWARE Participants:

- 29% of all interviewees are working in a full-time job.
- 33% of all interviewees are working in a part-time job.
- 67% of all interviewees are currently looking for work (may also be currently employed)

Sixty-seven percent of those who reported full time employment were Latino and the remaining 33% were African American. Latinos also made up the majority of those in part-time employment (57%), followed by African Americans (29%), and Whites (14%). For those interviewees still looking for work, Latinos represented 43%, followed by 36% African American, and 21% White.

Overall, it is notable that a little over half of the interviewees (56%) either graduated from high school or obtained a GED. In comparison, nationally, between 38 – 44% of all youth involved in the juvenile justice system continue to be considered only intellectually equipped for special education (Gagnon, Barber, Van Loan & Leone, 2009). Furthermore, youth attending schools in correctional facilities perform about 4-years behind their non-incarcerated counterparts (Brunner, 1993; Foley, 2001; Coulter 2004; Krezmien, Mulcahy & Leone, 2008). In Los Angeles, one out of five students detained in probation camps were classified as needing special education (LACOE) and Star Advantage Test scores reveal that youth in camp recorded an average grade level reading ability of 5.3 and an average math score of 5.5, ranking these youth lower than their special education counterparts in other Los Angeles County schools.

Conclusion

The interviews conducted for this study yielded vivid, positive, and lively accounts of youth experiences in the AWARE Sports Program and their lives as emerging adults. The individuals interviewed were open and willing to talk at length about the reasons and actions that led to their placement in Camp Kilpatrick as well as what occurred and what they experienced during their six to nine month stay at camp. They also expressed strong and definite opinions regarding the importance of programming within the Camp, the value of efforts such as the AWARE program, and the important, enduring influence of the coaching staff and probation officers. Clearly, how these youth are treated while they are “locked-up” has had a profound effect and made a marked impact on the rest of their lives.

Whether they had exited Camp Kilpatrick in the past month or over 20 years ago, all of the men interviewed have made positive strides since their release from Camp Kilpatrick and their participation in the AWARE program. Notably, of the 21 men interviewed only six individuals (28%) recidivated/were re-incarcerated post-Camp Kilpatrick due to probation violations. Of those interviewed, none described being re-incarcerated for committing new crimes. One man, who was initially recruited for interviewing expressed interest in participating, though was unable, despite repeated evaluation team efforts, to schedule an interview due to rehabilitation program requirements. Although he was not interviewed, he was the only individual who reported or indicated struggling with substance abuse. The interview participants talked very generally about the early struggles they experienced immediately upon release. However, all of these men are now more dedicated to their own and their families’ personal well-being, they are interested in educational advancement, and are developing pro-social behaviors. Over half of those interviewed are in the midst of pursuing higher education, whether through community college, 4-year university, or

trade/vocational schooling. In addition, over 60% of these men currently report that they reside in stable housing and living environments and are working in either full or part-time jobs. Overall, the men in this case study sample exhibited reduced rates of recidivism. While six men indicated that they were caught for parole violations, none of the men interviewed indicated that they had been re-incarcerated. Of equal importance, they all report that they continue to rely on the lessons learned from their six – nine month stay at Camp Kilpatrick, particularly from their involvement in the AWARE program. Most significantly, the AWARE program provided a “value added” beyond its immediate activities. The majority of the sample drew upon the behavior of coaches and staff as role models, remembered their advice and several have maintained relationships long after camp, still turning to these men in times of need. The men interviewed have taken the lessons of camaraderie, discipline, and hope, and have successfully integrated them into their own lives and those of their families.

As past research indicates, two key attributes of effective approaches to juvenile justice are to (1) help youth to develop pro-social strengths and attributes and (2) build relationships. The impact of both of these factors is underlined by all of these AWARE program participants. Sports are decidedly *not* the most meaningful part of this program, as demonstrated by the limited ongoing involvement in sports activities. Instead, the words of the individuals interviewed attest to the importance of strong programming that promotes youth development, encourages team-building and provides male adult mentors and relationships that remain meaningful in the lives of these youth and the adults they become. One young man embodied all of these ideas in a final quote, which summarizes the true impact of the AWARE program at Camp Kilpatrick:

I been to Camp four times, at Kilpatrick, they were encouraging though...I got along with my teammates good, we were too worried about going to our games, not trying to fight. It helped me, we talked things out, my family came to every game...my mom cried...the program helped me stay out of trouble, showed me how to communicate with people I didn't get along with, you get out of the Camp, you go to different places gang members have never seen...The staff dropped some sense into me, this is not for me anymore, I used to like the thrill of it, how homies look at (me) like I'm cool and stuff, but after a while, homies stop paying attention to you...I just gotta chill. I graduated through Camp. I'm going to school right now, East Los Angeles (Community College). I already made the soccer team. I just do the right thing – I know right from wrong. The program was good and all ...but certain staff...staff really cared at Kilpatrick. It stuck.

Chapter 4: Summary of Study Findings and Recommendations

This study represents an important development in the evolution of the Los Angeles Probation Department. Over the past 10 years, the Department has faced several issues and problems in the camps (Newell & Leap, 2013). While the Department has previously focused on compliance to mandates directed at these problems, this study marks an important advancement in Probation's approach to reform. Rather than taking a reactionary approach to a problem, Probation is driving practice with discussions of "what works" in order to benefit the long-term success of Probation youth, their families, and their communities.

The primary hypothesis tested in this study was whether AWARE youth would have better outcomes than Non-AWARE youth. Data were retrieved from the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) for 112 youth who arrived at Camp Kilpatrick and participated in the AWARE Program between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011. A matched group of 112 youth (based on age, race, and risk score at arrival to camp) entering other camps during this time were identified as a Non-AWARE comparison group. In addition to PCMS data, data were extracted from case files for 35 youth (31% of 112) drawn from each of these groups for a total of 70 youth. Both the PCMS data and the case file data provided substantial insight into the experiences of AWARE and Non-AWARE youth 1 year prior to the arrest/petition that led to their placements in Camp Kilpatrick or a different camp (Time 1), at the time of the arrest/petition leading to their placements (Time 2); during their camp placements (Time 3); upon exit from their camp placements (Time 4); and 1 year after exit from camp or when the case terminated—whichever came first (Time 5).

Better outcomes in the current study are defined and measured as improvement in social and educational functioning and a decrease in antisocial and criminal behavior. Findings from this report are synthesized and reported relative to each desired outcome. As these findings are reviewed, it is important to consider the trends and patterns that arise as well as the statistically significant differences—in other words, the trends found in the data should be considered seriously (albeit cautiously) when making conclusions about the impact of the AWARE Program. Given the small number of cases used in the case file reviews, true differences may not reach significance because there is not enough "statistical power;" thus the absence of statistical significance should not be taken as evidence to disregard the finding.³

³ Cases were limited to 35 cases per group because of study time constraints. Case file reviews require between 6-8 hours of review and coding to ensure all available information is reviewed and recorded in an accurate way.

Demographics and Characteristics of AWARE and Non-AWARE Youth

- ❖ Youth in the AWARE and Non-AWARE groups were largely African-American or Latino and were, on average, 16 (Non-AWARE) to 17 (Aware) years old at the time of the arrest that led to the study camp placement.
- ❖ Over half of the youth in both groups came from Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 6, 7 and 8.
- ❖ Youth in both groups were most often charged with robbery, burglary, or weapon offenses for their arrest that resulted in the camp placement identified in this study.
 - From the case file reviews, we also know that a third of all charges occurred at school and another third were related to their living situation at the time (e.g., home, group home, foster care, etc.).
- ❖ Two-thirds or more of youth in all groups had previous contact with the juvenile justice system prior to the current Probation involvement, and the majority of these youth were classified as high risk or moderate risk by the LARRC tool.
- ❖ Most AWARE and Non-AWARE youth were on probation supervision and had experienced placement in juvenile hall, suitable placement (group homes), and/or camp in the prior year when they received a new arrest or a violation that led to the study camp placement.
- ❖ Using the arrest that eventually led to the study camp placement, youth spent just under two years (on average) between their arrest/petition and exit from the study camp placement, and these youth spent approximately 5 to 6 months (on average) in camp during this time.
- ❖ From the case file reviews, we also know the following about the behavioral health of AWARE and Non-AWARE youth at the time of arrest:
 - A mental health problem and/or a substance abuse problem was indicated in three-quarters or more of youth in both groups.
 - The types of behavioral health interventions most often received by these youth before and during their probation supervision were (in order of those most prevalent) individual therapy, family therapy (general), alcohol/drug education, group therapy, and alcohol/drug outpatient treatment.
- ❖ From the case file reviews, we also know the following about the educational performance of AWARE and Non-AWARE youth at the time of arrest:

- Almost all youth in both groups experienced academic, attendance, and behavioral problems at school.
 - The types of educational interventions most often received by these youth were (in order of most prevalent) an Individualized Education Plan meeting request, tutoring services, and/or school-based counseling.
- ❖ For AWARE youth, the most frequently played sports were baseball and soccer followed by football, track, and basketball. One-fifth of the participants played more than one sport during their participation in the AWARE Program.

Findings for Behavioral Outcomes

Findings in this section are based on analysis of data derived from Probation Case Management System and from case files on a sub-sample of AWARE and Non-AWARE youth. The results are synthesized and reported relative to the impact of the AWARE Program on educational performance, disciplinary problems, risk levels, recidivism, and involvement with Probation.

❖ Educational performance

Both AWARE and Non-AWARE improved noticeably on several educational indicators; however, AWARE youth were more likely to show statistically significant change on regular attendance and were doing well academically during the tracking period. In fact, the difference between improvement exhibited by AWARE and non-AWARE youth for regular attendance was marginally significant ($p < .10$). With regard to doing well academically, the change from arrest/petition to tracking was statistically significant for AWARE youth, but the overall difference between groups was not statistically significant.

❖ Disciplinary problems

Behavior at school and outside of school improved dramatically for both AWARE and Non-AWARE youth over time. The decreases were particularly large for AWARE youth on all behavior measures. As evidence of improved behavior during their camp placements, AWARE youth were almost twice as likely to be released early from Camp Kilpatrick for good behavior as their Non-AWARE counterparts. Despite larger reductions for AWARE youth on all disciplinary measures, these differences were not significantly different across AWARE and Non-AWARE youth.

- ❖ Risk Level as Measured by the Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup (LARRC)

Changes in average LARRC scores were examined using regression models that showed no statistically significant change between AWARE and Non-AWARE youth on their LARRC scores from the time they were placed in camp and at the time they were released. A better measure of reduced risk would be to test initial LARRC scores with scores collected at the end of the tracking period; however, the data available had too much missing data to compare the scores in this manner.

- ❖ Recidivism

AWARE youth were less likely to have new juvenile arrests between their arrest/placement and camp exit and this difference was significant using a Chi-Square test of significance; however, when regression models were used, juvenile recidivism did not vary significantly across groups by any measure. Similarly, recidivism measured by adult arrests and convictions did not vary across AWARE and Non-AWARE youth over time.

- ❖ Involvement with Probation.

Overall, more youth were spending time at home during the tracking period than 1 year prior to the arrest/petition that lead to the study camp placement, fewer youth were placed in juvenile hall, and fewer youth were placed in suitable placement. This pattern was similar across both groups.

Findings from Interviews with Previous AWARE Program Participants

Twenty-one men who previously participated in the Camp Kilpatrick AWARE Sports Program were interviewed for this study. These men were identified through a combination of (1) snowball sampling within community-based organizations that serve former probation youth and emerging adults, and (2) young men (18 years old or older) who had participated in the AWARE program and were still the under supervision of the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

The interview protocol was designed to cover three distinct time periods: Early Childhood and Pre-Camp Kilpatrick, Camp Kilpatrick (6-9 months, generally), and Life After Camp Kilpatrick. The majority of interviewees (52%) were 18 years old, followed by 19% of participants who were 19 years old. The remaining 29% of interviewees spanned 22 to 39 years old. Youth of color made up most of the study sample, comprising 86% of individuals interviewed. More than half of participants (53%) interviewed were Latino, followed by 33% African American, with the remaining 14% of interviewees classified as White.

The responses from previous AWARE participants reinforced the findings from the case file data and provided additional details to more directly understand their experience in the AWARE Program, including the following:

- ❖ Prior to entering Camp Kilpatrick and participating in the AWARE Program, respondents faced a number of challenges in their lives: many had no father present in their lives, experienced school problems, engaged in drug use, and were associated with gangs.
- ❖ Most had a previous history in the juvenile justice system, including previous camp placements.
- ❖ Respondents reported playing sports at school as a way to keep them out of trouble.
- ❖ Participation in AWARE was viewed as a positive experience by all the respondents. Specifically, they reported that their participation helped in several ways, including:
 - Providing male role models that helped to offset the experience of having an absentee father;
 - Instilling hope and belief in their success—the coaches made them feel trusted and capable;
 - Stressing teamwork, which provided a reprieve from gang and racial tensions;
 - Providing the opportunity to connect to family by inviting them to games;
 - Providing incentives to behave during their camp stay; and,
 - Developing positive relationships with adults who cared.
- ❖ Respondents were not critical of AWARE; however, they offered the following recommendations based on their experiences:
 - Access to more extracurricular activities (e.g., art, music, shop, etc.) for all youth at the camp;
 - More access to counseling and practical educational opportunities (e.g., domestic violence programs, parenting programs, etc.) to support the physical, mental, and emotional health of youth;
 - More family involvement and connections while in camp; and
 - More follow-up/connection after they were released from the camp.
- ❖ At the time of the interview, the majority of respondents were performing well educationally, having finished their high school education, and attending or completing college or trade school.
- ❖ Most of the respondents reported having a stable living environment and working in either full or part-time employment.
- ❖ Respondents also reported minimal contact with the criminal justice system. Only a quarter of those interviewed were re-incarcerated post-Camp Kilpatrick due to probation violations, and no one reported being re-incarcerated for committing a new crime.

Taken together, how youth are treated while they are “locked-up” matters, and it *will* have a profound effect on their lives. For these respondents, the AWARE program provided a “value added” beyond its immediate activities. The majority of the sample drew upon the behavior of coaches and staff as role models, remembered their advice and several have maintained relationships long after camp, still turning to these men in times of need. The men interviewed have taken the lessons of camaraderie, discipline, and hope,

and had successfully integrated them into their own lives and those of their families. While sports clearly contributed to the resiliency of respondents, athletic involvement was decidedly *not* the most meaningful part of this program, instead having programming for youth development, encouraging team-building, having male adult mentors, and fostering pro-social relationships had the most significant and sustainable impact.

Study Recommendations

Based on the findings summarized above, we offer the following recommendations for consideration.

Programmatic Recommendations

The current study provides evidence that the AWARE Program has positive impact for those who participate; however, participation in this program is not a panacea for all the emotional and environmental challenges faced by participants, particularly when they leave Camp Kilpatrick. Its impact was positive but also limited in the current study. Although this study provides support for continuing the AWARE Program, its continuation should be considered within the context of other issues such as:

- ✓ *Building relationships:* What seemed to make the most significant, long-standing impact on previous AWARE participants were the relationships they made with coaches and teammates. In particular, their participation inspired and reinforced hope and the belief that they were bigger and more capable than their current circumstance. This element of the AWARE Program is perhaps its most critical component and should be expanded to all youth in camps.
- ✓ *Expanding the opportunity:* The AWARE Program is a positive youth development activity that generated positive, supportive relationships, hope, belief in oneself, and motivation to succeed among its participants. The benefits of such programming should not be limited to a few youth; rather, if AWARE continues, other extracurricular activities (including intermural sports, art, music, and shop to name a few) should be available for all youth at the camps. It is important to note that interview respondents did not emphasize the importance of the privileges as significant to their success. Instead, they remembered and learned from the relationships they built.
- ✓ *Connecting programming:* Positive youth development activities such as AWARE should be connected to appropriate treatment programs that meet the needs of the youth. The youth coming to camps and to the AWARE Program face a number of challenges in their communities and within their families. Many have experienced trauma in their lives and often find more incentives (and sometimes pressure) to make bad decisions than good ones. AWARE and other positive youth development programs are critical to the healing process for youth in camps, but they need more skills, resources, and support to maintain positive change when they return to the community forces that originally propelled them into the juvenile justice system.

Practice Recommendations

The results from this study emphasize the need to consider current Probation practice for youth in camps and their transition back into the community. To reach its maximum effectiveness, in other words, the AWARE Program and any other type of positive youth development must fit within the larger context of Probation's mission, goals, practices, and policies. Efforts are currently underway to improve services for youth in camps and their reentry back into the community when they exit (e.g., CCTP), but this study raises the need to ensure these efforts and future ones address critical issues to support youth success.

- ✓ Integrate family interaction and programming into the youth's camp stay. Youth want and need to stay connected to family members during their stays, and family members need to be prepared—through education and support—to contribute to their child's success when he/she returns home.
- ✓ Create seamless transitions to appropriate educational placements should be a priority in the aftercare planning for these youth. The majority of youth are not enrolled in school upon exit, and enrollment rates remain lower than those at arrest/petition during tracking.
- ✓ Develop creative incentives for probation staff to build positive mentoring-type relationships with youth while in camp and continue the support when the youth is transitioned back into the community—to what extent is there "continuity of care" for these youth?
- ✓ Develop and implement ways to sustain the relationships and positive behaviors built in camp when youth return to the community.
- ✓ Assess youths' risks and needs and use this information to drive case planning and the connection to appropriate services for youth. The LARRC should be administered at regular intervals and directly connected to case planning decisions.
- ✓ Explore the role of violations in keeping youth under Probation supervision for long periods of time and how they potentially contribute to a rotating door of camp admissions and exits. If violations are being used as a tool to control bad behavior (i.e., a deterrent), is it an effective tool or would a different approach result in better outcomes for youth?
- ✓ In general, this study underscores the need for Probation to realign its work to achieve public safety and rehabilitation by accurately identifying and appropriately addressing the needs of the youth, providing effective programming and approaches to help youth make better decisions, and supporting youth as they experience changes and the challenges associated with those changes.

Data Recommendations

- ✓ PCMS is limited in its ability to track and assess outcomes for youth generally and program effectiveness specifically. Case files contain more information, but the data are not always easy to find because documentation is not consistent or standardized. Processes and systems should be implemented that allow real-time tracking of youth progress and the ability for Probation to measure what it is doing and how well it is doing it on a regular basis.
- ✓ Establish an infrastructure from which a deliberate and meaningful research agenda can be executed on a regular and consistent basis in order to (1) better understand the practices of Probation, (2) assess which of these practices is meaningful and effective, and (3) contribute to Probation decision-making around practices and policies intended to improve outcomes for youth, their families, and their communities.

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