



# Reengaging San Diego's Opportunity Youth:

**SAN DIEGO YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PATHWAYS  
INITIATIVE (PATHWAYS) REENGAGEMENT PILOT  
PROGRAM SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT**

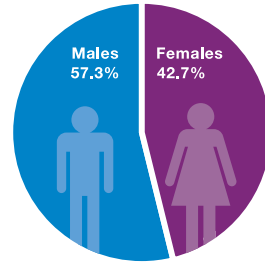
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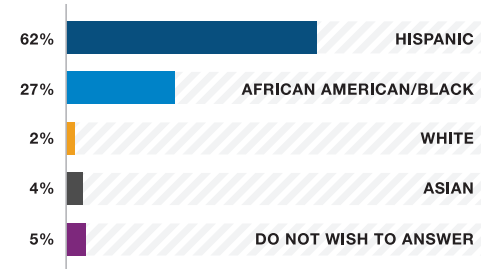
The focus of the PATHWAYS Reengagement Pilot program was on Opportunity Youth (OY) who were at risk of dropping out of high school (or have dropped out) or are generally disconnected from education and employment. There were two groups of OY participating in the Reengagement Pilot program those who were in high school [at severe risk of dropping out] and out-of-school.

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**  
(n=232)



Age ranges: 16 to 21 years old  
In-School Youth: 155  
(104 part of SDUSD Check & Connect Program)

**RACE & ETHNICITY**



Median Age: 18.4 years old  
Out-of-School Youth: 77

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

**CHECK & CONNECT MENTORING (HS STUDENTS ONLY)**

- > Relationships based on mutual trust & open communication
- > Monitor attendance, grades, behavior & connect students to data-based interventions
- > Problem Solving and Capacity Building
- > Persistent motivation, familiarity with youth and family
- > Consistent message that education is important for the future

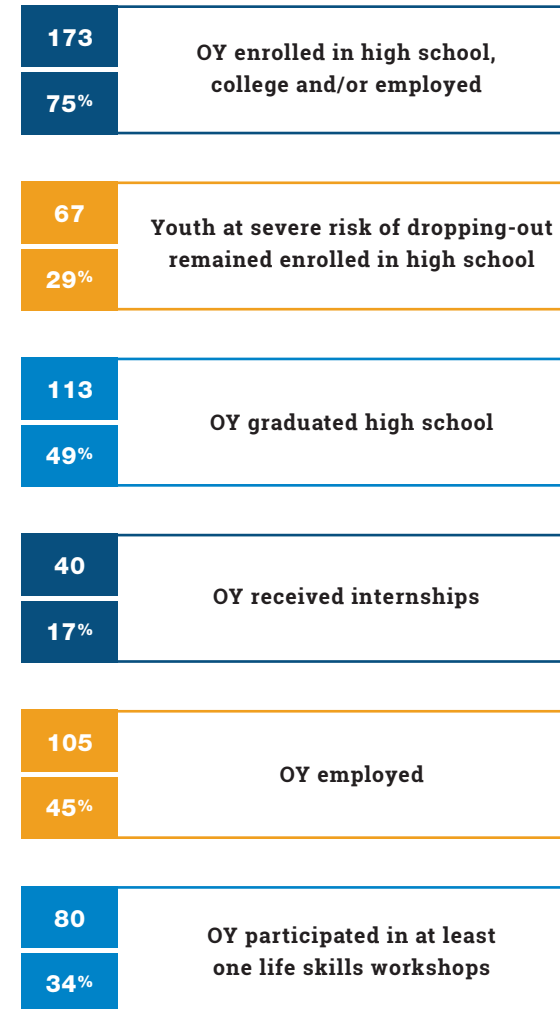
**CASE MANAGEMENT (ALL OY)**

- > Educational support (K-12 & post-secondary)
- > Career planning
- > Workforce training, internships & apprenticeships, and employment services
- > Comprehensive life skills, financial literacy & engagement activities
- > Social Supports

**RESULTS**

OY enrolled in the PATHWAYS Reengagement Pilot Program were 10% more likely to remain in school than students who didn't receive reengagement services.

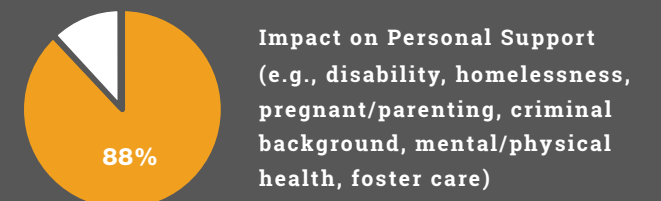
**OVERALL OUTCOMES [BY THE NUMBERS]**



**OY SURVEY RESULTS**

74 OY (32%) participants provided information on the impact of the reengagement pilot program.

**% OF POSITIVE OR GREAT POSITIVE IMPACT**



**THEORY OF CHANGE MODEL**

**Assessment**  
- Skill Level  
- Interest (what do you want to be?)  
- Need (e.g. housing, job, behavioral health, etc.)

Centralized Data Pool

**Earn**  
- Job readiness  
- Sector-based employment

**Learn**  
- Tutoring  
- Credit retrieval/recovery  
- Enriched preparation/bridge programming  
- Revise sector-based plan

**Earn**  
- Sector-based employment

**Learn**  
- Apprenticeships  
- Industry certifications  
- 2 year college  
- 4 year college

**EMPLOYMENT (Results)**

- Living wage jobs  
- Careers in high demand industries  
- Industry coach

**OUTREACH & RE-ENGAGEMENT (Hope & Interest)**

**Planning**  
- Develop plan to meet youth's skills, interests and needs  
- Identify best school option (comprehensive, alternative, charter, etc.)  
- Sector-based employment plan

**EDUCATIONAL MOMENTUM (Initial Success)**

**Support**  
- Life coach support  
- Student educational plan (revising as needed)  
- Peer support

**Stabilize**  
- Case Management  
- Housing, basic needs, behavioral health, etc.

**CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALING (Experience & Confidence)**

**Support**  
- Life coach support  
- Certification/Career planning  
- Peer support

**Stabilize**  
- Case Management  
- Housing, basic needs, behavioral health, etc.

## LESSONS LEARNED

**LESSON 1:** When a collaborative creates a reengagement project, it needs to remain involved throughout the duration of the program to ensure program integrity.

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**LESSON 2:** Account for limitations and restrictions that are placed on services when braiding public funding streams.

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**LESSON 3:** Service providers' Federal contracting and financial management experience is critical to the success of reengagement programming. This is evidenced through administrative capacity and management expertise due to the complexity of Federal contract administration.

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**LESSON 4:** Service providers must have management staff with strong leadership capabilities.

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**LESSON 5:** With a focus on individual goals, challenges, and barriers – reengagement success is dependent upon connecting, engaging and building trust with OY and their families.

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**LESSON 6:** Case managers should be involved in the reengagement program planning phase. The reengagement program must include opportunities for programmatic adjustments during implementation as needed.

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**LESSON 7:** Start with a small reengagement program or services and scale up over time. Integrate incremental outcomes and data tracking early in the process to demonstrate impact.

FOR THE FULL EVALUATION REPORT GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SANDIEGOYDO.ORG](http://www.sandiegoydo.org)



RESEARCH & EVALUATION BY:

