

ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

FY22 ANNUAL REPORT

(JUNE 2021 – JULY 2022)

REBOUNDING

FROM COVID DISTRICTIONS



Alternative Accountability Program

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MESSAGE FROM THE PARTNERS

FY22 marks 10th year of the Alternative Accountability Program (AAP) and the multi-agency collaborative partnership that oversees it. As in years past, we've continued to see high success rates and low recidivism. FY22 was spent rebounding from the impacts of Covid. We've returned to in-person service interventions when they can be done safely and with the consent of involved parties. We've worked hard to keep AAP in the forefront with professional partners, stakeholders, and the community so it remains an option to address crimes committed by first-time juvenile offenders. Although case numbers remain lower than pre-pandemic, this aligns with overall fewer complaints being filed throughout the County.



ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

AAP Governance

The Alternative Accountability Program (AAP) is an inter-agency collaboration that employs restorative justice practices and education as an alternative to traditional criminal justice for first-time juvenile offenders in Fairfax County. The AAP Program partners are:

Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD)
Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC)
Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services (NCS)
NVMS Conflict Resolution Center (NVMS)

AAP Mission

To help victims of juvenile crimes to overcome the harm that has been done to them; to hold first-time juvenile offenders accountable for their crimes; and to lower the number of juveniles entering the justice system in Fairfax County.

Core Goals/Objectives

- Providing victims with a voice in the process to repair the harm they experienced
- Holding youth accountable for the harm they caused
- Reducing the number of juveniles enmeshed in the formal justice system, including youth of color
- Decreasing recidivism



AAP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

AAP Process

All complaints involving juveniles are submitted to Juvenile Intake and screened for AAP eligibility. All eligible cases are automatically referred instead of being handled within the traditional juvenile justice system.

Eligibility requires the following:

- Evidence of an eligible crime
- Under 18 years old at the time of the offense
- No prior criminal involvement with AAP or Juvenile Intake
- Juvenile accepts responsibility for their actions and is willing to participate in AAP

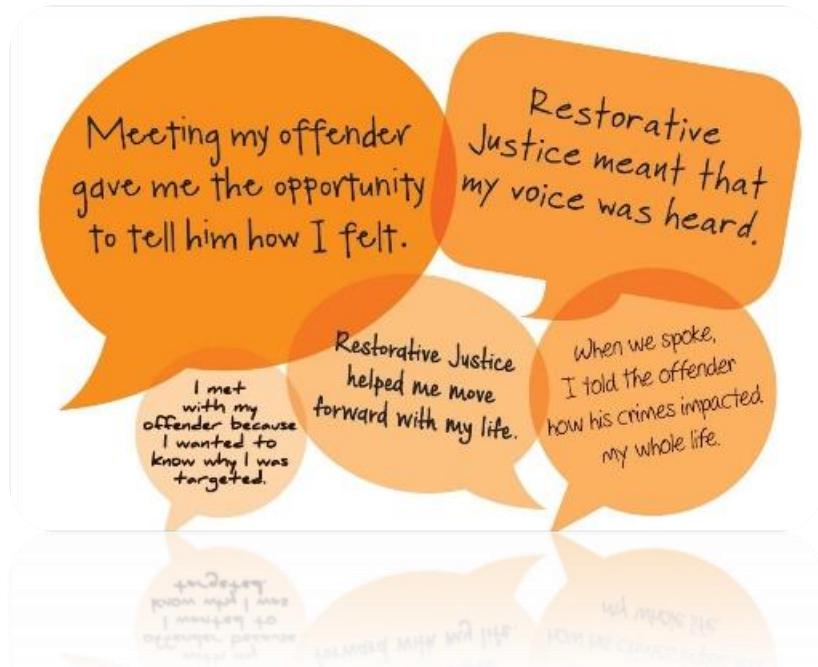
AAP has two intervention tracks – Restorative Justice and Education.

Restorative Justice (RJ)

AAP utilizes a victim-centered family group conferencing RJ model. Offenders and their parent(s) are brought together with victims (and their parent(s) when applicable), as well as other stakeholders who were directly or indirectly impacted by the incident. When the direct victim is unable to participate, the referring law-enforcement officer may participate on their behalf. Conferences are facilitated by skilled RJ practitioners and focus on the following:

1. What happened?
2. Who was harmed?
3. How can the harm be repaired?

The goals of the conference are to achieve a greater understanding between the victim and offender and develop a mutually agreed upon resolution to the matter. Conference agreements are determined by the parties and may result in an apology, completion of community service, financial restitution, etc.



Education

AAP utilizes two educational interventions – Core Values and a Shoplifter Offender Class. Educational interventions are used when parties are unable to participate or decline to participate in RJ.

Core Values

Core Values is a one-hour seminar facilitated by trained staff who work one-on-one with offenders. Offenders are asked to identify their personal core values and then engaged in a guided conversation that explores whether the actions that got them in AAP align with those values. The conversation concludes with a discussion of how the offender can keep their values at the forefront of their considerations when making future decisions, thus resulting in better decision making and reduced recidivism.

Shoplifter Offender Class

The shoplifter offender class is team-taught by trained staff and a law-enforcement officer. The focus of the class is to educate offenders on the far-reaching impacts of shoplifting. Offenders are given a homework assignment of writing a letter of apology to the store(s) they stole from. Letters are reviewed for appropriateness and then forwarded to the store's representative.

BENEFITS OF AAP

For the victim:

- Provides an opportunity to be actively involved in the resolution of their case (RJ participants)

For the offender:

- Provides an opportunity to acknowledge their behavior, learn about its impact on the victim, develop increased empathy and social awareness, and build character
- Avoid long-term risks associated with involvement with the traditional criminal justice system

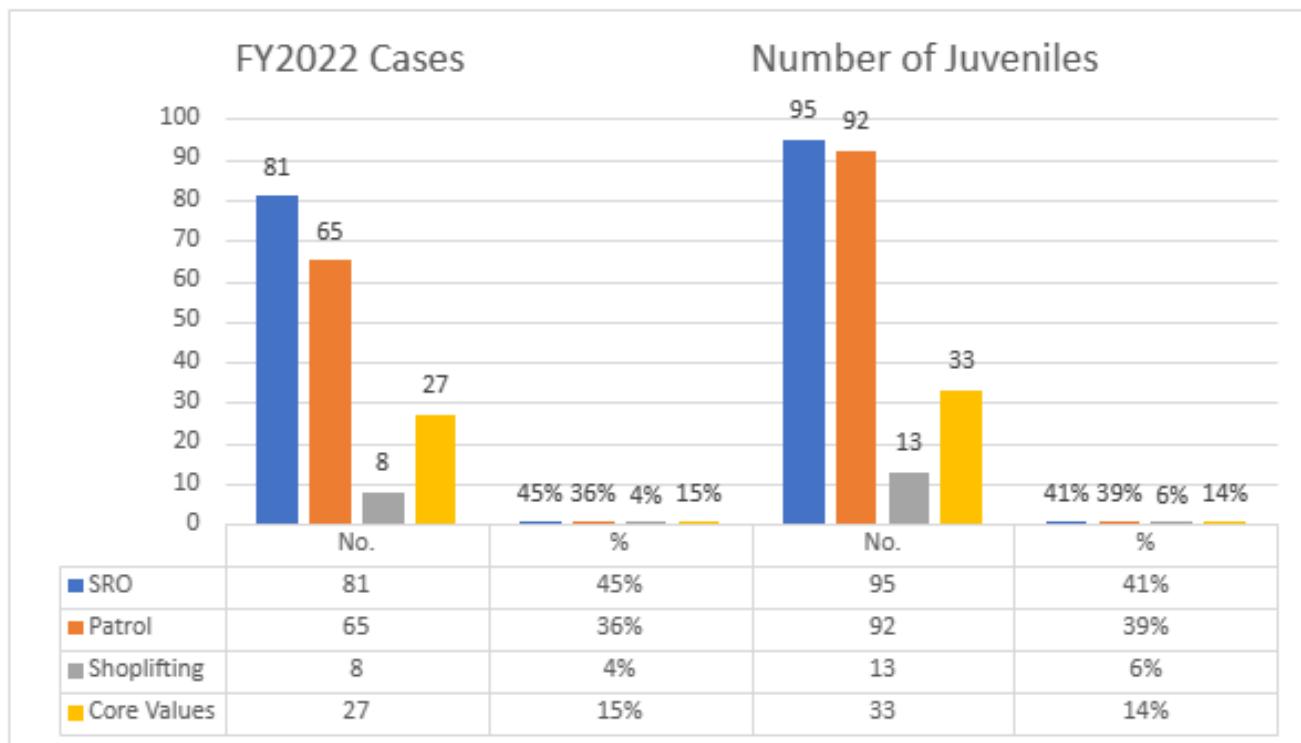


For the community:

- Provides an alternative response to juvenile crime
- Creates a stronger society by reducing juvenile recidivism of harmful behavior and criminal acts

METRICS AND OUTCOMES

Cases are separated by the offense location. Events that occur in the school are submitted by School Resource Officers (SRO) and events that happened in the community are submitted by Patrol Officers.



*17% of cases had two or more defendants. 17% of cases had two or more offenses.

**Among SRO cases, 53% are from middle school, 47% are from high school.



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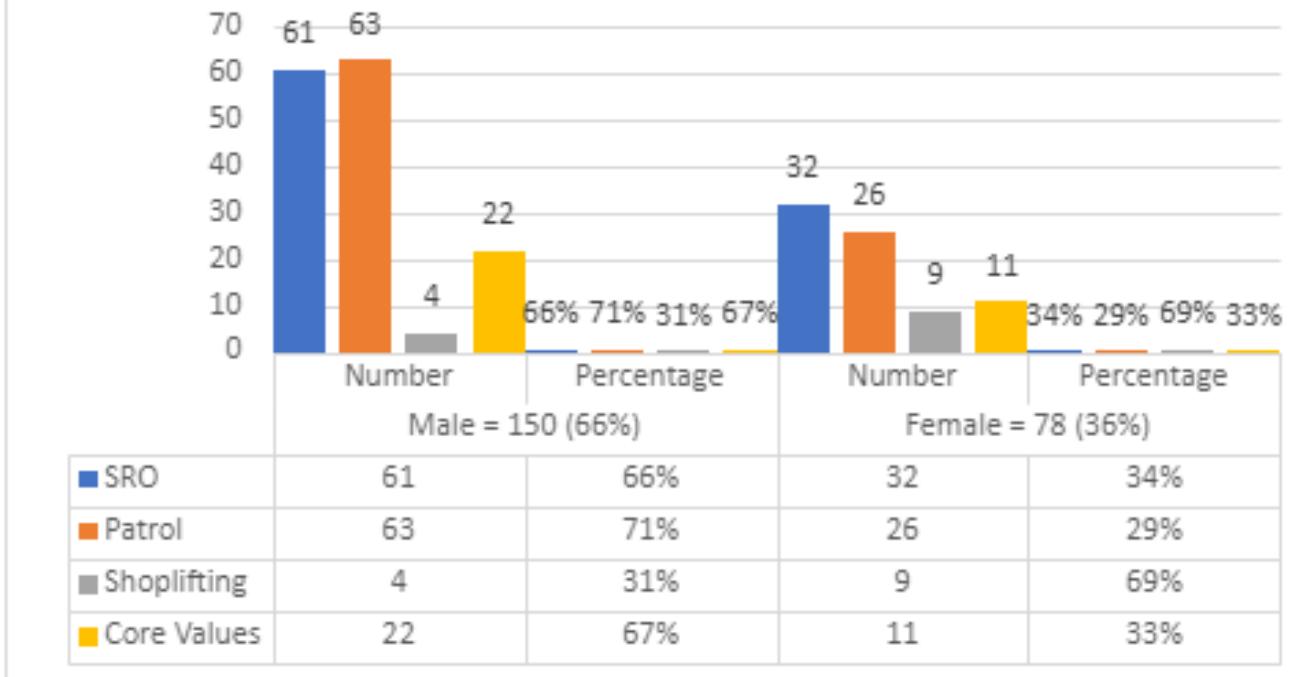


TRANSFORMING CONFLICT INTO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

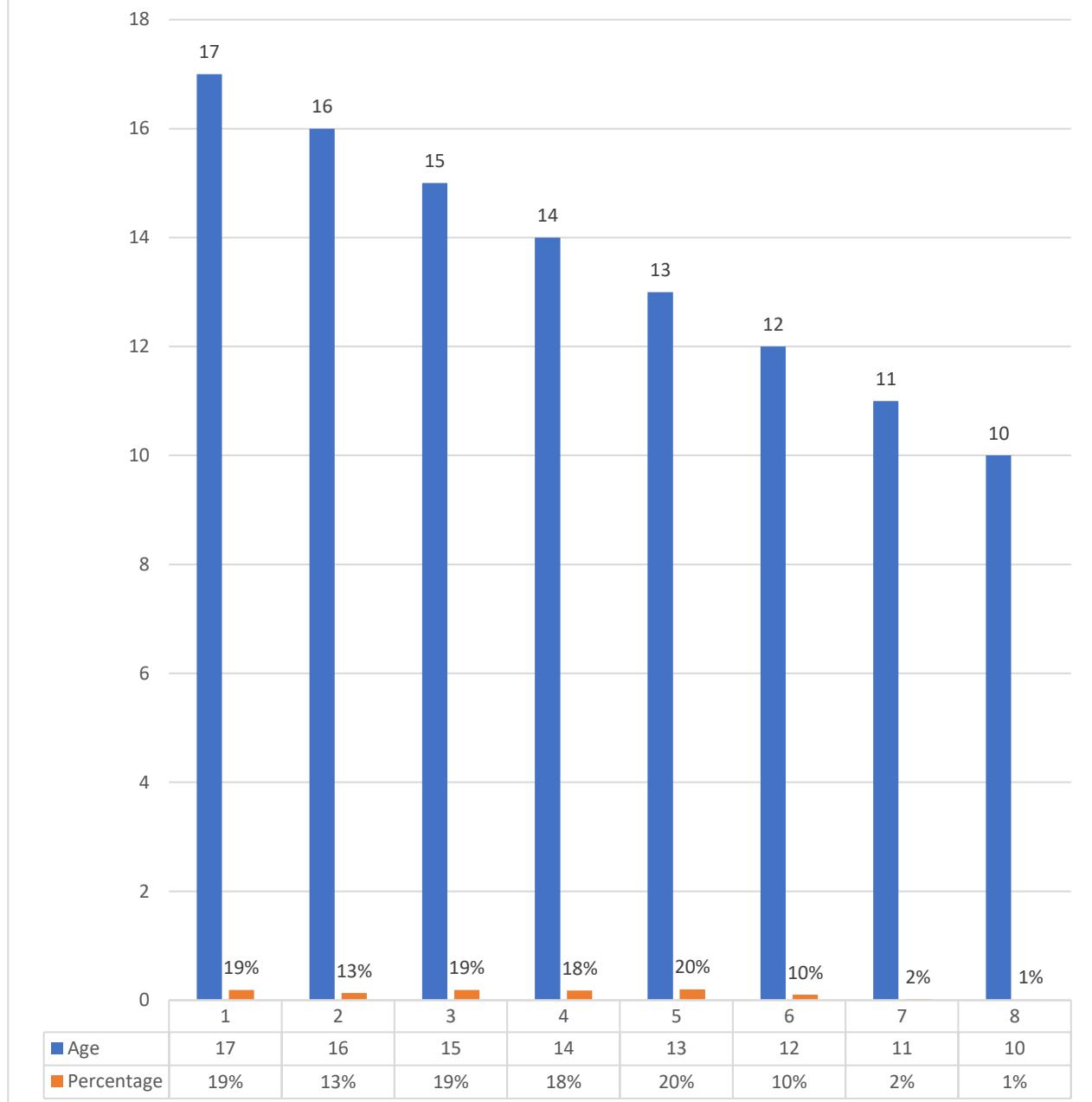


Neighborhood and
Community Services

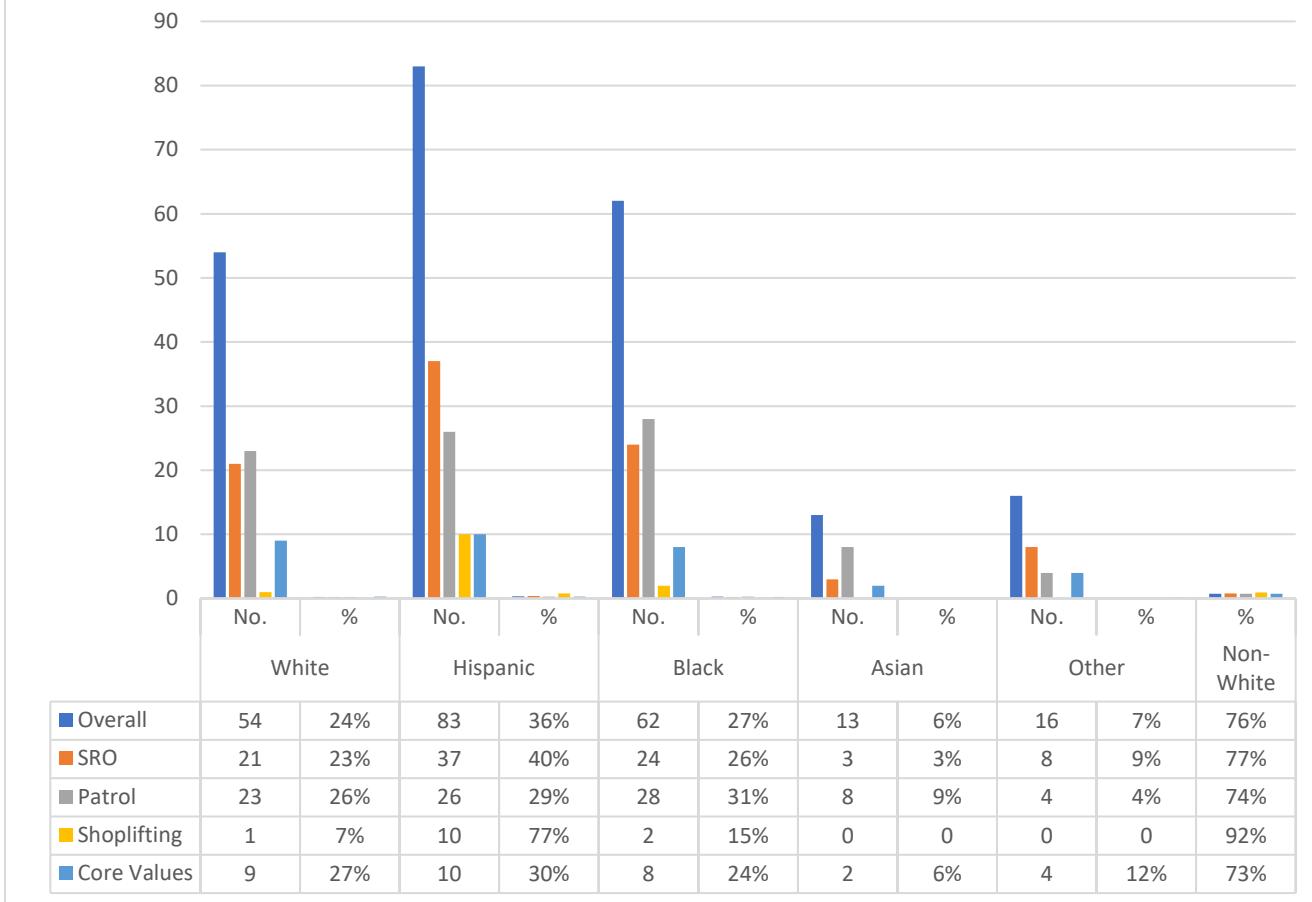
Demographics: Offenders by Gender



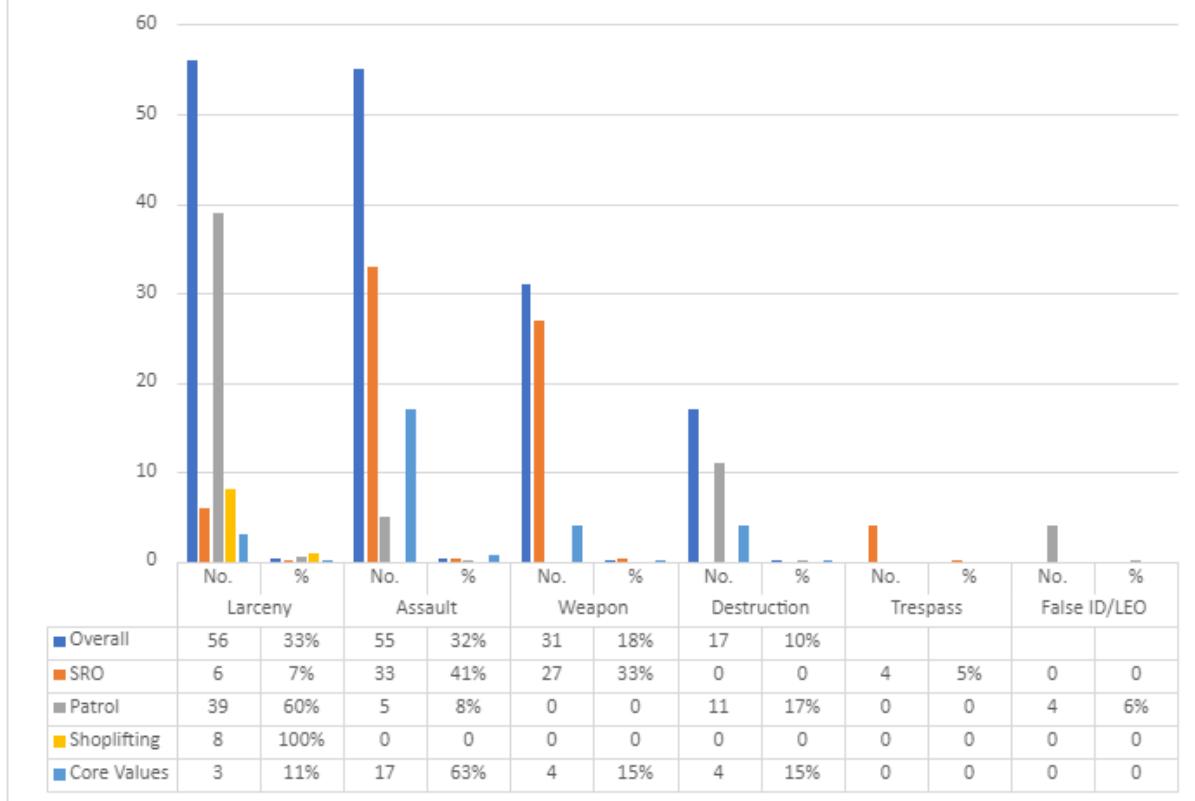
Demographics: Offenders by Age



Demographics: Race/Ethnicity



FY 2022: Top 4 Offenses



Firearms cases are not eligible for AAP. Weapons include small knives, stun guns, brass knuckles, and others.



SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Resilience/adaptations regarding goals and outcomes
- Client satisfaction
 - SRO data
 - 98% of victims were satisfied with the process and outcome
 - 96% school staff thought the RJ process was successful
 - 100% SROs were satisfied with the RJ process
 - 95% offenders said the process was fair
 - 98% of parents thought the process was fair
- Rebounding after Covid and shutdowns

GOALS FOR FY23

- Promotion of AAP in wider community
- Full restoration of the number of referrals
- Practitioner skill refinements
- Continue to strengthen the relationship between public schools and law-enforcement to provide alternatives to traditional juvenile justice

