

Juvenile Review Board

End-of-Year Report

Fiscal Year 23/24

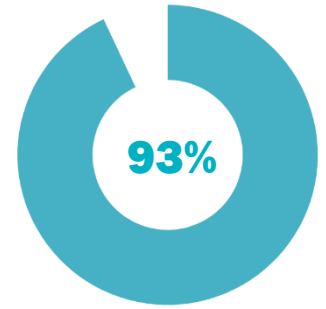
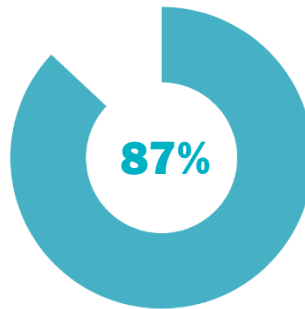
(7.1.2023 – 6.30.2024)



Outcomes:

87%¹ of program participants exited successfully (were not re-arrested and completed their contract).

93% of program participants were not re-arrested 6 months after contract completion.²



Youth Served: 119

- 85% youth of color
- 55% male
- 100% of youth reside in Stamford
- 59% of youth attending high school

¹Among 121 program referrals, 98 exited the program before this report was produced (7/8/24). Thus, 87% is of 98.

²At the end of each fiscal year, post-program success is evaluated for the prior calendar year because it is not yet 6-months post for youth who exited in the second half of the fiscal year.

Activities:

1,009 connections with a supportive adult



The JRB program is good at talking to students and listening to them. They talk to us with respect.



About the Program:

The Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is a court diversion program operating as a partnership between Domus and the Stamford Police Department. The JRB helps youth who have committed low-level misdemeanor crimes who are determined to have a low risk of recidivism and want to keep their records clean. The program does this by diverting them from the criminal justice system and providing them with a supportive adult who connects them to the services they need to avoid re-arrest. Rather than punishing young people for their misbehavior, the JRB works to better understand what happened to the youth to cause this incident and help them heal. The program also focuses on restorative justice: repairing the harm the young person's actions caused. Successful completion of the JRB means a young person exits the program without a criminal record. The long-term program goal is that youth remain arrest-free in the future.



They are putting effort in helping my child stay on track and showing her love and care and it's not even their child. I love that for her.

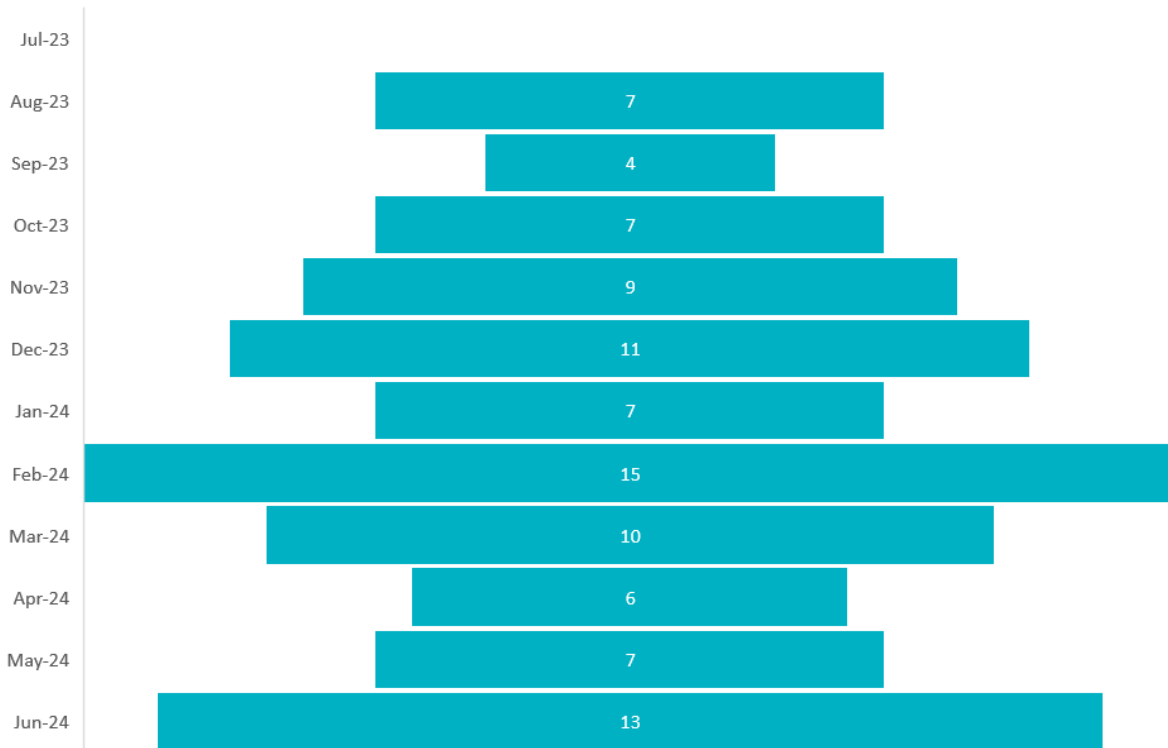


Incidents Leading to Program Referral: 121³

- 26% involved an assault charge, 21% involved breach of peace, and 17% involved disorderly conduct. (Youth may be arrested on multiple charges.)
- 88% were referred from the police department.
- 50% of incidents took place at school, 43% in the community, and 7% at home or on the bus.

³Two young people were referred to the JRB twice.

Referrals by Month⁴



⁴Another 25 youth served this year were referred to the program during the prior year.

FY24 Organizational Highlights:

- The Domus organizational focus this year was *A Year of Wellness and Healing*. Activities included connecting program youth with nature as well as providing 400 families with *Spring into Spring* gifts they could use together as a family. The year culminated in providing \$100 wellness scholarships to 80 Domus young people to support their mental and physical well-being.
- Domus partnered with the City of Stamford on the Stamford Kindness Project. During the month of December, Domus youth and staff made kindness walls at all program locations. Domus then provided breakfast to all youth and staff to celebrate kindness.
- Domus provided holiday gifts and food to 476 families and Thanksgiving support to 357 families across all programs.

The Domus Relational Model:

The entirety of our work is based on the undeniable power of love to transform lives. Our staff work relentlessly to engage young people, never giving up until they feel a sense of safety and belonging. We use a unique and powerful combination of trauma-responsive, anti-racist practices, positive youth development, loving relationships, and Thoughts, Emotions, & Behaviors (a form of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) skills-building. Together, these elements engage a young person's entire nervous system to increase their safety, health, wisdom, resilience, and skills. Fundamentally, they help youth regulate, relate, and reason as they practice shifting from a chronic stress response (“fight, flight, or flee”) to engage their “calm and connect” systems. Thus, when facing life’s inevitable challenges, youth can interrupt unproductive, automatic reactions and respond more skillfully. Through these loving, evidence-based interventions, Domus empowers young people to achieve life-changing outcomes.

“

The JRB program is good at being understanding. I felt supported, helped and understood at every moment. I never felt like anyone was against me.

”

FY24 Program Highlights:

- The program successfully implemented its first girls group and first social justice club. Content experts spoke to the girls group about women’s empowerment and better ways to manage family dynamics and relationships. The social justice club educated youth about several social justice issues and facilitated conversations around better techniques to community organize.
- All JRB panel members received a refresher training on restorative practices and the Stamford JRB process. This year, 15 additional people were recruited to attend JRB meetings. These volunteers represent a diverse group of people from Stamford nonprofits, the City of Stamford’s Youth Service Bureau, and mental health clinicians.
- JRB staff collaborated with the Stamford Police Department’s Police Athletic League Center to secure community service opportunities for program participants.
- Staff created professional resumes with high school participants and helped them secure employment.
- The program improved access to substance use and mental health services for JRB youth.
- Program staff and volunteers focused this year on offering many positive youth development opportunities to JRB youth and provided monthly outings based on their interests. These trips have included activities such as Pinot’s Palette (a guided painting studio experience) and RPM Speedway.