



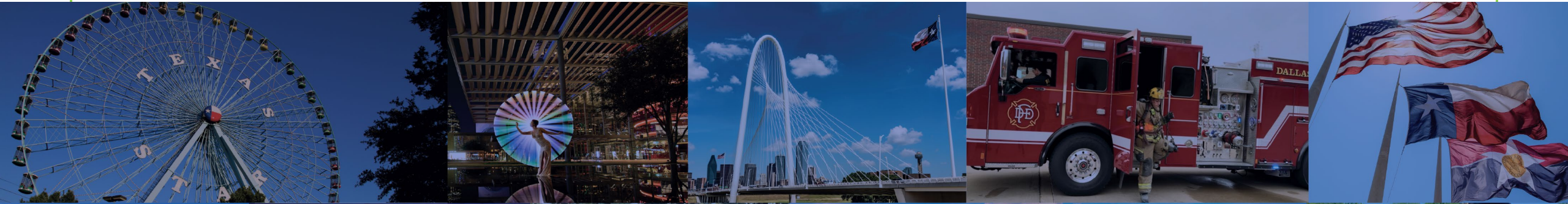
**SERVICE  
FIRST,  
NOW!**

# **Dallas Police Department's First Offender Program Public Safety Committee**

**May 11, 2026**

**Suellen Flores, Manager**  
First Offender Program  
Dallas Police Department

**ONE TEAM, ONE DALLAS.**



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# First Offender Program (FOP) History

- First Offender Program began in 1974
- FOP Consists of 2 areas of focus:
  - Standard FOP
  - FOP Runaway-At-Risk Youth Initiative
- FOP Runaway and At-Risk Initiative began in late 2021
- Standard FOP addresses behavior after an offense. The Runaway and At-Risk Initiative addresses risk before escalation.
- Goal: Reducing recidivism and better outcomes.

# Program Structure

## FOP Team Structure (5 Staff Total)

- 1 Manager
- 1 Caseworker II
- 3 Caseworker I

## Staff Qualifications & Expertise

- All staff hold Bachelor's degrees
- 70+ years of combined experience
- Areas of expertise:
  - Child abuse/neglect
  - Sex trafficking investigations
  - Forensic interviewing
  - Mental health and counseling
  - Education systems
  - Community engagement
- 3 of 5 staff are currently pursuing continued higher education



# Standard First Offender Program

- Criteria For Enrollment
  - Referred by Dallas Police Department or Dallas Independent School District Police Department
  - Only Class A/B and/or State Jail Felonies
  - First time, Nonviolent, Nonaggressive Offenses
  - Past Runaway (1-2 max) allowed
  - Parent/Guardian and youth participation mandatory
- Program Phases
  - Intake and assessment
  - Direct: 6-week skill-based program
  - 90-day waiting period
- Rejection/Disqualification
- Successful Completion = No record

# FOP After Program Success vs Rejected Youth (Combined 2021–2024) Stats

Timeframe	# Reoffended (Completed)	% Reoffended (Completed)	# Reoffended (Rejected)	% Reoffended (Rejected)
3 Months	2 of 148	1.35%	18 of 36	50.00%
6 Months	2 of 146	1.36%	10 of 35	28.57%
1 Year	4 of 142	1.41%	6 of 34	17.65%
2 Years	3 of 139	2.16%	3 of 22	13.64%
3 Years	1 of 138	0.72%	0 of 12	0.00%

**Key Point:**

- Youths without FOP intervention reoffend at significantly higher rates.

# Runaway and At-Risk Initiative

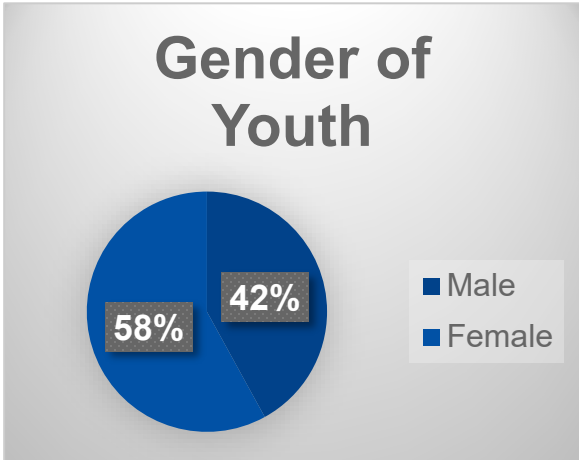
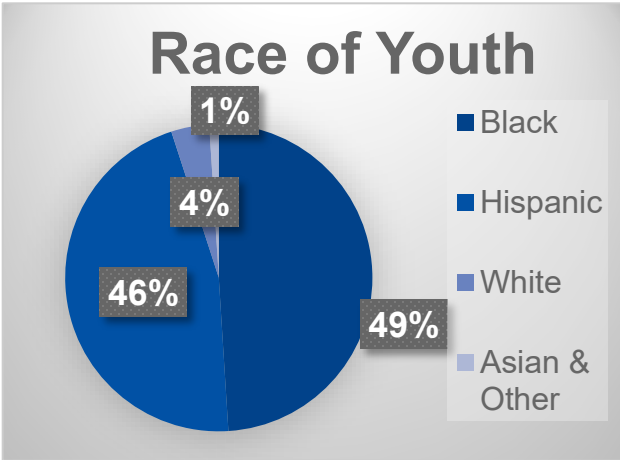
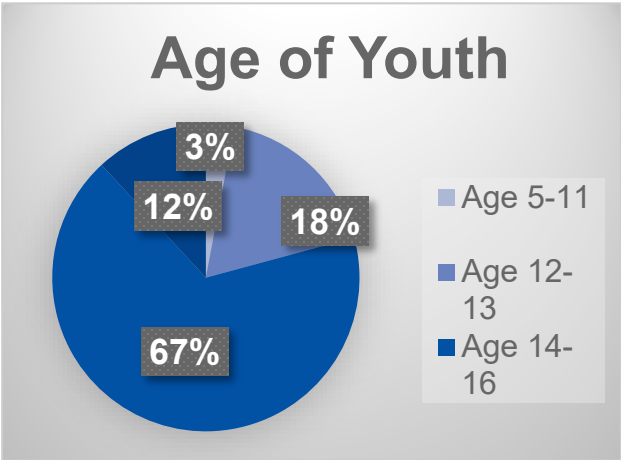
- Who is considered a Runaway and At-risk Youth?
- How does FOP Runaway and At-Risk Initiative work?
  - Referral(Officers, Detectives, Community)
  - All referrals are reviewed and assigned to a caseworker.
  - Caseworker does the following:
    - Review history and report
    - Contact family
    - Provide case management and resources
    - Conduct follow-up



# FOP Runaway and At-Risk Youth Initiative-Data Overview

- Approximately **1200 Youth/Families** served annually
- 61% of Youth are 1<sup>st</sup> time runaways

## Demographics of Youth Served



# Success in Real Time

## FOP Success Stories: Real-Time Impact on Youth and Families

### Case 1 – Attendance & Engagement

Skipping school → increased participation in school and FOP

Focus: responsibility & future goals

Outcome: improved attitude & consistency

### Case 2 – At-Risk / Runaway

High-risk behavior & unsafe influences

Addressed trauma (past assault)

Connected to counseling & support services

Outcome: safer direction, family relief

## Success in Real Time Cont.

### **Case 3 – Mental Health & Academics**

Depression, overwhelmed in large classes

Transitioned to small group support and alternative options to support success in FOP

Connected to IOP & online school

Outcome: academic progress & family reconnection

### **Case 4– At-Risk Mental Health**

Suicidal ideation, possible bipolar disorder

Connected to outpatient & community supports

Outcome: early intervention, safe access to care

### **Case 5– Attendance, substance abuse & Risk**

Missed nearly 10 months of school, substance use, low support

Connected to resources with clear expectations

Outcome (3 weeks): back in school, in counseling, stable at home

# Questions



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