

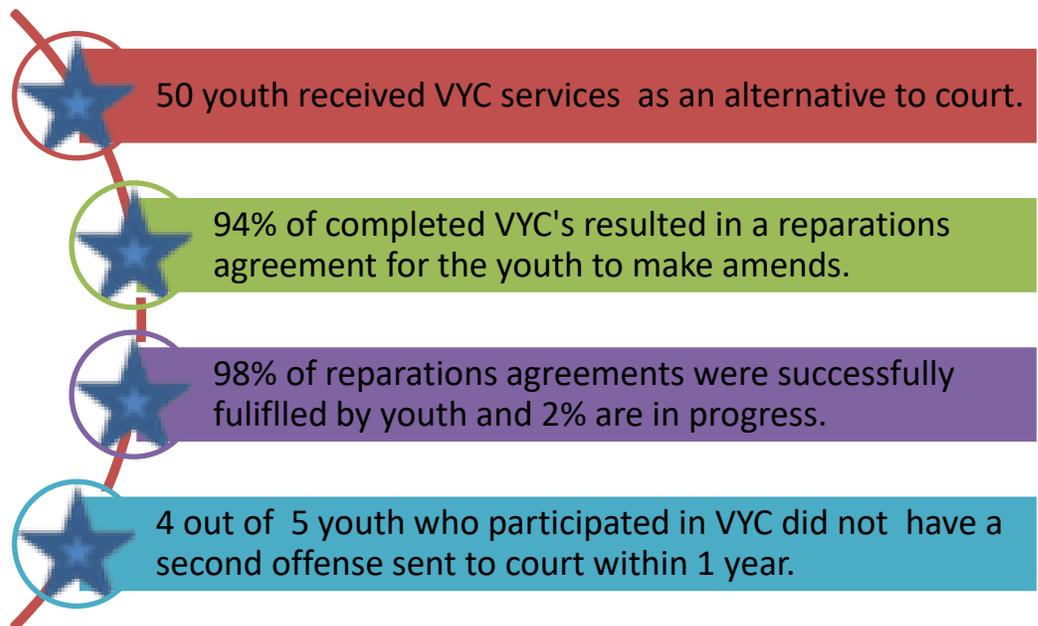
Project Restore Gives Youth a Second Chance

Operating since November of 2015, Project Restore has provided an alternative for youth who have committed an offense in a Lincoln middle or high school to make amends to their victims and families outside of the court system.

Youth are referred to The Mediation Center by Lincoln Public Schools via the County Attorney, which gives youth the choice to participate in victim youth conferencing (also known as victim offender mediation) as a means to be accountable for their actions. Victims are also given the choice to meet face to face with the youth who caused them harm, and if they choose not, a community surrogate attends the conference in their place. Once the mediation conference has been held and restitution has been completed, the youth's offense is dismissed.

Project Restore Victim Youth Conferencing Outcomes

November 2015 to
June 2017



The main objective is to intervene early when youth make mistakes, so they stay out of the court system. In addition to providing the youthful offender with a process that encourages them to take steps towards feeling reinstated as a respected member of the school community, Project Restore as an early intervention also has the potential to positively affect the graduation rate of youth offenders.

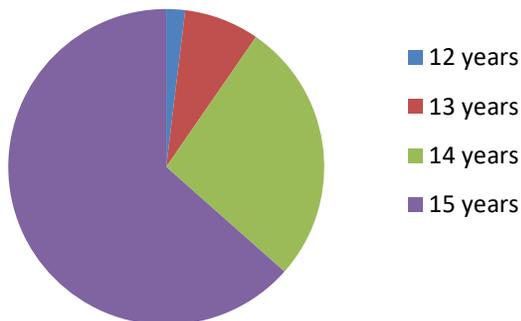
- Read the Lincoln Journal Star news article about Project Restore: [Project helps young people find solutions to keep them out of court system](#)
- Read the Lincoln Journal Star editorial applauding the program's initial success: [Editorial, 5/26: Promising pilot merits closer look](#)

Project Restore is a collaborative partnership of The Mediation Center, Lincoln Public Schools, Lancaster County Attorney's Office, Lincoln Police Department and Lancaster County Department of Human Services. For more information, contact The Mediation Center at 402-441-5740.

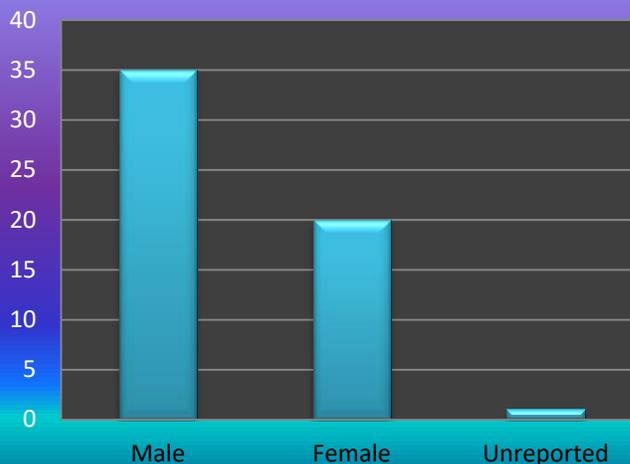
Made possible with funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission

Project Restore at a Glance

Age of Youth when referred to Project Restore



Gender of Youth



Length of time from youth referral to the completion of the Victim Youth Conference

The goal is to intervene and respond quickly so youth have the chance to repair harm and stay involved in the school learning community. All cases had completed VYC's within 7 weeks.

57% of youth referred participated in VYC within 2 weeks

An additional 36% of youth referred participated in VYC within 3-4 weeks

The remaining 7% of youth referred had VYC within 5-7 weeks

Who was the victim?



100% of youth and their parents who completed an evaluation survey expressed being satisfied or extremely satisfied with the Victim Youth Conference.

Some of their comments:

"It makes you really think about what you could have done different."

"It helps kids understand and better get them on the right path."

"There was great comfort in communicating with the mediation team. I feel this is something that would have great success for anyone ... I would recommend to others."



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