

Updated Department of Youth Development Diversion Data Dashboard: Youth Referred to DYD Programs by October 1, 2022

Section 1: Overview of all Referrals Received by DYD Providers

The Los Angeles County Division of Youth Diversion and Development (YDD), whose work has transitioned into the Department of Youth Development, began receiving referrals for our first program cohort in April 2019. This first cohort included 8 program locations with the goal of expanding by 5-10 locations each year to reach full, countywide implementation by 2024. As of October 1, 2022, the organizations in the first DYD cohort received 1696 total youth referrals from Culver City Police Department, El Monte Police Department, Pasadena Police Department, Huntington Park Police Department, Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, and the District Attorney’s Office (Figure 1).

Implementation has been staggered since the launch of the program with referral partners coming on board at different times. In 2022, the DYD network is prioritizing increasing the number of young people served by both bringing on additional program locations and substantially increasing the proportion of eligible youth referred per month with the goal of receiving referrals for ~ 80% of youth arrests in each partnering law enforcement jurisdiction. DYD has not yet reached the initial benchmark of receiving an average of approximately 100 referrals per month. DYD is committed to continuing to strive for an increase in youth diversion across partnerships and across LA County. The launch of Cohort 2 sites this year will increase DYD’s ability to connect youth with services (see Section 5: DYD Service Area Map).

Launched in November 2021, this is the 4th quarter of DYD’s participation in the District Attorney’s Restorative Enhanced Diversion for Youth (REDY) program, extending eligibility for diversion services. DYD has also begun accepting Probation Citation referrals as a type of informal referral and has received 933 total to date. Probation Citation referrals are not reflected in this dashboard and are not counted in our total number of referrals.

Figure 1. Youth Referred to DYD Programs by Quarter, through September 2022 (n=1696)

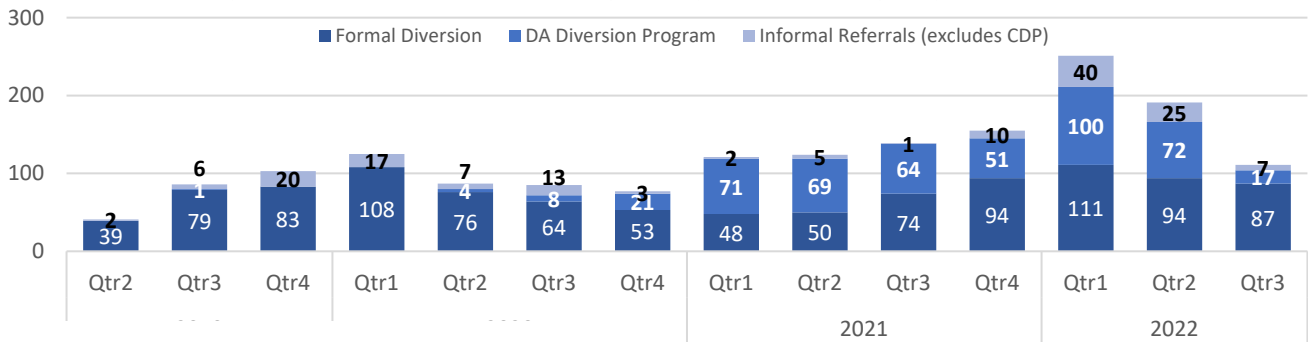


Fig. 2. Total DYD Referrals by Completion Status, September 2022 (n=1696)

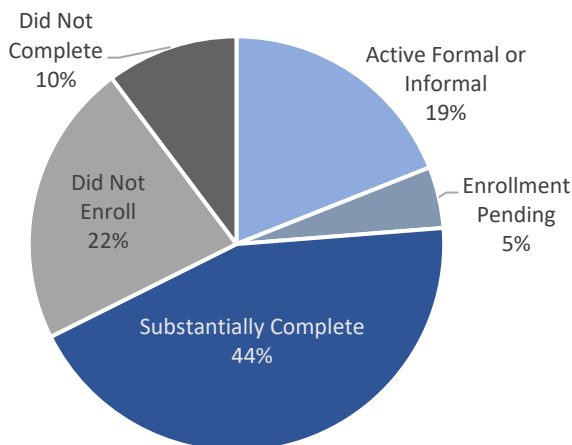


Fig. 3. Most Common Types of Care Plan Goals, September 2022

The top 5 most common care plan goals for youth participating in DYD programs are:

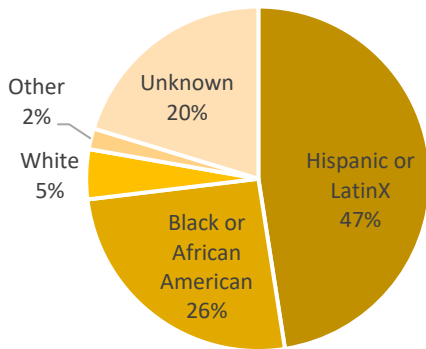
1. School-Related Goals (28%)
2. Mental Health (12%)
3. Work-Related Goals (12%)
4. Recreational or Creative Goals (10%)
5. Conflict Resolution (10%)

Remaining categories of goals in order of frequency include behavioral health, civic engagement or social justice, restorative or transformative justice, family support, physical health, support for basic needs, cultural or spiritual, and substance use.

Section 2: Demographic Information for Youth Referred to Diversion Formally and by DA

Nationwide trends show that Black youth are consistently more likely than their peers to be arrested and less likely to be referred to diversion programs. Black youth are disproportionately arrested in Los Angeles County—youth arrests reported in recent years are consistently about 62% Hispanic/Latinx, 24% Black/African American, 10% White, and 4% Asian/Pacific Islander or “Other.” DYD works to reduce the disproportionate arrest of Black youth and advance equitable access to community alternatives to justice system involvement by ensuring that youth are not disproportionately excluded from diversion referral, enrollment, or completion by race, age, or gender (Figures 4-6).

Fig. 4. Formal/DA DYD Referrals by Race and Ethnic Identity, September 2022 (n=1538)



Less than 1% of API, Native American, and Bi/Multiracial youth

Fig. 5. Formal/DA DYD Referrals by Age, September 2022 (n=1538)

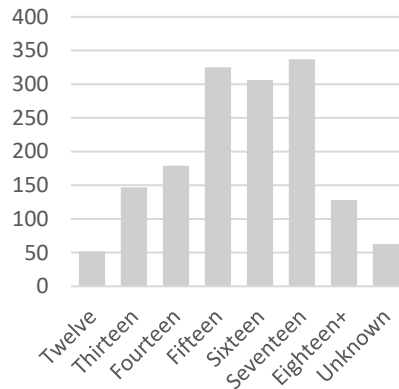
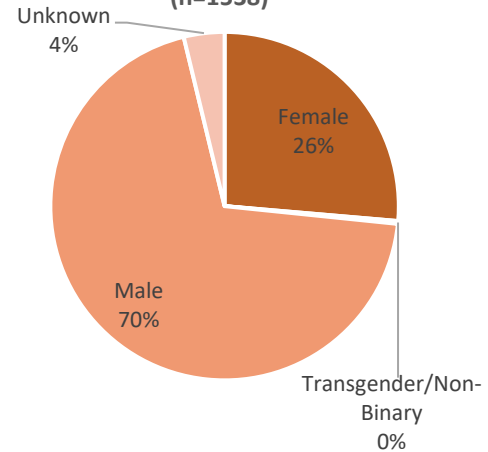


Fig. 6. Formal/DA DYD Referrals by Gender Identity, September 2022 (n=1538)



Section 3: Incident Data for Youth Referred to Diversion Formally and by DA

The majority of referrals to DYD programs are the result of law enforcement encounters at school or in the community (Figure 7). Although some providers have established relationships with local schools, the DYD network will be supported by the Youth Justice Reimagined initiative to develop a concrete plan in 2023 to better collaborate with schools to reduce school-based arrests. We also hope to finalize an assessment of current capacity and needs related to reducing arrests and increasing referrals to supportive alternatives for youth living in group homes.

Fig. 7. Formal/DA DYD Referrals by Location of Occurrence, September 2022 (n=1538)

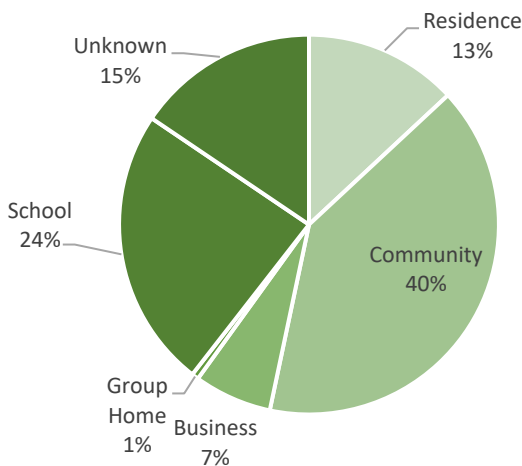
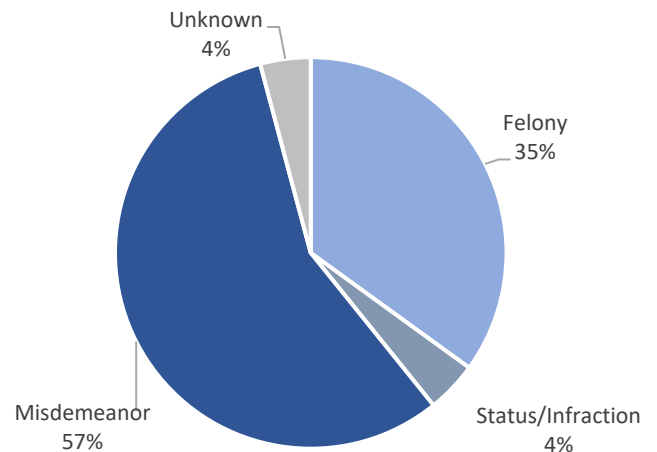
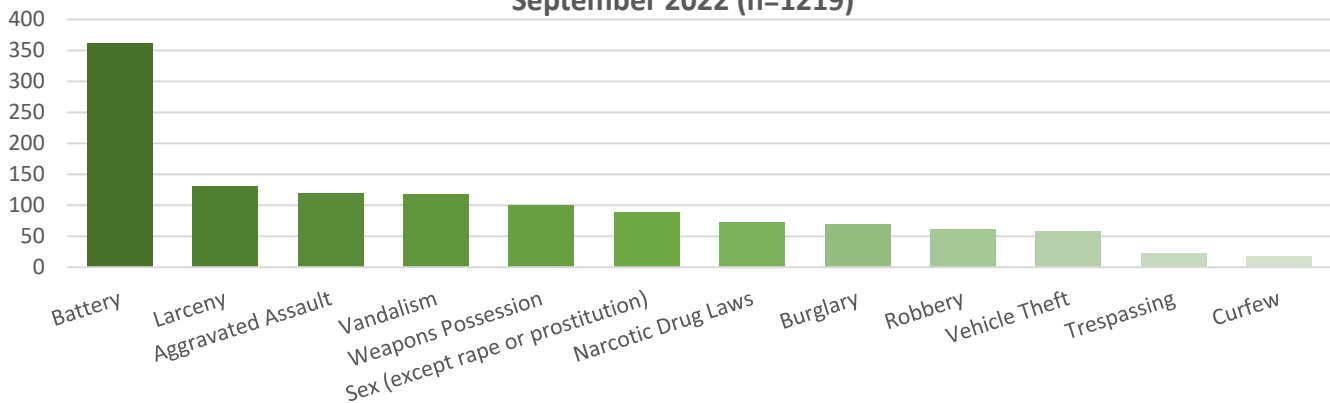


Fig. 8. Formal/DA DYD Referrals by Level of Alleged Offense, September 2022 (n=1538)



Of youth formally referred to diversion so far, 35% have been referred for alleged felonies and 57% have been referred for alleged misdemeanors (Figure 8). Although the percentage of referrals for alleged felonies is promising, referrals for low-level misdemeanor and status offenses or infractions are not currently aligned with DYD policy guidelines. DYD staff is working with program leadership and law enforcement leadership to transition referrals for alleged status offenses and misdemeanor petty theft offenses to the informal rather than formal participation status in alignment with the DYD model’s implementation and data sharing guidelines (Figure 9).

Fig. 9. Formal/DA DYD Referrals by Type of Alleged Offense with >10 Referrals, September 2022 (n=1219)

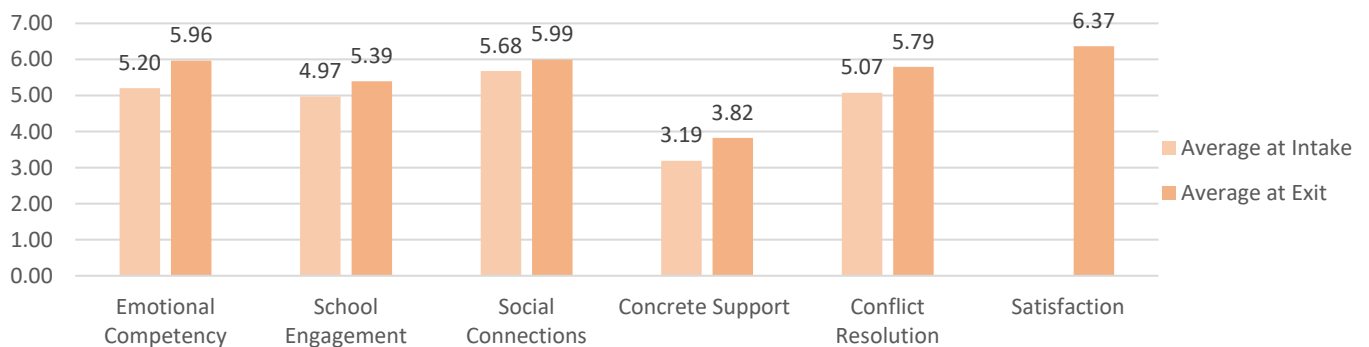


DYD has been working to include comparison data for young people who are not referred to diversion across program locations. DYD initially planned to have complete comparison data by this quarter’s dashboard, however we still do not have full comparison data for young people who are not referred to diversion across program locations. DYD is committed to providing complete comparison data to better contextualize the youth diversion landscape across Los Angeles County and is building data sharing agreements with law enforcement partners.

Section 4: Connections to Activities and Services and Progress Over Time

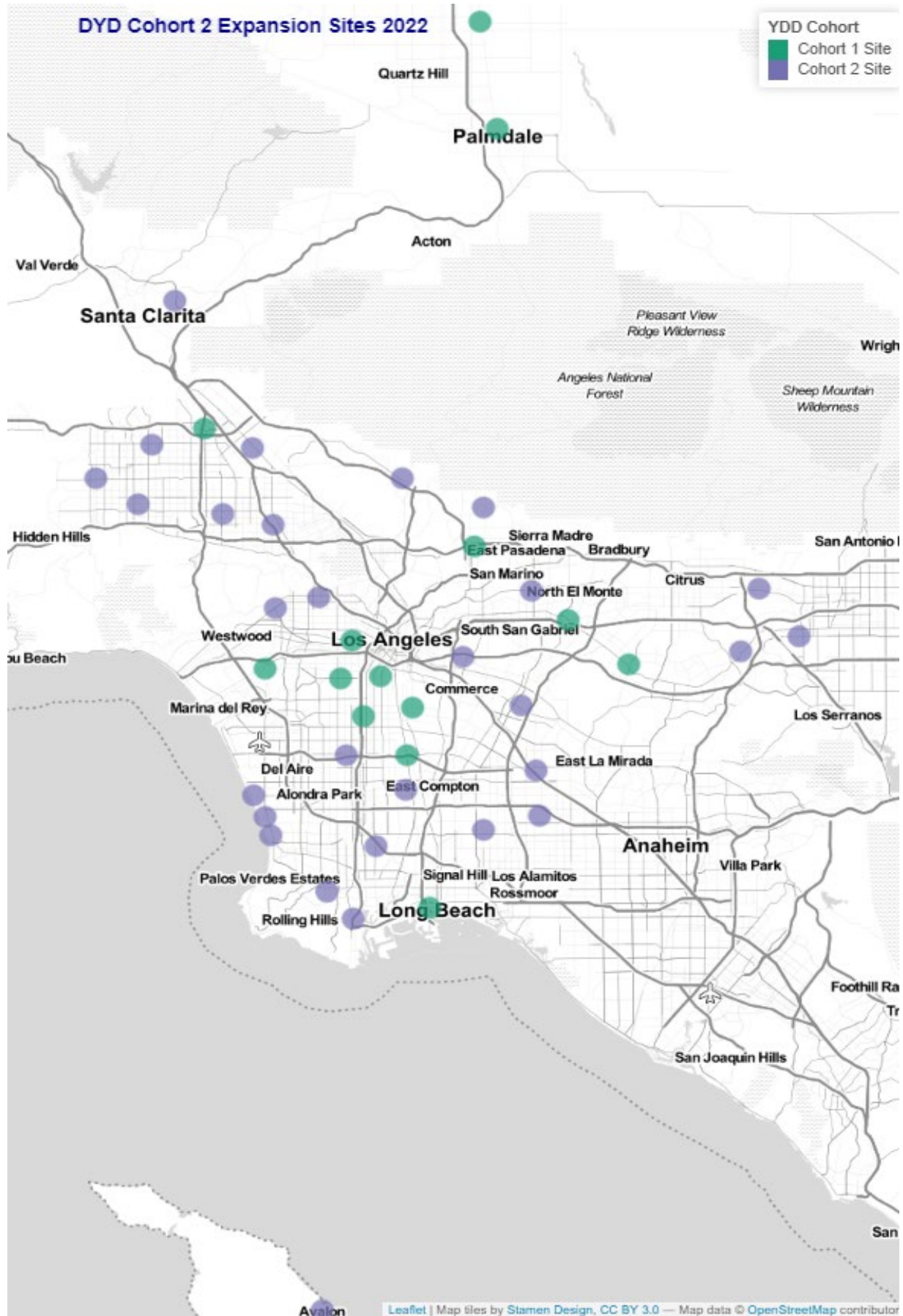
The most common categories of activities and services included in individualized DYD programs based on youth needs and goals so far have been: 1) school-related support (including tutoring and educational rights advocacy), 2) restorative and transformative practices (including conflict resolution and civic engagement / social justice), 3) recreational and arts activities (including dance classes and connections to local sports), and 4) work-related support (including employment and career development).

Fig. 10. Average Protective Factor Scores at Intake and Exit Assessment, September 2022



On average, participants have shown increases in their protective factors across the board over the course of their participation, increasing the average score across the board, where lower scores represent fewer protective factors in each category and higher scores represent more (Figure 10).

Section 5: DYD Service Area Map



Section 6: Case Study Shared by a DYD Care Coordinator in 2021

Case Study #1

Each young person carries their own unique experiences, stories, struggles, and hopes with them through our doors. No two are the same in the load they bear. One youth comes to mind when I think through the battles our youth overcome each day and the layers of themselves that they show to us—Emma. One of Emma’s parents was incarcerated, and working sideways with Emma felt like an opportunity to interrupt a cycle of harm she found herself in. From the facts of her case alone, I knew she would need to dedicate a lot of herself to a process that would enable her to overcome her circumstances, and I was ready to support her through this journey.

Leading up to her diversion, Emma struggled with bullying in school and turned to pledge allegiance to a gang for a sense of acceptance. She struggled with challenges regarding substance use and sex work, all the while, her family was facing eviction concerns. When she was referred to us, she was overwhelmed by news of a pregnancy. I knew I needed to build up trust with her fast so she could begin to embrace the changes to come. Together, we laid out her personal needs and goals for the next few months and built out a service plan to help her achieve them.

For two months, she persevered consistently through substance use counseling, therapy, and parenting classes, all while remaining a part-time student in school. We also worked to make the conditions around her more favorable for her personal growth and success. She worked on and restored her relationships with family and enrolled in a different school to have a fresh start and move past her known triggers. Her grades improved and she was proud to achieve her personal goals of being sober for the duration of the program. After taking care of her needs and learning how to respect herself, she feels excited about her baby and the support system she has built around her family.

Her strength coupled with her extreme circumstances highlight the importance of providing opportunities for the youth who are enduring the most. For many, this is their first glance at a program that centers their wellbeing. I do not know what Emma’s journey would have looked like if she were incarcerated, but I am grateful that she found the stability and support she was needing sooner rather than later.