

CALGARY COMMUNITY CONFERENCING

Activities and Outputs: January 1998 – July 2000

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November, 2000

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1. Introduction: An Overview of Calgary Community Conferencing^a

Calgary Community Conferencing (CCC) is a collaboration among six organizations representing the legal and education systems and community-based nonprofit agencies. The following four organizations each second an employee to the program: Youth Probation/City of Calgary, Calgary Board of Education, Mennonite Central Committee, and Calgary John Howard Society. Calgary Police Service and Calgary Family Services provide consultation and services to the program and its participants. CCC also receives financial support from Alberta Justice, the Calgary Community Lottery Board, the Calgary Foundation, and the federal Department of Justice. An Advisory Board composed of management level representatives from each of the six partners meets monthly and assists CCC with the development of funding proposals and with navigating systemic and organizational issues. A schematic of the organizational location of CCC is presented below.

Chart 1.a. Organizational Location of Calgary Community Conferencing



In this schematic, circles represent agencies providing seconded employees while rectangles represent agencies whose contribution is through consultation and provision of services. It is important to note that CCC does not exist as an independent agency.

^a This Introduction was written with assistance from Doug Borch, CCC staff member.

CCC began in early 1998 as a project within the municipally run Youth Probation Services. Since that time, the program has evolved to include young people whose wrongdoing has not been defined as 'criminal.' While the focus remains on youth, involvement with the formal justice system is not necessary. The program also works with young people who have wronged within the school system and, occasionally, takes general community referrals. Types of wrongdoings over which Conferences have been held span a wide range, but can be generally categorized as interpersonal violence (e.g., assault, assault with a weapon, armed robbery), property related (e.g., break and enter, theft, fraud), or 'other' (mischief, trespassing). CCC's criteria for accepting referrals are that the person who wronged is facing serious court or school consequences and accepts responsibility for the wrongdoing. For court referred youth, this typically means that a guilty plea has been entered and the young person is likely facing a custodial sentence. For school referred youth, suspension is usually under consideration and the individual making the referral establishes the young person's willingness to assume responsibility for the wrongdoing. Conferencing activities proceed from the referral stage depending on the voluntary participation of both the youth and the individual(s) harmed.

Program Goals and Processes

The long-term goals of CCC include lower re-offense rates among young people who participated in Conferencing compared to those who did not, less use of extreme sanctioning measures (i.e., incarceration of court referred youth and suspension or expulsion of school referred youth) among Conferenced than non-Conferenced youth, and an enhanced sense of connection to the justice process among all participants in Conferencing. The initial and intermediate outcomes intended to lead to the achievement of these long-term objectives involve changes in all Conference participants and can be classified into four major types: the restoration of relationships to social equality, the acceptance of responsibility and accountability by the young person who wronged, a sense of closure regarding the incident among individuals affected by the wrongdoing, and a sense of involvement in the justice process among all Conference participants.

CCC facilitators do not follow a prescribed ‘script’ to accomplish the intended outcomes of the program; in fact, there is considerable variance in what occurs across Conferences as the facilitators attempt to be flexible and respond to the needs of the particular individuals involved. However, the activities of CCC staff can be loosely organized into three major stages, each associated with particular intended initial and intermediate outcomes: Pre-Conference, Conference, and Post-Conference.

Pre-Conference activities and outcomes. The intended participant outcomes of the Pre-Conference stage include developing trust in the facilitator and an understanding of the purposes and voluntary and safe nature of the Conferencing process. To accomplish these goals, the facilitator meets with each Conference participant. These meetings occur at the participant’s home or over a meal, which contributes to the development of familiarity and ease with the facilitator. The meetings typically take place in the evenings or on weekends and last approximately three hours. Depending on the situation and needs of the participants, several home visits and phone calls may precede the Conference.

With the young person who wronged, Pre-Conference visits involve ensuring that his or her reasons for wanting to meet with the person(s) who experienced harm fit with the purposes of Community Conferencing. The facilitator also works to establish a relationship with the young person. The development of this relationship with the facilitator is necessary for the young person to have confidence that the Conference will be a safe and respectful place for him or her to tell his ‘truth’ about the incident.

Pre-Conference preparation with the person(s) harmed also focuses on describing the Conference process and developing a trusting relationship with the facilitator and an understanding that Conferencing will be a safe and respectful process. These meetings allow the person(s) harmed to discuss their feelings about and since the incident. For many, the Pre-Conference meeting with a facilitator is similar to a critical incident stress debriefing, as persons harmed have rarely had anyone from the justice system inquire about the impact of the event.

During Pre-Conference meetings with the young person who harmed and the person(s) who experienced harm, each is asked about supporters they would like to have at the Conference. The presence of supporters helps avoid the idea that only ‘victims’ and ‘offenders’ are harmed by a wrongful incident. Individuals with a relationship to the young person and the person who experienced the wrong may include parents, grandparents, employers or friends. Supporters also meet with the facilitator prior to the conference to clarify its purpose and their role.

Conference activities and outcomes. The encounter component of Conferencing focuses on the goal of restoring social equality among the participants. It is hoped that the Pre-Conference work has laid the groundwork for a situation in which all participants feel supported by the facilitator and the others they have asked to accompany them and so are able to safely and truthfully voice their perspectives. Intended outcomes toward the goal of restoring social equality include, for the young person, developing an understanding of the impact of his or her actions and empathy for the person(s) harmed. He or she is also intended to experience remorse for the wrongdoing and to have an increased awareness of support from family and/or other participants. It is hoped that the person(s) harmed will experience acknowledgement of the impact of the incident. Relationships among the involved participants are intended to change from incident based to more complex and multidimensional.

During the Conference, facilitators use structure to ensure the safety of all participants and enhance the likelihood of each hearing the others. The young person(s) and his or her supporters arrive at the Conference location first. They are asked to wait in a room separate from the area in which the Conference will take place until the person(s) who experienced harm and his or her supporters arrive and are seated in the Conference area. This gives the victims a chance to claim the space and to feel comfortable before the young person and his or her supporters enter. Once all participants are present, the facilitator summarizes the Conference process. Participants are asked to take breaks at the same time and to give each other uninterrupted opportunity to speak. Paper is provided so participants can note comments or questions that come up while others are telling their stories.

Generally, the young person is asked to speak first. With the help of clarifying questions from the facilitator, the young person details his or her actions, thoughts, and feelings surrounding the harmful event. The person(s) who experienced harm most directly is invited to speak next. This person explains what happened from his or her perspective and the thoughts and feelings experienced as a result of the event. Again, the facilitator uses questions as necessary to assist this process. Supporters of the young person and the person(s) harmed then describe the event and its impact from their perspectives. The initial story telling ends with participants having a chance to ask questions of one another.

The story telling component of the Conference typically lasts over two hours and is often emotionally charged, allowing participants opportunities to develop understanding of the others' experiences. At the conclusion of the story telling component, participants take a break. When the group reconvenes and if no additional questions have arisen, the young person and his or her supporters are asked to move to a separate room. Based on what he or she has heard in the Conference and with assistance of the supporters, the young person develops a restoration proposal. These proposals are unique and creative, typically including both monetary (e.g., financial compensation, replacement of stolen items) and symbolic (e.g., personal service, community service, apology letters, updates on personal progress) aspects. Once the proposal is developed, the young person describes what he or she would like to do to redress the harm to the full group. The person(s) harmed and supporters respond to the proposal, suggesting modifications or additions.

Written finalization of the agreement signals the concluding stage of the Conference.

Participants are asked to reflect on what they have experienced over the course of the Conference. The facilitator encourages this reflection in relation to the people they now know rather than specifically on the wrongdoing that brought them together. Participants are asked a variation on the following question: "What does it tell you about [the young person, their family, or the person harmed] that they chose to be here today?" Supporters of the young person often express pride and love for the young person and heartfelt appreciation to the people harmed for helping make this a meaningful experience. The people harmed typically voice admiration and

compassion for the young person and his or her family. They also express gratitude for the answers received about the wrongdoing and their feelings of increased safety in their community.

Post-Conference Activities and Outcomes. The intended outcomes of the Post-Conference stage build on earlier stages to enhance the likelihood that relationships have been restored, that participants continue to feel involved in the justice process, and that they experience a sense of closure regarding the event that brought them together. Facilitator activities include completing a comprehensive summary describing what occurred at the Conference and what agreements were made to redress the harm. This summary is received by all Conference participants and by the individuals within the justice or educational system involved, that is, the judge, crown prosecutor and defense counsel and school administrators. Facilitators also ensure that monitoring of the restoration agreement is in place. It is important to note that relevant Conference participants (e.g., parents, guidance counselor, probation officer) oversee the young person's completion of the restoration agreement. This task is not the responsibility of the CCC facilitators. If the young person who wronged is returning to court for disposition, the facilitator typically accompanies him or her and, if asked, provides a verbal report on the conference to the judge. The person(s) who experienced harm frequently also chooses to be in court during the young person's disposition hearing. If present, this person is typically asked by the judge about the Conferencing experience and about his or her perceptions of the young person.

Program Evaluation

Since July 1999, CCC has been implementing a program evaluation process. This process began with the development of a program structure and logic model through which the initial, intermediate, and long term intended outcomes described above were specified. Three evaluative strategies were then developed, with evaluation questions and associated methods as follows:

1. A formative evaluation component to address the primary question, "What do program participants experience through their participation in Calgary Community Conferencing?" For this component of the evaluation, a qualitative approach is being used and interview data are being collected from young people, victims, supporters and stakeholders in the program.

2. An outcome evaluation component to address the primary question, “To what extent are the intended initial, intermediate, and long terms goals of CCC being achieved?” This component of the evaluation requires the quantitative operationalization of the specified program outcomes and the development of a research design to adequately address the primary question.
3. A descriptive evaluation component to address the primary questions, “What are we providing to the participants of Calgary Community Conferencing?”, “How much of that service have we provided?” and “What are the characteristics of the young people who participate in Conferencing?”

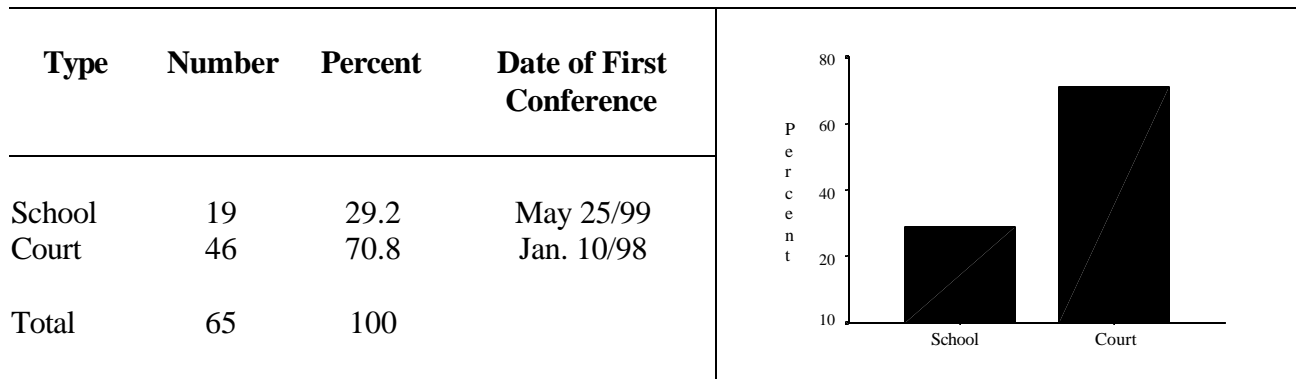
The following report focuses on the descriptive component of the program evaluation and details program activities and outputs over the first two and one half years of CCC’s operation from early January 1998 to the end of July, 2000. The report concentrates on Conferences held with school and court referred young people and distinguishes between court and school Conferences when their differences or contrasts are noteworthy.^b

^b During the reporting period, CCC completed one Conference with individuals referred from the general community. This Conference was requested by a young woman who had been sexually molested by a family friend when she was a child. The Conference included the man responsible for the molestation, the young woman, and two CCC facilitators. Given its atypical nature, data regarding this Conference are not integrated into this report.

2. Number and Types of Incidents Conferenced

Calgary Community Conferencing facilitated 65 Conferences between early January 1998 and the end of July 2000. As portrayed in Chart 2.a., just under one-third (19 or 29.2%) were school and just over two-thirds (46 or 70.8%) were court Conferences.

Chart 2.a. School and Court Conferences^c



As can be noted from Chart 2.a., Conferences for court referred youth occurred over the entire two and one half years of the reporting period, while Conferences involving school referred youth occurred for only just over one year of the same period. The first school Conference was held in May 1999, which was prior to the official partnership between Calgary Community Conferencing and the Calgary Board of Education (C.B.E). This first Conference was a pilot for the C.B.E. The first Conference held during the year of C.B.E. funding was in November 1999.

The 65 Conferences held between January 1998 and July 2000 involved 30 different types of incidents and, in total, 175 counts on these incidents. Approximately three-quarters of the Conferences (50 or 76.9%) involved one type of incident. Among the 15 Conferences that involved more than one type of incident, 12 involved two kinds of incidents, two involved three types of incidents and one involved five types of incidents. The Conference regarding five different kinds of incidents involved one young person and four victims, with multiple property related (i.e., break and enter, break and enter with intent, theft under \$5,000, possession of stolen property, possession of break and enter tools) incidents.

^c Percent totals may not add exactly to 100 throughout the report due to rounding error.

The 30 types of incidents can be sorted into three broad categories: property related, interpersonal violence, and other. Property related incidents accounted for just over half (96 or 54.9%) of the 175 incidents Conferenced. Interpersonal conflict accounted for approximately another third (66 or 37.7%), with the balance of the incidents (13 or 7.4%) categorized as ‘other’. Details regarding each category of incident are provided below.

2.1 Property Related Incidents

Property related incidents can be broadly grouped into three major sub-categories: stealing, fraud, and auto related. Chart 2.b. presents a breakdown of the property related category by incident type and incident sub-category.

Chart 2.b. Property Related Incidents

Incident Type	Number (Percent)	Incident Sub-Category	Number (Percent)	Incident Category	Number (Percent)
Break & Enter	29 (30.2)	Stealing Related	80 (83.3)	Property Incidents	96 (100.0)
Break & Enter with Theft	15 (15.6)				
Break & Enter with Intent	10 (10.4)				
Poss. of Break & Enter Tools	1 (1.0)				
Theft Under \$5000	6 (6.3)				
Theft Over \$5000	1 (1.0)				
Robbery	9 (9.4)				
Poss. of Stolen Property	9 (9.4)				
Uttering a Forged Document	1 (1.0)	Fraud Related	6 (6.3)		
Poss/Use of a Stolen Credit Card	4 (4.2)				
Fraud	1 (1.0)				
Auto Theft	1 (1.0)	Auto Related	10 (1.0)		
Dang. Op. of a Motor Vehicle	1 (1.0)				
Poss. of a Stolen Vehicle	2 (2.1)				
Tire Slashing	6 (6.3)				

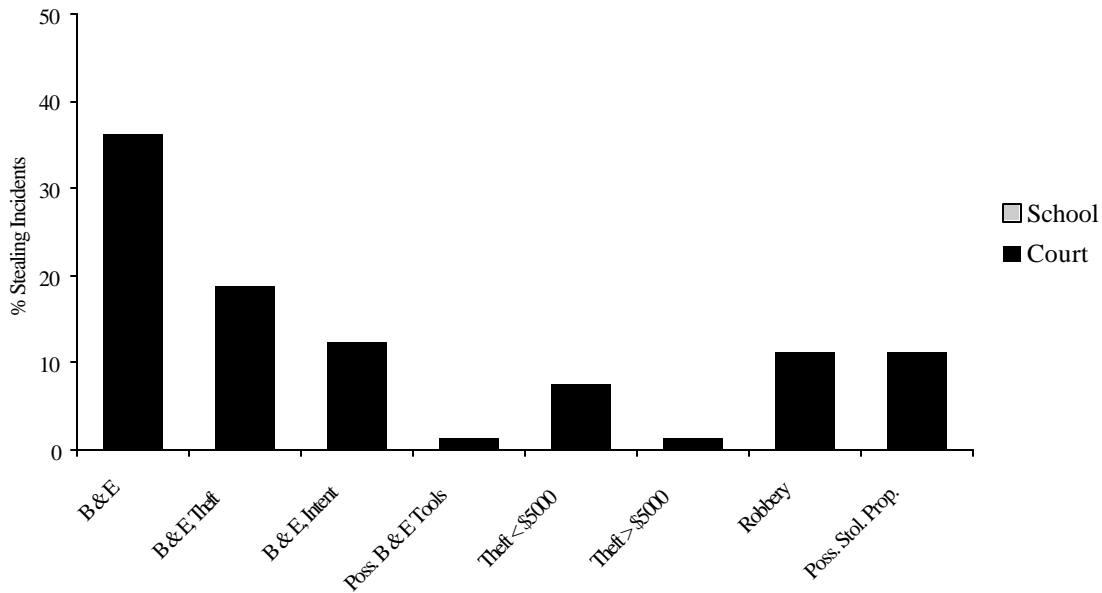
As mentioned previously, over half of the 175 incidents Conferenced between January 1998 and July 2000 were property related (96 or 54.9%). Almost all of these (90 or 93.8%) involved young people referred to Conferencing from the court. The property related incidents that were school referred involved two students Conferenced for three counts each of tire slashing.

Details on each of the three sub-categories of property related incidents are provided below.

2.1.1 Stealing Related Incidents

Within the stealing related sub-category, there were 80 incidents accounting for 83.3% of the 96 property related incidents and 45.7% of all incidents Conferenced. Chart 2.c. indicates the percentage of the total stealing related sub-category accounted for by each incident type.

Chart 2.c. Stealing Related Incidents by Type



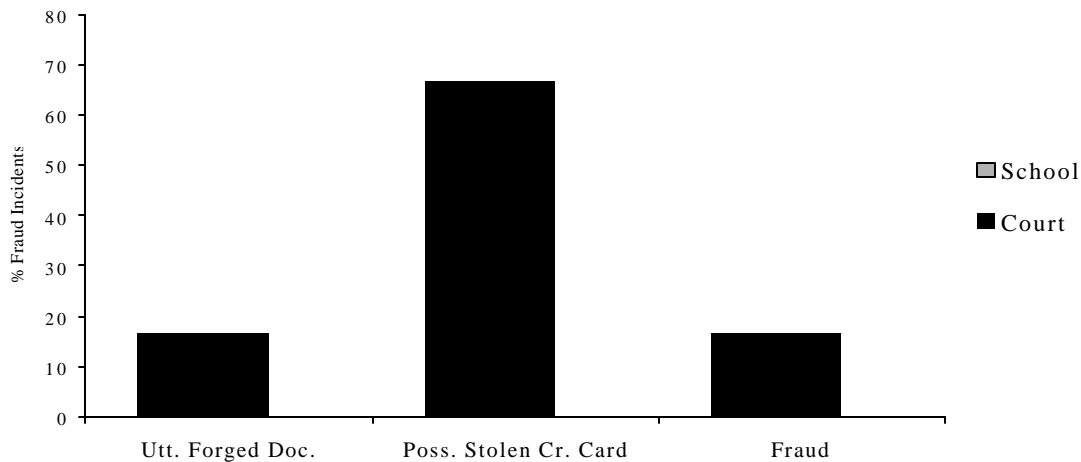
As indicated in Chart 2.c., break and enters were the most common incident in the stealing related sub-category, accounting for over one third of these incidents. Taken as a group (i.e., summing break and enter, break and enter with intent, etc.), there were a total of 54 break and enter type offenses, accounting for over two-thirds (67.5%) of the stealing related incidents and

over one-half (56.3%) of the total property related incidents. All 80 stealing related incidents Conferenced involved court referred young people.

2.1.2. Fraud Related Incidents

Within the fraud related sub-category of property offenses, there were six incidents accounting for 6.3% of the 96 incidents in the property related category and 3.4% of all incidents Conferenced. Chart 2.d. indicates the percentage of the total fraud related sub-category accounted for by each incident type.

Chart 2.d. Fraud Related Incidents by Type

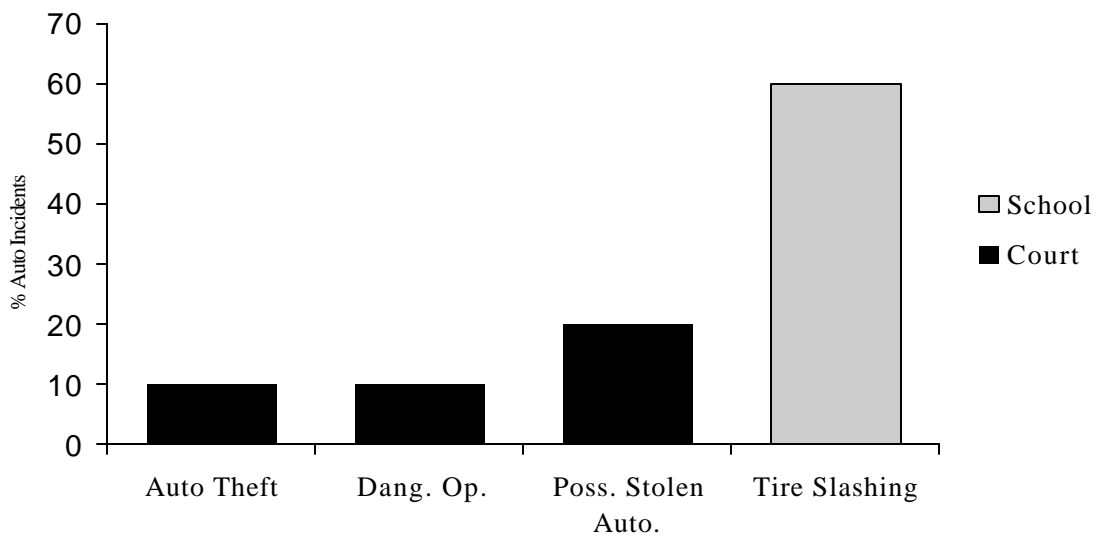


Among fraud related incidents, possession or use of a stolen credit card accounted for two-thirds (66.7%) of the incidents. Uttering a forged document and fraud itself each accounted for 16.7% of the incidents. All six incidents in the fraud sub-category of the property related category involved court referred young people.

2.1.3 Auto Related Incidents

Within the automobile related sub-category of property offenses, there were 10 incidents accounting for 10.4% of the 96 incidents in the property related category and 5.7% of all incidents Conferenced. Chart 2.e. indicates the percentage of the total automobile sub-category accounted for by each incident type.

Chart 2.e. Automobile Related Incidents by Type



Among the automobile related sub-category of property incidents, tire slashing was the most frequently occurring incident type, accounting for 60% of the incidents. These school referred incidents involved two young people Conferenced at the same time for three incidents each of slashing tires in a school parking lot.

2.2 Interpersonal Conflict Incidents

Interpersonal conflict incidents can be broadly grouped into two major sub-categories: assault related and fighting related. Chart 2.f. presents a breakdown of the interpersonal conflict incidents by incident type and incident sub-category.

Chart 2.f. Interpersonal Conflict Incidents

Incident Type	Number (Percent)	Incident Sub-Category	Number (Percent)	Incident Category	Number (Percent)
Criminal Neg/Bodily Harm	1 (1.5)	Assault Related	35 (53.0)	Interpersonal Conflict Incidents	66 (100.0)
Assault/Bodily Harm	1 (1.5)				
Assault with a Weapon	2 (3.0)				
Assault	24 (36.4)				
Uttering Threats	1 (1.5)				
Threatening with a Weapon	1 (1.5)				
Poss. of a Weapon	1 (1.5)				
Poss. of an Imitation Weapon	1 (1.6)				
Indecent Phone Call	1 (1.5)				
Spraying Noxious Substance	2 (3.0)				
Physical Fighting	11 (16.7)	Fighting Related	31 (47.0)		
Verbal Fighting/Harassment	8 (12.1)				
Group Related Conflict	12 (18.2)				

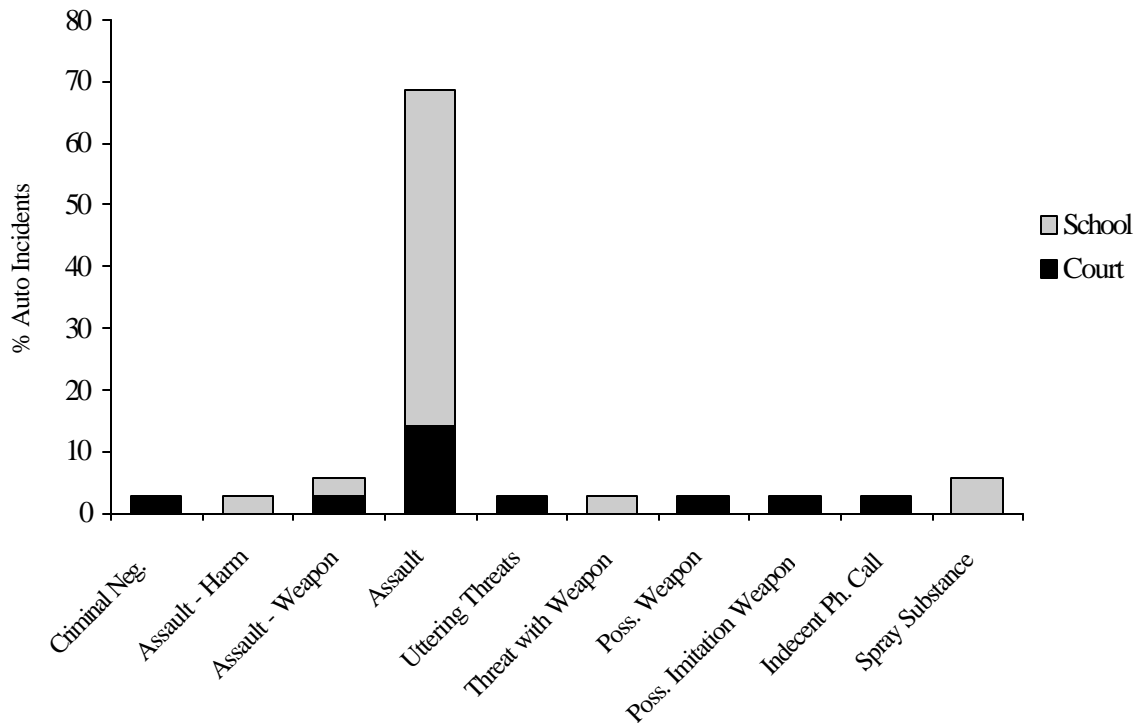
Of the total incidents Conferenced (175), 66 (37.7%) involved some type of interpersonal conflict. Most of these incidents were school referred (55 or 83.3%).

Details on each of the two sub-categories of interpersonal conflict incidents are provided below.

2.2.1 Assault Related Incidents

Within the assault related sub-category, there were 35 incidents accounting for 53.0% of the 66 interpersonal conflict incidents and 20.0% of all incidents Conferenced. Chart 2.g. indicates the percentage of the total assault related sub-category accounted for by each incident type.

Chart 2.g. Assault Related Incidents by Type

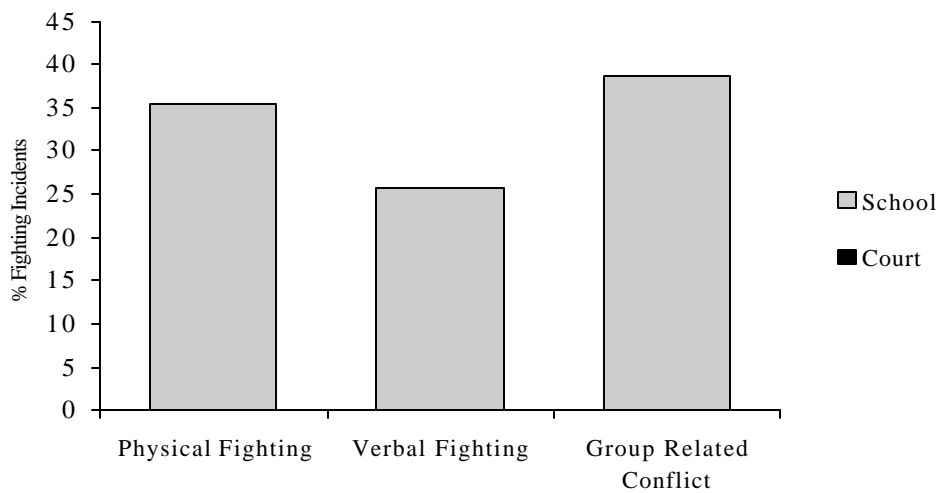


Within the assault related sub-category of the interpersonal conflict category, the 24 assaults accounted for the majority (68.6%) of incidents. Taken as a group (i.e., summing assault, assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm), there were a total of 27 assault offenses, accounting for 81.9% of the incidents in the assault sub-category and 40.9% of incidents within the interpersonal conflict category. Just over two-thirds of the incidents in the assault category were school referred (24 or 68.6%).

2.2.2 Fighting Related Incidents

Within the fighting sub-category of interpersonal conflict incidents, there were 31 incidents, accounting for 47.0% of the 66 interpersonal conflict situations and 17.7% of all incidents Conferenced. Chart 2.h. indicates the percentage of the total fighting sub-category accounted for by each incident type.

Chart 2.h. Fighting Related Incidents by Type

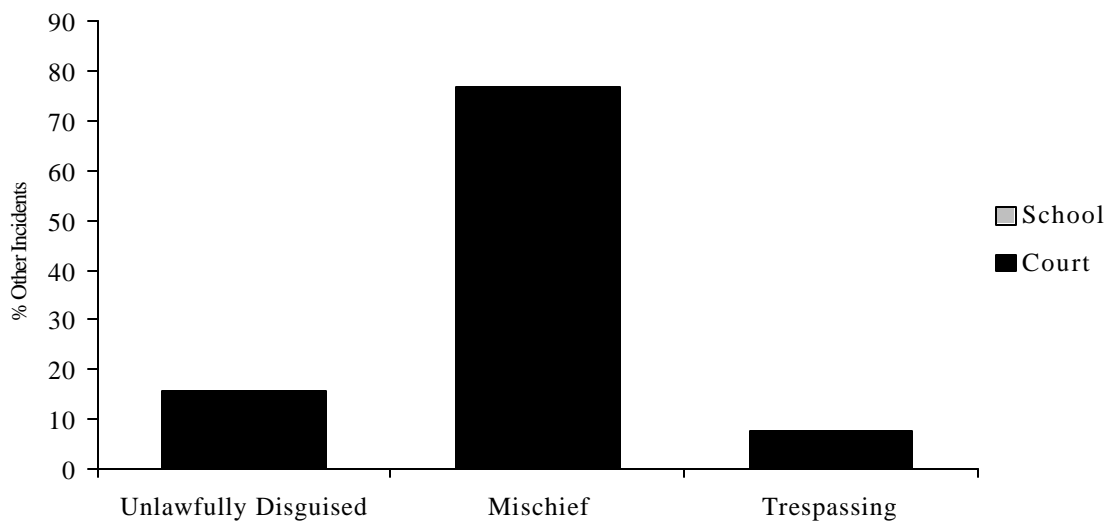


Incidents within the fighting sub-category of the interpersonal conflict category were fairly evenly distributed across the three types, with each accounting for close to one-third of the total. All of the incidents classified as fighting involved school referred young people. Furthermore, the 12 group related conflict incidents were within one Conference involving 12 young people at one high school.

2.3 ‘Other’ Incidents

Three types of incidents over which Conferences were held could be classified as neither property nor assault related. Chart 2.i. indicates the percentage of the total ‘other’ sub-category accounted for by each incident type.

Chart 2.i. Other Incidents by Type

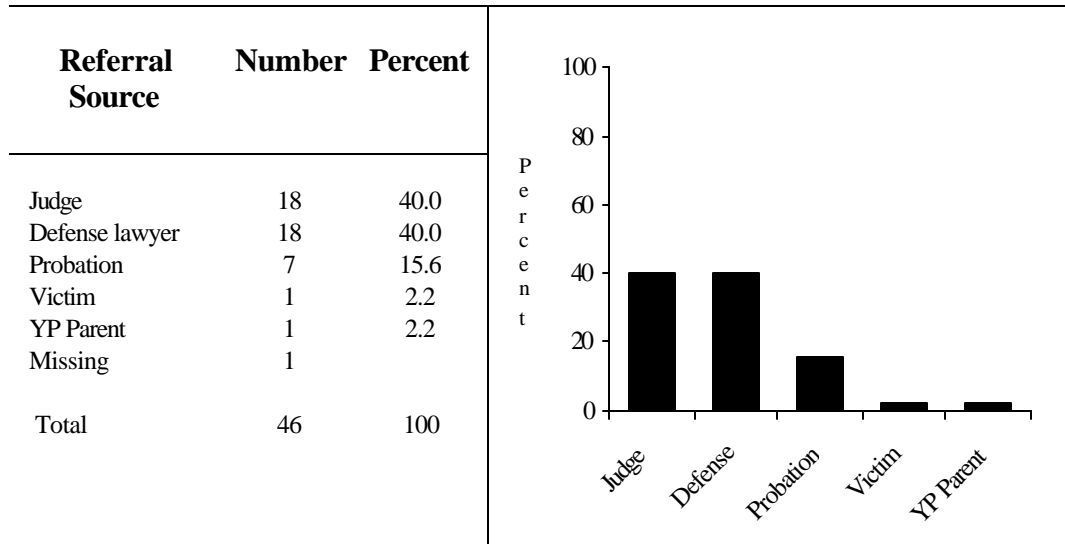


The majority (10 or 76.9%) of non-property and non-assault incidents over which Conferences were held involved mischief. Incidents involving the young person being unlawfully disguised or trespassing accounted for two (15.4%) and one (7.7%) of the total respectively. All ‘other’ incidents involved court referred young people.

3. Referral Sources for Conferences

As indicated by Charts 3.a. and 3.b., incidents were referred for Conferences from a variety of sources. Chart 3.a. describes referrals for court Conferences and Chart 3.b. summarizes referrals for school Conferences.

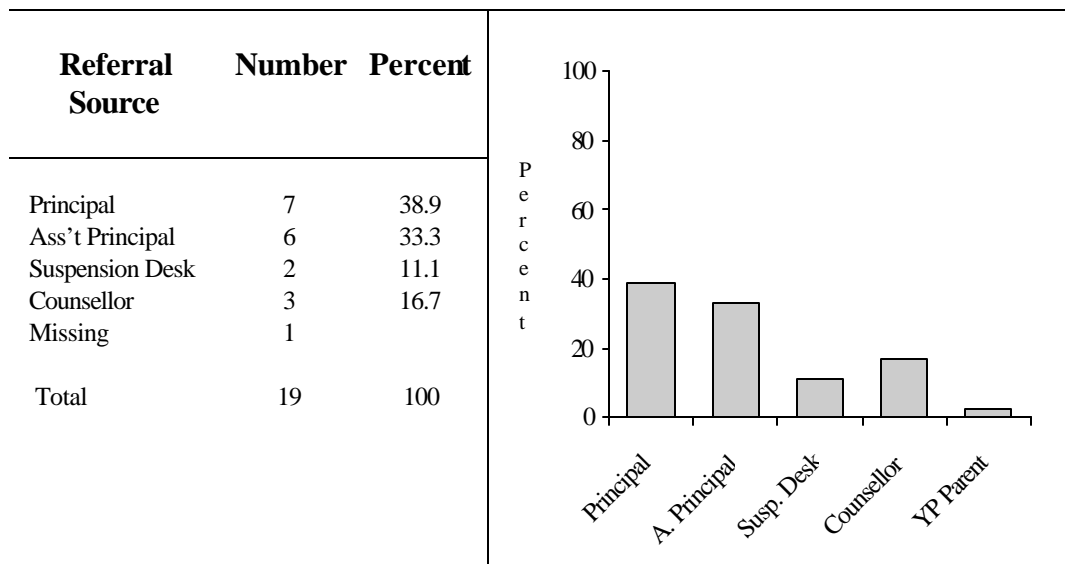
Chart 3.a. Referral Sources for Court Conferences



As portrayed in Chart 3.a., judges and defense lawyers each accounted for over one-third (40.0%) of the referrals for court Conferences. Probation officers accounted for an additional seven (15.6%) referrals. The balance of the referrals came from less common sources: one each from a victim and a parent of a young person. Regarding referrals from judges, while formal referrals to Conferencing were made by judges, it is likely that many of these were at the suggestion of a crown prosecutor.

Chart 3.b. portrays referral sources for School Conferences.

Chart 3.b. Referral Sources for School Conferences



With respect to referrals from school sources, administrators (principals and assistant principals) were responsible for almost three-quarters (13 or 72.2%) of the referrals for which the source was known. School counsellors and suspension desk personnel accounted for most of the balance of the referrals, with the one ‘other’ referral coming from a Calgary Police Youth Education Intervention officer.

4. Conference Participants

Between January 1998 and the end of July 2000, 601 participants were directly involved in Conferences. When observers (i.e., those who attended the Conference but sat outside of the circle) are included, the number of participating individuals involved increases to 746.

Chart 4.a. summarizes the number of direct participants involved in each Conference. Also presented is a break down of participants in school and court Conferences.

Chart 4.a. Number of Participants in Conferences

# Directly Involved Participants	Number of Conferences	
1 – 5	9	All Conferences: Total direct participants: 601 Total participants including observers: 746 Average direct participants/Conference: 9.3 School Conferences: Total direct participants: 216 Total participants including observers: 259 Average direct participants/Conference: 11.4 Court Conferences: Total direct participants: 385 Total participants including observers: 487 Average direct participants/Conference: 8.4
6 – 10	39	
11 – 15	12	
16 – 20	4	
21 – 25	0	
26 – 30	0	
31 – 35	1	
Total	65	

As can be noted from Chart 4.a., most conferences (39 or 60.0%) involved between six and 10 direct participants. Regardless of type of Conference, an average of nine individuals participated in each Conference. Direct participants in school Conferences accounted for 35.9% while participants in court Conferences accounted for 64.1% of all participants. In general, more individuals participated in school Conferences than in court Conferences, with averages of 11.4 and 8.4 participants, respectively. One of the school Conferences was considerably larger than all

others, with 30 directly affected individuals. This Conference was with respect to the group related conflict that involved 12 young people.

Chart 4.b. indicates the number of participants in Conferences by role.

Chart 4b. Roles of Direct Participants in Conferences

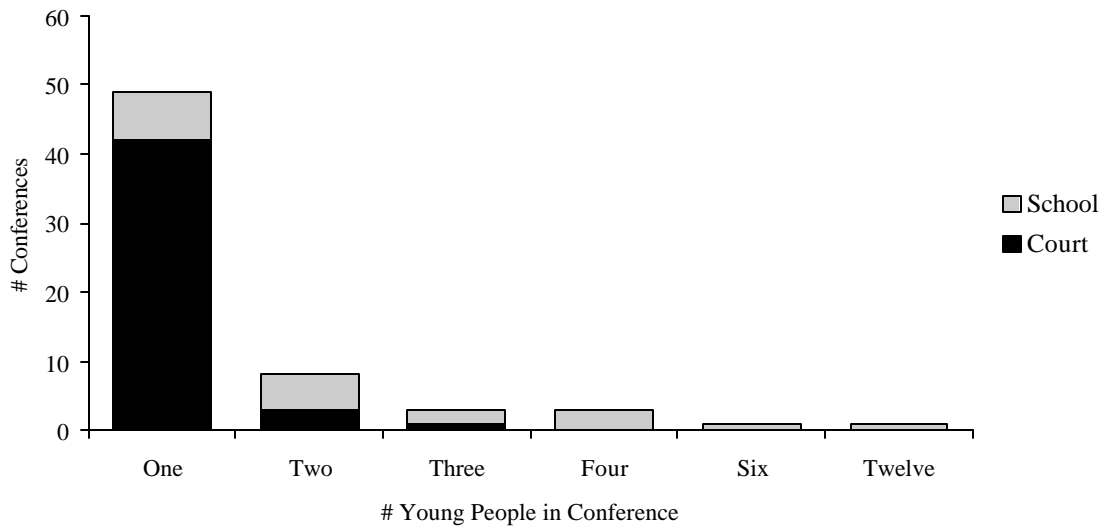
	Young People Number (%)	Victims Number (%)	Young Person Supporters Number (%)	Victim Supporters Number (%)	Others Number (%)
Number	104 (17.3%)	143 (23.8%)	203 (33.8%)	83 (13.8%)	68 (11.3%)
Mean	1.6	2.2	3.1	1.3	1.1
Minimum	1	0	1	0	0
Maximum	12	9	15	6	7

As can be seen from Chart 4.b., supporters of young people accounted for the largest number of participants in Conferences (203 or 33.8%). Victims and young people accounted for just under one-quarter (143 or 23.8%) and just under one-fifth (104 or 17.3%) of participants, respectively. Victim supporters (83 or 13.8%) and others (68 or 11.3%) accounted for the balance of the total Conference participants. Details on each type of participant are provided below.

4.1 Young People Involved in Conferences

One hundred and four youths responsible for harmful incidents participated in Conferences between January 1998 and July 2000. These youths accounted for 17.1% of the total Conference participants. Chart 4.c. portrays the number of young people in each Conference.

Chart 4.c. Number of Young People Per Conference

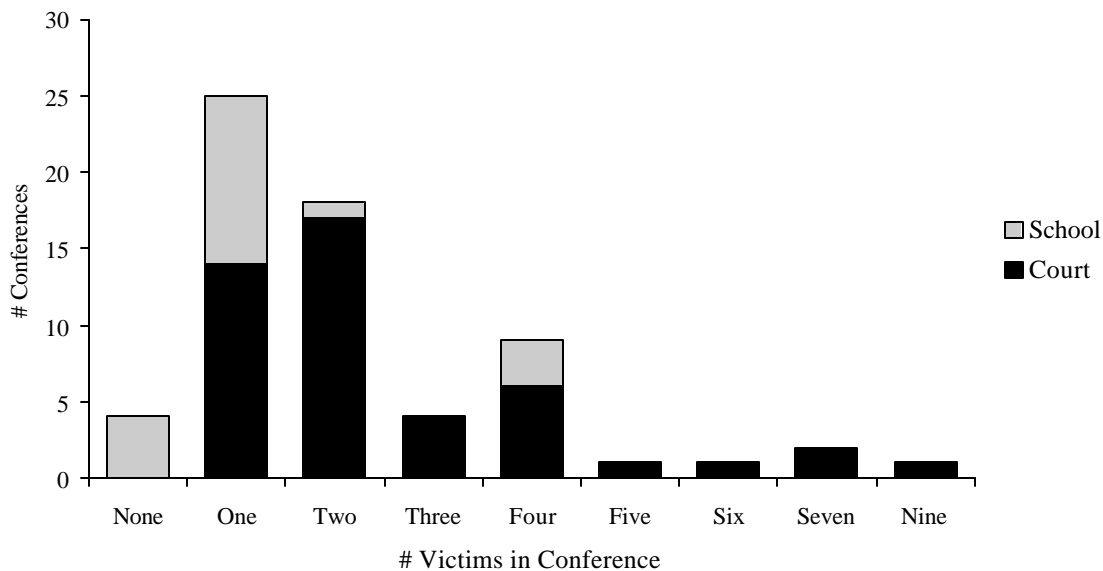


As can be seen from Chart 4.a., three-quarters (49 or 75.4%) of all 65 Conferences involved one young person. Eight Conferences (12.3%) involved two young people. The remaining eight conferences (12.3%) involved three (three Conferences), four (three Conferences), six (one Conference) and 12 (one Conference) young people. School Conferences tended to include more young people than court Conferences. All of the Conferences involving four or more young people were school Conferences.

4.2 Victims Involved in Conferences

With respect to victims, 143 individuals who had experienced a harmful incident participated in Conferences between January 1998 and July 2000. Chart 4.d. portrays the number of victims in each Conference.

Chart 4.d. Number of Victims Per Conference

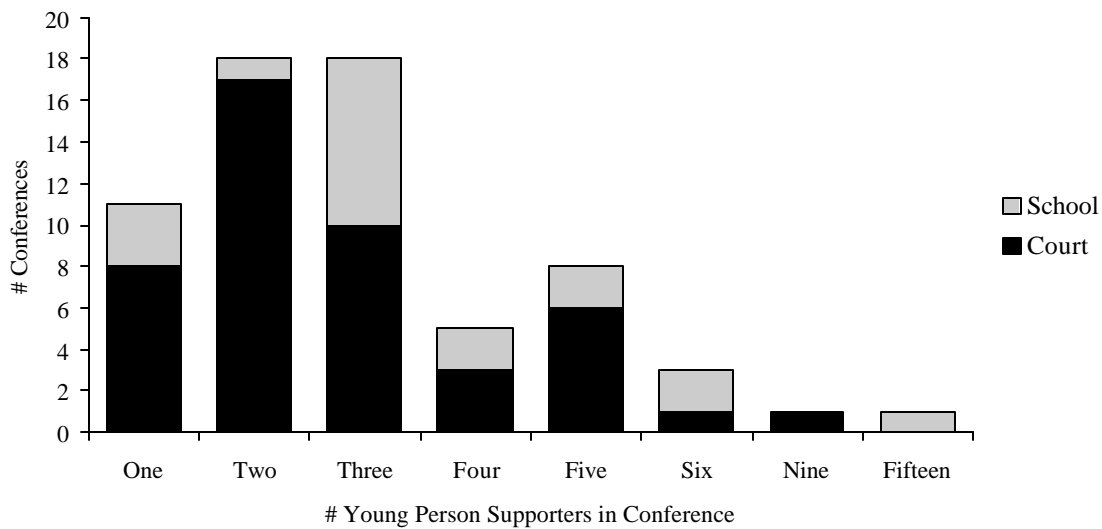


As can be noted from chart 4.d., a victim was not identified in all Conferences. In four school Conferences, the young-person/victim distinction was not appropriate. Two of these incidents involved physical fighting, the third involved verbal fighting and the fourth was group related conflict. One victim participated in over one-third (25 or 38.5%) of the 65 Conferences. An additional 18 Conferences (27.7%) involved two victims. Together, Conferences involving either one or two victims accounted for two-thirds (43 or 66.2%) of all Conferences. Seventeen Conferences (26.2%) involved three or more victims. The Conferences involving three or more victims tended to be court Conferences. Among these 17 conferences, three were school and 14 were court Conferences. The four school Conferences with more than three victims involved four victims each.

4.3 Young Person Supporters Involved in Conferences

Supporters in Conferences included family members, friends, and professionals associated with the young person(s) or victim(s). Young person supporters in the 65 Conferences numbered 203. Chart 4.e. portrays the number of young person supporters in each Conference.

Chart 4.e. Number of Young Person Supporters Per Conference

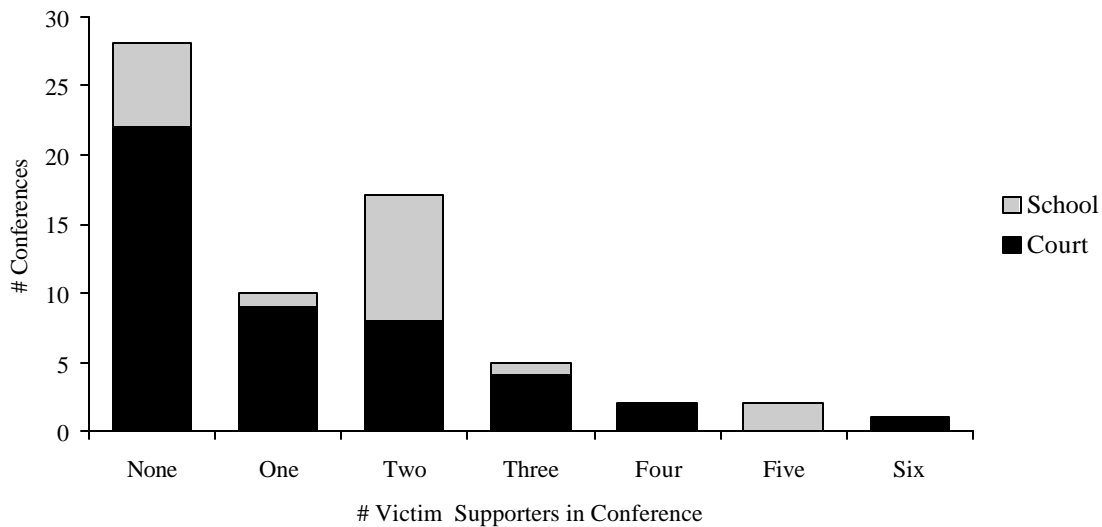


As noted in Chart 4.e., there was no Conference that did not include at least one young person supporter. Most Conferences involved two (18 or 27.7%) or three (18 or 27.7%) young person supporters (36 or 55.4%). Less than half (29 or 44.6%) of the Conferences included four or more young person supporters, with Conferences including four or five supporters accounting for most of these (13 or 20.0%). The Conference in which 15 young person supporters participated was the school group related conflict incident in which there were no identified victims.

4.4 Victim Supporters Involved in Conferences

Eighty-three victim supporters participated in the 65 Conferences. The number of victim supporters in each Conference is portrayed in Chart 4.f.

Chart 4.f. Number of Victim Supporters Per Conference



As can be noted from Chart 4.f., victim supporters were not present in all Conferences. Of the 65 Conferences, four did not have an identified victim. Taking the Conferences in which victim supporters were not possible participants into consideration, at least one victim supporter was present in two-thirds of the Conferences (41 or 67.2%). Victims chose not to have a supporter in 24 Conferences (39.3%). One victim supporter was present in 10 Conferences (16.4%), two victim supporters were present in 17 Conferences (27.9%), and three victim supporters were present in five Conferences (8.2%). Five Conferences (8.2%) included four or more victim supporters.

4.5 Others Involved in Conferences

Conferences often include other individuals who may be somewhat connected to either or both the victim or young person, but who are identified as personal supporters of neither. Chart 4.g. indicates the identities of the 'others' involved in the 65 Conferences.

Chart 4.g. 'Other' Participants in Conferences

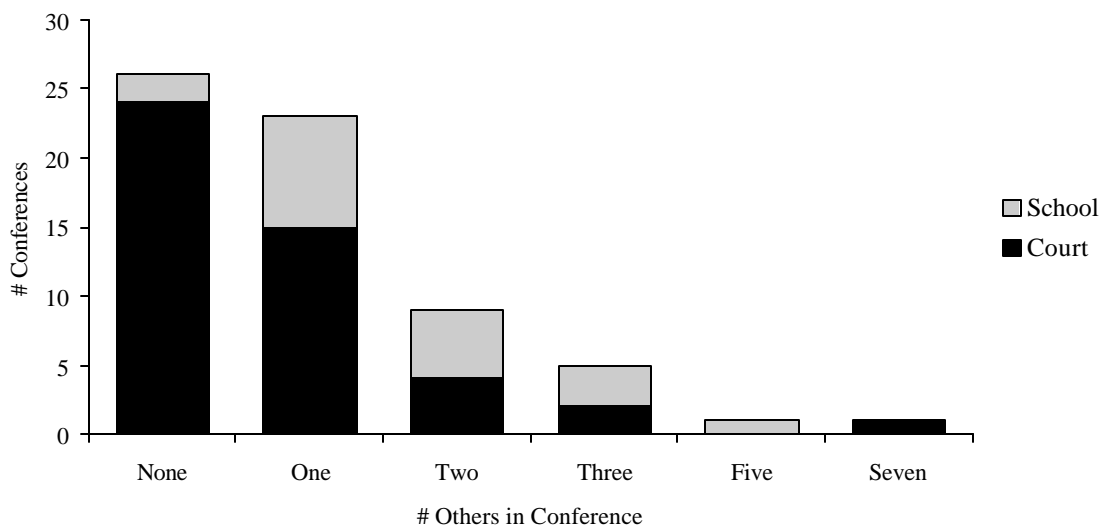
Others	Number (Percent)	Others by Category	Number (Percent)
Principal / A.Principal C.B.E. specialist School Counsellor Teacher	14 (23.2%) 1 (1.6%) 3 (4.9%) 4 (6.6%)	School Personnel	22 (36.1%)
Counsellor/Support Worker Child Welfare Worker Interpreter	6 (9.8%) 3 (4.9%) 3 (4.9%)	Resource Personnel	12 (19.7%)
Probation Officer Police Officer Alternative Measures Rep.	15 (24.6%) 6 (9.8%) 1 (1.6%)	Criminal Justice Personnel	22 (36.1%)
Friend Peripherally Involved Family Member Community Member	1 (1.6%) 2 (3.3%) 2 (3.3%)	Other	5 (8.2%)
Missing	7	Missing	7
Total	68		68

While the identity of seven directly involved Conference participants was not specified, 61 could be sorted into 13 roles in four categories. Among these 61 participants, probation officers and school principals or assistant principals were the most frequently attending 'others' in Conferences, each accounting for almost one-quarter (24.6% and 23.2% respectively) of the

total. As a group, criminal justice personnel and school personnel each accounted for about one-third (22 or 36.1%) of ‘other’ participants in Conferences. Resource professionals (counsellors, child welfare workers and interpreters) accounted for about one-fifth of ‘other’ Conference participants (12 or 19.7%).

Chart 4.h. indicates the number of ‘other’ participants in each conference.

Chart 4.h. Number of ‘Other’ Participants in Conferences



As can be noted from Chart 4.h., a number of Conferences (26 or 40.0%) did not involve participants identified as ‘others.’ Court Conferences were less likely than school Conferences to have no ‘other’ participants. Of the 46 court Conferences, over one-half (24 or 52%) did not have ‘other’ participants, while only one-tenth (2 or 10.5%) of the 19 school Conferences did not include at least one ‘other’ participant. Of the 39 Conferences that did include ‘others’, most (23 or 59.0%) included one participant identified as ‘other’. Sixteen Conferences (41.0% of those that included at least one ‘other’ participant) involved two or more ‘other’ participants.

5. Time Between Incident, Referral, and Conference

Charts 5.a., 5.b., and 5.c. display, respectively, the number of days between incident and referral, referral and Conference, and incident and Conference. Also included with each chart are the average number of intervening days in each category for school and court Conferences.

Chart 5.a. Days Between Incident and Referral

Time Days (Weeks)	Court Conferences (N = 46) # (%)	School Conferences (N = 19) # (%)	Total (N = 65) # (%)
1 – 28 (4)	4 (8.7)	16 (84.2)	20 (30.8)
28 – 56 (8)	9 (19.6)	3 (15.8)	12 (18.5)
57 – 84 (12)	6 (13.0)	0	6 (9.2)
85 – 112 (16)	4 (8.7)	0	4 (6.2)
113 – 168 (24)	6 (13.0)	0	6 (9.2)
169 – 224 (32)	5 (10.9)	0	5 (7.7)
225 – 280 (40)	4 (8.7)	0	4 (6.2)
281 – 336 (48)	3 (8.5)	0	3 (4.6)
337 – 364 (52)	2 (4.3)	0	2 (3.1)
365 – 392 (56)	3 (8.5)	0	3 (3.1)
Total	46	19	65

Average days between incident and referral -

All: 108
School: 16
Court: 146

As indicated by Chart 5.a., the number of days between incident and referral was quite different for court and school Conferences. Most school incidents were referred to Calgary Community Conferencing before four weeks had passed (16 or 84.2% of all school Conferences) and all had been referred by eight weeks. In contrast only about one-quarter of the court incidents were

referred to Conferencing within 8 weeks (13 or 28.3%). Almost two-thirds of the court referrals were made between five and 24 weeks from the incident (30 or 65.2%). About one-third of the court referrals were made between 25 and 56 weeks following the incident (17 or 37.0%). On average, schools made referrals to Conferencing 16 days (2.3 weeks) after the incident and the court made referrals 146 days (20.8 weeks) after the incident

Chart 5.b. Days Between Referral and Conference

Time Days (Weeks)	Court Conferences (N = 46) # (%)	School Conferences (N = 19) # (%)	Total Conferences (N = 65) # (%)
1 – 28 (0 - 4)	8 (17.4)	14 (73.7)	22 (33.8)
29 – 56 (5 - 8)	16 (34.8)	5 (26.3)	21 (32.3)
57 – 84 (9 - 12)	14 (30.4)	0	14 (21.5)
85 – 112 (12 - 16)	6 (13.0)	0	6 (9.2)
113 days (16.1)	1 (2.2)	0	1 (1.5)
389 days (55.6)	1 (2.2)	0	1 (1.5)
Total	46	19	65

Average days between referral and Conference –

School: 23.3
Court: 63.4
All: 51.7

As indicated in Chart 5.b., time elapsed between referral and Conference tended to be somewhat shorter for school than court referred incidents. All 19 of the school referred incidents were Conferenced before eight weeks had passed since the incident. About one-half of the court referred incidents were Conferenced within eight weeks (24 or 52.2%). By 12 weeks after referral, 82.6% (38) of court referred incidents had been Conferenced and by 16 weeks, 95.6% (44) of these incidents had been Conferenced. Court Conferences tend to take more time to arrange because, compared to school Conferences, they typically involve increased difficulty reaching the young people, victim(s) and supporters involved.

Chart 5.c. Days Between Incident and Conference

Time Days (Weeks)	Court Conferences (N = 46) # (%)	School Conferences (N = 19) # (%)	Total Conferences (N = 65) # (%)
1 – 28 (0 - 4)	0 (0)	5 (26.3)	5 (7.7)
29 – 56 (5 - 8)	2 (4.3)	11 (57.9)	13 (20.0)
57 – 112 (9 - 16)	10 (21.7)	3 (15.8)	13 (20.0)
113 – 224 (17 – 32)	16 (34.8)	0	16 (24.6)
225 – 336 (26 – 48)	10 (21.7)	0	10 (15.4)
337 – 448 (49 – 64)	6 (13.0)	0	6 (9.2)
449 – 504 (65 - 72)	2 (4.4)	0	2 (3.1)
Total	46	19	65

Average days between referral and Conference –

School: 39.0
Court: 208.8
All: 159.2

With respect to time elapsed between incident and Conference, 84.2% (16) of the Conferences regarding school referred incidents were held within eight weeks of the incident. Time between incident and Conference tended to be longer for court referred incidents: just over one-quarter (12 or 26.1%) were Conferenced within 16 weeks of the incident. Over half of the court referred incidents were Conferenced between 17 and 48 weeks post incident (26 or 56.5%). Hearings regarding these incidents often do not reach the court for some time after the incident and arranging attendance at the Conference by young people, victim(s) and supporters can take considerable time.

6. Conference Restoration Agreements

The Community Conference process typically includes the development, by the young person in collaboration with his or her supporters, of an agreement specifying one or more activities to be completed in order to redress the harm caused to the victim(s). In Conferences that involved mutual harm, all young people were asked to develop separate restoration agreements. The items on restoration agreements were sorted into nine broad categories. Chart 6.a. details the restoration agreement items included in each category.

Chart 6.a. Description of Restoration Agreement Components

Category	Items
Service hours	Perform community service, perform personal service for victim.
Apologies	Apologize to victim, apologize to victim's family and/or friends, apologize to community, apologize to school.
Activity with victim and/or family	Take victim out for a meal, maintain an ongoing relationship, protect victim, wash victims' cars, bury weapon with victim, talk with friend of victim, help victim with school work, meet with victim & his mom, take victim out for coffee, greet victim at school, write letter to relative of victim, protect victim, take victim to Cannon's game, give copy of report card to victim
Compensation/Gift	Repair lamp damaged in incident, replace briefcase taken in incident, give monetary compensation to victim (ranged from \$5 to \$670), draw a picture for victim, give a Christmas stocking to victim, give a stuffed animal to victim's child.
Educational activity	Meet with student council about reducing violence, tell friends problem is worked out, speak to youth group about event and impact, write letter for school paper
Positive 'other' activity	Get 'Big Brother', forgive hurt, develop positive leadership skills, spend quality time with mom, improve communication with parents and teachers
Reduce negative activity	Not tell rumors, not fight with others, not listen to rumors, not say mean things, control temper.
Updates	Provide victim with written or verbal updates on progress.
Counselling	Attend anger management group, attend individual counselling, continue substance abuse counselling.

As evidenced by Chart 6.a., there is enormous variety in the items included on restoration agreements. Chart 6.b. indicates the number (and percent) of items in each category included in the restoration agreements negotiated in the 65 Conferences.

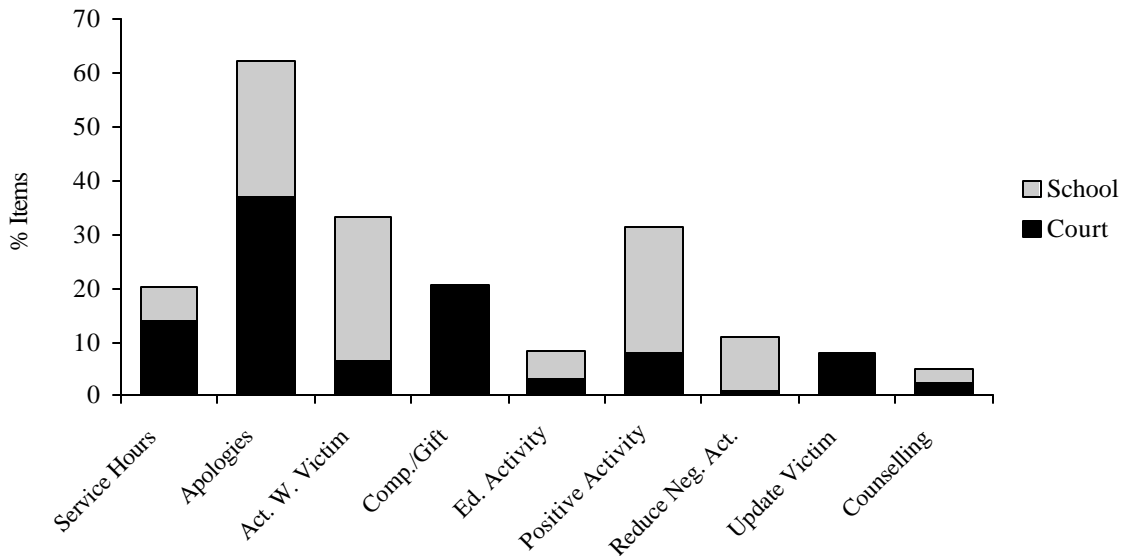
Chart 6.b. Restoration Agreement Components

Item	Court Agreements # (%)	School Agreements # (%)	Total Agreements # (%)
Service Hours	33 (13.8)	10 (6.3)	43 (10.8)
Apologies	88 (36.8)	40 (25.3)	128 (32.2)
Activity With Victim	16 (6.7)	42 (26.6)	58 (14.6)
Compensation/Gift	48 (20.1)	1 (0.6)	49 (12.3)
Educational Activity	8 (3.3)	8 (5.1)	16 (4.0)
Positive Activity	19 (7.9)	37 (23.4)	56 (14.1)
Reduce Negative Activity	2 (0.8)	16 (10.1)	18 (4.5)
Update Victim	19 (7.9)	0	19 (4.8)
Counselling	6 (2.5)	4 (2.5)	10 (2.5)
Total	239 (60.2)	158 (39.8)	397

Across the 65 Conferences, the 104 young people who negotiated restoration agreements specified a total of 397 items they would complete in an effort to redress the harm caused. On average, restoration agreements included about three items. Overall, the item included most frequently on restoration agreements was an apology, which accounted for about one-third of all items on agreements (128 or 32.2%). The item occurring next frequently on restoration agreements was activities bringing together the young person(s) and the victim(s), accounting for 14.6% (58) of all items. Doing a positive activity, giving a gift or compensation to the victim, and performing personal or community service hours each accounted for over 10% of the 397 total items.

Chart 6.c. presents a graphic of the items included on restoration agreements across the 9 major categories.

Chart 6.c. Items on Restoration Agreements by Category



There was some similarity in the relative frequency of service hours, apologies, and educational activities on court and school restoration agreements. With respect to the other six categories of restoration agreement items, there were some notable differences between court and school restoration agreements. Restoration agreements negotiated in court Conferences were more likely than those negotiated in school Conferences to include compensation or a gift for the victim. This may reflect the fact that a greater percentage of court Conferences involved property related incidents in which possessions of victims were damaged or taken. Restoration agreements for court Conferences were also more likely to specify that the young person would provide the victim(s) with updates regarding his or her progress. This could potentially be explained by the typical distance between young person and victim(s) in court versus school Conferences. Because of the context, the young person is likely to have naturally occurring regular contact with the victim(s) after school related incidents. If a victim in court referred incidents wished updates on the young person’s progress, these would likely need to be pre-arranged.

Compared with those negotiated during court Conferences, restoration agreements negotiated during school Conferences were more likely to include an activity involving the young person and the victim(s). This may be due to the increased likelihood of the need for an ongoing relationship between the young person and victim(s) in the school context. School Conference restoration agreements were also more likely than court Conference agreements to include items relating to reducing a negative activity or doing a positive activity.

7. System Imposed Consequences for Young People

Potential consequences for young people involved in Conferencing differ substantially depending on whether the young person was referred by the court or school system. Given this difference, the system consequences imposed on the young people are presented in two sub-sections: court referred youth and school referred youth.

7.1 System Imposed Consequences for Court Referred Youth

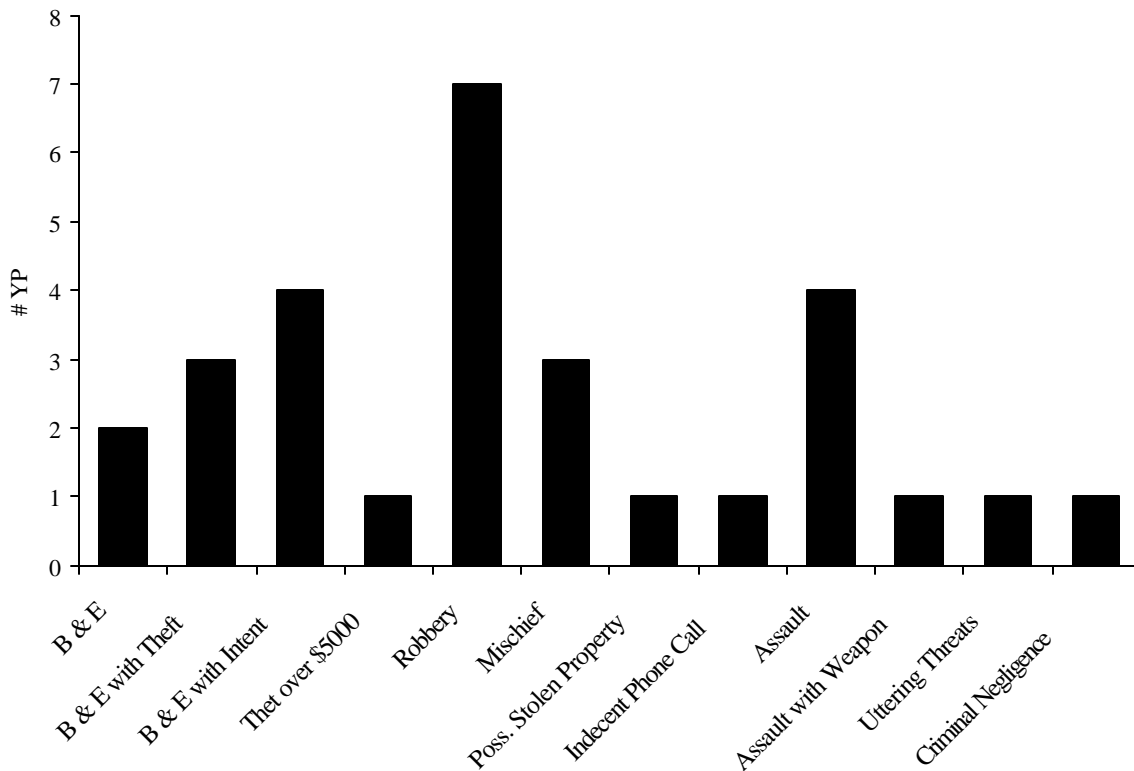
Dispositions (or sentences) for the 51 court referred young people who participated in Community Conferences are somewhat difficult to describe given the impossibility of thoroughly capturing the context of each disposition. Several factors may make dispositions at least moderately incomparable. These include, for example, variance among young persons' prior records and whether or not young people had sufficient time before the disposition hearing to fulfill the restoration agreements negotiated at the Conference. Furthermore, it is sometimes unclear if all or only some of the incidents for which the young person was charged were actually a fundamental part of the Conference, though the court disposition is generally covers all of the charges. These contextual issues should be kept in mind when considering court dispositions associated with young people who participated in Conferencing.

In an attempt to present information regarding court dispositions for Conferenced young people in the most straightforward and comparable way, the information has been broken down into four sub-sections: dispositions for young people charged with one count for one incident, dispositions for young people charged with two counts (for one or two incident types), dispositions for young people charged with three counts (for one, two, or three incident types), and dispositions for young people charged with four or more counts (for one to five incident types). The most detail is provided regarding court dispositions for young people Conferenced for one incident. Fewer details are provided on court dispositions as the number of counts increases as the young peoples' situations become increasingly less comparable.

7.1.1. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for One Count

Twenty-nine of the court referred young people participated in Conferencing regarding a single count on a single incident type. Information regarding the incidents for which these young people were Conferenced is presented in Chart 7.a.

Chart 7.a. Incidents Among Young People Conferenced for One Count

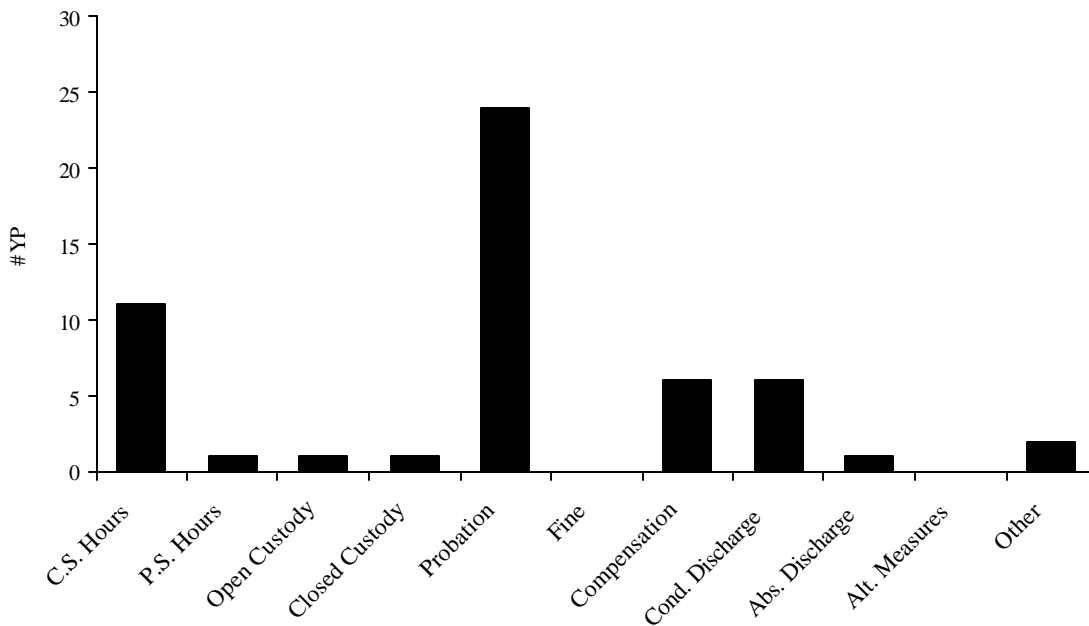


Among the 29 young people who participated in Conferencing regarding a single incident, robbery was the most common. Young people responsible for a robbery accounted for almost one-quarter (7 or 24.1%) of all youths Conferenced regarding a single incident. Four young people (13.8%) were Conferenced for a single break and enter with intent and four (13.8%) were Conferenced for a single assault. Three young people (10.3%) participated in Conferences regarding their responsibility for a break and enter with theft and three (10.3%) participating regarding a mischief incident. One young person (3.4%) participated in Conferencing regarding a

single count of each of the following incident types: theft over \$5,000, possession of stolen property, indecent phone call, assault with a weapon, uttering threats, and criminal negligence.

Disposition information regarding the 29 young people who were Conferenced for one count of one incident is presented in Chart 7.b.

Chart 7.b. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for One Incident



As can be seen from Chart 7.b., the most common disposition imposed by the court on young people Conferenced for a single incident was probation, with 24 of the 29 young people (82.8%) given a probation order. There was considerable variance in the length of probation term ordered for these youth, though most (15 or 62.5%) received a one year term. Among young people who did not receive a one year probation term, one (4.2%) received two months, four (16.7%) received six months, one (4.2%) received eight months, and three (12.5%) received nine months.

The second most common court disposition imposed on young people Conferenced for a single incident was community service, with 11 of the 29 young people (37.9%) ordered to complete between 20 and 100 hours. Among these 11 young people, four (36.4%) were ordered to complete 100 hours, two (18.2%) were ordered to complete 60 hours, and two (18.2%) were

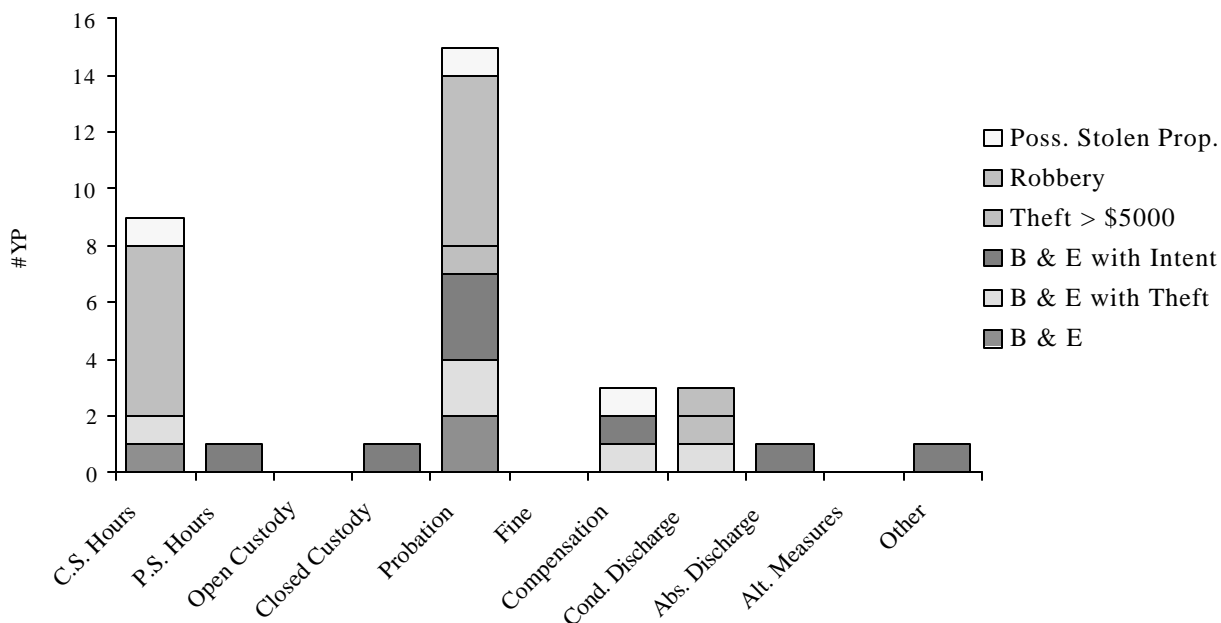
ordered to complete 50 hours. Forty, 35 and 20 hours were each assigned to one young person (9.1%). Of the 11 orders for community service, 7 (63.6%) mirrored amounts of community service hours negotiated in the Conference restoration agreement and one additional order was somewhat longer than the community service hours negotiated in the restoration agreement. Three of the 11 young people (27.3%) were court ordered to complete community service hours when none had been negotiated in their Conference restoration agreement.

A compensation order was imposed on six of the 29 young people (20.7%) Conferenced for a single incident. The compensation orders were all of different amounts as follows: \$250, \$440, \$610, \$849, \$950, \$6,400. Of these, half (3 or 50.0%) mirrored amounts of compensation negotiated in the Conference restoration agreement. The young person ordered to pay \$6,400 in compensation had received his disposition prior to participating in Conferencing, which is unusual. The referral of this young person to Conferencing occurred through his probation officer.

Six of the young people (20.7%) who participated in Conferencing regarding a single incident received a conditional discharge from the court and one (3.4%) received an absolute discharge. One young person (3.4%) was ordered to complete 20 personal service hours; this order reflected what the young person had negotiated as part of the Conference restoration agreement. One young person (3.4%) was ordered to complete 14 days of open custody and another young person (3.4%) was ordered to complete 90 days of closed custody. None of the 29 young people was diverted from court to Alternative Measures nor ordered to pay a fine. Finally, two of the young people received 'other' conditions as part of their dispositions. Both 'other' conditions were involved attending counselling, one of which was a reflection of the young person's Conference restoration agreement.

Incidents over which the 29 single incident court referred young people were Conferenced can be sorted into three broad categories: property related (18), interpersonal conflict (8), and other (3). In order to more thoroughly describe court imposed consequences related to each type of incident, disposition information is presented within each category. Disposition information for specific property related incidents is presented in Chart 7.c.

Chart 7.c. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for One Property Incident



Among the 18 young people whose single Conferenced offense can be categorized as property related, robbery was the most common and accounted for over one-third of these incidents (seven or 38.9%). Court dispositions for robbery were of three types: probation (received by six or 85.7% of the seven young people), community service (received by six or 85.7% of the seven young people), and conditional discharges (received by one or 14.3% of the seven young people). All of the six orders for probation terms were for one year. Among the six young people who received court ordered community service, two received 100 hours, two received 60 hours, one received 50 hours, and one received 35 hours. Six of these seven orders for community service (85.7%) reflected what the young person had negotiated in the Conference restoration agreement and the seventh (for 60 hours) was 20 hours more than had been negotiated in the Conference restoration agreement.

Break and enter with intent was the second most common incident type within the property related category and accounted for four of the 29 young people (13.8%) Conferenced regarding one incident. Young people who participated in Conferencing regarding a single break and enter

with intent incident were given court dispositions requiring personal service (1 or 25.0%), closed custody (1 or 25.0%), probation (3 or 75%), compensation (1 or 25%), absolute discharge (2 or 50.0%), or an 'other' item (1 or 25.0%, for counselling). Probation terms were all for one year. The one young person whose disposition included personal service was required to do 20 hours, which reflected what had been negotiated in the Conference restoration agreement. The one young person ordered to pay compensation was required to pay \$6,400 and, as noted earlier, this disposition was actually made prior to the Conference. The young person whose disposition included counselling had previously agreed to this in the Conference restoration agreement.

Three of the 18 (16.7%) young people Conferenced for a single incident in the property related category were responsible for break and enter with theft incidents. The dispositions for these young people included community service (1 or 33.3%), probation (2 or 66.7%), compensation (1 or 33.3%), and conditional discharge (1 or 33%). The young person who received court ordered community service was required to complete 30 hours, which reflected the Conference restoration agreement. The young person who was ordered to pay compensation was asked to pay \$250, the same amount this young person had agreed to in the Conference restoration agreement.

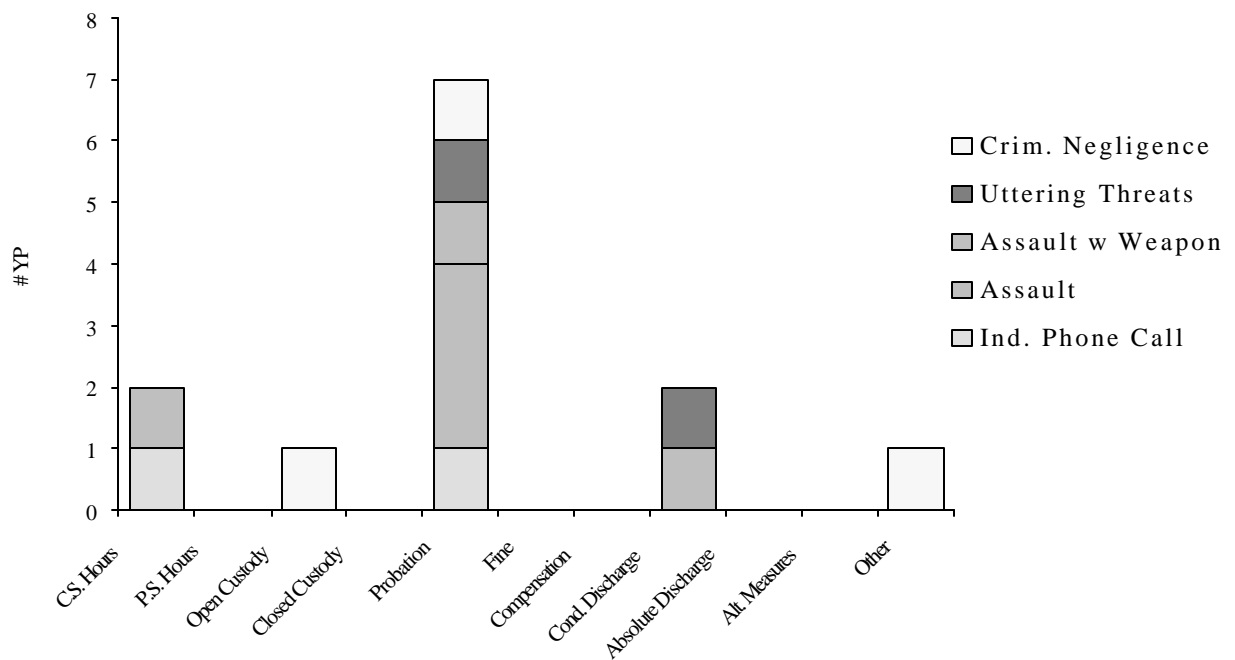
Two of the 18 young people (11.1%) Conferenced for a single property related incident were responsible for a break and enter. These young people received community service (1 or 50.0%) and probation (2 or 100%). The young person whose court disposition included community service was ordered to complete 100 hours, which had not been part of the restoration agreement. Both of these young people were court ordered to complete one year of probation.

One of the 18 young people (5.6%) responsible for an incident within the property related category was Conferenced regarding possession of a stolen property. This young person's court disposition included community service (100 hours, which had been included in the restoration agreement), probation (one year), and compensation (\$610, which had been included in the restoration agreement).

Finally, one of the 18 young people (5.6%) responsible for an incident within the property related category was Conferenced regarding theft over \$5,000. This young person’s court disposition included probation (6 months) and a conditional discharge.

Chart 7.d. presents disposition information for young people who participated in a Conference regarding one interpersonal conflict incident.

Chart 7.d. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for One Interpersonal Conflict Incident



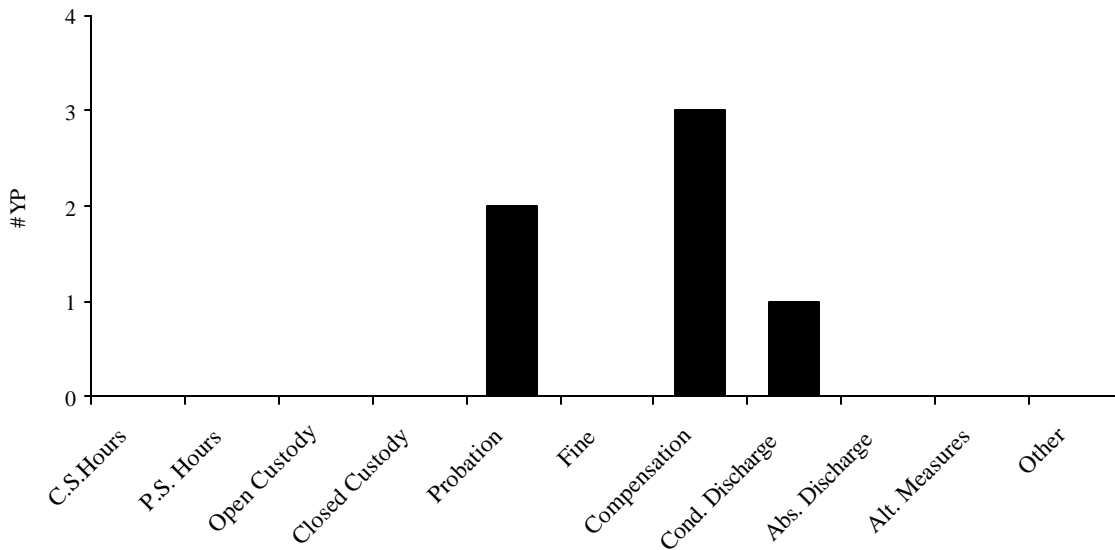
Fifty percent (4) of the eight young people Conferenced for a single incident categorized as interpersonal conflict were responsible for assaults. Court dispositions for these young people included community service (1 or 25.0%), probation (3 or 75.0%), and conditional discharge (1 or 25.0%). The young person given community service was ordered to complete 50 hours, which had not been part of the negotiated Conference restoration agreement. Probation terms were for one year (two young people) or six months (one young person).

The four other young people responsible for single interpersonal conflict incidents were each Conferenced regarding a different type of incident. One young person was responsible for an

indecent phone call, for which the court disposition included community service (40 hours, not included in the restoration agreement) and probation (2 months). The young person responsible for assault with a weapon received six months probation as a court disposition. The young person responsible for uttering threats received six months probation and a conditional discharge. Finally, the young person responsible for criminal negligence causing bodily harm received 14 days open custody, one year probation, and an order for counselling (not specified in the restoration agreement).

Three young people were responsible for single incidents that could not be categorized as property related or interpersonal conflict, all involving mischief. Disposition information regarding the three young people Conferenced for one mischief incident each is presented in Chart 7.e.

Chart 7.e. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for One Mischief Incident



As can be seen from Chart 7.e., court dispositions for two of the three young people responsible for mischief included probation. The probation terms were for 9 months each. One young person received a conditional discharge. All three were court ordered to pay compensation. Two of these compensation orders (for \$440 and \$950) reflected what had been negotiated in the Conference restoration agreement, while the third (\$849) had not been part of the restoration agreement.

7.1.2. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for Two Counts

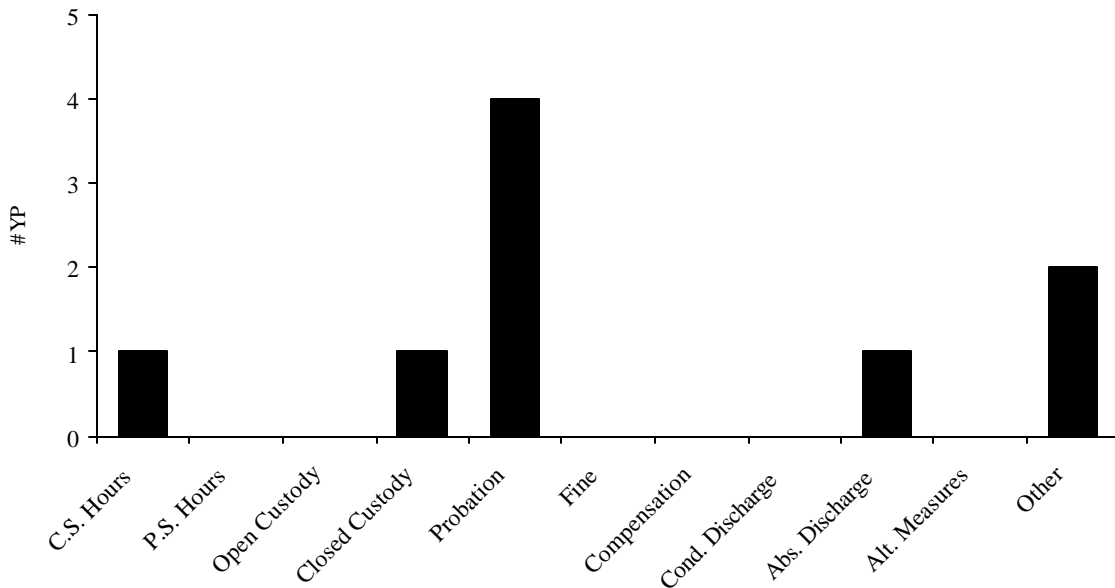
Five young people were Conferenced regarding two incidents. As indicated in Chart 7.f., one of these young people was responsible for two counts of one type of incident (possession of an imitation weapon dangerous to the public good), while the others were responsible for one count each of two different incidents.

Chart 7.f. Incidents Among Young People Conferenced for Two Counts

Count		Second Incident Type					Total
		0	Assault	Possession/Use of a Stolen Credit Card	Unlawfully Disguised	Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle	
First Incident Type	Break and Enter with Intent			1			1
	Robbery				1		1
	Mischief		1				1
	Possession of Stolen Property					1	1
	Poss of imitation weapon - dangerous to public good	1					1
Total		1	1	1	1	1	5

Chart 7.g. presents disposition information for young people who participated in Conferencing regarding 2 incidents.

Chart 7.g. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for Two Incidents



As can be seen from Chart 7.g., the most common court imposed consequence for young people Conferenced for two incidents was probation, with four of the five young people receiving this consequence. Two young people (50%) received 18 month probation terms. Of these young people, one was responsible for a robbery and unlawful disguise, while the other was responsible for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and possession of stolen property. One young person (25%), responsible for break and enter with intent and possession/use of a stolen credit card, received 15 months probation. The fourth young person (25%) was responsible for assault and mischief and received eight months probation.

Two young people Conferenced for two incidents each were given disposition orders categorized as ‘other.’ The young person responsible for robbery and unlawful disguise was given a firearm prohibition, which was not negotiated in the restoration agreement. The young person responsible for break and enter with intent and possession/use of a stolen credit card received a court order for counselling, which had not been specified in the restoration agreement.

One young person responsible for two incidents received each of the following dispositions: charges withdrawn, community service, closed custody, and absolute discharge. The young person given community service was responsible for assault and mischief and was required to 30 hours, which reflected what was negotiated in the restoration agreement. The young person responsible for robbery and wearing a disguise was given 30 days closed custody. The young person given an absolute discharge was Conferenced regarding two counts of possession of an imitation weapon dangerous to the public good.

7.1.3. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for Three Counts

Chart 7.h. presents information regarding the ten young people responsible for three counts.

Chart 7.h. Incidents Among Young People Conferenced for Three Counts

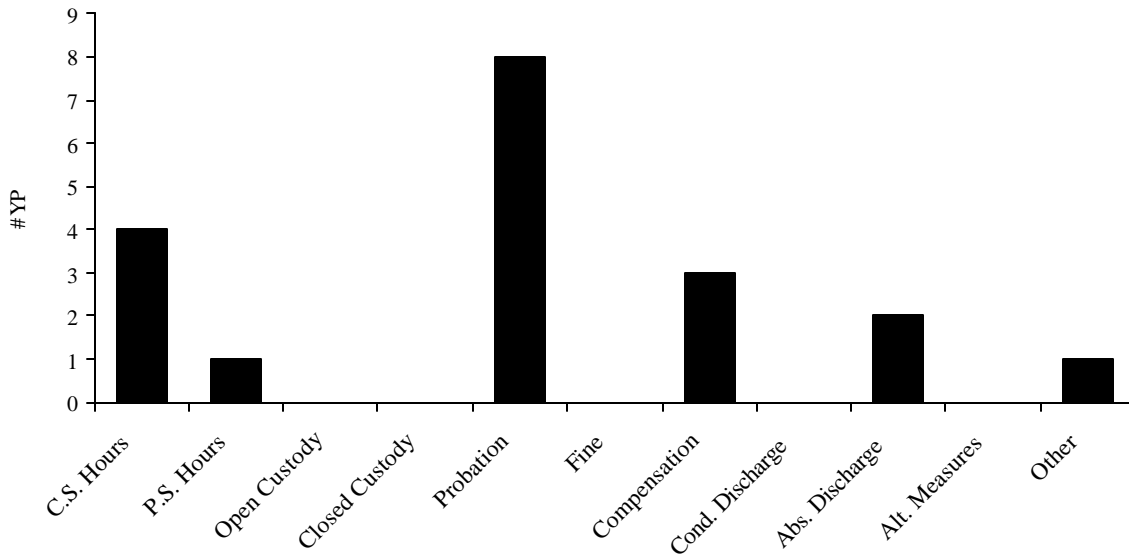
Count			Second Incident Type					Total
Third Incident Type	0	Theft Under \$5000	Possession/ Use of a Stolen Credit Card	Uttering a Forged Document	Fraud	Possession of a weapon		
0	First Incident Type	Break and Enter	1	2				3
		Break and Enter with Theft	1					1
		Break and Enter with Inten		1				1
		Possession of Stolen Property			1	1		2
		Possession/Use of a Stolen Credit Card	1				1	2
Wearing a Disguise	First Incident Type	Robbery					1	1

As can be noted from Chart 7.h., three young people were Conferenced for three counts of one type of incident: break and enter, break and enter with theft, and possession of stolen property. Six young people were responsible for two types of incident, with one count on one type and two types on the other. Two of these involved break and enter and theft under \$5,000. The other four involved the following combinations: break and enter with intent and theft under \$5,000, possession of stolen property and possession/use of a stolen credit card, possession of stolen property and uttering a forged document, and possession/use of a stolen credit card and fraud.

Finally, one young person was responsible for one count of three types of incidents: robbery, possession of a weapon, and unlawful disguise.

Chart 7.i. indicates the court dispositions for young people responsible for three counts.

Chart 7.i. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for Three Counts



As indicated in Chart 7.i., the most common court imposed consequence among young people responsible for three incidents was probation, received by eight of the ten youths (80.0%). The terms of probation ranged from six to 18 months, with two young people receiving the minimum and one receiving the maximum. Four young people received terms of one year and one received a term of 16 months.

The second most common court disposition given to young people responsible for three incidents was community service, received by four of the ten youths (40%). The community service orders were for 20, 40, 67 and 100 hours, none of which reflected items in negotiated Conference restoration agreements. One of the young people received 30 hours of personal service, which did not reflect the restoration agreement.

Three young people were court ordered to pay compensation. The amounts were as follows: \$80, \$125, and \$1,700. Again, none of these reflected compensation amounts negotiated in Conference restoration agreements. Two of the young people responsible for three incidents were given absolute discharges. Finally, one young person was given an order to attend counselling as part of the court disposition. Counselling had not been part of this young person’s Conference restoration agreement.

7.1.4. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for More than Three Counts

Chart 7.j. provides an overview of the incidents and counts for the seven young people responsible for more than 3 counts.

Chart 7.j. Incidents and Counts for Young People Responsible for More Than 3 Counts

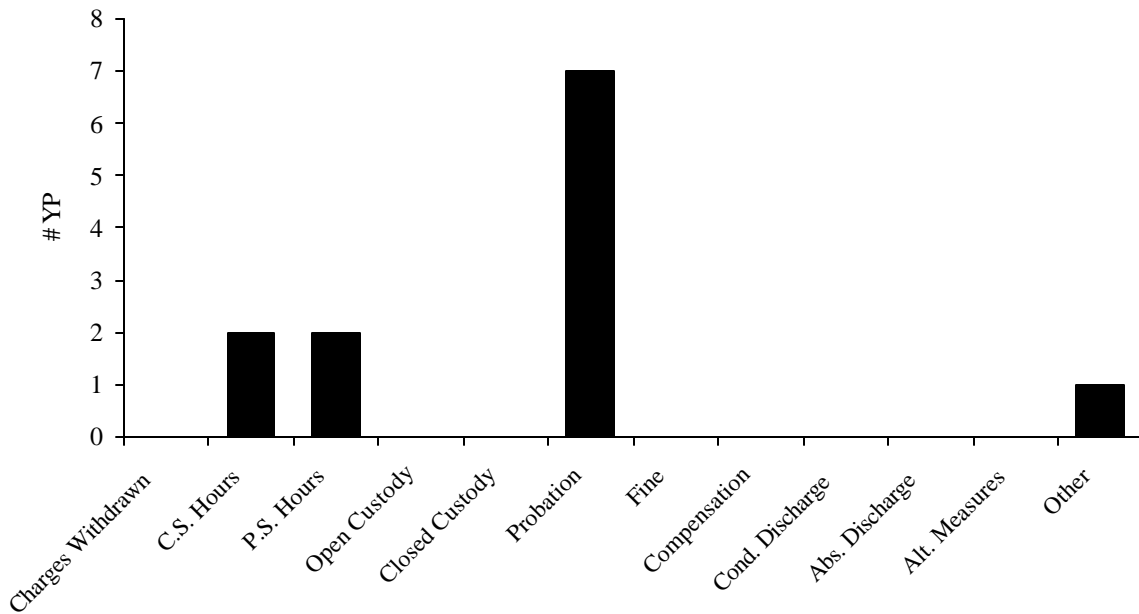
	First Incident Counts	Second Incident Counts	Third Incident Counts	Fourth Incident Counts	Fifth Incident Counts	Total Counts
YP 1	B & E 5	B & E, Intent 3				8
YP 2	B & E, Theft 3	B & E, Intent 1	Theft < \$5,000 1	Poss. Stol. Prop. 1	Poss. B&E Tools 1	7
YP 3	Theft < \$5,000 1	Mischief 5	Poss. Stol. Prop. 2			8
YP 4	Poss. Stol. Veh. 8					8
YP 5	B & E 9					9
YP 6	B & E, Theft 6	Auto Theft 1				7
YP 7	B & E 6					6

As can be seen from Chart 7.j., the total counts for young people responsible for more than three counts ranged from six to nine. Three of the young people were responsible for multiple counts of one type of incident, two for break and enter (one for nine and the other for six counts) and

one for possession of a stolen vehicle (eight counts). Two young people were responsible for multiple counts on two incidents, one for break and enter (five counts) and break and enter with intent (three counts) and the other for break and enter with theft (six counts) and auto theft (one count). One young person was responsible for multiple counts across three incident types: theft under \$5,000 (one count), mischief (five counts) and possession of stolen property (two counts). Finally, one person was responsible for seven counts across five different incident types: break and enter with theft (three counts), break and enter with intent (one count), theft under \$5,000 (one count), possession of stolen property (one count) and possession of break and enter tools (one count).

Chart 7.k. presents disposition information regarding the seven young people responsible for more than three counts each.

Chart 7.k. Dispositions for Young People Conferenced for More than 3 Counts



As can be seen from Chart 7.k., the most common court imposed disposition for these young people was probation, which all seven young people received. The shortest probation term was for six months (YP 7). Four young people received probation terms of one year each (YP 2, YP 4, YP 6, YP 1) and two young people received probation terms of 18 months (YP 5, YP 3).

Among the seven young people responsible for more than three counts, two received community service, two received personal service, and one received an ‘other’ disposition item. One of the young people (YP 1) who received community service was court ordered to 100 hours which did not reflect an item in the negotiated restoration agreement. The other young person (YP 2) was ordered to complete 50 hours, which did reflect the restoration agreement. The two young people (YP 1 and YP 2) court ordered to complete personal service both had negotiated the same number of hours (80 and 50, respectively) in the Conference restoration agreement. The ‘other’ disposition item received by one young person (YP 7) was an order for counselling, which had not been specified in the restoration agreement.

7.1.5. Relationships between Restoration Agreements and Court Dispositions

As noted in the preceding paragraphs, restoration agreement items negotiated among Conference participants sometimes reflected items court ordered in the young person’s disposition. Not all negotiated restoration agreement items can be reflected in a court disposition, including, for example, written letters of apology, taking the victim(s) out for a meal, or spending quality time with family members. Conversely, not all possible court ordered consequences could be part of a restoration agreement, including, for example, custody and probation. However, there are some items that may be negotiated in a restoration agreement that could then be reflected in the young person’s court disposition. These include community service, personal service, compensation, and counselling.

Ten of the 16 young people (62.5%) who had community service hours as part of negotiated restoration agreements were also court ordered to complete community service. Dispositions required two of the remaining 35 court referred young people (5.7%) to complete community service when none had been specified on the restoration agreement. Among the 10 young people whose restoration agreement and disposition both included community service, there was a strong correlation ($r = .98$) in the number of hours specified.

Three of the 17 young people (17.6%) who had personal service hours as part of negotiated restoration agreements were also court ordered to complete personal service. One of the

remaining 34 court referred young people (2.9%) was court ordered to complete personal service when none had been specified on the restoration agreement. Among the young people whose restoration agreement and court disposition both included personal service, there was perfect agreement on the number of hours specified ($r = 1.0$).

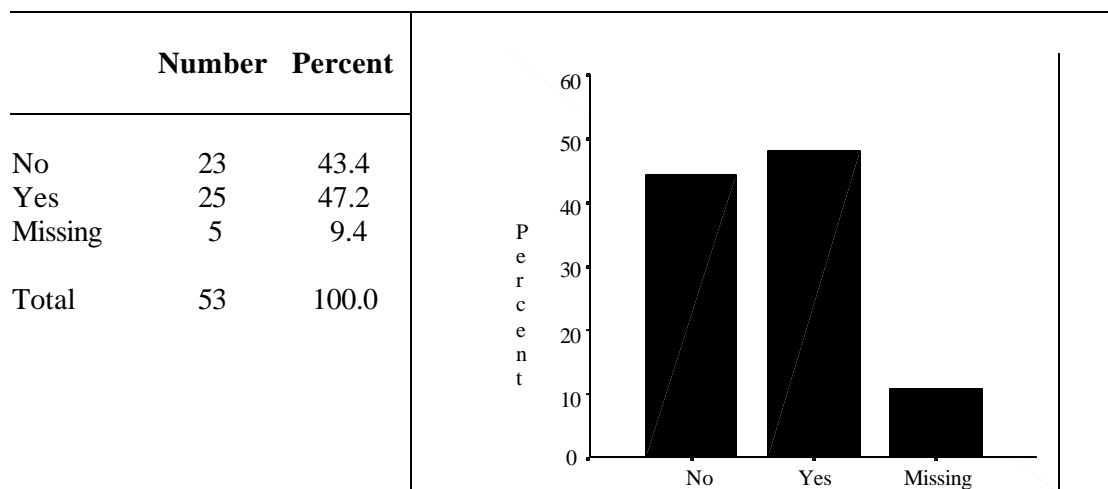
Regarding compensation, four of the 22 young people (18.2%) who had negotiated some amount of compensation on the restoration agreement were also court ordered to pay compensation. Five of the 29 remaining young people (17.2%) were court ordered to pay compensation when none had been included in the restoration agreement. Among the young people with compensation on both restoration agreement and Disposition, there was strong agreement on the amount of money specified ($r = .99$).

Finally, six young people included attending counselling as part of the negotiated restoration agreement. Five young people received a court order mandating counselling as part of the disposition. Only one of the six young people (16.7%) who had counselling as a restoration agreement item also had counselling as a court disposition. Court dispositions mandated counselling for four of 45 young people (8.9%) who did not negotiate counselling on the restoration agreement.

7.2. System Imposed Consequences for School Referred Youth

Four charts are presented regarding consequences for young people who participated in school Conferences. Charts 7.l and 7.m. portray, respectively, whether or not young people received school consequences for the incident for which they were responsible and the types of consequences they received by young people over the reporting period. Chart 7.n. indicates, for the various types of incidents Conferenced, the number associated with school consequences. Finally, Chart 7.o. presents the types of school consequence associated with each incident.

Chart 7.l. Were School Consequences Imposed?



As indicated in Chart 7.l., consequences were imposed by schools on approximately one-half of the students who participated in a school Conference.

The most common consequence (as indicated in Chart 7.m.) was five day suspensions, accounting for almost one-third of all consequences. Summing across types, 23 students received suspensions. Thus, suspensions represented almost two-thirds (62.2%) of all consequences imposed on students who participated in school Conferences. Of the total 53 students who participated in Conferences, over two-fifths (43.4%) received a school suspension for some period of time.

Chart 7.m. Types of School Consequences

Consequence	Number	Percent
1 day suspension	4	10.8
3 day suspension	6	16.2
5 day suspension	10	27.0
> 5 day suspension	3	8.1
Suspension with recommendation for expulsion	1	2.7
Formal Reinstatement	5	13.5
Compensation	2	5.4
Special program placement	3	8.1
Period of Home Schooling	1	2.7
Written Apology	2	5.4
Total	37	100.0

Chart 7.n. indicates the number of school consequences associated with the type of incident Conferenced. Taking the assault-related incidents together, two-thirds of responsible young people (14 or 66.7%) had an associated school consequence. As can be noted from the chart, over one-half (12 or 52.2%) of the 23 Conferenced incidents that did not involve a school consequence were within the group related conflict category. All of these incidents were within one Conference involving 12 young people.

Chart 7.n. School Consequences by Incident Type

Incident Type	Formal School Consequences?		Total
	No	Yes	
Assault – Weapon	-	1	1
Assault – Bodily harm	-	1	1
Assault	7	12	19
Threatening – Weapon	-	1	1
Physical Fighting	-	2	2
Verbal Fighting	4	4	4
Group Related Conflict	12	-	12
Spraying a Noxious Substance in School	-	2	2
Slashing Tires	-	2	2
Total	23	25	48

Chart 7.o. presents a cross-tabulation of school consequences by incident types.

Chart 7.o. School Consequence Type by Incident Type

Incident Type	Suspension: 1 day	Suspension: 3 days	Suspension: 5 days	Suspension: >5 days	Suspension & Expulsion Rec'd	Formal Reinst't	Special Program Placement	Home Schooling	Compensation	Written Apology	Total
Assault – Weapon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assault – Bodily harm	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Assault	0	2	6	3	0	2	3	1	0	0	17
Threatening – Weapon	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Physical Fighting	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Spray Noxious Substance	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
Slashing Tires	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	6
Verbal Fighting	4 ^d	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	4	6	10	3	1	5	3	1	2	2	37

As indicated, 37 school consequences were given to the 25 students who received at least one consequence each. The most variance in terms of school consequence was within the assault category. In terms of absolute numbers, the two students responsible for tire slashing (three counts each) received the highest number of consequences as they each received a five day suspension, were required to compensate the victims, and write letters of apology. The two students involved in spraying a noxious substance received two school consequences each: a five day suspension and a formal reinstatement. A junior high student responsible for an assault also received two school consequences: a five day suspension and a period of home schooling. The other students who received school consequences received one consequence each.

^d The four boys involved in verbal fighting were also involved in physical fighting. The 1 day suspension was the school consequence for both verbal and physical fighting.

8. Re-Offenses Among Young People Who Participated in Conferencing

One of CCC's long term goals is that young people who participated in Conferencing have lower re-offense rates than young people, convicted of similar offenses, who did not participate in Conferencing. Measuring achievement toward this goal will require significant attention to the problems associated with operationalizing re-offending as well as a research design allowing long term comparisons between Conferenced and non-Conferenced youth on the re-offense and a variety of control variables. The purpose of this section of the report is not to address the question of the impact of Conferencing on re-offending, but rather simply to present information on known re-offenses among young people who have participated in Conferencing.

For the purposes of this report, re-offending is defined, among court referred young people, as conviction on a subsequent offense, not including administrative offences (e.g., breach of probation). Among school referred young people, re-offending is defined as having received a subsequent serious school imposed sanction (i.e., expulsion or greater than 3 day suspension). Defining re-offending in terms of subsequent court convictions or school sanctions has serious limitations. Primary among these is the possibility that a young person may have been responsible for additional incidents not registered in official court or school records.

8.1. Re-Offenses Among School Referred Youth

All but one of the Conferences with the 53 school referred young people have occurred since November, 1999. Since a relatively short amount of time has passed since Conference participation for many of these youth, a re-offending check is feasible at only a six month post Conference interval. At least six months has passed since Conference completion for 34 of the 53 school referred young people. Among these 34 young people, none has been given a school sanction that would indicate involvement in subsequent serious misbehaviour. It is worth noting that, regardless of the time passed since Conference participation, none of the involved young people has received a school sanction that would indicate subsequent serious misbehaviour.

8.2. Re-Offenses Among Court Referred Youth

Since Conferencing with court referred young people has been occurring since January 1998, it is possible to check re-offending six months and one year after Conference participation.

At least six months has passed since Conference completion for 34 of the 51 court referred young people. Among these 34 young people, four (11.8%) have been convicted of one or more subsequent offenses. Details regarding each of these youth's Conferenced incident(s), subsequent incident(s), and time between Conference and subsequent incident(s) are presented in Chart 8.a.

Chart 8.a. Subsequent Offenses at 6 Months Among Court Referred Youth

	Conferenced Incident(s) (Counts)	Subsequent Incident(s) (Counts)	Days Between Conference & Subsequent Incident(s)
YP 1	B & E with Intent (1)	B & E (1)	2
YP 2	B & E with Theft (1)	B & E (1) Fraud (1)	571 571
YP 3	Theft < \$5,000 (1), Mischief (5), Poss. Stol. Prop. (2)	Poss. Stol. Prop. (1) B & E (1) B & E (1)	88 88 557
YP 4	B & E with Theft (1)	B & E with Theft (1)	149

Among the youth under consideration (i.e., those for whom at least six months has passed since completion of a Conference), the young people who have been convicted of a subsequent offense were originally Conferenced regarding predominantly property offenses. Subsequent offenses for these youths were all also property offenses. The time between Conference completion and first subsequent offense was less than one week for one youth, approximately three months for one young person, five months for the second and 19 months for the third.

At least one year has passed since Conference completion for 24 of the 51 court referred young people. Among these 24 young people, three (12.5%) have been convicted of one or more subsequent offenses. At least one year has passed since Conference completion for all of the youth described in Chart 8.a. except YP 1.

9. Staff Direct Service for Conferences

All Community Conferences entail intensive pre-Conference preparation, with multiple phone and personal contacts with the involved young people, victims, and supporters. Charts 9.a. and 9.b. indicate the direct services Community Conferencing staff give to the individuals involved in Conferences.

Chart 9.a. Preparation for Conferences: Direct Services

	Phone Calls: Young Person and Supporters	Meetings: Young Person and Supporters	Phone Calls: Victim and Supporters ^e	Meetings: Victims and Supporters ^b
Number	649	274	493	202
Mean	10.0	4.2	8.1	3.3
Minimum	3	2	1	1
Maximum	25	10	29	12

In total, Community Conferencing staff made 1,142 phone calls and 477 visits to individuals directly involved in Conferences over the reporting period. On average, more contact (phone calls and meetings) was made with young persons and their supporters than with victims and their supporters.

A very rough approximation of total preparatory direct service hours for Conferences can be calculated by estimating each phone call at 15 minutes and each meeting at 90 minutes. This results in estimates 285.5 direct service hours in telephone calls and 715.5 direct service hours in meetings. Using these totals, an estimate of preparatory direct service hours per Conference can be calculated: Conferences averaged approximately 4.4 hours in phone calls and 11 hours in meetings. In total, preparatory work is estimated at 15.5 hours per Conference.

^e Note that telephone calls and meetings to victims and supporters involve the 61 Conferences that included an identified victim.

Chart 9.b. presents information regarding the duration of Conferences. Conferences lasted a minimum of two hours and a maximum of four hours. On average, Conferences were three and one-half hours long. In total, Community Conferencing staff spent 226.8 hours in Conferences for all the Conferences held between January 1998 and July 31, 2000.

Chart 9.b. Duration of Conferences

	Court Conferences (N = 46)	School Conferences (N = 19)	All Conferences (N = 65)
Average	3.6	3.2	3.5
Minimum	2.5	2.0	2.0
Maximum	6.5	4.0	6.5
Total Hours	166.3	60.5	226.8

For comparative purposes, court Conferences lasted, on average, 3.6 hours, somewhat longer than school Conferences, which averaged 3.2 hours. The shortest school Conferences was two hours while the shortest court Conference was two and one-half hours. The longest school Conference was four hours, while the longest court Conference was six and one-half hours. The court Conference that was six and one-half hours involved one young person with nine break and enter charges who was Conferenced with three victims.

Adding average Conference length to the estimated hours of preparatory work per Conference results in an estimate of 19 direct service hours from receipt of referral until completion of Conference.

10. Referrals Not Conferenced

Calgary Community Conferencing received 37 referrals that did not proceed to Conference. These included four school and 33 court referrals.

All of the non-Conferenced school referrals were from junior high schools. The four incident types referred but not Conferenced included verbal fighting, property damage, theft, and inappropriate sexual behaviour. These referrals involved six young people, including three males and three females. Three referrals were regarding a single young person and one involved three young people. Two of the referrals did not proceed because CCC staff believed the situation inappropriate for Conferencing; the other two did not proceed as a result of victim choice.

The 33 court referrals that did not proceed to Conference involved 37 young people. Thirty-two of the referrals were with respect to one young person, while one referral involved three young people. The referrals involved a total of 55 incidents, 60.0% (33) of which were property related. Among the property related incidents, robberies were the most frequently referred but not Conferenced offenses (12 or 21.8%). Nineteen assault related incidents were referred but not Conferenced, accounting for just over one-third of the total (19 or 34.5%). The three non-assault and non-property incidents accounted for the balance of the non-Conferenced referrals (5.5%) and included one each of the following charges: obstructing a police officer, mischief, and unlawful consumption in a public place.

Among the 37 court referred, non-Conferenced young people, 28 (75.7%) were male and nine (24.3%) were female. The source of one referral was unknown. Judges referred 10 (28.6%) of the non-Conferenced cases, Defense lawyers referred 19 (54.3%), probation officers referred four (11.4%), and a young person's parent referred one (2.9%). Victim choice was the reason court referrals did not proceed to Conference in two-thirds of the cases (22 or 66.7%). The young person decided against proceeding in seven of the 33 non-Conferenced court referrals (21.2%). Conferencing facilitators decided the case was not appropriate for Conferencing in four (12.1%) of the non-Conferenced cases.

It should be noted that although 37 referrals to Community Conferencing from the schools and court did not proceed to Conferences, there was considerable work completed with the involved young people, victims, and supporters. Across these 37 referrals, a total of 232 telephone calls and 72 meetings were made to young people and/or their supporters. One hundred and thirty-one telephone calls and 24 meetings were held with victims and/or their supporters regarding these referrals. Using the same method as was used to estimate the time spent in preparatory work for referrals that did proceed to Conference (Section 7), Conferencing staff spent 90.75 hours on telephone calls and 144.0 hours on meetings with these non-Conferenced referrals. On average, staff spent 7.3 hours of direct service work on each of the 32 referrals that was not Conferenced

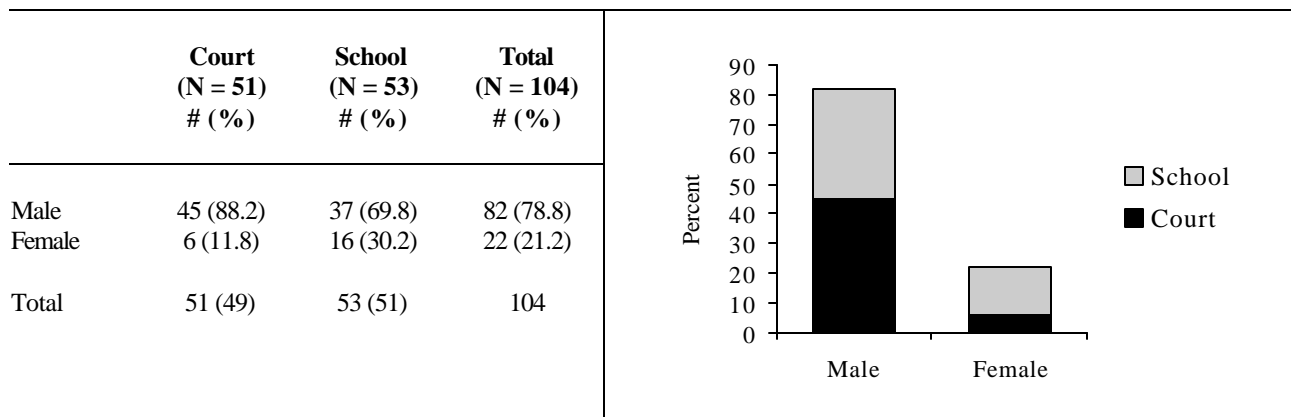
11. Characteristics of Young People

The young people who participated in Community Conferences between January 1998 and July 2000 are described below in terms of gender, age, heritage, and home city quadrant.

11.1. Gender of Young People Involved in Conferencing

Chart 11.a. presents a breakdown of the gender of the young people involved in Conferencing.

Chart 11.a. Young Person Gender

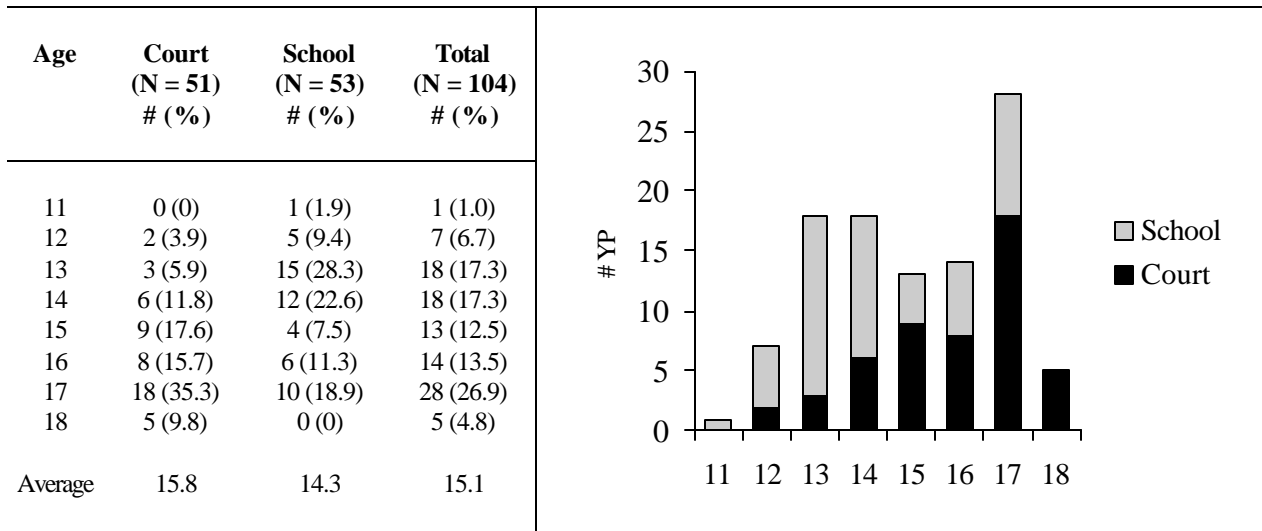


As indicated in Chart 11.a., slightly over three-quarters (82 or 78.8 %) of young people involved in Conferences were male. Female young people comprised substantially more school (30.2%) than court (11.8%) Conference participants.

11.2. Age of Young People Involved in Conferencing

Chart 11.b. provides information regarding young people’s age at the time of the incident for which they participated in Conferencing.

Chart 11.b. Young Person Age



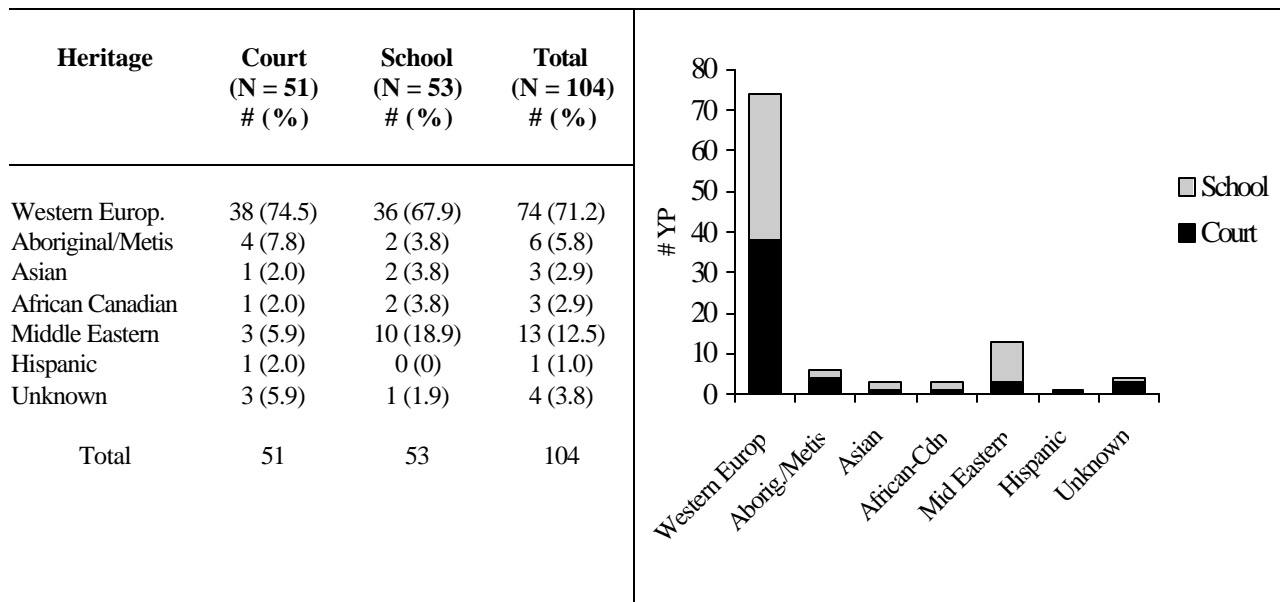
As indicated in Chart 11.b., the youngest young person involved in a Community Conference between January 1998 and July 2000 was 11 years old while the oldest was 18. The average age of the 104 young people was just over 15 years.

On average, young people participating in school Conferences (14.3) tended to be somewhat younger than young people participating in court Conferences (15.8). Within school Conferences, the modal age was 15 (28.3% of school Conferenced young people). In contrast, the modal age among court Conferences young people was 17 (26.9% of court Conferenced young people).

11.3. Heritage of Young People Involved in Conferencing

Chart 11.c. presents information regarding heritage of the young people involved in Conferencing. The majority of all young people (74 or 71.2%) were of Western European heritage, with those of Middle Eastern heritage comprising the next largest group (13 or 12.5%).

Chart 11.c. Young Person Heritage

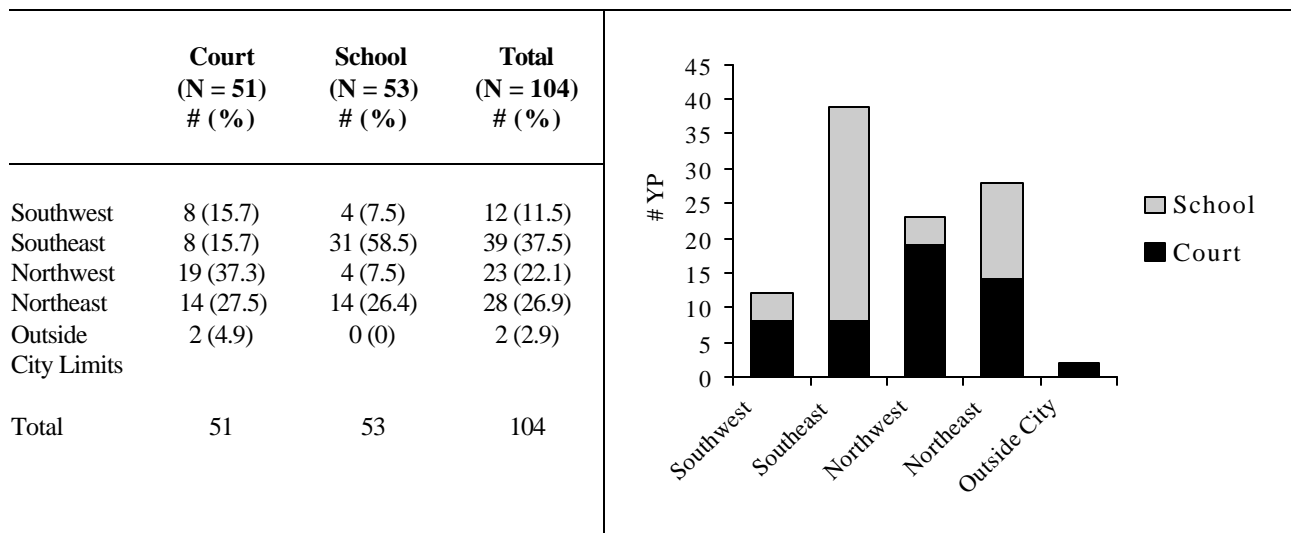


Comparing the heritage of court and school referred young people indicates few differences between the groups. Both court and school referred young people were predominantly of Western European heritage (74.5% and 67.9% respectively). Young people of Aboriginal/Metis descent accounted for a somewhat larger percent of court (7.8%) than school (3.8%) referrals. Young people of Middle Eastern heritage accounted for a larger percent of school (18.9%) than court (5.9%) referrals.

11.4. Home City Quadrant of Young People Involved in Conferencing

Chart 11.d. portrays the home city quadrants of the young people involved in Conferences between January 1998 and July 2000. As is apparent, Southeast Calgary was the home city quadrant for the largest group of young people (39 or 37.5%). The city’s northeast was the home city quadrant for just over one-quarter of the young people (28 or 26.9%). The western quadrants of the city were home to about one-third (35 or 33.6%) of the young people, with the Northwest home to about twice the number of young people than the Southwest (23 or 22.1% versus 12 or 11.5%)

Chart 11.d. Young Person Home City Quadrant



Young people who participated in court Conferences tended to be more dispersed in terms of their home city quadrant than young people who participated in school Conferences. Approximately 15% of young people in court Conferences came from each of the southern quadrants. A third were from the Northwest and just over one-quarter were from the Northeast. The two young people from outside Calgary’s city limits who participated in Conferences were referred from the court.

In contrast with court referred young people, the home city quadrant of school referred young people tended to be more concentrated in the eastern part of Calgary. The southeast and northeast was home to 84.8% (45) of the school referred young people, with the majority of those (31) coming from the southeast. The western half of Calgary was home to only 15% (8) of school referred young people, with equal numbers of young people from each quadrant.

12. Conclusion

In the two and a half years between January 1998 and July 2000, CCC facilitated 65 Conferences involving 601 direct participants and another 150 observers. Conferences were held regarding 30 different kinds of predominantly property and interpersonal conflict incidents. Over the reporting period, 104 young people who harmed met with 143 individuals harmed and, assisted by 286 supporters, negotiated 397 items to redress the harm. Among the 68 court and school referred young people for whom at least six months has passed since Conferencing, four (5.9%) have been reported as having been involved in subsequent serious misbehavior.

The purpose of this report was to provide details regarding the program activities and outputs of CCC in order to address questions regarding individuals served by the program, the services provided, and some of the outputs associated with these services. Questions regarding participants' experiences of and opinions regarding Conferencing are being addressed through a process evaluation that draws on interviews of young people who harmed, individuals who experienced harm, and supporters of each. This formative evaluation will also include representatives from CCC stakeholder groups including, for example, judges and school administrators. Finally, questions regarding the degree to which the program is achieving its intended immediate and long term goals will be addressed via a summative evaluation based on the quantitative operationalization and measurement of the specified outcomes.