



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Child Welfare Council

Youth Justice Committee

June 4, 2025



Agenda

- Action item: approve March minutes
- Co-Chair Updates
- Forward Change Education Report
- LRP Presentation
- AB 102 Report
- Data De-Identification Discussion
- Ombuds Update
- YJC priority area deliverables
- Action item: vote on priority area deliverables
- Public comment
- Announcements & adjourn



Action Item

- Approval of March 2025 Minutes



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Co-Chair Updates



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Forward Change Education Report



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Less Restrictive Programs



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Stepping Youth Down from Custody and into the Community

June 4, 2025

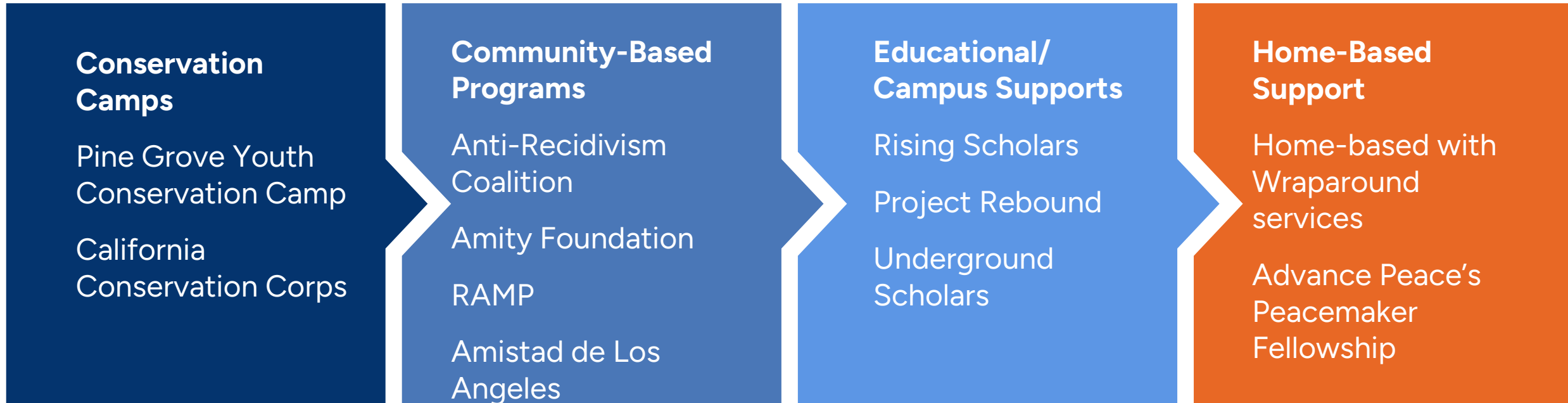


LRPs: Statutory Guidance

Less Restrictive Programs (LRP)

- WIC § 875(f)(1) and Rule of Court 5.807(d)(2):
 - Govern the court process of transferring youth to an LRP
- WIC § 875(f)(2) and Rule of Court 5.807(d)(3) & (4):
 - Govern conditions of a transfer to an LRP and what happens when a youth is noncompliant with the conditions of the program
- WIC § 875(e)(3) and Rule of Court 5.808:
 - Govern the discharge hearing process by which a youth exits an SYTF or LRP

LRP Landscape in California



Ranches and camps may also be considered LRP setting, as part of the continuum to progressively move youth to unlocked programs.

Supporting LRPs in the Field

OYCR LRP Grant

- 11 counties supported
- Total of \$15,900,000 invested
- Small cohorts of youth (5-10 youth per county)



OYCR LRP Grant Best Practices

- Coordination with community-based service providers
- Community-based housing placement & case management
- Community-based career development & education supports
- Access to community education resources
- Income supports to youth
- Linkage with workforce development partnerships in the community

Los Angeles Housing Partners

Housing operators:

- LA Room and Board
- Boys Republic
- Jail Guitar Doors
- ARC – Ranch, Magnolia House
- Amity – Amistad, Hillsman CTC
- RAMP
- Crossroads

Community Based Organizations:

- Healing Dialogue and Action
- CAPO Center
- Pathway to Kinship
- Amity
- Anti Recidivism Coalition

System Partners:

- Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
- Department of Youth Development (DYD)
- Rising Scholars Network (RSN)
- Underground Scholars
- The California Institute of Neuroscience, Law and Education
- LA County Probation

Los Angeles Room and Board



Court to College Success
Juvenile Justice Residential Placement

**Department of
Probation**

**Public
Defenders**

**Credible
Messengers**

DMH Therapists

**District
Attorneys**

**Campus Kilpatrick
Staff**



CA Institute of Law, Neuroscience and Education

- California Bench to School Initiative was enacted (SB 132) to create the California Institute on Law, Neuroscience, and Education
- The CA Institute aims to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in California by addressing literacy outcomes in school settings through a collaborative multistakeholder and multidisciplinary approach.
- This includes development, management, and implementation of the initiative with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration. (Education Code, sections 99275-99277)

Pursuing Higher Education: A Pre-Implementation Evaluation

- PI: Johanna Folk (UCSF)
- Co-Investigators: Cynthia Valencia (UCSF), Michael Massa (OYCR), Jocelyn Meza (UCLA)
- Institutions/Organizations: UCSF, UCLA, OYCR, Cre8Innovations

Cre8Innovations



- Started by Justice Impacted students at UC Berkeley – Underground Scholars
- Mission: Reimagining community through a holistic, human-centered approach to advocacy, housing, and the future of work.
- Goals: To provide free housing to every formerly incarcerated student who needs it.

Counties with Furloughs for Work & College

| County | College(s) | County | College(s) |
|-------------|---|-----------|--|
| Alameda | Chabot/Laney | Madera | Madera Community College |
| Butte | Butte Community College | Mono | Cerro Coso Community College |
| Humboldt | College of the Redwoods, Cal Poly Humboldt | Monterey | Hartnell College, Gilroy Barber College |
| Placer | Sierra College | Imperial | Imperial Valley College- JC |
| Yuba | Yuba College | Orange | Local JCs |
| Santa Clara | Evergreen, San Jose Community College | Riverside | Riverside City College, CSU San Bernadino |
| Kern | Bakersfield College | | |



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

UCLA

Luskin
Social Welfare

Stepping Home Model:

Guidance for Transitioning Youth from
Secure Youth Treatment Facilities into the Community

Stepping Home Model Overview

- Establishes a research-based framework, best practices and a series of elements to inform California's policy goals regarding care of youth committed to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs)
- Offers a model for stepping youth out of custody and into the community that will be informed by ongoing partnership with the field and emerging research



Why Stepping Home?

- Optimizes healing and accountability
- Provides robust care to strengthen youth, families, and communities
- Prioritizes service delivery **at home**



Key Elements of the Model

Safe and secure facilities

Trauma-informed facilities, programs, and staffing

Screening and assessments

Positive youth development

Restorative justice

Credible messengers

LRPs

Robust reentry services

Stepping Home Model Briefs

Partnership with UCLA's School of Social Welfare to create research briefs to create a research-backed grounding for the model

Briefs were vetted by the Youth Advisory Board, the Youth Justice Committee, the Child Welfare Council

- Ranges from probation leaders to members of the judiciary to community justice advocates



Stepping Home Model Brief Topics

Brief Topics include:

- Restorative Justice, Credible Messengers, Trauma-Informed Care, Reentry, Positive Youth Development, Less Restrictive Programs, Treating Behavioral Health Disorders in SYTFs and Facilities
- **Research question:** For each topic, what are the best practices and recommendations for care regarding youth with serious and/or violent offenses in the literature (peer-reviewed and grey literature)?



Next Steps for the Stepping Home Model

Questions and Discussion

AB 102

Summary of Findings

FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24

June 2025

Overview of the Report

Across FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24

- 1 SYTF Commitments,
- 2 Step Downs from SYTFs to LRPs,
- 3 Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses,
- 4 Youth Adjudicated for PC 290.008 Offenses,
- 5 Transfer to Adult Court Hearings Ordered and Held, and
- 6 Transfers to Adult Criminal Court

Limitations

- 1 AB 102 Data Limitations
- 2 Data Deidentification Policy
- 3 Trend Analyses
- 4 WIC 707(b) and PC 290.008 Analyses
- 5 Limited Assessment of Net Widening
- 6 Transfer Hearing Analyses
- 7 Health Lens Limitations

Summary of Findings

The use of LRPs

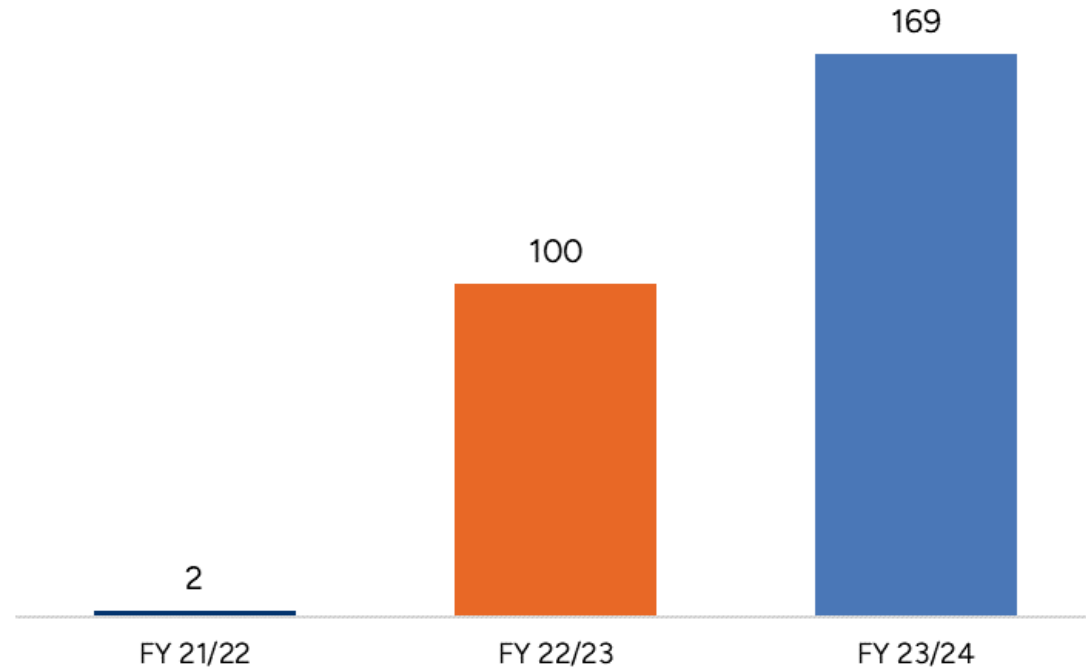
Evidence of Net
Widening?

Racial Disparities in
SYTF Commitments

Racial Disparities
among youth in the
Juvenile Justice
System

The Use of Less Restrictive Placement is Expanding

The number of youth stepped down from an SYTF to an LRP increased from just **2** in FY 2021/22 to **100** in FY 2022/23 and **169** in FY 2023/24.



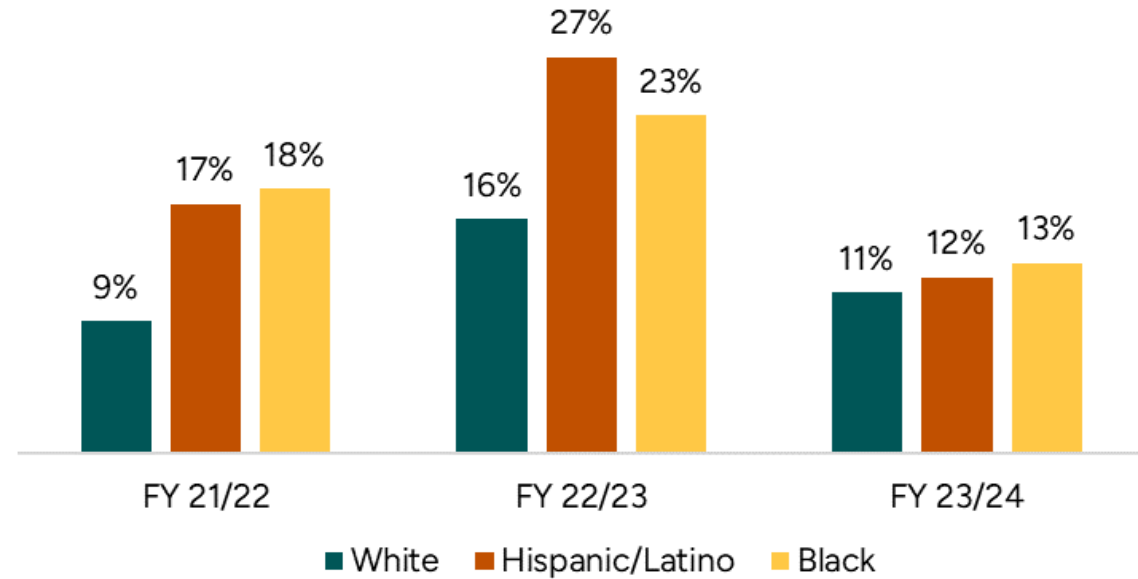
AB 102 Less Restrictive Placement Definition

LRP is defined as the transfer of youth from a Secure Youth Treatment Facility to a less restrictive placement pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code § 875(f).

AB 169 Less Restrictive Program Definition

- 1 LRP regulated by Title 15 – This definition includes LRPs within facilities inspected by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).
- 2 LRP not regulated by Title 15 – This definition includes LRPs which are not within facilities inspected by BSCC.

Percentage of Youth Adjudicated of a 707(b) Offense and Committed to an SYTF

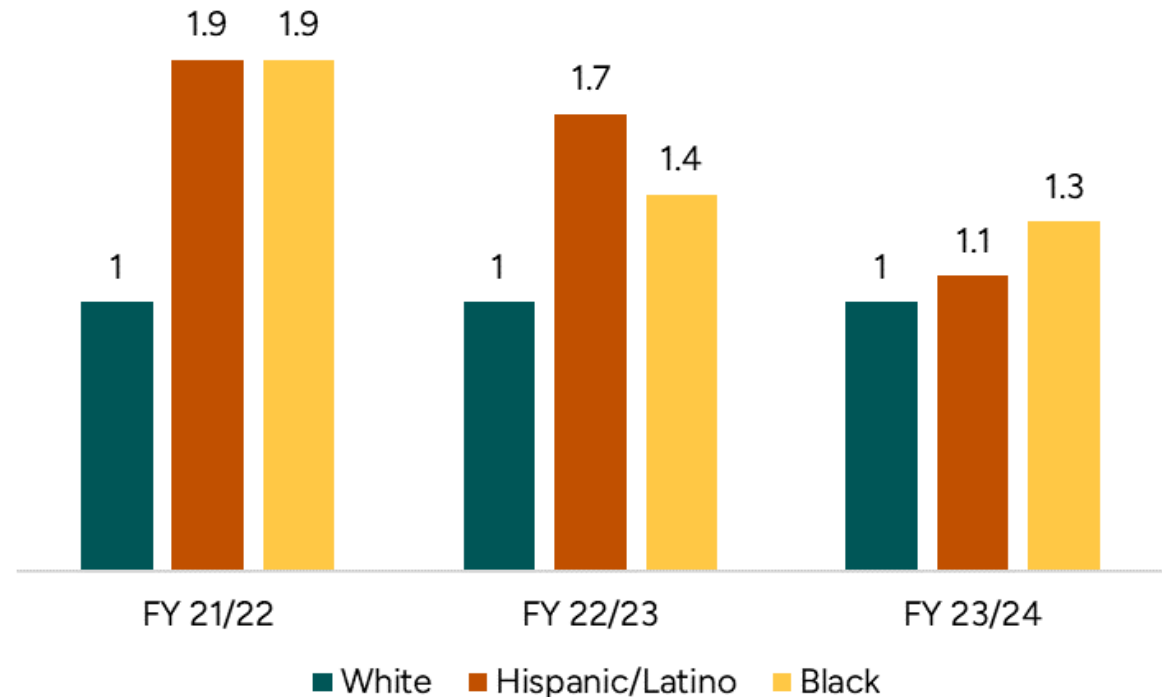


Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding and/or the exclusion of certain response categories.

From FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24, the share of **Hispanic/Latino** and **Black youth** adjudicated for 707(b) offenses and committed to SYTFs **decreased**, while the share for **White youth** **increased slightly**.

Rates of SYTF Commitments for Youth Adjudicated of 707(b) Offenses

In Fiscal Year 2023/24, **Black youth** were **1.3x** and **Hispanic/Latino youth 1.1x** more likely than White youth to be committed to an SYTF after a 707(b) adjudication.



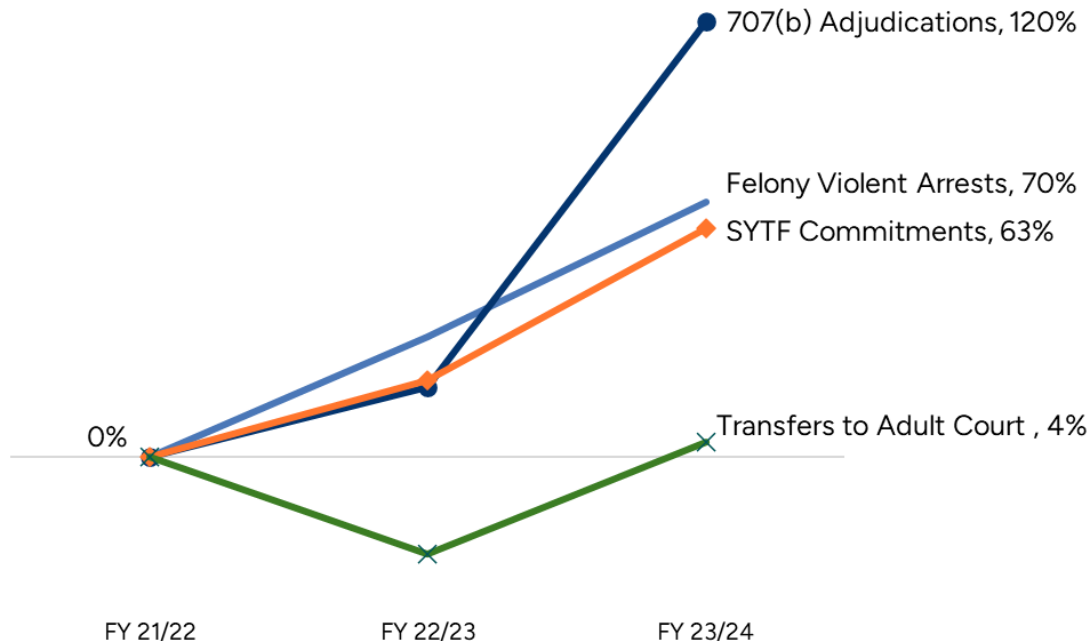
“

Net widening is a term routinely used in juvenile justice to describe the process of policy or practice changes that result in a greater number of youth being controlled by the juvenile justice system, resulting in the harmful consequences of applying a more restrictive intervention than previously used on a similarly situated population.

— DAVID LEVINSON

”

Exploring Net Widening



FY 21/22

FY 22/23

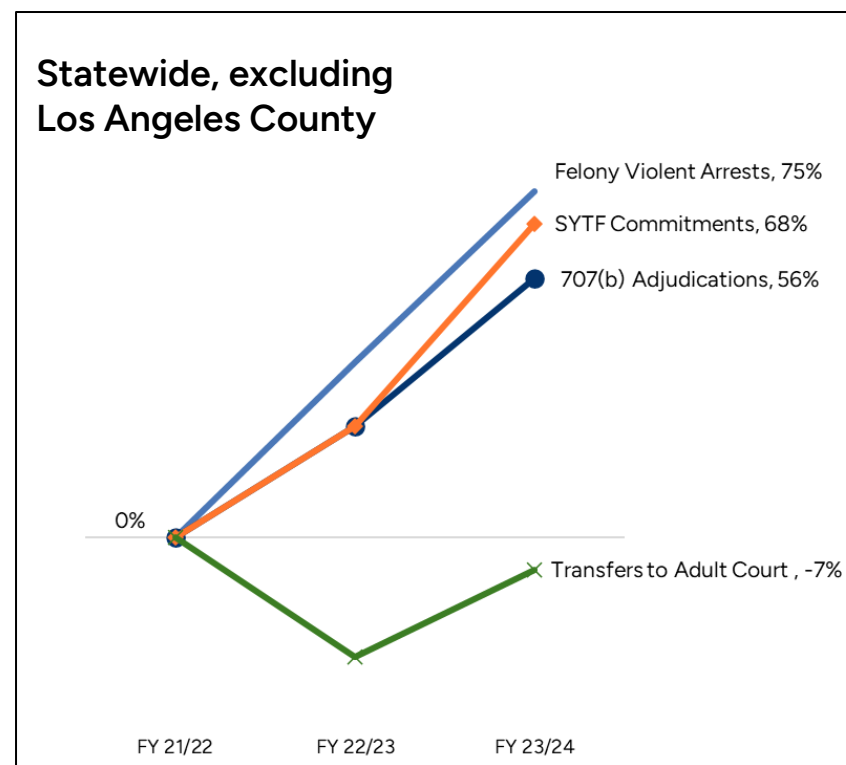
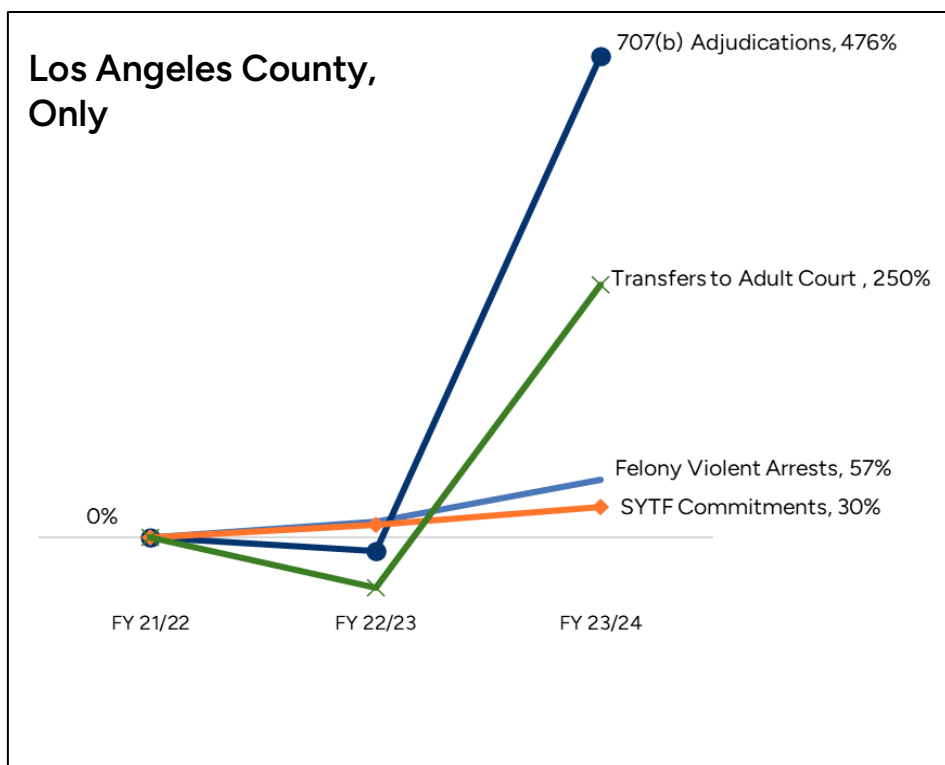
FY 23/24

| | FY 21/22 | FY 22/23 | FY 23/24 |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 707(b) Adjudications | 1459 | 1730 | 3216 |
| SYTF Commitments | 237 | 287 | 386 |
| Transfers to Adult Court | 48 | 35 | 50 |

- SYTF commitments increased **63%** and youth violent felony arrests increased **70%**.
- 707(b) adjudications rose **120%**, far outpacing the increase in arrest trends.
- Despite this, SYTF growth aligns more with arrest patterns than with the increase in adjudications.
- Transfers to Adult Court remained **relatively stable** and increased far less than violent felony arrests.

Exploring Net Widening, Cont.

| | Los Angeles County, Only | | | Statewide, Excluding Los Angeles County | | |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 707(b) Adjudications | SYTF Commitments | Transfers to Adult Court | 707(b) Adjudications | SYTF Commitments | Transfers to Adult Court |
| FY 21/22 | 224 | 51 | <12 | 1235 | 186 | 48 |
| FY 22/23 | 193 | 69 | <12 | 1537 | 218 | 35 |
| FY 23/24 | 1290 | 73 | <12 | 1926 | 313 | 50 |

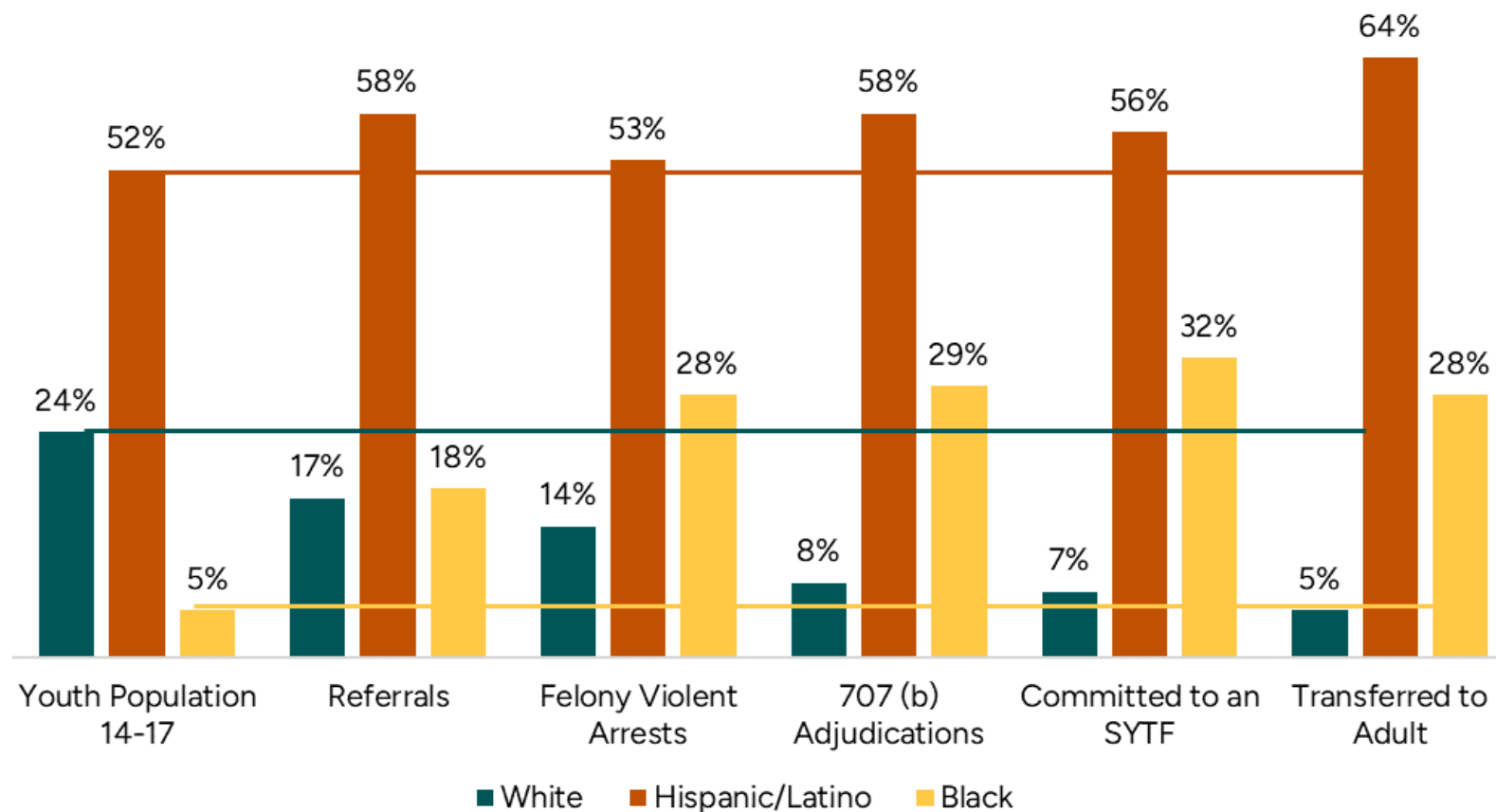


Do our findings suggest Net Widening has taken place?

Based on findings from the 2025 AB 102 report, OYCR cannot substantiate that net widening has taken place.

- Increases in violent felony arrests, 707(b) adjudications, and SYTF placements should be looked at further.
- Analysis of county-level practices, including case records, offense severity, and use of LRPs, is needed to assess potential system-driven impacts.

Racial Disparities persist in CA Juvenile Justice System



Go Ahead and Ask Your Questions!

Anything you'd like us to clarify
or dig into deeper?





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Thank you



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Data De-Identification Policy Discussion



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Ombuds Update



Office of Youth and Community
Restoration (OYCR)

Ombuds Updates

Child Welfare Council
Youth Justice Committee

June 4, 2025



Overview

- 1. 2024 Division Milestones**
- 2. 2024 Casework Data**
- 3. Upcoming in 2025**

OYCR Ombudsperson Division 2024 Milestones

- Completed hiring and recruitment for current 6-person team
- Developed and implemented a sophisticated Case Management System to track and document complaint investigations
- Upgraded telephone helpline to a sustainable call center product
- Developed and disseminated age-appropriate Youth Bill of Rights materials

OYCR Ombudsperson Division

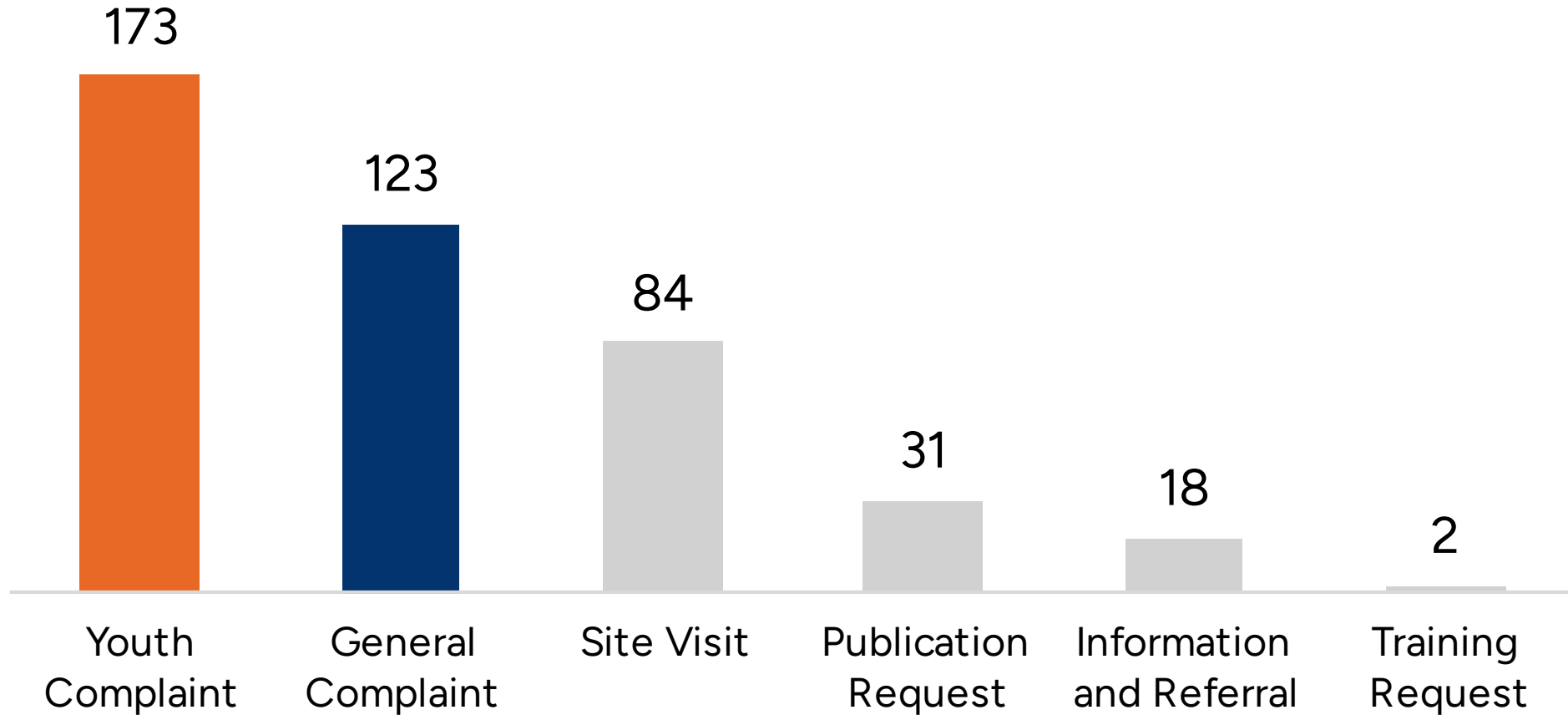
Current Staffing

- **Alisa Hartz** – Ombudsperson
- **Ahmed Nemr** – Chief of the Ombuds Division
- **Leslie Brown** – Ombuds Liaison
- **Miguel Garcia** – Ombuds Liaison
- **Ramon Leija** - Ombuds Liaison
- **Brayan Pelayo** - Ombuds Liaison

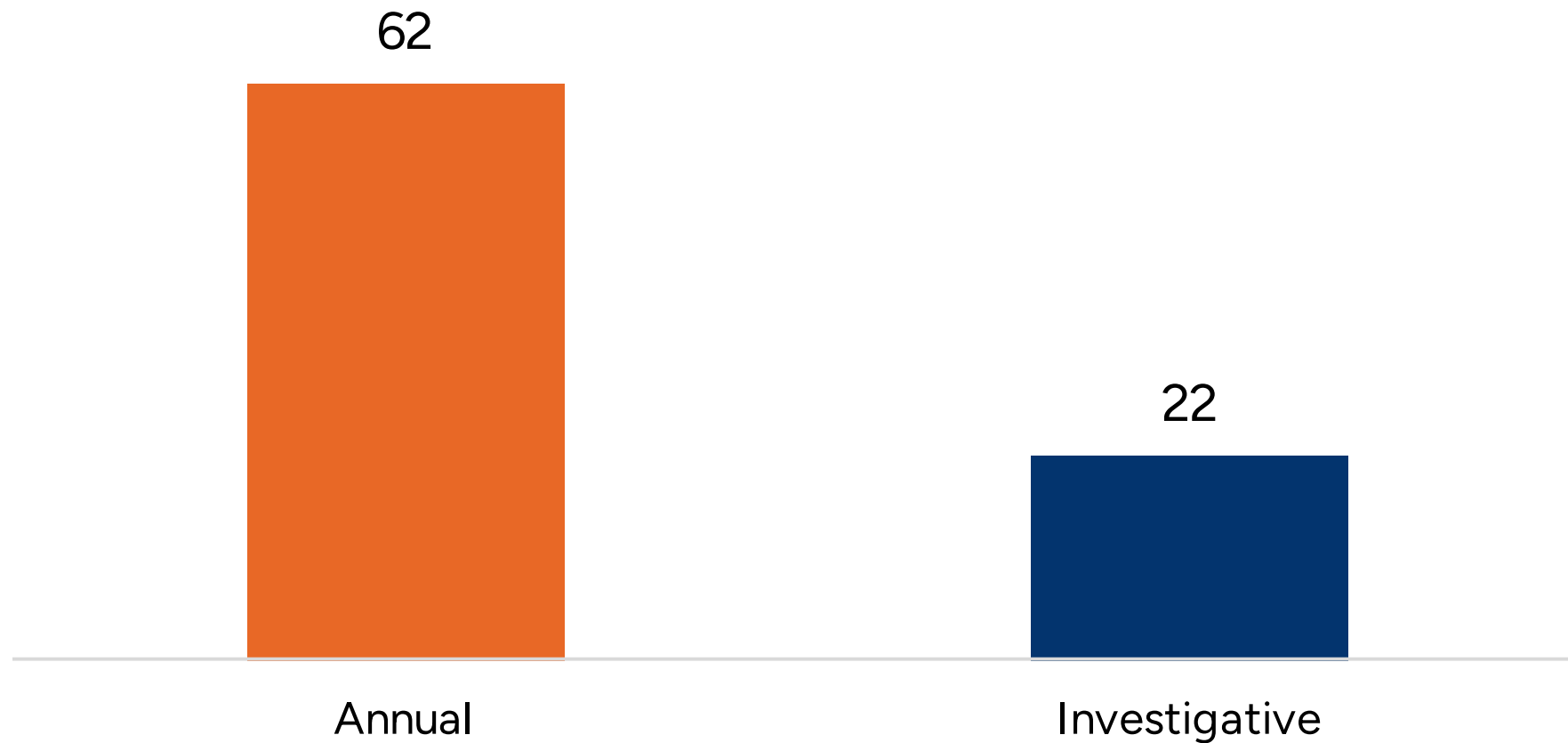
OYCR Ombudsperson Division 2024 By the Numbers

- **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)

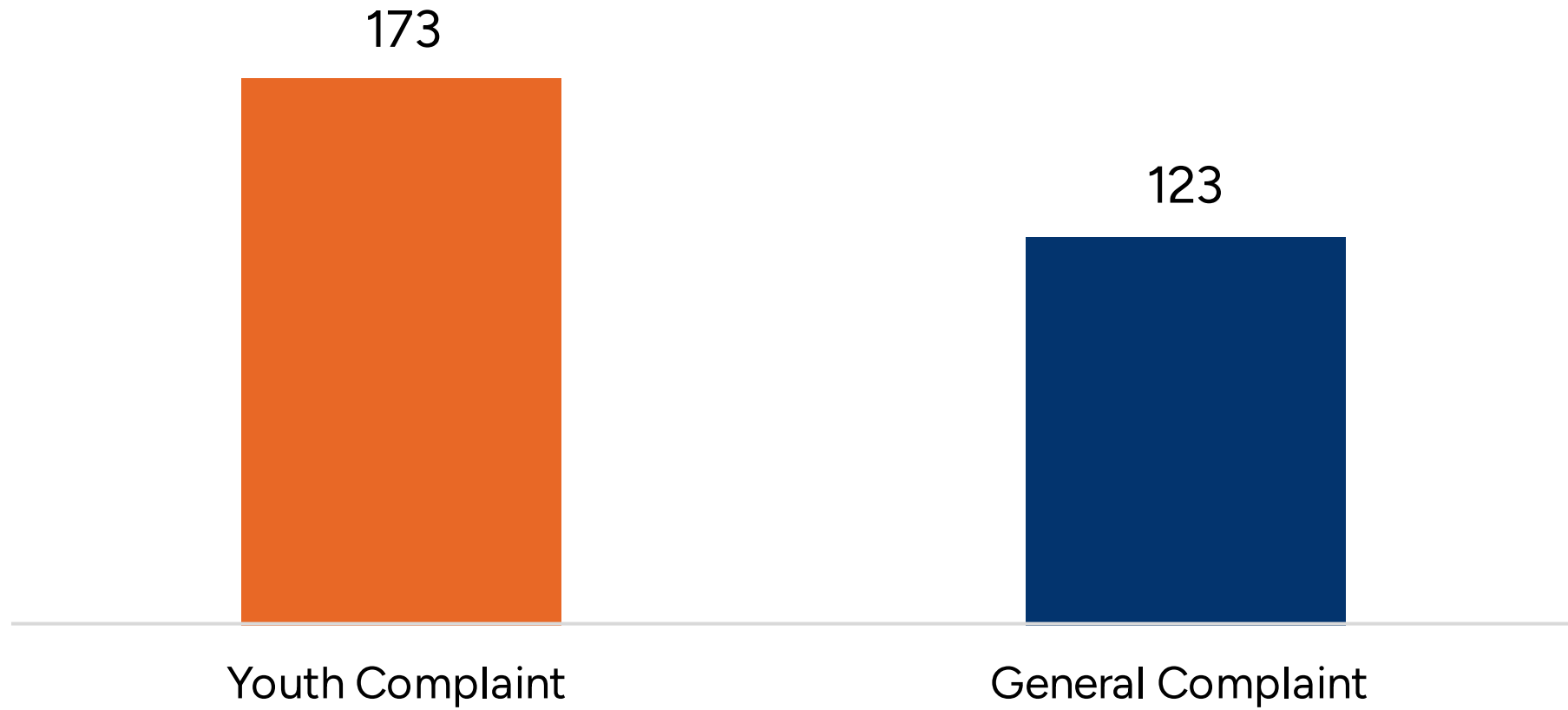
OYCR Ombudsperson Division Cases per Record Type CY 2024



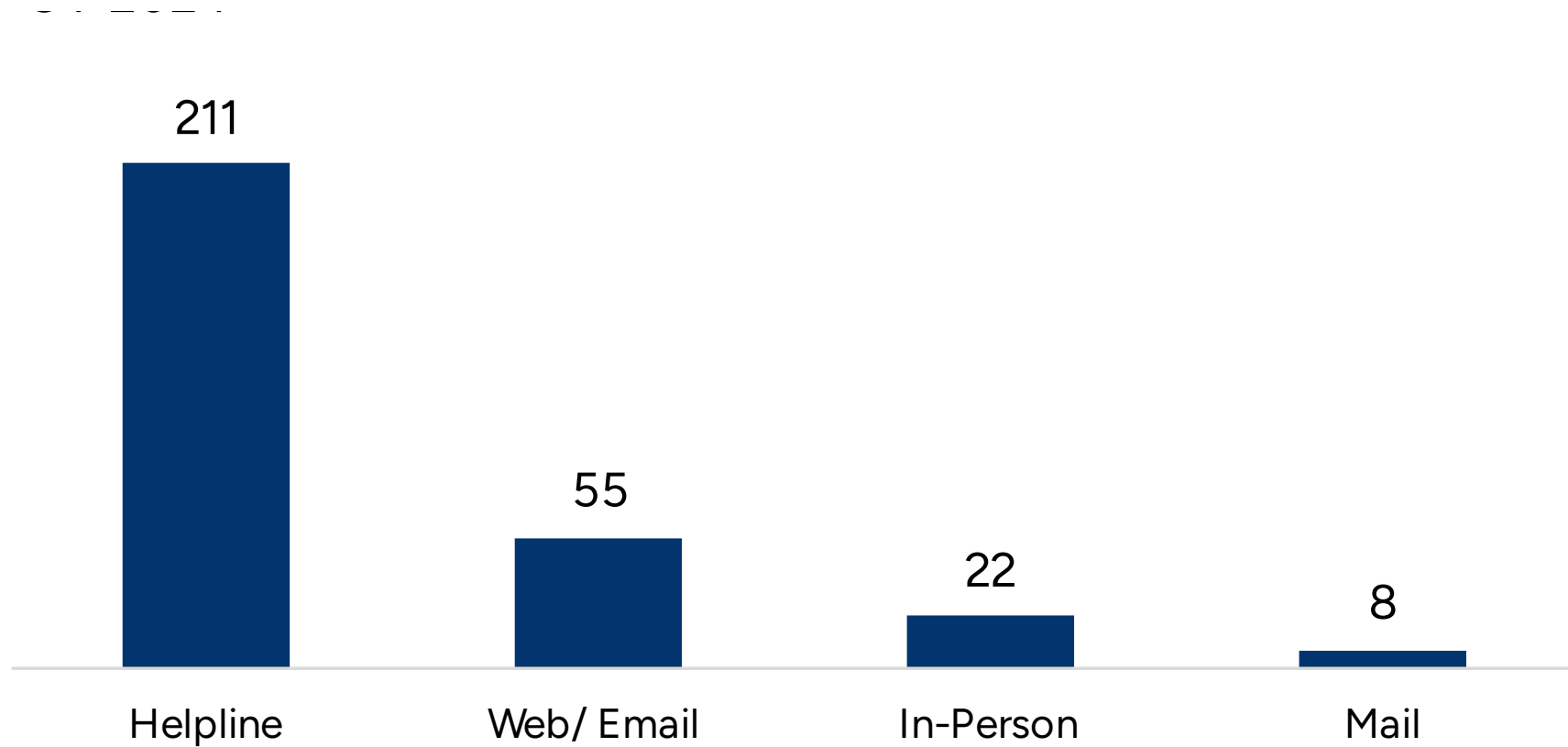
OYCR Ombudsperson Division Site Visits CY 2024



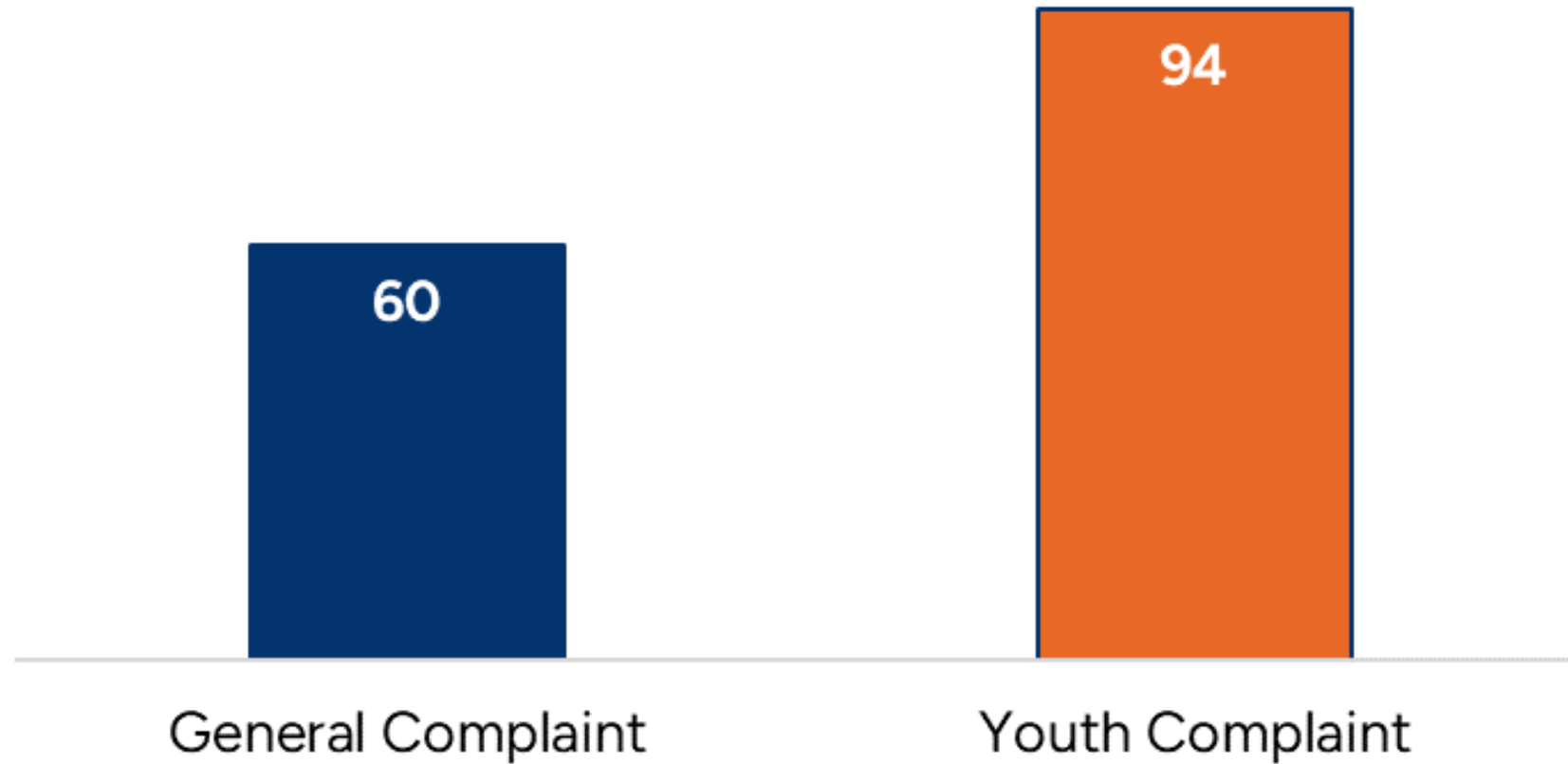
OYCR Ombudsperson Division Complaints Opened (2024)



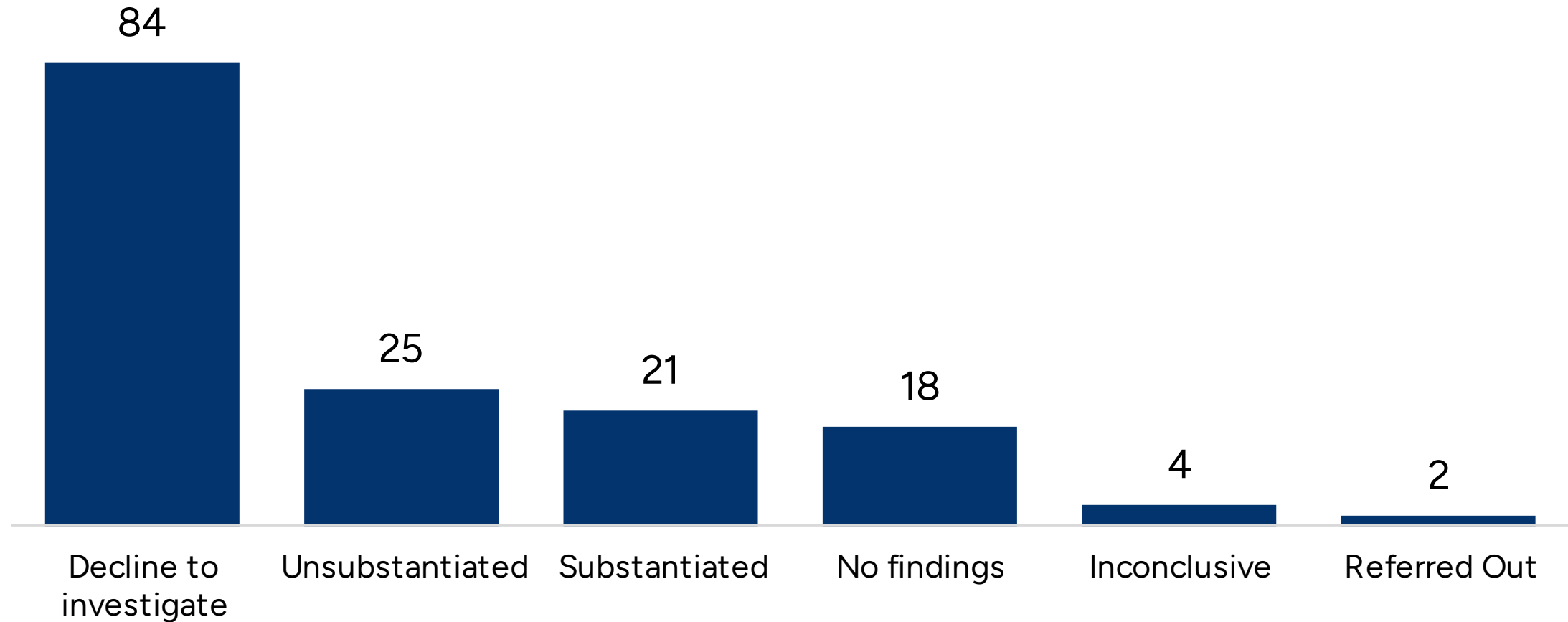
OYCR Ombudsperson Division Complaint Origin CY 2024



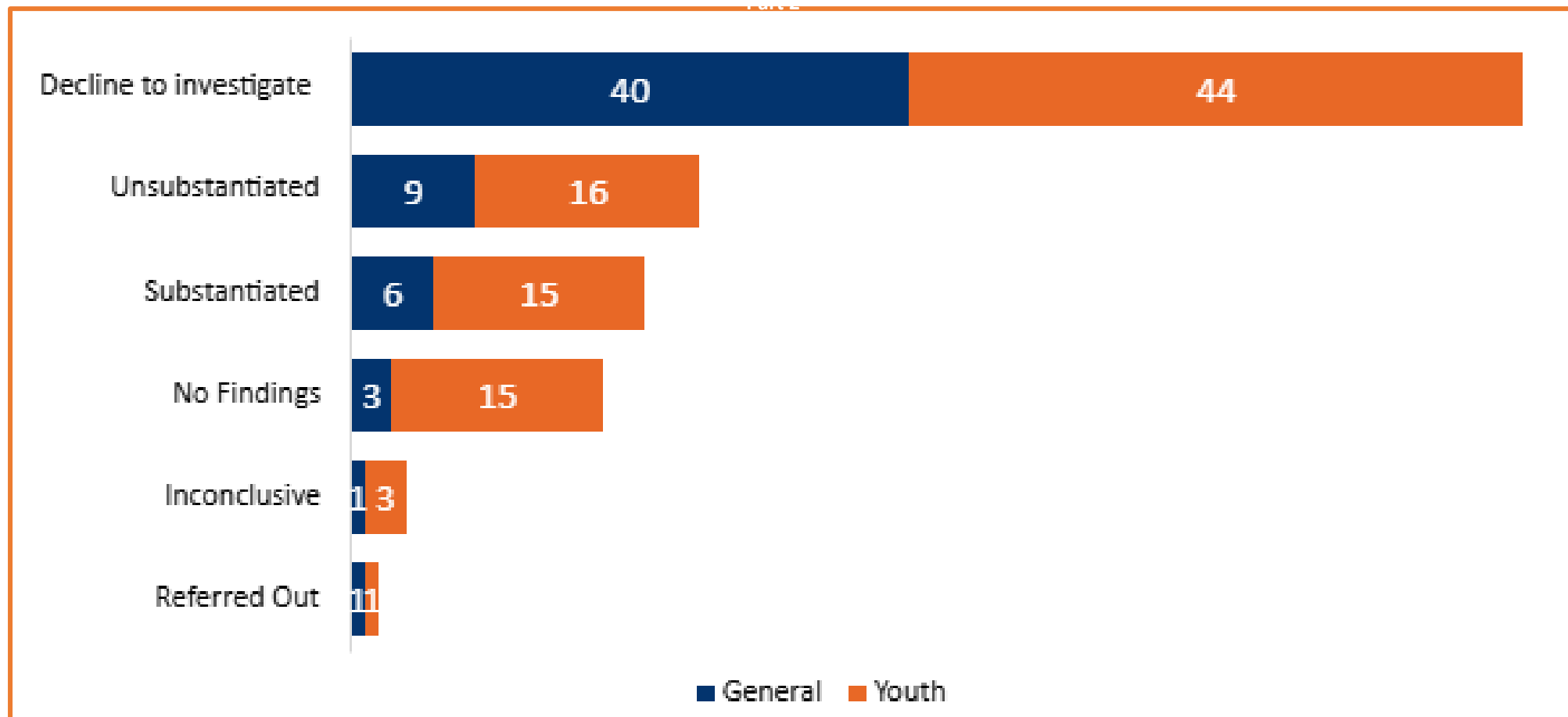
OYCR Ombudsperson Division Closed Complaint Cases CY 2024



OYCR Ombudsperson Division Closure Findings CY 2024



OYCR Ombudsperson Division Closure Findings CY 2024



OYCR Ombudsperson Division Complaint Issues - 2024

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

OYCR Ombudsperson Division Upcoming in 2025

- Legislative Report (2024)
- Annual Site Visits
- Case Investigation and Closure Timelines



Office of Youth and
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Questions



Office of Youth and
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Contact the OYCR Ombuds Team

- **Ombudsperson Division Helpline:** 1 (844) 402-1880
- **Ombudsperson Division Email:** OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov
- **Ombudsperson Division Webpage:**
<https://oycr.ca.gov/ombudsperson/>

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Thank you! **The Ombuds Team**

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 (to be discussed next meeting)

For data with a focus on outcomes, consider:

- 1) What aspects of this priority area should the Committee cover? What subtopics or related issues should be included?
- 2) What kind of learning does the committee wish to do to have a common basis for discussing this priority area? What kind of experts does the committee wish to hear from to develop a common knowledge base?
- 3) What is the most appropriate deliverable for this priority area?

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

Available Data

Although data access and scope may vary by state agencies and local jurisdictions, many of them collect juvenile justice data such as but not limited to:

California Department of Justice (DOJ)

Arrest and Court Data — The DOJ, through the California Justice Information Services (CJIS), collects statewide data on juvenile arrests, charges, and court outcomes. This includes data on sentencing and diversion programs, though it is typically aggregated by region or offense type (California Department of Justice, 2021).

Juvenile Recidivism Data — The DOJ maintains data on recidivism rates for youth who cycle through the juvenile justice system, though these data sets are often limited to arrests and re-offenses (California Department of Justice, 2021).

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)

Juvenile Detention Profile Survey — The BSCC collects monthly data from counties. This includes information on youth held in local juvenile facilities, average daily populations, length of stay, age, gender, and offense type. While the survey offers useful trend data on local detention practices, it does not track youth outcomes, services received, or post-release trajectories.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

Juvenile Detention Data — Before SB 823, the CDCR housed youth in state-run facilities. Data on youth placements, disciplinary actions, and program participation is available from past data, though it is becoming less relevant as the realignment progresses.

County-Level Data

- **Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant(JJRBG)** - Counties submit annual JJRBG plans describing services for youth eligible for SYTF. These include narrative details on reentry, housing, education, and facility use. Data is mostly qualitative, with limited standardization or outcome reporting.
- **JJCPA-YOBG Funding Submissions** - Counties report Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act and Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG) expenditures and program details annually. Data includes spending by program, youth served, and narrative summaries. Quantitative youth justice data is also submitted to DOJ via JCPSS.
- **County Probation and Services** — Local probation departments are responsible for juvenile justice services at the county level. They track youth on probation, placements in county juvenile detention centers, and participation in diversion or rehabilitation programs. Counties like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and others have their own data systems, but data sharing varies.
- **County Health and Mental Health Services** — Some counties collect data on the physical and mental health needs of justice-involved youth, which is essential for understanding the challenges faced by youth post-placement (e.g., mental health treatment, substance use, and trauma recovery).

Educational Data

- **Educational Attainment** — The California Department of Education (CDE) collects data on educational outcomes for youth in juvenile detention, including graduation rates, school attendance, and disciplinary actions (California Department of Education, 2020). However, linking this data to long-term recidivism and rehabilitation outcomes remains a challenge.

Data Gaps

Despite available data, several critical gaps remain in understanding the full impact of SB 823 on juvenile justice outcomes:

Health and Behavioral Data

- **Mental Health and Substance Use** — Data on the behavioral health needs of justice-involved youth, particularly related to mental health services, trauma, and substance abuse treatment, are underreported. Mental health screening and treatment services for youth transitioning from state-run facilities to county-based programs are not consistently tracked. (California Department of Public Health, 2021).
- **Health Outcomes Post-Release** — There is a lack of longitudinal data on the health outcomes of youth once they are released from juvenile detention or rehabilitative programs, especially regarding access to physical and mental health care in the community.

Long-Term Outcomes

- **Recidivism Data** — Long-term recidivism data is crucial but sparse, especially in assessing the effectiveness of community-based interventions and rehabilitative services under SB 823 (California Department of Justice, 2021).
- **Educational and Employment Data** — There is no comprehensive statewide tracking of educational and employment outcomes for youth post-incarceration. This data is critical when evaluating whether youth are successfully reintegrated into society and whether SB 823's goals of rehabilitation and reducing incarceration are being met.

Data Integration and Sharing

- **Cross-Agency Data Sharing** — Data across state and county agencies are often siloed, making it difficult to assess a youth's whole experience in the system, from arrest and court proceedings to detention, rehabilitation, and post-release outcomes (e.g., education, employment, mental health services). Integrated data systems are necessary for a holistic view of a youth's journey through the juvenile justice system (California State Auditor, 2022).

Action Items

- Vote on priority area deliverables

Initial Poll on Deliverables

- Select your top 2 choices as deliverables in this priority area

Use code

OR Join at menti.com with code 1960 5794





Office of Youth and
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Public Comment



Office of Youth and
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Announcements and Adjourn

Meeting Dates for 2025

YJC

- September 3, 2025
- December 3, 2025