

# **St. Clair County**



*A Project of the St. Clair County Juvenile Justice Council*

## **Peer Jury Cases**

*July 2022 - June 2023*

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## **Teen Court Overview**

The St. Clair County Teen Court serves as an alternative approach to juvenile justice that holds first-time, non-violent youth accountable for their actions through remedies imposed by their peers and restorative justice conferencing participants. The program emphasizes accountability and responsibility instead of applying traditional punitive measures, thereby focusing on balanced and restorative justice which is the policy statement of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act.

Through this restorative approach, special emphasis is placed on restoring individuals who have been harmed, the respondent who caused the harm, and taking steps toward broader community healing. As respondents assume responsibility for their actions, and through successful completion of their remedies, those cases will not be charged in juvenile court.

Our youth respondents have more opportunities to access housing, higher education, enlist into the armed forces, and other desirable career options as they successfully transition into adulthood. Each respondent is given (90) days to complete their restorative justice remedies to prevent the case from being returned to the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office for prosecution. Teen Court is a collaborative effort administered by the St. Clair County Juvenile Justice Council in cooperation with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office, the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, and the St. Clair County Regional Office of Education.

In this report, you will learn how Teen Court continues to meet the needs of young people as we are recovering from a global pandemic. Over the past few years, we placed special emphasis on supporting the mental health and social-emotional needs of our youth, volunteers, and staff.

### **We Appreciate the Generosity of These Champions of Youth**

Ameren Illinois  
Belleville Boot Company  
Illinois American Water  
Illinois State Police  
Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard  
Southern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (SILEC)  
Southern Illinois Police Chief's Association (SIPCA)  
St. Clair County Regional Office of Education  
St. Clair County Sheriff's Department  
St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office  
Teen Court Peer Jurors and Volunteers

## **Program Highlights**

### **Teen Court Presented with the Unit Award**

In January, the Teen Court program was awarded the [2023 Unit Award](#) by the Southern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and Southern Illinois Police Chief's Association. Teen Court was recognized for our restorative justice and community response efforts by our law enforcement partners.

### **Teen Court Annual Peer Juror Training**

We partnered with Hoyleton Youth and Family Services to host (2) Human Trafficking Trainings for our peer jurors, volunteers, and staff. Over (40) participants learned about warning signs, vulnerabilities, and accessing community resources.

### **Restorative Justice Training for Community Partners**

Our Teen Court Director facilitated Restorative Justice training sessions for School Resource Officers (SROs) and juvenile justice personnel. The training was developed to help our partners embed restorative approaches in schools and detention center operations.

### **Illinois State Police Summer Youth Camp**

For the second year in a row, Teen Court has referred youth respondents to the Illinois State Police Summer Youth Camp. This is a newer remedy and the camp reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic. The camp runs for an entire week at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. Youth respondents learn about nature, building friendships, becoming leaders, and teamwork.

### **New Partnership**

Teen Court formed a new partnership with Linc, Inc. (Living Independently Now Center of Southern Illinois) to serve our respondents with remedy support and community services opportunities. LINC, Inc. provides services for individuals with disabilities in education, advocacy, and independent living.

## **The Benefits of Implementing a Restorative Justice-Based Diversion Program**

### **Teen Court benefits Youth Respondents by:**

- Providing each young person with an opportunity to recognize the consequences of his/her behavior, actions and to make conscience decisions for correction and improvement.
- Allowing each young person to be held responsible and provided with a second chance to pursue future goals and aspirations.
- Granting each young person with an opportunity to repair harm to restore self, victim(s), and community.
- Diverting youth through early interventions and restorative support, the program assists with rebuilding the whole person.
- Connecting youth to community service opportunities in partnership with area businesses and nonprofits. Youth are paired with a mentor, most often an off-duty sheriff's deputy to reinforce restorative justice principles highlighted in Teen Court sessions.

### **Teen Court benefits the Peer Jurors by:**

- Giving them an opportunity to develop a sense of empathy and compassion as they interact with other young people from different racial/ethnic groups, socio-economic status, and communities.
- Increasing their knowledge, skills, and abilities: civic/community engagement, youth leadership, critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and social skills.
- Allowing jurors to be “change agents” within their schools and community by setting a positive example for other young people to consider.
- Preparing jurors for real life experiences.

### **Teen Court benefits the Community by:**

- Serving as an early intervention and prevention program.
- Promoting the principles of Restorative Justice and Trauma-Informed Care.
- Connecting respondents to community-based resources and services to impact positive youth development outcomes.
- Educating youth about the legal system.
- Encouraging civic engagement and responsibility.
- Supporting a reduction in recidivism while improving youth development outcomes.

## Teen Court Program History

### Program Year 1: December 2014 – June 2015

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>24 Respondents</b>
Successful Completions	12 Graduates

### Program Year 2: July 2015 – June 2016

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>38 Respondents</b>
Successful Completions	35 Graduates

### Program Year 3: July 2016 – June 2017

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>56 Respondents</b>
Successful Completions	41 Graduates

### Program Year 4: July 2017 - June 2018

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>39 Respondents</b>
<b>TOTAL Declined</b>	<b>21 Failed to Respond</b>
Successful Completions	38 Graduates

### Program Year 5: July 2018 - June 2019

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>34 Respondents</b>
<b>TOTAL Declined</b>	<b>15 Failed to Respond</b>
Successful Completions	36 Graduates

### Program Year 6: July 2019 - June 2020

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>27 Respondents</b>
<b>TOTAL Declined</b>	<b>10 Failed to Respond</b>
Successful Completions	32 Graduates

### Program Year 7: July 2020 – June 2021

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>13 Respondents</b>
Successful Completions	12 Graduates

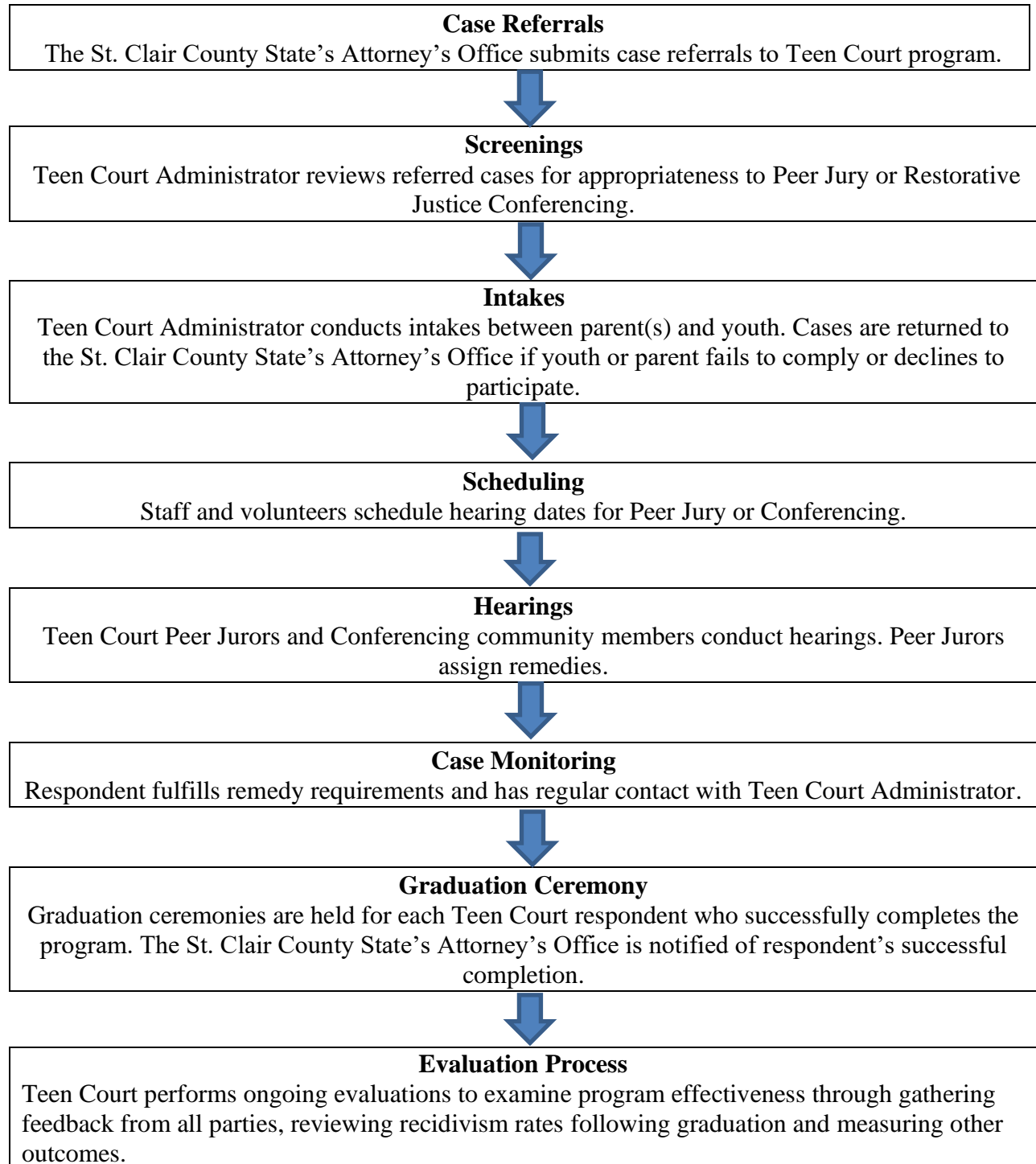
### Program Year 8: July 2021 – June 2022

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>17 Respondents</b>
<b>TOTAL Declined</b>	<b>7 Failed to Respond</b>
Successful Completions	14 Graduates

### Program Year 9: July 2022 – June 2023

<b>TOTAL Participants</b>	<b>23 Respondents</b>
<b>TOTAL Declined</b>	<b>7 Failed to Respond</b>
Successful Completions	21 Graduates

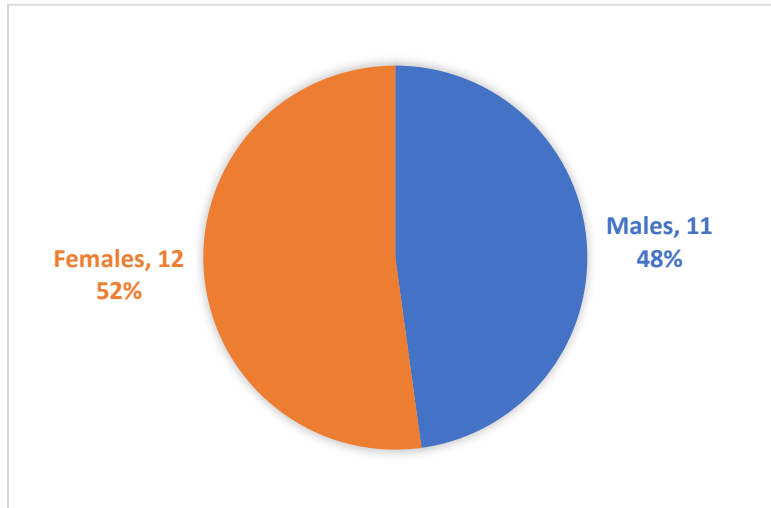
## St. Clair County Teen Court Process



**Annual Summary Information  
July 2022 – June 2023**

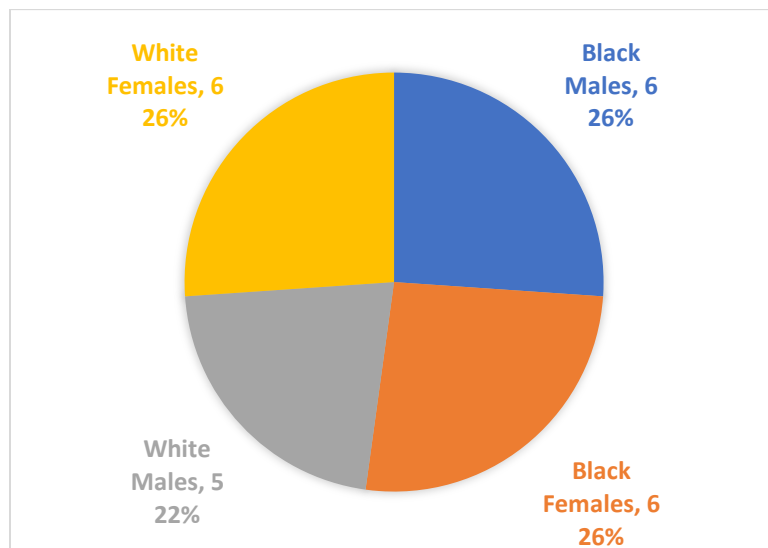
The chart below provides a breakdown of each respondent’s gender appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

**Figure 1. Respondents by Gender**



The chart below provides a breakdown of each respondent’s race and gender appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

**Figure 2. Respondents by Race and Gender**





### Respondents by Race, Gender, and Age

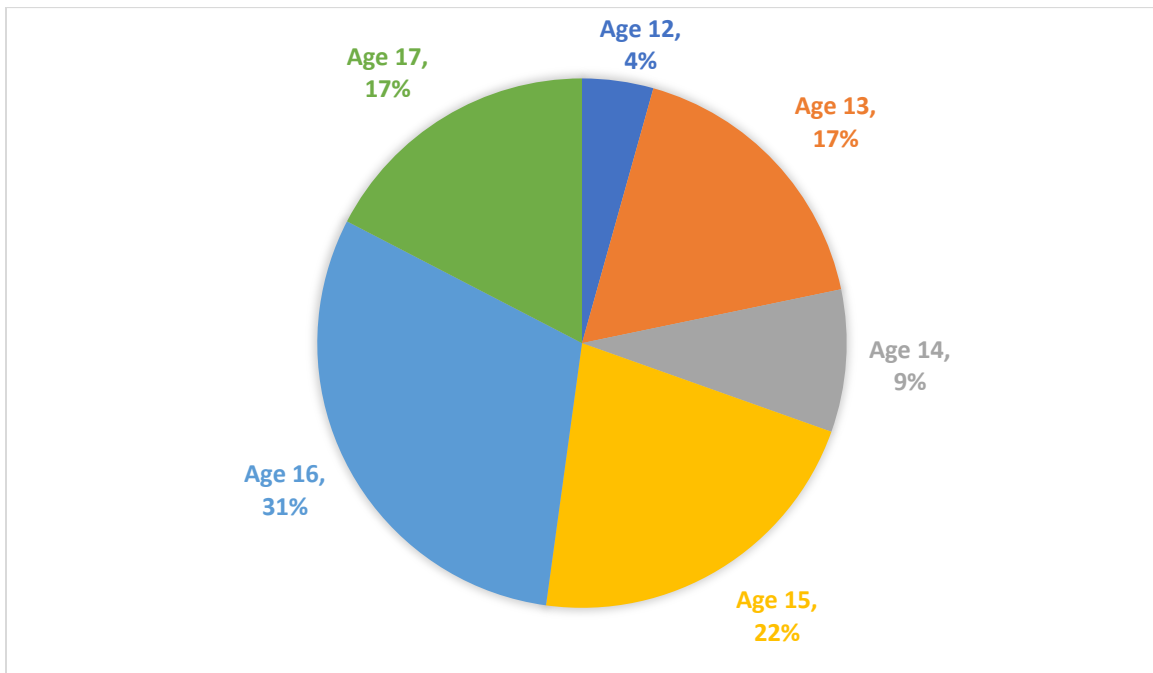
The chart below provides a breakdown of each respondent’s race and gender appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

**Figure 3. Respondents by Race and Gender**

Race	Male	Female	Total
Black	6	6	12
White	5	6	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>

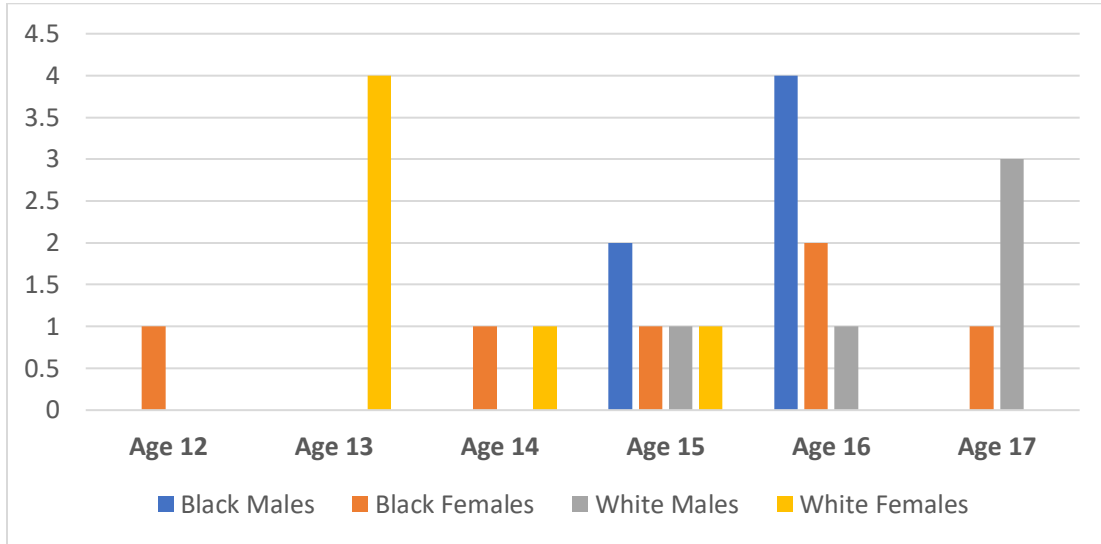
The chart below provides a breakdown of each respondent’s age appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

**Figure 4. Respondents by Age (Total) and Percentage**



The chart below provides a breakdown of each respondent’s gender, race, and age appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

**Figure 5. Respondents by Gender, Race, and Age**



**Respondents by School**

The chart below provides a breakdown of schools attended by each respondent appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

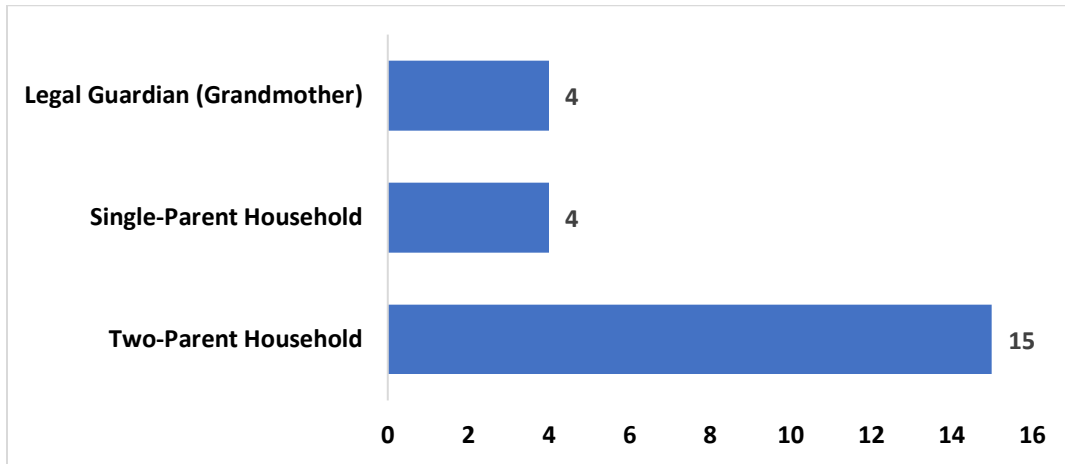
**Figure 6. Respondents by Schools**

Schools	Number of Students Attending
Belleville East High School	1
Belleville West High School	3
Collinsville High School	1
Dupo Jr./High School	3
East St. Louis Sr. High School	1
Freeburg High School	1
Grant Middle School	4
Marissa High School	1
Mascoutah High School	2
Menta Academy Belleville	1
O’Fallon Township High School	1
Perando Special Education District – Red Bud	1
St. Clair County Regional Office Safe School	1
Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC)	1
No longer attending school	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

## Household Status

The chart below provides a breakdown of each respondent's family status appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

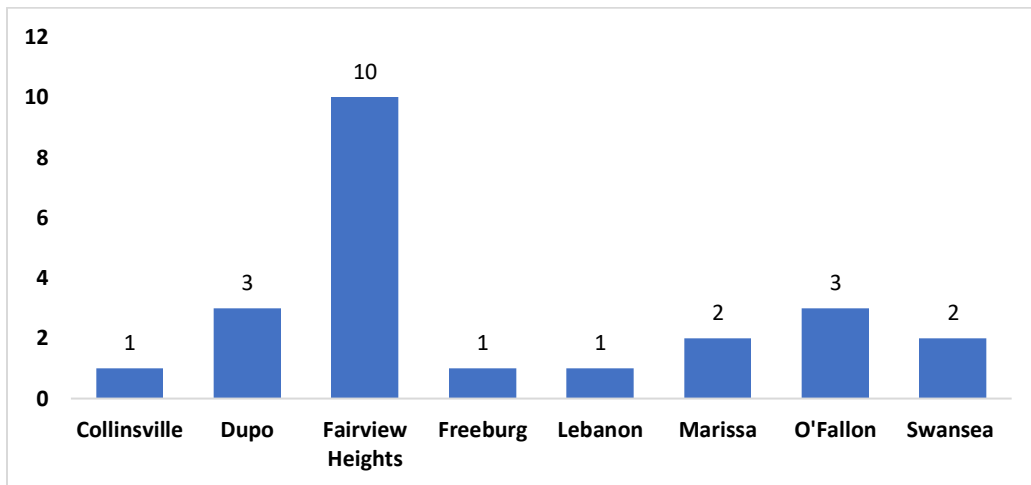
**Figure 7. Respondents by Household**



## Referring Police Departments

The chart below provides a breakdown of each police department referring cases to Teen Court during July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

**Figure 8. Referring Police Departments**



**Please note:** A large shopping center with many retail stores is in Fairview Heights, IL which explains the high number of referrals related to theft and retail theft in comparison to other police departments.

## Offenses Committed

The chart below provides a breakdown of all offenses committed by respondents appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year.

**Figure 9.** *Offenses Committed*

Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon	1
Alcohol Consumed by Minor, Alcohol Possessed by Minor and Illegal Possession of Alcohol by a Minor	5
Criminal Damage to Property	1
Criminal Trespass to Safe School Zone	2
Curfew Violation	1
Disorderly Conduct	1
Fleeing & Eluding a Peace Officer	1
Operating Motor Vehicle without Proper Identification	1
Possession of Cannabis	2
Possession of Controlled Substance	1
Retail Theft Under \$300	11
Theft Over \$500	1
Unlawful Possession of Cannabis	1
Unlawful Possession of Firearm	1

*\*Some respondents committed more than one offense.*

## Offenses by Race and Gender

The chart below provides a breakdown of all offenses committed by respondents appearing before Teen Court during the July 2022 – June 2023 program year. Some respondents committed more than one offense.

**Figure 10. Offense Chart by Race and Gender**

Offense Type	Black Males	Black Females	White Males	White Females	Total
Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon			1		1
Alcohol Consumed by Minor, Alcohol Possessed by Minor, Illegal Possession of Alcohol by a Minor		1	3		4
Criminal Damage to Property		1			1
Criminal Trespass to Safe School Zone				2	2
Curfew Violation	1				1
Disorderly Conduct	1				1
Fleeing & Eluding a Peace Officer	1				1
Operating Motor Vehicle without Proper Identification	1				1
Possession of Cannabis	1		1		2
Possession of Controlled Substance		1			1
Retail Theft Under \$300	2	4	1	4	11
Theft Under \$500	1				1
Unlawful Possession of Cannabis				1	1
Unlawful Possession of Firearm			1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>

## Teen Court Cases, Offense Type, Race, Gender, Age, and Referring Police Departments

The chart below provides a breakdown of all Teen Court cases heard, offense type, race, gender, age, and referring police departments.

**Figure 11.** *Cases, Offenses, Race, Gender, Age and Referring Police Departments*

**1 Case of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Unlawful Possession of Firearm**

White Male, Age 17 – Freeburg Police Department

**1 Case of Alcohol Consumed by a Minor, Alcohol Possessed by a Minor, Retail Theft Under \$300**

White Male, Age 17 – O’Fallon Police Department

**1 Case of Alcohol Possessed by a Minor**

White Male, Age 17 – Lebanon Police Department

**1 Case of Criminal Damage to Property**

Black Female, Age 12 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Criminal Trespass to Safe School Zone**

White Female, Age 13 – Dupo Police Department

**1 Case of Criminal Trespass to Safe School Zone**

White Female, Age 13 – Dupo Police Department

**1 Case of Curfew Violation, Fleeing & Eluding Peace Officer, Operating Vehicle with Proper Identification**

Black Male, Age 15 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Disorderly Conduct**

Black Male, Age 16 – O’Fallon Police Department

**1 Case Illegal Possession of Alcohol by Minor**

White Male, Age 16 – O’Fallon Police Department

**1 Case of Possession of Cannabis**

Black Male, Age 16 – Dupo Police Department

**1 Case of Possession of Cannabis**

White Male, Age 15 – Marissa Police Department

**1 Case of Possession of Controlled Substance**

Black Female, Age 17 – Swansea Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft**

White Female, Age 13 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis**

White Female, Age 13 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft**

White Female, Age 14 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft**

Black Female, Age 14 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft**

Black Female, Age 15 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft Under \$300**

White Female, Age 15 – Marissa Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft Under \$300**

Black Male, Age 16 – Swansea Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft**

Black Female, Age 16 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft Under \$300 and Possession of Alcohol by a Minor**

Black Female, Age 16 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Retail Theft Under \$300**

Black Male, Age 15 – Fairview Heights Police Department

**1 Case of Theft Over \$500**

Black Male, Age 16 – Collinsville Police Department

## **Teen Court Restorative Justice Remedies**

### **Community Service Hours**

During this program year, Teen Court partnered with LINC, Inc., Belleville Shelter Shop, R3 Construction, the Humane Society of Sparta, and St. Vincent DePaul to connect our respondents with community service opportunities. This includes stocking shelves, rehabbing houses, yardwork, caring for animals, and so much more.

### **Counseling to Approved Alcohol Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Meetings**

Teen Court respondents who disclose or may be at risk of substance use may be ordered to attend a teen-friendly AA or NA meeting in St. Clair County. The Teen Court administrator coordinates the meeting dates and times with the respondent and parents to ensure that an adult connected to the young person will be present to sit with the respondent for support. During this program year, we referred respondents to the following agencies:

- Chestnut Health Systems
- St. John's United Church of Christ – Fairview Heights

### **Essays**

Teen Court respondents are assigned to write an essay as part of the remedies. The Peer Jury determines the topic to support respondents along their healing journey. Respondents typically write about the importance of navigating peer pressure, making healthy decisions, leadership development, managing conflict, and repairing relationships.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Teen Court respondents are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities to enhance their academic, recreational, and prosocial connections within schools and communities.

### **Individual & Family Counseling Referrals**

Teen Court connects youth with school and community-based counseling services to improve our respondent's mental and social-emotional needs. Services are also coordinated to address family counseling needs with area providers to address trauma, grief, mental health, housing instability, suicidal ideation, and other counseling needs. This year, Teen Court made referrals to the following agencies:

- Big Brother Big Sister
- Chestnut Health Systems, Mental Health Juvenile Justice (MHJJ)
- Heartlinks Grief Counseling
- School-Based Counseling Programs (area high schools)

### **Interviews**

Teen Court respondents conduct interviews with local professionals and mentors to learn about certification and education requirements to achieve their career goals. Through this remedy, respondents have interviewed military personnel, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, and truck drivers. This remedy also includes residents housed at the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department to speak with respondents for diversion purposes. The residents also share lived experiences about their struggles with substance abuse, family issues, peer pressure, and making



wise decisions. The residents from the county jail try to encourage our respondents to get on the right path and avoid incarceration and further contact with the legal system.

### **Letter of Apology**

The letter of apology provides our respondents with an opportunity to work toward correcting the harm imposed by their actions and offenses. The remedy also helps our respondents work towards repairing broken relationships. Letters of apology are usually written to our respondent's parents, siblings, teachers, business owners, and peers.

### **Serving on the Teen Court Peer Jury**

Youth respondents may be recommended and requested to serve as a peer juror during an upcoming Teen Court session. The respondents serving on the peer jury have a role in determining the appropriate remedies for other respondents appearing before the Teen Court on the date required for juror services.

### **Teen Strong**

During this program year, our Teen Strong program has been reinstated following the COVID-19 pandemic. We partner with the Gateway YMCA-East Belleville and Scott Air Force Base 375<sup>th</sup> Security Forces to connect with our respondents and peer jurors. Teen Strong provides respondents with an opportunity to receive mentoring, coaching, and recreational activities to promote wellness.

### **Verbal Apology**

The peer jury may request Teen Court respondents to openly apologize to another person during a court proceeding. The verbal apology, like the letter of apology allows the respondent to take responsibility for their actions. This is another way to mitigate harm and moving parties involved toward healing.

### **Vision Board**

A vision board is a visual art project completed by Teen Court respondents. Through this remedy, respondents use visual images of pictures, quotes, and words of encouragement, and goal setting. The creation of vision boards gives respondents an opportunity to create poetry, art, music, and other creative ideas. A past respondent used the vision board remedy to create a business plan for starting a coffee shop.

**Teen Court Remedies Assigned during the July 2022 – June 2023 Program Year**

<b>Remedies Category</b>	<b>Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Remedies Assigned by Peer Jurors</b>
<b>Community Service</b>	7	Teen Court respondents were assigned to complete (46) hours of community service at area establishments.
<b>Counseling Referrals</b>	17	Our respondents were referred to various school and community-based agencies for counseling to address mental health, grief, crisis, and substance use needs. Services have also been extended to parents and caregivers to increase healing and recovery outcomes.
<b>Essays</b>	5	Teen Court respondents were given essay writing assignments to help with self-reflection and setting goals.
<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	16	Our respondents were connected to a variety of extracurricular activities. This includes writing a weekly journal, joining a sports league, enrolling into after school and high school equivalency programs.
<b>Illinois State Police Summer Camp</b>	3	The summer camp provides our youth respondents with an opportunity to build leadership skills, create friendships, and explore nature.
<b>Interviews</b>	4	Teen Court respondents conducted interviews with residents housed at the county jail and other community members to support positive youth outcomes.
<b>Letter of Apology</b>	19	Teen Court respondents are given an opportunity to repair harm caused to members of the community by writing letters of apology. A total of (19) letters have been written to family members, school personnel, business owners and other peers to repair harm.
<b>Serving on the Teen Court Peer Jury</b>	6	Teen Strong respondents are oftentimes selected to serve on the Peer Jury. This process allows respondents to experience Teen Court by learning more about the process, assigning remedies, and building connections with other jurors.
<b>Teen Strong</b>	4	Our partnership with the YMCA – East Belleville provides respondents with an opportunity to work as a group, build

		prosocial skills and get involved with physical activities to improve their well-being.
<b>Verbal Apology</b>	5	Teen Court respondents verbally apologized to family members and peers to regain trust and heal broken relationships. This remedy teaches respondents about self-accountability and repairing harm.
<b>Vision Board</b>	9	Teen Court respondents developed vision boards to focus on their future goals and aspirations. During graduation ceremonies, respondents typically present their vision boards by displaying artwork, poetry, inspirational quotes, music, and other creative outlets.
<b>Total Number of Remedies Assigned</b>	95	

**Teen Court Recidivism Log**  
Program Year July 2022 – June 2023

**Three Months Post – Graduation**

**3/241 graduates committed a new offense at any point within 3 months of exiting the program, for an approximate 1.2% recidivism rate at the 3-month point, based on locally available data.** This meets our goal of less than 10% recidivism rate among graduates.

This includes youth who committed the offenses described above as well as the following:

**Youth 1:** Committed offense of Unlawful Possession with Intent to Deliver Cannabis

**Outcome:** Youth received juvenile court supervision

**Youth 2:** Committed offense of Residential Burglary, Theft Under \$500 and Criminal Trespass to State Supported Property

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Youth 3:** Committed offense of Criminal Sexual Assault

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Six Months Post - Graduation**

**10/227 graduates committed a new offense at any point within 6 months of exiting the program, for an approximate 4.4% recidivism rate at the 6-month point, based on the locally and available data.** This meets our goal of less than 10% recidivism rate among graduates.

This includes youth who committed the offenses described above as well as the following:

**Youth 4:** Committed offenses of Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Youth 5:** Committed offenses of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of Cannabis

**Outcome:** Youth successfully completed community service and drug prevention classes in exchange for a dismissal of charges.

**Youth 6:** Committed numerous offenses including: Burglary, Possession of Alcohol by Minor, Burglary, Mob Action, Criminal Damage to Government Supported Property, Theft Under \$500, Criminal Damage to Property, Criminal Damage to Property, Retail Theft, Theft from a Person, and Aggravated Battery

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Youth 7:** Committed offenses of Leaving the Scene and Theft from a Person

**Outcome:** Youth received juvenile court supervision.

**Youth 8:** Committed offenses of Unlawful Possession of Cannabis and Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

**Outcome:** Youth successfully completed supervised supervision and received credit for employment.

**Youth 9:** Committed offense of Retail Theft Over \$300

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Youth 10:** Committed offenses of Aggravated Battery and Criminal Trespass

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Youth 11:** Committed offenses of Aggravated Battery/Mob Action

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Youth 12:** Committed offenses of Aggravated Battery

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

### **One Year Post – Graduation**

**13/226 graduates committed a new offense at any point within the first 12 months of exiting the program, for an approximate 5.8% recidivism rate at the 12-month point, based on locally available data.** This meets our goal of less than 10% recidivism rate among graduates.

This data includes youth who committed the offenses described above as well as the following:

**Youth 13:** Committed offense of Possession of Cannabis

**Outcome:** Youth received alternative disposition of Risk Education classes.

**Youth 14:** Committed two unrelated series of offenses including Aggravated Vehicular Hijacking, Aggravated Battery, Aggravated Fleeing, Eluding a Police Officer, and Attempted Residential Burglary

**Outcome:** Youth was committed to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Youth 15:** Committed offenses of Aggravated Fleeing, Attempting to Elude Police, Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Youth 16:** Committed offense of Unlawful Possession of Cannabis

**Outcome:** Youth successfully completed community service.

**Youth 17:** Committed offense of Retail Theft Under \$300

**Outcome:** Youth successfully completed Supervised Supervision and Community Services

**Youth 18:** Committed offenses of Aggravated Battery and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Youth 19:** Committed offense of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm

**Outcome:** Youth received juvenile court supervision.

**Youth 20:** Committed offense of Deer Hunting Violation

**Outcome:** Youth received active supervision.

**Youth 21:** Committed offense of Disorderly Conduct

**Outcome:** Youth received community service.

**Youth 22:** Committed offense of Disorderly Conduct

**Outcome:** Youth received court supervision.

**Youth 23:** Committed offense of Attempted Aggravated Robbery

**Outcome:** Youth was adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to juvenile probation.

**Please note:** Some youth in this recidivism check along the 3 months, 6 months, and one-year intervals committed multiple offenses.

### **Three Year Post-Graduation**

**Since Teen Court's inception, 198 graduated 3 or more years ago; of those 198, 17 youth reoffended at some point in that 3-year period.**

To ensure our Teen Court program is effective and improving life outcomes for youth, we will continue to do the following:

- For continuous improvement, we will examine reports, remedies, stakeholder engagement, and program operations to maintain trust and ongoing support.
- Recruit Peer Jurors and volunteers of various backgrounds and lived experiences to promote fairness and equity throughout the program.
- Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R/ED) data will be reviewed and communicated with the St. Clair County Juvenile Justice Council, law enforcement, and other partners to build solutions and make recommendations.
- Maintain partnership with our local police chiefs to increase the number of Teen Court referrals to reduce the number of ordinance violations, citations, and unnecessary youth arrests.
- Build the community's capacity by providing training focusing on Restorative Justice implementation within schools and programs (i.e., School Resource Office and detention center personnel).
- We will continue connecting youth and families to community resources to address counseling, trauma, youth experiencing homelessness, suicide prevention, etc.

### **Total Number of Graduates Re-Offending**

Overall, out of 241 graduates to date, (23) have committed new offenses at any point after graduation for an overall rate of 9.5%. This is lower than our desired maximum goal of 10%.

This rate includes cases where graduates were charged with an offense, (whether in criminal court, an ordinance violation, or a new juvenile delinquency allegation), and there was a finding of guilty. Pending allegations are not included in the final recidivism rate in order to avoid cases where youth may be found guilty or there is sufficient evidence to proceed with a charge.

There are limitations on the ability to check for recidivism rates, as there is limited access to juvenile arrest records overall. This is a barrier to completing a full, comprehensive criminal records check on graduates; however, all locally available records are limited in this data.

The (23) graduates captured in the overall recidivism rate are from the following communities:

- (7) Belleville
- (4) Cahokia
- (5) East St. Louis
- (1) Fairview Heights
- (1) Freeburg
- (3) O'Fallon
- (1) Shiloh
- (1) Swansea

**Teen Court Feedback**  
**Program Year July 2022 – June 2023**

“I am looking forward to attending the Illinois State Police youth camp and I enjoyed participating in Teen Strong in April.” – Teen Court Respondent

“After spending time in the R3 Construction program rehabbing houses, I am interested in owning a construction and real estate business.” – Teen Court Respondent

“This program helped me realize I’m interested in getting a CDL and owning a trucking company.” – Teen Court Respondent

“It was very therapeutic to create my vision board using paint.” – Teen Court Respondent

“Journal writing helped my daughter focus on highlighting the positive things happening in her life. My daughter has plans to become an orthopedic surgeon.” – Teen Court Parent

“Teen Court gives me the opportunity to help other young people.” – Teen Court Peer Juror