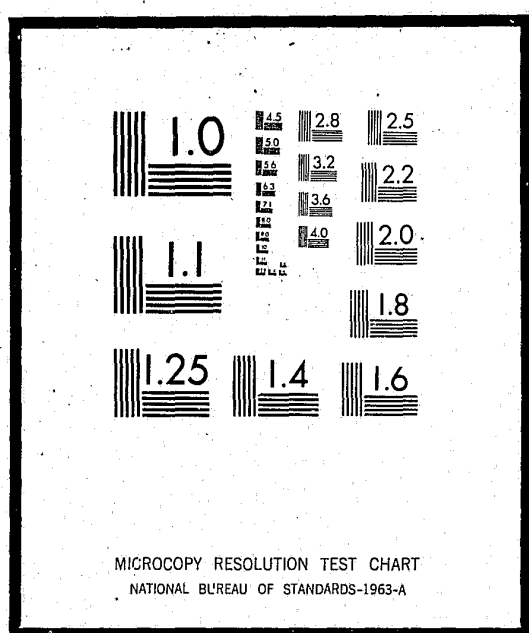


# NCJRS

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed

5/29/75

PROJECT NEW PRIDE ✓

INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT

73-IC-0012-(1)-66

June, 1973-February, 1974

## INTRODUCTION

This report covers the first nine months of operation of Project New Pride. Interim project results are measured at several levels of analysis. Because of the relatively short time period of operation, emphasis in this analysis is placed upon measures of operational data although an effectiveness based upon recidivism is included. The report is divided into four sections: a project summary, participant characteristics, operational results, and recidivism results.

### I. PROJECT SUMMARY

Project New Pride is a community-based program designed to reduce the recidivism rate of 60 juvenile probationers with a record of two or more convictions for serious offenses. Referrals are received directly from Juvenile Court Probation officers. Project participants are provided tutorial education, cultural education, vocational training, and part-time job placements to effectively reintegrate into the community and school system youth who have been incarcerated. Specific objectives for the first year of project operation are delineated below:

OBJECTIVE 1: *REDUCE THE ESTABLISHED RATE OF RECIDIVISM BY 40% FOR A TOTAL OF 60 JUVENILE OFFENDERS.*

OBJECTIVE 2: *FACILITATE THE SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION OF YOUTH BACK INTO HOME AND COMMUNITY, i.e., BURGLARY, ROBBERY, AND ASSAULT (RELATED TO ROBBERY) OFFENDERS.*

15627

## II. PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

Two groups of 20 probationers were selected for participation in Project New Pride. The first group began their involvement in the project in July, 1973; the second group in December, 1973. Of the 40 clients enrolled in the program, 36 are still participating. Clients range in age from 14 to 18 with the average age being 16. Data collected on 38 participants' ethnicity indicate 20 Chicano, 15 Black, and 3 White participants.

The residential status of project enrollees includes 26 of the 38 living with parents, 4 institutionally placed, and 6 living with other relatives. Only 10 of the 36 came from homes with married parents living together. Eleven participants come from homes where the parents are divorced, 4 from homes where parents are legally separated, 5 from homes with one parent deceased, and 2 from a home where the father has deserted the mother.

Employment data of participants' mothers indicate that 16 are housewives, 7 are employed outside the home full-time, 4 employed part-time, and 5 are unemployed and seeking work. Comparable data for participants' fathers indicated that 12 of 20 are employed full-time, 2 are employed part-time, while the remaining 6 are unemployed.

School status data were collected for 37 project participants. Eleven are full-time students, 4 are part-time students, and 20 are not in school. The remaining participants are in special education programs. In terms of educational attainment, 13 enrollees have reached the 8th-9th grade level, 23 the 10th-11th grade level, and one the 12th grade level (non-graduate).

The average New Pride participant, at the time of enrollment, had two prior

felony arrests and more than two misdemeanor arrests. Additionally, the average enrollee had one prior conviction for a felony and one prior conviction for a misdemeanor. In the last two years, 26 of 37 participants had four or more arrests. The current offense resulting in probation is burglary for 18 enrollees, robbery for 4 enrollees, and aggravated assault for 5 enrollees. The remaining participants are currently on probation for other felony or misdemeanor offenses.

## III. OPERATIONAL RESULTS

The 36 project participants have been supervised by 4 staff members with an average caseload of 9. Supervision is intensive with a total of 288 client contacts during the last month of this reporting period for an average of 8 contacts per participant. All project participants have received individual and family counseling, and guided group interaction and behavior modification. Six clients have been referred to outside agencies for additional services including diagnostic treatment centers, community service agencies, group homes, and foster homes. Job training, employment, and tutoring services provided to participants are discussed below under the specific evaluation measures of operational data outlined in the Project New Pride evaluation plan.

### Number of Enrollees in Project

Project New Pride has attained its intake goal of 60 participants. The first two groups of 20 have been enrolled and the last group of 20 now is in the process of being brought into the project. All referrals have come from Denver Juvenile Court and have Impact offense backgrounds (see criminal background discussion under Participant Characteristics section).

Of the 40 participants in the first two groups, there have been 4 drop-outs.

One enrollee was institutionalized for an offense committed prior to involvement in this project. The remaining 3 drop-outs remained in the program less than 2 months and left voluntarily because they no longer desired to participate and/or felt they could find their own employment. The intake goal has been reached and an enrollee retention rate of 90% attained.

The measure of "successful" project participants cannot be determined at this time since success is defined as completion of ten months in the project. The first group of participants has been enrolled only eight months in the project.

#### Number of Participants Trained and Employed

All 36 participants have received on-the-job training. At the end of this reporting period, 25 participants were employed - 4 full-time and 21 part-time. Approximately 70% of the participants are still employed. The remaining enrollees are all interviewing for jobs with the exception of three enrollees, one a full-time student, one who joined the Job Corps, and one who is incarcerated for a repeat offense.

Employment subsequent to on-the-job training has been a problem for participants 15 years old and younger. Although the Denver Chamber of Commerce has been helpful in helping the staff obtain job openings, recent job openings have declined due to the general increase in unemployment and decline in the economy.

#### Educational Attainment

All New Pride enrollees are given the "Wide Range Achievement Test" to determine academic ability at time of entrance into the program. Results are available for Group I participants. The initial tests for this group indicated 75% read below the sixth grade level, 80% spelled below the fourth grade level and all performed math below the fourth grade level. Nonetheless, those enrollees

attending school were classified as junior high or high school students.

Enrollees are retested after four months of tutoring. Fifty percent of the Group I participants, upon retesting, displayed an increase of two grade levels in reading and one grade level in math and spelling. Fifteen percent showed one grade improvement in all three subjects while 5% showed no improvement. The remaining 30% have not been retested.

#### Employer Satisfaction

In order to determine employer satisfaction with Project Pride participants as employees, each employer has been asked the following question: In general, are you satisfied so far with the performance of the people we have placed with you? Responses to the question were categorized under three general headings: positive, neutral and negative. Responses were weighed as follows: 3 = positive, 2 = neutral, and 1 = negative.

The questionnaire was administered three times. In the first month, sixteen employers responded with a weighed response equal to 2.75. This included a positive response by 81% of the employers. During the second month, the same responses were recorded. In the third month, the weighed total dropped slightly to 2.50, but increased to 2.69 in the fourth survey. To this point in time, employer satisfaction has been generally positive.

#### Participant Morale

Using a similar scheme as outlined above to determine participant morale, each participant in the first group was asked about his feelings toward the program regardless of whether or not he was employed. The weighed response for the first month the questionnaire was used was 2.41. During the second month the average was 2.33 and during the third month, 2.64. The same questionnaire was admin-

istered to the second group of participants in which a weighed response of 2.67 was obtained. As with employer satisfaction, participant morale has been generally positive.

Number of Employers and Relative Weight

Another Project Pride operational measure relates to the quantity of employers and job openings developed. Project Pride personnel, through this reporting period, have contacted 106 employers and developed 45 job openings at 29 job sites. Of the 29 employers, all except one are small employers, i.e., 5 or less openings available for project participants. In a tight job market, Project Pride has been effective in obtaining job openings for participants.

IV. RECIDIVISM RESULTS

Recidivism cannot be accurately evaluated at this time because of the relatively short follow-up time period. Among the 36 project participants in the first two groups, the average follow-up time period is only 5.5 months. Further, recidivism has been defined, for purposes of measuring the objective of 40% reduction, as adjudication by the court. Currently, only one juvenile among the 36 has been convicted for a repeat misdemeanor offense. However, there are 6 additional filings with pending court dates giving a potential recidivism rate, based on conviction, of 19% with 5.5 months of follow-up data.

Another measure of recidivism more useful after such a short follow-up period is re-arrest. Nineteen of the 36 participants (53%) have been re-arrested accounting for a total of 28 arrests. There have been a total of 6 arrests for impact offenses, 5 arrests for joyriding, 12 arrests for other felonies and misdemeanors and 5 arrests for status offenses. Although a 53% re-arrest rate for any offense and a 17% rate for impact offenses seem high for a 5.5 month follow-up period, the following table comparing these rates to rates calculated

from baseline data for juvenile offenders with backgrounds similar to Pride participants shows these rates are lower than expected values:

RE-ARREST RATES

	% RE-ARRESTED FOR ANY OFFENSE	% RE-ARRESTED FOR IMPACT OFFENSE
BASELINE DATA		
JUVENILES WITH 5 PRIOR ARRESTS	59%	24%
JUVENILES WITH 2 PRIOR IMPACT ARRESTS	54%	27%
PROJECT PRIDE PARTICIPANTS	53%	17%

Although results are premature, even on the basis of re-arrest Project Pride recidivism rates are somewhat lower than the expected rates calculated from baseline data. From a programmatic viewpoint, the majority of the re-arrests occurred subsequent to the 90 day training period when supervision changed from daily to weekly. Any conclusions relative to project effectiveness in reducing recidivism cannot be reached until a longer follow-up period has elapsed. Indicators thus far, however, are positive that New Pride will effect a recidivism reduction.

RECOMMENDATION

After nine months of operation, an evaluation of interim results indicates that Project Pride is meeting or surpassing its objectives in all evaluative measures of operational data. Although it is premature to measure recidivism reduction, early indicators are favorable. Based on both qualitative and quantitative data, it is recommended that the proejct be re-funded.

**END**