

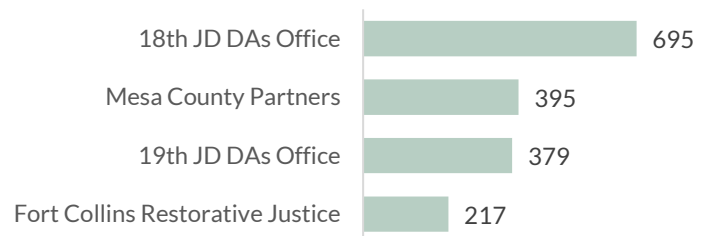
# DCJ Juvenile Diversion Evaluation: Youths Served FY15-17

The Juvenile Diversion Grant program, funded by Colorado state statute and administered through the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), is intended to divert youth (10 to 17 years of age) who have committed offenses from further involvement in the juvenile justice system. This summary reflects data collected during the three-year grant period of July 2014 through June 2017, including information on youth background and demographics, program outcomes, and rates of reoffense. For a full set of findings and recommendations, please access the full evaluation report.

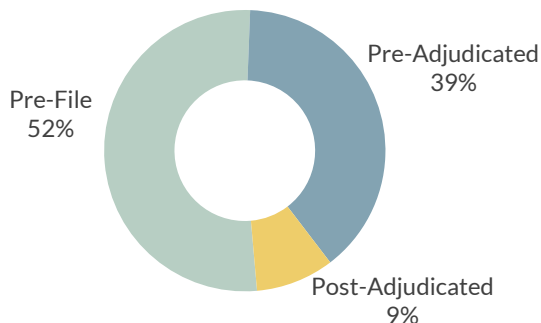
Youth were overall successful at completing their diversion contracts.



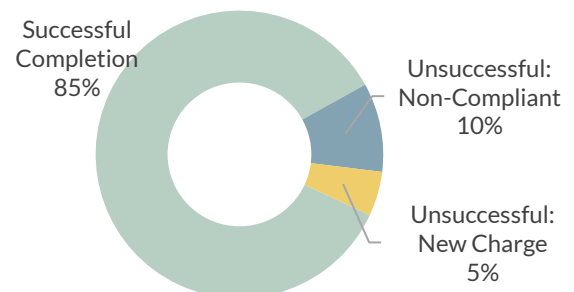
Four programs served over half the total sample.



Nearly all youth were referred pre-file or pre-adjudication

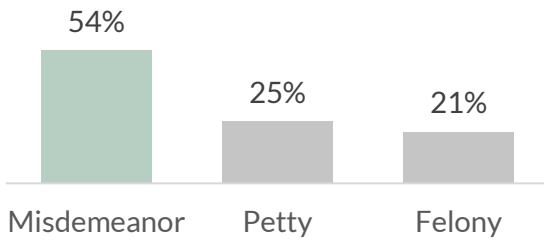


Most youth successfully completed their diversion contracts.

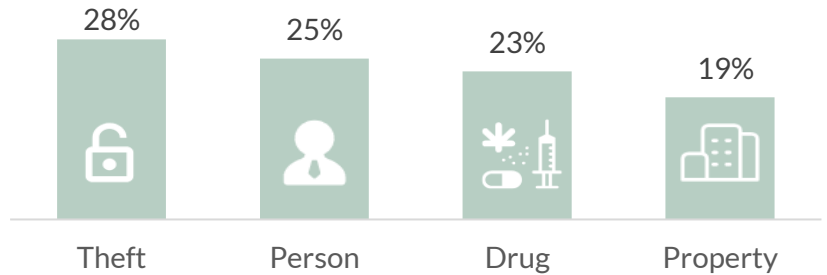


## Youth came to diversion with a range of low-level offenses.

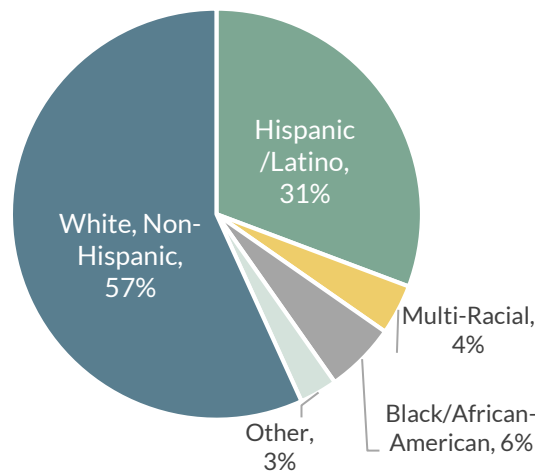
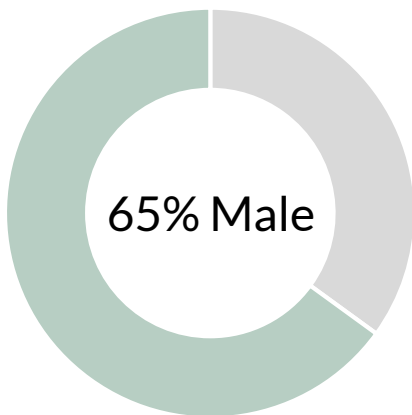
Misdemeanor offenses made up more than half of referrals.



Theft, Person, and Drug were the most common offenses referred to diversion.



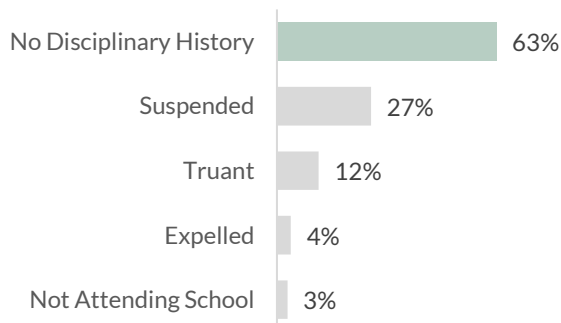
The average youth referred to diversion was male, white (non-Hispanic), and 15 years of age.



Average age of youth  
**15.1 Years**

**93%**  
Pursuing High School Diploma

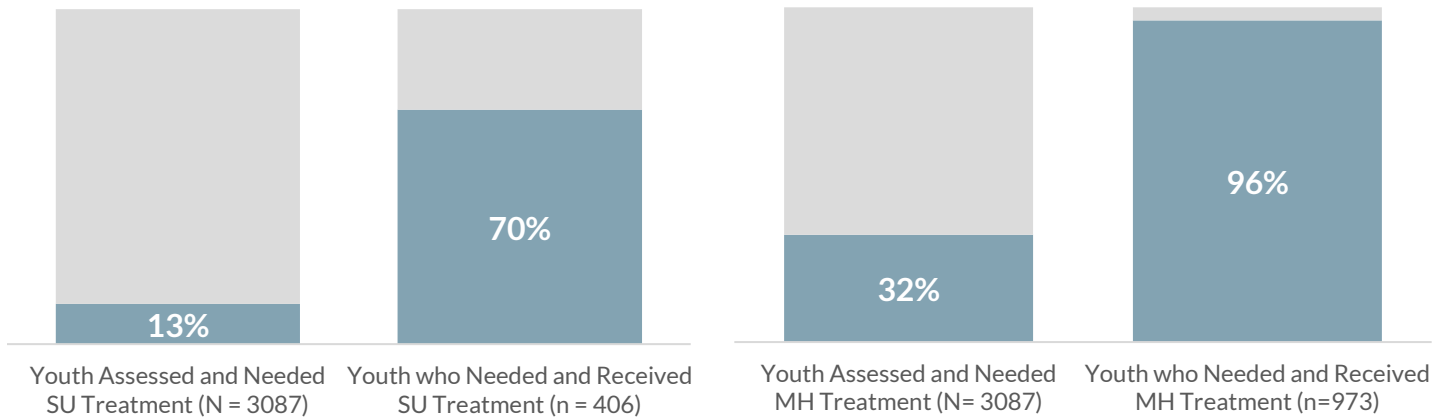
The majority of youth referred to diversion had no prior contact with law enforcement or history of school discipline.



29% of youth reported having prior contact with law enforcement

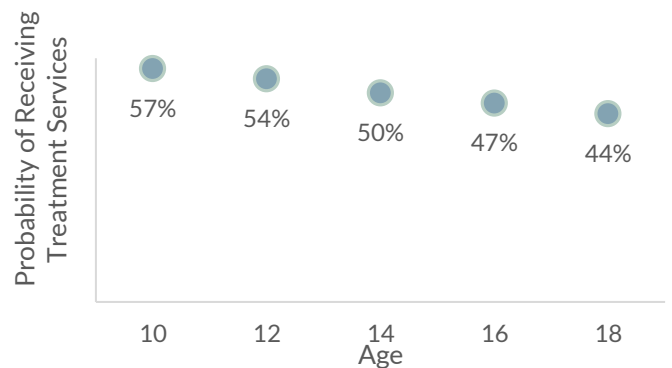
# The majority of youth that were assessed and identified as needing substance use or mental health treatment received the treatment they needed.

13% of all youth were identified as in need of substance use treatment, and 32% of all youth were identified as in need of mental health treatment, with the true rates of treatment need estimated to be much higher.\*



Youth who did not indicate a need for mental health treatment were more likely to complete programming successfully (92%) than youth who indicated a need for mental health treatment (80%).

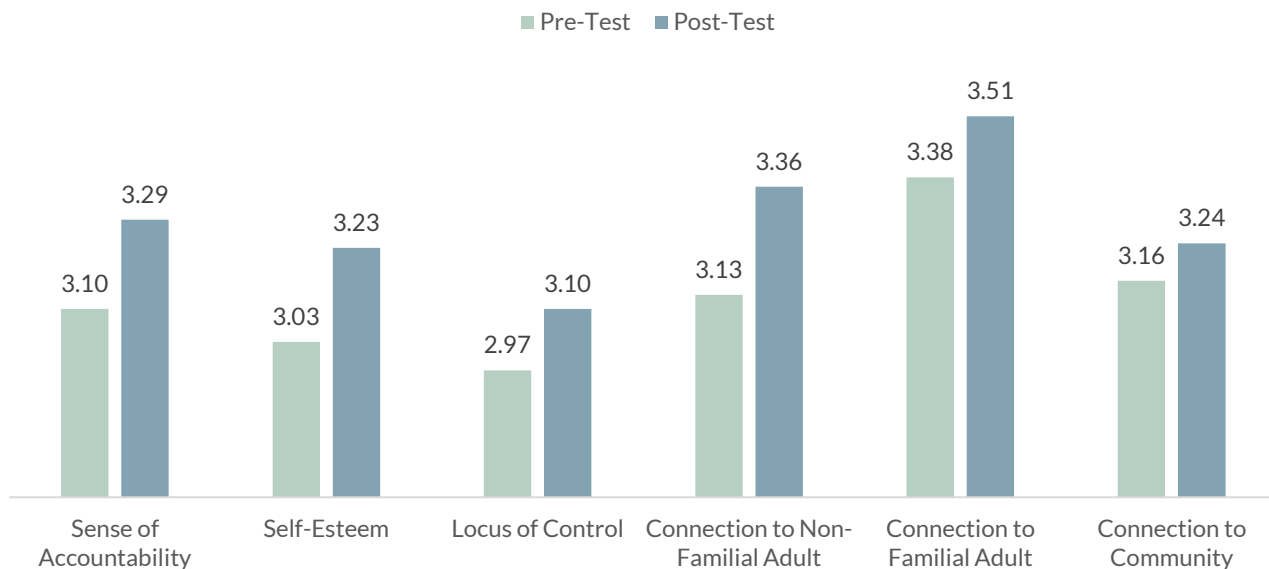
Younger youth were more likely to receive treatment services.



\*Substance use and mental health assessment result data were missing for 38% and 12% of youth, respectively. The percentages reported were calculated using the total number of diversion youth (3087). True rates of treatment needs are estimated to be much higher.

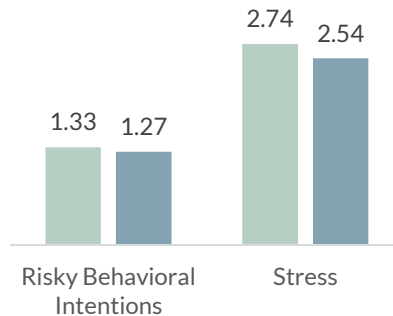
# Successful youth showed significant improvement on a number of program outcomes.

Successful youth showed significant increases in levels of **multiple protective factors**.



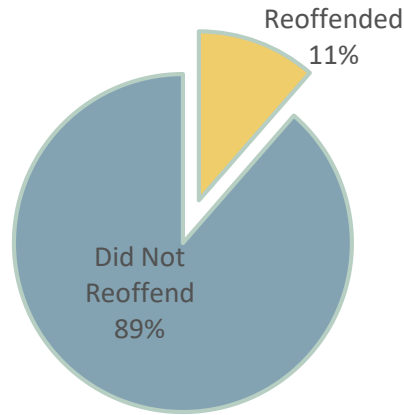
Older youth had more protective factors and fewer risk factors than younger youth.

Successful youth showed significant decreases in levels of **stress and risky behavioral intentions**.

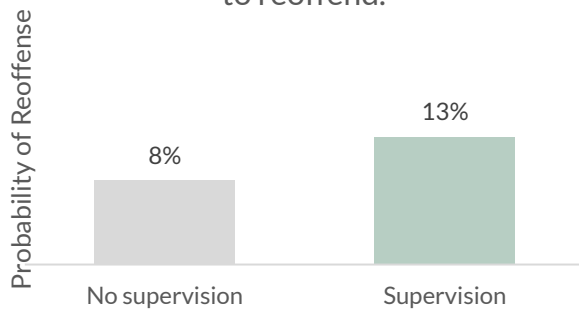


# Only about 1 in 10 youth reoffend after completing their diversion contract.

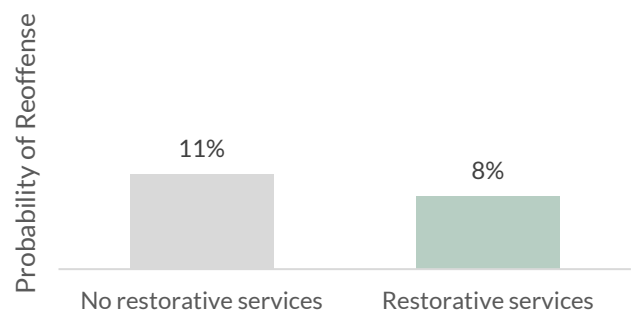
The majority of youth who successfully completed diversion did *not* reoffend in the year after completion of their diversion contract.



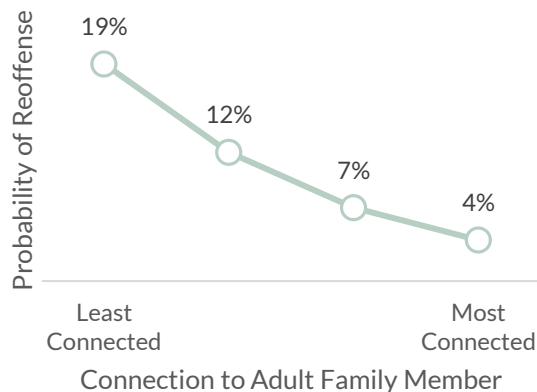
Youth who received supervision services were somewhat more likely to reoffend.



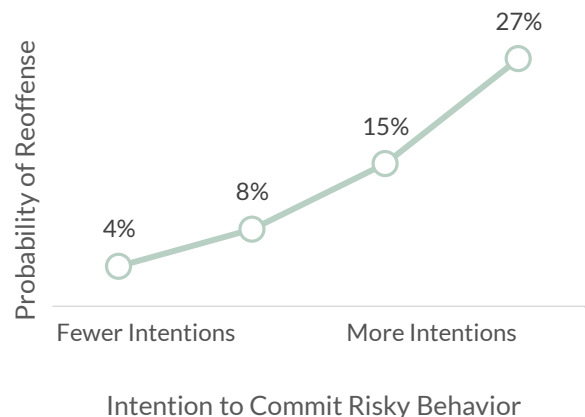
Youth who received restorative services were somewhat less likely to reoffend.



Youth who came to diversion with high levels of connection to an adult family member were *less* likely to reoffend.



Youth who came to diversion with more reported intentions to commit risky behavior were *more* likely to reoffend.



## Key Findings

**Overall, youth served by diversion programs receive needed assessment and treatment for mental health and substance use issues.** Diversion programs are working with youth to understand what services they need and support access to these services.

**Youth are benefiting from diversion by increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors.** Youth showed significant improvement in their connection to community, connection to adults, self-esteem, sense of control over their lives (locus of control), and sense of accountability. Youth also decreased their risky behavioral intentions and reported lower levels of stress.

**Only 1 in 10 youth who participated in diversion reoffended after completing diversion successfully.** Most youth who successfully completed diversion did not reoffend in the year after they finished their program.

### Prepared by:

#### OMNI Institute

Chandra Winder, MPA | Manager II  
899 Logan Street, Suite 600  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-839-9420  
cwinder@omni.org  
[www.omni.org](http://www.omni.org)

### For:

#### Division of Criminal Justice

Kate Ferebee, Grant Program Manager  
Meg Williams, MPA | Manager, Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice  
700 Kipling Street  
Denver, CO 80215  
303-239-4442  
[kate.ferebee@state.co.us](mailto:kate.ferebee@state.co.us)  
<https://colorado.gov/dcj>