



Violence Prevention Initiative and Youth Workforce Development—High Risk

Mid-Period Evaluation Brief

In 2009, San Francisco County and City offered nearly \$10 million in grants for Violence Prevention and Intervention (VPI) services to fund approximately 60 community-based organizations (CBOs). Another \$1.4 million in grants was awarded to 10 CBOs for Youth Workforce Development services targeted to high risk youth (YWD-HR). This report brief looks back at the first two years of VPI services and the first year of YWD-HR as part of a longer range evaluation that will consider these programs along with programs to be funded starting in January 2012. To provide a foundation for a broader outcomes evaluation of these efforts, this “mid-period” report documents the number of San Francisco youth and young adults served by these programs and the intensity of services received.

Using data from the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and their Families (DCYF) Contract Management System (CMS) and the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department (JPD) Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), the report brief addresses five main research questions:

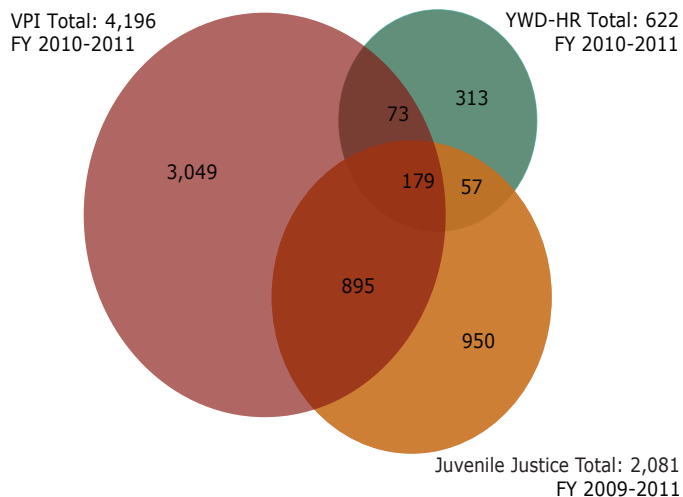
- + Who has been served through VPI and YWD-HR, and to what degree are these programs reaching juvenile justice-involved youth?
- + Are different youth and young adults being reached by different service strategies within VPI?
- + What have been the patterns of service use within VPI and YWD-HR?
- + For YWD-HR in particular, how many youth and young adults have been placed in jobs?
- + Among juvenile justice-involved youth who participate in VPI and YWD-HR, what are the short run juvenile justice outcomes for these youth?

We summarize the key findings for each of these questions below.

VPI and YWD-HR Reached More than 4,500 Youth and Young Adults, Including More than Half of Juvenile Justice Involved Youth.

During 2010-11, VPI and YWD-HR programs served 4,566 youth and young adults. Of these, 4,196 were served by VPI, and 622 were served by YWD-HR. Just over 250 youth were served by both programs. Youth 15-18 years old are the most likely to receive services through these programs. This age group accounts for 54 percent of VPI participants and 40 percent of YWD-HR participants. VPI also serves a number of younger youth, while YWD-HR serves more young adults.

Out of 2,081 juvenile justice involved youth, 1,131 participated in VPI or YWD-HR services; 179 youth participated in both.



By design, the programs serve a highly at-risk population. Approximately 70 percent of participating youth live in San Francisco’s five “hot spot” neighborhoods: the Tenderloin/SOMA, Western Addition, the Mission, Bayview/Hunters Point/Potrero Hill or Visitacion Valley. Around two-thirds of the participants were Black or Latino; the rest were mostly Asian/Pacific Islander or multiracial/multiethnic. About one in four spoke a language other than English as their primary language.

Among juvenile justice involved youth, those younger than 15 years old were most likely to reach VPI services,



while those 15 to 18 were more likely to participate in YWD-HR. In addition, Asian youth represented a somewhat larger share of YWD participants than their share in the overall juvenile justice population. Otherwise, juvenile justice involved youth who participated in VPI and YWD-HR largely matched the overall population of youth with juvenile justice contact.

Most Participants in Detention Alternatives and Diversion are Younger than 15; Alternative Education Has the Largest Share of Young Adults.

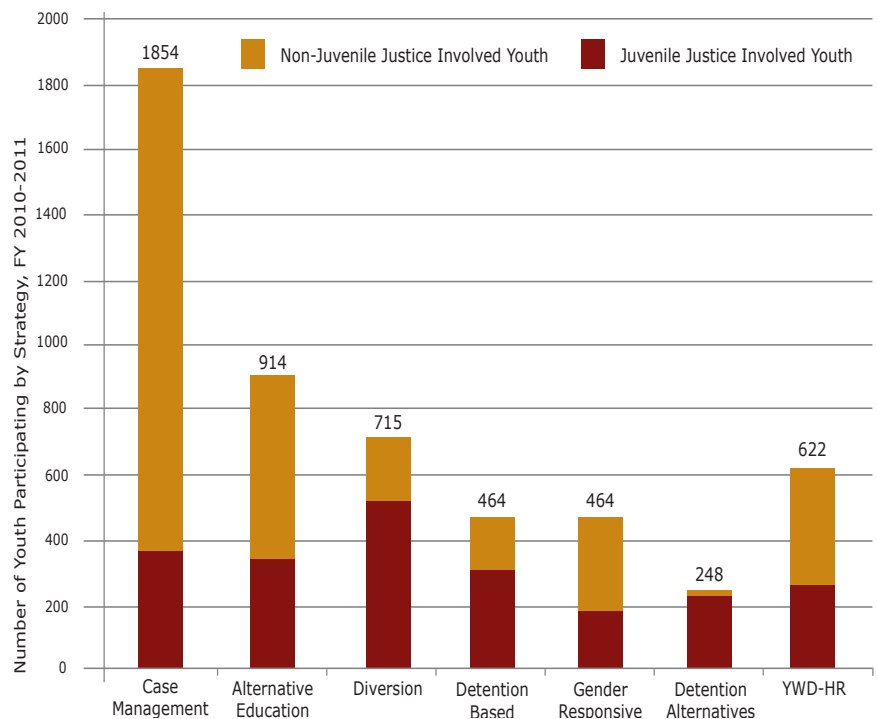
Within the VPI, there are six different service strategies: Alternative Education, Case Management, Diversion, Detention-Based Services, Detention Alternatives and Gender Responsive Services. The profiles of youth served differ by strategy. In particular, although less than one-quarter of all VPI participants are younger than 15, more than half of youth in Diversion or Detention Alternatives are in this age group. Youth younger than 15 also represent a large share of the Case Management participants. In contrast, more than 45 percent of Alternative Education participants are young adults, including 19 percent who are over 21.

The service strategy profiles also differ by gender and race. All participants in Gender Responsive Services are female, as are 65 percent of participants in the Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC), one of the main Diversion services. Since young women are primarily served through these strategies, they are underrepresented in Detention Alternatives, Detention-Based Services, and Diversion Services other than CARC. Black youth make up the majority of youth in Detention-Based Services, Detention Alternatives and Gender Responsive Services. Two-thirds of all Asian/Pacific Islander youth in the VPI are served in Case Management, where they represent 31 percent of participants. The next closest strategy is Alternative Education, where Asian/Pacific Islander youth make up only 16 percent of the total.

Case Management Was the Most Common Strategy; Alternative Education Had the Highest Hours of Participation.

Nearly 90 percent of youth participated in only one strategy offered under VPI and YWD-HR. Most commonly, this strategy was Case Management, which served more than 40 percent of all participants in VPI and YWD-HR. Almost half of the youth served by more than one strategy participated in YWD-HR and a VPI strategy, most frequently Case Management. This was particularly common for juvenile justice involved youth: Out of 252 youth in both VPI and YWD-HR, 179 were juvenile justice involved.

Although Case Management served the most youth, Detention Alternatives served the largest share of the juvenile justice involved youth.



Not surprisingly, youth in Detention-Based, Detention Alternative and Diversion strategies are most likely to have juvenile justice history, with more than half of youth in these services having had a recent arrest or detention. (Detention-Based services also serve



young adults detained at the county jail; we have no data from the adult probation system.) For Detention Alternatives, 92 percent of youth are involved in the juvenile justice system.

Youth in the Case Management strategy and young women with case management under Gender Responsive Services are expected to be assessed for risk levels. CMS captures a relatively low rate of risk assessment, with only 40 percent of youth with Case Management participation recorded as having been assessed for risk. There are three assessment levels for case management services: Intensive, Restorative, and Risk Reduction and Linkage (RRL). Risk assessment levels correspond to both the expected intensity and length of service delivery. On average, Intensive clients received more service days than clients assessed at Restorative or RRL. Most assessments remained open at the end of the fiscal year, with only 15 percent of assessed youth having completed their service plan.

Group activities account for the majority of service time across all strategies, except for Diversion, where care management and individual activities together account for more time than group activities. The dominance of group activities holds even for the Case Management strategy which uses group activities to recruit and retain youth and young adults. Youth in Alternative Education had the highest “dosage” of participation (except for those on home detention), with the average youth participating for 198 hours of group activities over an average of 31 days. Youth participated for an average of 57 hours in Detention Alternatives and 58 hours in YWD-HR.

About 30 Percent of YWD-HR Participants Had Job Placements, but These Were Mostly Subsidized.

Of the 622 youth in YWD-HR, 299 had a job placement in 2010-11. YWD-HR youth that did not have a job placement typically participated in other YWD-HR activities, including group activities, case management and individual activities.

Most job placements were subsidized through an hourly wage or weekly stipend.

Subsidy Type, FY 2010-2011	Count	Wage
Subsidized, hourly wage	189	\$10.35 hourly
Subsidized, weekly stipend	63	\$120 weekly
Unsubsidized	16	\$10.76 hourly
Not specified	67	\$9.88 hourly
Unpaid	87	N/A

Although the placements may provide good work experience, only one youth was reported to have found permanent employment through one of these job placements. More than 70 youth had placements continuing at the end of the fiscal year. Most of the other placements appear to have been successfully completed, in that youth remained in the placement through the completion of the internship or subsidy period. However, about 11 percent of placements were terminated for reasons such as non-compliance or decided to discontinue training.

Strategies Serving Larger Shares of Juvenile Justice Involved Youth Have Higher Rates of Subsequent Arrest, Although Sustained Petitions Are Rarely More Severe.

Youth in Detention-Based, Detention Alternative and Diversion strategies were more likely to be arrested within six months of their first participation in VPI or YWD-HR. However, youth in these strategies were also the most likely to have juvenile justice involvement, with over 60 percent of youth in these strategies already involved with the juvenile justice system. The subsequent arrest rate was highest for youth in the Diversion strategy, although subsequent detention was highest for Detention Alternatives. Even in these strategies, only a minority of youth had a sustained petition. Of those with a prior sustained petition, the majority did not have another sustained petition within 6 months of their VPI participation. Again youth in Diversion were most likely to have a subsequent petition sustained, with 19 percent having a subsequent petition of equal or lesser severity and 14 percent with greater severity.



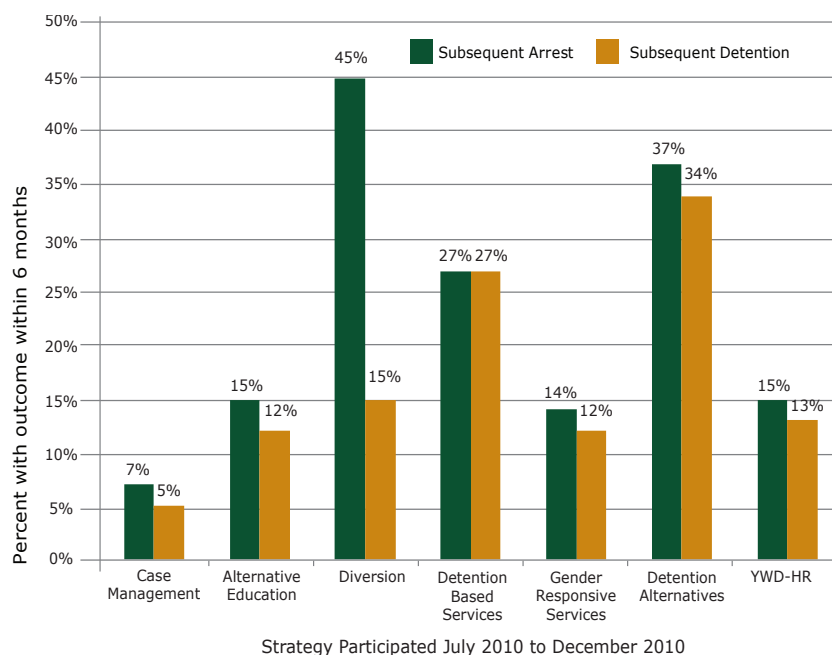
Relatively few participants in Alternative Education, Case Management or YWD-HR have a history with the juvenile justice system. However, among those on probation who participated in these strategies, probation violations were somewhat higher under Alternative Education, while those in YWD-HR had the highest rates of both probation completed and restitution paid. At the same time, among the small share of participants in these strategies with prior sustained petitions, rates of subsequent sustained petitions were higher for those in Alternative Education and Case Management and lower in YWD-HR. However, because risk level of youth is not controlled for, differences in these outcomes do not reflect differences in the efficacies of each strategy.

Next Steps

This mid-period evaluation report provides a first look into the success of Violence Prevention and Intervention services and Youth Workforce Development services for High Risk Youth. As the evaluation moves forward, we will both extend and deepen the analyses provided here. In particular, the evaluation will draw on a series of tools developed for the 2012-13 VPI funding cycle to look in greater depth at the short and long-term outcomes for youth and young adults participating in these services. In doing so, we assess whether there are subgroups of youth for whom VPI and YWD-HR are especially effective, as well as examining

the interactions of the different strategies. The Final Report will extend beyond the analysis presented here in several key ways. Most notably, we will measure the impact of services on youth outcomes, controlling for individual and program characteristics. We will assess both Program Outcomes and Systems Outcomes and we will use analysis to determine the impact of combinations of programs, different dosages, and specific types of programs or program characteristics.

About 2 in 5 youth in strategies linked to juvenile justice have a subsequent arrest within six months of VPI participation.



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