

# Education program report

2023

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Amadeusz is a charitable organization that has been operating in Toronto since 2009.

# AMADEUSZ

**Mission:** 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.

**Vision:** Creating a future with equitable access to education and community support.

This education program report presents an analysis of the education program across all streams, encompassing high school completion and post-secondary schooling at various program locations. It provides insights into the demographic profile of participants for the year 2023, along with survey data collected during the same period.

## **Education Program:**

The Amadeusz education program supports young people aged 18 to 35 in working towards their educational goals. 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.

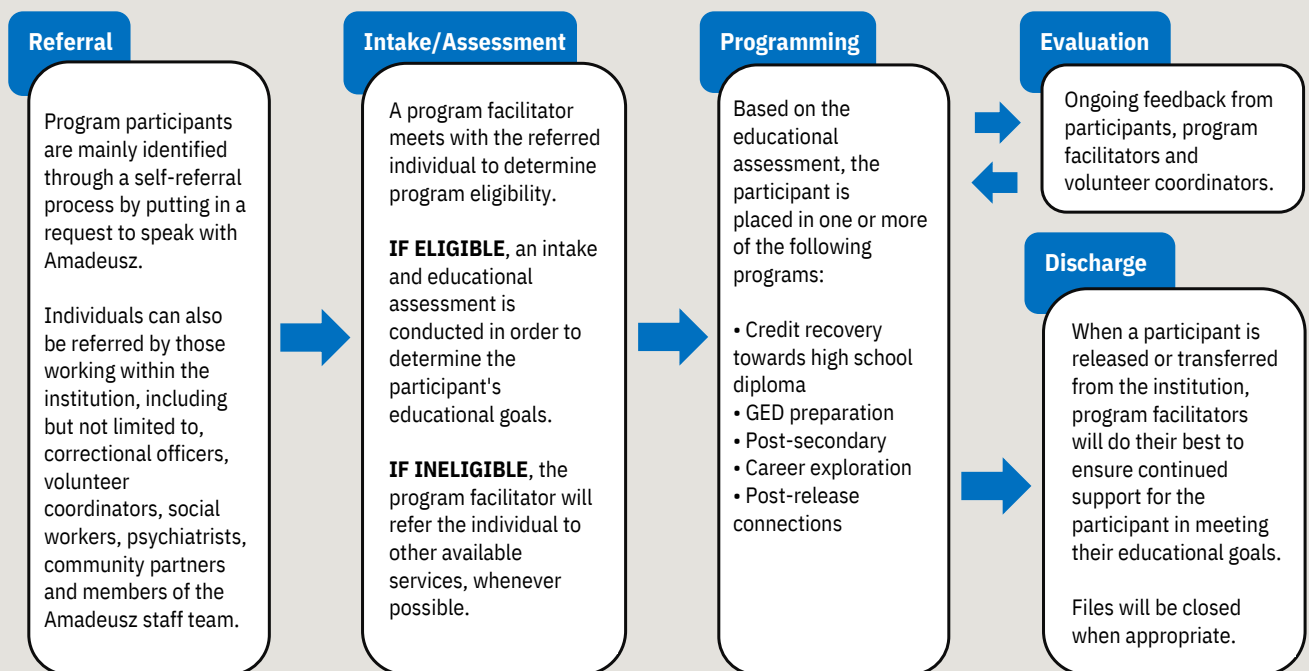
The Amadeusz education program has three streams of programming: Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) completion, high school equivalency (GED) completion, and post-secondary.

# LOGIC MODEL

**PROGRAM GOAL:** To provide the opportunity for young people who are incarcerated to obtain their high school and/or post-secondary education.

Program Plan				Outcome Plan		Measurement Plan		
Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Target Group	Outcome Statements		Success Indicator	Outcome Measurement Tools	Evaluation Design
<i>Resources, Budget Lines</i>	<i>Activities, Tasks, and Strategies</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>Client Group, Sample, or Community</i>			<i>Evidence of Success</i>	<i>Surveys; Standardized Tests; Other Measures</i>	<i>Data Measurement Design</i>
- Funding - Manager oversees all aspects of program - Research consultants assigned to oversee research and evaluation of program - Program facilitators assigned to group and one-on-one setting in specific detention centres - Books and supplies - Examination - Administration costs	- Intake and assessment - Goal setting and education planning - Group/one-on-one instruction - Research and evaluation - Information management and reporting - Team meetings	- Collaborate with detention centres and MCSC - Individual assessments - Individual and group instruction: clear and consistent facilitation practices - Post-release connections for participants - Documentation completed: participant statistics, reports, evaluation documents	- Youth residing in detention centres aged 18 to 35 - Participants at each detention centre - Three detention centres in Ontario: o Toronto South o Toronto East o Vanier Centre for Women	<b>Short Term</b> - Youth demonstrated improvement in: o literacy o math skills o problem solving o positive social skills o self-confidence o attitude towards education	- Obtainment of high school education - Increase education levels, literacy skills, math skills and social skills self-confidence reported among participants - Decrease recidivism rates and incidents within detention centres continuing education post-release	- Attendance records - Observation - Feedback - Case files/case notes - Surveys completed by participants, correctional facility, liaisons, and program staff - Interviews - Participant satisfaction questionnaires	- Participatory pre-test and post-test - File reviews - Education reports - Key informants, stakeholders (i.e., funders, volunteers), participants and project staff	
				<b>Mid-Term (Impact)</b> - Educational attainment among incarcerated population				
				<b>Long Term (Impact)</b> - Successful reintegration into society - Recidivism rates				

# FLOW CHART



**Program eligibility is based on the following criteria:**

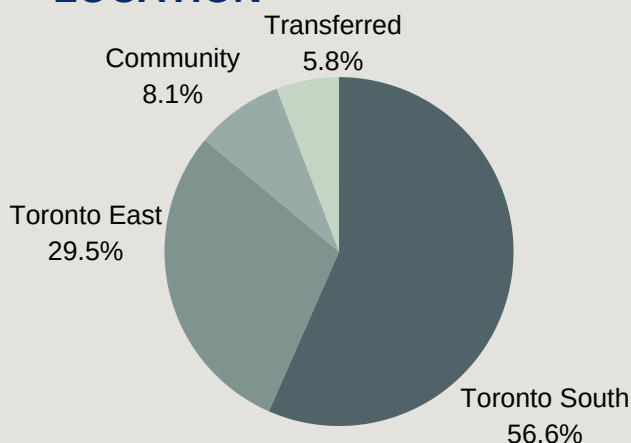
- **High School Stream** - 18 to 35 years old, has not yet completed their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or General Education Development (GED) certificate
- **Post-Secondary Stream** - 18 to 35 years old, has previously completed high school, is a transfer student

# DEMOGRAPHICS

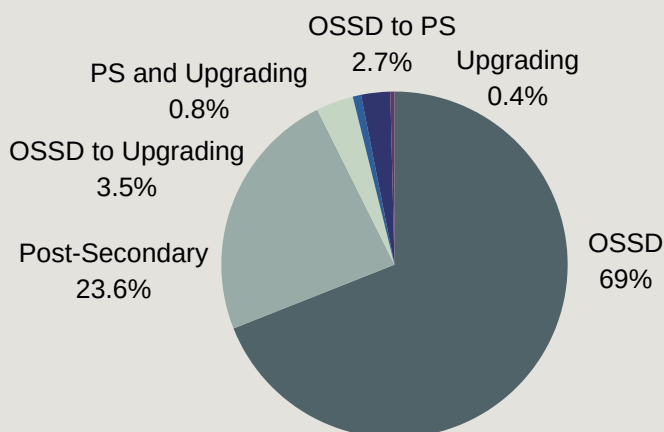
## EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

This demographic data is based on **258 participants** in the high school completion and post-secondary education program streams at the Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre, other male institutions across Canada, and in community between **January 1st, 2023 and December 31st, 2023**.

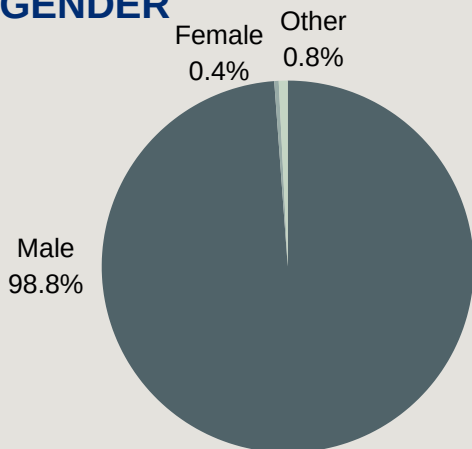
### LOCATION



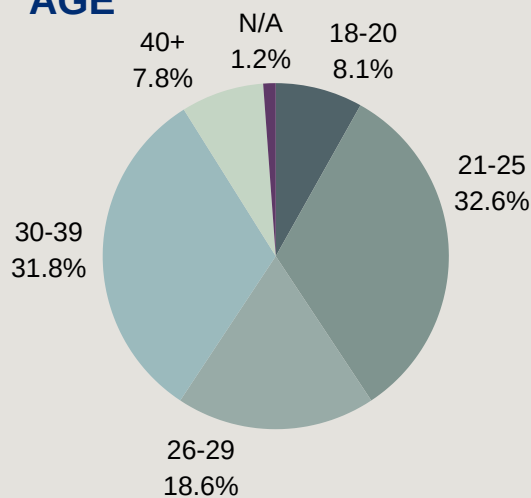
### PROGRAM STREAM



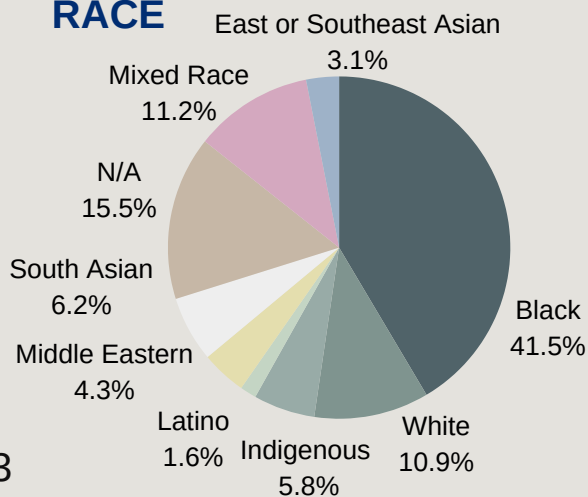
### GENDER



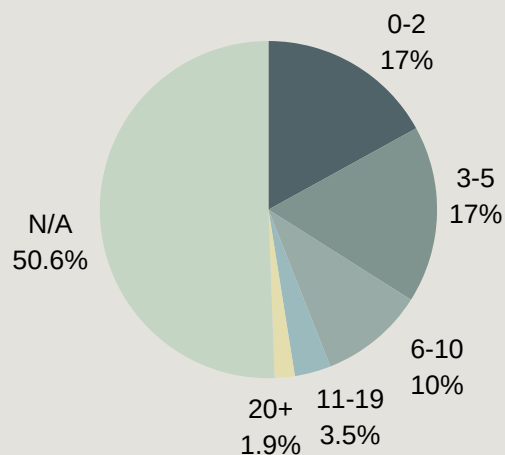
### AGE



### RACE



### TIMES CHARGED



# STATISTICS

## PARTICIPANTS & PEOPLE SERVED

January 1st, 2023 to December 31st, 2023

**280**

### TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Individuals who are enrolled in a high school or post-secondary course, or are undergoing GED exam preparation, through Amadeusz programming offered at any of Amadeusz's program sites.

**691**

### TOTAL NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE SERVED

Individuals who received educational support from Amadeusz, which may involve obtaining educational transcripts, providing education-based research, textbooks, or other materials, or facilitating referrals to other programs or agencies.

**971**


### TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVICED

Combined total number of program participants and additional people served.

# OSSD

## 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 to work towards obtaining their high school diploma.

 **Location:** Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre, In Community

**338**

high school courses registered in

**269**

high school courses completed

**1178.33**

PLAR credits granted

**73**

OSSD achieved

*“I’ve wanted to graduate for many years now and thanks to the Amadeusz education program I finally can...”*

*“I’m able to finish high school and move forward with my life.”*

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

## GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (GED)


The General Education Development (GED) stream of programming provides support through GED-specific content and prepares participants to write the GED exam, as well as obtain their high school equivalency certificate. Amadeusz, in partnership with the Independent Learning Centre (ILC), facilitates GED examination sessions inside the institutions.

# 3

## GED exams taken

Amadeusz ran one (1) GED examination session in 2023 at the Vanier Centre for Women. One (1) participant passed 4/5 sections, one (1) passed 2/5 sections, and one (1) passed 0/1 sections.


As of Spring of 2024, GED testing will no longer be available in Canada. In response to evolving requirements and to better cater to the needs of our participants, Amadeusz transitioned away from high school equivalency in 2023 and instead prioritized the attainment of high school diploma completion.

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



# POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM

The post-secondary stream of programming facilitates access to college and university courses and certificates through established partnerships with post-secondary institutions. This avenue provides participants the chance to pursue college certificates through print-based courses or to fulfill courses that can be transferred to their existing post-secondary education.

 **Location:** Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre, In Community, Transferred

# 83

post-secondary  
courses  
registered

# 85

post-secondary  
courses  
completed

# 2

post-secondary  
programs  
completed

*“This program has enabled me to pursue a post secondary education and has given me some hope that I can go a different route in life.”*

*“My confidence has grown, and I now desire college. I know I can do this.”*


# MIND SETS

## PROGRAM

In 2021, Amadeusz, in partnership with the City of Toronto's Urban Health Fund (TUHF), launched Mind Sets. The program provided young people with knowledge, tools, and access to a health and fitness plan aimed to improve their overall well-being. Upon completion, participants had a unique set of tools and a program specifically tailored to their physical and mental health goals. Mind Sets participants who were in the Amadeusz high school stream of programming received a PLAR credit toward their OSSD upon completion. Participants who were in the Amadeusz post-secondary stream of programming received access to courses within the *Addictions Work: Professional Practice Skills* certificate program offered by Centennial College.

In 2023, 21 program participants completed the Mind Sets program. 20 participants were granted a PLAR credit towards their OSSD. Nine (9) courses within the Addictions Work: Professional Practice Skills certificate program were completed by seven (7) program participants, and one (1) participant completed their full certificate through Centennial College.

Read the full [Mind Sets Program Evaluation Report \(2022-2023\)](#) on our website.



*“I was really engaged in Mind Sets, it was a program that I looked forward to every morning.”*

*“The program taught me about the important of recovery and the importance of rest and proper sleep.”*

# HIGHLIGHTS

## EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Partnerships

Amadeusz partnered with the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services to support a young person incarcerated at Central North Correctional Centre (CNCC) with his post-secondary education.

### Graduation Ceremonies

In 2023, Amadeusz celebrated the graduation of 56 program participants in four in-person ceremonies at the Toronto South Detention Centre and Toronto East Detention Centre. Among them, 54 achieved their Ontario Secondary School Diplomas (OSSD), and four (4) completed the Addictions Work: Professional Practice Skills certificate program through Centennial College. The ceremonies included speeches, cap-and-gown photos, special meals, personalized cards, and more. A special thanks to *Katie Bakes* (Instagram: [@KatieBakesTO](https://www.instagram.com/KatieBakesTO)) for donating cookies for all the graduates!



# HIGHLIGHTS

## EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Amadeusz Scholarship

The Amadeusz Scholarship is designed to offer support to individuals in the community, who have been released from incarceration and are working towards reaching their post-secondary education goals. Amadeusz awarded a total of \$20,000 in scholarship funds to seven young people in 2023!

Scholarships are an amazing resource for people who are looking to earn their post-secondary education. Most importantly, they can make a difference for those who are looking for some financial assistance.

### Scholarship Recipients

#### AMAL

CARPENTRY & RENOVATION TECHNICIAN  
Niagara College Canada

#### ANTHONY

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
Humber College

#### DARKO

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: MARKETING  
Centennial College

#### JAHEIM

PLUMBING TECHNIQUES  
Georgian College

#### KADEEM

PLUMBING TECHNIQUES  
George Brown College

#### WARREN

FILM PRODUCTION  
Toronto Film School

#### WAYNE

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: MARKETING  
Centennial College





# REPORTING

## METHODOLOGY & ANALYSIS

The 2023 education program report shares data from all programming streams of the education program, including high school completion and post-secondary. This report shares both quantitative and qualitative data collected through surveys conducted from January 1st, 2023, to December 31st, 2023, reflecting the responses of 106 program participants. The surveys included 10 quantitative questions and 10 qualitative questions, and the responses were subsequently categorized into themes that reflect the voices of the young people and their experiences while involved in the Amadeusz education program.

### Quantitative

1. Did the program help you to feel more aware of your strengths and areas of improvement?
2. Did the program help you to improve your problem-solving, decision making, and critical thinking skills?
3. Did the program help you to develop education or employment goals and know the steps needed to work towards these goals?
4. Did the program help you to improve your communication skills?
5. Did the program give you a more positive outlook on your experience with education and school?
6. Did the program help you in developing positive relationships?
7. Did the program allow you to form a strong and trusting bond with your program facilitator?
8. Did the program help to give you a sense of purpose?
9. Did the program help you to find and access additional supports and resources? If yes, explain.
10. Did the program increase your knowledge, skills, and confidence on financial matters (ex. money management, financial products)?

### Qualitative

1. What made you want to pursue education while incarcerated?
2. How has the Amadeusz education program helped you?
3. Did the program help you to find and access additional supports and resources? If yes, explain.
4. Are there any additional skills that you feel that this program helped you to improve on?
5. What do you like most about the program?
6. What do you like least about the program?
7. What are your future educational goals and how has the Amadeusz education program prepared you for that?
8. Has there been a moment during your participation in this program where you have felt proud of yourself? If so, what was this moment and what was it like for you to experience that?
9. Imagine you are trying to convince someone in your life to be a part of the Amadeusz education program. What would you say?
10. Think about your outlook on life in the past. In what ways, if any, has this changed since your participation in the Amadeusz education program?

# SELF-BETTERMENT

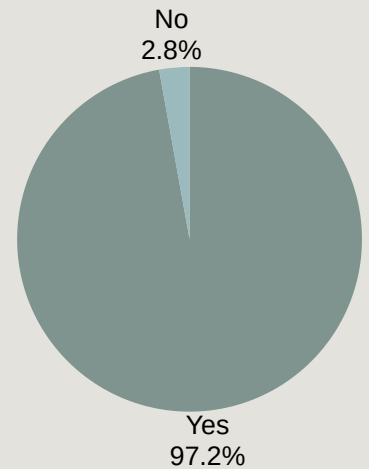
## THEME

Participants share that this program prompted profound personal transformations, impacting their perspectives, mindsets, aspirations, and more.

### Quantitative Data

1) Did the program help you to feel more aware of your strengths and areas of improvement?

*Responses:* **103** Yes, **3** No, **0** N/A



### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **50** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*"I want to better myself and have more opportunity when I'm out."*

*"I'm trying to move on and do better in life."*

*"I have wanted my final credits for some time so I can go to college. I have nothing but time in here to better myself. I need better options in life."*

*"So I can be a better man when I come home."*

*"The Amadeusz education program help me to think better, and to be a better person."*

*"Amadeusz has shown me the strength that I possess, and abilities I didn't know I had."*

PS

*"I'm ambitious about being a better person and education is the best way."*

# PRODUCTIVITY

## THEME

Participants share that this program facilitated improved time management, providing meaningful engagement in an otherwise limited environment.

### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **38** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*"To finish & further my education while spending my time productively."*

*"I wanted to do something positive with my time here."*

*"Give me something to do and keep me going."*

*"I wanted to make good use of this dead time and I always wanted my diploma."*

*"I did not want to waste my time while incarcerated, instead I wanted to use my time in a productive way to better myself and improve my chances at success in the future."*

*"Amadeusz has helped me fill my time, stay busy, and learn new skills."*

*"It has helped me stay out of trouble and spend my time wisely and in ways that will benefit me."*

*"I got busy doing something positive while I was stuck in a negative place."*

*"I did feel proud of myself because I was being productive and graduating high school."*

PS

*"I felt that I had the resources and wanted to do something productive that will help later on in life."*

*"I feel that with serving time you got to find productive ways to do your time, instead of sitting around I wanted to better myself."*

*"Having something productive to do with my time that actually gets me closer to my goals."*

*"I would tell them to take advantage of their time getting educated, which I did, and explain to them that they will get all the help they need with Amadeusz."*

*"I would say "Don't just do the time. Do your best time sign up get a education and make the best of your time." If they were in jail/my situation."*

# SETTING GOALS

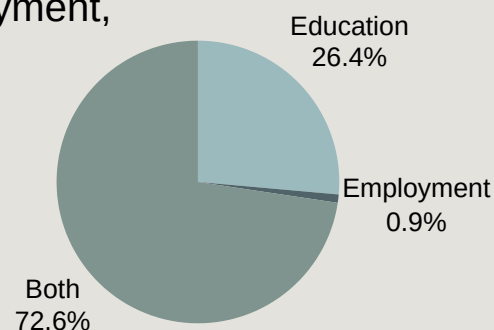
## THEME

Participants share that this program enabled them to set goals and supported them in taking the required steps to reach these goals.

### Quantitative Data

1) Did the program help you to develop education or employment goals and know the steps needed to work towards these goals?

**Responses:** 28 Education, 1 Employment, 77 Education & Employment, 0 N/A



### Qualitative Data

**Responses:** 96 confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*"I love cooking, now I get my chance to become the iron chef I always wanted to be, thank you to my teacher"*

*"Amadeusz have kept me goal oriented by completing chemistry and biology for the preparation of post-secondary."*

*"Everyday when I do my work has filled me with pride, cause I know I will be able to finally chase my goals and dreams. I am confident about this."*

*"Very proud of myself. I'm getting closer to my goal, the feeling is great. I have a sense of accomplishment and happiness to get closer of reaching my goal to graduate."*

*"I feel proud of myself. I had a goal and I did what I had to do. I still have more work to do but I'm confident in my ability to get the work done."*

*"This program has made me more aware of how smart I am to accomplish and to achieve any future educational goals I may want to pursue."*

PS

*"I feel like I'm more goal oriented because I've been able to accomplish the short term goals I had with the program which makes me eager to accomplish my long term goals." (PS)*



# MOTIVATION

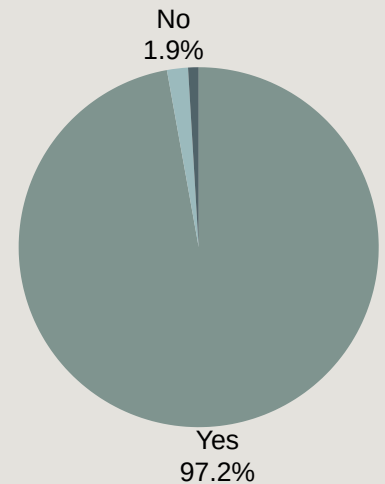
## THEME

Participants share that this program served as a catalyst, offering the necessary motivation for them to initiate or complete their education.

### Quantitative Data

1) Did the program help to give you a sense of purpose?

*Responses:* **103** Yes, **2** No, **1** N/A



### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **25** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*"Amadeusz helped me realize I can do school if I really put my mind to it."*

*"It helped me because without them I don't think I would of continued school, they were a big motivation."*

*"I've been more committed to do work with the help of my teacher and the ones motivating me on the outside. It helped grow a better connection with my fam."*

*"It motivates you to learn."*

*"The fact that it inspires you to love education and learning."*

*"It changed my outlook on what I can do in life, the sky is the limit."*

PS

*"I feel like I'm more goal oriented because I've been able to accomplish the short term goals I had with the program which makes me eager to accomplish my long term goals."*

# LIFE SKILLS

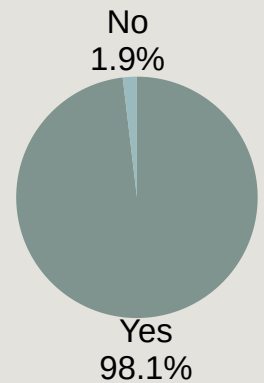
## THEME

Participants shared that this program facilitated the cultivation of vital life skills such as communication, time management, organization, problem-solving, and more.

### Quantitative Data

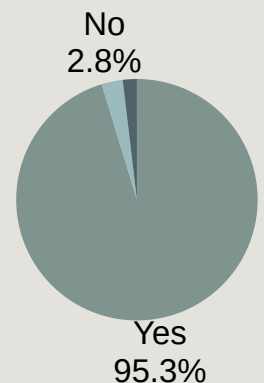
1) Did the program help you to improve your problem-solving, decision-making, and critical thinking skills?

*Responses:* **104** Yes, **2** No, **0** N/A



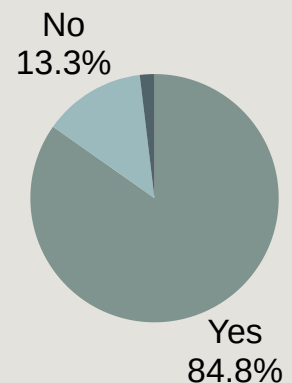
2) Did the program help you to improve your communication skills?

*Responses:* **101** Yes, **3** No, **2** N/A



3) Did the program increase your knowledge, skills, and confidence on financial matters (ex. money management, financial products)?

*Responses:* **89** Yes, **14** No, **2** N/A



# LIFE SKILLS

## THEME

Participants shared that this program facilitated the cultivation of vital life skills such as communication, time management, organization, problem-solving, and more.

### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **60** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*"It helped with understanding and knowledge. The program helped motivate me to be something great."*

*"giving me the tools required to accomplish my goals"*

*"It has helped me develop, work on my social skills."*

*"The program gives me a lot more skills to go out and achieve my goals."*

*"I think I got better at organizing and taking things step by step to complete what I was working on."*

*"This program helped me with prioritizing and time management."*

*"Almost every skill but I'll notable mention communication & positive outward thinking."*

*"It helped me improve on my comprehension skills."*

*"This program helped my interpersonal skills because I had to talk one on one with the teacher."*

PS

*"I was looking for a way to increase my skills and rehabilitate myself."*

*"The program helped me with my communication skills, to think more open minded, and helped me with my people skills."*

# SELF-ESTEEM

## THEME

Participants shared that this program contributed significantly to bolstering their self-esteem, fostering a newfound confidence in their capabilities.

### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **29** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*"The Amadeusz education program has helped me to have hope in my life again. My teacher is the best, thank you."*

*"It helped me find myself."*

*"Amadeusz has shown me the strength that I possess, and abilities I didn't know I had."*

*"My overall confidence and being able to approach anything with a positive attitude."*

*"I plan to further my education by taking a welding course and or trading stocks/currency. This program has prepared me because I got my confidence back."*

*"I was always down on myself and believed I couldn't do things but I have since been much more confident and capable of doing anything I set my mind on."*

PS

*"They gave me confidence in my self. I feel like I can do anything I set my mind to."*

*"Gave me self confidence and showed myself I can actually complete something."*

*"Now I feel much more confident in taking on challenges and not just academic ones. I also feel more proud of myself than I did before and I'm more confident in talking to people."*

*"It's made me want better for myself and that it's not hard to educate yourself and do the right things. You can succeed and there's people there that want the same for you. Don't let your potential go to waste."*

# POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

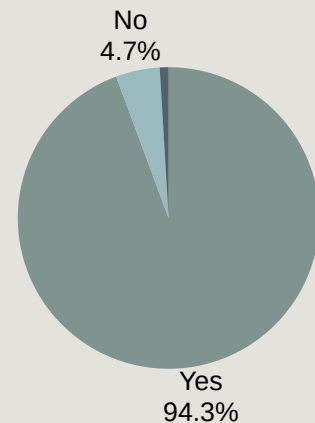
## THEME

Participants shared that this program offered invaluable support through dedicated staff, fostering a trustworthy and supportive relationship between them and their education case workers.

### Quantitative Data:

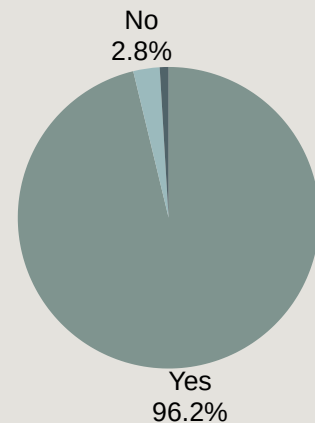
1) Did the program help you in developing positive relationships?

*Responses:* **100** Yes, **5** No, **1** N/A



2) Did the program allow you to form a strong and trusting bond with your program facilitator?

*Responses:* **102** Yes, **3** No, **1** N/A



# POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

## THEME

Participants shared that this program offered invaluable support through dedicated staff, fostering a trustworthy and supportive relationship between them and their education case workers.

### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **86** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*"My teacher has been as supportive as possible through this process and is always encouraging and positive even if I'm not."*

*"It is good to have the teacher available to meet with in person. Other jails don't have that option."*

*"The teacher gives her 100% and expects the same from the student leaving a positive outlook."*

*"I like how hands on the teachers are with helping us graduate and better our lives in general."*

*"They are the greatest team of people to have on your side. They genuinely care and inspire you at your own pace. You will enjoy the accomplishments and gain priceless resources to help move you forward."*

*"I would say that Amadeusz provides you with outstanding support and help that you couldn't find anywhere else."*

PS

*"The program and facilitators are great and they give off positive reinforcement which is needed in these places."*

*"There was a time that I was about to quit my participation in the program, but the Amadeusz teachers gave me a little push to accomplish my program which I did thanks to them, and I felt very proud of myself for that. Experiencing that gave me more confidence in myself."*

*"Amadeusz has an amazing support team really good staff, and actually takes the time to work with you from the start to end and they never give up on you."*

*"I would tell them that Amadeusz is very welcoming and that they actually care about there students and they want to see everyone succeed."*

*"I can now see the light at the end of the tunnel, this program gives me hope and help me to work and meet with people I can trust and depend on."*

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

## THEME

Participants share that this program resulted in notable academic achievements, including course completions, high school or college graduation, and the acquisition of diverse academic skills such as writing, reading, and research, among others.

### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **56** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*“Amadeusz has helped me complete the courses necessary to go to a post secondary college.”*

*“Amadeusz helped to get me maturity credits, got my started with PLARS assignments and are working with me to help me to achieve my goal of receiving my high school diploma.”*

*“The moments for me were enrollment in the program, successfully completing the course, and the moment Megan handed me my diploma and also when my family found out I got my diploma. There were really happy for me.”*

PS

*“Amadeusz has been a game changer. It offered me many avenues to explore... It helped me achieve both of my goals: Education Diploma (Gr 12) and enroll College.”*

*“Amadeusz has helped me upgrade my highschool courses that relate to my goals and complete business and psychology post-secondary courses which I see as very beneficial.”*

*“I felt proud when I was told I received a scholarship for my hard work. Similarly my marks coming back make me feel proud because I see myself as being ready to move ahead toward my university goals when the time comes!” (PS)*

*“When I finished my high school I was most proud because that has been my challenge in life and I overcame that. I felt like a king! And guess what I am one.”*

*“I was proud when I finished highschool. It took me a long few years I was always going through a lot in my life, thank you Amadeusz!!!”*

# ALEXIBILITY

## THEME

Participants share that this program demonstrated adaptability by accommodating them to progress at their preferred pace, providing a flexible learning environment tailored to their needs.

### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **13** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

- HS** | *“Amadeusz has helped me out so much by assigning a Teacher who works at the same speed as I do.”*  
*“They help you work at your own speed.”*  
*“I like how it allows me to just do me. No pressure no stress.”*
- PS** | *“You should try this approach at schooling, it's very flexible/comfortable and the individuals who run it are dedicated, helpful, and genuinely want to see you succeed.”*



# EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

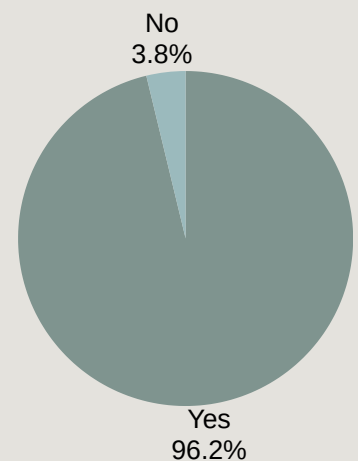
## THEME

Participants share that this program expanded their perspectives, revealing unforeseen possibilities. Some who had not considered high school graduation achieved it, while others, who had not contemplated post-secondary education, found themselves enrolled in courses. It broadened their employment prospects, unlocking previously unimagined opportunities.

### Quantitative Data:

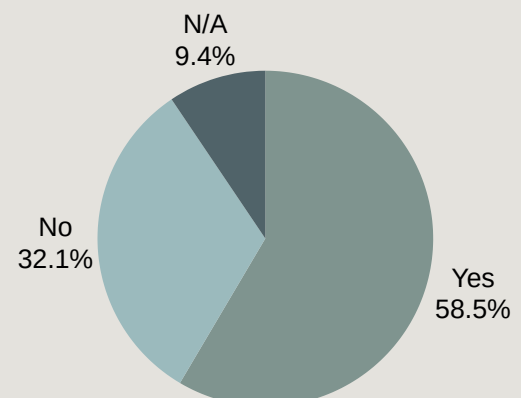
1) Did the program give you a more positive outlook on your experience with education and school?

*Responses:* **102** Yes, **4** No, **0** N/A



2) Did the program help you to find and access additional supports and resources? If yes, explain.

*Responses:* **62** Yes, **34** No, **10** N/A



# EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

## THEME

Participants share that this program expanded their perspectives, revealing unforeseen possibilities. Some who had not considered high school graduation achieved it, while others, who had not contemplated post-secondary education, found themselves enrolled in courses. It broadened their employment prospects, unlocking previously unimagined opportunities.

### Qualitative Data

*Responses:* **68** confirmed

### Examples from Survey Responses:

HS

*"Its enlightened me on the options I have available."*

*"It gave me the opportunity to finish high school and go to college and get a good job in the future."*

*"By educating myself it allows me too access to more support and career outside of jail."*

*"The program helped me find what I need to do next with my future."*

*"My whole mind set has changed. Now, I understand the importance of an education and working a job to earn an honest living."*

*"It has opened my eyes to educational career paths I was once interested in and now want to participate in again."*

PS

*"This program has enabled me to pursue a post secondary education and has given me some hope that I can go a different route in life."*

*"I want to gain educational experience in a variety of fields in order to expand my horizon, Amadeusz gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge."*

*"I knew the jobs that I would get are hard ones so I didn't aim high but now I can dream as big as any other person. Big things are waiting for me."*

# OPPORTUNITIES *FOR* GROWTH

Amadeusz consistently strives to enhance our programming to better meet the needs of the young people we serve. In addition to receiving encouraging feedback, participants were also invited to provide constructive insights. One of the survey questions asked participants,

## **“What do you like least about the program?”**

Many answers related to capacity constraints, particularly in the insufficient availability of education case workers within the institutions. For example, eighteen (18) answers specifically spoke about wanting more one-on-one time with their education case worker:

*“The only thing I do not like about the program is the once a week work day. There needs to be more days.”*

Additionally, fourteen (14) answers touched upon the frustration of having long waiting lists for programs:

*“The waiting list was long.”*

These responses highlight a need for further funding for more education case workers, so that Amadeusz can continue to advance educational accessibility within the institutions.

# OPPORTUNITIES *FOR* GROWTH

Nine (9) answers brought to light some of the barriers faced that are specific to running programming within a remand facility, such as the lack of access to technology and other resources, and the environment itself:

*“I have grown curious about the curriculum that required videos and computers.”*

*“It would be better if there were a classroom we could go to.”*

Six (6) answers spoke to a need for a more diverse offering of courses, especially for post-secondary, highlighting the need for further paper-based courses to be offered by academic institutions:

*“There are not more courses available in the fields I'm interested (S.T.E.M).”*

These themes all present opportunities for growth within the Amadeusz education program, as we continue to find innovative ways to deliver programs in a way that best suits the needs of our program participants.

# DISCUSSION

## & FINDINGS

Through the survey data and feedback collected from program participants, it is evident that the Amadeusz education program is having a positive impact on the lives of young people who are incarcerated. The Amadeusz education program continues to meet its goal of providing 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 data collected shows that participants are receiving the support needed for them to reach their educational goals, whether this is through the high school completion or post-secondary stream. Participants spoke about achieving their high school diploma, completing post-secondary courses, obtaining PLAR credits for their life experiences, and exploring new education and employment opportunities. They recognized that this program has supported them in exploring alternative options for their life path and encouraged them to think about their future goals. In part, they shared that this was due to the flexibility of the program and the fact that they were able to work at their own pace.

Participants also shared how the Amadeusz education program supported them in bettering themselves and finding a sense of motivation and purpose in otherwise difficult circumstances. The data showed that this program impacted individuals' perspectives and mindsets about themselves and their life trajectories and inspired them to better themselves. Participants also highlighted how this program allowed them to feel productive and motivated them to learn and grow.

# DISCUSSION

## & FINDINGS

The data also spoke on how participants were able to develop life skills beyond academics. For example, some participants touched upon how the program helped them with social skills, organization, time management, understanding, positive outward thinking, communication, and more.

Finally, participants highlighted how the Amadeusz education program helped them to further develop positive relationships, both with their loved ones and with their Amadeusz education case worker. Many participants named the support they received from their case worker as the highlight of their experience in the program, sharing sentiments of encouragement, positivity, genuine care, positive reinforcement, and having a trusting person in their life.

Overall, the Amadeusz education program continues to reach its goals and deliverables while also prioritizing the quality of care and support that is being provided to program participants. Amadeusz hopes to continue to expand the capacity of its education program so that more young people who are incarcerated can receive equitable access to high school and post-secondary education.

# RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Amadeusz engages in research initiatives that are aligned with the work that we do.

In 2023, Amadeusz published “Experiences of Learners Who Are Incarcerated With Accessing Educational Opportunities in Ontario, Canada (2023)” in the Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice (Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 31-45).

Visit [www.amadeusz.ca/research](http://www.amadeusz.ca/research) to read all of our research publications.





# CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

## MAKING THE DREAM HAPPEN

Amadeusz extends its sincere appreciation to our 2023 funders for their generous support. We are equally grateful to our donors, partners, and advocates who believe in our programs, services, and the individuals we serve. Last but not least, our deepest gratitude go to our participants, who remain the heart and driving force of our work.





# thank you

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