



**Denver DA
Justice Programs
Foundation
Focused Priorities**

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The Mission of the Denver DA Justice Programs Foundation is to develop and implement innovative criminal justice programs and services that benefit the Denver community and victims of crime, while serving as a community advisory group to the Denver District Attorney's Office. This mission is rooted in criminal justice reform, with a focus on efforts to reduce incarceration and prioritize alternatives that are effective at preventing future crime and improving community health.



**Change will not come if we wait for some other
person or some other time.**

We are the ones we've been waiting for.

We are the change that we seek.

~Barack Obama





HANDGUN INTERVENTION PROGRAM

*A multidisciplinary
agency approach to
tackling the problem of
juveniles and guns*

Courtney Johnston
Chief Deputy District Attorney

INTRODUCTION

The stakeholders:

- Denver Juvenile Court
- Denver District Attorney's Office
- Denver Public Defender's Office
- Denver Juvenile Probation

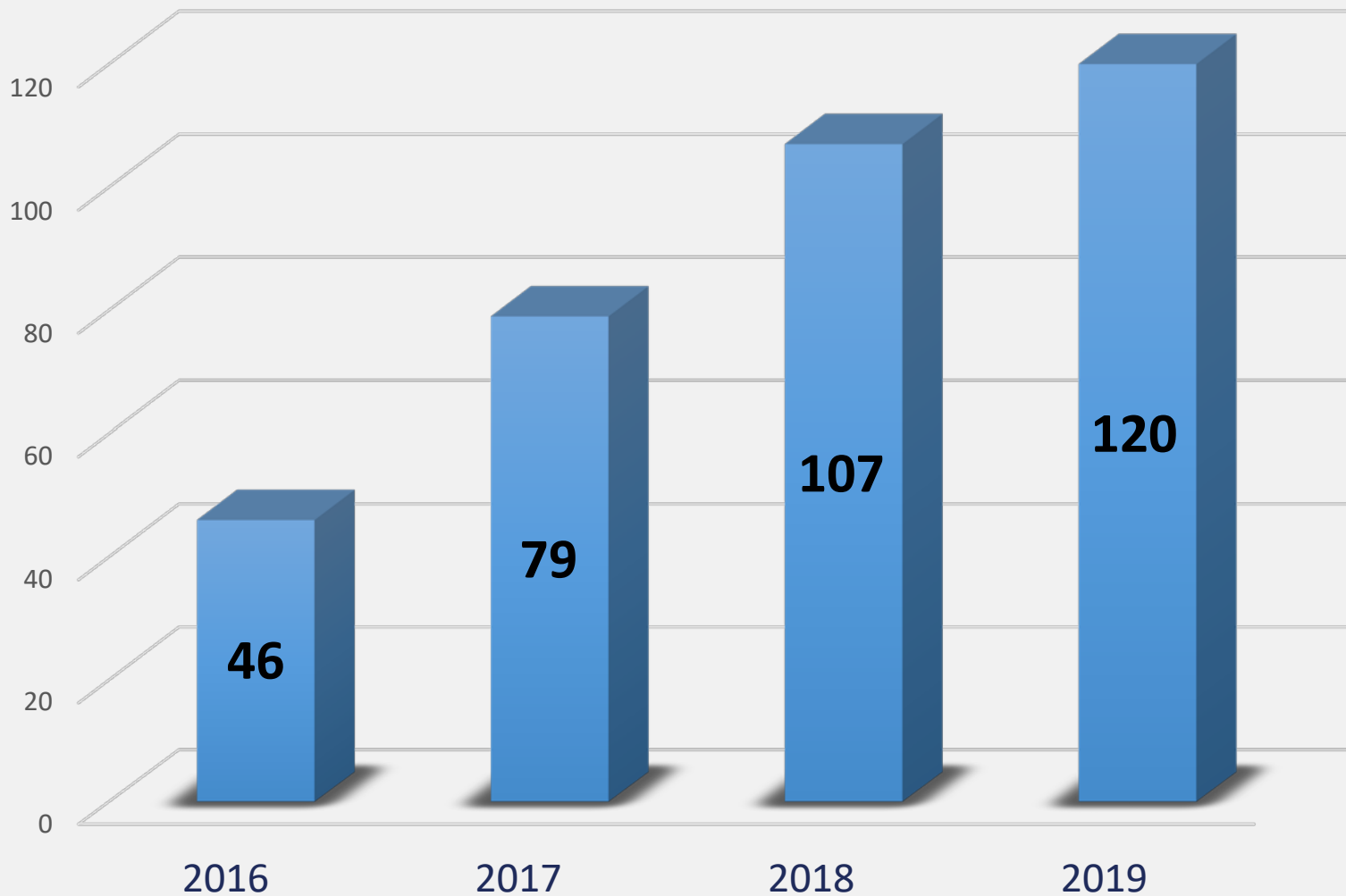
Participating Agencies

- Denver Police Department
- GRID
- Denver City Attorney's Office
- Denver Department of Human Services
- Office of Alternative Defense Counsel
- CYDC



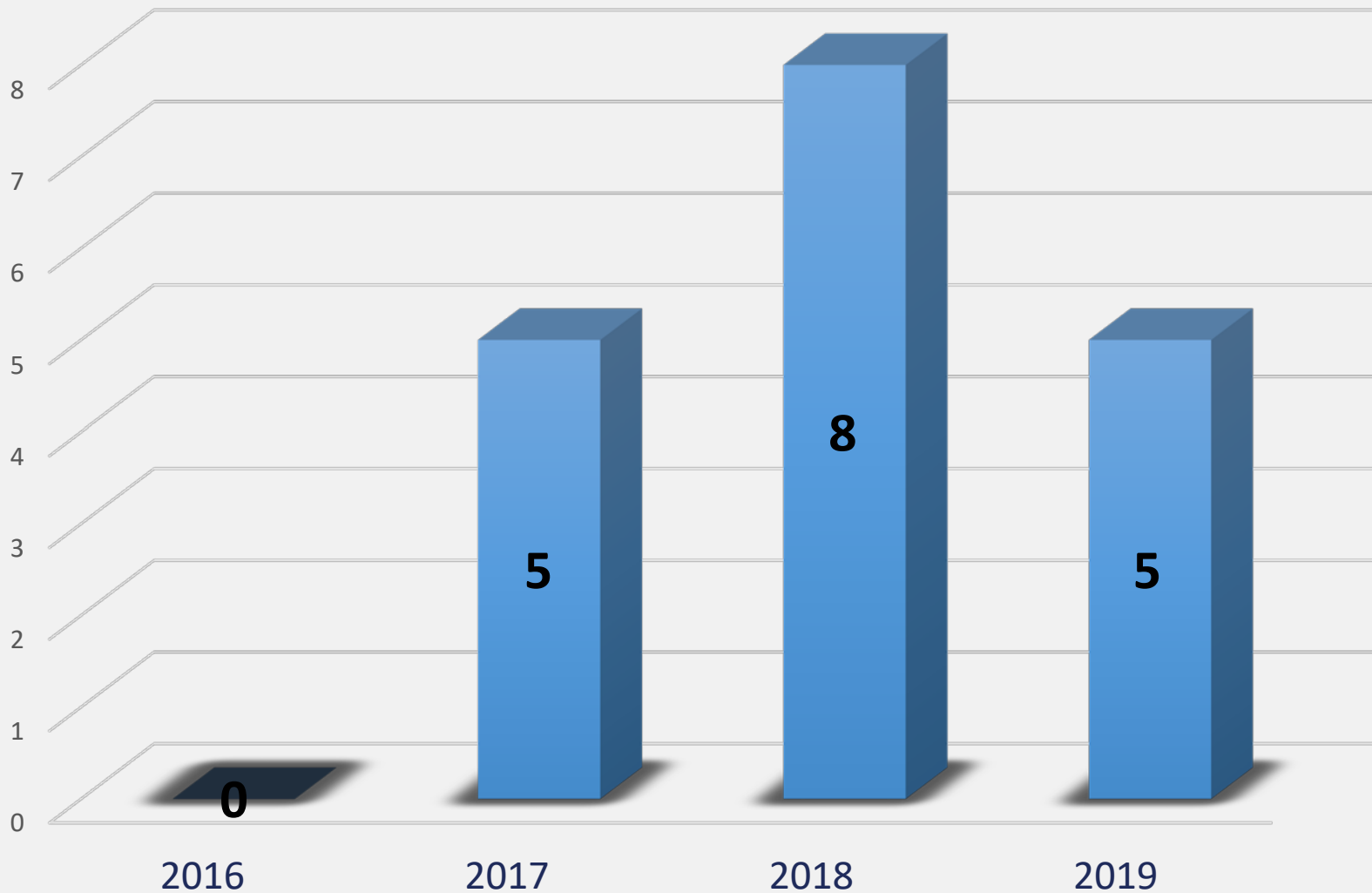
STATISTICS

Possession of a handgun by a juvenile.



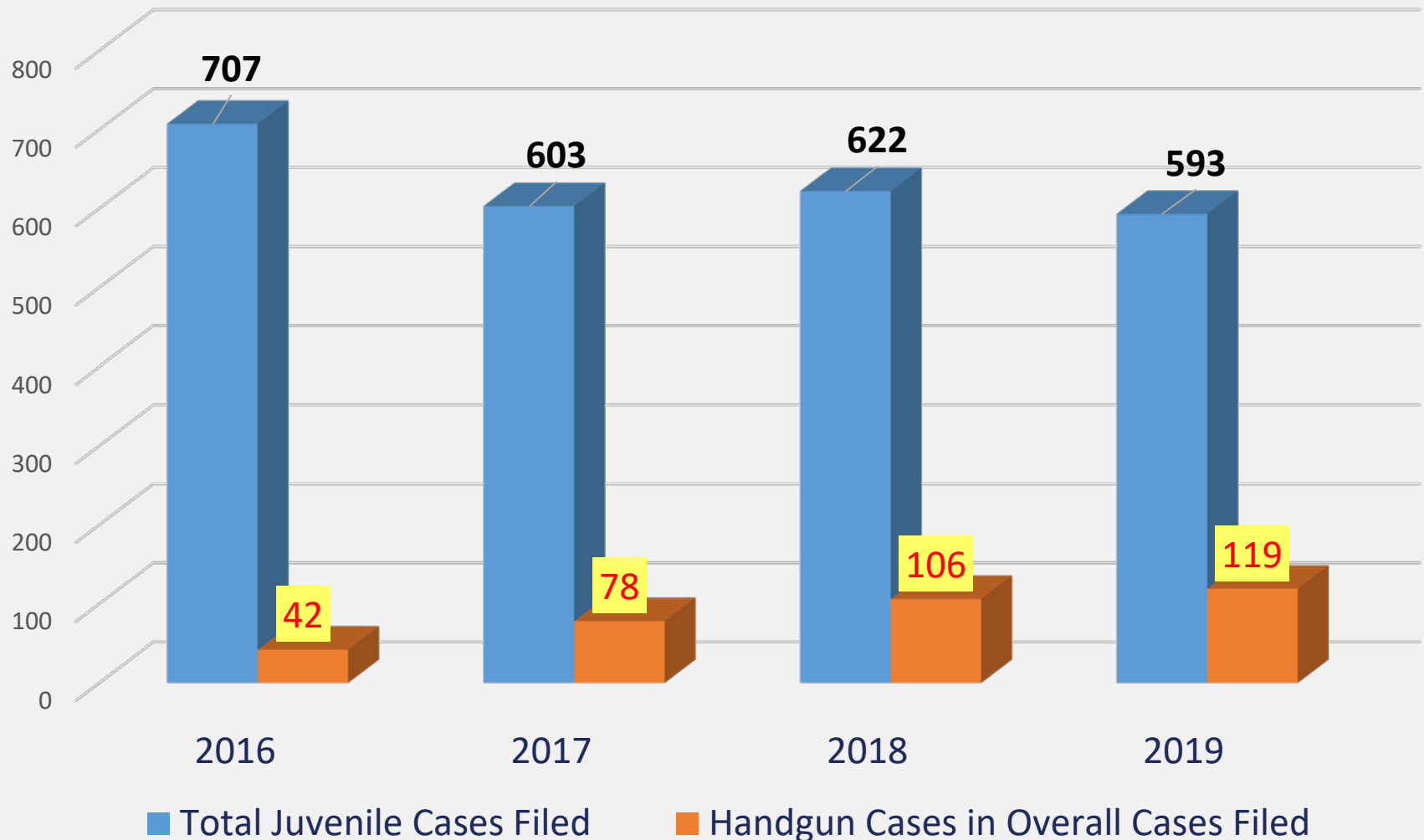
STATISTICS

Juveniles charged with first degree murder.



STATISTICS

160% increase from 2016-2019
12% increase from 2018-2019



MOBILE, AL MODEL

- **5 Primary Goals:**

- Promote public safety by reducing delinquent activities
- Provide the opportunity to live a violent-free lifestyle
- Reduce the need for “out of home” placement
- Improve school performance and attendance
- Identify family deficits and provide appropriate resources and services

- **Post adjudication intensive program** which consists of weekly court supervision, a five week gun education program, and may also include other treatment and community services.

- **Three Phases**, and designed to be 6 months in length

- **Juvenile Court Judicial Officer** is central and will monitor the progress of each participant, and based on performance, may result in the participant receiving an incentive or graduated sanction.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Juvenile Gun Court is an early intervention program which targets juveniles in their initial incidents of gun related offenses, focusing on their poor decision-making skills.

PROGRAM PHASES

Phase I (Weeks 1-8)

Orientation to the program

Appear in court weekly for review

Submit to random drug screen

Maintain school/work attendance

Participate in the Gun Program

Complete Community Service (40 hours)



PROGRAM PHASES

PHASE II (Weeks 9-15)

Bi-monthly court appearance (if progress permits)

Submit to random drug screening

Complete any other court ordered counseling programs

PHASE III (Weeks 16-24)

Monthly appointment with probation officer

Monthly court appearance

Submit to random drug screen

Maintain school/work attendance

All court fees should be paid

ADAPTING THE MODEL TO DENVER



THE ACTION PLAN

- Active engagement from District Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office
- Willingness to consider second time offenders at the discretion of the DA and some VRA cases
- Process
 - Screen by CYDC and remain in custody until Return of Filing
 - Fast track – filing decision, offer on non-VRA cases, and discovery to defense by ROF
 - Plea and sentencing as early as ROF
 - Probation will fast track the PSI process
- Program
 - 6-12 months depending on history and performance in the program
 - Phase 1 (Orientation), Phase 2 (5 week program, UPS, CAP), Phase 3 (aftercare)

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

- The CAB will be comprised of 6 community members who will monitor a participant's progress and offer direction
- In addition to the one in-court review per month, each youth will also have one CAB review per month.

5 WEEK CURRICULUM

The goal of this program is to introduce important concepts such as:

- Victim empathy
 - Self-care
 - Legal consequences of crime
 - Community consequences of crime
 - The importance of positive peer relationships
 - Education and pro-social activities
-
- Maximum of 12 participants
 - Family engagement
 - Final Project

PROBATION APPROACH

- More intensive probation with a PO who has a smaller caseload
- PO will develop relationships with family, teachers, and other important adults to more closely monitor JV
- JV will be subject to unannounced visits at home and school
- Parents are encouraged to monitor JV's social media and belongings for evidence of gang involvement and/or gun possession.
- UPS requirement

**WHAT WE NEED TO
MAKE THIS HAPPEN**



ASSOCIATED COSTS

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- \$91,102.80

DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

- \$88,674
- \$16,482 (YEAR 1)
- \$10,282 (YEAR 2)

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

- \$12,000 PER YEAR (STIPENDS & PROGRAM COSTS)

THANK YOU!

YOUNG ADULT DIVERSION

Benita Martin
Director



MISSION STATEMENT

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.

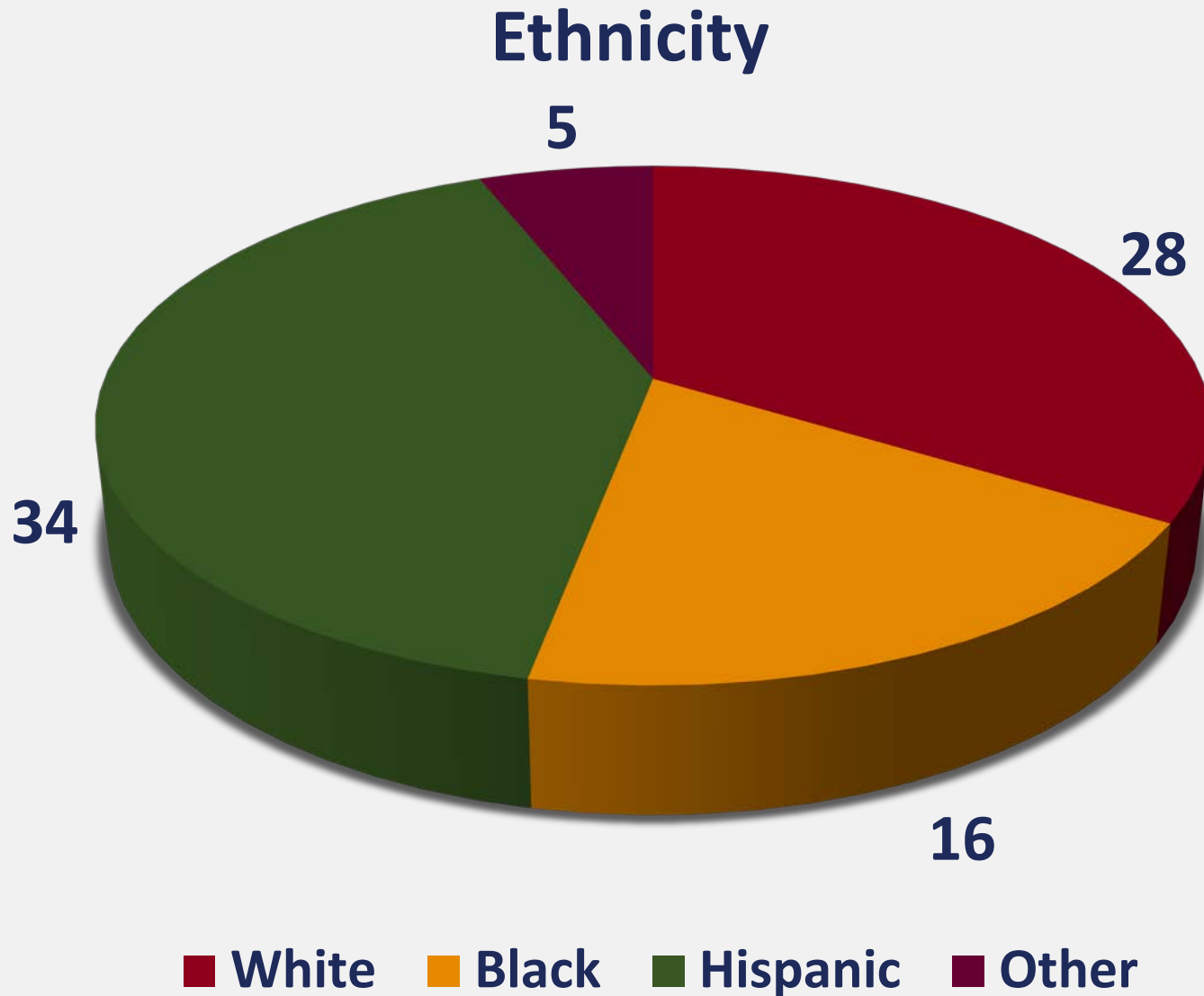
ACCEPTED OFFENSES

- Theft
- Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft
- Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Burglary
- Forgery
- Criminal Mischief
- Trespass

PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS

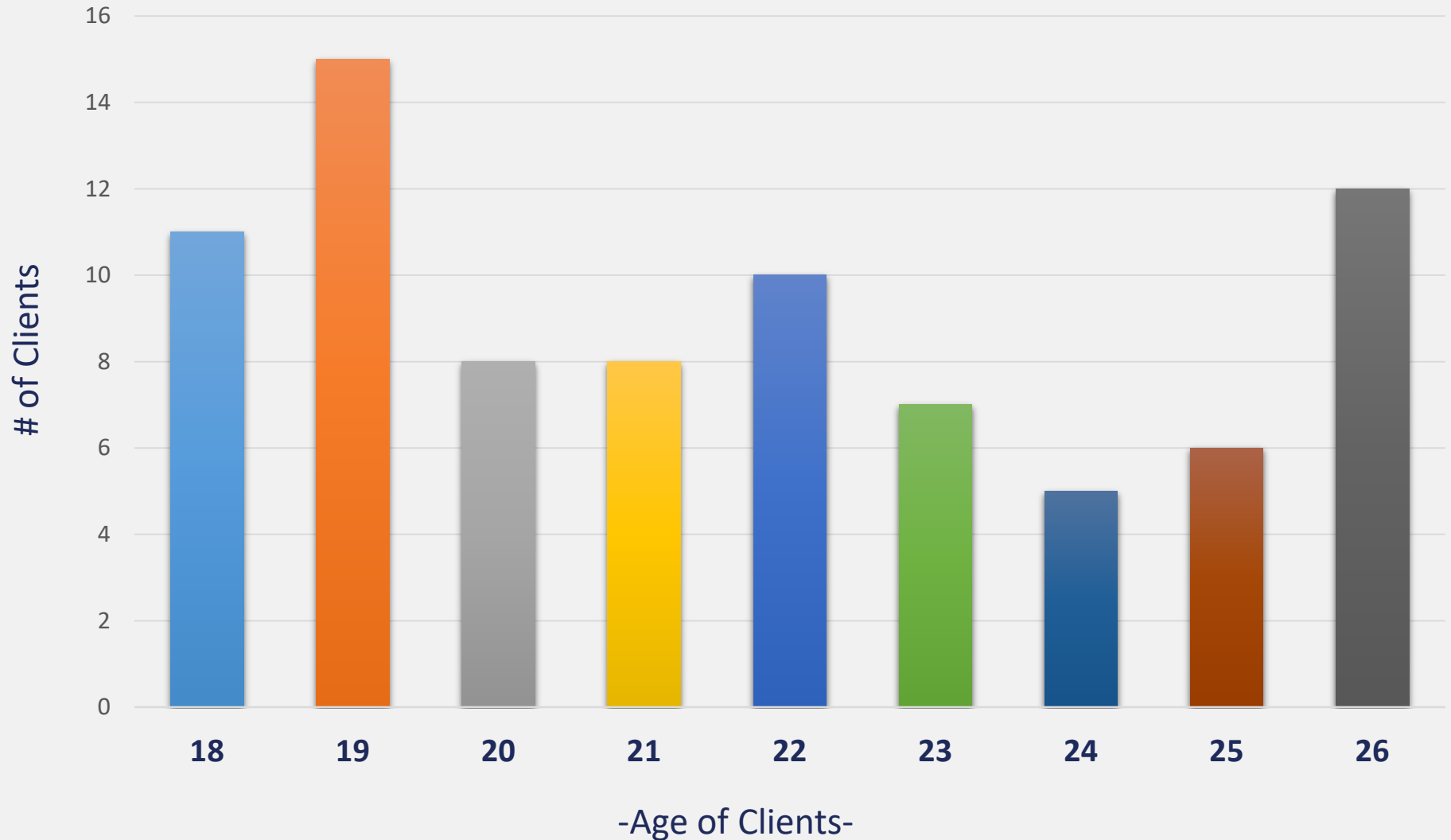


PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS



PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS

Age of Clients



2019 PROGRAM NUMBERS

Successful Terminations:

42

Unsuccessful Terminations:

4

Clients referred to Mental Health
and/or Substance Use Treatment:

32

Accepted Cases:

47

ADULT PROGRAM SUCCESS



2019 Successful Terminations: 42

Restitution Collected: \$14,602

Percentage of Recidivism: 3%

PROGRAM NEEDS

Substance and Mental Health
Treatment Funding

\$21,600

Work program projects for Adult
Clients who struggle to pay their
restitution

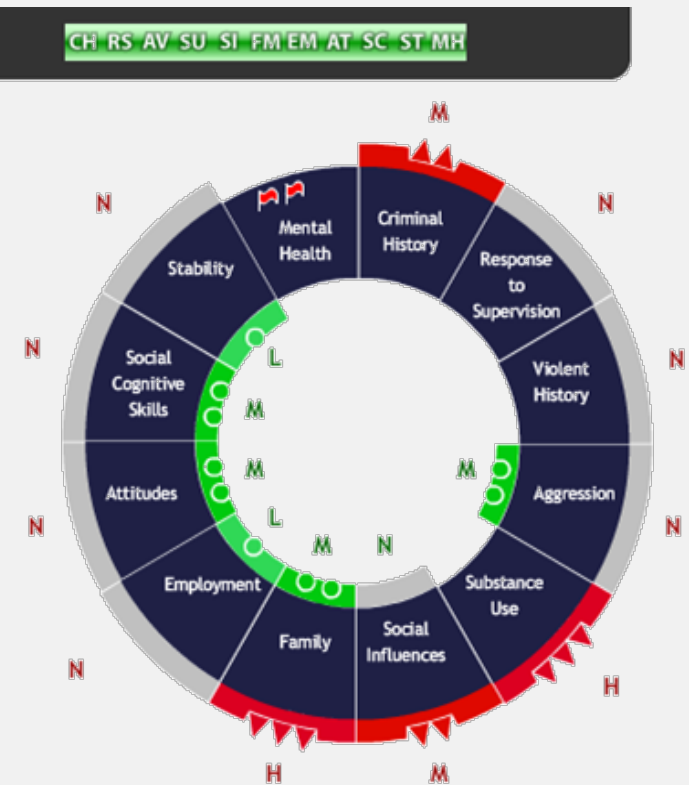
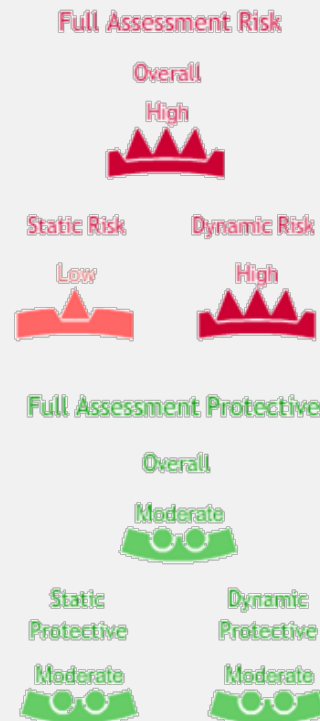
\$15,000

Restorative Justice Program

\$5,000

Partnership with Senior Living
Communities for community
engagement hours

\$2,000



THANK YOU!



RESTORATIVE DENVER

*A Victim-Centered Public Safety
Program*

Christina Brown-Haugen
Deputy District Attorney

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Response to crime that focuses on addressing & repairing harm

- **Focuses on:**

- Making things right for victim
- Reintegrating defendant into community with skills & awareness to prevent future crime

- **Community Group Conference:**

- What harm was done?
- Who was affected?
- How can offender take responsibility & repair the harm?

WHY RESTORATIVE DENVER?

- Provides Victims with a Voice
- Reduces Recidivism
- Increases Public Safety
- Empowers & Engages Communities
- Increases defendants' understanding & empathy
- Cost Savings

CASE ELEGIBILITY

- County court cases – no DV or sex cases
- Victim is open to having case handled through RJ process
- Defendant is willing to take accountability and repair the harm



VICTIMS

- **Victim Participation:**

- 100% Voluntary
- Personally participate
- Choose a surrogate to participate

- **Victim Learnings:**

- Many are open to RJ, but don't want to be involved
- Consistent with findings from other RJ programs

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- DA Screening – refer to TCC
- Intake
- Pre-Conference
- Community Group Conference
 - Victim / Offender / Community Members / Support People
- Written Agreement

POST-CONFERENCE

- Monitor Compliance
- Case Dismissed & Sealed
- Track Recidivism
- 3-6 Months from Referral to Completion



CASE TRENDS

- Assault 3 (non-DV)
- Theft
- Criminal Mischief
- Careless Driving Causing Injury
- Menacing
- Bias-Motivated Crimes (depending on facts)

COST & CAPACITY

COST:

\$1000 per case from referral to dismissal

CAPACITY:

6 Cases per month

HOPE:

Expand to 8 Cases per month

THANK YOU!