



Wisconsin Youth Justice Referrals and Intake Report for Calendar Year 2022

Prepared by:

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence
Bureau of Youth Services & Bureau of Compliance, Research and Analytics

Please email the Bureau of Youth Services at DCFYJ@wisconsin.gov with any questions regarding this report.



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

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Introduction

Report Purpose

The Youth Justice (YJ) Referrals and Intake report is intended to provide an overview of all YJ referrals received and logged into eWISACWIS by county human service agencies, along with basic characteristics of the youth referred, during Calendar Year (CY) 2022. This report will give readers information that will support their understanding of several early decision points in Wisconsin's community based YJ system.

Wisconsin's Youth Justice System

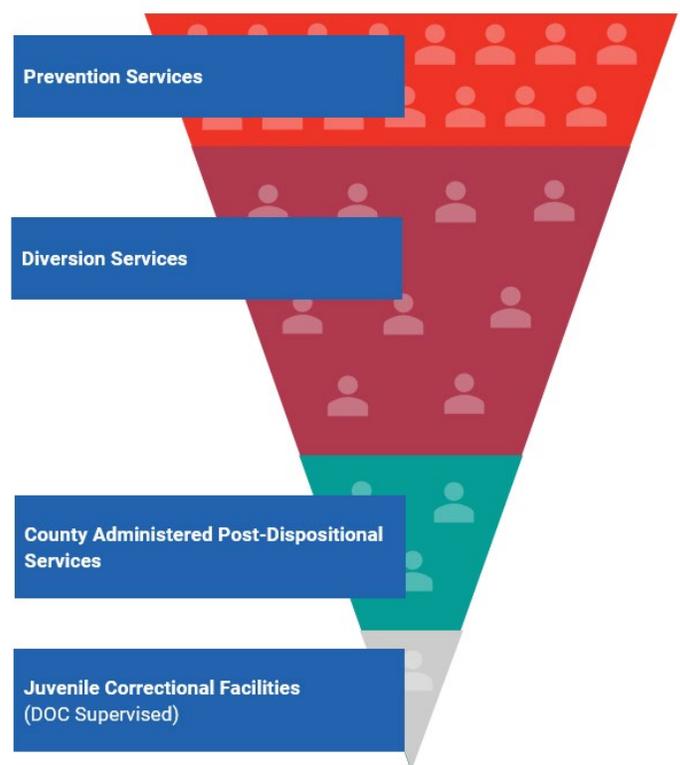
The vision for Wisconsin's community based YJ system is a focus on prevention and diversion with the provision of accountability and services for youth who come to the attention of the YJ system. This vision is guided by the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) commitment to ensuring all youth have the tools to thrive in adulthood.

A community-based youth justice system is designed to serve the greatest number of youths through local prevention and diversion services and reduce the number placed out of home. Wisconsin is committed to ensuring young people referred to YJ are served by the appropriate agency or services, and that the YJ system does not function as a default intervention for youth in the state.

DCF assumed fiscal and programmatic oversight of Wisconsin's community-based youth justice system in 2016. Associated responsibilities include training, maintenance of data systems, development of YJ standards, and building capacity through technical assistance. These duties are carried out in close consultation with counties, as Wisconsin's YJ system is state supervised, and county administered.

Additional details about the structure of Wisconsin's YJ system can be found in [Appendix B](#).

Community-Based Youth Justice System



Juvenile Court Jurisdiction and YJ Referral Types

Juvenile courts in Wisconsin have jurisdiction in the following circumstances:

■ Juveniles alleged to be delinquent

Includes any person between the ages of 10 and 16 who is alleged to have violated any state law. Under 1995 Wisconsin Act 77, general jurisdiction of the juvenile court was lowered from age 17 to age 16. 17-year-olds do not fall under the original jurisdiction of juvenile courts in Wisconsin. More information can be found in [Wis. Stat. § 938.12](#)

■ Juveniles in need of protection or services (JIPS)

Youth may be alleged to need protection or services if certain conditions apply:

- **JIPS non-truancy** conditions include a parent or guardian unable or needing assistance to manage a youth's behavior; frequently running away from home; or committing a delinquent act before age 10.
- **JIPS truancy** conditions include habitual truancy from school.

Youth adjudicated JIPS may be referred to a variety of services, but they cannot be sent to a correctional facility, juvenile detention facility, or a secured residential care center. More information can be found in [Wis. Stat. § 938.13](#).

■ **Juveniles alleged to have violated civil laws or ordinances**

Municipal or county jurisdiction over young people alleged to have violated a civil law or ordinance is determined by the referral source. Violation of municipal ordinance often results in a ticket—which is not synonymous with referrals to the YJ system. More information can be found in [Wis. Stat. § 938.125](#).

Additional information on jurisdiction—including exceptions and waivers to adult court—can be found in [Subchapter 3](#) of Wisconsin’s Juvenile Justice Code (Chapter 938).

The four types of YJ referrals correspond with juvenile court jurisdiction:

- **Delinquency**, [Wis. Stat. § 938.12](#)
- **JIPS non-truancy**, [Wis. Stat. § 938.13](#)
- **JIPS truancy**, [Wis. Stat. § 938.13\(6\)](#)
- **Ordinance/civil law violation**, [Wis. Stat. § 938.125](#)

YJ Intake

Intake is an entry point to the community-based YJ system for Wisconsin youth under the age of 17.¹ Intake is not a court hearing and youth do not need to be taken into physical custody to engage with YJ intake.

The intake process is initiated after a young person receives a referral to the YJ system.² Referrals typically come from law enforcement or schools but could also come from parents or guardians. Depending on the circumstance, it is possible for a young person to arrive at YJ intake with multiple referral types that are associated with multiple offenses.

Intake procedures are guided by the Wisconsin Juvenile Justice Code ([Chapter 938](#)) and DCF’s [Youth Justice Standards](#). During the intake process, an initial screening and assessment is conducted. Referred youth are interviewed by county intake professionals, who have 40 days to review the referral, schedule an intake inquiry with the youth and their family (if needed), and make one of the following recommendations for the direction of the case: case closure, deferred prosecution agreement (DPA), or formal petition to court.

Both case closure and a DPA are considered forms of diversion. They are an “off ramp” from formal court involvement, but still serve to hold youth accountable for the decisions that brought them into the system. Research suggests that for youth who are at low or moderate risk of re-offending, offering an alternative to formal involvement that is precise, minimal, and aligned with a youth’s risk, needs, and responsibility factors can be an effective strategy.³

The intake process and conditions for intake recommendations are outlined in greater detail in [Subchapter 5](#) of the Juvenile Justice Code.



Divert from Formal Court Involvement

Close the case. While the young person may still be referred or diverted to county services, no formal involvement in the YJ system is recommended.

In cases where it is determined the jurisdiction of the juvenile court exists, but formal court involvement is not required, an intake professional can recommend a **Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA)**. So long as the young person cooperates with the terms of the agreement, they avoid a formal delinquency adjudication.



Formal Court Involvement

Refer the case to the district attorney or corporation counsel to request a **formal petition** to juvenile court.

¹ [Wisconsin is one of three states](#) where 17-year-olds do not fall under original jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

² YJ referrals are not the same as arrests. 2021 arrest data can be found on [Wisconsin DOJ’s UCR Data Dashboard Center](#).

³ Additional details about diversion from youth justice can be found in this [2017 OJJDP literature review](#).

Messages from Youth with Lived Experience

This report also includes voices of youth with lived experience in the youth justice system. Several representatives from across the state (referred to throughout the report as *Youth Leaders*) with direct experience in Wisconsin's YJ system assisted in the analysis of key pieces of data during a Youth Leadership Team (YLT) meeting in October 2023.

In addition to contributions highlighted in other sections of this report, Youth Leaders were asked to share if there was anything they'd like adult YJ stakeholders to consider when reviewing this document. Some of those responses are highlighted below:

A lot of youth get in trouble because there is nothing to do or safe places to go.

*We need alternatives to jail or detention.
We need services for kids before they get in trouble.*

Treat us fair and make sure officers aren't harder on us than other youth.

*We need more resources for places to go to hang out
and not run the streets.*

We should be treated fair.

Additional information about DCF's Lived Experience group for youth with YJ system involvement and experience and future opportunities for involvement can be found on the [Youth Leadership Team \(YLT\) program page](#).

Executive Summary

The Youth Justice Referrals and Intake Report provides information on youth referred to the YJ system, YJ referral details, and YJ intake decisions from CY 2022. Data in this report are from eWiSACWIS, the state's centralized case management system. Data notes and limitations, a brief description of the structure of responsibilities for Wisconsin's YJ system, and tables with county data related to YJ referrals and intake recommendations for delinquency referrals can be found in the appendices.

In CY 2022, county human service agencies logged 13,892 YJ referrals for 8,809 unique youth into eWiSACWIS. This was a slight increase from CY 2021 but was still fewer youth and referrals overall than the first year of available data, CY 2019.

Youth Characteristics

- The most common age at first YJ referral increased to 16 years (from 15 years) in 2022.
- Black and Native American youth are overrepresented among youth referred to YJ in 2022, continuing a trend that has persisted since 2019.
- Youth with a racial identity entered as unknown has grown by 25% in the last three years – a change that has implications for data quality and analysis.
- There continues to be significant overlap between Child Protective Services (CPS) and YJ as two-thirds of YJ youth had at least one screened-in CPS referral prior to first 2022 YJ referral.
- YJ-referred youth continue to experience Out-of-Home Care (OHC) at a higher rate than the general youth population in Wisconsin. Youth leaders shared OHC had a negative impact on their mental health.

Referral Details & Intake Recommendations

- Close to 85% of all YJ referrals received in 2022 were for delinquency.
- While there was a drop in YJ referrals with the source of school (corresponding with a drop in JIPS Truancy referrals), school-based offenses (YJ referrals where a location was school) grew slightly in 2022.
- Disorderly conduct offenses increased in 2022 and were once again associated with the most YJ referrals of *any* YJ referral type.
- Over 95% of 2022 delinquency referrals were for offenses categorized as non-violent by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.
- Black and Native American youth were referred for delinquency at rates significantly higher than the state's average; the rate of Native American youth referred for delinquency jumped by 25% in 2022.
- Over half of all Black and Asian youth referred for delinquency in 2022 were recommended to be formally petitioned to court – this rate is much higher than the state's average.

2022 Youth Characteristics

Total Youth Referred

8,809 youth received at least one referral (of any type) to the YJ system in 2021.

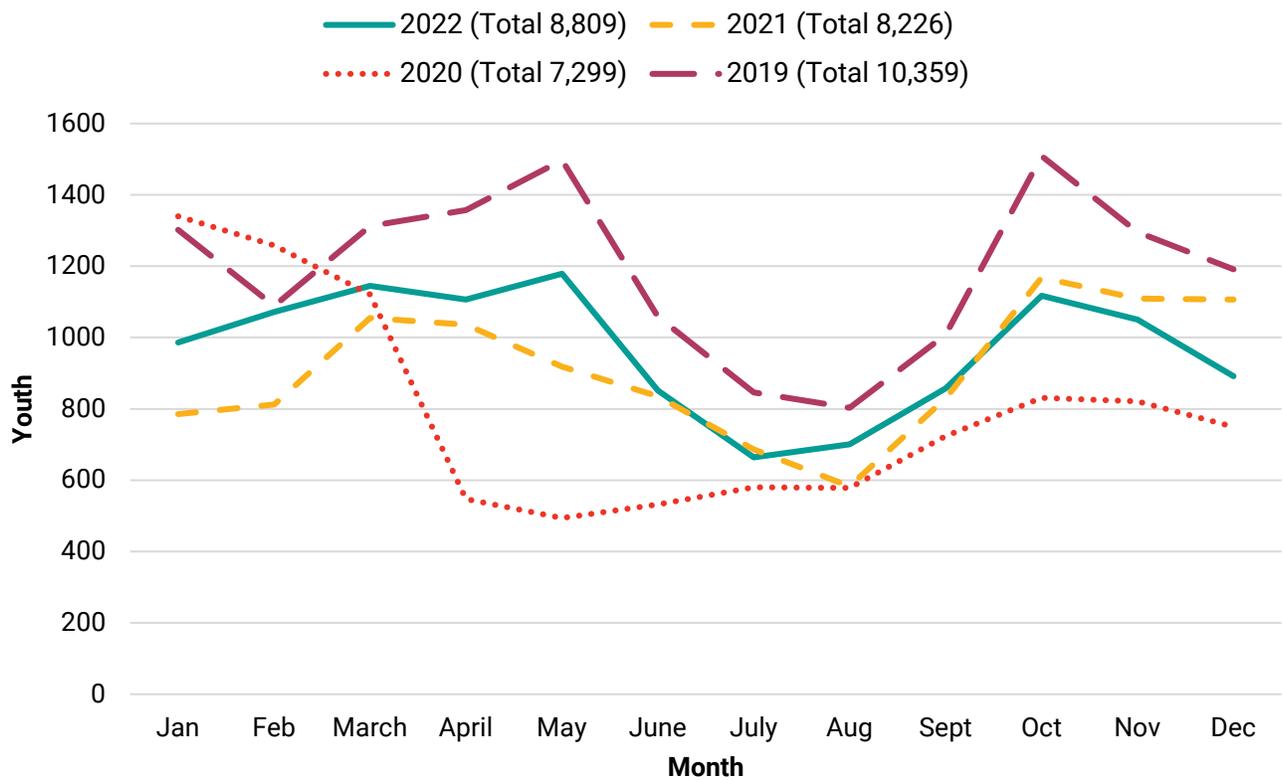
Figure 1 illustrates the number of youths referred to YJ by month in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. While the number of youths referred increased by about 7% from 2021 to 2022, fewer youth were referred in 2022 than in 2019.

Youth with at least one YJ referral in 2022

8,809

Figure 1

2020-2022 Total Youth Referred to Youth Justice



Data Note: While trend lines measure the total youth referred per month, the totals in the legend reflect the total unique youth referred per year.

Gender

The proportion of youth referred by gender has been consistent since 2019, though the overall count of male, female, and gender unknown youth has varied by year.

- 2/3 of youth with at least 1 YJ referral (of any type) in 2022 were identified as male (Fig. 2).
- Youth whose gender was unknown accounted for slightly less than 2% of youth referred in 2022.

There was some variation in the distribution of referral types within gender categories (Fig. 3).

- The largest proportion of youth of any gender were referred for delinquency.
- Female youth referred for delinquency increased by about 12% from 2021 to 2022.
- Female youth continue to be referred for JIPS at a rate much higher than their male peers.

Nationwide, girls are more likely to enter the YJ system for non-delinquency related concerns like truancy or running away from home. Research suggests this difference may be rooted in different behavioral expectations for girls⁴.

Figure 2

2022 YJ Referred Youth by Gender

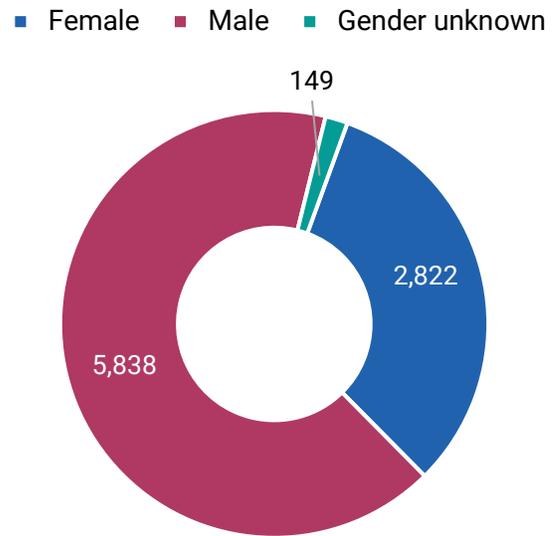
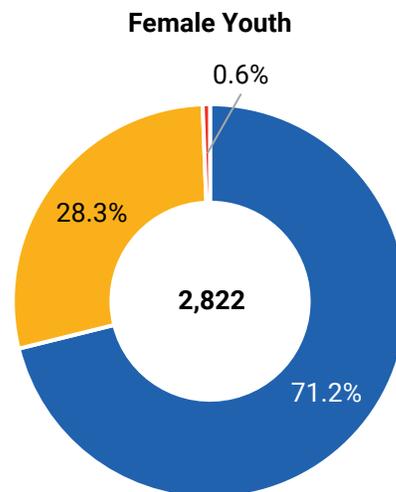
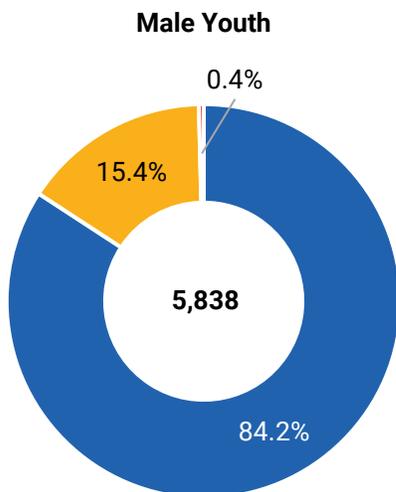


Figure 3

Distribution of 2022 YJ Referral Types by Youth Gender

- Delinquency
- JIPS (Truancy & Non-Truancy)
- Ordinance/Civil Law Violation



⁴ More information about the connection between girls, behavioral expectations, and the YJ system can be found in a 2018 guide called "[Girls Matter](#)" from the Vera Institute for Justice.

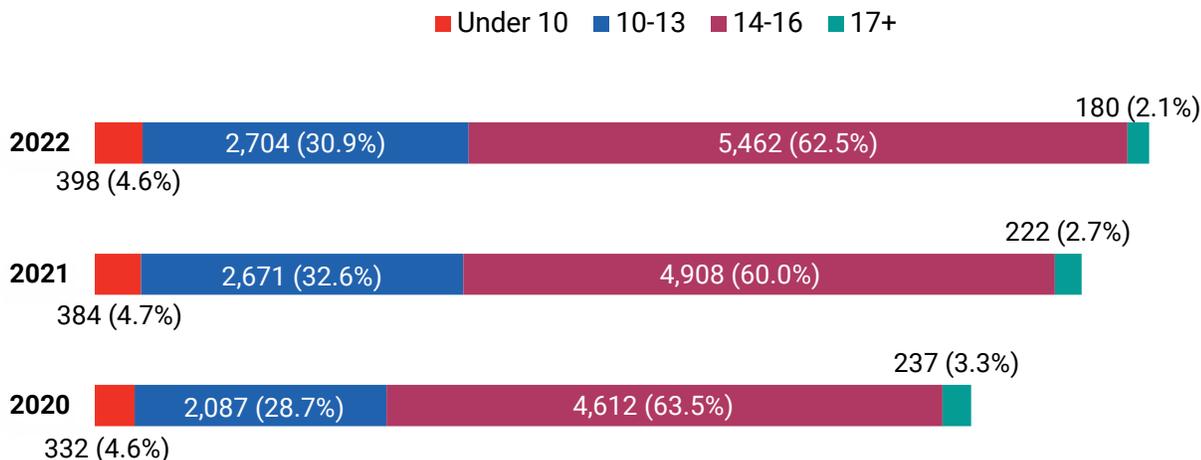
Age

The distribution of age at first YJ referral in 2022 was like distributions from previous years (Fig. 4).

- Youth aged 14-16 have accounted for at least 60% of all YJ-referred youth since 2020.
- The proportion of referred youth under age 13 at first YJ referral shrunk slightly in 2022.

Figure 4

2020-2022 Youth Age at First YJ Referral during Respective Calendar Year

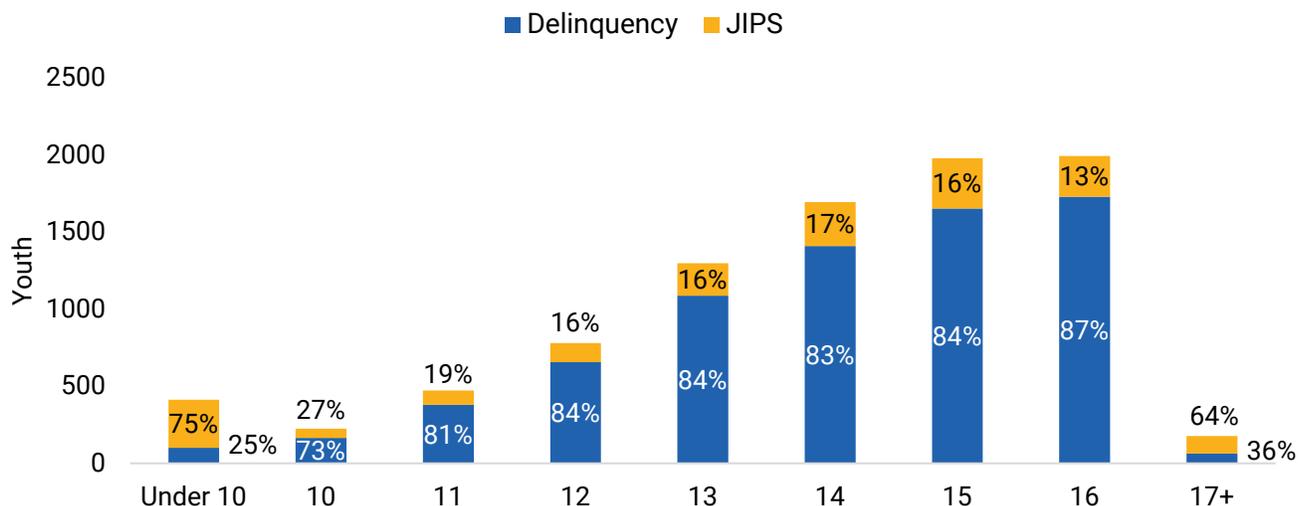


Youth under age 10 should only be referred via JIPS and if later adjudicated, can only be referred for services⁵.

- The most common age at first referral increased in 2022 to 16 years (Fig. 5).
- The highest rate of JIPS offenses were received for youth under age 10 and over age 17.

Figure 5

Youth Age at First 2022 YJ Referral



⁵ Delinquency referrals for youth under age 10 may be received by intake but will be closed as they do not meet statutory requirements for delinquency jurisdiction.
DCF-P-5549 (R. 02/2024)

Race and Ethnicity

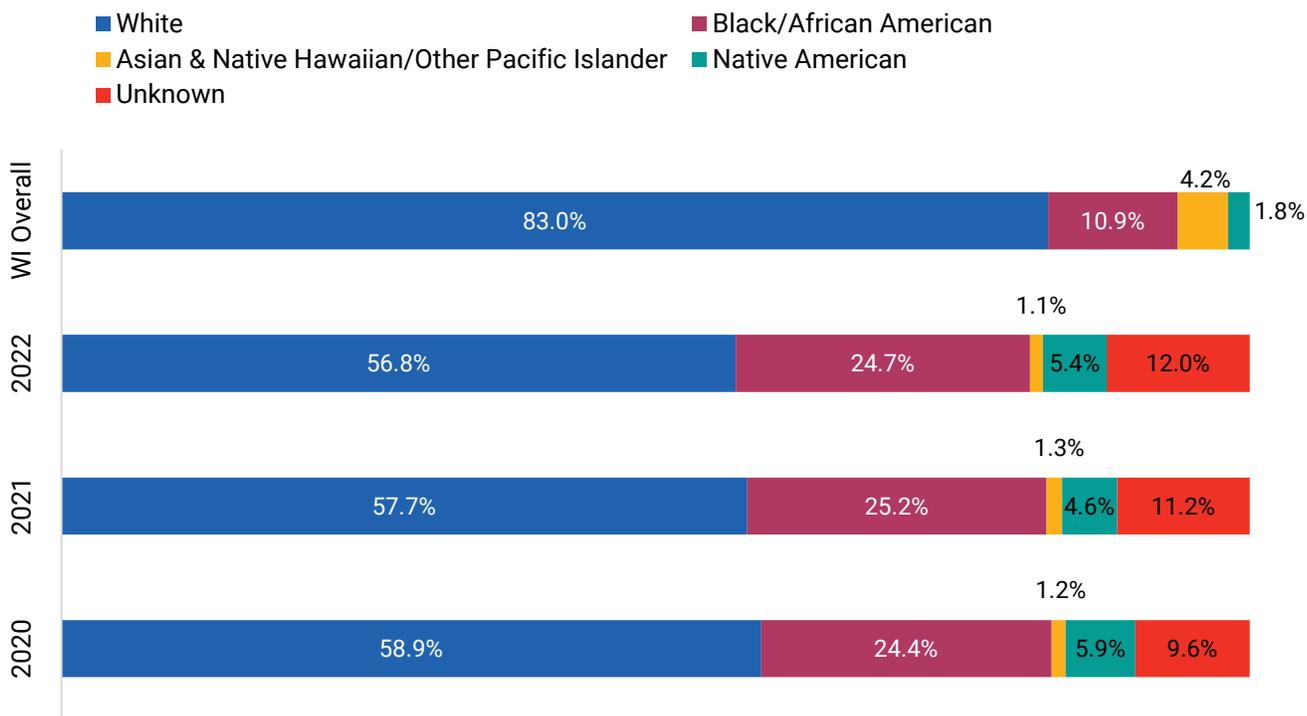
Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) is a measurement that has been used by the federal government for several decades to monitor and assess differences in justice involvement among racial groups⁶. Both racial biases woven into the justice system and offending patterns within racial groups have been found by researchers to contribute to DMC. However, in a justice system that is truly equitable, rates of system contact across racial groups would be in relative alignment with the racial composition of the state’s general youth population.

In 2022, the largest percentage of youth referred to the YJ system were identified as White (56.8%). However, the percentage of Black and Native American youth referred to the YJ system far exceeds the overall percentage of Black and Native American youth residing in the state (Table 1). While Black youth accounted for a quarter of youth referred to YJ in 2022, they comprise about a tenth of Wisconsin’s overall youth population. Similarly, over five percent of youth referred to YJ were Native American, but Native American youth make up only about two percent of the state’s youth population. A comparison of race data over time reveals that over the course of the last three years, both Black and Native American youth have been overrepresented in received YJ referrals in Wisconsin (Fig. 6).

It should also be noted that in the last three years, the proportion of youth whose race is unknown has grown by 25%. Many of these youth had their race entered as “not documented” or “unable to determine” in eWiSACWIS⁷ – designations that impact our ability to more reliably assess disproportionality over time.

Figure 6

2020-2022 YJ Referred Youth by Race



Wisconsin Youth Population Data Source: *Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2021). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020."* Online. Available: <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop>

⁶ A more detailed description of DMC is available in this [2014 Policy Brief from the Sentencing Project](#).

⁷ Additional guidance for child welfare professionals about racial and ethnic identification can be found in a [DCF desk guide](#) published in December 2022.

In 2022, about nine percent of youth referred to YJ were identified as Hispanic, a slightly smaller percentage than that of the state’s general youth population. However, close to a quarter of youth referred in 2022 had their ethnicity recorded as “unknown” or “not documented” – a trend that has persisted since 2019. This data gap is significant enough that the possibility of an undercount of Hispanic youth cannot be ruled out. Nationwide, it has been hypothesized that a gap in documentation of Hispanic ethnicity obscures important nuance and detail of YJ system involvement for Hispanic youth⁸.

Table 1

2022 YJ Referred Youth by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity

Race	2022 YJ Referred Youth		General Youth Population	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
White	4,997	56.8%	968,568	81.8%
Black/African American	2,179	24.7%	136,614	11.5%
Native American/Alaskan Native	473	5.4%	25,092	2.1%
Asian	83	0.9%	54,279	4.6%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	14	0.2%	--	--
Race Unknown or Not Documented	1,059	12.0%	--	--
Hispanic Ethnicity	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Hispanic	837	9.5%	151,120	12.8%
Not Hispanic	5,966	67.8%	1,033,433	87.2%
Hispanic Ethnicity Unknown or Not Documented	2,002	22.7%	--	--

Wisconsin General Youth Population Data Source: *Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2021). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020." Online. Available: <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop>*

Conversation with youth leaders echoed several themes recorded in the past related to race and ethnicity:

- Several youths called for “fair treatment,” describing situations where they felt they received a different response from community members than their White peers.
- One youth leader also voiced frustration about the racial and ethnic categories included within the state’s case management system. He felt that “including Hispanic ethnicity as White is not an accurate representation” and suggested Hispanic should be offered as a racial category option.

⁸ More information about the Latinx Data Gap in Youth Justice can be found in [this report from UCLA](#).
DCF-P-5549 (R. 02/2024)

Prior Child Protective Services Contact

A child protective services (CPS) referral contains allegation(s) of child abuse and/or neglect. CPS referrals are “screened-in” during access if at least one allegation meets the statutory requirements for child abuse and/or neglect. CPS referrals are “screened out” when all allegations included in the referral do not meet statutory requirements. Screened-out cases are closed, though the family may still be offered or referred to services.

The “screened in and screened out” category in figure 7 includes youth who have ever had at least one CPS referral screened-in and at least one CPS referral screened-out prior to their first YJ referral in 2022.

Data from 2022 reveals most youth referred to YJ were previously referred to CPS:

- 80% of youth had at least 1 referral to CPS prior to first documented YJ referral in 2022.
- 66% of youth had at least 1 CPS referral screened-In prior to first documented YJ referral in 2022.

More information about CPS screening decisions can be found in this [case flow explanation of the Access process](#) and in the annual [Child Abuse and Neglect Report](#).

Out-of-Home Care Placement

Out-of-Home Care (OHC) is an umbrella term that includes a variety of placements including foster homes, group homes, residential care centers, shelter care facilities, and detention.

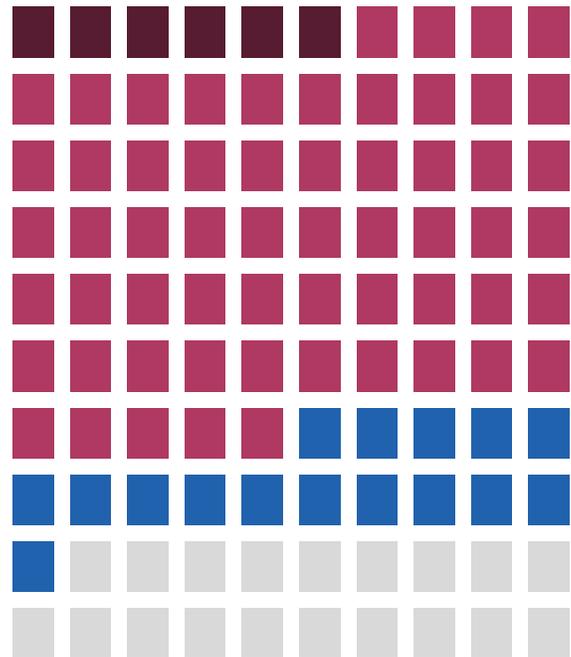
Nearly one in five YJ referred youth had experienced at least one OHC placement at any time prior to their first YJ referral in 2022. A smaller population of youth (about five percent) were in OHC at the time of their first YJ referral in 2022. In contrast, less than one percent of the general youth population in Wisconsin had an OHC experience during 2022.

YJ-referred youth with prior OHC involvement frequently experienced more than one placement setting before their first YJ referral. Changes in placement are more common in non-relative settings and interrupt routines and connections with others⁹. The impact of this instability on youth is described in greater detail in the next section.

More information about OHC placements can be found in the [OHC dashboard](#).

Figure 7

2022 YJ Referred Youth with Prior CPS Referral(s)



Prior CPS Referral(s)

- Screened In Only (6.2%)
- Screened In & Screened Out (59.3%)
- Screened Out Only (16.0%)
- No Prior Referral (18.5%)

Youth with OHC Placement Prior to First 2022 YJ Referral

17.6%

Youth Placed in OHC at Time of First 2022 YJ Referral

4.9%

Wisconsin General Youth Population Placed in OHC in 2022

<1%

⁹ See [Wisconsin Out of Home Care \(OHC\) Report: Calendar Year 2022](#) for more details about OHC placement trends. DCF-P-5549 (R. 02/2024)

Youth Perspectives on Out-of-Home Care

The most extensive discussion during the October 2023 YLT meeting was around OHC. Many youth leaders recounted treatment by staff and the impact these experiences on their mental health and feelings of self-worth. Their responses are highlighted below:

Treatment by Staff

Certain staff disrespect you and this impacts youth because you feel like you have no voice and are alone. It hurts your mental health. Some staff cared, but there is racism and bias towards certain groups.

Some staff overstepped boundaries when I was in the detention center.

I felt that the staff cared about me when I was in detention.

When you are stuck somewhere, it makes you think about what you did to get there.

It can feel like your life is falling apart sometimes.

You meet random people and go place to place. Once one place starts to feel like home you are separated from them and have to do it again. This impacts your ability to trust people.

If you are in any of those places, no matter who you are or where you are it's going to impact you mentally.

I felt like I was being disrespected by staff and it was irritating. It made me feel like I can disrespect adults because they disrespected me.

Even though my parents weren't taking care of me, that was better than where they placed me. I would rather be with my parents than with people who did not treat me right.

Being in one of the RCCs, there wasn't anything to it. They treated me well, but at the same time it was [not great].

Impact of OHC Experience

I think it impacts your mental health because it makes you lose trust. You feel depressed and sad because you aren't home and somewhere you don't want to be.

I felt mental when I was in detention.

I felt alone because I didn't have anyone on my team.

2022 Referral Details and Intake Recommendations

Total Referrals

Close to fourteen thousand unique YJ referrals (of any type) were logged into eWiSACWIS in 2022.

Figure 8 illustrates the number of YJ referrals received by month between 2019 and 2022. While this chart follows similar trends as Figure 1, the number of youth referred differs from the number of referrals received as one youth can receive multiple YJ referrals.

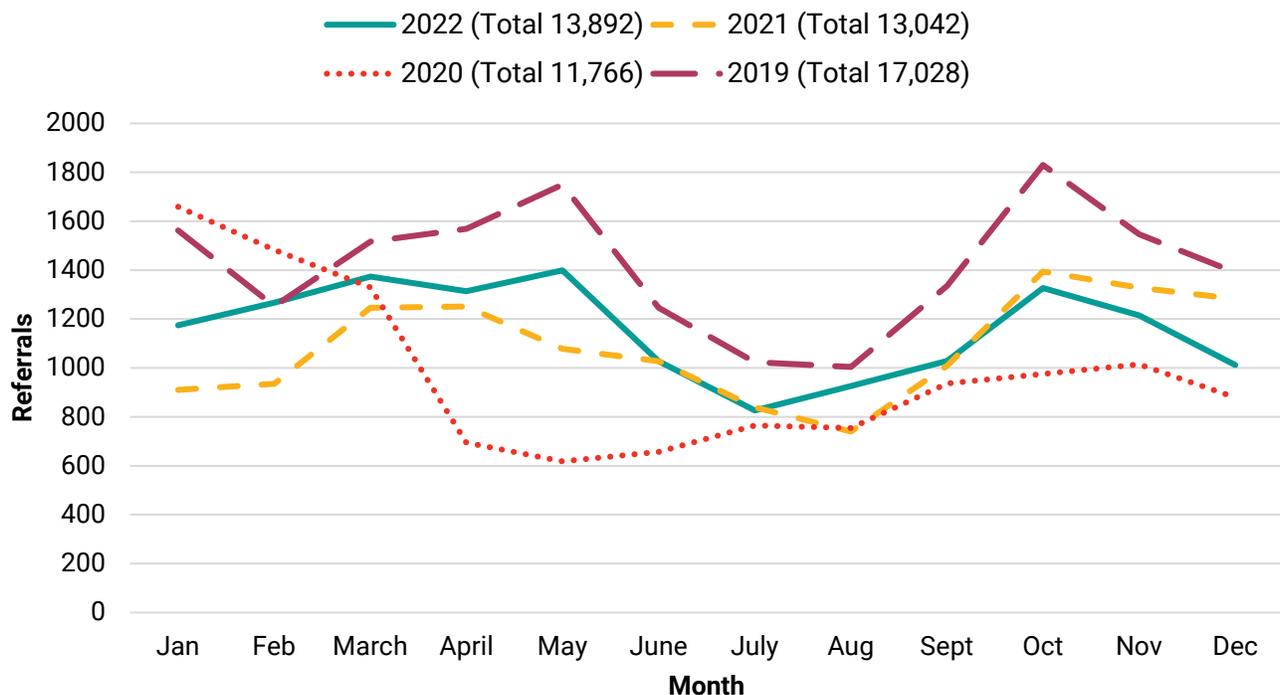
Total received referrals increased by about 6.5% from 2021. However, it should be noted the number of YJ referrals received in 2022 is still substantially less than the 16,977 YJ referrals logged in 2019.

**Total YJ Referrals
Received in 2022**

13,892

Figure 8

Total YJ Referrals: 2020-2022



Data Note: While trend lines measure the total referrals logged in eWiSACWIS per month, the totals in the legend reflect the total unique referrals received per year.

Referral Types

The four types of YJ referrals are related to the areas of jurisdiction of the juvenile court: delinquency, JIPS non-truancy, JIPS truancy, and ordinance or civil law violation.

- Over 80% of all YJ referrals in 2022 were for delinquency (Table 2).
- JIPS referrals decreased from 2021 to 2022; JIPS non-truancy referrals decreased by about 17%, while JIPS truancy referrals decreased by about 20%.

Table 2

2020-2022 YJ Referrals by Type

Referral Type	2022		2021		2020	
	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count
Delinquency	84.8%	11,778	81.0%	10,562	82.3%	9,684
JIPS Truancy	10.8%	1,500	13.7%	1,789	11.5%	1,349
JIPS Non-Truancy	4.4%	609	5.3%	693	6.2%	725
Ordinance/Civil Law Violation	0.3%	46	1.0%	135	1.2%	145

Data Notes: Referral percentages per year may total more than 100% as it is possible for one referral logged in eWiSACWIS to be associated with multiple referral types.

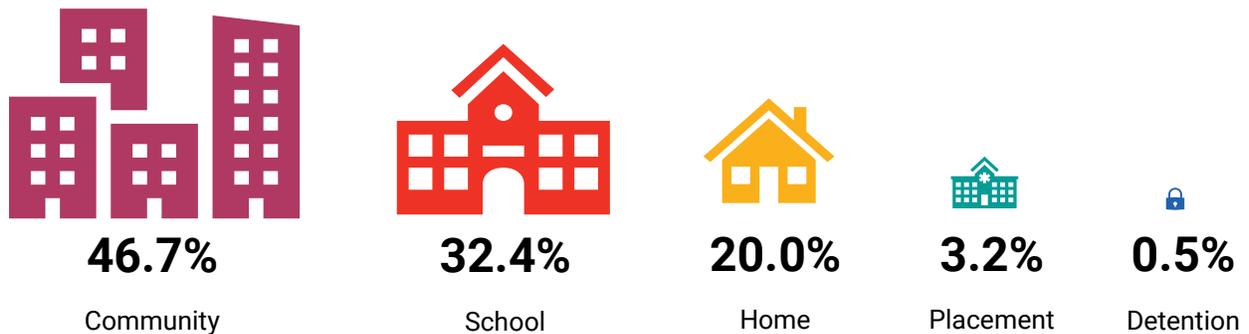
Referral Locations

Each referral logged in eWiSACWIS includes a location (or locations) where the alleged offenses occurred. There are five distinct referral locations: community, school, home, placement, and detention. A referral location is distinct from a referral source (which describes the individual or agency responsible for making the referral).

- Over three quarters of all referrals occurred at the locations of community and school (Fig. 9) and referrals from both of these location categories grew in 2022.
- Referrals with the location of home slightly decreased in 2022 from 2021.

Figure 9

2022 YJ Referral Locations



Data Note: Location percentages may total more than 100% as it is possible for one referral to be associated with multiple locations.

Referral Sources

Youth can be referred to the YJ system by law enforcement, parents or guardians, or other individuals or agencies. While any offense could occur on school grounds, schools can only refer youth to the YJ system for habitual truancy.

- In 2022, nine out of ten YJ referrals came from law enforcement (Fig. 10).
- The second largest referral source was schools; referrals from this source dropped by about 25% from 2021.

When considered together, the array of referral locations and referral sources underscore the importance of collaboration and cooperation between county human service agencies, law enforcement, schools, providers, and community agencies, as each of these entities has a connection to YJ referrals.

Figure 10

2022 YJ Referral Sources



YJ Intake Recommendations

At the conclusion of the intake process, based on the information gathered, YJ intake professionals will issue one of the following recommendations to the court:

- **Case closure:** The case may be counseled and closed, diverted, or found not to fall within the jurisdiction of the county juvenile court. No further formal YJ involvement is recommended by the YJ professional.
- **Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA):** A DPA may be recommended in cases with juvenile court jurisdiction when intake believes formal court involvement is not required.
- **Formal petition:** Intake professionals may refer the case to the district attorney or corporation counsel to request a formal petition to juvenile court. This petition may result in further formal juvenile court involvement – including supervision.

A recommendation from YJ intake is just one decision point in the life of a YJ case and may differ from the recommendation of the county prosecutor and the final disposition of the case.

In 2022, the most frequent recommendation from human services for all referrals was case closure (Table 3). The second most common recommendation was a formal petition to court. As a closer look at JIPS and delinquency referrals in the following sections demonstrate, there is some variation in intake recommendation depending on referral type and offense category.

Table 3

YJ Intake Recommendations: 2020-2022

YJ Intake Recommendation	2022	2021	2020
Close Case	44.4%	43.1%	44.6%
Deferred Prosecution Agreement	16.5%	16.8%	13.2%
Formal Petition	37.6%	38.7%	40.6%

Data Note: Intake recommendations may total slightly less 100% as a small number of intake decisions are missing in eWiSACWIS.

Referral Details

Each YJ referral logged in eWiSACWIS includes at least one offense, or description of the law or laws a youth is alleged to have violated. This information is organized in eWiSACWIS by category, type, and description in accordance with standards set by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The mapping of Wisconsin statutes onto UCR offense categories and types was supplied by the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis. Use of UCR allows for standardized comparison of offenses across counties and between states.

Five offense categories are tracked in Wisconsin:

- 1. Drug**
- 2. Property:** includes any offense where the objective is to gain money, property, or some other benefit (e.g., vandalism, theft, burglary, and motor vehicle theft).
- 3. Society:** UCR defines as "society's prohibition against engaging in certain types of activity" (e.g., disorderly conduct, sex offenses, and weapons).
- 4. Violent**
- 5. Other:** Any offense not included in the other categories (e.g., battery, resisting/obstructing an officer). This category also includes offenses that are not reportable to UCR (e.g., habitual truancy, not competent, etc.).

Referral details for JIPS and delinquency referrals are included in the following sections. Due to the small statewide number of ordinance and civil law violations recorded in eWiSACWIS, those referral details are not included in this report.

JIPS Referrals

Youth may receive a JIPS referral if certain conditions apply. These conditions include:

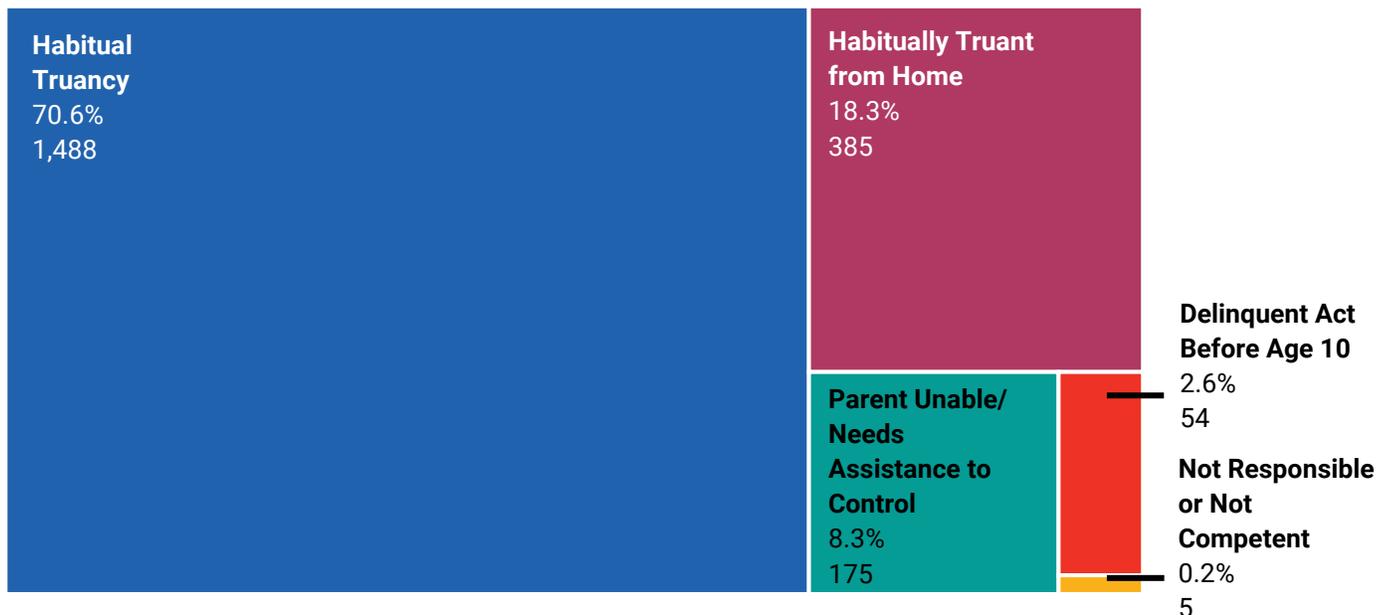
- A parent or guardian is unable or needs assistance to manage a youth's behavior.
- A youth is determined to be not responsible or not competent¹⁰.
- A youth is alleged to have committed a delinquent act before age 10.
- A youth is habitually truant (runs away) from home.
- A youth is habitually truant (absent) from school.

JIPS cases may be referred for a variety of services, but youth referred for JIPS cannot be sent to a correctional facility, juvenile detention facility, or to a secured care center. JIPS are more indicative of a youth's needs than their risk of future delinquent behavior.

¹⁰ Youth initially referred for delinquency may subsequently be determined to be not responsible or not competent under Wis. Stat. § 938.30(5)(c) and their case should be processed as JIPS.
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Figure 11

2022 JIPS Referrals



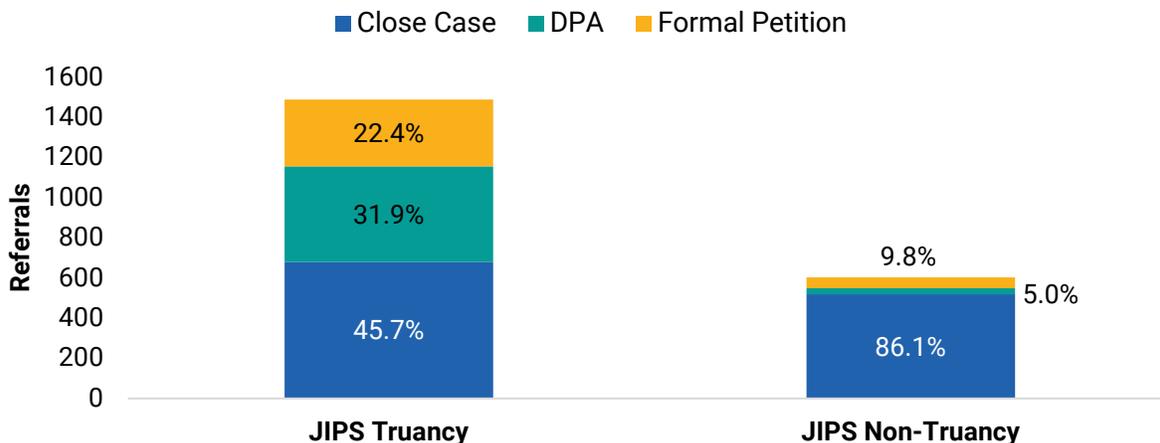
JIPS referrals decreased from 2021 to 2022. Most JIPS referrals are for concerns that are “not reportable” to UCR. Habitual truancy continued to account for over two-thirds of all JIPS referrals in 2022 (Fig. 11), though overall, referrals for truancy also decreased from 2021 to 2022.

JIPS Referrals: YJ Intake Recommendations

Most JIPS referrals were recommended for diversion from formal court involvement. The most common intake recommendation for JIPS referral categories was case closure, though it was most frequent for JIPS non-truancy referrals (Fig. 12). A significant percentage of JIPS truancy referrals were recommended for a DPA (31.9%), which is a diversion strategy some counties use to supervise and offer services to youth without formal court involvement.

Figure 12

2022 JIPS Referrals: Intake Recommendations



Data Note: Intake recommendations may total slightly less 100% as a small number of intake decisions are missing in eWisACWIS.

Delinquency Referrals

Offenses from the society, other, and property offense categories have been included in most delinquency referrals received since 2019:

- Offense category distribution remained relatively constant between 2021 and 2022 (Table 4).
- In 2022, delinquency referrals most frequently included offenses from the society offense category (included in 52.2% of referrals).
- Drug offenses increased by about 16% from 2021.

Table 4

2019-2022 Delinquency Referrals: Offense Categories

Offense Category	2022	2021	2020	2019
Society	52.2%	51.8%	48.4%	51.0%
Other	40.5%	40.4%	36.8%	34.8%
Property	27.0%	27.9%	32.5%	28.3%
Drug	7.0%	6.0%	6.7%	6.6%
Violent	4.8%	4.3%	4.7%	3.6%

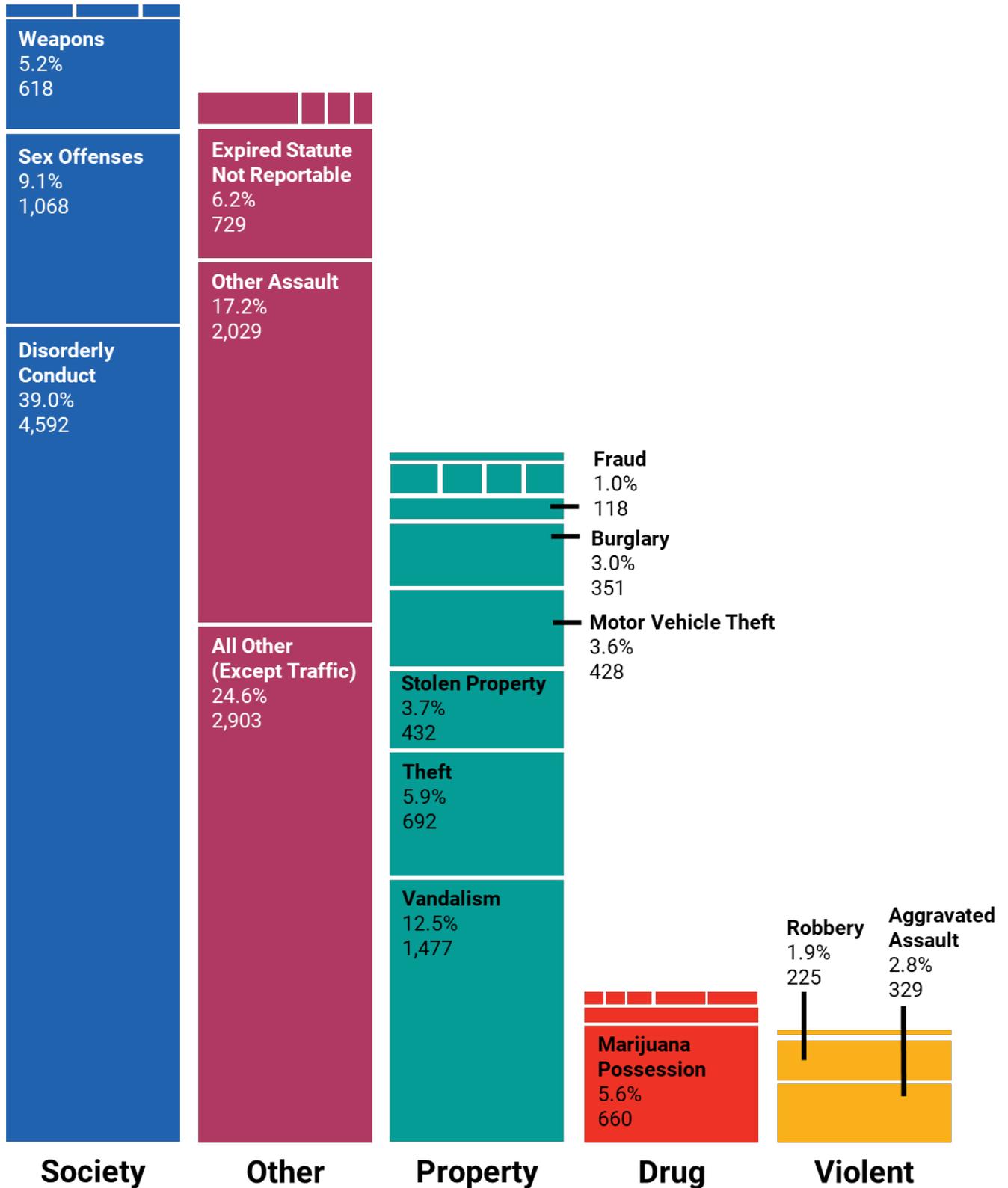
Data Note: Offense categories total to more than 100% as it is possible for one delinquency referral to include offenses from multiple offense categories. In summer 2023, DCF updated the YJ Referral eWReport, which improved accuracy in counting YJ referrals that contain offenses from multiple offense categories. For this reason, this chart includes the past four years of YJ data.

The offense types that are associated with specific offense categories are illustrated in figure 13. Each of the five offense categories occupies a bar on the chart and is populated by the category’s corresponding offense types. Only offense types associated with at least 100 referrals from CY 2022 are labeled.

- In 2022, delinquency referrals included offenses from thirty-four distinct offense types.
- Disorderly conduct offenses increased in 2022 and were once again associated with the most YJ referrals of any YJ referral type. This offense type encompasses a range of behaviors and specific reasons for that referral may vary by county.
- Marijuana related offenses (possession and sales) accounted for more than three quarters of all referrals in the drug offense category.
- The other offense category includes offense descriptions like *battery* (1,609 referrals), *resisting or obstructing an officer* (1,121 referrals), and *operating a vehicle without consent – passenger* (420 referrals). This category also captures offenses associated expired statutes that are classified as not reportable to UCR.
- Delinquency referrals increased in 2022, but over 95% of referrals were for offenses connected to non-violent offense types (as defined by UCR). A slight increase in the count of violent offense types in 2022 corresponds with an overall rise in referrals.

Figure 13

2022 Delinquency Referrals: Offense Categories & Offense Types



Delinquency Referrals: Rate of Youth Referred

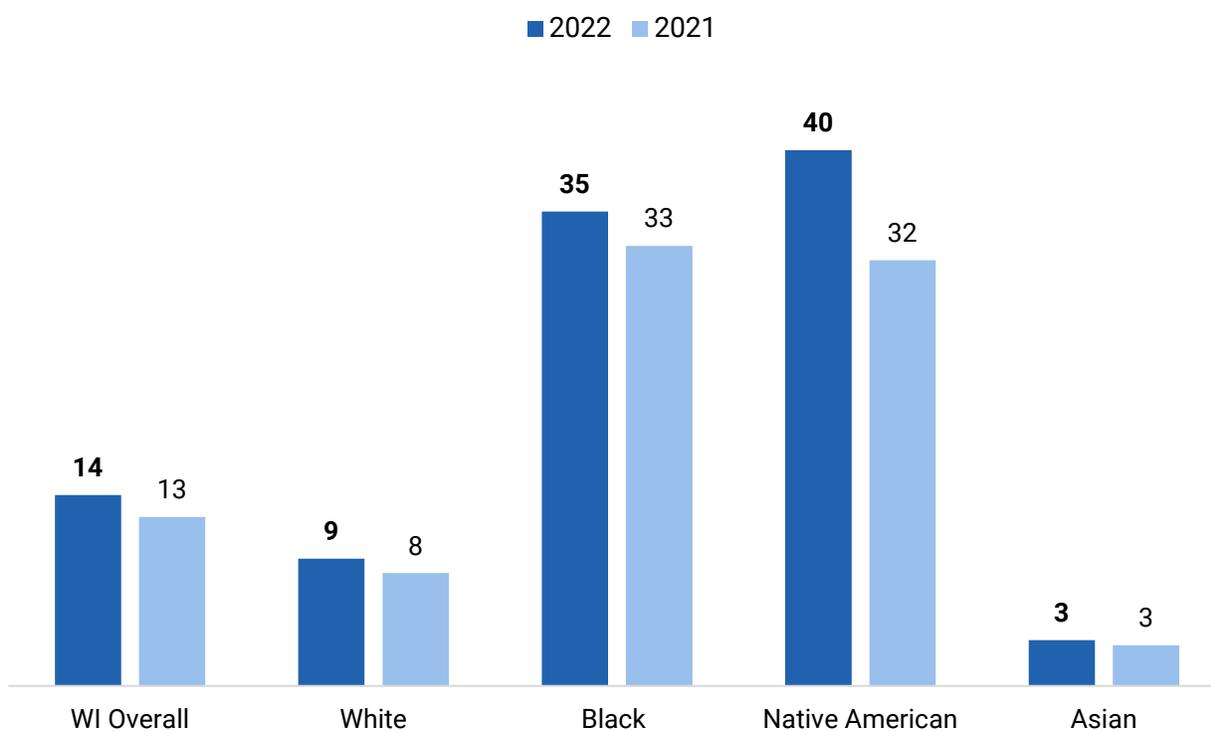
While the largest counts of 2022 delinquency referrals were associated with counties with large youth populations, rates of youth referred for delinquency per thousand youth tended to be higher in less populous counties and counties in northern Wisconsin (Fig 15).

- On average, 14 out of every 1,000 youth – about 1.5 percent of Wisconsin’s general youth population – were referred for delinquency in 2022 (Fig. 14).
- Two counties – Forest and Vilas – had rates of youth referred that were significantly higher than other counties in the state. Over 50 out of every 1,000 youth in these counties were referred to YJ for delinquency in 2022.

A table containing population size and the rate of delinquency referrals by county can be found in [Appendix C](#).

Figure 14

2021-2022 Rates of Youth Referred for Delinquency per 1,000 Youth



There is also a noticeable difference in rate of youth referred for delinquency when examined through the lens of race.

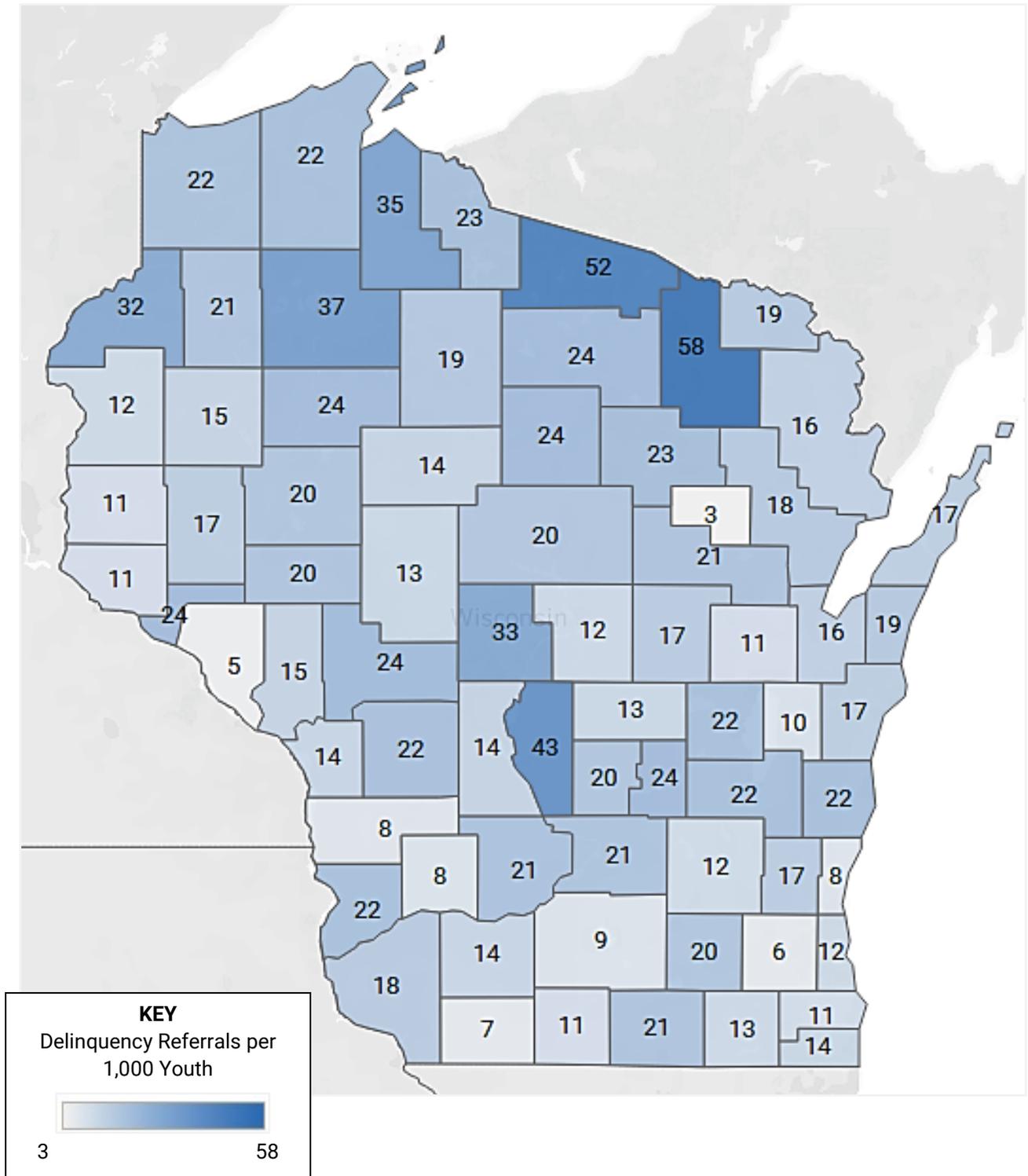
- 40 out of every 1,000 Native American youth and 35 out of every 1,000 Black youth were referred for delinquency in 2022.
- The rate of Native American youth referred for delinquency jumped by 25% from 2021 to 2022.
- White youth and Asian youth were referred for delinquency at rates lower than the state average.

Wisconsin’s data is reflective of national trends, which suggest youth of color are less likely than their White peers to experience “pre-arrest diversion,” or a decision to not involve police or not refer a case to juvenile court¹¹.

¹¹ More information about diversion and its connection to DMC can be found in this [2022 report from the Sentencing Project](#).
DCF-P-5549 (R. 02/2024)

Figure 15

2022 Rates of Youth Referred for Delinquency per 1,000 Youth in Wisconsin Counties



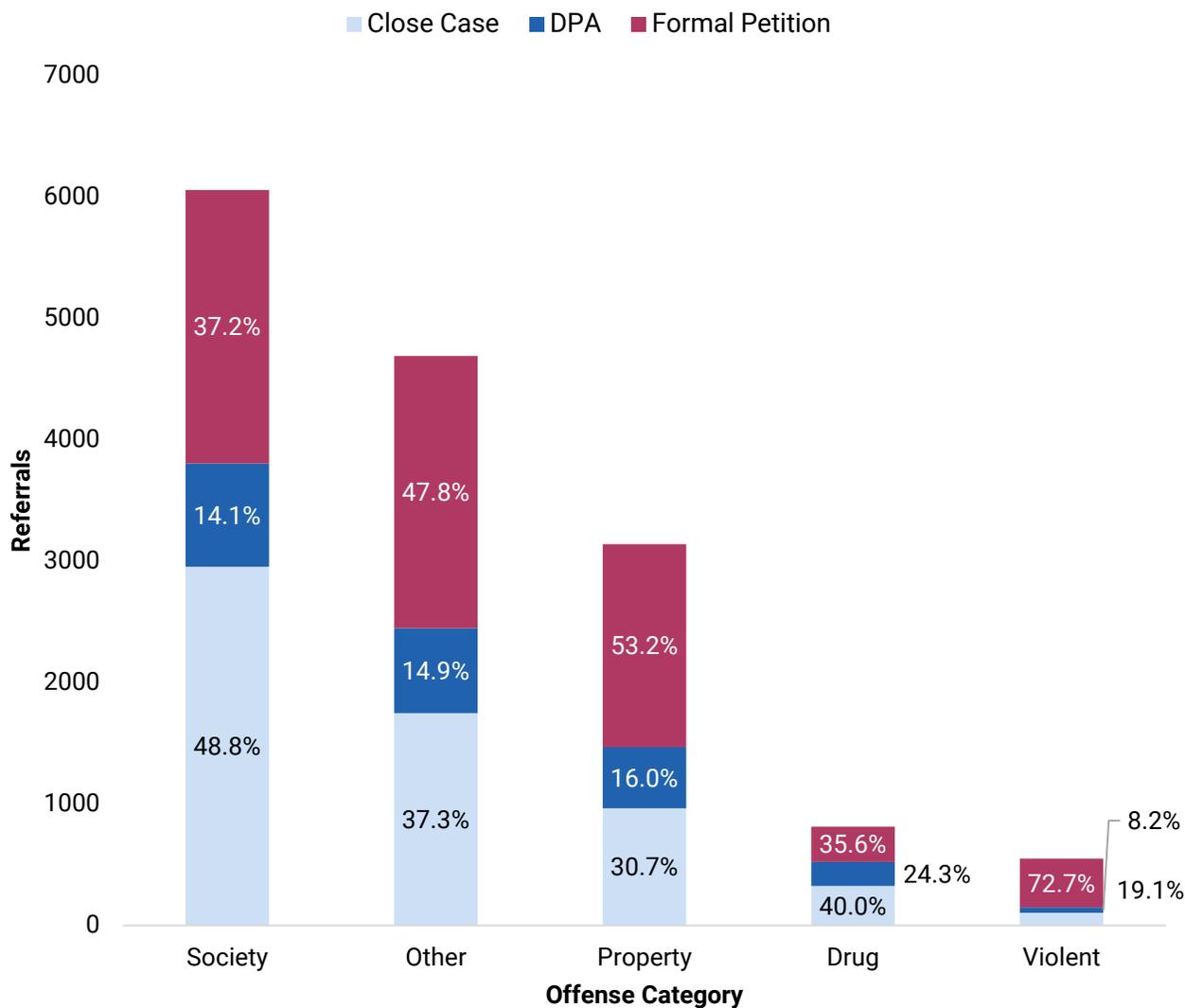
Delinquency Referrals: YJ Intake Recommendations

Recommendations from YJ intake professionals varied by offense category for delinquency referrals (Fig.16):

- Over half of referrals associated with society offenses were recommended for diversion from formal court involvement (case closure or DPA).
- Most referrals that included offenses from the other or property offense categories were recommended for formal court involvement.
- Of all offense categories, DPA was most frequently recommended for referrals that included offenses from the drug offense category.
- Referrals that included violent offenses were the most likely to be recommended for formal court involvement.

Figure 16

2022 Delinquency Referrals: YJ Intake Recommendations by Offense Category



Data Note: Intake recommendations may not total to exactly 100% as one referral may contain multiple offenses from one offense category and a small number of intake decision are missing in eWiSACWIS.

Delinquency Referrals: Rate of Formal Petition Recommended by YJ Intake Professionals

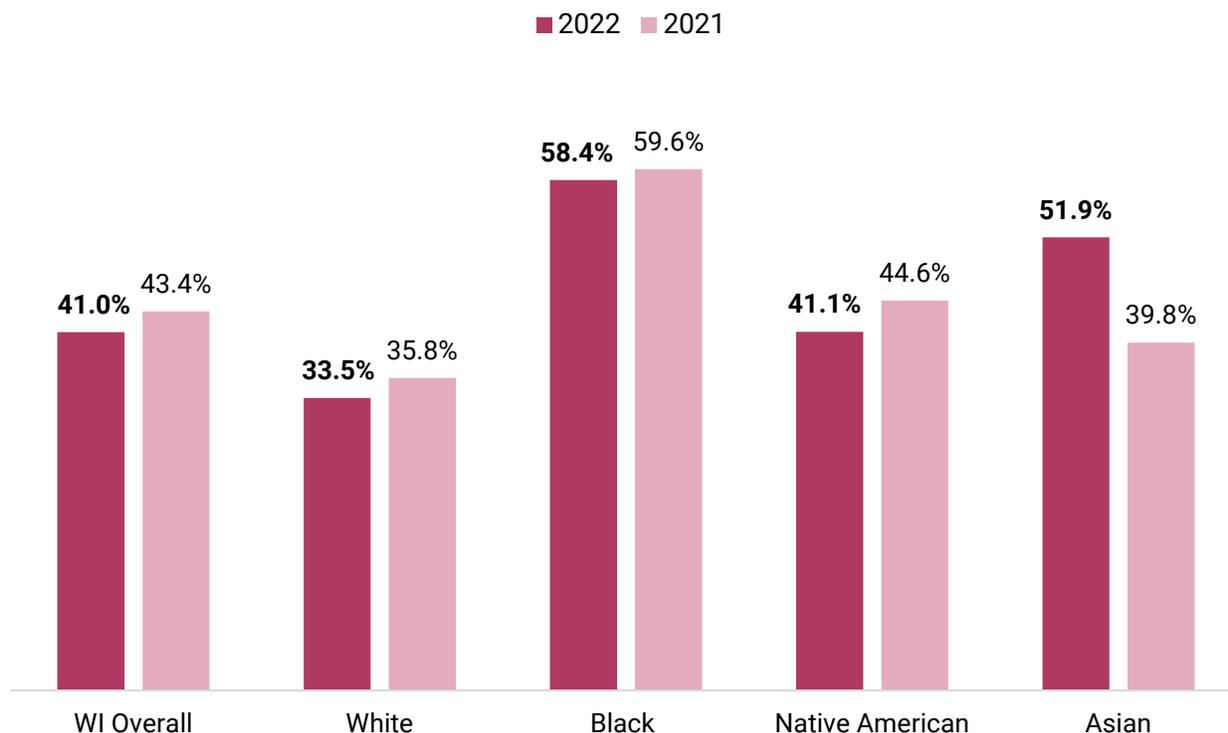
High rates of youth referred for delinquency did not correspond with subsequently high rates of delinquency referrals recommended for formal court processing. Again, it should be noted that intake recommendations may not be reflective of recommendations from prosecutors, nor the actual disposition of a YJ case.

- Statewide, approximately 43% percent of all delinquency referrals were recommended by YJ intake for formal petition (Fig. 17).
- Lafayette and Milwaukee had the highest rate of delinquency-referred youth recommended by YJ intake for formal petition, with close to 80% of youth referred for delinquency in those counties recommended to be petitioned to court (Fig. 18).

A table containing the rate of delinquency referrals recommended for a formal petition to court for each county in Wisconsin can be found in [Appendix D](#).

Figure 17

2022 Delinquency Referrals: Rates of Formal Petition Recommended by YJ Intake Professionals



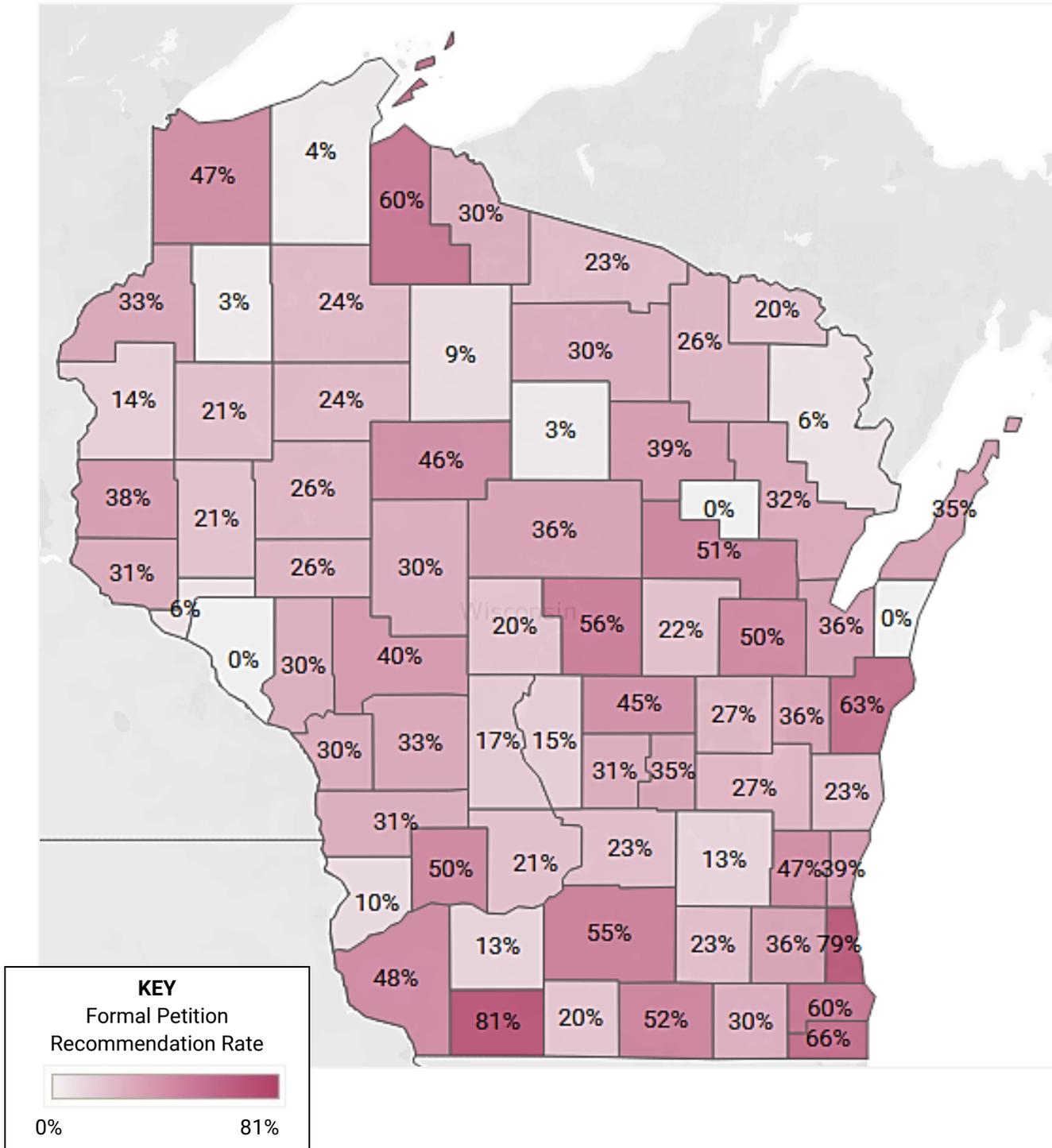
There are differences among youth recommended to be petitioned to court based on their primary race.

- Over half of Black and Asian youth referred for delinquency in 2022 were recommended to be formally petitioned to court – rates much higher than the state’s average.
- While the rate of Asian youth referred for delinquency was low (Fig. 14), the rate at which those same youth were recommended to be formally petitioned to court increased by 30% in 2022.
- White youth were recommended to be formally petitioned to court at a rate lower than the state’s average.

This suggests youth of color in Wisconsin are also less likely to experience “pre-court diversion,” which results in deeper involvement in the state’s YJ system than their White peers.

Figure 18

2022 Rate of Delinquency Referrals Recommended for Formal Petition by YJ Intake Professionals in Wisconsin Counties



Appendix A

Data Notes and Limitations

This report provides a limited snapshot of information collected from early decision points in Wisconsin's YJ system – specifically characteristics of youth referred to the YJ system and YJ referral details. While decisions are made at many points in the state's youth justice system, only referral and intake information are currently tracked uniformly in the statewide centralized case management system (eWiSACWIS).

Data Source: Wisconsin began collecting intake and referral data in eWiSACWIS in the middle of CY 2018. This report is a description of data from CY 2022, the fourth full year of available data in eWiSACWIS. Because information included is pulled from live case records, it is possible for small shifts in total counts to occur over time. In some sections of the report, a small number of records were excluded from analysis if data was missing, or entry errors were suspected.

Variation in County Practice: Wisconsin's YJ system is state supervised, and county administered, which accounts for some variability across the state in the implementation of intake procedures and YJ referral and intake data. This includes location of intake function (attached to the county human service agency or the local circuit court), diversion practices, tracking of municipal violations, and use of assessment tools like the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) as part of the intake process.

COVID-19: While this report is not intended to draw definitive conclusions about referrals to youth justice and the pandemic, the uncertainty and disruption of this period had an impact on county human service agencies across the state, especially during CY 2020. To fully understand the impact of the pandemic on YJ outcomes, DCF will continue to assess trends in future reports.

State and County Youth Populations: Estimates of the general youth population in the state of Wisconsin and its counties are pulled from [OJJDP's EZAPOP](#) and are reflective of the most recent year of data available at time of publication. To reflect the jurisdiction of Wisconsin's juvenile court, this youth population estimate is only inclusive of ages 0-16 years. Population estimates included in EZAPOP are derived from data originally collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and modified by the National Center for Health Statistics. More information about the [data source](#) is available from OJJDP.

Gender Identity: Gender options reported in eWiSACWIS are derived from federal reporting standards. While [DCF has offered practice suggestions](#) to support LGBTQ+ youth, robust data about youth gender identity is not yet consistently captured in eWiSACWIS.

Race & Ethnicity: Racial and ethnic categories included in eWiSACWIS are derived from federal reporting standards. Therefore, only Hispanic ethnicity and primary race data is included in this report. Primary race is the first race indicated in eWiSACWIS – in situations where a youth identifies with more than one racial category, only the first race selected is included in this report's analysis. General population comparison figures are only available for racial and ethnic data included in OJJDP's EZAPOP.

Tribal Youth Justice Data: Tribes in Wisconsin maintain their own court systems that oversee child protection. Some Tribal Courts also oversee youth justice cases; Tribal Court cases are not tracked in eWiSACWIS. In this report "Native American" is used as a descriptor of race and is not indicative of the political status related to an Indian youth's tribal citizenship.

Municipal/Civil Ordinance Violations and Ticketing: Municipal or county jurisdiction over young people alleged to have violated a civil law or ordinance is determined by the referral source. Violation of municipal ordinances often results in a ticket and may or may not also result in a referral to the YJ system. Because municipal ordinances vary by county and ticketing and data tracking for these referrals can vary by county, this data is not uniformly tracked in eWiSACWIS. Therefore, this report does not include all instances of ordinance or civil law violations, nor does it include ticketing data.

Status Offenses: This report is not organized in a way that identifies “status offenses,” which are offenses that would not be considered criminal if committed by an adult. Common examples of status offenses include truancy and running away from home. As the definition of JIPS implies, some common status offenses fall in offense categories associated with JIPS truancy and JIPS non-truancy referrals.

YJ Intake Recommendation, Prosecutor Recommendation, and Court Disposition: There are three important decision points at the end of the intake process. The first is a recommendation made by YJ intake professionals about how a case should proceed after conducting an initial screening and assessment and reviewing a referral. The second is the recommendation from prosecutors – who can choose to override the recommendation of YJ intake – about how a case should proceed. And the third is the actual disposition from the court, which may vary from the recommendations made by YJ intake and/or the District Attorney/Corporation Counsel’s office. Until recently, only YJ intake recommendations were tracked uniformly across the state in eWiSACWIS. We intend to include data from these other two data points in future reports.

Appendix B

Structure of Wisconsin's Youth Justice System

The YJ system in Wisconsin is state supervised and county administered. Along with the Department of Children and families, two other state agencies – the Department of Justice and the Department of Corrections – are also accountable for elements of the state's YJ system:

- **Department of Children and Families (DCF):** DCF has primary responsibility for fiscal and programmatic oversight of Wisconsin's community-based justice system. This oversight includes development of standards of practice, training (including juvenile intake training), data collection and analysis, program monitoring, technical assistance to counties, and fiscal administration of Youth Aids funds.
- **Department of Justice (DOJ):** DOJ ensures statewide coordination and compliance with federal programming, grants, and reporting including the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) and the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. DOJ is also the Designated State Agency responsible for coordination of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission (GJJ C), which is the Statewide Advisory Group responsible for administering federal Title II, Part B, formula grant funds and maintaining compliance with the four core requirements in the JJDP A.
- **Department of Corrections (DOC):** DOC operates and oversees secure juvenile correctional facilities, oversees the Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) program, and provides supervision after release from a juvenile correctional facility to SJO and certain other youth. DOC is also responsible for inspecting county-run secure juvenile detention facilities.

Counties determine and maintain the structure of their courts and the human service agencies that provide YJ services according to the requirements detailed in Wis. Stats. Chapter 938, DCF Administrative Rules, and the state's Youth Justice standards.

Appendix C

YJ Referrals by County

Information included in this table includes the total youth referred, YJ referrals, referral types, and rate of delinquency referrals per 1,000 youth organized by Wisconsin county. The number of referrals and youth referred is highly dependent on county-level factors such as population size and organizational structure of youth justice intake, as well as local variations in the justice system and youth-serving organizations.

County	General Youth Pop.	TOTAL		YJ REFERRAL TYPE				Referrals per 1,000 Youth Delinq. Only
		YJ Referred Youth	YJ Referrals	JIPS Truancy	JIPS Non-Truancy	Ord/Civ. Law Viol.	Delinq.	
Adams	1,419	57	104	0.00%	2.88%	0.00%	97.12%	43
Ashland	1,617	68	107	23.36%	0.00%	0.00%	76.64%	35
Barron	4,462	75	93	23.66%	1.08%	0.00%	75.27%	15
Bayfield	1,220	30	36	25.00%	0.00%	2.78%	72.22%	22
Brown	28,527	401	693	0.14%	0.58%	0.00%	100.00%	16
Buffalo	1,254	9	10	40.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	5
Burnett	1,265	44	54	20.37%	0.00%	0.00%	79.63%	32
Calumet	5,757	72	108	27.78%	4.63%	0.93%	67.59%	10
Chippewa	6,721	202	266	36.47%	0.75%	0.38%	62.41%	20
Clark	4,546	57	106	5.66%	0.00%	0.94%	93.40%	13
Columbia	5,700	135	203	15.27%	4.93%	0.00%	79.31%	21
Crawford	1,615	46	62	19.35%	3.23%	17.74%	66.13%	22
Dane	49,783	385	587	0.17%	0.17%	0.00%	99.66%	9
Dodge	8,487	136	182	25.82%	1.10%	0.00%	73.08%	12
Door	2,291	44	62	20.97%	1.61%	0.00%	79.03%	17
Douglas	4,031	122	155	32.26%	1.94%	0.00%	65.81%	22
Dunn	4,085	95	123	41.46%	0.00%	3.25%	58.54%	17
Eau Claire	9,510	233	413	11.14%	13.32%	0.00%	77.24%	20
Florence	300	5	5	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	19
Fond Du Lac	10,470	256	363	15.70%	0.55%	0.00%	83.75%	22
Forest	738	37	47	0.00%	2.13%	0.00%	97.87%	58
Grant	4,982	88	134	2.99%	5.22%	2.24%	90.30%	18
Green	4,004	46	65	6.15%	7.69%	0.00%	86.15%	11
Green Lake	1,968	47	68	7.35%	2.94%	0.00%	91.18%	24
Iowa	2,567	45	77	16.88%	2.60%	0.00%	80.52%	14
Iron	454	10	11	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%	23
Jackson	2,034	118	143	59.44%	4.20%	0.00%	36.36%	24
Jefferson	8,549	165	301	6.31%	0.33%	0.00%	94.02%	20
Juneau	2,545	36	42	9.52%	4.76%	0.00%	85.71%	14
Kenosha	17,932	363	446	33.41%	3.36%	0.00%	62.56%	14
Kewaunee	2,060	41	51	21.57%	0.00%	0.00%	78.43%	19

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La Crosse	10,990	143	267	0.00%	3.37%	0.00%	95.88%	14
Lafayette	1,837	19	24	29.17%	4.17%	0.00%	66.67%	7
Langlade	1,739	40	64	6.25%	4.69%	0.00%	89.06%	23
Lincoln	2,407	55	70	8.57%	4.29%	0.00%	87.14%	24
Manitowoc	7,692	114	203	0.00%	0.99%	0.00%	99.01%	17
Marathon	14,515	263	406	3.69%	0.74%	0.00%	95.57%	20
Marinette	3,672	74	113	13.27%	25.66%	0.00%	61.06%	16
Marquette	1,420	26	37	0.00%	0.00%	2.70%	97.30%	20
Menominee	657	2	3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	3
Milwaukee	97,846	1,065	1512	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	12
Monroe	5,335	108	163	4.91%	0.00%	0.00%	95.09%	22
Oconto	3,688	66	96	8.33%	2.08%	3.13%	90.63%	18
Oneida	2,877	71	113	4.42%	14.16%	0.00%	81.42%	24
Outagamie	20,111	318	463	29.81%	3.67%	0.00%	66.74%	11
Ozaukee	9,111	66	84	2.38%	0.00%	0.00%	97.62%	8
Pepin	728	17	20	5.00%	0.00%	15.00%	80.00%	24
Pierce	4,373	67	107	23.36%	6.54%	0.00%	69.16%	11
Polk	4,456	56	64	7.81%	3.13%	0.00%	89.06%	12
Portage	6,348	77	100	6.00%	3.00%	0.00%	90.00%	12
Price	1,153	22	29	13.79%	6.90%	0.00%	79.31%	19
Racine	20,541	200	276	1.09%	0.00%	0.00%	98.91%	11
Richland	1,879	14	16	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	8
Rock	17,343	330	598	0.33%	7.02%	0.00%	92.47%	21
Rusk	1,356	49	58	36.21%	0.00%	0.00%	63.79%	24
Saint Croix	10,787	158	211	19.91%	15.17%	0.95%	63.51%	11
Sauk	6,784	134	201	4.98%	1.49%	0.50%	93.03%	21
Sawyer	1,545	55	66	3.03%	0.00%	3.03%	93.94%	37
Shawano	4,180	76	139	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	21
Sheboygan	12,051	252	400	4.25%	0.50%	0.00%	95.25%	22
Taylor	2,328	33	40	10.00%	2.50%	0.00%	87.50%	14
Trempealeau	3,323	55	69	21.74%	0.00%	0.00%	78.26%	15
Vernon	3,721	26	33	3.03%	0.00%	0.00%	96.97%	8
Vilas	1,722	78	129	0.00%	0.78%	0.00%	99.22%	52
Walworth	10,389	129	180	8.89%	1.67%	0.56%	88.33%	13
Washburn	1,441	27	35	2.86%	2.86%	0.00%	94.29%	21
Washington	14,421	232	325	6.15%	0.31%	0.00%	93.54%	17
Waukesha	41,890	409	601	22.46%	15.14%	1.83%	60.57%	6
Waupaca	4,967	76	115	1.74%	1.74%	0.00%	96.52%	17
Waushara	2,008	33	43	23.26%	0.00%	0.00%	76.74%	13
Winnebago	15,859	391	794	11.96%	13.60%	0.00%	76.07%	22
Wood	7,358	262	504	9.33%	18.06%	0.00%	74.21%	33

Appendix D

YJ Intake Recommendations for Delinquency Referrals by County

Information included in this table includes the total delinquency referrals and YJ intake recommendations for delinquency referrals, organized by Wisconsin county. The number of referrals received are highly dependent on county-level factors such as population size and organizational structure of youth justice intake, as well as local variations in the justice system and youth-serving organizations. It is also important to note that recommendations from YJ intake may not reflect the actual outcome of a YJ case.

County	General Youth Pop	Total Delinquency Referrals	DELINQUENCY REFERRAL INTAKE RECOMMENDATIONS		
			Close Case	DPA	Formal Petition
Adams	1,419	101	82.18%	2.97%	14.85%
Ashland	1,617	82	17.07%	15.85%	59.76%
Barron	4,462	70	57.14%	20.00%	21.43%
Bayfield	1,220	26	61.54%	34.62%	3.85%
Brown	28,527	693	48.77%	13.85%	36.36%
Buffalo	1,254	6	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Burnett	1,265	43	58.14%	9.30%	32.56%
Calumet	5,757	73	39.73%	23.29%	35.62%
Chippewa	6,721	166	40.96%	31.33%	25.90%
Clark	4,546	99	40.40%	28.28%	30.30%
Columbia	5,700	161	65.84%	10.56%	22.98%
Crawford	1,615	41	53.66%	36.59%	9.76%
Dane	49,783	585	26.84%	17.61%	54.70%
Dodge	8,487	133	66.17%	16.54%	12.78%
Door	2,291	49	38.78%	22.45%	34.69%
Douglas	4,031	102	35.29%	17.65%	47.06%
Dunn	4,085	72	59.72%	18.06%	20.83%
Eau Claire	9,510	319	66.14%	6.58%	26.33%
Florence	300	5	0.00%	80.00%	20.00%
Fond Du Lac	10,470	304	48.36%	20.39%	26.64%
Forest	738	46	43.48%	8.70%	26.09%
Grant	4,982	121	52.07%	0.00%	47.93%
Green	4,004	56	51.79%	28.57%	19.64%
Green Lake	1,968	62	40.32%	22.58%	35.48%
Iowa	2,567	62	54.84%	30.65%	12.90%
Iron	454	10	60.00%	10.00%	30.00%
Jackson	2,034	52	28.85%	30.77%	40.38%
Jefferson	8,549	283	67.49%	6.71%	23.32%
Juneau	2,545	36	69.44%	11.11%	16.67%
Kenosha	17,932	279	12.90%	20.79%	65.95%
Kewaunee	2,060	40	60.00%	35.00%	0.00%
La Crosse	10,990	256	47.27%	21.88%	30.47%

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Lafayette	1,837	16	12.50%	6.25%	81.25%
Langlade	1,739	57	19.30%	33.33%	38.60%
Lincoln	2,407	61	80.33%	16.39%	3.28%
Manitowoc	7,692	201	26.87%	9.45%	63.18%
Marathon	14,515	388	38.66%	23.97%	35.57%
Marinette	3,672	69	55.07%	37.68%	5.80%
Marquette	1,420	36	47.22%	22.22%	30.56%
Menominee	657	3	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Milwaukee	97,846	1512	15.01%	4.43%	78.70%
Monroe	5,335	155	43.87%	20.00%	32.90%
Oconto	3,688	87	45.98%	21.84%	32.18%
Oneida	2,877	92	43.48%	26.09%	30.43%
Outagamie	20,111	309	33.01%	14.89%	50.16%
Ozaukee	9,111	82	45.12%	15.85%	39.02%
Pepin	728	16	75.00%	18.75%	6.25%
Pierce	4,373	74	45.95%	22.97%	31.08%
Polk	4,456	57	59.65%	26.32%	14.04%
Portage	6,348	90	22.22%	21.11%	55.56%
Price	1,153	23	13.04%	78.26%	8.70%
Racine	20,541	273	25.27%	11.72%	59.71%
Richland	1,879	16	37.50%	6.25%	50.00%
Rock	17,343	553	37.61%	8.32%	52.26%
Rusk	1,356	37	21.62%	54.05%	24.32%
Saint Croix	10,787	134	34.33%	26.87%	38.06%
Sauk	6,784	187	67.38%	11.23%	21.39%
Sawyer	1,545	62	29.03%	45.16%	24.19%
Shawano	4,180	139	42.45%	6.47%	51.08%
Sheboygan	12,051	381	53.81%	22.57%	22.83%
Taylor	2,328	35	0.00%	48.57%	45.71%
Trempealeau	3,323	54	42.59%	24.07%	29.63%
Vernon	3,721	32	53.13%	15.63%	31.25%
Vilas	1,722	128	46.09%	27.34%	23.44%
Walworth	10,389	159	40.88%	27.67%	30.19%
Washburn	1,441	33	69.70%	27.27%	3.03%
Washington	14,421	304	40.13%	12.50%	47.37%
Waukesha	41,890	364	53.02%	8.52%	36.26%
Waupaca	4,967	111	59.46%	18.02%	21.62%
Waushara	2,008	33	54.55%	0.00%	45.45%
Winnebago	15,859	604	67.72%	4.64%	26.99%
Wood	7,358	374	56.68%	21.66%	20.05%



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Bureau of Youth Services at 608-422-6948. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.