



Annual Report

Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board

FY21: July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2021

Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board

Every year Bernalillo County is awarded funds from the New Mexico State Government General Funds, through CYFD, to increase public safety through the support of data driven, evidence based juvenile justice practice and reform. The Continuum Statute requires the development of an advisory board that reflects all system and community stakeholders. This board creates strategic plans and makes data driven decisions to determine how the funding will be spent to best serve the interests of community well being.

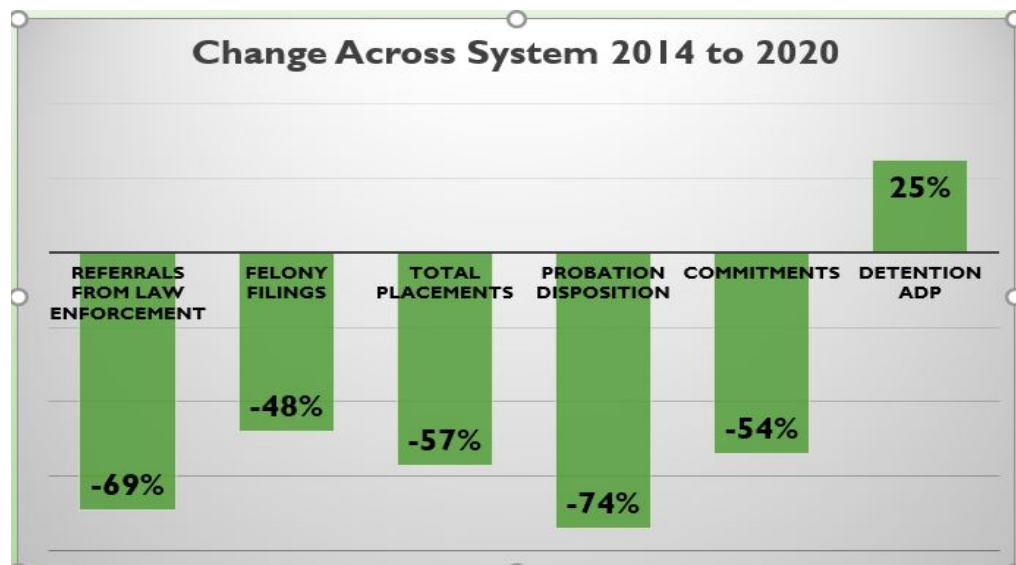
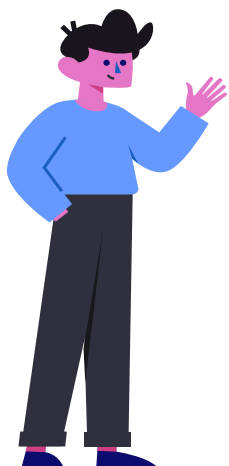
Our Mission;

The Mission of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Board is to reduce the number of youth within the juvenile justice system through prevention, intervention and alternative programs that empower youth, families and communities.

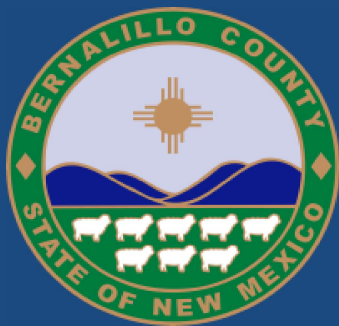
Our Vision;

The Vision of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Board is for an inclusive society that provides equitable access to fair, effective and timely justice for all.

Data Trends: Bernalillo County Data Driven Decisions



- The most consistent changes within the system are Commitments of Youth and the Average Daily Population.
- We have increased by 25% in the Average Daily Population (ADP) of Youth in the Youth Service Center over six years (2014 to 2020) and 15% from 2019 to 2020.
- Probation Dispositions, Felony Filings, and Referrals to Probation remain low.



Bernalillo County

Community Survey

Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board 2021 Youth and Family Survey



- From May to July 2021, the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board gathered feedback from youth and families who may have had contact at some time (current or past) with the Juvenile Justice System in Bernalillo County.
- The Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board acknowledges that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on all families this year to include access to education and other community services.
- The purpose of the survey was to gather as much feedback from families and youth in our community to help the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board create a strategic plan that reflects the identified needs of youth and families in Bernalillo County for the upcoming year into the future.

Survey Results

29 Youth/Families Responded via Survey Monkey Platform

1. How much is travel distance an issue for you that prevents you from accessing services?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
22 Responses	7 Responses
Distance from services is relevant to why I can't access services.	Distance is not an issue for me.

Result: Distance is a factor that prevents families and youth from accessing services.

2. How much is a lack of a vehicle an issue for you that prevents you from accessing services?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
21 Responses	8 Responses
I do not have access to a vehicle.	I have access to a vehicle

Result: Lack of a vehicle is an issue that prevents families and youth from accessing services.

3. How much is public transportation not an option an issue that prevents you from accessing services?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
18 Responses	11 Responses
I can not access public transportation.	I have access to public transportation when needed.

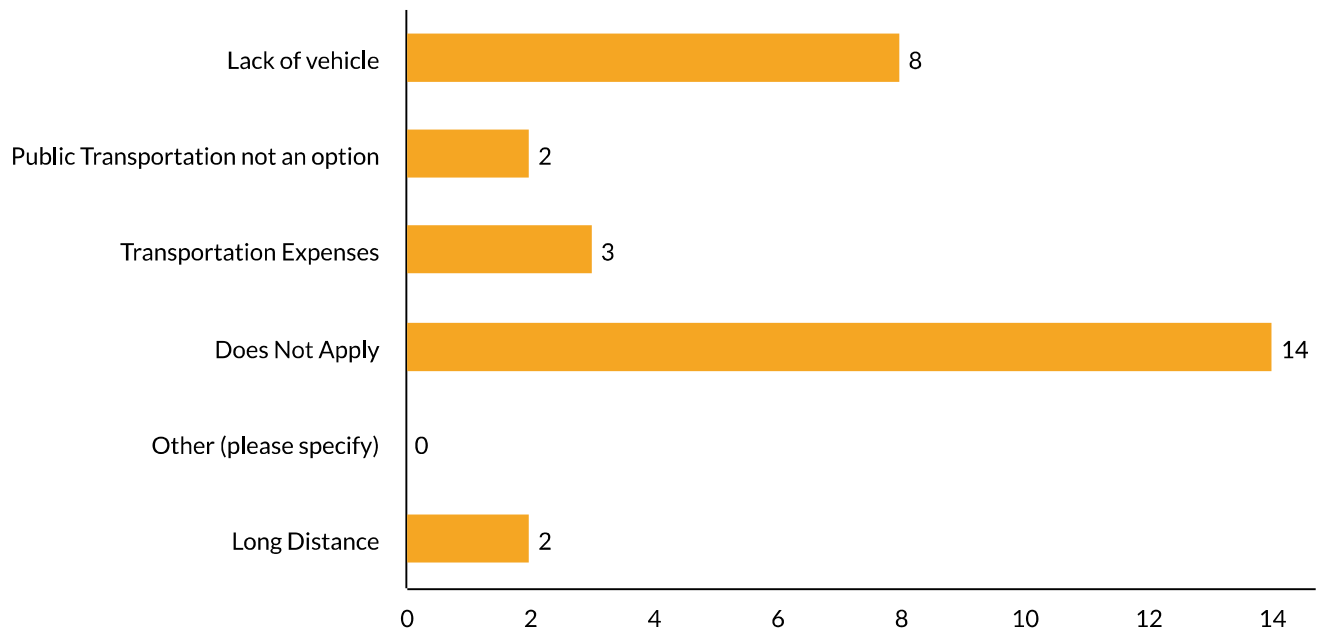
Result: More respondents do not have access to public transportation when needed.

4. How much are transportation expenses an issue for you that prevents you from accessing services?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
22 Responses	7 Responses
I do not have funds needed to access services.	I have access to funds needed to access services.

Result: More respondents do not have the funds for transportation expenses needed to access services.

5. Specifically, what is the biggest factor preventing you from having transportation to services?



6. How much are service related expenses an issue for you that prevents you from accessing services?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
22 Responses	7 Responses
I do not have the funds needed to access services.	I have the required funds to access services.

Result: More respondents do not have the money needed for service related expenses.

7. How much is a lack of needed services an issue for you that prevents you from accessing services?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
25 Responses	4 Responses
The services that I need are unavailable.	I have access to all the services I need.

Result: More respondents do not have the services they need available .

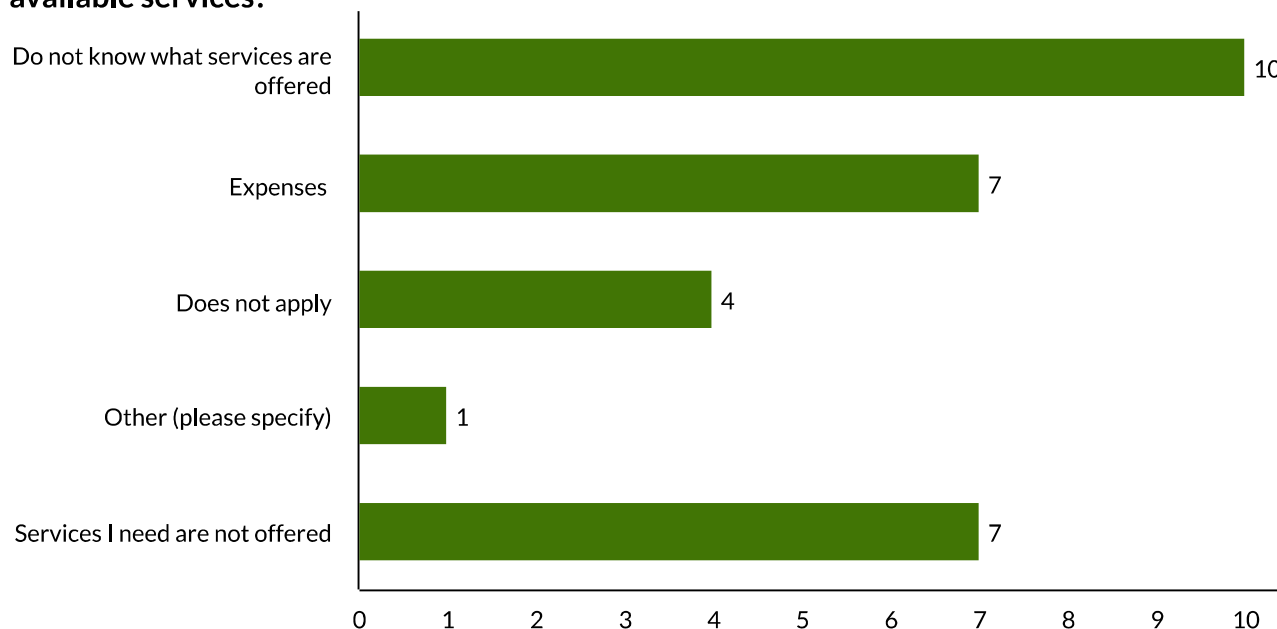
8. How much is unawareness of what services are offered an issue for you that prevents you from accessing services?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
24 Responses	5 Responses
I do not know what services are offered.	I am aware of services offered.

Result: More respondents are unaware of services offered in the community and it prevents them from accessing services.



9. Specifically, what is the most important issue to you, regarding the lack of services or being unaware of available services?



10. In general, do you believe that you have adequate family support?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
13 Responses	16 Responses
I do not have an adequate family support system.	I have adequate family support system.

Result: More respondents have an adequate family support system.

11. Does your family assist you in utilizing services in your community?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
15 Responses	14 Responses
My family is unable to assist me in utilizing services.	My family helps me utilize services.

Result: More respondents stated that their family is unable to assist them in utilizing services.

12. Is there support in your family, for family members or youth to participate in services?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
15 Responses	14 Responses
Family does not want me to participate in services.	My family supports participation in services.

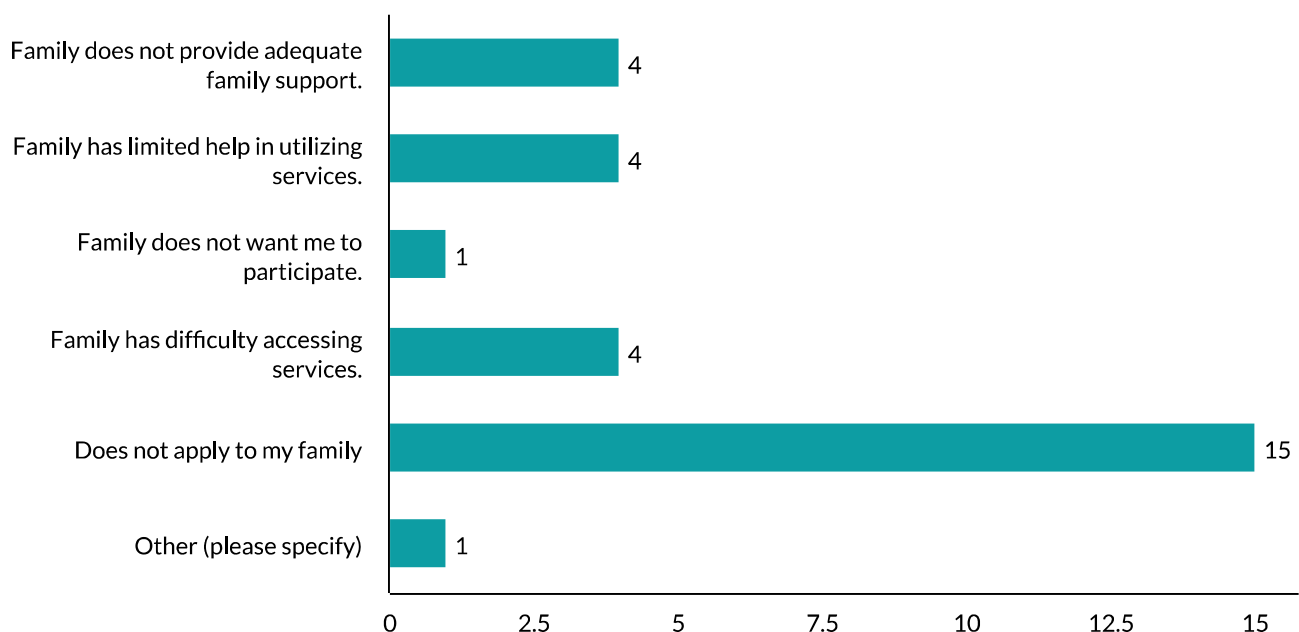
Result: More respondents stated that their family does not want or support them to participate in services.

13. Are there issues for your family in accessing services in the community?

Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
23 Responses	6 Responses
My family has difficulty accessing services.	My family is accessing services.

Result: More respondents stated that their family has difficulty accessing services in the community.

14. Specifically, what is the most important issue to you, regarding family support when it comes to services?

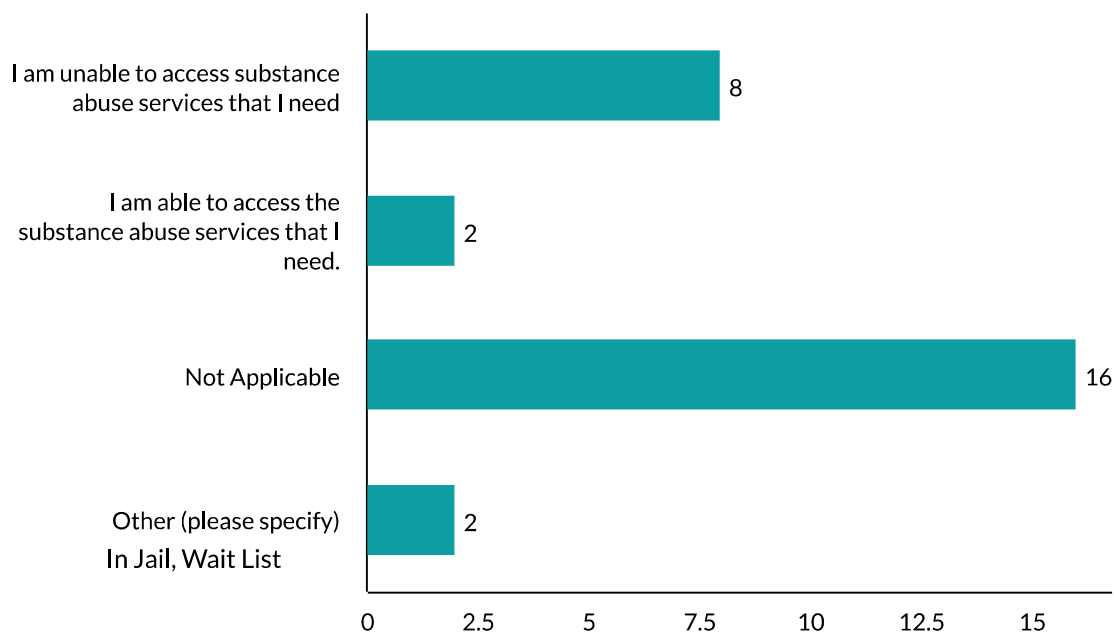


15. Is substance abuse an issue for your family?

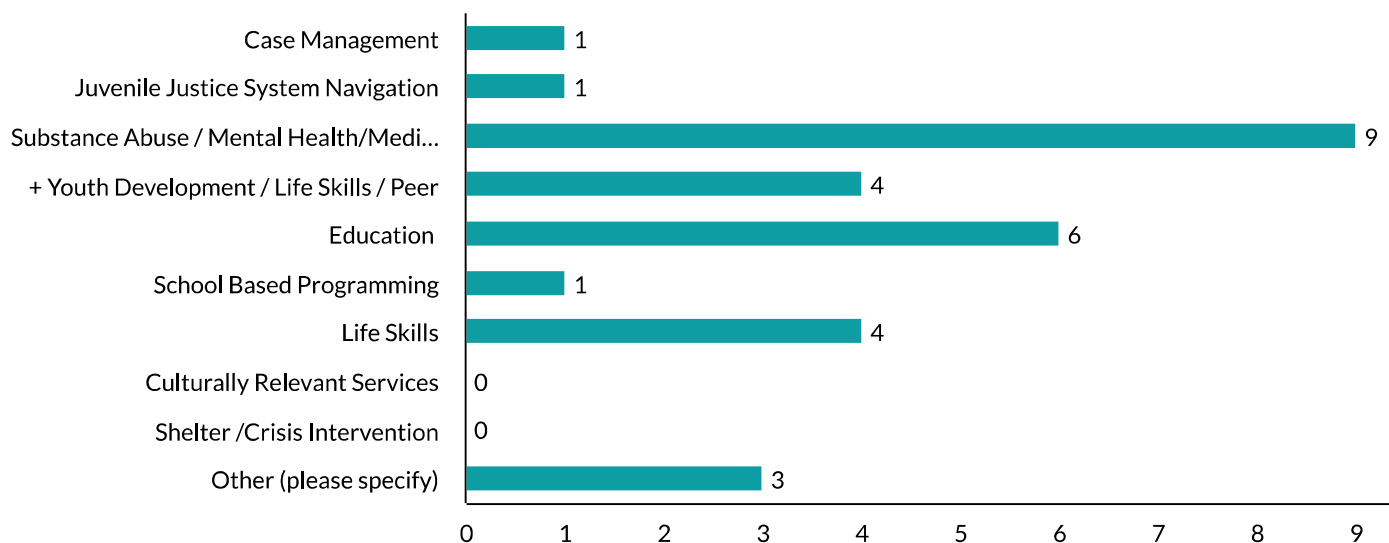
Response on Scale between 0-5	Response on Scale between 6-10
17 Responses	12 Responses
Substance Abuse is an issue for my family.	Substance Abuse is not an issue for my family.

Result: More respondents stated that substance abuse is an issue for their family.

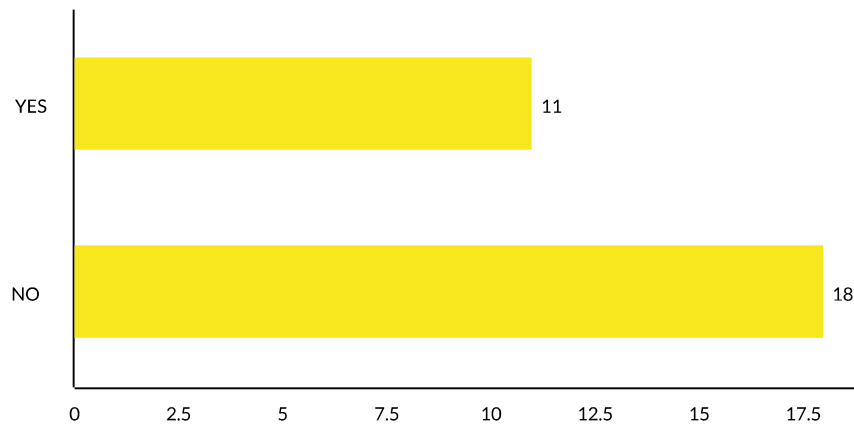
16. Do you have issue accessing Substance Abuse related services?



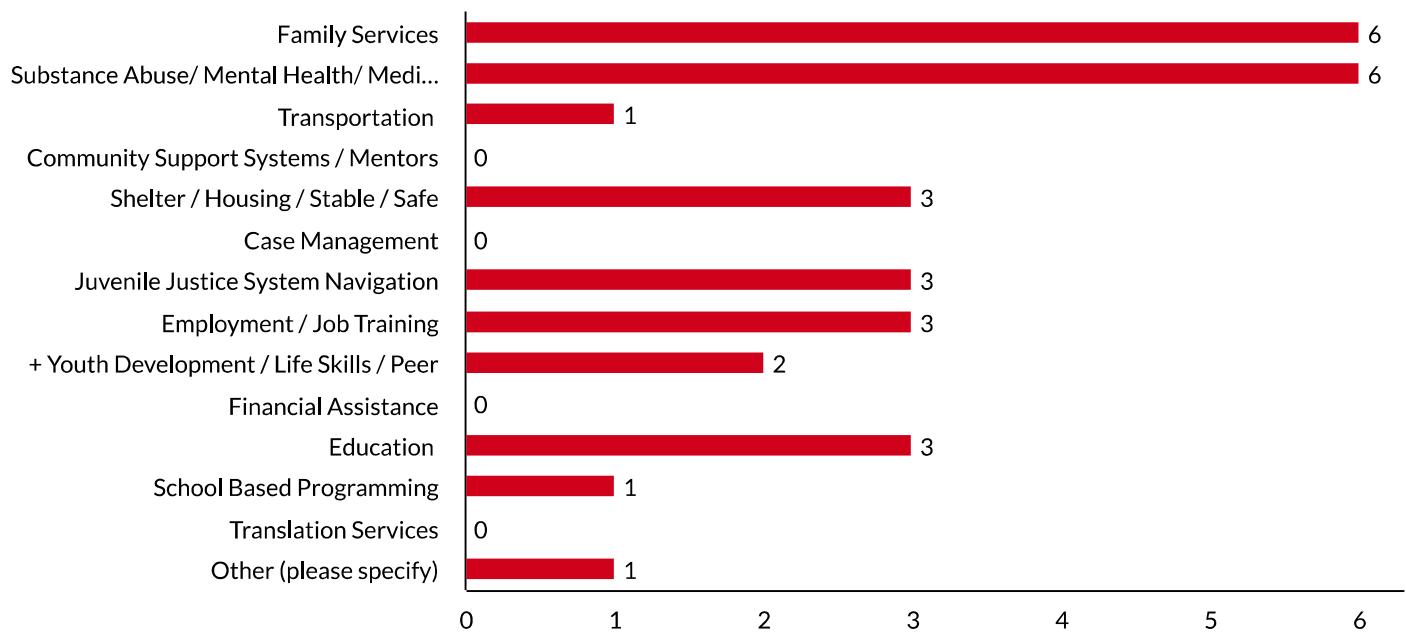
17. Which of the services listed below is the most important to you or your child?



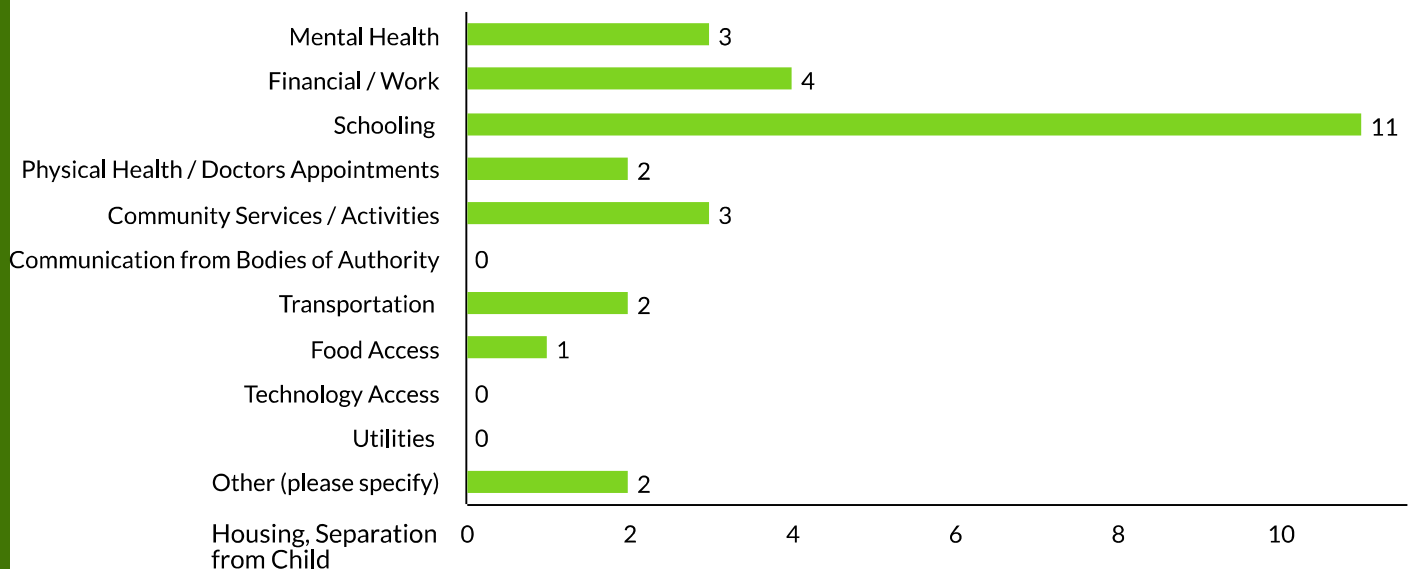
18. Would you be interested in participating in Mentoring Services?



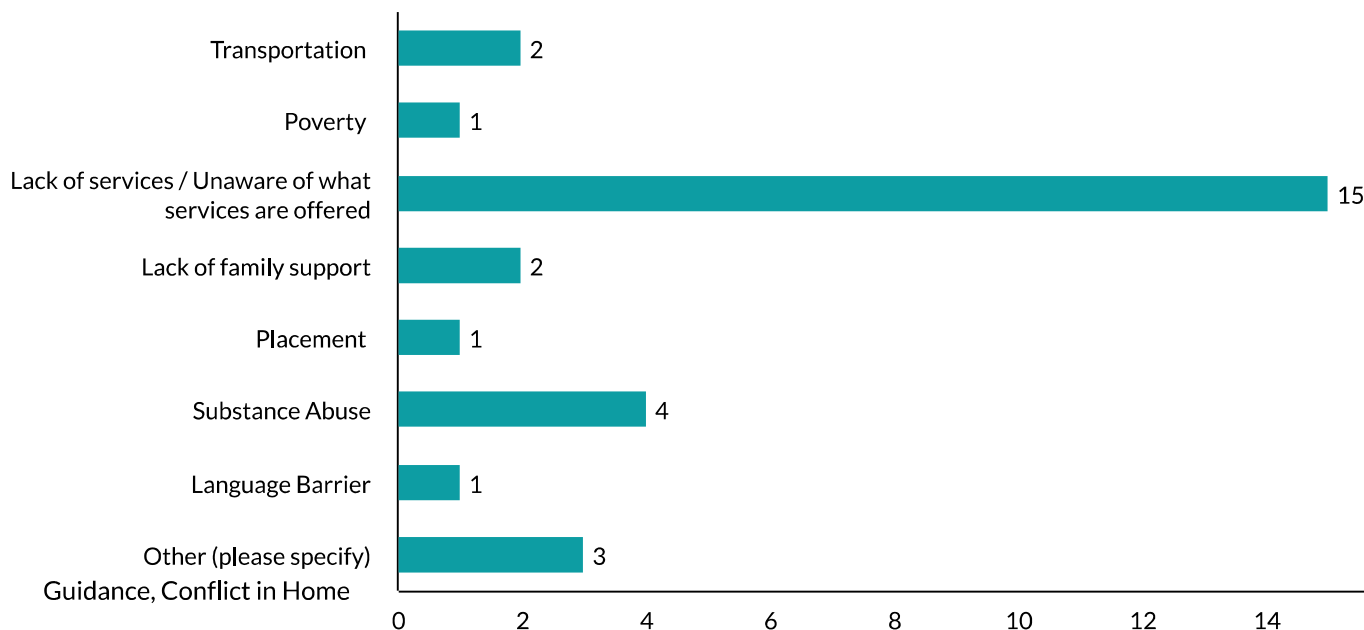
19. Which of the services listed is the most important to you?



20. What is the biggest area of your life that has been impacted by Covid-19 related changes?



21. What is the biggest barrier preventing access to services?

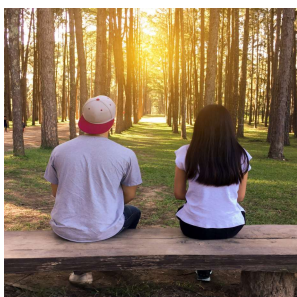


Key Takeaways



Transportation

Access to transportation still remains an issue for youth and families to include the following barriers; distance to access services, lack of vehicle, and/or cost to maintain a vehicle or expenses related to transportation.



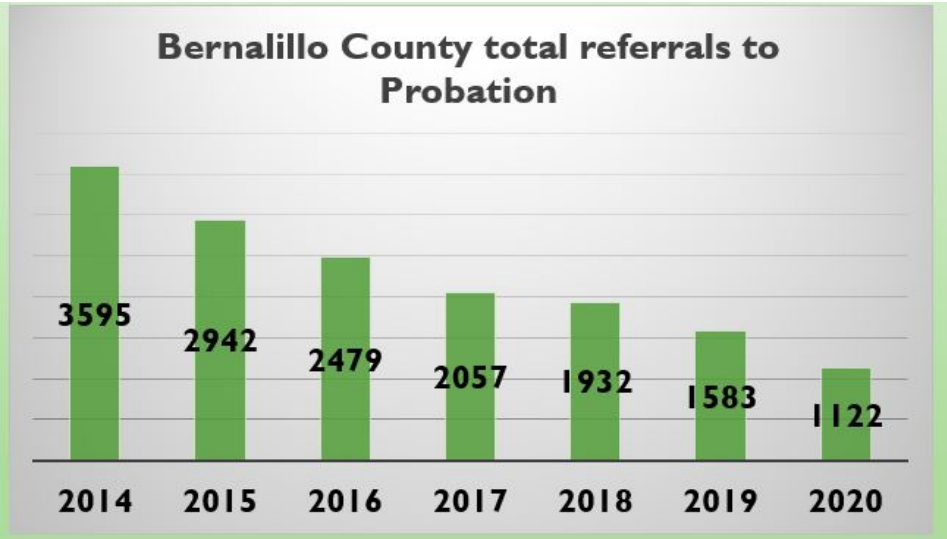
Access to Community Services

Youth and families report the following barriers; awareness of the community services available, money is an issue to attend services, and services that are needed are not available in the community.



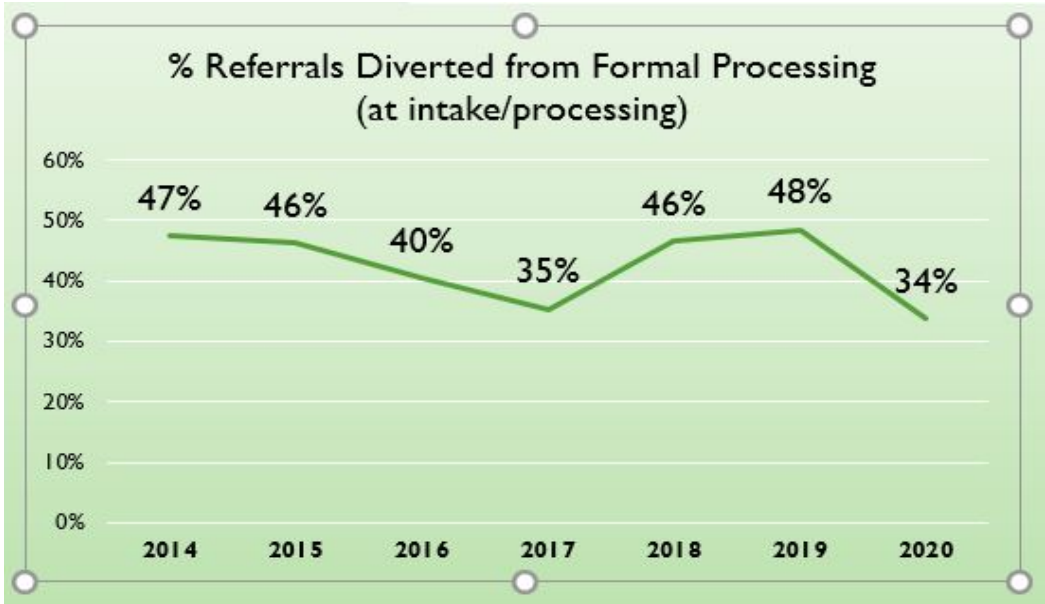
Substance Abuse/Mental Health/ and Medical Services

Youth and families are reporting that substance abuse, mental health, and medical services need to be more accessible.



There has been a steady decrease in referrals to Probation from Law Enforcement by 69% from 2014- 2020.

- Female Youth: 75% decline in referrals.
- Male Youth: 65% decline in referrals.



- The proportion of system referrals that were diverted at the initial point of intake dipped down to its lowest figure (34%) in FY2020.
- There were 821 referrals to the JPO Office for Males in 2020, and of those referrals 205 Males were diverted (25%).
- There were 301 referrals to the JPO Office for Females in 2020, and of those referrals 174 Females were diverted (58%).

COVID-19 Impact:

From mid-March of 2020 to June of 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way all Juvenile Justice Stakeholders have been able to conduct business. For example; multiple agencies began teleworking, court hearings were held via zoom platform, and local Community Providers shifted gears to focus on serving youth and families in the most innovative ways to meet basic needs.

Data Trends Key Points:

- It is important to note there has been a continued decrease in Juvenile referrals from Law Enforcement.
- The Bernalillo County Board is taking a closer look at the diversion data and it's impact on the utilization of Continuum funded programs.

How the Pandemic Challenged or Changed Us; Adjustments, Highlights, and Challenges



MAKING POSITIVE POSSIBLE.

New Day Reception and Assessment Center (RAC) & Restorative Justice Diversion Circles:



What Adjustments has your Agency made to make services available to youth and families during the pandemic?

- The Safe Home has adjusted to the COVID-19 pandemic by finding ways to bridge the gap in communication with youth and their families. We've been successful by using the Zoom platform to make connections with a young person's support team members. This has allowed not only participation from families, but has opened the door for various community partners such as Juvenile Probation Officers, Therapists, Community Social Workers, School teachers, CYFD personnel, and other support to attend team meetings. Team meetings are at the forefront during a young person's stay at the Safe Home. They allow for the Safe Home team to build upon the young person's strengths to identify next steps.
- Additionally, we worked with Albuquerque Public Schools Title I program to get a set of laptops, headphones and a locked stowing cabinet to ensure we were able to support young people in their educational process. We also purchased additional moving work spaces for young people and staff so that everyone could find space and quiet to be successful with school.
- Our Life Skills Academy moved to all online classes and support starting in May of 2020 and continued using virtual classes as the primary service delivery model much of the year. To ensure young people had access to virtual environments we helped secure tablets and WIFI connection for many young people over the year.
- In the past several months we have started holding some in-person Healthy Relationship classes in the Safe Home and Drop-in Center. They have been well received, thus far.

Highlights



- We have worked with a number of young people with involvement with Juvenile Probation. We have observed an increase in participation in Team Meetings and on-site checks with JPO's. This has allowed the young people with Juvenile Probation involvement to thrive with the consistency of the Juvenile Probation team's support.
- Due to different court outcomes, we have been able to reunify young people to their homes, transition young people to residential treatment facilities for drug treatment or other needs and have had some success with young people obtaining employment.
- We adapted the Health Relationships course from 8 classes to 3 stand alone modules that focus on specifics topics and make it easier for young people to complete and have access to the valuable information. Through this process more young people have completed the modules. One young person reported that after the class they were in a situation with a peer where they started to get frustrated and then they remembered that they could CHOOSE the kind of relationships they have. They said "this is going towards unhealthy, I want healthy relationships, so I am going to leave it alone." This was a direct positive impact from their skill development in the class.

Challenges



- During the COVID-19 pandemic it has been difficult to triage RAC referrals. Before the pandemic, we were able to take RAC referrals and coordinate admissions in real time. This changed during the pandemic. All Safe Home admissions must have a negative COVID-19 test completed within a 24-hour window prior to admission. This alone has been difficult to navigate throughout the pandemic.
- The Safe Home has stayed ahead of the game by pre-planning several situations. When testing was new, our staffing pattern allowed us to essentially run two shelters. As the year progressed and testing became more readily available, we have been able to connect RAC referrals to a local urgent care to get rapid testing. With the opening of our Drop-In Center, "The Space," we have re-imagined support in creative ways. We are in constant motion to problem solve ways to make admissions flow with RAC referrals.
- For Healthy Relationships, while virtual connection is a really important aspect, we saw that as things started opening up, fewer young people would engage with the online classes and young people who were also in school were so exhausted of being on zoom or an online platform they just wanted to be in person. Which is why we initiated more in-person contact when our staff vaccination rate hit 70%.

How the Pandemic Challenged or Changed Us; Adjustments, Highlights, and Challenges



Community Custody Case Manager

What Adjustments has your Agency made to make services available to youth and families during the pandemic?

- During the pandemic, CCP Staff had to change how they engaged with families as half the staff had to telework from home to meet social distancing protocols. Prior to the pandemic, the Case Manager engaged with families in person twice a week or more as youth came into the office. Now as the Case Manager is teleworking, she continues working at that pace but via zoom, face time, or on the telephone.
- The Case Manager noted that the interaction via technology platforms can feel limited at times. When she was able to meet with families in her office after a youth's release from the facility she felt that she was able to build better rapport.
- The Case Manager also felt that check in days had great incentives for youth and families as the CCP staff would have popcorn and pizza Friday's where families would spend more time with staff at check -in and the youth would speak their minds and the staff could learn a lot more about their lives and attend to their needs.

Highlights

- Over the year, CCP staff saw a decrease of youth being held in detention. Various COVID-19 policies and procedures and the introduction of the Resident Status Conference meeting held at the detention center every Friday may have contributed to the low numbers of Bernalillo clients in detention.
- The Case Manager stated she noticed that while youth were released home they were applying themselves on the online schooling and engaging in some type of educational plan without distractions. The Case Manager wanted to share that we had a Youthful Offender graduate from high school and earned his diploma this year while on CCP.
- Another highlight to note is the CCP Program has experienced a decline in violations and warrants this year.

Challenges

The biggest challenge the Case Manager noted was her ability to refer families to Community Programs whom could take on the client and family as soon as the youth was released from detention. Community Providers often had long wait lists, challenges or limitations with technology, and difficulty with meeting families face to face to conduct intakes or assessments. This would sometimes lead families to have to wait several weeks to access services. The Case Manager would continue to follow up with the various providers to make sure that youth and families would not fall through the cracks.

How the Pandemic Challenged or Changed Us; Adjustments, Highlights, and Challenges



La Plazita Institute Youth Reporting Center:

What Adjustments has your Agency made to make services available to youth and families during the pandemic?

- At the time of the pandemic and during the stay at home order, La Plazita Institute continued with the Youth Reporting Center services virtually. Meeting and or making contact with youth and their families a minimum of three times a week virtually. Videos along with questions were given to the youth at the beginning of the week and if completed by the end of the week the staff members would deliver a goodie bag to them.
- Our Pathways Navigator and Certified Community Health Workers worked to both inquire if, and or inform the families of the social services that were offered during the pandemic. The Staff did their best to connect youth and families as well as assist in obtaining those services during that time.
- Virtual art classes were also offered to the youth and families during the pandemic with all supplies being delivered.

Highlights

- As mentioned above the A.R.T.E (Artist Rising Through Expression) program was launched during the pandemic where four of our staff members worked on monthly workshops for youth and families. These workshops included Collaging, Comic Book Series, Painting Pottery that was later used for the plants that they themselves planted, learning about the traditional style of sign painting and prints, and spending time in the medicinal garden as well as at our certified organic sites.
- Once La Plazita Institute opened up to in person programming, the youth were able to engage in activities with the medicinal garden. They learned about the significance and benefits that medicinal plants offer to include; beneficial uses for upper respiratory infections and immune boosting methods for them and their families. These plants included: mint, basil, echinacea, chamomile, rosemary, lavender, rose, fennel, calendula, sage and sunflowers. Some of the activities included deseeding the sunflowers and roasting/baking them, making infused water and teas and learning how to store them properly to be used at a later time for them and their families.

Challenges

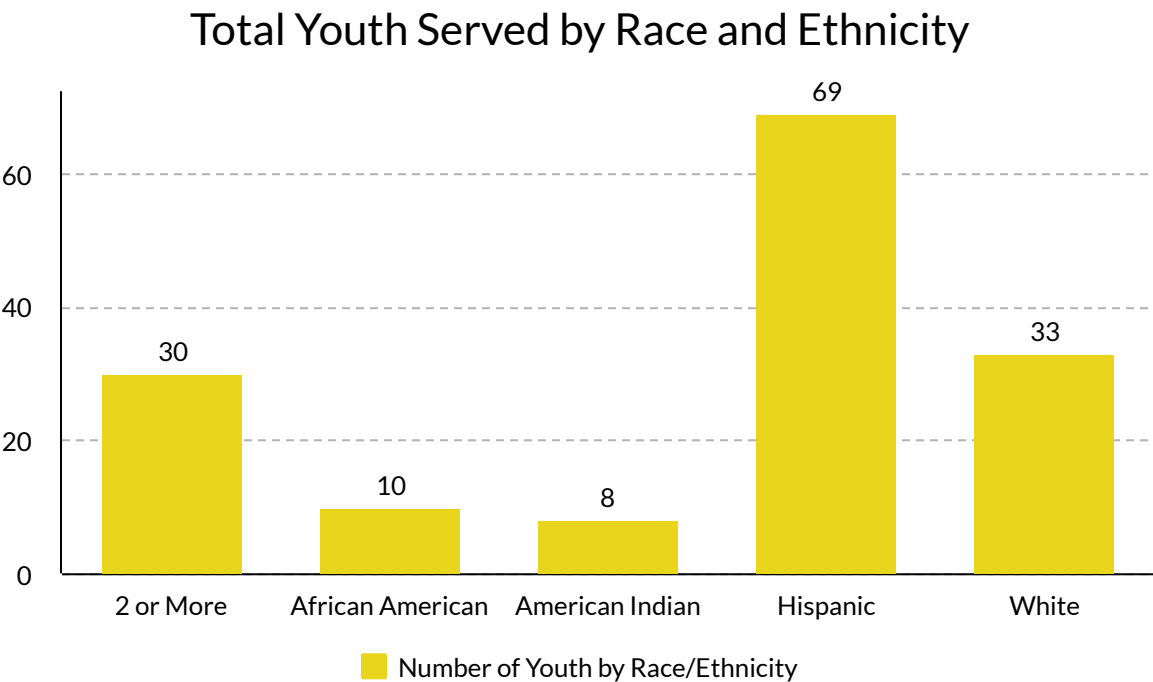
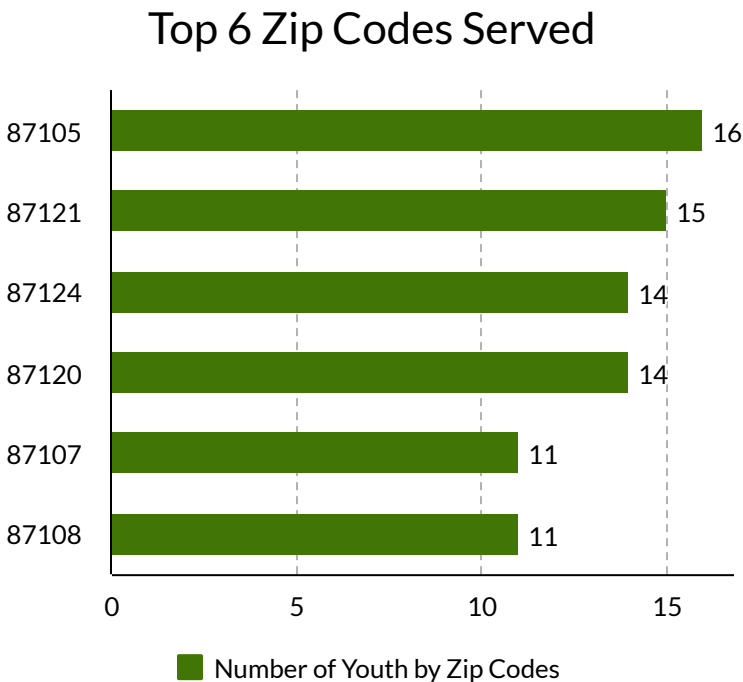
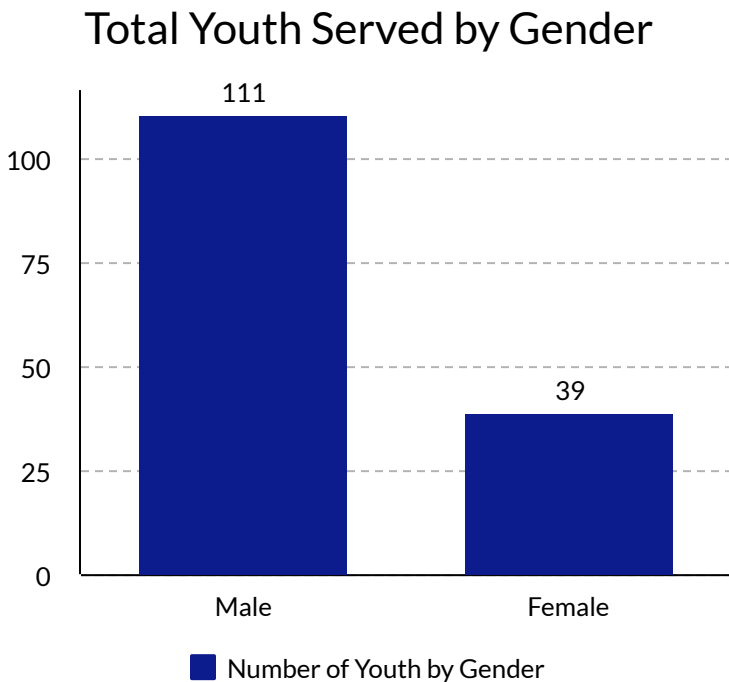
Some of the challenges that La Plazita Institute faced during this pandemic were honestly not being able to meet in person. As much effort was put into trying to make things less complicated and more innovative, the virtual settings had its complications all around.

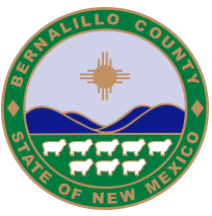
A lack of transparency and/or communication during the pandemic between system and community can have a negative impact on youth and lead to disengagement and not feeling supported.

Program Data

The following ***data was derived from the billing data*** which is submitted to CYFD on a monthly basis in FY2021. All programs, with the exception of the Community Custody Program, saw a steep decline in children enrolled from March through June during the start of the pandemic. Programmatic data and fiscal information were reviewed by the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Board (BCJJB) for all four funded programs through out the fiscal year.

Total Youth were served through the programs in Fiscal Year 2021.

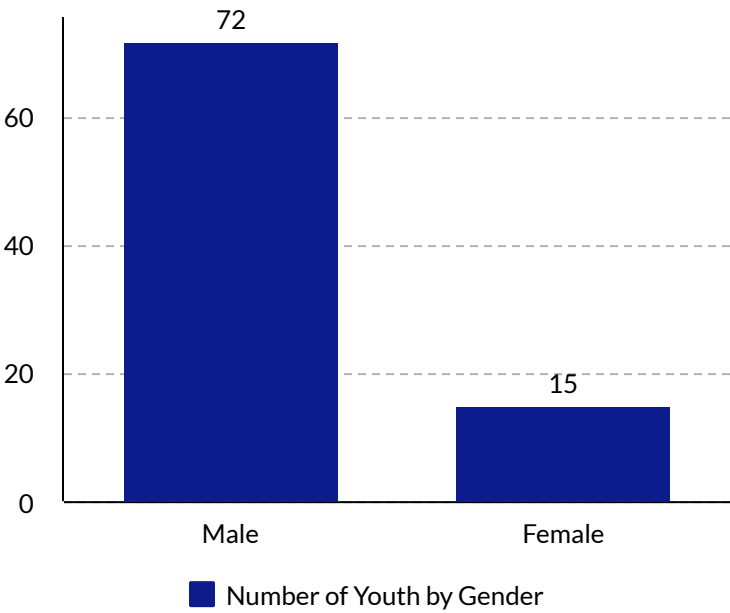




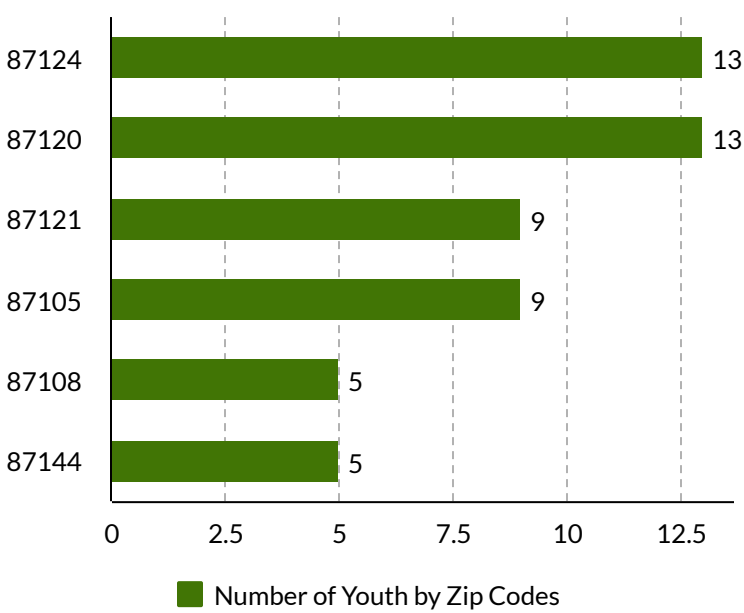
Community Custody Program Case Manager

The Community Custody Program (CCP) is a Youth Services Center Alternative to Detention. This program monitors and provides services for pre-adjudicated youth who if not released would remain in detention pending adjudication. Funding through the Continuum Grant provides each youth with access to a Case Manager who does intensive work to solidify educational opportunities and help the youth and their families gain access to community-based services. Case planning is youth and family-driven and culturally responsive. The CCP Case Manager worked with a total of 87 youth throughout the fiscal year in Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties. On Average, 17 youth are served and billed monthly by the CCP Case Manager.

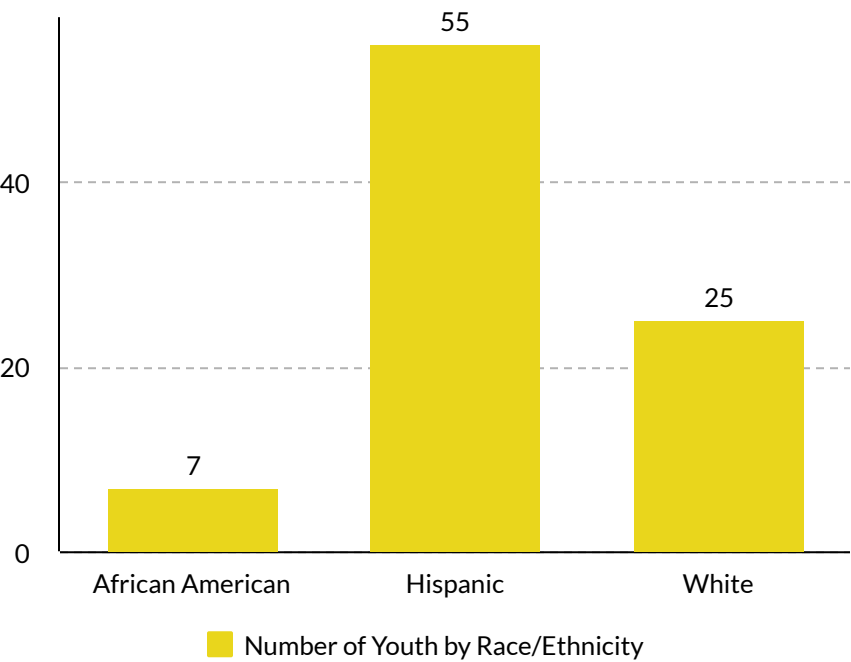
CCP Youth Served by Gender



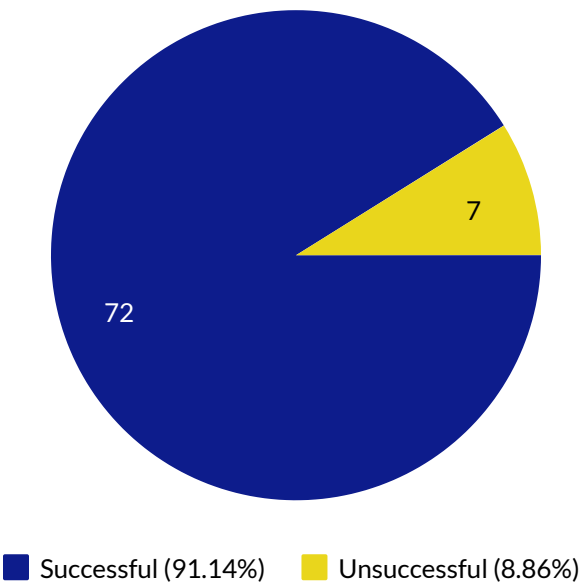
Top 6 Zip Codes Served



CCP Youth Served by Race and Ethnicity



CCP Youth Successful/Unsuccessful



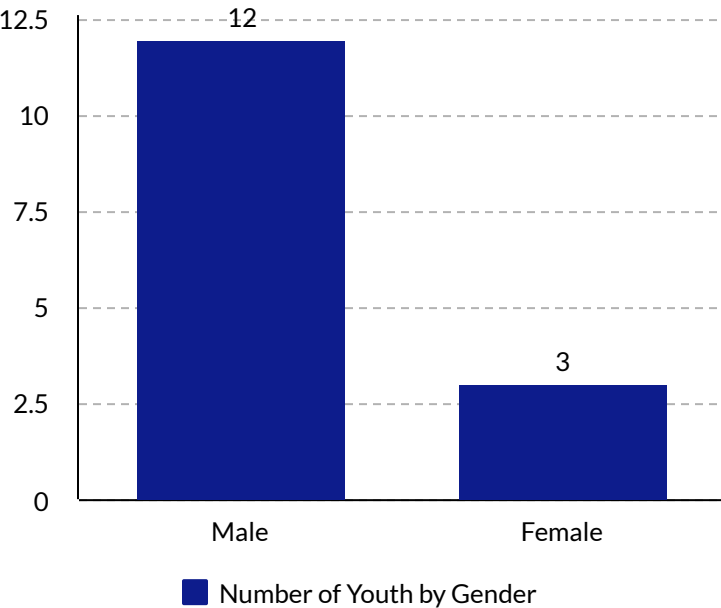
At the end of the fiscal year, there is 8 youth who were still receiving services and will roll over into the next fiscal year. There were a total of 6 youth who recidivated, and 1of those youth received services twice in a fiscal year.



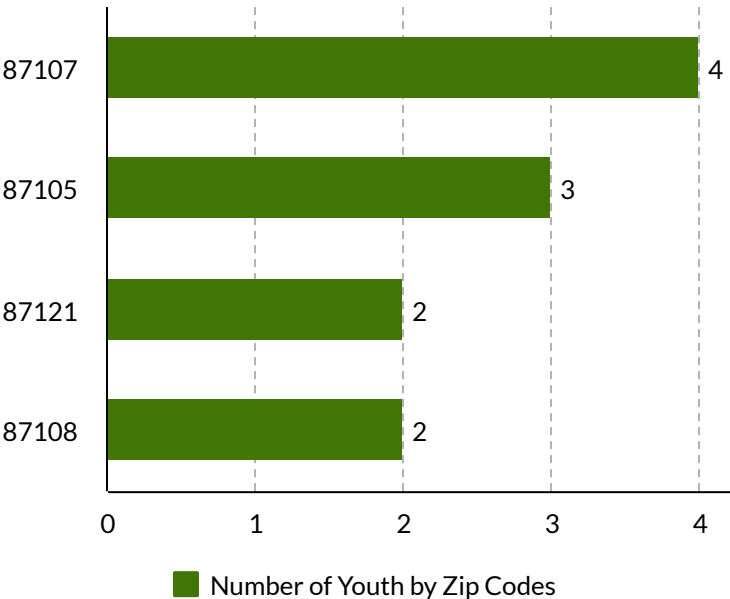
La Plazita- South Valley Youth Reporting Center

The South Valley Youth Reporting Center at La Plazita Institute (LPI) provides supportive services for pre and post adjudicated youth. The Reporting Center at LPI participates in the following: Cultural restorative justice, agriculture, conservation, community revitalization, economic self-sustainability, community learning, non-traditional leadership, social enterprise, traditional and spiritual healing, race equity, health and family wellness, community engagement and collective impact. Bernalillo County identified through previous data studies that many youth in the Juvenile Justice system served reside near or have access to services at LPI. LPI worked with a total of 15 youth throughout this fiscal year.

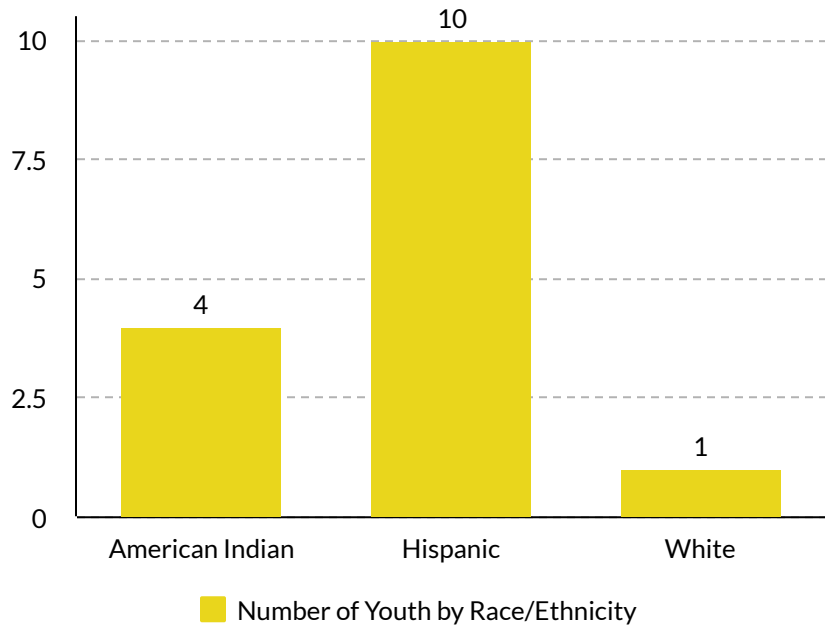
LPI Youth Served by Gender



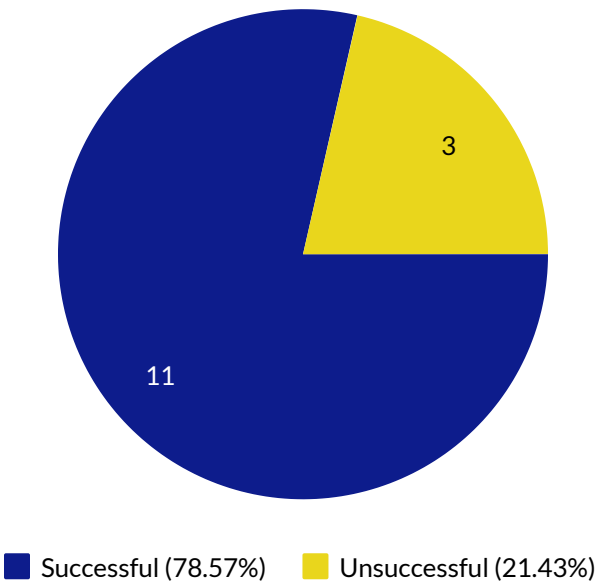
Top 4 Zip Codes Served



LPI Youth Served by Race and Ethnicity



LPI Youth Successful/Unsuccessful

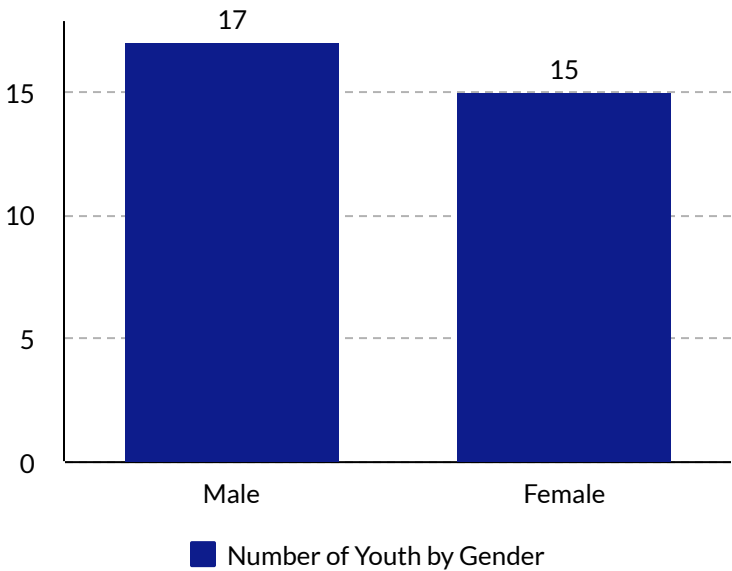


At the end of the fiscal year there was one youth who was still receiving services and will rollover into the next fiscal year. There were no youth who recidivated and received services twice.

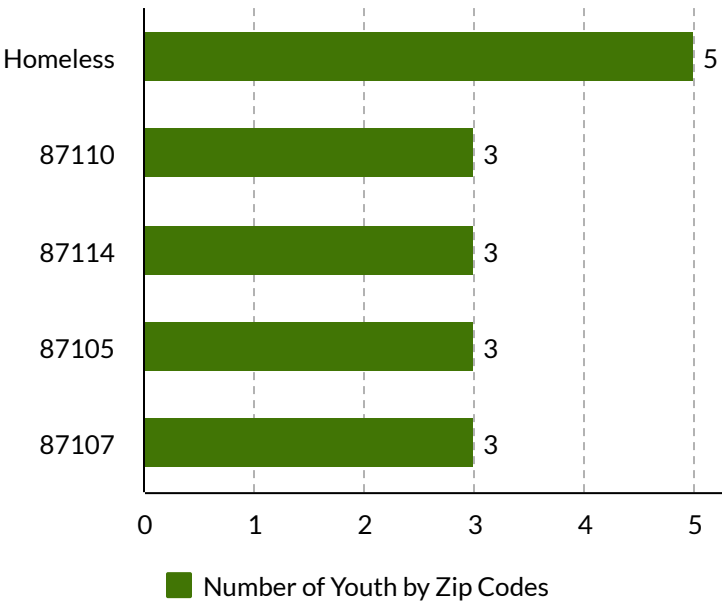
Restorative Justice Diversion Circles

The Second Judicial District within Bernalillo County strives to embody the principles of Restorative Justice in its work. New Day provides restorative justice diversion services for youth with first, second, and third misdemeanor charges related to Domestic Violence. This is a new program for New Day and they served a total 32 youth throughout this fiscal year. There were various challenges for youth's success in this program due to the pandemic and New Day has re-evaluated the Healthy Relationships curriculum and programming to better meet the needs of the youth moving forward into FY 2022.

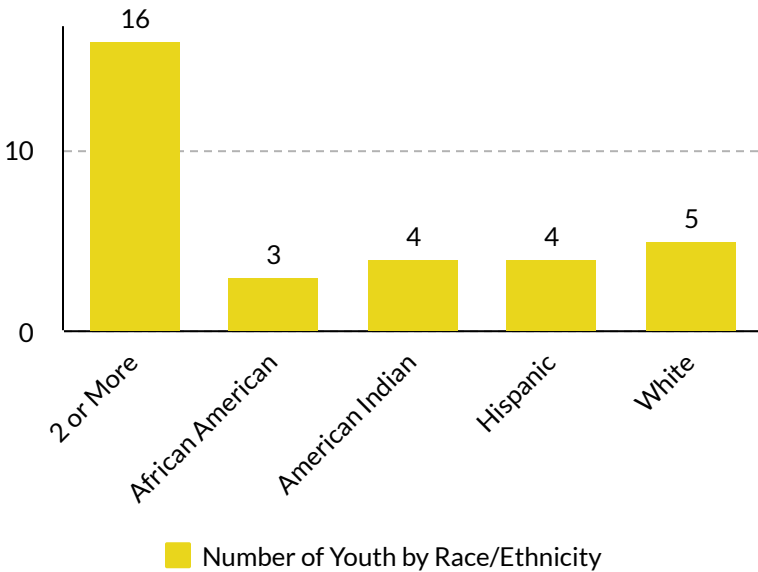
Restorative Justice Youth Served by Gender



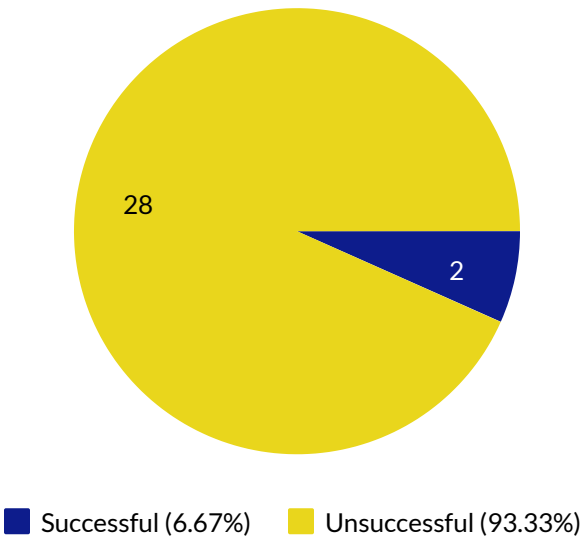
Top 5 Zip Codes Served



Restorative Justice Youth Served by Race and Ethnicity



Restorative Justice Youth Successful/Unsuccessful

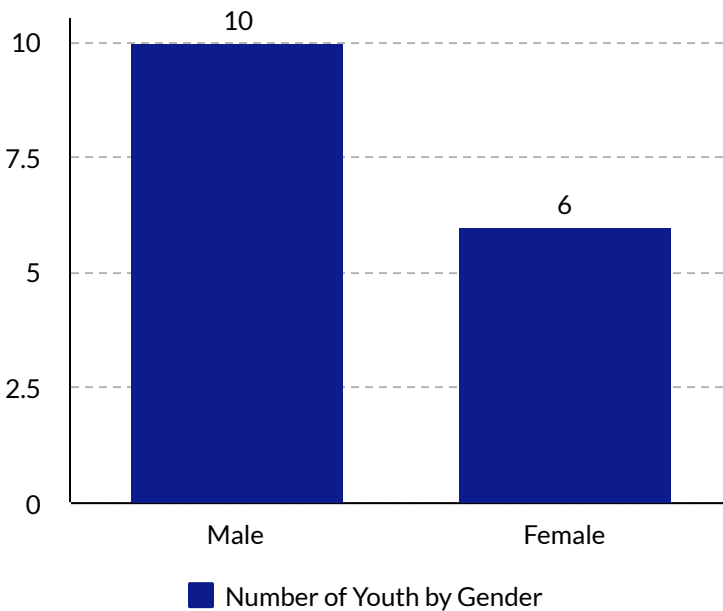


At the end of the fiscal year there were two youth who was still receiving services and will rollover into the next fiscal year. There were no youth who recidivated and received services twice.

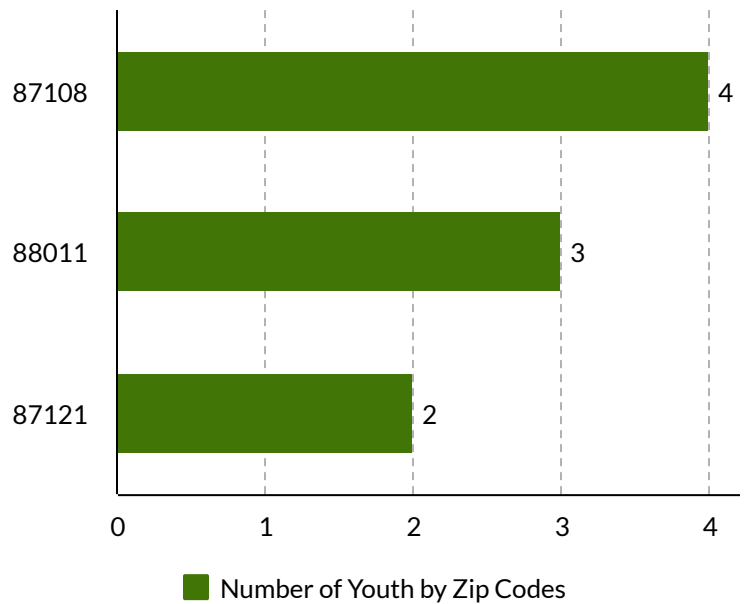
New Day- Reception and Assessment Center

The Reception and Assessment Center (RAC) serves as a diversion for youth who do not meet criteria on the RAI for detention and who need shelter, and/or support in locating parents or guardians after law enforcement involvement. The services provided by the New Day Reception and Assessment Center and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Law Enforcement can “drop off” youth at the RAC, where they are assessed using the Juvenile Inventory For Functioning (JIFF) and can begin to accessing the services New Day has to offer. New Day provided services to 16 youth throughout this fiscal year.

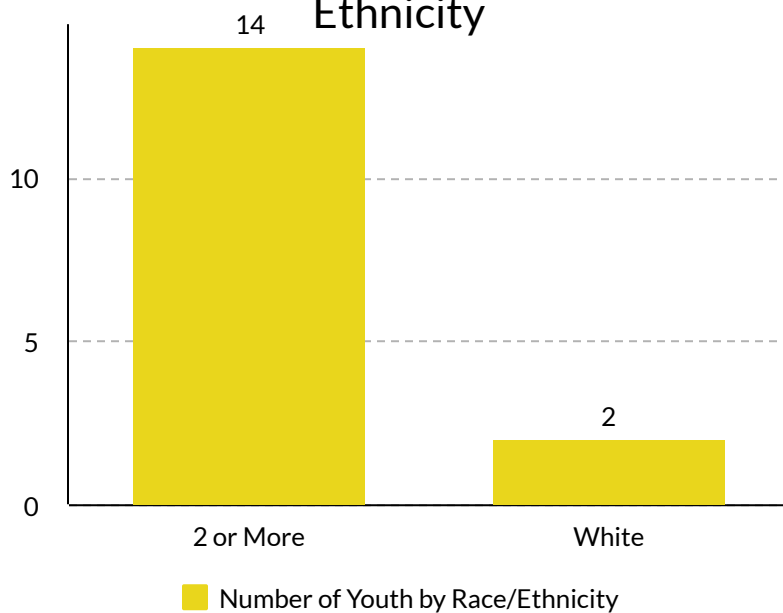
RAC Youth Served by Gender



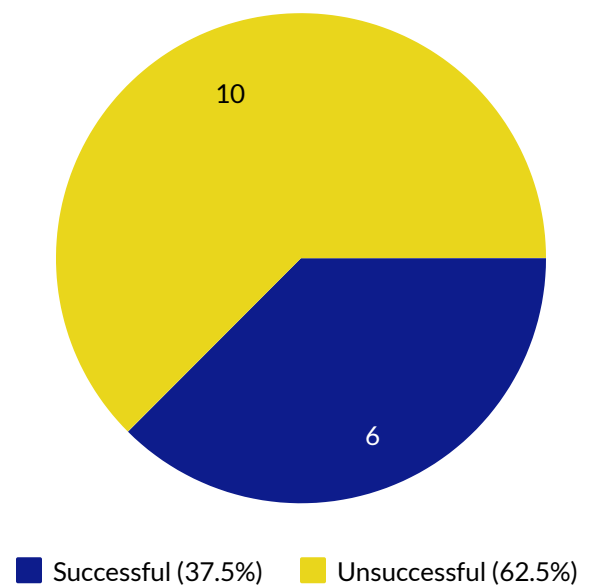
Top 3 Zip Codes Served



RAC Youth Served by Race and Ethnicity



RAC Youth Successful/Unsuccessful



At the end of the fiscal year no youth were receiving services and no youth will rollover into the next fiscal year. There were no youth who recidivated this fiscal year.

Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board Strategies

Juvenile Justice Continuum Website Launch

New Mexico Juvenile Justice Advisory Boards

Supporting the Well Being of Youth and Families in our Communities



<https://continuumdaily.wixsite.com/nmcontinuum>

The New Mexico Continuum Coordinators announce the launch of the new Continuum Website!

- Michaela Rae Davis an Intern with Bernalillo County has worked really hard over two years to build a website on Wixsite for the Continuum Coordinators.
- The Continuum Coordinators supplied Mrs. Davis with documents and information about their sites to share with incoming Coordinators.
- The Children, Youth, and Families Department Special Programs Unit also supplied information for the site and provided feedback before the final launch.
- The site was presented to the JJAC Board this fiscal year as a tool that the Continuum Coordinators could utilize for marketing.



JDAI System Assessment-Renewal upcoming in 2022

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) System Assessment in Bernalillo County was conducted in November of 2018. A Work Plan for the site was developed from the *Qualitative* and *Quantitative* findings of the assessment. The following chart outlines the challenges we (Bernalillo County Continuum Site) continue to address with the use of the Continuum Funding.

JDAI System Assessment Identified Challenges for 2019-2021

1) Challenges regarding Placement:

- System Stakeholders are not identifying and utilizing alternatives to Residential Treatment Center, Group Homes and other Out of Home/State Placements
- Continuous delays at various points in the system that attributes to longer stays for youth in out of home/state placements.
- The collaborative will explore the use of detention and the purpose of out of home/state placement for youth in the Deep End of the System.

2) Further exploration of points in the Juvenile Justice process that promote challenges for families with youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

3) Community-Based organizations are not viewed as essential partners in the work or experts in the populations they serve.

4) Cross over youth involved in both Juvenile Justice and Protective Services systems have more challenges and barriers due to their dual involvement.

Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board (BCJJCB)

SWOT

The local Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board (BCJJCB) has been able to meet monthly via zoom during the pandemic. The Board has spent a significant time this year working towards the completion of a strategic plan for the youth and families impacted by pandemic and involved in the Juvenile Justice System. The BCJJCB hopes to complete the strategic plan for the next fiscal year no later than September 2021. The BCJJCB will also review how Continuum funding is utilized by providers in Bernalillo County to address future possible reversion of funding post pandemic.

Strengths

- Strong mission and vision within the BCJJCB and utilization of the JDAI 8 core strategies in our decision making as a Board.
- BCJJCB meets each month and local community providers are invited to present new programming available to JJS youth to the board.
- BCJJCB applied and received the short cycle grant funding and also utilized a BAR for one of the programs who was experiencing a high need for Case Management during the pandemic.
- The Second Judicial District allocated funding to a Gun Intervention Program that is currently utilized by local JPO's as the referral source.
- The Chair Judge Ward has been reporting out BCJJCB accomplishments to the local JDAI Steering Committee to align funded efforts.
- The BCJJCB has the opportunity to increase youth and family voice and choice.

Weaknesses (Challenges)

- BCJJCB has found that it needs to market the services funded through the Continuum Grant to the community better. Community members reported in a Statewide Survey they were not aware of the BCJJCB.
- After review of the JDAI Deep End Performance Measures the BCJJCB is going to have to take a closer look at the utilization of diversion services.
- It is going to take the BCJJCB some more time to complete a Strategic Plan as we are still awaiting the results of a recent survey sent out to the community regarding the pandemic's impact on youth and families in the Juvenile Justice System.
- The BCJJCB is in need of a Law Enforcement participation in the board

Opportunities

- We have the ability to capitalize through marketing future support and buy-in from the community.
- The BCJJCB can align with the JDAI efforts in Bernalillo County with continued support from the JDAI Steering Committee.
- The BCJJCB has full access to Survey Monkey platform through the Youth Services Center and can request information from the community to help with decision making.
- The BCJJCB can utilize the Youth Services Center Website or Continuum Website to market information to the community.
- The JJS system and community providers can continue to utilize web based platforms to assure families have access to services.

Threats

- The BCJJCB fears that funding could continue to be reverted in the future if the target population for services continues to decline in Bernalillo County.
- The identified needs of the community are not programs funded through the Continuum Funding and the BCJJCB will have to expand their ability to seek other funding streams.
- We have to take a deeper dive into why youth of color are not diverted as frequently.

