



Huckleberry's Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC)

Program Overview

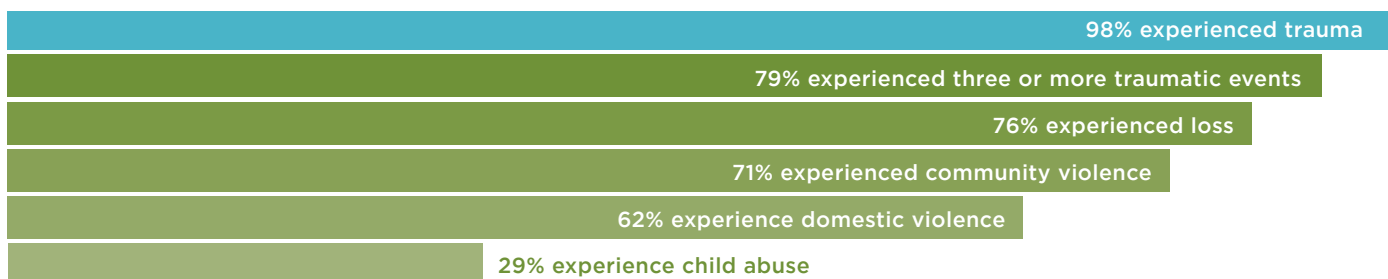
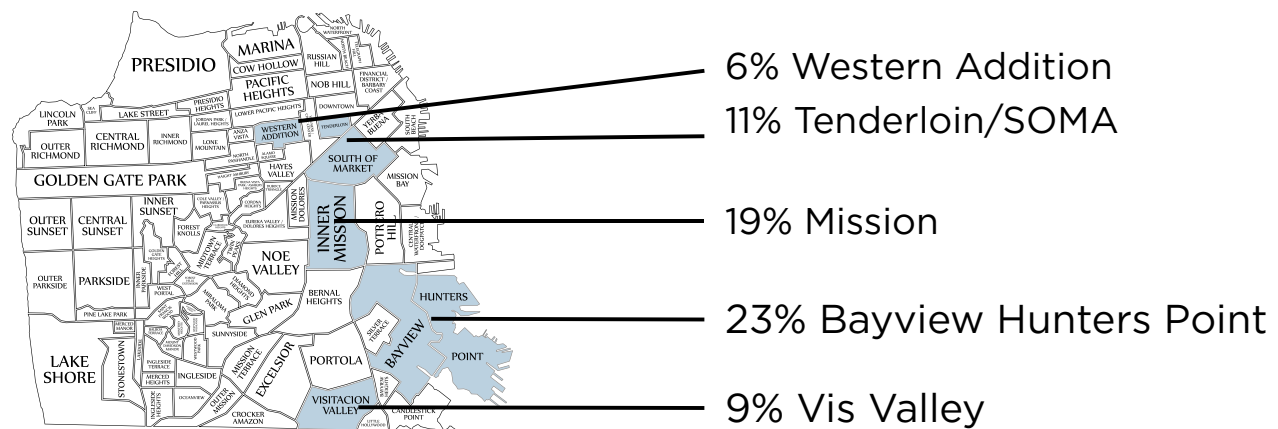
Located at 44 Gough Street at Market in San Francisco, Huckleberry's Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC) is open from 9:00am to 10pm, Monday - Friday. One third of SF's arrested youth, approximately 300 annually, arrive at CARC, handcuffed, and charged with misdemeanors or felonies. CARC's purpose is to assess, evaluate and identify strengths, interests, and needs, work with youth and families, and connect youth with appropriate and individualized services in order to prevent recidivism or further involvement in the Juvenile Justice System. CARC clients are predominantly low-income, youth of color who have experienced significant trauma.

About CARC Clients



A majority are boys (67%), ages 11-17, and are youth of color (39% Latino, 30% African American).

Most CARC clients are from underresourced neighborhoods.



CARC Partners

Huckleberry regularly convenes the CARC Advisory Board, which brings together all of our partners for the purpose of coordinating services, sharing best practices, and identifying additional systems involved youth who could benefit from CARC services. Successful initiatives by Huckleberry and our partners have led to decreased arrest rates, including efforts to minimize police presence in schools, expand admonishment practices in the field, and institute changes to the SFPD General Order.

Partners include: the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, the San Francisco Deputy Sheriff, the San Francisco Police Department, the San Francisco District Attorney, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, the San Francisco Department of Children Youth & Their Families, the San Francisco Unified School District, Community Works West, Community Youth Center, and Instituto Familiar de la Raza.

Successes over the last two decades:

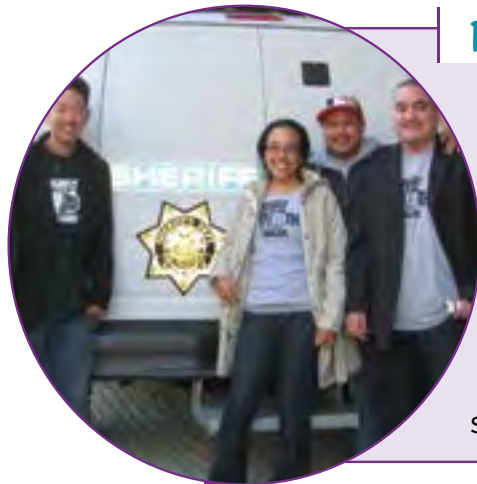
CARC is an effective, highly regarded, model juvenile justice diversion program. Indicators of success include:

- ♥ Research by the National Council on Crime & Delinquency in 2001 indicated that youth who completed CARC were significantly less likely to be rearrested.
- ♥ The Annie E. Casey Foundation highlighted CARC as a model for juvenile detention reform in a 2006 publication, *Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment*.
- ♥ In 2008, Huckleberry presented CARC as a model violence prevention program to the CA Assembly Special Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice.
- ♥ The Vera Institute of Justice has invited Huckleberry to present the CARC model at a variety of conferences over the past decade.
- ♥ In 2010, Huckleberry's Director of Youth Justice, Denise Coleman, was selected as a Black History Month Hero by KQED.
- ♥ In November 2016, the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange published an article entitled, "Community Partnership, Hard Work Can Create True Reforms" written by CARC's Denise Coleman and Stacy Sciortino.



Huckleberry's Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC) Program Timeline

1997 - 1998



In 1997, Huckleberry's Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC) was established in an effort to combat San Francisco's rising juvenile crime rates and an overcrowded Juvenile Hall.

CARC was initially operated by the Delancey Street Foundation and located in a community-based setting. Eligible youth were brought directly to CARC, never to see the inside of juvenile hall.

2014 - 2015

Utilizing a standardized evidence-based screener, Huckleberry implemented trauma screening and provided clients with trauma-informed services.

Data indicates that 98% of CARC youth have a history of trauma and 42% are exhibiting symptoms related to trauma exposure.

In 2015, the District Attorney began diverting an increased number of felony offenders to CARC through deferred charging. In that same year, CARC expanded services to provide a point of arrest intervention for out-of-county youth, who represent a third of SF juvenile detention bookings.



SF District Attorney George Gascon with CARC's Denise Coleman.

2000 - 2002

Huckleberry was asked by Delancey Street Foundation to assume operations of CARC.

Of the 631 youth served in 2001, 59% did not feel they had a safe place to go in the community, 52% did not have a trusted adult in their life, and 50% did not attend school the day they were arrested or plan to attend school the next day. Instead of detainment, CARC offered these youth support and launched the the CARC Mentoring Program in 2002.

2016 - 2017

Huckleberry launched Project READY (Reconnecting, Educating, Achieving Dreams for Youth), a school-based prevention program designed to help youth successfully transition to high school and avoid involvement in the juvenile justice system.



CARC expanded the "Make It Right" pilot with a new program, RESET (Restoring & Empowering Social Equity & Truth) using the same evidence-based restorative justice model to bring together the arrested youth, their victim(s), law enforcement, and others to discuss the crime and develop a plan to repair harm.



Current and past CARC staff at the CARC 20th Anniversary celebration in Sept. 2018.

2011-2013

In 2011, the Department General Order for the SF Police Dept. was revised to explicitly state that police officers are required to contact CARC in all juvenile arrest cases.

In 2012, CARC assisted in the creation of the Know Your Rights brochure.

The Restorative Justice Model "Make It Right" was created at the request of the DA in 2013. CARC and Community Works West partnered with the District Attorney's office, to allow youth to meet their victims in a community-based facilitated dialogue, and develop an agreement for the youth to repair harm, address root causes, and make amends.

Know Your Rights for Youth in San Francisco



2010

Huckleberry's CARC relocated to a larger facility at 44 Gough Street, allowing the program to expand services, including the provision of on-site individual and family counseling services.



Huckleberry staff with Governor Gavin Newsom.

2018

Over the past 20 years, CARC has provided 7,500 arrested youth with juvenile justice diversion programming and 46,282 hours of case management (an average of 6 hours per youth).







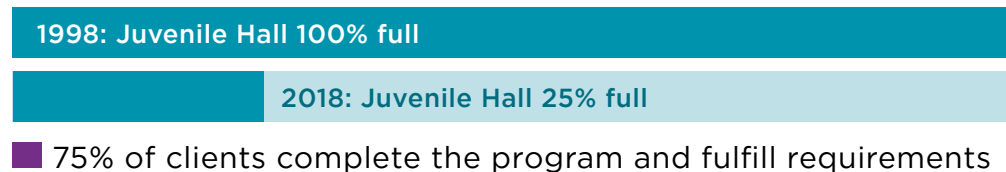
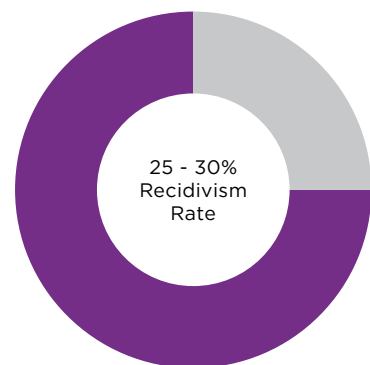
JUSTICE

The Huckleberry Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC) was founded upon the belief that in order for youth to mature into healthy and whole individuals, they require compassion, guidance, and opportunities to make wrongs right and learn from their mistakes. CARC is a unique public-private partnership at the front-end of San Francisco's juvenile justice system, designed for all but the most serious violent youth offenders. CARC provides a community-based setting in which staff from Huckleberry, Juvenile Probation, the Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, and community-based organizations work together with youth and their families to address the root causes of arrest.

Prior to CARC opening, there were widespread concerns over SF's juvenile crime rates and an overcrowded detention facility. The establishment of CARC was central to the city's juvenile justice reform effort. CARC provides a single point of entry for assessment, service integration, referral, booking, crisis intervention, counseling, and mentoring for youth ages 11 to 17 taken into custody by the police for both felony and misdemeanor offenses. CARC is San Francisco's model for diverting youth pre-booking. CARC activities support healthy development, community safety, and the well-being of youth and families.

Results:

-  CARC is one of the programs credited with reducing juvenile detention bookings by 75% over 20 years, with juvenile hall less than 25% full today.
-  CARC has a low (25-30%) recidivism rate among clients. 75% of clients complete the program and fulfill community service/probation requirements.
-  CARC effectively diverts about one-third of arrested youth from detention and formal probation at just a fraction of the cost of detention.
-  CARC clients re-engage in school, secure jobs, and participate in positive recreational activities.



In Fiscal Year 2017-2018

273 YOUTH SERVED BY CARC

72% of youth arrested in fiscal year 2017/2018 and brought to Huckleberry's CARC (Community Assessment & Resource Center) were not rearrested within the year following completion of the program.

KAIA'S STORY

Two years ago, Kaia* was arrested for theft at school and brought to CARC. At the time, she was experiencing problems with school attendance, behavior, and grades. Kaia quickly formed a relationship with her CARC case manager and disclosed a history of physical abuse. A CPS report was filed and Kaia went to live with an Aunt and began regularly meeting with a Huckleberry therapist at CARC.

While at CARC, Kaia experienced more than just case management and therapy. She developed true bonds with the entire staff and CARC became like a second home, where she felt safe and cared for. To address her trauma history and as a positive physical and emotional outlet, her therapist recommended joining a young women's group that teaches self-defense.

Since joining the group, Kaia has thrived. Upon completion of the

group, she was asked to serve as the group's peer-facilitator. The entire CARC staff is happy to see Kaia thriving in her new leadership role. She has been successful in her transition to high school and her relationships with her family continue to improve.

*Name changed for confidentiality.



A mural of Malala Yousafzai inside CARC's 44 Gough St. facility created by CARC staff member Jorge Rodriguez.