

DIVERSION  
&  
OUR COMMUNITY

Benita Martin, Diversion Director

# What is Diversion?

Intervention approaches that redirect participants away from formal processing in the justice system, while still holding them accountable for their actions. The goal of diversion is to remove youth and adults as early in the justice process as possible to avoid later negative outcomes associated with formal processing, such as increased odds of recidivism, stigmatization/labeling, and increased criminal justice costs.

~Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

# The Purpose & Goal of Diversion

*The Denver District Attorney's Diversion Programs provide culturally competent services that repair the harm caused by crime to victims and the community, increase social competency skills of offenders and reduce the likelihood of further involvement in the court system.*

Reduce  
Recidivism

Remediate  
Underlying Issues

Provide Alternative to  
Traditional Prosecution

# Types of Diversion

Juvenile

Ages 10  
- 17

# Criteria of Diversion Program

- **Admit involvement, culpability, or guilt in offense**
- **Charges**
  - **Juvenile – pre-file, post file, misdemeanor and felony**
- **Prior Criminal History**
- **Have not previously participated in Diversion Program**
- **Voluntarily agrees to participate**
- **Agree & Comply with Diversion Contract**
- **Diversion services are appropriate and can meet needs of client**

# Juvenile Accepted Offenses

- Theft
- Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft
- Select Sex Offenses
- Burglary
- Criminal Mischief
- Trespass
- Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Case by Case Bases

# Juvenile Process Overview

Staff Reviews All Filed Cases

DA Makes Offer

Juvenile Referred to Diversion

Intake

Statement of Responsibility (in Court)

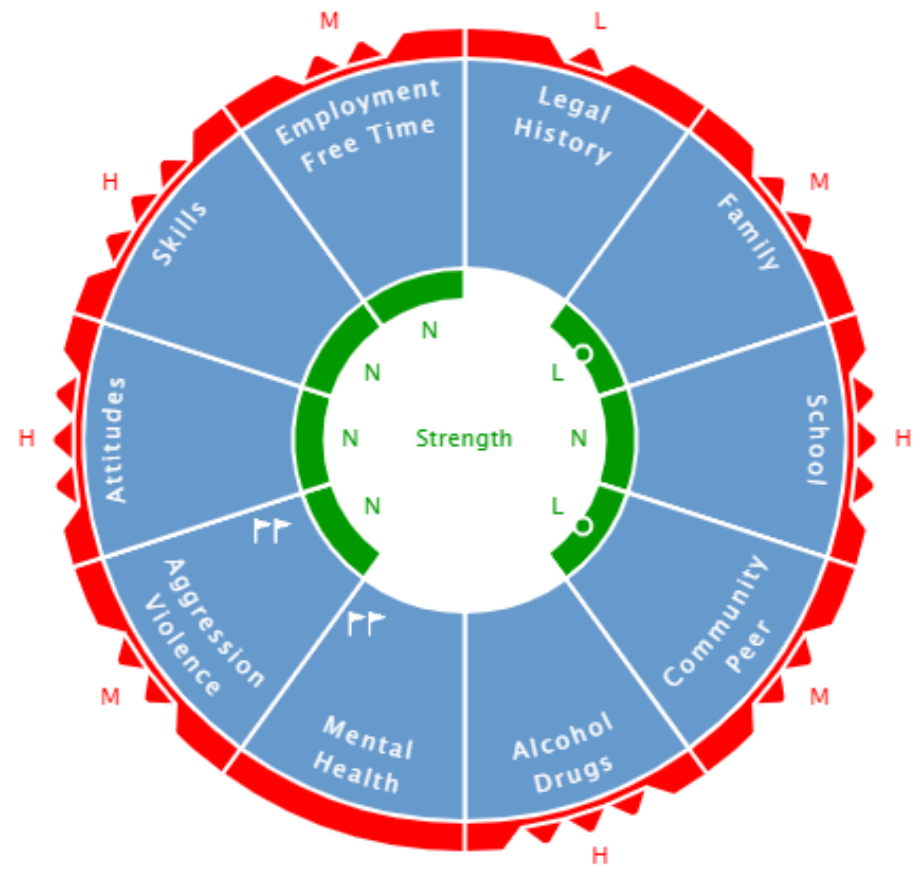
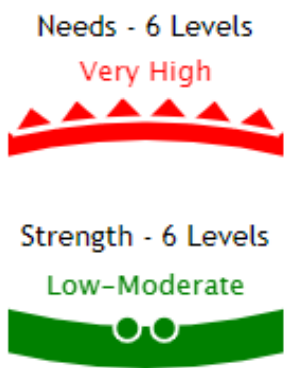
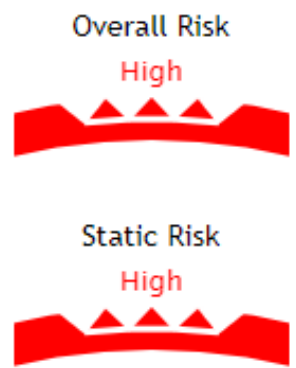
Expungement upon Completion

---

Client Begins Program  
Client Referred to Appropriate Services  
Client Completes Requirements  
Client is Eligible for Successful Termination

# YASI

LH FM SC CP AD MH AV AT SK EF





# Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) for Juveniles



**Skills**

Community/Peers



**Attitudes**

Family



**Alcohol/Drugs**

Fo

# Focused Support



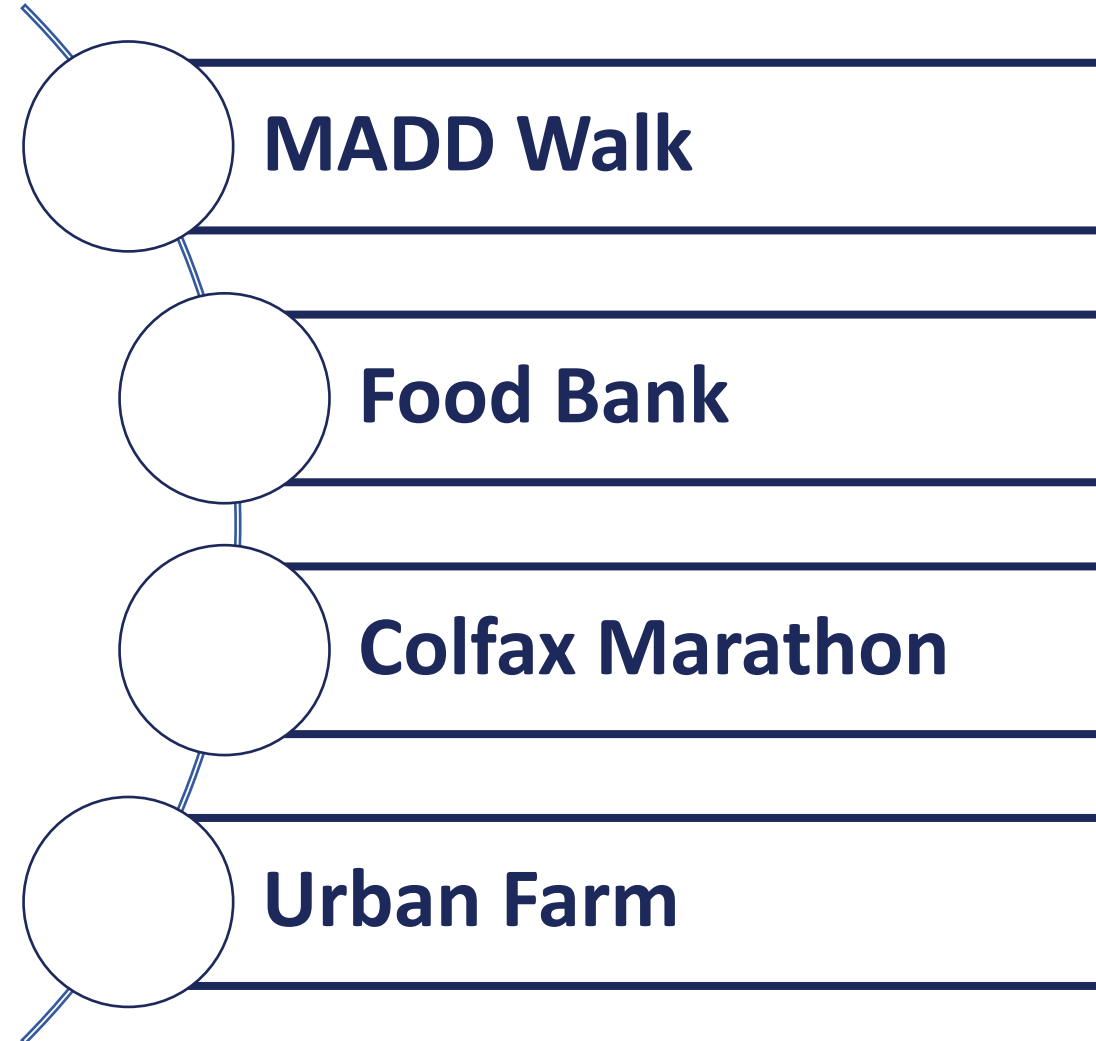
**Diversion Officer**

**1 to 25**

# Programs

- Cognitive Groups
- Substance Use Treatment
- Mental Health Treatment
- GED Prep and Testing Support
- Journals
- Restitution Program
- Referral to Mentoring
- Restorative Justice
- Strengths Finder Assessment

# Restitution Programs



# Restorative Justice

Juvenile Probation

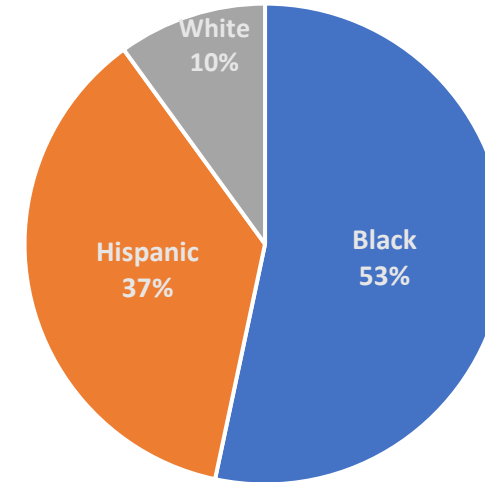
Municipal Diversion



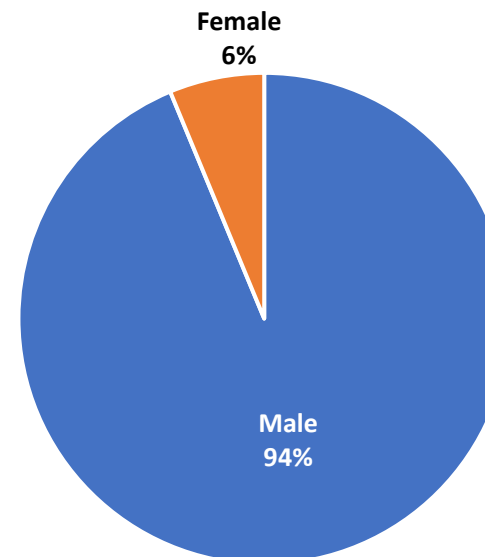
Diversion

# Restorative Justice

Ethnicity



Gender



Ethnicity/Gender of 2023-2024 RJ Participants

Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female	SUBTOTAL BY ETHNICITY
Black	15	1	16
Hispanic	7	4	11
White	2	1	3
SUBTOTAL BY GENDER	24	6	30
			TOTAL ACTIVE

# Successful Terminations

53

Juvenile  
Program

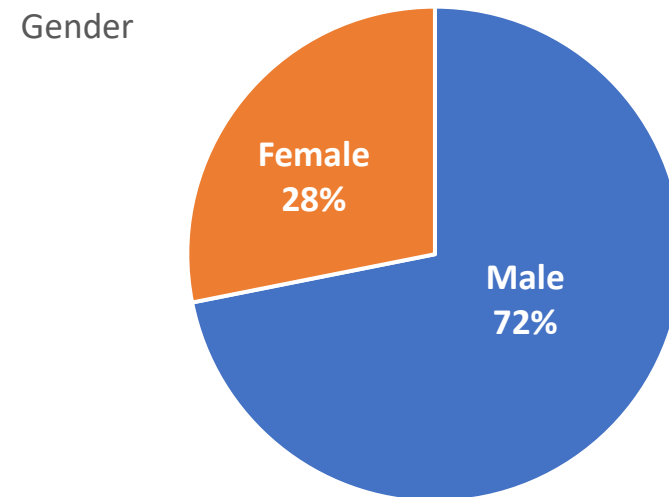
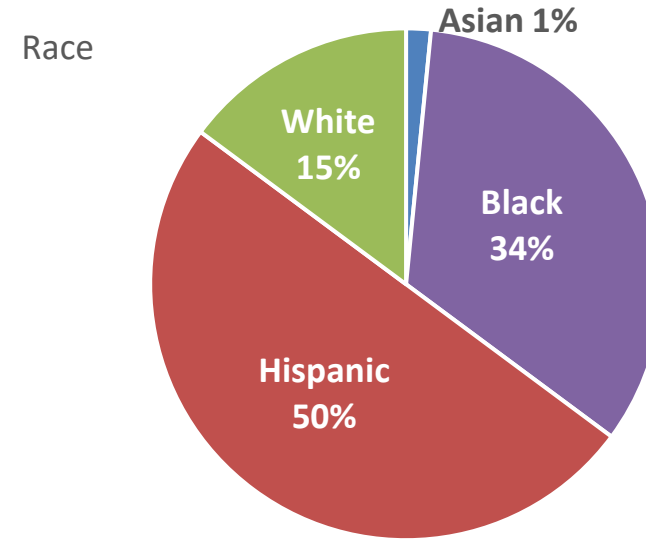
2023-24

Grant Cycle

# Juvenile Program Demographics

## Gender/Ethnicity of All Active Participants 2023-2024

Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female	SUBTOTAL BY ETHNICITY
Asian	2	0	2
Black	28	15	43
Hispanic	50	14	64
White	12	7	19
SUBTOTAL BY GENDER	92	36	128
			TOTAL ACTIVE

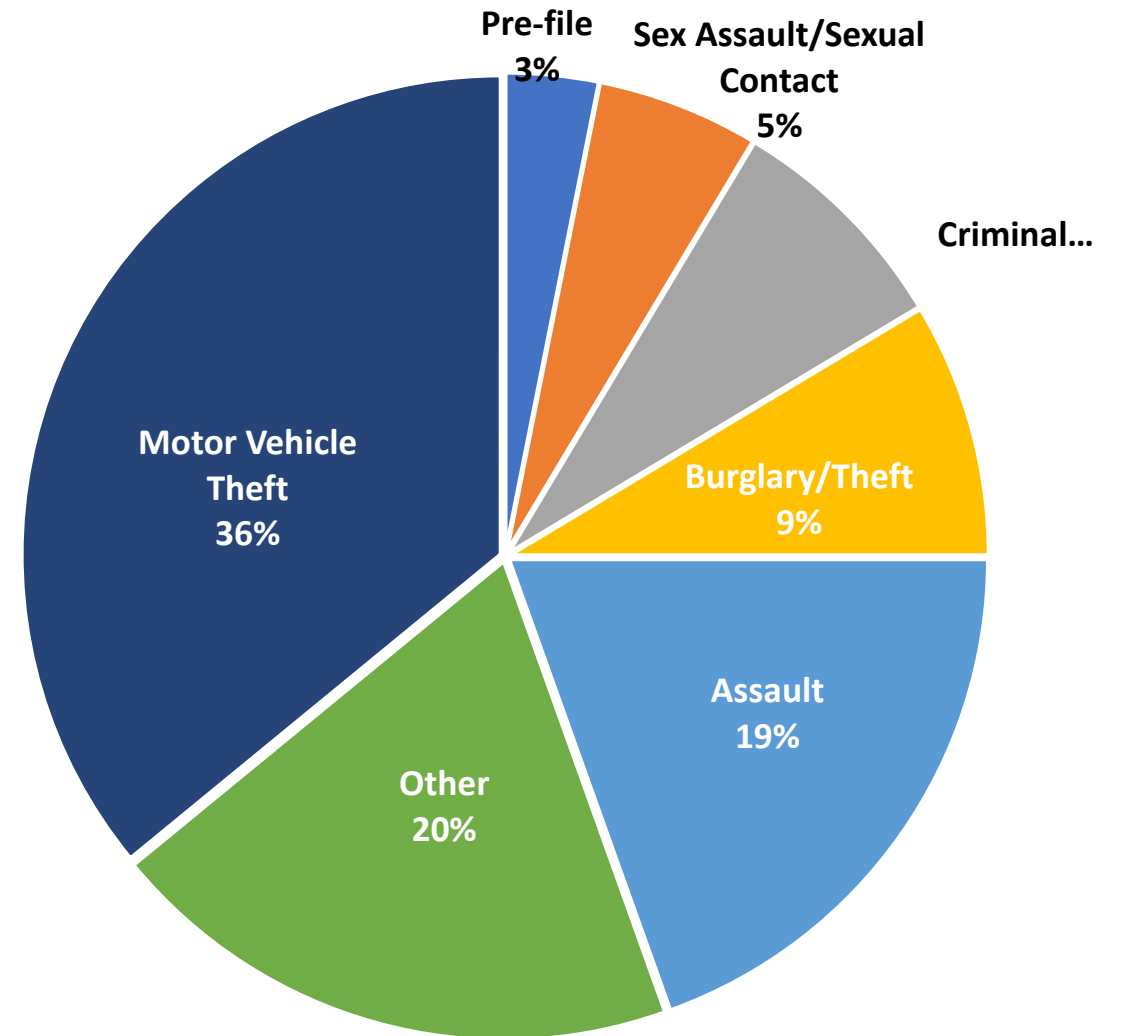




# Juvenile Diversion Charges

## Charges 2023 - 2024

Offense	Total
Pre-file	4
Sex Assault/Sexual Contact	7
Criminal Mischief	10
Burglary/Theft	11
Assault	25
Other	25
Motor Vehicle Theft	46
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>



# Total Restitution Paid 2023-2024

**Juvenile: \$12,148**

“The benefits of participating in the Diversion program was something that really changed my whole personality. The type of person I am now is a completely different person than what I was before. I was someone who was always going and all being real, and, being honest, a more valuable asset to myself to progress in a positive manner. With the program, I also start to attend therapy classes once a week. One therapy is very helpful to be able to help yourself. I don't know chance. I wasn't being smart about my decisions and I'm so grateful I got into Diversion. More people deserve a chance.”



# 2024 Program Goals

1. Expand the list of eligible cases
2. Establish additional community partnerships for aftercare supports post Diversion
3. Expand Restorative Justice Partnerships



**THANK YOU!**

**Benita Martin**

**Diversion Director**

**[BAM@DenverDA.org](mailto:BAM@DenverDA.org)**

**(720) 913-9086**