



SAN FRANCISCO COLLABORATIVE COURTS

Young Adult Court

Young Adult Court (YAC) is a collaborative justice court program for transitional aged youth (ages 18-24), many of whom have extensive trauma histories, inadequate support systems and housing, and minimal educational and employment histories. Some youth also have substance abuse issues and co-occurring mental health disorders. The program began in July 2015 and is a partnership among the Superior Court of California, San Francisco; Office of the Public Defender; Office of the District Attorney; Adult Probation Department; Felton Institute; UCSF Citywide, and Sunset Youth Services.

Mission

The mission of Young Adult Court is to work in partnership with young adults, ages 18-24, by supporting them to make a successful transition into adulthood. Our aim is to fortify young people with tools to change their lives and to disrupt the cycle of incarceration and poverty.

How does YAC work?

Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young adults are referred by the Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, Adult Probation, or private counsel.
Legal Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attorneys determine whether there is an agreeable legal resolution.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant is assessed by case managers and makes a recommendation on whether the client is suitable for YAC.
Participant is accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants transition through four phases, and create a Wellness Plan which can include job readiness, housing, educational support and parenting.• YAC participation is usually one year or longer, depending on the individual need and progress attained in meeting specific goals.
Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To graduate successfully, participants must demonstrate adherence to their Wellness Care Plans.• Upon graduation, the case will be resolved pursuant to the negotiated agreement between the District Attorney, the defense attorney and the Court.

YAC has received 557 referrals since August 2015*

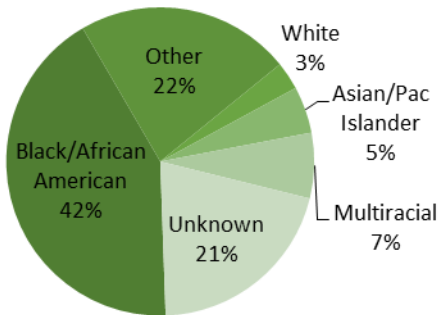
463 participants

180 have successfully completed YAC

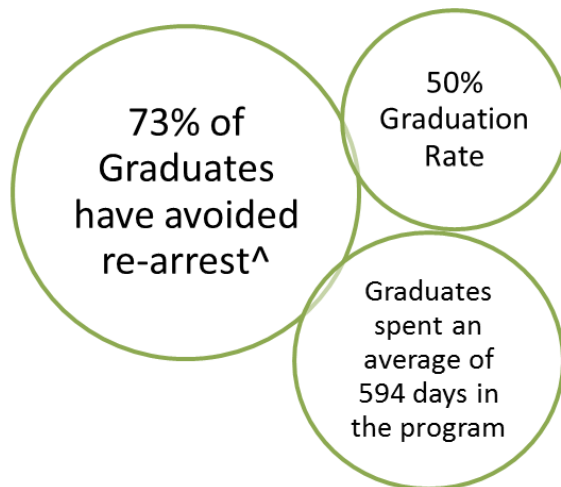
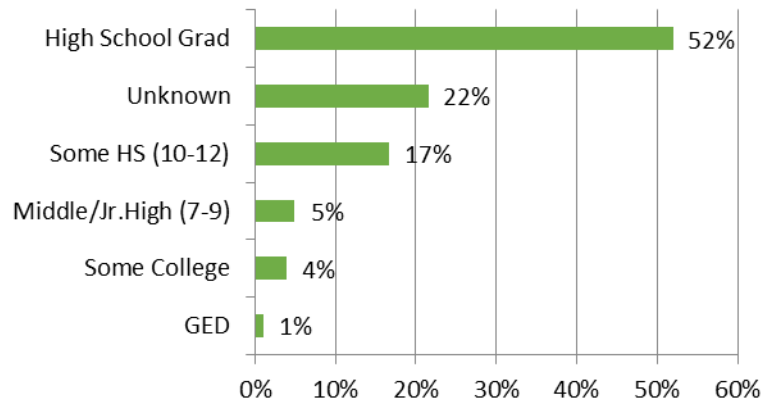
Clients Served January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 (n=102)**

- 79% of served clients were male, 10% female.
- 56% of served clients were Non-Hispanic, 20% were Hispanic, 26% did not list their Ethnicity
- 8% of served clients reported a history of homelessness; 3% reported they were homeless at start of the program.
- The majority of served clients (58%) lived in a family member’s home.
- 76% of clients who reported their Race as “Other” also reported their Ethnicity to be Hispanic.

Race - Clients Served (n=102)



Education - Clients Served (n=102)



*All information in the arrow graphic is from August 2015 to March 21, 2025.

**Clients served refers to any individual who had a court date on calendar between 1/1/24 and 12/31/24.

[^]Includes all YAC graduates from August 2015 to December 2020 (130); refers to re-arrests in San Francisco County.

50% graduation rate and average days reflects graduates (180) from August 2015 through March 2025.