

▼ Northwestern Chapter YSB



 **CYSA** CONNECTICUT YOUTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION

JULY 18, 2024

CYSA

Making an Impact

Connecticut Youth Services Association (CYSA) leads, strengthens, supports and advocates on behalf of a unified network of Youth Service Bureaus dedicated to the well-being of Connecticut's youth and families.

102 YSBs

serving 137 cities + towns

90 JRBs

serving 135 communities





What is a Youth Service Bureau?

YSBs are a critical component of our state's support system for youth and families, comprising a network of 102 YSBs in 137 cities and towns.

Designated as coordinating entities of community-based services by **State Statute 10-19m**. YSBs are mandated to perform administrative core unit functions while also delivering direct services.

Fostering positive youth development, mental health, prevention, diversion

◀ North Central Chapter YSB

YSB Funding Overview

Current state funding constitutes between 2% to 50% of a YSB's total budget. Local communities largely support YSBs through municipal funding and leveraged grants.

BASE GRANT

\$2,733,240

YSBs created prior to 1996 (approx. 1/4 of YSBs) are appropriated funding based on a legacy formula.



Since 1996, each new YSB (approx. 1/3 of YSBs) has received \$14,000 annually. This amount must be matched 100% by the town(s) served, 50% of which may be in-kind contributions.

+

ENHANCEMENT GRANT

\$1,115,161

Distributed by population to all YSBs. As new YSBs are created, NO new funding is added. It is recalculated causing the disbursements to decrease to all other YSBs.



FY24 funding by YSB ranges from \$5,679 to \$18,856.



What is a Juvenile Review Board?

A Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is a community-based diversion program for youth who may otherwise be referred to Juvenile Court for arrestable offenses. The process aims to hold youth accountable for their behavior without resorting to legal or court involvement.

There are approximately 90 JRBs serving over 135 communities. Most fall under the umbrella of the YSB, however, 10% are run by other entities.

◀ Middlesex Chapter JRB



JRB Funding Overview

FY24 TOTAL STATE FUNDING

\$1,718,554

Funding for JRBs varies greatly. Approximately half of JRBs statewide are not funded through the DCF Support and Enhancement grant.



Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven received the majority of funding.



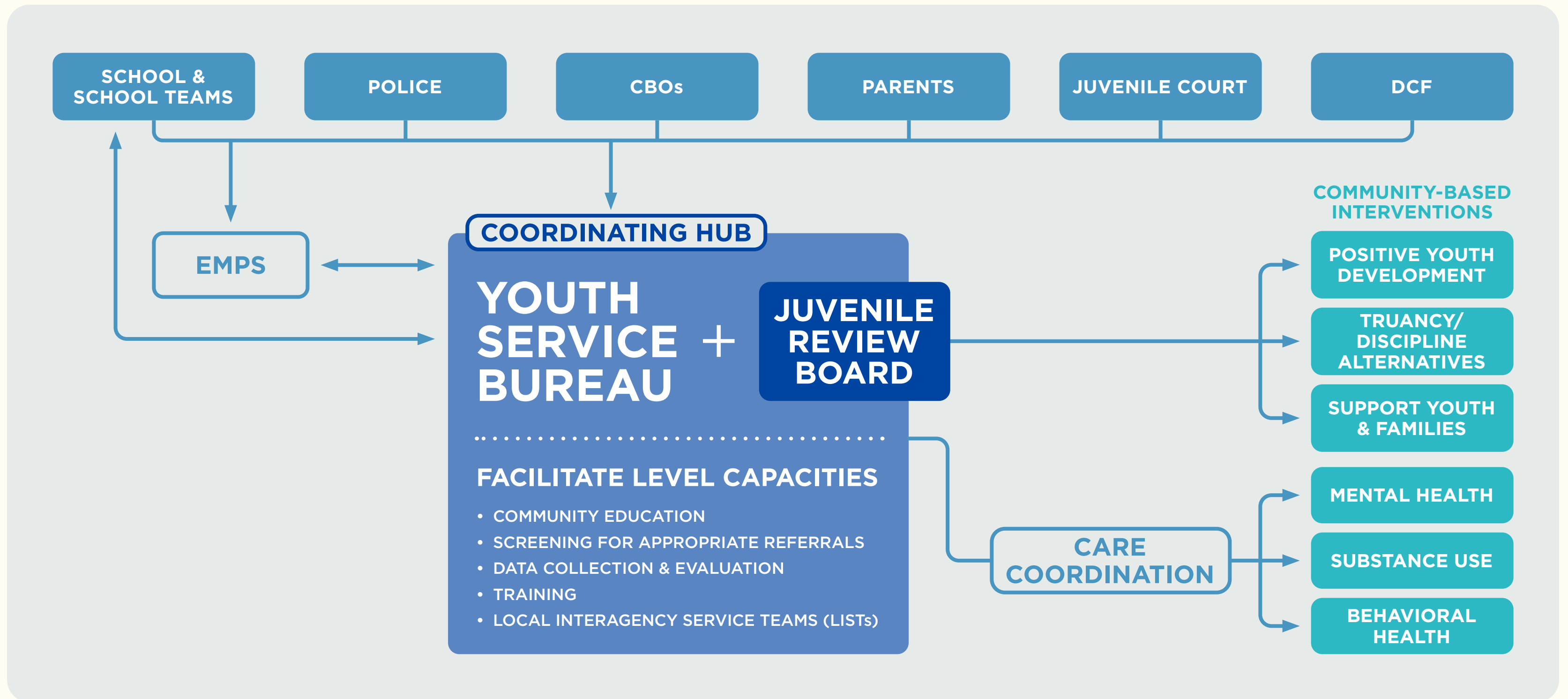
36 JRBs in DCF Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 received smaller amounts of funding through the DCF Support and Enhancement grant (ranging from \$1,500 to \$35,000) in FY24



8 JRBs in DCF Region 5 also received funding in FY24.

Community Based Diversion System

YSBs provide comprehensive delivery of prevention, intervention, and treatment throughout the state.



CYSA recognizes the critical importance of data analysis to drive informed decisions.

CYSA has faced limited access to data outside of the YSB system which has hampered the ability to:

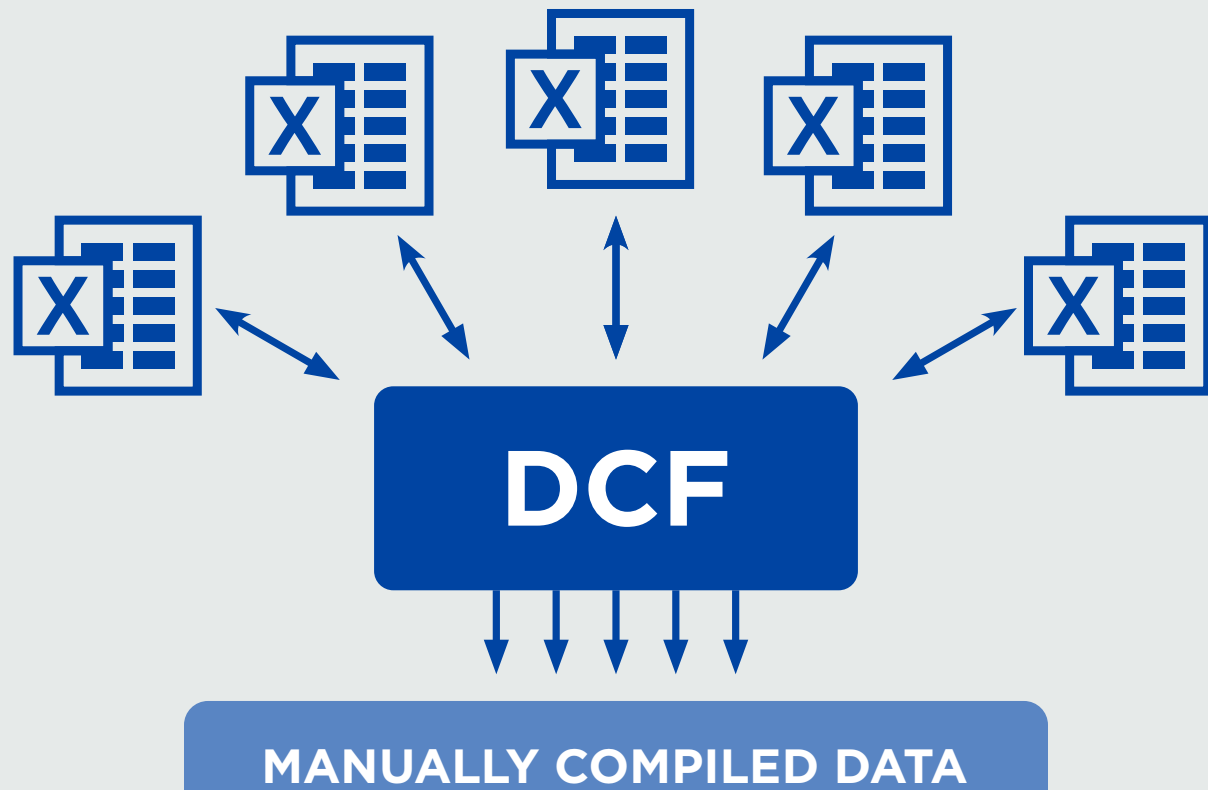
- Identify trends
- Track progress
- Provide meaningful outcome-related information



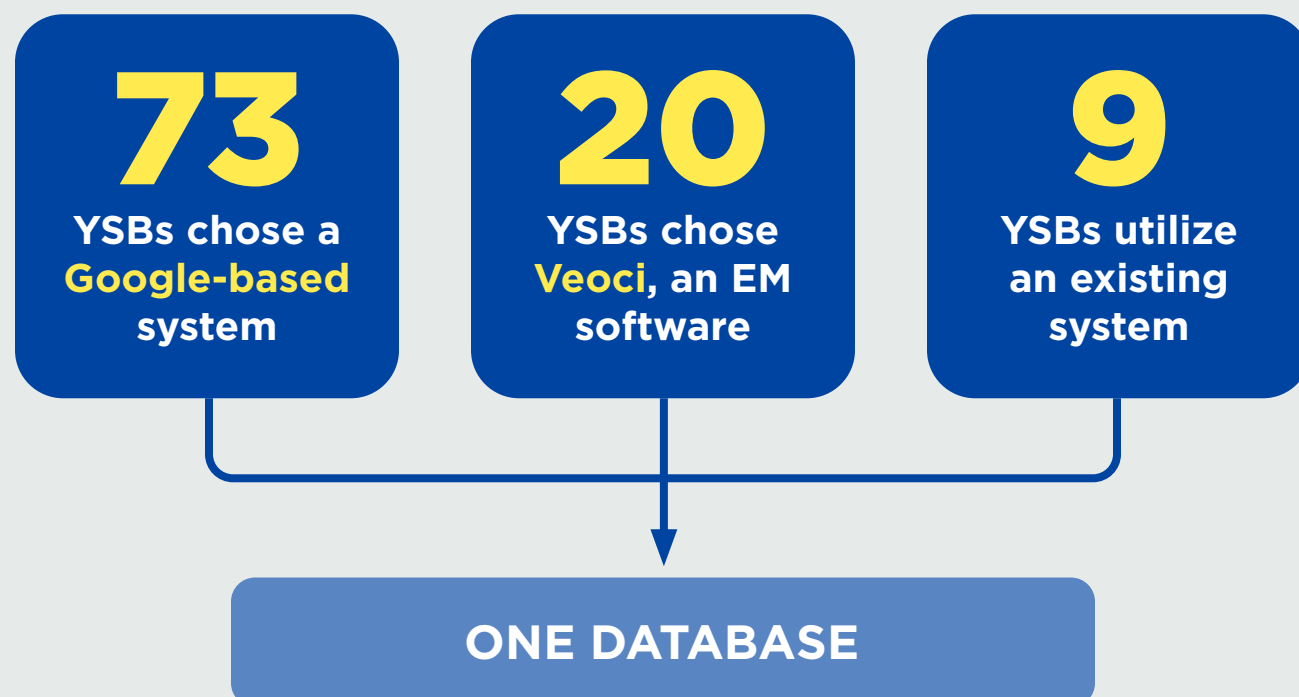
Data Initiatives + Progress

YSB/JRB Level

THE OLD APPROACH



THE NEW SYSTEM



Streamlining of Data Collection

Through the automation of statewide data collection from individual YSB software platforms to a shared database, CYSA has worked with DCF's data consultants to significantly streamline data collection.

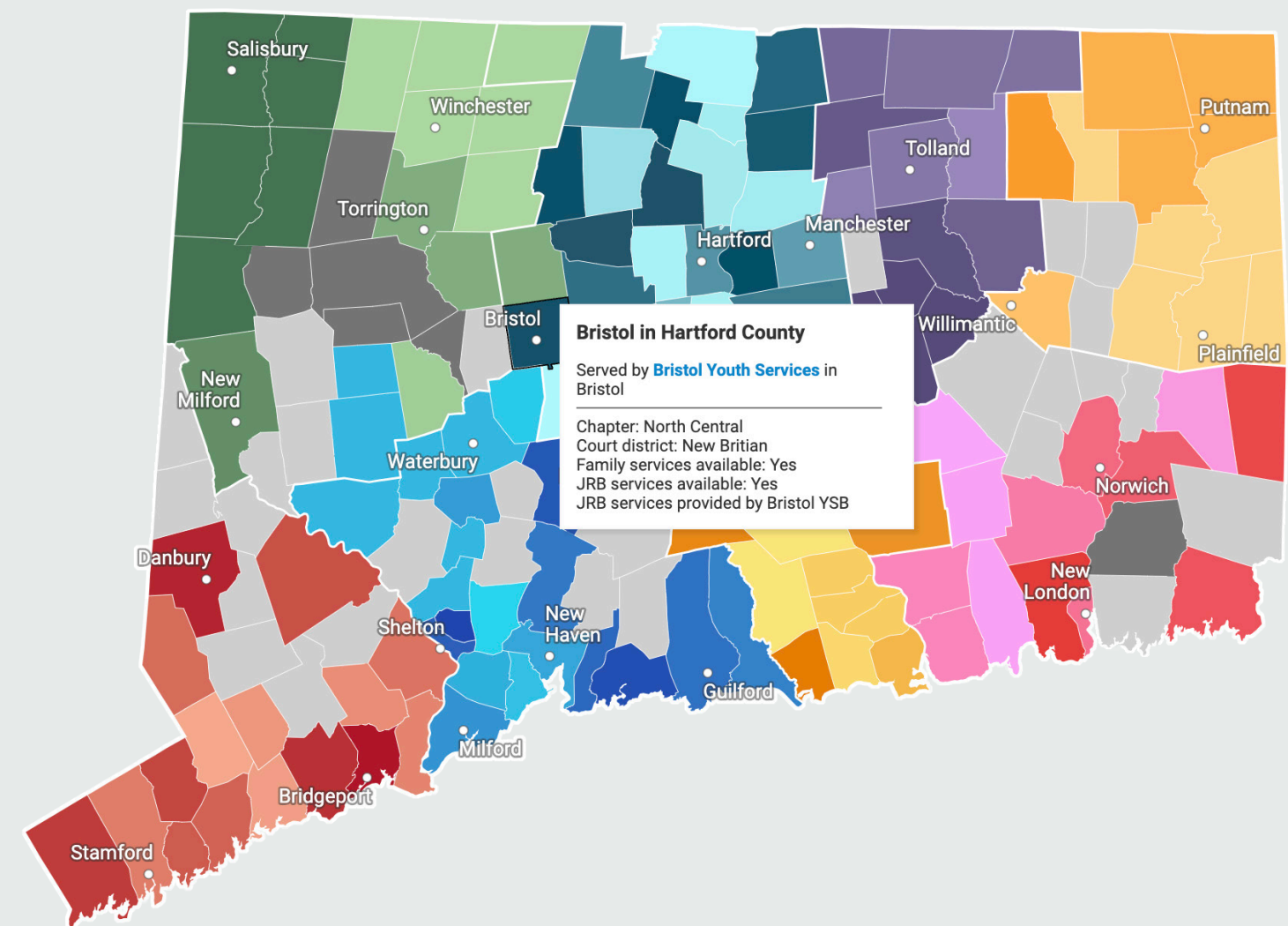
Data collected, analyzed and used by YSBs in real time.

The new statewide data collection process opens up exciting opportunities for advancement. CYSA continues to work closely with our data consultant and DCF to evaluate and identify new ways to support ongoing data development.

Data dashboard is under development to help YSBs and JRBs identify coverage and will serve as a resource for both local and statewide stakeholders.

INDIVIDUAL DATA SETS

DATA DASHBOARD

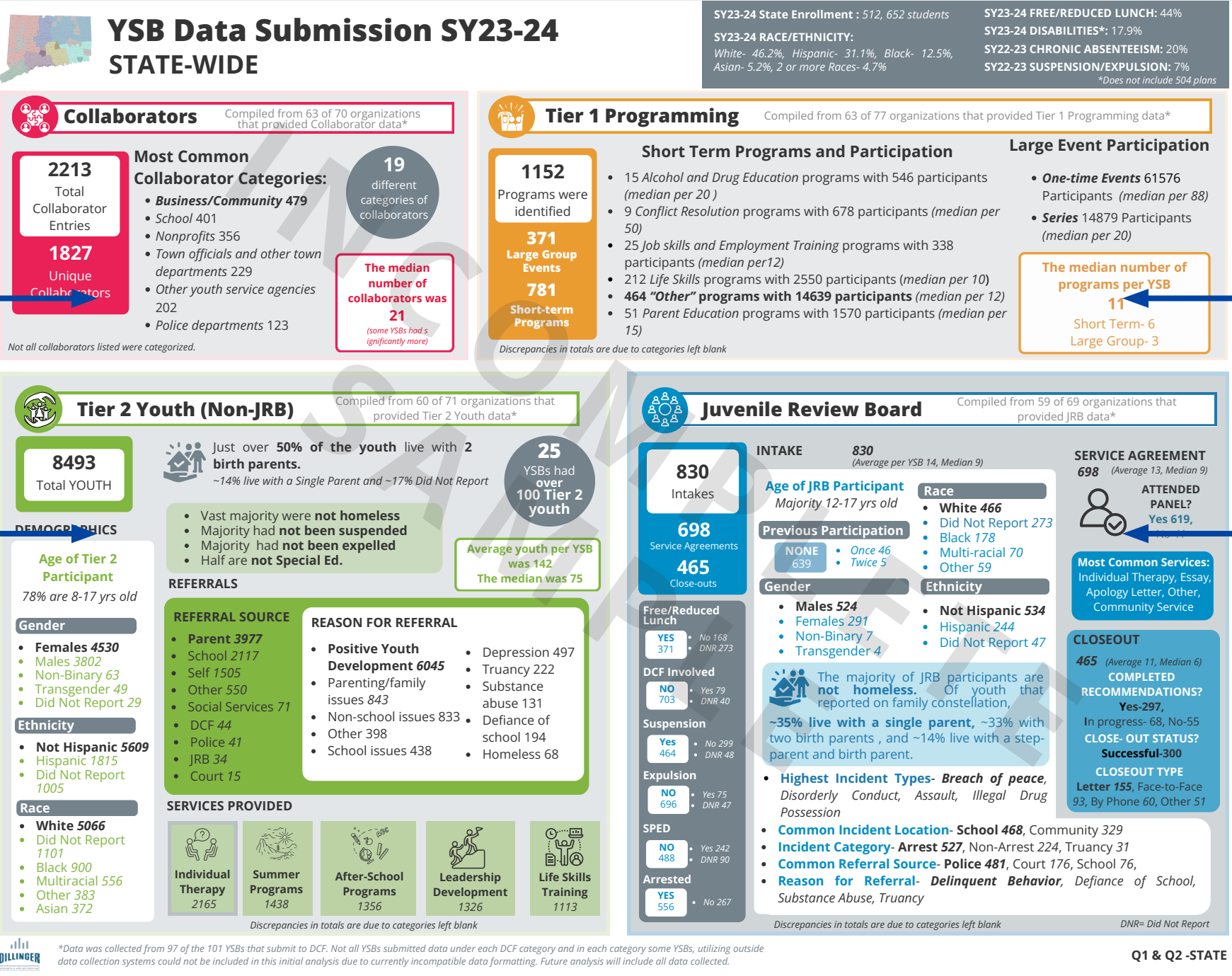


Sample Data Reporting Sheet

NEW DATA REPORTING SHEETS

Collaborators
Community partners

Tier 1 Programming
Short term programs and large group activities



Tier 2 Youth
Intensive programming lasting 20+ hours

Juvenile Review Board (JRB)
Community based diversion



Data Initiatives + Progress Community Level

YSB and School Collaboration

Passed during the last Legislative session, Public Act #24-45 connects YSBs with local schools and facilitates the sharing of important school-level data.

Deeper insights, early identification and prevention efforts.



Data Initiatives + Progress

State Level

Data Analysis Opportunities

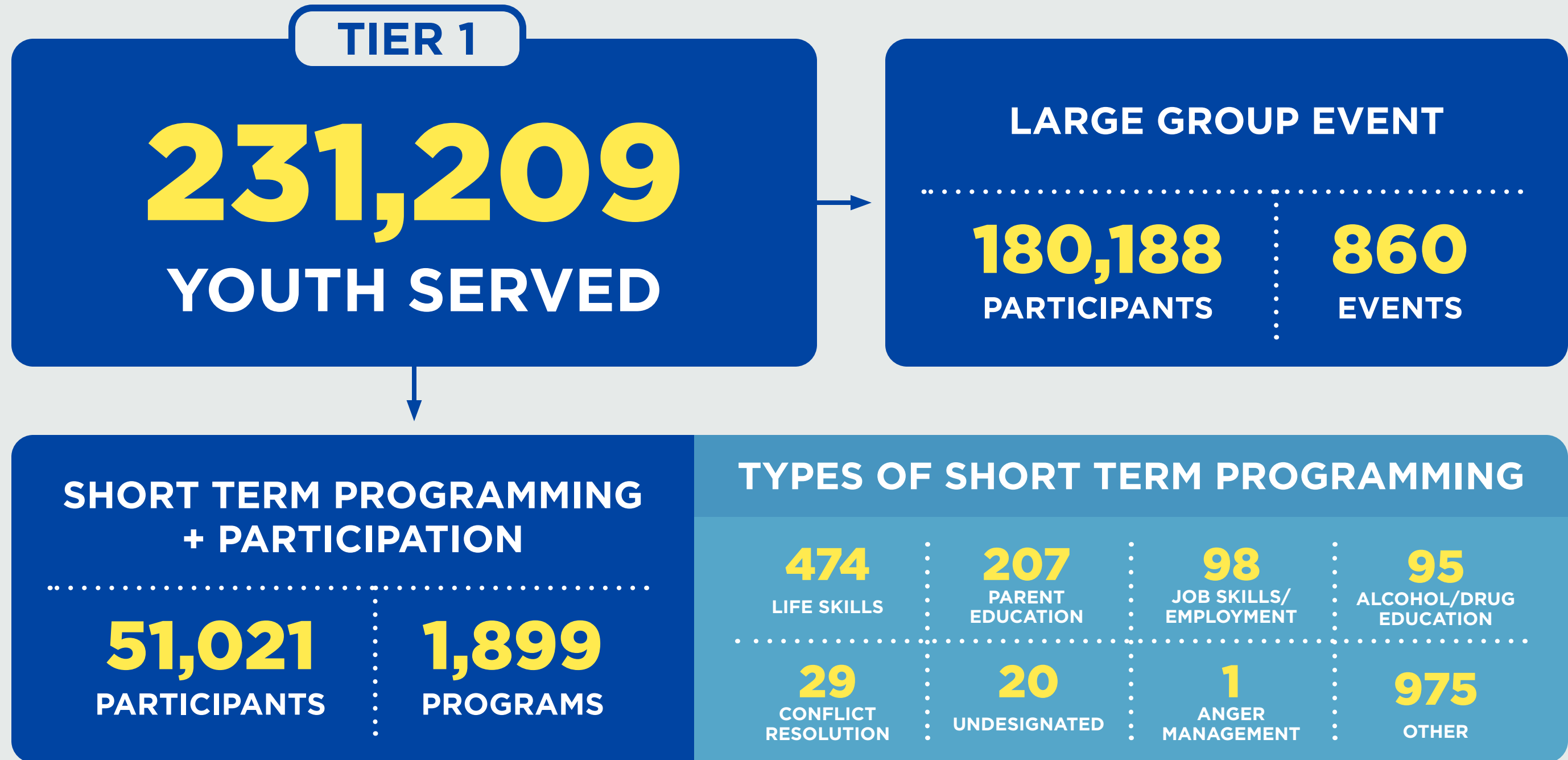
- Participating YSBs and JRBs are working with JBCSSD to receive recidivism data on the youth they have served over time through a recently created MOU.
- CYSA is seeking access to P20WIN. This will allow the Association to meaningfully identify community level services and supports that are improving interventions, outcomes and prevention efforts for the youth served by YSBs and JRBs.

YSB + JRB

DATA SETS

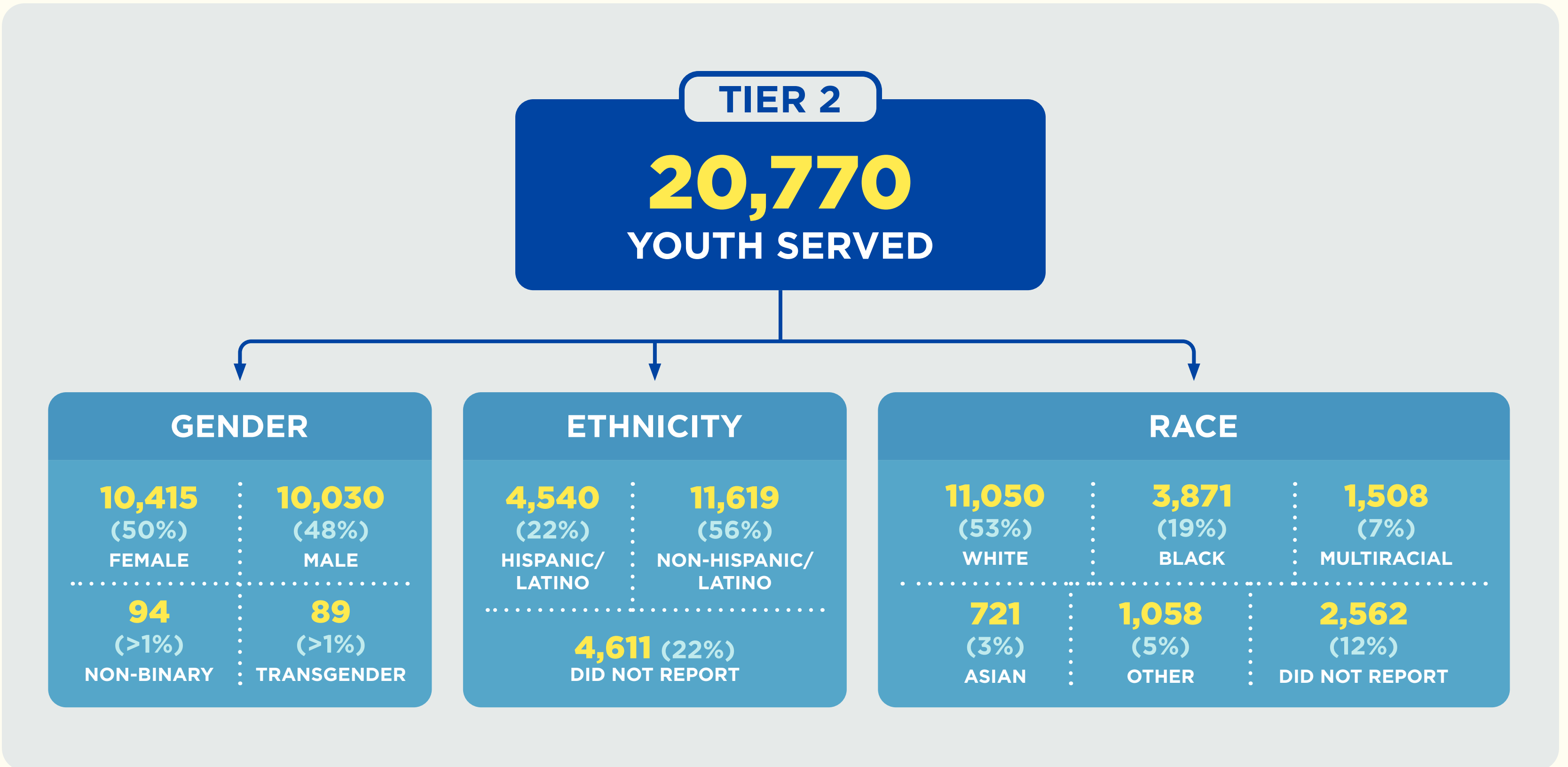
FY24 data is as of June 21, 2024. Complete FY24 data sets will be available in August 2024. Some Q4 YSB/JRB data was not available for this release.

YSB Data Set: Tier 1 Programming



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YSB Data Set: Tier 2 Youth Served (non-JRB)



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YSB Data Set: Referral Sources

20,770
TOTAL REFERRALS

TYPE OF REFERRAL SOURCE

6,364 (31%) PARENT/GUARDIAN	4,325 (21%) SELF	4,129 (20%) SCHOOL	2,914 (14%) DID NOT REPORT
2,382 (11%) OTHER	369 (2%) POLICE	125 (>1%) SOCIAL SERVICES	92 (>1%) COURT
			70 (0.1%) DCF

PRIMARY REASONS FOR REFERRAL

10,580 (51%) PYD	780 (4%) PARENT/ FAMILY ISSUES	568 (3%) NON-SCHOOL ISSUES	522 (3%) SCHOOL ISSUES	402 (2%) DEPRESSION	280 (1%) TRUANCY	194 (>1%) DEFIANCE OF SCHOOL RULES	170 (>1%) SUBSTANCE ABUSE	1,368 (7%) OTHER
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YSB Data Set: Collaborators

STATE LEVEL COLLABORATOR

3,254

TOTAL COLLABORATORS

82

SUBMISSIONS

40

AVERAGE

26

MEDIAN

19

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF COLLABORATORS

MOST COMMON CATEGORIES:

671

VARIOUS YOUTH
SERVICE AGENCIES

513

BUSINESS/
COMMUNITY

443

SCHOOLS

403

NONPROFITS

265

TOWN OFFICIALS
+ DEPARTMENTS

162

HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS

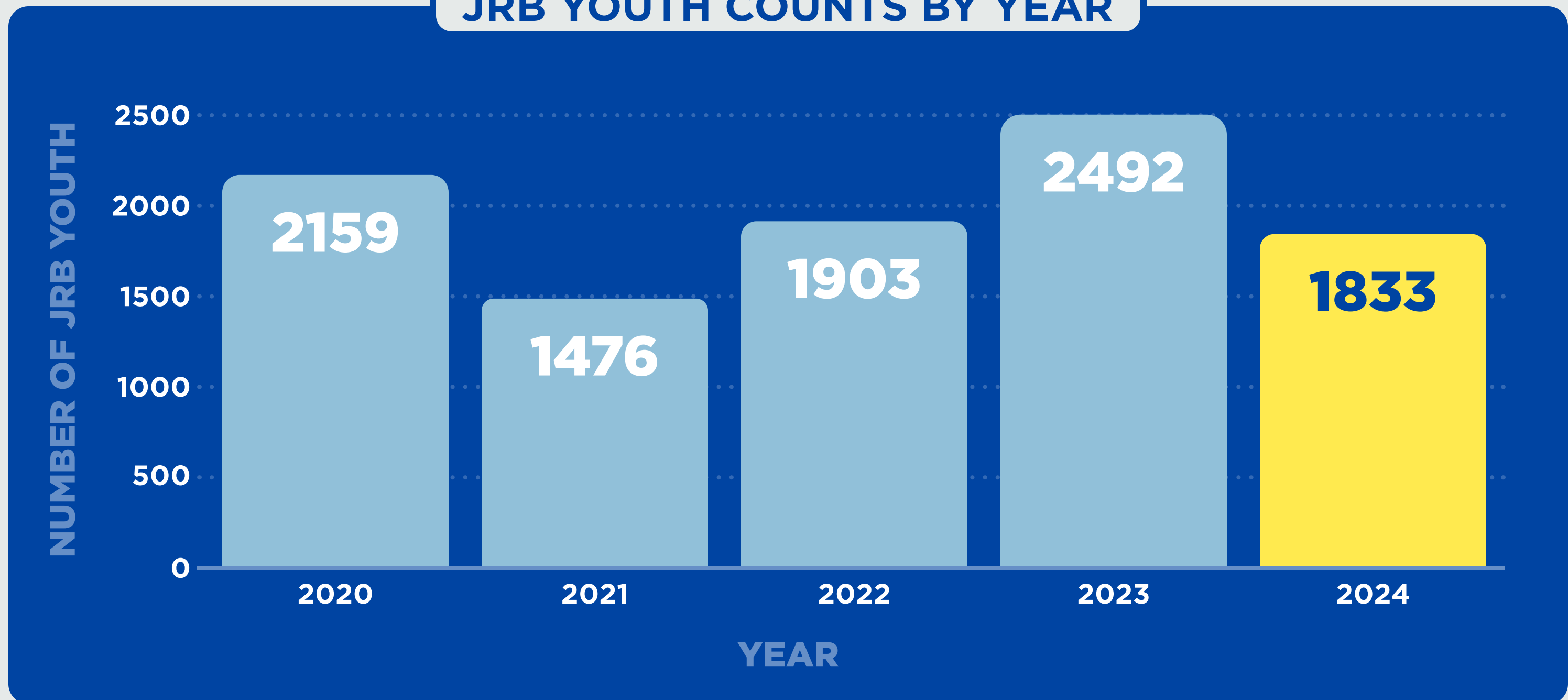
139

POLICE
DEPARTMENTS

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JRB Data Set: Youth Served

JRB YOUTH COUNTS BY YEAR



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JRB Data Set: Referral Sources

1,833

TOTAL REFERRALS

REFERRAL SOURCE

966 (53%) POLICE	348 (20%) COURT	205 (11%) DID NOT REPORT	181 (10%) SCHOOL
90 (5%) PARENT/GUARDIAN	43 (2%) OTHER	OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE: SELF, DCF, + SOCIAL SERVICES	

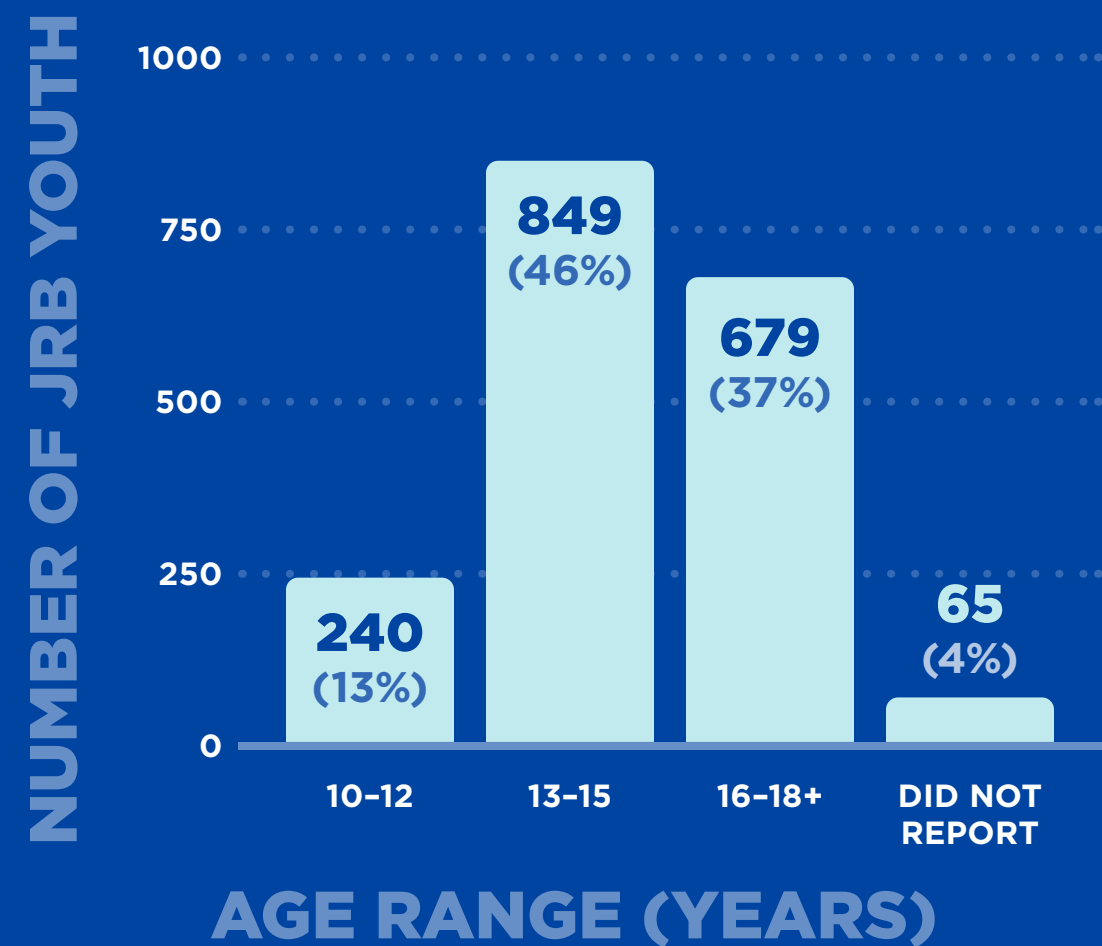
REASONS FOR REFERRAL

821 (45%) DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR	526 (29%) DID NOT REPORT	100 (5%) POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	57 (3%) SUBSTANCE ABUSE	41 (2%) ARREST	37 (2%) OTHER	28 (2%) TRUANCY
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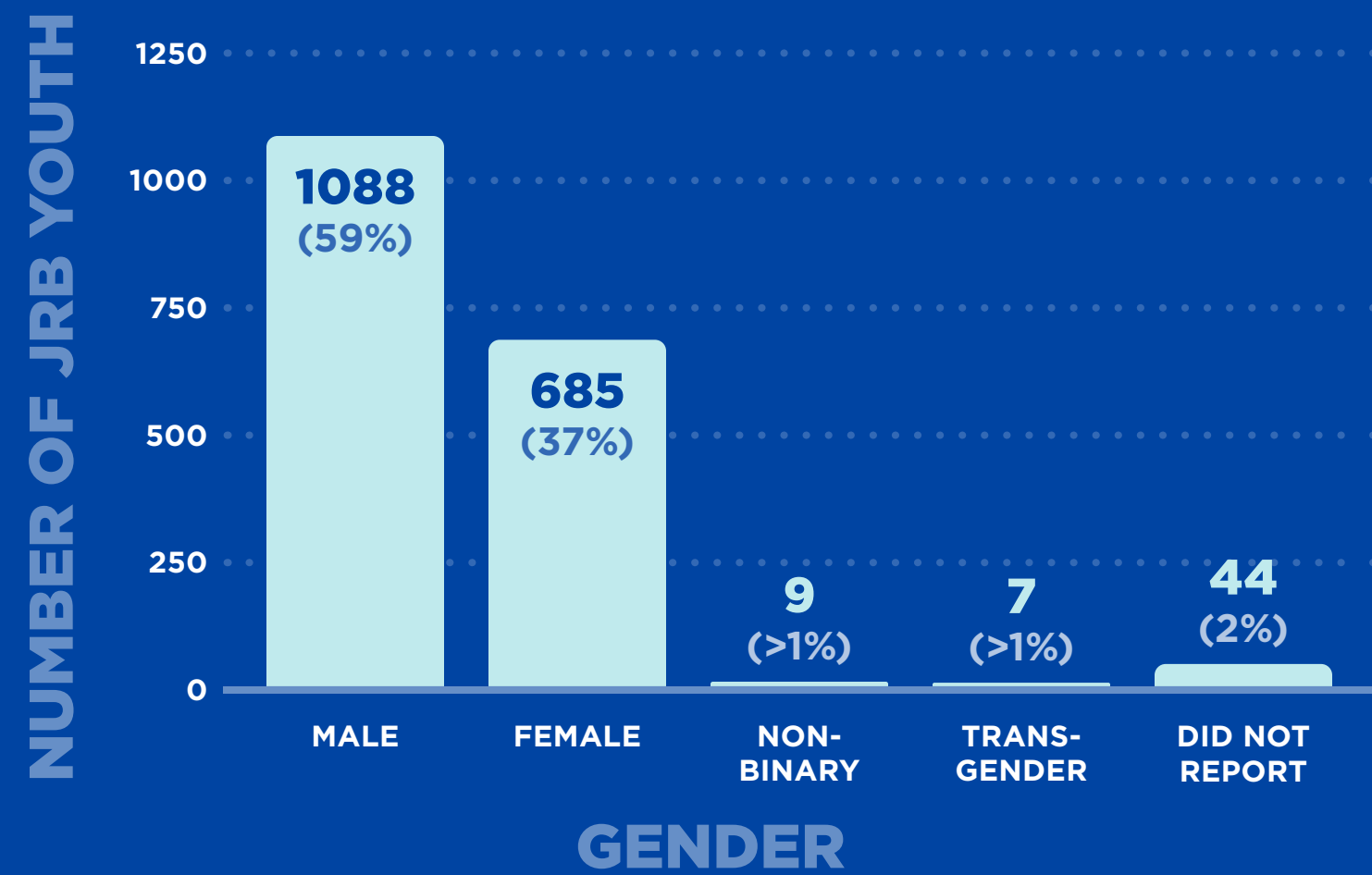
OTHER REASONS INCLUDE: PARENT/FAMILY ISSUES, NON-SCHOOL ISSUES, INTERNET RELATED, BEYOND CONTROL, SCHOOL ISSUES, BULLYING, INDECENT CONDUCT, DATING VIOLENCE, PREGNANCY/TEEN PARENT

JRB Data Set: Age and Gender

JRB YOUTH COUNTS BY AGE



JRB YOUTH COUNTS BY GENDER

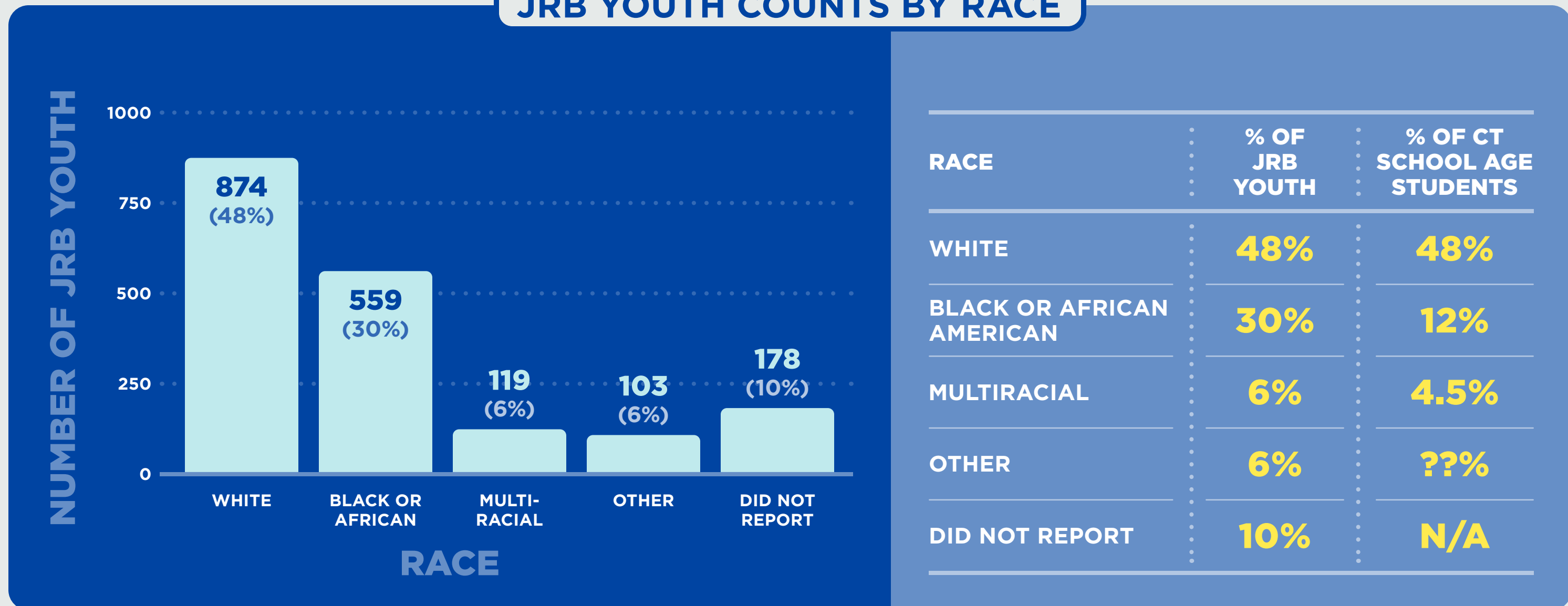


The majority of JRB cases are made up of youth ages 13-18.

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JRB Data Set: Race Breakdown

JRB YOUTH COUNTS BY RACE

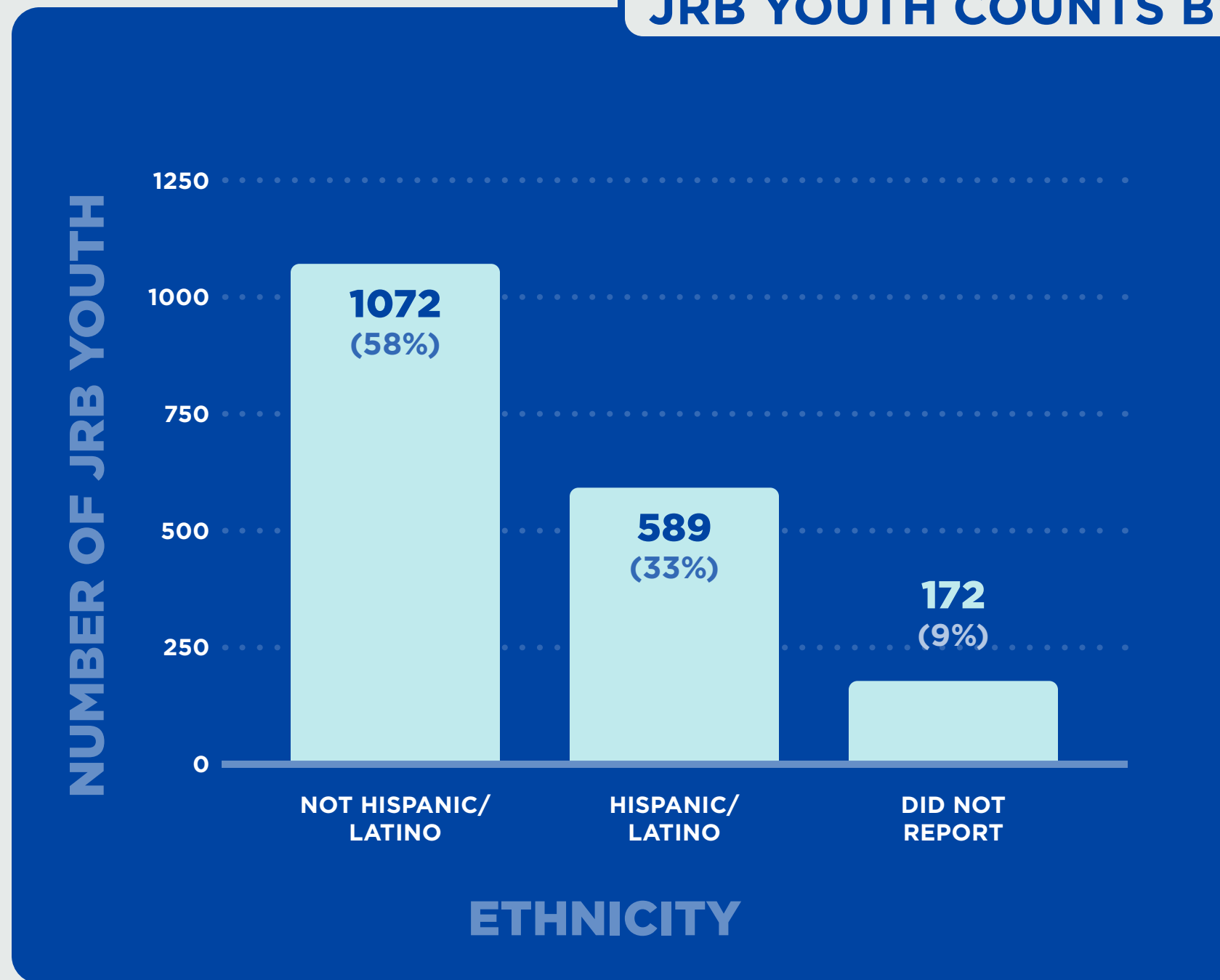


Youth identifying as Black, African American, or Multiracial are being referred to JRBs at a disproportionately higher rate based on state percentages.

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JRB Data Set: Ethnicity Breakdown

JRB YOUTH COUNTS BY ETHNICITY



ETHNICITY	% OF JRB YOUTH	% OF CT SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS*	% OF DELINQUENT REFERRALS TO CT JUDICIAL BRANCH†
NOT HISPANIC/LATINO	58%	70%	78%
HISPANIC/LATINO	33%	30%	22%
DID NOT REPORT	9%	N/A	N/A

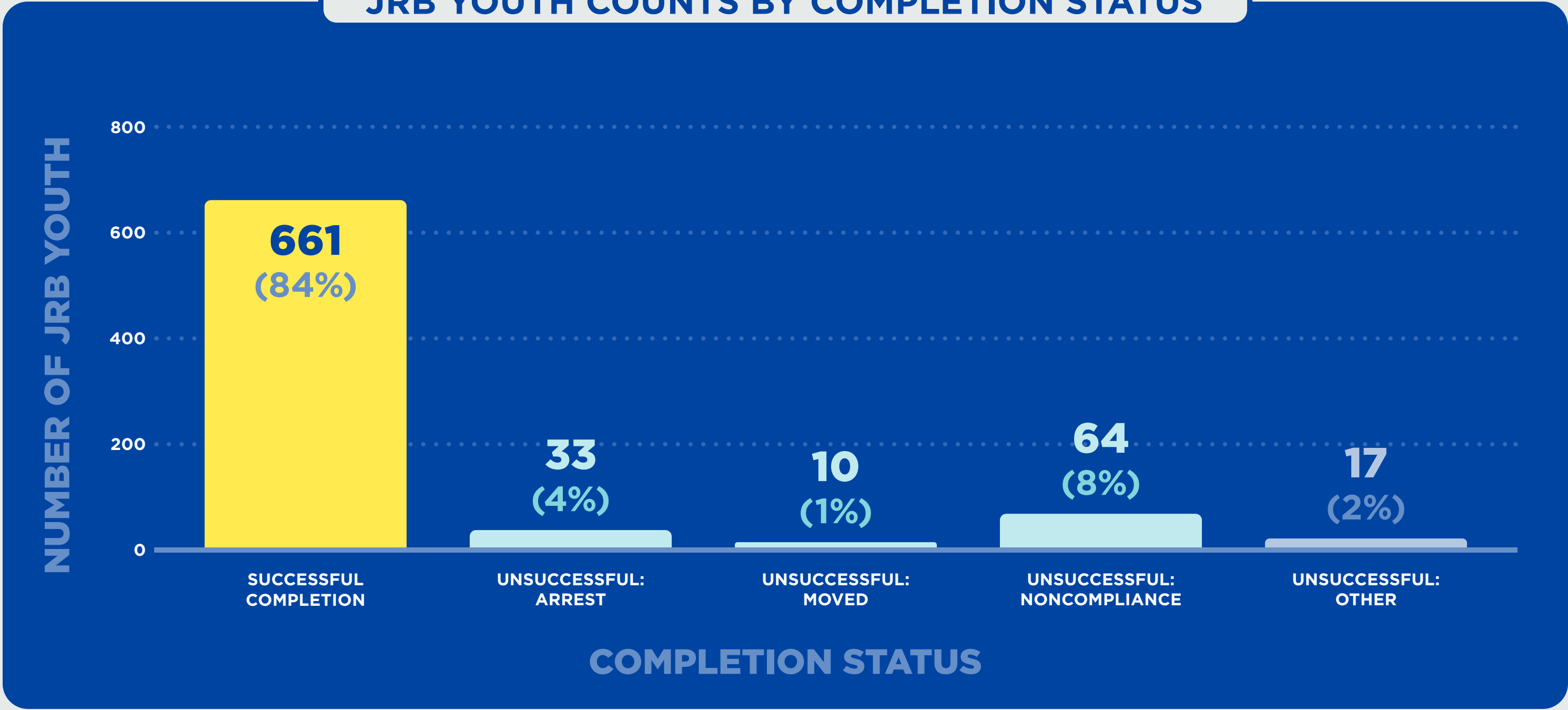
* Data for the 2022-23 SY from Connecticut Report Cards on Connecticut's EdSight.
[https://edsight.ct.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=%2FCTDOE%2FEdSight%2FRelease%2FReporting%2FPublic%2FReports%2FStoredProcesses%2FConnecticutReportCard&_district=State %20of%20Connecticut&_select=Submit](https://edsight.ct.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=%2FCTDOE%2FEdSight%2FRelease%2FReporting%2FPublic%2FReports%2FStoredProcesses%2FConnecticutReportCard&_district=State%20of%20Connecticut&_select=Submit)

† Data from the November 16th 2023 presentation to the JJPOC from CCSD
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox?projector=1>

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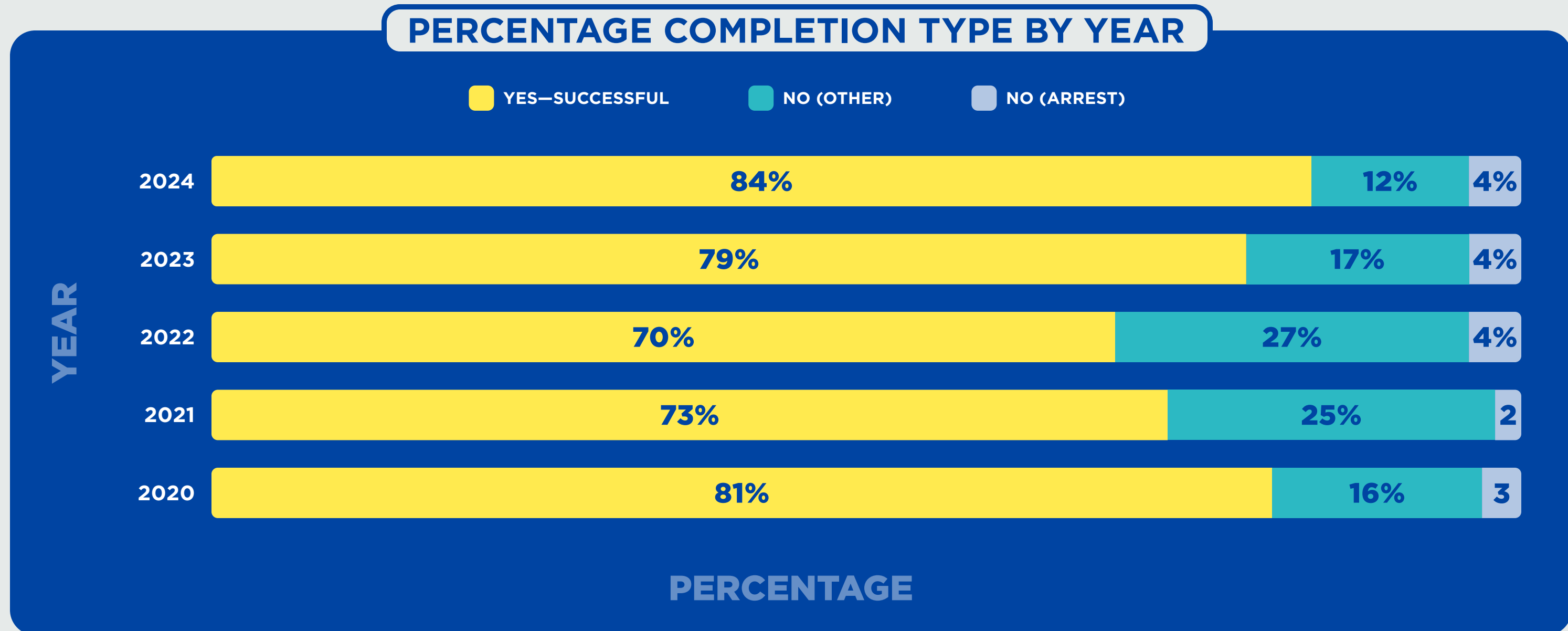
JRB Data Set: Case Closing Status

JRB YOUTH COUNTS BY COMPLETION STATUS



FY24 Data is as of June 21, 2024. For various reasons, several YSBs/JRBs have not yet provided Q4 data. Complete FY24 data sets will be available in August 2024.

JRB Data Set: Case Closing by Year

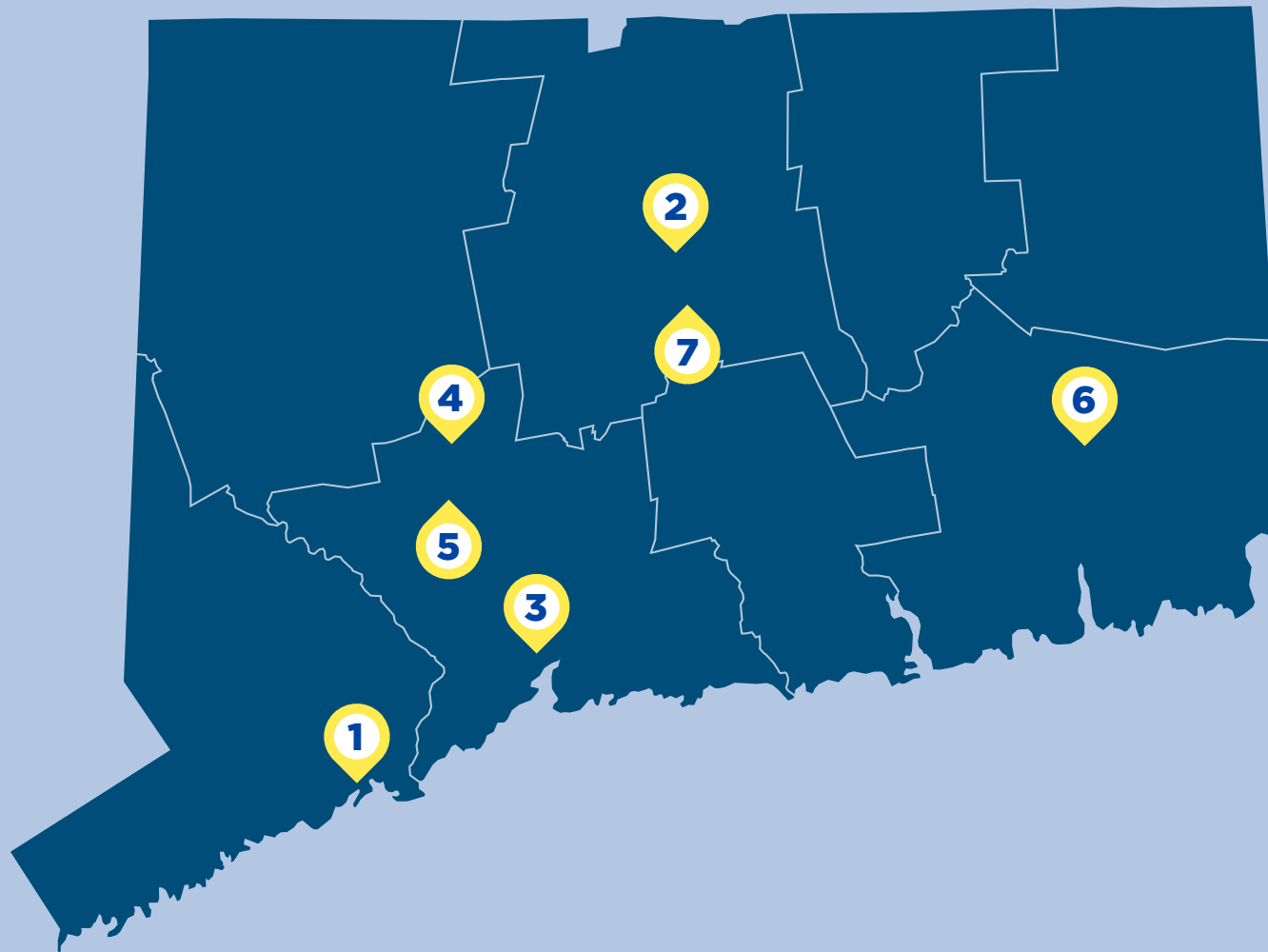


Successful Closing percentages were higher in 2023 & 2024 than during the previous 2 years.

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JRB Pilot

Overview



The JRB Pilot project was instituted based on recommendations from the Council of State Governments IOYouth project. An Advisory Board was established to begin the project and included various stakeholders including the Pilot sites.

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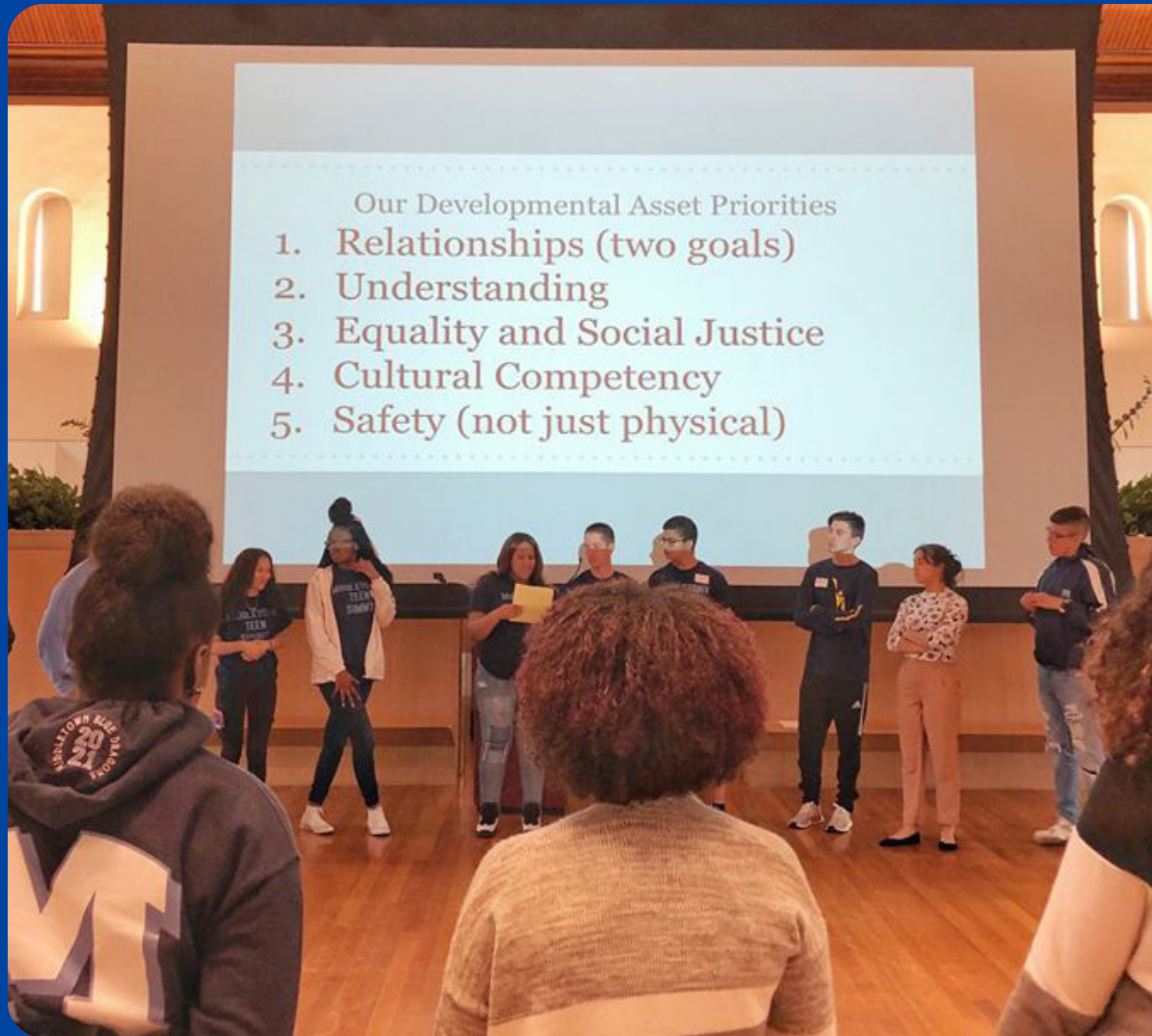
JRB Pilot Sites:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bridgeport | 4. Waterbury |
| 2. Hartford | 5. Naugatuck |
| 3. New Haven* | 6. Norwich |
| | 7. Wethersfield |
-

*unable to implement the pilot in the allotted time frame due to staff turnover and a pause in services

JRB Pilot

Purpose



- Our Developmental Asset Priorities
1. Relationships (two goals)
 2. Understanding
 3. Equality and Social Justice
 4. Cultural Competency
 5. Safety (not just physical)

1. Pilot a restorative justice model (Youth Diversion Team [YDT]) in selected JRBs to expand and strengthen the diversion process through identified research-based practices.

2. Identify best practices and lessons learned that inform the roles and responsibilities of diversion statewide.

◀ Middlesex Chapter JRB

JRB Pilot

Timeline

October 2022–February 2023

Planning phase with Pilot Advisory Board and implementation sites.

March 2023–June 2023

Finalizing of the Standard Protocols and Procedures for Youth Diversion Teams manual.

June 2023–June 2024

Pilot sites implemented new protocols and procedures.

January 2024

Process evaluation began after only six months of implementation. Surveys and self-study questionnaires were created to determine process experience. Questions focused on experiences of case managers, volunteers on the board, referring agencies and youth and their families.

March 2024–May 2024

Site observations (conducted based on availability)

April 2024–May 2024

Surveys distributed, collected and analyzed.

May 2024–June 2024

Initial process evaluation report released.

Late June/Early July

Final process evaluation report released.

The JRB Pilot project was conducted in a condensed time frame due to a delay in funding to support the process.

JRB Pilot

Evaluation Description

The YDT Final Report includes a process evaluation and a limited impact evaluation focused on six JRBs implementing a pilot Trauma-Informed Restorative Justice Youth Diversion Team program.

The process evaluation assessed various aspects of fidelity in how:

- Sites implemented the YDT program based on the CYSA Standard Protocols and Procedures for Youth Diversion Teams manual
- Sites promoted awareness of the program
- Youth and their families, panel members, and referring agencies utilized the process

Considering the program's brief history, the limited impact evaluation assessed closed diversion cases to demonstrate preliminary evidence of the program's effectiveness, as reported by participants.



The methodology was designed to:

- Inform the program's implementation
- Promote its growth and address professional development needs to improve practice
- Identify ways to enhance the important work through additional resources

JRB Pilot

Key Data Points

During the active phase of the Youth Diversion Team (YDT) process:

271

referrals received

216

cases closed

between **June 2023–April 2024** at the 6 YDT sites.



All sites completed the self-study.



All sites distributed experience surveys.

Total number of surveys completed across all six YDT sites included:

27
PARENTS

22
YOUTH

26
PANEL
MEMBERS

11
REFERRING
AGENCIES

JRB Pilot

Impact Analysis • Youth Survey Results

QUESTION	SCORE	QUESTION	SCORE
I am better off because of the Youth Diversion Team process.	4.3 _{/5}	During the process, I felt heard by the members of the Youth Diversion Team.	4.5 _{/5}
The Youth Diversion Team process helped me learn how to be accountable for my actions.	4.4 _{/5}	The Youth Diversion Team helped me understand my actions instead of blaming or judging me.	4.5 _{/5}
I can handle things at home better because of the Youth Diversion Team.	3.7 _{/5}	I feel like the Youth Diversion Team understood my story.	4.2 _{/5}
I can handle things at school better because of the Youth Diversion Team.	4.4 _{/5}	The Youth Diversion Team's questions helped me understand the harm I caused.	4.0 _{/5}
I can handle things in my neighborhood and community better because of the Youth Diversion Team.	4.1 _{/5}	I had a say in developing the agreement plan about what I needed to do to make things right.	4.7 _{/5}
		Overall, my experience with the Youth Diversion Team process is better than I originally thought.	4.3 _{/5}

JRB Pilot

Impact Analysis • Parent Survey Results

QUESTION	SCORE	QUESTION	SCORE
The Youth Diversion Team process exceeded my expectations.	4.1 _{/5}	My child can handle things in our neighborhood and community better because of the Youth Diversion Team process.	4.0 _{/5}
The help my child received was beneficial.	4.3 _{/5}	I felt heard by the members of the Youth Diversion Team during the process.	4.3 _{/5}
The agreement plan my child/family received was just right for us.	4.3 _{/5}	I was involved in developing the agreement plan for my child/family.	4.2 _{/5}
I have seen improvement in my child due to the Youth Diversion Team process.	4.1 _{/5}	The Youth Diversion Team supported me and my family no matter what.	4.3 _{/5}
My child can handle problems at home better due to the Youth Diversion Team process.	4.1 _{/5}	The Youth Diversion Team treated me and my family with respect.	4.8 _{/5}
Due to the Youth Diversion Team process, my child is doing better in school.	3.9 _{/5}	I trust members of the Youth Diversion Team.	4.3 _{/5}

JRB Pilot

Summary of Experiences from Youth & Parent Surveys

- **Most parents believed** the help their child received was beneficial and were also in agreement that the plan their child/family received was just right for them.
- **Most parents strongly agreed or agreed** that their child improved due to the YDT process.
- **Most youth and parents strongly agreed or agreed** they were heard during the process.
- **Most youth agreed** the team also asked them questions that helped them understand the harm they caused.
- **Most youth strongly agreed or agreed** that the YDT process helped them learn to be accountable for their actions and perceive themselves as better off due to the YDT process.
- **Most youth strongly agreed or agreed** that the Youth Diversion Team understood their story and helped them understand their actions instead of blaming or judging them.
- **Youth strongly agree or agree** they can better manage school-related matters due to the YDT process.

JRB Pilot

YDT Staff/Panel Member Insights



- **Five of six pilot sites strongly agreed or agreed** that staff believes that the YDT model has a more positive impact on the development of young people than the old JRB model and staff are more interested in using the YDT model than the one they formally used.
- **Some sites reported** that the new process helped establish a culture of honesty and empathy and new framework helped families feel more confident and hopeful.
- **Panel members believe** the YDT process helps youth learn to take accountability for their actions and the restorative questions help youth identify the harm they caused and develop a plan to repair it. The first part had a score of 4.2 out of 5 and second part had a score of 4.1 out of 5.

◀ Middlesex Chapter JRB

JRB Pilot

Recommendations

Restorative Justice is an evidence-based model that has been proven as a successful way to address harm done by young people. A Trauma-informed, culturally informed and developmentally informed approach to diversion (YDT model) is recommended statewide to ensure the most effective results and to make real and positive differences in the experiences of responsible youth.

- Enhance resource investments and training and evaluation processes for continuous monitoring
- Additional training to improve victim engagement in the process
- Create a standardized and clear process of eligibility criteria and functions of a YDT for referring agencies
- Enhance continuing education, training and/or refreshers for staff, panel members and referring agencies
- Create protocols with a clear definition, objectives and core features of a restorative practices model



Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) and Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs) are essential to planning and implementing effective, community-based programs and services. Statewide policy providing ongoing training and resources will support effective functioning and optimization of outcomes. This approach will harmonize efforts across the state, fostering a more cohesive and supportive environment for youth.