

THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY

JUVENILE PROBATION

OUTCOMES STUDY PART III

*Assessing the Experiences of
Probation-Involved Youth Exiting from
Out-of-Home Placements across Two Cohorts*

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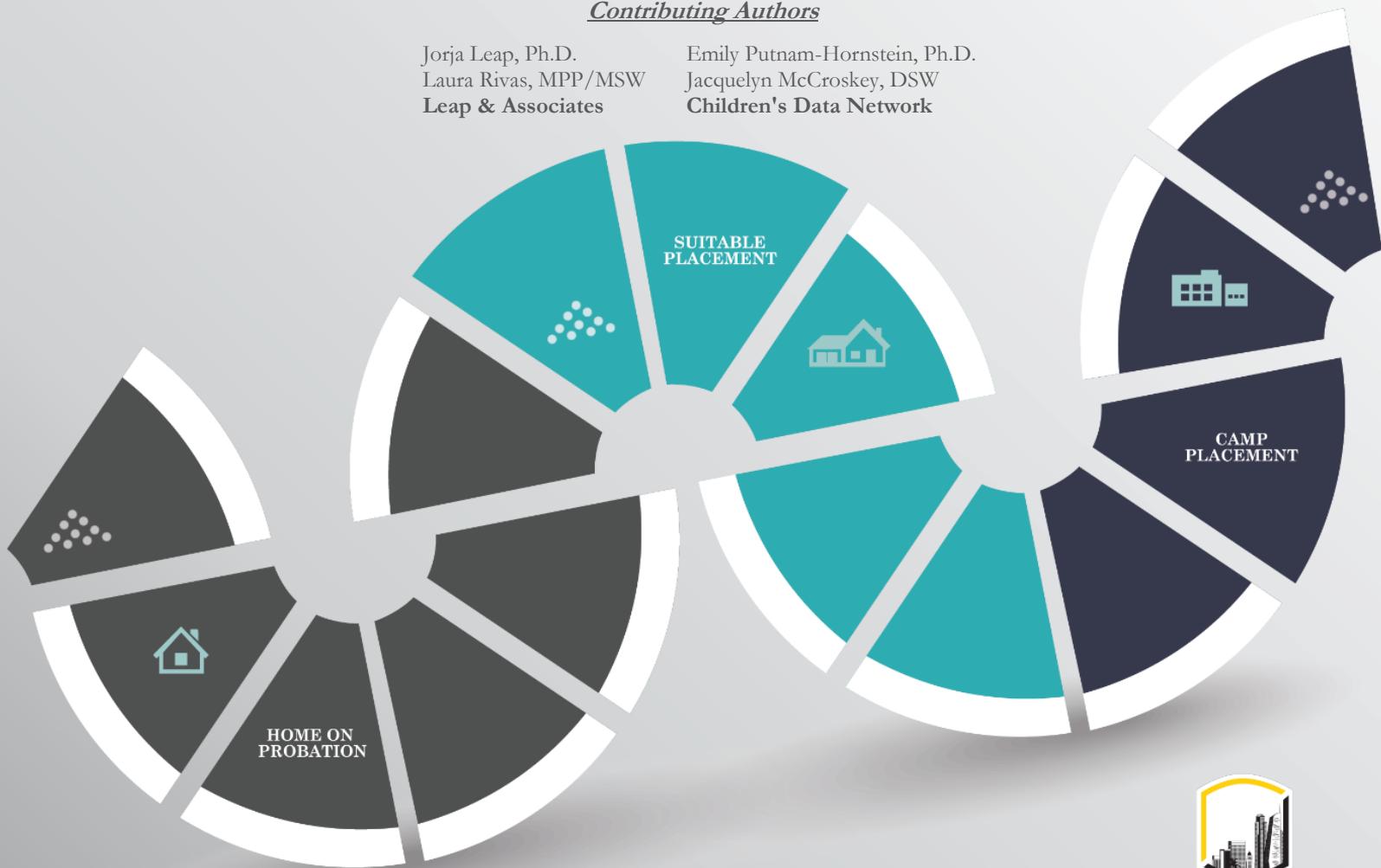
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- School-Based Probation Supervision
- 241.1 Dual Supervision Unit
- Child Trafficking Unit
- Placement Community Transition Services (PCTS)
- Intensive Gang Unit Supervision Program (IGSP)
- Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP)
- Residential Based Services (RBS)
- Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 : Overview of Study and Probation Process.....	7
Study Background.....	7
Current Study Overview	10
Putting Probation Placements in Context—Understanding the Juvenile Justice Process	10
Current Study Focus.....	11
Study Data and Methods	14
Study Timeline.....	16
Description of Data Sources.....	18
Chapter 2 : Youth Characteristics And Probation Experiences	21
General Characteristics of Study Youth and their Families	22
Youth Contact with Other County Systems.....	24
Contact with California's Child Welfare Services	24
Contact with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.....	28
Youth Characteristics and Experiences across the Study Time Periods	30
Characteristics at Time of Original Arrest.....	30
Characteristics at Time of Preceding Arrest/Petition.....	32
Characteristics of Cohort Youth While in Placement.....	34
What Happened to Youth after their Original Arrests and until One Year after Study Placement Exit or Jurisdiction Terminated (Whichever Came First)?.....	37
Chapter 3 : Services and Outcomes For Suitable Placement and Camp Youth In The 2011 and 2015 Cohorts	41
Service Referrals.....	42
Service Referrals within One Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition.....	42
Service Referrals during Study Placement.....	45
Services after Study Placement Exit.....	48
The Relationship between Treatment Need and Services Acquisition.....	51
Mental Health Outcomes of 2015 Cohort Youth Based on Probation Data.....	51
Substance Abuse Outcomes of 2015 Cohort Youth Based on Probation Data	52
Outcomes for Suitable Placement and Camp Cohort Youth	53
Recidivism Outcomes across Study Years	53

Chapter 4 : Perceptions of the Probation Experience—Interviews with Supervising Deputy Probation Officers, Youth, and Family	57
Interviews with Supervising Deputy Probation Officers.....	57
Data and Methods	57
Recurring Themes from the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer Interviews.....	59
Interviews with Youth and Family.....	68
Data and Methods	68
Predominant Themes in Youth and Family Interviews.....	70
Conclusion.....	76
Chapter 5 : Summary and Recommendations	78
Appendix.....	83

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: The Relationship between Youth Arrests and Their Study Placements Used in the Current Study.....	13
Figure 1.2: Types of Exits	15
Figure 1.3: Process for Data Collection	16
Figure 1.4: Study Time Frames for Case File Data Collection	17
Figure 4.1: Youth Strengths Reported by DPOs.....	60
Figure 4.2: Family Strengths Reported by DPOs.....	61
Figure 4.3: Life Trajectory Pre-Suitable Placement or Camp	70
Figure 4.4: Suitable Placement or Camp Programs and Services.....	72
Figure 4.5: Challenges & Concerns Post-Suitable Placement or Camp	73
Figure 4.6: Youth Support Networks.....	74
Figure 4.7: Goals/Desires for the Future.....	75

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1: Summary of Camp Releases and Suitable Placement Releases in Study Time Frame	14
Table 2.1: Demographics Comparisons for All Suitable Placement Exits and Suitable Placement Cohort Exits by Study Year.....	21

Table 2.2: Demographic Comparisons for All Camp Exits and Camp Cohort Exits by Study Year	22
Table 2.3: Family (Biological Parents and/or Siblings) History Characteristics for Suitable Placement and Camp Cohort Youth across Study Years	23
Table 2.4: General Characteristics of Suitable Placement and Camp Cohort Youth across Study Years	24
Table 2.5: Prevalence of Dual Involvement and Type of Maltreatment Allegation.....	26
Table 2.6: Gender Differences in Past Referrals, Substantiations, Case Openings and Foster Care Placements (Cohorts Combined)	27
Table 2.7: Race/Ethnicity Differences in Past Referrals, Substantiations, Case Openings and Foster Care Placements (Cohorts Combined)	28
Table 2.8: Contact with DMH Services Ever Prior to the Original Arrest.....	28
Table 2.9: Contact with DMH Services across Study Periods	29
Table 2.10: Contact with DMH in Psychiatric Hospitals.....	30
Table 2.11: Contact with DMH Services after Study Placement Exit across Study Years.....	30
Table 2.12: Cohort Characteristics at the Time of Original Arrest	31
Table 2.13: Cohort Characteristics at the Time of Preceding Arrest/Petition	33
Table 2.14: Suitable Placement Cohort Characteristics While in Placement across Study Years	35
Table 2.15: Camp Cohort Characteristics While in Placement across Study Years	36
Table 2.16: Summary of Events/Movements Experienced by 2015 Cohort Youth after Original Arrest until One Year after Study Placement Exit or Jurisdiction Terminated (Whichever Came First)	39
Table 3.1: Summary of Service Referrals Within One Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition across Study Years	43
Table 3.2: Service Referrals by Domain Type Within One Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition across Study Years	44
Table 3.3: Referral Access Outcomes One Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition— 2015 Cohort Youth Only	45
Table 3.4: Summary of Service Referrals During Study Placements across Study Years	46
Table 3.5: Service Referrals by Domain Type During Study Placements across Study Years	46
Table 3.6: Referral Access Outcomes During Study Placements—2015 Cohort Youth Only	48

Table 3.7: Summary of Service Referrals Received After Study Placement Exit across Study Years	48
Table 3.8: Service Referrals by Domain Type After Study Placement Exit across Study Years	49
Table 3.9: Service Referral Access Outcomes After Study Placement Exit— 2015 Cohort Youth Only	50
Table 3.10: The Relationship between the Need for Mental Health Treatment and Receiving Mental Health Treatment Services—2015 Cohort Youth Only	52
Table 3.11: The Relationship between the Need for Substance Abuse Treatment and Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment Services—2015 Cohort Youth Only	52
Table 3.12: New Arrests and Sustained Petitions after Exit across Study Years	54
Table 3.13: New Arrests and Sustained Petitions after Exit across Study Years—All Exits.....	55
Table 3.14: New Arrests and Sustained Petitions After Exit for the 2015 Cohort—Suitable Placement Detention, Replacement, and AWOL Only	55
Table 4.1: Total DPO Interviews Attempted	58
Table 4.2: Demographics and Characteristics of Interviews Completed.....	58
Table 4.3: Summary of Youth and Family Interviews Completed.....	69

01 CHAPTER 1 : OVERVIEW OF STUDY AND PROBATION PROCESS

STUDY BACKGROUND

In 2015, California State University, Los Angeles researchers, the Advancement Project, and other partners produced The Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study (Herz, Chan, Lee, Ross, McCroskey, Newell, and Fraser, 2015).¹ This study marked a unique and critical partnership between researchers, advocacy groups, and the Los Angeles County Probation Department to better understand the experiences of Probation-involved youth who entered suitable placement and camp placements using data collected from Probation, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). The impetus for the study was a mutual interest in building a foundation to continuously improve the intersection between research, practice and policy.

The target population for the 2015 study included all youth exiting suitable placements between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011, and all youth exiting from camp placements between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. The total number of exits for suitable placements during the study time frame was 561, and the total number for camp placements was 1,102. Cohorts of 250 youth were randomly drawn from the two respective populations for a total of 500 youth. Since in-depth case file reviews were not possible for all 500 cases due to time and resource constraints, 50 youth were randomly selected from the cohorts for additional data collection from case files (see Chapter 2 in Herz et al., 2015 for a more detailed description of the study cohorts). Using these cohorts, a range of findings was presented related to their experiences before, during, and after their placements. A few key findings from this study include:

- Youth in both cohorts were mostly male and Latino. African-American youth were, however, overrepresented relative to the general population. Youth were 15 years old (on average) at the time they were placed in the suitable placement and 16 years old (on average) at the time they were placed in the camp placement.
- Almost all study youth were under the supervision of Probation at the time of the new charge or Probation violation that led to the study placement, and these charges often occurred due to behavior occurring in the youths' living situations or at schools.

¹ Herz, D. C., Chan, K., Lee, S. K., Ross, M. N., McCroskey, J., Newell, M., & Fraser, C. (2015). The Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study. Los Angeles, CA: Advancement Project.

- Over half of the families for youth in both groups had a history of public assistance, and one-fifth had been homeless at some point. A third of suitable placement families and just under two-thirds of camp families had previous criminal justice involvement (i.e., an arrest, Probation supervision and/or incarceration), and one-fifth of these families had some level of gang involvement. Approximately one-half of study youth were gang affiliated themselves.
- At least one-fifth of all cohort youth had previously been referred to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for maltreatment and had at least one DCFS case opened. On average, suitable placement youth received ten referrals to DCFS in the past, and camp youth received eight referrals. Over two-thirds of DCFS-involved youth were placed out-of-home at least once. Both groups of youth were most likely to be placed with a relative, in a FFA placement, and/or a foster care placement, but camp youth were more likely to have at least one placement in a group home than suitable placement youth.
- Using data from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH), nearly all case file youth had at least one DSM-IV-TR diagnosis, and half of these youth struggled with substance abuse. The most prevalent disorder categories for these youth were Disruptive Behavioral Disorders and Mood Disorders. Slightly less than two-thirds of study youth had contact with DMH for services prior to their Probation involvement. Involvement increased dramatically for youth once they entered Probation halls and/or camps. Upon exit, connection to services decreased but was still high, with approximately three-quarters of youth receiving some type of mental health services.
- Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) data indicated that study youth experienced a high number of school transitions (not due to normal grade progression). One-fifth of suitable placement males and one-quarter of camp males were identified as developmentally disabled (Note: data were not available for female youth), and the majority of study youth were credit deficient at the time of their arrest.
- Over the entire time in Probation, two-thirds of all cohort youth had at least one new arrest, but half or slightly less had at least one sustained petition (i.e., an arrest found “true” in the delinquency court). When recidivism was considered across time intervals, the occurrence of a new arrest was highest between the original arrests that brought youth into the Probation system and their study placements. Slightly less than one-quarter of youth, however, received a new arrest within six months after their placement exit. New arrests increased to one-third for both groups at one year after placement exit.
- Based on detailed case reviews, it appears that while many Deputy Probation Officers and other system practitioners are putting forth valiant efforts to support these youth, their efforts are hampered by inadequate systems, including outdated siloed data systems unable to provide real-time, accurate, and meaningful data to support the staff who work directly

with youth, or to help decision makers understand and anticipate challenges, improve resource allocation or track overall system performance.

The 2015 report provided a number of recommendations for various stakeholders, but in sum, it illuminated the need for integrated and effective cross-departmental data collection systems and processes and an increased research capacity to produce the kind of relevant and accurate analysis of countywide practices that can lead to an improvement of juvenile justice practices.

Since the publication of the *Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study* juvenile justice in Los Angeles County has received a great deal of attention.² The Board of Supervisors passed a motion forming a Probation Workgroup in September 2015. The tasks outlined for this Workgroup intentionally aligned with the recommendations of *The Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study (2015)* report and were intended to support the development and implementation of best practices in juvenile justice. Specifically, the Workgroup was tasked with (1) developing a countywide juvenile justice strategic plan to strengthen coordination between County Departments and community-based service providers; (2) identifying current services available for Probation-involved youth as well as critical gaps in services; (3) drafting a service referral plan to improve appropriate matches between youth needs and programming; (4) identifying key outcomes for regular reporting by the Probation Department; and (5) outlining a research agenda of key research questions related to Probation clients and practices. The Board of Supervisors passed several more motions intended to improve juvenile justice practice since September 2015. These motions targeted the following areas:

- ***February 2016***
 - Created a Working Group to explore how oversight of the Probation Department could be improved.
 - Hired Resource Development Associates (RDA) to explore best practice models for juvenile justice and assess whether Probation should be bifurcated between adult probation services and juvenile justice services.
 - Required the development of a long-term plan to improve practices in Probation camps and juvenile halls.
- ***May 2016***: Significantly limited the use of solitary confinement in Probation facilities.
- ***August 2016***: Clarified existing policies on critical incidents in Probation facilities in order to prevent abuses in camps and juvenile halls.

In addition to these motions, a previous motion established an effort to develop a small group

² Herz, D. C., Chan, K., Lee, S. K., Ross, M. N., McCroskey, J., Newell, M., & Fraser, C. (2015). *The Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study*. Los Angeles, CA: Advancement Project.

treatment model in the camps. A group of key stakeholders has been working on this model since 2014 and it is expected to launch in April 2017.³

All of these efforts position Los Angeles County to build multisystem responses and implement innovative practices to reduce delinquency and improve youth and family outcomes. The intent of this report is twofold. First, it aspires to support these efforts and significantly contribute to improving juvenile justice practice in Los Angeles County by documenting the experiences of Probation-involved youth exiting from suitable placements and camp placements in 2015. Second, it fulfills a U.S. Department of Justice requirement to evaluate whether the initiatives started under federal oversight improved youth outcomes.

CURRENT STUDY OVERVIEW

In 2008, juvenile halls and camps fell under federal oversight by the U.S. Department of Justice due to inadequate protection from harm and failed to provide adequate suicide prevention and mental health care. In the last Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Los Angeles County Probation Department and the U.S. Department of Justice, Probation was obligated to “support a longitudinal study and develop baseline data tracking systems to assist in the evaluation of systemic outcomes for youth” (see Paragraph 73, #6 *External Partnership* of this MOA document). This study fulfills this requirement by collecting data for youth cohorts exiting suitable placement and camp in 2015 and comparing results to those reported for the 2011 cohorts. The purpose of the comparison is to evaluate outcomes for youth within the context of the systems change Probation has been and continues to implement. Moving in this direction improves the ability to assess Probation efforts to improve services and outcomes. In addition to replicating the 2015 study, the current study includes interviews with a sample of youth, their families, and supervising Deputy Probation Officers.

PUTTING PROBATION PLACEMENTS IN CONTEXT— UNDERSTANDING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE PROCESS

The juvenile justice process officially begins when a youth receives a “referral” or arrest for a criminal charge by a law enforcement agency (see *Appendix A*) for a visual depiction of key decisions made in the Los Angeles County juvenile justice process).⁴ At the time of law enforcement’s encounter with a youth, the officer may make one of several decisions: (1) counsel the youth and release him/her to parent/caretaker; (2) refer the youth to a prevention or early intervention agency in an effort to divert him/her from more formal processing; (3) cite the youth for the charge and release him/her to a parent/caretaker; or (4) take the youth to the Intake Detention Center to determine if he/she should be detained in a Probation juvenile hall. In the first two options, the youth are not cited for an offense and are diverted from formal juvenile justice

³ For more information, see Korman, H., & Dierkhising, C. B. (2016). *A Culture of Care for All: Envisioning the LA Model*. Children's Defense Fund. Los Angeles, CA.

⁴ Process flowcharts of juvenile justice system were developed as part of the Los Angeles County Probation Workgroup. See Herz, D. C., & Chan, K. (2017). *The Los Angeles County Probation Workgroup Report*. Los Angeles, CA.

processing; however, youth who are cited with an offense enter the juvenile justice process. These youth may still be diverted from further processing by the intake/sorting Deputy Probation Officer who reviews the case and decides whether to take no action, allow the youth to participate in a diversion program, or refer the case to the District Attorney for further filing in court. The District Attorney, in turn, can take no action, petition the case (i.e., file the case) to the juvenile court, or file the charges in adult court.⁵

Youth offered diversion by Probation or the District Attorney have the option to participate in a program in lieu of juvenile court processing. Participation is voluntary and requires a commitment from both youth and their families. If successfully completed, no further action is taken, but youth who do not complete the program successfully can then be taken to juvenile court for further processing. Diversion programs include programs such as (but not limited to) teen court and restorative justice programs and are typically reserved for youth who only have one arrest and/or the offense is less serious.⁶

Cases petitioned to the juvenile delinquency court will have several hearings including an adjudication hearing. At this hearing, the judge hears all the evidence and determines whether the charges are “true” or not. Youth found responsible for the charges then receive a disposition or outcome from the court, which can include: home on probation; suitable placement (i.e., typically this is a placement in a group home but on occasion can be placement with a relative); camp placement; or placement with the State of California Department of Juvenile Justice.

CURRENT STUDY FOCUS

This study focuses on youth who were petitioned to juvenile court and received a disposition of suitable placement or camp placement at some point during their Probation supervision. These placements may have occurred for the charge that originally brought the youth into the juvenile justice system or they may have been placed in one of these settings after they were already on Probation supervision following a probation violation or new charge. The timing of study placements for the youth identified in this study varies. To ensure consistency and clarity, the study standardized data collection by recreating timelines for the youth tracked in this study. In other words, data were collected on both the “original arrest” and the “preceding arrest/petition.” The original arrest is the originating event that brought youth under Probation supervision prior to the study placement. Data were captured for this arrest for 2015 Cohort youth but not for 2011 Cohort youth.⁷ The preceding arrest/petition is the event which led youth to the placement episode used in

⁵ In California, filing charges for a juvenile in adult court can occur in two ways. If the offense is WIC 707b offense, the District Attorney can directly file the charges in adult court, but if the offense is not a WIC 707b offense, the District Attorney can request a fitness hearing in the juvenile court in order to move the case to the adult court.

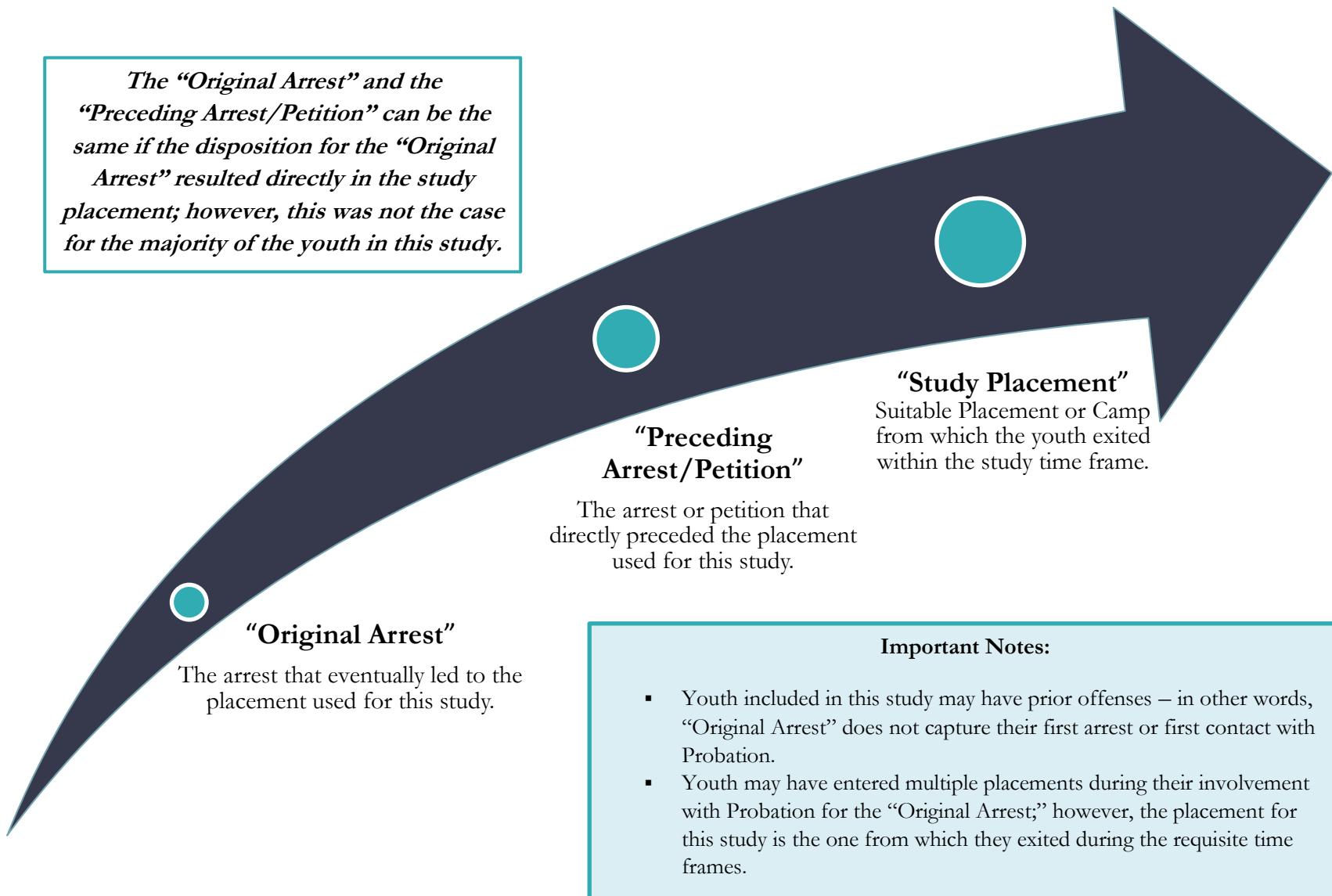
⁶ For more information, see Gase, L., Schooley, T., & Groman, J. (2016). Making Diversion Work. Los Angeles, CA.

⁷ It is important to note that the “Original Arrest” is not necessarily an indicator of first contact with Probation. For example, a youth in this study could have previous involvement with Probation, but at the time of the “Original Arrest,” the youth was no longer under Probation supervision for a previous offense (e.g., their prior supervision was terminated).

the current study. For some youth, these two arrests are the same, but for many youth, they are different, and in fact, the time between these two events can be significant. *Figure 1.1* on the next page shows the relationship between these two events.



Figure 1.1: The Relationship between Youth Arrests and Their Study Placements Used in the Current Study



STUDY DATA AND METHODS

Data used for the current study were gathered for cohorts of youth exiting suitable placement and camp between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2015. A total of 120 cases were randomly selected for additional data collection involving the extraction of information from case notes contained within the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) and from paper case file reviews. Additionally, interviews with youth and their families and supervising Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) were conducted.

To identify youth for selection, Probation provided a master list of all “exits” from suitable placements (i.e., group homes) and camp placements between January and March 2015. *Table 1.1* displays the total number of exits from camp and suitable placements on the master list. Based on these numbers, the average number of exits from camp was 96 per month, and the average number of exits from suitable placement was 188 per month.

Table 1.1: Summary of Camp Releases and Suitable Placement Releases in Study Time Frame

Month	Year	Camp Releases	Suitable Placement Releases
January	2015	101	192
February	2015	78	198
March	2015	108	173
Total		287	563
Monthly Average		96	188

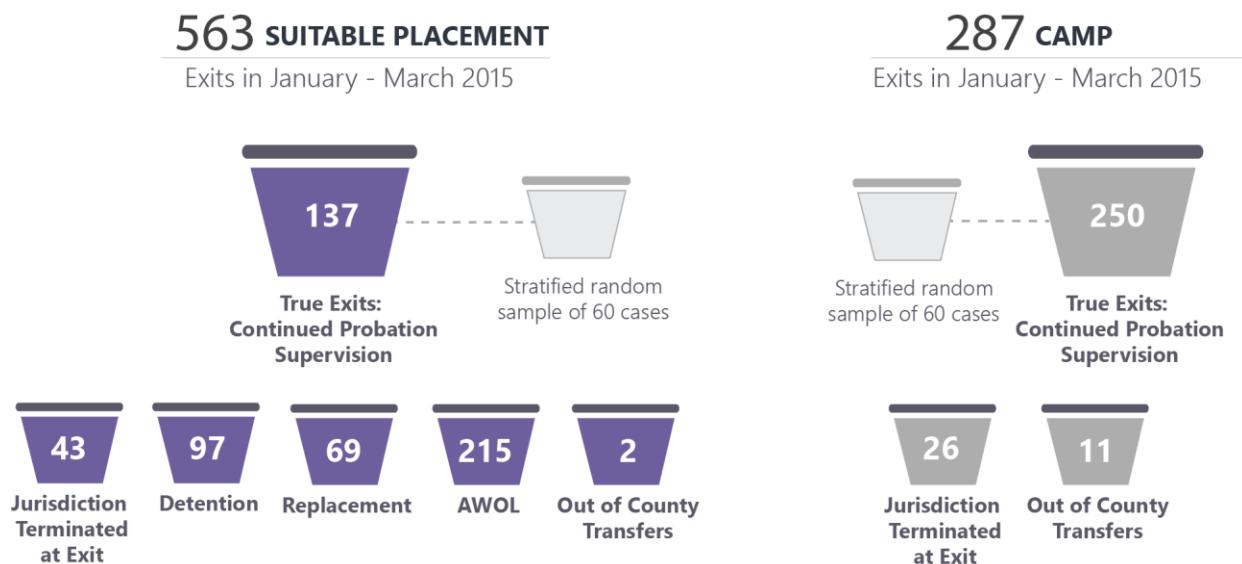
This list, however, includes a variety of transitions out of placements. In other words, there are several reasons why a youth may exit a placement. Each youth’s case was reviewed and categorized into one of the following (illustrated in *Figure 1.2*):

- **True Exits:** Youth released from suitable placement or camp back into the community (i.e., Home on Probation) or to suitable placement as part of their step-down release plan from camp. These youth also continued their Probation supervision more than a month after their exit and are the primary focus of the current study. The total number of youth in this category was 137 from suitable placements and 250 from camp placements.
- **Jurisdiction Terminated at Exit (or jurisdiction terminated less than 30 days' post-release):** Youth completing their Probation supervision at the time of their exit from placement or within 30 days of this exit from suitable placement or camp release. These youth are included in the study but were excluded from cohort selection because there was

not enough supervision post-exit to track. The total number of youth in this category was 43 from suitable placements and 26 from camp placements.

- **Detention:** Youth exiting suitable placement to juvenile hall due to an arrest or violation of Probation. These youth were not included in this study because they did not meet the primary study criterion of exiting from a placement in a progressive way. The total number of youth in this category was 97 from suitable placements and 0 from camp placements.
- **Replacement:** Youth exiting suitable placement to another suitable placement for a variety of reasons (e.g., youth needs a higher level of care, need of specialized services, family transportation). These youth were not included in this study because they did not meet the primary study criterion of exiting from a placement in a progressive way. The total number of youth in this category was 69 from suitable placements and 0 from camp placements.
- **Absent Without Leave (AWOL):** Youth exiting suitable placement because they ran away from the placement. These youth were not included in this study because they did not meet the primary study criterion of exiting from a placement in a progressive way. The total number of youth in this category was 215 from suitable placements and 0 from camp placements.
- **Out of County Transfers:** Youth exiting a placement because their case was transferred out of Los Angeles County for supervision. These youth were not included in this study because there was no way to track their progress. The total number of youth in this category was 2 from suitable placements and 11 from camp placements.

Figure 1.2: Types of Exits



As mentioned above, the true exit youth are the primary focus of this study because (1) these youth represented a progression through the Probation supervision process, and (2) they could be tracked for up to one year after exit or termination of supervision between six months and one year after exit. A stratified random sample of 120 true exit cases was taken from both the suitable placements ($N=60$) and camp placements ($N=60$).

Random sampling was stratified based on gender and race and applied monthly. Cases were oversampled by 37.5% (or 28 cases each month) to account for cases that may terminate less than 6 months post-release.⁸ To select the suitable placement cohort, 28 cases were randomly selected from all suitable placement releases each month for a total sample size of 84. The same process was used to select the camp cohort. Once selected, cases were tracked on a monthly basis. Probation Directors notified researchers when the jurisdiction of cases was terminated or reached one year from their study placement exit – whichever came first.

Figure 1.3: Process for Data Collection



STUDY TIMELINE

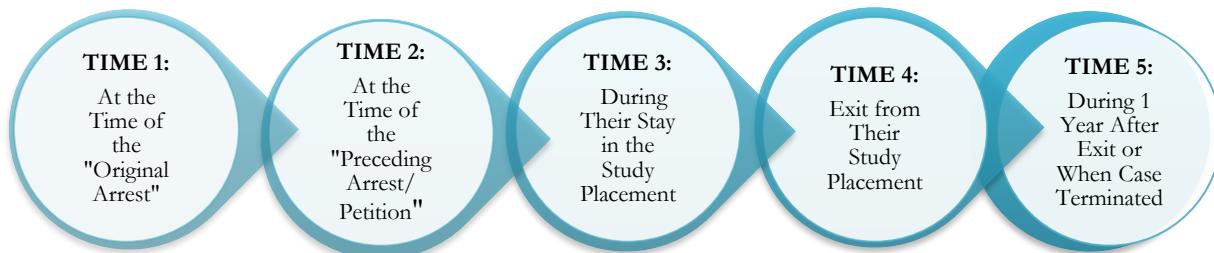
The data for this study were collected using a prospective approach. In other words, data were coded and analyzed based on specific, progressive time intervals. The overall “anchor” date for these time intervals is the exit from suitable placement or camp. Using this date, information related to the youth’s status and experiences was captured for the following points or periods of time (see *Figure 1.4* for illustration of how these time periods relate to one another):

- **Time Period 1:** At the time of the “Original Arrest”
- **Time Period 2:** At the time of the “Preceding Arrest/Petition”
- **Time Period 3:** During their stay in suitable placement or camp
- **Time Period 4:** At the time they exited from suitable placement or camp

⁸ This percentage was used based on the Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study cases that showed 37.5% of cases were jurisdiction terminated less than six months’ post-release from suitable placement and camp. Cases falling into this category were excluded from further data collection because of the limited time to track youth experiences after exit. These cases are, however, included in the calculation of recidivism.

- **Time Period 5:** During the course of one year after they exited from suitable placement or camp or when their case was terminated by the court – whichever came first⁹

Figure 1.4: Study Time Frames for Case File Data Collection



Despite a number of similarities across studies, there are a few important differences between the 2011 Cohorts and 2015 Cohorts. These differences resulted from using a different time frame for exits and as a result of a learning curve. For the 2011 Cohorts, historical exits were identified and a prospective data collection design was imposed upon them. Conversely, the 2015 Cohorts were identified in “real time” and due to time constraints a shorter time frame was used. Secondly, collecting the type of data presented in both studies is a laborious process that takes a great deal of time and translation. As a result of “lessons learned” in the 2011 Cohort Study, data collection tools were revised for the 2015 Cohort in an attempt to capture more in-depth data about the cases. Together, data for the two cohorts is distinguished by the following:

- **Time period:** 2011 exits represent all exits within a six-month time frame whereas 2015 exits represent all exits within a three-month time frame.
- **Cases Included:** For the 2011 data, the variety of exits possible was not clear from the initial data received. Over the course of data collection, it was clear that some of the cases had their jurisdiction terminated at exit or within a short time frame but it was not clear that some youth were not true exits as defined above but rather exits to detention, another placement or a result of running away. The percentage of cases included in the cohorts is small, but unfortunately, the data for the 2011 Cohorts is not distinguishable. Thus, some of these exits are included in the 2011 Cohorts but they are not included in the 2015 Cohorts.
- **Data collection:** The 2015 Cohort data collection augmented the 2011 Cohort data collection in several ways. First, the time period for the 2015 Cohort was extended to the arrest that placed the youth on Probation (i.e., the “Original Arrest”). Therefore, case file reviews were more extensive and covered a larger period of time that revealed family history and other youth characteristics. Second, the 2015 Cohort data collection tools expanded

⁹ In some cases, the court terminated jurisdiction for youth prior to one year after their exit from suitable placement or camp. In these cases, the jurisdiction termination date represented the end of the tracking period because Probation does not have access to data on youth once they leave Probation supervision.

efforts to track youth movements as well as services referred and received within one year prior to the preceding arrest/petition until after exit. Lastly, interviews with Deputy Probation Officer, youth, and families were added to this study.

DESCRIPTION OF DATA SOURCES

Several types of data were used to capture the experiences and outcomes of youth exiting from Probation placements. Probation data, both electronic and paper resources, served as a primary source of information for this study; however, these data were augmented by interviews with youth, families, and supervising Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) identified in the cohorts. Additionally, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Mental Health provided data on study youth who also touched their systems. A description of all these data sources is provided below.

Probation Case Management System (PCMS) Data: Probation extracted available data from the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) for all exits. Data contained within this system included demographic information, offense information, placement dates, prior criminal histories and juvenile recidivism.

PCMS Case Notes and Paper Case Files: Additional data for the cohorts of 120 youth was captured from narrative reports found in PCMS case notes and paper case files. These sources offered the opportunity to capture more in-depth information for each youth including the living situation, association with gangs, family background and connections, mental health issues, alcohol/drug use, educational attendance and performance, behavioral issues, and services received. It should be noted, though, that while case files/notes provided a lot of detailed information about a youth and family, reliance on case files/notes significantly limited the consistency of the data available which, in turn, impacted the amount of information included in the current study (i.e., only information contained across cases could be coded to ensure appropriate comparisons).

Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) of Record Interviews: DPOs who were supervising cohort youth were selected for interviews from the case file review samples to provide a systems perspective of their progress/success as well as the challenges the youth faced receiving appropriate services. These interviews provided the opportunity to collect more general views on the successes and challenges related to service integration to meet Probation youth needs overall. A total of 44 DPO interviews were conducted.

Youth and Family Interviews: Interviews were also conducted with cohort youth and families. Cases selected for interviews were initially sampled and stratified by race and gender from March 2015 exits across both cohorts. A significant number of these cases terminated prior to Probation notification so the sampling frame was broadened to include all youth in the suitable placement and camp cohorts. Youth and family interviews presented a unique opportunity to document youth and family perspectives on their experiences with services as well as their own perceived successes

and/or barriers to success during this time and moving into the future. In total, 30 interviews of youth and their families were conducted. A total of 10 interviews (7 youth and 3 family) were conducted shortly after youth exits from placement (i.e., pre-interviews) and a total of 20 interviews (11 youth and 9 family) were conducted one year after exit or termination from probation—whichever came first.

California's Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS-CMS) Data: Through a data-use agreement with the University of Southern California's Children's Data Network (CDN), the Los Angeles County Probation Department extracted and sent encrypted files with identifying information for all Probation exits identified in this study. Accounting for all types of exits, there were a total of 850 records concerning 806 unique individuals. These records were then cleaned, coded, and probabilistically linked to a statewide extract of 3.5 million child protection maltreatment referral records from California's Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS-CMS). CWS-CMS records were available through a separate data-use agreement between the USC CDN and the California Department of Social Services. Record linkages were conducted on a non-networked workstation at the CDN's data lab. Identifying information used to establish linkages included a youth's first name, last name, and date of birth. Analytic fields from probation data included: sex, race/ethnicity, exit cohort type (i.e., camp or suitable placement), arrival date, and release date and from CWS-CMS included maltreatment referral date, type, and disposition, along with fields related to case openings and foster care placements. The probabilistic linkage model returned a set of record pairs between probation and CWS-CMS, all of which were retained for clerical review. Manual review of the record pairs resulted in a total of 697 matched pairs between the two datasets. The sample was then restricted to those deemed to have had a "true" exit from suitable placement or camp, totaling 387 youth. Results related to these youth are presented in the current report.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) Data: DMH data were limited to the 120 cohort youth because data collection required individual staff to review electronic and paper files. Data provided by DMH included whether the youth had (1) ever received DMH services in the community; (2) had received services in the community or in juvenile hall one year prior to their "preceding arrest/petition;" (3) been screened and received DMH services while in juvenile hall; (4) been placed in a psychiatric hospital at different times while under Probation supervision, and (5) received DMH services within one year after their exit from placement.

The current report summarizes findings for the 2015 Cohorts and compares the findings, when appropriate, to those for the 2011 Cohorts. We begin by describing the challenges faced by youth and their families prior to their involvement in Probation and present characteristics of cohort youth across the study time frame (i.e., at original arrest, prior to study placement, and during placement) in Chapter 2. In Chapter 3, we turn to a presentation of findings related to the services received by cohort youth in both studies and outcomes after their release from exit. The experiences of youth,

families, and Deputy Probation Officers are detailed in Chapter 4 using data collected from interviews. Report results are summarized and recommendations are presented in Chapter 5.

02 CHAPTER 2 : YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS AND PROBATION EXPERIENCES

This chapter provides a detailed overview of study youth characteristics, their family backgrounds, their experiences with the probation system, and the extent to which they touched the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH). These profiles of study youth provide an important starting point for understanding their pathways leading up to a Probation placement.

Table 2.1 and **Table 2.2** present demographics for all suitable placement exits and camp exits in both the 2011 and 2015 studies. As shown in these tables, one-fifth or slightly less of both suitable placement and camp exits in both study years were female. The cohort distribution of females is higher because they were oversampled to ensure they were adequately represented in the data given the small number of cases selected overall.

Table 2.1: Demographics Comparisons for All Suitable Placement Exits and Suitable Placement Cohort Exits by Study Year

	2011 Suitable Placement Exits		2015 Suitable Placement Exits	
	All Exits (N=250)	Cohort Exits (N=50)	All Exits (N=180)	Cohort Exits (N=60)
Gender				
Female	20%	40%	24%	45%
Male	80%	60%	76%	55%
Race/Ethnicity				
African-American	29%	36%	22%	18%
Latino	61%	56%	65%	68%
Caucasian/Other	10%	8%	13%	13%

Race/ethnicity distributions also show similar patterns across the two groups of exits and across both study years. One-third of suitable placement and camp exits were African-American, just under two-thirds were Latino, and 10% or less were Caucasian or Other (e.g., Asian-American). As mentioned, stratified sampling was applied to match the race/ethnicity breakdown of the population. This approach was successful in that it yielded cohorts that reflect similar distributions to the populations from which they were drawn. Most importantly, the results in these tables show that the selection processes used yielded comparable cohorts across study years with regard to demographics.

Table 2.2: Demographic Comparisons for All Camp Exits and Camp Cohort Exits by Study Year

	2011 Camp Exits		2015 Camp Exits	
	All Exits (N=250)	Cohort Exits (N=50)	All Exits (N=276)	Cohort Exits (N=60)
Gender				
Female	20%	40%	13%	38%
Male	80%	60%	87%	62%
Race/Ethnicity				
African-American	31%	36%	35%	32%
Latino	63%	60%	61%	68%
Caucasian/Other	6%	4%	4%	0%

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

This section summarizes the prevalence of different issues and characteristics experienced by suitable placement and camp cohort youth and their families. As reported in the *2015 Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study*, the majority of youth and their families enter Probation with multiple challenges and struggles. For youth who find themselves in placement, the data infer that Probation may be the system of last resort for problems leading up to their involvement in delinquency.

Data capturing these issues as well as others presented in this chapter were drawn from both information system case notes and paper case files. These data sources provided descriptive data on various aspects of youth lives. Results based on these data reflect whether a particular issue or characteristic was mentioned at some point in their file—in other words, there was no temporal ordering to the findings presented in this table (i.e., gang involvement may or may not have preceded the placement). Unfortunately, the notes and case files did not always distinguish when a particular piece of information applied to the youth, and Probation does not implement any clear rules or requirements to ensure particular pieces of extralegal information be (1) recorded, and (2) recorded in a consistent fashion. Thus, it is important to note that differences across study years may be an artifact of recording information rather than true differences in characteristics. It is for this reason we do not assess statistical significance of any difference in these tables, but rather, use the descriptive results as a general guide to understand the background and experiences of youth in the study.

Data were first used to capture hardships experienced by the biological parents and/or siblings of cohort youth. As shown in **Table 2.3**, the majority of suitable placement families in the 2015 Cohort struggled with prior arrests/incarceration (65%), poverty (52%), substance abuse (42%), domestic

violence (25%), ongoing medical concerns (20%), and mental health needs (18%). These experiences were similar for the 2011 Cohort. The only noticeable differences were for prior criminal justice history, homelessness, and gang involvement. Based on the data available, it appears that the 2011 Cohort families were less likely to have previous criminal justice involvement than the 2015 Cohort families, but they were more likely to experience homelessness and be involved in a gang.¹⁰ Data regarding the deportation of family members and the need for bilingual services was also captured for the 2015 Cohort. Seventeen percent of cohort youth collectively experienced the deportation of a family member, and more than three-quarters of these families required bilingual services.

In both study years, cohort youth and their families are often poor and suffering from a variety of problems prior to their involvement with Probation. It is unclear whether these families received adequate services/assistance for these issues, but regardless, the data for the 2015 Cohort show a consistent pattern with that from 2011: Study youth and their families experience many hardships before entering the Probation system and appear to be marginalized based on poverty, language, and disabilities.

Table 2.3: Family (Biological Parents and/or Siblings) History Characteristics for Suitable Placement and Camp Cohort Youth across Study Years

	Suitable Placement		Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)
Family History with:				
Prior Arrests and/or Incarceration	32%	65%	60%	65%
Public Assistance	56%	52%	60%	58%
Substance Abuse	38%	42%	30%	42%
Domestic Violence	16%	25%	10%	23%
Ongoing Medical Concerns	---	20%	---	13%
Mental Health	18%	18%	14%	15%
Homelessness	14%	7%	16%	12%
Gang Involvement	22%	5%	20%	18%
Other Issues:				
Deportation	---	10%	---	7%
Bilingual Services Needed	---	45%	---	40%

The results contained in **Table 2.4** reflect the challenges faced by the youth themselves. According to the data available in Probation files, one-third to three-quarters of 2015 Cohort youth were gang-involved; approximately one-tenth were involved in commercial sexual exploitation of children; and

¹⁰ General comparisons of results across study years will be presented, but as indicated earlier, we have no way of determining whether these differences are true differences or artifacts of inconsistent data collection.

about one-tenth were pregnant and/or a teen parent at some point in their Probation involvement during the study time frame. Additionally, 20% of 2015 Cohort youth had an ongoing medical concern that required attention.

Table 2.4: General Characteristics of Suitable Placement and Camp Cohort Youth across Study Years

	Suitable Placement		Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)
Gang Involvement	48%	35%	42%	73%
Involvement in Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) ¹¹	20%	8%	35%	2%
Pregnant or Teen Parent	---	10%	---	12%
Ongoing Medical Concerns	---	20%	---	20%

--- denotes no data were available for this characteristic for the 2011 Cohort.

YOUTH CONTACT WITH OTHER COUNTY SYSTEMS

Contact with California's Child Welfare Services

Youth in the 2015 suitable placement and camp cohorts were matched by the University of Southern California's Children's Data Network (CDN) to a statewide extract of 3.5 million child protection maltreatment referral records from California's Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS-CMS), which is maintained by the California Department of Social Services (see Data and Methods Section in Chapter 1 for more details on how records were matched). Following the data match and de-identification of results, USC CDN then conducted analyses of the CWS-CMS data to determine the prevalence of dual-involvement (i.e., the extent to which youth touched both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems at some point in their lives) and to examine youth's experiences with the child welfare system. The findings presented in this section reflect all levels of cohort youth involvement with California's child welfare system dating back to 1998 when CWS-CMS first came online. Because statewide data were available, past involvement could be documented throughout the state of California, not just maltreatment referrals or foster care placements occurring in Los Angeles County.

¹¹ These percentages are much lower in the 2015 Cohorts than in the 2011 Cohorts, which may be reflective of inconsistencies in notes/recording by Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) and/or new policies enacted since 2011 targeting the removal of the CSEC population from the juvenile justice system generally and Probation placements specifically. Additionally, CSEC youth may have higher rates of exits running away (i.e., AWOL) rather than a true exit.

USC CDN used the following definitions to guide their analyses:

1. **Referrals:** Allegations made to a county child welfare hotline by either a mandated or non-mandated reporter. In the present analysis, an individual was counted as having been “referred” if any allegation was made, regardless of whether the allegation was screened for investigation.
2. **Allegation Type:** Reflects the nature of the alleged maltreatment. A given referral may include multiple allegations of maltreatment. The prevalence of the most common past allegations of maltreatment were classified as (1) sexual abuse (and exploitation); (2) physical abuse; (3) neglect (general and severe); and (4) emotional abuse.
3. **Substantiation:** Refers to an allegation of maltreatment that has been investigated and deemed to meet the level of evidence required under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 300. Allegations that are investigated and not substantiated are classified as “unfounded” or “inconclusive.” Referrals that were screened without an investigation are classified as “evaluated out.”
4. **Cases are opened in one of two scenarios:** (1) When it is determined that a child can remain safely at home, but the family requires “Family Maintenance” services; and (2) when the decision is made that safety concerns necessitate an “out-of-home placement” in foster care. Although youth may be placed in foster care under the supervision of the probation department, this analysis focuses exclusively on placements related to allegations of abuse and neglect under the supervision of the child protection system.

Results from the analyses of CWS-CMS data are presented below, both collectively and across suitable placement and camp cohorts of youth.

Child Protection Referral Histories for Cohort Youth

At least one referral for alleged abuse or neglect was identified for a majority of youth in both cohorts (83%; n=322—see **Table 2.5**). The childhood prevalence of past referrals was comparable and statistically equivalent between those exiting from suitable placement (87%) and camp (81%). Involvement with the child protection system often occurred during early childhood. Among those with a history of maltreatment allegations, a total of 43% were first reported before age 5 and a cumulative 69% had been reported by age 10. The mean age at first referral in years was 7.2 (7.0 years for camp, 7.7 years for suitable placement) and the median age was 6.0.

Table 2.5 shows that the prevalence of past referrals varied by allegation type. Specifically, the following findings indicate that in the overall sample:

- 22% of suitable placement youth and 31% of camp youth had been referred at least once for sexual abuse;
- 56% of suitable placement youth and 49% of camp youth had been referred at least once for physical abuse;
- 65% of suitable placement youth and 66% of camp youth had had been referred at least once for neglect (either severe or general); and

- 43% of suitable placement youth and 39% of camp youth had been referred at least once for emotional abuse.

No statistically significant variations in the prevalence of past allegations were observed by placement.

Table 2.5: Prevalence of Dual Involvement and Type of Maltreatment Allegation

	Suitable Placement Cohort Youth (N=250)	Camp Cohort Youth (N=137)
Past Referral of Maltreatment	81%	87%
Type of Maltreatment		
Sexual Abuse Allegation	22%	31%
Physical Abuse Allegation	56%	49%
Neglect Allegation	65%	66%
Emotional Abuse Allegation	43%	39%

*Cohort differences were not significantly different.

Substantiated Referrals for Abuse and/or Neglect

Among youth with child welfare system contact, 46% had at least one substantiated allegation. This percentage is 38% for the cohorts overall, including those with and without previous child welfare system contact. The childhood prevalence of past substantiation in the sample was comparable (i.e., not statistically different) between those exiting suitable placement (41%; n=56) and camp (37%; n=92). Among those substantiated, the mean age at first substantiation was 7.7 years (8.1 years for suitable placement; 7.5 years for camp), and the median age at first substantiation was 7.3 years. One-third of youth were first substantiated before age 5 (34%).

Stratified by allegation type, findings indicate that in the overall sample:

- 3% (n=12) had been substantiated as a victim of sexual abuse;
- 10% (n=38) had been substantiated as a victim of physical abuse;
- 23% (n=91) had been substantiated as a victim of neglect; and
- 12% (n=47) had been substantiated as a victim of emotional abuse.

Case Openings for Services

Cases opened for services supervised by the child welfare system (either in-home or through the foster care system) were identified for 35% (n=135) of all exiting probation youth in the sample (including those with and without child welfare contact). A history of open cases was comparable across probation placement types, with child welfare cases documented for 36% (n=89) of youth exiting from camp and 34% (n=46) of youth exiting from suitable placement.

Among those with a history of open cases, 45% had a case opened during the first five years of life, and cases specific to in-home family maintenance services were opened for 30% (n=115) of the overall sample.

Time Spent in an Out-of-Home Foster Care Placement

Among the sample of youth exiting suitable placement and camp, 20% (n=76) had previously been placed in child welfare supervised foster care resulting from a removal for abuse or neglect (Note: These placements were not related to Probation Department placements). A total of 22% (n=30) of suitable placement cohort youth and 18% (n=46) of camp cohort youth had a history of child welfare placements. Among those with a history of placement in foster care, 43% (n=33) experienced their first removal and placement before the age of 5.

Demographic Differences in the Prevalence and Nature of Past Referrals, Substantiations, Case Openings, and Foster Care Placements

The prevalence of past referrals and the extent of subsequent involvement with the child welfare system varied significantly by gender (see **Table 2.6**). Past referrals for all types of alleged maltreatment were more frequently observed among female than male youth ($p<.01$). Likewise, a history of substantiated maltreatment and foster care placements was more common among female than male youth exiting probation.

Table 2.6: Gender Differences in Past Referrals, Substantiations, Case Openings and Foster Care Placements (Cohorts Combined)

	Male Youth (Cohorts Combined)	Female Youth (Cohorts Combined)
	(N=318)	(N=69)
Past referral of maltreatment*	81%	94%
Past substantiation as a victim*	35%	55%
Past case opening*	32%	48%
Past foster care placement*	17%	33%

* $p<.01$

As observed across gender, a history of child protection involvement also varied by race/ethnicity. As indicated in **Table 2.7**, African-American youth were more likely to receive a past referral for maltreatment, a past substantiation as a victim, a past case opening, and a past foster care placement.

Table 2.7: Race/Ethnicity Differences in Past Referrals, Substantiations, Case Openings and Foster Care Placements (Cohorts Combined)

	African-American Youth (N=116)	Hispanic Youth (N=249)	Caucasian Youth (N=18)
Past referral of maltreatment*	90%	80%	83%
Past substantiation as a victim*	41%	37%	--
Past case opening*	43%	30%	--
Past foster care placement*	24%	17%	--

*p<.05; [--] = cell masked due to small sizes of less than 10; "Other" race not presented. Note: Case openings may include those that were voluntary and therefore did not include a substantiated victim.

Contact with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

To document the extent to which suitable placement and camp placement youth had mental health needs, data were provided by the Department of Mental Health (DMH) for case file review youth drawn from the true exits group. Data were limited to: Youth contact with DMH prior to their original arrest; contact with DMH during their involvement with Probation following their original arrest, and contact with DMH services after their exit from placement. Unfortunately, due to various data issues, the results reported for involvement with DMH for the 2015 Cohort are not comparable to the 2011 Cohort; thus, the presentation of results are limited to those for the 2015 Cohort.

Contact Prior to Original Arrest

When youth enter Probation, they may have contact with DMH in various contexts; however, they may also have received an assessment and/or services from DMH prior to their original arrest. **Table 2.8** shows that half or more of youth in both groups had prior contact with DMH, which indicates these youth experienced some level of mental health distress prior to their involvement in Probation.¹²

Table 2.8: Contact with DMH Services Ever Prior to the Original Arrest

Prior to Original Arrest	Suitable Placement (N=60)	Camp (N=60)
Received Mental Health (MH) Treatment	55%	48%

Contact After Original Arrest

DMH contact with youth as a result of their Probation involvement is most likely to occur if he/she is detained in juvenile hall or placed in a group home (suitable placement) or a camp. **Table 2.9** presents the

¹² It is possible that youth could have had a prior Probation supervision involvement. However, the original arrest is most likely the youth's first time on Probation in this study.

detention rates across study timeframes and when detained, the percentage of youth who had contact with DMH and the reason for the contact.

Camp youth were significantly more likely to be detained in juvenile hall than suitable placement youth within one year prior to the original arrest ($p < .05$). While detained during this time, nearly all suitable placement youth and camp youth were screened for mental health services. Of those screened, 76% of suitable placement youth and 89% of camp youth received mental health services at juvenile hall.

Table 2.9: Contact with DMH Services across Study Periods

Type of DMH Contact	Within One Year of the Original Arrest		Within One Year of the Preceding Arrest/Petition		After Exit	
	SP (N=60)	Camp (N=60)	SP (N=60)	Camp (N=60)	SP (N=60)	Camp (N=60)
Youth Detained in Juvenile Hall*	34 (57%)	47 (78%)	58 (97%)	60 (100%)	19 (32%)	54 (90%)
DMH Actions in Juvenile Hall Among Those Detained						
Screened for MH at Juvenile Hall	97%	100%	91%	97%	100%	100%
Received MH Services (<i>of those screened</i>)	76%	89%	94%	97%	100%	100%
Flagged for Observation*	---	---	19%	42%	47%	43%

*Differences between groups in 2015 Cohort significant at $p < .05$

Once youth were placed on Probation, they may be sent to juvenile hall for a new arrest, violation, or a change of plan (youth are typically not incarcerated solely for the purpose of screening). Within one year prior to the preceding arrest/petition, almost all youth were detained in juvenile hall and then screened for mental health services at juvenile hall. Of those screened, 94% of suitable placement youth and 97% of camp youth received mental health services at juvenile hall. Camp youth, though, were significantly more likely to be flagged for enhanced supervision due to suicide risk or risk of self-harm at juvenile hall when compared to suitable placement youth ($p < .05$).

After exit from suitable placement and camp, 32% of suitable placement youth and 90% of camp youth returned to juvenile hall at some point one year after exit or until the time of Probation termination – whichever came first. Once detained in juvenile hall, all of these youth were screened and received mental health services while in juvenile hall. Slightly less than half of these youth were flagged for observation in juvenile hall.

In addition to youth contact with DMH, **Table 2.10** also reports the extent to which cohort youth were placed in psychiatric hospitals run by the Department of Health Services, which in turn prompted contact with DMH. An examination of all youth in the cohorts indicated approximately 13% of suitable placement and camp youth were placed in a psychiatric hospital. After exit from suitable placement or camp, only 2-3% of youth were placed in a psychiatric hospital.

Table 2.10: Contact with DMH in Psychiatric Hospitals

Type of DMH Contact	Within One Year of the Original Arrest		Within One Year of the Preceding Arrest/Petition		After Exit	
	SP (N=60)	Camp (N=60)	SP (N=60)	Camp (N=60)	SP (N=60)	Camp (N=60)
Placed in Psychiatric Hospitals with DMH Contact (Based on All Youth)						
Placed in Psychiatric Hospital	13%	13%	12%	10%	3%	2%

Finally, **Table 2.11** shows data for services linked by DMH after the youth exited from suitable placement or camp.¹³ Overall, over half of youth in both groups were referred to mental health services through DMH, Probation, and/or Community Based Organization (CBO) providers. Camp youth, however, had a higher percentage of being directly linked to DMH services whereas suitable placement youth were significantly more likely than camp youth to be referred to non-DMH providers post release ($p<.05$).

Table 2.11: Contact with DMH Services after Study Placement Exit across Study Years

Services Referred	Suitable Placement (N=60)	Camp (N=60)
Referred and Linked to DMH Services	53%	63%
Referred to Probation Services or CBO Providers (non-DMH)	94%	74%

Note: 13 cases were excluded from referrals to Probation or other CBO providers (11 cases excluded due to record not found in PCMS—sealed cases; 2 cases excluded due to services not referred because youth completed Probation condition)

YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS AND EXPERIENCES ACROSS THE STUDY TIME PERIODS

Characteristics at Time of Original Arrest

The findings in **Table 2.12** provide a description of cohort youth at the time of their original arrest. Original arrest data were not coded for the 2011 Cohort because the identification of an original arrest was discovered through the data collection process at that time. Data are available for 2011 youth in which the original arrest is the preceding arrest/petition, but since it is not available for all youth in the cohort, no results are presented.

At the time of their Original Arrest, youth were 15 years old when they entered the juvenile justice system for both cohorts, but camp cohort youth were slightly older. Suitable placement cohort youth were more likely to be charged with property crimes whereas camp cohort youth were more likely to be charged with violent crimes. Collectively over half (55%) of all arrests for suitable

¹³ Services in this section is defined by any mental health or family-based supportive services.

placement youth, and approximately one-third (36%) of arrests for camp cohort youth were related to the youths' living situations or schools. Although the percentage of arrests related to living situation was similar across cohorts, suitable placement cohort arrests were nearly twice as likely to be related to school ($p<.05$).

Over half of suitable placement cohort youth were adjudicated in Sylmar, Compton, Los Padrinos, or Pomona; however, the majority of camp placement cohort youth were adjudicated in Sylmar, Inglewood, Eastlake, and Long Beach for their original arrest charges. The majority of youth in both cohorts were represented by public defenders or panel attorneys. The most common disposition received by suitable placement cohort youth was home on probation (WIC 602 HOP—33%) followed by diversionary options. The most common disposition received by camp placement cohort youth was also home on probation (WIC 602 HOP—32%) followed by placement in camp (28%). Notably, only 18% of suitable placement youth were placed in such a placement as a disposition for their original charge and a quarter of camp cohort youth were placed in camp for their original charge, indicating both placements are used after the youth struggles to be successful in the community ($p<.05$).

Table 2.12: Cohort Characteristics at the Time of Original Arrest

Original Arrest	Suitable Placement		Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)
Average Age at Original Arrest	---	14.83	---	15.24
Arrest that Led Youth on Probation				
Violent Offenses	---	33%	---	42%
Property Offenses	---	45%	---	42%
Drug Offenses	---	8%	---	7%
Other Offenses	---	13%	---	10%
Arrest Related to...				
Living Situation	---	20%	---	18%
School*	---	35%	---	18%
Court Department Number				
Sylmar	---	20%	---	18%
Compton	---	18%	---	8%
Los Padrinos	---	15%	---	10%
Pomona	---	13%	---	10%
Eastlake	---	10%	---	15%
Inglewood	---	8%	---	17%
Antelope Valley	---	5%	---	7%
Long Beach	---	3%	---	12%
Out of County/Non-Court	---	7%	---	3%

Original Arrest	Suitable Placement		Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)
Defense Attorney				
Public Defender	---	58%	---	47%
Panel Attorney	---	35%	---	45%
Alternate Public Defender	---	0%	---	2%
Private	---	0%	---	3%
Not applicable because of handling	---	7%	---	3%
Disposition*				
WIC 654 Pre-Adjudication Diversion	---	5%	---	3%
WIC 654.2 Court Diversion	---	12%	---	5%
WIC 725(a) Court Diversion	---	18%	---	5%
WIC 790/Deferred Entry of Judgment	---	12%	---	8%
WIC 602 Home on Probation	---	33%	---	32%
WIC 602 Suitable Placement	---	18%	---	8%
WIC 602 Camp Placement	---	0%	---	28%
<i>Dual Jurisdiction Dispositions (i.e., Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice)</i>				
WIC 300/725(a) Court Diversion	---	0%	---	2%
WIC 300/790 Deferred Entry of Judgment	---	0%	---	3%
WIC 300/602 Home on Probation	---	0%	---	2%
WIC 300/654.2 Court Diversion	---	0%	---	2%
WIC 300/602 Suitable Placement	---	2%	---	2%
WIC 300/602 Camp Placement	---	0%	---	0%

*Differences between groups in 2015 Cohort significant at p<.05

Note: (1) WIC=State of California Welfare and Institutions Code. (2) The WIC 300 designation for dispositions reflects dual jurisdiction for youth who are involved in both the child welfare and the juvenile justice systems.

Characteristics at Time of Preceding Arrest/Petition¹⁴

In the *Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study* (2015), most cohort youth were not placed out-of-home as a result of their original arrest; rather, placements were made after youth were placed in the community under Probation supervision. This finding is replicated for the 2015 Cohort (see **Table 2.13**). Only 10% of suitable placement youth were not under Probation supervision at the time of their study placement, which aligns with the 2011 Cohort finding. Results varied a bit for camp placements: Approximately one-quarter of the 2015 camp cohort youth were not under Probation supervision at the time of their placement compared to only 8% of 2011 Cohort Youth (p<.05 between groups in 2015 Cohort and camp placement group across study years).

¹⁴ Preceding arrest/petition was the same as the original arrest for 10% of the suitable placement youth and 27% of camp youth.

The average age for suitable placement cohort youth was, on average, 16 years old, but camp cohort youth were slightly older at the time of the preceding arrest/petition ($p<.05$ between suitable placement groups across study years). About a quarter of suitable placement youth were considered “absent without leave” (AWOL—runaway) at this time. Not surprisingly, study placements resulted from a violation of Probation supervision conditions for almost half of 2015 suitable placement youth (45%) and for one-third of camp youth (32%). The majority of study placements for camp youth, however, were a result of a new arrest (62%). This pattern of findings differs for the 2011 Cohorts ($p<.05$ across study years). More youth in both of the 2011 Cohorts entered their study placements as a result of a violation of Probation supervision conditions. When the preceding event was a new arrest, half of the new arrests for suitable placement youth were related to the youth’s living situation or school, and one-third of the new arrests for camp youth were related to living situation or school. For those with violations, the most common violations for both groups of youth were: Using or possessing alcohol and/or other drugs, not participating in school/receiving poor grades, and not reporting to their Deputy Probation Officers when required to do so.

Table 2.13: Cohort Characteristics at the Time of Preceding Arrest/Petition

Preceding Arrest/Petition	Suitable Placement		Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)
Probation Status at Time of the Preceding Arrest/Petition*²				
Not Under Probation Supervision	10%	10%	8%	27%
Under Probation Supervision	90%	90%	92%	73%
Average Age at Preceding Arrest/Petition¹	15.57	16.26	16.39	16.39
AWOL at Preceding Arrest/Petition	20%	27%	42%	43%
Study Placement Resulted from...^{15*2}				
New Arrest Charge	24%	27%	38%	62%
Violation of Probation Supervision Conditions	76%	45%	62%	32%
Other (e.g., Change of Plan, AWOL, etc.)	---	28%	---	7%
If New Charge, Arrest Related to:				
Living Situation	52%	31%	50%	16%
School	42%	25%	34%	19%
Type of Violation:				
Use/Possession of Alcohol and/or Drugs	---	67%	---	43%
Poor School Participation/Poor Grades	---	63%	---	53%
Not Reporting to the Deputy Probation Officer	---	48%	---	63%
Violating Curfew*	---	37%	---	0%
Not Participating in Treatment Program	---	19%	---	37%

¹⁵ The “Other” category is only available in the 2015 Cohort. Other includes Change of Plan, CDP Violation, or failed to complete informal Probation.

Preceding Arrest/Petition	Suitable Placement		Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)
Gang Activity or Involvement	---	11%	---	5%

*Differences between groups in 2015 Cohort significant at $p<.05$

¹Differences between suitable placement groups across study years significant at $p<.05$

²Differences between camp placement groups across study years significant at $p<.05$

Characteristics of Cohort Youth While in Placement

Characteristics were also captured for cohort youth and their experiences once they entered their study placement (see **Table 2.14**). One-third of the youth were placed in Boys' Republic, Rancho San Antonio Boys Home, and Penny Lane facilities. Although these facilities were also received by 2011 Cohort youth, the distribution of placements was different with a third of youth going to Rancho San Antonio Boys Home, Dorothy Kirby Center, or Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services (Note: Dorothy Kirby Center placements were categorized in the Probation data as suitable placements for the 2011 Cohort but as camp placements for the 2015 Cohort). The 2015 Cohort was, on average, 16 years old at placement and the 2011 Cohort was slightly younger at 15 years old ($p<.05$). The average stay in placement was six months for the 2015 Cohort and only slightly longer for the 2011 Cohort at seven months. A quarter of cohort youth were placed in a different placement at some point during their stay, and ran away from their placement at least once ($p<.05$ across study years). All suitable placement cohort youth were released to the community under Probation supervision at the end of their placement stay. The percentage of youth who ran away was higher and the percentage of youth who exited to juvenile hall was higher for the 2011 Cohort, but these findings may be skewed because all types of exits including those due to running away were included in the 2011 Cohort (see pg. 17 for more explanation of this point).

Table 2.14: Suitable Placement Cohort Characteristics While in Placement across Study Years

During Study Placement	Suitable Placement	
	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)
Average Age at Arrival to Placement¹	15.14	16.38
Placement Name		
Rancho San Antonio Boys Home	14%	10%
Dorothy Kirby Center	10%	0%
Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services	10%	3%
Phoenix House	8%	7%
Crittenton	8%	8%
Boys Republic	6%	18%
Penny Lane	6%	10%
Trinity Youth Services	6%	5%
Aviva Family & Children's Services	4%	5%
Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services	4%	0%
David & Margaret Youth and Family Services	2%	8%
LeRoy Haynes Center	4%	3%
Pacific Lodge Youth Services	0%	8%
Average Number of Months in Placement	7.50	6.34
Was Replaced from Another Placement	---	27%
Youth Ran Away from Placement¹	40%	15%
At Time of Release, Youth Released to¹:		
Home for Community Supervision	84%	100%
Suitable Placement	2%	0%
Camp	2%	0%
Other (includes Juvenile Hall)	12%	0%

¹ Differences between suitable placement groups across study years significant at p<.05

Note: Placements with 2% or no youth in both cohorts are not presented (N=13 placements).

Table 2.15 shows where camp placement youth were placed and other characteristics related to their placement experience. Youth in the 2015 Cohort were most likely placed in Camp Scott, Scudder, Paige, and the Dorothy Kirby Center (Note: Dorothy Kirby Center was categorized in the Probation data as suitable placement for the 2011 Cohort but as camp placements for the 2015 Cohort). Camp Scott and Scudder placements are artificially high because they are facilities for females and this cohort oversampled females. Both the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts were, on average, 16 years old at placement and their average stays in placement were six months for the 2015 Cohort and 4 months

for the 2011 Cohort ($p<.05$ across study years).¹⁶ The majority (80%) of all camp cohort youth were released to the community under Probation supervision at the end of their stay while 20% were placed in a suitable placement as a step-down approach to supervision. A similar number of 2011 Cohort youth were released to the community but more went to other places like juvenile hall. Similar to the point previously made about suitable placement youth, this difference may be due to exits other than true exits included in the 2011 Cohort data (see pg. 17 for more explanation of this point).

Table 2.15: Camp Cohort Characteristics While in Placement across Study Years

During Study Placement	Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=50)	2015 Cohort (N=60)
Average Age at Arrival to Camp²	15.96	16.60
Camp Placement²		
Camp Scott	30%	17%
Camp Afflerbaugh	14%	8%
Camp Munz	10%	7%
Camp Scudder	10%	12%
Camp Gonzales	6%	0%
Camp Jarvis	6%	8%
Camp Rockey	6%	5%
Camp Mendenhall	6%	7%
Camp Miller	6%	2%
Camp McNair	6%	5%
Camp Onizuka	0%	2%
Camp Paige	0%	10%
Camp Smith	0%	7%
Dorothy Kirby Center	0%	12%
Average Number of Months in Camp²	4.40	5.79
At Time of Release, Youth Released to:		
Home for Community Supervision	84%	80%
Suitable Placement	6%	20%
Camp	2%	0%
Other (includes Juvenile Hall)	8%	0%

²Differences between camp placement groups across study years significant at $p<.05$

¹⁶ In late 2015, camp program lengths were changed from 3, 6, and 9 month orders to program lengths between 5-7 months and 7-9 months.

What Happened to Youth after their Original Arrests and until One Year after Study Placement Exit or Jurisdiction Terminated (Whichever Came First)?

Cohort youth rarely entered suitable placement or camp placements as a result of their original arrest; rather, they typically entered placements while under Probation supervision in the community. These findings raise questions about youth experiences while under supervision. Although the reasons for entering placements while under Probation supervision cannot be answered with the current data, it is possible to explore what decisions were made for cohort youth during this time. Specifically, data were collected from Probation case notes and case files detailing the transitions experienced by youth in the 2015 Cohorts.¹⁷ This section highlights findings from these data.

Table 2.16 summarizes the total number of events or movements experienced by youth in both cohorts after their original arrests until the end of their tracking period. During this time, these youth had an average of nine events or movements. Events or movements refer to changes related to the youth's supervision. It could involve returning home from a placement, entering placement or detention, being arrested for a new arrest, and so on. All of suitable placement youth were detained in juvenile hall and/or a placement at some point prior to their study placement. On average, they had at least two additional placements (i.e., detention in juvenile hall and/or placement in a suitable placement or camp) during this time. These youth were in and out of placements, returning home under community supervision about two times. Over three-quarters (82%) violated their Probation supervision approximately three times, and 63% ran away from their living situation three times as well. Slightly less than two-thirds (62%) of youth were detained in juvenile hall two times, on average, by the court and 58% were arrested for an average of two new charges while under Probation supervision. Just under one-fifth (18%) were admitted to a hospital.

Compared to suitable placement youth, camp youth had more events and movements than their suitable placement counterparts and generally higher averages for detentions, placements, and problem behaviors. During this time, for example, these youth had an average of twelve events or movements (difference marginally significant at $p < .10$). All camp youth were detained and/or placed during this time—in fact, they received, on average, three detentions and/or placements and they were released back home approximately two times. Over three-quarters (83%) violated their Probation supervision approximately three times, and 72% ran away from their living situation two times. Two-thirds (70%) of youth were detained in juvenile hall two times, on average, by the court, and 65% were arrested for an average of two new charges while under supervision. Just under half of these youth were moved from suitable placement to camp during their supervision (40%), and one-quarter (23%) were admitted to a hospital.

With regard to placements, suitable placement youth were most likely to be placed in group homes as part of a suitable placement order and to spend time detained in juvenile hall. On average, they

¹⁷ Unfortunately, these data are not available for the 2011 Cohorts.

were placed in two group homes while under a suitable placement order, and they were detained at juvenile hall six times. Placement in camps was the highest for camp youth followed by detentions in juvenile hall and placement in suitable placements. Although limited, 12% also spent time in the Los Angeles County Jail. Camp youth, on average, experienced two camp placements, eight detentions at juvenile hall, and four suitable placements.

Related to their experiences under Probation supervision is the time cohort youth spent under Probation supervision in total and how much of this time was spent in detention or a placement. Youth in the suitable placement cohort were under Probation supervision for an average of 2.92 years between their original arrest and one year after study placement exit or when the case was terminated, whichever came first. For camp cohort youth, the length of time spent under Probation supervision was slightly shorter at 2.75 years, on average. Both groups of youth were approximately 18 years old at one year after study placement exit or when the case was terminated, but suitable placement youth were slightly younger than camp youth overall. Suitable placement youth spent, on average, one year detained or in placements, and camp youth spent slightly more time in detention and/or placements (1.25 years). Taken together, the time spent in such settings represents 34% of the entire time suitable placement youth were under Probation supervision and 46% of the time camp youth were under Probation supervision.

Table 2.16: Summary of Events/Movements Experienced by 2015 Cohort Youth after Original Arrest until One Year after Study Placement Exit or Jurisdiction Terminated (Whichever Came First)

	Suitable Placement (N=60)						Camp (N=60)					
	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Number of Total Events/Movements Occurring While Under Probation Supervision (After Original Arrest)¹	60	100%	2	31	9.43	6.02	60	100%	2	30	12.07	7.35
Type of Event/Movement												
Had a Placement of Some Type*	60	100%	1	7	2.22	1.52	60	100%	1	10	3.25	2.26
Returned Home	60	100%	1	6	2.47	1.33	57	95%	1	8	2.53	1.62
Received a Violation	49	82%	1	8	2.92	1.74	50	83%	1	7	2.88	1.76
Ran Away from Living Situation	38	63%	1	12	3.00	2.40	43	72%	1	13	3.51	2.49
Detained Due to Bench Warrant or Court	37	62%	1	8	1.84	1.42	42	70%	1	7	2.40	1.55
Had a New Arrest	35	58%	1	5	2.00	1.19	39	65%	1	6	2.10	1.33
Admitted to a Hospital	11	18%	1	3	1.18	0.60	14	23%	1	3	1.36	0.74
Moved from Suitable Placement to Camp	3	5%	1	1	1.00	0.00	24	40%	1	2	1.08	0.28
Experience with Detention and/or Placements												
Detained or Placed at Least Once*	60	100%	1	14	4.73	2.97	60	100%	1	18	6.52	4.30
Placed in a Suitable Placement*	60	100%	1	6	2.23	1.47	31	52%	1	11	3.58	2.23
Placed in Juvenile Hall*	56	93%	1	20	5.57	3.67	53	88%	1	22	7.83	4.70
Placed in Camp*	9	15%	1	2	1.33	0.50	58	97%	1	7	1.95	1.30
Placed in County Jail*	4	7%	1	1	1.00	0.00	7	12%	1	2	1.57	0.53
Time Spent in Detention and/or Placement (In Years)												
Age at One Year After Exit or Jurisdiction Terminated	60	100%	15.06	19.54	17.76	.96	60	100%	15.60	19.82	17.99	.89
Time Between Original Arrest and End of Tracking or Jurisdiction Terminated	60	100%	1.26	5.10	2.92	.83	60	100%	.92	5.13	2.75	1.07

	Suitable Placement (N=60)						Camp (N=60)					
	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Total Time Spent in Detention/Placement*	60	100%	0	3	0.99	0.52	60	100%	0	4	1.26	0.78
% Time Under Probation Supervision Spent in Detention and/or Placement	60	100%	---	---	34%	---	60	100%	---	---	46%	---

*Differences between groups significant at p<.05; ¹differences between groups significant at p<.10.

03 **CHAPTER 3 : SERVICES AND OUTCOMES FOR SUITABLE PLACEMENT AND CAMP YOUTH IN THE 2011 AND 2015 COHORTS**

In addition to examining the characteristics and the system experiences of cohort youth, study data also captured the services received by these youth across the study time frame and assessed key outcomes in the tracking period. Services were collected from a review of case notes in the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) and paper case files. The services listed for youth were captured for both the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts; however, the information was collected differently. For the 2011 Cohort, only the types of services received and listed in case notes and case files were recorded, but based on lessons learned from the earlier study, services data collection was expanded for the 2015 Cohort. For each youth in the 2015 Cohorts, both the types of services identified for them and their families were recorded as well as the extent to which they accessed those services.

Since the array of services listed in files varied widely, each individual service was categorized into one of eight domains identified by the Los Angeles County Probation Workgroup: Mental health services; social/behavioral services; family-based support services; education services; substance abuse services; screening/assessment services, independent living (ILP)/housing, and employment services (see *Appendix F*).¹⁸ In addition to creating domains, the Probation Workgroup report also identified which services were considered evidence-based programs (EBP). Next, access to the services was coded based on whether the identified service was (1) refused by the youth or family; (2) referred and not received (e.g., youth was ineligible for services, service was not available in the geographic area, Spanish speakers were not available); or (3) received (i.e., youth participation in some level of services). The findings from these analyses are broken into the following three time periods:

- All services within one year prior to the preceding arrest/petition;
- All services during study placement; and
- All services within one year after exit or at the time jurisdiction was terminated—whichever came first.

Cautionary Note: While service data is insightful, it is necessary to emphasize that Probation currently does not have a method for recording service provision in a consistent way; thus, the

¹⁸ Herz, D. C., & Chan, K. (2017). The Los Angeles County Probation Workgroup Report. Los Angeles, CA. The Probation Workgroup was formed by the Board of Supervisor motion passed on September 15, 2015 which requires an interagency workgroup comprised of various key partners to address delinquency prevention and rehabilitative intervention in Los Angeles County. Please refer to Task 3--Probation's Current Continuum of Services for Probation-Involved Youth.

extent to which information is contained in case files and case notes depends on an individual Deputy Probation Officer's decision to include or exclude certain types of information over others. For example, the Deputy Probation Officer may have documented a service referral to a particular agency, but the outcome of that referral (e.g., received, refused, ineligible) may not appear in the case notes. Additionally, neither case notes nor paper files provided enough information to indicate whether youth completed services successfully nor did they contain information on the "dosage" (or amount of intervention) youth received while in various programs or the quality of, or appropriateness of, the program.

SERVICE REFERRALS

Service Referrals within One Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition

Service data within one year prior to the preceding arrest/petition is limited to youth who were already under supervision at the time of the arrest/petition that led to the study placement—i.e., the original arrest preceded the study placement preceding arrest/petition. Analysis is limited to these youth because youth for whom the original arrest is the same as their preceding arrest/petition were not under supervision at the time and have no data available to code. **Table 3.1** shows a breakdown of the youth who fell into this time frame and the services they received.

Almost all but a few youth in the 2011 Cohort were under Probation supervision at the preceding arrest/petition (90% of suitable placement youth and 92% of camp youth). Of the 2011 Cohort youth, and more than three-quarters of these youth received service referrals one year prior to their preceding arrest/petition (89% and 91% respectively). Less than one-fifth of 2011 suitable placement and camp youth received a referral for an evidence-based program (EBP), but the use of EBP service referrals doubled for 2015 Cohort youth. Approximately one-third of 2015 suitable placement and camp youth received an EBP service referral. The proportion of service referrals that are evidence-based, however, is small. As noted in **Table 3.1**, the proportion of all service referrals that were evidence-based, however, was small in both cohorts. An increase occurred, though, for suitable placement youth in 2015 (from 4% in 2011 to 8% in 2015).

Table 3.1: Summary of Service Referrals Within One Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition across Study Years

	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort	
	SP	Camp	SP	Camp
Youth in Cohort	50	50	60	60
Youth with Data for One Year Prior to Preceding Arrest/Petition	45 (90%)	46 (92%)	54 (90%)	44 (73%)
Youth Receiving Services Referrals				
Total Youth Receiving Service Referrals	40 (89%)	42 (91%)	51 (94%)	43 (98%)
Total Youth Receiving EBP Service Referrals	6 (13%)	8 (17%)	16 (30%)	14 (32%)
Total Number of Services Referrals				
Total Services Referrals Received by Youth	231	261	365	310
Total EBP Service Referrals Received	9 (4%)	13 (5%)	29 (8%)	16 (5%)

The majority, but not all, of the youth in the 2015 Cohort were also under Probation supervision at this time (90% of suitable placement youth and 73% of camp youth). Nearly all suitable placement and camp youth received service referrals during the same time period (94% and 98% respectively). There were mixed findings related to EBP service referrals: the proportion remained the same for camp youth but doubled across cohort years for suitable placement youth (8% in 2015 compared to 4% in 2011).

Types of Service Referrals Received

Table 3.2 summarizes all the services referred by domain across cohorts (Note: one youth may have multiple service referrals within and across domains). The most prevalent service referrals were similar across cohorts. The top three service referrals for suitable placement youth were the same across both cohorts, but the ranking was slightly different. Referrals for mental health services were most likely for youth in both cohorts, but family-based support services were more likely for suitable placement youth in the 2015 Cohort.

A key focus of the current study is to determine whether the amount of services increased over time. To this end, the difference in services over time was calculated in **Table 3.2**. The number of service referrals increased by 58% between the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts, with the largest percentage increases occurring in mental health services (+10%), family-based supportive services (+8%), and slightly higher substance abuse services (+2%) during this time frame. There was also a decrease in educational services (-7%) for the 2015 suitable placement cohort, but it is unclear if this decrease is due to (1) an actual decrease in service referrals; (2) limited availability for these services or (3) a lack of consistency in documentation.

Table 3.2: Service Referrals by Domain Type Within One Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition across Study Years

Type of Service by Domain	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort		% Difference between Cohorts
	N	%	N	%	
Suitable Placement					
Mental Health	54	23%	119	33%	+10%
Social/Behavioral	43	19%	55	15%	-4%
Family-Based Support	39	17%	91	25%	+8%
Education	31	13%	21	6%	-7%
Substance Abuse	30	13%	53	15%	+2%
Screening/Assessment	23	10%	20	6%	-4%
ILP/Housing	6	3%	1	0%	-3%
Employment	5	2%	5	1%	-1%
TOTAL SERVICE REFERRALS	231		365		+134
Percent Change Over Time					
Camp					
Mental Health	63	24%	95	31%	+7%
Social/Behavioral	53	20%	69	22%	+2%
Family-Based Support	34	13%	58	19%	+6%
Education	26	10%	15	5%	-5%
Substance Abuse	46	18%	41	13%	-5%
Screening/Assessment	19	7%	26	8%	+1%
ILP/Housing	8	3%	4	1%	-2%
Employment	12	5%	2	1%	-4%
TOTAL SERVICE REFERRALS	261		310		+49
Percent Change Over Time					

*Total number of service referrals reflects what was received by 40 and 51 suitable placement youth across 2011 and 2015 Cohorts, respectively. Total number of service referrals reflects what was received by 42 and 43 camp youth across 2011 and 2015 Cohorts, respectively.

Mental health services and social/behavioral services were also the most likely type of referrals received by camp youth in both 2011 and 2015, but substance abuse service referrals were slightly higher for camp youth in 2011 compared to 2015. The number of service referrals increased by 19% between the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts, with the largest percentage increases occurring in mental health services: (+7%), family-based supportive services (+6%), and slightly higher social/behavioral services (+2%) one year prior to the preceding arrest/petition.

Service Referral Access Outcomes

Table 3.3 contains the outcomes for the service referrals listed for youth in the 2015 Cohort (Note: This information was not collected for 2011 Cohort youth). Overall, the results for both suitable placement and camp youth indicate a high rate of service acquisition--three-quarters or more of referrals resulted in receiving services. For suitable placement youth, for example, 119 mental health services were offered and 3% of these referrals were refused by the youth, 9% were not received for some reason, and 88% were received. Across groups, youth/family refusal to participate in services was most likely to occur for substance abuse (12%), education services (10%), and family-based support services (8%).

**Table 3.3: Referral Access Outcomes One Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition—
2015 Cohort Youth Only**

Type of Service by Domain	N	Refused	Referred and Not Received	Received
Suitable Placement				
Mental Health	119	3%	9%	88%
Social/Behavioral	55	4%	2%	95%
Family-Based Support	91	8%	19%	74%
Education	21	10%	14%	76%
Substance Abuse	53	2%	11%	87%
ILP/Housing	1	0%	0%	100%
Employment	5	0%	0%	100%
Camp				
Mental Health	95	3%	6%	91%
Social/Behavioral	69	1%	9%	90%
Family-Based Support	58	2%	21%	78%
Education	15	0%	7%	93%
Substance Abuse	41	12%	15%	73%
ILP/Housing	4	0%	0%	100%
Employment	2	0%	50%	50%

Service Referrals during Study Placement

Virtually all suitable placement and camp youth in both the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts received services during their study placement (see **Table 3.4**). The percentage of suitable placement youth who received EBPs in 2011 was 30%, but by 2015, this percentage increased to 48%. Most EBPs offered in suitable placements were Seeking Safety and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS). The percentage of camp youth who received EBP referrals increased from 58% among the 2011 Cohort to 95% among the 2015 Cohort. The majority of EBP referrals for these youth involved integrated,

adapted Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Anger Replacement Training (ART). Overall, the proportion of all service referrals that were evidence-based, however, was small but this proportion increased over time for both groups. Only 4% of referrals made for the 2011 suitable placement cohort were EBPs, but this percentage increased to 8% for the 2015 Cohort. Similarly, EBP referrals increased slightly from 12% to 13% for camp cohort youth in 2015.

Table 3.4: Summary of Service Referrals During Study Placements across Study Years

	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort	
	SP	Camp	SP	Camp
Total Youth in Cohort	50	50	60	60
Youth Receiving Services Referrals				
Total Youth Receiving Service Referrals	49 (98%)	50 (100%)	60 (100%)	60 (100%)
Total Youth Receiving EBP Service Referrals	15 (30%)	29 (58%)	29 (48%)	57 (95%)
Total Number of Services Referrals				
Total Service Referrals Received by Youth	479	318	487	479
Total EBP Service Referrals Received	19 (4%)	37 (12%)	39 (8%)	61 (13%)

Types of Service Referrals Received

During the study placement, the top three types of service referrals were similar across cohort years and to the year prior to study placement: mental health service referrals, social/behavioral service referrals, and family-based support service referrals. The total number of service referrals for suitable placement youth increased by 2% between the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts, with the largest percentage increases occurring in substance abuse services (+7%), mental health services (+4%) and family-based supportive services (+3%) during this time frame. Conversely, there was a decrease in social/behavioral services (-7%) and minimal decreases in other service domains.

Table 3.5: Service Referrals by Domain Type During Study Placements across Study Years

Type of Service by Domain	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort		Difference between Cohorts
	N	%	N	%	
Suitable Placement					
Mental Health	124	26%	148	30%	+4%
Social/Behavioral	130	27%	95	20%	-7%
Family-Based Support	52	11%	68	14%	+3%
Education	38	8%	22	5%	-3%
Substance Abuse	62	13%	98	20%	+7%
ILP/Housing	27	6%	11	2%	-4%

Type of Service by Domain	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort		Difference between Cohorts
	N	%	N	%	
Employment	9	2%	19	4%	+2%
TOTAL SERVICE REFERRALS	479		487		+8
Percent Change Over Time					+2%
Camp					
Mental Health	82	21%	104	21%	NO DIFF
Social/Behavioral	102	26%	155	31%	+5%
Family-Based Support	21	5%	32	6%	+1%
Education	45	11%	115	23%	+12%
Substance Abuse	67	17%	73	14%	-3%
ILP/Housing	1	0%	0	0%	NO DIFF
TOTAL SERVICE REFERRALS	318		479		+161
Percent Change Over Time					+51%

The percentage change in camp service referrals between 2011 and 2015 increased by 51%. Camp youth in 2015 were more likely to be referred to social/behavioral services (26% and 31%) and mental health services (21% for both). The proportion of service referrals increased 12% for education referrals and 5% for social/behavioral services. Service referrals for substance abuse, though, slightly decreased (-3%).

Service Referral Access Outcomes

Almost all youth in both cohorts received the services for which they were referred while they were in placement (**Table 3.6**). Less than 3% of youth either refused the service or did not receive it for another reason. A refusal to participate, when it occurred was most likely among camp youth for family-based support services. Based on a review of the case notes, this is often a result of one of the following reasons: the family does not have transportation to the camp location, the family refused to participate, and/or the camp was unable to find a supportive adult to participate.

Table 3.6: Referral Access Outcomes During Study Placements—2015 Cohort Youth Only

Type of Service by Domain	N	Refused	Referred and Not Received	Received
Suitable Placement				
Mental Health	148	1%	1%	98%
Social/Behavioral	95	0%	0%	100%
Family-Based Support	68	0%	0%	100%
Education	22	0%	0%	100%
Substance Abuse	98	1%	0%	99%
Independent Living (ILP)/ Housing	11	0%	0%	100%
Employment	19	0%	0%	100%
Camp				
Mental Health	104	1%	0%	99%
Social/Behavioral	155	0%	1%	99%
Family-Based Support	32	3%	0%	97%
Education	115	0%	3%	97%
Substance Abuse	73	1%	0%	99%
Independent Living (ILP)/ Housing	0	0%	0%	0%

Services after Study Placement Exit

Services were tracked after the youth exited their study placement until the youth terminated from Probation supervision or one year after their exit from study placements—whichever came first. As shown in **Table 3.7**, nearly all youth in the 2011 and 2015 Cohort received service referrals after release from suitable placement and camp. Approximately two-thirds of suitable placement youth in the 2011 and 2015 Cohort received EBPs during this time (70% and 67%, respectively). The majority of these referrals were for Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Functional Family Probation (FFP). Of all service referrals, 14% were EBPs in the 2011 Cohort and 18% were EBPs in the 2015 Cohort.

Table 3.7: Summary of Service Referrals Received After Study Placement Exit across Study Years

	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort	
	SP	Camp	SP	Camp
Total Youth in Cohort	50	50	60	60
Youth Receiving Services Referrals				
Total Youth Receiving Service Referrals	49 (98%)	50 (100%)	59 (98%)	57 (95%)
Total Youth Receiving EBP Service Referrals	35 (70%)	11 (22%)	40 (67%)	22 (37%)

	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort	
	SP	Camp	SP	Camp
Total Number of Services Referrals				
Total Services Referrals Received by Youth	377	367	341	471
Total EBP Service Referrals Received	52 (14%)	16 (4%)	61 (18%)	28 (6%)

In contrast to suitable placement, far fewer camp youth in both years received referrals for EBPs. About a fifth of the 2011 camp cohort youth received referrals for EBPs (22%), but by 2015, the percentage of youth receiving referrals for EBPs was 37%. Not surprisingly, EBPs represent a very small percentage of all the service referrals received by camp youth: Only 4% and 6% of all referrals were EBPs in the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts, respectively.

Types of Service Referrals Received

After exiting from study placements, the top three services for suitable placement youth in both cohorts were mental health service referrals, social/behavioral service referrals, and family-based support service referrals (*Table 3.8*). The total number of service referrals for this group of youth decreased by 10% between 2011 and 2015. Looking at proportional differences over time, the most notable decreases were for mental health and social/behavioral services; however, family support services increased by 15% during the same time period.

Table 3.8: Service Referrals by Domain Type After Study Placement Exit across Study Years

Type of Service by Domain	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort		Difference between Cohorts
	N	%	N	%	
Suitable Placement					
Mental Health	78	21%	46	14%	-7%
Social/Behavioral	65	17%	42	12%	-5%
Family-Based Support	97	26%	141	41%	+15%
Education	35	9%	28	8%	-1%
Substance Abuse	44	12%	33	10%	-2%
Independent Living (ILP)/ Housing	14	4%	23	7%	+3%
Employment	19	5%	23	7%	+2%
TOTAL SERVICE REFERRALS	377		341		-36
Percent Change Over Time					
Camp					
Mental Health	74	20%	130	28%	+8%
Social/Behavioral	88	24%	98	21%	-3%

Type of Service by Domain	2011 Cohort		2015 Cohort		Difference between Cohorts
	N	%	N	%	
Family-Based Support	41	11%	71	15%	+4%
Education	39	11%	65	14%	+3%
Substance Abuse	63	17%	63	13%	-4%
Independent Living (ILP)/ Housing	10	3%	8	2%	-1%
Employment	25	7%	30	6%	-1%
TOTAL SERVICE REFERRALS	367		471		+104
Percent Change Over Time					+28%

Youth in the 2011 camp cohort received more social/behavioral referrals (24%), mental health referrals (20%), and substance abuse referrals (17%) during the tracking period whereas youth in the 2015 Cohort were more likely to receive mental health referrals (28%), social/behavioral referrals (21%), and family-based support referrals (15%). The total number of service referrals for this group of youth increased by 28% between 2011 and 2015. Changes in the types of service referrals provided were largely in the area of mental health referrals (+8%).

Service Referral Access Outcomes

Referral outcomes for the 2015 Cohort are displayed in *Table 3.9*. Suitable placement youth were most likely to receive were social/behavioral services (93%), mental health services (80%), education services (64%), and family based support services (62%). Despite a large number of referrals, the least likely service received by these youth was independent living program (ILP)/housing services. It is unclear why these services were not received, but for the most part, it was not due to refusal. Refusals were highest for employment services (13%) and family-based supportive services (9%).

Table 3.9: Service Referral Access Outcomes After Study Placement Exit—2015 Cohort Youth Only

Type of Service by Domain	N	Refused	Referred and Not Received	Received
Suitable Placement				
Mental Health	46	0%	20%	80%
Social/Behavioral	42	0%	7%	93%
Family-Based Support	141	9%	29%	62%
Education	28	7%	29%	64%
Substance Abuse	33	0%	24%	76%
Independent Living (ILP)/ Housing	23	4%	83%	13%

Type of Service by Domain	N	Refused	Referred and Not Received	Received
Employment	23	13%	22%	65%
Camp				
Mental Health	130	6%	19%	75%
Social/Behavioral	98	2%	9%	89%
Family-Based Support	71	13%	35%	52%
Education	65	0%	12%	88%
Substance Abuse	63	3%	29%	68%
Independent Living (ILP)/Housing	8	13%	50%	38%
Employment	30	10%	40%	50%

Camp youth were most likely to receive social/behavioral services (89%), education (88%), and mental health services (75%) after exit. Similar to suitable placement youth, many referrals were made for independent living (ILP)/housing services but only a third received those services. The same was true for employment in which 50% received the services. Overall, refusals were low, but when they occurred, they were most likely for family based support services (13%), independent living services (13%), and employment (10%).

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TREATMENT NEED AND SERVICES ACQUISITION

In the previous section, the number and types of service referrals were summarized. Due to data limitations, assessing whether services responded to youth needs was impossible for all types of services. However, it was possible to identify which 2015 Cohort youth needed intervention for mental health and substance abuse throughout the study time frame and whether they received services. In this section, results for the relationship between the need for services and receiving services in these areas are presented. The level of data for this analysis was still limited but instructive in making the connection between treatment need and receiving services. Similar to the previous section, data were only available to determine if services were accessed. No information was available regarding the dosage of services, the completion of services, or the quality of services.

Mental Health Outcomes of 2015 Cohort Youth Based on Probation Data

Table 3.10 presents the percentage of youth with some level of need for mental health services at some point in the study and at the time they exited from their study placements. Results indicate that the majority of youth in both cohorts had a mental health problem at some point within the study time frame and the need was slightly higher for suitable placement youth (72% compared to 68%). The percentage of youth with an identified mental health need upon exit from study placements dropped to approximately half of both cohorts.

Table 3.10: The Relationship between the Need for Mental Health Treatment and Receiving Mental Health Treatment Services—2015 Cohort Youth Only

2015 Cohort	Had Need at Some Point in Study Time Frame (N=60)	% Receiving Services			Had Need After Exit (N=60)	% Receiving Services After Study Exit
		1 Year Prior	During Placement	After Exit		
	N (%)	%	%	%	N (%)	%
Suitable Placement	43 (72%)	67%	100%	33%	30 (50%)	47%
Camp	41 (68%)	66%	100%	76%	34 (57%)	79%

With regard to services, all youth with a mental health treatment need received some type of service while they were in placement. Access to services, though, differed before and after placement for suitable placement youth. Suitable placement youth were more likely to receive mental health services in the community before their study placement than after their placement (67% compared to 33%). The percentage of youth who received services after exiting from study placements increased when the analysis was limited to youth who needed treatment upon their exit from placement (47%), but this percentage still represented a drop in access compared the earlier time frame. Camp youth appeared to have a different experience, with more youth receiving services upon exiting from placements than before entering. Three-quarters of camp youth (76%) accessed some level of mental health treatment when they returned to the community compared to 66% of youth prior to their entry to placements. This percentage increased slightly to 79% when analysis was limited to those with an identified need at placement exit.

Substance Abuse Outcomes of 2015 Cohort Youth Based on Probation Data

Table 3.11 presents the percentage of youth with some level of need for substance abuse services at some point in the study and at the time they exited from their study placements. Results indicate that almost all of the youth in both cohorts had a substance abuse problem at some point within the study time frame (95% for both groups). The percentage of youth with a need for substance abuse treatment decreased to approximately two-thirds of each cohort group respectively.

Table 3.11: The Relationship between the Need for Substance Abuse Treatment and Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment Services—2015 Cohort Youth Only

2015 Cohort	Had Need at Some Point in Study Time Frame (N=60)	% Receiving Services			Had Need After Exit (N=60)	% Receiving Services After Study Exit
		1 Year Prior	During Placement	After Exit		
	N (%)	%	%	%	N (%)	%
Suitable Placement	57 (95%)	40%	91%	28%	36 (60%)	36%
Camp	57 (95%)	39%	95%	53%	40 (67%)	60%

With regard to services, almost all youth who needed substance abuse treatment received some type of services while they were in placement. Suitable placement youth, however, were more likely to receive services prior to their placements (40%) than after their placement exits (28%). The percentage of youth who received services after exiting from study placements increased when the analysis was limited to youth who needed treatment upon their exit from placement (36%). Findings for camp youth were similar to those for mental health services: A higher percentage of youth received substance abuse services after their exit compared to before their entry into study placements. Whereas only 39% of youth received substance abuse services before entering study placements, 53% received services after their exit from placements. This percentage increased to 60% when analysis was limited to those with an identified need at placement exit.

OUTCOMES FOR SUITABLE PLACEMENT AND CAMP COHORT YOUTH

One focal point of this study is to determine whether the outcomes for youth improved over time (i.e., between the 2011 Cohorts and the 2015 Cohorts). Preferably, the outcomes of interest would include measures of improved well-being and performance related to health, education, employment and so on. Unfortunately, the way data is captured are not conducive to measuring such factors reliably and accurately; thus, the primary outcome measure used in this study is recidivism (e.g., the occurrence of a new arrest). While recidivism is an important measure it limits the way youth are viewed and it can be misleading because it can reflect law enforcement bias instead of actual behavior. To augment the use of recidivism in this report, results related to youth experiences over the course of their time in Probation are reported and compared across time frames to determine if any change occurred.

Recidivism Outcomes across Study Years

Recidivism was measured using arrest data extracted from the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) for both the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts. The time period examined for recidivism was 18 months after placement exit for all youth identified in the study. Six-month, one-year, and 18-month recidivism rates were calculated and presented in two ways:

- Occurrence of a new arrest
- Occurrence of a new arrest that was petitioned and sustained (i.e., sustained petition)

Youth with new arrests received a new arrest charge from law enforcement during the time frame examined. A more conservative measure of recidivism is sustained petitions. Sustained petitions are new arrests adjudicated by the juvenile delinquency court and found “true.” Bench warrants and probation violations are excluded from recidivism analysis.

Table 3.12 reports the recidivism rate for both 2011 and 2015 Cohorts at six months, one year, and 18 months after exiting from placement. Both the new arrest and sustained petition recidivism rates were lower for the 2015 suitable placement cohort than the 2011 suitable placement cohort ($p < .05$)

across study years). Suitable placement youth in 2011 had a six-month new arrest recidivism rate of 22% compared to 14% for the 2015 youth; at one-year, recidivism rate is 34% compared to 21% between the two cohorts, and at 18-month, recidivism rate was 44% compared to 24%. Although the percentages decreased for sustained petitions, the pattern was the same. Both new arrest and sustained petition recidivism rates for camp youth in both cohort years were nearly identical to those for the 2011 suitable placement youth, ranging from 25% to 37% for new arrests and 13% to 23% for sustained petitions.

Table 3.12: New Arrests and Sustained Petitions after Exit across Study Years

	Suitable Placement		Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=250)	2015 Cohort (N=180)	2011 Cohort (N=250)	2015 Cohort (N=276)
	%	%	%	%
New Arrest				
6 Months After Study Placement Exit* ¹	22%	14%	22%	25%
12 Months After Study Placement Exit* ¹	34%	21%	32%	33%
18 Months After Study Placement Exit* ¹	44%	24%	39%	37%
Sustained Petitions				
6 Months After Study Placement Exit	13%	8%	14%	13%
12 Months After Study Placement Exit* ¹	20%	12%	21%	20%
18 Months After Study Placement Exit* ¹	28%	14%	24%	23%

*Differences between groups in 2015 Cohort significant at p<.05;

¹Differences between suitable placement groups across study years significant at p<.05;

²Differences between camp placement groups across study years significant at p<.05.

Note: The 2015 Cohort analysis excluded youth who had exited suitable placement or camp with a Probation supervision out of county or when the exit was related to a detention, replacement, and AWOL.

The majority of exits in the 2011 Cohort are believed to be true exits (i.e., youth is progressing forward out of a placement); however, due to data limitations at the time, it was not possible to identify and exclude a small number of other exits who exited for some other reason (e.g., a replacement, detention, and so on). Because there may be a mixture of exits in the 2011 Cohorts, it is unclear how different the samples are in this regard; thus, recidivism rates were produced for 2015 Cohorts using all exits in an attempt to be more comparable. As displayed in *Table 3.13*, this analysis produced nearly identical recidivism rates for both suitable placement camp youth across all time periods.

Table 3.13: New Arrests and Sustained Petitions after Exit across Study Years—All Exits

	Suitable Placement		Camp	
	2011 Cohort (N=250)	2015 Cohort (N=563)	2011 Cohort (N=250)	2015 Cohort (N=287)
	%	%	%	%
New Arrest				
6 Months After Study Placement Exit	22%	24%	22%	24%
12 Months After Study Placement Exit	34%	34%	32%	32%
18 Months After Study Placement Exit	44%	39%	39%	36%
Sustained Petitions				
6 Months After Study Placement Exit	13%	13%	14%	13%
12 Months After Study Placement Exit	20%	18%	21%	19%
18 Months After Study Placement Exit	28%	22%	24%	22%

Note: The 2015 Cohort analysis contained all types of exits.

These findings suggest that exits other than true exits increase the likelihood of recidivism. To explore this possibility, analyses were replicated for exits related to detention, replacement, and AWOL. Recidivism rates for these youth are found in **Table 3.14**. Not surprisingly, youth in these categories had high rates of new arrests and sustained petitions, exceeding those for true exits in **Table 3.12**. Youth exiting to go to juvenile hall for detention or youth running away from placement have the highest rates. This is not surprising since their movements are most likely positively correlated to their new arrests.

Table 3.14: New Arrests and Sustained Petitions After Exit for the 2015 Cohort—Suitable Placement Detention, Replacement, and AWOL Only

	2015 Cohort—Suitable Placement Only		
	Detention (N=97)	Replacement (N=69)	AWOL (N=215)
	%	%	%
New Arrest			
6 Months After Study Placement Exit	30%	19%	31%
12 Months After Study Placement Exit	40%	38%	41%
18 Months After Study Placement Exit	47%	42%	47%
Sustained Petitions			
6 Months After Study Placement Exit	18%	13%	15%
12 Months After Study Placement Exit	23%	17%	22%
18 Months After Study Placement Exit	26%	20%	28%

In sum, recidivism rates were similar across both the 2011 and 2015 Cohorts, especially when all exits are combined. The best comparison would involve only true exits from the 2011 Cohorts, but unfortunately, the data available for that cohort did not allow for that level of specificity. Without knowing if the true exit groups are comparable, the default is to examine the rates for the pooled groups (i.e., all exits). When this is done, there appears to be no change in recidivism over time in either group.

CHAPTER 4 : PERCEPTIONS OF THE PROBATION EXPERIENCE— INTERVIEWS WITH SUPERVISING DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICERS, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

Data drawn from Probation case notes and paper case files are informative about the overall experience with Probation, but these data are limited to static representations of their experiences. To better understand the involvement of Probation in the lives of youth and their families, interviews were conducted with (1) 44 Deputy Probation Officers supervising suitable placement and camp cohort youth; and (2) 30 youth and families between their exits from study placements and the end of their tracking periods. Both the methods and the results produced from these interviews are described in the sections below.

INTERVIEWS WITH SUPERVISING DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICERS

Data and Methods

Interviews with supervising Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) were conducted by researchers from California State University, Los Angeles. Once a cohort youth reached one year after their study placement exit or had their case terminated (whichever came first), Cal State LA researchers invited DPOs responsible for supervising cohort youth to participate in a structured interview about their experiences supervising the youth, family, as well as their perceived access to services for youth. Participation in the DPO interviews was completely voluntary.¹⁹ Interviews were auto-recorded with the approval of the DPO for the purpose of transcription. All notes transcribed were used for analysis and coded into themes.²⁰

As shown in *Table 4.1*, 75 out of 120 DPOs were contacted for a DPO interview, but only 44 DPOs agreed to complete an interview. Of the 44 interviews 26 DPOs (63%) were supervising a youth exiting from suitable placement, and 18 DPOs (53%) were supervising a youth exiting from camp.²¹ The most often cited reason for not completing an interview was a lack of information/knowledge

¹⁹ DPOs were notified that the interview was not required by the Probation Department and was not an audit of any DPO.

²⁰ All Deputy Probation Officer interview procedures and protocols were approved by the California State University, Los Angeles Institutional Review Board.

²¹ Due to logistics, researchers were not notified by Probation that tracked cases were terminated. Delays in retrieving the Probation case files resulted in more than three months after the youth terminated from Probation or reached one year.

about the case. The refusal rate for DPOs supervising youth exiting suitable placement was fairly low (14%), but it was higher for DPOs supervising youth exiting camp (31%).

Table 4.1: Total DPO Interviews Attempted

	Suitable Placement Cohort		Camp Cohort	
	N	%	N	%
Officers Contacted	41	---	34	---
Officers Completing Interviews	26	63%	18	53%
Officers Not Completing Interviews	15	37%	16	47%
Reason for Not Completing an Interview				
Recently Assigned Case (i.e., never met the youth or not enough information)	8	53%	10	63%
Officer Not Unavailable (i.e., training, medical leave, retired)	5	33%	1	6%
Refused or No Response	2	14%	5	31%

On average, DPOs in this study worked in the Probation Department for 16 years, with a range of 7 years to 31 years of experience with the Department. More than half (61%) of the DPOs were female and almost half (45%) of all the DPOs were bilingual Spanish speakers. There was an equal distribution of African-American and Latino DPOs (50% and 50%, respectively).

Table 4.2: Demographics and Characteristics of Interviews Completed

	Suitable Placement Cohort		Camp Cohort	
	N	%	N	%
Gender				
Male	8	31%	9	50%
Female	18	69%	9	50%
Race/Ethnicity				
African-American	9	35%	12	67%
Latino	15	58%	6	33%
Not Indicated	2	8%	0	0%
Bilingual	13	50%	7	39%
Assigned Bureau/Unit				
Regular Supervision	10	38%	1	6%
PCTS	7	27%	0	0%
School-Based	2	8%	0	0%
CCTP	2	8%	6	33%
CSEC	2	8%	0	0%

RTSB	1	4%	4	22%
IGSP	1	4%	4	22%
RBS	1	4%	3	17%
TOTAL	26		18	

Between placement exit and until the youth jurisdiction is terminated or has reached one year, youth may be reassigned to different units in Probation and be supervised by different DPOs for a variety of reasons, including: (1) the youth returned to suitable placement or camp, (2) the youth completed a Probation service and returned to a lower level supervision, or (3) the youth was supervised under a specialized unit. Each Probation unit operates differently and its caseload varies in size. DPOs in this study had a caseload between three and 90 cases. A simple description of these units is listed below:

- Regular Supervision (RS): Supervises youth with lower level risk in the community. DPOs in this unit tend to have the most cases in the field.
- School-Based Probation Supervision: Located in and provides supervision within selective schools.
- Child Trafficking Unit (CSEC): Supervises youth with an identified current or history of sexual exploitation (i.e., Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children—CSEC)
- Placement Community Transition Services (PCTS): Provides Functional Family Therapy (FFT) or Functional Family Probation (FFP) services for a period of months.
- Intensive Gang Supervision Program (IGSP): Supervises youth with intensive gang involvement issues. DPOs in this unit are paired with a Gang Mobile Deputy who conducts home visits and does compliance checks.
- Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP): Acts as a “Secondary DPO” while the youth is in camp and supervises youth exiting from camp.
- Residential Based Services (RBS): Supervises youth while they are in a suitable placement.
- Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB): Supervises youth while they are in a camp placement.

By the time of the DPO interview, more than one-third (38%) of suitable placement youth had a Regular Supervision DPO whereas one-third (33%) of camp youth had a CCTP DPO.

Recurring Themes from the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer Interviews

Youth Strengths

DPOs were asked to provide words that described youth strengths. The majority of DPOs indicated that youth were intelligent, mature, and independent (as shown in *Figure 4.1*). Youth who were described with these words were more likely to have graduated from high school and been employed. Additionally, DPOs with more successful cases described the youth being supported by family members or caregivers.

Figure 4.1: Youth Strengths Reported by DPOs



Family Strengths

Similar to youth strengths, DPOs were asked to provide words that described family strengths. The majority of DPOs indicated that families were supportive, full of love, and had communication (**Figure 4.2**).

The majority of the Probation units conduct home visits as part of their operations, but not all. In turn, the depth of the interviews about family relationships varied across Probation units. All of the Probation units, with the exception of Regular Supervision (RS), School-Based Supervision, and Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB) were less likely to speak about family strengths, or comment on the relationship between the youth and family. One Regular Supervision DPO reflected:

“I’m responsible for seeing everyone every month. Seeing them as a DPO is only 10% of what I can give them. I could be going in the household, but I can’t do that with 90 cases. If I have an hour or two, I’m already thinking about next week’s court report.”

Figure 4.2: Family Strengths Reported by DPOs



Family Relationships and DPO Engagement

Family and caregiver engagement is central to the success of the client's case plan. DPOs reported that the families, particularly the mothers or female caregivers, were supportive of the clients, but they needed assistance in the area of family communication and relationships. For example, three DPOs reported that sometimes the parent and client relationship had more of a friendship than parent-child relationship, making the implementation of rules and boundaries difficult if not impossible. Another area of struggle was in households with stepparents. Multiple DPOs discussed the challenge of getting stepparents involved in the case plan (e.g., visit client in suitable placement or camp). In these situations, DPOs praised Wraparound services, Family Functional Therapy (FFT), and Functional Family Probation (FFP) because they felt family relationships improved when the family learned to interact with one another and to support their children together.

DPO often identified the need for family services in addition to services for their clients. During supervision, client and family faced challenges including parent health problems (e.g., cancer,

diabetes, lupus), grieving and loss, fathers returning home from prison, deportation of a family member, incarceration of a family member, and/or home evictions. Many families did not see law enforcement and Probation in a positive light because of the fear that they would take away their children. A DPO suggested that the case plan should address all the family's needs and that the DPO should be assigned to the household rather than the client. DPOs stated that, single parents struggled financially to maintain a permanent residence, keep a steady job, and supervise their kids simultaneously. These challenges were often discovered when the DPOs visited the home to build rapport with the clients and families. One DPO stated, "I work with them, know that I'm looking out for them. I'm not trying to lock anyone up, it's not my goal. I treat them with respect."

Rapport building with families, though, can be more difficult when DPOs are not bilingual. Although 45% of the DPOs in this study spoke Spanish, the other half of the DPOs experienced problems communicating with Latino families and caregivers. In particular, DPOs found it difficult to gauge family relationships and progress when the client or another family member was the translator.

Access to Services

The majority of the DPOs did not report a problem accessing services for the clients and families with the exception of several specific situations including:²²

- the absence of bilingual services in limited geographic areas, particularly home-based or family supportive services;
- limited services for younger clients (i.e., under age 12) and older clients (i.e., age 18 and over);
- the inability of families to pay for services (e.g., some services, such as substance abuse treatment and juvenile sex offender counseling);
- a lack of transportation to services (e.g., parents sometimes do not drive far distances or freeways);
- limited and/or varied services depending upon geographic region (e.g., Antelope Valley is limited in services); and
- limited services with male mentors.

Service referrals for clients came from a roster of services maintained by individual DPOs (based on prior experience) or through the use of the Prospective Authorization Utilization and Review (PAUR) Unit for a limited number of Probation-contracted services. The DPO suggested that there should be a monthly update or directory of services that informs DPOs what services are available in the area. Similarly, another DPO stated, "There are so many services. If you don't tell DPOs, and provide training, they won't know." A DPO indicated that Probation should do a better job at what agencies or programs they are bringing into the Department to work with clients and families.

²² Note: A quarter of the DPOs in these interviews had clients in suitable placements and camps, which may have made it easier for clients to access services compared to clients in other Probation Units.

Agencies should commit to doing what they say they will do so that DPOs are not chasing the agencies.

If the agency did not provide consistent communication after a referral, or if the referral was not processed in a timely manner, DPOs were less likely to use the same agency in the future. The DPOs stated that the quality of services is better when the agencies provide constant communication (i.e., let the DPO know when the minor attended sessions) and is willing to work with Probation. Not every client is right for every program.

“Know what [services] is out there, and what we need from them. We will be providing a better service when we help agencies to become better. Tell them specifically what this family needs. A lot of agencies are open to suggestion. Communicate with each other.”

Sometimes clients were more likely to attend services based on how DPOs approached the client and family. A few DPOs stressed the importance of the client's own initiative because, “If I told her [what she had to do], I would overshadow that confidence. I step aside and let her be the wing. I monitor it.” Clients were more likely to participate in the services when there was an intrinsic motivation, convenience (e.g., transportation provided), and see an interest/benefit. On the other hand, DPOs said clients were less likely to participate in services when they were not motivated or didn't see a problem (e.g., substance abuse), didn't want to go through a long intake for screening, did not believe the services fit with their schedules, or when the family refused services (due to repetition with family therapy and discussions of trauma or because they did not have rapport with the interventionist).

“You have to get to know your cases very well. You have to know what's going on with them, you can't have a cookie cutter for every kid. Because this program might not work for this person, or that girl. This girl doesn't thrive in a big place with a lot of girls. If I had to pick one, get to know your cases well. Get a directory of several types of services that you can refer the kids to, and know your audience.”

“Turning Points” in Client Behaviors

A “turning point” is a key event that changes the client's behaviors in a significant way. As part of the interviews, DPOs reflected on the characteristics or factors they thought were related to positive changes in their clients' behaviors. These characteristics or factors, in their eyes, were turning points for the clients.

- **Self-Determination:** DPOs observed an increased self determination to change among some of their clients and believed this was also due to the client getting older and becoming an adult. For example, the DPO described one gang-involved client who was “on the run” for 7-8 months. She eventually turned herself in because she realized she had wasted her time. Many clients know that the next violation may go to the adult level and are “tired of being on Probation.”

“She seems to be at a place where she knows what she needs to do. She was liberated to be on her own, not attached to her addictive parent or criminal history. The kid wants to be different, but they are linked to the parent... It is easy to be hopeless, but she has a plan and is looking for the next step.”

- Family Involvement: The support of family members played a key role in the client's rehabilitation. For example, after holding onto a secret about being abused, a client disclosed his trauma, and the family and the DPO supported him in recovery. The DPO noted that the client realized that the one person who didn't love him (i.e., his mother), really did love him. For another client, seeing her mother in tears and not being able to return home helped her understand she was repeating a cycle. DPOs reported that clients wanted to be better and do better in order to help their families succeed. The DPO attributed this change to suitable placement:

***“When she came back [from suitable placement], she was different.
She gets the bigger picture now.”***

- Relationships: Two DPOs reported that a change in the gender of the assigned DPO helped the client. For example, in one case the client had a pattern of defiance toward female officers, but once a male DPO was assigned, the client was less resistant and was more engaged with services. This trust or willingness to receive support also appeared in other examples. A DPO noted the change in her client was had progressed over time. Once the client had received support from suitable placement and the FBI, it helped the client “get out of the life” (i.e., reference to CSEC) and this client eventually got her immigration status and a job.

Critical Areas Impacted Client Progress

DPOs identified substance abuse problems, educational challenges, and mental health issues as barriers to client success.

Substance Abuse: More than half (57%) of the DPOs felt that substance use was a problem for clients, particularly the use of marijuana and methamphetamine. In one case, the DPO indicated that one client started using drugs at 11 years old to cope with trauma. Only three DPOs reported that their clients did not have substance use issues after release from suitable placement and camp.

Although many of the clients completed drug education and counseling at suitable placements and/or camps, relapse was a major challenge. The likelihood of using again rose dramatically when they returned to their communities, families, and peers. For two families, the parents themselves supported the client's substance use, which made it difficult for the client to remain sober. For example, one DPO noted that the father did not have a problem with his son's marijuana use and did not feel the need to tell his son to stop, and another DPO revealed that the mother allowed her daughter to smoke marijuana because she wasn't eating. Peer influences also increased the likelihood of relapse. Peers and/or boyfriends would supply drugs, exacerbating the DPOs' clients' addictions. One particular client escalated her substance use from marijuana and methamphetamine to heroin

despite receiving substance abuse education in camp. In fact, two DPOs said if they could do things differently, the DPOs would have referred the clients to substance abuse treatment subsequently after camp.

When the court ordered drug testing as part of the client's Probation conditions, DPOs used drug testing to monitor clients' substance use. This strategy was useful because it detected the type of drugs, but it also increased the opportunity for clients to self-admit their use so that the DPOs could address the problem. Only one DPO in this study reported that he suspected his client was using drugs, but he could not test the client because there was no drug testing order.

Education: More than one-third (39%) of DPOs reported their clients had difficulty with school enrollment and/or struggled with school attendance or poor grades after exit. Sometimes grades were not easily accessible when the clients transferred from one school to another school district. Additionally, DPOs reported that the environment played a big role in the client's educational progress. Sometimes the client's educational needs are not identified. One DPO, for example, noticed his client had not attended school regularly and frequently had poor grades, which was a violation of probation conditions. Upon talking with the client's mother, however, the DPO discovered his client was ashamed and embarrassed to ask for help in school. He didn't understand math. The DPO subsequently provided encouragement to the client. The DPO also worked with the school to provide tutoring and reassessed for an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Mental Health: As the case file data show, a significant number of clients had a need for mental health services prior to their Probation involvement. During Probation, mental health agencies identified the clients' mental health needs (e.g., client had auditory hallucinations). Between the time of the Original Arrest and the client's placement release from this study, the client may have had several DPOs in different Probation units.

DPOs in this study were only interviewed about the clients' post-release from the study placements. Many of these DPOs were not aware of their clients' history of mental health issues prior to case assignment. The majority of the DPOs indicated that their clients completed the counseling conditions in suitable placement or camp. Only a quarter (25%) of the DPOs reported that there was still a need for mental health services after release. Post release, these clients were stable with the help of mental health services and/or psychotropic medication according to the DPOs. DPOs reported they referred clients to individual counseling in the community or mental health services through the Juvenile Justice Aftercare Transition Aftercare Services (JJTAS) with the Department of Mental Health (DMH).

Working with the family to understand mental health was a challenge for the DPO. One DPO reported that the client had mental health symptoms and was not medication compliant, but the family seemed to ignore it until the client attempted suicide. The DPO explained to the family that they had to think about services in a different way: services are what is needed in order to get the client to be successful. Eventually, this DPO sought mental health services for the client and supported this client through his recovery. The DPO recalled:

“I have to remind him. You had issues since you were young. No kind of treatment 30, 60, or 90 days is going to solve your issues. There’s a lot of trauma that he’s revealed to me. There’s a lot of trauma in the family that he saw as a kid that he still remembers... [Once the youth attended the first mental health session], he told me, ‘She’s a good lady. She made me think in a different light.’”

Other Barriers to Success: In addition to the above areas, DPOs also reported three other areas that were a concern in supervising clients.

- **Gang Involvement:** Approximately half of the clients (52%) supervised by interviewed DPOs were gang involved. DPOs reported that once clients were released, they had difficulty separating their identity from the gang, especially when there’s no parental supervision. These clients often returned to their peers and resumed drug use or selling drugs. One DPO said, “I don’t think it is really a choice especially younger kids without fathers. When you live in the projects, you better join. You either get harassed everyday or get jumped.” The DPO reported that once her client returned back home, he did not want services. The client lived in the projects, and the family was getting evicted from their home a few months later. The client frequently drank alcohol with other gang members on the front porch. During a gang mobile visit, the DPO found the client in violation of Probation due to possession of ammunition, guns, and drugs in the home.
- **Undocumented Clients:** Just under one-fifth (18%) of the clients supervised by respondents did not have United States citizenship. Challenges related to the client’s immigration status resulted in barriers in obtaining employment, higher education, and treatment services. All of the DPOs reported navigating these barriers without prior training (“knew nothing about immigration”) and relied on pro bono immigration attorneys to assist. One DPO reported, “Probation does not teach DPOs about immigration.” DPOs recommended that it would be helpful for Probation to have a liaison that DPOs could call for assistance.
- **Child Trafficking:** Only two of the interviewed DPOs’ (5%) supervised clients with a history of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) issues. Safety is an ongoing concern for these clients. For example, one pimp showed up at one client’s suitable placement, which impacted the client’s progress. The DPO stated, “She [the client] was having a hard time and struggling with wanting to get back to the life for money and freedom. She was conflicted about her ‘loyalty’ to him and wanting ‘to do the right thing’ and do good.” CSEC issues sometimes can also cause conflict in the home when the parent does not understand child trafficking and sexual exploitation. This is a barrier to family engagement by the DPO because the client may not feel supported by their families.

Moving Forward: How Success Can Be Achieved Per DPO Reflections

During the interviews, DPOs were asked what Probation needs to do to help Probation-involved clients and families be successful. Their responses included the following recommendations:

- **Get to Know the Client:** “Breaking the ice with that client. Get familiar with that client in that area. There’s a lot of agencies that mean well, but you have to get to know that person.” Another DPO reported that the Probation Department should think about how to encourage, empower, and transform client lives so that clients can really be productive citizens.
- **Family Support and Involvement:** “I think by families communicating with you, you could see what the youth needs. You’re on the outside looking in, you don’t see everything. By having the parent communicate, it would help a great deal.” Family involvement is crucial.
- **Accountability:** “Make minors accountable. Say something and follow through with it. If we want to achieve a certain percentage of recidivism rate, say what we will do. Don’t just get the numbers. Keep them on Probation and hold their feet to the fire and just not transfer them to adult.” Furthermore, another DPO indicated that the court does not always back up DPO recommendations, and the court sets the client back and a cycle is repeated.
- **More Resources for the Clients and Family:** “Kids need money and need to do something to keep them busy. More funding for programs and services.” DPOs stressed community based services that are free because the communities are poor and can’t afford the cost of services. Additionally, one DPO stated, “I kind of wish that services are more intense and more services especially in predominately Spanish speaking areas.” More outpatient and inpatient substance abuse treatment is needed so there is not a “gap or waiting list because kids will get deeper and deeper into their drug addiction.”
- **Aftercare Services:** “What we’re doing now, is that we’re helping more. We get a jumpstart on getting services for the kid. It doesn’t always happen though.” DPOs stressed partnerships with county agencies to connect clients to mental health and educational services post-release.

In sum, the DPOs interviews revealed a significant attention to youth and family engagement in order to increase clients’ likelihood of success. According to the DPOs, when clients were engaged, clients participated in services, felt supported, and had an interest in changing their own behaviors. When families were engaged, they participated in the case plan and worked with the client to improve family relationships. While services are generally available in the community, there are exceptions. First, the mechanism for identifying services varies from DPO to DPO. The majority of the DPOs use connections they developed in the community, but there is no efficient way to manage a list of services or identified services that are effective. Second, services of a particular type are limited, or were limited for a particular age group. These reasons decreased the likelihood that client and families would receive the services they needed. To that end, the next section highlights the perspectives of clients and families based on their own experiences.

INTERVIEWS WITH YOUTH AND FAMILY

Dr. Jorja Leap, adjunct professor in the Department of Social Welfare at the University of California Los Angeles, and her staff completed interviews with 30 youth and family. The data and results collected for these interviews were expansive; thus, the inclusion of their full report was not possible; consequently, readers interested in detailed description of all their findings are encouraged to consult the full report they submitted to the Probation Department. The key findings from their report are presented here.

Data and Methods

Interviewees were randomly selected from the 2015 suitable placement and camp cohorts. The youth were followed real-time until jurisdiction terminated or until one year later—whichever came first. Respective Probation Directors notified researchers when the tracking period ended and “data collection” could begin, including case file review (referenced in previous sections of this report), Deputy Probation Officer Interview (also referenced previously), and the focus of this section—the youth and family interview. Interviews with youth and family were coordinated with the Deputy Probation Officers.

Participation in the interviews was completely voluntary. Consequently, researcher requests were met with uncertainty. This resistance to research participation is a characteristic of youth who have been detained and explains why only 30 (of a previously planned 64) interviews were completed. Research indicates that there are unique ethical, legal, and practical challenges to gaining a youth’s willingness to participate—not to mention obtaining youth assent and parental permission.²³ Youth in this position are dually vulnerable—as children and prisoners—with diminished levels of trust due to previous experiences in coercive situations.²⁴ Roughly 70% of those contacted refused or were unable to complete an interview due to a number of factors, which included unwillingness, incarceration, youth missing-in-action or bench warrants, transportation difficulties, scheduling complications, or general lack of communication.²⁵

In the end, 30 interviews were completed with cohort youth. Specifically, 16 unique youth and 11 families agreed to participate in the interviews. The distribution of participants across group and time period is presented in *Table 4.3*. “Pre” interviews represent interviews conducted shortly after the youth was released from their study placements and “post” interviews are those conducted at the end of the tracking period or when their cases terminated.

²³ Wolbransky, M, et al. (July 2013). Collecting Informed Consent with Juvenile Justice Populations: Issues and Implications for Research.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ The evaluation team originally anticipated that all participants would complete two interviews, though logistics proved complicated. When possible, two interviews were completed; otherwise, the pre and post interviewees represent different samples. This explains the lack of pre vs. post analysis and the difference in the total number of *interviews* and *individuals*.

Table 4.3: Summary of Youth and Family Interviews Completed

Youth Pre	Youth Post	Family Pre	Family Post	TOTAL
7	11	3	9	30

After completion of appropriate assent/consent procedures and with participant approval, interviews were recorded.²⁶ As illustrated in the table above, each participant had the opportunity to complete two interviews—a “pre” and a “post” interview. The pre-interview was conducted as soon as possible upon release and the post-interview was conducted roughly five to seven months after the initial contact. All participants received a gift card for completing each interview—youth received \$15 Target cards and family members received \$25 Ralph’s cards. All interviews were conducted in person, with the exception of one interview that was completed via phone/video chat with a minor who had recently been incarcerated. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish as requested by participants. Spanish interviews were later translated into English for coding and documentation purposes.

Highlights of youth and family demographics are presented below (see Leap and Rivas, 2016 for more detailed tables and charts of participant characteristics):

- The 16 youth participants ranged in age from 15 – 18 years, 44% were 17.
- Participants were 38% male and 62% female.
- 37% of participants are (or were about to be) parents.
- 12% completed high school or earned a GED.
- 44% completed one camp/placement stay and 32% completed more than four.
- 44% spent less than one year in Camp/placement while 38% spent more than two.
- 50% were involved in other programming/CBO-based participation.
- 73% of family participants (8) were aged 40 – 49.
- One father participated in the study.
- 82% are raising/raised their children as a single parent.
- The average family size was between 4 – 5 members.
- 45% of families received mental health/counseling services, 27% received legal, and 18% received DCFS or other family-based services.
- 54% of families have been/or are currently involved with DCFS.
- 36% of families were currently involved in the legal/court system.
- 27% of families were involved with the LA County Office of Education.
- 45% of families currently had other family members serving time.

²⁶ For more on interview content, see the next section: Predominant Themes in Youth and Family Interviews.

Predominant Themes in Youth and Family Interviews

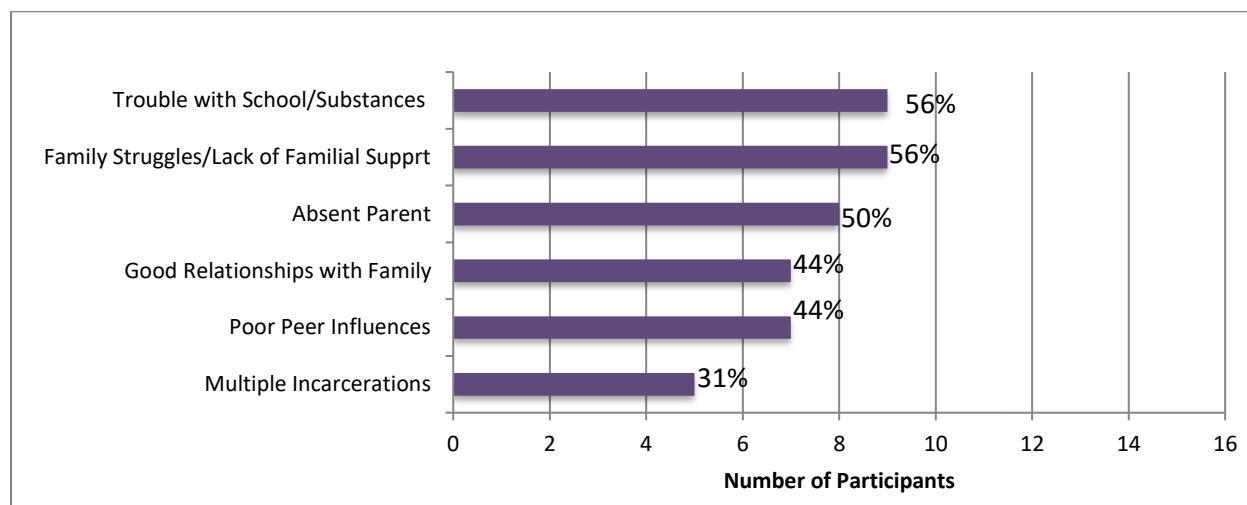
Interviews yielded vibrant, positive, and dynamic accounts of youth experiences and their lives as emerging adults. Interviewees were open and willing to talk at length about the reasons and actions that led to their mandated Camp or placement stay, their experiences during Camp or placement, after Camp or placement (transition), and their hopes for the future.²⁷

Experiences Before Probation Camp or Placement

Youth spoke candidly about their early childhood experiences leading up to their camp stay, reflecting on family dynamics, behavioral patterns, and peer influences. As part of their discussion, several youth pinpointed “turning points” in their lives—a specific event, experience, or realization—that marked a moment in their lives that led to significant change. In considering their early experiences, six prominent themes emerged from coding (see

Figure 4.3)

Figure 4.3: Life Trajectory Pre-Suitable Placement or Camp



While seven participants (44%) report having *positive relationships* with their parents and siblings, this was not synonymous with receiving *support* from their families nor was it indicative of living without *struggle*. In her pre-interview, one young woman commented,

“The stuff [my mom] has done and put me through – I’d never do to my kids. No matter what. Especially if they’re doing stuff a normal teenager would do...she acts like a kid – like my age. It’s like we’re at war and it’s a bad one. The only way she has the upper hand is if I’m detained.”

²⁷ For ease of analysis, and to reduce repetition, the graphs below portray findings from the youth (not their families), though a discussion of important family feedback was included where appropriate. All youth, regardless of whether they were in Camp or placement, were analyzed as one group.

Despite the turmoil in this family, at the time of the post interview seven months later, both mother and daughter agreed that their relationship was stronger. The mother believed that this was based on her daughter's desire to improve her behavior. The young woman's attendance in school improved and she stopped associating with bad influences.

Another 50% of youth cited the absence of one parent as an important—and painful—element of their childhood. Family members discussed histories of *familial hardship and struggles* as part of the difficulty they encountered in establishing strong relationships with their children. A father described a turning point in his life and his daughter's that deeply affected their relationship,

“...That’s when I started reaching out...when we all ended up together, incarcerated, all looking at time. I believe she had two years; I got two years, and my other daughter had five. So we’re all gonna do some time and that’s when it hit me like, ‘God damn, what’s going on here?’ When I got out I started reaching out to her and that’s when we started to get closer. She comes to me with things she used to go to her mother about. I love our relationship.”

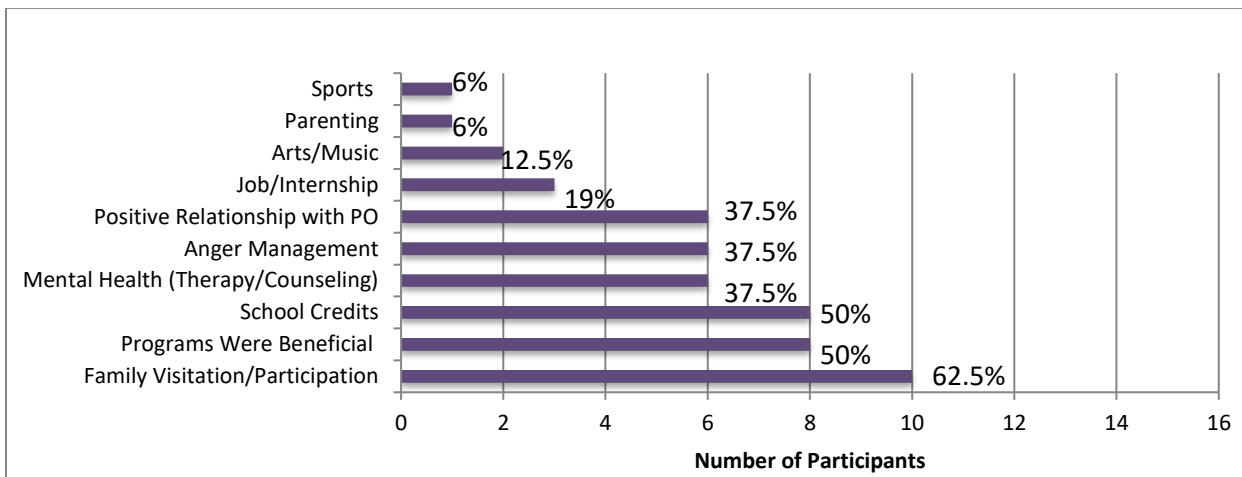
Compounding the history of family struggle and lack of support, many participants reported that they grew up without a *positive male role model/father figure* (50%), and began *getting in trouble* at an early age to fill this void (56%). For many youth, this meant involvement with *negative peer influences* (44%) that resulted in “*running the streets*,” skipping school, and entering a destructive gang-involved lifestyle. Interviewees (56%) described *fighting, stealing, and poor educational performance*. Many youth were expelled from multiple schools or forced to relocate because of disciplinary problems. Parents agreed that school presented a notable challenge for their children. In addition to academic and behavioral challenges, youth began using drugs at an early age and quickly escalated to selling or dealing. Youth associated their drug use with excessive anger and an increased tendency toward violence. As a result, and without much-needed structure, these youth felt invincible—as if there would be no consequences. Even if they did get caught, it was not viewed negatively; instead youth felt that violence and incarceration were a symbol of respect.

From the analysis of qualitative data, it was evident that every single interviewee faced myriad challenges throughout their childhood prior to detention. Despite this, they believed that their lives were not without positive events and achievements, which included, but were not limited to, pregnancy and the birth of their child, graduating high school, and as one youth, stated poignantly, “*just being alive.*” Interviews revealed that youth uniformly experienced little to no structure in the home, absence of positive influences, lack of role models—in particular male role models, and poor decision-making exacerbated by susceptibility and vulnerability to peer influence. Additionally, data revealed that a successful completion of Camp or placement, as well as a smooth transition and reintegration into the community, required that juvenile justice based programming and services address the diversity of needs that these youthful offenders encountered, including family trauma, economic struggles, educational challenges, gang-involvement, and substance use.

Experiences in Probation Camp and Suitable Placement

Seventy percent of the sample stated that their most recent time in Camp or placement was the result of a probation violation. When asked about their most recent experience in Camp or placement, youth offered generally positive reviews about the available programming and services, family involvement, and relationships with Deputy Probation Officers and/or staff. One youth remarked matter-of-factly, “*They helped me in so many different ways – they supported me – and gave me many different experiences.*” Youth reported participating in varied programming that addressed their unique areas of need (*Figure 4.4*).

Figure 4.4: Suitable Placement or Camp Programs and Services



Most notable was the youth’s delight at having time for family visitation (62.5%). Because of these visits, previously strained family connections were strengthened and communication markedly improved. This was especially noteworthy given the fact that many of these youth had described the negative impact of past struggles at home. Two young women reflected on the lessons learned, support received, and improved relationships:

“I learned a lot of things and I had a lot of support there. And it helped me – when I was released it helped me show my mom what I learned and helped me be there for my daughter...”

“They told me I have to overcome the obstacles of life. I am grateful that they taught me all that stuff. I think about them and I use those skills every day – for me and for my family.”

Significantly, 50% of the group indicated that whether in Camp or placement, the *programs* offered were beneficial. Many youth recounted lessons learned from programs and/or staff that they still reflect on during their daily lives. Furthermore, *education* became a focus. Many of the youth wanted to earn their high school diploma. This was borne out by the finding that 50% of our sample had

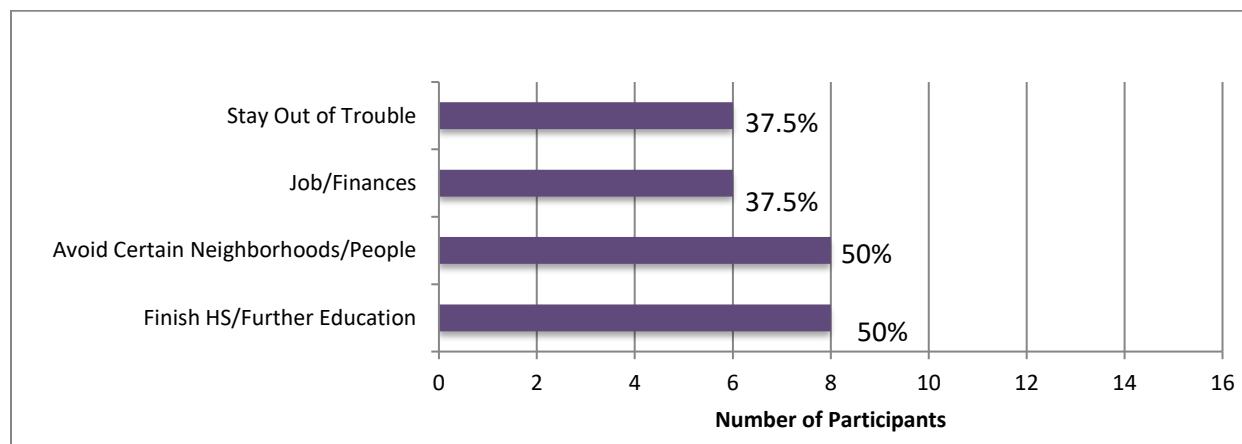
successfully earned school credits while in Camp or placement. Eight youth interviewed expressed a desire to reverse their credit deficit and further their education, whether it was earning a GED, receiving a high school diploma, or pursuing technical school or community college. These youth viewed education as an important stepping block to increased freedom and autonomy.

Aside from earning school credits, the combination of *mental health, therapy, and anger management* had the highest rate of participation (37.5%). In addressing the need for mental health services, participants spoke extensively about how anger management helped them to change their tendency to lash out aggressively. Youth learned to deal with family conflict in more appropriate, healthier ways, demonstrating a change from past family dynamics. Several youth indicated that they learned how to be a better, more involved, parent to their child. The skills learned directly related to several important successes, such as the development of more positive decision-making, the facilitation of productive communication, and the ability to build healthy relationships with friends and family.

Experiences After Leaving Placement

As youth prepared to transition out of camp or placement, their two predominant concerns were avoiding certain neighborhoods/people (50%) and finishing high school/furthering their education (50%). These challenges were followed by concern about their ability to stay out of trouble (37.5%) as well as securing employment and earning an income to provide for themselves and their families (37.5%).

Figure 4.5: Challenges & Concerns Post-Suitable Placement or Camp

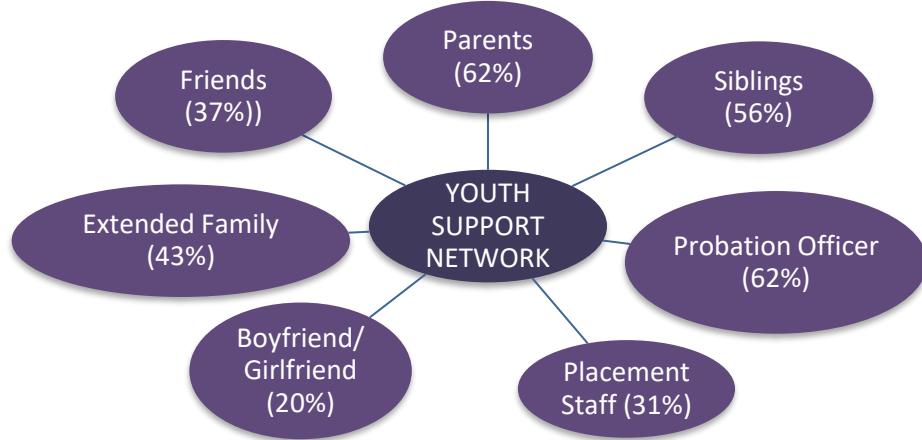


In order to ensure their continued success, youth were working to *avoid certain neighborhoods/people*, including gang participation, and avoid using drugs/alcohol (50%). Importantly, youth replaced previous negative “connections” with more prosocial support networks, including parents, siblings, friends, community-based organizations, and continued contact with staff from past programs. One young man discussed his desire to *stay out of trouble* (37.5%) and avoid his former lifestyle, including drugs, violence, and gang affiliations:

"It's kind of a struggle when I see my old friends. I still see some of them, I tell them hi, talk real fast. And like, they're still in their old habits. I mean, I don't judge them because they're my friends, they're always gonna be my friends. It's just a struggle when I get that temptation. I won't lie, I do miss everything from before, but I won't go back because I got my number one priority – taking care of my daughter. I can't just go and do what I used to do."

Upon release from Camp or placement, many of these young men and women, as well as their parents, noticed a profound change in their attitude, motivation, and desire to do well. Upon return to the community, youth reported differences in their relationships at home, changes in the way they related to siblings and friends, as well as changes in people's perceptions of them. Parents also reported being more actively involved in their children's lives. They did their best to keep youth on track, whether helping with transportation to and from work or school or checking in with the youth's case manager or PO. Families became a supportive, rather than destructive, force in the life of their child. Overall, 90% of youth reported, and their families confirmed, that they established strong support networks. All participants believed that these networks would allow the youth to continue doing well. Several interviewees even spoke about an improved relationship with their Deputy Probation Officer. The diagram below displays the general makeup of the youth support networks.

Figure 4.6: Youth Support Networks

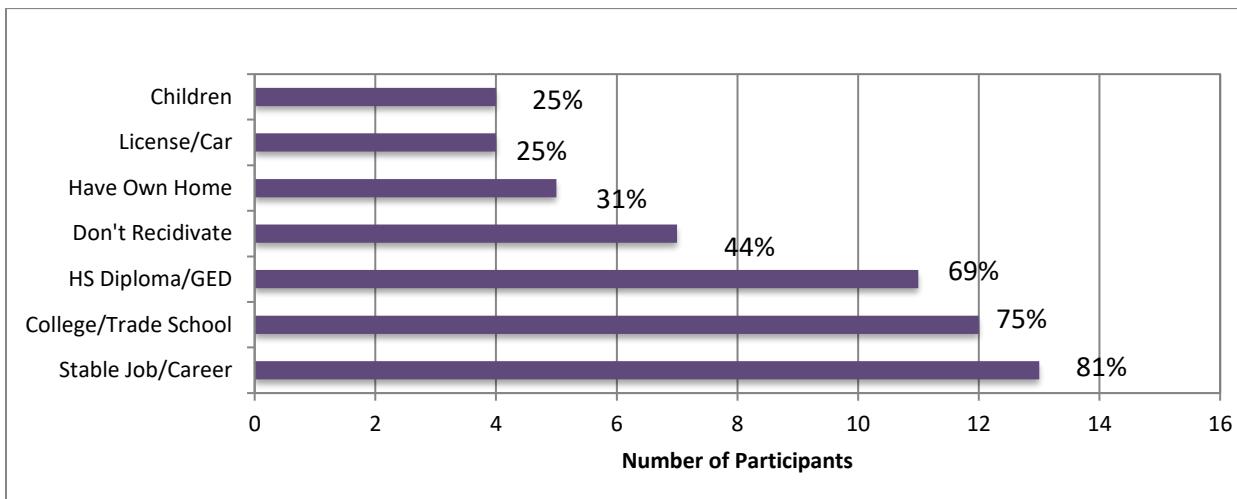


Overall, youth received much-needed stability and structure as they reentered life within their family, school, and community. With the guidance and support of prosocial connections, youth learned how to sustain positive relationships while practicing more effective communication and decision-making. Findings revealed that youth were assuming and exhibiting more responsibility—especially in terms of education and employment. Combined, all of these successes led youth to begin thinking more about adulthood and their future.

Looking Toward the Future

For the first time these young men and women believed that they could succeed; many were confident that they would not recidivate. The majority of youth felt that they could stay devoted to “*good behavior*” and would do their best to remain committed to Probation rules, even if they did not agree with some of the regulations. Most significantly, youth were able—and excited—to articulate their goals for the future (*Figure 4.7*).

Figure 4.7: Goals/Desires for the Future



Securing good *employment* (81%) represented an important accomplishment youth hoped to achieve. The majority of youth had never worked “legally” before and were excited to enter a career that interested them, including construction, teaching, and social work. Many interviewees were excited to support themselves and help their parents.

Youth who were parents looked forward to supporting their child. For these new parents, the responsibility of caring for their child became a top priority. Naturally, this was connected to establishing healthier relationships with the mother or father of their baby. Parenting classes and couples counseling at Camp or placement helped them arrive at, and embrace, this conclusion. Youth expressed a concrete sense of responsibility for their own lives. The desire to take a more active role in their personal success was most notable in terms of *educational attainment*. Sixty-nine percent of participants wanted to complete high school or earn a GED, while over 75% wanted to pursue higher education pathways. This was extremely meaningful given that many participants faced a great degree of difficulty in school prior to incarceration. One mother spoke gratefully about her daughter’s newfound educational aspirations,

“She always struggled in school – and now, she wants to go college. I didn’t get to do those things – I want her to be able to. I didn’t think this was something she’d ever want or care about.”

Financial stability, including *owning a home and a car*, surfaced as an additional component essential to supporting oneself and one's family. Youth had a strong desire to be a fiscally supportive parent and partner. In this vein, the excitement and enthusiasm in the youth's voices around becoming a "good parent" was repeatedly evidenced during interviews. Several of the young men and women with children of their own were able to reflect on the way they wanted to raise and support their own families. Many of these young men and women had not expected to live beyond 18, and even for those who had seen a future it was often a future where they were "*locked up*" or "*behind bars*." Nearly 70% admitted they were not ready to be an adult—a sentiment that resonated with their parents. Youth articulated what adulthood meant to them: holding a job (37.5%), making better decisions (37.5%), providing for a family (44%), and accepting greater/more responsibilities (81%).

Upon release from Camp or placement, youth had a newfound sense of connectedness and were exhibiting prosocial behaviors. Most importantly, the majority of these young men and women were committed to making a change. This is not to simplify the challenges facing them or to assert that their progress will be linear or unimpeded. The interview participants continued to struggle into young adulthood but their problems were characteristic of the majority of system-involved youth as well as youth of color in marginalized communities, such as peer pressure and financial stress. Despite continued challenges – including being a young parent, finishing school, turning their back on their old lifestyle – the young men and women reported that they were thinking about their future in ways they never had before. These youth, many of whom did not see themselves living past the age of 18, were working towards living independently, being a consistent presence in the lives of their children, securing long-term career employment, and earning enough money to purchase a car and rent their own apartments. It is difficult to imagine a more compelling portrait of success.

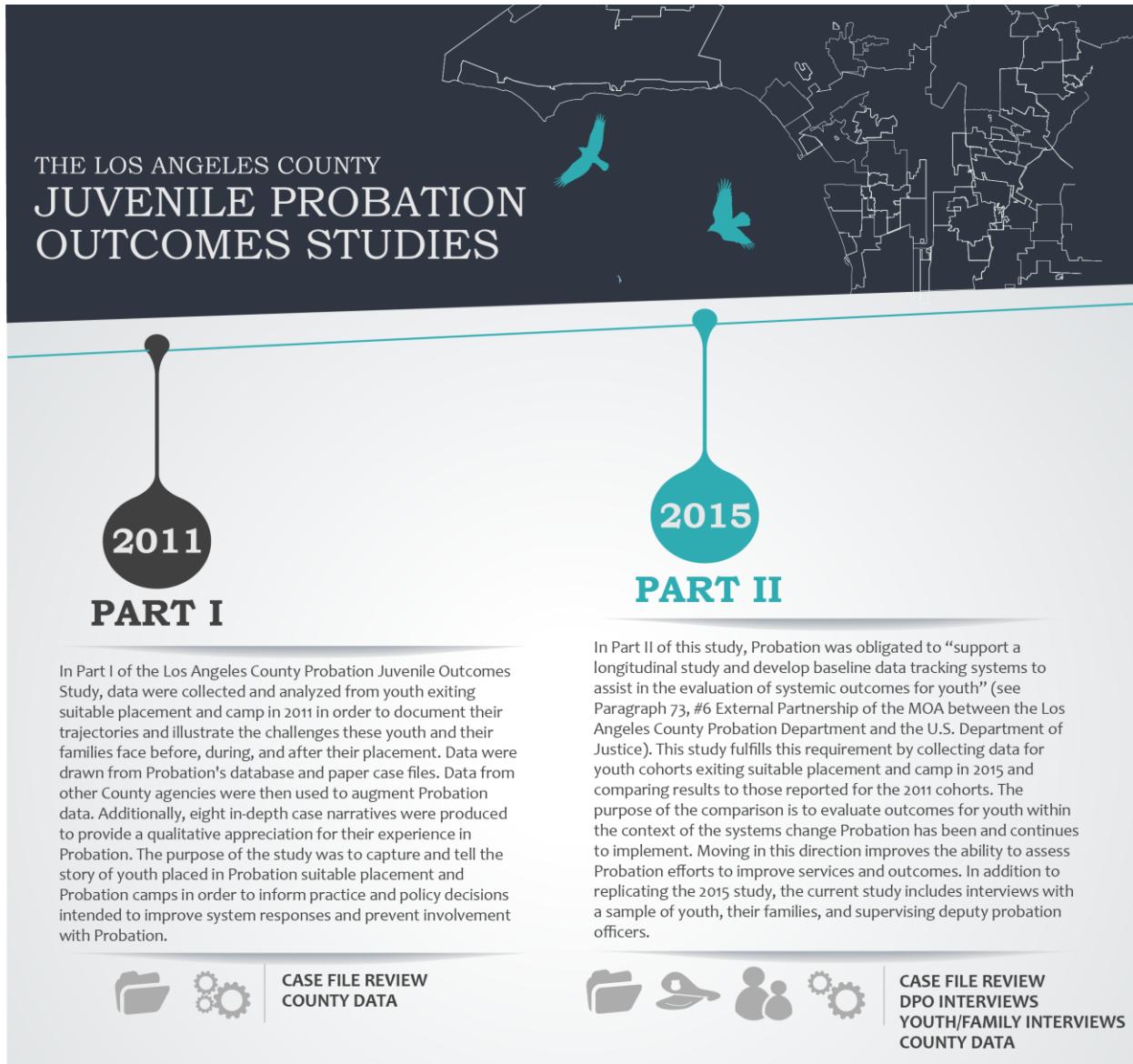
Conclusion

For those interviewed, transitioning back into the community was a complicated process. Interviewees revealed that having a trusting and supportive relationship was essential to youth success while in suitable placement or camp placement. Youth needed constant support as they expanded and relied upon new social networks. For many of the youth this strategy was instrumental in sustaining success. These prosocial connections, such as enhanced relationships with family, represented a protective factor that counteracted a multitude of neighborhood risks. Looking towards adulthood, youth were encouraged and expected to exercise autonomy, freedom, and enhanced decision-making capacity. Research findings suggested that these skills were formed and achieved through employment, active participation in their education, time with family, and the responsibility of caring for themselves and their children. Once released, participation in prosocial activities involving education, employment, community-based programming, and classes targeting individual needs, including substance abuse, mental illness, anger management, and parenting, proved paramount to youth adaptation and success.

Successful reentry is contingent upon not recidivating—that is, refraining from criminal activity—but this should not be defined solely by one's ability to avoid criminality. Rather, successful reentry

involves the creation of productive citizens, which relies on additional components including rehabilitation in the form of mental and physical health and engagement in prosocial activities such as academics and employment. A treatment-oriented approach that promoted prosocial strengths, began to heal past trauma, built lasting relationships with adults, increased life skills, and addressed mental health or substance abuse problems was effective for these youth. When combined, these efforts were shown to have potential to reduce recidivism and promote positive youth development and youth justice. Moving forward, these practices should inform the treatment of youth not only post-detention but during detention.

05 CHAPTER 5 : SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS



In Part I of the Los Angeles County Probation Juvenile Outcomes Study, data were collected and analyzed from youth exiting suitable placement and camp in 2011 in order to document their trajectories and illustrate the challenges these youth and their families face before, during, and after their placement. Data were drawn from Probation's database and paper case files. Data from other County agencies were then used to augment Probation data. Additionally, eight in-depth case narratives were produced to provide a qualitative appreciation for their experience in Probation. The purpose of the study was to capture and tell the story of youth placed in Probation suitable placement and Probation camps in order to inform practice and policy decisions intended to improve system responses and prevent involvement with Probation.

In Part II of this study, Probation was obligated to "support a longitudinal study and develop baseline data tracking systems to assist in the evaluation of systemic outcomes for youth" (see Paragraph 73, #6 External Partnership of the MOA between the Los Angeles County Probation Department and the U.S. Department of Justice). This study fulfills this requirement by collecting data for youth cohorts exiting suitable placement and camp in 2015 and comparing results to those reported for the 2011 cohorts. The purpose of the comparison is to evaluate outcomes for youth within the context of the systems change Probation has been and continues to implement. Moving in this direction improves the ability to assess Probation efforts to improve services and outcomes. In addition to replicating the 2011 study, the current study includes interviews with a sample of youth, their families, and supervising deputy probation officers.

WHY WERE THESE STUDIES COMPLETED?

A number of efforts related to juvenile justice exist in Los Angeles County, but unfortunately, outcomes for Probation-involved youth are not produced consistently, and projects rarely have data to understand issues confronting Probation-involved youth from a comprehensive perspective. These shortcomings are largely due to inadequate or underutilized data systems combined with limited to no connection between County agency databases. This study focused on the data challenges that exist in Los Angeles County while simultaneously using available data to "make the case" that better use of data is critical to improving the well-being of children and families. Specifically, these studies produced in-depth descriptions of youth who penetrate deeply into the Probation system.

The timing of study placements for the youth identified in these study varies. To ensure consistency and clarity, the study standardized data collection by recreating timelines for the youth tracked in this study. In other words, data were collected on the:

ORIGINAL ARREST

PRECEDING ARREST/PETITION

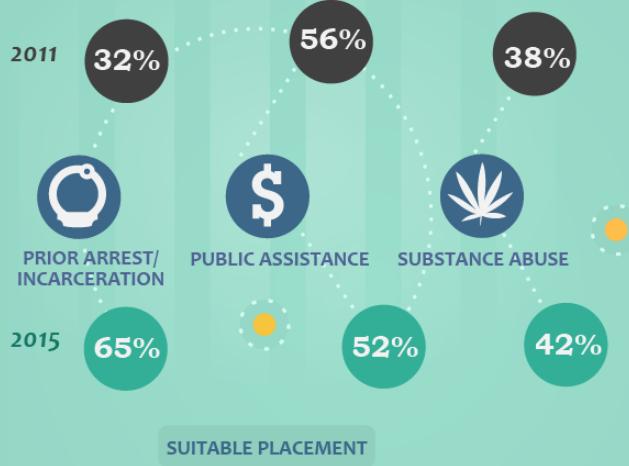
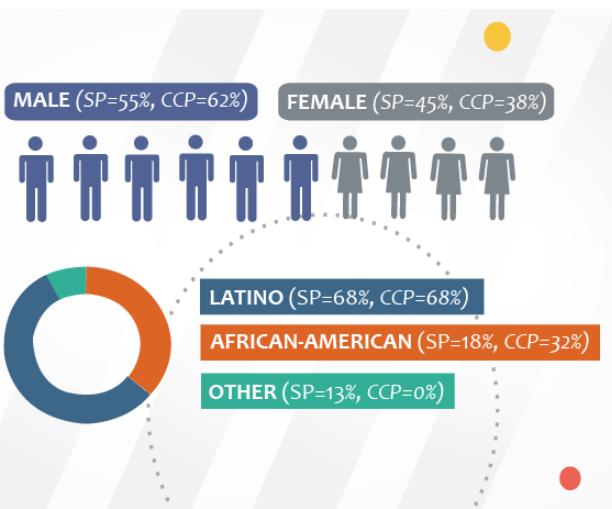
DURING STUDY PLACEMENT

AFTER EXIT

DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2011 Cohort included all youth exiting suitable placements between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011, and all youth exiting from camp placements between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. The total number of exits for suitable placements during the study time frame was 561, and the total number for camp placements was 1,102. Cohorts of 250 youth were randomly drawn from the two respective populations for a total of 500 youth, and 50 youth from each population were randomly selected for additional data collection. For the 2015 Cohort, data were gathered for cohorts of youth exiting suitable placement and camp between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2015. A total of 120 cases were stratified and randomly sampled for additional data collection.

Across study years, race/ethnicity distributions show similar patterns across the two groups of exits (2015 Cohort results shown on the right). NOTE: Females were oversampled in both studies to ensure appropriate representation in the results. In both studies, the actual percentage of females exiting from suitable placements was 20% in 2011 and 24% in 2015, and the percentage of females exiting from camp placements was 20% in 2011 and 13% in 2015.



NOTE: It is important to note that differences across study years may be an artifact of recording information rather than true differences in characteristics. It is for this reason we do not assess statistical significance of any difference in these tables, but rather, use the descriptive results as a general guide to understand the background and experiences of youth in the study.

CHILD WELFARE

In terms of contact with California's Child Welfare Services, at least one referral for alleged abuse or neglect was identified for a majority of youth (83%) in both cohorts.

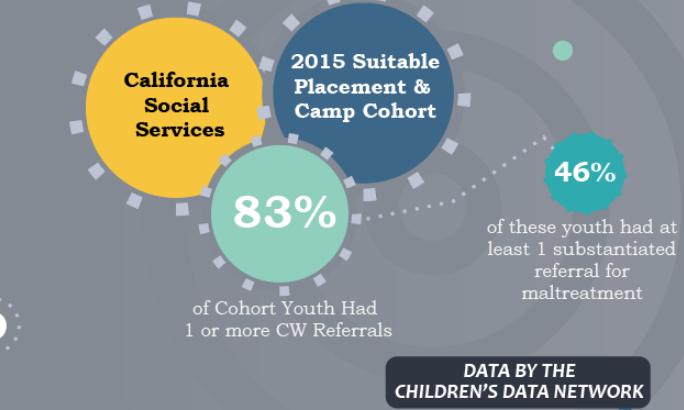
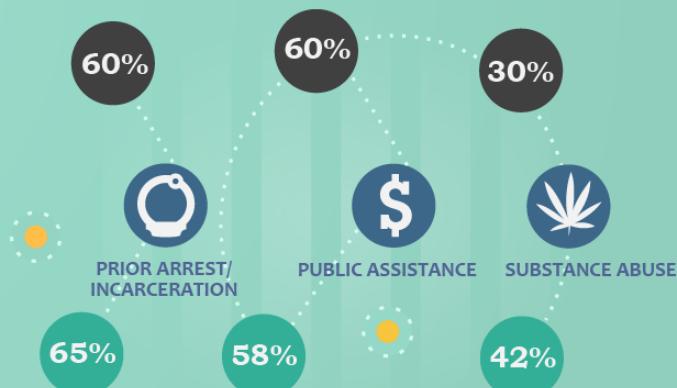
Among youth with child welfare system contact, 46% had at least one substantiated allegation. On average, the first substantiation was 7.7 years, but one-third of youth were first substantiated before age 5.

Overall, females and African-Americans were more likely to have a history of maltreatment.

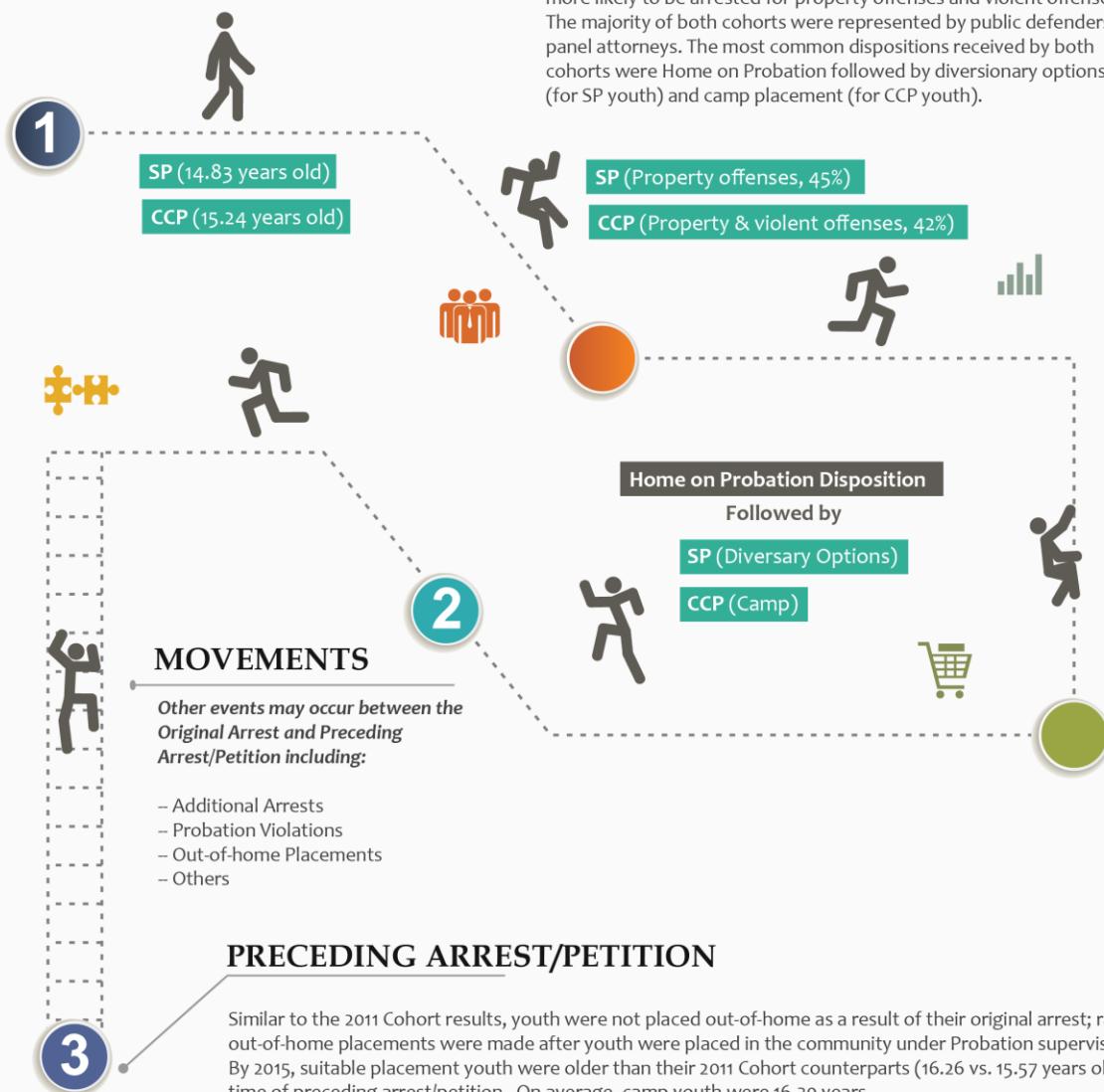
FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

The data for the 2015 Cohort show a consistent pattern with that from 2011: Study youth and their families experience many hardships before entering the Probation system and appear to be marginalized based on poverty, language, and disabilities. The 2015 Cohort families are more likely to have prior criminal justice involvement than the 2011 Cohort families, but the 2011 Cohort families are more likely to experience homelessness and be involved in a gang.

Additionally, approximately half of the 2015 Cohort families are in need of bilingual services in both groups.



ORIGINAL ARREST (2015 Cohort Only)



Study placements for suitable placement youth were more likely to be a result of a Probation violation across the 2011 and 2015 Cohort. However, this pattern of findings differs for camp youth across study years. In 2015, camp youth were more likely to be arrested for a new charge and ordered camp placement compared to Probation violations for the 2011 Cohort.

When the preceding event was a new arrest, half of the new arrests for suitable placement youth were related to the youth's living situation or school, and one-third of camp youth. For those with violations, the most common violations for both groups were: drug use, school participation/poor grades, and not reporting to the Deputy Probation Officer when required to do so.

DURING PLACEMENT

4



5

In 2015, one-third of suitable placement youth were placed in Boys' Republic, Rancho San Antonio Boys Home, and Penny Lane facilities. The distribution of these placements were different for the 2011 Cohort. On average, youth remained in placement for 7.5 months in 2011, and by 2015, the average number of months in placement decreased to 6.34 months. All of the 2015 Cohort youth returned home after suitable placement.

Services: During suitable placement, the top three types of service referrals were similar across cohort years and to the year prior to study placement: mental health service referrals, social/behavioral service referrals, and family-based supportive service referrals. Across study years, substance abuse, mental health, and family-based supportive services increased between 2011 and 2015.

Camp youth in the 2015 Cohort were more likely to be placed in Camp Scott, Scudder, Paige, and the Dorothy Kirby Center. Camp Scott and Scudder are artificially high because they are facilities for females and this study oversampled females. The average number of months in camp in 2011 was 4.40 months and by 2015, the average number of months in camp was 5.79. The majority (80%) of camp youth were released home after camp, and 20% were placed in suitable placement as a step-down approach to supervision.

Services: Camp youth were more likely to be referred to social/behavioral services, and mental health services. The proportion of service referrals increased over time for education referrals and mental health services. Overall, camp youth were more likely than suitable placement youth to receive evidence-based practices (EBP) referrals across study years.

AFTER PLACEMENT

Youth were tracked after their study placement until the youth terminated from Probation supervision or one year after their exit from study placements—whichever came first.



After exit, suitable placement youth were more likely than camp youth to receive EBP referrals and services.

The need for mental health and substance use treatment decreased over time for the suitable placement and camp youth in the 2015 Cohort.

When all exits were included in the analysis, recidivism remained the same across time for both cohorts with approximately one-fifth of youth receiving a new arrest within 6 months of their exit from placement and only 13% receiving sustained petitions in delinquency court. However, when exits in 2015 were limited to only "true exits," the new arrest rate dropped to 14% and the sustained petition rate dropped to 8% for the 2015 suitable placement cohort. Unfortunately, "true exits" are difficult to differentiate in the 2011 data due to the way the data were extracted.

DPO INTERVIEWS

A total of 44 Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) interviews were conducted across 8 Probation Bureau/Units at the end of the tracking period.

DPO identified Probation youth were intelligent, mature, and independent. However, family strengths were more difficult to identify for some Probation Bureau/Units compared to others. Overall, DPOs discussed critical areas that impact youth progress, challenges to family engagement, and difficulty with accessing services in particular areas (including but not limited to: bilingual services, variety of services in certain geographic areas).

YOUTH/FAMILY INTERVIEWS

A total of 30 youth and family interviews were conducted pre- and post-interviews (shortly after exit and at the end of the tracking period).

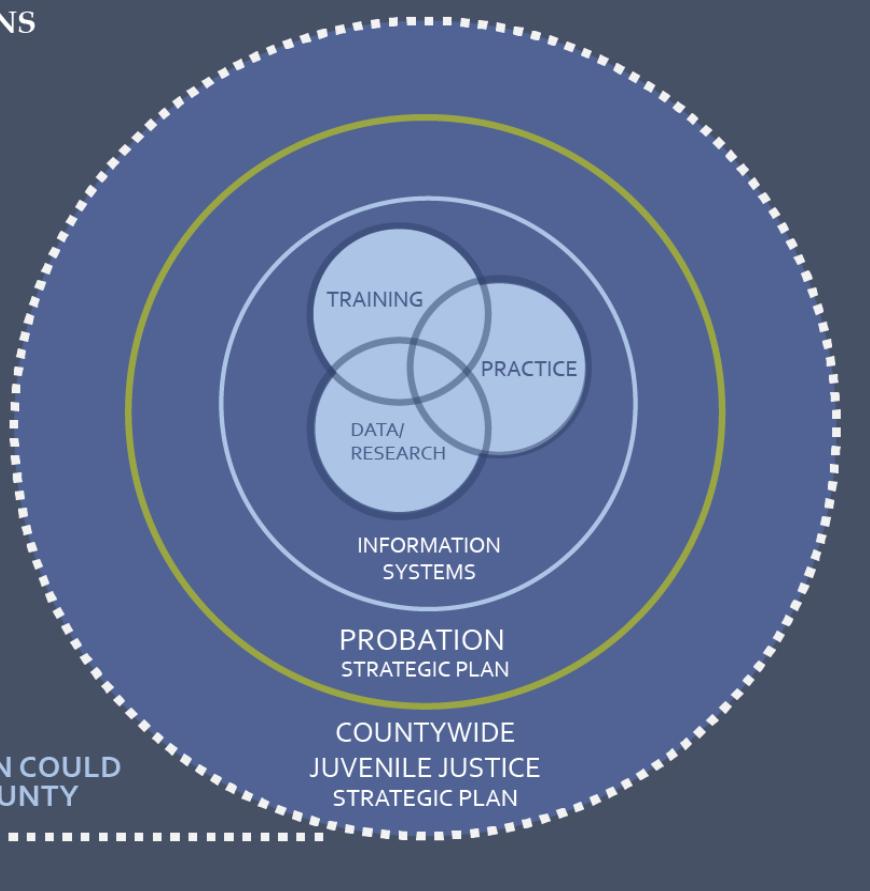
Predominant themes in youth and family interviews include experiences before Probation suitable placement or camp, during, and after exit. Generally, youth reported positive reviews about the available programming and services, family involvement, and relationships with Deputy Probation Officers and/or staff. After exit, half of the youth recounted lessons learned from the programs and/or staff. For respondents, furthering their education became a main focus.

DATA BY
LEAP & ASSOCIATES

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations from this study parallel those in the Probation Outcomes Study, Part I and the Probation Workgroup Report currently in press. In particular the Probation Workgroup provides detailed recommendations and direction in several areas critical to Probation's success including: the development of a countywide, juvenile justice comprehensive plan; the identification of current services provided to Probation-involved youth and gaps in those services; improvement of a service referral system based on validated screening and assessment tools and a web-based service navigation system; and a research agenda with clear measures and outcomes that should be reported on a regular basis to the public. Those recommendations are not repeated here, but rather, we believe this report should be considered in concert with those recommendations. In addition to those recommendations, however, we offer a general approach to building an infrastructure that aligns with best practices in juvenile justice and creates the foundation from which the Los Angeles County Probation Department can be accountable and transparent to the families and communities it serves.

HOW JUVENILE PROBATION COULD WORK IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



TRAINING



- ✓ ONGOING TRAINING
- ✓ CONNECTED ACROSS UNITS/PCMS
- ✓ DEGREE COMPLETION

PRACTICE



- ✓ CONTINUITY/NAVIGATION
- ✓ SEAMLESS CONNECTION TO SERVICES
- ✓ COORDINATION/COLLaborATION WITH KEY PARTNERS

DATA/RESEARCH



- ✓ BEST PRACTICES/EBPs
- ✓ INTERNAL RESEARCH CAPACITY
- ✓ EXTERNAL RESEARCH PARTNERS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS PCMS



- ✓ REAL TIME
- ✓ CONTINUOUS CASE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ CONTINUITY ACROSS UNITS
- ✓ SERVICES TRACKING

PROBATION STRATEGIC PLAN

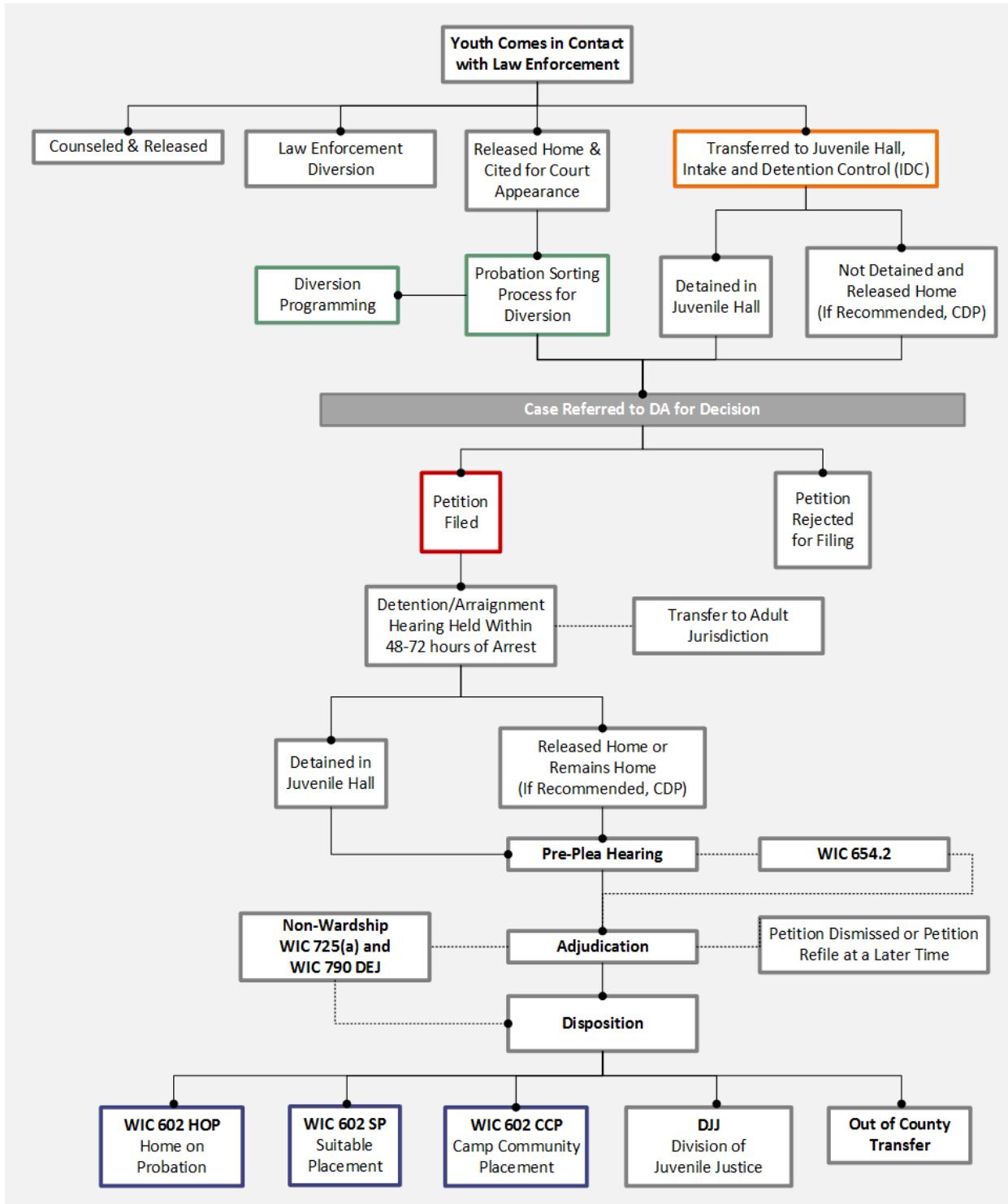
CONNECTED TO ALL COMPONENTS TO FACILITATE, SUPPORT AND HOLD ACCOUNTABLE

COUNTYWIDE JUVENILE JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

DRIVES PRACTICE, POLICY, AND RESEARCH - HOLDS ALL STAKEHOLDERS ACCOUNTABLE

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Overview of the Los Angeles Juvenile Justice Decision Making Process



Appendix B: Cohort Youth Transitions While under Probation Supervision—After Original Arrest until End of Tracking Period

	Suitable Placement (N=60)						Camp (N=60)					
	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Number of Events/Movements	60	100%	2	31	9.43	6.02	60	100%	2	30	12.07	7.35
Received a Violation	49	82%	1	8	2.92	1.74	50	83%	1	7	2.88	1.76
Ran Away from Living Situation	38	63%	1	12	3.00	2.40	43	72%	1	13	3.51	2.49
Detained Due to Bench Warrant or Court	37	62%	1	8	1.84	1.42	42	70%	1	7	2.40	1.55
Admitted to a Hospital	11	18%	1	3	1.18	0.60	14	23%	1	3	1.36	0.74
Had a New Arrest	35	58%	1	5	2.00	1.19	39	65%	1	6	2.10	1.33
Had a Placement of Some Type	60	100%	1	7	2.22	1.52	60	100%	1	10	3.25	2.26
Returned Home	60	100%	1	6	2.47	1.33	57	95%	1	8	2.53	1.62
Moved from Suitable Placement to Camp	3	5%	1	1	1.00	0.00	24	40%	1	2	1.08	0.28
Spent Time in Detention and/or Placement	60	100%	1	14	4.73	2.97	60	100%	1	18	6.52	4.30
Days Spent in Detention/Placement	60	100%	30	547	98.35	78.60	60	100%	32	218	84.05	41.76
Years Spent in Detention/Placement	60	100%	0	3	0.99	0.52	60	100%	0	4	1.26	0.78
Was Placed in Camp	9	15%	1	2	1.33	0.50	58	97%	1	7	1.95	1.30
Was Placed in County Jail	4	7%	1	1	1.00	0.00	7	12%	1	2	1.57	0.53
Was Placed in a Hospital	11	18%	1	4	1.27	0.90	13	22%	1	3	1.38	0.77
Was Placed in Juvenile Hall	56	93%	1	20	5.57	3.67	53	88%	1	22	7.83	4.70
Was Placed in a Suitable Placement	60	100%	1	6	2.23	1.47	31	52%	1	11	3.58	2.23

Appendix C: Cohort Youth Transitions While under Probation Supervision—After Original Arrest and Prior to Entering Study Placement

	Suitable Placement (N=60)						Camp (N=60)					
	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Number of Events/Movements	54	90%	1	28	5.87	5.05	45	75%	1	24	8.78	5.51
Received a Violation	44	73%	1	7	2.41	1.47	37	62%	1	7	2.22	1.49
Ran Away from Living Situation	28	47%	1	11	2.57	2.06	35	58%	1	8	2.60	1.56
Detained Due to Bench Warrant or Court	28	47%	1	8	1.79	1.42	36	60%	1	6	2.00	1.20
Admitted to a Hospital	6	10%	1	1	1.00	0.00	9	15%	1	3	1.33	0.71
Had a New Arrest	29	48%	1	5	1.72	1.07	28	47%	1	4	1.75	0.93
Had a Placement of Some Type	25	42%	1	5	2.04	1.40	32	53%	1	6	2.56	1.50
Returned Home	34	57%	1	4	1.91	1.00	30	50%	1	7	2.27	1.53
Moved from Suitable Placement to Camp	1	2%	1	1	1.00		22	37%	1	1	1.00	0.00
Spent Time in Detention and/or Placement	54	90%	1	13	3.13	2.50	45	75%	1	12	4.76	3.15
Days Spent in Detention/Placement	54	90%	2	367	46.22	66.63	45	75%	7	154	48.35	32.09
Years Spent in Detention/Placement	54	90%	0	2	0.36	0.41	45	75%	0	2	0.64	0.57
Was Placed in Camp	3	5%	1	2	1.33	0.58	9	15%	1	4	1.56	1.01
Was Placed in County Jail	0	0%					0	0%				
Was Placed in a Hospital	6	10%	1	1	1.00	0.00	8	13%	1	3	1.38	0.74
Was Placed in Juvenile Hall	53	88%	1	20	4.57	3.27	45	75%	1	18	6.36	3.80
Was Placed in a Suitable Placement	25	42%	1	5	2.12	1.30	26	43%	1	6	3.00	1.65

Appendix D: Cohort Youth Transitions While under Probation Supervision—During Placement

	Suitable Placement (N=60)						Camp (N=60)					
	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Number of Events/Movements	60	100%	1	5	2.32	0.79	60	100%	2	6	2.20	0.68
Received a Violation	1	2%	1	1	1.00		0	0%				
Ran Away from Living Situation	9	15%	1	3	1.56	0.73	0	0%				
Detained Due to Bench Warrant or Court	0	0%					1	2%	1	1	1.00	
Admitted to a Hospital	3	5%	1	1	1.00	0.00	2	3%	1	1	1.00	0.00
Had a New Arrest	1	2%	1	1	1.00		3	5%	1	2	1.33	0.58
Had a Placement of Some Type	60	100%	1	2	1.05	0.22	60	100%	1	3	1.27	0.48
Returned Home	60	100%	1	1	1.00	0.00	48	80%	1	1	1.00	0.00
Moved from Suitable Placement to Camp	0	0%					0	0%				
Spent Time in Detention and/or Placement	60	100%	1	1	1.00	0.00	60	100%	1	5	1.32	0.70
Days Spent in Detention/Placement	60	100%	45	547	192.97	84.89	60	100%	61	328	159.01	59.44
Years Spent in Detention/Placement	60	100%	0	1	0.53	0.23	60	100%	0	1	0.53	0.22
Was Placed in Camp	0	0%					58	97%	1	3	1.26	0.48
Was Placed in County Jail	0	0%					0	0%				
Was Placed in a Hospital	3	5%	1	1	1.00	0.00	2	3%	1	1	1.00	0.00
Was Placed in Juvenile Hall	0	0%					5	8%	1	4	2.00	1.22
Was Placed in a Suitable Placement	60	100%	1	3	1.17	0.46	11	18%	1	2	1.09	0.30

Appendix E: Cohort Youth Transitions While under Probation Supervision—After Exit from Study Placement

	Suitable Placement (N=60)						Camp (N=60)					
	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD	N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Number of Events/Movements	38	63%	0	10	2.89	2.95	51	85%	0	10	3.86	2.46
Received a Violation	25	42%	1	4	1.44	0.82	39	65%	1	4	1.59	0.85
Ran Away from Living Situation	18	30%	1	5	1.56	1.15	30	50%	1	5	2.00	1.23
Detained Due to Bench Warrant or Court	12	20%	1	4	1.50	0.90	23	38%	1	2	1.22	0.42
Admitted to a Hospital	3	5%	1	2	1.33	0.58	5	8%	1	1	1.00	0.00
Had a New Arrest	14	23%	1	3	1.36	0.63	20	33%	1	5	1.45	0.94
Had a Placement of Some Type	15	25%	1	2	1.27	0.46	28	47%	1	3	1.32	0.61
Returned Home	18	30%	1	2	1.28	0.46	23	38%	1	2	1.22	0.42
Moved from Suitable Placement to Camp	2	3%	1	1	1.00	0.00	4	7%	1	1	1.00	0.00
Spent Time in Detention and/or Placement	38	63%	0	6	1.45	1.67	51	85%	0	5	1.92	1.51
Days Spent in Detention/Placement	21	35%	5	138	56.99	38.20	40	67%	0	159	61.82	46.86
Years Spent in Detention/Placement	21	35%	0	1	0.39	0.25	40	67%	0	1	0.39	0.29
Was Placed in Camp	7	12%	1	2	1.14	0.38	19	32%	1	4	1.37	0.76
Was Placed in County Jail	4	7%	1	1	1.00	0.00	7	12%	1	2	1.57	0.53
Was Placed in a Hospital	3	5%	1	3	1.67	1.15	5	8%	1	1	1.00	0.00
Was Placed in Juvenile Hall	20	33%	1	9	3.50	2.28	36	60%	2	7	3.31	1.49
Was Placed in a Suitable Placement	9	15%	1	2	1.22	0.44	13	22%	1	4	1.62	0.87

Appendix F: Array of Services from the Los Angeles County Probation Workgroup²⁸

Screening and Assessment	Education Supportive Services
Screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-occurring Disorders Screening Instrument and Assessment Massachusetts • Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2) • The Los Angeles Detention Screener (LADS) 	Education Supportive Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 317(e) Referral • Attendance Monitoring Programs • Behavioral Support Services/Plan • Cal-Learn Program (Pregnant and parenting teens only) • Career Survey • College Readiness Assistance • Continuation/Alternative School • Coordination of Services Team (COST) • Education Advocacy • Educational Pathways Probation Partnership • Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) • Freedom School • Functional Analysis Assessment (FAA) • GED Preparatory Classes • Individualized Education Program (IEP) Referral • Individualized Education Program (IEP) Services • Literacy Programs (e.g., Operation Read) • Regional Center • Road to Success Academy (RTSA) • School Attendance Review Team (SART) • School Credit Recovery Program • Section 504 Plan (Modification Plan for Temporary Disability) • Student Study Team (SST) • Tutoring
Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol/Drug Assessment • Assistive Tech Assessment • Education Assessment—The Comprehensive Academic Assessment (CAA, administered by LAUSD) • Education Assessment—The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA, administered by LACOE) • Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup (LARRC) • Medical Evaluation • Neurological Assessment/Testing • Outpatient Mental Health Assessment • Placement Assessment Center (PAC) • Psychiatric Consultation for Medication • Psycho-Educational Assessment • Regional Center Referral • Speech & Language Assessment • State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders (SARATSO) • The Child and Adolescent Assessment • WIC 730 Psychiatric Assessment 	

²⁸ Herz, D. C., & Chan, K. (2017). The Los Angeles County Probation Workgroup Report. Los Angeles, CA. The Probation Workgroup was formed by the Board of Supervisor motion passed on September 15, 2015 which requires an interagency workgroup comprised of various key partners to address delinquency prevention and rehabilitative intervention in Los Angeles County. Please refer to Task 3--Probation's Current Continuum of Services for Probation-Involved Youth.

Employment Services

- Employment/Job Training
- General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) Transition Age Youth Services
- Juvenile Alternative Work Services Program (JAWS)
- LACOE Work Investment ACT (WIA)
- Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Work Program

Family-Based Supportive Services

- Family Counseling
- Family Preservation
- Full Service Partnership
- Functional Family Probation (FFP)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Group Home Aftercare Services (GHAS)
- High Risk High Needs (HRHN)
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Parenting Classes
- Wraparound

Mental Health Services

- DMH 5/10 Week Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Group Treatment
- DMH Juvenile Justice Transition Aftercare Services (JJTAS)
- Domestic Violence Counseling
- Grief Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Individual Counseling
- Level 14 Residential Placements
- Juvenile Sex Offending Counseling/Treatment
- Psychotropic Medication
- School-based Counseling
- Seeking Safety
- Strengthening Family Program
- Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)
- Trauma Informed Care

Substance Abuse Treatment Services

- 12 Steps (AA, NA)
- Substance Abuse Education
- Substance Abuse Outpatient/Counseling
- Substance Abuse Residential/Inpatient Program

Social/Behavioral Services

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Anger Management
- AWARE Sports Program
- Camp Extracurricular Programs
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Creative Expression Programs (e.g., InsideOUT Writers)
- CSEC Mentoring (e.g., Saving Innocence)
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- Gang Intervention
- Gang Prevention
- Gender Specific Services
- Life Skills
- Mentoring
- Restorative Justice Programs
- Small Group Intervention
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- Tattoo Removal
- Teen Parenting Education

Independent Living/Housing Services

- Independent Living Program (ILP)
- Transitional Housing

