



Three-Year Crime Analysis
July 2024



Table of Contents

Data Considerations 4

Nebraska Population 4

Population Overview..... 5

Description of Youth Population in Nebraska 7

Youth Mental Health Data 10

Nebraska Education Data 12

School Enrollment and Graduation 12

Chronic Absenteeism 14

Arrest Data 16

Arrest Offenses by Year 17

Arrests on School Grounds..... 22

Detention Screening, Diversion, Juvenile Court, and Probation Data 28

Juvenile Intake Screening for Detention/Detention Alternatives 28

Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Programs..... 30

Court Filings 38

Case Transfers..... 40

Juveniles Prosecuted in Adult Criminal Court..... 41

Juvenile Probation..... 43

Detention 45

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC)..... 51

Considerations for Data Priorities and Next Steps..... 53

Appendices..... 54

Appendix A 54

Appendix B 56

Appendix C 58

Appendix D 58

Appendix E 62

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Data Considerations

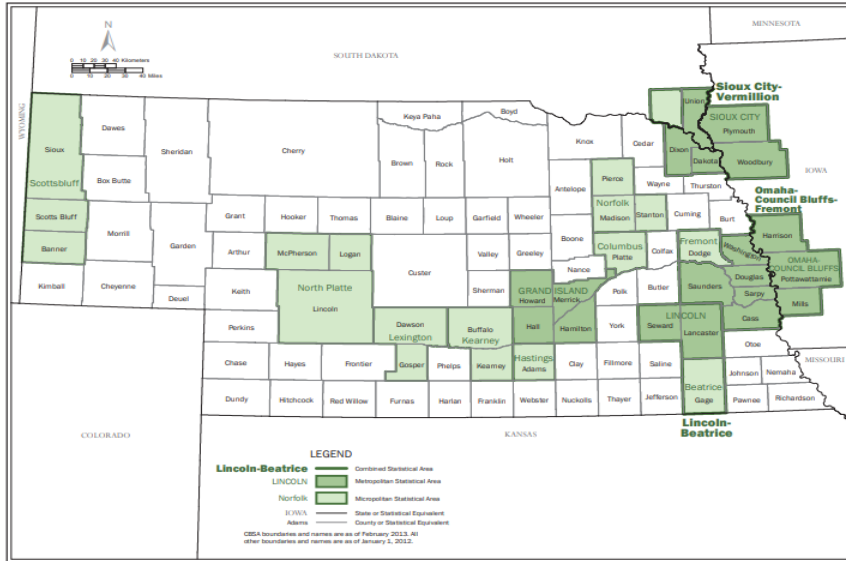
Variation in Terms. The data in this document are not modified and are reported as they appear in their original source. There may be instances where similar terms have different names. For example, census data use the term “black;” as such when census data are reported in this document the term black is used. Alternatively, the Juvenile Diversion Annual Reports use the term “African American,” so when data from this source are reported in this document the term “African American” is used.

Nebraska Population

Figure 1¹ is provided by the Census Bureau and displays a map of Nebraska, which depicts micro- and metro-politan areas in the state. Nebraska has nine micropolitan statistical areas (Beatrice, Columbus, Fremont, Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, Norfolk, North Platte, Scottsbluff), and four metropolitan areas: (Grand Island, Lincoln, Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont and Sioux City-Vermillion). The Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont and Sioux City-Vermillion metropolitan areas also include counties in Iowa.

¹ https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/metroarea/stcbsa_pg/Feb2013/cbsa2013_NE.pdf

Figure 1. Map of Nebraska



Population Overview

The Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) reported that Nebraska’s population is aging, becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, and more concentrated in its most populous counties.² The present analysis uses data from the Census Bureau’s Population Estimate Program to estimate the population in Nebraska from calendar years 2021-2023. The Population Estimate Program estimates the population of an area in non-census years through birth, death, and migration data.³ Data shows that while Nebraska's overall population was growing, its youth demographic was experiencing a minor

² <https://www.openskypolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Demographic-Trends-for-Legislative-Forum-May-2018.pdf>
³ <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/about.html>

but consistent decrease.⁴ Figure 2 provides information about the distribution of youth and adult population, and gender distribution in Nebraska from 2021-2023. As indicated by Figure 2, the total population of Nebraska experienced a steady increase over the three-year period, rising from 2,069,560 in 2021 to 2,074,564 in 2022, and further to 2,087,078 in 2023. In contrast, the youth population exhibits a slight decline during the same timeframe. The youth population decreased from 485,005 in 2021 to 482,324 in 2022, and further reduced to 480,998 in 2023.

Figure 2. Number of youth and total population, and number of youth by gender, 2021-2023



Over the entire period, Nebraska’s total population increased by 0.85%, while the youth population decreased by 0.83%.

⁴ <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/center-for-public-affairs-research/documents/data-major-age-groups-counties-2019.xlsx>

Description of Youth Population in Nebraska

In 2021, as shown in Figure 2, an estimated 485,005 youth (249,169 male; 235,836 female) lived in Nebraska. This estimate decreased to 482,324 (247,645 male; 234,679 female) in 2022, and further reduced to 480,998 youth (247,098 male; 233,900 female) in 2023. Both genders saw a somewhat identical slight decline in their numbers over the two-year period. The male youth population decreased by 0.83% while the female youth population contracted by 0.82%

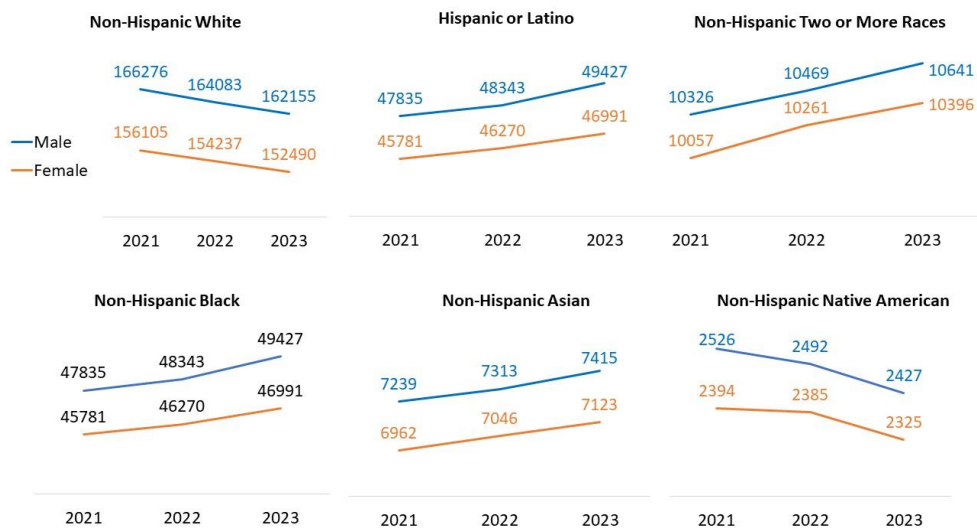
Table 1. Number of youth in Nebraska by race/ethnicity and percentage distribution, 2021-2023

	2021		2022		2023	
	Number of Youth	%	Number of Youth	%	Number of Youth	%
Non-Hispanic White	322,381	66%	318,320	66%	314,645	65%
Hispanic or Latino	93,616	19%	94,613	20%	96,418	20%
Non-Hispanic Black	29,504	6%	29,425	6%	29,608	6%
Non-Hispanic Two Or More Races	20,383	4%	20,730	4%	21,037	4%
Non-Hispanic Asian	14,201	3%	14,359	3%	14,538	3%
Non-Hispanic Native American	4,920	1%	4,877	1%	4,752	1%
Total	485,005	100%	482,324	100%	480,998	100%

Table 1 displays the number and percentage of youth in Nebraska by race/ethnicity from 2021-2023. Figure 3 depicts the Nebraska’s youth population by race/ethnicity and sex from 2021-2023. These data indicate that the population of non-Hispanic white youth as well as non-Hispanic American Indian youth have decreased in Nebraska over the observed period. The

populations of all other race/ethnic groups of youth are increasing. Trends in the numbers for each racial/ethnic group is discussed below.

Figure 3. Nebraska’s youth population by race/ethnicity and gender, 2021-2023



Non-Hispanic White Youth. Non-Hispanic white youth comprise the largest group of youth in the state; however, this group decreased in population by 1.15% from 2021-2023. In 2021, an estimated 322,381 non-Hispanic white youth (166,276 male; 156,105 female) lived in Nebraska. In 2022, this estimate decreased to 318,320 (164,083 male, 154,237 female), and in 2023, this estimate further decreased to a total of 314,645 non-Hispanic white youth (162,155 male, 152,490 female).

Hispanic/Latino Youth. Hispanic/Latino youth are the second largest racial/ethnic group of youth in the state and increased in size by 0.74% from 2021-2023. In 2021, an estimated 93,616 Hispanic or Latino youth (47,835 male; 45,781 female) lived in Nebraska. This number

grew to 94,613 in 2022 (48,343 male, 46,270 female) and further to 96,418 in 2023 (49,427 male, 46,991 female).

Non-Hispanic Two Or More Races Youth. Youth who identify as non-Hispanic and belong to two or more races comprise the third largest youth population. Of all the demographic groups, this group experienced the most significant population increase of 7.14% from 2021 to 2023. In 2021, Nebraska had 20,383 non-Hispanic youth of two or more races (10,326 male; 10,057 female). This number rose to 20,730 in 2022 (10,469 male, 10,261 female) and further to 21,037 in 2023 (10,641 male, 10,396 female).

Non-Hispanic Black Youth. Non-Hispanic Black youth are the fourth largest group of youth in the state. This group increased in population by 2.12% from 2021 to 2023. In 2021, an estimated 29,504 non-Hispanic Black youth (14,967 male; 14,537 female) lived in Nebraska. In 2022, this estimate slightly increased to 29,425 (14,945 male, 14,480 female), and in 2023, the size of this group further increased to a total of 29,608 non-Hispanic Black youth (15,033 male, 14,575 female).

Non-Hispanic Asian or Pacific Islander Youth. Non-Hispanic Asian or Pacific Islander comprise the second smallest group of youth in the state. This group experienced a population increase of 2.38% from 2021 to 2023. In 2021, there were 14,201 non-Hispanic Asian youth (7,239 male; 6,962 female) in Nebraska. This number increased to 14,359 in 2022 (7,313 male, 7,046 female) and further to 14,538 in 2023 (7,415 male, 7,123 female).

Non-Hispanic American Indian Youth. Non-Hispanic American Indian youth are the smallest demographic group, with a population decrease of 3.41% from 2021 to 2023. In 2021, there were 4,920 non-Hispanic American Indian youth (2,526 male; 2,394 female). The population slightly decreased to 4,877 in 2022 (2,492 male, 2,385 female) and then further decreased to 4,752 in 2023 (2,427 male, 2,325 female).

Youth Mental Health Data

Data from the SAMHSA Uniform Reporting System was used to examine mental health of Nebraska youth for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.⁵ Table 2 provides information about the number of youth who were served by the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA) -funded and operated Community Based Programs (CBPs), state psychiatric hospitals, other psychiatric inpatient centers, institutions under the justice system and residential treatment centers. As table shows, with the exception of other psychiatric inpatient centers (which saw an increase), and residential treatment centers (which has not serviced any clients), utilization of services in other categories decreased from 2021 to 2022. It is worth noting that mental health and substance abuse services may have been paid for by private insurance, Medicaid, and/or other state funding and would not be included in these numbers.

Table 2. Number of Youth in Different Types of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Facilities, 2021-2023

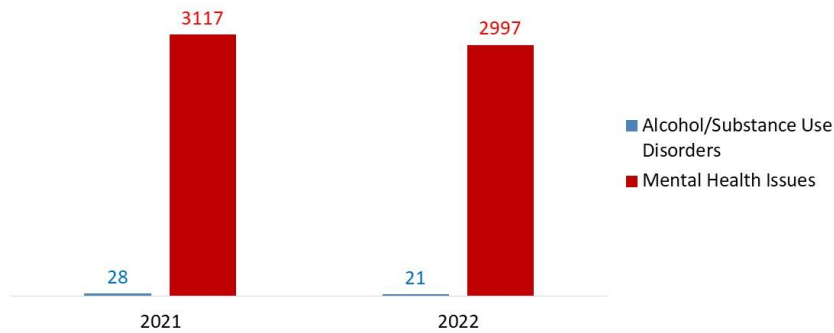
⁵ [Mental Health Client-Level Data 2021 \(MH-CLD-2021-DS0001\) | SAMHDA \(samhsa.gov\)](#). [Mental Health Client-Level Data 2022 \(MH-CLD-2022-DS0001\) | SAMHDA \(samhsa.gov\)](#). Data for FY 2023 is not available.

	SMHA-funded CBP	State Psychiatric Hospital	Other Psychiatric Inpatient Center	Institution Under the Justice System	Residential Treatment Center
2021	3,105	45	4	1	0
2022	2,983	28	32	0	0
Total	6,088	73	36	1	0

Figure 4 provides information about the number of clients with mental health and alcohol and substance use disorders who were serviced in any of the above facilities in FY 2021-2022. As indicated by the chart, while both categories show a decrease over the observed period, mental health remained by far the most prevalent issue.

Figure 4. Number of Serviced Clients with Mental Health and Alcohol/Substance Use Disorders, 2021-2023

Clients with Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Issues, 2021-2022



An analysis of mental health and substance use disorders by age, race, gender and ethnicity shows a general downward trend across categories of these variables (See Figure 1 in Appendix A).

Nebraska Education Data

School Enrollment and Graduation

Data from the Nebraska Department of Education were used to depict the total number of youth enrolled in public school and their racial/ethnic identity and graduation rates.⁶

Presented in Table 3, data on enrollment in the state include the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years. As shown in Table 3, the number of youth enrolled in public school

⁶<https://nep.education.ne.gov/Links>

increased during these school years by 1.67%. White youth comprised the largest ethnic/racial group of youth enrolled, followed by Hispanic, Black or African American youth, youth with Two or More Races, American Indian or Alaska Native youth in that order. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander comprised the smallest racial/ethnic group enrolled.

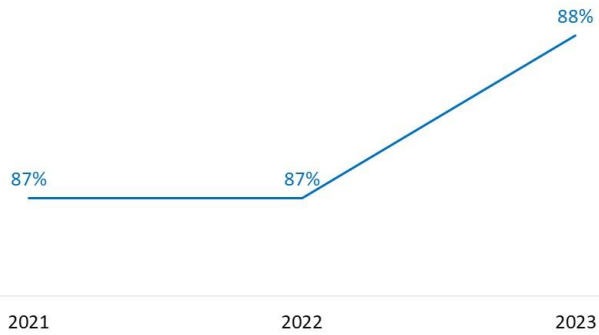
Table 1. School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

YEAR	TOTAL COUNT	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC	NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	TWO OR MORE RACES	WHITE
2020-2021	359,672	1.2%	2.9%	6.5%	18.8%	0.2%	4.1%	66.3%
2021-2022	363,473	1.3%	2.9%	6.4%	19.3%	0.2%	4.3%	65.7%
2022-2023	365,687	1.2%	3.0%	6.4%	19.9%	0.2%	4.5%	64.8%

Figure 5 provides data on graduation rates from public schools in Nebraska. The graduation rates remained steady at 87% from 2021 to 2022 before increasing to 88% in 2023, indicating a slight improvement over the three-year period.

Figure 5. Public School Graduation Rates and Trend, 2021-2023

Graduation Rates and Trend, 2021-2023



Chronic Absenteeism

To examine chronic absenteeism in the state, the present analysis uses data from the Nebraska Department of Education from the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 school years.⁷ Figure 6 provides information about chronic absentee rates over this period. It indicates a significant increase in chronic absenteeism compared to pre-pandemic levels, with only a modest improvement in the most recent year.

Figure 6. Chronic Absentee Rates and Trends, 2021-2023

⁷<https://nep.education.ne.gov/Links>

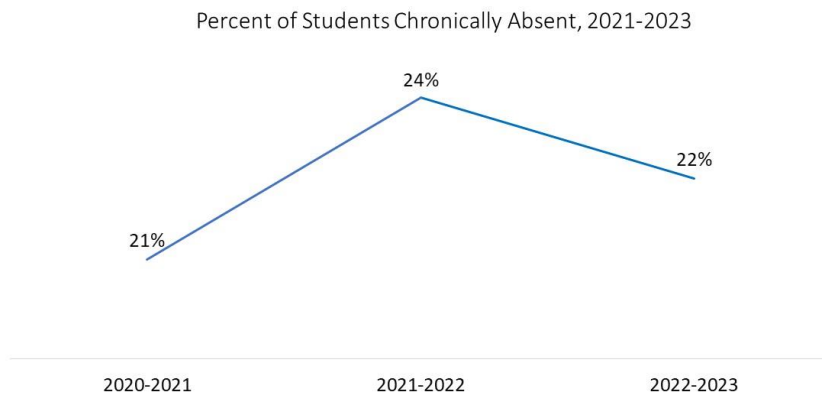
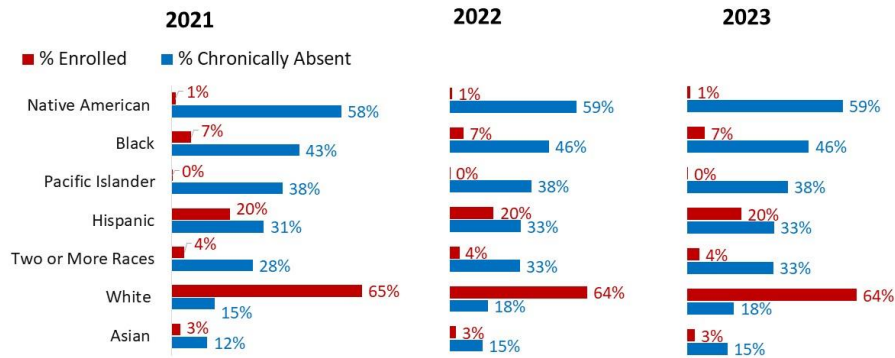


Figure 7 compares the percentage of students enrolled and chronically absent across different racial/ethnic groups from 2021 to 2023. White students consistently make up the largest enrolled group (64-65%) but have lower rates of chronic absenteeism (15-18%) compared to most other groups. Native American students, despite very low enrollment (1%), show the highest rates of chronic absenteeism (58-59%). Black and Hispanic students also have high chronic absenteeism rates relative to their enrollment percentages. Asian students consistently have the lowest chronic absenteeism rates (12-15%) despite low enrollment (3%). The data shows a slight increase in chronic absenteeism rates for most groups from 2021 to 2022, with the most notable increases seen in the “Two or More Races” category (28% to 33%).

Figure 7. Comparison of Enrollment and Chronically Absentee Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2021-2023

Percent Enrolled vs. Percent Chronically Absent, 2021-2023



By contrast, chronic absentee rates were stable from 2022 to 2023 school years for most groups, possibly indicating a gradual return to pre-pandemic attendance patterns. Nonetheless significant disparities in chronic absenteeism rates persist across racial/ethnic groups, highlighting potential inequities in education access or support.

Arrest Data

This section presents data on youth arrested in Nebraska from calendar year 2021-2023 by offense, age, gender, race, and ethnicity. It should be noted that youth are not formally “arrested” in Nebraska, rather by statute law enforcement takes youth into temporary custody. However, for data definition and federal reporting purposes, the term arrest is used by the Nebraska Crime Commission and is the national standard. The Crime Commission defines an arrest as incidents where youth were warned and released without any further action as well as incidents where youth were taken into custody or issued a citation or summons. The following

data reflects these events. The arrest data reported in this report reflects only the most serious offense involved in the arrest. For example, if a youth was arrested for two offenses, only the most serious offense is reported.

The Crime Commission is responsible for compiling arrest data from law enforcement agencies in the state and reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Agencies use either the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) or the Nebraska Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to report crime the Crime Commission. The data reported below only reflects agencies who submit data to the Crime Commission, and it should be noted that not every law enforcement agency complies with the requirement to submit monthly arrest report. As such, this data are an incomplete and potentially under-estimate of juvenile arrests in Nebraska.

While the data collected via UCR provide information on aggregate monthly crimes, NIBRS data can provide greater detail on those arrested for crimes – including details about demographic characteristics such as age, gender, and race/ethnicity. In Nebraska, NIBRS data were combined with UCR data to create a single database of arrests that includes the measures in both reporting systems. Many agencies have only recently converted to the NIBRS system as required by the federal government, making the combined dataset a more accurate reporting of juvenile arrest data. This report uses NIBRS data for 2021-2023.⁸

Arrest Offenses by Year

Youth arrests increased in Nebraska from 2021-2023. As indicated by Figure 8, in 2021, there were 5,147 arrests. This number rose to 5,486 in 2022, an increase of about 6.6%. The upward trend continued in 2023, with arrests reaching 6,743, an increase of approximately

⁸ In 2021, 151 law enforcement agencies contributed data to NIBRS system. In 2022, that number decreased to 135, and further reduced to 132 in 2023.

22.9% from 2022. Over the entire period from 2021 to 2023, the total number of arrests increased by 31%.

Figure 8. Total Number of Arrests, 2021-2023

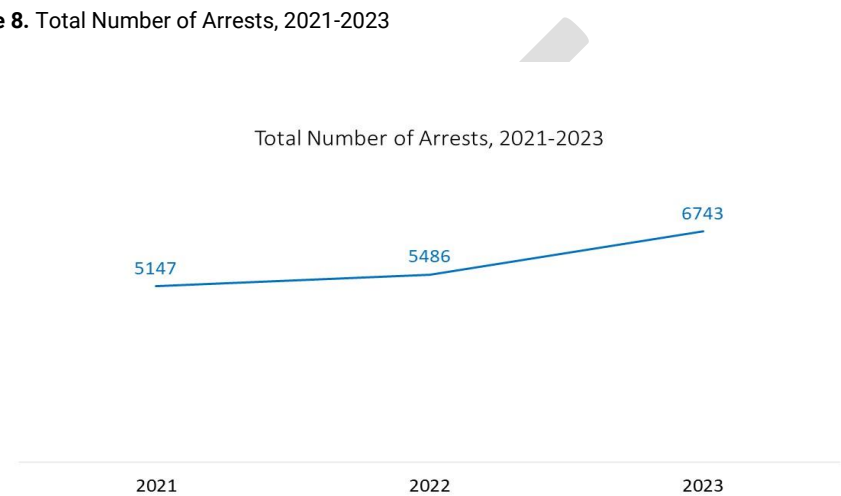
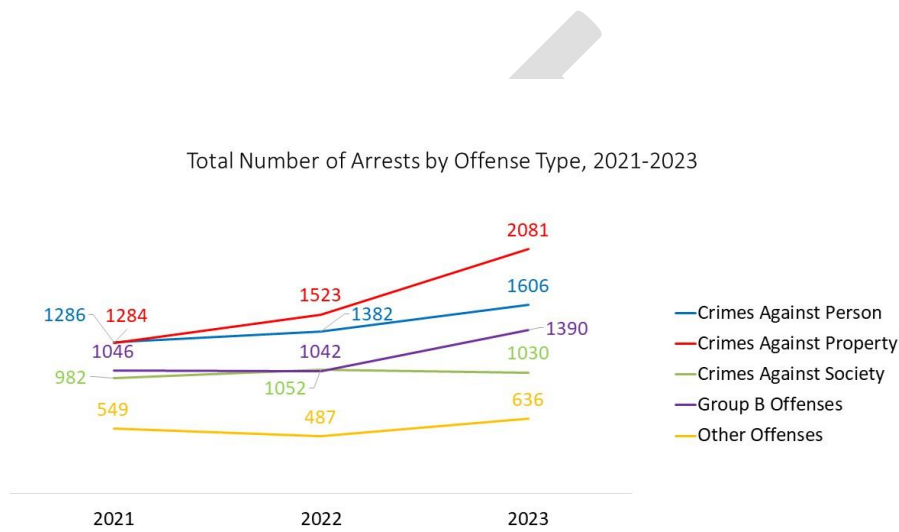


Figure 9 provides information about the total number of arrests by offense type. As indicated by the chart, crimes against property show the most dramatic increase, surging by 62%. Crimes against person also saw a substantial rise of 25%. Group B offenses followed a similar upward trajectory increasing by 33%.⁹ Group B offenses include minor crimes such as Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy violations, Disorderly Conduct, or Driving Under the Influence.

⁹ NIBRS system tracks offenses in two categories: Group A and Group B. Group A includes all major crimes within a law enforcement agency's jurisdiction, while Group B only tracks arrests for minor crimes, such as status offenses, curfew/loitering/vagrancy violations, disorderly conduct, or driving under the influence. The "Other" category includes status offenses and crimes that fall under Group A but involve specific actions, such as conspiring or threatening to commit a robbery. Both Group B and the "Other" category encompass various types of offenses against property, individuals, and society.

Crimes against society experienced a more modest growth of 4.9%. Other offenses were the only category to decrease, dropping by 15.8%, and rebounding slightly in 2023 after reaching its lowest point in 2022.

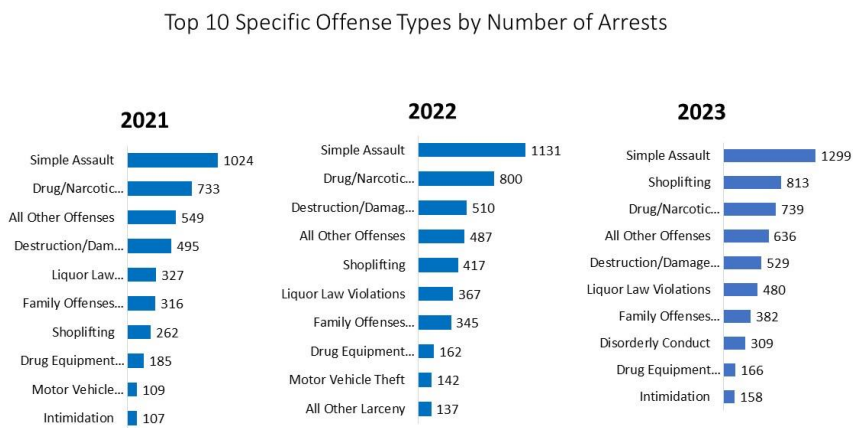
Figure 9. Total Number of Arrests, Offense Type, 2021-2023



An interesting pattern that emerges from this chart is the consistent upward trend in most offense categories, with property crimes showing particularly accelerated growth. The divergence between the sharp increase in property crimes and the decrease in other offenses suggests a potential shift in criminal activity focus or law enforcement priorities during this period. Additionally, the steeper rise in arrests from 2022 to 2023 compared to 2021 to 2022 for most categories indicates an intensification of the trend in the more recent year.

Figure 10 provides information about top ten specific offense types by the number of arrests from 2021-2023. It shows that the most serious offense that youth were most often arrested for was simple assault followed by drug offense (2021-2022) or shoplifting (2023).

Figure 10. Top 10 Specific Offense Type by Number of Arrests, 2021-2023

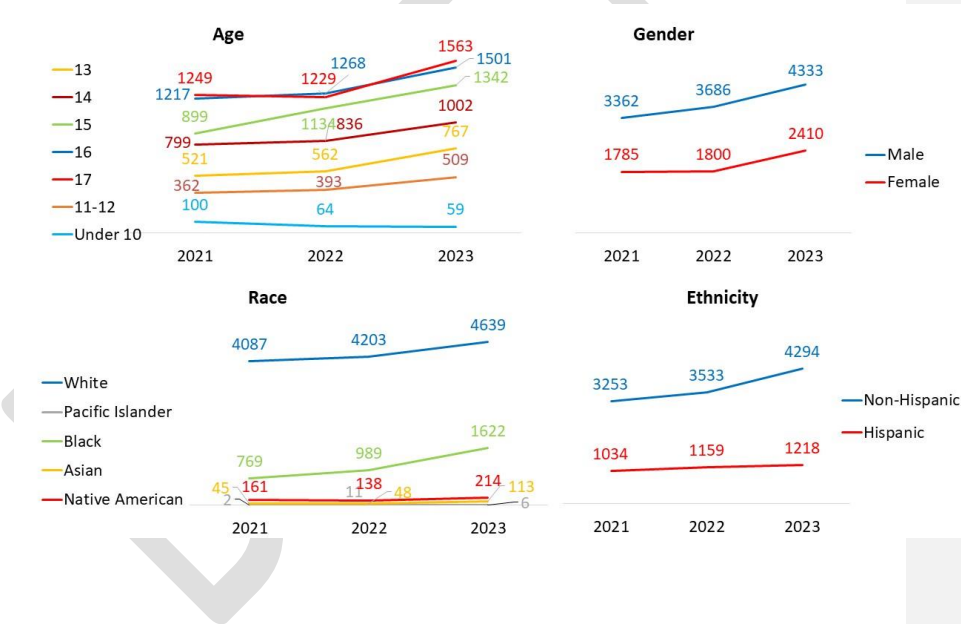


The persistence and steady rise in simple assault arrests from 2021 to 2023 might be driven by socio-economic stressors and post-pandemic adjustments. The rise of shoplifting to the second most frequent offense in 2023 might be connected to economic hardship and inflation, as youth may resort to theft due to financial pressure.

Figure 11 provided information about the number of youth arrests by age, gender, race, and ethnicity. As the figure shows, in 2021 and 2023, youth arrested in the state were most often 17 years old – followed by 16-year-olds. In 2022, youth arrested in the state were more often 16 – followed by 17-year-olds. From 2022 to 2023, 13-year-olds experienced 36% growth in arrests, by far the highest among all the other age categories. Closely following are arrest

rates for youth ages 11 and 12 which increased by about 30 %. 17-year-olds experienced 27%, and 16-year-olds 18% increase in arrests. By contrast, youth ages 10 and under saw relatively fewer arrests from 2021 to 2023. For this group arrests dropped by about 7% from 2022 to 2023. Across all years, male youth were arrested more often than female youth. However, female arrests show a steeper upward trend. From 2022 to 2023 male arrests increased by 17% and female arrests by 33 % increase.

Figure 11. Youth Arrests by Age, Gender, Race and Ethnicity, 2021-2023



The majority of youth arrested in 2021-2023 did not identify as Hispanic or Latino. Whereas in 2021, non-Hispanic youth were arrested 3,253 times, by 2023 that number rose to 4,294. From 2022 to 2023, the number of arrests for non-Hispanic youth increased by about 21 %. Hispanic or Latino youth were arrested 1,034 times in 2021, and 1,218 times in 2023. From 2022 to 2023, this group saw a 5 % increase in arrests. The gap between the two groups

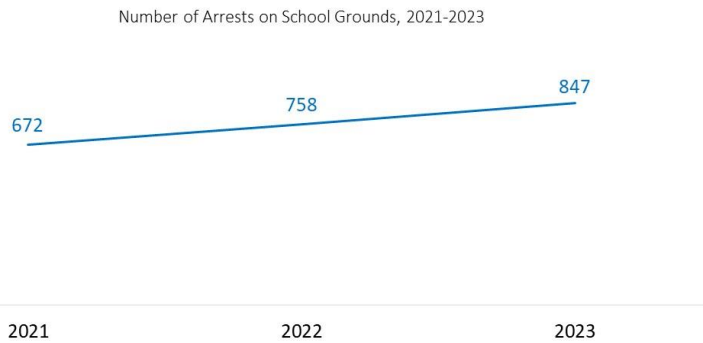
widened significantly from 2022 onwards, primarily due to the sharp rise in arrests for the non-Hispanic group.

Arrest data for race shows that white youth were most frequently arrested, followed by Black or African American, American Indian, or Alaska Native, Asian, and then Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander youth. White youth consistently had the highest number of arrests, ranging from 4087 in 2021 to 4639 in 2023. Arrests for Black or African American youth also increased significantly during this period, rising from 769 to 1622. Arrests among American Indian or Alaska Native youth increased from 161 in 2021 to 214. Asian, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander groups had relatively lower arrest numbers. Overall, data shows an upward trend in arrests for most racial groups from 2021 onwards, save Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander group.

Arrests on School Grounds

Based on NIBRS data, Figure 12 provides information about total number of arrests made on school grounds and Figure 13 through 15 breaks down those arrests by offense type, age, gender, race and ethnicity. In some, but not other cases, arrests on school grounds mirror trends and patterns associated with general arrests. Like general arrests, arrests on school grounds exhibit an upward trend. As shown in Figure 12, arrests increased by 26% from 2021 to 2023, and by about 12% from 2022 to 2023.

Figure 12. Number of arrests made on school grounds, 2021-2023



Differing patterns of arrests are associated with offense type, age, and ethnicity. As indicated by Figure 13, like general arrests, there was a marked increase in arrests on school grounds across all offense categories. However, unlike general arrests where property offenses topped the chart across all years, Person offenses account for most arrests on school grounds followed by Society offenses. Figure 14 shows top ten specific offense types for which arrests were made on school ground. It indicates that simple assault, which constitutes Person offenses, was consistently the most common offense type on school grounds.

Figure 13. Number of school arrests by offense types, 2021-2023

Arrests on School Grounds by Offense Type, 2021-2023



Figure 14. Number of school arrests by top ten specific offense types, 2021-2023.

Arrests on School Grounds by Top 10 Specific Offense Types, 2021-2023

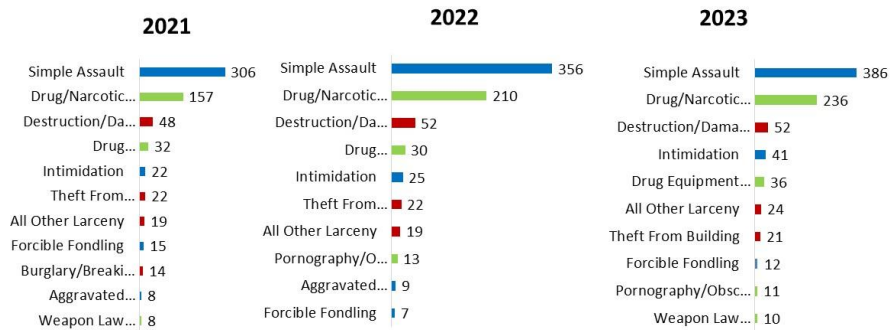
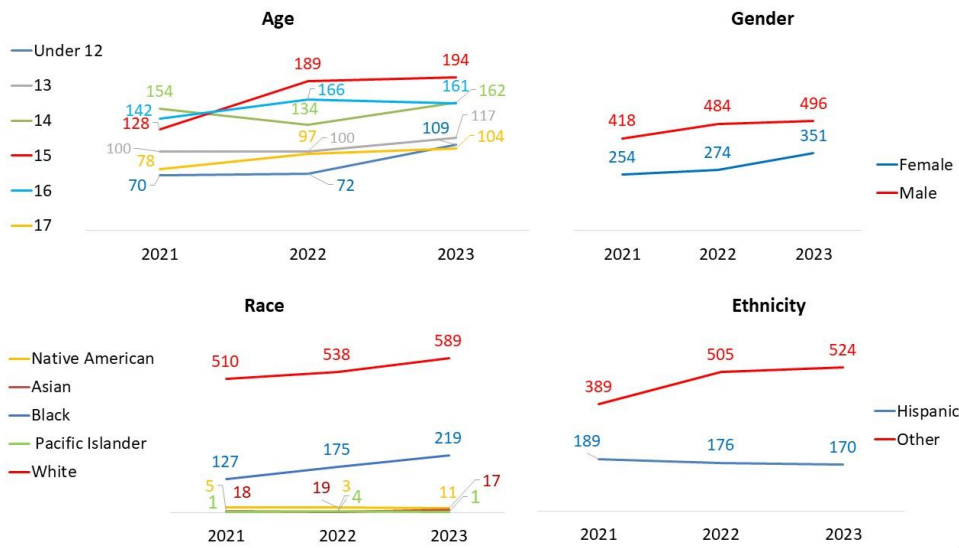


Figure 15 provides information about school arrests by age, gender, race, and ethnicity. As a share of general arrests, 17 years olds were arrested the most across all years.¹⁰ That is not the case with school arrests, where 15- year -olds were arrested the most in 2022-2023, and 14- year- olds did so in 2021. Whereas general arrests for Hispanic and Latino youth showed steady but minimal increase in 2021-2023, arrests on school grounds over the same period for the same group shows a decreasing trend.

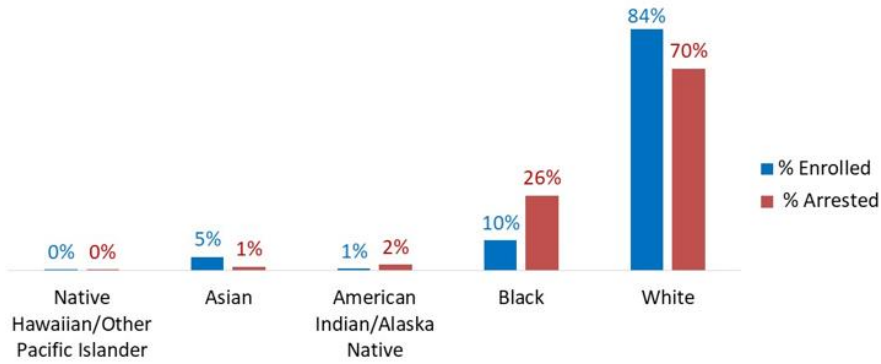
Figure 15. Number of school arrests by age, gender, race, and ethnicity, 2021-2023.



¹⁰ Data on ethnicity included 324 or 14% of observations for which the ethnicity category was not known. Hence, they were excluding in producing the chart.

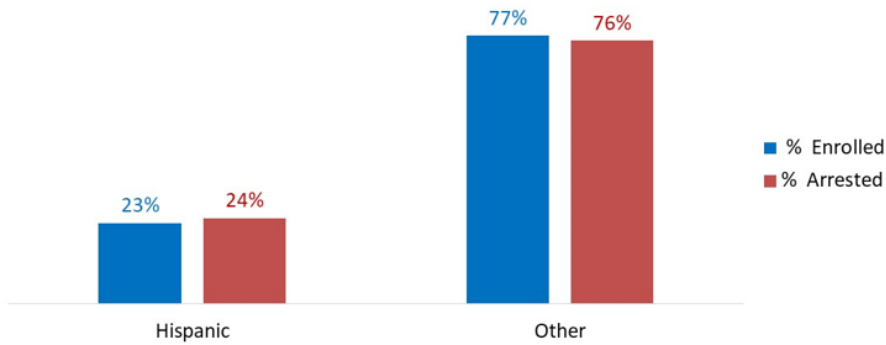
School arrests are typically tied to debates about whether the presence of School Resource Officers (SRO) prevents crime, or increases arrests for noncriminal, youthful behavior, feeding the school-to-prison pipeline. Those who oppose police presence in schools do so on the grounds that it disproportionately impacts Black children, who face higher rates of law enforcement referrals and arrests for school-related incidents compared to their white peers. The primary concern is that increasing police presence in schools could lead to more Black students being criminalized for incidents that could be resolved by school staff. Owing to lack of systematic data on SROs for Nebraska, the report cannot contribute to this debate. However, NIBRS data coupled with data from Nebraska Department of Education would allow us to take the first step in this direction by comparing enrollment and arrests rates to show if racial or ethnic disparities in arrests exist. Based on 2023 data, Figure 16 shows that that white students make up 84% of school enrollment and 70% of arrests. Black students constitute 10% of school enrollment but have a disproportionately high arrest rate of 26%. Other racial groups, including Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Asian, and American Indian/Alaska Native, show much smaller percentages in both school enrollment and arrests, with Asians and American Indian/Alaska Natives showing slightly higher arrest rates relative to their enrollment. This disparity suggests that Black students are more likely to be arrested than their white peers for similar school-related incidents.

Figure 16. Comparison of School Enrollment and School Arrest Rates by Race, 2023



Using the same data, Figure 17 compares enrollment and arrests in school ground by ethnicity. It shows that non-Hispanic students make up 77% of school enrollment and 76% of arrests. Hispanic or Latino students constitute 23% of school enrollment but slightly higher arrest rate (24%) relative to their enrollment.

Figure 17. Comparison of school enrollment and school arrest rates by ethnicity, 2023



Collectively, these two charts suggest disparity in the arrest rates for school-related incidents for minority students. A focus on white and Black youth comparison highlights significant criminalization of Black students.

Detention Screening, Diversion, Juvenile Court, and Probation Data

Juvenile Intake Screening for Detention/Detention Alternatives

In Nebraska, when law enforcement takes a youth into temporary custody, they have the authority to release, issue a citation, or request a screening for detention. Per statute, probation officers are to use a screening tool to determine whether to release, utilize an at home/out of home detention alternative, or secure detention. Once the appropriate level of care is determined, law enforcement assists with the implementation of the probation officer's decision, providing transportation if needed. Probation officers may also choose to override the results of the screening tool based on the circumstances of the case.

This section uses data from the AOCJ Juvenile Services Division Detailed Analysis Report for fiscal years 2021,¹¹ and 2022,¹² to examine juvenile intake decisions in Nebraska. Summarized in Table 4, the data shows a slight decrease in total intake decisions, dropping from 1,433 to 1,397 (2.5% decrease). Releases, that is juveniles released back to parents following screening, saw a more significant decline, falling from 552 to 510 (7.6% decrease).¹³ Staff secure detentions were the only category to show a substantial increase, rising from 166

¹¹ <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/analysis21.pdf>

¹² https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/contentfiles/Annual_Report_FY_2022_for_posting_on_website.pdf

¹³ The category "Release" should not be confused with "At Home Placement", as it does not constitute a form of supervision/probation.

to 191 (15.1% increase). Secure detentions, which are a more restrictive form of supervision, remained relatively stable with a minor increase from 565 to 572 (1.2% rise). The most significant percentage change was in at home/out of home alternative to detention placements, which decreased from 150 to 124 (17.3% reduction).

Table 4. Outcomes of Juvenile Intake Screenings in Nebraska, Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Year	Total Intake Decisions	Release	Detain		At Home/Out of Home Alternative to Detention
			Staff Secure	Secure	
2021	1,433	552	166	565	150
2022	1,397	510	191	572	124

These patterns suggest a shift towards more secure forms of detention, particularly staff secure options, while moving away from releases and alternative detention measures.

As stated above, a probation officer may choose to override the intake screening tool to a higher or lower level of intervention in special circumstances. Table 5 presents data on probation officers' decisions following intake screening. As Table 5 reflects, intakes that did not involve overrides saw a substantial increase of 23.5%, rising from 682 to 842 cases. In contrast, intakes involving override to a higher authority decreased by 8%, dropping from 413 to 380. Probation officers may also opt to override the case to a lower-level authority, such decisions saw modest increase of 10%, growing from 60 to 66 cases. Not included in the table are cases involving warrants, or specific court orders that required detention, without administering statewide screening tool. These cases increased by 211%, from 35 in 2021, to 109 in 2022.

Table 5. Probation officer decision outcomes post-intake screening.

Year	No Override	Override to Lower- Level Authority	Override to Higher-Level Authority
2021	682	60	413
2022	842	66	380

Overall, these trends indicate a strong move towards maintaining initial assessments as evidenced by the rise in intakes that did not involve override, a slight reduction in escalating cases, and the rise in court-ordered detentions.

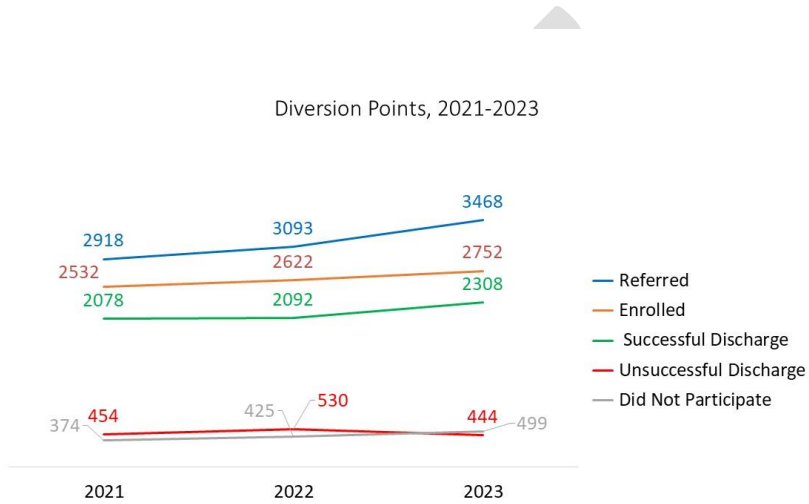
Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Programs

. A county or city attorney may offer youth the opportunity to participate in diversion programming prior to a court filing; however, not all counties in Nebraska have a diversion program for youth. This section uses data from Juvenile Diversion Management System and Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center for calendar years 2021-2023. It provides information about the number of referrals, enrollments, and successful completions, broken down age, gender, race/ethnicity and charges leading to diversion. These data indicate that the number of counties offering a diversion program to youth slightly decreased from 66 in 2021 to 65 in 2022, and increased to 68 in 2023.

Figure 18 displays trends in diversion points for youth from 2021 to 2023. Diversion programs saw varying rates of growth across different categories. Referrals increased by about 19%, rising from 2,918 to 3,468. Enrollments also rose, albeit at a slower rate of 8.7%, from 2,532 to 2,752. Successful discharges showed growth as well, increasing by 11.1% from 2,078 to 2,308. Unsuccessful discharges decreased slightly by 2.2%, dropping from 454 to 444. The number of juveniles who did not participate saw a considerable increase of 33.4%, jumping from

374 to 499. Overall, the data suggests an expansion of the diversion program, with more youth being referred and enrolled, but also a significant rise in non-participation.¹⁴

Figure 18. Trends in diversion points, 2021-2023



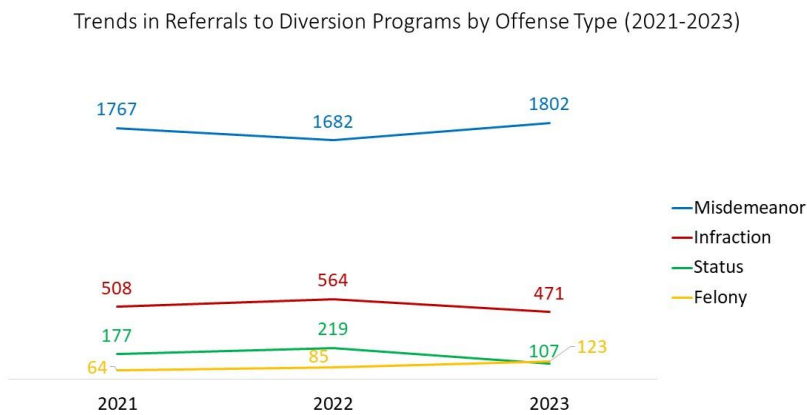
As of July 1, 2023, youth who were 11 years of age or older at the time of committing an act classified as a misdemeanor, infraction, or felony may be eligible for processing in the juvenile justice system – including diversion. Figure 19 illustrates the trends in referrals to diversion programs by offense types from 2021 to 2023.¹⁵ As the chart shows, misdemeanors remained the most referred offense type, infractions and felonies displayed some variability, and status offenses experienced a notable decline in 2023. The steady increase in felony

¹⁴ The present analysis excludes data for the following categories as they do not count as instances of referral to diversion program: "informal diversion" (785), "assessment no show" (139), "refused assessment" (55), and "Nolle Pros" (142). Additionally, the analysis excludes missing data (293).

¹⁵ The analysis does not include data from Douglas county, because the county lacks a three-year offense data.

referrals to diversion programs might reflect a growing recognition of the benefits of diverting even more serious offenders from traditional justice processing.

Figure 19. Trends in referrals to diversion programs by offense type, 2021-2023



With some notable exceptions discussed below, from 2021-2023, youth who were male, 13 or 14-years-old, or white were more frequently referred, enrolled, and/or successful on diversion programs than other youth. Figure 20 displays referral and enrollment data by age. The chart indicates that the 13-14-year-olds have consistently the highest number of referrals and enrollment. However, enrollments for this group fluctuated, dropping from 719 in 2021 to 676 in 2022, before rising to 783 in 2023. For most age groups, the gap between referrals and enrollments widens over time, suggesting that a smaller proportion of referred youth are being enrolled in the programs as the years progress. While these trends indicate an overall increase in youth joining diversion programs, particularly 13 and 14-year-olds, they also highlight

potential challenges these programs face in converting referrals to enrollments across all age groups.

Figure 20. Referral and enrollment by age, 2021-2023

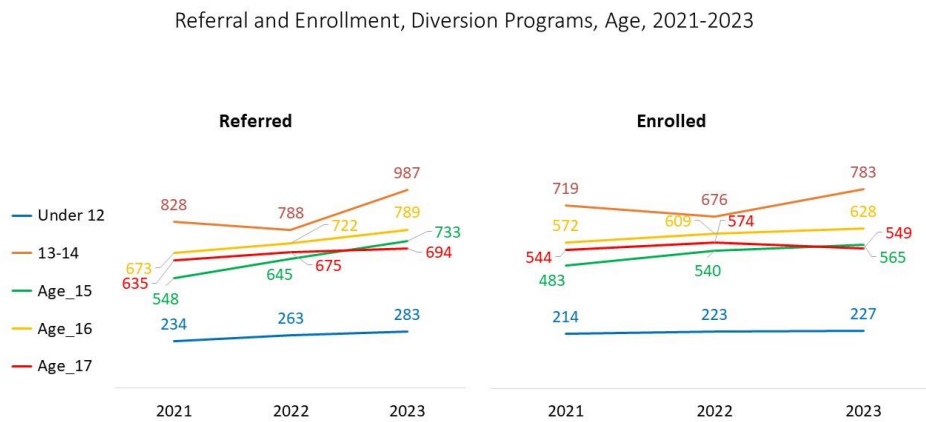


Figure 21 presents referral and enrollment data for diversion programs by gender.¹⁶ The chart shows an increase in both referrals and enrollments for male and female over time. However, in terms of percentage growth from 2021, referral and enrollment numbers for female tend to be higher than those for male. While male referrals saw a modest increase of 11%, female referrals rose by 24% - more than double the rate of males. The contrast in enrollment growth is even more pronounced: male enrollments increased by a mere 2.4%, whereas female enrollments soared by 12.5% - a rate over five times higher than males. The Non-binary category has very low numbers, with just 2 referrals and enrollments recorded in 2021, and 1 referral and

¹⁶ The analysis excludes a total of 32 observations for which gender is unknown.

enrollment in 2022. Overall, the data highlights a significant shift towards increased female participation in the program, far outpacing the growth in male involvement.

Figure 21. Referral and enrollment by gender, 2021-2023

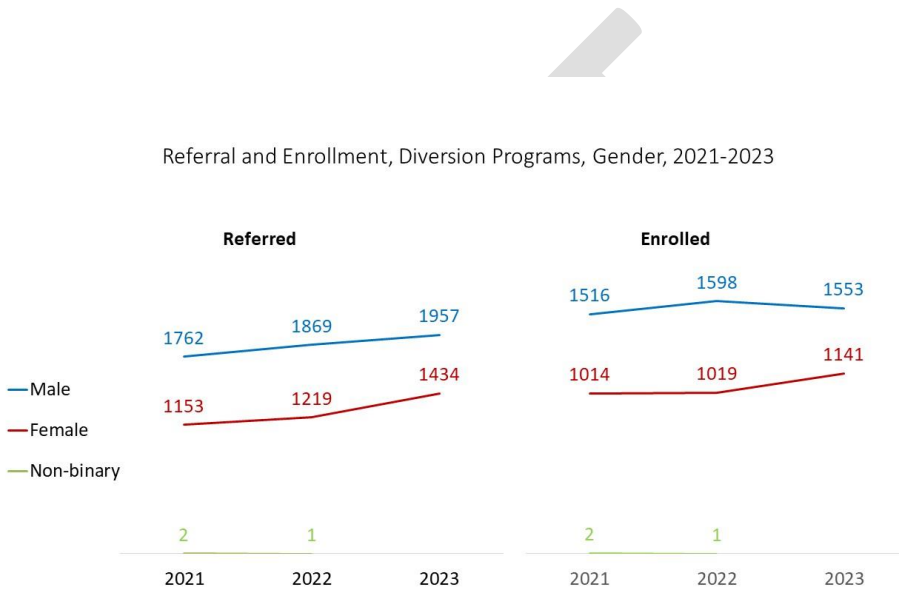


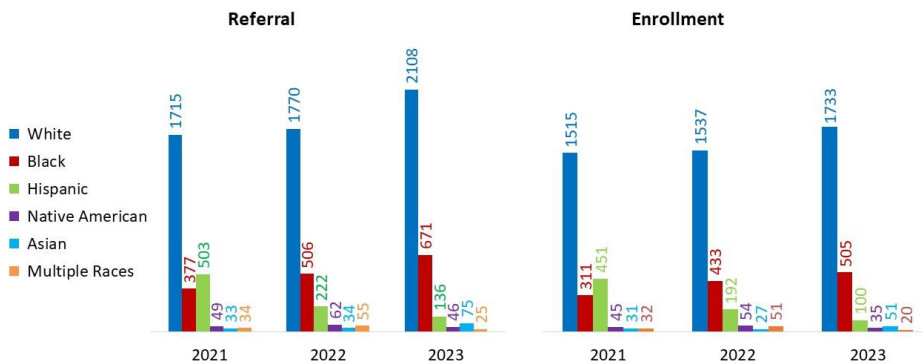
Figure 22 illustrates referral and enrollment data for diversion programs by race/ethnicity from 2021 to 2023.¹⁷ As indicated by the chart, there was a significant increase in referrals and enrollments for both white and Black youth over the three-year period, with Black youth showing a particularly sharp rise. The referrals for Black youth nearly doubled from 377 in 2021 to 671 in 2023, with enrollments following a similar trend (311 to 505). By contrast,

¹⁷ A total of 872 observations were excluded from the analysis due to unknown race/ethnicity.

Hispanic youth referrals and enrollments show a consistent downward trend from 2021-2023, a staggering 73 % decrease in referrals, and 79 % decrease in enrollment. Native American, Asian, and Multiple Races categories have lower numbers but generally show slight increases or remain stable over the period.

Figure 22. Referral and enrollment by race/ethnicity, 2021-2023

Referral and Enrollment, Diversion Programs, Race/Ethnicity, 2021-2023



In terms of the referral-to- enrollment conversion rate, white youth show the most consistent and highest rates, with the gap in the rates slightly widening over time (88% in 2021, 87% in 2022, 82% in 2023). Black youth, despite high numbers in both categories, show a lower conversion rate that declines over time (83% in 2021, 87% in 2022, 75% in 2023). While fewer Hispanic youth are being referred to the program over time, those who are referred still have a relatively high likelihood of being enrolled, though this likelihood decreased over time(90% in

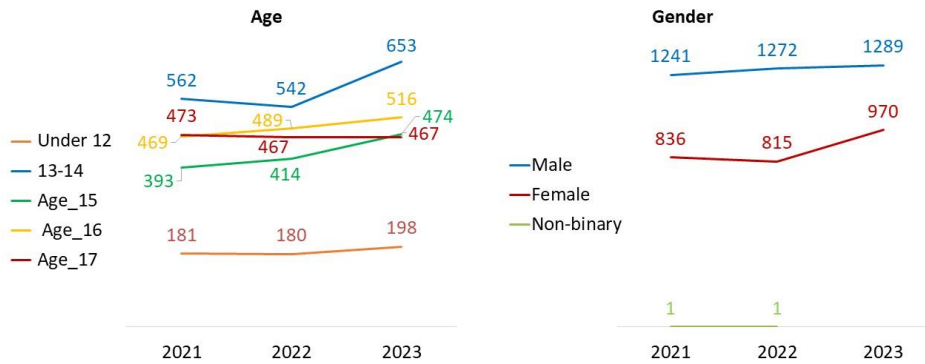
2021, 87% in 2022, 74% in 2023). Smaller population groups (Native American, Asian, Multiple Races) generally show high conversion rates, but the small numbers make it harder to draw firm conclusions. Overall, data shows that white, and Black youth formed the largest and second largest groups in both referrals and enrollments. Additionally, their referral and enrollment numbers increased over time, a pattern that contrasts sharply with the decreasing trend in referral and enrollment for the Hispanic youth.

Figure 23 provides data on successful completion of diversion programs by age and gender in 2021-2023.¹⁸ Mirroring their referral and enrollment patterns, the 13-14 age group consistently has the highest number of successful discharges, increasing from 562 in 2021 to 653 in 2023. While males have higher numbers of successful completion overall, the gap between male and female successful discharges is narrowing, with females showing notable growth in 2023. The non-binary category has very low numbers, with just 1 discharge recorded in both 2021 and 2022.

Figure 23. Successful discharges by age and gender, 2021-2023

¹⁸ The analysis excludes a total of 32 observations for which gender is unknown.

Successful discharge from Diversion Program by Age and Gender, 2021-2023

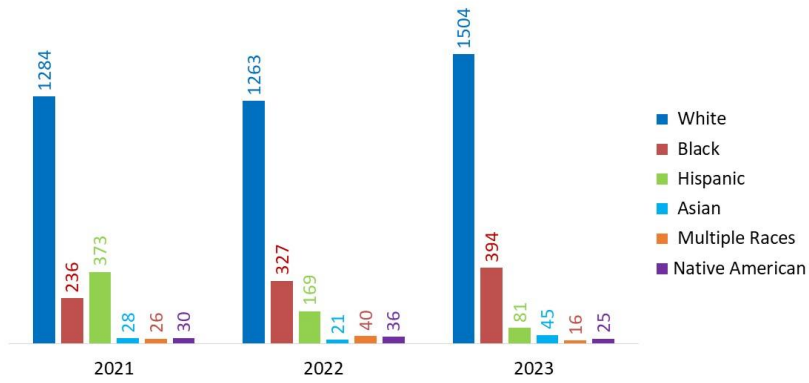


Overall, the charts indicate an upward trend in successful discharges across most age groups and genders over the three-year period.

Figure 24 illustrates successful discharges from diversion programs by race/ethnicity from 2021 to 2023. White youth consistently have the highest number of successful discharges followed by Black youth. Asian, Native American youth and youth belonging to Multiple Races have comparatively lower numbers, with some fluctuations over the years. Perhaps, the most striking pattern is the inverse relationship between Black and Hispanic youth outcomes. While successful discharges for Black youth increased by 67%, those for Hispanic youth dropped by nearly 80% over the three-year period.

Figure 24. Successful discharges by race/ethnicity, 2021-2023

Successful Discharges from Diversion Programs by Race/Ethnicity, 2021-2023



Taken together, the data suggest an expansion of the diversion program, with more youth being referred and enrolled, but also a significant rise in non-participation, and a declining successful completion rate for Hispanic youth.

Court Filings

A county or city attorney may choose not to file charges on the youth, refer the youth to diversion, file a petition in juvenile court, or file charges in adult criminal court. Data from the State of Nebraska Judicial Branch’s Juvenile Justice System Statistical Annual Reports for the

2021,¹⁹ 2022,²⁰ and 2023²¹ calendar year were used to examine the demographic characteristics, adjudications, and offenses in cases filed in juvenile court. The data in these reports were compiled from the three separate juvenile courts and remaining 90 county courts across Nebraska. These data report the most serious offense recorded and filed for any case which is a limitation of these data. It is unknown how many cases involve multiple charges, any other offenses involved in a case, or whether there were pleas. These data also do not show how many cases the county or city attorney chose not to file in court.

Juvenile petitions increased by 35% from 2021-2023. In 2021, 3,190 juvenile petitions were filed. The number of juvenile petitions filed increased in 2022 to 4,206 and again in 2023 to 4,316 (See Figure 1 Appendix B). Cases involving misdemeanor offenses, youth who were 14–15-years old, male, or white were filed most often. White youth more often had juvenile petitions filed than other race/ethnic groups. However, from 2021-223 data shows a significant rise in court filings for Black and Hispanic youths, 96% and 81%, respectively, while white and Native American youths saw moderate increases, 26% and 12%, and Asian youths experienced a decrease of 113 % (See Figure 2, Appendix B).

Additionally, data averaged over three years reveals a persistent overrepresentation of Native American, Black, and Hispanic youths in court filings relative to their population sizes (See Figure 3, Appendix B). Native American youths constitute 1% of the population but account for 3% of court filings. Black youths, who make up 6% of the population, are referred to court at a rate of 21%. Hispanic youths, with a 21% population share, are nearly proportionally referred at 20%. Conversely, Asian youths are significantly underrepresented in court filings, making up 3%

¹⁹ <https://govdocs.nebraska.gov/epubs/S3200/A002-2021.pdf>

²⁰ https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20230718-094145.pdf

²¹ https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20240401-160112.pdf

of the population but only 1% of referrals. White youths, representing 69% of the population, are underrepresented in court filings at 55%. These patterns underscore ongoing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Case Transfers

Court cases originally filed in adult court can be transferred to juvenile court and vice versa. Data from the State of Nebraska Judicial Branch's Juvenile Justice System Statistical Annual Reports for the 2021,²² 2022,²³ and 2023²⁴ calendar year were used to examine this decision point, including the demographic characteristics of youth who had a motion filed to transfer their case. From 2021-2023, motions to transfer a case from adult to juvenile court occurred more frequently than motions to transfer a case from juvenile to adult court. It should be noted that even though a motion to transfer a case may be filed, the case may not be transferred. The number of motions and actual cases transfers from juvenile to adult court from 2021 to 2023. The number of motions to transfer a case to adult court has increased steadily each year, from 32 in 2021 to 56 in 2023. In contrast, the number of cases transferred to adult court remained low, peaking at 4 in 2022 and dropping to 2 in 2023. Overall, there's a large gap between motions filed and actual transfers granted.

Both motions to transfer a case from adult to juvenile court and actual transfers peaked in 2022 and then declined in 2023. The number of motions to transfer consistently exceeds the number of actual transfers, with the gap widening in 2023 (See Figure 1, Appendix C).

²² <https://govdocs.nebraska.gov/epubs/S3200/A002-2021.pdf>

²³ https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20230718-094145.pdf

²⁴ https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20240401-160112.pdf

Collectively, data show a clear trend of more cases being considered for transfer between adult and juvenile courts from 2021 to 2023, particularly from adult to juvenile court. However, the actual number of transfers approved remains significantly lower than the number of motions filed, indicating that the court system is selective in granting these transfers, with a higher rate for transfers to juvenile court compared to adult court.

Juveniles Prosecuted in Adult Criminal Court

Youth in Nebraska can be prosecuted in the adult court system. Data from the State of Nebraska Judicial Branch's Juvenile Justice System Statistical Annual Reports for the 2021,²⁵ 2022,²⁶ and 2023²⁷ calendar year were used to describe the number of cases prosecuted, sentencing trends, and the demographic characteristics of youth who were prosecuted in adult criminal. The number of juveniles prosecuted in adult court experienced a modest overall decline of 3.02%. Despite a significant decrease in 2022, the numbers slightly rebounded in 2023, indicating a fluctuating but generally decreasing trend (See Figure 1, Appendix D).

Figure 2, Appendix D displays the number of juveniles prosecuted in adult criminal court by offense type, age, gender, and race/ethnicity from 2021 to 2023. Concerning offense types, the chart in the appendix shows a declining trend for misdemeanor cases, which dropped from 100 in 2021 to 83 in 2023. Felony cases decreased from 83 in 2021 to 63 in 2022 but then surged to 90 in 2023. Traffic offenses initially increased from 49 in 2021 to 64 in 2022, followed by a decline to 52 in 2023. Overall, misdemeanor prosecutions decreased steadily, felony prosecutions showed a significant increase after an initial drop, and traffic offenses

²⁵ <https://govdocs.nebraska.gov/epubs/S3200/A002-2021.pdf>

²⁶ https://nebraskalegisature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20230718-094145.pdf

²⁷ https://nebraskalegisature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20240401-160112.pdf

experienced a peak in 2022 before declining.²⁸

As it applies to age, the chart indicates that youth aged 17 were most often prosecuted in adult criminal court, followed by 16-year-olds. However, 16-year-olds show an increasing trend in being prosecuted in adult courts. Males were more frequently prosecuted in adult criminal court than females, and both groups show a downward trend in the number of cases being prosecuted in adult court. White youth were most often prosecuted, followed by Hispanic and Black youth. Native American and Asian/Pacific Islander youth were represented consistently in 0-3% of cases where a youth was prosecuted in criminal court from 2021-2023.²⁹ When comparing the rate of prosecution relative to the total youth population by race/ethnicity averaged over 2021-2023, data shows a substantial racial disparity in the juvenile justice system(See Figure 2, Appendix D). The disparity particularly affects Black and Hispanic youth, who face adult court prosecution at rates disproportionate to their population share. Black youth are notably overrepresented, comprising only 6% of the youth population but 24% of juveniles prosecuted in adult court. Hispanic or Latino youth also show overrepresentation, making up 21% of the population but 32% of those prosecuted. Conversely, non-Hispanic white youth are underrepresented, constituting 69% of the youth population but only 41% of prosecutions. Non-Hispanic Asian and non-Hispanic Native American youth have relatively proportional representation, with their prosecution rates closely matching their population percentages.

Youth prosecuted in adult criminal court were most often sentenced to probation. Prison was the second most common sentence, and jail was the least common sentence (See Figure

²⁸ It is important to note that approximately half of the youth who were prosecuted as adults were from Douglas County.

²⁹ The percent of total cases does not include cases with unknown sex or unknown race/ethnicity.

2, Appendix D). From 2021-2023, males received significantly more sentences than females in both categories. The data suggests a shift towards more severe sentencing (prison vs. jail) for male juveniles in 2023, while female sentencing patterns remained relatively stable with a slight preference for jail over prison sentences (See Figure 5, Appendix D). Concerning race and ethnicity, data shows a shifting pattern in sentencing, with substantial increases in prison sentences for Black and Hispanic juveniles, and more variable trends for other groups (See Figure 6, Appendix D).

Overall, prosecution and sentencing patterns highlight significant racial/ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, particularly the increasing rate of prison sentences for Black and Hispanic youth compared to other groups. The data underscores the need for a closer examination of potential bias in the prosecution and sentencing of juveniles in adult criminal courts.

Juvenile Probation

This section uses the Nebraska Juvenile Justice System Statistical Annual Reports for the 2021³⁰, 2022³¹, and 2023³² calendar year to describe the demographic characteristics of youth on juvenile probation, the frequency of probation placements, out-of-home placements, motions to revoke probation, probation revocations, and satisfactory releases from probation.

The number of juveniles on probation increased from 1,981 in 2021, 2,358 in 2022 to 2,788 in 2023. Overall, this is a 41% increase (See Figure 1, Appendix E). Male youth were placed on and satisfactorily released from probation more often than female youth (See Figure 2,

³⁰ <https://govdocs.nebraska.gov/epubs/S3200/A002-2021.pdf>

³¹ https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20230718-094145.pdf

³² https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20240401-160112.pdf

Appendix E). As compared to other age groups, 14–15-year-olds were most often placed on juvenile probation, followed by 16-year-olds (except in 2021, when 17-year-olds were close second), 17-year-olds, 11–13-year-olds, and 18-year-olds. Subsequently, the age of youth who were satisfactorily released from probation reflected a different pattern.³³ Across all years 17-year-olds were satisfactorily released from probation more often than all the other age groups (See Figure 3, Appendix E). The racial/ethnic makeup of youth placed on and satisfactorily released from probation appears rather consistent from 2021-2023 (See Figure 4, Appendix E).

A comparison of placement and release rates by race averaged over a three-year period a smaller percentage of youth were released from probation than were placed on probation (See Figure 5, Appendix E). Additionally, probation rates were highest for Black youths (15%) and lowest for Asian youths (2%). Conversely, release rates were highest for white youths (15%) and lowest for Black youths (5%). This pattern holds when comparing Hispanic and non-Hispanic placement and release rates (See Figure 6, Appendix E). Release rates were highest for white youths (28%) and lowest for Hispanic youths (26%). By contrast, placement rates were highest for Hispanic youths (74%) and lowest for white youths (72%).

It is worth noting that these charts do not prove that race or ethnicity is a causal factor in probation placement or release. There could be other factors at play that influence these decisions.

Probation may entail graduated responses of incentives and sanctions for youths' behavior or motions to revoke a juveniles' probation. In 2017, the Nebraska Legislature authorized the Office of Probation Administration to create a graduated response matrix for

³³ Starting on July 1, 2017, youth who are ten years old or younger at the time they are alleged to have committed a traffic violation, infraction, status offense, misdemeanor, or felony are no longer eligible for juvenile probation.

juveniles on probation.³⁴ The matrix details examples of behavioral change and non-compliant behavior and the response that should be taken based on the youth's risk level.³⁵ Data from the 2021³⁶ and 2022³⁷ fiscal year reports provide information on positive incentives and graduated sanctions for youth on probation. According to these reports, a ratio of four positive incentive to each negative sanction can affect long-term behavior change. The ratio of incentives to sanctions for fiscal year 2022 was 3.5 to 1, which was up from 2.6 to 1 for fiscal year 2021. In 2021, 10,125 incentives and 3,823 sanctions were provided to youth. In 2022, 11,884 incentives and 3,369 sanctions were provided to youth. The same data shows that motions to revoke probation decreased from 1,540 in 2021 to 1,375 in 2022 fiscal year.³⁸

Detention

This section relies on detention data collected by Nebraska Jail Standards and Juvenile Detention Standards Program. The Program makes available their data through Jail Admission Management Information Network (JAMIN). Specifically, this section uses JAMIN data to describe secure detention admissions over time, by facility, offense class, age, race, gender, ethnicity, and average length of stay in each facility for calendar years 2021-2023. Data on detention screenings and detention alternatives is provided in the section "Juvenile Intake Screening for Detention/Detention Alternatives."

³⁴ Nebraska Revised Statute 43-286.01

³⁵ https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/Graduation_Response_Matrix_Incentives_and_Sanctions.pdf

³⁶ <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/analysis21.pdf>

³⁷ https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/content-files/Annual_Report_FY_2022_for_posting_on_website.pdf

³⁸ Data for 2023 is not available. The 2021 and 2022 data do not specify whether the motion was filed for a law or technical violation.

Figure 24 shows the total number of unique youth admitted to secure detention facilities from 2021-2023. These data include youth who may be involved in adult or juvenile court. This chart does not indicate the number of times youth were admitted into juvenile detention. The chart shows a consistently upward trend in secure admission, about 25 % increase over two years.

Figure 23: Juvenile Secure Detention Admissions, 2021-2023

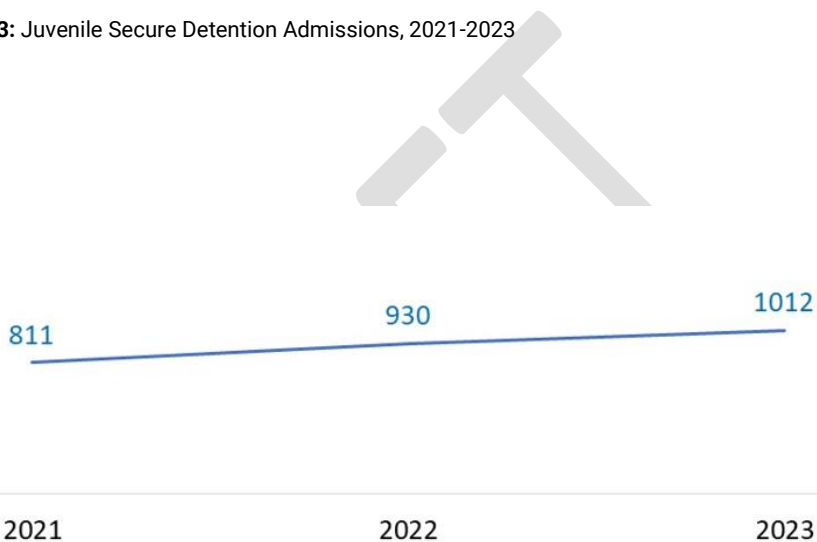


Figure 24 shows juvenile detention admissions by offense class. It indicates that misdemeanor offenses were the primary reason for juvenile admission to secure detention. The high number of misdemeanor detentions suggests a need to examine if alternatives to secure detention could be more appropriate for less serious offenses. The presence of status offenses, though small, raises questions about whether secure detention is the best approach for these non-criminal behaviors.

Figure 24. Juvenile Secure Detention Admissions by Offense Class, 2021-2023

Number of Youth in Secure Detention Facilities by Offense Class (2021-2023)

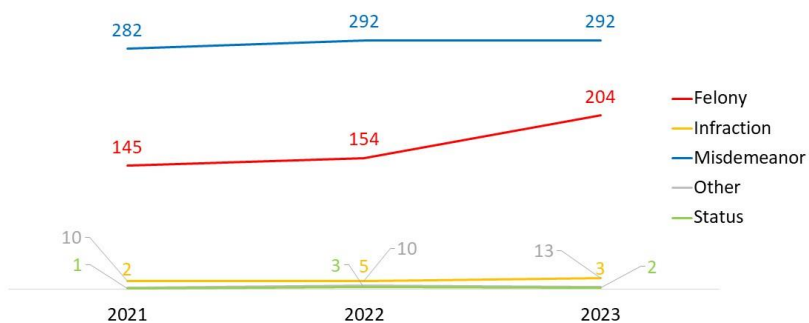


Figure 25 shows juvenile detention admissions race, age, gender and ethnicity from 2021-2023. The chart indicates Black youth were most frequently admitted to secure detention facility, except for 2021, where white youth were admitted most frequently. Additionally, the chart shows that the number of Black or African American youth in secure detention has risen sharply from 329 in 2021 to 462 in 2023, a 40% increase over two years. Table 6 is a crosstabulation of race by the type of admission. Results show that a much higher proportion of Black or African American youth (78.72%) are placed in secure detention compared to white youth (55.51%). As indicated by the p-value ($Pr=0.000$), this difference is statistically significant that Black or African American youth are three times more likely than white youth to be admitted to secure detention suggest that there is a protentional racial disparity in how supervision methods are applied warranting further investigation into the reasons for this difference and its implications for equity in the justice system.

Figure 25. Juvenile Secure Detention Admissions by Race, Age, Gender and Ethnicity, 2021-2023

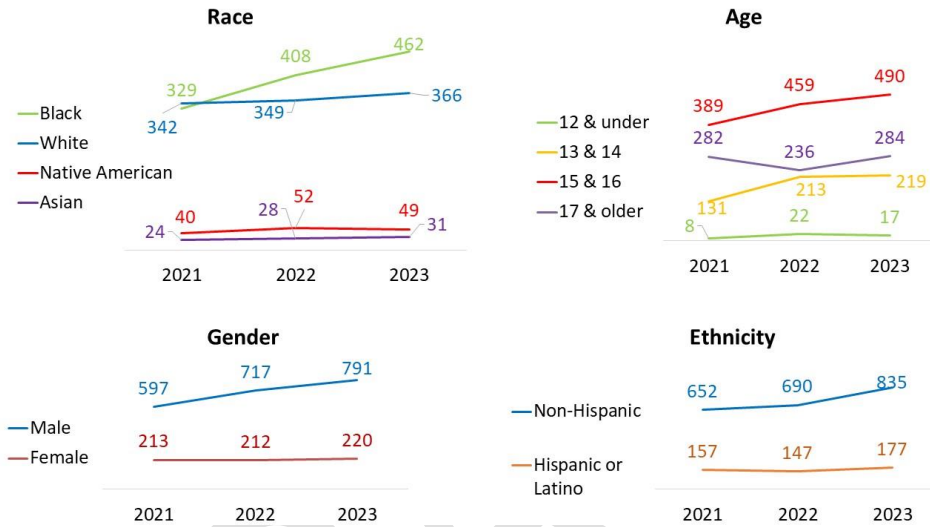


Table 6. Crosstabulation of Supervision Methods by Race, 2023

Distribution of Supervision Methods, by Race, 2023 (Incomplete Data for Douglas County)

Race_1	How Held		Total
	Other	Secure	
Black/African American	30 21.28	111 78.72	141 100.00
White	117 44.49	146 55.51	263 100.00
Total	147 36.39	257 63.61	404 100.00

Pearson chi2 (1) = 21.3629 Pr = 0.000

As shown by Figure 25, there was an overall increase in youth detentions, especially among mid-teens. Fifteen and 16-year-olds were admitted to secure detention more frequently than all other age groups. Unlike other age groups, they consistently have the highest number of youth in secure detention, show a steady increase in admissions from 389 in 2021 to 490 in 2023, a significant rise of about 26% over two years. The rise in detentions for 13 and 14-year-olds is concerning given their young age. Consistent with trends for other demographic variables discussed above, data on gender and ethnicity display an upward trend in admissions for both Male and Female, and Hispanic or Latino and non-Hispanic categories. Male youth admitted to secure juvenile detention more frequently than female youth. Non-Hispanic youth consistently accounted for a larger share of admission to secure detention than Hispanic or Latino youth. Additionally, non-Hispanic youth experienced a more significant rise in admissions over the observed period.

The average number of days youth held in secure detention facilities fluctuated between 2021-2023. As Figure 26 shows, there was an initial slight increase from 2021 to 2022, followed by a more substantial decrease from 2022 to 2023. The net change from 2021 to 2023 is a decrease of about 5.82 days in the average detention period.

Figure 26. Average number of days youth held in secure detention facilities, 2021-2023.

Average Number of Days Youth Held in Detention Facilities (2015-2023)

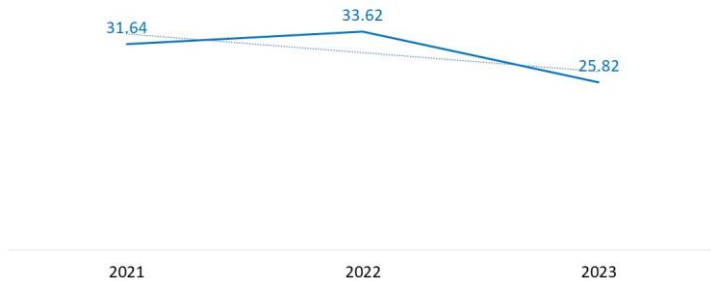
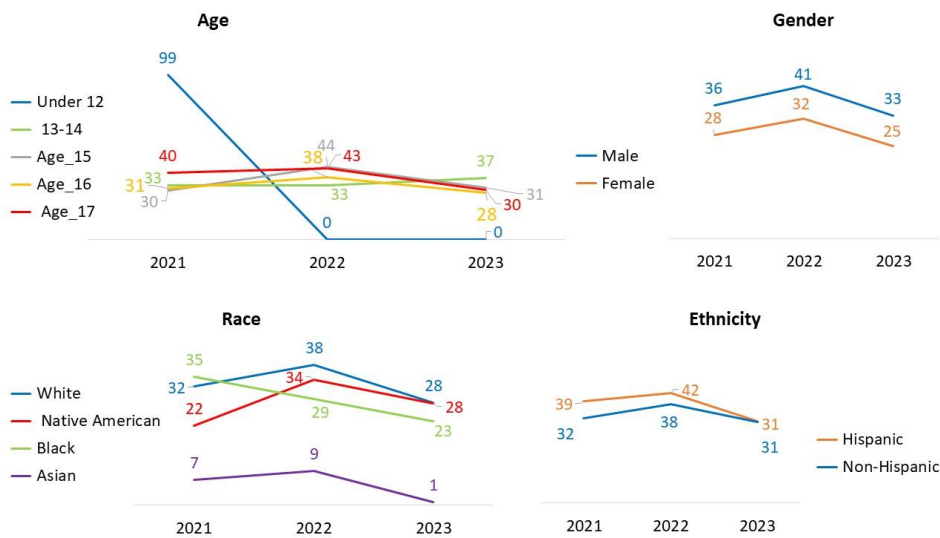


Figure 27 displays average detention period by age, gender, race, and ethnicity. As the chart indicates there was a dramatic decrease in detention time for youth under 12, dropping from 99 days in 2021 to 0 in 2022 and 2023. For other age groups, detention times fluctuated but generally remained between 30-45 days. Gender data shows males consistently held longer than females, with both genders seeing a slight increase from 2021 to 2022, followed by a decrease in 2023. Racial data indicates significant variability, with Native American youth experiencing the most substantial changes - from 22 days in 2021 to 34 in 2022, then dropping to 28 in 2023. Asian youth consistently had the shortest detention periods. Regarding ethnicity, Hispanic youth saw a marked increase in detention time from 2021 to 2022 (32 to 42 days) before decreasing in 2023, while non-Hispanic youth showed less variation.

Figure 27. Average number of days youth were held in secure detention facilities, broken down by age, gender, race and ethnicity, 2021-2023.



Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC)

Data on YRTC come from the 2021,³⁹ 2022,⁴⁰ and 2023⁴¹ fiscal year annual reports from the Nebraska Foster Care Review Office. These reports indicate that “Per Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-186 ‘... When it is alleged that the juvenile has exhausted all levels of Probation supervision and options for community-based services and section 43-251.01 has been satisfied, a motion for commitment to a youth rehabilitation and treatment center may be filed and proceedings held....’ Youth placed at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTCs) are in the care and

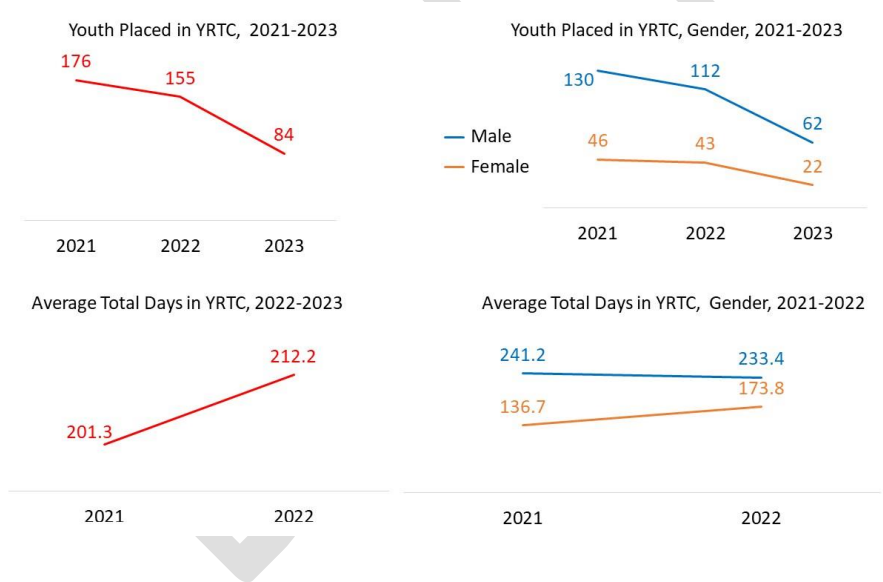
³⁹<https://fcro.nebraska.gov/pdf/FCRO-Reports/2021%20Annual%20Report-FCRO-September.pdf>

⁴⁰<https://fcro.nebraska.gov/pdf/FCRO-Reports/fcro-2022-annual-report.pdf>

⁴¹<https://fcro.nebraska.gov/pdf/FCRO-Reports/fcro-2023-annual-report.pdf>

custody of the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) of the Department of Health and Human Services during that placement.”

The reports provide data on youth who were residing at a YRTC on June 30 of the year. These data indicate that youth in these facilities come from every region in the state. The number of youth in YRTC facilities decreased by 52 % from 2021-2023. In 2021, 176 youth were in a YRTC facility, 155 in 2022, and the number further decreased to 84 youth in 2023. The 2021-2023 reports do not provide race and ethnicity; thus, it is unknown whether these numbers represent that of the population or how these numbers fluctuated across 2021-2023.



The chart indicates that males spend more days in YRTC facilities than females across the years 2021 to 2023.

Considerations for Data Priorities and Next Steps

The data provided in this report was based on the recommended elements by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for participation in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. While this data provides a high-level view of the various system points, there are still issues related to data collection and analysis of Nebraska's juvenile justice system. This report is not a comprehensive analysis of all possible data in Nebraska's juvenile justice system but can be a place to begin identifying issues and selecting priority areas to focus grant funding on. The following considerations can assist with a more complete system analysis in the future:

- Nebraska should work toward common definitions for all juvenile justice system point variables to allow for more consistent analysis of a youth's experience at each system point. This could also include noting whether race, ethnicity, and gender are self-reported by the youth or if the staff completing the paperwork selected it from a list. Knowing what options are available to youth and/or staff is another step toward common definitions.
- While improving, law enforcement data submitted on a regular and timely basis to the Crime Commission needs to continue to improve.
- County and city attorneys should track data on the cases they chose not to file on.
- While improving, juvenile detention data from all secure and staff secure data submitted on a regular and timely bases to the Crime Commission.

Commented [SN1]: Agree. Diversion data categories should follow uniform naming convention. JAC data is cryptic when it comes to certain categories such as unsuccessful discharge for example, whereas non-JAC data is pretty specific

Appendices

Appendix A

Figure 1. Mental health and alcohol or substance use disorders by age, 2021-2022

Mental Health and Alcohol or Substance Use Disorders, Age, FY 2021-2022

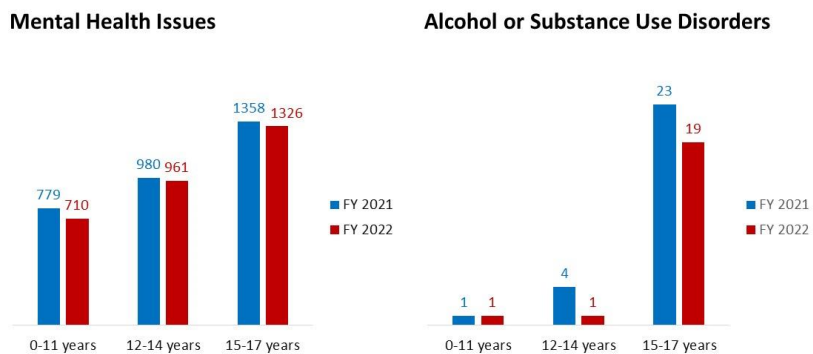


Figure 2. Mental health and alcohol or substance use disorders by race, 2021-2022

Mental Health and Alcohol or Substance Use Disorders, Race, FY 2021-2022

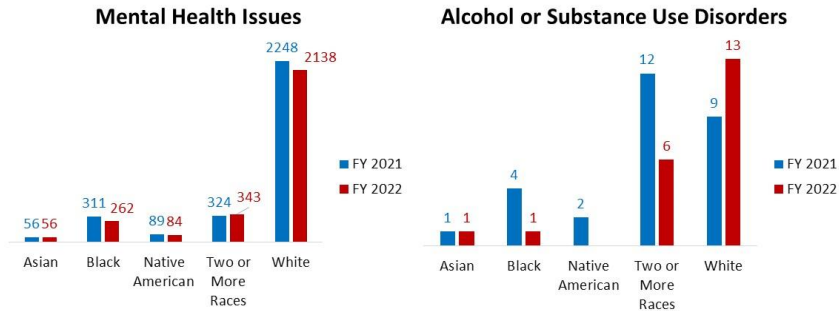


Figure 3. Mental health and alcohol or substance use disorders by ethnicity, 2021-2022

Mental Health and Alcohol or Substance Use Disorders, Ethnicity, FY 2021-2022

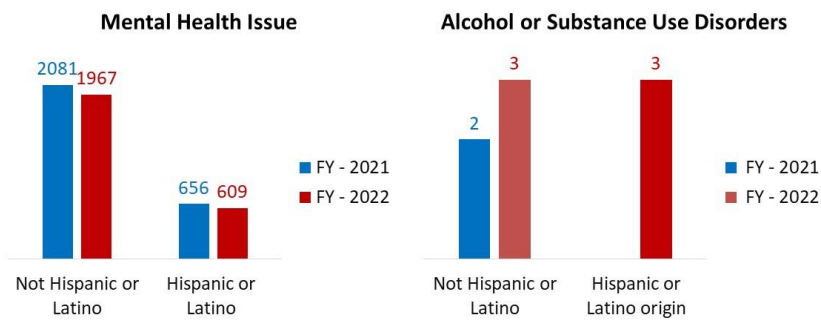
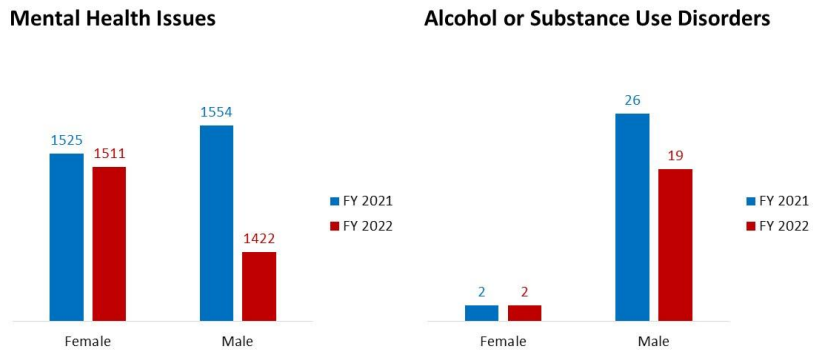


Figure 4. Mental health and alcohol or substance use disorders by gender, 2021-2022

Mental Health and Alcohol or Substance Use Disorders, Gender, FY 2021-2022



Appendix B

Figure 1. Number of court filings, 2021-2023

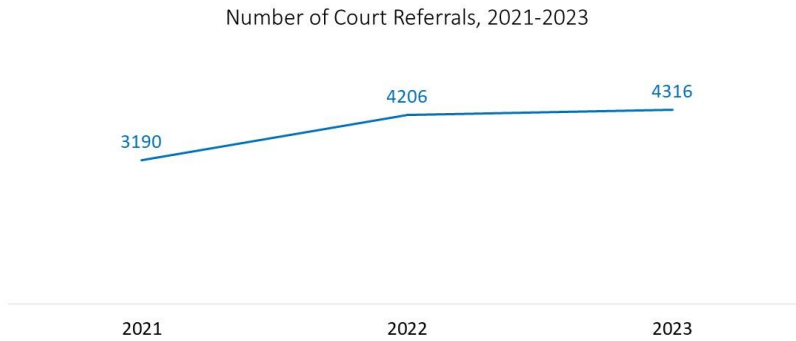


Figure 2. Court filings by offense types, age, gender, and race/ethnicity, 2021-2023

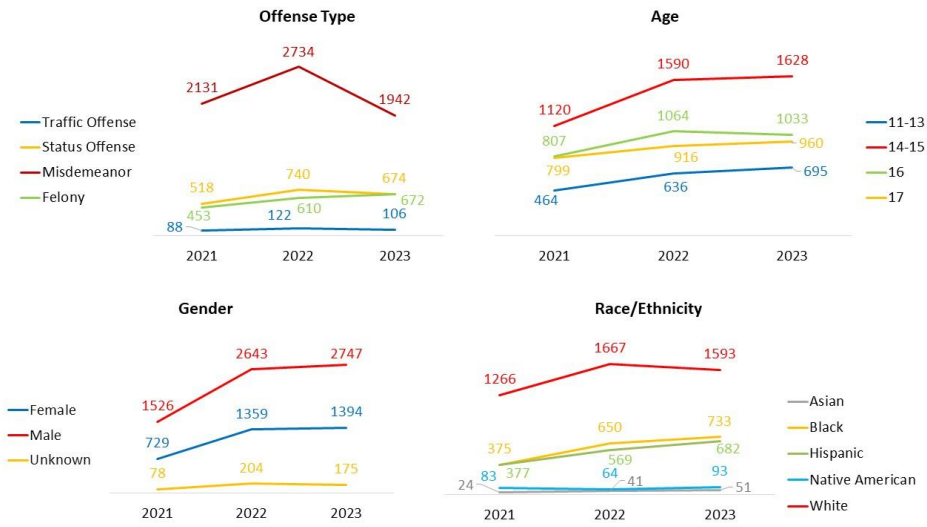
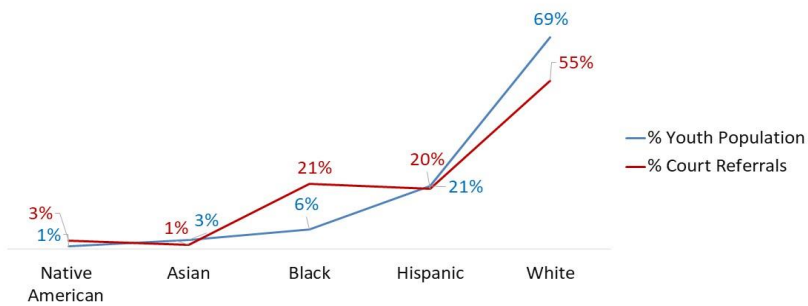


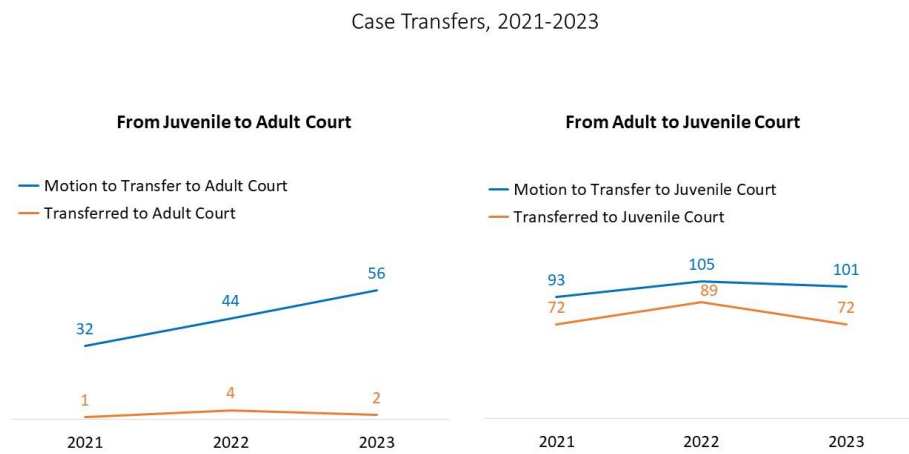
Figure 3. Racial and ethnic disparities in court filings, (2021-2023 Average)

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Youth Court Referrals, (2021-2023 Average)



Appendix C

Figure 1. Number of motions and case transfers from juvenile to adult court, and from adult to juvenile court, 2021-2023.



Appendix D

Figure 1. Number of juveniles prosecuted in adult criminal court, 2021-2023

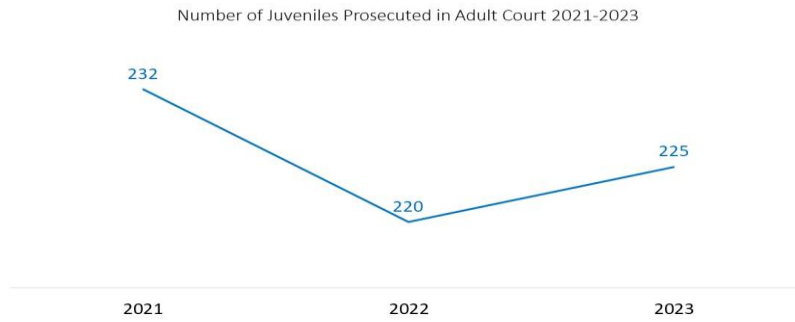


Figure 2. Juvenile prosecution in adult criminal court, offense type, age, gender, and race/ethnicity, 2021-2023

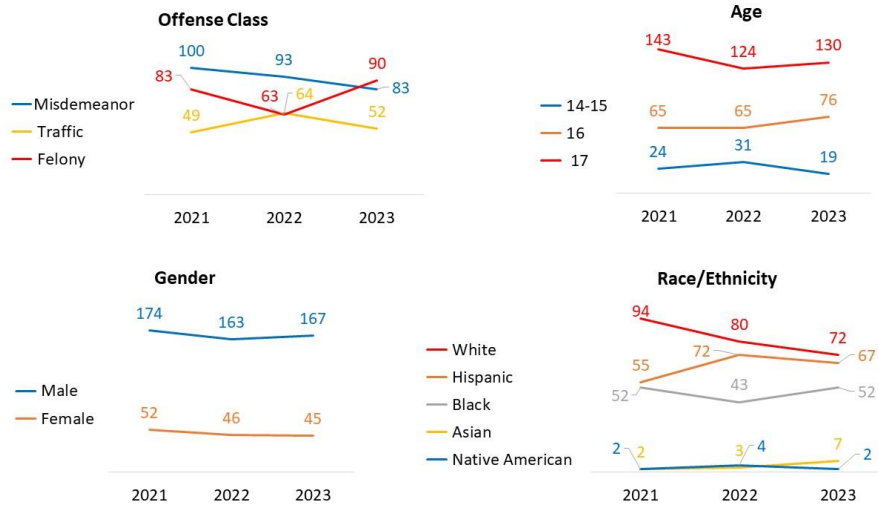


Figure 3. The rate of juvenile cases prosecuted in adult criminal court relative to the rate of total youth population by race/ethnicity, average of 2021-2023.

Rate of Juvenile Prosecution in Adult Criminal Court Relative to Rate of Youth Population, Race/Ethnicity, (Average 2021-2023)

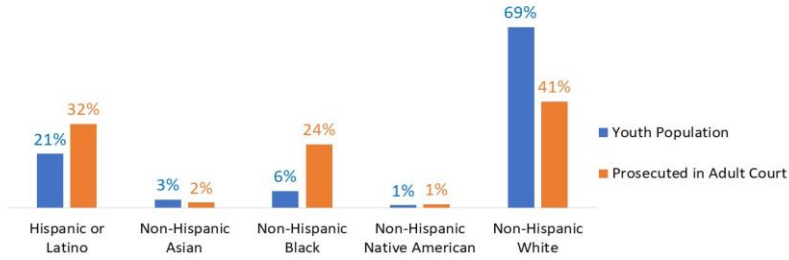


Figure 4. Types of sentences handed to juveniles prosecuted in adult criminal court, 2021-2023.

Juvenile Prosecution in Adult Criminal Court by Sentencing Type, 2021-2023

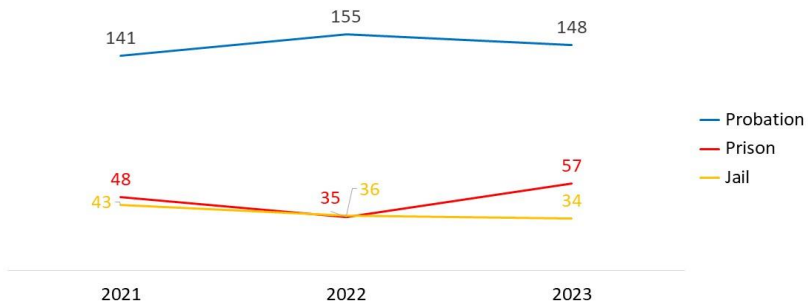


Figure 5. Distribution of jail and prison sentences handed to female and male youth prosecuted in adult criminal court, 2021-2023

Jail and Prison Sentences Handed to Juveniles Prosecuted in Adult Criminal Court , Gender, 2021-2023

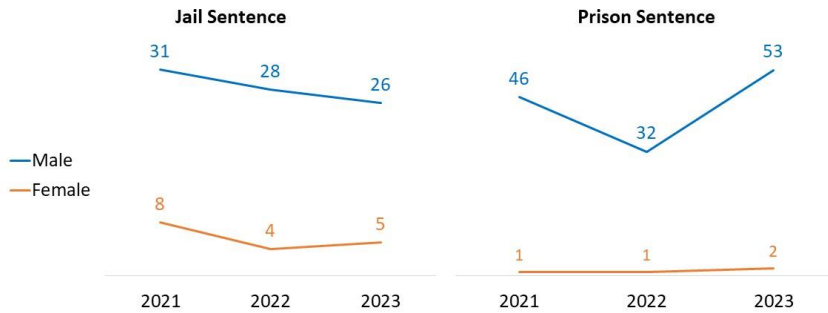
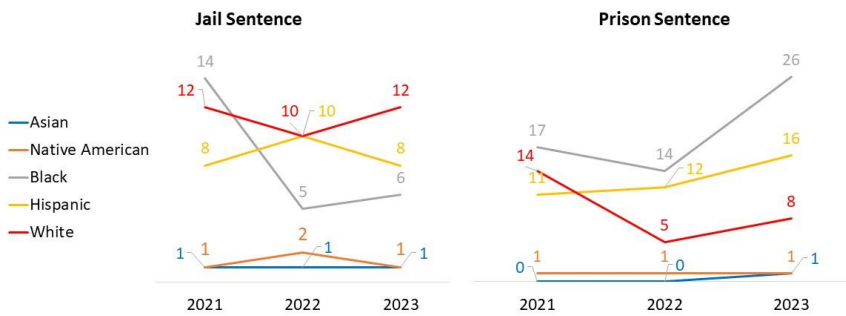


Figure 6. Number of jail and prison sentences for juveniles prosecuted in adult criminal court from 2021 to 2023, broken down by race/ethnicity.

Jail and Prison Sentences Handed to Juveniles Prosecuted in Adult Criminal Court, Race/Ethnicity, 2021-2023



Appendix E

Figure 1. Number of youth placed on probation, 2021-2023

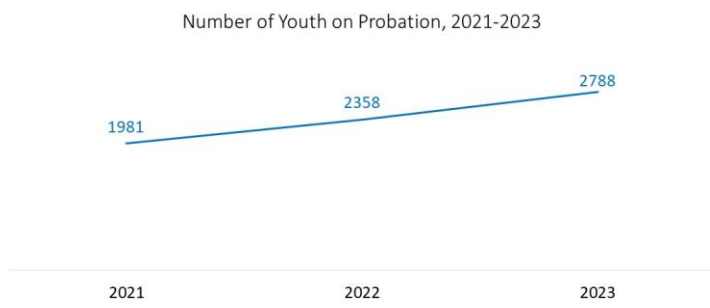


Figure 2. Number of youth placed on, and released from probation, gender, 2021-2023

Number of Youth Placed and Released from Probation, Gender, 2021-2023

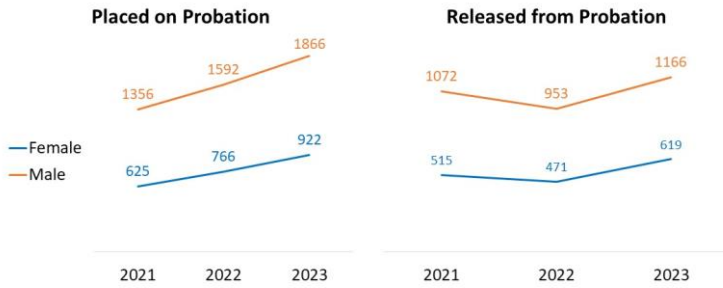


Figure 3. Number of youths placed on, and released from probation, age, 2021-2023

Number of Youth Placed and Released from Probation, Age Group, 2021-2023

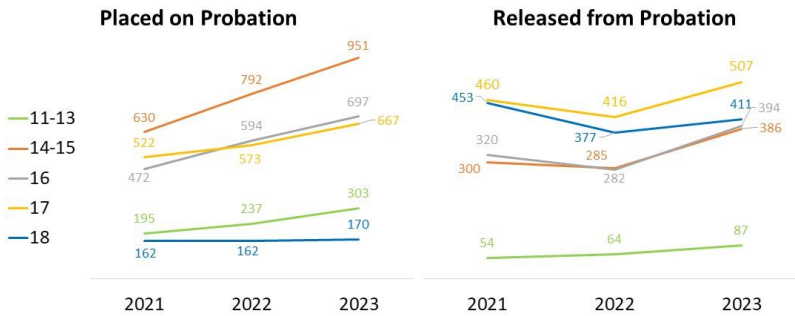
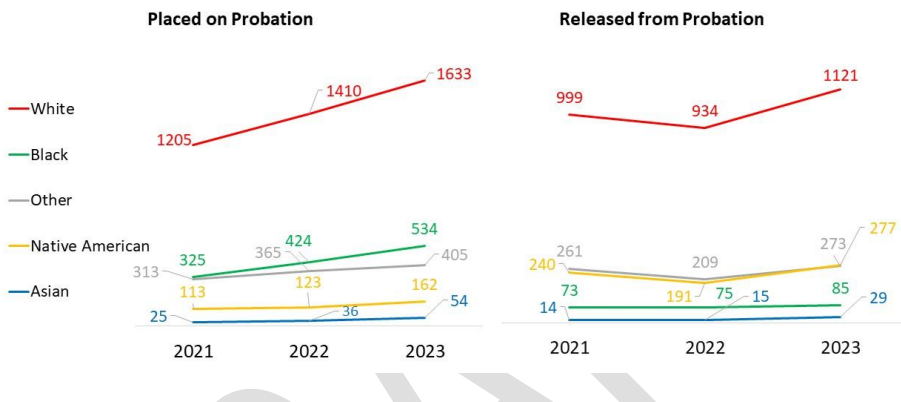


Figure 4. Number of youth placed on, and released from probation, race and ethnicity, 2021-2023

Number of Youth Placed and Released from Probation, Race, 2021-2023



Number of Youth Placed and Released from Probation, Ethnicity, 2021-2023

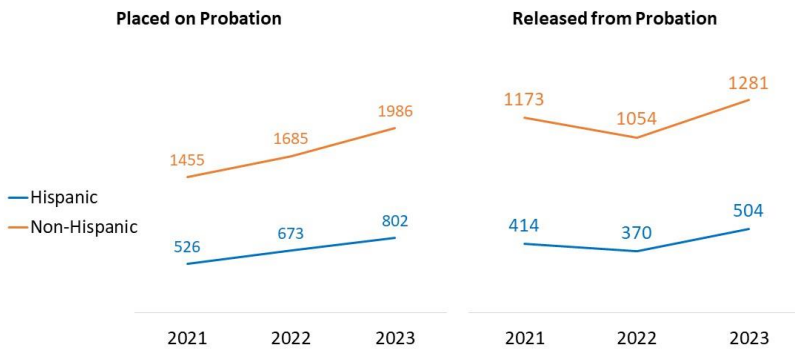


Figure 5. Comparison of probation placement and release rates by race, (average 2021-2023)

Percent of Youth Placed and Released from Probation, Race, (Average 2021-2023)

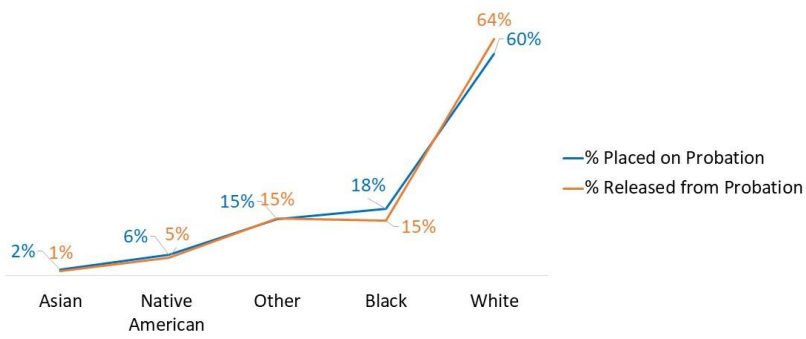


Figure 6. Comparison of probation placement and release rates by ethnicity, (average 2021-2023).

Percent of Youth Placed and Released from Probation, Ethnicity, (Average 2021-2023)

