



2021 Annual Report

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Juvenile Diversion Initiative

In 2021, the District Attorney's Office began a juvenile justice reform initiative designed to keep young people completely out of the criminal justice system while addressing the underlying cause of their harmful behavior. The National Conflict Resolution Center is a key community partner on this project.

The Juvenile Diversion Initiative (JDI) is a countywide early intervention program that prioritizes diversion options for youth instead of filing criminal charges. The goal is to reduce the number of young people who enter the juvenile justice system, to engage the community and stakeholders in the youth's rehabilitation and address the causes of the youth's unsafe behaviors while also fostering accountability. The scope of this project included higher level misdemeanors and non-violent felonies.

Youth in JDI who successfully complete the program leave with an understanding of the impact of their choices and avoid permanent and negative outcomes related to the formal criminal justice system, including stigma, labeling and having a criminal record. In 2021, 81 youth were diverted from the criminal justice system by participating in the program.



Keeping young people
out of the criminal
justice system.