

2024 Impact Report

Cultivating Better Outcomes for Youth



StrategiesforYouth

Our Work at a Glance: 2024

Juvenile Justice Jeopardy™



530

Youth Played
Pilot Games
in 10 states



210

Game Leaders
Trained

Policing the Teen Brain™



32

Law Enforcement
Trainers Trained



113

Additional
Officers Trained

Policy Reform Efforts



6

Speaking Events about
SFY's Model Policies
for Law Enforcement
Interactions with Youth



5

Conference Presentations
Advocating for Policies

SFY In the Media



4

Model Policies
published in
Juvenile Justice Update



12

News Articles
about SFY



4

Interviews in
the Media

Innovation and Expansion

Dear Supporters and Partners,

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud to share the impact, challenges, and progress of Strategies for Youth (SFY). Thanks to the dedication of our team, the generosity of our supporters, and our unwavering commitment to improving interactions between law enforcement and youth, we continue to make strides in creating safer, more just communities.

In 2024, SFY conducted a strategic planning process led by Jessie Cronan, made possible through a generous grant from the **5 Together Foundation**. This effort allowed us to streamline our approach and maximize our impact. The process led to insights that enable us to adapt swiftly to political and funding shifts and direct our efforts toward high-impact initiatives.

Our programs remain in high demand, particularly *Juvenile Justice Jeopardy* (JJJ). We have developed new JJJ games to disrupt the pipelines that carry youth into the juvenile justice system, by providing youth with critical knowledge. The expansion of these programs is a testament to the need for proactive education and how effectively JJJ meets the need.

The urgency of our mission has never been clearer.

Reports indicate that law enforcement shootings of youth under 18 are once again on the rise, with one study revealing that between 2015 and 2020, 300 young people lost their lives in such incidents. This trend underscores the importance of our work in fostering safer and more constructive interactions between law enforcement and youth.

Like many organizations, we are now navigating significant challenges due to shifts in federal funding. While they pose challenges, they also reinforce the critical nature of our work advocating for policies and training most that people think are already in place—but are not.

We are grateful to donors and founds like you for your support, for championing our mission and providing the resources necessary to sustain and expand our efforts.

SFY remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring the best outcomes for youth who interact with law enforcement.

Sincerely,



Geordie McClelland and Dena Enos
Co-chairs, SFY Board of Directors



Geordie McClelland
Co-Chair, Board of Directors



Dena Enos
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

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Stories of Impact

Juvenile Justice Jeopardy™ (JJJ)

Delaware Public Defenders, Paige Chapman, Esq. and Maria Clark, Esq., explain how offering JJJ at the Delaware Office of Defense Services allows them to connect with youth in a way that resonates.

In our first year of having *Juvenile Justice Jeopardy* as a resource within our office, we played multiple sessions with youth in a variety of locations such as community centers, juvenile detention facilities, high schools, middle schools, and after school programs. We have also played the game with our college intern program within our office.

We have two versions of the game right now, with topics discussing how to safely interact with law enforcement officers, the potential consequences of breaking the law as a youth, and how to respond when peers make poor decisions, in service of preventing criminal justice involvement through education and awareness.

As game leaders, we personally learn from the youth with each session played. Every game strikes up new conversations, new questions, and new perspectives which help us as a public defense agency to better understand the youth

and the community we serve. It's an opportunity for us to not only educate the community, but for our team to learn from them as well.

We have continuously received positive feedback from not only youth about how engaging the game is and how much they've learned from each game, but from their teachers/mentors as well about how relevant the material of the games are. For example, teachers in a local middle school specifically expressed how crucial the content of the game is in relation to problems they see arise daily in their classrooms such as school fights, misuse of social media, and age of consent. Additionally, a mentor at a local community center for youth expressed how important it is for students to understand the collateral consequences of a criminal record before they make a poor decision which can then impact the trajectory of their life.

This game has created a tool for us to interact with youth in a way that captures their attention while also educating them about crucial information in relation to real life application. We look forward to each session as game leaders and truly enjoy the chance to positively interact with the youth in our community!



Stories of Impact

Policing the Teen Brain™ (PTB)

Kim Simon, former law enforcement officer and current trainer, shares her observations of how *Policing the Teen Brain* training provides law enforcement officers with new insight for successful interactions with youth.

As a professional trainer and speaker, there is nothing more rewarding than the moment your most ardent critic (or most reserved law enforcement officer) pauses before making a comment and glances ever so slightly to the upper right. That tiny, involuntary gesture means, **“Oh, I get it now!”**, or as we like to say, **the Light Bulb Moment has happened.** Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of observing many such moments throughout the *Policing the Teen Brain* training sessions.

In Maine, it took the shape of a self-described “old school cop” who clearly took all that was shared during the day 1 portion on psychology and made significant cognitive connections to the Asserting Authority presentation on day 2. The comments were something like “it never occurred to me”, “I didn’t realize how”, and “next time I will”.

I have seen this transformative response by many during every single session. In Seattle, we heard “I will take more time investing in non-criminal solutions for the youth.” In California, one said, “If you don’t prep the [youth] with what is going to happen, it may go sideways...if we can use our communication skills to prevent having to use any use of force—that’s a win.” And in Maine, one participant commented they learned how to work with youth “by slowing down and processing each situation as its own.”

Everywhere we go, we are reminded of just how unique this program is. **Just in the past year, law enforcement agencies from Nebraska, Arizona, Indiana, Virginia, and California have reached out to us—all with the same basic message: SFY is the only organization addressing these important concepts that are specifically designed for officers and uniquely addressing the needs of youth.**



Stories of Impact

Model Law Enforcement Policies

Shelley R. Jackson, Esq., SFY's Law Enforcement Policies Attorney, describes how SFY's 12 Model Policies for Law Enforcement Interactions with Youth are influencing recommendations for how California polices youth.

In 2024, SFY engaged with the Office of the California Attorney General (CA.A.G.) and the California Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board as they analyzed and wrote about law enforcement interactions with youth in a report about implementation of California's Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA).

RIPA, enacted in 2015, prohibits racial and identity profiling by law enforcement and requires California law enforcement agencies to report data to the state Attorney General's office on pedestrian and vehicular stops of individuals of all ages, and on complaints alleging racial and identity profiling. RIPA also created the Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board, which was created for the "purpose of eliminating racial and identity profiling, and improving diversity and racial and identity sensitivity in law enforcement." The RIPA Board produces an annual report each January 1.

The CA.A.G.'s office reached out to SFY, based on our expertise and in light of our 2023 development of [12 Model Policies for Law Enforcement Interactions with Youth](#).

SFY submitted written comments to the Board, met with the CA.A.G.'s office, and observed RIPA Board meeting discussions of policing data and formulated recommendations.

The RIPA 2025 Annual Report described its "quantitative and qualitative [data] analysis ... to assess whether youth experience racial and identity disparities in police stops," finding that "[t]hey do." The Report noted the lack of youth-specific policies and training for law enforcement,

particularly regarding use of force and how officers should approach encounters with youth that occur prior to, or do not involve, arrest. The Board made several recommendations, including that the legislature engage experts to recommend standards, policies, and training for officers. **The Annual Report referred to SFY's advocacy and cited some of our Model Policies.**

In March 2025, SFY co-authored an opinion piece in the *Sacramento Bee*, urging the State to take action in response to the report.



The RIPA Analysis found:

- Black youth are stopped more frequently by law enforcement than other racial groups;
- Youth, ages 12-14, experience more use of force than older youth;
- The highest rates of force are used with Black and Native youth;
- Force was used more often in stops involving youth perceived as LGBT or perceived to have a disability.

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SFY's 990 Forms are available online at: strategiesforyouth.org/annual-reports.

Board Members are listed in bold. Donors listed here have made a commitment as of December 31, 2024.

We have made every effort to include donors in the appropriate lists and by their preferred names.

For questions or concerns, please contact Lisa Thureau at lht@strategiesforyouth.org.

