

# Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development Diversion Quarterly Dashboard September 30, 2024

## Section 1. Overview of all Referrals Received by DYD Providers

**4141**

Youth referred to DYD Diversion Providers

**2469**

Youth have enrolled in formal and DA diversion programming

**1550**

Youth have substantially completed formal and DA diversion programming

As of October 1, 2024, the organizations across DYD's 3 cohorts received 4,141 total youth referrals from referring partners countywide, including the District Attorney's office and 82 out of 86 law enforcement agency sites (Figures 1 & 2). There have been 124 youth have been referred through the District Attorney's Restorative Enhanced Diversion for Youth (REDY) program which extends eligibility for diversion services. DYD has also received 2,970 informal referrals to services from the Probation Citation Diversion Program (CDP). These CDP referrals are high-volume, retroactive referrals for dismissed citations and have been omitted from Figures 1 & 2 below because they do not reflect an active diversion partnership.

Figure 1. Youth Referred to DYD Diversion Providers by Complete Year (n=2654)

Referral Type ● DA Diversion Program ● Formal Diversion ● Informal Referral to Services

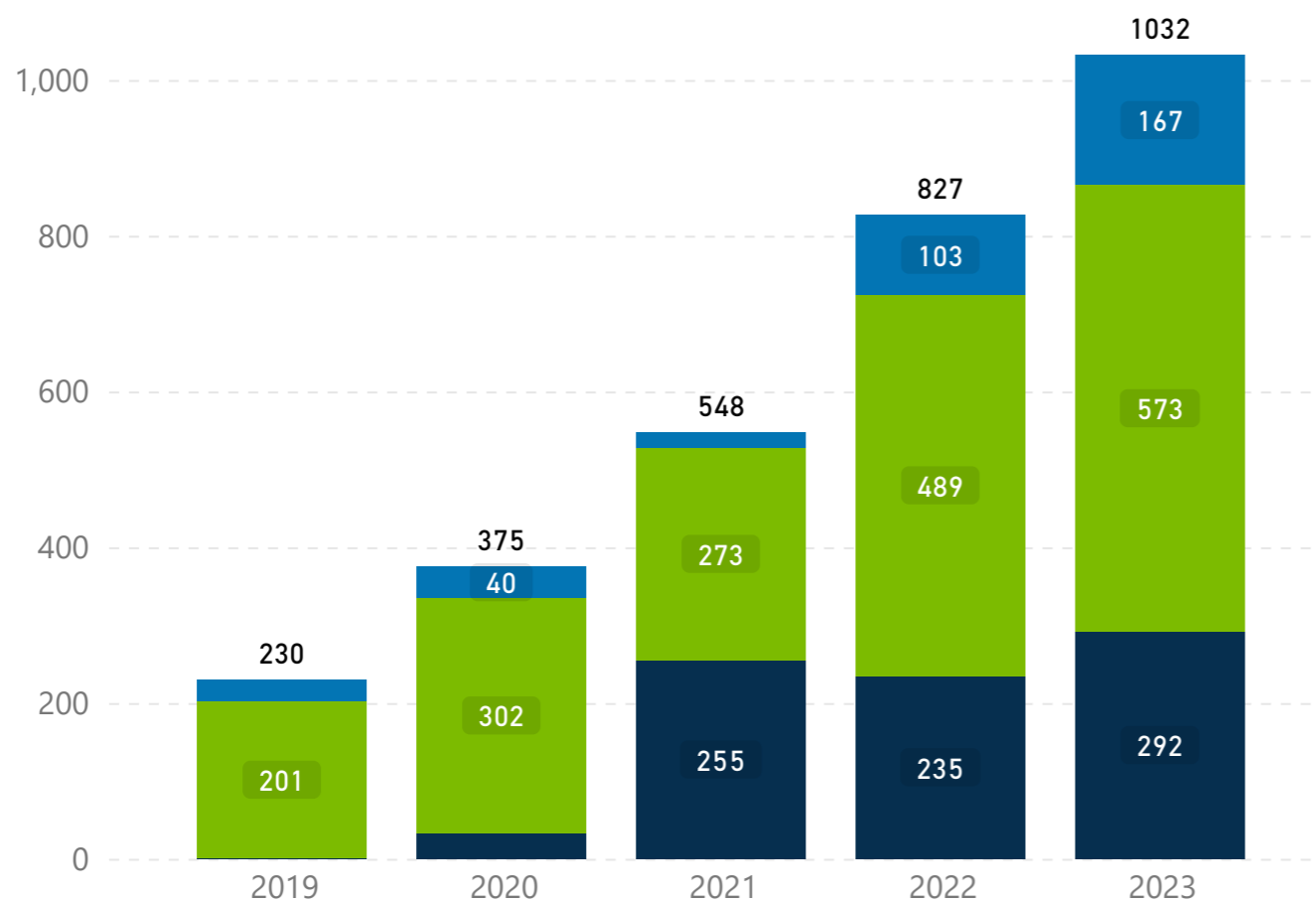
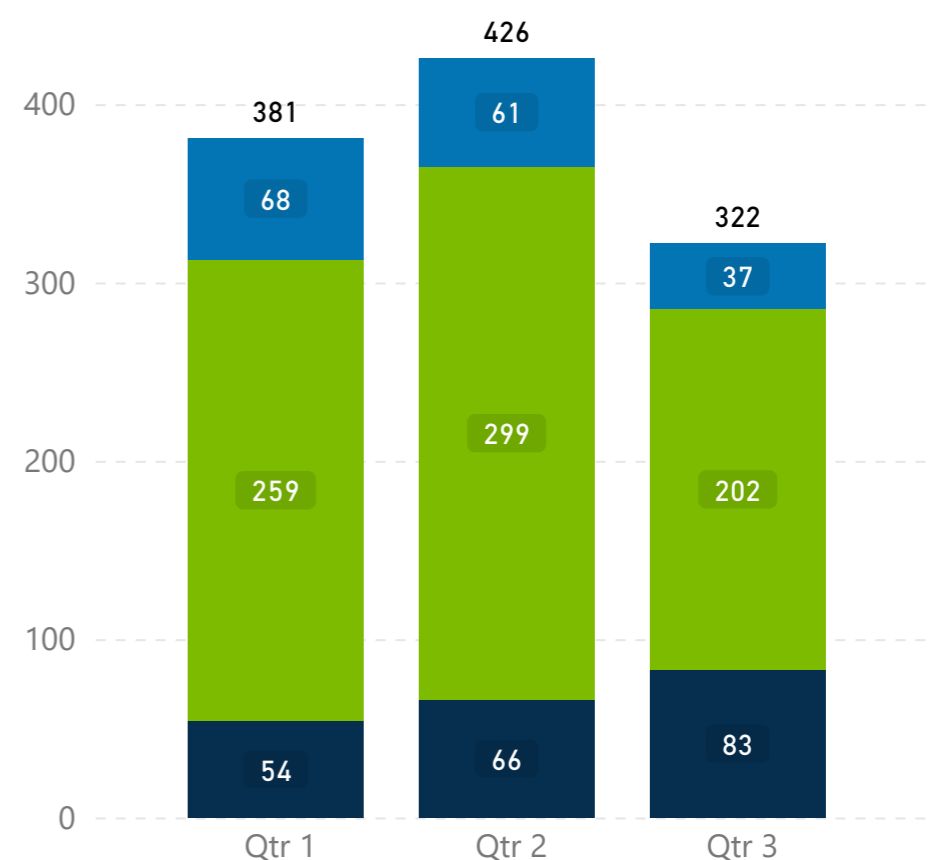


Figure 2. Youth Referred to DYD Diversion Providers in 2024 by Quarter (n=963)

Type ● DA Diversion ● Formal Diversion ● Informal Services



## Section 2. Dual-System Spotlight

DYD providers usually collect foster system involvement information after enrollment. DYD is working with DCFS, OCP, and other partners to find solutions to access barriers that may be reducing referral and enrollment for youth involved in the child welfare system. More details on diversion statistics for youth involved in the child welfare system can be found [here](#).

Compared to all other diverted youth, Black girls are **4x** more likely to be flagged for foster system involvement.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This figure aligns with the findings in the Children's Data Network report, which highlights the disproportionate burden of dual-system involvement on female and Black youth in Los Angeles. Mccroskey, Jacquelyn, et al. "Crossover Youth: Los Angeles County Probation Youth With Previous Referrals to Child Protective Services." *Children's Data Network*, Children's Data Network, [www.datanetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/CrossoverYouth.pdf](http://www.datanetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/CrossoverYouth.pdf)

### Section 3. Demographic Information

16

Median Age of Diverted Youth

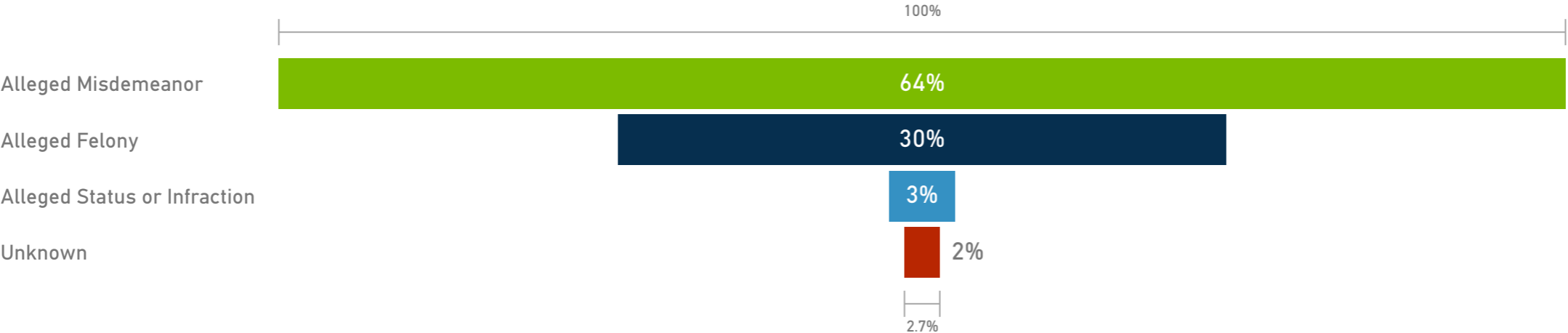
DYD works to reduce the disproportionate arrest of Black youth and advance equitable access to community alternatives to justice system involvement by ensuring that youth are not disproportionately excluded from diversion referral, enrollment, or completion by race, age, or gender.

DYD continues to track these demographic data. To find a detailed equity assessment for our diversion program, please reference the [final report](#) of our 2-year evaluation.

### Section 4. Incident and Enrollment Data

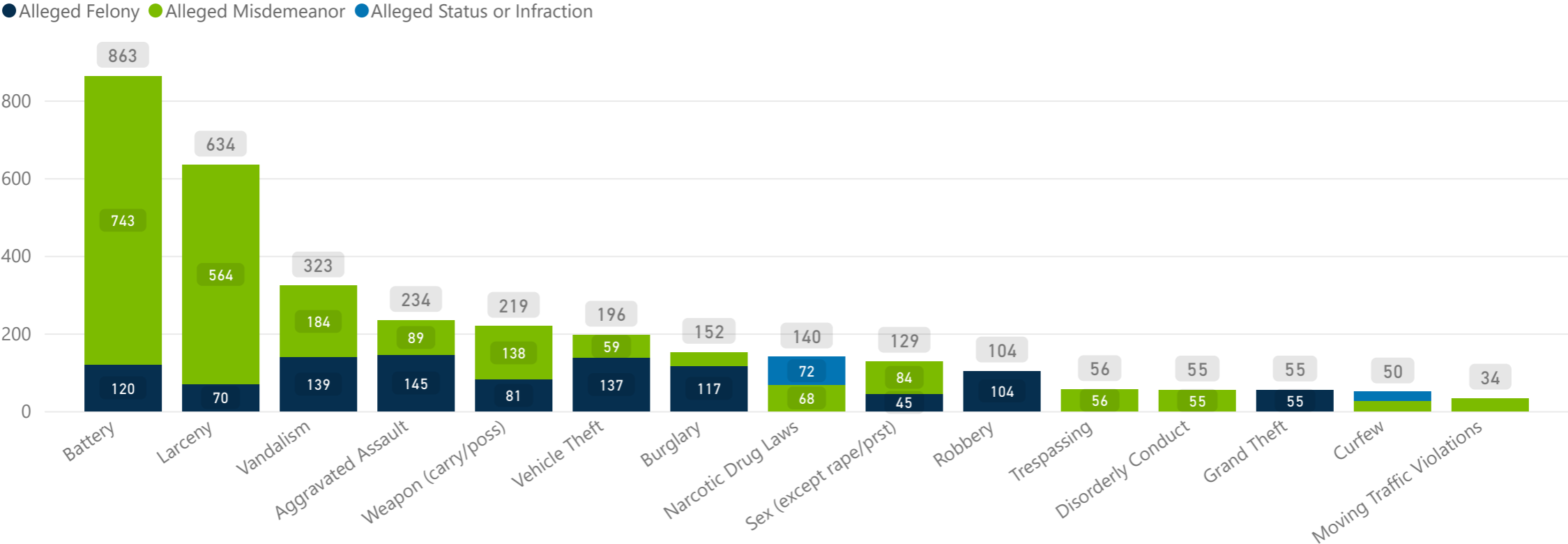
Of youth formally referred to diversion so far, on average 30% have been referred for alleged felonies and 64% have been referred for alleged misdemeanors (Figure 3). DYD's Outcomes & Equity Assessment found that diversion is most beneficial to young people with alleged felony charges. Although the percentage of referrals for alleged felonies is promising. DYD is continuing to explore solutions to improve access for youth with more serious alleged offenses.

Figure 3. Formal/DA Referrals by Level Alleged Offense, September 2024 (n=3617)



The most commonly referred alleged felony offense is aggravated assault and the most commonly referred alleged misdemeanor offense is battery (Figure 4). DYD staff is working with law enforcement agencies to better understand barriers to diverting higher-level eligible offenses.

Figure 4. Formal/DA Referrals by Alleged Offense Level for Categories with >20 Referrals, September 2024



## Section 4. Enrollment and Connections to Services Over Time

Overall, 23% of formally and DA diverted youth decide not to participate in diversion services (Figure 5), and 85% of youth who enrolled and are currently inactive have completed their diversion programming (Figure 6).

Figure 5. Formal/DA Referrals Enrollment Status (n=3617), September 2024

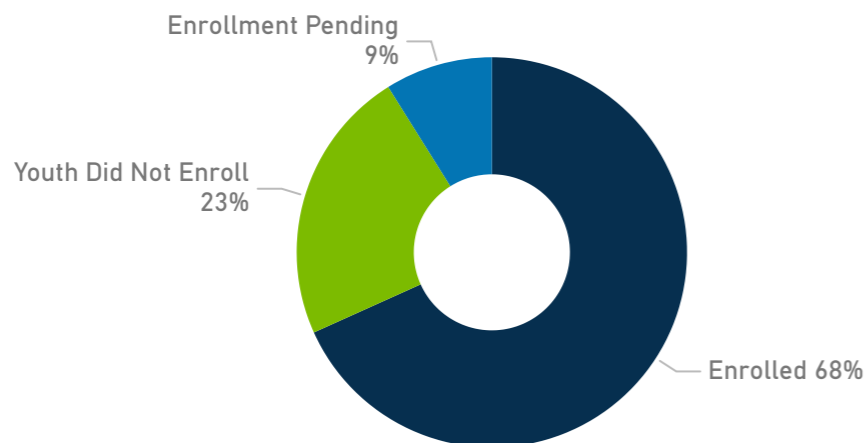
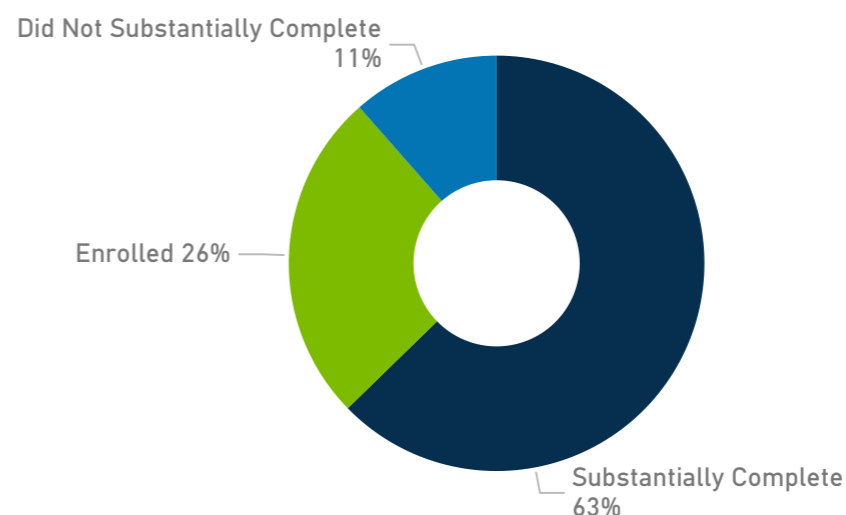


Figure 6. Formal/DA Enrolled Youth Current Status (n=2475), September 2024



Whether a young person was formally referred for an alleged misdemeanor or felony does not significantly impact their enrollment or completion status (Figure 6). While low rates of non-completion are promising, DYD staff is working to understand and address barriers to enrollment for young people and their families.

## Section 5. Protective Factors and Program Satisfaction

On average, participants who have substantially completed their diversion programming report positive growth between entry and exit in all tested protective factors and high program satisfaction (Figure 7). There were no significant differences between protective factors at entry for youth who did or did not substantially complete their diversion programming.

Figure 7. Average Protective Factor Scores at Intake and Exit Assessment, September 2024



## Section 6. Diversion Success Story – December 2024

Looking up at the wall of construction trainees, Elias made up his mind. "I can do that," he thought to himself. Having just turned 18, he was wondering what was next when he decided he wanted to pursue a career in union construction.

Elias is from the San Gabriel Valley. At 17 years old – Elias was arrested for a misdemeanor. Instead of going through the traditional justice system process, Elias was presented with the opportunity to enroll in the Youth of Promise (YOP) program because of a diversion partnership between Flintridge Center and the Pasadena Police Department.

"I hadn't heard about anything like that," he shared. "I thought that once you get in trouble with the police, that was it and it was over with. I decided to take the opportunity."

Elias worked to create a care plan with his YOP case manager – participating in trauma-informed life skills classes and attending community field trips. During this time, he was "always leaving Flintridge taking something back home that I didn't know that day, or looking at something differently than I did walking in."

After 6 months of hard work, Elias completed his care plan. His misdemeanor charge was dismissed, and his arrest record sealed. But then came the question – what was next for him?

Elias's life skills classes had taken place in the same classroom as the Apprenticeship Preparation Program (APP) – another Flintridge Center program that prepares formerly incarcerated adults for union construction careers – and his case manager noticed that he was always looking up at the wall of APP graduates. Elias was picturing a future for himself in union construction, and when he told his case manager, they worked to create a path towards that future. Shortly after his record was sealed, Elias enrolled in the APP.

He spent ten weeks in the class learning the skills and tools to begin his career. "I liked that they brought in a lot of different things – life skills, financial literacy, math, site visits – it was evenly balanced and the community in the class was great," he said. After graduating, Elias is now pursuing a career in the Carpenter's union.

Elias was provided with an opportunity instead of incarceration– and he took it.