

EVIDENCE-BASED NEBRASKA

ADAMS COUNTY DIVERSION EVALUATION

JUNE 2023

Julie Garman, Ph.D.
Anne Hobbs, J.D., Ph.D.



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska

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Executive Summary

Diversion programs in Nebraska are alternative justice programs that aim to redirect youth away from formal juvenile justice processing towards rehabilitation and educational services. The purpose of this evaluation was to examine the effectiveness of the Adams County Diversion program.

The results in this evaluation are presented in two parts. The first part of the report includes quantitative data findings within the full program model and for each of the three models the program has used over time. In the second part of the evaluation, we present quantitative data that includes a more in-depth look at the most current model used by the program.

Since 2005, Adams County Diversion has diverted 1532 youth out of the juvenile justice system. The most common reason youth were referred to the program was for alcohol, shoplifting, and assault related charges. For the full program model, youth spent an average of just over one month between offense and program referral, an average of two weeks between referral and program intake, and an average of 4.06 months engaged with the Adams County Diversion program. For the full 1532 youth referred to the program, over half (54.6%) were successfully discharged. We did note some race, gender, age, and time in program effects related to program success in the various program models. Race was a significant predictor of outcome in that youth of color were less likely to have a successful discharge compared to white youth in both the Teen Court and current program model. Females were less likely to have a successful outcome compared to males for youth in the current model and youth that were older had better odds of successful discharge compared to younger youth. The odds of a successful discharge were also improved by additional days in the program for youth in the Teen Court and current program models.

For youth in the current program model, we examined change in assessment scores from pre- to post-programming, activity data, and future system involvement. Adams County Diversion uses both the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Assessment and the Juvenile Inventory for Functioning (JIFF) to assess youth needs. Findings of the analyses suggest that the program is having an effect on addressing identified needs for youth. We noted that youth scores on five Daniel Memorial subscales showed significant improvement following program completion in the areas of personal appearance and hygiene, housekeeping, community resources, interpersonal skills, and leisure activities. We found significant effects on score improvement following program completion for six JIFF domains: noncompliance in home, unsafe community behaviors, health related needs, school, self-harm potential, and substance use. When comparing the most common identified needs of youth with the program activities youth were assigned to complete as part of their case plan, we found that the majority of youth (88.5%) were assigned a number of activities that matched with their identified needs. Youth were assigned an average of 9.82 activities, and most (72.3%) completed all activities. Adams County Diversion successfully discharged 70.5% of youth in the current model. For these youth, only 8.2% were found to have future system involvement. No youth discharged from the program had a future detention.

Introduction

The primary objective of this evaluation is to examine the impact of the Adams County Diversion program on youth outcomes. Adams County Diversion program administrators and staff work with youth referred to diversion in all five counties. In conjunction with the program, JJI focused the evaluation on understanding the process by which youth are served in the program and outcomes for these youth. Evaluation efforts were specifically focused on five main research questions developed jointly by the program administrators and JJI:

1. What population of youth are being diverted out of the system?
2. Are youth receiving services that align with identified needs?
3. How do program interventions affect youth outcomes?
4. What are youth perceptions of procedural justice throughout their time in the program? and
5. What potential barriers to program delivery exist and how are they managed?

Part 1 of this report compares important programming elements across the entire span of data provided; while Part 2 focuses solely on the programming and outcomes utilized by Adams County Diversion’s current program model.

Background

Juvenile Diversion Programs

Research has demonstrated that youth who are formally engaged in the juvenile justice system often have worse outcomes compared to youth who are not formally processed.¹ Diversion programs are alternative justice programs that aim to redirect youth away from the formal juvenile justice system and towards rehabilitation and educational services. Diversion programs have been in place in Nebraska since the 1970s. These programs offer a way to address growing juvenile justice populations without formal processing in the juvenile system.²

The goals of youth diversion programs vary, but often include a focus on providing youth with the skills and support they need to make positive life choices and become productive members of society. This may include education and vocational training, substance abuse treatment, mentorship, and counseling services.

There is evidence to suggest that diversion programs can be effective in reducing delinquent behavior among youth. A review of the literature on diversion programs found that these programs can lead to a reduction in recidivism rates, as well as improved attitudes towards the law, and increased engagement in pro-social activities.³ Further, diversion programs that utilize a more individualized approach to programming that target identified risks and needs contribute to more successful outcomes for youth than those that use a “one-size-fits-all” method.⁴

¹ Hobbs et al., 2013; Petersino et al., 201

² Beck et al., 2006; Cocozza et al., YEAR

³ Aos et al., 2006; Lipsey & Wilson, 2001; Ramey & Aos, 2004; Schubert & Dembo, 2004; Swartz et al., 2017; Visher & Wilcox, 2004

⁴ Barrett et al., 2022; Belcuig et al., 2016; Loeb et al., 2015; NeMoyer et al., 2019; Wylie et al., 2019

Adams County Diversion

Adams County Diversion began running its program in 1994. They have been funded, in part, by a Community-based Juvenile Services Aid (CBA) program since 2004 (with the exception of 2015-2018 in which JJI does not have record of them as CBA fund recipients). Currently the program is headquartered in Hastings, Nebraska and has three of people on staff. In addition to the program director, Adams County Diversion also has two case managers and one Americorp employee. Case managers are responsible for conducting intake meetings with youth which involves conducting risk screenings and assessments, identifying any needs the youth may have, and coordinating services and programming.

One condition of receiving a CBA grant is that program personnel are required to enter data on referrals for services that they receive from counties into the statewide Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS). For more information on the history of the CBA or the JCMS, please visit Evidence-based Nebraska at <https://www.jjinebraska.org/> or Nebraska Crime Commission Juvenile Programs and Interventions at <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/juvenile-programs-and-interventions>.

The Adams County Diversion program covers the 10th judicial district in Nebraska which includes Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, and Webster counties. Adams County Diversion actively serves referrals they receive from counties in this district for juvenile diversion. Currently, they only receive referrals on cases for Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Nuckolls, and Webster counties in south central Nebraska. Although most diversion cases the program serves come from Adams County, there are notable differences between Adams County and the other counties that are served that should be mentioned. Adams County had a total population in 2020 of 31,205, while the other counties are considerably smaller and more rural with Clay at 6,104, Fillmore at 5,551, Nuckolls at 4,095, and Webster at 3,395 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).⁵

Program Goals

The mission of the Adams County Diversion program is to “provide youth with an opportunity for accountability and competency development while promoting safety in the community.”

The Adams County Diversion program has had at least three program models. The early diversion program model includes data from January of 2005 through July 1, 2020, and was less responsive to meeting individual youth needs (e.g., youth paid fees and did community service, less staff contact). A second model of diversion included sending youth through Teen Court (October 2015 through April 2019, with one case in July 2021, which is likely due to a data entry error). This model was adopted by a handful of counties in Nebraska. According to the program director, the current model of diversion programming (Post July 1, 2020) offers a restorative approach to working with youth for skill building, addressing needs, repairing relationships through mediation, and intentional monthly meetings. Early in this report we include an analysis of all three diversion models. In the latter half of this report, we focus on the current model of diversion, so that recommendations are relevant to the current operation.

The Adams County Diversion program (note – this includes youth referred from counties included in the service area) serves youth through a variety of different activities. These activities are categorized as the following: administrative, restorative justice, skill building, accountability, academic, behavioral health, and personal goals. A description of the program activities are included later in the report.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2021

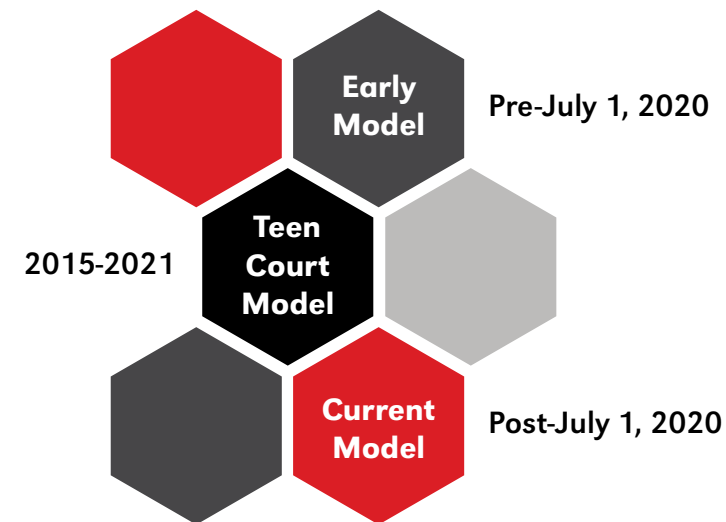
Target Population

The target population for Adams County Diversion includes youth aged 12-18 years old that are referred for diversion services within the 10th judicial district served by this program. In addition, program staff noted that they occasionally get referrals from the county attorney for populations outside of this range. Youth referred to the program 19 years old and younger are included in this evaluation.

Methodology

To evaluate the Adams County Diversion program, JJI analyzed program data included in the Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS). The Nebraska Crime Commission provided JJI with all required and optional data in the JCMS for all program referrals through September 30, 2022. As the program model used by Adams County Diversion has changed throughout the time they have received funding from the CBA program, JJI used the following cut points to separate the data: 1) early program model: diversion referrals not included in Teen Court prior to July 1, 2020, 2) Teen Court: diversion referrals sent to Teen Court,⁶ and 3) diversion referrals not included in Teen Court from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022.

Figure 1. Cut Points Used to Separate the Data



As mentioned above, Part 1 of this report compares important programming elements across the entire span of data provided; while Part 2 focuses solely on the programming and outcomes currently utilized by Adams County Diversion.

⁶ Note: Adams County Diversion stopped funding Teen Court volunteers after FY 17/18; however, Teen Court diversion remained in the Adams County Diversion grant application with the NCC through FY 19/20.

Research Questions

6. What population of youth are being diverted out of the system?
7. Are youth receiving services that align with identified needs?
8. How do program interventions affect youth outcomes?
9. What are youth perceptions of procedural justice throughout their time in the program?
10. What potential barriers to program delivery exist and how are they managed?

Part One

Adams County Diversion 2005 to 2022

Over the past 17 years, Adams County Diversion has diverted a total of 1532 youth cases out of the juvenile justice system. First, we examined how many cases were available for analyses in the full program model from January 2005 through September 2022. Diversion programs are asked to enter offense, referral, intake, enrollment, and discharge dates for youth referred to the program. Of 1532⁷ cases in the full program model, the majority (n = 953, 62.2%) include information on all dates in the JCMS for the youth's progress in the program. The most frequent data missing from the JCMS was information about enrollment date (n = 471, 30.7%), available data on intake date was more complete as shown below. Most issues with available data on case information were for cases referred prior to 2020, only 36 cases after 2020 were missing dates or were likely still enrolled in the program at the time the data were pulled. This suggests that the program has improved upon their data entry for these variables.

Table 1. Available Data on Case Date Information included in the JCMS

Cases	Frequency	Percent
All Dates Included	953	62.2%
Date Issues ⁸	30	2%
Likely Still Enrolled ⁹	14	0.9%
Missing Intake Date	38	2.5%
Missing Enrollment Date	471	30.7%
Missing Intake and Enrollment Date	12	0.8%
Missing Offense Date	6	0.4%
Missing Offense, Intake, and/or Enrollment Date	8	0.5%
Total	1532	100%

⁷ The full data extract supplied by NCC included data for 1772 cases, 5 were removed due to no referral date included, and 235 cases in which the individual was over the age of 19 were excluded from the dataset. Additionally, 24 youth attended the program twice and one youth attended the program three times. As these are separate program dates, youth demographic data were included with program descriptives.

⁸ This includes cases where the dates do not make sense, cases may have been discharge with no discharge date/discharge reason entered, or other data entry error (e.g., keying in incorrect month/day/year).

⁹ This includes cases that were likely still open at the time the data were pulled from JCMS in September 2022 as indicated by available dates and no discharge information.

Population Demographics for All Program Models and by County

Population demographics from the full program model are displayed below. For the full sample, which includes referrals sent to Adams County Diversion from January 2005 through September 2022. During this time, a total of 1532 youth were referred. The average age for youth at the time of referral is 15.86 years old.¹⁰ The majority of these youth are White (55.1%), race unspecified (27.9%), or Hispanic (12.3%), Black (2%), Other/ Multiple races (2.1%), American Indian, Alaska Native (0.4%), Asian (0.3%), or Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander (0.1%). Referred youth are more likely to be male (59.5%), compared to female (40.5%), or non-binary (0.1%).

Demographic results from Adams County compared to the other counties served by the program suggest some differences in the populations referred. Adams County reported referrals to the program for more racial and ethnic minority youth (49.5%) compared to other counties (7.7%). Other counties serve on average a slightly older population compared to Adams County (16.13 years old compared to 15.82 years old). Further, other counties referred, on average, more male youth compared to Adams County. Note, current grade for referred youth is included at the bottom of the table but results should be interpreted with caution due to large amounts of missing data on this variable.

Table 2. Population Demographics for All Program Models and by County

Demographics	Full Model	Adams County	Other Counties
Age (SD, range)	15.86 (2.4, 7-19) ¹¹	15.82 (2.4, 7-19) ¹²	16.13 (1.9, 10-19)
Race (f, percent)	1532, 100%	1364, 100%	168, 100%
Unspecified	427, 27.9%	425, 31.2%	2, 1.2%
American Indian, Alaska Native	6, 0.4%	5, 0.4%	1, 0.6%
Asian	5, 0.3%	5, 0.4%	0, 0%
Black, African American	30, 2%	29, 2.1%	1, 0.6%
Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander	1, 0.1%	1, 0.1%	0, 0%
White	844, 55.1%	689, 50.5%	155, 92.3%
Hispanic	188, 12.3%	184, 13.5%	4, 2.4%
Other/Multiple Race	31, 2.1%	26, 1.9%	5, 3%
Gender (f, percent)	1532, 100%	1364, 100%	168, 100%
Female	620, 40.5%	568, 41.6%	52, 31%
Male	911, 59.5%	795, 58.3%	116, 69%
Non-binary	1, 0.1%	1, 0.1%	0, 0%
Current Grade (SD, range)	9.93 (2.2, 0-13) ¹³	9.82 (2.1, 2-13) ¹⁴	10.48 (2.4, 0-13) ¹⁵

¹⁰ Range 7 – 19, age missing for n = 3

¹¹ Age at Referral missing for n = 3

¹² Age at Referral missing for n = 3

¹³ Current grade missing for n = 804

¹⁴ Current grade missing for n = 752

¹⁵ Current grade missing for n = 52

Demographics by Program Model

Referrals Early Model

Cases for this model were gathered by removing Teen Court cases prior to sorting the data by referral date. Only cases with referral dates prior to July 1, 2020, were retained. During this period, 1229 cases were referred to Adams County Diversion. Of these cases, 1081 (88%) were referred from the Adams County Attorney, with the remaining 12% being referred from the Clay Center Attorney's Office (n = 29, 2.4%), Fillmore County Attorney (n = 46, 3.7%), Nuckolls County Attorney (n = 40, 3.3%), and Webster County Attorney (n = 33, 2.7%).

Teen Court Model Referrals

A total of 144 youth who were referred to Adams County Diversion were included in the Teen Court¹⁶ model. Referral dates for these youth ranged from October 2015 through July 2021, although the majority of referrals ended in the spring of 2019. Of these referrals, all but one (from Fillmore County) came from the Adams County Attorney. All cases referred to Teen Court had a discharge date, indicating that all participated in the Teen Court program.

Referrals Current Model

In Part 2, we provide an in-depth analysis of cases referred after July 1, 2020, as this is the current program model. Cases for this model were gathered from removing Teen Court cases prior to sorting the data by referral date. Only cases with referral dates after July 1, 2020¹⁷, were retained. During this period, 159 cases were referred to Adams County Diversion. Of these cases, 140 (88.1%) were referred from the Adams County Attorney, with the remaining 11.9% being referred from the Fillmore County Attorney (n = 2, 1.3%) and Nuckolls County Attorney (n = 17, 10.7%).

Table 3. Population Demographics by Program Model

Participant Demographics	Early Model n = 1229	Teen Court Model ¹⁸ n = 144	Current Model n = 159
Age (SD, range)	16.02 (2.4, 7-19) ¹⁹	15.21 (1.49, 10-18)	15.17 (2.26, 11-19)
Race (f, percent)	1229, 100%	144, 100%	159, 100%
Unspecified	425, 34.6%	1, 0.7%	1, 0.6%
American Indian, Alaska Native	6, 0.5%	0, 0%	0, 0%
Asian	3, 0.2%	2, 1.4%	0, 0%
Black, African American	23, 1.9%	4, 2.8%	3, 1.9%
Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander	1, 0.1%	0, 0%	0, 0%

¹⁶ Please note that the variable allowing programs to identify youth referred to teen court was a check box until 2019, therefore we cannot determine if this is inclusive of all teen court cases served by this program since data collection and data entry into the JCMS began.

¹⁷ No cases were referred on July 1, 2020

¹⁸ Teen Court Dataset included 143 cases from Adams County and one case from Fillmore County. As such, the Teen Court dataset demographics are grouped.

¹⁹ Age at referral missing for n = 3

Participant Demographics	Early Model n = 1229	Teen Court Model ¹⁸ n = 144	Current Model n = 159
White	634, 51.6%	94, 65.3%	116, 73%
Hispanic	126, 10.3%	40, 27.8%	22, 13.8%
Other/Multiple Race	11, 0.9%	3, 2.1%	17, 10.7%
Missing	0, 0%	0, 0%	0, 0%
Gender (f, percent)	1229, 100%	144, 100%	159, 100%
Female	507, 41.3%	57, 39.6%	56, 35.2%
Male	722, 58.7%	87, 60.4%	102, 64.2%
Non-binary	0, 0%	0, 0%	1, 0.6%
Current Grade (f, percent)	1229, 100%	144, 100%	159, 100%
Below 5th	9, 0.8%	0, 0%	0, 0%
5th	6, 0.5%	1, 0.7%	0, 0%
6th	18, 1.5%	2, 1.4%	9, 5.7%
7th	35, 2.8%	6, 4.2%	22, 13.8%
8th	47, 3.8%	15, 10.4%	14, 8.8%
9th	47, 3.8%	21, 14.6%	21, 13.2%
10th	70, 5.7%	29, 20.1%	21, 13.2%
11th	94, 7.6%	27, 18.8%	22, 13.8%
12th	80, 6.5%	22, 15.3%	20, 12.6%
13 (Other)	45, 3.7%	2, 1.4%	23, 14.5%
Missing	778, 63.3%	19, 13.2%	7, 4.4%
School Enrollment (f, percent)	1229, 100%	144, 100%	159, 100%
Unspecified	49, 4%	0, 0%	7, 4.4%
Enrolled and Attending or GED	860, 70%	139, 96.5%	132, 83%
Suspended	1, 0.1%	0, 0%	0, 0%
Expelled	1, 0.1%	1, 0.7%	1, 0.6%
Home Schooled	7, 0.6%	1, 0.7%	0, 0%
High School Graduate/GED, no college	140, 11.4%	0, 0%	4, 2.5%
College Student	121, 9.8%	0, 0%	11, 6.9%
Drop Out	3, 0.2%	0, 0%	1, 0.6%
Alternate School	2, 0.2%	1, 0.7%	0, 0%
Missing	45, 3.7%	2, 1.4%	3, 1.9%

We examined the composition of families of the youth referred to the diversion program. Response rates for these variables fluctuate with a higher degree of missing data on family income and family size, compared to custody/guardianship status.²⁰

Table 4. Family Variables

Variables	Full Model	Early Model	Teen Court Model ²¹	Current Model
Family Income	1532, 100%	1229, 100%	144, 100%	159, 100%
\$0 - \$9,999	48, 3.1%	35, 2.8%	5, 3.5%	8, 5%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	89, 5.8%	68, 5.5%	7, 4.9%	14, 8.8%
\$25,000 - \$39,999	85, 5.5%	56, 4.6%	12, 8.3%	17, 10.7%
\$40,000 or over	141, 9.2%	110, 9%	8, 5.6%	23, 14.5%
Missing/Blank	1169, 76.3%	960, 46.5%	112, 77.8%	97, 61%
Family Size (SD, range)	4.3 (1.6, 0-12) ²²	4.27 (1.6, 0-12) ²³	4.42 (1.4, 2-7) ²⁴	4.42 (1.7, 1-11) ²⁵
Custody/Guardianship	1532, 100%	1229, 100%	144, 100%	159, 100%
Guardian	37, 2.4%	29, 2.4%	4, 2.8%	4, 2.5%
Single Parent	817, 53.3%	678, 55.2%	84, 58.3%	55, 34.6%
Both Parents	241, 15.7%	118, 9.6%	50, 34.7%	73, 45.9%
State Ward	13, 0.8%	13, 1.1%	0, 0%	0, 0%
Lives on Own	139, 9.1%	115, 9.4%	0, 0%	24, 15.1%
Missing	285, 18.6%	276, 22.5%	6, 4.2%	3, 1.9%

Law Violations – Charge Data

The table below details the most frequent law violations referred to this diversion program. Status offenses, violations which are criminalized due to the age of the individual (e.g., truancy, curfew violations, tobacco use, and alcohol possession) are included with law violations.

The average total number of charges per youth in the full program model was 1.07. A small number of youth, 88, had more than one NCIC charge code in the dataset either occurring concurrently with the first charge or at a different date, representing 8.4% of the total sample of youth. Descriptive information about the number of youth with charge data included are also broken out by program model.

²⁰ Note: data on meal subsidy, interpreter, employed youth, sealed, prior legal violation, prior case diversion, petition filed, refusal reason, and cross-over were not included in the table due to high levels of missing data on each variable.

²¹ Teen Court Dataset included 143 cases from Adams County and one case from Fillmore County. As such, the Teen Court dataset demographics are grouped.

²² Family size missing for n = 697, additionally, one case indicated family size was 50, this case was excluded as this was likely a data entry error.

²³ Family size missing for n = 662, additionally, one case indicated family size was 50, this case was excluded as this was likely a data entry error.

²⁴ Family size missing for n = 94

²⁵ Family size missing for n = 78

Table 5. Total Charges

Number of Charges	Full Model	Early Model	Teen Court Model	Current Model
	f, %	f, %	f, %	f, %
1	1403, 91.6%	1159, 95.2%	135, 93.8%	109, 68.6%
2	78, 5.1%	53, 4.3%	7, 4.9%	18, 11.3%
3	8, 0.5%	5, 0.4%	1, 0.7%	2, 1.3%
4	2, 0.1%	1, 0.1%	1, 0.7%	-
Missing	41, 2.7%	11, 0.9%	0, 0%	30, 18.9%
Average	1.07, SD = .285	1.05, SD = .254	1.08, SD = .365	1.17, SD = .417
Total	1532, 100%	1229, 100%	144, 100%	159, 100%

When examining the types of charges youth were referred to there are some patterns that emerge. For the full model, most youth were referred for alcohol offenses (39.6%), shoplifting (13.1%), and assault (13.2%). These percentages are driven mainly by the early model distribution. For the Teen Court model, we see that the majority of charges are related to assault (20.5%), drug offenses (16%), and shoplifting (13.5%). The current program model, Post-July 1, 2020, charges show the most common charges for youth referred come from alcohol offenses (19.3%), drug offenses (13.3%), and assault (10.5%). The top three charges referred are highlighted red in the chart below.

Table 6. Charges Referred

Law Violation	Full Model	Early Model	Teen Court Model	Current Model
	f, %	f, %	f, %	f, %
Alcohol Offenses	647, 39.6%	597, 46.1%	15, 9.6%	35, 19.3%
Minor in Possession	644, 39.5%	595, 46%	15, 9.6%	24, 13.3%
Contributing to a Minor	1, 0.06%	1, 0.08%	0, 0%	-
Consumption on Public Property	1, 0.06%	-	0, 0%	1, 0.6%
Driving Under the Influence of Liquor	1, 0.06%	1, 0.08%	0, 0%	-
Drug Offenses	97, 5.9%	48, 3.7%	25, 16%	24, 13.3%
Marijuana Possession ²⁶	49, 3%	24, 1.9%	12, 7.7%	13, 7.2%
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	40, 2.5%	22, 1.7%	8, 5.1%	10, 5.5%
Hallucinogen – Distributing	2, 0.1%	-	2, 1.3%	-
Inhaling or Drinking Compounds	2, 0.1%	-	2, 1.3%	-
Dangerous Drugs	4, 0.2%	2, 0.2%	1, 0.6%	1, 0.6%
Shoplifting	214, 13.1%	184, 14.2%	21, 13.5%	9, 5%
Traffic Offenses ²⁷	55, 3.4%	30, 2.3%	7, 4.5%	18, 10%
Assault ²⁸	215, 13.2%	164, 12.7%	32, 20.5%	19, 10.5%

²⁶ Includes marijuana possession and marijuana possession less than 1 oz.

²⁷ Includes violations related to permits, licenses, registration, insurance, speeding, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, joy riding, unauthorized use of vehicle, and violation of traffic signals.

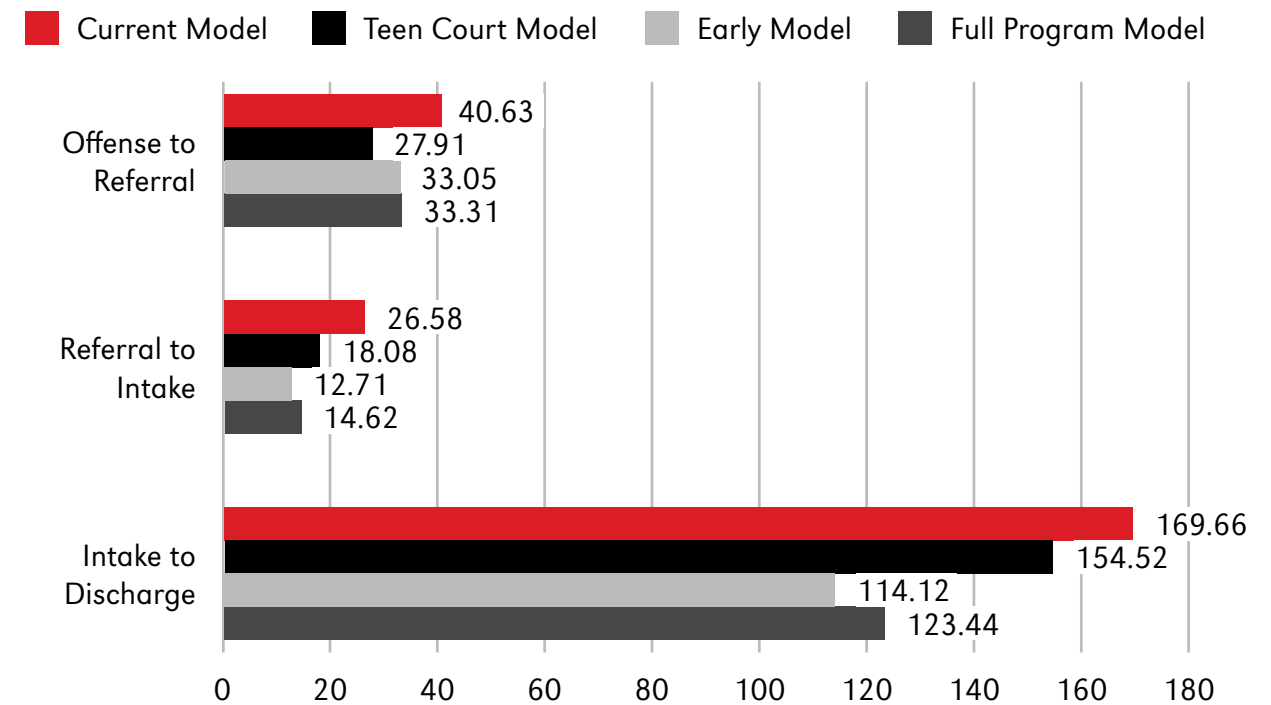
²⁸ Includes violations related to assault, simple assault, 3rd degree assault, and domestic violence.

Law Violation	Full Model	Early Model	Teen Court Model	Current Model
	f, %	f, %	f, %	f, %
Criminal Mischief	130, 8%	89, 6.9%	25, 16%	16, 8.8%
Tobacco Offenses ²⁹	65, 4%	48, 3.7%	2, 1.3%	15, 8.3%
Trespassing	19, 1.2%	13, 1%	5, 3.2%	1, 0.6%
Other Theft Offenses	93, 5.7%	74, 5.7%	12, 7.7%	7, 3.9%
Remaining Law Violations	56, 3.4%	37, 2.9%	12, 7.7%	7, 3.9%
Missing	41, 2.5%	11, 0.8%	0, 0%	30, 16.6%
Total	1632, 100%	1295, 100%	156, 100%	181, 100%

Time in the Program

To examine how youth are processed through the program, we have accessed the average length of time at various points throughout the diversion process. These are grouped by 1) Time between offense date and referral date, 2) Time between referral date and intake/enrollment date, and 3) Time between intake date and discharge date. Descriptive data on average time in days for each point is included below by program model³⁰. In addition, bivariate correlations between race³¹, gender, and age at referral on average time are included below.

Figure 2. Average Time in Days



²⁹ Includes tobacco licensee sale to underage, use by underage, licensee sale to underage

³⁰ We excluded cases for all length of time analyses in which the total days were negative numbers and cases in which the total time was far outside the typical range as these were likely caused by data entry errors, or those missing offense date.

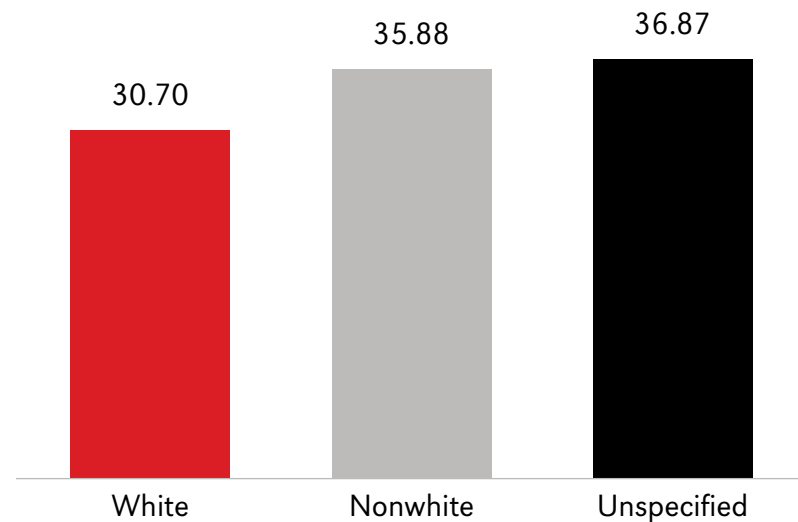
³¹ Unspecified race was grouped separately in the bivariate correlations to examine length of time.

1) Length of Time between Offense Date and Referral Date to Program

A primary component of successful treatment involves the timely start of programming following an offense. Ideally, referrals should be made to the program within one to three weeks, however, the time it takes for a youth to be referred following offense is dependent upon the county attorney making the referral. Over the years, youth have spent an average of just over one month between offense and program referral. Youth in the early model spent just over one month (33.1 days) between offense and referral compared to youth in Teen Court who spent an average of just under a month (27.91 days). Youth in the current program spent the longest average time of over a month (40.63 days). The Covid-19 pandemic likely had an effect on the average length of time for the current program model youth.

We calculated the average days between offense date and referral date for youth with available dates in the **full program model**. From the date of offense until referral to the program was an average of 33.31 days.³² We tested whether age, race, or gender had an effect on the total length of time between offense date and referral date for the full program model. While gender was not significantly related to the total days between offense and referral data, race (recoded as white = 1, unspecified = 2, and youth of color = 0) was significantly related to length of days between offense and referral date.³³ White youth had the shortest average days between offense and referral at 30.7, youth of color averaged 35.88 days, and unspecified³⁴ youth had the longest average at 36.87 days (shown in the figure below). The program indicated that most non-white program youth are Spanish-speaking and that access to Spanish-speaking interpreters is often limited for the program and the county attorney which may have impacted average days from offense to program referral. Age at referral was significantly correlated with total time between offense date and referral date for the full model, such that younger individuals were more likely to have longer time between offense and referral dates compared to older individuals.³⁵

Figure 3. Full Program Model Race of Youth – Average Time in Days Offense to Referral



³² SD = 30.7, range 0-413

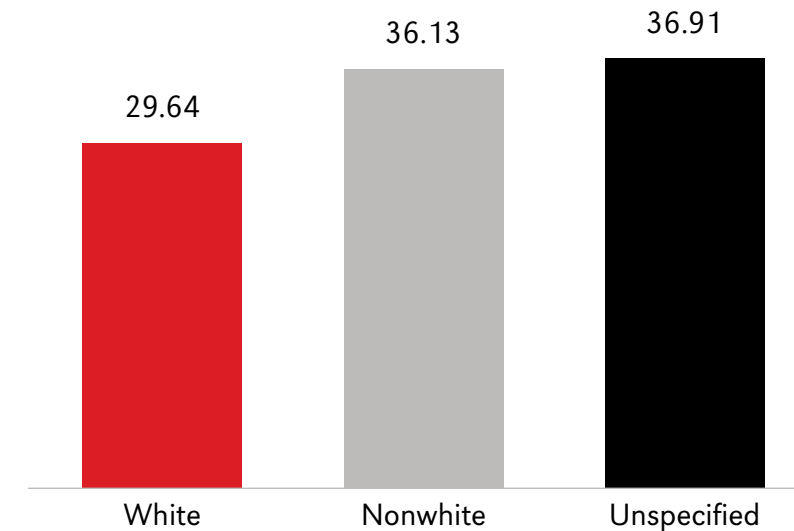
³³ F(3,1493) = 6.704, p = .001

³⁴ Unspecified youth were comprised primarily of youth from 2005-2010 with race entered as “unspecified” in the dataset.

³⁵ r(1493) = -.058, p = .026

For the early model referrals, the total time between offense date and referral date averaged 33.1 days.³⁶ While gender had no effect on average days between offense and referral for this program model, race³⁷ did have a significant effect. White youth had the lowest average days between at 29.64, youth of color averaged 36.13, and unspecified youth had the longest average days at 36.91 (shown in the figure below). The program indicated that most non-white program youth are Spanish-speaking and that access to Spanish-speaking interpreters is often limited for the program and the county attorney which may have impacted average days between offense and program referral. Age at referral was also significantly related to total days between offense and referral for this program model in that younger youth had higher average days compared to older youth.³⁸

Figure 4. Early Model Race of Youth – Average Time in Days Offense to Referral



For the Teen Court model, the total time between offense date and referral date averaged 27.91 days.³⁹ Analyses of the effects of gender, race, and age at referral on total days from offense to referral date were not statistically significant.

For the current model, the total time between offense date and referral date averaged 40.63 days.⁴⁰ Analyses of the effects of gender, race, and age at referral on total days from offense to referral date were not statistically significant.

2) Length of Time between Referral Date to Intake/Enrollment Date

Program data suggest that most youth spend on average two weeks between referral to program intake. Youth in the early model spent the least amount of time at just over 12 days, while youth in Teen Court model and the current program model spend on average just over 18 and 26 days, respectively. Longer wait times between referral and discharge for Teen Court and especially for the current diversion model, Post-July 1, 2020, may be due to fluctuations and interruptions to programming that occurred during the beginning and height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

³⁶ SD = 29.34, range 0-413

³⁷ F(2, 1207) = 8.864, p < .001

³⁸ r(1207) = -.073, p = .011

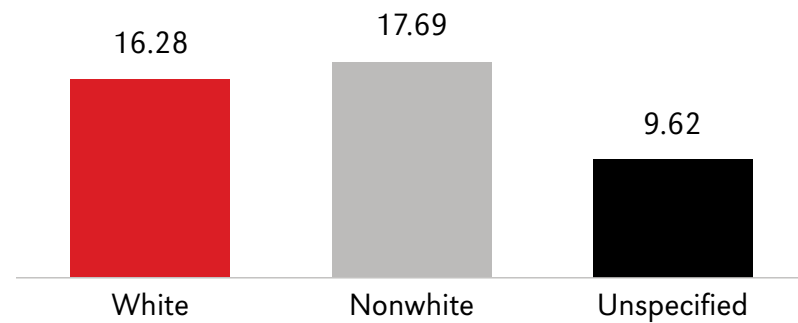
³⁹ SD = 22.4, range 0-134

⁴⁰ SD = 44.76, range 0-327

To assess the length of time between referral to the program and program intake date, we calculated the average time (total days). Intake date was used as there was greater missing data on the enrollment date variable across the program models.

For the **full program model**, the average total days between referral and program intake were 14.62 days.⁴¹ There was a significant correlation between race of youth and total days between referral and intake. Average days between referral and intake are 17.69 for youth of color, 16.28 for white youth, and 9.62 days for unspecified youth (shown in the figure below).⁴² The program indicated that most non-white program youth are Spanish-speaking and that access to Spanish-speaking interpreters is often limited for the program which may have impacted average days between referral and intake. There were no significant correlations between gender and average days. Age at referral was significantly correlated with total time between referral date and intake date for the full dataset, such that younger individuals were more likely to have longer time between referral and intake dates compared to older individuals.⁴³

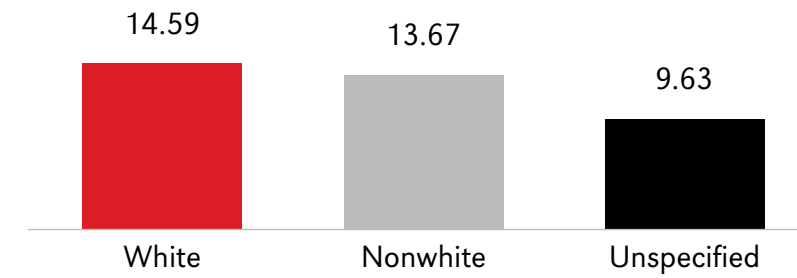
Figure 5. Full Program Model Race of Youth – Average Time in Days Referral to Intake



For the early model, the average days between referral and program intake was 12.71 days.⁴⁴ Gender and age at referral were not significantly related to total days between referral and program intake for youth in this program model, however, race of youth was significantly related to total days.⁴⁵ Unspecified race youth have the shortest days between at 9.63, youth of color averaged 13.67 days, and white youth averaged 14.59 days (shown in the figure below). The program indicated that most non-white program youth are Spanish-speaking and that access to Spanish-speaking interpreters is often limited for the program which may have impacted average times between referral and intake.

⁴¹ SD = 29.179, Range 0 - 449
⁴² F(2, 1448) = 8.838, p < .001
⁴³ r(1448) = -.059, p = .03
⁴⁴ SD = 30.637, Range 0 - 449
⁴⁵ F(2, 1163) = 3.301, p = .037

Figure 6. Early Model Race of Youth – Average Time in Days Referral to Intake



For the Teen Court model, the average total days from program referral to intake were 18.08.⁴⁶ Age at referral, gender, and race of youth were not significantly related to total days between referral and program intake for youth in the Teen Court model.

For the current model, Post-July 1, 2020, average total days from program referral to intake were 26.58.⁴⁷ We found no significant correlations for race, gender, or age at referral with total days between referral and intake/enrollment.

3) Length of Time in Program from Intake to Discharge Date

Over the years, most youth spend an average of 4.06 months engaged in the Adams County Diversion program. Youth in the early model spent an average of 3.75 months in the program, while you in the Teen Court model spent an average of 5.08 months in programming. Youth in the current program model are engaged for an average of 5.58 months.

To calculate average time (total days) in program, we used intake date and discharge date as there were fewer missing data on the intake date variable compared to the enrollment date variable.

For the **full program model**, from the date of intake until discharge from the program was an average of 123.44 days.⁴⁸ We examined if gender, race, and age at referral were correlated with total days from intake to discharge for youth in the full program model. We found that gender was significantly related to total days from intake to discharge.⁴⁹ Females, on average, spent less time in the program, 116.96 days compared to 127.78 days for males in the program (shown in the figure below). Race was significantly related to total days from intake to discharge.⁵⁰ Unspecified race youth spent the fewest days in the program from intake to discharge at 108.56, white youth spent on average 128.35 days, and youth of color spent on average 133.02 days (shown in the figure below). The program indicated that most non-white program youth are Spanish-speaking and that access to Spanish-speaking interpreters is often limited for the program which may have impacted the length of time youth spent in the program. Age at referral was significantly correlated with total days from intake to discharge for youth in the full program model.⁵¹ This suggests that youth who were younger spent more total days in the program compared to older youth.

⁴⁶ SD = 21.84, Range 0 - 130
⁴⁷ SD = 18.259, Range 0 - 119
⁴⁸ SD = 70.8, range 0-668
⁴⁹ F(2, 1440) = 4.111, p = .017
⁵⁰ F(2, 1440) = 13.553, p < .001
⁵¹ r(1440) = -.118, p < .001

Figure 7. Full Program Model Gender of Youth – Average Time in Days Intake to Discharge

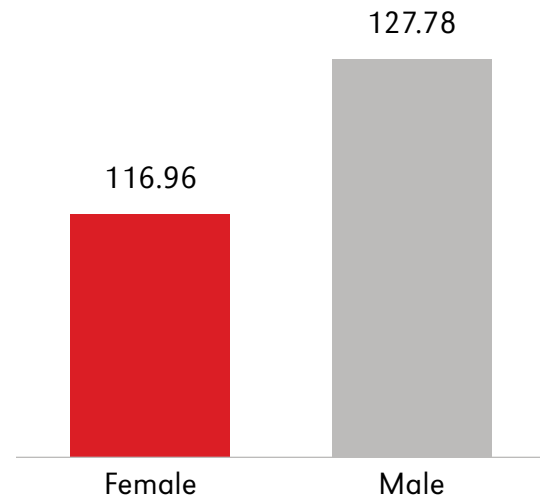
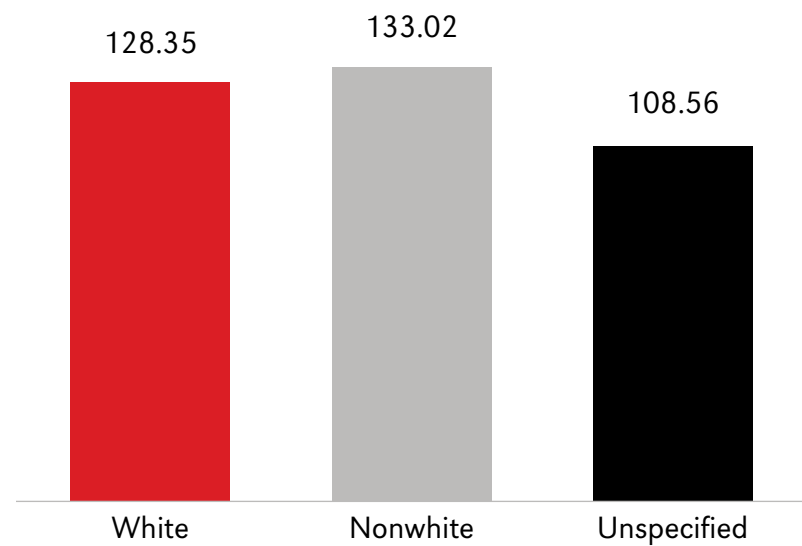


Figure 8. Full Program Model Race of Youth – Average Time in Days Intake to Discharge



For youth in the **early model**, the average total days from program intake to discharge for this sample was 114.12 days.⁵² We examined if gender, race, and age at referral were correlated to total days between intake and program discharge. We found no significant effects for gender or race. Age at referral was significantly related to total days between intake and program discharge.⁵³ This suggests that younger individuals had longer total days from intake to program discharge compared to older youth.

⁵² SD = 68.36, range 0-650
⁵³ $r(1169) = -.075, p = .011$

For program participants referred to **teen court model**, the average total days from program intake to discharge was 154.52 days.⁵⁴ We found no statistically significant correlations between gender, race, and age at referral and total days from intake to program discharge.

For the **current diversion model**, the average total days from program intake to discharge was 169.66 days, median of 170 days.⁵⁵ Gender and race were not significantly correlated with total days between intake and discharge. Age at referral is significantly related to total days from intake to discharge for this program model.⁵⁶ This suggests that younger individuals have longer average total days from intake to program discharge compared to older individuals.

Discharge Reasons

Discharge reasons for all youth referred to the Adams County Diversion program are included in the table below. Diversion programs are asked to identify the program discharge reason as successful, unsuccessful, did not participate, or unspecified. Adams County Diversion uses the following definitions for coding discharge reason:

Discharge Reasons for Diversion Programs

- Successful discharge – youth successfully completed program requirements
- Unsuccessful discharges – youth failed to comply with program conditions, had new law violation(s), or other/moved away
- Did not participate – youth/parent refused, diversion program decline admission, or the county/city attorney or school withdrew youth’s referral to diversion
- Unspecified – Please note, just over a quarter of discharge reasons in this dataset were coded as “unspecified.” This is due to changes in the way that the JCMS data has been gathered and categorized over the time the program has been entering data. In this model, all unspecified discharge reason codes are in the early model cases.

For the full model, over half, 54.6% were discharged successfully, 28.9% unspecified, 12.1% unsuccessful discharge, 3.2% did not participate, and 1.4% missing. The larger percentage of unspecified discharge reason for the full model is likely an artifact of the way the data were captured. For more recent program models, such as Teen Court and the Current models, rates of successful program discharge were much higher, at 75% and 71%, respectively.

⁵⁴ SD = 57.6, range 7-321
⁵⁵ SD = 61.3, range 52 – 331
⁵⁶ $r(132) = -.354, p < .001$

Table 7. Discharge Reasons Full Models

Cases	Frequency	Percent
Unspecified	442	28.9%
Successful Discharge	836	54.6%
Unsuccessful Discharge	185	12.1%
Failed to Comply with Program Conditions	133	8.7%
Had new Law Violation(s)	43	2.8%
Other/Moved Away	9	0.6%
Did not Participate	48	3.1%
Youth/Parent Refused	30	2%
Diversion Program Declined Admission	4	0.3%
County/City Attorney or School withdrew Youth's Referral to Diversion	14	0.9%
Missing	21	1.4%
Total	1532	100%

Table 8. Discharge Reason by Race (Frequency, Percent of Discharge Reason)

Discharge Reason	Total	Unspecified	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black/African American	Native Haw/Pac Islander	White	Hispanic	Other	Multiple
Unspecified	442	393, 88.9%						49, 11.1%		
Successful Discharge	836	25, 3.0%	4, 0.5%	1, 0.1%	22, 2.6%	1, 0.1%	665, 79.5%	98, 11.4%	3, 0.4%	14, 1.7%
Unsuccessful Discharge	185									
Failed to Comply with Program Conditions	133	3, 2.3%			4, 3.0%		99, 74.4%	23, 17.3%	1, 0.8%	3, 2.3%
Had new Law Violation(s)	43	2, 4.7%			3, 7.0%		26, 60.5%	6, 14.0%	2, 4.7%	4, 9.3%
Other/Moved Away	9	1, 11.1%					7, 77.8%			1, 11.1%
Did not Participate	48									
Youth/Parent Refused	30	3, 10.0%	1, 3.3%	1, 3.3%	1, 3.3%		20, 66.7%	4, 13.3%		
Diversion Program Declined Admission	4						2, 50.0%	2, 50.0%		

Discharge Reason	Total	Unspecified	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black/African American	Native Haw/Pac Islander	White	Hispanic	Other	Multiple
County/City Attorney or School withdrew Youth's Referral to Diversion	14		1, 7.1%				7, 50.0%	6, 42.9%		
Missing	21						18, 85.7%		1, 4.8%	2, 9.5%
Total	1532	427, 27.0%	6, 0.4%	5, 0.3%	30, 2.0%	1, 0.01%	844, 55.1%	188, 12.3%	7, 0.5%	24, 1.6%

We ran multivariable logistic regression to test if race⁵⁷ (coded as youth of color = 1, White = 0), age⁵⁸, gender⁵⁹ (coded female = 1, male = 0), or time in the program from intake to discharge had significant effects on if a youth had a successful or unsuccessful outcome (coded successful = 1, unsuccessful = 0). The overall model was found to not be statistically significant.⁶⁰ This means that there were no significant differences in program discharge based on the race, age, gender, or time in the program for youth in the full program model.

Full Program Model

As figure 9 illustrates below, the different models of diversion have had different levels of success with enrolled youth. The early diversion model had very few youth who did not participate, but these results should be interpreted with caution due to high numbers of unspecified discharge reason (n = 442, 36%).⁶¹ Although smaller sample sizes, Teen Court and the current program model had the highest levels of engaging youth and successfully diverting youth at 75% and 71%, respectively.

⁵⁷ Cases with race included as unspecified were dropped from all regression models.

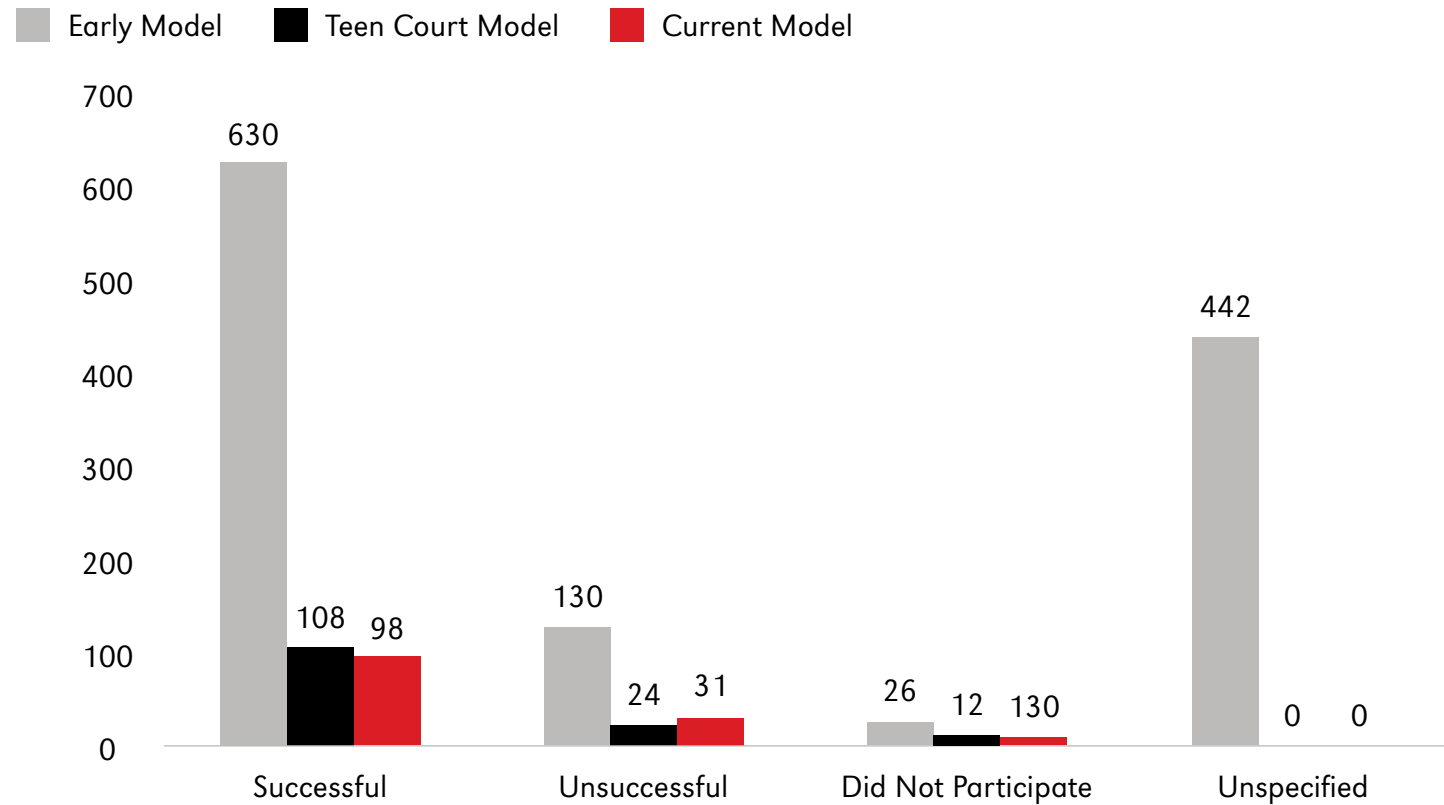
⁵⁸ Age at referral was missing for n = 3

⁵⁹ One youth identifying as non-binary was dropped from the model.

⁶⁰ Nagelkerke R-squared value of .015, X2(4) = 8.485, p = .075

⁶¹ Unspecified and Did Not Participate discharge reasons were not included in program specific statistical models below.

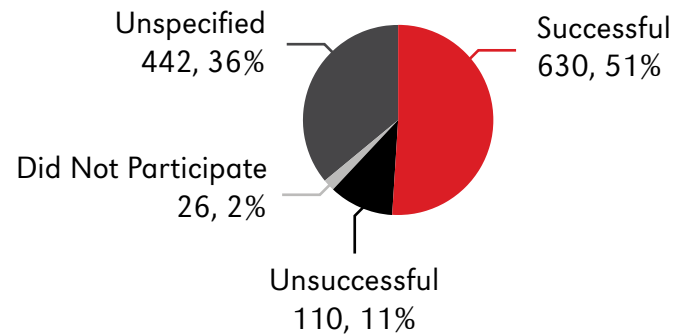
Figure 9. Discharge Reasons by Program Model



Early Program Model

Statistical models were used to test if race, age, and gender predicted successful compared to unsuccessful outcomes for program youth with discharge reason data for the early program model. To assess these relationships, we first ran bivariate correlations to test if there were significant correlations between the dependent (successful/unsuccessful outcome) and independent variables (i.e., age, race,⁶² gender, and time in the program from intake to discharge). We found that total days in program was significantly correlated with age.⁶³ Age was also significantly correlated with race.⁶⁴

A multivariable logistic regression model was performed to see whether age, race, gender, or total time in program predicted the odds of successful discharge for cases in the early program model (Pre-July 1, 2020). The overall regression model was not statistically significant.⁶⁵

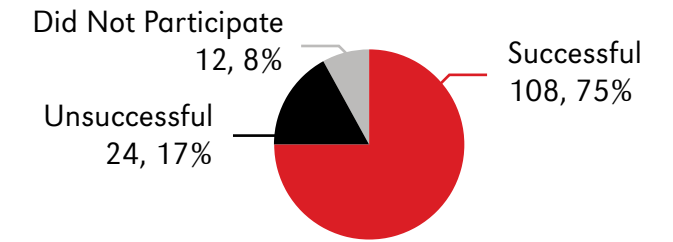


A multivariable logistic regression model was performed to see whether age, race, gender, or total time in program predicted the odds of successful discharge for cases in the early program model (Pre-July 1, 2020). The overall regression model was not statistically significant.⁶⁵

⁶² Cases with race included as unspecified were dropped from analyses.
⁶³ $r(1169) = -.075, p = .011$
⁶⁴ $r(754) = -.218, p < .001$
⁶⁵ Nagelkerke R-squared value of .018, $X^2(4) = 7.12, p = .13$

Teen Court Model

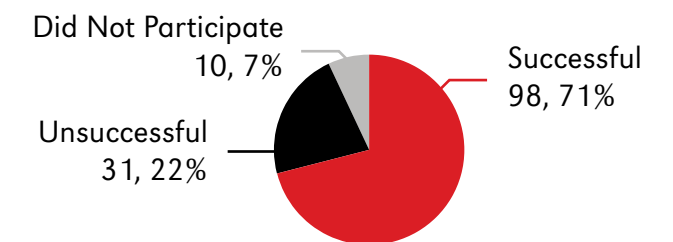
Statistical models were used to test if race, age, and gender predicted successful compared to unsuccessful outcomes for program youth with discharge reason data for the Teen Court model. To assess these relationships, we first ran bivariate correlations to test if there were significant correlations between the dependent (successful/unsuccessful outcome) and independent variables (i.e., age, race, gender, and time in program from intake to discharge). For these correlations, days in the program and race were significantly correlated with successful/unsuccessful outcome.⁶⁶



A multivariable logistic regression model was performed to see whether age, race, gender, or time in program predicted the odds of successful discharge for cases in the Teen Court model. The overall regression model was found to be statistically significant.⁶⁷ Race was found to be a statistically significant predictor of outcome in that youth of color were 73.7% less likely to have a successful outcome compared to White youth when controlling for age, gender, and time in the program.⁶⁸ The program indicated that most non-white program youth are Spanish-speaking and that access to Spanish-speaking interpreters is often limited for the program which may have impacted discharge success. Total days in the program from intake to discharge was also a statistically significant predictor of successful compared to unsuccessful outcome for youth in the program when controlling for age, gender, and race. Specifically, we found that the odds of a successful outcome were 1.9% higher for each additional day of program participation.⁶⁹ Finally, gender of youth and age at referral were not found to be statistically significant predictors of outcome. Pre-existing differences in youth that we were unable to control for may have also contributed to outcome disparities.

Current Model

Statistical models were used to test if race, age, and gender predicted successful compared to unsuccessful outcomes for program youth with discharge reason data for the current program model. To assess these relationships, we first ran bivariate correlations to test if there were significant correlations between the dependent (successful/unsuccessful outcome) and independent variables (i.e., age, race, gender, and total time in program from intake to discharge). For these correlations, total days in program was significantly correlated to age and discharge outcome.⁷⁰



A multivariable logistic regression model was performed to see whether age, race, gender, or total time in program from intake to discharge predicted the odds of successful discharge for cases in the current program model. The overall regression model was found to be

⁶⁶ Total days in program $r(130) = .295, p < .001$; race $r(129) = -.22, p = .012$
⁶⁷ Nagelkerke R-squared value of .27, $X^2(4) = 23.161, p < .001$
⁶⁸ $X^2(1) = 11.273, p < .001, OR = .263$
⁶⁹ $X^2(1) = 11.557, p < .001, OR = 1.019$
⁷⁰ Age $r(132) = -.359, p < .001$; successful/unsuccessful outcome $r(123) = 0.258, p = .004$

statistically significant.⁷¹ Race was found to be a statistically significant predictor of outcome in that youth of color were 63% less likely to have a successful discharge compared to an unsuccessful discharge than White youth when controlling for age, gender, and time in program.⁷² The program indicated that most non-white program youth are Spanish-speaking and that access to Spanish-speaking interpreters is often limited for the program which may have impacted discharge success. Gender was found to be a statistically significant predictor of discharge outcome in that females were 63.3% less likely compared to males to have a successful discharge when controlling for age, race, and time in program.⁷³ Age at referral was found to be a statistically significant predictor of discharge outcome in that the odds of a successful outcome were 35.9% higher for each additional year of participant age, controlling for gender, race, and time in program.⁷⁴ Finally, total days in the program was found to be a statistically significant predictor of discharge outcome when controlling for age, race, and gender. The odds of a successful discharge outcome were 1.6% higher for each additional day in the program.⁷⁵ Pre-existing differences in youth that we were unable to control for may have also contributed to outcome disparities.

Part Two

Current Program Model

We now focus our attention to only cases in the current program model, those youth referred since July 1, 2020. Many juvenile programs adapted their youth services in the wake of COVID, and then permanently adopted the model. This section of the report focuses in depth on the assessment results, whether interventions match the assessments, and future system involvement outcomes for youth served in the most current diversion model.

Assessment and Screener Tools (All Youth Data on Assessment Scores Included)

To examine if youth are receiving services that align with their identified needs, we first examined youth needs identified by assessment tool data. We analyzed data on the type and number of assessments conducted with youth in the current program model. The Adams County Diversion program primarily uses both the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Assessment for Life Skills (DMILA) and Juvenile Inventory for Functioning (JIFF) screener and assessment tools (more about these tools is included in an Appendix). Adams County Diversion inputs scores from each DMILA subscale and JIFF domain into the JCMS database. For analysis of differences between pre and post assessments, JJI used only those cases with valid pre and post assessment scores entered into the JCMS.

⁷¹ Nagelkerke R-squared value of .255, X2 (4) = 22.698, p < .001

⁷² X2 (1) = 3.848, p = .05, OR = .37

⁷³ X2 (1) = 3.919, p = .048, OR = .367

⁷⁴ X2 (1) = 7.141, p = .008, OR = 1.359

⁷⁵ X2 (1) = 10.582, p = .001, OR: 1.016

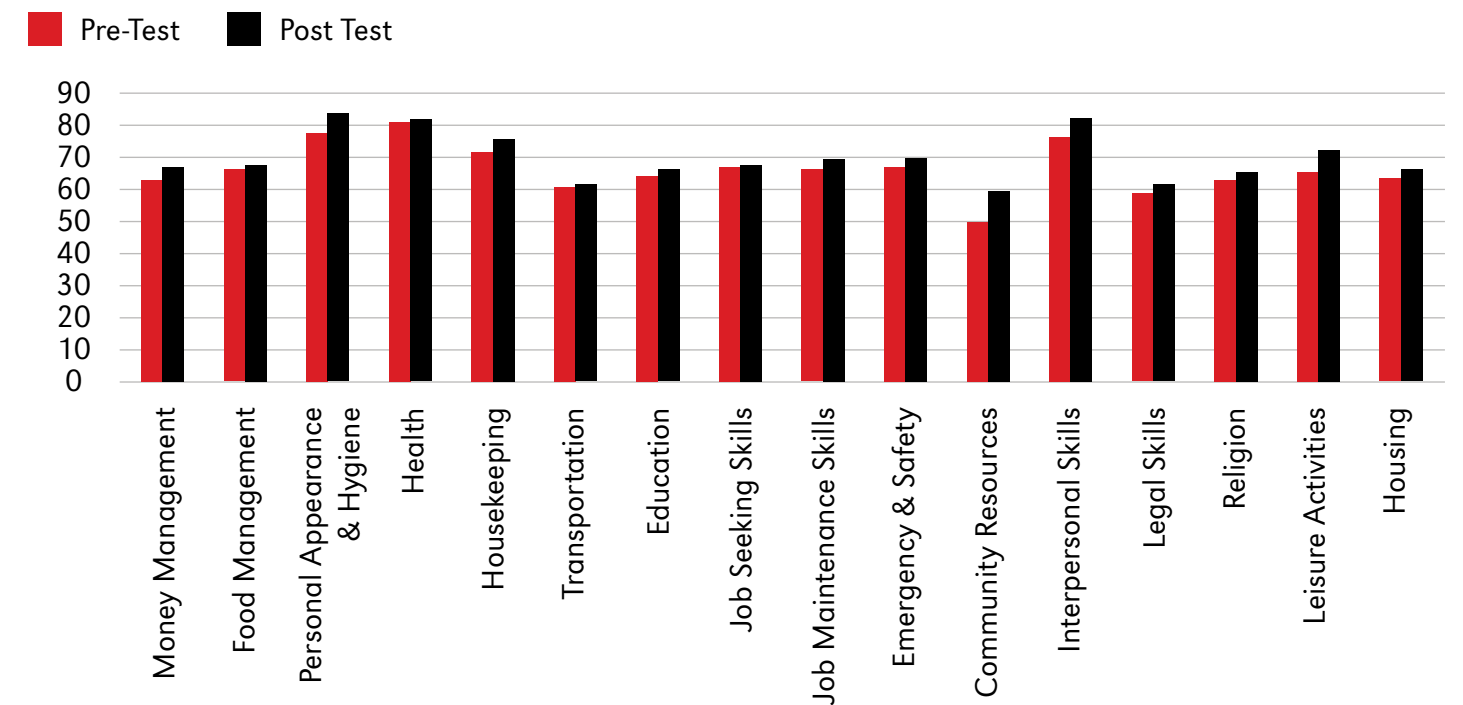
Analysis of Assessment Tool Scores

Analysis of DMILA and JIFF screener/assessment tool scores were conducted by using a paired samples *t* test and multiple linear regression. A paired samples *t* test is commonly used to test for statistical difference between two time points for the same individual. These tests were used to test for statistical difference in the means of test scores between intake and discharge for program youth who had completed both a valid pre and post assessment, prior to and after receiving diversion-related services. Multiple linear regression models were conducted to assess the effect of demographic characteristics (i.e., age, race, and gender) on average differences in assessment scores before and after programming.

DMILA Results for Current Program Model

The figure below illustrates average Pre and Post Scores on the DMILA subscales. As noted in the discussion of program assessments included in the appendix, the DMILA subscales are scored on a scale from zero to 100 with higher scores preferred as this indicates greater attainment of subscale goals. Personal Appearance & Hygiene, Health, and Interpersonal Skills subscales have the highest average scores among youth in the current program model for scores pre and post program involvement. Whereas, **Community Resources** have the lowest average scores, indicating that there may be more need for services addressing these needs.

Figure 10. DMILA Pre and Post Mean Scores by Subscale for Current Model



Results of the paired samples *t* tests for the DMILA subscale screener scores for the current program model suggest that there are statistical differences in pre and post assessment scores for program youth on five of the 16 subscales, highlighted in gray on the table below. Paired samples tests suggest significant average differences in scores and moderate effect sizes for all five of the subscales mean differences from Pre-test to Post test as described below. There were not significant average differences in scores for the other subscales.

Moderate Effect Sizes

- **Personal Appearance & Hygiene**⁷⁶ Post test scores on average were 5.776 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Housekeeping**⁷⁷ Post test scores on average were 4.551 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Community Resources**⁷⁸ Post test scores on average were 5.494 points higher than Pre-test scores. Recall that this subscale had the lowest overall average scores pre and post for program youth in the current program model suggesting that there may be need for more services addressing this need for youth. The moderate effect size of the paired samples t test comparing pre and post scores indicates that the program is effectively targeting this need.
- **Interpersonal Skills**⁷⁹ Post test scores on average were 5.667 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Leisure Activities**⁸⁰ Post test scores on average were 6.796 points higher than Pre-test scores.

Table 9. DMILA Screener Subscales Paired Samples Test

DMILA Subscales	Pre-Test		Post Test		Paired t Test				
	M	SD	M	SD	M ⁸¹	t value	df	Sig (2-tailed)	Cohen's d
Money Mgmt & Consumer Awareness	63.14	19.63	66.69	21.73	-3.551	-1.89	48	.065	.27
Food Mgmt	65.96	18	67.65	21.26	-1.694	-.663	48	.511	.1
Personal Appearance & Hygiene	77.84	20.23	83.61	15.57	-5.776	-2.653	48	.011	.38
Health	80.8	12.82	81.84	15.88	-1.041	-.575	48	.568	.08
Housekeeping	71.27	17	75.82	17.74	-4.551	-2.801	48	.007	.4
Transportation	60.49	17.88	61.49	21.69	-1	-.419	48	.677	.06
Education	64.45	21.68	66.02	17.31	-1.571	-.646	48	.522	.09
Job Seeking Skills	67.1	16.86	67.2	17.24	-.102	-.048	48	.962	.01
Job Maintenance Skills	66.02	19.55	69.82	19	-3.796	-1.293	48	.202	.19
Emergency & Safety	66.88	18.58	70.21	13.45	-3.333	-1.298	47	.2	.19
Community Resources	50.24	14.81	59.53	14.43	-9.286	-5.078	48	<.001	.73
Interpersonal Skills	76.48	24.2	82.15	17.34	-5.667	-2.549	47	.014	.37
Legal Skills	58.78	15.57	61.65	13.67	-2.878	-1.329	48	.19	.19
Religion	62.86	19	65.49	17.44	-2.633	-1.228	48	.226	.18
Leisure Activities	65.2	19.62	72	21.67	-6.796	-2.698	48	.01	.39
Housing	63.33	19.36	66.04	21.81	-2.708	-1.128	47	.265	.16

⁷⁶ t48 = -2.653, p = .011, 95% CI [-10.152, -1.399], d = .38

⁷⁷ t48 = -2.801, p = .007, 95% CI [-1.284, -2.801], d = .4

⁷⁸ t48 = -5.078, p < .001, 95% CI [-12.962, -5.609], d = .73

⁷⁹ t47 = -2.549, p = .014, 95% CI [-10.139, -1.194], d = .37

⁸⁰ t48 = -2.698, p = .01, 95% CI [-11.86, -1.732], d = .39

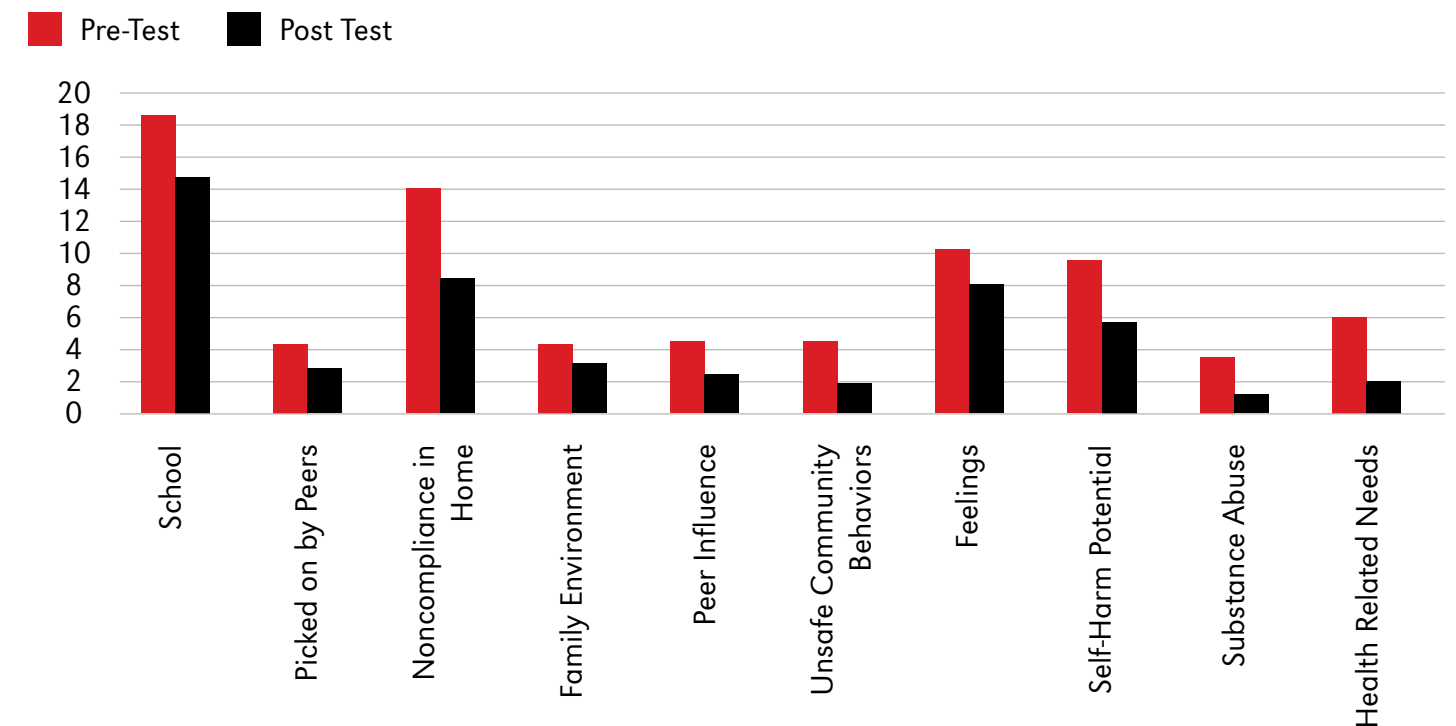
⁸¹ Higher scores are better on the DMILA assessments. These were reverse coded (calculated as pre-test minus post test) with negative values indicating a higher mean post test score.

Multiple linear regression analyses were used to test if age at referral, race (dummy coded 1 = Youth of Color, 0 = White), and gender⁸² (dummy coded 1 = Female, 0 = Male) significantly predicted participant's average difference in DMILA subscale screener pre and post programming for the current diversion model. For these analyses, White race and male were used as reference groups. We found that these variables do not reliably predict average difference scores.

JIFF Results Current Program Model

The figure below illustrates average Pre and Post Scores on the JIFF domains. As noted below in the discussion of program assessments in the appendix, the JIFF domains are scored on a scale from zero to 100 with lower scores preferred as this indicates greater attainment of domain goals. Picked on by Peers, Family Environment, and Peer Influence domains have the lowest average scores among youth in the sample for scores pre and post program involvement. **School** and **Noncompliance in Home** have the highest average scores indicating that there may be greater need for services in this area.

Figure 11. JIFF Pre and Post Mean Scores by Domain for Current Program Model



Results of the paired samples t tests for the JIFF domain assessment scores for the current program model suggests that there are statistical differences in pre and post assessment scores for program youth on six of the 10 domains, highlighted in gray on the table below. Paired samples tests suggest significant average differences in scores and moderate effect sizes for three of the domains and small effect sizes for three of the domains mean differences from Pre-test to Post test as described below. There were not significant average differences in scores for Picked on by Peers, Family Environment, Peer Influence, and Feelings.

⁸² Gender was included as a dummy variable in the model with non-binary removed as there was only one youth in the dataset.

Moderate Effect Sizes

- **Noncompliance in Home**⁸³ Post test scores on average were 5.776 points lower than Pre-test scores. Recall that this domain had one of the highest overall average scores pre and post for program youth which suggests that there may be need for more services addressing this need for youth. The moderate effect size of the paired samples *t* test comparing pre and post scores indicates that the program is effectively targeting this need.
- **Unsafe Community Behaviors**⁸⁴ Post test scores on average were 2.743 points lower than Pre-test scores.
- **Health Related Needs**⁸⁵ Post test scores on average were 3.986 points lower than Pre-test scores.

Small Effect Sizes

- **School**⁸⁶ Post test scores on average were 3.842 points lower than Pre-test scores. Recall that this domain had one of the highest overall average scores pre and post for program youth which suggests that there may be need for more services addressing this need for youth. The small effect size of the paired samples *t* test comparing pre and post scores indicates that the program is targeting this need.
- **Self-Harm Potential**⁸⁷ Post test scores on average were 3.822 points lower than Pre-test scores.
- **Substance Use**⁸⁸ Post test scores on average were 2.356 points lower than Pre-test scores.

Table 10. JIFF Assessment Domains Paired Samples Test

JIFF Domains	Pre-Test		Post Test		Paired <i>t</i> Test				
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>t value</i>	<i>df</i>	Sig (2-tailed)	Cohen's <i>d</i>
School	18.75	16.24	14.91	15.01	3.842	2.344	75	.022	.27
Picked on by Peers	4.33	10.38	2.77	9.11	1.560	1.004	74	.319	.12
Noncompliance in Home	14.25	15.87	8.47	13.71	5.776	3.044	75	.003	.35
Family Environment	4.33	9.35	3.01	7.5	1.320	1.609	74	.112	.19
Peer Influence	4.45	8.87	2.30	6.26	2.149	1.853	73	.068	.22
Unsafe Community Behaviors	4.5	10.16	1.76	5.76	2.743	2.679	73	.009	.31
Feelings	10.32	16.24	8.13	18	2.184	1.218	75	.227	.14
Self-Harm Potential	9.58	19.1	5.75	13.56	3.822	2.134	72	.036	.25
Substance Use	3.53	10.37	1.18	7.44	2.356	2.251	72	.027	.26
Health Related Needs	5.93	10.74	1.95	6.91	3.986	3.304	72	.001	.39

⁸³ *t*₇₅ = 3.044, *p* = .003, 95% CI [1.996, 9.556], *d* = .35)

⁸⁴ *t*₇₃ = 2.679, *p* = .009, 95% CI [.703, 4.784], *d* = .31

⁸⁵ *t*₇₂ = 3.304, *p* = .001, 95% CI [1.581, 6.392], *d* = .39

⁸⁶ *t*₇₅ = 2.344, *p* = .022, 95% CI [.576, 7.108], *d* = .27

⁸⁷ *t*₇₂ = 2.134, *p* = .036, 95% CI [.251, 7.393], *d* = .25

⁸⁸ *t*₇₂ = 2.251, *p* = .027, 95% CI [.270, 4.443], *d* = .26

Multiple linear regression analyses were used to test if age at referral, race (dummy coded 1 = youth of color, 0 = White), and gender⁸⁹ (dummy coded 1 = Female, 0 = Male) significantly predicted participant's average difference in JIFF domain assessment scores pre and post programming. For these analyses, white race and male were used as reference groups. We found that average difference scores for **Family Environment** increased 1.085 points for each year of age⁹⁰ and youth of color had average difference scores 4.804 points higher than white youth,⁹¹ adjusting for gender. Participant age at referral was also significantly related to average difference scores on the **Unsafe Community Behaviors** domain. Specifically, average difference scores for **Unsafe Community Behaviors** decreased 1.297 points for each year of age,⁹² adjusting for race and gender. Regression analyses on domain score differences not mentioned above were not significant for age at referral, race, or gender effects.

Program Activity

Data on case plan domain, program types, and sub-types are entered into the JCMS for program youth when available. Primary domains fall under seven categories: Attitudes/Orientation, Education/Employment, Family Circumstances, Peer Relations, Personality/Behavior, Substance Abuse, and Administrative. Program types include nine categories: Administrative, Restorative Practices, Skill Building/Classes, Accountability, Academic, Behavioral Health, Family Support⁹³, Prosocial Activity⁹⁴, and Personal Goals. A complete list of program sub-types is included as an Appendix at the end of this report.

Data on primary domain, program type, and sub-type activity for 141 program youth in the current model were included. These youth completed an average of 9.82 total sub-type activities.⁹⁵ Most youth, 72.3%,⁹⁶ completed all activities and 4.7%⁹⁷ partially completed activities. A combined total of 77%⁹⁸ of youth in the current program model had either partially or fully completed activities. Data on activities were missing for *n* = 18 (11.3%) which may be due to a youth being still enrolled in programming.

Adams County Diversion entered the following information into the primary domain variables for youth in the full program model. Primary domain is the specific area in the assessment/screener that is indicated as being a need for the youth being addressed by programming. The most common domain was Administrative (31.2%), followed by Personality/Behavior (24.6%), Attitudes/Orientation (21.9%), Education/Employment (11.8%), Substance Abuse (6.6%), Peer Relations (3.5%), and Family Circumstances (0.1%). Primary domain was missing for three cases.

⁸⁹ Gender was included as a dummy variable in the model with non-binary removed as there was only one youth in the dataset.

⁹⁰ *R*² = .134, *F*(3, 71) = 3.664, *p* = .023

⁹¹ *R*² = .134, *F*(3, 71) = 3.664, *p* = .011

⁹² *R*² = .137, *F*(3, 70) = 3.716, *p* = .024

⁹³ No data entered under this case plan program type.

⁹⁴ No data entered under this case plan program type.

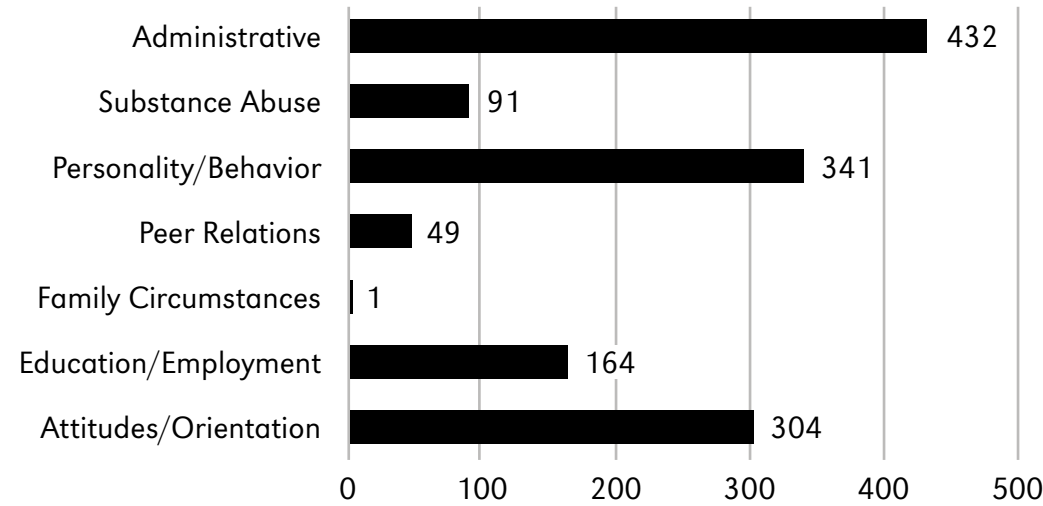
⁹⁵ *SD* = 2.603, Range 4 - 14

⁹⁶ *SD* = 41.5

⁹⁷ *SD* = 11.7

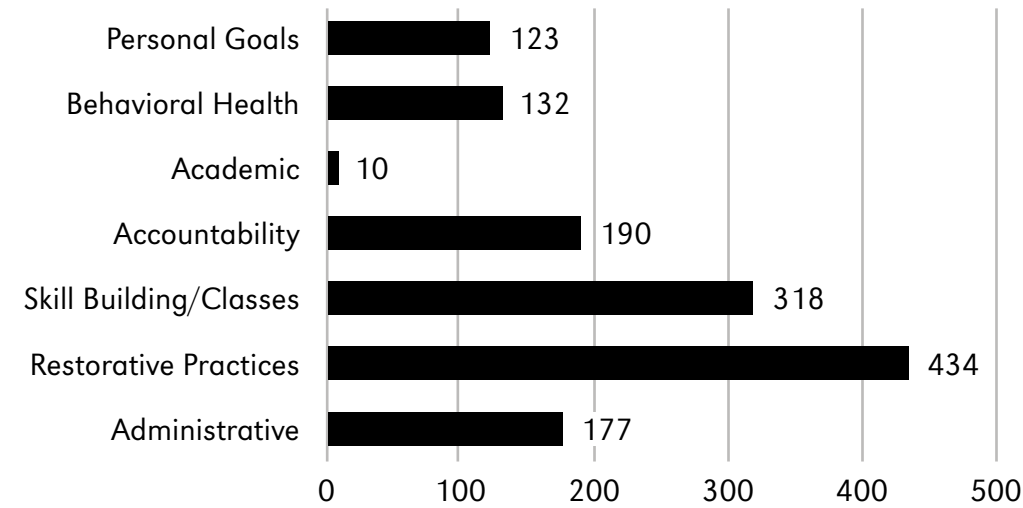
⁹⁸ *SD* = 37.1

Figure 12. Primary Domain



The most entered program type category among youth is Restorative Practices (31.3%), followed by Skill Building/Classes (23%), Accountability (13.7%), Administrative (12.8%), Behavioral Health (9.5%), Personal Goals (8.9%), and Academic (0.7%). One program type case was missing.

Figure 13. Case Plan Program Types



Each case plan program type category includes sub-type activities to which the youth was assigned. The breakdown of these sub-type activities by program type is included below. Program sub-type data were included for 141 youth, with missing data on 18 cases. Recall that the average number of program sub-type activities for each youth was 9.82. Restorative Practices was the most common program type (31.2%) for case plan data entered into the JCMS. Community Service and Apology (Letter or In-Person) are the most frequently used sub-type activities for Restorative Practices at 59.2% (n = 255) and 28.3% (n = 122), respectively. For youth with data on the total amount of diversion fees paid during the program (n = 147), the average was \$91.29.⁹⁹

⁹⁹ SD = \$71.44, Range \$0 – 400, median = \$100

Table 11. Program Type/Sub-Type Current Model

Program Type/Sub-Type	Frequency	Percent of Total Sub-Type Cases Entered ¹⁰⁰	Percent of Program Type
Administration	170	12.2%	100%
Diversion Fee Waived	3	0.2%	1.8%
Pay Diversion Fee	121	8.7%	71.2%
Pay Reduced Diversion Fee	10	0.7%	5.9%
Monitor Only	36	2.6%	21.2%
Restorative Practices	431	31.2%	100%
Mediation	37	2.7%	8.6%
Youth/Victim Conference	1	0.1%	0.2%
Community Service	255	18.4%	59.2%
Restitution	16	1.2%	3.7%
Apology (Letter or In-Person)	122	8.8%	28.3%
Victim Empathy Program	0	0%	0%
Skill Building/Classes	308	22.3%	100%
Employment Skills	0	0%	0%
Social Skills	47	3.4%	15.3%
Life Skills	96	6.9%	31.2%
Drug or Alcohol	88	6.4%	28.6%
Anger Management	1	0.1%	0.3%
Decision-Making/Criminal Thinking	76	5.5%	24.7%
Accountability	188	13.6%	100%
Accountability/Check In	188	13.6%	100%
Academic	8	0.6%	100%
Attendance Program	1	0.1%	12.5%
Attendance Coach/Tracker	7	0.5%	87.5%
Behavioral Health	132	9.5%	100%
Substance Abuse Evaluation	20	1.4%	15.2%
Mental Health Evaluation	111	8%	84.1%
Substance Abuse Treatment	1	0.1%	0.8%
Personal Goals	121	8.8%	100%
Employment	1	0.1%	0.8%
Essay	119	8.6%	98.3%
Other	1	0.1%	0.8%
Missing	27	1.9%	100%
Total	1385	100%	

¹⁰⁰ Please note that missing data on program sub-type from which these were matched may have changed the overall percentages for program type in this column compared to the percent counts by program type.

Matching Assessment Data and Activities

An important component of successful programming is matching program interventions with youth needs. JJI used a simple matching process to determine the alignment of interventions with identified needs by comparing youth assessment scores that indicated greatest need with program sub-type activities youth were assigned as part of a case plan. If the sub-type activities aligned with identified needs, it was determined that the assessment data and activities were matched. If the sub-type activities did not align with identified needs, it was determined that the assessment data and activities were not matched. This process was completed independently by three JJI team members for the 78 youth in the current model that had both assessment and sub-type activity data.

Following individual coding of data, JJI team members met to debrief about the process and discuss where decisions on matching were split. This process suggested that most of the youth, 88.5% (n = 69), had their activities matched to their identified needs, 9% (n = 7) youth were not well-matched, and 2.3% were unable to be determined (n = 2). Age at referral, gender, and race were not significantly related to match outcome.

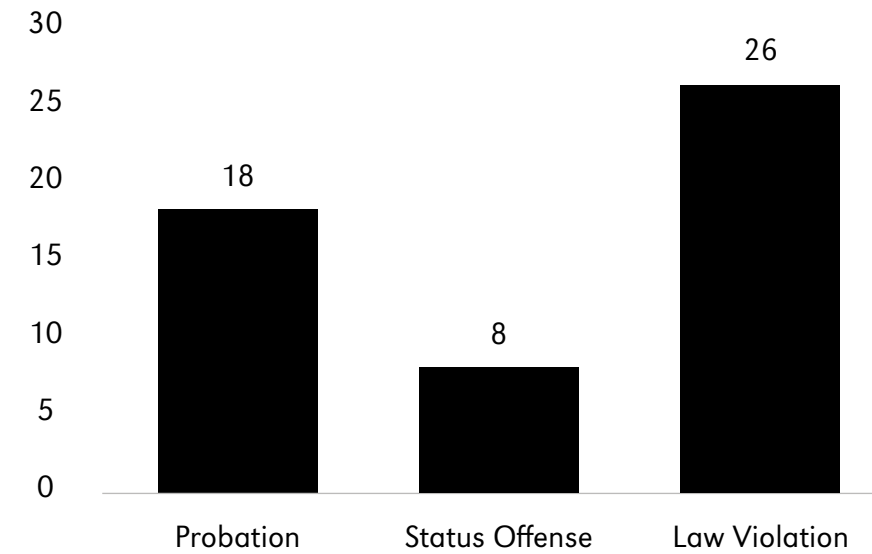
Future System Involvement (FSI)

To examine future system involvement and overall youth outcomes, we received an extract of court filing data from the Nebraska Crime Commission's (NCC) Justice Data Transformation System (JDTS). The JDTS extract is a deidentified masked dataset that matched court data to the JCMS using a matching system explained in an Appendix. Please note, referral date was used to code for the date a youth was "filed on" as this is the variable provided by the NCC and, according to the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, is typically the same as the "filed on" date.

Data were provided to the JJI for all matched cases – any time a juvenile appeared in the court data and matched a juvenile who was referred to the Adams County Diversion program. Next, JJI filtered out any court filings that were dismissed (dismissed-unfounded and dismissed-warned), cases that were dropped, cases with no statute or ordinance number, cases in which the offense did not meet the EB-Nebraska definition of FSI (see Appendix), court filings that occurred prior to discharge from the program, and court filing that occurred greater than one-year post-discharge. If a juvenile had more than one offense that met these criteria, we included the first offense following discharge from the program as the measure of FSI. Offenses were categorized according to whether they were status offenses or law violations.

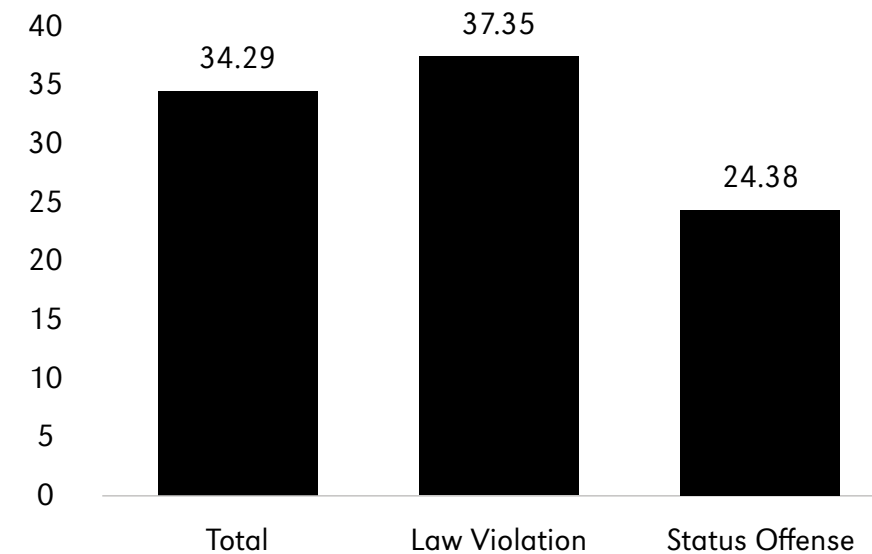
For youth (n = 139) in the current program model with discharge data, there were 26 law violations (18.7%) and eight status offenses (5.8%). A total of 18 youth were adjudicated and placed on formal probation (12.9%).

Figure 14. Program Youth FSI



The total average days between program discharge and court referral was 34.29 days.¹⁰¹ Average days for law violations were an average of 37.35 days for law violations.¹⁰² For status offense court filings, there were an average of 24.38 days between program discharge and court referral.¹⁰³ Average days between program discharge and court referral for youth adjudicated and placed on formal probation were an average of 44.28 days.¹⁰⁴

Figure 15. Average Days between Program Discharge and Court Referral



¹⁰¹ n = 34, SD = 47.183, Range 0 – 203

¹⁰² n = 26, SD = 49.765, Range 0 – 203

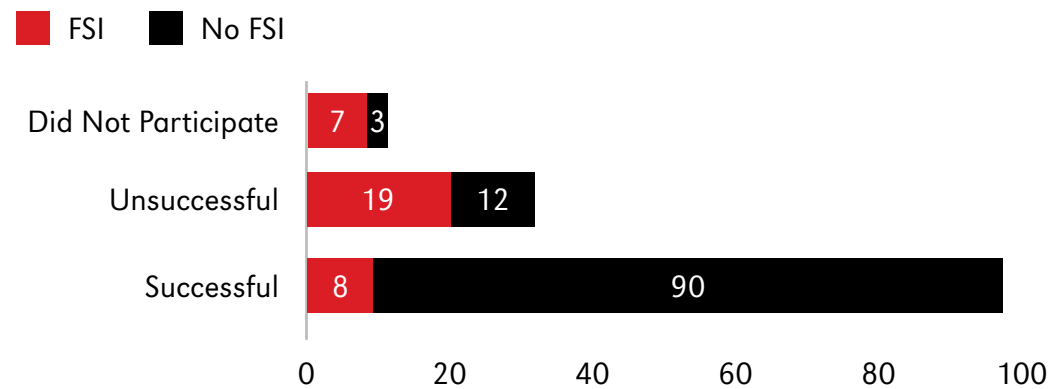
¹⁰³ n = 8, SD = 38.774, Range 0 – 109

¹⁰⁴ n = 18, SD = 59.86, Range 0 – 203

Youth with FSI were on average 14.24 years old.¹⁰⁵ Twenty youth (58.8%) were male, 13 (38.2%) female, and one (2.9%) non-binary. Twenty-one youth (61.8%) were white, 12 (35.3%) youth of color, and one (2.9%) unspecified. We found no statistically significant correlations between the average days between discharge and court referral for age at referral, gender, or race.

Regarding discharge, for youth successfully discharging from the program (n = 98) the rate of FSI was 8.2% (n = 8). Rates of FSI were higher among youth with unsuccessful (n = 31) and did not participate (n = 10) discharge reasons from the program at 61.3% (n = 19) and 70% (n = 7), for unsuccessful and did not participate, respectively. These findings suggest that not only did Adams County Diversion successfully discharge more youth compared to other discharge outcomes, but youth who successfully completed programming had lower rates of FSI following discharge from the program.

Figure 16. FSI by Discharge Reason



Detention

In addition to FSI, we also examined the percent of youth from the program sent to juvenile detention following participating in a Community-based Aid funded program. Youth were considered to be detained if they were sent to a juvenile detention facility at any time following release from the program. Please note, if youth had more than one entry into a juvenile detention facility post-release, the youth was counted in the detention numbers once. Data on youth detention came from the Jail Admission Management Information Network (JAMIN) and were matched by the NCC. Data on detentions do not include those detained at the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center.

No discharged youth in the current program model (n = 139) were found to have a detention placement following discharge from the Adams County Diversion program.

Perceptions of procedural justice throughout their time in the program

JJI worked with the program director to compile a procedural justice and social desirability survey to use with youth as they were discharging from the program. The goal was to assess youth perceptions of procedural justice throughout their time in the Adams County Diversion program. A copy of the survey is available in Appendix 6. By the end of March, only three youth had been discharged from the program and completed the

¹⁰⁵ SD = 1.86, Range 11 – 17

survey. The program director confirmed that the program was anticipating discharging a low number of youth for the remainder of the school year. Due to the low response rate, JJI is unable to include the results of this survey to the evaluation at this time. We anticipate the program continuing to gather surveys for some time and will reevaluate our ability to report out on these in the future.

Potential barriers to program delivery

Potential barriers to program delivery for Adams County Diversion involve the need for additional funding and resources to hire additional staff to handle diversion cases. In speaking with the program, we learned that three-four years ago they had a part time person, funding for this position was cut and the program has had to move forward without the additional support. For the current funding year, the program director requested money for this position again through the EBNE grant and was approved to hire a part time employee. Unfortunately, given the restricted amount of money directed toward a part time employee, the program has been unable to successfully hire for this position. The program has discussed alternatives to hiring a part time employee, such as recruiting from interns from local academic institutions, but concerns remain for the program about the time and cost associated with training individuals and issues with the difference in age between program youth and potential interns.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In this evaluation of youth diverted from the formal juvenile justice system through Adams County Diversion from 2005-2023, the results were promising. First, in Part One using data from the full program model we examined the population of youth enrolled to the program to date, reasons for referral, length of time youth spent in the program, and discharge reasons. We found that the most common reason for program referral were related to offenses for alcohol, shoplifting, and assault. Some minor differences in charges between the program models were noted. We examined the length of time youth spent in the program and if the effects were correlated with the age, race, gender. Next, we assessed reasons for program discharge and used multivariate logistic regression modeling to test for the effects of age, race, gender, and time in the program on successful compared to unsuccessful program outcomes. We noted some race, gender, age, and time in program effects related to program success in the various program models. Specifically, race was a significant predictor of outcome in that youth of color were less likely to have a successful discharge compared to white youth in both the Teen Court and current program model. Females were less likely to have a successful outcome compared to males for youth in the current model and youth that were older had better odds of successful discharge compared to younger youth. The odds of a successful discharge were also improved by additional days in the program for youth in the Teen Court and current program models.

In Part Two, for youth in the current program model, we examined change in assessment scores from pre- to post-programming, activity data, and future system involvement. Paired samples t tests were used to look for significant differences in average scores from pre- to post-programming. We found that following program participation, there were many significant improvements in overall average youth scores indicating that the program is targeting youth needs. We noted that youth scores on five Daniel Memorial subscales showed significant improvement following program completion in the areas of personal appearance and hygiene, housekeeping, community resources, interpersonal skills, and leisure activities. Community resources had the lowest average score at intake among the sample and our analyses showed that following programming, youth scores improved an average of 5.494 points. We found significant effects on score improvement following program completion for six JIFF domains: noncompliance in home, unsafe community behaviors,

health related needs, school, self-harm potential, and substance use. Noncompliance in home was indicated as one of the greatest needs for this sample at intake, our analyses suggest that youth improved scores on this domain an average of 5.776 points. Further, most program youth were assigned activities that matched their assessed needs. Finally, future system involvement among youth with discharge dates was low. When comparing rates of FSI among youth with successful compared to unsuccessful or did not participate outcomes, the gap widens with only 8.2% of successful youth having future system involvement. Given this, we found that Adams County Diversion is effectively targeting youth needs and diverting youth from the juvenile justice system.

Targeting Racial/Ethnic Disparities

We found that in some cases, youth of color were not as successful as white youth in the program. Specifically, youth of color were less likely to have a successful outcome compared to unsuccessful outcome in both the Teen Court and current program models. This evaluation was not able to definitively determine the reasons white youth were more successful compared to youth of color. Pre-existing differences in youth that we were unable to control for may have contributed to outcome disparities. JJI would recommend some action steps that the program should consider that may help to target improving outcomes. One suggestion would be for Adams County Diversion to look for opportunities within the local community to diversify program staff. The program may also wish to consider the use of peer mentors for diversion youth from within the community. Second, some racial differences were noted in the timing of the program delivery. The program indicated that they have had issues in the past with hiring an interpreter to work with youth and families who speak English as a second language. The program may wish to explore options for having an interpreter available virtually, although in person is preferred due to translation differences that are often hard manage online. And finally, the program should consider screening youth for underlying trauma given the relationship between this and juvenile offending behavior. The ability to identify these additional risk factors as well as offering services from a mental health professional in the office may lead to improved outcomes.

Modify Assigned Activities for Youth Assessed as Low-Risk

Youth in the current program model spent more time on average in the program (169.66 days) compared to youth in any other previous program model (152.52 Teen Court and 114.12 Early Model). When taking length of program time into consideration with activities youth were assigned as part of their case plan, we found that most youth are assigned the same or a similar set of activities to complete. For some youth, such as those with tobacco-related offenses who do not have high risk assessment scores for substance use, the inclusion of a drug/alcohol, or substance abuse course may result in the youth being overserved. We were unable to compare assigned activities in previous program models due to limitations in the data on activity sub-type being included in the JCMS at the end of the fourth quarter of 2019.¹⁰⁶ Adams County Diversion should consider using monitor only or a reduced number of assigned activities for some referred youth who are assessed as low risk. In speaking with the program, they indicated that they are moving to a tiered service model in the near future with graduated sanctions, treatment, and activities. The introduction of a tiered model for service delivery should help to improve upon the timing of program delivery and allow the program to provide youth with targeted treatment/interventions according to identified needs. JJI recommends that the program test different approaches to improving outcomes and evaluate the changes.

Adjusting Assessments/Screeners Used

Adams County Diversion should review the effectiveness of the current assessment/screener tools used by the program. The Nebraska juvenile diversion guidelines indicate that diversion programs should use screener and assessment tools for youth that are evidence-based, reliable, and valid (Nebraska Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Guidelines, 2015, p. 21). Given this, JJI recommends that Adams County Diversion considers stepping away from the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Skills Assessment (DMILA) screening tool. The DMILA has not been empirically shown to be a reliable and valid assessment tool in prior research. While examination of the predictive validity and reliability of the DMILA and JIFF for this population was outside of the scope of the current evaluation and report, we recommend that Adams County considers the use of a different screener/assessment tool. JJI has previously examined the reliability and predictive validity of screeners and assessments such as the NYS/CMI, the Nebraska Youth Screen (NYS), or the Arizona Risk-Needs Assessment (ARNA) and found limitations with each tool regarding either the predictive validity or reliability of these assessments when predicting outcomes for youth in diversion relating to prior convictions or prior contact with the legal system (Rufino et al., 2020).

The Nebraska Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Guidelines (2015) recommend a number of risk screening, mental health and substance abuse screening, and assessment instruments for diversion programs. Risk screening tools include the Arizona Risk-Needs Assessment (ARNA), Nebraska Youth Screen (NYS), Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory Screening Version (YLS/CMI), and Early Assessment Risk List (EARL). For mental health and substance abuse screening, the guidelines suggest the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2), Global Appraisal of Individual Needs-Short Screener (GAIN-SS), and CRAFFT Screen for Substance Abuse (Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble). Finally, the following assessment instruments are recommended: N-SAT (Nebraska Screening and Assessment Tool), Youth Level of Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI), Juvenile Inventory for Functioning (JIFF), and the School Refusal Survey.

¹⁰⁶ Activity data other program models – Early Model n = 37, Teen Court Model n = 1

Appendix 1 Program Types and Sub-Types

Case Plan Program Types and Sub-Types gathered in JCMS data.

- Administrative
 - Diversion fee waived
 - Pay diversion fee
 - Pay reduced diversion fee
 - Restitution scholarship awarded
 - Monitor only
- Restorative Practices
 - Mediation
 - Youth/Victim conference
 - Community service
 - Restitution
 - Jury duty in teen court
 - Apology (letter or in-person)
 - Victim empathy program
- Skill Building/Classes
 - Employment skills
 - Social skills
 - Life skills
 - Cultural support
 - Runaway abatement
 - Gang prevention/intervention
 - Drug or Alcohol
 - Anger management
 - Decision-making/criminal thinking
 - Parenting class
- Accountability
 - Avoid criminal activity/police contact
 - Curfew
 - Drug testing
 - Accountability/check in
 - Maintain current positive behavior
- Academic
 - Tutoring/study hall
 - Attendance program
 - Attendance coach/tracker
 - After school program
 - Summer school
 - Alternative school
- Behavioral Health
 - Substance abuse evaluation
 - Mental health evaluation
 - Dual evaluation
 - Substance abuse treatment
 - Therapy (individual)
 - Family therapy
 - Sex offender treatment
 - Group therapy
 - DV therapy (victim or offender)
 - Support group
- Family Support
 - Wrap-Around (includes IFP, MST, etc.)
 - In home family support
 - Cultural support
 - Runaway abatement
 - Crisis response
- Prosocial Activity
 - Mentoring
 - School-Based activity
 - Community-Based activity
- Personal Goals
 - Wellness
 - Family
 - Employment
 - College/career planning
 - Essay
 - Other

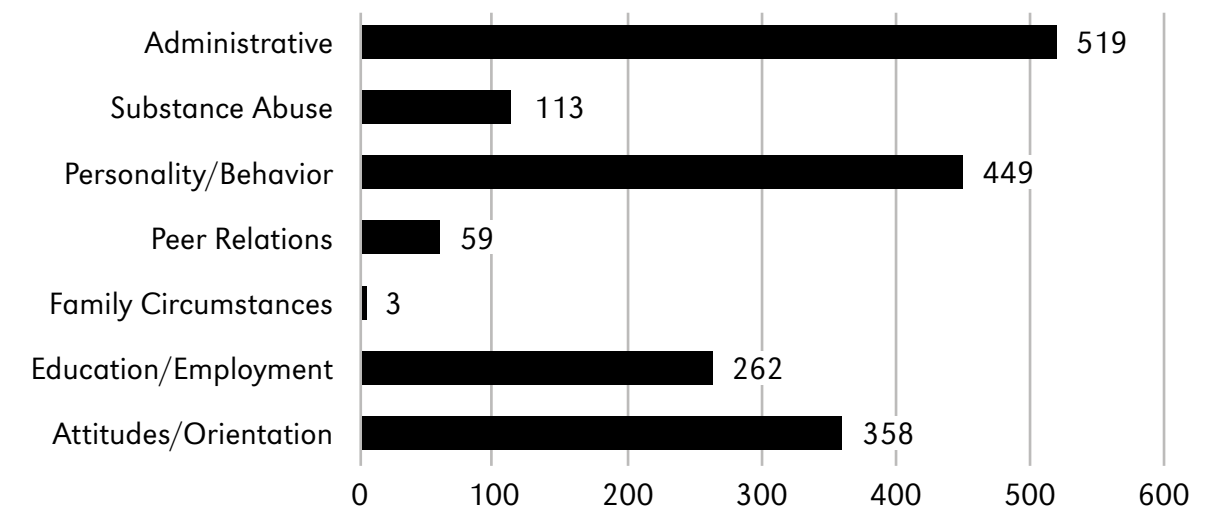
Full Program Activity Data

Data on case plan domain, program types, and sub-types are entered into the JCMS for program youth when available. Primary domains fall under seven categories: Attitudes/Orientation, Education/Employment, Family Circumstances, Peer Relations, Personality/Behavior, Substance Abuse, and Administrative. Program types include nine categories: Administrative, Restorative Practices, Skill Building/Classes, Accountability, Academic, Behavioral Health, Family Support¹⁰⁷, Prosocial Activity¹⁰⁸, and Personal Goals. A complete list of program sub-types is included as an Appendix at the end of this report.

Data captured on program activity screens include only completion date and began to be entered in the last quarter of 2019. Data on primary domain, program type, and sub-type activity for 179 program youth were included. For those youth, the average number of sub-type activities were 9.94.¹⁰⁹ We assessed how many sub-type activities were coded as completed as well as how many were listed as partially completed. The percent of completed sub-type activities ranged from zero to 100%, with an average of 72.17% complete.¹¹⁰ Partial completions ranged from zero to 55%, with an average of 4.53% partially complete.¹¹¹ A combined total of the percent complete and the percent partially complete raised the overall average completion rate for the 179 youth to 76.7%.¹¹²

Adams County Diversion entered the following information into the primary domain variables for youth in the full program model. Primary domain is the specific area in the assessment/screener that is indicated as being a need for the youth being addressed by programming. The most common domain was Administrative (29%), followed by Personality/Behavior (25.1%), Attitudes/Orientation (20%), Education/Employment (14.6%), Substance Abuse (6.3%), Peer Relations (3.3%), and Family Circumstance (0.2%). Primary domain was missing for 26 cases.

Figure 17. Primary Domain



¹⁰⁷ No data entered under this case plan program type.

¹⁰⁸ No data entered under this case plan program type.

¹⁰⁹ SD = 2.61, Range 4 – 14

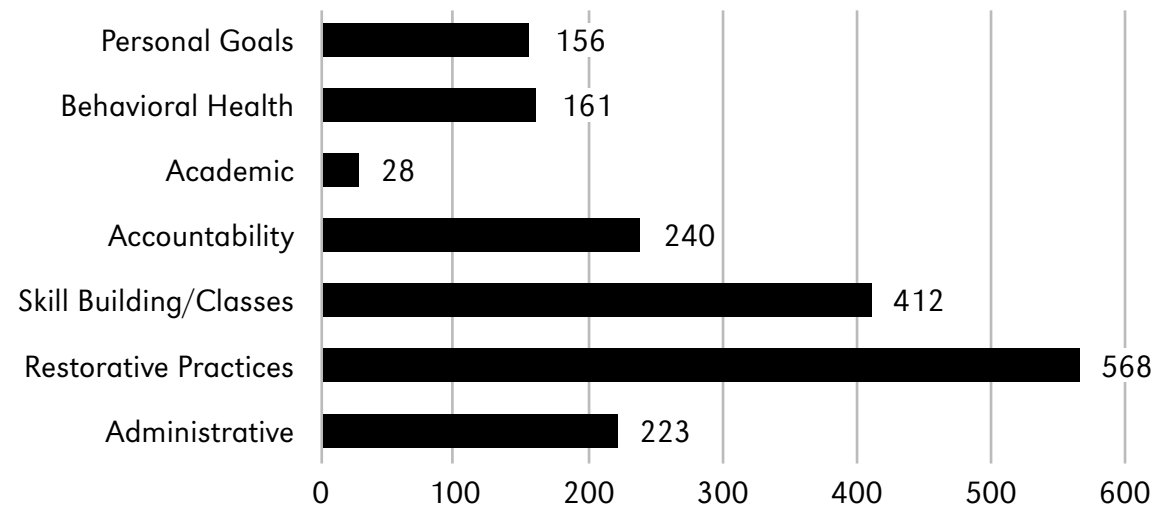
¹¹⁰ SD = 41.2

¹¹¹ SD = 11.6

¹¹² SD = 37.2

The most entered program type category among youth is Restorative Practices (31.7%), followed by Skill Building/Classes (23%), Accountability (13.4%), Administrative (12.5%), Behavioral Health (9%), Personal Goals (8.7%), and Academic (1.6%). One program type case was missing.

Figure 18. Case Plan Program Types



Each case plan program type category includes sub-type activities to which the youth was assigned. The breakdown of these sub-type activities by program type is included below. Program sub-type data were included for 179 youth, with missing data on 51 cases. Recall that the average number of program sub-type activities for each youth was 9.94. Restorative Practices was the most common program type (32.3%) for case plan data entered into the JCMS. Community Service and Apology (Letter or In-Person) are the most frequently used sub-type activities for Restorative Practices at 58% (n = 325) and 29.3% (n = 164), respectively. For youth with data on the total amount of diversion fees paid during the program (n = 147), the average was \$77.89.¹¹³

¹¹³ SD = \$67.43, Range \$0 - 400, median = \$100

Table 12. Program Type/Sub-Types

Program Type/Sub-Type	Frequency	Percent of Total Sub-Type Cases Entered ¹¹⁴	Percent of Program Type
Administration	212	12%	100%
Diversion Fee Waived	5	0.3%	2.4%
Pay Diversion Fee	153	8.6%	72.2%
Pay Reduced Diversion Fee	10	0.6%	4.7%
Monitor Only	44	2.5%	20.8%
Restorative Practices	560	32.3%	100%
Mediation	44	2.5%	7.9%
Youth/Victim Conference	2	0.1%	0.4%
Community Service	325	18.2%	58%
Restitution	20	1.1%	3.6%
Apology (Letter or In-Person)	164	9.2%	29.3%
Victim Empathy Program	5	0.3%	0.9%
Skill Building/Classes	398	22.7%	100%
Employment Skills	1	0.1%	0.3%
Social Skills	56	3.1%	14.1%
Life Skills	128	7.2%	32.2%
Drug or Alcohol	109	6.1%	27.4%
Anger Management	1	0.1%	0.3%
Decision-Making/Criminal Thinking	103	5.8%	25.9%
Accountability	226	12.6%	100%
Accountability/Check In	226	12.6%	100%
Academic	21	1.2%	100%
Attendance Program	2	0.1%	9.5%
Attendance Coach/Tracker	19	1.1%	90.5%
Behavioral Health	159	8.9%	100%
Substance Abuse Evaluation	23	1.3%	14.5%
Mental Health Evaluation	135	7.5%	84.9%
Substance Abuse Treatment	1	0.1%	0.6%
Personal Goals	153	8.1%	100%
Employment	1	0.1%	0.7%
Essay	150	8.4%	98%
Other	2	0.1%	1.3%
Missing	51	2.9%	100%
Total	1789	100%	

¹¹⁴ Please note that missing data on program sub-type from which these were matched may have changed the overall percentages for program type in this column compared to the percent counts by program type.

Appendix 2 Assessment/Screening Background

Nebraska juvenile diversion statute encourages the use of screening and assessments. Diversion guidelines indicate that “a juvenile pretrial diversion program shall (5) provide screening services for use in creating a diversion plan utilizing appropriate services for the juvenile.”¹¹⁵ Screenings and assessment tools are an important component of any treatment program according to the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model. As the goal of diversion programs is to divert youth out of the justice system by offering alternatives to traditional detention and punishment, effective models should adhere to RNR best practices and screen and assess youth prior to providing diversion services. To meet best practices, diversion programs serving youth should provide services that match the identified level of risk for a youth, address youth needs, and should individualize treatment to the youth.¹¹⁶

To better capture the type of assessments and targeted programming used by diversion programs, at the beginning of FY20/21, changes were made to JCMS diversion case plan screens. These modifications were designed based upon RNR principles to assist programs with targeting services to address individual youth risks and needs and boost identified strengths, while being mindful to not overserve youth, which may lead to higher cost, lengthier time in the program, or other adverse youth outcomes. In the diversion case plan screen, domains were added to allow programs to select the risk or need identified by the assessment used (e.g., leisure/recreation). Based upon the identified domain, programs are asked to select a program type (e.g., pro-social activity) youth are referred to according to the identified domain that needs addressed. Program subtype allows programs to record which program type best maps to that program type (e.g., community-based activity). The program subtypes change depending on the program type selected. Programs then enter information about the total time required for the activity and the total time completed. As a final step, programs code if the activity was completed, partially completed, or not completed.

A primary goal of the diversion program is to assess youth needs and provide services, accordingly, Adams County Diversion uses a variety of risk assessments with referred youth. Assessments are done at both intake and discharge from programming to allow for program staff and evaluators to examine changes in youth scores from intake to discharge. The most used and reported assessments for youth referred to Adams County Diversion in the JCMS are the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Skills Assessment screener and the Juvenile Inventory for Functioning Interviewer assessment. Note: The program also input some scores for the Nebraska Youth Screen, but there were not enough pre- and post-score data to be used for evaluation purposes.

The Daniel Memorial Independent Living Assessment for Life Skills (DMILA) is a life skills and independent living screening tool originally developed in the 1980s by Daniel Memorial’s Independent Living Program staff¹¹⁷ for use as a pre- and post-assessment scale to determine program effectiveness. Version 10 of the tool is available in both short and long forms. Adams County Diversion currently uses the objective long assessment. The long form includes 231 multiple choice questions and takes two to three hours to complete. Both forms assess youth across 16 subject areas to assess independent living skills and are intended for use with youth 14 years and older.¹¹⁸ For each subscale assessment completed, youth are scored on a scale from zero to 100, with higher scores indicating greater attainment of subscale goals. Subscales used by

¹¹⁵ 43-260.04; Nebraska Juvenile Diversion Guidelines, 2015, p. 14

¹¹⁶ Andrews & Bonta, 2006; Andrews et al., 1990

¹¹⁷ According to their website, Daniel Memorial is the oldest child-serving agency in Florida and its programs serve roughly 5,000 children and families each year. danielkids.org.

¹¹⁸ The Family & Youth Services Bureau (2016) lists the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Assessment as appropriate for use with youth 14 years and older engaged in systems of care. <https://rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/screening-assessment-tool-20160314-508-1150.pdf>

Adams County Diversion include Money Management & Consumer Awareness, Food Management, Personal Appearance & Hygiene, Health, Housekeeping, Transportation, Education, Job Seeking Skills, Job Maintenance Skills, Emergency & Safety, Community Resources, Interpersonal Skills, Legal Skills, Religion, Leisure Activities, and Housing. Higher scores on the subscales indicate improvement. Each time the DMILA is given to a youth, Adams County Diversion records the youth’s score for each subscale separately in the JCMS.

Although widely used in the United States, very limited prior research has sought to examine the reliability and validity of the DMILA. Prior research evaluating the internal consistency of the short form of the tool found that overall, the DMILA assessment had limited reliability.¹¹⁹ The most consistent subscales found by the study were Interpersonal Skills, Money Management Skills, Job Seeking Skills, and Job Maintenance Skills. It is important to note, however, that these findings were based on short form subscale scores from a small (n = 49) convenience sample of individuals aged 18 to 26 years old in one state. Potentially limiting the reliability of scales among populations with different demographics (e.g., younger populations or those residing in different geographic locations).

The Juvenile Inventory for Functioning (JIFF) is an interview style assessment and case management tool that is interaction, computerized, and self-administered. The JIFF pre- and post-assessment covers 10 domains and includes 100 items although the total number of items varies depending on the risk level of the youth responding. The JIFF is designed to be used by youth ages nine to 19 years old, can be administered in both English and Spanish, has the capabilities to be read aloud to 2nd and 3rd grade youth, and has both youth and caregiver versions available. For each domain assessment completed, youth are scored on a scale from zero to 100, with lower scores indicating greater attainment of subscale goals. The 10 domains assess youth functioning in the areas of School/Job, Peers, Home, Family Environment, Community Behavior, Depression/Anxiety/Trauma, Self-Harm, Substance Use, Irrationality, and Health Needs. Lower domain scores indicate improvement. Each time the JIFF is used, scores are calculated for each domain and are summed to produce a JIFF total score, the Adams County Diversion program records the total score for each domain in the JCMS.

The JIFF was derived from the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS). Research on CAFAS supports its use as a reliable, valid assessment scale sensitive to detecting change in behaviors.¹²⁰ The JIFF is comprised of similar descriptors for behavior and assesses similar subscales of functioning (i.e., domains). Previous research assessing youth functioning with the CAFAS suggest a relationship between measures of impairment and offending or future system involvement.¹²¹

Assessment and Screener Tools (All Youth Data on Assessment Scores Included)

To examine if youth are receiving services that align with their identified needs, we first examined youth needs identified by assessment/screener tool data. We analyzed data on the type and number of assessments conducted with program youth. As noted above, the Adams County Diversion program primarily uses both the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Assessment for Life Skills (DMILA) and Juvenile Inventory for Functioning (JIFF) screener and assessment tools. Adams County Diversion inputs scores from each DMILA subscale and JIFF domain into the JCMS database. The number of assessments entered into the JCMS per tool are identified below. For analysis of differences between pre and post assessments, JJI used only those cases with valid pre and post assessment scores entered into the JCMS. Data on screener/assessment scores has been entered into the JCMS from fall of 2016 through the date of data extraction for this evaluation.

¹¹⁹ Georgiades, 2005a; 2005b

¹²⁰ Hodges, 2004; Hodges et al., 2011

¹²¹ Abram et al., 2009; Hodges & Kim, 2000; Quist & Matshazi, 2000; Timmons-Mitchell et al., 2006; Walrath et al.

Table 13. Number of Assessments/Screenings Conducted

Assessment/Screening Tool	Total Scores	Number of Youth with Valid Pre & Post Scores
Nebraska Youth Screen	10	0
DMILA Subscales		
Money Management & Consumer Awareness	363	138
Food Management	427	174
Personal Appearance & Hygiene	434	170
Health	430	175
Housekeeping	432	176
Transportation	430	177
Education	429	174
Job Seeking Skills	432	180
Job Maintenance Skills	432	179
Emergency & Safety	432	176
Community Resources	431	176
Interpersonal Skills	431	177
Legal Skills	431	179
Religion	431	176
Leisure Activities	432	178
Housing	429	177
JIFF Domains		
School	295	110
Picked on by Peers	366	147
Noncompliance in Home	370	149
Family Environment	368	149
Peer Influence	367	148
Unsafe Community Behaviors	365	146
Feelings	370	149
Self-Harm Potential	366	146
Substance Use	367	147
Health Related Needs	358	139

There are a total of 228 youth with valid pre and post assessment data for analysis. These youth in the full program model are on average 14.93 years old.¹²² The majority are male (n = 147, 64.5%) and white (n = 169, 74.1%). In the current model, the demographic data for the 79 youth is very similar to the full program model. Youth are on average 14.63 years old.¹²³ The majority are male (n = 56, 70.9%) and white (n = 57, 72.2%).

¹²² SD = 1.632, Range 11-18

¹²³ SD = 1.777, range 7-11

Table 14. Number of Youth by Program Model with Assessment and Screener Data

Assessment/Screening Tool	Full Model	Early Model	Teen Court	Current Model
Daniel Memorial Only	78, 5.1%	28, 2.3%	47, 32.6%	3, 1.9%
JIFF Only	49, 3.2%	19, 1.5%	-	20, 18.9%
Both DM and JIFF	101, 6.6%	40, 3.3%	15, 10.4%	46, 28.9%
Total	228, 14.9%	87, 7.1%	62, 43.1%	79, 49.7%
Missing	1304, 85.1%	1142, 92.9%	82, 56.9%	80, 50.3%

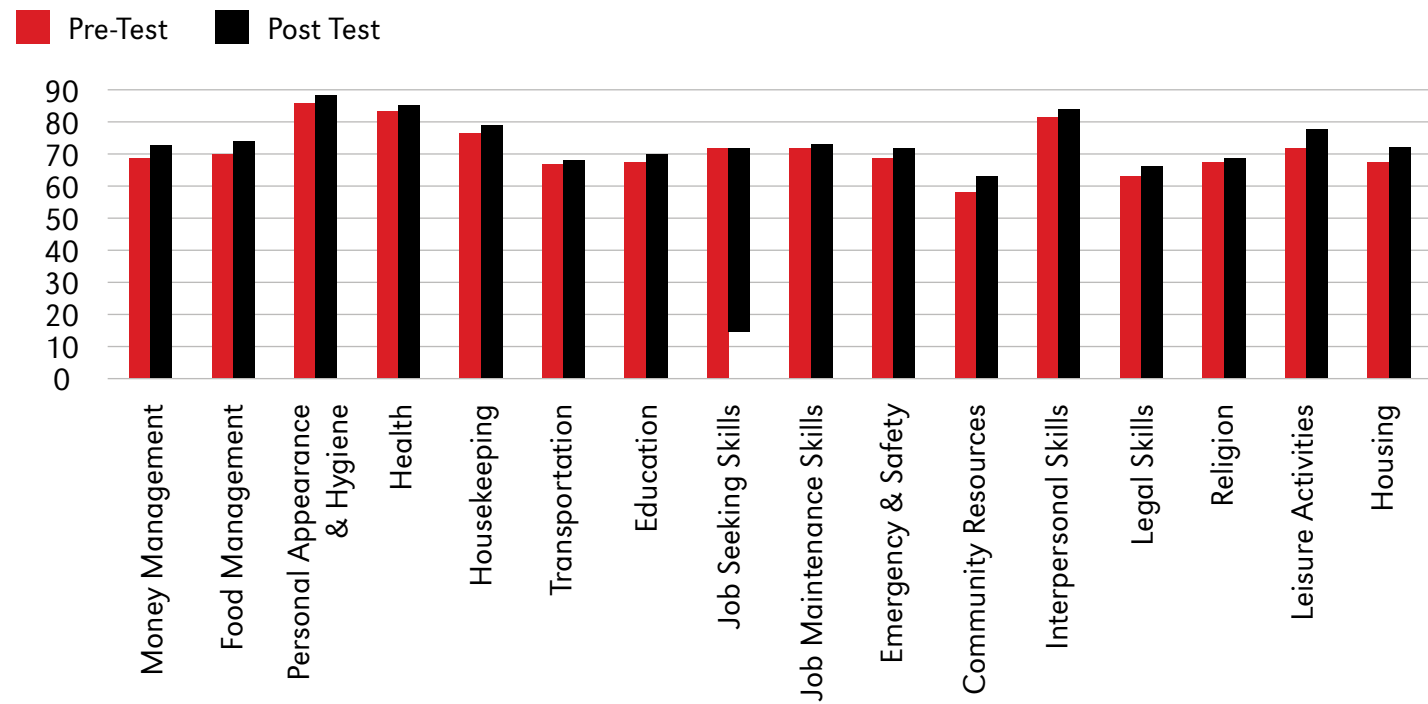
Analysis of Assessment Tool Scores

Analysis of DMILA and JIFF assessment/screener tool scores were conducted by using a paired samples t test and multiple linear regression. A paired samples t test is commonly used to test for statistical difference between two time points for the same individual. These tests were used to test for statistical difference in the means of test scores between intake and discharge for program youth who had completed both a valid pre and post assessment, prior to and after receiving diversion-related services. Multiple linear regression models were conducted to assess the effect of demographic characteristics (i.e., age, race, and gender) on average differences in assessment scores before and after programming.

DMILA Results for Full Program Model

The figure below illustrates average Pre and Post Scores on the DMILA subscales. As noted above in the discussion of program assessments, the DMILA subscales are scored on a scale from zero to 100 with higher scores preferred as this indicates greater attainment of subscale goals. Personal Appearance & Hygiene, Health, and Interpersonal Skills subscales have the highest average scores among youth in the sample for scores pre and post program involvement. Whereas, **Community Resources** have the lowest average scores, indicating that there may be more need for services addressing these needs.

Figure 19. DMILA Pre and Post Mean Scores by Subscale for Full Program Model



Results of the paired samples t tests for the DMILA subscale screener scores for the full program model suggest that there are statistical differences in pre and post screener scores for program youth on 11 of the 16 subscales, highlighted in gray on the table below. Paired samples tests suggest significant average differences in scores and moderate effect sizes for three of the subscales and small effect sizes for eight of the subscales mean differences from pre test to post test as described below. There were not significant average differences in scores for Health, Transportation, Job Seeking Skills, Job Maintenance Skills, or Religion.

Moderate Effect Sizes

- **Money Management & Consumer Awareness**¹²⁴ Post test scores on average were 4.065 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Community Resources**¹²⁵ Post test scores on average were 3.040 points higher than Pre-test scores. Recall that this subscale had the lowest overall average scores pre and post for program youth which suggests that there may be need for more services addressing this need for youth. The moderate effect size of the paired samples t test comparing pre and post scores indicates that the program is effectively targeting this need.
- **Leisure Activities**¹²⁶ Post test scores on average were 5.494 points higher than Pre-test scores.

¹²⁴ $t_{137} = -3.913, p < .001, 95\% \text{ CI } [-6.12, -2.01], d = .33$
¹²⁵ $t_{175} = -4.678, p < .001, 95\% \text{ CI } [-7.158, -2.910], d = .35$
¹²⁶ $t_{177} = -4.544, p < .001, 95\% \text{ CI } [-7.881, -3.108], d = .34$

Small Effect Sizes

- **Food Management**¹²⁷ Post test scores on average were 3.506 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Personal Appearance & Hygiene**¹²⁸ Post test scores on average were 2.182 points higher than Pre-test.
- **Housekeeping**¹²⁹ Post test scores on average were 2.426 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Education**¹³⁰ Post test scores on average were 2.937 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Emergency & Safety**¹³¹ Post test scores on average were 3.040 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Interpersonal Skills**¹³² Post test scores on average were 2.373 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Legal Skills**¹³³ Post test scores on average were 2.827 points higher than Pre-test scores.
- **Housing**¹³⁴ Post test scores on average were 4.056 points higher than Pre-test scores.

Table 15. DMILA Screener Subscales Paired Samples Test

DMILA Subscales	Pre-Test		Post Test		Paired t Test				
	M	SD	M	SD	M ¹³⁵	t value	df	Sig (2-tailed)	Cohen's d
Money Mgmt & Consumer Awareness	68.51	16.87	72.57	17.98	-4.065	-3.913	137	<.001	.33
Food Mgmt	70.2	16.01	73.7	17	-3.506	-2.845	173	.005	.22
Personal Appearance & Hygiene	85.89	15.36	88.07	13.76	-2.182	-2.009	169	.046	.15
Health	83.49	10.7	85.05	13.56	-1.566	-1.840	174	.067	.14
Housekeeping	76.52	13.61	78.95	14.87	-2.426	-2.818	175	.005	.21
Transportation	67.09	17.26	68.33	18.22	-1.237	-1.089	176	.278	.08
Education	67.4	18.07	70.33	16.47	-2.937	-2.384	173	.009	.18
Job Seeking Skills	71.96	14.76	71.89	16.99	.067	.063	179	.950	.01
Job Maintenance Skills	72.02	16.18	73.22	17.51	-1.207	-1.026	178	.306	.08
Emergency & Safety	68.66	16.74	71.70	15.55	-3.040	-2.376	175	.019	.18
Community Resources	57.85	15.67	62.89	15.71	-5.034	-4.678	175	<.001	.35
Interpersonal Skills	81.67	18.83	84.05	17.23	-2.373	-2.003	176	.044	.15
Legal Skills	63.42	14.36	66.25	13.83	-2.827	-2.799	178	.006	.21
Religion	67.26	16.30	68.68	17.53	-1.420	-1.257	175	.211	.24
Leisure Activities	72.13	18.00	77.62	17.69	-5.494	-4.544	177	<.001	.34
Housing	67.8	17.69	71.85	19.37	-4.056	-3.564	176	<.001	.27

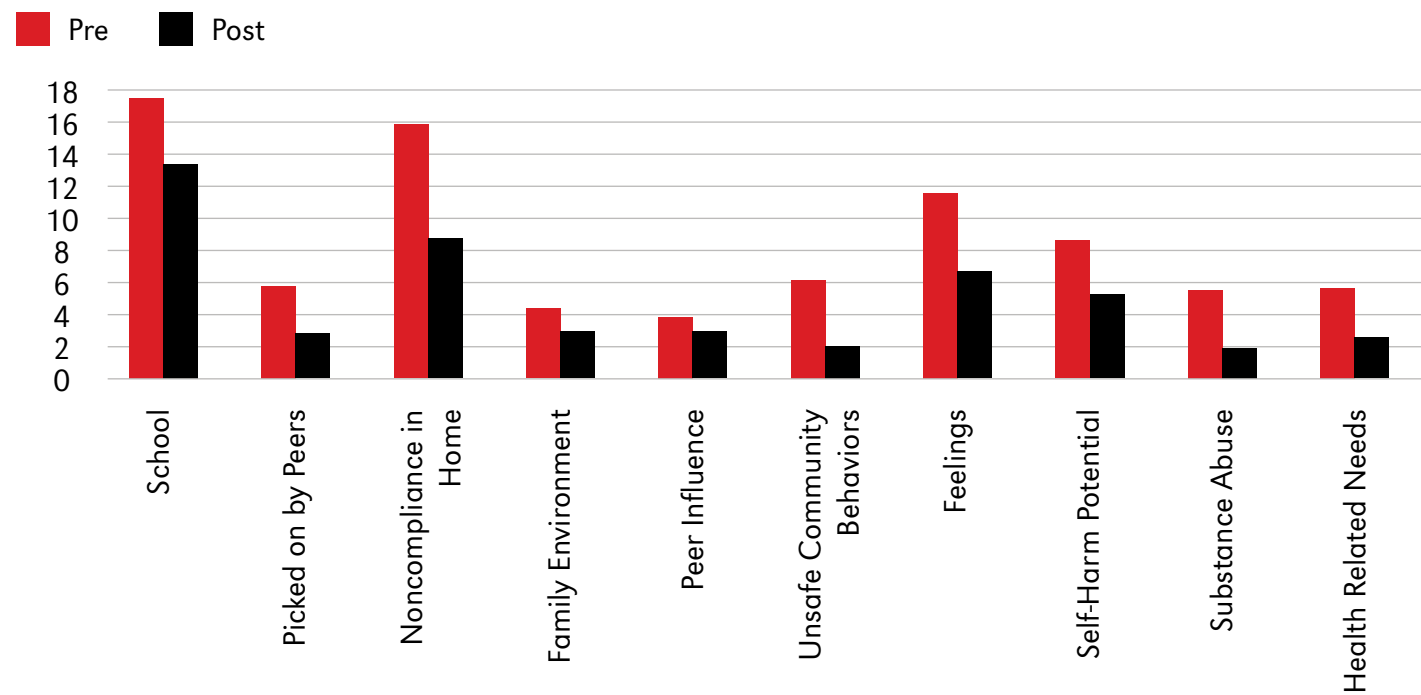
¹²⁷ $t_{173} = -2.845, p = .005, 95\% \text{ CI } [-5.938, -1.073], d = .22$
¹²⁸ $t_{169} = -2.009, p = .046, 95\% \text{ CI } [-4.327, -0.038], d = .15$
¹²⁹ $t_{175} = -2.818, p = .005, 95\% \text{ CI } [-4.125, -0.727], d = .21$
¹³⁰ $t_{173} = -2.384, p = .009, 95\% \text{ CI } [-5.368, -0.505], d = .18$
¹³¹ $t_{175} = -2.376, p = .019, 95\% \text{ CI } [-5.564, -0.515], d = .18$
¹³² $t_{176} = -2.003, p = .044, 95\% \text{ CI } [-4.677, -0.069], d = .15$
¹³³ $t_{178} = -2.799, p = .006, 95\% \text{ CI } [-4.820, -0.834], d = .21$
¹³⁴ $t_{176} = -3.564, p < .001, 95\% \text{ CI } [-6.303, -1.810], d = .27$
¹³⁵ Higher scores are better on the DMILA assessments. These were reverse coded (calculated as pre-test minus post test) with negative values indicating a higher mean post test score.

Multiple linear regression analyses were used to test if age at referral, race (dummy coded 1 = Youth of Color, 0 = White), and gender¹³⁶ (dummy coded 1 = Female, 0 = Male) significantly predicted participant's average difference in DMILA subscale screener scores pre and post programming. For these analyses, White race and male were used as reference groups. We found that participant race was significantly related to improvement in scores for the **Food Management** and **Health**. Specifically, we found that youth of color had average difference scores on the **Food Management** subscale that were 10.944 points higher than white youth,¹³⁷ and 5.564 points higher than white youth on the **Health** subscale,¹³⁸ adjusting for age at referral and gender. Gender and age at referral were not significant predictors in the model. Regression analyses on subscale score differences not mentioned above were also not significant for age at referral, race, or gender effects.

JIFF Results for Full Program Model

The figure below illustrates average Pre and Post Scores on the JIFF domains. As noted above in the discussion of program assessments, the JIFF domains are scored on a scale from zero to 100 with lower scores preferred as this indicates greater attainment of domain goals. Peer Influence and Family Environment domains have the lowest average scores among youth in the sample for scores pre and post program involvement. **School** and **Noncompliance in Home** have the highest average scores indicating that there may be greater need for services in this area.

Figure 20. JIFF Pre and Post Mean Scores by Domain for Full Program Model



¹³⁶ Gender was included as a dummy variable in the model with Non-binary removed as there was only one youth in the dataset.

¹³⁷ R² = .089, F (3, 169) = 5.506, p < .001

¹³⁸ R² = .045, F (3, 170) = 2.633, p = .007

Results of the paired samples t tests for the JIFF domain assessment scores for the full program model suggests that there are statistical differences in pre and post assessment scores for program youth on nine of the 10 domains, highlighted in gray on the table below. Paired samples tests suggest significant average differences in scores and moderate effect sizes for five of the domains and small effect sizes for four of the domains mean differences from Pre-test to Post test as described below. There were not significant average differences in scores for Peer Influence.

Moderate Effect Sizes

- **School**¹³⁹ Post test scores on average were 4.191 points lower than Pre-test scores. Recall that this domain had one of the highest overall average scores pre and post for program youth which suggests that there may be need for more services addressing this need for youth. The moderate effect size of the paired samples t test comparing pre and post scores indicates that the program is effectively targeting this need.
- **Noncompliance in Home**¹⁴⁰ Post test scores on average were 7.128 points lower than Pre-test scores. Recall that this domain had one of the highest overall average scores pre and post for program youth which suggests that there may be need for more services addressing this need for youth. The moderate effect size of the paired samples t test comparing pre and post scores indicates that the program is effectively targeting this need.
- **Unsafe Community Behaviors**¹⁴¹ Post test scores on average were 4.130 points lower than Pre-test scores.
- **Feelings**¹⁴² Post test scores on average were 4.899 points lower than Pre-test scores.
- **Health Related Needs**¹⁴³ Post test scores on average were 3.014 points lower than Pre-test scores.

Small Effect Sizes

- **Picked on by Peers**¹⁴⁴ Post test scores on average were 2.966 points lower than Pre-test scores.
- **Family Environment**¹⁴⁵ Post test scores on average were 1.49 points lower than Pre-test scores.
- **Self-Harm Potential**¹⁴⁶ Post test scores on average were 3.377 points lower than Pre-test scores.
- **Substance Use**¹⁴⁷ Post test scores on average were 3.605 points lower than Pre-test scores.

¹³⁹ t₁₀₉ = 3.314, p = .001, 95% CI [1.685, 6.697], d = .32

¹⁴⁰ t₁₄₈ = 4.389, p < .001, 95% CI [3.918, 10.337], d = .36

¹⁴¹ t₁₄₅ = 5.202, p < .001, 95% CI [2.561, 5.699], d = .43

¹⁴² t₁₄₈ = 3.708, p < .001, 95% CI [2.288, 7.510], d = .30

¹⁴³ t₁₃₈ = 3.844, p < .001, 95% CI [1.464, 4.565], d = .33

¹⁴⁴ t₁₄₆ = 2.581, p = .011, 95% CI [0.695, 5.237], d = .21

¹⁴⁵ t₁₄₈ = 2.282, p = .024, 95% CI [0.20, 2.78], d = .19

¹⁴⁶ t₁₄₅ = 2.374, p = .019, 95% CI [0.565, 6.188], d = .20

¹⁴⁷ t₁₄₆ = 3.708, p < .001, 95% CI [1.460, 5.751], d = .27

Table 16. JIFF Assessment Domains Paired Samples Test

JIFF Domains	Pre-Test		Post Test		Paired t Test				
	M	SD	M	SD	M	t value	df	Sig (2-tailed)	Cohen's d
School	17.65	15.52	13.46	14.91	4.191	3.314	109	.001	.32
Picked on by Peers	5.91	13	2.95	9.64	2.966	2.581	146	.011	.21
Noncompliance in Home	15.91	17.46	8.79	15.67	7.128	4.389	148	<.001	.36
Family Environment	4.53	9.77	3.04	7.7	1.49	2.282	148	.024	.19
Peer Influence	3.95	9.42	3.11	7.25	.845	1.029	147	.305	.09
Unsafe Community Behaviors	6.25	10.43	2.12	6.37	4.130	5.202	145	<.001	.43
Feelings	11.63	16.24	6.73	14.74	4.899	3.708	148	<.001	.30
Self-Harm Potential	8.69	18.38	5.32	13.75	3.377	2.374	145	.019	.20
Substance Use	5.65	15.23	2.05	9.76	3.605	3.321	146	<.001	.27
Health Related Needs	5.71	10	2.69	7.27	3.014	3.844	138	<.001	.33

Multiple linear regression analyses were used to test if age, race (coded 1 = Youth of Color, 0 = White), and gender¹⁴⁸ (coded 1 = Female, 0 = Male) significantly predicted participant’s average difference in JIFF domain assessment scores pre and post programming. For these analyses, White race and male were used as reference groups. Regression analyses on domain score differences were not significant for age, race, or gender effects.

Appendix 3 Historical Data on Drug Testing

JCMS data from Adams County Diversion also included information about drug testing completed with program youth. Current CBA-grant requirements stipulate that funded programs are not allowed to use grant money to fund drug testing as this often acts as a net-widening tool bringing more youth into the juvenile justice system. As drug testing is no longer a funded component of diversion programming funded by NCC, data reported here are descriptive of the types of drug tests previously used and overall rates of positive screens.

Drug tests data were included for 48 program youth from 2016 to 2020. Each youth completed on average 15.46 drug tests (n = 742, SD = 7.226, Range 6 – 36). The following types of drug tests were used: amphetamines (n = 124), benzodiazepines (n = 124), cocaine (n = 124), methamphetamines (n = 124), opiates (n = 123), marijuana (THC) (n = 123). Positive screens were found for 18 drug tests (2.4%), with negative screens for 710 (95.7%), inconclusive and no-show account for the final 14 tests (1.9%). All but one of the positives screens were for marijuana (THC). Fourteen youth had positive drug screens for marijuana (three of these had two positive screens for marijuana) and one youth had a positive drug screen for cocaine.

¹⁴⁸ Gender was included as a dummy variable in the model with Non-binary removed as there was only one youth in the dataset.

Appendix 4 Future System Involvement

To accurately assess post-program law violations across Community-based Aid (CBA) funded programs, the Juvenile Justice Institute and other researchers shall utilize the following uniform definitions of future law violations for juveniles who participated in a CBA-funded program.

I. Court Filings

(A) This definition shall apply to both juveniles, and individuals who have aged out of the juvenile justice system:

1. Future System Involvement shall mean that within 1 year following discharge from a CBA-funded program the juvenile has:

(a) been filed on, which has not been dismissed or dropped, for an act that would constitute a felony under the laws of this state, and who, beginning on July 1, 2017, was eleven years of age or older at the time the act was committed.

(b) been filed on, which has not been dismissed or dropped, for an act that would constitute a misdemeanor or an infraction under the laws of this state, or a violation of a city or village ordinance, and who, beginning on July 1, 2017, was eleven years of age or older at the time the act was committed.

(i) Future system involvement shall include minor in possession under Neb. Rev. Statute 53-180.02 and is coded as a law violation.

(ii) Future system involvement shall not include less serious misdemeanors or infractions that do not impact community safety, including animal(s) at large, failure to return library materials, and littering.

(iii) Future system involvement shall not include a failure to appear.

(c) been filed on, which has not been dismissed or dropped, for an act that would constitute a status offense to include truancy under Neb. Rev. Statute 43-247(3)(b)(3) or Neb. Rev. Statute 79-201 (“compulsory attendance”), uncontrollable juvenile under Rev. Statute 43-247(3)(b)(2), curfew violations under city or village ordinance, or Tobacco use by a Minor under Neb. Rev. Statute 28-1418.

(i) Although status offenses are included in the definition of future system involvement, status offenses shall be reported separately from law violations.

(d) been filed on, which has not been dismissed or dropped, for an act that would constitute a serious traffic offense to include driving under the influence under Neb. Rev. Statute 60-6, 196 or similar city/village ordinance, leaving the scene of an accident under Neb. Rev. Statute 60-696(A), reckless driving under Neb. Rev. Statute 60-6, 214(A), engaging in speed contest/racing under Neb. Rev. Statute 60-6, 195 (a) or (b) or related city/village ordinance.

(i) Future system involvement shall not include less serious traffic violations do not impact community safety, including careless driving, failure to yield, failing to stop, speeding, violating learner’s permit, driving on suspended license, no valid insurance, no helmet, following too closely, failure to display plates.

2. Future law violation shall not include the following:

(a) been filed on and that has not been dismissed or dropped, for an act that would constitute a Games and Parks violation as found in Neb. Rev. Statute Chapter 37 (b) been filed on for being mentally ill and dangerous, under Neb. Rev. Statute 43-247(3)(c) or harmful to self or others under 43-247(3)(b)(2).

Appendix 5 Matching Process from NCC

Documentation of matching process from Nebraska Crime Commission

Brief overview of the de-duplication/matching results. A copy of the full matching process documentation is available on the EBNE website at <https://www.jjinebraska.org/resources>.

Stata's **reclink2** was used for all de-duplication and matching procedures. (For more detail see RECLINK: Stata module to probabilistically match records at <https://ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s456876.html>) This record linkage command uses a probabilistic matching algorithm and, unlike its **reclink** predecessor, allows for one-to-many relationships.

De-duplication of Diversion Cases

- 9 fuzzy matches

JCR Matching

- 317 perfect matches (d-score = 1.0)
- 89 fuzzy matches (1.0 < d-score > 0.6)

JAMIN Matching

- 68 perfect matches (d-score = 1.0)
- 8 fuzzy matches (1.0 < d-score > 0.6)

The manual process of determining the validity of fuzzy matches is tedious and time-consuming, however most true-match determinations are fairly self-evident. Any discrepancies observed in the matching variables (first name, last name, and DOB) for those cases I determined to be true matches took on one of the following scenarios:

- One/two letter misspellings in names
- Short vs. long spelling of common first names (e.g., Mike v. Michael)
- Double surnames where only one name is present (e.g., Cruz-Ayala v. Ayala)
- Month/day flipped in DOB (e.g., 5/7/22 v. 7/5/22)
- Missing digit in DOB (e.g., 5/7/22 v. 5/17/22)
- Suffix present in one name but not the other (e.g., Jr.)

Appendix 6 Diversion Questionnaire

Diversion Questionnaire

This survey is voluntary. It will not affect your diversion plan if you choose not to participate. We want to know about your attitudes and beliefs, please read each question and answer it truthfully. Please mark your response by putting an "X" in the correct box.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is sometimes hard for me to go on with my work if I am not encouraged.				
I sometimes feel resentful when I don't get my way.				
On a few occasions, I have given up on something because I thought too little of my ability.				
There have been times when I felt like rebelling against people in authority even though I knew they were right.				
No matter who I'm talking to, I'm always a good listener.				
There have been occasions when I took advantage of someone.				
I'm always willing to admit when I make a mistake.				
I sometimes try to get even rather than forgive and forget.				
I am always courteous, even to people who are disagreeable.				
I have never been irked when people expressed ideas very different from my own.				
There have been times when I was quite jealous of the good fortune of others.				
I am sometimes irritated by people who ask favors of me.				
I have never deliberately said something that hurt someone's feelings.				

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
People should obey the law even if it goes against what they think is right.				
I always try to obey the law even if I think it is wrong.				
Disobeying the law is seldom justified.				
It is difficult to break the law and keep one's self-respect.				
A person who refused to obey the law is a danger to society.				
Obedience and respect for authority are the most important things children should learn.				
I have a great deal of respect for justice professionals (e.g., police officers, diversion case worker, judges, lawyers) in my community.				
I support our justice officials (e.g., police officers, diversion case worker, judges, lawyers) in my community.				
The courts generally guarantee everyone a fair trial.				

The basic rights of citizens are well-protected in the courts.				
Court decisions are almost always fair.				

Statement: In my situation....	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I was given the chance to express my opinions and feelings.				
I was given the opportunity to describe my situation before decisions were made about how to handle it.				
What I said about my case was taken into account in deciding what should be done.				
I had enough of a chance to say what I wanted to say about my case.				
I felt I had influence over decisions made about me.				
I was treated politely.				
People were concerned about my rights.				
I was treated with dignity and respect.				
I was respected as a person.				
People in the justice system, like my diversion officer, the police, and my judge, thought they were much better than me.				
I was treated the same way that anyone else in the same situation would have been treated.				
The law was enforced fairly.				

Statement: People in the justice system, like the police, lawyers, and the judge, or my diversion case worker....	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
...had opinions about me before getting to know me.				
...made decisions about me based on facts, not personal biases and opinions.				
...had personal opinions and attitudes that affected the way they treated me (R).				
...were honest with me.				
...gave me honest explanations for their actions.				
...followed through on the promises they made.				
...tried hard to do the right thing by me.				
...tried to take my needs into account.				

Age: _____ Race/Ethnicity: American Indian/ Alaska Native White
 Asian Hispanic/Latino
 Black/African American Other Race
 Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander Multiple Races Unspecified
Gender: Female
 Male
 Non-Binary
 Prefer not to say
 Unspecified

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SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Juvenile Justice Institute
Email: unojji@unomaha.edu
juvenilejustice.unomaha.edu
jjinebraska.org

