LA County Department of Youth Development – Diversion Program

Outcome and Equity Assessment - & - Cost Benefit Analysis

RDA CONSULTING

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Evaluation of DYD's Diversion Program

The outcome and equity evaluation of the LA County Department of Youth Development's (DYD) diversion program, coupled with a cost-benefit analysis (CBA), illuminates the intricate dynamics and significant impacts associated with youth diversion initiatives in LA County. These analyses, conducted by RDA Consulting, SPC (RDA), assesses the inaugural cohort of programs contracted with DYD, concentrating on the timeframe spanning April 2019 to June 2022. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the evaluation assesses fidelity the diversion model, program efficacy, and equity considerations. The following provides each report including the background, methodology, findings, and recommendations for DYD and the LA County to consider, when appropriate.

Table of Contents

Outcome & Equity Assessment

Acronyms, Key Terminology, and Definitions

Diversion Programmatic Age Requirements	DYD recommends a **programmatic age requirement** for youth diversion eligibility. This requirement is that youth fall between the ages of 12 and 17 at the time of the alleged offense, unless they are 14 years of age or older in custody for a WIC § 707(b) alleged offense or an alleged felony committed with a firearm.
DYD	The Los Angeles County **Department of Youth Development** connects youth with community-based diversion and restorative justice as an alternative to arrest, citation, and court involvement. To accomplish this, DYD funds community-based organizations throughout the County to provide youth with diversion services. DYD coordinates partnerships between these providers and law enforcement agencies, probation, and the District Attorney, who refer young people in lieu of arrest or filing a petition.
Formally Enrolled Youth	Youth who allegedly committed offenses that would lead to an arrest are formally referred and **formally enrolled** in diversion. Alternatively, youth who are informally referred/enrolled are those who allegedly committed status offenses and low-level misdemeanors who would be counseled, released, and not pursued further.
GIS	A **Geographic Information System** creates, manages, and analyzes a variety of data, and commonly connects this data to a map with integrated location information.
Hot Spot Mapping	**Hot Spot Mapping, or Hot Spots** refers to a spatial analysis and mapping technique interested in the identification of clustering, or the lack thereof, of spatial phenomena.
LAPD	**Los Angeles Police Department** is one of the three DYD partners that RDA was able to access stop data for during the evaluation period of 2019, 2020, and 2021.
LASD	**Los Angeles Sheriff's Department** is one of the three DYD partners that RDA was able to access stop data for during the evaluation period of 2019, 2020, and 2021.
LBPD	**Long Beach Police Department** is one of the three DYD partners that RDA was able to access stop data for during the evaluation period of 2019, 2020, and 2021.
N, n	**N** refers to the total population included in each analysis, while **n** refers to the sample size, or subset of the population.
Offense Code	Youth eligibility for DYD diversion was partly determined using **offense code** information. If an alleged offense code did not match with WIC § 707(b) offenses, the evaluation team inferred the alleged offense was diversion eligible.
p-value	A **p-value** refers to the calculated probability of obtaining a result when the null hypothesis, a test of "no difference," is true. A small p-value suggests that data is inconsistent with the null hypothesis, which may indicate the alternative hypothesis is true (i.e., the independent variable had some effect on the dependent variable). Commonly, significance levels, or alphas, for p-values are set at 0.05 or 0.001.
RIPA	**Racial Identity and Profiling Act** requires peace officers employed at California state and local agencies to collect specific information on stops,

	including elements of the stop characteristics and perceived identity characteristics of the person(s) stopped.
RDA	**RDA Consulting** was contracted as an external evaluator by Los Angeles County to complete a process and implementation evaluation, outcome and equity assessment, cost-benefit analysis, and sustainability and replicability memorandum of the County's juvenile diversion program model.
Recidivism	**Recidivism** refers to an individual's repeated contact with the justice system. In the context of the juvenile justice system, recidivism is often measured by subsequent arrests, petitions filed or sustained, and adjudication. For the purposes of this evaluation, subsequent petitions were used to measure recidivism to generate a measure of any repeated crime by youth rather than repeated criminalization of youth.
RRI	**Relative Rate Index** is a method used to directly measure and understand any disparities between racial and ethnic groups involved in the justice system.
Substantial Completion	Youth are considered to have successfully finished the program when they have **substantially completed** their care plan goals. Program providers are given the discretion to determine what substantial completion looks like for each youth, with the general expectation that youth have been consistently engaged in the program and have met most of their diversion goals. Additionally, providers are expected to inform youth what substantial completion looks like in the context of their unique care plan.
WIC § 707(b)	The **Welfare and Institution Code 707(b)** of California includes a list of serious or violent offenses. Youths alleged to have committed a WIC § 707(b) offense are not eligible for diversion.

Executive Summary

In 2017, the LA County Board of Supervisors called for a countywide effort to divert youth from the juvenile justice system. The approval of this motion established an ad hoc committee within the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) tasked with the creation of a youth diversion model for LA County. This approach evolved out of concern for youth and in recognition of the collateral consequences youth may experience due to arrest and/or incarceration (e.g., increased likelihood to drop out of high school, engaging in substance use, negative life outcomes). Additionally, given the disparate rates of contact youth of color in the County face in terms of law enforcement contact, arrest, incarceration, and probation supervision, equity was a critical factor considered in developing the model.

The committee developed recommendations for a coordinated approach that would connect youth to existing resources within their community to facilitate their growth and development with attention to their overall wellbeing. The recommendations were unanimously approved, leading the Division of Youth Diversion and Development's (YDD) establishment with the following purpose:

1. Create a county network of diversion services that utilize a health-centered approach to addressing youths' needs,
2. Develop a connection between law enforcement agencies and local youth-serving providers,
3. Facilitate youth growth and provide youth with the ability to complete programming without a documented arrest (and a sealed record), and
4. Reduce the overall number of youth arrests, probation referrals, and petitions filed.

In 2019, YDD awarded an initial cohort of eight community-based organizations (providers) throughout LA County with contracts to provide case management services to youth referred to diversion. The providers were selected following a multi-phase review process in which a committee of county staff assessed providers' proposal submissions. To assist the program in assessing their program goals, including how the program is adhering to fidelity to Youth Development principles and promising practices, impact on youth justice system involvement in addition to outcomes for youth who participate in diversion, and the quality of the collaborative partnerships between diversion partners. In July 2022, YDD was transitioned to a new Department of Youth Development (DYD) established to advance the vision for youth justice transformation and the County's efforts to equitably reduce youth justice system involvement.

This Outcome and Equity Assessment Evaluation Report is an evaluation of the first cohort of programs that contracted with DYD and the youth that were served by those programs, focusing on the time frame from April 2019 to June 2022. The goal of this report is to examine the effect of the program on various outcomes and compliment the previously published process and implementation report that that sought to illustrate how DYD's diversion program was implemented.

This report describes an overview of the program, evaluation methods, findings from stakeholder interviews and client focus groups, and analysis of program data. Qualitative interviews and focus groups revealed key strengths and challenges of the program before, during, and after the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Analyses of quantitative data describe the youth

who are being referred to diversion services, the needs of that population, and the services provided. The outcome evaluation is not a randomized control trial that would be able to test whether all youth who were eligible had access to positive youth development services. However, the research team performed sufficient robustness checks for the recidivism analysis to state diversion caused the observed reduction in recidivism. Elsewhere, statistical analysis could only identify a correlation between program participation and impact. In these cases, qualitative findings were incorporated following a mixed methods approach to deepen our understanding of the observed effect. Together, these findings provide a pathway to program improvements and policy recommendations for sustainability of the DYD diversion model.

The diversion program has demonstrated significant positive outcomes for participants in terms of youth development and reduced justice contacts, underscoring the urgency of ensuring more young people have access to the program's benefits with equitable diversion referrals and enrollments. As part of its continuous improvement commitment, DYD is already pursing intentional interventions to address these service access disparities. A multifaceted approach, considering demographic nuances, spatial accessibility, cultural inclusivity, as well as law enforcement and provider dynamics, remains crucial for fostering an effective and equitable juvenile justice system in LA County.

Outcome & Equity Assessment Key Findings

Diversion Program Impacts/Outcomes

- Youth protective factors as well as emotional management, communication, and decision-making skills improved during diversion, aligning with program goals of addressing youth needs and promoting social-emotional growth.
- **Showcasing the program's success in mitigating further justice involvement, 95% of formally enrolled in diversion did not recidivate after a year, while among the 27 informally referred youth who were referred to services more than once, from the 1,229 distinct informally referred youth, 81% were referred again for less serious alleged offenses.**

Diversion Service Delivery Successes

- Most youth had at least one of their goals incorporated into their diversion care plan, emphasizing alignment with essential priorities like education and mental health.
- Providers were respectful, considerate, and shared identities with the diversion youth served that helped them relate to and understand participants. **Provider's inclusivity efforts and cultural considerations contribute to positive outcomes.**

Disparity and Equity

- Analysis of Racial Identity & Profiling Act (RIPA) data for LASD, LAPD, and LBPD found that Black or African American youth are stopped at disproportionately high rates but are eligible for diversion at lower rates than their White counterparts. Although limited by available data, these findings emphasize the **need for systemic change that minimizes the role of bias and discretion in diversion referral behavior.**
- **Disparities in enrollment for Black or African American youth relative to their White counterparts further raises concerns about the equitable access to diversion programs.** Additionally, gender variations in enrollment noted at specific providers highlight the need for nuanced and intersectional considerations.
- **After participating in diversion, racial/ethnic disparities observed at earlier diversion touchpoints are eliminated.** About 82% of youth substantially completed diversion, with no major differences detected for different racial/ethnic groups or gender identities. In fact, Black or African American and Hispanic or LatinX youth completed diversion at higher rates than their White counterparts.

Introduction

As part of the evaluation of Los Angeles (LA) County's Department of Youth Development's (DYD)-diversion program, RDA Consulting (RDA) was contracted to complete both an Outcome Assessment and Equity Analysis to understand impact and effect on equity. For youth that have encountered the juvenile justice system, it is impossible to separate outcome from the conversation of equity and inequities. The following report provides both an Outcome and Equity Analysis examining every touchpoint of the DYD model. The goal of this approach is to help create a greater understanding of where there are opportunities to assist youth, families, community providers, law enforcement partners, and community stakeholders in reducing and eliminating disparities in diversion access, enrollment, and completion.

Methodology & Data Sources

The RDA research team employed a mixed methods approach to generate these findings. Data sources described throughout this document include LA County juvenile stop data, Probation data obtained through a court order process, DYD-maintained program data, and interviews conducted with DYD staff, youth, families, providers, legal consultants, and law enforcement partners. The research team utilized thematic analysis for qualitative findings, while quantitative and spatial data was analyzed through a combination of descriptive and inferential statistics (e.g., frequencies, Fisher's exact test of association). Additional methodologies such as relative rate indexing and Getis-Ord Gi hot spot analyses generated additional equity analysis findings detailed in this document, while a logit model with marginal effects measured diversion's impact on future recidivism.

RDA consulted a variety of data sources to support the development of the Outcome and Equity Analysis, including:

- LA County Racial Identity and Profiling (RIPA) data
    - RIPA data was used to understand the demographic breakdown of youth stopped by three of the seven law enforcement agencies who make referrals to DYD (LA Police Department (LAPD), LA Sheriff's Department (LASD), and Long Beach Police Department (LBPD)) to understand differences between those stopped and those referred or not referred to diversion. This data was accessed through the California Department of Justice's Open Justice Initiative.
- Probation Data
    - Probation data was used to calculate recidivism rates (repeat referrals) to diversion. Specifically, RDA was interested in seeing if youth who were re-referred were referred for lesser alleged offenses than their first referral as well as the number of referrals it would take, on average, for the youth to enroll (informally or formally) in diversion.
- DYD Program Data
    - DYD program data was used to examine the extent to which any disparities existed in completion and accessibility (geographically and otherwise), service delivery, changes in youth protective factors, and overall program satisfaction.

- RDA collected qualitative data during years one and two of the evaluation.

Findings

Findings are organized by touchpoints, following the current structure of the RDA team report. **Equity analysis results are shared throughout, while recidivism analysis findings from the outcome analysis are incorporated into the fifth touchpoint (impact).** Throughout the report discussions regarding the data that has been used and any limitations with the data or the analyses are provided

The Five Main Touchpoints in Youth Diversion

These five touchpoints have been identified in *Advancing Racial Equity in Youth Diversion: An Evaluation Framework Informed by Los Angeles County*, completed by Human Impact Partners (HIP), and by RDA as the points at which it is possible for the introduction or exacerbation of inequality in the youth diversion process. It is also at these touchpoints where adaptations to the model can take place that impact youth outcomes and fidelity to the model.

Referral - Following youth contact with law enforcement, the process by which officers determine youth eligibility for participation in diversion, tell youth they are eligible, and enter the information into the referral system and contact the diversion provider.

Outreach and Enrollment – The 30-day period when a diversion provider attempts to reach out to youth and their parent/guardian to explain what the diversion program is and how it can be beneficial for them to participate and get them to agree to participate. The diversion provider staff will have the youth and parent/guardian sign consent paperwork and an assessment will be administered.

Care Planning and Service Delivery - Once a youth is enrolled in the program, they will begin by completing a care plan and youth goals sheet. This helps the provider to identify what youth are interested in and what needs they may need assistance addressing. Then youth will begin receiving services. This could be attending groups, virtual sessions, art therapy, mediation, or restorative justice practices, tutoring or mentoring, etc.

Program Completion - Completion is based on the individual youth. They had to make substantial progress toward their goals to complete the program.

Impact - Youth who complete diversion may have long term positive impact.

Touchpoint 1: Referral

Key Findings:

- LAPD, LASD, and LBPD made 37,586 total youth stops between April 2019 and December 2022. Hispanic or LatinX youth (57%) and Black or African American youth (28%) comprised most of these stops, an overrepresentation of compared to their share of the LA County population, while White youth constituted 11%.
- Although findings are limited by available data, they indicate that Black or African American youth are stopped at disproportionately higher rates and for offenses that make them less likely to be eligible for diversion. Additionally, Black or African American youth were eligible for diversion at the lowest rate compared to their White counterparts in each agency analyzed.
- Policing practices at law enforcement agencies and/or individual officer discretion may contribute to racial/ethnic disparities in who police contact and, upon contact, whether officers decide to charge youth with an alleged offense that is eligible for diversion (i.e., allegedly committed a non-WIC § 707(b) offense). At the agency level, the difference in diversion-eligible offense rates between racial/ethnic groups is most pronounced for LAPD.

RDA accessed LA County Racial Identity & Profiling Act (RIPA) data through the California (CA) Department of Justice (DOJ) Open Justice data portal. RDA sought to assess data on the recorded reason for the stop and the demographic breakdown of all youth stopped by select DYD-referring law enforcement agencies[1] that had accessible data during the evaluation period.[2] This analysis is meant to contextualize the landscape of stops that are responsible for generating diversion referrals. Understanding this data is the first step in being able to evaluate DYD's performance on programmatic goals to address racial and ethnic disparities in justice involvement.

For the purposes of this analysis, youth stops recorded in the RIPA data are considered eligible for diversion if they meet the following criteria:

- Youth met programmatic age requirements (i.e., youth 12-17 years of age, inclusive)

[1] The three DYD partners that RDA was able to access stop data for during the evaluation period of 2019, 2020, and 2021 are the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), and the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD).

[2] RIPA data can be accessed through the Open Justice Data Portal, linked here: https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/data. RIPA data includes stop details such as time of stop, agency responsible, reason for stop, description of the individual stopped, and result of stop. For more detail on all fields of data collected and current RIPA reporting regulations, refer to the California Attorney General's "Underlying Stop Data Regulations, California Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015 (AB 953)" webpage, linked here: https://oag.ca.gov/ab953/regulations.

- Youth were stopped and charged for an alleged offense that does not fall under Welfare and Institution Code (WIC) § 707(b) (i.e., serious and/or violent offenses such as murder, arson, assault with a firearm, and armed carjacking).

- If an alleged offense code did not match with WIC § 707(b) offenses, the evaluation team inferred the alleged offense was diversion eligible.

Limitations

There are four important limitations to note regarding RIPA data availability that have implications for the analysis in this section.

- First, RDA's access to RIPA data was limited to LAPD, LASD, and LBPD for the evaluation period of 2019-2021. RIPA data was first collected for public access from the largest agencies in the state (i.e., with more than a thousand officers) in 2018, expanding over time to include additional agencies.[3] While LAPD, LASD, and LBPD were responsible for 60% (n = 840) of all referrals to diversion,[4] the data availability limitation impacts the research team's ability to assess the landscape of all stops for referring partners. For the purposes of future evaluations and research, all California law enforcement agencies were required to report RIPA data beginning in 2022.
- Second, approximately 14% of all stops (n = 5,195) did not have a recorded alleged offense code. In these limited cases when an alleged offense code was not provided, the reason for the stop recorded by law enforcement was reviewed.[5] If the reason for the stop was not noted to be in direct relation to a WIC § 707(b) offense (e.g., "investigation to determine whether the person was truant," "consensual encounter resulting in search," "possible conduct under Education Code," or "determine whether the student violated school policy") the stop was categorized as eligible for diversion. Finally, stops missing an alleged offense code for all other reasons were not included in analyses comparing eligible and non-eligible youth populations because the research team could not confidently determine their eligibility for diversion. The total sample of youth stops captured in RIPA data is 37,586; however, the sample of youth stops with known offense information is 32,391 due to missing alleged offense data. The overall sample for analyses comparing eligible and ineligible youth populations is 33,676 stops after using the "reason for stop" field to backfill the eligibility status for some stops with missing alleged offense data.
- Third, LAPD and LASD only report department level data as opposed to individual division or substation level data. As a result, a comparison of diversion-eligible department-wide youth demographics to youth referred by individual divisions and stations for LAPD and LASD was not possible.
- Fourth, although it should be expected that some youth have multiple police encounters during the study period examined, RIPA data did not include a unique identifier for everyone stopped. As a result, it was not possible for the research team to produce a distinct count of youth stopped or an unduplicated distribution of stopped youths' demographics. Using duplicated counts of stopped youth should not impact the findings used in this study unless certain youth demographic groups are more likely to be stopped

[3] Additional details regarding RIPA data availability can be accessed through the Open Justice Data Portal, linked here: https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/data.

[4] There were 1,396 total referrals made to diversion when excluding referrals from the Probation Citation Diversion program (n = 1,127).

[5] The research team first relied on available alleged offense code data as the most accurate measure to determine if a stop was eligible for diversion. However, in the 9% of cases where an alleged offense code was not available for a stop, the "reason for stop" was relied upon to extrapolate whether the stop may have been for an eligible alleged offense.

more than once than others. However, if it is the case that youth of certain races, for example, are more likely to be stopped multiple times during the study period, these findings may overstate the number of police encounters that youth group experiences.

LA County RIPA Stop Statistics

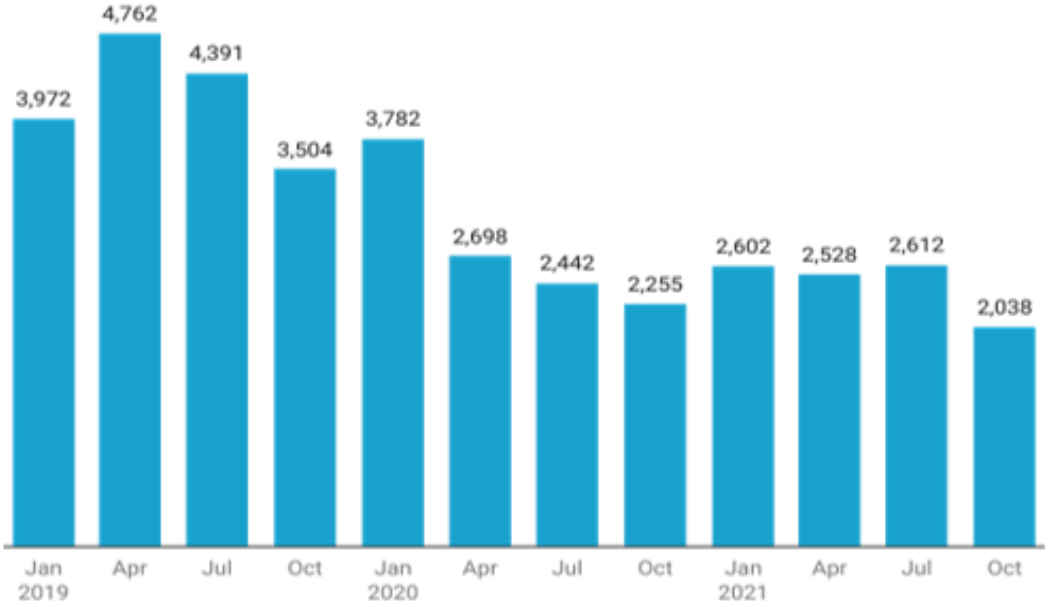
RDA accessed RIPA data for LAPD, LASD, and LBPD from April 2019 through December 2022. The distribution of stops by the three RIPA reporting agencies is summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Distribution of All Youth Stops by LAPD, LASD, and LBPD April 2019 – December 2022 (N = 37,586)

LAPD	LASD	LBPD
31,355 youth stopped	5,418 youth stopped	813 youth stopped
83% of the total sample	14% of the total sample	2% of the total sample
21 Divisions	23 Stations	4 Divisions

During the evaluation period, RIPA data from these three law enforcement agencies provided meaningful insights into youth interactions with law enforcement. For example, the number of youths stops varied over time for agencies reporting data. Stops peaked at 4,762 in the second quarter of 2019 (i.e., April-June), falling by more than 50% to just 2,038 in the final quarter of 2021. The single largest quarterly decline in youth stops occurred in the second quarter of 2020, corresponding with LA County and the City of Long Beach COVID-19 public health decrees that ordered residents to shelter in place and closed schools for in-person instruction. This data also helps to provide context for the DYD program and the variations in referral and enrollment numbers over time, discussed more in depth in the following section (see page 27).

Figure 1. All Youth Stops Over Time by LAPD, LASP, and LBPD from April 2019 to December 2020 (N = 37,586)



The RIPA data also provides insight into how law enforcement records the reasons for why stops were initiated, and the alleged offense committed. The available RIPA data shows that the greatest number of youth were stopped for alleged traffic violations (51%, n = 16,371), followed by "other non-traffic offenses" (10%, n = 3,086).[6] The other four most commonly occurring offense types included: assault (7%, n = 2,327), weapons carrying (5%, n = 1,760), drug possession/sales (4%, n = 1,267), and vandalism (4%, n = 1,242). Collectively, these six offense types account for 81% (n = 27,113) of all stops with known offense categories (N = 32,391). It is important to note that assault, weapons carrying, and drug possession/sales offense codes do not necessarily exclude a youth from being eligible for diversion and that specifics of each case and circumstances of each incident among these offense codes can impact eligibility. A distribution of these stops can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Most Common Alleged Offense Types Resulting from Stops Completed by LAPD, LASD, and LBPD from April 2019 – December 2022 (N = 32,391)[7]

Alleged Offense Type	Total Stops	Proportion of Sample
Traffic violations	16,371	51%
Other non-traffic offenses	3,086	10%
Assault (aggravated & simple)	2,327	7%
Weapons carrying	1,760	5%
Drug possession/sales	1,267	4%
Vandalism	1,242	4%
Six Most Common Offenses	**27,113**	**81% of all known offenses**

RIPA Reported Stop Demographics

At the beginning of this section, it was mentioned that one of DYD's goals is to address racial and ethnic disparities in justice involvement. The RIPA data allows for an examination of disparity among stops made by law enforcement, which is one of the earliest stages of system contact in which inequities in practices and outcomes can arise. Disparities in stop data may reflect broader structural inequities, such as the overrepresentation of youth of color experiencing system contact.

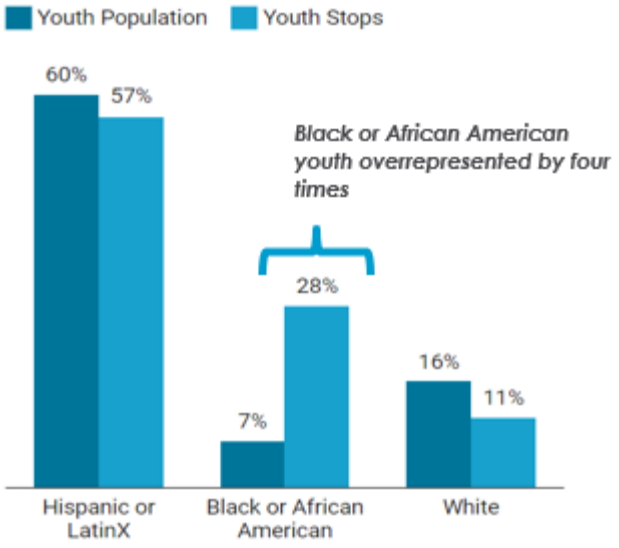
To assess disparity in the stop data among those reporting law enforcement agencies, the distribution of youth gender identity, as recorded by law enforcement, and age were examined. Additionally, an analysis of disparity across race/ethnicity was conducted. The representation of each racial/ethnic group of youth was then compared to the representation of that group in the community (i.e., LA County). Discussed previously, this analysis relies on RIPA data that includes

[6] The following offenses represent a sample of descriptions for "Other non-traffic offenses" that had a measurable number of cases in the RIPA data: curfew/loitering violations (3%, n = 913), and disorderly conduct (2%, n = 646). Additional "Other non-traffic offenses" include trespassing, failure to appear in Court, failure to pay fines or transit fare, eating or drinking on public transit, littering, failure to obey Juvenile Court orders, disrupting schoolwork, and animal cruelty.

[7] The total sample of youth stops captured in RIPA data is 37,586; however, the sample of youth stops with known offense information is 32,391 due to missing alleged offense data. The overall sample for analyses comparing eligible and ineligible youth populations is 33,676 stops after using the "reason for stop" field to backfill the eligibility status for some stops with missing alleged offense data.

duplicated youth. If youth of certain races, for example, are more likely to be stopped multiple times during the study period, these findings may overstate the share of police encounters that a youth group experiences relative to others. However, it is important to highlight that the results presented in this section are consistent with other research done in LA County finding that Black or African American youth are consistently stopped at disproportionately higher rates compared to White youth.[8]

Figure 2. Comparing Share of LA County Youth Population & Youth Stopped by LAPD, LASD, and LBPD April 2019 – December 2022



Across all three law enforcement agencies, most of the youth stopped in LA County between 2019 and 2021 were Hispanic or LatinX (57%, n = 10,493), male-identifying youth (78%, n = 29,380) that were 17 years of age (42%, n = 15,873). After Hispanic or LatinX youth, Black or African American youth were the second most frequently stopped youth in the County, followed by White youth. The race/ethnicity distribution in youth stops was relatively consistent at the agency level, with Hispanic or LatinX youth being stopped more often than any other racial or ethnic group, albeit in similar proportion to their share of the LA County youth population (see Figure 2).[9] Black or African American youth are overrepresented about four times in stop data relative to their share of the LA County population.[10] White youth are under-represented by about one-third.[11]

[8] Los Angeles County: Youth Justice Reimagined. Recommendations of the Los Angeles County Youth Justice Workgroup (2020). W. Haywood Burns Institute. Retrieved from: https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/150726.pdf.
[9] Hispanic or LatinX youth (i.e., individuals 17 years of age and under) comprise 60.2% of the LA County youth population according to the 2022 American Community Services 5-Year estimates (See Table B01001I for Hispanic or LatinX youth estimates and Table B01001 for the overall youth population estimates). Dividing 56.9% by 60.2% produces an estimate of 0.9, which is an approximately equal share of stops and the youth population.
[10] Black or African American youth (i.e., individuals 17 years of age and under) comprise about 7.1% of the LA County youth population according to the 2022 American Community Services 5-Year estimates (See Table B01001B for Black or African American youth estimates and Table B01001 for the overall youth population estimates). Dividing 27.9% by 7.1% produces an estimate of 3.9, which is approximately four times the relative share of the population.
[11] White youth (i.e., individuals 17 years of age and under) comprise about 16.3% of the LA County youth population according to the 2022 American Community Services 5-Year estimates (See Table B01001H for Non-Hispanic White youth estimates and Table B01001 for the overall youth population estimates). Dividing 10.8% by 16.3% produces an estimate of 0.66, which is equivalent to under-representation by about one-third the relative population share.

Table 3. Demographic Distribution of All Youth Stopped by LAPD, LASD, and LBPD April 2019 - December 2022 (N = 37,586)[12]

	Overall	LAPD	LASD	LBPD
	N = 37,586	N = 31,355	N = 5,418	N = 813
		Race & Ethnicity		
Asian	527 (1.4%)	294 (0.9%)	180 (3.3%)	53 (6.5%)
Black or African American	10,493 (27.9%)	8,975 (28.6%)	1,308 (24.1%)	210 (25.8%)
Hispanic or LatinX	21,382 (56.9%)	18,693 (59.6%)	2,302 (42.5%)	387 (47.6%)
Middle Eastern or Southeast Asian	758 (2%)	650 (2.1%)	100 (1.8%)	8 (1%)
Native American	11 (0%)	7 (0%)	2 (0%)	2 (0.2%)
Pacific Islander	60 (0.2%)	31 (0.1%)	19 (0.4%)	10 (1.2%)
White	4,073 (10.8%)	2,575 (8.2%)	1,368 (25.2%)	130 (16%)
Bi/Multiracial	282 (0.8%)	130 (0.4%)	139 (2.6%)	13 (1.6%)
		Gender		
Male	29,380 (78.2%)	24,858 (79.3%)	3901 (72%)	621 (76.4%)
Female	8,054 (21.4%)	6,351 (20.3%)	1,512 (27.9%)	191 (23.5%)
Transgender Male	95 (0.3%)	93 (0.3%)	2 (0%)	1 (0.1%)
Transgender Female	49 (0.1%)	48 (0.2%)	1 (0%)	--
Gender Nonconforming	8 (0%)	5 (0%)	2 (0%)	--
		Age		
13	1,454 (3.9%)	1,202 (3.8%)	230 (4.2%)	22 (2.7%)
14	2,805 (7.5%)	2,276 (7.3%)	469 (8.7%)	60 (7.4%)
15	7,061 (18.8%)	5,697 (18.2%)	1,085 (20%)	279 (34.3%)
16	10,393 (27.7%)	8,718 (27.8%)	1,468 (27.1%)	207 (25.5%)
17	15,873 (42.2%)	13,462 (42.9%)	2,166 (40%)	245 (30.1%)

Diversion Eligible Offenses

This evaluation also examined disparities among youth that were alleged to have committed a diversion eligible offense versus youth that were alleged to have committed an offense that made them ineligible for diversion. It is important to note that this analysis is limited to the RIPA data that contains stop reason and offense code. This data does not include individual level analysis on the outcome of youth that were stopped to examine the impact on inequities throughout the system. Again, this analysis is performed with RIPA data that includes duplicated youth. If youth of certain

[12] The total sample of youth stops captured in RIPA data is 37,586; however, the sample of youth stops with known offense information is 32,391 due to missing alleged offense data. The overall sample for analyses comparing eligible and ineligible youth populations is 33,676 stops after using the "reason for stop" field to backfill the eligibility status for some stops with missing alleged offense data.

races are more likely to be stopped multiple times during the study period, these findings may overstate the number of police encounters they experienced.

The data, as displayed in Table 4 below, showed that there are no major differences between gender identities and rates of diversion-eligible offenses (i.e., non-WIC § 707(b) offenses) overall or within each agency. However, there are slight but statistically significant differences between all LA County stops ($p < 0.001$) and LAPD-specific stops ($p = 0.044$), indicating there is only a small probability that the observed differences are due to chance alone.

Among racial/ethnic groups, Black or African American youth had the lowest overall rate of diversion-eligible offenses (91%) – four percentage points lower than the group with the next lowest share (Hispanic or LatinX youth). At the agency level, the difference in diversion-eligible offense rates between racial/ethnic groups is most pronounced for LAPD. The racial/ethnic differences observed in eligibility for diversion rise to the level of strong statistical significance for all LA County stops overall ($p < 0.001$), LAPD-specific stops ($p < 0.001$), LASD-specific stops ($p < 0.001$), and LBPD-specific stops ($p < 0.001$). This indicates it is highly likely that the observed differences at each law enforcement agency are influenced by a youths' race/ethnicity. In other words, there is a statistically significant difference between youths' race/ethnicity and eligibility for referral to diversion, indicating that policing practices at law enforcement agencies and/or individual officer discretion may contribute to racial/ethnic disparities in who police contact and, upon contact, whether officers decide to refer youth to diversion for an alleged offense that is eligible for diversion (i.e., allegedly committed a non-WIC § 707(b) offense).[13]

These findings show persistent racial/ethnic disparities that may emanate from inequitable law enforcement contacts as determined with available data. Crucially, for a diversion program that aims to address inequities in LA County's juvenile justice system, these findings also show that youth of color who are disproportionately stopped are also less likely to be eligible for diversion programming, consistent with the research on the impacts of disproportionate minority contact (DMC).[14] Even when a youth is eligible for diversion, officer discretion at each partner agency plays a role in determining who is referred to diversion. As a result, these findings may minimize the rate at which disparities enter diversion at the referral stage. Disparities at the referral (i.e., beginning) stage of diversion minimize the intervention's ability to address inequities in the juvenile justice system overall.

[13] Padgaonkar, N. T., Baker, A. E., Dapretto, M., Galván, A., Frick, P. J., Steinberg, L., & Cauffman, E. (2021). Exploring disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system over the year following first arrest. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, *31*(2), 317-334.

[14] Padgaonkar, N. T., Baker, A. E., Dapretto, M., Galván, A., Frick, P. J., Steinberg, L., & Cauffman, E. (2021). Exploring disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system over the year following first arrest. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, *31*(2), 317-334.

Table 4. Demographic Distribution of Diversion Ineligible/Eligible Youth Stopped by LAPD, LASD, and LBPD between April 2019 and December 2022

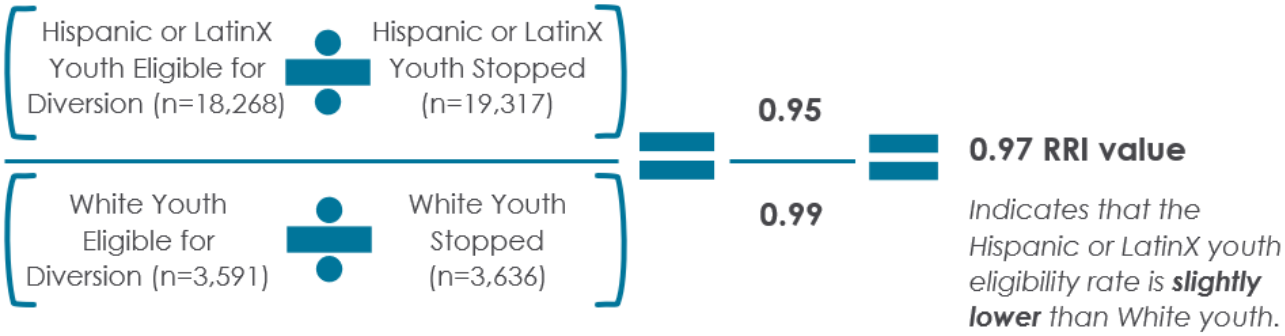
	Overall (N = 33,676)		LAPD (N = 27,880)		LASD (N = 5,012)		LBPD (N = 784)	
	Ineligible	*Eligible*	Ineligible	*Eligible*	Ineligible	*Eligible*	Ineligible	*Eligible*
Race & Ethnicity								
Asian	10 (2%)	438 (98%)	6 (3%)	215 (97%)	3 (2%)	174 (98%)	1 (2%)	49 (98%)
Black or African American	806 (9%)	8,636 (91%)	711 (9%)	7,353 (91%)	88 (7%)	1,088 (93%)	7 (3%)	195 (97%)
Hispanic or LatinX	869 (5%)	18,268 (95%)	828 (5%)	15,845 (95%)	40 (2%)	2,054 (98%)	1 (0%)	369 (100%)
Middle Eastern or Southeast Asian	6 (1%)	694 (99%)	6 (1%)	588 (99%)	--	98 (100%)	--	8 (100%)
Native American	--	10 (100%)	--	6 (100%)	--	2 (100%)	--	2 (100%)
Pacific Islander	--	50 (100%)	--	24 (100%)	--	16 (100%)	--	10 (100%)
White	45 (1%)	3,591 (99%)	40 (2%)	2,146 (98%)	5 (0%)	1,315 (100%)	--	130 (100%)
Bi/Multiracial	10 (4%)	243 (96%)	4 (4%)	108 (96%)	5 (4%)	124 (96%)	1 (8%)	11 (92%)
Gender								
Male	1,459 (5%)	25,390 (95%)	1,338 (6%)	21,282 (94%)	115 (3%)	3,512 (97%)	6 (1%)	596 (99%)
Female	281 (4%)	6,443 (96%)	251 (5%)	4,910 (95%)	26 (2%)	1,356 (98%)	4 (2%)	177 (98%)
Transgender Male	3 (4%)	64 (96%)	3 (5%)	63 (95%)	--	1 (100%)	--	--
Transgender Female	3 (9%)	29 (91%)	3 (10%)	28 (90%)	--	1 (100%)	--	--
Gender Nonconforming	--	4 (100%)	--	2 (100%)	--	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)

Demographic Relative Rate Index (RRI) for Eligible for Diversion

In addition to a simple proportion comparison of diversion eligible youth for each racial and ethnic group, an RRI is a commonly used method to directly measure and understand any disparities between racial and ethnic groups at different stages in diversion or the traditional justice system. The RRI accomplishes this by comparing the likelihood of an event (e.g., eligibility for diversion) for a reference group relative to another group. In particular, the RRI can also more accurately identify disparities than a simple proportion comparison when minority populations are larger than the White population. White youth were selected as the reference group for the RRI in this project in accordance with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's practice for calculating an RRI.[15]

While the RRI is a commonly used tool for equity analyses, some key limitations should be considered while interpreting results. An RRI is a comparison of frequencies and cannot prove a cause-and-effect relationship between race/ethnicity and the likelihood of an event (e.g., diversion eligibility or enrollment). Other factors may influence the relationship observed in the RRI results. Additionally, results are sensitive to small sample sizes for the reference group (i.e., White youth). If the reference group has a small sample size, slight variation in the frequency of an event taking place produces large differences in the reference likelihood rate used for comparison and may generate unreliable results.[16] For this reason, analyses are excluded if the sample reference group size is five or less. Additionally, this analysis is performed with RIPA data that includes duplicated youth. If youth of certain races are more likely to be stopped multiple times during the study period, these findings may overstate the number of police encounters they experienced.

Figure 3. Calculation for Overall Hispanic or LatinX Diversion Eligibility Relative Rate Index (RRI)



Illustrated in Figure 3, the research team calculated the diversion eligibility RRI by first dividing the number of youth eligible for diversion (based on offense type) by the number of youths stopped for each racial and ethnic group. To determine the "relative" rate, this calculation was next divided by the diversion eligibility rate for White youth. An RRI larger than 1.00 indicates greater likelihood of an event taking place (i.e., diversion eligibility) for one group relative to White youth, while an RRI less than 1.00 indicates a lower likelihood. Figure 3 displays the overall RRI eligibility

[15] Development Services Group, Inc. 2014. "Disproportionate Minority Contact." Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Disproportionate_Minority_Contact.pdf

[16] For example, if five White youth are stopped and four are eligible for diversion, their calculated diversion eligibility rate would be 80%. Comparing the White reference eligibility rate to a hypothetical 85% eligibility rate for Hispanic or LatinX youth would generate a 1.06 RRI (i.e., Hispanic or LatinX youth are likely eligible for diversion at a higher rate than White youth). However, if just one more White youth was eligible for diversion (i.e., five total), the White reference eligibility rate would increase to 100% and would generate a 0.85 RRI using the same hypothetical 85% eligibility rate for Hispanic or LatinX youth (i.e., Hispanic or LatinX youth would now be eligible for diversion at a lower rate than White youth).

calculation for Hispanic or LatinX youth, calculated by dividing the observed rate of diversion eligibility for Hispanic or LatinX youth by the observed rate of diversion eligibility for White youth. The 0.97 RRI indicates that Hispanic or LatinX youth eligibility rate is slightly lower than White youth. As a note, large RRI differences (e.g., RRI greater than 1.20 or less than 0.80) do not indicate the results are different with statistical significance (i.e., not due to chance).

As seen in Table 5, the calculated diversion eligibility RRI values show disparities in the diversion eligibility rates for youth stopped by LAPD, LASD, and LBPD. These results further confirm disparities identified in Table 4, albeit to a lesser extent than the comparison of LA County youth population and youth stops shown in Figure 3. Black or African American youth were eligible for diversion at the lowest rate compared to their White counterparts in each agency analyzed. Specifically, Black, or African American youth were eligible for diversion at rates equivalent to 93% and 97% of White youth. Hispanic or LatinX youth were eligible for diversion at rates equivalent to 97% and 98%. Youth with "Another Identity" such as Asian, Pacific Islander, or Native American were consistently eligible for diversion at the most similar rates to White youth.

Table 5. Youth Diversion Eligibility Relative Rate Index (RRI) Results

Agency (N)	White (n)	Hispanic or LatinX	Black or African American	Another Identity
Overall (N = 33,676)	1.00 (n = 3,636)	0.97	0.93	0.99
LAPD (N = 27,880)	1.00 (n = 2,186)	0.97	0.93	1.00
LASD (N = 5, 012)	1.00 (n = 1,320)	0.98	0.93	0.98
LBPD (N = 784)	1.00 (n = 130)	1.00	0.97	0.98
Lower Eligibility Likelihood than White Youth (i.e., < 1.00)	--	1) Overall 2) LAPD 3) LASD	1) Overall 2) LAPD 3) LASD 4) LBPD	1) Overall 2) LASD 5) LBPD
Greater Eligibility Likelihood than White Youth (i.e., > 1.00)	--	--	--	--

Indicates eligibility rate is slightly lower than White youth (i.e., <1.00 & >0.80)

Indicates eligibility rate is a lot lower than White youth (i.e., <0.80)

Indicates eligibility rate identical to White youth (i.e., 1.00)

Indicates eligibility rate is slightly greater than White youth (i.e., >1.00 & <1.20)

Indicates eligibility rate is a lot greater than White youth (i.e., >1.20)

Not applicable (i.e., no observations) or insufficient numbers to compare (i.e., *)

Note: Sample sizes following agency name represent the total youth stops with a known eligibility status (i.e., ineligible, or eligible for diversion, determination made based on alleged offense data or result of stop when alleged offense not available). Sample sizes in the "White" youth column represent all White youth stopped with known eligibility data.

Touchpoint 2: Enrollment

Key Findings:

- Results indicate that most formally enrolled youth identified as male (71%) and Hispanic or LatinX (59%). However, this "average" youth profile could vary for each provider site.
- Gender identity is not a significant factor in determining whether a youth enrolled in formal diversion. Male, female, and gender non-conforming youth were equally likely to enroll in formal diversion.
- Racial/ethnic identity is a significant factor in determining whether a youth enrolled in formal diversion. Black or African American youth enrolled at the lowest rate compared to White youth, whereas Hispanic or LatinX youth and youth of "Another" identity had a greater likelihood of enrolling compared to White youth.
- DYD has made progress to address racial and ethnic disparities in justice involvement for Hispanic or LatinX youth and youth with "Another" identity. However, Black or African American youth enrollment rates remained low compared to White youth.

To assess DYD's ability to address disparities in justice involvement and diversion program outcomes, the research team examined the extent to which formally referred youth with different demographic characteristics enrolled in diversion. For this purpose, RDA utilized participant-level diversion program data collected for all formally referred youth to DYD during cohort one, running from April 2019 to June 2022. Program data included additional demographic information and client characteristics as well as referral and enrollment status.

Descriptive statistics are presented to compare the demographic characteristics of distinct formally enrolling youth at the community-based diversion service provider level and for the diversion program overall.[17] Statistical tests of association are included to identify any differences that may be statistically significant (i.e., not due to chance). To further identify and understand any racial/ethnic disparities at the formal diversion enrollment stage, the research team created an RRI for the enrollment "decision point." Shared in more detail in the preceding section, an RRI is ideal for this project because it can more accurately identify disparities than a simple proportion comparison when minority populations are larger than White ones.[18]

These findings show that formally referred Black or African American youth are enrolling at statistically significantly lower rates compared to youth of other races/ethnicities. These results and the findings from Touchpoint 1 indicate that disparities are present at the point of referral and at the point of enrollment. It is important to note that while there is some type of association between race/ethnicity and enrollment, these findings do not prove that a causal relationship exists. A host

[17] Data was unduplicated by retaining a formally referred youth's most recent referral.
[18] Development Services Group, Inc. 2014. "Disproportionate Minority Contact."

of other factors such as proximity to the referred diversion program may also influence these results and cause-and-effect conclusions should not be interpreted from these findings presented.

Enrollment by Gender

Table 6 below displays the distribution of formally referred and enrolled youths' gender identities. While diversion serves most of the cis-male/male-identifying formally enrolled youth overall, the exact share varies by site with Provider E serving the largest share of cis-female/female-identifying youth.

Further, an asterisk in Table 6 indicates when the distribution of formally referred youth enrolled compared to formally referred youth not enrolled varied with statistical significance by gender identity at the 0.01 level (i.e., youth of different gender identities enrolled at different rates that are unlikely to be a result of chance alone).[19] Only the distribution of youth of different gender identifies enrolling versus not enrolling differed with this level of statistical significance at Provider G. Otherwise, gender does not appear to play a significant role in whether a youth enrolled in diversion.

Table 6. Gender Distribution for Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, by Provider Site

Provider (N)	Cis-Male or Male Identifying	Cis-Female or Female Identifying	Genderqueer, Non-Conforming, Non-Binary, or Transgender
Provider A (153)	71%	29%	–
Provider B (75)	77%	21%	1%
Provider C (60)	72%	28%	–
Provider D (33)	70%	30%	–
Provider E (56)	64%	34%	2%
Provider F (102)	73%	26%	<1%
Provider G* (58)	71%	28%	2%
Provider H (21)	67%	33%	–
DYD Overall (558)	71%	28%	1%

[19] A Fisher's exact test of association was executed to determine if the different formal enrollment rates varied with statistical significance (i.e., were not due to chance alone). Specifically, Fisher's exact was used because certain cell frequencies were five or fewer.

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

Table 7 below displays the distribution of formally referred and enrolled youths' racial/ethnic identities. While Hispanic or LatinX youth make up most of the formally enrolled youth, the exact share varies by site, with Black or African American youth making up most of the formally enrolled youth at Providers E, G, and H.

An asterisk indicates when the distribution of formally referred youth enrolled compared to formally referred youth not enrolled varied with statistical significance by racial/ethnic identity at the 0.01 level, meaning that youth of different racial/ethnic identities enrolled at different rates that are unlikely to be a result of chance alone. The distribution of different youth racial/ethnic groups enrolling versus not enrolling differed with statistical significance ($p < 0.01$) at Provider B and for the program overall, indicating that race/ethnicity is likely associated with whether a youth enrolls in diversion.

Table 7. Race/Ethnicity Distribution for Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, by Provider Site

Provider (N)	Hispanic/LatinX	Black or African American	White	Asian Pacific Islander	Indigenous	Bi/Multiracial
Provider A (141)	61%	34%	1%	–	–	4%
Provider B* (74)	30%	28%	12%	4%	5%	20%
Provider C (59)	93%	5%	2%	–	–	–
Provider D (31)	52%	39%	10%	–	–	–
Provider E (56)	36%	52%	9%	–	4%	–
Provider F (102)	88%	7%	4%	–	1%	–
Provider G (56)	36%	46%	2%	–	–	16%
Provider H (21)	38%	43%	10%	–	–	10%
DYD Overall* (540)	59%	29%	5%	<1%	1%	6%

Demographic RRI for Formally Enrolling Diversion Youth

The research team calculated the diversion enrollment RRI by first dividing the number of youths formally enrolled by the number of youths formally referred for each racial and ethnic group. To

determine the "relative" rate, this calculation was next divided by the diversion enrollment rate for White youth. An RRI greater than 1.00 indicates greater likelihood of an event taking place (i.e., diversion enrollment) for one group relative to White youth, while an RRI less than 1.00 indicates a lower likelihood.

It is important to note that White youth comprised just 5% of youth served overall, ranging from 1% of formally enrolled youth to 12% depending on the provider site, as shown in Table 7. As a result, the reference sample size for White youth enrollment is sometimes calculated from as few as one White youth, making findings sensitive to small changes in total referrals or enrollments for White youth. For this reason, analyses are excluded for a provider site if the White youth reference sample size is five or fewer. Those provider sites without the requisite sample of White youth are represented with gray cells that contain an asterisk (*).

Table 8. Youth Diversion Formal Enrollment Relative Rate Index (RRI) Results

Provider (N)	White (n)	Hispanic or LatinX	Black or African American	Another Identity
Overall (N = 1,066)	1.00 (n = 60)	1.09	0.93	1.18
Provider A (N = 270)	1.00 (n = 3)	*	*	*
Provider B (N = 222)	1.00 (n = 26)	1.01	0.89	1.54
Provider C (N = 113)	1.00 (n = 4)	*	*	*
Provider D (N = 77)	1.00 (n = 4)	*	*	*
Provider E (N = 113)	1.00 (n = 14)	0.97	0.81	1.27
Provider F (N = 150)	1.00 (n = 6)	*	*	*
Provider G (N = 73)	1.00 (n = 1)	*	*	*
Provider H (N = 48)	1.00 (n = 2)	*	*	*
Lower Enrollment Likelihood than White Youth (i.e., < 1.00)	--	1) Provider E	1) Overall 2) Provider B 3) Provider E	--
Greater Enrollment Likelihood than White Youth (i.e., > 1.00)	--	1) Overall 2) Provider B	--	1) Overall 2) Provider B 3) Provider E

Indicates enrollment rate is slightly lower than White youth (i.e., <1.00 & >0.80)
Indicates enrollment rate is slightly greater than White youth (i.e., >1.00 & <1.20)
Indicates enrollment rate is a lot lower than White youth (i.e., <0.80)
Indicates enrollment rate is a lot greater than White youth (i.e., >1.20)
Indicates enrollment rate identical to White youth (i.e., 1.00)
Not applicable (i.e., no observations) or insufficient numbers to compare (i.e., *)

Note: Sample sizes following provider represent the total youth formally referred to diversion. Sample sizes in the "White" youth column represent all White youth formally referred to diversion.

Displayed in Table 8, the calculated diversion enrollment RRI values show persistent disparities for Black or African American youth for the program as a whole *and* at individual provider sites. Once again, Black, or African American youth enrolled at the lowest rate relative to White youth in the overall diversion population *and* at each provider site included in the analysis (i.e., Providers B and E). Specifically, Black or African American youth enrolled in diversion at rates between 81% and 93% of White youth.

Overall RRIs are compared at the diversion eligibility and enrollment stages in Table 9 to examine the extent to which disparities persist through successive decision-making points in youth system processing. Mentioned previously, early stage (i.e., diversion eligibility) inequities may contribute to observable inequities in later stages and inform our understanding of DYD's ability to address racial and ethnic disparities in justice involvement.

Shown in Table 9, diversion eligibility rates for Hispanic or LatinX youth and youth of "Another" identity were lower but very similar to White youth. Youth from these racial and ethnic groups were eligible at rates equal to 97% and 99% of White youth, respectively. At the diversion enrollment stage, when DYD can most effectively start addressing disparities in justice involvement, the disparities disappear for Hispanic or LatinX youth and youth of "Another" identity. In fact, these youth enroll in the program overall at higher rates relative to White youth at the overall program-level. Conversely, disparities for Black or African American youth do not improve at the diversion enrollment stage. The enrollment rate for these youth relative to White youth remains relatively stable at 93% of the eligibility rate and 93% of the enrollment rate for White youth.

Table 9. Summary of Youth Diversion Eligibility & Enrollment Relative Rate Index (RRI) Results

Diversion Stage	White	Hispanic or LatinX	Black or African American	Another Identity
Diversion Eligibility (N = 33,676)	1.00 (n = 3,636)	0.97	0.93	0.99
Diversion Enrollment (N = 1,066)	1.00 (n = 60)	1.09	0.93	1.18
Lower Likelihood than White Youth (i.e., < 1.00)	--	1) Eligibility	1) Eligibility 2) Enrollment	1) Eligibility
Greater Likelihood than White Youth (i.e., > 1.00)	--	1) Enrollment	--	1) Enrollment

Indicates rate is slightly lower than White youth (i.e., <1.00 & >0.80)
Indicates rate is slightly greater than White youth (i.e., >1.00 & <1.20)
Indicates rate is a lot lower than White youth (i.e., <0.80)
Indicates rate is a lot greater than White youth (i.e., >1.20)
Indicates rate identical to White youth (i.e., 1.00)
Not applicable (i.e., no observations) or insufficient numbers to compare (i.e., *)

Note: Sample sizes for diversion eligibility represent all stops with a known diversion eligibility status while sample size for diversion enrollment represents all formal referrals to diversion. The sample of White youth for each respective stage is represented in the "White" column.

The disparities that have been identified in policing stops are carried through youth involvement in the juvenile justice system and through youth involvement in diversion as well. The initial enrollment data findings do indicate DYD has made progress to address racial and ethnic disparities for Hispanic or LatinX youth and youth with "Another" identity. However, there is room improve enrollment rates among those Black or African American youth that are referred to diversion. When interpreting these findings, it is important to reiterate that the RRI analysis is a comparison of frequencies and cannot prove a cause-and-effect relationship between race/ethnicity and enrollment in diversion. For example, other factors such as youth proximity to provider site may influence the relationship observed in these findings, especially if Black or African American youth are being referred to diversion programs outside a reasonable traveling distance from their residence at a greater rate than other racial and ethnic groups.

Touchpoint 3: Care Plan and Service Delivery

Key Findings:

- Most youth had at least one of their goals incorporated into their diversion care plan—typically related to education, employment, or mental health—with no disparities based on race or gender.
- Formally enrolled youth were concentrated around Antelope Valley, East San Fernando Valley, South LA, Long Beach, and East LA. About two-thirds of youth lived in a zip code within five miles of a provider site, with no major disparities in access based on youth characteristics for the program overall. Spatial accessibility did vary by provider site, coinciding with youth and provider feedback that transportation to providers was a participation barrier for youth.
- Youth and families expressed in focus groups that providers were respectful, considerate, and had shared identities and experiences growing up that helped providers relate to and understand the youth they served in diversion. However, not all youth found the goalsetting process and individualized services useful, which may have implications for determining program readiness.
- Substantial variation in diversion site accessibility at the provider level was observed among different racial/ethnic groups.

The process and implementation evaluation[20] examined care plan goals and measured the extent to which they overlapped with goals that youth identified for themselves (i.e., "youth goals"). This analysis differs by taking the perspective of youth goals first and measuring the extent to which they are represented in care plan goals. RDA utilized participant-level diversion program data collected for formally referred youth including care plan goals, youth goals, zip codes, and youth characteristics to describe formal diversion service delivery. These findings narrowly show that most of the youth with available data have at least one of their goals incorporated into care plans. Additionally, the rate at which youth goals are incorporated into care plans does not differ based on youth demographic characteristics.

The extent to which any disparities existed in service accessibility, both spatial and otherwise, was examined. To understand the spatial distribution of youth enrolled, RDA extracted boundaries for geographic units of interest (e.g., zip codes, neighborhoods, police divisions) from LA County's Enterprise GIS data portal.[21] This service-oriented mixed-methods analysis was performed again using DYD program data as well as transcripts from youth, family, and provider focus groups conducted in 2022. Mapping software[22] was used to understand where formally enrolled youth

[20] RDA Consulting (2022/2023). LA County Department of Youth Development - Diversion Program Process and Implementation Evaluation. Retrieved from: https://dyd.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/DYD-Process-and-Implementation-Evaluation.pdf

[21] The data portal can be accessed using the following link: https://egis-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/.

[22] ArcGIS Software was used to complete analyses and to generate service maps on the following pages.

lived in LA County and execute Getis-Ord Gi hot spot analyses.[23] This spatial analysis identifies zip codes with especially high or low concentrations of formally enrolled youth. Analyzing this data advances our understanding of equitable service delivery, specifically through an examination of any disparities in youth goalsetting, interactions with providers, and accessibility to provider sites.

In addition to understanding where formally enrolled youth lived in LA County, the research team examined spatial service accessibility and service inclusivity. Formally enrolled youth zip codes for each provider site were spatially joined with their corresponding provider site to identify those youth living within five miles of their provider site, defined as an "accessible" commute.[24] Results of the spatial join were exported for further analysis to identify any discrepancies in spatial accessibility by provider site or client characteristics, with both descriptive statistics (i.e., frequencies and percentages) and Fisher's exact tests of association. Transcripts from focus groups were integrated into these spatial and quantitative findings to further contextualize results while also adding additional information regarding diversion service inclusivity.

Limitations

There are three important limitations to note regarding service delivery data availability and analysis.

- Providers did not report youth and care plan information consistently over time or across sites, limiting the usefulness of this analysis to describe program-wide trends. Following the methodology employed in RDA's prior implementation evaluation,[25] data was limited to the sample of participants for which both youth and care plan goals were available (26%, n = 215). Because these findings represent the experience of approximately one-quarter of participants, they should be interpreted narrowly, as they are not generalizable.
- While some portion of a youth's zip code may be within five miles of a provider street address, youth may not live within that area of their zip code's boundaries. As a result, service accessibility estimates may overestimate or underestimate youths' experiences.
- The qualitative data sample collected from youth and family focus groups represents a small group of youth and their families participating in diversion. Additionally, the voluntary nature of the interviews and focus groups does not constitute a random sample and statements and opinions from individuals interviewed may not reflect the experiences of all youth and families in diversion.

Incorporation of Youth Goals into Care Plans

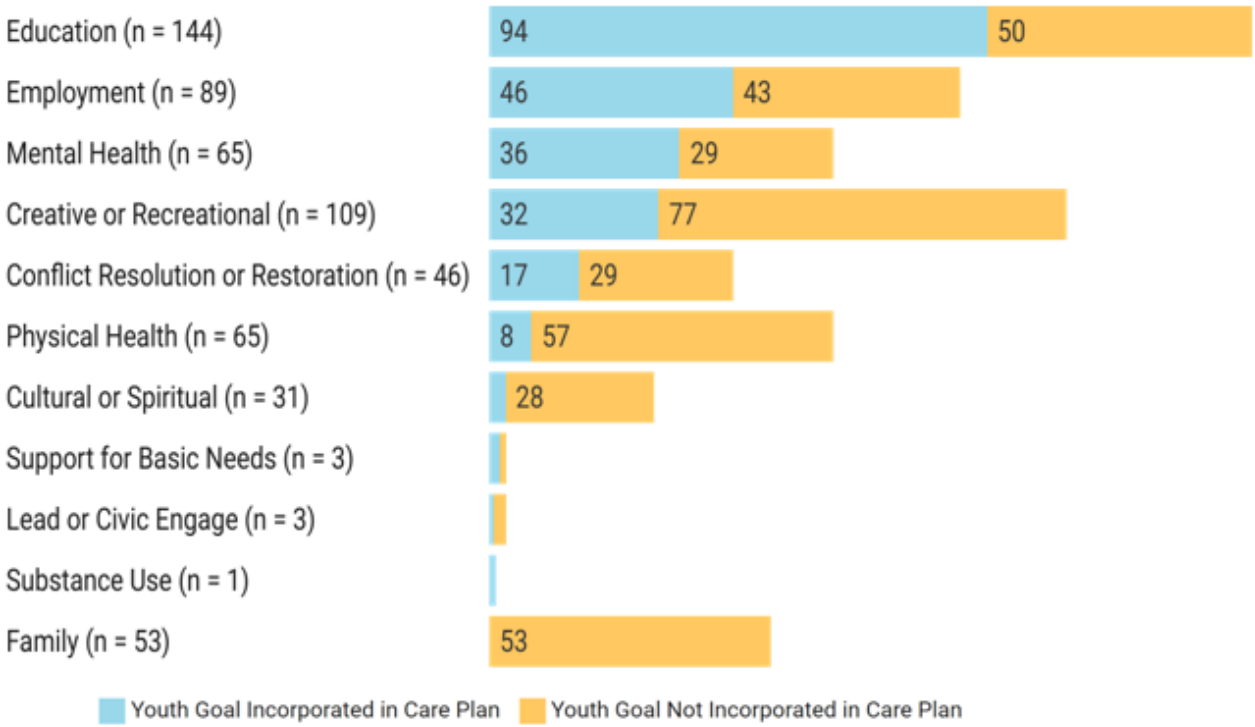
Displayed in Figure 4 below, more than half of education (65%), employment (52%), and mental health (55%) goals were incorporated into care plan goals. While at the other end of the spectrum, fewer than 15% of physical health (12%), family (0%), or cultural or spiritual youth goals (10%) had a corresponding care plan goal.

[23] Given the skewed distribution of youth across zip codes and the geographic isolation of Antelope Valley relative to the rest of LA County, a "k nearest neighbor" Getis-Ord Gi hot spot analysis was completed examining each zip code and its eight closest neighbors to identify any statistically significant hot or cold data clusters.
[24] Five miles was determined to be "accessible" because in South LA it takes about 30 minutes to travel that distance by car at the end of the school day, and about 50 minutes by bus (i.e., a reasonable commute).
[25] For more information, see: RDA Consulting (2022/2023). LA County Department of Youth Development - Diversion Program Process and Implementation Evaluation. Retrieved from: https://dyd.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/DYD-Process-and-Implementation-Evaluation.pdf

While youth were instructed to identify personal goals, typically ranging from one to eight goals per youth, case managers attempted to set an achievable number of care plan goals (e.g., about two) for youth to complete in about six months (i.e., average program enrollment). Results show that 80% of youth had at least one care plan goal that corresponded with a youth's self-identified goal (i.e., youth goal) indicating that care plan goals were drawn from youth goals most of the time.

The three most addressed positive youth development goals fell within the following categories: education, employment, and mental health. A six-month program period is not sufficient time to address all eight goals, for example, that a youth may have shared. Commonly selected youth goal areas such as creative or recreational are not incorporated into care plans if they cannot be addressed in-house or with nearby providers.

Figure 4. Overlap between Youth Goals and Care Plan Goals (N = 609)



These findings are further confirmed in the qualitative data. Youth shared in focus groups that providers involved them when making their own goals, and that the goal-creation process was a skill-building exercise, helping youth to clarify what it was they wanted for themselves. Youth shared that program staff worked to make sure that their eventual care plan goals and activities were aligned with their interests. Both provider staff and youth reported that youth and care plan goals are part of the transformative process that has helped diversion participants grow and address their needs.

Goals and Care Plans – Reflections from Diversion Service Delivery Providers & Youth

"Completing that service plan, and you can hear it in their voice, they're following through on things, they turn into a better form of themselves while they're still growing. That's growth within a youth…along with completing those goals we set in their services plan."
~ Diversion Service Provider

"With the values and my goals, it really helped me bring myself back to my true self, focus a lot more on myself rather than my social life. My mental/emotional/physical health was not at my peak, [so] when I entered the program the facilitator helped me get myself back together."
~ Youth

Not all youth found the goalsetting process and individualized services useful, with some focus group participants saying they did not learn a lot while participating in diversion or did not understand the purpose of setting goals.

Goals and Care Plans – Reflections from Diversion Service Delivery Providers & Youth

"They just tell us what we got to do. It is straightforward, they don't sugarcoat it. Goals aren't personal. Everyone has the same goal, you just graduate, that's it. I didn't get personal goals."
~ Youth

"There are a small percentage of youth that we have seen that do not make progress, that see diversion as a chore, where maybe this is not right for them. We try to go above and beyond for them to see what else we can do better to assist them, but they do not see this as an opportunity or way to see how they can better themselves."
~ Diversion Service Provider

Importantly, youth who stated that they were not provided the opportunity to identify personalized goals were isolated to one diversion service provider location which does speak to the difference in treatment model approach that this one provider may take in working with youth.

Providers also expressed that, despite their efforts, some youths are not ready to engage with services. All providers were able to speak about how they encountered youth that were referred to diversion that, due to a persistent lack of engagement, were not able to successfully complete the program. Youth who are at various stages of readiness for engagement in diversion program participation is consistent with the literature on the Stages of Change Model.[26] This model acknowledges six stages of change a person may travel through: (1) precontemplation stage, when a person is not considering engagement in treatment, or lacks any recognition that they

[26] Prochaska, J. O., & DiClemente, C. C. Toward a Comprehensive Model of Change. *Treating Addictive*, 1.

could benefit from engaging in a program like diversion; (2) contemplation stage, when there is some recognition that there could be a benefit to engagement but there is no pressing need felt to engage; (3) preparation for engagement stage, meaning that they are actively "testing the waters" to see if they believe that attending would be helpful; (4) action stage, when the person practices new skills and is fully engaged in a program; (5) maintenance stage, when there is a commitment to what was learned in the program and continued practice; and finally, (6) chance of relapse stage, when someone falls back into old thoughts and behaviors and may need to go back through the stages again.

If diversion service providers were able to assess where youth were in the Stage of Change Model and to assess what other factors are influencing their potential engagement in diversion programming--which is currently happening with the protective factor assessment--providers may be better equipped to understand the level of engagement needed and the additional resources necessary for youth that are at the early stages of change. The Conclusions and Recommendations section, page 69, has additional information on how DYD and diversion service program providers may adopt new program practices to incorporate additional measures of youth readiness at enrollment.

Youth Goal and Care Plan Incorporation by Youth Characteristics

The research team found youth had at least one youth goal incorporated at similar rates across demographic groups. Hispanic or LatinX youth (79%, n = 103), Black or African American youth (88%, n = 49), and youth of "Another" identity (72%, n = 13) had at least one goal incorporated into their care plan.[27] White youth had their goals incorporated into care plans at the lowest rate (60%, n = 6). Identical shares of cis-male or male-identifying youth (79%, n = 116) and cis-female or female-identifying youth (79%, n = 52) had at least one goal incorporated into their care plan.

The small differences observed did not rise to the level of statistical significance with Fisher's exact test of association and therefore may be due to chance. It is important to note that there are no disparities related to incorporating youth goals into care plans and this only applies to the 26% (n = 215) of formally enrolled youth with available data, representing fewer than half of youth at Provider sites B, E, and F, and fewer than one-quarter of youth at Provider sites A and D.

Service Accessibility

The following pages provide the results from the spatial analyses completed. Figure 5 displays the spatial distribution of formally enrolled youth along with the location of the eight service providers contracted with DYD between April 2019 and June 2022 (i.e., cohort one). See **Appendix A** for a map that displays the distribution of formally enrolled youth with the addition of new providers participating in cohort as well as partner law enforcement agency labels.

Figure 5 shows the largest number of formally enrolled youth lived in two different zip codes within Lancaster (n = 28 and n = 25 respectively), El Monte (n = 28), Santa Clarita (n = 26), South Central (n = 26), North Long Beach (n = 24), and Van Nuys (n = 24). The map displays zip codes with the highest numbers of youth formally enrolled in diversion (i.e., 25 to 34 individuals) in the deepest shade of blue. At the other end of the spectrum, just one to 11 formally enrolled youth live in the zip codes colored light blue.

[27] Youth with "Another" identity include Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, and Bi/Multiracial youth.

The Getis-Ord Gi spatial statistic for hot spot analysis confirms the visually apparent clusters in Figure 5 are formally enrolled youth hot spots with a high level of statistical significance ($p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$) in the Lancaster-Palmdale area, as well as South LA and Eastern San Fernando Valley (see **Appendix B**). An additional hot spot cluster was detected with a lower level of statistical significance in the North Long Beach area. For the purposes of this analysis, a hot spot indicates a zip code containing a high concentration of formally enrolled youth within its own boundaries that is surrounded by other zip codes with similarly high concentrations of youth.[28] Each hot spot identified has at least one provider site nearby, although these may not be the provider site at which youth are enrolled if they were stopped by law enforcement elsewhere. During the focus groups, providers across the County, including in these hot spot areas shared they struggle to find sufficient resources to support their youth, and that there are limited pro-social activities available to youth outside of school and the home.

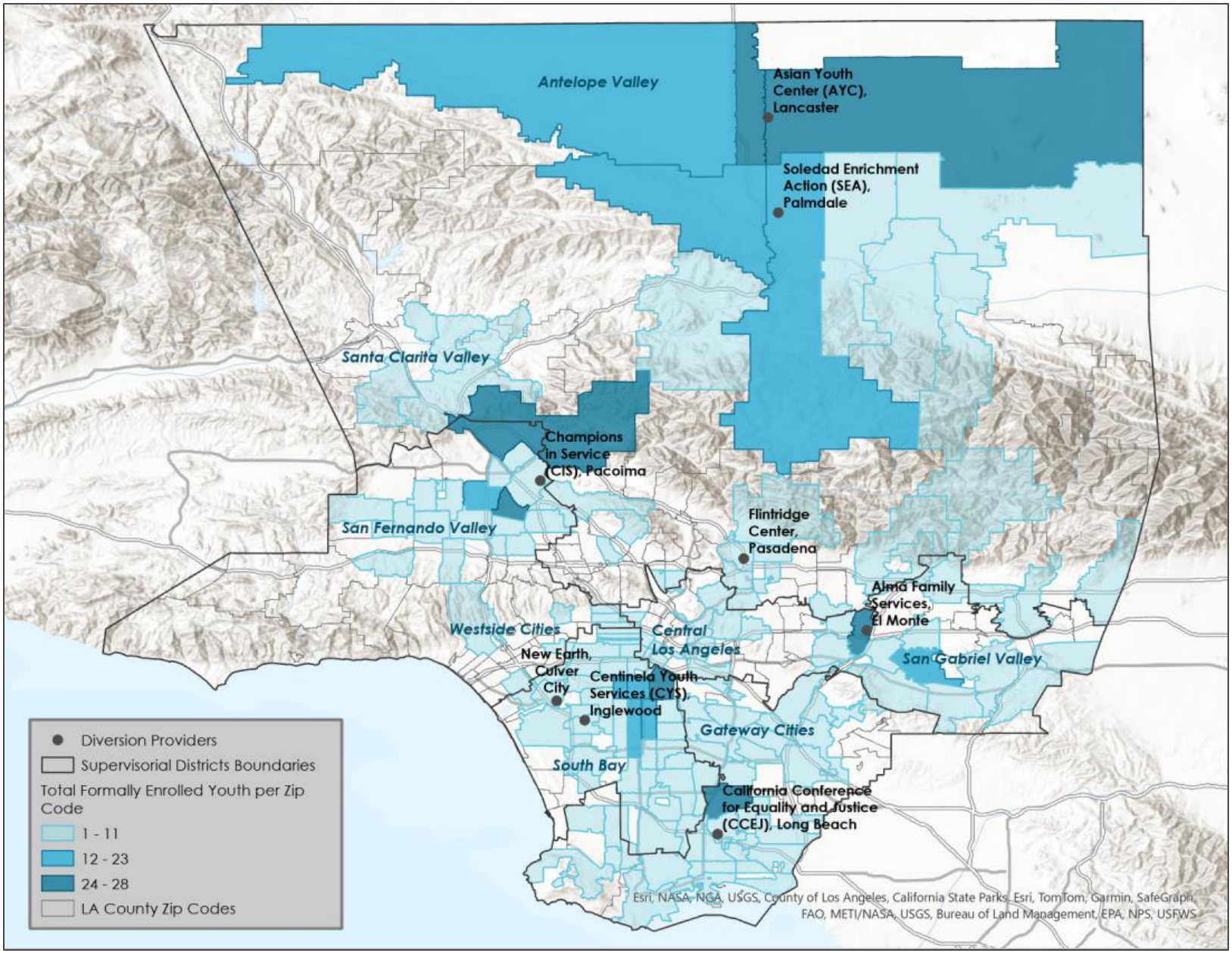
Service Accessibility – Reflections from Diversion Service Delivery Providers

"There are no resources in the Antelope Valley community. There are some resources in the community, but they are more like social services. The case managers try to learn about social services but there are few. We have [**redacted**], a car repair program. The case managers can't find kids extra things to do. We would like to be able to have funds to support kids to participate in some extra things."
~ Diversion Service Provider

"A lack of resources is a real problem [*nods of agreement from all focus group attendees*]. The Department of Mental Health is super backed up, so we have kids who haven't been able to get those much-needed services. A lot of the kids out here seem to be getting into situations because there's nothing to do out here. More recreational stuff would help. They're bored. Today, kids have a lot more emotional things going on and they don't have anywhere to divert their feelings, so they're like 'let's go make some noise.' That's the challenge, let's find things for them to do. One of my clients is always like going to Monday food trucks, because that's the only thing they have to do without getting in trouble."
~ Diversion Service Provider

[28] For the purposes of this hot spot analysis using the Getis-Ord Gi spatial statistic in ArcGIS Pro, the research team selected "k-nearest neighbor" as the most appropriate way to define spatial relationships between zip codes in LA County. As a default, this methodology limits zip code comparisons to its eight "nearest" neighbors. For additional information on spatial relationships, refer to the following link: https://pro.arcgis.com/en/pro-app/latest/tool-reference/spatial-statistics/modeling-spatial-relationships.htm; For the purposes of this spatial analysis, a cold spot is a zip code with a low concentration of formal diversion youth participants that is surrounded by neighboring zip codes that also have low concentrations of youth participants. While there are many zip codes in LA County with just one to 11 formally enrolled diversion youth participants, no cold spots were identified when comparing the number of formal diversion participants in each zip code to its eight nearest neighbors. These findings were statistically significant, meaning it is unlikely this result is due to chance alone.

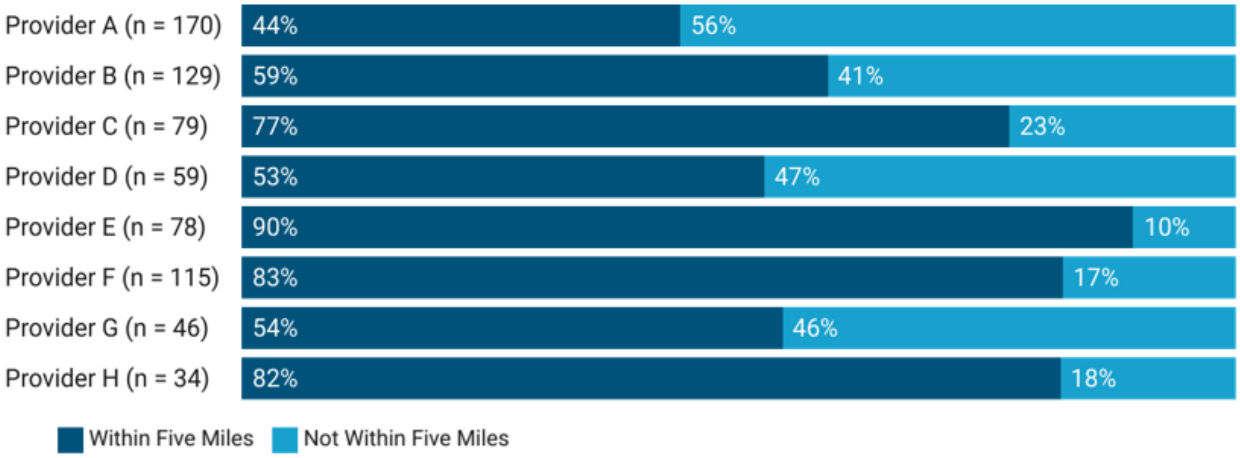
Figure 5. Spatial Distribution of Formally Enrolled Youth in LA County (N = 710), by Zip Code



Spatial Accessibility

Overall, 65% (n = 461) of youths' zip codes were located within five miles of their provider site. However, the share of youth within five miles varies by a range of 44% at Provider A to 90% at Provider E. At least three-quarters of youth at four provider sites lived in a zip code within five miles, while just one site had fewer than 50% of youth living nearby. The differences noted above in service accessibility are strongly statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), meaning there is less than a 0.001% chance that observed differences in service accessibility across providers occurred at random. Individual maps in **Appendix C** display the spatial distribution of youth served at each provider site.

Figure 9. Share of Youth Within Five Miles of Provider Site (N = 710)



As stated previously, this phenomenon might be attributable to youth being stopped and/or needing to complete diversion far away from where they live. Additionally, youth may be seeking specialized services only available at a specific diversion provider site. However, physical proximity may play a role in youth disengaging from the program and not completing diversion.

Youth and providers shared that transportation to the program site was a participation barrier for youth. In response, many service providers try to help with transportation (e.g., picking youth up from school or offering online programming). While online services do offer some youth with transportation barriers the opportunity to continue engaging with services, youth may not have consistent or sufficient access to the internet/technology to take full advantage of online programming.

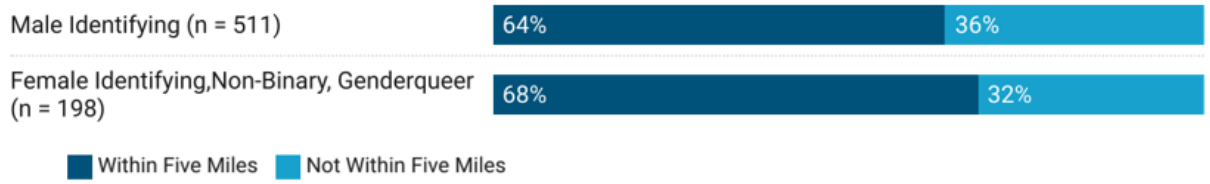
Another barrier for youth in accessing their diversion provider, as reported by DYD and providers themselves, is seen among those youth who do not have a stable housing placement within the foster care system, or youth currently residing in group home placement, both of which can and have changed with a moment's notice. Youth circumstances play a significant role in their ability to fully participate and complete diversion. Communication can be difficult with youth in the foster system or group home environment who may be moving around a lot, especially if a youth's Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) worker is unresponsive. The Conclusions and Recommendations section, page 69, offers recommendations for how DYD can support greater accessibility to youth currently being served and policy recommendations to pursue at the local and state level to increase accessibility to diversion services.

Spatial Accessibility by Gender

There were no major differences in geographical service accessibility by gender identity. Formally enrolled female youth were within five miles of their provider at the highest rate, albeit just four percentage points higher than the share of cis-male youth.

Diversion provider accessibility at the provider level was similarly balanced when disaggregated by gender. At most, there was a nine-percentage point difference between the share of male and female youth living near their provider, but more often the difference was closer to just five percentage points. None of these differences rose to the level of statistical significance.

Figure 10. Share of Youth Within Five Miles of Provider Site, by Gender Identity (N = 709)

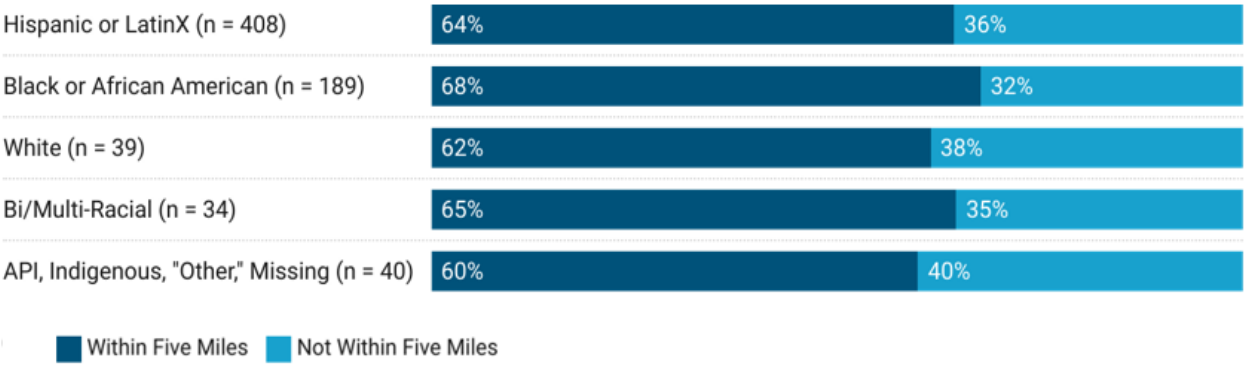


Spatial Accessibility by Race/Ethnicity

The RDA research team bundled youth who belonged to racial/ethnic groups with small sample sizes into a single group for analysis, but no major differences were detected in geographical service accessibility by racial/ethnic identity. Among racial and ethnic groups presented, proximity to provider sites ranged from a low of 60% of formally enrolled youth to a high of 68%. Of these groups, Black or African American youth lived within five miles of their provider at the highest rate, followed by Bi/Multiracial youth, and Hispanic or LatinX youth.

Diversion site accessibility varied by race/ethnicity at the provider level with decreasing sample sizes for sub-analyses. For example, the share of formally enrolled Hispanic or LatinX youth near their provider site ranged from a low of just 31% to a high of 92%. These differences were statistically significant at three provider sites, meaning they are not due to chance alone.

Figure 11. Share of Youth Within Five Miles of Provider Site, by Race/Ethnicity (N = 710)



Service Inclusivity

Providers communicated their intentionality surrounding the promotion of diversity and making youth feel comfortable by hiring staff of color with lived experience and having discussions about race and identity. The intake process is seen by providers as a key opportunity to learn how youth identify, although youth are not always ready to open to staff right away. Providers also reported taking time to teach youth about cultural sensitivity to promote cultural respect among participants.

Youth and families shared in focus groups that providers were respectful and considerate of their cultural identities, noting that staffs' efforts to include and welcome youth improved their engagement with the program. They also appreciated that staff could build rapport and connections with youth over a shared identity or similar experiences growing up. Family members interviewed commented that providers were understanding towards them and made efforts to accommodate family members' schedules. Representative quotes from youth and families are shared below:

Interactions with Providers – Reflections from Youth and a Parent/Guardian

"I wasn't greeted with an angry attitude, or that they were upset that I was there. They were very welcoming and nurturing. That was the helpful part as well."
~ Youth

"Yeah, [the staff] really understand, most definitely. Most of them come from that environment that some of us came in from."
~ Youth

"I felt like he respected my culture. We are both Mexican so we could really relate."
~ Youth

"Even though we're not of the same ethnic background or where we grew up, [the staff member's] understanding of the needs of families and students were just really beneficial. Her approach was really informative and really concise."
~ Parent/Guardian

Although youth agreed that program activities and provider staff were representative of youths' culture, a small proportion of youth still reported that staff could not fully relate or understand what they were personally experiencing when they did not share a similar identity, background, and/or upbringing.

Touchpoint 4: Program Completion

Key Findings:

- There were no statistically significant differences in the distributions of youth by race/ethnicities or gender identity, meaning any slight variances in substantial completion rates are likely due to chance and not associated with a youth's race/ethnicity or gender identity.
- Black or African American youth substantially completed their formal diversion at a rate at least equivalent to White youth in the overall diversion population and at the two provider sites included in the analysis. Hispanic or LatinX youth had a lower completion rate relative to White youth at one provider, but overall were comparable to White youth in their completion of diversion.
- Youth satisfaction scores indicate that satisfaction is dependent on the program that youth attended and is not due to chance alone.
- Following an investigation of the Record Sealing process in LA County, RDA cannot affirmatively conclude that all youth who substantially completed diversion have had their records sealed as promised and legally required.

Substantial Completion Rate

A critical piece of assessing equity includes understanding the rate at which youth substantially complete diversion. The RDA research team used DYD program data to explore the extent to which youth with different demographic characteristics substantially completed diversion, incorporating absolute frequencies and Fisher's exact tests of association to identify any statistically significant differences in completion rates. In summary, these completion findings are promising. While no major differences were noted in the share of youth who substantially completed diversion by racial and ethnic groups or gender identities, the relative rate index highlights disparities in the share of Hispanic or LatinX youth substantially completing relative to White youth.

At the provider level, it is important to be cautious when interpreting the findings due to the small sample sizes and potential differences in defining a substantial completion throughout the course of the first diversion cohort. While the samples are too small to draw generalizable conclusions or make conclusive determinations of significance, the analysis provides a starting point for understanding program-specific trends.

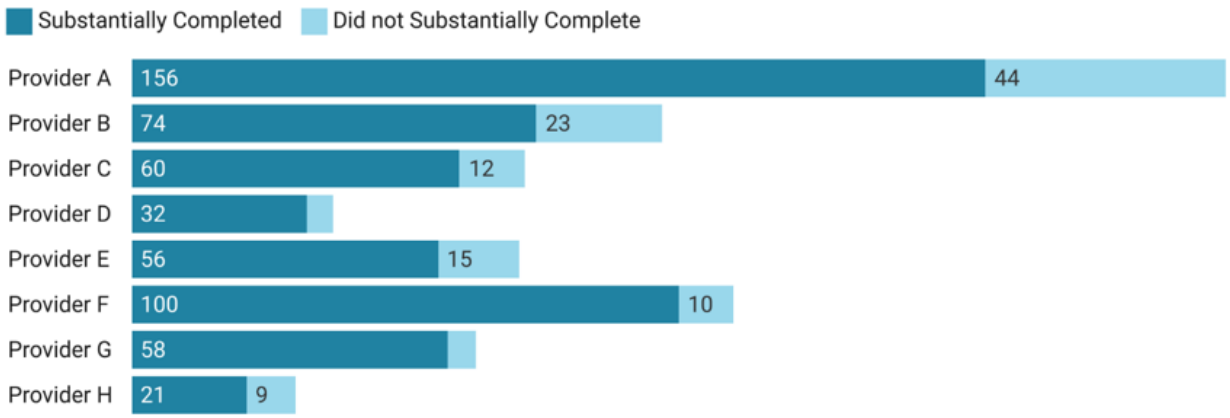
Completion Overall

Overall, about 82% of youth completing formal diversion did so substantially (n = 557). Of the formally enrolled youth that did not substantially complete diversion (n = 123), 37% (n = 45) did not have an available reason for not substantially completing. Of those with available data (n = 78),

the largest share of youth 36% (n = 28) did not substantially complete because providers lost contact with the youth and/or their guardians. The next largest share of youth, 35% (n = 27) did not substantially complete because the youth withdrew from the program or otherwise declined services.[29]

Displayed in Figure 12, substantial completion rates varied across provider sites, ranging from a low of 70% (n = 21) at Provider H to a high of 92% (n = 58) at Provider G. These differences in substantial completions between provider sites are statistically significant, meaning there is a small probability that the observed differences are due to chance alone.[30]

Figure 12. Substantial Completion, by Provider (April 2019 – August 2022)



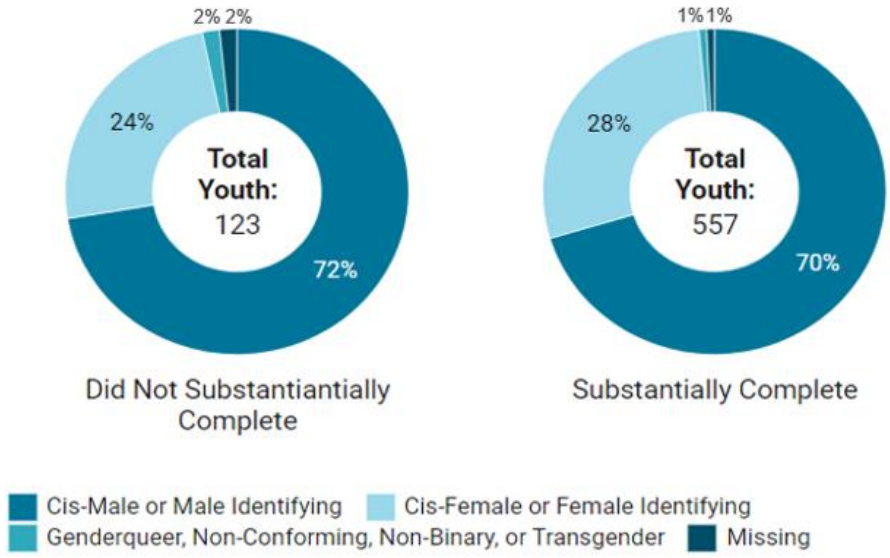
As a note of caution when interpreting these findings, providers determine what qualifies as a substantial completion. Although providers have a shared understanding of what constitutes a substantial completion, it has not been fully standardized across provider sites throughout the duration of the program. As a result, during the evaluation period, a youth who substantially completed with one provider may not have substantially completed at a different point in time or different site. Additionally, with a large amount of missing care plan data, the evaluation team cannot independently measure whether youth achieved their care plan goals, according to YDD's definition of substantial completion.

Completion by Gender

Seventy percent of formally enrolled youth who substantially completed diversion were cis-male and 28% were cis-female. This proportion is very similar for youth who did not substantially complete diversion. Fisher's exact tests of association did not reveal any statistically significant differences in these distributions, meaning any slight variances in substantial completion rates are likely due to chance and not associated with a youth's gender identity.

[29]One-quarter of formally enrolled youth (23%, n = 18) did not substantially complete for an "other" reason, such as youth moving, law enforcement requesting the case back, or non-compliance with their diversion terms.
[30] Statistical significance was calculated in Stata with chi-squared tests of association. Results were significant at the 0.05 alpha level (p = 0.01).

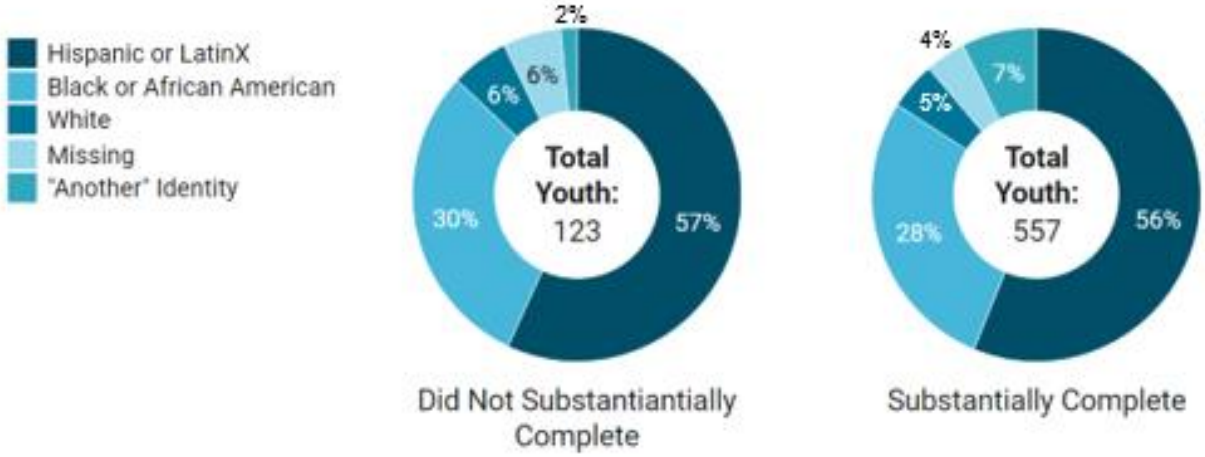
Figure 13. Youth Diversion Completion Status by Gender Identity



Completion by Race/Ethnicity

Of those who were formally enrolled, Hispanic or LatinX youth made up 56% of substantial completions, followed by Black or African American youth (28%), and White youth (5%). Again, these rates were similar for youth not substantially completing diversion. Fisher's exact tests of association did not reveal any statistically significant differences in the racial distributions of youth substantially completing or those youth that did not substantially complete, meaning any slight variances in substantial completion rates are likely due to chance and not associated with a youth's race or ethnicity.

Figure 14. Youth Diversion Completion Status by Racial/Ethnic Identity[32]



Demographic RRI for Completing Formal Enrollees

The research team calculated the diversion completion RRI by first dividing the number of youths substantially completing formal diversion by the number of youths exiting diversion for each racial and ethnic group. To determine the "relative" rate, this calculation was next divided by the diversion completion rate for White youth. An RRI greater than 1.00 indicates greater likelihood of an event taking place (i.e., diversion completion) for one group relative to White youth, while an RRI less than 1.00 indicates a lower likelihood. Shared in the enrollment findings, White youth comprised just 5% of all youth served overall, ranging from 1% of formally enrolled youth to 12% depending on the provider site. As a result, the reference sample size for White youth completion is sometimes calculated from as few as one White youth, making findings sensitive to small changes in total referrals or enrollments for White youth. For this reason, analyses are excluded if the White youth reference sample size is five or fewer at a provider site.

Table 10. Youth Diversion Formal Completion Relative Rate Index (RRI) Results

	White	Hispanic or LatinX	Black or African American	Another Identity
Overall Completion (N = 654)	1.00 (n = 33)	1.03	1.02	1.24
Provider A (N = 177)	1.00 (n = 1)	*	*	*
Provider B (N = 96)	1.00 (n = 12)	0.86	1.00	1.27
Provider C (N = 73)	1.00 (n = 1)	*	*	*
Provider D (N = 40)	1.00 (n = 3)	*	*	*
Provider E (N = 69)	1.00 (n = 9)	1.71	1.37	1.80
Provider F (N = 108)	1.00 (n = 4)	*	*	*
Provider G (N = 60)	1.00 (n = 1)	*	*	*
Provider H (N = 31)	1.00 (n = 2)	*	*	*
Lower Completion Likelihood than White Youth	--	1) Provider B	--	--
Greater Completion Likelihood than White Youth	--	1) Overall 2) Provider E	1) Overall 2) Provider E	1) Overall 2) Provider B 3) Provider E

Indicates substantial completion rate is slightly lower than white youth (i.e., <1.00 & >0.80)
Indicates substantial completion rate is a lot lower than white youth (i.e., <0.80)
Indicates substantial completion rate identical to white youth (i.e., 1.00)
Indicates substantial completion rate is slightly greater than white youth (i.e., >1.00 & <1.20)
Indicates substantial completion rate is a lot greater than white youth (i.e., >1.20)
Not applicable (i.e., no observations) or insufficient numbers to compare (i.e., *)

Note: Sample sizes following provider represent the total formally enrolled and exited youth. Sample sizes in the "White" youth column represent all White youth formally enrolled and exited.

Shown in Table 10, the calculated diversion completion RRI values for the program overall and at the individual provider-level are an additional indicator that DYD is achieving success addressing racial/ethnic disparities in justice involvement. Whereas Black or African American youth had a lower likelihood of enrolling in diversion compared to White youth at the overall program and individual provider-levels, Table 10 shows that Black or African American youth substantially completed their formal diversion at an equal or greater rate than White youth. The same is true for youth with "Another" identity who substantially completed diversion at a greater rate than White youth at the overall program-level and at Providers B and E. Additionally, Hispanic or LatinX youth had both a greater likelihood to enroll in and substantially complete their diversion services as compared to White youth.[31]

[31] Hispanic or LatinX youth had a lower completion rate relative to White youth at Provider B alone.

Once again, this RRI analysis is a comparison of frequencies and does not prove a cause-and-effect relationship between race/ethnicity and substantially completing diversion. Additionally, despite excluding provider sites with White youth reference sample sizes of five or less, this analysis is still limited by small sample sizes, especially at individual provider sites. As a result, the provider-level RRI values are less reliable than the overall program-level diversion completion RRI results.

RRI values are compared in Table 11 at the overall population levels for each stage in youth diversion system processing from diversion eligibility when youth are stopped by law enforcement, to substantial completion when youth are exiting diversion. Mentioned previously, DYD has the greatest ability to address racial and ethnic disparities in justice involvement starting at the diversion enrollment stage, which it does effectively for Hispanic or LatinX youth and youth of "Another" identity. It is not until the diversion completion stage when youth have participated in diversion services that disparities are completely addressed for Black or African American youth as well.

Taken together, these findings indicate that diversion has started the work of addressing racial and ethnic disparities in justice involvement, minimizing these disparities most effectively across different populations when youth have had the opportunity to participate in diversion services at the completion stage. Addressing the disparities in access to diversion for Black or African American youth noted at the enrollment stage can both help DYD expand its reach and achieve its goal overarching equity goals.

Table 11. Summary of Youth Diversion Completion Relative Rate Index (RRI) Results

	White	Hispanic or LatinX	Black or African American	Another Identity
Diversion Eligibility (N = 33,676)	1.00 (n = 3,636)	0.97	0.93	0.99
Diversion Enrollment (N = 1,066)	1.00 (n = 60)	1.09	0.93	1.18
Diversion Completion (N = 654)	1.00 (n = 33)	1.03	1.02	1.24
Lower Likelihood than White Youth (i.e., < 1.00)	--	1) Eligibility	1) Eligibility 2) Enrollment	1) Eligibility
Greater Likelihood than White Youth (i.e., > 1.00)	--	1) Enrollment 2) Completion	1) Completion	1) Enrollment 2) Completion

Indicates rate is slightly lower than White youth (i.e., <1.00 & >0.80)
Indicates rate is slightly greater than White youth (i.e., >1.00 & <1.20)
Indicates rate is a lot lower than White youth (i.e., <0.80)
Indicates rate is a lot greater than White youth (i.e., >1.20)
Indicates rate identical to White youth (i.e., 1.00)
Not applicable (i.e., no observations) or insufficient numbers to compare (i.e., *)

Note: Sample sizes for diversion eligibility represent all stops with a known diversion eligibility status, sample size for diversion enrollment represents all formal referrals to diversion, and sample size for diversion completion represents all formally enrolled youth that exited diversion. The sample of White youth for each respective stage is represented in the "White" column.

Communicating the Success of Youth on Diversion

Law enforcement partners reported variations in the degree to which they understand patterns in program completion and success. During the process and implementation evaluation,

conducted in 2022, law enforcement had varied statements in their understanding of how well youth were doing in diversion.[32] In focus groups and interviews, officers from two jurisdictions shared that a large portion of youth are not finishing the program, while individuals from other jurisdictions discussed how they have not had new encounters with youth who substantially completed the program, especially those youth who did not have a history of prior justice involvement.

There are several reasons that there could be discrepancies between providers and their law enforcement partners regarding the youth that have successfully completed diversion. First, several diversion service providers and law enforcement agencies have expressed challenges in communication due to staffing changes, delays in response time, and challenges with the referral system used. Second, because law enforcement agencies operate with a hierarchical structure, it may be that messaging is delayed, lost, or is not shared at all shift changes. Finally, a lack of buy-in to the benefits of early intervention and what diversion service providers can offer youth can diminish the importance of the information shared by DYD and service providers.

However, DYD continues to mitigate these barriers in their partnership building and it was expressed by all partners that communication has improved consistently throughout the years. Should the positive impacts of diversion on youth, communities, and through a restorative justice model that diversion service providers use continue to bring healing to youth and parties harmed, law enforcement and other stakeholders will see that the DYD diversion program promotes positive youth development and reduced recidivism, thereby effectively communicating the program's success to law enforcement partners.

Youth Program Satisfaction

The extent to which youth satisfaction varied across provider sites and for youth with different demographic characteristics was examined to assess whether there was a trend or pattern among youth participating in diversion. Using a program satisfaction survey at program exit, providers asked participants to rate their satisfaction with the program on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 indicated "least satisfied" and 7 indicated "most satisfied." To simplify the analysis, RDA classified a score of 1, 2, or 3 as "unsatisfied;" 4 as "neutral;" and 5, 6, or 7 as "satisfied." The results showed that almost all substantially completed youth were satisfied with their diversion program (i.e., corresponding with a score of 5 or higher); however, youth satisfaction ratings did vary by provider site.[33]

Program satisfaction could not be assessed for all enrolled youth due to missing data. Of the formally enrolled youth who substantially completed, 36% (n = 203) were missing program satisfaction responses. Data entry and availability are dependent on both DYD staff and provider capacity. While DYD staff review data with providers monthly, their ability to thoroughly check data entry to ensure providers meet program requirements such as completing intake and exit assessments depends on adequate staffing. Fewer staff monitored data collection during the

[32] RDA Consulting (2022/2023). LA County Department of Youth Development - Diversion Program Process and Implementation Evaluation.

[33] Data only included youth who substantially completed their respective diversion program and were able to participate in an exit interview conducted by their provider. Youth who *did not* substantially complete typically exited because they stopped engaging and therefore did not provide program satisfaction data. It is expected that youth who stayed in the program and completed substantially had a different experience than those who did not complete. Therefore, these findings should be interpreted as satisfaction for only successful youth. While the quantitative results are supplemented by youth focus group findings, they are still not representative or generalizable to all DYD participants.

second calendar year quarter of 2020, contributing to temporary gaps in data entry review. As a result, this analysis should be narrowly interpreted as only applying to the sample of youth providing program satisfaction responses.

Program Satisfaction – Reflections from Youth

"They were very welcoming and nurturing, that was the really helpful part as well."
~ Youth

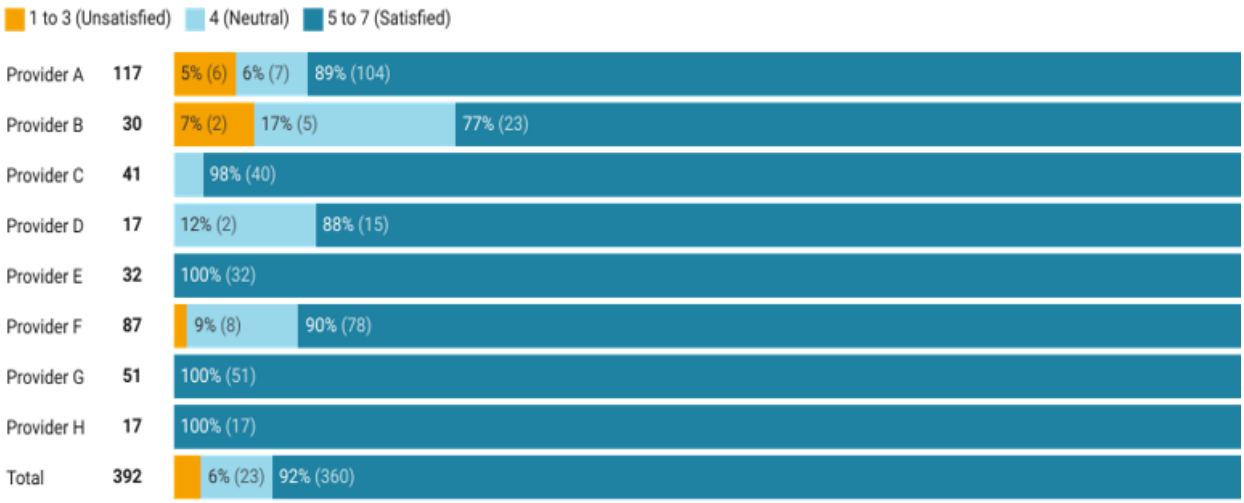
"She (staff member) was pretty understanding, she was pretty good when it comes to understanding, talking, & listening."
~ Youth

Overall Program Satisfaction

The quantitative analysis of satisfaction scores shows that youth with available data who substantially completed diversion were, overall, highly satisfied with their diversion programs. Ninety-two percent (n = 360) of youth said they were satisfied with their program (i.e., a score of 5 to 7) compared to 6% (n = 23) who reported a neutral rating (i.e., a score of 4) and only 2% (n = 9) who were unsatisfied (i.e., a score of 3 or below).

These high levels of program satisfaction are fairly consistent across providers, with all reporting that at least 75% of substantially completing youth were satisfied with the program. The exact breakdown of satisfaction varies from a high of 100% at two sites, to 77% at Provider B. One-Way ANOVA found that strong statistical significance ($p < 0.001$) in the differences between average provider satisfaction scores. This finding means that the provider a youth attends does have an impact on their satisfaction.

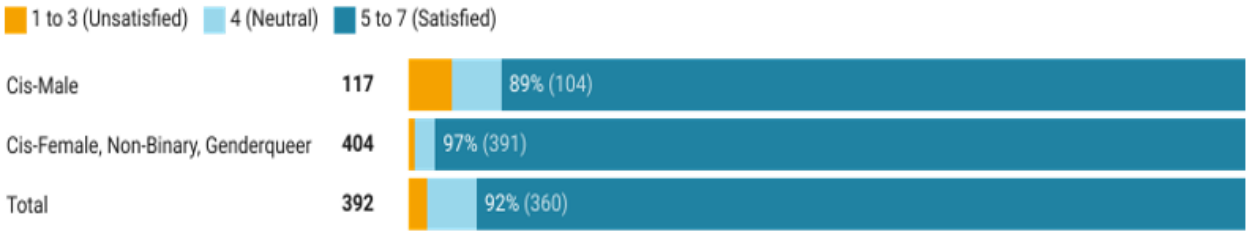
Figure 15. Overall Youth Program Satisfaction by Provider



Program Satisfaction by Gender

Gender does not appear to have a significant impact on program satisfaction. Female-identifying, non-binary, and genderqueer youth had slightly higher levels of overall program satisfaction (97%) compared to substantially completing male-identifying youth (89%). One-Way ANOVA found that the difference in average exit satisfaction scores did not vary between gender identities with statistical significance.

Figure 16. Overall Youth Program Satisfaction by Gender Identity



Program Satisfaction by Race/Ethnicity

The race or ethnicity of youth was not found to have a significant impact on program satisfaction. At least 90% of completing youth across all racial and ethnic groups were satisfied with diversion, except for combined API, Indigenous, and Bi/Multiracial youth. It is important to note that these results are sensitive to small sample sizes and may be highly skewed by one outlying observation. Again, One-Way ANOVA found that the difference in average exit satisfaction scores did not vary between racial/ethnic identities with statistical significance.

Figure 17. Overall Youth Program Satisfaction by Racial/Ethnic Identity

Program Satisfaction & COVID-19

COVID-19 necessitated that service providers shift to virtual services and adjust programming to operate safely and effectively. To understand COVID-19's impact on program satisfaction, RDA calculated program satisfaction rates before, during, and after COVID-19, using the approximate timing for LA Unified School District's remote learning period as a proxy for the onset and duration of the pandemic (i.e., beginning in August 2020 and terminating at the end of August 2021).

Figure 18. Overall Youth Program Satisfaction Before, During, and After COVID-19

Although program satisfaction rates remained high, they did decrease slightly at the beginning of the pandemic. Ultimately, the share of youth reporting program dissatisfaction did not increase for youth enrolling during COVID-19. Instead, a growing share of youth rated their program satisfaction as neutral. These differences between time periods did not rise to the level of statistical significance using One-Way ANOVA to compare the average satisfaction rating.

Record Sealing

Record sealing is not a traditional outcome measure for an outcome analysis for diversion programs. However, in the process of collecting data for this outcome and equity analysis, contradictory data concerning the process and consistency with which record sealing was taking place was found. Under California state law, WIC § 827.95, record sealing refers to the process of prohibiting the release of documentation of a young person's official police records (e.g., records or information relating to the taking of a minor into custody, temporary custody, or detention) to anyone except the youth and their parent/guardian. This process ensures that a young person's history is protected, such as when agencies (e.g., housing, employment) conduct background checks. When a young person's record is sealed, the individual does not need to disclose any prior arrest for a juvenile offense.[34] This area of inquiry in the current assessment was investigated because of youths' expressed interest and the stated goal from many youths that no longer having an outstanding charge, or a record, was a motivating factor to participate in diversion.

Current Record Sealing Process

Providers notify law enforcement partners about formally referred youths' substantial completion in three ways: (1) direct contact via monthly email, (2) compiled updates transmitted to partners through DYD staff, and (3) relying on law enforcement partners to receive updates via the referral system. Providers and law enforcement partners discuss expectations regarding reporting during regular meetings.

Providers and DYD provide information to various law enforcement partners about the record sealing process through patrol trainings and regular communication. DYD has also been in discussion with law enforcement partners on how they may be able to improve their adherence to WIC § 827.95 which outlines a timeline that providers and law enforcement must seal a record for those youth that have a police record and successfully completed diversion. However, law enforcement agencies do not take external direction from providers or DYD, instead relying on department-level policies that have largely not been updated to reflect current youth record sealing law (WIC § 827.95) that became effective in 2022.

[34] UCLA School of Law Criminal Justice Program (2022). Addressing legal issues in youth diversion: A toolkit. https://dyd.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UCLA-CJ-Diversion-Toolkit-2022-OP.pdf

In the context of DYD's model of diversion, diversion providers communicate formally referred youths' completion status (i.e., substantially completed or not) to their referring law enforcement partners. Upon receiving this status update, law enforcement partners are required by current state law (WIC § 827.95) to seal a youth's record. In other words, the offense for which youth were referred to diversion is deemed to not have occurred. Although RDA sought to (1) understand the share of DYD youth that had their record sealed and (2) evaluate any equity concerns, DYD did not collect this administrative data.[35] RDA completed approximately ten interviews with DYD staff, providers, law enforcement partners, and DYD legal consultants to understand LA County's record-sealing landscape. Following these discussions, RDA cannot affirmatively conclude that all DYD's eligible youth have had their records sealed as promised and legally required.

Record Sealing – Reflection from a Diversion Service Provider

"I told [his] mom the benefits of getting him signed up. I always informed mom, left her a voicemail. Told her that he is doing great in the program. Told her that he is going to graduate. His ticket will be gone. His record will be sealed, etcetera. I have had to do a lot of convincing of parents by telling them about the benefits."
~ Diversion Service Provider

Communication with Youth about Record Sealing

Youth from across the County that participated in focus groups as part of the evaluation acknowledged the importance of successfully completed diversion. For those youth that had been referred pre-arrest, youth expressed a sense of relief that they would not have a police record that may follow them into adulthood. For others who may have been in custody, or were referred in lieu of adjudication (e.g., DA referrals), youth conveyed relief that their record of arrest and/or detainment would be sealed. This expectation of record sealing is set when youth learn about the program from law enforcement and DYD providers at the referral/enrollment stage and again at their exit interview. Youth expressed that record sealing will positively impact their futures. It is important to note that although youth may have spoken about "not having a record" as a benefit of participating in diversion, not all youth have an arrest or booking record to be sealed. Therefore, both law enforcement and providers may benefit from a clearer understanding of when record sealing is applicable. By strengthening their knowledge, these partners can better communicate to youth and their families about the benefits of participating in diversion, without unintentionally communicating that informally referred youth will have a record if they elect to not participate in diversion.

[35] According to current statue (WIC § 827.95) regarding record sealing in California, diversion providers are required to notify law enforcement when youth substantially complete diversion. Law enforcement agencies are then required to notify youth/their families and the diversion provider when the record has been sealed. When law enforcement fails to notify providers that a record has been sealed, there is no administrative data for DYD to collect. However, one interviewed provider is consistently notified by their law enforcement partner when substantially completing youth records have been sealed, and others receive notification on an ad-hoc basis, but DYD has not collected this individual-level data.

Record Sealing – Reflections from a Youth

"[My diversion program] for sure impacted my future. If I had not participated, I would have had this on my record and I wouldn't have brought back the relationships that I hurt. It impacted me positively for sure."
~ Youth

"[My diversion program] has its flaws but it's probably the most important thing I've gotten to do. If it wasn't for this program, I would've had an arrest on my record at 16 (years old)."
~ Youth

Communication Between Partners about Record Sealing

DYD policy and procedures instruct providers that it is unnecessary to inform law enforcement partners on informally enrolled youths' completion status because informal referrals should be generated for youth that are counsel and release cases, which is why they are being referred for services and not referred for diversion, unlike formally referred youth. While DYD diversion policy considers all informal referrals equivalent to counsel and release cases, law enforcement partners do not necessarily treat informal referrals the same way.

In focus groups with available law enforcement partners, they expressed that they may refer a youth to diversion informally, but they would still like to hear about how the youth is doing and if the youth is accessing services. Under the current informal referral for service model that partners have agreed to, this would be an additional ask of diversion service providers and would be a deviation from the diversion model, which aims to curb over-tracking of youth information in the traditional juvenile justice system.

Perception of Youth Participation in Diversion – Reflection from Law Enforcement

"It was a good program because when we sent them (youth) to that program, we would follow up on that…if they didn't finish it was because they moved or something, but we'd always follow up. Instead of getting citations and discipline, they'd get support. Yeah, it was good."
~ Law Enforcement

The current record sealing law is written in such a way that assumes counsel and release youth are not participating in diversion, it also assumes that diversion providers are updating law enforcement agency partners on the completion status of all diversion-participating youth. While DYD may not consider informal youth diversion participants, this semantic distinction was lost on several law enforcement partners, who conflate any type of referral to DYD with a referral to diversion.

Regardless, current California law (WIC § 827.95) states that local agencies have six months to verify a counseled and released youth was not referred to probation and they have 60 days to subsequently seal a record. This sealing requirement is not contingent upon notification from a

provider that any program was completed. Despite this statute language, interviewed law enforcement partners are not automatically sealing these counsel and release (i.e., typical "informal" youth) cases.

Record Sealing Notification

When a youth's record has been sealed, ideally, law enforcement agencies are meant to send a confirmation letter to the youth and their families. They are also meant to provide a copy of this letter to the diversion provider. In this case, the youth typically receive notification within days or weeks of the provider informing law enforcement of the youth's completion.

However, this process is the exception, not the rule. During interviews with diversion service providers and law enforcement partners, RDA learned that the notification providers receive when law enforcement seals a record is dependent upon the law enforcement partner and their relationship with providers. For example, a diversion service provider may have two separate law enforcement partners and will receive record-sealing notifications from one law enforcement partner but not the other.

Since law enforcement partners do not always inform providers when record sealing notifications have been sent, providers are only aware of issues when youth tell them directly. Apart from the case in which a provider was copied directly on an email, providers that were interviewed by RDA were not aware of any issues with youth getting their records sealed.

Touchpoint 5: Impact

Key Findings:

- In general, protective factor scores improved at program exit for youth who substantially completed the DYD program.
- Improvement was observed in emotional self-regulation, school engagement, social support, and conflict resolution skills.
- Youth reported better emotional management and decision-making skills. Parents noticed improvements in communication and reduced anger in their children.
- Informally referred youth who were referred again typically had future contacts for less serious alleged offenses and showed greater success in completing program requirements.
- Formal referral recidivism analysis showed positive effects for formally enrolled youth, with a significant reduction in recidivism at 12 months.
- Recidivism rates were relatively stable across different provider sites.
- Youth who substantially completed diversion had a lower recidivism rate than those who did not complete.

Protective Factor Score Change

Protective factors have been identified as psycho-social factors (e.g., interpersonal relationships, connections to social institutions) that influence youth development. These factors, while valuable, are limited in what they can tell providers about a youth. There are additional factors, such as promotive factors (e.g., peers, values, familial support) and resiliency factors (presence of a caring and loving adult, self-regulation skills, connection to faith and culture, etc.) that can provide further information about existing strengths.[36] The evaluation examined the extent to which youth protective factor score changes varied across provider sites, for youth with different demographic characteristics, and for youth enrolling during different time periods relative to COVID-19 school closures.[37] Following the same methods of the program satisfaction analysis, the research team used absolute frequencies, paired *t*-tests, and One-Way ANOVA. Protective factors are assessed with the same five questions at intake and exit, which may be compared with corresponding youth development goals. Participants indicated their level of agreement with each question, ranging from "strongly disagree" (i.e., a score of one) to "strongly disagree" (i.e., a score of seven).

Protective factor score improvement could not be assessed for all enrolled youth due to missing data. Data entry and availability are dependent on both DYD staff and provider capacity. Of the

[36] Barnes-Lee, A.R., & Petkus, A. (2023). A scoping review of strengths-based risk and needs assessments for youth in the juvenile legal system. *Children and Youth Services Review, 148*.
[37] Protective factor score changes were examined at different points of time to provide insight into how youth were coping with the changes that came with the COVID-19 pandemic.

formally enrolled youth who substantially completed, close to half (46%, n = 254) were missing some combination of intake and exit assessment questions, and 36% (n = 203) were missing program satisfaction responses. While DYD staff review data with providers monthly, their ability to thoroughly check data entry to ensure providers meet program requirements such as completing intake and exit assessments depends on adequate staffing. Fewer staff monitored data collection during the second calendar year quarter of 2020, contributing to temporary gaps in data entry review. Due to these limitations, analysis should be narrowly interpreted as only applying to the sample of youth with both intake and exit assessments at the seven provider sites with available data. Additionally, statistical analysis could only identify a correlation between program participation and protective factor score improvement. Qualitative findings were incorporated following a mixed methods approach to deepen our understanding of the observed effect.

Finally, the "Caring Adult Relationship" development goal has a question that is phrased as a negative. This reverse-coded question, which can be helpful to ensure that respondents are providing valid answers, can potentially confuse respondents and diversion service provider staff assisting youth with the survey. This is because the responses are phrased in the negative (i.e., the ideal response for the reverse-coded question is "strongly disagree" but all other question ideal responses are "strongly agree." This may contribute to data reporting and analysis errors when reviewing survey results. The positive protective factor changes noted in programmatic data and in focus groups get to the core of DYD's goals to address youth needs to promote their development and prevent future justice contacts through social-emotional growth.

Table 12. Protective Factor Questions and Corresponding Development Goals

Intake/Exit Protective Factor Questions	Corresponding Development Goal
1) When feeling anxious, angry, or depressed, I am able to take positive steps to help myself feel better.	*Emotional Self-Regulation*
2) I feel engaged and supported at school.	*School Engagement*
3) If there is a crisis, I have others I can talk to.	*Social Support*
4) If I needed help finding a job, I wouldn't know where to go for help.	*Caring Adult Relationships*
5) I am pretty good at figuring out how to resolve disagreements.	*Conflict Resolution Skills*

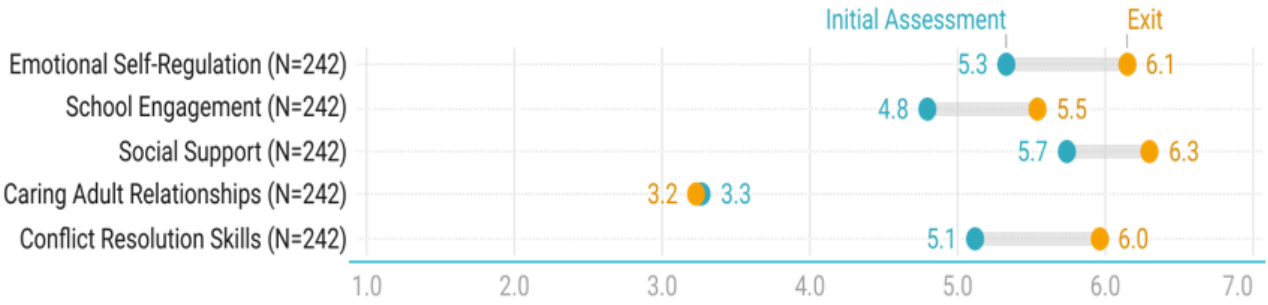
Like youth program satisfaction, youth who did not substantially complete the DYD program stopped engaging and therefore did not provide protective factor score data upon exit. As a result, this protective score change analysis only included youth who substantially completed and were available to complete the protective factor assessment during an exit interview. Youth who stayed in the program and substantially completed would be expected to have had a different experience than those who did not complete. These findings should only be interpreted as protective factor score changes for youth who substantially completed diversion. Additionally, exit protective factor scores were omitted for one provider site due to data collection issues. As a

result, that provider site is not represented in this analysis. While the quantitative results are supplemented by youth focus group findings, they are still not representative or generalizable to all DYD participants.

Overall Protective Factor Score Changes

Protective factor scores showed improvement at exit for substantially completing youth who had available intake and exit assessment data. At the initial assessment, youth protective factor scores, on average, were generally positive, with youth rating themselves as at least slightly agreeing on most questions (i.e., a score of at least 5) while slightly disagreeing for the inversely posed *caring adult relationship* question (i.e., a score of at most 3). At program exit, most youth protective score responses improved one step to "mostly agree" (i.e., a score of 6), while the inversely posed caring adult relationship question did not meaningfully change. These improvements rose to the level of strong statistical significance with paired *t*-tests ($p < 0.001$) and represented a 16% improvement in average score for school engagement/conflict resolution skills, a 15% improvement in emotional self-regulation, and a 10% improvement for social support.

Figure 18. Average Youth Protective Factor Scores at Program Intake and Exit



These positive changes are consistent with what youth, family members, and providers expressed in focus groups. Youth stated the program helped them manage their emotions and make better decisions. Both parents and providers noted improvements in social-emotional and conflict resolution skills. Parents mentioned significant changes in their children's behavior, specifically noting a reduction in anger, more effective communication, and greater confidence with emotional regulation and decision making. Family members also benefited from the program, noting that they learned better communication skills that help to repair family relationships.

Perceptions of Program – Reflections from Youth, Parents/Guardians, and Diversion Service Provider

"It was a useful program to help me get through my decision and amend and bring back the relationships I had damaged, especially through the restorative justice circle, that was really helpful."
~ Youth

"[My diversion program] helped with really accepting myself again, really bringing back my relationship with my parents, slowly getting my parents' trust back again, just the overall positive mentality."
~ Youth

"It was almost like [my son] was in therapy, a different level of therapy. It benefitted his mental health and our mental health. It has been so helpful. I don't know, I feel blessed."
~ Parent/Guardian

"You see them seeing themselves growing. They're like, 'A couple months ago, I was so mad, so angry, but now I know what I need in order to not be so upset.'"
~ Diversion Service Provider

Family members and providers also noted that youth were more engaged in school because of participating in the program, and shared stories about youths' improved attendance and grades, and greater involvement in school activities. Family members and staff indicated that these changes are representative of changes that youth made in their lives because of participating in diversion.

Only a 1% improvement was noted for the caring adult relationship goal which did not rise to the level of statistical significance. This protective factor question was specifically worded to ask youth if they knew an adult who could help them find a job. Providers may not focus as deeply on job or career development compared to other youth development goals related to social-emotional development. Regardless, these results run contrary to the relationship-building between providers and youth that was discussed in focus groups. The minimal improvement may also be a result of intake/exit survey administrator and/or youth confusion in responding to this inverse-scaled question.

Diversion's Impact on Youth – Reflections from Parents/Guardians and Diversion Service Providers

"Before we started this program, [my daughter] almost had all fails. Now she's a straight-A student, she's on the volleyball team, and she has more friends now. There's been a lot of impact, a lot of improvement. Not just with school, but with other things, too, like family."
~ Parent/Guardian

"For example, for kids with low GPAs that want to be in sports, we might work with them to get them a tutor, maybe they have a special need, so working with them in those areas so they can understand there's something they have to do to make that shift. Like, some of my clients are working as student workers. That's impressive. And these are legit kids that aren't working because they just can't afford something, but they're just doing it to improve themselves and achieve and graduate. In my opinion, yeah, they're impacted in a positive way."
~ Diversion Service Provider

Providers, youth, and family members expressed that diversion is a transformative experience, with the programs creating an intentional space in youths' lives where they can address their needs, take accountability for past actions, and explore personal goals and creative interests they may have otherwise not pursued. Apart from the growth youth undertake during the program, providers indicated that DYD is improving youths' lives by simply keeping them out of juvenile hall, where they are at risk of becoming gang involved.

Diversion's Impact on Youth – Reflection from a Diversion Service Provider

"One of [the youth] was like, 'Hey, I like jazz music…but I put that part of myself aside' and because of [the music and art] class the guy was like, 'I really like jazz' and he felt safe enough here to do that. Again, that goes back to 'they all need it' - a place where these seeds are being planted for growth. I can't change the environment, but I can help you grow as a person."
~ Diversion Service Provider

Protective Factor Score Changes by Provider

The share of substantially completed and formally enrolled youth with protective score improvement varied across the seven provider sites with available data for each development goal.[38] The variation in the results may be attributable in part to small sample sizes, making results sensitive to small changes in frequencies, and should also be interpreted narrowly as applying to the half of youth with available intake and exit assessments. The share of youth with improvement

[38] Exit protective factor scores were omitted for one provider site due to data collection issues. To preserve this provider's anonymity, legend references were changed from letters of the alphabet to numbers.

in the caring adult relationship development goal was lower than other goals. While it is not verifiable, this result could be because of confusion with the inverse-scaled question. Provider 2 consistently had some of the largest shares of youth showing improvement across protective factors. To a lesser extent, Providers 1 and 5 had higher shares of youth showing improvement as well. Conversely, Provider 4's youth had the lowest share of improvement across protective factors.

Figure 19. Average Youth Protective Factor Scores by Provider

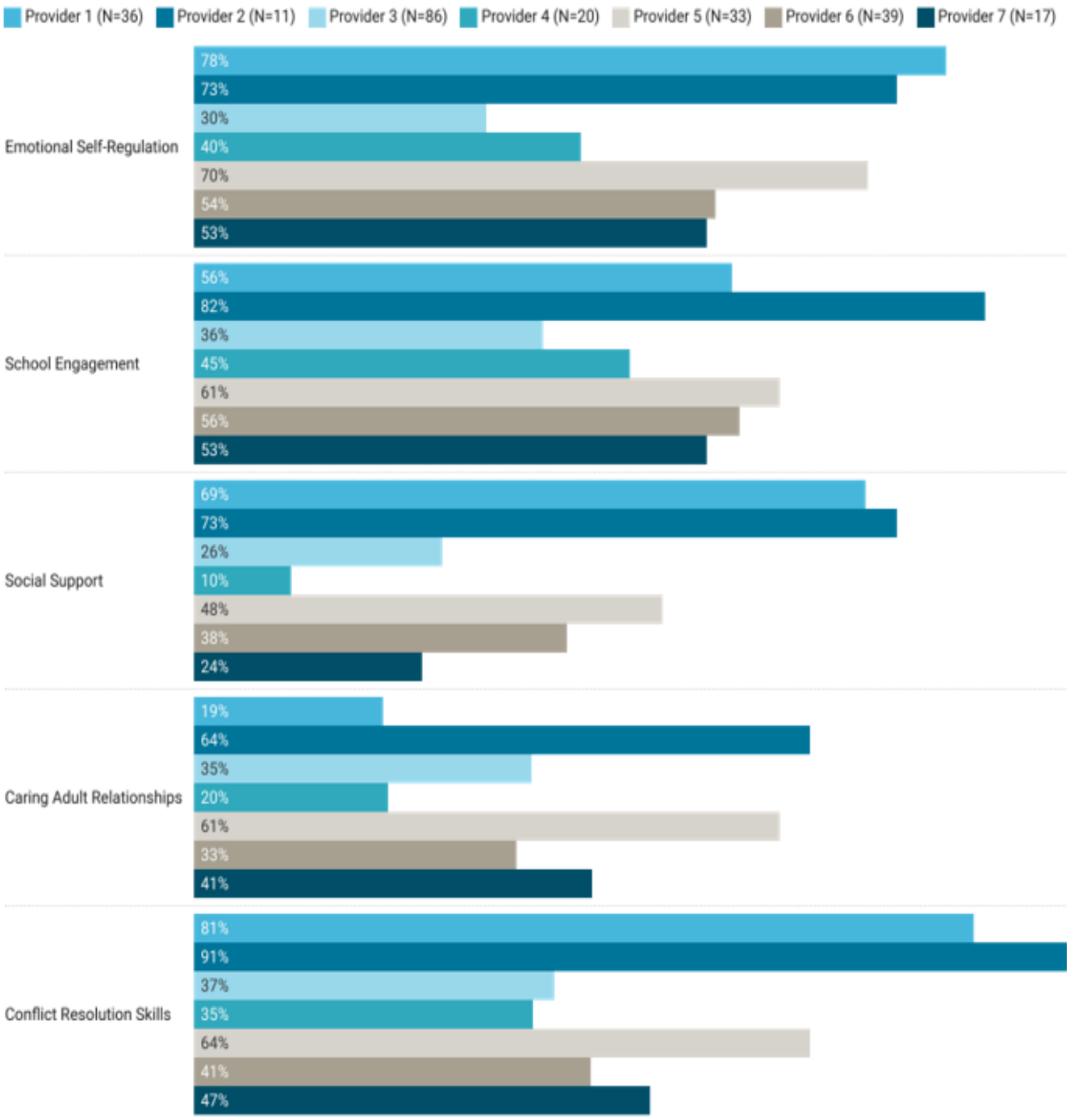
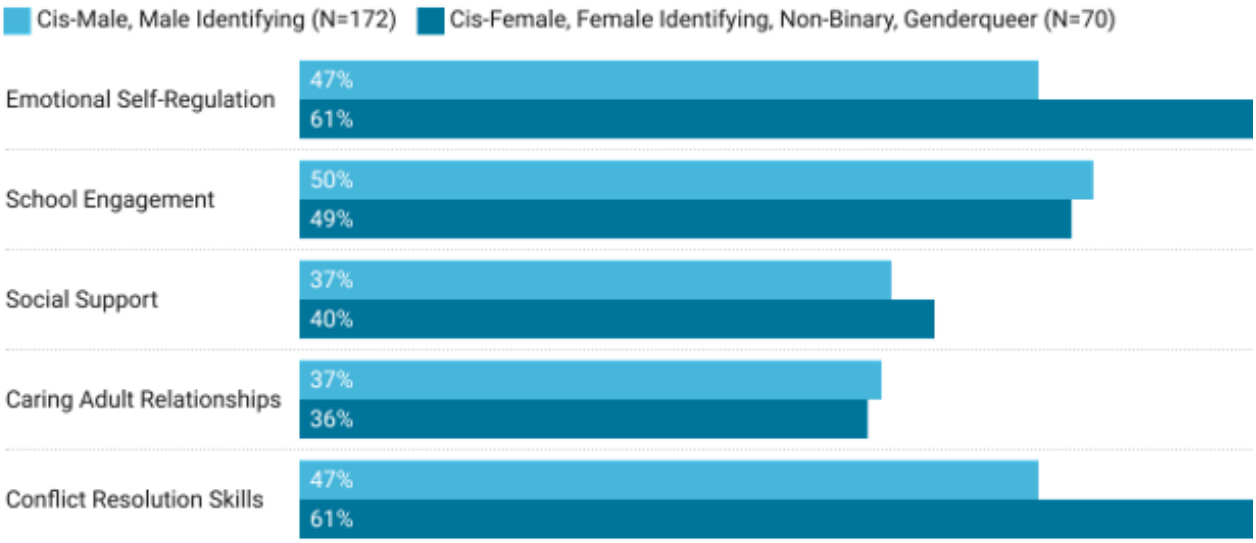


Figure 19 shows varying ranges across provider sites in the share of youth with any protective factor score improvement. Consistent with these findings, average protective score changes between intake and exit also varied with statistical significance across provider sites. These findings show that the observed differences in protective factor score changes are associated with providers and not due to chance alone.

Protective Factor Score Changes by Gender

The share of substantially completed and formally enrolled youth with protective score improvements was consistent across gender identities, except for emotional self-regulation and conflict resolution skills: Female, non-binary, and genderqueer youth improvement was 14% points greater than male youth for those development goals.

Figure 20. Youth Protective Factor Scores by Gender Identity



Accordingly, protective factor scores did not vary by gender identity with statistical significance for most youth development goals using One-Way ANOVA. Average differences between groups did vary with strong statistical significance for emotional self-regulation ($p = 0.02$) meaning there is only a small likelihood that observed differences in absolute frequencies for this protective factor score are due to chance alone and not associated with gender identity.

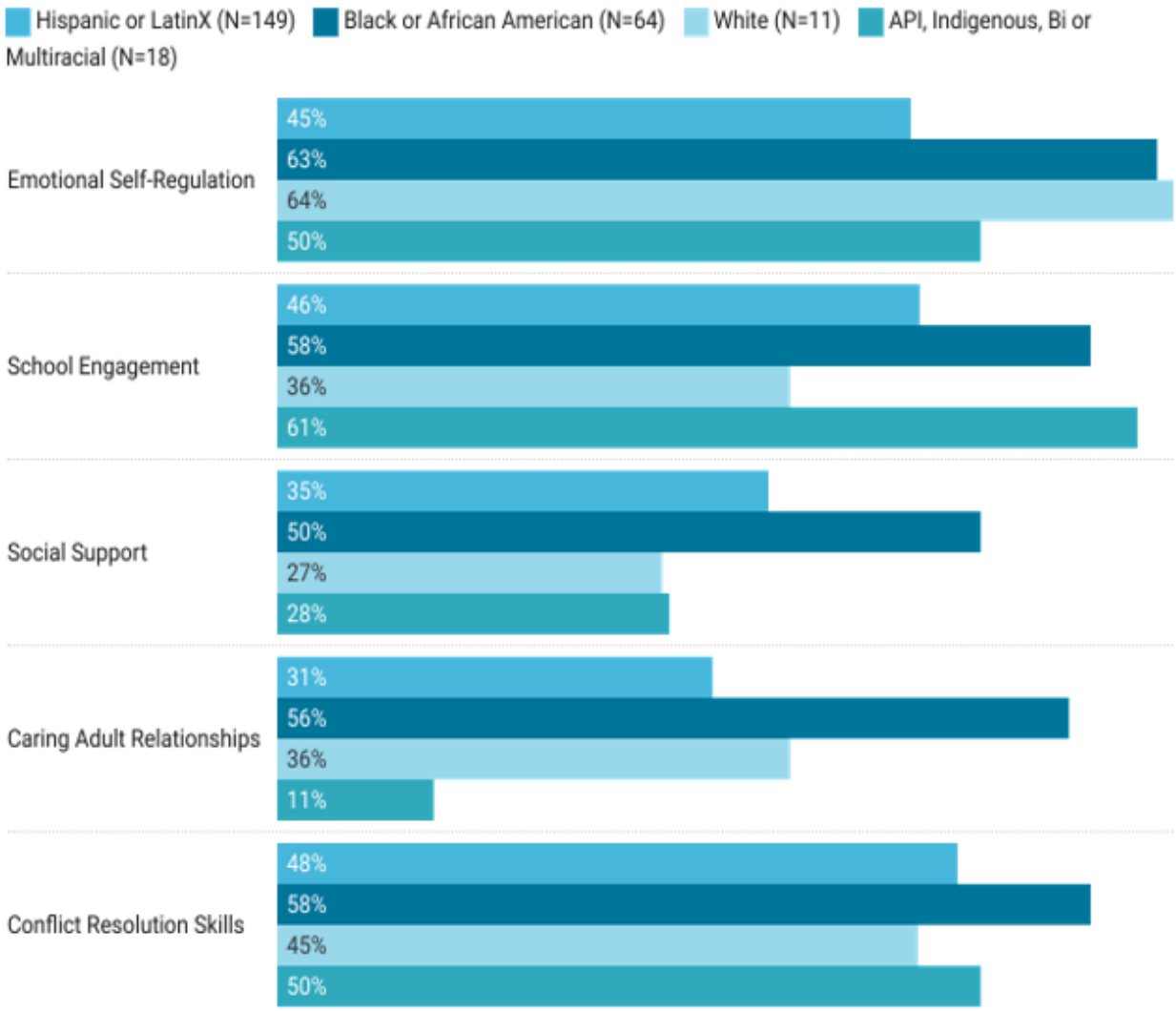
Protective Factor Score Changes by Race/Ethnicity

The share of substantially completed and formally enrolled youth with protective score improvements varied across racial/ethnic identities, ranging from a gap of 45% points for caring adult relationships to 13% points for conflict resolution skills. Black or African American youth typically had the highest share of improvement across development goals, including social support (50% improved), and caring adult relationships (56% improved). Conversely, Hispanic or LatinX youth had low to moderate levels of improvement across four of the five development

goals, reporting the lowest share of improvement for emotional self-regulation specifically (45% improved).

Average factor score changes did not vary by racial/ethnic identity with statistical significance for most youth development goals using One-Way ANOVA. Average differences between groups did vary with strong statistical significance for caring adult relationships ($p < 0.01$). This finding means there is just a small chance that observed differences in absolute frequencies for this protective factor score is due to chance alone and not associated with racial/ethnic identity.

Figure 21. Youth Protective Factor Scores by Racial/Ethnic Identity

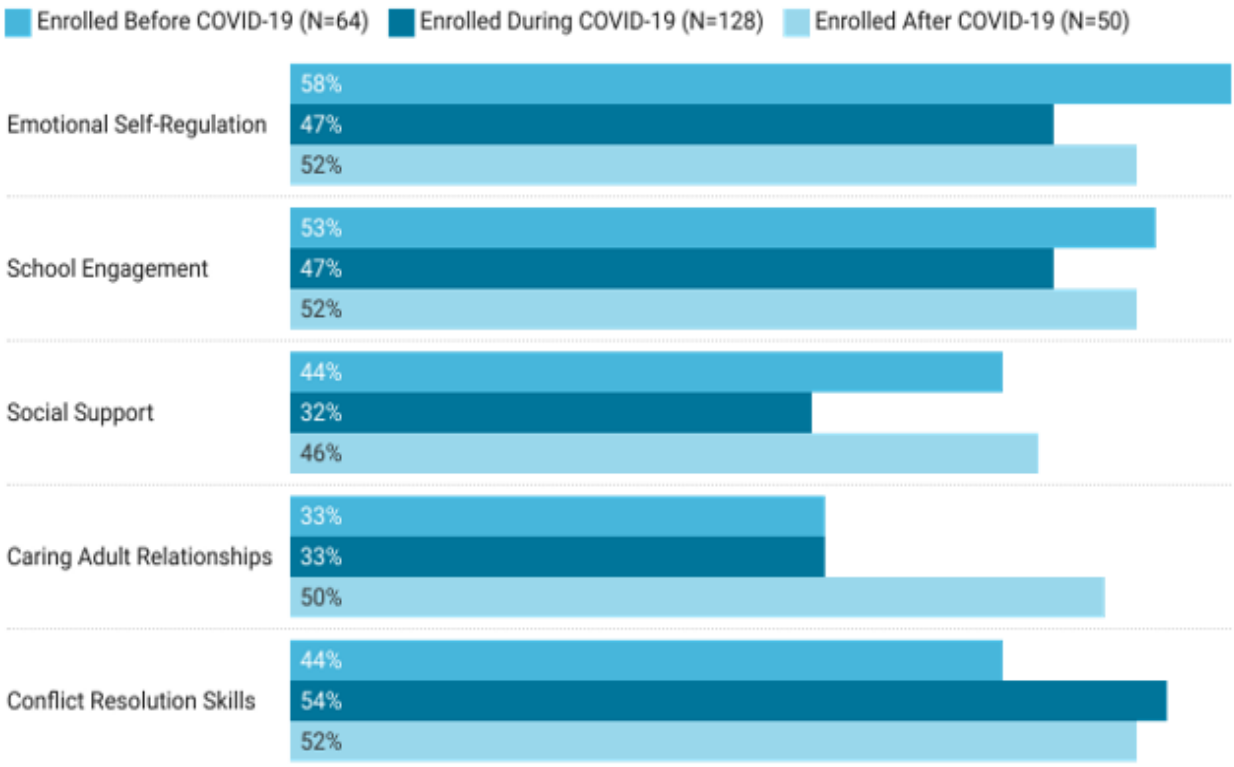


The share of substantially completed and formally enrolled youth with protective score improvements typically varied by just 10% for each COVID-19 enrollment period. Typically, score improvement was lower for youth who enrolled during COVID-19 school closures (i.e., between April 1, 2020, and August 1, 2021), except for conflict resolution skills. This is reflective of COVID-19's negative impact on emotional challenges like anxiety, anger, and depression, in addition to feelings of disconnect from peers and school during remote learning. Although protective factor

score improvement was typically its highest before or after COVID-19 school closures, youth enrolling during COVID-19 has the highest share of conflict resolution improvement.

These differences between COVID-19 enrollment time periods did not rise to the level of statistical significance using One-Way ANOVA to compare the average chance in protective scores for each development goal. This finding means observed differences in satisfaction are likely due to chance.

Figure 22. Share of Youth with Protective Factor Improvement Before, During, and After COVID-19



Repeat Referrals and Recidivism

A particular area of interest for any diversion program is the impact the program may have on reducing youths' future contact with law enforcement. For youth that participated in DYD-funded diversion programs, just 3% (n = 83) of distinct youth referred to diversion (N = 2,406) were referred multiple times. This includes both formally and informally referred youth. Youth referred multiple times were typically referred just twice (93%, n = 77). Since DYD has two primary pathways for youth to receive services—informal referral for services and formal referral for diversion—the following section provides findings for repeat referrals for both groups of youth.

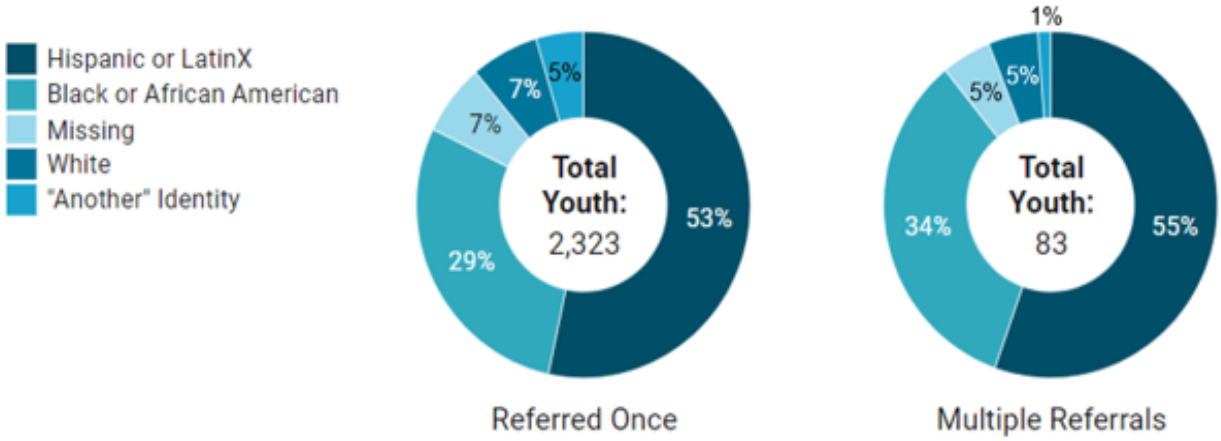
Informally Referred Youth

Due to the nature of an informal referral (i.e., youth whose alleged offense would result in a citation or charges pending), how often informally referred youth were referred again was examined, rather than completing a traditional recidivism analysis since informal youth have not been cited or charged with an offense. This analysis was conducted using DYD program data alone and is

limited by the small number of youths who were referred multiple times. Specifically, the small sample sizes prevented any sub-analysis by demographic characteristics such as race/ethnicity and gender identity. These findings do not precisely identify how many referrals it takes before a youth enrolls in diversion. However, the presented findings indicate that when DYD-served youth have had future contacts with the justice system, youth were referred again for less serious alleged offenses and had greater success towards substantially completing their program requirements.

Among youth that were informally referred (n = 27) and were later referred again, 78% (n = 21) received a second informal referral for services. The research team did not find disparities based on youth characteristics for any youth referred multiple times relative to those who were referred just one time (see Figure 22).[39] Black or African American youth represented a slightly larger share of youth (34%, n = 28) receiving multiple referrals (formal or informal) relative to Black or African American youth with just one referral (29%, n = 669). This small difference did not rise to the level of statistical significance.

Figure 23. Informal Youth Referrals by Racial/Ethnic Identity



Displayed in Figure 23, male-identifying youth represented a larger share of youth (81%, n = 67) receiving multiple referrals (formal or informal) relative to male-identifying youth with just one referral (68%, n = 1,590). Again, this difference did not rise to the level of statistical significance.

Repeat Referrals Following Enrollment

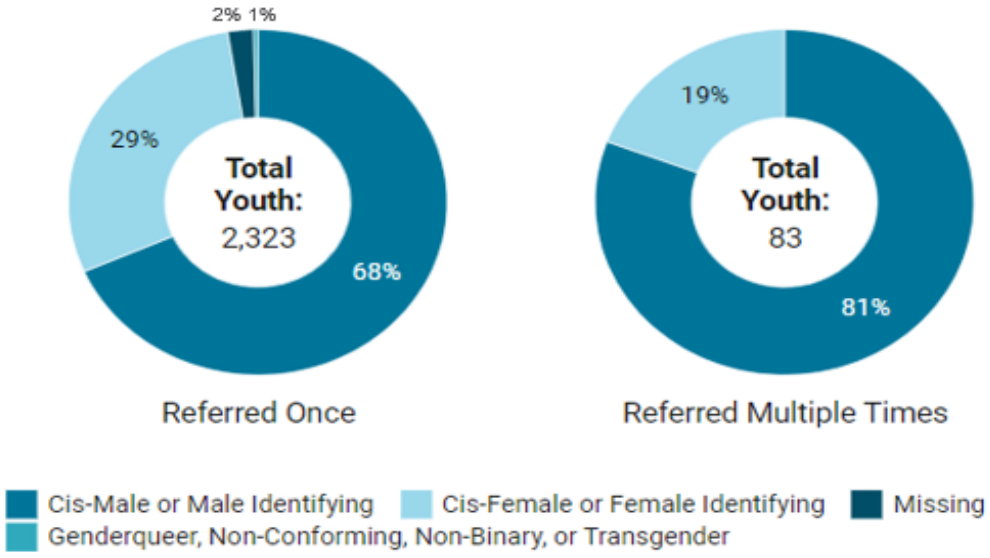
Among youth who were informally referred more than one time (n = 27), nine youth were informally referred and enrolled and then subsequently referred again. At the time of the subsequent referral, six of these nine youths were enrolled for a second round of voluntary participation in services. An additional 10 youth who were informally referred did *not* enroll and were later referred again. Just one of these youths enrolled on a subsequent informal referral.

[39] Youth of "Another" identity include youth that identify as Asian, Pacific Islander, Indigenous, or Bi/Multiracial. These youth were combined into one category for the purposes of this analysis due the small number of youths identifying with any one of these individual racial categories.

Subsequent Referral - Alleged Offense Level

Among youth who were informally referred more than once (n = 27), 81% (n = 22) were initially referred for an alleged misdemeanor, infraction, or status offense. When referred for a second time, an identical share was referred again for these lesser offenses, and 19% (n = 4) were referred for an alleged felony.

Figure 24. Informal Youth Referrals by Gender Identity



Formally Referred Youth Recidivism

Using DYD program data and LA County Probation data, a recidivism analysis to understand diversion's impact on youth who enrolled compared to youth who were referred but did not enroll was completed. An extensive data preparation protocol to match individual youth between data sources, identify recidivism events, and establish sample inclusion criteria for accurate comparisons was developed (see **Technical Appendix A**). These findings are presented below in terms of absolute frequencies for formally referred youth with additional statistical model results to interpret their significance. Please refer to **Technical Appendices B and C** for the sample population characteristics as well as the logit model and marginal effect results for this analysis.

Absolute recidivism frequencies are only displayed in terms of petitions sustained at six months for sub-analyses such as provider, race, and gender to maximize sample sizes. The petitions sustained parameter also minimizes the influence of over-policing in certain communities for the recidivism findings by only examining cases adjudicated delinquent (i.e., juvenile justice equivalent of being found guilty of an offense). In terms of statistical analysis, a binary logit model with marginal effects to measure any differences in recidivism rates between formal youth who did and did not enroll in diversion was used. This model additionally controlled for the following variables to ensure they did not impact the results: gender, race, age at diversion referral, alleged offense level at diversion referral, referral type, referral year, and provider.

While the recidivism analysis for formally referred youth is limited to petitions filed and sustained alone, these findings do indicate that diversion has a positive impact on formally enrolled youths' outcomes that does not vary by youth identity (i.e., race/ethnicity or gender). Additionally, after performing sufficient statistical testing, the research team finds that diversion participation caused the observed reduction in recidivism for enrolled participants. This result indicates that DYD has met its programmatic goal to address demographic disparities in diversion outcomes for youth.

Overall Formal Referral Recidivism

The results of the recidivism analysis show positive effects for those who enrolled and completed diversion successfully. The following discusses recidivism in a way not typically seen in literature or in research reports. Normally, recidivism is framed as a rate of recidivism, or how many people committed recidivism within a timeframe. This analysis frames the conversation differently. Recidivism is discussed as the percentage of youth that did NOT recidivate. This choice was purposeful to shine a positive light on the majority of youth who did not recidivate. Within six months from when a youth completed their diversion program, nearly all formally enrolled youth did not have a petition filed (95%, n = 379) or sustained (96%, n = 384). Additionally, the absolute difference in petitions filed and sustained between youth enrolled/non-enrolled is small (6%) and is not statistically significant.

Similarly, within 12 months of the calculated end of the program, nearly all formally enrolled youth enrolled in diversion still did not have a petition filed (94%, n = 226) or sustained (95%, n = 230). After 12 months, the gap between outcomes for youth enrolled in diversion versus youth who did not enroll diverges more substantially. Specifically, youth who chose not to enroll in diversion were more likely to have petitions filed (18% difference) and to have petitions sustained (14% difference). Statistical analysis confirms there is a statistically significant reduction in recidivism at 12 months for formally enrolled youth.[40]

Figure 25. Percent of Formally Referred Youth Who Did Not Recidivate - Six Months Post-Diversion Program Exit

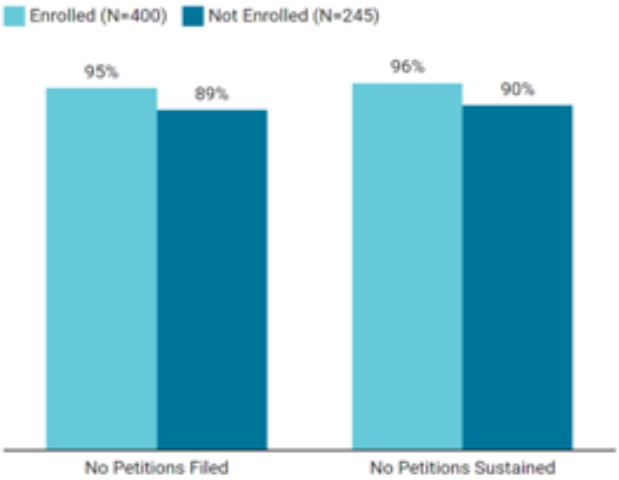
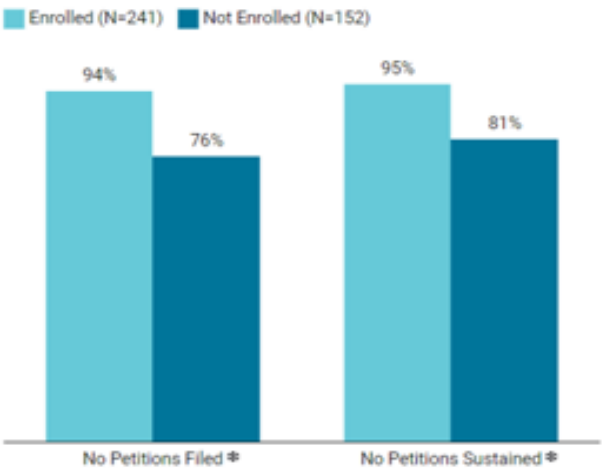


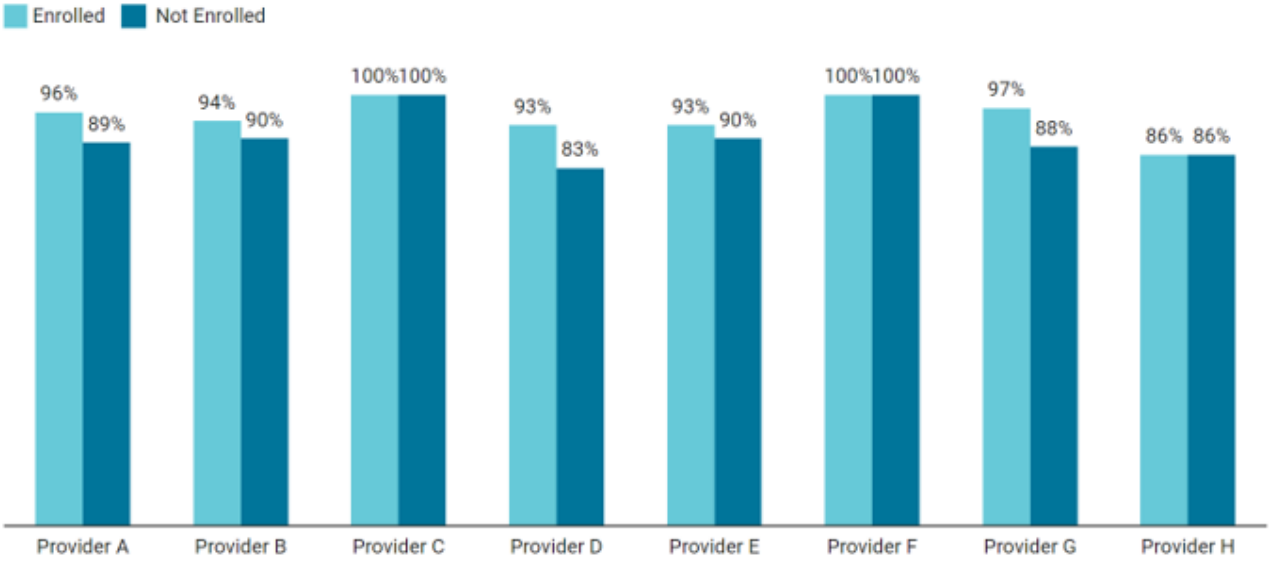
Figure 26. Percent of Formally Referred Youth Who Did Not Recidivate - 12 Months Post-Diversion Program Exit



An **asterisk** * indicates the diversion program's treatment effect was statistically significant at the 0.05 level, meaning there is less than a 5% probability that diversion's observed effect on recidivism is due to chance alone.

[40] Marginal effects model petitions filed at 12 months (p = 0.019); Marginal effects model petitions sustained at 12 months (p = 0.026); See **Technical Appendix B** for presentation of descriptive statistics for the overall sample of formally referred youth used in this analysis and see **Technical Appendix C** for complete logistic regression results.

Figure 27. Percent of Youth Who Did Not Recidivate - Six Months Post-Diversion Exit, by Provider



Recidivism by Provider

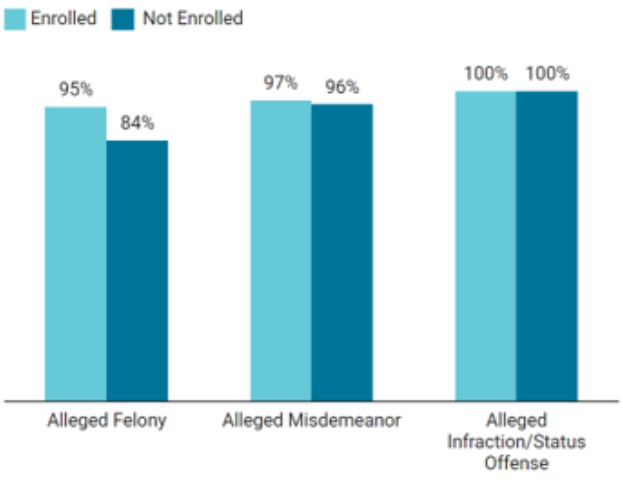
The share of diversion-enrolled youth that did not have a petition sustained within six months of program completion is relatively stable across different provider sites. At least 93% of enrolled youth had no petitions sustained within six months of completion at seven of the eight provider sites–just three percentage points less than the overall share of enrolled youth (i.e., 96%), see Figure 26. While different sites may produce different treatment effect sizes in terms of petitions sustained, these findings are promising in that they indicate youth mostly have similarly high rates of no petitions sustained within six months of program completion.

Recidivism by Alleged Offense Level

The rate of no petitions sustained within six months differed most substantially for enrolled versus not enrolled youth that were referred to DYD for an alleged felony offense (95% vs. 84%). This finding speaks to the greater service needs for youth referred for alleged felonies.

Otherwise, enrolled and not enrolled youth referred for alleged misdemeanors had a nearly identical rate of no petitions sustained within six months (97% vs. 96%) while youth referred for alleged infractions/status offenses had none.

Figure 28. Percent of Youth Who Did Not Recidivate - Six Months Post-Diversion Program Exit by Referral Reason

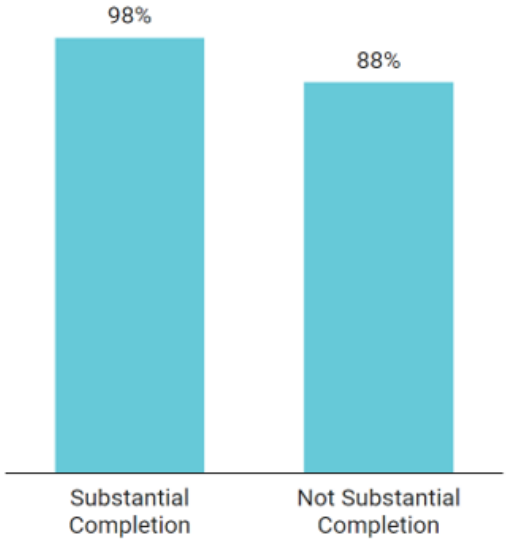


Recidivism by Completion Status for Enrolled Youth

To assess the effect of substantially completing formal diversion, the research team limited the recidivism analysis sample to youth that were enrolled in diversion and had exited the program. A comparison of absolute frequencies in Figure 28 shows that youth who substantially completed diversion did not have a petition sustained at a rate 10% higher than youth that did not substantially complete – greater than the difference in petitions sustained among all enrolled and not enrolled youth (6%).

This finding indicates that program enrollment as a "treatment" does not have the same effect for all youth that participate. This may occur, for example, because youth not substantially completing diversion do not have all their underlying needs addressed.

Figure 29. Percent of Youth Who Did Not Recidivate - Six Months Post-Diversion Program Exit by Completion Status

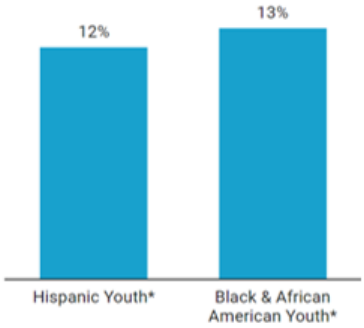


Recidivism by Race/Ethnicity

The share of formally referred and enrolled youth that did not have a petition sustained within six months of program completion is relatively stable across different racial and ethnic groups.

Similarly, RDA's analysis found nearly equivalent marginal treatment effects that were statistically significant for enrolled Hispanic or LatinX youth (p = 0.036) as well as Black or African American youth (p = 0.036). Holding all other control variables constant, being formally referred and Hispanic or LatinX is associated with a 12% decrease in the probability of having a petition sustained within six months of completion and a 13% decrease for enrolled Black or African American youth (See Figure 30). Importantly, these statistical results show that diversion enrollment reduces recidivism for youth regardless of their racial/ethnic identity.

Figure 30. Statistical Diversion Treatment Effect – Recidivism Reduction Six Months Post-Diversion Program Exit by Race/Ethnicity



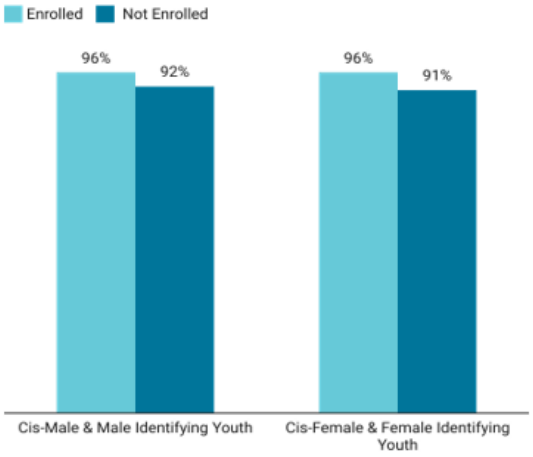
An **asterisk** * indicates the treatment effect is statistically significant at the 0.05 level, meaning there is less than a 5% probability that diversion's observed effect on recidivism is due to chance alone.

Black or African American youth had the largest gap in rates of no petitions sustained for diversion enrolled versus not enrolled youth (92% vs. 82%), followed by Hispanic or LatinX youth (97% vs. 92%). All White and youth of "Another" identity had no petitions sustained regardless of enrollment status.

Recidivism by Gender

The share of diversion-enrolled youth that did not have a petition sustained within six months of program completion is identical across different gender identities examined. Similarly, statistical analysis found equivalent marginal effects that were statistically significant for enrolled and formally referred youth by gender identity categories. Holding all other control variables constant, being formally referred and male-identifying is associated with a 13% decrease on the probability of having a petition sustained within six months of completion for enrolled youth and a 13% decrease for female-identifying youth. Again, this shows that recidivism outcomes are not affected by a youth's identity.

Figure 31. Percent of Youth Who Did Not Recidivate - Six Months Post-Diversion Program Exit by Gender



Subsequent Referral – Alleged Offense Level

Ten (18%) formally referred youths who were referred a second time were initially referred for an alleged felony offense. Of these youth, 60% (n = 6) were referred again for a less serious offense (i.e., misdemeanor, infraction, or status offense). The other 44 (79%) formally referred youths referred again were initially referred for an alleged misdemeanor, infraction, or status offense. Most of these youths were again referred for these lesser offenses.

Conclusions & Recommendations

There are several key findings that have been highlighted at the top of each section of the report. Here, overall conclusions are provided, and recommendations based on the findings from each touchpoint have been made. These recommendations aim to address the identified challenges and build on the successes of the diversion program, promoting equity, continuous improvement, and positive outcomes for all youth involved in diversion in LA County.

Touchpoint 1: Referrals

The quantitative and qualitative findings indicate a need for further examination of the discretionary policies that are in place allowing police officers to use their discretion when making referrals to diversion. The disparities that were uncovered in the stop data analyzed for this report are further exacerbated when youth are not given an equal opportunity to participate in programs like diversion.

Recommendations:

1.1: Continue the collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's Office to **develop record keeping procedures that require a definition for why a youth was not eligible for diversion**.

1.2: In collaboration with local law enforcement and partner agencies **develop and offer agencies training on working with young people**. There is research that has shown that while law enforcement has frequent contact with young people, they do not receive training on working with youth, which limits their ability to respond effectively (Thurau, 2009). DYD could focus efforts on those partners that are currently based in school settings such as the City of El Monte or in the Antelope Valley.

1.3: In the short-term, **establish systematic meetings with law enforcement leadership and patrol to assist in problem-solving recognizing eligible diversion youth**. This can include ongoing systematic aggregate data sharing and reporting discussion regarding administrative tasks such as record sealing and data management.

1.4: Pursue an **expansion of current diversion statutes that define eligibility criteria for diversion to include mandatory referral language**.

1.5: Findings support ongoing monitoring of the use of discretion among police officers when making referral to diversion. DYD should consider **how the diversion program may be able to uncover and counteract any disparity created in police discretion, especially prior to the enactment of mandatory diversion legislation.** This could include but is not limited to the following strategies:

- In collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, develop a protocol that would allow a DYD funded staff member to be placed at each DA's office (all eight satellite locations and the downtown main offices). This DYD staff member would be responsible for fielding calls from law enforcement officers that are unsure if a youth is eligible for diversion, or if they are not in favor of a diversion decision. The latter would allow the DYD staff member to be responsible for informing whether the youth if eligible for diversion.

- The next step would be for DYD to collaborate with other county agencies to open Assessment Centers across the county. These Assessment Centers would allow for moderate and high-risk youth to travel or be brought to a centralized location where they could be provided either prevention services or assessment, case management services for themselves and/or their families who may be exhibiting behaviors that put them at risk for justice system involvement. The centers would also incorporate numerous services and programs in a coordinated effort. This not only provides services to youth, but it also increases accountability among providers and increases the types of services that a youth and their family may be able to access, and at a reduced cost to operate resulting in more positive outcomes. The City and County of San Francisco is currently operating an assessment center similar to this for youth that have already been taken into custody.

Touchpoint 2: Enrollment

Enrollment data underscore the imperative for continued efforts to mitigate racial/ethnic disparities in youth diversion referral. Addressing complexities in the justice involvement landscape requires a multifaceted approach that considers provider-specific dynamics, demographic factors, and potential barriers to enrollment for equitable outcomes in the DYD program. This should not be read as placing the responsibility on diversion service providers but rather, an examination should include a holistic approach about how providers are being supported by DYD as their funder, how providers are ensuring that staff are representative of the youth that they are serving and how they are ensuring that there are meeting the needs of the youth they serve, and how DYD and service providers work with law enforcement partners.

Recommendations:

2.1: Investigate the root causes of racial/ethnic disparities in youth diversion enrollment. For youth that decline enrollment in a specific diversion program, there could be a follow-up procedure by DYD that would reach out to the youth or family to better understand what kept them from enrolling in diversion. This information could be synthesized and shared with the service providers, so they are able to address any issues with the enrollment process.

2.2: Assist programs in reducing barriers they face in youth enrollment by assisting with job posting, training on additional interventions (e.g., responsivity factors, cultural responsiveness, risk and need assessment administration and interpretation).

2.3: Adopting a risk and needs assessment that can be administered at the time of enrollment would be valuable to diversion service providers. Recognizing the literature on challenges related to cultural responsivity and equity, the right risk and needs assessment would allow service providers to be able to understand the risk level of youth that have been referred to the program to be able to tailor services accordingly. It is possible that most youth that are referred to formal diversion are low risk youth; however, should youth that are referred are assessed to be moderate or high risk that service provider is better equipped to understand what that youth's needs are, the intensity of the services that the youth need. This will also allow the service provider to immediately identify if they need to find additional services or linkages for that youth and what level of services that youth may need.

2.4: One of the most difficult hurdles that diversion service providers face during the enrollment process is to complete the enrollment packet that includes DYD specific information and information required by the service provider. In collaboration with the service providers, DYD should work with the providers to **establish best practices for being responsive to youth who may not be able to complete the packet in one sitting. This will be especially important should DYD adopt a standardized and validated assessment tool.**

Touchpoint 3: Care Plans & Service Delivery

The findings related to Care Plans and Service Delivery shed light on how equitable service provision, disparities, and challenges manifest within the diversion program. They highlight both areas of success and those needing improvement.

Recommendation:

3.1: Provide training to diversion service providers that will equip them to interpret and apply the risk and need assessment that was completed during the enrollment period for care planning. The risk and need assessment will provide insight into whether care plan goals and youth goals are reflective of what needs are most likely to impact the youth in the future.

3.2 Access to DYD diversion service providers has expanded across LA County, during the evaluation period (January 2022 – February 2023). However, diversion service providers are not equitably disbursed, nor does every youth have access to the same type of diversion programming, such as a restorative justice program. There are several reasons for the unequitable distribution of diversion program sites, including a contracting process not directly owned by DYD but rather the County of Los Angeles and when a diversion service provider is interested in contracting with DYD, their local law enforcement agency must be interested as well. In addition to the recommendations listed above (e.g., mandatory diversion referral) that may assist with the continued growth and access to diversion services, **DYD may consider approaching current partners about funding the expansion of their service areas, creating alternative meeting locations for groups or case management sessions, and providing transportation for youth.** Note: this recommendation may only be applicable to larger jurisdictions such as the LA County Sheriff's Department and LA Police Department where there may not be jurisdictional issues.

Touchpoint 4: Program Completion

The findings reveal that diversion service providers have achieved commendable success in assisting youth through diversion programs. This success is evident in high completion rates, positive program satisfaction, and adaptability during difficult circumstances. The evaluation emphasizes the need for ongoing improvement, especially in addressing disparities, enhancing communication processes, particularly regarding record sealing, and upholding a commitment to fair outcomes for all youth involved in diversion programs.

Recommendation

4.1: There are several policy recommendations that could be pursued to improve the record sealing process. Locally, DYD can **amend their policy to require the tracking of**

record sealing notice and communication by diversion service providers to note when they informed law enforcement and to begin a tracking process of how often they followed up with their partner agency. However, this would be potentially time intensive for the service providers, additional funding should be considered. An additional option is for DYD to lobby local and state government to pass policy that would create an enforcement and reporting arm.

Touchpoint 5: Impact

Outcome data demonstrated the effectiveness of diversion in promoting positive changes in protective factors, reducing repeat referrals, and mitigating recidivism among enrolled youth. The nuanced insights provided by this analysis contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the program's impact and ongoing improvements to ensure positive outcomes for youth involved in diversion programs.

Recommendations:

5.1: To support future evaluation and further assess how youth are benefitting from the services that youth are participating in, the program would benefit from **adopting a new Protective Factor Scale once the current data storage system allows.** While the current protective factor scale is the most widely used scale, there are additional scales available that also measure a youth's resiliency. This may be a valuable measure for diversion programs as they try to understand and connect with youth. Should DYD develop their own protective factor scale it will be important it is validated on a population of youth in LA County.

5.2: To support DYD's ongoing commitment to serving youth across LA County and advancing continuous quality improvement (CQI), continue to embrace a proactive approach to evaluation to measure the following:

- **Continuous Quality Improvement:** Cultivating a culture of ongoing evaluation empowers DYD and the diversion service providers to systematically assess and refine the diversion program. Regular monitoring of processes and outcomes enables DYD to pinpoint areas for improvement and implement tailored interventions, thereby optimizing the quality of services provided to youth.

- **Efficiency and Effectiveness:** Through continual evaluation, we can assess the efficiency and effectiveness of diversion interventions. By analyzing data on program implementation and outcomes, the short- and long-term impact on youth who participate in diversion can be assessed, in comparison to those youth who are not referred are you decline participation.

- **Evidence-Based Decision Making:** Continuous evaluation furnishes us with empirical evidence to inform decision-making processes. By meticulously collecting and analyzing data on program effectiveness, participant experiences, and stakeholder feedback, we can make well-informed decisions regarding program design, resource allocation, and strategic priorities, ensuring that our efforts are grounded in evidence-based practices. By continuing to weave in areas of innovative research and evaluation practice, such as Participatory Action Research, DYD will be able to ensure that youth and community voices are

represented and that diversion services are both evidence-based and responsive to the unique needs of communities across the County.

- **Adaptation to Changing Needs:** The needs of youth involved in diversion programs are dynamic and multifaceted. Continuous evaluation enables DYD to remain responsive to these evolving needs. By regularly assessing the effectiveness of programs in addressing current challenges and opportunities, DYD can adapt strategies and interventions to remain relevant and impactful in diverting youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

- **Demonstration of Progress:** Engaging in ongoing evaluation will allow DYD to transparently demonstrate its commitment to progress and accountability. By documenting improvements in program outcomes over time, DYD can showcase the positive impact of diversion initiatives to stakeholders, including funders, policymakers, and the broader community, thereby fostering trust and support for our mission.

- **Sustainability and Growth:** Effective evaluation is pivotal for ensuring the long-term sustainability and growth of diversion efforts. By continuously enhancing the quality and impact of diversion programs, DYD enhances credibility, attracts additional resources, and fosters collaborative partnerships, thereby expanding capacity to divert youth from the juvenile justice system.

Cost Benefit Analysis

Executive Summary

Overview

Cost-benefit analysis is a calculation of the advantages and disadvantages of one course of action as opposed to doing something else.[41] In the context of juvenile diversion, measuring the cost-effectiveness of alternatives to traditional crime prevention strategies can address direct savings to the justice system, reductions in violence perpetrated against potential victims, and beneficial impacts on a person's quality of life.[42] Policymakers can use a CBA to allocate limited funding to juvenile justice programs based on their economic efficiency (i.e., cost savings).[43]

However, a cost-benefit analysis may not accurately capture a program's true impact, particularly in the context of programs that intentionally address participants' prosocial attitudes and behaviors that are difficult to assign a monetary value. In the case of youth diversion—in which programs aim to positively impact youth, families, and communities by promoting protective factors (e.g., conflict management, social-emotional wellbeing, emotional regulation) and discourage future engagement in harmful behaviors—intangible impacts that diversionary interventions may have on youth are difficult to assign a monetary value.

Highlights

RDA Consulting (RDA) completed a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) as a component of the evaluation of Los Angeles (LA) County's Department of Youth Development's (DYD) diversion program. The purpose of this CBA is to understand the cost savings generated by DYD's diversion program model compared to traditional youth justice system involvement.

This report communicates to stakeholders and partners the monetary value and cost-effectiveness of investing in DYD's diversion program while considering the challenges associated with weighing program costs against benefits in the context of a youth diversion program (i.e., non-monetary or intangible benefits associated with program participation). Although we know that adverse psychosocial effects are associated with juvenile justice system contact,[44] these benefits have not been monetized for consideration in the program benefit calculation. Similarly, although research suggests that lifetime benefits are associated with preventing juvenile justice system contact in increased connection to education, improved social-emotional skills, improved mental health, and more; these benefits are incorporated with qualitative data but have not been monetized in this report.

Results from the cost-benefit analysis show that DYD's program:

- Costs an estimated **$13,646 per youth** enrolled in DYD.
- Generates approximately **$40,000 in net savings per youth served**, with total program savings of about $300 million (in 2022 dollars) between 2017 and 2026.
- Generates savings from future juvenile justice system contacts that are avoided:

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[41] Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center. (2002). Program evaluation briefing series: Cost-benefit analysis for juvenile justice programs. US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
[42] Zagar, R. J., Grove, W. M., & Busch, K. G. (2013). Delinquency best treatments: How to divert youths from violence while saving lives and detention costs. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, *31*(3), 381-396.
[43] Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center. (2002). Program evaluation briefing series: Cost-benefit analysis for juvenile justice programs. US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
[44] Hodges, K., Martin, L. A., Smith, C., & Cooper, S. (2011). Recidivism, costs, and psychosocial outcomes for a post-arrest juvenile diversion program. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, (50)*7, 447-465.

- **Savings from Diverted Arrests:** $49,096 per diverted arrest[45]
- **Savings from Future Avoided Arrests:** $65,016 per arrest
- **Savings from Future Avoided Adjudications:** $61,501 per adjudication

Diversion generates large program savings and is cost-effective from a financial perspective. These findings are consistent regardless of the key parameter estimates used. Qualitative data indicates the program has produced additional non-monetary benefits while generating significant changes in participants' lives that further enhance the program's value. Youth and their family members shared the program has helped youth to make better decisions, manage their emotions, handle conflict, and communicate with others. Youth have also increased their engagement at school and improved their grades because of participating in diversion.

Background & Purpose

As a component of the evaluation of Los Angeles (LA) County's Department of Youth Development's (DYD) diversion program, RDA Consulting (RDA) completed a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) to understand the cost savings generated by DYD's diversion program model since the program began incurring costs in 2017, compared to traditional youth justice system involvement. When faced with competing options, policymakers can use a CBA to allocate limited funding to juvenile justice programs based on their economic efficiency (i.e., cost savings).[46] This report communicates to stakeholders and partners the monetary value and cost-effectiveness of investing in DYD's diversion program. Other RDA-prepared evaluation components, such as the Diversion Program Process and Implementation Report[47] as well as the Outcome and Equity Report, communicate the non-monetary value of diversion reported by youth in terms of connection to needed services, improvements in protective factors, record sealing, and detailed recidivism analysis findings.

To ensure that the CBA presents a thorough accounting of LA County's applicable juvenile justice system costs and to estimate the monetary savings DYD's diversion program generates, the following costs were identified, and activities completed by RDA:

- Identified costs associated with justice system involvement for youth in LA County from arrest through adjudication and disposition.
- Obtained program financial data covering a ten-year period (i.e., 2017-2026) for the DYD diversion program's current and estimated costs.
- Analyzed program costs concerning program outcomes (e.g., youth diverted and reduced likelihood for re-arrest).

[45] For the purposes of this study, diverted arrests are the initial arrests youth avoided by participating in DYD's diversion program. Future avoided arrests are any subsequent arrests that may occur following diversion participation.

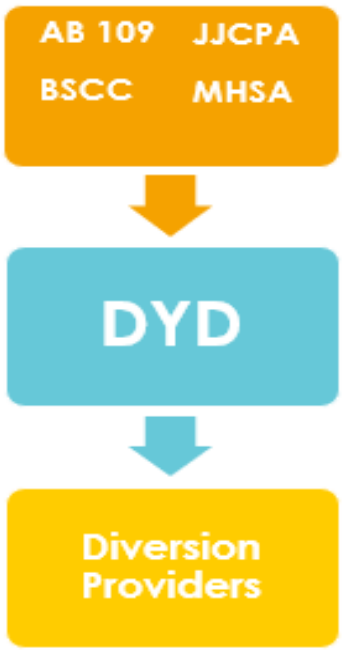
[46] Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center. (2002). Program evaluation briefing series: Cost-benefit analysis for juvenile justice programs. US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

[47] RDA Consulting (2022/2023). LA County Department of Youth Development - Diversion Program Process and Implementation Evaluation. Retrieved from: https://dyd.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/DYD-Process-and-Implementation-Evaluation.pdf

Diversion Funding Model & Literature Review

As shown in Figure 1, the DYD diversion program receives money from four primary sources including AB 109 Realignment funding, the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), LA County's Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) base and growth funds, and the California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The funds are directed to DYD to pay for staffing, software, and consulting services to provide diversion program management and accountability to ensure effective and equitable service delivery. The majority of DYD's funding is earmarked for diversion services to be provided by community-based contracted providers who work directly with referred youth. DYD pays its diversion providers per case manager and caps the number of cases each can have on their caseload. Measuring the cost-effectiveness of alternatives to traditional crime prevention strategies can address direct savings to the justice system, reductions in violence perpetrated against potential victims, and beneficial impacts on a person's quality of life.[48] Research has established that diversion programs such as DYD's generate cost savings because of the lower costs associated with serving youth compared to the traditional system, in addition to reductions in recidivism. Investing in programs designed to address thoughts, behaviors, and needs of youth that will then potentially result in the prevention of continued behavior, or likelihood for their involvement in situations where they are at greater risk of contact with law enforcement, may translate into savings for taxpayers and reduce the costs incurred by states associated with processing youth through the traditional juvenile justice system.[49]

Figure 1. DYD Diversion Funding Model



In addition to its lower operational costs, when diversion programs reduce future youth recidivism by addressing their needs, fewer arrests, processing, courts, and confining youth results in more significant cost-savings. In fact, cost-benefit analyses of diversionary interventions have found that programs like DYD generate substantial cost savings to states.[50] For example, one study estimated that $28,000 in cost-savings are generated for every future juvenile arrest avoided.[51] Depending on local jurisdiction costs, investing in effective juvenile diversion programs for can yield overall savings of $1,900 to $31,200 per youth served.[52]

[48] Zagar, R. J., Grove, W. M., & Busch, K. G. (2013). Delinquency best treatments: How to divert youths from violence while saving lives and detention costs. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, *31*(3), 381-396.
[49] Greenwood, P. (2008). Prevention and intervention programs for juvenile offenders. *The Future of Children*, 185-210.
[50] Aos, S., Phipps, P., Barnoski, R., & Lieb, R. (2001). The Comparative Costs and Benefits of Programs to Reduce Crime. Version 4.0.
[51] Roman, J. K., Sundquist, A., Butts, J. A., Chalfin, A., and Tidd, S. (2010). Cost-benefit analysis of Reclaiming Futures. A Reclaiming Futures national evaluation report. Portland, OR: Reclaiming Futures National Program Office, Portland State University.
[52] Aos, S., Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M., Pennucci, A. (2004). Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for Youth: Technical Appendix. Document No. 04-07-3901. Washington state: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Weighing the costs associated with a program's implementation against the benefits of its outcomes can be challenging when applied to juvenile diversion programs.[53] Diversion programs aim to positively impact youth, families, and communities by promoting protective factors (e.g., conflict management, social-emotional wellbeing, emotional regulation). Additionally, diversion programs are working toward the goal of helping youth to avoid thought patterns, behaviors, and situations that may bring them into repeated contact with law enforcement and the legal system. These intangible impacts that diversionary interventions may have on youth are difficult to assign monetary value.

Although the literature primarily centers around measuring the effectiveness of diversion programs at reducing recidivism,[54] a smaller body of research suggests that diversion can positively impact a person's trajectory (e.g., employment, educational attainment, family functioning) and reduce a person's likelihood of incarceration as an adult.[55]

It has been established that repeated unnecessary interactions with authoritative institutions or figures can negatively impact youth.[56] Negative psychosocial functioning is associated with juvenile justice system contact, so it is important to measure the impact diversion programs might have on youths' social and emotional wellbeing, in addition to more traditional assessments of recidivism.[57]

Research and program evaluations should continue to examine the alternate impacts diversion programs have on youth, in addition to a program's effectiveness in reducing delinquency and recidivism compared to traditional system processing. This is of particular import because diversion remains less expensive than traditional processing, whether or not diversion programs are more effective or similarly effective in reducing delinquency and/or recidivism.[58] Although these additional impacts (e.g., program adherence, educational attainment, mental health improvements) are not associated with a monetary value, they may be examined in conjunction with more traditional assessments of program efficacy to develop a holistic understanding of program impact.[59] Therefore, for the purposes of this report, non-monetary values will be incorporated via impact statements shared during focus groups and interviews.

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[53] Ray, J. V., & Childs, K. (2015). Juvenile diversion. In M.D. Krohn & J. Lane (Eds.), The handbook of juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice (pp. 422-438). Wiley Blackwell.

[54] Mears, D.P., Cochran, J.C, Greenman, S.J., Bhati, A.S., & Greenwald, M.A. (2011). Evidence on the effectiveness of juvenile court sanctions. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *39*, 509–520.

[55] Ray, J. V., & Childs, K. (2015). Juvenile diversion. In M.D. Krohn & J. Lane (Eds.), The handbook of juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice (pp. 422-438). Wiley Blackwell.

[56] Jackson, D. B., Testa, A., & Vaughn, M. G. (2020). Low self-control and legal cynicism among at-risk youth: An investigation into direct and vicarious police contact. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *57*(6), 741-783.

[57] Hodges, K., Martin, L. A., Smith, C., & Cooper, S. (2011). Recidivism, costs, and psychosocial outcomes for a post-arrest juvenile diversion program. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, *50*(7), 447-465.

[58] Ray, J. V., & Childs, K. (2015). Juvenile diversion. In M.D. Krohn & J. Lane (Eds.), The handbook of juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice (pp. 422-438). Wiley Blackwell.

[59] Hodges, K., Martin, L.A., Smith, C., & Cooper, S. (2011). Recidivism, costs, and psychosocial outcomes for a post-arrest juvenile diversion program. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, *50*, 447–465; Sullivan, C.J., Dollard, N., Sellers, B., & Mayo, J. (2010). Rebalancing response to school-based offenses: A civil citation program. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, *8*, 279–294.

YDD CBA Model

The CBA estimates LA County DYD's monetary program value by tabulating all diversion program-related costs as well as the program's benefits in terms of diverting youth from the traditional justice system and reduced future recidivism. The study is specific to LA County's local context. In addition to calculating program costs directly from DYD financial data, this study incorporates local juvenile case processing probabilities, arrest distributions, and justice system costs to estimate program benefits. Shown in its most basic form in Figure 2, YDD's program value is calculated by subtracting program costs from calculated program benefits.

Key Definitions:

Case Processing Probabilities: the likelihood of a legal case's movement through the justice system, (e.g., the share of petitions filed following an arrest for juvenile cases).

Arrest Distribution: the share of total arrests made in each alleged offense category.

Justice System Costs: the costs incurred to justice system partners during the investigation (i.e., arrest, pre-adjudication detention), adjudication, and disposition (i.e., detention or Probation) of a legal case.

Figure 2. CBA Model

YDD Benefit Components

Program benefits from the YDD program are the future savings generated from reduced interactions with the traditional juvenile justice system (i.e., reduced arrests and adjudications) and program savings associated with diverting youth. Of note, program participants' benefits, such as improved social-emotional regulation, are not included because the research literature has not been able to place a monetary value on these outcomes for consideration in a cost-benefit analysis.

1. **Youth Diverted:** The YDD diversion program generates benefits in terms of diverting youth from further case processing following contact with law enforcement.[60] For this report, the monetary benefit associated with diverting youth away from the justice system is calculated by adding avoided pre-sentencing and post-sentencing costs. When combined, these avoided costs constitute a program financial benefit. Although we know that adverse psychosocial effects are associated with juvenile justice system contact,[61] these benefits have not been monetized for consideration in the program benefit calculation.
2. **Reduced Future Arrests:** This benefit captures the value of arrests avoided in the future because of youth participation in diversion. Research literature shows that diversion

[60] "Case processing" refers to a legal case's movement through the traditional justice system, (e.g., a petition filed following an arrest for juvenile cases).
[61] Hodges, K., et al. (2011). Recidivism, costs, and psychosocial outcomes, 447-465.

programming can help reduce future arrests by figures ranging from 10% to 32% points.[62] When new arrests are reduced for diversion participants, future financial costs to the traditional justice system at the pre-sentencing and post-sentencing phase are avoided, in addition to any victim costs. These combined avoided costs from future arrest constitute a financial program benefit.

3. **Reduced Future Adjudications:** This is the value of adjudications avoided in the future because of youth participation in diversion. This research team's companion Outcome and Equity report found that participation in diversion is associated with fewer new adjudications relative to youth that did not participate.[63] When new adjudications are reduced for diversion participants, future financial costs to the traditional justice system at the post-sentencing phase are avoided, in addition to any victim costs. These combined avoided costs from future adjudication represent a financial program benefit.

YDD Cost Components

Program costs considered for this CBA include the following costs required to operate LA County's YDD program:

1. **YDD Staff:** Salaries for LA County staff working directly on the YDD team, additional costs associated with office supplies for these staff, training, conferences, and related travel.
2. **Software:** Refers to YDD's website and the data management software costs. The program's data management software is used by referring law enforcement partners, providers, and YDD staff to process youth referrals, record case management details and program outcomes, and monitor implementation.
3. **Consulting Services:** Includes the cost of hiring external evaluators such as RDA and other consultants who provide programmatic and legal consultation.
4. **Provider Payments:** The most significant source of DYD's costs is payments to contracted community-based organizations providing case management services to YDD youth.

[62] The 10%-point estimate is calculated as the average difference between youth not participating in diversion (41.3%) and those participating in diversion (31.5%) from Wilson, H., Hoge, R. (2013). The effect of youth diversion programs on recidivism: A meta-analytic review. *Crim Justice Behavior, 40*(5), 497-518. The article is a meta-analysis of 73 programs nationwide.; The 32%-point estimate is calculated as the difference between youth not participating in diversion (43%, average) and those participating in diversion (11%) according to a study published by Centinela Youth Services (accessed at the following link: https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/121501.pdf), one of YDD's provider partners.

[63] RDA's Outcome and Equity report identified a 9% reduction in adjudications for YDD formally enrolled youth participating in diversion when compared to formally referred youth that did not enroll.

Methodology

This CBA has four integral cost estimates, including program costs incurred from operating diversion and the program benefits (i.e., savings) from diverting youth and reducing recidivism in LA County–the following section details how cost estimates were measured.[64] Taken together, these estimates are used to measure the net value, or the total value of the investment, in DYD's diversion program using the parameters and sensitivity analyses described in this section.

Measuring the Cost of Diversion

Diversion program costs are calculated in terms of operating the LA County YDD program since it started to incur costs in 2017. Described in the previous section, the comprehensive cost measurement for this study includes YDD staffing, program software, consulting services, and diversion provider payments. To measure program costs, YDD provided the research team with budget actuals for 2017-2018 through 2021-2022 fiscal years and supplied budget estimates for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years.[65] Taken together, these budget actuals and projections estimate YDD's program costs through its launch period, first cohort, and second cohort.[66] As a note, YDD did not begin to officially serve youth until April 2019 during its first cohort.

Measuring the Benefits of Diversion

Program benefits are calculated in terms of the future savings generated from reduced interactions with the traditional juvenile justice system (i.e., reduced arrests and adjudications) and program savings associated with diverting youth. Refer to **Technical Appendix D** for additional information about the data sources used to generate these estimates.

Estimating LA County Juvenile Justice System Costs Avoided

Program benefit calculations were adapted from the "Reclaiming Futures" (2010) CBA methodology.[67] Following this approach, YDD program benefits from reduced recidivism are estimated across 22 offense categories in three parts: **(1) pre-sentencing, (2) post-sentencing, and (3) victim costs.** The basic construction for each of these components is outlined in Figures 3 and 4 and form the basis of cost estimates for all program benefits.

Pre-Sentencing Estimation

The pre-sentencing stage includes a young person's arrest, detention, and adjudication costs. Shown in **Figure 3**, average hours per arrest for each offense category are multiplied by average hourly wages to determine the cost of arrest.[68] The cost of pre-adjudication detention is calculated as share of youth detained pre-adjudication multiplied by the maximum number of days a youth may be detained prior to adjudication and the

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[64] Additional details on data sources used for these cost estimates and data sources for arrest distributions, recidivism estimates, and projected youth enrolled can be found in the **Technical Appendix D**.

[65] The LA County fiscal year starts on July 1 and ends June 30.

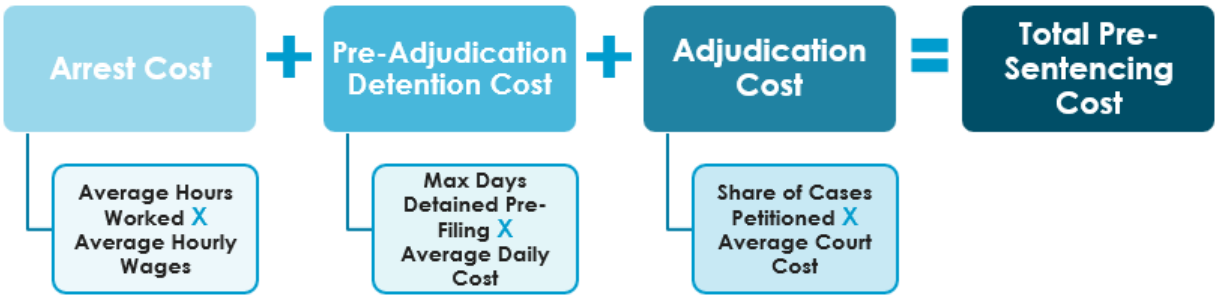
[66] The "program launch" refers to the period between 2017 and 2019 when LA County was establishing the YDD program but had not yet served any youth. The first "cohort" referenced refers to the first round of contracts DYD secured with community-based providers between 2019 and 2022. The second cohort refers to the group of contracted providers DYD began a partnership with in mid-2022. Other than here in the CBA, the second cohort was no included in the evaluation.

[67] Roman, J. K., Sundquist, A., Butts, J. A., Chalfin, A., & Tidd, S. (2010). Cost-benefit analysis of Reclaiming Futures. A Reclaiming Futures national evaluation report. Portland, OR: Reclaiming Futures National Program Office, Portland State University.

[68] Hours worked estimates derived from Justex Systems, Inc. (2014). Houston Police Department: Operational staffing model. Hourly wage estimates calculated from FY21-22 City of LA budget. See pages 110-112 of Technical Appendix D for additional detail.

average daily cost of pre-adjudication detention in LA County.[69] Finally, the share of cases petitioned by offense category is multiplied by the average cost in LA County to adjudicate petitions filed in juvenile court.[70] Arrest, pre-adjudication detention, and adjudication costs are added together to estimate total pre-sentencing costs for each offense category.

Figure 3. Pre-Sentencing Estimation

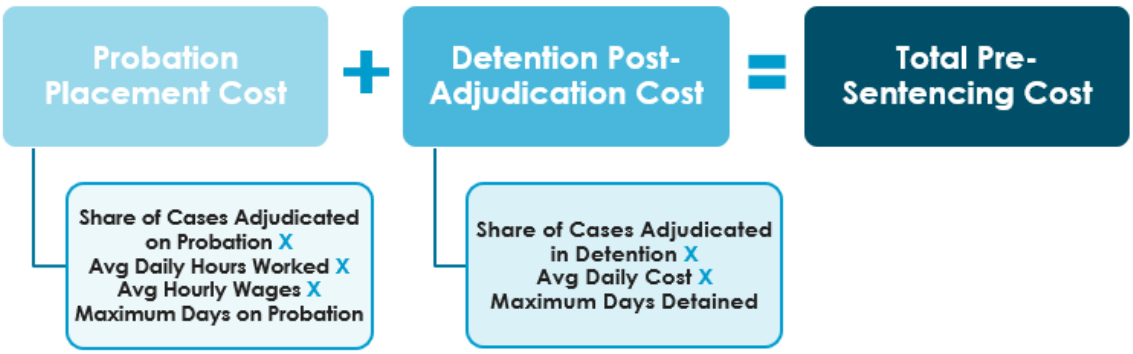


Post-Sentencing Estimation

The post-sentencing stage includes Probation placement and post-adjudication detention costs for adjudicated youths. Outlined in **Figure 4**, the cost of Probation placements is estimated by multiplying the share of youth adjudicated and placed on Probation by the average daily cost of Probation supervision and maximum days a youth may be placed on Probation without violations or a new charge.[71] Next, the cost of detention is estimated by multiplying the share of youth adjudicated and detained by the average daily cost of post-adjudication detention, and maximum days a youth might be detained.[72] Probation and detention placement costs are added together to estimate total post-sentencing costs for each offense category.

[69] Case process probabilities estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021). Average cost of detention estimated using BSCC FY17-18 average daily cost of youth detention for LA County juvenile halls. Maximum days detained taken from CA Welf. & Inst. Code § 636(a). See pages 110-112 of Technical Appendix D for additional detail.
[70] LA County Juvenile Delinquency Services costs derived from Superior Court FY21-22 program expenditures and divided by juvenile delinquency filings obtained from FY21-22 court statistics report. Case process probabilities estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021); See pages 110-112 of Technical Appendix D for additional detail.
[71] The share of youth on probation estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) and the 2021 juvenile justice in CA report; Probation hourly wages estimated using the LA County Adopted Budget FY21-22. See pages 110-112 of Technical Appendix D for additional detail; As a note, youth held on 602 WIC Wardship Probation may be supervised for longer than six months.
[72] The share of youth detained estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) and the 2021 juvenile justice in CA report. Average cost of detention estimated using BSCC FY17-18 average daily cost of youth detention for LA County juvenile camps. See pages 114-115 of Technical Appendix D for additional detail.

Figure 4. Post-Sentencing Estimation



Victim Cost Estimation

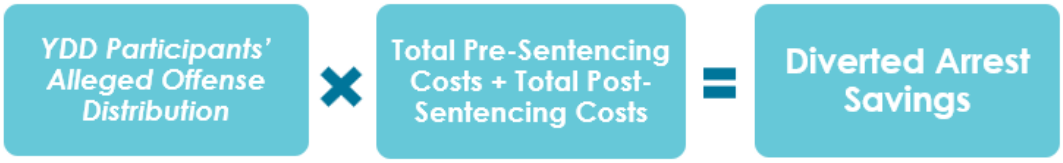
Victimization costs were drawn from research literature using national-level data.[73] While this study utilizes local data where possible, the national-level data was selected because it was the most recent and methodologically rigorous research available with offense-level detail to estimate victim costs. Estimates are reported in unit costs per crime and therefore include estimated victim costs from crimes not reported to the police. The comprehensive estimates include a range of costs from victims' medical, mental health, productivity, property loss, to lost quality of life. These costs to victims are measures as a benefit because they are avoided if the youth in DYD's diversion program have no additional encounters with law enforcement. Calculated public services, adjudications, sanctioning, and work loss costs for the excused are not included in this analysis.[74] These public services (e.g., policing) and adjudication costs are captured elsewhere in this CBA's estimates of LA County-specific pre-sentencing and post-sentencing costs. Work loss is not applicable for juvenile diversion cost estimates for youth under the age of 18 who are otherwise not expected to be working on more than a part-time basis, if at all.

Calculating the Costs and Benefits

Benefit #3: Savings from Diverting Enrolled YDD Participants

This CBA accounts for the savings generated by youth participating in diversion instead of having their case processed through the traditional justice system (see **Figure 5**). These savings are

Figure 5. Benefit Estimation – Future Adjudications Avoided



[73] Miller, T. R., Cohen, M. A., Swedler, D. I., Ali, B., & Hendrie, D. V. (2021). Incidence and costs of personal and property crimes in the USA, 2017. *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis, 12*(1), 24-54.

[74] Public services costs are inclusive of arrest, emergency services and victim assistance costs. Adjudication and sanctioning costs are inclusive of courts and corrections.

estimated from a modified calculation for avoided arrests that excluded victim costs and incorporated pre-sentencing costs dependent on referral source.

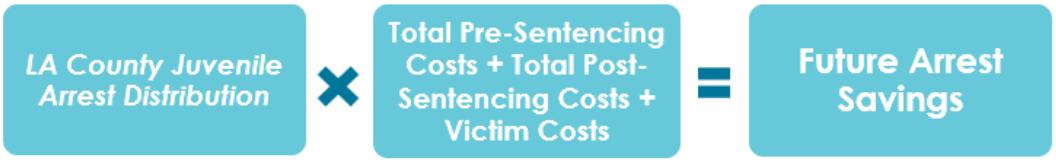
For this CBA, it is assumed that all diversion participants were referred at the pre-booking stage unless they had an LA District Attorney (DA) referral source. At the pre-booking stage, diversion participants avoid all costs associated with the traditional justice system apart from victim costs (i.e., only pre-sentencing and post-sentencing costs are included when calculating the savings from arrests diverted). DA referrals are treated as being diverted at the pre-filing stage (i.e., not avoiding detention at the pre-sentencing phase but still avoiding all post-sentencing costs). Diversion does not eliminate costs a victim experienced from an alleged offense, therefore, unlike the reduced recidivism estimates, pre-booking and pre-filing diversion cost savings do not include victim costs avoided.

The average value of a diverted arrest is then calculated by multiplying the YDD's enrolled participants observed alleged offense distribution for each offense category by total pre-sentencing and post-sentencing costs.

Benefit #2: Savings from Future Arrests Avoided

The calculation of the savings to LA County from future arrests avoided pulls together all three cost components described previously to estimate the program benefits from this recidivism measure. Shown in the **Figure 6** diagram below, this encompasses total pre-sentencing, post-sentencing, and victim costs calculated for each offense category.

Figure 6. Benefit Estimation – Future Arrests Avoided



The average future arrest savings is calculated by multiplying the expected arrest distribution for each offense category by the total pre-sentencing, post-sentencing, and victim costs.[75]

Benefit #3: Savings from Future Adjudications Avoided

To estimate savings from future adjudications avoided, only post-sentencing and victim costs are included in the program benefits calculation for each offense category (see **Figure 7**).

Figure 6. Benefit Estimation – Future Adjudications Avoided

[75] The LA County arrest distribution is estimated using RIPA data. See page 118 of Technical Appendix D for additional detail.

The average adjudication savings is again calculated by multiplying the expected arrest distribution for each offense category by total post-sentencing and victim costs.[76]

Cost Benefit Analysis

To calculate the net program value of LA County's DYD diversion program, the research team compared the program costs and benefits calculations described above while incorporating additional analysis parameters, such as estimates for the number of DYD diversion program participants enrolled. To complete the ten-year cost-benefit analysis for YDD, the research term additionally "discounted" estimated program costs and benefits. Discounting monetary values addresses the dollar's changing value over the ten-year study period (i.e., 2017-2026), for example, due to inflation and our preference to use money for present consumption versus delayed future consumption. Noted previously, YDD began officially serving youth in April 2019.

Separate DYD program values are calculated for each program outcome (i.e., reduced arrests and reduced adjudications). The parameters used for all analyses are described in further detail in the subsequent paragraphs and displayed in **Table 1**, followed by a description of sensitivity analyses the research team utilized to test the robustness of program value results.

Analysis Parameters

In addition to the calculated program operation costs and savings from future arrests avoided, future adjudications avoided, and diverted arrest; the research team included the following parameters to calculate YDD's net present value:[77]

1. **Discount Rate:** A discount rate of 3% was selected for this analysis, the commonly recommended "consumption rate" historically used by federal agencies such as the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).[78]
2. **Total Enrollees:** A total enrollment figure for DYD participants that includes informally and formally referred youth was used for the CBA. This decision was made based on the program's funding model that pays providers by YDD case managers on staff, irrespective of case managers' formal or informal enrollment caseload. Further, program benefit estimations (e.g., savings from diverted arrests) include alleged offenses that both formally and informally enrolled youth may be stopped for, in addition to their case processing probabilities. Budget projections for FY21-22, FY22-23, and FY23-24 estimated that 3,500 youth would be enrolled at existing cohort one sites over three years and 3,000 additional youth would be enrolled at expansion sites, equal to 6,500 total youth expected to enroll over three years. To better align projections with observed enrollments during

Table 1. Analysis Parameters

Parameter	Baseline Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Discount Rate	3%	–	–
Total Enrollees (2017-2026)	7,555	–	–
Reduced Arrests	10%	–	32%
Crimes Avoided per Arrest	1.5	1.0	2.0
Reduced Adjudications	13%	2%	24%

[76] The LA County arrest distribution is estimated using RIPA data. See page 118 of Technical Appendix D for additional detail.
[77] Net present value (NPV) is the difference between the present value of cash inflow (i.e., program benefits) and the present value of cash outflows over a period of time (i.e., program costs).
[78] Li, Q., & Pizer, W. (2021). Use of the consumption discount rate for public policy over the distant future, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, 107*.

cohort one, the research team is estimating that the projected 6,500 youth will instead enroll in DYD's diversion program over a five-year period.[79]

3. **Reduced Arrests:** Mentioned previously in the context of the DYD diversion CBA model, literature shows that diversion programming can help reduce future arrests by figures ranging from 10% to 32% points.[80] Without available data, the research team did not directly measure youth reductions in arrests following diversion enrollment. Instead, the available 10% arrest reduction estimate is used as the baseline estimate for the analysis because it was produced through a meta-analysis of 73 diversion programs. The single-site case study finding that diversion reduced arrests by 32% is considered an "upper bound" estimate for sensitivity analyses. There are two important assumptions to note: 1) The recidivism rate is constant across the analysis period; 2) the distribution of post-diversion offense types (e.g., robbery, larceny) is identical for youth that has and has not participated in the diversion.

4. **Crimes Avoided per Arrest:** The baseline, upper bound, and lower bound estimate for crimes avoided per arrest were derived from the Roman, et al. (2010) "Reclaiming Futures" CBA methodology.[81] A measure of crimes avoided per arrest is incorporated into the analysis to account for crimes that go unreported but still generate victim costs in the case of property or violent offenses, for example.[82]

5. **Reduced Adjudications:** RDA's outcome and equity report identified an estimated 9% reduction in adjudications for formally enrolled youth participating in diversion compared to formally referred youth who did not enroll. The 9% reduction is used as the baseline estimate, while the 95% confidence interval values are used as the lower and upper bounds for sensitivity analysis. Again, the RDA research team assumes that the rate of new adjudications is constant over the analysis period and that the distribution of post-diversion offense types is identical for youth who have and have not participated in YDD.

Sensitivity Analysis

The following estimates contributed to the greatest degree of variability in the amount of savings generated by diversion: reduced recidivism, cost savings estimates for diverted arrests, cost savings estimates for future avoided arrests, and cost savings estimates for future adjudications avoided.[83] To ensure findings that diversion generates net savings were consistent no matter the key parameter estimates used, the research team conducted variable-by-variable and scenario sensitivity analyses to understand how changing one parameter at a time (i.e., different recidivism rates) or changing multiple estimates simultaneously (i.e., cost savings estimates) impacted the overall valuation of the diversion program. Additional scenario analyses included in Technical

[79] Youth enrollment trends were directly observed between 2018 and June 2022 and are as follows: 2018 – 35 enrollees, 2019 – 221 enrollees, 2020 – 266 enrollees, 2021 – 533 enrollees, 2022 (through June) – 150 enrollees. Based on YDD budget projections, the research team estimates that 900 total youth were enrolled in 2022 (i.e., 750 additional youth), while 1,400 youth will be enrolled in each of the four years between 2023 and 2026.

[80] The 10%-point estimate is the calculated as the average difference between youth not participating in diversion (41.3%) and those participating in diversion (31.5%) from Wilson, H., Hoge, R. (2013). The effect of youth diversion programs on recidivism: A meta-analytic review. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 40*(5), 497-518.; The 32%-point estimate is calculated as the difference between youth not participating in diversion (43%, average) and those participating in diversion (11%) according to a study published by Centinela Youth Services (accessed at the following link: https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/121501.pdf), one of YDD's provider partners.

[81] Roman, J. K., et al. (2010). Cost-benefit analysis of Reclaiming Futures.

[82] Roman, J. K., et al. (2010). Cost-benefit analysis of Reclaiming Futures.

[83] While there is variability in exact savings estimates, all findings show that diversion generates substantial net savings (i.e., benefits outweigh the costs), saving at minimum $18,000 per youth served with the most conservative possible estimates.

Appendix E were performed to understand how changing arrests avoided and crimes avoided per arrest estimates simultaneously impacted the program's overall valuation.

For the purposes of the cost savings sensitivity analysis, the research team set lower bound estimates using the Roman et al. (2010) "Reclaiming Futures" national-level total arrest cost saving estimate adjusted for inflation, equivalent to 60% of the research team's estimate for LA County.[84] Accordingly, lower bound estimates for cost savings for future arrests avoided, future adjudications avoided, and diverted arrests were all set to 60% of the research team's estimate. The research team additionally calculated the "break even" cost savings estimate at which program costs and benefits would equal each other (i.e., net value of $0).

[84] Roman et al. (2010). Cost-benefit analysis of Reclaiming Futures.; In their 2010 report, Roman et al. estimated the total value of an avoided arrest to be $28,815 – equivalent to $39,188.40 when adjusting for inflation to June 2022 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistic's calculated 136% rate of inflation between June 2010 and June 2022. The CBA research team estimated that the cost savings from an avoided arrest in LA County is $65,016 in June 2022 dollars. The Roman et al. (2010) cost of arrest is therefore 60.275% of the research team's LA County estimate.

Findings

*Diverting youth from the traditional justice system in LA County to **diversion generates approximately $40,000 in net savings per youth served by DYD**. Sensitivity analyses consistently verify that DYD's program produces large cost savings.*

The following pages provide the resulting estimations from the Cost-Benefit Analysis completed. All dollar amounts are reported in 2022 dollars, beginning with the overview of YDD's cost and benefits per youth served and arrest or adjudication avoided. These parameter estimates are utilized to calculate the diversion program's net monetary value, accompanied by youth and family statements about YDD. This study's finding that the program is financially efficient and generates LA County cost savings is also tested with several sensitivity analyses that utilize different program benefit parameter estimates to determine if the findings are robust (i.e., remain consistent).

Cost Overview

The average annual cost to operate the DYD diversion program is approximately $10.3 million in 2022 dollars. As outlined on pages 80 and 81 above, DYD diversion program expenditures include all operation costs (i.e., staffing, software, consulting services, etc.) and service payments to community-based organizations contracted to provide diversion program services. Over the ten-year analysis period (i.e., 2017-2026), the estimated **program cost is $13,646** per youth enrolled (i.e., about $130 million total in 2022 dollars).

Benefit Overview

Program benefits for the DYD diversion program include future savings generated from reduced interactions with the traditional juvenile justice system (i.e., reduced arrests and adjudications) and program savings associated with diverting youth. These cost savings estimates were calculated using LA County data sources following the process outlined in the preceding Methodology section and in Technical Appendix D. The final cost savings estimates are as follows:

- **Savings from Diverted Arrests:** $49,096 per diverted arrest
- **Savings from Future Avoided Arrests:** $65,016 per arrest
- **Savings from Future Avoided Adjudications:** $61,501 per adjudication

Diversion's Value

DYD's diversion program's net present value is presented in **Figure 8** for the reduced arrest cost benefit analysis and **Figure 9** for the reduced adjudications cost benefit analysis. These results show

Figure 8. Diversion Cost & Benefit Comparison per Youth – Reduced Arrests

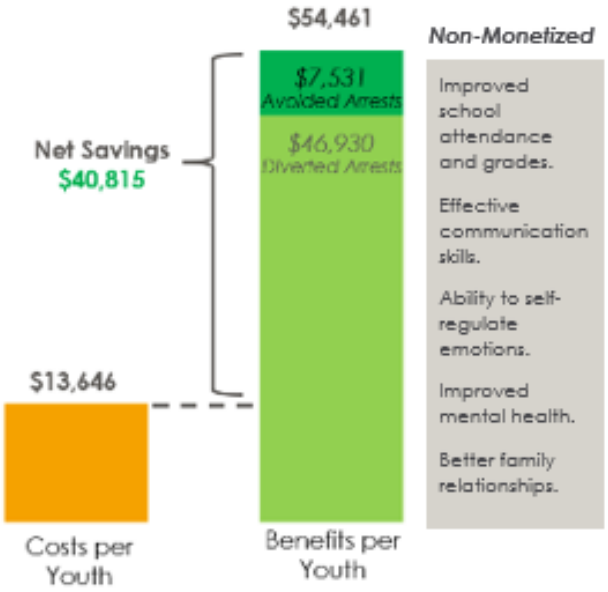
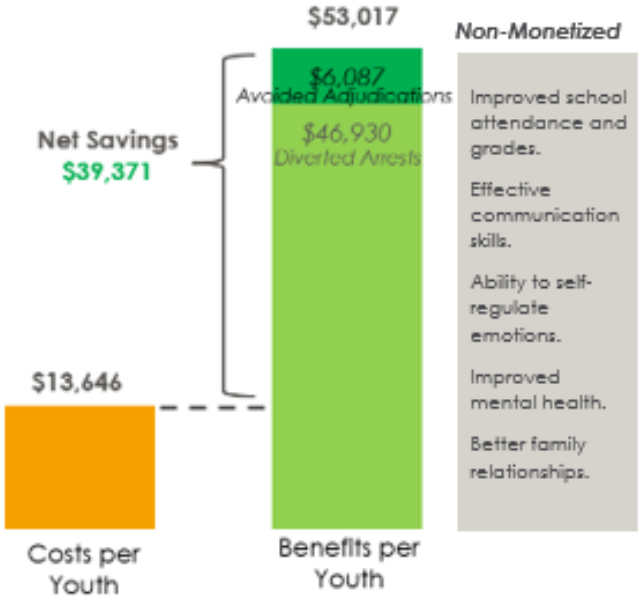


Figure 9. Diversion Cost & Benefit Comparison per Youth – Reduced Adjudications



that the DYD program generates between $39,371 and $40,815 in net savings per youth served, equivalent to net present value of $297 and $308 million in 2022 dollars.[85] Although they are not ultimately, quantified, the non-monetary benefits youth receive from diversion are also represented in Figures 8 and 9 when considering the program's overall value for LA County.

These YDD per-youth savings are greater than the savings identified in cost benefit analyses for other programs, which range from $1,900 to $31,200.[86] Estimated cost savings may be higher due to inflation since 2004 when the other diversion cost benefit analyses were published. YDD's cost savings may also be higher than other programs due to the high cost of the juvenile justice system in LA County. Shown in Figures 8 and 9, $46,930 is saved by diverting youth from the traditional justice system alone – equivalent to 86% of program benefits per youth in Figure 8 and 89% in Figure 9. This finding shows that regardless of reductions in youth recidivism following program participation, youth diversion generates substantial savings.

These findings show that DYD's diversion program is cost-effective from a financial perspective while creating additional value for youth and their family members with non-monetized benefits.[87] Youth shared, for example, that the program helped them manage their emotions and make better decisions. These improvements in social-emotional and conflict resolution skills were noted

[85] For the reduced arrests cost benefit analysis, total benefits were $411,452,803.22 and total costs were $103,093,620.32. Subtracting total benefits for reduced arrest from total costs yields a net present value of $308,359,182.90. For the reduced arrests cost benefit analysis, total benefits were $400,544,463.29 and total costs were $103,093,620.32. Subtracting total benefits for reduced arrest from total costs yields a net present value of $297,450,842.97.

[86] Aos, S., Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M., Pennucci, A. (2004). Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for Youth: Technical Appendix. Document No. 04-07-3901. Washington state: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

[87] RDA Consulting (2022/2023). LA County Department of Youth Development - Diversion Program Process and Implementation Evaluation. Retrieved from: https://dyd.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/DYD-Process-and-Implementation-Evaluation.pdf

by parents and providers as well. Parents specifically noted significant changes in their children's behavior, stating that youth are not angry, are now communicating more effectively, and growing confident in their ability to regulate their emotions and make correct choices. Family members have also benefited from the program, learning better communication skills that are repairing their family's relationships.

> *"It was almost like [my son] was in therapy, a different level of therapy. It benefitted his mental health and our mental health. It has been so helpful. I don't know, I feel blessed."*
> ***– YDD Family Member***

> *"[My diversion program] for sure impacted my future. If I had not participated, I would have had this on my record and I wouldn't have brought back the relationships that I hurt. It impacted me positively for sure."*
> ***– YDD Youth***

Youth also became more engaged with school because of participating in diversion. Family members and providers shared stories about youth improving their attendance, improving their grades, and involving themselves in more school activities. Family members and staff indicated that these changes are representative of wholesale changes that youth have made in their lives because of participating in diversion.

Sensitivity Analysis Results

The research team undertook additional sensitivity analyses to examine any variability in the total savings generated by diversion. Ultimately, these variable-by-variable and scenario sensitivity analyses confirm DYD's diversion program generates large program savings regardless of the estimates used for key parameters.

Differing Reductions in Arrests & Adjudications

The sensitivity analysis, which requires a variable-by-variable analysis, helps provide greater understanding of how each outcome parameter may influence the program's value by changing just one recidivism measure at a time (i.e., reduced arrests or adjudications). For reference, the lower and upper bound estimates for reduced arrests and adjudications are presented in **Table 2**. Baseline estimates were used for all other parameters.

Table 2. YDD Program Savings per Youth with Recidivism Variable-by-Variable Analysis

Parameter Modified	Baseline Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Reduced Arrests	$40,815	–	$57,383
Reduced Adjudications	$39,371	$34,015	$44,728

Shown in Table 2, the baseline estimates for DYD's diversion program savings per youth were largely similar for reduced arrests and reduced adjudications. Savings estimates per-youth remained within a range of about $10,000 for reduced adjudication, showing consistency despite a wide range of possible values for adjudications reduced (i.e., 2% for the lower bound estimate and 24% for the upper bound estimate). The upper bound estimated program savings per youth produced the highest program value estimate for this study.

Overall, the variable-by-variable sensitivity analysis results show DYD's diversion program net present value is positive (i.e., generates program savings) regardless of the recidivism reduction rate used. Mentioned previously, these results are consistent with our expectations given the savings from diverted arrests alone comprise 86-89% of program benefits per youth.

Cost Savings Estimates

The scenario analysis modifying multiple cost saving estimates simultaneously helps us to understand the sensitivity of our findings to the most influential analysis parameters. Shown in **Table 3**, the reduced arrest analysis utilizes two program benefit estimates: (1) cost savings from diverted arrests, and (2) cost savings from avoided arrests. The reduced adjudication analysis also utilizes cost savings from diverted arrests in addition to cost savings from avoided adjudications. The lower bound estimates used for the scenario analysis represent 60% of the program benefit estimates provided in the proceeding Benefits Overview section. The lower bound estimates are as follows:

Table 3. YDD Program Savings per Youth with Cost Saving Estimate Scenario Analysis

Parameters Modified	Baseline Estimate (LA County)	Lower Bound Estimate (60% Baseline)
Savings from Diverted & Avoided Arrests	$40,815	$19,181
Savings from Diverted Arrests & Avoided Adjudications	$39,371	$18,310

- **Lower Bound Savings from Diverted Arrests:** $29,592 per diverted arrest
- **Lower Bound Savings from Future Avoided Arrests:** $39,188 per arrest
- **Lower Bound Savings from Future Avoided Adjudications:** $37,070 per adjudication

Again, for the purposes of this sensitivity analysis, baseline estimates were used for all other parameters.

The results of the scenario analyses displayed in Table 3 show that while the YDD program value decreased by almost half, the lower bound estimated program savings (i.e., $19,181 and $18,310 per youth) are still large. **Cost savings for diverted and avoided arrests would have to be about 25% of the baseline estimates for a net present value of zero (i.e., program costs equal program costs) in the reduced arrest analysis.** Similarly, cost savings for diverted arrests and avoided adjudications would have to be about 26% of the baseline for a net present value of zero in the reduced adjudication analysis.

Conclusion

YDD is an economically efficient program that generates cost savings while serving LA County youth outside the traditional justice system. These net savings findings are robust, retaining economic efficiency regardless of the parameter estimates used. Diversion creates cost savings over the ten-year analysis period for this study because it is much less expensive to address youths' needs in the community relative to processing youth through the court system and beyond.

Results from this study are consistent with previous studies finding diversion programs generate cost savings in other jurisdictions. The RDA research team ultimately estimates that **YDD generates about $40,000 in savings per youth served**, higher than the estimated cost savings generated in other jurisdictions. Looking across the ten-year analysis period, **this adds up to approximately $300 million in total net savings generated by YDD between 2017 and 2026.**[88] These large cost saving are an underestimate of the program's true value. In focus groups and interviews, youth and their family members shared that YDD generated program benefits in terms of improved social-emotional skills, protective factors, well-being, and record sealing. Additionally, evidence suggests youth diversion improves school engagement, high school graduation, and therefore lifetime employment and economic outcomes.[89]

Future LA County-based juvenile diversion cost benefit analyses should refer to the data sources and estimation methods identified in this report. To identify with greater detail the key points in traditional juvenile justice case processing where diversion generates the most cost savings, future researchers should work with county agencies to refine estimations regarding how long youth are held in pre-adjudication detention by offense category, how long adjudicated delinquent youth are supervised on Probation by offense category, and how long adjudicated delinquent youth are held in detention by offense category. Additionally, **future studies should incorporate the cost of serving youth informally through Probation without a delinquent adjudication. Without those costs included, this study may be underestimating pre-sentencing costs for youth processed through the traditional juvenile justice system (i.e., not diverted).**

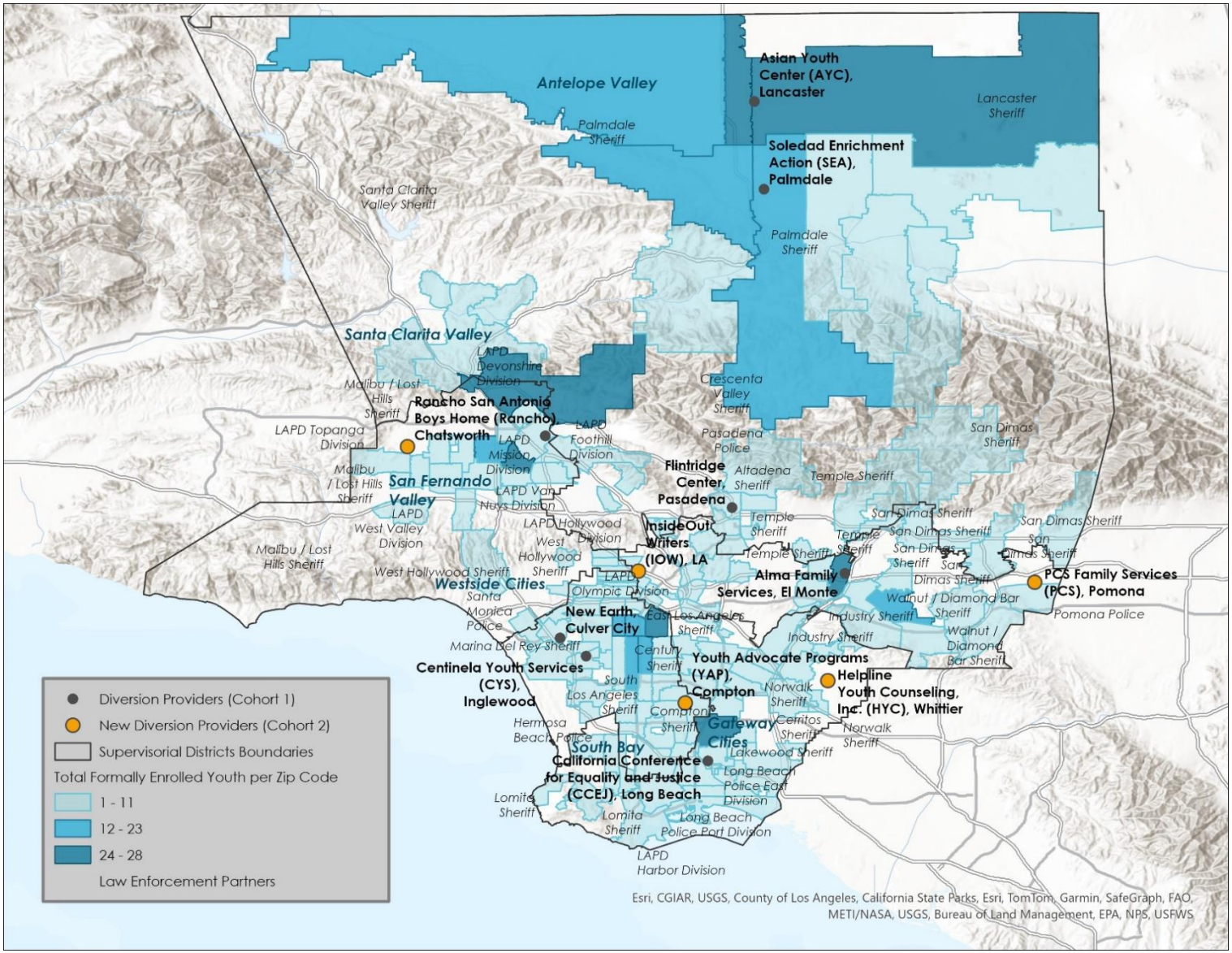
Even though YDD is a relatively new program that only began serving a substantial number of youths in 2019, it has created real value for LA County. As the program becomes increasingly established and expands, this value is only expected to grow. By continuing to fund DYD, LA County can demonstrate an investment in the wellbeing of youth, families, and communities while simultaneously generating financial and social benefits.

[88] Net savings are reported in 2022 dollars.

[89] Ray, J. V., & Childs, K. (2015). Juvenile diversion. In M.D. Krohn & J. Lane (Eds.), The handbook of juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice (pp. 422-438). Wiley Blackwell.; Hodges, K., Martin, L. A., Smith, C., & Cooper, S. (2011). Recidivism, costs, and psychosocial outcomes for a post-arrest juvenile diversion program. Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 50(7), 447-465.

Appendix A

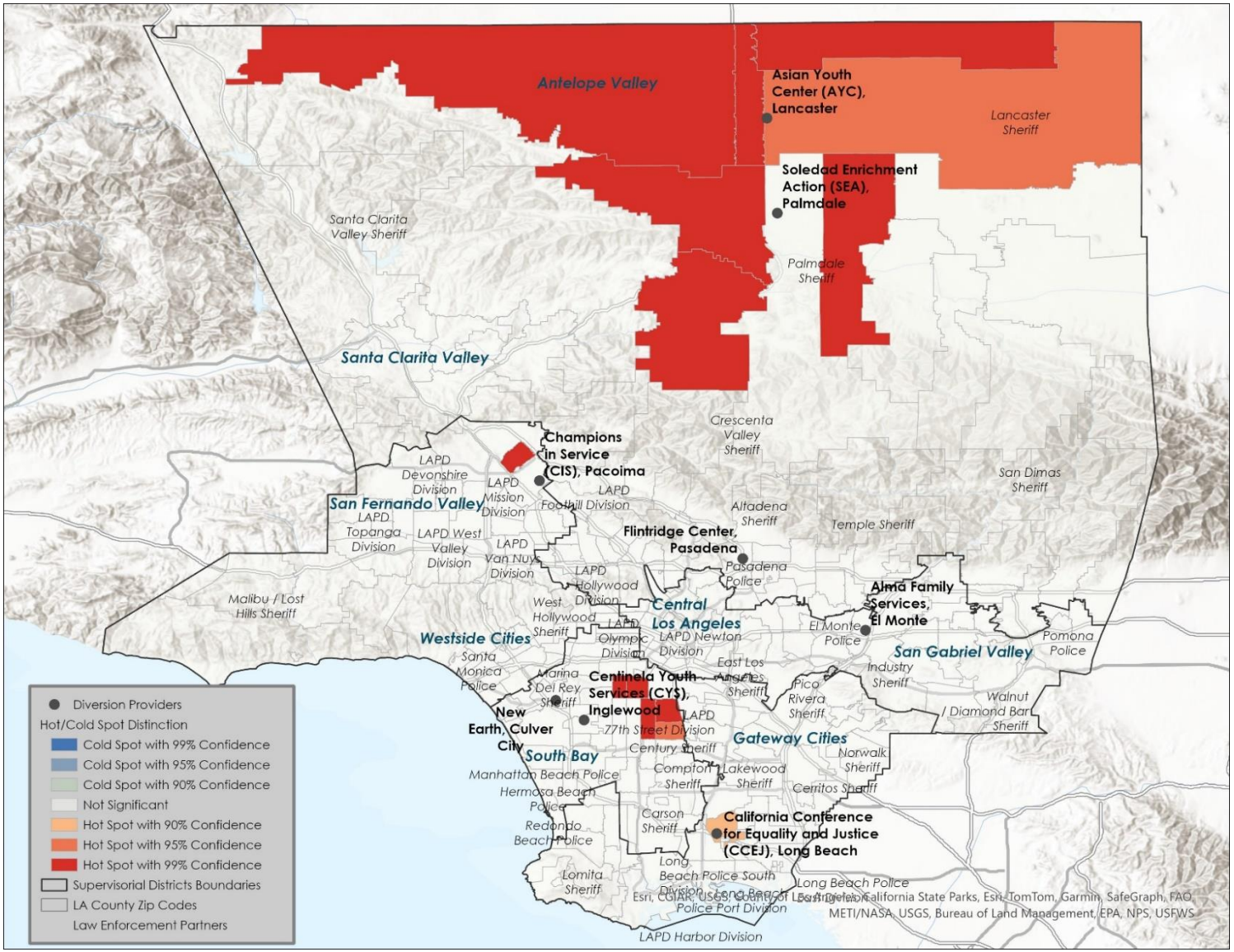
Spatial Distribution of Formally Enrolled Youth in Cohort One



This Appendix A figure displays the formal diversion enrollment spatial distribution during cohort one (N = 710) as presented in the body of the report (see Figure 5) with the addition of labels for new providers that began serving youth during cohort two. To further contextualize the location of diversion youth, labels for partnering law enforcement agencies are added to the map, although displayed enrollments came from all possible referral sources including DA offices.

Appendix B

Hot Spot Analysis of Formally Enrolled Youth in LA County, by Zip Code

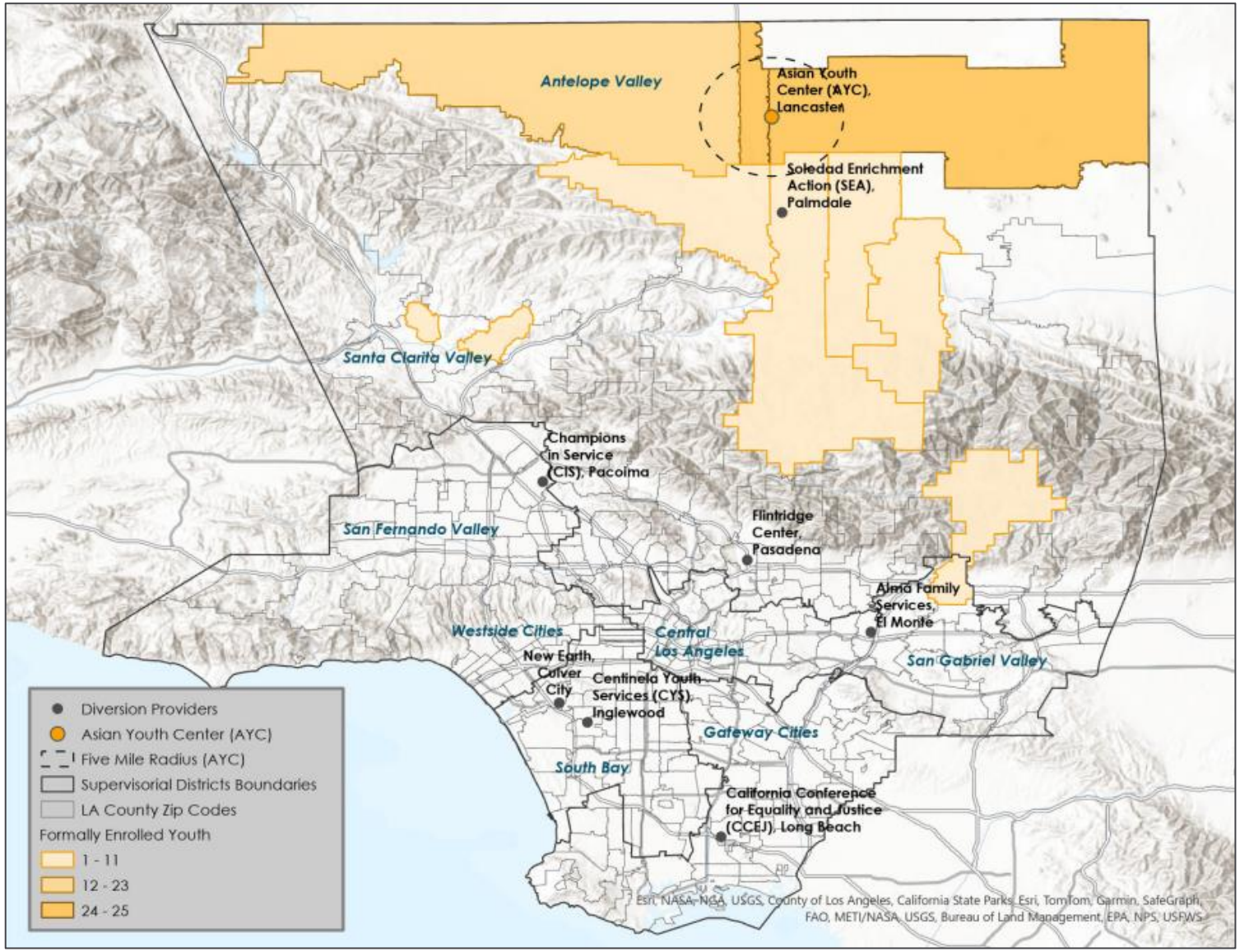


The Getis-Ord Gi spatial statistic for hot spot analysis confirms the visually apparent clusters of formally enrolled youth presented in the body of the report (see Figure 5, N = 710) are hot spots with a high level of statistical significance ($p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$) in the Lancaster-Palmdale area, as well as South LA and Eastern San Fernando Valley. An additional hot spot cluster was detected with a lower level of statistical significance in the North Long Beach area. A hot spot indicates a zip code containing a high concentration of formally enrolled youth within its own boundaries that is surrounded by other zip codes with similarly high concentrations of youth. Please see the **Service Accessibility** section for the parameters used for this hot spot analysis.

Appendix C

Spatial Distribution of Formally Enrolled Youth, by Provider Site

Figure 1. Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, Asian Youth Center (AYC)



Figures 1-8 display the spatial distribution of formally enrolled youth by provider site. To highlight trends in spatial accessibility, each map figure includes a circle with dashed boundaries that visually represent a five-mile distance from the provider site.

Formal enrollments are mapped at the zip code level and include enrollments resulting from all possible referral sources, such as partnering law enforcement agencies as well as DA offices.

Figure 2. Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA)

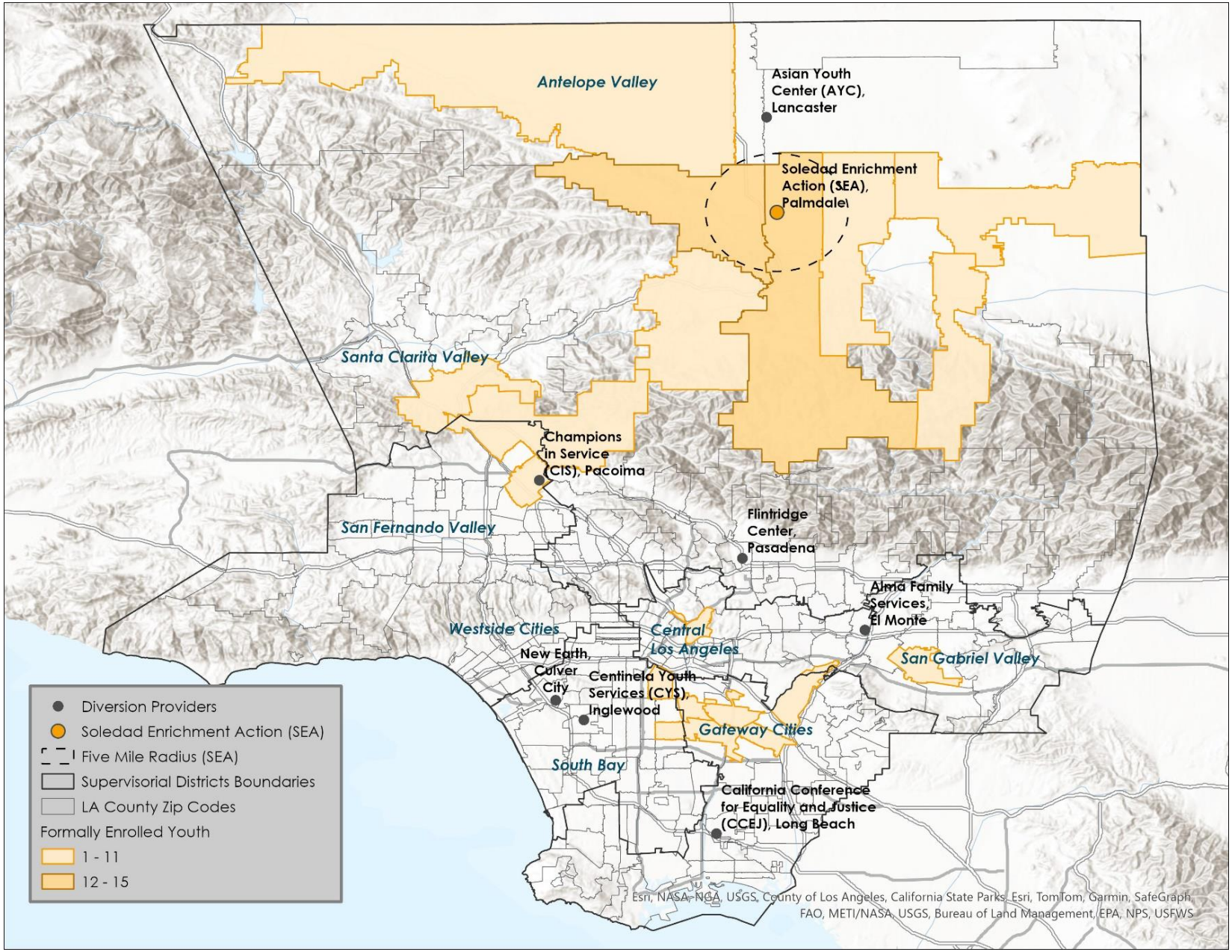


Figure 3. Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, Champions in Service (CIS)

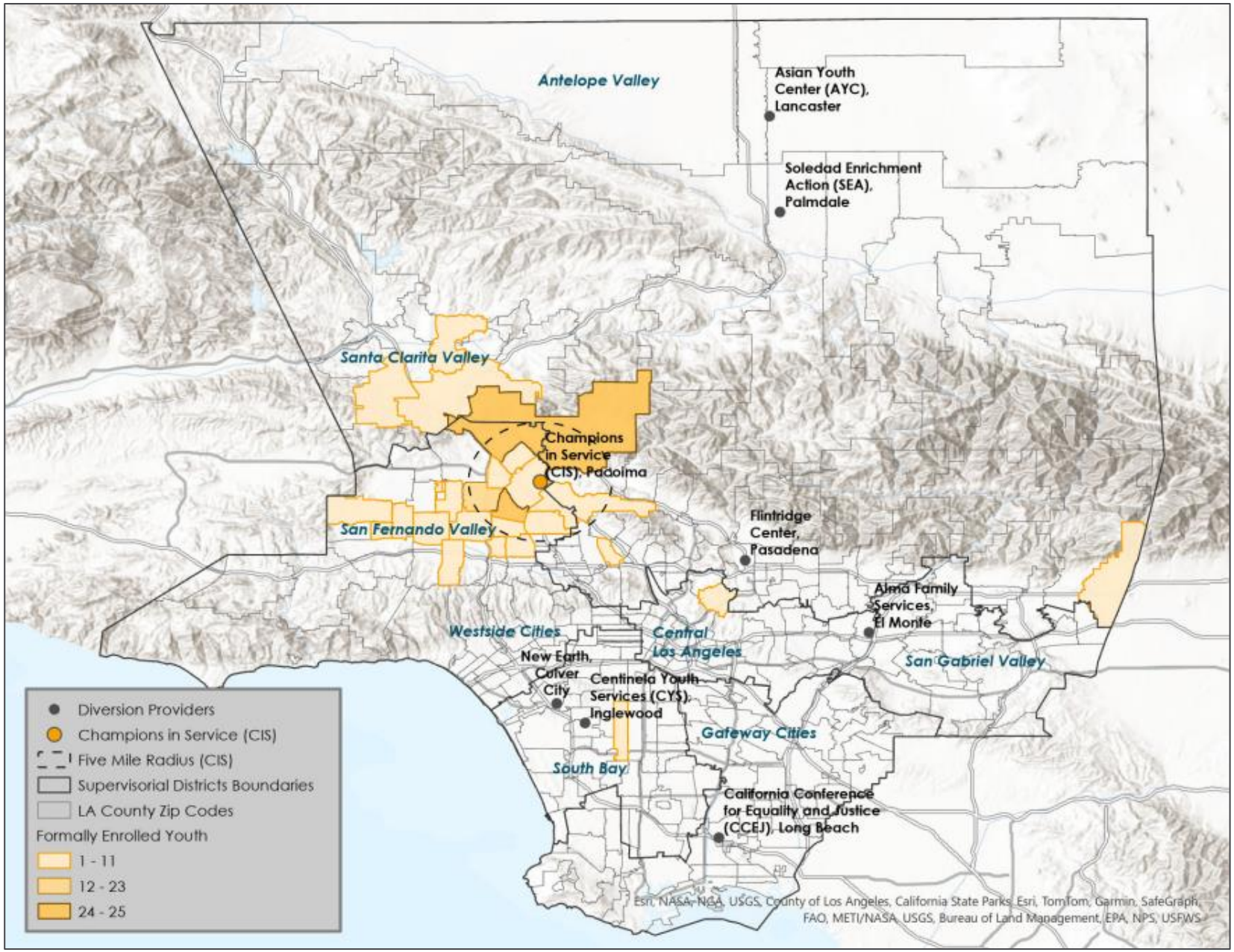


Figure 4. Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, Flintridge

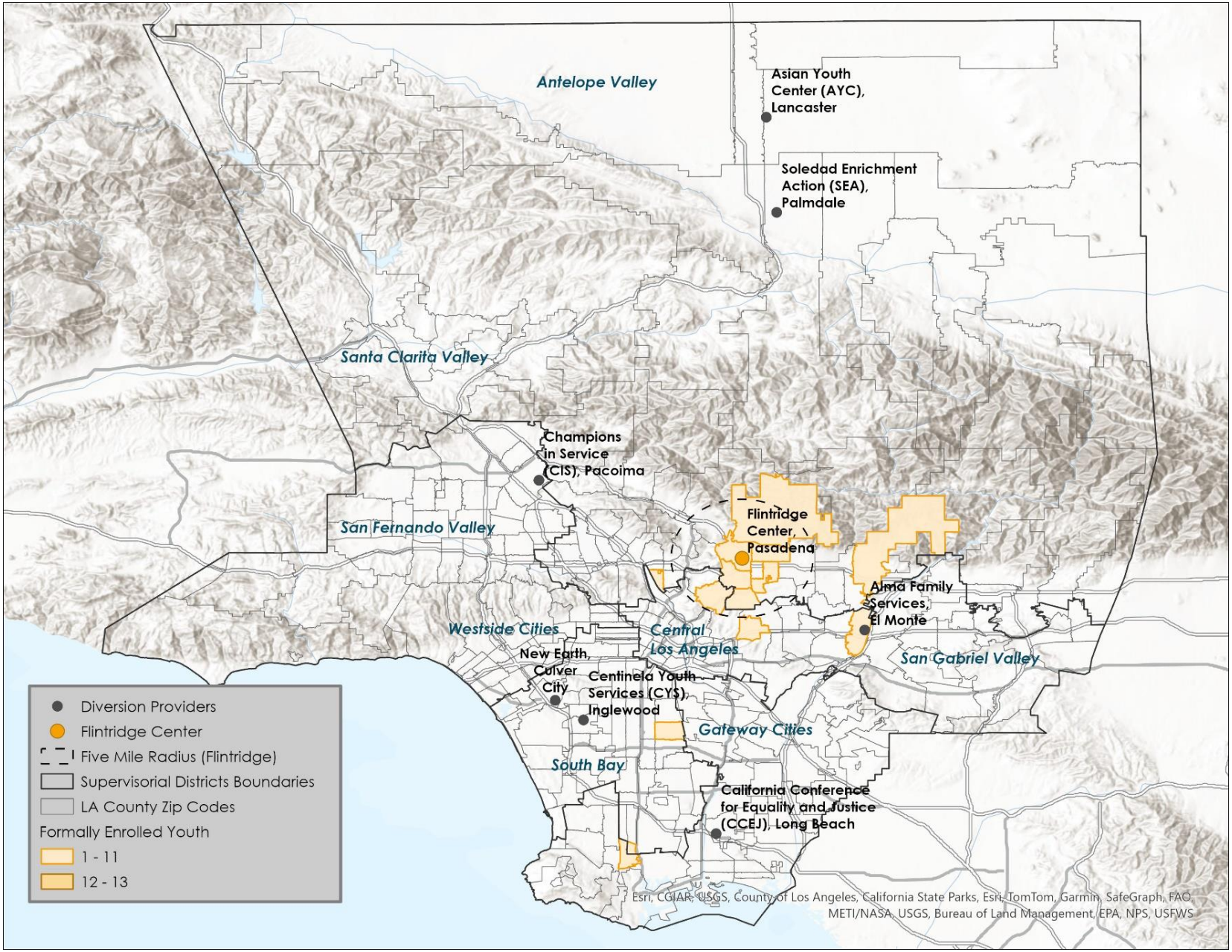


Figure 5. Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, Alma Family Services (Alma)

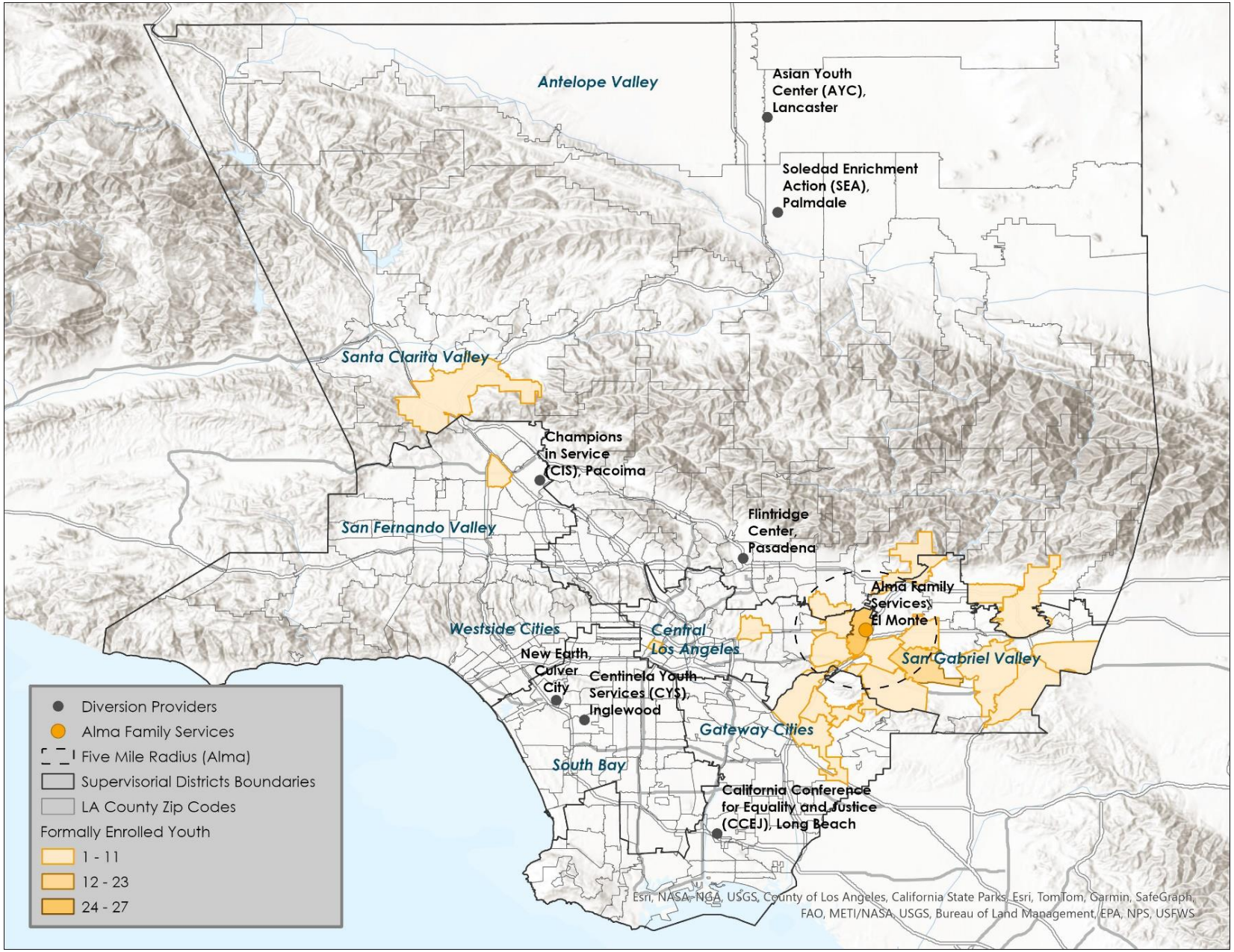


Figure 6. Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, New Earth

Figure 7. Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, Centinela Youth Services (CYS)

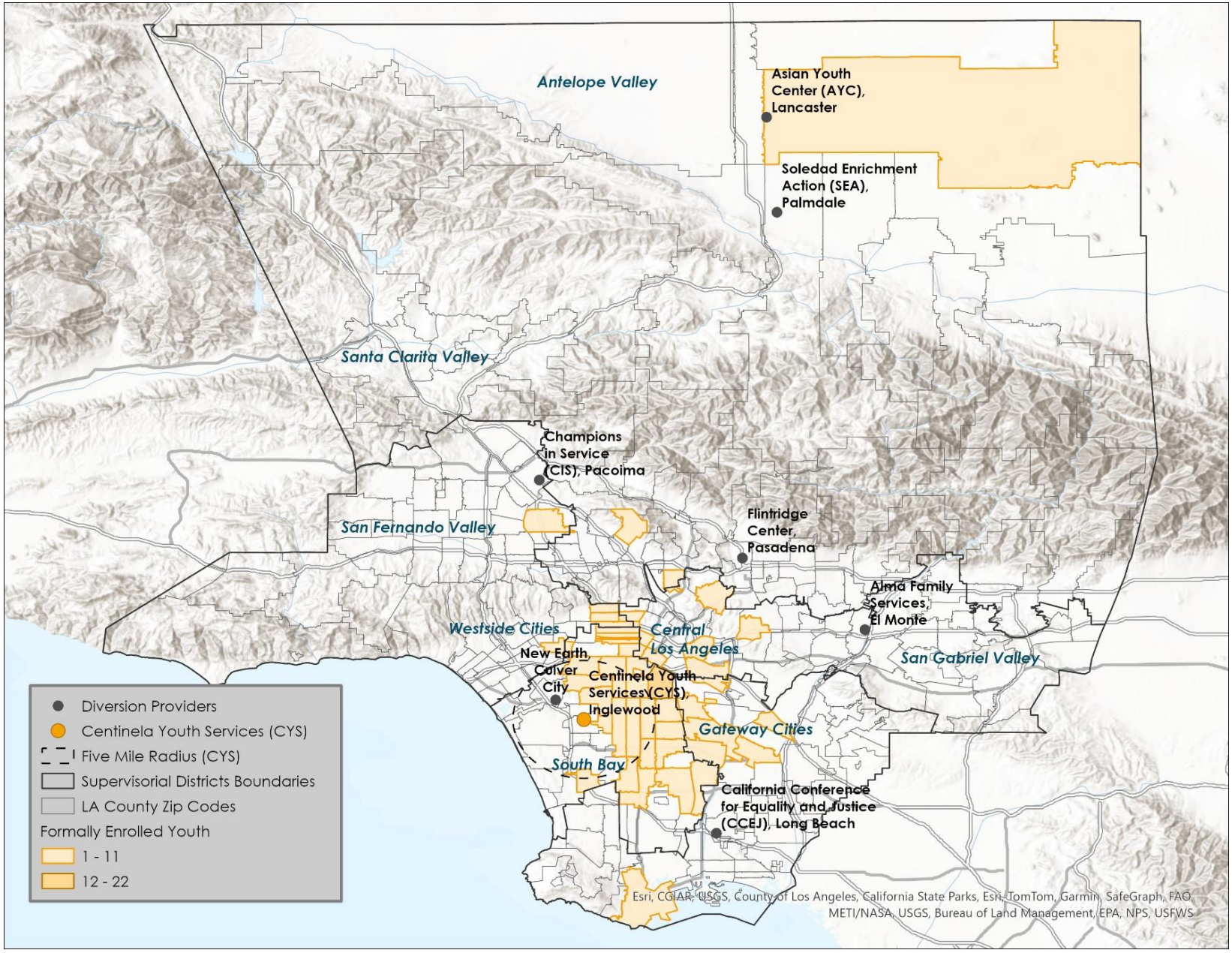
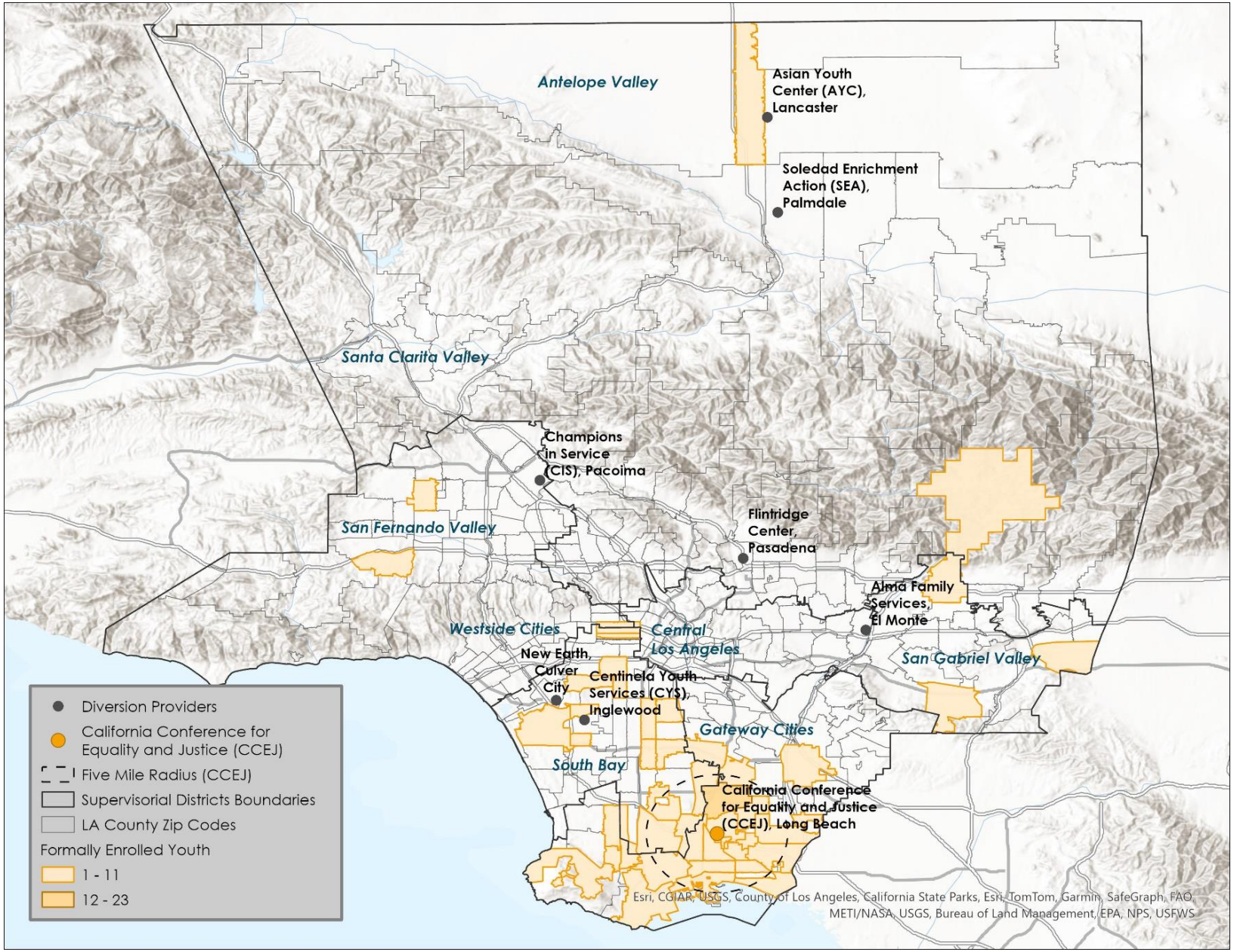


Figure 8. Formally Enrolled Diversion Youth, California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ)



Technical Appendix A

Recidivism Analysis Data Preparation

Matching Method

For the purposes of this study, there was no common identifier to join DYD diversion referred youth to the youth in Probation data. As a result, the RDA research team used name, race, gender, and birth date to match individuals referred to DYD to the LA County Probation data of petitions filed and sustained. Specifically, when more than one name was available for first or last name (e.g., John David for first name or Smith Johnson for last name), only the first name (e.g., John for first name and Smith for last name) was used to match between data sets. In addition to matching the exact spelling of first and last name, matches were also based on the phonetic version of the first and last name to account for any spelling differences for the same name (e.g., John and Jon or Smith and Smyth). Matching was accomplished with the Keith Kranker's DTALINK (2018) command in Stata,[90] assigning weights to each match criteria met, which were then added together to create a total match score. Youth were considered matched if their total match score between data sources met or exceeded a score cutoff of 21.

For the purposes of this matching exercise, exact matches on first name or last name generated seven points each, zero points if no exact match was made on spelling. Phonetic matches on first and last names generated three points each, while two points were deducted if the phonetic spelling was not a match. Exact matches for gender or race also generated three points each, while two points were again deducted if gender was not a match and three points if race was not a match. The available birth date field was incorporated three times into the matching instructions, with different weights and margins of error incorporated for probabilistic matching. Five total points were generated if birthdates were within two months of each other, 0 total points were generated if they were within three to six months, three total points were deducted if they were within six months to a year of each other (366 days), and nine total points were deducted if they were more than a year and a day apart.

In total, 739 observations met the total match score cutoff of 21, equivalent to 447 distinct youth referred to DYD diversion. Following best practices, matched observations were reviewed visually to determine if any observations were incorrectly matched. Through this process, the distinct count of DYD youth appearing in Probation data was adjusted to 430, equivalent to just 18% of the distinct youth referred to DYD (n = 2,361) comprising about 8% of the total Probation records provided to RDA (n = 9,256).

After visual inspection and confirmation that matching had been accurately completed, all observations for Probation youth that had not been referred to diversion were immediately dropped, and all remaining observations were assigned a unique identifier and deidentified.

Recidivism Variable Construction

This study defines recidivism in two ways: (1) petitions filed, and (2) petitions adjudicated delinquent. RDA examined recidivism in several time periods, including 3 months, 6 months, 9

[90] Kranker, K. (2018). "DTALINK: Stata module to implement probabilistic record linkage," Statistical Software Components S458504, Boston College Department of Economics. Available at https://ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s458504.html.

months, 12 months, 15 months, and 18 months after enrollment in a diversion program *or* referral date for youth that that did not enroll.

To measure recidivism, the RDA research team examined the first arrest date (i.e., for a charged that led to a petition filed) after the following:

- Referral date for youth that did not enroll in diversion;
- Completion date for enrolled youth that completed diversion;
- Enrollment date plus 12 months for:
    - Youth who completed diversion, but did not have an associated completion date recorded (only an enrollment date), and
    - Youth who enrolled but there was no indication that they completed. (Note: According to program policy, youth are expected to complete diversion within one year)
- Referral date plus 13 months for enrolled youth without enrollment or completion date information (Note: According to program policy, youth are expected to complete the intake process one month after referrals; 13 months is the sum of the 1-month enrollment intake period with 12 month expected enrollment period)

Recidivism Analysis Exclusion

Stated previously, diversion youth were referred between April 2019 and June 2022. To ensure equivalent post-referral and enrollment windows were used to accurately measure recidivism for the diversion comparison groups, observations were excluded from each recidivism analysis window (e.g., 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 months post enrollment or referral) based on the following criteria:

- The date a youth was referred if not enrolled *or* their diversion program-end date was past the cut-off date.
    - For example, youth were excluded from the 9-month analysis sample if they were referred to or had a program-end date after March 30, 2022.
- If a youth turned 18 during a recidivism analysis window, they were removed from the sample. Specifically, youth who turned 18 years of age during an analysis time frame were dropped from the analysis sample because Probation's petitions filed data was only available for youth charged while they were under the age of 18.

Limitations & Considerations

There are three different limitations to the current study that are important to acknowledge:

- Matching names is an imperfect practice. It is possible that cases were missed where DYD youth were in fact in Probation data with a filed petition after their diversion referral or enrollment because the youth used a different name with the diversion program or had a name change.
- The methodology to establish a program end date for youth may have led to an undercount of youths' justice contacts post-enrollment. This methodology was necessary because program dates, such as exit and enrollment, were not universally available for all participating youth.
- Age had to be extrapolated using available "age at incident" data information when the date of birth was not available in the program data. Again, while this methodology was necessary to address missing program data, any error in the incident date or age at incident (which is an officer's best guess) would impact the accuracy of the exclusion criteria applied.

Technical Appendix B

Recidivism Analysis Formally Referred Youth Population Characteristics

	Did Not Enroll *(N = 331) (% or Std Dev)*	Enrolled *N = (806) (% or Std Dev)*	Total *N = (1,137) (% or Std Dev)*
Gender			
Cis-Male or Male Identifying	206 (70.3%)	574 (71.8%)	780 (71.4%)
Cis-Female or Female Identifying	87 (29.7%)	220 (27.5%)	307 (28.1%)
Genderqueer, Non-Conforming, Non-Binary, or Transgender	0 (0.0%)	6 (0.8%)	6 (0.5%)
Race/Ethnicity			
Hispanic/LatinX	144 (50.3%)	462 (60.3%)	606 (57.6%)
Black or African American	117 (40.9%)	205 (26.8%)	322 (30.6%)
White	15 (5.2%)	41 (5.4%)	56 (5.3%)
API	4 (1.4%)	2 (0.3%)	6 (0.6%)
Indigenous	1 (0.3%)	9 (1.2%)	10 (1.0%)
Other	4 (1.4%)	5 (0.7%)	9 (0.9%)
Bi/Multiracial	1 (0.3%)	42 (5.5%)	43 (4.1%)
Referral Alleged Incident Level			
Misdemeanor	186 (62.2%)	460 (58.8%)	646 (59.8%)
Felon	109 (36.5%)	275 (35.2%)	384 (35.5%)
Infraction	2 (0.7%)	27 (3.5%)	29 (2.7%)
Status Offense	2 (0.7%)	20 (2.6%)	22 (2.0%)
Age at Incident	15.471 (1.908)	15.730 (1.592)	15.659 (1.688)
Referral Year			
2017	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.4%)	3 (0.3%)
2018	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.5%)	4 (0.4%)
2019	33 (10.0%)	162 (20.1%)	195 (17.2%)
2020	51 (15.4%)	246 (30.5%)	297 (26.1%)
2021	132 (39.9%)	317 (39.3%)	449 (39.5%)
2022	115 (34.7%)	74 (9.2%)	189 (16.6%)
Provider			
Provider A	116 (35.0%)	227 (28.2%)	343 (30.2%)
Provider B	108 (32.6%)	125 (15.5%)	233 (20.5%)
Provider C	29 (8.8%)	79 (9.8%)	108 (9.5%)
Provider D	14 (4.2%)	62 (7.7%)	76 (6.7%)
Provider E	33 (10.0%)	77 (9.6%)	110 (9.7%)
Provider F	8 (2.4%)	137 (17.0%)	145 (12.8%)
Provider G	11 (3.3%)	63 (7.8%)	74 (6.5%)
Provider H	12 (3.6%)	36 (4.5%)	48 (4.2%)

Technical Appendix C

Recidivism Analysis Logit Model & Marginal Effects Results

	Filed (6mo)	*Marginal Effects*	Sustained (6mo)	*Marginal Effects*	Filed (12mo)	*Marginal Effects*	Sustained (12mo)	*Marginal Effects*
0: Did Not Enroll	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	(.)	(.)	(.)	(.)	(.)	(.)	(.)	(.)
1: Enrolled	-0.295	**-0.018**	-0.422	**-0.022**	-1.095*	**-0.143***	-1.111*	**-0.128***
	(0.341)	**(0.021)**	(0.367)	**(0.019)**	(0.442)	**(0.061)**	(0.490)	**(0.058)**
1: Cis-Male or Male Identifying	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
2: Cis-Female or Female Identifying	-0.731*		-0.671*		-0.127		0.010	
	(0.297)		(0.331)		(0.458)		(0.491)	
3: Genderqueer, Non-Conforming, Non-Binary, or Transgender	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
1: Hispanic/LatinX	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
2: Black or African American	0.303		0.123		0.127		0.131	
	(0.259)		(0.292)		(0.403)		(0.440)	
3: White	-0.531		-0.302		0.000		0.000	
	(0.622)		(0.628)		(.)		(.)	
4: API	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
5: Indigenous	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
6: Other	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
7: Bi/Multiracial	-0.593		0.000		-0.789		0.000	
	(1.062)		(.)		(1.126)		(.)	
1: Misdemeanor	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
2: Felony	0.707*		0.778*		0.815*		0.964*	
	(0.281)		(0.312)		(0.389)		(0.439)	
3: Infraction	0.005		0.033		0.000		0.000	
	(0.404)		(0.473)		(.)		(.)	
4: Status Offense	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
Calculated Age at Incident	0.172*		0.054		0.152		0.206	
	(0.084)		(0.087)		(0.163)		(0.179)	
Referral Year 2017	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
Referral Year 2019	-0.221		0.202		-0.523		-0.069	
	(0.539)		(0.558)		(0.531)		(0.565)	
Referral Year 2020	-0.516		-0.491		-0.626		-0.717	
	(0.551)		(0.606)		(0.515)		(0.585)	
Referral Year 2021	0.341		0.397		0.000		0.000	
	(0.427)		(0.463)		(.)		(.)	
Referral Year 2022	0.000		0.000					
	(.)		(.)					
1: Formal Referral	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
2: Informal Referral	0.067		-0.171		0.000		0.000	
	(0.393)		(0.427)		(.)		(.)	

	Filed (6mo)	*Marginal Effects*	Sustained (6mo)	*Marginal Effects*	Filed (12mo)	*Marginal Effects*	Sustained (12mo)	*Marginal Effects*
3: Unknown & Missing	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
Provider A	0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	
	(.)		(.)		(.)		(.)	
Provider B	0.238		0.513		0.876		0.735	
	(0.344)		(0.391)		(0.472)		(0.512)	
Provider C	-0.092		-0.031		0.000		0.000	
	(0.484)		(0.567)		(.)		(.)	
Provider D	0.176		0.396		0.512		0.000	
	(0.428)		(0.495)		(0.912)		(.)	
Provider E	-0.286		0.125		-1.334		-1.159	
	(0.458)		(0.508)		(1.141)		(1.163)	
Provider F	-0.437		-0.475		0.000		0.000	
	(0.653)		(0.789)		(.)		(.)	
Provider G	0.491		0.550		0.752		0.071	
	(0.444)		(0.529)		(0.675)		(0.807)	
Provider H	0.303		0.625		0.006		0.183	
	(0.478)		(0.530)		(0.883)		(0.908)	
Observations	**1165**	**1165**	**1136**	**1136**	**240**	**240**	**212**	**212**
Correct Classification Rate	--	**92.70%**	--	**94.28%**	--	**83.33%**	--	**86.32%**

Note: Standard errors in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Technical Appendix D: Data Sources & Benefit Parameter Estimates

This technical appendix provides greater detail for each data source and methods used to estimate the cost and benefits that comprise parameters for the LA County YDD CBA. Program cost estimations are straightforward calculations of reported diversion program operation costs. Benefit calculations for this report were modeled after the methodology followed in the Reclaiming Futures report to estimate the cost of processing youth through the traditional juvenile justice system in LA County.[91] Following that analysis, the value of an avoided arrest (i.e., reduced recidivism) is calculated in three parts: determining pre-sentencing costs, post-sentencing costs, and victim costs per offense category. When multiplied by each offense type's arrest or alleged offense distribution, these costs estimate the average value of (1) an avoided future arrest, (2) an avoided adjudication, and (3) a diverted arrest.

To appropriately estimate costs for the local juvenile justice context, the research team collected LA County or California-specific data where available (see the table below). Whereas the Reclaiming Futures report used national level statistics to estimate future savings generated from reduced recidivism, this CBA draws upon LA County justice system costs, case processing probabilities, and arrest distributions, understanding that national level estimates used in the Reclaiming Futures report under-represent traditional juvenile justice system costs in LA County. In another departure from the Reclaiming Futures report, this CBA incorporates 22 total offense categories to determine the cost savings more precisely.[92] Additionally, this CBA also accounts for the savings generated by youth participating in pre-booking diversion instead of having their case processed through the traditional justice system.

Cost Component		Source
Program Costs	YDD Program Costs	Program costs estimated from LA County YDD budget actuals FY17-18 through FY21-22, LA County YDD budget projections FY22-23 and FY23-24.
Program Benefits	Pre-Sentencing Costs: Arrest	Hours worked estimates derived from Justex Systems, Inc. (2014). Houston Police Department: Operational staffing model, pg. 71.
		Hourly wage estimates for LAPD officers calculated from the Supplement to the 2021-22 Adopted Budget Volume 1 for the City of LA, pg. 405.
	Pre-Sentencing Costs: Pre-Adjudication Detention	Share youth detained estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.
		Average daily detention cost in LA County juvenile halls estimated using BSCC's 2019 report on FY17-18 average daily cost to house youth in detention facilities, pg. 4.
		Maximum days detained (i.e., 15 days) taken from CA Welf. & Inst. Code § 636(a).
	Pre-Sentencing Costs: Adjudication	Share of youth with petitions filed estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.
		LA County Juvenile Delinquency Services costs derived from Superior Court FY21-22 Program Expenditures Budget (unpaginated 2) and divided by the total LA County juvenile delinquency filings for FY21-22 obtained from the 2023 Judicial Council's Court Statistics Report for Statewide Caseload Trends – 2012-13 through 2021-22, pg. 167.

[91] Roman, et al. (2010). Cost-benefit analysis of Reclaiming Futures.

[92] The 22 offenses included are as follows: murder, rape, other sexual assault, robbery, assault, child maltreatment, arson, impaired driving, burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, fraud, vandalism, weapons carrying, prostitution, drug possession/sales, gambling, liquor laws, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, curfew/loitering violations, other non-traffic offenses.

Cost Component		Source
Program Benefits (cont.)	Post Sentencing Costs: Adjudication	Share of youth adjudicated delinquent estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.
	Post Sentencing Costs: Probation	Share of youth adjudicated delinquent and on probation estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18 in addition to the Juvenile Justice in California Report (2021), CA Department of Justice, pg. iv-v.
		Probation hourly wages estimated using the LA County Final Budget FY21-22, pg. 175.
	Post Sentencing Costs: Detention	Share of youth adjudicated delinquent and placed in detention estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18 in addition to the Juvenile Justice in California Report (2021), CA Department of Justice, pg. iv-v.
		Average daily detention cost in LA County juvenile camps estimated using BSCC's 2019 report on FY17-18 average daily cost to house youth in detention facilities, pg. 4.
	Victim Costs	Offense-level total victim costs were estimated using Miller, T. R., Cohen, M. A., Swedler, D. I., Ali, B., & Hendrie, D. V. (2021). Incidence and costs of personal and property crimes in the USA, 2017. *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis, 12*(1), pg. 36-37.
	Arrest Distribution	LA County juvenile offense-level arrest data estimated using RIPA Stop Data downloaded from CA Department of Justice "Open Justice" Data Portal
	Alleged Offense Distribution	Enrolled participant alleged offense category measured using LA County YDD programmatic data

Future LA County-based juvenile diversion CBAs should start their own data collection with the sources identified in this report and work with county agencies to refine estimations of the following: how long youth are held in pre-adjudication detention by offense category, how long adjudicated delinquent youth are supervised on Probation by offense category, and how long adjudicated delinquent youth are held in detention by offense category. Future juvenile diversion CBAs should also consider incorporating the cost of serving youth informally through Probation without a delinquent adjudication.

Calculating Costs

Mentioned previously, program costs for cohort one and two are calculated in terms of operating the LA County YDD program. Program operations costs are comprehensive and include the following: YDD staff salaries, services and supplies, trainings, conferences, travel, software and website development, external evaluators and consultants, and payments made to contracted community-based organizations providing case management services to diverted youth. YDD reported program costs in terms of budget actuals for 2017-2018 through 2021-2022 fiscal years and budget projections for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years.[93]

To facilitate discounting (i.e., adjusting cost estimates at different points in time for inflation and the time value of money), the research team converted fiscal year cost estimates to calendar year estimates by assigning half of each fiscal year's costs to each corresponding calendar year.[94]

Program Cost Limitations. The process of dividing fiscal year costs between calendar years assumes that actual costs were incurred evenly throughout the fiscal year. However, we may expect that community-based organizations may serve more youth in the first half of a fiscal year,

[93] The LA County fiscal year starts on July 1 and ends June 30.
[94] For example, 2018 calendar year costs are equal to one half of the 2017-2018 fiscal year costs plus one half of the 2018-2019 fiscal year costs.

which corresponds with the beginning of the school year. Ultimately this method of converting fiscal year to calendar year costs does not make a large difference for the annual-level cost estimates used in this CBA and therefore does not change this report's findings.

Calculating Benefits

Program benefits are calculated in terms of the future savings generated from reduced interactions with the traditional juvenile justice system as well as the reduced costs associated with diverting youth from the traditional system. Discussed elsewhere, only benefits to taxpayers (i.e., LA County YDD and the traditional justice system) and victims of juvenile offenses are considered. As a result, the monetary value of benefits to program participants are not included.

The major benefits this CBA estimated are first calculated in three parts to estimate the costs of processing a youth through the traditional juvenile justice system: pre-sentencing costs (i.e., arrest, pre-adjudication detention, adjudication), post-sentencing costs (i.e., probation supervision or detention), and victim costs. These costs are multiplied by an offense type's arrest or alleged offense distribution to calculate averages savings for (1) future arrest avoided, (2) future delinquent adjudication avoided, and (3) diverted arrest. The remainder of Technical Appendix D is dedicated to discussing the data sources and methodologies for these cost estimations in order from pre-sentencing costs to diverted arrests.

Pre-Sentencing

The pre-sentencing cost-calculation stage is inclusive of arrest, detention, and adjudication costs and is used to estimate savings from future arrest avoided and diverted arrests. Shown in **Figure I** below, average hours per arrest for each offense category are multiplied by average hourly wages to determine the cost of arrest.[95] The cost of pre-adjudication detention is calculated as share of youth detained pre-adjudication multiplied by the maximum number of days a youth may be detained prior to adjudication and the average daily cost of pre-adjudication detention in LA County.[96] Finally, the share of cases petitioned by offense category is multiplied by the average cost in LA County to adjudicate petitions filed in juvenile court.[97] Arrest, pre-adjudication detention, and adjudication costs are added together to estimate total pre-sentencing costs for

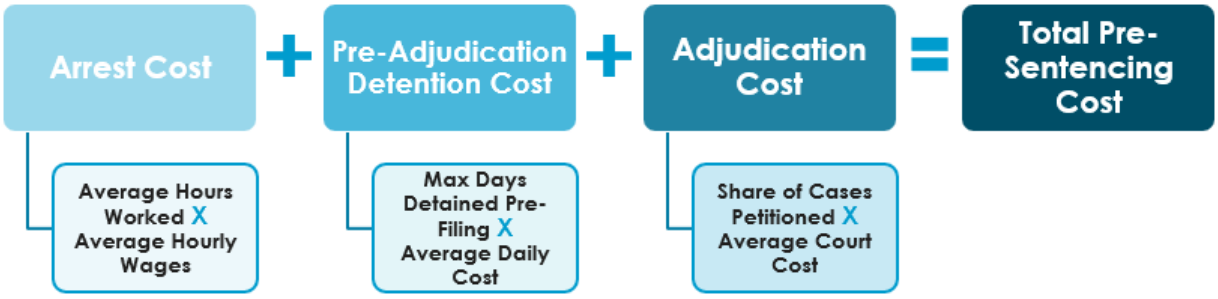
[95] Hours worked estimates derived from Justex Systems, Inc. (2014). Houston Police Department: Operational staffing model, pg. 71. Hourly wage estimated for LAPD officers calculated from the Supplement to the 2021-22 Adopted Budget Volume 1 for the City of LA, pg. 405.

[96] Share of youth detained estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18. Average daily detention cost in LA County juvenile halls estimated using BSCC's 2019 report on FY17-18 average daily cost to house youth in detention facilities, pg. 4. Maximum days detained (i.e., 15 days) taken from CA Welf. & Inst. Code § 636(a).

[97] LA County Juvenile Delinquency Services costs derived from Superior Court FY21-22 Program Expenditures Budget (unpaginated page 2) and divided by the total LA County juvenile delinquency filings for FY21-22 obtained from the 2023 Judicial Council's Court Statistics Report for Statewide Caseload Trends – 2012-13 through 2021-22, pg. 167. Case process probabilities estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County.

each offense category. Additional methodological detail for these calculations follows **Figure I**. The exact cost breakdown by offense type for pre-sentencing calculations is displayed in **Table I**.

Figure I. Pre-Sentencing Cost Estimation Method



Cost of Arrest. Following the methodology outlined in National Juvenile Justice Network's "How to Calculate the Cost of a Youth Arrest" Fiscal Policy Center Toolkit, the cost of arrest was estimated by multiplying the average number of hours required to complete an investigation and arrest by police officers' hourly wages (i.e., $65.96).[98] Cost of arrest was calculated using estimated hourly wages for the LAPD, the largest single referring agency for YDD. As a note, the cost of arrest does not include fees that may be collected by LAPD.

Cost of Pre-Adjudication Detention. The research team multiplied the maximum number of days a youth could be held in pre-adjudication detention according to California law (i.e., 15 days) by the daily cost to detain youth in LA County juvenile halls (i.e., $1,155.90).[99] The team further multiplied this estimated pre-adjudication detention cost by the percent of youth detained in LA County for each offense category.

Cost of Adjudication. To calculate cost of adjudication, the research team first identified the average cost for each juvenile delinquency petition filed in LA County (i.e., $2,059.64).[100] The average cost of adjudication for petitions filed was then multiplied by the percent of youth in LA County with petitions filed for each offense category.

Pre-Sentencing Limitations. LA County-specific data was available for all the parameters of pre-sentencing calculations except for mean hours spent per arrest, which is only available at the offense-level from an intensive Justex Systems (2014) Houston study.[101] Additionally, average days spent in pre-adjudication detention was not available for LA County juvenile hall, so the research team utilized the maximum days youth are allowed to be held at this phase under California law. If youth in LA County are being held for less than the total maximum days allowed (i.e., 15 days) for some offense categories, this CBA may overstate the pre-sentence cost calculations given the high average daily cost of detention in LA County Juvenile Hall ($1,155.90). However, this overestimation of costs is mediated by the small share of youth that are detained for lesser alleged

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[98] Chaidez, J. C. (Nov 2012). Fiscal policy center toolkit: How to calculate the cost of a youth arrest. *National Juvenile Justice Network*.; LAPD had a FY2021-2022 approved total budget of $1,760,908,714 and 13,999 staff positions. With 2,080 hours in a year, this equates to a LAPD wage of $60.48 per hour. This hourly wage reported in January 2021 dollars was adjusted for inflation to $65.96 in June 2022 dollars, using the Bureau of Labor Statistic's calculated 9.06% rate of inflation.

[99] The BSCC reported daily cost of LA County juvenile halls as $983 for FY17-18 (i.e., January 2018 dollars). The average daily cost was adjusted for inflation to $1,155.90 in June 2022 dollars, using the Bureau of Labor Statistic's calculated 17.59% rate of inflation.

[100] There were 2,198 total juvenile delinquency filings in LA County in FY21-22 according to the Judicial Council. The Superior Court budgeted $4,151,000 for Juvenile Delinquency Services expenditures in FY21-22, averaging to a cost of about $1,888.54 per filing in January 2021 dollars. This value was adjusted for inflation to $2,059.64 in June 2022 dollars, using the Bureau of Labor Statistic's calculated 9.06% rate of inflation.

[101] Justex Systems, Inc. (2014). Houston Police Department: Operational staffing model, pg. 71.

offenses. Youth detained for alleged offenses that may not reasonably be held for the maximum days allowed (e.g., vandalism) are detained at lower rates (e.g., 16%), so any overestimation in pre-sentencing costs is ultimately minimized.

We might reasonably expect that juvenile delinquency adjudication costs vary by offense type; however, granular detail about the cost or time-intensiveness of LA County juvenile adjudications was not available. As a result, the research team had to assume the same adjudication costs per petition-filed across offense types. Adjudication costs ultimately comprise a smaller share of total pre-sentencing costs relative to pre-adjudication detention; therefore, total pre-sentencing costs are less sensitive to uncertainty related to offense-level adjudication costs than pre-adjudication detention.

Some LA County youth are served informally through Probation without a delinquent adjudication. Although it was not included in this CBA, future studies should consider how to incorporate the cost of informal probation for youth not adjudicated at this pre-sentence stage. Without those costs included, this study may be underestimating pre-sentencing costs for youth processed through the traditional juvenile justice system (i.e., not diverted).

Table I. Pre-Sentencing Cost Estimation by Offense Type (2022 Dollars)

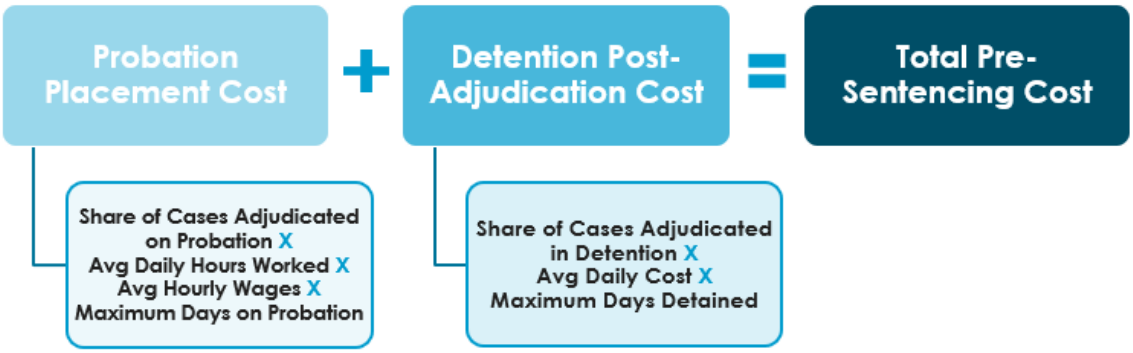
Offense Type	Mean Hours per Case[1]	Cost of Arrest (Hourly Wage)[2]	**Cost of Arrest by Offense**	Max Days Detention[3]	Cost per Day Detention[4]	Percent Detained[5]	**Cost of Pre-Adjudication Detention by Offense**	Cost of Adjudication[6]	Percent of Cases Petitioned[7]	**Cost of Adjudication by Offense**	**Total Pre-Sentence Cost per Offense Type**
Murder	267.09	$65.96	$17,617.26	15	$1,155.90	67%	$11,549.17	$2,059.64	80%	$1,654.10	**$30,820.53**
Rape	23.84	$65.96	$1,572.49	15	$1,155.90	27%	$4,622.44	$2,059.64	30%	$609.04	**$6,803.97**
Other sexual assault	0.38	$65.96	$25.06	15	$1,155.90	17%	$2,973.55	$2,059.64	44%	$897.39	**$3,896.00**
Robbery	10.92	$65.96	$720.28	15	$1,155.90	60%	$10,404.83	$2,059.64	80%	$1,646.27	**$12,771.39**
Assault	0.94	$65.96	$62.00	15	$1,155.90	30%	$5,161.67	$2,059.64	53%	$1,090.17	**$6,313.84**
Child maltreatment	0.36	$65.96	$23.75	15	$1,155.90	6%	$991.76	$2,059.64	20%	$406.37	**$1,421.87**
Arson	7.25	$65.96	$478.21	15	$1,155.90	32%	$5,588.20	$2,059.64	61%	$1,259.06	**$7,325.47**
Impaired driving	0.42	$65.96	$27.70	15	$1,155.90	14%	$2,423.92	$2,059.64	75%	$1,552.97	**$4,004.59**
Burglary	4.85	$65.96	$319.91	15	$1,155.90	27%	$4,764.62	$2,059.64	62%	$1,282.54	**$6,367.06**
Larceny/theft	4.76	$65.96	$313.97	15	$1,155.90	22%	$3,831.81	$2,059.64	51%	$1,045.89	**$5,191.66**
Motor vehicle theft	2.78	$65.96	$183.37	15	$1,155.90	42%	$7,322.05	$2,059.64	74%	$1,522.28	**$9,027.70**
Fraud	0.62	$65.96	$40.90	15	$1,155.90	16%	$2,710.01	$2,059.64	46%	$941.67	**$3,692.57**
Vandalism	0.39	$65.96	$25.72	15	$1,155.90	16%	$2,798.43	$2,059.64	48%	$996.66	**$3,820.82**
Weapons carrying	0.48	$65.96	$31.66	15	$1,155.90	32%	$5,589.93	$2,059.64	69%	$1,414.56	**$7,036.15**
Prostitution	3.34	$65.96	$220.31	15	$1,155.90	26%	$4,457.73	$2,059.64	51%	$1,059.27	**$5,737.31**
Drug possession/sales	0.5	$65.96	$32.98	15	$1,155.90	14%	$2,482.87	$2,059.64	33%	$670.21	**$3,186.06**
Gambling	0	$65.96	$0.00	15	$1,155.90	0%	$0.00	$2,059.64	9%	$187.22	**$187.22**
Liquor laws	0.5	$65.96	$32.98	15	$1,155.90	3%	$591.24	$2,059.64	13%	$260.54	**$884.77**
Drunkenness	0.27	$65.96	$17.81	15	$1,155.90	15%	$2,626.78	$2,059.64	25%	$509.97	**$3,154.56**
Disorderly conduct	0.27	$65.96	$17.81	15	$1,155.90	8%	$1,420.02	$2,059.64	22%	$451.89	**$1,889.72**
Curfew/loitering violations	1.3	$65.96	$85.75	15	$1,155.90	37%	$6,413.51	$2,059.64	65%	$1,335.47	**$7,834.73**
Other non-traffic offense	1.3	$65.96	$85.75	15	$1,155.90	9%	$1,641.96	$2,059.64	23%	$470.01	**$2,197.71**

Sources: (1) Hours worked estimates derived from Justex Systems, Inc. (2014). Houston Police Department: Operational staffing model, pg. 71.; **(2)** Hourly wage estimates for LAPD officers adjusted for inflation and calculated from the Supplement to the 2021-22 Adopted Budget Volume 1 for the City of LA, pg. 405.; **(3)** Maximum days detained (i.e., 15 days) taken from CA Welf. & Inst. Code § 636(a).; **(4)** Average daily detention cost in LA County juvenile halls adjusted for inflation and estimated using BSCC's 2019 report on FY17-18 average daily cost to house youth in detention facilities, pg. 4.; **(5)** Share of youth detained estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.; **(6)** LA County Juvenile Delinquency Services costs adjusted for inflation and derived from Superior Court FY21-22 Program Expenditures Budget (unpaginated 2) and divided by the total LA County juvenile delinquency filings for FY21-22 obtained from the 2023 Judicial Council's Court Statistics Report for Statewide Caseload Trends – 2012-13 through 2021-22, pg. 167.; **(7)** Share of youth with petitions filed estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.

Post-Sentencing

The post-sentencing stage is inclusive of probation placement and post-adjudication detention costs for youths adjudicated delinquent. Outlined in **Figure II**, the cost of probation placements is estimated by multiplying the share of youth adjudicated delinquent and placed on probation by the average daily cost of Probation supervision and maximum days a youth may be placed on probation.[102] Next, the cost of detention is estimated by multiplying the share of youth adjudicated delinquent and detained by the average daily cost of post-adjudication detention, and maximum days a youth might be detained.[103] Probation and detention placements costs are added together to estimate total post-sentencing costs for each offense category. Additional methodological detail for these calculations follows **Table II**. The exact cost breakdown by offense type for post-sentencing calculations is displayed in **Table III-IV**.

Figure II. Post-Sentencing Cost Estimation Method



Cost of Probation Supervision. The research team estimated probation supervision costs in four stages, estimating (1) the share of youth adjudicated delinquent, (2) the share of adjudicated delinquent youth placed on probation, (3) the daily cost for Probation supervision, and (4) maximum days on probation.

While the share of youth adjudicated delinquent and placed on wardship was available at the offense category level, share of youth on wardship youth placed on home supervision was not. The share of wardship youth on probation was estimated first by multiplying the offense-level share of youth placed on wardship by the estimated share of all wardship youth on home supervision (i.e., 56%).[104] This sum was then added to the share of non-wardship youth on probation.

Hours per day on probation are estimated at 30 minutes a day, or 3.5 hours a week. The estimated daily cost for probation was again calculated following a similar methodology outlined in National Juvenile Justice Network's "How to Calculate the Cost of a Youth Arrest" Fiscal Policy Center Toolkit, and was estimated by multiplying daily supervision hours by estimated hourly wages for LA

[102] The share of youth on probation estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18 in addition to the Juvenile Justice in California Report (2021), CA Department of Justice, pg. iv-v.; Probation hourly wages estimated using the LA County Final Budget FY21-22, pg. 175.
[103] The share of youth detained estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18 in addition to the Juvenile Justice in California Report (2021), CA Department of Justice, pg. iv-v. Average daily detention cost in LA County juvenile camps estimated using BSCC's 2019 report on FY17-18 average daily cost to house youth in detention facilities, pg. 4.
[104] The estimate of non-wardship youth on home supervision is derived from the Juvenile Justice in California Report (2021), CA Department of Justice, pg. v.

County Probation Special Services staff (i.e., $96.61).[105] Similarly this estimated cost per day and the average days on probation were not calculated granularly at the offense-level because that data is not available. Reclaiming Features (2010) similarly resorted to using the same average estimates across offense categories.

Finally, the estimated cost of probation placements for youth adjudicated delinquent was calculated by multiplying the share of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent, by the estimated share of youth placed on probation, the cost of probation placement per day, and the average number of days on probation.

Cost of Detention Post-Adjudication. Included three stages of calculations first estimating the share of youth detained post-sentencing, the average number of days detained, and the cost per day detained for youth adjudicated delinquent. The estimated share of youth on probation was estimated from reported share of youth adjudicated delinquent detained multiplied by the estimated share of average share of wardship youth detained. While the share of youth adjudicated delinquent and detained at the offense-level, estimated share of wardship youth detained was not available at this granular level. The average days detained and cost per day were not calculated granularly at the offense-level because that data is not available. Again, Reclaiming Features (2010) similarly resorted to using the same average estimates across offense categories. Finally, the estimated cost of probation placements for adjudicated delinquent youth was calculated by multiplying the share of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent, by the estimated share of youth detained, the cost of detention placement per day, and the average number of days detained.

Post-Sentencing Limitations. Data is not available for the overall number of youths placed on probation and detention by offense level. The estimated share of youth detained or placed on probation is not greater than 90% for any offense category, lending credence to the values calculated for this report. That being said, the adjudication placement estimates (i.e., on probation or detention) could under and overestimate post-sentencing placements for certain offense categories as a result of this model's reliance on averages. Similarly, data was not available for hours on probation or mean days detained by offense level. For the purposes of this CBA, the research team estimated that youth spent a maximum of six months (i.e., 180 days) on probation. Additionally, the research team estimated adjudicated and detained youth spend an average six months (i.e., 180 days) in detention for most offenses, one month (i.e., 30 days) for curfew/loitering violations, one year (i.e., 360 days) for serious offenses such as rape, robbery, and assault, and two years (i.e., 720 days) for murder. Using averages based on the seriousness of an offense is meant to prevent underestimating the time youth charged with more serious offenses may spend detained. Ultimately, the share of youth arrested and processed for these more serious offense types are small and the uncertainty related to estimating post-sentencing costs should have a limited overall impact on benefit calculations. Furthermore, these more serious offenses are not eligible for diversion and do not impact the benefit calculation for diverted arrest savings.

[105] Chaidez, J. C. (Nov 2012). Fiscal policy center toolkit: How to calculate the cost of a youth arrest. *National Juvenile Justice Network.*; LA County Probation Special Services staff had a FY2021-2022 approved total budget of $109,977,000 and 597 staff positions. With 2,080 hours in a year, this equates to a probation wage of $88.58 per hour. This hourly wage reported in January 2021 dollars was adjusted for inflation to $96.61 in June 2022 dollars, using the Bureau of Labor Statistic's calculated 9.06% rate of inflation.

Table II. Post-Sentencing Cost Estimation: Probation Costs by Offense Type (2022 Dollars)

	Percent of Petitions Adjudicated Delinquent[1]	*Wardship: Adjudicated Delinquent*[2]	*Wardship: Estimated Home Supervision*[3]	Percent Adjudicated Delinquent Wardship on Probation[4]	Percent Adjudicated Delinquent on Probation[5]	**Estimated Total Share on Probation**	Hours per Day Probation[6]	Probation Hourly Wage[7]	**Estimated Cost per Day**	**Maximum Days Probation**[8]	**Probation Cost per Offense Type**
Murder	62%	*97%*	*56%*	54%	3%	57%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$3,058.89**
Rape	23%	*82%*	*56%*	46%	18%	64%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$1,287.21**
Other sexual assault	34%	*65%*	*56%*	36%	35%	71%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,072.40**
Robbery	67%	*93%*	*56%*	52%	7%	59%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$3,410.45**
Assault	42%	*71%*	*56%*	39%	29%	69%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,483.64**
Child maltreatment	14%	*51%*	*56%*	28%	49%	77%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$931.75**
Arson	46%	*61%*	*56%*	34%	39%	73%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,945.48**
Impaired driving	65%	*51%*	*56%*	28%	49%	77%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$4,341.00**
Burglary	50%	*73%*	*56%*	40%	27%	68%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,914.73**
Larceny/theft	38%	*72%*	*56%*	40%	28%	68%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,276.66**
Motor vehicle theft	63%	*83%*	*56%*	46%	17%	63%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$3,455.59**
Fraud	34%	*65%*	*56%*	36%	35%	71%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,121.19**
Vandalism	38%	*69%*	*56%*	39%	31%	69%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,302.33**
Weapons carrying	56%	*66%*	*56%*	36%	34%	71%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$3,464.31**
Prostitution	40%	*79%*	*56%*	44%	21%	65%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,264.67**
Drug possess/sales	26%	*70%*	*56%*	39%	30%	69%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$1,547.05**
Gambling	0%	*0%*	*56%*	0%	0%	0%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$0.00**
Liquor laws	9%	*49%*	*56%*	27%	51%	78%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$578.65**
Drunkenness	19%	*79%*	*56%*	44%	21%	65%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$1,080.81**
Disorderly conduct	15%	*63%*	*56%*	35%	37%	72%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$963.54**
Curfew/loitering violations	53%	*99%*	*56%*	55%	1%	56%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$2,573.31**
Other non-traffic offense	17%	*66%*	*56%*	37%	34%	71%	0.50	$96.61	$48.31	180	**$1,032.72**

Sources: (1) Share of youth adjudicated delinquent estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.; **(2)** Share of youth adjudicated delinquent and declared wards of the Court (i.e., wardship) estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.; **(3)** Average share of wardship youth on probation estimated from the Juvenile Justice in California Report (2021), CA Department of Justice, pg. iv-v.; **(4)** Estimated percent of adjudicated wardship youth on probation estimated by multiplying the share of wardship youth adjudicated by the estimated share of wardship youth on home supervision.; **(5)** Share of youth adjudicated delinquent on probation estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.; **(6)** Daily hours spent supervising youth on probation estimated to be one-half hour (i.e., 0.5 hours) **(7)** Probation hourly wages estimated using the LA County Final Budget FY21-22, pg. 175.; **(8)** Maximum days on probation estimated to be six total months (i.e., 180 days).

	Percent of Petitions Adjudicated Delinquent[1]	Percent Adjudicated Delinquent Detained[2]	Average Wardship Detained[3]	Estimated Detention	Mean Days Detention[4]	Cost per Day Detention[5]	Detention Cost per Offense Type	Probation Cost per Offense Type	Detention Cost per Offense Type	Total Post-Sentence Cost per Offense Type
Murder	62%	97%	44%	43%	720	$1,436.94	**$276,338.15**	**$3,058.89**	**$276,338.15**	**$279,397.04**
Rape	23%	82%	44%	36%	360	$1,436.94	**$43,845.09**	**$1,287.21**	**$43,845.09**	**$45,132.30**
Other sexual assault	34%	65%	44%	29%	180	$1,436.94	**$25,128.55**	**$2,072.40**	**$25,128.55**	**$27,200.95**
Robbery	67%	93%	44%	41%	360	$1,436.94	**$141,928.35**	**$3,410.45**	**$141,928.35**	**$145,338.80**
Assault	42%	71%	44%	31%	360	$1,436.94	**$67,899.02**	**$2,483.64**	**$67,899.02**	**$70,382.65**
Child maltreatment	14%	51%	44%	23%	180	$1,436.94	**$8,131.92**	**$931.75**	**$8,131.92**	**$9,063.67**
Arson	46%	61%	44%	27%	180	$1,436.94	**$32,626.16**	**$2,945.48**	**$32,626.16**	**$35,571.64**
Impaired driving	65%	51%	44%	23%	180	$1,436.94	**$37,877.02**	**$4,341.00**	**$37,877.02**	**$42,218.02**
Burglary	50%	73%	44%	32%	180	$1,436.94	**$41,377.80**	**$2,914.73**	**$41,377.80**	**$44,292.54**
Larceny/theft	38%	72%	44%	32%	180	$1,436.94	**$31,752.06**	**$2,276.66**	**$31,752.06**	**$34,028.72**
Motor vehicle theft	63%	83%	44%	37%	180	$1,436.94	**$60,206.53**	**$3,455.59**	**$60,206.53**	**$63,662.12**
Fraud	34%	65%	44%	29%	180	$1,436.94	**$25,410.30**	**$2,121.19**	**$25,410.30**	**$27,531.49**
Vandalism	38%	69%	44%	31%	180	$1,436.94	**$30,445.38**	**$2,302.33**	**$30,445.38**	**$32,747.71**
Weapons carrying	56%	66%	44%	29%	180	$1,436.94	**$42,333.01**	**$3,464.31**	**$42,333.01**	**$45,797.32**
Prostitution	40%	79%	44%	35%	180	$1,436.94	**$36,091.99**	**$2,264.67**	**$36,091.99**	**$38,356.66**
Drug possess/sales	26%	70%	44%	31%	180	$1,436.94	**$20,581.67**	**$1,547.05**	**$20,581.67**	**$22,128.72**
Gambling	0%	0%	44%	0%	180	$1,436.94	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Liquor laws	9%	49%	44%	22%	180	$1,436.94	**$4,823.70**	**$578.65**	**$4,823.70**	**$5,402.35**
Drunkenness	19%	79%	44%	35%	180	$1,436.94	**$17,302.47**	**$1,080.81**	**$17,302.47**	**$18,383.29**
Disorderly conduct	15%	63%	44%	28%	180	$1,436.94	**$11,195.05**	**$963.54**	**$11,195.05**	**$12,158.59**
Curfew/loitering violations	53%	99%	44%	44%	30	$1,436.94	**$10,046.11**	**$2,573.31**	**$10,046.11**	**$12,619.41**
Other non-traffic offense	17%	66%	44%	29%	180	$1,436.94	**$12,706.63**	**$1,032.72**	**$12,706.63**	**$13,739.35**

Sources: (1) Share of youth adjudicated delinquent estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.; **(2)** Share of youth adjudicated delinquent and placed in detention estimated using CA Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (2017-2021) for LA County youth under the age of 18.; **(3)** Average share of wardship youth detained estimated from the Juvenile Justice in California Report (2021), CA Department of Justice, pg. v.; **(4)** Average days detained estimated to be six months (i.e., 180 days) for most offenses, one month (i.e., 30 days) for curfew/loitering violations, one year (i.e., 360 days) for serious offenses such as rape, robbery, and assault, and two years (i.e., 720 days) for murder.; **(5)** Average daily detention cost in LA County juvenile camps estimated using BSCC's 2019 report on FY17-18 average daily cost to house youth in detention facilities, pg. 4

Victim Costs

Victimization costs by offense category were drawn from Miller et al. (2021).[106] These estimates are reported in unit costs per crime, thereby including estimated victim costs from crimes that are not reported to the police. The comprehensive estimates include a range of costs from victims' medical, mental health, productivity, and property loss to quality of life. For the purposes of this juvenile diversion CBA that captures costs to the traditional juvenile justice system elsewhere, Miller et al.'s (2021) estimates of costs to public services, adjudications, sanctioning, and perpetrator work loss were not included.[107] Instead, these costs were subtracted from the Miller et al. (2021) calculated total to arrive at this juvenile diversion CBA total (see **Table V**). Miller et al. (2021) victim costs were compiled using financial data from 2017. The modified total victim cost estimate was further adjusted for inflation to June 2022 dollars for those 22 offense categories included in the CBA, assuming a 20.97% rate of inflation between June 2017 and June 2022 (see **Table VI**).

Victim Cost Limitations. Victimization costs are national-level estimates. As a result, they likely underestimate the true victim costs incurred in LA County where medical costs and other impacted costs of living may be higher. Additionally, the victimization costs prepared by Miller et al. (2021) are average estimates with varying degrees of uncertainty. Miller et al. (2021) identified the highest degree of uncertainty in their estimates for average rape, sexual assault, and impaired driving victim costs. Rape (0.1%), sexual assault (0.3%), and impaired driving (0.3%) combined comprise a collectively small share of juvenile stops leading to an arrest, infraction, warning, etc. according to LA County Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) data (see **Table VII-VIII**). As a result, the uncertainty has a limited impact.

Arrest & Alleged Offense Distribution

The RDA research team downloaded publicly accessible RIPA data to understand the distribution of juvenile arrests by offense category in LA County.[108] The data sample was limited to youth who met YDD programmatic age requirements (i.e., youth 13-17 years of age, inclusive) and were stopped between 2019 and 2021. Only stops that resulted in a warning, infraction, citation, or custodial arrest (with or without a warrant) were included to estimate the distribution of arrests for future arrests and delinquent adjudications saving calculations (see **Tables VII-VIII**).

The research team used the alleged offense category for youth enrolling in YDD's program to calculate diverted arrest cost savings (see **Tables IX-XI**). The unduplicated count of alleged offenses leading to an enrollment was collected from YDD and separated into pre-booking and pre-filing referrals based (i.e., pre-filing if referral source was the DA, and pre-booking otherwise).

Arrest Distribution Limitations. RIPA data does not include all juvenile arrests for LA County because a limited number of agencies (i.e., LA Sherrif's Department (LASD), and LAPD) were mandated to share stop data throughout the timeframe of interest. RIPA's incomplete data capture for all LA County stops may impact the accuracy of findings if non-reporting agencies arrested youth at different rates across offense categories. Ultimately, because LASD and LAPD are responsible for most stops made, RIPA data is utilized as an accurate estimator for arrests.

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[106] Miller, T. R., Cohen, M. A., Swedler, D. I., Ali, B., & Hendrie, D. V. (2021). Incidence and costs of personal and property crimes in the USA, 2017. *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis, 12*(1), pg. 36-37.

[107] Public services costs are inclusive of arrest, emergency services and victim assistance costs. Adjudication and sanctioning costs are inclusive of courts and corrections.

[108] RIPA Stop Data downloaded from CA Department of Justice "Open Justice" Data Portal, linked here: https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/data.

Table V. Victim Costs by Offense Type (2017 Dollars)[1]

Offense Category	Medical	Mental Health	Productivity	Property Loss	Public services	Adjudication/ sanctioning	Perpetrator work loss	Subtotal: Tangible Costs	Quality of life	Total	Total Victim Cost (without public services, adjudication/ sanctioning, work loss)
Murder	$12,735	$11,976	$1,828,638	$197	$148,832	$478,072	$177,869	$2,658,319	$5,150,836	$7,809,155	**$7,004,382**
Rape	$1,835	$4,108	$4,575	$176	$25	$852	$351	$11,923	$214,518	$226,441	**$225,212**
Police-reported	$3,333	$6,504	$7,178	$176	$901	$44,660	$18,409	$81,161	$319,632	$400,793	**$336,823**
Other sexual assault	$706	$1,580	$1,760	$68	$51	$328	$135	$4,627	$82,507	$87,134	**$86,621**
Robbery	$1,436	$156	$3,401	$1,279	$647	$6,754	$2,905	$16,578	$11,145	$27,723	**$17,417**
Police-reported	$1,959	$196	$4,639	$1,285	$1,321	$13,784	$5,928	$29,112	$14,656	$43,768	**$22,735**
Assault	$1,734	$177	$1,192	$44	$1,891	$2,705	$1,002	$8,745	$20,581	$29,326	**$23,728**
Police-reported	$2,090	$403	$2,292	$79	$4,315	$6,172	$2,286	$17,635	$21,149	$38,784	**$26,013**
Intimate partner violence	$727	$193	$1,336	$65	$13	$269	$207	$2,810	$25,440	$28,251	**$27,761**
Child maltreatment	$9,708	$3,891	$1,443	$7	$12,180	$11,358	$0	$38,586	$40,734	$79,320	**$55,783**
Arson	$2,647	$45	$3,389	$19,519	$4,002	$2,596	$505	$33,008	$6,430	$39,438	**$32,030**
Impaired driving crash	$3,719	$432	$17,022	$7,848	$78	$1,088	$107	$30,294	$53,449	$83,743	**$82,470**
Other impaired driving	$0	$0	$0	$0	$9	$1,088	$107	$1,204	$0	$1,204	**$0**
Burglary	$0	$0	$23	$1,641	$240	$386	$384	$2,675	$0	$2,675	**$1,664**
Police-reported	$0	$0	$39	$2,882	$582	$935	$931	$5,369	$0	$5,369	**$2,921**
Larceny/theft	$0	$0	$15	$465	$678	$1,935	$170	$3,263	$0	$3,263	**$480**
Police-reported	$0	$0	$31	$1,052	$901	$2,570	$226	$4,780	$0	$4,780	**$1,083**
Motor vehicle theft	$0	$0	$102	$6,214	$565	$1,552	$606	$9,039	$0	$9,039	**$6,316**
Police-reported	$0	$0	$118	$7,219	$715	$1,964	$767	$10,783	$0	$10,783	**$7,337**
Fraud	$0	$0	$57	$1,854	$73	$52	$16	$2,053	$0	$2,053	**$1,911**
Fraud (FTC)	$0	$0	$0	$2,736	$22	$15	$5	$2,778	$0	$2,778	**$2,736**
Fraud (identity theft)	$0	$0	$141	$573	$148	$105	$32	$999	$0	$999	**$714**
Buying stolen property	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,321	$5,385	$1,570	$9,422	$0	$9,422	**$0**
Vandalism	$0	$0	0	$390	$23	$688	$248	$1,349	$0	$1,349	**$390**
Weapons carrying	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$2,573	$1,073	$3,725	$0	$3,725	**$0**
Prostitution/pandering	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$257	$108	$444	$0	$444	**$0**
Drug possession/sales	$0	$0	$0	$0	$5,046	$3,599	$1,502	$10,147	$0	$10,147	**$0**
Gambling	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$257	$108	$444	$0	$444	**$0**

Offense Category	Medical	Mental Health	Productivity	Property Loss	Public services	Adjudication/ sanctioning	Perpetrator work loss	Subtotal: Tangible Costs	Quality of life	Total	Total Victim Cost (without public services, adjudication/ sanctioning, work loss)
Liquor laws	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$1,228	$512	$1,819	$0	$1,819	**$0**
Drunkenness	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$1,228	$512	$1,819	$0	$1,819	**$0**
Disorderly conduct	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$1,228	$512	$1,819	$0	$1,819	**$0**
Vagrancy	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$1,228	$512	$1,819	$0	$1,819	**$0**
Curfew/loitering	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$1,228	$512	$1,819	$0	$1,819	**$0**
All other non-traffic	$0	$0	$0	$0	$79	$257	$165	$501	$0	$501	**$0**
All violent crime	$2,438	$1,665	$3,565	$149	$2,328	$3,201	$757	$14,055	$77,055	$91,110	**$84,872**
Impaired driving	$1,208	$140	$5,527	$2,548	$31	$1,088	$107	$10,649	$17,355	$28,004	**$26,778**
All non-violent	$0	$0	$44	$1,499	$274	$433	$89	$2,349	$0	$2,349	**$1,543**
All personal crime	$544	$339	$1,009	$1,280	$672	$1,016	$245	$5,103	$16,191	$21,294	**$19,363**

Source: (1) Miller, T. R., Cohen, M. A., Swedler, D. I., Ali, B., & Hendrie, D. V. (2021). Incidence and costs of personal and property crimes in the USA, 2017. *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis, 12*(1), pg. 36-37.

Table VI. Victim Costs by Offense Type (2022 Dollars)

Offense Category	Total Victim Costs (2017 $)	Total Victim Costs (2022 $)
Murder	$7,004,382.00	$8,473,200.91
Rape	$225,212.00	$272,438.96
Other sexual assault	$86,621.00	$104,785.42
Robbery	$17,417.00	$21,069.34
Assault	$23,728.00	$28,703.76
Child maltreatment	$55,783.00	$67,480.70
Arson	$32,030.00	$38,746.69
Impaired driving	$26,778.00	$32,393.35
Burglary	$1,664.00	$2,012.94
Larceny/theft	$480.00	$580.66
Motor vehicle theft	$6,316.00	$7,640.47
Fraud	$1,911.00	$2,311.74
Vandalism	$390.00	$471.78
Weapons carrying	$0.00	$0.00
Prostitution/pandering	$0.00	$0.00
Drug possession/sales	$0.00	$0.00
Gambling	$0.00	$0.00
Liquor laws	$0.00	$0.00
Drunkenness	$0.00	$0.00
Disorderly conduct	$0.00	$0.00
Curfew/loitering	$0.00	$0.00
All other non-traffic	$0.00	$0.00

Savings from Future Arrests Avoided: $65,016

Shown in the equation and **Table VII** below, average estimated savings from reduced arrests combines all three cost components of pre-sentencing, post-sentencing, and victim costs. The estimated average savings of $65,016 per arrest avoided is calculated by multiplying the expected arrest distribution for each offense category by pre-sentencing, post-sentencing, and victim costs.

LA County Juvenile Arrest Distribution x (**Total Pre-Sentencing Costs** + **Total Post-Sentencing Costs** + **Victim Costs**) = **Future Arrest Savings**

Table VII. Expected Savings from Future Arrests – $65,016 (2022 Dollars)

Offense Type	Total Costs			Arrest Weighting		Expected Costs from Totals & Arrest Distribution			Total Expected Cost per Offense Type
	Total Cost Pre-Sentence	Total Cost Post-Sentence	Total Victim Costs	Count of Arrests/ Infractions/ etc.[1]	Arrest Distribution	Expected Cost Pre-Sentence	Expected Cost Post-Sentence	Expected Victim Cost	
Murder	$30,820.53	$279,397.04	$8,473,200.91	73	0.004	$112.16	$1,016.75	$30,834.68	$31,964
Rape	$6,803.97	$45,132.30	$272,438.96	25	0.001	$8.48	$56.25	$339.53	$404
Other sexual assault	$3,896.00	$27,200.95	$104,785.42	64	0.003	$12.43	$86.78	$334.31	$434
Robbery	$12,771.39	$145,338.80	$21,069.34	762	0.038	$485.13	$5,520.85	$800.34	$6,806
Assault	$6,313.84	$70,382.65	$28,703.76	1298	0.065	$408.54	$4,554.17	$1,857.30	$6,820
Child maltreatment	$1,421.87	$9,063.67	$67,480.70	66	0.003	$4.68	$29.82	$222.02	$257
Arson	$7,325.47	$35,571.64	$38,746.69	12	0.001	$4.38	$21.28	$23.18	$49
Impaired driving	$4,004.59	$42,218.02	$32,393.35	56	0.003	$11.18	$117.86	$90.43	$219
Burglary	$6,367.06	$44,292.54	$2,012.94	212	0.011	$67.29	$468.10	$21.27	$557
Larceny/theft	$5,191.66	$34,028.72	$580.66	563	0.028	$145.71	$955.04	$16.30	$1,117
Motor vehicle theft	$9,027.70	$63,662.12	$7,640.47	528	0.026	$237.62	$1,675.65	$201.10	$2,114
Fraud	$3,692.57	$27,531.49	$2,311.74	51	0.003	$9.39	$70.00	$5.88	$85
Vandalism	$3,820.82	$32,747.71	$471.78	617	0.031	$117.52	$1,007.25	$14.51	$1,139
Weapons carrying	$7,036.15	$45,797.32	$0.00	708	0.035	$248.33	$1,616.38	$0.00	$1,865
Prostitution	$5,737.31	$38,356.66	$0.00	37	0.002	$10.58	$70.75	$0.00	$81
Drug posess/sales	$3,186.06	$22,128.72	$0.00	674	0.034	$107.05	$743.51	$0.00	$851
Gambling	$187.22	$0.00	$0.00	31	0.002	$0.29	$0.00	$0.00	$0
Liquor laws	$884.77	$5,402.35	$0.00	363	0.018	$16.01	$97.76	$0.00	$114
Drunkness	$3,154.56	$18,383.29	$0.00	90	0.004	$14.15	$82.48	$0.00	$97
Disorderly conduct	$1,889.72	$12,158.59	$0.00	11328	0.565	$1,067.13	$6,866.03	$0.00	$7,933
Curfew/loitering violations	$7,834.73	$12,619.41	$0.00	544	0.027	$212.47	$342.22	$0.00	$555
Other non-traffic offense	$2,197.71	$13,739.35	$0.00	1958	0.098	$214.51	$1,341.06	$0.00	$1,556
								Expected Savings from Future Arrest:	**$65,016**

Source: (1) LA County juvenile offense-level arrest data estimated using RIPA Stop Data downloaded from CA Department of Justice "Open Justice" Data Portal.

Savings from Future Delinquent Adjudications Avoided: $61,501

Shown in the equation and **Table VIII** below, average estimated savings from reduced delinquent adjudications combines only those post-sentencing and victim costs avoided. The estimated average savings of $61,501 per delinquent adjudication avoided is calculated by multiplying the expected arrest distribution for each offense category by post-sentencing and victim costs.

LA County Juvenile Arrest Distribution x (**Total Post-Sentencing Costs** + **Victim Costs**) = **Future Delinquent Adjudication Savings**

Table VIII. Expected Savings from Future Delinquent Adjudications – $61,501 (2022 Dollars)

Offense Type	Total Costs		Arrest Weighting		Expected Costs from Totals & Arrest Distribution		Total Expected Cost per Offense Type
	Total Cost Post-Sentence	Total Victim Costs	Count of Arrests/ Infractions/ etc.[1]	Arrest Distribution	Expected Cost Post-Sentence	Expected Victim Cost	
Murder	$279,397.04	$8,473,200.91	73	0.004	$1,016.75	$30,834.68	$31,851
Rape	$45,132.30	$272,438.96	25	0.001	$56.25	$339.53	$396
Other sexual assault	$27,200.95	$104,785.42	64	0.003	$86.78	$334.31	$421
Robbery	$145,338.80	$21,069.34	762	0.038	$5,520.85	$800.34	$6,321
Assault	$70,382.65	$28,703.76	1298	0.065	$4,554.17	$1,857.30	$6,411
Child maltreatment	$9,063.67	$67,480.70	66	0.003	$29.82	$222.02	$252
Arson	$35,571.64	$38,746.69	12	0.001	$21.28	$23.18	$44
Impaired driving	$42,218.02	$32,393.35	56	0.003	$117.86	$90.43	$208
Burglary	$44,292.54	$2,012.94	212	0.011	$468.10	$21.27	$489
Larceny/theft	$34,028.72	$580.66	563	0.028	$955.04	$16.30	$971
Motor vehicle theft	$63,662.12	$7,640.47	528	0.026	$1,675.65	$201.10	$1,877
Fraud	$27,531.49	$2,311.74	51	0.003	$70.00	$5.88	$76
Vandalism	$32,747.71	$471.78	617	0.031	$1,007.25	$14.51	$1,022
Weapons carrying	$45,797.32	$0.00	708	0.035	$1,616.38	$0.00	$1,616
Prostitution	$38,356.66	$0.00	37	0.002	$70.75	$0.00	$71
Drug posess/sales	$22,128.72	$0.00	674	0.034	$743.51	$0.00	$744
Gambling	$0.00	$0.00	31	0.002	$0.00	$0.00	$0
Liquor laws	$5,402.35	$0.00	363	0.018	$97.76	$0.00	$98
Drunkness	$18,383.29	$0.00	90	0.004	$82.48	$0.00	$82
Disorderly conduct	$12,158.59	$0.00	11328	0.565	$6,866.03	$0.00	$6,866
Curfew/loitering violations	$12,619.41	$0.00	544	0.027	$342.22	$0.00	$342
Other non-traffic offense	$13,739.35	$0.00	1958	0.098	$1,341.06	$0.00	$1,341
					Expected Savings from Future Delinquent Adjudications:		**$61,501**

Source: (1) LA County juvenile offense-level arrest data estimated using RIPA Stop Data downloaded from CA Department of Justice "Open Justice" Data Portal.

Savings from Diverting Enrolled YDD Participants: $49,096

Shown in the equation and **Tables IX-X** below, the estimated average savings of $49,096 for diverting each enrolled YDD participant is calculated by multiplying the observed alleged offense distribution for YDD pre-booking (see **Table IX**) and pre-filing (see **Table X**) referrals by pre- and post-sentencing costs. Diversion does not eliminate costs a victim experiences from an alleged offense and are therefore not included when estimating diversion cost savings. At the pre-booking stage, diversion participants avoid all costs associated with the traditional justice system while DA referrals are treated as being diverted at the pre-filing stage (i.e., not avoiding arrest or detention costs). The pre-booking and pre-filing expected costs per alleged offense diverted are weighted based on their

YDD Participants' Alleged Offense Distribution x (**Total Pre-Sentencing Costs*** + **Total Post-Sentencing Costs**) = **Diversion Savings**

share of total diversion referrals and added together to calculate average YDD diversion savings (see **Table XI**).

Table IX. Expected Savings from Alleged Offenses Diverted Pre-Booking (2022 Dollars)

Offense Type	Total Costs		Alleged Offense Weighting (Pre-Filing)		Expected Costs from Totals & Alleged Offense Distribution		Expected Cost per Alleged Offense Diverted
	Total Cost Pre-Sentence	Total Cost Post-Sentence	Count of Referred Alleged Offenses[1]	Alleged Offense Distribution	Total Cost Post-Sentence	Count of Referred Alleged Offenses	
Other sexual assault	$897.39	$27,200.95	14	0.071	$63.77	$1,933.06	$1,997
Assault	$1,090.17	$70,382.65	48	0.244	$265.62	$17,149.07	$17,415
Child maltreatment	$406.37	$9,063.67	0	0.000	$0.00	$0.00	$0
Impaired driving	$1,552.97	$42,218.02	9	0.046	$70.95	$1,928.74	$2,000
Burglary	$1,282.54	$44,292.54	13	0.066	$84.63	$2,922.86	$3,007
Larceny/theft	$1,045.89	$34,028.72	11	0.056	$58.40	$1,900.08	$1,958
Motor vehicle theft	$1,522.28	$63,662.12	5	0.025	$38.64	$1,615.79	$1,654
Fraud	$941.67	$27,531.49	1	0.005	$4.78	$139.75	$145
Vandalism	$996.66	$32,747.71	27	0.137	$136.60	$4,488.27	$4,625
Weapons carrying	$1,414.56	$45,797.32	28	0.142	$201.05	$6,509.26	$6,710
Rape	$609.04	$45,132.30	2	0.010	$6.18	$458.20	$464
Drug posess/sales	$670.21	$22,128.72	5	0.025	$17.01	$561.64	$579
Robbery	$1,646.27	$145,338.80	14	0.071	$116.99	$10,328.65	$10,446
Liquor laws	$260.54	$5,402.35	0	0.000	$0.00	$0.00	$0
Drunkness	$509.97	$18,383.29	0	0.000	$0.00	$0.00	$0
Disorderly conduct	$451.89	$12,158.59	1	0.005	$2.29	$61.72	$64
Curfew/loitering violations	$1,335.47	$12,619.41	2	0.010	$13.56	$128.12	$142
Other non-traffic offense	$470.01	$13,739.35	17	0.086	$40.56	$1,185.63	$1,226
Total Alleged Offenses Diverted Pre-Filing:			**197**		**Savings Per Alleged Offense Diverted Pre-Filing:**		**$52,432**

Source: (1) Enrolled participant alleged offense category measured using LA County YDD programmatic data.

Table X. Expected Savings from Alleged Offenses Diverted Pre-Filing (2022 Dollars)

Offense Type	Total Costs		Alleged Offense Weighting (Pre-Booking)		Expected Costs from Totals & Alleged Offense Distribution		Expected Cost per Alleged Offense Diverted
	Total Cost Pre-Sentence	Total Cost Post-Sentence	Count of Referred Alleged Offenses[1]	Alleged Offense Distribution	Expected Cost Pre-Sentence	Expected Cost Post-Sentence	
Other sexual assault	$3,896.00	$27,200.95	63	0.063	$245.94	$1,717.09	$1,963
Assault	$6,313.84	$70,382.65	292	0.293	$1,847.34	$20,592.92	$22,440
Child maltreatment	$1,421.87	$9,063.67	2	0.002	$2.85	$18.16	$21
Impaired driving	$4,004.59	$42,218.02	13	0.013	$52.16	$549.93	$602
Burglary	$6,367.06	$44,292.54	39	0.039	$248.81	$1,730.87	$1,980
Larceny/theft	$5,191.66	$34,028.72	113	0.113	$587.83	$3,852.95	$4,441
Motor vehicle theft	$9,027.70	$63,662.12	34	0.034	$307.56	$2,168.85	$2,476
Fraud	$3,692.57	$27,531.49	5	0.005	$18.50	$137.93	$156
Vandalism	$3,820.82	$32,747.71	59	0.059	$225.88	$1,935.99	$2,162
Weapons carrying	$7,036.15	$45,797.32	55	0.055	$387.76	$2,523.90	$2,912
Rape	$6,803.97	$45,132.30	5	0.005	$34.09	$226.11	$260
Drug posess/sales	$3,186.06	$22,128.72	54	0.054	$172.39	$1,197.35	$1,370
Robbery	$12,771.39	$145,338.80	23	0.023	$294.33	$3,349.49	$3,644
Liquor laws	$884.77	$5,402.35	2	0.002	$1.77	$10.83	$13
Drunkness	$3,154.56	$18,383.29	2	0.002	$6.32	$36.84	$43
Disorderly conduct	$1,889.72	$12,158.59	49	0.049	$92.78	$596.96	$690
Curfew/loitering violations	$7,834.73	$12,619.41	58	0.058	$455.32	$733.39	$1,189
Other non-traffic offense	$2,197.71	$13,739.35	130	0.130	$286.28	$1,789.69	$2,076
Total Alleged Offenses Diverted Pre-Booking:			**998**		**Savings Per Alleged Offense Diverted Pre-Booking:**		**$48,437**

Source: (1) Enrolled participant alleged offense category measured using LA County YDD programmatic data.

Table XI. Expected Savings from Alleged Offenses Diverted (Pre-Booking & Pre-Filing) – $49,096 (2022 Dollars)

Referral Source	Unweighted Expected Cost per Alleged Offense Diverted	Referral Source Weighting		Total Expected Cost per Alleged Offense Diverted
		Count of Referrals	Referral Distribution	
Pre-Booking	$48,437	998	0.835	$40,452
Pre-Filing (i.e., DA)	$52,432	197	0.165	$8,644
			Expected Savings Per Alleged Offense Diverted:	**$49,096**

Technical Appendix E: Arrests Avoided & Crimes Avoided per Arrest Scenario Analysis

The scenario analysis modifying both arrests reduced and crimes avoided per arrest simultaneously helps us to understand the sensitivity of our findings. Shown in Table A, the scenario analysis utilizes the baseline and upper bound estimate for reduced arrests (i.e., 10% and 32%). The lower bound, baseline, and upper bound crimes avoided per arrest estimates in the Table A columns are 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 respectively. Baseline estimates were used for all other parameters. Ultimately, these findings also show that YDD's positive net present value is robust using lower bound estimates of crimes avoided per arrest. All other scenarios displayed in Table A exceed the baseline estimate for program savings per youth.

Table A. YDD Program Savings per Youth with Arrests & Crimes Avoided Scenario Analysis

Arrests Reduced	Lower Bound	Baseline Estimate	Upper Bound
10%	$38,305	$40,815	$43,326
32%	$49,350	$57,383	$65,416