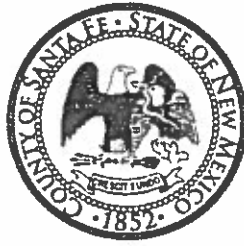


Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner, District 1

Miguel Chavez
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Kathy Holian
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

MEMORANDUM

To: Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners

Through: Katherine Miller, County Manager

From: Rachel O'Connor, Community Services Department
Jennifer Romero, Program Manager, Teen Court

Date: October 24, 2016

Re: *Presentation of Teen Court Evaluation Results*

Issue: In 2015 Teen Court of Santa Fe County hired Stuart Castle, MPH, LLC to evaluate the program's recidivism rates and make recommendation for improvement. This presentation will provide the Board of County Commissioners with the results and recommendations of this evaluation.

Background: Teen Court is a first time offenders program with alternative sentencing that is run for teens by teens and has been serving teens and families in our community since 1994.

Teen Court is a nationally recognized early intervention and restorative justice program for juveniles (ages 12-17), giving the offender a second chance while holding them accountable for their actions. The Teen Court program serves as a community-based intervention/diversion program designed to provide an alternative response for the juvenile justice system. The teen accepts responsibility for their offense, appears before a judge and their peers, and is sentenced.

The goal of the Teen Court program is to interrupt developing patterns of criminal behavior by promoting feelings of self-esteem, motivation for self-improvement, and a healthy attitude toward authority. Teen Court challenges the offenders, as well as the volunteer teens, to perform at their highest level of ability. Teen Courts give appropriate offenders a second chance, yet holds them accountable for their actions. The courts use positive peer pressure to ensure that young people who commit even minor offenses give back to the community and avoid further contact with the justice system. The sanctions are determined by the Teen Court jury and include community service, jury duty, and letters of apology. Other possible sanctions can include behavior modification classes, essays, counseling, educational programs, gender-specific programs, and substance abuse prevention workshops.

Recommendation: This presentation is for educational purposes only with no action necessary.



Evaluation Report

Presentation to Board of County Commissioners
November 8, 2016

Prepared for:

Santa Fe County Community Services Department
Teen Court of Santa Fe County
Jennifer Romero, Program Manager

Prepared by:

Stuart Castle, MPH, Program Evaluator

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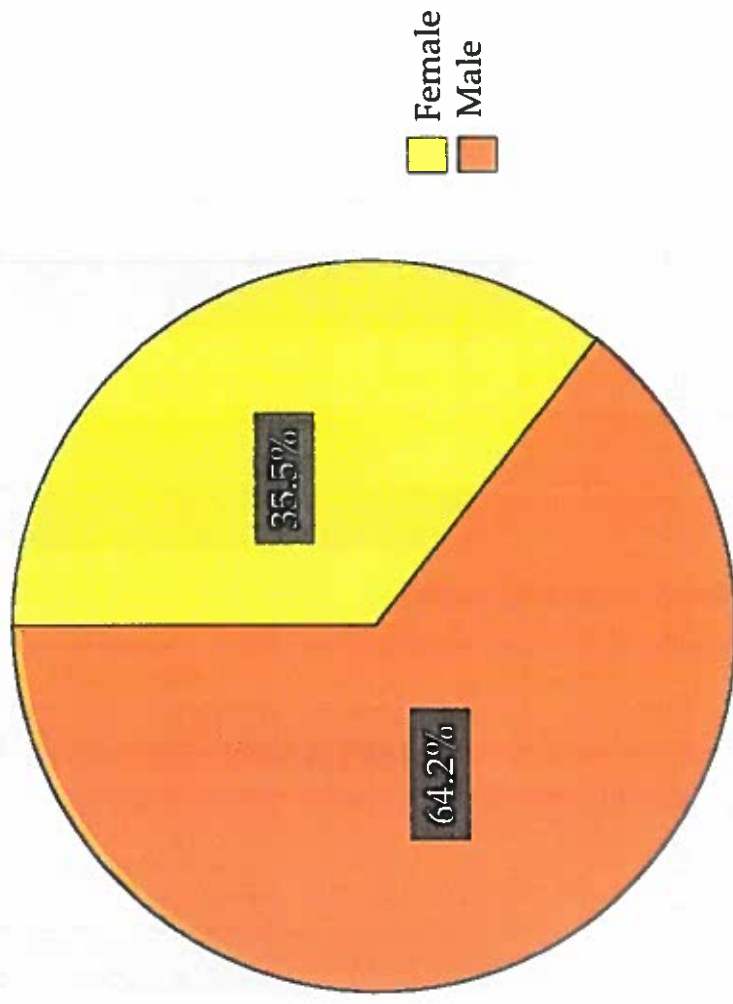
Information Sources

- Teen Court of Santa Fe County (TCSFC) maintains an electronic database on all referrals.
- The database has over 9,000 referral records, from 1998 –present.
- Data completeness and accuracy varies over time.
- Current evaluation focuses on 2,509 records from FY11 (7/1/10)– FY15 (6/30/15).
- Analyses was performed on de-identified records, no personal identifiers were included.

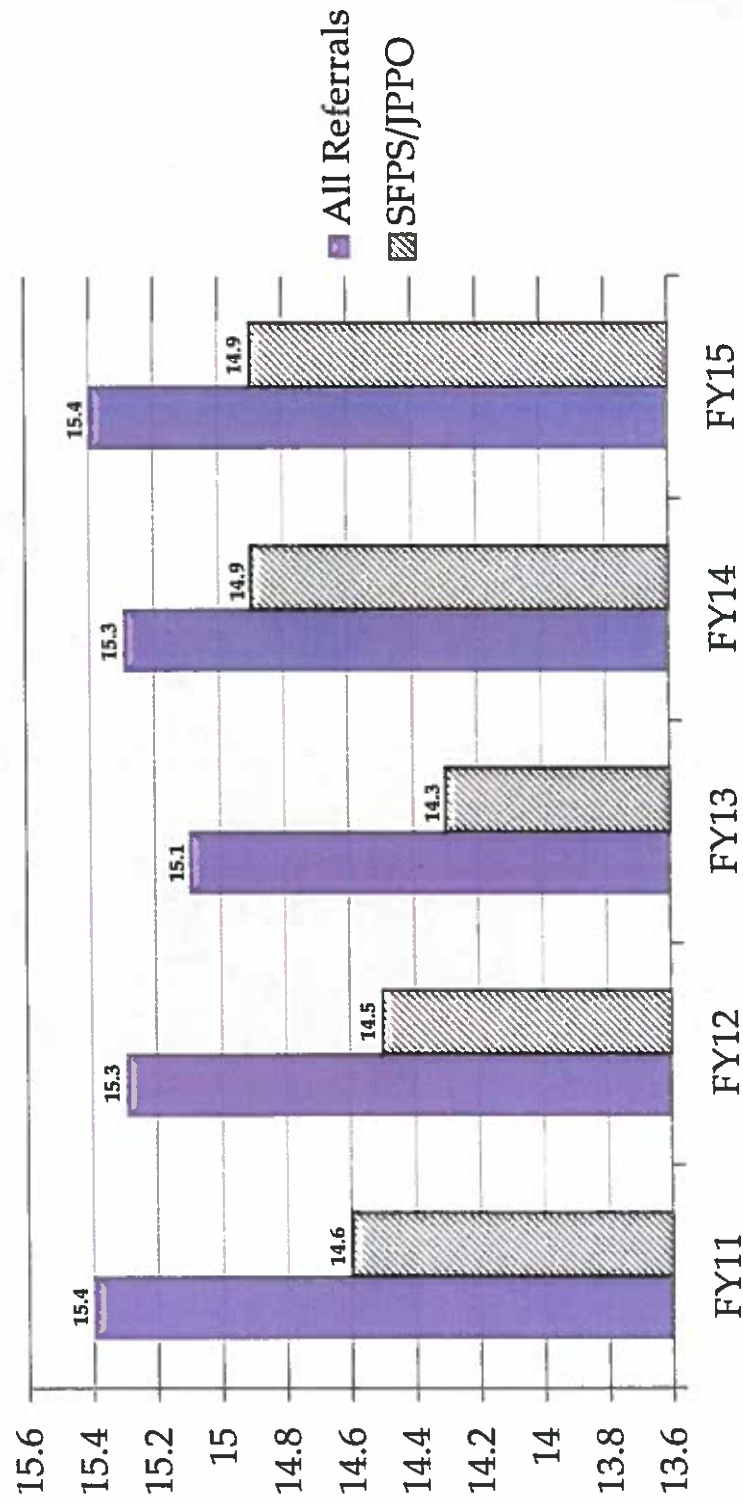
Referral Sources

- **Juvenile Justice Services/JPO:** misdemeanor offenses such as shoplifting, possession of drugs and alcohol, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc.
- **Santa Fe Public Schools:** offenses such as under the influence and possession of drugs or alcohol, battery, etc.
- **Municipal Court:** Traffic citations including speeding, failure to yield, etc.

Gender for All Referrals
Teen Court of Santa Fe County
FY11-FY15, n=2,503



The average age at Referral for misdemeanor cases is about 14 ½ and about 15 ½ for all cases.
The average age of Teen Court defendants does not appear to be changing over time.



Primary Offenses

- **Juvenile Justice Services:**
 - Shoplifting and Possession of alcohol or drugs
- **Santa Fe Public Schools:**
 - Under the Influence of alcohol/drugs and Possession of alcohol or drugs
- **Municipal Court:**
 - Traffic citations

Processing Times



For all three referral sources, the time from referral to completion is decreasing over the five year period. SFPS referrals take the longest to complete and Municipal Court referrals complete in the least amount of time.



Referral Source	Offense to Referral	Referral to Intake	Intake to Court Hearing	Court Hearing to Completion*	Referral to Completion*
SFPS	0 days	15 days	13 days	77 days	131 days
JPO	34 days	13 days	12 days	74 days	122 days
Municipal	27 days	---	---	71 days	78 days

*FY11 – FY14; FY15 not closed at time of data abstraction.

Slide 9

SC2 this slide needs to be much more simple. if necessary at all.
Stuart Castle, 10/14/2016

Outcomes

Completed – Program requirements met.

Referred Back - TC staff were not able to establish an initial contact with the offender or guardians.

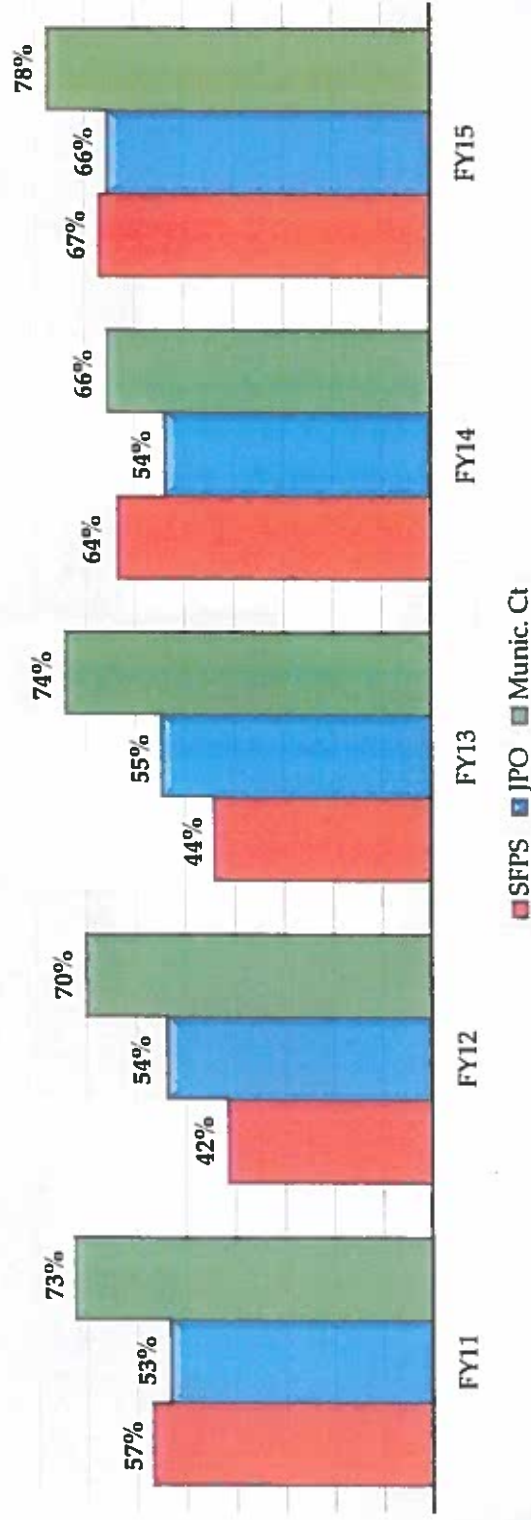
Terminated – Offender did not complete program requirements.

Slide 10

SC3 May want to expand definitions.
Stuart Castle, 10/14/2016

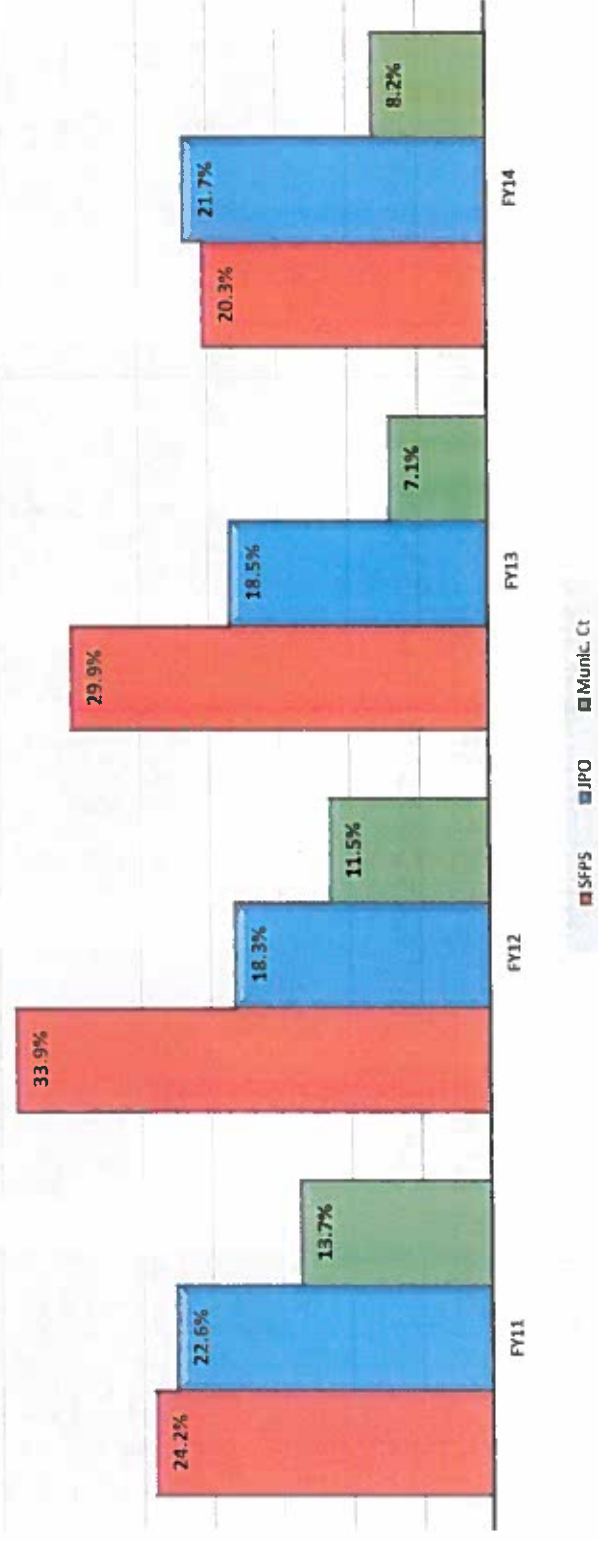
The % of teens referred by JPO and completing the program are consistent from year to year, but higher in FY15.

The % of teens referred by SFPS and completing the program increased in FY14 and FY15.



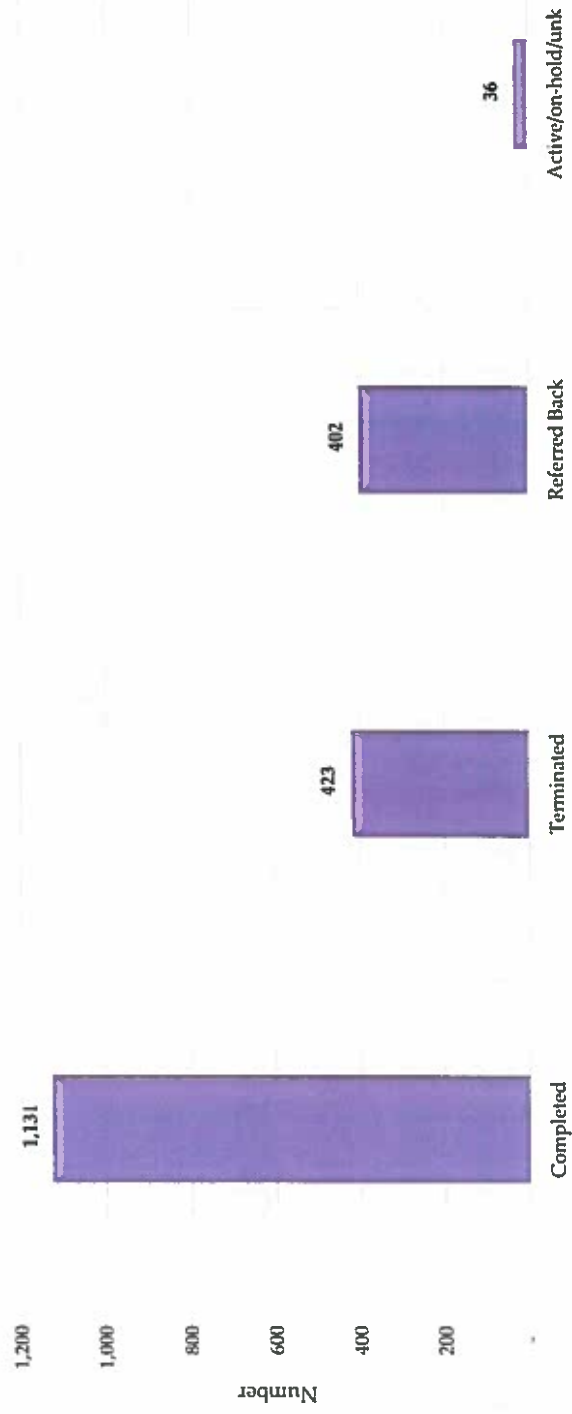
The "referred back" rate for SFPS dropped from nearly 30% in FY13 to 20% in FY14.

The "referred back" rate for JPO remains fairly constant at about 20% per year.



FY15 still in progress and not shown.

About 40% of youth are terminated or referred back

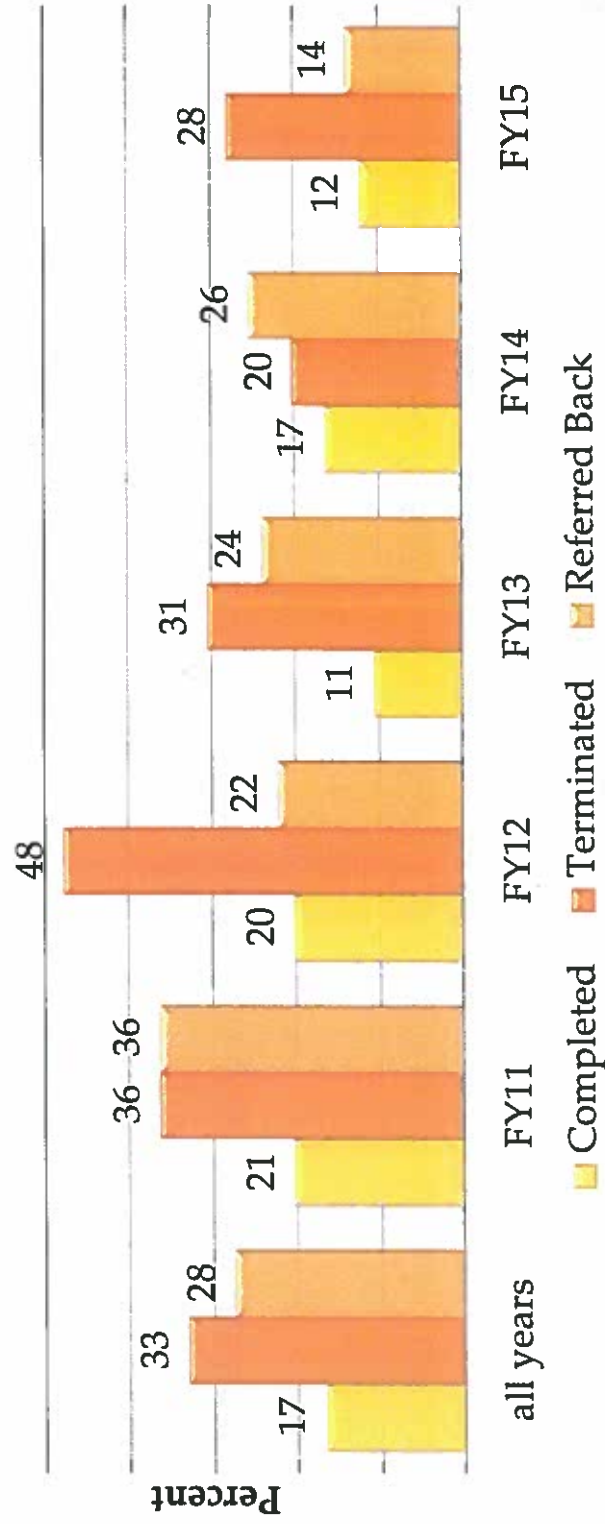


Recidivism: one of the most fundamental concepts in criminal justice. It refers to a person's relapse into criminal behavior, often after the person receives sanctions or undergoes intervention for a previous crime.

...



Youth who completed the Teen Court program consistently had lower recidivism rates than those who did not complete the program



1. JPO one year recidivism rates by TC outcome.

Findings

- Teens who were referred from JPO and complete the TC program consistently had lower recidivism rates, for each year of the study years, compared to those offenders who were referred back or terminated.
- Offenders who do not complete the TC program face few, if any, repercussions in the JPO or SFPS systems.
- The existing electronic record system has served TC program exceptionally well. However, it is antiquated and a newer system could improve accuracy and result in improved offender tracking and compliance.

Recommendations & Next Steps

- Data System: Received funding and we are in the process of finding a software system to fit our needs.
- Terminated cases: Wraparound services
- Referred Back cases: Discuss options with other service providers (Juvenile Justice, SFPS).
- Follow up study: To examine number of Teen Court participants who enter the local DWI program
- Strategic Plan: FY2018
- Add a more concrete compliance and monitoring component
- Publication of evaluation study: FY2018

