



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

## Merrick County

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## Youth Level

- The number of total youth with chronic absenteeism has decreased in 2018-2019 from previous years.
- While we could not get race/ethnicity data for chronic absenteeism in this community because the frequency was too low to report, Hispanic, Native American, and Black youth are over-represented statewide in chronic absenteeism.
- In 2016-2017, Merrick County had overrepresentation in chronic absenteeism regarding Hispanic youth as compared to the school membership data.
- In 2016-2017, Merrick County had more youth on free/reduced lunch than the state average; more recent numbers are lower than the state average but still over 40%.
- Merrick County has a 94.9% graduation rate over the last 5 years.
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders report loss of sleep from worry at higher rates in Merrick County compared to the state; 8<sup>th</sup> graders also report being depressed at higher rates and 12<sup>th</sup> graders report they had considered/attempted suicide at higher rates.
- 12<sup>th</sup> graders report alcohol use, binge drinking, tobacco use, and vaping at higher rates in Merrick County compared to state rates.
- 10<sup>th</sup> graders also report higher rates of binge drinking and tobacco use in Merrick County compared to the state
- 12<sup>th</sup> graders report gang involvement in Merrick County at the same rate as the state.
- Arrests for all age groups increased in Merrick County between 2018 and 2019, especially with the “all other offenses” category.
  - Increases in DUIs and drug possessions are also noted.
  - An increase in juvenile “arrests” for the “all other offenses” is also seen between 2018 and 2019 (however, with such small frequencies, this increase should be taken with caution).
- NYS domains with the highest scores are Leisure/Recreation, Peer Relationships, Family Circumstances, and Personality/Behavior. There should be programs in the community to address these.
- Law enforcement data by race and ethnicity would be very beneficial to have a clearer picture of RED. Compared to the Census and school data, Native American youth are overrepresented at probation revocation; Asian youth are overrepresented at probation intake and successful probation completion; Black youth are over-represented in probation RAI overrides; Hispanic youth are overrepresented in all diversion points, probation RAI overrides, RAI overrides, probation intakes, successful probation, and probation revocation.
  - Race/ethnicity is missing at low rates in diversion, but at higher rates with being filed on in adult court and having multiple charges filed.
  - Youth listed as multiple/other is higher for RAI probation overrides and probation revocation.
- Youth are being referred to diversion and enrolling and successfully completing diversion at the same rate.

Table 1.



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Distribution of the Population Age 10-17 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) <sup>a</sup>

## Males

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	108,494	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
<b>Merrick</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>94.6%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

## Females

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	102,658	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
<b>Merrick</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

[Click here to go back to RED analysis](#)

Table 2.

School Membership by Race/ Ethnicity and School Year (2014-2019) <sup>b</sup>

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>5.33%</b>	<b>0.41%</b>	<b>0.82%</b>	<b>0.41%</b>	<b>0.10%</b>	<b>92.00%</b>	<b>0.92%</b>
	Nebraska	312,281	17.74%	2.43%	1.42%	6.70%	0.13%	68.20%	3.38%
2015-2016	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>4.57%</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>0.41%</b>	<b>0.10%</b>	<b>92.89%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>
	Nebraska	315,542	18.08%	2.53%	1.38%	6.67%	0.14%	67.72%	3.47%
2016-2017	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>5.61%</b>	<b>0.10%</b>	<b>0.60%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>92.38%</b>	<b>0.70%</b>
	Nebraska	318,853	18.61%	2.66%	1.38%	6.69%	0.15%	66.92%	3.59%
2017-2018	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>5.75%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.67%</b>	<b>0.58%</b>	<b>0.10%</b>	<b>91.85%</b>	<b>1.05%</b>
	Nebraska	323,391	18.80%	2.76%	1.35%	6.67%	0.14%	66.50%	3.78%
2018-2019	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>5.54%</b>	<b>0.28%</b>	<b>0.47%</b>	<b>0.56%</b>	<b>0.09%</b>	<b>91.83%</b>	<b>1.22%</b>
	Nebraska	325,984	19.13%	2.83%	1.33%	6.63%	0.15%	66.02%	3.91%

Table 3.

Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2014 - 2019) <sup>b</sup>



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Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>76</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	35,638	24.54%	1.64%	4.42%	12.93%	0.19%	51.61%	4.68%
2015-2016	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>57</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	38,812	25.73%	1.55%	4.27%	13.68%	0.27%	49.68%	4.83%
2016-2017	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>14.67%</b>	*	*	*	*	<b>85.33%</b>	*
	Nebraska	42,290	26.90%	1.66%	4.40%	14.22%	0.24%	47.66%	4.92%
2017-2018	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>73</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	46,365	26.81%	1.77%	4.18%	14.49%	0.22%	47.37%	2389
2018-2019	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>53</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	46,356	27.64%	1.76%	4.16%	14.71%	0.23%	46.27%	5.23%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the \* represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 4.

Disabilities, English Proficiency, Eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch and School Year (2014 – 2019) <sup>b</sup>

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	IDEA	504 Plan	Limited English Proficiency	Free/Reduced Lunch
2014-2015	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>14.26%</b>	<b>1.64%</b>	*	<b>40.51%</b>
	Nebraska	312,281	13.66%	0.76%	5.97%	44.53%
2015-2016	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>14.33%</b>	<b>1.32%</b>	*	<b>41.97%</b>
	Nebraska	315,542	13.64%	0.90%	5.90%	44.23%
2016-2017	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>13.43%</b>	*	*	<b>45.09%</b>
	Nebraska	318,853	13.80%	0.93%	6.99%	<b>44.76%</b>
2017-2018	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>15.34%</b>	*	*	<b>41.32%</b>
	Nebraska	323,391	15.87%	0.88%	6.59%	46.24%
2018-2019	<b>Merrick</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>15.77%</b>	*	*	<b>44.23%</b>
	Nebraska	325,984	16.13%	0.85%	6.78%	45.42%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the \* represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 5.

Nebraska Public High School 4-Year Graduation Rates by County (5-year estimates, 2015-2019) <sup>c</sup>

County	Total in Last 5 Years		Yearly Averages		Graduation Rate	Rank
	Graduates	Students	Graduates	Students		



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Nebraska	100,111	112,857	20,022.2	22,571.4	88.7%	-
<b>Merrick</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>94.9%</b>	<b>37</b>

Data are only for public school districts and their associated high schools. The figures are aggregated based on the location of the school, not the residential location of the student. The figures for Dawes County are impacted by a vocational school where graduation rates are less than 25%; in the rest of the county graduation rates equal 93%.

Table 6.

Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Merrick</b>	Loss of sleep from worry	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
<b>Merrick</b>	Depressed	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	<b>35.3%</b>
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
<b>Merrick</b>	Considered/Attempted suicide	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
<b>Merrick</b>	Current alcohol	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>39.2%</b>
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
<b>Merrick</b>	Current binge drinking	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
<b>Merrick</b>	Current marijuana	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
<b>Merrick</b>	Current tobacco	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
<b>Merrick</b>	Current vaping	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>23.2%</b>	<b>47.1%</b>
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
<b>Merrick</b>	Hopeful for future (past week)	<b>81.5%</b>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>82.4%</b>
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

**\*\* JJI is currently waiting for the legal team at DHHS to approve providing this data**

Table 7.

Juveniles Referred to Services <sup>e</sup>

Table 8.

Juveniles Referred to Services by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health Diagnosis <sup>e</sup>

Table 9.



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Juveniles Who Utilized Services <sup>e</sup>

Table 10.

Types of Services Utilized <sup>e</sup>

Table 11.

Youth Who Report Gang Involvement by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Merrick</b>	Youth Reported Gang Involvement	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Nebraska		3.8%	4.4%	3.8%

Table 12.

Arrest Rates for Adults and Juveniles for 2018 and 2019 with Percent Change <sup>f</sup>

Arrestee Age	All Arrestee Ages			Under 18		
Summary Arrest Date	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %
Jurisdiction by Geography	MERRICK COUNTY					
Arrest Offense						
Total	102	191	87.25	5	10	100.00
Rape Total	-	2	-	-	-	-
Aggravated Assault Total	2	2	0.00	-	-	-
Burglary Total	-	1	-	-	0	-
Larceny-Theft Total	5	-	-100.00	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Theft Total	1	-	-100.00	-	-	-
Other Assaults	7	10	42.86	1	1	0.00
Fraud	-	2	-	-	-	-
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing	-	3	-	-	-	-
Vandalism	-	2	-	-	-	-
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	2	4	100.00	-	-	-
Drug Violations - Sale/Manufacturing	-	1	-	-	-	-
Drug Violations - Possession	10	27	170.00	-	3	-
Driving Under the Influence	14	23	64.29	1	0	-100.00
Liquor Laws	15	11	-26.67	1	2	100.00



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All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	45	103	128.89	1	4	300.00
Runaways	1	-	-100.00	1	-	-100.00

Table 13.

Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2015 - 2017) <sup>g</sup>

	Merrick			All NYS Counties		
Score	0	1	2	0	1	2
Family Circumstance/Parenting	68.6%	20.0%	11.4%	60.1%	26.7%	13.1%
Education/Employment	85.7%	11.4%	2.9%	43.0%	44.0%	13.1%
Peer Relationships	14.3%	65.7%	20.0%	44.7%	46.6%	8.6%
Substance Use	51.4%	45.7%	2.9%	61.4%	30.3%	8.3%
Leisure/Recreation	51.4%	22.9%	25.7%	50.6%	33.0%	16.5%
Personality/Behavior	62.9%	31.4%	5.7%	50.1%	39.4%	10.4%
Attitudes/Orientation	80.0%	17.1%	2.9%	61.3%	33.7%	5.0%
Mean Score	$M = 4.28, SD = 3.79, 0-15$			$M = 5.64, SD = 3.65, 0-17$		

Merrick County  $n = 39$ ; Statewide  $n = 1512$ 

Table 14.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities Descriptives (2015-2019) <sup>l</sup>[Click here to see Census and School Population Data](#)See [Appendix for yearly data](#)

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	60	0%	0%	0%	8.30%	0%	1.70%	90%
Youth enrolled in diversion	54	0%	0%	0%	7.40%	0%	1.90%	90.70%
Successful completion diversion	48	0%	0%	0%	8.30%	0%	2.10%	89.60%
Youth with multiple charges	14	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	21.40%	78.60%



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Filed on in adult court	5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	40%	60%
RAI Override: More Severe	9	0%	0%	0%	33.30%	0%	0%	66.70%
RAI Override: Less Severe	4	0%	0%	25%	25%	25%	0%	25%
Probation intake	37	0%	2.70%	2.70%	24.30%	2.70%	0%	67.60%
Successful probation	74	0%	1.40%	1.40%	10.80%	0%	0%	86.50%
Revocation of probation	40	2.50%	0%	0%	12.50%	7.50%	0%	77.50%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



## Family Level

- Merrick County has lower rates of youth in poverty compared to the state.
- Number of adults with bachelor's degrees is lower than the state average; it may be possible that residents who go to college outside of Merrick County find employment where they go to school and do not return to Merrick County.
- Youth in Merrick County have access to computers and internet at home at higher rates than the state.
- There are more house in Merrick County without vehicles compared to the state.
- All grades report feeling less supported by adults at school compared to the state.
- 73% of child abuse and neglect cases are unfounded.

Table 15.

Poverty/SES, Educational Attainment, Technology and Computers in Home, Housing, and Transportation (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) <sup>a</sup>

Measurement		Merrick	Nebraska
<b>Poverty/SES</b>	Children <18 in Poverty	11.0%	14.8%
	Number of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	160	43,814
	Percent of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	27.4	28.9
<b>Educational attainment</b>	Age 25+ with B.D.	17.4%	31.3%
	County rank	82	-
	Age 25+ with some college, no degree	32.0%	23.0%
	County rank	2	-
	Age 25+ with HS degree	94.0%	91.1%
	County Rank	23	-
<b>Technology and computers in the home</b>	% under 18 with a computer at home	97.3%	96.9%
	County rank	64	-
	% under 18 with an internet subscription at home	91.1%	91.0%
	County rank	49	-
	% under 18 with broadband internet access at home	90.9%	90.8%



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	County Rank	48	-
<b>Housing</b>	Owner-occupied households	2,434	498,567
	Total households	3,324	754,063
	Owner %	73.2%	66.1%
	Renters	890	255,496
	Renter %	26.8%	33.9%
<b>Transportation</b>	Households with no vehicle available	221	40,465
	Total households	3,324	754,063
	No vehicle %	6.6%	5.4%

Table 16.  
Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Merrick</b>	Adult at home who listens	92.3%	89.7%	90.2%
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
<b>Merrick</b>	Adult at school who listens	83.1%	81.2%	78.4%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

Table 17.  
Domestic Violence Reports and Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means <sup>h</sup>

	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Reported	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means	Simple Domestic Assaults Reported	Simple Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means
<b>Merrick</b>	4	4	2	2
Nebraska	562	402	2512	2019

Table 18.  
Child Abuse and Neglect Reports <sup>i</sup>

	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Assessed	Substantiated	Unfounded
<b>Merrick</b>	104	36%	14%	73%
Nebraska	36,480	33.4%	16.0%	68.3%



## Community Level

- With regard to how youth perceive how their community feels about substance use, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders are reporting lower than state averages for alcohol and cigarettes, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders report lower than the state average for cigarettes.
- Juvenile record sealing is not “automatic” even if statute requires it to seal. Sealing a record requires administrative staff to initiate the process. Dismissed or dropped cases should be sealed at a rate of 100%. All others should be sealed at the rate to which youth successfully complete their court requirements (completion of diversion, probation, restorative practice, or other treatment). Yearly data is available in the Appendix to see if the rate has improved because of legislation, but newer cases should naturally have lower rates of sealing than older cases.
- Data for race and ethnicity at each juvenile justice system point is imperative for an accurate Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) analysis. The court trial database (JUSTICE) has a high rate of missing data by race/ethnicity in this county.

Table 19.

Community Violence Measured by Arrests for Violent Crime (2019) <sup>j</sup>

Type of Violence	Merrick	Nebraska
Murder and Nonnegligent manslaughter	0	34
Rape	2	264
Robbery	0	367
Aggravated Assault	2	1,639
Other Assaults	10	8,782

Table 20.

Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Merrick</b>	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>92.2%</b>
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
<b>Merrick</b>	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	<b>87.1%</b>	<b>75.4%</b>	<b>68.6%</b>
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
<b>Merrick</b>	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	<b>87.1%</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>80.0%</b>
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%



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Table 21.

Juvenile Court Record Sealing Analysis (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>see [Appendix for yearly data](#)

	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	39	61	63.9%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	172	388	44.3%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	6	7	85.7%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	0	1	0.0%
Total	217	459	47.3%

\*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. Some cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis



## Policy, Legal and System Level

- Despite not being in a county required to provide counsel under statute, access to counsel is similar to the state average, but still lower than ideal.
- Curfew filings were relatively high in the previous years but have decreased in recent years. Curfew violations, if not diverted, can net-widen juveniles into the juvenile justice system.
- There are few curfew and 3A, 3B, and 3C filings in court so the community is diverting appropriately. There have been some absenteeism filings in recent years, but the number is still low.
- With respect to diversion practices, the community may want to consider a few things:
  - Not filing all unsuccessful cases, if the youth completed most of the diversion plan
  - Allowing warning letters for the lowest risk youth
  - Comparing diversion fees to court costs so they are comparable.
  - If drug testing is needed, it should only be used on cases where the youth demonstrates a substance use issue.
  - It is not clear why all first-time offenders are not referred to diversion but perhaps this is due to the ineligible offenses.

Table 22.

Percent of Youth in Juvenile Court Who Had Access to Counsel (2018) <sup>n</sup>

	Merrick	Nebraska
Access to Counsel	60.0% -- 79.9%	73.5%

**Neb. Rev. 43-272. Right to counsel; appointment; payment; guardian ad litem; appointment; when; duties; standards for guardians ad litem; standards for attorneys who practice in juvenile court.**

(1)(a) In counties having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, when any juvenile shall be brought without counsel before a juvenile court, the court shall advise such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian of their right to retain counsel and shall inquire of such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian as to whether they desire to retain counsel.

(b) In counties having a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more inhabitants, when any juvenile court petition is filed alleging jurisdiction of a juvenile pursuant to subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, counsel shall be appointed for such juvenile.

Table 23.

Frequency of Youth with a Curfew Violation (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>



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	Merrick	Nebraska
Curfew Court Filing	14	352

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
0	7	6	1	0	14

Table 24.  
Court Filing for 3A, 3B, and 3C cases (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>

	Merrick					
Filed Subtype	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	0	1	3	3	0	7
3B - Uncontrollable	1	0	0	0	0	1
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	1	0	0	0	0	1

	Nebraska					
Filed Subtype	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	2	0	2	3	7
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	96	510	493	423	475	1997
3B - Uncontrollable	47	118	125	119	82	491
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	22	48	37	22	23	306

Table 25.  
County Diversion Procedures and Protocols Compared to Statewide Responses (2020) <sup>o</sup>

	Merrick	Nebraska *
Refer ALL juveniles who are first time offenders to diversion	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 63.6% Not sure: 9.1%
File a juvenile's charges at the time of the referral to diversion	No	Yes: 18.2% No: 70.5% Not sure: 11.4%
File a juvenile's charges if they are unsuccessful on diversion	Sometimes	Always: 47.7% Sometimes: 47.7% Not sure: 4.5%
Allow a juvenile to complete diversion more than once	Yes	Yes: 61.4% No: 34.1% Not sure: 4.5%



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Charges/offenses that make a juvenile ineligible for diversion	Yes; felonies, DUI, sexual assault, assault, other violent or dangerous offenses.	Yes: 86.4% No: 9.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Warning letters instead of intervention	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 61.4% Not sure: 11.4%
Currently drug test	Yes	Yes: 31.8% No: 65.9% Not sure: 2.3%
Fees beyond restitution	Yes; depends on the offense and if online courses are required	Yes: 86.4% No: 13.6% Not sure: 0.0%
Use of graduated responses prior to discharge	Yes; we assign additional consequences if they are not compliant. If they fail to complete those or are further non-compliant, we then terminate the contract.	Yes: 47.7% No: 25.0% Not sure: 27.3%
Sealing diversion records	Yes; All juveniles under the age of 18 at the time of offense get their record sealed. We deal if on our end and then send a letter to the citing agency.	Yes: 59.1% No: 22.7% Not sure: 18.2%

\*responses included 44 juvenile diversion programs; representing 68 counties/tribe (91.9% response rate)



## Community Team Level

- A community lead should be able to get roughly a 75% response, to ensure active participation on planning issues, your response rate was 20.0% (2 responses).
- The rates of collective impact went up for all elements from the 2019 survey, however this may not be representative of the team with such a small number of responses.
- The community team should be representative of the population of that community but should also include diversity. It might be beneficial to add diverse member to your team (especially because of the patterns of over and under representation.)
- Although the low response rate may affect the results of community team diversity, there could be more representation from other system points not currently represented.

Table 26.  
Collective Impact Survey Response Rates <sup>P</sup>

	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
Year of survey	2019	2020	2019	2020
Number of surveys sent	9	10	1407	780
Number of completed surveys	5	2	221	345
Response rate	55.6%	20.0%	28.3%	24.5%

Table 27.  
Collective Impact Survey Scores <sup>P</sup>

	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
Year of survey	2019	2020	2019	2020
	Mean Score		Mean Score	
Common agenda	4.55	6.00	5.29	5.69
Mutually reinforcing	5.09	5.50	5.37	5.50
Shared measurement	4.80	5.00	5.21	5.45
Continuous communication	4.89	5.00	5.49	5.55
Backbone agency	5.38	6.00	5.52	5.78

The five elements of Collective Impact are:



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- **Common agenda:** Participants have a shared vision and common understanding of both the problem and potential solutions to that problem.
- **Mutually reinforcing activities:** Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
- **Shared measurement:** Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
- **Continuous communication:** Consistent and open communication is needed across stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
- **Backbone support:** Creating and managing Collective Impact often requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and to coordinate participating organizations <sup>q</sup>

Table 28.

Community Planning Team Diversity <sup>p</sup>

	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	N = 2	(%)	N = 345	(%)
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	1	50.0%	101	29.3%
Female	1	50.0%	229	66.4%
Missing	--	--	15	4.3%
<b>Age</b>				
Under 30	--	--	19	5.6%
30-39	--	--	68	19.6%
40-49	1	50.0%	88	25.4%
50-59	1	50.0%	90	25.8%
60 and over	--	--	44	13%
Missing	--	--	36	10.4%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White	2	100%	230	66.7%
Black	--	--	10	2.9%
Hispanic	--	--	13	3.8%
Native American	--	--	6	1.7%
Asian	--	--	1	0.3%
Other	--	--	2	0.6%
Provided town name	--	--	63	18.3%
Missing	--	--	19	5.5%
<b>Previous System Involvement</b>				
Yes	--	--	98	28.4%



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No	2	100%	242	70.1%
Missing	--	--	5	1.4%
<b>System Point *</b>				
Law enforcement	--	--	34	7.8%
County attorney/ juvenile court	1	50.0%	32	7.3%
K-12 or secondary education	1	50.0%	65	14.9%
Ministry/faith based	--	--	10	2.3%
Diversion	--	--	55	12.6%
Probation	--	--	31	7.1%
Public defender/ defense counsel/ guardian ad litem	--	--	8	1.8%
DHHS or Child Welfare	--	--	13	3.0%
Treatment provider	--	--	40	9.2%
Post adjudication or detention	--	--	8	1.8%
Community based program	--	--	109	25.0%
Elected official or government	--	--	6	1.4%
Restorative practices	--	--	6	1.4%
Backbone or system improvement	--	--	3	0.7%
Other			16	3.7%
<b>Voice on Team</b>				
Feel heard	2	100%	270	78.3%
Do not feel heard	--	--	75	21.7%

Merrick  $n = 1$ , Nance  $n = 1$ 

\*note. Team members could have selected more than one system point; as such, they do not add up to 100%



## References and Resources

- <sup>a</sup> **Population data:** Table B01001 race series, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- <sup>a</sup> **Youth employment:** Table B23001, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- <sup>a</sup> **Poverty/SES:** Table B10724, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- <sup>a</sup> **Technology in household:** Table B28005, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- <sup>a</sup> **Home owner/transportation:** Table B25045, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- <sup>a</sup> **Education attainment:** Table B15002, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- <sup>b</sup> **School membership, chronic absenteeism, student disability, and free/reduced lunch:** Prepared by  
Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
- <sup>c</sup> **Graduation rates:** Special Tabulation by Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 7-24-2020
- <sup>d</sup> **Mental health, Substance use, gang, and community perceptions of substance use:** Bureau of  
Sociological Research, Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Survey:  
<https://bosr.unl.edu/current-nrpfss-county-level-data>
- <sup>e</sup> **Referral to and utilization of services:** Department of Health and Human Services
- <sup>f</sup> **Adult and juvenile arrests:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:  
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- <sup>g</sup> Diversion programs
- <sup>h</sup> **Domestic violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Domestic Assault:  
[https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County\\_0.pdf](https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County_0.pdf)
- <sup>i</sup> Child abuse and neglect
- <sup>j</sup> **Community violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:  
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- <sup>k</sup> **Distance to detention facility:** Google Maps
- <sup>l</sup> **Racial and ethnic disparities:** Prepared by Mitch Herian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln with data provided  
by:



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Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:

<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

Nebraska Crime Commission, Juvenile Case Management System

Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

Nebraska Judicial Branch, Juvenile Services Division

<sup>m</sup> **Court Filings and Juvenile Record Sealing:** Data provided by the Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute on 9-1-20

<sup>n</sup> **Access to Counsel:** Kids County in Nebraska Report, Voices for Children, retrieved from: [www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount](http://www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount). Data originally from Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

<sup>o</sup> **Diversion procedures and protocols:** Diversion survey distributed to Juvenile Diversion programs, 2020. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

<sup>p</sup> **Collective impact:** Collective impact surveys distributed to Community Planning Teams, 2019 and 2020. Prepared by: Anne Hobbs and Erin Wasserburger, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

<sup>q</sup> **Collective Impact Elements:** Kania, J., & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

## Appendix: RED Descriptives

2015

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	85.70%
Youth enrolled in diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	85.70%
Successful completion diversion	12	0%	0%	0%	16.70%	0%	0%	83.30%
Youth with multiple charges	0	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	0%	NA%	NA%
Filed on in adult court	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: More Severe	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Probation intake	11	0%	0%	9.10%	27.30%	0%	0%	63.60%
Successful probation	16	0%	0%	0%	12.50%	0%	0%	87.50%
Revocation of probation	6	0%	0%	0%	16.70%	0%	0%	83.30%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



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2016

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	13	0%	0%	0%	7.70%	0%	0%	92.30%
Youth enrolled in diversion	8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful completion diversion	8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth with multiple charges	5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: More Severe	2	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
RAI Override: Less Severe	0	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	0%	NA%
Probation intake	7	0%	0%	0%	42.90%	0%	0%	57.10%
Successful probation	15	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Revocation of probation	7	0%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	85.70%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



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2017

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	18	0%	0%	0%	5.60%	0%	5.60%	88.90%
Youth enrolled in diversion	17	0%	0%	0%	5.90%	0%	5.90%	88.20%
Successful completion diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	7.10%	0%	7.10%	85.70%
Youth with multiple charges	4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	0	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	0%	NA%	NA%
RAI Override: More Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Probation intake	9	0%	0%	0%	22.20%	0%	0%	77.80%
Successful probation	16	0%	0%	6.20%	6.20%	0%	0%	87.50%
Revocation of probation	10	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	80%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



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2018

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	8	0%	0%	0%	12.50%	0%	0%	87.50%
Youth enrolled in diversion	8	0%	0%	0%	12.50%	0%	0%	87.50%
Successful completion diversion	7	0%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	85.70%
Youth with multiple charges	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: More Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Probation intake	4	0%	25%	0%	0%	25%	0%	50%
Successful probation	22	0%	0%	0%	18.20%	0%	0%	81.80%
Revocation of probation	11	9.10%	0%	0%	9.10%	0%	0%	81.80%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



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2019

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth enrolled in diversion	7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful completion diversion	7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth with multiple charges	4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	75%	25%
Filed on in adult court	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
RAI Override: More Severe	3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Probation intake	6	0%	0%	0%	16.70%	0%	0%	83.30%
Successful probation	5	0%	20%	0%	20%	0%	0%	60%
Revocation of probation	6	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year**

\*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. Some cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis

<b>2015</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	3	8	37.5%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	37	65	56.9%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	1	1	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>55.4%</b>

<b>2016</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	8	17	47.1%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	53	113	46.9%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	4	4	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>48.5%</b>

<b>2017</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	9	9	100%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	66	117	56.4%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	1	1	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>59.8%</b>



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

2018	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	12	15	80.0%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	11	49	22.4%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	0	1	0.0%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	23	65	35.4%

2019	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	7	11	63.6%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	5	43	11.6%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	0	1	0.0%
Total	12	57	21.1%