



# 2019 Restorative Justice in Juvenile Diversion

An Evaluation of Programs Receiving  
Colorado RJ Cash Funds



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## **An Evaluation of Programs Receiving Colorado RJ Cash Funds**

Submitted to:

The Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council  
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# Executive Summary

Over the past five years, the state of Colorado has worked to make clear and measurable advancements in the restorative justice field. In Fiscal Year 2019, the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO), in coordination with the Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council (RJ Council), oversaw the third year of a restorative justice grant program with seven programs receiving grant funds to divert youth out of the juvenile justice system across Colorado using restorative justice programming.

Overall, programs funded by the RJ Council to serve diversion youth and those they have harmed have demonstrated a positive impact on the youth, victims, and other community members served. A vast majority of restorative justice processes resulted in an agreement to repair identified harms, and 86% of offending youth completed these agreements successfully. Reported satisfaction with restorative justice for all participants, victims, offending youth and community representatives, was high, as were feelings of safety, respect, and needs being met for all participants.

For offending youth participating in restorative justice, significant changes were observed from pre- to post-contract (or exit from diversion) on all short-term outcomes which included: connection to adults (family and non-family), empathy, locus of control, remorse, and sense of accountability. This suggests youth benefit meaningfully from engaging in restorative justice processes and fulfilling their restorative justice agreement.

Participation in a restorative justice conference or circle was associated with the strongest positive changes in short-term outcomes for offending youth. As further discussed in the body of the report, restorative processes in which a victim is available and wishes to participate are considered to best meet the key principles of restorative justice in Colorado.

While diversion is a positive outcome, in that youth are being diverted out of the juvenile justice system, it may be important for SCAO and the RJ Council to better understand factors that can contribute to over or underrepresentation in referrals of any groups. Overall, the demographics of youth referred to restorative justice have been consistent across the years, but a decrease in the female referral rate has been observed over the past few years. Further, the Hispanic/Latino population in these restorative justice programs is higher than the general population of Hispanic/Latino youth under 18 years old in Colorado.

The evaluation of the grant program has identified several key findings. A full list of key findings and recommendations can be found in the body of the full report.

- ❖ **Youth benefit from engaging in activities after their restorative justice process.** Observable improvements were seen for youth on all short-term outcomes when youth respond to questions at post-contract as they exit diversion as compared to post-process. Additionally, youth demonstrated significant increases in connection to non-family adults and sense of accountability between the restorative justice process and exit from diversion. This suggests that youth continue to receive benefit during the completion of their contract, further responding to the concepts and feelings surfaced through the pre-conference and restorative justice process.
- ❖ **SCAO and grant funded programs should explore possible reasons for disparities in referrals to restorative justice diversion.** The demographics of the restorative justice

referrals do not reflect the demographics of Colorado's general youth population in terms of gender and ethnicity. While overall demographics have remained consistent since the inception of the pilot, the transition to a grant program in Fiscal Year 2017 saw the start of a decrease in female referrals with the smallest proportion of referrals in Fiscal Year 2019. Additionally, Hispanic/Latino referrals greatly outnumber the proportion of Hispanic/Latino youth in Colorado. It is important for future efforts to explore contributing factors to these differences.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> To better understand if racial and/or ethnic disparities exist in juvenile diversion referrals, the proportions of racial and ethnic youth in diversion should be compared to racial and ethnic proportions of those arrested or otherwise receiving law enforcement charges in Colorado. These data were not available for comparison in this report.



# Background

Over the past five years, the state of Colorado has worked to make clear and measurable advancements in the restorative justice field. In 2013, the Colorado State Legislature approved, and the Governor signed House Bill 13-1254, creating funding for the development of restorative justice programs in Colorado. The initial effort created pilot programs in four judicial districts<sup>2</sup> to provide restorative justice options within District Attorney based juvenile diversion programs through June of 2016. The State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO), in coordination with the Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council (RJ Council), oversaw the initial pilot period and has continued to oversee and manage grants to the three remaining pilot sites as well as additional program sites starting in July 2016. In Fiscal Year 2019, the third year of the grant program, seven<sup>3</sup> programs received grant funds to provide restorative justice services to youth.

Evaluation efforts in Fiscal Year 2019 focused on the six currently funded restorative justice programs that worked specifically with youth enrolled in pre-file juvenile diversion. While many programs also provide prevention<sup>4</sup> and/or post-filing programming, the evaluation focused on restorative justice as a pre-filing intervention which aligned with the original intent of the pilot.

At the inception of the pilot program in 2013, the working definition of restorative justice practices was as defined by the statute: "'Restorative justice practices' means practices that emphasize repairing the harm caused to victims and the community by offenses." The statute went on to describe examples of restorative processes<sup>5</sup> and other considerations in determining which cases are suitable for restorative justice. Over time, the funded programs have placed greater emphasis on further refining and clarifying the definitions related to restorative justice and the restorative practices being implemented. A fully restorative justice process is understood to repair harms caused to victims through a reparative process that includes both the victim and offender, and often other support persons and community members. Participation in restorative justice is wholly voluntary for all participants. Where a victim is unavailable, chooses not to participate, or the offense did not involve a direct victim, restorative programs – especially those working with youth – may use processes that are restorative in nature, offering offending youth opportunities to understand the impact of their offense and identifying ways to repair identified harms or otherwise give back to their community. These processes include engagement with surrogate victims or other representatives of the impacted community. Restorative processes examined as part of this evaluation include both processes where a direct victim was engaged and participated in the restorative process, as well as those where the victim may have been unavailable, chose not to participate, or the offense did not involve a direct victim. Nonetheless, all processes used by the funded programs and included in this study are designed to promote the core principles of

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<sup>2</sup> 10th (Pueblo County), 12th (San Luis Valley), 19th (Weld County), and 20th (Boulder County) judicial districts.

<sup>3</sup> Initially, 8 programs were funded; however, one program initially funded, Restorative Justice Community Conferencing (RJCC), closed its doors in January 2019.

<sup>4</sup> One program, Teens, Inc. provided only preventive restorative practice implementation in a school-based setting and thus was not included in the juvenile diversion data.

<sup>5</sup> 'Restorative justice practices include victim-offender conferences, family group conferences, circles, community conferences, and other similar victim-centered practices. Restorative justice practices are facilitated meetings (*facilitated by trained facilitators adhering to the Standards*) attended voluntarily by the victim or victim's representatives, the victim's supporters, the offender, and the offender's supporters and may include community members (and education stakeholders)'

restorative practice in Colorado: relationships, responsibility, respect, repair of harm, and reintegration.

This report reflects data collected from the start of the pilot program in 2014<sup>6</sup> through June of 2019 and includes information on youth background and demographics; short-term psychosocial outcomes; satisfaction of victims, offenders, and community members; and recidivism rates. Data were collected on all youth that were eligible for diversion and suitable for and accepted into the restorative justice program.

To understand the impact of the restorative programs' efforts, several questions were addressed:

#### Participant and Case Characteristics

1. Who is being served by the restorative justice programs as offenders, victims, and community members?
2. What types of cases are referred to restorative justice?
3. What types of restorative justice processes are being used to address the needs of the individuals in each case?

#### Restorative Justice Impact

4. Are there positive short-term outcomes for offending youth?
  - 4a. What factors predict positive short-term outcomes for the offending youth?
  - 4b. Are there positive short-term outcomes for youth who commit a school rule violation?
5. What factors predict more positive satisfaction with restorative justice experiences for the offending youth, victim, and the related community?
6. Does participation in restorative justice improve the justice system experience of offending youth, victims, and other participants involved?

#### Recidivism

7. Does restorative justice help reduce recidivism of offending youth?

## **Evaluation Design and Methods**

The evaluation design encompasses multiple methods and data sources in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the population served, the impact of restorative justice

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<sup>6</sup> The 12th JD, 19th JD and 20th JD have provided data since 2014. All other programs began collecting data at the time they were funded, in 2016 or 2017.

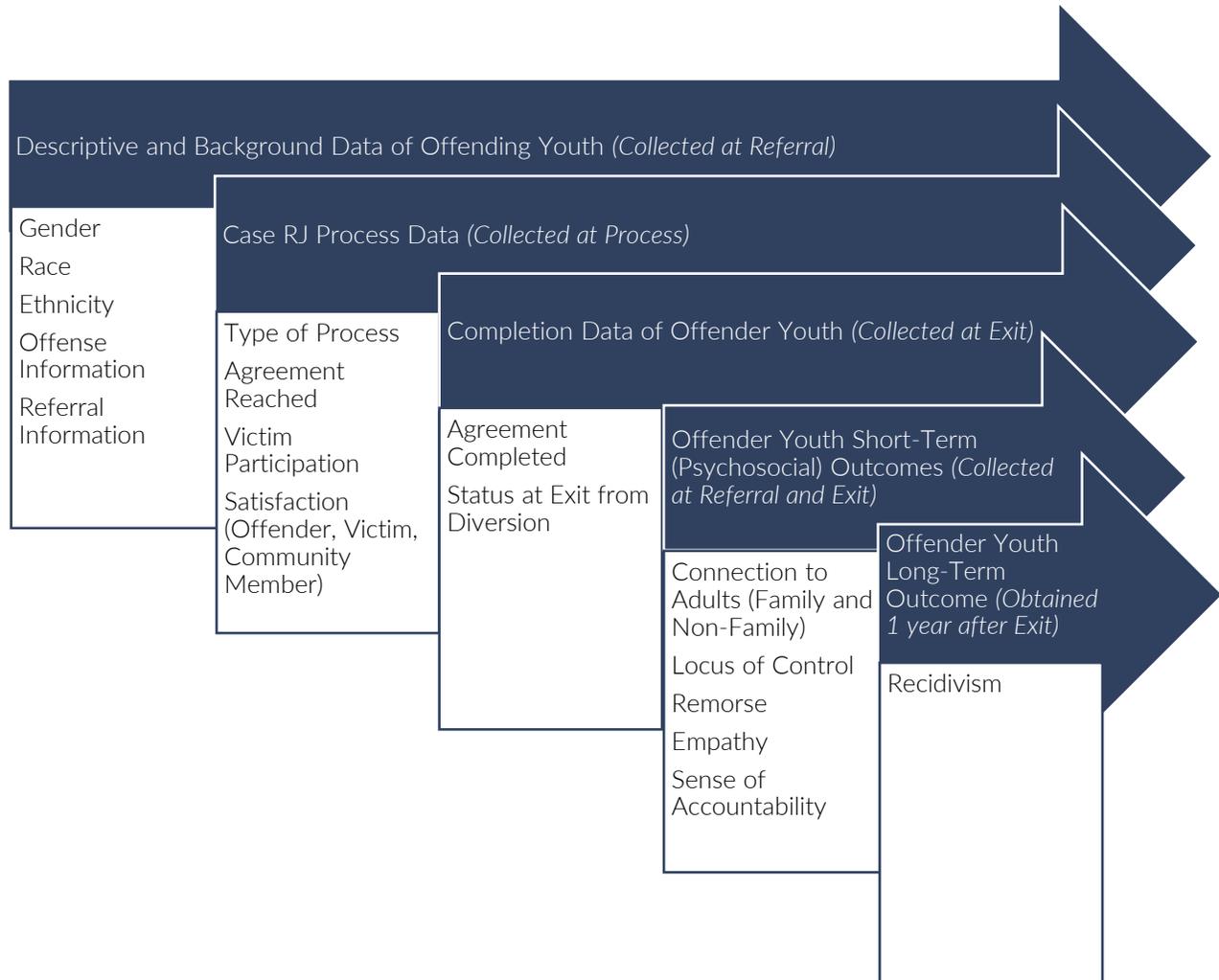
programming on short-term psychosocial outcomes, satisfaction with the process, and the long-term outcome of recidivism.

Programs have been systematically collecting data specific to each case and each offending youth that is referred to their restorative justice program. These data provide demographic information about the offending youth, referral information, and their program completion status.

Programs have also integrated pre- and post-surveys and satisfaction surveys into their restorative justice work. Specifically, in order to understand whether and how any factors predict restorative justice outcomes, process data were collected in an online case management system (FaciliCase), and short-term outcome data were collected through pre- and post-surveys measuring psychosocial outcomes for offending youth. Further, questions regarding satisfaction with restorative justice, including improved experience with the justice system, were asked of offending youth, victims, and community members. While other data points and surveys, including more information specific to victims, became of interest to the RJ Council and the programs as the evaluation progressed, the evaluation components were originally designed to track the mostly offender-focused mandates set by the state legislature in the original pilot legislation.

In order to understand the long-term impact of restorative justice on recidivism, OMNI worked with SCAO to obtain information on statewide offenses and filings for all youth who had exited diversion programming. Filing data were extracted by State Judicial Department staff from the Judicial Department's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by OMNI. These data were used to determine whether individuals met Colorado's standard criteria for recidivism as determined by the Division of Criminal Justice for diversion youth: a filing or filings for a new offense (criminal, misdemeanor, or juvenile delinquency) while the juvenile was in the program or up to one year after they exited the program.

## DATA COLLECTED



## DATA COLLECTION PROCESS CHANGES

Data have been collected from all participants since the pilot program began. In 2018, several updates were made to the offending youth data collection process, and questions were also added to the victim's satisfaction survey. The following summarizes the data collection processes and changes that occurred in 2018.

### Offender Survey Data Collection

Since the inception of the pilot, youth have been asked to complete a pre-survey at intake into the program and a post-survey immediately after participating in the Restorative Justice process, which includes the short-term outcome measures assessed on the pre-survey as well as measures of the youth's satisfaction with the process. In the summer of 2018, survey data collection was revised in order to better understand the impact of restorative justice. Satisfaction data continued

to be obtained at the completion of the Restorative Justice process, but the post-survey with short-term outcome measures<sup>7</sup> were collected at the completion of the restorative justice contract (or the completion of diversion) rather than immediately after the process, to better understand the full impact of both the restorative process and the completion of the restorative justice contract on the youth.

## **Victim Survey Data Collection**

During the course of the pilot program and the initial years of the grant program, little information about the victims was available, which prompted the RJ Council and funded programs to explore additional information regarding victims that participate in restorative processes. In the fall of 2018, the survey administered to victims at the completion of the process was revised, in consultation with the programs, to capture demographics, information about whether and how the victim knew the offender, their role in the process (primary, surrogate, support to the victim), and the victim's prior experience with restorative justice and the justice system overall<sup>8</sup>.

## **Community Member Survey Data Collection**

Many restorative justice processes include community members to further support the offending youth or victim (sometimes parents or other support), as well as provide community perspective about the harm an offense has had on the greater community. Immediately after the restorative justice process, community members were asked to complete a survey<sup>9</sup> about their satisfaction with the facilitator, interactions with the offending youth and victim, and the overall process and contract. This survey and process has not changed from previous years.

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<sup>7</sup> Sample of the Offender Youth Pre- and Post-surveys can be found in Appendix A

<sup>8</sup> Sample of the Victim Survey can be found in Appendix B

<sup>9</sup> Sample of the Community Member Survey can be found in Appendix C

## SURVEY DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

### Diversion Referral/Intake

- Process Data (collected by staff via an online case management system)
- Demographic Data (collected by staff via an online case management system)
- Pre-Surveys: Short-term outcomes completed by youth (n= 889)

### RJ Process

- Satisfaction Surveys:
  - Offender Youth (n=941)
  - Victims (n=386)
  - Community Member (n=1,519)

2014-2017

Post Process Surveys: Short-term Outcomes completed by youth (n=452)

### Completion of Contract/Diversion Exit

- Post-Contract Surveys: Short-term Outcomes completed by youth (n=437)

## SAMPLE

As reported by programs in their evaluation dashboard, for Fiscal Year 2018, 70% of all youth who participated in restorative justice also participated in the pre- and post-surveys for the evaluation. With the change in the data collection process, the proportion of youth that participated in the pre-survey, satisfaction survey, and post-contract survey for Fiscal Year 2019 was only 33%. It is important to note that with any changes in surveys and processes there may be an impact on evaluation participation. In this case, the lower participation rate was partly due to surveys being collected at the incorrect time point which was often reflective of staff turnover where information or process updates were not effectively communicated to new staff.

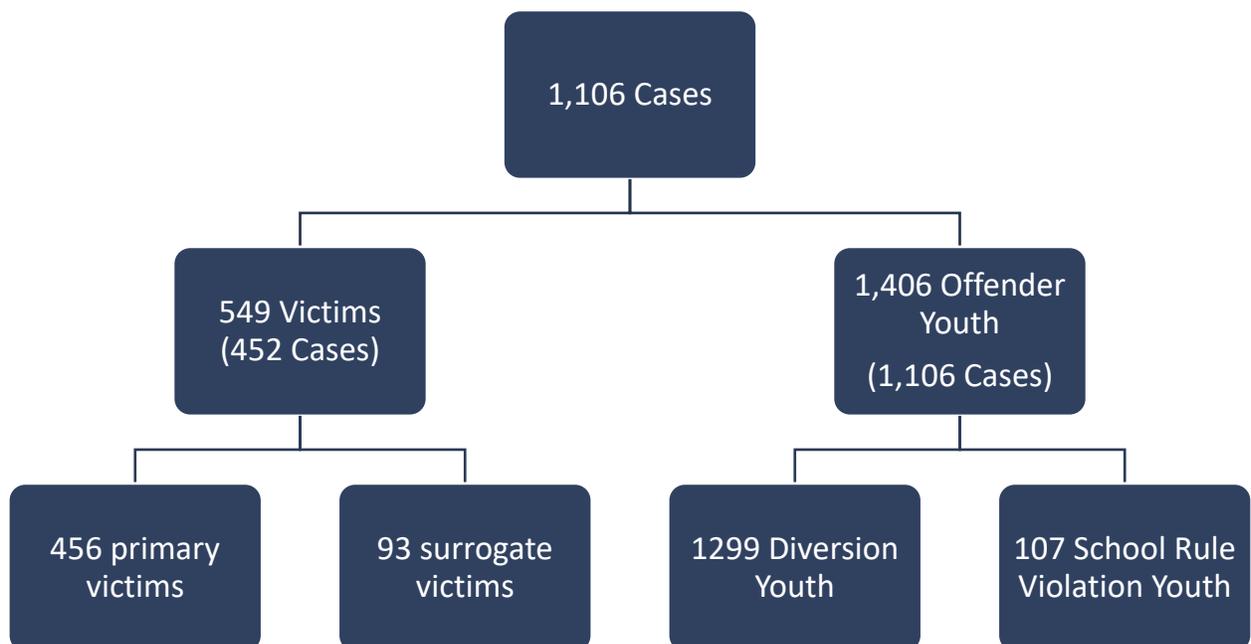
While the original legislation included consideration of only district court misdemeanors and certain felonies for pilot referrals to restorative justice, it was expanded in 2015 to include petty and municipal charges as well, as many juvenile charges originate at these levels. While the majority of youth served by the restorative justice programs are being diverted from the justice system, several programs<sup>10</sup> served youth through preventative school-based restorative practices or received school referrals where the youth committed a school rule violation that would not actually be charged as a juvenile offense (n=107; under 8% of total youth served). There were 61 school rule violation cases. Overall, demographics of youth referred on school rule violations were similar to those referred for diversion with only a few exceptions. On average, youth referred for school rule violations were 14 years old, while those referred to diversion were 15 years old. And proportions of unknown ethnicity and race (26% and 34%, respectively) were greater than those in juvenile diversion (4% and 22%, respectively).

<sup>10</sup> While Teens, Inc. and La Plata Youth Services programming were solely based in school settings, Full Circle and YouthZone also served youth through this grant who were referred to restorative justice for a school rule infraction.

# RESULTS

## Participant and Case Characteristics

Since the beginning of the pilot program in 2014, the diversion programs have served 1,106 restorative justice cases (some of which included multiple offending youth) that are included in this evaluation. In these cases, 1,406 youth who committed harm were served through a restorative justice process. Additionally, in these cases, 549 victims participated, the vast majority being primary<sup>11</sup> victims.

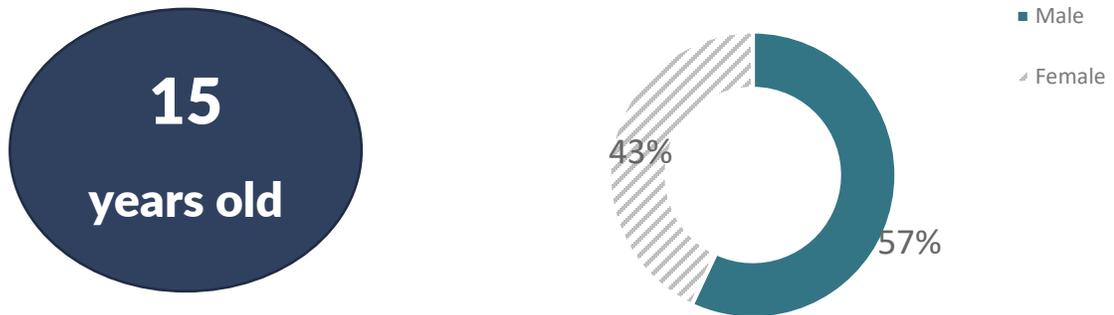


<sup>11</sup> This report uses the term 'primary' victim to note when a victim participates that is not a surrogate. However, the data are not available to determine whether a victim participating is the primary victim or another individual impacted by the offense.

## Who is being served by the restorative justice programs as offenders, victims, and community members?

### Offender Youth

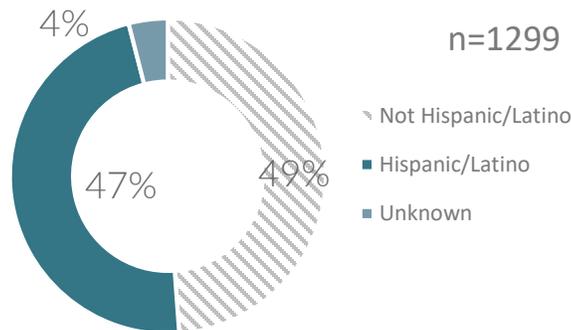
ON AVERAGE YOUTH WERE 15 YEARS OLD AND JUST OVER HALF OF ALL YOUTH WHO COMMITTED HARM WERE MALE.



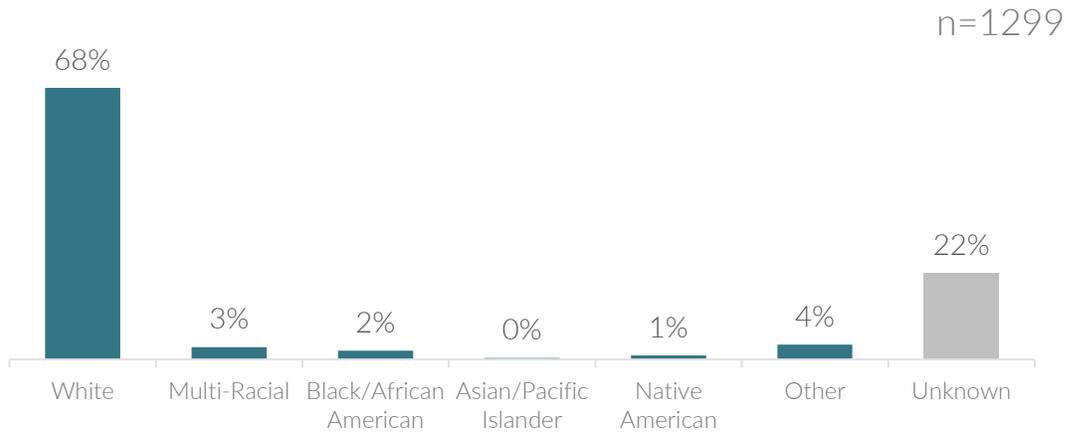
During the initial pilot effort, female and male referrals were similar, with female referrals ranging from 42% to 53%. However, during the most recent fiscal years, the proportion of female referrals has decreased to 39% in FY2018 and 36% in FY2019.

Youth were asked to self-identify ethnicity and race. These questions, in alignment with federal data collection guidelines, were asked separately. However, it is understood that some youth may not understand the difference between their ethnicity and race. Many of those who reported that they were Hispanic or Latino did not report their race, thus increasing the proportion of 'unknown' race.

NEARLY HALF OF OFFENDING YOUTH IDENTIFIED AS HISPANIC/LATINO.



**TWO-THIRDS OF ALL OFFENDING YOUTH IDENTIFIED AS WHITE.**



It is important to note that of those reporting Hispanic/Latino ethnicity who also reported a race (n=1,004), 78% reported that they were White and 13% reported 'other' race. Compared to Colorado's school age youth population,<sup>12</sup> there is an overall lower rate in the general population of Hispanic/Latino youth of any race (31%), and overall similar proportions of youth in other categories (Non-Hispanic White 56%, Non-Hispanic Multi-Racial 4%, Non-Hispanic Black 4%, Non-Hispanic Asian 3%, Non-Hispanic Native American 1%).<sup>13</sup>

**YOUTH REFERRED TO DIVERSION WERE PRIMARILY REFERRED AT PRE-FILE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FILING PETITION.**



Youth were referred to diversion for different levels of offenses. Fewer than 10% of the offenses referred were school rule violations rather than a chargeable offense and are presented later in this report.

<sup>12</sup> To better understand if racial and/or ethnic disparities exist in juvenile diversion referrals, the proportions of racial and ethnic youth in diversion should be compared to racial and ethnic proportions of those arrested or otherwise receiving law enforcement charges in Colorado. These data were not available for comparison in this report.

<sup>13</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Colorado Kids Count Data obtained here: <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/103-child-population-by-race#detailed/2/7/false/871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38,35/68,69,67,12,70,66,71,72/423,424>

## Victims

Of the 1,106 cases, 41% (n=452 cases) had either a primary or surrogate victim (549 victims) participate in a process with the offending youth. Of the cases where a victim participated, programs collected satisfaction surveys from 286 cases (386 victims). The number of victims that were engaged to participate in a process and also complete a survey decreased in Fiscal Year 2019. Victim surveys were able to be obtained from 22% of cases in FY 2019 as compared to 36% in Fiscal Year 2018 and 37% in Fiscal Year 2017.

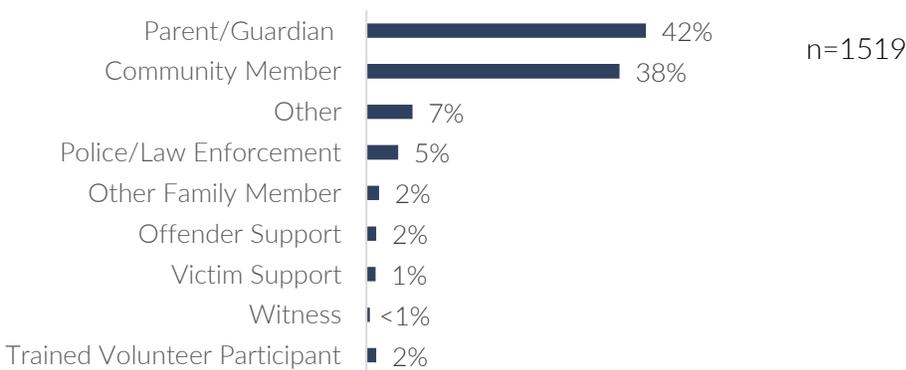
Despite efforts to capture demographic data from the victims on the updated survey implemented in the fall of 2018, there were few victims (n=24) who were asked to respond and completed the post-survey.<sup>14</sup> The description of the findings from these completed victim surveys are summarized below, but must be interpreted with caution given the small number.

Of those who provided the information, the age of the victim ranged from 12 to 76 years old. Just over half (52%) of victims that reported demographics were male, 29% were Hispanic/Latino, and 78% were white.

Of those who responded (n=13), 62% were victim surrogates, participating on behalf of the primary harmed party, 8% were trained volunteers and 31% were other community representatives such as counselors, law enforcement, and parents to the offender or victim. Forty-one percent were first-time participants in restorative justice. Over two thirds (68%) of respondents reported no experience with either the criminal justice system and half had no prior experience with law enforcement. When asked how the victim knew the offending youth, 29% indicated they were a teacher, principal, or other staff at the offending youth's school, 8% were fellow students at school, 4% indicated they were a family member, but not a parent or guardian, 8% were family member or representatives of the direct victim, 8% lived in the same neighborhood, and 33% did not know the offending individual prior to the incident. Finally, 63% of victim participants had participated in a restorative process previously.

## Community Members

In addition to satisfaction data, community members provided detail about their role in the restorative justice process. These individuals were most frequently parents or guardians of the offending youth or representatives from the community.



<sup>14</sup> While there were fewer victims who participated in the evaluation overall during Fiscal Year 2019, data for victims was further limited when a few programs inadvertently continued to use the outdated surveys that did not include demographic data.

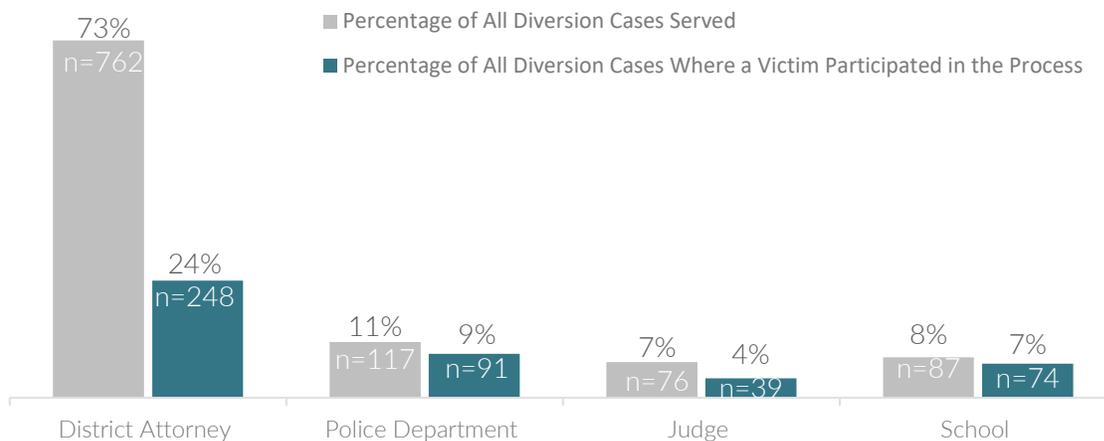
## What types of cases are referred to restorative justice?

Cases were referred to the restorative justice programs from several different sources and for different levels and types of offenses. Consistent with the original legislative expectations that offenses referred to diversion would come from the district level, the majority of offenses were referred from district attorney's offices and were primarily petty or misdemeanor offenses. The following reflects cases (n=1042<sup>15</sup>) with diversion eligible charges rather than school rule violations.

While various factors related to limited victim participation have been identified in this study, it is relevant to note where victim participation was highest: cases that were referred from the district attorney's office, offenses greater than the "petty" level, and offenses against persons rather than property offenses or theft.

### THE MAJORITY OF REFERRALS CAME FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

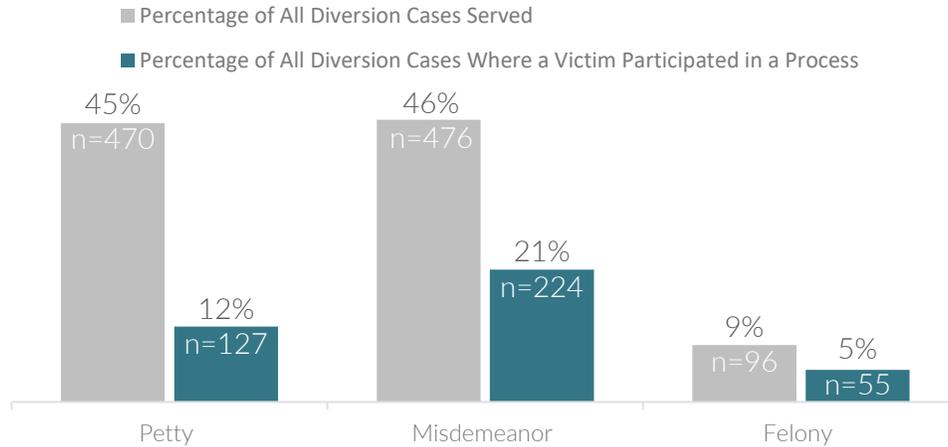
### THE PROPORTION OF VICTIM PARTICIPATION WAS HIGHER IN CASES REFERRED FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES.



<sup>15</sup> 1,045 cases were referred for diversion eligible charges; however, 3 of those cases did not provide referral information and thus are not included here.

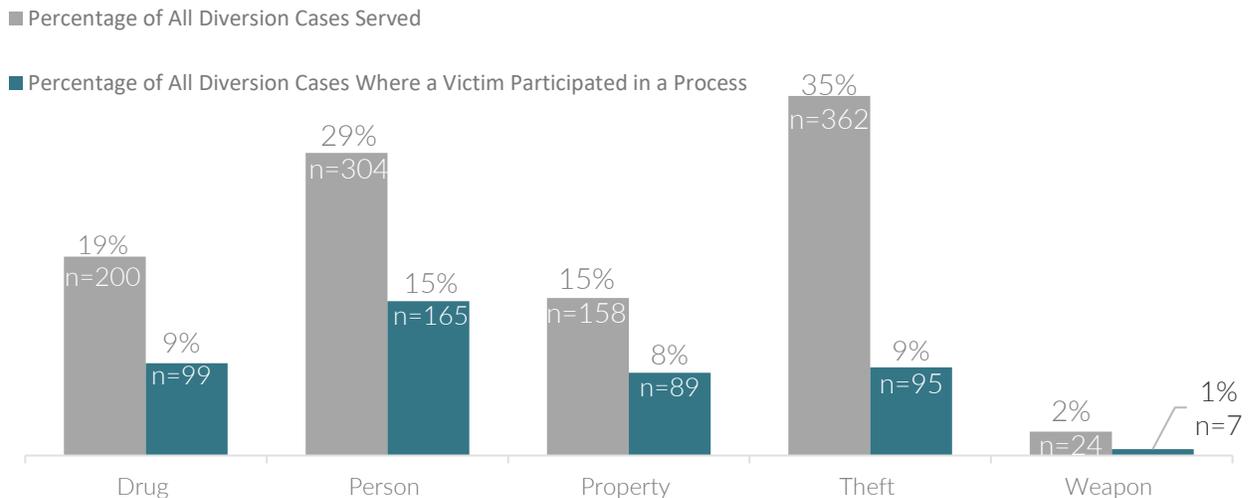
**PETTY AND MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES MADE UP THE MAJORITY OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CASES.**

**VICTIMS PARTICIPATED MOST FREQUENTLY IN MISDEMEANOR CASES.**



**THEFT AND OFFENSES AGAINST A PERSON WERE THE MOST FREQUENTLY REFERRED OFFENSES TO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.**

**VICTIMS MOST FREQUENTLY PARTICIPATED IN CASES WHERE THE OFFENSES WERE AGAINST A PERSON.**



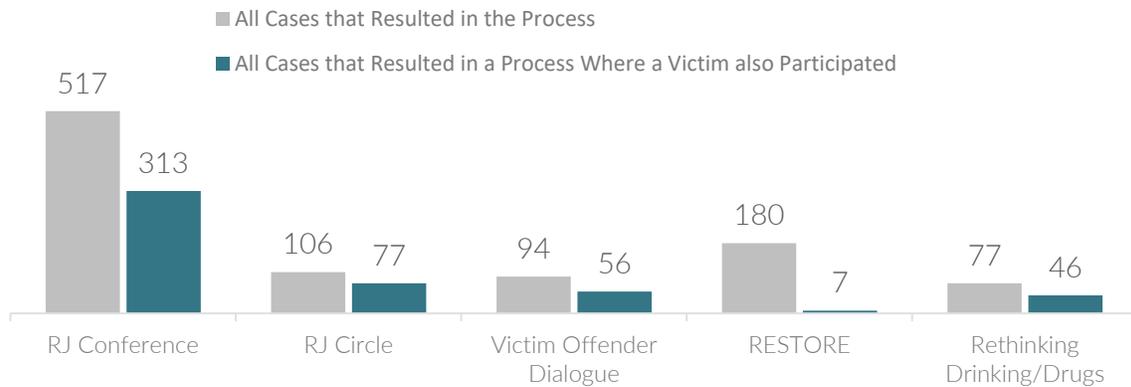
**What types of restorative justice processes are being used to address the needs of the individuals in each case?**

Nearly three quarters (73%) of all offending youth first participated in a pre-conference, a process preparing youth for the restorative justice process that they would ultimately participate in as part

of their restorative experience. Of the 1,042 cases for which data were available, approximately half (517) went through a restorative justice conference. In 71 cases, youth participated in more than one process, which results in the total number of processes reflected in the figure below being more than the total number of cases served.

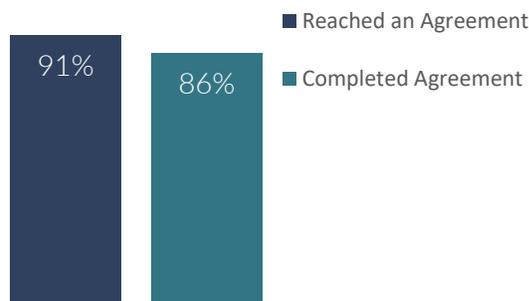
**HALF OF ALL CASES PARTICIPATED IN A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE.**

**VICTIMS PARTICIPATED IN OVER HALF OF THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCES.**



The vast majority (91%) of youth reached an agreement during the process, and most of those youth (86%) also completed the terms of their agreement and addressed specific harms.

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUTH WERE ABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT DURING PROCESS AND THEN COMPLETE THE AGREEMENT.**



## Restorative Justice Impact

### Are there positive short-term outcomes for offending youth?

As noted previously, data collection protocols changed in the summer of 2018, such that youth were administered a post-survey at the completion of the contract. This coincided with the completion of diversion, rather than the completion of the restorative process. In order to better understand whether the outcomes measured on the post-survey differed as a result of the timing of data collection, surveys were analyzed separately based on the timing of the survey. When post-surveys were completed immediately after the restorative justice process, they were

considered post-**process** surveys. When post-surveys were completed on/near the date the youth exited diversion, they were considered post-**contract** surveys.

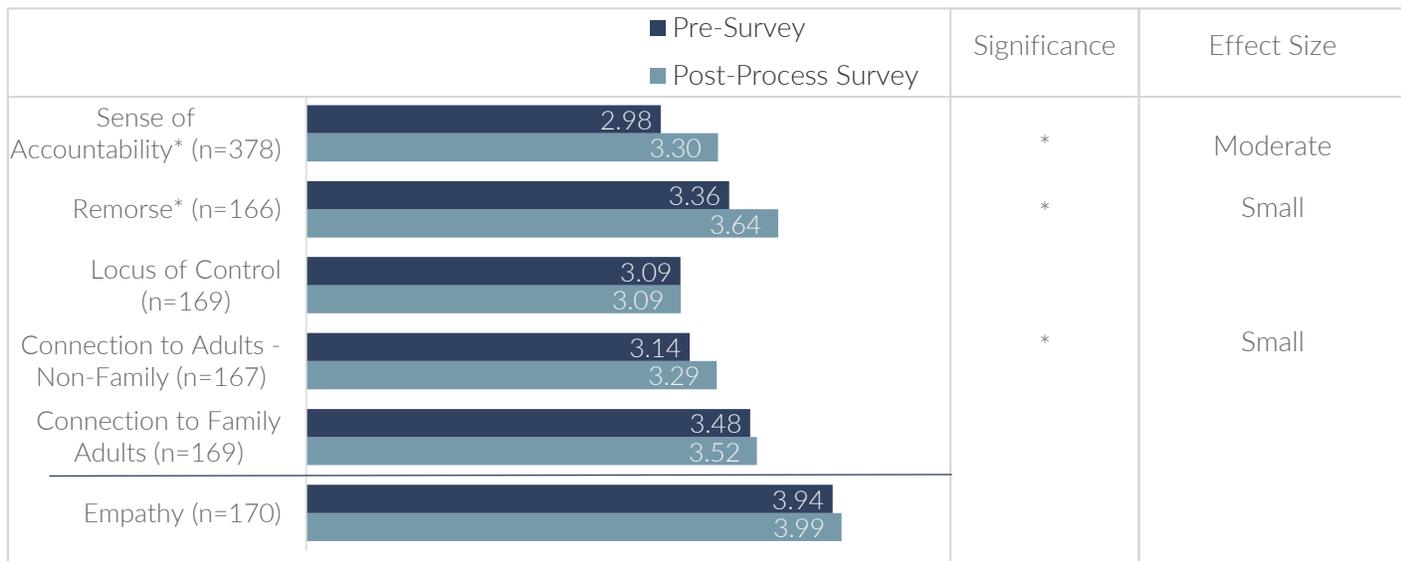


### **Do Youth Demonstrate Change on Short-term Outcomes from Referral to Post-Process?**

The average number of days between completion of the pre-survey and post-process survey was 48 days. Results from analysis of data collected from pre-survey to just after the process showed significant improvement on three outcomes; connection to non-family adults, remorse and sense of accountability. All short-term outcomes except for empathy were on a four point scale with four being the most desired response. Empathy was on a five point scale with five being the greatest indicator of empathy.

Effect sizes, information regarding the magnitude of the mean difference between pre- and post-survey are also provided for statistically significant findings. An effect size of 0.2 or less is considered small, 0.5 is moderate, and 0.8 or greater is considered a large effect.

**FEELINGS OF ACCOUNTABILITY, REMORSE AND CONNECTION TO A NON-FAMILY ADULT INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM PRE TO POST-PROCESS.**



\*p-value < 0.01

**Do Youth Demonstrate Change on Short-term Outcomes from Referral to Exit?**

The average number of days between completion of the pre-survey and post-contract survey was 85 days. Statistically significant change was observed for all short-term outcomes including locus of control which, in previous pre- to post-process analyses, had not demonstrated significant change.

**ALL SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM PRE TO POST-CONTRACT.**

	 Pre-Survey  Post-Contract Survey	Significance	Effect Size
Sense of Accountability* (n=386)	3.01 3.32	*	Moderate
Remorse* (n=181)	3.45 3.69	*	Moderate
Locus of Control* (n=185)	3.04 3.18	*	Small
Connection to Family Adults* (n=184)	3.52 3.67	*	Small
Connection to Adults - Non-Family* (n=184)	3.25 3.5	*	Small to Moderate
Empathy* (n=185)	3.95 4.09	*	Small

\*p-value < 0.01

While effect sizes were relatively small for most of the outcomes, the effect size associated with remorse when post-data were collected at youths' exit from diversion was greater than when collected at post-process. This finding suggests that youth may experience greater remorse as more time elapses since taking part in the restorative justice process.

**What factors predict positive outcomes for offending youth?**

Looking at the level of charge and type of charge for which the youth was referred to restorative justice and the type of process in which they participated provides additional nuance to the pre- to post-contract findings. The sample sizes for each group vary greatly and results should be considered preliminary, especially for smaller groups.



**YOUTH REFERRED ON PETTY CHARGES SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED ON ALL SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES.**

○ significant\* with small effect; ◐ significant\* with moderate effect; ● significant\* with large effect

	Petty (n=234)	Misdemeanor (n=151)	Felony (n=36)
Sense of Accountability	◐	◐	●
Remorse	○	○	
Locus of Control	○		
Connection to Family Adults	○		
Connection to Non-Family Adults	○	○	
Empathy	◐		

\*p < 0.01

**YOUTH REFERRED FOR AN OFFENSE AGAINST A PERSON DEMONSTRATED IMPROVEMENT ON NEARLY ALL SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES.**

○ significant\* with small effect; ◐ significant\* with moderate effect; ● significant\* with large effect

	Drug (n=68)	Person (n=108)	Property (n=64)	Theft (n=173)
Sense of Accountability	○	○	◐	◐
Remorse		◐		◐
Locus of Control		○		
Connection to Family Adults		◐		
Connection to Non-Family Adults	◐	◐		○
Empathy				

\*p < 0.01

## YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE IMPROVED ON NEARLY ALL SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES.

○ significant\* with small effect; ◐ significant\* with moderate effect; ● significant\* with large effect

	Conference (n=163)	Circle (n=42)	Victim Offender Dialogue (n=46)	Rethinking Drinking/Drugs (n=49)	RESTORE (n=140)
Sense of Accountability	●	●			●
Remorse	○	●	--		
Locus of Control	○	●	--		
Connection to Family Adults	○		--		
Connection to Non-Family Adults	○		--		
Empathy			--		

\*p < 0.01

-- sample size was too small to calculate significance n < 15

Overall, youth participating in restorative justice are seeing a significant increase in their sense of accountability for nearly all levels and types of charges and restorative processes. Youth's sense of remorse and locus of control appear to increase through their participation in restorative justice processes such as a conference or circle, rather than the processes Rethinking Drinking/Drugs and RESTORE.

Youth participating in Rethinking Drinking/Drugs did not demonstrate significant change from pre- to post-contract on the short-term outcomes.<sup>16</sup> However, significant changes from pre- to post-contract is observed in youth's sense of accountability and connection to non-family adults for those referred for a drug offense. Findings for youth referred for a drug charge, and the absence of positive findings associated with the specific process intended to address substance use, may indicate that youth require further substance use intervention programming to ensure the youth's mental health and substance use needs are met.

The impact of restorative justice on connection to adults appears to be greater for offenses against a person, and drug offenses. Additionally, we see an increase in effect size from 'small'

<sup>16</sup> For Victim Offender Dialogue, only sense of accountability could be examined due to the small sample size (n=5) of participants who completed other outcome questions.

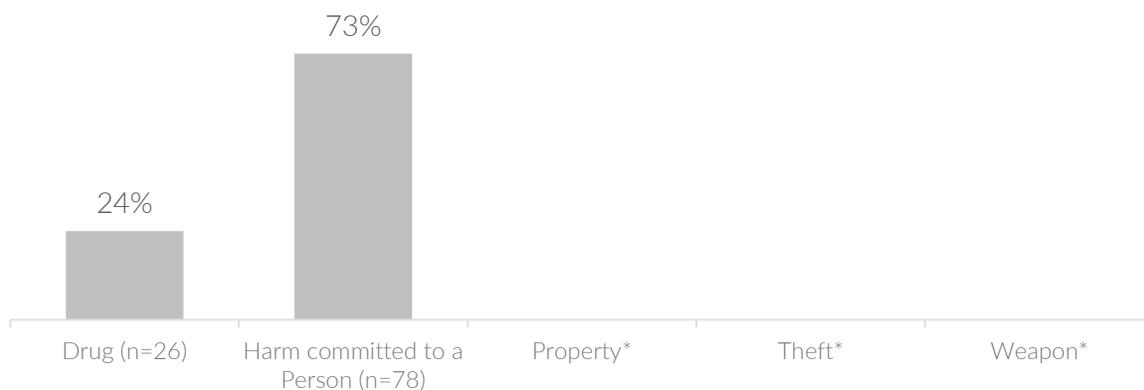
when looking at all youth together to 'moderate' for connection to family adults when youth are referred for a person charge.

Although the sample size is small (36) for youth referred for a felony offense, the increase in the sense of accountability and the effect size associated with this increase is large. This preliminary finding is important to note especially in light of efforts to use restorative justice for more serious levels of offenses. While offenses that fall under the Victim Rights Act<sup>17</sup> (VRA) make up only a small proportion (4%) of cases referred to this restorative justice effort, this finding suggests that youth with higher level charges may benefit from participating in restorative justice programs.

### **Are there positive short-term outcomes for youth who commit a school rule violation?**

As noted previously, school rule violations are those where an intervention is deemed necessary, but the infraction would not result in a charge for an offense. Significant changes from pre to post process were not observed, in part, due to a small number of youth who participated in the program as a result of school rule violations which were not criminal offenses.

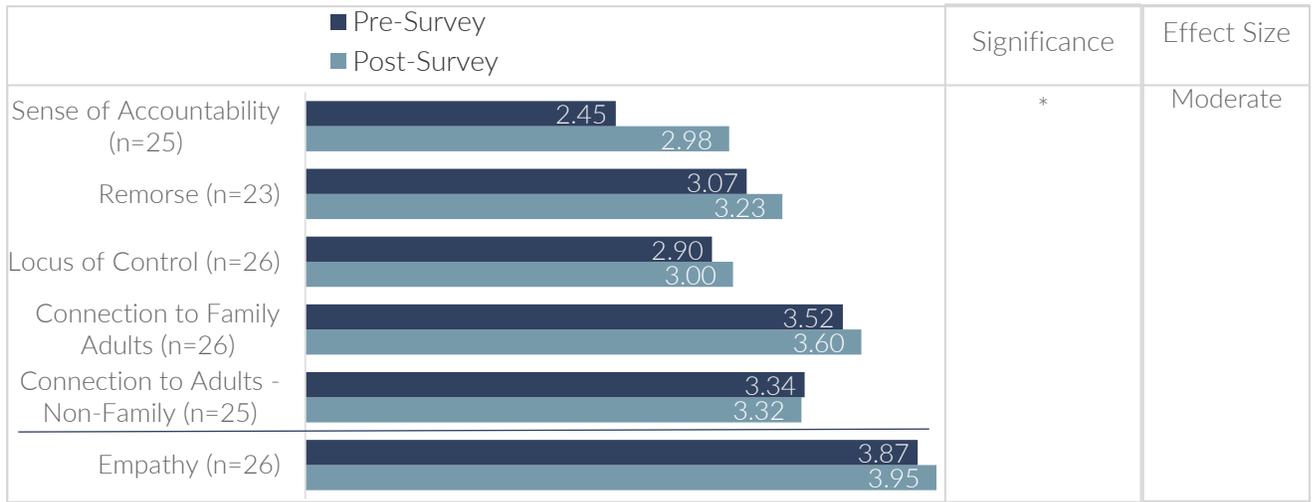
#### **YOUTH WITH A SCHOOL RULE VIOLATION WERE REFERRED TO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRIMARILY FOR HARMS AGAINST A PERSON.**



\*Data are suppressed when the sample size is less than 4.

<sup>17</sup> A Victim Rights Act Crime is defined by Title 24, Article 4.1 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, which provides for crime victim and witness rights for such crimes as those with major personal safety impacts, including homicides, serious assaults of various types, aggravated robberies, stalking, witness intimidation, etc.

**SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT ON YOUTH'S SENSE OF ACCOUNTABILITY WAS OBSERVED FROM REFERRAL (PRE) TO PROCESS.**



**What factors predict more positive satisfaction in restorative justice experiences for the offending youth, victim, and the related community?**

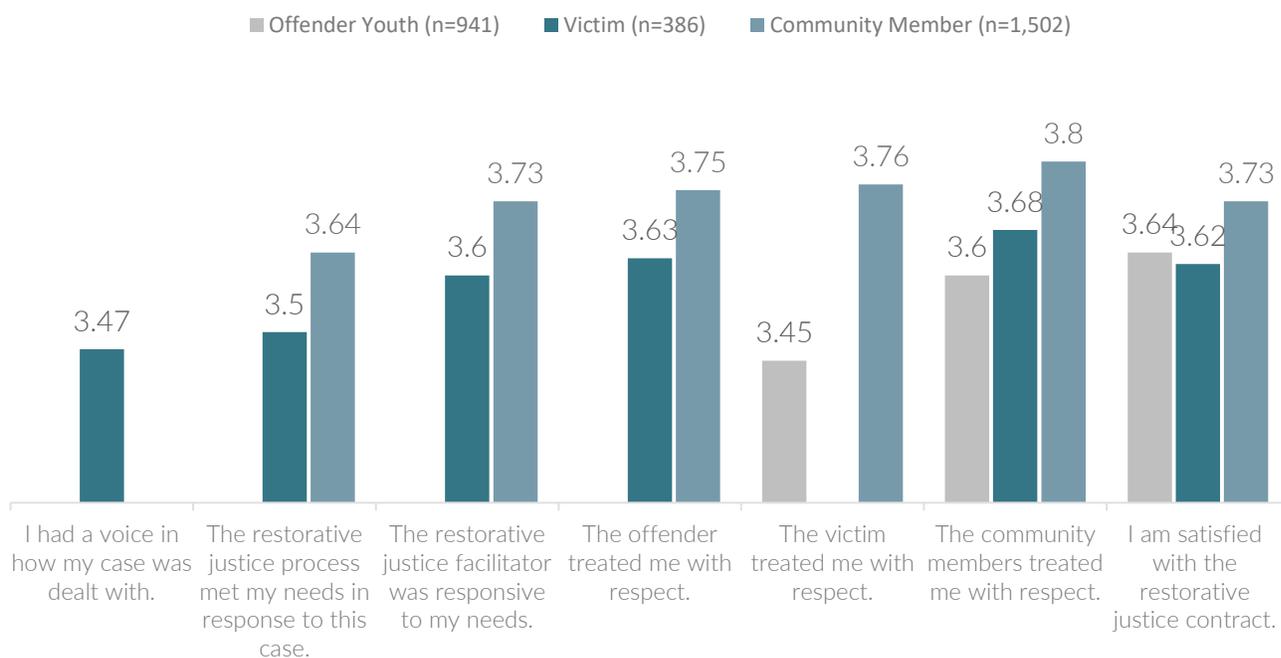
All participants in the restorative justice process (offending youth, victims, and other participating community members) were asked to complete a satisfaction survey in order to understand their experience and to assess whether their goals for the process were met. Responses to the satisfaction questions were measured on a four-point scale, with 1 indicating 'Strongly disagree' and 4 indicating 'Strongly agree.'

**PARTICIPANTS WERE HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH THEIR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE EXPERIENCE.**



Participants also responded to a few questions that were unique to the specific role<sup>18</sup> of participants. These questions are displayed in the figure below, broken out by role-specific surveys. Parents of offending youth are most frequently included in the community member group, although at times they may complete a victim survey, depending on the type of offense and resulting process.

**SATISFACTION WITH SPECIFIC ROLES WAS VERY HIGH.**



While several different questions were asked about the participants' experiences and all demonstrated a very high level of satisfaction, the primary focus was on the question of whether participants were satisfied with their restorative justice experience. This particular question was examined to determine whether there was any difference in satisfaction by level of offense, type of offense, and type of process. Regardless of offense or participant's role, there was no meaningful difference between overall satisfaction and satisfaction for those referred for each offense level, type of offense or type of restorative process.

Offending youth reported on their satisfaction with restorative justice at *exit* from diversion as well. Satisfaction for the offending youth remained very high at exit (post-contract) with a mean score of 3.68.

<sup>18</sup> For example, an offender responded to questions about the victim and community members treating him/her with respect, whereas a victim responded to questions about the *offender* and community members treating him/her with respect.

## Does participation in restorative justice improve the justice system experience of offending youth, victims, and other participants?

Responses to the statement 'The restorative justice process improved my experience with the justice system' were consistently high (3.5 and above on a four-point scale) across all types of participants, as noted previously.

Additionally, to better understand the level at which victims' experience could improve, victims who completed the new revised victim survey provided information regarding their previous experience with the criminal justice system or law enforcement. Nearly one third (32%) of participants who responded to the question (n=22) had previous experience with the criminal justice system and 50% had previous experience with law enforcement.

## Recidivism

Recidivism data were available for all youth who had been referred for an offense<sup>19</sup> and had exited from a restorative justice juvenile diversion program for a full year or more, a total of 849 youth. Using the definition of recidivism that was established by DCJ for diversion, any offense and filing for a criminal, misdemeanor or juvenile delinquency offense that occurred during a youth's time in restorative justice and up to one year after exiting a restorative justice program was included in the calculation of the recidivism rate.

Since the inception of the restorative justice pilot, **8.9% of youth who successfully completed restorative justice recidivated during or in the one year after programming.**

	Official Recidivism Rate
Overall Recidivism Rate (n=849)	9.5%
Successful RJ Completions (n=820)	8.9%
Unsuccessful RJ Completions (n=29)	20.0%

While the above recidivism rates include offenses that occurred during participation in the program, before a full intervention of restorative justice was received, it can also be helpful to understand the rate of offense for youth with just *post*-contract recidivism. Of youth who successfully exited restorative justice, 7.9% recidivated *after* completion of the restorative justice

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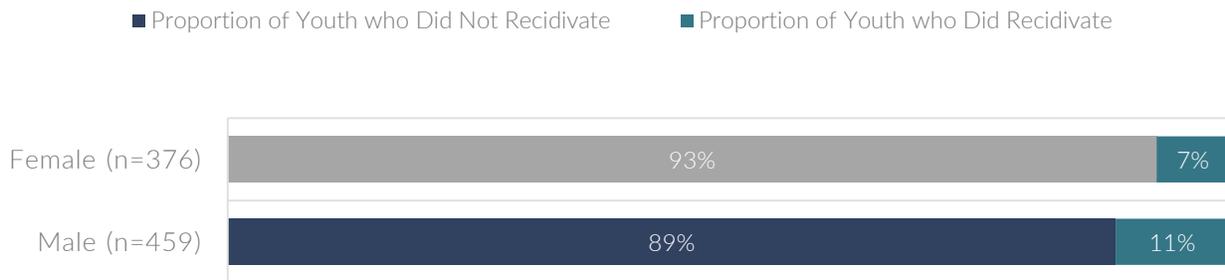
<sup>19</sup> Since school rule violation referrals do not result in a charge, recidivism rates are not calculated for these youth.

contract. Of youth who were unsuccessful in completing their diversion contract, 20.7% recidivated *after* exiting the restorative justice program. Of all youth, 8.4% recidivated after exiting the restorative justice program.

### Recidivism by Demographic and Referral Information

Recidivism rates for successful youth are displayed by youth demographics in the figure below. Please note that the sample size for each group varies.

#### MALES HAD A HIGHER RECIDIVISM RATE THAN FEMALES.\*



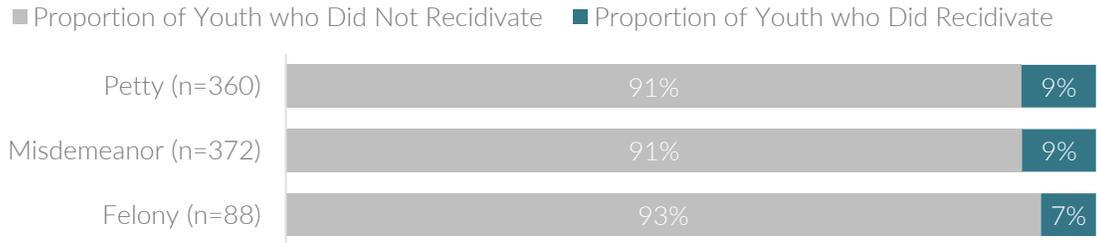
\*Males were significantly more likely to recidivate than females (p <0.05)

#### RECIDIVISM RATES WERE SIMILAR FOR HISPANIC/LATINO AND NON-HISPANIC/LATINO SUCCESSFUL YOUTH.

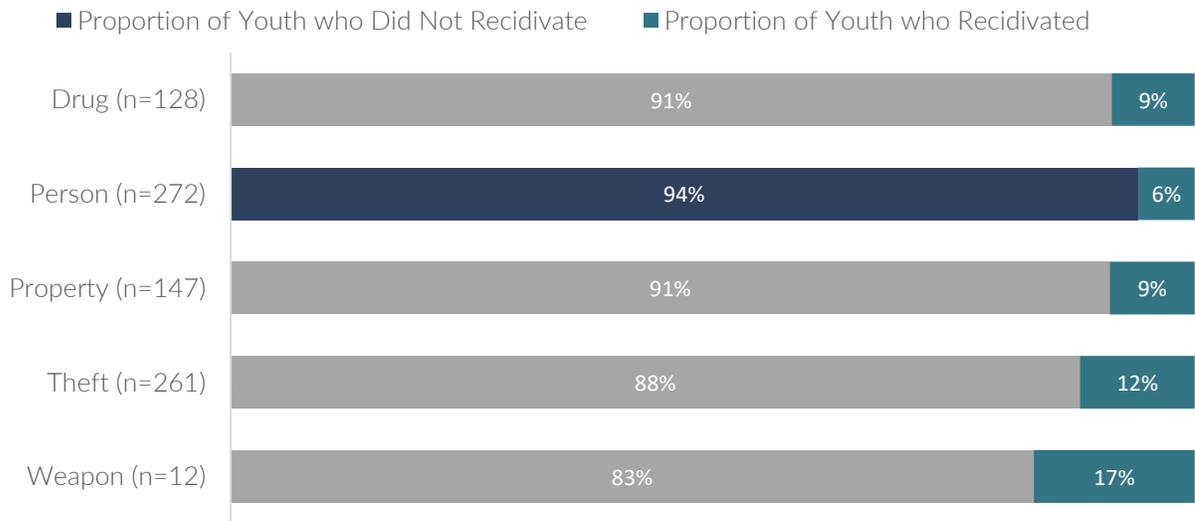


The vast majority of youth in restorative justice identified as white, including a large proportion who also identified as Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. The sample size of all other racial groups combined was less than 50 youth, thus no comparisons of recidivism rates were made by race.

**REGARDLESS OF THE LEVEL OF REFERRAL CHARGE, FEWER THAN 10% OF ALL SUCCESSFUL YOUTH RECIDIVATED.**

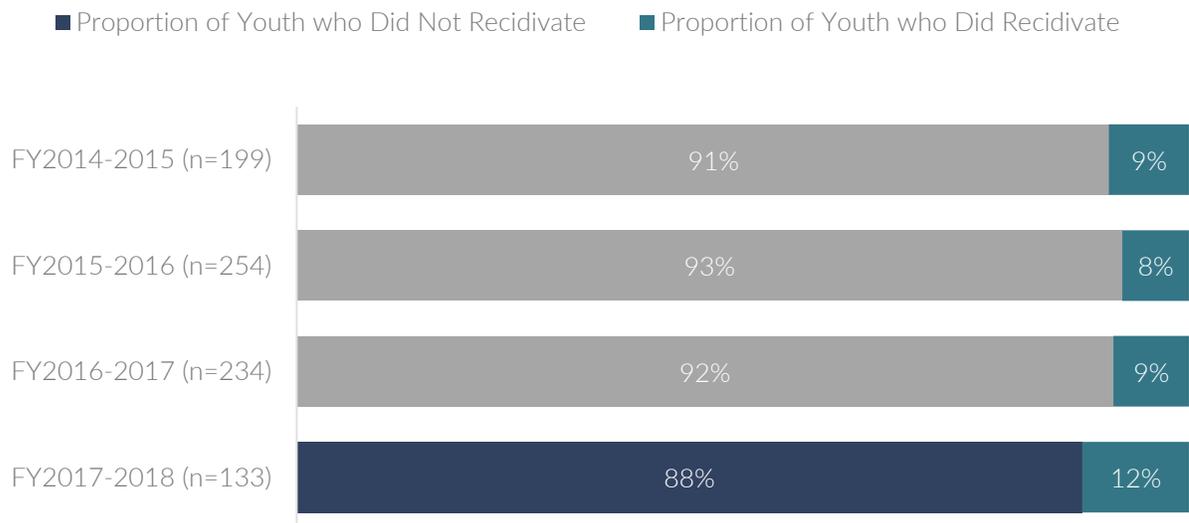


**SUCCESSFUL YOUTH REFERRED FOR OFFENSES AGAINST A PERSON HAD THE LOWEST RATE OF RECIDIVISM.\***



\* Youth referred for offenses against a person were significantly less likely to recidivate than those with other types of charges (p<.05)

## SUCCESSFUL YOUTH REFERRED TO RJ DURING FY 2017-2018 HAD A HIGHER RECIDIVISM RATE THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS.<sup>20</sup>



### Impact of Victim Participation on Recidivism

Data were examined to understand whether recidivism differed for youth based on victim participation. Of successful youth who participated in a process with a primary victim, 9.8% of youth recidivated (90.2% did not recidivate). Of youth who participated in a process with a surrogate victim, 11.3% of youth recidivated (88.7% did not recidivate).

	Recidivism Rate
Primary Victim Participated (n=286)	9.8%
Surrogate Victim Participated (n=256)	11.3%

<sup>20</sup> The recidivism rate in FY2017-2018 was higher than in previous years which may be due to a change in how the evaluation obtained offense and filing data. In prior years, OMNI provided a list of youth who had participated in restorative justice and staff at the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) would match these data with data in the justice system database. It is assumed they were matched based on exact first name, last name and data of birth. For this current report, raw recidivism data were provided to OMNI staff and these data were able to be matched to the restorative justice data using a variety of techniques. For instance, if a name in the restorative justice data had included a nickname or had a different capitalization (i.e. Robert "Bobby" or jane doe), the nickname was removed or capitalization addressed in order to match the restorative justice participant data with data from the ICON system resulting in a greater number of matched youth.

## Recidivism of Diversion Youth

To explore how the recidivism rate of youth served by RJ Council funded programs compares to similarly situated youth who did not receive restorative justice services, the RJ Council obtained permission to examine the recidivism rate of youth who were served by the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) juvenile diversion programs. This group included youth who participated in diversion but did not receive restorative justice services. Of youth who successfully completed diversion (not including restorative justice), 12.5% recidivated during or in the one year

after programming. Successful males in diversion had a higher rate of recidivism than males participating in restorative justice, 14.4% and 9.1% respectively. Successful females in diversion had a slightly higher rate of recidivism than those females participating in restorative justice, 8.4% and 6.9%, respectively.

While these initial calculations and comparisons between youth participating in restorative justice and other types of diversion programs indicate positive results for restorative justice, these findings should be interpreted with caution. Based on differences in data collection between the two groups, a true comparative sample with matching demographics, referral information, and services received was unable to be created. However, even with this limitation, these preliminary results strongly suggest restorative justice is having a positive effect on youths' likelihood to re-offend in the year after participating in restorative justice.

Recidivism Rate	
Youth <i>not</i> receiving RJ who successfully completed diversion (n=2,147)	12.5%
Successful Males in Diversion	14.4%
Successful Females in Diversion	8.7%

## Discussion

Programs funded by the Restorative Justice Coordinating Council to serve diversion youth and those they have harmed with restorative justice programming are overall demonstrating a very positive impact. A vast majority of restorative justice processes resulted in an agreement to repair identified harms, and around 90% of offending youth completed these agreements successfully. Reported satisfaction with restorative justice for all participants, victims, offending youth and community representatives, was high, as were feelings of safety, respect, and needs being met for all participants.

While overall, the demographics of youth referred to restorative justice have been consistent across the years, the female referral rate has decreased over the past several years representing 39% of all referrals in FY2018 and 36% of all referrals in FY2019. As reported in prior years, roughly half of all participants in restorative justice identify as Hispanic/Latino which is a much higher proportion of Hispanic/Latino youth (under 18) in the general population. In the 2017 Kids Count data, 31% of Colorado's population under 18 is Hispanic/Latino. While diversion is a positive outcome in that youth participating in diversion are being diverted out of the juvenile

justice system, it may be important for SCAO and the RJ Council to further explore these apparent discrepancies by obtaining additional information such as arrest data to better understand factors that may contribute to over or underrepresentation in referrals of any groups.

While significant changes are observed on the outcomes of remorse, sense of accountability, and connection to non-familial adults when post- short-term outcome data were collected immediately after the restorative process, the changes observed from pre- to post-contract (exit) from diversion showed change on all short-term outcomes: connection to adults (family and non-family), empathy, locus of control, remorse, and sense of accountability. This finding highlights the additional level of benefit for the youth when working through the terms of their contract. Youth that participated in restorative justice were particularly likely to increase their sense of accountability overall and frequently, depending on the offense level, offense type, and restorative justice process, saw moderate effects on remorse and connection to adults.

While positive change was demonstrated on the greatest number of short-term outcomes for youth who had committed petty offenses, youth referred for felony charges experienced the greatest magnitude of change on sense of accountability. This finding, preliminary, because of the small sample size, is encouraging as many restorative justice programs seek to implement restorative justice for higher level offenses.

Participation in a restorative justice conference or circle was associated with the strongest results on the short-term outcomes. While there may be individual exceptions, as discussed earlier in this report, these two restorative processes seem the most likely to be considered a fully restorative process when the victim, offending youth, and community members are able to participate. Further inquiry to define the key elements of restorative justice and other restorative practices will be undertaken by SCAO, the RJ Council, and the funded programs during Fiscal Year 2020. This effort may provide additional opportunity to reflect on different types of programming and how they impact a youth's psychosocial outcomes and recidivism.

While all findings are very positive and reflect strong outcomes for restorative justice, survey data collection in Fiscal Year 2019 reflected a smaller proportion of offending youth and victims than it had in previous years. This indicates that there is opportunity to improve data collection processes to ensure that sufficient data are collected in order to generalize findings.

## **Limitations**

As with all evaluations, the ability to address questions of interest relies on the completeness and quality of the data collected.

The limited amount of data about and from victims impacted the ability to answer questions about the experience of the victims. There are always valid reasons for victims to choose not to participate in a process or in a related evaluation, as well as for certain issues related to low data collection to rest with the programs and staff collecting these data. Nonetheless, the findings related to and describing victims in this study are unable to be generalized due to the small proportion of participants.

Demographic and background data are entered by program staff into FaciliCase (rather than provided directly by youth via a survey). While many program staff may determine this information

based on a youth's self-identification, the inability to monitor internal data collection and coding practices results in the possibility of misrepresentation of a youth's demographic information.

Finally, with the numbers of youth served varying greatly across programs, it is important to note that programs were not represented equally in the data analyzed; thus, individual program results may differ.

## Key Findings/Recommendations

- ❖ **Youth benefit from engaging in activities after their restorative justice process.** Observable improvements are seen for youth on all short-term outcomes when youth are responding to questions at post-contract as they exit diversion as compared to post-process. Additionally, youth demonstrate significant increases on connection to non-family adults and sense of accountability between the restorative justice process and exit from diversion. This suggests that youth continue to receive benefit during the completion of their contract, further processing the concepts and feelings brought up and addressed in the pre-conference and restorative justice process.
- ❖ **SCAO and grant funded programs should explore possible reasons for disparities in referrals to restorative justice diversion.** The demographics of the restorative justice referrals do not reflect the demographics of Colorado's general youth population with regard to gender and ethnicity. While overall demographics have remained consistent since the inception of the pilot, the transition to a grant program in FY2017 saw the start of a decrease in female referrals with the smallest proportion of referrals in FY2019. Additionally, the Hispanic/Latino referrals greatly outnumber the proportion of Hispanic/Latino youth in Colorado. While contributing factors are unclear, it is important for future efforts to explore these differences.<sup>21</sup>
- ❖ **Programs should highlight the positive outcomes from the statewide evaluation.** The very positive findings for participant satisfaction and offending youth outcomes that have been established over five years of data collection are an opportunity for individual programs to highlight their work within their organizations, with funders, and the community.
- ❖ **Restorative justice programs should examine their data collection processes to identify opportunities to improve participation in the evaluation for all participants.** With changes in the evaluation data collection process, program staff should reflect on their practices and consult with evaluation technical assistance staff to ensure program staff and volunteers collecting data feel supported and equipped, including ways to encourage parental consent and engage youth in the evaluation.

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<sup>21</sup> To better understand if racial and/or ethnic disparities exist in juvenile diversion referrals, the proportions of racial and ethnic youth in diversion should be compared to racial and ethnic proportions of those arrested or otherwise received law enforcement charges in Colorado. These data were not available for comparison in this report.

# Appendix A: Offender Surveys

Case ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Pre-Satisfaction Questionnaire

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As part of doing restorative justice, we would like you to answer some questions about your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. There are no right or wrong answers so choose the answer that is closest to what you really think or feel. This survey will help make the restorative justice program useful for other people so please answer each question as thoughtfully and honestly as possible. **Please DO NOT put your name anywhere on this survey.** All of your answers will be kept private and will only be seen by the program staff and researchers.

Completing this survey is completely voluntary. Please read every question carefully and choose only one answer for each question. If you don't find an answer that fits exactly, use the one that comes closest.

**Thank you for sharing your perspective.**

1. Please tell us your birth date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
2. What are your goals for the restorative justice process? What do you hope will be achieved as a result?

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**Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.**

***If you have a question about who the victim is in this case, please ask the person who gave you this survey.***

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
3. I think restorative justice will help me deal with my offense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. My offense harmed the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. My offense harmed the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. My offense harmed my family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. My offense harmed me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I am sorry for my offense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I think I will be able to repair the harm I caused to the <u>victim</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I think I will be able to repair the harm I caused to the <u>community</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I understand the harm I caused the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I feel guilty about the harm I caused the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. I feel bad about my offense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. I feel bad that my offense harmed the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
15. There is really no way I can solve some of the problems I have.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Sometimes I feel that I'm being pushed around in life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. I have little control over the things that happen to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. I can do just about anything I really set my mind to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. I often feel helpless in dealing with the problems of life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. What happens to me in the future mostly depends on me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. There is little I can do to change many of the important things in my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**How true are the following statements about adults in your family?**

	Not at all true	A little true	Pretty much true	Very much true
22. There is an adult who will help me if I really need it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. There is an adult who thinks I'm special.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. There is an adult who I am close with.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. There is an adult who understands how I think and feel about things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. There is an adult who I can talk to about important decisions in my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**How true are the following statements about adults in your life (not family members)?**

	Not at all true	A little true	Pretty much true	Very much true
27. There is an adult who will help me if I really need it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. There is an adult who thinks I'm special.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

29. There is an adult who I am close with.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. There is an adult who understands how I think and feel about things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. There is an adult who I can talk to about important decisions in my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please indicate how much these statements describe you.**

	Not at all like me	A little like me	Somewhat like me	A lot like me	Exactly like me
32. I feel bad when someone gets their feelings hurt.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
33. I understand how those close to me feel.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
34. It is important to me to understand how other people feel.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
35. I am happy when others succeed.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

COMMENTS:

Is there anything else you would like to say about the restorative justice process or about how this case is being handled?

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**Survey Administrator Only**

Case ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Offender**



## Post-Process Satisfaction Questionnaire

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As part of doing restorative justice, we would like you to answer some questions about your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. There are no right or wrong answers so choose the answer that is closest to what you really think or feel. This survey will help make the restorative justice program useful for other people so please answer each question as thoughtfully and honestly as possible. **Please DO NOT put your name anywhere on this survey.** All of your answers will be kept private and will only be seen by the program staff and researchers.

Completing this survey is completely voluntary. Please read every question carefully and choose only one answer for each question. If you don't find an answer that fits exactly, use the one that comes closest.

**Thank you for sharing your perspective.**

1. Please tell us your birth date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_
2. What were your goals for the restorative justice process?

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	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
3. Were your goals for the restorative justice process met?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please explain how your goals were or were not met.

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**Please indicate how much these statements describe you.**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
5. The restorative justice <u>facilitator(s)</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The <u>victim</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The <u>community members</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I felt safe during the restorative justice process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I am satisfied with my restorative justice experience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I am satisfied with my restorative justice contract.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I would recommend restorative justice to others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. The restorative justice process improved my experience with the criminal justice system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS:

Is there anything else you would like to say about the restorative justice process or about how this case was handled?

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Case ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Post Contract Satisfaction Questionnaire

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As part of doing restorative justice, we would like you to answer some questions about your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. There are no right or wrong answers so choose the answer that is closest to what you really think or feel. This survey will help make the restorative justice program useful for other people so please answer each question as thoughtfully and honestly as possible. **Please DO NOT put your name anywhere on this survey.** All of your answers will be kept private and will only be seen by the program staff and researchers.

Completing this survey is completely voluntary. Please read every question carefully and choose only one answer for each question. If you don't find an answer that fits exactly, use the one that comes closest.

**Thank you for sharing your perspective.**

1. Please tell us your birth date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.**

***If you have a question about who the victim is in this case, please ask the person who gave you this survey.***

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
2. The restorative justice process helped me deal with my offense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. My offense harmed the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. My offense harmed the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. My offense harmed my family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. My offense harmed me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I am sorry for my offense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I think I was able to repair the harm I caused to the <u>victim</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I think I was able to repair the harm I caused to the <u>community</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I understand the harm I caused the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I feel guilty about the harm I caused the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I feel bad about my offense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. I feel bad that my offense harmed the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
14. There is really no way I can solve some of the problems I have.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Sometimes I feel that I'm being pushed around in life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
16. I have little control over the things that happen to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. I can do just about anything I really set my mind to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. I often feel helpless in dealing with the problems of life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. What happens to me in the future mostly depends on me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. There is little I can do to change many of the important things in my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**How true are the following statements about adults in your family?**

	Not at all true	A little true	Pretty much true	Very much true
21. There is an adult who will help me if I really need it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. There is an adult who thinks I'm special.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. There is an adult who I am close with.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. There is an adult who understands how I think and feel about things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. There is an adult who I can talk to about important decisions in my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**How true are the following statements about adults in your life (not family members)?**

	Not at all true	A little true	Pretty much true	Very much true
26. There is an adult who will help me if I really need it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. There is an adult who thinks I'm special.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. There is an adult who I am close with.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. There is an adult who understands how I think and feel about things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. There is an adult who I can talk to about important decisions in my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please indicate how much these statements describe you.**

	Not at all like me	A little like me	Somewhat like me	A lot like me	Exactly like me
31. I feel bad when someone gets their feelings hurt.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
32. I understand how those close to me feel.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
33. It is important to me to understand how other people feel.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
34. I am happy when others succeed.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Reflecting on the restorative justice process in which you participated, please share how much you agree with each statement.**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
35. I am satisfied with my restorative justice experience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36. I would recommend restorative justice to others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. The restorative justice process improved my experience with the criminal justice system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Appendix B: Victim Survey

Case ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Victim**



## Post Satisfaction Questionnaire

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Thank you for participating in the evaluation of this restorative justice program!

The responses to this survey will help the Colorado Restorative Justice Council strengthen and improve the restorative justice process for other participants.

Completing this survey is completely voluntary. Your answers to these questions will be kept private and to ensure your privacy, please **DO NOT** put your name anywhere on this survey.

Please read every question carefully and choose only one answer for each question. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions, so please choose the answer that relates closest to what you experienced.

**Thank you for sharing your perspective.**

1. What were your goals for the restorative justice process?

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	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
2. Were your goals for the restorative justice process met?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please explain how your goals were or were not met.

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**Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
4. The restorative justice process met my needs in response to this case.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I had a voice in how my crime was dealt with.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The restorative justice facilitator(s) was responsive to my needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The restorative justice <u>facilitator</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The <u>offender</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The <u>community members</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I felt safe during the restorative justice process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I am satisfied with my restorative justice experience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I am satisfied with my restorative justice contract for the offender.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. I would recommend the restorative justice process to others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
14. The restorative justice process improved my experience with the criminal justice system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS:

15. Is there anything else you would like to say about the restorative justice process or about how this case was handled?

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As part of an effort to better understand who is participating and being served by restorative justice programs in Colorado, we are asking you to complete the following questions about yourself. These questions are voluntary and your answers will be kept completely confidential. They will not be used to identify you. However, if you are uncomfortable answering any question, please leave the question blank and continue with the next question.

Your responses are valued, appreciated, and will be securely and confidentially handled. Please check or write in the response that best describes you.

16. How do you know the individual who caused harm to you?

- I am a teacher, principal, or other staff at their school
- We are both students at the same school
- I am their employer or supervisor
- We work together
- I am their parent or guardian
- I am a family member, but not a parent or guardian
- We live in the same neighborhood
- Prior to this incident, I did not know the individual
- Other, Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

17. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Please share with us your gender identity.

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Gender Queer
- Gender Neutral
- Prefer to self-describe: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Do you identify as Hispanic/Latino?

- Yes
- No

20. Which of the following best reflects your racial identity [check all that apply].

- Asian
- Black/African American
- Multi-Racial
- Native American
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (please share): \_\_\_\_\_

21. If you are not the primary harmed party and are acting as a surrogate, please describe your role

- Participating on behalf of the primary harmed party
- Trained volunteer
- Other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

22. Have you had any experience with Restorative Justice prior to this incident?

- No, this is my first time.
- I had heard of Restorative Justice, but never participated.
- I had participated in Restorative Justice processes before.
- I'm not sure.

23. Before this incident took place, had you had any experience with the criminal justice system or law enforcement? (check all that apply)

- Yes, criminal justice system
- Yes, law enforcement
- No, I have had no experience with the criminal justice system or law enforcement.

# Appendix C: Community Member Survey

Case ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Member**



## Post Satisfaction Questionnaire

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As part of doing restorative justice, we would like you to answer some questions about your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. There are no right or wrong answers so choose the answer that is closest to what you really think or feel. This survey will help make the restorative justice program useful for other people so please answer each question as thoughtfully and honestly as possible. **Please DO NOT put your name anywhere on this survey.** All of your answers will be kept private and will only be seen by the program staff and researchers.

Completing this survey is completely voluntary. Please read every question carefully and choose only one answer for each question. If you don't find an answer that fits exactly, use the one that comes closest.

**Thank you for sharing your perspective.**

My role in this restorative justice process is:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian of Offender | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian of Victim   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trained Volunteer Participant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Family member         | <input type="checkbox"/> Offender Support              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Witness                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Support                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Police/Law Enforcement      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                  |

What were your goals for the restorative justice process? What did you hope would be achieved as a result?

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**Please mark the box that best matches how much you agree with each item.**

***If you have a question about who the victim is in this case, please ask the person who gave you this survey.***

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The restorative justice process met my needs in response to this case.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The restorative justice facilitator(s) was responsive to my needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The restorative justice <u>facilitator</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The <u>offender</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The <u>victim</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The other <u>community members</u> treated me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I felt safe during the restorative justice process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am satisfied with my restorative justice contract for the offender.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am satisfied with my restorative justice experience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would recommend restorative justice to others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The restorative justice process improved my experience with the criminal justice system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS:

Is there anything else you would like to say about the restorative justice process or about how this case was handled?

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