



# Healing Futures

## Fact Sheet

### What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice (RJ) is both a **framework** and a **process** for addressing the impacts, outcomes, and obligations caused by harm. The foundation of restorative justice centers on honoring relationships, reclaiming personal accountability, and holding space for collective responsibility to one another. As opposed to assigning blame and meting out punishment, RJ processes are designed to determine the roots of conflict, what specific harms occurred and why, and how to repair the wrongs as much as possible.

This method of inquiry typically happens within a circle process or restorative community conference. In these processes, all parties involved – including the harmed party, the responsible party, family members, and members of the community – convene to discuss a potential resolution.

### The Healing Futures Restorative Justice Diversion Process

In certain categories of cases that would otherwise be adjudicated in juvenile court, the District Attorney (DA) has discretion to divert the case to a restorative justice program such as Healing Futures. The Healing Futures program includes three stages:

1. Enrollment/pre-Restorative Community Conference
2. Restorative Community Conference
3. Plan Completion

When a young person involved successfully completes this program, the charges are dropped or declined. If they fail to complete the program, the DAO determines whether to divert to another program or pursue formal charges.

### Healing Futures Impact in Philadelphia

*\*Results reflect the responses of those who elected to participate in the survey*

100%

of persons harmed “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the RJ process provided them with a sense of justice

3% recidivism rate

Only 1 out of 30 young people who completed the program was convicted or adjudicated for another crime in a 2-year period.

100%

of responsible youth and persons harmed “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they were overall satisfied with the RJ process.

### Testimonials

“I feel like it was a better opportunity for me than having to go to court ... by going through the court system my childhood would be placed on hold. So I feel like I was able to continue experiencing my life and learn right from wrong. And Healing Futures definitely taught me that.” – LJ, responsible youth

“That was the healing part for me, sitting around, we have others telling their stories... actually get[ting] to talk face to face, for the first time, was good. Like getting the other side, the apology letter was the main thing that was like, all right, ... we’re gonna make it through.” – Monique, person harmed

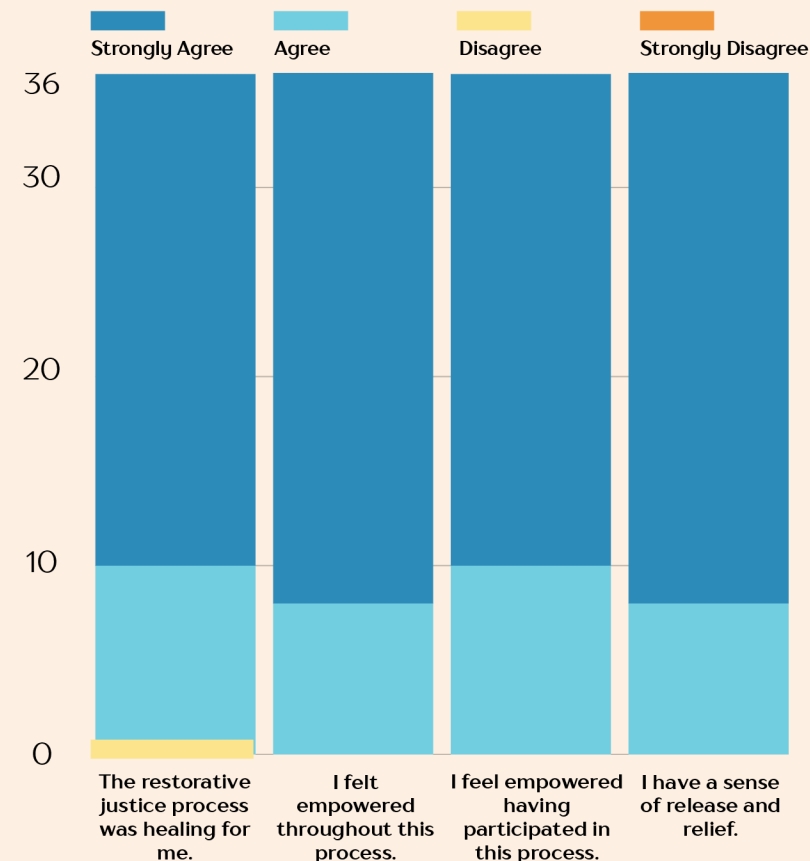
“The best part was not feeling like a ‘criminal.’ I felt human and like any human, I made a mistake and was given the chance to correct said mistake.” – Mozelle, responsible youth



# Healing Futures

## Fact Sheet

### Responsible Youth and Persons Harmed Reflections on the Personal Impact of the Process

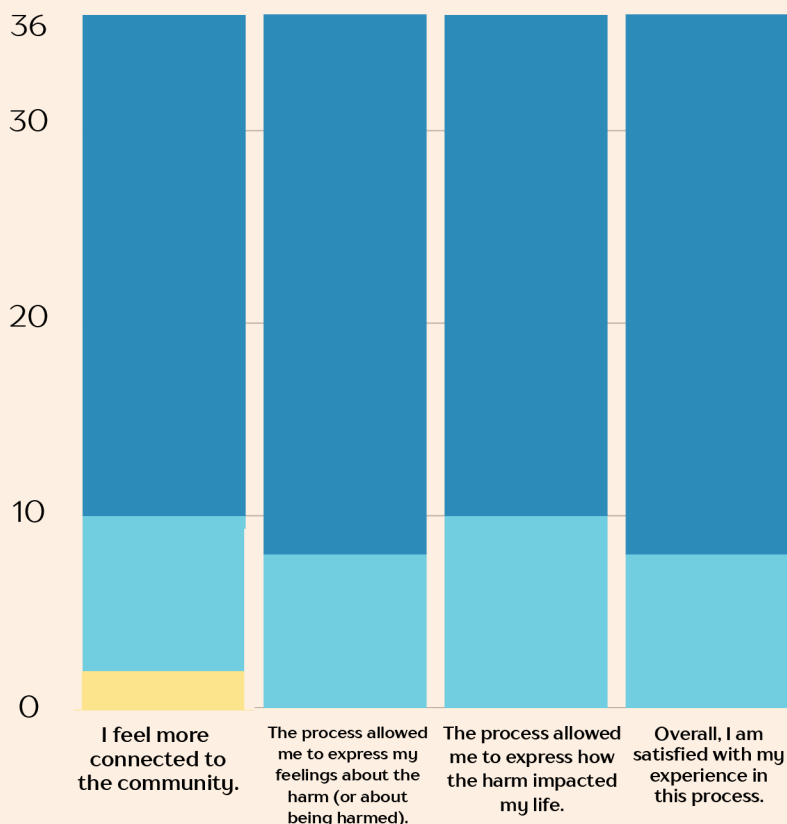


**Persons harmed and responsible youth had better experiences with Healing Futures compared to the criminal legal system.**

Persons harmed specifically named RJ's ability to better accommodate their emotional processing, need for closure and answers, material restitution and repair, and the opportunity for more positive outcomes for themselves and the responsible youth than the criminal legal system would allow.

### Recommendations:

1. Expand criteria for restorative justice diversion so that it includes cases of serious harm involving youth, with no exclusion for gun charges.
2. Invest resources into community-based restorative justice diversion programs, such as Healing Futures, to make them sustainable for the long-term.
3. Amplify information about restorative justice diversion and evidence of its success so that people are not only aware of, but also recognize the effectiveness of this model, as an option when harm is caused.



**Read the full report at:**  
[www.yasproject.com](http://www.yasproject.com)