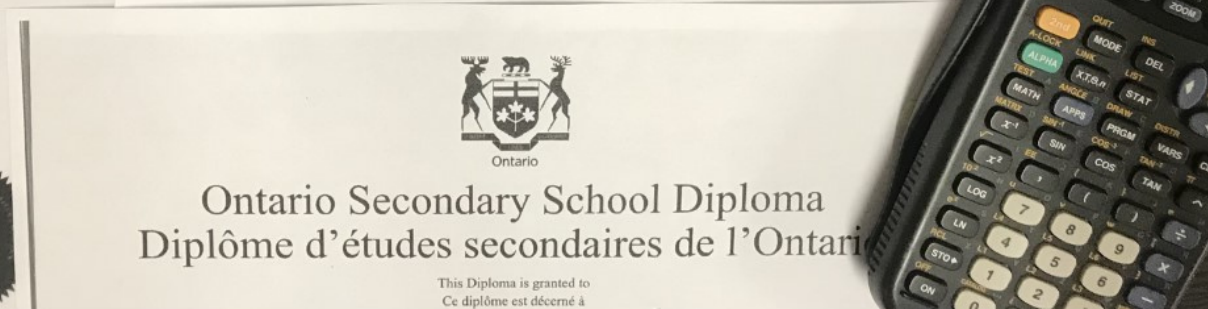
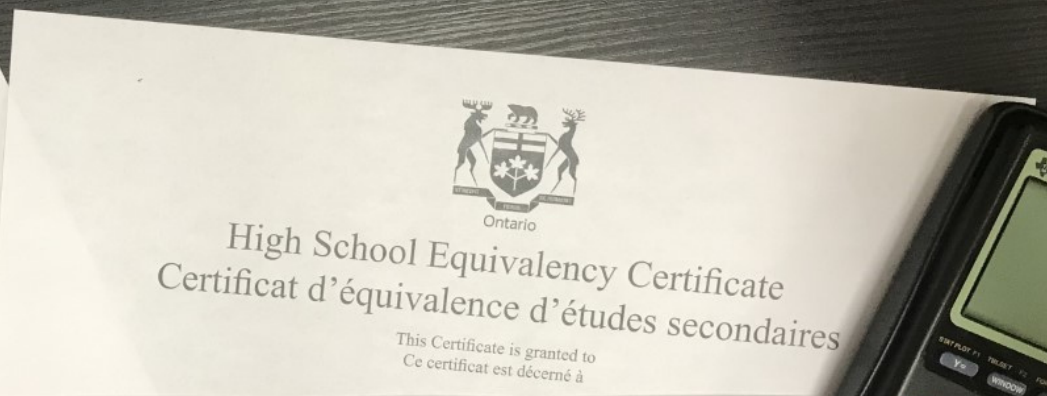


# Education Program Evaluation Report

2018-2021



# Table of Contents

About the Program.....Page 1

Funding Partners.....Page 2

Ontario Secondary School Diploma.....Page 3

High School Equivalency.....Page 6

Post-Secondary.....Page 9

Demographic Information.....Page 12

Program Successes.....Page 14

Survey Data.....Page 18

Circle of Support.....Page 37

# About the Program

Amadeusz supports young people who are incarcerated to create positive change in their lives through access to education, community programs and supports, mentorship and exceptional care.

The education program supports young people aged 18 to 35 who are incarcerated at the Toronto South Detention Centre, the Toronto East Detention Centre, and the Vanier Centre for Women. The goal of this program is to provide young people who are incarcerated with the opportunity, resources, and support to complete their high school education and to explore, prepare for, and attend post-secondary schooling.

The following program evaluation report is based on program statistics for all streams of the education program including high school completion (OSSD and equivalency) and post-secondary schooling for male and female institutions, people who have been transferred to another institution in Ontario or released. The report shares 2020 and 2021 demographic information of people in the program in male institutions including people who have been transferred or released from these institutions. The report also includes survey data collected in 2021.

Please direct your questions about this report to Amadeusz at [info@amadeusz.ca](mailto:info@amadeusz.ca).

# Funding Partners



In 2018, United Way approved Amadeusz for three years of funding under the Community Service Strategy Program which was extended an additional year due to Covid-19.



In 2020, Laidlaw Foundation approved Amadeusz for three years of funding under the Youth Action Fund.

# Ontario Secondary School Diploma

The Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) stream of programming provides participants access to high school credit courses through various partnerships. Participants are given the opportunity to complete print-based courses and tests to work towards obtaining their OSSD. In 2021, 958 high school credits were completed and 15 people earned their OSSD.

**Location:** Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre.

“

I want you to know that I'll never forget everything you did to help me, it means a lot. For the first time since I can remember I felt like I wasn't being judged and could openly talk to you about anything. The fact that you stood by me and helped me along showed me that you cared.

- Education program participant

”

# OSSD Statistics

## 2018

**34**

OSSD courses  
registered in

**6**

OSSD courses  
completed

**0**

participants  
earned their  
OSSD

## 2019

**50**

OSSD courses  
registered in

**14**

OSSD courses  
completed

**3**

participants  
earned their  
OSSD

## 2020

**53**

OSSD courses  
registered in

**49**

OSSD courses  
completed

**5**

participants  
earned their  
OSSD

\* 27 PLAR credits<sup>1</sup>

## 2021

**274**

OSSD courses  
registered in

**958.92**

OSSD courses  
completed

**15**

participants  
earned their  
OSSD

**35**

community  
referrals

\* 848.92 PLAR credits<sup>1</sup>

# Our Impact

*I really appreciate all the helps and support that I got from Amadeusz, they provided me the funding for me to complete my GED and my college certificate. I couldn't even picture myself finishing my education if it wasn't for them. They provided me grocery cards to make sure I am able to make it before I land my job.*

*I can't even be in part of the Union that I am with right now without their resources.*

*I still remember when Amadeusz sent me those links connected to difference job sites and unions, I still remember how much impressed my current employer when I told him I just finished my college during my job interview.*

*Amadeusz made my life meaningfully, colourfully again, something I could have never imagined. I can have a second Life and career because of this organization.*

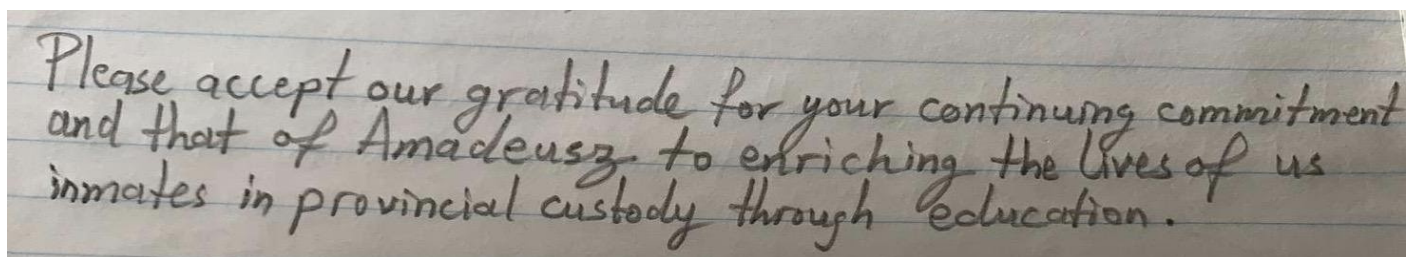
*- Education program participant*

# High School Equivalency

The high school equivalency stream of programming provides support in working through GED specific content in order to prepare participants to write the GED exam and obtain their high school equivalency certificate. Amadeusz, in partnership with the Independent Learning Centre, runs GED examination sessions multiple times a year at each institution. In 2021, one participant wrote the GED exam.

**Location:** Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre, Vanier Centre for Women.

“



Please accept our gratitude for your continuing commitment and that of Amadeusz to enriching the lives of us inmates in provincial custody through education.

- Education program participant

”



# High School Equivalency Statistics

2018

**37**

participants  
wrote the GED  
exam

**21**

participants  
earned their GED  
certificate

2019

**40**

participants  
wrote the GED  
exam

**25**

participants  
earned their GED  
certificate

2020

**2**

participants  
wrote the GED  
exam

**0**

participants  
earned their GED  
certificate

**6**

community  
referrals

2021

**1**

participants  
wrote the GED  
exam

**0**

participants  
earned their GED  
certificate

# Our Impact

I'm writing as a participant of the Amadeusz education program in earnest thanks for the guidance and support from the whole Amadeusz team: Wiyanna, Kim, Emily, Megan, Angelina, Sheena and Elo, and in earnest thanks to them as an essential partner to reach education institutions, to achieve my educational, vocational and aspirational goals, and – ultimately – to recover and rehabilitate myself from an inmate of the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC) into a valued member of society.

Rehabilitation is a much-wanted cornerstone of any modern criminal justice system, and after whatever punitive aspect of a sentence runs its course, the question of how to reintegrate an offender invariably arises. In not just enabling higher learning amongst incarcerated offenders, Amadeusz answers that call. Its education program supports us inmates at TSDC and elsewhere materially with supplies like calculators and erasers, and facilitates our studies with in-person tutors, and exam proctors, and encouragement by phone and through correspondence, inspiring us to aspire for better.

As you know learning is a struggle, even beyond the confines of a prison cell; self-study, even harder. Within a prison with its ongoing trauma of incarceration, I can attest to the overwhelming challenges and feelings that can make learning all but impossible. Without Amadeusz, that becomes reality for many inmates keen to move forward. In my almost five-year stint at TSDC (indefinitely awaiting sentencing with no end in sight), I've witnessed fellow inmates complete their high school education here, who without Amadeusz would never have otherwise set their sights on attaining their diploma. I can recall one such inmate, elated as he was to receive his diploma, subsequently pursue an apprenticeship in woodworking upon his release as a result. Upon graduating myself, I was encouraged by Amadeusz to aim higher still and have thus been earning prerequisite high school credits in preparation for entrance into college for the first time. Even to inmates around us witnessing our transformation, Amadeusz helps by showing them a way out.

While I have no statistics or sources from which to prove the following assertions, I hope these few words I'm offering on my lived experience drives home these points: Amadeusz through its education program provides to those in prison an alternative to the embittered disillusionment and resulting recidivism; it lowers our risk to harm and re-offend; it inspires us to do better and aim higher; and then, it goes about realising those aspirations of ours through support in guidance and mentorship. To that, to all that has come about, and to all that may come to pass as a result of my participation in the Amadeusz education program, they have my sincerest gratitude.

# Post-Secondary Program

The post-secondary stream of programming facilitates access to post-secondary college and university courses through our various partnerships with post-secondary institutions. This allows participants the opportunity to work towards post-secondary certificates through access to print-based courses, or complete courses that can be transferred to their pre-existing post-secondary education. In 2021, participants registered for 53 post-secondary courses, 31 of which were completed. Two participants completed all of the required courses for a certificate from Centennial College.

**Location:** Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre.

“

You gave me hope when I didn't have any. There were a lot of times where I would think negative and was ready to throw my life away to this lifestyle but you made me realize that it's never too late to be the man that I'm supposed to be.

- Education program participant

”

# Post-Secondary Program Statistics

## 2018

**42**

post-secondary  
courses  
registered in

**20**

post-secondary  
courses  
completed

**0**

post-secondary  
certificates  
achieved

## 2019

**45**

post-secondary  
courses  
registered in

**22**

post-secondary  
courses  
completed

**0**

post-secondary  
certificates  
achieved

## 2020

**42**

post-secondary  
courses  
registered in

**13**

post-secondary  
courses  
completed

**1**

post-secondary  
certificates  
achieved

## 2021

**53**

post-secondary  
courses  
registered in

**31**

post-secondary  
courses  
completed

**2**

post-secondary  
certificates  
achieved

# Our Impact

Moka is a long time participant of the Amadeusz education program. Moka first completed her high school with Amadeusz and then went on to complete multiple post-secondary courses. She is now enrolled full time in the Community Justice Services program at Centennial College. Moka has been committed to social justice issues long before pursuing her education, and continues to do advocacy work in the areas of incarceration and issues that affect the LGBTQ+ population. Below is a message from Moka:

"My introduction to the Amadeusz team happened in 2016 while I was being detained at the Toronto South Detention Center. I first got connected to Wiyanna from Amadeusz through the social worker in the institution which enabled me to get enrolled into the high school completion program. With supportive study support from Wiyanna and the rest of the Amadeusz team, I graduated in 2018 and progressed on to post secondary studies. Since my release in 2019, reintegrating back into an economic world has been more successful for me in financial opportunities and employment from the skills and education I acquired. Currently in 2021 I am enrolled as a full time student in the Community and Justice Services Program with Centennial College with the continuous support of Amadeusz on my academic journey. I am grateful for the career choices Wiyanna, Kim, and the rest of the Amadeusz team made for the betterment and growth of their communities and I am proud to be a product of their constructed commitment to the program and their clients.

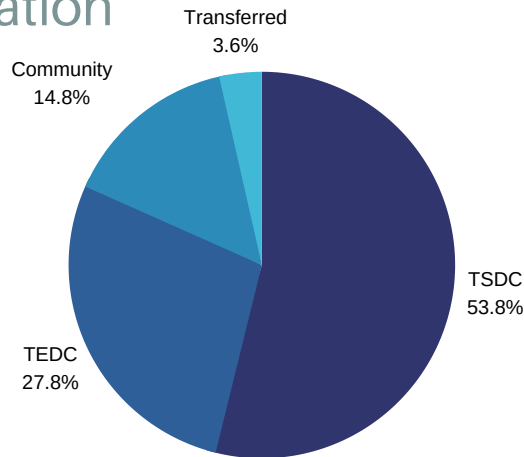
Sincerely,  
Moka Dawkins"



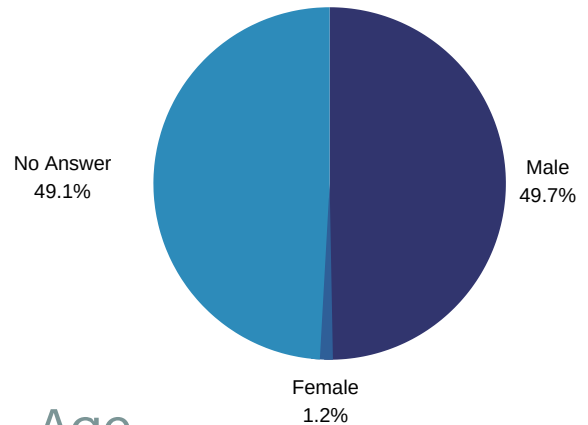
# 2020 Demographic Information

Based on 169 people in the high school completion and post-secondary education programs at the Toronto South Detention Centre, the Toronto East Detention Centre, other male institutions across Ontario, and in community between January 1st 2020 and December 31st 2020.

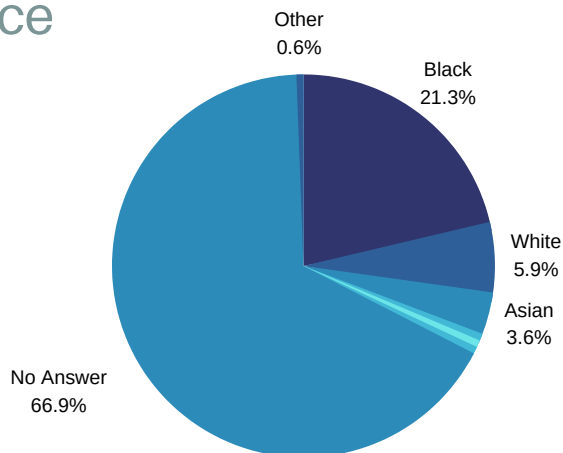
## Location



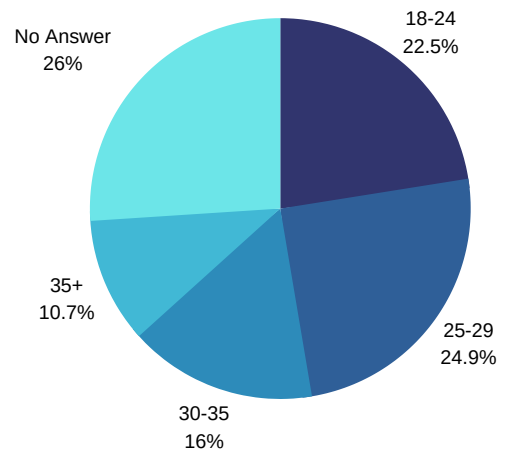
## Gender



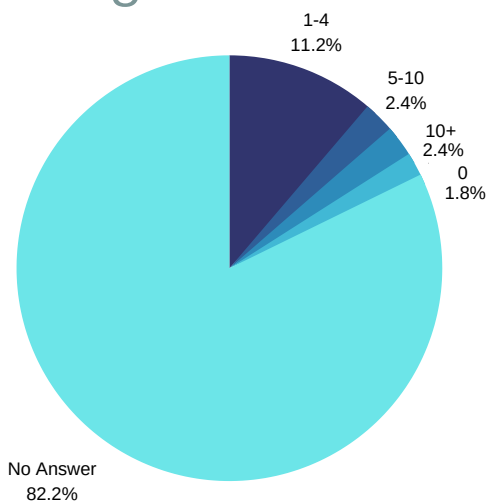
## Race



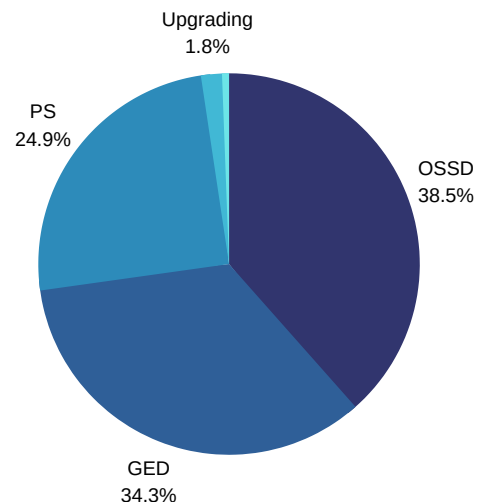
## Age



## Times Charged



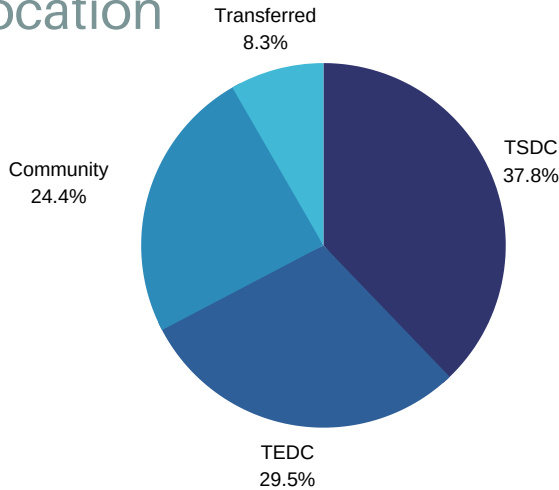
## Program Stream



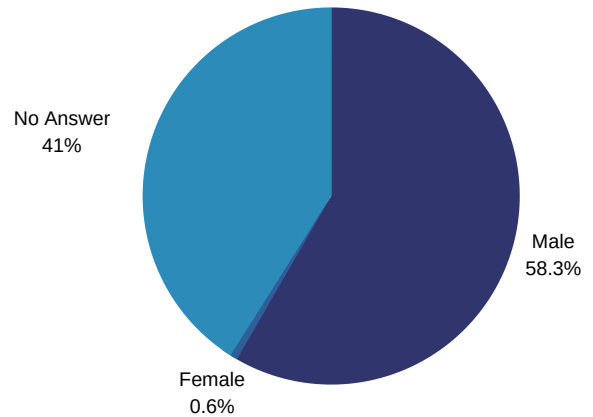
# 2021 Demographic Information

Based on 156 people in the high school completion and post-secondary education programs at the Toronto South Detention Centre, the Toronto East Detention Centre, other male institutions across Ontario, and in community between January 1st 2021 and October 31st 2021.

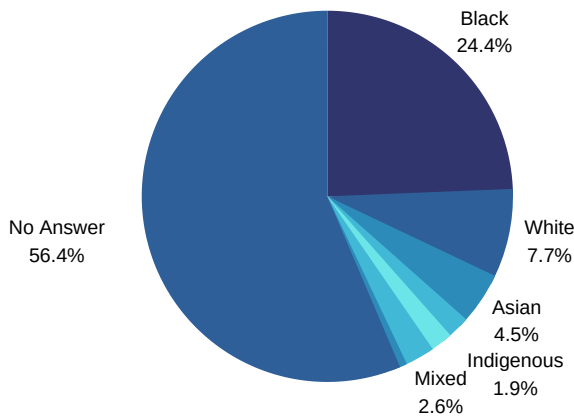
## Location



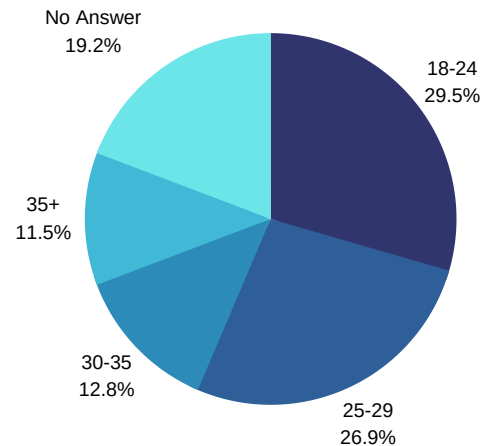
## Gender



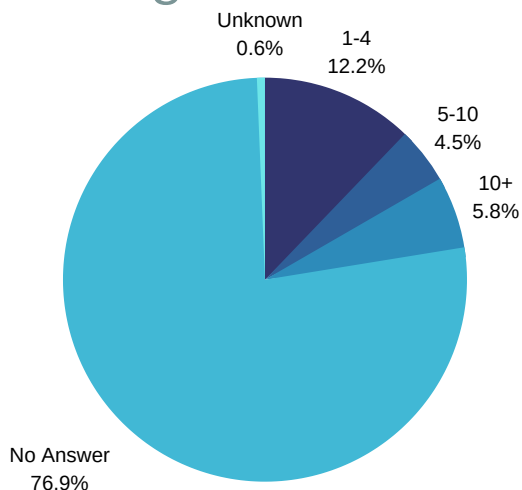
## Race



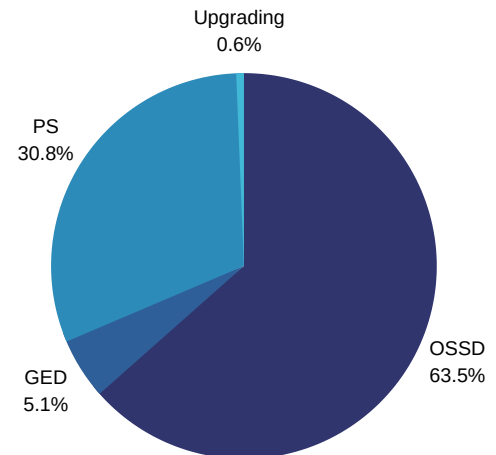
## Age



## Times Charged



## Program Stream



# Program Success

## COVID-19 and a Shift in Programming

During COVID-19, we have had to adjust our programs and services to fit the limitations that have been outlined by the province in order to continue to meet the current needs of the young people that we work with.

Amadeusz employees have continued to support their participants in institutions through phone calls, mail correspondence, and newsletters that provide activities and helpful resources. Staff have been able to provide programs and services through video visitation at the Toronto South Detention Centre, behind glass at the Toronto East Detention Centre, and in person at the Vanier Centre for Women.

Staff also continue to provide programs and services in community for individuals being released from incarceration. This includes supporting individuals with their high school and post-secondary course registrations, support with bursary funding applications, tutoring for courses, and providing a virtual GED preparation program.

Thanks to donations from the Electronic Recycling Association and Albion Neighborhood Services, Amadeusz was able to provide a limited number of devices, such as laptops and tablets, for program participants in community to continue their education upon release.



# Program Success

## Graduation Ceremony at TEDC

In January 2020, Amadeusz facilitated the first high school graduation ceremony that took place at the Toronto East Detention Centre (TEDC). In partnership with institutional staff, Amadeusz hosted a memorable evening celebrating the accomplishments of six high school graduates that either completed their GED or OSSD in 2019. Attendees included the Amadeusz staff team, TEDC Chaplains, social workers, a program officer, Deputy Superintendent of Programs, and most notably, the Superintendent of the TEDC.

The night included speeches from both staff and graduates, snacks provided by the institution, pictures that were later sent to family members, books as a graduate gift from Amadeusz, and on behalf of the institution, an extra visit was given to each graduate. This night highlighted the hard work of Amadeusz participants and gave them the opportunity to revel in their success and feel pride in their accomplishments.

Since then, Amadeusz has facilitated two additional graduation ceremonies at the TEDC through virtual mediums.



# Program Success

## New and Continuing Partnerships

Amadeusz continues to build new partnerships, and expand existing partnerships, in order to provide access to education for young people who are incarcerated.

In 2020, Amadeusz began a partnership with Durham Catholic District School Board in order to provide print-based high school courses for our participants. This partnership has also allowed for participants to partake in PLAR assessments, meaning they can obtain credits based on their prior knowledge and life experience. This has led to an increase in the number of credits young people obtained towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Amadeusz has expanded their long-standing partnership with Centennial College to now include access to the part time community studies certificate program, Addictions Work: Professional Practice Skills.

# Program Success

## Mindsets

In 2021, Amadeusz partnered with Dr. Kevin Marryshow and Akil Augustine, under the Toronto Urban Health Fund, to develop a mental and physical health series called "Mindsets." This paper based series provides physical and mental health activities, strategies and community resources. Each young person who completes mindsets will receive a Ontario High School credit. Participants will also access support from health professionals in the community to create individual physical and mental health action plans that will outline their individual health goals, steps to achieve goals, and resources, which will be followed up by Dr. Marryshow.

Access to education, individual health plans, health resources and professionals during incarceration will have a positive impact on health related behaviours which will increase young peoples resiliency by reducing their barriers to access health related opportunities and resources.

# Survey Data

Beginning July 2021, Amadeusz mailed out surveys to education program participants who had completed a course, either high school or post-secondary, in order to get their feedback on the program.

Amadeusz used a custom survey to examine the qualities and outcomes of the program:

1. **Quantitative Portion:** Through 5 quantitative questions, participants were asked about resources and opportunities available to them through Amadeusz's education program.
2. **Qualitative Portion:** Through 5 qualitative questions, participants were given the opportunity to express their opinions about the education program and the impact they felt it had on their lives.

26 participants from the Amadeusz education program, located either at the Toronto South Detention Centre or the Toronto East Detention Centre, completed the custom surveys. Overall, those involved in the programs seemed aware of the resources available to them and felt fairly positive about their futures.

# Organization of the Results

This data will be broken down into two sections. The sections will be as follows:

**Amadeusz Custom Survey - Quantitative:** This section is a quantitative analysis of how young people answered the custom survey and is supported by the use of graphs to allow for a visual representation of the data.

**Amadeusz Custom Survey - Qualitative:** This section is a qualitative analysis of the themes and frequency in responses to the custom survey and is supported by the use of examples to highlight the voices within the data.

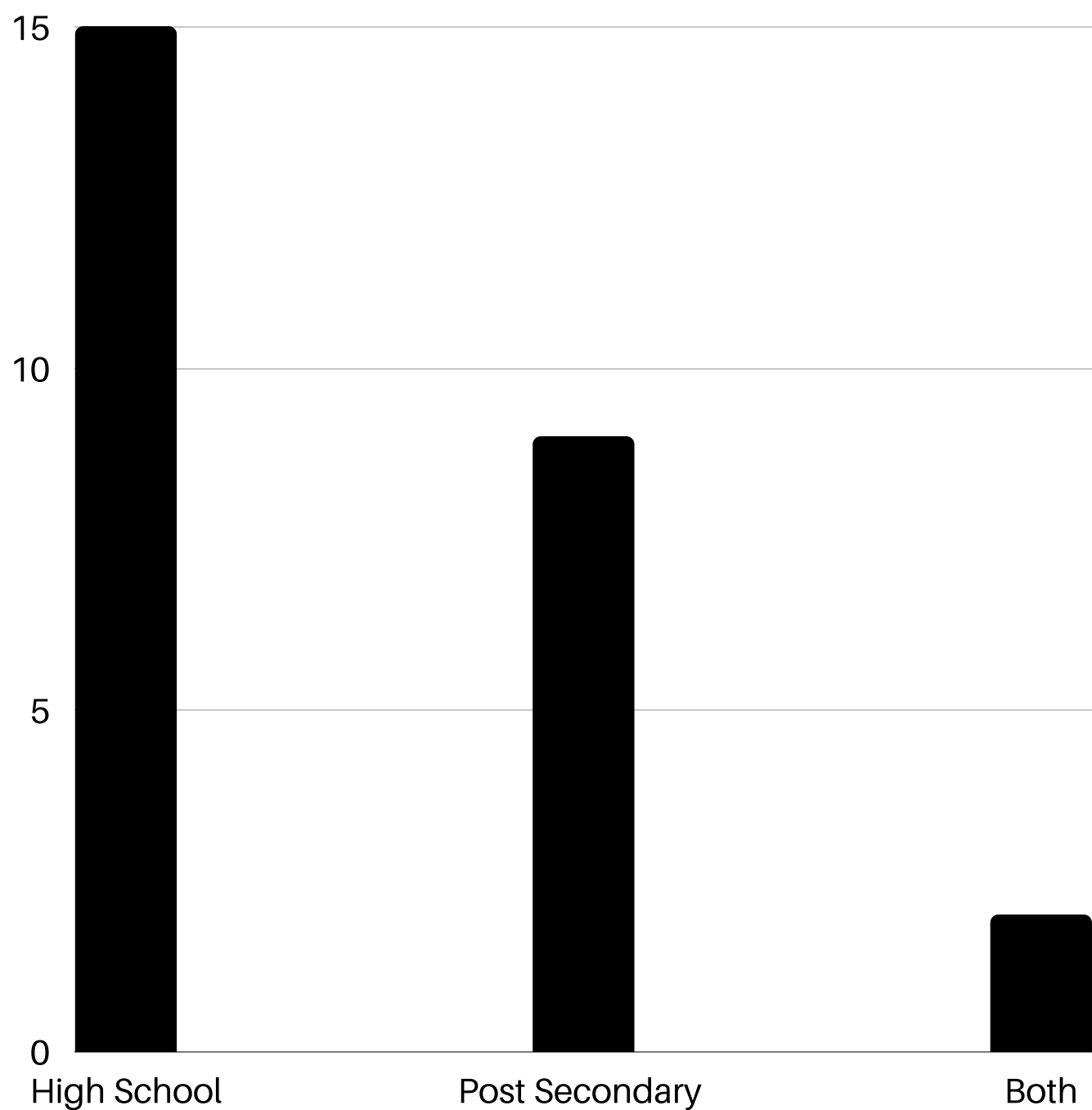
# Quantitative Results

The quantitative section of the custom survey asked the following questions:

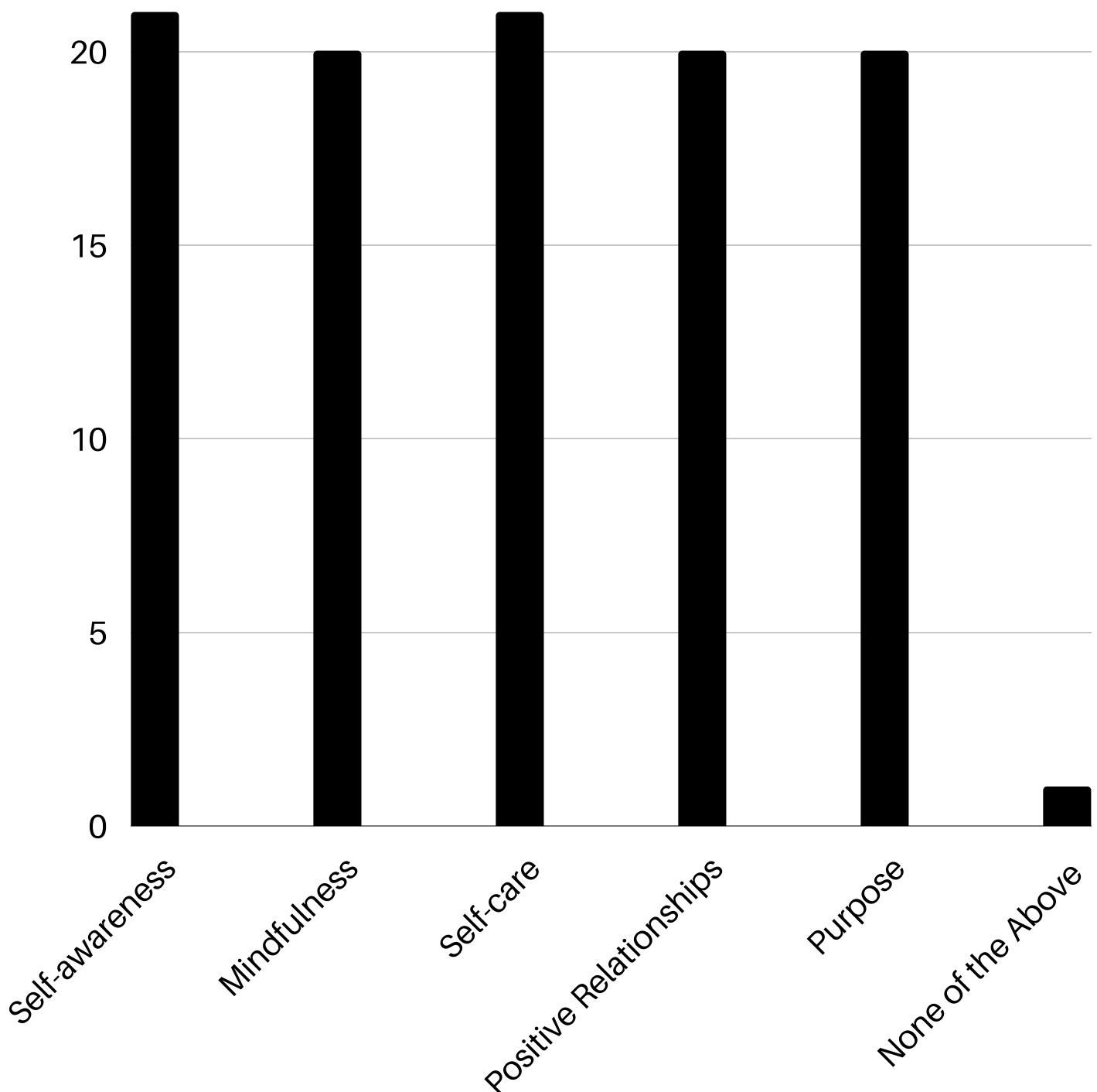
1. Are you in the high school or post-secondary program?
2. Did the program support you in developing any of the following? Self-awareness, mindfulness, self-care, positive relationships, purpose, none of the above.
3. Think about and see your future. If you are in the high school program, when completed, what do you feel are your next steps? College/university, trades, no plans to further education.
4. How well do you feel connected to Amadeusz staff? Very low, low, about 50/50, high, very high.
5. How accurate is this statement: Amadeusz staff help me find and access support and resources. Very low, low, about 50/50, high, very high.

Participant answers to these questions will be summarized and presented using charts.

# Are you in the high school or post secondary program?

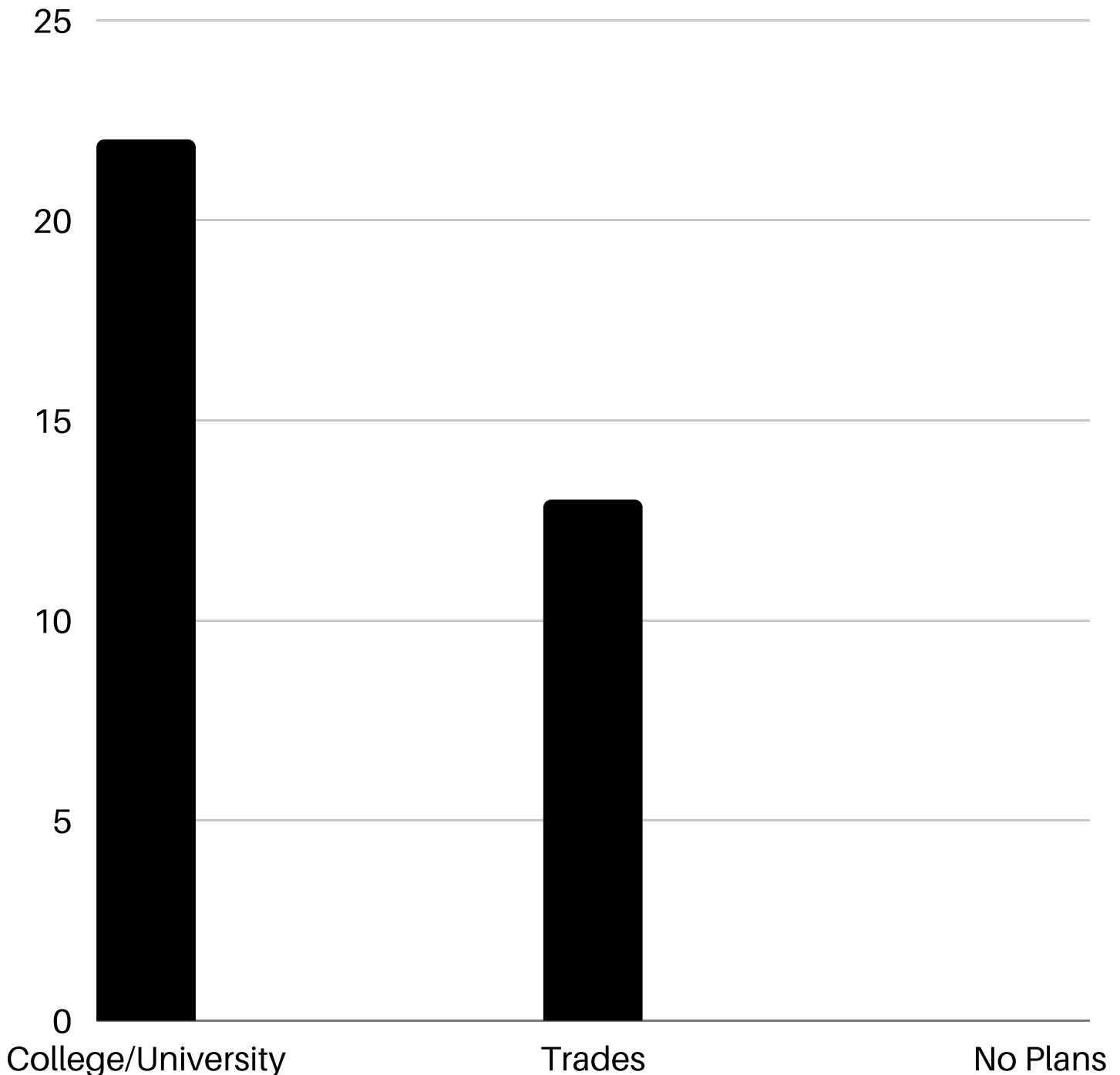


**Did the program support you in developing any of the following? Self-awareness, mindfulness, self-care, positive relationships, purpose, none of the above.**

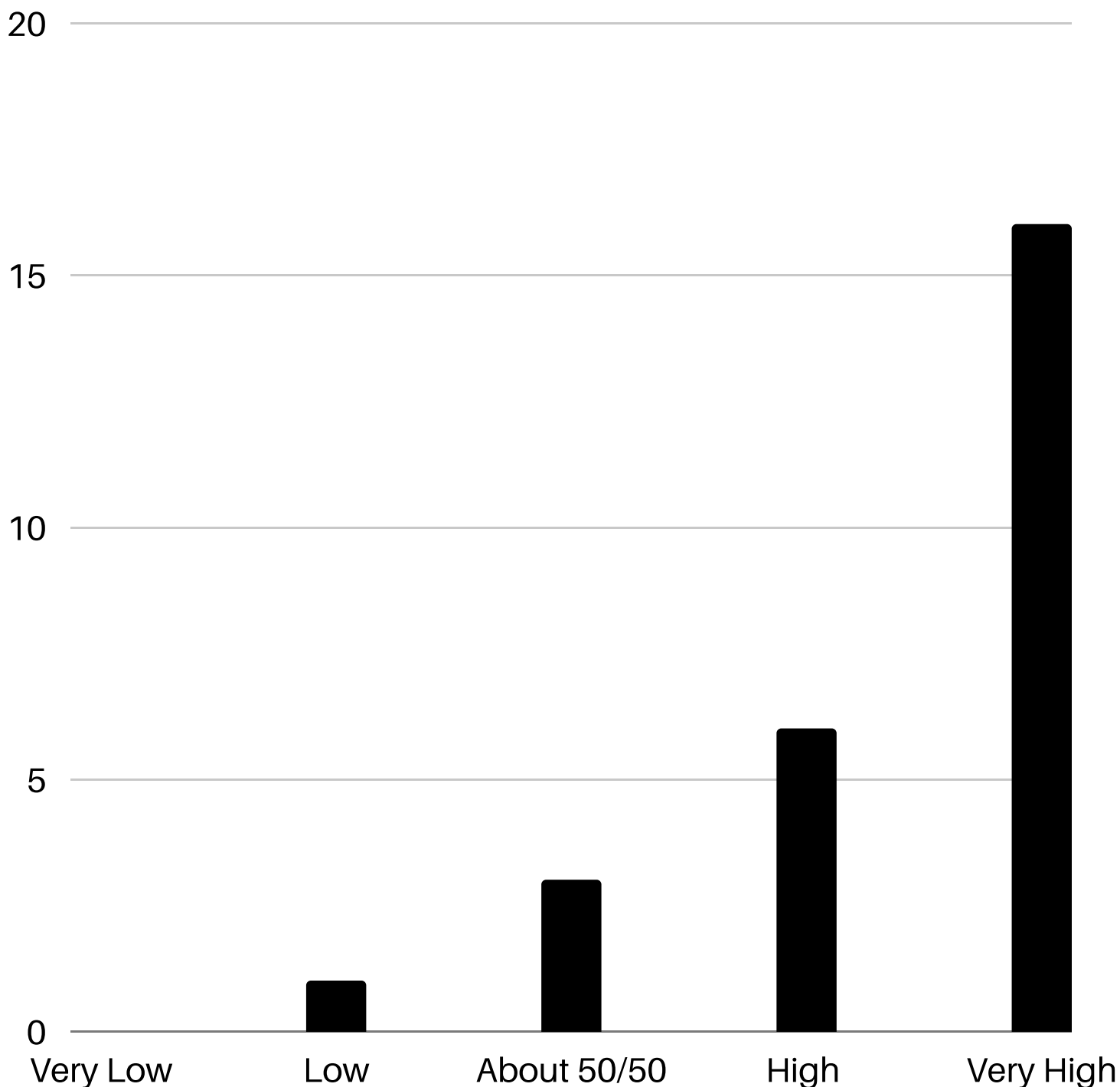




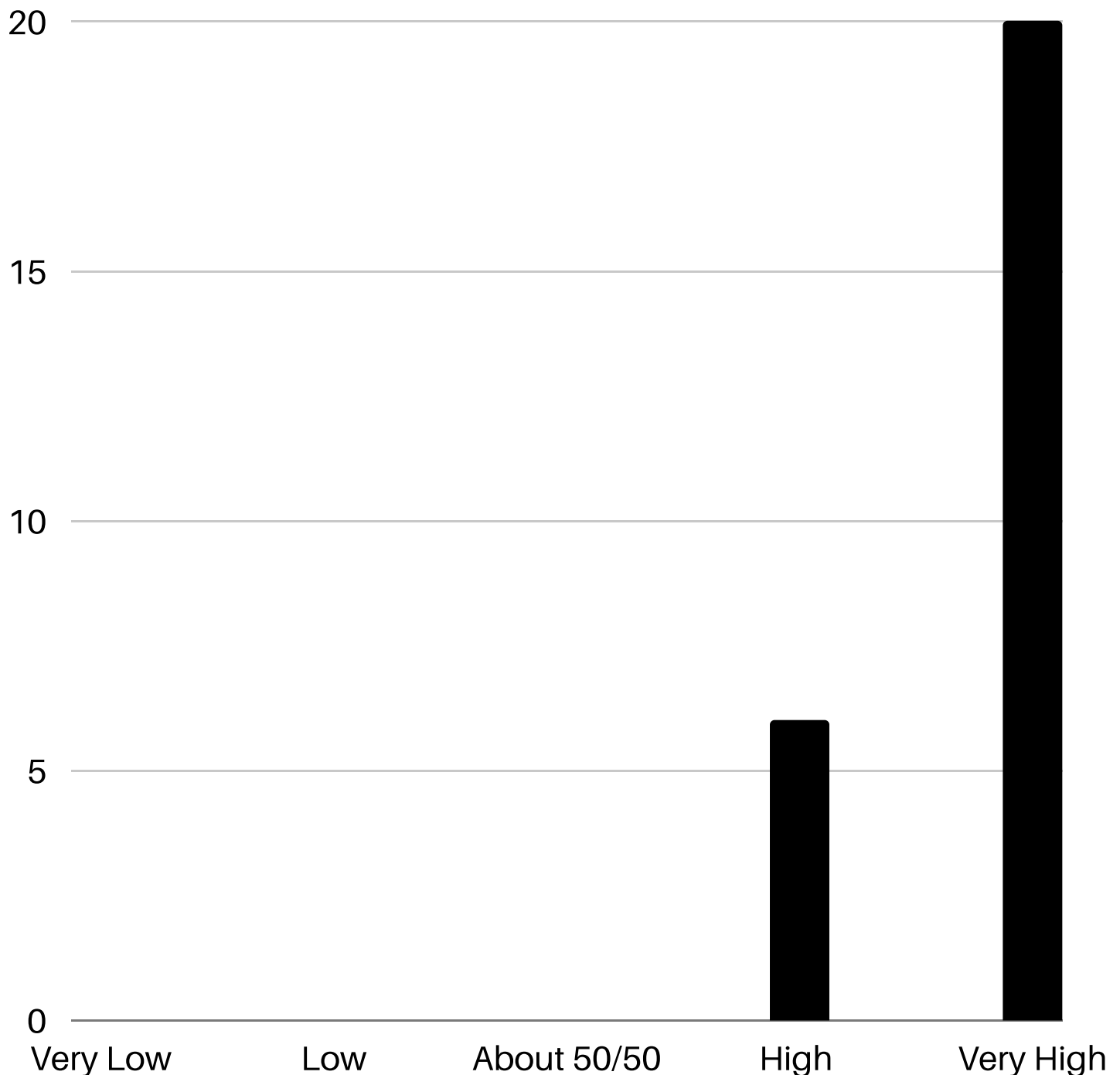
**Think about and see your future. If you are in the high school program, when completed, what do you feel are your next steps? College/university, trades, no plans to further education.**



**How well do you feel connected to Amadeusz staff? Very low, low, about 50/50, high, very high.**



**How accurate is this statement:  
Amadeusz staff help me find and  
access support and resources. Very  
low, low, about 50/50, high, very high.**



# Qualitative Results

The qualitative section of the custom survey asked the following questions:

1. Why do you want to complete high school or attend post-secondary schooling during incarceration?
2. How has the program helped you?
3. What do you like most about the program?
4. What do you like least about the program?
5. You recently completed a print-based course that was facilitated by Amadeusz through the DCDSB and/or may have attained PLAR credits based on work and life experience. What has your experience been like taking print-based courses and/or getting PLAR credits?

The analysis of the qualitative portion of the custom survey will examine the themes within each question with the help of examples from the participants' responses.

# Why do you want to complete high school or attend post-secondary schooling during incarceration?

## Future Education and Career Prospects

"I need to get all prerequisites (12U) math and sciences courses for my desired university program U of T's Engineering Science. The college courses will be assisting me in future business ventures."

"The intention was to do all the prep for my college prerequisites, as it would be a big deal to enroll for a degree"

"Requirement for apprenticeship; welding"

"To have a better chance at changing my life when I get out . With my OSSD, I'll be able to attend college or university in the future."

"I want to finish high school and be able to go to college"

"To further my education and pursue a career"

"I want to open a facility for people who are fighting addiction, or have fought their addiction"

# Why do you want to complete high school or attend post-secondary schooling during incarceration?

## To Better Their Lives

"I can better my life and give this one up for something better, and for my kids and wife."

"I would like to have a foot in the door for what courses I would like to follow up on when I get out"

"[To] feel better"

"I would like to better my life and I am trying to develop some skills and knowledge that will help me to be prepared to enter back into the community"

"To pursue or further obtain a career for when Im released."

## To Make Use of Time and Stay Focused

"It gives me meaning, I want to challenge myself to help me to get back on track, its a easier process, keeps you focused"

"To not wa[ste] my time while incarcerated"

"To better myself and my knowledge. Also to make productive use of my time and prepare for release plans"

"I want to use my time wisely and get my education rather than sitting and doing nothing"

# How has the program helped you?

## Gain Credits and Further Education

"Program has helped me obtain credits for high school. Also keeps me occupied and out of trouble during time incarcerated"

"Its help[ed] me in more ways than I can count first I got my GED now I'm in college. I know where I want to go with my life"

"It helped me get 9 credits so far when I probably would've never been able to get on the outside"

"Furthered my education and stimulated my brain"

"Helped me keep busy while incarcerated and gave me the confidence to further my education"

"It helped me learn things I never thought I would learn"

"I feel more confident because I have been able to exercise and use some of the study skills that I never knew I had"

# How has the program helped you?

## Supports their Goals and Futures

"I've been able to feel so productive with my time through incarceration. It makes me feel proud and determined to see through my goals"

"Gain[ed] entry into apprenticeship"

"It's taking me closer to my goals"

"If I finish highschool it will give me a chance to go to college"

"The schoolwork has been a lifeline as it keep me engaged and supportive of my future goals"

"This program has helped me stay focused and complete some goals of mine"

"It helps me achieve my goals"

"It's helped me receive accreditation towards my future career"



# What do you like most about the program?

## Positive Relationships With Staff

"The people who I've had the pleasure of working with, how much support and positivity they give me, and the materials(courses, etc) that I get to learn from. I've enjoyed the whole experience of working with Amadeusz"

"Honestly I love the way the staff make you feel, that you can get past any obstacle and to never give up and no matter the outcome always try to do your best."

"The most I like is that when I'm down in spirits I can always get support from the Amadeusz team for support"

"The positive energy from Kim and Angelina; super supportive and gave lots of good insight and helpful encouragement. Two truly amazing people."

"What I like most is the help I receive from Megan and the easy access to get ahold of Amadeusz"

"The staff are great to deal with, easy to get ahold of and returns calls ASAP and were super cool with my wife and very very supportive and nice and helpful"

"Good teacher that's very helpful and listens, wish I had more help but due to Covid"

# What do you like most about the program?

## Opportunity

"Being able to participate in a program like this while being locked up. Programs and resources like these are very limited behind bars."

"The insight into the field and relation to my own life's struggles"

"I get to finish my highschool education and helps me to get a job"

"I like the opportunity it gave me to go beyond just high school education while being in jail"

## Satisfaction

"Helps me stay disciplined and satisfaction of getting the work done"

"I like the motivation and push to finish my work from my teacher, also the positive support she always gives me."

"I liked that the work was good and understandable when I didnt have the teacher present"

"I'm learning and makes me feel like I still have hope"

"That it is easy to comprehend"

# What do you like least about the program?

## Limited Access to In Person Interaction

"I do not get to see my teacher during this pandemic. It's difficult not having a teacher around to help."

"The lack of interaction (face to face) with the Amadeusz staff."

"The pandemic restricted meetings with teachers but that's not anyone's fault from the program. i don't have any negative views on the program."

## Lack of Resources

"The difficulty in getting bursaries/funding for university courses and the lack of available business courses that fit into the business program i've been working on for a couple years now."

"I wish there was other resources like computers or off unit programs."

"Sometimes I start lessons and I get stuck on how to proceed. I have learning disabilities and without direction I get lost quick."

**You recently completed a print-based course that was facilitated by Amadeusz through the DCDSB and/or may have attained PLAR credits based on work and life experience. What has your experience been like taking print-based courses and/or getting PLAR credits?**

### **Support From Staff**

"Difficult during lock downs.

With access to phone  
Amadeusz staff are very  
helpful."

"It was great a lot of  
support and help thank  
you."

"My experience has been good  
because [of] having Amadeusz  
help me with my work,  
because they are a great  
support system"

"DCDSB course materials  
have been somewhat below  
the standard that LLC  
courses impressed upon me,  
but I've generally been  
content with the courses.  
Also, research questions seem  
well formulated but being in  
jail very few resources are  
available for research (no  
computer or library), though  
staff has done well for me  
when I've asked for  
research materials!"

**You recently completed a print-based course that was facilitated by Amadeusz through the DCDSB and/or may have attained PLAR credits based on work and life experience. What has your experience been like taking print-based courses and/or getting PLAR credits?**

### **Positive and Helpful**

"It's exciting and motivating to plan my own schedule & hold myself accountable to staying on task"

"My experience with the printed out courses are helping me with keeping out of trouble, and doing my time"

"It's been helpful to help graduate and it's not stressful"

"Very easy to do with no confusion/complications"

"Difficult but well needed."

"My experience has been good, I get my booklet right away."

"It's been amazing! You gotta concentrate real hard."

# Conclusion

There were clear positive findings about the resources and the qualities of Amadeusz's education program. Overall, the voices found within the data in the report illustrate that participants involved in Amadeusz's education program have a number of positive things to say about the program and themselves as a result. Through Amadeusz's custom survey, participants expressed their beliefs in their chances at positive futures. Participants reported that there was support from a number of sources, either through family or connections with the Amadeusz staff. Additional opportunities for participants to share their stories of their experiences with Amadeusz's education program will offer a deeper examination of the individual, social, and system level changes that may be occurring as a result of the program and the process.

# Thank you!

Amadeusz would like to thank our funders for their generous contributions, which allow us to continue to do this important work. Thank you for believing in our programs, services, and participants.



**United Way**  
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The logo for the Laidlaw Foundation, featuring the word "LAIDLAW" in large, bold, blue capital letters, and the word "FOUNDATION" in smaller, brown capital letters below it.