

Hall County Juvenile Services

Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030

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Executive Summary

Through team meetings and planning, members of the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) subcommittee gathered data and assessments, and reviewed surveys to determine needs and services needed for juveniles involved in the justice system and for youth and families to prevent court system involvement. Four community priorities were identified to focus on, 1) Develop and maintain an array of behavioral health interventions for youth and families, 2) Maintain and enhance the Juvenile Diversion Program, 3) Develop and maintain juvenile detention alternatives, and 4) Develop and maintain interventions for Student Engagement to obtain Educational Success. Ongoing discussions led us to new strategies and maintaining existing ones to address the listed priorities. Because some strategies are new, time will be needed to implement, evaluate, and make adjustments as needed.

Hall County has identified, through surveys, that mental and behavioral health are issues the community is facing. The Central District Health Department (CDHD) Community Health Improvement Plan 2023-2025 identified one of three main priority areas are mental and behavioral health, including worries about depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, finding bilingual therapists, stigma, etc. In addition, a recent survey conducted at Grand Island Public Schools (GIPS), Centering Youth Voices Hall County, about 140 students participated and when asked to pick from 8 options of which problem they had faced, 57 % of them answered mental health. Drug violations – possession charges in youth under age 18 continues to be a concern in Hall County. Teens vaping nicotine has become more common, and many teens aren't aware of the dangers of it or how addictive it can be. The use of synthetic drugs among teens is emerging. With this information, the priority to develop and maintain an array of behavioral health interventions for youth and families was identified. Strategies to address this issue will include maintaining and enhancing school-based prevention programs focused on awareness, behavioral health screenings, expanding community support services to youth, promote and maintain evidence-based programming for parents/guardians to increase protective factors, and review array of services, usage and outcomes annually.

Diverting first time, low-risk juveniles from the court system through the Hall County's Juvenile Diversion Program is important to avoid original offenses from appearing on the juvenile's record and preventing further involvement. There are often racial disparities in both juvenile justice involvement and referrals to diversion for non-White youths. Hispanic youth have a higher Diversion program involvement; however, referrals were generally reflective of the county youth's population. Maintaining and Enhancing the Diversion program was identified as a priority. Strategies to put in place include expanding a Diversion officer's job duties to include working at the high schools providing support and referral services to maximize the family well-being and the academic functioning of students identified by the school with attendance issues. Diversion staff will ensure all youths enrolled are assessed with a validated assessment tool such as N-SAT. Through a validated assessment tool, it's important to match program activities to the youth's needs.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives are necessary so that youth remain in their community, receiving community-based services that can help maintain positive ties to families and their community. Between 2021 and 2023, 55 youths were placed on Electronic Monitoring at intake rather than being transported to a detention facility. Hall County is in need of programs that prevent future system involvement and need to explore why youth who successfully completed a program had a new violation within a year of discharge, as well as other system involvement. Strategies to be put in place include continuing to utilize Electronic Monitoring (E.M.) and Community Youth Coaching (C.Y.C.) services to address juvenile detention alternatives issues, but also implementing prevention activities for youth. Examples of prevention activities include supporting the work of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Coordinator, afterschool or evening reporting center, and providing youth with mentors and positive adult role models. Implement evidence-based violence prevention programs within the school and training staff.

Chronic absenteeism continues to be a concern in Hall County, thus developing and maintaining interventions for Student Engagement to obtain Educational Success was a fourth priority identified. Strategies to be utilized in addressing this include the School Interventionist Program that will provide students, that have been assessed during the Diversion intake using the N-SAT screener, with additional support to allow for improved educational services. School social workers can also determine a need for referral to the school interventionist. Through partnerships with schools, an attendance officer and the school interventionist will work with individual youth/families to promote school attendance. These services are intended to support the youth and family to educate the youth on the importance of an education and eventually obtaining a high school degree by providing assessment, referral and directed intervention to those with truancy issues. Teach youth independent life skills and create support groups for medium to high risk youth where they can learn emotion regulation.

Within the four priorities, we will incorporate similar strategies for common issues such as, 1) support staff well-being and trainings, 2) Identify racial and ethnic disparities and training staff on implicit bias and being culturally responsive, and 3) Develop new programming and enhance existing interventions.

Introduction

Community Team: Background, Formation, and Purpose

Description of Team:

From 2012 to 2021 the planning process of the Hall County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community plan was under the guidance of the Hall County Community Collaborative (H3C) and H3C 11 – 24 Subcommittee with advisement from the Hall County Board of Commissioners, but in 2023, H3C was dissolved. The preparation and administration of the 5-year plan is now under the guidance of Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Subcommittee Alternatives to Detention (ATD), which includes many of the same members from the previous community team, with advisement from the Hall County Board of Commissioners.

The Administrative Office of Probation acts as the lead agency to facilitate statewide expansion of JDAI. JDAI in Hall County started after Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI) completed Hall County's Detention Utilization Study as part of an assessment to improve community-based juvenile detention alternatives, expand services, build capacity, and explore, develop, and implement new services. Hall County is now the 5th site to join in Nebraska JDAI. JDAI's mission is to establish a more effective and efficient juvenile detention system. The JDAI Program through the Annie E. Casey Foundation focuses on a framework of four strategies to reduce youth incarceration. The framework calls for juvenile justice systems to significantly and safely reduce the number of youths sent to court-ordered out-of-home placements, reform the standard of care so youths can realize their potential, replace youths' detention with more effective approaches, and reinvest savings into community-based alternatives.

JDAI Core Strategies

1. **Collaboration-** Promoting collaboration between Juvenile Court officials, probation agencies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, schools, community organizations and advocates.
2. **Data-** Uses rigorous data collection and analysis to guide decision making
3. **ATD-** implementing new and expanded ATD programs.
4. **Case processing-** instituting case processing reforms to expedite the flow of cases through the system.
5. **Objective admission criteria-** Utilizing objective admission criteria and risk assessment instruments to replace subjective decision-making processes to determine whether a youth should be placed in detention facility.
6. **Special Detention cases-** Reducing the number of youths detained for probation rule violations or failing to appear in court, and the number held in detention awaiting transfer to a residential facility.
7. **Eliminating Disparities-** Combating Racial and ethnic disparities by examining data to identify policies and practices that may disadvantage youth of color at various stages of the process along with pursuing strategies to ensure more of a level playing field.
8. **Conditions of Confinement-** Monitoring and improving conditions of confinement in detention facilities.

Description of the Planning Process:

Preparation for the plan started via zoom in December 2023 and monthly meetings either in -person, zoom, or hybrid thereafter. In addition, we began planning and linking with other Hall County committees such as the Tobacco Free Hall County and Prevention Project coalition, the H3C Behavioral health subcommittee, Through the Eyes of a Child team, and H.E.L.P. (Helping to engage life-changing programs) group. After reviewing the

Hall County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025) ATD members decided as a group which data needed collected to demonstrate the needs for youth and families in our community and then as a group voted on which priorities to address for youth. ATD members gathered input and suggestions from all available agencies during our team meetings and at other agency meetings that we attended. Members of ATD subcommittee then narrowed the topics down to issues that are very specific to system involved youth and families. Valuable consideration was given to issues that are already being addressed by other agencies/committees in Hall County so that we do not duplicate efforts.

JDAI coordinator requested data from the Research and Data Division Administrative Office of Courts and Probation. Data collection from Nebraska Department of Education was collected by Diversion Director. Diversion stats were provided by Robyn Hassel. Recommendations from program evaluations provided by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska in Omaha were utilized to develop strategies along with team member's suggestions and ideas.

List of Team Members/Contributors that attended a meeting during the planning process:

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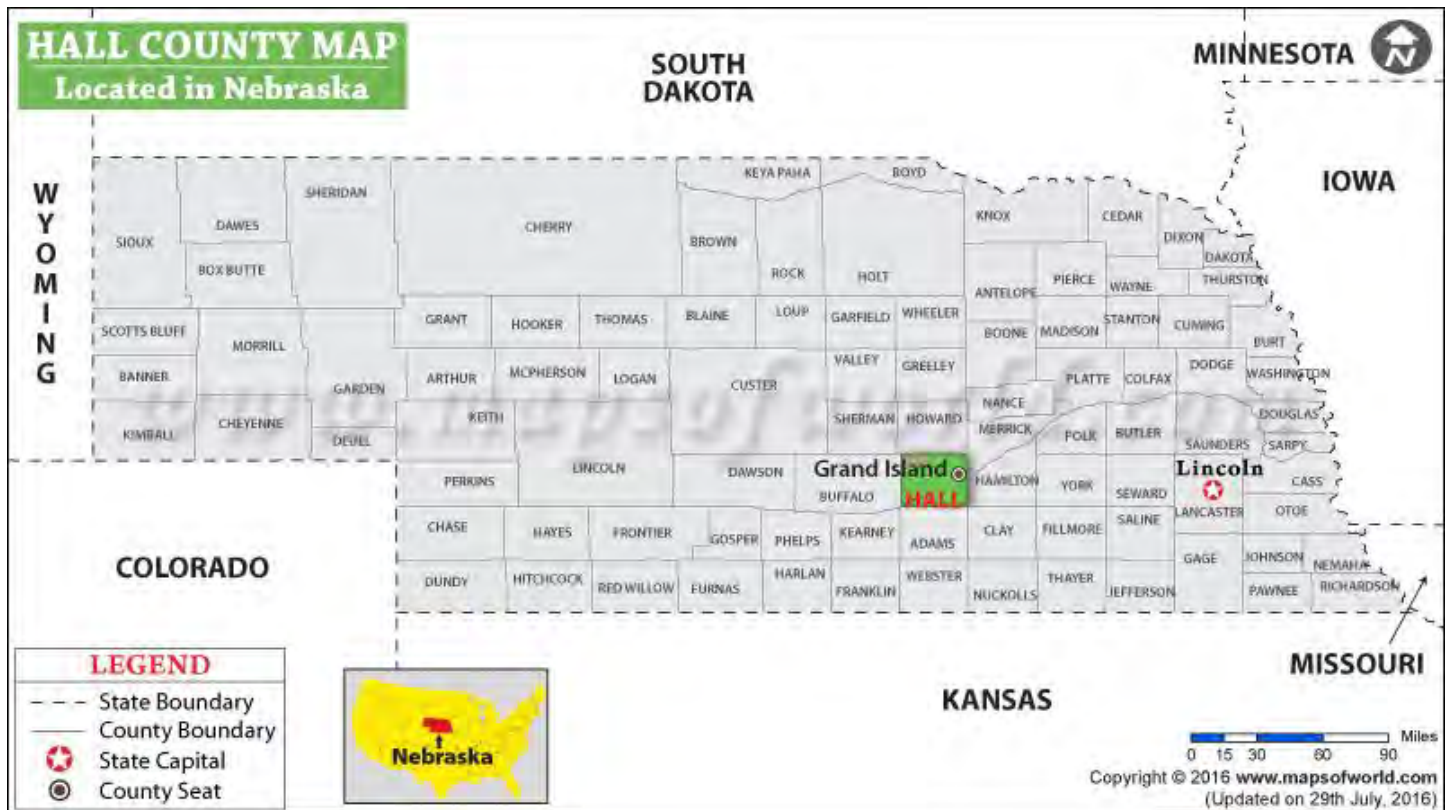
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* =Team members that attended every planning/ATD subcommittee meeting

■ =Juvenile Justice System Stakeholder

Community Description

Hall County is located in South Central Nebraska and is comprised of the towns and villages of Grand Island, Wood River, Alda, Doniphan, and Cairo. Hall County is easily accessible via Interstate 80, U.S. Highways 30, 34, and 281, and Nebraska Highways 2 and 11.



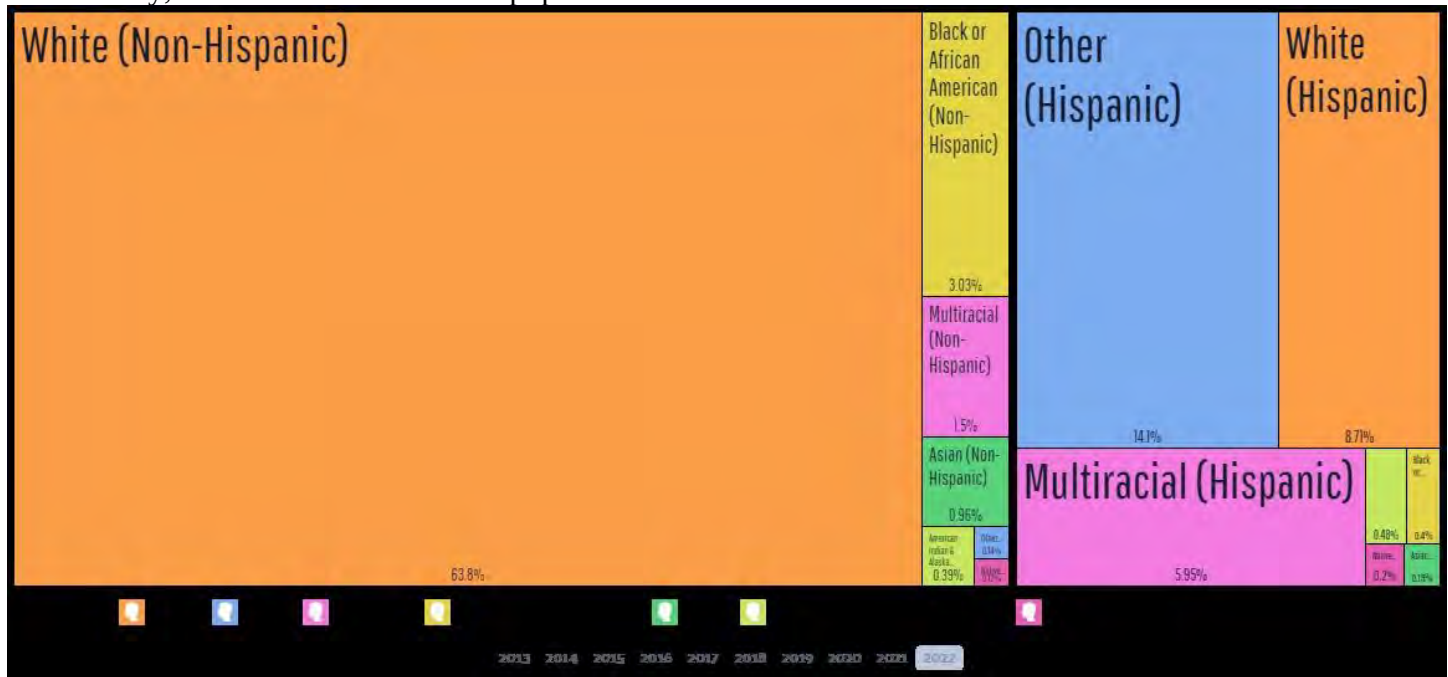
Hall County is a regional hub for shopping, lodging, entertainment, medical care, community services, and transportation. The economy of Hall County, NE employs 31.2k people. The largest industries in Hall County, NE are Manufacturing (6,187 people), Retail Trade (4,295 people), and Health Care & Social Assistance (3,917 people), and the highest paying industries are Utilities (\$83,884), Management of Companies & Enterprises (\$52,969), and Wholesale Trade (\$52,563).

Males in Nebraska have an average income that is 1.31 times higher than the average income of females, which is \$55,834. The income inequality in Nebraska (measured using the Gini index) is 0.444, which is lower than the national average.

The Fonner Park campus is Central Nebraska's entertainment destination with horse races, a casino, concerts, and family-friendly events. The Nebraska State Fair is located at Fonner Park in Grand Island, NE.

Statistical Summaries:

Hall County, NE is home to a population of 62.6k people. In 2022, there were 4.52 times more White (Non-Hispanic) residents (39.9k people) in Hall County, NE than any other race or ethnicity. There were 8.83k Other (Hispanic) and 5.45k White (Hispanic) residents, the second and third most common ethnic groups. 30% of the people in Hall County, NE are Hispanic (18.8k people). The following chart shows the 7 races represented in Hall County, NE as a share of the total population.

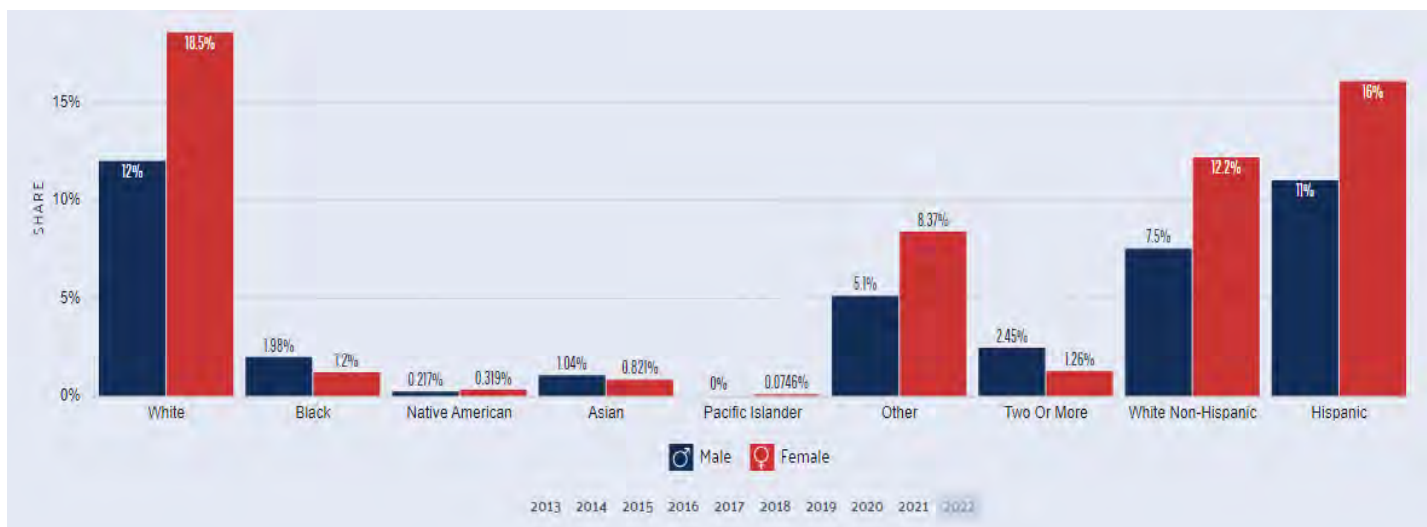


Data from the Census Bureau [ACS 5-year Estimate](#).

In 2022, universities in Hall County, NE awarded 2,601 degrees. The student population of Hall County, NE in 2022 is skewed towards women, with 2,721 male students and 3,798 female students. Most students graduating from Universities in Hall County, NE are White (1,820 and 70%), followed by Hispanic or Latino (661 and 25.4%), Black or African American (64 and 2.46%), and American Indian or Alaska Native (30 and 1.15%). The largest universities in Hall County, NE by number of degrees awarded are [Central Community College](#) (2,601 and 100%). The most popular majors in Hall County, NE are [General Business Administration & Management](#) (376 and 14.5%), [Welding Technology](#) (201 and 7.73%), and [Liberal Arts & Sciences](#) (182 and 7%). In 2022 there were 6,519 students enrolled in Hall County, NE, 41.7% men and 58.3% women. By race, the largest number of students enrolled was concentrated in White with 4,599 records, of which 58.4% were women and 41.6% men. The most common educational levels obtained by the working population in 2022 were High School or Equivalent (381k), Some college (364k), and Bachelors Degree (309k).

Data from [the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System \(IPEDS\)](#) [Fall Enrollment](#)

In 2022, the median household income of the 24k households in Hall County, NE grew to \$63,553 from the previous year's value of \$60,720. In 2023, 13.9% of the population was living with severe housing problems in Hall County, NE. From 2014 to 2022, the indicator grew 0.117%. 12.8% of the population for whom poverty status is determined in Hall County, NE (7.86k out of 61.6k people) live below the poverty line, a number that is higher than the national average of 12.5%. The largest demographic living in poverty are Females 25 - 34, followed by Females 35 - 44 and then Males 6 - 11. The most common racial or ethnic group living below the poverty line in Hall County, NE is White, followed by Hispanic and Other.



Data from the Census Bureau [ACS 5-year Estimate](#).

In 2023, 15.1% of the children were living in poverty in Hall County, NE.

Identified Risk Factors:

Risk Factors	Indicators of Influence	Services Needed
<i>Community Risk Factors:</i>		
Poverty	High number of single parent household families, high number of youths who qualify for free and reduced lunch, children/families living below poverty level	Food banks, emergency rental assistance funding, access to services, affordable daycare costs, and transportation
Availability of alcohol, tobacco and drugs	High arrest rates for Drug Possession charges	Prevention programs, compliance checks
Community crime	High number of arrests for drug violations and assaults	Parenting programs, community youth coaching, electronic monitoring and preventative education
Communication access/barriers	High number of children/families who are non-English speaking unable to access or unaware of services	Additional translation services, translators, and bilingual professionals
Few community activities for young people	High number of crimes committed by youth are after school hours	After school programs and free or low-cost activities
<i>School Risk Factors:</i>		
Chronic absenteeism	High rate of truancy, low school attachment	Attendance programs, school interventionist, positive role models
Transportation to school	Fewer bus routes, students not attending or attending late due to no ride being available	Public transportation, parent car-pooling
Academic failure	Students reading proficiency is below national average	Tutoring, after school programs, school interventionist, and study groups
<i>Family Risk Factors:</i>		
Child victimization and maltreatment	Requests for social service intervention and the number of dually involved youth	More CoResponders working alongside law enforcement
Family history of problem behavior	Alcohol/drug addiction, high number of youths with mental health diagnosis, and many dually involved youth	Parenting programs, counseling services, and diversion
Inadequate supervision and monitoring	High number of youth report not having good relationship with parent, not enough consequences or sufficient rewards for good behavior	After school programs, low cost/free activities where positive adult role models are, extended family support services
<i>Peer Risk Factors:</i>		
Peer pressure	Youth report feeling peer pressured, youth report having low self-esteem	Youth groups, positive role models, mentoring, individual counseling
Gang involvement	Perceived peer gang involvement	SANKOFA, electronic monitoring, violence prevention education programs
Peer alcohol, drug, and delinquency	Reported use of alcohol and drugs by friends	Diversion, Prevention Series, substance use education classes

Section III: Youth Crime Analysis and Needs

Table 1.

School Membership with Chronic Absenteeism and School Year (2022-2023)¹

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				Run On:	12/22/2023		
DATA, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION							
K-12 MEMBERSHIP AND STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10/15/20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES - BY HEADQUARTER COUNTY							
ABSENCES DATA FROM ADVISER: 2022-2023 STUDENT ATTENDANCE							
COUNTY CODE	COUNTY NAME	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	CHRONIC ABSENT	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
40	HALL	11,559	4,876	2,632	1,531	2,706	13.25%

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				Run On:	12/22/2023		
DATA, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION							
K-12 MEMBERSHIP AND STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10/15/20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES - BY DISTRICT							
ABSENCES DATA FROM ADVISER: 2022-2023 STUDENT ATTENDANCE							
DISTRICT CODE	DISTRICT NAME	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	CHRONIC ABSENT	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
40-0002-000	GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9,255	4,187	2,363	1,398	2,484	15.11%
40-0082-000	NORTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,438	466	187	82	149	5.70%
40-0083-000	WOOD RIVER RURAL SCHOOLS	466	136	52	34	48	7.30%
40-0126-000	DONIPHAN-TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHS	400	87	30	17	25	4.25%

Table 2.

School Membership with Chronic Absenteeism and School Year (2023-2024)¹

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATA, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION

K-12 MEMBERSHIP AND STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10/15/20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES - BY HEADQUARTER COUNTY

ABSENCES DATA FROM ADVISER: 2023-2024 STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Run On: 8/29/2024

COUNTY CODE	COUNTY NAME	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	CHRONIC ABSENT	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
40	HALL	11,622	5,204	2,875	1,626	2,788	13.99%

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATA, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION

K-12 MEMBERSHIP AND STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10/15/20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES - BY DISTRICT

ABSENCES DATA FROM ADVISER: 2023-2024 STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Run On:

8/29/2024

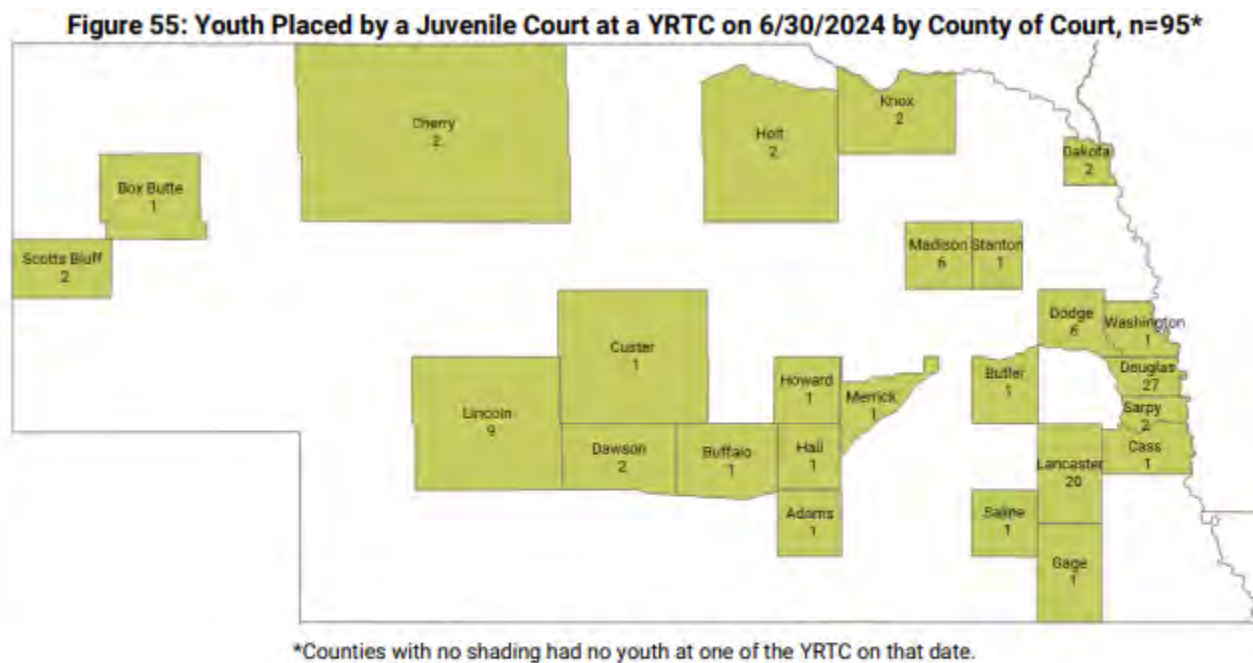
DISTRICT CODE	DISTRICT NAME	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	CHRONIC ABSENT	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
40-0002-000	GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9,362	4,477	2,581	1,520	2,557	16.24%
40-0082-000	NORTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,394	457	198	72	147	5.16%
40-0083-000	WOOD RIVER RURAL SCHOOLS	461	168	58	22	51	4.77%
40-0126-000	DONIPHAN-TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHS	405	102	38	12	33	2.96%

Table 3. [Out of Home Placements by Service Area with Percent Change](#) ('23-'24)²

Service Area (SA)	Jun-23	Jun-24	% Change
Central SA	437	419	-4.1%
Eastern SA	1,708	1,543	-9.7%
Northern SA	523	536	2.5%
Southeast SA	589	608	3.2%
Western SA	462	441	-4.5%
State	3,719	3,548	-4.6%

*Out of the 419 children reported in June-24, 136 of them were from Hall County

Table 4. [Youth Placed in Youth Treatment Rehabilitation Centers in June 2024²](#)



Age. By law, youth placed at a YRTC range in age from 14 to 18. On 6/30/2024, the median age of both males and females was 16.0.

Gender. On 6/30/2024, there were 66 males and 29 females placed at a YRTC.

Table 5.

Results Indicating Youth Mental Health Increasing [Appendix: Centering Youth Voices Hall County Survey](#)

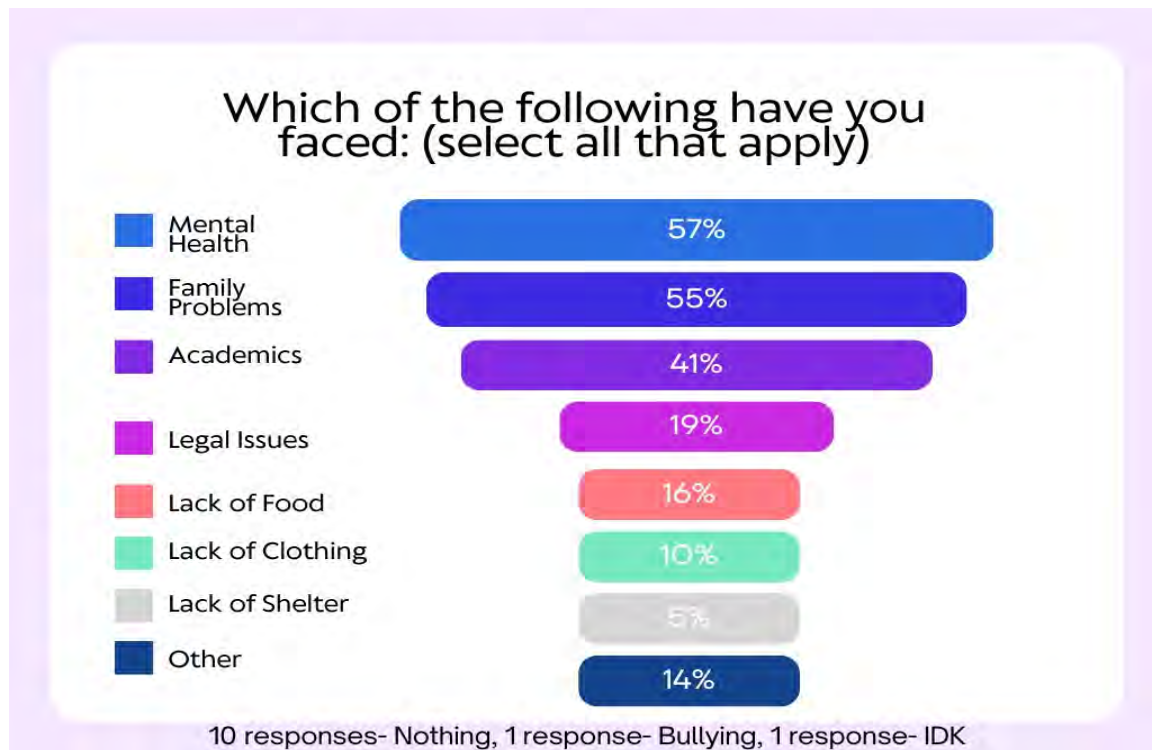


Table 6. Mid Plains CSU Youth Risk Assessments Completed (2021-2023)³

2021

Total	Gender	Outcome	
264	Female = 150	148	Outpatient
	Male = 114	107	Inpatient
		0	Return Home
		4	Med Management
		1	Hospital
		3	Left w/out recommendation
		1	Homeless Shelter

Ages of youth seen ranged from 5 years old to 18 years old*

2022

Total	Gender	Outcome	
256	Female = 139	153	Outpatient
	Male = 117	87	Inpatient
		6	Return Home
		9	Med Management
		1	Law Enforcement

Ages of youth seen ranged from 5 years old to 18 years old*

2023

Total	Gender	Outcome	
239	Female = 132	139	Outpatient
	Male = 107	75	Inpatient
		18	Return Home
		7	Med Management

Ages of youth seen ranged from 4 years old to 18 years old*

Figure 7. Hall County Schools/CNCAA Substance Abuse Intervention Program (2022/2023 & 2023/2024)⁴

2022/2023 school year

Referrals	# of Students who Participated	Successful	Unsuccessful
86	86	58	28

83 referrals were from GIPS, 3 from Wood River Public Schools

2023/2024 school year

Referrals	# of Students who Participated	Successful	Unsuccessful
32	32	22	10

32 referrals were from GIPS (middle schools and senior high)

Table 8.
Arrests by Arrest Offense and Arrestee Age for 2022 and 2023 with Percent Change⁵

Arrestee Age	All Arrestee Ages			Under 18		
Summary Arrest Date	2022	2023	2022 - 2023 Growth %	2022	2023	2022 - 2023 Growth %
Jurisdiction by Geography	Hall County	Hall County	Hall County	Hall County	Hall County	Hall County
Arrest Offense						
Total	2,923	2,800	-4.21	459	386	-15.90
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	4	1	-75.00			
Manslaughter by Negligence	1	1	0.00			
Rape Total	30	12	-60.00	4	2	-50.00
Robbery Total	7	15	114.29	1	5	400.00
Aggravated Assault Total	52	52	0.00	6	4	-33.33
Burglary Total	31	37	19.35	4	9	125.00
Larceny-Theft Total	335	327	-2.39	51	55	7.84
Motor Vehicle Theft Total	20	16	-20.00	13	7	-46.15
Other Assaults	467	407	-12.85	78	61	-21.79
Arson	1	1	0.00			
Forgery and Counterfeiting	11	6	-45.45			
Fraud	28	27	-3.57	3	2	-33.33
Embezzlement	2	1	-50.00	1		-100.00
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing	34	22	-35.29	6	4	-33.33
Vandalism	136	110	-19.12	40	29	-27.50
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	46	30	-34.78	7	3	-57.14
Sex Offenses (Except Rape and Prostitution)	2	3	50.00	1		-100.00
Drug Violations - Sale/Manufacturing	38	20	-47.37	16	4	-75.00
Drug Violations - Possession	422	415	-1.66	88	112	27.27
NIBRS Unable to Classify	2	1	-50.00			
Offenses Against Family and Children	52	47	-9.62	11	8	-27.27
Driving Under the Influence	289	290	0.35	8	2	-75.00
Liquor Laws	108	140	29.63	37	26	-29.73
Disorderly Conduct	58	44	-24.14	30	15	-50.00
Vagrancy	1	4	300.00			
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	743	769	3.50	52	38	-26.92
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	2		-100.00	2		-100.00
Human Trafficking / Commercial Sex Acts	1	2	100.00			

Table 9. Hall County Diversion Statistics (2022-2024)⁶**HALL COUNTY JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM 2022**

Race/Gender/Age	Youth Referred 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022	Youth Enrolled 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022
Total	235	234
Race		
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	4
Asian	1	1
Black, African American	20	18
Hispanic	24	25
Unspecified	92	84
White	94	102
Gender		
Female	93	95
Male	142	139
Age		
11	5	6
12	19	15
13	30	31
14	35	33
15	35	37
16	32	40
17	35	32
18	21	23
19	12	11
20	11	6

1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022	
Referrals	235
Intakes	242
Enrollments	234
Total Discharges	238
Successfully completed program	184
Failed to comply with program	35
New law violation(s)	19
Other	0
Referred but not enrolled	32
Youth/Parent refused diversion	29
Program declined admission	0
Referral withdrawn	3
MOST COMMON CHARGES	
MARIJUANA POSSESSION-LESS THAN 1 OZ	51
ASSAULT	48
MINOR IN POSSESSION	48
DISTURBING THE PEACE	30
SHOPLIFTING	21

HALL COUNTY JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM 2023

Race/Gender/Age	Youth Referred 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023	Youth Enrolled 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023
Total	213	189
Race		
American Indian, Alaska Native	3	2
Asian	4	4
Black, African American	15	12
Multiple Races	1	1
Unspecified	95	78
White	95	92
Gender		
Female	97	87
Male	116	102
Age		
11	9	6
12	13	12
13	29	30
14	34	24
15	43	39
16	35	33
17	28	25
18	8	9
19	7	5
20	7	6

1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023	
Referrals	213
Intakes	194
Enrollments	189
Total Discharges	210
Successfully completed program	181
Failed to comply with program	19
New law violation(s)	9
Other	1
Referred but not enrolled	22
Youth/Parent refused diversion	20
Program declined admission	0
Referral withdrawn	2
MOST COMMON CHARGES	
ASSAULT	59
MINOR IN POSSESSION	35
SHOPLIFTING	29
TOBACCO; USE BY UNDERAGE	26
MARIJUANA POSSESSION-LESS THAN 1 OZ	24

HALL COUNTY JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM 2024 (JAN-JUNE)

Race/Gender/Age	Youth Referred 1/1/2024 to 6/30/2024	Youth Enrolled 1/1/2024 to 6/30/2024
Total	58	68
Race		
Black, African American	6	6
Other Race	1	1
Unspecified	23	32
White	28	29
Gender		
Female	23	32
Male	35	36
Age		
11	3	5
12	6	7
13	5	7
14	9	9
15	12	10
16	4	4
17	12	13
18	2	4
19	2	5
20	3	4

1/1/2024 to 6/30/2024	
Referrals	58
Intakes	69
Enrollments	68
Total Discharges	84
Successfully completed program	72
Failed to comply with program	7
New law violation(s)	5
Other	0
Referred but not enrolled	3
Youth/Parent refused diversion	2
Program declined admission	0
Referral withdrawn	1
MOST COMMON CHARGES	
ASSAULT	17
MINOR IN POSSESSION	13
DISTURBING THE PEACE	10
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	6
SHOPLIFTING	4
<i>* as of 6/30/2024: 39 pending cases</i>	

The Hall County Attorney and City attorney refer cases to Diversion based on the reports from law enforcement and review eligibility criteria such as if the youth meet the age requirement, nature of crime, prior criminal record or if it's their first time being offered Diversion. Youth are assessed at intake using the NSAT. Warning letters are not given currently. Participants are assigned programming based on the NSAT results, that may include: a Decision-Making class, community service hours, written apology letter to victim, substance use education class, must refrain from criminal activity, regular school attendance, may be required to obtain a substance use evaluation, and other programs as determined by the Diversion Officer.

Table 7. Hall County Average Length of Stay in Detention (2019-2023)⁷

Calendar Year	Average Length of Stay
2019	32.51
2020	49.68
2021	46.37
2022	38.27
2023	25.64

Table 8. Hall County Juvenile Intakes Resulting in Detention (2019-2023)⁷

Year	Type of Detention	Juvenile Intakes Resulting in Detention
2019	Detain (Secure)	29
	Detain (Staff Secure)	39
2019 - Total		68
2020	Detain (Staff Secure)	19
	Detain (Secure)	12
2020 - Total		31
2021	Detain (Staff Secure)	22
	Detain (Secure)	22
2021 - Total		44
2022	Detain (Secure)	18
	Detain (Staff Secure)	19
2022 - Total		37
2023	Detain (Staff Secure)	19
	Detain (Secure)	16
2023 - Total		35
Overall - Total		215

Table 9. Hall County Juvenile Petitions (2018-2023)⁷

Youth		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Juvenile-Felony		2	5	3	1	2	19	32
	Unknown	72	155	173	167	198	158	923
	White	1	1			1	1	4
	Total	75	161	176	168	201	178	959
Juvenile-Misdemeanor/Infraction		2	4	4	11	14	90	125
	Asian					1	1	2
	Hispanic or Latino	1	1			1		3
	Unknown	371	717	735	694	802	549	3,868
	White	1	1	1	2	1	2	8
	Total	375	723	740	707	819	642	4,006
Juvenile-Status Offender							4	4
	Unknown	71	98	75	53	63	44	404
	Total	71	98	75	53	63	48	408
Total		521	982	991	928	1,083	868	5,373

Table 10. [CDHD CHIP Priority Areas for 2023-2025](#)⁸

Priority Areas for the 2023-2025 CHIP	Access to Care	We learned that a major concern of the community is accessing the care they need. Concerns included cost of care, being un/under insured, lack of providers, lack of bilingual providers, difficulty navigating the healthcare system, etc.
	Culturally Appropriate Behavioral Health	Another major concern in our community is mental and behavioral health, including worries about depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, finding bilingual therapists, stigma, etc.
	Quality Child Care and Family Engagement	The third priority area involves support for families. The Central District lost many child care providers during the pandemic, which has many negative impacts. A lack of child care can impact short-term and long-term health, stunt economic growth, keep families from getting health care, decrease work-life balance, reinforce poverty cycles, and impact mental health.

Section IV: Services and Programs

Available Services (Assessment and evaluation, prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion, detention, shelter, intensive probation services, restitution, family support, & community center for care and treatment of juveniles)		
Program/ Agency Name	Service Type/System Point	Issues/Barriers
Central NE Council on Alcoholism & Addictions, Inc. 3204 College St Grand Island, NE 68803 Phone: (308) 385-5520	Prevention	- Transportation - Class Schedule Availability - Cost to participate in classes vary from \$75-100
Families CARE, Inc. 3710 Central Ave Ste 14 Kearney, NE 68847 Phone: 308-237-1102	Assessment & Evaluation Prevention Family Support	Eligibility criteria
Mid-Plains Center for Behavioral Healthcare Services, Inc. 914 Baumann Drive Grand Island, NE 68801 Phone: 308-385-5250 CSU ext. 2	Prevention Family Support Assessment & Evaluation Diversion Probation Pre-Adjudication	- Not enough MST therapists to serve all of Hall County/waitlist 3+months - No community support services for youth available - Currently only admit 19+ - There is a cost for services, but sliding scale fee is available
Region 3 Behavioral Health Services 4009 6 th Avenue, Suite 65 Kearney, NE 68848 Phone: 308-237-5113	Assessment & Evaluation Prevention Family Support	- Waitlist for professional partner program - Need a mental health diagnosis
Richard Young Behavioral Health 1755 Prairie View Pl Kearney, NE 68848 Phone: (308) 865-2000	Assessment & Evaluation Probation Community Center	- In Kearney – Up to 40+ mile drive - There is a cost for this service
Boys Town Behavioral Health Clinic 3230 W Wildwood Dr Grand Island, NE 68803 308-381-8851	Assessment & Evaluation Prevention Family Support Diversion	- Waitlist for services - No bilingual staff
Boys Town Residential Treatment Center 14092 Boys Town Rd Boys Town, NE 68010 531-355-5210	Assessment & Evaluation Shelter Care Family Support Community Center	- Shelter not available in Hall County 100+ miles drive
Willow Rising 308-381-0555 (24/7) 2251 N. Webb Rd., Grand Island, NE	Family Support Prevention	Transportation
Hall County (Diversion) 117 E. 1 st Street Grand Island, NE 68801 308 385-5124	Prevention Diversion Restitution	- Transportation - No funding for counseling/evaluation services \$156/individual session, \$278/substance use evaluation There is a cost to participate (\$80-\$140), but sliding scale fee is available
District 9 Juvenile Probation 117 E. 1 st Street Grand Island, NE 68801 308 385-5230	Intensive Probation Disposition Family Support Shelter Care Detention	- Transportation \$3/mile; \$11/hour for escort - Cost/distance to detention facility

		Restitution	
Friendship House Counseling 707 W 1 st St Grand Island, NE 68801		Assessment & Evaluation Prevention Diversion Disposition Family Support	- Transportation - There is a cost for services, but sliding scale fee available \$156/Individual session, \$278/substance use evaluation - May have delay in connecting to services
Live Well Counseling 308-381-7487 3532 West Capital Ave. Grand Island, NE		Assessment & Evaluation Prevention Family Support	- Transportation - There is a cost for services \$156 per session Individual
Big Brothers/Big Sisters 715 W Anna St Grand Island, NE 68801 308-384-3456		Prevention Family Support	- Not enough mentors - Waitlist
TeamMates 2124 N. Lafayette Ave Grand Island NE 68803 308-379-4856		Prevention Family Support	- Not enough mentors - Waitlist
Central District Health Dept. 1137 S Locust St Grand Island, NE 68801 308 385-5175		Family Support	Availability of funds
Area Church Youth Groups		Prevention	Transportation
Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc. Employment and Career Services 1804 S. Eddy Grand Island, NE 68802-1863 Phone: 308-384-7896		Prevention Diversion Probation	- Waitlist - Staff retention
OWENS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES 1451 N Webb Road Grand Island, NE 68803 Phone: (308) 675-1544		Alternatives to Detention Pre-adjudication	- Staff Retention - The cost for services is not billed to youth/families, services are billed to either the county or state \$100/hr for Community Youth Coaching, \$26/day for Electronic Monitoring \$184/day for Day/Evening Reporting
CHI Health Student Wellness Center 2124 N Lafayette Ave Grand Island, NE 68803 308 384-2265		Assessment & Evaluation Prevention Diversion Disposition	- Waitlist - There is a cost for services \$156/Individual session, \$278/substance use evaluation
Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services 1313 N Main St, Madison, NE 68748 (402) 454-3955		Detention Disposition	- Detention is not available in Hall County or in near proximity. \$341/day - Transportation
Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC) 2802 30th Ave, Kearney, NE 68845		Detention Disposition Probation Community Center	In Kearney, 40+ miles drive \$341/day
Nova Treatment Center 8502 Mormon Bridge Rd Omaha, NE 68512		Probation Community Center	- Not in close proximity to Hall County - Cost \$458-\$579/day - Sometimes there's a waitlist - Need an evaluation prior to admission
CEDARS Youth Services 6601 Pioneers Blvd #1, Lincoln, NE 68506		Assessment & Evaluation Diversion Shelter Care Probation Family Support Community Center	- Shelter not available in Hall County \$274/day - In Lincoln, 80+ miles drive - Must be a resident of Lancaster County to access shelter care for youth

Coordination Plan:

Hall County is in a good position to provide for the juveniles' needs within the community thanks to the many community partners that have accepted the responsibility of caring for our youths. The coordination plan will address the following community services and interventions to assist in decreasing juvenile delinquency:

- **Alternative Schools:** There are alternative schools in Hall County, however, more options are needed due to waitlists and the needs of the youth. There is collaboration between the alternative schools, families, and juvenile justice stakeholders.
- **School Truancy Programs:** Hall County does not have a truancy program. There is not enough support at schools to assist those monitoring chronic absences and there are gaps in being able to provide early interventions to address underlying causes for students missing school. The schools and Hall County Diversion have a good working relationship in helping improve truancy. Diversion currently has an attendance officer working within Grand Island Senior High to work with students who have been referred with 10+ absences and the plan is to expand to all middle and high schools within Hall County.
- **Volunteer Programs:** Hall County has many volunteer programs for youth and families. Hall County could benefit more from these programs if transportation was available to/from volunteer opportunities.
- **Drug and Alcohol Counseling:** There are multiple providers, but some have waitlists or no bilingual professionals. Hall County could benefit from more providers offering evaluations to youth for substance use and/or mental health. Mid Plains plans on hiring an additional provider to be able to offer these services on a sliding scale if needed.
- **Diversion Programs:** Hall County has a juvenile diversion program and good working relationships with community service providers to assist youth and families in being successful. Hall County Diversion has bilingual services and access to programming in Spanish for youth who are only Spanish speaking.
- **Parents Anonymous:** Hall County lacks parent's anonymous groups, however, there are online groups, and that information will be distributed. The Abuse & Neglect Hotline, Suicide Prevention 988, Nebraska Family Helpline are available in the area.
- **Delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of youth members of minority groups who come into contact with the youth justice system:** The Families in Transition program through GIPS supports students and families experiencing homelessness. Big Brothers Big Sisters and YWCA of Grand Island have partnered to provide a program that offers a space for youth of color and adults of color to connect. Volunteers meet with students weekly for two hours at Big Brothers Big Sisters where they are matched to create healthy relationships and adult volunteers of color join to lead and engage in conversations on topics like self-reflection, understanding, honoring yourself, leadership, and healing from cultural and social experiences. Diversion offers services in Spanish to participants and families who are enrolled in the program. Efforts towards addressing chronic absenteeism are in progress, partnerships are in the works to develop interventions.

Section V: Priorities and Strategies

Priority 1: Develop and maintain an array of behavioral health interventions for youth and community planning.

Through surveys, assessments, and the number of citations relating to substance use for youth in our community we identified behavioral health as a priority. Families with children suffering from mental health concerns are noted to be at elevated risk for substance use as a means of escape or self-medication. The following strategies will be implemented to prevent and/or decrease the juvenile crime problem.

Strategy 1A: Expand community support services to youth and families.

Agencies with existing community support services offered to adults will define services that will align with youths needs and offer support. Mid Plains Behavioral Healthcare Services and other agencies have started conversations on this topic. In year one a service definition will be established. Resources needed include staff, programming, youth crisis intervention and reception, and transportation for youth and families. The expected result from this will be for all high and medium risk youth to be sent home with services in place and measurement of impact will be determined by reduced number of families sent home with no services in place or with support while the families navigate waitlisted services.

Strategy 1B: Prevention education on illegal substances and synthetic drugs will be implemented in the schools.

Agencies with substance abuse knowledge will work with schools to educate students. Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions and schools will work together to achieve this. In the first year the team will share information to schools about available curriculum and establish which school want to partner. Resources needed include staff, programming, extra funds to provide follow-up, and transportation. The expected result is that less youth will be cited for possession of a substance and less youth will report the use of illegal substances and measurement of impact will be determined by fewer referrals to Diversion and the county attorney's office relating to behavioral health.

Strategy 1C: Promote and maintain evidence-based programming for parents/guardians to educate them on behavioral health issues that youth face and how to navigate them.

All agencies agreed this strategy is important and will all work to promote within our own agency and refer parents/guardians to classes and programs. Currently, Strengthening Families, Circle of Security, and Common-Sense Parenting are available, and we will explore other programs. This will be an ongoing action step within the 5-year plan. Resources needed are staff, funding, and transportation. The expected result is that there will be an increase in protective factors and measurement of impact will be more adults being knowledgeable on issues youth face and an increase in class attendance.

Priority 2: Maintain and enhance the Juvenile Diversion Program

Diverting first time, low-risk juveniles from the court system through the Hall County's Juvenile Diversion Program is important to avoid original offenses from appearing on the juvenile's record and preventing further involvement. There are often racial disparities in both juvenile justice involvement and referrals to diversion for non-White youths. Hispanic youth have a higher Diversion program involvement; however, referrals were generally reflective of the county youth's population

Strategy 2A: Expand a Diversion Officer's job duties to include working with youth in the middle and high schools providing on-site support and referral services to maximize the family's well-being of students identified by the school with attendance issues.

Diversion started this program as a pilot program in 2024 in partnership with Grand Island Public Schools. In the first year Hall County Juvenile Services will identify proven effective interventions learned through the pilot program and will expand to other schools within Hall County. Resources needed are incentives for good attendance and goals reached, transportation, community partnerships, communication platform, mileage reimbursement for travel between schools, and possible additional staff as the program grows. Expected result is a decrease in truancy referrals to the county attorney and increase in improved attendance and engagement. Measurement of impact will be determined by number of students referred to work with the attendance officer who improve attendance so that a truancy referral is not necessary to the county attorney.

Strategy 2B: Ensure all youths enrolled in Diversion are assessed with a validated assessment tool such as N-SAT.

Diversion officers will be responsible for conducting the assessment and making appropriate referrals and programming requirements. This will be an ongoing process throughout the plan. Resources needed are training and access to Juvenile Case Management System. Expected results are all participants enrolled will receive programming appropriate for their case plan domains. Measurement of impact will be number of youths with a validated assessment.

Strategy 2C: Identify racial and ethnic disparities and train staff on implicit bias.

Responsible party is Hall County Juvenile Services. This will be an ongoing process throughout the plan, in year one trainings will be identified, in year two staff will attend, in year three to five refreshers as needed or for new employees. Resources needed are relevant trainings, funding, travel costs, and access to translation services. Expected results are staff will be culturally responsive. Measurement of impact will be all staff will have attended and apply their learning.

Priority 3: Maintain and Enhance Juvenile Detention Alternatives

Juvenile Detention Alternatives are necessary so that youth remain in their community, receiving community-based services that can help maintain positive ties to families and their community.

Strategy 3A: Continuing to utilize Electronic Monitoring (E.M.) and Community Youth Coaching (C.Y.C.) services to address juvenile detention alternatives issues.

Probation will contract with a service provider that will offer these services to youth and families. This will be an ongoing process throughout the plan. Resources needed include staff, funding, communication platform between all agencies involved, and access and training to Juvenile Case Management System. Expected result is youth will remain in the community with community-based services in place. Measurement of impact will be a smaller number of youths sent to detention and cost saving.

Strategy 3B: Continue to support the work of the Hall County JDAI Coordinator.

Focus on an evening reporting center and/or afterschool program for youth. JDAI coordinator and juvenile justice stakeholders are responsible party. In year one the goal will be to secure a funding source for a location. Resources needed are staff, prime location, funding, programming, and transportation. Expected result is that youth will have less law enforcement contact by engaging in a positive environment. Measurement of impact will be determined by number of citations and results from surveys such as Centering Youth Voices.

Strategy 3C: Incorporate gang/weapons offense prevention programs.

Identify evidence-based prevention programs for at-risk youth. Responsible parties are all juvenile justice stakeholders. Within the first year a promising to effective rated program will be identified. By year two funding will be secured, and by year three it will be implemented. Resources needed include funding, programming, training, staff, and transportation for youth. Expected results are prevention of youth having gang involvement and a reduction in youth crime involving guns. Measurement of impact can be determined by an outside agency evaluating the program and reduction in weapons offenses.

Priority 4: Develop and maintain interventions for student engagement for educational success of targeted high-risk populations of youth.

Chronic absenteeism continues to be a concern in Hall County and youth obtaining an education is a priority.

Strategy 4A: Have a support person work with students within the schools at the middle and high school level to support identified youth achieve educational success.

Have a school interventionist Diversion and school social workers can refer students to who have been identified through screeners, work one on one with students. Responsible party is the schools and Hall County Juvenile Services. This will be an ongoing strategy throughout the plan. Resources needed are funding for materials and staff, collaboration with community partners, professional development opportunities, and access to student support services such as counseling. Expected results are that identified students will be more engaged in school and work towards obtaining a high school diploma. The measurement will be determined by the number of successful school interventionist cases.

Strategy 4B: Address chronic absenteeism.

Identify and address barriers and engage students and families with excessive absences. Responsible parties are juvenile justice stakeholders and schools within Hall County. This will be an ongoing strategy throughout the plan, but within year one effective interventions will be identified. In year two they will be implemented. Resources needed include early intervention protocols, community partnerships to address underlying social issues, transportation services to get students to school, and funding for materials and staff. Expected results are less students with chronic absenteeism and fewer truancy referrals.

Strategy 4C: Incorporate support groups in schools and/or after school programs where high-risk youth can participate in emotion regulation.

Create or identify programming to address basic needs and create self-soothing strategies that are practical and easy to use. Agencies with existing support services offered to adults will define services that will align with youths needs and offer support. Willow Rising, Grand Island Public School counselors and other agencies have started conversations on this topic. In year one a service definition will be established. Resources needed include staff, flexible spending for basic needs, programming, and transportation for youth and families. Expected result is high risk students will be successful in school, their basic needs will be met, and they will learn healthy coping strategies.

Appendices

- A. Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Checklist
- B. Approval Letter/minutes from County Board
- C. Centering Youth Voices Hall County Survey
- D. Hall County Data Sheet Voices for Children
- E. Nebraska UNO | Juvenile Justice Institute Program Evaluations
- F. CDHD, Community Health Improvement Plan 2023-2025

Appendix A: Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Checklist

Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Checklist

Each county shall develop a Comprehensive Youth Services Plan (Community Plan). Plans may be developed by individual counties, multiple counties, federally or state-recognized Indian tribes, or by any combination of the three. Plans must be submitted to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and must be updated no less than every five years.

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stats. §43-3504, §43-3505, and §43-2404.01, and Title 75, Chapter 1, 005.02, these are the elements that must be included in a Community Plan.

Community Team Members (§43-3505):

Juvenile justice system stakeholder representation, including but not limited to:

Stakeholder Representation:	Name(s):
☐ Courts	Judge Alfred Corey & Judge Bryan McQuay
☐ Law enforcement	Sheriff Richard Conrad
☐ Community service providers	Connie Holmes, Jill Schubauer, Teshawna Sawyer, Lorinda Brown
☐ Schools	Dr. Summer Stephens, Bill Bombeck, Scott Hirschert, Michaela Goracke
☐ Detention or shelter care	Chase Franci, Alyssa Heagy
☐ County elected and administrative officials	Martin Klein, Scott Sorensen
☐ Probation officials	Bethany Skodmin
☐ Health and human services representatives	KaCee Zimmerman
☐ State officials or agency representatives	Karly Simonson
☐ Similar committee or group of individuals	James Schulte
☐ Other	Amy Caldwell, Brian Whitecalf, Carrie Sheldon, Robyn Hassel
Page number(s) in the plan: 5, 6	

Plan Components

1. Data (43-2404.01)	
Notes:	
☐	Data is relevant to juvenile and family issues
☐	Includes an examination of racial and ethnic disparities
Page number(s) in the plan: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	
2. Identification of the County Risk Factors (43-3504)	
Notes:	
☐	Risk factors for delinquency that exist in the county or counties
☐	Services needed to address risk factors
Page number(s) in the plan: 10	
3. Identification of juvenile services available within the county or counties, including, but not limited to (§43-3504):	
Notes:	
☐	Programs for assessment and evaluation
☐	The prevention of delinquent behavior
☐	Diversion
☐	Detention
☐	Shelter care
☐	Intensive juvenile probation services
☐	Restitution
☐	Family support services
☐	Community centers for the care and treatment of juveniles in need of services
☐	Other:
Page number(s) in the plan: 21, 22, 23	
4. Identification of Services in close proximity of the county or counties that may be utilized if community-based programs are not available within the county or counties (§43-3504):	

Notes:	
Page number(s) in the plan: 21, 22	
5. Identification of juvenile detention or alternatives to detention the county primarily uses (§43-3504):	
Notes:	
☐	Juvenile Detention programs, services, facilities, and providers
☐	Alternative to detention programs, services, facilities, providers
☐	Costs associated with use of such programs, services, facilities, and providers
Page number(s) in the plan: 21, 22	
6. Identify needed community-based programs not available within, or in close proximity to, the county or counties.	
Notes:	
Page number(s) in the plan: 21, 22	

Coordination Plan and Priorities

The coordination plan must include an enhancement, development, and expansion plan of community services within the county, counties, or region to help prevent delinquency by providing intervention services when behavior that leads to delinquency is first exhibited.

1. Coordination Plan: Enhancement, development, and expansion plan of community services, including, but not limited to (§43-3504):	
Notes:	
☐	Alternative schools
☐	School truancy programs
☐	Volunteer programs
☐	Family preservation and counseling
☐	Drug and alcohol counseling
☐	Diversion programs
☐	Parents Anonymous
☐	Delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of youth members of minority groups who come into contact with the youth justice system.
Page number(s) in the plan: 23	
2. Priorities: Identify community priorities that includes defining a problem, or set of problems, that affects juveniles at risk or those already involved in the criminal justice system (Title 75, Chapter 1, 005.02):	
Notes:	
Page number(s) in the plan: 2, 3	
3. Strategies: Identify Implementation Strategies (§43-2404.01)	
Notes:	
☐	Identify policies and practices that are research-based or standardized and reliable and are implemented with fidelity and which have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes.
☐	Identify clear implementation strategies that are S.M.A.R.T.
☐	Identify how the impact of the program or service will be measured.
Page number(s) in the plan: 24, 25, 26	

The plan shall be submitted to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Following or in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive youth services plan, each county may develop regional service plans and establish regional juvenile services boards when appropriate. The regional service plan shall be submitted to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Appendix B: Approval Letter from County Board



Hall County Board of Commissioners

121 South Pine Street, Grand Island, NE 68801
Phone (308) 385-5093

December 3, 2024

The Nebraska Crime Commission
PO Box 94946
Lincoln, NE 68509-4946

During the regular meeting of the Hall County Board of Commissioners on December 3, 2024, Commissioner Scott Sorensen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pamela Lancaster to approve and allow the Juvenile Services Committee to complete and submit the Hall County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Youth Services Plan 2025-2030; and to approve the application for the 2026 Community Based Juvenile Services AID Program (CB) Grant.

The vote on the motion was held; Commissioners Hurst, Bredthauer, Lancaster, Quandt, Richardson, Sorensen and Peterson all voted yes, and no one voted no; motion carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" and last name "Peterson" clearly visible.

Ron Peterson,
Hall County Board Chair
121 S. Pine Street
Grand Island, NE 68801
Email: RonP@hallcountynegov
Celll: 308-218-9931

Appendix C: Centering Youth Voices Hall County Survey

Slide 1

Centering Youth Voices Hall County

Special thanks to Juvenile Justice Institute,
Grand Island Public Schools, JDAI
Collaboratives, and youth with the voices.

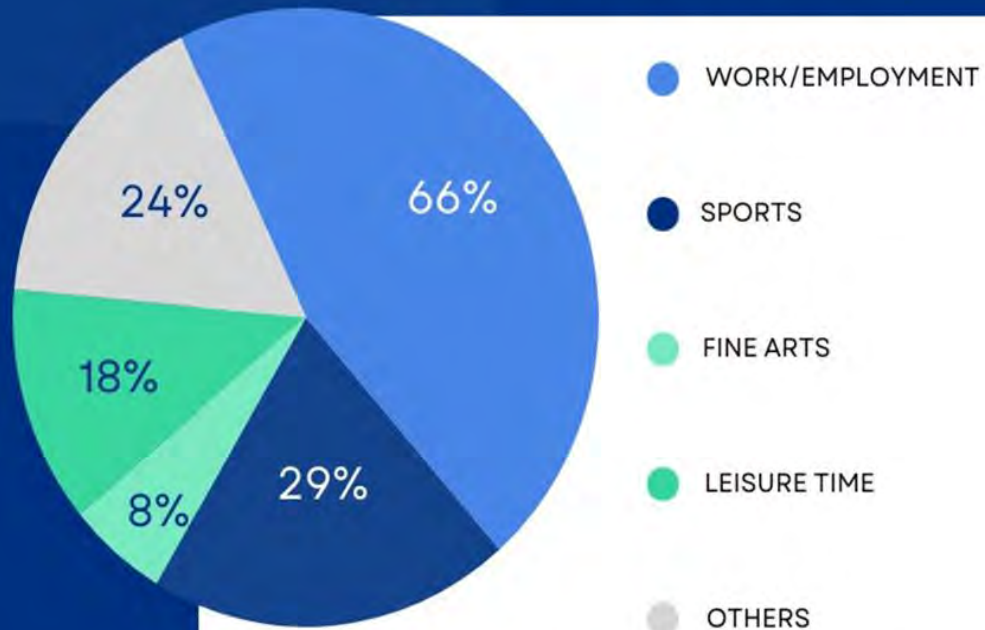


Roughly 140 responses were collected, The following is the responses and some answers that youth shared. This idea started from the Rhode Island Centering Youth Voices survey- I worked with Juvenile Justice Institute and Several of the JDAI committees on how to approach the survey, This wasn't a fast project to roll out as there were approval levels, the survey putting together, and feedback loops and trial and errors along the way.

How the Survey was presented to the youth.

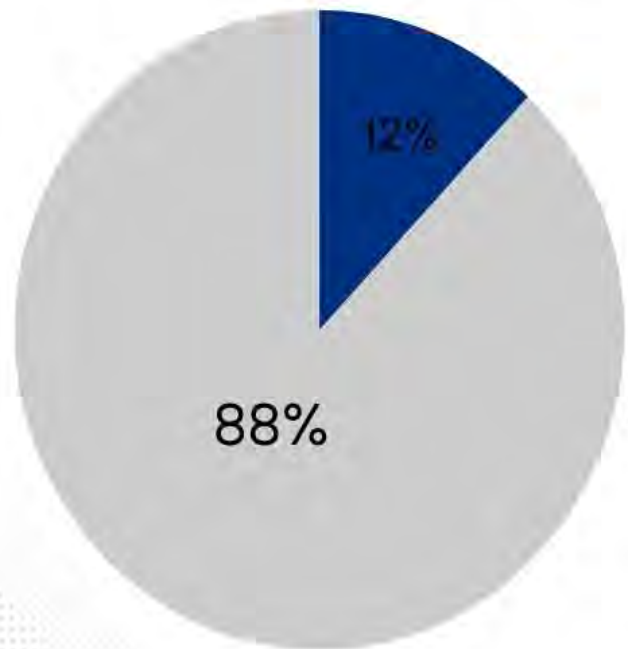
- This survey is designed to get individual input from Hall County students on their experience and perceptions of the Hall County juvenile justice system and related services. Juvenile Justice system means all of the agencies who help with community safety- like law enforcement, diversion, courts, and probation.
- Juvenile Justice system is responsible for ensuring community safety and promoting positive youth development and recognize what the youth needs are to achieve this. Our community wants to recognize the unique difference of all youth and their families.
- Hall County has a team of professionals that are working to ensure community safety and the best possible community for youth and families to be successful. Our community wants to recognize and build on the unique differences and strengths of all youth and families.
- The information that is gathered will be utilized to identify strengths and areas of needs in our community. The youth's input is very valuable to making sure their voices have been heard.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?



NATURE AND SPIRITUAL , PRACTICES GAMES, MY OWN HOBBIES LIKE PAINTING,
ORGANIZING, CLEANING, RODEO
STAY HOME, CARD GAMES, WORK FROM HOME HELPING DAD.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HOMELESS OR HAD TO MOVE FREQUENTLY (WEEKLY/MONTHLY)

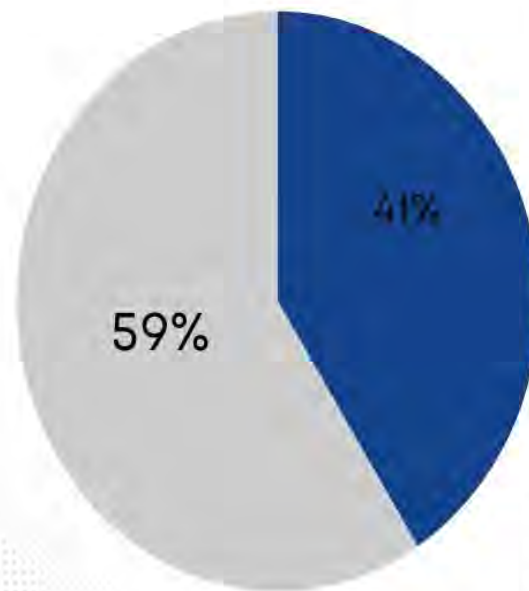


■ YES

■ No

IF YES, WHAT SERVICES COULD OR WOULD HAVE HELPED YOU- A PARENT WHO DIDN'T SELL MINE N MY SIBLINGS BELONGINGS IN ORDER TO GET WHAT THEY WANTED,
NONE WHEN IN A SHELTER,
A PLACE TO LIVE AT ALL TIMES,
CPS,
HOUSING, CHEAPER RENT, SAFE PLACE FOR A FAMILY TO GO.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT/POLICE



- YES
- No

They automatically treat you bad and are too harsh.
Most of the time they are helpful.

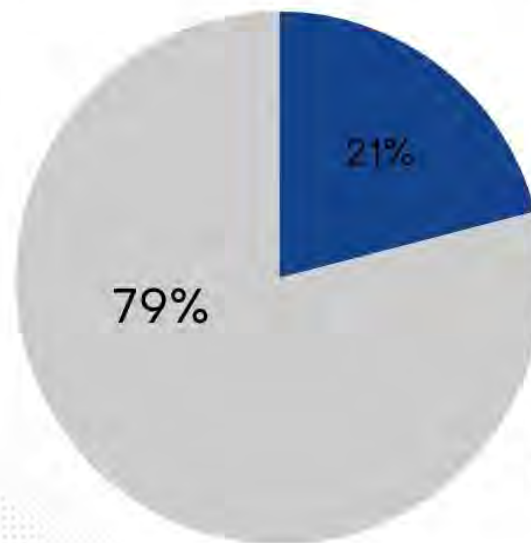
I had both negative and positive experiences getting pulled over.

When I crashed, it was a good experience they were very helpful.

neg- when they would falsely accuse my dad of things he didn't do, positives- then they would make sure we were safe from a creeper that was circling our house. Every contact with Law enforcement has always been positive.

I have had two law class teachers who were police officers and we could go on trips to the jails or to just visit with some of the other officers they knew. The officers were all very nice, very respectful, and just very understanding. good experiences.

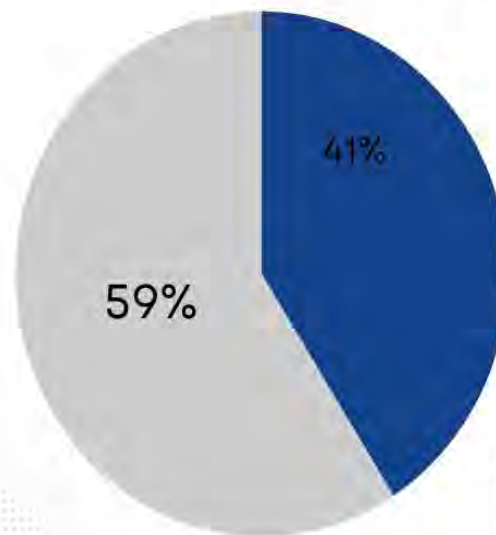
HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANY EXPERIENCE WITH HALL COUNTY COURTS/PROBATION?



- YES
- No

My probation officer is chill,
Brothers adoption,
mom getting custody of us again,
many good activities included but can be on it for a long
time,
They were nice to me but not so much to my mother in
another case.
I had to go and visit the courthouse and see a hearing in
person for class, It was really interesting and a lot of
information was said, i had a chance to talk to the bailiff
when the court took a break and she had said it was
one of the most interesting cases that have happened.

**IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN INVOLVED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT,
THE POLICE, PROBATION OR THE COURTS HAVE YOU FELT YOUR
VOICE WAS HEARD?**



■ YES

● No

Yes- Because i've been let off with warnings by explaining what was going on.

Yes- by being able to tell my story without worrying about being in any danger.

Helped more than anyone

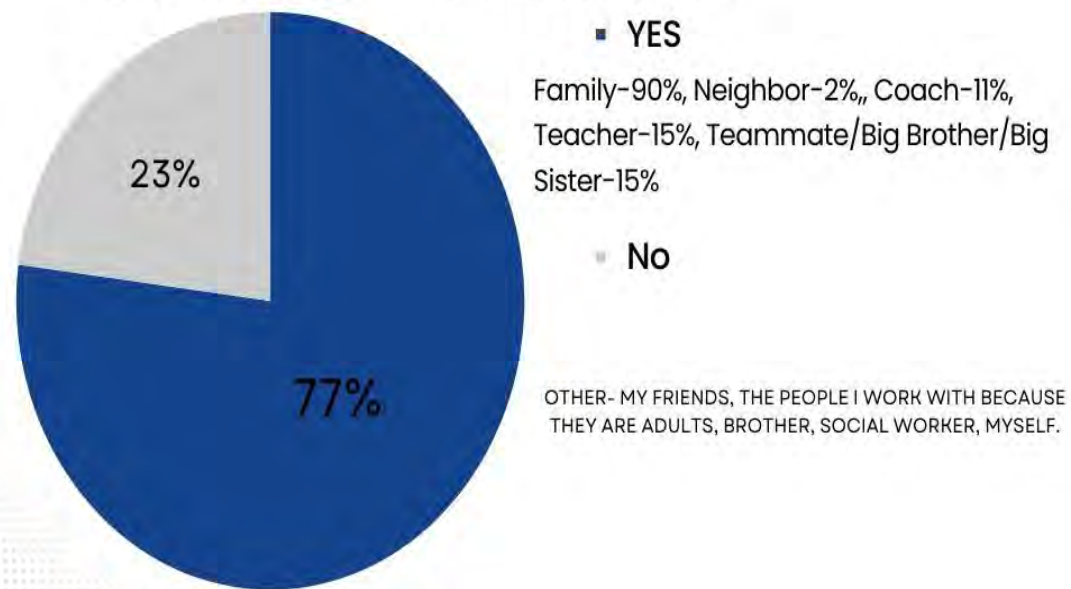
I felt they listened to me and were understanding.

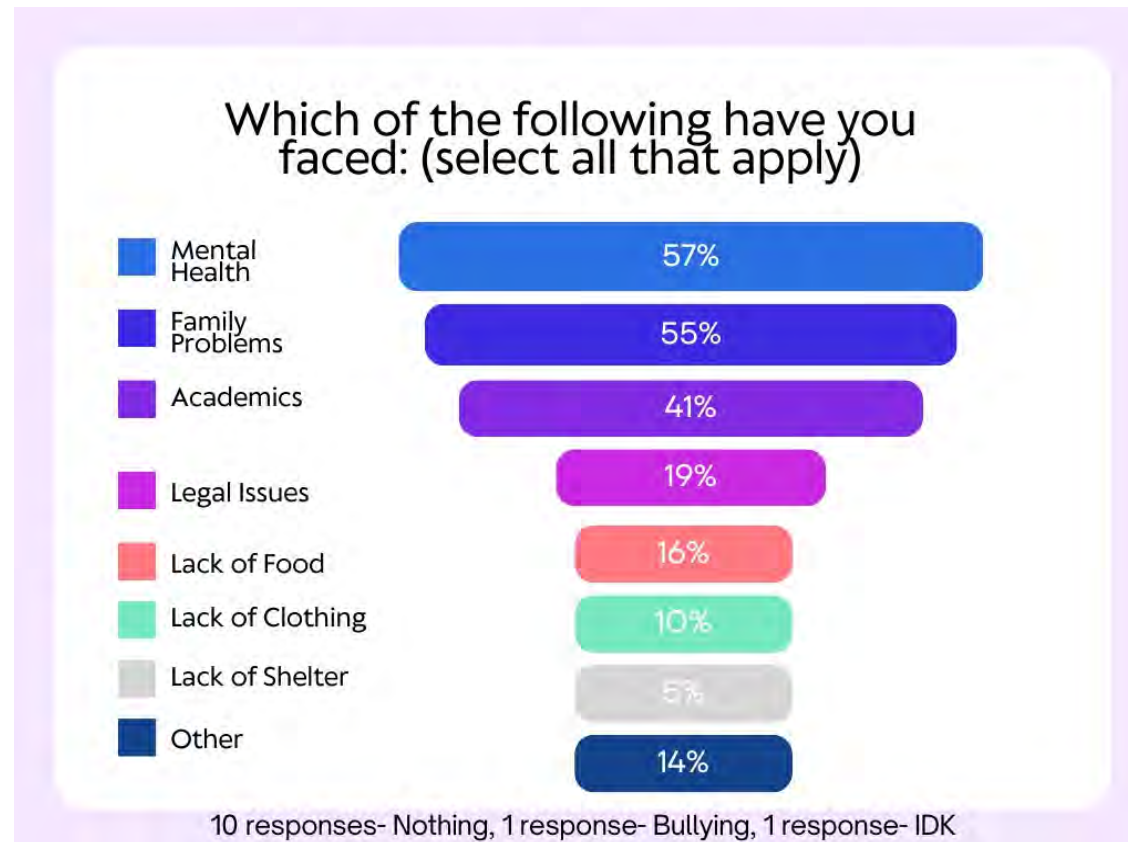
I had small interactions when it came to guardianships, they asked my opinion and let me decide what I wanted to do.

I had been caught by the police doing something I shouldn't have but they actually let me talk and explain what I was doing and they were understanding and heard me out, they ended up taking me home and gave me a warning because I was cooperative and very respectful with them.

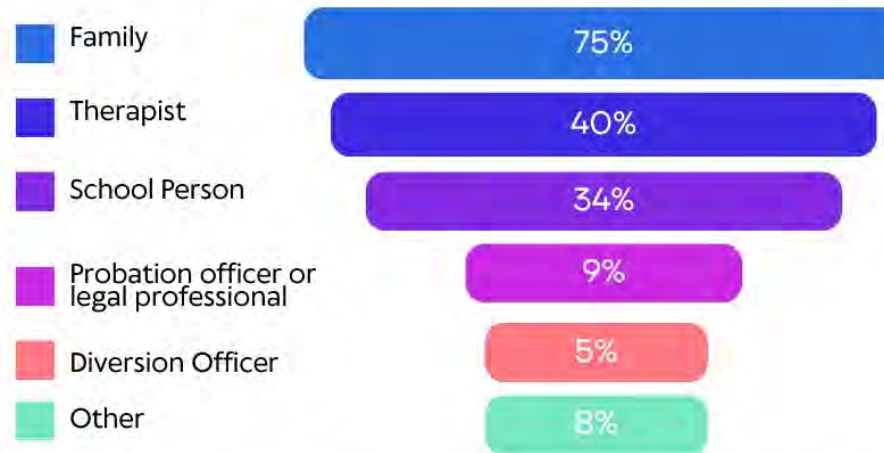
Not taken seriously about mental health or concerns

DO YOU HAVE A ROLE MODEL OR MENTOR IN YOUR LIFE?





If you had any problems in the past,
was there someone that offered you
help? (Select all that apply)



Other (Please Explain) - My dad of course because I talk to him. But i'm very happy with myself now because I found genuine happiness on my own.

Friends
Social Worker

What kind of activities or services would you like to see offered to kids/young adults in our community of Grand Island or Hall County?

Free housing for Families
Jobs, Lawn work , More sports activities, maybe another skate island
I would like to see more community events
Having club sports, Skate Park
We need more services with mental health
Getting treated with Respect
More school tutors,
Having events held about certain ideas(Mental Health, any problems) and make it fun and give advice about it.
Help on applying to jobs
Disc Golf Community
Things that help out kids who need somewhere to stay
Free therapist
make things like food drives more known within the school community
Soccer programs
free guidance
Communications and group get alongs
More things to do- bigger mall, swimming parks that are big
I think there should be a meditate/yoga classes or cooking classes, or classes on how to do taxes, how to buy a car,
how to repair something in house or car, something genuinely/greatly help students for the future.
More activities for young adults/teens
sports field
Art classes or sports to make the community have better connection
More apprenticeship opportunities
Free Library books for the needy kids
More learning opportunities
Culinary classes
mini golf course
more opportunities with people in jobs with law enforcement and business
Transportation
More afterschool activities offered at the school where I go

Do you have any suggestions on changes that could help future youth in the community as they face challenges?

Be smart on the things you do.

Society is kind of controlled by ego and emotions, and people let that take advantage of them without being true to thy self.

Start working out

Stay on track, choose better people to surround yourself by,
stay in school and don't get peer pressure

The cops shouldn't have quick assumptions

Always try to be understanding, it's hard to feel heard in today's world

Have more drug prevention methods

We need more help and opportunities for teenagers
who struggle with Mental Health

Actively listen to them and don't
assume they are lying or bad kids

Don't get rid of Social Workers

Parents should not let their 14-15 year old drive to
school by themselves, because there has been a lot of
crashes involving teens that don't even have their
driver licenses.

Less Fentanyl in the community

I think adults such as teachers should check up on students or just greet them privately, be patient when a student is attempting to understand the material. I think we should make gardening where kids/youth know how to take care of and grow plants, fruits and vegetables to limit expenses they might be struggling with.

Hosting a weekly meeting with youth to guide them in the right direction and possibly letting the officers create some type of bond with the youth.

Help overcome diversity and help lead or show modeling to other and help them mature and grow up.

Learning more about Christ, and real world problems, or smaller things your parent is supposed to help you with.

Think before doing, Because just doing gets you in trouble.

Give them someone they feel comfortable with to talk to.

More activities and more opportunities for older role models to do more stuff with youth.

One suggestion is being there for them, in today's society there is a lot of children who have to grow up too soon because their parents work too much or are never there for them.

If there is a counselor or and everyday police officer in their neighborhood, just keeping watch and connecting with the

Giving parents more credit, because I feel like some of our parents do too much for us kids, but we take it for granted.

They need more support with school work, School is a massive burden on all students, especially highschoolers.

More activities for the youth to enjoy

Listen to them

If they would be able to get a second chance and be able to be talked out of the situation for the better.

Take time to listen, don't always have to solve the problem, but listening is huge.

More understanding

To make asking for Help easier.

Better housing, Specialized Mental Health Needs, More stuff to do after school.

Where do we go from here?

Build relationships with other school districts and roll out with other youth in our community.

Share through JDAI, Through the eyes, other initiatives and collaborations in our community.

Offer survey option for other communities to use for their collaborations.

Goals- Mental Health, Transportation, Prevention, Mentoring, Afterschool programing.

Other things from Survey- Weekly option ideas in school and or community law enforcement school- where one can come get guidance, build relationship ect. Community check in ideas?

Wrap up-

The voices of these youth need to be heard- Housing, Treatment needs, Mental health services, More activities in the community, prevention, mentors and someone to talk to.

Hall County has a lot of great services currently and we are working through positive collaborations to address needs and service gaps.

Thank you all for the work you do, the services you provide and positive impacts you make on the individuals in our communities!

Appendix D: Hall County Kids Count Data Sheet

2023 COUNTY DATA FACT SHEET



COUNTY: **HALL**



62,097

TOTAL
POPULATION¹

18,254

CHILD POPULATION
(19 & UNDER)²



HEALTH

6%

CHILDREN UNINSURED³

38%

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN
PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE³



CHILD WELFARE

4

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

16

CHILD WELFARE
SYSTEM
INVOLVEMENT
(RATE/1000)⁴

10

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



JUVENILE JUSTICE

26

CHILDREN ON PROBATION
(RATE/1000)⁵

18

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



EDUCATION

49%

3- & 4-YEAR OLDS
ENROLLED IN
SCHOOL⁷

89%

HIGH
SCHOOLERS
GRADUATING
IN 4-YEARS⁸

38%

NSCAS 3RD
GRADE
READING
PROFICIENCY⁹

67

CAPACITY OF LICENSED CHILD CARE
FACILITY PER 100 CHILDREN UNDER 6
WITH ALL AVAILABLE PARENTS WORKING⁹



ECONOMIC STABILITY

78%

FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN
IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH
INCOMES BELOW 185
FEDERAL POVERTY LINE¹⁰

46%

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

19%

CHILDREN IN
POVERTY¹²

15%

CHILD FOOD
INSECURITY RATE¹⁰

61%

FAMILIES WITH
CHILDREN WHO
OWN THEIR HOME¹³

31%

CHILDREN
OF COLOR IN
POVERTY¹⁴

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 B17001.
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 B17010.
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 B17001H-1.



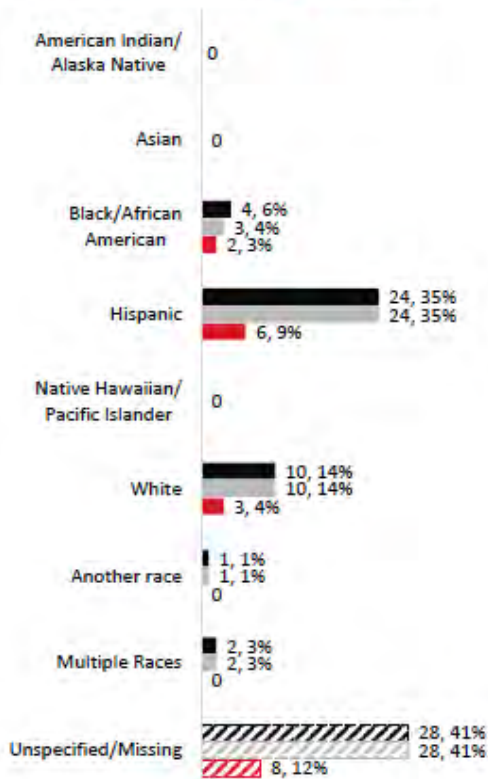
Owens Educational Services | Electronic Monitoring & Tracker

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

69 Youths Referred
71% Electronic Monitoring
68 Enrolled
29% Tracking Services
19 Successful

Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

■ Referred ■ Enrolled ■ Successful



Gender and Grades of Youths Referred



71% (49)
Male



29% (20)
Female



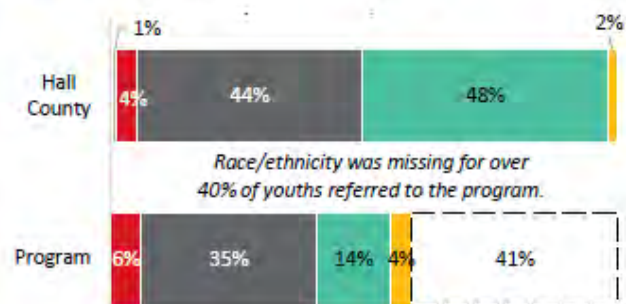
0
Nonbinary



Average Age - **15**
Age Range - **11-18**

Program Population Compared to Hall County's Youth Population

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

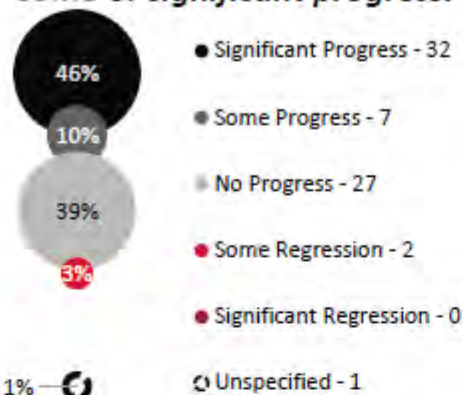


Race/ethnicity was missing for over 40% of youths referred to the program.

Outcomes at Discharge

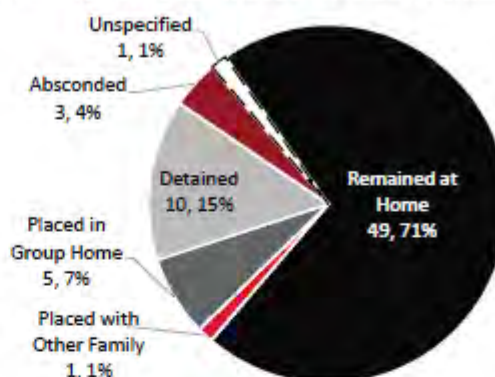
Progress at Discharge

57% of discharged youths made *some* or *significant* progress.



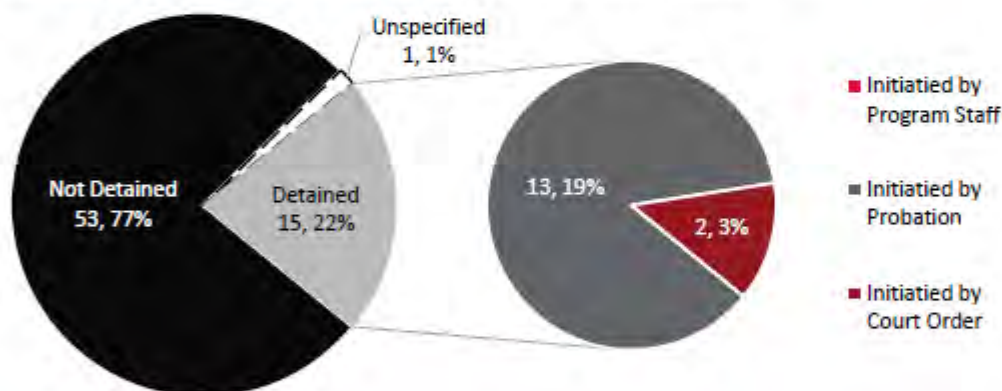
Discharge Placement

72% of youths *remained in their community*.



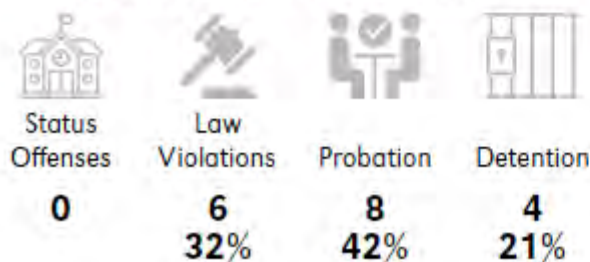
Detained at Discharge

77% of youths were *not* detained after discharge from the program. For the youths who were, detainment was initiated by probation in 19%, and by court order in 3% of cases.



Youths' Future System Involvement (for 68 closed cases)¹

19 Successful Closed Cases



49 Unsuccessful/Other Closed Cases



¹ One case was not included in FSI calculations because it remains open (i.e., no discharge date).

2024 Program Evaluation²

 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.	Meets Data Standards
Missing race/ethnicity for over 20% of the referred youths.	Program Population
Between 40% and 80% of youths enrolled made "some" or "significant progress" by discharge.	Program Progress 
Closes fewer than 40% of cases successfully.	Successful Cases 
Between 10% and 25% of youths were detained at discharge.	Detained at Discharge 
Between 40% and 80% of youths served remained in the community.	Discharge Placement 
Approximately the same rate or more successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/ other closed cases in two or more FSI categories.	Future System Involvement 

Overall Program Rating



² For full evaluation criteria, see Alternatives to Detention Programs Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

Evaluation Summary

Hall County Owens Educational Services alternative to detention programs (ATD; electronic monitoring and tracker services) are rated as **ineffective to promising**. We cannot evaluate proportionality of services based on comparisons of the program's population of youths served to Hall County's youth population because over 40% of youths' race/ethnicity were missing. We note a better comparison population for ATD programs may be law enforcement youth contacts, rather than the overall county population. Over a quarter of enrolled youths (19 or 28%) successfully completed program requirements. Many cases were closed because the referral source withdrew the referral (29 or 42%) or for other reasons (12 or 17%). Five youths' cases (7%) were closed due to noncompliance with program requirements and one youth's case (1%) was unsuccessfully closed because they cut off their monitor. Over half of youths (39 or 57%) made some or significant progress by the time they were discharged from the program. The remaining youths made no progress by discharge (27 or 39%) or experienced some regression (two or 3%); one youth's progress at discharge was unknown. Almost three quarters of youths (50 or 72%) remained in their communities (i.e., in the home or with other family) at discharge and most were not detained (53 or 77%). 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 youths who successfully completed the program, compared to those whose cases were not successfully closed. Nearly a third of successful youths had a new law violation within a year of discharge from the program, over 40% were involved with probation, and over 20% were admitted to detention.

Recommendations

One area that Owens Educational Services' ATD programs may wish to explore is the relatively high number of cases closed because the referral source withdrew the referral (29 or 42%). The program could review eligibility criteria, to see if they could address some of the referral reasons for requesting the case be returned. In addition, a fairly high number of youth made no progress by discharge (27 or 39%) or experienced some regression (two or 3%). Although it may be that the program serves a population at high risk for delinquency, they should explore why almost a third of successful youths had a new law violation within a year of discharge from the program, as well as other system involvement. Finally, the proportionality of referrals could not be assessed for the Hall County Owens Educational Services' ATD programs due to missing data. It is essential for programs to track complete data for all youths referred and served to facilitate complete and accurate evaluations. The JJI aims to help programs improve outcomes for the youths they work with and encourages the program to attend an alternatives to detention program evaluation webinar scheduled for 9 A.M. on April 24, 2024.

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.



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Hall County Pre-trial Juvenile Diversion Program

Hall County | July 2020-June 2022 | Diversion

475

Youths Referred

428

Enrolled

426

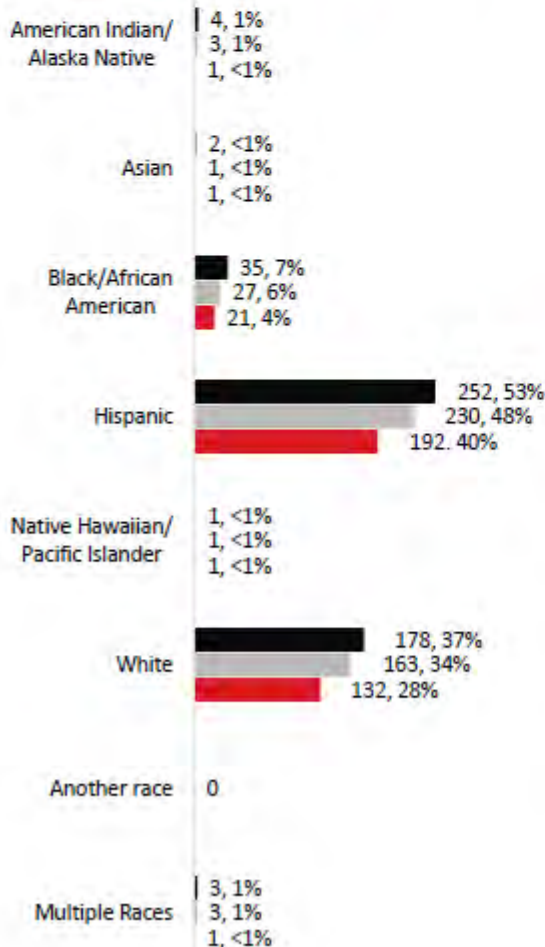
Assessed

349

Successful

Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

■ Referred ■ Enrolled ■ Successful



Gender and Age of Youths Referred



61% (292)
Male



39% (183)
Female



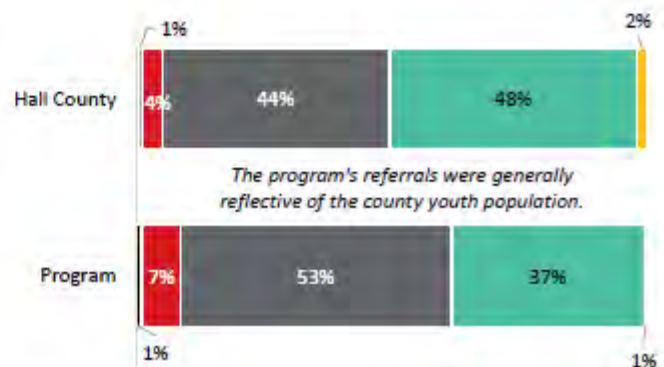
0
Nonbinary



Average Age – **15**
Age Range – **11-19**

Program Population Compared to Hall County's Youth Population

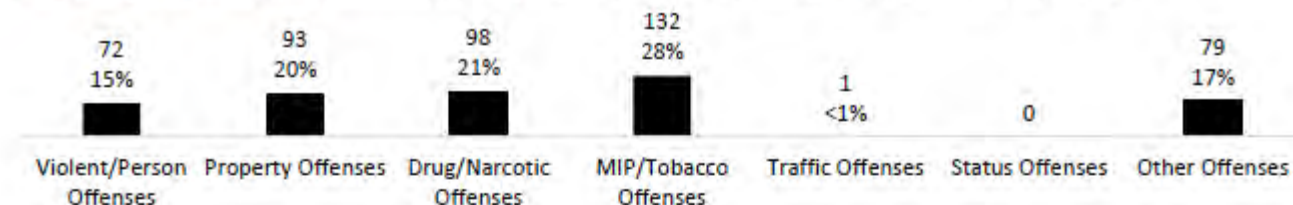
■ American Indian/Alaska Native ■ Asian
■ Black/African American ■ Hispanic
■ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ■ White
■ Another Race/Multiple



The program's referrals were generally reflective of the county youth population.

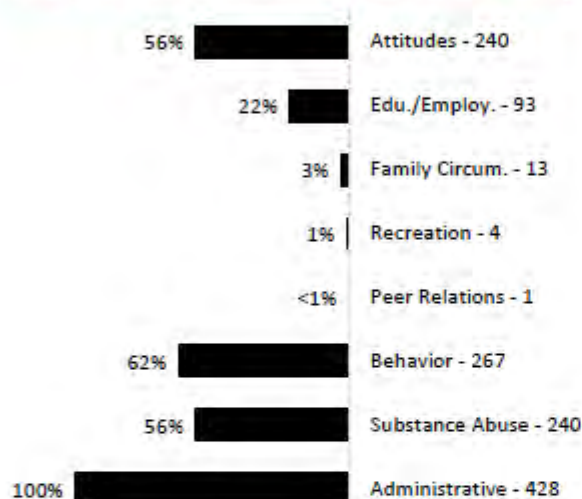
Charges at Referral

On average, youths were referred to the program with **one** charge (range of 1-5 charges).

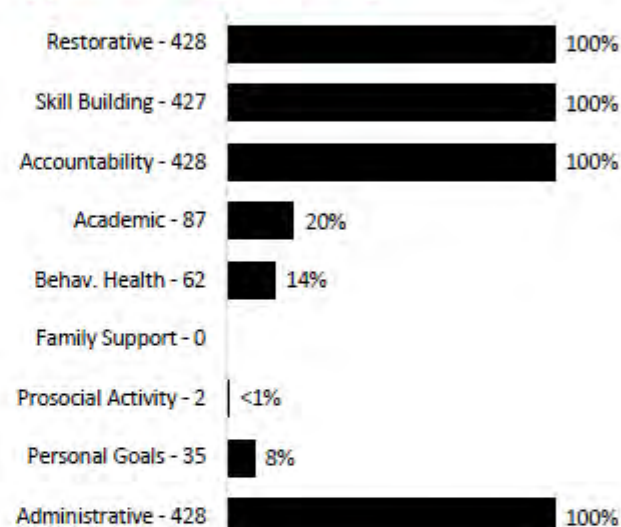


Note: Only the first charge listed for each youth is reported here.

Case Plan Domains (Youth Needs)¹



Types of Programming



On average, youths completed²:

21
(1-53)
Program Hours

94%
(4-157%)
of Required Hours

6
(0-11)
Activities

92%
(0-100%)
of Program Activities



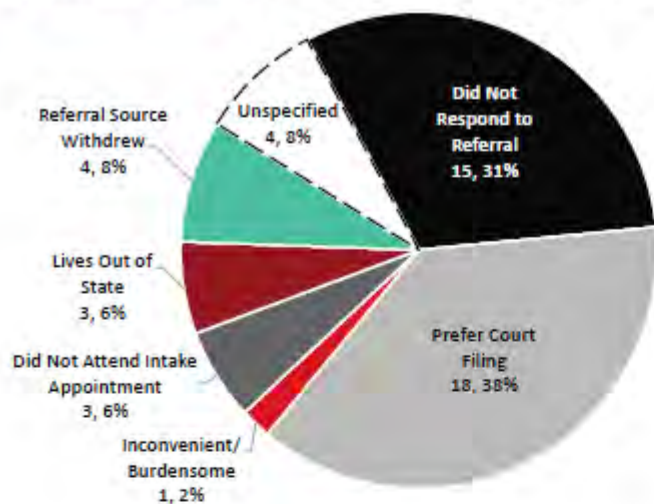
100% of youths received programming matching at least one of their needs, as identified through their case plan domains.

¹ Youths could have multiple case plan domains and types of programming — percentages do not total to 100%.

² Attendance hours were missing for 33 enrolled youths (8%) and number of activities completed was missing for 35 enrolled youths (8%).

Refusal Reason

48 youths refused or did not participate in diversion.



On average, youths owed³:

\$91

(\$0-\$140)
in Diversion Fees

\$22

(\$0-\$1,422)
in Restitution

<\$1

(\$0-\$13)
in Other Costs

Case Outcomes

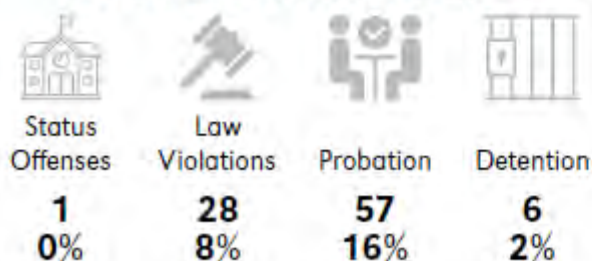
73% of youths successfully completed the program.

■ Successful ■ Unsuccessful ■ Did Not Participate

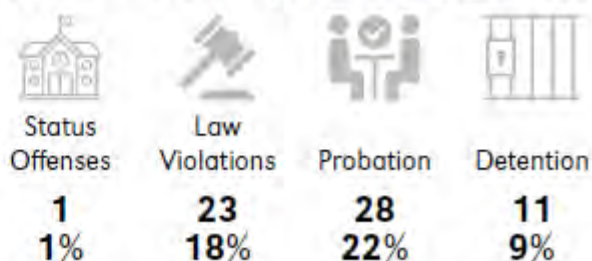


Youths' Future System Involvement

349 Successful Closed Cases



126 Unsuccessful/Other Closed Cases



³ Diversion fees were waived for 27 youths (6%) and 379 youths (89%) did not owe restitution.

2024 Program Evaluation⁴

 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.	Meets Data Standards
Program's population is reflective of county's population.	Program Population 
Between 40% and 80% of enrolled youths are assessed with a validated tool.	Assessment Tool/Process 
Over 80% of youths enrolled received programming matching their need(s).	Domains and Programming Activities 
Youths completed, on average, at least 60% of all required time AND on average, youths completed at least 80% of activities.	Program Hours and Completion Rates 
Closes between 40% and 80% of cases successfully.	Successful Cases 
Fewer successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/other closed cases in all FSI categories.	Future System Involvement 

Overall Program Rating

Ineffective

Promising

Effective

⁴ For full evaluation criteria, see Diversion Programs Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

Evaluation Summary

Hall County Pre-trial Juvenile Diversion Program is rated as **effective**. The youths referred to the program were generally reflective of the Hall 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. 48 youths (10%) refused to or did not participate in the diversion program. Several (18 or 38%) refused because they preferred a court filing or were closed out because the youths did not respond to the referrals (15 or 31%). The remaining cases were closed without the youths participating because the referral source withdrew the referrals (four or 8%), the youth lived out of state or did not attend the intake appointment (three or 6%, respectively), or viewed the process as inconvenient or burdensome (one or 2%). Four youths' reasons for refusal were unspecified. While nearly all of the enrolled youths (426 or > 99%) were assessed upon intake into the program, only 60% had a validated assessment tool indicated (i.e., the Nebraska Youth Screen or the CRAFFT Screen). All youths received programming appropriate for their case plan domains (i.e., needs). On average, youths attended 21 hours of the program, or 94% of their required hours, and completed six activities, or 92% of their program activities. A little under 75% of referred youths (349 or 73%) were enrolled and successfully discharged from the program. 78 youths (16%) were discharged unsuccessfully because the youths failed to comply (53 or 11%) or received a new law violation (25 or 5%). Finally, the program was effective at preventing Future System Involvement (FSI; i.e., status or law violation court filings, probation involvement, or detention intake) among successful youths compared to youths who did not participate or were unsuccessful. Across all four categories of FSI, a lower rate of successful cases were indicated than unsuccessful/other cases.

Recommendations

Hall County Pre-trial Juvenile Diversion Program enrolled a substantial number of youths during the evaluation time frame. The program did a very good job at matching program activities to the youths' needs. However, the program should ensure they are assessing all youths enrolled in the program with a validated assessment tool. To further improve services to their community, we recommend that the program increase the percentage of youths successfully completing the program. To accomplish this, the program may survey unsuccessful youths before they leave the program. Understanding reasons for refusal can provide valuable insight for the program to increase enrollment and retention. It may be valuable for the program to review their processes for contacting youths referred to the program to identify potential barriers for youths (e.g., lack of communication methods, transportation issues), as many of the youths who did not participate were excluded because they did not respond to the referral.

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Hall County Juvenile Services | High School/Middle School Interventionist

Hall County | July 2020-June 2022 | School Interventionist

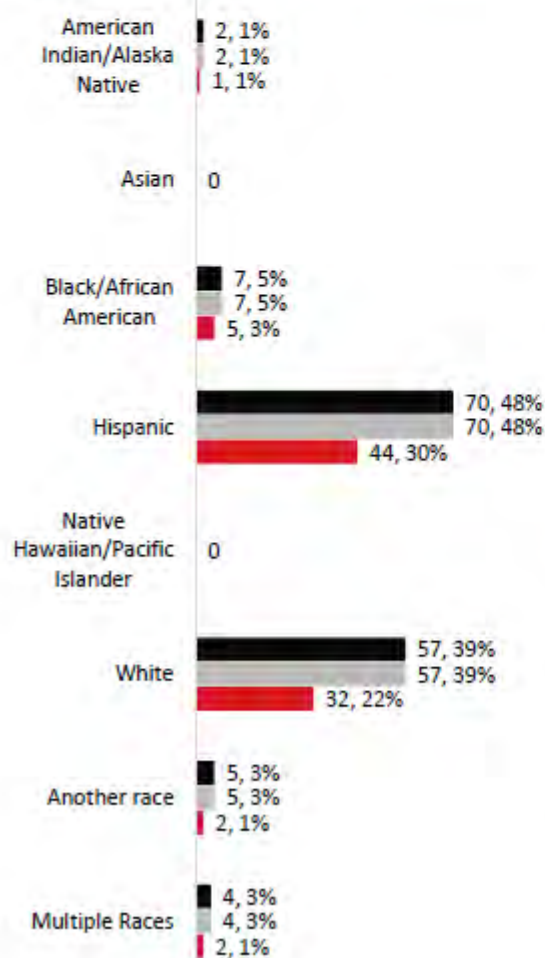
145
Youths Referred

145
Enrolled

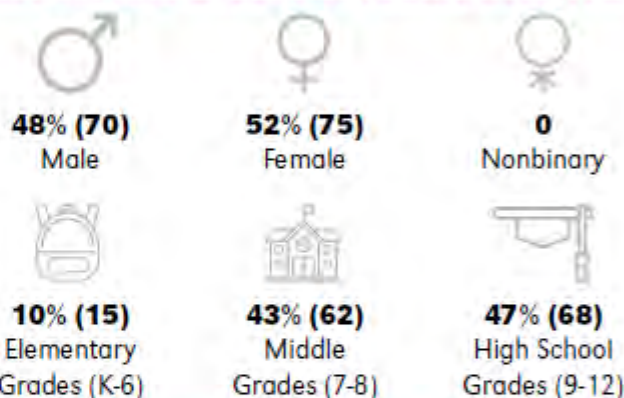
86
Successful

Program Involvement by Race and Ethnicity

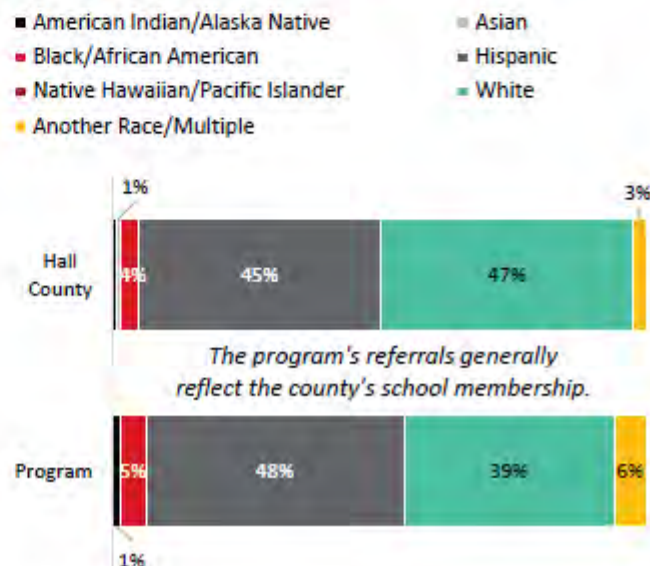
■ Referred ■ Enrolled ■ Successful



Gender and Grades of Youths Referred



Program Population Compared to Hall County's School Membership

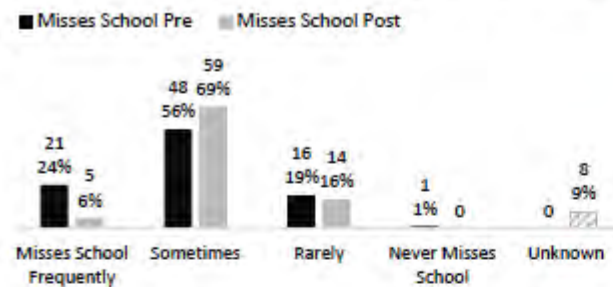


The program's referrals generally reflect the county's school membership.

School Outcomes for Successful Cases

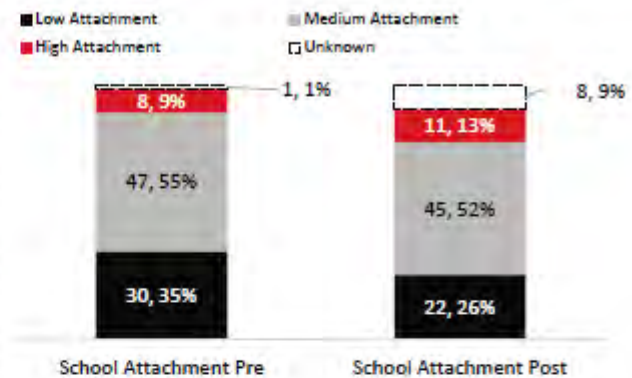
School Attendance

On average, successful youths sometimes missed school both before enrollment and post-intervention.



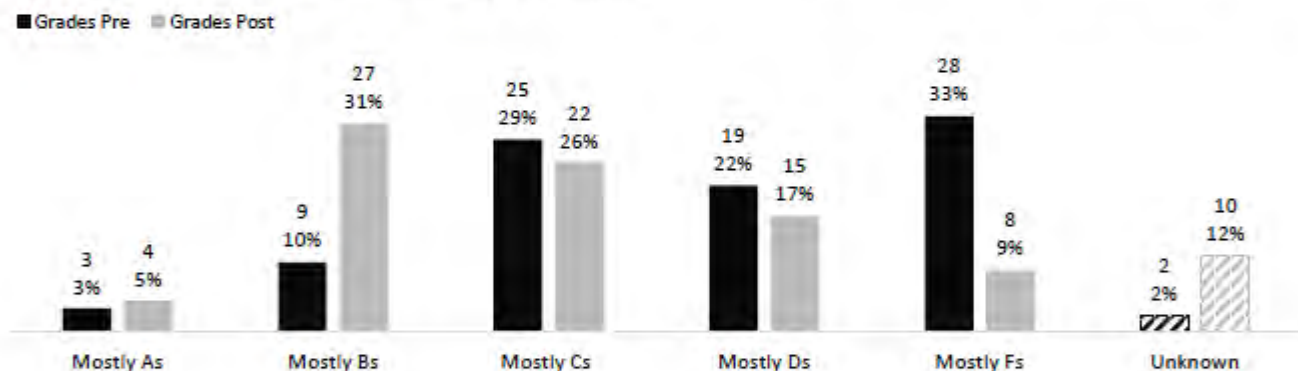
School Attachment

On average, successful youths had medium school attachment both pre-enrollment and post-intervention.



Grades

Grades improved post-intervention for successful youths. On average, successful youths had mostly Ds before enrollment and mostly Cs after completing the program.



Youths' Future System Involvement

86 Successful Closed Cases



59 Unsuccessful/Other Closed Cases



2024 Program Evaluation¹

 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.	Meets Data Standards
Program's population is reflective of county's school membership.	Program Population 
Closes between 40% and 80% of cases successfully.	Successful Cases 
Youths successfully discharged had some improved school outcomes compared to pre-intervention, but not all outcomes improved.	School Outcomes 
Fewer successfully closed cases had FSI than unsuccessful/ other closed cases in all FSI categories.	Future System Involvement 

Overall Program Rating

Ineffective

Promising



Effective

¹ For full evaluation criteria, see School-based Programs Evaluation Matrix on the [Evidence-based Nebraska Website](#).

Evaluation Summary

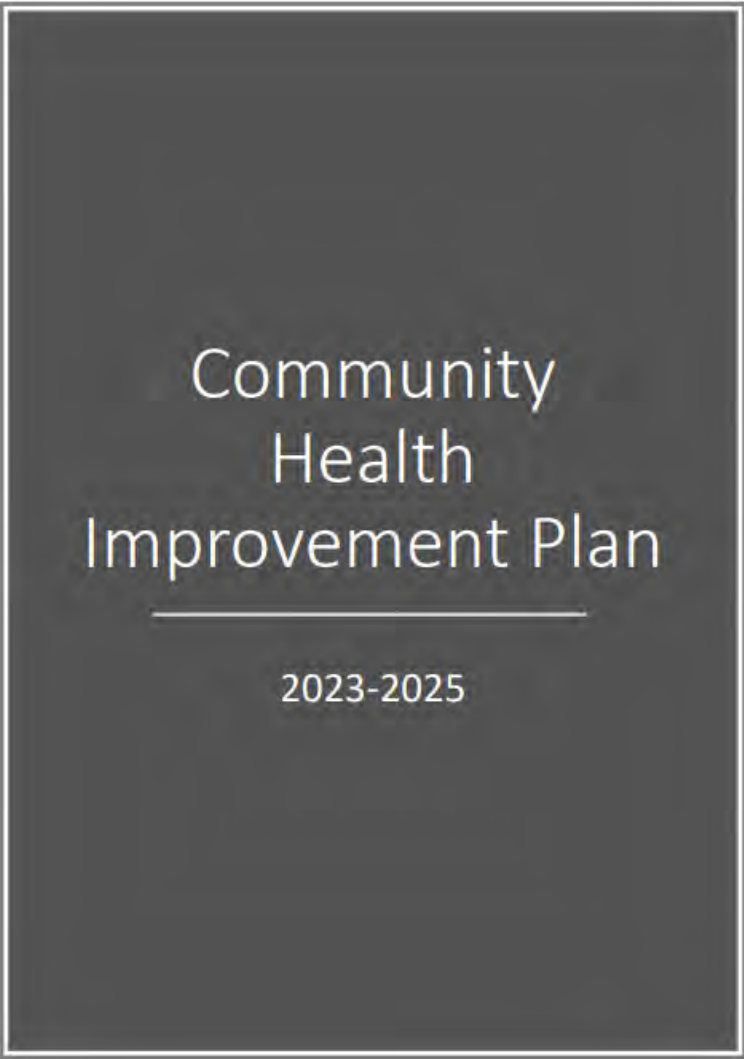
Hall County Juvenile Service's High school/Middle school Interventionist Program is rated as ***promising to effective***. The youths referred to and served by the program were generally reflective of the Hall County school membership. Just under 60% of enrolled youths were successfully discharged from the program (five graduated and 81 completed all program requirements). For successful youths, school grades improved from mostly Ds at pre-enrollment to mostly Cs post-intervention. However, school attachment and attendance did not substantially change from enrollment to post-intervention. Finally, the program was somewhat 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. However, 12% of successful youths had a law violation court filing within a year and 20% were involved with probation at some point after discharge from the program.

Recommendations

To expand the impact of the high school/middle school Interventionist program, we recommend the program concentrate on increasing the number of youths successfully completing the program. Specifically, the program should explore the cases of youths who are not successfully completing (14% were unsuccessful and 26% were closed for other reasons) to identify areas for improving retention and engagement of these students. Building rapport with these students can increase the likelihood they continue to participate in the program and succeed, and ultimately increase school engagement. There is also room for continued improvement of school outcomes; many of the youths still had low school attachment, frequently/sometimes missed school, and/or had mostly Ds or Fs even after successfully completing the program. The program should ask youth about activities that might increase engagement. Grades alone substantially improved for the successful youths. If possible, the program should assess youths entering the program to identify their needs and areas to target for intervention. Personalizing interventions to match the needs of the youths is likely to increase the effectiveness of the services provided and improve outcomes.

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.

Appendix F: CDHD, Community Health Improvement Plan 2023-2025



Central District Health Department



Central District Health Department (CDHD) serves over 78,000 people in Hall, Hamilton, and Merrick counties in central Nebraska.



CDHD employs approximately 41 staff members (36.4 FTE) and is made up of 5 divisions, including Community Health, Environmental Services, Epidemiology, Health Projects, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



The mission of CDHD is to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan Process

This document is an overview of what we call the “CHA” (Community Health Assessment) and the “CHIP” (Community Health Improvement Plan). We do the CHA & CHIP with the help of **many** community partners. This process happens every three years.

CHA

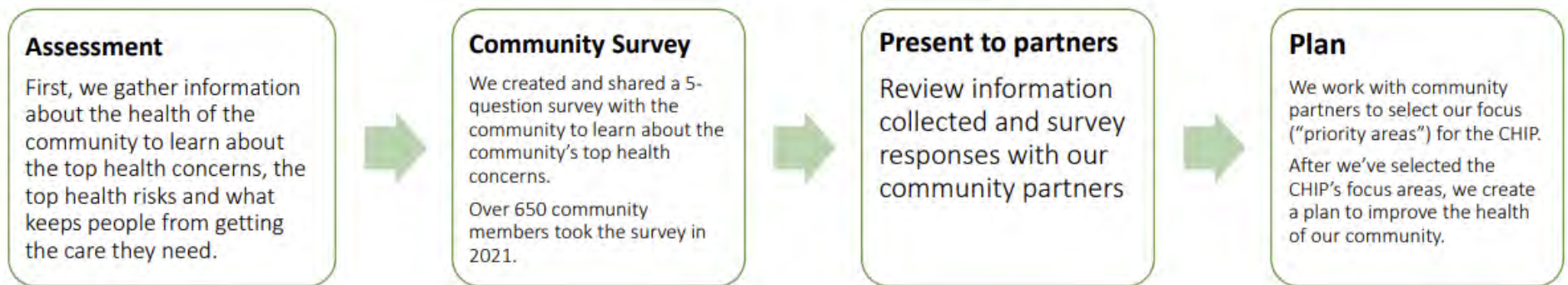
The goal of the Community Health Assessment is to learn about the health and wellbeing of the community. Through the CHA, we learn about things like the top illnesses in our counties, the biggest health concerns, what keeps people from getting the care they need, and more. We collect all this information and share it with our partners and with the public.

CHIP

After we look at the information from the CHA, we work with community partners to decide what needs the most attention. We select “priority areas” to focus on for the next three years. We create a Community Health Improvement Plan based on these priorities.

The next page provides a little more detail about the steps in our CHA/CHIP process.

Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan Process



We couldn't do the CHA and the CHIP without the help of our local community partners. It takes a diverse team to make an impact!

Community Partners

Throughout every step of the CHA & CHIP, we work with local community partners to review information, select priority areas, and plan to make a positive impact in the community.

We are lucky to have partners with diverse expertise committed to these efforts.

Central Nebraska Center for Alcoholism & Addiction	CHI St. Francis	City of Grand Island	Department of Health & Human Services
Child Care Licensing	Friendship Home	Grand Island Chamber of Commerce	Grand Island Regional
Grace Cancer Foundation	Hall County Community Collaborative	Hall County Juvenile Services Heartland Health Center	Heartland United Way
Hope Harbor	Idea Bank Marketing	Merrick Medical Center	Memorial Community Health Inc.
Multicultural Coalition	Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors	Nebraska Extension	Region 3 Behavioral Health Care
Rooted in Relationships	Sage Healthcare Collaborative	SixPence	Stick Creek Kids Child Care

Access to Care

We learned that a major concern of the community is accessing the care they need. Concerns included cost of care, being un/under insured, lack of providers, lack of bilingual providers, difficulty navigating the healthcare system, etc.

Culturally Appropriate Behavioral Health

Another major concern in our community is mental and behavioral health, including worries about depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, finding bilingual therapists, stigma, etc.

Quality Child Care and Family Engagement

The third priority area involves support for families. The Central District lost many child care providers during the pandemic, which has many negative impacts. A lack of child care can impact short-term and long-term health, stunt economic growth, keep families from getting health care, decrease work-life balance, reinforce poverty cycles, and impact mental health.



Access to Care

Focus: Increase the number of Community Health Workers in the community. Community Health Workers can help community members get access to the care and resources needed to be healthy.

Activities include hiring and training more CHWs, increasing support for local organizations who employ CHWs, increase the public understanding of how CHWs can help and how to access their services, and more*!

**An expanded version of the CHIP is available. The expanded CHIP includes more information about specific strategies planned to reach this goal, as well as how we plan to measure if the work is effective. Call CDHD at 308-385-5175 for more information.*



Access to Care

Focus: Make it simpler to successfully refer a client to other organizations. Unite Us is a referral system that takes the burden off clients. Through Unite Us, an organization will be notified that someone needs their services. The organization is responsible for reaching out to the client, not the other way around.

Activities include promoting the use of Unite Us to local community-based organizations, helping organizations contact Unite Us staff to use the platform and access training, using Unite Us to identify where there are gaps in services in our community, etc*.

For more information on Unite Us, see their website: <https://uniteus.com/>



**An expanded version of the CHIP is available. The expanded CHIP includes more information about specific strategies planned to reach this goal, as well as how we plan to measure if the work is effective. Call CDHD at 308-385-5175 for more information.*



Culturally Appropriate Behavioral Health Care

Focus: Create an environment where it's easier to talk about behavioral health (mental health, substance use, etc.) needs and easier to access resources and support that are culturally appropriate.

Activities include creating a communications campaign to decrease stigma, supporting the work of community partners that address substance use disorders and behavioral health needs, increasing the understanding of how Community Health Workers (CHWs) can support behavioral health needs, and providing behavioral health-specific trainings to CHWs in Hall, Hamilton and Merrick counties.

**An expanded version of the CHIP is available. The expanded CHIP includes more information about specific strategies planned to reach this goal, as well as how we plan to measure if the work is effective. Call CDHD at 308-385-5175 for more information.*

9



Quality Child Care & Family Engagement

Focus: Increase the amount of high-quality, accessible child care in Hall County.

Activities include advocating for Family Child Care Home IIs in Hall county, which will open up more child care spots, and creating a resource guide that helps parents know what to look for when picking a high quality child care facility.

Focus: Support opportunities for families to strengthen their family engagement.

Activities include supporting community programs that focus on high quality early learning programs and strengthening WIC family engagement by using [ReadyRosie](#) to help parents support the learning of their children.

10

Tracking our Progress

We will use a few different tools to track the progress of the activities outlined in the Community Health Improvement Plan. These tools will help us make sure we are on track to a healthier community.

Data

We will continue to monitor health data (i.e. rates of illness, barriers to care) in our community.

- We get this data from a few different places, including the Behavioral Risk Surveillance Survey, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, and the American Community Survey/US Census Bureau



Community Pulse Survey

We will continually use a short survey to get feedback from the community about their top health concerns and what they think would make their neighborhood a healthier place.



Community Partner Reports

- Every 4 months we meet with all CHIP partners to talk about our progress, successes, and challenges. This helps us know if we need to change our plans (shown on the next slide).

CHIP Planning Cycle

We try to maintain a balance between planning and adapting to an ever-changing environment



Resources

- We want to hear from you! We welcome any feedback or suggestions for our Community Health Assessment or Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Electronic (PDF) versions of the CHA and CHIP are available at: cdhd.ne.gov
- Expanded versions of the CHIP are available upon request by emailing lthalken@cdhd.ne.gov.

References/Data Sources:

¹**School Membership with Chronic Absenteeism:** (Nebraska Department of Education, n.d.) [Data Reports – Nebraska Department of Education](#)

²**Out of Home Placements by Service Area with Percent Change** (Nebraska Foster Care Review Office, 2024) [Foster Care Review Office \(nebraska.gov\)](#)

³**Mid Plains CSU Youth Risk Assessments Completed:** Compiled and Prepared by: LaNaya Crouch, Assistant Director CSU on September 19, 2024.

⁴**Hall County Schools/CNCAA Substance Abuse Intervention Program:** Compiled and Prepared by: Michaela Perry, Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions on October 7, 2024.

⁵**Arrests by Arrest Offense and Arrestee Age for 2022 and 2023 with Percent Change:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics: [Beyond 20/20 Perspective - Reports \(ne.gov\)](#)

⁶**Diversion Statistics:** Compiled and Prepared by: Robyn Hassel, Hall County Juvenile Services on November 6, 2024.

⁷**Hall County Juvenile Average Length of Stay in Detention and Intakes Resulting in Detention:** Data Provided by the Administrative Office of Courts & Probation, Research and Data Division. Requested by: James Schulte, JDAI on January 12, 2024.

⁸**CDHD CHIP Priority Areas for 2023-2025:** Central District Health Department, Community Health Improvement Plan 2023-2025. [PowerPoint Presentation \(ne.gov\)](#)