



# Dallas County Juvenile Department

## Annual Report 2023







Dallas County Juvenile Department

Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center  
2600 Lone Star Drive, Dallas, Texas 75212  
Phone: (214) 698-2200  
<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/juvenile/>

This report was created and published by the Research & Statistics unit of the DCJD:

Daniel Pacheco, Ph.D., Manager  
Christian Yost, M.S., Assistant Manager  
Juan Lomeli, M.S., Research Assistant  
Nyasia Brunson, M.S., MBA, Data Analyst

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## DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

The Dallas County Commissioners Court is a five-member elected body responsible for general administration of county business.

### Members of the Commissioners Court are as follows:

Clay Jenkins  
Dallas County Judge

Dr. Theresa Daniel  
District 1

Andy Sommerman  
District 2

John Wiley Price  
District 3

Dr. Elba Garcia  
District 4

## DALLAS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD

The Dallas County Juvenile Board is the governing authority of the Dallas County Juvenile Department. The Juvenile Board establishes administrative policy and approves the department’s annual budget. By law, the State of Texas mandates that the Juvenile Board monitors the department’s detention and institutional services, residential placement facilities, and programs. Additionally, the Juvenile Board serves as the school board for the Academy for Academic Excellence.



**Judge**  
Cheryl Lee Shannon  
Chairperson  
305th District Court



**Judge**  
Andrea D. Plumlee  
Vice Chairperson  
330th District Court



**Judge**  
Andrea Martin  
304th District Court



**County Judge**  
Clay Jenkins



**Judge**  
Aiesha Redmond  
160 Civil District Court



**Judge**  
Amber Givens  
282nd Judicial District Court



**Judge**  
Stephanie Huff  
291st Judicial District Court



**Commissioner**  
Andy Sommerman  
District 2

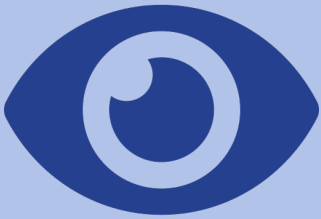


**Sr. Corp.**  
Robert White  
Youth Services  
Advisory Board Chair

## VISION, MISSION, & VALUES

### Our VISION

The Dallas County Juvenile Department seeks to foster safe communities, youth opportunities, and family success.



### Our MISSION

Provide Developmentally appropriate juvenile justice services founded on best practices, operated by committed employees, and informed by measurable results.

### Our VALUES

**Integrity** - Being honest, ethical, and accountable

**Advocacy** - Empowering youth, families, and staff

**Respect** - Value youth, families, and one another

**Communication** - Engaging in consistent, transparent dialogue

**Innovation** - Embracing creative, purposeful solutions





# EMPLOYEE COMMENDATIONS

## DCJD EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



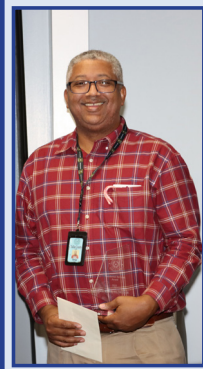
Anthony Grant

### CLINICAL SERVICES



Ymelda Eggemeyer

### RESIDENTIAL SERVICES



Edwin R. Eldridge

### PROBATION SERVICES



Jacqueline Jackson

### DETENTION SERVICES



Stormy Roberts

### EXECUTIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



Keona Williams

### EDUCATION SERVICES



Eduardo Delagarza

### LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Christian Yost

### SYNERGY AWARD



Frederick Jernigan



Helen Taylor

# YOUTH IN ACTION



Letot's "Art Class & Culinary Art Students" Field Trip to Chocolate Secrets



18th Century Chocolate Cake - Prepared by the RDT Culinary Arts Students



Peppermint Bark - Prepared by the RDT Culinary Arts Students for Letot's Family Night



Peppermint Oreo Truffles - Prepared by the RDT Culinary Arts Students

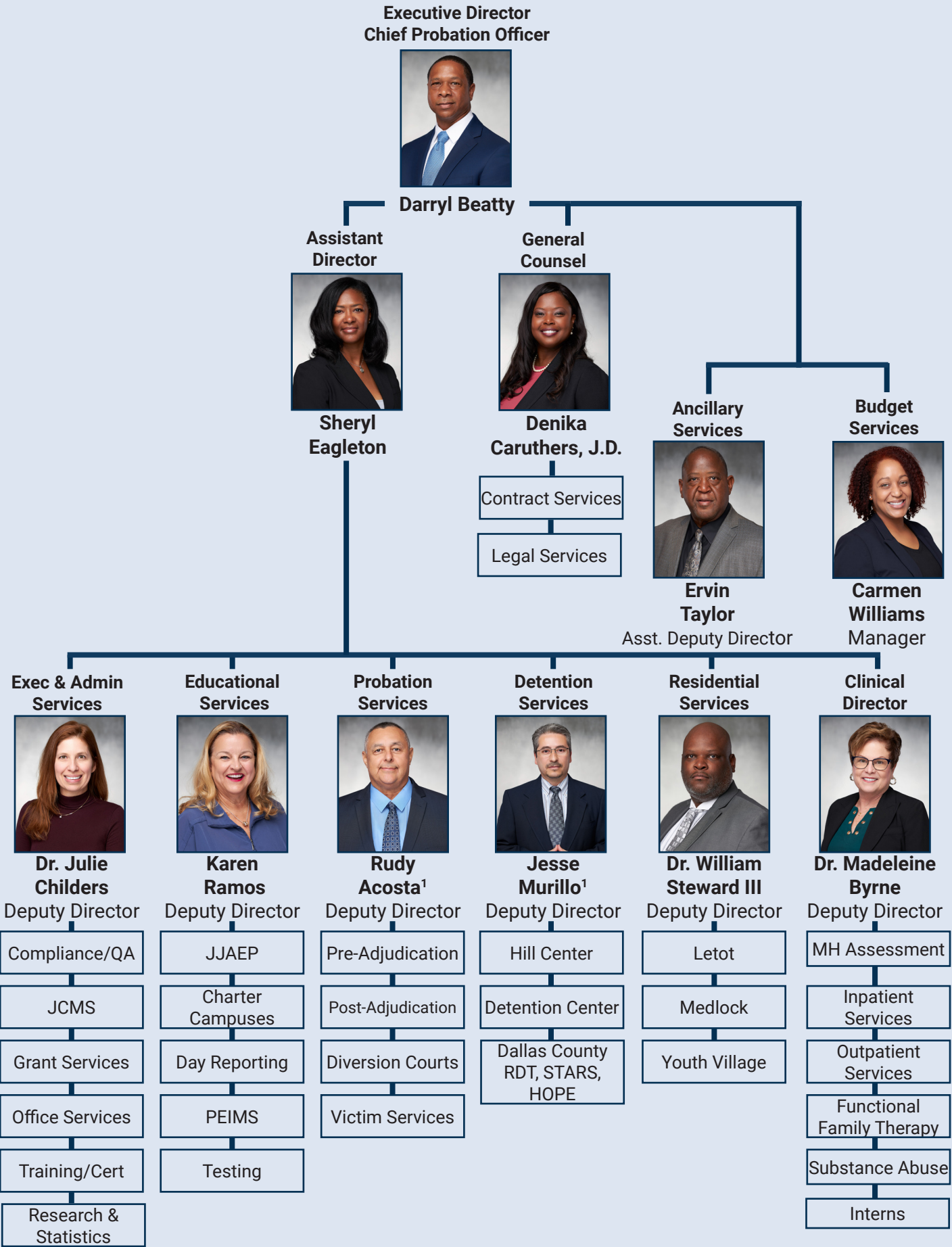


# JUVENILE JUSTICE CASE FLOW PROCESS

Most referrals to the DCJD originate with any one of several law enforcement agencies, including the Dallas County Sheriff, that operate in the Dallas County jurisdiction. As indicated below, youth with one or more referrals will go through intake. Youth can be cautioned without any further intervention, they can be considered for deferred prosecution that will likely result in a short period of supervision and targeted programming, or the District Attorney’s office can elect filing a petition that will result in formal proceedings that can further result in a trial by judge or jury, court-ordered probation supervision, certification, and commitment to the Texas Department of Juvenile Justice.



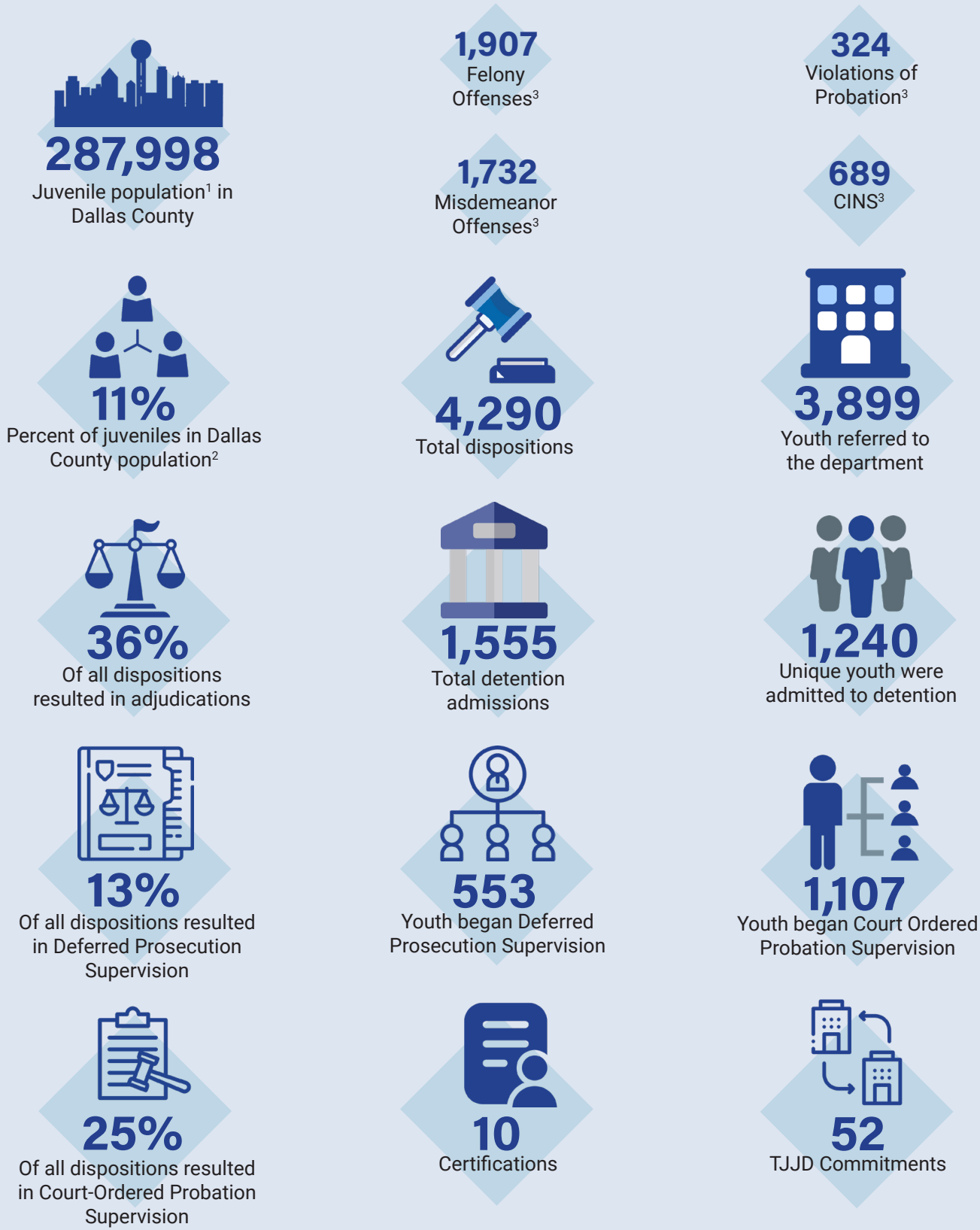
# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



<sup>1</sup>This individual did not remain in this position for the full year.



OVERVIEW: CALENDAR YEAR 2023



<sup>1</sup>Source: <https://demographics.texas.gov/Estimates/2022/>  
<sup>2</sup>Ages 10-17  
<sup>3</sup>Values based on the total number of referrals by primary offense type

Juror Funds to Juvenile Futures  
Dallas County’s 33-Year Commitment to At-Risk Youth

Dallas County's Youth Services Advisory Board program innovatively redirects juror funds to support at-risk youth through diverse projects ranging from daily necessities to scholarships, embodying a unique approach to juvenile rehabilitation within the justice system.



Victor Caballero Celebration Luncheon Funded by YSAB

For most people, when they learn about a grant-type program specifically serving at-risk youth who have come under the authority of the Dallas County Juvenile Department, their initial reaction is to ask for confirmation that what was mentioned about the use of Dallas County juror funds was what was indeed what they heard. On the surface it might seem a little counterintuitive that there is a project with the intent to directly benefit at-risk youth in Dallas County. Moreover, this funding program, which has been in existence since 1991, works closely with the Dallas County Juvenile Department (DCJD) to make sure the grants fund worthy, high-quality projects that are fully administered by DCJD staff. In fact, it is the staff who take the time to identify the need, research and develop a project, distill the necessary elements into a coherent application, and take responsibility of using the funds to administer the project which includes the mandated reporting and follow-up.

There is no limitation or restriction on the kind of project that can be applied for and funded. DCJD program managers have identified dozens of needs across the spectrum of youth with whom they work. For example, there are very practical situations such as providing snacks and refreshments to youth at the end of a day while they are waiting for their therapy groups to start. Additionally, some youth must remain in detention or in a youth residential facility over the holidays. Using funds allocated to Dallas County Juvenile Justice Department, DCJD probation officers and other staff will provide a holiday themed meal and gifts to these youth. In some cases, a program incentivizes engagement, participation, and successful completion by offering small gifts, such as watches, to participants or by incorporating enrichment opportunities into its strategic goals, like an educational field trip to the Dallas Aquarium, Perot Museum, or other attractions.



Scholarships and Laptops Distributed to Students (Funded by YSAB)

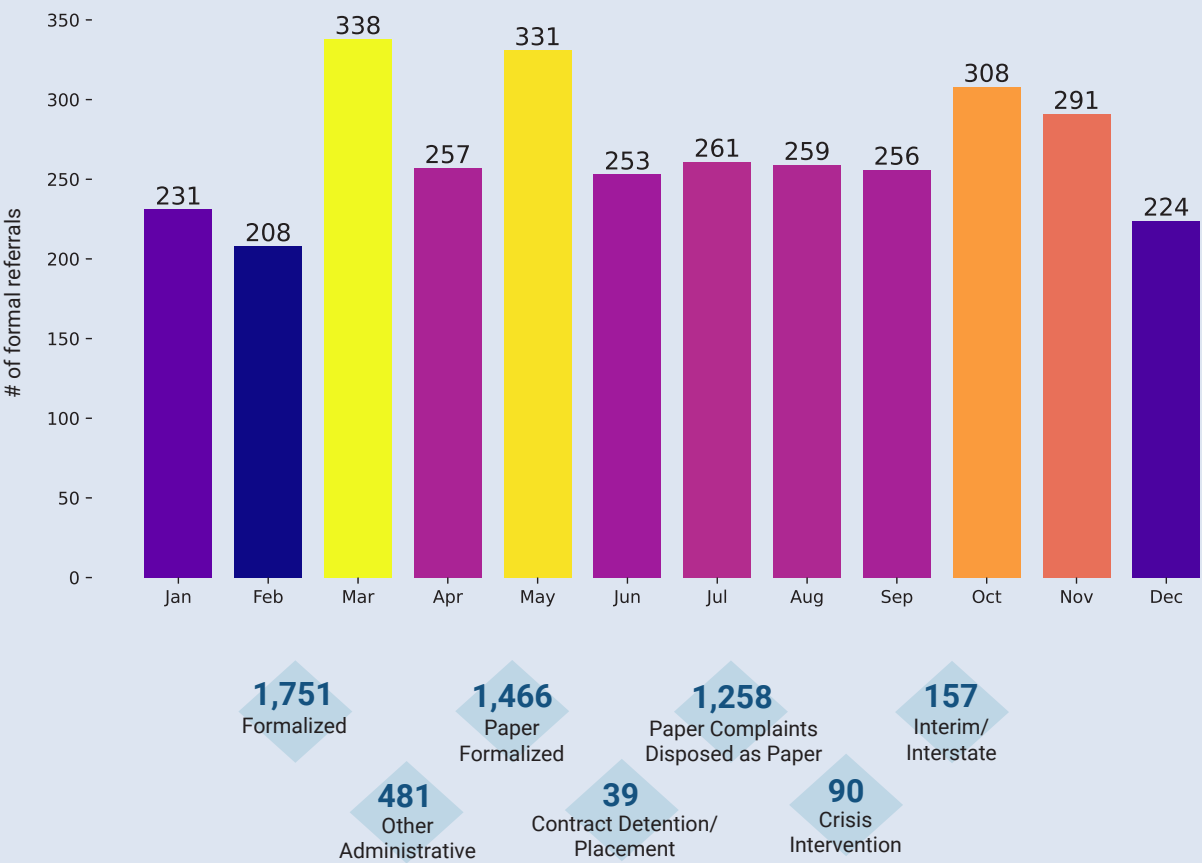
YSAB funds specific grants that establish academic scholarships that will pay for tuition, fees, and books at a vocational school or college. Some scholarships also provide a laptop. In vocational contexts, YSAB funds have been used to pay for certifications and purchase work equipment such as boots and welder's eye protection to pave a way forward and provide the best opportunity for success. These are just a few examples of funded projects that would be impossible without the YSAB grant program. Corporal Robert White is (and has been) the chairperson of the YSAB for many years. He provided some perspective recently when asked about his service to the Board.

Corporal White recalled mentoring at-risk youth when he was a trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS). He stated that he has served on the African American Advisory Council at Garland Independent School District (GISD) and was very involved in a program called GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) which is an evidence-based, law-enforcement instructed gang and violence prevention program targeting youth in their early years. Because of his work with youth, Corporal White was asked to be a part of the YSAB initiative in 1995 (approximately) and has been there since. He takes his role seriously and believes that a big part of it is making sure the Board is a good steward of the public funds with which they are entrusted. It is a sizeable task to ensure that funds are expended appropriately on worthy projects that advance the mission and goals of the DCJD.

Although YSAB has been around for a while (33 years), it has become an integral part of the Juvenile Department landscape. The funding opportunity is not taken for granted but is so much a part of the fabric supporting the juvenile justice model in Dallas County that program managers are constantly planning for the YSAB award and, like so many others, gaming ways to maximize the utility of every dollar that will benefit the most youth in the most efficacious way possible. General funding is already tight, consequently, having the YSAB Juror Fund grant program as a resource for DCJD staff who provide direct care and support to youth under their authority becomes an important multiplier in the effort to promote and advance the DCJD mission.

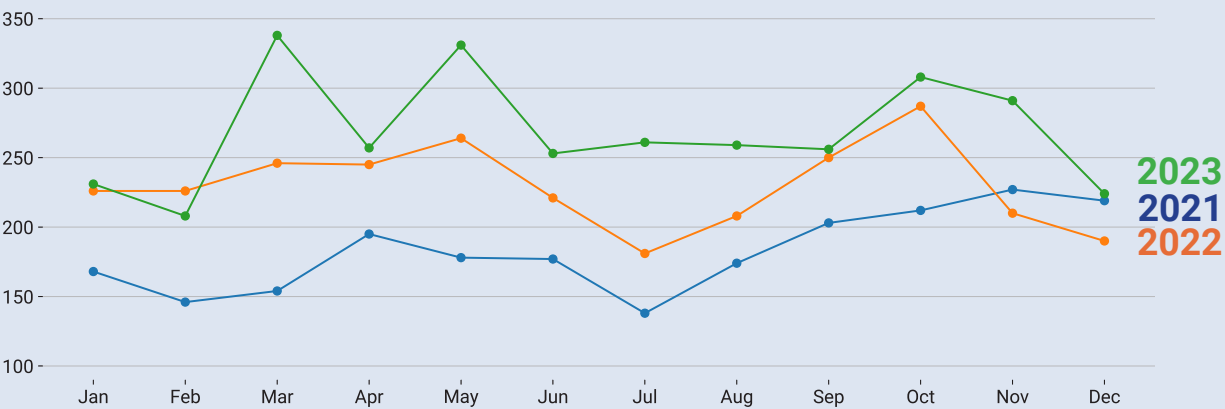


# 2023 FORMAL REFERRAL DATA



- The average monthly referrals to the Juvenile Department was 268 for 2023
- Referral spikes are observed for March, May, October, and November
- The 3217 formalized and paper formalized referrals is a 17% increase over 2022

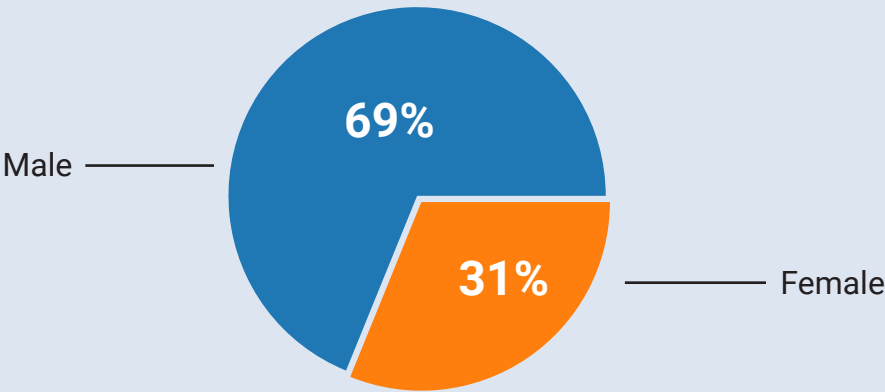
# REFERRAL TRENDS 2021-2023



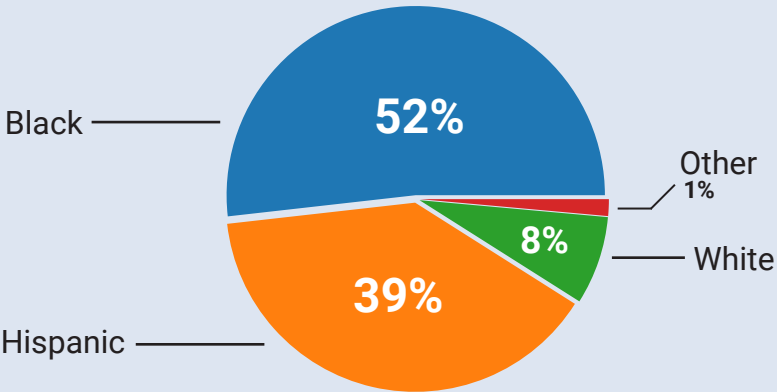
- As seen in the line graph, there have been overall yearly increases in referrals from 2022 to 2023, and from 2022 compared to 2021
- July decreases are evident in 2021 and 2022, but not in 2023
- The patterns observed for 2022 and 2023 may be signaling post-COVID normalization

# 2023 FORMAL REFERRAL DEMOGRAPHICS

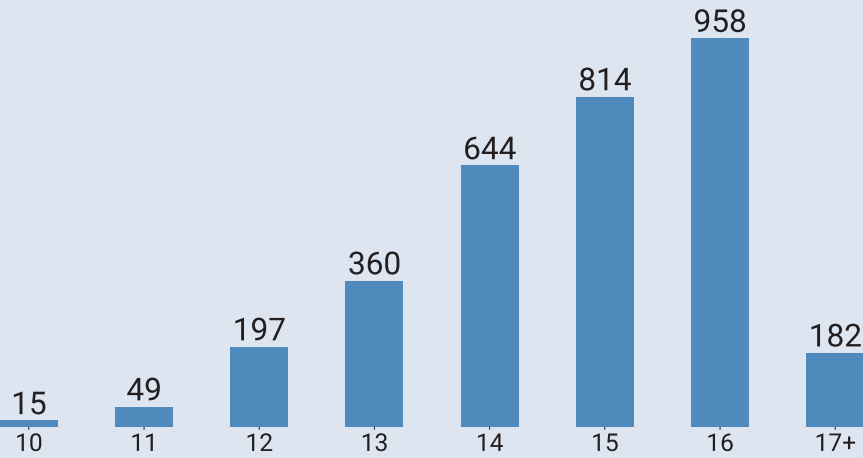
## GENDER



## RACE



## REFERRALS BY AGE





GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION OF REFERRALS TO DCJD



The map shown above represents the Dallas County Juvenile Department’s geographic jurisdiction, which corresponds with the boundaries of the county. Zip code and municipal boundaries are indicated by shapes. Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), such as police departments, are integral elements of city or municipal infrastructure. LEAs generate referrals to the DCJD when responding to service calls where a juvenile is believed to have violated a law or been a party to such an event. The color shading on the map corresponds with the concentration of referrals from each zip code area or city, with blue areas representing the lowest concentration of referrals and red indicating the highest (see the legend).

FORMALIZED REFERRAL TRENDS 2019-2023

Felony	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22-23	% Change 19-23
Assaultive	254	168	207	254	296	17% (+)	17% (+)
Burglary	110	93	37	41	45	10% (+)	59% (-)
Drug Offenses	174	35	73	102	96	6% (-)	45% (-)
Homicide	16	18	23	24	22	8% (-)	38% (+)
Other Felony	152	101	126	150	240	60% (+)	58% (+)
Other Property	24	22	19	30	40	33% (+)	67% (+)
Other Violent	3	0	4	3	4	33% (+)	33% (+)
Robbery	212	169	107	121	147	21% (+)	31% (-)
Sexual Assault	79	52	56	43	34	21% (-)	57% (-)
Theft	183	156	98	89	167	88% (+)	9% (-)
Weapons Offense	37	12	30	42	48	14% (+)	30% (+)
TOTAL	1244	826	780	899	1139	27% (+)	8% (-)
Misdemeanor							
Assaultive	547	368	424	744	772	4% (+)	41% (+)
Drug Offense	216	65	29	16	9	44% (-)	96% (-)
Other Misdemeanor	307	169	198	253	324	28% (+)	6% (+)
Other Property	97	54	55	58	70	21% (+)	28% (-)
Theft	197	70	52	88	136	55% (+)	31% (-)
Weapon Offense	64	50	86	101	103	2% (+)	61% (+)
TOTAL	1428	776	844	1260	1414	12% (+)	1% (-)
CINS							
Alternative Education Expulsion	8	2	0	0	0	-	100% (-)*
Disorderly Conduct	1	2	0	0	0	-	100% (-)*
Drugs	0	1	0	0	0	-	-
Liquor Laws	0	0	1	0	0	-	-
Other CINS	192	134	139	142	141	1% (-)	27% (-)
Property (was theft)	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Runaway	477	280	247	232	250	8% (+)	48% (-)
Sex Offense	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
TOTAL	679	420	388	375	392	5% (+)	42% (-)
Violation of Probation							
TOTAL	471	190	179	220	272	24% (+)	42% (-)
YEARLY TOTAL	3822	2212	2191	2285	3217	41% (+)	16% (-)
TOTAL YOUTH	3000	1814	1853	1853	2352	27% (+)	22% (-)

\*Proportional changes that occur in low base-rate phenomena (such as youth homicide) can appear dramatically large, although technically accurate.



# RISK & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Full-Screen  
4,913

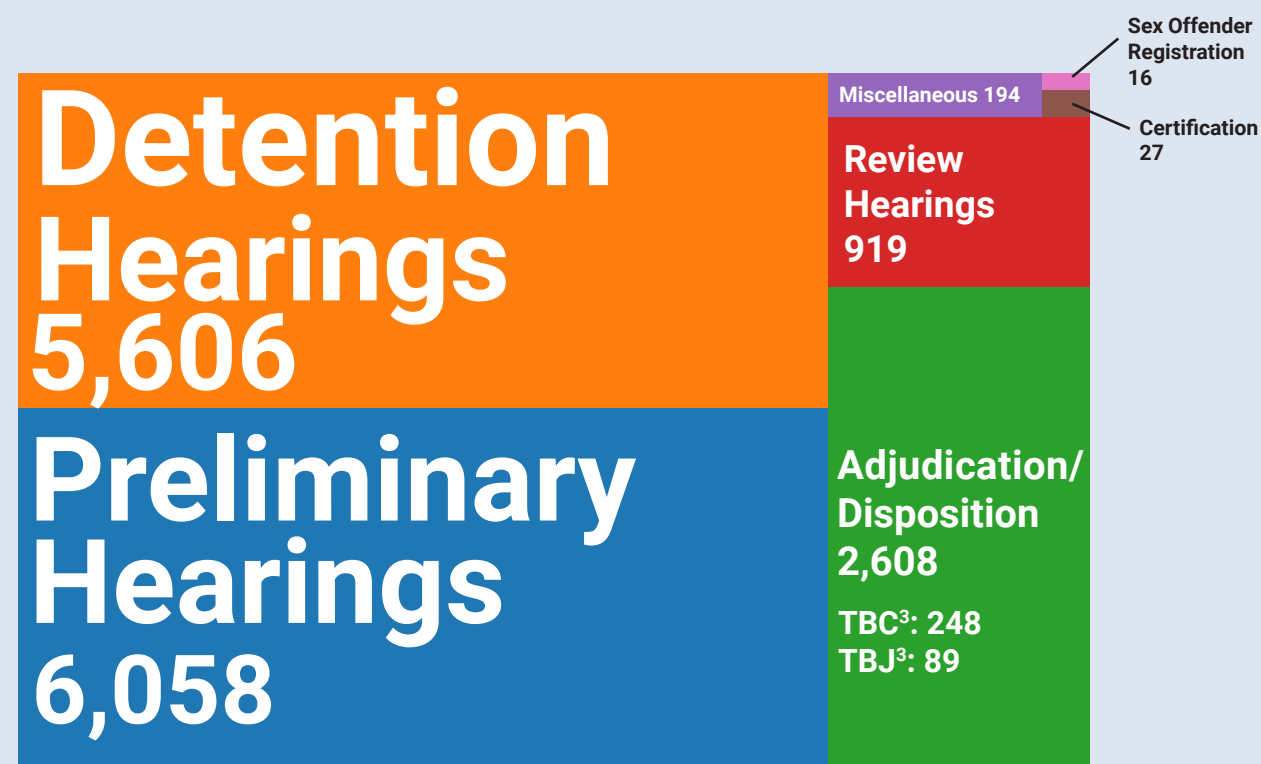
64%

Pre-Screen  
2,724

36%



## COURT SERVICES



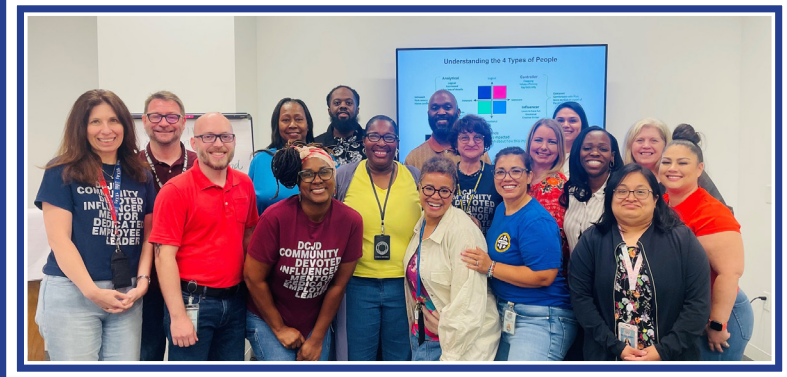
Two District Courts are specifically designated to preside over juvenile cases, the 305th presided by the Honorable Cheryl Lee Shannon, and the 304th presided by the Honorable Andrea Martin.

Youth who are referred to the DCJD for an offense will appear before one of the designated courts. The presiding judge will ensure that the youth's rights are preserved, and that the community is protected while also making a concerted effort to do what is in the best interest of the juvenile before the court.

- A total of 15,428 juvenile hearings were held in 2023
  - 5,606 Detention Hearings (36%)
  - 6,058 Preliminary Hearing (39%)
  - 2,608 Adjudication/Disposition Hearings (17%)
- Preliminary Hearings were the most common kind of hearing held (39%)
  - These are held to determine whether a case should move forward
- Detention Hearings were the 2nd most common type of hearing held (36%)
  - Detained youth will have an initial detention hearing within 48 hours after being detained
  - Following the initial detention hearing, detained youth will have a detention hearing every 10 days
- Adjudication & Disposition Hearings are important, representing decisions by the court about the alleged delinquent acts and how they were handled (i.e., probation)
- Other kinds of hearings such as Review Hearings, Miscellaneous Hearings, and Certification Hearings represent approximately 7% of the total number of hearings

## Mentoring the Future: Inside the PrePAIR Program

PrePAIR Mentorship Program revolutionizes juvenile justice careers through innovative mentoring and skill development for probation officers.



PrePAIR Group Training Photo

You want to make a difference in the lives of youth. To that end, you decided to pursue a career as a Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) with the Dallas County Juvenile Department (DCJD). Your bachelor's degree in criminal justice helped secure you a job, but by no means did it prepare you for the many hats a JPO wears on a daily basis. Now, with an active caseload, your day is filled with case plan updates, reporting, addressing criminogenic needs, making program referrals, responding to violations, preparing for court hearings, among numerous other responsibilities. It would be natural to begin to feel overwhelmed because while you were initially driven to want to help and serve youth, you did not know everything that being a JPO fully required. Fortunately, DCJD Probation Services Division has recently piloted the PrePAIR Mentorship Program that matches you with a seasoned JPO who will help you acclimate to your position.

The PrePAIR Mentorship Program, the idea of JPO Samantha Lee, was presented to DCJD leadership in 2023 after she returned to juvenile justice following her experience in federal probation. There, she experienced individuals regularly being provided with a mentor when transitioning to a new role. She also noted how the structured guidance from a mentor in the workplace led to positive impacts in advancement, retention, and job satisfaction for both mentees and the mentors.



PrePAIR mentors and Lead Administrators (L to R): Samantha Lee, Steven McGee, April Turner

The DCJD Executive team approved the proposal for the officer mentorship program to be piloted with three mentees in District 7 (see the District map on page 17). Ms. Lee, with her 8 years of probation officer experience, chose officers April Turner (8 years) and Steven McGee (17 years) to be the pilot program's first mentors to work with mentee officers who had less than a year on the job.

Two crucial aspects of the program are the PrePAIR Mentorship Agreement and the Implementation Mentee Plan (IMP). The agreement document is completed by the mentor and mentee together to establish the expectations, roles, responsibilities of the parties in the relationship, and the anticipated duration of the partnership. Likewise, the IMP spells out the specific developmental goals to be addressed, along with action plans to achieve these goals. The Mentorship Agreement is finalized within the first or second meeting between both sides, and they then meet at least once a week either in person or online.

The mentors ideally work with their mentees for at least six months, but their time together could be extended, if necessary. During that time, the mentors also meet with one another to collaborate and share what is working in their individual mentor/mentee relationship, while also receiving feedback from the mentees and their respective supervisors. The pilot program was received positively enough that it was expanded to all probation units. As of this writing, there are fourteen mentors, with officers Lee, McGee, and Turner now serving as Lead Administrators of the program, while still working with their own mentees. Additionally, the mentors have attended multiple trainings to improve their leadership and personality assessment skills.

So far, the program has been deemed a success by DCJD administration, probation supervisors, and the officers themselves. More seasoned officers are so impressed by the impact of the program that some of them are requesting to be paired up with their own mentor. Despite having more years on the job, they still see the benefit of working closely with another officer to hone the day-to-day skills that need to be mastered. Then, they can truly focus on the thing that brought them here in the first place: making a difference in the lives of youth.

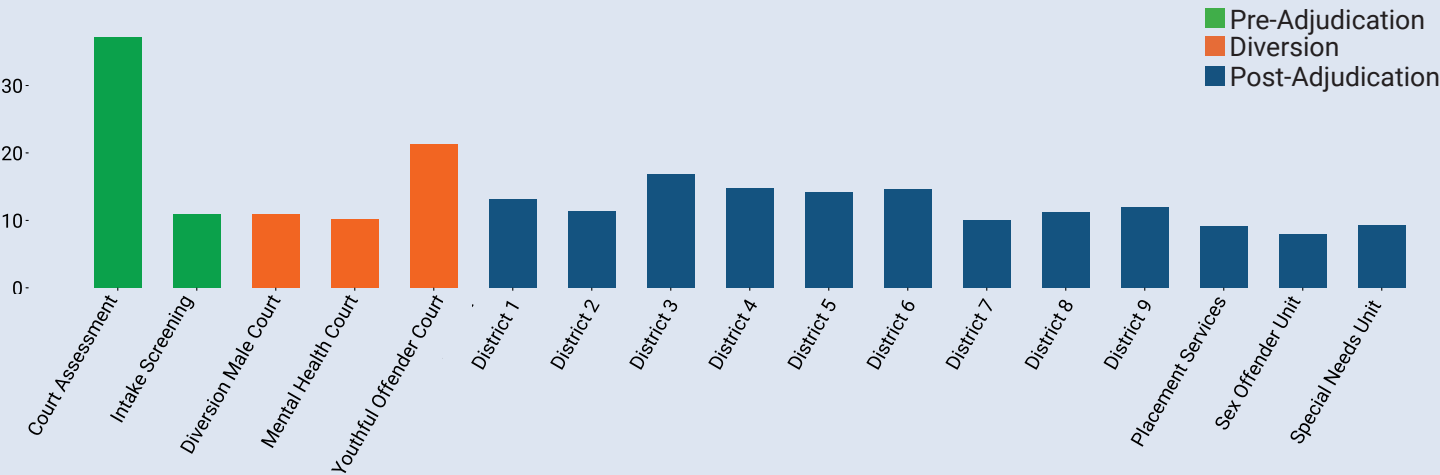


# SUPERVISION AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

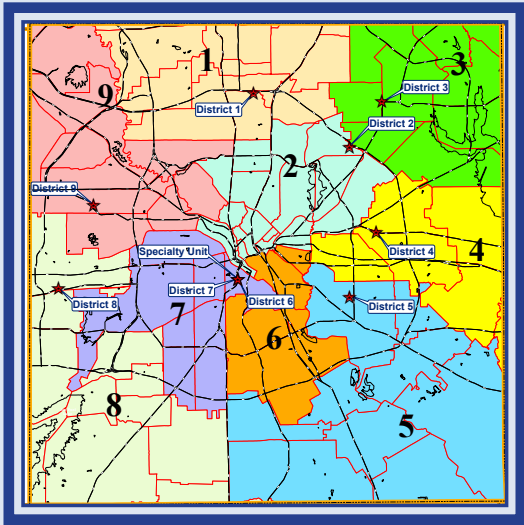
The five kinds of supervision administered by the Dallas County Juvenile Department are listed in the table to the right. Providing supervision to youth who have been referred to the DCJD is a principal function of the Probation Services Division (PSD). Supervision refers to the level of monitoring provided to the youth, as prescribed by the PACT, as well as the brokering of services and interventions commensurate with their needs. Court-Ordered Probation Supervision had the largest ADP, three times larger than Pre-Disposition Supervision, the supervision type with the next largest ADP.

Supervision Type	ADP
Pre-Disposition	281
Deferred Prosecution	237
Court-Ordered Probation (Non-ISP)	824
Court-Ordered Probation (ISP)	184
Post-Discharge Services Supervision	0.24

# AVERAGE CASELOAD BY UNIT

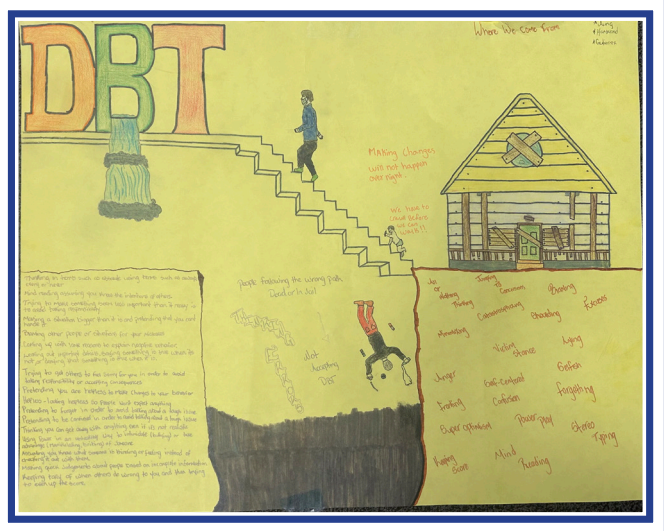


- Average Caseload sizes by unit are provided in the bar graph. While Court Assessment and Youthful Offenders Court had the largest caseloads for 2023, it was more common for caseloads to be 15 or fewer
- Court Assessment and Youthful Offenders Court had caseloads exceeding 20 youth
- All other caseloads were fewer than 20 youth
- These are **average** caseload sizes so they vary within each unit
- The map on the right represents the geographic orientation of Dallas County subdivided by the DCJD districts
- While the districts serve the youth who are assigned to them, it is important to note that the Dallas County Juvenile Department has several programs and residential facilities that serve youth as well



# Achieving Best Life Goals: Dialectical Behavior Therapy in Action

The Dallas County Juvenile Department has embraced Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) as a cornerstone of its approach to juvenile rehabilitation.



DBT Artwork Illustrated by DCJD Youth

The Dallas County Juvenile Department (DCJD) has taken a significant leap forward in transforming the lives of youth in the juvenile justice system by implementing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) across its facilities. What started as a small pilot program has now expanded into a comprehensive initiative that is making a profound impact on youth behavior.

The integration of Dialectical Behavior Therapy within the Dallas County Juvenile Department began at Letot RTC through a strategic partnership with Dr. Michele Galletta, a DBT-Linehan Board of Certification, Certified Clinician renowned for her expertise in adapting DBT for forensic and correctional settings. Following initial success, the leadership team expanded the program department-wide. The ongoing success of DBT is significantly supported by the implementation and practice leads: Frederick Jernigan, who manages Residential Services, Earnest Pratt, who oversees Detention and Post-Adjudication Services, and Dr. Sheree Tarver, who provides oversight for the entire department.

The initial phase of deployment involved creating six facility implementation groups, each composed of six individuals from diverse backgrounds in post-adjudication, detention, residential, probation, education, and clinical. This multidisciplinary team was responsible for identifying strengths and areas for growth, establishing best practices, and developing essential documentation to ensure the program's success. Today, DBT is actively implemented throughout DCJD, with Medlock and Youth Village serving as the lead campuses.

A key strength of the DBT program is its adaptability to each youth's unique needs, providing personalized support both within the system and during their transition back into the community. Core skills like mindfulness, distress tolerance, emotion regulation, and interpersonal effectiveness are reinforced daily through various methods, including group sessions, environmental cues, and one-on-one coaching. The Wise Mind skill, a favorite among youth, promotes thoughtful decision-making by helping them balance emotions and reason before reacting in stressful situations.

Equally important is the positive impact on DCJD staff. The department has introduced Staff Education Support (SES) meetings, which are structured sessions where staff can openly discuss challenges, share strategies, and support each other in their work. Mr. Jernigan emphasizes that "the collaborative environment has not only improved staff morale but has also directly contributed to better outcomes for the youth."

The success of implementing the DBT framework at DCJD is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. As the program expands, the department remains committed to helping every youth achieve their best life goals and continues its focus on training all staff in DBT practices. This ongoing commitment represents a significant advancement in juvenile rehabilitation, setting a new standard through evidence-based practices, staff collaboration, and individualized care.



Wise Mind Poster Created by Youth at Medlock



DCJD COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Program	Total Served	Successful Exits	Unsuccessful Exits	Other Exits	Total Exits
Alternative to Detention					
Day Reporting Center	22	2 (11%)	13 (68%)	4 (21%)	19
Evening Reporting Center	74	43 (68%)	17 (27%)	3 (5%)	63
Surveillance Only					
Electronic Monitoring Pre-Adjudication	295	193 (71%)	78 (34%)	0	271
Electronic Monitoring Post-Adjudication	262	148 (64%)	84 (36%)	0	232
Home Detention Pre-Adjudication	295	193 (71%)	78 (29%)	0	314
Home Detention Post-Adjudication	305	206 (72%)	73 (26%)	7 (2%)	286
Diversion Program					
Diversion Male Court	77	51 (86%)	7 (12%)	1 (2%)	59
Family Violence Intervention Program	61	37 (80%)	9 (20%)	0	46
Mental Health Court	29	20 (80%)	4 (16%)	1 (4%)	25
Youthful Offenders Court	89	71 (95%)	4 (5%)	0	75
Mental/Behavioral Health					
Functional Family Therapy	193	97 (58%)	63 (38%)	8 (5%)	168
Anger Management Group	54	54 (100%)	0	0	54
Individual Psychotherapy	10	4 (80%)	0	1 (20%)	5
Sex Offenders Group STARS	101	42 (78%)	2 (4%)	10 (19%)	54
Special Needs Unit/Program	160	68 (66%)	29 (28%)	6 (6%)	103
Substance Abuse					
Substance Abuse Unit - Aftercare Program	81	49 (70%)	10 (14%)	11 (16%)	70
Substance Abuse Unit - Drug Intervention	264	103 (43%)	90 (38%)	46 (19%)	239
Substance Abuse Unit - Intensive Outpatient	69	8 (14%)	15 (26%)	34 (60%)	57
Substance Abuse Unit - Supportive Outpatient	196	51 (33%)	42 (27%)	61 (40%)	154
Other					
Cognitive Response Group	69	54 (78%)	15 (22%)	0	69
Crossover Youth Practice Model	4	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	0	3
DCJD Reentry Program	7	5 (100%)	0	0	5
NOMI Network	32	31 (97%)	1 (3%)	0	32

CONTRACT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Program	Total Served	Successful Exits	Unsuccessful Exits	Other Exits	Total Exits
Alternative to Detention					
M.Y. G.I.R.L.S. - Detention Alternative	167	111 (80%)	27 (19%)	1 (1%)	139
TIPs - Detention Alternative Program	79	57 (74%)	15 (19%)	5 (6%)	77
YAP - Detention Alternative Program	167	101 (74%)	32 (24%)	3 (2%)	136
Intensive Case Management					
TIPs - Intensive Case Management	81	45 (80%)	6 (11%)	5 (9%)	56
YAP - Intensive Case Management	64	29 (62%)	10 (21%)	8 (17%)	47
Youth Conversion - Intensive Case Management	109	58 (65%)	20 (22%)	11 (12%)	89
Mentor Services					
M.Y. G.I.R.L.S. - Mentor Services	52	38 (83%)	1 (2%)	7 (15%)	46
TIPs - Mentor Services	124	86 (80%)	13 (12%)	8 (7%)	107
Other					
Big Thought - Creative Solutions	30	16 (53%)	2 (7%)	12 (40%)	30
M.Y. G.I.R.L.S. - Group Counseling	3	2 (67%)	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	3
YAP - Family Preservation	9	4 (67%)	1 (17%)	1 (17%)	6

Youth who fall under the authority of the DCJD have a considerable inventory of programs and services that are available to address syndromes and phenomena ranging from being a very young offender with a first-time referral to managing mental health issues, family-oriented problems, substance abuse, and others. Several programs are internal, but there are external programs that elaborate on what can be accomplished by the DCJD.

- Basic program outcome information is included in this summary
- The DCJD administers several programs that afford youth support by facilitating and providing therapeutic, rehabilitative, and interventional services
- Many specialized programs allow youth to participate and remain in the community
- Successful completions tend to be high (exceeding 60%)
  - While there are exceptions, they represent a relatively small cross section of the population
- Youth who participated in any of the diversion programs were generally successful
- Mental and behavioral health programs also had high successful discharge rates
- The programs shown in the table above are administered by organizations external to the DCJD
- These additional programs represent a multiplier allowing for a comprehensive and well-fortified inventory of programs
- Additionally, for all contract programs, youth were discharged successfully more often than were discharged unsuccessfully
- “Other Exits” include youth who may have been participating in a program but could not complete because of insufficient time on supervision, or for another neutral reason unattributable to the youth’s performance while in the program

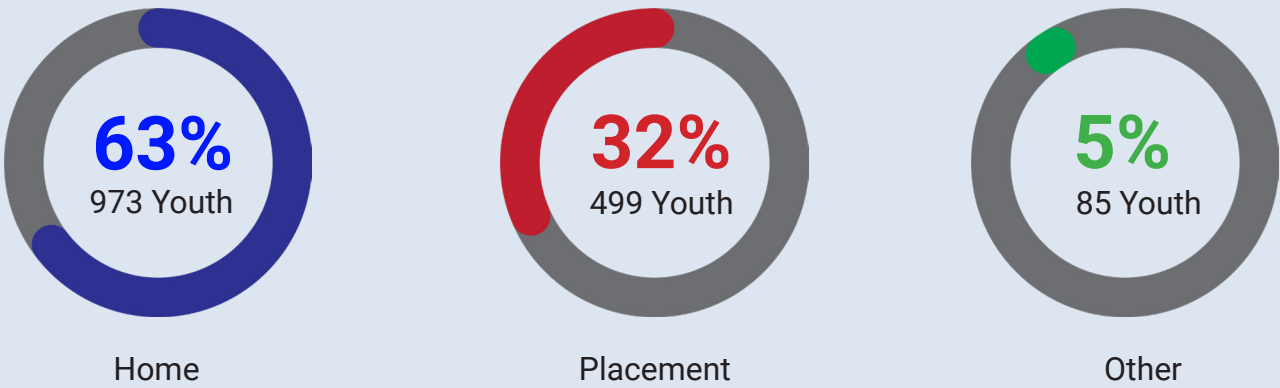
# DR. JEROME MCNEIL JR. DETENTION CENTER



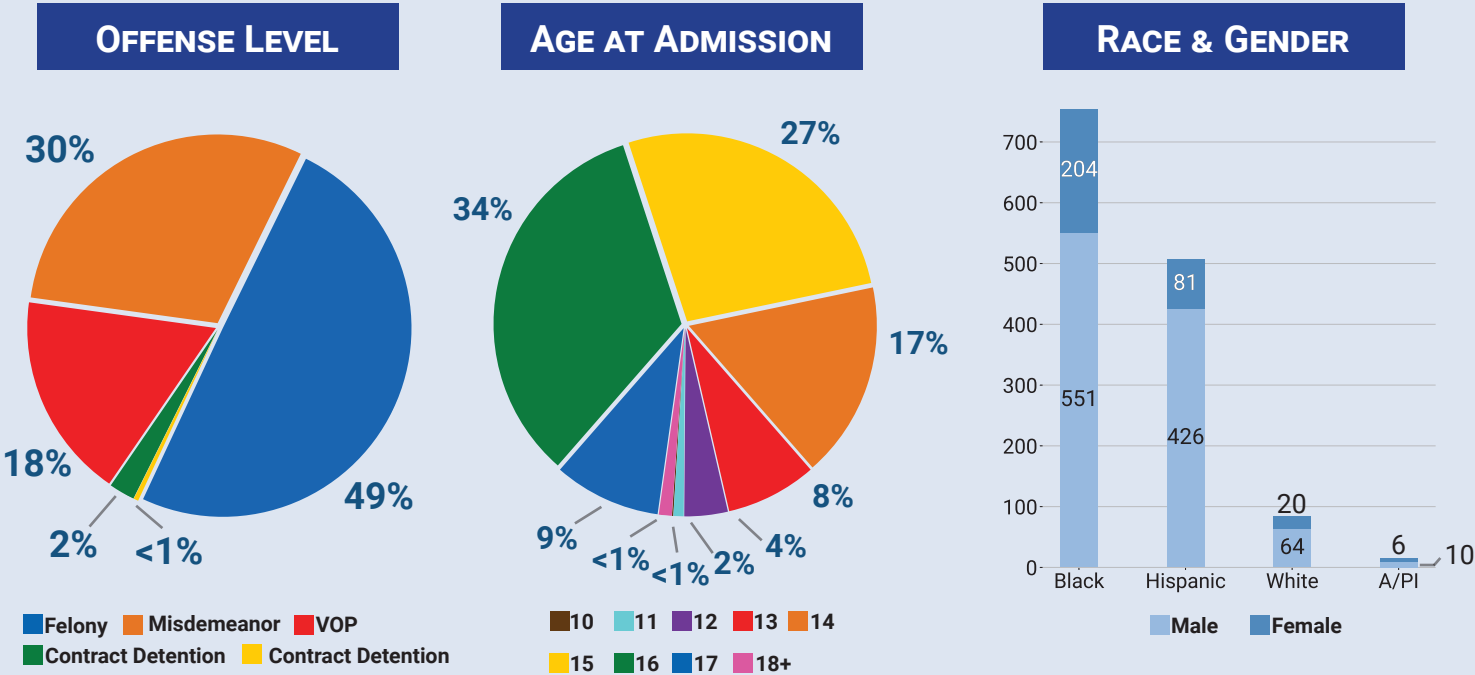
Located within the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center is the Dr. Jerome McNeil, Jr. Juvenile Detention Center. Many youths who are referred for felony and serious misdemeanor offenses are processed through the detention center. The juvenile detention center can accommodate 184 male and 48 female youth. Youth who come to the facility will provide information about themselves and will be required to submit to medical and psychological evaluations as well as a risk and needs assessment to inform decisions regarding supervision and service provision. If youth are in need of medical and/or dental services, they will be provided, along with crisis management and educational services. For the first time in their young lives, youth who are processed through the detention center will encounter a highly structured environment with clear behavioral expectations.

In 2023, the Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center discharged 1,555 youth. They were discharged to home, placement, or other. They could also have been discharged to another jurisdiction, to Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Juvenile Justice, or another alternative based on the youth’s specific circumstances.

## DISCHARGES



## YOUTH SERVED



The McNeil Detention Center admitted 1,555 youth and served 1,715 total youth. The average stay was 40 days and the average number of youths in the center was 165. Almost one-half of youth were detained for a felony offense and almost one-fifth were detained for a violation of probation.

In 2023, detained youth were from predominantly middle adolescent age strata (78% were aged 14, 15, and 16 years). Black youth represented 55% of unique youth served, while Hispanic youth represented 37%, and White youth represented 6%. Black female youth comprised 15% of unique youth served, while White males comprised 5%.

## RISK & NEEDS

NOT ADMINISTERED = 32 (2%)*		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	489 (31%)	201 (13%)	0	690 (44%)
	Moderate	37 (2%)	348 (22%)	278 (18%)	663 (43%)
	High	0	9 (1%)	161 (10%)	170 (11%)
TOTAL		526 (34%)	558 (36%)	439 (28%)	1523 (98%)

\*The PACT assessment is not required to be administered to Contract Detention Youth.





# HILL CENTER

The Marzelle C. Hill Transition Center was co-located in the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center with the detention center. Hill Center was designed as a temporary and transitional residential facility for youth who were identified as appropriate for a non-secure residential placement. Three programs were operated under the auspices of Hill Center and included: (1) the Further Orders of the Court program (FOC); (2) Community Detention Alternative Initiative (CAI); and (3) the Continuity of Care and Transition Program. Further Order of the Court (FOC) provided youth with temporary residential care and supervision while they awaited court orders to a placement facility. The program had a maximum capacity of 48 youth. The Community Detention Alternative Initiative (CAI) was a 21-day program developed as an alternative to detention for adjudicated youth aged 12 to 17 years. These youth typically had chronic difficulties with compliance while under supervision of the Dallas County Juvenile Department. The third program was the Continuity of Care and Transition Program which provided step-down and re-entry services to girls and boys aged 13 to 17 years. **Hill Center operations were suspended indefinitely in December 2023. Consequently, the data reported and provided here reflect on calendar year operations through December 15, 2023.**

## HILL CENTER-FOC

The FOC program admitted 121 unique youth and served 136 (130 unique) during the calendar year. The largest proportion of youth participants were Black (68%) and Black male participants comprised 47%. More than half of youth participating had a felony offense. The average time spent in the program was 44 days and the average daily population was 15 youth. Of the 136 discharges, 123 (90%) were successful. Almost half of youth participants were classified as high risk while 26% were both high risk and high need and 70% were either moderate or high risk, and either moderate or high need.

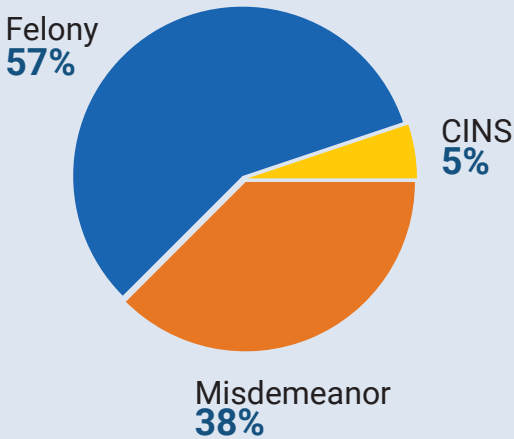
136	Youth Served	126	Admissions
130	Unique Youth Served	121	Unique Youth Admitted
15	ADP	44	ALOS (Days)

Race	Sex	
	Male	Female
Black	61	28
Hispanic	25	12
White	3	1

Exits	
Successful	123
Unsuccessful	11
Other	2

Needs Level	Risk Level			TOTAL
	Low	Moderate	High	
Low	24 (18%)	14 (10%)	0	38 (28%)
Moderate	4 (3%)	27 (20%)	31 (23%)	62 (46%)
High	0	1 (1%)	35 (26%)	36 (27%)
TOTAL	28 (21%)	42 (31%)	66 (49%)	136 (100%)

### OFFENSE LEVEL



## HILL CENTER-CAI

Hill Center-CAI admitted 57 unique youth. Males comprised 88% of youth served and the largest proportion was Hispanic (51%). Felony offenses predominated at 71% and the average time spent in the program was 21 days. The average daily population was 3 youth. Of the 59 discharges, 97% were successful. Almost one-third of youth were assessed as low-risk and 10% were assessed as high risk and high need. A considerable proportion of youth were assessed as either moderate risk or moderate needs.

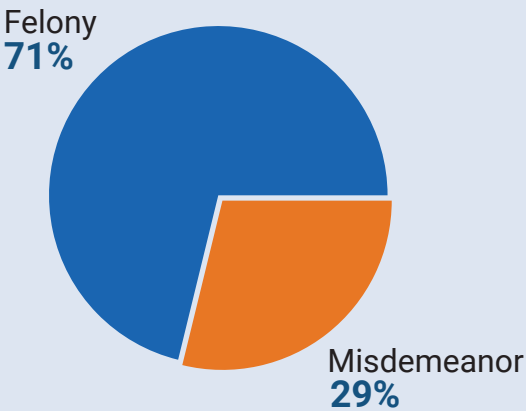
59	Youth Served	57	Admissions
59	Unique Youth Served	57	Unique Youth Admitted
3	ADP	21	ALOS (Days)

Race	Sex	
	Male	Female
Black	22	3
Hispanic	27	3
White	3	1

Exits	
Successful	57
Unsuccessful	1
Other	1

Needs Level	Risk Level			TOTAL
	Low	Moderate	High	
Low	16 (27%)	3 (5%)	0	19 (32%)
Moderate	0	21 (36%)	13 (22%)	34 (58%)
High	0	0	6 (10%)	6 (10%)
TOTAL	16 (27%)	24 (41%)	19 (32%)	59 (100%)

### OFFENSE LEVEL



## HILL CENTER-TRANSITIONAL

During the calendar year, Hill Center – Transitional admitted 11 youth, 7 boys and 4 girls. Black female youth comprised 27% of youth served. Youth stayed an average of 58 days, and the average daily population was 2 youth. Almost three-fourths of the youth served had a felony offense. Of the 11 discharges, 73% were successful. Most youth were high risk and almost half were moderate need.

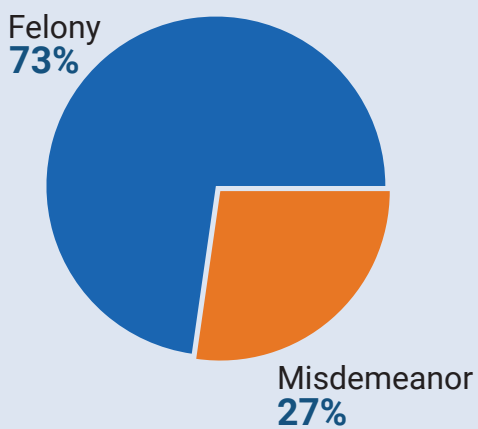
11	Youth Served	9	Admissions
11	Unique Youth Served	9	Unique Youth Admitted
2	ADP	58	ALOS (Days)

Race	Sex	
	Male	Female
Black	3	3
Hispanic	3	1
White	1	0

Exits	
Successful	8
Unsuccessful	3

Needs Level	Risk Level			TOTAL
	Low	Moderate	High	
Low	1 (9%)	1 (9%)	0	2 (18%)
Moderate	0	1 (9%)	4 (36%)	5 (46%)
High	0	0	4 (36%)	4 (36%)
TOTAL	1 (9%)	2 (18%)	8 (73%)	11 (100%)

### OFFENSE LEVEL



# LETOT CENTER

The Dallas County Juvenile Department Letot Center is comprised of three activities: (1) intake; (2) the Assessment, Stabilization, and Advancement Program for Trafficked Youth (ASAP), and (3) Letot Shelter. Youth arriving at the Letot Center will initially make contact with intake. Intake takes a comprehensive approach to assessing the youth including identifying those who might be runaways or those who are in crisis. Through various supportive services that are offered, these youth will be released to their families with an individualized treatment plan and recommendations and referrals for follow-up and community-based services. Female youth who are at high risk of being trafficked or exploited can participate in the ASAP program. ASAP has 8 dedicated beds for such youth who can take advantage of a large inventory of support services that range from addressing immediate needs such as nutrition, clothing, and medical care to more complex needs such as mental health, therapeutic, and other interventional services that are intended to elicit involvement from the entire family. Letot Shelter is a 24-hour emergency residential facility that can accommodate 10 boys and 24 girls. Youth can avail themselves of services such as case management and clinical support while in the Letot Shelter.

## LETOT-INTAKE

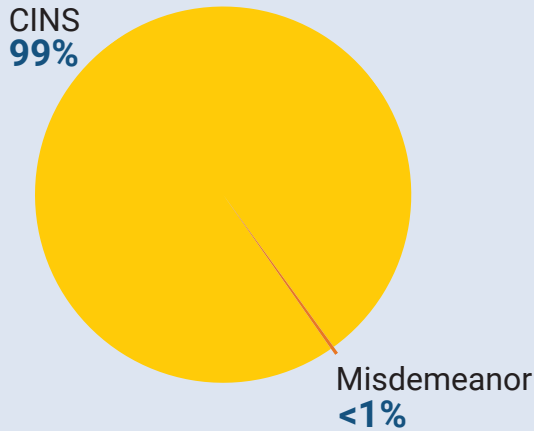
Letot Intake had 416 admissions in 2023 with 353 unique youth served. Similar to 2022, the largest proportion of participants were Black female youth (29%) followed by Black males. Hispanic youth comprised almost one-third of the participant population. Youth were also predominantly assessed as both low risk and low need (34%) with fewer than 10% being either high risk or high need.

Race	Sex	
	Male	Female
Black	91	102
Hispanic	51	67
White	13	25
Other	2	2

Needs Level	Risk Level			TOTAL
	Low	Moderate	High	
Low	140 (34%)	4 (1%)	0	144 (35%)
Moderate	111 (27%)	59 (14%)	8 (2%)	178 (43%)
High	0	10 (4%)	15 (4%)	25 (6%)
TOTAL	251 (60%)	73 (18%)	23 (6%)	347 (83%)

\*Not Administered = 69 (17%)

### OFFENSE LEVEL



## LETOT-ASAP

The ASAP program is specific to female youth. In 2023, 48 youth were admitted representing 44 unique youth. Participants were 64% Black and 30% Hispanic. These youth largely presented with status offenses and were assessed as low risk. Additionally, they tended to be assessed with disproportionate needs. Of the 47 discharges 57% (n = 27) were successful.

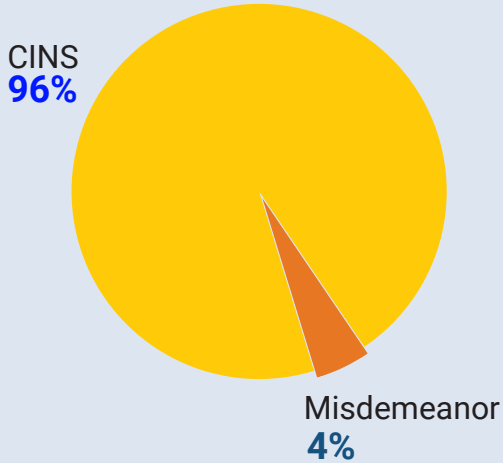
Race	Sex
	Female
Black	28
Hispanic	13
White	3

	Exits
	Successful
Successful	27
Unsuccessful	4
Other	16

Needs Level	Risk Level			TOTAL
	Low	Moderate	High	
Low	11 (23%)	0	0	11 (23%)
Moderate	28 (58%)	5 (10%)	1 (2%)	34 (71%)
High	0	1 (2%)	2 (4%)	3 (6%)
TOTAL	39 (81%)	6 (12%)	3 (6%)	48 (100%)

48	Youth Served	48	Admissions
44	Unique Youth Served	44	Unique Youth Admitted
5	ADP	35	ALOS (Days)

### OFFENSE LEVEL



## LETOT-SHELTER

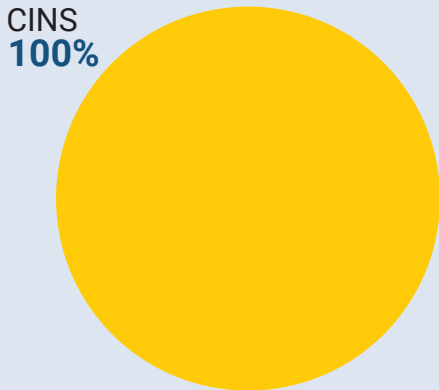
In 2023, Letot Shelter admitted 80 youth, of which 76 were unique. Almost 61% (n = 46) of youth were Black, with Black males comprising the largest proportion of participants at 37% (n = 28). Black female youth comprised 24% (n = 18) and Hispanic males, 21% (n = 16). The average number of days in the program was 27 and the population averaged 5 youth per day. A considerable proportion were assessed as low risk and had disproportionate needs, 50% of participants were assessed as having moderate or high needs.

Race	Sex	
	Male	Female
Black	28	18
Hispanic	16	13
White	0	1

Needs Level	Risk Level			TOTAL
	Low	Moderate	High	
Low	40 (50%)	0	0	40 (50%)
Moderate	28 (35%)	9 (11%)	0	37 (46%)
High	0	2 (3%)	1 (1%)	3 (4%)
TOTAL	68 (85%)	11 (14%)	1 (1%)	80 (100%)

80	Youth Served	80	Admissions
76	Unique Youth Served	76	Unique Youth Admitted
5	ADP	27	ALOS (Days)

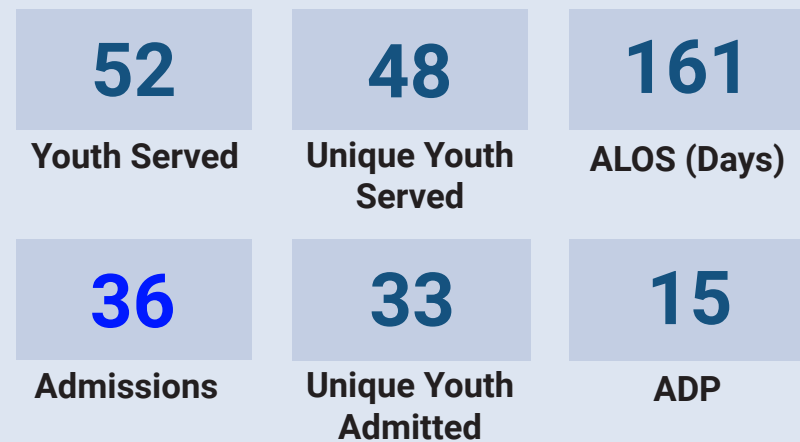
### OFFENSE LEVEL





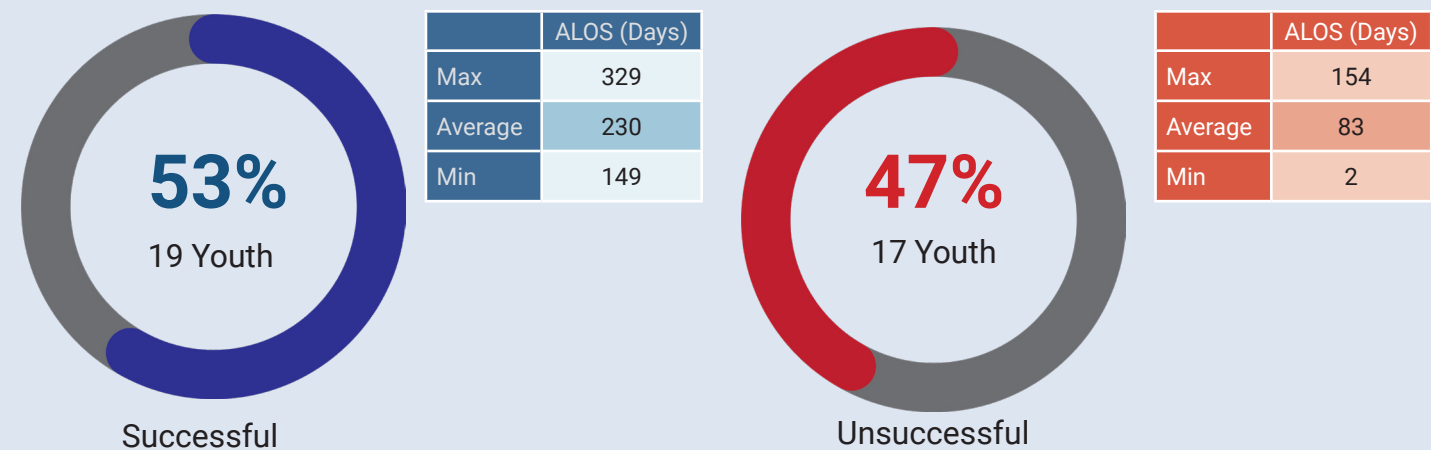


# LETOT - RTC

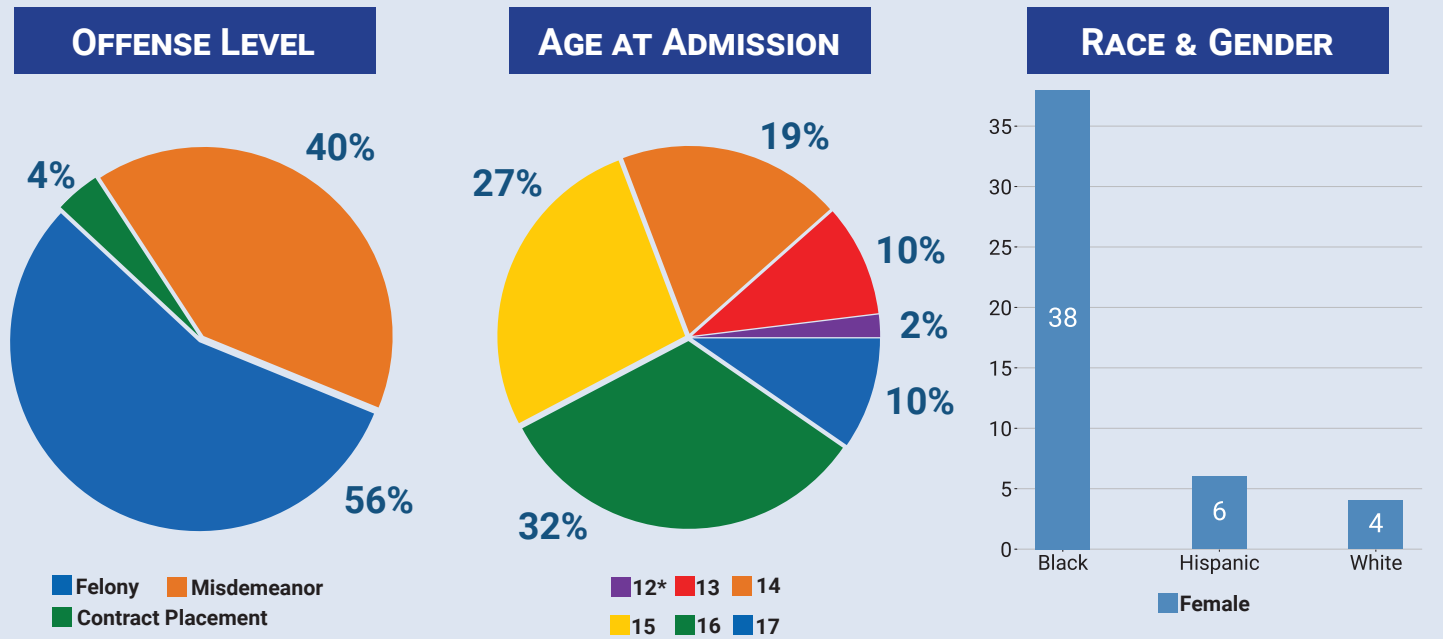


The Letot Residential Treatment Center (RTC) is a non-secure residential placement that can accommodate up to 96 post-adjudicated girls aged 13 to 17. The core program prioritizes neglected and exploited girls, empowering them toward a prosocial future within a safe environment. Families of the girls are included in the comprehensive services provided. Services include education facilitated through the Academy for Academic Excellence, family therapy and other clinical services administered in individual and group formats, crisis intervention, mental health evaluations and services, and substance abuse assessments and treatment. The educational services include culinary arts programs that can lead to food handling certification. Supplemental services include specialized groups, anger management, improved communication skills, and parenting classes. In 2023, the Letot RTC admitted 36 youth and discharged 36. Of all discharges, 53% (n = 19) were successful.

## DISCHARGES



## YOUTH SERVED



Overall, 52 youth (48 unique) were served by Letot RTC in 2023. The average program stay was 161 days, ranging from 2 to 329 days. The average daily population was 15 youth. More than half of participants had a felony offense.

Most youth were aged 16 at the time they participated with the next largest group being 15 years at 27%. Youth were predominantly Black (79%), followed by Hispanic youth (13%), and White youth (8%). Of the youth who were assessed, 27% were assessed as high risk and high need while 65% overall were assessed as high risk. One youth was assessed as low risk and low need (2%), and a considerable proportion was assessed with moderate needs (58%).

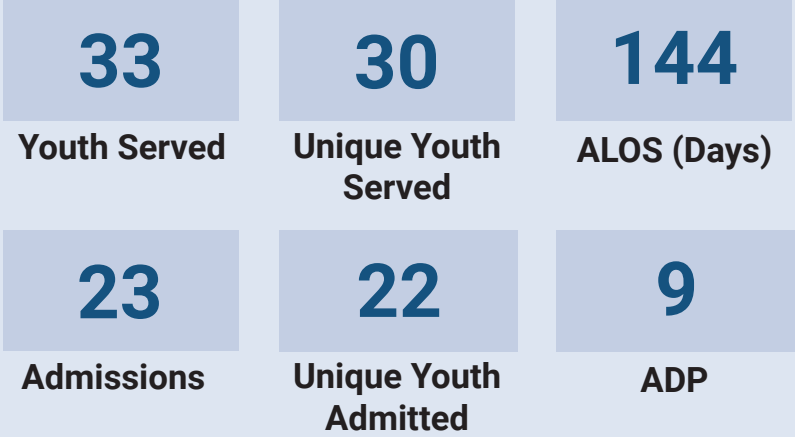
## RISK & NEEDS

NOT ADMINISTERED = 2 (4%)		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	1 (2%)	5 (10%)	0	6 (12%)
	Moderate	0	10 (19%)	20 (39%)	30 (58%)
	High	0	0	14 (27%)	14 (27%)
TOTAL		1 (2%)	15 (29%)	34 (65%)	50 (96%)

\*The one youth was an exception to the program age criteria.

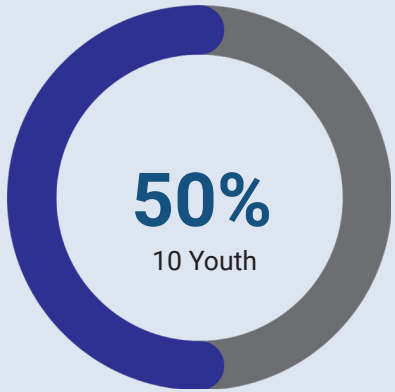


# LETOT - RDT



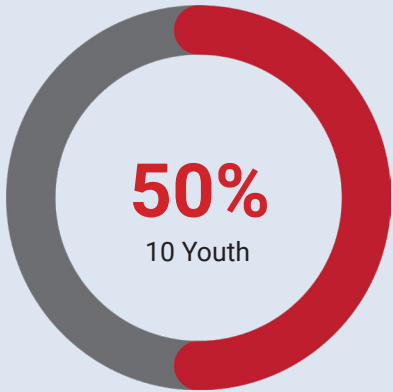
Female youth aged 13 to 17 years who present with a substance abuse problem can get treatment through the Residential Drug Treatment (RDT) program with the Letot Residential Treatment Center. The RDT is gender specific and uniquely focuses on female youth who have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder and require an escalated intervention that is more intense than community-based supportive or intensive outpatient options. The RDT is generally 180-270 days long and participants can avail themselves of a broad compendium of support services including clinical services. Youth are also exposed to aftercare groups which are offered to them after they complete the core RDT program. Attending school and keeping up with the subject-pace that is commensurate with grade level is an integral element of the overall program. The standard instruction is also supplemented with vocational training in culinary arts and food handling, the latter of which can lead to a certification, an important multiplier for future self-sustainment. In 2023, the Letot RDT admitted 23 youth and discharged 20. Of the 20 who were discharged, 10 completed the program successfully (50%) and 10 were discharged unsuccessfully (50%).

## DISCHARGES



Successful

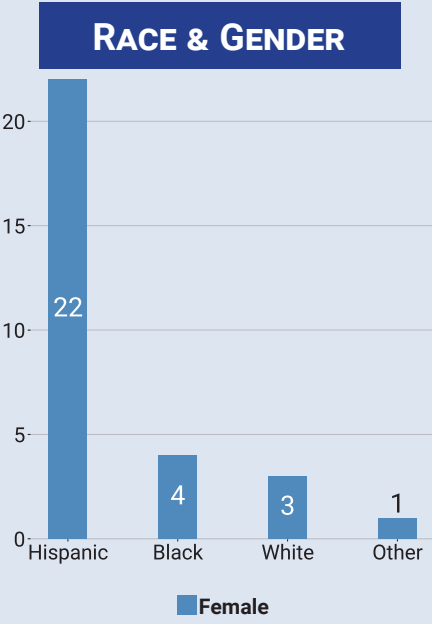
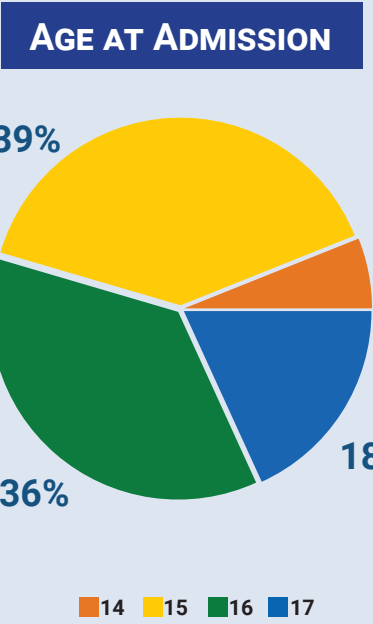
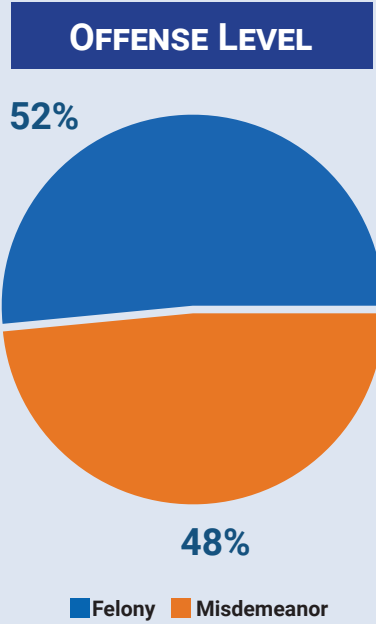
	ALOS (Days)
Max	331
Average	228
Min	58



Unsuccessful

	ALOS (Days)
Max	165
Average	59
Min	6

## YOUTH SERVED



The Letot RDT served 33 total youth and 30 unique youth in 2023. The program averaged 9 youth per day with an average length of stay (ALOS) of 144 days ranging from 6 to 331 days. As indicated in the discharge section, youth who completed RDT successfully stayed in the program longer than youth who were discharged unsuccessfully.

Youth predominantly presented with a felony offense (52%) and were more likely to be in middle adolescence (75% were 15 and 16 years of age). Youth aged 17 years represented 18% of participants while 14-year-olds represented 6%. There were more Hispanic youth who participated in RDT, comparatively, representing 73% (n = 22) of participants.

Participants in the RDT program were most likely to be high-risk/high-needs youth (42%). The next most common classification was moderate risk/moderate needs at 33%, followed by high risk/moderate needs at 21%. Almost two-thirds of participants were classified as high-risk youth, and more than half were assessed as having moderate needs (55%).

## RISK & NEEDS

		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	0	1 (3%)	0	1 (3%)
	Moderate	0	11 (33%)	7 (21%)	18 (55%)
	High	0	0	14 (42%)	14 (42%)
TOTAL		0	12 (36%)	21 (64%)	33 (100%)





# LETOT - STARS



One of the highly specialized programs administered by the Letot Residential Treatment center is called the Successful Thinking and Responsible Sexuality (STARS) program. The STARS program is appropriate for female youth aged 13 to 17 years who have been referred and adjudicated for a sex-related offense. While the main goal of the program is to reduce the probability of future offending, there is an emphasis on overall adaptive functioning and increasing public safety. Participants in the STARS program must attend weekly group sessions that target their thoughts and feelings in such a way as to promote and encourage healthy decisions regarding sexual behavior. The therapeutic approach is comprehensive, intense, and multidisciplinary, but also flexible enough to accommodate each youth's individual needs so that they can also avail themselves of additional opportunities.

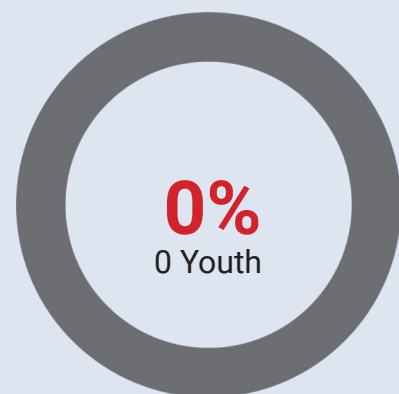
In 2023, one youth was admitted to STARS and two were discharged successfully. The STARS program did not have any unsuccessful discharges.

## DISCHARGES



Successful

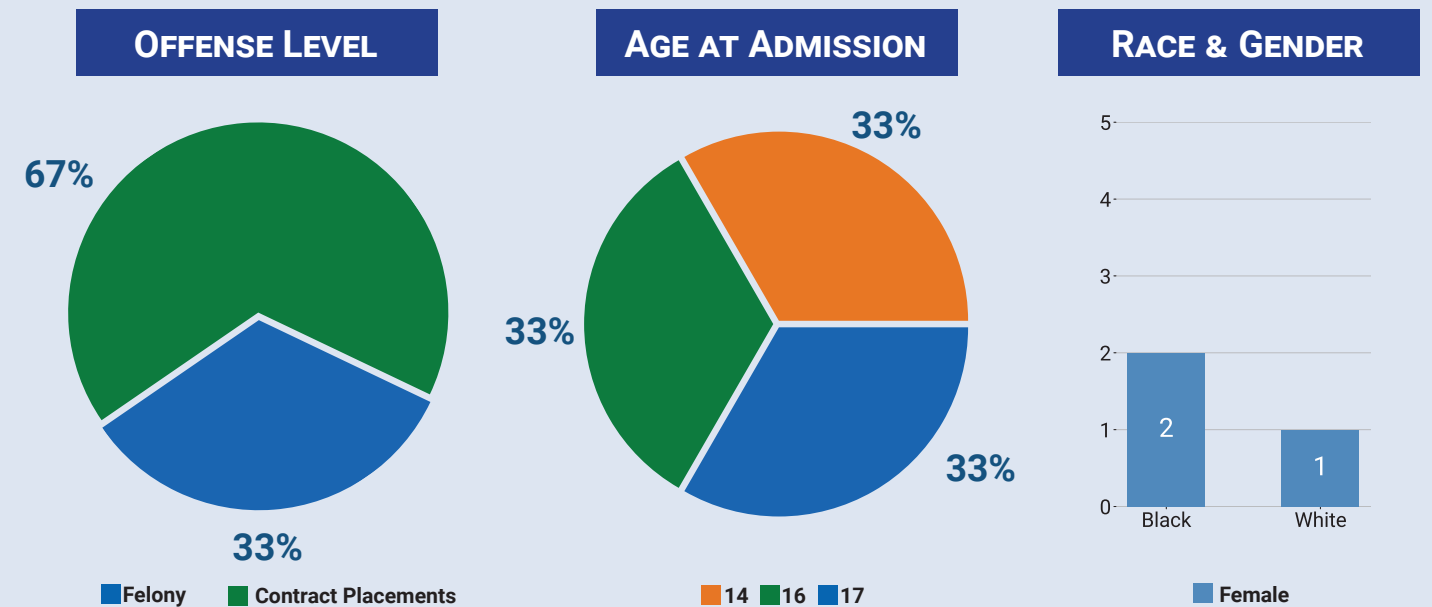
	ALOS (Days)
Max	383
Average	316
Min	249



Unsuccessful

	ALOS (Days)
Max	-
Average	-
Min	-

## YOUTH SERVED



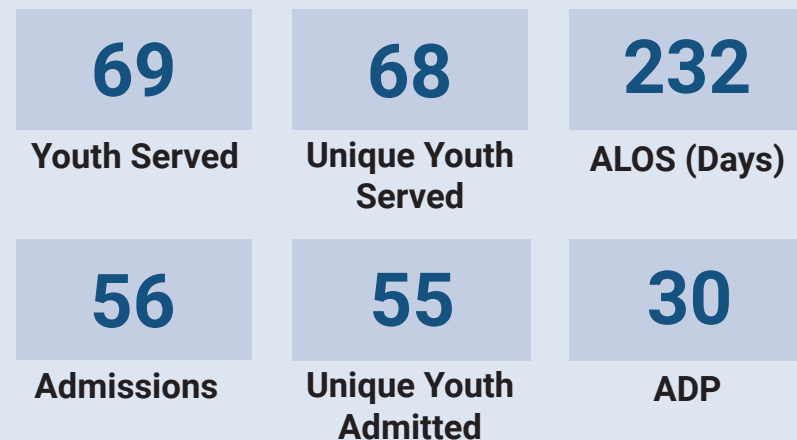
The Letot STARS program served three (3) unique youth in 2023. The average program stay (ALOS) was 316 days but ranged between 246 and 383 days. Two of the youth were contract placements and one had a felony offense. Participants were 14, 16, and 17 years of age (one of each). Two participants were Black, and one was White. As reported in previous versions of this report, female youth who offend sexually represent a very low base-rate phenomenon. The program was developed for this population to effectively address their unique needs while increasing public safety and decreasing the probability of future offending.

One of the three youth in the Letot STARS program was administered a PACT assessment scoring high risk and low needs.

## RISK & NEEDS

NOT ADMINISTERED = 2 (67%)		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	0	0	1	1 (33%)
	Moderate	0	0	0	0
	High	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	0	0	1 (33%)

# DALLAS COUNTY - RDT



The Dallas County Juvenile Department administers a Residential Drug Treatment (RDT) program for male youth in the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center. The program length is approximately 180 to 270 days and can accommodate up to 40 male youth between the ages of 13 and 17 years of age. Youth who participate in the Dallas County RDT have been clinically assessed and determined to need residential substance abuse treatment and have been ordered by the court into RDT to get those services. While in the program, youth will be treated for their substance use disorder while also learning life and social skills. The Dallas County RDT includes academic instruction in the daily schedule which is an element of the individual treatment plan which will also include group and family counseling. As youth begin to transition out of the RDT, a comprehensive relapse prevention and step-down protocol is followed to increase the long-term success of all who discharge from the program.

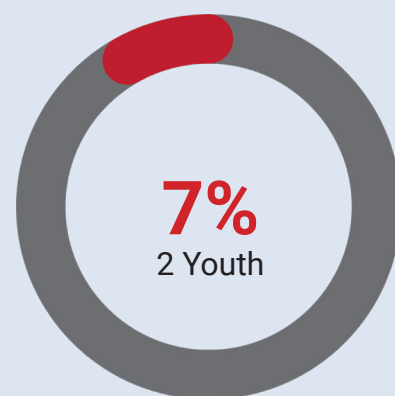
In 2023, Dallas County RDT admitted 56 youth and discharged 30. Youth largely completed the RDT program successfully (n = 28, 93%).

## DISCHARGES



Successful

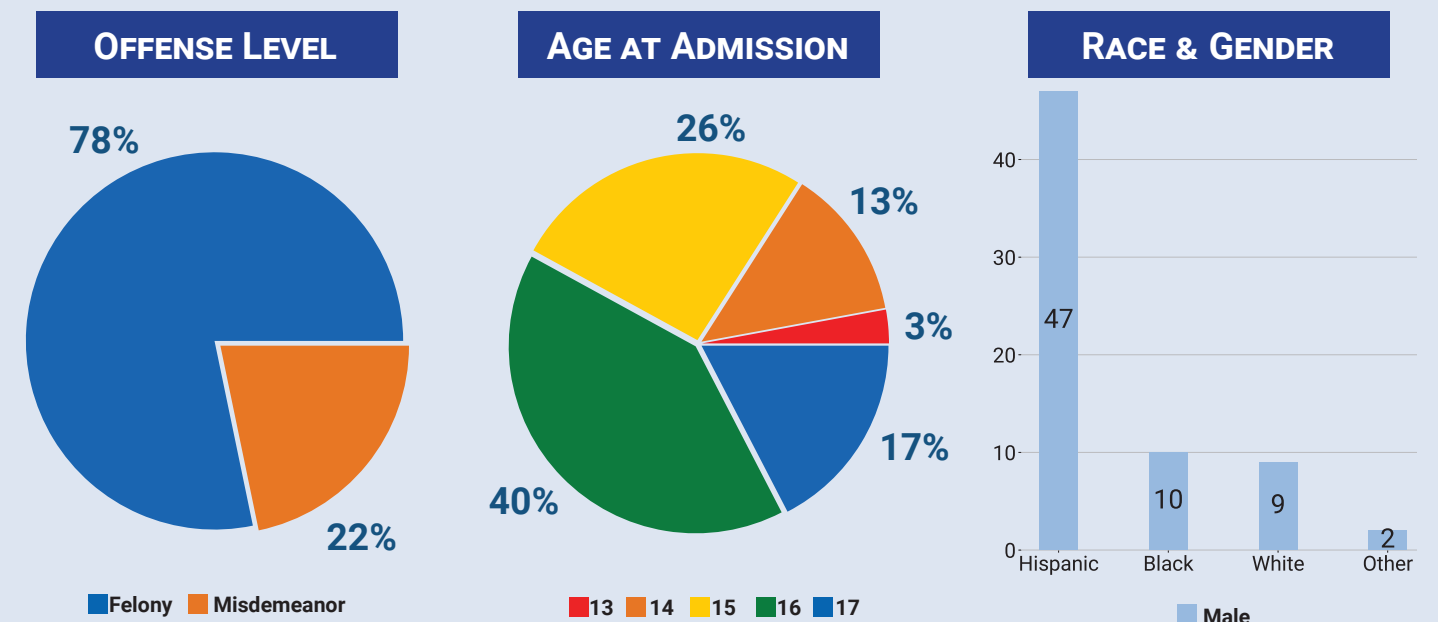
	ALOS (Days)
Max	314
Average	243
Min	118



Unsuccessful

	ALOS (Days)
Max	100
Average	69
Min	38

## YOUTH SERVED



Dallas RDT served 69 total youth and 68 unique youth in 2023. The program averaged 30 youth per day and had an average length of stay (ALOS) of 232 days, ranging between 38 and 314 days. Youth who were successfully discharged from the program had a higher average stay (243 days, min = 118, max = 314) relative to youth who were discharged unsuccessfully (69 days, min = 38, max = 100).

Youth who participated in Dallas County RDT had predominantly felony offenses (78%) and were between 15 and 17 years of age (83%) when they were admitted. Additionally, participants were largely Hispanic (n = 47, 68%). Black and White participants were almost evenly split, (n = 10, 15% & n = 9, 13%, respectively).

All participants were assessed using the PACT risk and needs assessment. Youth were generally from the high-risk band (n = 33, 48%) with 22% (n = 15) assessed as high risk and high needs. More than one third (n = 25) were assessed as moderate risk and moderate need while 85% (n = 58) were assessed as having moderate or high needs).

## RISK & NEEDS

		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	9 (13%)	2 (3%)	0	11 (16%)
	Moderate	0	25 (25%)	18 (26%)	43 (63%)
	High	0	0	15 (22%)	15 (22%)
TOTAL		9 (13%)	27 (39%)	33 (48%)	69 (100%)



# DALLAS COUNTY - STARS



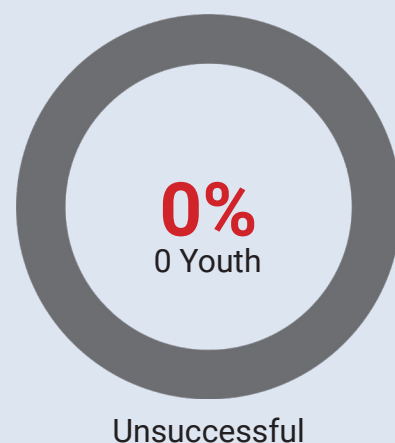
The Successful Thinking and Responsible Sexuality (STARS) program for male youth is located in the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center. STARS was developed to address 12- to 17-year-old youth who have been referred to the DCJD and adjudicated for a sexually related offense. Program elements focus on the individual needs of youth employing a therapeutic process that consists of weekly group sessions targeting thoughts and feelings. A primary goal for the program is to advance healthy decision-making regarding sexual behavior, developing and enhancing positive coping skills, and reducing the probability of continued antisocial behavior. The therapeutic treatment approach requires specially trained staff, from clinical staff to probation officers and third-party contract providers such as polygraphers. Because of the targeted specialization that is required, the STARS program is decidedly intensive. Youth are also expected to engage in family intervention, get involved with the community, and participate in educational activities, all of which are critical elements for success in the STARS program.

In 2023, the STARS program admitted 11 youth and discharged 21 (all successfully).

## DISCHARGES

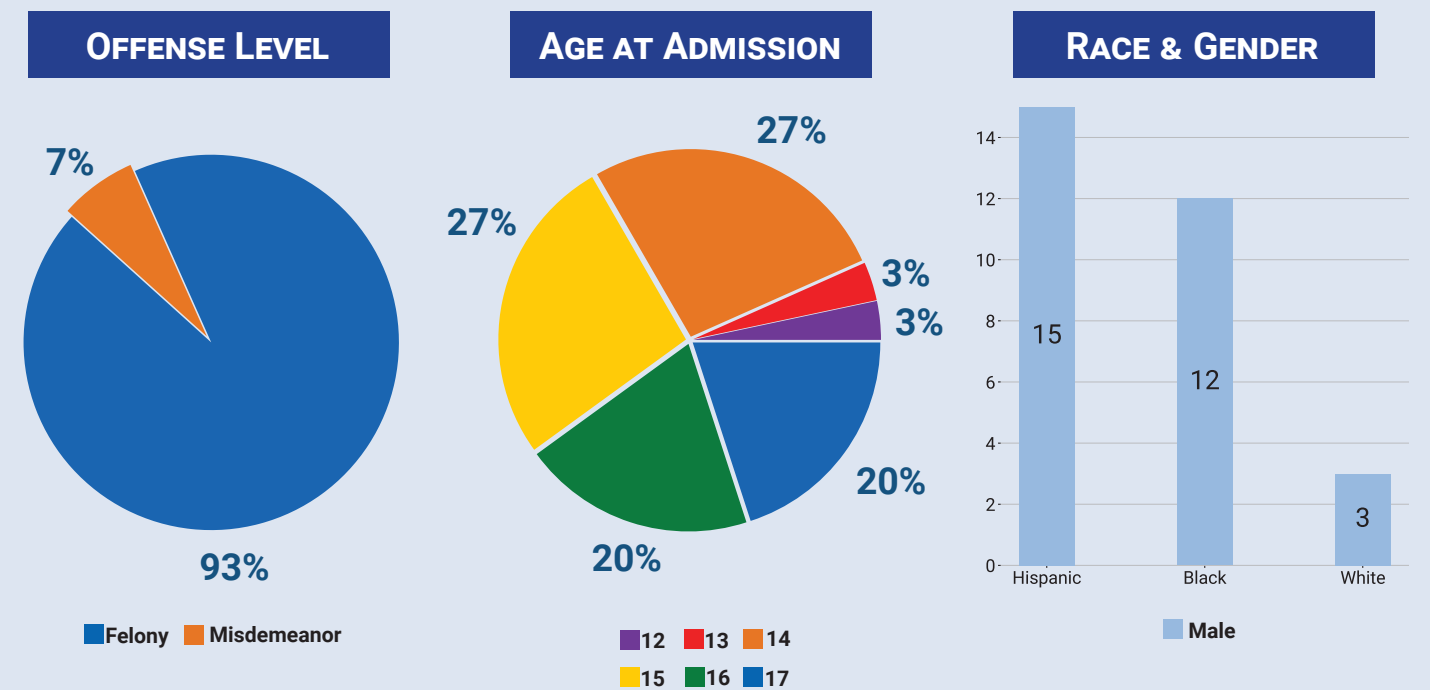


	ALOS (Days)
Max	589
Average	309
Min	183



	ALOS (Days)
Max	-
Average	-
Min	-

## YOUTH SERVED



The Dallas County STARS program served 30 unique and total youth in 2023. The average time in the program was 309 days and ranged between 87 and 688 days. The average daily population (ADP) was 15 youth.

Youth were typically on supervision for a felony offense (93%) and were predominantly in the 14- to 15-year age range (54%). Half of STARS participants were Hispanic and 40% (n = 12) were Black. White youth represented 10% (n = 3) of the participant population.

Youth were predominantly assessed as low risk and low need (n = 12, 40%) using the PACT risk and needs assessment. Additionally, 18 (60%) were assessed as moderate or high risk, 12 (40%) were assessed as low risk, and 23 (77%) were assessed as low needs.

## RISK & NEEDS

		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	12 (40%)	11 (37%)	0	23 (77%)
	Moderate	0	2 (7%)	3 (10%)	5 (17%)
	High	0	0	2 (7%)	2 (7%)
TOTAL		12 (40%)	13 (43%)	5 (17%)	30 (100%)

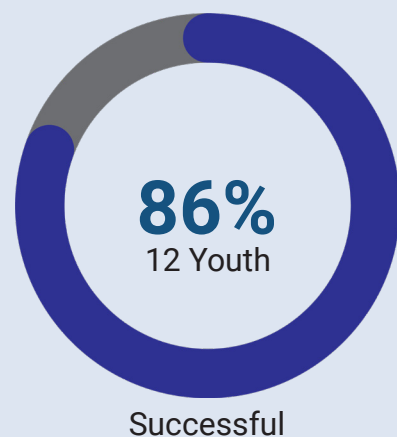
# DALLAS COUNTY - HOPE



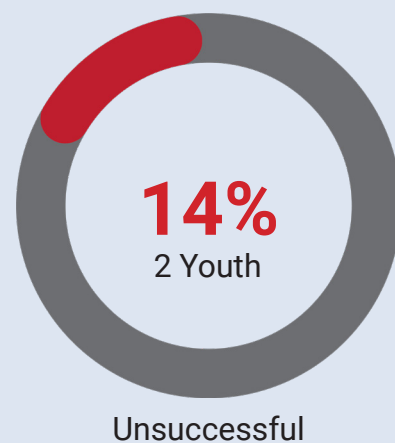
The Healing by Opportunities and Positive Experiences or HOPE program was designed and developed for a high-needs population who need individualized treatment in a structured environment. Youth who participate in HOPE are afforded a safe, secure, and structured residential setting that allows for ongoing care and supervision. Participating youth focus on emotional stabilization and mood regulation skills in preparation to transition from a secure setting to one that is less secure. Participants are between the ages of 13 and 17 years at the time they are admitted. They are required to attend school through the Academy for Academic Excellence but are encouraged to participate in supplementary therapeutic activities such as individual, group, and family counseling. Youth are also provided with extracurricular opportunities for recreation, participation in spiritual support, and life skills training in a cooperative learning format. The duration of the program is approximately 180 days and HOPE can accommodate up to eight (8) participants at a time.

HOPE admitted 17 youth and discharged 14 in 2023. Youth largely completed the program successfully (n = 12, 86%).

## DISCHARGES

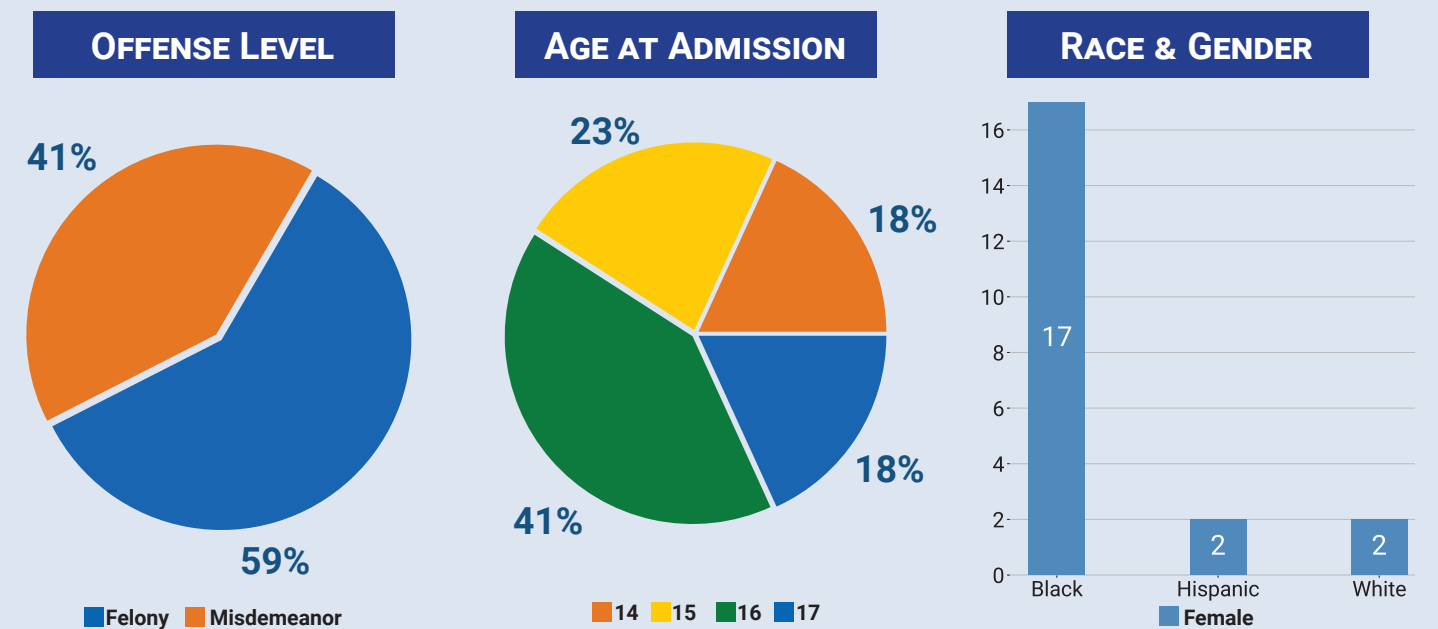


	ALOS (Days)
Max	205
Average	158
Min	70



	ALOS (Days)
Max	102
Average	68
Min	34

## YOUTH SERVED



The HOPE program served 22 total youth and 21 unique youth in 2023. Youth generally had a felony offense (59%) and relatively older with 59% being 16 or 17 years at the time they were admitted. Youth were predominantly Black (n = 17, 81%) with the remaining four (4) youth split between Hispanic (n = 2, 10%) and White (n = 2, 10%). The average time in the program was 145 days but ranged between 34 and 205 days. On average, youth who completed HOPE successfully remained in the program longer (n = 12, 86%) relative to youth who were discharged unsuccessfully (n = 2, 14%). The average daily population (ADP) was 7 youth.

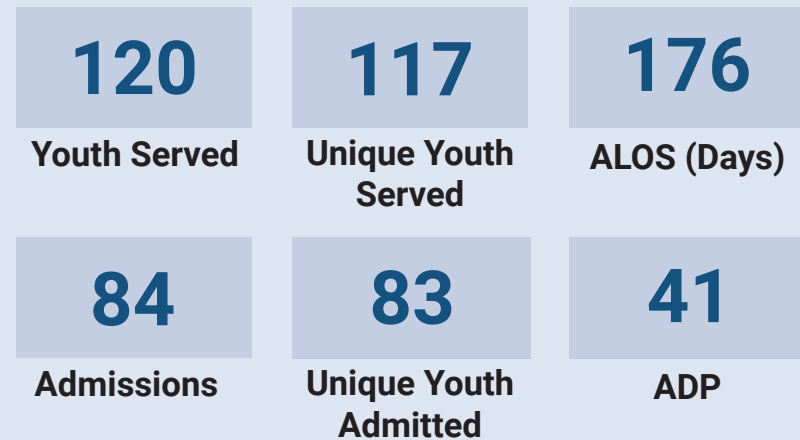
Youth were generally assessed as high risk (n = 29, 91%) of which 12 (55%) were also assessed as moderate needs, and 10 (46%) were assessed as high need. However, two (9%) were assessed as moderate risk and moderate needs. Youth referred to and participating in HOPE generally require and respond favorably to a highly structured and regulated environment.

## RISK & NEEDS

		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	0	0	0	0
	Moderate	0	2 (9%)	10 (46%)	12 (55%)
	High	0	0	10 (46%)	10 (46%)
TOTAL		0	2 (9%)	20 (91%)	22 (100%)



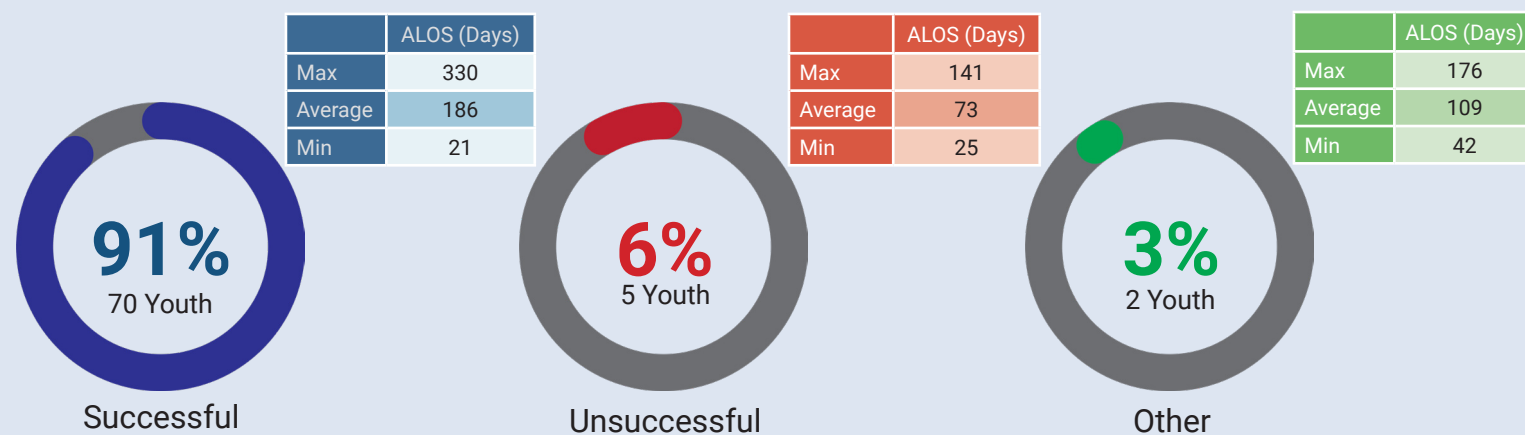
# MEDLOCK



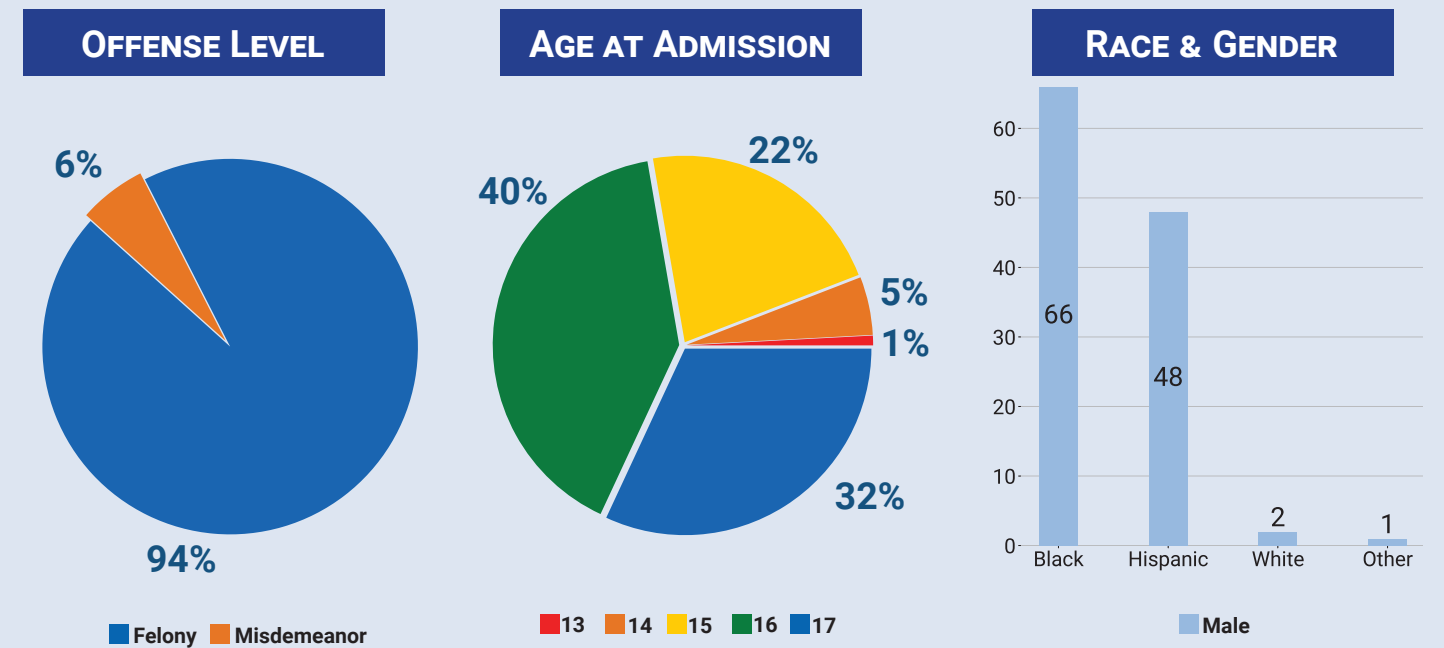
One of the Dallas County Juvenile Department's secure placement facilities for males is the Lyle B. Medlock Residential Treatment Center located in southeastern Dallas County near Hutchins. The Medlock Treatment Center was developed and designed for male youth who have been referred to the DCJD, adjudicated for their offense, and who are in need of a secure residential placement that provides highly structured care and supervision. Youth aged 13 to 17 years are court-ordered into the Medlock facility. While in Medlock, youth must participate in group, individual, and life-skills counseling. Participation in drug education sessions and various recreational activities are highly encouraged. Youth can avail themselves of several other subprograms within the facility that promote health, hygiene, independent living, and obtaining and maintaining suitable, legal employment.

The Medlock Center admitted 84 youth (83 unique) into the facility in 2023. Additionally, 77 youth were discharged, 70 (91%) successfully, 5 (6%) unsuccessfully, and 2 (3%) were administratively discharged.

## DISCHARGES



## YOUTH SERVED



The Medlock facility served 120 total youth and 117 unique youth in 2023. The average program length was 176 days, ranging between 21 and 330 days. Youth who were successfully discharged from Medlock generally, on average had longer stays (186 days, min = 21 & max = 330) relative to youth who were discharged unsuccessfully (73 days, min = 25 & max = 141). The average daily population (ADP) was 41 youth.

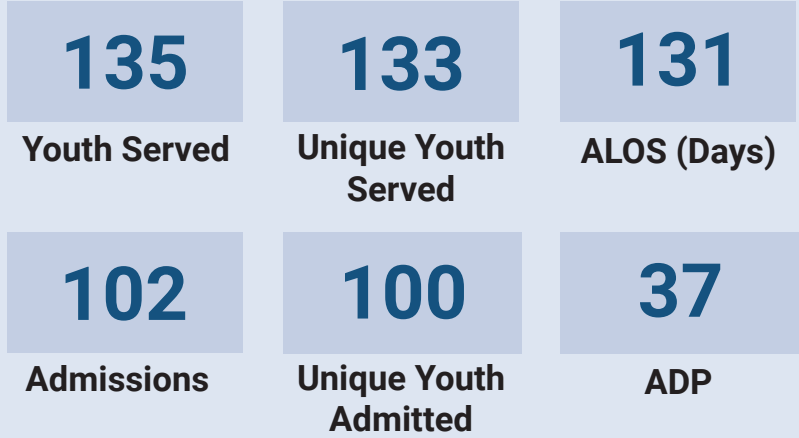
Youth generally presented with a felony offense (94%) and 72% were either 16 or 17 years of age at the time they were admitted to Medlock. Black youth comprised 56% (n = 66) of the 2023 Medlock population while Hispanic youth represented 41% (n = 48), and White youth represented 2% (n = 2). The male youth placed in Medlock were predominantly assessed high risk (n = 73, 61%) while a considerable number were high or moderate need (n = 86, 72%). But the 2023 population was diverse in regard to risk and needs such that 34 youth (28%) were assessed as having low needs. Interestingly, 8% (n = 9) were assessed as having low risk and low needs.

## RISK & NEEDS

		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	9 (8%)	25 (21%)	0	34 (28%)
	Moderate	0	13 (11%)	52 (43%)	65 (54%)
	High	0	0	21 (18%)	21 (18%)
TOTAL		9 (8%)	38 (32%)	73 (61%)	120 (100%)



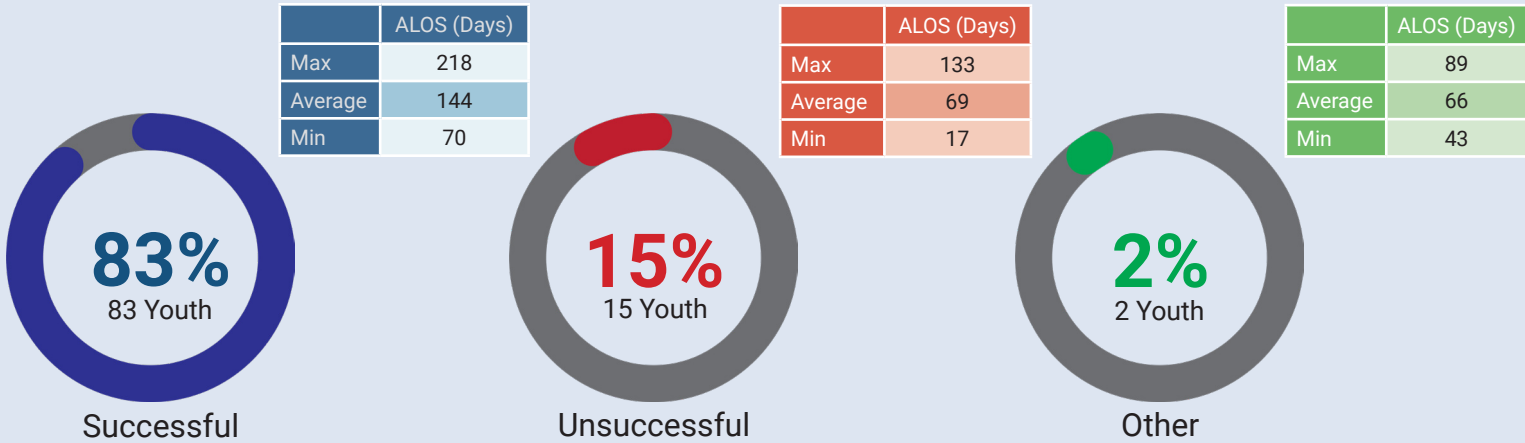
# YOUTH VILLAGE



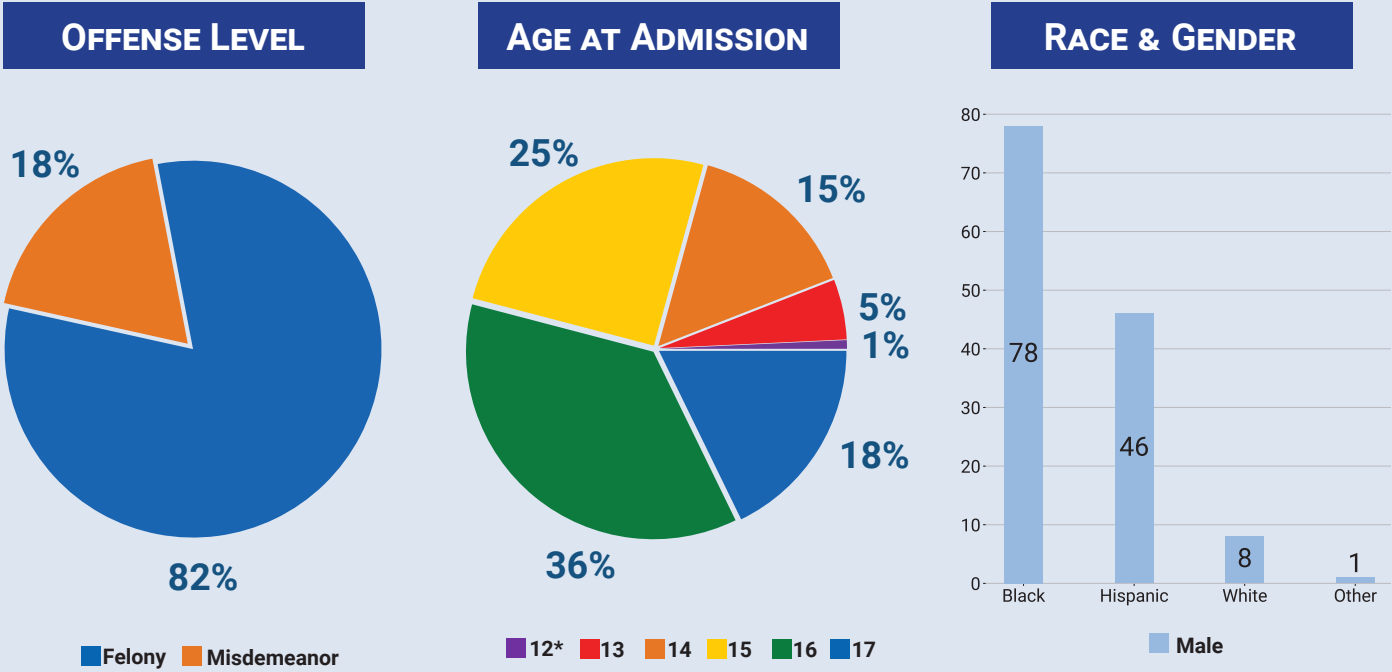
The Youth Village residential facility is a non-secure residential placement for male youth aged 13 to 17 years. The facility is in close proximity to the Medlock Residential Treatment Center. Youth Village is an appropriate placement for adjudicated youth who have needs that cannot be addressed by community-based programs alone. Youth who are required to participate in the Youth Village facility must attend school and counseling as components of a larger system of programming aimed to advance and develop positive and functional social skills. Youth Village also offers culinary arts vocational training and ServSafe certification. A separate welding program leads to OSHA-10 certification, among other programs that lead to welding and forklift operation certifications. The idea behind the various programming opportunities is to prepare youth for the job market and increase their employability in various workplace sectors.

Youth Village admitted 102 youth and discharged 100 in 2023. Most youth completed the program successfully (n = 83, 83%).

## DISCHARGES



## YOUTH SERVED



Youth Village served 135 total youth and 133 unique youth in 2023. The average program stay was 131 days, ranging between 17 and 218 days. The Average Daily Population (ADP) was 37 youth. Youth typically had a felony offense (82%) and were from the 15-year (25%) and 16-year (36%) age strata. Interestingly, 6% of youth who were admitted to Youth Village were 12 or 13 years of age. Most youth were Black (n = 78, 59%) or Hispanic (n = 46, 35%). White youth represented 6% of youth who were served by Youth Village in 2023.

Youth were assessed using the PACT risk and needs assessment. Half of the youth served by Youth Village (n = 68) were assessed as high risk and 29 (22%) were both high risk and high needs. More than one third were assessed as low needs (n = 46, 34%) and either low or moderate risk. While it is not unusual to observe youth representing the high-risk stratum, a considerable proportion also had either moderate or high needs 29% & 22%, respectively).

## RISK & NEEDS

		Risk Level			TOTAL
		Low	Moderate	High	
Need Level	Low	15 (11%)	31 (23%)	0	46 (34%)
	Moderate	0	21 (16%)	39 (29%)	60 (44%)
	High	0	0	29 (22%)	29 (22%)
TOTAL		15 (11%)	52 (39%)	68 (50%)	135 (100%)

\*The one youth was an exception to the program age criteria.



# Bee-yond Words: Spelling Success

The Dallas County Juvenile Department’s annual spelling bee empowers students to develop key academic and life skills. Through engaging competitions and supportive community involvement, the event highlights the department’s dedication to fostering growth, confidence, and success in the lives of participating youth.



Traveling Trophy for District Spelling Bee Champion

Since 2022, the Dallas County Juvenile Department Educational Services has hosted an annual spelling bee, bringing a unique educational opportunity to students across all facilities. This event, held every spring, is more than just a competition; it is a celebration of learning, growth, and resilience for students attending the Academy for Academic Excellence campuses and the Dallas County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (DCJJAEP). The inspiration behind this event was to showcase the successes of these students and provide them with school experiences comparable to their peers in other districts.

Preparation for the spelling bee is an inspiring journey involving a dedicated team of teachers, coaches, and instructional coordinators. These educators work closely with students, helping them build confidence and hone their spelling skills through practice sessions and mock spelling bees. This preparation is crucial because students must first compete and win at their home campus where the top two spellers are selected to represent their facility in the district-level spelling bee.



T-shirt Designed by Talented Students at the Letot Center

The district-level spelling bee transforms into a county-wide celebration of academic achievement. The words for the competition are carefully selected from the “Words of Champions” list provided by the Scripps National Spelling Bee, challenging students while maintaining the authenticity and integrity of professional spelling competitions. Many personnel within Dallas County join to support the event, underscoring its significance. Karen Ramos, the Deputy Director of Educational Services, ensures the smooth execution by communicating the official rules to contestants and keeping track of their progress. The competition is further supported by word callers and judges, all contributing to the event’s success.

Participation in the district spelling bee profoundly impacts juveniles, developing their vocabulary, comprehension, and language skills vital for academic growth. It offers students, especially those who struggle in traditional settings, a chance to excel. The bee also develops essential life skills like public speaking, confidence, and discipline. Beyond the academic benefits, the spelling bee is a source of enjoyment and camaraderie. The youth are highly engaged and supportive of one another, even when someone makes a mistake.

Each year, the spelling bee culminates in a celebration of success. Participants receive t-shirts as a token of their hard work, while winners earn gift cards and a coveted traveling trophy for their campus. Since its inception, the spelling bee has seen winners from various campuses, including a female student from Letot Center in 2022 and a male student from Youth Village in 2023. These victories highlight the diverse talent within the Dallas County Juvenile Department and underscore the positive impact of educational initiatives like the spelling bee.

The Dallas County Juvenile Department remains committed to fostering an environment where students are encouraged to reach their full potential. The annual spelling bee is just one example of how educational services within the department aim to bring about positive changes in students’ lives, both academically and personally.

# VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

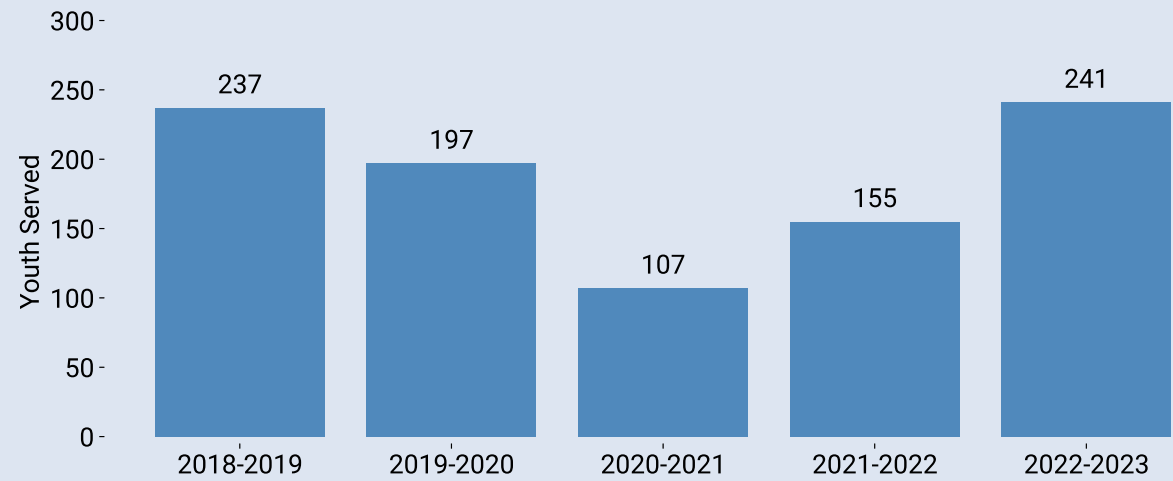
## 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

Program Location	Total Served	Successful Exits	Unsuccessful Exits	Other Exits	Total Exits
Letot					
Culinary	51	30 (79%)	1 (3%)	7 (18%)	38
Medlock					
Culinary	3	2 (67%)	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	3
Youth Village					
Construction	6	3 (50%)	0 (0%)	3 (50%)	6
Culinary	16	14 (88%)	2 (13%)	0 (0%)	16
Welding	11	8 (73%)	0 (0%)	3 (27%)	11



Huevos a la Flamenca - Prepared by the RDT Culinary Arts Students

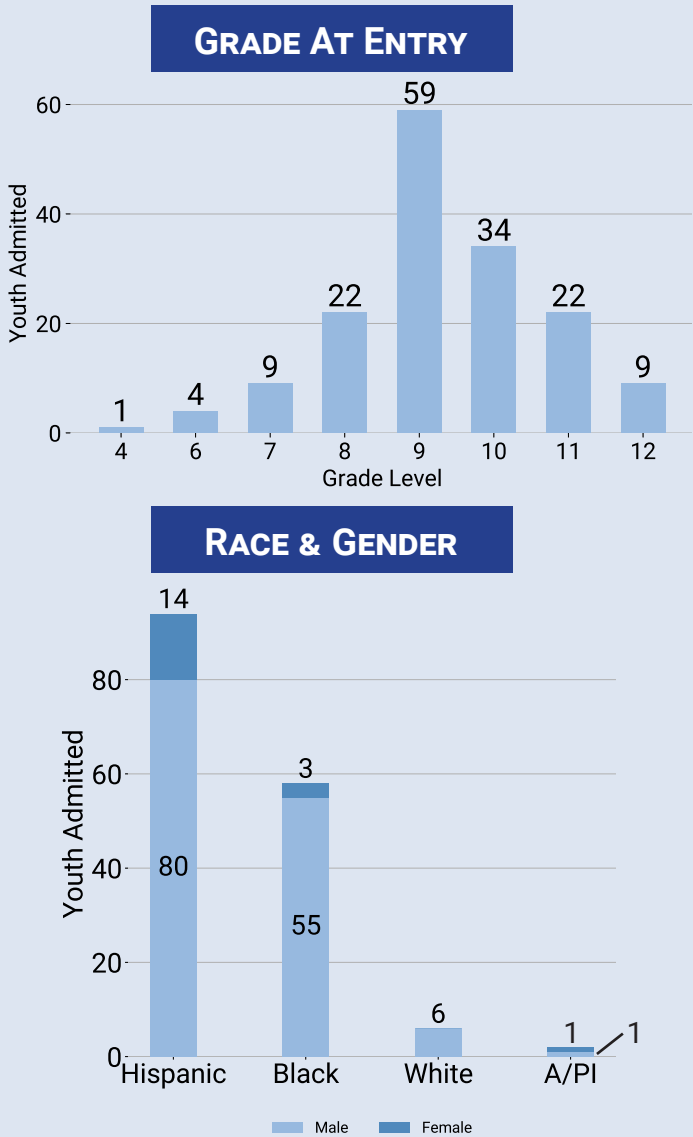
JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM



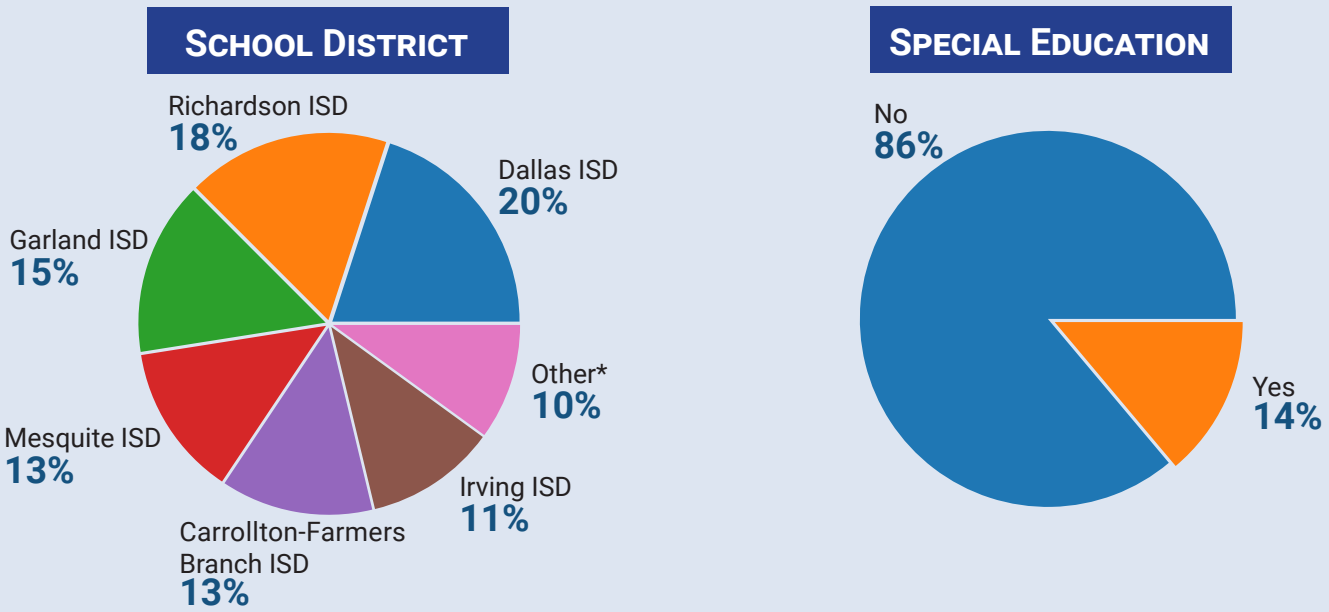
The Texas Legislature mandates that juvenile boards in counties with a population greater than 125,000 operate a Juvenile Justice Education Program (JJAEP). The JJAEP provides education services to youth who have been expelled from their conventional school settings for serious school-related conduct. Students receive instruction in Math, Science, English Language Arts, and Social Studies.

The bar graph above provides the academic year-to-year number of youth served by the JJAEP.

- While a decline during the COVID years is observed, there was an increase of approximately 47% from the 2020-2021 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, and a 55% increase from the 2021-2022 academic year to the 2022-2023 academic year
- The bar graph to the right indicates that most youth were in the 9th grade (37%), but 10th, 11th, and 12th grades comprised a significant proportion (41%) of the overall admission population
- Youth were predominantly Hispanic (n= 94, 56%) and male (n = 142, 83%)
- Black students comprised 39% of the JJAEP population (n = 58), and when combined with Hispanic students (n = 94), comprised approximately 95% of the JJAEP student admission population



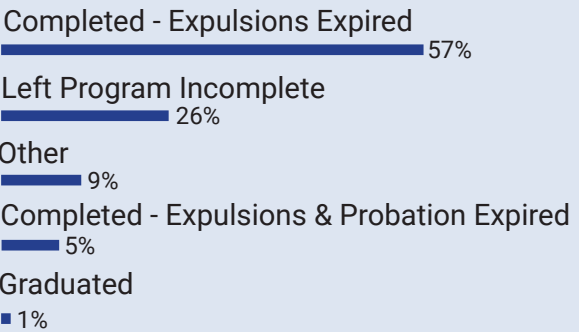
JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM



The youth who received educational services from JJAEP represented several North Texas independent school districts (ISDs). Most youth who were in JJAEP represented Dallas ISD (20%). More than 50% of youth were represented by three ISDs: Dallas, Richardson and Garland. Smaller proportions of youth came from Lancaster, and Desoto ISDs (among others) and comprise the “Other” category which accounted for 10% overall of the JJAEP student population.

- 14% of youth required special education support
- For the 2022-2023 school year, 150 youth were discharged from Dallas County JJAEP
- Most youth completed JJAEP (57%) or their expulsion expired
- More than one quarter left the program prior to completion
- A significant proportion of the youth served by the JJAEP (83%) were placed for a mandatory offense
- One percent (1%) graduated from JJAEP with a diploma

2023 DISCHARGES (n=150)



	Expulsion Type
Mandatory	201
Discretionary	38
Other	2

\* “Other” category summarizes all ISDs with fewer than 10 students referred.



# Family First: Strengthening Family Engagement and Youth Outcomes

Dallas County Juvenile Department's Residential Services is empowering youth by strengthening family bonds, fostering personal growth, and enhancing successful reintegration into society.



Youth Participating in Flag Football



Youth Village Residents Growing Fresh Tomatoes



Dallas County Juvenile Department's Residential Services is dedicated to empowering youth by fostering strong family connections, which are crucial for successful reintegration into society. Through a series of thoughtfully designed initiatives, the department has significantly enhanced family engagement, recognizing its vital role in the rehabilitation process and overall well-being of the youth in their care.

One of the most impactful initiatives has been the extension of visitation time for families. Understanding the importance of family involvement, the department has prioritized creating more opportunities for meaningful interactions between youth and their families. By doubling the visitation time from 30 minutes to 1 hour, families now have more time to reconnect, communicate, and rebuild trust. This extended time has proven essential in strengthening family bonds, which are critical for the youth's emotional and psychological recovery. This initiative reflects the department's ongoing commitment to making family engagement a central focus.

In addition to extending visitation times, the department has organized various events to promote family involvement and community building. For example, the Memorial Day celebration brought together residents, staff, and families for a day of shared activities, reinforcing the sense of community that is vital for the well-being of the youth. These gatherings allow families to participate in their child's journey, fostering a supportive environment that extends beyond the facilities.

The commitment to recognizing and celebrating the achievements of residents is also reflected in events like the end-of-year awards ceremony. By inviting parents and guardians to participate, families are not only made aware of their child's progress but also become active participants in celebrating their successes. Such events help bridge the gap between the facility and home, making transitions smoother and more supportive.

Educational and cultural engagement is emphasized as part of the rehabilitation process. Educational events that teach youth about significant cultural histories provide valuable learning experiences while involving their families. These activities create shared experiences that can be discussed and reflected upon within the family unit, further strengthening these essential relationships.

Gardens have been established at all locations as part of the department's efforts to provide youth with valuable life skills and foster a sense of community. These gardens serve as hands-on learning environments where youth can develop skills in horticulture, teamwork, and responsibility. The process of cultivating plants from seed to harvest teaches practical skills and instills a sense of accomplishment and pride. The produce from these gardens also contributes to the community, reinforcing the importance of giving back and working together for the common good. Through gardening, youth learn patience, the value of hard work, and the satisfaction of seeing their efforts come to fruition. This initiative aligns with broader goals of rehabilitation by providing therapeutic benefits, promoting healthy lifestyles, and enhancing community connections.

As the department continues to enhance its programs, it remains focused on creating an environment where family engagement is at the forefront. From regular sporting events that promote teamwork and sportsmanship to job training programs that prepare youth for life after their time with the department, every initiative is designed with the goal of reuniting families in a healthier and more supportive way.

By prioritizing family engagement, Dallas County Juvenile Department's Residential Services aims to create the conditions necessary for lasting change in the lives of the youth they serve. The ongoing efforts to double visitation time, celebrate achievements, involve families in educational and cultural activities, and teach valuable skills through the welding, culinary, and gardening programs are just the beginning. The department is committed to continually exploring new ways to involve families in the rehabilitation process, ensuring that youth have the support they need to succeed both during their time with the department and beyond.



Culinary Art Students Making a Charcuterie Board

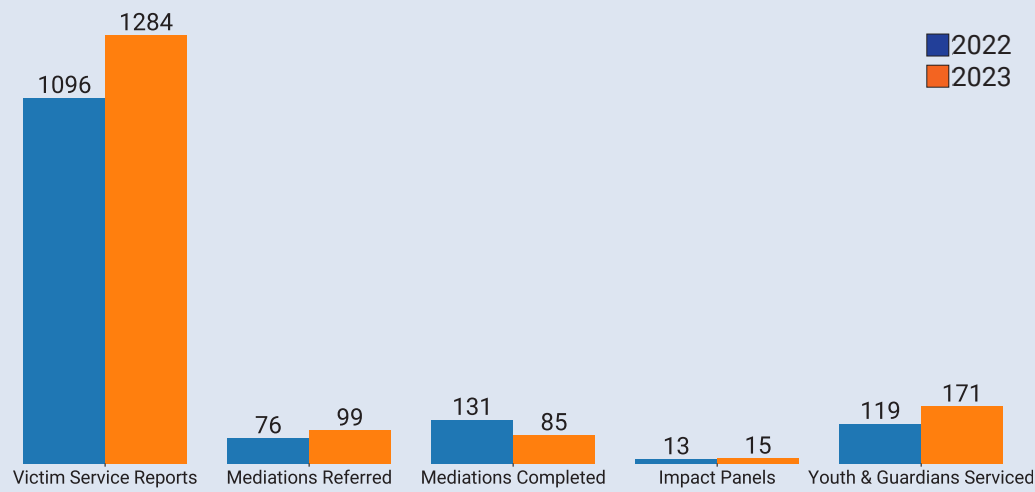


Youth Participating in the Welding Program



# VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT ACTIVITIES



The two most prevalent offense classifications in the Dallas County Juvenile Department are violent and property offenses. These offense classifications have an identifiable victim or victims. The Victim Services Unit (VSU) was developed and designed to administer services to offense victims. The program is decidedly proactive and includes activities such as notifying victims of their rights, responding to inquiries regarding the progress and process of their case as it moves through the system, and providing general information about the various services they can anticipate.

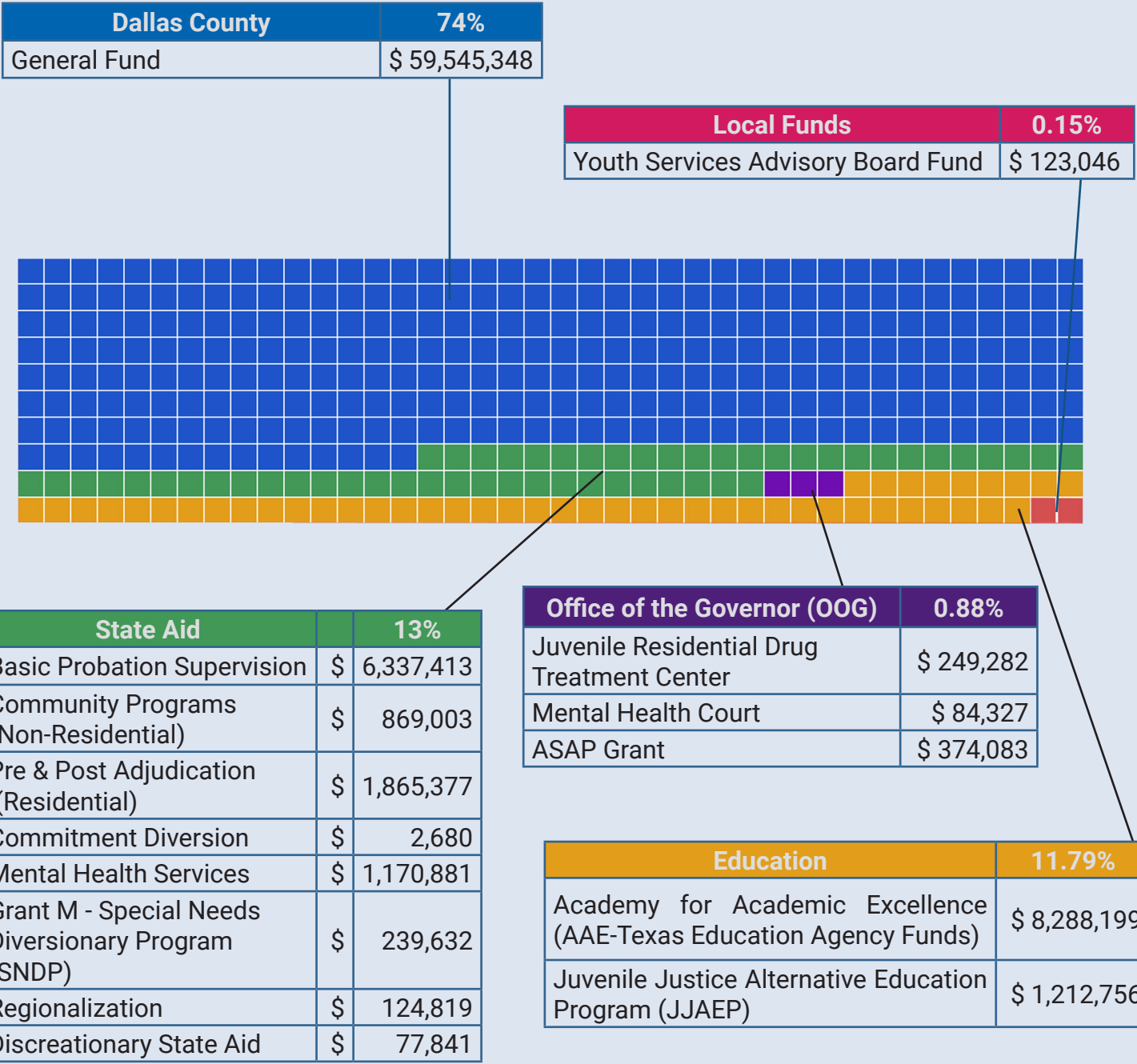
One particular service of note is the opportunity to participate in victim-offender mediation. Victim-offender mediation as administered by the DCJD allows specially trained staff to supervise and monitor a face-to-face interaction between the victim and juvenile offender. The opportunity is voluntary and meant to discuss restitution, encourage offender accountability, and promote offender responsibility.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE RESTITUTION

Some youth who come under the supervision and authority of the DCJD are required to complete a certain number of community service hours. Community Service is typically completed at a government or non-profit organization at an incremental rate that ensures all hours are completed by the time the term of supervision expires. While requiring youth to complete community service hours is an accountability measure, it also represents a prosocial activity that directly benefits the organization, instilling principles of social responsibility and humanity.



# 2023 FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES



Note: Due to particular reporting requirements, this Annual Report represents the 2023 calendar year, however, the financial data reported on this page is for FY2023 which is represented by the period from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.



## GLOSSARY

**Adjudicated** - Juveniles can be adjudicated delinquent or not delinquent. When a juvenile is adjudicated delinquent, the allegations against him/her are found “true” by a judge or jury.

**ADP** - Average Daily Population is a metric that represents the daily average of the number of youths in a facility. The value of this metric is based on a certain amount of elapsed time.

**ALOS** - Average Length of Stay is a metric that represents the average amount of time (measured in days) the youth have spent in a program or facility.

**Caseworker** - The primary contact between a youth's parent or guardian and TJJD. A caseworker monitors a youth's progress and advises him/her.

**Classification** - The process of determining the needs and requirements of youth who have been ordered to confinement in a juvenile justice facility and for assigning them to housing units and programs according to their existing resources.

**Clinical Services** - Healthcare services administered to juveniles in a therapeutic setting by a person or persons qualified to practice in one of the healthcare professions.

**CINS** - Conduct in Need for Supervision (defined by the Texas Family Code), referred to as status offenses and includes (1) runaway; (2) violations of certain city ordinances (i.e., inhalant abuse); and (3) some less serious law violations.

**Contract Detention** - Juveniles who are out-of-state runaways, juveniles who are being held at the request of TJJD, CPS, INS, etc., or juveniles who are being detained until they can be transferred to their home jurisdiction are coded as “contract detention.” This also applies to bench warrants. “Contract” in this context means there is an agreement between jurisdictions to hold/detain the juvenile.

**Contract Placement** - Used by counties that operate a placement facility and place juveniles from other jurisdictions. Juveniles who are being held at the request of TJJD, INS, etc. should be coded as contract placement. "Contract" in this context means there is an agreement to place the juvenile for another jurisdiction.

**DCJD** - Dallas County Juvenile Department.

**DPP (Deferred Prosecution Program)** - A voluntary, limited supervision program made available to youth who have [generally] been referred to a juvenile department for the first time and represent a low to moderate risk to reoffend. Youth who complete the DPP can have their case dismissed at the end of the time period, typically 180 days.

**Delinquent Conduct** - Defined by the Texas Juvenile Justice Code as conduct, other than a traffic offense, which violates a penal law of the State of Texas and is punishable by confinement; or a violation of a reasonable and lawful order which was entered by a juvenile court.

**Diversion** - Associated with a specific program or court where participation and a successful completion effectively “diverts” (i.e., reroutes) the youth from the standard juvenile justice proceedings that involve adjudication and probation.

**Juvenile Probation** - A mechanism used by juvenile justice agencies that serves as a sanction for juveniles adjudicated in court, and in many cases, as a way of diverting status offenders or first-time offenders from the formal court system.

**PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool)** - The PACT is the actuarial juvenile risk and needs assessment instrument used in the State of Texas.

**Probation** - A dispositional alternative available to a juvenile court judge after a youth is adjudicated as delinquent. It is a community-based corrections approach requiring youth to comply with a set of rules and requirements, typically addressing the needs of the youth and his/her family.

**QA** - Quality Assurance.

**Residential Placement** - An option available to the Juvenile Court and Juvenile Department for youth who may be assessed as high risk and have difficulty functioning prosocially in the community. Residential placement can be in a secure or non-secure facility and incorporates a course of rehabilitative, educational, and programmatic measures for the youth.

**Risk & Needs** - Static and dynamic factors that are identified through the process of actuarial assessment of the youth. Such an assessment is administered to a youth when s/he is placed under the authority of the juvenile department.

**Secure Facility** - A juvenile site/location/setting that is specifically designed and operated to ensure that all entrances and exits are under the exclusive control of the site's staff. Youth are not allowed to leave unsupervised or without permission.

**TJJD** - Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

**VOP (Violation of Probation)** - After a juvenile is duly placed on probation by court and notified of the conditions of said probation, if the juvenile fails to comply with one of any of the conditions, then the District Attorney may file a Violation of Probation with the Court.

## NOTES

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