



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Child Welfare Council

Youth Justice Committee

September 3, 2025



Agenda

- Action item: approve March minutes
- Co-Chair Updates
- YJC priority area deliverables
- Action item: vote on priority area deliverables
- Ombudsperson Report to the Legislature-Update and Questions
- Forward Change Education Report Discussion and Feedback
- Public comment
- Announcements & adjourn



Action Item

- Approval of June 2025 Minutes



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Co-Chair Updates



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Youth Justice Committee Priority Area Deliverables

New YJC Priority Areas

In March, the committee voted that both the following areas be considered with *racial and ethnic disparities as a throughline*:

- Data with a focus on outcomes
- Diversion

Data with a focus on outcomes

For data with a focus on outcomes, consider:

1. How can we move the field forward in this area, focusing on positive outcomes for youth through a health lens?
2. What kind of deliverable should the committee focus on producing? Consider what expertise or input will be needed to inform the deliverable(s).
3. How will the committee move the work forward during and in-between the YJC meetings?

Potential Deliverable Examples

- 1) Guiding principles for the implementation of programs and/or capacity building.
- 2) A technical assistance brief.
- 3) A best practice guide for implementing a program(s) related to the topic.
- 4) A policy paper with current research and recommendations surrounding the topic.
- 5) A report on programs related to the topic that are currently being implemented.
- 6) One or more focus groups on the topic with publication of the results.
- 7) A compendium of resources related to the topic from evidence-based practices and/or current, effective practices in the counties that should be expanded
- 8) A panel-style convening of experts and stakeholders followed by a report on their presentations and remarks

Diversion

For diversion, consider:

1. How can we move the field forward in this area, focusing on positive outcomes for youth through a health lens?
2. What kind of deliverable should the committee focus on producing? Consider what expertise or input will be needed to inform the deliverable(s).
3. How will the committee move the work forward during and in-between the YJC meetings?

Action Items

- Vote on priority area deliverable for Data with a Focus on Outcomes
- Vote on priority area deliverable for Diversion



Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)

OYCR Ombudsperson

2024 Report to the Legislature

Youth Justice Committee

September 3, 2025



Overview



Key Data and
Findings



Sample of
Substantiated
Complaints



Recommendations



Looking Ahead

<https://tinyurl.com/OYCR-Ombuds-Report-2024>

Highlights 2022-2024



Recruited and hired six-person team



Created Procedures and Case Practices to ensure consistent and robust complaint investigations, and revised them consistent with AB 505 (Stats. 2023 c.528)



Developed and implemented a sophisticated Case Management System to track and document complaint investigations



Developed a telephone helpline to receive complaints and upgraded the system to a sustainable call center product



Developed and disseminated age-appropriate Youth Bill of Rights materials **consistent with AB 2417** (Stats 2022 c.786)



Visited each of the state's juvenile facilities at least once, and some of them multiple times

By the Numbers (2024)

296

Complaints
received

154

Complaints closed

Decline to
investigate – 84

Unsubstantiated – 25

Substantiated – 21

No findings – 18

Inconclusive – 4

Referred out - 2

84

Site visits

5,711

Youth Bill of Rights
posters provided

39,315

Youth Bill of Rights
brochures provided

2,490

Helpline calls (in-
and out-bound)

TABLE 1

Contacts to the Office (2024)

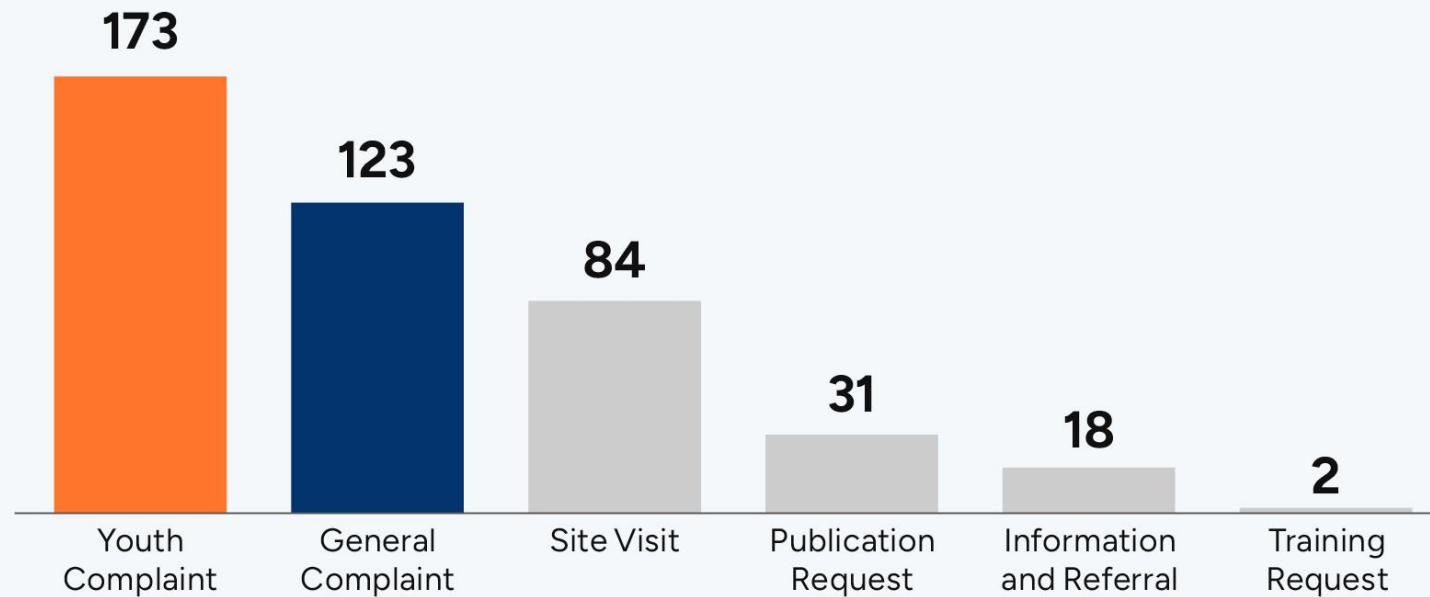


TABLE 2

Race/Ethnicity of Referenced Youth (2024)

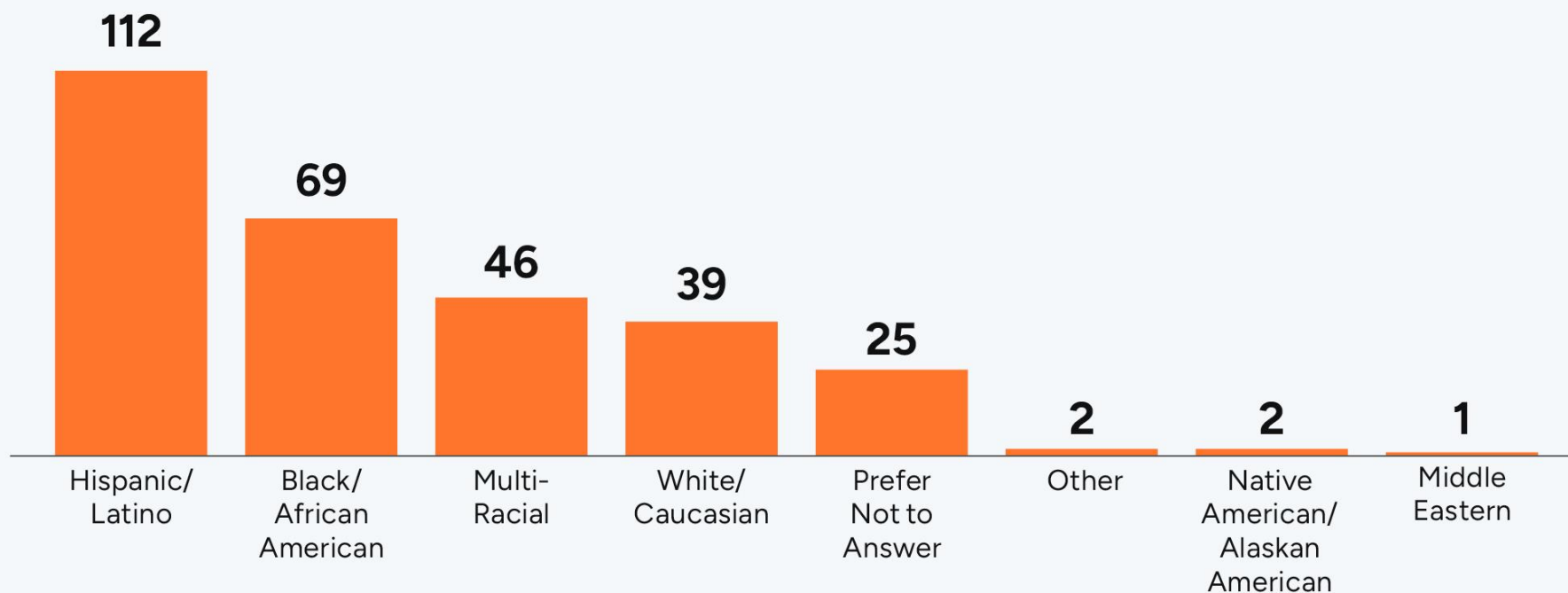


TABLE 3

Referenced Youth in Complaints & CA Youth Wardship Population by Race (2024)

Share of Wardship Population

Black/African American

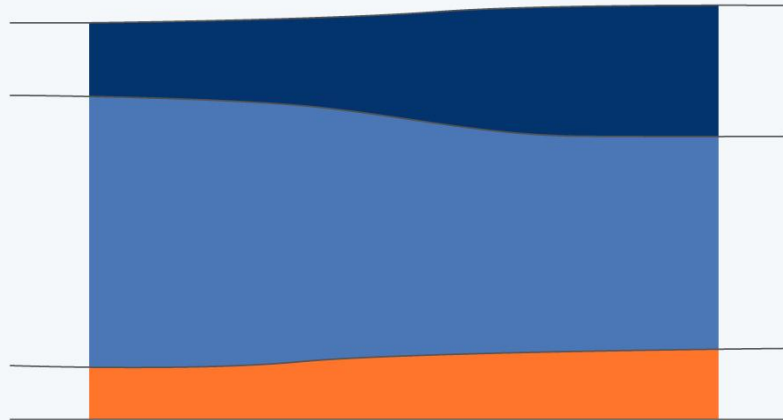
18%

Hispanic or Latino/a/x

65%

White/Caucasian

13%



Share of Complaints

Black/African American

32%

Hispanic or Latino/a/x

51%

White/Caucasian

17%

Source for Wardship Data: [California Department of Justice. \(2024\). *Juvenile Justice in California, 2023* \(Table 20: Juvenile Court Dispositions, p. 77\).](#)

TABLE 4

Gender of Referenced Youth (2024)

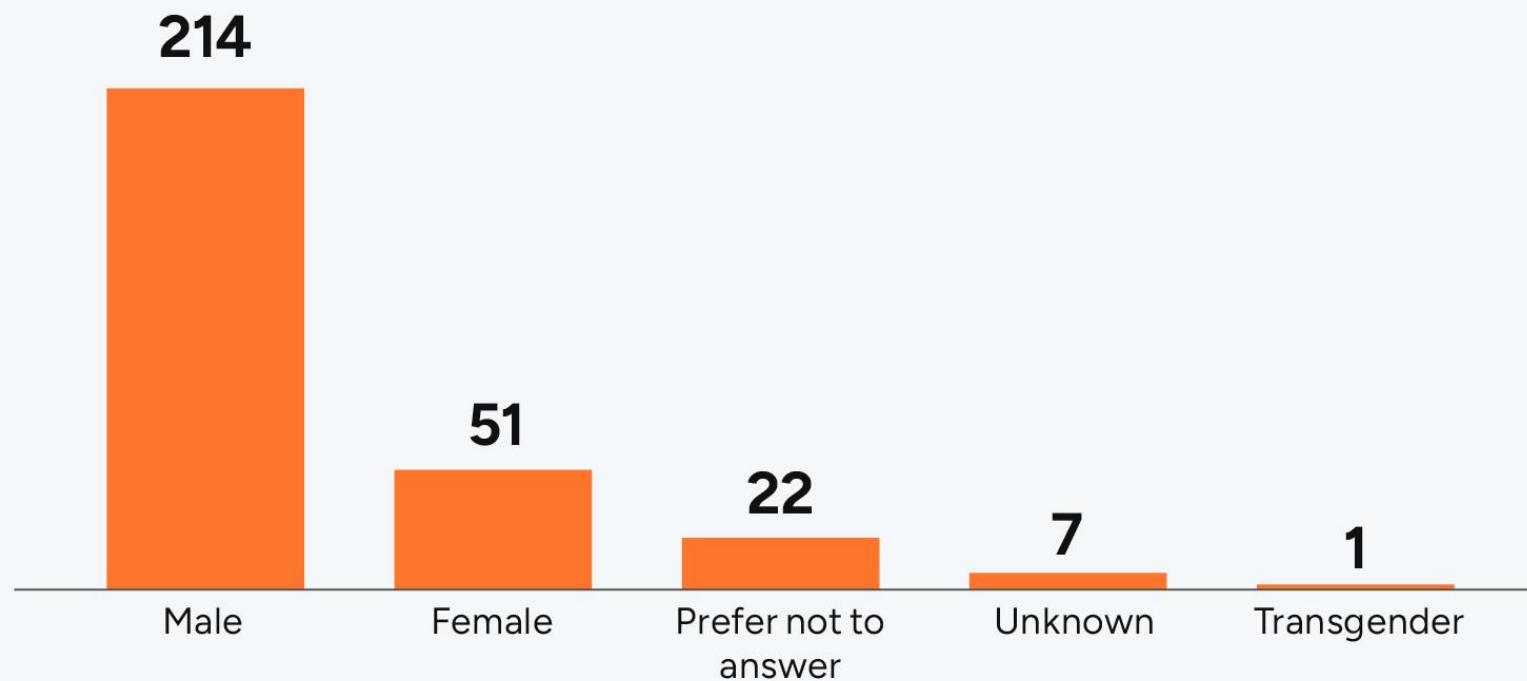


TABLE 5

Comparing Referenced Youth in Complaints & Board of State and Community Corrections Total Average Daily Population (ADP) by Gender



Data source: [California Board of State and Community Corrections. \(n.d.\). Juvenile Detention Profile Survey \(JDPS\) data dashboard.](#) OYCR Ombuds complaint data and BSCC Juvenile Detention Profile Survey (JDPS) data offer a way to examine whether the gender distribution of complaints aligns with the gender breakdown of the BSCC's Average Daily Population (ADP). For this analysis, we used the most recent data available from 2024. We calculated total ADP by combining pre- and post-disposition counts for males and females across all facility types and counties. However, direct comparisons have limitations: the BSCC data only covers January through September 2024 and reflects quarterly average daily population figures, while the Ombuds complaints span the full calendar year and are based on individual complaint counts.

TABLE 6

Age of Referenced Youth (2024)

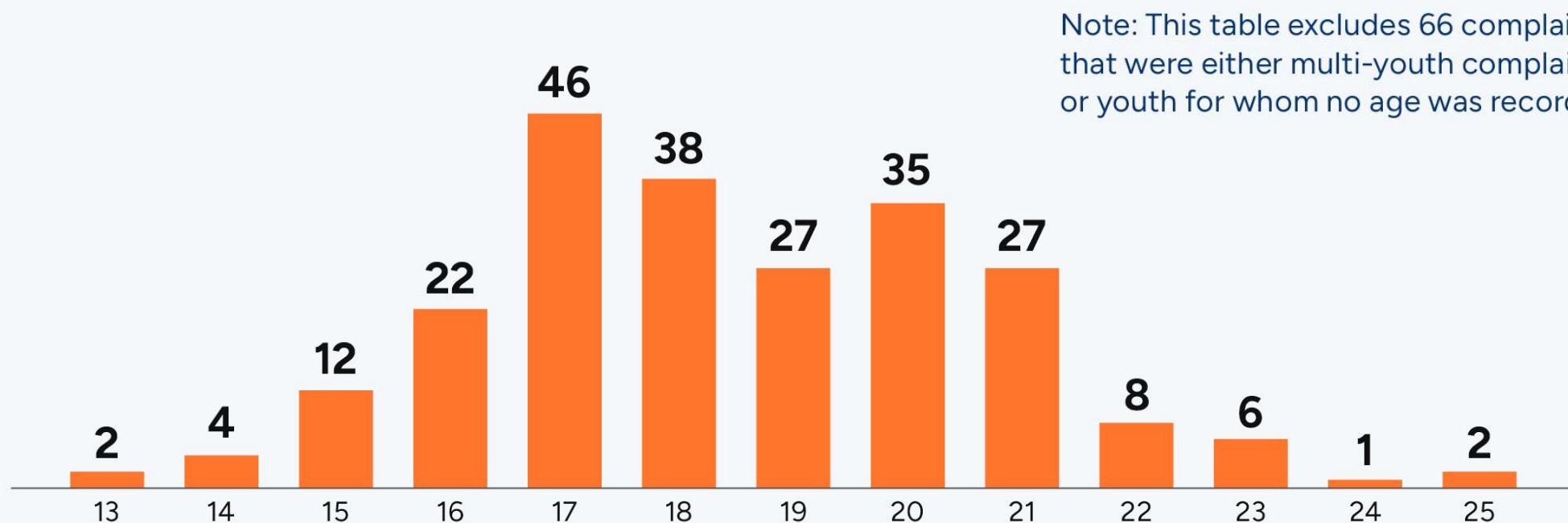


TABLE 7

Complaints by Type (2024)

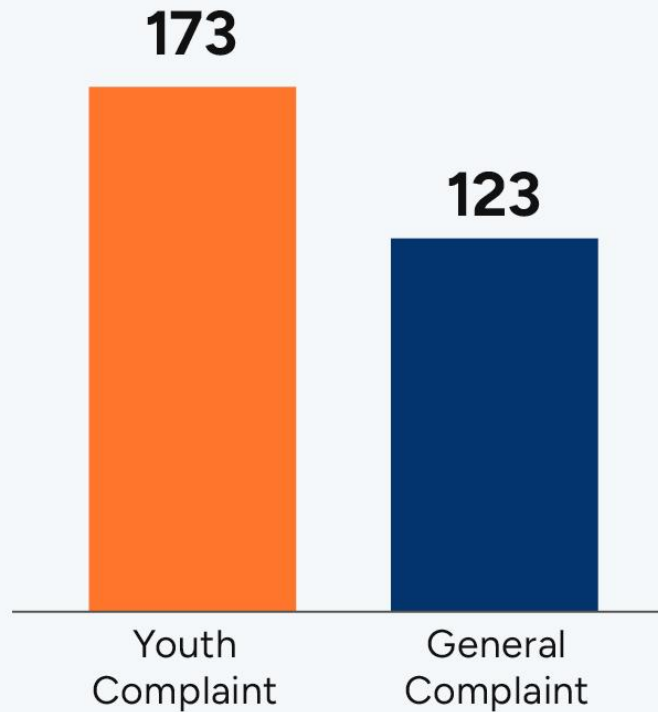


TABLE 8

Complaint Origin - All Complaints (2024)

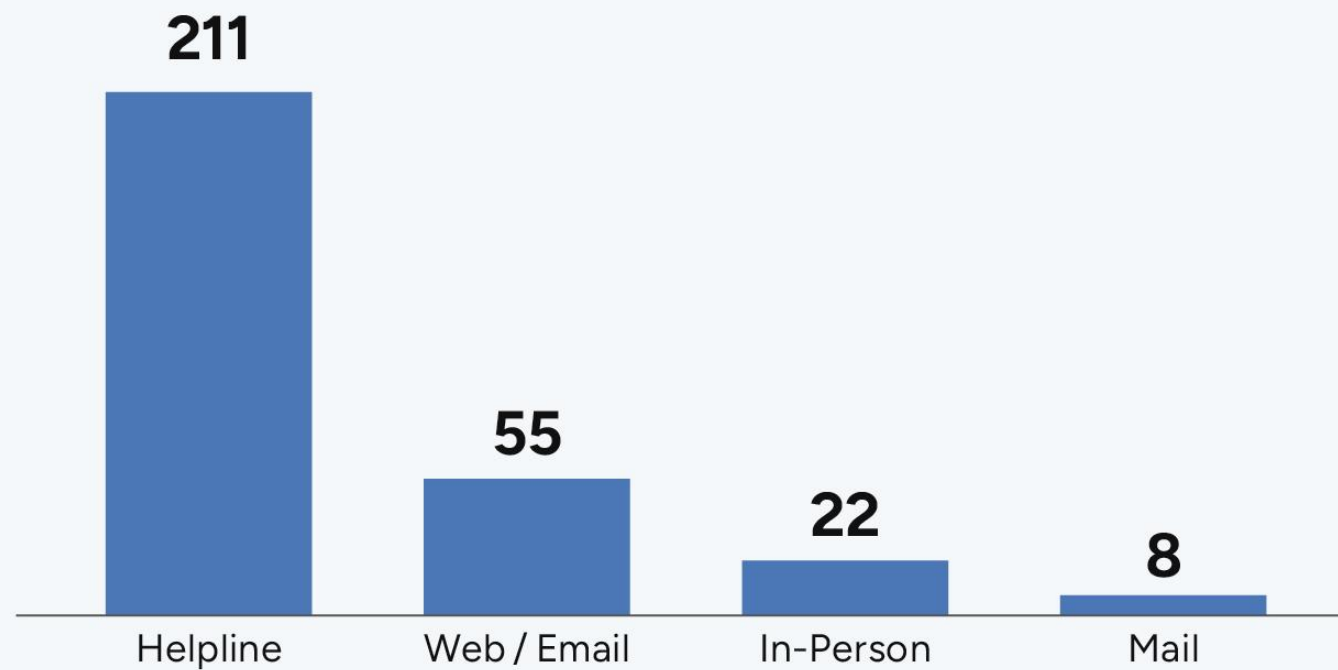


TABLE 11

Complaint Origin – General Complaints – Relationship to Youth (2024)

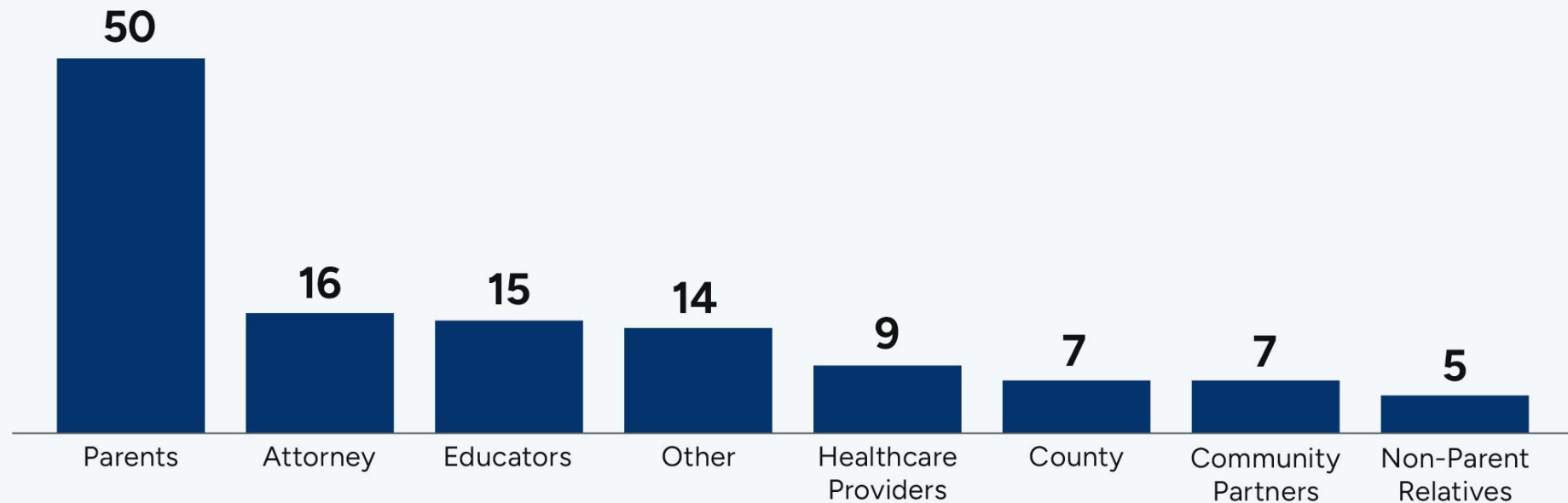


TABLE 12

Closed Cases in 2024

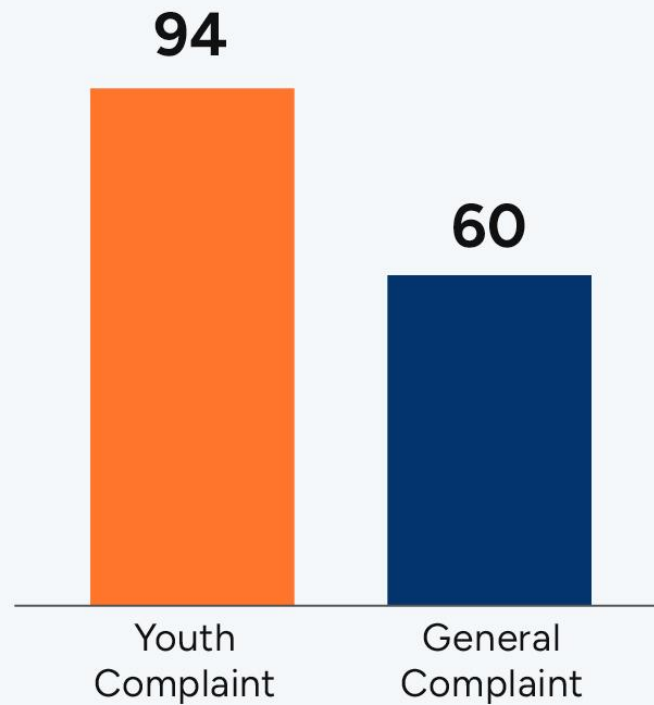


TABLE 13

Closure Findings (2024)

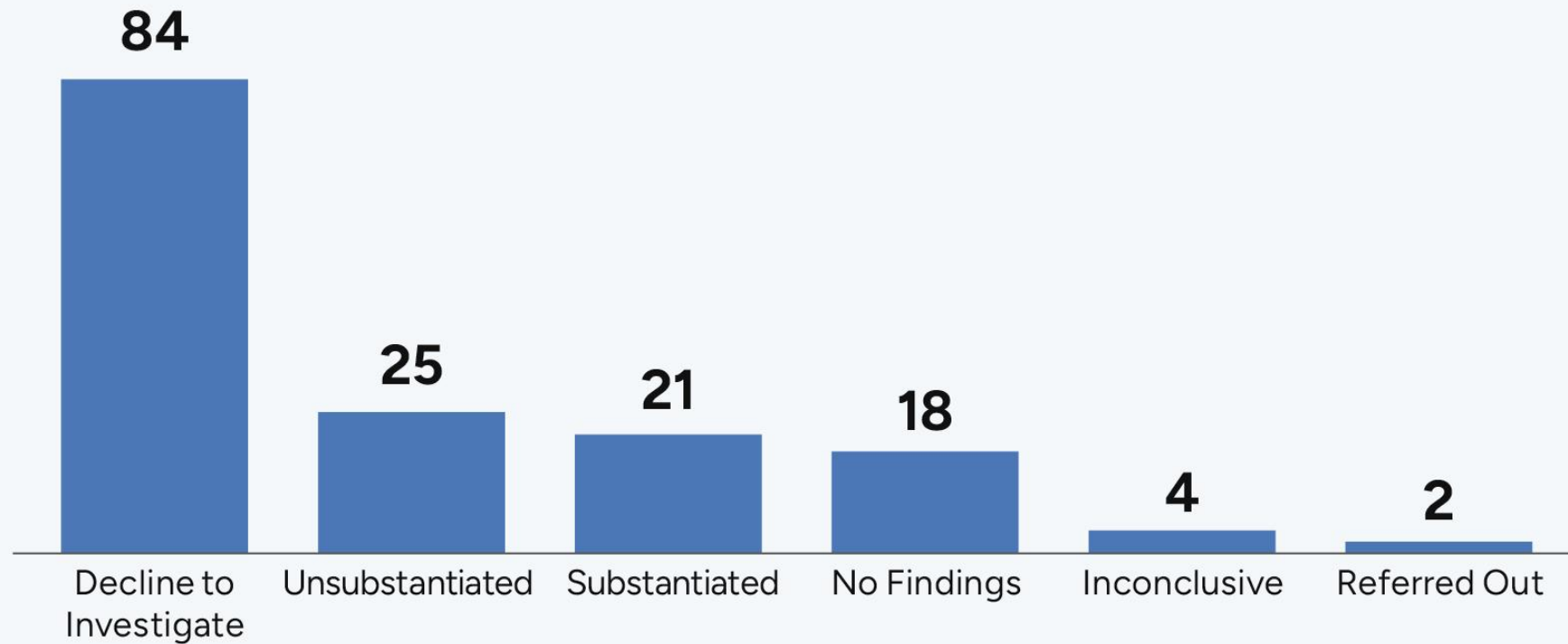


TABLE 14

Cross Report upon Screening (2024)

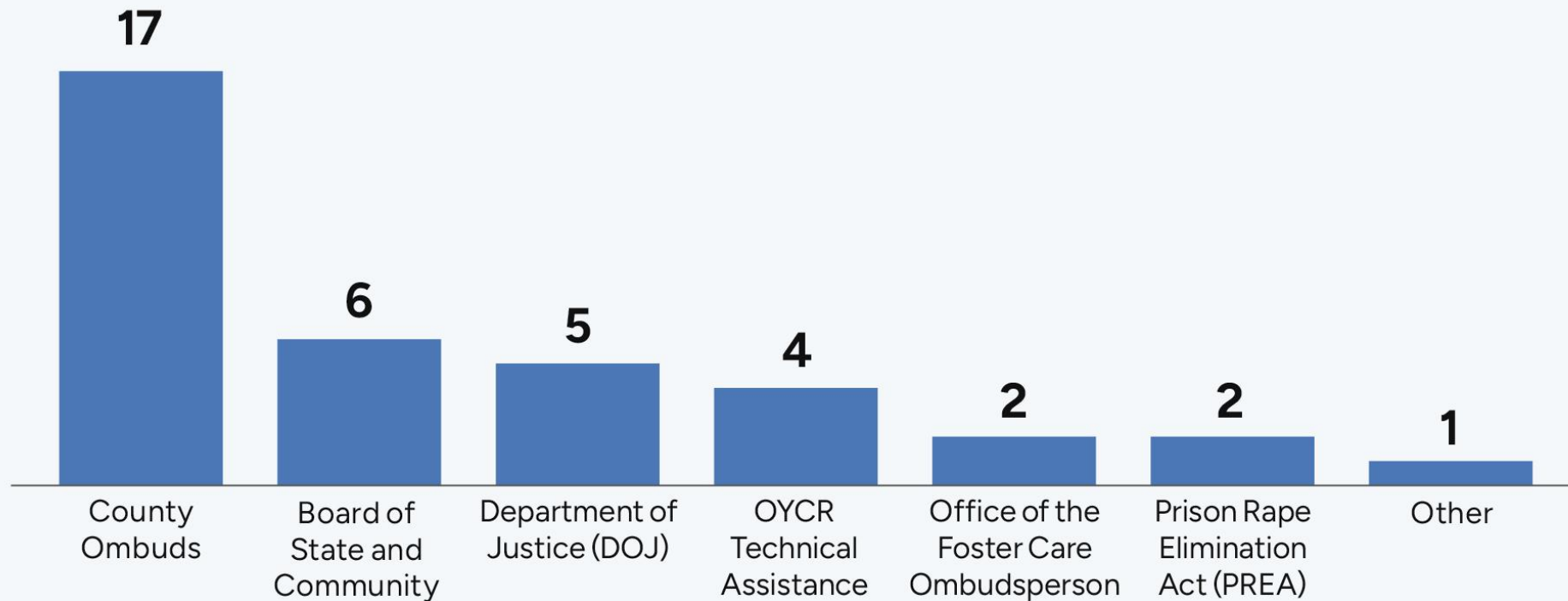


TABLE 15

Closure Findings by Complaint Type (2024)

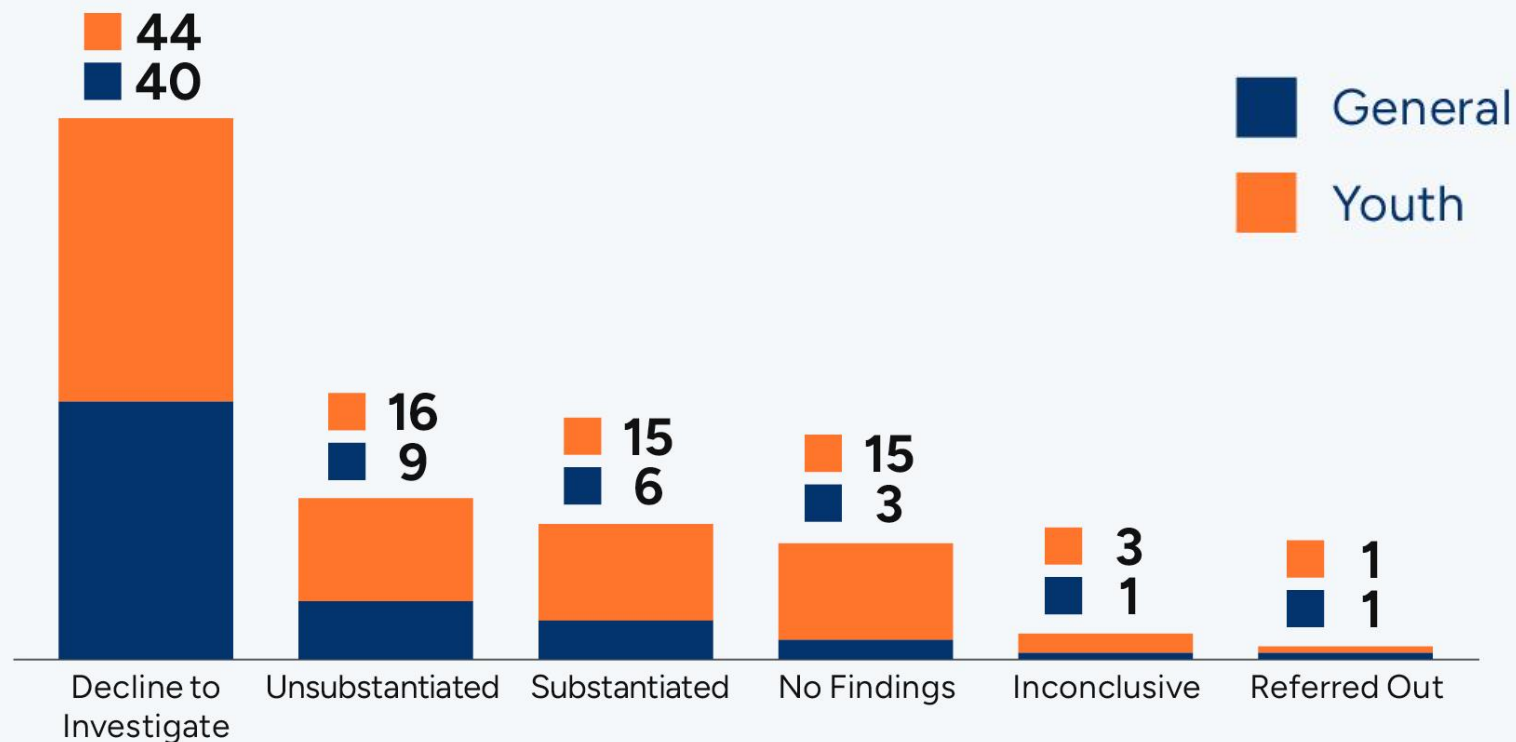


TABLE 16

Complaints Received by County (2024)

County	Case Record Type	Count	Total
San Diego	General Complaint	33	67
	Youth Complaint	34	
Los Angeles	General Complaint	37	59
	Youth Complaint	22	
Sacramento	General Complaint	13	21
	Youth Complaint	8	
Tulare	General Complaint	1	21
	Youth Complaint	20	
Alameda	General Complaint	3	12
	Youth Complaint	9	
San Joaquin	General Complaint	3	11
	Youth Complaint	8	
Contra Costa	General Complaint	3	9
	Youth Complaint	6	
San Bernardino	Youth Complaint	9	9
Ventura	General Complaint	5	9
	Youth Complaint	4	
Kings	General Complaint	2	7
	Youth Complaint	5	

TABLE 17

Closure Findings by County (2024)

County	Closure Finding	Count	Total
San Diego	Decline to investigate	27	37
	No findings	4	
	Unsubstantiated	4	
	Substantiated	2	
Los Angeles	Decline to investigate	8	25
	Substantiated	8	
	Unsubstantiated	3	
	Referred Out	2	
	Inconclusive	2	
	No findings	2	
Sacramento	Decline to investigate	6	8
	Unsubstantiated	2	
Alameda	Decline to investigate	6	8
	Unsubstantiated	2	
Tulare	Unsubstantiated	2	8
	Inconclusive	2	
	Decline to investigate	3	
	Substantiated	1	

TABLE 18

Time to Investigate/Resolve Complaints (2024)

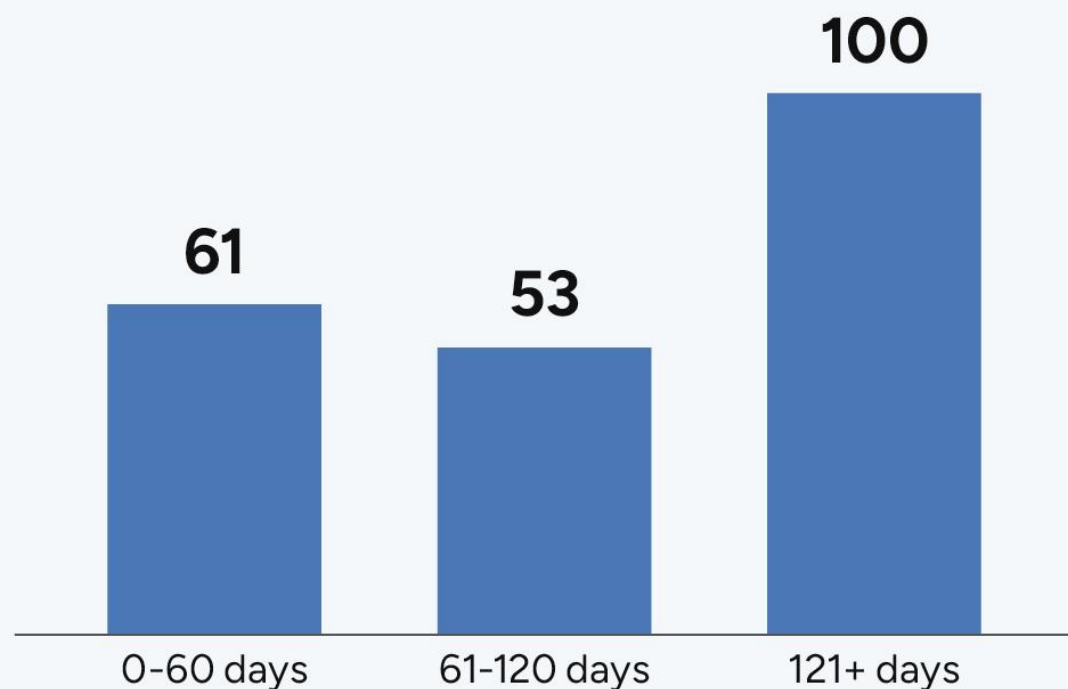


TABLE 17

Time to Investigate/Resolve Complaints (2025)

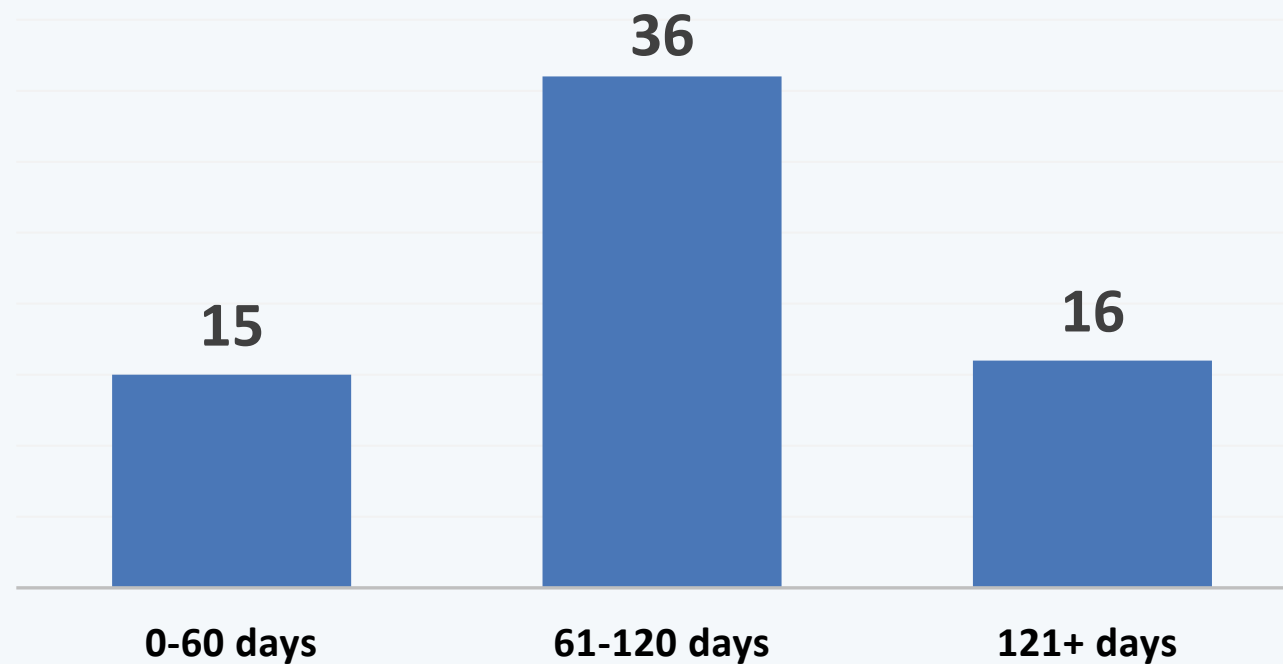


TABLE 19

Post-Closure Referral for Follow-up (2024)

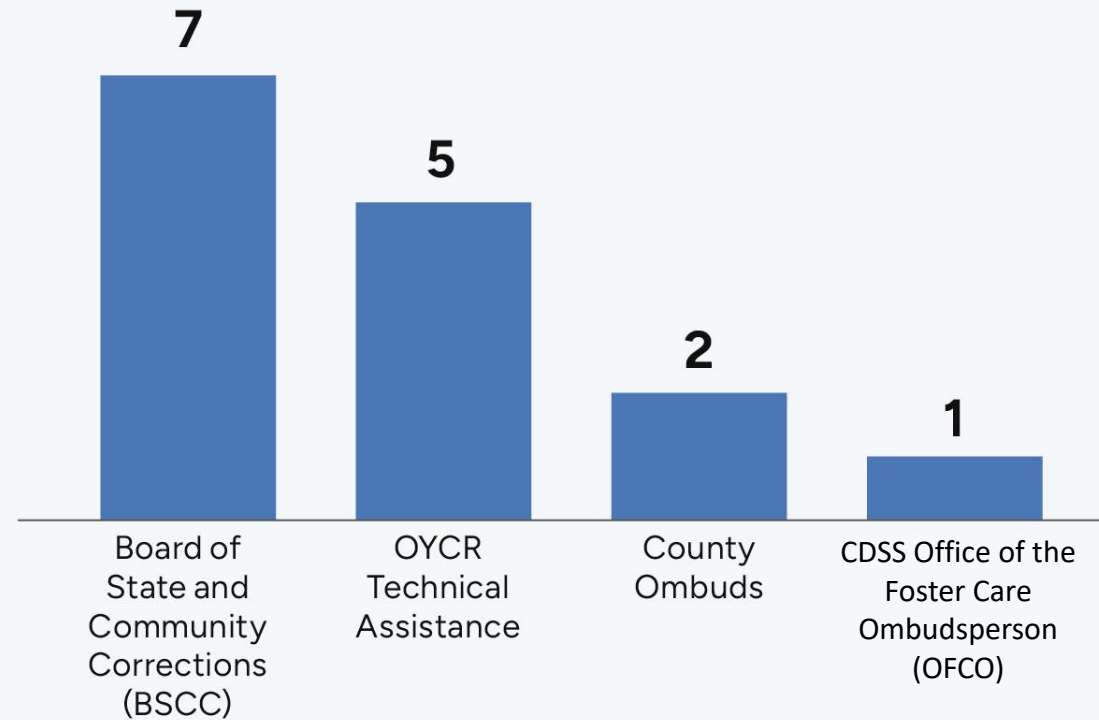


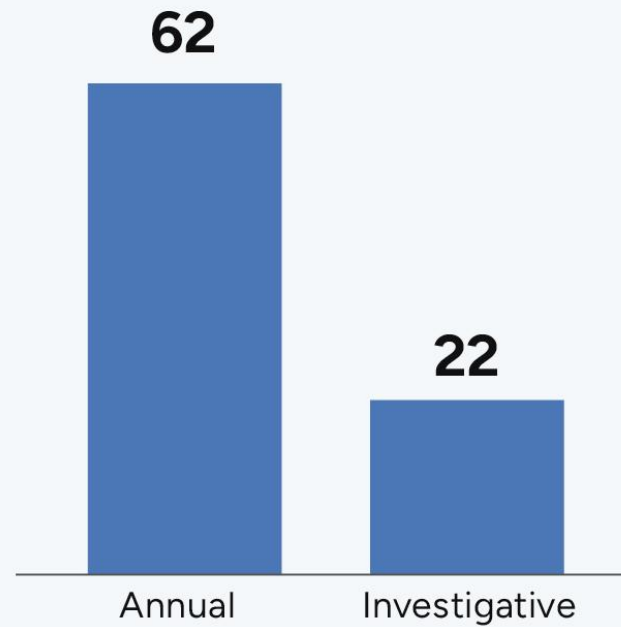
TABLE 20

Complaint Issues (2024)

Abuse/Excessive Force	53	Exercise/Recreation	6
Staffing	50	Property	6
Family Engagement	44	Detention Rights	5
Medical Health	31	Clothing	5
Programming/Incentives	30	Discrimination	5
Education	29	Searches	4
Food/Nutrition	26	Safety and Security	4
Discipline	26	Religion	3
Confidential Communications	24	Medication	3
Retaliation	18	Youth Bill of Rights Materials	2
Grievance Processes and Responses	17	Bedding	1
Hygiene	15	Parenting	1
Healthy Environment	14	Grand Total	441
Mental Health	12		
Court Hearings	7		

TABLE 21

Site Visits (2024)



Complaint Examples

- There was an allegation that a youth who was pending a transfer hearing was removed from a mentoring program because that program was reserved for youth committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility was substantiated. The following business day, the agency reinstated the youth in the mentoring program and updated the facility policy regarding which youth have access to the mentoring program.
- There was an allegation that an agency had a policy to regularly strip search youth returning from college furloughs without specific reasonable suspicion was substantiated. The agency updated the policy so that youth returning from furloughs will undergo pat searches and walk through a metal detector.

Complaint Examples *continued*

- There was an allegation that all of a youth's belongings, including family phone numbers and personal photographs, were lost when he returned from a hospitalization for an overdose was substantiated. The property was not located. Ombuds staff recommended that the agency develop protocols to track, store, and return youth property.
- There was an allegation that youth are only permitted to keep their legal documents in their rooms for three days was substantiated. The agency undertook the revision of the facility mail policy relating to possession, storage, and access to legal mail to include a check-in/check-out process allowing youth have access to their legal documents upon request throughout their time in the facility.

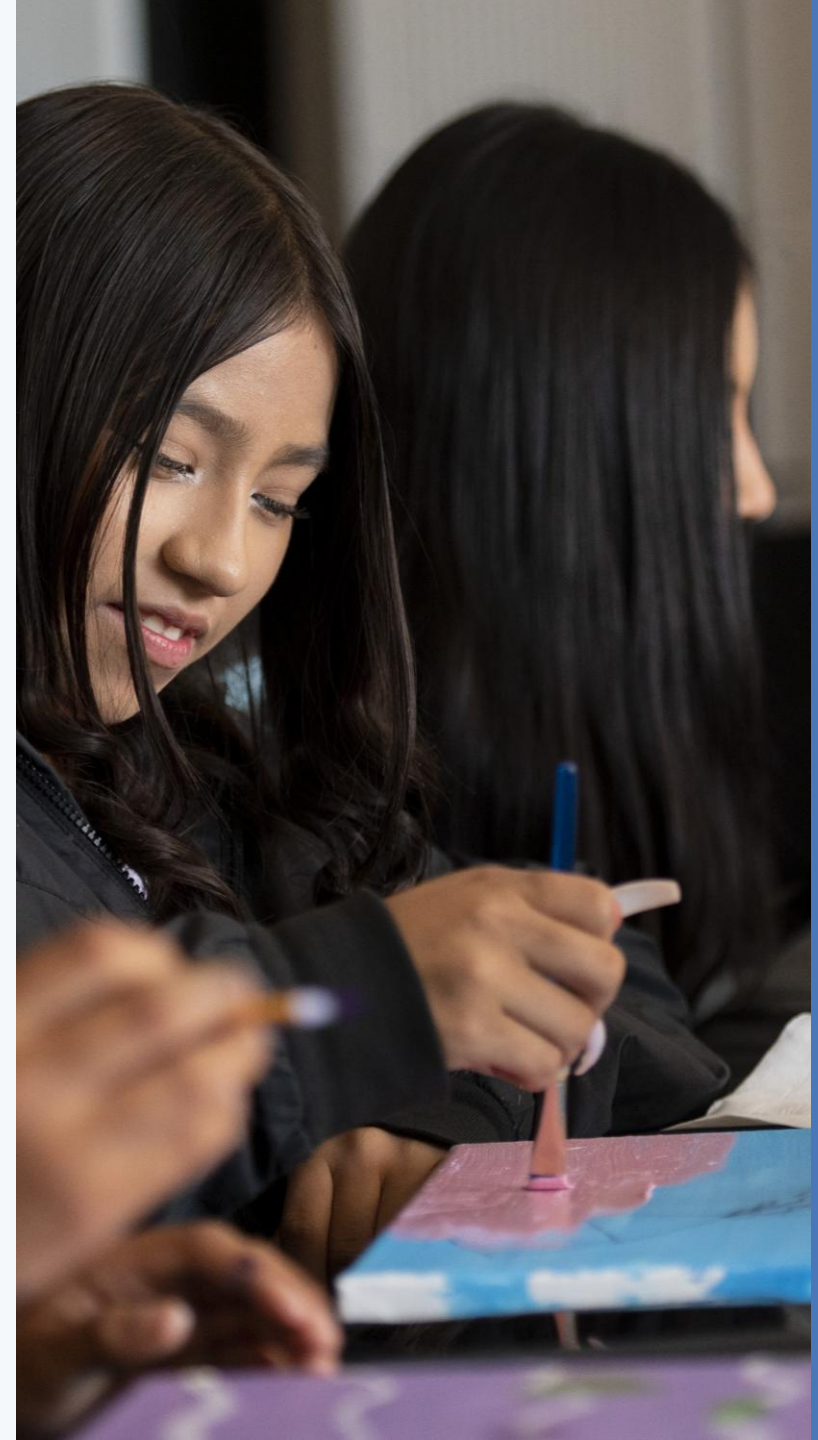
Recommendations

- **Room confinement.** The Board of State and Community Corrections should continue to support departments in understanding the very limited circumstances in which a youth can be locked in a room during daytime hours.
- **Food.** Food is an especially important part of the life of any adolescent or emerging adult. Some facilities have developed innovative approaches to enhancing youth's experience of institutional food. For example, some facilities solicit youth input on preferred meals, offer a robust canteen program with youth input on popular items, offer on-demand healthy snacks, and/or allow families to bring food in on occasion.
- **Visiting.** Facilities should review visitation policies to ensure that youth, in particular youth with long-term stays, have meaningful engagement with family including siblings who are under 18 and supportive adults.



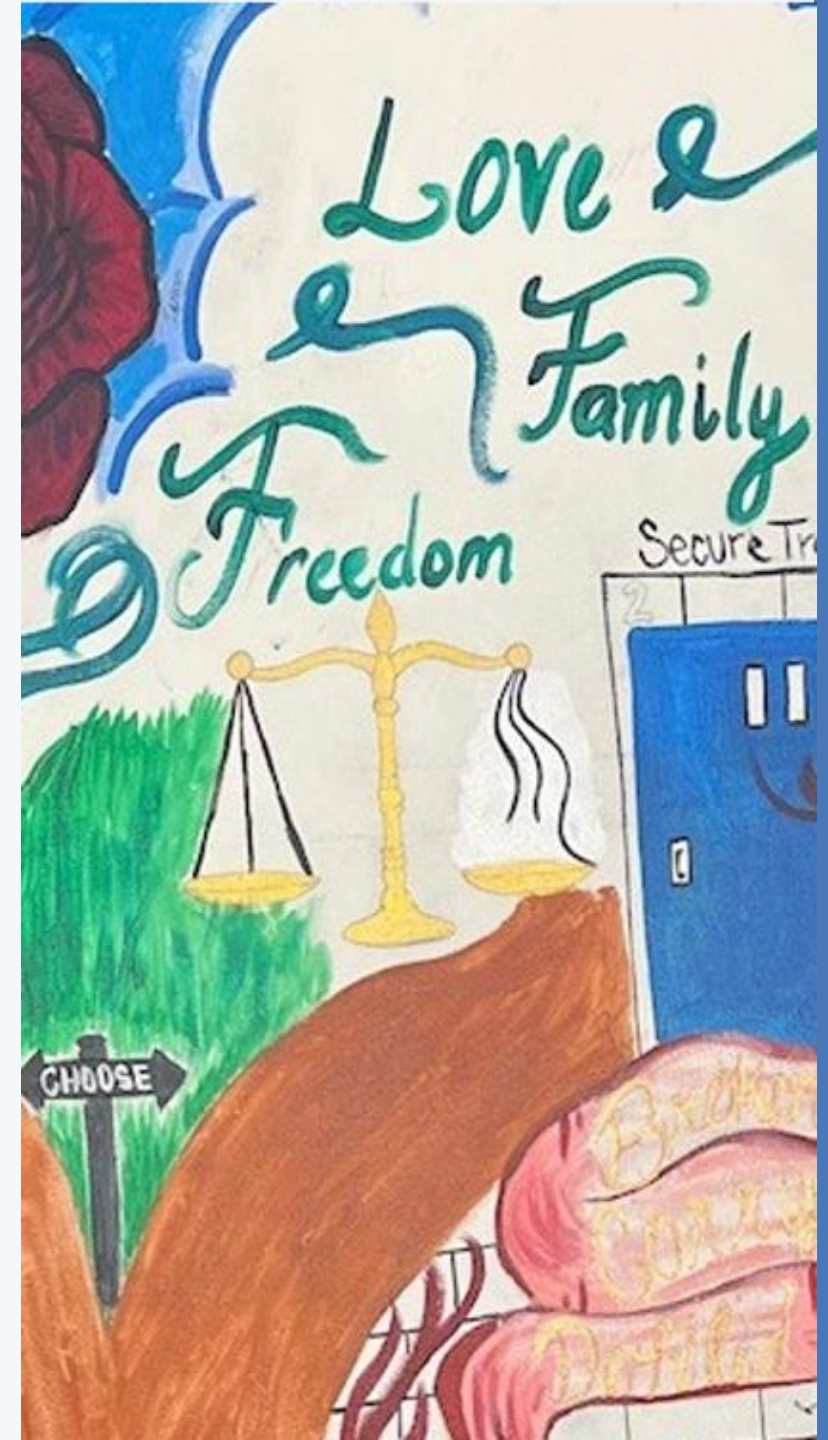
Recommendations *continued*

- **Pregnant youth.** Facilities should have a plan for caring for pregnant youth, including but not limited to pre-and post-natal care, breast feeding and parenting education, availability of breast pump and lactation plan, suitable clothing, mattress, and food. consistent with Cal. Code Regs, tit. 15 §§ 1417, 1461, 1480, and 1483.
- **Mechanical restraints policies and procedures.** Facilities should review their policy and procedures on use of mechanical restraints for transport to ensure that they comply with Welf. & Inst. Code § 210.6(a). The least restrictive restraint necessary shall be used “consistent with the legitimate security needs of each juvenile” (emphasis added) and once the department chooses to use mechanical restraints, other than handcuffs, the reasons must be documented. Some counties appear to justify the use of mechanical restraints based on the youth’s offense without a youth-specific determination. The fact that a youth is in custody for a serious or violent offense does not automatically mean they pose a current threat of physical harm to themselves or to another, or that they pose a substantial risk of flight.



Recommendations *continued*

- **Voting rights.** Some facilities are taking innovative steps such as bringing county elections officials into the facilities or transporting youth into the community to vote in person. Facilities should review their policies to ensure that they are complying with these affirmative obligations.
- **Higher education.** Facilities should review their policies to ensure compliance with Welf. & Inst. Code § 858(b)(2) which, among other things, requires probation departments to ensure that youth in their care with high school diplomas or the equivalent “have access to, and can choose to participate in, public postsecondary academic and career technical courses and programs” Facilities should also review their computer use policies to ensure that youth are not being deprived of their right to higher education as part of a disciplinary response. If youth need computers for higher education, they should not be barred from computer access as a facility disciplinary measure.



Recommendations *continued*

- **Youth councils and advisory boards.** Youth in facilities with youth councils (or other types of advisory boards that incorporate youth voice) expressed positive experiences and empowerment in the opportunity to make their views known to facility leadership.
- **Informing Youth of Internal Affairs Investigation Outcomes.** We recommend that Departments review their practices relating to notifying youth of the outcomes of Internal Affairs investigations and provide youth with as much information as possible consistent with law and collective bargaining agreements. This will provide the youth closure on difficult or serious incidents and demonstrates to youth how the system is holding itself accountable.



Looking Ahead

In 2025, the Ombuds Division is prioritizing the following areas and will report to the Legislature on all of these goals:

- Decreasing complaint response times
- Increasing the percentage of complaints investigated
- Increasing our collaboration with OYCR technical assistance experts to assist in resolving complaints based on evidence and data

Dear Ombudsperson:

WE ALL MESS UP
BUT WE ARE ALL
STILL HUMAN, NEVER
PERFECT.

JAN 26, 2024 1:05

Sincerely,

A barcode located at the bottom right of the document, likely used for tracking or identification purposes.



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Questions?



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Contact OYCR

OYCR Ombudsperson

<https://oycr.ca.gov/>

OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov

1-844-402-1880

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Thank you! oycr.ca.gov/ombudsperson



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Forward Change Education Report Feedback

Discussion Questions

- What **ideas or concepts** in the report **resonate** with you?
- Do you have **questions** about the key ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there **refinements** to specific sections you might recommend?



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Public Comment



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Announcements and Adjourn

Meeting Dates for 2025

YJC

- December 3, 2025