



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS)  
DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)  
JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS OFFICE (JJPO)**

Annual Report On  
Various Aspects of the Juvenile Justice System

**Pursuant to  
NRS 62H.225**

**February 2, 2024**

Prepared by:  
Leslie Bittleston, MSQA  
Social Services Chief  
Juvenile Justice Programs Office  
Division of Child and Family Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
4126 Technology Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Carson City, NV 89706  
[lbittleston@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:lbittleston@dcfs.nv.gov)

**Table of Contents**

**Executive Summary** ..... 3

**Background** ..... 3

**NRS 62H.225.1(a):** ..... 3

    Chart #1: Referrals ..... 4

    Chart #2: Referral Source ..... 4

    Chart #3: Diversions ..... 5

    Chart #4: Formal Probation Placements ..... 5

    Chart #5: County Camp Placement..... 5

    Chart #6: DCFS Commitments ..... 6

    Chart #7: Certification to Adult Status..... 6

**NRS 62H.225.1(b):** ..... 7

    Chart #8: Referral Compared to Population FFY 22 ..... 7

    Chart#9: Arrest Compared to Population FFY 22 ..... 7

    Chart #10: Diversion Compared to Population FFY 22..... 8

    Chart #11: Formal Probation Placement Compared to Population FFY 22..... 8

    Chart #12: County Camp Placement Compared to Population FFY 22..... 8

    Chart #13: DCFS Commitment Compared to Population FFY 22 ..... 9

    Chart #14: Certification to Adult Status Compared to Population FFY 22 ..... 9

**NRS 62H.225.1(c):**..... 10

**NRS 62H.225.1(d):** ..... 10

**NRS 62H.225.1(e):**..... 10

    Chart #15: Recidivism Measures ..... 11

## **Executive Summary**

This report is prepared by the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Health and Human Services, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 62H.225<sup>1</sup>.

### **NRS 62H.225 Division of Child and Family Services to submit annual report on various aspects of juvenile justice system.**

1. The Division of Child and Family Services shall annually analyze the information submitted to the Division pursuant to NRS 62H.210 to determine:

(a) Juvenile justice system trends, including, without limitation, referrals to the juvenile justice system, diversion and disposition of cases, levels of supervision provided to children, placement of children and programs and services offered to children;

(b) Whether children of racial or ethnic minorities or children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are receiving disparate treatment in the juvenile justice system;

(c) The effectiveness of the different levels of supervision in the juvenile justice system;

(d) The effectiveness of services provided by the juvenile justice system, including, without limitation, the effectiveness of the evidence-based standards developed by the Commission;

(e) The rates of recidivism for children either supervised by local juvenile probation departments or committed to the Division.

2. On or before January 31 of each year, the Division shall submit to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature a report detailing the information compiled pursuant to subsection 1.

(Added to NRS by 2017, 4393)

## **Background**

Local departments of juvenile services provide data concerning various aspects of the juvenile justice system pursuant to NRS 62H.225 to DCFS. This data is compiled and analyzed on a Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), which is October 1 through September 30.

This report will be split into five sections in accordance with NRS 62H.225.1 (a) through (e).

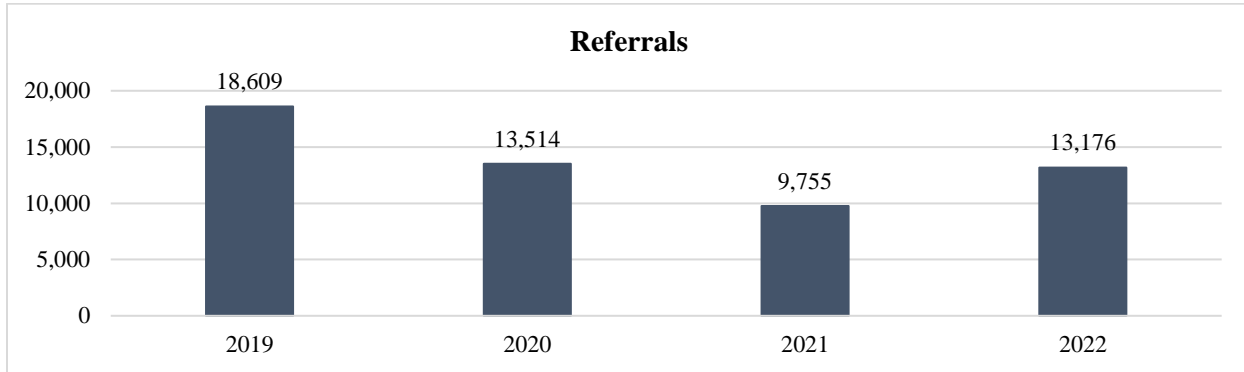
**1. NRS 62H.225.1(a):** Juvenile justice system trends, including, without limitation, referrals to the juvenile justice system, diversion and disposition of cases, levels of supervision provided to children, placement of children and programs and services offered to children.

Referrals are the point in time when a child is brought to the attention of the system of juvenile justice in this State and an official record is opened to document the child's case.

---

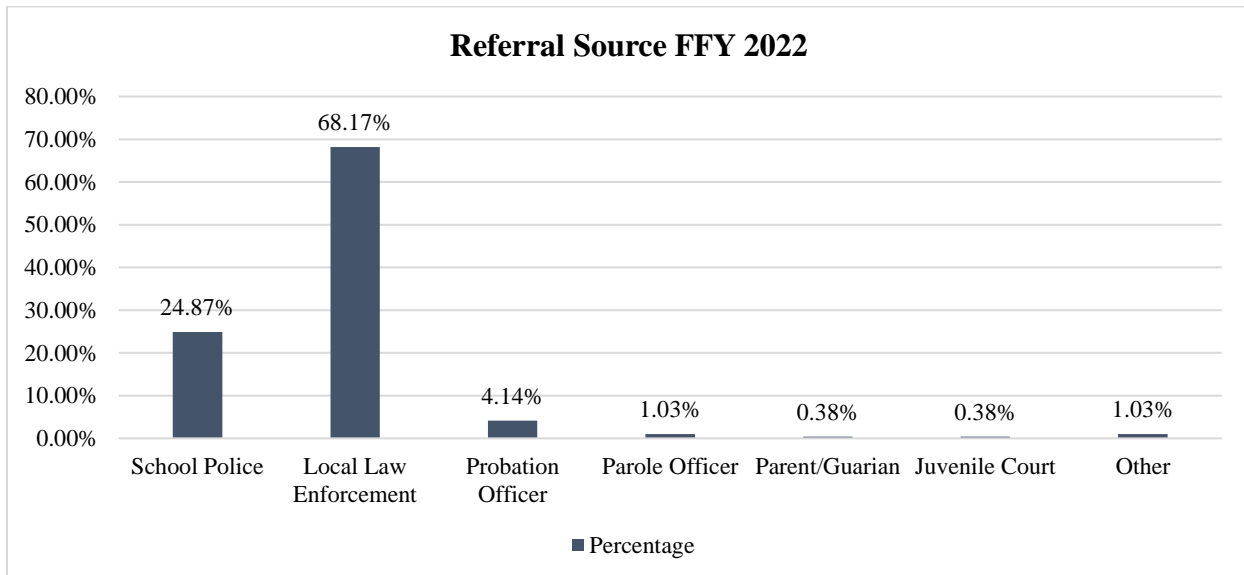
<sup>1</sup> [NRS: CHAPTER 62H - RECORDS RELATED TO CHILDREN \(state.nv.us\)](#)

**Chart #1: Referrals**



Referrals have significantly dropped since 2019. This can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic for FFY 20 and FFY 21.

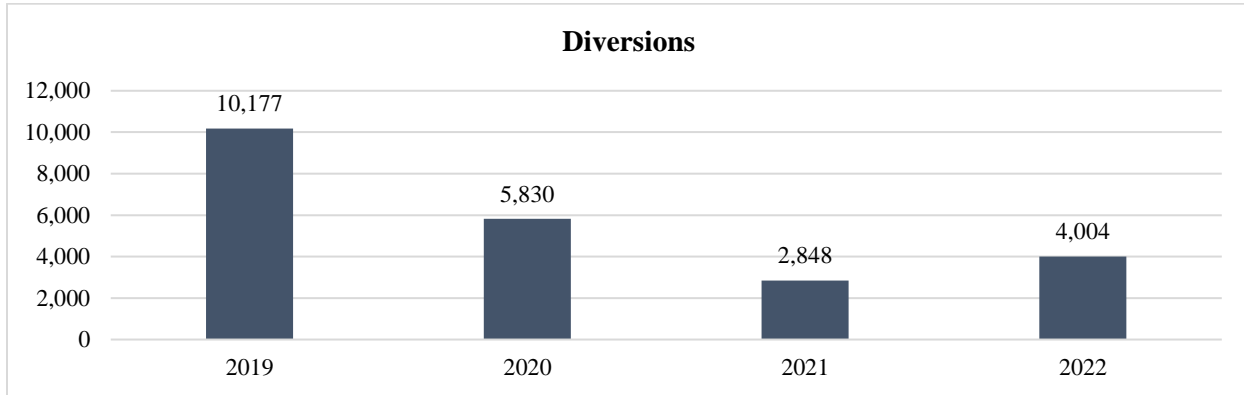
**Chart #2: Referral Source FFY 22**



More than 93% of referrals are from either local law enforcement or school. School is a broad term that includes both school resource officers and school representatives.

Diversions are intervention approaches that redirect youths away from formal processing in the juvenile justice system, while still holding them accountable for their actions. Diversions may be formal or informal. A formal diversion is an intervention through the court, while an informal intervention is prior to court involvement.

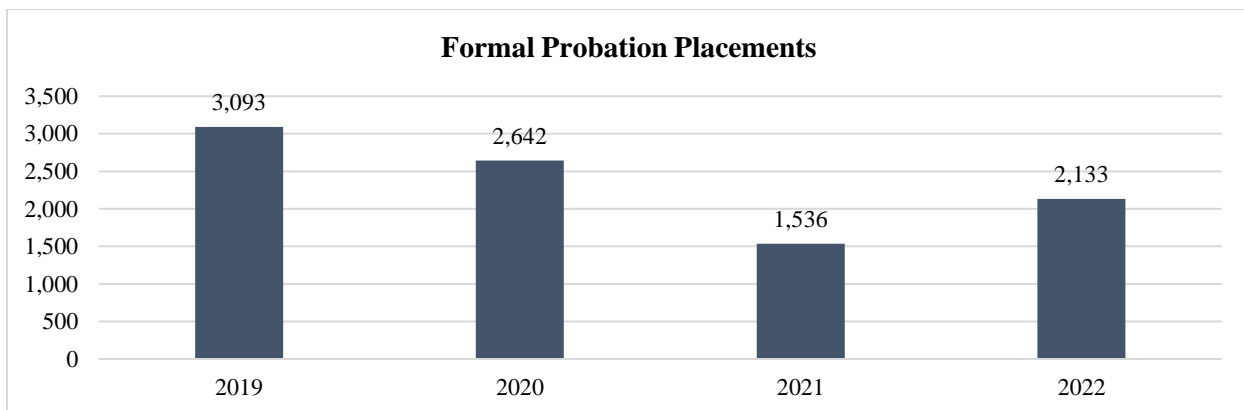
**Chart #3: Diversions**



The trend line for diversions follows the same pattern as referrals for the same reason. In FFY 22, there were 13,176 total referrals and 4,004 diversions which is a 30.38% diversion rate.

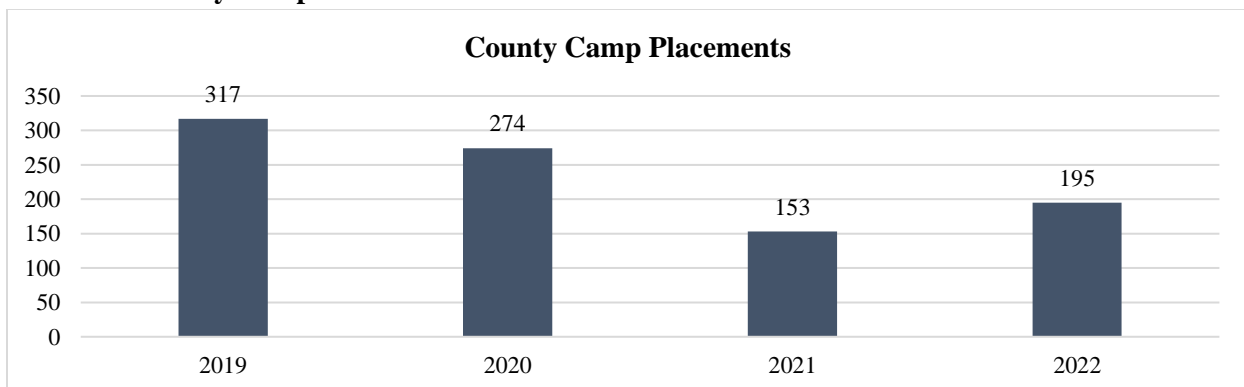
DCFS collects data on the following dispositions: formal probation placement, placement in a county youth camp, commitment to a state (DCFS) facility, and certification to adult criminal court. In FFY 22, there were 2,253 dispositions and 61 youths certified as adults. Certifications are not included in the number of dispositions as certification hearings are not considered disposition hearings.

**Chart #4: Formal Probation Placements**



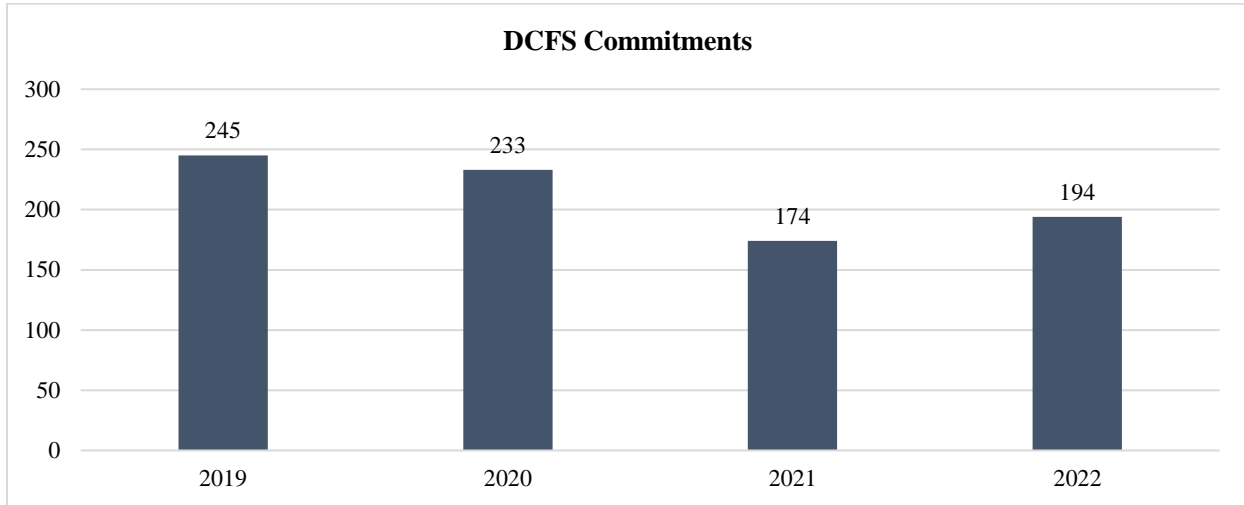
In FFY 22, 82.72% of youth dispositions were placed on formal supervision/probation.

**Chart #5: County Camp Placements**



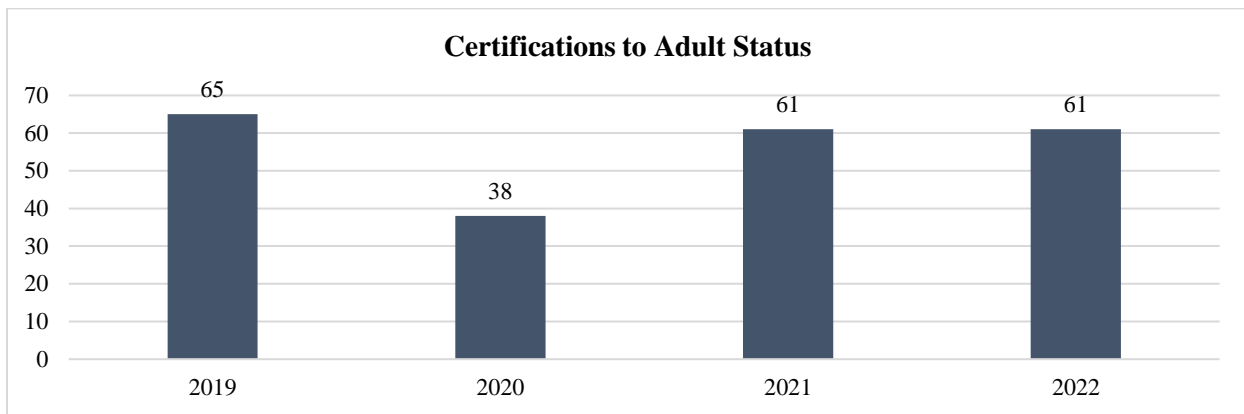
In FFY 22, 8.67% of dispositions were county camp placements.

**Chart #6: DCFS Commitments**



In FFY 22, 8.61% of dispositions resulted in commitment to DCFS.

**Chart #7: Certifications to Adult Status**



In FFY 22, 61 youths were certified to adult status.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the numbers used in these trends. Each contact point followed the same trend pattern. What is important to know from this data is that a great deal of work is done at referral to the system to divert the youths away from the system. Only a small number of youths who are committed to DCFS are certified to adult criminal court.

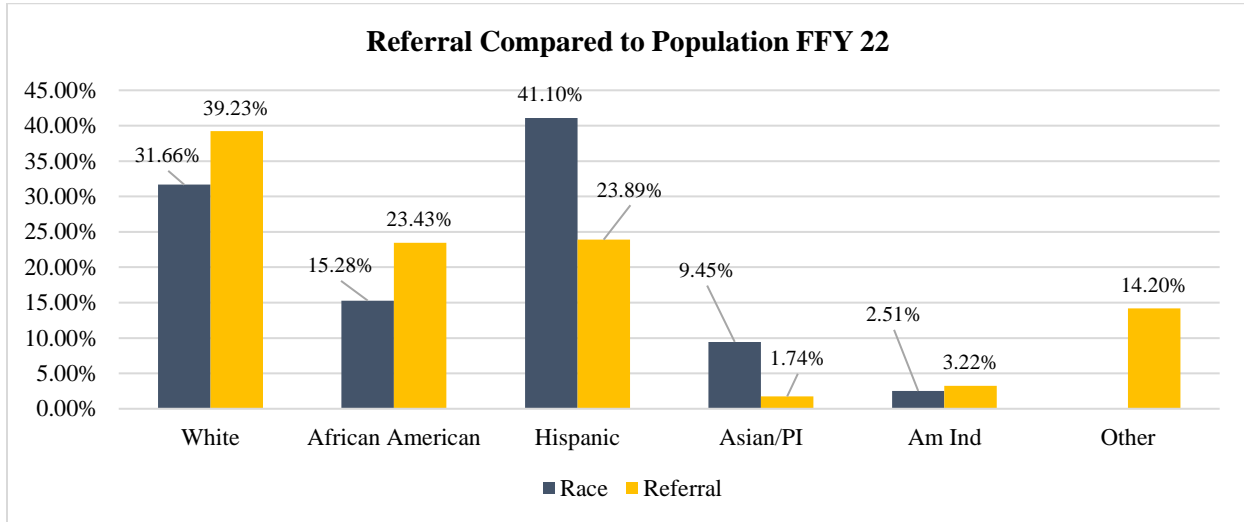
Currently, there is no clarity or guidance on how to provide data on levels of supervision provided to children; therefore, there is no chart for this item. DCFS will be seeking clarification on this from the Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission (JJOC) in 2024.

Lastly, the services provided to children are documented in Charts #3 through #5 as well as in the report pursuant to NRS 62B.640.

**2. NRS 62H.225.1(b):** Whether children of racial or ethnic minorities or children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are receiving disparate treatment in the juvenile justice system.

To assess racial and ethnic disparities, data from specific contact points is compared against Nevada’s population of youth ages 0 to 18. The following charts display data proportionate to Nevada’s youth population for the sake of comparison and does not reflect actual expected incidence. The population is indicated by the blue bar and the contact point is indicated by the yellow bar.

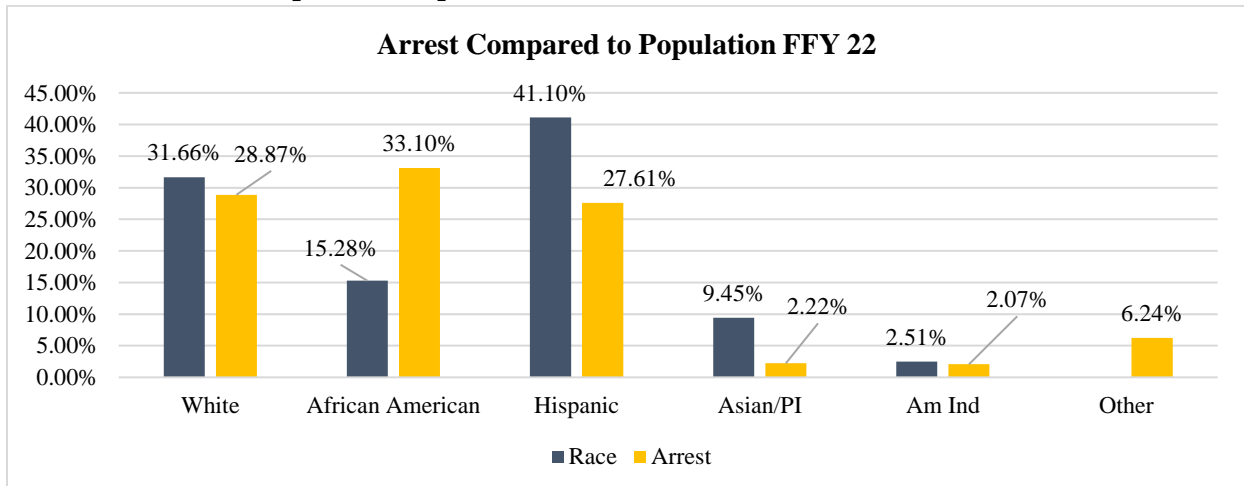
**Chart #8: Referral Compared to Population FFY 22**



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

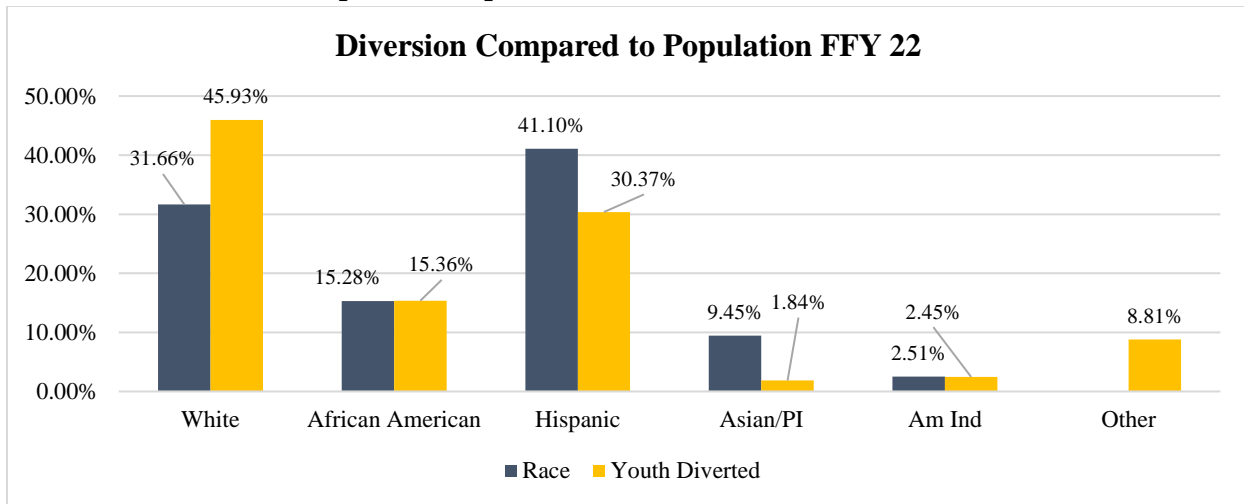
Based on this data alone, based on the proportion of the overall state population, disparity is found at referral for both White and African American youth. In addition, American Indian youth are slightly overrepresented in the system.

**Chart #9: Arrest Compared to Population FFY 22**



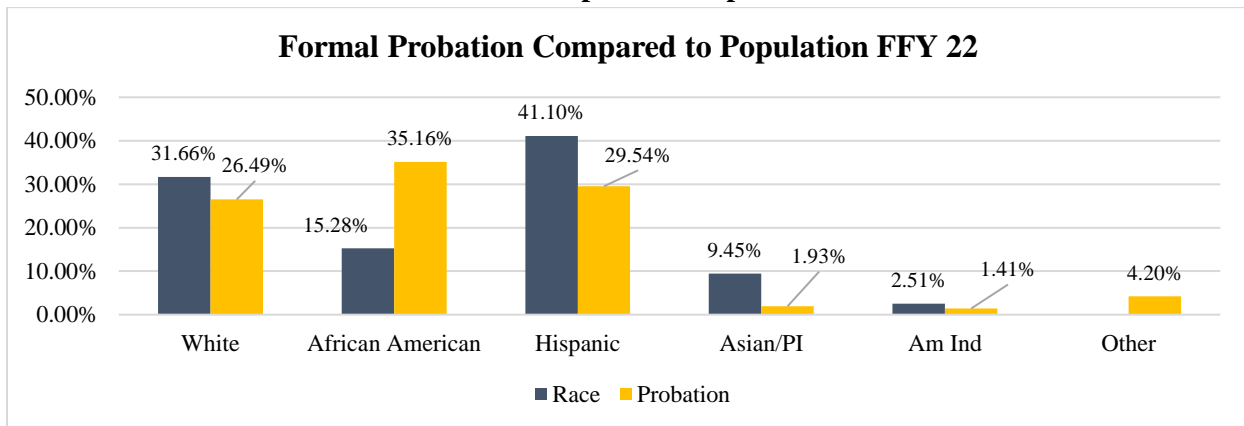
Based on the proportion of the state population, there is a noted disparity in African American youth at the formal probation placement contact point.

**Chart #10: Diversion Compared to Population FFY 22**



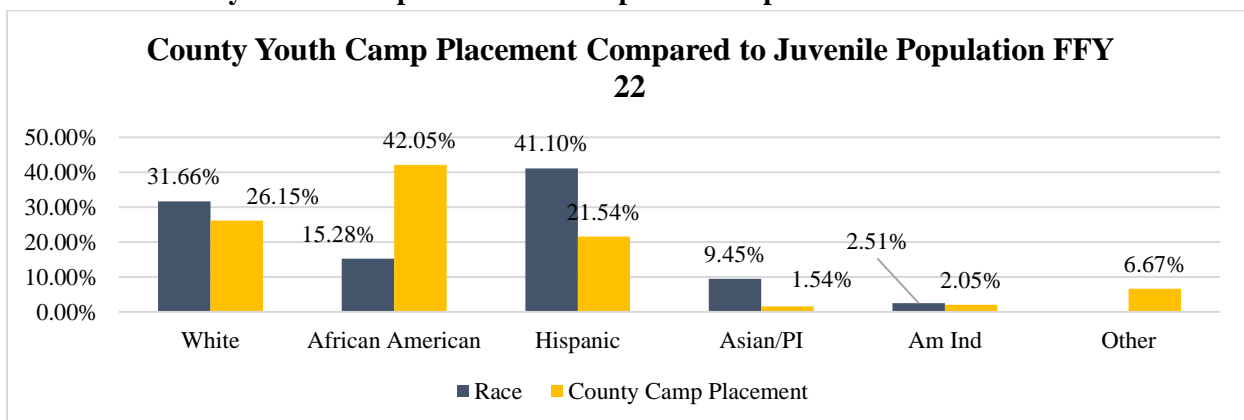
Based on this figure and the proportion of the state population, White youth are overrepresented in diversions.

**Chart #11: Formal Probation Placement Compared to Population FFY 22**



Based on the proportion of the state population, there is a disparity in African American youth at the formal probation placement contact point.

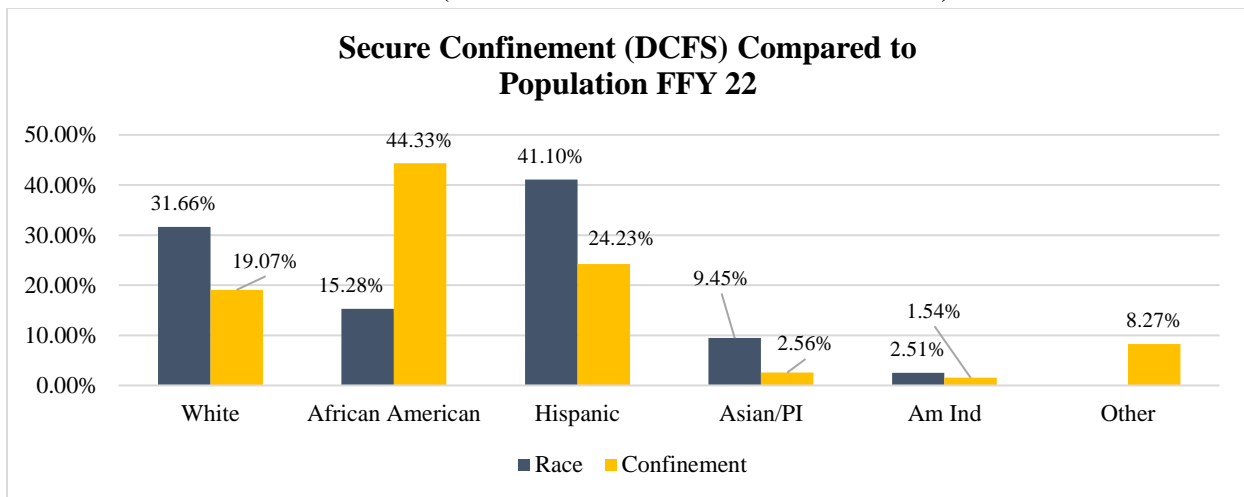
**Chart #12: County Youth Camp Placement Compared to Population FFY 22**



Similar to the previous contact point and based on the proportion of the state population, there is a significant increase in African American youth placed in county youth camps.

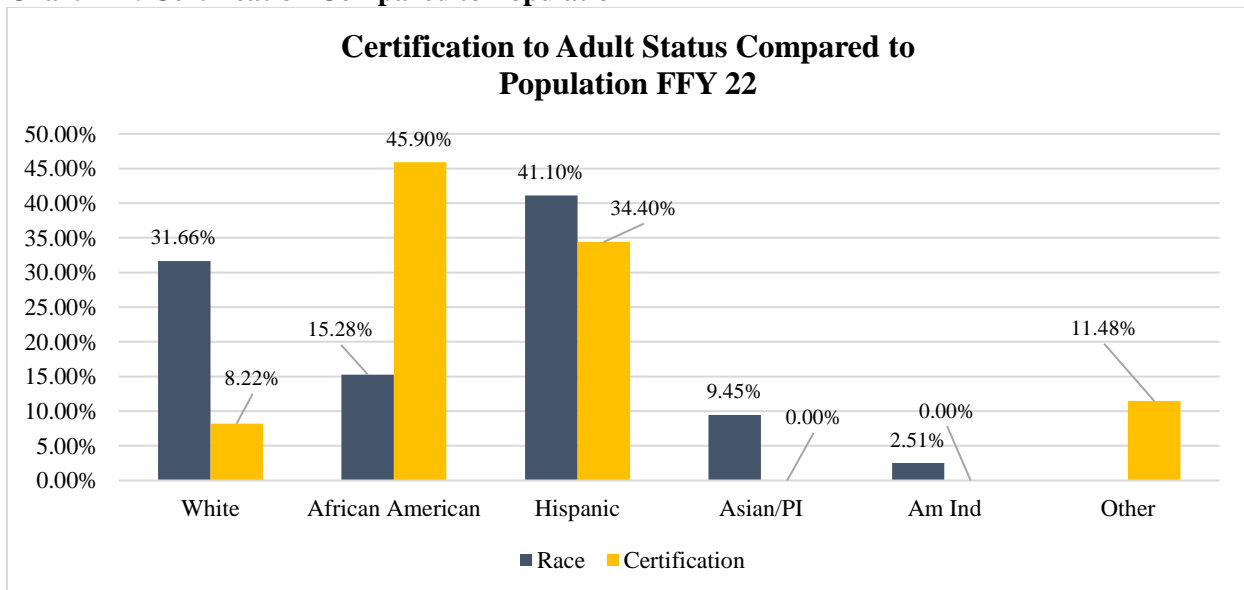


**Chart #13: Commitment to DCFS (Secure Confinement/Correctional Care) FFY 22**



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

**Chart #14: Certification Compared to Population FFY 22**



Similar to the previously listed three contact points, there is a significant increase in African American youth who are certified to adult status.

It is important to note that the disparity of African American youth, as compared to the overall proportion of the state’s African American population, continually increases from the formal probation placement contact point (Chart #9) through to the certification to adult status (Chart #12).

Based on FFY 22, an analysis of the data finds disproportional outcomes for multiple racial groups at different contact points.

- 1) White youth have higher rates compared to the overall White population at referral and diversion.
- 2) African American youth have higher rates compared to the overall African American state population at all contact points except diversion.

- 3) American Indian/Alaska Native youth have higher rates than the overall American Indian/Alaska Native state population at referral.

**3. NRS 62H.225.1(c):** The effectiveness of the different levels of supervision in the juvenile justice system.

Currently, there is no clarity or guidance on how to provide data on levels of supervision provided to children; therefore, there is no chart for this item. DCFS will be seeking clarification on this from the Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission (JJOC) in 2024.

**4. NRS 62H.225.1(d):** The effectiveness of services provided by the juvenile justice system, including, without limitation, the effectiveness of the evidence-based standards developed by the Commission pursuant to NRS 62B.615.

The effectiveness of services provided by the juvenile justice system is outlined in a separate report as required by NRS 62B.640<sup>2</sup>.

**5. NRS 62H.225.1(e):** The rates of recidivism for children either supervised by county juvenile probation departments or committed to DCFS.

The state measures recidivism using the following three measurements.

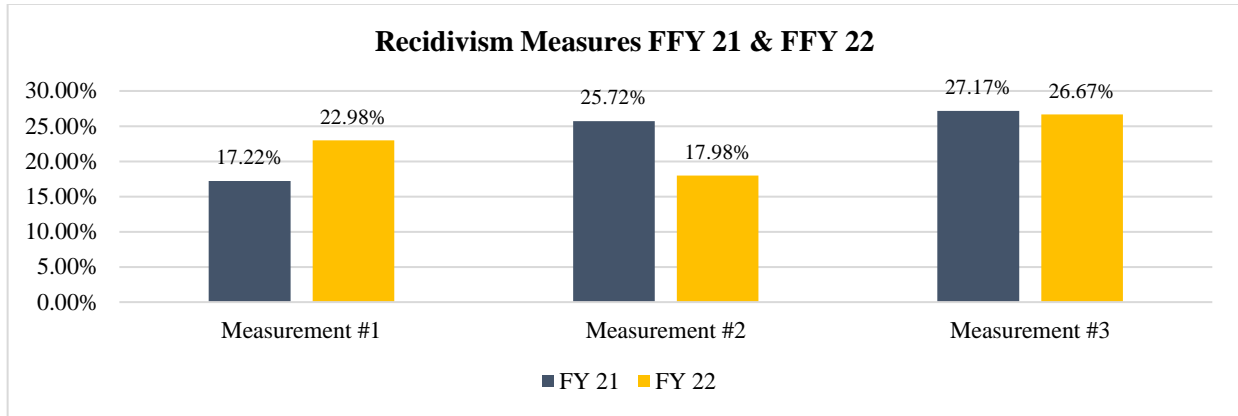
- Recidivism Measure #1 (County): When a youth is re-arrested, compare arrests in the preceding 12 months to identify if that youth has been arrested in the previous 12 months, which would meet the definition of recidivism.
- Recidivism Measure #2 (County): When a youth is re-adjudicated, compared to 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 Measure #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 is presented in Chart #15.

---

<sup>2</sup> [https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/JJS/Programs\\_Office/](https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/JJS/Programs_Office/)

**Chart #15: Recidivism Measures**



**Analysis of Recidivism Measurements:**

- Recidivism Measurement #1 (County): Recidivism for this measurement increased from FFY 20 to FFY 21 by 5.76%.
- Recidivism Measurement #2 (County): Recidivism for this measurement decreased from FFY 20 to FFY 21 by 7.74%.
- Recidivism Measurement #3 (State): Recidivism for this measurement decreased from FFY 20 to FFY 21 by .50%.