



STATE OF NEVADA

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS) - JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES

**RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES REPORT/ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN
FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act

June 20, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) was created in 1974 and expanded in 2002 to include the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Requirement. The JJDP Act established four core requirements with which participating states and territories must comply to receive Title II Formula grants under the JJDP Act. The JJDP Act was reauthorized in December of 2018 and renamed the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA). This reauthorization also changed the name of disproportional minority contact to racial and ethnic disparities (RED). This report will address one of those core requirements, which is the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities (RED) with the juvenile justice system.

Racial and ethnic disparities are the disproportionate number of minority youth who encounter the juvenile justice system. States participating in the JJRA, and the Formula Grant program are required to address juvenile delinquency prevention and system improvement efforts to reduce, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, the overrepresentation of minority youth in the nation's juvenile justice system.

This report will examine racial and ethnic disparity at several contact points within the State of Nevada juvenile justice system. The entity responsible for this work is the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Data is collected over a twelve-month period and provided to the DCFS for analysis. Nevada consists of seventeen (17) counties and all counties have provided data.

For the purposes of this report, Black or African American youth are defined as youth whose race is African American of non-Hispanic origin. Hispanic youth is defined as youth of Hispanic origin, and White youth is defined as Caucasian of non-Hispanic origin.

This report is presented in three (3) main sections.

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SUMMARY PAGE – NEVADA SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Based on statewide data for the 2023 Compliance Year.

The youth population in Nevada ages Zero – 17 was 697,589.

- 14,875 youth were referred to the Juvenile Justice System, which is 2.13 percent of the total youth population.
 - 66.28 percent of those referrals were males.
 - 66.02 percent of those referrals were minorities.
 - 34.24 percent of total referrals were diverted.
- 5,477 youth were arrested.
- 4,436 youth were placed in secure detention.
- 240 youth were placed in a state operated juvenile correctional facility.
- 83 youth were certified as adults and tried in an adult criminal court.

Racial and ethnic disparities are seen throughout the juvenile justice system, but the disparity widens as youth move deeper into the system. This report will provide a race/contact point comparison for all contact points that are collected by the State.

DATA COLLECTION

What is meant by the term “contact?” Federal law requires data to be collected at multiple points of contact within the juvenile justice system, including arrest, referral to court, diversion, secure detention, petition, delinquent findings, probation, confinement to secure facilities, and certification to adult criminal court.

The data management system in Nevada is fragmented. Some of the State’s data are held in various locations such as local police stations, county probation departments, juvenile courts, and State juvenile corrections. While the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is the state agency, it does not have administrative or operational authority over the seventeen counties in the State of Nevada. It is not possible for DCFS to confirm whether the data provided in this report is complete or accurate. However, DCFS does have good working relationships with the seventeen counties and believes the counties provide the best data available to DCFS for the analysis used in this report.

DCFS collects data on status offenders and youth within adult jails/lockups monthly. This data collection is separate from the annual juvenile crime data provided by the counties. Status offender data is received monthly from the seven-county operated juvenile detention facilities. DCFS relies on adult jails to report the number of youths within their facilities monthly as well. This data is partially verified during on-site compliance visits of between 10 and 33 percent of these facilities annually (based on available staff resources).

CONTACT POINTS AND DEFINITIONS

Nevada utilizes the following contact points and definitions in assessing Nevada's disproportionate minority contact. Data is collected for each measure by gender and by race.

Referral:	Referral is when a police report or any report is received. Some may lead to an arrest, and some may not.
Referral Source:	Where are the referrals coming from?
Arrest:	Arrest is when a youth is booked on probable cause. This may be the same number as referrals and/or secure detention in some areas. Arrest data is broken down further in the following categories in the State's RED Action Plan.
Diversion:	This can be informal probation, other informal activities, or a diversion by the juvenile court. Diversions are broken down by felony diversions, gross misdemeanor diversions and misdemeanor diversions.
Secure Detention:	Youth placed in a county juvenile detention facility, or a county adult jail based on a charge and booking. Detention does NOT include youth held in shelters, group homes, or other non-secure facilities.
Petitioned:	The youth will face delinquent charges in juvenile court or a formal hearing process. This is when charges are filed.
Petitioned (Status):	This is an additional measure for petitions, to capture the number of status offender specific petitions.
Adjudication:	Youth are found to be delinquent during adjudicatory hearings in juvenile court. Being found (or adjudicated) delinquent is roughly equivalent to being convicted in criminal court. It is a formal legal finding of responsibility.
Probation:	Formal placement on probation by the court, this is not informal probation used as a diversion tactic, formal only. May be determined formally or informally.
County Camp:	Placement in China Springs, Aurora Pines, or Spring Mountain Youth Camps at the county level prior to deeper involvement in the system or commitment to a state correctional facility.
Secure Confinement:	Commitment to a state correctional facility. The court commits the youth to DCFS, which operates three state facilities.
Certified:	This is done either through a direct file or through the juvenile court. If a youth is certified through juvenile court, their case will be heard in adult criminal court. This data is captured through the juvenile system. Note: Direct files bypass juvenile court and go right to adult criminal court. DCFS does not have access to the number of juveniles who bypass the juvenile court system and go directly to adult criminal court.

SECTION 1: JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, POPULATION BREAKDOWN, AND CONTACT POINT COMPARISON

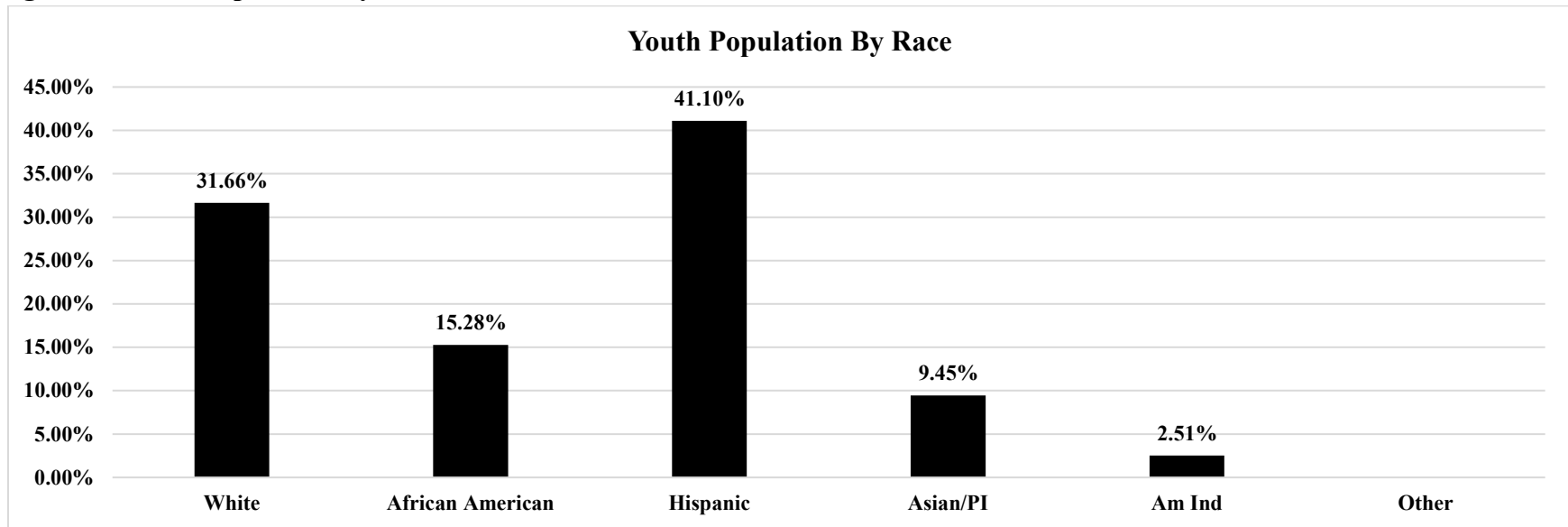
To assess juvenile justice system trends, the demographics of the jurisdiction must be outlined for comparison. The Easy Access Juvenile Population (EZAPOP) website (www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/), approved by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), estimates that the total youth population is 697,589, as indicated in Figure 1.

Note: The Easy Access Juvenile Population (EZAPOP) did not include “Other/Mixed” in the breakdown.

Figure 1: Youth Ages Zero – 17 by County

County	Total Youth	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI	Am Ind	Males	Females
Carson	11,388	5,574	368	4,509	397	540	5,750	5,638
Churchill	5,799	3,412	347	1,341	218	481	2,961	2,838
Clark	525,413	134,510	98,773	226,478	56,309	9,343	267,987	257,426
Douglas	7,653	5,091	184	1,810	229	339	4,021	3,632
Elko	14,228	7,918	293	4,592	254	1,171	7,339	6,889
Esmeralda	129	69	8	40	0	12	71	58
Eureka	477	370	14	73	4	16	250	227
Humboldt	4,544	2,436	107	1,635	75	291	2,298	2,246
Lander	1,455	849	39	431	15	121	724	731
Lincoln	1,009	857	28	87	12	25	537	472
Lyon	12,221	7,326	516	3,333	311	735	6,338	5,883
Mineral	871	304	69	210	41	247	451	420
Nye	7,915	4,648	471	2,288	272	236	4,011	3,904
Pershing	1,092	540	50	370	19	113	559	533
Storey	513	399	15	73	18	8	253	260
Washoe	100,997	45,333	5,277	39,007	7,708	3,672	51,796	49,201
White Pine	1,885	1,187	62	433	23	180	968	917
Total	697,589	220,823	106,621	286,710	65,905	17,530	356,314	341,275
Percentage		31.66%	15.28%	41.10%	9.45%	2.51%	51.08%	48.92%

Figure 2: Youth Population by Race 0 – 17 Years



The EZAPOPOP website (www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/) estimates these percentages as the racial/ethnic population breakdown. The youth population in Nevada is majority Hispanic (41.1 percent) followed by White (31.7 percent), Other (18.09%), African American third at 15.3 percent.

This is the baseline for all contact point population comparisons.

The following data, with exception of “total youth” in both Figures 3 and 4, is derived from local departments of juvenile services for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, which is Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. Data is presented either 1) aggregate number format, or 2) line graph percentage format. The line graph percentage format is compared to the baseline indicated in Figure #2 to identify disparities based on race/ethnicity.

The “total youth” in Figures 3 and 4 are taken from the EZAPOPOP website (www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/) which provides a population breakdown for Nevada.

Figure 3: Juvenile Crime Data/Contact Points for 2023

County	Total Youth	Referrals	Arrests	Sec/ Det County	Confined State	Certified as Adult	Formal Probation Placement	Placed In County Camp	Diverted	Petitioned Delinquent	Petitioned Status Offense	Delinquent Finding
Carson	11,388	766	232	232	9	0	135	8	401	116	0	85
Churchill	5,799	745	172	102	2	0	114	6	290	213	30	194
Clark	525,413	8437	3744	3258	186	77	1377	123	3,258	2,755	445	1,504
Douglas	7,653	149	73	73	4	0	26	7	112	55	3	42
Elko	14,228	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	477	6	1	1	0	0	3	0	2	4	0	4
Humboldt	4,544	268	42	38	0	0	11	0	88	70	1	4
Lander	1,455	214	11	11	0	0	3	0	61	12	24	10
Lincoln	1,009	10	5	4	2	0	0	0	1	9	4	7
Lyon	12,221	842	107	37	1	0	102	6	0	204	21	213
Mineral	871	81	4	4	0	0	3	1	15	17	17	16
Nye/Esmeralda	7,915	297	17	17	4	1	19	2	122	63	-	17
Pershing	1,092	113	4	4	0	0	1	0	4	6	73	17
Storey	513	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0
Washoe	100,997	2731	1056	646	32	5	362	20	712	410	0	280
White Pine	1,885	191	9	9	0	0	7	1	6	59	77	59
Total	697,589	14,875	5477	4436	240	83	2163	174	5094	3993	695	2452

Note: Some counties were unable to pull data due to report generation issues.

Charts/Figures may include an N. N represents the aggregate number of the identified contact point. For example, for referrals, N=14,875.

Figure 4: Gender Breakdown

Gender	Total Youth	Referrals	Arrests	Sec/Det County	Confined State	Certified as Adult	Formal Probation Placement	Place in County Camp	Diverted	Petitioned	Petitioned Status Off	Delinquent
Males	356,314	9860	3895	2766	185	80	1734	163	3194	3153	474	1959
Females	341,275	5015	1582	1670	55	3	429	11	2196	840	221	493
Total	697,589	14,875	5,477	4,436	240	83	2,163	174	5,390	3,993	695	2,452

Note: Not all departments of juvenile services were able to break down gender data at the referral contact point.

The juvenile justice system in Nevada is bifurcated between individual counties and the state. Individual counties are responsible for referrals to the juvenile justice system and all functions until commitment to a state facility or certification as an adult. The Juvenile Justice

Funnel below indicates the flow of youth through the system with county functions from Arrest/Citation through County Youth Camps. State function begins at State Correctional Placement and Adult Certification.

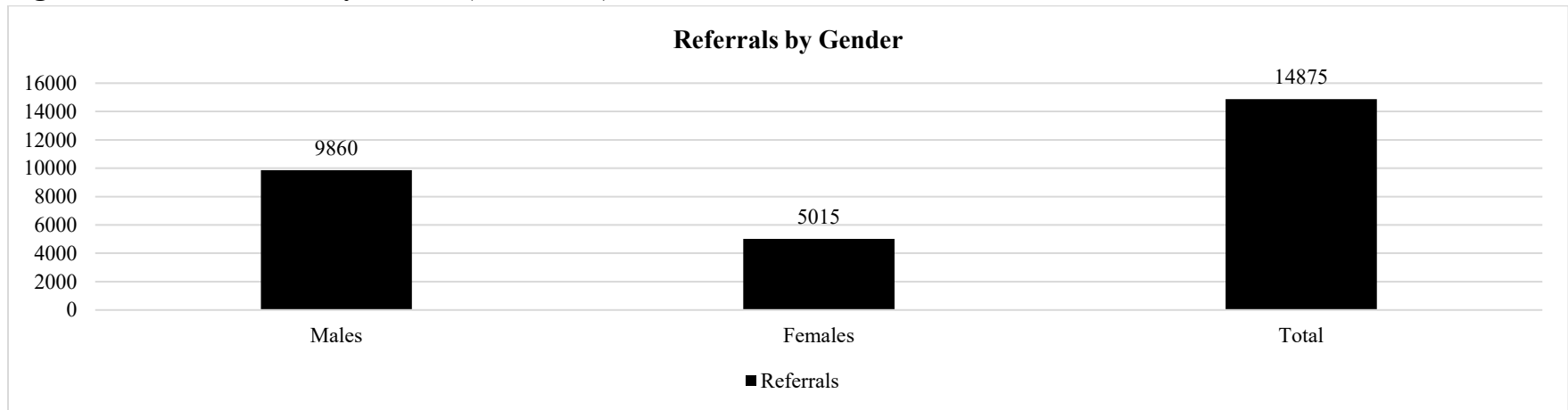
Figure 5: Juvenile Justice Funnel



The Juvenile Justice Funnel in Figure 5 does not include several important contact points such as referral, secure detention, petition, and delinquent findings. Those contact points are also county functions. The first contact point with the juvenile justice system in Nevada is through a referral to a local department of juvenile services. Most referrals are males, as indicated in Figure 6.

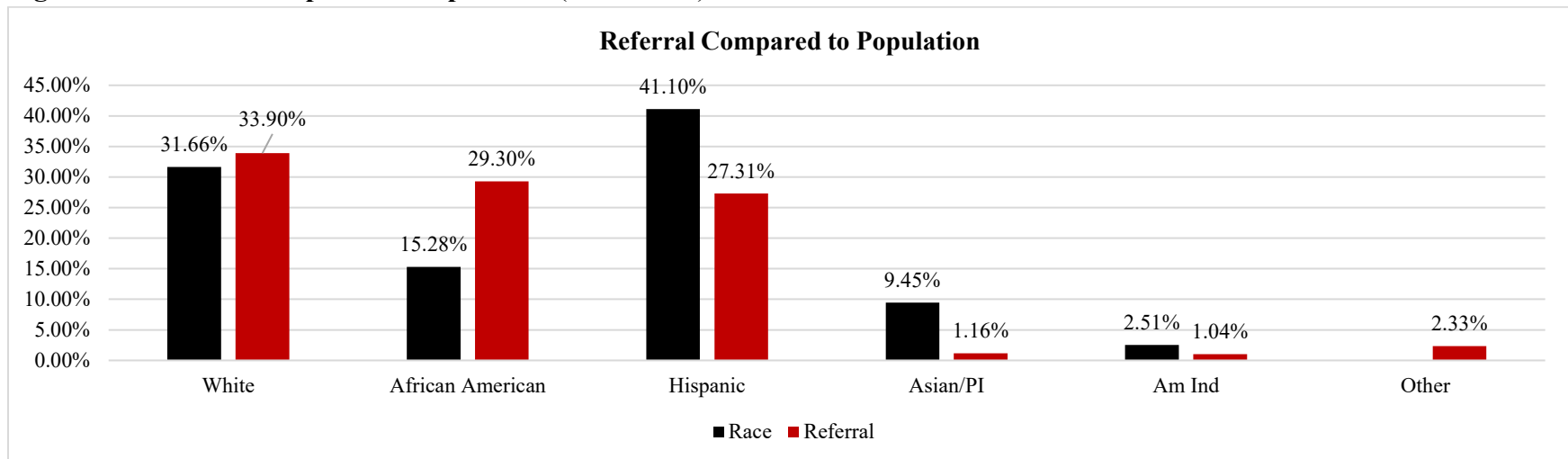
Contact point comparisons in several of the following figures will use Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 data as obtained from local departments of juvenile services.

Figure 6: Total Referrals by Gender (N = 14,875)



Just over sixty-six percent of referrals are males.

Figure 7: Referral Compared to Population (N = 14,875)

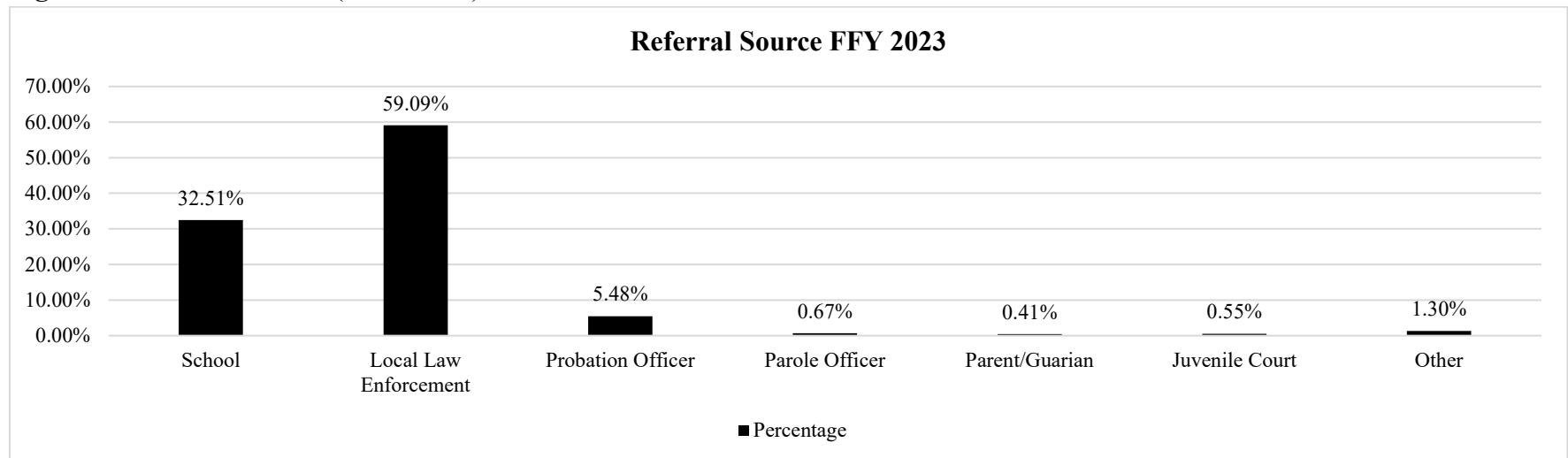


The majority of the referrals are White youth, followed by Hispanic, and African American (Black).

Based on this data alone, disparity is found at referral for both White and African American youth, while Hispanic youth are underrepresented. In addition, American Indian youth are slightly overrepresented in the system. The “other category” seems overrepresented, but there is no “other” category reported on EZAPOPOP. In Nevada, the “other” category is a combination of both unknown/not provided race/ethnicity and mixed/more than two races/not listed categories that is not included in EZAPOPOP.

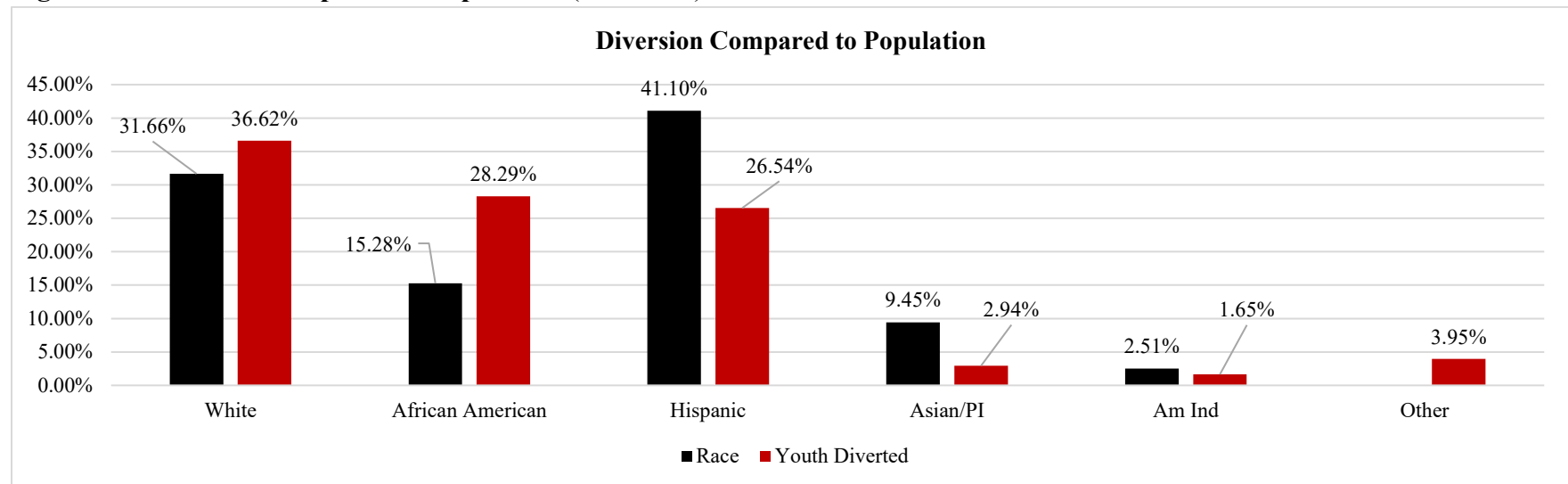
Nevada is a large rural state with two urban centers located in Southern Nevada (Las Vegas) and Northwestern Nevada (Reno). Some 400 miles separates Reno and Las Vegas, with hundreds of miles of rural cities and towns. This is important to note when looking at where referrals to the juvenile justice system come from. The two urban centers have schools with resources officers while most rural cities and towns do not. Roughly 67 percent of all referrals to the juvenile justice system come from local law enforcement. In those counties with a juvenile detention facility, local law enforcement transport youth directly to those detention centers for booking while rural law enforcement contacts juvenile probation to pick up the youth and transport them to the closest juvenile detention facility. In rural counties, local law enforcement may bring youth back to administrative offices or hold youth in the back of a police car pending the arrival of the juvenile probation officer. On rare occasions, local law enforcement will transport youth to the nearest juvenile detention facility in their police car.

Figure 8: Referral Source (N = 14,875)



Local departments of juvenile services have the option to divert youth from the juvenile justice system through a couple of different avenues. Diversion is designed to hold youth accountable for their actions while avoiding formal court processing or submerging youth deeper into the juvenile justice system. Diversion can include informal probation, other informal activities, or another form of diversion ordered by the juvenile court as indicated in Figure 9.

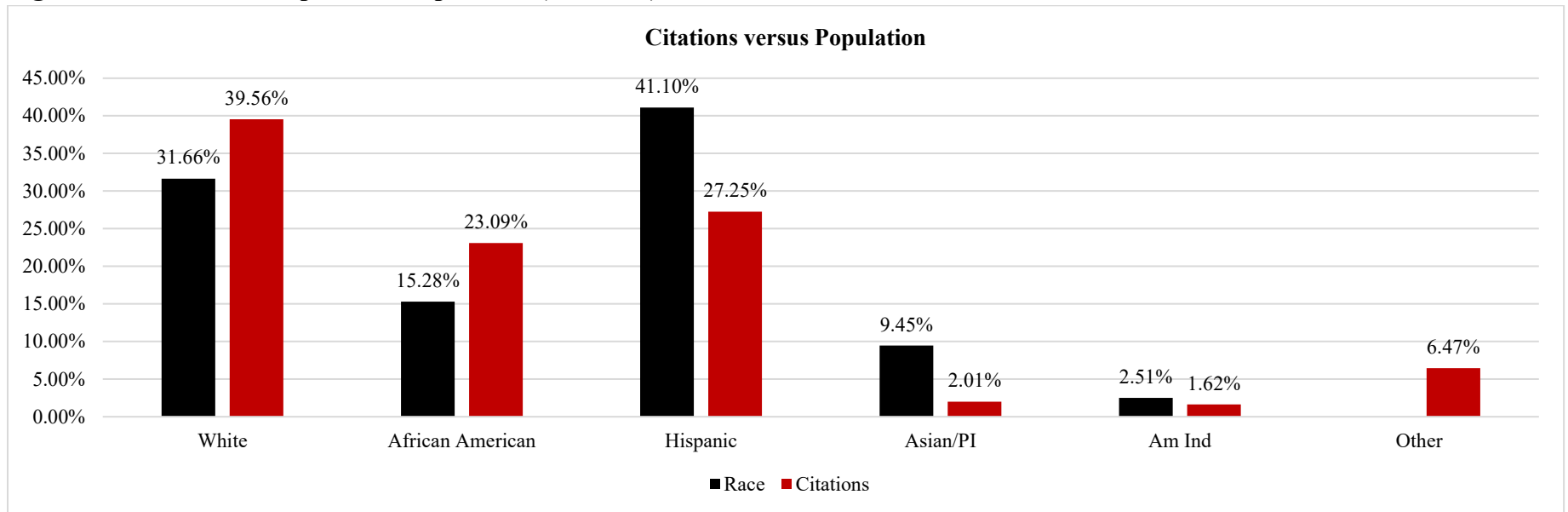
Figure 9: Diversion Compared to Population (N = 5,094)



Based on this figure alone, White and African American are overrepresented in diversions while Hispanic and Asian youth is underrepresented. But this is only part of the story of diversion.

Another diversionary tool is the issuance of Citations. This can be done by local law enforcement or local departments of juvenile services. Citations are indicated in Figure #10.

Figure 10: Citation Compared to Population (N= 2,040)



Citations follow a similar pattern as Diversions in Figure 9.

Figure 11: Breakdown of Diversions (N = 5,094)

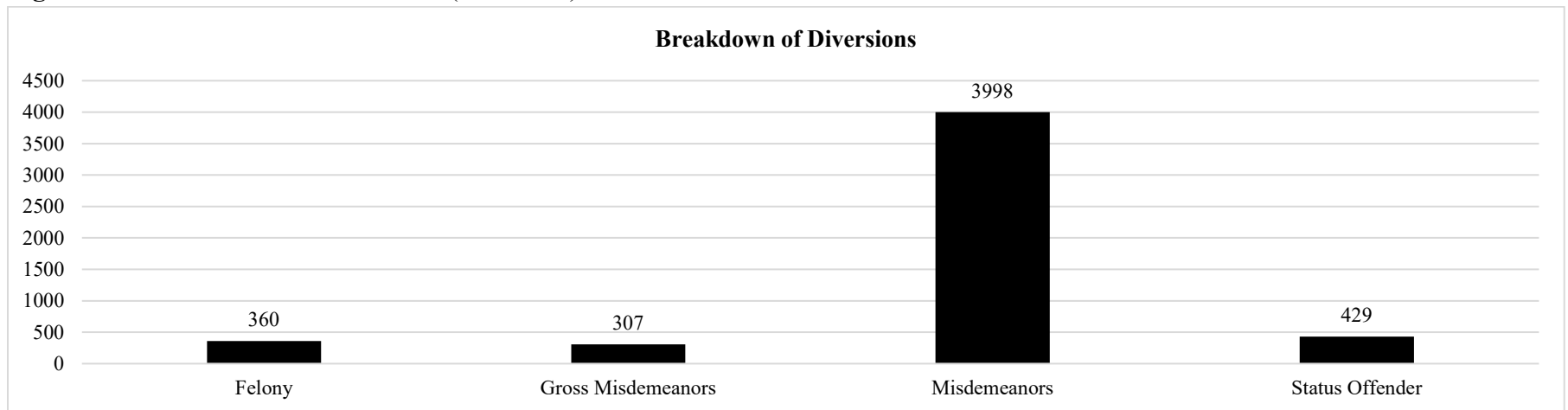
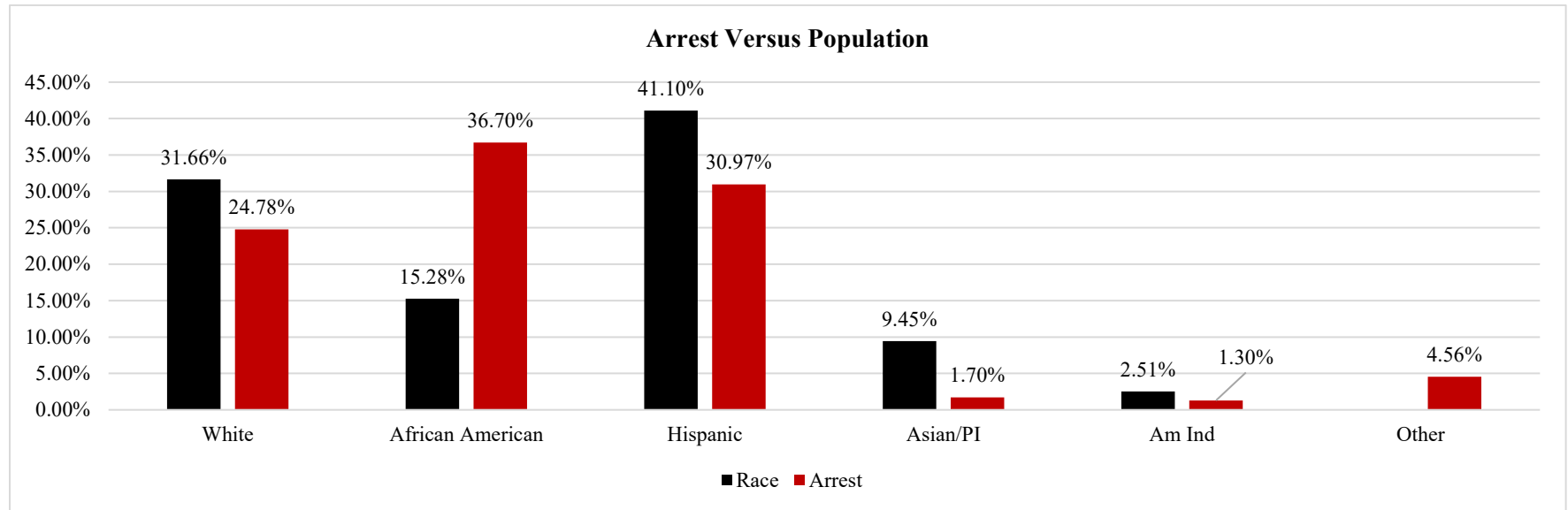


Figure 11 indicates that just over 78 percent of all diversions are for misdemeanor offenses.

Overall, just over 34 percent of all referrals that enter the juvenile justice system are diverted. Those that are not diverted are captured in additional contact points starting with arrest and secure detention placement. As indicated in Figure 6, males make up more than 66 percent of referrals, but they make up an even greater percentage of youths as additional contact points are discussed. At arrest, males make up over 71 percent of all juvenile arrests, and over 96 percent of certifications.

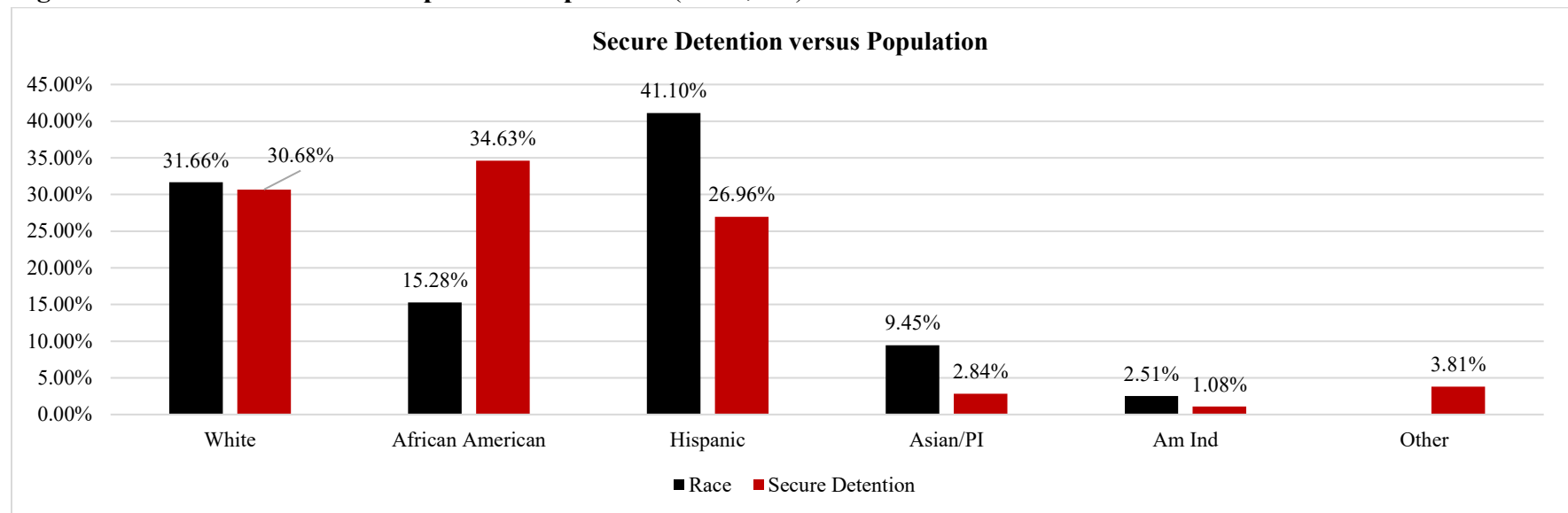
Figure 12: Juvenile Arrest Compared to Population (N = 5,477)



African American youth are overrepresented at this contact point while White, Hispanic, and Asian are underrepresented.

Moving on to the next contact point of Secure Detention Placement, males make up over 72 percent of this contact point. Seven (7) of Nevada's seventeen (17) counties operate a juvenile detention facility. Those counties that do not operate a juvenile detention facility contract with those nearby counties that do have a facility for detention services. Secure detention includes only those youth who are placed in a county detention facility and does not include those placed in group homes, out of state homes, residential treatment facilities, or other acute medical facilities.

Figure 13: Secure Detention Compared to Population (N = 4,436)



The secure detention comparison is similar to the arrest comparison that indicates overrepresentation of African American youth.

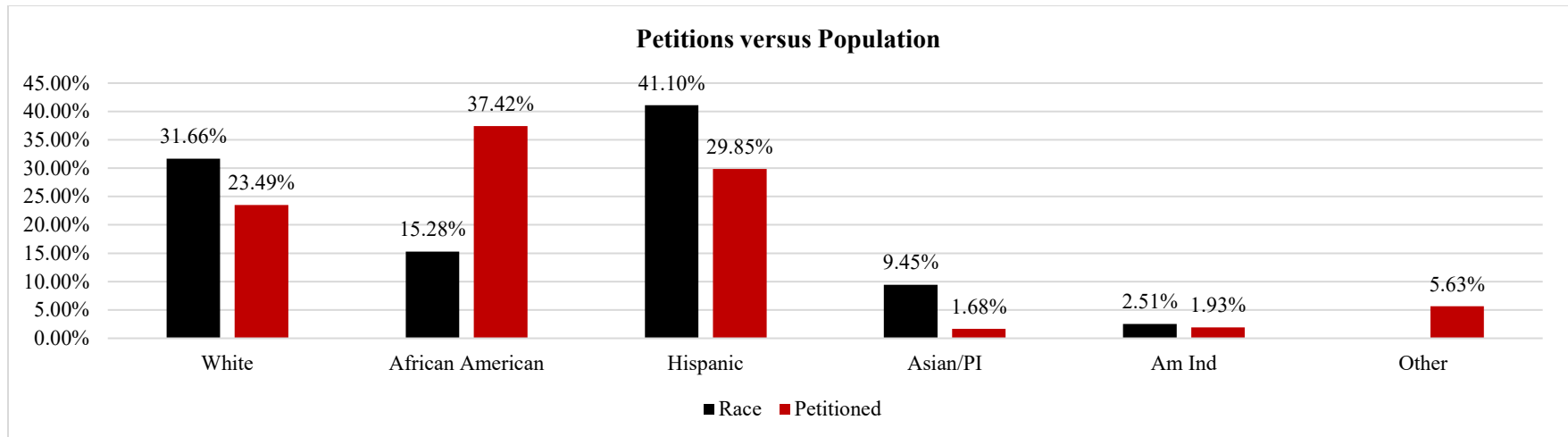
Figure 14: Top Ten Arrest Types by Year

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
1. Domestic Battery	Assault/Battery	Use of a deadly weapon in a crime or Possession of a deadly weapon	Assault/Battery	Assault/Battery	Assault/Battery
2. Conspiracy to commit a crime	Violation of Probation/Parole	Assault/Battery	Domestic Battery	Possession of Marijuana	Possession or use of an illegal drug
3. Violation of Parole/Probation	Grand Larceny	Violation of Parole/Probation	Violation of Probation/Parole	Fighting	Fighting
4. Assault/Battery	Possession of a firearm or other deadly weapon only	Domestic Battery	Possession, sale, or use of an illegal drug	Violation of Probation/Parole	Violation of Probation/Parole
5. Obstructing Police / Resisting arrest/False Statement to Police /Concealing evidence	Domestic Battery	Burglary/Theft	Grand Larceny	Possession of a controlled substance	Curfew
6. Possession of a firearm	Assault/Battery with a deadly weapon	Conspiracy to commit crime/criminal contempt	Bench Writ/Warrant	Curfew	Petit Larceny

7. CHINS	Obstructing Police / Resisting arrest/False Statement to Police /Concealing evidence	Runaway	Possession or a deadly weapon or use of a deadly weapon during a crime	Theft/burglary	Habitual Truancy
8. Possession of a deadly weapon (not a firearm)	Bench Writ/Warrant	Obstructing Police / Resisting arrest/False Statement to Police /Concealing evidence	Obstructing Police/Providing false information	Truancy	Obstructing a police officer/False Statement to Police
9. Grand Larceny	Possession and/or sale of controlled substance (not Marijuana)	Use, Possession, or sale of controlled substance	Theft/burglary	Trespassing	Burglary/Theft
10. Assault/Battery with a deadly weapon	Theft/burglary	Other/Traffic related	CHINS	Domestic battery	Trespassing

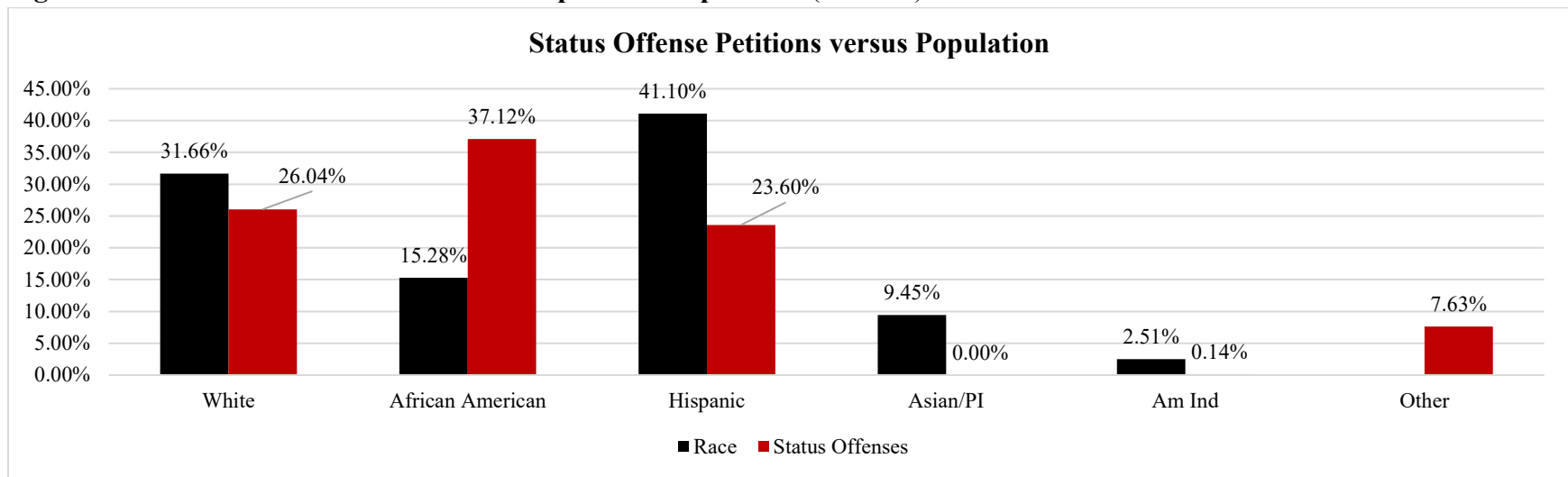
As the youth moves through the system, a petition may be filed with a juvenile court. There are two types of petitions: delinquent and status offense. A petition is asking a juvenile court to render a determination on a delinquent or status offense charge and to recommend a disposition.

Figure 15: Petitions for Delinquent Charges Compared to Population (N = 1,665)



As this contact point, African American are overrepresented while all other categories are underrepresented.

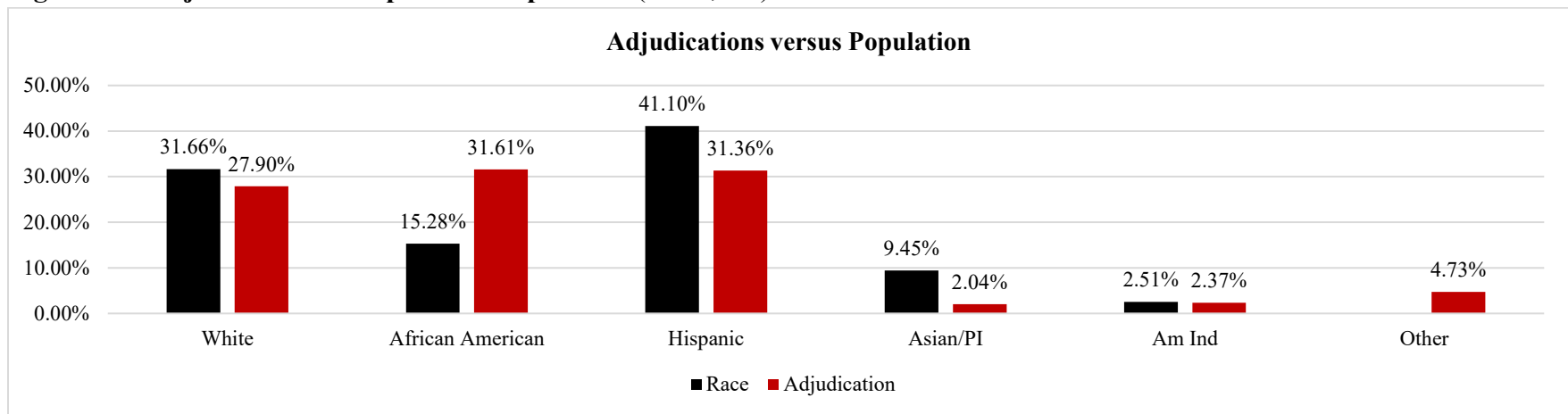
Figure 16: Petitions for Status Offenses Compared to Population (N = 695)



Status offense petitions follows a similar line with overrepresentation of African American youth, and an underrepresentation of White and Hispanic youth.

An adjudication is a finding that a youth has committed the act in which they are charged with.

Figure 17: Adjudications Compared to Population (N = 2,452)

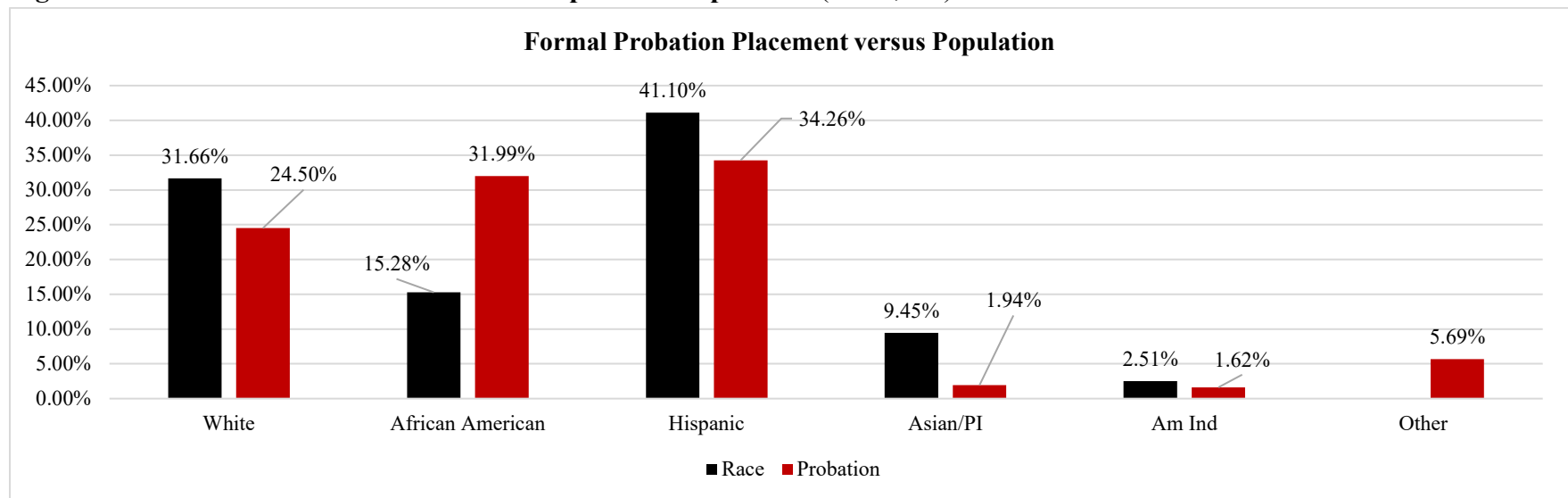


As this contact point, African American are overrepresented while all other categories are underrepresented.

Once a juvenile court has adjudicated a youth, they may also render a disposition which is a determination of a course of action for the crime/situation of an individual youth. Youths may be placed on 1) formal probation, 2) placed in a county youth camp, 3) committed to DCFS for correctional care, or 4) certified as an adult.

Probation in Nevada is counted as youth placed on formal probation or supervision activities through the juvenile court. Informal probation and supervision activities are captured under diversion.

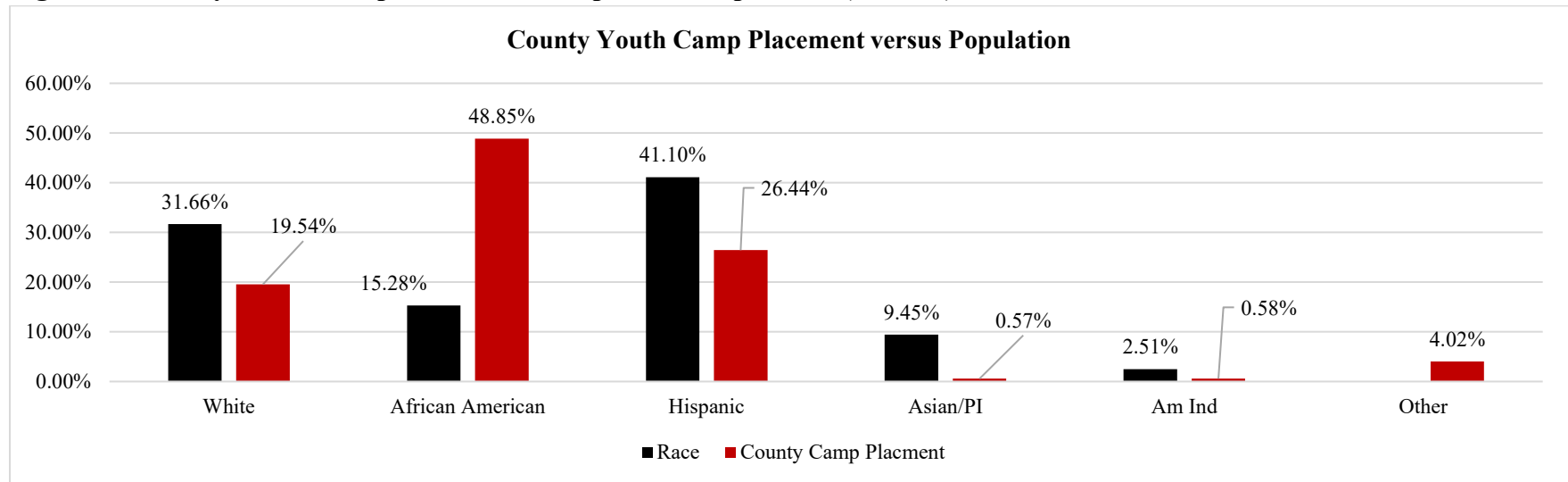
Figure 18: Formal Probation Placement Compared to Population (N = 2,163)



Based on the proportion of the state population, disparity is noted in at formal probation placement for African American youth, while all other categories are underrepresented.

The state has two county youth camps; one in Southern Nevada that serves Clark County males only, and one in Northern Nevada that serves the entire state except Clark County, both males and females. The premise of a youth camp is to provide a residential option for youth at moderate to high risk of recidivating.

Figure 19: County Youth Camp Placement Compared to Population (N = 174)

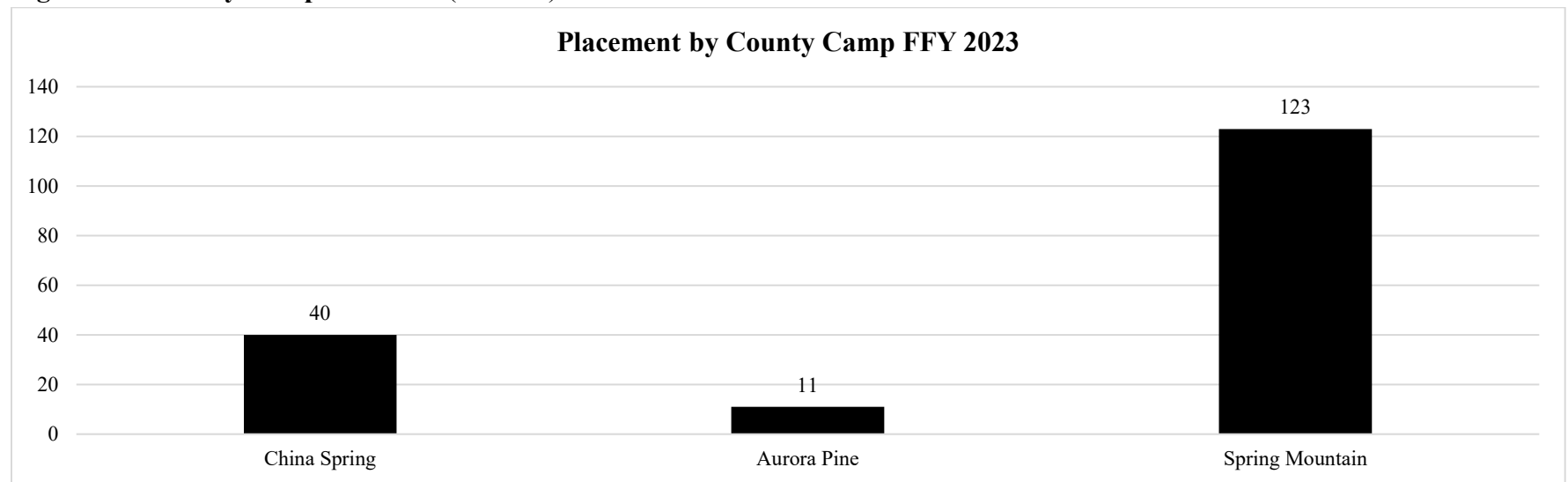


Similar to the previous contact point, there is a significant increase in African American youth placed in county youth camps, while all other races are underrepresented.

Judges in Nevada may order youth to extend detention stays, formal probation, county camp placement, or commit to state custody for juvenile corrections. There are two available county camps, one is in Clark County, which is for male youth only, and one in Douglas County which accepts both males and females. In many cases, the youth that fail placement at the county camp level will be placed in the state's custody for placement in one of the three juvenile justice detention facilities. County camp placements occur prior to state custody, state custody is the last resort or the deepest end of the juvenile justice system in the State of Nevada.

China Spring and Aurora Pine are located on the same property in Douglas County. All counties with exception of Clark County sends youth to this camp. Aurora Pine is the only camp in the state that accepts females.

Figure 20: County Camp Placment (N = 174)



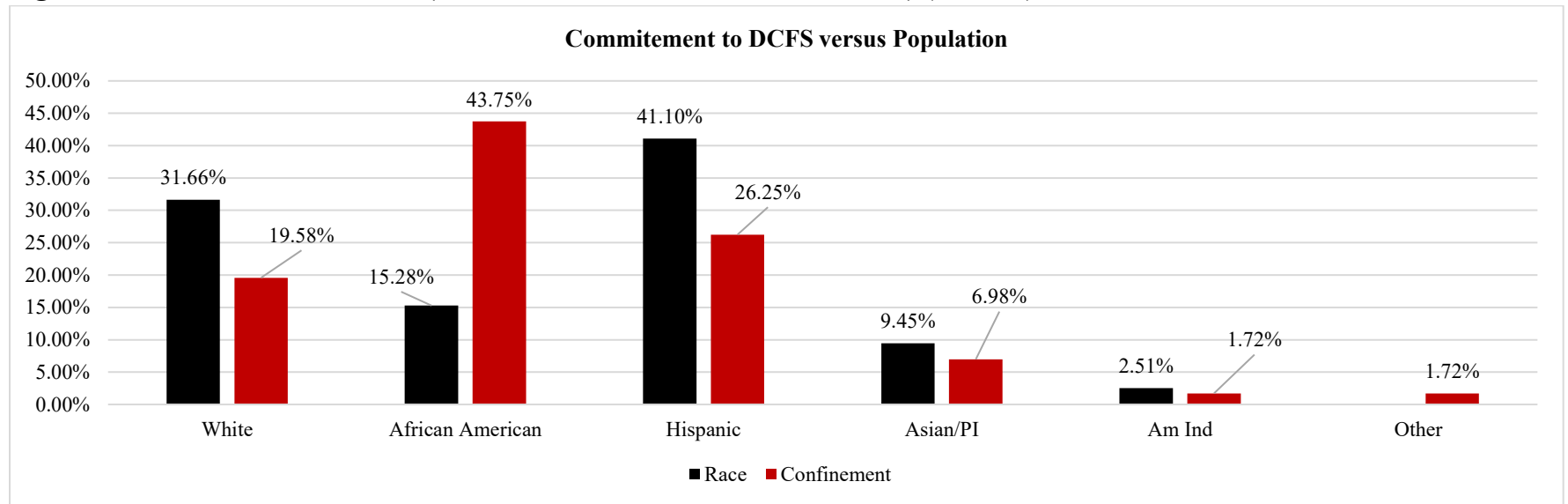
Spring Mountain is located in Clark County and serves Clark County males only. China Spring/Aurora Pine is a camp in Northern Nevada that serves males and females from all counties except Clark County. China Spring is for males and Aurora Pine is for females.

The first system involvement youth have with the state is secure confinement. This is considered the deep end of the system. The state provides juvenile corrections through the operation of three youth centers in the state: Nevada Youth Training Center (NYTC) in Elko, Caliente Youth Center (CYC) in Caliente, and Summit View Youth Center (SVYC) in Las Vegas.

- NYTC is coed with 54 beds for males and 6 beds for females.
- CYC is coed with 60 beds for males and 20 beds for females.
- SYVC is male only with 48 beds.

Based on the FY 23 data (referrals/secure confinement), 1.61 percent of youth end up in the deep end of the system.

Figure 21: Commitment to DCFS (Secure Confinement/Correctional Care) (N = 240)



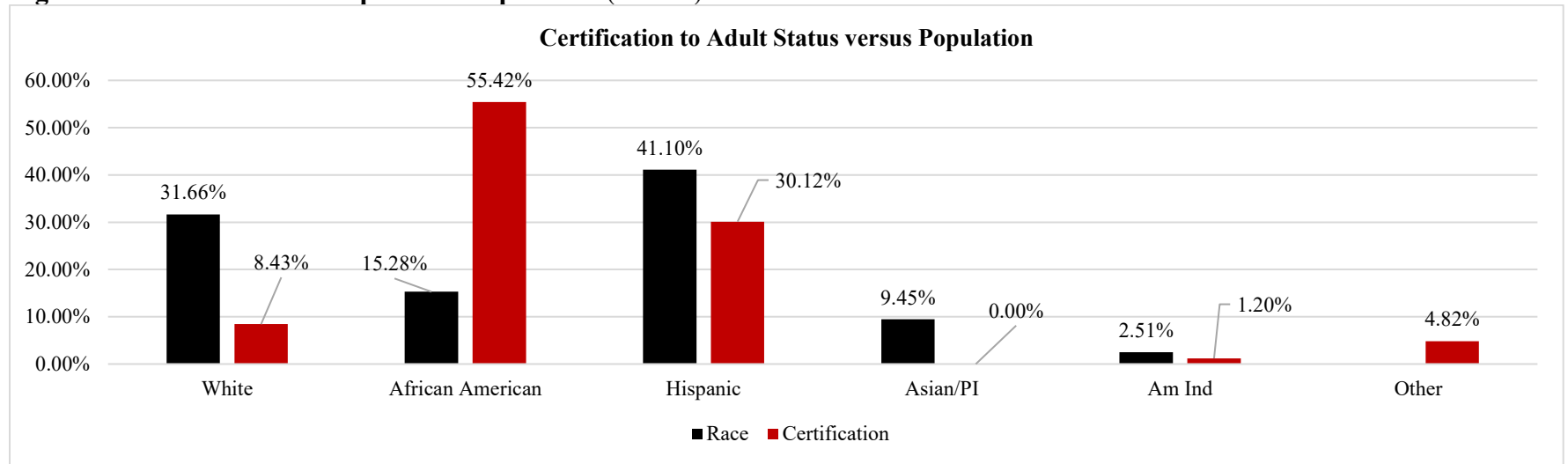
Similar to the previously two listed contact points, there is a significant increase in African American youth committed to DCFS for secure confinement, while all other races are underrepresented.

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 62B.335.4.b allows for the certification of a youth from juvenile status to adult status through the juvenile court if the offense is comparable to a category A or B felony in the state. Further, the youth must be at least 16 years of age.

Nevada also allows for a youth to bypass the juvenile court and be direct filed to adult criminal court in accordance with NRS 62B.330.3. As with certification, the youth must be 16 years of age and alleged to have committed: murder, attempted murder, a felony resulting in death or serious bodily harm, a felony committed against property of a public school or against school employees, or a crime involving a deadly weapon.

However, for data collection purposes, only those youth who begin in juvenile court (certified) is captured in this report (Figure 22). Currently DCFS does not have access to adult criminal court data. DCFS does track and monitor juveniles in detention settings pending adult criminal charges. This is captured as part of the annual Compliance Report.

Figure 22: Certification Compared to Population (N = 83)



Similar to the previously listed three contact points, there is a significant increase in African American youth who are Certified to Adult Status, while all other races are underrepresented.

CONCLUSION

Based on the FY 2023, African American youth are overrepresented at almost every contact point, while White and Hispanic youths appear to be underrepresented at many contact points.

- 1) White youth are overrepresented at referral, diversion, and citations.
- 2) Hispanic youth are underrepresented at every contact point.
- 3) African American youth are overrepresented at every contact point.
- 4) Asian/Pacific Islander youth are underrepresented at every contact point.
- 5) American Indian/Alaska Native youth are underrepresented at every contact point.

These indicators seem to shift the conversation in a different direction; one that acknowledges and applauds the work done nationally to reduce the number of juveniles in the system, but also one that has seen a shift in disparities. Nevada is not seeing disparity under the

auspice of “youth of color” where all minority groups indicate disparity. Hispanic youth are underrepresented in the system overall, while significant disparity is still indicated with African American youth. Lastly, White youth are overrepresented in system contact points.

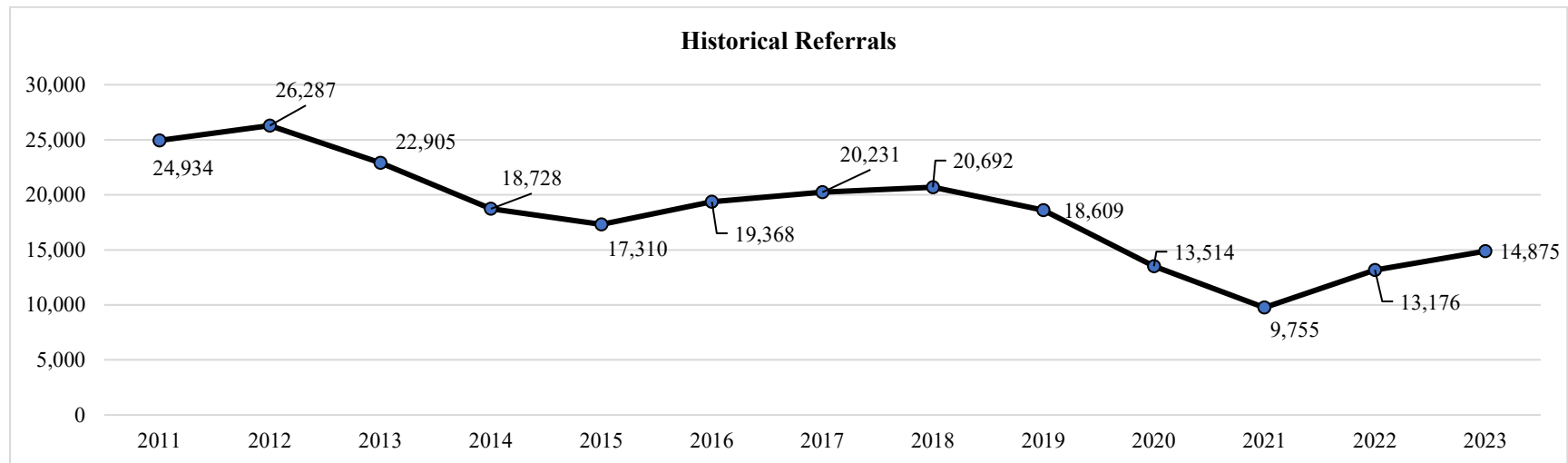
SECTION 2: ACTION PLAN – QUESTIONS FROM OJJDP

1. What does your RED number tell you about your Jurisdiction?

The state's RED numbers indicate three distinct issues: 1) Disparity exists at a greater rate in urban counties; 2) African American disparity is seen at all contact points and 3) African American youth face greater disparity as they move deeper into the system. In addition, the state's RED numbers indicate that 1) White youth are overrepresented at a handful of contact points, 2) males are significantly overrepresented, and 3) Hispanic youth are underrepresented.

Comparison/Analysis:

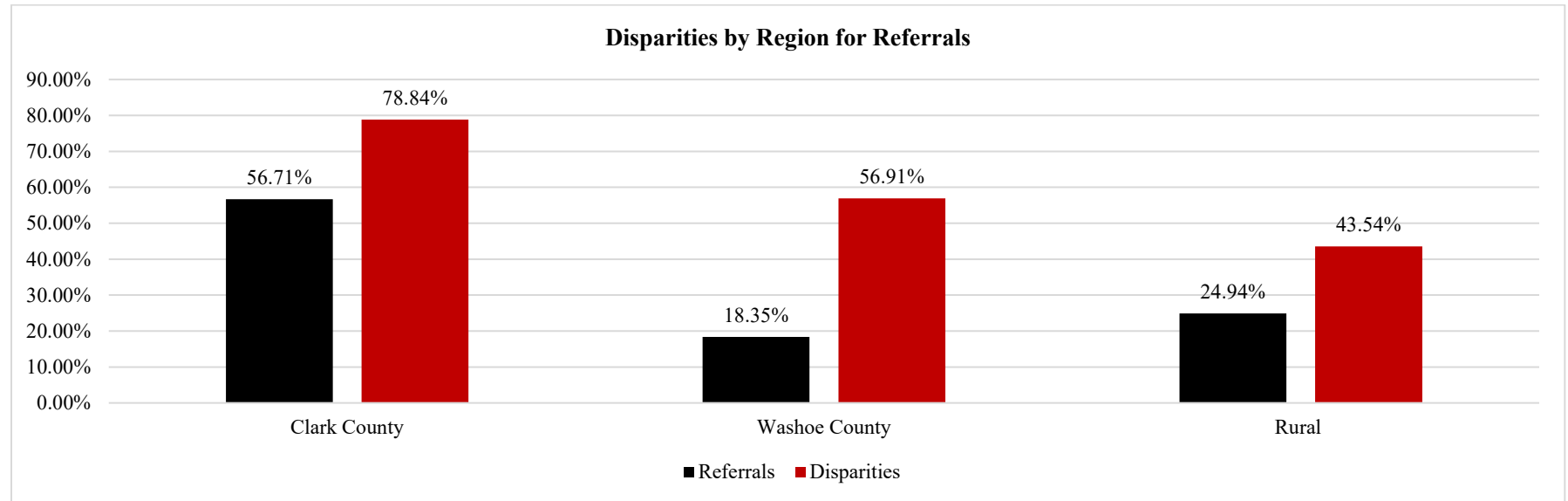
Chart 1: Referrals



Overall, the state has made significant strides in reducing the number of youths who enter the juvenile justice system. This is due in large part to the efforts in Clark County (the state's largest county which has 75 percent of the total population). Clark County has established juvenile assessment centers around the county to address status offenses and minor issues with juveniles, rather than making a referral to the Clark County Department of Juvenile Services. There are currently five locations.

The drop in referrals has reduced the number of youths who receive disparate treatment in the juvenile justice system but has not eliminated it. Rather, the data reflects a shift in the disparity conversation to 1) Hispanic youth are underrepresented in every contact point, and 2) White youth are overrepresented in some contact points, and 3) African American youth are overrepresented in every contact point.

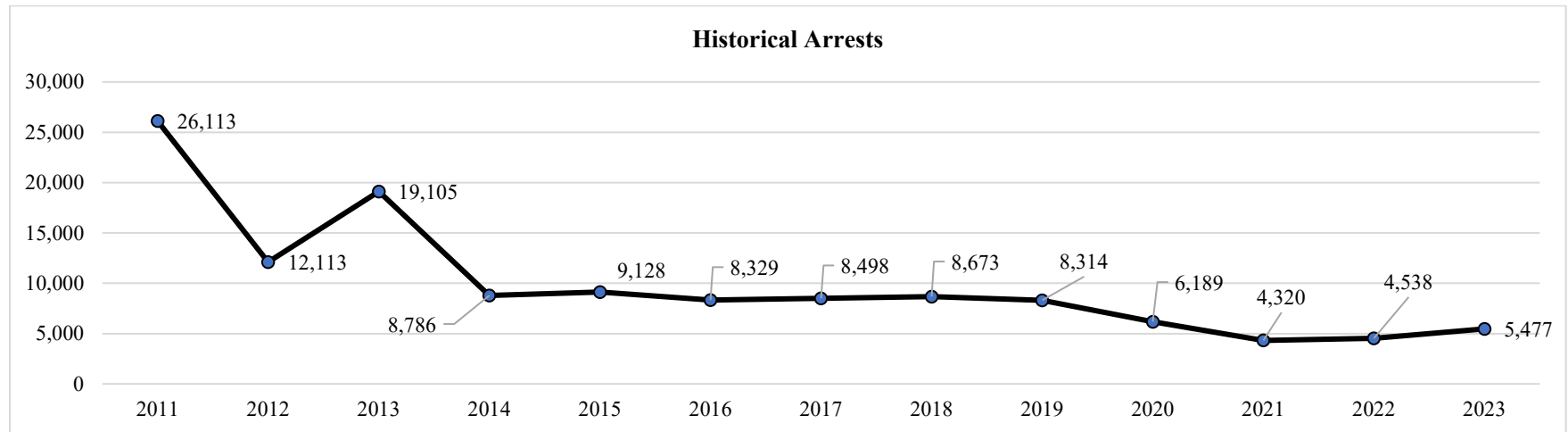
Chart 2: Disparities by Region for Referrals



Disparities = all minorities.

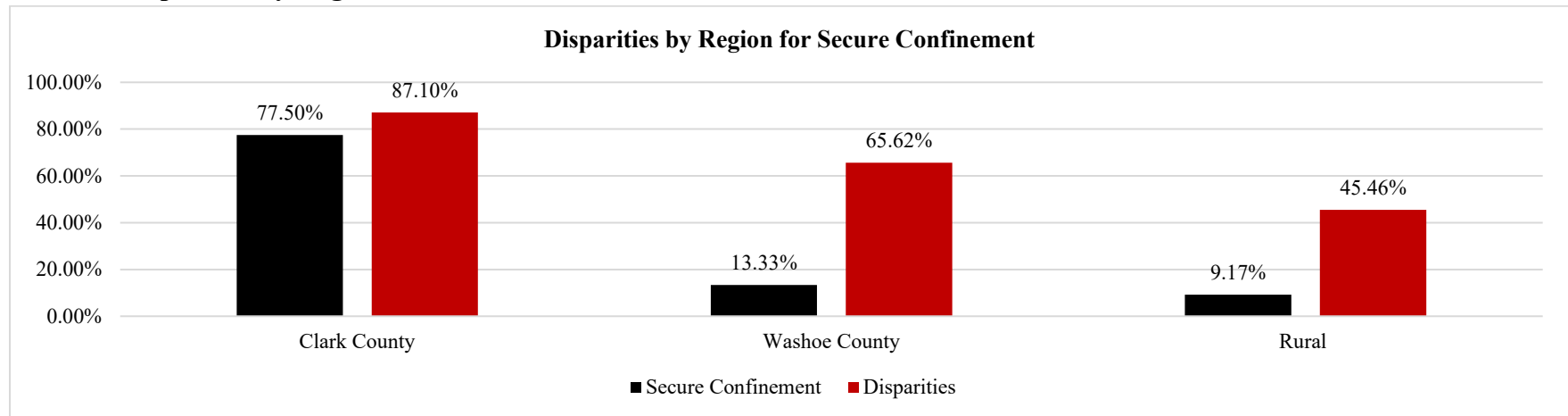
Chart 2 outlines the percentage of total referrals by region, split into three regions. Clark County is the state's largest region. It is urban and consists of 75 percent of the state's population. Secondly is Washoe County, which is also urban and the state's second largest county. Lastly, the remaining 15 counties are combined as "rural".

Chart 3: Historical Arrests



As with referrals, arrests have dropped over the past decade and seemed to level off for the past two years. As with referrals, the drop in arrests has not reduced disparity. Figure 9 shows an underrepresentation of both White and Hispanic youths and an overrepresentation of African American youth.

Chart 4: Disparities by Region for Secure Confinement



Disparities = all minorities.

Charts 1 and 3 signify a drop in both referrals and arrests over time, but these drops do not remove disparities from the system. Charts 2 and 4 indicate greater disparities in the urban areas.

2. What would success in RED reduction look like for your jurisdiction?

Nevada has focused on increased awareness of racial and ethnic disparities over the last two years, rather than the actual numbers. Overall, the numbers indicate that disparity exists in Nevada in the juvenile justice system, but also other systems, such as children's mental health and child welfare. This realization has placed an increased focus on awareness of the issue by the practitioners in the field doing the work and making the decisions. The state now requires all juvenile justice practitioners to be trained in cultural competence and implicit bias.

- Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 62B.607 (added in 2021) requires training in the following:
 - What implicit bias is, where it comes from, and understanding off the negative impacts of implicit bias.
 - Socioeconomic conditions in the state.
 - Historical inequities in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.
 - The impact of trauma and adverse child experiences on the decision making and behaviors of children.

NRS 62B.607 defines cultural competency as “an understanding of how people and institutions can respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, economic statuses, language backgrounds, races, ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, religions, genders, gender identities or expressions, sexual orientations, veteran statuses and other characteristics in a manner that recognizes, affirms and values the worth and preserves the dignity of people, families and communities”.

NRS 62B.607 does not include local law enforcement. However, ongoing training requirements for law enforcement were updated in 2019 to include the following topics, some of which are related to racial and ethnic disparities.

- Racial profiling
- Mental health
- Officer well-being
- Implicit bias recognition
- De-escalation
- Human trafficking
- Firearms

Success would entail 2) training impacting decision making, and 2) a downtick of disparities in the system each year.

3. How much do you want to reduce RED next year?

It is not feasible to identify a numeric value of desired reduction in RED. What is feasible is to anticipate a downward trend over time at one or more contact points within the juvenile justice system.

The Governor and the Legislature recognize the issue and the need for resolution. They have increased training requirements and awareness requirements across multiple areas within the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system.

4. Is that reasonable? If yes, why?

It is reasonable to expect the state to discuss and attempt to identify issues affecting disparity and to take steps to address those issues. It is not reasonable to expect a state to place a numeric value on the reduction of RED as it touches multiple systems and contact points. Rather, the state plans to address RED through training and education.

5. What do you need from OJJDP to be successful with your plan?

States need help with this. This problem is very complex, and the solutions are difficult and expensive. The state makes the following recommendations to OJJDP to assist.

- 1) Fund a technical assistance vendor who can create and deliver juvenile justice specific training curricula around disparity in facilities, cultural competency, implicit bias, and decision points.
- 2) Provide additional grant funding for this work.
- 3) Gather and provide updated, national data on disparities in the juvenile justice system, and
- 4) Create a toolkit for states to address this issue.

What Nevada has identified is that greater disparities exist within urban areas; even though, disparities exist throughout the juvenile justice system.

6. What safeguards will you put in place to ensure that as you work to reduce RED, you are protecting the public, holding youth accountable, and equipping youth to live crime free productive lives.

The most powerful thing the state can do is to educate. That education needs to be widespread and statewide. Juvenile justice stakeholders need to be educated as well as schools, youth, and families. Education does not mean that youth will no longer be arrested or held accountable for serious violations of the law, but rather the system is treating youth in same manner based on the violation of the law.

The following statutes outline training.

- NRS 62B.607 Implicit bias and cultural competency training
- NRS 62B.250 Training required for detention/facility staff
- NAC 62B.100 Training of employees who have direct contact with children or have supervisory duties over other employees.

SECTION 3: OUTCOME BASED EVALUATION - QUESTIONS FROM OJJDP

1. What are your new numbers?

The new numbers for FFY 23 indicate that African American Youth are overrepresented at every contact point in the system.

Chart 5: Front End System Involvement FFY 23

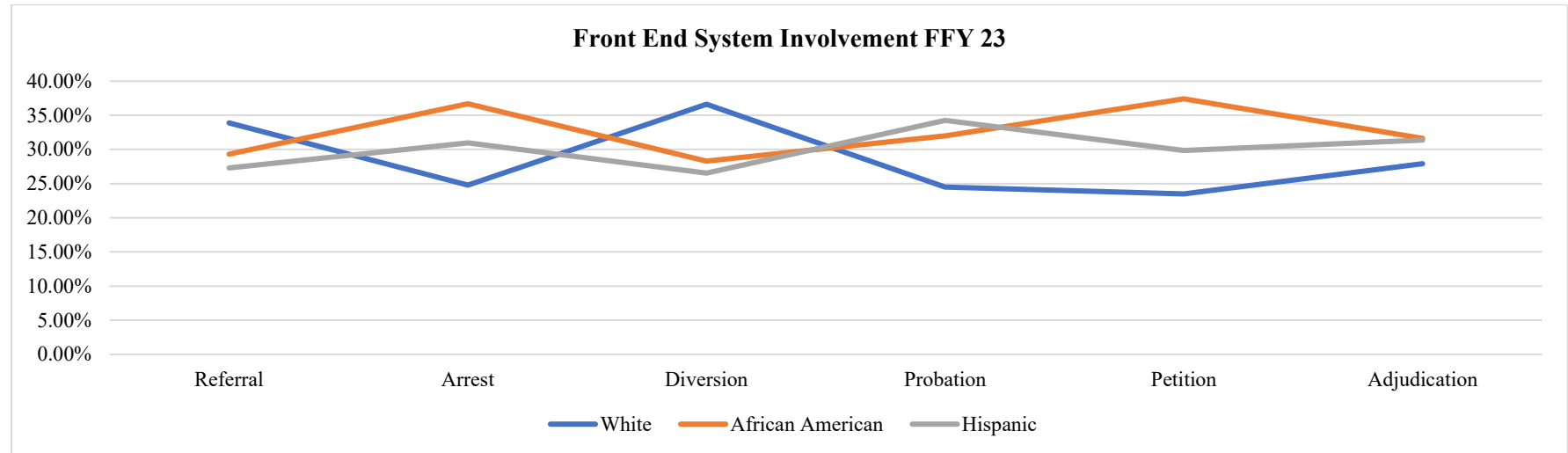
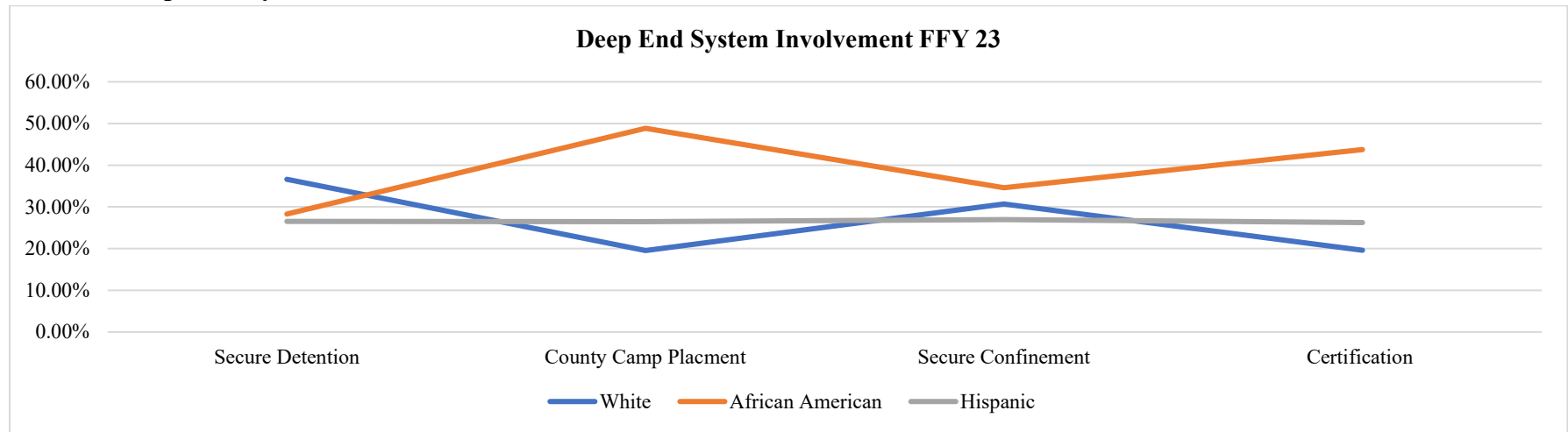


Chart 5 indicates that African American youth are overrepresented in the front end of the juvenile justice system, but further shows spikes at Arrest and Petition.

Whereas, African American youth are overrepresented throughout the juvenile justice system, the greatest and most significant disparity is seen at all placement types including Secure Detention and County Camp Placement, which are considered front end as they are operated by counties. The back end is Secure Confinement and Certification. However, to assess racial and ethnic disparities, all placement types are included on a chart titled “Deep End System Involvement”. White youth are placed in Secure Detention at a rate greater than both African American and Hispanic youth. African America youth spike at County Camp Placement and Certification.

Chart 6: Deep-End System Involvement FFY 23



2. Did you meet your goals?

The state noticed improvement in smaller categories such as Native American youth at all contact points but has saw a decrease in disparities for African American youth at all contact points with exception of one. There was a slight 1.31 percent improvement in Secure Confinement for African American youth from FY 22 to FY 23.

Nevada is 28.85 percent better than the National Average of Youth Custody Rate, and 14.58 percent better than the National Average of Black/White Disparity. ¹

3. If yes, what worked? What drove the success? If no, what were the barriers? How might you overcome them next year? What partners do you need?

One thing that has worked in the Nevada is the creation of the Harbor juvenile assessment centers in Clark County. The Harbor started roughly five years ago with one location, but now there are approximately 5 locations in Clark County. The juvenile assessment centers have decreased the number of status offenders booked into detention and may be a huge factor in the decrease in juvenile referrals to the

¹ [Detailed State Data Tool - Compare U.S. Justice Statistics – The Sentencing Project](#)

Clark County Department of Juvenile Services for arrest or other crime related services. Unfortunately, there are no juvenile assessment centers in the other 16 counties that make up the state of Nevada.

4. How can OJJDP help you next year? What do you need from us?

The juvenile assessment center model has worked well in Clark County. However, there are no plans for assessment centers in the remaining part of the state due to lack of funding. Assessment centers require funding. Clark County was able to use old county police stations as buildings, but renovations, technology and staffing requires funds. Grant funds specifically for assessment center creation would be beneficial. Maybe it could be another program area for the Formula Grant.

5. How did you protect the public, hold juvenile offenders accountable, and equip them to live a crime free life?

There are several ways the state protected the public, held offenders accountable, and equipped them with the tools to not re-offend.

- 1. Data:** Data collection and analysis is the key to decision making. There is no single clearing house for data in the state due to bifurcation, so the state must rely on data sharing agreements and cooperation from local jurisdictions to obtain accurate data. However, the state does not have the capacity or resources to verify the accuracy of data provided. Even with these challenges, the state was able to collect data. There is a need to work towards a method to verify and provide good data.

2. Risk and Needs Assessment:

Risk and Needs Assessment: In early 2018, the Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission (JJOC) selected the Youth Level of Services/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) as the statewide risk and needs assessment in accordance with NRS 62B.610(3)(a).

The YLS/CMI is an evidence-based tool that assesses the risk and need areas of a youth and shall guide the service delivery type that is best suited for the individual youth by targeting specific domains of the youth's life that may be contributing to their risk to reoffend. The YLS/CMI is completed before disposition, while a youth is on probation or parole, and while in a correctional facility. This tool shall also inform juvenile justice administrators and the courts on the best options for an individual youth such as level of supervision on parole or selecting the appropriate secure facility if necessary.

Based on DCFS commitment data (secure confinement), the right youth appear to come to the state based on their risk level of high or very high. Some youth with moderate or low risk most likely committed a crime of an egregious nature but have lower risk or reoffending.

There were 151 youths committed to the state between January to December of 2022, and 123 closures. The average risk and needs score at commitment of those 123 closures was 24.44, which falls into the high risk level for both males and females, and 19.35 at closure. This is a good indication that the services provided at DCFS are successful. Note: Data for January to December 2023 is not yet completed.

Chart 7: Outcome of Commitment to DCFS based on YLS/CMI Scores

Average Score At Commitment to DCFS	Average Score at Termination from DCFS	Percent Increase/Decrease from Average Commitment YLS/CMI to Average Termination YLS/CMI
24.44	19.35	19.35% Decrease

Overall, a youth's risk to reoffend drops from high to moderate upon release from DCFS, and ties into item number 4, compliance with evidence-based programs.

- 3. Placement:** The Nevada Revised Statutes were updated in 2017 mandating that specific findings be made by the court before they can send a youth to a state facility (NRS 62E.505). Specifically, the juvenile court must find that alternatives do not exist in the community to satisfy the youth's needs, or those community resources have been unsuccessful; and that the child is a public safety risk based on their risk of reoffending as determined by the risk assessment (YLS/CMI) and their delinquency history. The implementation of the YLS/CMI has only strengthened this law in that most of the youth sent to a state facility are of a high risk/need level that cannot be addressed in the community. Court orders now must address the elements of NRS 62E.505 prior to commitment to a state facility.
- 4. Compliance with Evidence-Based Programs:** In Nevada, county youth camps and state correctional facilities are required to receive an annual quality assurance review. These reviews utilized the Evidence-Based Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) which is a tool developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) for assessing correctional intervention programs.

The CPC is divided into two basic areas: capacity and content. The capacity area is designed to measure whether a correctional program has the capability to deliver evidence-based interventions and services for offenders. There are three domains in the capacity area including: Program Leadership and Development, Staff Characteristics, and Quality Assurance. The content area includes the Offender Assessment and Treatment Characteristics domains and focuses on the extent to which the program meets certain principles of effective intervention, namely risk, need and responsivity (RNR) principles.

Across these five domains, there are 73 indicators on the CPC, worth up to 79 total points. Each domain, each area, and the overall score are tallied and rated as either Very High Adherence to evidence-based practices (EBP) (65% to 100%), High Adherence to EBP (55% to 64%), Moderate Adherence to EBP (46% to 54%), or Low Adherence to EBP (45% or less). It should be noted that all five domains are not given equal weight, and some items may be considered not applicable in the evaluation process.

The most current average score across all five facilities is 48.98 representing moderate adherence to evidence-based programs. It should be noted that this evaluation is based on the ideal program and the higher the total adherence score, the greater the program is able to reduce recidivism. When the program has met a CPC indicator, it is considered a strength of the program. When the program has not met an indicator, it is considered an area in need of improvement. For each indicator in need of improvement, the evaluators construct a recommendation to assist the program's efforts to increase adherence to research and data-driven practices. The JJOC is responsible for overseeing facility improvement plans in relation to these quality assurance reviews.

Evidence-based programs and services are not currently reviewed; however, the counties provide an array of services that may be evidence-based, or evidence informed, as outlined in the *Evidence Based Practice Definition Matrix* of the *FY 19 – 23 Strategic Plan*.

- Keep it Direct and Simple
- What About Marijuana
- Girls Circle
- Forward Thinking
- Wilderness
- Alternatives
- Parents Project
- Arise
- Alcohol and Drug Program
- Botvin Life Skills

- 3rd Millennium Wise Programming
- Boys Counsel
- Community Services

Performance Measures: The definition of recidivism is: *“A child’s tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior after the initial intervention of the Juvenile Justice System.”*

Recidivism rates in Nevada will be measured at various points of a child’s time in the juvenile justice system.

Recidivism rates will be measured when an individual, within 3 years of initial arrest/citation, adjudication, commitment or placement into an out of home facility, placement under probation or parole supervision or when convicted as an adult is

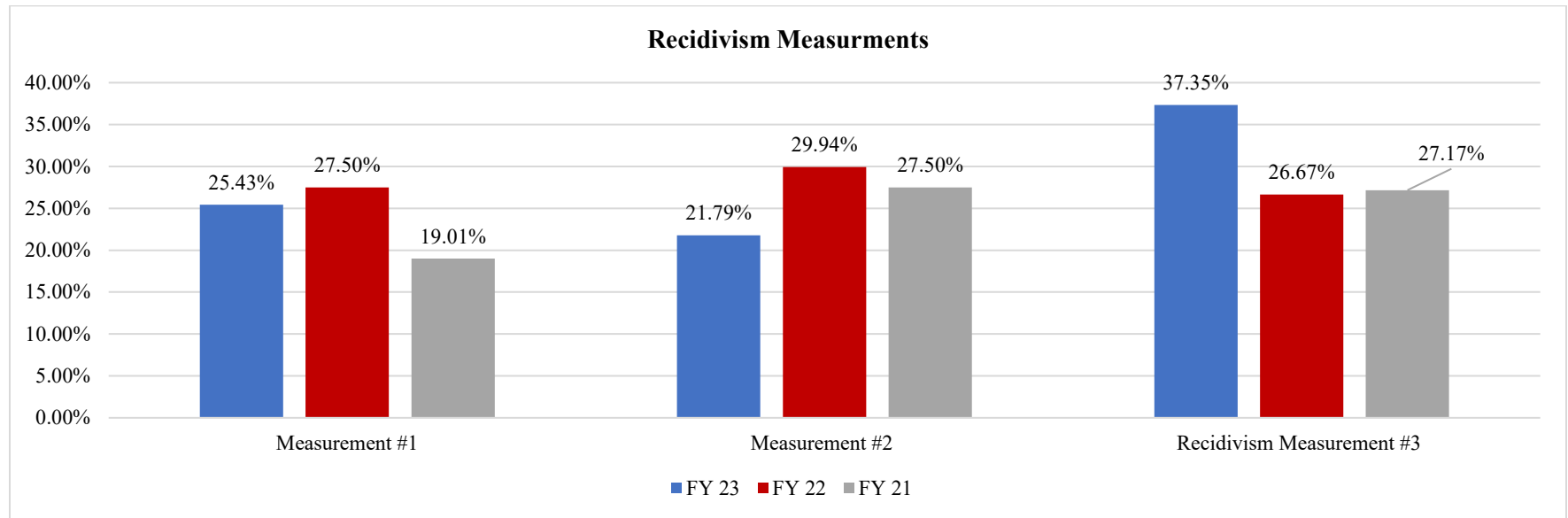
- 1) Re-arrested or*
- 2) Re-adjudicated or*
- 3) Re-committed or*
- 4) In violation of supervision or*
- 5) Convicted by an adult court.*

The state measures recidivism using the following three measurements.

- Recidivism Measure #1 (County): When a youth is re-arrested, compare arrests in the preceding 12 months to identify if that youth has been arrested in the previous 12 months, which would meet the definition of recidivism.
- Recidivism Measure #2 (County): When a youth is re-adjudicated, compared to adjudications in the preceding 12 months to identify if that youth has been adjudicated in the previous 12 months, which would meet the definition of recidivism.
- Recidivism Measurement #3 (State): Revocations are youth on parole who are re-adjudicated and re-committed pursuant to NRS 62E.520.

Recidivism measurements require the comparison of one year’s data to the previous year’s data. DCFS began capturing data for these measurements in FFY 20, so the first comparison data available is FFY 21; therefore, all data available for these measurements in presented in Chart #15.

Chart #15: Recidivism Measurements



Analysis of Recidivism Measurements:

- Recidivism Measurement #1 (County): Recidivism for this measurement increased from FFY 21 to FFY 22 by 8.49 percent and decreased from FFY 22 to FFY 23 by 2.07 percent.
- Recidivism Measurement #2 (County): Recidivism for this measurement increased from FFY 21 to FFY 22 by 2.44 percent and decreased from FFY 22 to FFY 23 by 8.15 percent.
- Recidivism Measurement #3 (State): Recidivism for this measurement decreased from FFY 21 to FFY 22 by .50 percent and increased from FFY 22 to FFY 23 by 10.68 percent.

6. What are your goals for next year?

- 1) To continue to see a decrease in youth of color in the juvenile justice system.
- 2) To continue to seek grant funding for front end services such as juvenile assessment centers.

- 3) To continue to gather and collect data on all aspects of the juvenile justice system to promote informed decision making across the spectrum.