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The background of the slide is a photograph of a classical building facade. On the left, there are ornate stone columns and a decorative frieze. To the right, a white banner with a blue NYU torch logo and the letters 'NYU' is hanging from a pole. Green tree branches are visible on the right side of the image.

## **NYU Marron Institute Research for Impact**

### **Updated findings on PLGDP**

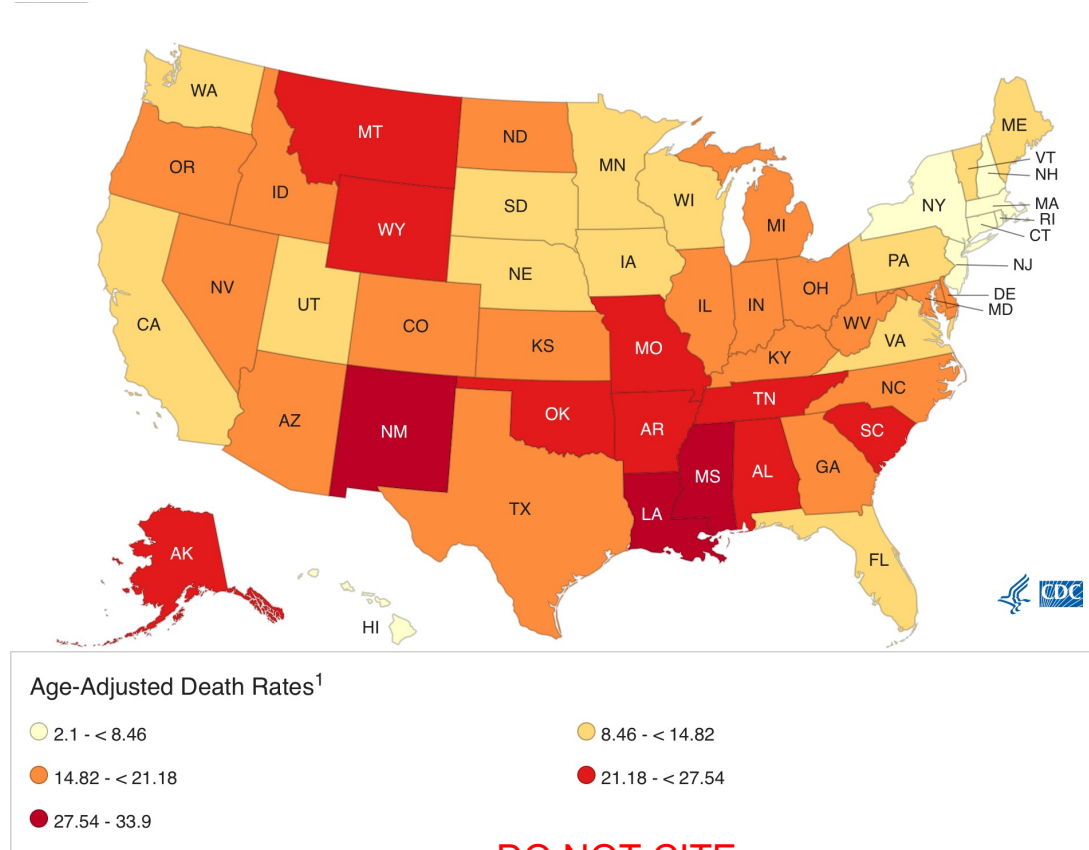
May 31, 2023

# Overview

- Preliminary – Do not cite
- Background on firearm mortality and gun crimes in NY and NYC
- Introduction to KCDA gun-diversion programs
- Preliminary findings
- General observations



# CDC Firearm Mortality Rates, 2021



Homicides rates involving guns lower in NYC compared with rest of US.



Volume 30 Number 20

*CompStat*

Citywide

Report Covering the Week  
5/15/2023 Through 5/21/2023

## Crime Complaints

	Week to Date			28 Day			Year to Date*			2 Year	13 Year	30 Year
	2023	2022	% Chg	2023	2022	% Chg	2023	2022	% Chg	% Chg	% Chg	% Chg
Murder	7	13	-46.2	24	43	-44.2	146	168	-13.1	-19.3	-16.6	-79.9
Rape	32	37	-13.5	115	115	0.0	573	608	-5.8	7.5	19.6	-52.6
Robbery	305	327	-6.7	1,213	1,256	-3.4	5,928	6,075	-2.4	37.7	-13.2	-81.5
Fel. Assault	514	554	-7.2	2,043	2,059	-0.8	9,977	9,261	7.7	29.9	61.4	-32.0
Burglary	271	274	-1.1	1,026	1,174	-12.6	5,466	5,917	-7.6	23.5	-18.6	-85.6
Gr. Larceny	997	980	1.7	3,780	3,833	-1.4	18,581	18,804	-1.2	51.2	37.9	-39.7
G.L.A.	292	247	18.2	1,237	953	29.8	5,723	4,919	16.3	80.2	51.1	-86.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,418</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>-0.58</b>	<b>9,438</b>	<b>9,433</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>46,394</b>	<b>45,752</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>42.37</b>	<b>23.25</b>	<b>-71.17</b>

Shooting Vic.	19	35	-45.7	80	118	-32.2	416	554	-24.9	-28.2	-26.2	-80.5
Shooting Inc.	17	30	-43.3	71	99	-28.3	352	471	-25.3	-31.1	-24.1	-81.8



# Gun possession in New York

- New York State has among the most punitive gun laws in the United States
- Many young people (mostly of color) in New York City face lengthy mandatory-minimum sentences for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree
- Concern that young people, with no histories of violence, would return from prison with fewer opportunities and be more prone to violent crime





# KCDA gun-diversion programs

- The Kings Co. (Brooklyn, NY) District Attorney's Office implemented two diversion programs for certain gun-possession cases.
- These give prosecutors and courts an opportunity to provide defendants with an alternative that avoids the potential harms of prison sentences.

**THE GOAL:** deter future crime through rehabilitative responses and close monitoring, improving outcomes for the defendant and the public



# KCDA gun-diversion eligibility

- **Project Re-Direct (PRD):** males up to 22\*, gang-involved, with a first-time felony charge
- **Youth & Communities in Partnership (YCP):** males and females, up to 22\*, with a first-time felony charge
- No history of violent or sex offenses, and no serious MHDs
- Referred by a judge or ADA and assessed by a team of ADAs and a social worker

*\* Initially intended for defendants up to 22, but older participants (mid-20s) have been accepted*

**IF ACCEPTED: Plead guilty to the top charge. Sentencing deferred during program participation.**



# Program summary

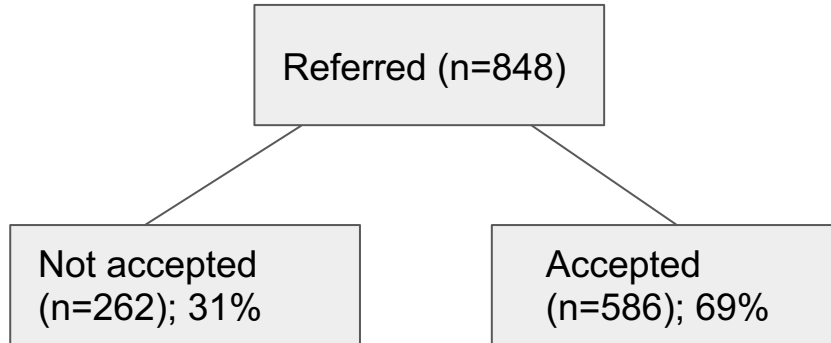
- Duration: 18–24M for PRD; 12M for YCP
- Led by a social worker and overseen by a judge
  - Adherence to a detailed schedule
  - Regular communication with staff
  - Attendance at counseling sessions
  - Drug testing
  - Education or employment
  - Rewards and sanctions to motivate compliance and achievement
  - Enrichment opportunities
- Serious noncompliance can result in a brief remand to custody; removal from the program can result in a prison sentence





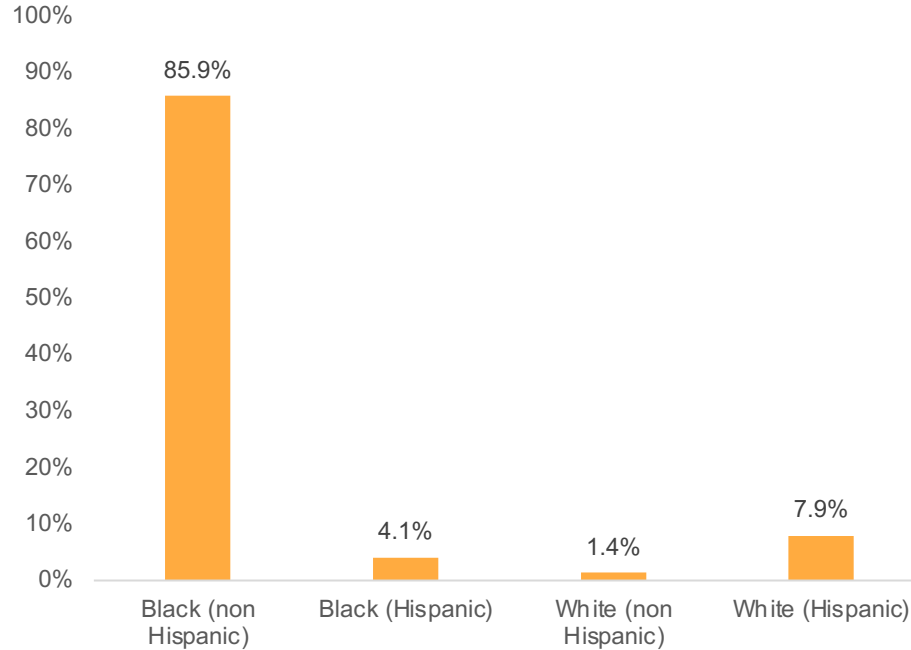
# Preliminary observations

- The Joyce Foundation has supported an evaluation to assess whether the diversion programs meet their intended goals
- Preliminary findings
  - 939 defendants have been referred to the programs since inception
  - We reviewed 848 of these (sufficiently complete records). Two new cases are currently under review.
- About two-thirds of the cases referred are accepted



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## Participant Race/Ethnicity and Participant Age

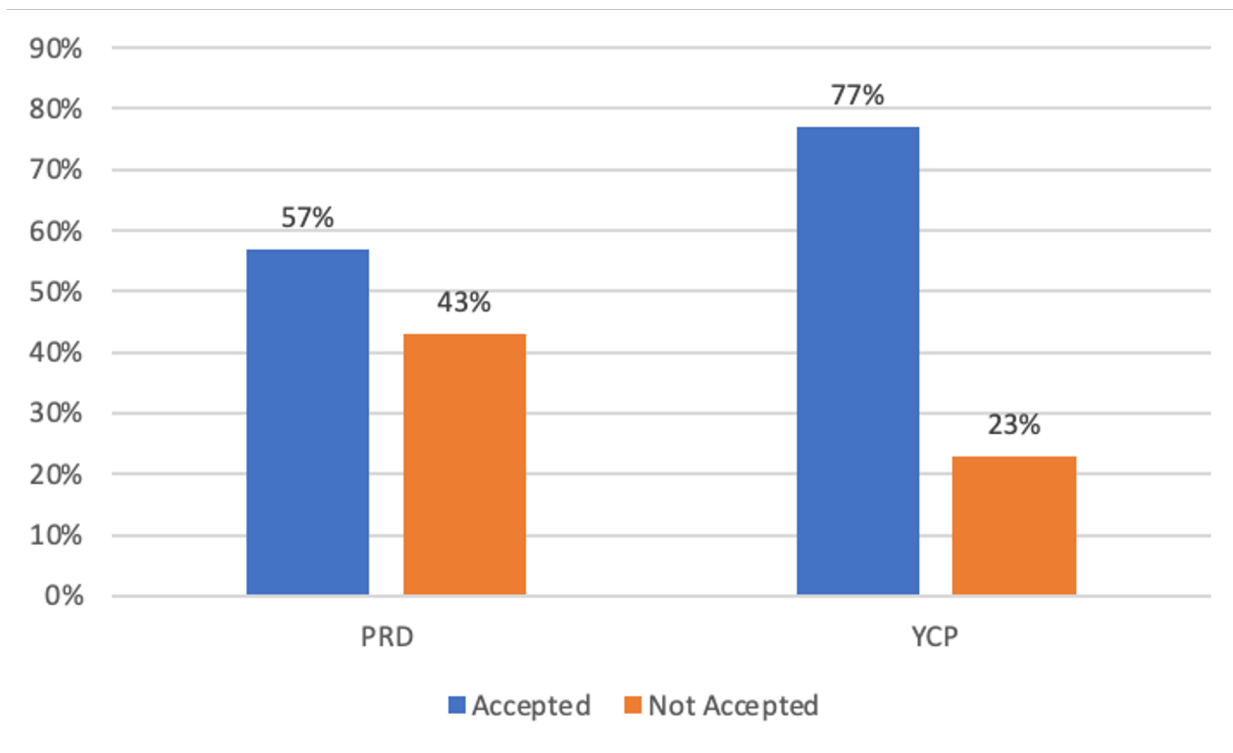


Average age is 21 for PRD and YCP.  
Youngest participants are 14.



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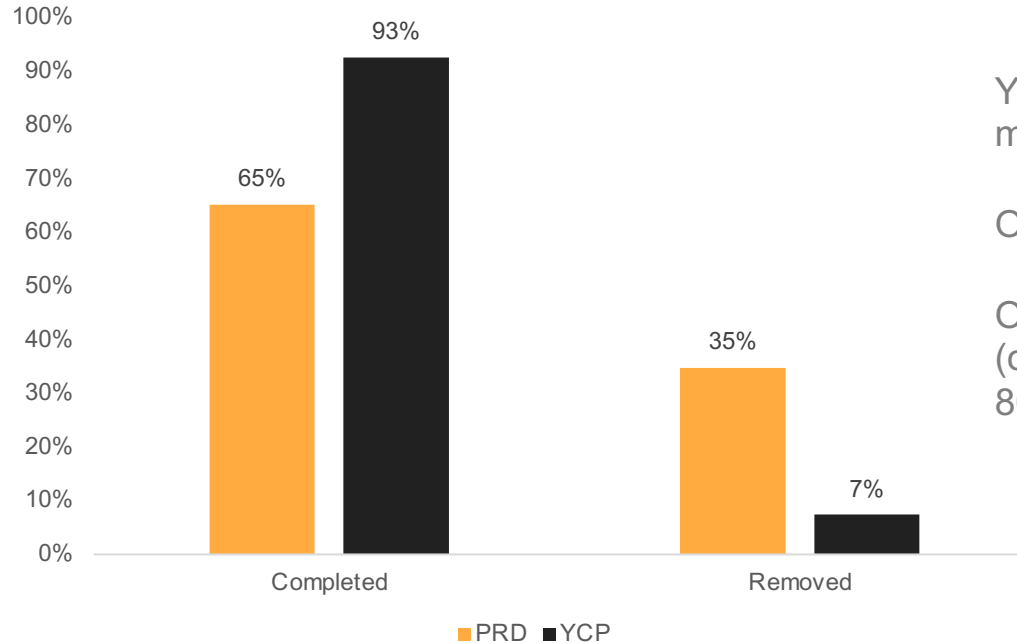
# KCDA acceptance, by program



Acceptance rate is higher for YCP (77%) than for PRD (57%)  
Acceptance rate differences are statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )



# Case status, by program



YCP has more than twice as many participants as PRD

Overall, 87% completed

Overall, 14% were removed (of these: 20% withdrew and 80% violated).

Completion rate is significantly higher for YCP compared with PRD ( $p < 0.001$ )



# Recidivism measures

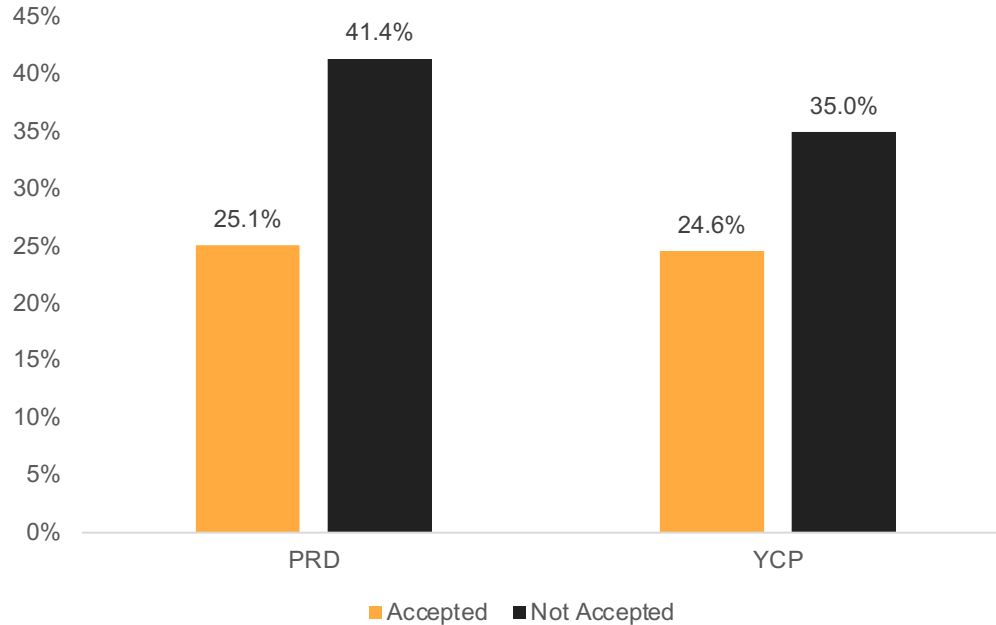
- Any arrest
  - Any follow-up arrest within 12 months
  - Any follow-up arrest within 24 months
- Arrests involving a gun
  - Any follow-up arrest involving a gun within 12 months
  - Any follow-up arrest involving a gun within 14 months





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# 12-month follow-up (any new arrest), by program

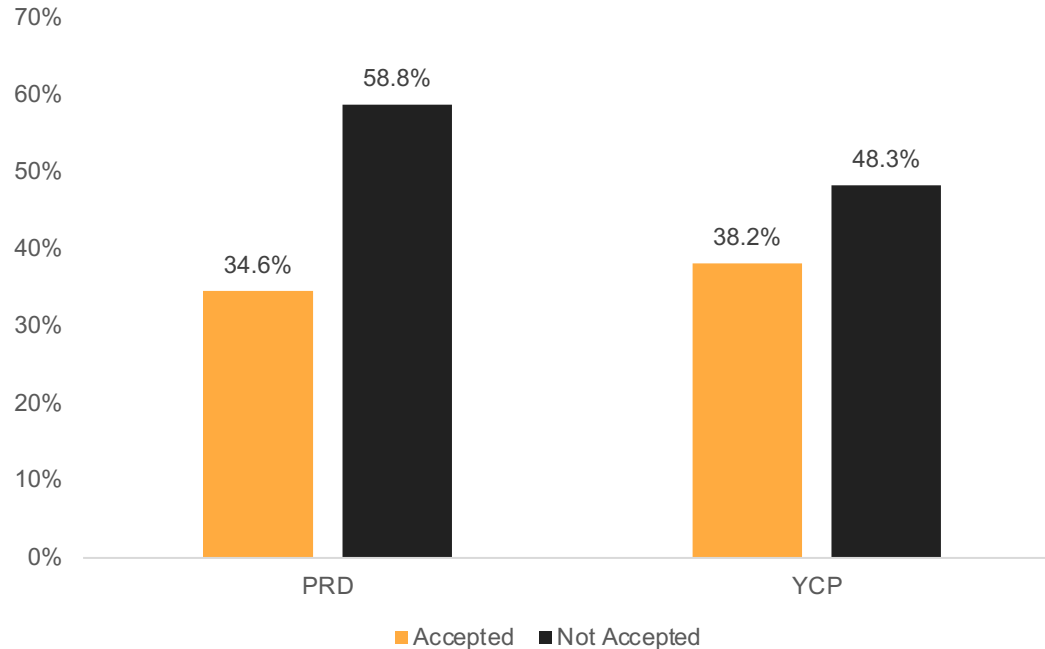


Differences are statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )



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# 24-month follow-up (any new arrest), by program

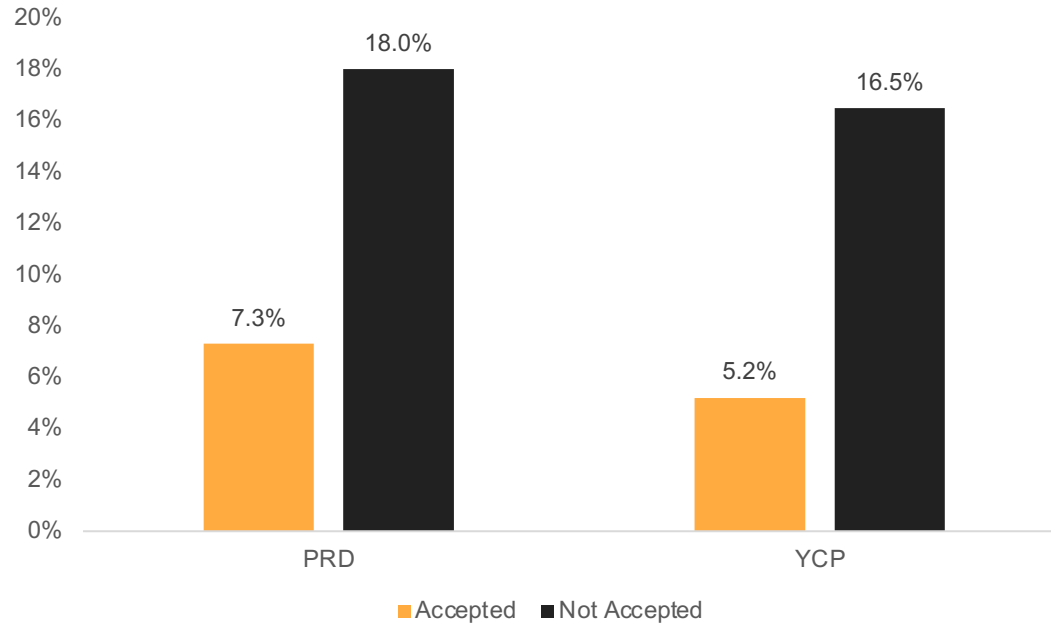


Differences are statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )



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# 12-month follow-up (new **gun arrest**), by program

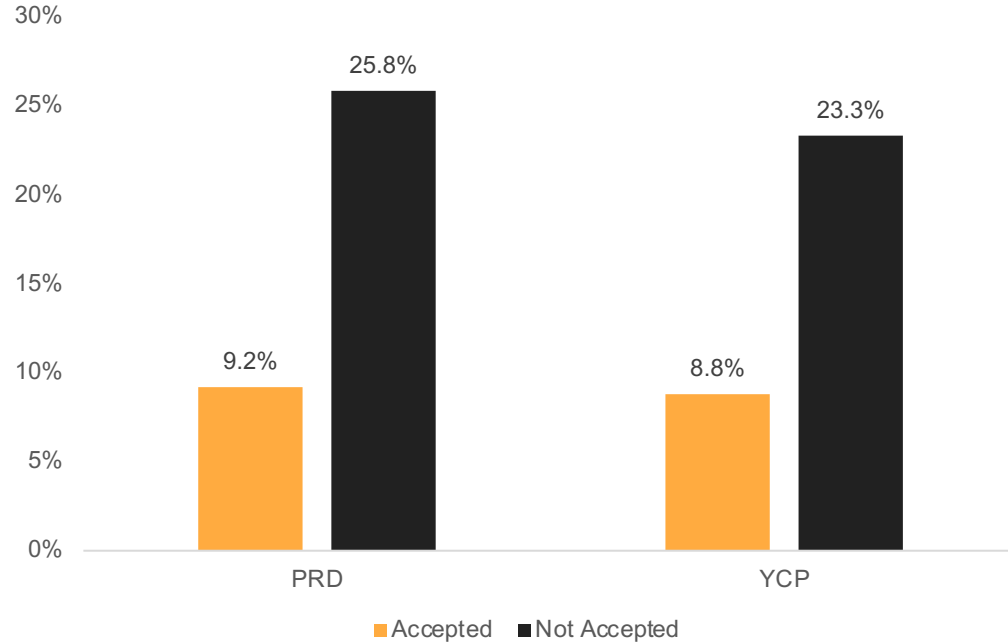


Differences are statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )



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# 24-month follow-up (new **gun arrest**), by program

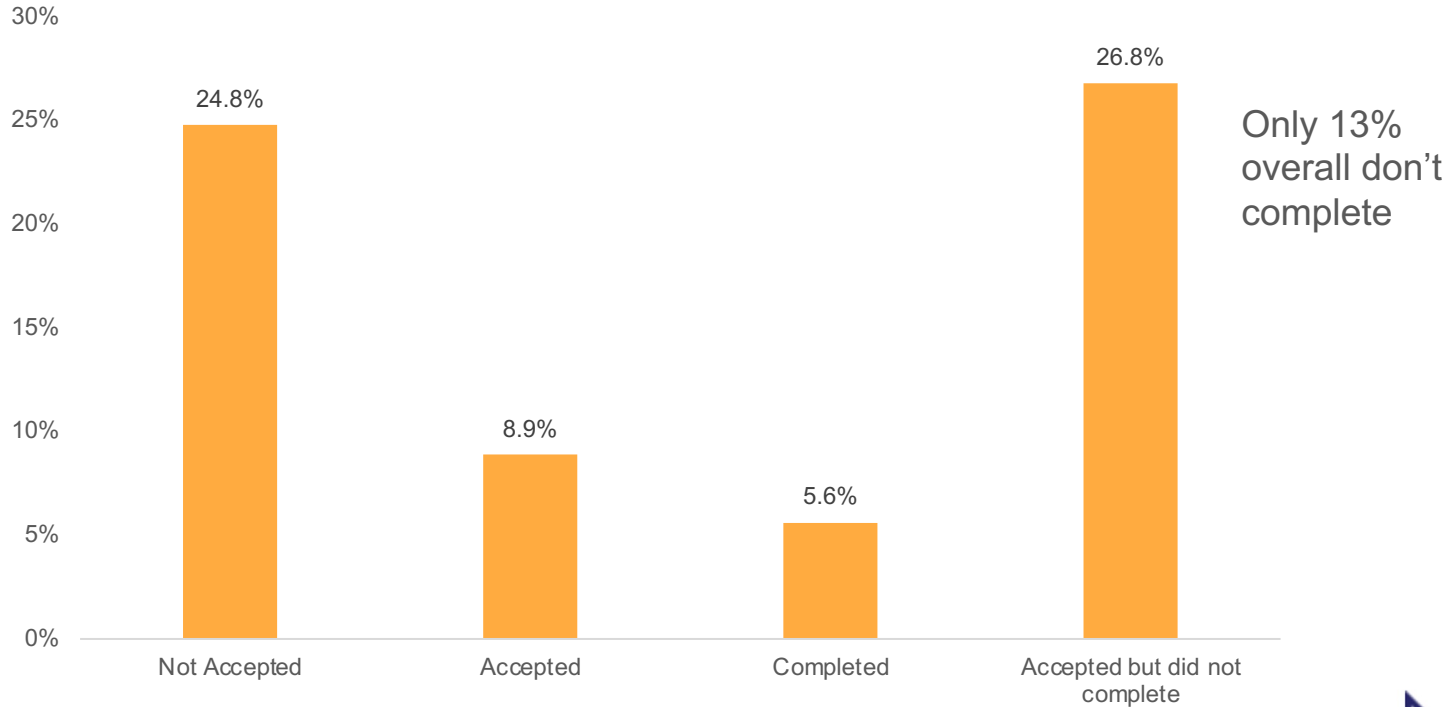


Differences are statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )



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# 24-month follow-up (any new **gun** arrest), by status



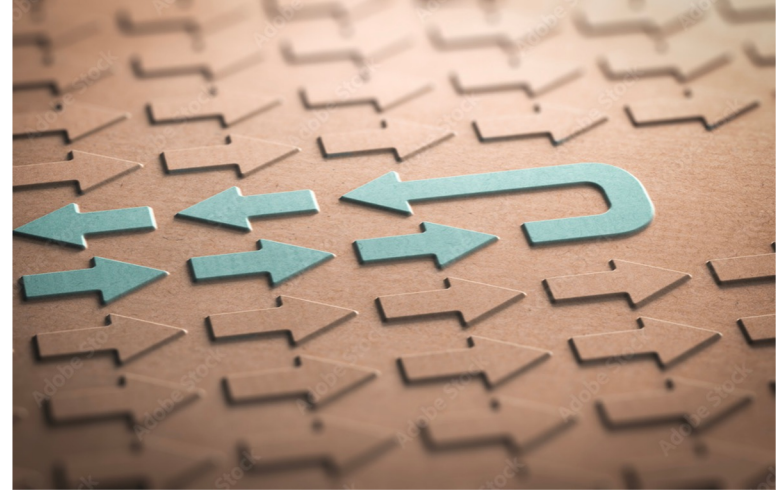


# Sentencing

- An initial quandary
  - Our "a priori" expectation was that short-term arrest rates would be higher for program participants (arrest risk exposure from "days on street")
  - We found the opposite
- How so?
  - Sentencing data show that not all defendants were not accepted to the program or were removed for violating program terms served a prison sentence. We are exploring the gun charges and sentencing data further.
  - This mirrors our finding from diversion programs in other states



# General observations



# Speed

(ave: 142 days for accept; 121 for not accept )



## Participant safety



# Purposeful conditions & programming mandates





## Plans for tough cases



Need for good real-time data

