

BSCC Survey Grant 2022

Introduction

We were awarded this grant to survey the Central Coast and Central Valley Area. The Focus Forward staff utilized the Qualtrics Survey Data Analyzer which. The Focus Forward staff reviewed the Title 15 and Title 24 Standards and comprised a 50 questionnaire for the youth. These questions were centered around the safety and rights that are given to the youth while they are or have been housed at a Correctional Facility.

The participants in the survey included in-custody youth, out-of-custody youth, and parents. There was a total of 5 events (2 in custody, 2 during visitation, and 1 virtual meeting). The in-custody youth and Parents seemed to be hesitant to want to participate in the survey due to fear of retaliation. The Focus Forward staff spent much time reassuring the participants that this wouldn't be an issue. As far as the parents they were concerned with participating due to some of them being undocumented.

Partners

Focus Forward has a variety of partners in this project, which include the San Luis Coastal Unified School District, Grizzly Youth Academy, Fresno County Probation Department, and San Luis Obispo County Probation Department.

Population

We surveyed a total of 138 incarcerated clients in the Central Valley and Central Coast. A large portion of the individuals served were minor and not too many parents. As stated previously the parents were very hesitant to want to participate in the survey. The Focus Forward staff that the reason for this is since both the Central Valley and Central Valley coast are comprised of many immigrant families and unfortunately a lot of these families are not documented. We have often experienced this in our other program here at Focus Forward.

Gender

As expected, the large population that was served was **the male population 79.25%**. In are experience that the male population seems to dominate the population make up in the correctional facilities, **The female population was 16.98%** surveyed, and lastly, we **had 3.77% of individuals that declined to state their gender**. Not sure if this was due to the participants wanting to rush through the survey but, we did make multiple gender options available for the participants

Ethnicity

Of the 138 incarcerated clients surveyed, 60.71% were Hispanic/Latino which tends to be the larger populated Ethnicity in the Correctional facilities in our areas, 17.86% were African American, 16.07% were Caucasian, and 5.36% were Asian.

Age

Of the 138 incarcerated clients surveyed, 75.47% were between the ages of 14 to 19, 22.64% were between the ages of 9 to 13, and 1.89% were between the ages of 20 to 25.

Some of the questions and answers that were included in the survey have been listed below.

Question #7:

How many times have you been impacted by the juvenile justice system?

1-2: 42.59%

3-4: 16.67%

5+: 40.74%

Question #8:

During the time of incarceration/impacted by the juvenile justice system, did you feel safe in the facility?

Yes: 85.19%

No: 14.81%

Question #9:

During the time of incarceration/impacted by the juvenile justice system, did you have anyone to go to if it felt unsafe?

Yes: 90.74%

No: 9.26%

Question #11

During the time of incarceration/impacted by the juvenile justice system, were the probation staff working in the housing units approachable?

Yes: 88.89%

No: 11.11%

Question #12:

During the time of incarceration/impacted by the juvenile justice system, did you feel like the staff treated you with dignity and respect?

Yes: 92.59%

No: 7.41%

Question #15:

During the time of incarceration/impacted by the juvenile justice system, were you participating in services that the family was informed about?

Yes: 48.15%

No: 5.56%

Not sure: 46.30%

Youth Feedback

- “It has been getting better, every time I come back more services”
- “My time here has been alright, and I’ve got offered a lot of help”
- “Get closer to the kids and young men. Some of us are good people and deserve a chance”
- “Have staff influence you to do good”
- “More freedom”

Barriers

1. Limited time to conduct the survey
2. Gaining access to some of the facilities presented a challenge
3. Parent participation: some parents were not receptive even though they were offered incentives

Recommendations

Based on the feedback of the youth, we recommend:

1. Developing a first-time offender diversion program. We have seen a high number of first and second-time offenders in the facility. In talking with a lot of the participants it was voiced that a lot of them were in there for the first time and had no previous contact with law enforcement. We believe that if these types of youth had some type of diversion program that they potentially wouldn’t reoffend. **(Related to Q# 7)**
2. Making correctional facilities feel more homely. Some of the feedback that was received was that the youth didn’t feel safe due to the fact that they were not at home. As stated in Focus Forward Presentation that in Fresno County have begun to make the facility more of a homely vibe/setting. **(Related to Q # 8)**
3. Providing better quality food and more snacks! The youth had requested better food and also the development of a canteen. The responded that they are fed at least 3 times a day,

but the quality was not to their standards. They have also asked for a potential snack program or canteen program. **(Related to Q # 18)**

4. Involving families in the services that the youth will receive. The participants responded to this question that were unsure if the families were informed or involved in the programming that is being offered at the Correctional facilities. There needs to be a meeting or MDT held with the families and youth to discuss treatment plans so that everyone is on the same page. **(Related to Q #15)**
5. Helping to decrease the stigma surrounding receiving mental health services. The participants responded to this question as decline to answer. The Focus Forward staff feel that they youth felt embarrassed or shy to answer this question due to the stigma that comes along with it. The recommendation would be to rename the title or come up with some other way to make the kids feel comfortable with attending these services.
6. The last thing that was expressed by the participants was to have more staff at the facilities that have lived experience. The youth were very vocal about this topic. They felt that a lot of the staff didn't understand them and their situations. A comment that stood out to the Focus Forward staff was "we are not bad kids we just made a mistake"



BSCC SURVEY GRANT

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PARTNERS



POPULATION

WE SURVEYED A TOTAL OF

138 INCARCERATED

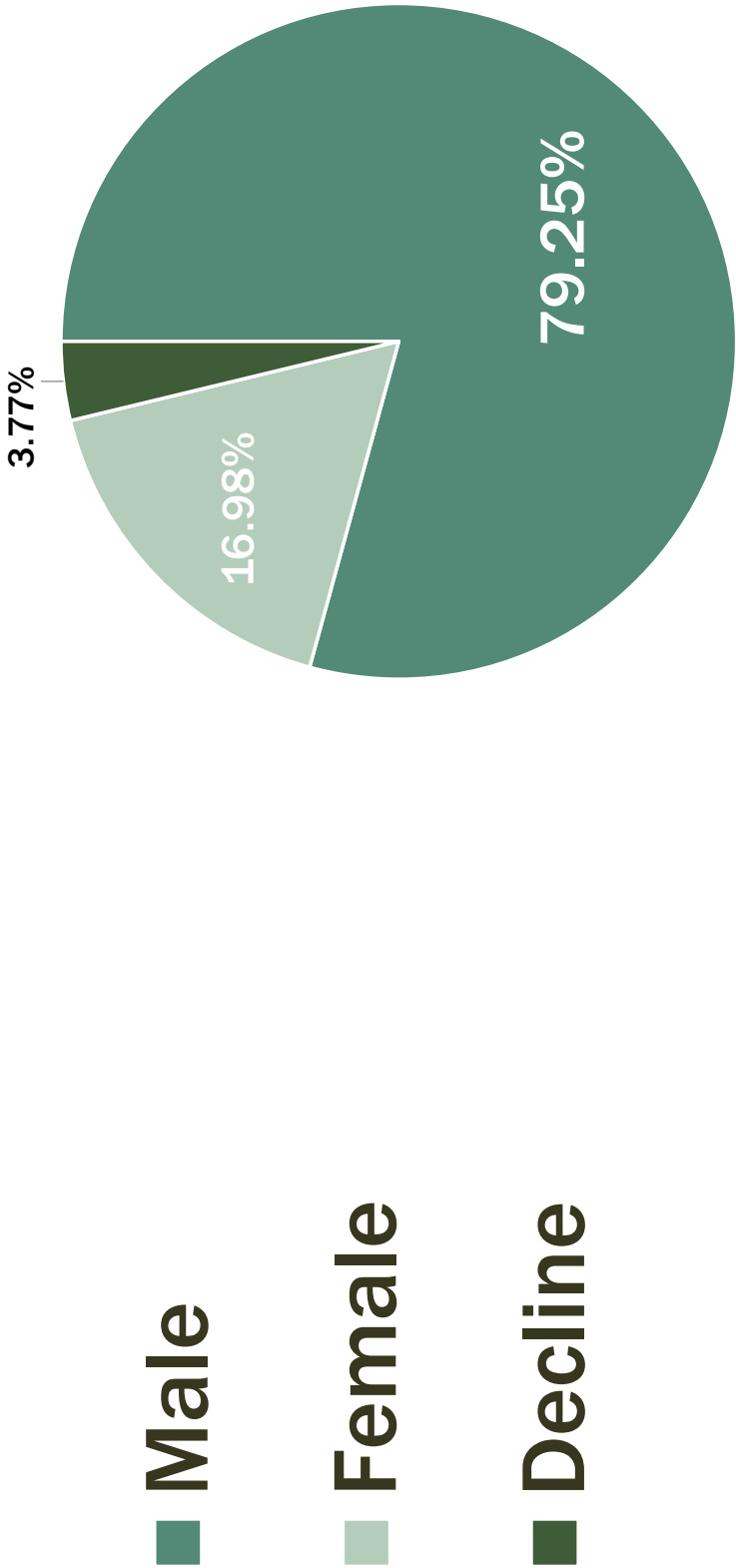
CLIENTS IN THE CENTRAL

VALLEY AND CENTRAL COAST

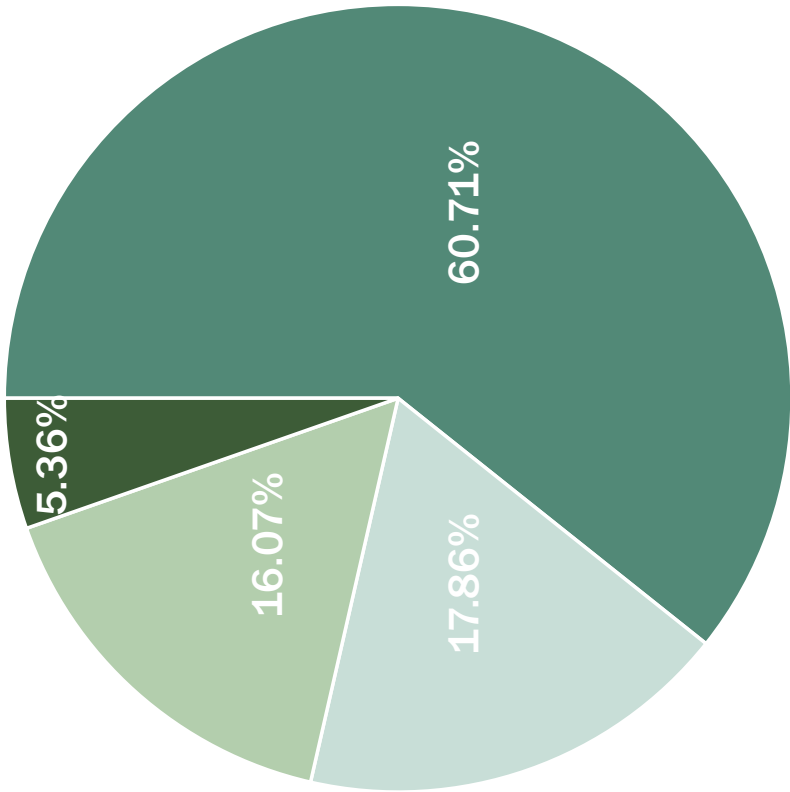
The map shows the state of California with the Central Valley and Central Coast regions highlighted in green. A wooden signpost points to the Central Valley, labeled 'THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION'. Cities marked in the Central Valley include Yuba City, Vacaville, Modesto, Stockton, Fresno, Visalia, and Bakersfield. The Central Coast is marked with a red star. A compass rose is located in the lower right. Decorative elements include a hot air balloon, a bear, and a sailboat.



GENDER

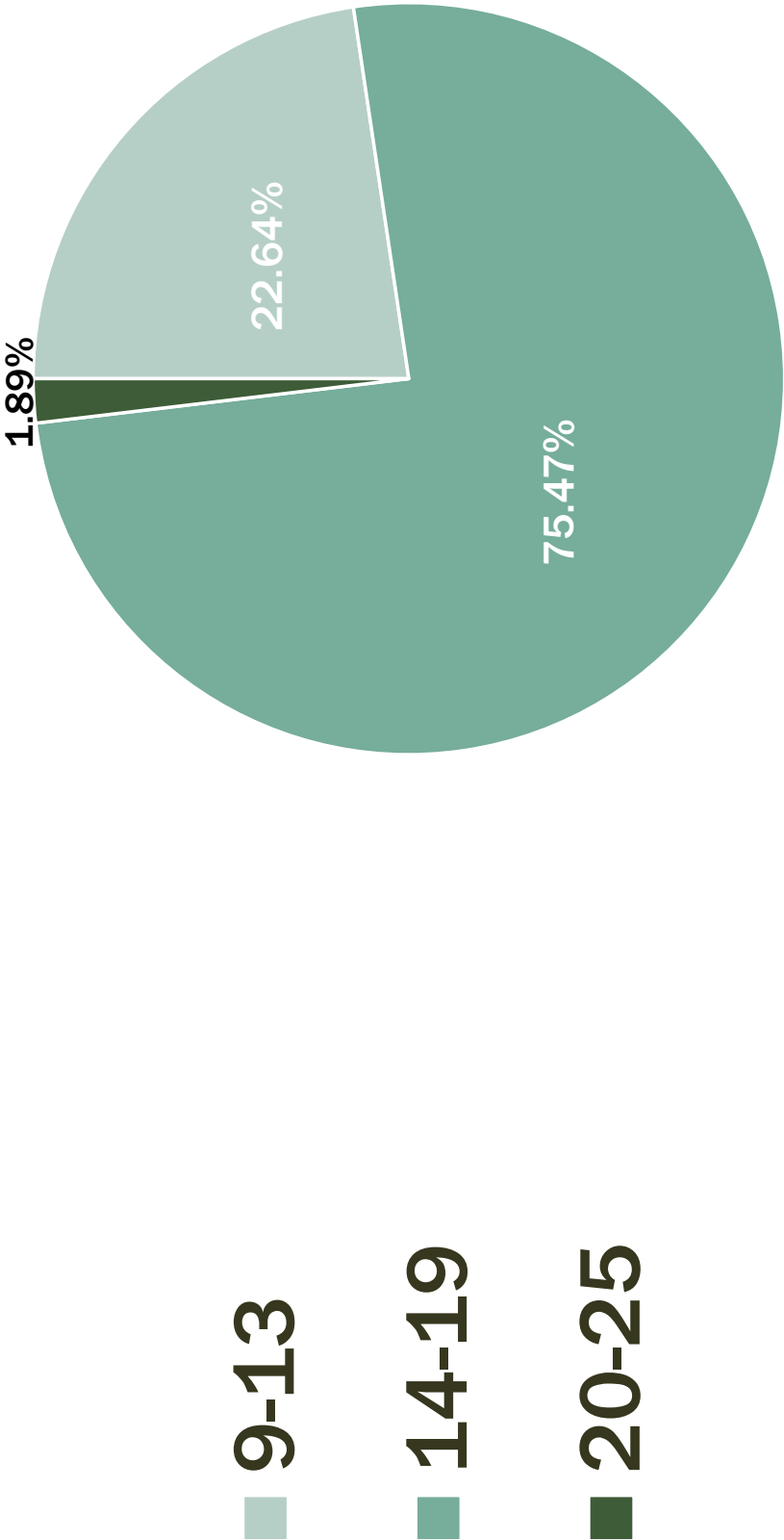


ETHNICITY



- Hispanic/Latino
- African American
- Caucasian
- Asian

AGE



QUESTION #7:

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN IMPACTED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM?

1-2: 42.59%
3-4: 16.67%
5+: 40.74

QUESTION #8:

DURING THE TIME OF INCARCERATION/IMPACTED BY JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, DID YOU FEEL SAFE IN THE FACILITY?

YES: 85.19%
NO: 14.81%

QUESTION #9:

DURING THE TIME OF INCARCERATION/IMPACTED BY JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, DID YOU HAVE ANYONE TO GO TO IF IT FELT UNSAFE?

YES: 90.74%
NO: 9.26%



QUESTION #11:
DURING THE TIME OF INCARCERATION/IMPACTED BY JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, WERE THE PROBATION STAFF WORKING IN THE HOUSING UNITS APPROACHABLE?

YES: 88.89%
NO: 11.11%

QUESTION #12:
DURING THE TIME OF INCARCERATION /IMPACTED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, DID YOU FEEL LIKE THE STAFF TREATED YOU WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT?

YES: 92.59%
NO: 7.41%

QUESTION #15:
DURING THE TIME OF INCARCERATION/IMPACTED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, WERE YOU PARTICIPATING IN SERVICES THAT THE FAMILY WAS INFORMED ABOUT?

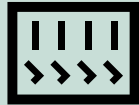
YES: 48.15%
NO: 5.56%
NOT SURE: 46.30%

YOUTH FEEDBACK



- “It has been getting better, every time I come back more services”
- “My time here has been alright, and I’ve got offered a lot of help”
- “Get closer to the kids and young men. Some of us are good people and deserve a chance”
- “Have staff influence you to do good”
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BARRIERS



Limited time to conduct the survey



Gaining access to some of the facilities presented a challenge



Parent Participation: Some parents were not receptive even though they were offered incentives

RECOMMENDATIONS

BASED ON THE FEEDBACK OF THE YOUTH, WE RECOMMEND:

1. Developing a first-time offender diversion program. We have seen a high number of first and second-time offenders
2. Making correctional facilities feel more homely
3. Providing better quality food and more snacks!
4. Involving families in the services that the youth will receive
5. Helping to decrease the stigma surrounding receiving mental health services