



# Wisconsin Youth Justice Referrals and Intake Report for Calendar Year 2023

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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) 2023. This report will give readers information that will support their understanding of several early decision points in Wisconsin's community based YJ system.

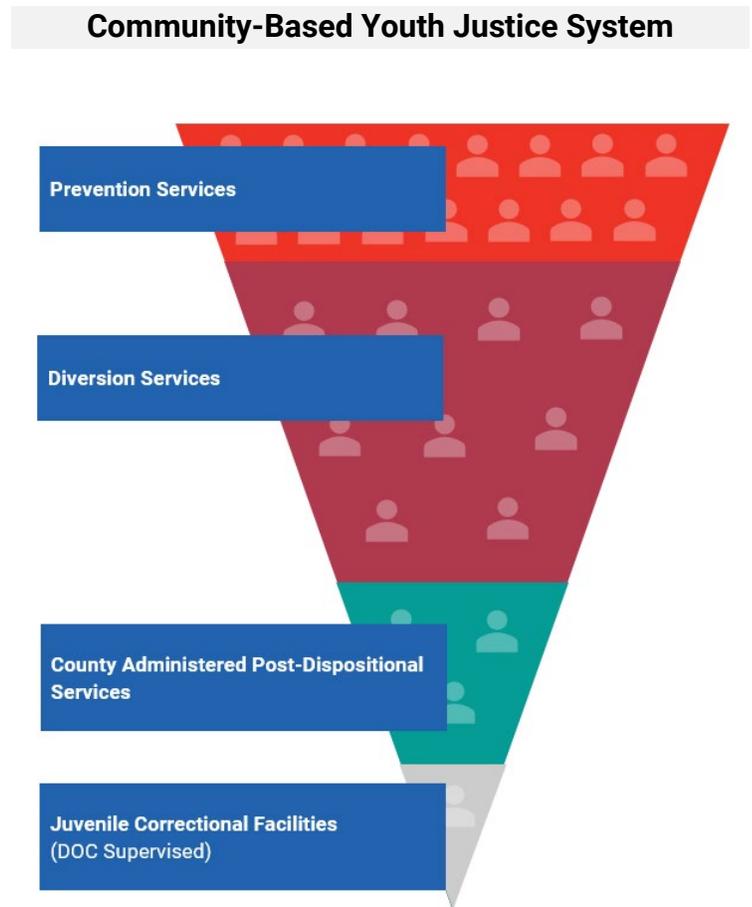
## Wisconsin's Youth Justice System

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](#).



## Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

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](#).

### ■ Interstate compact for juveniles (ICJ)

A legal agreement between states to transfer a youth's supervision from one state to another and to return youth who have run away from home. This compact includes requirements for supervision and return of juveniles who:

1. Are on supervision, or have escaped to another state
2. Ran away from home and left their state of residence
3. Have been accused of an offense in another state

More jurisdiction information can be found in [Wis. Stat. § 938.14](#).

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).

## YJ Referral Types

The five 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](#)

■ **Interstate compact for juveniles (ICJ)**, [Wis. Stat. § 938.14](#).

## YJ Intake

Intake is an entry point to the community-based YJ system for Wisconsin youth under the age of 17<sup>1</sup>. 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<sup>2</sup>. 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, collect additional information from parents, guardians, schools, and community partners, and schedule an intake inquiry with the youth and their family if additional information about the alleged offense is needed. YJ professionals then use this information to make one of the following recommendations for the direction of the case: the case may be diverted with a case closure or deferred prosecution agreement (DPA), or it may be formally petitioned 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 responsivity factors can be an effective strategy<sup>3</sup>.

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Additional details about diversion from youth justice can be found in this [2017 OJJDP literature review](#) and this 2013 [meta-analysis](#).

## Messages from Youth with Lived Experience

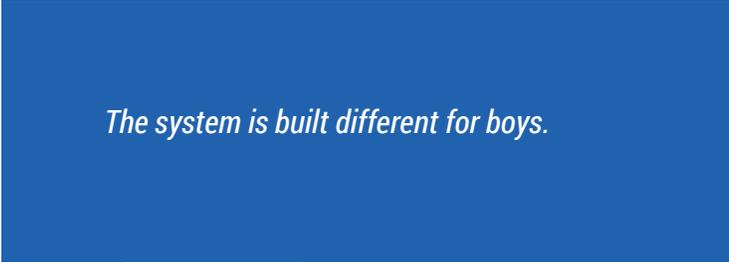
This report also includes voices of youth with lived experience in the youth justice system. Several representatives from across the state (referred to throughout the report as *Youth Leaders*) with direct experience in Wisconsin's YJ system assisted in the analysis of key pieces of data during a Youth Leadership Team (YLT) meeting in October 2024.

DCF staff worked together with Youth Leaders to better understand challenges in the system and identify areas where the Bureau of Youth Services could make improvements. Drawing from their own experiences with the system, youth discussed the fairness of the YJ system. Insights they shared include:

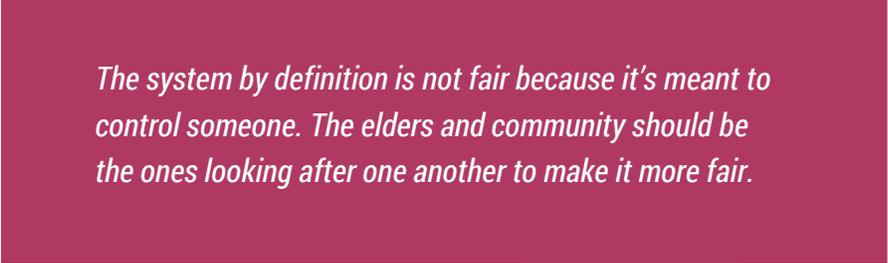
- The YJ system is difficult for youth to navigate.
- The YJ system feels punitive and like it is built to control; greater involvement from community is needed in caring for youth.
- There are gender and racial biases in the YJ system.

Additionally, Youth Leaders expressed a need for more detailed data and research on the YJ system including:

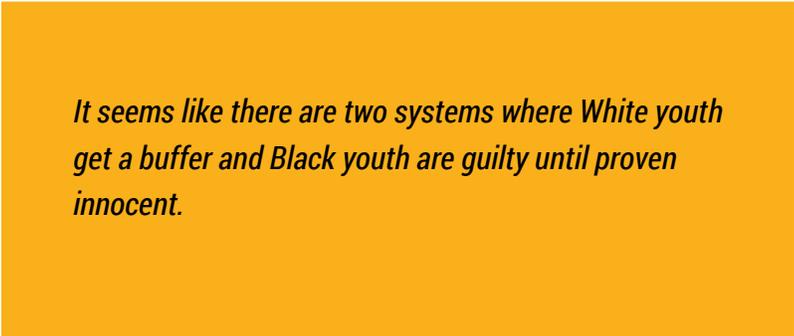
- Inclusion of more diverse gender identities in our analysis.
- Collection of recidivism data in order to better understand the factors contributing to recidivism.



*The system is built different for boys.*



*The system by definition is not fair because it's meant to control someone. The elders and community should be the ones looking after one another to make it more fair.*



*It seems like there are two systems where White youth get a buffer and Black youth are guilty until proven innocent.*

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 2023. 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 2023, county human service agencies logged 13,796 YJ referrals for 8,630 unique youth into eWiSACWIS. While there was a slight decrease in youth referred and referrals received in 2023, many statewide trends were like those observed in 2022.

### Youth Characteristics

- Most youth referred to the YJ system were between ages 14 and 16 in 2023.
- While the proportion of girls referred for delinquency slightly increased this year, girls continue to be referred to the YJ system for JIPS concerns at a rate higher than their male peers.
- Black and Native American youth continue to be overrepresented among youth referred to the YJ system.
- YJ-referred youth continue to experience Out-of-Home Care (OHC) at a higher rate than the general youth population in Wisconsin. Youth leaders described their experience in OHC – especially detention placements – as impactful, stressful, and traumatizing.

### Referral Details & Intake Recommendations

- The most popular referral type in 2023 was delinquency, which accounted for almost 90% of referrals received in 2023.
- ICJ referrals were included in this report for the first time this year. This referral type is not used frequently – less than 1% of referrals received had referral type ICJ.
- Disorderly conduct offenses increased in 2023 and were once again associated with the most YJ referrals of *any* YJ referral type. This offense encompasses a range of behaviors that may vary slightly by county.
- Black and Native American youth continue to be referred for delinquency at rates significantly higher than the state's average.
- Over half of all Black and Asian youth referred for delinquency in 2023 were recommended to be formally petitioned to court – this rate is much higher than the state's average.

# 2023 Youth Characteristics

## Total Youth Referred

8,630 youth received at least one referral (of any type) to the YJ system in 2023.

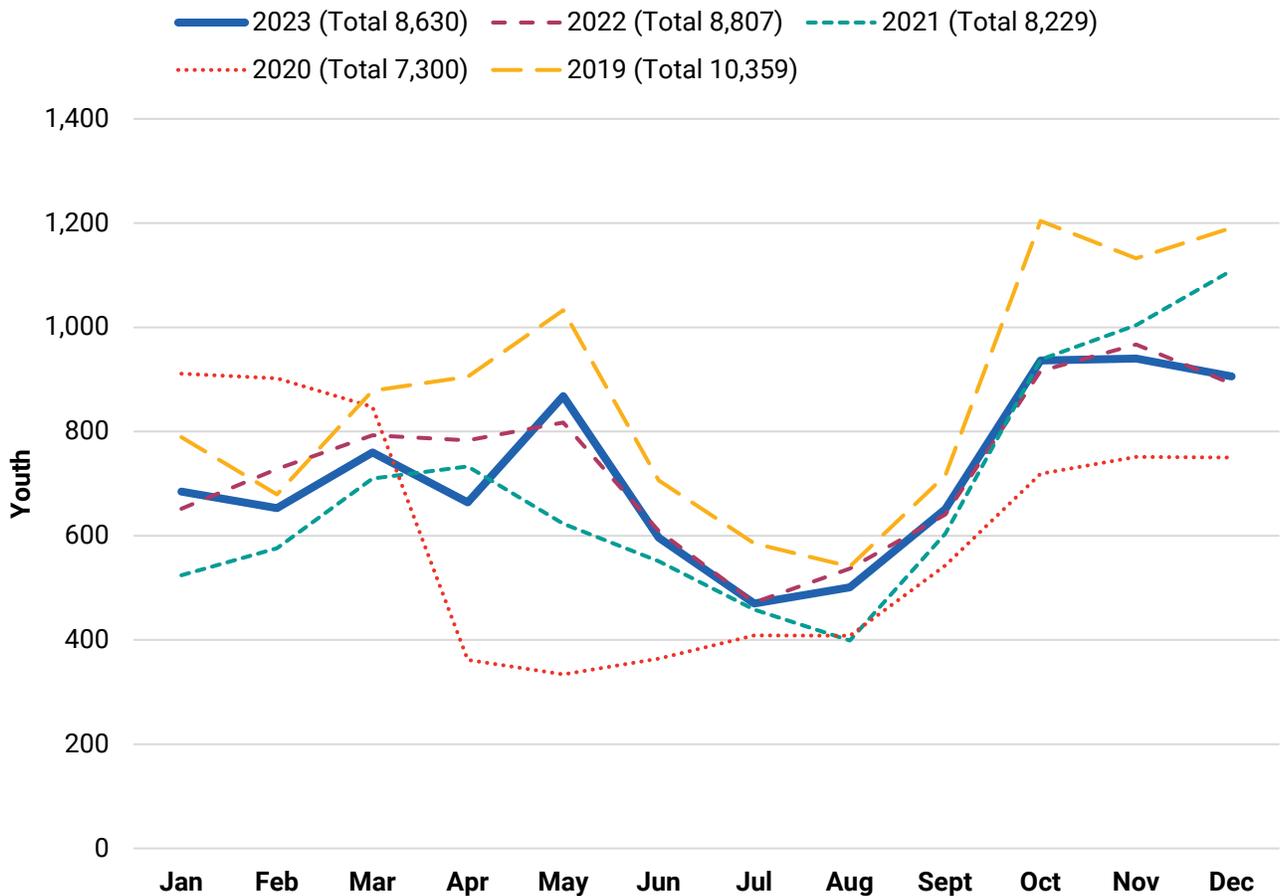
Figure 1 illustrates the number of youths referred to YJ by month in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. In 2023, there was a slight decrease in youth referred to the YJ system.

Youth with at least one YJ referral in 2023

# 8,630

Figure 1

### 2019-2023 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

While the overall count of youth referred to the YJ system has varied by year, we have observed similar proportions of male, female, and gender unknown youth since 2019.

- About 2/3 of referred youth were identified as male (Fig. 2).
- Youth whose gender was unknown accounted for slightly less than 2% of youth referred in 2023.

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 were referred for JIPS at a rate much higher than their male peers.

Youth Leaders felt boys are treated unfairly by the YJ system. They shared a feeling that the system has a bias that results in males being treated more harshly than females.

Figure 2

### 2023 YJ Referred Youth by Gender

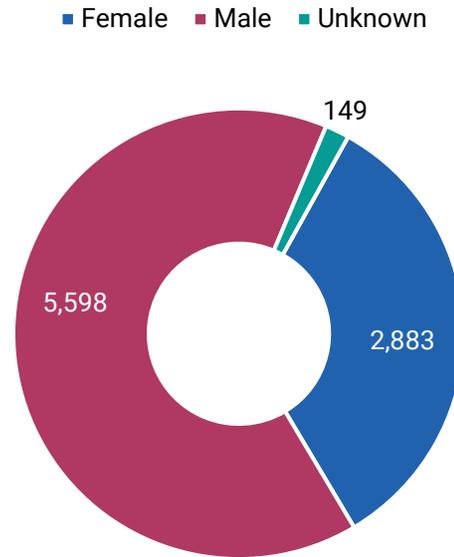
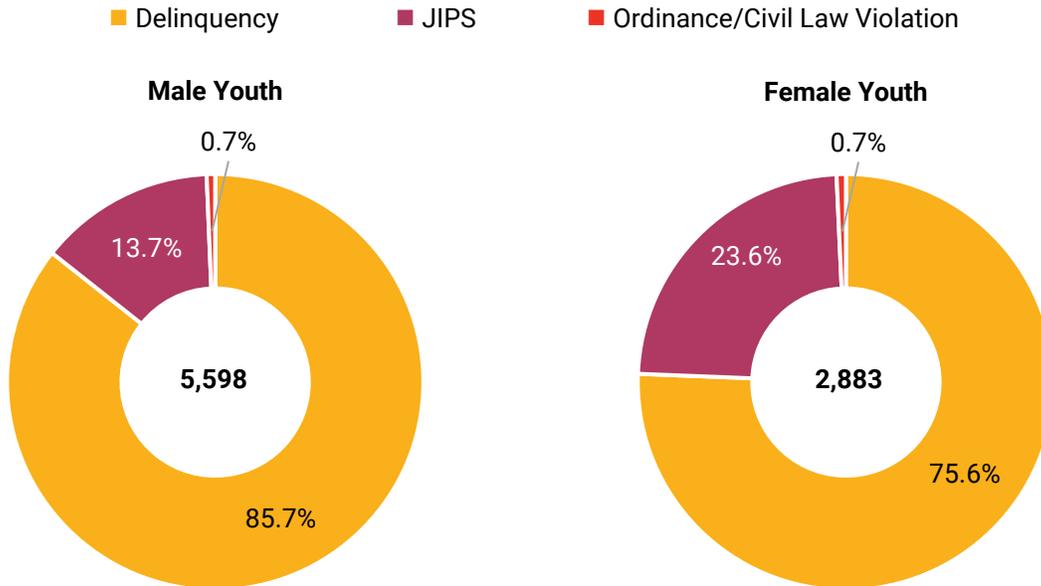


Figure 3

### Distribution of 2023 YJ Referral Types by Youth Gender



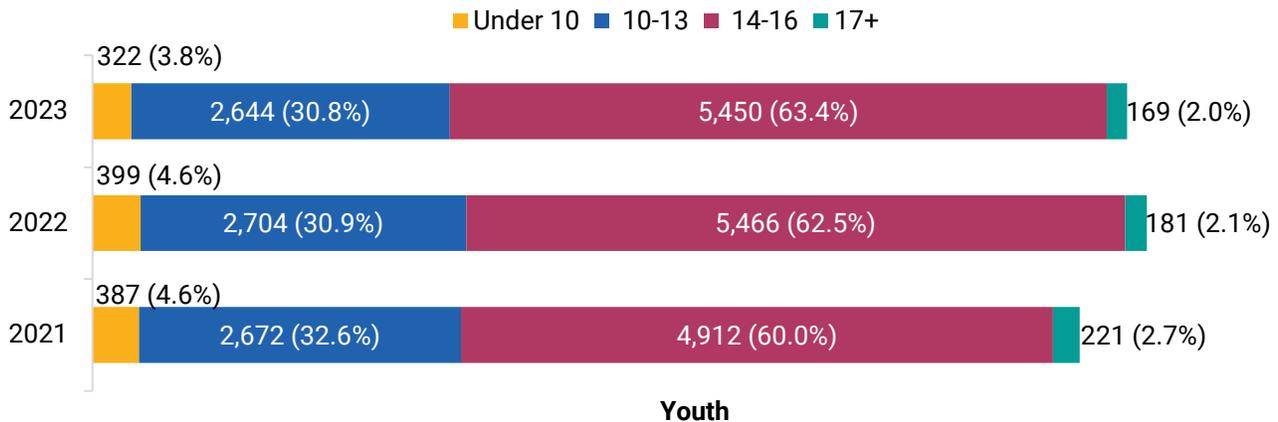
## Age

The distribution of age at first YJ referral in 2023 was like distributions from previous years (Fig. 4).

- Youth aged 14-16 account for at least 60% of all YJ-referred youth.
- The proportion of youth who were age 13 or under at first YJ referral continued to shrink in 2023.

Figure 4

### 2019-2023 Percentage & Count of Youth at First YJ Referral by Age Group

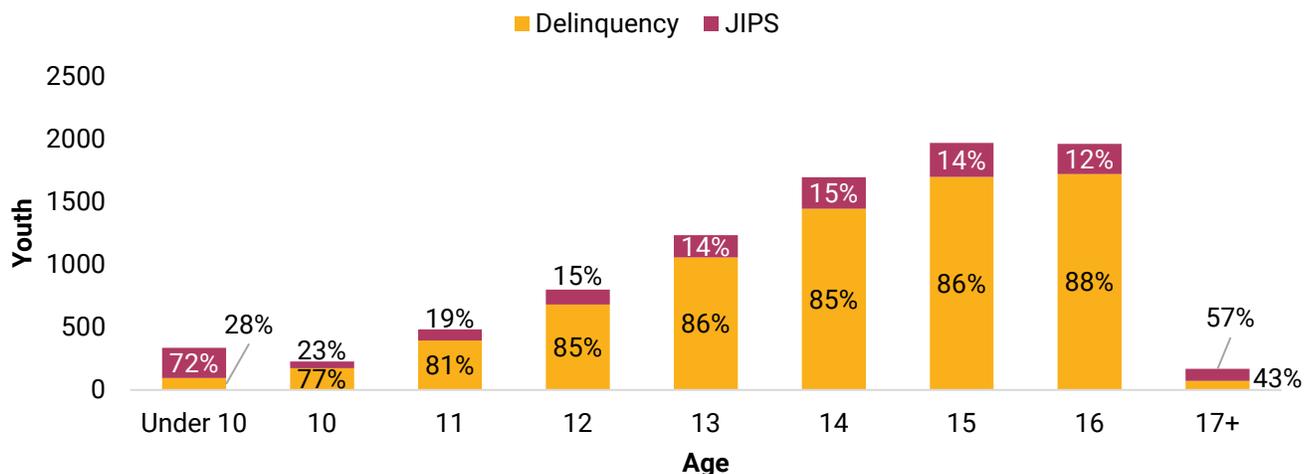


Youth Leaders shared between 14-16, youth “might try to get themselves a name and make an impression on people,” or “might not be interacting with people who are the best influence.” They also shared thinking is different at age 15-16, which could impact decision-making skills and result in contact with the YJ system.

- The most common age at first referral in 2023 was age 15 (Fig. 5), followed closely by age 16.
- The highest rate of JIPS offenses were received for youth under age 10<sup>4</sup>.

Figure 5

### Youth Age at First 2023 YJ Referral by Referral Type



<sup>4</sup> 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.

## Race and Ethnicity

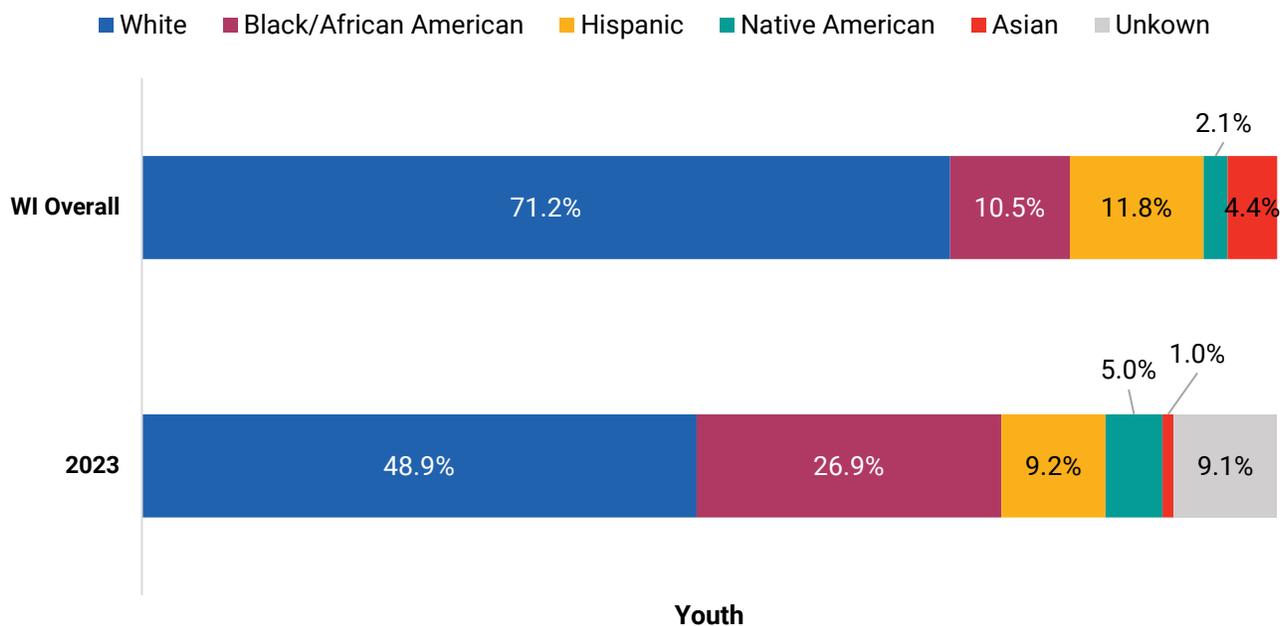
The Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDP) requires states to identify and address Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED), or differences in youth justice involvement for different racial and/or ethnic groups<sup>5</sup>. Both racial biases woven into the justice system and offending patterns within racial groups have been found by researchers to contribute to disproportionate involvement in the YJ system<sup>6</sup>. In a justice system that is truly equitable, rates of system contact across racial groups would look more like the racial composition of the state’s general youth population.

- The largest percentage of youth referred to the YJ system in 2023 were identified as White (Fig. 6).
- In 2023, the percentage of Black and Native American youth referred to YJ far exceeds the overall percentage of Black and Native American youth residing in the state.
- About 9% of youth referred to YJ were identified as Hispanic (Table 1).
- While the number of youth with race or ethnicity unknown (entered in eWiSACWIS as “not documented” or “unable to determine”) shrank in 2023, rates still remain high enough that they have an impact on DCF’s ability to more reliably assess and monitor disproportionality over time<sup>7</sup>.

This overrepresentation is consistent with state YJ referral trends over the past five years. Youth Leaders feel like there are two YJ systems in the state – one where White youth get the benefit of the doubt, and another where Black youth are considered guilty until proven innocent.

Figure 6

### 2023 YJ Referred Youth by Race & Hispanic Ethnicity



**Wisconsin Youth Population Data Source:** Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2024). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2022." Online. Available: <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop>

<sup>5</sup> Racial disparity reduction has been a requirement of the JJDP since 1988.

<sup>6</sup> More information about Racial and Ethnic Disparities is available in a [Literature Review from OJJDP](#) and this [2013 article in the Minnesota Journal of Law and Inequality](#).

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

Table 1

**2023 YJ Referred Youth by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity**

Race	2023 YJ Referred Youth		General Youth Population (Age 10-16)	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
White	4,875	56.5%	427,799	82.7%
Black/African American	2,372	27.5%	56,690	11.0%
Native American/Alaskan Native	433	5.0%	10,088	2.0%
Asian	76	0.9%	22,936	4.4%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	13	0.2%	--	--
Race Unknown or Not Documented	861	10.0%	--	--
Hispanic Ethnicity	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Hispanic	825	9.6%	66,757	12.9%
Not Hispanic	6,115	70.9%	450,456	87.1%
Hispanic Ethnicity Unknown or Not Documented	1,690	19.6%	--	--

**Wisconsin General Youth Population Data Source:** *Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2024). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2022."* Online. Available: <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop>

## Prior Child Protective Services Contact

This figure offers a high-level view of crossover involvement using data from early decision points in the CPS and YJ processes. While there are varying degrees of dual system involvement, researchers have found even youth with limited involvement in both systems have unique needs<sup>8</sup>.

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 2023.

Data from 2023 reveals most youth referred to YJ were previously referred to CPS:

- 81% of youth had at least 1 referral to CPS prior to first documented YJ referral in 2023.
- 65% of youth had at least 1 CPS referral screened-In prior to first documented YJ referral in 2023.

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

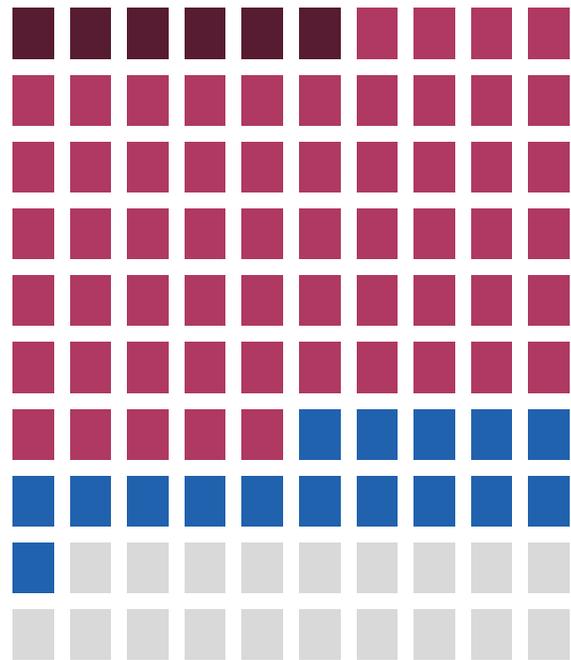
Out-of-Home Care (OHC) is an umbrella term that includes a variety of placements including foster homes, group homes, residential care centers, shelter care facilities, and detention.

Nearly one in five YJ referred youth had experienced at least one OHC placement at any time prior to their first YJ referral in 2023. A smaller population of youth (about 5%) were in OHC at the time of their first YJ referral in 2023. In contrast, less than one percent of the general youth population in Wisconsin had an OHC experience during 2023.

More information about OHC placements can be found in the [OHC dashboard](#). See [Wisconsin Out of Home Care \(OHC\) Report](#) for more details about OHC placement trends.

Figure 7

### 2023 YJ Referred Youth with Prior CPS Referral(s)



#### Prior CPS Referral(s)

- Screened In Only (5.8%)
- Screened In & Screened Out (59.6%)
- Screened Out Only (15.8%)
- No Prior Referral (18.7%)

### Youth with OHC Placement Prior to First 2023 YJ Referral

**17.5%**

### Youth Placed in OHC at Time of First 2023 YJ Referral

**4.8%**

### Wisconsin General Youth Population Placed in OHC in 2023

**<1%**

<sup>8</sup> Crossover between systems is described in more detail in [this report from Evident Change and Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab](#). More information about categories of dual involvement is described in [this 2019 study](#).

## Youth Perspectives on Out-of-Home Care

The most extensive discussion during the October 2023 YLT meeting was around OHC – specifically placement in juvenile detention. Some Youth Leaders who had been placed in OHC described their experience as “stressful,” “traumatizing,” and “makes you feel more crazy.” More detailed responses are included below:

*In my personal experience I wasn't placed out of home when I needed it. They only took me out of the home when I did something wrong.*

*Every time you go, you learn something different.*

*The cycle with jail just keeps going – they put you back in the same place.*

*When your “parent figure” becomes the correction officer – they don't care about you, just if you're “good.” It makes you grow up, for better or worse.*

*[Being in detention] really impacted me and my relationships with my family and specifically my parents...I thought I was grown and didn't need to go to school and my parents couldn't tell me what to do. All of my friends were those that I made in jail. It impacted me greatly because I didn't build a life outside of jail. I built a reputation and relationships up in jail.*

*It's not always negative...can build your body and your mind and use it to get out.*

*Jail/detention is meant to put you back in the same place. It starts small and you do the same thing and then it gets worse.*

# 2023 Referral Details and Intake Recommendations

## Total Referrals

Close to fourteen thousand unique YJ referrals (of any type) were logged into eWiSACWIS in 2023. There was a slight decrease in total referrals received in 2023.

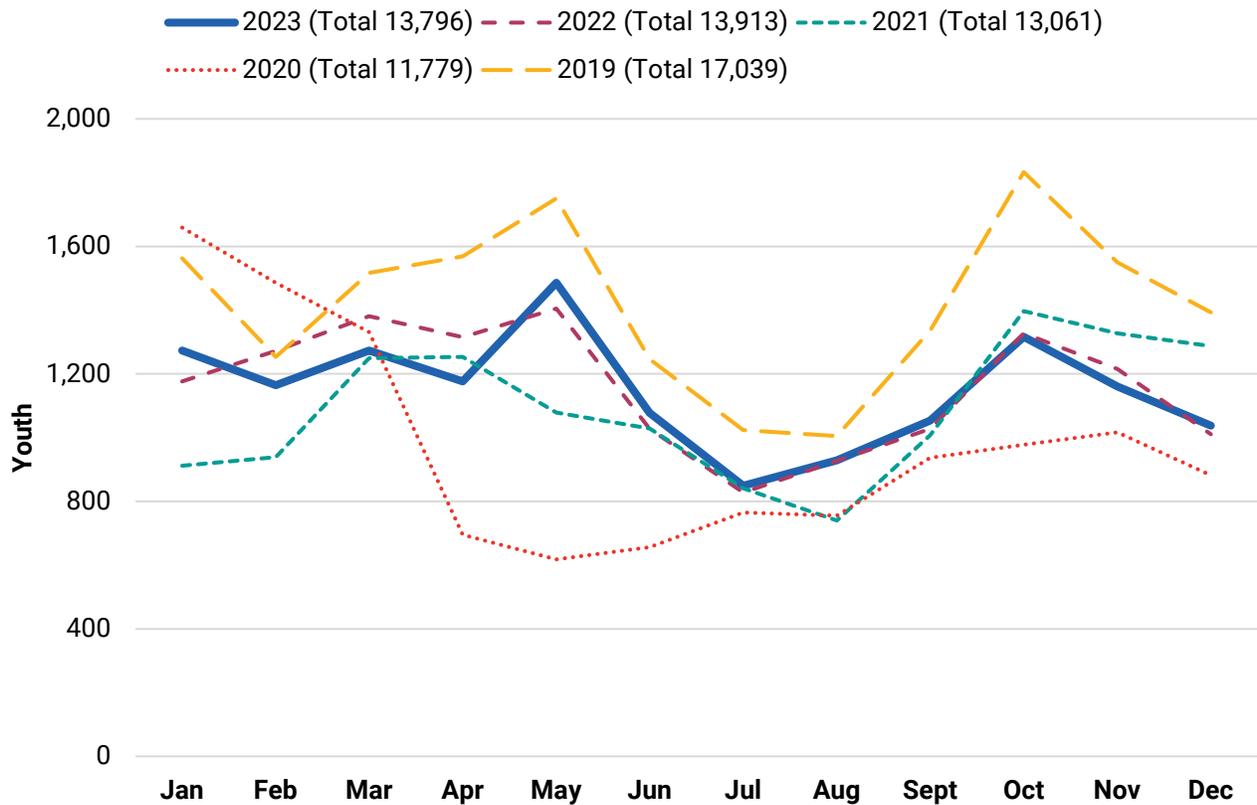
Figure 8 illustrates the number of YJ referrals received by month between 2019 and 2023. While this chart looks similar to Figure 1, the number of referrals received is greater than the number of youth referred because one youth can receive multiple YJ referrals.

**Total YJ Referrals  
Received in 2023**

**13,796**

Figure 8

### Total YJ Referrals: 2019-2023



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

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

- Close to 90% of all YJ referrals in 2023 were for delinquency (Table 2).
- JIPS referrals continued to decrease from 2022 to 2023; truancy referrals decreased by about 16%, while non-truancy referrals decreased by about 14%.
- This is the first year DCF is reporting on interstate compact (ICJ) referrals in this annual report. Statewide, ICJ referrals account for less than 1% of all YJ referrals received in a year.

Table 2

### 2020-2023 YJ Referrals by Type

Referral Type	2023		2022		2021		2020		2019	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Delinquency	86.9%	11,991	84.8%	11,794	81.0%	10,576	82.3%	9,692	83.4%	14,213
JIPS Truancy	9.1%	1,262	10.8%	1,502	13.7%	1,793	11.3%	1,353	11.2%	1,902
JIPS Non-Truancy	3.8%	527	4.4%	611	5.3%	694	6.2%	726	5.3%	907
Ord. Civil Law Violation	0.3%	48	0.3%	47	1.0%	135	1.2%	144	0.9%	161
Interstate Compact	0.1%	14	0.1%	18	0.1%	8	0.1%	11	0.1%	13

Data Note: 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.

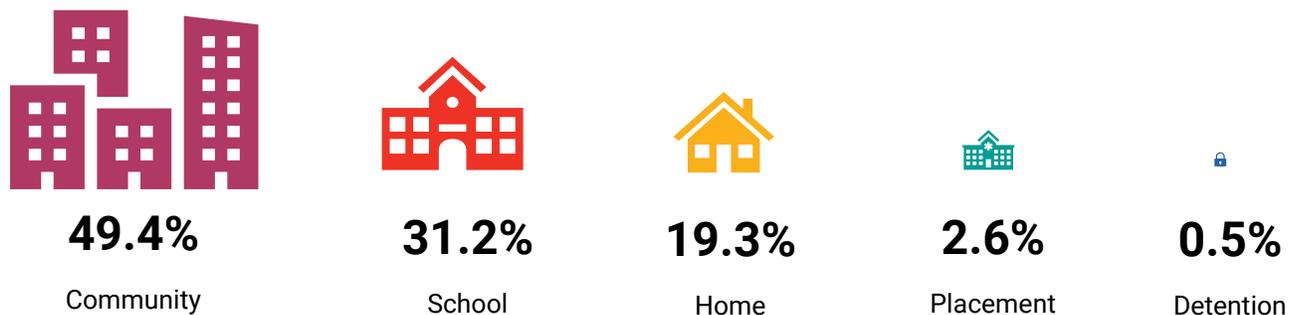
## Referral Locations

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).

- Almost half of referrals logged in 2023 occurred in a community setting (Fig. 9).
- Referrals with the location of school slightly decreased in 2023 from 2022.

Figure 9

### 2023 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 2023, more than 90% of YJ referrals came from law enforcement (Fig. 10).
- The second largest referral source was schools, who are only able to refer youth for habitual truancy.

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.

## 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.

Table 3

### YJ Intake Recommendations: 2019-2023

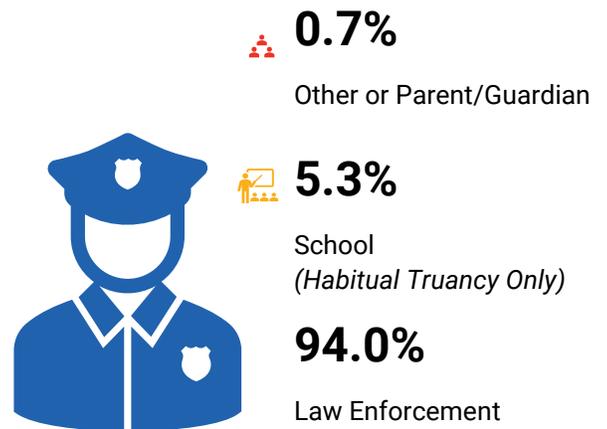
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Close Case	45.2%	44.5%	43.2%	44.6%	44.6%
Deferred Prosecution Agreement	15.6%	16.4%	16.9%	13.2%	15.8%
Formal Petition	37.8%	37.7%	38.7%	40.5%	38.0%

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

In 2023, the most frequent recommendation from human services for all referrals was case closure (Table 3). 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.

Figure 10

### 2023 YJ Referral Sources



## Referral Details

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

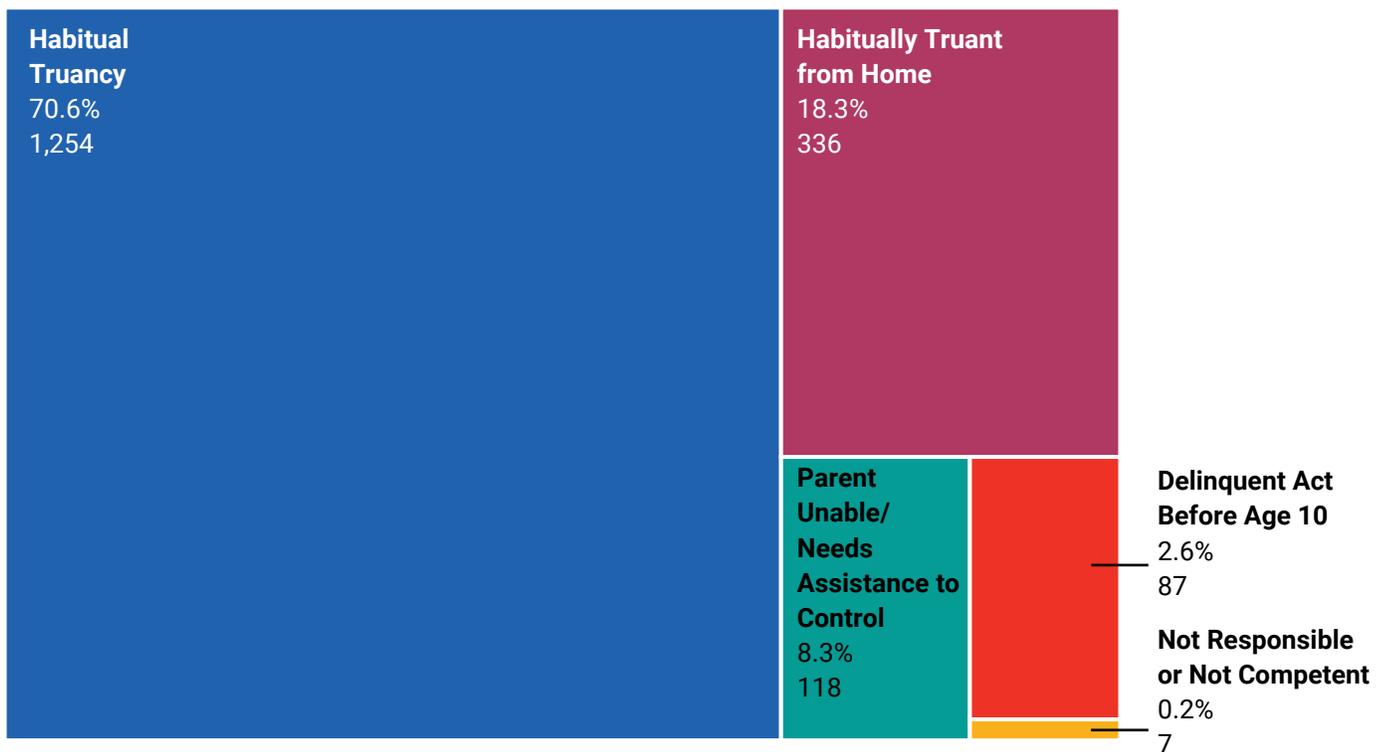
Youth may receive a JIPS referral if certain conditions apply. These conditions include:

- 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 competent<sup>9</sup>.
- 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 are more indicative of a youth’s needs than their risk of future delinquent behavior.

Figure 11

### 2023 JIPS Referrals



JIPS referrals decreased from 2022 to 2023. Habitual truancy continues to account for over two-thirds of all JIPS referrals (Fig. 11), though overall, referrals for truancy also decreased statewide from 2022 to 2023.

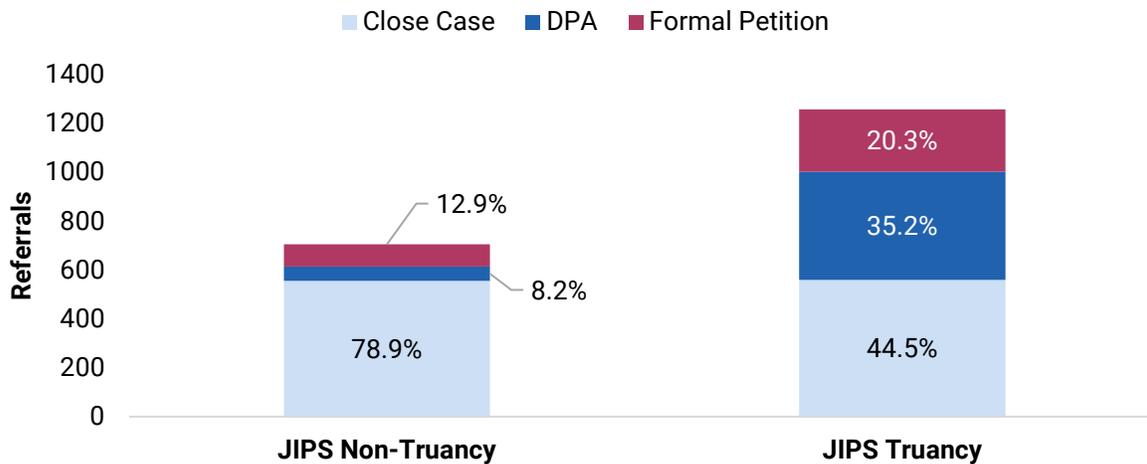
<sup>9</sup> Youth initially referred for delinquency may subsequently be determined to be not responsible or not competent under Wis. Stat. § 938.30(5)(c) and their case should be processed as JIPS.

### 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 (35.2%) which is a diversion strategy some counties use to supervise and offer services to youth without formal court involvement.

Figure 12

#### 2023 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

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.).

Offenses from the society, other, and property offense categories have been included in most delinquency referrals received since 2019 (Table 4).

- In 2023, delinquency referrals most frequently included offenses from the society offense category (included in 51.8% of referrals).
- Violent offenses increased slightly in 2023, however, these offenses continue to account for the smallest number of delinquency referrals received annually.

Table 4

**2019-2023 Delinquency Referrals: Offense Categories**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Society	51.8%	52.2%	52.3%	48.8%	51.3%
Other	45.7%	45.0%	45.6%	42.3%	40.4%
Property	28.1%	27.1%	28.1%	32.6%	28.4%
Drug	6.7%	7.0%	6.0%	6.7%	6.6%
Violent	5.6%	4.8%	4.4%	4.8%	3.7%

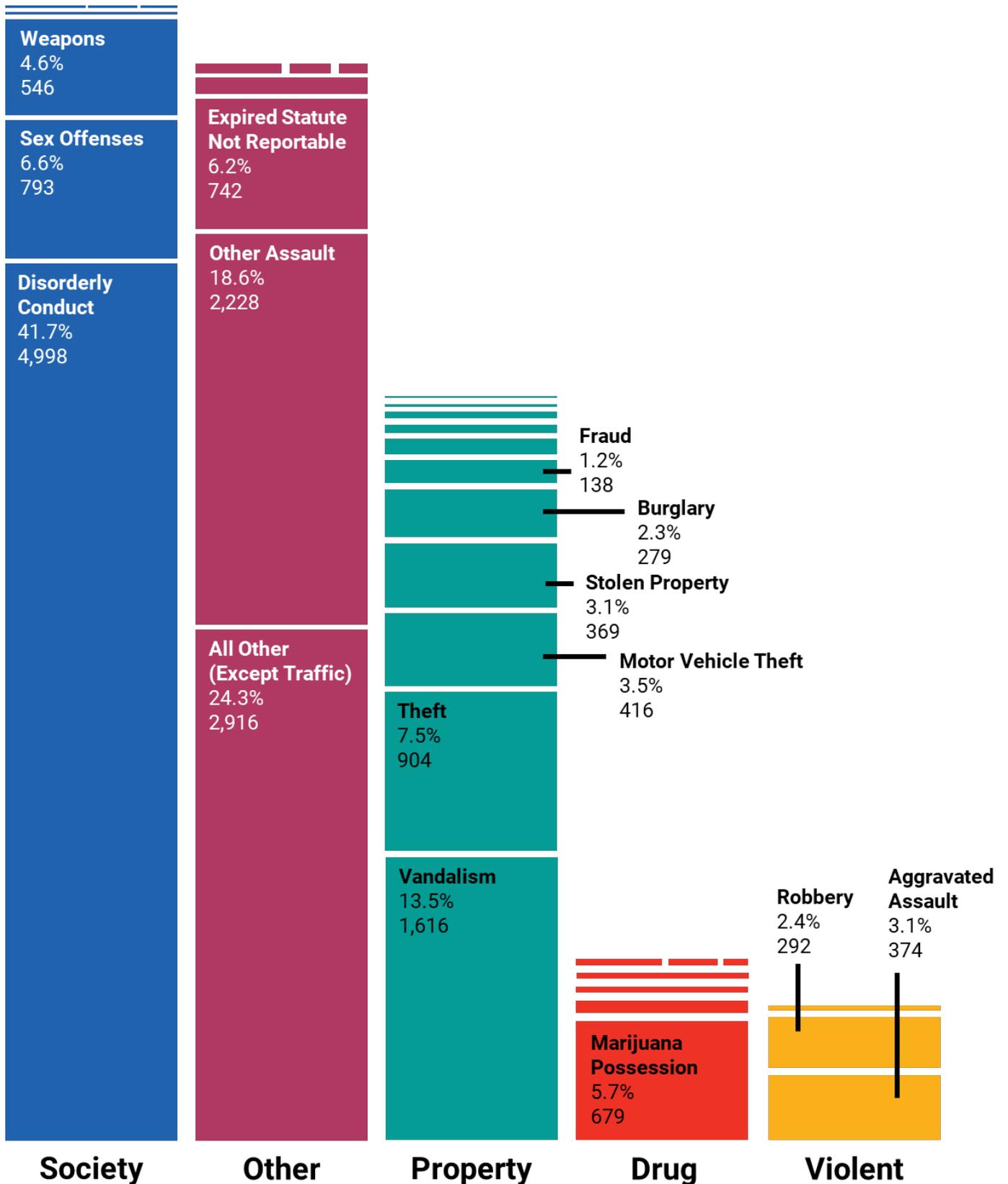
*Data Note: Offense categories total to more than 100% as it is possible for one delinquency referral to include offenses from multiple offense categories.*

The offense types that are associated with specific offense categories are illustrated in figure 13. Each of the five offense categories is represented on the chart and is populated by the category’s corresponding offense types. Only offense types associated with at least 100 referrals from CY 2023 are labeled.

- In 2023, delinquency referrals included offenses from 36 distinct offense types.
- Disorderly conduct offenses increased in 2023 and were once again associated with the most YJ referrals of any YJ referral type. This offense type encompasses a range of behaviors that may vary by county.
- Marijuana related offenses (possession and sales) accounted for almost 90% of all referrals in the drug offense category.
- The other offense category includes offense descriptions like *battery* (1,795 referrals), *resisting or obstructing an officer* (1,306 referrals), and *operating a vehicle without consent – passenger* (396 referrals). This category also captures offenses associated expired statutes that are classified as not reportable to UCR.
- Delinquency referrals increased in 2023, but over 90% of referrals were for offenses connected to non-violent offense types (as defined by UCR).

Figure 13

2023 Delinquency Referrals: Offense Categories & Offense Types



### Delinquency Referrals: Rate of Youth Referred

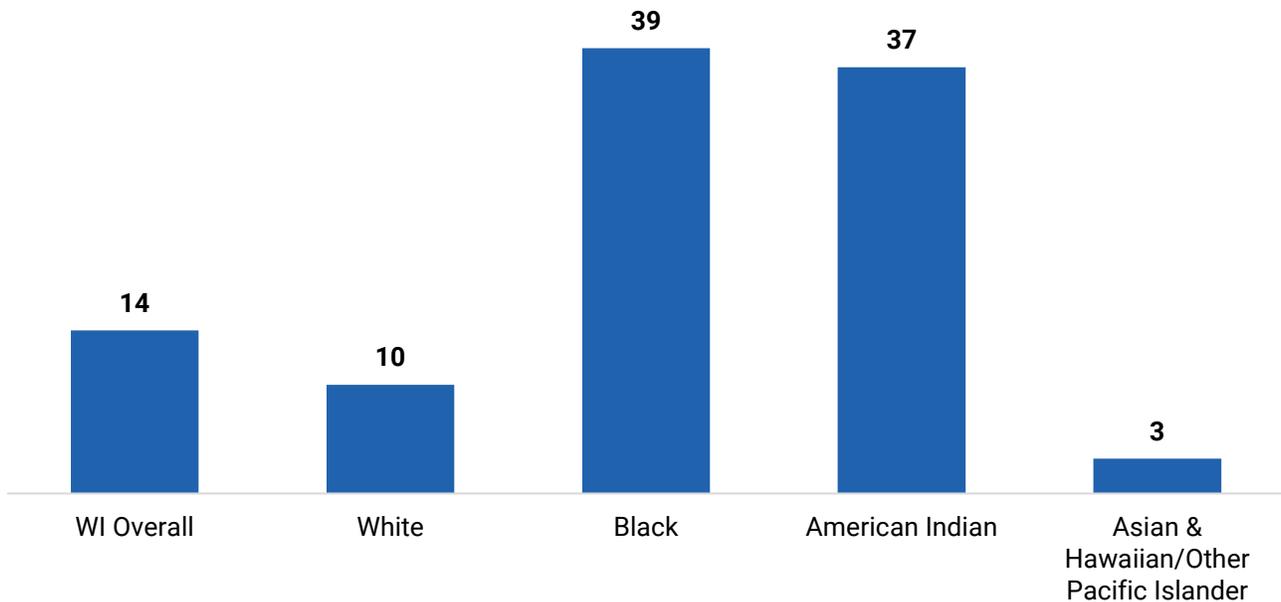
While the largest *counts* of 2023 delinquency referrals were associated with counties with large youth populations, rates of youth referred for delinquency per thousand youth tended to be higher in less populous counties and counties in northern Wisconsin (Fig 15).

- On average, 14 out of every 1,000 youth – about 1.5% of Wisconsin’s general youth population – were referred for delinquency in 2023 (Fig. 14).
- Four counties – Adams, Vilas, Iron, and Oneida – had rates of youth referred that were significantly higher than other counties in the state. Over 40 out of every 1,000 youth in these counties were referred to YJ for delinquency in 2023.

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

Figure 14

#### 2023 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.

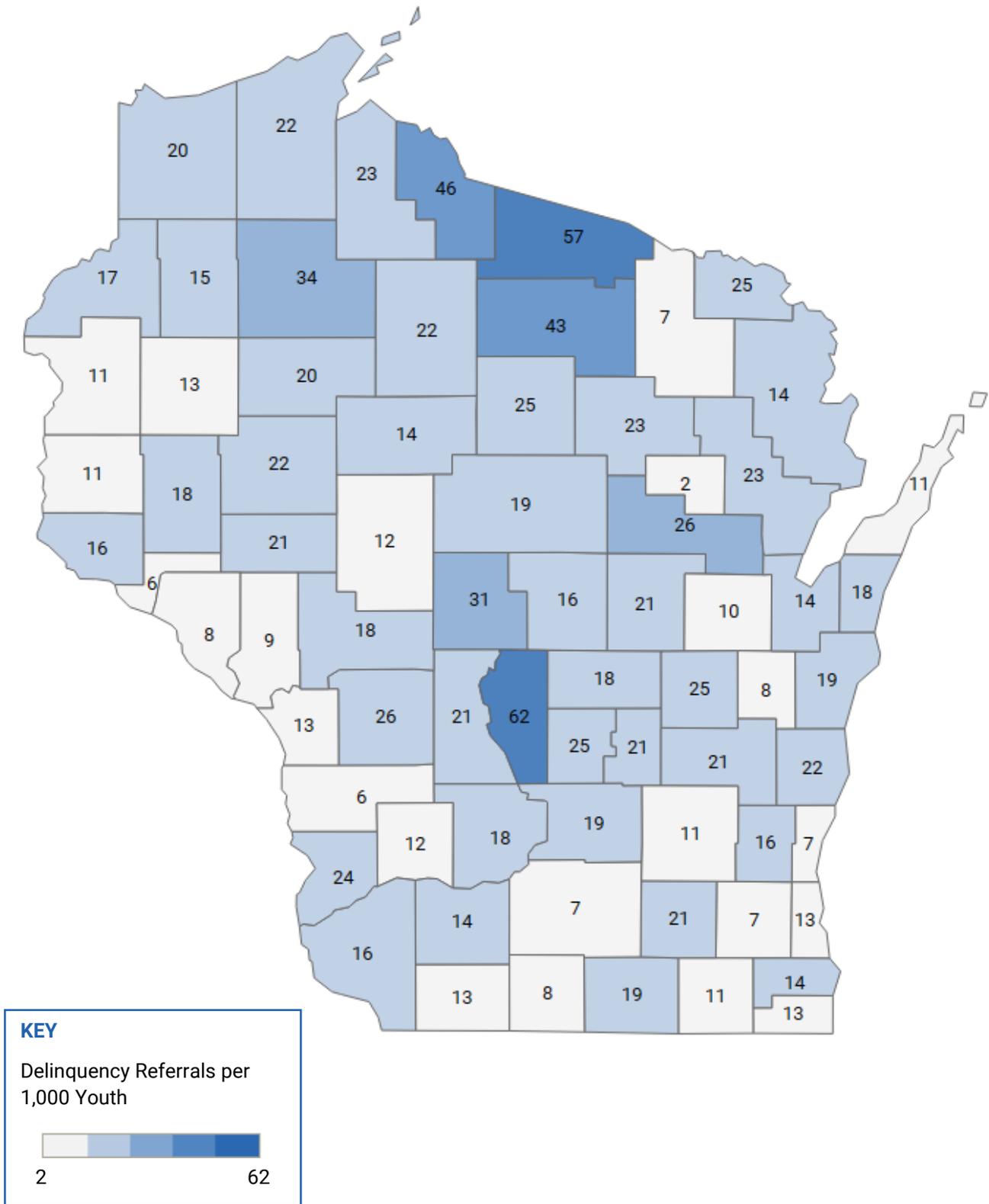
- 39 out of every 1,000 Black youth and 37 out of every 1,000 Native American youth were referred for delinquency in 2023 – these rates are consistent with rates in previous years.
- White youth and Asian youth were referred for delinquency at rates lower than the state average.

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 court<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> More information about diversion and its connection to RED can be found in this [2022 report from the Sentencing Project](#).  
DCF-P-5549 (R. 03/2025)

Figure 15

### 2023 Delinquency Referrals: Referrals per 1,000 Youth in Wisconsin Counties



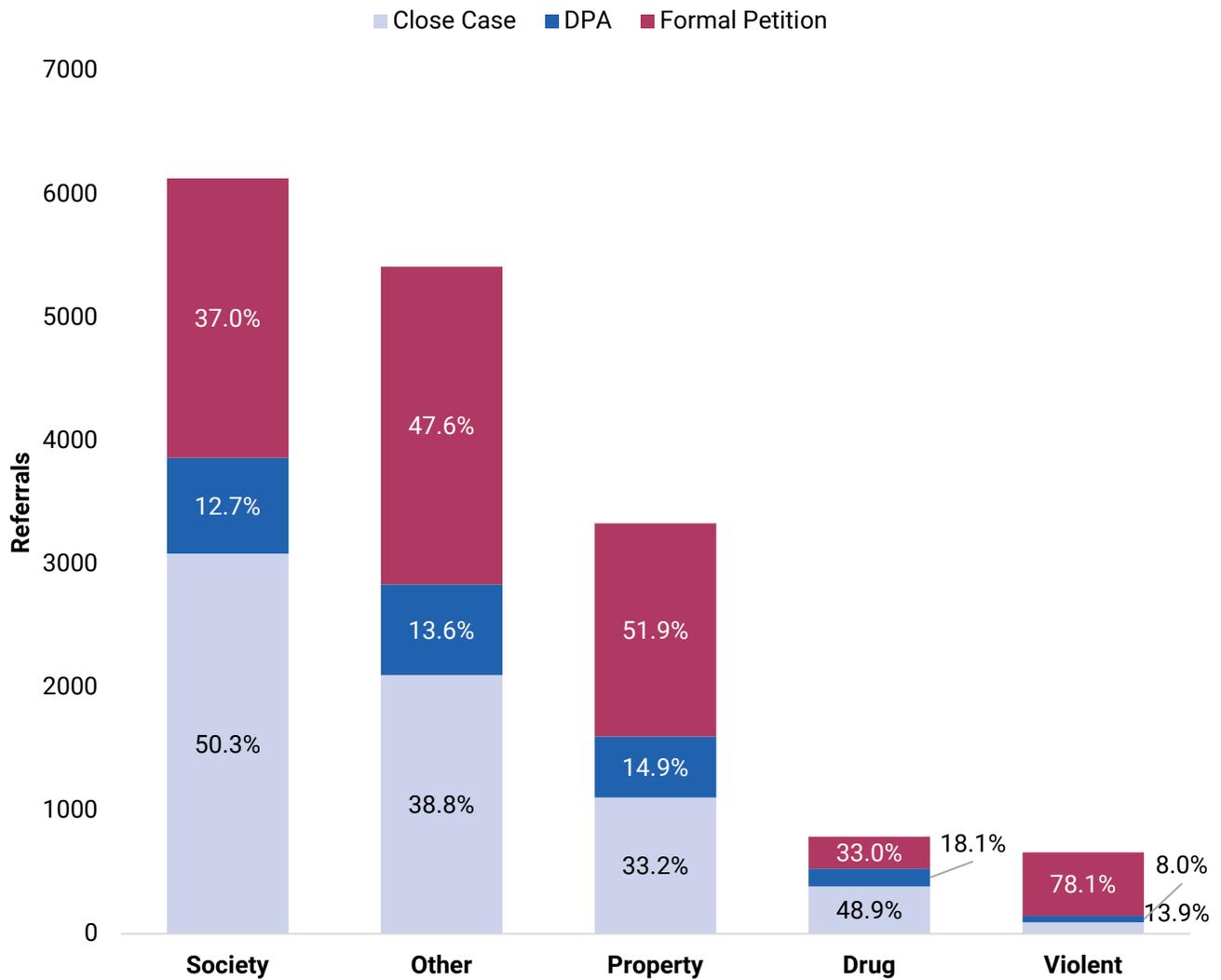
### Delinquency Referrals: YJ Intake Recommendations

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

- Over half of referrals associated with society offense category were recommended for diversion from formal court involvement (case closure or DPA).
- Most referrals that included offenses from the other, property, and violent offense categories were recommended for formal court involvement.
- Across all offense categories, DPA was the least common recommendation from YJ Intake.

Figure 16

#### 2023 Delinquency Referrals: YJ Intake Recommendations by Offense Category



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

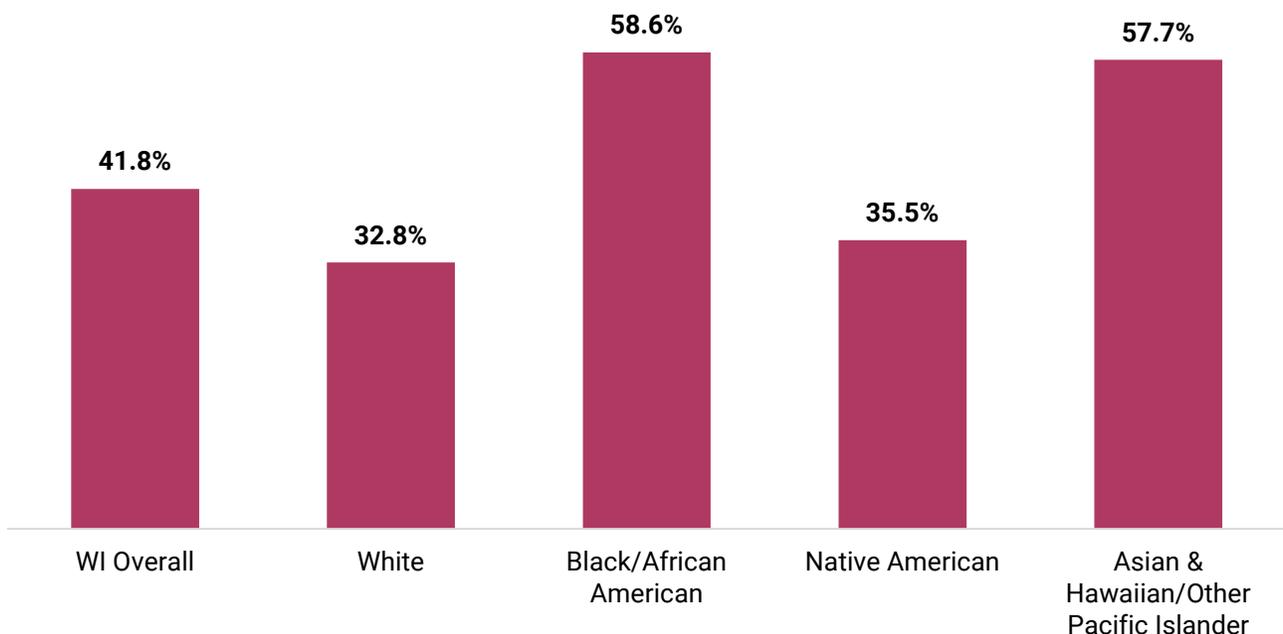
Statewide, approximately 42% percent of all delinquency referrals were recommended by YJ intake for formal petition (Fig. 17). It should be noted that intake recommendations from youth justice professionals may differ from recommendations from prosecutors and/or the actual disposition of a YJ case.

- Milwaukee had the highest rate of delinquency-referred youth recommended by YJ intake for formal petition, with over 80% of youth referred for delinquency in those counties recommended to be petitioned to court (Fig. 18).
- A high rate of referral per 1,000 youth (Fig. 15) did not similarly correspond with a high rate of referrals recommended for a formal petition.

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

### 2023 Delinquency Referrals: Rates of Formal Petition Recommended by YJ Intake Professionals



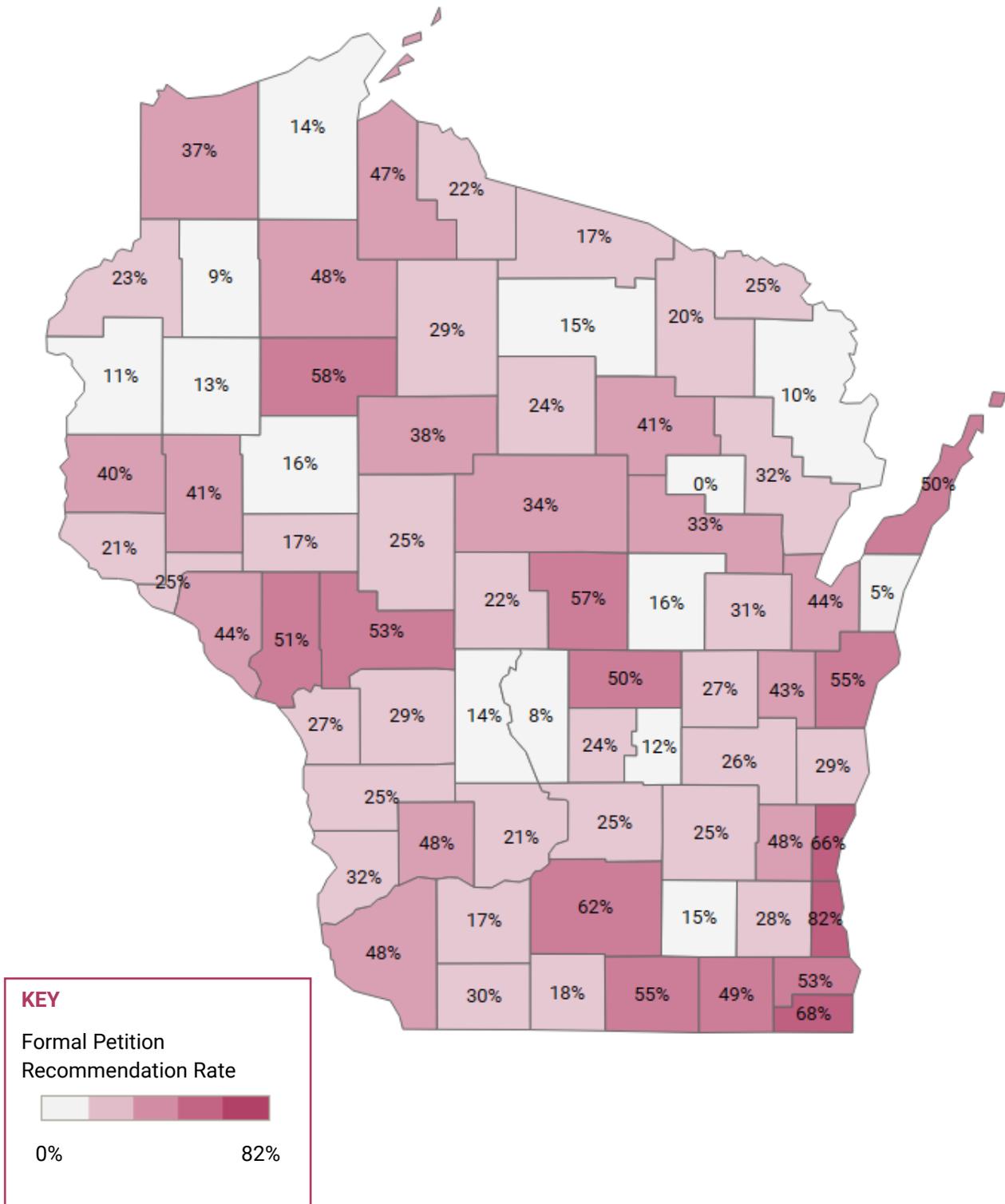
There are differences among youth recommended to be petitioned to court based on their primary race.

- Over half of Black and Asian & Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander youth referred for delinquency in 2023 were recommended to be formally petitioned to court – rates much higher than the state’s average.
- While the rate of Asian & Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander youth referred for delinquency was low (Fig. 14), the rate at which those same youth were recommended to be formally petitioned to court was higher than the state average for the second year in a row.
- White youth and Native American youth were recommended to be formally petitioned to court at a rate lower than the state’s average.

This suggests some 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

**2023 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 available for reporting from the statewide centralized case management system (eWiSACWIS).

**Supplemental Information:** YM01X100 – Youth Justice Referral Report, BCRA/CWRA, January 2019-December 2023, pulled 9/13/2024, final.

**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 2023, the fifth 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.

**State and County Youth Populations:** Estimates of the general youth population in the state of Wisconsin and its counties are pulled from [OJJDP's EZAPOPOP](#) 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 EZAPOPOP 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 EZAPOPOP.

**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) 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 (GJJC), 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.
- **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	Youth Pop.	TOTAL		YJ REFERRAL TYPE					Refs per 1,000 Youth Delinq. Only
		YJ Referred Youth	YJ Referrals	JIPS Truancy	JIPS Non-Truancy	Ord/Civ. Law Viol.	ICJ	Delinq.	
Adams	1,210	87	122	1.6%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%	89.3%	62
Ashland	1,398	44	60	28.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	71.7%	23
Barron	4,108	78	107	29.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	70.1%	13
Bayfield	1,179	33	44	18.2%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	79.5%	22
Brown	25,303	362	610	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	99.2%	14
Buffalo	1,114	16	16	37.5%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	56.3%	8
Burnett	1,201	26	31	29.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	71.0%	17
Calumet	5,165	85	123	38.2%	4.9%	0.8%	0.0%	56.1%	8
Chippewa	6,140	213	263	28.9%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	66.9%	22
Clark	4,034	52	94	10.6%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	89.4%	12
Columbia	4,966	116	165	12.1%	5.5%	2.4%	2.4%	77.6%	19
Crawford	1,306	43	59	18.6%	1.7%	6.8%	0.0%	74.6%	24
Dane	44,779	324	508	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7
Dodge	7,325	116	197	19.3%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	78.7%	11
Door	2,080	47	64	43.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	56.3%	11
Douglas	3,570	103	118	27.1%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	70.3%	20
Dunn	3,542	94	133	29.3%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	69.2%	18
Eau Claire	8,364	280	496	21.4%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%	66.5%	21
Florence	285	7	9	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	88.9%	25
Fond Du Lac	9,249	204	298	3.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	95.6%	21
Forest	682	7	7	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	71.4%	7
Grant	4,379	82	144	4.2%	6.3%	2.1%	0.0%	88.2%	16
Green	3,385	29	46	10.9%	0.0%	2.2%	2.2%	87.0%	8
Green Lake	1,708	36	49	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	21
Iowa	2,243	39	80	10.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	88.8%	14
Iron	431	20	23	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%	100.0%	46
Jackson	1,828	62	84	35.7%	2.4%	1.2%	0.0%	60.7%	18
Jefferson	7,115	167	252	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	91.3%	21
Juneau	2,107	45	63	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	21
Kenosha	15,289	333	421	31.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	67.2%	13
Kewaunee	1,798	37	49	16.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	83.7%	18

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La Crosse	9,771	133	267	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.4%	97.4%	13
Lafayette	1,620	23	25	8.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	92.0%	13
Langlade	1,552	36	52	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	98.1%	23
Lincoln	2,045	59	142	7.7%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	91.5%	25
Manitowoc	6,907	129	234	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	98.7%	19
Marathon	12,945	260	386	1.8%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	97.2%	19
Marinette	3,271	57	87	4.6%	18.4%	0.0%	0.0%	77.0%	14
Marquette	1,298	33	44	2.3%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	95.5%	25
Menominee	565	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	2
Milwaukee	85,548	1,149	1,554	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	100.0%	13
Monroe	4,798	129	213	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	96.7%	26
Oconto	3,314	86	138	9.4%	5.1%	2.9%	0.0%	86.2%	23
Oneida	2,694	137	183	2.2%	19.1%	0.0%	0.0%	78.7%	43
Outagamie	17,976	289	463	27.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	69.3%	10
Ozaukee	8,073	65	80	6.3%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	92.5%	7
Pepin	682	5	5	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	80.0%	6
Pierce	3,668	80	125	19.2%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	75.2%	16
Polk	3,960	62	75	22.7%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	72.0%	11
Portage	5,537	96	147	4.1%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	93.2%	16
Price	1,058	32	46	10.9%	15.2%	0.0%	0.0%	73.9%	22
Racine	18,295	260	330	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	99.7%	14
Richland	1,538	18	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	12
Rock	15,002	298	535	0.7%	5.4%	0.0%	0.6%	93.8%	19
Rusk	1,220	34	50	18.0%	0.0%	6.0%	0.0%	76.0%	20
Saint Croix	9,616	162	245	24.5%	8.2%	0.4%	0.0%	66.9%	11
Sauk	6,048	115	175	5.7%	1.1%	0.6%	0.0%	92.6%	18
Sawyer	1,513	52	69	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	34
Shawano	3,599	102	190	3.2%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	96.3%	26
Sheboygan	10,689	238	422	1.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	98.6%	22
Taylor	1,983	33	39	12.8%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	87.2%	14
Trempealeau	3,048	45	59	37.3%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	62.7%	9
Vernon	3,271	22	33	6.1%	3.0%	6.1%	0.0%	84.8%	6
Vilas	1,574	90	124	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	99.2%	57
Walworth	8,903	115	173	11.6%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	87.9%	11
Washburn	1,345	21	23	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.7%	15
Washington	12,417	207	295	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	94.9%	16
Waukesha	35,883	319	468	7.9%	9.0%	3.6%	0.4%	80.1%	7
Waupaca	4,357	92	120	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.8%	21
Waushara	1,849	38	66	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	90.9%	18
Winnebago	13,930	401	845	6.5%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%	82.6%	25
Wood	6,568	270	508	11.8%	14.8%	0.0%	0.0%	74.6%	31

## 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	Youth Pop	Total Delinquency Referrals	DELINQUENCY REFERRAL INTAKE RECOMMENDATIONS		
			Close Case	DPA	Formal Petition
Adams	1,210	109	81.7%	10.1%	8.3%
Ashland	1,398	43	34.9%	14.0%	46.5%
Barron	4,108	75	62.7%	18.7%	13.3%
Bayfield	1,179	35	48.6%	34.3%	14.3%
Brown	25,303	605	39.7%	16.5%	43.6%
Buffalo	1,114	9	33.3%	22.2%	44.4%
Burnett	1,201	22	59.1%	18.2%	22.7%
Calumet	5,165	69	26.1%	27.5%	43.5%
Chippewa	6,140	176	46.6%	35.8%	15.9%
Clark	4,034	84	47.6%	22.6%	25.0%
Columbia	4,966	128	60.9%	14.1%	25.0%
Crawford	1,306	44	54.5%	13.6%	31.8%
Dane	44,779	508	23.8%	13.2%	62.0%
Dodge	7,325	155	49.7%	23.9%	24.5%
Door	2,080	36	27.8%	19.4%	50.0%
Douglas	3,570	83	51.8%	8.4%	37.3%
Dunn	3,542	92	40.2%	16.3%	41.3%
Eau Claire	8,364	330	77.9%	4.2%	16.7%
Florence	285	8	12.5%	62.5%	25.0%
Fond Du Lac	9,249	285	54.0%	18.2%	25.6%
Forest	682	5	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%
Grant	4,379	127	47.2%	1.6%	48.0%
Green	3,385	40	75.0%	7.5%	17.5%
Green Lake	1,708	49	49.0%	36.7%	12.2%
Iowa	2,243	71	74.6%	8.5%	16.9%
Iron	431	23	34.8%	43.5%	21.7%
Jackson	1,828	51	29.4%	17.6%	52.9%
Jefferson	7,115	230	75.2%	10.0%	14.8%
Juneau	2,107	63	60.3%	20.6%	14.3%
Kenosha	15,289	283	14.5%	16.6%	68.2%
Kewaunee	1,798	41	61.0%	29.3%	4.9%
La Crosse	9,771	260	60.8%	11.2%	27.3%

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Lafayette	1,620	23	47.8%	21.7%	30.4%
Langlade	1,552	51	31.4%	17.6%	41.2%
Lincoln	2,045	130	65.4%	10.8%	23.8%
Manitowoc	6,907	231	29.9%	14.3%	54.5%
Marathon	12,945	375	43.7%	21.1%	34.1%
Marinette	3,271	67	44.8%	43.3%	10.4%
Marquette	1,298	42	61.9%	9.5%	23.8%
Menominee	565	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Milwaukee	85,548	1,554	13.0%	3.4%	81.9%
Monroe	4,798	206	52.9%	15.5%	28.6%
Oconto	3,314	119	50.4%	16.0%	31.9%
Oneida	2,694	144	51.4%	32.6%	15.3%
Outagamie	17,976	321	47.0%	16.8%	31.2%
Ozaukee	8,073	74	20.3%	12.2%	66.2%
Pepin	682	4	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Pierce	3,668	94	52.1%	25.5%	21.3%
Polk	3,960	54	72.2%	16.7%	11.1%
Portage	5,537	137	21.2%	21.2%	56.9%
Price	1,058	34	11.8%	58.8%	29.4%
Racine	18,295	329	35.6%	8.2%	52.6%
Richland	1,538	25	52.0%	0.0%	48.0%
Rock	15,002	502	38.2%	6.6%	54.6%
Rusk	1,220	38	13.2%	28.9%	57.9%
Saint Croix	9,616	164	39.6%	19.5%	40.2%
Sauk	6,048	162	56.2%	22.8%	21.0%
Sawyer	1,513	69	27.5%	23.2%	47.8%
Shawano	3,599	183	61.7%	4.4%	33.3%
Sheboygan	10,689	416	51.4%	17.8%	29.3%
Taylor	1,983	34	17.6%	44.1%	38.2%
Trempealeau	3,048	37	16.2%	24.3%	51.4%
Vernon	3,271	28	67.9%	7.1%	25.0%
Vilas	1,574	123	51.2%	28.5%	17.1%
Walworth	8,903	152	29.6%	17.1%	49.3%
Washburn	1,345	22	36.4%	54.5%	9.1%
Washington	12,417	280	37.9%	13.2%	48.2%
Waukesha	35,883	375	66.1%	5.3%	28.3%
Waupaca	4,357	115	66.1%	15.7%	15.7%
Waushara	1,849	60	41.7%	8.3%	50.0%
Winnebago	13,930	698	64.5%	8.5%	26.6%
Wood	6,568	379	59.6%	17.9%	21.9%



## 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 608-267-8787. 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.