

Youth Development Programs

Possible Youth Development Programs to Consider

- **Big Brother/Big Sister Program (BBBSA)**

This program matches children with mentors one-to-one across the country. It consists of two essential programs: community-based mentoring and school-based mentoring.

- **Career Academies (CA)**

This program provides high schools with a systematic approach to facing various challenges and to preparing students for employment and post-secondary education. It typically has the following features: it is organized as a small learning community, it combines academic and technical curricula around a career, and it establishes partnership with local employers.

- **Children at Risk Program (CAR)**

This program targets middle-school students living in disadvantaged neighborhoods. The program offers several service components: community-enhanced policing, case management, juvenile justice intervention, family services, after-school and summer program activities, tutoring and homework educational services, and mentoring.

- **Drug Education Classes (DEC)**

This program aims to provide children with the information and skills needed to lead lives free of drugs and violence. Major components of the program include: addressing misconceptions regarding the normative use of substance abuse, reinforcing knowledge of harmful consequences of drugs, and providing skills necessary to resist the use of substances.

- **Job Training Partnership Act Programs (JTPA)**

This program – “The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) of 1983” was designed to improve the employment status of disadvantaged young adults, dislocated workers, and individuals facing barriers to employment. The Act consists of on-the-job training, job research assistance, general education and work experience, and improving participants’ occupational skills.

- **LifeSkills Training Program (LT)**

This program is a substance abuse prevention program aimed at reducing the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence. It has three major components: drug resistance skills, personal self-management skills, and general social skills.

- **Service Learning Program (SL)**

This program encourages development through volunteering in organized service experiences. It consists of three components: training, service, and reflection. In Charlottesville City Schools, *Service Learning* works in conjunction with Community Attention through its **Teens GIVE** program.

- **Sponsor a Scholar Program (SS)**

This program encourages low-income students to reach their full potential by graduating high school and attending college. These students are selected based on their motivation to achieve academically and their potential for benefiting from the additional support.

- **Teen Outreach (TO)**

This program is geared at reducing the rates of school failures, teenage pregnancy and school suspension, primarily in high school students. The program’s primary components are community service and discussing life options in classroom discussion.

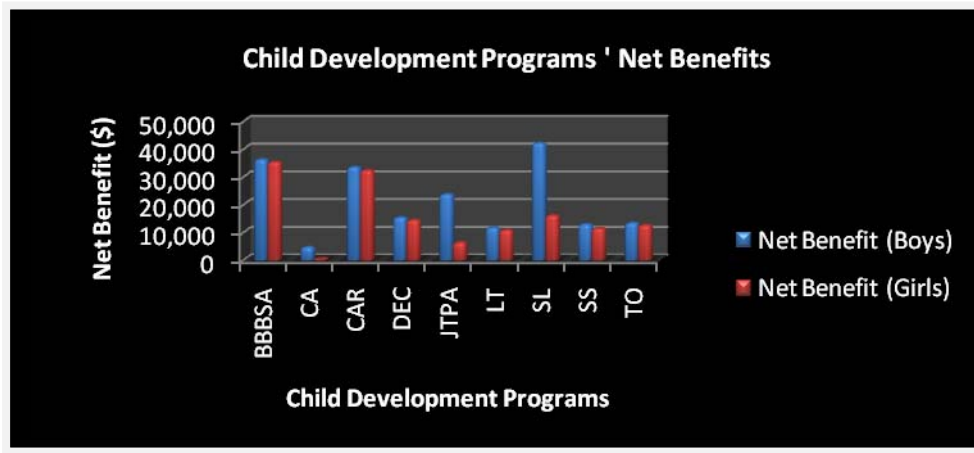
Proposed Youth Development Programs Overview

The table below shows the different teenage issues that each of the proposed programs is able to influence.

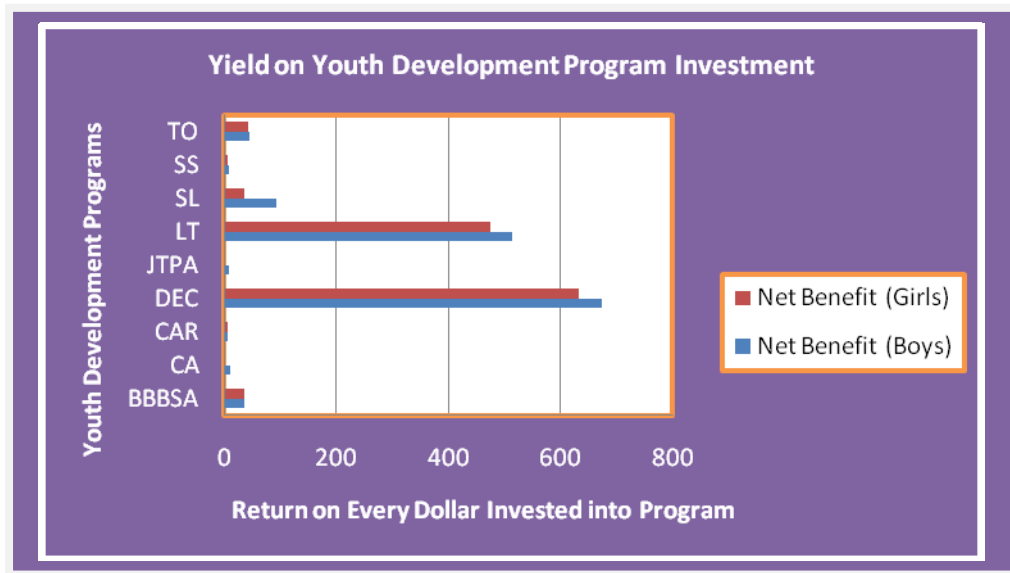
Proposed Program	Substance Abuse	Alcohol	Violence	Graduating from High School	Higher Education Degree	Crime	Smoking	Sex	Pregnancy
BBBSA	✓	✓	✓	✓					
CA				✓	✓				
CAR	✓					✓			
DEC	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
JTPA						✓			
LT	✓			✓				✓	
SL						✓			✓
SS					✓				
TO									✓

Results

The results of the research on the nine different Youth Development Programs gave net benefits¹, in terms of dollarsdollars. This is illustrated in the graph below:



Another indicator of whether a Youth Development Program is beneficial is by looking at the yield that the program gives on the investment (cost of program) made on the program. These results are illustrated in the graph below:



¹ The benefit dissipation that is associated with all the proposed Youth Development Programs would decrease if the participant would continue with the program every year until he/she is 18 years old, thus not allowing for the depreciation of benefits if they leave the program earlier.

Out of the 9 proposed programs, 7 of them have great long term benefits, with sources of gain in particular areas - shown in the table:

Propose Youth Development Program	Long Term Gains
Big Brother/Big Sister	<u>Reduce substance abuse</u> and <u>increased probability of finishing high school</u>
Child at Risk	<u>General long term gains</u>
Drug Education Classes	<u>General long term gains</u>
Job Training Partnership Act	Large effects on <u>crime reduction</u> and <u>reduction in cost of crime</u>
LifeSkills Training	<u>General long term gains</u>
Service Learning	Large gains on <u>reduced criminal activity</u>
Sponsor a Scholar	<u>Increased probability of going to college</u> and long term benefits associated with going to college

Conclusion

Each of the proposed programs has a different point of interest, as they all touch on different aspects of teenage life; however not all the programs are effective when ‘the sensitivity analysis’² is taken into account. Out of the 9 proposed programs, 7 stand out as strong contenders for Youth Development and each of their long term gains (as shown in the table above) is different, thus giving a fair idea of which program to pursue if the desired result is already known.

From the 9 proposed programs, areas of big potential gains are crime reduction as well as reduced substance abuse. The “Children at Risk” program gives a long-term benefit of \$26,702³ (boys) and \$26,148⁴ (girls) which is associated with reduced crime. Similarly, the “Job Training Partnership Act” program gives a long term benefit estimate of \$29,167⁵ (boys) associated with a reduction in crime. The only drawback to both these programs is that they both have high implementation costs – making it a far lesser attractive prospect than it actually is. Costs of the programs are \$4,700 (Children at Risk) and \$2,377 (JTPA). A solution to this problem, for crime reduction, is the “Service Learning” program which estimates a long term gain of \$32,864⁶ (boys) with an implementation cost of only \$450.

Another area of big potential gains is reduction in substance abuse but in the same way as crime reduction, the high cost of the program hides the large potential gain. The “Big Brother/Big Sister” program gives a long-term benefit of \$28,035⁷ (boys & girls) associated with reduced substance abuse; however its cost is \$1,000.

It should be noted that despite high program costs, the benefits that can be achieved from such programs, such as those mentioned above, are considerably higher than other programs.

² See www.people.virginia.edu/~sns5r/ccfstf/youthdevelopment.html

³ See www.people.virginia.edu/~sns5r/ccfstf/youthdevelopment.html

⁴ See www.people.virginia.edu/~sns5r/ccfstf/youthdevelopment.html

⁵ See www.people.virginia.edu/~sns5r/ccfstf/youthdevelopment.html

⁶ See www.people.virginia.edu/~sns5r/ccfstf/youthdevelopment.html

⁷ See www.people.virginia.edu/~sns5r/ccfstf/youthdevelopment.html