



## Serving Latino Youth and their Families

*Identity's mission is to provide opportunities for Latino youth to believe in themselves and realize their full potential.*

*We envision a just and equitable society that nurtures all youth and is enriched by their contributions.*

# Annual Evaluation Report

July 2014 – June 2015



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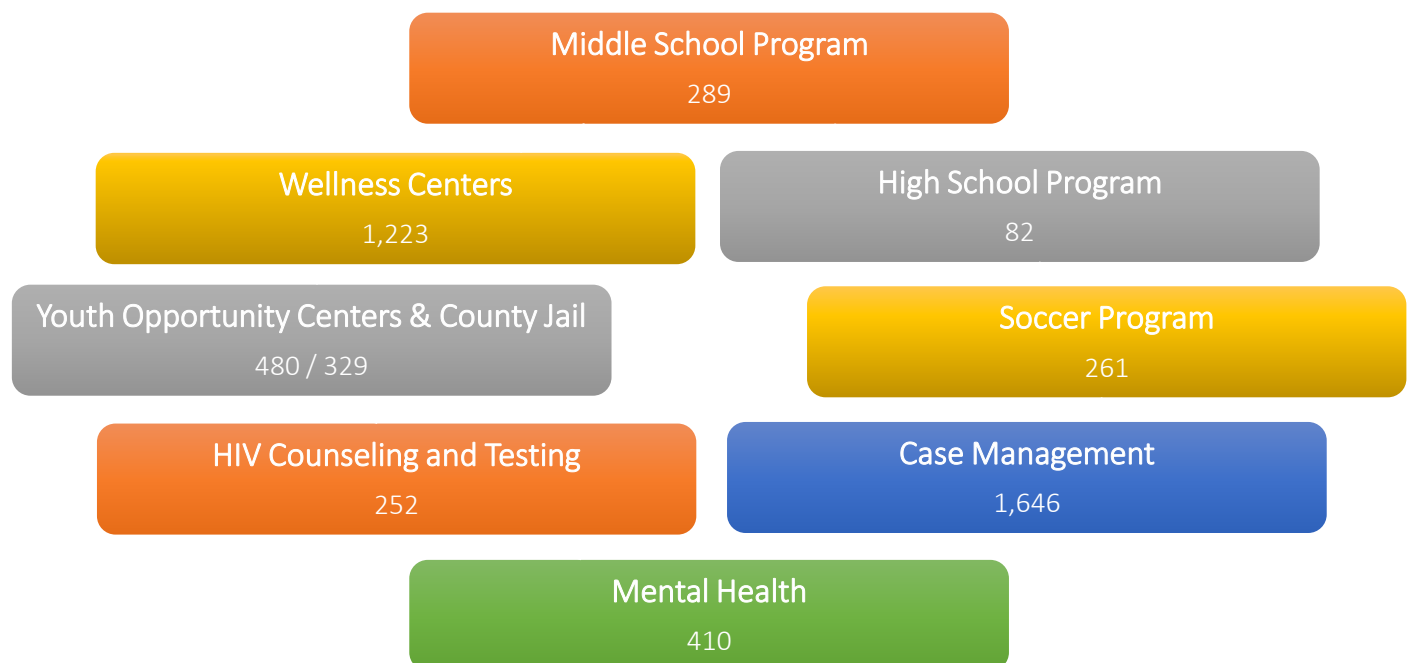
This Annual Evaluation Report describes Identity's major program outputs and outcomes from the past fiscal year. Identity serves Latino youth and their families throughout Montgomery County through a variety of programs. Identity's three major service models include: middle and high-school programs, two Youth Opportunity Centers, and three Wellness Centers. The two Youth Opportunity Centers operated in collaboration with Pride Youth Services and Family Services, Inc. The Wellness Centers operated in collaboration with Pride Youth Services, the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County and Family Support Center.

## Evaluation Methodology

Identity collects process and outcome data on all programs. Extensive outcome evaluation is collected by way of baseline, follow-up and exit surveys across programs. Outcome data is analyzed by an external evaluator. The survey questions are grouped into several domains measuring various protective and risk factors. A statistical analysis known as the *Paired-Sample T-Test* is used to determine if changes encountered between baseline and exit are significantly different from each other. Process data, such as client demographics and program outputs, are entered daily in *Efforts to Outcomes* (ETO), our data collection software system.

All programs are based on the Positive Youth Development model and work to increase protective factors, such as self-esteem, conflict resolution skills and self-efficacy levels - i.e., the factors that reduce young people's potential for engaging in negative behaviors. These programs also help reduce risk factors such as substance abuse, involvement in delinquent activities and feeling disconnected from school, factors that can lead to negative outcomes. In addition, Identity conducted an inmate re-entry and support program at the County Correctional Facility, an HIV Prevention Program that operated throughout the state in the areas of greatest HIV incidence, and a Soccer Program geared toward mentoring young people through sports. Identity's programs are supported by mental health and case management services.

Clients served through the following programs:

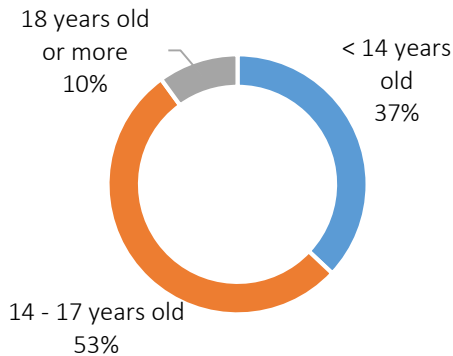


## Socio-Demographic Information

(n=1,482)

The data reported below was collected from baseline surveys administered to youth in our school-based programs, Youth Opportunity Centers, and Soccer Program.

### Age



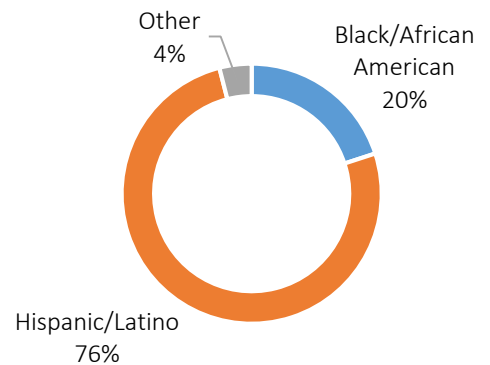
### Gender

- Females: 42%
- Males: 58%

### Language

- English: 61%
- Spanish: 39%

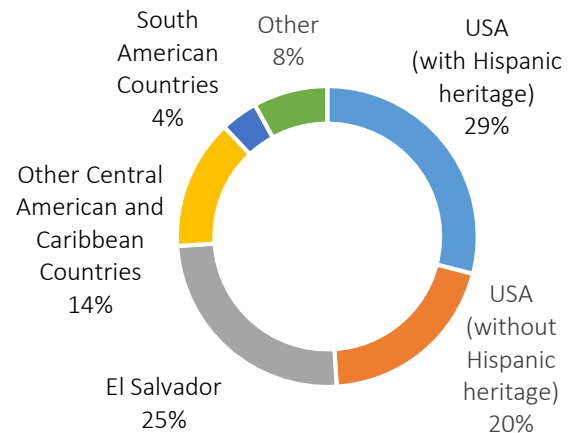
### Race/Ethnicity



## Family Situation

- Of the **1,334** youth **below the age of 18**, **37%** reported living in a single-parent home, **17%** lived in a re-structured family (with step-parents), and **9%** reported living **without either parent**.
- 24%** of youth served had been separated from one or both of their parents because of immigration issues at some time in their lives. The average length of time that youth reported having been separated from their parents was **nine** years.
- The average number of people living in each household was **five**.

### Country of Birth



## Socio-Economic Situation

- 71%** of students in our school-based programs reported receiving Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS).
- 26%** of youth reported **NOT** having health insurance.
- 31%** of youth reported living in a precarious housing situation (renting **a single room** in another person's home or apartment).

## Immigration - Time in USA

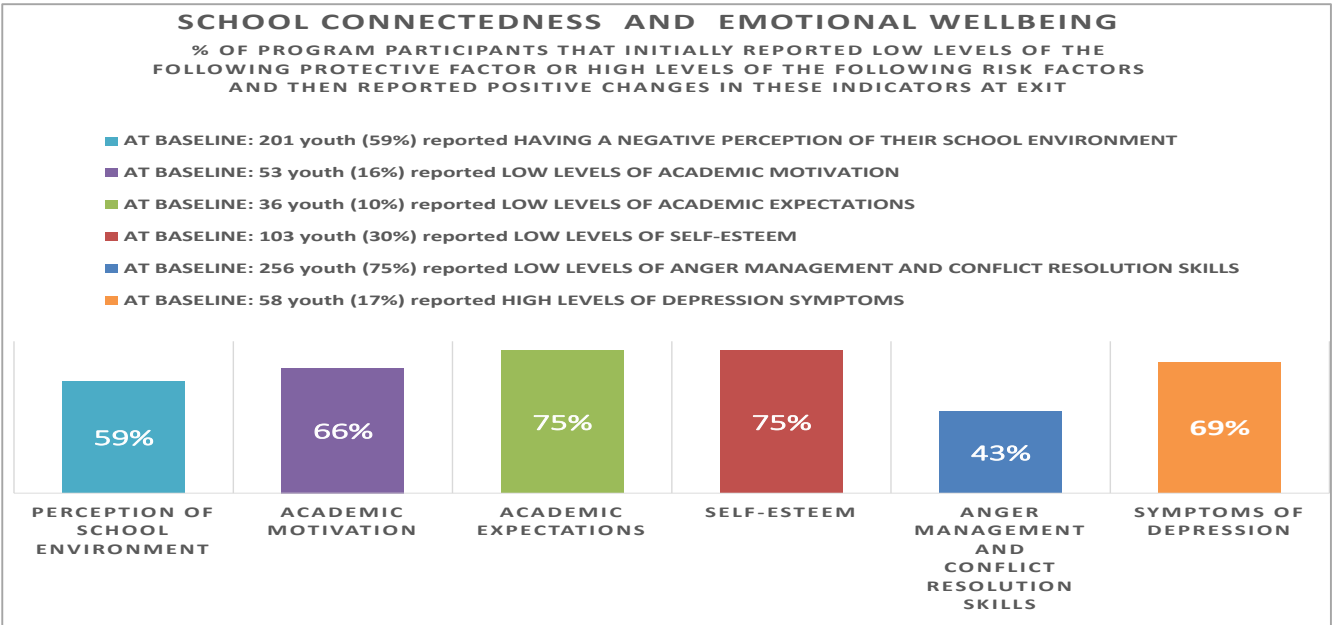
- 51%** of youth were foreign-born. Of this group, **57%** reported being undocumented.
- 44%** of the foreign-born youth were recent arrivals (one year or less in the USA); **28%** had been in the USA between one and five years; and the remaining youth had been in the USA for more than five years.

# School-Based Programs (non-Wellness Centers)

Identity conducts after-school, in-school, and summer programs. The Positive Youth Development model serves as the foundation through which we foster resilience and promote social, emotional, and cognitive development. The programs develop self-efficacy, a positive belief in the future, and provide opportunities for students to engage in pro-social activities. Programs took place in two high schools (Wheaton and Seneca Valley) and seven middle schools (Forest Oak, Neelsville, Montgomery Village, Redland, Parkland, Roberto Clemente and Takoma Park). **Three hundred fifty four** students participated in Identity’s school-based programs this past fiscal year. The following are key program outputs:

Participants in non-Wellness Centers School-Based Programs 354 participants	Hours of Parent Workshops/Trainings 53 hours	Case Management Services 496 families / 728 referrals
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The following are outcomes from a sample of **345** middle and high school students who completed both the baseline and exit surveys in our intervention groups.



A Forest Oak student engages in a STEM activity as part of Identity’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center program.

## Wellness Centers

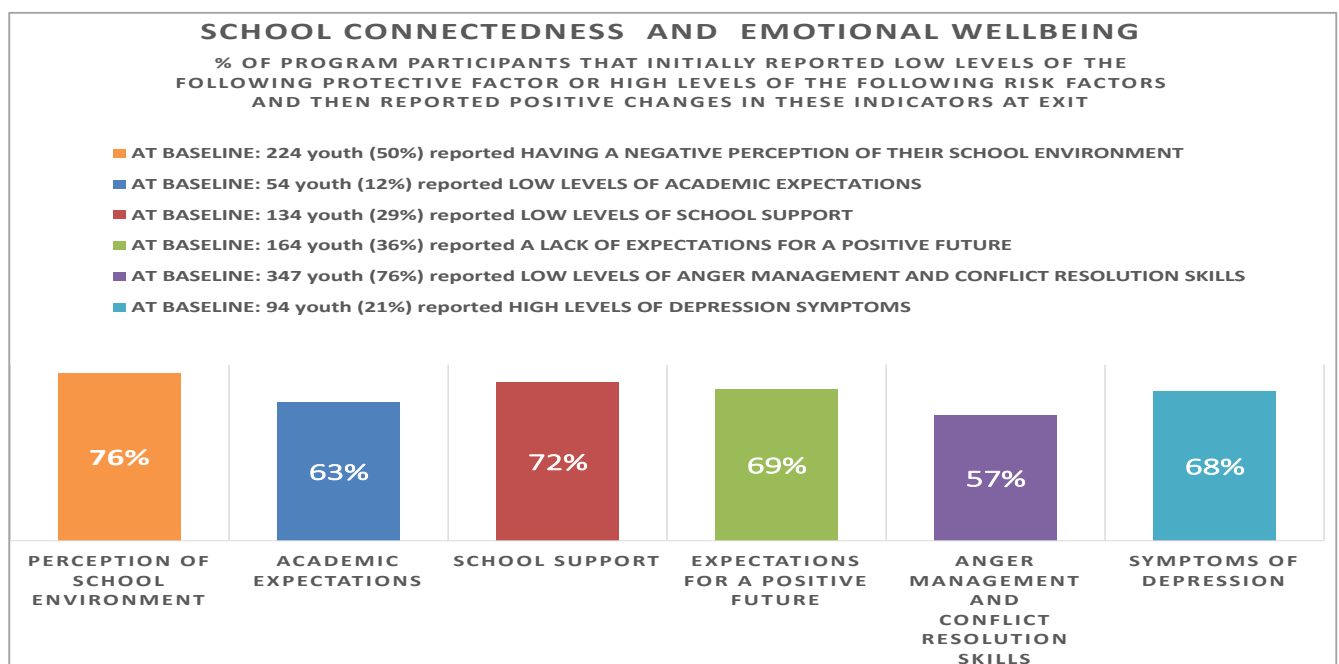
The Wellness Centers at Northwood, Gaithersburg and Watkins Mill High Schools are safe and welcoming places where staff conduct after-school and in-school programs, provide mental health counseling, case management services, parent workshops, educational excursions, and youth participate in student service learning (SSL) opportunities. Last fiscal year, the three Wellness Centers served **1,223** students and their families. The following are key outputs from the three Wellness Centers:

Recreation/Physical Fitness 301 participants	Case Management Services 437 families / 785 referrals	Mental Health Counseling 259 students
Field Trips 463 participants	SSL Activities 291 participants	Hours of Parent Sessions 68 hours

Each Wellness Center offered seven, multi-session curriculum-based youth development programs. **Eight hundred sixty four** students participated in the curriculum-based programs.



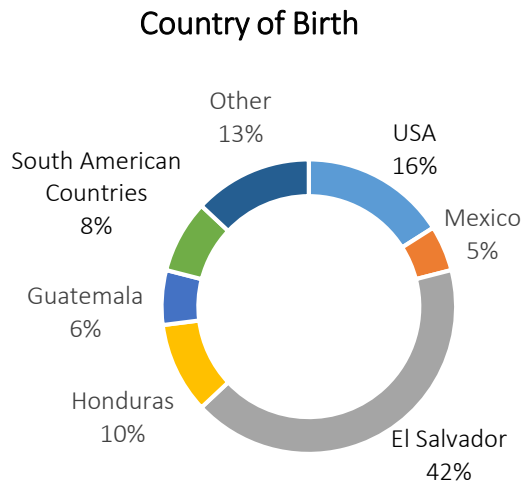
The following are outcomes from **459** students who completed both a baseline and a six-month/exit survey:





## Parent Component

Identity's approach to working with youth is family-centered. Staff facilitate monthly parent workshops in collaboration with schools and other partners throughout the school year. Youth and parents participate in activities to build family bonds and improve communication. Staff also conduct in-person meetings to assess families' needs and then connect families with social services. The following section provides highlights from **444** parents with whom we conducted comprehensive family assessments from our school-based programs.



- **80%** had lived in the USA for more than ten years, **11%** for more than five years and up to ten years, and **9%** reported being recent arrivals (five years or less in the USA).
- **46%** of the foreign-born parents reported being undocumented.
- **80%** of foreign-born parents reported NOT being comfortable speaking English.
- **34%** reported having less than a high school education, and **56%** of this group reported completing less than 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Identity administered a Satisfaction Survey to a sample of **140** parents and found that at the end of the program:

- **89%** reported feeling more comfortable communicating with their children's teachers.
- **90%** reported that their children's attitudes towards school had improved.
- **90%** felt that their relationships with their children had improved.
- **91%** reported being more involved in their children's academics.



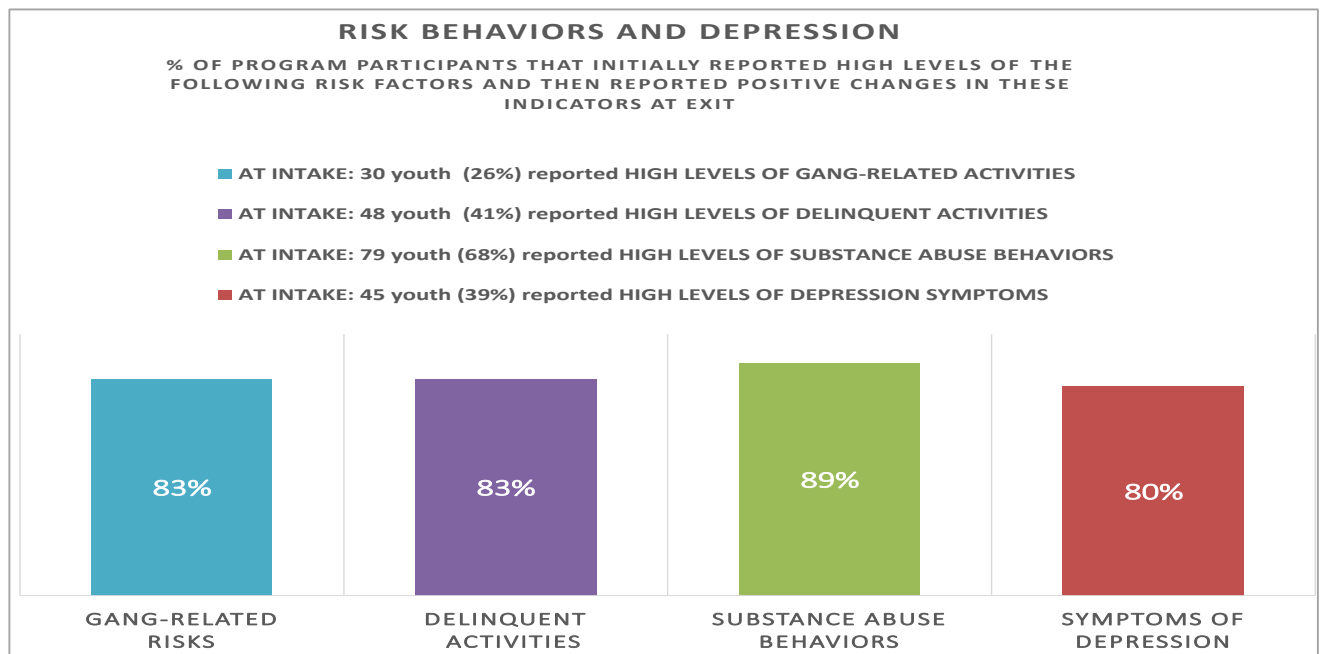
## Youth Opportunity Centers

Identity manages two Youth Opportunity Centers (YOCs) where we provide gang prevention and intervention services to very high-risk youth. The Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center in Takoma Park is operated in partnership with Pride Youth Services, and the Up-County Youth Opportunity Center in Gaithersburg is operated in partnership with Family Services. The Centers address the critical social and emotional needs of the youth and connect them with positive and caring adults. Center staff provide mental health counseling, GED classes, linkages to social services, tattoo removal, “healing circles”, assistance with employment, and opportunities for youth to engage in pro-social activities; services that empower the youth to make positive behavioral changes. The two Centers conducted **340** intakes for youth referred for services during this fiscal year. The following are key program outputs:

Of the **72** youth that reported **previous arrests** at intake, **62 (86%)** did not report any re-arrests while receiving services at the Centers.

<b>Workforce Development</b> 90 youth served	<b>Engagement Activities</b> 280 participants	<b>Case Management Services</b> 301 referrals
<b>Mental Health Counseling</b> 85 youth served	<b>GED Classes</b> 87 youth enrolled	<b>Tattoo Removal Services</b> 23 youth served

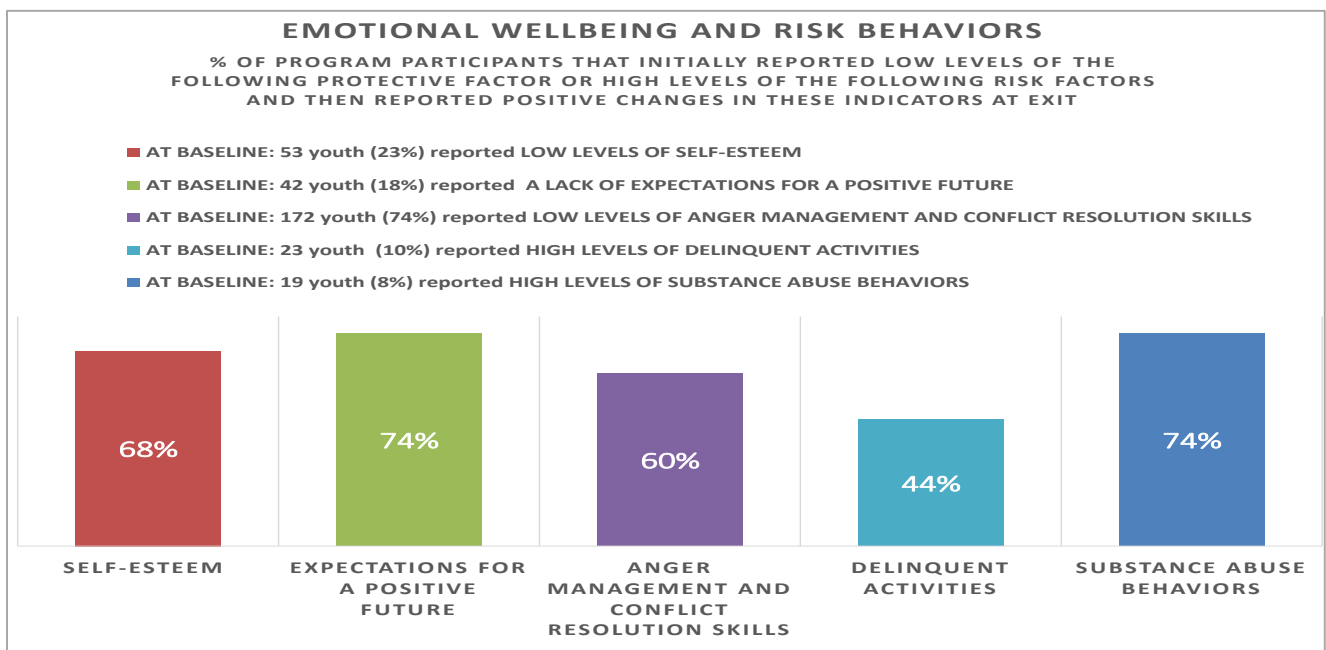
The following are outcomes from a sample of **116** youth who completed both a baseline and six-month follow-up or exit survey. The following graph reflects the percentage of youth that reported improvements in these domains at six-month follow-up/exit.



**45%** of the clients who enrolled in the YOC without a job and were out of school, were either enrolled in the YOC GED program, re-enrolled in school, or became employed.

# Soccer Mentoring Program

Identity's Soccer Program is also a mentoring program for vulnerable and disengaged youth. The following are key program outputs:



Through the generous contribution of **Leveling the Playing Field**, a local charitable organization, young soccer players were able to obtain cleats, shin guards, shorts and shirts, which further motivated them to excel on the playing field!



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## Mental Health Services

Mental health services complement all programs. Staff, partners, and interns provide bilingual and culturally-competent counseling sessions to individuals and families.

During this fiscal year **410** clients received mental health services from our Wellness Centers, Youth Opportunity Centers, and our on-site mental health counselor.

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## Case Management Services

Case management services connect families to social support services with government, non-profit, and private agencies.

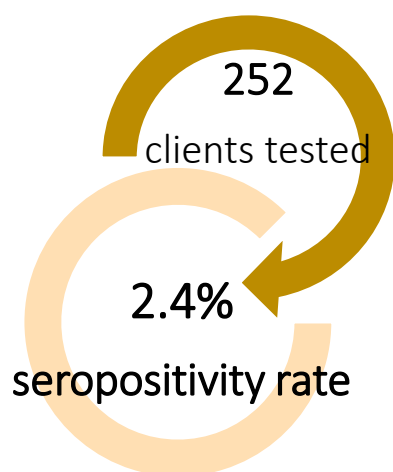
During this fiscal year a total of **1,646** clients received case management services. These included emergency assistance for food, clothing, or shelter, legal services, or crisis intervention.

- **98%** of clients that completed a satisfaction survey reported that their case management needs were “met/fully met” by Identity.

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## HIV Prevention Program

Several HIV risk reduction-programs and counseling and testing services were offered. The following are outputs from Identity’s HIV prevention program.



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## Identity's Re-entry and Support Program

Identity’s Re-entry and Support Program provides support to Latino inmates at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) located in Boyds. Identity’s Correctional Facility Program Coordinator is present at the facility four days per week, providing a minimum of 32 hours of weekly support to the staff and inmates. During this period, Identity conducted individual intakes with **329** unduplicated inmates.

- **286** inmates received pre-placement orientation services upon arrival at MCCF.
- **208** inmates participated in weekly book club and conflict resolution sessions.
- **147** inmates with limited or no English-language skills received interpretation assistance.
- **301** inmates received case management assessments. This resulted in over **570 referrals for internal services**.



## OFFICES

### **Identity Headquarters**

414 East Diamond Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
(301) 963-5900

### **Wellness Center at Northwood High School**

919 University Boulevard West  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
(301) 649-8550

### **Up-County Youth Opportunity Center**

415 East Diamond Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
(301) 591-1790

### **Wellness Center at Gaithersburg High School**

101 Education Boulevard  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
(301) 284-4690

### **Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center**

7676 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 411  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
(240) 670-8122

### **Wellness Center at Watkins Mill High School**

10301 Apple Ridge Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
(240) 406-1545

[www.identity-youth.org](http://www.identity-youth.org)

Photo credits: Anthony Cano