

OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS SURVEY

Synopsis of the Results for Out-of-School Programs in the Charlottesville/Albemarle Community

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Background

The concept for the survey and research on out-of-school programming originated from the perceived need in the area for productive activities for youth. Targeted research by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee of the Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission of Children and Families (CCF) on youth in the local juvenile justice system indicated that these youth were less likely than their peers to be involved in positive activities. On July 9, 2002, CCF established as a priority to look more closely at the availability and characteristics of productive activities for youth in the area. CCF members are considering forming a new workgroup concentrating on productive activities for youth. The survey was created, implemented, and analyzed by Samantha Gavin, a University of Virginia Intern with the aid of Gretchen Ellis and Saphira Baker.

Methodology

The out-of-school programs survey was distributed to 22 organizations that provide out of school services to youth in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area and completed by 20 of the organizations. The survey inquired about characteristics of out-of-school programs, including, hours of operation, participants, staff, programming, and goals of the programs.

Program Schedule

Of the 20 organizations that responded, 18 have programs after school, 11 have programs during the summer, one has programs before school, and six have programs over holidays and/or weekends. The most common hours of operation for after school programs are from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Four programs, Music Resource Center, Boys and Girls Club, Computers 4 Kids, and Charlottesville Parks and Recreation, have hours extending past 6:30pm, and Computers 4 Kids is open the latest, until 10pm.

Participants attend seven of the programs daily after school, four programs weekly, and seven programs have a varied schedule where participants attend between one and five days weekly.

Program Cost

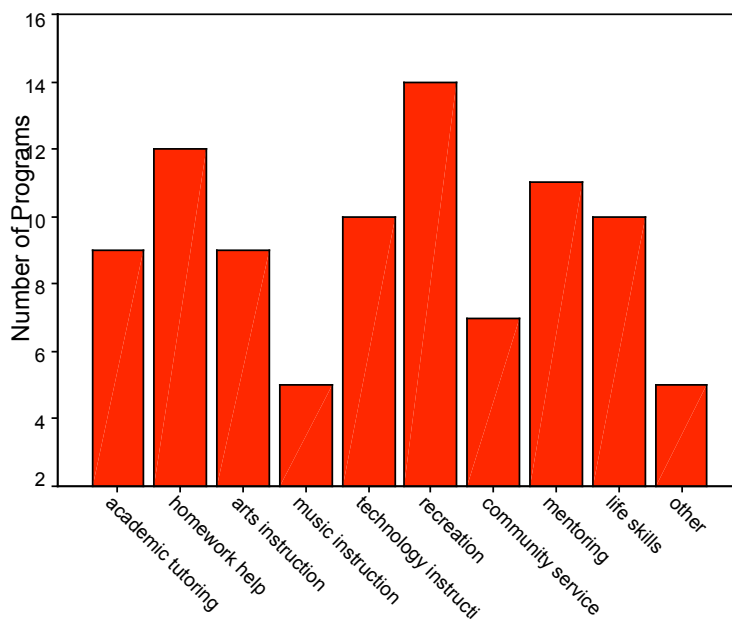
The cost of the program to the participants ranges from free to \$36.25 per week. Twelve programs provide programming for free to participants and four programs charge a fee ranging from \$5 per year to \$36.25 per week. Scholarships are available for three out of four programs for which there is a fee. Sources of funding for the programs include US

Department of Education, Comprehensive Services Act, Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act, religious organizations, other public and private grants, and donations.

Program Focus

The focuses of the programs are varied. The most common activities offered are homework help and mentoring for 12 of the programs. Five programs offer seven or more activities. The majority of the programs offer a general after school experience, meaning components include academics, life skills, as well as recreation. Four programs, Computers 4 Kids, Teens Give, EDGE, and the Music Resource Center provide discipline specific opportunities for their participants, varying from technology, to music, to community service.

Figure 1: Number of Programs Providing Varying Activities



Parent Involvement

The level of parent and family involvement varied in the programs, yet parent involvement was not a central component to any of the programs. In many cases, parental involvement was parent visits and such. About half of the programs (eight out of 15) did have a family involvement component. Two programs responded that they are currently developing a plan for family involvement.

Program Outcomes

The outcomes of the programs followed general themes of social, academic, and personal achievement. Of the 18 programs that reported their three primary outcomes, nine reported improving academic well being, eight reported improving social skills and relationships, six reported providing a safe environment, five reported increasing self-esteem, and five reported providing recreational opportunities.

Participant Characteristics

The number of students who attend each program range from 50 to 1450 participants with the Albemarle County Extended Day Program having the greatest number. The average age range of participants in the out-of-school programs varies from 8 to 16 years old. Nine programs serve elementary school-aged students, 12 serve middle school-aged students, and nine programs serve high school-aged students. Students who attend City of Charlottesville schools are served by 15 programs and students who attend County of Albemarle school are served by 10 programs. At least one program is offered for students who attend each of the City or County schools. Buford Middle School students are served by 10 out of 18 programs.

Figure 2: Number of Programs Serving City of Charlottesville Schools

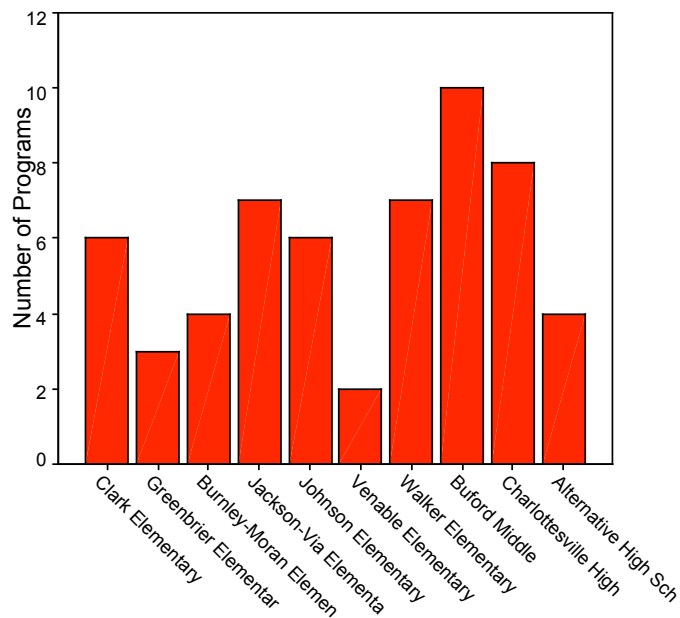


Figure 3: Number of Programs Serving County of Albemarle Elementary Schools

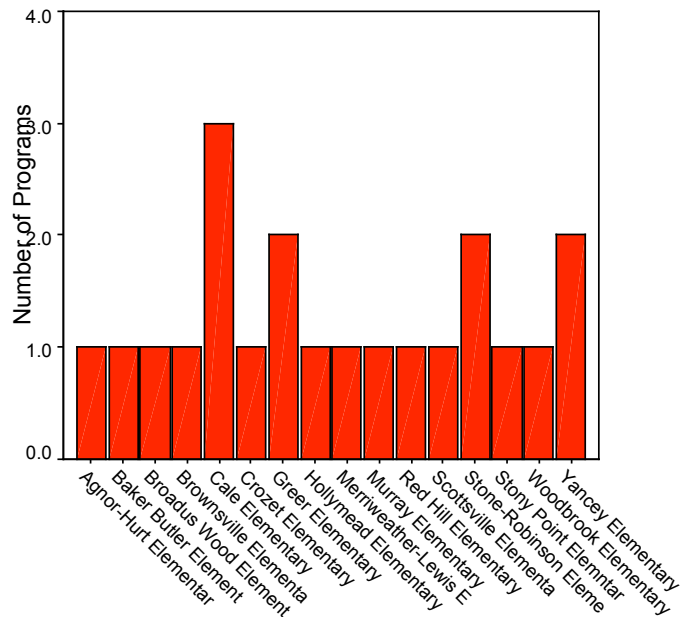
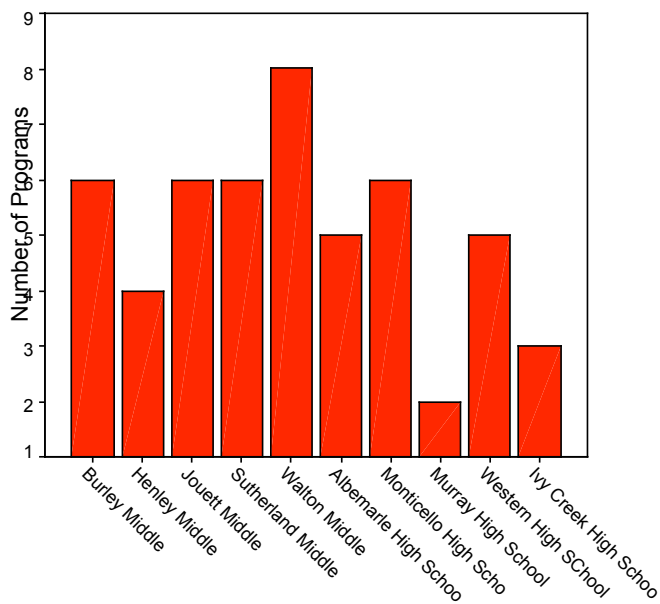


Figure 3: Number of Programs Serving County of Albemarle Middle and High Schools



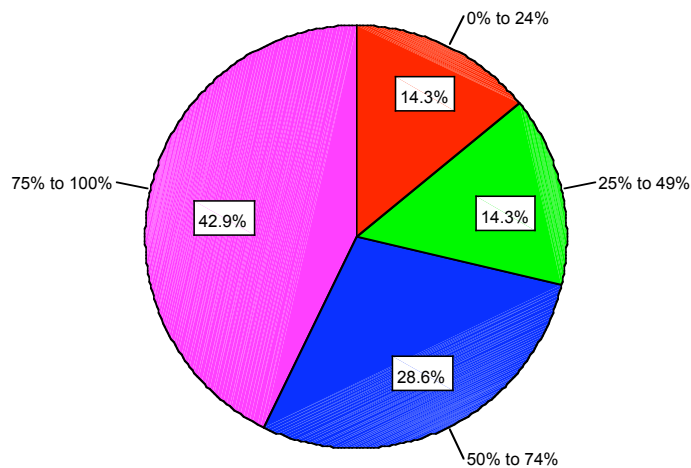
Program Access

Participants become involved in the programs through a number of ways, including parents, social services, school, and juvenile court services. The most common way for children to be referred to the programs is by the school (eight out of 17) and parents (nine out of 17).

Participant Socioeconomics

Fourteen programs out of 20 were able to comment on the socioeconomic status of their participants. Of programs who were able to comment on the economic status of the participants, six programs estimated a population with 75% or more of the participants eligible for free and reduced lunch, four programs served a population of 50%-74% eligible free and reduced lunch, two programs served a population of 25%-49% eligible free and reduced lunch, and two programs served a population of 0%-24%.

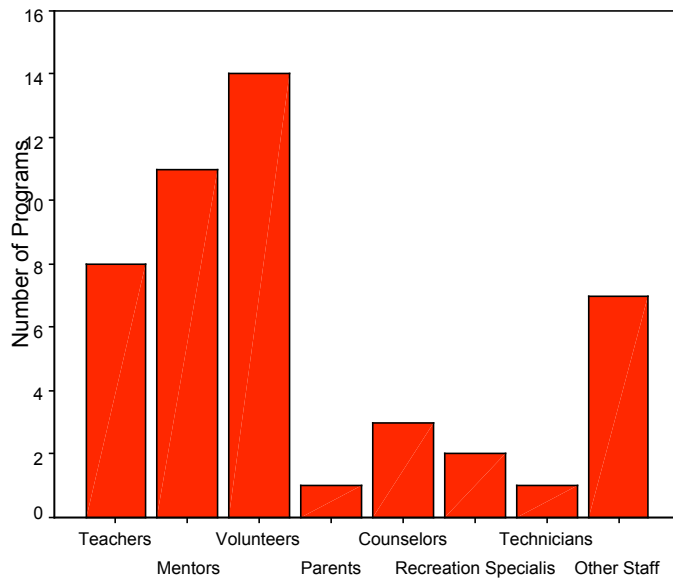
Figure 4: Estimated Percentage of Programs in Each Category with Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch



Staff Characteristics

A variety of staff works with each of the programs. All programs have coordinators or directors who responded to the survey. The most common types of staff are volunteers (14 out of 17) and mentors (14 out of 17).

Figure 5: Number of Programs with Each Type of Staff



Observations

- There is a lack of before school and late evening programming. Only one program provides opportunities after 8:30 pm and only one program provides programming during the morning.
- Albemarle County elementary schools are receiving the least amount of programs. For instance, seven programs serve Walker Upper Elementary and Jackson-Via only four out of 16 schools in the County are served by more than one program, the largest being three.
- Multiple programs may be serving the same students and the level of coordination is unknown. For instance 10 programs are serving students at Buford Middle School. It is likely that the programs are competing for students and is important for the programs to cooperate and coordinate both to benefit the students and for economic reasons.
- Although it seems as though many programs are serving an economically challenged population, only a few programs were able to give exact numbers and the other programs were approximating. Better or more detailed record keeping would provide the programs with better information and better resource for serving their population.
- More than half of the programs either have or are working on a family involvement component, but few of the programs include parental involvement as a central aspect of the program. Most programs have family involvement added on and have parents participating as guests to games or performances.
- Few programs provide discipline specific opportunities for students. The majority of the programs do not have a specific focus, and include academics, recreation, as well as life skills.

Survey Organizations

Albemarle County Department of Parks and Recreation
 Albemarle County Extended Day Program
 Boys and Girls Club

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries
Charlottesville Recreation Centers
CLASS
Computers 4 Kids
Music Resource Center
Project Discovery at MACAA
Rainbow House in Southwood
SOCA- Outreach
South First Street Afterschool Program
Teens Give-Community Attention
Teensight-FOCUS
Upward Bound Program
Walker Upper Elementary School EDGE Program
Westhaven Afterschool Program
YMCA Summer Program and Child Care
Young Women Leaders at UVA