

Rethinking justice: Jurisdictional insights into alternatives to youth custody

April 2025

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Ministry of
Children and Family
Development



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Executive Summary

Over the past 22 years, Canada's approach to youth justice has shifted dramatically. The Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) applies to youth involved in the criminal justice system (CJS), and in 2019, this Act was amended with the goal of reducing the number of young people sentenced to custody by encouraging meaningful alternatives to incarceration while considering public safety (Department of Justice Canada, n.d.).

The Government of British Columbia (BC) has implemented and sustained community-based programs in response to the amendment, resulting in relatively low youth crime and custody rates compared to other provinces and territories (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024). However, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has indicated that youth justice is a service area priority, and to better support young people, victims, and the community, MCFD is setting out to strengthen alternative measures and approaches for youth in the CJS (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024). Specific issues MCFD are seeking to address include:

- Reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the CJS and facing custodial sentences (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024)
- Addressing an upward trend in youth crime rates (particularly violent crime) and custodial sentences in BC since 2022, which is consistent with similar trends observed in other provinces/jurisdictions across Canada (Bickerstaff & McLellan, 2025)
- Optimizing existing services and programs available to young people in BC (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024)

The purpose of this research was to answer these questions:

1. What sentencing programs are currently available as alternatives to custody for youth involved in the justice system in BC and across Canada?
 - a) What are the impacts of alternative youth sentencing programs on public safety?
2. What are considered effective approaches within alternative sentencing programs that support positive outcomes for youth, including reduced recidivism?
 - a) What considerations are there within these practices for Indigenous youth?

How it was done:

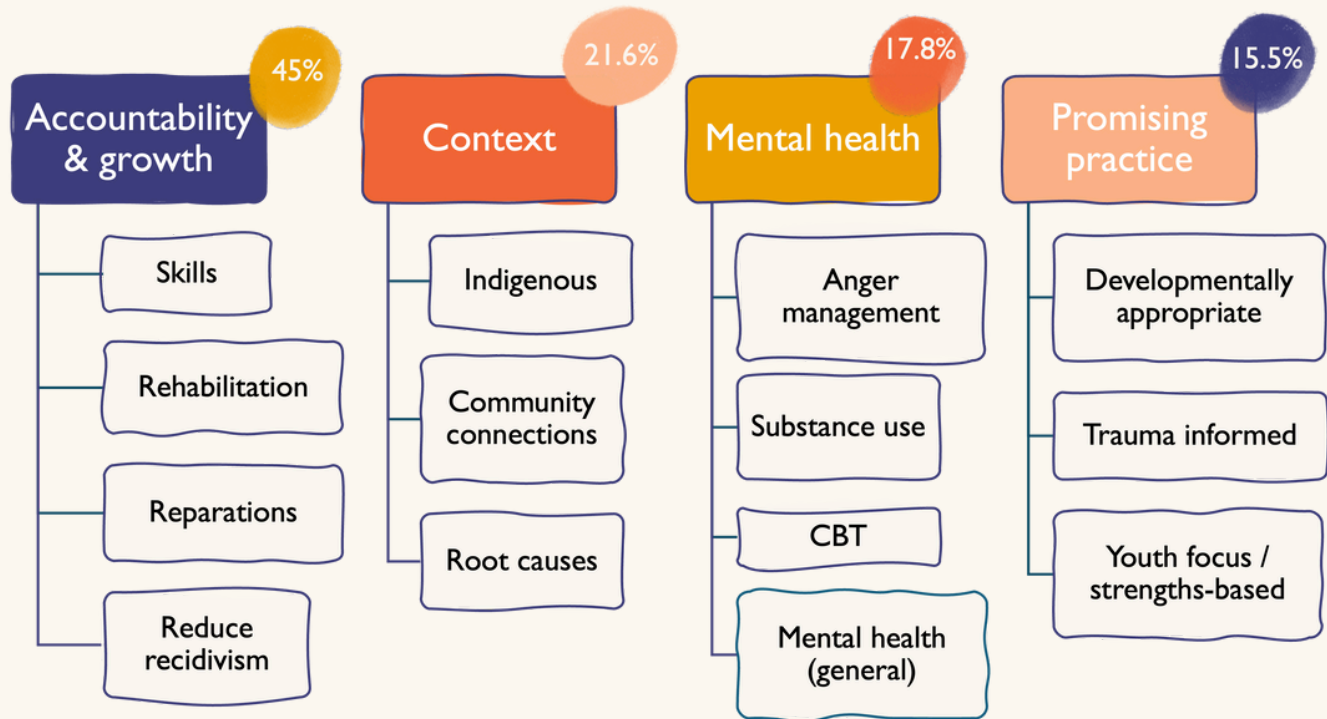
A jurisdictional scan was carried out to inform MCFD's strategy for tackling these concerns. This jurisdictional scan focused on alternative justice programs in BC and across Canada to improve outcomes for youth in the CJS, highlighting their strengths, opportunities, and effective frameworks, including Indigenous-specific approaches.



A search of publicly available information identified 123 active youth justice programs in BC (n=23) and Canada (n=100). Program type, location, and keywords were documented, and a content analysis considered the themes each program used to characterize its service approaches. Simultaneously, academic articles were reviewed to capture promising practices in youth justice initiatives. Throughout the process, there was an ongoing collaboration between the student researcher and MCFD’s Strategic Youth Justice team members. The use of literature supported an understanding of the context of alternatives to custody and informed the findings of the jurisdictional scan.

The findings illuminated what is available to youth involved in the CJS as alternatives to custody and the characteristics of these programs. A breakdown of the characteristics can be found in Figure 1. Available program descriptions exhibit the approaches organizations and Indigenous communities use in service delivery. Four frequently mentioned themes are identified within the program descriptions.

Figure 1 - Youth Justice Program Themes and Sub-themes



These themes include considerations of the context, mental health, and accountability and growth of the youth who access community programs. **Accountability and growth**, which include reducing recidivism, making reparations, rehabilitation, and learning life skills, were the most mentioned strategies in program descriptions. The second most mentioned approach was **context**, which included addressing the root causes of the crime, supporting connections to the community, and Indigenous-specific resources. The third most prominent was **mental health**, including mental health generally, anger management, addressing substance use, or cognitive behavioral therapy programs. Lastly, **promising practices**, as indicated in a preliminary review of the literature, were noted the least frequently.

The literature cited three promising approaches within alternative programs that were compared against the program descriptions. These approaches centered on - youth-led/strengths-based (Case & Hazel, 2020; Goddard & Myers, 2017), developmentally appropriate (Armstrong & O'Grady, 2023; Bala et al., 2010; Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, 2016), and trauma-informed practices (Mendel, 2022; Provincial System Support Program, 2023).

There was little to no literature or publicly available information on the impacts of alternative to custody programs on public safety and recidivism. Although “there are many examples of provinces and territories implementing evidence-based approaches... data on reduced re-offending is largely anecdotal” (Department of Justice, 2021).

The overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the CJS was not paralleled by the identified number of available programs for Indigenous youth (n=25) in Canada. The literature indicated that law enforcement (Jackson, 2015), community programs (Heid et al., 2022), and support workers (Department of Justice, 2019) should be equipped to provide culturally appropriate services. Also, effective service delivery considers the impact of colonization on Indigenous youth (Lockwood et al., 2018), addresses the number of youth who are incarcerated, and works to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action No. 38 (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015).

The findings of this research inform both strengths and opportunities for MCFD's revitalization efforts in implementing the YCJA in BC.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 38:

“We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.”

Based on this information, the following recommendations are made to MCFD:

- Invest in research to assess the recidivism rates of youth who avoid custodial sentences by participating in a community program.
- Promote opportunities for community organizations to implement programs that emphasize a trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, culturally appropriate and youth-led approach for youth who avoid a custodial sentence through these programs.
- Support First Nations, Indigenous communities, and organizations in creating and maintaining alternative programs for Indigenous youth involved in the CJS.



Acknowledgements

This research and report were produced on the unceded territory of the lək'wəŋən Peoples, including the Songhees, Xwsepsum, and WSANEC nations.

As an uninvited white settler, I recognize the unearned privilege I have on these lands. I am grateful to call this land my home, where I have had the ability to pursue an education and foster a sense of belonging within my community. Colonization has and continues to disrupt Indigenous ways of being, both within and outside of the CJS (Department of Justice, 2019). Categorically related to this report, I want to comment that the impacts of colonization on Indigenous youth and families are directly related to the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in custody (Jackson, 2015). Canada has a fraught history of law enforcement using race-based violence against Indigenous Peoples, resulting in Indigenous customs and culture being criminalized (Jackson, 2015). As this report directly examines programs for Indigenous youth, I want to acknowledge that this understanding was woven into the research process and this report.

This project was a collaborative effort between myself, the Strategic Youth Justice team members at MCFD, and University of Victoria instructors. Thank you to Amanda McLellan, Ryan Bickerstaff, Alison Gerlach and Amber Lowdermilk, whose unwavering support made this research effort possible.



Glossary

Criminal Justice System (CJS)

A network of groups, people and institutions including police, courts, correction services, legal aid and victim services that address people who are accused or convicted of criminal behaviour or actions (Department of Justice, 2024).

Custodial Sentence

When a person is mandated by the criminal justice system to reside in a secure facility for a duration of time as discipline for committing a crime.

Jurisdictional Scan

A research method that collects data that is publicly available with the intention of understanding a certain context (Jenkins et al., 2020).

Ministry of Children and Family Development

A Ministry within British Columbia's provincial government that works to support children and youth to live safe, healthy lives in the context of their community and culture (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2025).

Recidivism

When a person commits an additional crime after already having been in conflict with the criminal justice system. Recidivism is generally used to measure the effectiveness of the CJS's efforts in rehabilitating offenders and protecting public safety (Government of Canada, 2020).

Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)

Federal legislation that dictates how youth are dealt with when they come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Youth Justice Program (YJP)

Programs and services offered by a community agency, such as a non-profit organization. YJPs are available for the CJS to use as an alternative to custody for youth.

Youth

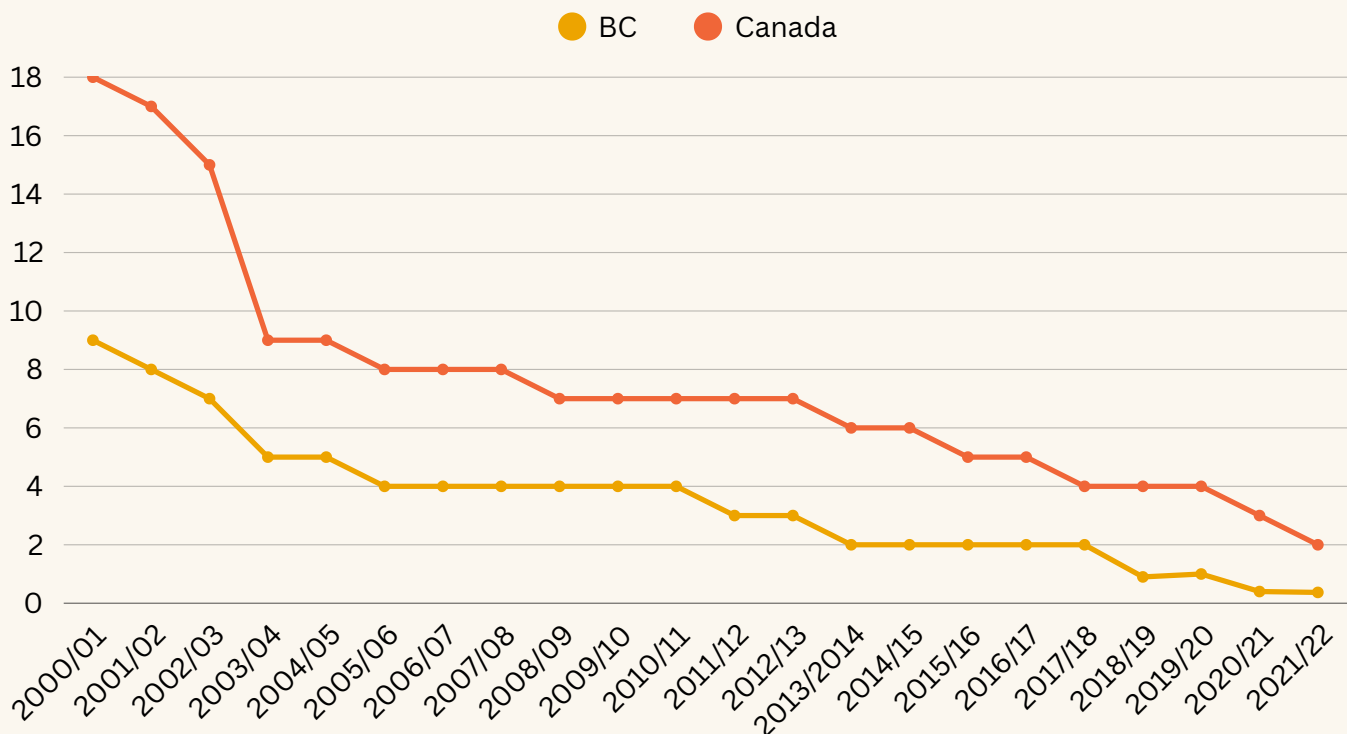
Within the CJS, youth are people aged 12-17.

Introduction

Under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), youth justice in British Columbia (BC) is a service area priority for the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024). Youth aged 12-17 who encounter the criminal justice system (CJS) may face any number of outcomes, depending on the severity of the offending behavior or action. The approach to addressing youth criminality evolved in 2019, when an amendment to the YCJA was passed that intended to reduce the number of youth who are sentenced to custody (Department of Justice, n.d.). The YCJA was initially enacted in part to reduce the number of youth who are incarcerated with a recognition that youth are children, and custody as a punishment is not necessarily effective for underdeveloped brains (Mendel, 2022).

Prior to 2002, when the YCJA came into effect, Canada had one of the highest youth incarceration rates in the world (Stoneman, 2016). BC's response to the YCJA and subsequent amendments has significantly reduced the number of youth charged with a custodial sentence in comparison to the rest of the country (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024). In practice, police and the Crown are encouraged to consider a custodial sentence as a last resort option throughout the process of a youth's involvement in the criminal justice system (Department of Justice, n.d.). Instead, a youth may be sentenced or mandated to participate in an alternative-to-custody program. The impacts on the number of youth in custody since the YCJA was implemented are visualized in Figure 2.

Figure 2- Youth in custody per 10,000 youth, 2000 - 2022



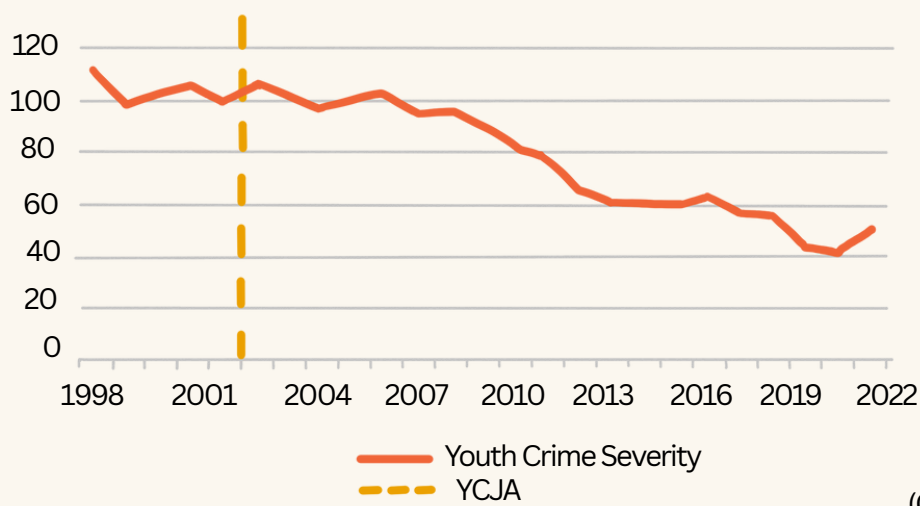
(Ministry of Children and Family Development, n.d.)

These programs have a variety of approaches and purposes, depending on the nature of the crime, geographical location, and the youth’s identity/social location. The report will detail these programs in the ‘Types and Frequency of Programs’ section of the Findings. Notably, due to the lack of youth being sentenced to custody, one of the two youth custodial sites in BC was closed in 2024 (Watson, 2023). Within this context, MCFD has opportunities to assess how best to move forward with its strategy to ensure that youth are rehabilitated while navigating the criminal justice system, while also considering public safety (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024).

In addition to public safety, there are other important factors that MCFD is considering to inform its approaches to youth justice. First, although the 2019 amendment to the YCJA dramatically decreased the number of youth sentenced to custody, Indigenous youth remain overrepresented within the CJS (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024). Indigenous youth are more likely to receive a custodial sentence and spend more time in custody compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts (Jackson, 2015). The CJS is an inherently Western, colonial system that is only just beginning to address the impacts of colonization on Indigenous Peoples in relation to criminality (e.g. Gladue principles, Jackson, 2015). As such, racism is embedded within the CJS, resulting in disproportionate sentencing and consequences for Indigenous youth who commit a crime (Asmi 2019; Jackson, 2015).

Furthermore, as visualized in Figure 3, 2022 marked a noticeable upward trend in violent crime and custodial sentences amongst BC youth (Bickerstaff & McLellan, 2025). As more young people become involved in the CJS, there is a need to ensure that effective services are available for them, both to provide opportunities for reform and to protect community safety (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2024). Alternatives to custodial sentences are considered impactful approaches to addressing this issue; therefore, MCFD wants to ascertain feasible options for youth justice programming. With this knowledge, MCFD can better implement and maintain programs for youth involved in the CJS, thereby adhering to the YCJA amendments and working toward “eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody” (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015, p.4).

Figure 3 - Canadian Youth Crime Severity

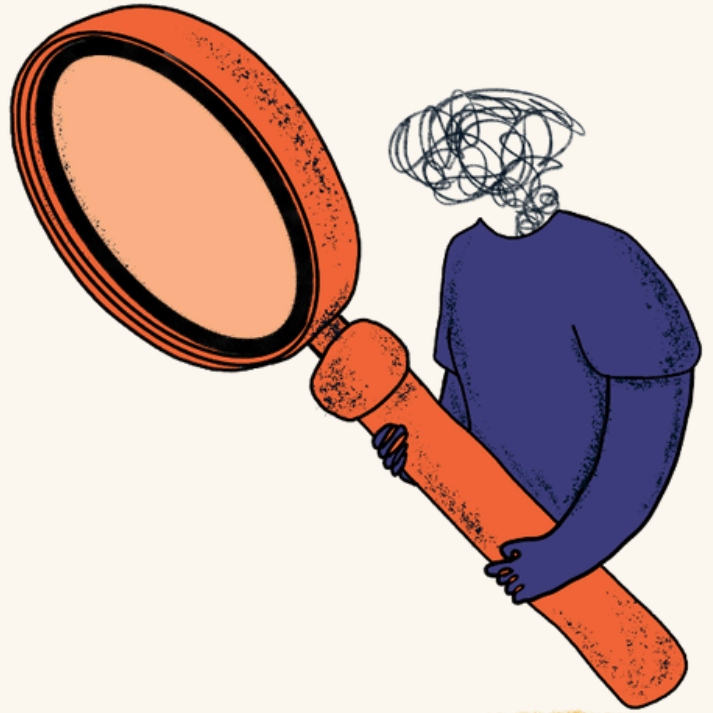


(Government of Canada, 2024)

A jurisdictional scan was completed to inform MCFD’s strategy in addressing the current context of youth justice in BC. The scan aimed to identify the availability and approaches of alternative-to-custody programs, with a focus on the program descriptions of non-profit organizations for youth involved in the CJS.

Purpose and Questions

The process of collecting data for a jurisdictional scan included forming a research question, collecting data, and analyzing the findings. This project aimed to determine the availability of alternative sentencing programs across BC and Canada and assess their impacts on public safety and recidivism. At the same time, the research considered promising practices for Indigenous youth within the CJS. To achieve this, the following research questions were queried and used as a guide throughout the process:



1. What sentencing programs are currently available as alternatives to custody for youth involved in the justice system in BC and across Canada?
 - a. What are the impacts of alternative youth sentencing programs on public safety?
2. What are considered effective approaches within alternative sentencing programs that support positive outcomes for youth, including reduced recidivism?
 - a. What considerations are there within these practices for Indigenous youth?

A jurisdictional scan is a research method that aims to gather data within a specific context by looking at publicly available information. Jurisdictional scanning is beneficial when looking at materials produced by governments and non-profit organizations (Jenkins et al., 2020). Data collection using this method aims to inform decision-making, understand how phenomena are framed in other contexts, and compare findings (Killan et al., 2016).

The methods used to conduct a scan are flexible; however, they often include both systematic searches and consulting with key informants (Jenkins et al., 2020). Due to time constraints, this research focused on data collection from existing resources. For this study, the jurisdictional scan examined community programs operated by non-profit organizations that serve as alternatives to custodial sentences for youth in BC and Canada. These programs will be called ‘youth justice programs’ or “YJPs” for the remainder of this report.

Data Collection

Academic and grey literature was initially searched in the Uvic library database and the Indigenous Studies Portal (I-Portal) under the Law and Justice section. This preliminary review of literature published in the last ten years set a foundation for understanding YJPs, an awareness of the context in which YJPs exist, and informed data collection and analysis. Additionally, the literature provided a framework to broadly follow what previous research has indicated as promising practices within YJPs and the youth criminal justice system. These practices are expanded on later in this report in the section 'Findings – Promising Practices'.

Google was used as the search engine, with the keywords shown in Figure 4. Results were screened to determine if they met the inclusion criteria listed in Figure 5.

With the exception of Quebec, each Province and Territory was systematically searched for YJPs. Quebec was excluded from the search as its programs consist mostly of French descriptions. However, further research would be valuable into Quebec's youth justice initiatives, as Quebec has a low rate of youth custody and prioritizes child-centered approaches (Turpel-Lafond, 2010).

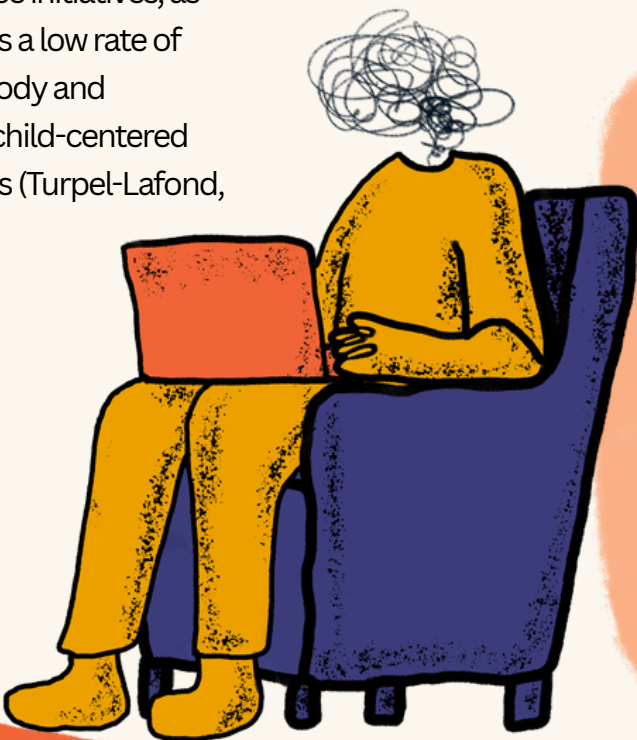


Figure 4- Search Terms

(youth OR adolescent OR teen*) AND (alternat*) AND (custod* OR incarcerat*)
-Refine search back to 2014
(youth OR adolescent OR teen*) AND (alternat*) AND (custod* OR incarcerat*) AND (indigenous OR aboriginal)
Youth justice site:.bc / site:.ab etc.
Youth justice AND custody site:.bc. / site:.on etc.
Insert program type – site:.org
-Example EJM site:.org

Figure 5- Inclusion and Exclusion Search Criteria

Programs had to:

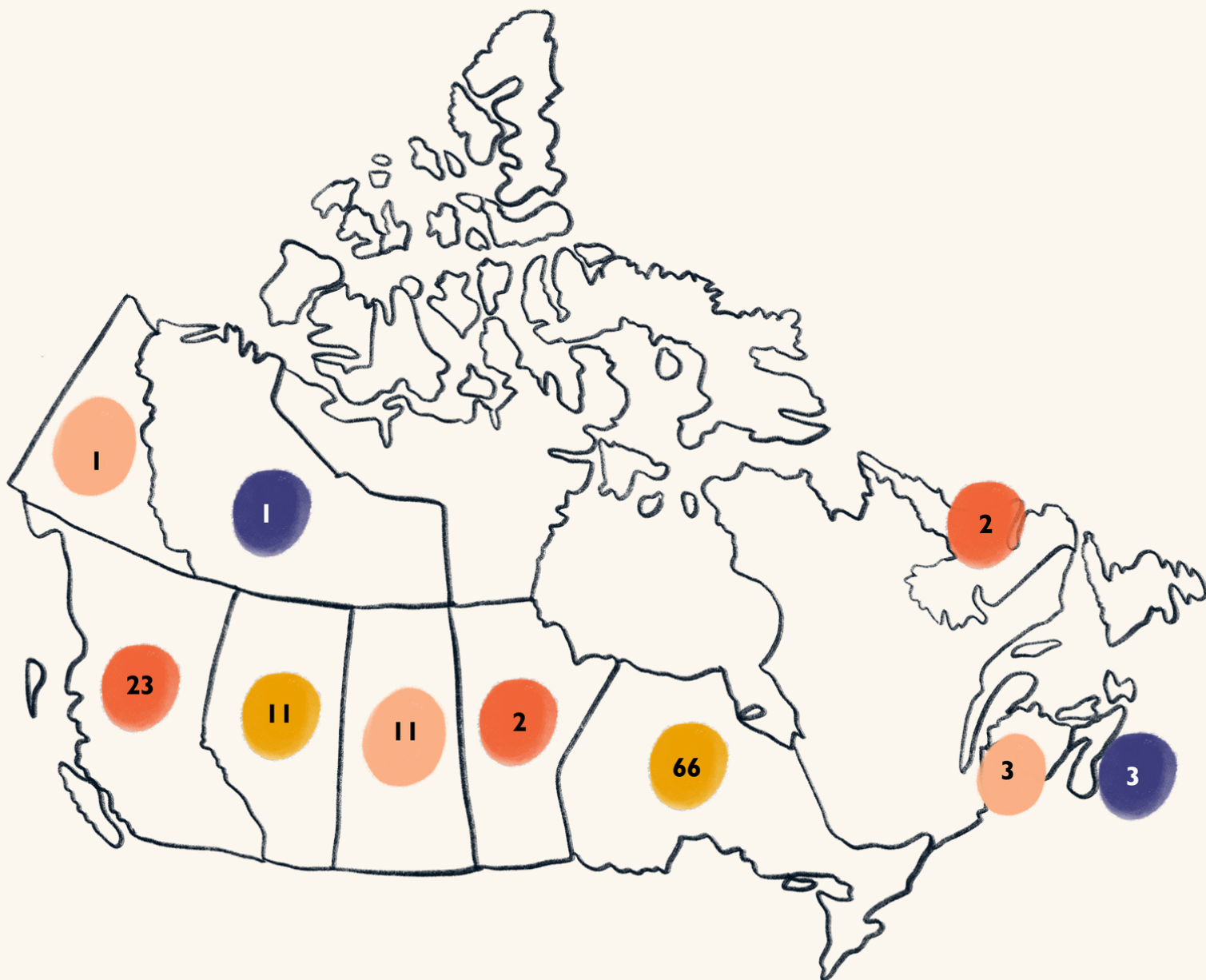
- Be an alternative to a custodial sentence
- Be for youth aged 12-17
- Have program descriptions in English
- Be currently operating

Programs were excluded if:

- It was victim support only
- It was legal advice
- It was 'archived' or not currently operating
- It was for youth under 12 or over 17 years old

After reviewing each program against the inclusionary criteria, the program’s province, URL, and type of program were documented in a Microsoft Excel table. Each program was subsequently reviewed a second time to collect keywords from the program descriptions. Generally, program descriptions were in the form of short paragraphs that included information about what the program is, how it operates, and why it is used within a youth justice context. Words included in the program description that captured the program’s approaches were considered keywords. In addition to keywords, programs explicitly designed for Indigenous youth and/or those that indicated they incorporated promising practices from the literature were also documented. The total number of programs documented was 123. A numeric breakdown of programs by province and territory can be found in Figure 6.

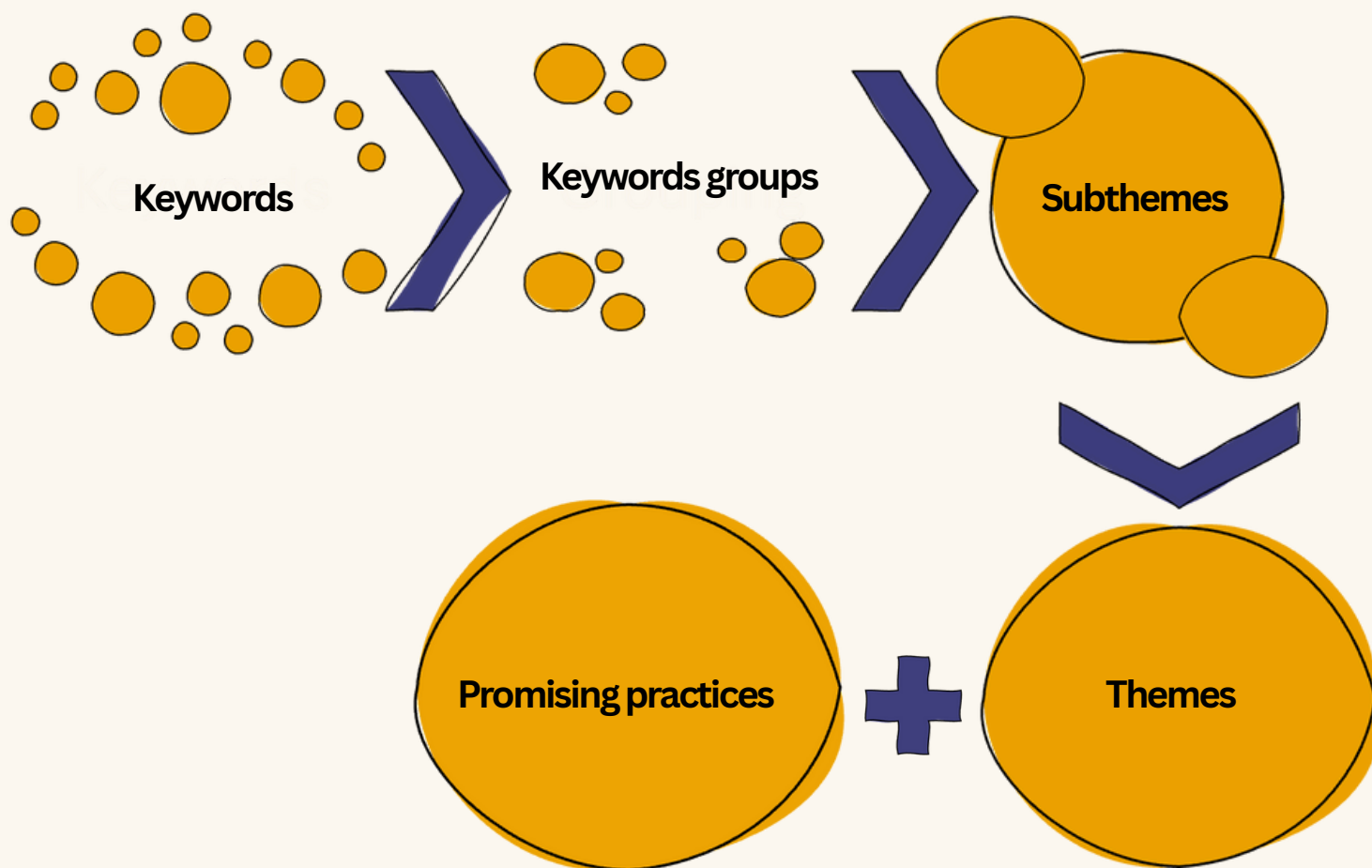
Figure 6 - Number of Programs per Province / Territory



Data Analysis

Inductive content analysis was an insightful method for understanding the written matter of YJP descriptions. Inductive content analysis uses data to generate codes based on patterns and frequency of qualitative data (Delve & Limpaecher, 2024). In this case, understanding the prevalence of certain youth justice approaches became clear when assessing the frequency in which a keyword was used. Then, the keywords were grouped together based on similarities or synonyms (e.g., ‘reparations’ and ‘amends’ would be grouped together). A list of keyword groupings is available in Appendix A. Based on the patterns within the groups, larger themes that contained the concepts of each keyword group were identified. Lastly, these groups were categorized into three overarching themes within the YJP program descriptions, with an additional fourth theme that compared promising practices based on the literature with the keywords in the data. A visual of the content analysis process is below in Figure 7.

Figure 7 - Content Analysis Process

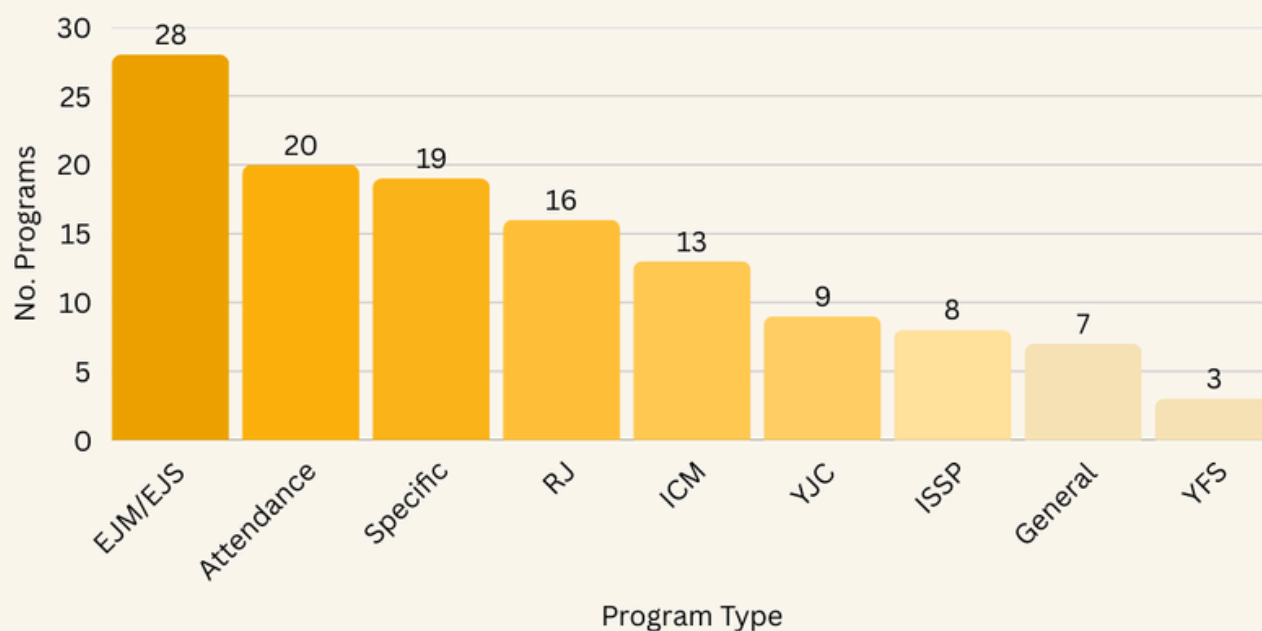


Types and frequency of Programs

Of the 123 programs included in the jurisdictional scan, nine program types were identified – see Figure 8 for a breakdown of program types by number.

The programs included in the jurisdictional scan are defined below. A complete list of programs within each category is available in Appendix B.

Figure 8 - Number of Programs per YJP type



Extrajudicial measures (EJM) and extrajudicial sanctions (EJS)

These include programs intended to deter youth from becoming involved in the court system. Extrajudicial measures sometimes include a referral to a community agency and encouragement of accountability and reparations (Justice Education Society, 2025). EJMs are less intensive, usually as a proportionate response to a minor crime (Justice Education Society, 2025). EJSs, on the other hand, are more formal and are used when a youth agrees to a sanction and has taken responsibility for their crime (Justice Education Society, 2025). These programs last around three months and may include sanctions such as apologies, counselling, attending school, mediation with the victim, and other relevant and proportionate options (Justice Education Society, 2025). EJM/EJS programs were found most frequently across the jurisdictional scan, comprising 22.8% of the YJPs.

Attendance Programs

These are a group of YJPs characterized by a physical space where youth go to access resources, support, services, and programming that prioritize reintegration back into the community (Government of Canada, 2021). While some approaches vary slightly, the specific programs included in this group are non-residential attendance centres (NRACs), open custody centres, and full-time attendance programs (FTAPs). Attendance programs comprised 16.3% of the YJPs.

Specific Programs

These are a group of programs that address a specific issue related to youth involvement in the criminal justice system (CJS). For example, some programs address anger management, relationship skills for violence prevention, or harm reduction counselling. Specific YJPs account for 15.4% of YJPs.

Restorative Justice (RJ) Programs

These programs employ a variety of approaches that focus on repairing the harm caused by a youth, including involving the victim(s) in the justice process (Government of Canada, 2021). RJ programs accounted for 13% of YJPs in the scan.

Intensive Case Management (ICM)

These programs are for when a youth works with a team to meet their needs, access resources and support, often within a community setting. Some issues that may be addressed include housing, food security and accessing education, to name a few. ICMs are similar to Intensive Support Service Programs in BC (ISSP); however, ICM in BC usually refers to support specifically for youth who require intensive mental health and substance use supports (e.g., Pathways Victoria, n.d.). ICMs accounted for 10.6% of YJPs in the scan.

Youth Justice Committees (YJC)

These are programs that facilitate meetings between community volunteers, the victim, the youth involved in the CJS, and their parents/supports as an alternative to the formal court process (Government of Ontario, 2023). The goal of the YJC is for the group to decide how a youth can make amends and address the harm caused by their crime (Government of Ontario, 2023). YJCs accounted for 7.3% of YJPs in the scan.

Intensive Support and Supervision Programs (ISSP)

These programs were primarily found in BC and have similar approaches to ICMs. ISSPs connect a youth to a support worker who aids in navigating court orders, accessing resources, gaining life skills, and provides general support/ mentorship (Plea Community Services, 2025). ISSPs were only found within the scan in BC and accounted for 6.5% of YJPs in the scan.

General Programs

General programs are youth justice programs that do not indicate a specific programming style or level of youth involvement; rather, they are labelled simply as 'youth justice programs'. General programs accounted for 5.7% of YJPs in the scan.

Youth Forensic Services

These are mental health programs specifically for youth involved in the CJS that assess and support mental wellness. Generally, these programs are accessed in conjunction with other requirements within a sentence. YFS accounted for 2.4% of YJPs in the scan.

Although these programs are distinct, they do not represent a comprehensive list of all available alternatives to custody. Many of them have overlapping approaches or are rooted in similar principles, such as restorative justice. Within these programs, 20.32% were specifically for Indigenous youth, offered by Indigenous organizations or Indigenous Nations.

Promising Practices

Within the academic and grey literature, three interwoven practices stood out as promising approaches among YJPs: trauma-informed practice, developmentally appropriate processes, and youth-led/strengths-based services.

Trauma informed approaches



Trauma-informed practice is first a recognition that trauma impacts youth and their ability to regulate their behavior, emotions, and self-concept among other aspects (Poole et al., 2017; Mendel, 2022). Youth who are involved in the CJS are more likely to have experienced trauma, be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (Gretton & Clift, 2011; Mendel, 2022; Poole et al., 2017), and have adverse childhood experiences (Mendel, 2022). Additionally, involvement in the justice system can further traumatize youth (Mendel, 2022; Poole et al., 2017).

Trauma-informed practices are embedded at all levels of an organization to support an individual's healing and resilience (SAMHSA, 2014). Trauma-informed practice, at its most basic, is the integration of an understanding of trauma at all levels (Poole et al., 2017), while prioritizing “safety, choice, empowerment, and connection” (Poole et al., 2017, p. 10). See the Trauma Informed Practice Guide (2017) or SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach (2014) for a more descriptive explanation and actionable steps. Importantly, while trauma-informed care is an effective approach to individual relations and services, trauma – and violence-informed care (TVIC) introduces an understanding of how systems, structures, and power dynamics can also cause trauma and structural forms of violence (Gerlach et al., 2025). Through this lens, colonization (Gerlach et al., 2025) is a systemic understanding of trauma's impact on Indigenous Peoples.

The trauma and violence of colonization, including the residential school system, the Sixties Scoop, ongoing systemic racism, and the “criminalization of Indigenous culture and traditions” have a profound traumatic impact on Indigenous Peoples and communities (Asmi, 2019, p.3; Poole et al., 2017). For Indigenous youth, colonization has resulted in a breakdown of intersecting, protective factors that include loss of their cultural identity (Lockwood et al., 2018), inaccessible or underfunded YJPs and other social services in rural parts of the country (Representative for Children and Youth, 2024), family disconnectedness (Heid, 2022) and economic disparities (Tewelde, 2018). These social and structural factors/inequities contribute to the increased likelihood of Indigenous youth not only being involved in the CJS but also receiving a custodial sentence (Jackson, 2015).

Developmentally appropriate services

Trauma in childhood can impact healthy brain development (Ford et al., 2007; Mendel, 2022; Poole et al., 2017), and can result in developmental delays, struggles with emotional regulation and understanding consequences/risks (Poole et al., 2017). Brain development is an important consideration for YJPs (Armstrong & O'Grady, 2023; Bala et al., 2010; Case & Hazel, 2020; Mendel, 2022; Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, 2016) regardless of experiences of trauma. Essentially, YJPs and the youth criminal justice system more broadly are encouraged to consider that youth who commit crimes are children and, as such, effective approaches must take this into account when determining consequences. Although the YCJA was enacted in part with the recognition that brain development is a key concern for youth involved in the CJS (Department of Justice, 2024), there are critiques that this system should include youth beyond 17 years old, as brain development continues well into the mid-20s (Armstrong & O'Grady, 2023; Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine, 2016). Brain development impacts a youth's ability to use critical thinking, judgment, and logic when making decisions (Armstrong & O'Grady, 2023); youth struggle to weigh consequences, control impulses and regulate emotions, making them more susceptible to risk-taking (Mendel, 2022). As a result, approaches to YJPs are called to consider developmentally appropriate approaches, recognizing that increasing maturity correlates with a decrease in criminal behaviour (Mendel, 2022).



Youth-led / Strengths - based practice

Youth-led and strengths-based approaches are related to developmentally appropriate practices in the understanding that youth are responsive to being included and considered in their consequential sanctions (Case & Hazel, 2020). These approaches address the youth as a person and not a criminal through an understanding that the offence they committed does not constitute their entire identity. This perception subverts ineffective methods in youth justice that posit “children who offend are in need of ‘fixing’ by adult professionals” (Case & Hazel, 2020, p.3). Youth involvement and consideration for a youth's capacity to grow and learn from mistakes can foster positive relationships with adults who provide YJP services (Case & Hazel, 2020). Risk-based (versus strengths-based) interventions individualize the issues that underpin why a youth may be inclined to commit a crime (Goddard & Myers, 2017). Adverse life events are viewed as a risk factor; however, these circumstances are often beyond a youth's control, yet they still significantly impact the likelihood of criminality (Goddard & Myers, 2017). Instead, a strengths-based approach works to empathize with a youth's personhood, supporting them to avoid reoffending by honoring their lived experience, and addressing the present circumstances that fundamentally contributed to their offending behaviour. Accountability and reparations for the crime are still critical within this approach, as a youth helps shape a path toward reconciling their actions.



Themes and their prevalence

The themes developed from keywords in YJP's program descriptions include accountability and growth, context, mental health, and promising practices. Figure 9 illustrates these themes and corresponding subthemes.

Accountability and growth

Keywords that indicated YJPs focused on **accountability and growth** comprised the majority (45%) of approaches in the scan's search. Accountability and growth include program descriptions that mention reducing recidivism, doing reparations, reintegrating a youth into the community, and building their skills. Skills range across various topics, such as furthering education, gaining employability skills, or learning about healthy relationships. It should be noted that although reducing recidivism was frequently mentioned, no organizational websites or program descriptions provided evidence of this claim. Rather, the reduction in reoffending was the program's intention, rather than an empirical outcome. These programs emphasize a youth entering into the community after program completion, indicating a focus on their ability to engage in non-criminal behaviour and the importance of youth taking accountability for their actions within the YJP while improving skills.

Context

Context refers to programs that address the youth's circumstances beyond their unlawful actions; 21.6% of YJP programs in the scan mentioned looking at context as an approach. Context includes keywords indicating YJPs connect youth to the broader community, attend to root causes that informed the youth's actions, and include programs specifically for Indigenous youth. Context gives thought to all aspects of youth by referring them to other organizations or resources that can support them with life interfering challenges in addition to addressing the crime. These community resources attend to root causes that may have contributed to a youth committing a crime, such as poverty or homelessness. The connections these YJPs foster include supporting Indigenous youth in accessing culturally appropriate and relevant guidance, such as promoting relationships to the land, relationships with Elders, and reviving cultural identity.



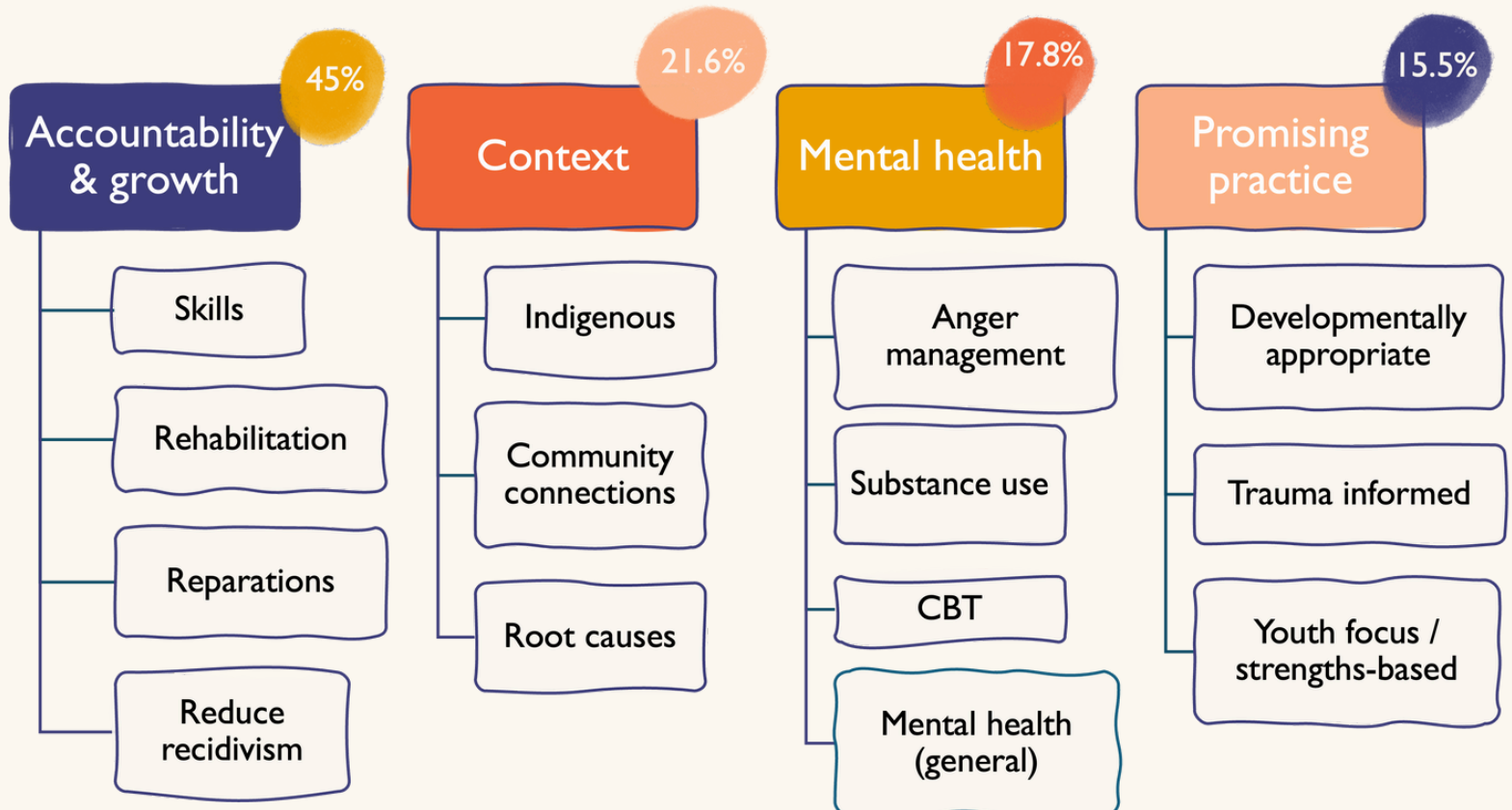
Mental health

YJPs that included mentions of **mental health** support in their descriptions accounted for 17.8% of the keywords mentioned. Mental health supports included programs that address substance use or addiction, programs based on cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), had counselling for anger management, or indicated that the program addresses mental health but did not specify approaches or practices. Mental health supports were indicated as an important influence on a youth's criminality, explicitly indicating that youth who use substances and/or struggle with managing anger will be supported in avoiding recidivism if they can access mental health services.

Promising practices

The extent to which the YJPs found in the scan incorporated promising practices was documented. It should be noted that the exact operations, values, and approaches cannot be determined from an online program description; determining this information would require connecting with key informants within the YJPs. However, promising practices (developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed and youth-led/strengths-based) were mentioned in 15.5% of YJP descriptions included in the scan.

Figure 9 - Chart of Themes and Subthemes



Notes on recidivism and public safety

Even though this study intended to assess how YJPs impact recidivism and public safety, there was little to no empirical evidence to support the correlation between reductions in recidivism for youth who access a program as an alternative to custody. The “empirical data on reduced re-offending is largely anecdotal” (Department of Justice, 2021, para.22) for programs and services that youth access as an alternative; contrarily, there has been significant research into the effectiveness on recidivism for youth who serve a custodial sentence (e.g. Lambie & Randell, 2013; McCuish et al., 2025; Mendel, 2011; Mulvey, 2011). These studies are useful in assessing incarceration’s impact on juvenile crime, but as there is very little research on YJPs, the research cannot be compared against alternative options.

Recidivism is one aspect of public safety; reducing recidivism is correlated with a safer community (Public Safety Canada, 2022). Aspects of YJPs, such as supporting youth in taking accountability for their actions and successfully reintegrating into their community post-sentence, are intended to increase public safety long-term (Bala et al., 2010; Stoneman, 2016). The approach to rehabilitation for youth involved in the CJS demonstrates a belief that alternatives to custody positively contribute to public safety; however, those aged 18 and older face different CJS processes (Armstrong & O’Grady, 2023). Adult CJS approaches focus heavily on public safety in comparison to the rehabilitation and reintegration that youth CJS processes prioritize (Armstrong & O’Grady, 2023). The focus on public safety encourages the use of custodial sentences for adults to ensure the community is a safe place (Stoneman, 2016).

The YCJA and YJPs only serve youth up until their 18th birthday. Proponents of developmentally appropriate YJPs argue that people aged 18-25 do not have fully developed brains and should be considered youth (Armstrong & O’Grady, 2023; Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, 2016). Further informing this stance is a trauma-informed lens that perceives trauma and context as significant indicators of youth maturation rates (Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, 2016). Overall, evaluating the impact of YJPs on public safety and recidivism cannot happen in a vacuum and must consider a youth’s context and how public perception shifts depending on whether a person is considered an adult or a youth.

While there is evidence to show that restorative justice programs can impactfully reduce recidivism among youth (Bouffard et al., 2017), there is a noticeable gap in research to assess the effectiveness of alternatives to custody in reducing recidivism for Indigenous and non-Indigenous programs (Department of Justice, 2021; Lockwood et al., 2018; Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, 2016).

Strengths and opportunities



A strengths versus opportunities framework was used with corresponding provinces/territories to analyze programs that operate as alternatives to custody for youth involved in the criminal justice system. Strengths are considered factors that meet the objective of supporting youth within an alternative sentencing program, where opportunities are an area for potential growth or improvement. Understanding each jurisdiction's strengths and opportunities was done by incorporating the frequency of keywords indicated in the YJP description, as well as the number of each type of program available per region. A detailed breakdown of each Province and Territory's strengths and opportunities can be found in Appendix C.

Strengths

Assessing the entirety of the YJPs included in the scan provided insights into advantages and areas of growth across BC and Canada. With 45% of programs that indicated a focus on accountability and growth, there is a sense that these YJPs believe in the capacity of youth to move beyond the offence. Within these programs, the priority is supporting youth in achieving success after they have served their sentence by providing them with skills and guidance for a positive reintroduction to the community. However, a youth is also encouraged to make amends in hopes that they understand the negative impact of their actions on others and their community. YJPs take a non-punitive approach that aims to educate a youth rather than use harsh reprimands.

Additionally, EJM/EJS constituted most of the programs within the scan. This is indicative that organizations are frequently using these programs as an alternative to custody, as well as a way for a youth to avoid involvement in the court process. It should be noted that not using custody or the court system was the initial intention of the YCJA (Justice Education Society, 2022). EJM/EJS programs often focus on a youth's involvement, encouraging their participation, and making the program realistic and accessible while involving the victim(s). Through the participation of victims within many of these programs, there is an element of restorative justice, which has proven effective in reducing youth recidivism (Bouffard et al, 2017). It should be noted that although EJS/EJM are encouraged under the YCJA, they are often used at the first point of contact between youth and law enforcement. Police officers must use their discretion when using EJM as a punishment (Jackson, 2015). The prevalence of racism and systemic discrimination may deter police from using EJMs with Indigenous youth, resulting in more formal CJS processes, including custodial sentences (Jackson, 2015).



Opportunities

The findings highlight a lack of YJPs that are trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate and youth-led/strengths-based, indicating an opportunity for organizations to assess how their programs interact with youth and where there is room to incorporate these practices. As discussed in the Promising Practices section, these approaches ensure that youth involved in the CJS are treated in a way that promotes empowerment, healing, and connection to culture and/or identity, while also supporting them in recognizing how their actions impact others. These guiding principles are reflected in the YJCA but should be extended to individual community organizations as they provide crucial services for vulnerable youth. Through promising practices, YJPs are only effective if they encourage youth to be agents of change within their own lives.

Funding was cited frequently as a barrier to providing YJPs within organizations (Doob et al., 2018; Government of Canada, 2021; Jackson, 2015; Stoneman, 2016). Lack of consistent funding resulted in sporadic program delivery, high staff turnover, and sparse availability of YJPs in rural areas (Department of Justice, 2019; Government of Canada, 2021). Consequently, inconsistent service delivery does not foster safe (trauma-informed) spaces for youth to access programs. High staff turnover or cessation of YJPs altogether also disrupts relationship building both for youth and between the program and other community organizations. The result of this disruption is that there is no opportunity for program staff to get to know the youth, using their strengths to inform their engagement in the YJP. As well, the youth is not connected to fundamental resources that may support them in avoiding reoffending. Additionally, removing youth from their community to attend a YJP is not a trauma-informed approach. Funding is directly linked to the ability of YJPs to implement developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, and youth-led/strengths-based services.

Indigenous youth represent 50% of all youth involved in the criminal justice system as of 2020/2021; however, Indigenous youth make up only 8% of the youth population in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2020). “The failure of institutions to provide culturally appropriate responses to the particular needs of Indigenous offenders was characterized as the continuation of colonialism” (Department of Justice, 2019, p.10). Understanding that Indigenous youth can have specific needs and trauma related to colonization would imply that there are opportunities for more Indigenous YJPs as well as the maintenance of those that already exist. First Nations, Indigenous organizations, governments and/or communities should be supported in empowering Indigenous youth to take accountability while learning from mistakes as they can provide culturally relevant youth justice programming and facilitate connections to culture, identity, and community (Department of Justice, 2019; Representative for Children and Youth, 2024). However, Indigenous youth who have experiences within the CJS report that workers within community organizations are not culturally aware or sensitive (Department of Justice, 2019). Effective rehabilitation is constrained when YJPs with Indigenous youth are not culturally appropriate (Department of Justice, 2019), especially if youth are removed from their community (if living rurally, for example) to access a mandatory YJP (Department of Justice, 2019).

Recommendations

The insights from this jurisdictional scan have resulted in three recommendations for the MCFD to consider when addressing the current context of youth justice in BC.

1

Research investment

Invest in research to assess the recidivism rates of youth who avoid custodial sentences by participating in a community program. Specific research that works to determine the effectiveness of YJPs in BC and across Canada would determine the impact of YJPs on youth and the safety of the community. Quebec was excluded from this research; however, the province has low rates of youth custody and therefore would be worthwhile to investigate further. Evidence-based understanding of YJPs may also inform community organizations/non-profits or policymakers to justify creating, implementing, and maintaining alternatives to custody.

2

Incorporate promising practices

Promote opportunities for community organizations to implement programs that emphasize trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, culturally appropriate, and youth-led approaches with youth who avoid a custodial sentence through these programs. Ensure that YJPs use promising practices within their service delivery to promote accountability of community organizations to assess and implement approaches that are backed by evidence and ultimately optimize their usefulness for youth involved in the CJS. The ability to provide YJPs that embody promising practices can only be done if the programs are consistently and reliably funded. With the closure of the Prince George Youth Custody Centre in 2024, funds should be reinvested into YJPs “to better serve the contemporary and urgent needs of children and youth” (Representative for Children and Youth, 2024, p.23).

3

Support Indigenous YJPs

Specific attention and funding should be paid to Indigenous YJPs. Support for First Nations, Indigenous communities, organizations and/or governments to create and maintain alternative programs for Indigenous youth involved in the CJS is critical in achieving the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Call to Action Number 38 (2015): “We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.” (p.4).

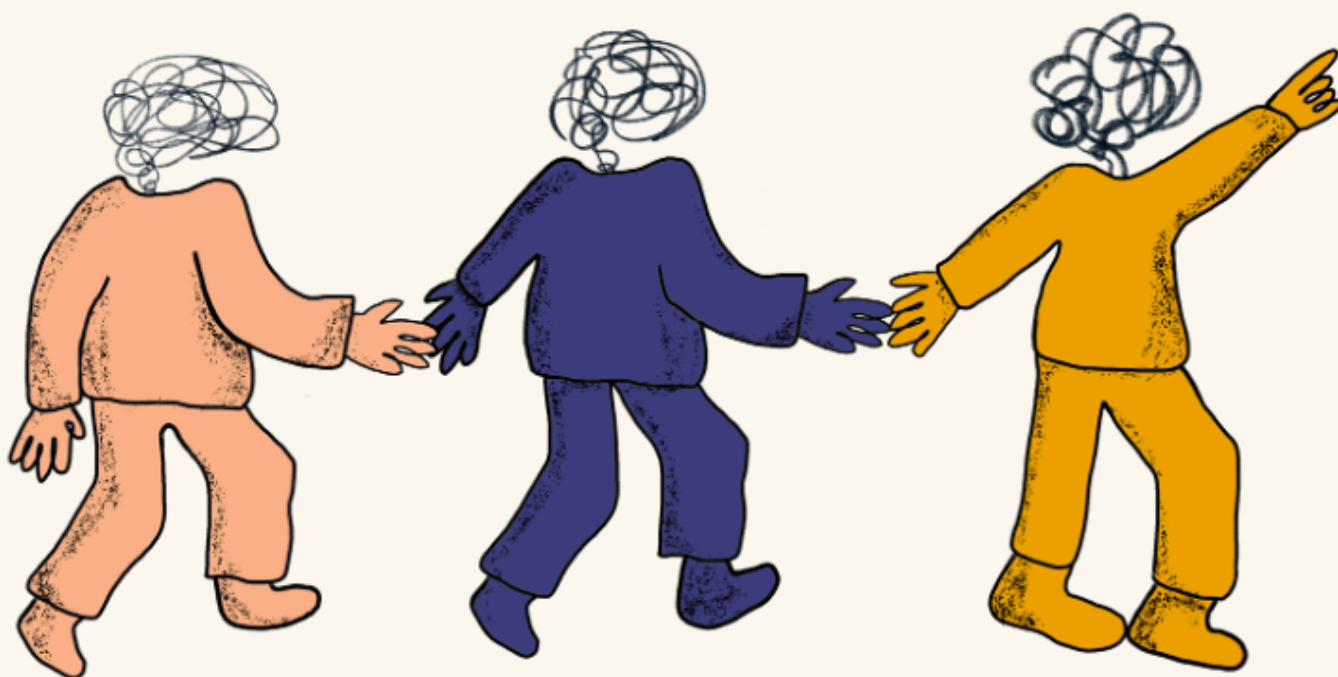
It has been nearly a decade since this call to action was made; however, Indigenous youth continue to receive more custodial sentences when compared to non-Indigenous youth (Representative for Children and Youth, 2024). MCFD has a responsibility to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the CJS, and one approach to this is creating and maintaining opportunities for community-based, culturally safe and relevant YJPs as alternatives to custodial sentences. The disproportionate number of Indigenous youth in the CJS is also an indication of where reinvested funds should be allocated (Representative for Children and Youth, 2024).

Conclusion

This report outlines approaches and characteristics of 123 youth justice programs across BC and Canada through a jurisdictional scan. A content analysis of publicly available program descriptions provided insight into how community organizations, mostly nonprofits, characterize their approaches to serving youth who are avoiding a custodial sentence by participating in those programs. The most significant characterization of youth justice programs was that they underscored the youth's accountability and growth, emphasizing the youth's future trajectory by fostering skill building and understanding how their actions caused harm. Although reducing recidivism was mentioned frequently as a goal of the programs, there was a noticeable gap in empirical evidence to support or refute the effectiveness of youth justice programs in reducing reoffending and improving public safety.

Colonization has been and continues to be a determining factor in Indigenous youth's involvement in the criminal justice system. Youth justice programs that act as an alternative to custody should ensure that staff and services are culturally safe for Indigenous youth (Department of Justice, 2019). The overrepresentation of Indigenous youth within the criminal justice system is an indication that the MCFD has an opportunity to focus efforts on Indigenous youth justice community-based programs in Indigenous-led organizations, governments, or groups. Programs that meet the specific needs of Indigenous youth operate with an understanding of the traumatic impacts of colonization as well as a focus on resilience and reclaiming identity.

Rethinking justice means reimagining how to best support youth in avoiding frequent interactions with the CJS. Understanding that custodial sentences are ineffective is only the beginning. Although the YJCA and recent amendments have made progress toward reducing the number of youth in custody, this is only possible through the availability of youth justice programs within the community.



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Appendix A - Keyword groupings

Accountability & growth keywords		Context keywords		Mental health keywords		Promising practice keywords	
Skills	Life skills; academic readiness; employment readiness; certifications; career development; education; social skills; music recording studio; healthy sexuality; healthy choices; boundaries; consent	Community Connections	Collaboration with school; Community resources; collaboration between ministries; community integration; awareness of community resources; community partnerships; cooperation of victim, guardians, youth, Pol referrals	Mental health	Therapy; counselling; psychological services	Trauma-informed	Non-judgemental; positive atmosphere
Rehabilitation	Reintegration; healing; reduce need for services	Indigenous	Aboriginal, First Nations, Inuit, Métis	CBT	SNAP program; CBT theories	Developmentally appropriate	Address developmental issues
Reparation	Accountability; consequences; repair harm; make amends; responsibility; remorse	Root causes	Underlying causes; environmental factors; basic needs; financial support	Anger management	Addressing anger; impacts of anger; frustration management	Youth-led/strengths-based	Individualized; specific needs; youth's interests; getting to know youth; youth informed; personalized support; youth involved in creating program
Reduce recidivism	Reduce/decrease reoffending; decrease crime			Substance use / addiction	Drug use		

Appendix B - YJPs included in scan

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
Attendance	Child & Youth Milopemahtesewin Services	https://cyms.ca/program/attendance-centre-program/	ON
Attendance	Springboard Services	https://springboardservices.ca/justice-services-youth-justice-community-programs/#attendance-program	ON
Attendance	SOAR Community Services	https://www.soarcs.ca/justice/programs/youth/attendance-centre	ON
Attendance	St. Leonard's Community Support, Prevention and Residential Services	https://stleonardscsprs.ca/youth-justice-programs/attendance-centre/	ON
Attendance	John Howard Society Waterloo-Wellington	https://johnhoward.on.ca/jhs-program/attendance-centre-program-2/	ON
Attendance	Murray McKinnon Foundation	https://murraymckinnon.ca/attendance-centre/	ON
Attendance	Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents	https://www.pointintime.ca/programs-services/youth-justice-services/	ON
Attendance	Associated Youth Services or Peel	https://aysp.ca/programs/attendance-centre/	ON
Attendance	Family Services York Region	https://www.fsyrc.ca/services/referral-programs/youth-justice-programs/	ON
Attendance	North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services	https://www.neofacs.org/program-and-services/youth-justice/attendance-centres/	ON
Attendance	Enviros-ExCel	https://www.enviros.org/young-offender-programs/	AB
Attendance	John Howard Society Newfoundland and Labrador	https://www.johnhowardnl.ca/services/residential/home-for-youth/	NL
Attendance	John Howard Society Newfoundland and Labrador	https://www.johnhowardnl.ca/services/residential/loretta-bartlett-home-for-youth/	NL
Attendance	Banyan Community Services	https://banyancommunityservices.org/what-we-do/supporting-youth/out-of-home/george-r-force-group-home/	ON
Attendance	Fernie Youth	https://ferniefyouth.ca/open-custody/	ON
Attendance	Youth Services Bureau	https://www.ysb.ca/services/youth-justice-services/livius-sherwood-detention-and-custody-centre/	ON

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
Attendance	Urban Rez Solutions	https://urbanrezsocialenterprise.com/youth-justice-centre/	ON
Attendance	Government of Yukon	https://yukon.ca/en/legal-and-social-supports/supports-youth/find-programs-services	YT
Attendance	BGC Vancouver Island	https://bgcsvi.org/programs/youth-justice-services/	BC
Attendance	John Howard Society of North Island	https://www.jhsni.bc.ca/full-time-attendance-programs/	BC
EJM / EJS	Elizabeth Fry Society	https://www.elizabethfrysociety.com/youth-justice-programs	ON
EJM / EJS	Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents	https://www.pointintime.ca/programs-services/youth-justice-services/	ON
EJM / EJS	Associated Youth Services or Peel	https://aysp.ca/programs/extrajudicial-measures/	ON
EJM / EJS	West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre	https://www.wsncc.org/yjs-programs	ON
EJM / EJS	Youth Diversion	https://www.youthdiversion.org/programs/extrajudicial-measures-and-extrajudicial-sanctions/	ON
EJM / EJS	"J" Division, Crime Reduction Unit RCMP	https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cnt-rng-crm/crm-prvntn/nvntr/dtIs-	NB
EJM / EJS	La Loche Friendship Centre	https://www.lalochefc.com/about.html	SK
EJM / EJS	Adapt Halton Alcohol Drug and Gambling Assessment Prevention and	https://haltonadapt.org/programs-services/community-justice/	ON
EJM / EJS	Restorative Justice Chatham-Kent	https://rjck.org/programs/extrajudicial-measures-program/	ON
EJM / EJS	BGC Ottawa	https://www.bgcottawa.org/community-services/diversion	ON
EJM / EJS	SOAR Community Services	https://www.soarcs.ca/justice/programs/youth/extrajudicial-sanctions	ON

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
EJM / EJS	St. Leonard's Community Support, Prevention and Residential Services	https://stleonardscsprs.ca/youth-justice-	ON
EJM / EJS	Elizabeth Fry Society	https://www.elizabethfrysociety.com/youth-justice-programs	ON
EJM / EJS	Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents	https://www.pointintime.ca/programs-services/youth-justice-services/	ON
EJM / EJS	Associated Youth Services or Peel	https://aysp.ca/programs/extrajudicial-sanctions/	ON
EJM / EJS	West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre	https://www.wsnc.org/yjs-programs	ON
EJM / EJS	Youth Diversion	https://www.youthdiversion.org/programs/extrajudicial-measures-and-extrajudicial-sanctions/	ON
EJM / EJS	Calgary Youth Justice Society	https://calgaryyouthjustice.ca/programs-services/youth-diversion/ https://www.calgary.ca/cps/youth-	AB
EJM / EJS	Youth Diversion New Brunswick	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public-	NB
EJM / EJS	John Howard Society of Saskatchewan	https://sk.johnhoward.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Brochure-	SK
EJM / EJS	Saskatoon Tribal Council	https://sktc.sk.ca/justice/urban-justice-programs/	SK
EJM / EJS	Yorkton Tribal Council	https://yorktontribalcouncil.com/justice/	SK
EJM / EJS	Central Toronto Youth Services	https://ctys.org/services-programs/youth-justice/enhanced-	ON
EJM / EJS	Adapt Halton Alcohol Drug and Gambling Assessment Prevention and	https://haltonadapt.org/programs-services/community-justice/	ON
EJM / EJS	Restorative Justice Chatham-Kent	https://rjck.org/programs/extrajudicial-sanctions-program/	ON

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
EJM / EJS	Family Services York Region	https://www.fsyrc.ca/services/referral-programs/youth-justice-programs/	ON
EJM / EJS	Prince George Urban Aboriginal Society	https://www.pguajs.ca/services/youth-diversion-program	BC
EJM / EJS	Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services	https://victoria-southisland.pathwaysbc.ca/programs/3007	BC
ICM	Springboard Services	https://springboardservices.ca/justice-services-youth-justice-community-programs/#attendance-program	ON
ICM	SOAR Community Services	https://www.soarcs.ca/justice/programs/youth/youth-support-program	ON
ICM	Calgary John Howard Society	https://www.cjhs.ca/programs-initiatives/indigenous-programs/indigenous-youth-outreach-programs/	AB
ICM	Selkirk Team for At-Risk Teens	https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cnt-rng-crm/crm-prvntn/nvntr/dtls-en.aspx?i=10153	MB
ICM	Arab Community Centre of Toronto	https://acctonline.ca/services-programs/youth-p/halftime/	ON
ICM	Elsipogtog Healing to Wellness Court	https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cnt-rng-crm/crm-prvntn/nvntr/dtls-en.aspx?i=10153	NB
ICM	Halifax Parks and Recreation	https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/halifax-youth/youth-justice/	NS
ICM	The Regina intersectoral Partnership	https://tripregina.ca/	SK
ICM	Street Culture Project	https://streetcultureproject.ca/rcy	SK
ICM	La Loche Friendship Centre	https://www.lalochefc.com/about.html	SK
ICM	Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation	https://nanlegal.on.ca/restorative-justice/cyji/	ON
ICM	North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services	https://www.neofacs.org/program-and-services/youth-justice/community-justice/	ON

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
ICM	Central Toronto Youth Services	https://ctys.org/services-programs/youth-justice/youth-justice-	ON
ISSP	Sasamans Society	https://www.sasamans.ca/indigenous-youth-justice-support-worker-program/	BC
ISSP	Community Bridge	https://communitybridge.ca/community-youth-justice-services/	BC
ISSP	North Okanagan Youth and Family Services	https://noyfss.org/programs/	BC
ISSP	John Howard Society of North Island	https://www.jhsni.bc.ca/intensive-support-and-supervision-divi/	BC
ISSP	Plea Community Services	https://www.plea.ca/youth-justice/issp/	BC
ISSP	Sources Community Resouece Centre	https://www.sourcesbc.ca/our-services/youth-justice-program/	BC
ISSP	Interior Community Services	https://interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca/programs/youth-justice/	BC
ISSP	Friendship House Prince Rupert	https://friendshiphouse.ca/youth-justice/	BC
Programming (general)	Tla'amin Justice Program	https://bcfnjc.com/directory-services/listing/tlaamin-justice-program/	BC
Programming (general)	Crime Prevention Manitoba	https://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/commsafe/crimeprev/lighthouses/index.html	MB
Programming (general)	Elizabeth Fry Society Northern Alberta	https://www.efrynorthernalberta.com/girls-empowered-and-strong	AB
Programming (general)	Prince Albert Grand Council	https://pagc.sk.ca/justice-unit/	SK
Programming (general)	Foster Family Coalition of the NWT	https://www.ffcwt.com/4yprogram	NWT
Programming (general)	Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services	https://www.binnoojiiyag.ca/service/youth-justice/	ON
Programming (general)	BreakFree Family Centre	https://breakfreefamily.org/programs/	ON
RJ	Elizabeth Fry Society	https://www.elizabethfrysociety.com/youth-justice-programs	ON

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
RJ	YMCA Northern Alberta & BGC	https://www.edmontonpolice.ca/CommunityPolicing/CommunityInitiatives/Y	AB
RJ	Youth Restorative Action Project	https://www.yrap.org/restorative-justice	AB
RJ	Central Alberta FASD Network	https://centralfasd.org/restorative-justice-program/	AB
RJ	Chess for Life	https://chessforlife-uleth.org/about	AB
RJ	FHQ Tribal Council	https://fhqtc.com/justice/	SK
RJ	Touchwood Agency Tribal Council	https://www.touchwoodagency.ca/justice.html	SK
RJ	Restorative Justice Chatham-Kent	https://rjck.org/programs/restorative-justice-community-conference/	ON
RJ	Tontakayè:ri'ne	https://mbq-tmt.org/tontakayerine-tyendingaga-justice-circle/	ON
RJ	Community Services	https://www.comservice.bc.ca/programs-services/restorative-justice/	BC
RJ	Secwepemc Community Justice Program	https://bcfnjc.com/directory-services/listing/secwepemc-	BC
RJ	En'owkin Centre	https://www.enowkincentre.ca/departments-sorjp.html	BC
RJ	Heiltsuk Tribal Council	https://www.heiltsuknation.ca/restorative-justice-department	BC
RJ	Cera Society	https://cerasociety.org/programs/community_youth_justice.asp	BC
RJ	BC First Nations Justice Council	https://bcfnjc.com/directory-services/listing/kwadacha-nation-khutsedzike-cultural-wilderness-camp-	BC
RJ	Touchstone Family Association	https://touchstonefamily.ca/services/youth/restorative-justice	BC

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
Specific - Aboriginal Justice Program	Prince Rupert Aboriginal Community Services	http://pracss.org/index.php/programs-and-services/aboriginal-justice-program/	BC
Specific - Anger Management Program	Youth Services Bureau	https://www.ysb.ca/services/youth-justice-services/one-on-one-anger-management-program/	ON
Specific - Bridge Program	Banyan Community Services	https://banyancommunityservices.org/what-we-do/supporting-youth/community/bridge-	ON
Specific - Differential	Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents	https://www.pointintime.ca/programs-services/youth-justice-services/	ON
Specific - Emotional Awareness	West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre	https://www.wsncc.org/yjs-programs	ON
Specific - Employment	Fernie Youth	https://ferniefyouth.ca/employment-programs/	ON
Specific - Family Focused Outreach	Central Toronto Youth Services	https://ctys.org/services-programs/youth-justice/family-focused-outreach/	ON
Specific - Harm Reduction	West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre	https://www.wsncc.org/yjs-programs	ON
Specific - Indigenous Community Justice Program	Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres	https://ofifc.org/program/indigenous-community-justice-program/	ON
Specific - Indigenous YJP	Mi'kmaw Legal Support Netowrk	https://mlsn.ca/brochures/Indigenous-Youth-Justice.pdf	NS
Specific - Intersections Program	Youth Diversion	https://www.youthdiversion.org/programs/intersections-program/	ON
Specific - Mentorship	Youth Restorative Action Project	https://www.yrap.org/mentorship	AB
Specific - Mentorship	Affinity 321	https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cnt-rng-crm/crm-prvntn/nvntr/dtls-en.aspx?i=10205	AB
Specific - Reintegration	Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents	https://www.pointintime.ca/programs-services/youth-justice-services/	ON

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
Specific - Reintegration	Banyan Community Services	https://banyancommunityservices.org/what-we-do/supporting-	ON
Specific - Reintegration	Youth Services Bureau	https://www.ysb.ca/services/youth-justice-services/community-	ON
Specific - Relationship Skills for Violence	Central Toronto Youth Services	https://ctys.org/services-programs/youth-justice/relationship-skills-for-violence-prevention/	ON
Specific - Stop Shoplifting	West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre	https://www.wsncc.org/yjs-programs	ON
Specific - Youth Reintegration	Yorkton Tribal Council	https://yorktontribalcouncil.com/justice/	SK
YFS	IWK Health	https://iwkhealth.ca/clinics-programs-services/youth-forensic-services	NS
YFS	John Howard Society of North Island	https://www.jhsni.bc.ca/youth-forensic-psychiatric-services-how-can-it-help-you/	BC
YFS	KCR Community Resources	https://kelowna.cioc.ca/record/KNA1425	BC
YJC	Springboard Services	https://springboardservices.ca/justice-services-youth-justice-community-programs/#attendance-program	ON
YJC	St. Leonard's Community Support, Prevention and Residential Services	https://stleonardscsprs.ca/youth-justice-programs/diversion/youth-justice-committee/	ON
YJC	Elizabeth Fry Society	https://www.elizabethfrysociety.com/youth-justice-programs	ON
YJC	West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre	https://www.wsncc.org/yjs-programs	ON
YJC	Youth Diversion	https://www.youthdiversion.org/programs/youth-justice-committee/	ON
YJC	Calgary Youth Justice Society	https://socialvalueuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/sroi_youth_j	AB
YJC	United Native Friendship Centre	https://unfc.org/youth-justice-program/	ON
YJC	North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services	https://www.neofacs.org/program-and-services/youth-justice/restorative-	ON

Program type	Organization	URL	Province/ Territory
YJC	Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre	https://tbifc.ca/program/youth-justice-committee-program/	ON

Appendix C - Strengths and Opportunities per Jurisdiction

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
Alberta	11	1	EJM/EJS	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple RJ programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of EJM/EJS programs Increased focus on mental health in programs Increased availability of Indigenous specific programs
			Attendance	1		
			Specific issue	2		
			RJ	4		
			ICM	1		
			YJC	1		
			ISSP			
			General program	1		
			YFS			

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
British Columbia	23	10	EJM/EJS	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Indigenous specific programs Multiple RJ programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap in YJC and EJM/EJS programs Increased focus on trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, youth-led practices
			Attendance	2		
			Specific issue	1		
			RJ	7		
			ICM			
			YJC			
			ISSP	8		
			General program	2		
			YFS	1		

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
Manitoba	2	0	EJM/EJS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough data to conclusively state strengths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of all YJPs, specifically for Indigenous youth
			Attendance			
			Specific issue			
			RJ			
			ICM	1		
			YJC			
			ISSP			
			General program	1		
			YFS			

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
New Brunswick	3	1	EJM/EJS	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of all programs, EJM/EJS available Programs mention mental health focus frequently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of all YJPs
			Attendance			
			Specific issue			
			RJ			
			ICM	1		
			YJC			
			ISSP			
			General program			
			YFS			

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
Newfound-land and Labrador	2	0	EJM/EJS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough data to conclusively state strengths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand program availability beyond attendance centres Increased availability of Indigenous specific programs
			Attendance	2		
			Specific issue			
			RJ			
			ICM			
			YJC			
			ISSP			

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
Nova Scotia	3	1	EJM/EJS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some variety in programs Mentions trauma-informed and youth-focussed approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of all YJPs, specifically restorative justice-based programs such as EJM/EJS and YJC
			Attendance			
			Specific issue			
			RJ			
			ICM	1		
			YJC			
			ISSP			
			General program	1		
			YFS	1		
			General program			
			YFS			

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
Northwest Territories	1	0	EJM/EJS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough data to conclusively state strengths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased YJPs, specifically for Indigenous youth
			Attendance			
			Specific issue			
			RJ			
			ICM			
			YJC			
			ISSP			
			General program	1		
			YFS			

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
Ontario	66	5	EJM/EJS	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of various YJPs • Some mention of effective practices within program descriptions • Strong focus on accountability and growth in YJPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased YJPs for Indigenous youth • Increased focus on programs that are developmentally appropriate
			Attendance	14		
			Specific issue	14		
			RJ	3		
			ICM	6		
			YJC	8		
			ISSP			
			General program	2		
			YFS			

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
Saskatchewan	11	7	EJM/EJS	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple EJM/EJS options • Multiple programs for Indigenous youth (generally through Tribal Councils) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand focus on mental health within programs
			Attendance			
			Specific issue	1		
			RJ	2		
			ICM	3		
			YJC			
			ISSP			
			General program	1		
			YFS			

Province	No. programs	No. Indigenous programs	Program type	n=	Strengths	Opportunities
Yukon	1	0	EJM/EJS		Not enough data to conclusively state strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of all YJPs
			Attendance	1		
			Specific issue			
			RJ			
			ICM			
			YJC			
			ISSP			
			General program			
			YFS			