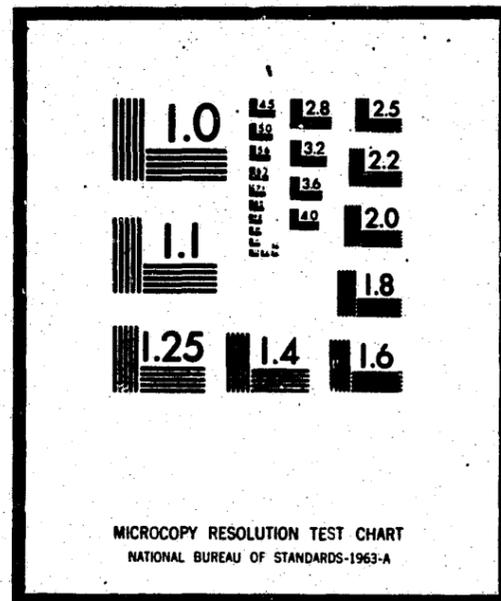


NCJRS

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

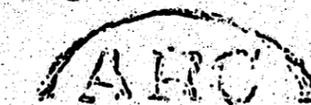
Date filmed 6/12/75

INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT

ATLANTA STREET ACADEMY

February - April 30, 1974

15695



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION SUITE 910 100 PEACHTREE STREET ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 TEL. (404) 522-7577

ATLANTA IMPACT PROGRAM

TABLE of CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	I
OVERVIEW.....	II
LIMITATIONS.....	III
COMPARISON with GOALS and OBJECTIVES.....	IV
INPUT ANALYSIS.....	V
ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES.....	VI
SUMMARY of RESULTS of a SIMILAR PROJECT in ANOTHER IMPACT CITY.....	VII

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide information for assessing the degree to which interim goals and objectives are being met, to analyze the inputs and outputs of the program with respect to project viability, and to determine if project modifications or redirections are required. This document is based on the "Monthly Summaries" for February, March and April and the "Interim Evaluation Report" for August through January 30, 1974.

The project goal is to prevent 50% of 325 youths enrolled in the Street Academy, for at least six months, from committing a target crime within one year after completion of the six month period. The participants must reside in specified census tracts, be dropouts from the public school system, and either meet the CAT profile or be referred by the Juvenile Court as a target offender or a "potential" offender. At least 200 of the 325 anticipated enrollees must be target offenders.

II. OVERVIEW

1. One target crime was committed (during February) by a target offender. He had been enrolled in the Academy for two months. This is the only target crime committed by an enrollee during the nine month period of the Academy's existence. Thus, the goal of the program is being met at this point.
2. The enrollment is only 38% of the required number. The proportion of target offenders and potential offenders is exceedingly different than the planned proportion.
3. While the number of enrollees passing the G.E.D. in the past quarter was sufficient, a low qualifying rate during this period indicates that the number passing during the next quarter could fall below the desired level.
4. The average daily attendance rate fell below the desired 75% attendance for two of the three months of the quarter. The attendance for target offenders was below 70% for all three months. In view of historically good attendance rates, the past quarter rates must be viewed as unsatisfactory.
5. A control group has not been created. A control group is necessary to conduct the planned statistical tests. Efforts to develop a satisfactory substitute have been unsuccessful.

6. Surveys of parents and enrollees have not been conducted.
7. The question of qualified versus unqualified enrollees has not been answered.

III. LIMITATIONS

1. No control group has been formulated. Thus, associated statistical tests cannot be conducted.
2. Surveys directed at parents and enrollees have not been conducted. Thus, the associated analysis cannot take place.
3. The data submitted by the Street Academy is accepted as accurate. Only minor validation of an accounting nature has been performed by the evaluator.

IV. COMPARISON with GOALS and OBJECTIVES

A. Goal

The Atlanta Street Academy will prevent 50% of youths ages 15-24 who are enrolled in the Atlanta Street Academy for at least six months, from committing a target crime within one year after completion of the six month period. A youth will be considered enrolled for the duration of the program once he completes a two week orientation period.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The goal cannot be properly measured for at least 18 months. However, over the nine months (August, 1973 through April, 1974) of the program's operation, a total of 32 target offenders have enrolled. Of those, nine are no longer in the program for the following reasons:

Probation Violation.....	2
Moved to another Program.....	1
Moved to another City.....	1
Committed Target Offense.....	1
Full time Job.....	2
Returned to Public School.....	1
Ill for the past three months.....	1

Thus, through April 1974, there has been an enrollment loss among target offenders of 28%. Only 25% (8) of target offenders have been enrolled in the program for at least six months; of those, (4) have completed two months of the one year "No Crime Period", while the other (4) have just begun the one year period. No target crimes have been committed by these (8) persons.

Over this same nine month period, a total of 126 potential offenders have enrolled (as regular enrollees)^{1/}. Of these, 25 have left the program for various reasons (an enrollment loss of 20%). It should be noted that 4 of these 25 losses were the result of completion of the program by obtaining the G.E.D. (2 others passed the G.E.D. in April, but are considered enrolled for the month). Only 20% (26 of 126) of the regular potential offender enrollees have completed six months in the program. The average time elapsed past the six month period is about one month. The only target crime committed by any enrollee over the nine month period was committed in February by a target offender (he had not been enrolled for six months).

The extraordinary attrition rate was 19% over the nine month period. Extraordinary attrition is defined as any enrollee who leaves the Academy other than by receiving the G.E.D.

^{1/} The term "irregular enrollee" is used by the Street Academy to denote a student which attends the Street Academy 5 days or less per month and usually as a drop-in.

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

To conduct a test of statistical significance, a control group is required. At this point, no control group exists and as explained earlier, efforts to match the Atlanta Street Academy with the Cleveland Street Academy were unsuccessful.

For comparison purposes the possibility of matching individuals in the Cleveland Street Academy Project with those in the Atlanta Street Academy was explored by the Crime Analysis Team. According to the March, 1974 "Cleveland Impact Cities Program Alternative Education (Street Academy) Project Evaluation Report" only 34 project participants had an arrest record for any crime. Of the 34, only 12 had been arrested for an impact crime. Since there were not sufficient project participants in the Cleveland Project with the same characteristics as those in the Atlanta Project, the Atlanta CAT decided valid conclusions could not be drawn. Therefore, the Cleveland Street Academy would not be a suitable comparison group.

B. OBJECTIVES

1. 15% of those enrolled will pass the G.E.D. within one year of enrollment.

MEASURE for OBJECTIVE 1

Since the project has been in operation for only nine months, this objective cannot be fully measured at this time. However, progress during this three month report period can be assessed. Exhibit 1 reflects data concerning the G.E.D. for the February - April quarter and compares the monthly averages for this quarter with monthly averages from the previous quarter (November - January). The average total enrollment for the February - April quarter was approximately 112. Since there were 4 enrollees who passed the G.E.D. over this three month period, it is projected that approximately 10 persons will receive the G.E.D. in one year (based on actual performance for previous quarters and repetition of this quarter's progress). This corresponds to a success rate, of 14%, which is very close to the desired figure of 15%. However, it should be noted that with an enrollment of a little over half of the present quarter's enrollment, there were almost twice as many enrollees qualifying for the G.E.D. during the previous quarter. Thus, there could be a decline in the success rate during the next quarter based on this lower qualifying rate.

2. The average daily attendance rate of the students enrolled in the project and not having passed the G.E.D. will be 75% after the first six months of the program.

EXHIBIT 1

Data Concerning the G.E.D.

	Ending		Enrollment*		Qual. for G.E.D.		Scoring 200-224		Passing G.E.D.	
	TO	PO	TO	PO	TO	PO	TO	PO	TO	PO
FEBRUARY	24	82	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1
MARCH	22	83	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
APRIL	23	101	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2
AVERAGE	23	89	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1
Previous Quarter Average	15	47	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Irregulars excluded

** All figures rounded to nearest whole number.

Number of students "showing their face"
on classroom days

(Attendance = _____)

Number of students enrolled minus the
number having passed the G.E.D.

MEASURE for OBJECTIVE 2

Attention is called to Exhibit 2 which pertains to attendance over the three month period. Prior to this quarter, the attendance of target offenders had always been 75% or higher. In each month of this quarter, however, the attendance was considerably below the desired level, with a low point of 57% reached in April. The attendance of potential offenders was higher, but only in March was the level above 75%. Excluding irregular students from consideration, the overall percent attendance for both target and potential offenders was low (69%, 76%, 62%) compared to attendance figures for the previous quarter (81%, 72%, 83%).

The question of status concerning "irregular" students is still unsettled. These students, who attend at a much lower rate than other students, are now categorized separately on the monthly summaries and are therefore treated separately in Exhibit 2. The figures in parentheses are, in all cases, the total number of students or percent attendance when irregular students are included in the calculations.

EXHIBIT 2

Monthly Attendance - All Enrollees

	Ending Enrollment		Avg. Daily Attendance		% Attendance		Total Enrollment	Total Avg. Daily Attendance		% Attendance
	TO	PO	TO	PO	TO	PO				
Feb.	24	82 (89)	15	58 (59)	63	71 (56)	106 (113)	73 (74)	69 (65)	
Mar.	22	83 (91)	15	65 (67)	68	78 (74)	105 (113)	80 (82)	76 (73)	
Apr.	23	101 (109)	13	64 (66)	57	63 (61)	124 (132)	77 (79)	62 (60)	

3. 60% of students' family members respond positively when asked about the effect of the Academy on the student in terms of ambition in education and employment.

This survey has not yet been carried out.

C. DESCRIPTIVE and EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

The evaluation design states that "a narrative type self-opinion questionnaire will be administered to each student when he enrolls in the program and five months after enrollment. The response will be analyzed to determine if there is a relationship between particular attitudes and commission of target crimes". While some developmental work was done, the questionnaires have not been finalized. As a consequence, planned administration of the questionnaire will not occur as described in the grant.

V. INPUT ANALYSIS

Quantity of Input

The enrollment of the Street Academy is supposed to average 325 students per year, with no more than 125 in the category of potential offenders. At the end of nine months, the total enrollment was 132.

Of these 124 were regular students, or 38% of the required number. Of these 124, 101 were potential offenders and only 23 were target offenders. The potential offenders were 81% of the planned total of 125.

The target offenders at the nine month point were 11.5% of the planned total of 200. The planned mix was for 61% target offenders and 39% potential offenders. The actual mix was 19% target offenders and 81% potential offenders. The input quantity for target offenders continues to be far below the planned level and the actual mix is far different from that planned.

Exhibit 3 indicates the source of referrals over the past quarter of operations. Note that only 7 referrals were made by the Juvenile Court, or, an average of 2.3 per month. It was originally assumed that the major portion of the 200 target offenders could be obtained from the Juvenile Court. However, the actual number from the Court over the past nine months has declined even more during the February - April quarter.

The number of referrals made by the streetworkers in this past quarter has increased (28 to 46) considerably over the previous quarter. However, this average of 1.9 referrals/month/streetworker is only slightly better than the 1.8 referrals per month generated during the first six months.

EXHIBIT 3

Source of Referrals

	Ref. by Juvenile Court		Ref. by Streetworkers		Total Referrals	
	TO	PO	TO	PO	TO	PO
Feb.	0	1	3	16	3	17
Mar.	2	2	0	5	2	7
Apr.	0	2	2	20	2	22
Totals	2	5	5	41	7	46
Ref. Source Totals		7		46		53
Prev. Qtr. Ref. Source Totals		16		28		44

QUALITY of INPUT

This section is based upon regular and irregular enrollment. There were 8 irregular potential offenders and no irregular target offenders. "Qualified", in the context of the Street Academy Program, means a Black male, aged 15-24, a high school dropout, who is a resident of one of the nine census tracts designated in the grant. "Unqualified" lacks only the characteristic of residing in the designated census tracts. Data from the April monthly summary indicates that 17% (4) of the target offenders are qualified, and 72 unqualified. Overall, about 31% (41) of the 37 enrollees are qualified. The issue of "Qualified" vs. "Unqualified" enrollees has been discussed over time between the Academy and ARC. Presently, final determination is still pending.

VI. ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES

Over the nine months of the Street Academy's operations, several enrollees have had outcomes other than receiving the G.E.D. A tabulation of these outcomes for the past quarter is shown in Exhibit 4.

EXHIBIT 4

Additional Outcomes

Outcome	FEB.		MAR.		APR.		TOTAL	
	TO	PO	TO	PO	TO	PO	TO	PO
Placed in College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Placed in N.Y.C.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Placed in Part-time Job	1	4	0	2	0	2	1	8
Placed in Temporary Job	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Placed in Full-time Job	0	2	2	1	0	2	2	5

VII. SUMMARY of RESULTS of a SIMILAR PROJECT in ANOTHER IMPACT CITY.

A similar project is being implemented in Cleveland, Ohio under the Cleveland Impact Cities Program. The basic philosophy and much of the methodology is the same in the two projects. Their project entitled, "Cleveland Impact Cities Program Alternative Education (Street Academy) Project" revealed that many of the experiences in Cleveland paralleled those in Atlanta. For example, the characteristics of the population served were not in full compliance with the grant application, in particular with respect to the number of arrestees served. In Cleveland, the grant specified 35% would have been arrested with 15 to 20% having spent time in correctional institutions. In fact, the project served 12 persons arrested for an impact crime and 22 who had been arrested for misdemeanors for a total of 34 or 20.2% of those enrolled instead of the 35% originally planned. In Atlanta, the grant specified at least 200 of the 325 anticipated enrollees would be target offenders. After nine months of operation, only 32 target offenders have ever been enrolled.

In both Cleveland and Atlanta it was anticipated that the Street Academy would actively recruit target offenders from the Juvenile Court. In neither case were the desired results obtained.

Data problems were present in both projects. The necessary baseline data to link the project to crime reduction was not available in Cleveland. As implementation proceeded it became clear that formulation of the control group as specified in the Atlanta grant application was not possible. In both projects, data submitted by the project to evaluation staff contained inconsistencies and, frequently, was unusable or had to be recollected.

The Cleveland evaluation concluded in its March 1974 report of 8 months of project operations that "from a policy and resource allocation perspective, the Cleveland Impact Cities Program concludes that the planning, management, implementation, and evaluation of a project of this kind more properly belongs within the framework of an educational or human resources agency. The feasibility of identifying a less restrictive programmatic structure for the continuation of the Street Academy should be examined.

"(The Street Academy project was refunded by Impact for a second phase under the assumption that this plan of action was taking place and that the Street Academy would be funded by the Cleveland Board of Education subsequent to the second phase of Impact funding). During its first phase, the Street Academy project under Impact auspices and support has demonstrated that such a project is viable on its own educational and social merits."

From a purely subjective viewpoint, the impression of the Atlanta CAT in general is consistent with the Cleveland conclusions. Exhibit 5 supports the impression that the unofficial goals and emphasis of the Street Academy project are more closely aligned with educational agencies. This is not to deny that there are crime reduction benefits. However, the degree of those benefits and the exact nature of the relationship of such projects to achievement or non-achievement of such benefits can not be substantiated on the basis of what has been learned to date.

EXHIBIT 5

Since last June, Exodus has also directed the Atlanta Street Academy, which is one of several such institutions around the country originally funded by the Post Office Department and the Department of Labor. These two agencies have bowed out although the academies still receive federal funds. The Atlanta group operates primarily on a Law Enforcement Assistance Association grant.

THE purpose of the academy, Tom Phillips said, is to give kids a second chance at life and school. "Our objective is to get every kid a high school diploma. The kids have dropped out for various reasons. Maybe because of reading problems or behavioral problems or frustration in trying to connect what is going on in the classroom to life outside.

"Some who have come into the academies with a fourth- or fifth-grade reading level have gone on through high school and college and returned to us as staff members."

Atlanta now has four academies with a total enrollment of more than 200 students. There is an academy on Capitol Avenue, one on Hollywood Road, one on Gordon Road and one at St. Luke's Episcopal Church near downtown Atlanta.

Source: The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine, Sunday, May 5, 1974.

END