

CREDIBLE MESSENGER PROGRAM 2024 IMPACT REPORT



CREDIBLE MESSENGER PROGRAM FRAMEWORK



National Model Program

Nationally recognized as transformative mentoring and an effective Community Violence Intervention (CVI) strategy.

01



Transformative Process

Adults, who themselves
may have been justiceinvolved, engage youth in
positive/ intentional
relationships and activities

02



Positive Platform

Provides positive youth engagement and community voice.

03



Change Agents

Credible Messengers
support racial equity and
policy on issues that
plague the youth, families
and community

04



Crisis Response Possible

Credible Messengers are available to respond to youth dysregulation, parent/child conflict, and community violence involving referred youth.

05



Milwaukee County Program Implementation Timeline

2021

2022

2023

2024









Pilot Launch

Full Program
Imlementation

Community Response & Girl-Specific Teams Launched

Data Reporting
Capacity Established



Credible Messenger Responsibilities

Mentoring

Credible Messenger mentors use a research-based, transformative approach rooted in lived experience to build intentional relationships and engage youth in activities that empower change and amplify their voices.

Training

Complete Credible Messenger Professional Community Intervention Training Institute International (PCITI) training.

Staffing

Coordinate staff reviews for youth exhibiting high-risk behaviors with CYFS and Credible Messenger Supervisors.



Team Meetings

Participate in youth and family team meetings organized by the Human Service Worker (HSW) or initiated by the Credible Messenger.

Team Planning

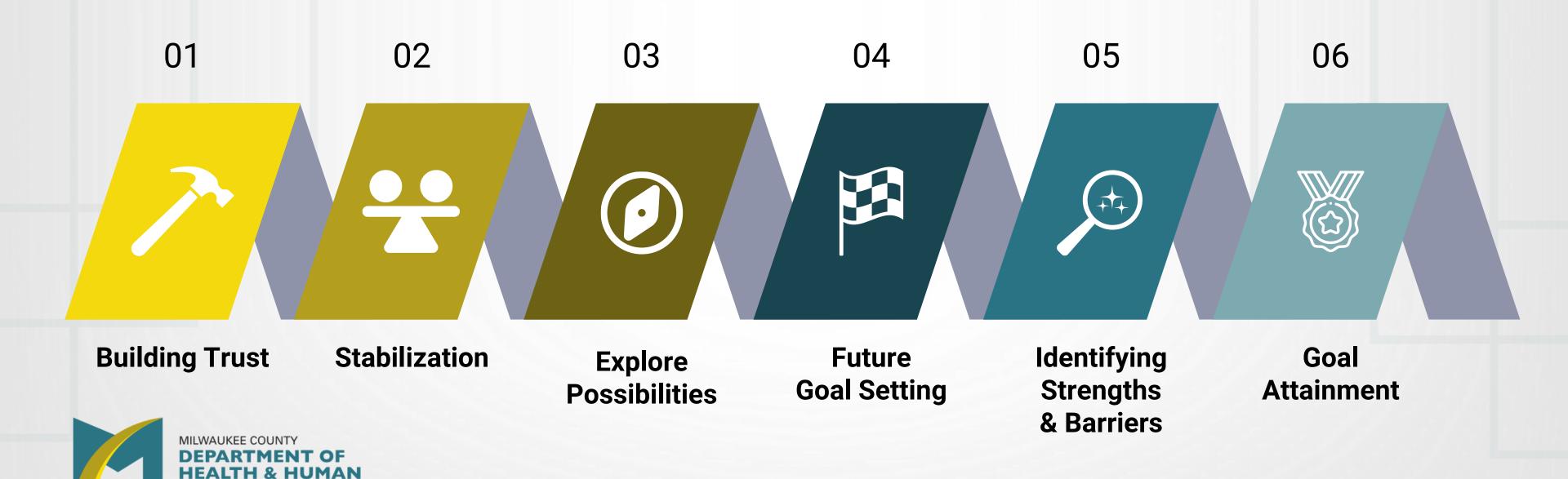
Conduct team planning and execution for high-risk situations using the Community Crisis Response Protocol.

Community Events & Collaboration

Participate in cross-agency activities and community events across Milwaukee County.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CREDIBLE MESSENGER PROGRAM

Youth Growth Activities are intentional experiences led by Credible Messengers, designed to align with each youth's case plan and the desistance approach.



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Credible Messenger Program

2024 Milwaukee County Youth Demographics



120 100 80 60 112 40 69 20 18 0 **CYFS Referrals** Source Unknown Community Referrals

Time Period Reflected: 1/1/24-12/31/24 | Date Extracted: 3/31/2025

Total Youth Served*

In 2024, Credible Messengers served **199 youth**, with 112 referrals from the CYFS youth justice system and 69 community referrals.

Community-referred youth are identified as at risk for justice involvement by sources such as parents, law enforcement, child protective services, schools, and community agencies, regardless of current system involvement.

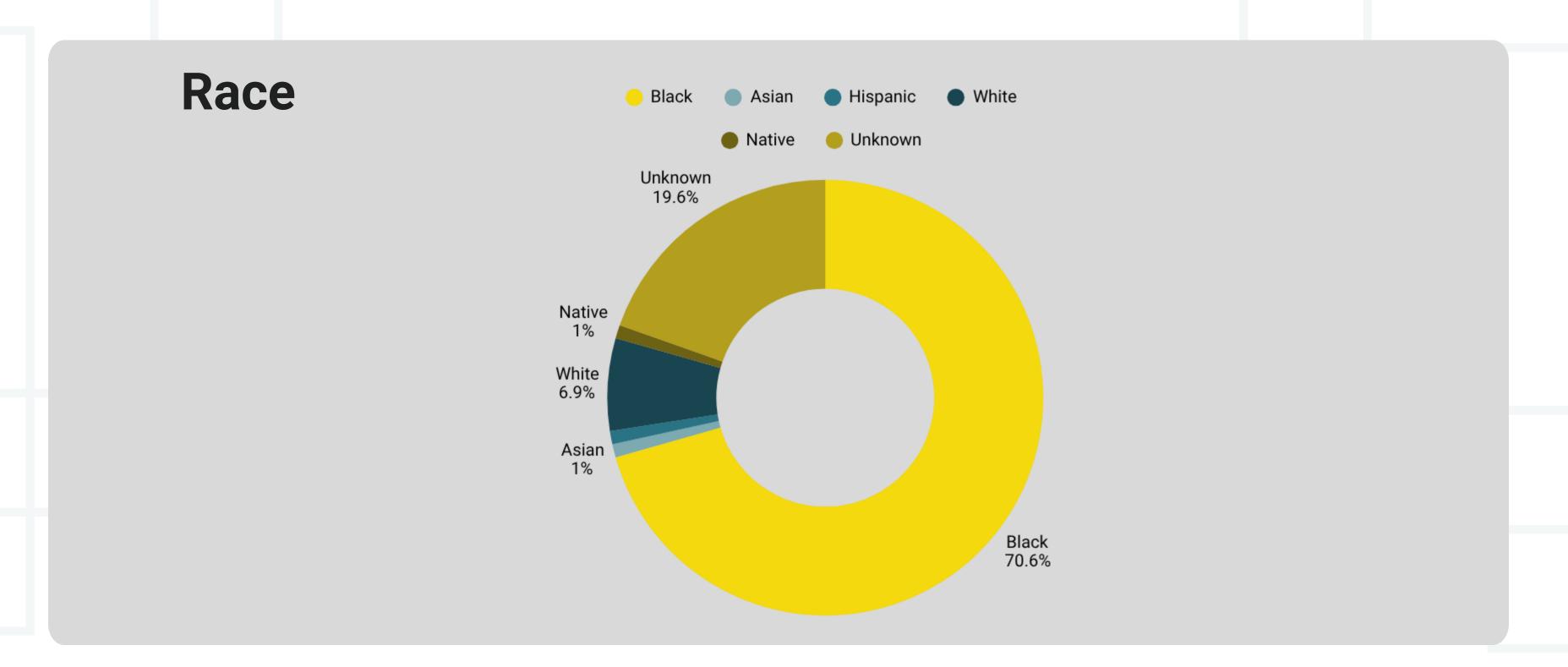


^{*}Youth active in and/or completed the Credible Messenger Program in 2024



Milwaukee County Credible Messenger Program

Total Youth Served by Race

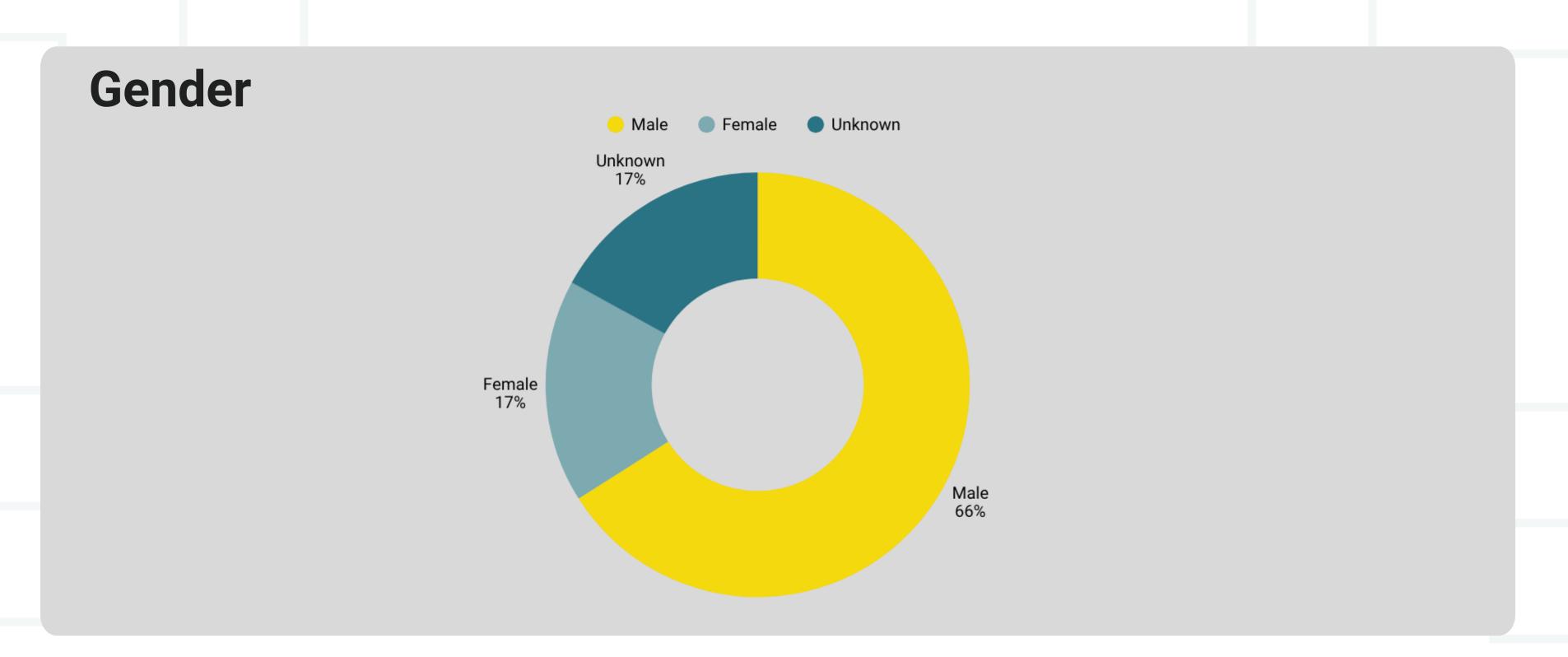


In 2024, of the 199 youth served, the majority were Black/African American youth.



Milwaukee County Credible Messenger Program

Total Youth Served by Gender

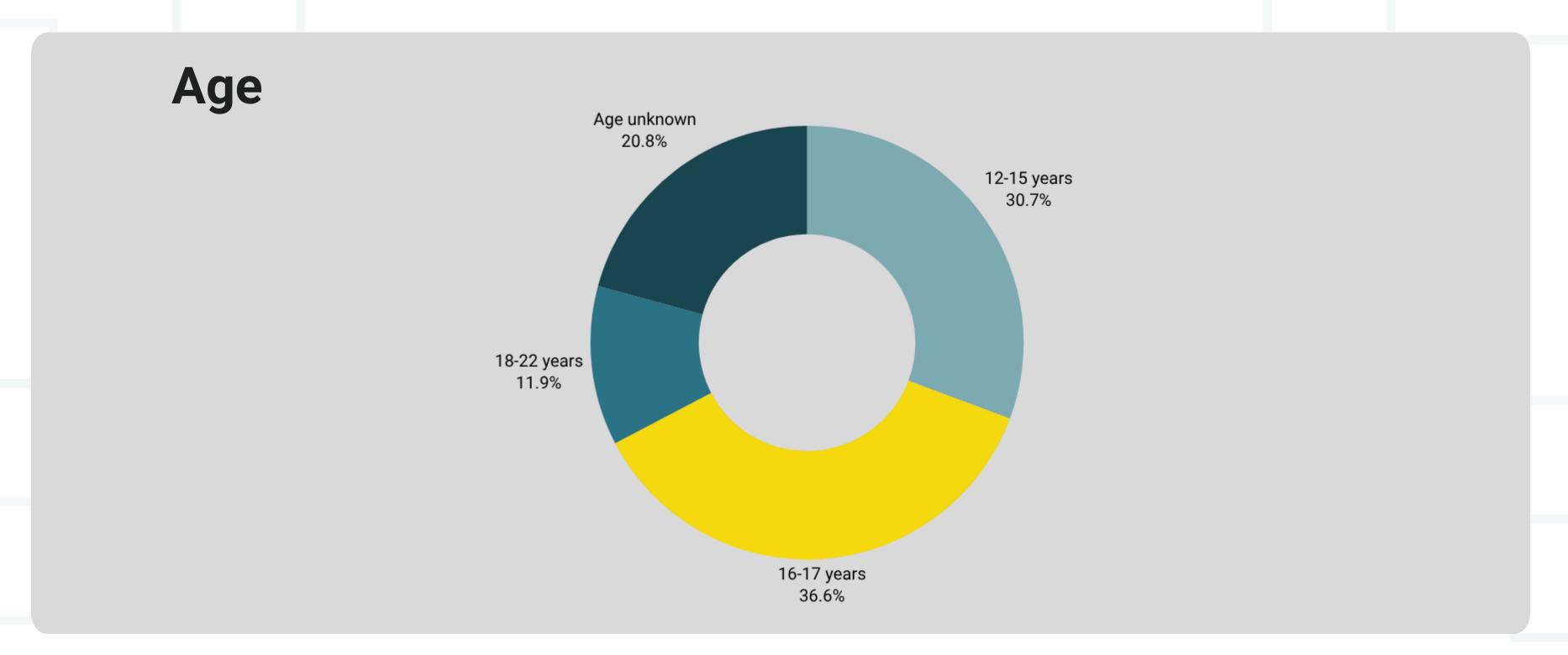


In 2024, of the 199 youth served, the majority were boys.



Milwaukee County Credible Messenger Program

Total Youth Served by Age



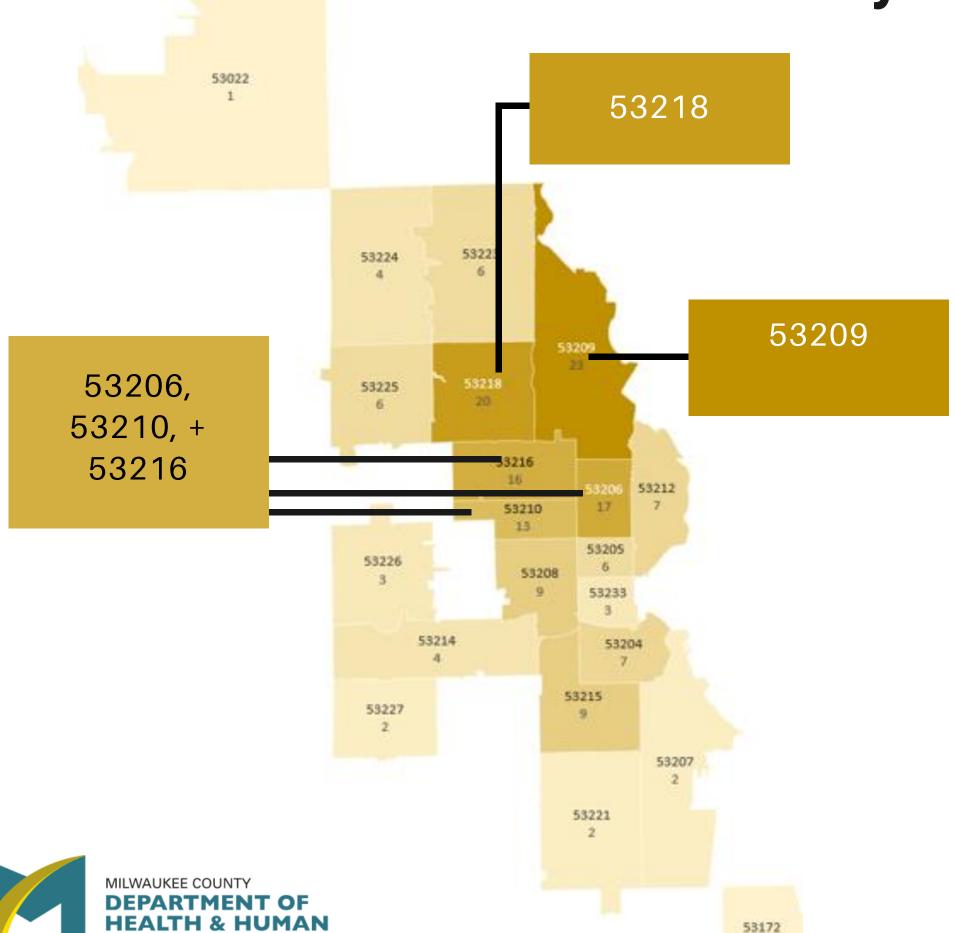
In 2024, of the 199 youth served, the majority were 16-17 years old.

Milwaukee County Credible Messenger Program Total Youth Served





five zip codes:



Total Youth Served: Engagement Dosage

In 2024, Credible Messengers provided over 12,000 hours of mentoring, with 66% of the 199 youth served receiving the recommended 26 weeks or more, meeting the research-based threshold for improving outcomes among justice-involved youth.

<u>Standardized Program Evaluation</u> <u>Protocol (SPEP) Research</u>



132

Youth Who
Reached
Recommended
Dosage

Time Period Reflected: 1/1/24 - 12/31/24 | Date Extracted: 3/31/2025

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Credible Messenger Program

2024 Milwaukee County Youth-Specific Outcomes



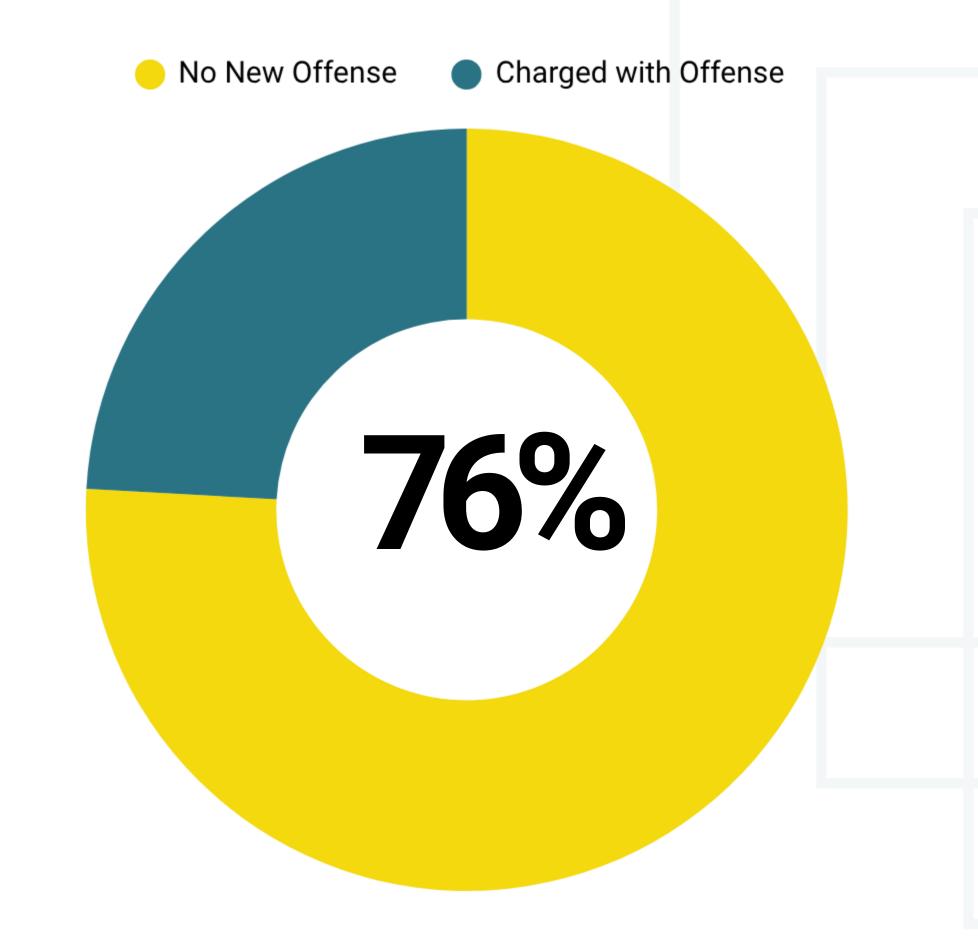
Milwaukee County Credible Messenger Program

Total Youth Served with no referral or offense*

Of 199 Youth Served, 151 (76%) Had No Referral/Offense While in Programming

*Youth Justice Referrals Only





Time Period Reflected: 1/1/24 - 12/31/24 | Date Extracted: 3/31/2025

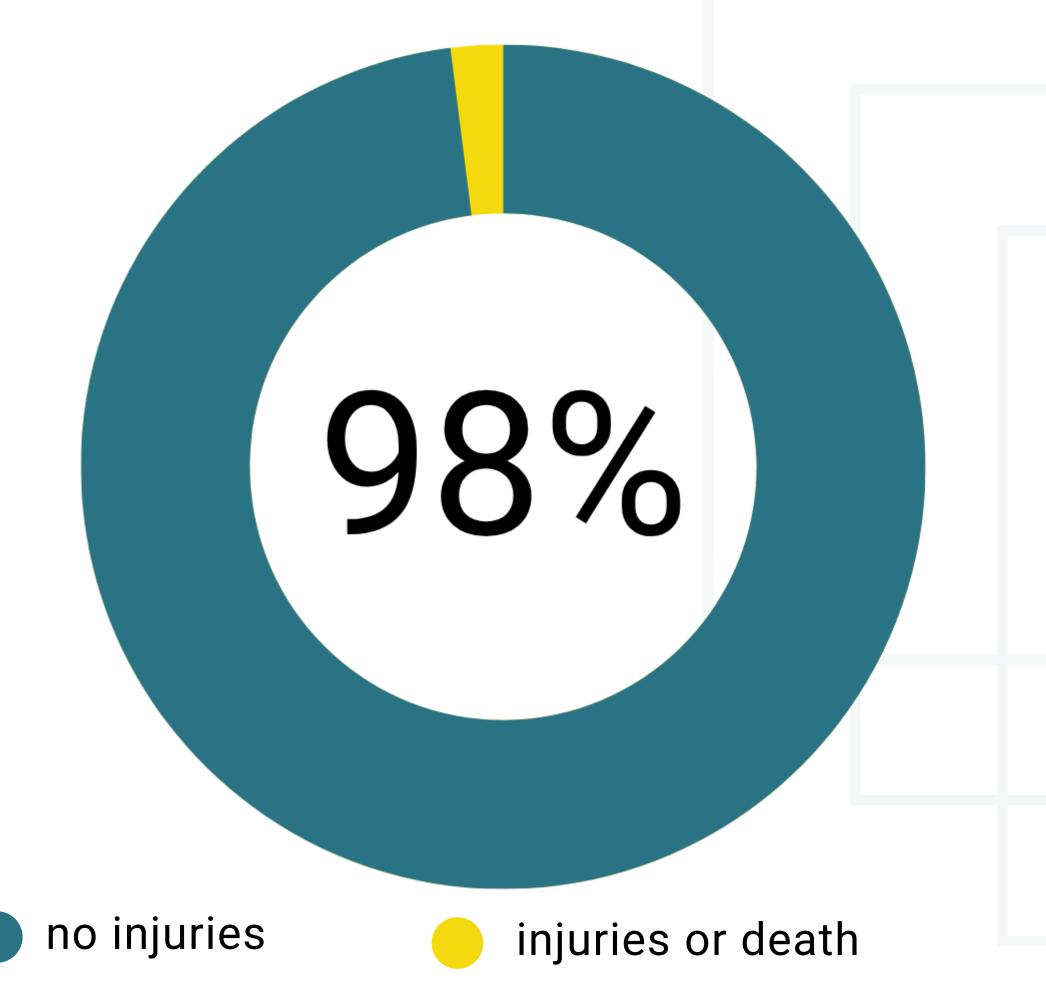
Milwaukee County Credible Messenger Program

Reported Injuries

Of the 199 youth served, 4 (2%) had a reported injury while in programming:

- •1 youth deceased as a result of gun violence
- •3 youth injured as a result of gun violence

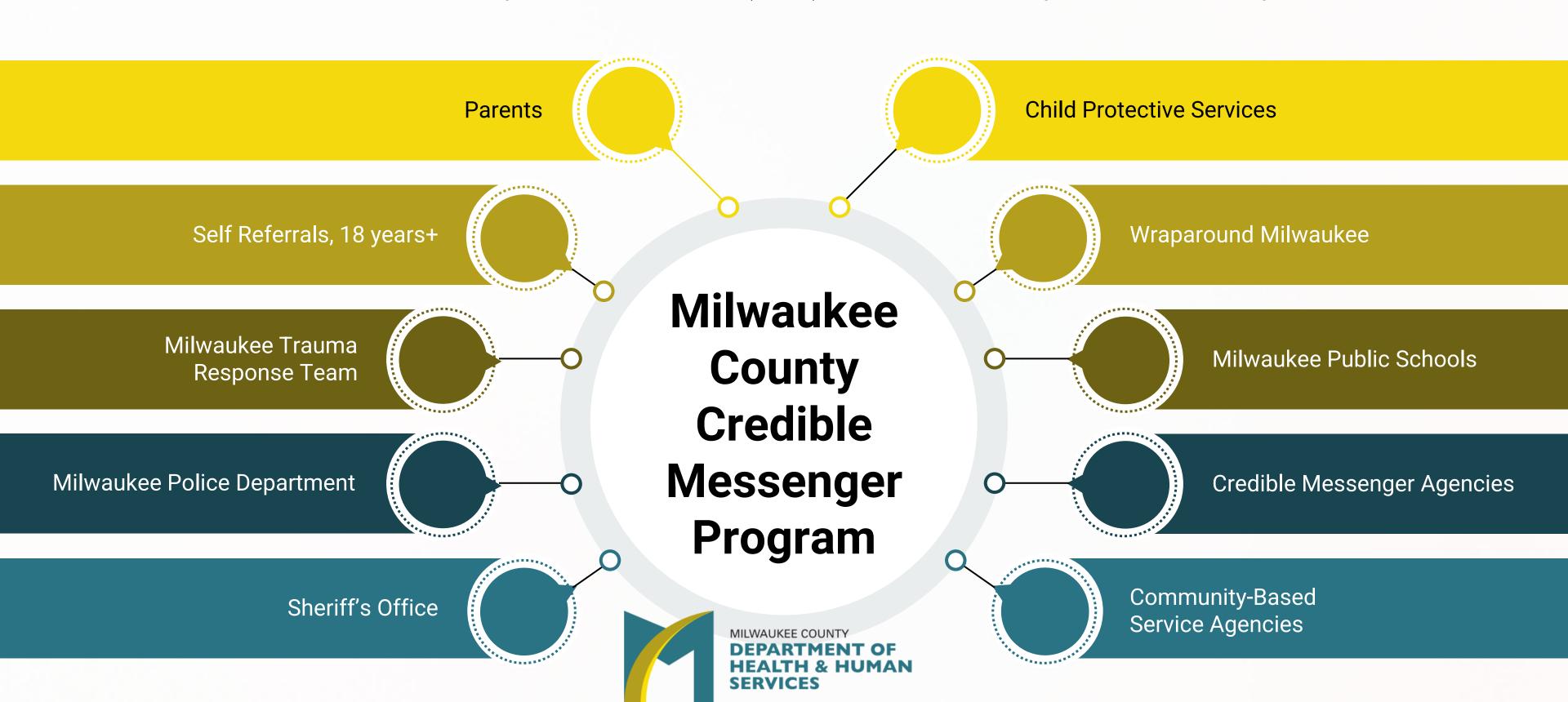




Time Period Reflected: 1/1/24 - 12/31/24 | Date Extracted: 3/31/2025

Strong Community Support

Of the total 199 youth served, 69 (35%) were referred by the community



Community-Referred Youth Served

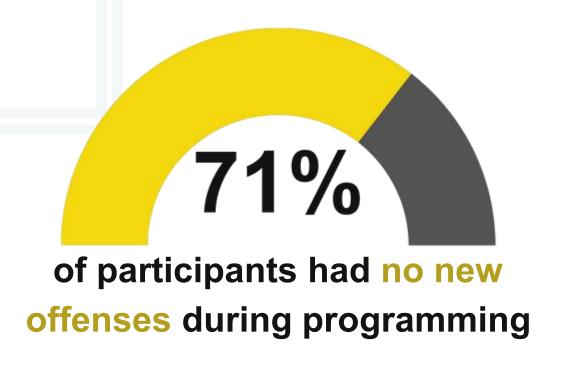
Of the 69 community-referred youth served, 81% had no reported offenses while in programming, while 13 youth (19%) had a reported offense: 8 were charged with a felony and 5 with a misdemeanor.





CYFS-Referred Youth Served

Of the 112 CYFS-referred youth served, 71% had no new reported offenses while in programming, meaning the majority did not reoffend. Of the 29% who did, 20 were charged with a felony and 13 with a misdemeanor.



112 CYFS-referred youth



Time Period Reflected: 1/1/24 - 12/31/24 | Date Extracted: 3/31/2025

Positive Youth Connections

Positive, pro-social connections are crucial for healthy young development as they

- Foster resilience
- Build Social Skills
- Contribute to overall well-being

These connections offer support during challenging times, promote mental and physical health, and prepare youth for future success. *

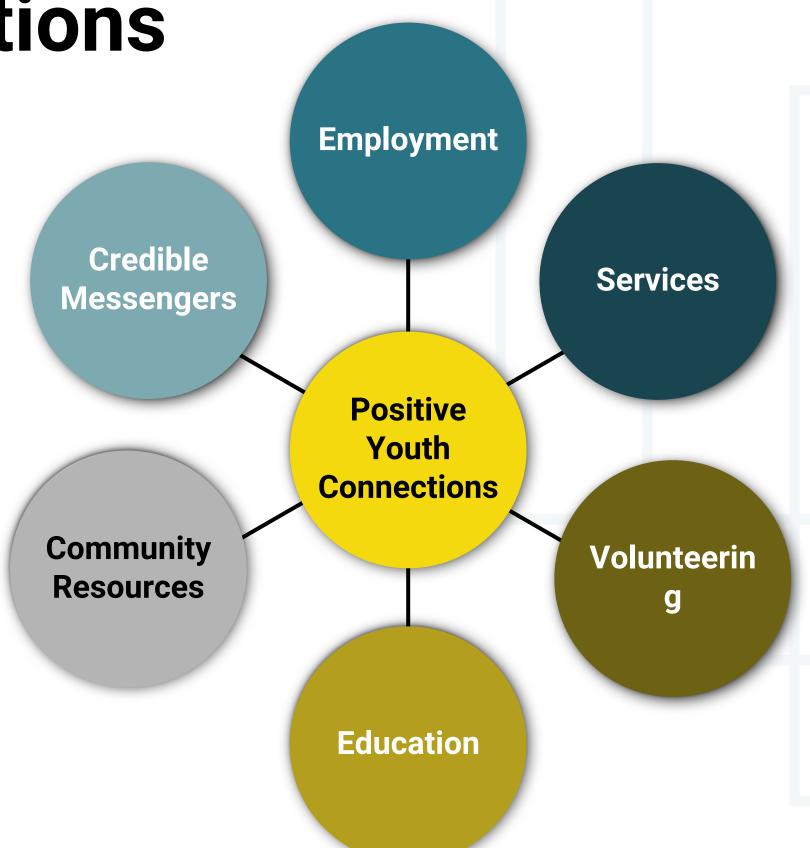
Employment Credible **Services** Messengers **Positive** Youth **Connections** Community Volunteerin Resources **Education**

*Adolescent Connectedness:
Cornerstone for Health and Wellbeing

Positive Youth Connections

At least 75 youth made one positive pro-social connection in addition to their Credible Messenger Advocate through the program.

- 34 of those youth made two or more connections
- At least 50 youth were connected to employment opportunities
- At least 20 youth were connected to community services or resources
- At least 16 youth were connected to volunteering opportunities
- At least 10 youth were connected to education resources



Credible Messenger Program Collective **Community Impact** *Agencies Increased Connections to Community Resources*

Participated in **Community Events**

Developed New Community Agency Relationships

Collaborated Together to Meet Program & Youth Needs



Credible Messenger Program

Public Health Impact

Prevention
Work
(community
youth)



Intervention Work (justice-involved youth)



Building
Resilience
&
Reducing the
Population of
ViolenceInvolved Youth





Thank You

Tremendous gratitude for the work being done and everyone who supports peace and well-being in Milwaukee County neighborhoods, schools and families.