



## 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 2013 – June 2014



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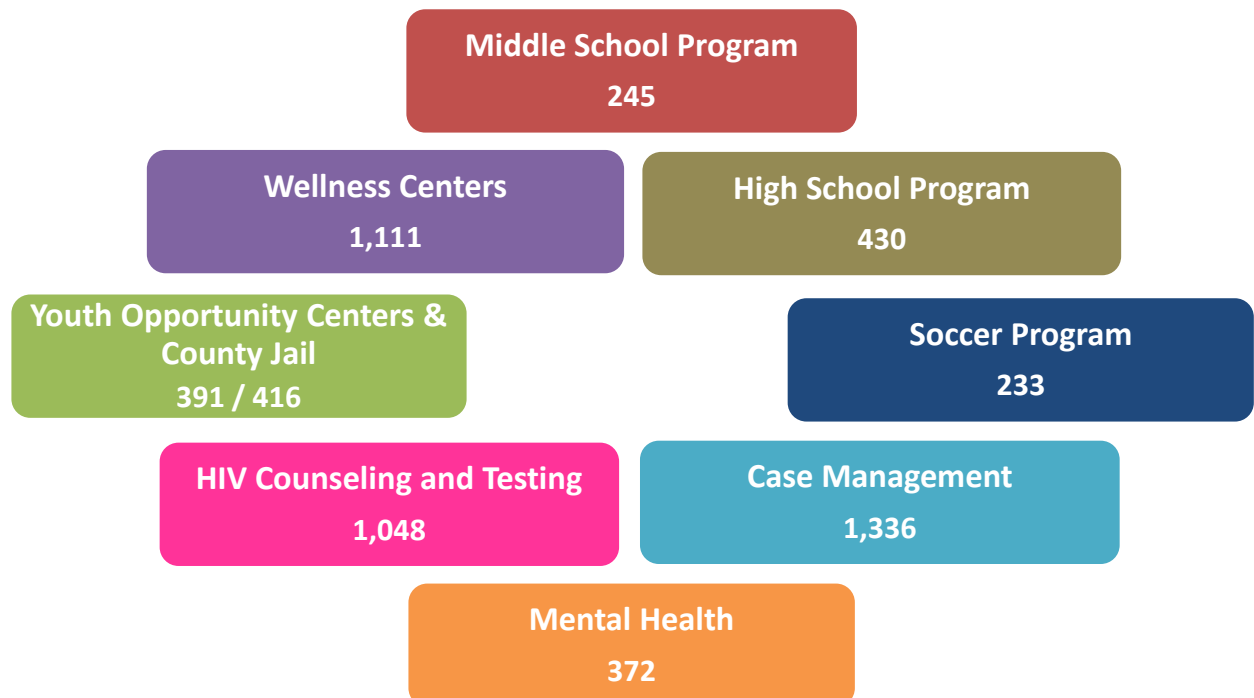
This Annual Evaluation Report describes Identity’s major program outputs and outcomes from the past fiscal year. Identity serves Latino youth and their families throughout Montgomery County through a variety of programs. Identity’s three major service models include: middle and high-school programs, two Youth Opportunity Centers, and three Wellness Centers. The two Youth Opportunity Centers are operated in collaboration with Pride Youth Services and Family Services, Inc. The Wellness Centers are 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 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 conducts an inmate rehabilitation and re-entry program at the County Correctional Facility, an HIV Prevention Program that operates throughout the state in the areas of greatest HIV incidence, and a new Soccer Program. Identity’s programs are supported by mental health and case management services.

### Clients served through the following programs:

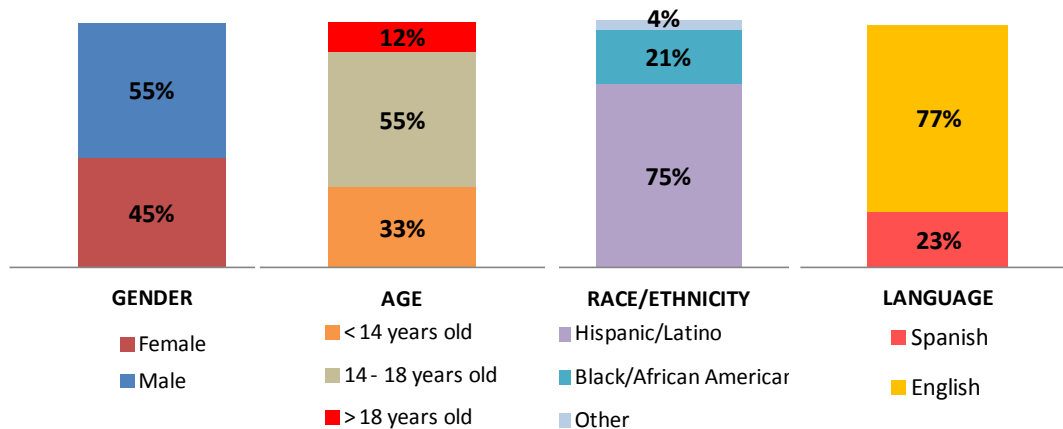


## Socio-Demographic Information

(n=1,569)

The data reported below was collected from baseline surveys administered to youth.

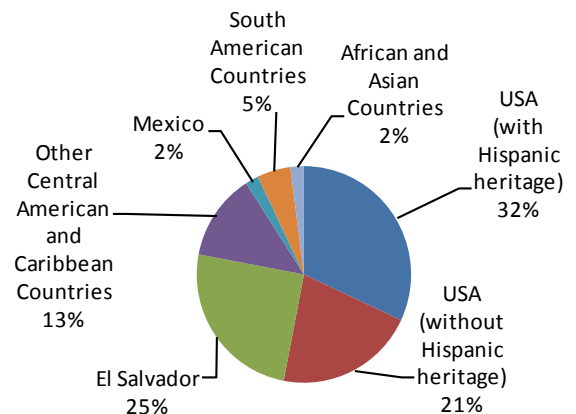
### Breakdown of Gender, Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Language Preference



## Family Situation

- Of the **1,381** youth ***below the age of 18***, **38%** reported living in a single parent home, **17%** living in a re-structured family (with step-parents), and **8%** reported living without either parent.
- **20%** of youth served had been separated from one or both of their parents because of immigration issues. The average length of time that youth reported being separated from their parents was **seven** years.
- The average number of people living in each household was **five**.

### Countries of Origin



## Socio-Economic Situation

- **66%** of students in our school-based programs reported receiving Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS).
- **30%** of youth reported **NOT** having health insurance.
- **18%** of youth reported living in a precarious housing situation (renting **a single room** in another person's home or apartment).

## Immigration - Time in U.S.

- **47%** of youth were foreign-born. Of this group, **21%** reported being undocumented.
- **35%** of the foreign-born youth were recent arrivals (one year or less in the U.S.); **31%** had been in the U.S. between one and five years; and the remaining youth had been in the U.S. for more than five years.

## School-Based Programs

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 eight high schools (Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill, Albert Einstein, Wheaton, Magruder, John F. Kennedy, Rockville, and Montgomery Blair) and five middle schools (Forest Oak, Neelsville, Montgomery Village, Tilden, and Gaithersburg). **Six hundred seventy five** students participated in Identity's school-based programs (intervention and control groups) this past fiscal year. The following are key program outputs:

**Participants in School-Based Programs**  
**675**

**Hours of Parent Sessions**  
**58**

**Case Management Services**  
**388** referrals for external social services

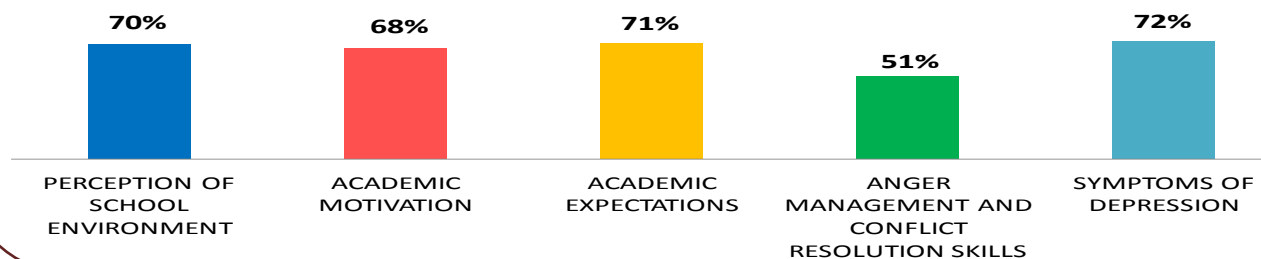
**Overnight Retreats Held**  
**14**

The following are outcomes from a sample of **346** middle and high-school students who completed both the baseline and exit surveys in our intervention groups.

### Improvements in School Connectedness and Emotional Wellbeing

- AT BASELINE: 113 youth (33%) reported HAVING A NEGATIVE PERCEPTION OF THEIR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
- AT BASELINE: 31 youth (9%) reported LOW LEVELS OF ACADEMIC MOTIVATION
- AT BASELINE: 49 youth (14%) reported LOW LEVELS OF ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS
- AT BASELINE: 290 youth (84%) reported LOW LEVELS OF ANGER MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS
- AT BASELINE: 57 youth (17%) reported HIGH LEVELS OF DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS

The graphs below reflect the % of youth that reported improvements in the above domains at exit.



## 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 year, the three Wellness Centers served **1,111** students and their families. The following are key outputs:

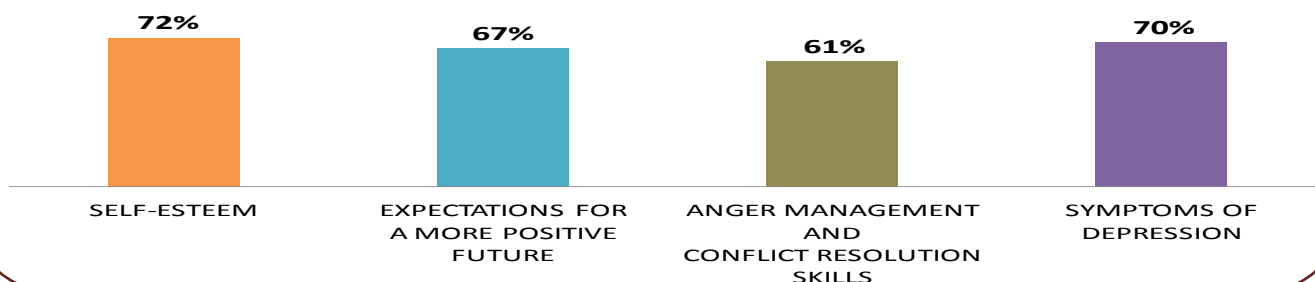
<b>Youth Development/Clubs</b> 590 participants	<b>Case Management Services</b> 258 families	<b>Mental Health Counseling</b> 266 students
<b>Field Trips</b> 279 participants	<b>Special Activities</b> 308 participants	<b>Hours of Parent Sessions</b> 66

Each Wellness Center offered seven, multi-session curriculum-based youth development programs. **Three hundred forty four** students participated in the three core curriculum-based programs. The following are outcomes from **246** students who completed both a baseline and exit survey in those three core programs:

### Improvements in Emotional Wellbeing

- AT BASELINE: 44 YOUTH (18%) REPORTED LOW LEVELS OF SELF-ESTEEM
- AT BASELINE: 75 YOUTH (31%) REPORTED A LACK OF EXPECTATIONS FOR A POSITIVE FUTURE
- AT BASELINE: 200 YOUTH (81%) REPORTED LOW LEVELS OF ANGER MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS
- AT BASELINE: 57 YOUTH (24%) REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS

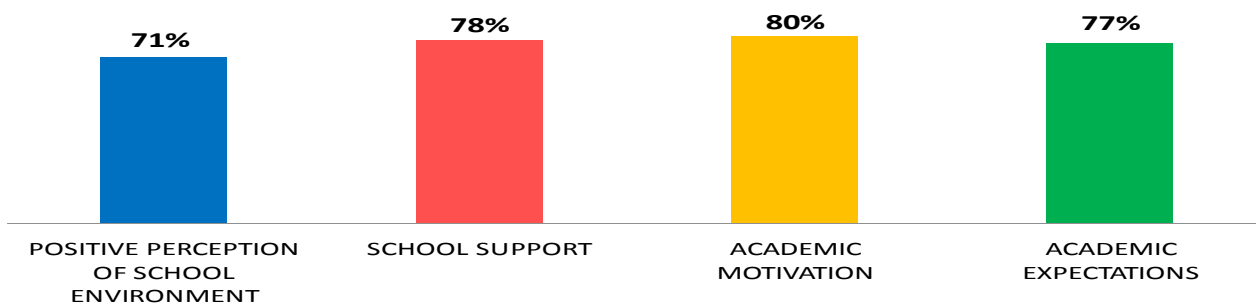
The graphs below reflect the % of youth that reported improvements in the above domains at exit.



### Improvements in School Connectedness

- AT BASELINE: 95 YOUTH (39%) REPORTED HAVING A NEGATIVE PERCEPTION OF THEIR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
- AT BASELINE: 87 YOUTH (36%) REPORTED LOW LEVELS OF SCHOOL SUPPORT
- AT BASELINE: 10 YOUTH (4%) REPORTED LOW LEVELS OF ACADEMIC MOTIVATION
- AT BASELINE: 17 YOUTH (7%) REPORTED LOW LEVELS OF ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

The graphs below reflect the % of youth that reported improvements in the above domains at exit.

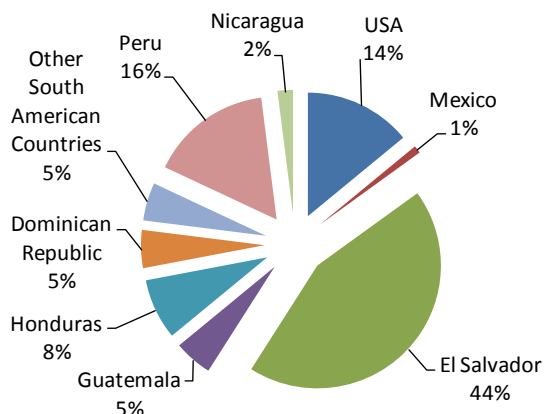




## Parent Component

Identity's approach to working with youth is family-centered. Staff run 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. The following section provides highlights from **376** parents with whom we conducted comprehensive family assessments.

### Countries of Origin



- **56%** had lived in the US for more than ten years, **32%** for more than five years and up to ten years, and **12%** reported being recent arrivals (five years or less in the US).
- **42%** of the foreign-born parents reported being undocumented.
- **75%** of foreign-born parents reported NOT being comfortable speaking English.
- **48%** reported having less than a high school education, and **62%** of this group reported completing less than 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Identity administered a Satisfaction Survey to a sample of 77 parents and found that by the end of the program:

- **96%** felt more confident communicating with the Principal/Vice Principal of their children's school.
- **96%** felt better informed about our educational system.
- **99%** felt that their relationship with their children had improved.
- **96%** felt better equipped to recognize communication barriers with their children.



## Youth Opportunity Centers

Identity manages two Youth Opportunity Centers 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 **237** intakes for youth referred for services during this fiscal year, and at fiscal year-end had **176** active cases. The following are key program outputs:

Of the **57** youth that reported **previous arrests** at intake, **49** (86%) did not report any re-arrests while receiving services at the Centers.

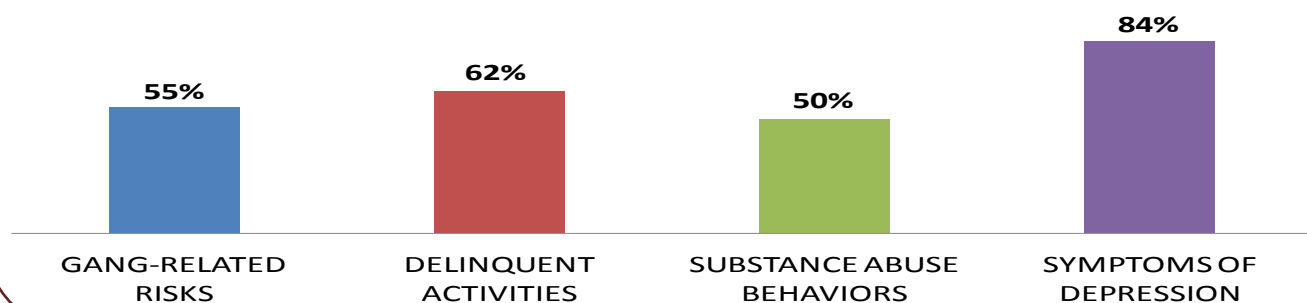
<b>Workforce Development</b> 46 youth served	<b>Engagement Activities</b> 97 participants	<b>Case Management Services</b> 150 referrals
<b>Mental Health Counseling</b> 85 youth served	<b>GED Classes</b> 80 youth enrolled	<b>Tattoo Removal Services</b> 16 youth served

The following are outcomes from a sample of **91 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 months follow-up/exit.

### Reductions in Risk Factors

- AT INTAKE: 31 YOUTH (46%) REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF GANG-RELATED RISKS
- AT INTAKE: 34 YOUTH (40%) REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF DELINQUENT ACTIVITIES
- AT INTAKE: 52 YOUTH (58%) REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE BEHAVIORS
- AT INTAKE: 19 YOUTH (21%) REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS

The graphs below reflect the % of youth that reported improvements in the above domains at exit.



## Soccer Program

Identity's Soccer Program is a result of the County Executive's support for youth development services in Montgomery County. This is Identity's first large-scale recreation program.

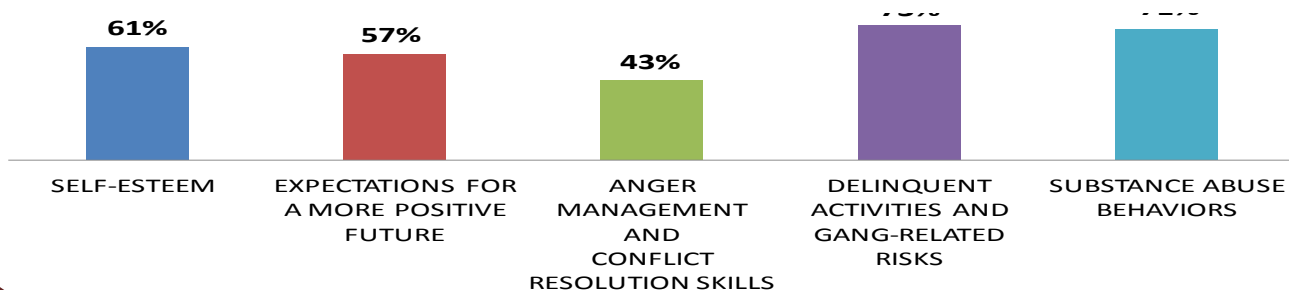


The following are outcomes from a sample of **114 youth** who completed both a baseline and exit survey.

### Improvements in Emotional Wellbeing and Reductions in Risk Factors

- AT BASELINE: 28 YOUTH (26%) REPORTED LOW LEVELS OF SELF-ESTEEM
- AT BASELINE: 23 YOUTH (21%) REPORTED A LACK OF EXPECTATIONS FOR A POSITIVE FUTURE
- AT BASELINE: 88 YOUTH (80%) REPORTED LOW LEVELS OF ANGER MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS
- AT BASELINE: 12 YOUTH (11%) REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF DELINQUENT ACTIVITIES AND GANG-RELATED RISKS
- AT BASELINE: 7 YOUTH (6%) REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE BEHAVIORS

The graphs below reflect the % of youth that reported improvements in the above domains at exit.



*MSI Division Champions from  
Gaithersburg High School,  
including very recently arrived  
young boys*





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## Mental Health Services

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

During this fiscal year **372** 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 for-profit agencies.

During this fiscal year a total of **1,336** clients received case management services. These included emergency assistance for food, clothing, or shelter, legal services, or crisis intervention.

- **95%** 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

Several HIV risk reduction-programs and counseling and testing services were offered throughout the community and at Identity’s offices. The following are outputs from Identity’s HIV prevention program:

### HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING

1,048 clients tested  
9 newly-identified HIV positive clients

### STREET SMART

Group-level HIV prevention intervention  
138 clients

### RESPECT

Individual-level risk-reduction planning  
185 clients

After completing the *Individual-level risk-reduction program*, **93%** of clients reported an increase in their self-confidence to put into practice their self-identified risk-reduction step.

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## Identity's Reentry and Support Program

Identity’s Reentry and Support Program provides support to Latino inmates at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) located in Boyds. Identity’s Program Coordinator is present at the facility four days per week, providing a minimum of 32 hours of weekly support to the staff and Latino inmates.

- **349** inmates received pre-placement orientation services.
  - **111** inmates participated in the weekly book club and conflict resolution sessions.
  - **62** inmates with limited or no English language skills received interpretation services.
  - **409** inmates received case management assessments. This resulted in over **682 referrals for internal services**.
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## OFFICES

### **Identity Headquarters**

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

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

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

### **Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center**

7676 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 411  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
(301) 422-1270

### **Wellness Center at Northwood HS**

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

### **Wellness Center at Gaithersburg HS**

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

### **Wellness Center at Watkins Mill HS**

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

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

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