Statewide Evaluation of the DCJ Juvenile Diversion Program

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Table of Contents

Background 1
Evaluation Design 3
Methods 4
Data Collection Tools and Sources 4
Analysis 5
Results 6
Who is Served by Diversion? 6
What Services Are Provided? 10
Are Minority Youth Adequately Represented In Diversion? 20
Do Programs Impact Short- And Long-Term Outcomes? 22
Are Changes In Short-Term Outcomes Associated With Reduced Recidivism? 25
Discussion 26
Program Impacts On Short-Term Outcomes And Recidivism 26
Provision And Funding Of Services 27
Limitations 28
Recommendations 29
Appendix A:Research Questions I
Appendix B: Protocols for Data Collection VIII
Appendix C: Intake/Exit Form and Instructions XI
Appendix D: Pre-Post Survey and Instructions XVIII
Appendix E: Descriptive Data XXIII
Appendix F: Intake Data XXV
Appendix G: Exit Data XXVI

Executive Summary

Background

As part of its Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance programs, the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) funds the Juvenile Diversion grant program. Created by Colorado state statute, the grant program is intended to divert youth from penetrating further into the juvenile justice system. While diversion can occur at multiple stages of the juvenile justice system and be offered to youth with varying levels of offense, DCJ primarily funds services for youth who are pre-file or pre-adjudicated and who have committed a district level offense.

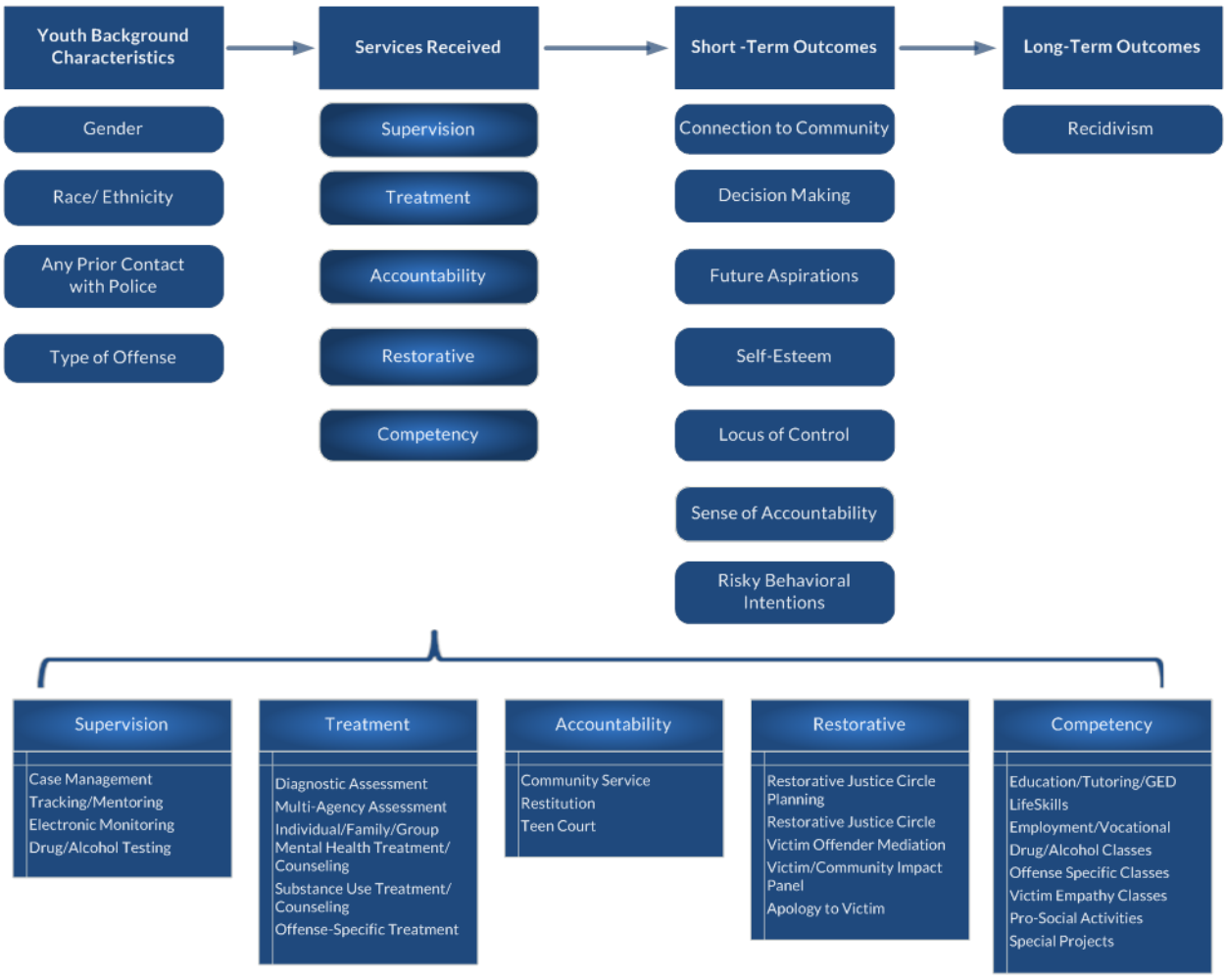
In order to better understand the services and outcomes of its grant program, DCJ contracted with OMNI Institute in 2010 to develop and implement a statewide evaluation of its 19 funded juvenile diversion programs. The overarching aim of the statewide evaluation is to allow providers, state agencies, and other stakeholders to make more informed decisions and improve the provision of services.

The evaluation comprises examination of 19 different programs, each offering a unique set of services that are further tailored to each youth within the program. The evaluation design encompasses multiple measures and data sources to address four key question areas:

1. Who is served by diversion?
2. What services are provided?
3. Are programs/services effective?
4. What youth and program factors are associated with (reduced) recidivism?

Multiple measures and data sources were utilized to ensure a comprehensive understanding of: the population served, the services and programming provided, short-term outcomes, and recidivism; and the relationships among these variables. The figure below provides a visual representation of the core data elements in the fashion of a logic model. Complex multi-level models were employed to examine relationships among services, short-term outcomes, and recidivism while statistically controlling for variability in services and youth characteristics across programs.

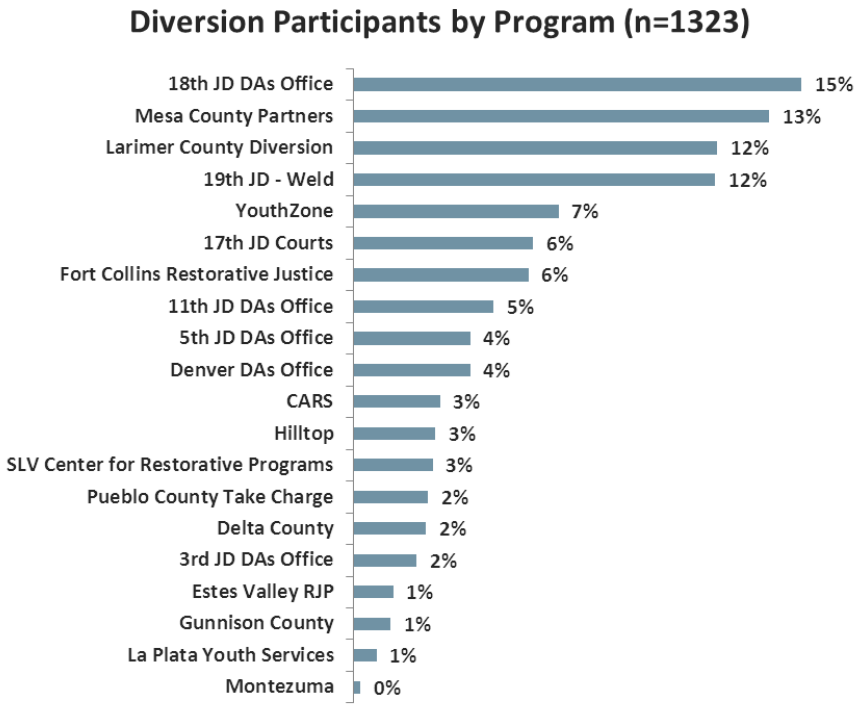
Diversion Evaluation Logic Model



Who is Served by Diversion?

Diversion programs served 1,323 youth across Colorado during 1.5 years of data collection; and 708 youth across Colorado during the state fiscal year 2011-12.

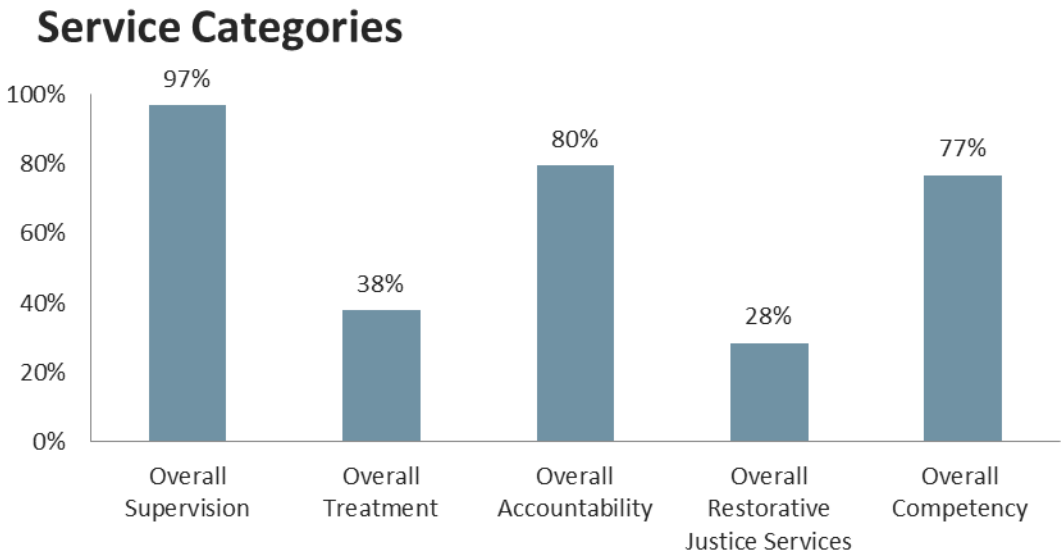
Programs differed greatly in the numbers of youth served with some programs serving around 175 youth and others serving fewer than 50 youth.



- **On average, youth were 15 years old** at the time of intake into diversion.
- The **majority of youth participating in diversion were male** and **over half of diversion participants were White, non-Hispanic**; just under a third (32%) of participants were identified as Hispanic or Latino.
- African American participants comprised only 2% of the entire sample. **White youth were 5 times more likely than African-American youth to be represented in diversion programs**, based on the arrest numbers for the 15 judicial districts represented in DCJ-funded diversion programs.

What Services are Provided?

- Data were collected on 25 specific services with a 26th category of 'other' for any services provided that were not already described. These 25 services were grouped into five categories: Supervision, Treatment, Accountability, Restorative Justice, and Competency services. The graph below depicts the proportion of youth that received at least one service in each of the categories.



The full report includes the number and proportion of youth receiving individual services within each category; as well as the provision (in-house versus referred out) and funding (DCJ or other) source.

Are Programs/Services Effective?

- **A large majority of youth (85%) successfully completed programming**.
- **All short-term outcomes showed statistically significant change in the desired direction from pre- to post-program.** This finding indicates that at an aggregate level, the selected short term outcomes are impacted by diversion programs. The individual short-term outcome score changes are displayed in the table below.

CHANGES IN SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

Outcome	Pre-Survey Mean	Post-Survey Mean	Desired Direction of Change?	Significant?
Connection to Community	3.16	3.22	Yes	Yes
Decision Making	2.72	2.95	Yes	Yes
Future Aspirations	3.49	3.54	Yes	Yes
Self-Esteem	3.14	3.31	Yes	Yes
Locus of Control	3.02	3.11	Yes	Yes
Sense of Accountability	3.14	3.23	Yes	Yes
Risky Behavioral Intentions	1.37	1.33	Yes	Yes

RECIDIVISM RATES

Colorado's standard criterion for recidivism is a filing or filings for a new offense either while the juvenile was in the program or up to one year after they exited the program. While this definition is important for assessing recidivism after an initial offense, it does not accurately assess the impact of having completed a juvenile diversion program on recidivism. For instance, many youth do not successfully complete diversion programming *because* of a new offense. For this reason, two different recidivism variables were created; one that matches the official definition of recidivism, and one that looks only at an offense and filing that occurs *after* participation in diversion (post-program recidivism). The table below displays both the official (during and post-program recidivism) and the post-program only recidivism rate.

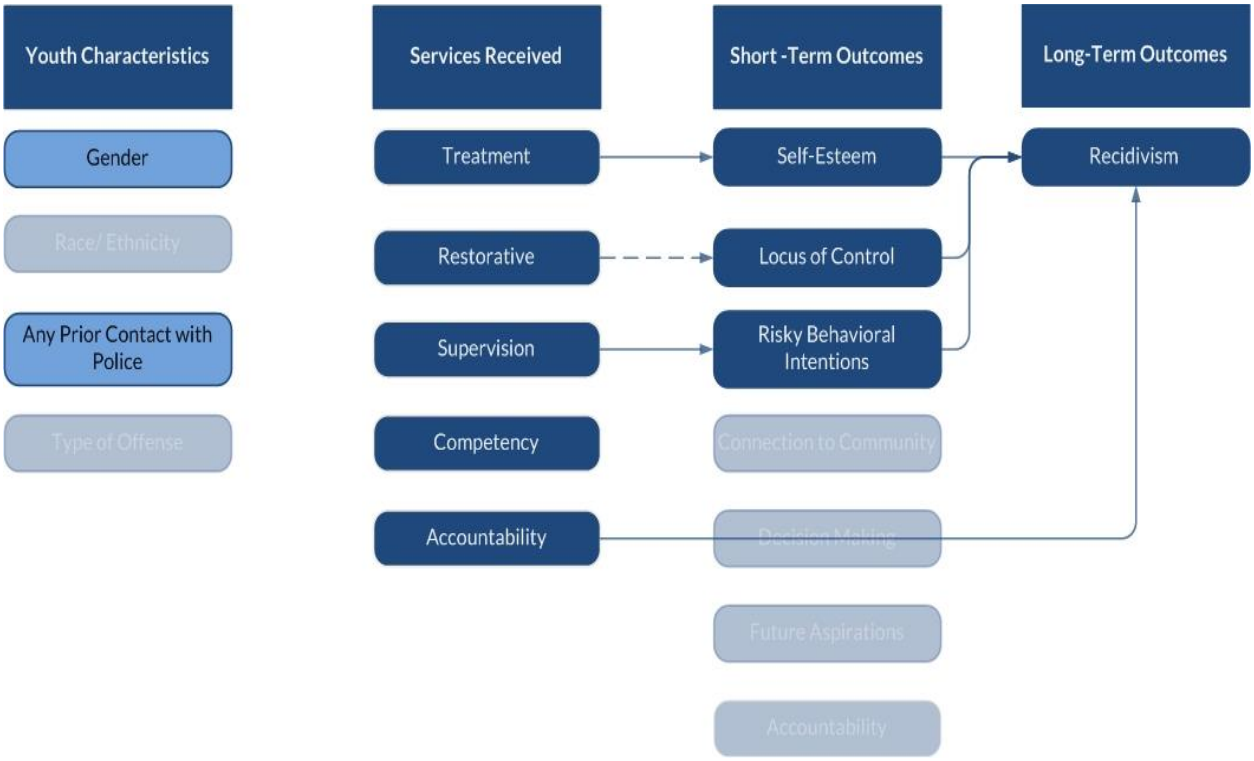
Demographics		During and Post-Program Recidivism	Post-Program Recidivism
Overall Recidivism		19.1%	13.4%
Exit Status	Successful	13.3%	10.6%
	Unsuccessful	52.5%	29.5%
Gender	Male	22.1%	15.4%
	Female	12.6%	9.2%
Prior Police Contact	Yes	25.7%	18.9%
	No	17.5%	11.7%

What Youth and Program Factors are Associated with (Reduced) Recidivism?

- Overall, **males were more likely to recidivate than females, and youth with prior police contact were more likely to recidivate** than those who did not have prior police contact. However, there were few significant differences in the impact of diversion programming across these groups.
- Desired changes on **three of the seven short-term outcomes were associated with reduced recidivism*: self-esteem, locus of control, and risky behavioral intentions***.
- **Treatment, Restorative justice, and Supervision services were predictive of the three outcomes**. More explanation of these services and their relationships to outcomes is provided in the full report.
- Of particular note is the relationship of treatment services to outcomes. Youth who received a **diagnostic assessment** for mental health or substance use needs (and presumably received treatment if indicated), were more likely to show significant improvements in several outcomes, including self-esteem, which was associated with reduced recidivism.

The modified logic model figure below illustrates statistically significant relationships through the use of highlighting and arrows.

Relationships Among Services, Outcomes, and Recidivism



It is critical to note that the lack of significant findings for other services should not yet be used to conclude they are ineffective. It is possible that some services or programming may need to be implemented with greater fidelity or dosage in order to demonstrate effects. It is also possible that youth may be less able to benefit from other core services and programming when there are unmet treatment needs. Only 38% of diversion youth received one or more treatment services, yet research indicates that over two-thirds of juvenile offenders will have a mental health disorder in their lifetime. More generally, it is important to replicate findings before drawing strong conclusions; continuation of the evaluation will allow for these findings to be re-tested.

Recommendations

Below is a list of four core recommendations; the full set of recommendations is included in the full report.

- **Maintain core evaluation activities including the collection of pre and post-survey data**. Continuation of data collection is important for replicating findings with a larger sample, and improving amount of program-level data available for grantees.

- **Encourage individual grantees to consider** their **own program practices and outcomes in light of the overall evaluation findings.**

- **Explore the underrepresentation of non-white youth, specifically African-American youth, in juvenile diversion**.

- **Identify barriers to and opportunities for the implementation of screening and assessment procedures for diversion youth**. Implementation of screening and assessment tools is important for several reasons: to better document the prevalence of mental health and substance abuse issues among youth entering diversion; to understand programs' capacity to serve youth with these issues; and to more systematically examine how the provision or non-provision of treatment services influences outcomes for youth with these needs.

Background

As part of its Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance programs, the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) funds the Juvenile Diversion grant program. Created by Colorado state statute, the grant program is intended to divert youth from penetrating further into the juvenile justice system. While diversion can occur at multiple stages of the juvenile justice system and be offered to youth with varying levels of offense, DCJ primarily funds services for youth who are pre-file or pre-adjudicated[1] and who have committed a district level offense.

In order to better understand the services and outcomes of its grant program, DCJ contracted with OMNI Institute in 2010 to develop and implement a statewide evaluation of its 19 funded juvenile diversion programs. Development and piloting of the evaluation plan was completed by mid-2011, and full-scale implementation began in August of 2011. Activities from the development phase of the evaluation included a national literature review, site visits and in-depth interviews conducted with grantees across the state, a retrospective analysis of available program and recidivism data from the previous three years, and a comprehensive review of screening and assessment tools for potential use with diversion youth. The results of these efforts are outlined in detail in several reports previously submitted to DCJ and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Council.

The overarching aim of the statewide evaluation has been to allow providers, state agencies, and other stakeholders to make more informed decisions and improve the provision of services. The evaluation activities are intended to yield meaningful, ongoing improvements in: assessment and subsequent referral of youth to appropriate services; evaluation capacity of grantees; and amount and utility of data and findings available to assess program quality, program outcomes, and statewide impact on juvenile crime and recidivism.

Based on a review of the national literature, there have been scant efforts to conduct a systematic, in-depth evaluation of state-funded juvenile diversion programs. One likely reason for this is the wide diversity of programs and services that fit under the umbrella of juvenile diversion, both across and within states and communities, including Colorado and the 19 DCJ-funded programs. Among these grantees, we documented variations across youth, programs, and judicial districts on factors such as: the target population for juvenile diversion; who refers youth to diversion (police, courts, or probation), and at what stage (i.e., pre-adjudication versus post-adjudication); the ways in which charges are handled (such as expunging charges, adjudication, or sentencing); and overall

[1] Pre-File indicates that a youth was sent to diversion as an alternative to summons/arrest or as an alternative to filing petition. Pre-adjudicated indicates that the youth has either deferred adjudication, informal adjustment, filed/dismissed without prejudice, or already is under DA diversion contract

program philosophy (such as justice or restitution-based versus treatment-based). Each of these factors can have implications for a program's impact on recidivism[2] (Cocozza et al. 937).

Programs that are funded by DCJ are housed in District Attorneys' offices, county offices, municipal organizations (e.g. police department), or community organizations. Programs also provide very distinct sets of services. Several programs provide only restorative justice services, others focus on the coordination and the completion of community service or restitution, and still others provide nearly all types of services with each youth receiving a unique menu of services based on need. Finally, there is considerable variation in numbers of youth served and average program duration. Thus, the evaluation required an approach that was adaptable to 19 different grantees and could be implemented with ease in programs with varying levels of capacity.

Despite these differences, common targeted outcomes were identified across these programs, including the long-term outcome of reduced recidivism, and interim (short-term) improvements in perceptions, attitudes, and behavioral intentions presumed to reduce risk of future delinquency. These short-term outcomes are further described below in the Evaluation Design.

At the outset of the evaluation, DCJ identified a number of questions that guided the goals and design of the formative and outcome evaluations. Many of these questions have been addressed throughout deliverables from the three years of evaluation. A complete list of the questions and their answers are provided in Appendix A. One important thing to note is that these questions were created with the assumption that programs would be required to use a standard brief screening tool that would be included in the evaluation, and that certain background information about the youth could be provided by program staff. However, information on substance abuse/mental health needs was not available for the evaluation as planned due to the decision to delay implementation of a common brief screen instrument until more information could be gathered on current program practices. Further, in the early stages of the formative evaluation, it became clear that information on child welfare involvement and youths' access to other services was not often available to program staff. These limitations are addressed in the responses to the questions provided in Appendix A.

For the outcome evaluation, the relevant research questions are encompassed by four key areas of inquiry:

1. Who is served by diversion?
2. What services are provided?

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[2] Cocozza, Joseph J., et al. "Diversion from the Juvenile Justice System: The Miami-Dade Juvenile Assessment Center Post-Arrest Diversion Program." *Substance Use & Misuse* 40 (2005): 935-951. Colorado Department of Human Services. Division of Youth Corrections.

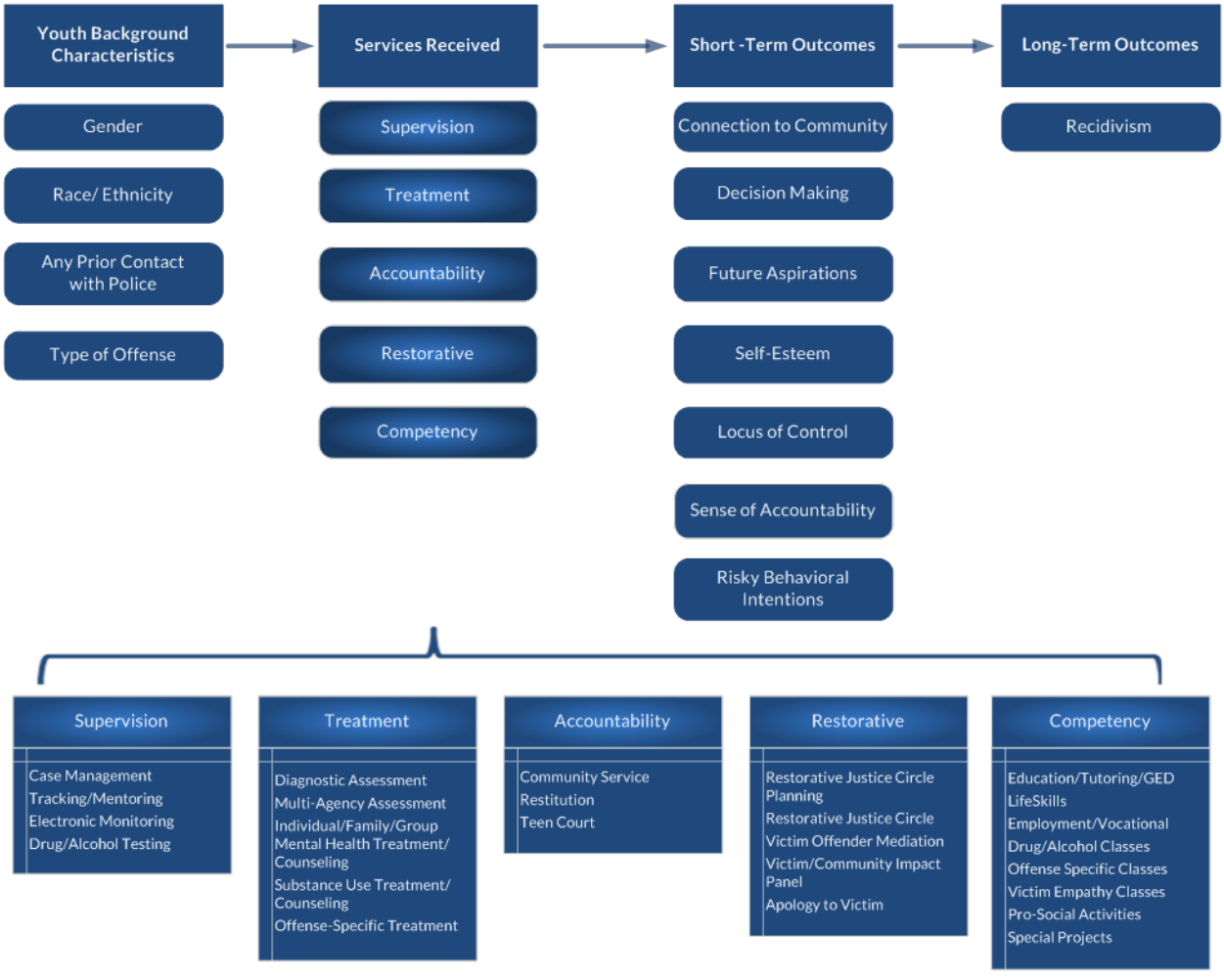
3. Are programs/services effective?

4. What youth and program factors are associated with (reduced) recidivism?

EVALUATION DESIGN

The evaluation design encompasses multiple measures and data sources to ensure a comprehensive understanding of: the population served, the services and programming provided, short-term outcomes, and recidivism; and the relationships among these variables. Figure 1 below provides a visual representation of the core data elements in the fashion of a logic model. These elements are further described in the Methods Section.

FIGURE 1: EVALUATION LOGIC MODEL



Methods

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND SOURCES

The outcome evaluation included several different types of data collection in order to answer the key research questions. Program staff and youth were instrumental in providing the majority of the data, specifically the background data of the youth and the short-term outcome data. Details around data collection and consent protocols are provided in Appendix B.

Intake/Exit Data

Program staff collected background and process data on each youth through the collection of intake and exit data[3]. Intake data, collected at the point at which the youth entered the program, included information on youth background and demographics, as well as basic information about the type of offense, program referral source and referral or adjudication status. Exit data, collected at the point at which the youth completed the program, included information on services received by the youth, whether the youth successfully completed or not, and if new charges were filed during the youth's participation in diversion.

Short-Term Outcome Data

Short-term outcome data collection was also a part of this evaluation. Programs were asked to collect a pre-survey and a post-survey[4] from all youth who successfully completed their diversion contract. Surveys included validated measures of seven outcomes which are displayed in the previous section in Figure 1.

Long Term Outcome Data: Recidivism Data

Finally, in order to assess the long-term outcome of recidivism, OMNI worked with DCJ to obtain information on statewide district level offenses and filings for all youth who had exited diversion programming[5]. DCJ research staff accessed the case management system for trial courts in Colorado in order to provide information on whether individuals met Colorado's standard criteria for recidivism: a filing or filings for a new offense (criminal, misdemeanor, or juvenile delinquency) either while the juvenile was in the program or up to one year after they exited the program.

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[3] The Intake and Exit form with its instructions is found in Appendix C
[4] The Pre- and Post-survey is found in Appendix D
[5] A full description of how recidivism information is obtained and defined is included in Appendix B.

Program Level Data

OMNI also used program level information to further contextualize findings. This included qualitative data collected through phone interviews on programs' practices with regard to intake, assessment, and the assignment of services to youth.

ANALYSIS

An analysis team was convened to thoroughly review the data and determine the most appropriate analytic approaches to answer the identified research questions. First, descriptive analyses were conducted to illustrate (or describe): the youth served by diversion programs; the number and type of services provided by diversion programs (and received by individual youth); and the overall rates of program completion and recidivism. In most cases, descriptive analyses include percentage breakdowns for each demographic, program, or service variable examined (e.g., % of male versus female participants; % of youth receiving community service, etc.). For some variables (such as age) where percentage breakdowns are not meaningful or practical, means or medians are provided. Simple inferential analyses were conducted to examine overall changes in the short-term outcomes from pre to post (program completion).

Finally, in order to understand the more complex relationships of youth, program, and service variables to program completion, changes in short-term outcomes, and recidivism rates, more complex analytic models were applied. Specifically, statistically significant levels of variation (also known as 'clustering') were observed at the program level. In other words, different programs were significantly more or less likely to serve certain youth or to provide certain services. This type of non-random variability at the group level must be accounted for in order to accurately understand aggregate-level outcomes for individuals and necessitates use of multi-level modeling. Thus, a series of regression analyses were conducted, within a multi-level framework, to examine each of the potential relationships among services, short-term outcomes, and recidivism. These regression analyses also examined and statistically controlled for youth factors that may independently predict likelihood of recidivism, such as gender and prior contact with police.

Sample

During the data collection time period (July 2011 through December 2012) 1,455 youth began diversion programming and 1,323 youth entered and exited diversion programming. Intake and exit data were provided for all youth. Descriptive data, in Appendix D, include all 1,323 youth for whom data were available. Youth who had a neutral outcome at the end of their diversion programming (i.e., transferred to another diversion program, chose court, or moved out of the area; n=39), were removed from the analysis, leaving 1,284 youth. Additionally, youth who participated in a diversion program for seven or fewer days were also removed from analyses because it was unlikely that those youth would have received a sufficient level of services to see

change in the short-term outcomes, leaving a sample of 1,265 youth. Of this sample of youth who entered and exited Diversion in the 1.5 years of data collection, 85% (1,081) were successful.

Of youth who successfully completed diversion (1,081), 590 youth participated in the pre/post outcome evaluation (55% of successful youth).

Only youth who had been exited from diversion for six months or more (n=821) were considered eligible for inclusion in the recidivism analyses. Only 365 youth had data across all sources and had been exited from diversion long enough to be assessed for recidivism. Thus, the sample size varied depending on the analysis being conducted. Each set of analyses utilized the maximum available sample size (i.e., included all youth who had data for the variables included), but was also conducted using the most restricted sample (i.e., the 365 youth with data for all variables) to ensure findings did not differ across samples.

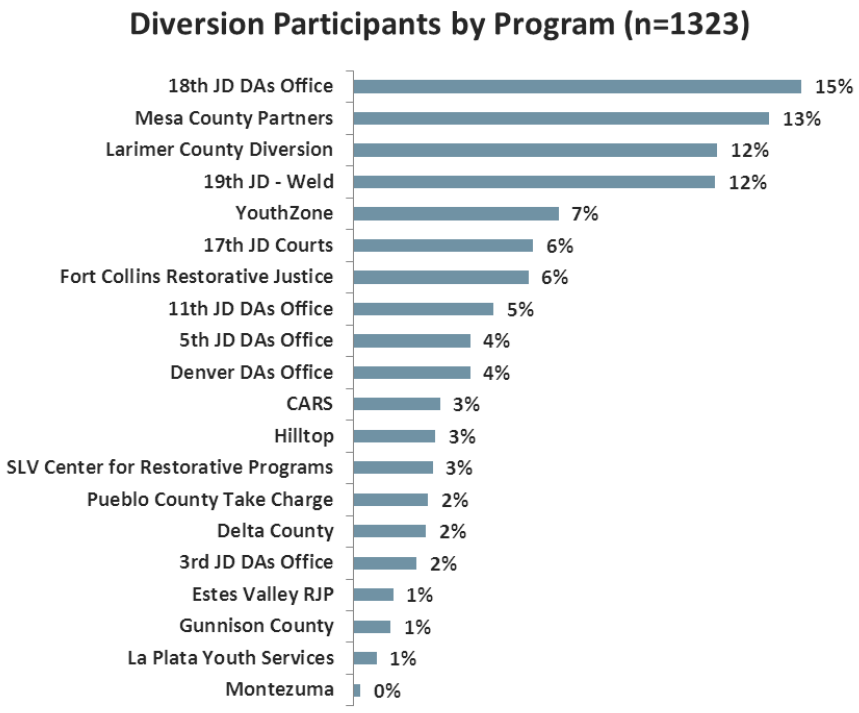
Results

WHO IS SERVED BY DIVERSION?

Diversion programs served 1,323 youth across Colorado during 1.5 years of data collection; and 708 youth across Colorado during the state fiscal year 11-12.

Programs differed greatly in the numbers of youth served with some programs serving around 175 youth and others serving fewer than 50 youth. Four programs served over half of all youth, as displayed below in Graph 1. **Most participants were served by DAs' Office programs (50%) or community organizations (40%)**.

GRAPH 1:PROPORTION OF YOUTH SERVED BY EACH PROGRAM



Just **over half of all youth were served by four agencies**[6].

Youths' tenure in diversion programs ranged between a few days and more than a year; **average participation in diversion was about four and one-half months**.

Demographics/Background Characteristics

- **On average, youth were 15 years old** at the time of intake into diversion[7].
- The **majority of youth participating in diversion were male** and **over half of diversion participants were White, non-Hispanic**; just under a third (32%) of participants were identified as Hispanic or Latino. African American participants comprised only 2% of the entire sample. This small number of African American participants is further explored in a later section of this report addressing minority representation in diversion.

Table 11 shows the demographics of youth from the entire sample (1,323). There were few differences between the entire sample and those included in the analyses, providing a high level of

[6] Larimer County – Center for Family Outreach, 18th Judicial District DA program, 19th Judicial District DA program, and Mesa County Partners

[7] All demographic, intake and exit data are charted in Appendix D, E and F, respectively.

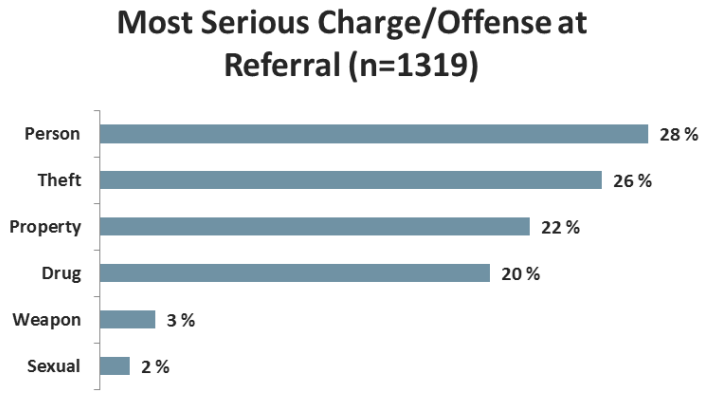
confidence that the youth in the analytic samples are representative of the larger group. Data displayed below and in the appendices include the full sample of 1,323.

TABLE 1: YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

	Demographics	Percentage
Gender	Male	66.8%
	Female	33.2%
Ethnicity	White (Non-Hispanic)	58.8%
	Hispanic/Latino	31.7%
	Black/African American	2.5%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2%
	American Indian	1.1%
	Multi-Racial	3.9%
	Other	0.8%
Mean Age in Years		15.05 years

- At both intake and exit from the program, **the majority of youth were pursuing their HS diploma** (93% and 85%, respectively) in a traditional school setting.
- Roughly **20% of youth had been suspended within the past school year**.
- **Over half of the youth were referred to diversion pre-file** with a quarter of youth referred at pre-adjudication.
- **Youth were referred primarily from a District Attorney's (DA's) Office** (68%) with referrals also coming from the District Court Judge (13%) and District Court Probation (12%). The remaining referrals came from police/sheriff's offices or another Diversion program.
- As displayed in Graph 2 below, the **most serious types of charges for youth participating in diversion were person (28%), theft (26%), and property (22%) offenses**.

GRAPH 2: OFFENSE TYPE



Further descriptions of offenses indicated that over a quarter of charges were related to theft, burglary or robbery (28%), just under a quarter of charges were drug or alcohol related (21%) and vandalism, arson, or criminal mischief made up the third largest category (11%).

- **Offenses were primarily misdemeanors** (66%) at a level one, two, or three.
- **Nearly a quarter of offenses (24%) were felonies** at a level three, four, five, or six.

There were no meaningful differences between white and non-white (primarily Hispanic/Latino) youth in the types of offenses committed.

Exit Status

At exit from diversion programming, program staff were asked to report on youths' exit status which specifies whether youth completed programming successfully or unsuccessfully. Additionally, programs reported if they were aware of any new charges brought against the youth.

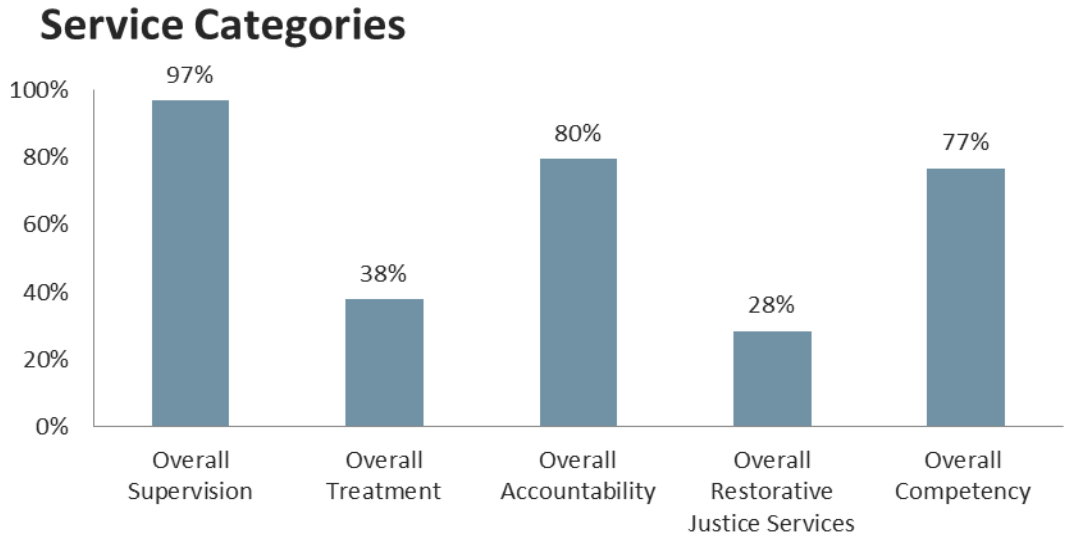
- **85% of youth successfully[8] completed programming.**
- **10% of program participants received new charges while participating in diversion** with the majority of those charges being filed at district court.

[8] Youth who were unsuccessful were categorized as unsuccessful in three ways; noncompliance with contract or original charges filed (9%), arrest on new offense (5%), unsuccessful but no charges filed (1%).

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?

Data were collected on 25 specific services[9] with a 26th category of 'other' for any services provided that were not already described. These 25 services were grouped into five categories: Supervision, Treatment, Accountability, Restorative Justice, and Competency services. Graph 3, below, depicts the proportion of youth that received at least one service in each of the categories.

GRAPH 3: SERVICE CATEGORIES



Additionally, program staff were asked to provide information on all services that the youth received, not just those that were paid for by diversion. In the following sections, the graphs display not only the number and proportion of youth that received each service, but also whether each service was provided by the diversion program or referred out and whether it was paid for by diversion funds received from DCJ.

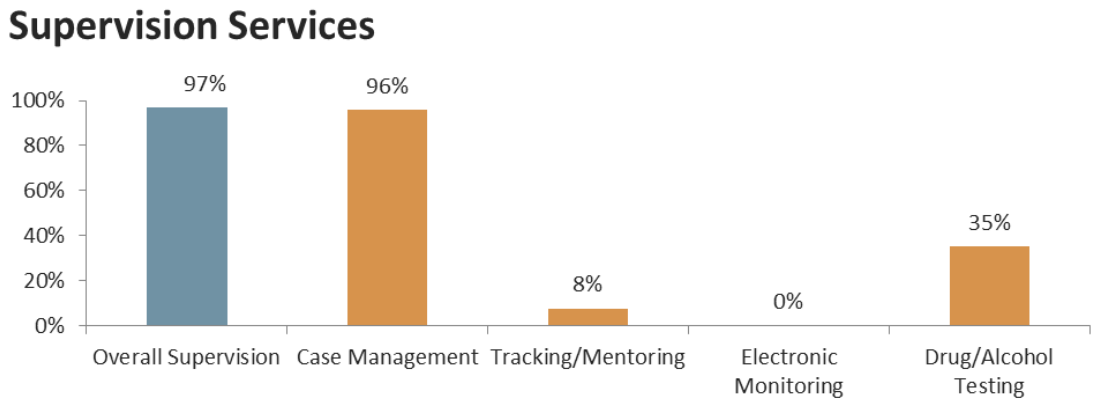
SUPERVISION

The supervision category encompassed four specific services as outlined below in Graph 4.

- **All but one program offered supervision services** (one or more of the services in this category) and **nearly every youth received some type of supervision service**. Graph 5 shows both the overall percentage of youth that received at least one type of supervision service, as well as the proportion of all youth who received each individual type of supervision service.

[9] All service data are displayed in Appendix F

GRAPH 4: INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION SERVICES

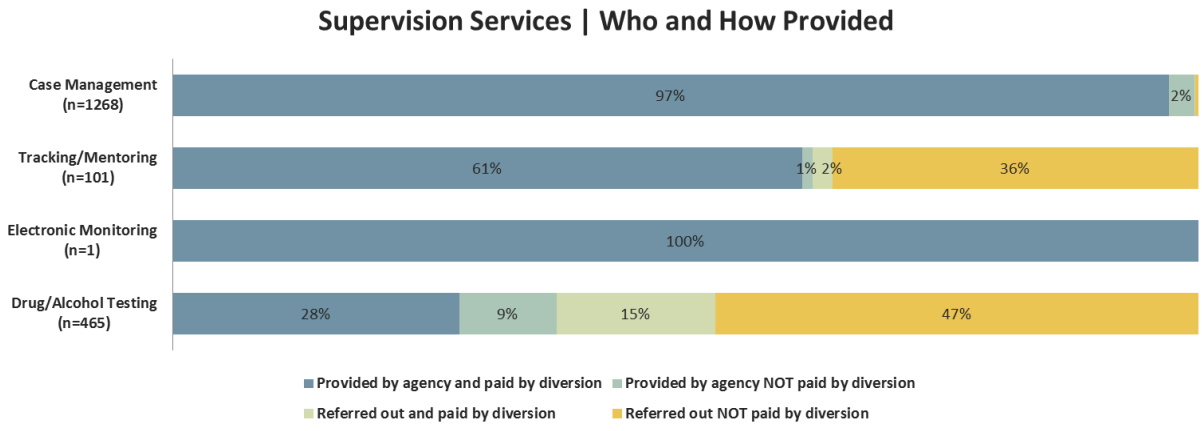


In Graph 6, below, the services are displayed to indicate not only how many youth received them, but also who provided the services and how they were funded.

- As displayed in the graph, **drug and alcohol testing was the only supervision service that was <u>not</u> paid for primarily by diversion funds.**
- **Of youth who had committed a drug offense (20% of all youth), 58% received drug or alcohol testing.**

However, of those who received drug or alcohol testing, only one third had committed a drug offense indicating that offense type may not be the primary reason for requiring youth to participate in this particular service.

GRAPH 6: SUPERVISION SERVICES



TREATMENT

Programs offered various levels of treatment or counseling which included the provision of a diagnostic assessment[10], a multi-agency assessment[11], mental health counseling or treatment (individual, group, or family), drug or alcohol counseling or treatment, and offense-specific treatment[12].

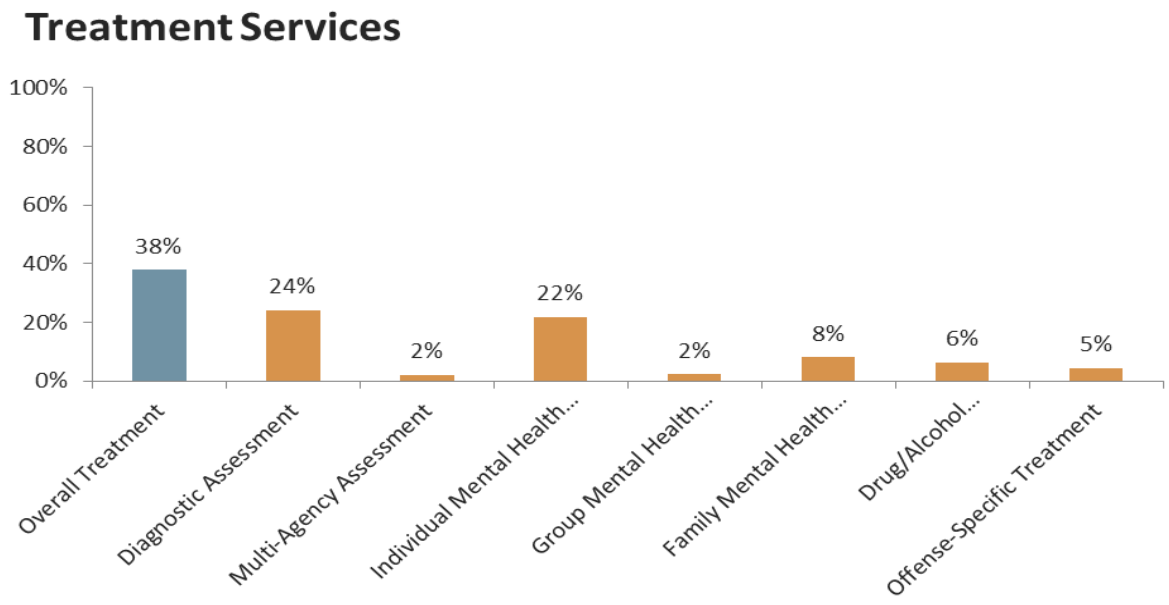
- **Fewer than half of participants, 38%, received services in the treatment category**.
- Of those, the **largest proportions of youth received a diagnostic assessment or individual mental health counseling or treatment**, as shown below in Graph 7.
- **Of youth who received a diagnostic assessment, one third also received individual mental health treatmen**t. The majority of youth who received individual mental health treatment did not receive group or family mental health treatment.
- **The greatest proportion of youth who received individual mental health treatment had committed a person offense (30%)** followed by youth who committed a property or drug offense (21% for each).
- **Of those who received drug or alcohol treatment, only one third had committed a drug related offense.**

[10] An assessment that is beyond a brief screen (such as the MAYSI-2 or CJRA) and is conducted by a trained mental health or substance abuse professional or clinician to identify treatment needs.

[11] Assessment and care coordination processes involving representatives from multiple local agencies. Includes assessments conducted by Colorado's House Bill 1451 Individualized Services and Support Teams and Wraparound Services.

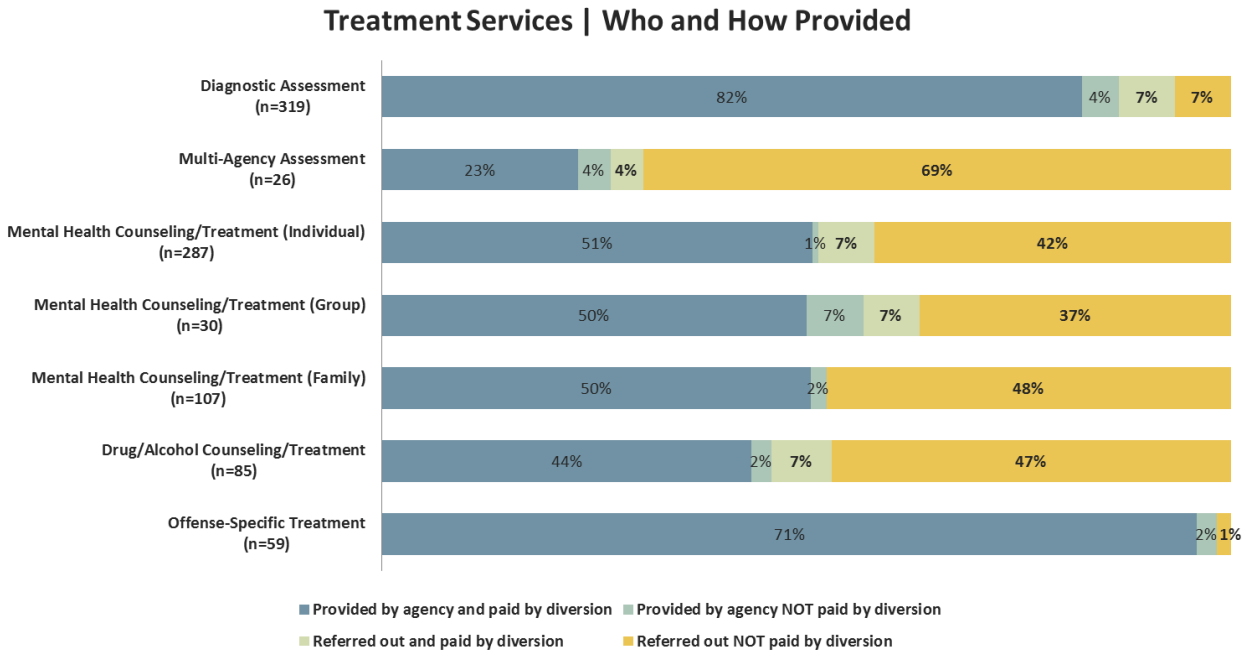
[12] Treatment or counseling geared toward the offense. Includes interventions that address sexual offenses, arson, partner violence.

GRAPH 7: INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT SERVICES



Graph 8, below, indicates who provided these services and how they were funded.

GRAPH 8: TREATMENT SERVICES



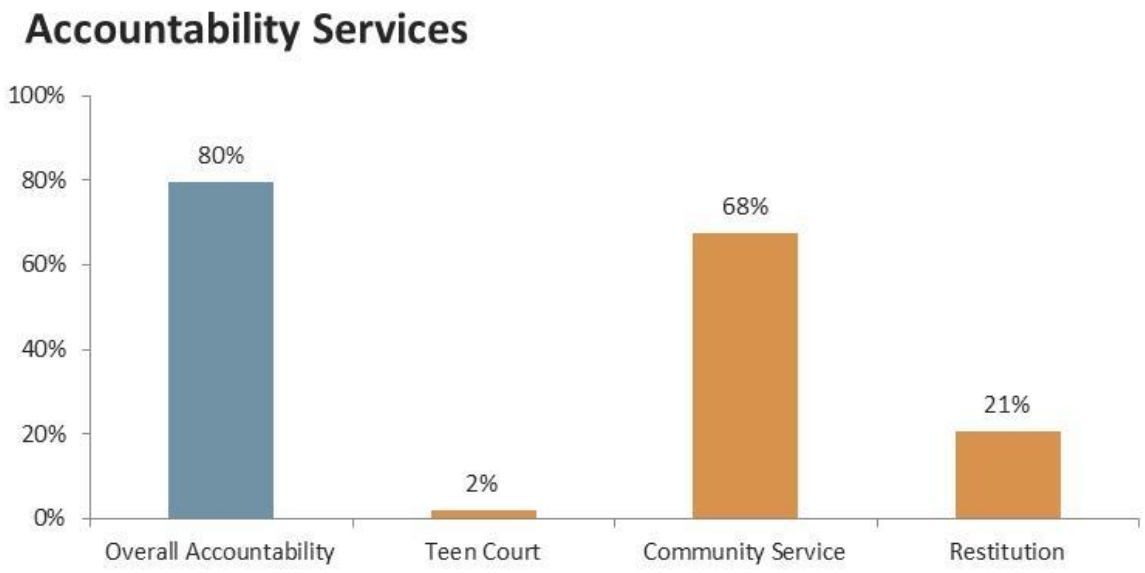
ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability services were provided by a large number of organizations and included Teen Court, community service, and restitution.

A large majority of youth were required to participate in accountability services (80%), as displayed in Graph 9 below.

- **Community service was required for the majority of youth** (68%) with an average requirement of 22 hours of community service. On average, 19 hours of community service were completed.
- **Restitution was required to be paid for 21% of diversion participants**. The average amount of restitution required was just over $810. The average amount paid was $425.

GRAPH 9: ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES



- Graph 10 below indicates who provided these services and how they were funded. **Community service was the most likely to be referred out and not paid for by diversion funds.**

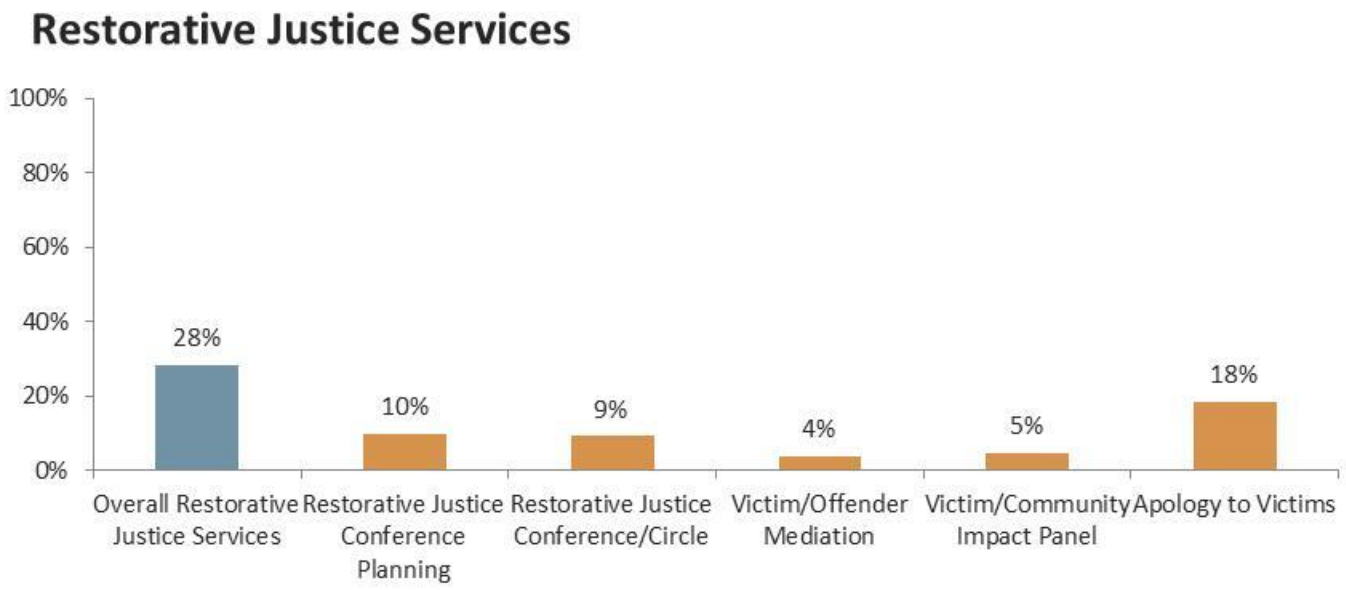
GRAPH 10: ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES

Many programs offered restorative justice services as part of their menu of services. These services included Restorative Justice Circle or Conference Planning, Restorative Justice Conference or Circle, Victim Offender Mediation, Victim Community Impact Panel, and an apology to the victim.

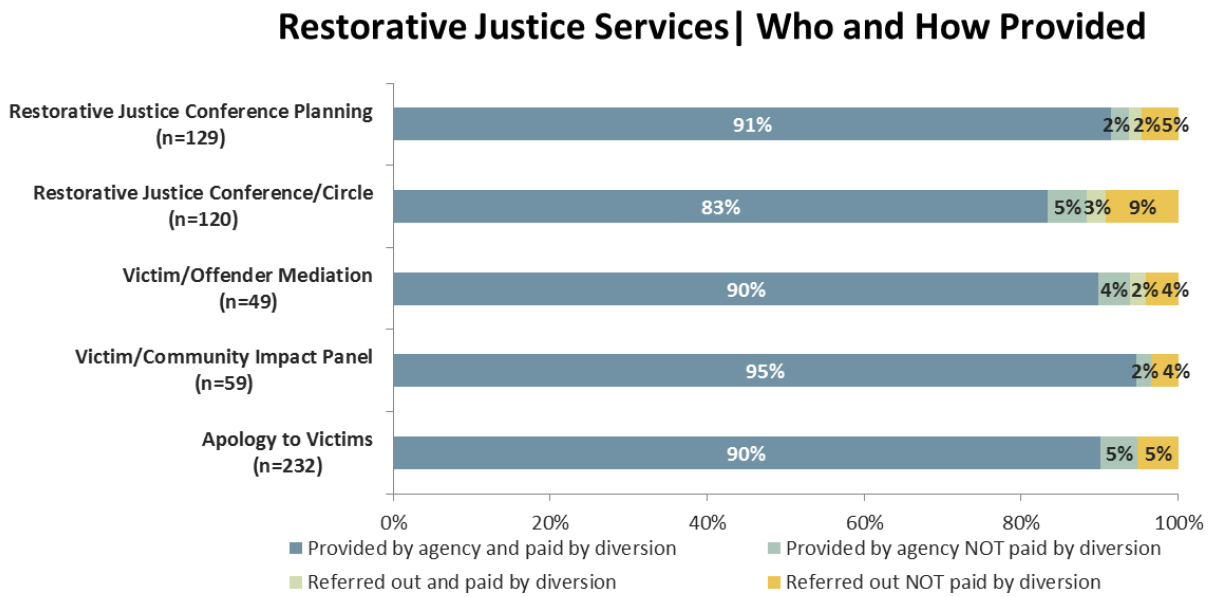
- Overall, **28% of youth in diversion participated in at least one restorative justice service**. Graph 11 below displays the proportion of youth who participated in each individual restorative justice service.

GRAPH 11: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INDIVIDUAL SERVICES



- Graph 12, below, displays who provided these services and how they were funded. **Nearly all Restorative Justice Services were provided in-house and were paid for by diversion funds.**

GRAPH 12: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES

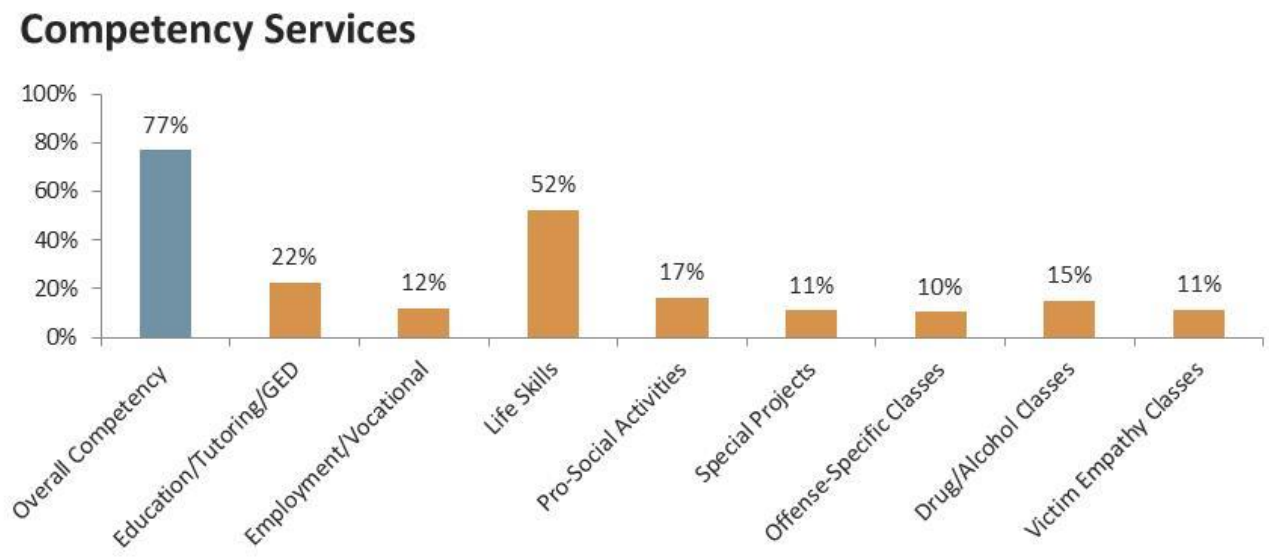


COMPETENCY

Youth were also offered a number of competency services including education, tutoring or GED support, employment or vocational training, Life Skills, pro-social activities[13], offense-specific[14] classes, drug or alcohol classes, and victim empathy classes. Graph 13 below shows the overall proportion of youth that participated in Competency Services (77%) as well as the proportion of youth that participated in each individual competency service.

- **Life Skills programming was provided to just over half of all youth.** A further breakdown of the topics covered in Life Skills is displayed below in Graph 14.

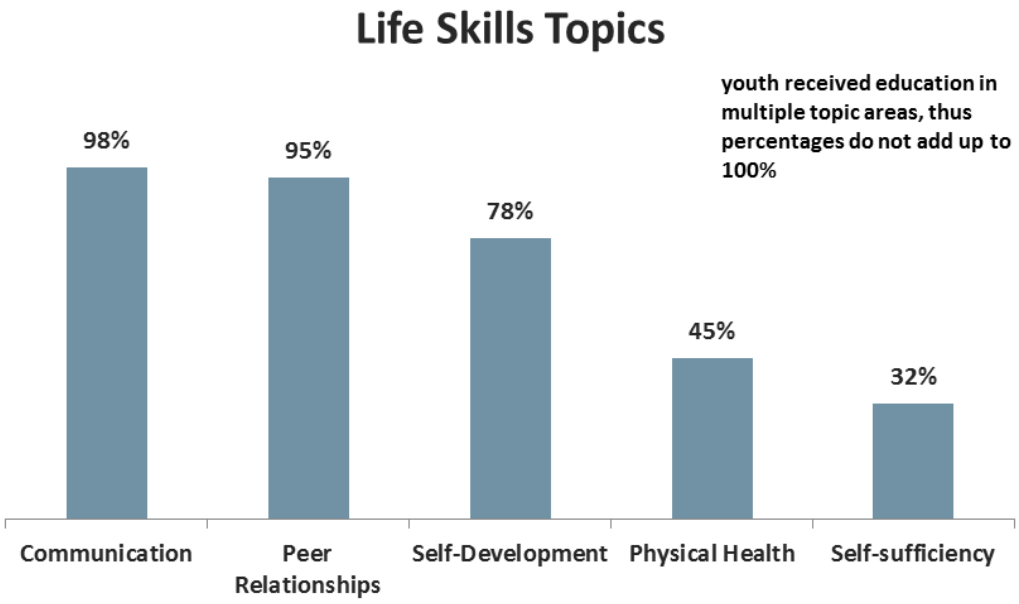
GRAPH 13



- **The vast majority of youth that participated in Life Skills training received training in more than one content area.** Only 10 individuals received one content area while others received training on two to five content areas. Graph 14 shows the proportion of all youth who participated in Life Skills that received training in each content area.

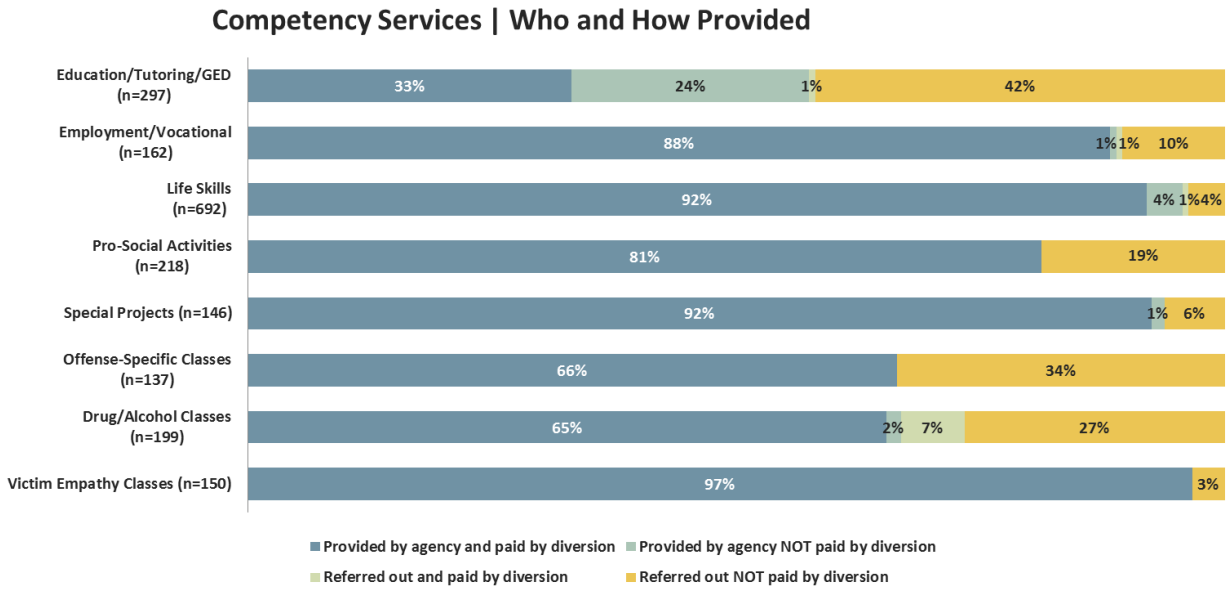
[13] Programs that engage youth in activities that provide them with opportunities to spend time in healthy, drug-free environments such as hiking, camping, rafting, or art programs.
[14] Group classes that address topics specific to youths' offenses such as shoplifting, arson, or weapons.

GRAPH 14: LIFE SKILLS TOPICS



Graph 15 indicates the number of youth who received each specific competency service as well as who provided these services and how they were funded. With the exception of education and tutoring, competency services were primarily provided in-house and paid for by diversion funds.

GRAPH 15: COMPETENCY SERVICES



OTHER SERVICES

Finally, eight percent of youth also received other services which included a number of different types of programming, but primarily consisted of art therapy and wilderness programs.

Program Characteristics

Program characteristics were gathered through the intake and assessment qualitative analysis[15]. As noted earlier in this report some programs worked directly with the referring agency to determine a youth's fit for diversion, often DA's Office programs, while others had no influence or participation in the decision to refer someone to their diversion program. These decision making differences are outlined in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2: GRANTEES' ROLE IN REFERRAL DECISION PROCESS BY PROGRAM TYPE

	DA Office Programs	County Court Programs	Municipal Organizations	Community-Based Programs
Joint decision with referring agency/entity	7	2	0	0
Uses post-referral review process to accept/reject	0	0	2	4
No influence over initial referral decision	1	0	0	2
TOTAL:	**8**	**2**	**2**	**6**

- **All agencies screen or assess youth at intake**; half of programs use a combination of both a formal[16] and informal screening tool or assessment, while the other half used only an informal assessment of youth.
- **Programs differed in the proportion of youth that participated in the short-term outcome evaluation**[17] with the smallest proportion being 13% of their youth served and the largest

[15] A full report of findings and recommendations was provided to DCJ in January 2013. These data exclude Cortez Addiction Recovery Services as they were not funded during the initial phases of this component of the evaluation.
[16] Formal screening tools used by the programs include the MAYSI-II, SUS1A, CYO-LSI, YouthZone, YOQSR, and YLSCMI.
[17] This is also referred to as the survey rate.

proportion including 100%. The majority of programs included more than 50% of the youth served in the short-term outcome evaluation.

ARE MINORITY YOUTH ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED IN DIVERSION?

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) refers to the disproportionate number of minority youth and adults who come into contact with the justice system at various 'decision points.' In Colorado, key decision points for youth in the juvenile justice system include arrest, secure detention, filing, and commitment to Denver Youth Corrections. DMC is customarily examined with regard to more severe outcomes at each decision point. However, it is also informative to examine extent to which minority youth may be under represented at more 'positive' decision points such as diversion which, among DCJ-funded diversion programs, is most commonly implemented for youth in lieu of filing. Formal authority to refer youth to diversion primarily rests with district attorneys. However, as documented in our earlier report describing intake and assessment practices and in the next section of this report, the amount of input that DCJ-funded diversion programs have in referral decisions ranges from a 'joint' decision between the program and the DA's office to having no input. Across all programs, acceptance of the youth into the diversion program appears to be determined both by the program and the youth and his/her family.

In order to examine whether there is minority underrepresentation within and across DCJ-funded juvenile diversion programs, we examined demographic information on youth arrests at the judicial-district level, and on youth who were accepted into each diversion program for the fiscal year 11-12.

The *Relative Rate Index* (RRI) is used to measure representation of minority youth at various stages of the juvenile justice system compared to white youth. An RRI of 1 indicates the exact same rate of representation or contact across groups; an RRI of 2 would indicate the minority youth group in question to be 2 times as likely to be represented as white youth. For the purposes of calculating representation in juvenile diversion – a desirable outcome – RRIs were calculated *inversely* in order to illustrate the extent to which minority youth are underrepresented (i.e., the extent to which white youth are more likely to be represented) in juvenile diversion.

Reliance on these data involves a number of limitations, such that the calculations provided should only be used internally by DCJ and the JJDP Council to guide further inquiry into the nature of minority underrepresentation in DCJ-funded juvenile diversion programs. These limitations include:

- DCJ-funded diversion programs do not represent the only diversion program in their judicial district; thus demographic disparities within programs cannot be used to document disparities at the district-level.

- Program-level demographic data is only available for youth who were accepted into diversion; thus disproportionate rates of minority representation in diversion may in part reflect decisions made by programs, or youth and their families, on whether to accept or participate in diversion, respectively. Anecdotal reports from grantees indicate the vast majority of youth referred to diversion are accepted into the program, however.

- While demographic information for arrested youth is limited to single selection of race/ethnicity category, the intake form for DCJ juvenile diversion youth includes an option for 'multi-racial,' which is not further broken out. Thus, multi-racial youth who include African-American/Black or Hispanic/Latino among their racial/ethnic identities, are not represented in the specific demographic numbers for African-American/Black or Hispanic/Latino, respectively. To the extent that programs report multi-racial youth among their demographics, calculations may underestimate the representation of minority youth in diversion programs.

Across all DCJ-funded diversion programs, **Hispanic/Latino youth were only slightly underrepresented in juvenile diversion compared to white youth**, aggregate inverse RRI = 1.05, and this calculation was within the margin of potential error given the numbers of youth identifying as multi-racial. That is, in order to equal the rate of white youth in diversion, approximately 23 more Hispanic/Latino youth (507 instead of 484) should have been served. However, 58 youth identified as multi-racial, such that it is possible the true proportion of youth identifying as Hispanic/Latino in diversion is equal to that of white youth.

Conversely, the aggregate inverse RRI for Black/African-American youth was calculated to be over 5, such that **white youth were 5 times more likely to be represented in DCJ-funded juvenile diversion than Black youth** in FY 11-12, based on the numbers of arrests across the two groups in the 15 judicial districts represented by DCJ-funded diversion programs. For African-American youth to be represented in diversion in equal proportion to White youth, programs would have been expected to collectively serve approximately 262 Black youth instead of 50. This discrepancy is well beyond that which could be accounted for through the 58 youth identifying as multi-racial.

Further examination indicated that underrepresentation of Black youth in DCJ-funded diversion may be accounted for primarily by the 18th judicial district which accounts for nearly two-thirds (64.7%) of arrests of African-American youth across the 15 represented districts. The juvenile diversion program in the 18th judicial district that is funded by DCJ only served 28% of the Black youth served across the DCJ-funded programs. Examined another way, only 6% of youth served by the 18th's juvenile diversion program in FY 11-12 were identified as Black/African-American, while 28% of youth arrests in the 18th judicial district were of Black/African-American youth. Several other programs also had underrepresentation of Black/African-American youth in their programs, however, the number of arrests of Black youth in their judicial district was

relatively low to begin with, with the discrepancy of representation in diversion translating to only a few more youth being served.

DO PROGRAMS IMPACT SHORT- AND LONG-TERM OUTCOMES?

Short Term Outcomes

As noted in the Methods section, pre- and post-surveys were used to collect data on seven short-term outcomes[18]. Fifty-five percent of all youth who successfully completed juvenile diversion participated fully in the short-term outcome evaluation (i.e., completed both pre- and post-surveys).

- **All short-term outcomes showed statistically significant change in the desired direction from pre- to post program.** This finding indicates that at an aggregate level, the selected short term outcomes are impacted by diversion programs. The individual short-term outcome score changes are displayed in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

Outcome	Pre-Survey Mean	Post-Survey Mean	Desired Direction of Change?	Significant?
Connection to Community	3.16	3.22	Yes	Yes
Decision Making	2.72	2.95	Yes	Yes
Future Aspirations	3.49	3.54	Yes	Yes
Self-Esteem	3.14	3.31	Yes	Yes
Locus of Control	3.02	3.11	Yes	Yes
Sense of Accountability	3.14	3.23	Yes	Yes
Risky Behavioral Intentions	1.37	1.33	Yes	Yes

These short-term outcomes are further examined later in the analyses to understand their relationships to program services and recidivism outcomes; specifically, to understand which

short term outcomes predict later recidivism, as well as which program services are associated with changes in these short term outcomes.

Long Term Outcome: Recidivism

Colorado's standard criterion for recidivism is a filing or filings for a new offense either while the juvenile was in the program or up to one year after they exited the program. While this definition is important for assessing recidivism after an initial offense, it does not accurately assess the impact of having completed a juvenile diversion program on recidivism. For instance, many youth do not successfully complete diversion programming *because* of a new offense. For this reason, two different recidivism variables were created; one that matches the official definition of recidivism, and one that looks only at an offense and filing that occurs *after* participation in diversion (post-program recidivism). This provides a starting point to understand what impact the program may have on later offenses. Table 4 below displays both the official (during and post-program recidivism) and the post-program only recidivism rate, the latter of which is used for the remaining analyses and will be discussed in the text.

Additionally, at the time of this report not all youth had exited the program for a full year. Previous recidivism analyses found that of youth who recidivated in the one year after programming, over 70% of youth recidivated within the first six months. For this reason youth who had been exited from their diversion program for six months or more were included in these analyses (including 821 youth). Recidivism rates shown here are preliminary and do not match the official definition of recidivism.

- Using the post-program recidivism rate, **overall, 13.4% of youth recidivated; 10.6% of youth who exited diversion successfully and 29.5% of youth who exited diversion unsuccessfully.**
- **Male youth were more likely to recidivate than females.**
- **Youth with prior police contact were more likely to recidivate than those who did not have prior police contact.**

Youth who were charged with a theft or drug offense also appear to have a higher recidivism rate than youth with other types of charges.

TABLE 4: RECIDIVISM BY DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics		During and Post-Program Recidivism	Post-Program Recidivism
Overall Recidivism		19.1%	13.4%
Exit Status	Successful	13.3%	10.6%
	Unsuccessful	52.5%	29.5%
Gender	Male	22.1%	15.4%
	Female	12.6%	9.2%
Ethnicity	White (Non-Hispanic)	21.9%	15.9%
	Hispanic/Latino	15.2%	10.1%
	Black/African American	30.4%	17.4%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	9.1%	9.1%
	American Indian	11.1%	0.0%
	Multi-Racial	10.7%	7.1%
	Other	0.0%	0.0%
Prior Police Contact	Yes	25.7%	18.9%
	No	17.5%	11.7%
Type of Most Serious Charge	Person	15.7%	9.1%
	Theft	21.1%	17.5%
	Sexual	0.0%	0.0%
	Property	17.0%	10.6%
	Drug	25.6%	18.2%
	Weapon	14.3%	14.3%

ARE CHANGES IN SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCED RECIDIVISM?

The final set of analyses examined the interrelationships among individual youth characteristics and background factors, services received, short term outcomes, and recidivism, using a multi-level model framework as described earlier. Findings indicated the following:

- **Juvenile diversion programs appear effective at reducing recidivism.**
- Specifically, **improvements in self-esteem, locus of control, and risky behavioral intentions were significantly correlated with reduced recidivism;** progress on these outcomes can therefore be used as indicators of effectiveness in reducing risk for recidivism.
- Additionally, **several services were related to change in the three short-term outcomes that predicted lower recidivism**. These services included treatment (specifically the presence of a diagnostic assessment to identify treatment needs), restorative justice, and supervision services.
- **Treatment services significantly predicted improvement in self-esteem**, among other short term outcomes.
- **A statistical trend was observed for restorative justice services on increased locus of control**; however, findings indicate that a single restorative justice service is not as effective as the provision of multiple restorative justice services.
- **Receiving multiple supervision services significantly predicted a decrease in risky behavioral intentions.** As noted previously, case management (a component of the supervision services) was provided to nearly all youth. However, this finding indicated that the greater number of supervision services that were provided (not case management alone) predicted a decrease in risky behavioral intentions, an outcome that is predictive of recidivism.
- Finally, although accountability services did not predict change in short term outcomes, **for youth who had prior contact with police, the provision of community service was associated with reduced recidivism**.

Individual youth characteristics that were collected, and reported in the descriptive section (Who Participates in Diversion?) above, were also assessed to understand if specific characteristics had an impact on success in diversion programming, change in short term outcomes, and likelihood of recidivism.

- **Individual youth characteristics did <u>not</u> significantly impact success in programming or in change on the short-term outcomes.**

- **Two characteristics were significantly predictive of greater likelihood to recidivate: being male or having had prior contact with police.** However, males and those with prior contact with police still benefited equally from diversion.

Further analyses also examined characteristics associated with the delivery of services. Findings showed that females were more likely to receive treatment and younger youth were more likely to be assigned multiple restorative justice services. Additionally, youth with more time in the program and older youth were more likely to be assigned multiple supervision services. However, these differences may reflect the demographics of youth served by programs more frequently providing these services.

Discussion

PROGRAM IMPACTS ON SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES AND RECIDIVISM

The data yielded a number of findings that provide an understanding of how diversion may impact youths' risk of recidivism. Specifically, desired changes in self-esteem, locus of control, and risky behavioral intentions were significantly correlated with reduced recidivism. And, community service independently predicted lower recidivism among youth with prior contact with police.

Several other services were associated with reduced recidivism through their impact on the three short-term outcomes. Receiving restorative justice services marginally predicted change in locus of control, but this association was only observed for those receiving multiple services. Receipt of multiple supervision services was predictive of a decrease in risky behavioral intentions, however it is possible that youth considered at greater risk of recidivism were more likely to be assigned additional supervision such as drug/alcohol testing and electronic monitoring, and had more 'room' to decrease their risky behavioral intentions.

Treatment services were the strongest predictor of positive change in short-term outcomes (impacting self-esteem, decision making and future aspirations). In particular, receiving a diagnostic assessment significantly predicted greater increase in self-esteem, which was in turn associated with reduced recidivism. We believe that having received a diagnostic assessment is best interpreted as a proxy for having been properly assessed and then treated as necessary based on the results. Programs that use a formal brief screen as part of their intake and assessment practices were more likely to assign treatment services for youth, highlighting the importance of having a process to identify and address treatment needs.

It is critical to note that the lack of significant findings for other services should not yet be used to conclude they are ineffective. It is possible that some services or programming may need to be implemented with greater fidelity or dosage in order to demonstrate effects. It is also possible that youth may be less able to benefit from other core services and programming when they have unmet treatment needs. Only 38% of diversion youth received one or more treatment services, yet research indicates that over two-thirds of juvenile offenders will have a mental health disorder in their lifetime[19]. More generally, it is important to replicate findings before drawing strong conclusions; continuation of the evaluation will allow for these findings to be re-tested.

PROVISION AND FUNDING OF SERVICES

Some services youth received were provided by the diversion programs while others were referred out; and several services were supported through other funding sources.

DA programs were more likely to provide supervision and treatment resources internally. Nearly all restorative justice services were provided in-house and paid for by DCJ funding. Municipal organizations were especially likely to provide restorative justice services internally. Community organizations were more likely to provide restitution internally. Thus, depending on the type of program, services that are more likely to impact the outcomes that predict recidivism may be referred out and paid for by non-DCJ diversion funds.

While the majority of case management services were provided internally and funded by DCJ, it is important to examine other supervision services since significant impacts were only observed when youth received multiple supervision services. Drug and alcohol testing, the supervision service provided most frequently after case management, was less likely to be supported by DCJ funding and was referred out almost 50% of the time.

In regards to treatment, many programs anecdotally expressed concern about screening or assessing youth for treatment needs because they do not have the internal capacity to provide treatment. With support from the data to highlight the importance of assessing youths' need for treatment services, it is critical that the ability to provide treatment in-house not dictate whether youth are assessed. Further, while multiple programs are able to provide a diagnostic assessment, few are using it broadly. At the aggregate level, over half of all diagnostic assessments were

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[19] Cauffman, E. (2004) A statewide screening of mental health symptoms among juvenile offenders in detention. *Journal of American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry*, *43*, 430-439. Kinscherff, R. (2012). *A primer for mental health practitioners working with youth involved in the juvenile justice system*. Washington, DC: Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health.

completed by one program, five programs provided a diagnostic assessment to fewer than 10 youth, and seven programs did not use a diagnostic assessment at all.

Restorative justice services are provided to the smallest proportion of youth, compared to all other service types. Restorative justice services are primarily funded by DCJ funding.

Community service was often paid for by non-DCJ funds and all types of programs were more likely to refer community service out than to provide it internally.

While the provision of services internally or externally may not make a difference in the effectiveness of the service for youth, it may be helpful for DCJ to prioritize funds toward the components of juvenile diversion program that appear to be more effective.

LIMITATIONS

These findings paint a promising picture of juvenile diversion in the state of Colorado, however, it is important to recognize that impacts are not equivalent across the 19 programs. As noted previously, programs served widely ranging numbers of youth with some serving as few as nine and others as many as 178 youth. Since most programs were only able to collect short-term outcome data on a subset of their youth, a sizable proportion (11 programs) had complete data for fewer than 25 youth making it particularly challenging to assess outcomes for these individual programs.

Matched pre-post survey data were collected for only 55% of youth overall. It will be critical to continue increasing program capacity to collect youth surveys at both intake and exit (i.e., matched pre *and* post). One of the four programs serving the largest number of youth also provided the smallest proportion of surveys (13% of the youth served). At the aggregate level, the demographics of the youth for whom we had short-term outcome data did not appear to differ meaningfully from the larger sample, and there was sufficient data to address all research questions. However, at the individual level, grantees may not have adequate or proportionate representation of their youth to assess program effectiveness.

More broadly, these findings only represent youth participating in DCJ-funded programs and there are specific criteria associated with youth being counted towards this particular grant, such as the presence of a district level offense (misdemeanor or felony). Programs often serve more youth than those who are counted towards this specific grant, many of which are referred from different sources (specifically, municipal or county courts). For this reason it is important to remember that while the data here are representative of those youth participating in DCJ-funded programs and activities, these findings may not be as widely applicable to a more general juvenile diversion audience. Further testing and replication of these findings would need to be conducted with a broader sample in order to comfortably apply them to different groups.

Demographic and background data are reported by program staff, rather than directly by youth. For this reason there is room for misrepresentation of youths' racial/ethnic identity and missing data can result if program staff are unaware of background information such as school history or prior misdemeanors or felonies. While program staff are encouraged to gather this information from the youth, youth are not always willing to share this information during the intake process.

Finally, as with all evaluations conducted in applied settings, the data cannot be used to establish causal relationships of programming to outcomes.

Recommendations

The results of the evaluation yielded a number of recommendations for future evaluation efforts, and for priority areas for DCJ to consider for juvenile diversion programming.

- **Maintain core evaluation activities including the collection of pre and post-survey data**. At the aggregate level, DCJ funded juvenile diversion programs are showing an impact on short-term outcomes that are indicators of reduced recidivism. However, the majority of DCJ funded juvenile diversion programs collected short-term outcome data on fewer than 25 youth in one and one-half years of data collection; continuing data collection efforts are important to replicate findings with a larger sample.

- **Identify opportunities to collect more risk and protective data on youth.** Incorporate additional measures of individual risk and protective factor characteristics into the evaluation to further determine what, if any, characteristics of specific individuals or groups are associated with greater responsiveness to juvenile diversion.

- **Increase engagement of individual level grantees with their program level results.** Work with grantees to review and consider the implications of the aggregate evaluation findings for their own program practices and outcomes.

- **Explore common process and fidelity measures** that could be implemented across projects or clusters of projects. Since not all programs are producing the same outcomes, it is important to look at those who are impacting the short-term outcomes that are significantly correlated with recidivism. Closer examination of these high-performing programs can enhance understanding of components or processes that are driving positive impacts.

- **Future grant Request for Applications should be informed by findings from the evaluation.** Initial findings indicate that treatment services, multiple restorative justice services, multiple supervision services and community service for youth with prior contact with police are useful program components. Programs that don't currently provide these services should explore including them, with consideration of their target population.

- **Explore the underrepresentation of non-white youth, specifically African-American youth, in juvenile diversion**. DCJ has expressed concern about the underrepresentation of non-white youth in juvenile diversion. To understand and combat this issue, efforts should be put toward engaging agencies in the larger juvenile justice system, such as District Attorneys' offices, to better understand their referral decision making process and provide support in defining their criteria for youth to be referred to diversion.

- **Identify barriers to and opportunities for the implementation of a process for screening and assessing youth** across DCJ funded juvenile diversion programs. The findings indicate that simply having a process in place to assess and address mental health and substance use enhances program effectiveness. Implementing screening and assessment tools as part of the evaluation will be important for several reasons: to better document the prevalence of mental health and substance abuse issues among youth entering diversion; to understand programs' capacity to serve youth with these issues; and to more systematically examine how the provision or non-provision of treatment services influences outcomes for youth with these needs.

- **Data sharing agreements among diversion programs and partners can reduce concern of over-assessment**. Grantees currently administer formal brief screens or assessments in-house or access formal assessment information from external partners. It is unclear whether screening or assessment results are currently being used to determine referral to diversion, but it may be an area to further explore while working with District Attorneys.

Appendix A:Research Questions

Throughout this report as well as earlier reports and deliverables provided to DCJ, answers to the research questions have been provided. However, it is also helpful to clearly outline the question and the responses[20].

1) *Are diversion programs effective at reducing recidivism?*
   Three short-term outcomes were found to be significantly correlated with recidivism; self-esteem, locus of control, and risky behavioral intentions. These three short-term outcomes can be used as indicators of effectiveness in reducing risk for recidivism. As evidenced by programs impacting statistically significant change in the three short-term outcomes that predict recidivism, DCJ funded juvenile diversion programs are effective at reducing recidivism.

2) *What are the components of successful diversion programs?*
   Programs that show strong positive results in their individual program outcomes show an increase in the three short-term outcomes correlated with recidivism (self-esteem, locus of control, and risky behavioral intentions). Additionally, these programs also are providing some of the key services that impact these short-term outcomes; specifically, treatment services (use of a diagnostic assessment), multiple restorative justice services, and multiple supervision services.

   a) *What is the most appropriate target population?*
   Thus far, findings indicate that juvenile diversion can be effective for all youth insomuch as they were adequately represented in the sample. For instance, African-American youth were underrepresented at the aggregate level, thus conclusions cannot be made about the impact made by diversion. However, with regard to other types of factors, youth with seemingly higher risk (prior contact with police) realized benefits through juvenile diversion, as did youth who did not have prior contact.

   b) *How do the State funded diversion programs compare?*
   DCJ funded diversion programs show differences across all areas including their referral sources, the types of services they offer, the number of youth

[20] More detailed information about programs and their processes can be found in the Qualitative Analysis Report from Year 1 of the Evaluation. Specifically all or portions of questions 6, 9, and 10.

served, the criminal history of youth served, as well as size and complexity of their organization. Programs show differing levels of impact across the short-term outcomes as well. Specifically, five programs show strong positive impacts, demonstrating significant change on all three outcomes associated with reduced recidivism. Other programs show significant changes on other outcomes not associated with reduced recidivism, and still others see no significant changes (potentially due to small sample sizes) or change in the wrong direction.

3) *What are the completion rates of youth in the State funded diversion programs?*

Eighty-five percent of youth who begin DCJ funded diversion programs complete programming and exit successfully.

4) *Are there characteristics youth have that make them more or less successful (risk/protective factors)?*

None of the background factors that were collected on the intake form, such as demographics, school status, or prior contact with police, affected success in diversion. Information on substance abuse or mental health needs was not available for the evaluation as planned due to the decision to delay implementation of a common brief screen instrument until more information could be gathered on current program practices. Information about the presence of substance abuse or mental health issues was only tracked in cases where youth actually received treatment. As noted earlier, treatment services are correlated with a positive change in self-esteem which is predictive of reduced recidivism. Thus, it can be concluded that youth who are screened, assessed and referred to treatment as needed, are likely to be successful.

   a) *Do these affect program outcomes?*

No characteristics were predictive of more or less change on the short-term outcomes.

5) *Do any of the following components/variables affect youth's success in the state funded diversion programs?*
   a) *Point of referral (pre/post adjudication)*
   b) *Criminal history*
   c) *Presence of substance abuse issues*
   d) *Presence of mental health issues*

None of the background factors that were collected on the intake form, such as demographics, school status, adjudication, or prior contact with police, affected success in diversion. Information on substance abuse or mental health needs was

not available for the evaluation as planned due to the decision to delay implementation of a common brief screen instrument until more information could be gathered on current program practices. Information about the presence of substance abuse or mental health issues were only tracked in so much that youth received treatment. As noted earlier, treatment services are correlated with a positive change in self-esteem which is predictive of reduced recidivism. Thus, it can be concluded that youth who are screened, assessed and referred to treatment as needed, are likely to be successful.

6) *Does the availability and access of other resources in the community affect program outcomes?*

Programs have varying relationships with resources in their community. If programs are limited to only the services that they are able to offer, this may mean that youth are unable to receive the services they need. For instance programs that voice concern about screening and assessing youth for mental health needs because they don't have the resources to meet those needs may be limiting their ability to support youth in the most impactful way for the youth.

A common perception found among community-based organizations was that government-based organizations are less likely to collaborate with other community partners. This was in contrast to comments from government-based interviewees who recounted their ties to the communities they serve and the number of community-based resources available to their program participants. Government-based grantees also surmised that they have an advantage over community-based programs because they have better relationships with law enforcement or District Attorney's offices; however, with the exception of one, community-based grantees commented that they maintained good relationships with these agencies and that there were no problems to report.

7) *Does the type of offense, offense history, previous child welfare involvement and/or prior access to other services affect program outcomes?*

No background factors that were collected on the intake form, such as demographics, school status, or prior contact with police, affected change in short-term outcomes. Information about child welfare involvement and access to other services is not often available to programs and was not available for the evaluation as planned due to the decision to delay implementation of a common brief screen instrument until more information could be gathered on current program practices.

8) *Do programs that use a risk-assessment instrument have better outcomes?*

Programs that have a process in place to screen, assess and refer youth to necessary treatment are seeing strong positive outcomes in change in self-esteem which is associated with reduced recidivism.

9) What is the program capacity of the state funded diversion programs?

a) Specifically, what is the capacity to serve youth with substance abuse, mental health and co-occurring issues and in implementing evidence-based programs?

Program capacity of state funded diversion programs varies depending on available resources and trained staff to address treatment needs. Specifically, a few programs are able to serve youth internally with substance abuse or mental health treatment or counseling. Other programs occasionally refer youth to services for treatment. Anecdotally, some programs also share that they feel uncomfortable screening or assessing for treatment needs as they do not have the resources to support treatment needs.

Most programs understand the importance of implementing programs based on research (i.e. Moral Reconation Therapy); however, few programs are implementing evidence-based programs as found on SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs.

10) What do state funded diversion programs look like?

The DCJ funded juvenile diversion programs are very diverse in terms of type of program (DA office program, community organization, county organization, and municipal organization), the services offered, and the risk levels of youth. For instance programs in urban areas (which were more likely to be DA office programs) served a larger proportion (nearly half) of youth who had had prior contact with police, many of those being youth on probation.

a) Are their common components?

DCJ funded juvenile diversion programs all have a similar intake process. Specifically, an intake interview with a parent or guardian is conducted as well as a separate interview with the youth. All programs conduct an informal assessment of youth's needs and half of programs also use a formal brief screen instrument or assessment.

Most programs have similar criteria for accepting youth as well. Most programs have an age criterion of 10 to 17 for acceptance into the program. Additionally, most programs required that the youth admit guilt to their offense before being accepted into the program.

While exact activities included under case management differ among programs, all programs reported that they had staff that were responsible for monitoring youth compliance with juvenile diversion contracts

b) How do they utilize graduated sanctions?

Juvenile diversion programs may implement sanctions in response to technical violations or re-offense by youth while they are involved in programming. Eight juvenile diversion programs currently implement graduated sanctions. One program reported using incentives in conjunction with sanctions. Across organizations, the primary sanction used is additional community service hours. Other sanctions include: increasing curfew hours; requiring the juvenile to write an essay; and requiring the youth to write a research paper. Notably, restorative justice programs are much less likely to apply sanctions to youth. One participant indicated that the punitive effect of sanctions was replaced by a sense of accountability to others in the community, stating, "[Sanctions] don't follow with the restorative justice concept. It doesn't match what we do. So the graduated sanctions are actually built into the system around us."

A look at grantee documents, however, contrasts with the accounts provided by grantees during key informant interviews. In application documents, grantees across sites (regardless of program type) offered structured explanations of program policies around whether graduated sanctions are offered and the terms under which graduated sanctions would be offered. This is a departure from what was revealed in key informant interviews, where youth appear to be given multiple chances to remain in or return to diversion programs.

c) Is there a difference between the programs at District Attorney's Offices versus those that are community-based?

With regard to graduated sanctions, DA's Office-based programs and community-based programs are quite similar in their policies around sanctions. Both generally allow program participants who have reoffended to remain or return to their programs multiple times, indicating that diversion programs across the state are relatively willing to allow youth many chances to succeed in their program. DA's Office-based programs, however, are more likely to have formal policies in place regarding sanctions while community-based programs will take a more informal approach to sanctions and evaluate participants on a case-by-case basis.

As noted above, there are several similar components to diversion programs with regard to the acceptance criteria, intake process and case management services. However, there are also many differences between programs that are housed in a government agency (such as a DA office) compared to those that are community

based. Specifically, DA programs are more likely to have more supervision and treatment resources internally, while police departments were more likely to provide restorative justice services internally. Community organizations were more likely to provide restitution internally. All types of programs were more likely to refer community service out than to provide it internally.

While there were differences by program in the number of youth served, this was more often a result of location (urban versus rural) than of program type.

d) Were sanctions imposed quicker or more often in the programs at District Attorney's Offices?

Although grantees clearly articulated their theoretical use of graduated sanctions on their grant documents, it appears that sanctions are implemented more flexibly in practice. This is true even of programs based in District Attorney's offices. While those programs are more likely to have formal written sanctions policies, they are still often applied on an individualized, case by case basis, with all grantees giving many youth multiple chances to succeed. Restorative justice programs are much less likely to implement graduated (or other) sanctions, as many view this as contrary to their programs' guiding philosophy.

e) In community based programs, how does the relationship with the District Attorney's Office affect program outcomes?

It is unclear whether having a relationship with the District Attorney's office affects the program outcomes for community based programs. Programs that showed strong short-term outcome results were a combination of District Attorney's office programs and municipal organizations.

f) What does their relationship with schools look like?

A majority of participants identified existing relationships with the schools, ranging from relationships with School Resource Officers (SROs), to standing relationships with Principals, Vice Principals and School Board members. The level of partnership, and/or collaboration that juvenile diversion programs have with local schools varies across agencies.

Many grantees have recognized the need for school- and employment-specific services to be offered as a part of their programs. Goals related to both school and employment are tied to youth well-being, and better performances in these areas are outcomes targeted by most programs and outlined in many diversion contracts. A few agencies develop relationships with area schools in order to facilitate information exchange and allow for better tracking of diversion contractual obligations. The information shared between schools and diversion programs is typically in regards to grades or tardiness.

Some grantees have been able to leverage these relationships to offer tutoring or other educational services to diversion youth. This has been helpful, as only three grantees have been able to offer tutoring and two grantees have been able to offer education counseling to diversion youth on site. Education counseling involves providing advocacy around getting youth back into school or in a GED program, as well as working with teachers (for youth who remain in school). The accounts provided in the key informant interviews echo what emerged from the document review, where two grantees mentioned that they offer education services and three grantees mentioned offering employment services.

g) What were reasons youth were deemed unsuccessful?

Programs documented youths' exit status after the program by selecting one of several options. Reasons youth were considered unsuccessful included the following:

- noncompliance with their diversion contract,
- original charges were filed,
- arrest on new offense,
- new offense charges were filed

Appendix B: Protocols for Data Collection

INTAKE AND EXIT DATA

These data were entered into an online case management system, Efforts to Outcomes (ETO), which allowed program staff, OMNI and DCJ to review and audit data on an ongoing basis.

Youth received services from four main categories; Supervision, Treatment, Accountability, Restorative Justice and Competency. Supervision included services such as case management, tracking/mentoring, or drug/alcohol testing. Treatment included the use of assessments, provision of counseling/ treatment for mental health, substance use and offense specific treatment. Accountability included services such as community service and restitution as well as all restorative justice services (restorative justice conference, victim community impact panel, etc.). Competency, the final category, included Life Skills curricula, educational assistance, and other classes such as drug and alcohol classes and classes related to specific offenses. Additionally staff had an 'other' category where they could include any additional services provided that were not already captured.

SHORT TERM OUTCOME DATA

The seven outcomes collected on the pre- and post-surveys were selected based on feedback from DCJ, diversion programs, and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Council members that made up an Evaluation Steering Committee.

Parents/guardians were asked to provide written consent if they were willing to have the youth complete the survey. Youth were then asked to provide assent with the opportunity to refuse to take the survey or to skip any components of the survey regardless of the written consent provided. Youth who completed a pre-survey were asked to complete a post-survey at the time of their program completion. A limitation in this design was that post-data on youth who were unsuccessful were unable to be collected. However, it was decided that asking programs to collect data from youth who were unsuccessful would be challenging for programs and likely yield results that were not representative of all unsuccessful youth. For this reason only youth who were successful were targeted.

Data were collected using paper surveys and were sent to OMNI on a monthly basis. These were entered into a statistical software package and housed by OMNI.

LONG TERM OUTCOME DATA: RECIDIVISM

The data used to obtain information on the recidivism rate for diversion programming were extracted from the ICON/Eclipse database by DCJ Research staff. ICON/Eclipse is the current

case management system for trial courts in Colorado, and includes offense-related information (including type and number of offense(s) and filing date(s), the variables critical for this analysis) for all district and county-level courts in the state of Colorado (with the exception of the Denver County Court).

To match individuals to the ICON data, OMNI provided DCJ with a data set including juveniles' first and last name, date of birth, race/ethnicity, and the grant-funded organization that provided services to the juvenile. DCJ research staff then matched the diversion data with ICON data to provide information on whether individuals met Colorado's standard criteria for recidivism: a filing or filings for a new offense (criminal, misdemeanor, or juvenile delinquency) either while the juvenile was in the program or up to one year after they exited the program. In previous sets of recidivism analyses, it has been found that of youth who recidivate, about 75% of youth re-offend within the first 6 months of their exit from diversion. In order to assess the impact of the programs on recidivism, youth were included in the current analyses if they had been exited from the program for at least 6 months or more. This recidivism data was provided to OMNI and merged with the intake/exit form data and pre-post data to allow for analyses of factors associated with recidivism.

PROGRAM LEVEL DATA

OMNI also used program level data to further contextualize findings. This included qualitative data collected through phone interviews on programs' practices with regard to intake, assessment, and the assignment of services to youth. Program level data included the following:

- Agency Type[21]
- Program involvement in referral decisions
- Use of a formal or informal brief screen or assessment
- Type of formal brief screen or assessment
- Program duration
- Survey Rates[22]

[21] DA Office, County Office, Municipal Organizations, Community Organization
[22] The proportion of all youth served successfully who participated in the short-term outcome evaluation [pre-post]

EVALUATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In order to support the complex data collection and auditing efforts, OMNI used an evaluation technical assistance team to support all 19 grantees. Three OMNI staff members were assigned to individual programs in order to allow for intensive and individualized evaluation technical assistance. Pre- and post- outcome surveys were submitted to OMNI monthly, and intake and exit data were entered into ETO by program staff on an ongoing basis. Each month, when data were received, the evaluation team reviewed and audited data (both pre and post data as well as intake and exit data) allowing OMNI team members to work with individual programs about specific issues and challenges faced in data collection. This team structure and ongoing auditing and communication with programs increased data collection capacity as well as assured a high level of data quality.

Appendix C: Intake/Exit Form and Instructions

STATE JUVENILE DIVERSION INTAKE DATA FORM | **Colorado Division of Criminal Justice**

LOCAL AGENCY CASE ID#_____ **Intake Date:**_____

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **MI:**_____

1. Date of Birth _____/ _____ / _____
mm dd yy

2. Gender
- ❑ Male
- ❑ Female

3. Race/Ethnicity (Self-Report)
- ❑White, Non-Hispanic
- ❑ Hispanic/Latino
- ❑ Asian/Pacific Islander
- ❑ Black/African American
- ❑American Indian
- ❑Multi-Racial _____
- ❑ Other_____

4a. Current School Status
- ❑ Actively Enrolled in School
  - ❑ Traditional
  - ❑ Non-Traditional
- ❑ Drop Out
- ❑ Pursuing GED
- ❑ Graduate/GED
- ❑ Expelled (not otherwise enrolled)
- ❑ Unknown

4b. School History-Past Year
(check all that apply)
- ❑ Truant
- ❑ Suspended
- ❑ Expelled
- ❑ Unknown
- ❑ None of the above

5. Referral Agency/Source
- ❑ DA's Office
- ❑ Police/Sheriff
- ❑ District Court Judge/Magistra
- ❑ District Court Probation

6. Juvenile Justice Status at Referral

Pre-File
- ❑ Alternative to Summons/Arrest
- ❑ Alternative to Filing Petition

Pre-Adjudication
- ❑ Deferred Adjudication
- ❑ Informal Adjustment
- ❑ Filed/Dismissed without Prejudice
- ❑ Under DA Diversion Contract

Post-Adjudication
- ❑ Deferred Sentence
- ❑ On Probation

7. Type of Most Serious Charge/Offense at Referral
- ❑ Person ❑ Property
- ❑ Theft ❑ Drug
- ❑ Sexual ❑ Weapon

Description of Most Serious Charge/Offense:_____

8a. Level of Most Serious Charge/Offense at Referral
- ❑ Petty
- ❑ Misdemeanor
- ❑ Felony

8b. Class number of Most Serious Charge/Offense _____

9a. Total number of Felonies at Referral_____

9b. Total Number of Misdemeanors at Referral_____

10. Age at First Police Contact for Delinquency_____

11. Was a Contract Developed for Youth?
- ❑ Yes
- ❑ No

12. Intake Screening Decision
- ❑ Accept
- ❑ Agency Rejects
- ❑ Client refuses program

Date of Intake Decision _____/ _____ / _____
mm dd yy

EXIT FORM PAGE TWO (OVER)

STATE JUVENILE DIVERSION EXIT DATA FORM **Colorado Division of Criminal Justice**

LOCAL AGENCY CASE ID#_____

13. Date Juvenile Terminates/Exits from Program _____/ _____ / _____
mm dd yy

14. Status at Termination/Exit from Program:

- ❑ Successful
- ❑ Successful completion despite new charges being filed
- ❑ Unsuccessful due to non-compliance with contract
  Original charges filed/refiled/adjudicated
- ❑ Unsuccessful due to arrest on new offense
  New/original charges filed/re-filed/adjudicated
- ❑ Unsuccessful but charges not filed
- ❑ Chose court after diversion contract was signed
- ❑ Transferred to another DA diversion program
- ❑ Moved out of service area prior to completion
- ❑ Youth to receive detention

15. School Status at Termination/Exit from Program:

- ❑ Actively Enrolled in School
  - ❑ Traditional
  - ❑ Non-Traditional
- ❑ Drop Out
- ❑ Pursuing GED
- ❑ Graduate/GED
- ❑ Expelled (not otherwise enrolled)
- ❑ Unknown

16. Did the youth incur any new filings while participating in the Diversion Program?

- ❑ Yes
- ❑ No

If yes, at what level was the charge filed?

- ❑ Municipal Court
- ❑ County Court
- ❑ District Court

17a. Community Service

- ❑ Ordered – Provided in house
- ❑ Ordered – Referred to outside agency
- ❑ N/A

17b. Hours Required_____
17c. Hours Completed_____
If ordered, enter WHOLE numbers in 17b and 17c

18a. Restitution

- ❑ Ordered – Provided in house
- ❑ Ordered – Referred to outside agency
- ❑ N/A

18b. Amount Required $_____
18c. Amount Paid $_____
If ordered, enter WHOLE numbers in 18b and 18c

19. Services – Enter 1, 2, 3, or 4 (as defined) on each line below.

1= Provided by your agency, AND paid by your State Diversion Funds
2 = Provided by your agency, NOT paid by your State Diversion Funds
3 = Referred out AND paid for by your State Diversion Funds
4 = Referred out but NOT paid by State Diversion Funds

Supervision
_____ A. Case Management
_____ B. Electronic Monitoring
_____ C. Tracking/Mentoring
_____ D. Drug/Alcohol Testing

Treatment
_____E. Diagnostic Assessment
_____F. Multi-agency Assessment
_____G. Mental Health Counseling/ Treatment (Individual)
_____H. Mental Health Counseling/ Treatment (Group)
_____I. Mental Health Counseling/ Treatment (Family)
_____J. Drug/Alcohol Counseling/ Treatment
_____K. Offense-Specific Treatment

Accountability
_____L. Teen Court
_____M. Restorative Justice Conference/Circle Planning
_____N. Restorative Justice Conference/Circle
_____O. Victim/Offender Mediation
_____P. Victim/ Community Impact Panels
_____Q. Community Service
_____R. Restitution
_____S. Victim Empathy Classes
_____T. Apology to Victims

Other
_____BB.(Please Specify)_____

Competency
_____U. Education/Tutoring/GED
_____V. Life Skills
- ☐ *Peer relationships*
- ☐ *Communication*
- ☐ *Self-development*
- ☐ *Physical health*
- ☐ *Self-sufficiency*

_____W. Employment/Vocational
_____X. Drug/Alcohol Classes
_____Y. Offense-specific Classes
_____Z. Pro-social activities
_____AA. Special Projects

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE DCJ JUVENILE DIVERSION INTAKE/EXIT FORM

- DO NOT SUBMIT THESE FORMS TO DCJ -

The purpose of the intake/exit form is to collect data for each youth served and then enter the information into an online data collection system. Complete a form for each individual juvenile receiving services supported by the State Juvenile Diversion funds. If you have any questions about the form's implementation, consult these instructions, or call Michele Lovejoy at DCJ at (303) 239-5712 or (800) 201-1325, outside Denver. If you have any questions regarding data entry or ETO, contact dcjta@omni.org.

Demographics

Local Agency Case ID#: Identification number that is assigned by the service provider (OPTIONAL).

Intake Date: Date Intake meeting took place or the youth started receiving services.

Youth Name: PRINT the youth's FULL legal name (last, first and middle initial).

1. **Date of Birth:** Enter the month, day and year of juvenile's birth. The child should not be younger than 10, nor older than 17 (except when their 18th birthday occurred after arrest and before Referral Date).
2. **Gender:** Indicate the juvenile's gender by selecting male or female.
3. **Ethnicity:** Indicate what most accurately reflects the juvenile's race or ethnicity, based on self-report. *If "Multi-Racial" or "Other" is selected, provide an explanation.*

Intake Assessment

4a. Current School Status: Indicate which of the following best corresponds to juvenile's school status **at intake.**

- **Actively enrolled in a traditional school setting:** Pursuing their middle school or high school diploma in a public, private, charter, parochial
- **Actively enrolled in a nontraditional school setting:** Home school, expulsion school or online school.
- **Drop Out:** The youth and their parents have consented to allow the youth to 'drop out' of traditional school after the age of 17 and the youth is not pursuing any other education;
- **Pursuing GED:** The youth is no longer attending a traditional school or pursuing a middle school or high school diploma; but is pursuing his/her GED in a nontraditional school setting;
- **Graduate/GED:** The youth is no longer attending a traditional or nontraditional school or pursuing a middle school/high school diploma or GED because they have already obtained their high school diploma or GED; or
- **Expelled (not otherwise enrolled):** The youth has been expelled and is not enrolled in any other form of education (another high school, expulsion school, or GED program)
- **Unknown:** Have not been able to determine youth's school status at the time of intake.

4b. School History: Indicate all of the following that has occurred to the youth in the past school year. Check all that apply.

- **Truan**t: The student had been turned in for four or more unexcused absences in a month or 10 or more unexcused absences in a year;
- **Suspended:** The student had been suspended from their school. This includes suspension as a result of the offense that put them in diversion.
- **Expelled:** The youth had been expelled from school. This includes expulsion as a result of the offense that put them in diversion.
- **Unknown.**
- **None of the above.**

5. **Referral Agency/Source:** Indicate the agency type from which the referral was directly received.

6. **Juvenile Justice Status at Referral:** Indicate the juvenile's status within the juvenile justice system at the time the juvenile was referred to program.

    - Pre-File: Alternative to Summons/Arrest
        - Summons: A notice requiring a person to appear in court on a specific day at a specific time to answer to a charge against him/her
        - Arrest: To be taken into custody by legal authority
    - Pre-File: Alternative to Filing Petition
        - Petition: A formal written application to the Court, requesting specific judicial action. For the purposes of this form, filing petition is a delinquency petition filed by the district attorney that cites the law, municipal or county ordinance that the juvenile is alleged to have violated.
    - Pre-Adjudication: Deferred Adjudication
        - A case in which the Court, prior to trial or entry of a plea, and with the consent of the defendant and district attorney, orders the prosecution of the offense to be deferred. If the defendant satisfactorily completes supervision, charges will be dismissed with prejudice. If the defendant violates the conditions of supervision, he/she will be tried on the original charge.
            - Dismiss with prejudice: case is dismissed for good reason and bars re-filing of the charge.
    - Pre-Adjudication: Informal Adjustment
        - A disposition which does not involve a court hearing. If the juvenile admits the facts of the allegations (with parental consent), the child may be supervised for a period of time without being adjudicated.
    - Pre-Adjudication: Filed/Dismissed without Prejudice
        - The dismissal of a case while allowing for re-filing at a future date.
    - Pre-Adjudication: Under DA Diversion Contract
        - The juvenile is already participating in Diversion and has been referred to a new community organization program for Diversion
        - The juvenile has received new charges and been sent back to a Diversion program
    - Post-Adjudication: Deferred Sentence
        - A case in which the defendant enters a plea of guilt, and the court, with the consent of the defendant, and the district attorney, continues the case. The defendant is placed on supervision with conditions. If the defendant complies with all the conditions, the charges are dismissed. If the defendant fails he/she will be sentenced based upon the guilty plea.
    - Post-Adjudication: Probation
        - A sentence alternative to incarceration in which an adjudicated juvenile may be put under the supervision of a probation officer.

7. **Type of Most Serious Charge/Offense at Referral:** Indicate the type of the most serious charge/offense and enter a short description of the charge/offense. List only the most serious offense if there are multiple charges.

8a. **Level of Most Serious Charge/Offense:** Indicate the level of the most serious charge/offense.

    - Petty Offenses: You should only mark "Petty" if you have touched base with DCJ and received approval for using Diversion funds for petty offenses.

8b. **Class of Most Serious Charge/Offense at referral:** Enter the class of felony or misdemeanor. (e.g., Class 2 Felony)

9a. **Total Number of Felonies at Referral:** Fill in the total number of felony counts the juvenile was charged with at this referral. In this item count **all** referring charges.

9b. **Total Number of Misdemeanors at Referral:** Fill in the total number of misdemeanor counts the juvenile was charged with at this referral. In this item count **all** referring charges.

10. **Age at First Police Contact for Delinquency:** Enter the number reflecting the age at which the juvenile was first known to have been contacted by police for a delinquent act.

11. **Was A Diversion Behavioral Contract Developed for The Youth:** Indicate Yes or No.

12. **Intake Screening Decision/Date of Decision:** Indicate the most appropriate screening decision and the date of that decision.

Termination/Exit Assessment (page 2 of Intake/Exit form

13. **Date Juvenile Terminated/Exited from Program:** Enter the date the juvenile terminated from the program.
14. **Status at Termination/Exit from Program**: Indicate the reason for termination/exit.

15. **School Status at Termination/Exit:** Indicate which description best corresponds to juvenile's school status **at termination/exit** (explanations on page one, 4a)

16. **New Filings while in Diversion:** If the youth incurred any new filings (regardless of the level), please check 'yes' and then identify the level of the charge. If the youth did not incur any new filings, or if you don't know if the youth incurred new filings while participating in the Diversion program, check 'no' and skip the item asking for the level at which the charge was filed.

17a. **Community Service:** If community service hours were ordered by the court, are part of the diversion contract or are the result of an agreement in a mediation/conference, etc., mark whether your agency provides the service, or if the youth is referred to another agency to complete this requirement. If community service was not ordered, please indicate N/A (not applicable).

17b. **If community service was ordered, please** indicate the number of community service hours required (in whole numbers). If community service was not ordered, please leave the field blank.

17c. **If community service was ordered, please** indicate the number of community service hours completed (in whole numbers). If community service was not ordered, please leave the field blank.

18a. **Restitution:** If restitution was ordered by the court, are part of the diversion contract or are the result of an agreement in a mediation/conference, etc., mark whether your agency provides the service, or if the youth is referred to another agency to complete this requirement. If restitution was not ordered, please indicate N/A (not applicable).

18b. **If restitution was ordered, please** indicate the amount of restitution required (in whole dollar amounts). If restitution was not ordered, please leave the field blank.

18c. **If restitution was ordered, please** indicate the amount of restitution paid (in whole dollar amounts). If restitution was not ordered, please leave the field blank.

19. **Services Provided To Juvenile:** If the juvenile was accepted into your program, enter the appropriate number on each line indicating if the service provided was:

    1 - Provided by your agency, AND paid for by your State Diversion Funds

    2 - Provided by your agency, but NOT paid by your State Diversion Funds

    3 - Referred out AND paid for by your State Diversion Funds, or

    4 - Referred out but NOT paid for by your State Diversion Funds

    Below are the descriptions of each service.

Service Descriptions

Supervision

- **A. Case Management:** The collaborative process of screening, planning, facilitation and advocacy for options and services to meet the youth's needs.
- **B. Electronic Monitoring:** A sanction in which an electronic device is worn by a youth that can alert staff to the whereabouts of the youth.
- **C. Tracking/Mentoring:** The use of an adult role model who volunteers or is hired specifically to mentor or track the youth in their daily activities. This is not case management.
- **D. Drug/Alcohol Testing:** Testing youth for drugs or alcohol (for example, breath, urine, or hair tests).

Treatment

- **E. Diagnostic Assessment:** Assessment that is beyond a brief screen (such as the MAYSI-2 or CJRA) that is conducted by a trained mental health or substance abuse professional or clinician to identify treatment needs.
- **F. Multi-agency Assessment:** Assessment and care coordination processes involving representatives from multiple local agencies. Examples of this include assessments conducted by HB1451 Individualized Services and Support Teams, Wraparound Services, etc.
- **G. Mental Health Counseling/Treatment (Individual):** Counseling or treatment conducted on a one-on-one basis to address mental, emotional, or behavioral issues.
- **H. Mental Health Counseling/Treatment (Group):** Counseling or treatment conducted in a group setting with multiple youth to address mental, emotional, or behavioral issues.
- **I. Mental Health Counseling/Treatment (Family):** Counseling or treatment conducted with diversion youth and at least one member of his/her family to address family functioning and/or the diversion youth's mental, emotional, or behavioral issues.
- **J. Drug/Alcohol Counseling/Treatment:** Counseling or treatment in an individual or group setting to treat substance abuse and substance dependence among youth.
- **K. Offense-Specific Treatment:** Treatment or counseling geared towards offenses incurred by youth (excluding drug- and alcohol-related offenses—please mark item "J" if youth receives drug/alcohol treatment or counseling). This includes interventions that address sexual offenses, arson, partner violence, etc.

Accountability

- **L. Teen Court:** A program that offers diversion youth the opportunity to undergo court proceedings held by volunteer teen juries, lawyers, judges, or other courtroom staff.
- **M. Restorative Justice Conference/Circle Planning:** Planning activities leading to a structured meeting between offenders, victims, both parties' families and friends, and/or other community members in which a facilitator leads a discussion on the consequences of the crime and how best to repair the harm. Planning activities can include pre-conference/pre-circle meetings, interviews, or other coordination activities.

N. **Restorative Justice Conference/Circle:** A structured meeting between offenders, victims, both parties' families and friends, and/or other community members in which a facilitator leads a discussion on the consequences of the crime and how best to repair the harm. Please select both this item and item "M" if a conference/circle takes place.

O. **Victim/Offender Mediation:** A meeting between the victim and the offender in the presence of a trained mediator. In the meeting, the offender and victim may talk to each other about what happened, the effects of the crime on their lives, and their feelings about it.

P. **Victim/Community Impact Panels:** A meeting where victims or members of the community sit on a panel and speak to offenders about the impacts of crime on the community.

Q. **Community Service:** Services completed by youth to benefit a community or its institutions and/or compensate for doing harm.

R. **Restitution:** A monetary payment sometimes ordered to be made as part of a judgment in a case to restore a loss. This may require payment for the harm caused and/or return of stolen goods.

S. **Victim Empathy Classes:** Classes designed to educate youth on victims' experiences. These classes are conducted by a facilitator and generally use a set curricula or lesson plan.

T. **Apology to Victims:** A written or verbal apology delivered from youth to victims as a stand-alone diversion contract item.

Competency

U. **Education/Tutoring:** Select if tutoring or education enhancement activities (getting youth back into school, setting up an IEP, or providing alternative ways for the youth to obtain a high school diploma or GED) are provided for the youth as part of their diversion placement.

V. **Life Skills: P**rogramming delivered in a group setting that seeks to improve the health and well-being of youth and includes any of the Life Skills topic areas indicated below (select all topics that apply).
    - Peer relationships: Programming that addresses topics such as appropriate friends, dating and relationships, and peer pressure.
    - Communication: Programming that addresses topics such as refusal skills, communication, and resolving disputes
    - Self-development: Programming that addresses topics such as self-esteem, self-awareness, social skills, managing stress and anger, and making positive decisions
    - Physical health: Programming that addresses topics such as body maintenance, nutrition, sexual health
    - Self-sufficiency: Programming that addresses topics such as money management, living on your own, and the legal system

W. **Employment/Vocational:** Programming or classes that teach about job applications or resume building as well as any referrals to external workforce development programs.

X. **Drug/Alcohol Classes:** An educational session often delivered in a group setting that discusses the impact of drug/alcohol with youth.

Y. **Offense-specific Classes:** Group classes that address topics specific to youths' offenses such as shoplifting, arson, or weapons.

Z. **Pro-social activities:** Programs that engage youth in activities that provide them with opportunities to spend time in healthy, drug-free social environments such as hiking, camping, rafting, or art programs (that are not intended as community service or restitution).

AA. **Special Projects:** Individual youth projects such as writing essays, doing a presentation, or creating a poster that is intended to educate the youth.

Other

BB. **Other (please specify):** Programming or Activities that do not fit under the provided categories. Please give us the name of the activity and describe the activity

Appendix D: Pre-Post Survey and Instructions

ETO Case Number: _____ Agency Name: (prefilled)
Survey Date: __/__/__ Survey completed at: ❑ Intake ❑ Exit

Juvenile Diversion Program Survey

As a participant in this program, we would like you to answer some questions about your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. There are no right or wrong answers so choose the answer that is closest to what you really think or feel. This survey will help make the diversion program useful for other people your age who are referred to it so please answer each question as thoughtfully and honestly as possible. Your responses will help make the diversion program better.

The juvenile diversion program you are enrolled in is working with OMNI Institute, a research organization, to help review information and report on what is learned about the program. **Please DO NOT put your name anywhere on this survey.** All of your answers will be kept private and will only be seen by OMNI Institute staff and researchers.

Completing this survey is completely voluntary so you may skip any question that you do not wish to answer. Whether or not you answer the questions will not affect the services you receive from the diversion program.

Please read every question carefully and choose only one answer for each question unless the directions say you can pick more than one answer. If you don't find an answer that fits exactly, use the one that comes closest.

Thank you very much for completing this survey!!!!!!

Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I care what adults in my community think of me.	❑	❑	❑	❑
2. I do not get along with some adults in my community.	❑	❑	❑	❑
3. I want to be respected by adults in my community.	❑	❑	❑	❑
4. I try to get along with most adults in my community.	❑	❑	❑	❑
5. I always try hard to earn the trust of most adults in my community.	❑	❑	❑	❑
6. I usually like the adults in my community.	❑	❑	❑	❑

Please mark the box that best matches how often you do the following.

	Never	Sometimes, but Not Often	Often	All of the Time
7. How often do you stop to think about your options before you make a decision?	❑	❑	❑	❑
8. How often do you stop to think about how your decisions may affect others' feelings?	❑	❑	❑	❑
9. How often do you stop and think about all of the things that may happen as a result of your decisions?	❑	❑	❑	❑
10. How often do you make good decisions?	❑	❑	❑	❑

How important is it to you that…

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
11. You will graduate from high school?	❑	❑	❑	❑
12. You will go to college?	❑	❑	❑	❑
13. You will have a job that pays well?	❑	❑	❑	❑
14. You will stay in good health?	❑	❑	❑	❑
15. You will do community work or volunteer work?	❑	❑	❑	❑
16. You will have good friends that you can count on?	❑	❑	❑	❑

Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
17. I am happy with the way I do most things	❑	❑	❑	❑
18. I sometimes think that I am a 'loser'	❑	❑	❑	❑
19. I am the kind of person I want to be	❑	❑	❑	❑
20. I like being just the way I am	❑	❑	❑	❑
21. I have a lot to be proud of	❑	❑	❑	❑

Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.

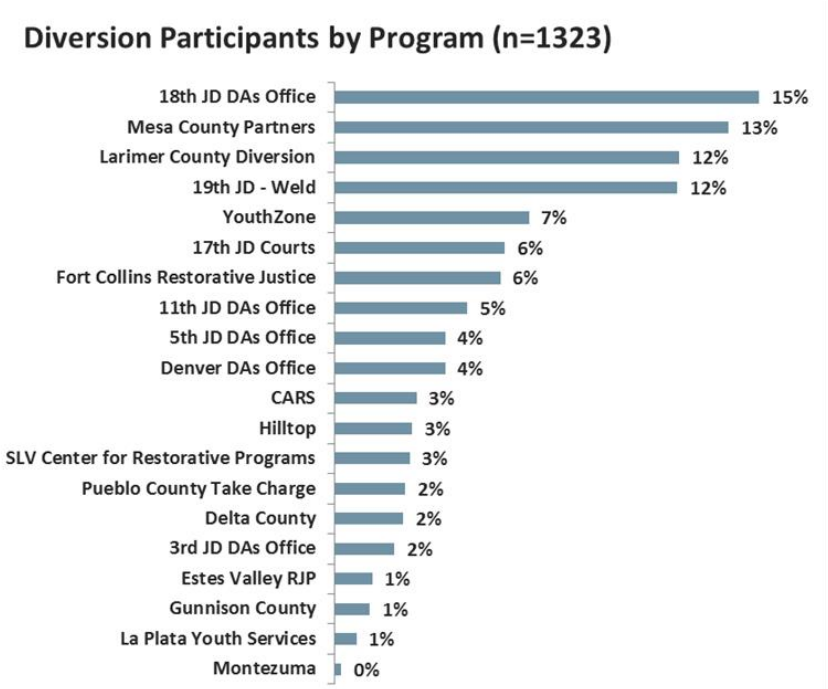
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
22. There is really no way I can solve some of the problems I have	❑	❑	❑	❑
23. Sometimes I feel that I'm being pushed around in life	❑	❑	❑	❑
24. I have little control over the things that happen to me	❑	❑	❑	❑
25. I can do just about anything I really set my mind to	❑	❑	❑	❑
26. I often feel helpless in dealing with the problems of life	❑	❑	❑	❑
27. What happens to me in the future mostly depends on me	❑	❑	❑	❑
28. There is little I can do to change many of the important things in my life	❑	❑	❑	❑
	Strongly Disagree	**Disagree**	**Agree**	**Strongly Agree**
29. My crime hurt my community	❑	❑	❑	❑
30. My crime hurt the victim	❑	❑	❑	❑
31. My crime hurt my family	❑	❑	❑	❑
32. My crime hurt me	❑	❑	❑	❑
33. What I did (my crime) was wrong	❑	❑	❑	❑
34. My family thinks what I did (my crime) was wrong	❑	❑	❑	❑
35. I think it is okay to take something without asking if you can get away with it	❑	❑	❑	❑
36. I think sometimes it's okay to cheat at school	❑	❑	❑	❑
37. It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight	❑	❑	❑	❑
38. It is important to be honest with your parents, even if they become upset or you get punished	❑	❑	❑	❑

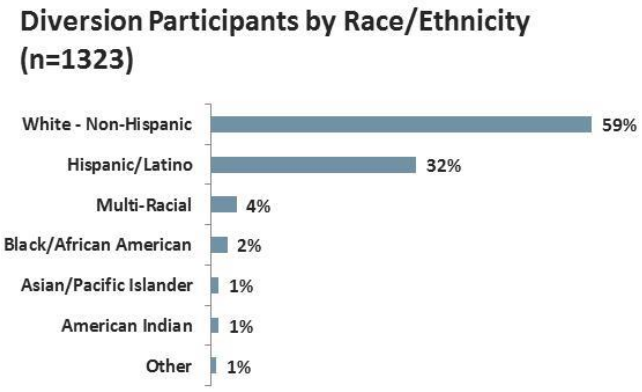
Within the next month, how likely is it that you will…

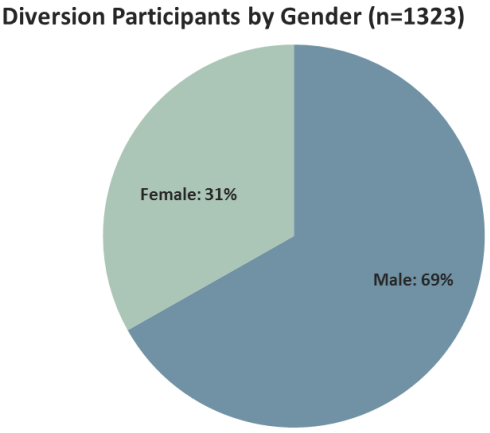
	Not at all Likely	Not Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely
39. Run away from home?	❑	❑	❑	❑
40. Skip classes without an excuse?	❑	❑	❑	❑
41. Carry a hidden weapon?	❑	❑	❑	❑
42. Damage, destroy or mark up somebody else's property on purpose?	❑	❑	❑	❑
43. Try to steal money or things?	❑	❑	❑	❑
44. Take a car or motorcycle for a ride without the owner's permission?	❑	❑	❑	❑
45. Get into a physical fight?	❑	❑	❑	❑
46. Get drunk?	❑	❑	❑	❑
47. Get high on drugs?	❑	❑	❑	❑
48. Lie, disobey or talk back to adults such as parents, teachers, or others?	❑	❑	❑	❑
49. Hit someone with the idea of hurting that person?	❑	❑	❑	❑
50. Tease other students?	❑	❑	❑	❑
51. Threaten to hit or hurt another student?	❑	❑	❑	❑

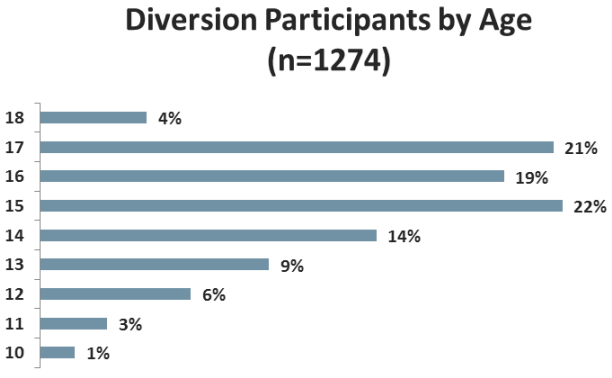
Thank You!!!

Appendix E: Descriptive Data

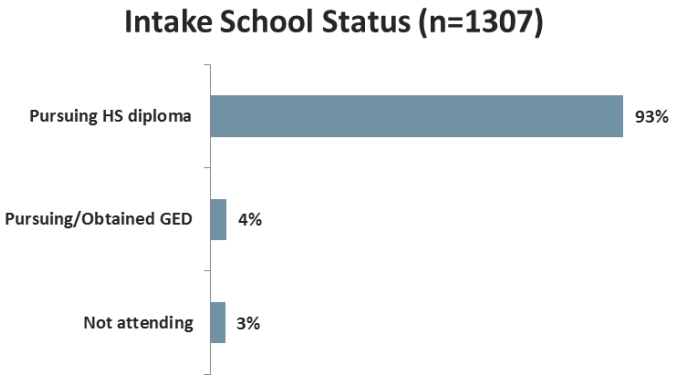


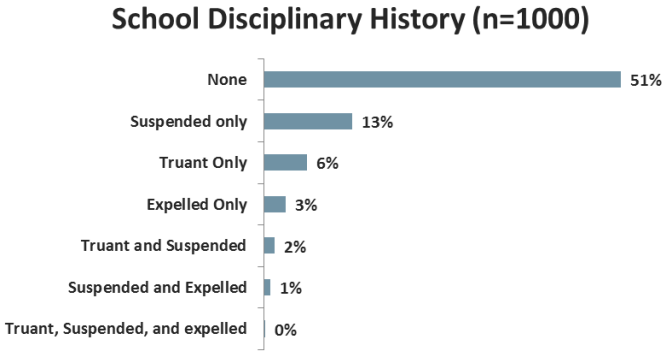




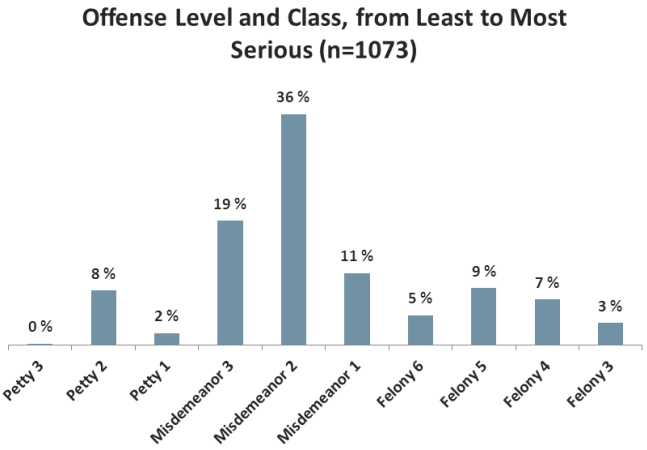


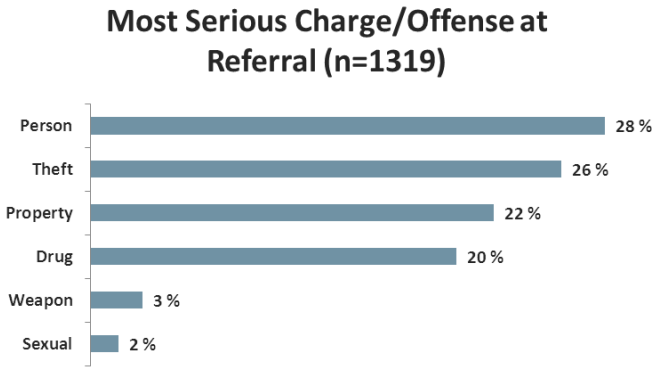
Age at Intake (n=1274)	
Mean	15.05
Minimum	10
Maximum	18

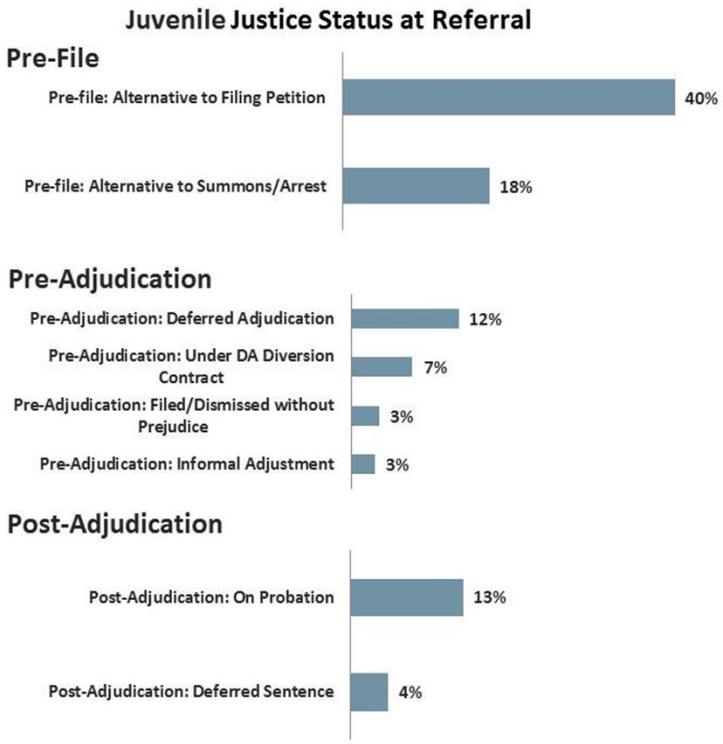

Intake School Status (n=1307)
Pursuing HS diploma
93%
Pursuing/Obtained GED
4%
Not attending
3%

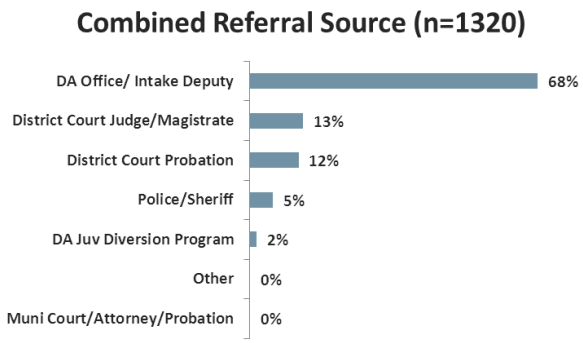

School Disciplinary History (n=1000)
None
51%
Suspended only
13%
Truant Only
6%
Expelled Only
3%
Truant and Suspended
2%
Suspended and Expelled
1%
Truant, Suspended, and expelled
0%

Appendix F: Intake Data

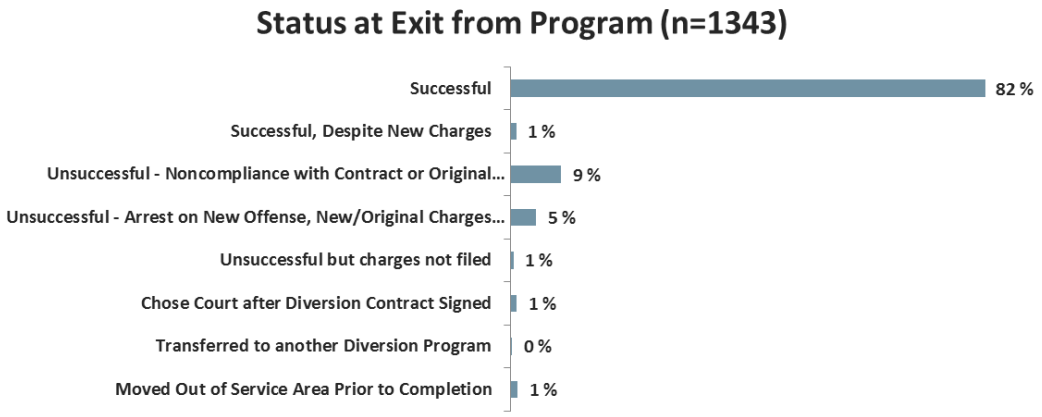




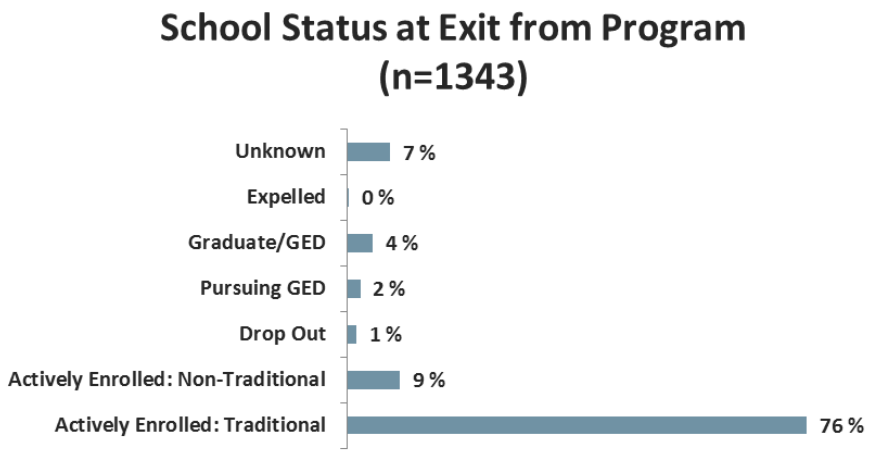




Appendix G: Exit Data



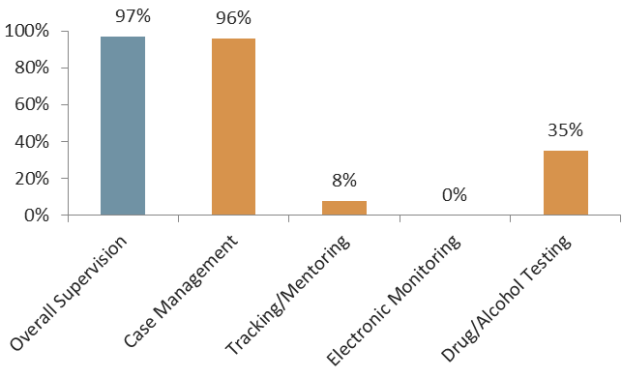
131 Diversion youth had a new charge filed while in diversion.	
Of those…	25.9% were filed in Municipal Court
	18.3% were filed in County Court
	56.4% were filed in District Court



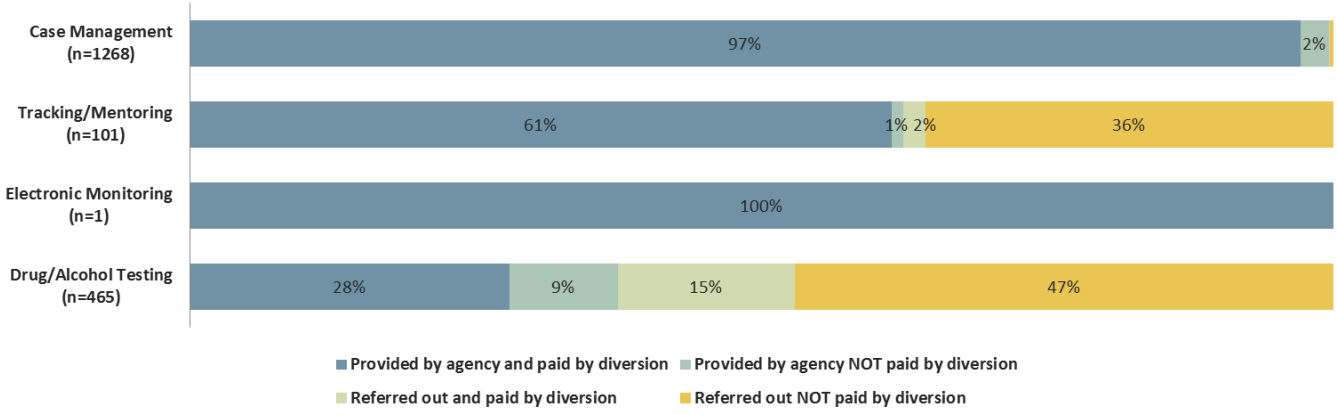
	Required	Completed
Community Service (Hours)	14.04	170.34
Restitution (Dollars)	11.90	89.60

The following Services Charts are the same as those reflected in the body of the report.

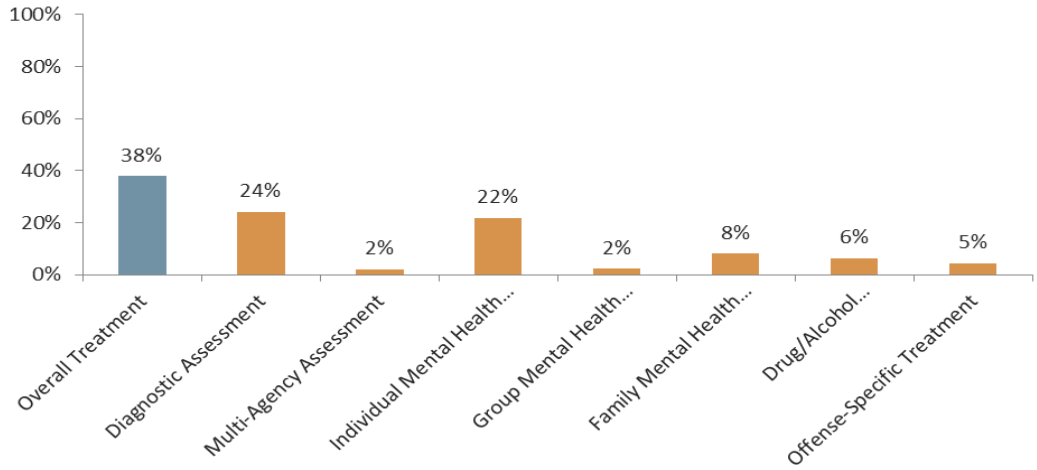
Supervision Services



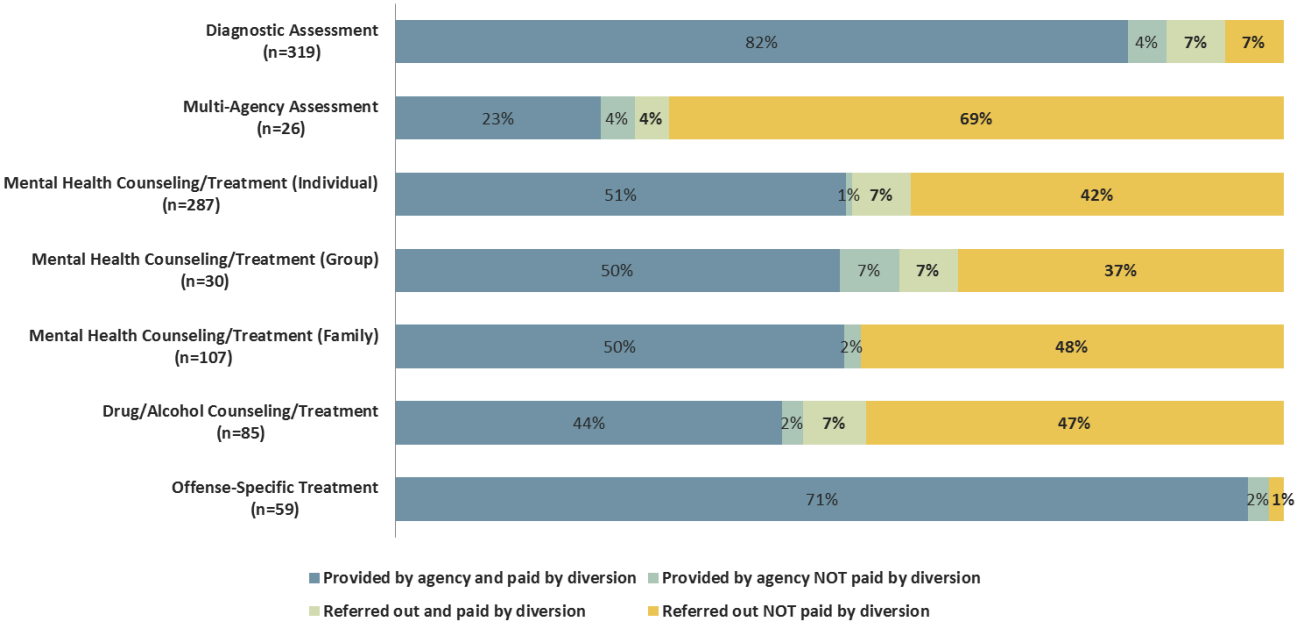
Supervision Services | Who and How Provided



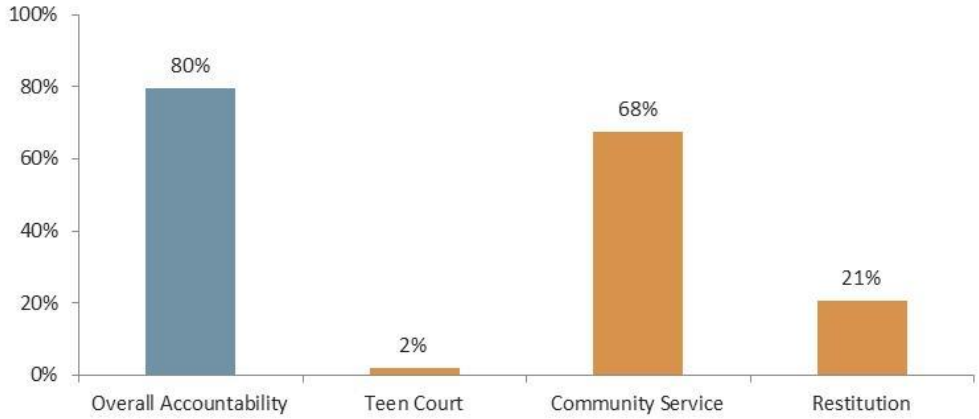
Treatment Services



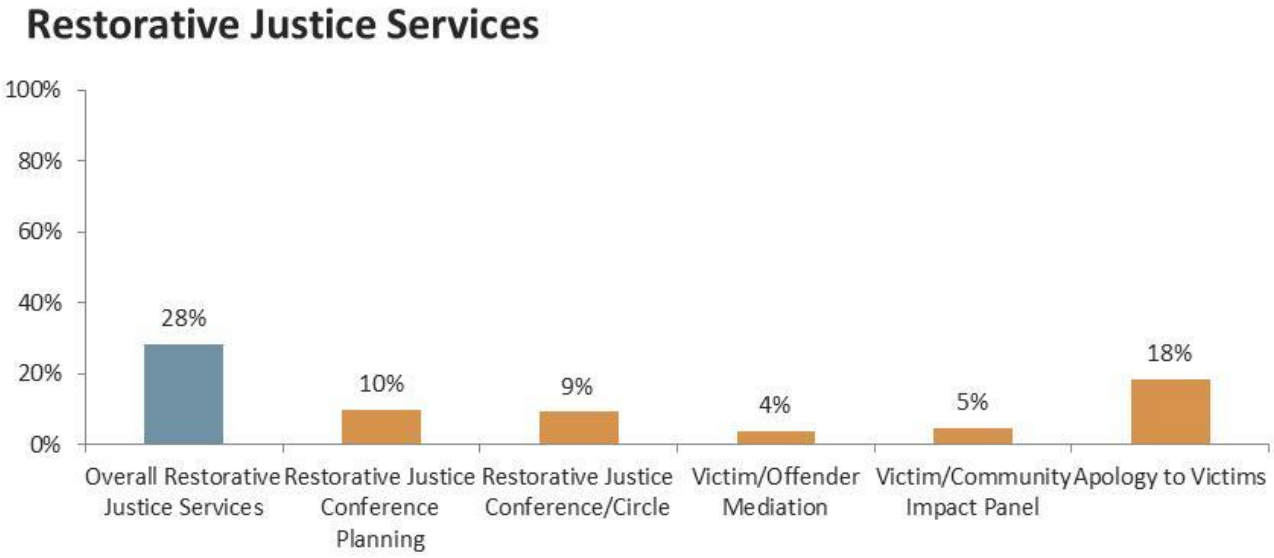
Treatment Services | Who and How Provided



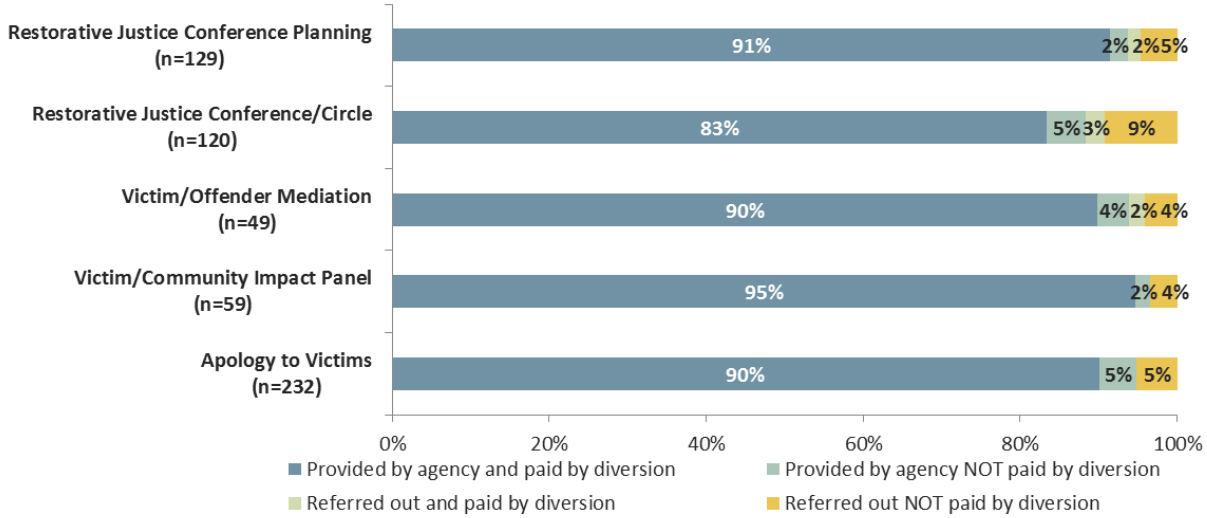
Accountability Services



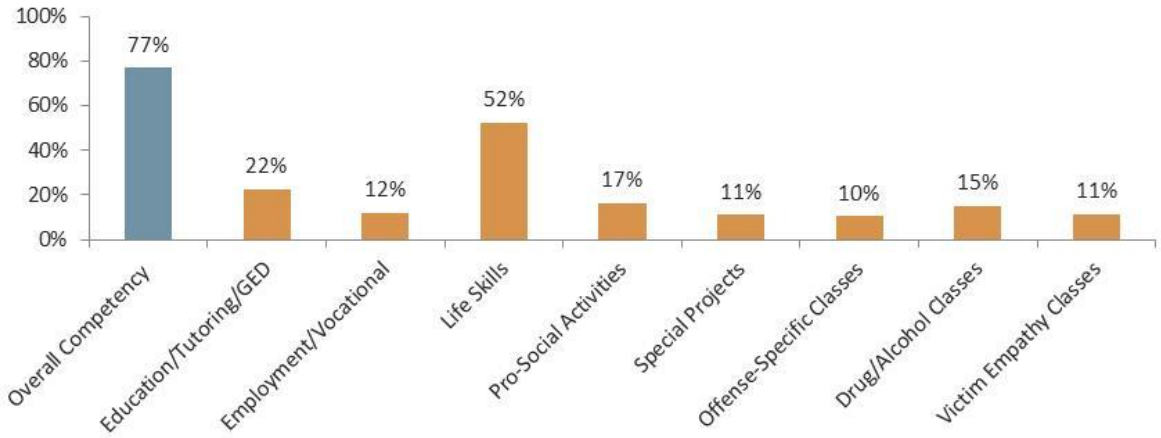
Accountability Services | Who and How Provided
Teen Court (n=26)
100%
Community Service (n=893)
43%
3%
2%
53%
Restitution (n=272)
79%
4%
17%
Provided by agency and paid by diversion
Provided by agency NOT paid by diversion
Referred out and paid by diversion
Referred out NOT paid by diversion


Restorative Justice Services
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
28%
10%
9%
4%
5%
18%
Overall Restorative Justice Services
Restorative Justice Conference Planning
Restorative Justice Conference/Circle
Victim/Offender Mediation
Victim/Community Impact Panel
Apology to Victims

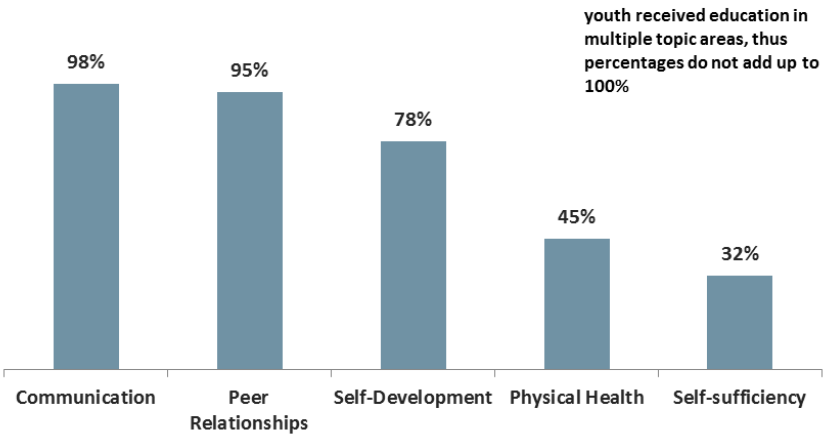
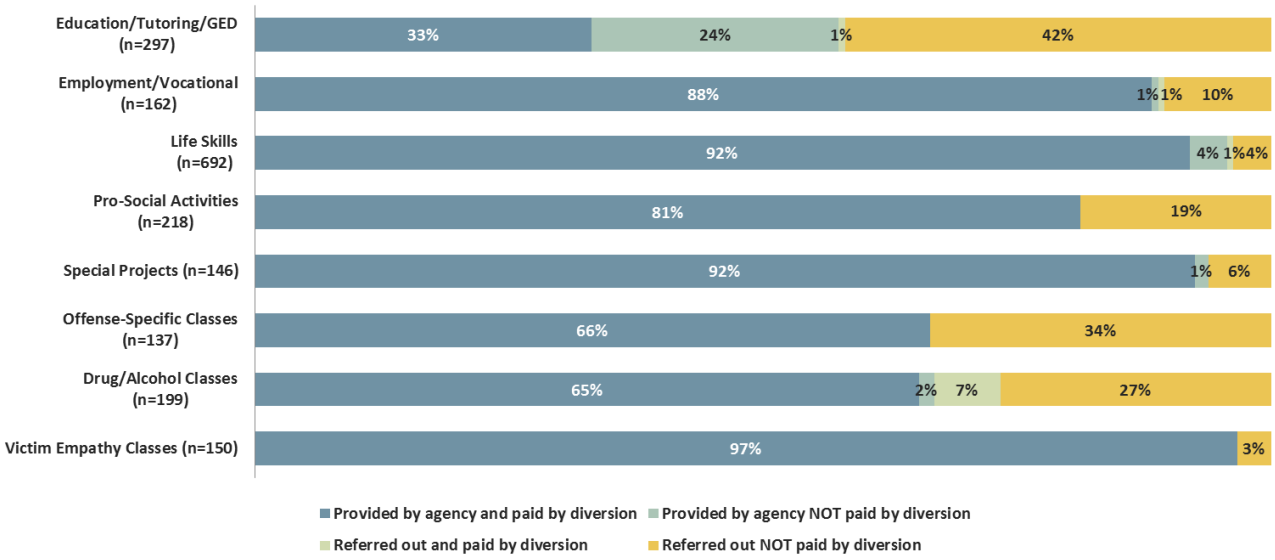
Restorative Justice Services| Who and How Provided



Competency Services



Life Skills Topics



Competency Services | Who and How Provided