

# Advancing Racial Equity in Youth Diversion: An Evaluation Framework Informed by Los Angeles County

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# Background

# Human Impact Partners

Through research, advocacy, and capacity building, we bring the power of public health to campaigns and movements for a just society



Criminal Justice



Economic Security



Immigration



Housing



Land Use and  
Transportation

# Health Instead of Punishment



# About the project

- The partnership
- Project scope
- Research methods

# Evaluation Framework





# Advancing Racial Equity in Youth Diversion:

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# Getting stopped by a law enforcement officer

## How to ensure racial equity

- End over-policing by law enforcement
- Interrupt school-to-prison pipeline
- End foster care facilities' reliance on police





# Getting referred by law enforcement to a diversion program

## How to ensure racial equity

- Adjust eligibility criteria
- Limit assumptions and bias
  - Develop processes for review, accountability
  - Educate about programs, youth development



# Getting enrolled in a diversion program

## How to ensure racial equity

- Use effective communication approaches
- Hold enrollment/programs when convenient
- Use healing-informed practices
- Develop individual, strengths-based plans



# Participating in & completing a diversion program

## How to ensure racial equity

- Invite caretakers to participate
- Use restorative, non-punitive approach
- Ground programs in youth's communities
- Hire staff skilled in engagement
- Connect youth to support services
- Adjust care plans
- Develop exit strategy
- Support youth unable to complete



# Thriving after a program

## How to ensure racial equity

- Hire former Black and Brown participants
- Invest in Black, Brown youth and communities
- Meet basic needs of Black, Brown caretakers

# Conclusion

# What's next?

LA County's YDD program is

- Seeking external evaluator
- Building data infrastructure
- Ensuring protection of data

# Thank you!

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