



2023-24 LOUISIANA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE

# DATA LANDSCAPE REPORT

—  
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WELFARE FOUNDATION

**LSU Health**  
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Institute for Public Health and Justice

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## About the Institute for Public Health & Justice

The Institute for Public Health & Justice at LSU Health Sciences Center is a policy, research, training, and technical assistance enterprise positioned at the intersection of health policy/practice and the justice system. Many behavioral and other health conditions have social determinants. The Institute seeks to bridge the divide between what we know about prevention and treatment of behavioral health conditions and the negative impacts on communities, the perpetrators themselves their victims, and the overall justice system.

## About Public Welfare Foundation

For over 75 years, Public Welfare Foundation has supported efforts to advance justice and opportunity for people in need. Today, the Foundation's efforts focus on catalyzing a transformative approach to justice that is community-led, restorative, and racially just through investments in criminal justice and youth justice reforms. These efforts honor the Foundation's core values of racial equality, economic well-being, and fundamental fairness for all.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The priority to collect and report data in justice systems is not new. The first Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facility Census was facilitated by the U.S. Dept of Justice in 1971 to annually collect statistics on youth in custody.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Act of 1974 specifies an annual report to the U.S. Congress and Senate must include types of offenses with which juveniles are charged; demographics such as race/ethnicity, gender, age, etc.; the types of facilities holding youth; and much more.<sup>2</sup>

In almost 50 years since the OJJDP Act, many local and state juvenile justice agencies across the country have come to recognize that having consistent and reliable data is essential for measuring and tracking system impact and performance. Yet, despite this recognition and some important improvements, there continues to be tremendous variability across the country in the quality and quantity of juvenile justice data, and how those data are used (or not used) to gauge impact and performance. Ultimately, having good data enables juvenile justice agencies to show that what they do makes real, tangible differences in the lives of young people and their communities, including our Louisiana communities.

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1 <https://nij.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh171/files/images/2021-04/juvenile-justice-data-collection-through-the-years.png>

2 [https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/media/document/jjdpa-as-amended\\_0.pdf](https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/media/document/jjdpa-as-amended_0.pdf)



Over a 12 month period, the LSU School of Public Health's Institute for Public Health and Justice (IPHJ) team reviewed existing reports, public documents, and datasets (public and/or requested) to further understand Louisiana's juvenile justice system (JJS). This report represents our efforts to summarize what was gathered and analyzed from available data on youth at different system points. The report is divided into four main sections. We begin with an overview of youth demographics in Louisiana; followed by a historical overview of Louisiana's juvenile justice system; an extensive look at data describing Louisiana's JJS; and, the reports concludes with recommendations to improve data collection, sharing, and decision making. For the section examining data available in regards to the Louisiana JJS, we examine nine major facets of the system from status offense referrals and juvenile arrests to courts, custody, and adult transfers. Each of these sections follows a similar structure, starting with national context and, where available, offering Louisiana specific data. In the conclusion we offer a summary of what data are and are not available related to key topics. We then make recommendations for improving Louisiana's justice data sharing infrastructure.

As readers will discover, Louisiana appears on its way to creating a more comprehensive data landscape that can, and should, be more relied on by state leaders and stakeholders to inform decisions regarding sustaining and furthering justice reform efforts. Strengths in the current system include Louisiana's rates of law enforcement arrest reporting and the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) public reporting of youth in their care. With the exception of OJJ data availability, the challenges in the system are primarily a lack of publicly available data, including diversion and detention data reporting. Based on these findings, three key recommendations are highlighted:

- **Recommendation 1:** Louisiana should establish a centralized juvenile justice data repository to clarify data points needed from all key agencies, ease submission of data, ensure accountability of data sharing, generate a public facing dashboard for access to aggregate information, and submit an annual report, including trends, to the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission (JJRAIC).
- **Recommendation 2:** The JJRAIC, as the legislatively assigned entity, should urge the implementation of the recommendations in this report, monitor that implementation process, and request annual reports on the status of juvenile justice data sharing advances statewide.

- **Recommendation 3:** The staff of the centralized juvenile justice data repository and/or JJRAIC, should regularly share findings of annual reports in state and regional meetings to build utilization of data in state and local decision-making processes.

For our part, the the Institute for Public Health & Justice (IPHJ) intends to disseminate the findings of this Louisiana Data Landscape Report to justice related leadership and stakeholders. This will include the JJRAIC, juvenile justice administrators, judges, prosecutors, defenders, and other stakeholders. These meetings are intended to provide a forum for leaders to discuss the recommendations and collaboratively prioritize key areas to move forward.

We thank the many partners that made this report possible. Making the recommended changes may not be easy but could ultimately result in lasting systems change that is good for all of Louisiana's youth.

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LSU School of Public Health's Institute for Public Health & Justice

<https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/service/institute-for-public-health-and-justice>





## INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Juvenile Justice Data Landscape Report is provided by the LSU Institute for Public Health & Justice (IPHJ), with funding from Public Welfare Foundation (PWF), to illustrate the status of available data regarding the juvenile justice system (JJS) in our state. With this report the goal was to demonstrate the strengths and challenges of data reporting in Louisiana in order to also make recommendations to improve public data sharing and increase the opportunities for data-based decision-making by policymakers and other state leadership. This report includes information on Louisiana's JJS, and a similar report is available <https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/service/institute-for-public-health-and-justice/resources/data-collection-reporting/> in relation to the adult criminal justice system.

Policymakers, state leaders, and stakeholders have come together at several points in the last two decades to attempt to reform, consider policy changes, and advance Louisiana's JJS, resulting in a variety of outcomes. The hope is that policymakers and justice leaders will find this report useful in fully realizing the intent of data sharing and utilize this report to implement greater data sharing to better describe how youth enter, move, and exit from the JJS. Utilization of data helps to produce a more objective view of various systems as leaders attempt to understand processes, limit biases, and advocate for fair and effective approaches to youth contacting the legal system in Louisiana.



## Approach / Methods

Over a 12-month period, the IPHJ team reviewed existing reports, public documents, and datasets with the goal of further understanding Louisiana's JJS. Data were gathered from federal, state, and local sources. The IPHJ first sought publicly available data sources followed by requests for aggregate level data from major Louisiana justice system agencies. The institute then summarized what was gathered and analyzed the available data on youth at different system points. The IPHJ looked for the most recent year of data reporting; however, readers will note the years of data points vary throughout. Data were attempted to be collected at the following key JJS points:

- Status offense referrals
- Juvenile Arrest
- Youth Diversion
- Juvenile Pre-trial Detention
- Juvenile Courts
- Juvenile Probation
- Juvenile Secure Confinement
- Juvenile Parole / Re-Entry
- Adult Transfer of Youth



## OVERVIEW OF YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS IN LOUISIANA

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 73,088,675 persons in the United States—22% of the population—were under the age of 18 in 2022.<sup>3</sup> In Louisiana, youth under the age of 18 comprised approximately 23% (n= 1,069,014) of the population.<sup>4</sup> More specific to the focus on juvenile justice process parameters, youth between the ages of 10 and 17 comprised just over 10% of the state-wide population.<sup>5</sup> Over half were White (52%), thirty-eight percent were African-American, and seven percent were Hispanic.<sup>6</sup> (see Figure 1 on next page)

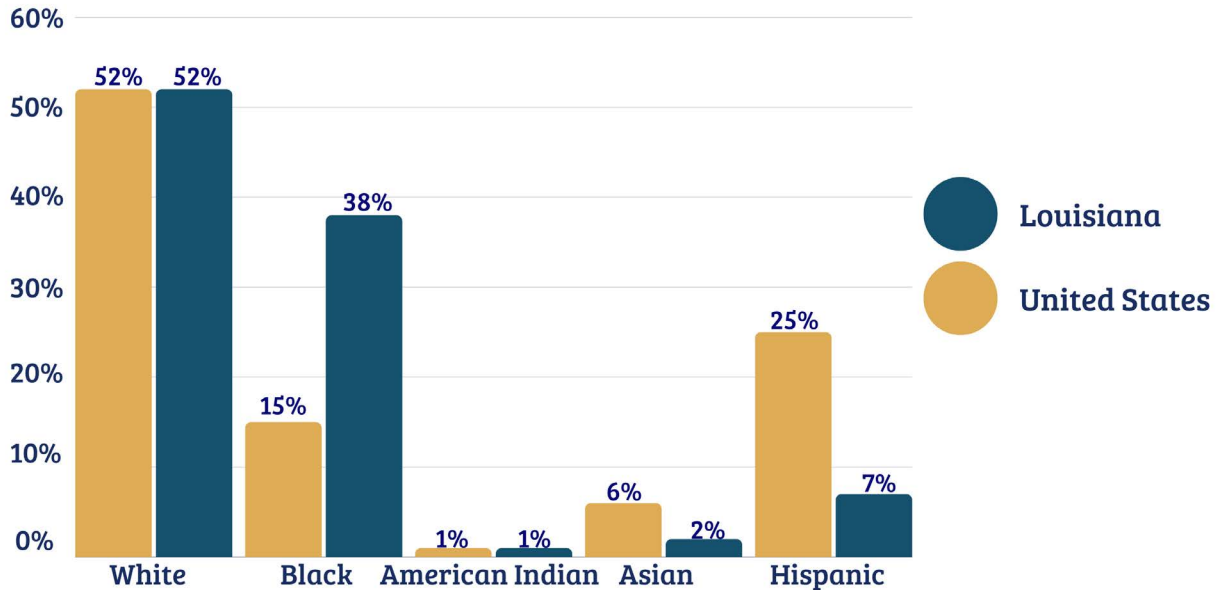
<sup>3</sup> <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/LA/PST045222> and <https://www.brcitykey.com/demographic-data?id=21&sectionId=942> )

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.brcitykey.com/demographicdata?id=21&sectionId=942>

<sup>6</sup> <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

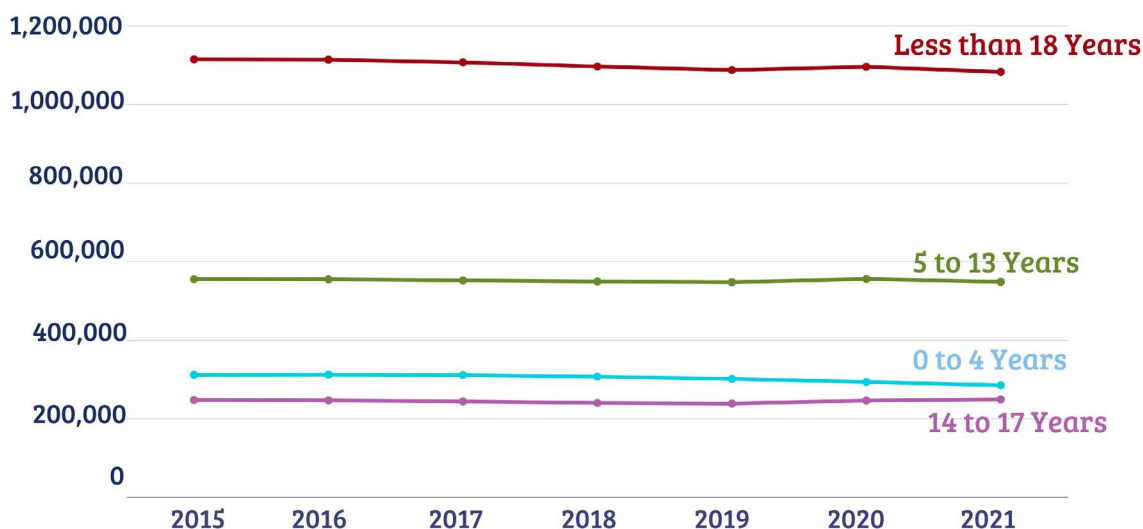
**Figure 1.**  
**2019 Racial/Ethnic Profile of Youth:**  
**U.S. and Louisiana Comparison**



Source: <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

Overall, the number of youth in Louisiana has been trending down with some variation between age groups. The number of younger youth (0 to 13) has decreased; however, the number of older youth (14 to 17) has been increasing.<sup>7</sup> (see Figure 2)

**Figure 2.**  
**Louisiana Youth Population Trends Over Time,**  
**2015-2021**



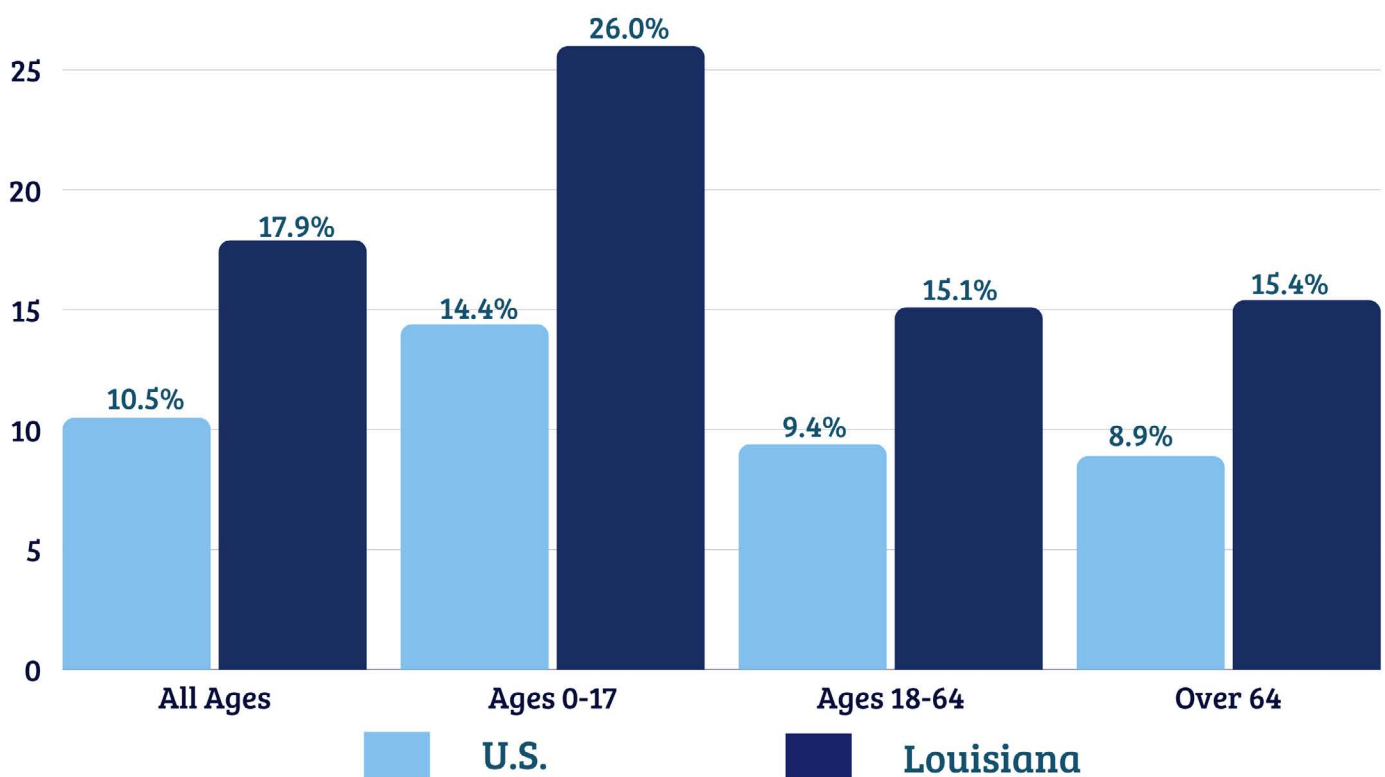
Source: Kids Count Data Center, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/1417-child-population-by-age-group#detailed/2/any/false/2048,574,1729,37,871,870,573/62,119,113,36/7924>

<sup>7</sup> Kids Count <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/1417-child-population-by-age-group#detailed/2/any/false/2048,574,1729,37,871,870,573/62,119,113,36/7924>



The poverty level of Louisiana is also striking compared to national youth populations. Youth in Louisiana under the age of 18 are almost twice as likely to be living in poverty, with just over 1 in 4 youth living below the poverty threshold.<sup>8</sup> (see Figure 3) More specifically, Louisiana families are reporting a median state income of just \$56,767.<sup>9</sup> This included 24% of Louisiana's households earning less than \$25,000 annually.<sup>10</sup> (see Figure 3 below)

**Figure 3.**  
**Percent of Persons Living Below the Poverty Threshold: U.S. compared to Louisiana in 2019**



Source: National Center for Juvenile Justice Youth and the Juvenile Justice System 2022 National Report (December 2022).

8 <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

9 <https://www.brcitykey.com/demographicdata?id=21&sectionId=936>

10 <https://www.brcitykey.com/demographicdata?id=21&sectionId=936>



## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Louisiana has a rich and complex juvenile justice history. This has been shaped by both legal and societal developments. Up until the most recent legislative sessions of 2024, the last two decades suggested a renewed, and oftentimes fiscally supported, focus on reform, diversion programs, reduction of detention and secure care populations, a more developmentally responsive system, and increased use of community-based programs. As leadership has changed and funding shifted, some of these priorities have diminished, and the most recent state policy making sessions suggest a shift in trajectory moving into the immediate future.

### **A historical overview of major Louisiana juvenile justice related events is as follows:**

- **1906-07:** New Orleans "Recorder's Court" acted as a defacto Juvenile Court, the State Legislature attempted to create an official Juvenile Court; however, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled it as unconstitutional.<sup>11</sup>
- **1908-16:** Act No. 83, a constitutional amendment, was approved in 1908 by voters, created a Juvenile Court in Orleans Parish, and allowed district courts around the state to create similar courts with "jurisdiction of the trial of all neglected and delinquent children, including children aged 17 years and younger. In 1910, the Act was suspended for parishes other than Orleans. In 1916, Act No 13 was voted in and reestablished Juvenile Courts throughout Louisiana.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> <https://lasc.libguides.com/c.php?g=484864&p=3320593>

<sup>12</sup> <https://lasc.libguides.com/c.php?g=484864&p=3320593>

- **1921:** Act 198 amended the 1921 Constitution to allow City Courts to have juvenile courts.<sup>13</sup>
- **1974:** the U.S. Congress enacted the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act which created the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to support states and improve juvenile justice.
- **1978:** Louisiana created the Code of Juvenile Procedure.
- **1992:** The Children's Code of Louisiana becomes effective.
- **1995:** Human Rights Watch documented unsafe conditions of confinement in Louisiana's juvenile placement (corrections) facilities.<sup>14</sup>
- **1998:** U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) sued Louisiana- The lawsuit charged the state's Office of Youth Development, the agency that was then charged with oversight of the JJS and part of the larger Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC), with chronically abusing and mistreating youth committed to its facilities.<sup>15</sup>
- **2000:** The U.S. DOJ, both groups of private plaintiffs, and the State of Louisiana entered into a settlement agreement, which was subsequently amended in 2003 and 2004. <sup>16</sup> Secure facility reform began with over 1,600 youth in custody at the time- one of the highest rates of incarceration in the country.<sup>17</sup> This began movement from an adult corrections-focused model of juvenile justice to one that emphasized community-based treatment and rehabilitation.<sup>18</sup> The Juvenile Justice Program at LSUHSC was created to provide all health, dental care, and mental health care to incarcerated juveniles per the settlement agreement.
- **2001:** The state legislature created the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) to "recommend meaningful improvements in juvenile justice at all levels of state government and public involvement." Following a period of study — the JJC's Advisory Board issued a report in 2003, recommending that the system be restructured to better facilitate expanded development of community-based interventions; expand the use of diversion; better integrate prevention, education and treatment services; improve the legal process as it impacts children and fam-

13 <https://lasc.libguides.com/c.php?g=484864&p=3320593>

14 Human Rights Watch Children's Rights Project. Children in Confinement in Louisiana, October 1995, Available online at: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/pdfs/c/crd/us95o.pdf> . See also Gregg Halembe, Gene Siegel, Charles Puzanchera, and Patrick Griffin. Louisiana Models for Change: Background Summary, National Center for Juvenile Justice (2006: 2); The original/amended complaints are available at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/findsettle.htm#Complaints> .

15 [https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Report\\_FINAL\\_11February2013.pdf](https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Report_FINAL_11February2013.pdf)

16 G. Halembe et al. Louisiana Models for Change: Background Summary, National Center for Juvenile Justice (2006: 2)

17 Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1994 Data Book on Louisiana's Children (1994)

18 [https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Report\\_FINAL\\_11February2013.pdf](https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Report_FINAL_11February2013.pdf)



ilies; and restructure and improve the financing of juvenile indigent defense.<sup>19</sup>

- **2003:** The legislature passes the “Juvenile Justice Reform Act.” Act 1225 was widely considered to be one of Louisiana’s most significant pieces of juvenile justice legislation. The Act mandated several steps, with varying degrees of success in retrospect. 1) Closed the secure facility in Tallulah; 2) Created a single state entity to recommend uniform standards and licensing procedures for local detention facilities; 3) Developed a comprehensive strategy for fostering inter-agency agreements and cooperation regarding data sharing on system-involved youth and families among several state agencies; 4) Established a collaboration between the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Planning and Coordination Board to formulate, develop and recommend a model master plan for improving behavior and discipline within schools; 5) Created the Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission (JJIC), a five-member body charged with overseeing the implementation of Act 1225’s recommendations and the continued reform of Louisiana’s juvenile justice system; 6) Re-authorized the Children’s Cabinet until 2008 to help streamline the myriad state and local departments, offices, and agencies that currently fund and provide juvenile justice services; Established both a Children’s Cabinet Research Council to identify research needs in child welfare and juvenile justice and the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Planning and Coordination Board; 7) Established the Louisiana Children, Youth and Families Investment Fund to promote investment in services and programs for children and families; Developed community and school-based systems of progressive sanctions and programs for juvenile delinquency response in different regions.<sup>20</sup>
- **2004:** The state legislature passed Act 7, which officially separated youth services of the Office of Youth Development from adult correctional services (i.e., DPSC), recognizing the fundamental differences between young people and adults. Act 555, that same year, mandated (unfunded) the establishment of Children and Youth Planning Boards in each judicial district and asked the JJIC to oversee these boards.<sup>21</sup>
- **2005:** The John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation selected Louisiana as the third state to participate in its national Models for Change Initiative, a five year, 10-million-dollar investment in Louisiana. Work began in 2006 with the

<sup>19</sup> Casey Strategic Consulting Group, Reducing Juvenile Incarceration in Louisiana, February 2003.

<sup>20</sup> Act 1225, Chapter 59, §2751 and Chapter 7, Part IV-B and Title 46, Chapter 45, Part III

<sup>21</sup> Act 1225, Chapter 59, §2751

first grant to the Louisiana Board of Regents as the Lead Entity with LSUHSC as the Project Director. The initiative, with extensive collaboration between judges, district attorneys, public defenders, detention centers, Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) and local probation, the Louisiana Supreme Court, and others, aimed to accelerate the pace of juvenile justice reform in targeted states and help them become successful models of policy and practice that could be emulated elsewhere. Louisiana selected three areas of focus- alternatives to formal processing, increasing access to evidence-based services (including risk and needs assessments), and reducing disproportionate minority contact.<sup>22</sup>

- **2006:** The OJJ, was found in full compliance with the 2000 settlement agreement with DOJ and released from federal oversight. In addition, with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the agency began implementation of the Louisiana Model in its secure facilities, which drew on a nationally-acclaimed model of residential care centered on providing therapeutic treatment in small, home-like environments.<sup>23</sup>
- **2006:** Louisiana began participation in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.
- **2007:** The Louisiana state legislature enacted the Louisiana Public Defender Act (Act 307) designed to reform and restructure the state's indigent defense system. As part of this landmark legislation, key juvenile defense positions were established, most notably the position of director of Juvenile Defender Services. This Act, the leadership of the Office of the Public Defender, and the Louisiana Public Defender Board, developed opportunities to strengthen and enhance juvenile defense practice and policy across the state.<sup>24</sup>
- **2011:** House Concurrent Resolution No. 120 commissioned the state's Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission (JJRIC) to submit a report to the legislature in January 2013 that assessed the current state of the JJS, evaluated improvements made over the preceding five years, and issued recommendations for a five-year plan for reform. The JJRIC requested that LSU IPHJ, the home for the Louisiana Models for Change effort, manage and develop the report.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Models for Change website, Available online at: <http://www.modelsforchange.net/about/States-for-change/Louisiana.html>

<sup>23</sup> The Law Library of Louisiana. (N.d.). A brief history of Louisiana juvenile courts. <https://lasc.libguides.com/c.php?g=484864&p=3366406>

<sup>24</sup> The Law Library of Louisiana. (N.d.). A brief history of Louisiana juvenile courts. <https://lasc.libguides.com/c.php?g=484864&p=3366406>

<sup>25</sup> <https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/service/institute-for-public-health-and-justice/resources/juvenile-justice-system-reform/>

- **2013:** The JJIRC report of the suggested roadmap forward in reform (found here> <https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/service/institute-for-public-health-and-justice/resources/juvenile-justice-system-reform/> ) was submitted prior to the legislative session. Of one critical note for this current analysis was the finding that, “A particular challenge for this study was the lack of organized data and information on the JJ System.”
- **2019-2020:** “Raise the Age” went into effect, affording 17-year-olds charged with non-violent offenses the ability to remain in the JJS. <sup>26</sup>
- **2022:** The legislature placed strict limits on the use of juvenile solitary confinement. <sup>27</sup>
- **2024:** The newly elected governor called a special session on crime. This resulted in several bills, passed into law, including placing 17-year-olds, starting at arrest, back into adult court processes, including jail, regardless of crime; reversed measures to reduce the state’s prison populations, known as the justice reinvestment initiative, where savings from prison reductions were to go to community programs for crime victims and anti-recidivism efforts; and, substantially changed the public defense system with the governor having more power, replacing the former 11 member Public Defender Board’s authority with a newly created office of the state public defender and 9 member board headed by an executive of the governor’s choosing (currently to be called the Louisiana Public Defender Oversight Board). <sup>28</sup>

As Louisiana’s JJS continues to strive to balance the protection of public safety with the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders, the state’s emerging policies will reflect the evolving priorities of state.

<sup>26</sup> Phillippi, S., Siegel, G., Scharf, P., Atkinson, R., McCann, E. & Arteaga, P. (2016). A legislated study of raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction in Louisiana. [http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/RAISE\\_THE\\_AGE\\_DRAFT\\_20160128Final.pdf](http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/RAISE_THE_AGE_DRAFT_20160128Final.pdf)

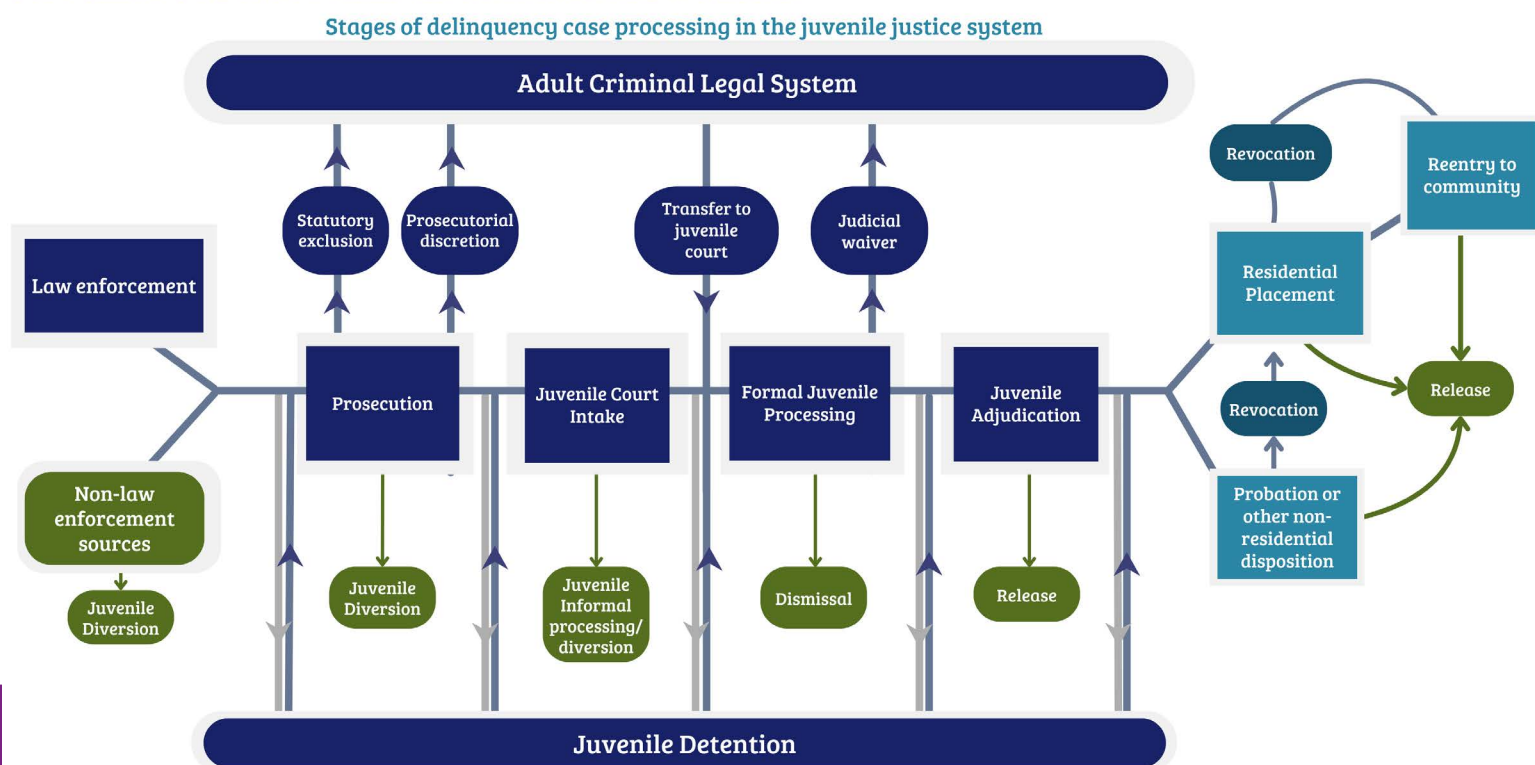
<sup>27</sup> <https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/service/institute-for-public-health-and-justice/resources/juvenile-justice-system-reform/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://lailluminator.com/2024/03/04/louisiana-special-session-on-crime-winners-and-losers>

Juvenile Justice Systems vary widely across states and even within states. Louisiana is not different with state oversight of many services, such as secure custody and the majority of probation and parole services. However, individual jurisdictions in five areas of the state also have local probation (namely- E. Baton Rouge, Caddo, Calcasieu, Alexandria, and Jefferson Parishes).

In addition to the state juvenile facilities, there are 13 juvenile detention centers operated by local municipalities, which leaves many parishes having to share their use. District Attorney offices vary widely in their use and resourcing of diversion. At the court level, differences include variations of district courts with dedicated juvenile courts, city courts, and a small smattering of courts with juvenile drug courts and/or family court models. Figure 4 below attempts to give a general visualization of what most might perceive as the JJS in Louisiana.<sup>29</sup>

**Figure 4.**  
**Juvenile Justice Point of Contact Flowchart**



Source: Adapted with modifications from the National Center for Juvenile Justice Youth and the Juvenile Justice System 2022 National Report (December 2022).





## OVERVIEW OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA IN LOUISIANA

# Status Offenses

## Families in Needs of Services

In Louisiana, young people who have allegedly committed status offenses and their families are commonly referred to as Families in Need of Services (FINS). According to the Louisiana Children's Code, FINS cases may either be diverted from formal court processing, known as Informal FINS, or be referred to court for a formal proceeding, known as Formal FINS. Currently, in Louisiana, these two paths are quite distinct and fragmented. There is no one unified or cohesive FINS "system" or entity that oversees all aspects of FINS responses or services.

Informal FINS refers to local responses to status offending youth - children who are not committing crimes, but are described as chronically misbehaving, such as missing school (i.e., truant), running away, or acting out to such a degree that their caregivers cannot control them (i.e., ungovernable) – outside of the courts and formal justice system. Informal FINS is a voluntary process designed to assess the psychosocial needs of both the youth and their families with the goal of preventing further involvement with the justice system. A youth may be referred to FINS by schools, parents, police, judges, or other sources.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> [https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary\\_FINAL\\_11\\_February\\_2013.pdf](https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary_FINAL_11_February_2013.pdf)

Data related to status offense referrals and Informal FINS process participation is housed at the Louisiana Supreme Court. The Families in Need of Services Assistance Program (FINS-AP) administers funding for Informal FINS offices in 45 courts across Louisiana.<sup>31</sup> Aggregate data may be available upon request; however, public facing data are not available at this time. Per the request of the IPHJ, the following demographic data were shared.

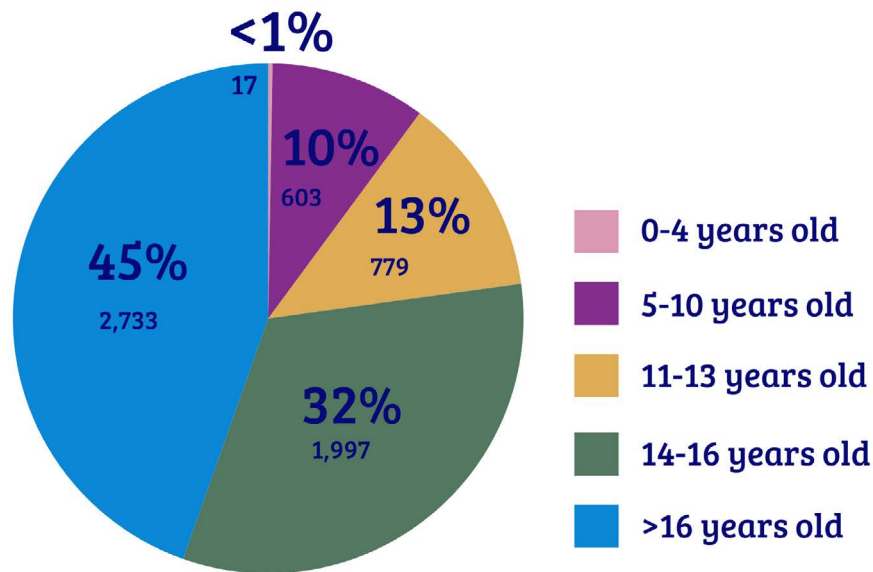
# Data Summary: Who are the Youth Reported with Status Offenses?

## In Louisiana in 2022...

- There were 6,129 Informal FINS referrals, or complaints, statewide.
- Over half of the referred youth were identified as “Black” (56%) and/or “Male” (57%).
- Schools accounted for the majority of referrals (61%).
- Nearly 25 of every 1,000 youth between the ages of 10-17 in Louisiana received an Informal FINS referral in 2022.
- On average, Informal FINS cases remain open for 196 days, roughly six and half months, much longer than the recommended (per national best practice) length of one to three months.
- Cases stemming from truancy have the longest average lengths of Informal FINS involvement, at 203 days, with referrals in response to violations of school rules closely following at 196 days.
- Twenty-five parishes accounted for 89% of the Informal FINS referrals statewide.

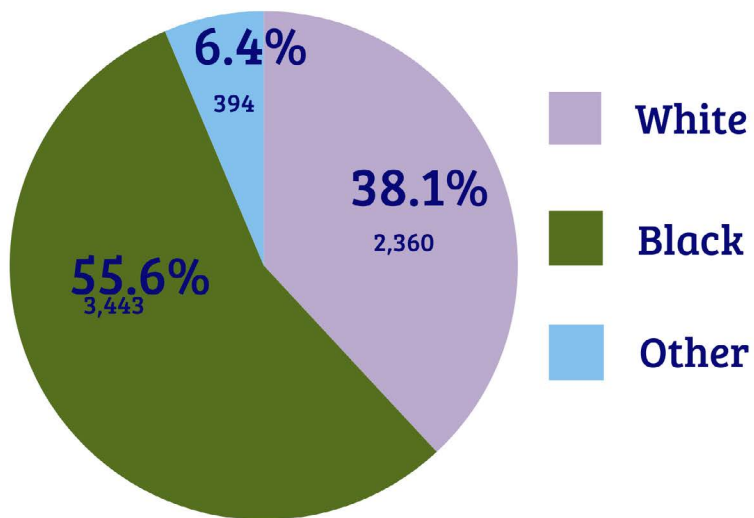
<sup>31</sup> Louisiana Supreme Court. (N.d.). Families in Needs of Services. [https://www.lasc.org/Children\\_Families?p=FINS](https://www.lasc.org/Children_Families?p=FINS)

**Figure 5.**  
**Age Ranges of Informal FINS Youth,**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**



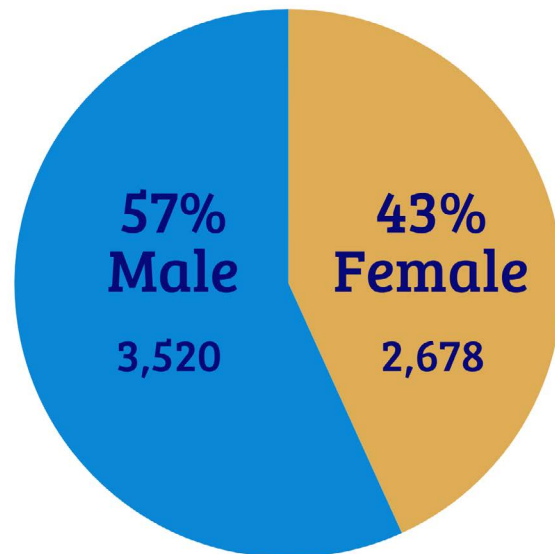
Source: Louisiana Supreme Court. (N.d.). Families in Needs of Services.  
[https://www.lasc.org/Children\\_Families?p=FINS](https://www.lasc.org/Children_Families?p=FINS)

**Figure 6.**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Informal FINS Youth,**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**



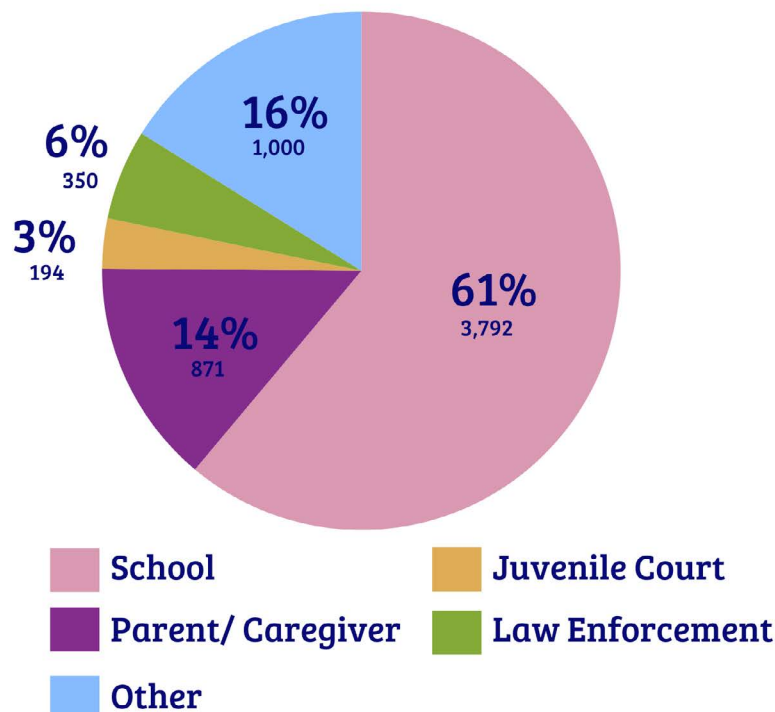
Source: Louisiana Supreme Court. (N.d.). Families in Needs of Services.  
[https://www.lasc.org/Children\\_Families?p=FINS](https://www.lasc.org/Children_Families?p=FINS)

**Figure 7.**  
**Gender of Informal FINS Youth**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**



Source: Louisiana Supreme Court. (N.d.). Families in Needs of Services.  
[https://www.lasc.org/Children\\_Families?p=FINS](https://www.lasc.org/Children_Families?p=FINS)

**Figure 8.**  
**Referral Sources for Youth,**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**



Source: Louisiana Supreme Court. (N.d.). Families in Needs of Services.  
[https://www.lasc.org/Children\\_Families?p=FINS](https://www.lasc.org/Children_Families?p=FINS)



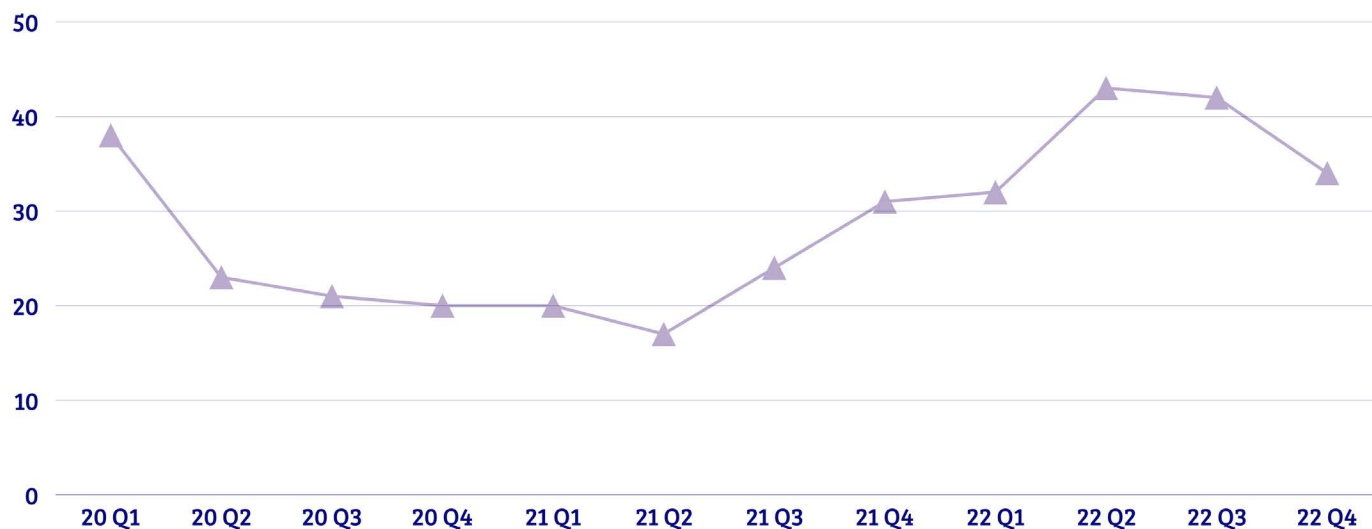
As can be observed by these data, the majority of the 6,129 youth touching this status offense responding procedure are aged 14 to 17, Black, male, and referred by schools. As an early intervention process of the justice system, if informal FINS processes were effective, offering access to more youth of color could decrease further penetration into the system and limit some disproportionate contact with parts of the system like future arrest, detention, court, probation, and/or residential or secure placement. It is unknown by the available data as to whether this is accurate. What we do know from the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) data that follows, a number of these youth are also received through formal court processes. This includes 113 for truancy/violation of school rules and 446 for ungovernable behavior during a five-year period.

Although occurring in a minority of FINS related cases, some FINS youth are formally processed and may be placed in the custody of OJJ. In the last two years, this population has increased by 43%, with 30 youth in custody at the end of 2022.<sup>32</sup> (see Figure 9). These youth primarily come from a specific group of parishes, with Desoto, Allen, and Bienville referring FINS youth into OJJ custody at the highest rates in 2022.<sup>33</sup> (see Figure 10)

**Figure 9.**

## FINS Youth in the Custody of OJJ: 2020-2022

Number of FINS youth served by year, quarter:



Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

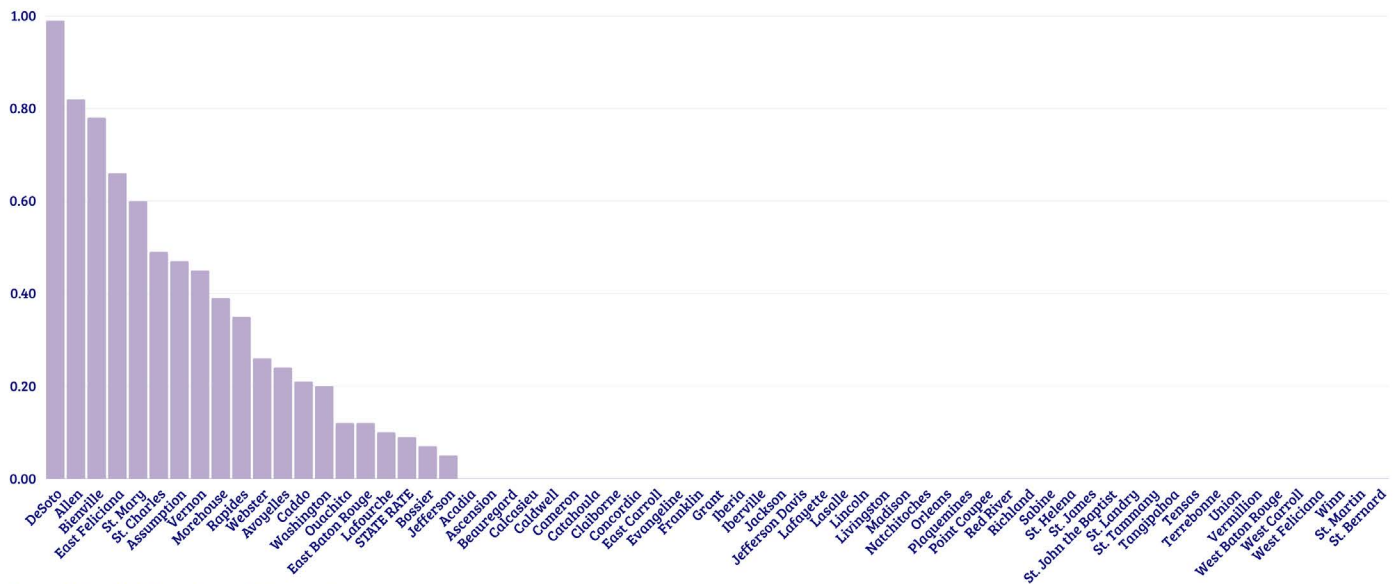
<sup>32</sup> <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-in-community-residential-placement>

<sup>33</sup> <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-in-community-residential-placement>

Figure 10.

## OJJ Fins Custody Trends, 2022 Quarter 3

FINS custody rate per 1,000 age 10-17 parish residents based on yearly population estimates



Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

# JUVENILE DELINQUENCY OFFENSES

## Arrests

Official records of the level of offending by youth are inherently limited, but they can be indicators of justice system activity. In the JJS the official terminology is that a youth is detained for an alleged offense; however, the more common vernacular is to express this as an "arrest." This includes terminology used in most official reports.

Arrest data in the U.S., including Louisiana, primarily come from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting system. The National Center for Juvenile Justice (<https://ncjj.org>) and the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov>) are the primary analysts and reporting agencies for these youth related data. As for these data, states vary in juvenile arrest rates reported. According to OJJDP, this may reflect differences in juvenile law-violating behavior, police behavior, and/or community standards; therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05103.asp?qaDate=2020>

# Data Summary: Who are these Youth reported with Delinquency Related Offenses?

## National and Louisiana trends

Over a span of five years (2016-2020), according to publicly reported statistics, juvenile arrests have declined in Louisiana, while law enforcements' reporting of data has remained moderately high compared to many other states. These arrest trends are consistent with national trends, although Louisiana's overall youth arrest rates remain higher per capita than the average of the nation.<sup>35</sup> (See Figures 11 and 12)

**Figure 11.**  
**National vs. Louisiana Juvenile Arrest Rates\***  
**2016-2020**

Year	National vs. LA	Reported Coverage	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Larceny Theft	Drug Abuse	Weapons
2020**	U.S.	76%	58	38	148	122	34
	Louisiana	72%	133	54	249	168	92
2019	U.S.	77%	83	53	270	234	49
	Louisiana	75%	188	47	453	253	106
2018	U.S.	82%	84	52	286	269	50
	Louisiana	85%	204	49	537	362	106
2017	U.S.	84%	86	60	364	283	54
	Louisiana	80%	192	68	741	347	101
2016	U.S.	86%	85	59	409	293	57
	Louisiana	89%	194	76	703	335	103

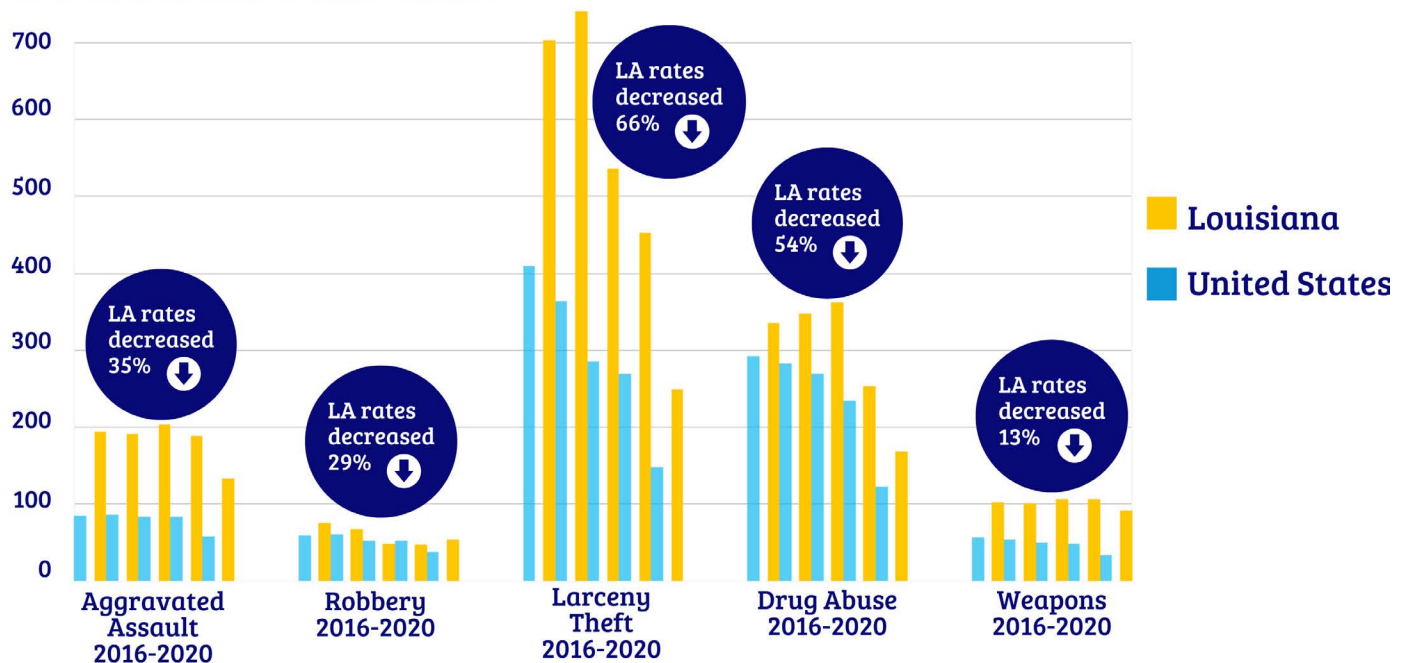
\*Arrest rate is defined as the number of arrests of persons under age 18 for every 100,000 persons ages 10-17. Persons under age 10 are excluded in the rate calculation as these are regarded as status offenses in most states.

\*\*2020 was the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, which may have impacted policies, procedures, and data collection activities. Additionally, stay-at-home orders likely impacted the volume and type of law-violating behavior that came to the attention of law enforcement in 2020.

Source: OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book. Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05103.asp?qaDate=2020>. Released on July 08, 2022.

35 OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book. Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05103.asp?qaDate=2020>. Released on July 08, 2022. Data Source: Adapted from the FBI's 2020 Crime in the United States Report [Tables 5 and 69] available from the Crime Data Explorer (<https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/downloads>, retrieved June 6, 2022).

**Figure 12.**  
**Youth Arrest Trends Nationally and in Louisiana: 2016-2020**



Source: OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book. Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05103.asp?qaDate=2020>. Released on July 08, 2022.

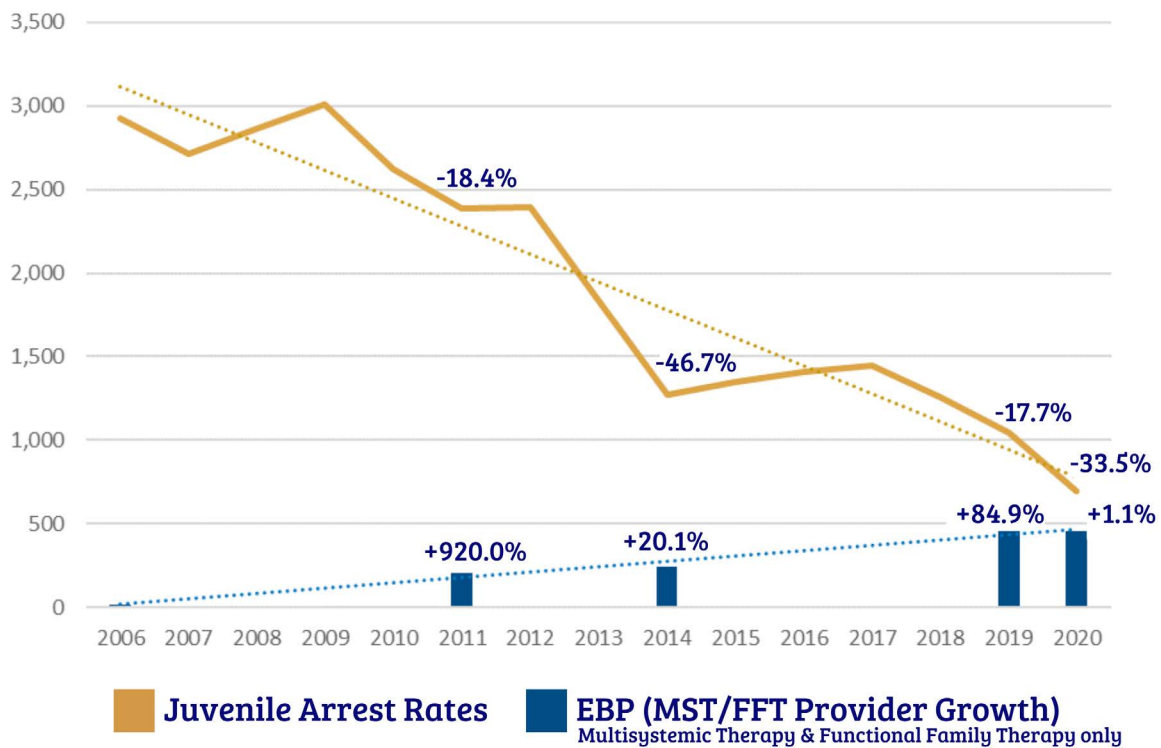
Of note, during this same period of steady declines in youth arrests, the state (via the Louisiana Department of Health & OJJ) made focused investments in evidence-based community programs that target youth and family skill development to address behavioral problems, including conduct disorder, substance abuse, and violence.<sup>36</sup> In fact, Louisiana is currently leading the nation in access to Functional Family Therapy (FFT) per capita and has a high volume of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) providers as well.<sup>37</sup>(see Figures 13-15)

<sup>36</sup> [https://laevidencetopractice.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EBP-Graphics-Annual-Report\\_03.02.23.pdf](https://laevidencetopractice.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EBP-Graphics-Annual-Report_03.02.23.pdf) and <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05101.asp?qaDate=2020&text=yes>

<sup>37</sup> [https://laevidencetopractice.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EBP-Graphics-Annual-Report\\_03.02.23.pdf](https://laevidencetopractice.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EBP-Graphics-Annual-Report_03.02.23.pdf)

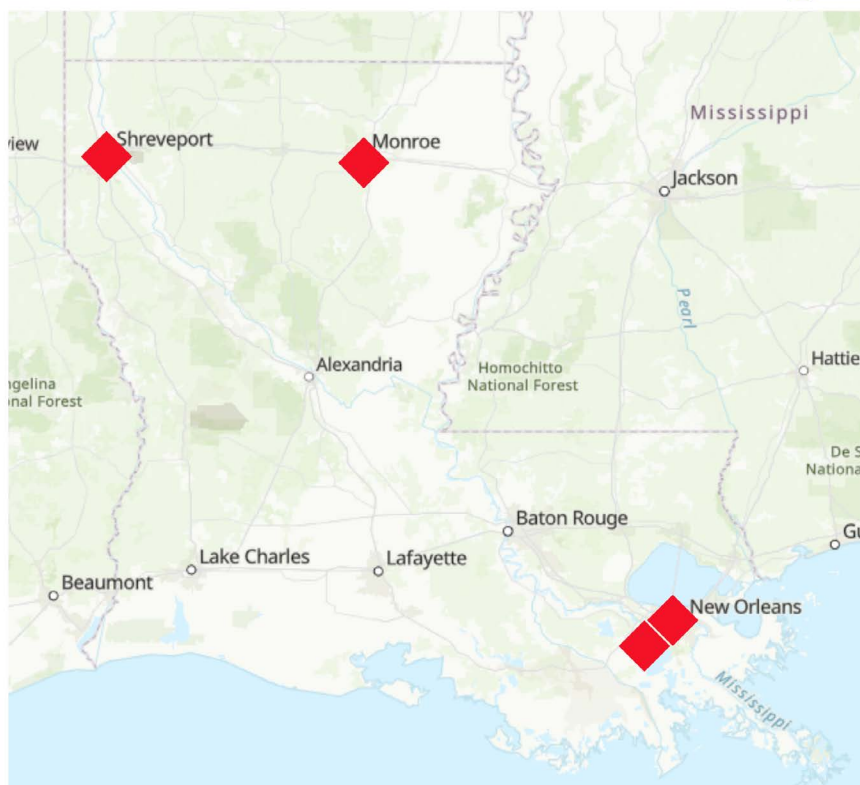


**Figure 13.**  
**Provider Growth vs. Juvenile Arrest Rates in Louisiana**

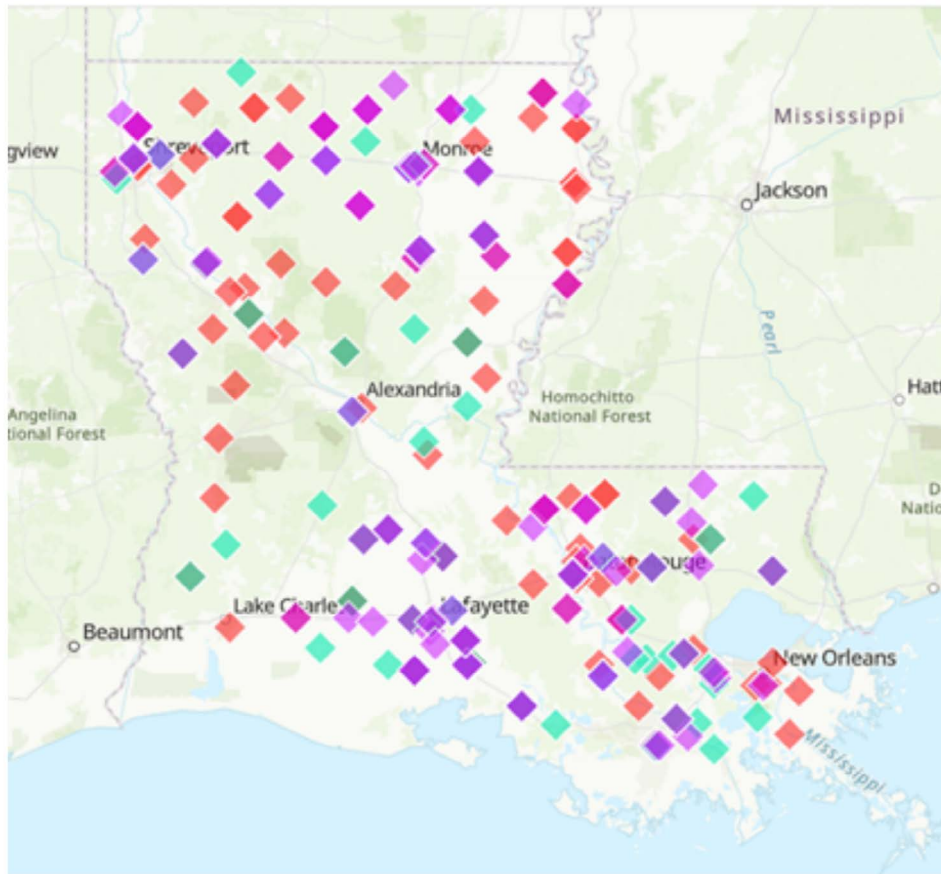


Sources: <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05101.asp?qaDate=2020&text=yes>  
[https://laevidencetopractice.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EBP-Graphics-Annual-Report\\_03.02.23.pdf](https://laevidencetopractice.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EBP-Graphics-Annual-Report_03.02.23.pdf)

**Figure 14.**  
**MST and FFT Accessibility 2006**

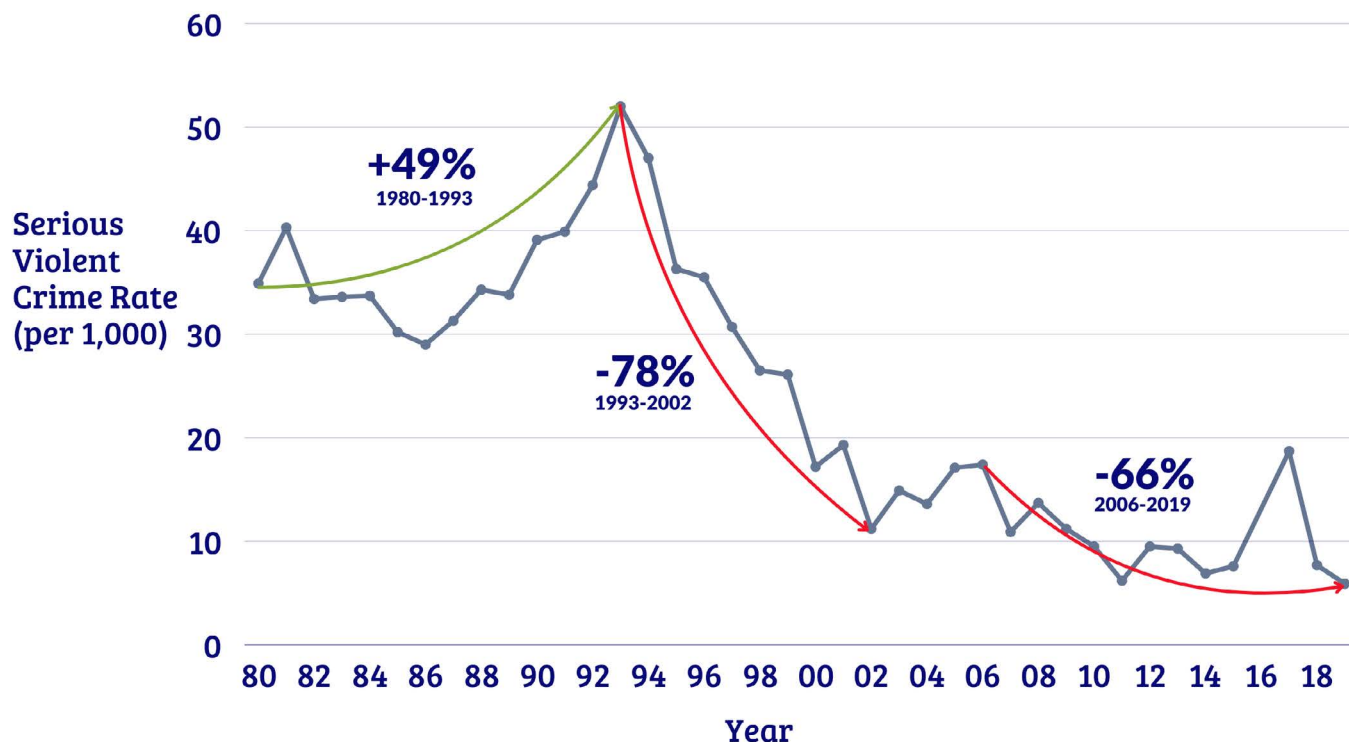


**Figure 15.**  
**MST and FFT Accessibility 2023**



As mentioned, Louisiana has trends higher in its volume of arrests associated with various delinquent acts; however, it also follows a similar pattern of increases and decreases compared to nationally reported statistics. For that reason, it is worth noting several national trends with the reasonable assumption that Louisiana may have experienced similar trends, yet at higher rates. See figures 16-18.

**Figure 16.**  
**Victimizations by Youth Ages 12-17**  
**(per 1,000 youth ages 12-17), 1980-2019**



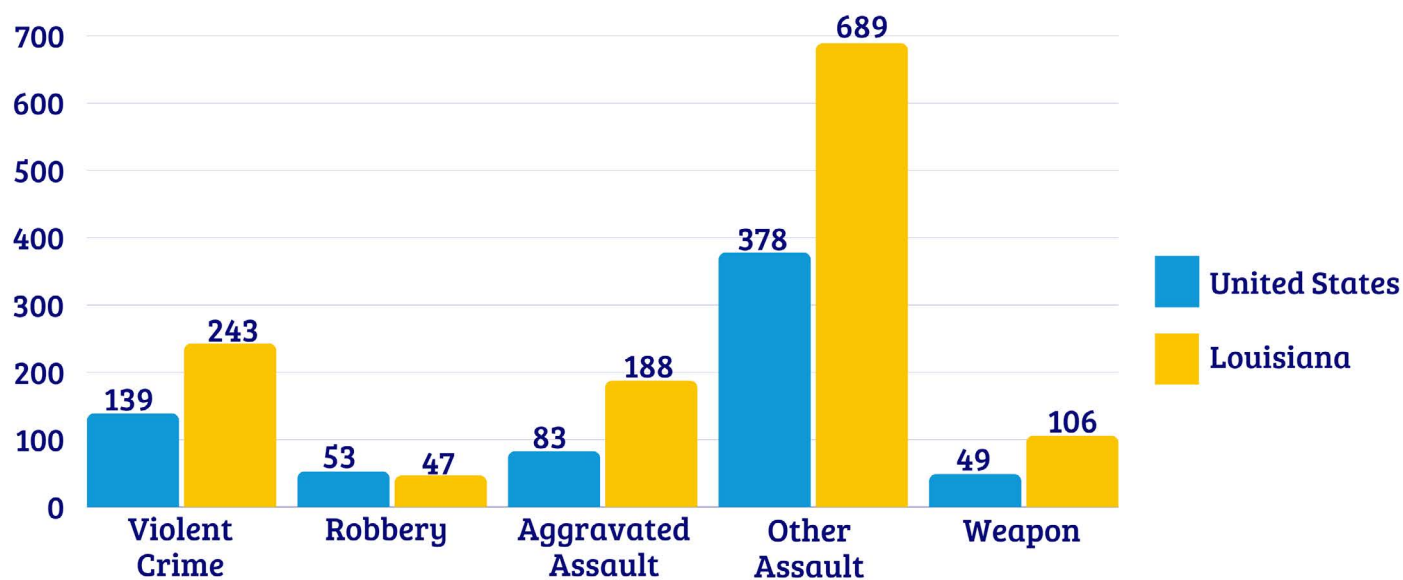
Source: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/2022-national-report.pdf>

The rate at which youth ages 12 to 17 committed serious violent crimes peaked in 1993 then generally declined through 2019 nationally.<sup>38</sup> (see Figure 16) Louisiana has followed a similar trend, albeit at a higher rate.

<sup>38</sup> <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf> and <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/2022-national-report.pdf>

In 2019, as Louisiana arrest rates declined overall, the rate of violent crime arrests remained higher than the national average. (See Figure 17).

**Figure 17.**  
**National vs. Louisiana Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rates, 2019**



Note: Serious violent crime includes aggravated assault, rape, and robbery reported to the National Crime Victim Survey that involved at least one offender perceived by the victim to be 12-17 years of age, plus the number of homicides reported to the police that involved at least one perpetrator age 12-17. Rate is per 100,000 youth.

Source: National Center for Juvenile Justice Youth and the Juvenile Justice System 2022 National Report (December 2022).

Nationally, females accounted for 31% of all the youth arrested in 2019, youth ages 16-17 accounted for 48%, and White youth accounted for 63%. <sup>39</sup> (see Figure 18)

<sup>39</sup> <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/2022-national-report.pdf>



# Figure 18.

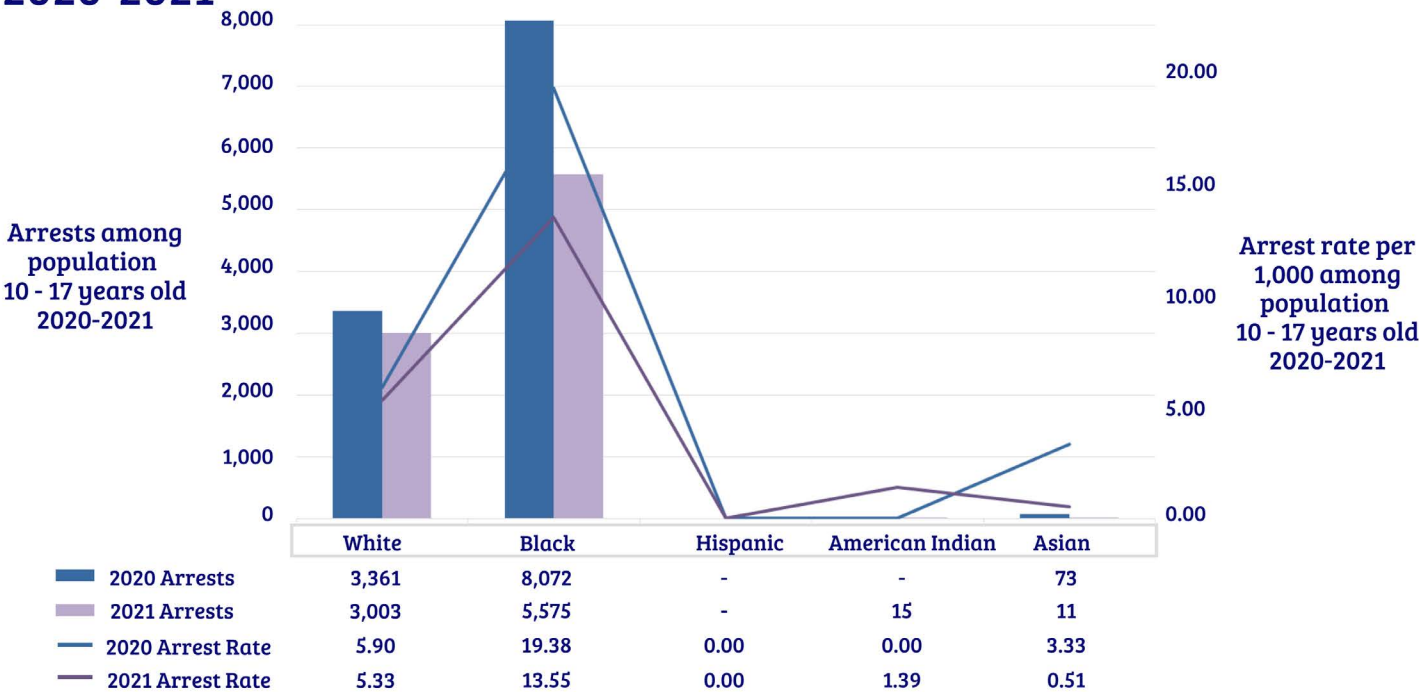
## Total Juvenile Arrests in U.S. by Gender, Age, and Race in 2019

Most serious offense	2019 Juvenile Arrests	Percent of total juvenile arrests, 2019					
		Female	Ages 16-17	White	Black	American Indian	Asian
Total	696,620	31%	48%	63%	34%	2%	1%
Violent Crime	44,010	21%	50%	49%	48%	2%	2%
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	860	11%	70%	47%	50%	3%	0%
Rape	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Robbery	16,080	12%	56%	36%	62%	1%	2%
Aggravated assault	27,070	26%	46%	56%	40%	2%	1%
Property crime index	119,790	33%	49%	55%	42%	2%	2%
Burglary	20,700	14%	46%	57%	40%	2%	2%
Larceny-theft	83,690	40%	50%	55%	41%	2%	2%
Motor vehicle theft	13,610	20%	48%	47%	50%	2%	1%
Arson	1,800	15%	27%	69%	27%	2%	1%
Nonindex crimes							
Other (simple) assault	126,130	38%	37%	59%	38%	2%	1%
Forgery and counterfeit	850	23%	69%	62%	36%	1%	2%
Fraud	3,690	33%	58%	50%	46%	2%	1%
Embezzlement	540	46%	87%	47%	50%	0%	3%
Stolen property	8,940	18%	58%	35%	62%	1%	2%
Vandalism	31,950	20%	38%	70%	27%	2%	1%
Weapons	16,080	10%	53%	56%	41%	1%	2%
Prostitution	290	71%	74%	47%	51%	0%	2%
Sex offense	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Drug abuse violation	81,320	26%	63%	75%	21%	2%	2%
Gambling	190	29%	63%	58%	38%	0%	3%
Offenses against family/children	3,060	41%	43%	67%	23%	10%	0%
Driving under the influence	5,570	26%	93%	89%	6%	3%	2%
Liquor laws	26,650	42%	68%	86%	7%	6%	1%
Drunkenness	3,470	33%	70%	77%	12%	10%	1%
Disorderly conduct	53,990	37%	36%	55%	42%	3%	1%
Vagrancy	350	25%	45%	72%	25%	2%	1%
All other offenses (except traffic)	144,160	30%	50%	67%	29%	2%	1%
Curfew/loitering	14,650	34%	44%	66%	30%	3%	2%
U.S. Population ages 10-17:	33,266,572	49%	25%	75%	17%	2%	6%

Source: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/2022-national-report.pdf>

The only locally reported Louisiana arrest data reflecting race were from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement’s (LCLE) annual report to OJJDP. This report shows that Black youth are arrested at rates two and half to over three times that of White youth in Louisiana while making up a smaller overall proportion of the youth population. <sup>40</sup>(see Figure 19)

**Figure 19.**  
**Louisiana Statewide Arrest Data per Racial Differences, 2020-2021**



Source: LCLE OJJDP R/ED report 2023.

40 LCLE OJJDP R/ED report 2023.

# Youth Diversion

There are no consistently publicly reported diversion data from District Attorney (DA) offices in Louisiana; thus, the impact, effectiveness, and/or the makeup of the youth and families experiencing these interventions are largely unknown. Diversion programs, by definition, are alternatives to formal processing (i.e., court) and potential probation or custody placements, while still holding youth accountable for their actions.<sup>41</sup> They are typically offered to youth with less severe first-time delinquent offense charges.

## Data Summary: Who are these Diverted Youth?

A small number of DAs report data to the LCLE due to OJJDP block grant funding requirements. Since these data were de-identified and in aggregate, we established rates per the population of Louisiana youth (and not the Parish where these diversion services may have been delivered or, ideally, the arrest data from that Parish). These data, which cannot be considered generalizable to other diversion programming, and may be unreliable, suggest that Black youth and Hispanic youth may be offered diversion opportunities at higher rates than White youth (but only if their local arrest data are proportionally similar to population race data, which is not likely). If diversion services are effective, offering such services to more youth of color could decrease further penetration into the system and limit some disproportionate contact with parts of the system like future arrest, detention, court, probation, and/or residential or secure placement. Outcomes for these programs are unknown, not assessed, and/or not uniformly reported at this time.<sup>42</sup> (see Figure 20)

41 <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/mpg-iguides/topics/diversion-programs/index.html#:~:text=Diversion%20is%20a%20term%20used,them%20accountable%20for%20their%20actions>

42 LCLE OJJDP R/ED report 2023.

**Figure 20.**

## **Diversion Program Participation by Race, FY2021**

	White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian
Population, 10 to 17 years old	563,130	411,518	75,806	10,829	21,627
Diversion (Number)	85	180	33	0	3
Diversion (rate per 1,000 youth)	0.15	0.44	0.44	0.00	0.14
Ratio to White Youth		2.93	2.93	0.00	0.93

Source: LCLE OJJDP R/ED report 2023.





## JUVENILE PRE-TRIAL DETENTION

# Detention

Detention refers to the practice (analogous to jail in the adult context) of holding youth temporarily in a locally-operated secure facility, pending a court hearing or briefly after receiving, or as part of, the court's disposition (i.e., sentence).<sup>43</sup> In Louisiana, juvenile detention is a local function. Parish governments pay for any time spent in a detention center; the centers are administered by parish boards and commissions, consolidated government agencies, juvenile courts, non-profit organizations, or law enforcement departments. According to a 2022 legislative audit, there are currently 13 juvenile detention centers licensed and operating in Louisiana.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>43</sup> [https://sph.lsuhscc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary\\_FINAL\\_11\\_February\\_2013.pdf](https://sph.lsuhscc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary_FINAL_11_February_2013.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> [https://app.lla.state.la.us/publicreports.nsf/0/68508947202a54458625882a0064c0bb/\\$file/000268d7a.pdf?openelement&.7773098](https://app.lla.state.la.us/publicreports.nsf/0/68508947202a54458625882a0064c0bb/$file/000268d7a.pdf?openelement&.7773098)

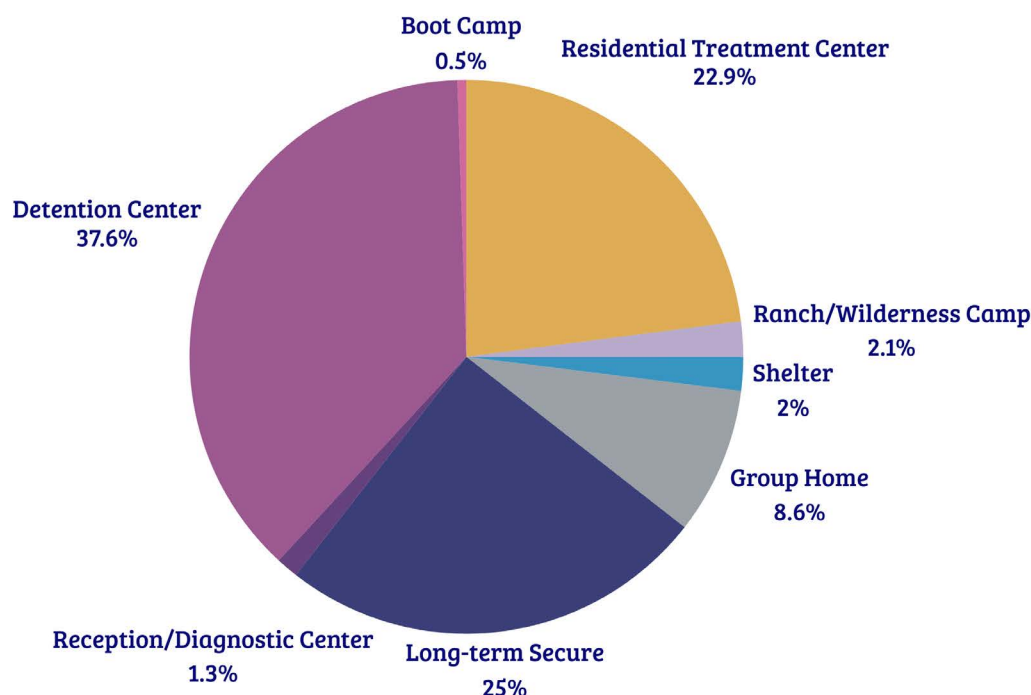
# Data Summary: Who are these Detained Youth?

## National Trends

Detention, temporarily or longer-term, was the most used form of facility placement for youth in the U.S., according to the most recent national report (2015).<sup>45</sup> (See Figure 21). As will be noted below, this is similar for Louisiana facilities, with detention centers holding youth more than any other facilities in the JJS.

Male youth accounted for most delinquency cases involving detention and were consistently more likely than female youth to be detained.<sup>46</sup> (see Figure 22). Nationally, youth detained are more likely to be Black or Latino.<sup>47</sup> (see Figure 23). Conversely, White youth were released at higher rates in the same year.<sup>48</sup> (See Figure 24).

**Figure 21.**  
**Total Youth in Residential Placement by Facility Type, 2015**



Source: Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzanchera, C. (2017). "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

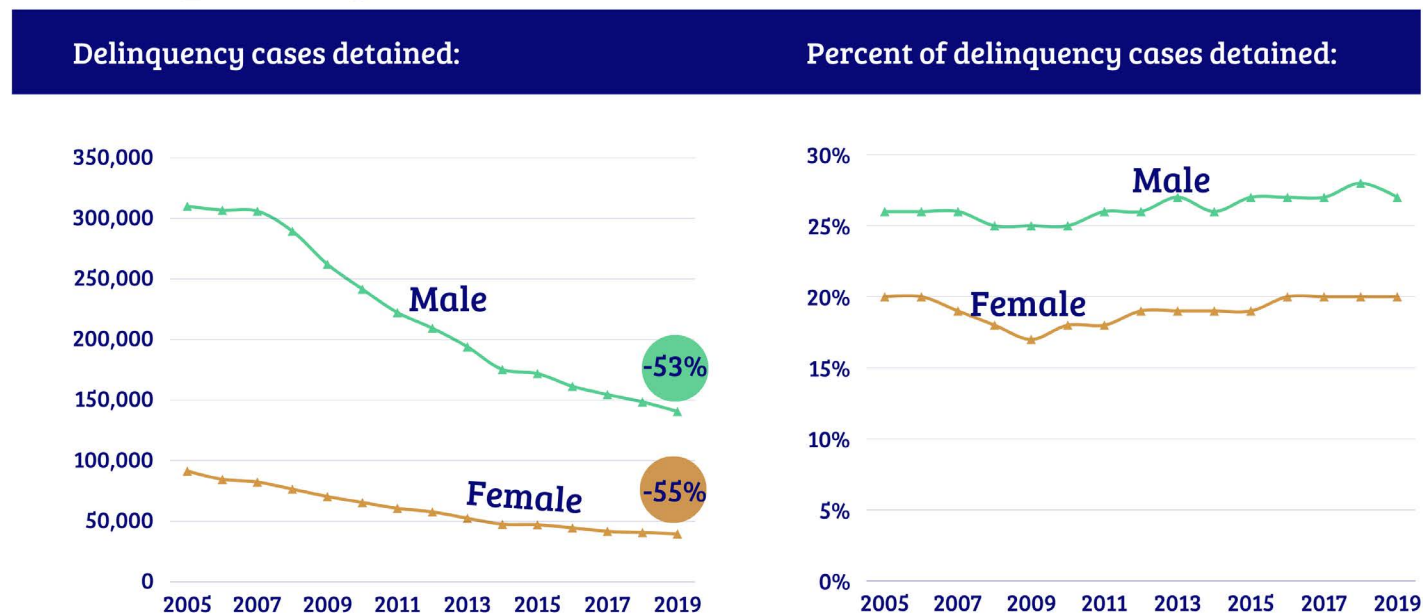
45 Sickmund, M, Sladky, TJ, Kang, W, & Puzzanchera, C (2017). "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/> .

46 <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

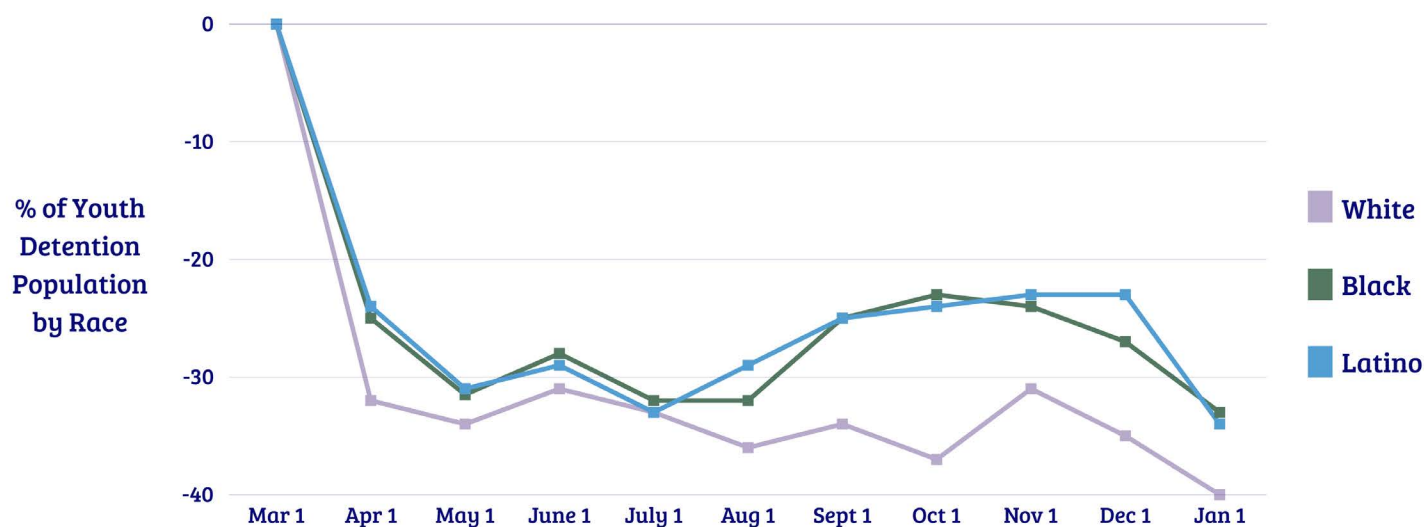
47 2020-2021 Stats: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/juvenile-justice-is-smaller-but-more-unequal-after-first-year-of-covid-19>

48 2020-2021 Stats: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/juvenile-justice-is-smaller-but-more-unequal-after-first-year-of-covid-19>

**Figure 22.**  
**Delinquency cases detained in the United States**



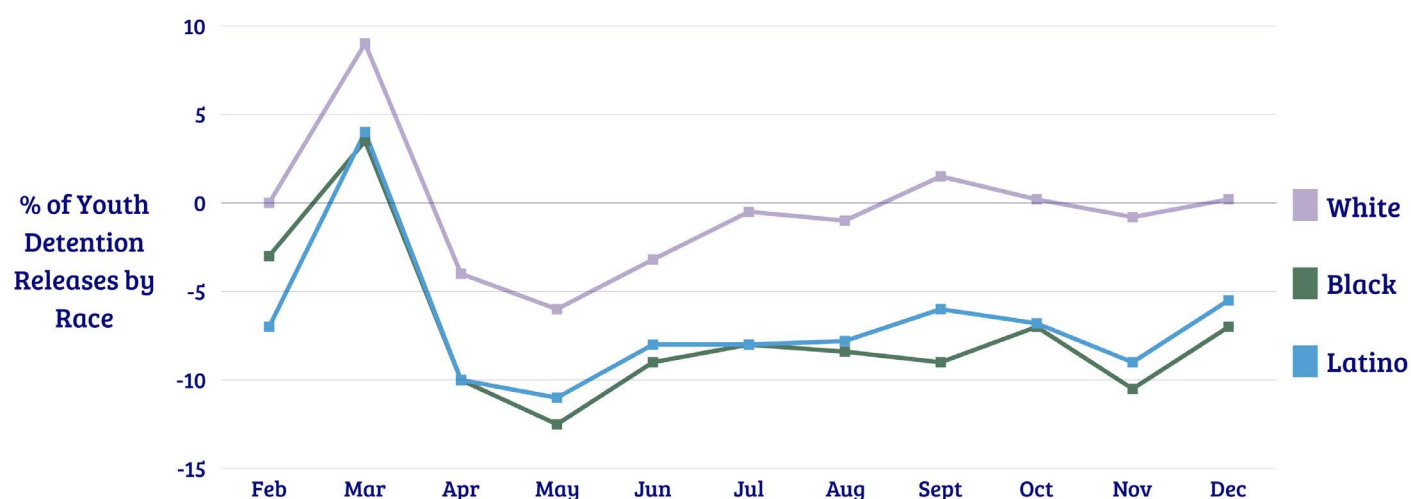
**Figure 23.**  
**National Juvenile Detention Trends by Race, 2020-2021**



Subset of national youth population, ages 10 to 17, from March 2020 through January 2021.

Source: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/juvenile-justice-is-smaller-but-more-unequal-after-first-year-of-covid-19>

**Figure 24.**  
**National Juvenile Detention Release Trends by Race, 2020**



Subset of national youth population, ages 10 to 17, from February 2020 through December 2020.

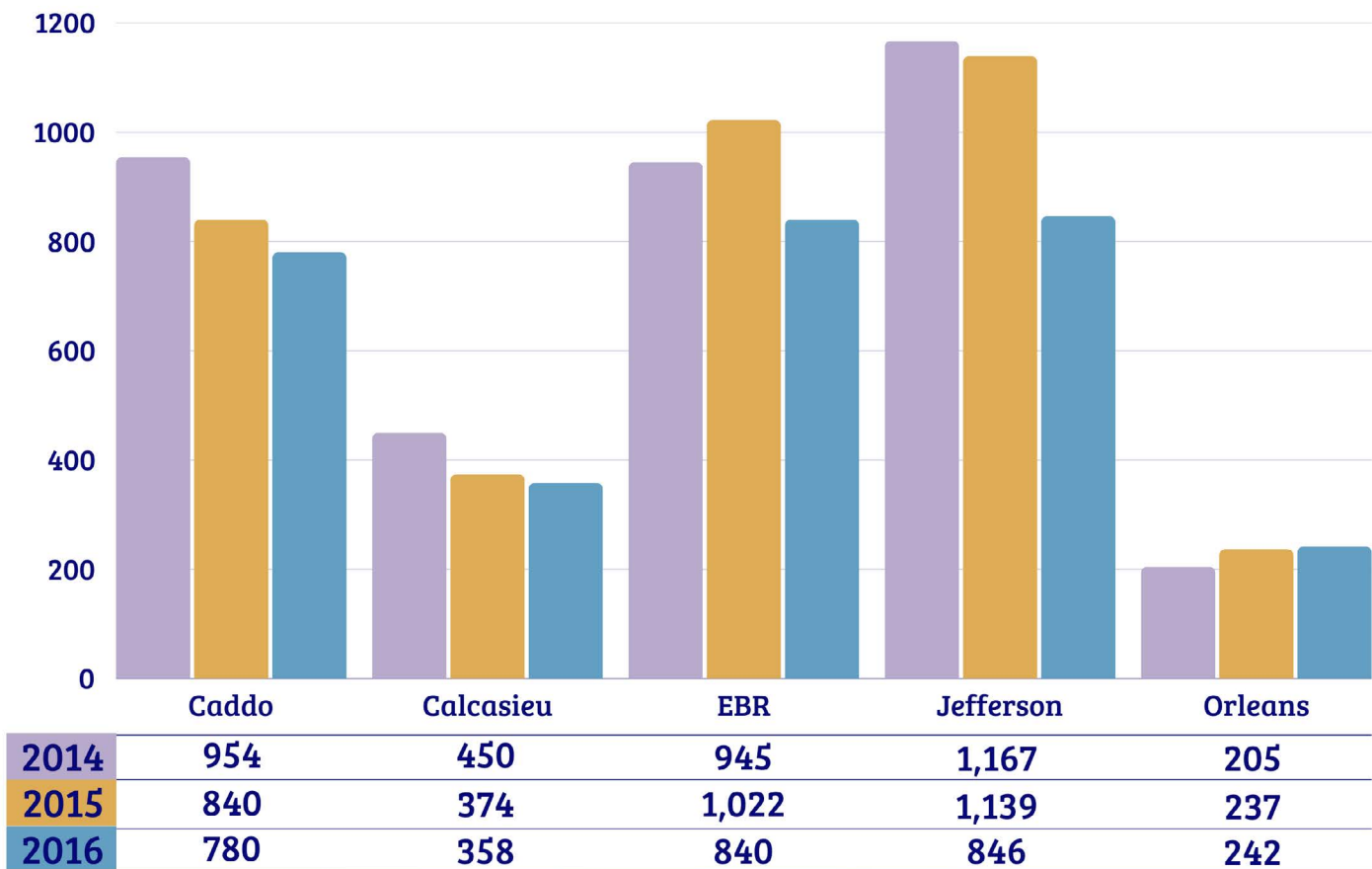
Source: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/juvenile-justice-is-smaller-but-more-unequal-after-first-year-of-covid-19>

More recently the LCLE, as part of their data collection efforts for OJJDP, reported the population data submissions by all juvenile detention centers for 2020 and 2021, including the racial and ethnic breakdowns of the population. Those data show (see Figure 25) that the total population in 2020 was 3939 as compared to the 2021 detention population of 3128 (a 21% decrease in one year).<sup>49</sup> However, Black youth remain admitted to these Centers at 4.5 times the rate of their White youth counterparts.

49 LCLE OJJDP R/ED report 2023



**Figure 25.**  
**Detention Admissions by Site in Louisiana,**  
**2014-2016**

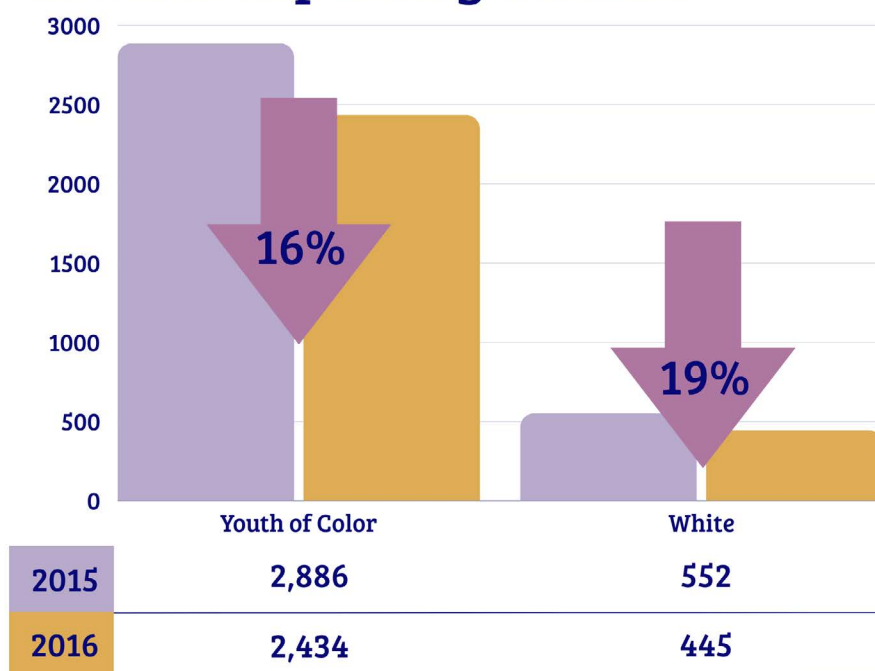


Source: <https://lcle.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2016-JDAI-Annual-Report-Final-7.25.17-PDF.pdf>

With the scarcity of publicly available detention center data, and after multiple requests with members of the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association, the IPHJ reviewed publicly available data on the thirteen juvenile detention centers' websites. Data resources were posted on two of the websites—Calcasieu Parish and Jefferson Parish. Both website sources had varying data available but with enough detail to show the general trends in detention utilization.<sup>50</sup> (see Figures 26-30)

50 LCLE OJJDP R/ED report 2023

**Figure 26.**  
**Detention Reductions by Race**  
**in JDAI Reporting Centers**



Source: <https://lcle.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2016-JDAI-Annual-Report-Final-7.25.17-PDF.pdf>

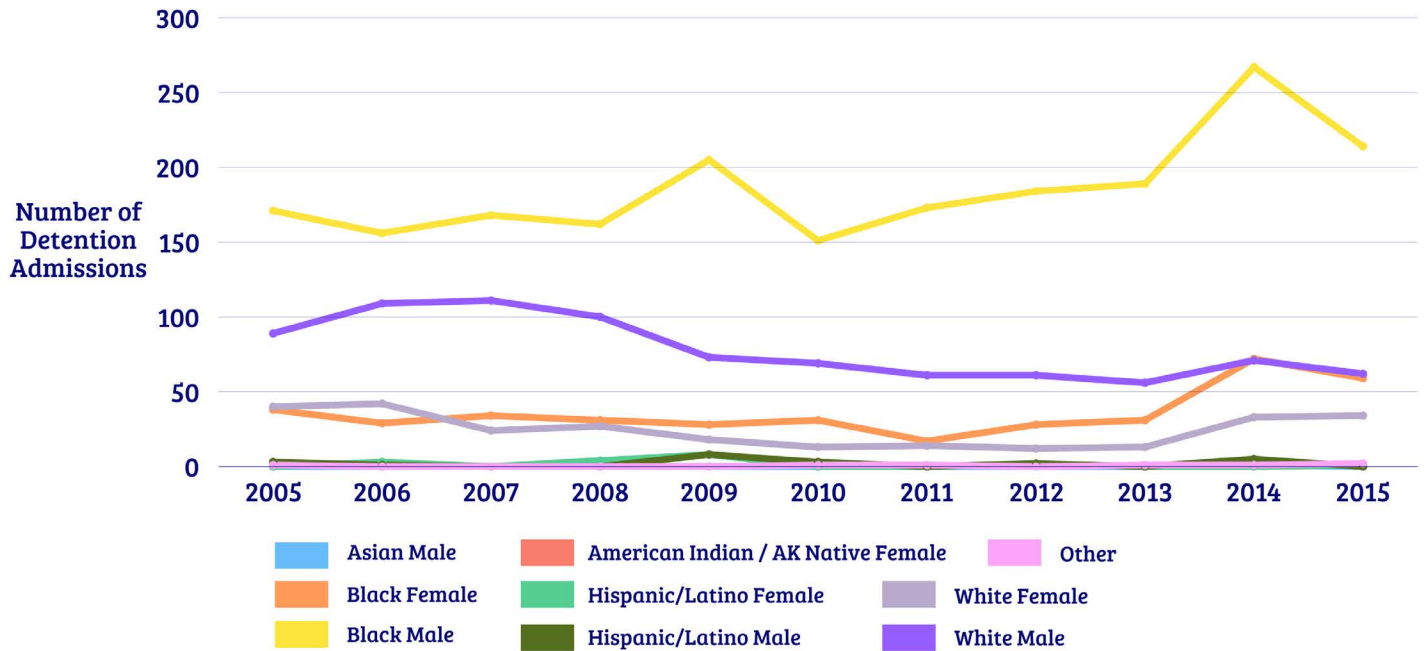
**Figure 27.**  
**Louisiana Juvenile Detention Populations by Race and**  
**Proportionality, 2020 and 2021**

	Year	White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian
Population, 10 to 17 years old	2020	569,957	416,507	76,723	10,961	21,921
	2021	563,130	411,518	75,806	10,829	21,627
Pretrial Detention (Number)	2020	822	2,876	211	0	29
	2021	706	2,327	89	1	2
Pretrial Detention (rate per 1,000)	2020	1.44	6.91	2.75	0	1.32
	2021	1.25	5.66	1.17	0.09	0.09
Ratio to White Youth	2020		4.80	1.91	0.0	0.92
	2021		4.53	0.94	0.72	0.72

Source: LCLE OJJDP R/ED report 2023

# Calcasieu Parish Juvenile Detention Center

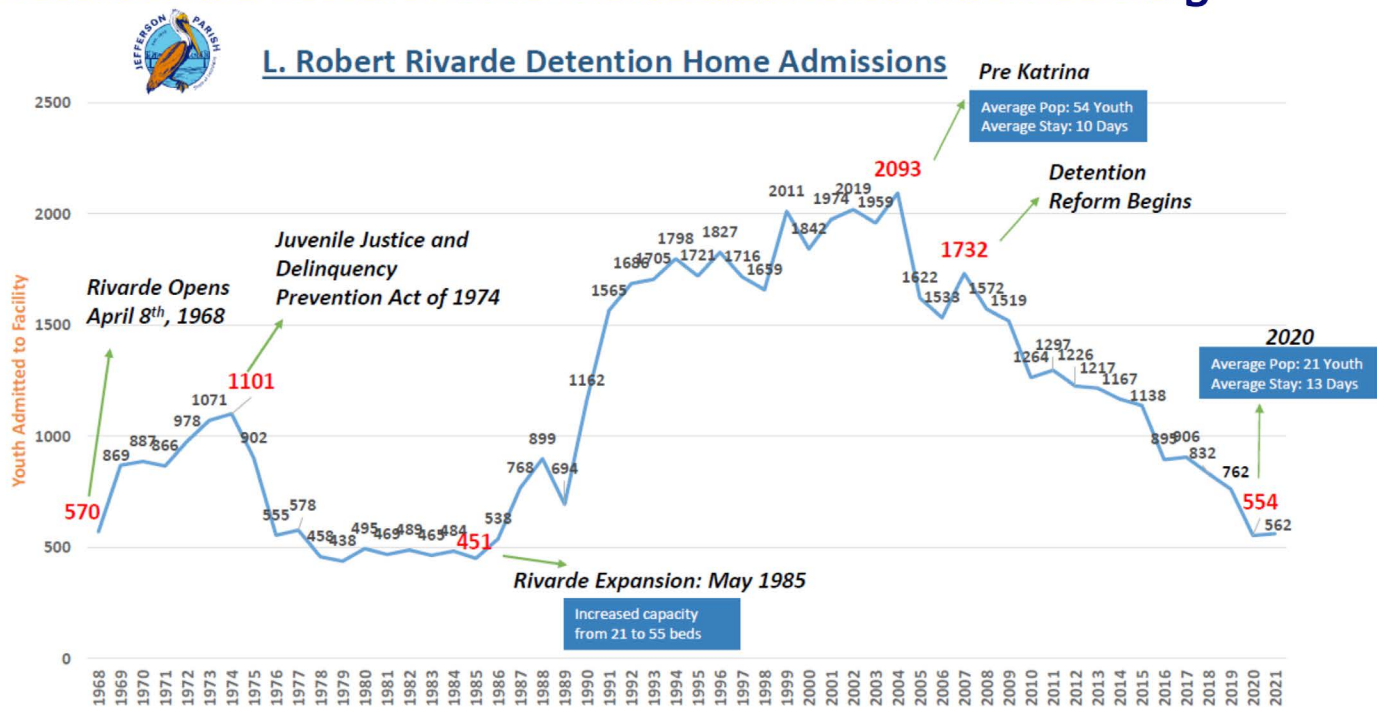
Figure 28.  
Detention Admissions by Race and Gender



Source: <https://www.calcasieu.gov/services/juvenile-justice-services/juvenile-detention-center/detention-statistics%20and%20https://jefferson-parish-government.azureedge.net/Rivarde%20Historical%20Data%20updated.pdf>

# Jefferson Parish Juvenile Detention Center (Rivarde)<sup>51</sup>

Figure 29.  
Jefferson Parish Detention Admissions Historically



Source: <https://jefferson-parish-government.azureedge.net/Rivarde%20Historical%20Data%20updated.pdf>

In Louisiana, statewide detention trend data are not available, although Act 147, of 2019, states detention centers shall have a record that includes “ parish in which the child was taken into custody, the most serious charge for which the child was taken into custody, and demographic information about the child including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, and age.”<sup>52</sup> Act 147 goes on to require, “This information shall be aggregated and submitted quarterly to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) and Administration of Criminal Justice which shall annually provide such information to the JDAI (Louisiana Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) Collaborative.”<sup>53</sup>

<sup>51</sup> <https://jefferson-parish-government.azureedge.net/Rivarde%20Historical%20Data%20updated.pdf>

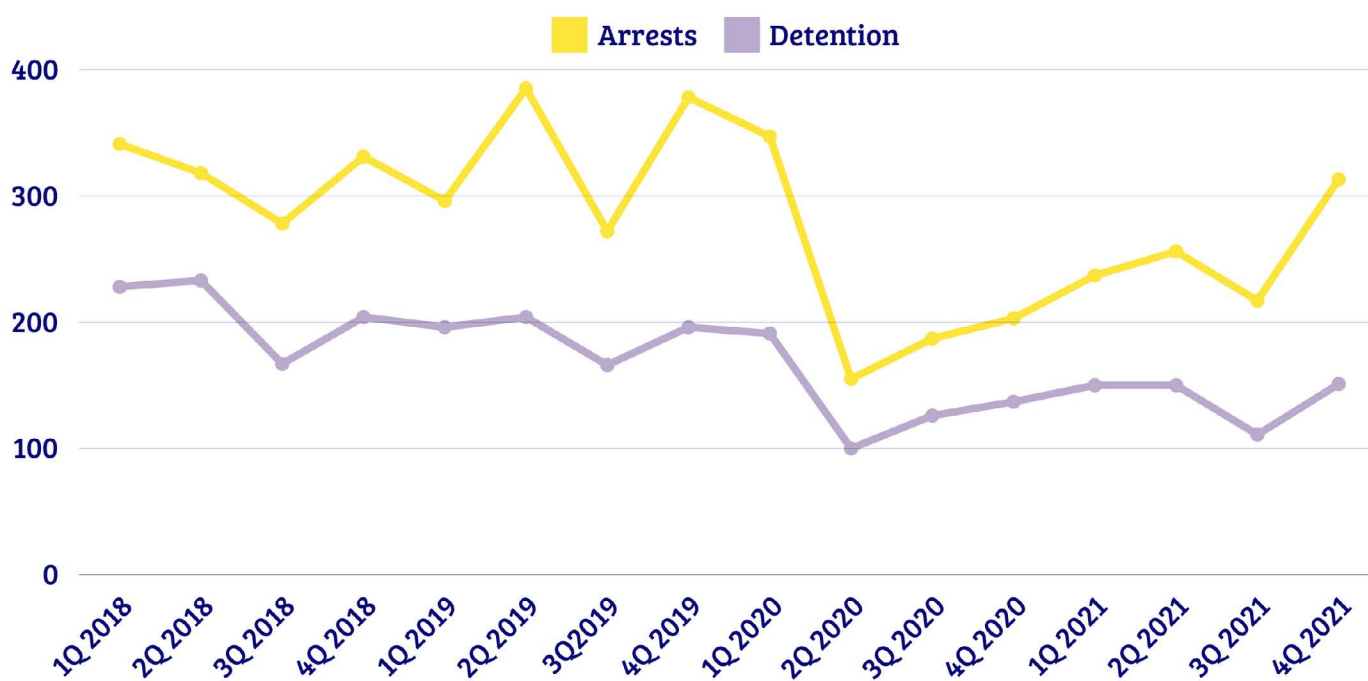
<sup>52</sup> <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1143680>

<sup>53</sup> <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1143680>



One previous review suggested downward trends in population for five of the detention centers reviews from 2007 to 2011 (range 14% to 45% decrease in population).<sup>54</sup> Two sources that are available are from the LCLE. One report, associated with the five detention centers participating in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans Parish) show a reduction of 18% in detention admissions from 2014 to 2016.<sup>55</sup> (See Figure 30). In the last year of that JDAI reporting period detention populations of youth of color in these five detention centers decreased by 16% while admissions of White youth dropped 19%. These decreases, although a reflection of successful reform, were not successful in addressing the disproportionality of youth of color being held in detention centers.<sup>56</sup> (see Figure 31)

**Figure 30.**  
**Jefferson Parish Arrest and Detention Trends**



Source: <https://jefferson-parish-government.azureedge.net/Detention%20Admissions%202021.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> <https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/service/institute-for-public-health-and-justice/resources/juvenile-justice-system-reform/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://lcle.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2016-JDAI-Annual-Report-Final-7.25.17-PDF.pdf>

<sup>56</sup> <https://lcle.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2016-JDAI-Annual-Report-Final-7.25.17-PDF.pdf>



## JUVENILE COURTS

Courts are part of the “formal processing” of youth. In Louisiana, these courts may be dedicated “juvenile courts” with exclusive JJS duties. They may also be district or city courts with multiple court responsibilities, including juvenile. All of these courts rely on petitions from district attorneys, and may accept, defer, hold a formal hearing, and result in a disposition in these formally processed cases. One such disposition can be to adjudicate youth and recommend that the youth (and oftentimes family) continue in a specialty court as a means of court level diversion. Specialty courts (e.g., juvenile drug court) also operate in a few parishes in Louisiana.

### **Data Summary: Who are these Youth with Court Involvement?**

Nationally, juvenile court activity has consistently decreased, with referrals decreasing by 45% between 2010 and 2019. Those handled by juvenile courts in 2019, (most recent data), were charged with a person offense in one-third of the delinquency cases and property offenses in thirty percent of cases.<sup>57</sup> (see Figure 31) Just over half (54%) of cases petitioned were delinquency cases and over half (53%) of those were adjudicated delinquent.<sup>58</sup> (see Figure 32)

<sup>57</sup> <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

**Figure 31.**  
**National Juvenile Court Referrals, 2019**

Most serious offense	Number of cases	Percent of total cases	Percent change	
			1985-2019	2010-2019
Total delinquency	722,600	100%	-38%	-45%
Person offense	237,000	33%	29%	-29%
Property offense	214,500	30%	-70%	-56%
Drug law violation	96,400	13%	25%	-40%
Public order offense	174,700	24%	-11%	-48%

Source: <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

**Figure 32.**  
**National Juvenile Court Dispositions, 2019**

Most serious offense	Number of petitioned cases	Percent of delinquency cases petitioned	Number of adjudicated cases	Percent of petitioned cases adjudicated
Total delinquency	386,600	54%	203,600	53%
Person offense	129,800	55%	65,600	51%
Property offense	118,200	55%	62,600	53%
Drug law violation	40,400	42%	20,400	51%
Public order offense	98,300	56%	55,000	56%

Source: <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

# Courts

In Louisiana, youth will go to court if he/she/they are arrested or detained. They can also be petitioned to court from their FINS involvement (i.e. Formal FINS process). The following courts may hear cases related to youth: juvenile court, family court, city court, or district court. Data on most of these formal processes are maintained by the Louisiana Supreme Court (LASC). The data that follows are publicly available from the LASC annual reports.<sup>59</sup>

According to the 2022 report, there are 43 district courts, four juvenile courts (Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans), one family court (East Baton Rouge), 48 city courts and 3 parish courts, with 236 district court judges and 72 city & parish court judges.<sup>60</sup> Louisiana District Courts reported a 2.88% increase in total filings from 2021 to 2022- juvenile specific filings increased by 8.07%. For the four juvenile specialized courts, filings increased by 28.06% from 2021 to 2022.<sup>61</sup> (see Figures 33-34 for detail). City and Parish Courts saw a total of 8,807 juvenile filings in 2022, which was an increase of 13.49% from the previous year.<sup>62</sup>

59 <https://www.lasc.org/AnnualReports>

60 [https://www.lasc.org/press\\_room/annual\\_reports/reports/2022\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.lasc.org/press_room/annual_reports/reports/2022_Annual_Report.pdf)

61 [https://www.lasc.org/press\\_room/annual\\_reports/reports/2022\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.lasc.org/press_room/annual_reports/reports/2022_Annual_Report.pdf)

62 [https://www.lasc.org/press\\_room/annual\\_reports/reports/2022\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.lasc.org/press_room/annual_reports/reports/2022_Annual_Report.pdf)



# Louisiana District Courts

Figure 33.

## Juvenile Filed Cases in District Courts compared to Total Court Cases Files

District	Parish	2022 Juvenile Filed	2022 All Court Filings Juvenile and Adult: Civil, Criminal, Traffic
1	Caddo	343	13,924
	District Total	343	13,924
2	Bienville	45	4,200
	Claiborne	85	2,079
	Jackson	106	1,167
	District Total	236	7,446
3	Lincoln	443	7,041
	Union	166	2,503
	District Total	609	9,544
4	Morehouse	236	6,137
	Ouachita	2,222	26,114
	District Totals	2,458	32,251
5	Franklin	318	2,314
	Richland	83	4,683
	West Carroll	73	1,190
	District Totals	474	8,187
6	East Carroll	44	2,436
	Madison	86	7,009
	Tensas	18	2,139
	District Totals	148	11,584
7	Catahoula	0	1,174
	Concordia	165	2,923
	District Totals	165	4,097
8	Winn	52	1,157
	District Totals	52	1,157
9	Rapides	848	10,439
	District Total	848	10,439
10	Natchitoches	781	6,547
	District Total	781	6,547
11	Sabine	189	2,388
	District Total	189	2,388
12	Avoyelles	289	6,471
	District Total	289	6,471
13	Evangeline	246	13,694
	District Total	246	13,694
14	Calcasieu	1,709	24,764
	District Total	1,709	24,764

District	Parish	2022 Juvenile Filed	2022 All Court Filings Juvenile and Adult: Civil, Criminal, Traffic
15	Acadia	267	4,691
	Lafayette	1,628	17,765
	Vermilion	402	5,311
	District Total	2,297	27,767
16	Iberia	167	5,946
	St. Martin	248	7,790
	St. Mary	283	7,467
	District Totals	698	21,202
17	Lafourche	410	12,487
	District Totals	410	12,487
18	Iberville	181	4,221
	Point Coupee	80	2,077
	West Baton Rouge	90	3,846
	District Totals	351	10,144
19	East Baton Rouge	0	31,284
	District Totals	0	31,284
20	East Feliciana	138	2,811
	West Feliciana	14	1,593
	District Totals	152	4,404
21	Livingston	750	15,235
	St. Helena	65	1,643
	Tangipahoa	791	16,347
	District Totals	1,606	33,225
22	St. Tammany	1,008	28,656
	Washington	316	3,937
	District Totals	1,324	32,593
23	Ascension	584	5,487
	Assumption	263	1,832
	St. James	134	2,900
	District Totals	981	10,219
24	Jefferson	0	19,888
	District Totals	0	19,888
25	Plaquemines	93	5,209
	District Totals	93	5,209
26	Bossier	649	18,902
	Webster	150	2,965
	District Totals	799	21,867

District	Parish	2022 Juvenile Filed	2022 All Court Filings
			Juvenile and Adult: Civil, Criminal, Traffic
27	St. Landry	629	19,154
	District Totals	629	19,154
28	Lasalle	167	1,374
	District Totals	167	1,374
29	St. Charles	417	21,508
	District Totals	417	21,508
30	Vernon	202	6,335
	District Totals	202	6,335
31	Jefferson Davis	114	3,700
	District Totals	114	3,700
32	Terrebonne	372	17,490
	District Totals	372	17,490
33	Allen	206	3,130
	District Totals	206	3,130
34	St. Bernard	190	5,850
	District Totals	190	5,850
35	Grant	123	3,751
	District Totals	123	3,751
36	Beauregard	184	5,079
	District Totals	184	5,079
37	Caldwell	49	1,524
	District Totals	49	1,524
38	Cameron	66	6,975
	District Totals	66	6,975
39	Red River	37	1,060
	District Totals	37	1,060
40	St. John the Baptist	299	9,870
	District Totals	299	9,870
42	DeSoto	93	3,204
	District Totals	93	3,204
	Orleans Civil	0	11,012
	Orleans Criminal	0	3,696
Statewide Totals		20,406	507,494

# Louisiana Juvenile Courts

**Figure 34.**  
**Juvenile Court Activity- Formal Process (2022)**

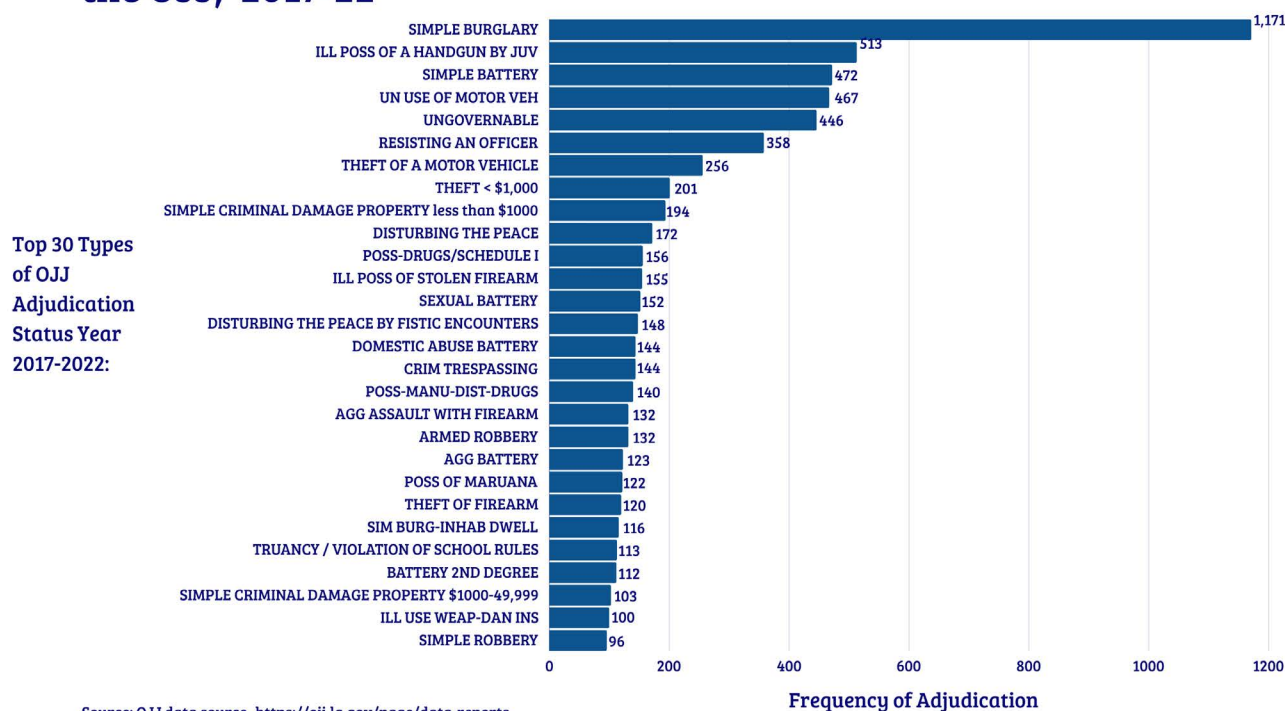
	CADD0			EAST BATON ROUGE			JEFFERSON			ORLEANS			GRAND TOTAL		
	Filings	Charges	Children	Filings	Charges	Children	Filings	Charges	Children	Filings	Charges	Children	Filings	Charges	Children
Formal FINS	677	677	677	215	253	215	123	133	121	19	19	19	1,034	1,082	1,032
Juvenile Traffic	272	423	272	552	822	552	772	1,223	772	133	229	133	1,729	2,697	1,729
Juvenile Delinquency	817	817	817	687	1,712	687	501	1,017	500	1,123	3,709	1,228	3,128	7,255	3,232
Mental Incapacity to Proceed	0	0	0	1	4	1	26	26	26	0	0	0	27	30	27
Interstate compact for Juv.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contempt of Court	100	158	100	245	245	245	95	95	95	0	0	0	440	498	440
Child in Need of Care Cases	135	NA	135	258	NA	421	175	NA	175	189	NA	189	757	NA	920
Voluntary Transfer of Custody	14	NA	14	38	NA	52	81	NA	81	10	NA	10	143	NA	157
Jud Certification of Children for Adoption Cases	11	NA	14	24	NA	43	39	NA	39	0	NA	0	74	NA	96
Surrender of Parental Rights	0	NA	0	33	NA	31	3	NA	3	5	NA	5	41	NA	39
Adoption	30	NA	30	56	NA	66	93	NA	93	51	NA	51	230	NA	240
Child Support	645	NA	825	0	NA	0	917	NA	0	0	NA	0	1,562	NA	825
Mental Health	19	NA	19	8	NA	8	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	27	NA	27
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults/Other	0	NA	0	87	NA	120	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	87	NA	120
Minor Marriages	1	NA	1	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	1	NA	1
Protection of Terminally Ill Children	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0
Domestic Abuse	140	0	140	11	0	11	0	0	0	1	0	1	152	0	152
Other	758	0	758	98	0	124	860	0	860	251	251	0	1,967	251	1,742
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,619</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>3,883</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>2,576</b>	<b>3,685</b>	<b>2,494</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>3,957</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>11,398</b>	<b>11,562</b>	<b>11,110</b>

Source: [https://www.lasc.org/press\\_room/annual\\_reports/reports/2022\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.lasc.org/press_room/annual_reports/reports/2022_Annual_Report.pdf)

Louisiana's Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) serves youth who have been assigned to them through court proceedings. The OJJ monitors the FINS youth if they have been adjudicated through formal court processing. Per OJJ data over the last five years, simple burglary made up 18% of the top adjudication statuses reported, followed by 8% illegal possession of a handgun by a juvenile, 7% simple battery, and 7% unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.<sup>63</sup> It should also be noted that 9% of cases were adjudicated as "status" offending (not delinquent) youth, as noted as "ungovernable," "truant," or "violating school rules."<sup>64</sup> (see Figure 35)

**Figure 35.**

### **Adjudication of Status Assigned to Supervision and/or Custody of the OJJ, 2017-22**



The OJJ also tracks the parish of where these adjudications are made. Notably, the top three referring courts in the last five years were not major urban areas. The top three referring court locations were St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Ouachita.<sup>65</sup> (see Figure 36)

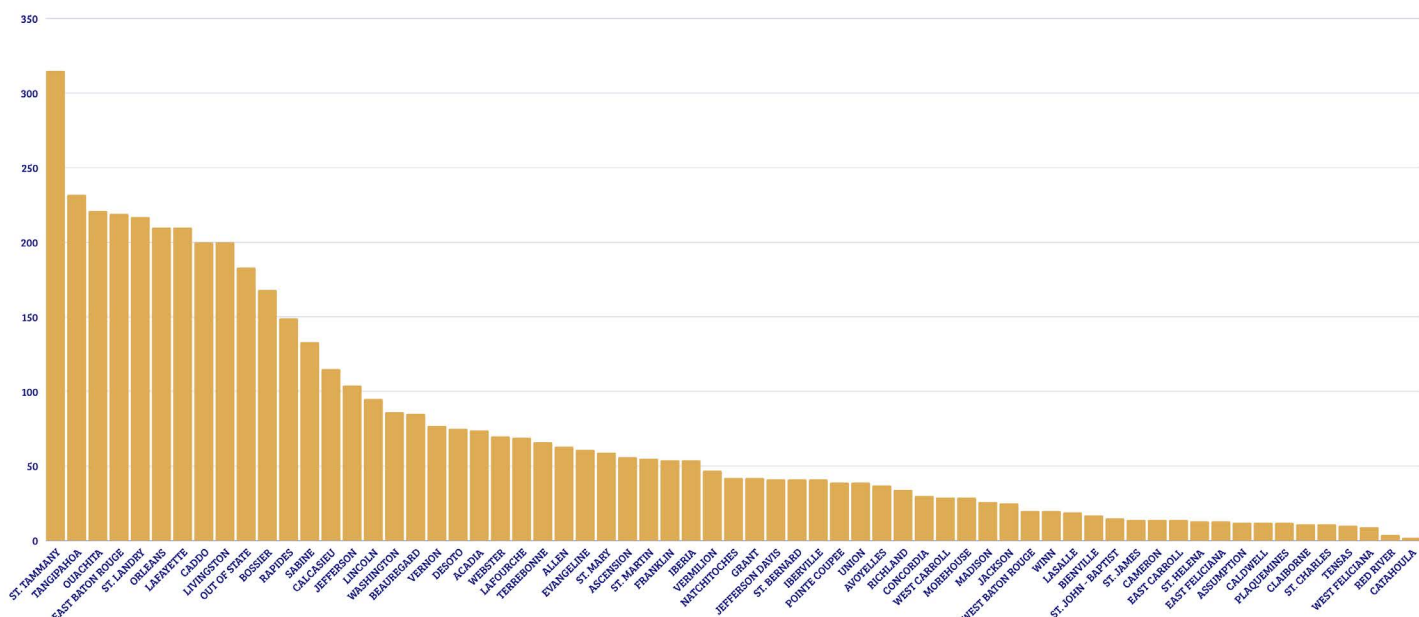
<sup>63</sup> OJJ data source- <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

<sup>64</sup> OJJ data source- <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

<sup>65</sup> OJJ data source- <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>



**Figure 36.**  
**Louisiana Youth served by OJJ 2017-2022 by Parish**



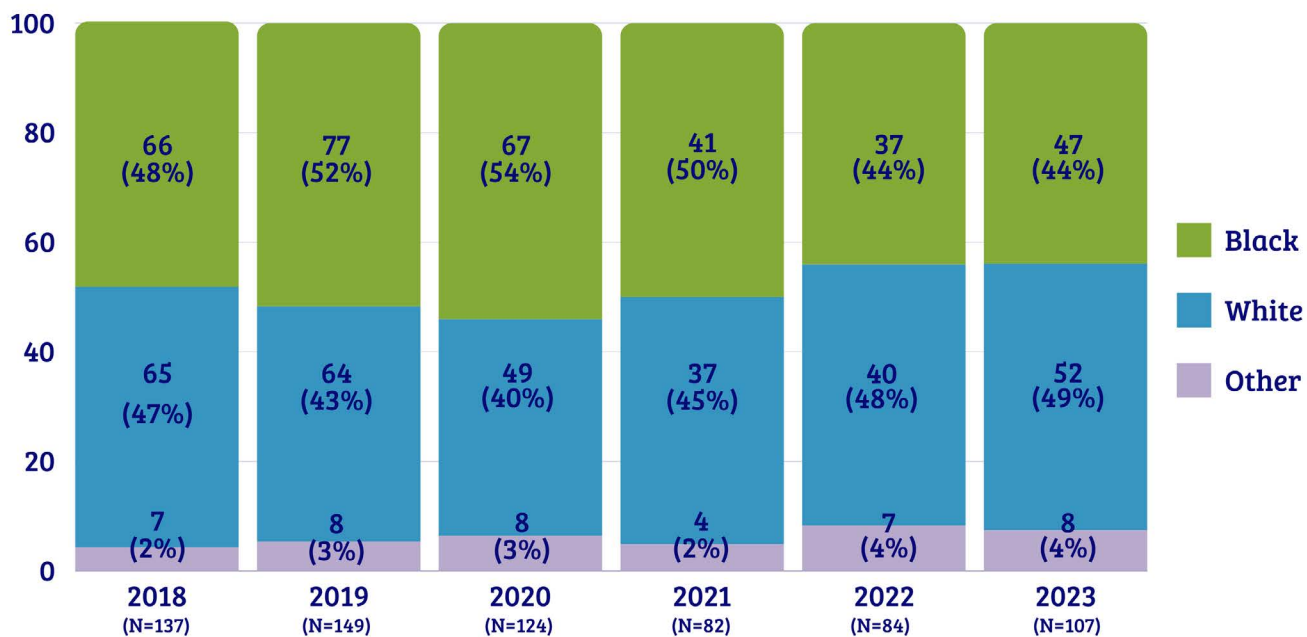
Source: OJJ data source- <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

# Crossover Youth

According to the Casey Family Programs, “Youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are sometimes referred to as crossover, dually-involved, dually-adjudicated, or dual-system youth.” It is suggested that this group of youth requires special focus. This group of young people experience the effects of trauma, are more likely to receive harsh sentences and/or be detained on first-time offenses, and are often underserved as a result of a lack of cross systems coordination.<sup>66</sup> Nationally, two-thirds of justice-involved youth also have a history of contact with the child welfare system, about 52% are male (48% female) and are disproportionately African American/Black (24%).<sup>67</sup> In Louisiana, similar to national figures, there are a substantial number of dual system youth involvement (13% of the youth served by OJJ in 2023) and these youth are dispro-portionately AA/Black. For example, while Black youth made up 38% of Louisiana’s youth population in 2019 (according to the U.S. census), they accounted for 52% of crossover youth that same year (see Figure 37 and 38).

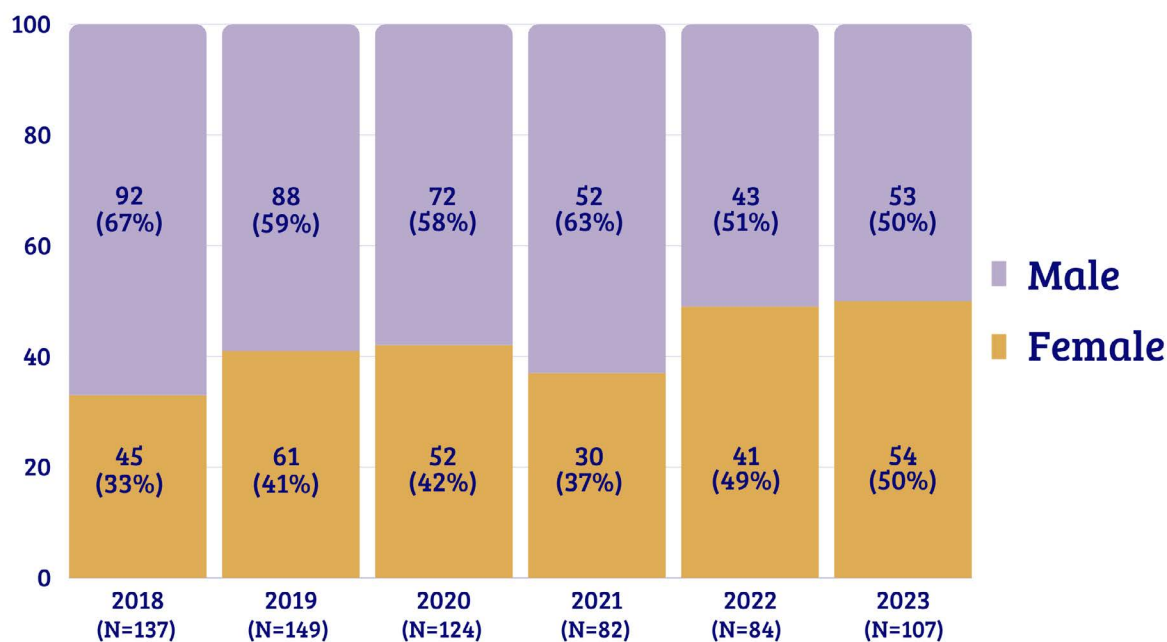
66 Nelson, C., Myers, C, and Phillippi, S.(2023). Understanding Crossover Youth in Foster Care: Navigating the Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Presentation- Together We Can Conference. Lafayette, La. (Nov 9, 2023).  
67 American youth policy forum: Understanding foster, juvenile justice, and crossover youth.

**Figure 37.**  
**Race of Dual System Involved Youth in Louisiana's OJJ and DCFS**



Source: Nelson, C., Myers, C., and Phillippi, S.(2023). Understanding Crossover Youth in Foster Care: Navigating the Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Presentation- Together We Can Conference. Lafayette, La. (Nov 9, 2023)

**Figure 38.**  
**Gender of Dual System Involved Youth in Louisiana's OJJ and DCFS**



Source: Nelson, C., Myers, C., and Phillippi, S.(2023). Understanding Crossover Youth in Foster Care: Navigating the Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Presentation- Together We Can Conference. Lafayette, La. (Nov 9, 2023)

# Specialty Courts

In 2018, the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug Court Office transitioned to the Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office, with the aim of providing additional opportunities and ongoing support to all Louisiana specialty court judges and their staff. Currently, there are 71 operational Louisiana specialty courts, of which 7 are juvenile drug courts.<sup>68</sup>

According to the LASC, juvenile drug courts use a nonadversarial approach to intervention. As an alternative to residential or secure placement, Louisiana specialty courts are demanding programs that require frequent and random drug testing, intensive treatment, judicial oversight, and community supervision and support to promote positive outcomes for youth with substance abuse conditions.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> [https://www.lasc.org/press\\_room/annual\\_reports/reports/2022\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.lasc.org/press_room/annual_reports/reports/2022_Annual_Report.pdf)

<sup>69</sup> [https://www.lasc.org/press\\_room/annual\\_reports/reports/2022\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.lasc.org/press_room/annual_reports/reports/2022_Annual_Report.pdf)

## Figure 39.

# Juvenile Drug Courts 2022

Individual Participants Served	275
Individuals Screened	229
New Participants Admitted	158
Treatment Hours Administered	4,632
Drug Tests Administered	2,782
Total Drug Free Babies	0
Obtained FED/HiSET	7
Obtained Employment	71
Obtained Secure Housing	2
Community Service Hours	398
Graduated/Satisfied Court Order	73
Average Months in Program	12
Recidivism	Not reported specific to youth.

Source:  
[https://www.lasc.org/press\\_room/annual\\_reports/reports/2022\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.lasc.org/press_room/annual_reports/reports/2022_Annual_Report.pdf)



# Probation

Probation and post-dispositional placement – refers to the legal status of being supervised in the community or committed (under state custody) to a non-secure or secure facility after receiving a disposition from the court.<sup>70</sup> In Louisiana, probation refers to youth who remain under the custody of his or her parent/guardian in the community, provided they meet certain conditions and restrictions imposed by the court. The majority of Louisiana youth who appear in court are placed under either probation or parole. Probation includes allowing the youth to return to the community while having regular contact with a probation officer. The youth directed to OJJ undergo a needs assessment which utilizes testing of the youth's functional and psychosocial needs.

The findings of the assessment are utilized to create a plan for rehabilitating the youth to prevent additional involvement with the justice system. The youth will be referred to mental health, behavioral health, or other services that may benefit them. The coordination of services is overseen by the youth's assigned probation officer. In all 64 parishes, Louisiana's Office of Juvenile Justice funds and oversees juvenile probation programs, providing probation services to adjudicated FINS and delinquent youth. Additionally, five parishes – Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Rapides – also operate and fund their own juvenile probation departments and provide the bulk of probation supervision within these five jurisdictions.<sup>71</sup>

## Data Summary: What Youth are on Probation?

Nationally, in 2019, formal probation was ordered in 65% of cases in which a youth was adjudicated delinquent.<sup>72</sup>(see Figure 40)

70 [https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary\\_FINAL\\_11\\_February\\_2013.pdf](https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary_FINAL_11_February_2013.pdf)

71 [https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary\\_FINAL\\_11\\_February\\_2013.pdf](https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary_FINAL_11_February_2013.pdf)

72 <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

**Figure 40.**

## National Juvenile Court Ordered Probation, 2019

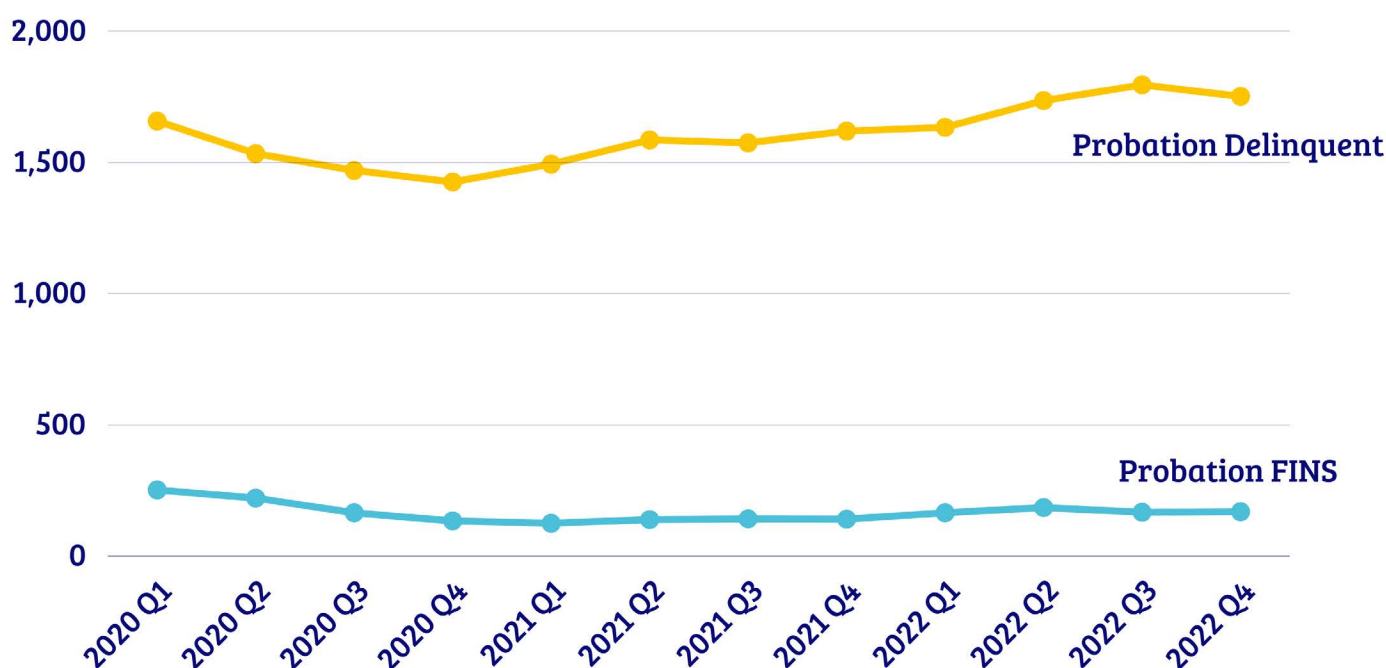
Most Serious Offense	Cases ordered to probation in 2019	
	#	%
<b>Total delinquency</b>	<b>132,200</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Person Offense</b>	<b>43,600</b>	<b>66%</b>
Violent Crime Index	14,100	59%
Criminal homicide	200	37%
Forcible rape	2,200	67%
Robbery	5,300	54%
Aggravated assault	6,500	64%
Simple assault	22,900	69%
Other violent sex offense	2,200	76%
Other person offense	4,400	74%
<b>Property Offense</b>	<b>40,600</b>	<b>65%</b>
Property Crime Index	28,400	64%
Burglary	9,900	62%
Larceny-theft	14,400	67%
Motor vehicle theft	3,700	57%
Arson	500	72%
Vandalism	6,000	69%
Trespassing	2,500	68%
Stolen property offense	2,400	67%
Other property offense	1,200	69%
<b>Drug law violation</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Public order violation</b>	<b>33,100</b>	<b>60%</b>
Obstruction of justice	19,200	56%
Disorderly conduct	5,800	63%
Weapons offense	3,800	67%
Liquor law violation	400	74%
Nonviolent sex offense	2,000	74%
Other public disorder offense	1,900	64%

Source: <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

# In Louisiana

Based on a publicly available website ( <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports> ) the OJJ updates aggregate data on the youth in its care on a quarterly basis. As seen in the following summary, at the end of 2022, there were 1,908 youth receiving state probation supervision and services.<sup>73</sup> It should be noted, by definition, 9% of these youth were not youth found to have committed a delinquent offense (i.e., they were reported as status offenders / FINS).<sup>74</sup> 62% of these youth were reported to be Black/ African-American. (see figures 41-42).<sup>75</sup>

**Figure 41.**  
**Youth Under Probation Supervision with the State**



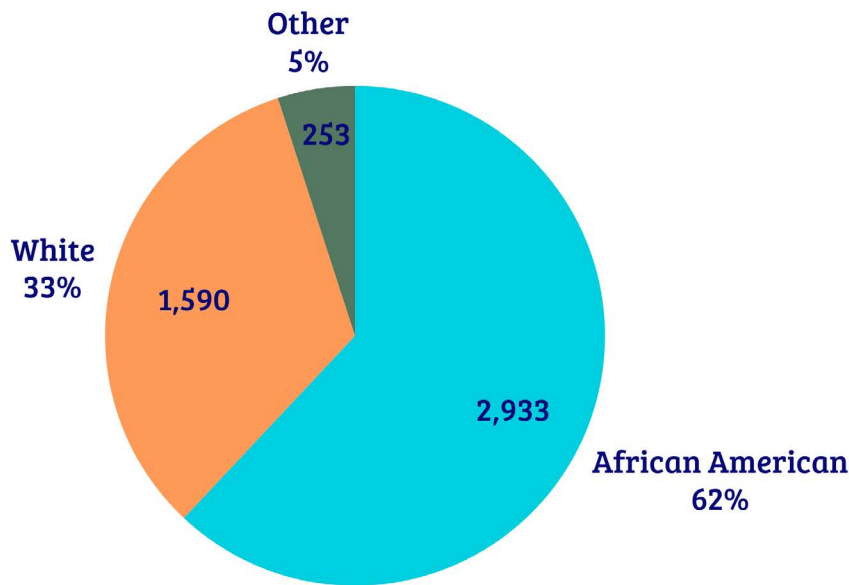
Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

<sup>73</sup> <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-under-supervision>

<sup>74</sup> <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-under-supervision>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.splcenter.org/louisiana-juvenile-justice-system-reform>

**Figure 42.**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Youth Under**  
**Probation Supervision with the State,**  
**2017-2022**



Source: <https://www.splcenter.org/louisiana-juvenile-justice-system-reform>

## Custody

Post-dispositional placement refers to the legal status of being committed to state custody to either a non-secure or secure facility after receiving a disposition from the court.<sup>76</sup> In Louisiana, an adjudicated youth may be sent to either a non-secure facility, which lack the kind of secure hardware that would be present in a more restrictive setting, or a secure facility, which has perimeter fences, locked units, and high security. Secure care facilities are the most restrictive setting of the juvenile justice system. This type of placement is intended to be reserved for youth who are categorized as risks to public safety.

OJJ currently has 14 contracts with different group homes and residential providers across the state for non-secure services; it also funds and operates four secure facilities for males and one facility to provide secure care for girls, with a total operational capacity of 307 beds in secure facilities. OJJ indicates that there were 362 youths in secure care facilities in the fourth quarter of 2021, and there were 412 in the fourth quarter of 2022. These youth are placed in dormitories with 10-12 other peers and are under continuous supervision.

<sup>76</sup> [https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary\\_FINAL\\_11\\_February\\_2013.pdf](https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary_FINAL_11_February_2013.pdf)



The four secure facilities for males in Louisiana are Bridge City Center for Youth in Jefferson Parish, Swanson Center for Youth in Monroe, Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia, and Acadiana Center for Youth in Bunkie. Female youth in OJJ custody are at Ware Youth Center in Red River Parish, which operates under a contract with OJJ.<sup>77</sup>

In 2023, according to OJJ, several youth intended to be placed in Bridge City Center for Youth were temporarily relocated to “Bridge City Center for Youth at West Feliciana,” which was a facility on the grounds of the Louisiana State Penitentiary. This facility was over one mile away from the adult prison areas and has since been closed under court order.<sup>78</sup>

There is a new Jetson Facility under design. The facility is slated to be opened outside of Baton Rouge in 2026/27. The addition of this facility will increase secure custody capacity by another 72 beds.

## Data Summary: What Youth are in Custody?

Nationally, custody placement was ordered for 27% of youth found delinquent. Almost a third of youth were placed for a public order offense (31%), followed by just over a quarter of youth placed for a person offense (28%), and 27% placed for a property offense.<sup>79</sup> (see Figure 43). Nationally, 38% were in a detention center, 25% were in long-term secure facilities, and 23% were reported to be in residential treatment centers.<sup>80</sup> (see Figure 44)

However, it is also important to note that placing youth in facilities has steadily declined since a peak in 2000.<sup>81</sup> (see Figure 45) Youth ages 15 to 17 years old accounted for 71% of those in custody placement. These youth were mostly male (85%) and disproportionately Black/African American (41%).<sup>82</sup> (see Figure 46)

77 Vera and OJJ corroborated reports (websites)

78 Office of Juvenile Justice. (2023). FAQ - Bridge City Center for Youth at West Feliciana. <https://ojj.la.gov/news/frequently-asked-questions>

79 <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

80 <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

81 <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

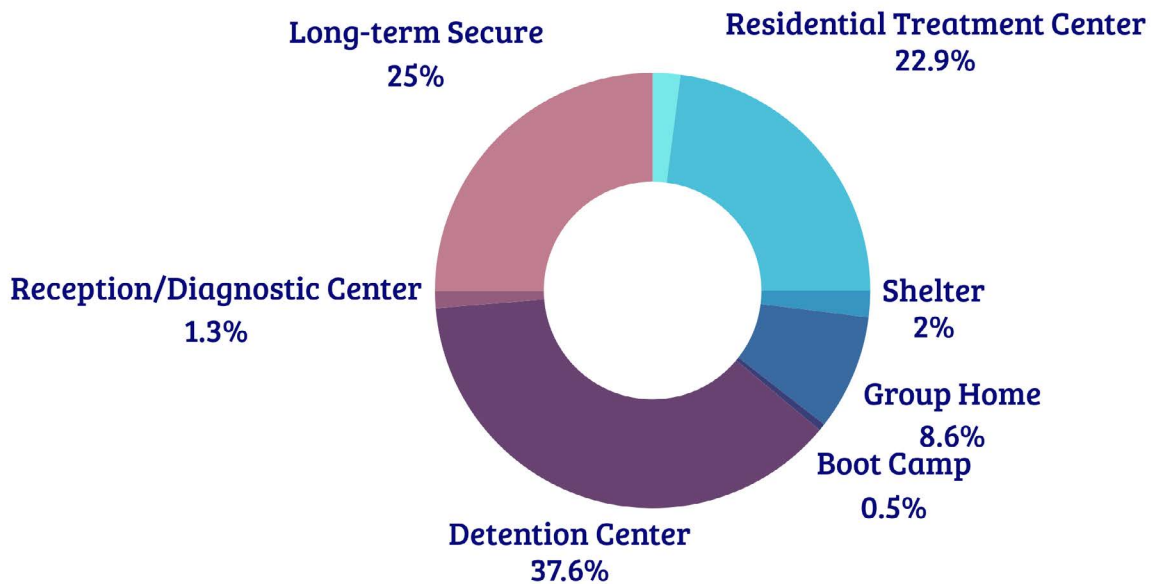
82 <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

**Figure 43.**  
**National Juvenile Court**  
**Ordered Placements, 2019**

Most Serious Offense	Cases ordered to placement in 2019	
	#	%
<b>Total delinquency</b>	<b>55,100</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Person Offense</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>28%</b>
Violent Crime Index	8,800	37%
Criminal homicide	300	61%
Forcible rape	1,000	30%
Robbery	4,300	43%
Aggravated assault	3,300	32%
Simple assault	7,800	24%
Other violent sex offense	600	20%
Other person offense	1,100	19%
<b>Property Offense</b>	<b>16,700</b>	<b>27%</b>
Property Crime Index	13,000	29%
Burglary	5,500	35%
Larceny-theft	4,700	22%
Motor vehicle theft	2,600	40%
Arson	100	23%
Vandalism	1,800	21%
Trespassing	600	17%
Stolen property offense	900	24%
Other property offense	400	23%
<b>Drug law violation</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Public order violation</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>31%</b>
Obstruction of justice	12,900	38%
Disorderly conduct	1,100	12%
Weapons offense	1,600	29%
Liquor law violation	100	19%
Nonviolent sex offense	600	22%
Other public disorder offense	500	17%

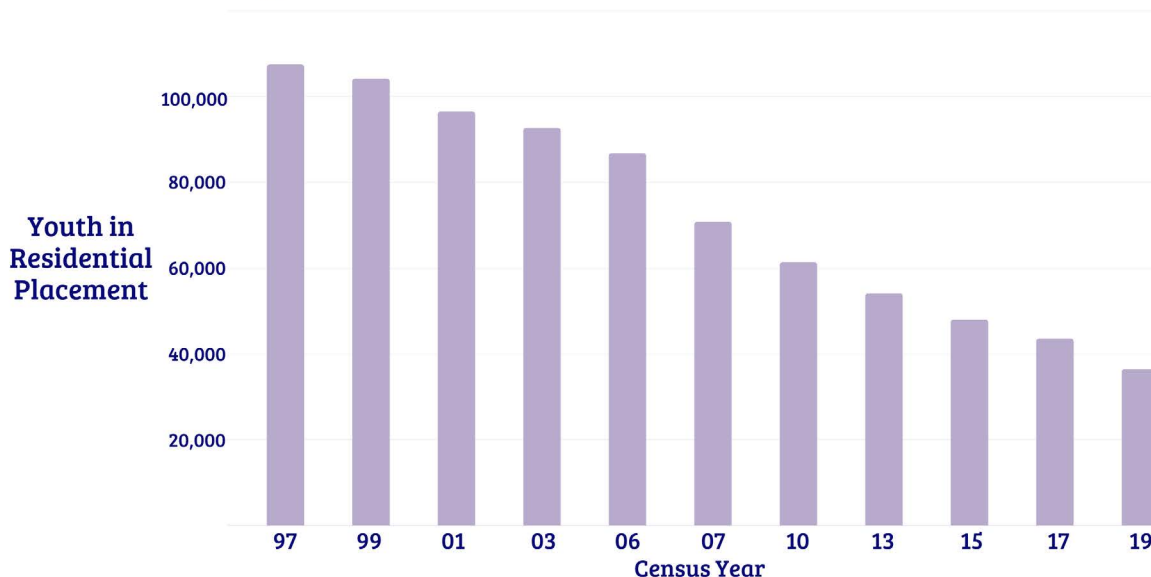
Source: <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

**Figure 44.**  
**Total Youth in Residential Placement by Facility Type Nationally, 2015**



Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, T.J., and Kang, W. (2023). Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

**Figure 45.**  
**Number of Youths in Residential Placements Nationally for the Last Two Decades**



Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, T.J., and Kang, W. (2023). "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

**Figure 46.**  
**Demographics of National Juvenile Court**  
**Ordered Placements 2019**

	Number of youth in placement, 2019	Percent of youth in residential placement, 2019								
		Female	Younger than 15	Ages 15-17	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian	Two or more
Total delinquency	36,479	15%	15%	71%	33%	41%	20%	2%	1%	2%

Source: <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

# Louisiana

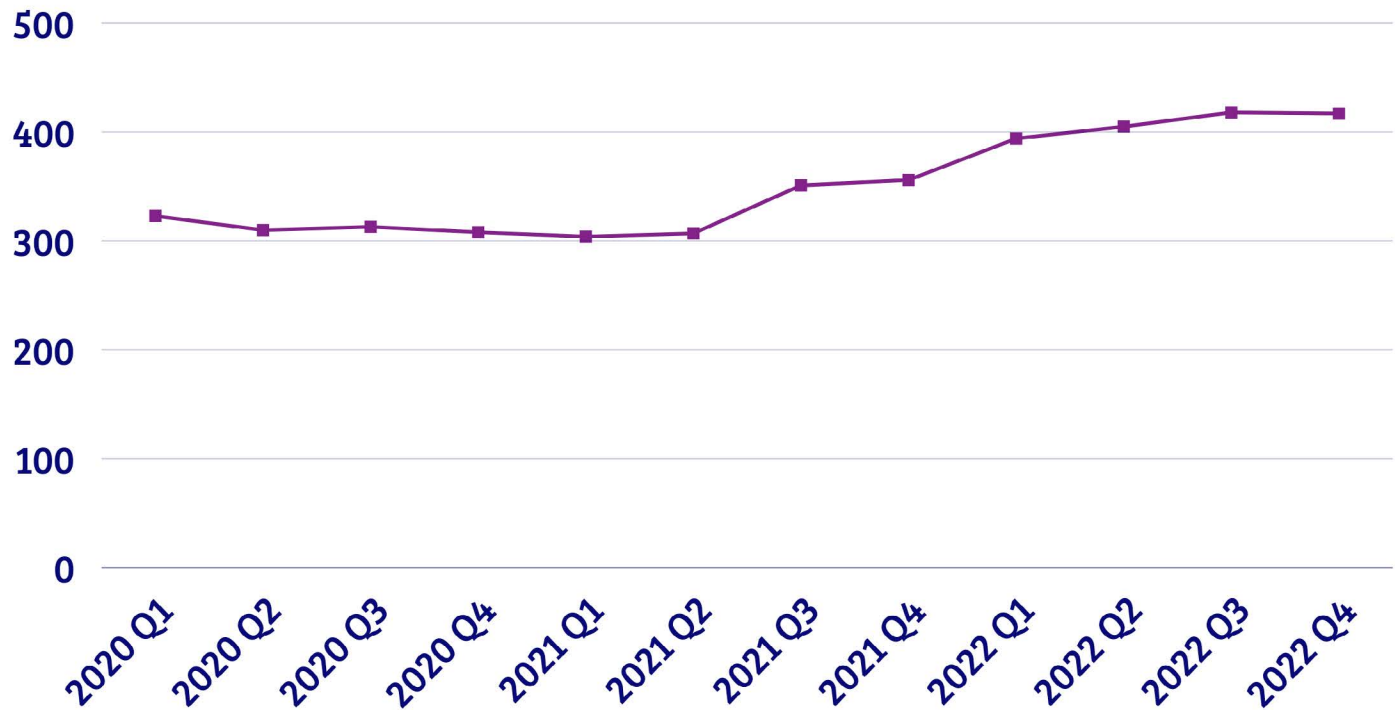
The OJJ serves youth who are under supervision in residential or secure facilities. The average daily population of youth in secure state custody decreased by 73 per cent between 2000 and 2011.<sup>83</sup> The sharp decline occurred largely between 2000 (when Louisiana had approximately 1,600 youth in secure custody- one of the highest rates of incarceration in the country) and 2006 (the year that the state was released from the DOJ lawsuit).<sup>84</sup> In recent years the populations of youth held in secure facilities has ranged between 300 and 400. In the last 2 years, the use of secure custody has seen an increase of about 34% (412 youth in 2022).<sup>85</sup> (see Figure 47) In 2022, the parishes with the highest rates of youth found delinquent and placed in secure care were Tensas, East Carrol, and Richland.<sup>86</sup> (See Figure 48)

83 [https://sph.lsuhs.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary\\_FINAL\\_11\\_February\\_2013.pdf](https://sph.lsuhs.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ExecutiveSummary_FINAL_11_February_2013.pdf)  
84 [http://sph.lsuhs.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Report\\_FINAL\\_11February2013.pdf](http://sph.lsuhs.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Report_FINAL_11February2013.pdf)  
85 <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-in-community-residential-placement>  
86 <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-under-supervision>



**Figure 47.**

## Youth in OJJ Secure Custody, 2020-2022

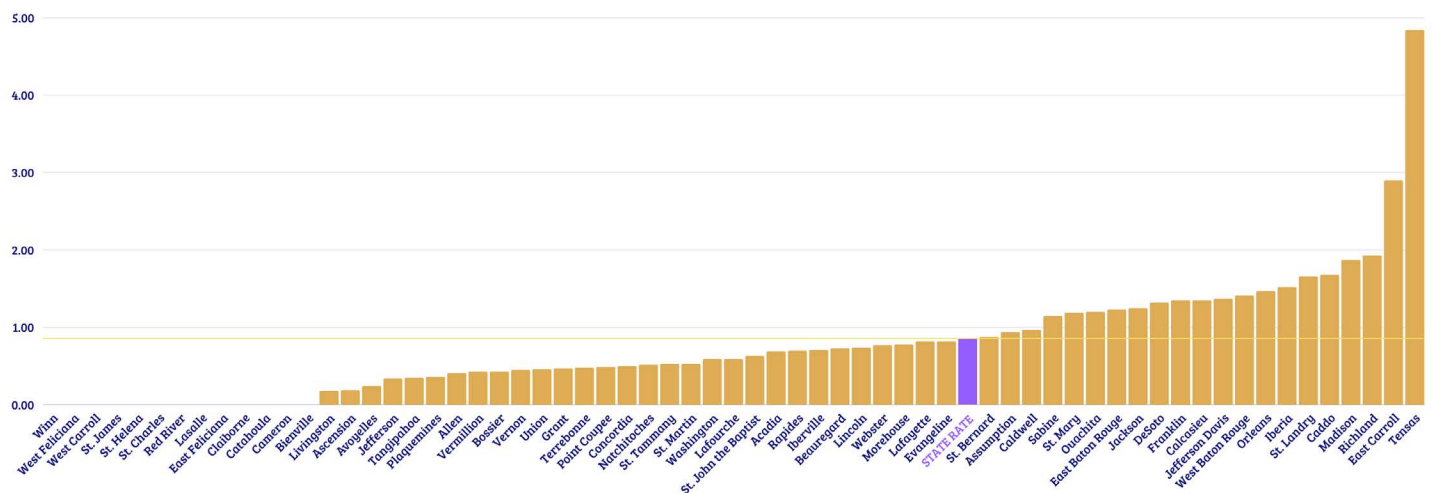


Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

**Figure 48.**

## OJJ Parish Comparisons of Secure Delinquent Custody, 2022

Secure Delinquent Custody Rate (per 1,000 age 10-17 parish residents)

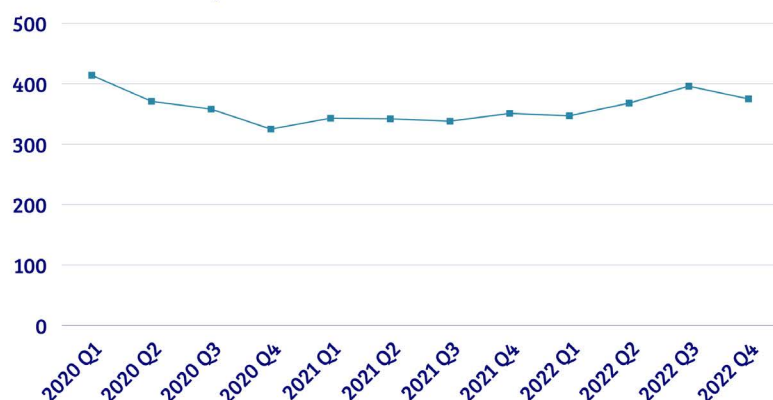


Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

Some youth are placed in non-secure facilities, otherwise known as residential placement. Residential placements are run by organizations who contract with OJJ. These settings have less intensive restrictions and are often used as a preparatory stepdown for returning the youth to their home. The OJJ reports that in the fourth quarter of year 2022, there were 377 youths in non-secure placements. This is a 17% increase in the last two years (2020-2022). (see Figure 49). In 2022, the parishes with the highest rates of youth in residential placements were Madison, DeSoto, and East Carroll. (see Figure 50)

**Figure 49.**

### Louisiana Youth in Non-Secure Residential Placement, 2020-2022

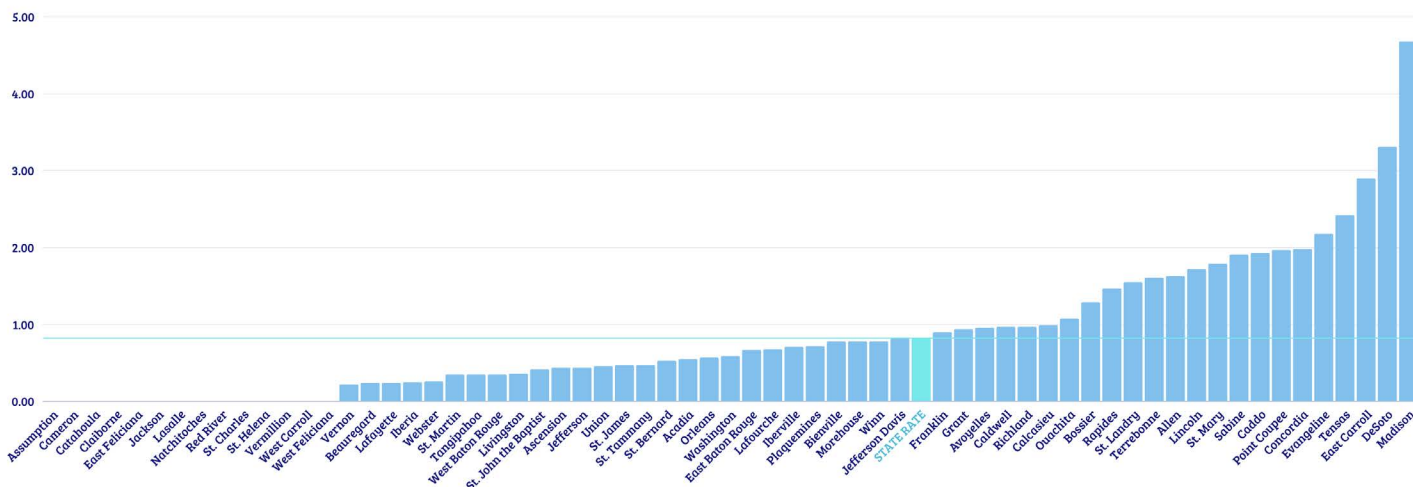


Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

**Figure 50.**

### OJJ Parish Comparisons of Non-Secure Delinquent Custody, 2022

Non-Secure Delinquent Custody Rate (per 1,000 age 10-17 parish residents)



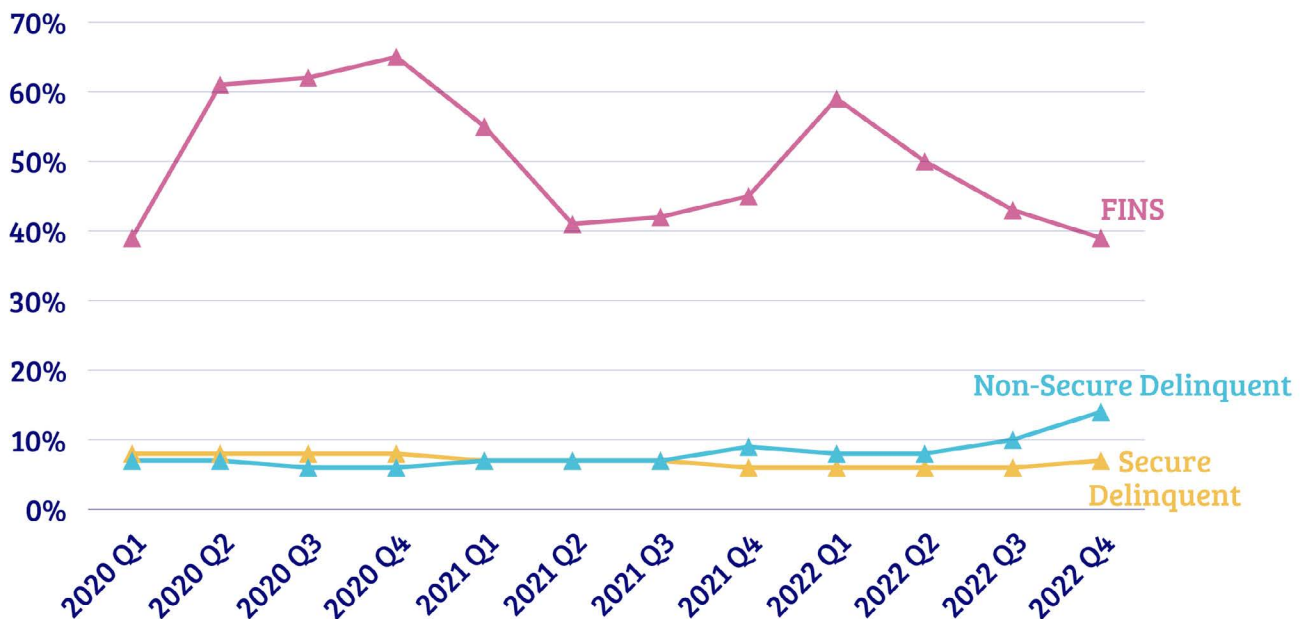
Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

# Gender and Racial Makeup of OJJ Custody

The OJJ releases a quarterly data report to capture data trends of juvenile justice. The following graphics include the trends from 2020 through 2022 related to race and gender. According to OJJ, female youth in secure custody (n=29 at the end of 2022) have increased by 7% and 183% (n=51 at the end of 2022), respectively, in non-secure or residential in the last two years.<sup>87</sup> (See Figure 51)

**Figure 51.**  
**OJJ Custody Types by Gender, 2020-2022**

## CUSTODY TYPE BY FEMALE %



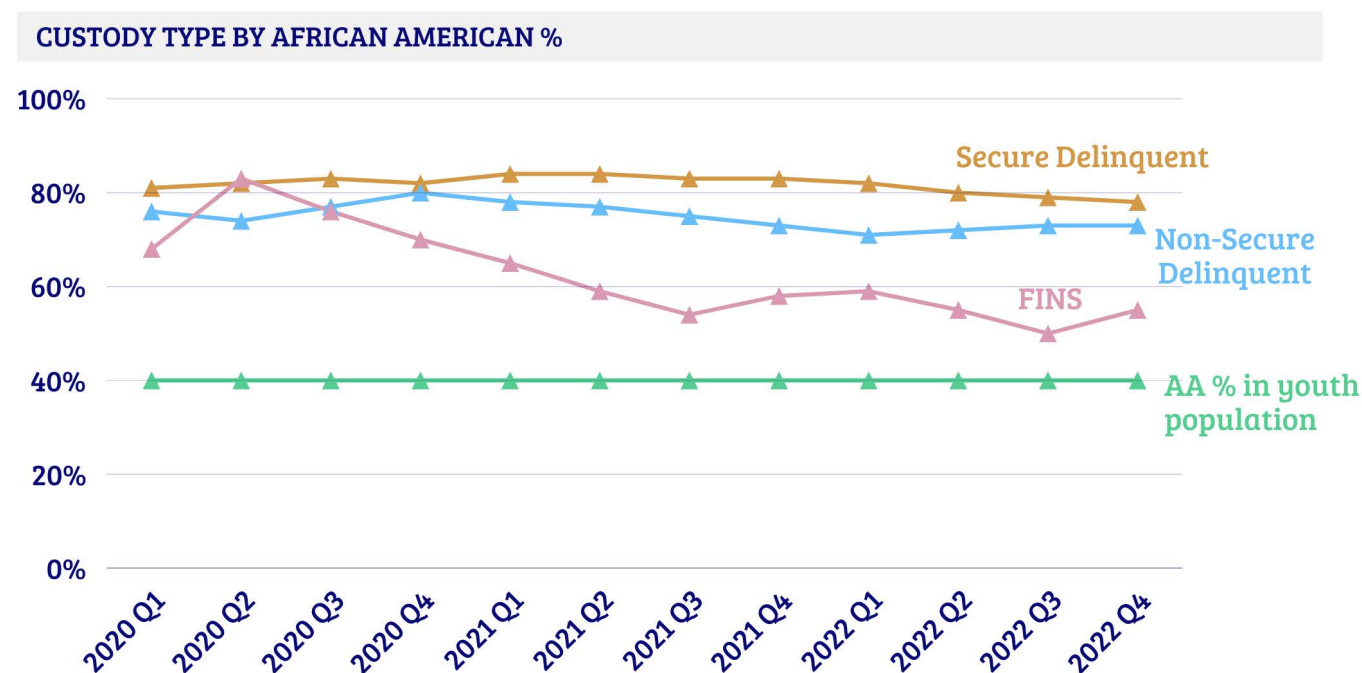
Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

<sup>87</sup> <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-under-supervision>

Youth in custody are also disproportionately African American / Black. According to OJJ this disproportionality has increased by 27% in secure custody (n=320 Black youth by end of 2022) and by 7% (n=273 Black youth by the end of 2022) in non-secure/residential custody.<sup>88</sup> (see Figure 52)

**Figure 52.**

## OJJ Custody Types by Race, 2020-2022



Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>





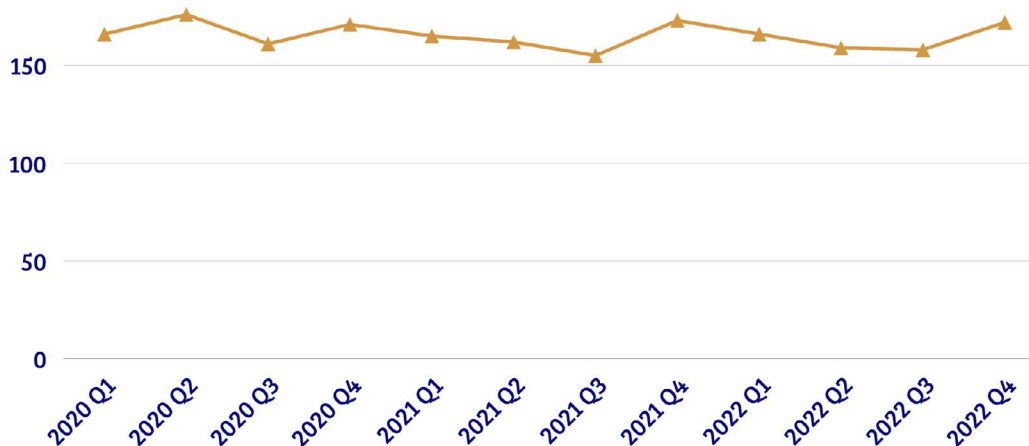
## JUVENILE PAROLE / RE-ENTRY

Parole involves the youth being released from a facility, returning to a community, and being monitored by a probation/parole officer. When youth are released from non-secure or secure facilities, the court may decide to continue them on to probation and parole, respectively, depending on the time left to be served on their disposition. Thus, parole is not a guaranteed step in the process and some youth may serve their entire sentence in a facility and be released directly back to a community without parole supervision. At the end of 2022, OJJ reported 177 youth were on parole supervision, which is a 4% increase in the last two years.<sup>89</sup> (see Figure 53)

**Figure 53.**

### **OJJ Probation Trends, 2020-2022**

#### PAROLE



Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/data-reports>

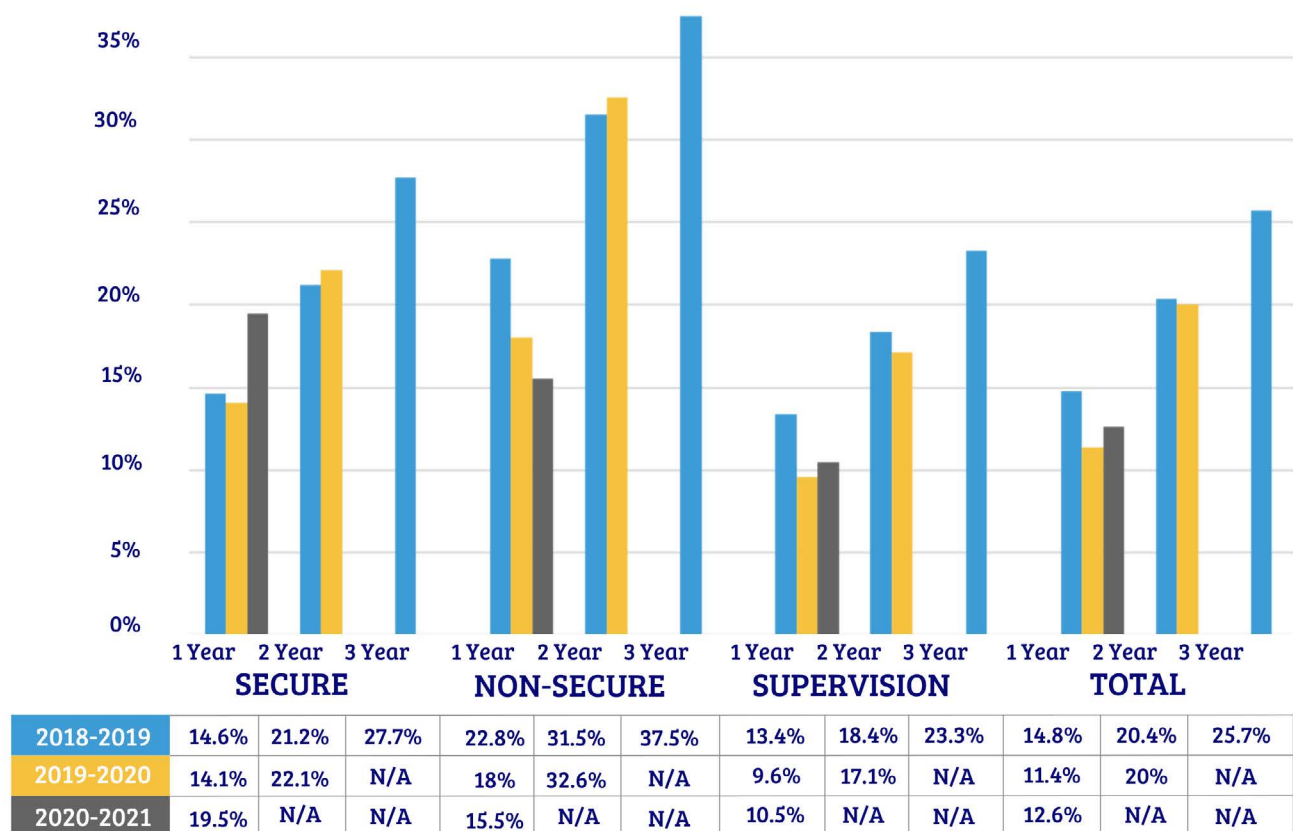
<sup>89</sup> <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-under-supervision>

# OUTCOMES

## Recidivism Rates per OJJ

OJJ collects recidivism data per fiscal year. OJJ defines recidivism as a youth who is discharged from juvenile justice supervision and is later entered back into either the juvenile justice or adult corrections system (i.e., re-adjudicated for any delinquent offense or convicted in adult criminal court and sentenced to the custody or supervision of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections). Youth who are served by FINS are not included in the recidivism rates. The most recent fiscal year that captures recidivism at three years, is FY2018-19. Over one-quarter (28%) of youth leaving secure facilities had recidivated within three years; over one-third (38%) of non-secure released youth had recidivated; and, almost one-quarter (23%) of youth under probation supervision had recidivated.<sup>90</sup> One and two-year percentages are also reported by OJJ. (See Figure 54)

**Figure 54.**  
**Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice Recidivism Rates, 2018-2021**



Source: <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-under-supervision>

90 <https://ojj.la.gov/page/youth-under-supervision>

# ADULT TRANSFER

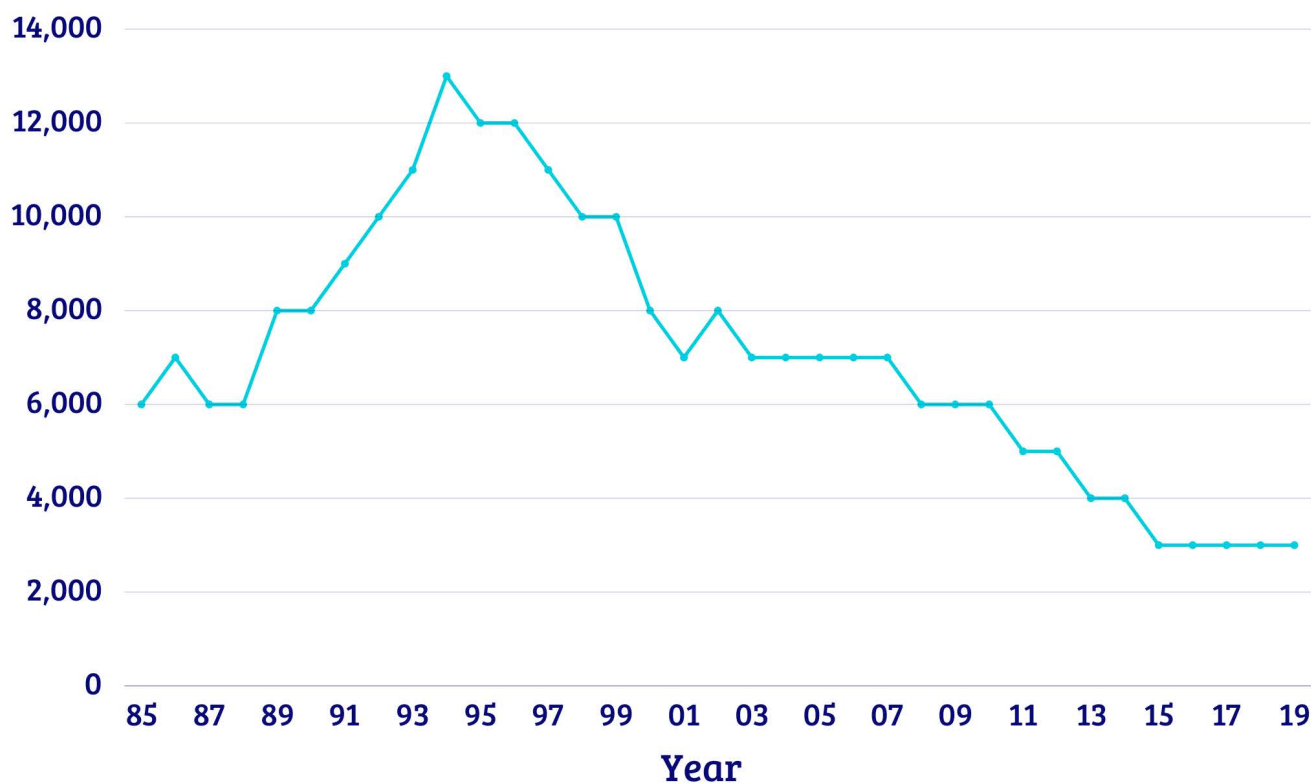
In a small number of cases, youth may be transferred (or waived) to adult court and tried as an adult, regardless of their age. Transfer to adult court refers to the process of moving an alleged juvenile offender from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system.

## Data Summary: What Youth Experience Adult Transfer?

Nationally, juvenile courts have waived 75% fewer delinquency cases to criminal court since 1994, when the use of such processes peaked. (See Figure 55)

**Figure 55.**  
**Use of Adult Transfer Nationally by U.S. Courts**

Cases judicially waived to criminal court

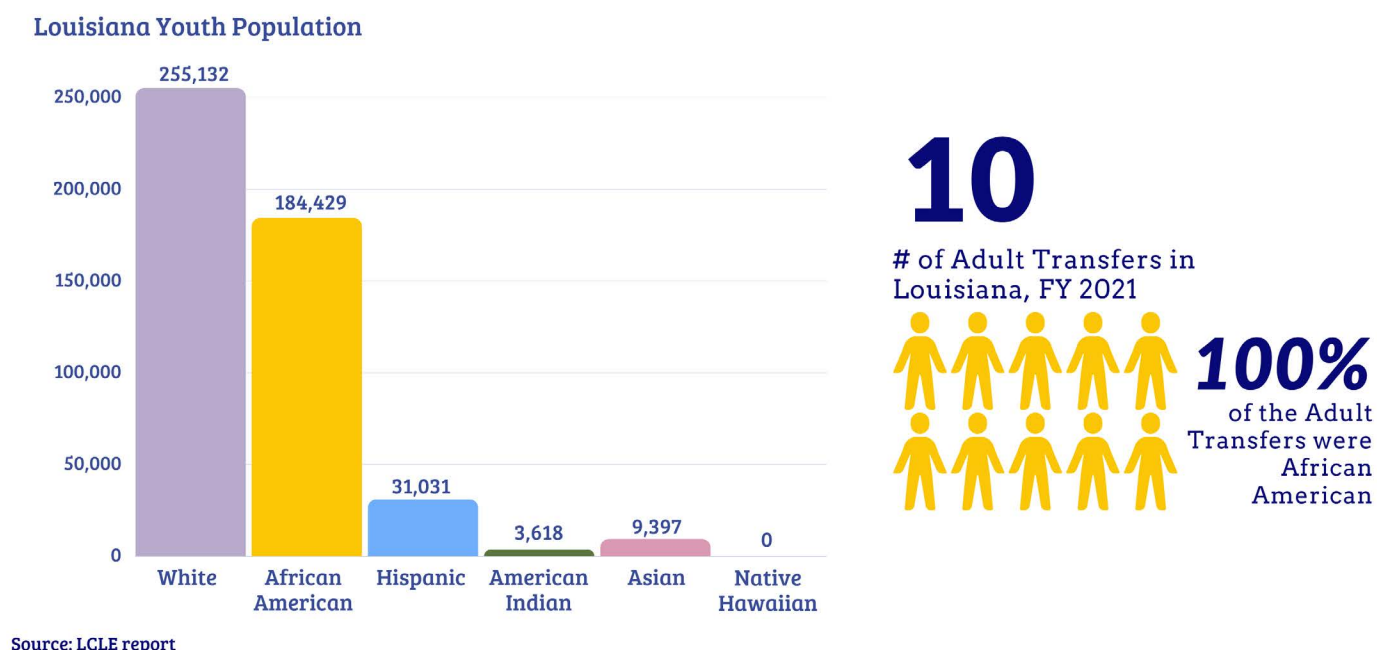


Source: <http://ncjj.org/pdf/NR2022.pdf>

# Louisiana

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement reports on adult transfer in its documentation to OJJDP. According to that report, in 2021, there were 10 Louisiana youth transferred to adult court and all of these youth were Black/African American. (see Figure 56)

**Figure 56.**  
**Louisiana Statewide Adult Transfer Data: FY2021**







## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Many local and state juvenile justice agencies across the country have come to recognize that having consistent and reliable data are essential for measuring and tracking system impact and performance. Yet, despite this recognition and some important improvements, there continues to be tremendous variability across the country in the quality and quantity of shared and/or publicly available juvenile justice data, and how those data are used (or not used) to gauge impact and performance. Ultimately, having good data will enable juvenile justice agencies to show that what they do makes real, tangible differences in the lives of young people and their communities.

The development of the OJJ data warehouse and reporting represents one of the most important signs of progress in Louisiana. This is evident given the level of data now regularly reported publicly on their website. Other areas of the system, like juvenile diversion, show almost no availability of public data. However, many of Louisiana's District Attorney offices openly discuss their diversion programs in state meetings. Some even mention these programs on their websites but data are not reported. At one point, the Louisiana Children's Cabinet maintained the "Louisiana Kids' Dashboard." As of the writing of this report, although still listed on its website ( <https://gov.louisiana.gov/page/childrens-cabinet> ), the links to the dashboard were not working (i.e., "Error- The requested resource is not found").



In order to improve overall local and state capacity to collect, share, analyze and make data-based decisions, three major recommendations with associated steps are offered based on the strengths and challenges found in generating this Louisiana juvenile justice data landscape report.

**Recommendation 1:** Louisiana should establish a centralized juvenile justice data repository to clarify data points needed from all key agencies, ease submission of data, ensure accountability of data sharing, generate a public facing dashboard for access to aggregate information, and submit an annual report, including trends, to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission (JJRAIC) of the state legislature.

- Steps should be taken to improve the reporting of juvenile arrest data in Louisiana and not require waiting on federally reported crime data.
- Steps should be taken to improve the availability and consistency of diversion data, which would require participation of District Attorney offices where most diversion programs are housed or contracted.
- The state should improve its capacity to maintain, report, and actively use comprehensive data on Informal FINS populations, system practices, and outcomes; and should establish timeliness and quality outcome thresholds for all FINS services which can be aggregated and reported publicly.
- The Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association (LJDA) should receive data, similar to the JDAI required reporting, from every detention center in Louisiana in aggregated form which can be publicly shared either through their association or another resource.
- The Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial Administration Office (LAJAO) should receive appropriate technical support to help it implement initial quality assurance steps for the court filing data it receives on an annual basis.
- Local probation departments should have to publicly report data similar to the probation data collected and reported by OJJ, including number, age, race, type of offense, and recidivism of youth receiving their services.

**Recommendation 2:** The JJRAIC, as the legislatively assigned entity, should urge the implementation of the recommendations in this report, monitor that implementation process, and request annual reports on the status of juvenile justice data sharing advances statewide.

- Local and state juvenile justice agencies meet more regularly and consistently define, monitor, and report additional youth outcomes (not limited to recidivism).

**Recommendation 3:** The staff of the centralized juvenile justice data repository and/or JJIRC, should regularly share findings of annual reports in state and regional meetings to build utilization of data in state and local decision-making processes.

- Louisiana should strongly consider developing a statewide “Juvenile Justice Data Repository and Analysis Center” based on best practice national models.

The LSU Institute for Public Health & Justice has examined several potential state-wide juvenile justice data visualization options. These visualizations can show how youth move through the JJS at state and/or local levels. They can help to graphically illustrate how youth are progressing and/or being diverted successfully from further system involvement. Finally, such visualizations can be used to show comparable data at the national, state, and local points of contact with the JJS. The LSU IPHJ is ready to demonstrate such data visualizations if the state is interested.

