

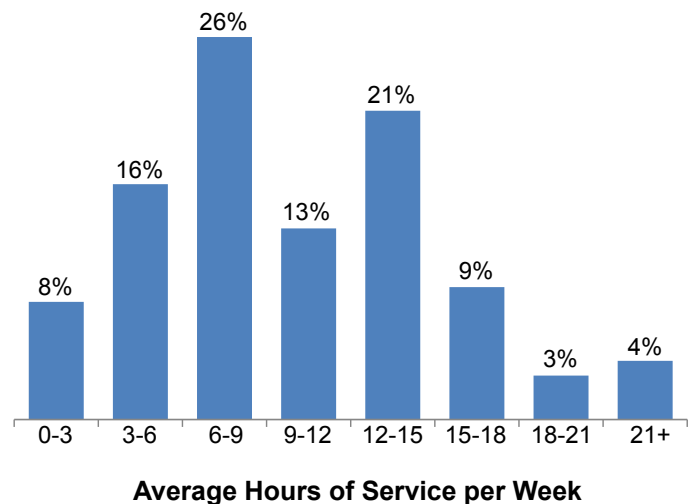
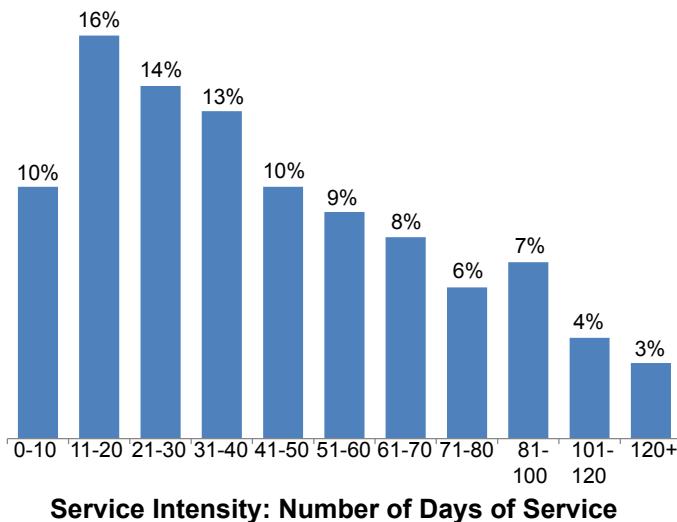
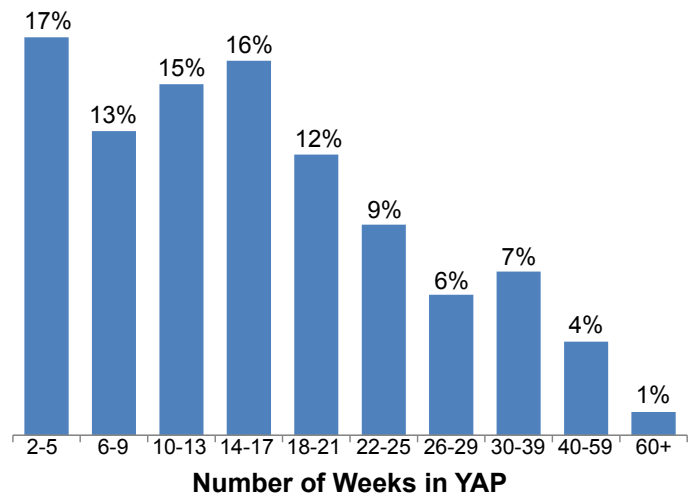
YAP's approach to wrap-around services appears intensive and flexible

by Douglas Evans, Ph.D. and Sheyla Delgado, M.A.

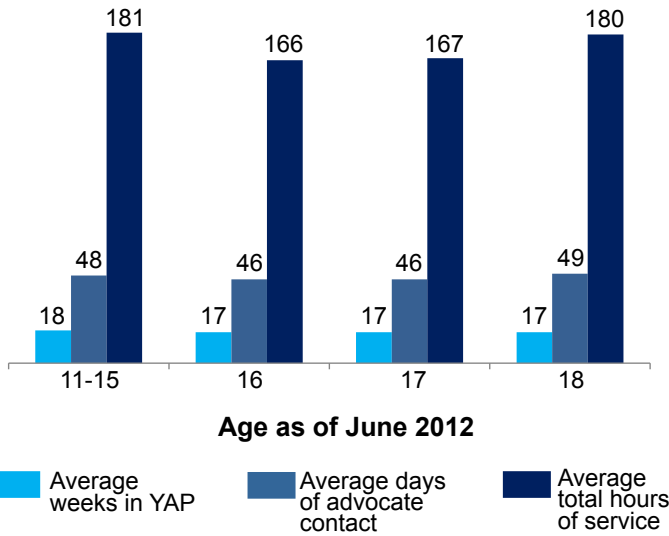
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) provides advocacy services driven by strengths- and empowerment-based wrap-around best practices. Services and supports are targeted to support high risk youth and their families in the community to reduce reliance on institutional interventions. The Research & Evaluation Center at John Jay College examined a sample of 3,523 juvenile justice referred cases involving young people between the ages of 11 and 18 years old who lived in their communities when they entered YAP.

Findings show that services are mostly intensive and short term, yet can accommodate a variety of individual circumstances. The average length of stay in YAP across the sample was 17 weeks. However, almost a quarter of youth served in the sample had lengths of stay greater than 24 weeks. YAP advocates worked directly with young people and their families for an average of 47 days throughout their involvement in YAP programs. More than 20 percent of youth received 70 days or more of advocate contact. In addition, participants received an average of 173 total hours of service or 10 hours of service per week. Yet, some youth received far more services. For example, one-fourth of the sample received 250 or more hours of service during their involvement in YAP and 16 percent of the young people received more than 15 hours of service per week on average.

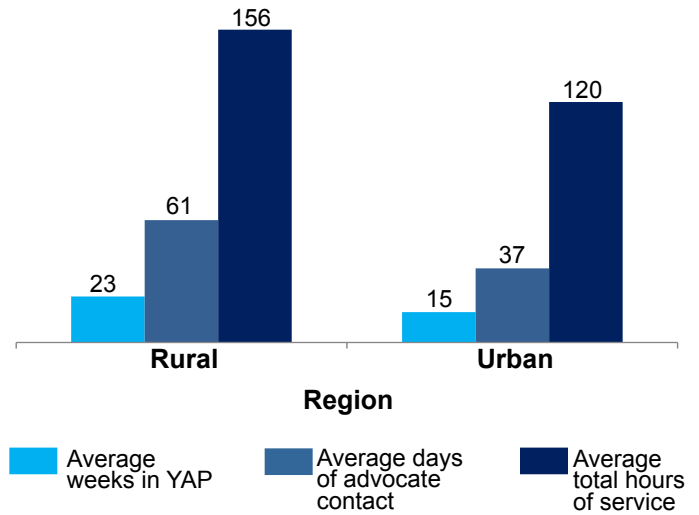
Service Variable	Sample Average
Duration of stay in YAP	17 weeks
Service Intensity: Number of Days of Advocate Contact	47 days
Service Dosage: Total Hours of Service	173 hours
Hours of Service Per Week	10 hours



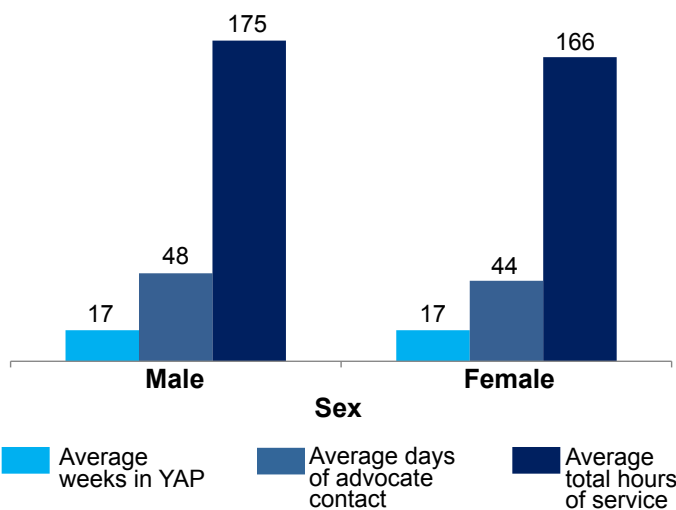
Service intensity or duration did not vary much by age. Older kids (18 year olds) and younger kids (11-15 year olds) remained in the YAP program for an average of 18 weeks and received an average of 181 hours of service compared to 16 and 17 year olds who spent an average of 17 weeks in YAP and received an average of 167 hours of service.



Also, analyses by region indicated that participants in rural areas received considerably more service on average (61 contact days, 156 total hours) than those in urban areas (37 contact days, 120 total hours) and rural participants remained in YAP longer (23 weeks) than urban participants (15 weeks).



Male and female young people received similar levels of advocacy service. Both groups remained in YAP for an average of 17 weeks and received an average of 10 hours of service per week. However, males received slightly more advocacy contact (48 days) and total hours of service (175) compared to females (44 days, 166 hours).



Analysis of the data indicates a strong correlation between many of the service variables. For example, intensity of services was associated with service dosage as evidenced by the high correlation (.92) between the two variables. In other words, the more frequently the young person received service, the more contact hours he/she received. Length of service was also strongly and positively correlated with service intensity (.75) and dosage (.71). The longer a child receives services, the more likely he/she will receive intensive contact and more service hours. These findings suggest that an engaged young person stays connected with YAP over time.

Conclusion

The findings support the intensity and flexibility of YAP services. YAP seeks to provide individualized services that attend to the unique strengths and needs of justice involved young people and their families. The region in which participants receive services appears to be a factor that may be associated with differences in duration, frequency, and dosage of services.

Data Sources:

This analysis relies on self-reported data from internal databases maintained by Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., including client outcome surveys and YAP's system for monitoring service delivery.