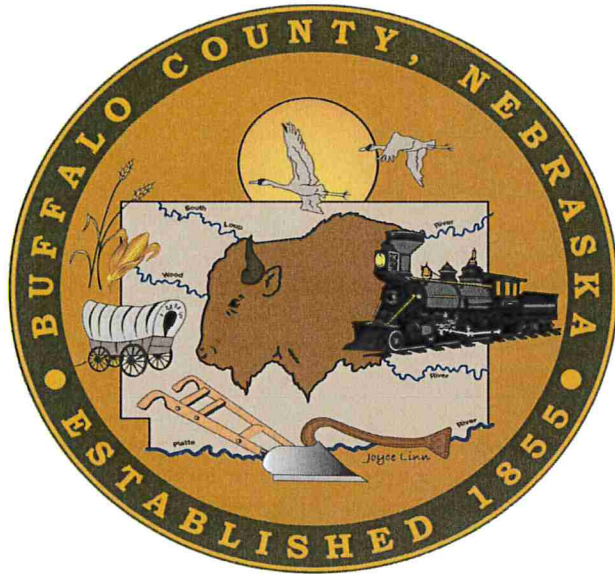


# Buffalo County

## Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030



**Prepared By:** Doug Kramer  
Buffalo County Juvenile Services Administrator  
Buffalo County Attorney  
PO Box 67  
Kearney, NE 68848-0067  
[dkramer@buffalocounty.ne.gov](mailto:dkramer@buffalocounty.ne.gov)

**Chair of Team:** Tana Miller  
Behavioral Health Coordinator  
PO Box 1466  
Kearney, NE 68848  
[HealthyMINDS@BCCHP.org](mailto:HealthyMINDS@BCCHP.org)

**Council/ Board Chair:** Ivan Klein  
Buffalo County Board of Commissioners Chair  
PO Box 1270  
Kearney, NE 68848-1270  
[iklein@buffalocounty.ne.gov](mailto:iklein@buffalocounty.ne.gov)

# Appendix

- A. **List of Team Members/Contributors**
  
- B. **CERTIFICATION BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10,  
2024**
  
- C. **Buffalo/Sherman County Interpositional Cooperation Agreement for  
Diversion Services**
  
- D. **CONTINUM OF CARE WORKSHEET**
  
- E. **2023 Buffalo County Data Fact Sheets**
  
- F. **Juvenile Justice Institute/Program Assessments/Evaluations**
  
- G. **Buffalo County Community Partners Substance Abuse Prevention Fact  
Sheets**

# Executive Summary

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It is known that youth in the juvenile justice system are more likely to end up in the adult justice system. It is also known that more serious youth offenders many times start as truant youth. High truancy rates and low connectedness/poor attitudes toward school are correlated. There are many reasons that youth are truant: avoidance of school-related objects or situations, attention-seeking from parents/guardians, and school-related anxiety and/or depression<sup>1</sup>. All three of these areas are addressed in the Buffalo County plan, which will reduce truancy and serious youth offenses. The Buffalo County Youth Services Group is focused on how to prevent youth from entering the system and how to give youth every opportunity to leave the juvenile justice system. The four priority areas that were selected were developed through the research of other communities' strategies, Buffalo County data, and discussions at several different group meetings throughout the years.

The four priority areas are:

- 1. Increase youth and family engagement in school and the community.**
- 2. Effectively utilize and expand a continuum of alternatives and supports for youth in crisis.**
- 3. Identify appropriate behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse prevention programs and services for youth in Buffalo County.**
- 4. Improve system operation and coordination.**

The Youth Services Team wants to ensure that the process is communicated to all stakeholders as well as ensuring everyone's focus is on prevention and assisting families in crisis. It is understood that providing funding in prevention resources and services will be more cost-efficient than more costly services in the long-term, such as detention. The team will be developing sub-committees to start working on how to accomplish these goals in the next three years. The team is confident that utilizing a community-based approach will be the key to solving these issues.

## Section II: Introduction

### Community Team: Background, Formation, and Purpose

#### *Description of Team*

**The Buffalo County Youth Services Team** is an advisory committee to collective impact work in Buffalo County. The Buffalo County Youth Services Group continues is comprised of representatives from agencies providing services to the youth and families of Buffalo County, i.e. education, the faith community, local business, youth of the community and community members at large. The Committee meets quarterly, with additional coalitions and collaboratives charged with addressing more specific complex problems and meeting monthly. The monthly work groups address needs in Buffalo County and are aligned to ensure a common agenda, share data, ensure collaboration and seamless coordinated efforts through evidence-based practices, and are supported with Buffalo County Community Partners leadership. The advisory team specifically meets to discuss Community-Based Grant needs and applications as well as to update each other on evidence-based programs, training, or initiatives. It is a networking and sharing of resources group that also works to meet again the needs of youth and families throughout all of Buffalo County.

#### **Description of the Planning Process:**

The Buffalo County Youth Services Team has been meeting in various forms for the past fifteen to twenty years. This team continues to evolve around the participants and the monthly to yearly needs of the youth and adults within Buffalo County. Data is provided by each individual stake holder.

There have been approximately 8-10 planning meetings held each year. There has never been the entire planning committee together at one time. Several individuals are part of many different groups and **collaborative** help within Buffalo County. The **Through the Eyes of The Child Team** has been the main group where Juvenile Justice coordination has taken place.

Priorities were and continue to be determined based upon the needs within Buffalo County.

#### **Coalitions that meet monthly and are included in the evidence-based and aligned with Youth Services:**

Unconnected Youth Initiative: formed to identify and address youth that are unconnected and in need of more support. This group formed from the pandemic, as law enforcement and school identify unique needs in the inability to reach students due to a virtual platform and to address the increase in uncontrollable youth.

Substance Abuse Prevention/Opioid Task Force: Coordination and integration of resources, and the use of evidence-based practices to reduce substance abuse, and identify emerging substance use trends in Buffalo County by reducing access and increasing awareness.

Youth Advisory Board and Youth End User Data: Buffalo County youth providing understanding to resources and services they identify as helpful or in need of improvement. Utilizing this end user voice is to begin understanding the gaps in our community as well as areas where we can strengthen partnerships and communication. This group is also bridging the gap between service leaders and youth utilizing the services.

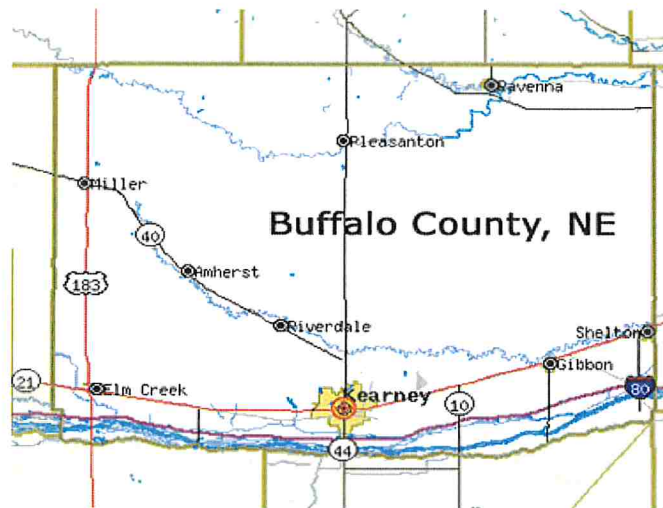
HealthyMINDS Collaborative: Collaborative to coordinate behavioral health systems to better serve youth and families in Buffalo County

Suicide Prevention Coalition: Coalition to reduce suicide in Buffalo County.

**List of Team Members/Contributors (SEE THE ATTACHED LIST-APPENDIX A).**

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Buffalo County is located in south-central Nebraska and has a population of **50,697** residents (68% Urban and 32% Rural). It is a rural area made up of 9 towns within 975 square miles. The county seat is the City of Kearney which has 32,469 residents. The population density per square mile of land (44) in 2010; is almost double the population density for the state of Nebraska (22.3).



### TRANSPORTATION ROUTES



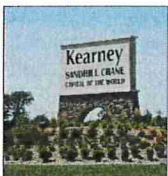
The southern border of the county runs parallel to Interstate 80. There is also a major highway running west to east, Highway 30. North to south are two important highways, Highway 10 and Highway 183. Great Lakes Aviation provides four daily flights to Denver International Airport in Denver, Colorado.

### SCHOOLS

Overall there are twenty-five public and private schools in Buffalo County. There are six rural public schools (K-12). In addition, Kearney Public has one Class A high school, two middle schools, and ten elementary schools. The number of students enrolled from K-12 in the public school system is 7,625. There is one parochial high school, three parochial middle schools and two parochial elementary schools. The University of Nebraska - Kearney is also located in the county. There are 5,274 undergraduate students and 1,628 graduate students coming from 91 of the 93 Nebraska counties, all 50 states and over 50 foreign countries. Central Community College is also located in Kearney



### ATTRACTIONS



In March 2010, the City of Kearney proclaimed Kearney as the Sandhill Crane Capital of the World. For 6 weeks, late February to early April, more than 80% of the world's population of Sandhill Cranes converges on Nebraska's Platte River.

Kearney is filled with historical and cultural museums and family-friendly activities. Unique shopping venues are featured in downtown Kearney, "The Bricks" and at the Hilltop Mall. There

is an assortment of restaurants featuring local flare, international, national franchise and good ole Nebraska beef. There are several local wineries and breweries.

Entertainment at its finest can be found in Central Nebraska. The Viaero Event Center hosts numerous concerts, events and performances all year round and is home to the Tri-City Storm, a USHL Hockey Team. The Merryman Performing Arts Center and the Kearney Community Theatre offer theatrical and musical entertainment.



There is not only historic trails, such as the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails that converge through Central Nebraska but the City of Kearney features over 18 miles of trails. There are over a dozen parks which include disc golf, water parks, sport complexes, and golf courses.

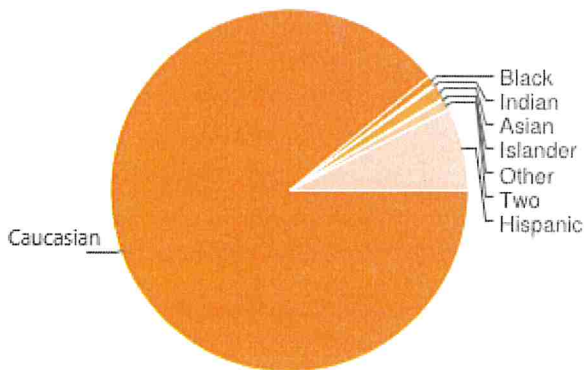
Prior to the COVID Pandemic, Kearney, on average was hosting a convention or an event per day. Some of which include: Cruise Night, Nebraska Chautauqua, Mr. and Mrs. Basketball, Senior Games, Art in the Park and much more



## DEMOGRAPHICS

The percentage of youth 17 and under account for 24% of the population and 19 and under account for 28.3%.

### Buffalo County QuickFacts US Census Bureau 2023

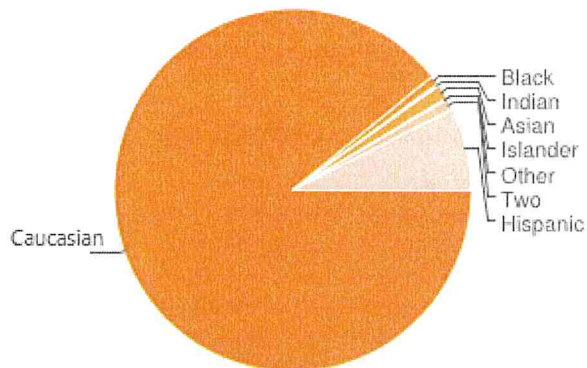


Under 10 Years	13.9%
10 to 19 Years	14.4%
20 to 29 Years	19.0%
30 to 39 Years	11.8%
40 to 49 Years	11.5%
50 to 59 Years	12.5%
60 to 69 Years	8.2%
Over 69 Years	8.7%

As seen in the graph below, the racial profile of Buffalo County is predominately caucasian. The county is not as racially or ethnically diverse as the state of Nebraska. Caucasians account for 92.7% of the population in Buffalo County and 86.1% statewide. This represents an approximately 3 % decrease in the caucasian population from the 2000 Census.

In Buffalo County Hispanics represent the largest proportion of a racial group other than caucasian with 7.4% followed by Asians (1.3%), African Americana (0.8), and Native American (0.3%). Overall, the Minority population in Buffalo County represents 10.8 % of the population in Buffalo County.

## Buffalo County QuickFacts US Census Bureau 2023: Race



### Data

Over ninety-percent of the population 5 years and older in Buffalo County speak English only. The village of Amherst contains the highest proportion of those who speak English only (98.2%) while the city of Gibbon has the lowest proportion (81.9%). County wide, 6.7% of the population speaks a language other than English at home. Gibbon again has the highest proportion (18.1%) followed by Shelton (16.3%). Pleasanton represents the lowest proportion with only 1.7% speaking a language other than English at Home. Less than three percent of the county population reports that they speak English less than very well.

### ECONOMICS

The labor force of Buffalo County includes individuals 16 years and older and includes 27,189 individuals. As of May 2015, of those in the labor force 2.20% were unemployed (605 individuals). The lowest level of unemployment in the county is in Elm Creek (0.6%) and the highest level is in Riverdale (4.2%).



Nebraska ranks 47 out of 50 in the average time it takes to commute to work. The commute time in Nebraska is at least seven minutes less than the national average. The commute time for employees in Buffalo County is even less than the state average (15.6 minutes). Miller residents report the longest commute time (47.8 minutes) and Kearney residents report the shortest time (13.8 minutes). Residents in four communities (Amherst, Elm Creek, Ravenna and Shelton) report commute times of more than 20 minutes but less than 30 minutes. The commute times of residents in the rural communities in the county indicate most of the residents must travel to another community for employment.

Population 16 Years and Over	In Labor Force	Unemployed	Commute to Work	Mean Time in Minutes of Commute
33,080	24,062	605 (2.2%)	23,078	15.6

Non-farm employment accounts for the majority of employment in Buffalo County (22,478). Trade, wholesale and retail comprise the largest employment sector (6,776). This is followed closely by services (5,574), Government (3,965), and manufacturing (3,505). Construction and mining, transportation, communications and utilities, and financing, insurance and real estate comprise 2,658 individuals.

The majority of those employed (8,908) are employed in non-manufacturing positions. Good Samaritan

Hospital and the University of Nebraska at Kearney are the two largest non-manufacturing employers. Major employers include Baldwin Filters, Eaton Corporation, Coleman Powermate, Morris Press, Marshall Engines, West Company and Chief Industries Inc. Companies continually praise the efforts of the local work force.



## ***INCOME***

The median household income in Buffalo County (\$36,782) is below that for the state of Nebraska (\$39,250). Households in Riverdale report the highest median income in the county at \$44,375 and Ravenna the lowest at \$31,875.

The median family income in the county is \$46,247. Riverdale is slightly above the county median at \$46,786 followed closely by families in Kearney at \$46,650. Miller families earn the lowest median income at \$36,875.

The per capita income for Buffalo County residents is \$17,510. Kearney is the only community in which the per capita income (\$17,713) is higher than the county overall. Elm Creek is just below the county average at \$17,339 and Miller residents have the lowest per capita income at \$13,968.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>Median Earnings Full-Time Year Round Workers</b>	
			<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
\$36,782	\$46,247	\$17,510	\$30,182	\$21,977

The proportion of families in Buffalo County living below the poverty level (6.3%) is slightly lower than the proportion statewide (6.7%) but is almost three percent better than the overall proportion for the United States (9.2%). Six hundred fifty-three families (6.3%) live below the poverty level. Of these families, 530 include related children under 18 years and 286 families include children under 5 years. The highest percentage of families in the county living below the poverty level live in Kearney (7.4%) followed closely by Shelton (7.2%). The village of Miller has no families living below the poverty level.

There are 4,395 (11.2%) individuals living below the poverty level in Buffalo County compared to a statewide average of 9.7%. Of these individuals, 1,048 live with related children under 18 years and 670 live with children age 5 to 17 years. Kearney has the highest proportion of individuals living below the poverty level (13.4%) and Miller reports the lowest proportion (4.1%).

<b>Living Below Poverty Level Families</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>With Related Children Under 18 Years</b>	<b>With Children Under 5 Years</b>
	653	6.3%	530	286

Individuals	4,395	11.2%	1,048	378
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Females with no husband present (1,316 individuals) represent 8.3% of the householders in Buffalo County. The majority of these householders live in Kearney (1,019 female householders). In all communities in the county with the exception of Riverdale, females with no husband present represent five to ten percent of householders. In Riverdale they represent 10.8% of householders.

***HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS***

There were 15,930 households out of which 32.70% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 52.90% were married couples living together, 8.30% had a female householder with no husband present, and 35.80% were non-families. 26.10% of all households were made up of individuals and 9.60% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.48 and the average family size was 3.02.



**Identify Risk Factors:** *Discuss some known drivers behind increased risks for juvenile justice system involvement. Include the services needed to address these risk factors. Refer to the Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Plan Manual for a list of exaple Risk Factors and Indicators of Influence.*

## Section III: Youth Crime Analysis and Needs

### Data Summary

Below is a brief summary of the UNO JJI Community Needs Assessment (CNA). (Appendix A provides the complete Community Needs Assessment completed by UNO JJI)

**Youth Level:** Buffalo County's chronic absenteeism is lower than the rest of the state, but minority youth are still overrepresented. 15% of school membership is Hispanic, but 22 % are Hispanic youth. The free and reduced lunch; lower than the rest of the state. Buffalo County's high school graduation rate is higher than the rest of the state.

- Buffalo County has some diversity, but is not as diverse as some regions of the state.
- Chronic absenteeism – although Buffalo County is lower than the rest of the state, minority youth are still over represented in absenteeism (specifically Hispanic, Native American, and Black.)
- Free and reduced lunch lower than the rest of the state. IDEA plans have risen slightly. HS graduation rates higher than the rest of the state.
- Binge drinking becomes a problem by 12<sup>th</sup> grade (15% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders.)
- Suicide is higher for 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders. In addition, (even though this is not higher than the state) 1/3 of 10<sup>th</sup> grade student report feeling depressed, which is still concerning.
- More 12<sup>th</sup> graders report gang involvement – higher than the rest of the state.
- Crime (assault, possession and larceny went down). Rape (small number) and motor vehicle theft have gone up.

**Family Level:** Buffalo County's data is comparable to the rest of the state. It does appear Buffalo County looks better off than the rest of the state in poverty, more people have high school degrees, more have computers at home, homeownership is lower, with renters and may be due to having the University of Nebraska at Kearney in our county.

- Buffalo County's rate are very comparable to the rest of the state.
  - Relative high rates of high school graduation,
  - We looked at broadband internet access for purposes of COVID.
  - Slightly lower home owner rates (may be related to University student population.)
- Buffalo County youth seems to have more adults listening to them at home and at school.

**Community Level:** The number of assaults seems to be slightly higher than the rest of the states. Youth view the adult community as having the "perception" in some communities that adults are accepting

of these substances, i.e. alcohol and marijuana. Lastly, youth within Buffalo County who are charged have their records sealed 57.6 %. The goal is to have 100 % of these records sealed.

- Fair amount of assaults happening in the community.
- Youth view the community as thinking alcohol, marijuana are not appropriate to use (in some communities youth think the adults are accepting of these substances.)
- Sealing juvenile records is problematic. Juvenile record sealing is not “automatic” even if statute requires it to seal. Sealing a record requires administrative staff to initiate the process. Dismissed or dropped cases should be sealed at a rate of 100%. All others should be sealed at the rate to which youth successfully complete their court requirements (completion of diversion, probation, restorative practice, or other treatment).

**Policy, Legal and System Level:** Buffalo County has a relatively high access to counsel for youth. Buffalo County is willing to provide legal counsel to in more than 60 % of the time. Buffalo County truancy and uncontrollable court filings have decreased. Diversion referrals are made vs immediate court filings.

- Access to counsel is relatively high. Despite not being in a county required to provide counsel under statute, access to counsel is similar to the state average.
- Truancy and uncontrollable have gone down. But there are very few curfew and 3A, 3B, and 3C filings in court so the community is diverting appropriately.
- With respect to diversion practices, the community does an excellent job of following EB practice. (i.e. issue warning letter for low level offenses, not filing all unsuccessful cases, if the youth completed most of the diversion

## Section IV: Services and Programs

(SEE ATTACHED CONTINUUM OF CARE WORKSHEET APPENDIX D)

## Section V: Priorities and Strategies

### **Priority 1:**

- 1. Increase youth and family engagement in school and the community. Utilize community resources to support youth and families within the community.**

### **Strategy 1A:**

Referral to resources which can be community counseling providers. Community members including the youth/parents/guardians or professional personnel. The timeline will be for short-term; 2-6 months. The expected results are that youth/family will be supported within the community. Measurement will be with individuals including the providers, the youth/families/and the community.

### **Strategy 1B:**

Referral to service providers such as Boys Town, COMPASS-Family Support, Central Mediation Center for VYC and At-Risk Truancy

### **Priority 2:**

- 1. Effectively utilize and expand a continuum of alternatives and supports for youth in crisis.**

### **Strategy 2A:**

The Buffalo County Community Team will continue to meet on a monthly or quarterly basis to identify the continued needs of youth within Buffalo County to support youth and families. The Diversion and Truancy program/staff will be responsible for receiving referrals from the Buffalo and Sherman County Attorney's for diversion offenses. The length of the programs will be individualized and normally be from 2-6 months in duration. Truancy referrals will be received in Buffalo County from all school administrators or their designates.

### **Strategy 2B:**

Utilize programs such as Electronic Monitoring (EM), Community Coaching (CC), and Tracker Services for pre-adjudication youth. Data will be reviewed monthly on the number of youth utilizing each service.

### **Priority 3:**

- 1. Identify appropriate behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse prevention programs and services for youth in Buffalo County.**

### **Strategy 3A:**

The Buffalo County Community Team will continue to meet on a monthly or quarterly basis to identify the continued needs of youth within Buffalo County. Referrals will be made by youth/individuals, family members, and school professionals. Monthly meetings will be held to "staff" and provide a means of accountability and information sharing. Data will be shared with all participants/members.

### **Priority 4:**

- 1. Improve system operation and coordination.**

### **Strategy 4A:**

Work with Buffalo County Community Health Partners to gather and update data on the needs of youth and families within Buffalo County. Continue to attend and participate in collaborative meetings with the community members. These can be held monthly or as needed. Data will be gathered throughout the month/year and shared with all members.

## Closing Comments

Buffalo County currently has a variety of services and service providers to support youth and families. The Buffalo County Youth Services Group as mentioned is comprised of representatives from agencies providing services to the youth and families of Buffalo County, i.e. education, the faith community, local business, youth of the community and community members at large. The Committee meets quarterly, with additional coalitions and collaboratives charged with addressing more specific complex problems and meeting monthly. The monthly work groups address needs in Buffalo County and are aligned to ensure a common agenda, share data, ensure collaboration and seamless coordinated efforts through evidence-based practices, and are supported with Buffalo County Community Partners leadership. The advisory team specifically meets to discuss Community-Based Grant needs and applications as well as to update each other on evidence-based programs, training, or initiatives. It is a networking and sharing of resources group that also works to meet again the needs of youth and families throughout all of Buffalo County.

Buffalo County applies for and utilizes its Community-based Juvenile Service grants to support/fund diversion and truancy services as well as a minimum of seven additional services for youth within Buffalo County. These programs/services range from Restorative Justice Mediation Services, Alternatives to Detention to include tracking and electronic monitoring services, youth coordination services, in-home truancy and family support services, and decision making classes. This is a collaborative effort which will continue and be re-assessed on a quarterly and yearly basis to look at ways to improve the quality of life for the youth, young adults, and families within Buffalo County, Nebraska.

Name	Email	Agency/Firm
Janelle Stehl	<a href="mailto:janelle.stehl@nejudicial.gov">janelle.stehl@nejudicial.gov</a>	Buffalo County Assistant Clerk
Casey Smith	<a href="mailto:casey.smith@nebraska.gov">casey.smith@nebraska.gov</a>	DHHS Administrator
Samantha Keim	<a href="mailto:samantha.keim@nebraska.gov">samantha.keim@nebraska.gov</a>	DHHS Supervisor
Amanda Roth	<a href="mailto:Amanda.roth@nebraska.gov">Amanda.roth@nebraska.gov</a>	DHHS Supervisor
Amanda Rutan	<a href="mailto:amanda.rutan@nebraska.gov">amanda.rutan@nebraska.gov</a>	DHHS Lead Worker
Morgan Bird	<a href="mailto:morbird@kearneycats.com">morbird@kearneycats.com</a>	KPS Social Worker
Aleisha Schnacker	<a href="mailto:aleschnacker@kearneycats.com">aleschnacker@kearneycats.com</a>	KPS Social Worker
Crystal L'Heureux	<a href="mailto:crystal.lheureux@nebraska.gov">crystal.lheureux@nebraska.gov</a>	FCRO
Jodi Richards	<a href="mailto:Jodi.Richards@kearneybuffalocountycas">Jodi.Richards@kearneybuffalocountycas</a>	CASA
Jeff Knapp	<a href="mailto:jknapp@lycos.com">jknapp@lycos.com</a>	Private Attorney
Tana Miller	<a href="mailto:HealthyMINDS@bcchp.org">HealthyMINDS@bcchp.org</a>	Buffalo County Community Partners
Wanda Fedorchik	<a href="mailto:wfedorchik@bcchp.org">wfedorchik@bcchp.org</a>	Buffalo County Community Partners
Steph Volkmer	<a href="mailto:stephanie.volkmer@nejudicial.gov">stephanie.volkmer@nejudicial.gov</a>	Court Improvement Project
Hayley Jelinek	<a href="mailto:hjelinek@trphd.org">hjelinek@trphd.org</a>	Two Rivers Public Health Dept.
Haleigh Eschliman	<a href="mailto:heschliman@trphd.ne.gov">heschliman@trphd.ne.gov</a>	Two Rivers Public Health Dept.
Karla Bennetts	<a href="mailto:kbennetts@familiescare.org">kbennetts@familiescare.org</a>	Families Care
Jalin Gerdes	<a href="mailto:information@friendsprogram.net">information@friendsprogram.net</a>	Friends Program
Michelle Warren	<a href="mailto:warrenm2@unk.edu">warrenm2@unk.edu</a>	UNK: MyLink + Rad RX
Sara Sanson	<a href="mailto:ssanson@midwestecc.org">ssanson@midwestecc.org</a>	Midwest Encouragement & Counseling Center
Martha Marfileno	<a href="mailto:wellness@bcchp.org">wellness@bcchp.org</a>	Buffalo County Community Partners
Veronica Holguin	<a href="mailto:veronica@safecenter.org">veronica@safecenter.org</a>	The SAFE Center
Miranda Niemeyer	<a href="mailto:miranda.niemeyer@nebraska.gov">miranda.niemeyer@nebraska.gov</a>	DHHS, CFS
Jenny Dolence	<a href="mailto:jdolence@familiescare.org">jdolence@familiescare.org</a>	Families Care
Amber Cochran	<a href="mailto:a.cochran@hotmealsusa.org">a.cochran@hotmealsusa.org</a>	Hot Meals USA
Jesica Vickers	<a href="mailto:jvickers@livewell-kearney.com">jvickers@livewell-kearney.com</a>	Live Well Counseling
Alexandra Dillon	<a href="mailto:adillon@esu10.org">adillon@esu10.org</a>	ESU 10: Early Learning Connection
Savannah Lyon	<a href="mailto:savannah@uwka.org">savannah@uwka.org</a>	United Way
Jamie Gardner	<a href="mailto:jgardner@nchs.org">jgardner@nchs.org</a>	Nebraska Children's Home
April Nelson	<a href="mailto:anelson@nchs.org">anelson@nchs.org</a>	Nebraska Children's Home
Brenna Bergstrom	<a href="mailto:bbergstrom@trphd.ne.gov">bbergstrom@trphd.ne.gov</a>	Healthy Families America, Two Rivers
Jody Angel-Trejo	<a href="mailto:jtrejo@midwestecc.org">jtrejo@midwestecc.org</a>	Midwest Encouragement & Counseling Center
Nicole Perterson	<a href="mailto:nicpetersen@kearneycats.com">nicpetersen@kearneycats.com</a>	KPS Social Worker

Korena Nolan	kornolan@kearneycats.com	KPS Social Worker
Josh Albrecht	joshua.albrecht@nejudicial.gov	District 9 Juvenile Probation
Doug Kramer	dkramer@buffalocounty.ne.gov	Buffalo County Attorney's Office/Diversion
Marti Sleister	mssleister@buffalocounty.ne.gov	Buffalo County Attorney's Office
Mandi Amy	<a href="mailto:mamy@buffalocounty.ne.gov">mamy@buffalocounty.ne.gov</a>	Buffalo County Attorney's Office
Jared Small	JSmall@kearneygov.org	KPD Special Services Unit
Paul Koerner	90915@kearneygov.org	Buffalo County Sheriff's Office
Matt Burns	matthew.burns@nejudicial.gov	Probation
Heather Sidders	heather.sidders@nejudicial.gov	Probation
Justin Teeters	<a href="mailto:Justin.teeters@boystown.org">Justin.teeters@boystown.org</a>	Boys Town - LIFT Program
Ana Flores Cardenas	<a href="mailto:aflorescardenas@buffalocounty.ne.gov">aflorescardenas@buffalocounty.ne.gov</a>	Buffalo County Attorney's Office
Jill Schubauer	<a href="mailto:JSchubauer@Region3.net">JSchubauer@Region3.net</a>	Region 3
Jennifer Church	jchurch@buffalocounty.ne.gov	Buffalo County Attorney's Office/ Diversion & Truancy
Jessica Grasz	<a href="mailto:jesgrasz@kearneycats.com">jesgrasz@kearneycats.com</a>	KPS Social Worker
Erica Carpenter	ecarpenter@centralmediationcenter.com	Central Mediation Center
Terrin Williams	<a href="mailto:twilliams@centralmediationcenter.com">twilliams@centralmediationcenter.com</a>	Executive Director Central Mediation Center
Brian Kehler	brian.kehler@nejudicial.gov	District 9 Juvenile Probation
Tyler Mertens	Tyler.Mertens@nejudicial.gov	District 9 Juvenile Probation
Megan Andrews	<a href="mailto:Megan.Andrews@boystown.org">Megan.Andrews@boystown.org</a>	Boys Town
Allan Jenkins	jenkinsa@unk.edu	Citizen
John Rademacher	<a href="mailto:john.rademacher@nejudicial.gov">john.rademacher@nejudicial.gov</a>	Buffalo County Court Judge
Gerald Jorgensen	<a href="mailto:gjorgensen64@hotmail.com">gjorgensen64@hotmail.com</a>	Buffalo County Court Judge
Sharmin Gonzales	sharmin.gonzales@nejudicial.gov	Buffalo County Court Clerk
Nichole Hersh	<a href="mailto:nichole.hersh@nebraska.gov">nichole.hersh@nebraska.gov</a>	DHHS Supervisor
Jade Yockey	<a href="mailto:jade.yockey@nebraska.gov">jade.yockey@nebraska.gov</a>	DHHS Supervisor
Lori McArthur	<a href="mailto:lormcarthur@kearneycats.com">lormcarthur@kearneycats.com</a>	KPS Social Worker
Lori McCollough	<a href="mailto:lormccollough@kearneycats.com">lormccollough@kearneycats.com</a>	KPS Social Worker
Anteshia Zulkoski	<a href="mailto:antzulkoski@kearneycats.com">antzulkoski@kearneycats.com</a>	KPS Social Worker
Sara Stauffer	sstauffer@kearneygov.org	KPD Victim Witness Advocate
Andrea Kemp	<a href="mailto:akemp@familyadvocacynetwork.org">akemp@familyadvocacynetwork.org</a>	FAN Forensic Interviewer & Advocate
Jamie Vetter	<a href="mailto:jvetter@familyadvocacynetwork.org">jvetter@familyadvocacynetwork.org</a>	FAN Forensic Interview & Exec Director
Meghan Moland	meghan.moland@nejudicial.gov	District 9 Juvenile Probation
Jon Brandt	jonbrandt@kleinbrewster.com	Private Attorney

Carson Messersmith	carson@kleinbrewster.com	Private Attorney
Jennifer Rowling	jnr@tyelaw.com	Private Attorney
Nicole Luhm	<a href="mailto:nluhm@baylorevnen.com">nluhm@baylorevnen.com</a>	Private Attorney
Tana Fye	tanafye@gmail.com	Private Attorney
Leah Gleason	leah.gleason.law@gmail.com	Private Attorney
Josiah Davis	jdavis@nebraskalawfirm.net	Private Attorney
Margot Icenogle-Larsen	<a href="mailto:casa@mnca.net">casa@mnca.net</a>	CASA Executive Director/Buffalo County
Nathan Arehart	narehart@buffalocounty.ne.gov	Buffalo County Attorney's Office
Crystal Rivera	<a href="mailto:Crystal.Rivera@nebraska.gov">Crystal.Rivera@nebraska.gov</a>	Foster Care Review Board
Morganne Williams	morganne@compassnebraska.org	Compass Foster Care
Holly Schmidt	Holly@compassnebraska.org	Compass IFP
Kelley Mast	Kelley@compassnebraska.org	Compass
Jeremy Eschliman	<a href="mailto:Jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov">Jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov</a>	Two Rivers Public Health Dept.
Samantha Rudolf	<a href="mailto:samantha.rudolf@theowenscompanies.com">samantha.rudolf@theowenscompanies.com</a>	Owens
Doug Chamberlain	<a href="mailto:dchamberlain@midplainscenter.org">dchamberlain@midplainscenter.org</a>	MST Services
Denise Zweiner	DZwiener@bcchp.org	Buffalo County Community Partners
Christie Behle	cbehle@esu10.org	Early Development Network
Emily Lehmann	emily.lehmann@uniteus.com	Unite Us
Katie Mulligan	kmulligan@trphd.ne.gov	Two Rivers Public Health Dept.
Jason Owens	jasowens@kearneycats.com	KPS: Hanny Arram Center for Success
Erin Small	erismall@kearneycats.com	KPS: Sixpence Child Care Partnership
Amy Sjolholm	asjolholm@esu10.org	ESU 10
Dulce Valdez	dvaldez@midplainscenter.org	Mid-Plains Center MST Services
Sara Paider	sarpaider@kearneycats.com	KPS PK-5 Director
Candi Koenig	candi.koenig@unmc.edu	Munroe-Myer Institute, UNMC
Ellery Butterfield	ebutterfield@bcchp.org	Buffalo County Community Partners
Emma Blair	emma.blair@nejudicial.gov	Juvenile Probation
Brandi Adams	<a href="mailto:Brandi.Adams@owenseducationalservices.com">Brandi.Adams@owenseducationalservices.com</a>	Owens & Associates
Michelle Olena	<a href="mailto:Michelle.Olena@theowenscompanies.com">Michelle.Olena@theowenscompanies.com</a>	Owens & Associates
Deb Vandyke-Ries	deb.vandyke.ries@nejudicial.gov	Court Improvement Project
James Schulte	james.d.schulte@nejudicial.gov	JDAI Hall County
Marc Kohmetscher	marc.kohmetscher@nejudicial.gov	Probation

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEBRASKA)


)ss.

COUNTY OF BUFFALO)

I, undersigned County Clerk of the above County and State; do hereby certify that the following is a true and exact copy of an excerpt of the original record of the County Board minutes from Tuesday December 10, 2024:

Buffalo County Juvenile Services Administrator Doug Kramer was present for the following agenda items to answer any questions. After discussion, it was moved by Higgins and seconded by Kouba to approve the Buffalo County Comprehensive Youth Services Plan and apply for the FY 2026 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid (CBA and EB) Grants. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Lynch, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Motion declared carried.

MY HAND & OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

  
Heather A. Christensen, Buffalo County Clerk





**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
BUFFALO AND SHERMAN  
COUNTIES  
FOR  
JUVENILE SERVICES AID PROGRAM**

The Buffalo County Board of Commissioners, and the Sherman County Board of Commissioners, do hereby agree to work collaboratively to implement the Juvenile Services Aid Program for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY 2025). Buffalo County Juvenile Services will provide juvenile diversion services, in an effort to address one of the most urgent priorities identified in our Five-Year Juvenile Services Plans. Buffalo County Juvenile Services will have day-to-day responsibilities for carrying out the identified services.

Buffalo and Sherman County will work primarily through the county attorney's office. Both counties will assist in the Nebraska Commission of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. If awarded, this proposal will allow Buffalo County to be the lead county in the joint grant application and will be responsible in the distribution of grant funds and financial aid reports.

Signed:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson  
Buffalo County Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson  
Sherman County Board of Commissioners

## Mapping the Juvenile Justice Continuum Worksheet

System Point	Services in Place <sup>i</sup>	Services Needed	What data supports the need?
1. Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LE Nets program</li> <li>• KPS- Safe to Help app-opt in, notifies LE, threat assessment</li> <li>• Wellbeing Collaborative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for childcare expulsion</li> <li>• Onboarding staff to meet needs (mult. Languages)</li> <li>• Coordinated &amp; comp. services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data on expulsions-national national data</li> </ul>
2. Family/ Youth Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School system: lift-Boystown</li> <li>• Central mediation</li> <li>• KPS Student assistance program</li> <li>• Community Youth Coaching</li> <li>• Parenting Classes (gap-&gt; parents don't access unless mandated)</li> <li>• Co Responder Model &amp; Outreach Coordinator KPD</li> <li>• Community Response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underserved and vulnerable youth &amp; direct services-poverty</li> <li>• Individuals that fall through the cracks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 988 local data</li> <li>• RYH- increase in substance use</li> </ul>
3. Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LiveWell Counseling in schools</li> <li>• Local counselors</li> <li>• Sixpence, EDN, Two Rivers home visitation</li> <li>• Co-responder</li> <li>• 988</li> <li>• Pediatric behavioral health unit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive adult mentor</li> <li>• Adults don't have support system in their lives</li> <li>• Belonging</li> <li>• Access to resources-accuracy</li> <li>• Substance use education</li> <li>• Spanish provider</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicidal ideation for boys (data from T.Rivers)</li> <li>• DAP-trusted adult mentor</li> <li>• Immigrant community support and social support is an all or none</li> <li>• 988 local data, youth data</li> <li>• Marijuana data</li> </ul>
4. Diversionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance use behavior book</li> </ul>	<p>Things to do for youth, feeling of belonging in community- example of stolen cars and vandalism at parks NETS program</p>	

<b>5. Alternatives to Detention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boys town-in home services</li> <li>Midplains- short term beds for youth, detox center</li> <li>JDAI- Hall Co</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barriers- language barriers, interpreters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disproportionate data</li> </ul>
<b>6. Court Involved / Probation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth has to be on probation call LE, etc to get them the support they need for mental health or substance use vs prevention</li> <li>Language barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>7. Reentry (from YRTC, out of state)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YRTC- in home services before discharge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentorship after discharge</li> <li>Rise reentry program opportunities (Rise based out of Omaha)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on in home services for statewide services prior to discharge</li> </ul>
<b>8. Culturally Responsive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community needs health assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for immigrant populations</li> <li>Google voice</li> <li>Barriers- secular society- bringing people together through opportunities (sports, spelling bee, boy scouts, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

Are there any services that you feel are duplicative? None noted at this time.

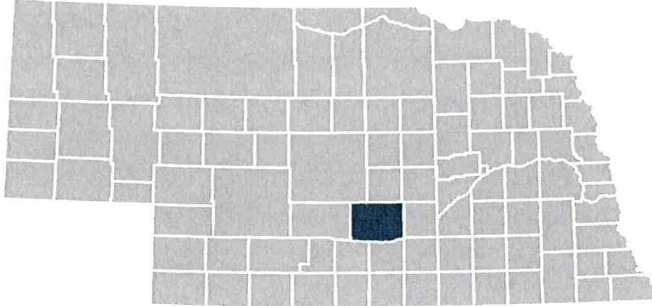
How does your county address disproportionate system-involvement: Services are provided and offered to all youth and their families regardless of race and ethnicity.

---

# 2023 COUNTY DATA FACT SHEET



COUNTY: **BUFFALO**



**50,586**

TOTAL POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

**13,320**

CHILD POPULATION (19 & UNDER)<sup>1</sup>



## HEALTH

**5%**

CHILDREN UNINSURED<sup>2</sup>

**30%**

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE<sup>3</sup>



## CHILD WELFARE

**4**

NON-COURT CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT (RATE/1000)<sup>4</sup>

**20**

CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT (RATE/1000)<sup>4</sup>

**13**

CHILDREN RECEIVING OUT-OF-HOME SERVICES (RATE/1000)<sup>4</sup>



## JUVENILE JUSTICE

**14**

CHILDREN ON PROBATION (RATE/1000)<sup>5</sup>

**43**

FEES AND FINES PER JUVENILE CASE (RATE/100)<sup>6</sup>



## EDUCATION

**41%**

3- & 4-YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL<sup>7</sup>

**89%**

HIGH SCHOOLERS GRADUATING IN 4-YEARS<sup>8</sup>

**60%**

NSCAS 3RD GRADE READING PROFICIENCY<sup>9</sup>

**85**

CAPACITY OF LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITY PER 100 CHILDREN UNDER 6 WITH ALL AVAILABLE PARENTS WORKING<sup>9</sup>



## ECONOMIC STABILITY

**72%**

FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOMES BELOW 185 FEDERAL POVERTY LINE<sup>10</sup>

**30%**

CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES (UNDER 200% OF FEDERAL POVERTY LINE)<sup>11</sup>

**11%**

CHILDREN IN POVERTY<sup>12</sup>

**11%**

CHILD FOOD INSECURITY RATE<sup>10</sup>

**74%**

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO OWN THEIR HOME<sup>13</sup>

**11%**

CHILDREN OF COLOR IN POVERTY<sup>14</sup>

1. U.S. Census Bureau, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Selected Age Groups and Sex; April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022.

2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B27001.

3. U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B27003.

4. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; U.S. Census Bureau, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Selected Age Groups and Sex; April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022.

5. Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation.

6. Based on Data obtained from Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation;

Nebraska Judicial Branch Juvenile Justice System Statistical Annual Report (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022).

7. U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B14005.

8. Nebraska Department of Education.

9. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

10. Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2021, Child Food Insecurity in Nebraska by County.

11. U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B17024.

12. U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B17016.

13. U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B25115.

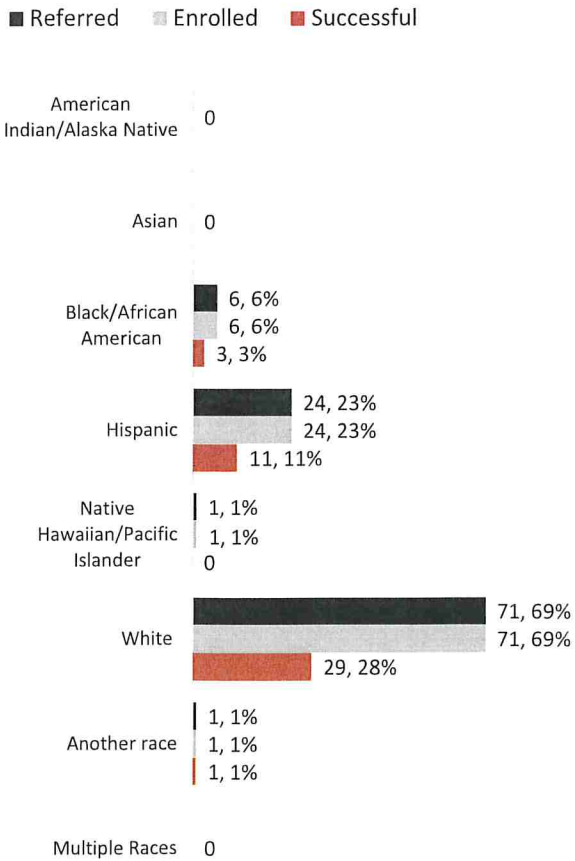
14. U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B17018-1.

## Buffalo County Attorney | Truancy

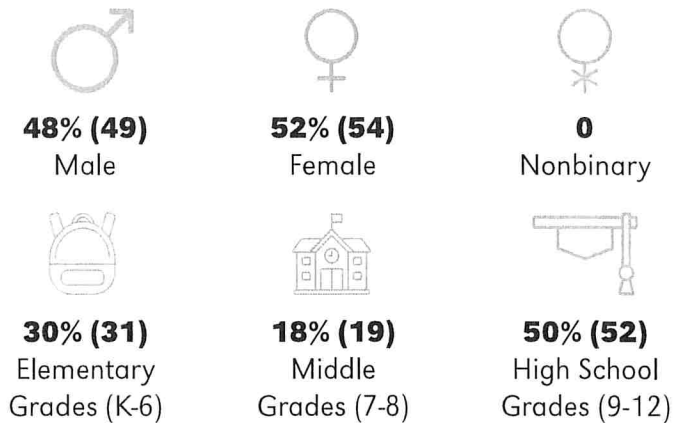
Buffalo County | July 2020-June 2022 | Truancy



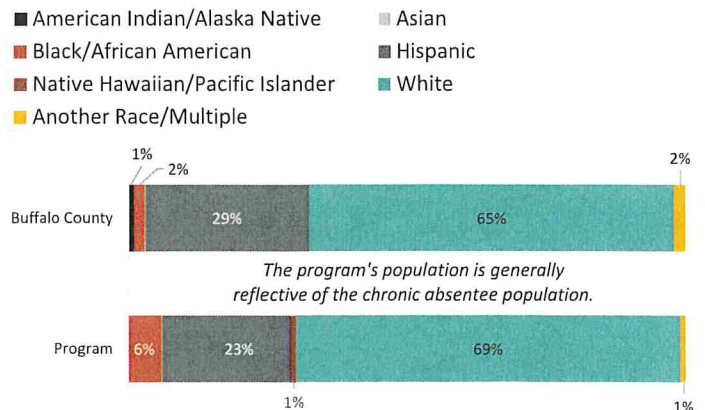
### Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity



### Gender and Grades of Youths Referred<sup>1</sup>



### Program Population Compared to Buffalo County's Chronic Absentee Population

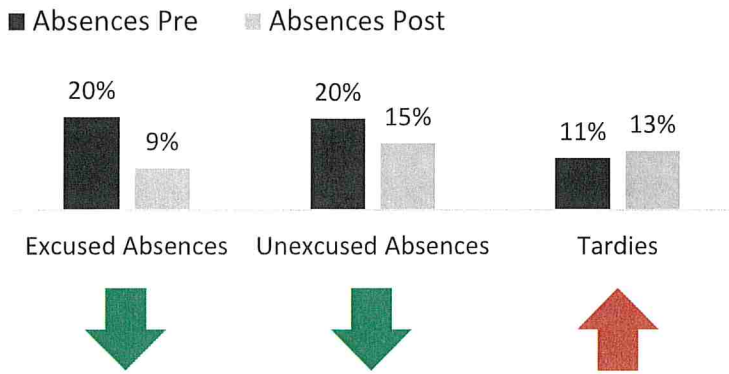


<sup>1</sup> The youth's grade was missing for one case.

# Outcomes for Successful Cases

## Change in Attendance

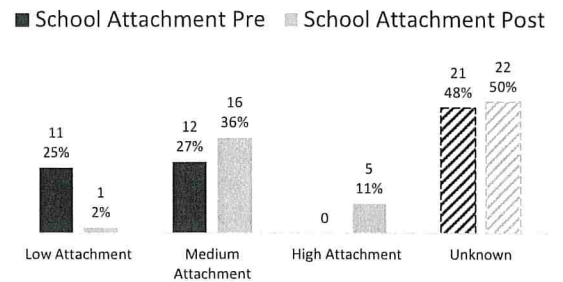
Overall, absences declined by 17% post-intervention. Tardies slightly increased by 2% post-intervention.



Note: The overall attendance change was statistically significant.

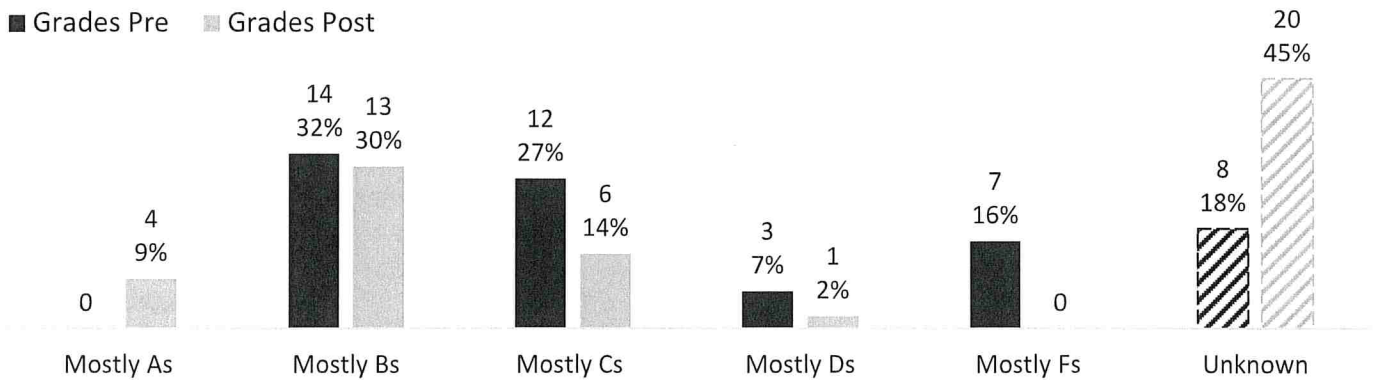
## Change in School Attachment

While only one student had low attachment and more students had medium and high attachment, school attachment was unknown for around half of youths for both pre-enrollment and post-intervention.



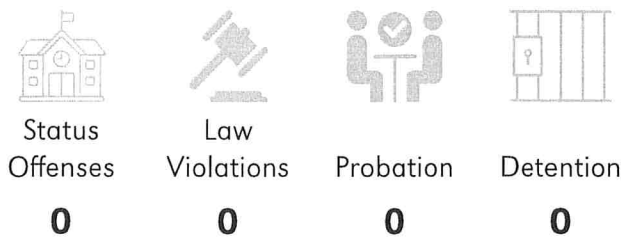
## Change in Grades

Student grade outcomes may have improved after the program. While 16% of students had mostly Fs prior to enrollment, none had mostly Fs afterwards. 9% more students had mostly A's post-intervention, but pre-enrollment grades were unknown for 18% of youths.

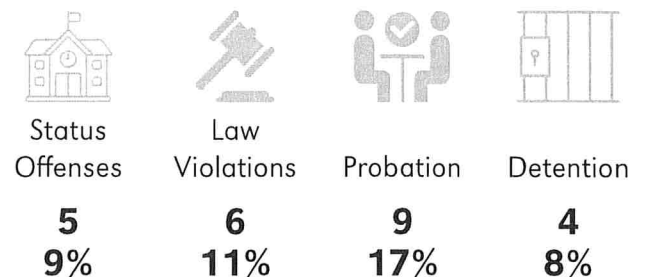


## Youths' Future System Involvement (for 97 closed cases)<sup>2</sup>

### 44 Successful Closed Cases







### 53 Unsuccessful/Other Closed Cases



<sup>2</sup> Six cases were not included in FSI calculations because they remain open (i.e., no discharge date).

# 2024 Program Evaluation<sup>3</sup>

■  Needs Attention
 ■  Promising
 ■  Working Well
 ■ Cannot be Assessed

Criteria the Program Met	Process/Outcome	
Has more than 80% of data on attendance measures.	<b>Meets Data Standards</b>	
Receives referrals for youths proportionate to the rate of chronic absenteeism in county.	<b>Program Population</b>	
Closes between 40% and 80% of cases successfully.	<b>Successful Cases</b>	
Attendance significantly improved during the post-enrollment period.	<b>Impacts on Absences</b>	
Over 20% of data missing for pre-enrollment. Youths successfully discharged demonstrated higher school attachment and had higher grades compared to pre-intervention.	<b>School Outcomes</b>	
Fewer successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/other closed cases in all FSI categories.	<b>Future System Involvement</b>	

## Overall Program Rating

Ineffective

Promising

**Effective**

<sup>3</sup> For full evaluation criteria, please see the Absenteeism Program Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

## Evaluation Summary

Buffalo County Attorney's truancy program is rated as **effective**. The program served youths from all racial/ethnic groups overrepresented in the county's chronic absentee population. For youths successfully discharged from the program, overall attendance significantly improved post-intervention. Youths who successfully completed the program also demonstrated slightly higher attachment to school and improved grades after enrollment in the program, but over 20% of data was missing for each of these outcomes, limiting accurate evaluation. Finally, the program was very effective in preventing future system involvement (i.e., court filings, probation, or detention) for the youths who successfully completed the program, compared to those whose cases were not successfully closed.

## Recommendations

While an effective program, we encourage the program to concentrate on increasing the proportion of youths successfully completing the program. The positive school outcomes for youths successfully completing the program indicate the program could have a greater impact by serving more youths. To accomplish this, the program may survey youths/families who were not successfully discharged about their satisfaction with program and where the program could have served them better. Implementing changes based on the results of such surveys could strengthen the program's ability maintain youths successfully through the program. It is also essential for the program to collect and report complete data for all youths served in order to facilitate an accurate evaluation. The program should review their process for collecting students' school grades and school attachment to reduce rates of missing data for these outcomes. Finally, we acknowledge that we are unable to determine potential reasons why cases are closed unsuccessfully without assessment tool findings for youths referred and enrolled in the program. Assessments can identify youths service needs and results can be used to assess whether youths are receiving appropriate treatment.

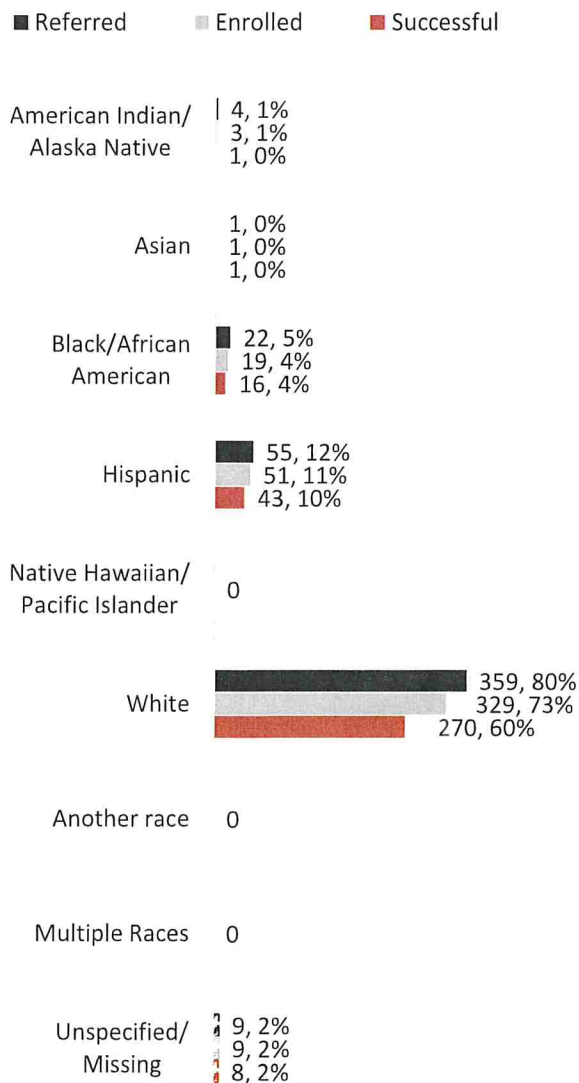
**This project is supported by Contract CC-24-737 awarded by the Nebraska Crime Commission. Points of view or opinions contained in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Nebraska Crime Commission or the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.**

## Buffalo County Diversion

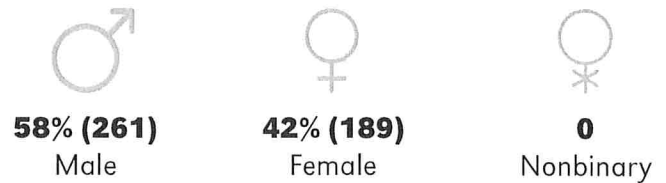
Buffalo County | July 2020-June 2022 | Diversion

**450** Youths Referred    **412** Enrolled    **150** Assessed    **339** Successful

### Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

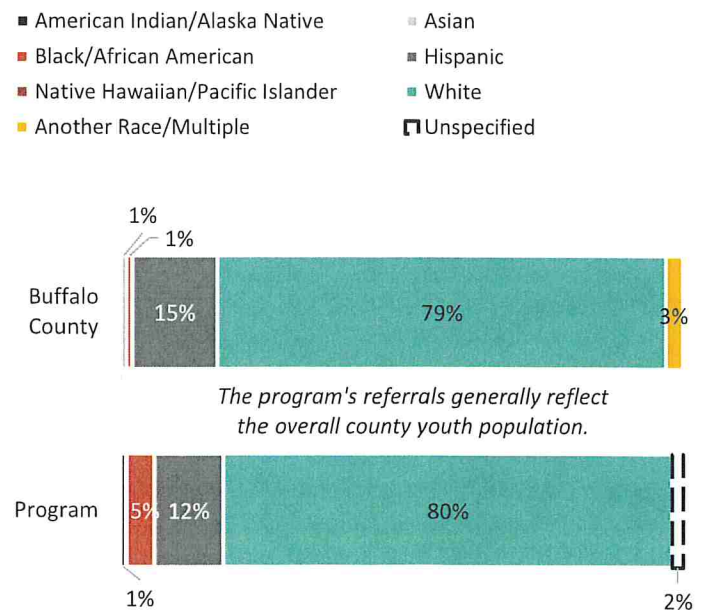


### Gender and Age of Youths Referred



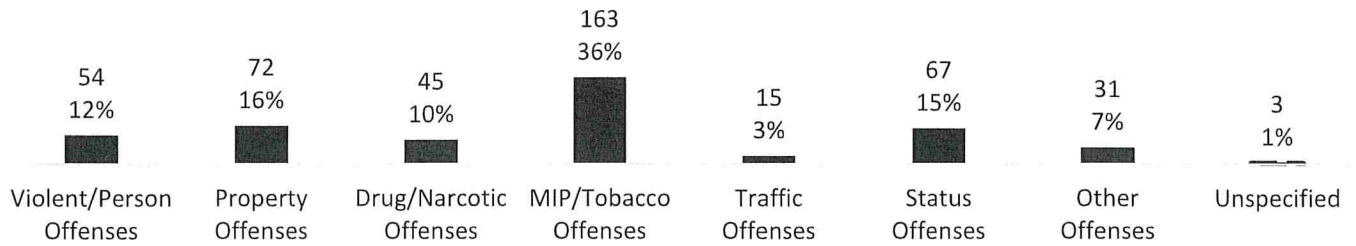
Average Age – **15**  
Age Range – **8-19**

### Program Population Compared to Buffalo County's Youth Population



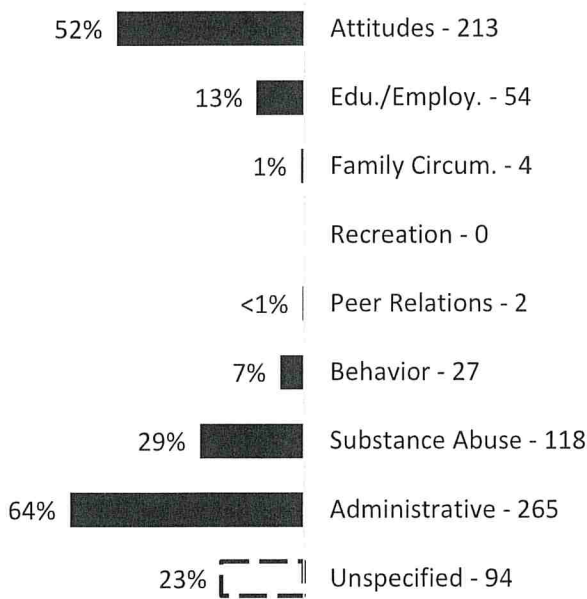
## Charges at Referral

On average, youths were referred to the program with **two** charges (range of 1-7 charges).

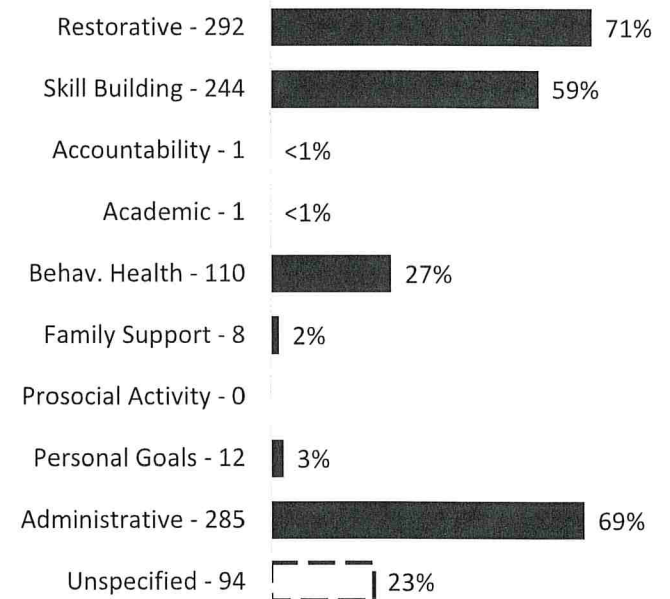


Note: Only the first charge listed for each youth is reported here.

## Case Plan Domains (Youth Needs)<sup>1</sup>



## Types of Programming



## On average, youths completed<sup>2</sup>:

**20**  
(0-254)  
Program Hours

**98%**  
(0-156%)  
of Required Hours

**4**  
(0-7)  
Activities

**96%**  
(0-100%)  
of Program Activities



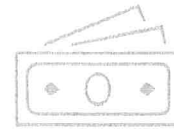
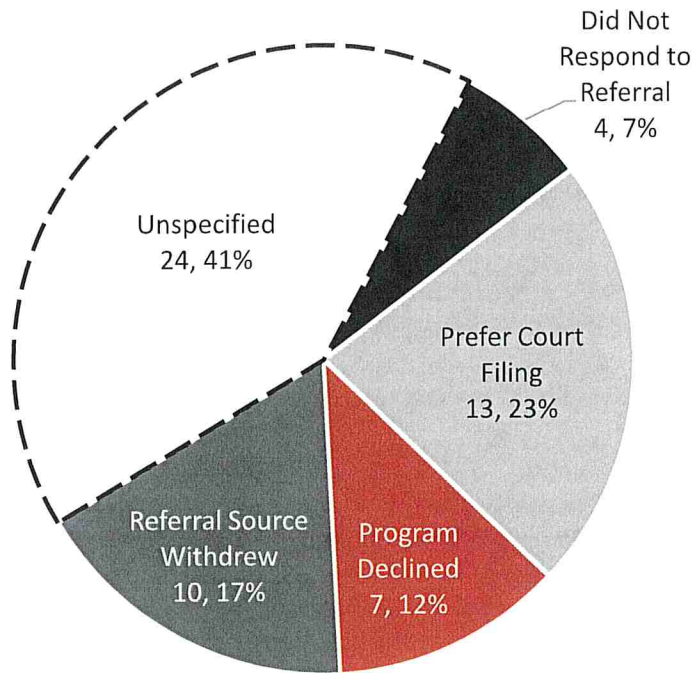
**76%** of youths received programming matching at least one of their needs, as identified through their case plan domains.

<sup>1</sup> Youths could have multiple case plan domains and types of programming – percentages do not total to 100%.

<sup>2</sup> Attendance hours were missing for 111 enrolled youths (27%) and number of activities completed was missing for 97 enrolled youths (24%).

## Refusal Reason

58 youths refused or did not participate in diversion.



On average, youths owed:

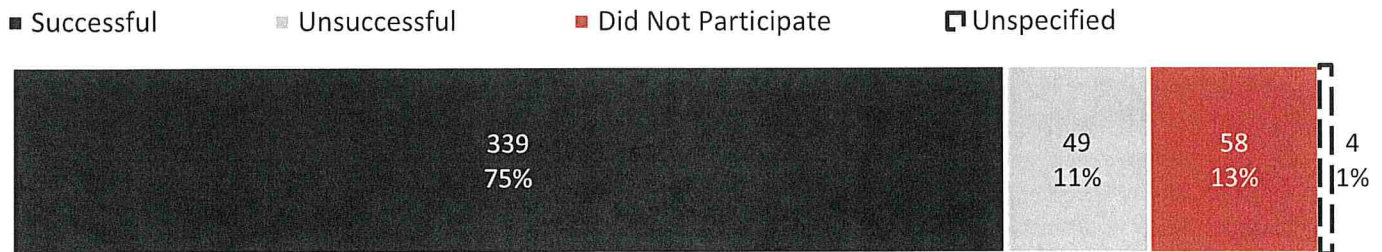
**\$57**  
(\$0-\$150)  
in Diversion Fees<sup>3</sup>

**\$19**  
(\$0-\$1,000)  
in Restitution<sup>4</sup>

**\$2**  
(\$0-\$70)  
in Other Costs

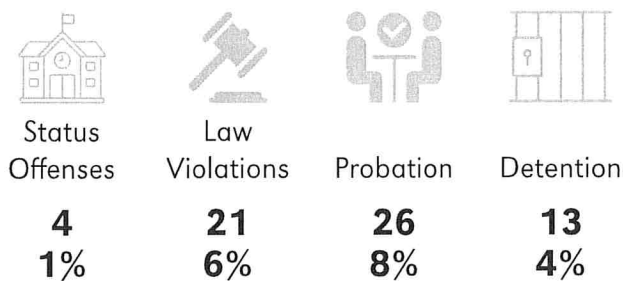
## Case Outcomes

75% of youths successfully completed the program.

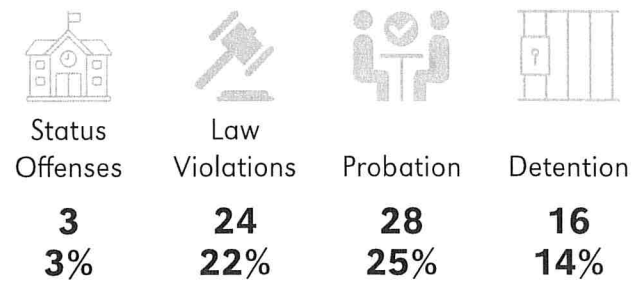


## Youths' Future System Involvement

### 339 Successful Closed Cases



### 111 Unsuccessful/Other Closed Cases



<sup>3</sup> No diversion fees were indicated, or were waived, for 117 youths (28%). 108 cases (26%) were missing diversion fee costs.

<sup>4</sup> No restitution was indicated for 292 youths (71%). Restitution costs were missing in 96 cases (23%).

# 2024 Program Evaluation<sup>5</sup>

■  Needs Attention
 ■  Promising
■  Working Well
■ Cannot be Assessed

Criteria the Program Met	Process/Outcome
Missing more than 20% of data on process and outcome measures (rated Inconclusive).	<b>Does Not Meet Data Standards</b>
Program’s population is reflective of county’s population.	<b>Program Population</b>
Fewer than 40% of youths are assessed with a validated tool.	<b>Assessment Tool/Process</b>
Over 20% of cases were missing case plan domains and program activity types.	<b>Domains and Programming Activities</b>
Over 20% of cases were missing program attendance and completion data.	<b>Program Hours and Completion Rates</b>
Closes between 40% and 80% of cases successfully.	<b>Successful Cases</b>
Fewer successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/ other closed cases in all FSI categories.	<b>Future System Involvement</b>

## Overall Program Rating

Ineffective

Promising

Effective



Inconclusive

<sup>5</sup> For full evaluation criteria, see Diversion Programs Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

## Evaluation Summary

The evaluation for Buffalo County Attorney's Diversion program is **inconclusive** due to excessive missing data. Youths referred to the program were generally reflective of the Buffalo County youth population. However, we note a better comparison population for diversion programs may be law enforcement youth contacts, rather than the overall county population. There are often racial disparities in both juvenile justice involvement and referrals to diversion for non-White youths. More information on the population of youths eligible for the program would strengthen this assessment. Just over 10% of referred youths (58 or 13%) were not enrolled/did not participate in the program. Typically, these youths, or their parents, refused participation because they preferred a court filing or because the referral source withdrew the referral or the program declined. However, over 40% of cases in which the youth did not participate in the program are missing a refusal reason. A little over a third of enrolled youths (150 or 36%) were assessed upon intake into the program, most commonly with the Pre/Post-MAYSI-2 assessment tool. Over 20% (94 or 23%) of enrolled youths' case plan domains or program activities are unspecified. Likewise, 111 cases (27%) are missing the youth's attendance hours and 97 (24%) are missing the number of activities the youth completed. Three quarters (339 or 75%) of the referred youths were enrolled and successfully completed the program. The remaining 25% of cases were split with 49 (11%) cases closed unsuccessfully because the youth failed to comply or received a new law violation and 58 (13%) cases closed without the youth participating in the program. Finally, the program was effective in preventing Future System Involvement (FSI; i.e., status and law violation court filings, probation involvement, or detention intake) among successful youths compared to unsuccessful youths or youths who did not participate. A smaller rate of successfully closed cases had FSI in any of the four categories than unsuccessful/other closed cases.

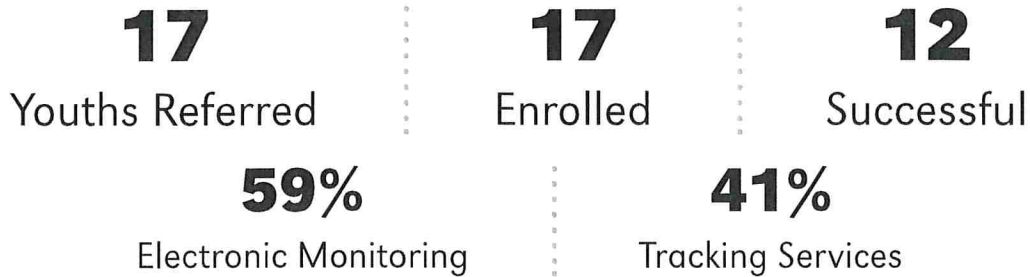
## Recommendations

The Buffalo County Attorney's Diversion program should focus on improving their data entry. To effectively evaluate processes and outcomes, at least 20% of cases needed complete data for each variable, several of Buffalo County's Diversion processes/outcomes fell just over this threshold (i.e., just over 20% of cases were missing data on one or more of the variables). We were unable to assess whether the program effectively matched youths with appropriate programming based on their needs (i.e., domains) because 23% of cases were missing this information. Similarly, attendance hours were missing for 111 enrolled youths (27%) and activity completion was missing for 97 (24%). Another area of focus is the youths who do not participate. In about 40% of cases in which the youth did not participate, there was no reason listed for why the youth did not/refused to participate. To collect this information and reasons for why youths may be unsuccessful in the program (e.g., fail to comply or receive a new law violation), Buffalo County may wish to survey youths before they exit the program to better understand the lack of participation and ways in which the program could improve retention. Reliable data can help a program better understand the impact their program has on the youths and families served. The JJJ aims to help programs improve outcomes for the youths they work with and encourages the program to attend the diversion program evaluation meeting at the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference in Kearney, Nebraska, scheduled for 4:30 P.M. on May 1, 2024 in Crystal Ballroom 1 and 2 (the main hall). A webinar will also be offered on May 7, 2024, at 9 A.M.

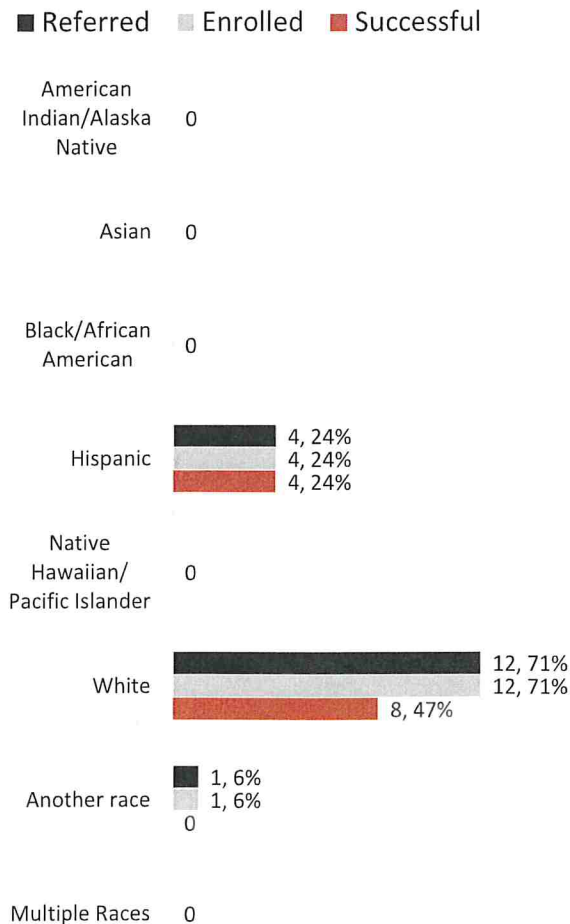
**This project is supported by Contract CC-24-737 awarded by the Nebraska Crime Commission. Points of view or opinions contained in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Nebraska Crime Commission or the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.**

## Juvenile Services | Electronic Monitoring & Trackers

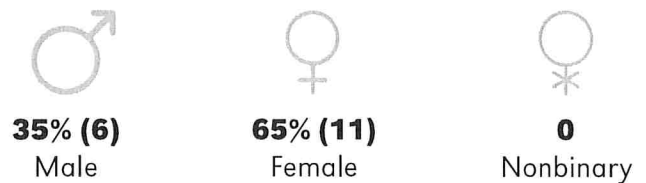
Buffalo County | July 2020-June 2022 | Alternatives to Detention



### Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

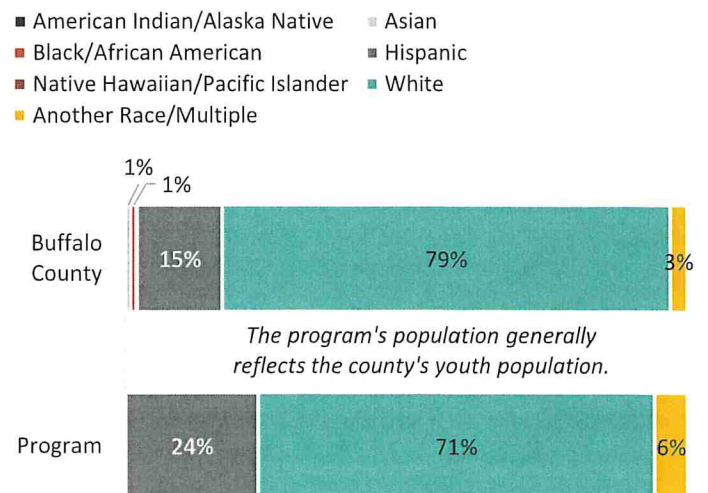


### Gender and Grades of Youths Referred



Average Age – **15**  
Age Range – **12-17**

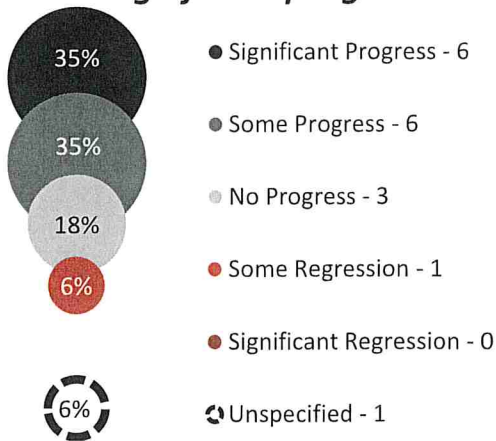
### Program Population Compared to Buffalo County's Youth Population



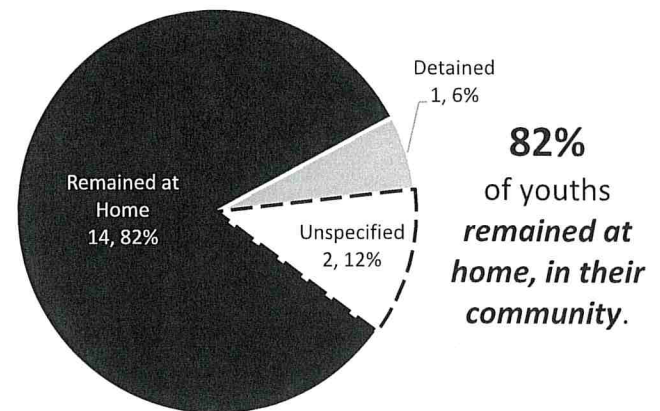
# Outcomes at Discharge

## Progress at Discharge

71% of discharged youths made *some* or *significant progress*.

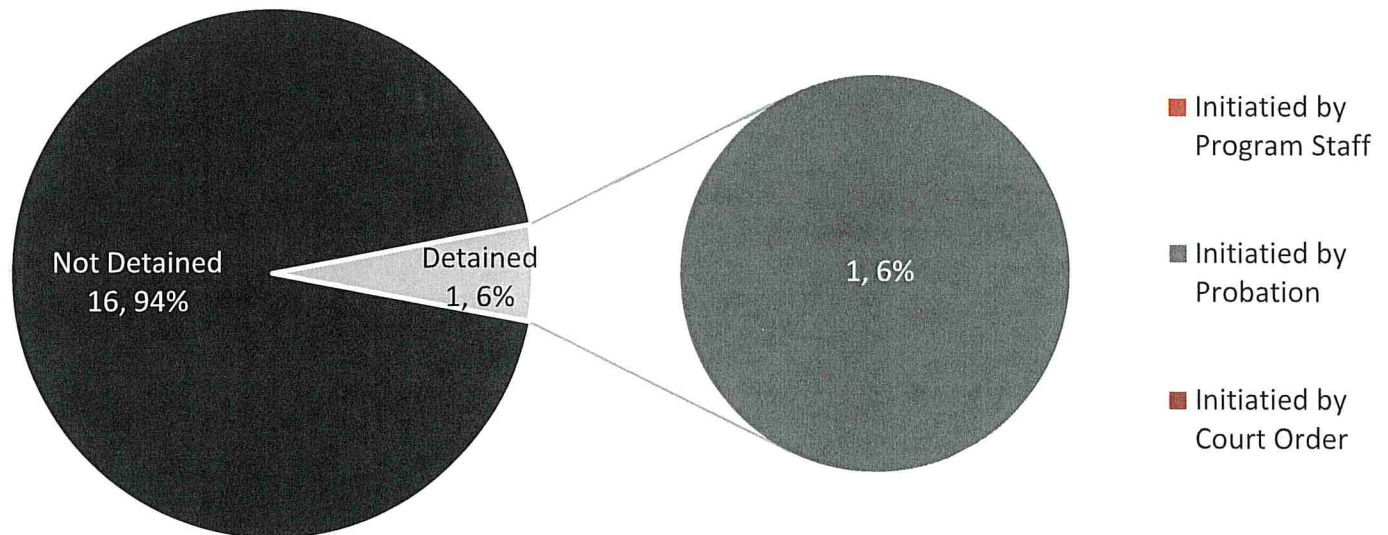


## Discharge Placement



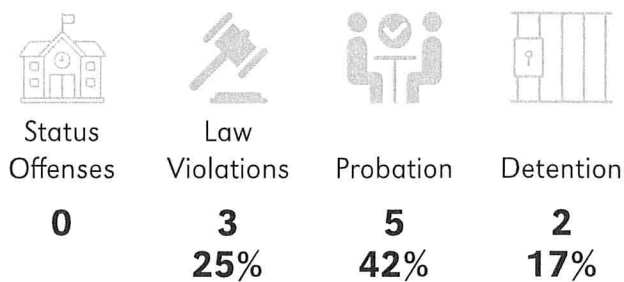
## Detained at Discharge

Only one youth was detained after discharge from the program. This detention was initiated by probation. All other youths were not detained.



## Youths' Future System Involvement

### 12 Successful Closed Cases








### 5 Unsuccessful/Other Closed Cases



# 2024 Program Evaluation<sup>1</sup>

■  Needs Attention
 ■  Promising
■  Working Well
■ Cannot be Assessed

Criteria the Program Met	Process/Outcome
Has over 80% of data on process and outcome measures entered.	<b>Meets Data Standards</b>
Program's population is reflective of county's population.	<b>Program Population</b> 
Between 40% and 80% of youths enrolled made "some" or "significant progress" by discharge.	<b>Program Progress</b> 
Closes between 40% and 80% of cases successfully.	<b>Successful Cases</b> 
Fewer than 10% of youths were detained at discharge.	<b>Detained at Discharge</b> 
More than 80% of youths served remained in the community.	<b>Discharge Placement</b> 
Approximately the same rate or more successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/other closed cases in two or more FSI categories.	<b>Future System Involvement</b>

## Overall Program Rating

Ineffective

Promising

**Effective**

<sup>1</sup> For full evaluation criteria, see Alternatives to Detention Programs Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

## Evaluation Summary

Buffalo County Juvenile Services' alternatives to detention programs (ATD; electronic monitoring and tracker services) are rated as **effective**. The youths referred to and served by the program were reflective of the Buffalo County youth population. However, we note a better comparison population for ATD programs may be law enforcement youth contacts, rather than the overall county population. Over 70% of enrolled youths (12 or 71%) successfully completed program requirements. The remaining five youths' cases were closed unsuccessfully due to a new law violation. Just over 70% of youths (12 or 71%) made some or significant progress by the time they were discharged from the program. The remaining five discharged youths either made no progress by discharge (three or 18%), experienced some regression (one or 6%) or their progress at discharge was unknown (one or 6%). Most youths (14 or 82%) remained in their home at discharge and were not detained (16 or 94%). Finally, the program was not effective in preventing Future System Involvement (FSI; i.e., status offense or law violation court filings, probation, or detention) for the youth who successfully completed the program. Over 40% of successful youths were involved with probation at some point after discharge from the program and a quarter had a new law violation within a year of discharge. However, comparisons of FSI between successful and unsuccessful/other closed cases should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of unsuccessful/other closed cases for comparison.

## Recommendations

Buffalo County Juvenile Services' should focus on the long term impact (post-discharge) of their program. Although they are rated as effective, most of this impact appears to be while the youth is enrolled. In comparing future system involvement for youths who were successful, the comparison groups were not balanced, but successful youths had high rates of future system involvement. The JJI reviewed cases to ensure that subsequent probation intake was more than 60 days after discharge. Even after ensuring this amount of time, it appears that successful youths have high rates of later placement on probation and intake to detention.

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## Boys Town | Ecological In-Home Services

Buffalo County | July 2020-June 2022 | Family Support

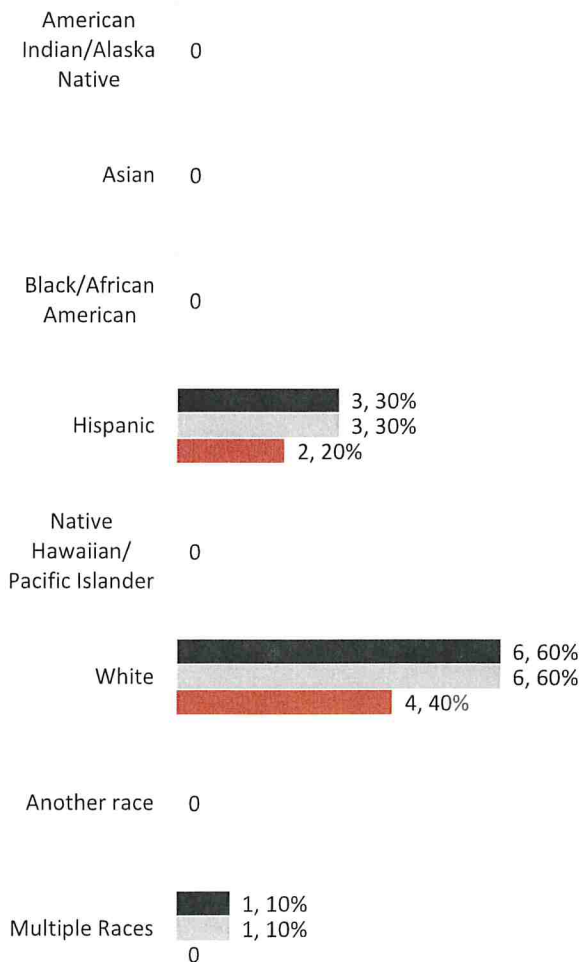
**10**  
Youths Referred

**10**  
Enrolled

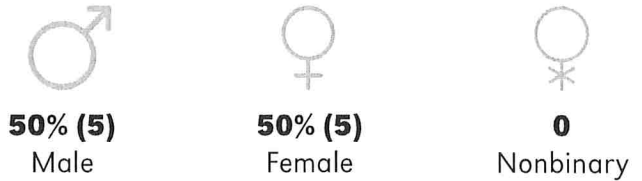
**6**  
Successful

### Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

■ Referred ■ Enrolled ■ Successful



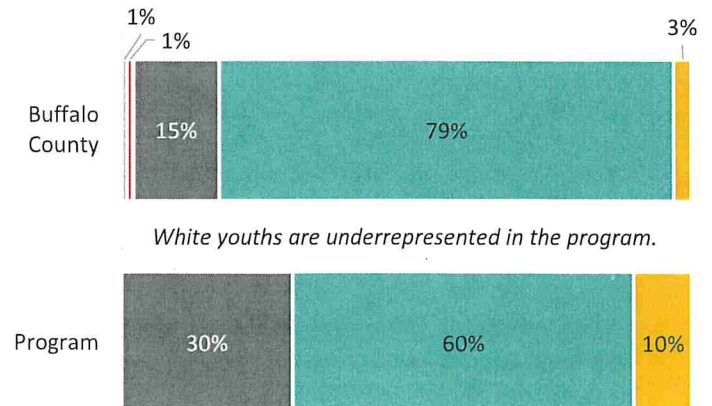
### Gender and Age of Youths Referred



Average Age – **14**  
Age Range – **9-17**

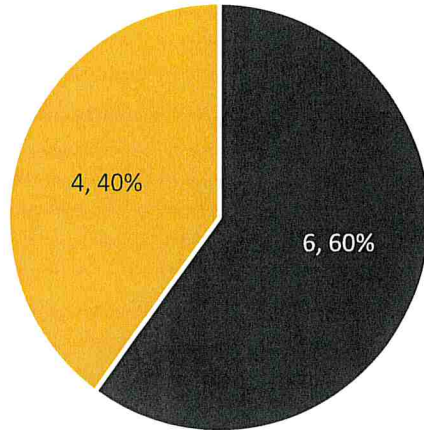
### Program Population Compared to Buffalo County's Youth Population

■ American Indian/Alaska Native ■ Asian  
■ Black/African American ■ Hispanic  
■ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ■ White  
■ Another Race/Multiple



## Case Outcomes

- Completed Program Requirements
- Stopped Attending
- Youth Refused
- Parent Refused
- Family Plans to Follow Through
- Transferred Schools
- Other (moved away/death/etc)



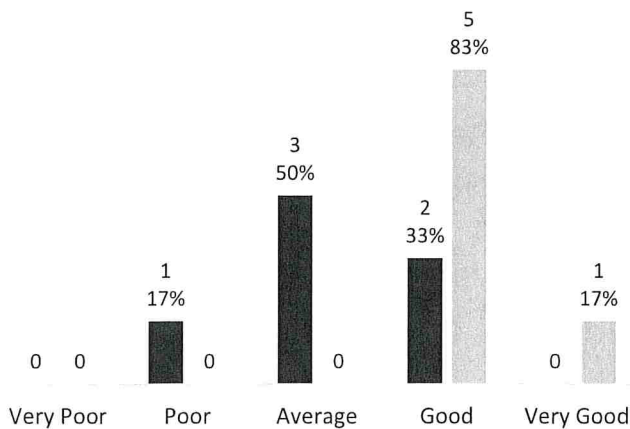
60% of families referred to the program were enrolled and successfully completed the program. All other cases referred were closed for another reason (e.g., death, moved).

## Family Outcomes for Successful Cases

### Family Function

The mean score for successful cases on family function improved from average during pre-enrollment to good post-intervention.

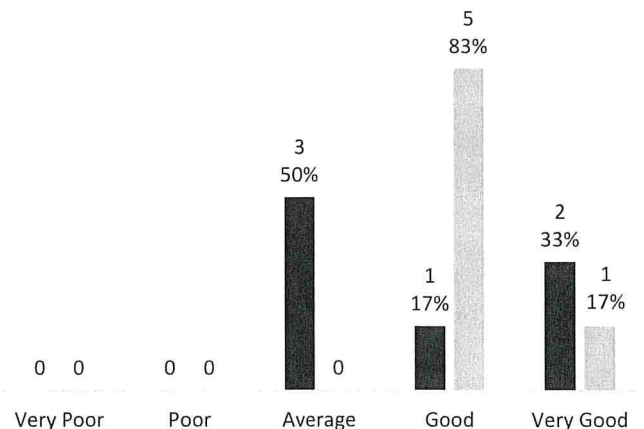
- Family Function Pre
- Family Function Post



### Family Communication

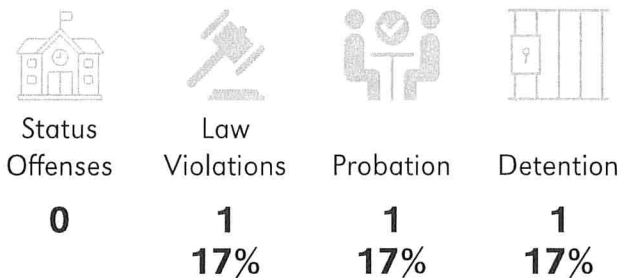
The mean score for successful cases on family communication was good for both pre-enrollment and post-intervention periods.

- Family Communication Pre
- Family Communication Post

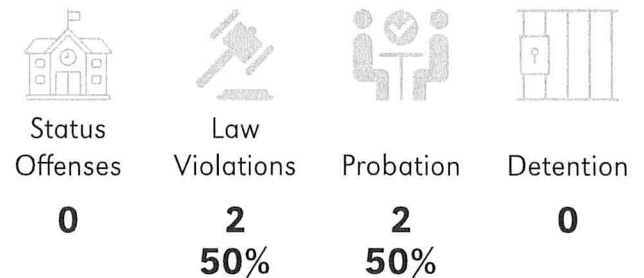


## Youths' Future System Involvement

### 6 Successful Closed Cases






### 4 Unsuccessful/Other Closed Cases



# 2024 Program Evaluation<sup>1</sup>

■  Needs Attention
 ■  Promising
■  Working Well
■ Cannot be Assessed

Criteria the Program Met	Process/Outcome
Has over 80% of data on process and outcome measures entered.	<b>Meets Data Standards</b>
Program’s population includes most racial/ethnic groups, but is not proportionate to county’s population.	<b>Program Population</b> 
Closes between 40% and 80% of cases successfully.	<b>Successful Cases</b> 
For cases successfully closed, family function or family communication improved compared to pre-intervention, but not all outcomes improved.	<b>Family Outcomes</b> 
Fewer successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/other closed cases in two or more FSI category.	<b>Future System Involvement</b>

## Overall Program Rating

Ineffective

**Promising**

Effective

<sup>1</sup> For full evaluation criteria, see Family Support Programs Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

## Evaluation Summary

Buffalo County's Boys Town Ecological In-Home Services program is rated as ***promising***. The program's population of youths served was generally reflective of the Buffalo county youth population. Although White youths were underrepresented among referrals, this may reflect the process through which youths are referred as all 10 youths were referred from diversion programs. Over half of the families referred successfully completed the program's requirements. For families successfully discharged from the program, family function improved post-intervention, but family communication remained "Good" for both pre-enrollment and post-intervention. The program was generally effective in preventing Future System Involvement (FSI; i.e., status or law violation court filings, probation, or detention) for the youths who successfully completed the program, compared to those whose cases were not successfully closed. However, comparisons of FSI should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of successful and unsuccessful/other closed cases used for comparison.

## Recommendations

Buffalo County's Boys Town In-Ecological Home Services is successful with 60% of the families served, but may wish to explore the relatively small change in family communication. Methods of improving family communication may reflect the youths served during this time frame, or may pose an opportunity to enhance the ecological model. If the program does not already gather youth and family perspectives through exit surveys, this could help explore why some families are not successful in the program.

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## COMPASS | Family Services for Truancy Risk

Buffalo County | July 2020-June 2022 | Family Support

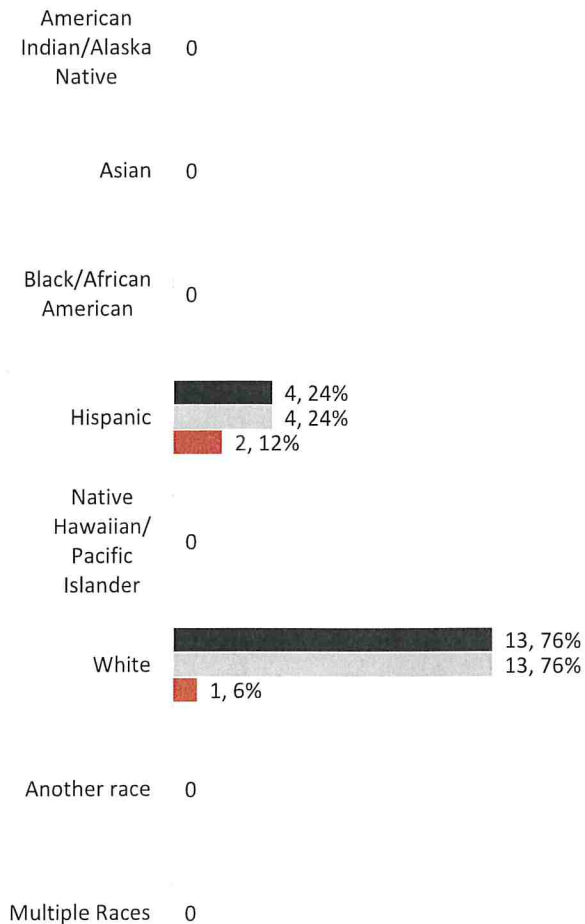
**17**  
Youths Referred

**17**  
Enrolled

**3**  
Successful

### Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

■ Referred ■ Enrolled ■ Successful



### Gender and Age of Youths Referred



**35% (6)**  
Male



**65% (11)**  
Female



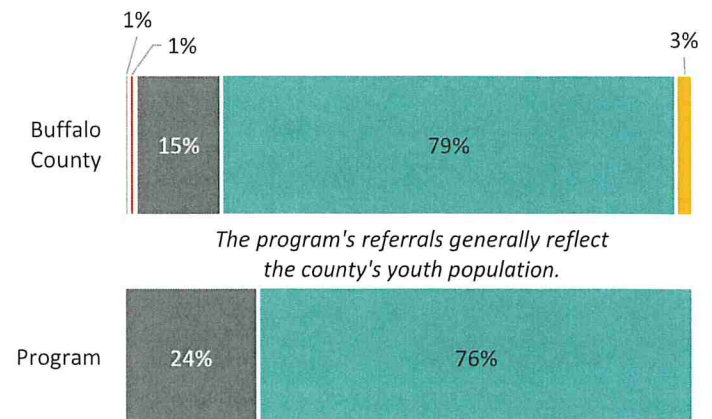
**0**  
Nonbinary



Average Age - **14**  
Age Range - **9-17**

### Program Population Compared to Buffalo County's Youth Population

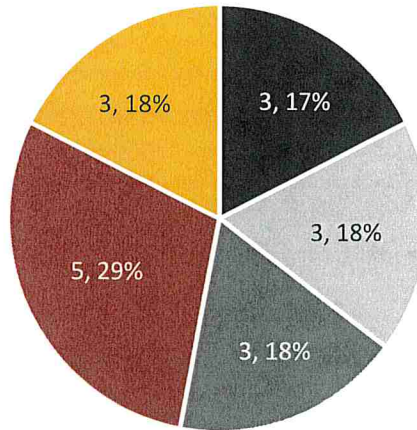
■ American Indian/Alaska Native ■ Asian  
■ Black/African American ■ Hispanic  
■ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ■ White  
■ Another Race/Multiple



*The program's referrals generally reflect the county's youth population.*

## Case Outcomes

- Completed Program Requirements
- Stopped Attending
- Youth Refused
- Parent Refused
- Family Plans to Follow Through
- Transferred Schools
- Other (moved away/death/etc)



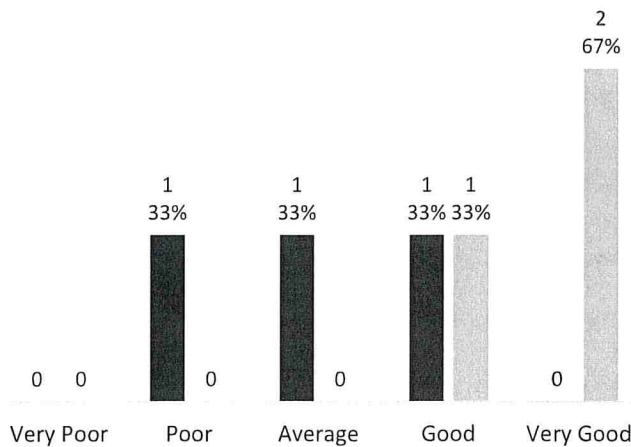
18% of families referred to the program were enrolled and successfully completed the program. Most cases that were not successfully discharged were because the family stopped attending or the parent refused. 29% of families plan to follow through with the program.

## Family Outcomes for Successful Cases

### Family Function

The mean score for successful cases on family function substantially improved from average during pre-enrollment to very good post-intervention.

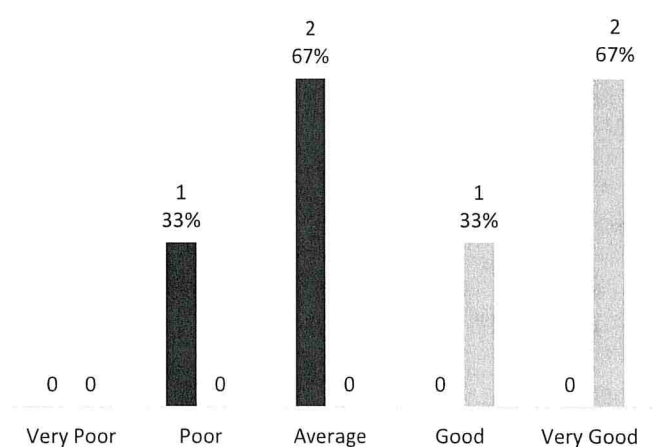
- Family Function Pre
- Family Function Post



### Family Communication

The mean score for successful cases on family communication substantially improved from average during pre-enrollment to very good post-intervention.

- Family Communication Pre
- Family Communication Post

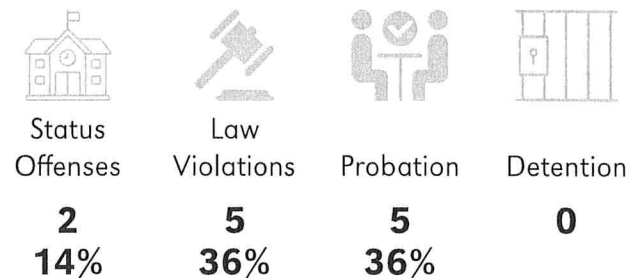


## Youths' Future System Involvement

### 3 Successful Closed Cases






### 14 Unsuccessful/Other Closed Cases



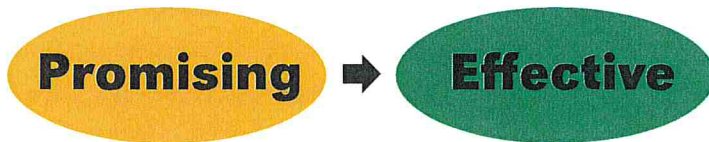
# 2024 Program Evaluation<sup>1</sup>

■  Needs Attention 
 ■  Promising 
 ■  Working Well 
 ■ Cannot be Assessed

Criteria the Program Met	Process/Outcome
Has over 80% of data on process and outcome measures entered.	<b>Meets Data Standards</b>
Program's population is reflective of county's population.	<b>Program Population</b> 
Closes fewer than 40% of cases successfully.	<b>Successful Cases</b> 
For cases successfully closed, family function and family communication both improved compared to pre-intervention.	<b>Family Outcomes</b> 
Fewer successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/other closed cases in all FSI categories.	<b>Future System Involvement</b>

## Overall Program Rating

Ineffective



<sup>1</sup> For full evaluation criteria, see Family Support Programs Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

## Evaluation Summary

Compass' Family Services for Truancy Risk program is rated as ***promising to effective***. The program's population of youths served was generally reflective of the Buffalo county youth population. For families successfully discharged from the program, both family function and family communication improved post-intervention. The program was very effective in preventing Future System Involvement (FSI; i.e., status or law violation court filings, probation, or detention) for the youths who successfully completed the program, compared to those whose cases were not successfully closed. However, comparisons of FSI should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of successful cases used for comparison. The program's impact may be limited by the low rate of families successfully completing all program requirements; only three (18%) of the 17 cases referred were successfully closed.

## Recommendations

Although rated as effective, one area that the Compass' Family Services for Truancy Risk program should concentrate on is increasing the proportion of youths successfully completing the program. To accomplish this, the program should consider an exit survey with families who decline services or stop coming. We acknowledge that this may be difficult data to obtain, but incentivizing involvement in the program may prove an effective approach. Finally, based on the effective outcomes for the families served, we encourage Compass to explore whether it has the capacity to maintain high quality services and serve more families.

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## Central Mediation Center | Mediation Program

Buffalo County | July 2020-June 2022 | Mediation

**45** Youths Referred | **45** Enrolled | **36** Agreements Made | **35** Successful

### Gender of Youths Referred



**91% (41)**  
Male



**9% (4)**  
Female



**0**  
Nonbinary

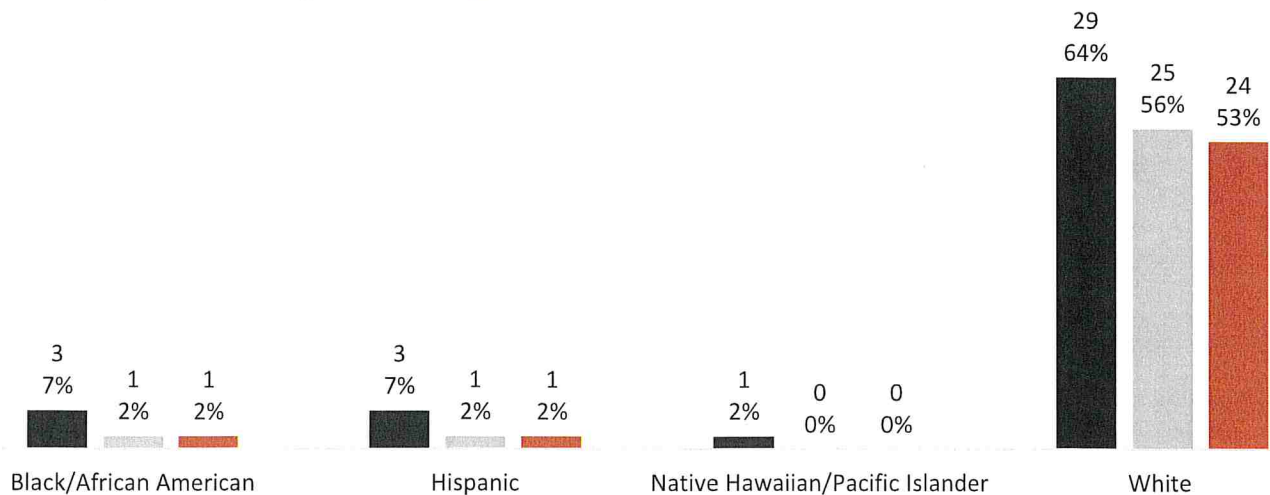
### Age of Youths Referred



Average Age - **14**  
Age Range - **10-17**

### Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

■ Referred/Enrolled   ■ Agreements   ■ Successful

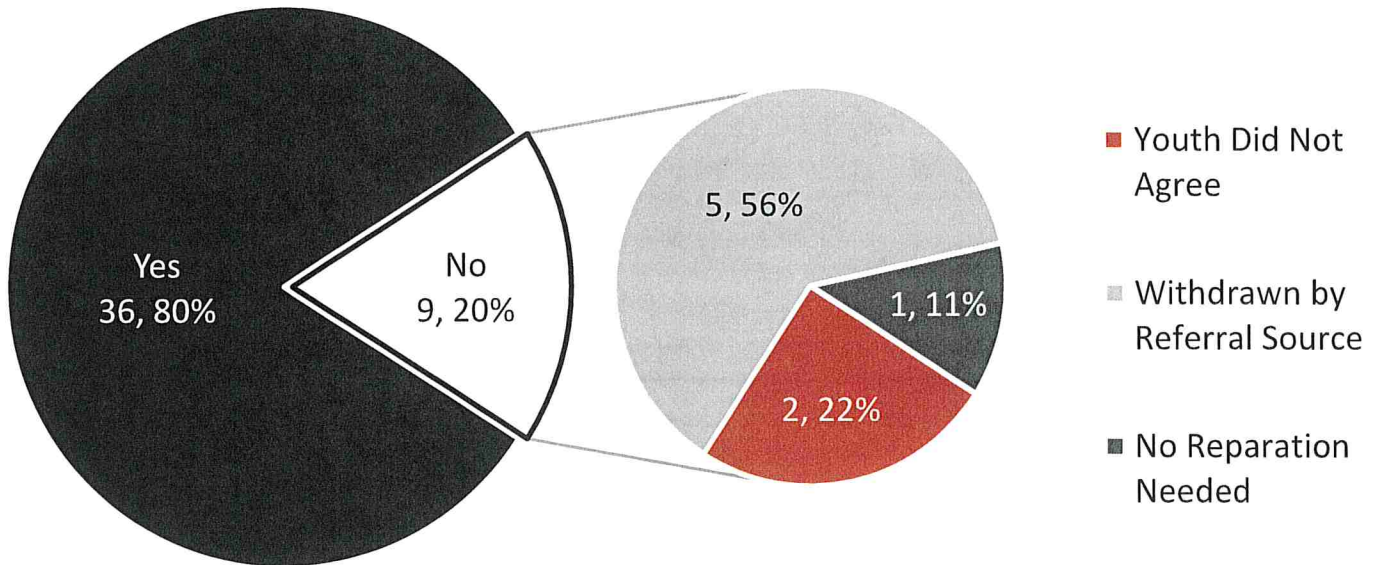


Note: No youths referred/served were American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, or any other race. Race/ethnicity was unspecified/missing for nine youths.

# Outcomes

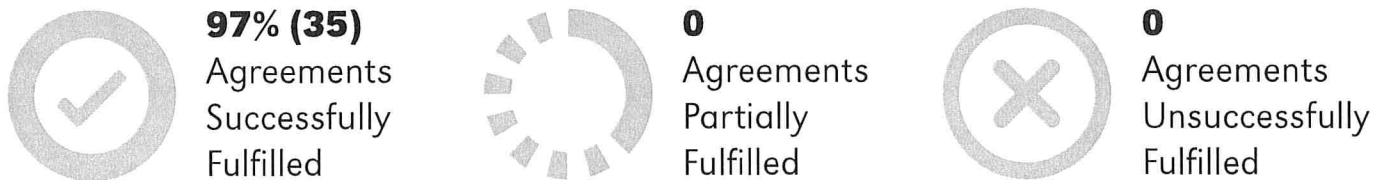
## Reparation Agreements

Reparation agreements were made in 80% of cases. Reasons why an agreement was not made include the youth did not agree, the referral source withdrew the referral, or no reparation was needed.

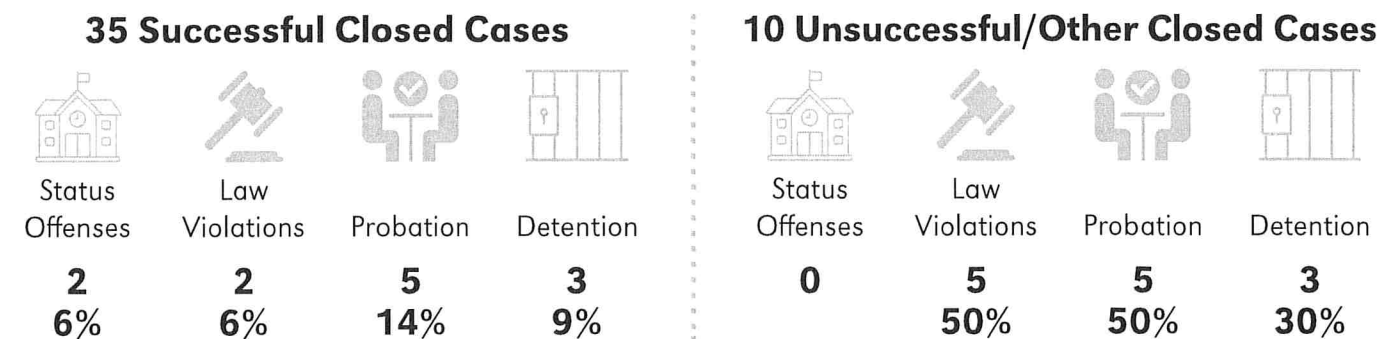


Note: The reason why agreement was not made was missing for one youth.

## Outcome of Agreements<sup>1</sup>





## Youths' Future System Involvement (for 45 closed cases)



<sup>1</sup> The outcome of the reparation agreement was missing for one youth.

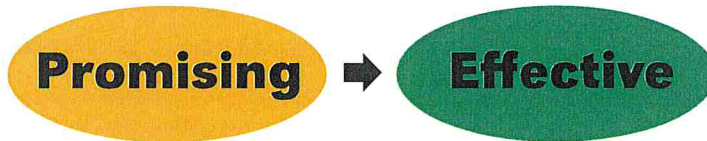
# 2024 Program Evaluation<sup>2</sup>

■  Needs Attention    
 ■  Promising    
 ■  Working Well    
 ■ Cannot be Assessed

Criteria the Program Met	Process/Outcome
Has more than 80% of data on process and outcome measures.	<b>Meets Data Standards</b>
Program referred, enrolled, and successful populations include most racial/ethnic groups, but are not proportionate to county's population.	<b>Referrals/Enrollment</b>
Created a reparation agreement in at least 80% of cases.	<b>Reparation Agreements</b> 
80% or more of reparation agreements made were completed successfully.	<b>Completed Agreements</b> 
Fewer successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/other closed cases in two or more FSI categories.	<b>Future System Involvement</b>

## Overall Program Rating

Ineffective



<sup>2</sup> For full evaluation criteria, please see the Mediation Program Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska website](#).

## Evaluation Summary

Central Mediation Center in Buffalo County is evaluated as a ***promising to effective*** program. The referrals are roughly reflective of the Buffalo County youth population, but minority youths appear less likely to successfully fulfill a reparation agreement and race/ethnicity was missing for nine (20%) of the youths served. We note a better comparison population for the program would be diversion eligible youths. Of the 45 cases referred, a reparation agreement was reached in 82%, or 36 cases. Thirty-five youths, or 97% of the cases, successfully fulfilled the reparation agreement. Of the youths who successfully fulfilled an agreement, only two had a subsequent court filing for either a status offense or law violation and three were later admitted into detention. However, five youths (14%) were involved with probation after successfully completing the program. Although law violations, intake to probation, and detention are lower for the youths who were successfully closed through the program, this data should be interpreted with caution due to the few number of unsuccessful/other closed cases for comparison.

## Recommendations

In 20% of cases (nine cases) the referral was subsequently pulled back by referral source (five cases), it was determined that no reparation was needed (one case), or the youths did not agree (two cases), one case was missing a reason for why no agreement was made. This program may wish to examine the specifics of each case to determine whether eligibility criteria should be reviewed. The program should also examine why minority youth appear to be less likely to successfully complete. Relatedly, it is important for the program to collect complete and accurate data on all youths referred and served; the program should focus on improving collection and reporting of race/ethnicity characteristics. Finally, mediation programs have historically not tracked an enrollment date. Tracking enrollment dates would allow for the calculation of the length of time a case takes from referral to reparation (and fulfillment).

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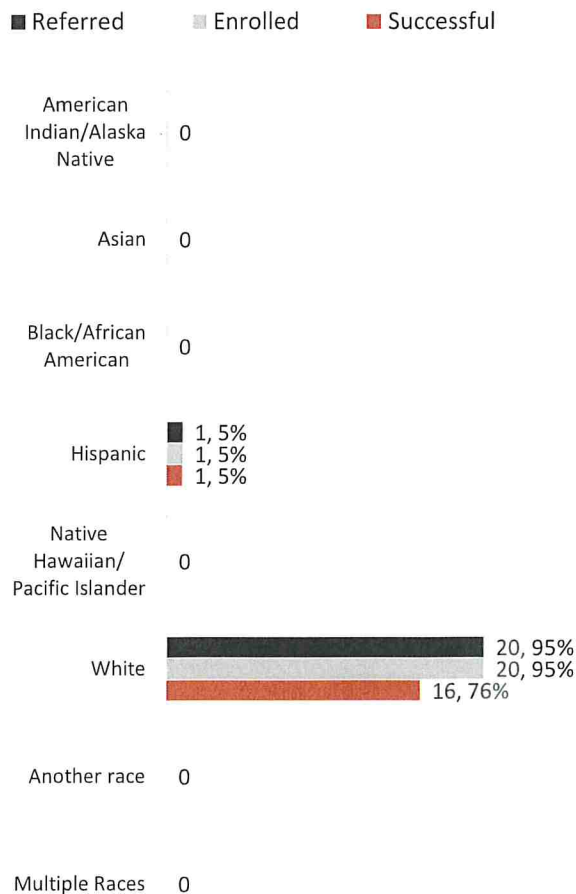
## Buffalo County Juvenile Services | Decision Making Classes

Buffalo County | July 2020-June 2022 | Promotion/Prevention

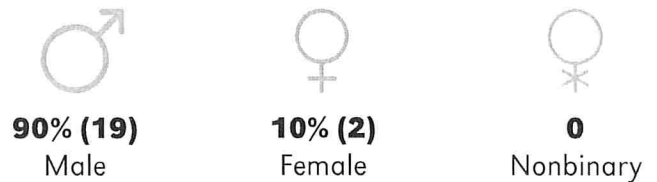
**21** Youths Referred | **21** Enrolled | **0** R/P Factors Survey | **17** Successful

The Decision Making Classes program was designed as a restorative justice-based diversion program. The typical target population for the program was 12-17 year olds eligible for/on diversion who presented with truancy or behavioral concerns (e.g., charges for minor in possession, assault, tobacco).

### Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

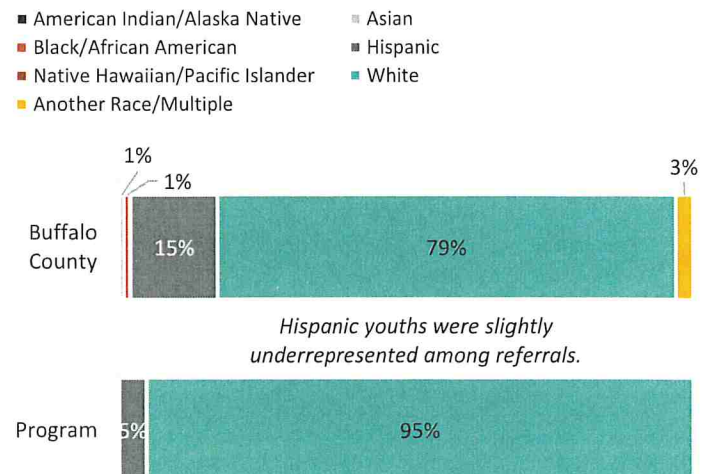


### Gender and Age of Youths Referred



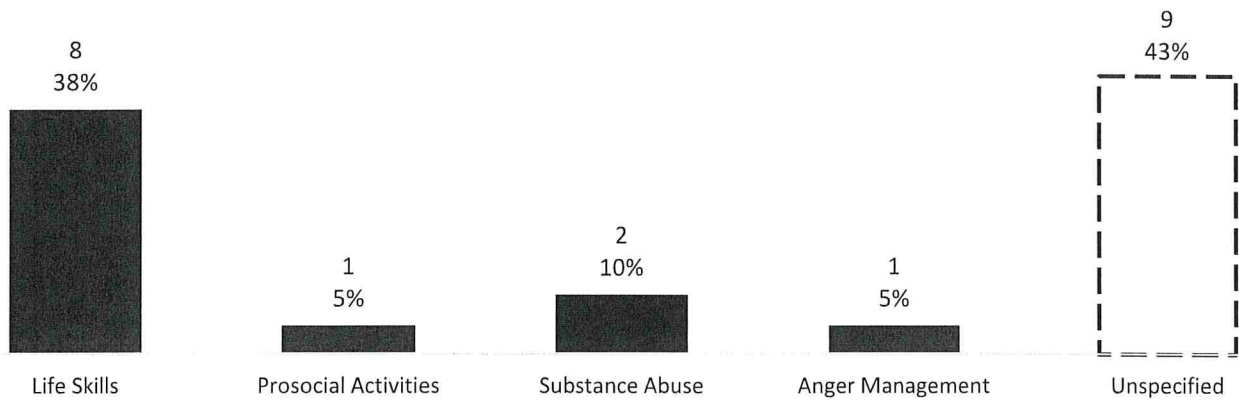
Average Age – **15**  
Age Range – **12-17**

### Program Population Compared to Buffalo County's Youth Population



## Youths' Needs and Program Activities

Most youths were referred to the program as a diversion requirement (95%) or for life skills (5%). 57% of youths participated in programming activities matching their needs.



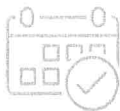
Note: Youths could participate in multiple types of program activities, percentages do not total to 100%.

## Program Attendance<sup>1</sup>

### Average

5 hours

100% of program hours

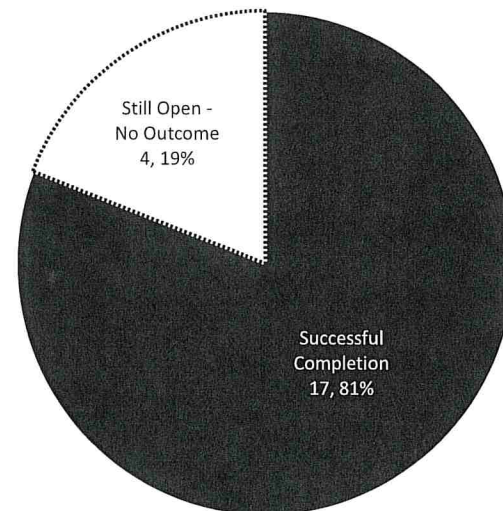


### Range

4 to 10 hours

## Discharge Outcomes

81% of youths successfully completed the program.



## Youths' Future System Involvement (for 17 closed cases)<sup>2</sup>



Status Offenses

0



Law Violations

0



Probation

1  
6%



Detention

0

<sup>1</sup> Five (24%) cases were missing data on the youth's attendance hours. All youths with available attendance data attended 100% of their program hours.

<sup>2</sup> Four cases were not included in FSI calculations because they remain open (i.e., no discharge date) and did not indicate any program end dates for the youth.

## EB NE Assessment Tool

**Number Completed at Intake**  
3 (14%)



**Number Completed at Follow-up**  
0 (0%)

### Change in Risk and Protective Factors<sup>3</sup>

	Average Score		Average Score
Conduct Problems		3-month Alcohol	
Emotional Problems		3-month Cannabis	
Hyperactivity		3-month Nicotine	
Peer Problems	<b>N/A - No Follow-up Surveys Were Completed.</b>		<b>N/A - No Follow-up Surveys Were Completed.</b>
Prosocial Behaviors		Lifetime Alcohol	
Callous Unemotional Traits		Lifetime Cannabis	
Trauma Symptoms		Lifetime Nicotine	

<sup>3</sup> Tests for statistically significant change in outcomes could not be run because fewer than 10 youths had both intake and follow-up data available.

# 2024 Program Evaluation<sup>4</sup>

■  Needs Attention
 ■  Promising
 ■  Working Well
 ■ Cannot be Assessed

Criteria the Program Met	Process/Outcome
Missing more than 20% of data on process and outcome measures (rated Inconclusive).	<b>Does Not Meet Data Standards</b>
Program’s population includes most racial/ethnic groups but is not proportionate to county’s population OR several youths’ risk factors do not align with the program’s target.	<b>Program Population</b>
Over 20% of cases missing activity types.	<b>Programming Activities</b>
Over 20% of cases missing youth’s attendance hours.	<b>Program Attendance</b>
Closes at least 80% of cases successfully.	<b>Successful Cases</b>
No available data on youths’ risk factors or change after completing the program.	<b>Change in Risk Factors</b>
Cannot compare FSI between successful and unsuccessful/other closed cases.	<b>Future System Involvement</b>

## Overall Program Rating

Ineffective

Promising

Effective



**Inconclusive**

<sup>4</sup> For full evaluation criteria, see Promotion/Prevention Programs Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

## Evaluation Summary

The evaluation of the Buffalo County Juvenile Services' Decision Making Classes program is **inconclusive** due to excessive missing data. Youths referred to the program somewhat reflected the Buffalo County youth population, but Hispanic youths were slightly underrepresented in the program compared to their proportion of the county's youths. The program identified youths eligible for or on diversion, who presented with truancy or behavioral concerns, as their target population. However, between July 2020 and June 2022, none of the program's youth completed risk and protective factors surveys, so a risk profile of the youths served cannot be assessed to determine if the youths' risks/needs align with the program's target. Most youths (20 or 95%) were referred to the program as a diversion requirement and one youth (5%) was referred for life skills training. A little over half of the youths (57%) received programming appropriate to their referral reasons and needs: eight youths (38%) received life skills training, two (10%) participated in substance abuse prevention activities, and one youth (5%) participated in prosocial activities and anger management, respectively. We could not accurately assess how many youths received programming appropriate for their needs because the activity types were unspecified in nine cases (43%). Similarly, over 20% of cases were missing data on the youth's attendance hours in the program. For the youths with available data, all youths attended 100% of their required program hours (an average of five hours, range of four to 10 hours). Just over 80% of youths successfully completed the program, while the four other cases remain open with no case outcomes indicated. After discharge from the program, Future System Involvement (FSI; i.e., status and law violation court filings, probation involvement, or detention intake) was low (less than 10% of cases) across all four categories for all youths. Finally, changes in the youths' risk or protective factors from intake to follow-up after program completion could not be evaluated because none of the youths completed a follow-up EB NE Assessment Tool/Survey.

## Recommendations

Buffalo County Juvenile Services identified the Decision Making Classes as a restorative justice-based diversion program. The program should examine which elements of the program are restorative, and whether youth experience the program as a restorative justice program as it's intended. The program could also work with the referral source to explore why White and male youths are overrepresented and Hispanic and female youths underrepresented in referrals to the decision-making class. Roughly 43% of youths' needs were unspecified, and only 57% of youths participated in programming that met their identified needs. Ideally, dosage (e.g., program hours/attendance) will vary for youths based on risk level, with low-risk youths ideally receiving fewer hours of services than moderate risk youths. The program should ensure each youths' program hours and requirements are guided by risk and needs assessment outcomes. The JJI aims to help programs improve outcomes for the youths they work with and encourages the program to contact JJI staff and attend a promotion/prevention evaluation webinar on May 7, 2024, at 3 P.M.

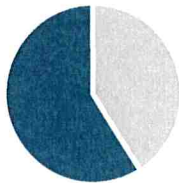
**This project is supported by Contract CC-24-737 awarded by the Nebraska Crime Commission. Points of view or opinions contained in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Nebraska Crime Commission or the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.**



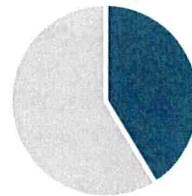
# Juvenile Services • Pre-adjudication Services EM & Tracker

Buffalo County • July 2020 – June 2023 • Alternatives to Detention

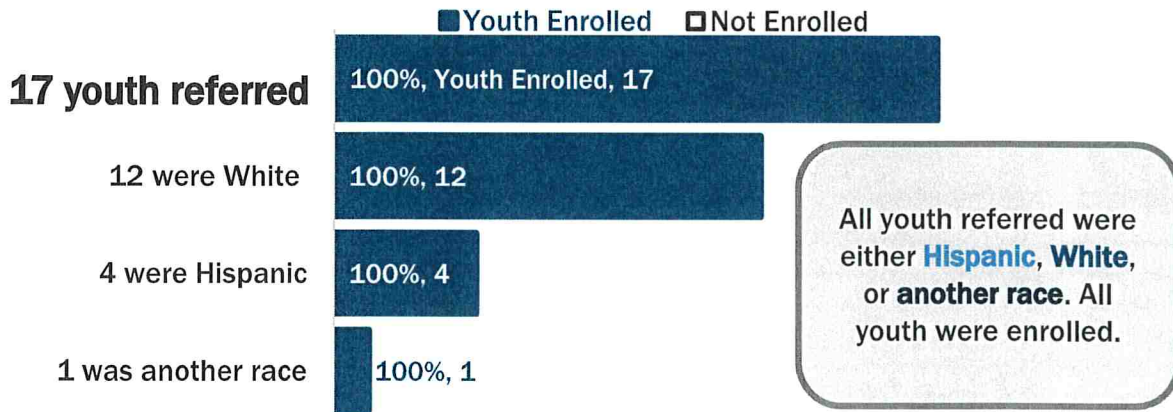
## PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS



**10**  
Electronic  
Monitoring case



**7**  
Tracker/Community  
Coaching cases



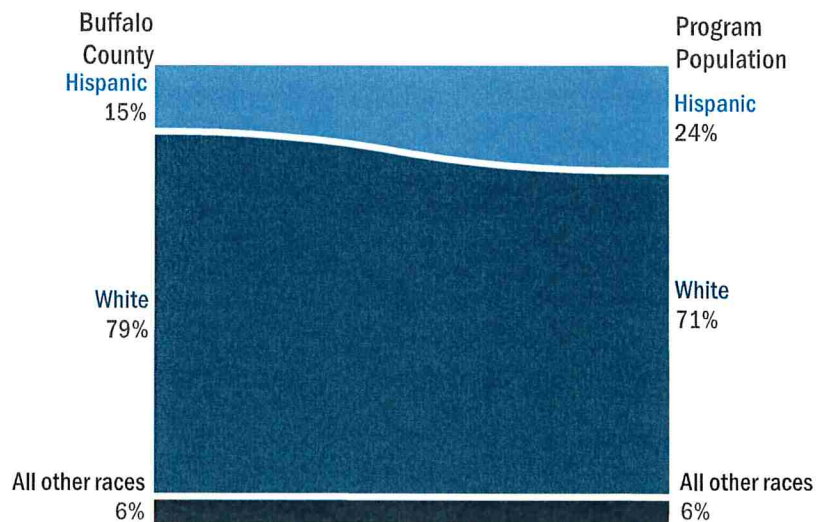
Buffalo County ATD's program population resembled the overall county youth population, but slightly more of the program's youth were **Hispanic** than in the overall county.

### AGE

Youngest = 12 years old  
Average = 15 years old  
Oldest = 17 years old

### GENDER

♂ 35% (6) Male  
♀ 65% (11) Female



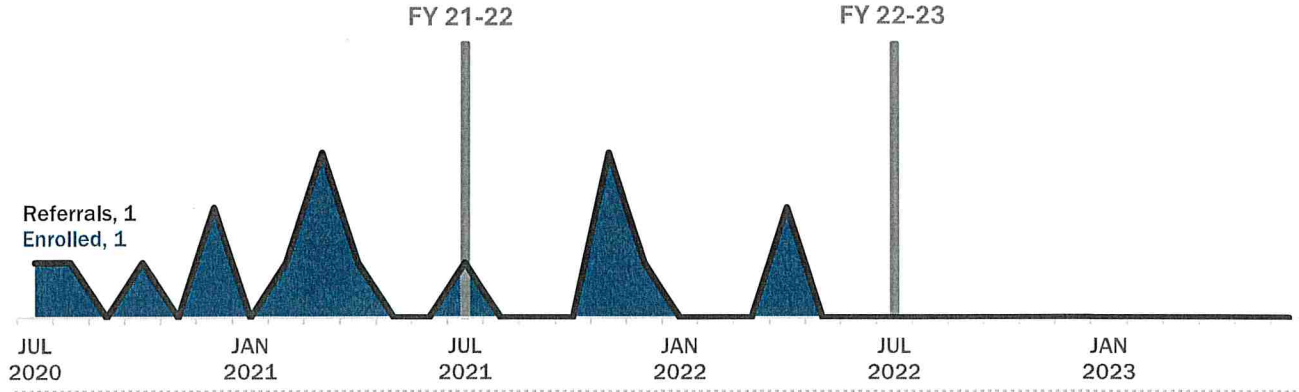
<sup>1</sup> NH = Not Hispanic; All race categories include only non-Hispanic youth, while Hispanic youth could be of any race.

<sup>2</sup> County population categories representing less than 10% of the population are combined in the "All Other Races" category

# TRENDS OVER TIME

Buffalo County ATDs **enrolled** all youth **referred** for electronic monitoring or tracker services. The program received the most referrals in fiscal year 2020-21 and did not receive any referrals in FY 2022-23.

Counts of referrals (black line) and youth enrolled (blue) between July 2020 and June 2023. Gaps represent months in which not all youth referred to the program were enrolled.

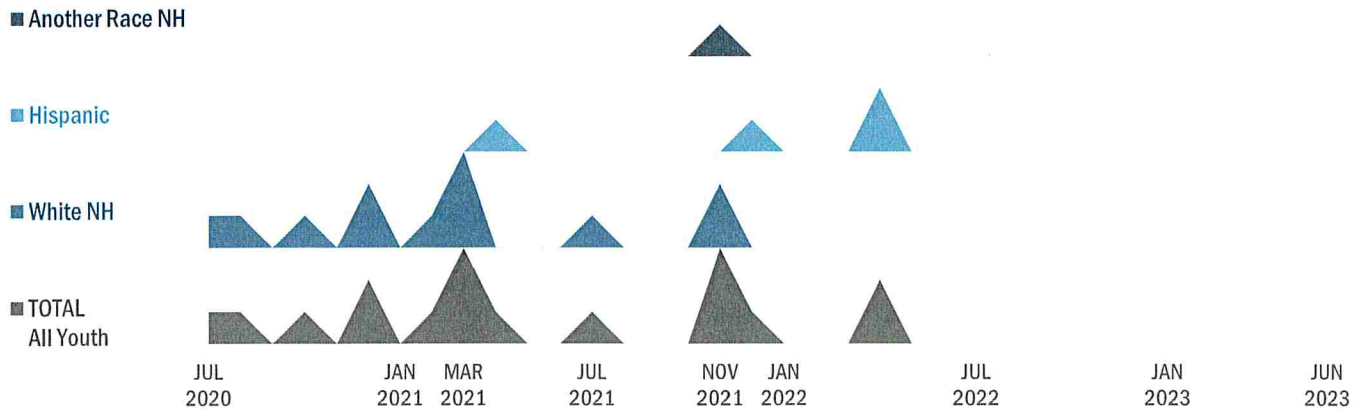


## DISCHARGE REASONS

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	TOTAL
Compliant with Program Requirements	9	3	0	12
New Law Violation	1	4	0	5
<b>TOTAL CLOSED CASES</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

9 out of the 10 youth referred in FY 2020-21 were **White**. In FY 2021-22, approximately half of the youth referred were either **Hispanic** or **another race** other than White.

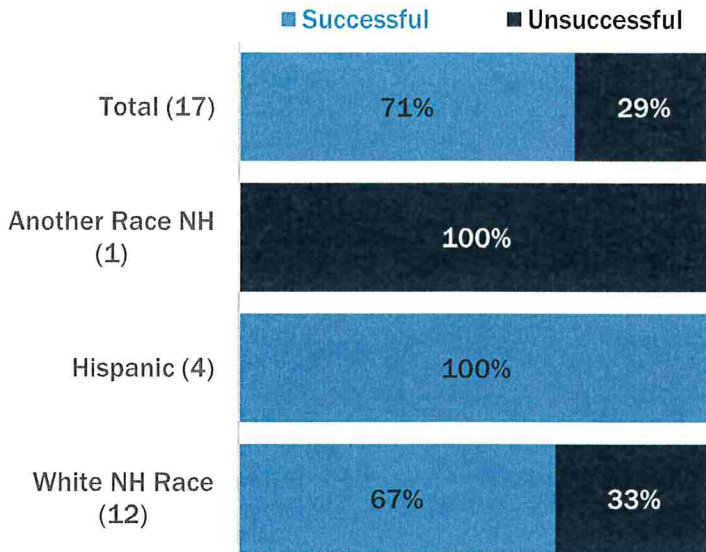
Counts of enrollments between July 2020 and June 2023 by race/ethnicity.



# PROGRAM PROCESSES & OUTCOMES

All **Hispanic** youth **successfully** completed the program, while a third of White youth were **unsuccessfully** discharged.

Case outcomes by race/ethnicity. All bars total to 100% for each race category.



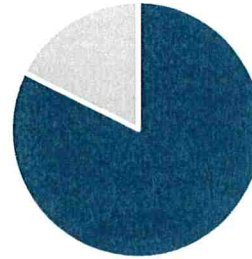
## FOLLOWING DISCHARGE FOR YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATED:

**82%** of youth remained in their community

**1** youth was detained by probation

**0** were detained by court order

**0** were detained by program staff



**71%** of discharged youths made **some or significant progress** by discharge.

## FUTURE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT (FSI)<sup>3,4</sup>

**ALL PROGRAM YOUTH**  
**11 (65%) of 17 youth had any FSI.**  
**2** with a Status Violation  
**5** with a Law Violation  
**8** placed on Probation  
**6** in Detention

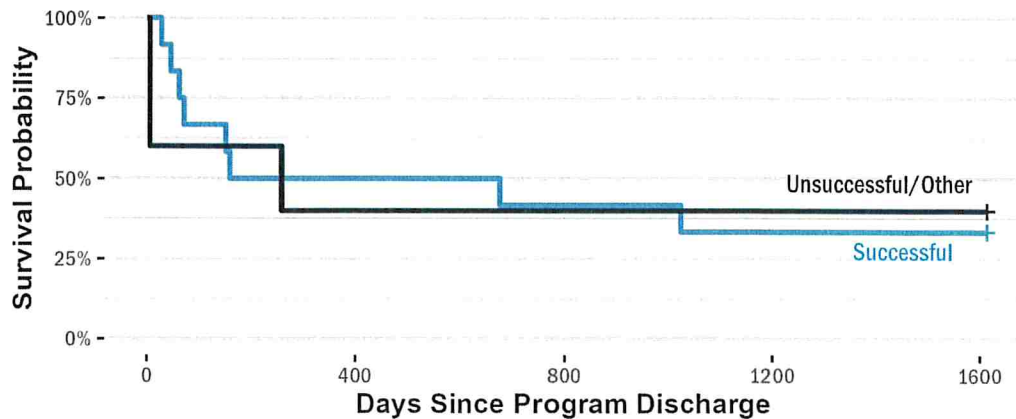
**SUCCESSFUL**  
**8 (67%) of 12 youth had FSI.**  
**0** with a Status Violation  
**4** with a Law Violation  
**5** placed on Probation  
**5** in Detention

**UNSUCCESSFUL/OTHER**  
**3 (60%) of 5 youths had FSI.**  
**2** with a Status Violation  
**1** with a Law Violation  
**3** placed on Probation  
**1** in Detention

**Successful** youth, on average, made it **279 days** from discharge before becoming system involved.

**Unsuccessful/Other** discharged youth made it **91 days**, on average.

Percentages represent amount of youth remaining *without* FSI.



<sup>3</sup> A Chi<sup>2</sup> test found *no* statistically significant difference in FSI between successfully and unsuccessfully/other discharged youth ( $p = 0.793$ ).

<sup>4</sup> An independent samples  $t$ -test found *no* statistically significant difference in days to FSI for successfully discharged youth ( $p = 0.425$ ). Non-significant results may be due to a lack of statistical power due to the small sample size for unsuccessful/other discharged cases.

## Alternatives to Detention Evaluation Criteria

Meets Data Standards	Missing more than 20% of data on required variables OR has fewer than 10 cases (rated <i>Inconclusive</i> ).		Has over 80% of data on required variables.
	<i>Needs Attention</i>		<i>Working Well</i>
Progress at Discharge	More than 20% of youths experienced "some" or "significant regression" at discharge.	Over 60% of youths enrolled made "No progress" by discharge.	Between 40% and 80% of youths enrolled made "some" or "significant progress" by discharge.
	-5	+0	+2.5
Detained at Discharge	Over 25% of youths were detained at discharge.	Between 10% and 25% of youths were detained at discharge.	Fewer than 10% of youths were detained at discharge.
	-2.5	+0	+2.5
Discharge Placement	Fewer than 40% of youths served remained in the community.	Between 40% and 80% of youths served remained in the community.	More than 80% of youths served remained in the community.
	-2.5	+0	+2.5
Successful Cases Future System Involvement	Successful youth were statistically <i>more</i> likely to have FSI, or became system involved quicker, than unsuccessful or other closed cases.	No significant difference between successful and non-successful youth's likelihood of FSI.	Successful youth were statistically <i>less</i> likely to have FSI, or took longer to become system involved, than unsuccessful or other closed cases.
	-5	+0	+5
Overall Future System Involvement	High FSI among all youth served (i.e. over 35% of youth).	Moderate FSI among all youth served (i.e. between 15% and 35% of youth).	Low FSI among all youth served (i.e. fewer than 15% of youth).
	-5	+0	+5
Overall Rating	<b>No Effect =</b>	<b>Promising =</b>	<b>Effective =</b>
	0% of <i>total possible</i> points, or negative points	1-50% of <i>total possible</i> points	Over 50% of <i>total possible</i> points

Buffalo County's ATD programs received 2.5 out of 15 possible points. The program is rated as **promising**.



## EVALUATION SUMMARY

Buffalo County Juvenile Services' Pre-adjudication Electronic Monitoring & Tracker Services are rated as promising. Five outcomes were evaluated: program youths' progress at discharge from the program, the percentage of youth detained at discharge and the percentage of youth remaining in the community, the percentage of youth who participated in the program that had future system involvement (FSI; i.e., status offense or law violation court filings, probation, or detention) following discharge from the program, and FSI comparisons between successfully and unsuccessfully/other discharged youth. However, comparisons between successfully and unsuccessfully/other discharge youth on FSI could not be made due to the small number of cases unsuccessfully discharged ( $n = 5$  cases).

All 17 youth referred to the programs (10 electronic monitoring, 7 tracker services) were enrolled and about 71% were discharged from the program successfully. Five cases were discharged unsuccessfully due to new law violations. Similarly, 71% of youth made some or significant progress by the time they were discharged from the program. All but one youth remained at home upon discharge. A high percentage of youth served (65%) experienced FSI after discharge from the program. FSI was concentrated in new probation cases, with 8 of the 17 youth (47%) placed on probation at some point following discharge from the program. Additionally, 12% had a new status offense and 29% had a new law violation within a year of discharge from the program, and 35% were detained at some point following discharge. Approximately 67% of successfully discharged youth became system-involved following discharge from the program, while 60% of the unsuccessfully discharged youth had FSI. For those with FSI, successfully discharged youth took longer to become system involved than unsuccessful youth, taking an average of 279 days after discharging from the program compared to 91 days for unsuccessfully discharged cases. As mentioned, statistical comparisons between successfully and unsuccessfully discharged cases cannot be made due to the small sample size.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

While alternative to detention (ATD) programs serve a higher risk population, a concerning number of youth involved in the Pre-adjudication Services became further system involved after completing the program. Buffalo County Juvenile Services should review each youth with FSI to determine whether the violation was a technical violation, or a new law violation and whether specific programming might have deterred the violation. The program served a range of youths (ages 12-17), so they should ensure that populations are not blended. Additionally, because this program received a relatively high number of referrals for females, gender specific programming might be considered. Using graduated sanctions for any program non-compliance may address the youth who were discharged unsuccessfully. Finally, it is unclear why the program did not receive referrals after FY 2022, but it may be due to a change in funding. The JJI will be hosting a program evaluation webinar to assist with interpreting this evaluation report and discussing methods for improving outcomes on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 2:00 PM.

This project is supported by Contract No. CC-25-742 awarded by the Nebraska Crime Commission and points of view or opinions contained in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Nebraska Crime Commission.

# BUFFALO COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

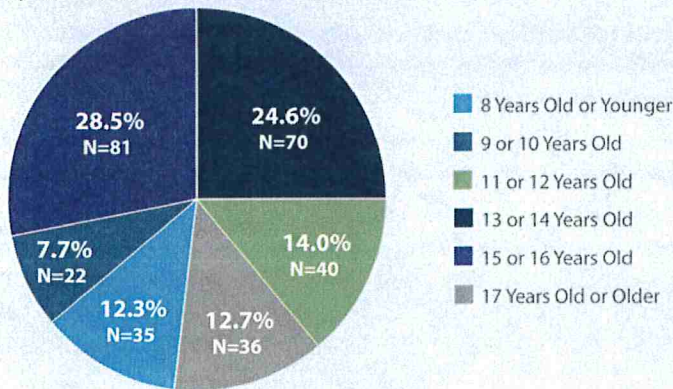


## Age of First Alcohol Use, 2021

Of the respondents who have ever consumed alcohol, a large majority (87.3%), had their first drink before age 17.

A plurality (28.5%) had their first drink at age 15 or 16, followed closely by the group that first drank at age 13 or 14 (24.6%). About a third (34%) of those who drank were 12 or younger.

Of those who have ever consumed more than a few sips, how old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol?



5

## 11.3% of youth

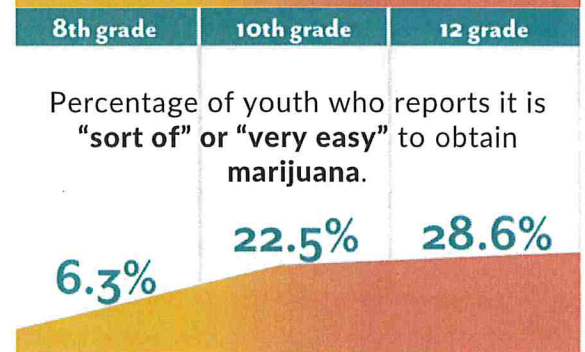
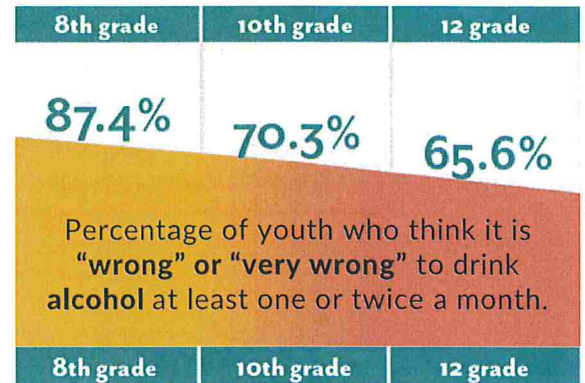
in Buffalo County said they had used an electronic vape product in last 30 days, in 2021.

6

## Get Involved

- 👤 Wanda Fedorchik
- ✉️ wfedorchik@bcchp.org
- ☎️ (308) 865-2284

## Buffalo County Youth Perception 2021



7

## 100+ lockboxes

distributed annually in Buffalo County

since program started in 2020 to prevent accidental overdose or misuse of medication.

8

## Roughly 500 lbs

RX collected annually in Buffalo County

Since 2011, local partnerships host two yearly takeback events in conjunction with the DEA sponsored prescription takeback days.

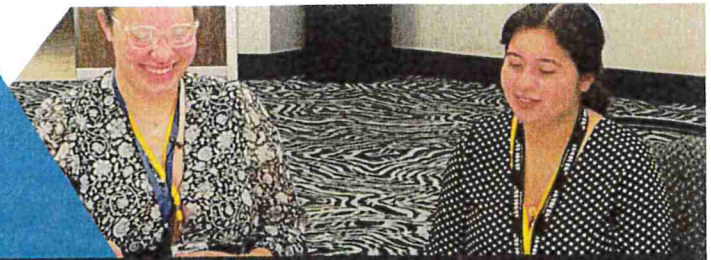
9



- 1 2024 County Health Rankings 5-Year Estimates
- 2 2021 Buffalo County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results
- 3 2021 NRPFS
- 4 Stopoverdosene.com

- 5 2021 Buffalo County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results
- 6 2021 Buffalo County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results
- 7 2021 Buffalo County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results
- 8 Local data collected by Positive Pressure Coalition
- 9 Local data collected by Positive Pressure Coalition

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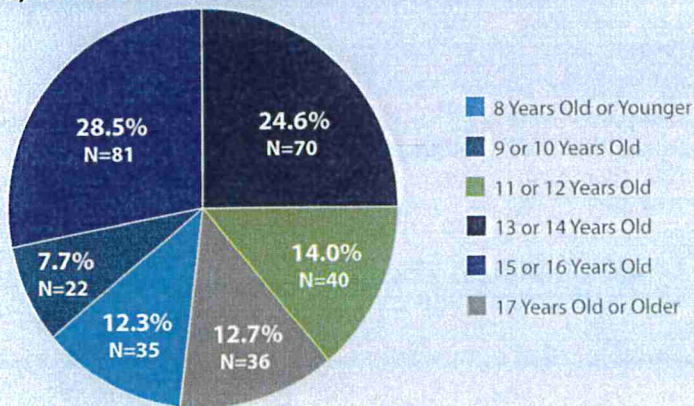


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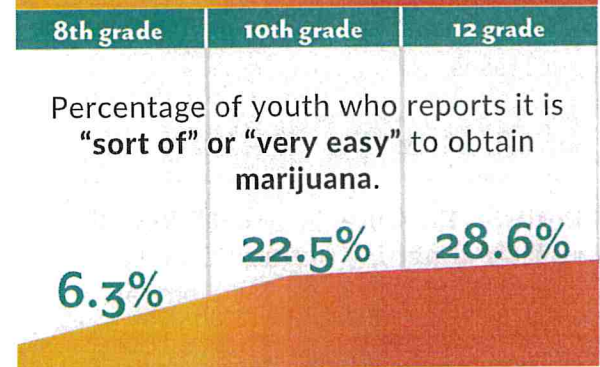
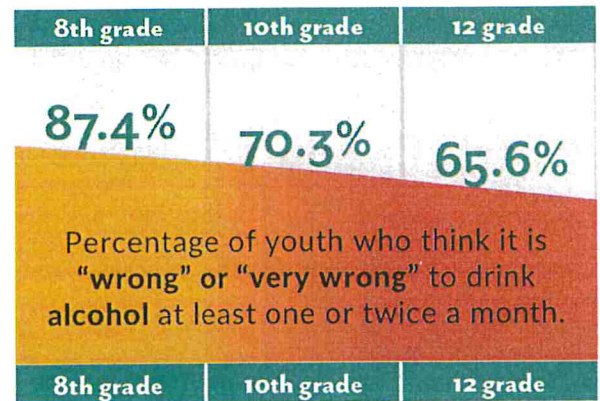
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 9 Local data collected by Positive Pressure Coalition



# BUFFALO COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

## Buffalo County

Substance abuse prevention in our community is a collaborative group of partners working together to solve youth substance abuse issues by designing coordinated community activities, tracking shared measurements, and celebrating successes.

## Community Partners

Positive Pressure is a coalition that has been collaborating in Buffalo County for over 24 years. This list is not encompassing of every partner throughout the past, but who currently sustain prevention strategies in the community.

- Buffalo County Attorney's Office
- Buffalo County Schools
- Buffalo County Sheriff's Office
- Buffalo County Pharmacies
- CHI Health Good Samaritan Hospital
- CHI Richard Young Hospital
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Kearney Elks Lodge 984
- The Friends Program
- Kearney Police Department
- Kearney Public Schools
- Two Rivers Public Health Department
- University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNMC & BHECN)
- The SAFE Center
- Region 3 Behavioral Health
- Youth Advisory Board
- Parents
- UNK Peer Health
- Various landlords and alcohol retailer partners

## Community Challenges

In Buffalo County, **24%** of motor vehicle crash deaths involved alcohol.<sup>1</sup>



**8.8%** of Buffalo County youth said in the past 30 days on 1 or more times they had 4 or more drinks of alcohol in a row (if female) and 5 or more in a row (if male).<sup>2</sup>

**14.4%** of Buffalo County youth report that it is "sort of" or "very easy" to obtain marijuana.<sup>3</sup>

In 2021, Nebraska saw **241 overdose deaths**.<sup>4</sup>

## Priority Work

Our community goal is to reduce youth substance use by:

- Identifying emerging trends of youth drug use in Buffalo County
- Increasing access to prevention programs/curriculum, services, and supports
- Identifying ways to engage youth and parents to have their expertise be a part of building systems, programs and support services that meet the needs of the community.