

# Central Falls Juvenile Hearing Board Evaluation Brief

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September 2005

## DATA CORP

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Evaluation Brief of the Juvenile Hearing Board (JHB) represents the work of many. The authors wish to thank Angelo Garcia, Director of Channel One-Central Falls, and Christopher L. Cruz, JHB Clerk and Case Manager, for all their time and assistance with data requests.

The authors also wish to thank the DATACORP staff for their technical advice, support, feedback, and superior production capabilities. Allison Minugh, Ph.D., served as the DATACORP project director, Kelly R. Breeden M.S., served as the DATACORP project manager, and Nicole Le Boeuf, B.A. served as the project assistant.

The Central Falls JHB is funded by five local agencies committed to addressing juvenile delinquency and community development. The funding agencies include Rhode Island Justice Commission, City of Central Falls, and Central Falls Police Department, Family Court, Channel One-Central Falls. This report contains data for all JHB hearings held from October 2004 to May 2005. It should be noted that cases were not made available in February 2005 or June through September 2005. The JHB did not meet in these months.

## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

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The JHB firmly believes that with intervention, guidance and rehabilitation most juveniles can be directed toward respecting themselves, society, and the law (Rhode Island Justice Commission Title V Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program Application). Therefore, the Central Falls JHB intervenes in the RI Family Court system by directing juveniles toward more law abiding and productive behavior. The primary goal of the JHB is to provide intervention with case management and education services resulting in better life outcomes for youth and their families. Long-term goals include decreasing crime, truancy, and dropout rates in Central Falls as well as decreasing the number of incarcerated youth and the minority over representation in the juvenile justice system.

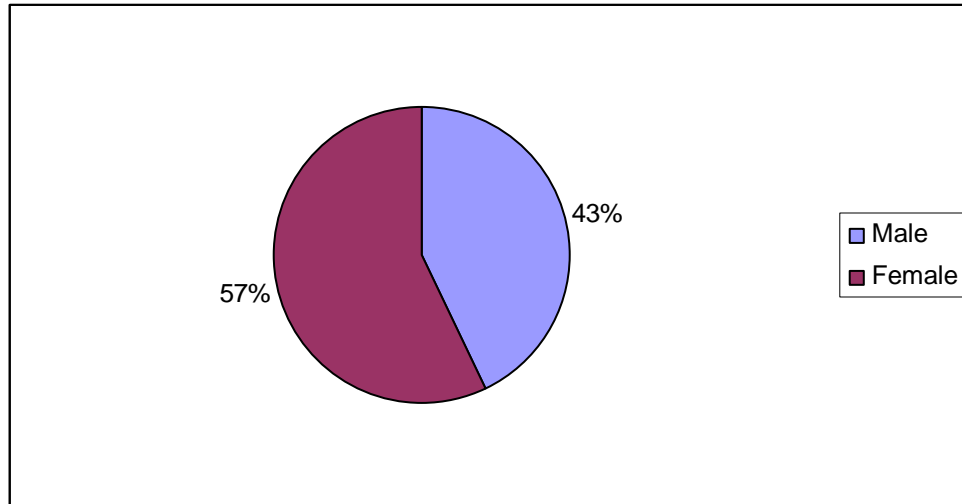
Functions of the JHB include facilitating hearings of first-time law offenders to lessen the caseload of the RI Family Court and divert first-time offenders from formal adjudication and dispositions. Additionally, by establishing a community board to address juvenile crime and truancy, community awareness is increased and victims can be compensated better.

Referrals for youth to participate in the JHB are made through Family Court, and the Central Falls' Police and School Truant Officer. DATACORP received data through the monthly progress report from the JHB Clerk and Case Manager, Christopher Cruz.

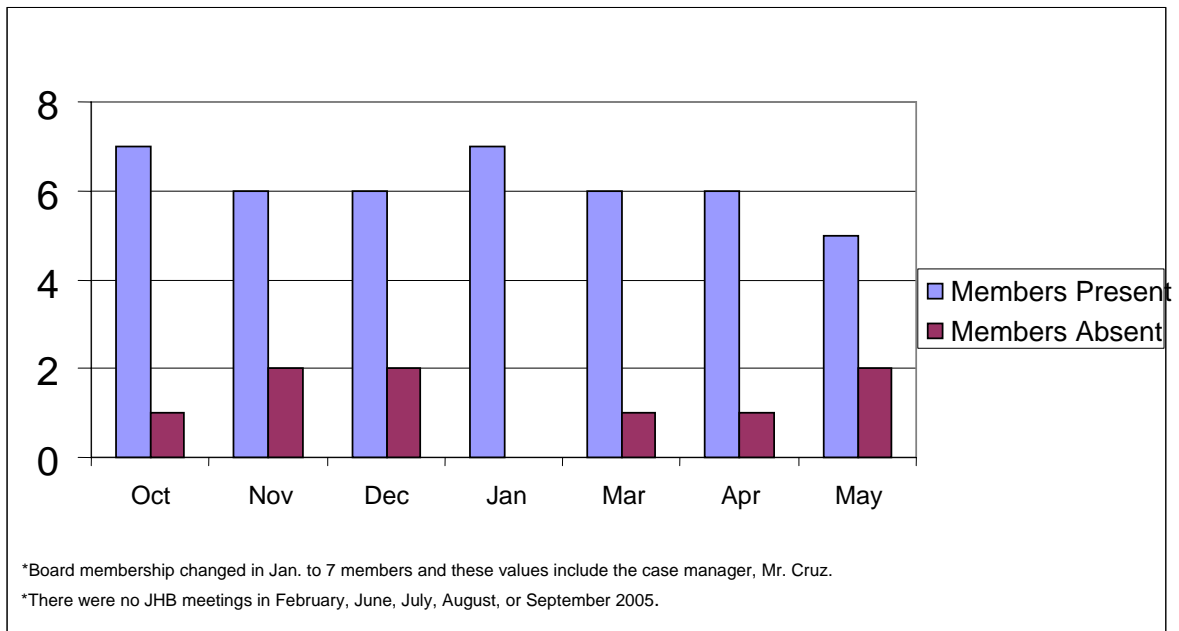
## JUVENILE HEARING BOARD: BOARD MEMBERS

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**WHAT WAS THE GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF THE JUVENILE HEARING BOARD MEMBERS?**



**WHAT WAS THE ATTENDANCE OF THE JUVENILE HEARING BOARD MEMBERS?**

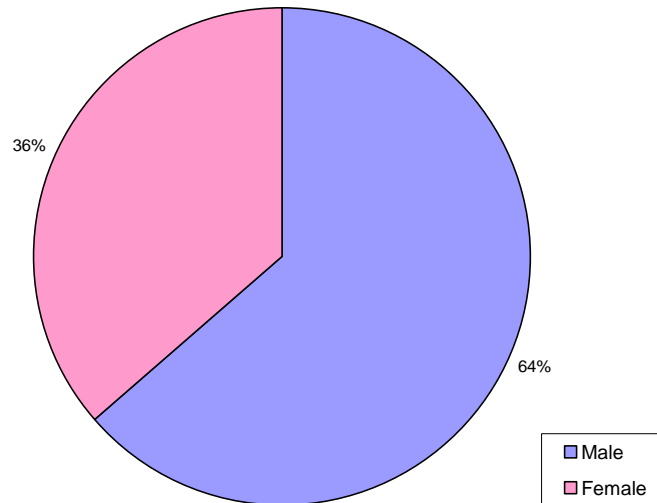


## JUVENILE HEARING BOARD: YOUTH

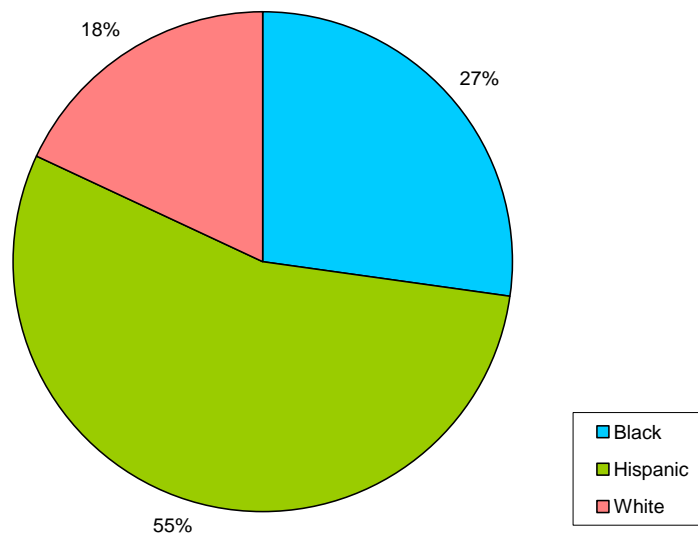
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### WHO ARE THE YOUTH INVOLVED WITH THE CENTRAL FALLS JUVENILE HEARING BOARD?

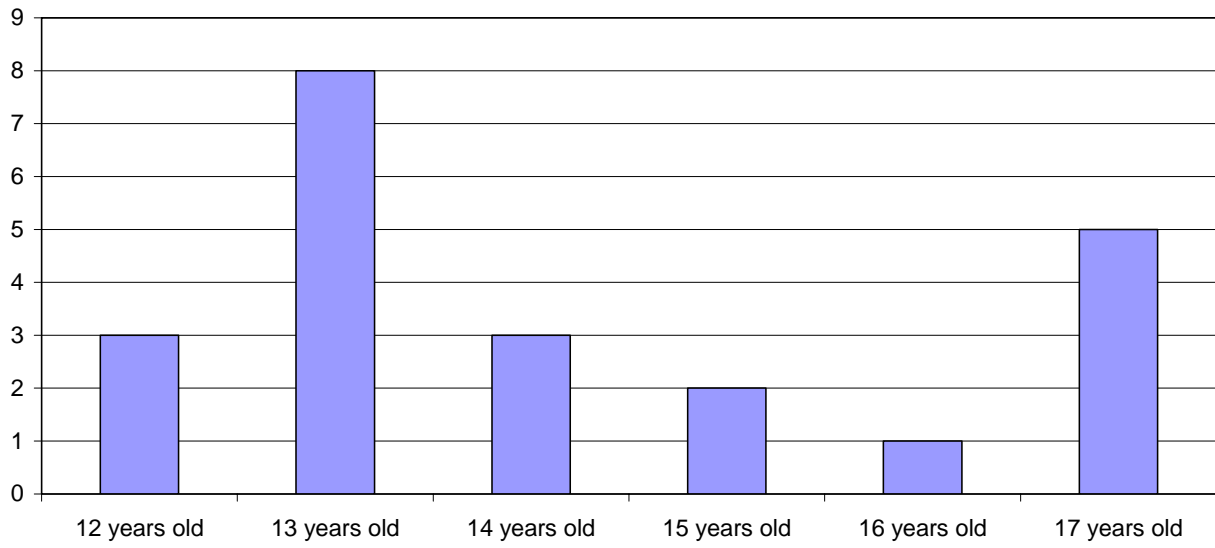
Youth Gender



Youth Race/Ethnicity

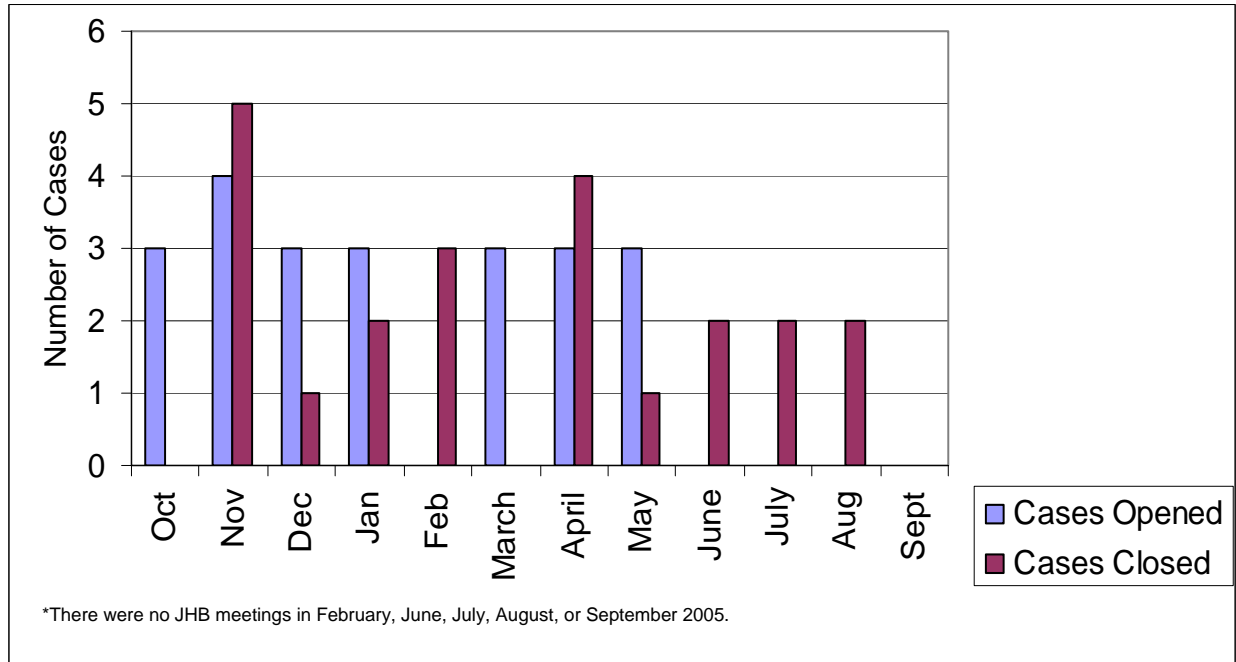


**Age of Youth**

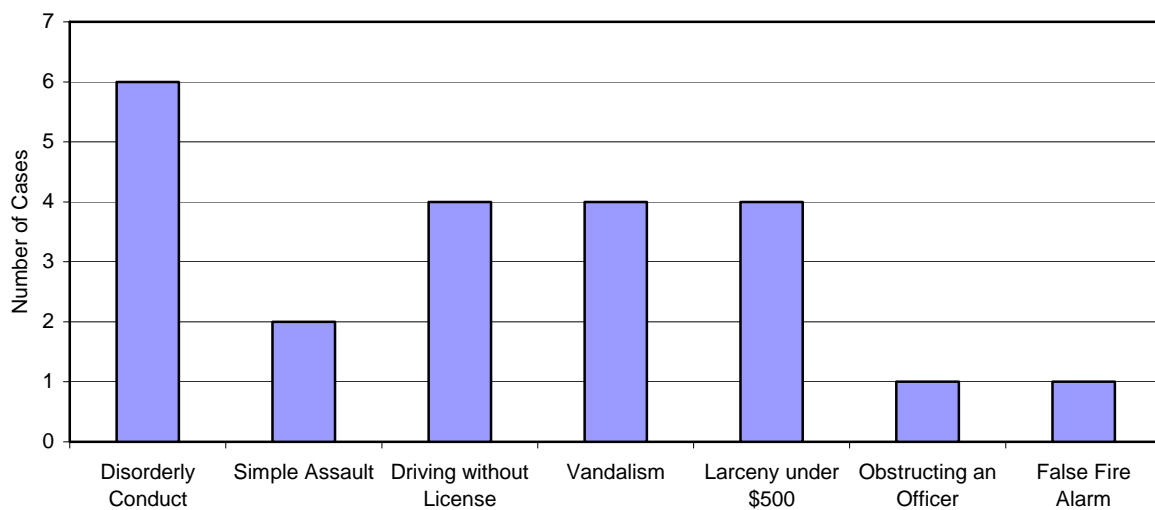


## JUVENILE HEARING BOARD: CASES

### HOW MANY CASES WERE OPENED AND CLOSED?



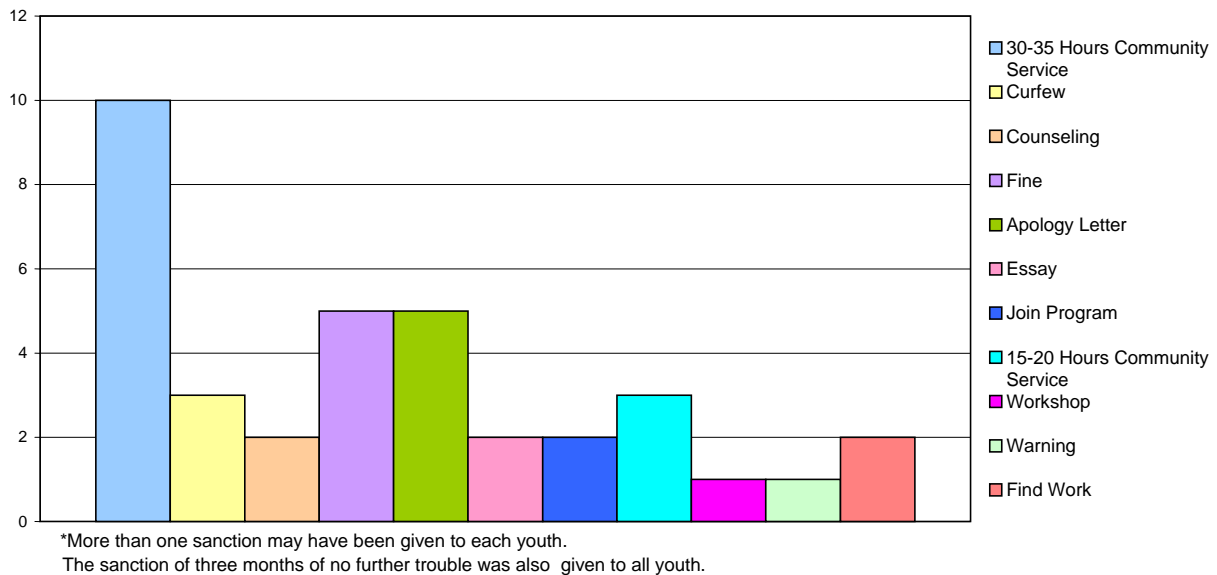
### WHAT TYPES OF CASES ARE HEARD BY JHB?



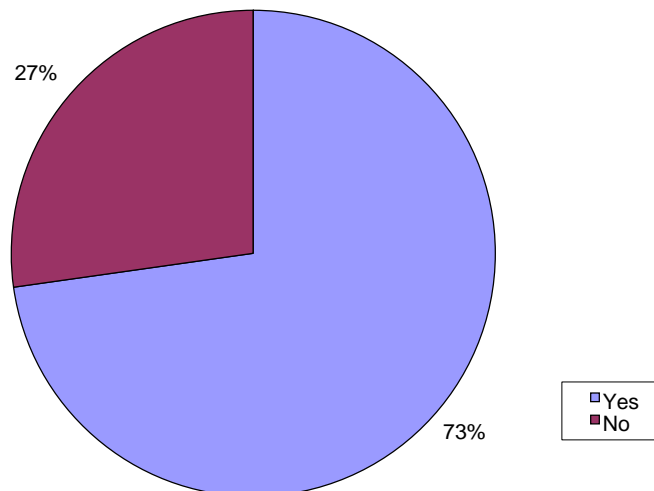
## JUVENILE HEARING BOARD: SANCTIONS

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### WHAT WERE THE SANCTIONS RECEIVED BY THE YOUTH?



### WHAT IS THE RATE OF SANCTION COMPLETION?

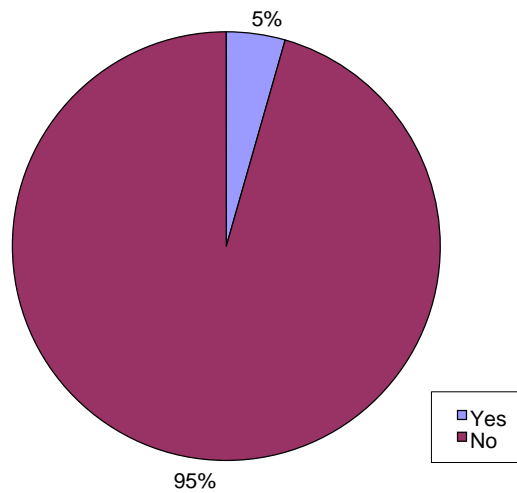




## JUVENILE HEARING BOARD: RECIDIVISM OF JHB YOUTH

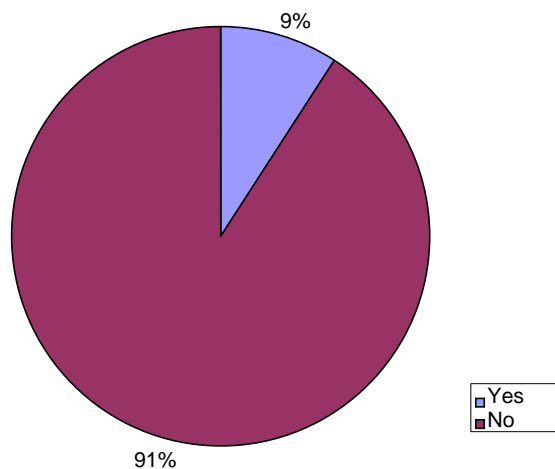
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### WHAT PERCENT OF YOUTH REOFFEND AFTER 3 MONTHS?



\* No repeat offenses offense data was made available for 2005.

### WHAT PERCENT OF YOUTH REOFFEND AFTER 6 MONTHS?



\* No repeat offense data was made available for 2005.  
The 6-month repeat offense data includes any youth that reoffended within 3-months.

## CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

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The mission of the Central Falls JHB is to provide an alternative to Family Court for juveniles committing a first-time offense. During the evaluation period from October 2004 to September 2005, JHB fulfilled its mission by facilitating 22 cases and closing all of these cases during the reporting period. Of the closed cases, approximately 73% of the youth completed their sanctions. This shows that overall the JHB was successful at providing an alternative adjudication for youth offenders in Central Falls.

Of the youth who participated in the JHB during this period, there were two repeat offenders. Both individuals had repeat offenses in 2005, one within 3-months and the other within 6-months of their respective JHB hearings. It should be noted that both youth had their initial JHB hearings in the later months of 2004 and that no 2005 repeat offense data were made available. With the data that were available, the youth that had repeat offenses represent 9% of the youth who participated in JHB during this time frame. The remaining 91% of youth have not committed repeat offenses, according to the data made available. This concludes that JHB is a successful intervention for decreasing criminal behavior and directing juveniles toward more law abiding and productive behavior.

In addition, the following activities were accomplished as set by the Case Manager, Mr. Cruz.

Proposed Activity	Completed As of 8/25/2005	Comments
Communicate with Juveniles & CF Police Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Update & organize files	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Communicate & network between schools, community, police, and parents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Collaborate with On The Right Track through community service projects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Send out JHB agendas/monthly mailings	N/A	
Oversee Juveniles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Home Visits	N/A	
Monthly mailings	N/A	
Monthly JHB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No cases were given to the JHB in February or from June to September 2005. Therefore, JHB did not convene during these four months.

Given the success of the program, it is recommended that the JHB continue to fulfill its mission and goals within the Central Falls community.