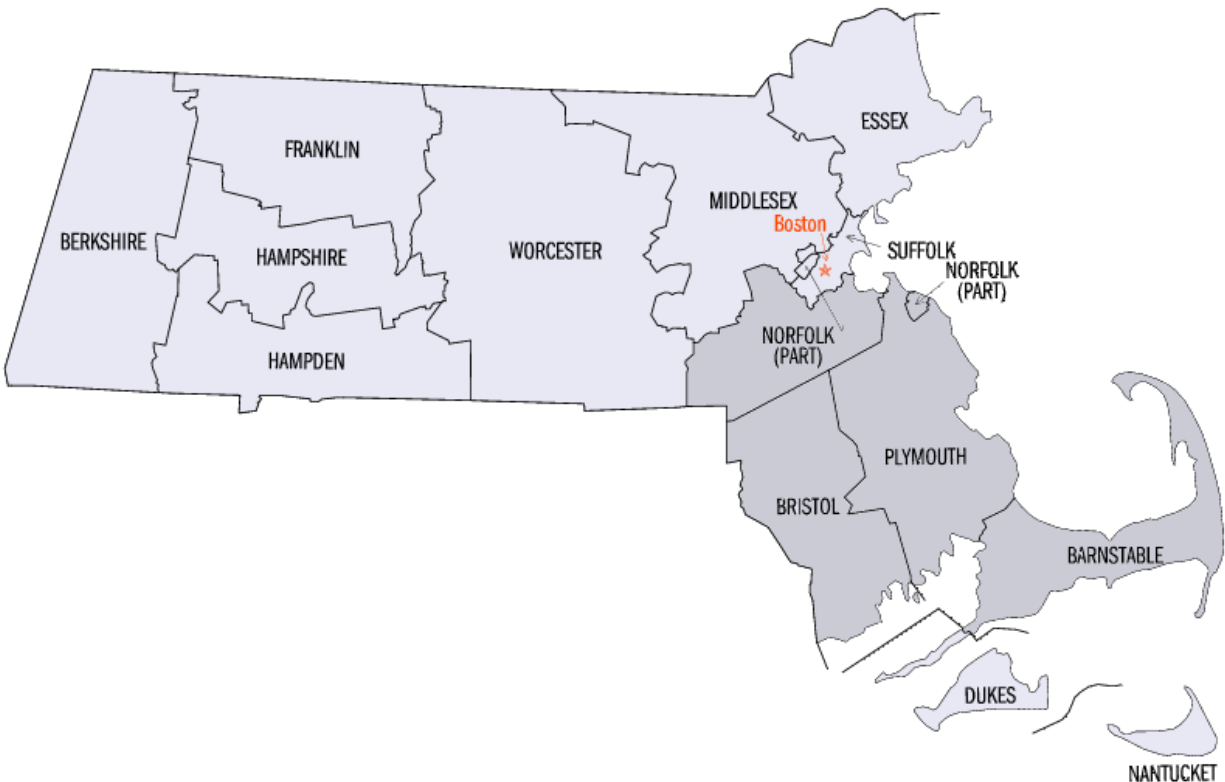


Mass Mentoring Counts 2010: South East Massachusetts Regional Report



Introduction

Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP), the umbrella organization for youth mentoring in the state of Massachusetts, in collaboration with the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute conducted the biennial *Mass Mentoring Counts* survey. Originally launched in 2006 and repeated in 2008, *Mass Mentoring Counts 2010* provides a current snapshot of the state of mentoring in Massachusetts and offers comparative analysis of changes in the field over the last four years.

The primary goals of *Mass Mentoring Counts* are to:

- ❖ Map and report on structured youth mentoring programs serving youth in formal mentoring relationships in Massachusetts
- ❖ Document and analyze key trends
- ❖ Identify unmet need

Mass Mentoring Counts 2010 targeted all structured youth mentoring programs operating in the state of Massachusetts. MMP's Youth Mentoring Program Database served as the primary resource for needed program and contact information. In addition, MMP staff conducted extensive outreach efforts to the field prior to survey distribution, including calls to the field to update and identify new mentoring programs and correct contact information, as well as marketing and promotion efforts through MMP E-Bulletins, and relevant workshops or trainings.

For *Mass Mentoring Counts 2010*, MMP has identified 194 organizations running youth mentoring programs for inclusion and 120 of the 194 (62%) identified mentoring organizations completed the web or paper version of the survey. Seventeen of the responsive organizations run multiple youth mentoring programs. All *Mass Mentoring Counts 2010* reports are based on the information provided by 172 youth mentoring programs run by 126 organizations. The executive summary and the full report of *Mass Mentoring Counts* can also be found on MMP's website, www.massmentors.org/massachusetts.

This supplemental report provides the *Mass Mentoring Counts* survey results for region specific programs. Key details about mentoring programs in the South East region of Massachusetts are noted, as well as noteworthy differences between the regional and statewide findings.

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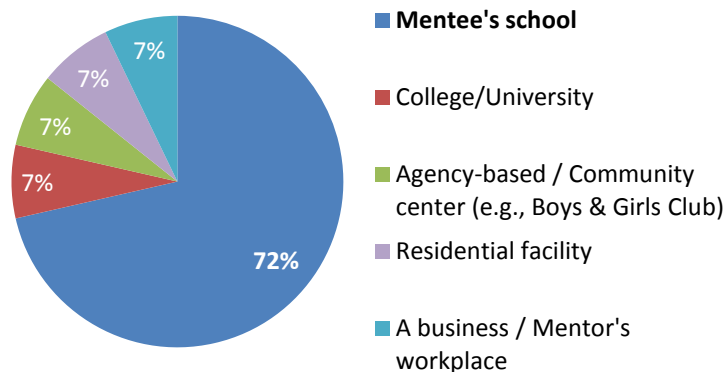
Snapshot of South East Massachusetts Programs

From the South East region of Massachusetts (MA), **18 programs** have participated in the Mass Mentoring Counts 2010. About 44% of the reported mentoring programs are from Norfolk County while about 33% of the programs are from Bristol County, and 11% of the programs are from Plymouth and Barnstable County. These programs comprise about 10% of all the programs that have participated in Mass Mentoring Counts (MMC) 2010.

There is a wide diversity in the programs' length of time in operation for the region of South East Massachusetts.

56% of the programs are well-established having been in existence for 10 or more years. Of the remaining programs, 22% of the programs have been established between 5 and 10 years, and 22% of the programs have been in existence for less than 5 years.

Site-Based Program Locations



different locations throughout the community.

A greater distribution of site-based youth mentoring programs is found in the South East MA. **78% of the youth mentoring programs are site-based**, in which meetings of mentors and mentees primarily take place in a designated location, reported mostly at agency-based or community centers, or the mentee's school. **22% of the youth mentoring programs are community-based**, in which youth and mentors can choose to meet at

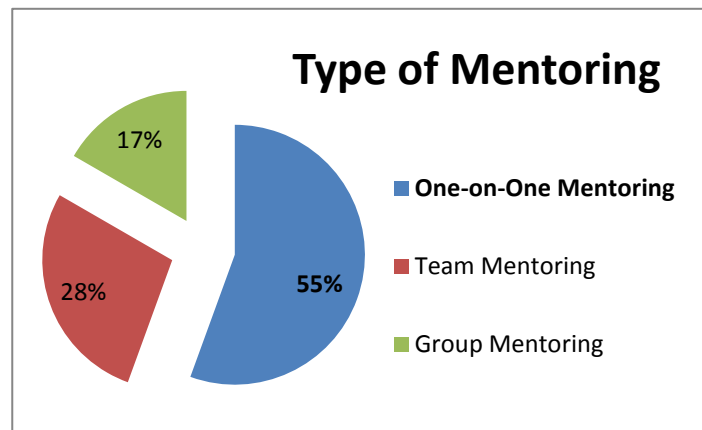
Program Description

Mass Mentoring Counts asks mentoring programs to identify the goals designed to address the needs of their mentees. All of the 18 reported programs in the South East MA have identified their program goals.

In the South East MA programs, the most commonly selected **intended areas of impact** are:

- general education/academic support (83%)
- general education/academic support for youth who are academically behind (72%)
- self esteem (94%)
- social competence (89%)
- job skills/ work readiness / career exploration (50%)
- promoting community/civic involvement (56%)

One-to-one matches of a young person with an adult comprise the largest segment (56%) of mentoring program models. 22% of the South East MA programs are comprised of team mentoring, in which more than one adult mentor meet with more than one young person, and 17% reported using group mentoring, in which one adult mentor meets with more than one young person.



72% of the 18 South East MA programs expect their mentors to meet their mentees in-person weekly. 17% of the programs expect their matches to meet in-person two or three times per month and 11% of the reported programs expect their mentors to meet their mentees in person more than once a week. **56% of the South East MA programs encourage their matches to meet beyond the expected/designated commitment term.**

The programs also reported the average amount of hours that the mentors meet in-person with their mentees per month. **42% of the South East MA programs reported matches meeting for an average of five to eight hours per month.** 33% of the programs reported their matches meeting for an average of four hours or less. 25% reported their matches meeting for the average of more than nine hours.

Program Description

MMC requests programs to list the top **three factors that are associated with early termination of matches** in their program.

For the eleven South East MA programs:

- 67% of the programs identify the **mentor had change in life circumstances (marriage, divorce, job change or loss, moved out of town, etc)** as the reason for early termination.
- 67% of the reported programs identify the mentee had change in life circumstances (moved out of town, changed schools, left school, etc).
- 25% of the programs identify that family interference/lack of support is associated with early termination of matches.

Program Challenges

Fifteen of the eighteen South East MA programs identified the top three challenges that are faced by their program.

The identified *primary* challenges are **financial resource development infrastructure** (45%) and **identification and diversification of funding opportunities** (27%). Other *primary* challenges that are identified are mentor retention, and mentor recruitment.

Other *commonly reported* challenges of the programs are:

- Mentor recruitment (73%)
- Financial resource development infrastructure (73%)
- Identification and diversification of funding opportunities (73%)
- Parental Support (53%)
- Mentor retention (40%)
- Ability to effectively evaluate program (40%)
- Support from collaborating partners (40%)

Program Forecast

69% of the reported South East MA programs predict growth in the number of youth served within two years. 25% of the reported programs predict participant services to remain stable, and one program forecast a reduction in their number of youth served in the next two years.

Youth Served

6,344 youth are being served by the formal mentoring programs in the South East MA. The seven programs that have participated in Mass Mentoring Counts since 2006 show a growth (3%) from 2006 to 2008 but a 20% increase from 2008 to 2010.

From all the cities of Massachusetts, the city of New Bedford and Fall River are listed as some of the largest cities with youth who are in mentoring relationships. Two of the eighteen participating South East MA programs are located in the city of New Bedford and one program in the city of Fall River.

Cities and Towns Where the Largest Reported Number of Youth in Mentoring Relationships Reside

Boston – 7,133 youth

Newton – 374 youth

Worcester – 994 youth

Framingham – 358 youth

Cambridge – 819 youth

New Bedford – 275 youth

Springfield – 725 youth

Waltham – 243 youth

Revere – 631 youth

Fall River – 242 youth

Lawrence – 519 youth

Mass Mentoring Counts has asked programs to report **at-risk subgroups** of any significant percentage (at least 25% of their youth population) for the youth who participate as mentees.

- Fifteen programs (83%) in the South east region have reported to serve youth who are from **low-income (eligible for free or reduced lunch) families**.
- 72% of the programs have reported to serve youth who are **academically at-risk**.
- 50% of the Southeast programs have reported to serve youth who are from **single parent households**.

Cities with the Highest Numbers of Youth from Single-Parent Families in Poverty

	<u># of Youth in Single Parent Families in Poverty¹</u>	<u>% of Need Being Met²</u>
Boston	16,631	42.9%
Worcester	5,057	19.7%
Lawrence	4,446	11.7%
Fall River	2,868	8.4%
Springfield	8,913	8.1%
New Bedford	3,748	7.3%
Holyoke	2,194	5.2%
Brockton	2,004	4.1%
Lynn	2,705	3.5%
Lowell	3,479	2.1%

Numbers of Youth from Single-Parent Families in Poverty

Highlighting South East Massachusetts Counties

	<u># of Youth in Single Parent Families in Poverty³</u>	<u>% of Need Being Met⁴</u>
Barnstable	1,742	4.9%
Berkshire	1,374	1.2%
Bristol	9,033	7.9%
Essex	12,349	7%
Franklin	1,150	19%
Hampden	14,461	6.3%
Hampshire	1,214	13%
Middlesex	12,022	24.6%
Norfolk	3,933	14%
Plymouth	4,000	2.8%
Suffolk	21,169	17.8%
Worcester	9,749	11.4%

¹ The numbers of children (age 6 – 17) from single-parent families in poverty are estimates based on the 2005 – 2009 American Community Survey.

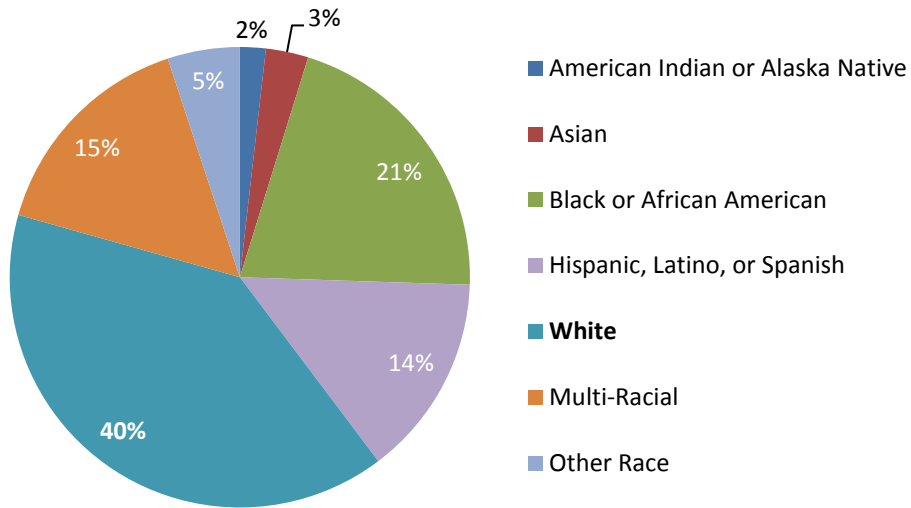
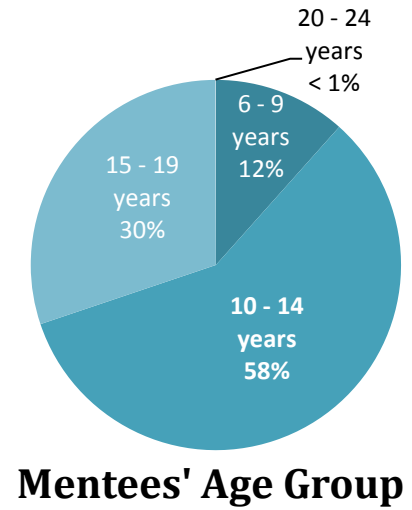
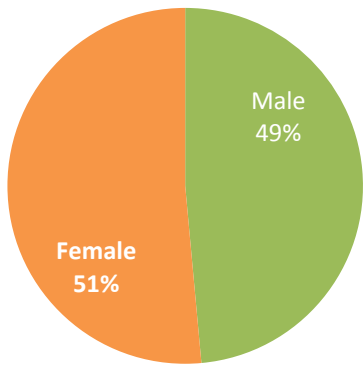
² The percentage of met need is based on the numbers of youth in mentoring relationships reported in MMC 2010. It is important to note that MMC 2010 youth residence data does not specify if youth are from single parent families in poverty. Responses do indicate that the vast majority of mentoring programs serve substantive proportions of youth from low income, single parent families.

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Youth Served Demographics

Mentees' Gender Demographics



Mentees' Racial Demographics

Waiting List

Nine programs in the Southeast MA reported maintaining waiting lists for youth who have expressed an interest and are waiting for the next available mentor. These programs comprise 13% of all the reported programs in Massachusetts. Out of these nine programs, there are 308 youth reported as waiting to be matched with a mentor, 11% of the reported waiting list youth in the state.

Most prevalent reason for youth on the waiting list is that **mentors are not available to be matched**. Other reasons indicated are: Mentors are not available to be matched due to gender match criteria, geographic match criteria, race/ethnic match criteria, or the program staff not available to support match effectively.

Waitlist Demographics		
Gender	Number of youth	Percentage
Male	179	58%
Female	130	42%
Age	Number of youth	Percentage
6 - 9 years old	63	21%
10 - 14 years old	216	73.5%
15 - 19 years old	14	5%
20 - 24 years old	1	.5%
Racial/Ethnic	Number of youth	Percentage
Asian	6	1.5%
Black, or African American	113	30%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish	50	13%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	30	8%
White	135	35%
Multi-Racial	43	11%
Reported Other Race	6	1.5%

Mentor Recruitment

For the first time, Mass Mentoring Counts 2010 included questions on mentor recruitment to better understand the current recruitment strategies utilized and the challenges faced by the youth mentoring programs in Massachusetts.

Mentor Recruitment Strategies

Consistent with the rest of the Massachusetts mentoring programs, the most common recruitment strategy (92%) utilized by the reported programs of the South East MA is **word of mouth**.

For the reported South East MA programs:

- 85% : develop partnerships with corporations, affinity groups, and nonprofits.
- 77% : use their current mentors
- 77% : attend community meetings or networking opportunities
- 69% : distribute marketing materials to local organizations
- 69% : use the mentor referrals from Mass Mentoring Partnership.
- 54% : attend tabling events to recruit their mentor
- 54% : utilize media outreach to recruit mentors
- 46% : attend volunteer fairs to recruit their mentors
- 46 % : utilize online volunteer databases to recruit their mentors.
- 38% : attend information sessions and open house to recruit mentors
- 38% : utilize social media

Mentor Recruitment Challenges

Ten out of the thirteen programs have reported on the top challenges that their program face in recruiting mentors. The findings indicate the top challenges are similar to the mentor recruitment challenges commonly reported by the rest of the state.

The **top challenges** for recruiting mentors reported by the South East MA programs are:

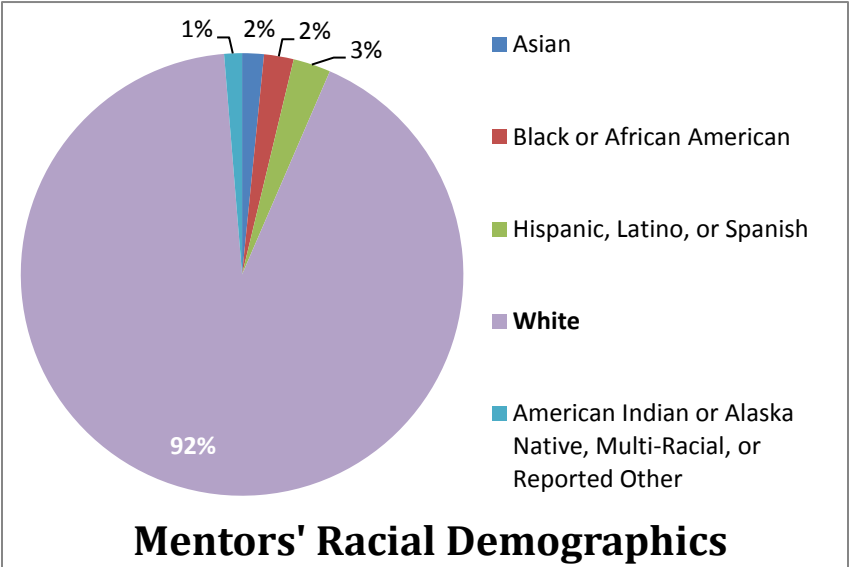
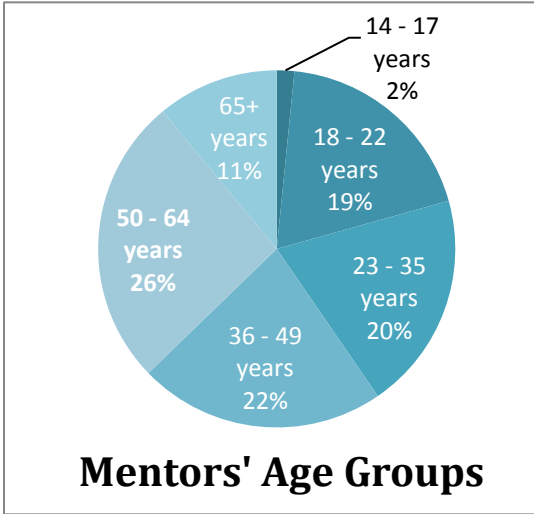
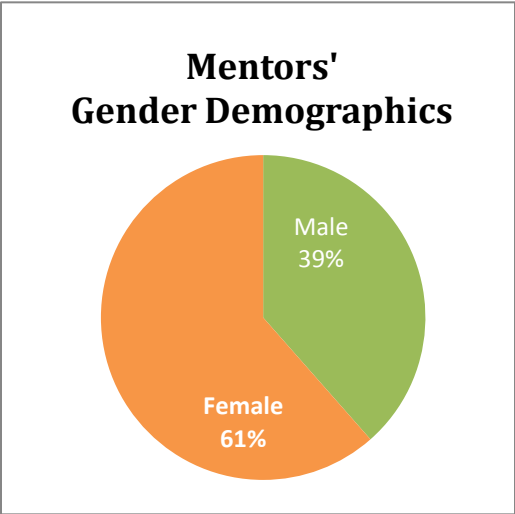
- 60% : do not have staff time to devote to recruitment and volunteer follow-up
- 50% : have difficulty recruiting male mentors
- 50% : have difficulty recruiting mentors of color
- 50% : find that current efforts generate sufficient interest, but inquiries do not follow through

Mentors

In the past program year, **2,034 individuals** have been serving as mentors in the South East Massachusetts.

Most commonly reported populations to serve as mentors are **college students** and **corporate partners**. 42% of the mentoring programs in the South East MA indicated college students and corporate partners as a significant percentage (25% or higher) of their mentors. Other reported populations are retired persons, local/state employees, and someone who has come through an affinity group.

Mentor Demographics



Participating Youth Mentoring Programs

To learn more about the mentoring programs near you, please visit <http://massmentors.org/becoming-a-mentor>.

Mentoring Agency	Mentoring Program Name	City
Blue Hill Observatory Science Center	Intern Program ₂	Milton
Boys & Girls Club of Taunton ₂	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Learn ▪ Smart Moves ▪ Smart Girls ▪ Keystone Club ▪ Torch Club ▪ Career Launch 	Taunton
Bridgewater State University	FAM (Friends and Mentors) for Change Mentoring Program	Bridgewater
Child and Family Services	Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Bedford _{1 2}	New Bedford
Family Service Association of Greater Fall River, Inc.	Big Friends Little Friends _{1 2}	Fall River
Falmouth Volunteers In Public School (VIPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High School Mentoring ▪ Project RISE (Raising Interest and Self Esteem) 	Falmouth
FIRST Massachusetts, For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology _{1 2}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FLL ▪ FTC ▪ FRC ▪ Jr. FLL 	Sharon
North Quincy High School	North Quincy High School Mentoring Program _{1 2}	Quincy
Old Colony YMCA	Big Sisters Big Brothers _{1 2}	Brockton
Plainville Public Schools	Plainville Public Schools Youth Mentor Program	Plainville
Quincy Asian Resources	Quincy High School Mentoring Program	Quincy
SMILES (SouthCoast Mentoring Initiative for Learning, Education, & Service) Mentoring	SMILES Mentoring _{1 2}	New Bedford
Taunton Area School to Career, Inc.	High School Mentor Program _{1 2}	Taunton
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	SouthCoast Compeer ₁	Dartmouth

₁ program also completed 2006 MMC survey

₂ program also completed 2008 MMC survey

*program currently in development or zero youth served in annual numbers reported