



Youth Justice (YJ) Referrals

Dashboard Quick Reference Guide

Purpose

The YJ Referrals dashboard provides basic information about YJ referrals and youth referred to the YJ system within a selected reporting period.

Division of Safety & Permanence data dashboards are intended to prompt questions, encourage reflection, and provide information to assist with data driven decision making.

Included data

- YJ referral information with an associated person ID and documented in eWiSACWIS on or after 1/1/2019.

Data considerations

- The dashboard default timeframe will be the last full calendar year. The timeframe can be adjusted for most views using filter options.
- Newly documented referrals included in the nightly eWiSACWIS batch update will be pulled into the dashboard during the daily refresh at 6:00AM CST.
 - This dashboard displays eWiSACWIS data from the child welfare data warehouse, not the similarly named SQL report available via eWReports (YM01X100 Youth Justice Referrals). As a result, the dashboard and SQL report have slightly different refresh schedules – the dashboard will refresh with new data daily, while the SQL report will refresh with new data in real time.
- While this dashboard is modeled off of the [annual YJ Referral and Intake report](#), it should be noted that it does not yet include decision information documented on the YJ Case Information page.
- **Significant changes were made to the YJ Referral and Case Information pages in October 2024 and June 2025, which impacted the underlying data structure.** Info icons in the dashboard provide additional information about how to navigate these data “hiccups.”

Access

This dashboard contains Personally Identifiable Information (PII), so is only available in the Child Welfare Dashboards page accessed inside of eWiSACWIS or eWReports. Access to this dashboard is restricted to eWiSACWIS users with security to access Youth Justice features. Dashboard access should be requested from your county's security delegate.

Navigation

The YJ Referral dashboard includes a landing page and 6 tabs, or *views*.

- A summary of the data included in each view can be found by hovering over the orange question mark in the upper right corner of the page.
- A brief description of charts or filters will display when hovering over the blue dot next to a title.
- Some filters on this dashboard are dynamic – meaning turning on a filter on one view will automatically apply it to all other views.
- Many of the charts are also dynamic – hovering over a chart may reveal additional data and clicking portions of a chart may apply a filter to the whole page.
- You can always undo these filters by clicking the same portion of the chart again.

Additional guidance about hover helps and turning on filters can be found in DCF's [dashboard user guide](#).

Dashboard views

Landing Page

Introduces the dashboard and provides examples of questions it can be used to answer.

YJ Referral Year Over Year Trends

Illustrates how the count of YJ referrals and youth referred to the YJ system change over time.

- This view displays information about referrals and youth referred for the last 4 full-calendar years, as well as information for the current year up through the last full month.
- The bottom charts illustrate the number of distinct youths referred to the YJ system. The annual totals in the referred youth bar chart may total less than the corresponding line chart because it is possible for the same youth to be referred to the YJ system in more than one month within the same year.

Youth Summary

Provides an overview of selected characteristics of youth referred to the YJ system during the reporting period.

- The stacked bar charts at the top of the view compare the racial/ethnic breakdown of youth referred to the youth justice system to the overall racial/ethnic breakdown of Wisconsin's 0-17 youth population. This comparison is one way to highlight when a racial or ethnic group may be disproportionately referred to Wisconsin's youth justice system.
- The center left chart on this tab groups youth by their age at first YJ referral received during the selected reporting period. Referrals for individuals 22 years or older are assumed data errors and are excluded from this chart. Age bars for ages 10-16 are colored blue to indicate the age range of Wisconsin's delinquency jurisdiction.
- The chart in the bottom left of the view groups youth by the number of YJ referrals they received prior to the start of the reporting period. Note that selecting an earlier start date in the page filter menu (while keeping the end date the same) will shrink the number of previous YJ referrals. This is because expanding the reporting timeframe will capture more YJ referrals inside of the reporting window.
- The chart in the bottom right groups youth based on the number of YJ referrals they received during the selected reporting period.

Referral Summary

Provides an overview of all YJ referrals documented in eWiSACWIS during the selected reporting period.

Referral Location by Offense Category

Location	Offense Category							
	Society	Other	Property	Not Reportable	Drug	Violent	Expired Statute - N.	Unknown
Community	15,942	17,038	16,753	1,529	2,490	2,728	2,726	
School	12,027	6,664	1,702	10,078	1,944	579	452	4
Home	11,377	6,115	3,552	3,151	555	463	296	
Placement	1,869	1,233	809	221	44	89	56	
Detention	228	284	86	3	11	14	3	
Unknown	14	7	11	19		1		29

- The heatmap at the top of the page illustrates the relationship between referral location and offense category. The cell where a location and category meet displays the number of YJ referrals with that combination of referral location and offense type (for example, in the screenshot above, 12,027 YJ

referrals included an offense from the society category and occurred at a school location). Darker shading indicates more common combinations.

- The counts included in the heat map are at the referral level – if a referral includes multiple offenses that fall into different locations/offense categories, it will be counted in each location/category combination that applies.
- The Referral Location bar chart at the bottom of the page shows the location where offenses occurred by count and percentage. Counts in this chart are at a referral level – if a referral has multiple offenses that occurred at more than one location category, that referral is counted in all locations that apply.
- The table on the lower right side of the page ranks offense types by percentage. This table can be used to answer questions about the types of offenses included in a particular offense category. Clicking on part of a chart on this page will bring up all the associated offense types.

Referral Type Summary

Provides an overview of all delinquency and JIPS referrals documented in eWiSACWIS during the selected reporting period.

- The maps on this view are displaying the rate of delinquency referrals (on left) and JIPS referrals (on right) documented in eWiSACWIS per 1,000 youth (age 10-16) in each county in Wisconsin. Using a rate allows us to make comparisons across counties of different sizes. Adjusting the reporting timeframe will influence the rate (a larger window may correspond with higher rates, while a smaller window may correspond with lower rates).
- The tree maps at the bottom of the page show the frequency of offense categories and types. The larger the box, the more YJ referrals with that offense type. Hovering over a box in the delinquency offense types chart will show the top 5 offense statutes related to that offense type.
- Remember, it is possible for a referral to contain both delinquency and JIPS offenses. Using the live filters on this page will impact the entire page, not just the delinquency or JIPS charts.

Youth System History Summary

Provides an overview of youth historical involvement in the CPS and YJ systems.

- The first box on the page includes information about youth referred to the YJ system with CPS referrals documented in eWiSACWIS before the start of the selected reporting period. CPS referrals are “screened-in” during Access if at least one allegation meets the statutory requirement for child abuse and/or neglect. To calculate the total percentage of youth who had at least 1 screened in CPS referral prior to the start of the reporting period, add together the “prior screened in only” and “screened in and screened out.” Additional detail about the number of screened in CPS referrals youth received prior to first YJ referral in the reporting period can be found in the bar chart in the lower right corner.
- The bar chart in the lower left corner of this view groups youth referred during the selected reporting period by their age at first ever YJ referral documented in eWiSACWIS. Note that counties began to log YJ referrals in eWiSACWIS in 2018 – so if youth received a YJ referral prior to that year, it may not be captured in this dashboard.

Referral Details

This view contains Personally Identifiable Information, DO NOT SCREENSHARE

Displays details for all YJ referrals within the selected timeframe.

- This view displays the details of all YJ referrals included in the dashboard – including name, birthdate, etc. Please proceed with caution when using this view.
- We’ve included this view in the dashboard because it can be easier to view detailed YJ referral data spanning several years (as opposed to the 1 year currently allowed by eWReports). While it is possible to export data from this view, note that large amounts of data may take longer to download.

Using the YJ Referral and Case Information pages in eWiSACWIS

Review of this dashboard may prompt additional questions about the YJ referral and case information pages in eWiSACWIS. The links below may help to answer some of those questions:

- [Youth Justice Referral User Guide](#)
- [Youth Justice Case Information Page User Guide](#)
- [Key – Referral Locations](#)
- [eWiSACWIS Offense Organization](#)
- [WCWPDS eWiSACWIS Web Based Module: YJ Referral and Case Information](#)

Asking for help

Any of the options below can be consulted for help, but we would recommend starting with the DCF CWRA or YJ teams.

DCF Child Welfare Research and Analytics (CWRA) Team

Contact: DCF CWRA@wisconsin.gov

- Can answer questions about the data and logic used in this dashboard
- Can triage concerns about data included in the report and direct those concerns to the appropriate channel within DCF
- Can support county navigation and use of this dashboard

DCF Youth Justice (YJ) Team

Contact: DCF YJ@wisconsin.gov

- Can answer questions related to YJ standards or policy
- Logs dashboard enhancement requests
- Can triage concerns about data included in the dashboard and direct those concerns to the appropriate channel within DCF
- Can support county navigation and use of this dashboard

DCF Service Desk

Contact: DCF ServiceDesk@wisconsin.gov

- Can provide immediate support for issues related to eWiSACWIS/eWReports
- Service desk tickets are used to document concerns/requests, which are used to prioritize future enhancements/work

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 608-266-8787. 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.