

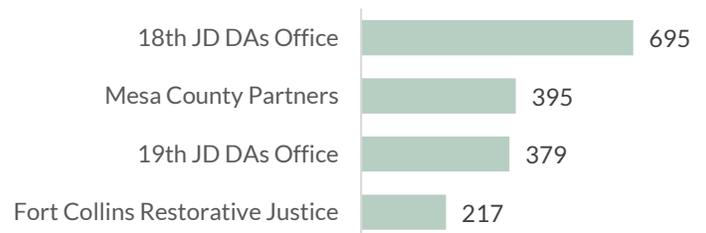
DCJ Juvenile Diversion Evaluation: Youths Served FY15-17

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 recidivism rates. For a full set of findings and recommendations, please access the full evaluation report.

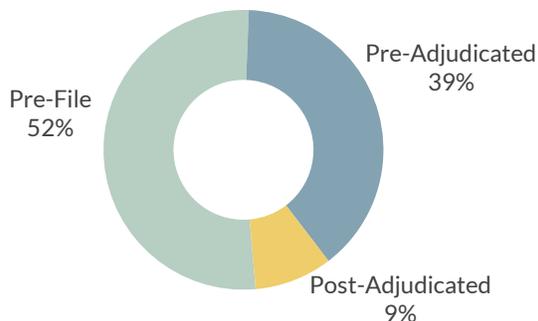
Youth were overall successful at completing their diversion contracts.



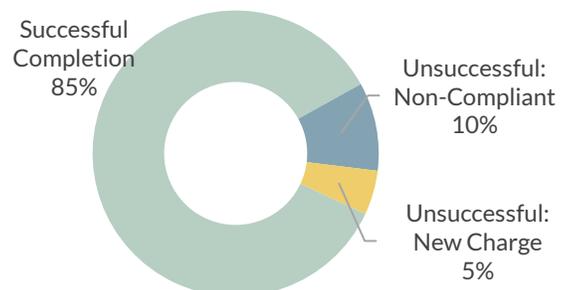
Four programs served over half the total sample.



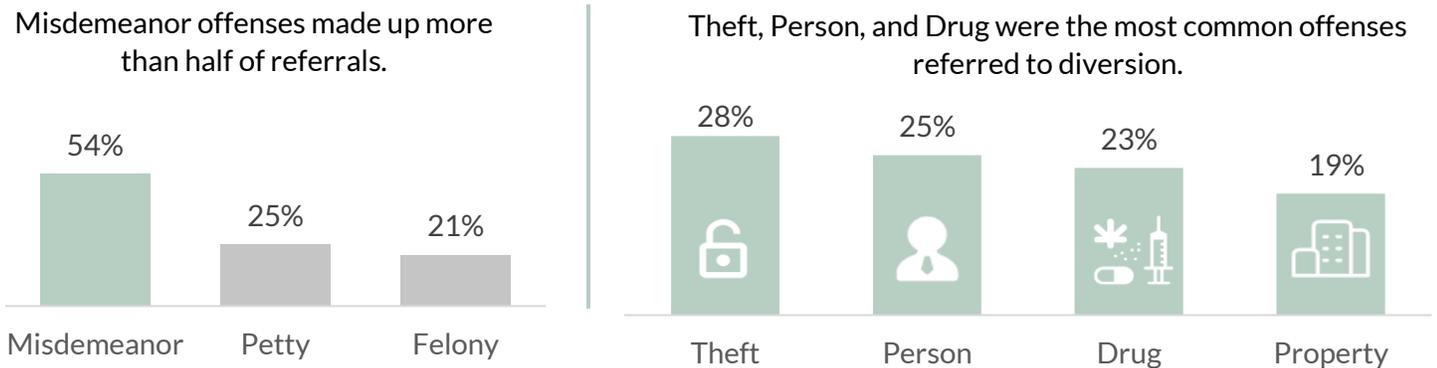
Nearly all youth were referred pre-file or pre-adjudication



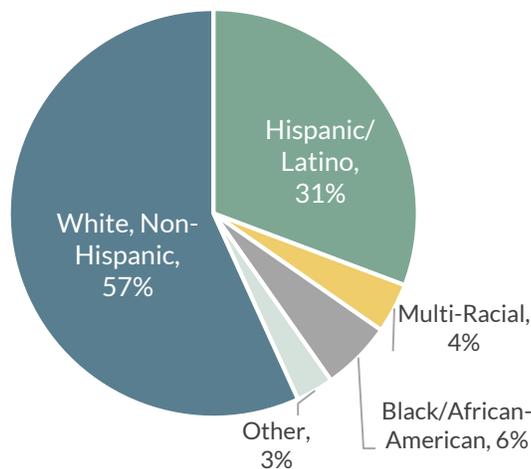
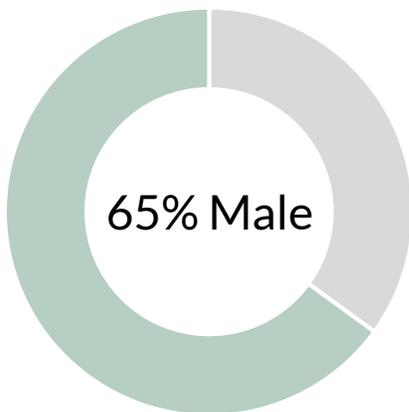
Most youth successfully completed their diversion contracts.



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



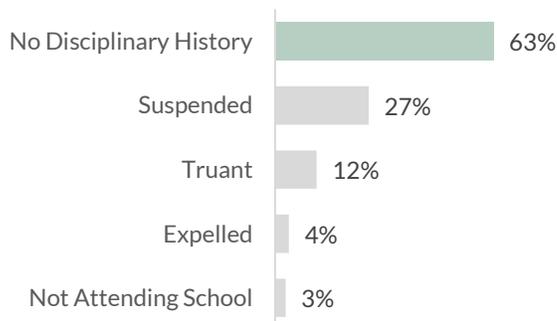
The average youth referred to diversion was male, white (non-Hispanic), and 15 years of age.



Average age of youth
15.1 Years

93%
Pursuing High School Diploma

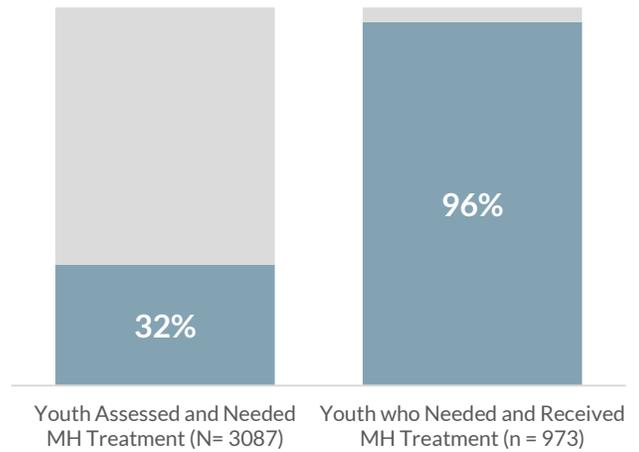
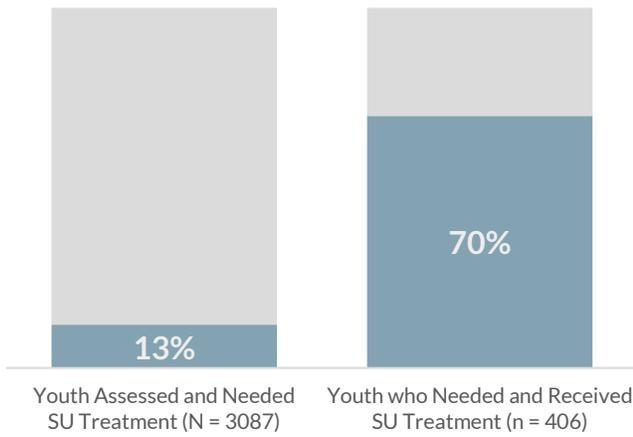
The majority of youth referred to diversion had no prior contact with law enforcement or history of school discipline.



29% of youth reported having prior contact with law enforcement

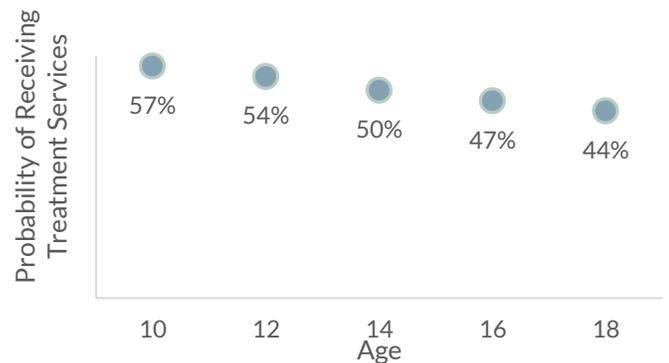
The majority of youth that were assessed and identified as needing substance use or mental health treatment received the treatment they needed.

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%).

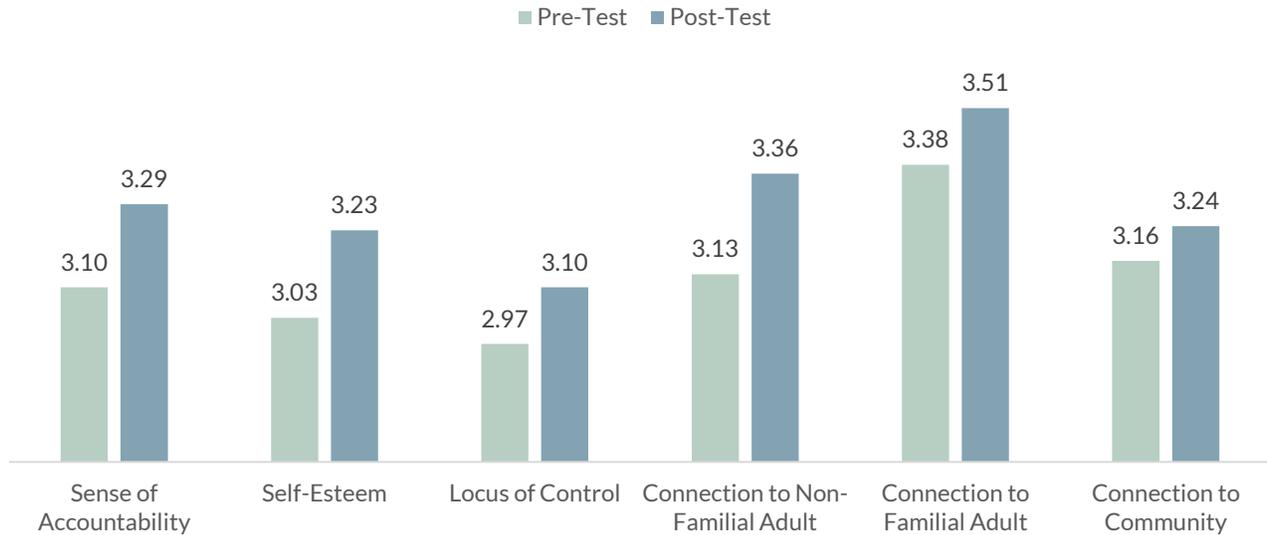
Younger youth were more likely to receive treatment services.



*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.

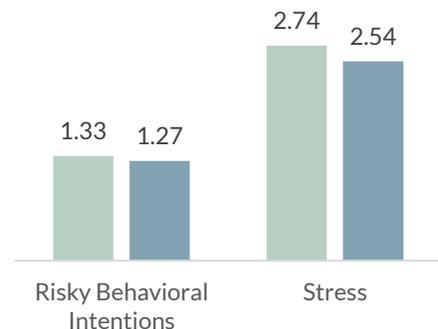
Successful youth showed significant decreases in levels of **stress and risky behavioral intentions**.

Youth who received supervision services had higher self-esteem at post-survey than those who did not receive supervision services.

Youth who received accountability services had lower self-esteem at post-survey than those who did not receive accountability services.

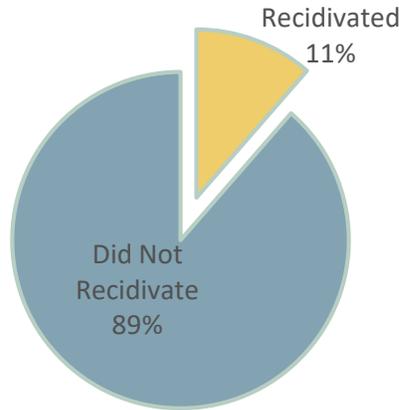
Youth who received supervision services and youth who received restorative services had a higher sense of accountability at post-survey.

Youth who received competency services had a lower sense of accountability at post-survey.

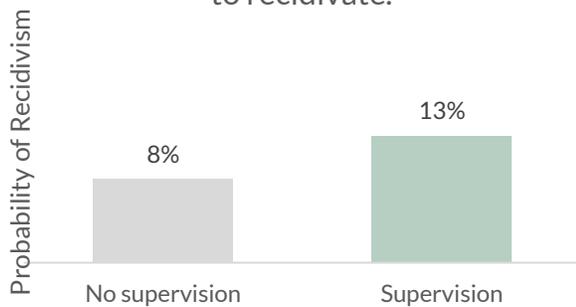


Only about 1 in 10 youth recidivated after completing their diversion contract.

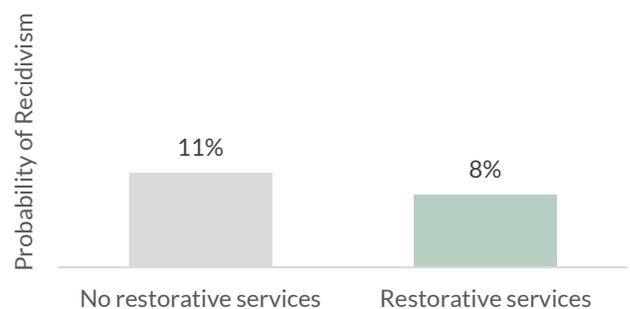
The majority of youth who successfully completed diversion did *not* recidivate in the year after completion of their diversion contract.



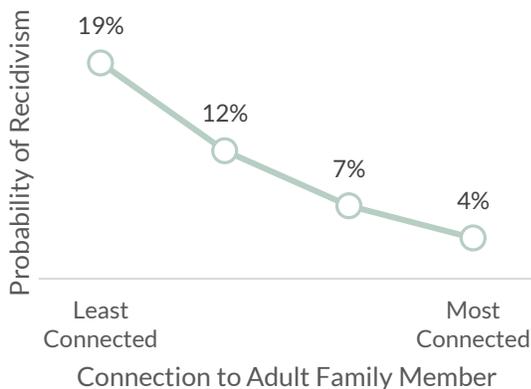
Youth who received supervision services were somewhat more likely to recidivate.



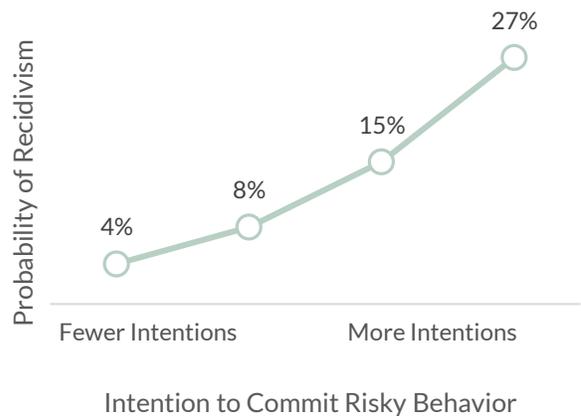
Youth who received restorative services were somewhat less likely to recidivate.



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



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



Key Findings

Effective partnerships with substance use and mental health treatment providers are critical to ensuring youth treatment needs are met. Establishing data sharing agreements and clear communication protocols with substance use and mental health providers can help to ensure the treatment needs of youth are understood and that steps are taken to address these needs.

Overall, youth are increasing protective factors, decreasing risk factors and overall have a low rate of recidivism. Successful youth in diversion are increasing their connection to community, connection to adults, locus of control, self-esteem, and sense of accountability. These youth are also decreasing their risky behavioral intentions and levels of stress.

Restorative Justice Services show promising outcomes for youth in diversion by reducing their likelihood of recidivating. Programs should identify opportunities for incorporating restorative justice into their available services or partnering with programs providing restorative services for appropriate cases.

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

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
<https://colorado.gov/dcj>