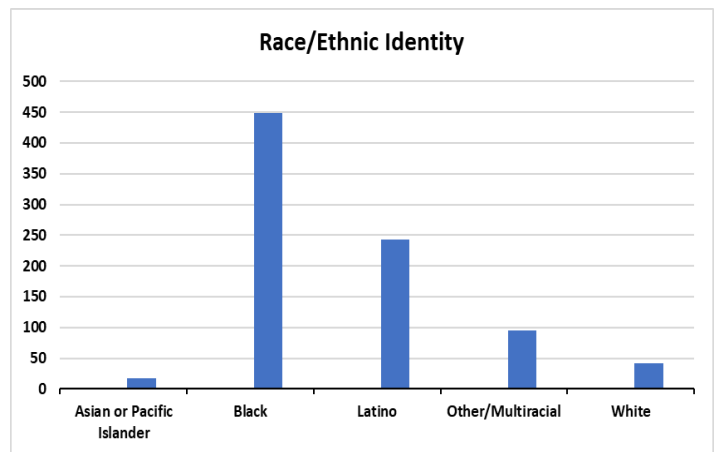
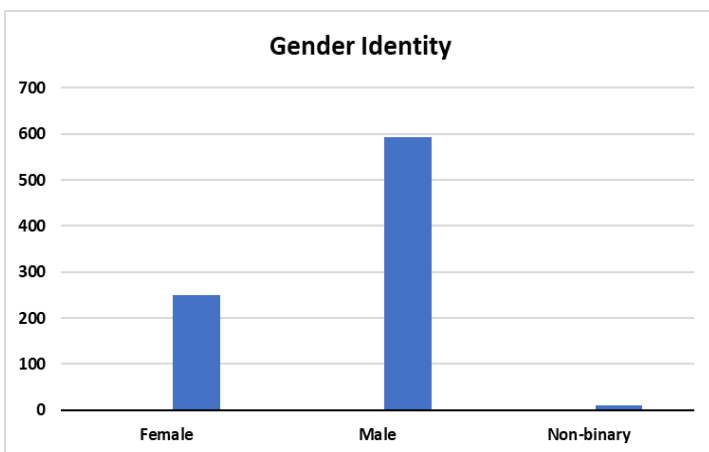


In 2018, Youth Represent brought comprehensive reentry legal services to all five boroughs of NYC through our community-lawyering model. We:

- Represented youth in **442** cases.
- Taught **106** legal workshops to **1,787** youth, families and youth service providers.
- Provided legal representation or advice to **1131** youth met at those workshops.
- Obtained **688** rap sheets to help youth understand their criminal records.
- Corrected **47** of 56 identified errors. We identified 36 additional errors that we are working to correct.



# Program Highlights: Our Impact

## Youth Speakers Institute Celebrates its Fifth Graduation

Five years ago, in partnership with some of our community-based partners, Youth Represent launched the Youth Speakers Institute.

The Youth Speakers Institute (YSI) grew from the recognition that in order to be effective, advocacy for justice system reform requires the engagement and leadership of system-involved youth. By drawing on their own experiences, young people can offer insights and solutions to seemingly intractable problems with our criminal justice and family court systems. They can also make a powerful case to lawmakers and the public about the shortcomings of our laws because, unlike traditional advocates who have just read about such injustices, system-involved youth have lived them.



YSI trains young people in public speaking and advocacy, and then connects them with speaking opportunities so they can be agents of change in their communities.

The program is now run by Youth Represent Community Advocate Tianesha Drayton, Coach Tea Ingraham, and staff from Exalt. Together, they develop the curriculum, facilitate classes, connect youth with speaking and advocacy opportunities, and serve as mentors and role models for participants. YSI participants and graduates have spoken at events including the Stony Brook University Advocacy Day, Youth Debate Day at DoSomething, Just Write Community Letter Writing Party, YUCA Arts Community Day, Columbia Law School, a funder briefing for the New York Youth Justice Initiative, multiple City Council hearings, and the Celebrate Thy Brother Roundtable.

On December 14, 2018, YSI celebrated its fifth cohort of graduates. Family members, friends, and supporters packed the auditorium to witness the very skills YSI develops: public speaking and storytelling. Graduates delivered powerful testimony on the impact YSI had on their skills, confidence, and outlook on their future. Common among all of the speeches was an appreciation of the support they get from YSI facilitators, and from each other.



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