

Statewide Evaluation of the DCJ Juvenile Diversion Program

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Executive Summary

Background

Created by Colorado state statute and administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, the Juvenile Diversion 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 the State funded Juvenile Diversion program, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council through 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.

In any evaluation, replication is critical for a program to be confident in the findings, conclusions and recommendations. As such, this report revisited the questions that were preliminarily addressed in the 2013 report¹ including data from July 2011 through June 2013.

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:

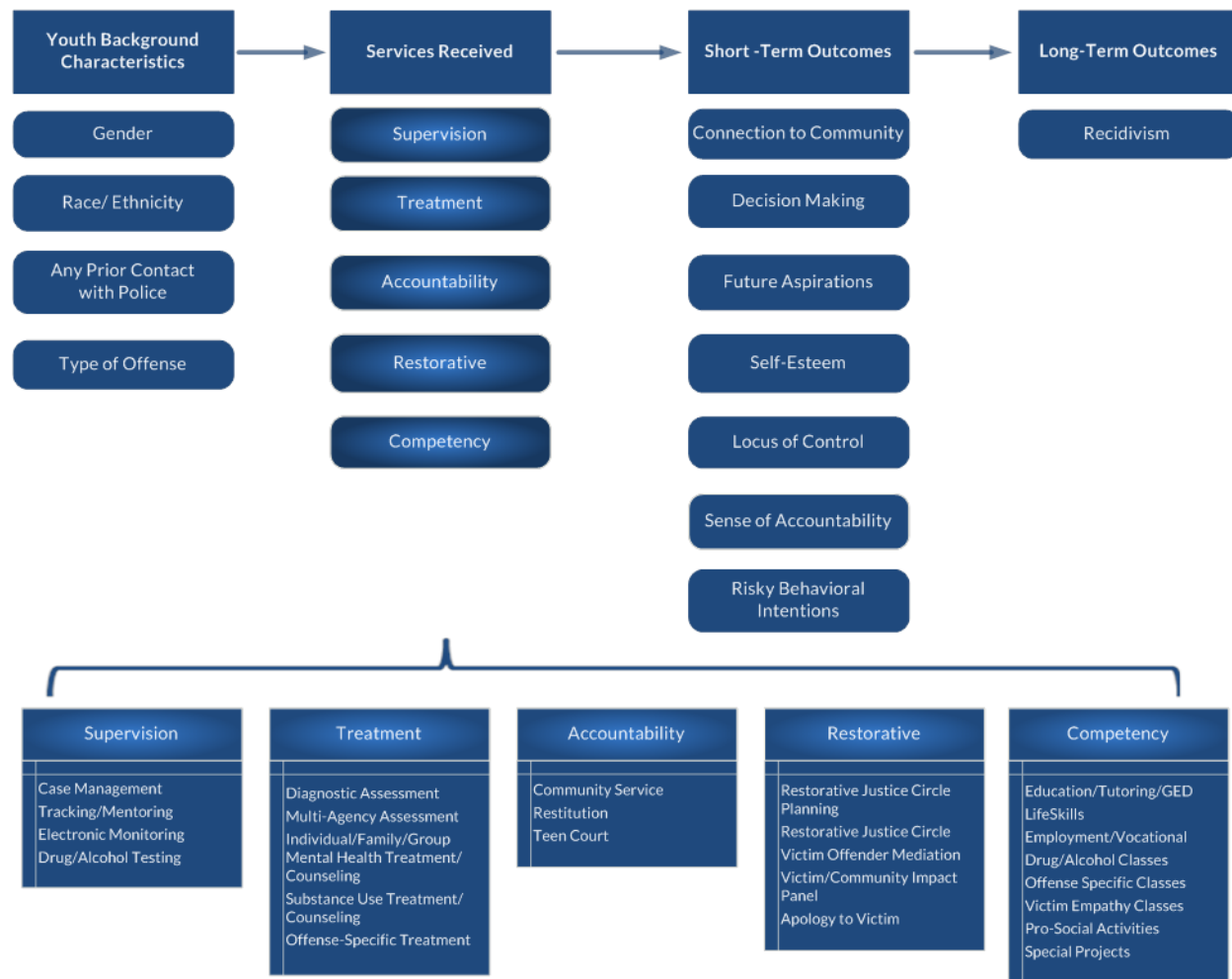
1. Who is served by diversion?
2. What services are provided?
3. Are programs/services effective?
4. What youth and program factors are associated with (reduced) recidivism?

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

¹ The 2013 report included data from July 2011 through January 2013.

programs. Finally, in order to better assess the impact of diversion on youth, data were split into two cohorts to reflect the group of youth that exited diversion by the end of January 2013 (and were included in the previous report) and Cohort II encompassing all youth that exited diversion between February 2013 and June 2014.

DIVERSION EVALUATION LOGIC MODEL

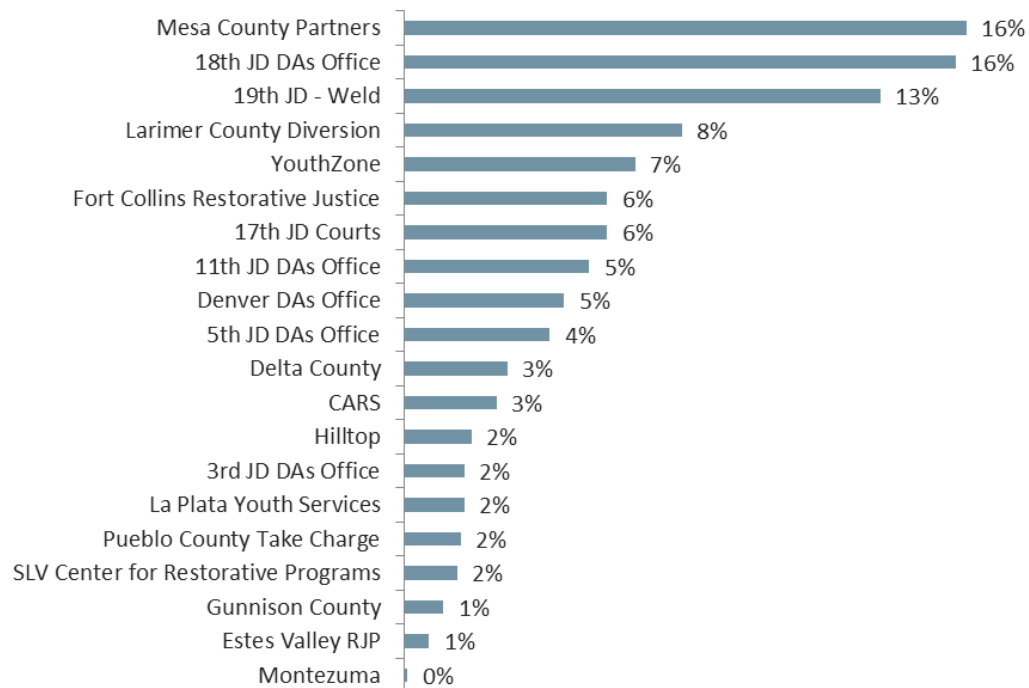


Who is Served by Diversion?

Diversion programs served 2,931 youth across Colorado during 3 years of data collection.

Programs differed greatly in the numbers of youth served with programs on average serving 147 youth; the smallest programs served fewer than 35 youth and the largest program served over 400 youth.

Diversion Participants by Program (n=2931)

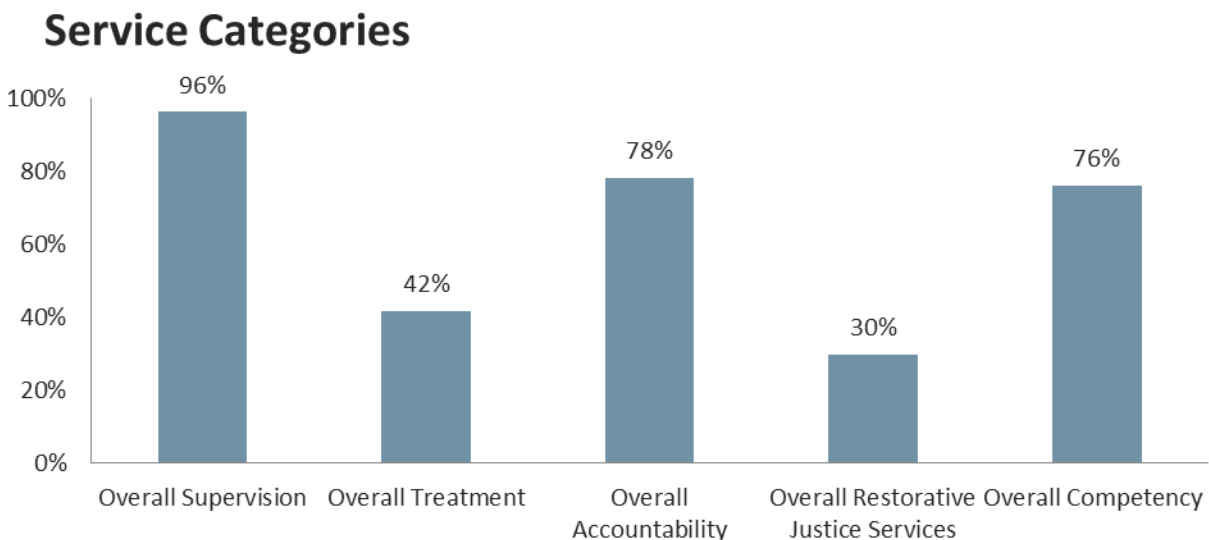


- On average, youth were 15 years old at the time of intake into diversion².
- The majority (67%) of youth participating in diversion were male and over half (58%) of diversion participants were White, non-Hispanic ; just under a third (31%) of participants were identified as Hispanic or Latino; and 5% identified with more than one race. African American participants comprised only 3% of the entire sample.

² All demographic, intake and exit data are charted in Appendix D, E and F, respectively.

What Services are Provided?

Data were collected on 25 specific services³ 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.



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?

- **Fifty-nine 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.

³ All service data are displayed in Appendix F

CHANGES IN SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

Outcome	Pre-Survey Mean	Post-Survey Mean	Desired Direction of Change?	Significant?
Connection to Community	3.16	3.23	Yes	Yes
Decision Making	2.73	2.97	Yes	Yes
Future Aspirations	3.50	3.53	Yes	Yes
Self-Esteem	3.12	3.30	Yes	Yes
Locus of Control	2.99	3.14	Yes	Yes
Sense of Accountability	3.16	3.28	Yes	Yes
Risky Behavioral Intentions	1.35	1.30	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		19.6%	14.4%
Exit Status	Successful	14.7%	12.1%
	Unsuccessful	48.0%	28.1%
Gender	Male	22.3%	16.7%
	Female	14.0%	9.6%
Prior Police Contact	Yes	26.9%	19.0%
	No	17.4%	13.0%

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

- Overall, results continued to show that **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 connection to community.**
 - This differs slightly from the prior year's analysis, in which risky behavioral intentions, but not connection to community, were found to predict reduced recidivism.
- **Treatment services were associated with reduced recidivism**, and this was accounted for in part through an effect on self-esteem. Further analyses examining outcomes for higher risk youth suggested that **being in a program that systematically screens and assesses for treatment needs may reduce risk of recidivism, in particular, for youth with prior police contact.**

It is critical to note that the lack of significant findings for some service types cannot 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 also continues to remain likely that youth with unmet treatment needs are less able to benefit from core services and programming. Only 42% 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.

Recommendations

The results from this latest analysis continue to support the central conclusions derived to date from this evaluation. Select recommendations are shared below, with the full set provided in the body of the report. Some of the recommendations are already in the process of being addressed by DCJ and are reflected in the programmatic and evaluation priorities DCJ has identified for the new funding year.

- **Maintain, but continue to review and refine, core evaluation activities including the collection of pre and post-survey data.** Even as DCJ should continue to review and refine the contents of its core data collection tools, the general use of multiple tools and data sources that allow DCJ to address basic research questions remains important for the long-term. Specifically, collection of information on youth served, types of services received, and both short- and long-term outcomes of interest, enables DCJ to continue monitoring whether the right youth are being served by diversion (in particular, the question of whether youth of color are adequately represented), whether programs are appropriately assessing and assigning services, whether DCJ funds are being used to support the types of services most associated with program effectiveness, and whether both individual grantees and the entire funded program are achieving targeted outcomes.
- **Identify additional research questions of interest with regard to higher risk youth.** DCJ has already modified its intake/exit form to enable collection of more information on youth's screening for substance use and/or mental health treatment needs, and has historically been interested in documenting other relevant background factors such as child welfare and other systems involvement. While some information may remain challenging for programs to obtain, DCJ should continue to explore other similar risk factors that are likely predictive of recidivism risk and/or treatment needs, and that can feasibly be documented by staff or asked of youth on the pre-post survey. The more information available to help pinpoint factors predicting program success *for higher risk youth*, the more that programs can become equipped over time to effectively divert youth who enter the program with a higher likelihood of recidivating.
- **Continue to address barriers to and provide opportunities for the implementation of a process for screening and assessing youth** across DCJ funded juvenile diversion programs. The findings continue to demonstrate that simply having a process in place to assess and address mental health and substance use appears to enhance program effectiveness. Documenting receipt of screening, in addition to other treatment services, as part of the evaluation will be key to determining extent to which these efforts are improving programs' practices and increasing the numbers of youth being screened and assessed for treatment needs.

Background

Created by Colorado state statute and administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, the Juvenile Diversion 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-adjudicated⁴ and who have committed a district level offense.

In order to better understand the services and outcomes of the State funded Juvenile Diversion program, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council through 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.

In any evaluation, replication is critical for a program to be confident in the findings, conclusions, and recommendations. As such, this report revisited the questions that were preliminarily addressed in the 2013 report⁵ including data from July 2011 through June 2013.

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.

⁴ 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

⁵ The 2013 report included data from July 2011 through January 2013

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 program philosophy (such as justice or restitution-based versus treatment-based). Each of these factors can have implications for a program's impact on recidivism⁶ (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.

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

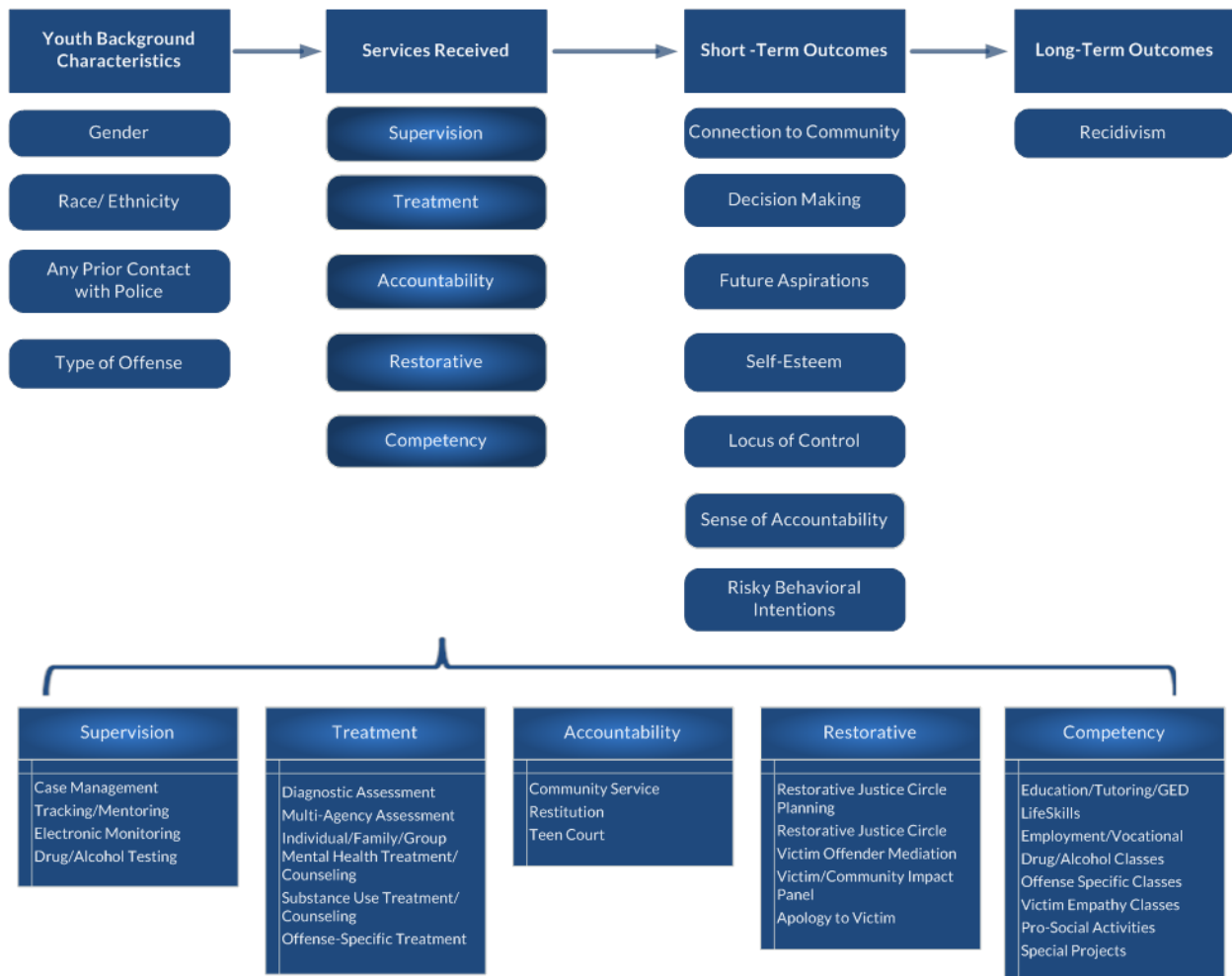
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⁶ Cocozza, Joseph J., et al. "Diversion from the Juvenile Justice System: The Miami-Dade Juvenile Assessment Center Post-Arrest Diversion Program." *Substance Use & Misuse* 40 (2005): 935-951. Colorado Department of Human Services. Division of Youth Corrections.

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 A.

Intake/Exit Data

Program staff collected background and process data on each youth through the collection of intake and exit data⁷. 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-survey⁸ 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 programming⁹. Filing data were extracted from the Judicial Department's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) by DCJ's Office of Research and Statistics and analyzed by OMNI Institute. These data informed whether individuals met Colorado's standard criteria for

⁷ The Intake and Exit form with its instructions is found in Appendix B

⁸ The Pre- and Post-survey is found in Appendix C

⁹ A full description of how recidivism information is obtained and defined is included in Appendix A.

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.

Program Level Data

OMNI also used program level information to further contextualize findings. This included qualitative data collected through phone interviews or other meetings 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).

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.

Data were split into two cohorts; Cohort I encompassed all data included in previous analyses, youth that exited diversion by the end of January 2013, and Cohort II encompassed all youth that exited diversion between February 2013 and June 2014. Analyses were first run on Cohort II data to examine findings relative to Cohort I. Where there were no substantive differences, data were collapsed and presented in the aggregate to provide a cumulative picture of diversion since July 2011. Where differences were observed and noted between the two cohorts, these are noted and reflected upon throughout the report.

Sample

During the data collection time period (July 2011 through June 2013) 3,998 youth began diversion programming and 3,039 youth entered and exited diversion programming. Intake and exit data were provided for all youth. 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=80), were removed from the analysis, leaving 2,952 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 2,931 youth. Of this sample of youth who entered and exited Diversion in the 3 years of data collection, 86% (2,519) were successful. Descriptive data, in Appendix D, include all 2,931 youth for whom intake and exit data were available.

Of youth who successfully completed diversion (2,519), 1,454 youth participated in the pre/post outcome evaluation (57% of successful youth).

Only youth who had been exited from diversion for 6 months or more (n=2,210) were considered eligible for inclusion in the recidivism analyses. When data were separated into cohorts based on when youth completed diversion, Cohort I included 1,254 and Cohort II included 956.

Only 1,119 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 and whether analyses included the cumulative sample or individual cohorts separately. 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 1,119 youth with data for all variables) to ensure findings did not differ across samples.

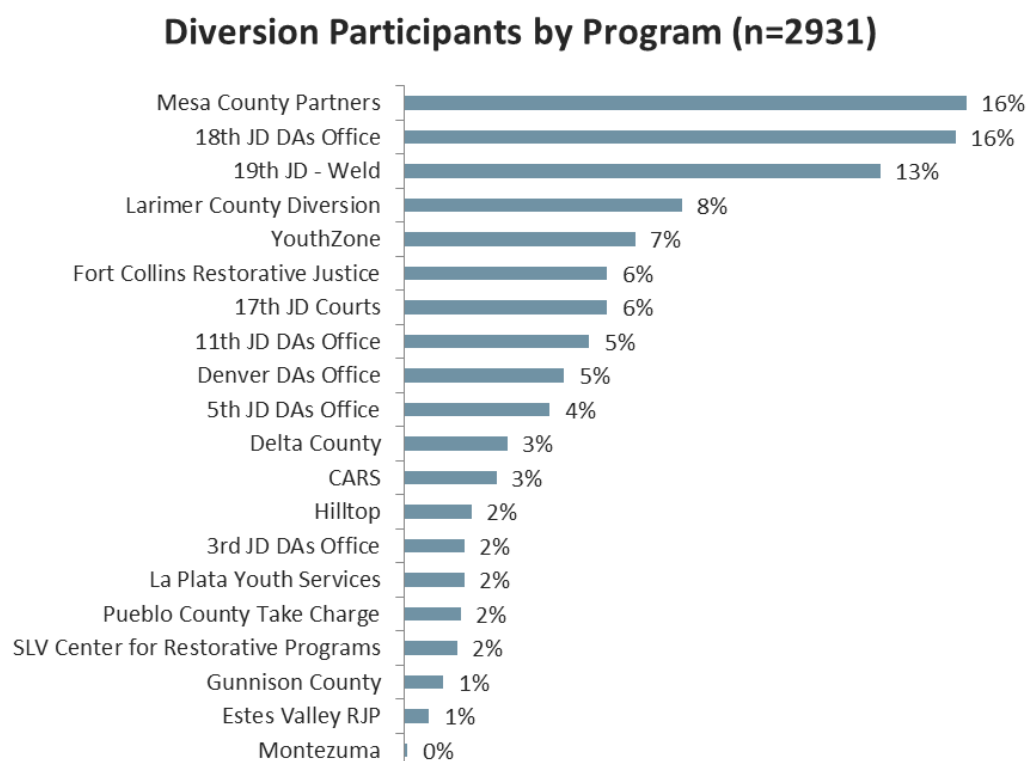
Results

WHO IS SERVED BY DIVERSION?

Diversion programs served 2,931 youth across Colorado during 3 years of data collection.

Programs differed greatly in the numbers of youth served with programs on average serving 147 youth; the smallest programs served fewer than 35 youth and the largest program served over 400 youth. Four programs served over half of all youth, as displayed in Graph 1 on the next page. 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**¹⁰.

Youths' tenure in diversion programs ranged between about a week (8 days) and more than two years (979 days); **average participation in diversion was about five and one-half months.**

Youth in Cohort II were more likely to participate in diversion longer than youth in Cohort I. In Cohort II, 49.9% of youth in Cohort II were in diversion for 6 months or more compared to 27.6% of youth in Cohort I.

¹⁰ Larimer County – Center for Family Outreach, 18th Judicial District DA program, 19th Judicial District DA program, and Mesa County Partners

Demographics/Background Characteristics

- On average, youth were 15 years old at the time of intake into diversion¹¹.
- The majority (67%) of youth participating in diversion were male and over half (58%) of diversion participants were White, non-Hispanic ; just under a third (31%) of participants were identified as Hispanic or Latino; and 5% identified with more than one race. African American participants comprised only 3% of the entire sample.

Table 1 shows the demographics of youth from the entire matched sample (2931). There were few differences between the entire sample and those included in the analyses, providing a high level of confidence that the youth in the analytic samples are representative of the larger group. Cumulative demographics were reflective of the individual cohorts with roughly 40% of all youth served in both cohorts identifying as minority (nonwhite) youth.

TABLE 1: YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

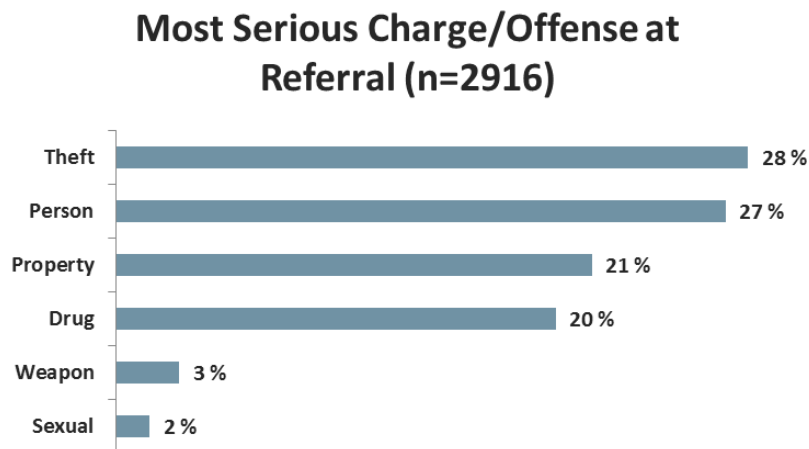
Demographics		Percentage
Gender	Male	67.5%
	Female	32.5%
Ethnicity	White (Non-Hispanic)	58.2%
	Hispanic/Latino	31.0%
	Black/African American	3.1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1%
	American Indian	1.5%
	Multi-Racial	4.5%
	Other	0.5%
Mean Age in Years		15.08

- At both intake and exit from the program, the majority of youth were pursuing their HS diploma (92% and 84%, respectively) and most were pursuing their diploma in a traditional school setting.
- Roughly 24% of youth had been suspended within the past school year.

¹¹ All demographic, intake and exit data are charted in Appendix D, E and F, respectively.

- Over half (55.0%) of the youth were referred to diversion pre-file with over a quarter (26.6%) of youth referred at pre-adjudication.
 - More youth were referred to diversion as *pre-file: alternative to summons and arrest* in Cohort I than Cohort II (17.5% and 9.9%, respectively).
- Youth were referred primarily from a District Attorney's (DA's) Office (67.3%) with referrals also coming from the District Court Judge (14.2%) and District Court Probation (12.9%). The remaining referrals came from police/sheriff's offices (4.9%) or another Diversion program.
- As displayed in Graph 2 below, the most serious types of charges for youth participating in diversion were theft (28.0%), person (27.0%), property (21.1%), and drug (19.5%) offenses.
 - A slightly larger proportion of youth in Cohort II had received a theft charge compared to those in Cohort I (29.9% and 25.6%, respectively).

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 (67.0%) at a level one, two, or three.
- Nearly a quarter of offenses (21.5%) were felonies at a level three, four, five, or six.

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.

- **86% of youth successfully¹² completed programming.**
- **9.4% of program participants received new charges while participating in diversion** with the majority of those charges being filed at district court.

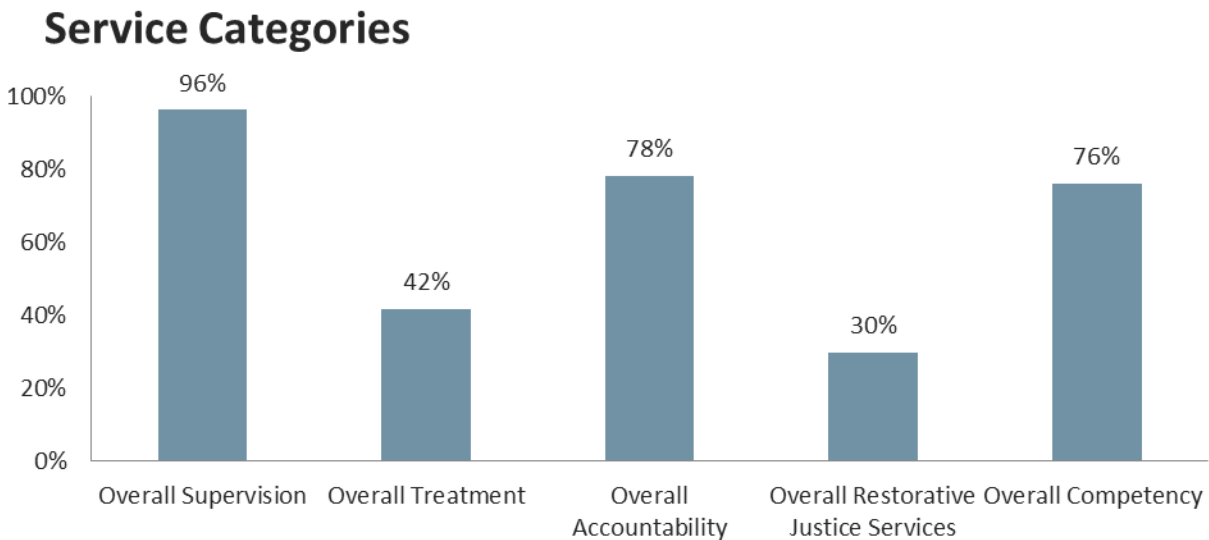
These results were consistent over time (across cohorts).

¹² Youth who were unsuccessful were categorized as unsuccessful in three ways; noncompliance with contract or original charges filed (9%), arrest on new offense (4%), unsuccessful but no charges filed (1%).

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?

Data were collected on 25 specific services¹³ 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.

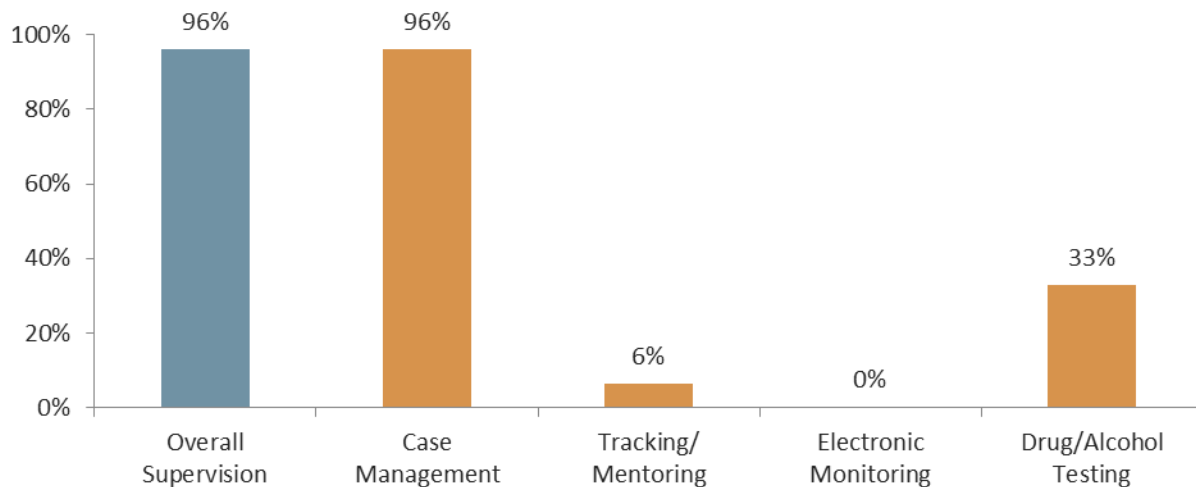
- **All but one program offered supervision services** (one or more of the services in this category) and **the majority of youth received some type of supervision service.**

¹³ All service data are displayed in Appendix F

- While overall the majority of youth received supervision services, several programs indicated a smaller majority of youth receiving supervision services in Cohort II.
- Graph 4 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.

GRAPH 4: INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION SERVICES

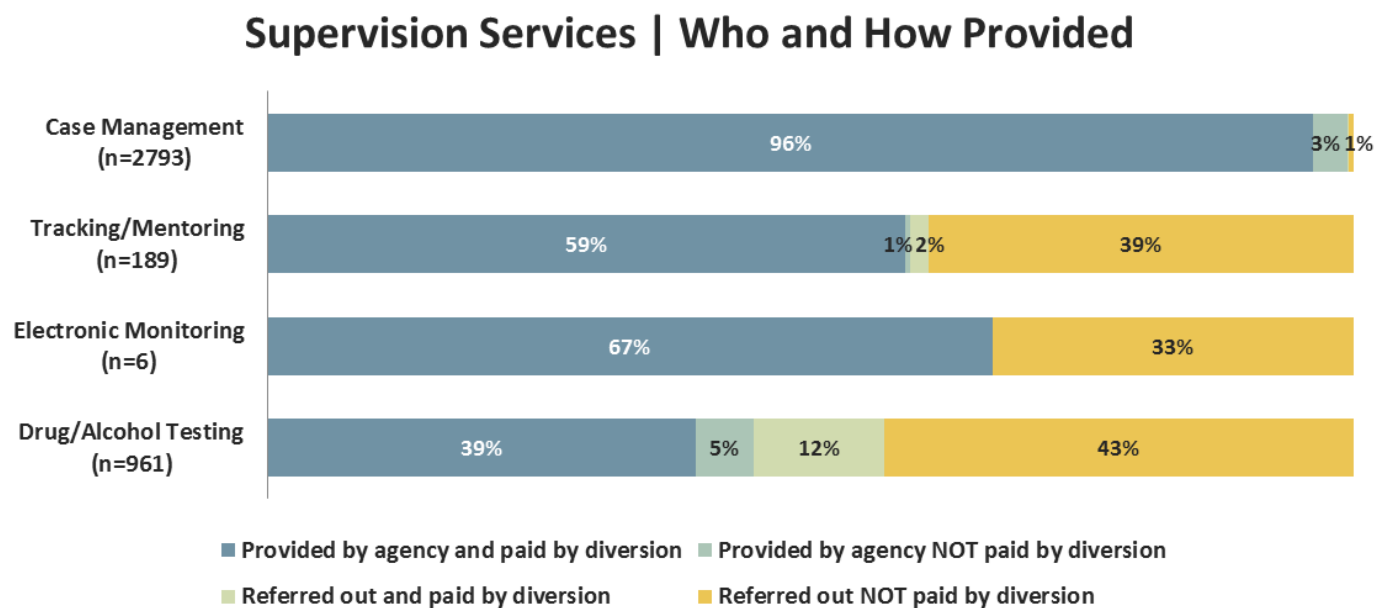
Supervision Services



In Graph 5, 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.

- **Most supervision services provided were paid for by diversion funds.**
- **Only a small proportion of case management, tracking/mentoring, and drug/alcohol testing services were not paid for primarily by diversion funds (3%, 1%, and 5%, respectively).**
- **Of youth who had committed a drug offense (19.5% of all youth), 56.3% received drug or alcohol testing.** However, of those who received drug or alcohol testing, only a little over one third (34%) 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 5: SUPERVISION SERVICES



TREATMENT

Programs offered various levels of treatment or counseling which included the provision of a diagnostic assessment¹⁴, a multi-agency assessment¹⁵, mental health counseling or treatment (individual, group, or family), drug or alcohol counseling or treatment, and offense-specific treatment¹⁶.

- Fewer than half of participants, 42%, received services in the treatment category.
- Of those, the largest proportions of youth received a diagnostic assessment (29%) or individual mental health counseling or treatment (24%), as shown below in Graph 6.
- Of youth who received a diagnostic assessment, over half (55.4%) also received individual mental health counseling or treatment. The majority (92.7%) of youth who received

¹⁴ 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.

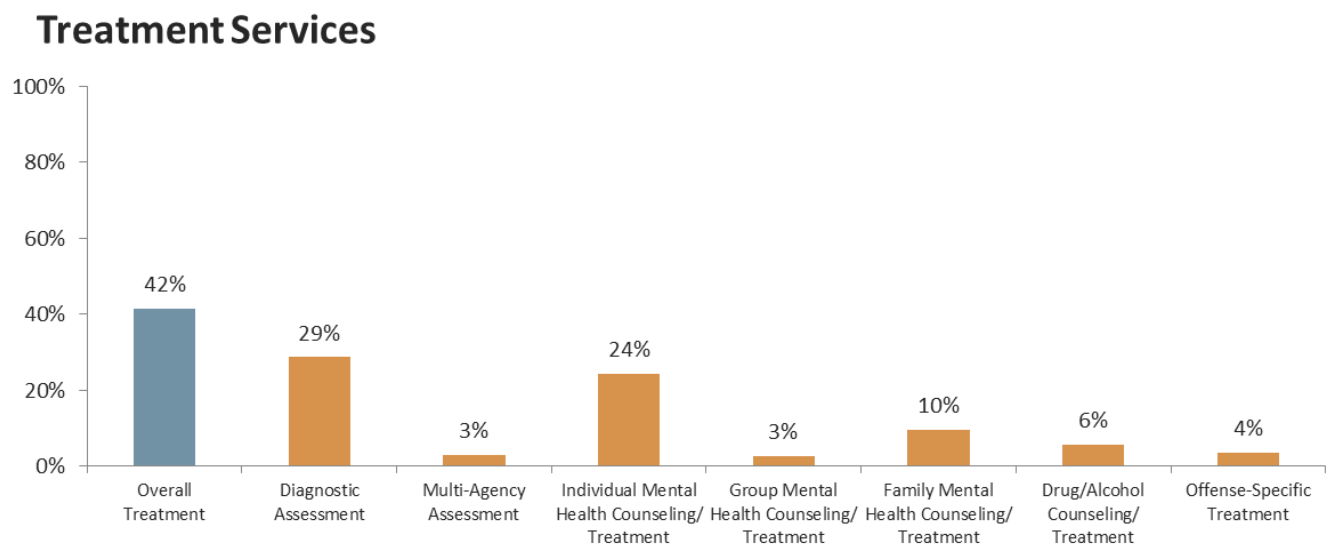
¹⁵ Assessment and care coordination processes involving representatives from multiple local agencies. Includes assessments conducted by Colorado's House Bill 1451 Individualized Services and Support Teams and Wraparound Services.

¹⁶ Treatment or counseling geared toward the offense. Includes interventions that address sexual offenses, arson, partner violence.

individual mental health counseling or treatment did not receive group or family mental health treatment.

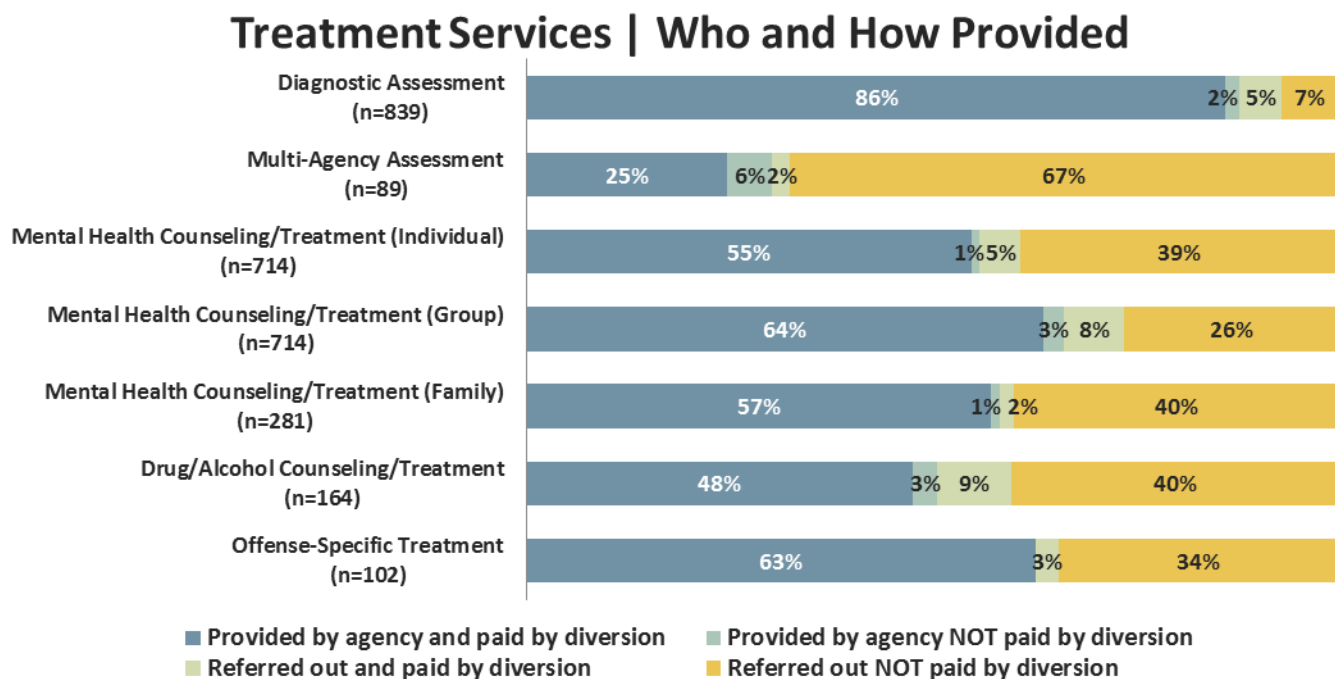
- The greatest proportion of youth who received individual mental health treatment had committed a person offense (28.7%) followed by youth who committed a theft (26.5%).
- Of those who received drug or alcohol treatment, 19.5% had committed a drug related offense.
- The percentage of participants that received treatment services increased from Cohort I to Cohort II (37.3% and 45.2%, respectively) indicating that programs are more recently seeing a greater need for treatment services among their youth.

GRAPH 6: INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT SERVICES



Graph 7, below, indicates who provided these services and how they were funded.

GRAPH 7: TREATMENT SERVICES



ACCOUNTABILITY

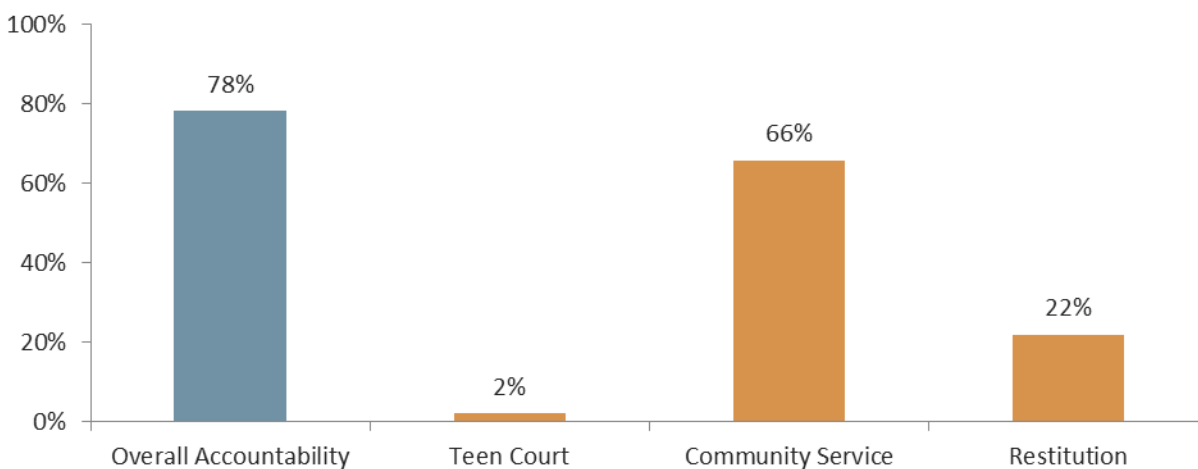
Accountability services were provided by a large number of organizations and included Teen Court, community service, and restitution.

A large majority of youth were required to participate in accountability services (78%), as displayed in Graph 8 below.

- **Community service was required for the majority of youth (65.9%)** with an average requirement of 23.22 hours of community service. On average, 20.48 hours of community service were completed.
- **Restitution was required to be paid for 21.9% of diversion participants.** The average amount of restitution required was just over \$863.70. The average amount paid was \$482.49.
- While overall the proportion of youth receiving accountability services was the same between the two cohorts, **the majority of programs provided fewer accountability services to their youth in Cohort II than in Cohort I** while a few programs provided more accountability services than in Cohort I.

GRAPH 8: ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES

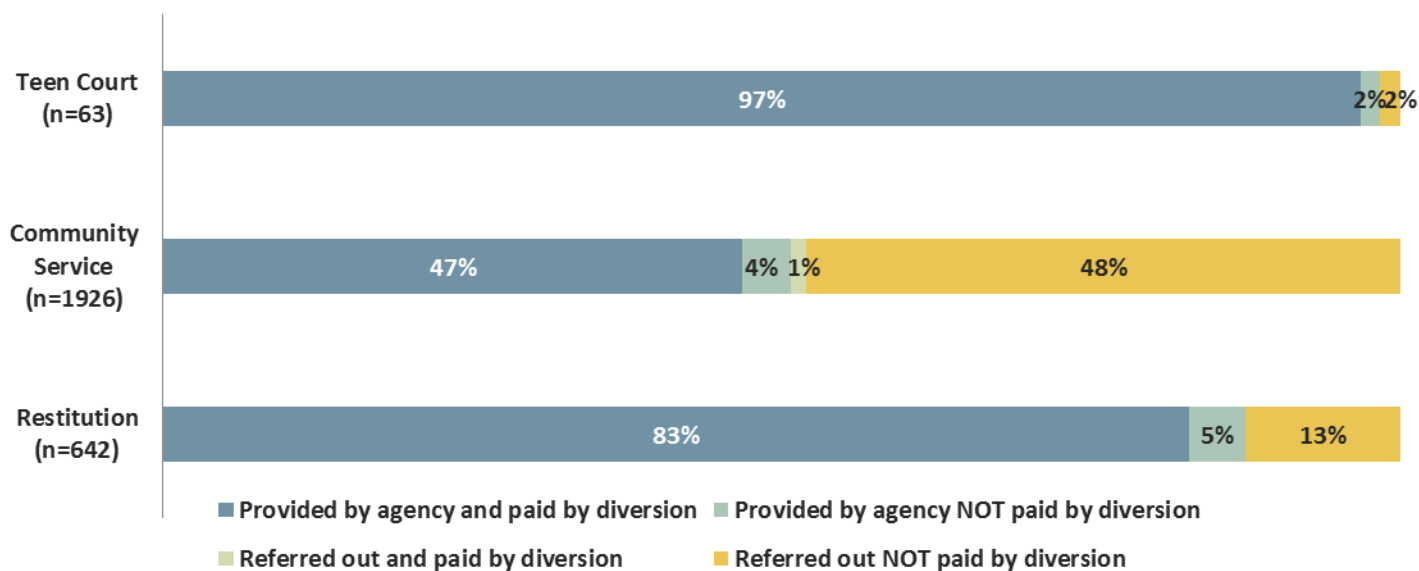
Accountability Services



- Graph 9 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 9: ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES

Accountability Services | Who and How Provided

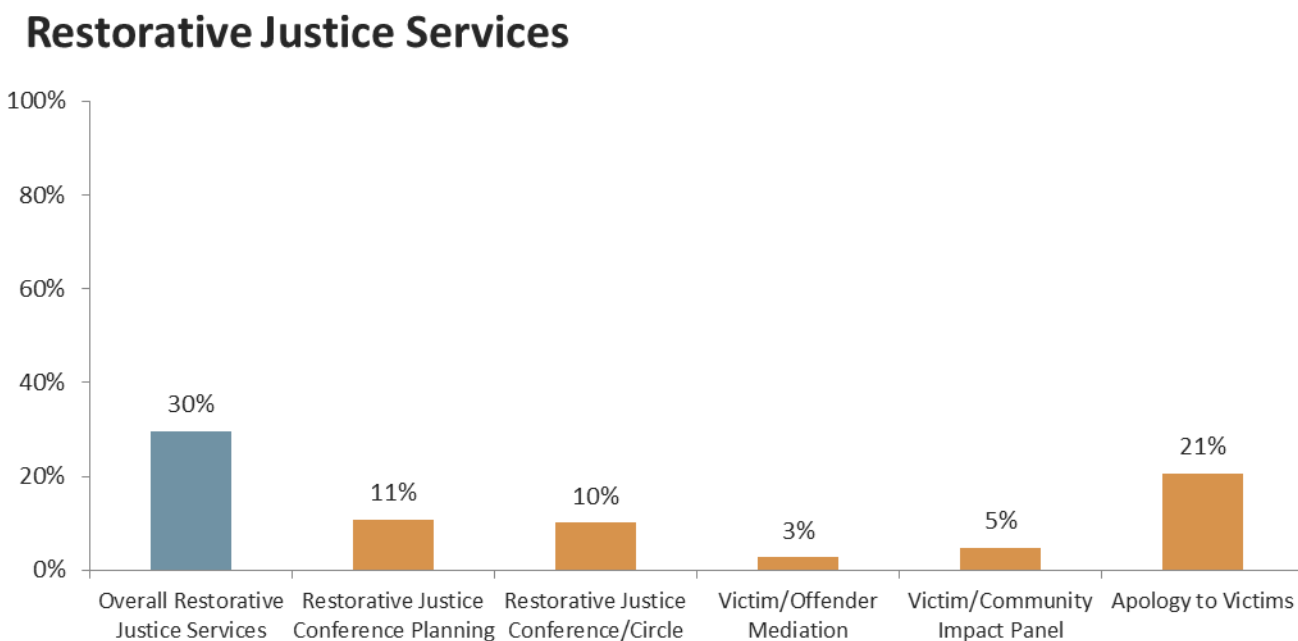


RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES

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, **30% of youth in diversion participated in at least one restorative justice service.** Graph 10 below displays the proportion of youth who participated in each individual restorative justice service.
- While overall the proportion of youth receiving restorative justice services was the same between the two cohorts, **the majority of programs provided more restorative justice services to their youth in Cohort II than in Cohort I.**

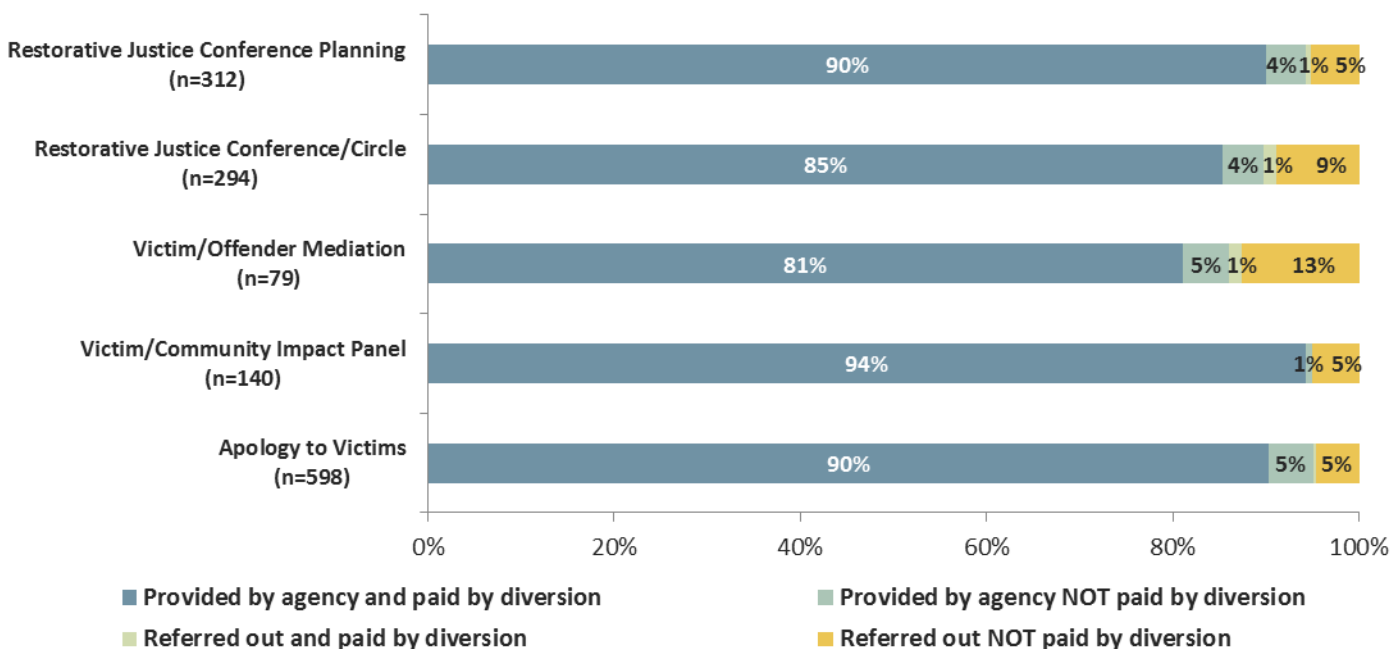
GRAPH 10: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INDIVIDUAL SERVICES



Graph 11, 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 11: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES

Restorative Justice Services | Who and How Provided



COMPETENCY

Youth were also offered a number of competency services including education, tutoring or GED support, employment or vocational training, Life Skills, pro-social activities¹⁷, offense-specific¹⁸ classes, drug or alcohol classes, and victim empathy classes. Graph 12 below shows the overall proportion of youth that participated in Competency Services (76%) as well as the proportion of youth that participated in each individual competency service.

Life Skills programming was provided to half of all youth. A further breakdown of the topics covered in Life Skills is displayed below in Graph 13.

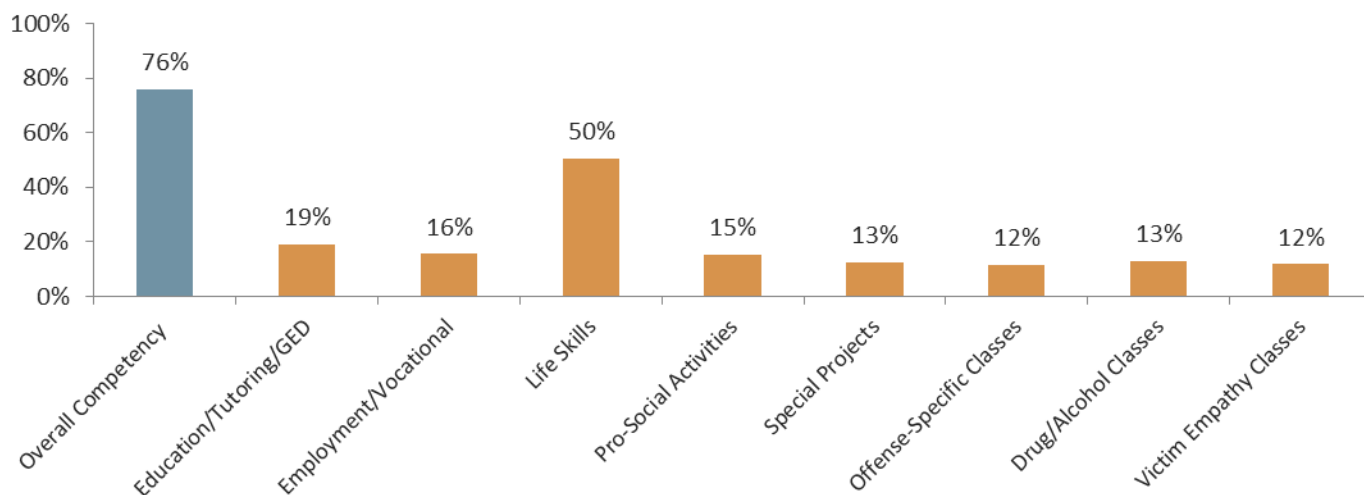
While the overall proportion of competency services received by youth were similar between the two cohorts, the amount of youth that received competency services by each program varied (some increasing and some decreasing) between cohorts.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ Group classes that address topics specific to youths' offenses such as shoplifting, arson, or weapons.

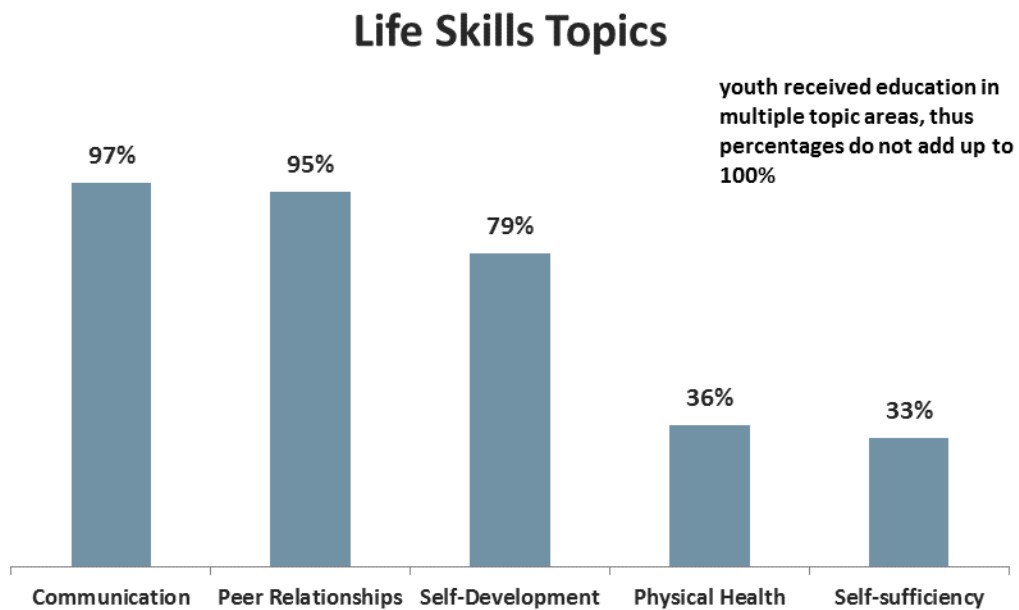
GRAPH 12: COMPETENCY SERVICES

Competency Services



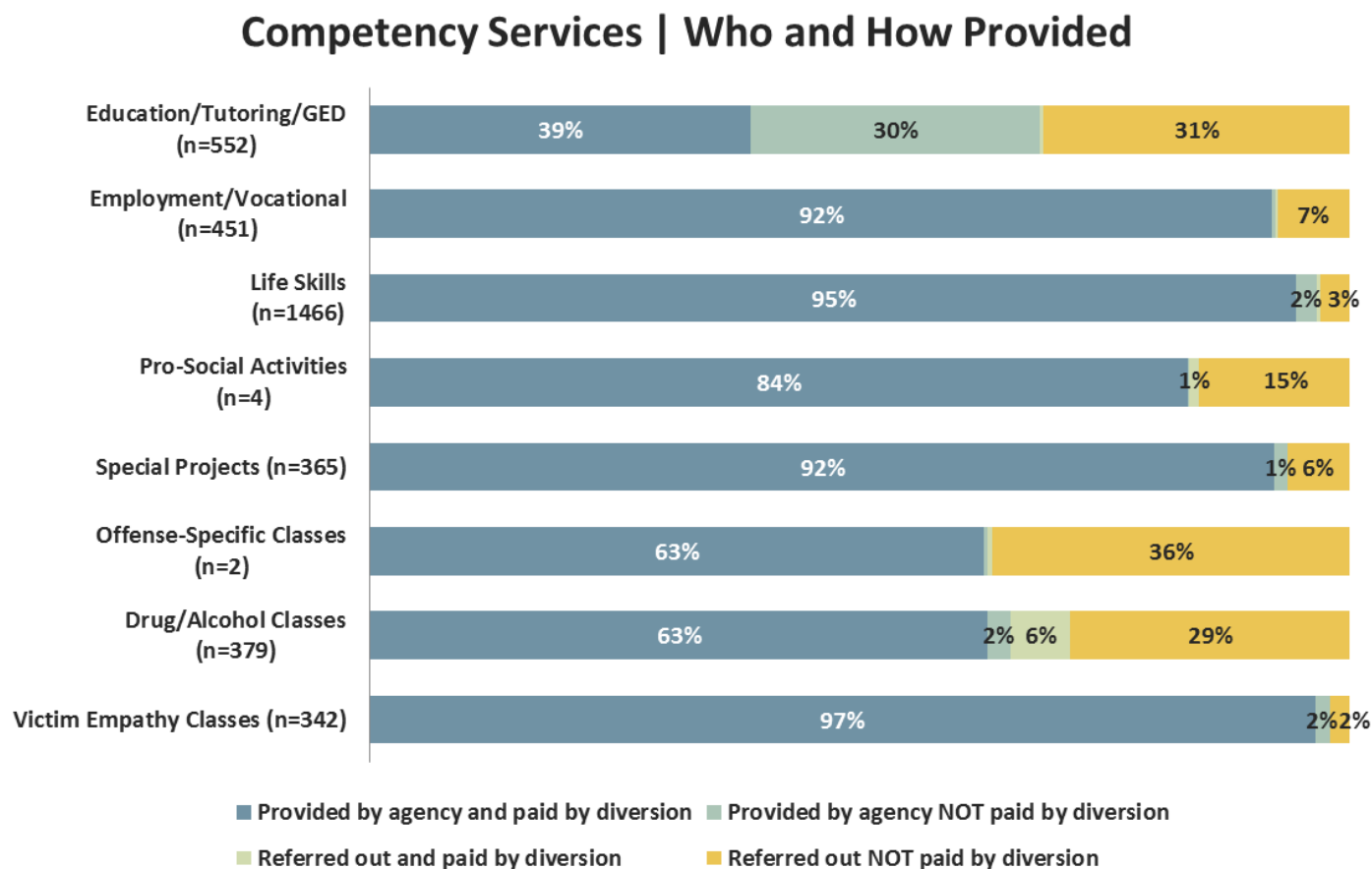
The vast majority (97.9%) of youth that participated in Life Skills training received training in more than one content area. Only 28 individuals received one content area while others received training on two to five content areas. Graph 13 shows the proportion of all youth who participated in Life Skills that received training in each content area.

GRAPH 13: LIFE SKILLS TOPICS



Graph 14 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 14: 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.

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. Fifty-nine 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). Individual program outcome results are displayed in Appendix G¹⁹.

- **All short-term outcomes continued to show statistically significant change in the desired direction from pre- to post program.** This finding indicates that at an aggregate level, across the two data collection periods (Cohorts I and II), the selected short-term outcomes are impacted by diversion programs. The cumulative 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	3.23	Yes	Yes
Decision Making	2.73	2.97	Yes	Yes
Future Aspirations	3.50	3.53	Yes	Yes
Self-Esteem	3.12	3.30	Yes	Yes
Locus of Control	2.99	3.14	Yes	Yes
Sense of Accountability	3.16	3.28	Yes	Yes
Risky Behavioral Intentions	1.35	1.30	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 whether short term outcomes predict later recidivism, as well as whether any program services are statistically associated with changes in these short term outcomes.

¹⁹ Three programs did not collect data from a sufficient representation of the youth served (less than 50%); thus pre and post matched analyses were not conducted. These programs include 19th Judicial District DA Office Program, Cortez Addiction Recovery Services, and La Plata Youth Services.

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. Thus, subsequent to Table 4, all recidivism statistics describe only those offenses that occurred *after* participation in diversion and are used primarily for comparative purposes, i.e., to understand differences between youth who do and don't recidivate.

Using the post-program only recidivism rate for the eligible sample, **overall, 14.4% of youth recidivated; 12.1% of youth who exited diversion successfully and 28.1% of youth who exited diversion unsuccessfully.**

- Male youth (16.7%) were more likely to recidivate than females (9.6%) following the program.
- Youth with prior police contact (19.0%) were more likely to recidivate after program exit than those who did not have prior police contact (13.0%).
- Pre- (15.6%) and post-adjudicated (17.8%) youth were more likely to recidivate following the program than pre-file youth (12.7%), with post-adjudicated youth having the highest recidivism rate of the three referral stages.

Youth who were charged with a drug and property 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 Rate	Post-Program Recidivism Rate
Overall Sample		19.6%	14.4%
Exit Status	Successful	14.7%	12.1%
	Unsuccessful	48.0%	28.1%
Gender	Male	22.3%	16.7%
	Female	14.0%	9.6%
Ethnicity	White (Non-Hispanic)	20.1%	14.3%
	Hispanic/Latino	19.4%	15.1%
	Black/African American	23.9%	15.5%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	13.6%	13.6%
	American Indian	18.8%	15.6%
	Multi-Racial	13.7%	11.6%
	Other	15.4%	15.4%
Prior Police Contact	Yes	26.9%	19.0%
	No	17.4%	13.0%
Type of Most Serious Charge	Person	18.7%	13.2%
	Theft	19.2%	14.6%
	Sexual	5.1%	2.6%
	Property	21.0%	15.2%
	Drug	21.9%	16.3%
	Weapon	16.7%	14.5%
Referral Status	Pre-File	16.1%	12.7%
	Pre-Adjudication	21.9%	15.6%
	Post-Adjudication	26.5%	17.8%

In an effort to better understand the numerical minority of youth that did recidivate, descriptive analyses were further conducted to examine the demographic and background profiles of recidivators versus non-recidivators. Again, these analyses examined post-program recidivism only among those youth who had been exited from diversion for a full year. See Table 5 below. Percentages for each dimension may not equal 100% as they take into account missing data.

Data should be reviewed vertically, with each column representing the full demographic description of the group that recidivated, and the group that did not, respectively. That is, the percentages do not reflect recidivism rates for each demographic, but rather the proportions of youth with these demographic characteristics within each recidivism group. For example, among those who recidivated, 79.1% were male; among those who did not recidivate, 66.0% were male.

As can be seen in table 5, youth who exited the program unsuccessfully, youth who were pre- or post-adjudicated, and youth who had prior police contact were overrepresented among those who recidivated. Nonetheless, because these youth are only a minority of those served by diversion, it remains the fact that the majority of youth who recidivate are still those who exited the program successfully (70.9%) , had no prior police contact (56.1%), and were pre-file (46.4%) as these characteristics represent even greater majorities of all youth served by diversion.

TABLE 5: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF YOUTH WHO RECIDIVATED VERSUS DID NOT RECIDIVATE

Demographics		Recidivated after program exit	Did NOT Recidivate
Exit Status	Successful	70.9%	87.4%
	Unsuccessful	29.1%	12.6%
Gender	Male	79.1%	66.0%
	Female	20.9%	34.0%
Ethnicity	White (Non-Hispanic)	57.9%	60.1%
	Hispanic/Latino	32.7%	30.1%
	Black/African American	3.6%	2.8%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7%	1.0%
	American Indian	1.1%	1.2%
	Multi-Racial	3.2%	4.1%

Demographics		Recidivated after program exit	Did NOT Recidivate
	Other	0.7%	0.6%
Prior Police Contact	Yes	36.7%	26.4%
	No	56.1%	63.2%
Type of Most Serious Charge	Person	23.4%	28.2%
	Theft	30.2%	26.0%
	Sexual	0.4%	2.1%
	Property	20.9%	22.0%
	Drug	22.3%	18.8%
	Weapon	2.9%	2.9%
Referral Status	Pre-File	46.4%	57.2%
	Pre-Adjudication	29.1%	26.0%
	Post-Adjudication	24.5%	16.8%

Given the continuing priority placed on understanding the relationship of treatment needs and services to outcomes for youth, additional descriptive analyses were also conducted to examine recidivism rates for youth by prior police contact and treatment status, as it was surmised that those with prior police contact (a well-established risk factor), might also be more likely to be in need of substance use or mental health treatment services. As shown in Table 6 below, the recidivism rate for youth with prior police contact who did not receive treatment was far higher than that for the other three groups. Indeed, youth with prior police contact who did receive treatment had a recidivism rate very similar to those with no prior police contact. However, further examination indicated that the subset of youth with prior police contact and no treatment services were primarily served by one agency. Thus, it cannot be inferred whether the recidivism of these youth reflects unmet treatment needs or other program characteristics or individual risk factors that are unique to that agency and the population it serves.

TABLE 6: RECIDIVISM OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH WITH PRIOR POLICE CONTACT WHO DID OR DID NOT RECEIVE TREATMENT SERVICES

Demographics		Recidivated after program exit	Did NOT Recidivate
Prior Police Contact	Received Treatment	14.1%	85.9%
	Did not Receive Treatment	22.8%	77.2%
No Prior Police Contact	Received Treatment	12.8%	87.2%
	Did not Receive Treatment	13.1%	86.9%

Finally, in order to gain additional insight into what constitutes a *good* recidivism rate is, we examined recidivism rates across other juvenile justice settings. Because the definitions of recidivism can vary widely across programs, however, it can be difficult to make direct comparisons. Recidivism definitions (and the resulting rates) reflect three key factors:

- 1) the youth that are included (e.g., are all youth included, or only those who successfully complete the program?),
- 2) the timeframe (e.g. is recidivism during the program included? And, how long after exiting the program is recidivism examined?), and
- 3) the event or decision point (e.g., arrest, charge, filing).

DCJ was particularly interested in examining Colorado's Juvenile Probation (Probation) recidivism rates and Colorado's Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) recidivism rates.

Probation's most recent report, published towards the end of the 2013 calendar year, included youth that were discharged from probation in fiscal year 2012. Probation looked at *new filings* that occurred *post*-release for successful youth *one year* after completion. The recidivism rate for this group was 14.6%.

DYC's most recent report, published in January 2014, included youth that were discharged from DYC during the 2011-2012 fiscal year and defined recidivism as a *new adjudication or conviction*²⁰ that occurred *post* discharge. The recidivism rate for this group of youth was 28.7%.

By comparison, DCJ's (unofficial) juvenile diversion post-program recidivism rate for successful youth was 12.1%. Probation youth have a slightly higher recidivism rate. And, DYC youth have a much higher recidivism rate, while only considering new convictions (versus new filings) as recidivism. While Probation and DYC are serving higher risk youth and thus a higher recidivism rate may be expected, this finding is encouraging for proponents of diversion as it highlights that when looking at youth that successfully complete their assigned program (diversion, Probation, or

²⁰ Resulting from a misdemeanor or felony offense

DYC), diversion has a lower rate of recidivism in the year following programming than Probation or DYC youth.

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. Because programs may shift over time in programmatic emphasis or other practices, it is important to draw conclusions based on the whole of data available, while also noting where new findings may be emerging, and other previous findings diminishing with the addition of a second cohort of data. Thus, below we first outline findings that remained significant or emerged as significant with the additional year of data added to the sample with new findings indicated with an asterisk (*). We then note where previous findings were no longer observed with the cumulative sample.

Overall findings observed in the cumulative sample were as follows:

- **Improvements in self-esteem, locus of control, and connection to community* were significantly correlated with reduced recidivism.**
 - Whereas improvements in self-esteem were related to treatment services, improvements in locus of control and connection to community were not statistically accounted for by any specific service types.
- **Treatment services significantly predicted improvement in self-esteem**, among other short term outcomes. This overall pattern was observed regardless of whether youth received just one or multiple treatment services, suggesting that the important factor is being in a program where there is systematic screening/assessment for potential treatment needs.
- Although competency services did not predict change in any short term outcomes, **a statistical trend was observed for youth that had prior contact with police where receiving competency services (one or more than one) was associated with reduced recidivism.***
- Supervision services did not predict change in any short term outcomes; however, **receiving multiple supervision services was associated with reduced recidivism for youth with no prior contact with police.***

Several findings from the previous analyses did not remain significant in the accumulated sample, indicating attenuated relationships among these variables for the later cohort. Specifically, with the addition of Cohort II data,

- Receiving multiple restorative justice services no longer significantly predicted improvement in locus of control.
- A decrease in risky behavioral intentions no longer was found to statistically predict reduced recidivism.

- The provision of accountability services, specifically, community service, no longer showed a statistical association with reduced recidivism for youth who had prior contact with police (or any other group included).

Individual youth characteristics were also assessed to understand if specific characteristics had an impact on success in diversion programming, change in short term outcomes, and/or likelihood of recidivism.

- **Individual youth characteristics did not significantly predict successful program completion or change on the short-term outcomes.** This is a positive finding, suggesting that youth with varying backgrounds and risk factors may all benefit equally from diversion programming even as some (e.g., those who are male and/or have prior police contact) may have a greater overall likelihood of recidivating compared to their counterparts.

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 connection to community were significantly correlated with reduced recidivism, although these were small statistical effects and must continue to be observed with caution given the shifting picture of the data with the addition of the latest cohort of youth to the cumulative sample.

Several other services remained associated with reduced recidivism in the cumulative sample, in particular, treatment services, which also retained its statistical relationship to recidivism through effects on self-esteem. As noted in the prior report, we believe that having received a diagnostic assessment is best interpreted as a proxy for having been properly screened, 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.

Additional analyses conducted for this report, examining the recidivism outcomes and treatment status for youth with prior police contact, further underscore the importance of ensuring higher-risk youth who are referred to diversion are provided needed treatment services. The recidivism rate for youth with prior police contact who did not receive any treatment service (22.8%) was considerably higher than the rate for youth with prior contact who did receive treatment (14.1%). However, because a single agency accounted for the majority of youth in the data set who had

prior police contact and did not receive treatment, this finding must be interpreted with considerable caution. There may be other individual risk factors or program characteristics that are unique to that agency and the population it serves that may account for this relationship.

Another area of additional investigation in this report was a more in-depth examination of the demographic profile of youth who recidivate. It is important to ensure an accurate picture of the youth who do recidivate remains grounded in an understanding of the overall picture of youth served by diversion. Specifically, the majority of youth who are referred to diversion complete the program successfully, are White, male, pre-file, and have no prior police contact. Thus, even as factors such as being post-adjudicated and having prior police contact are statistically predictive of recidivism, youth with these characteristics remain numerical minorities in both groups of youth who do and do not recidivate.

Finally, it remains important to note that the lack of significant findings for some service types cannot 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 also continues to remain likely that youth with unmet treatment needs are less able to benefit from core services and programming. While a slightly higher proportion of youth in this cumulative sample received more treatment services (42% compared to 38% of the prior sample), research indicates that over two-thirds of juvenile offenders will have a mental health disorder in their lifetime²¹.

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. Patterns observed for funding sources in the cumulative sample were consistent with those observed in the prior analysis and report. These are re-summarized below.

DA programs continued to be 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. Of ongoing

²¹ 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.

importance is the capacity and resources of programs to provide treatment. As previously explored in depth, many programs have concerns about screening or assessing youth for treatment needs because they do not have the internal capacity to provide treatment. With continuing support from the data on the importance of assessing youths' need for treatment services, DCJ's current focus on increasing documentation of, and providing training for, use of validated screening tools such as the MAYSI is well placed.

DCJ should continue to monitor the extent to which its funds are used to support services that the evaluation indicates to have a greater relationship to positive outcomes for the youth served, and to determine whether fund priorities should shift in response.

LIMITATIONS

These findings continue to 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 having served as few as 35 and others over 400 youth across the multiple-year timespan reflected in this evaluation report. Since most programs were only able to collect short-term outcome data on a subset of their youth, even after several years of data collection, three programs still had insufficient data to examine pre-post changes for their youth. However, this is a marked improvement from last year, when a much larger number of programs did not yet have sufficient data.

The matched pre-post survey data rate for the cumulative sample was 59% representing an improvement from the previous rate of 55%. Because these data included all surveys collected since the beginning of the formal evaluation, the 4% increase belies a more significant improvement in many programs' individual survey rates over the past fiscal year. Nonetheless, with the beginning of a new grant cycle and several new grantees, OMNI's efforts to support programs' capacity to collect youth surveys at both intake and exit (i.e., matched pre *and* post) remain critical. Further, desired data collection rates are more likely to be reached when tied to programmatic requirements (e.g., as a component of meeting grant requirements and receiving funds).

Fortunately, as previously described in the report, the demographics of the youth for whom matched survey data were obtained continued to appear similar to those of the larger sample. And with an additional year of data collection, there no longer remained the issue of needing additional time to acquire sufficient data to address all research questions. Nonetheless, at the individual level, a few grantees continue to have inadequate or disproportionate representation of youth in their program-level samples, restricting their ability to assess individual program effectiveness.

More broadly, as must always be noted in real-world studies that cannot control for all variables and are context-specific, these findings only represent youth participating in DCJ-funded

programs. 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), and 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.

Demographic and background data are reported by program staff, rather than directly by youth. While it is strongly recommended that demographics, in particular race and ethnicity, be determined based on youth's self-identification, the inability to monitor internal data collection and coding practices means there is room for misrepresentation of youths' racial/ethnic identity. Missing data on other background variables is also a challenge when program staff are not positioned to objectively verify information for youth on their 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 from this latest analysis continue to support the central conclusions derived to date from this evaluation. Some of the recommendations previously shared, and reiterated below, are already in the process of being addressed by DCJ and are reflected in the programmatic and evaluation priorities DCJ has identified for the new funding year.

- **Maintain, but continue to review and refine, core evaluation activities including the collection of pre and post-survey data.** Even as DCJ should continue to review and refine the contents of its core data collection tools, the general use of multiple tools and data sources that allow DCJ to address basic research questions remains important for the long-term. Specifically, collection of information on youth served, types of services received, and both short- and long-term outcomes of interest, enables DCJ to continue monitoring whether the right youth are being served by diversion (in particular, the question of whether youth of color are adequately represented), whether programs are appropriately assessing and assigning services, whether DCJ funds are being used to support the types of services most associated with program effectiveness, and whether both individual grantees and the entire funded program are achieving targeted outcomes. Refinements to the intake/exit form are already in process, and such minor modifications may also be considered for the youth pre-post survey over the course of the first new funding year. Specifically, because all of the short-term outcomes continue to show statistically significant improvements over time, and to be of relevance to historically

funded programs, modifications to this instrument are not urgent or necessitated. Nonetheless, with the addition of new grantees, and the modest predictive relationships of these outcomes to the long-term measure of recidivism, it is recommended that over the next evaluation year, the Evaluation Steering Committee explore other potential short-term outcomes of relevance that both program objectives and the literature indicate to be relevant to reducing risk for future delinquency and recidivism.

- **Identify additional research questions of interest with regard to higher risk youth.** DCJ has already modified its intake/exit form to enable collection of more information on youth's screening for substance use and/or mental health treatment needs, and has historically been interested in documenting other relevant background factors such as child welfare and other systems involvement. While some information may remain challenging for programs to obtain, DCJ should continue to explore other similar risk factors that are likely predictive of recidivism risk and/or treatment needs, and that can feasibly be documented by staff or asked of youth on the pre-post survey. The more information available to help pinpoint factors predicting program success *for higher risk youth*, the more that programs can become equipped over time to effectively divert youth who enter the program with a higher likelihood of recidivating.
- **Continue to encourage engagement of individual level grantees with their program level results.** As of this date, programs have now had opportunity to receive two year-end, program-level, customized reports as a result of the statewide evaluation. Several programs have only recently accumulated enough data to see the results for their programs. While feedback to date suggests programs find these reports highly useful, as a new funding cycle begins, it will be important to generate buy-in and understanding from new grantees regarding the value of the evaluation for both the state and their own programs.
- **Achieve progress in identifying contributing factors to the underrepresentation of non-white youth, specifically African-American youth, in affected juvenile diversion program judicial districts.** As highlighted in the previous report, and prioritized for the upcoming evaluation year, some programs funded by DCJ show underrepresentation of African-American youth. Planned efforts to address the issue include involvement of 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. This continues to be a priority based on the data, and the cooperation of DA Offices will be critical to DCJ's and OMNI's ability to examine this larger system-level issue within the parameters of the diversion evaluation.
- **Continue to address barriers to and provide opportunities for the implementation of a process for screening and assessing youth** across DCJ funded juvenile diversion programs. The findings continue to demonstrate that simply having a process in place to assess and address mental health and substance use appears to enhance program effectiveness. Documenting receipt of screening, in addition to other treatment services, as part of the evaluation will be key to determining extent to which these efforts are improving programs' practices and increasing the numbers of youth being screened and assessed for treatment needs.

Appendix A: 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 five 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 Type²²
- Program involvement in Diversion referral decisions
- Use of a formal or informal brief screen or assessment
- Type of formal brief screen or assessment
- Program duration
- Survey Rates²³

²² DA Office, County Office, Municipal Organizations, Community Organization

²³ 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. Throughout the grant, two or 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 B: 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	3. Race/Ethnicity (Self-Report) <input type="checkbox"/> White, Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
--	--	---

4a. Current School Status <input type="checkbox"/> Actively Enrolled in School <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Traditional <input type="checkbox"/> Drop Out <input type="checkbox"/> Pursuing GED <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate/GED <input type="checkbox"/> Expelled (not otherwise enrolled) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	4b. School History-Past Year (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Truant <input type="checkbox"/> Suspended <input type="checkbox"/> Expelled <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	5. Referral Agency/Source <input type="checkbox"/> DA's Office <input type="checkbox"/> Police/Sheriff <input type="checkbox"/> District Court Judge/Magistra <input type="checkbox"/> District Court Probation
---	---	--

6. Juvenile Justice Status at Referral Pre-File <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative to Summons/Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative to Filing Petition	Pre-Adjudication <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred Adjudication <input type="checkbox"/> Informal Adjustment <input type="checkbox"/> Filed/Dismissed without Prejudice <input type="checkbox"/> Under DA Diversion Contract	Post-Adjudication <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> On Probation
---	---	---

7. Type of Most Serious Charge/Offense at Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Property <input type="checkbox"/> Theft <input type="checkbox"/> Drug <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual <input type="checkbox"/> Weapon	Description of Most Serious Charge/Offense: _____
---	--

8a. Level of Most Serious Charge/Offense at Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Petty <input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor	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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
--	---

12. Intake Screening Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Accept <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Rejects <input type="checkbox"/> 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:

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

15. School Status at Termination/Exit from Program:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Actively Enrolled in School | <input type="checkbox"/> Pursuing GED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate/GED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Traditional | <input type="checkbox"/> Expelled (not otherwise enrolled) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drop Out | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

18a. Restitution

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

17b. Hours Required _____

18b. Amount Required \$ _____

17c. Hours Completed _____

18c. Amount Paid \$ _____

If ordered, enter WHOLE numbers in 17b and 17c

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

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

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

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

Other

BB.(Please Specify) _____

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.

- **Truant:** 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:** Programming 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 C: Pre-Post Survey and Instructions

ETO Case Number: _____
Survey Date: ____/____/____

Agency Name: (prefilled)
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I do not get along with some adults in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I want to be respected by adults in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I try to get along with most adults in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I always try hard to earn the trust of most adults in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I usually like the adults in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. How often do you stop to think about how your decisions may affect others' feelings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. How often do you stop and think about all of the things that may happen as a result of your decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. How often do you make good decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How important is it to you that...

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

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. I sometimes think that I am a 'loser'	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. I am the kind of person I want to be	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. I like being just the way I am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. I have a lot to be proud of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Sometimes I feel that I'm being pushed around in life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. I have little control over the things that happen to me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. I can do just about anything I really set my mind to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. I often feel helpless in dealing with the problems of life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. What happens to me in the future mostly depends on me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. There is little I can do to change many of the important things in my life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
29. My crime hurt my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. My crime hurt the victim	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. My crime hurt my family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. My crime hurt me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. What I did (my crime) was wrong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34. My family thinks what I did (my crime) was wrong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35. I think it is okay to take something without asking if you can get away with it	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36. I think sometimes it's okay to cheat at school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38. It is important to be honest with your parents, even if they become upset or you get punished	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

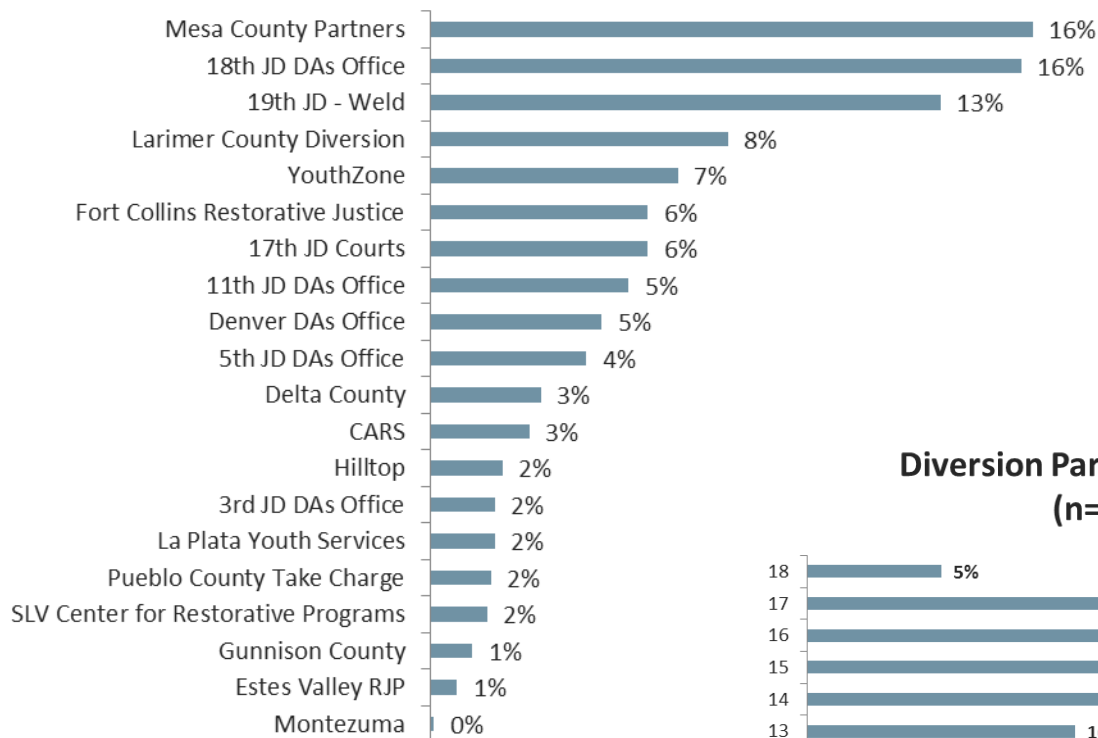
Within the next month, how likely is it that you will...

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

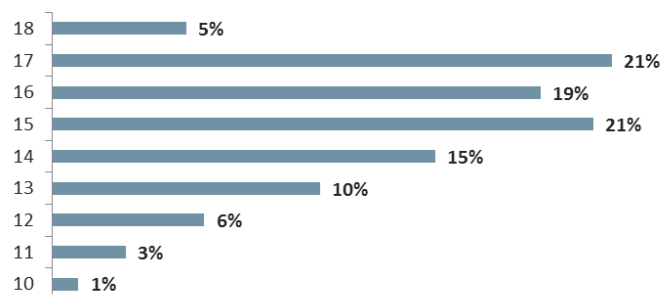
Thank You!!!

Appendix D: Descriptive Data

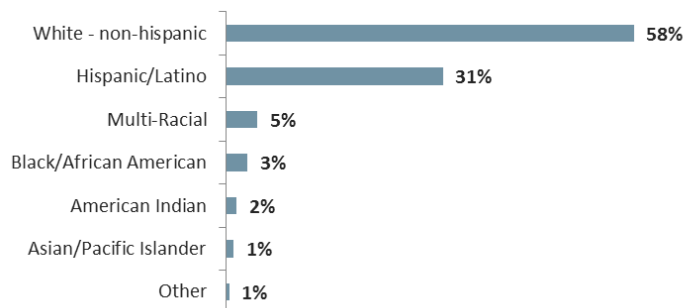
Diversion Participants by Program (n=2931)



Diversion Participants by Age (n=2823)

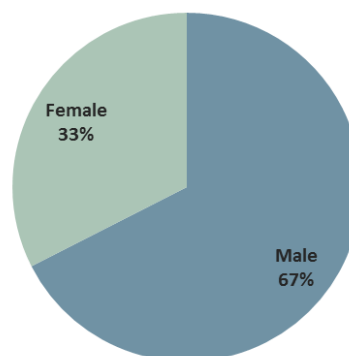


Diversion Participants by Race/Ethnicity (n=2928)

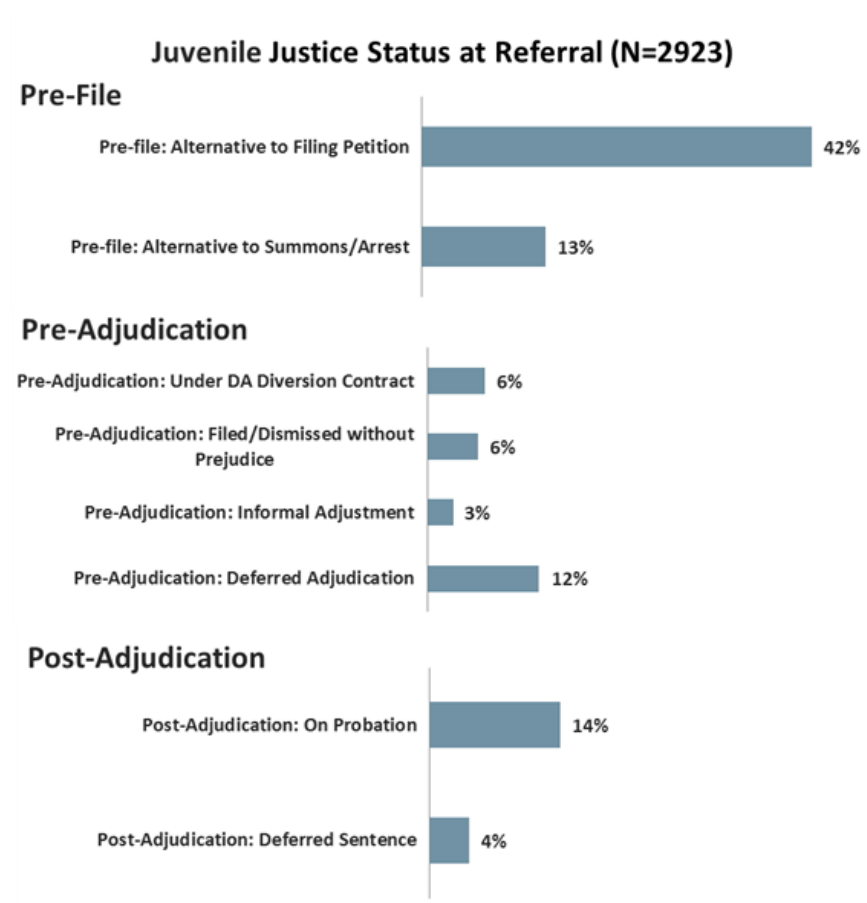


Age at Intake (n=2823)	
Mean	15.08
Minimum	10
Maximum	18

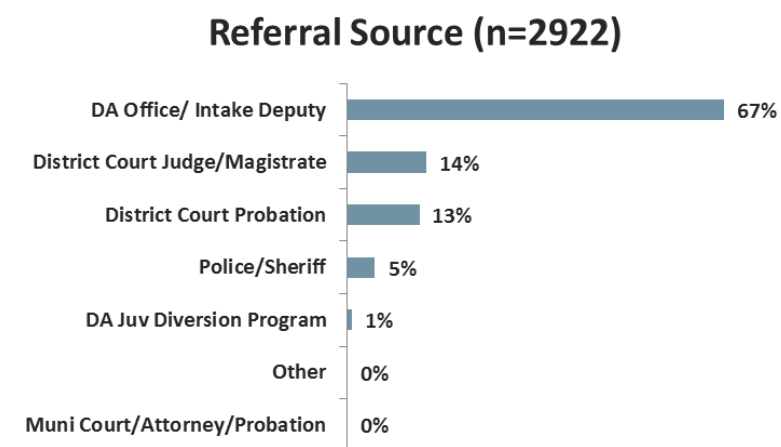
Diversion Participants by Gender (n=2931)



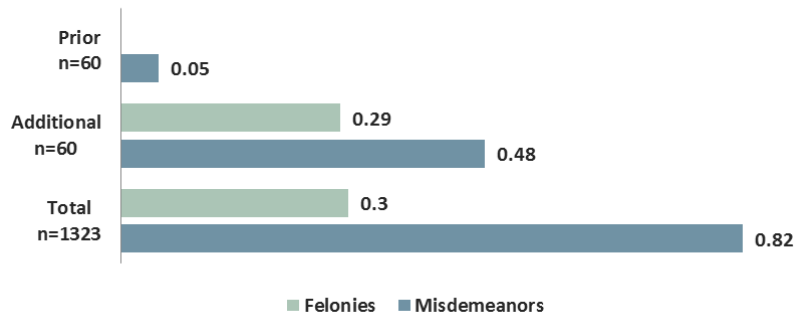
Appendix E: Intake Data



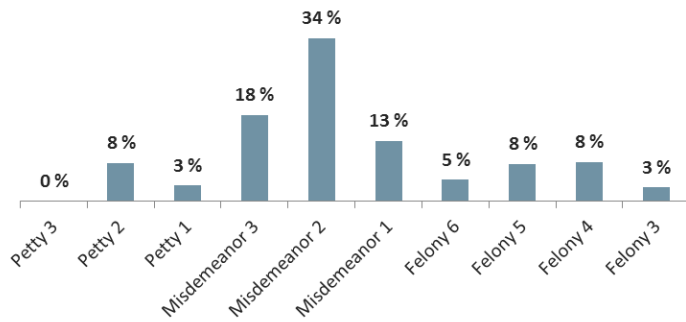
Age of First Police Contact (n=2782)	
Minimum	8
Mean	14.55
Maximum	18



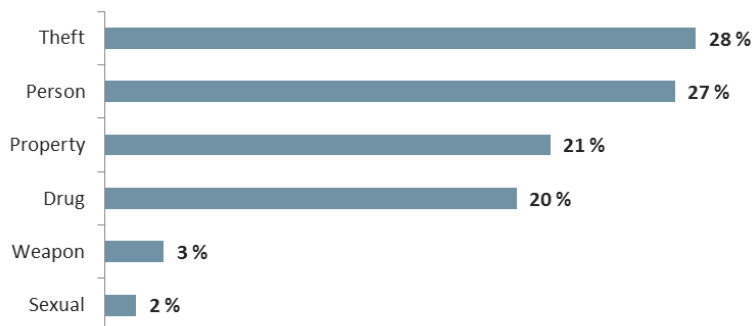
Average Prior, Additional, and Total Offenses at Intake, by Offense Level



Offense Level and Class, from Least to Most Serious (n=2487)

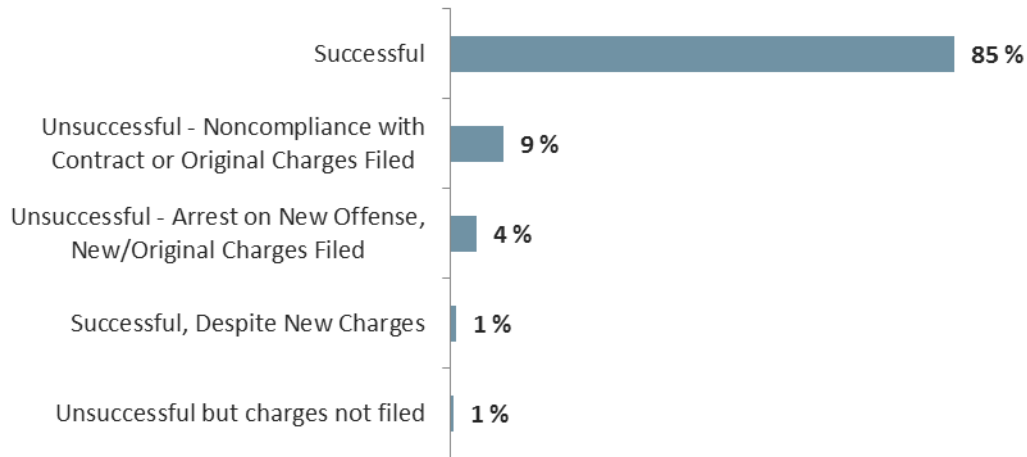


Most Serious Charge/Offense at Referral (n=2916)



Appendix F: Exit Data

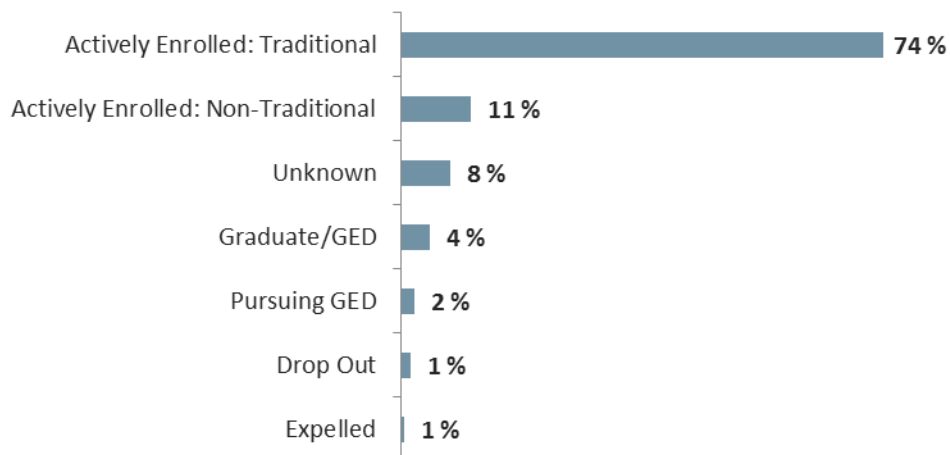
Status at Exit from Program (n=2931)



269 Diversion youth had a new charge filed while in diversion.

Of those...	22.1% were filed in Municipal Court
	19.1% were filed in County Court
	58.8% were filed in District Court

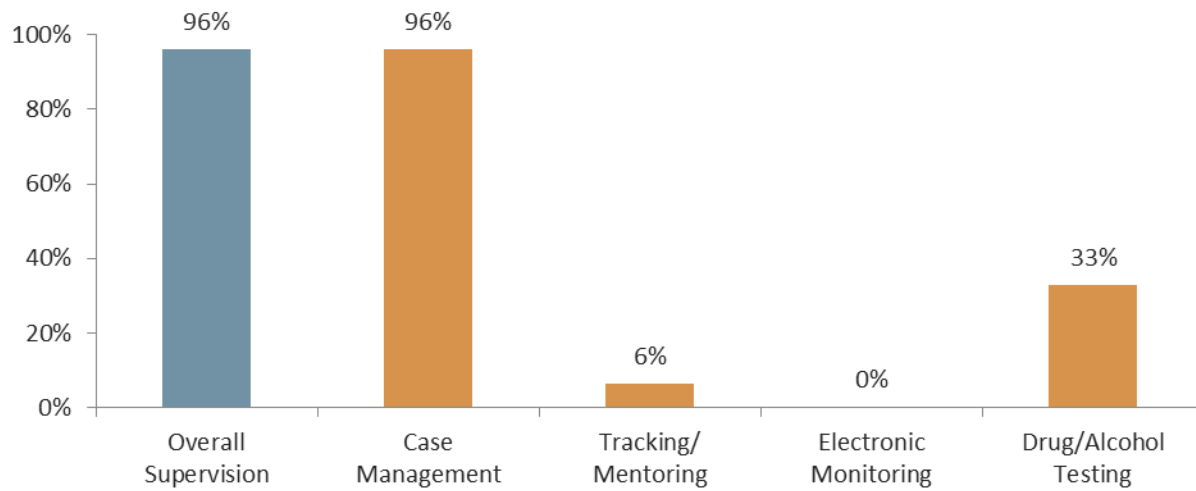
School Status at Exit from Program (n=2908)



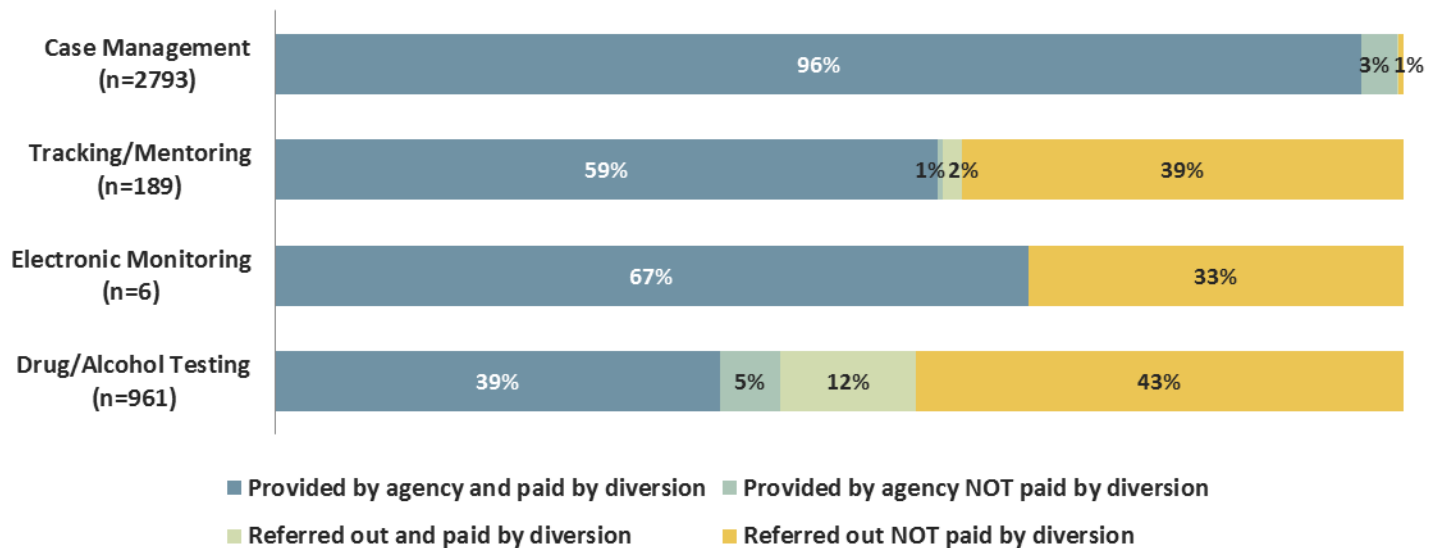
	Required	Completed
Community Service (Hours)	4,231	3,703
Restitution (Dollars)	494,700	254,901

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

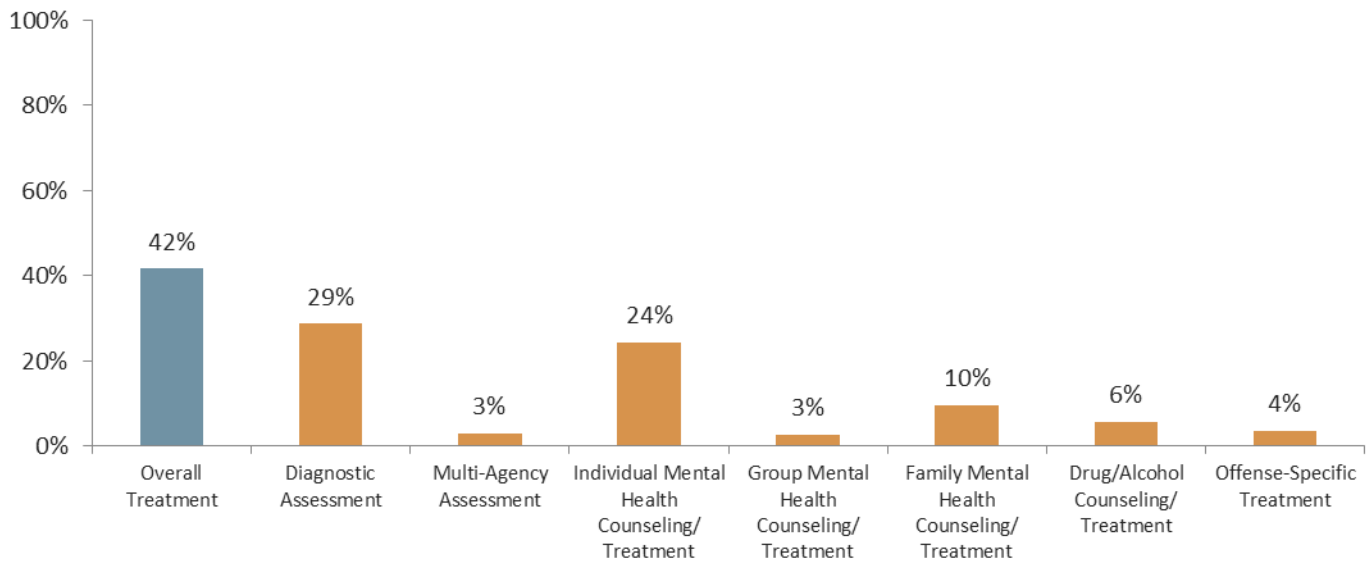
Supervision Services



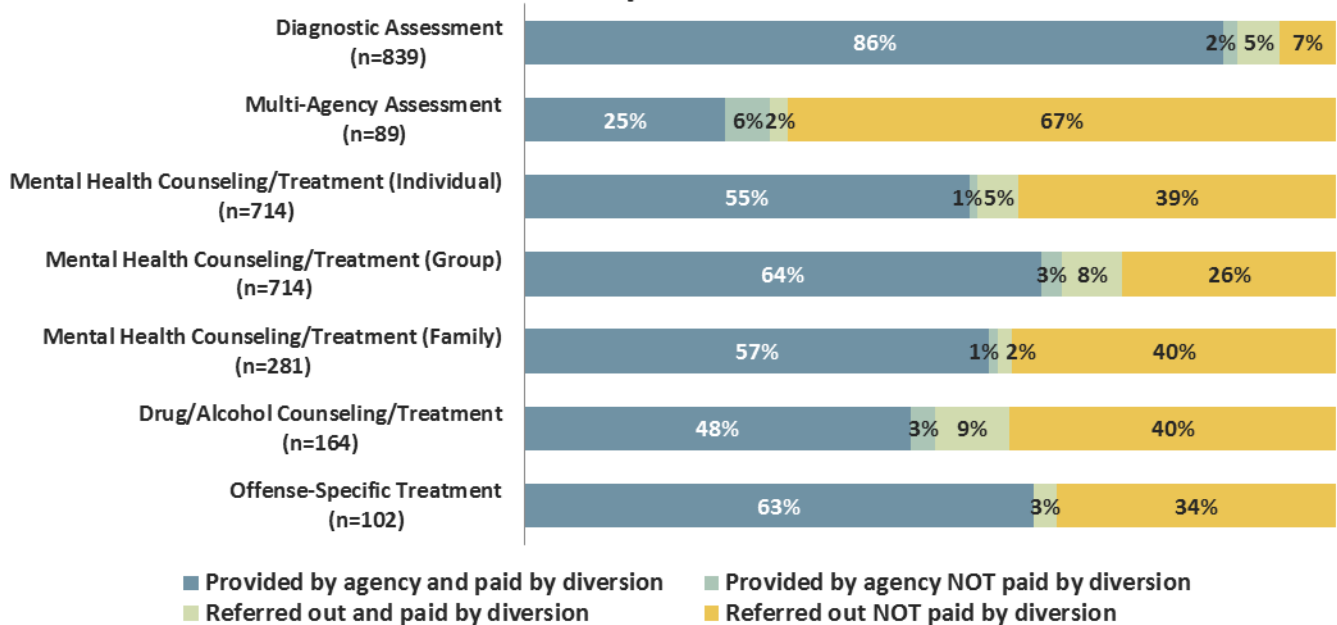
Supervision Services | Who and How Provided



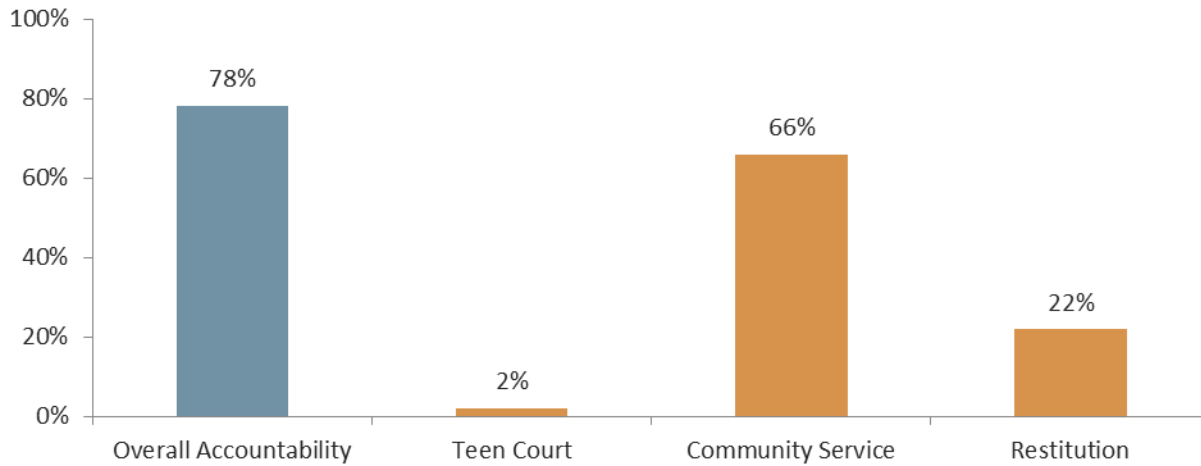
Treatment Services



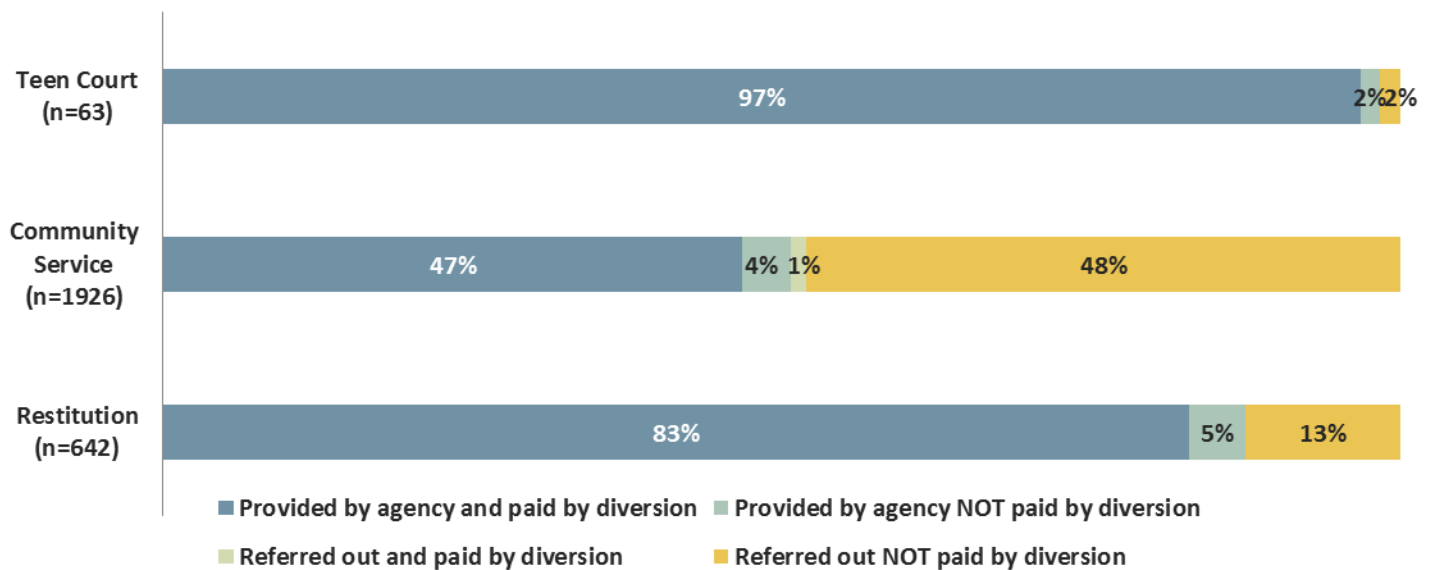
Treatment Services | Who and How Provided



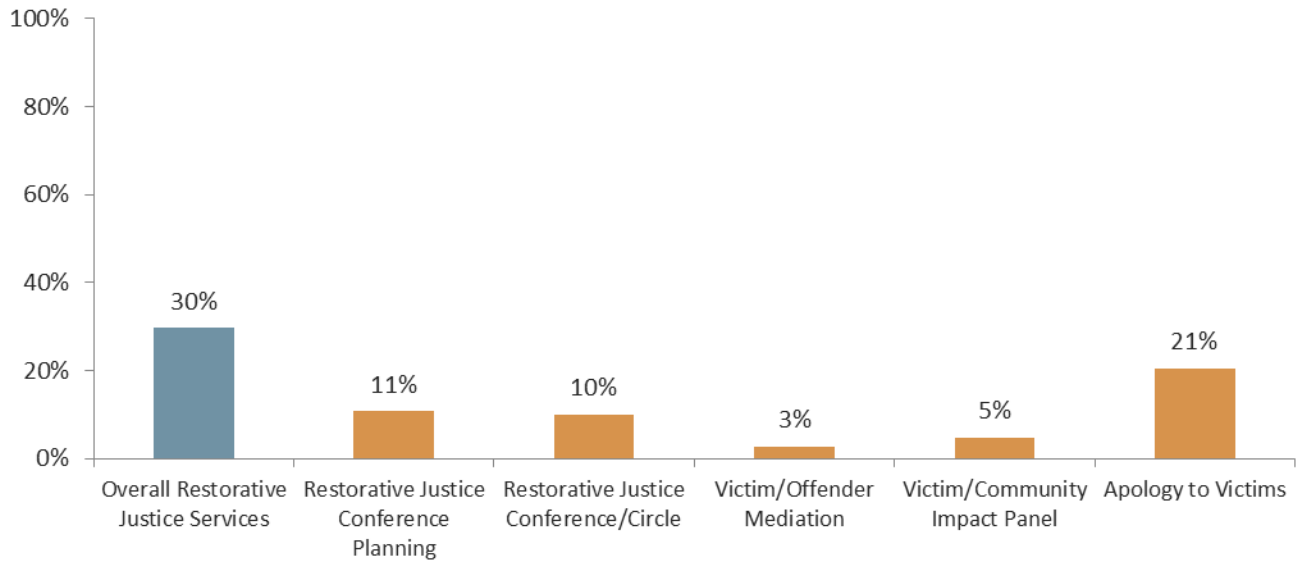
Accountability Services



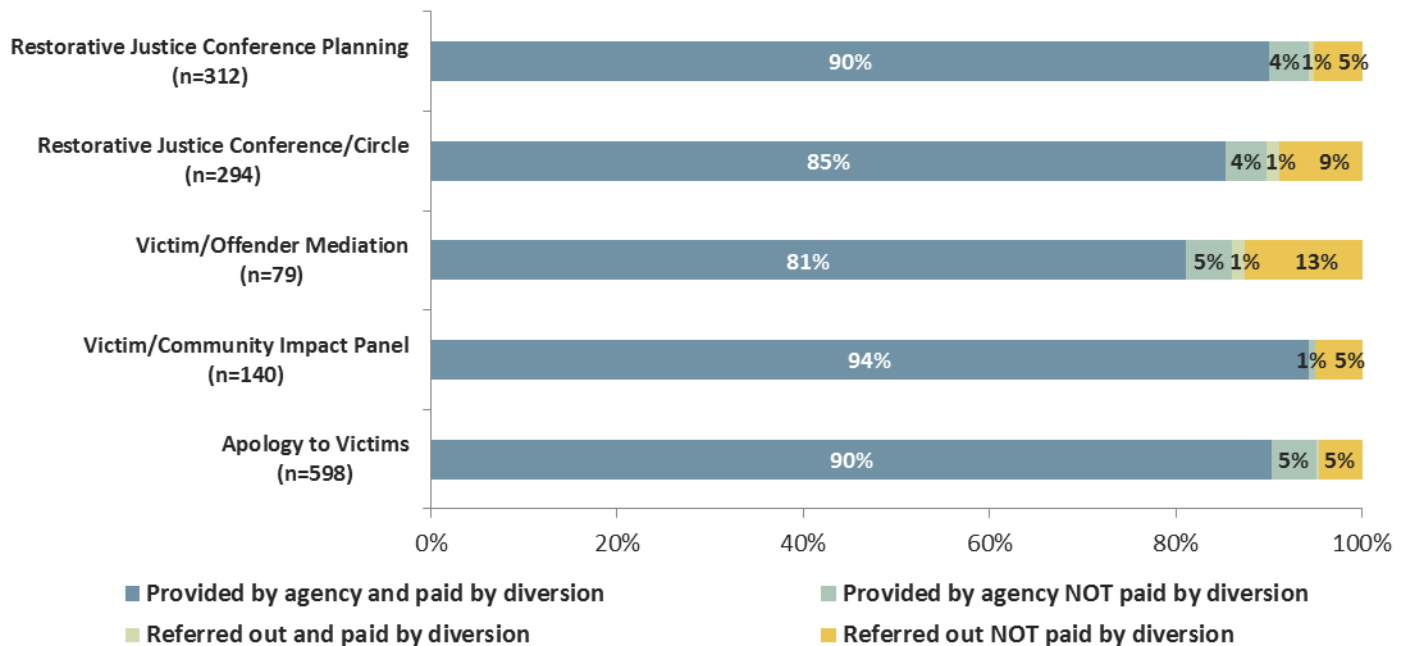
Accountability Services | Who and How Provided



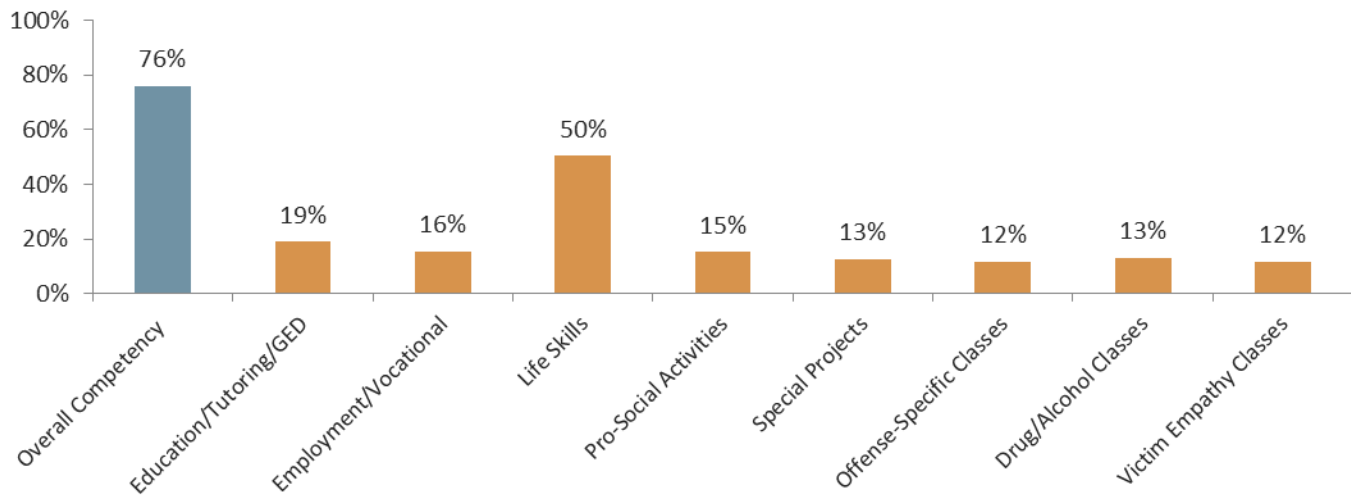
Restorative Justice Services



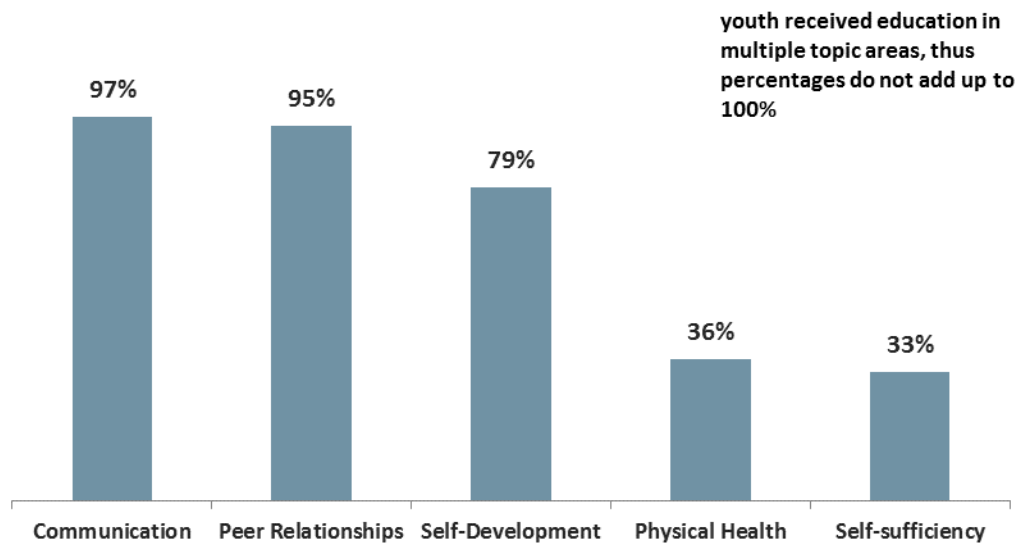
Restorative Justice Services | Who and How Provided



Competency Services



Life Skills Topics



Competency Services | Who and How Provided

