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## JJPOC Monthly Meeting Agenda

Date: November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Time: 2:00PM-4:00PM

Location: LOB Room 1E / Via Zoom

Viewing Options [YouTube](#) or [CT-N](#)

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Toni Walker  
Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz

Overview of Meeting and  
Announcements

Brittany LaMarr

P20WIN

Rachel Leventhal-Walker, Research  
Director, OPM, DAPA  
Katie Breslin, Outreach and Engagement  
Coordinator, OPM, DAPA

Cross Agency Data Sharing  
Workgroup Annual Report

Bryan Sperry, Deputy Director,  
Information Technology, JBCSSD

Equity Dashboard Update

Kevin Neary, Research Unit Director,  
OPM, CJPPD

JJPOC Recommendations

Workgroup Chairs

**Next Meeting:** December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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## October JJPOC Meeting Minutes

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Legislative Office Building 1E

Zoom Option Available

### Attendance

Amy Marracino

Amy Vatner

Betty Ann MacDonald

Charles Hewes

Christina Quaranta

Colleen Violette

Daniel Karpowitz

Elizabeth Bozzuto

Erica Bromley

Gary Roberge

Gary Winfield

Hector Glynn

Heriberto Cajigas

Jillian Gilchrest

Jodi Hill-Lilly

Joshua Bernegger

Lisa Simone

Melanie Dykas

Michael Pierce

Paul Cicarella

Ray Dancy

Renee Cimino

Sharmese Walcott

Tammy Nguyen-O'Dowd

Thea Montanez

Toni Walker

Veron Beaulieu

Martha Stone

### TYJI Staff

Brittany LaMarr

Erika Nowakowski

Michaelangelo Palmieri

Paul Klee

### Welcome and Introductions

Representative Toni Walker and Daniel Karpowitz welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Overview of the Meeting

The October monthly meeting reviewed the Conditions of Confinement Recommendations presented by the Office of the Child Advocate, reviewed the updated Youth Diversion Report by the Diversion Workgroup, and reviewed the goals of each JJPOC workgroup regarding the strategic plan.

### Acceptance of JJPOC Meeting Minutes

Toni Walker asked for a motion to accept the September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

### Overview of Meeting and Announcements

There were no formal announcements made at the beginning of this meeting. An overview of the agenda for the meeting was given.

### Conditions of Confinement Recommendations

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) representatives continued their presentation from the previous meeting, specifically on the recommendations based on their findings.

The mental health recommendations include eliminating the current mental health scoring system used and replacing it with frequent individual and group counseling to all youth, adding mental health support staff, and that the JJPOC should regularly review data regarding mental health assessments and service delivery for incarcerated youth.

The group programming recommendations are to embed programming in a trauma informed milieu focused rehabilitation and clinical support, offer daily programming, minimize isolation in cells, provide structured and unstructured regular outdoor recreation and that the JJPOC should regularly review the provision, including engagement and completion, of programming for youth, with a focus on documented improvement in youth's clinical symptomatology and functional skills.

The restraint and isolation recommendations are to implement strategies to reduce restraint and seclusion, such as the Six Core Strategies that are endorsed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services SAMHSA, that the JJPOC should regularly review the use of cell confinement for minor youth (both routine daily hours of cell confinement and disciplinary confinement), and the JJPOC should oversee the implementation of evidence-based strategies to reduce cell confinement and develop youth's social learning and conflict resolution skills.

The family and visiting resources recommendations are to include in intake protocols the identification of a visiting/connection resource for each and develop an individual plan for engagement with the resource, that treatment plans should include assistance with understanding the value of connection and addressing barriers to engagement, to make family counseling available to support engagement and prepare the youth and adult(s) for discharge and re-entry into the community, and that the JJPOC should regularly review the percentage of youth with adult support and help address barriers to youth-adult connections.

The education services recommendations are ensuring educational staff are well supported, that sufficient substitute teachers must be readily available to ensure consistent delivery of educational services, adding specialized teaching staff, such as specialists in reading, math, and transition services, supporting the planning for credit recovery programs, implementing a quality assurance framework to track attendance, grade level performance, academic and functional gains, and receipt of special education and related services, and that the State Department of Education

should develop a remedial action plan and a monitoring and enforcement plan to ensure students receive required special education services.

The final recommendations presented by the OCA are that the state should continue to develop a plan for the removal of youth from adult correctional facilities and relocate these youth from MYI to a smaller, more rehabilitative, secure environment that supports developmentally appropriate work with minors, and to relocate girls to juvenile settings.

Youth representatives were then given the opportunity to address the concerns that were brought to the attention of the JJPOC, in which they welcomed the ideas of the committee to address teacher absenteeism and special education requirements of the youth.

A question was then asked regarding which institutions, schools, and/or organizations are excelling in the educational field with similar youth to those at MYI. Another question was then posed of how to bring these resources to the youth at MYI. An OCA representative addressed this question stating that at this point those educational entities are unfamiliar to them but provided alternatives to the DOC and MYI environments to better support development which include smaller settings with appropriate levels of therapeutic support.

An overview was also provided regarding how educational services are either provided in-house or are contracted to other organizations. Through these services, students have access to special education, dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), religious services and clinical services and each of these services are integrated together to form a complete experience for students. Therefore, work is continuously being done to provide better foundations and support systems for students.

An agreement was come to among a few members regarding that the future of the youth and their needed support is the responsibility of all members and organizations.

A question was asked regarding the budget of MYI specifically for teachers. The data was not available at the time of the meeting. Another question on the same issue was asked regarding the salary of teachers at MYI, in which it was mentioned that although the exact amount was not available at the time, it is likely that the amount is smaller than that of a traditional schoolteacher. Given the difficulty of the occupation, providing an incentive was discussed among the JJPOC regarding increasing the salary of MYI school teachers. A concern was then brought to the

attention of the JJPOC regarding ensuring that the teachers hired at MYI are specialized in their respective subjects that they are teaching.

Another question was asked regarding whether the recent DOJ report recommendations have been implemented at MYI in which a representative from the OCA discussed the settlement agreement reached between the DOJ and MYI. It was stated that the components of the settlement agreement were not found to be implemented. Though, a small decrease in teacher absenteeism was found. A follow-up question was asked about whether location(s) have been identified for the relocation of the girls at YCI. A representative from the OCA stated that specific locations have not been explored but explained that the reasoning behind moving the girls to juvenile centers is due to such a small number of youth girls being held at YCI.

Representatives from the State Department of Education spoke briefly regarding the processes and trainings that are being implemented for the students that move in and/or out of facilities. Reentry coordinators are required to be identified for districts with at least 6,000 students in enrollment. A related training was held along with the JJEU. These liaisons are responsible for helping students reenter the district and to ensure that their credits transfer. Two other trainings were held for districts that wished to learn more about the juvenile justice system.

## **Youth Diversion Report**

Members of the Diversion Workgroup presented the Youth Diversion Report. At the time of the meeting, there was no current action needed by the JJPOC. In December, the JJPOC will take a vote that will be related to the recommendations put forth by the Diversion Workgroup. The recommendations do need to be finalized based on the most recent feedback from the committee members and a budget needs to be created.

The current state of the Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs) in Connecticut was presented and defined. A JRB was defined as “a community-based diversion process for youth that may otherwise be referred to the Juvenile Court for minor violations of the law” and they have been a function within Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs). Currently, there are 90 different JRBs serving 135 towns. 34 municipalities in Connecticut do not have quick access to JRBs.

The previously presented Pre-Arrest Diversion Plan Recommendations were briefly reviewed which includes (1) the plan for the standardization of JRBs will be developed by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, (2) the Diversion Workgroup would partner with

DESPP, the Community Expertise Workgroup, and POSTC to develop a Statewide Pre-Arrest Diversion Policy, and (3) the Diversion Workgroup would partner with members of the CEW to “Identify Youth and Police Engagement Training Programs.” The presented Diversion First Recommendations consist of two tiers. The first tier being high need communities where there are high numbers of youth partaking in delinquent acts, totaling roughly 16, and consisting of both urban and suburban areas. The point was made that lower need communities should still have access to diversion resources as well, including DCF resources and supports. The Plan additionally involves standardizing JRB practices through the referral process, the needs-based assessment, the community-based accountability via a restorative justice approach, and an outcome evaluation and quality assurance framework.

A request was made to the representatives of the Diversion Workgroup regarding the role of JRBs and truancy. The representatives responded that they are partaking in conversations regarding truancy and given the requirements for those able to take part in the Statewide Pre-Arrest Diversion Policy, truancy issues are not currently subjected to it. Therefore, future conversations are going to be had between the Diversion and Education Workgroups of the JJPOC.

Regarding truancy, JJPOC members began sharing the issue of whether truancy should be a JRB issue or not. It was also discussed how truancy is different today than it used to be and that it is not accurate to claim that all youth that are truant are involved in the juvenile justice system.

A discussion began regarding how to define truancy and whether there are different “levels” of truancy/whether truancy and chronic absenteeism are the same. JJPOC members then began discussing whether truancy can be considered a causality of youth ending up in the juvenile justice system.

### **JJPOC Strategic Plan**

The updates regarding the JJPOC Strategic Plan were presented. The Education Workgroup presented their goals which are to reduce absenteeism, reduce the use of discipline and exclusionary discipline in schools, and ensure that youth in juvenile justice facilities are gaining an appropriate education.

The Diversion Workgroup then presented their goals to standardize the diversion system by ensuring all the youth in the state have equitable access to effective diversion programs and to develop diversion training, including training for youth, law enforcement, and school districts.



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The Incarceration Workgroup goals are improving the conditions of confinement, continuing to implement the Reentry Success Plan, and focusing on gender responsiveness work. The hope for the workgroup is that the JJPOC will provide oversight to these goals and implementation.

The goals of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Workgroup are to view the policies that are being presented by the other workgroups to ensure they align with the racial and ethnic disparities that are being observed within the juvenile justice system, and to address the disproportionate contact by youth of color in the justice system.

The goals of the Cross-Agency Data Sharing Workgroup are to continue to support the data requests of the workgroups and the committee, continue working on the equity dashboard, and support the committee each year with the annual state of the system presentation.

The goals of the Community Expertise Workgroup are to move towards authentic partnership through active collaboration and allowing for lived experience to guide the policy recommendations, and to build bridges between policy makers and the communities they serve.

The goals of each workgroup were presented in brief due to time constraints and the meeting ended after the Community Expertise Workgroup presented their goals.

**Next Meeting:**

Hybrid Model Option (In person and available over zoom)

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

# Cross-Agency Data Sharing Updates

OPM Data and Policy Analytics Unit

November 21, 2024



P20·WIN



**CONNECTICUT**  
Policy and Management



# Agenda

1. Data and Policy Analytics Unit Overview
2. P20 WIN Overview
3. Crossover Youth
4. Disconnected Youth
5. Questions

# Mission

The Data and Policy Analytics (DAPA) unit supports the collection, analysis, coordination and sharing of data to support CT state government capacity.

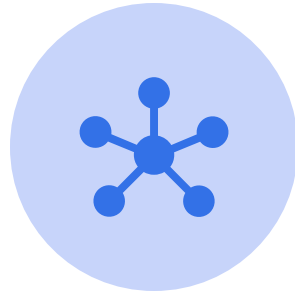
DAPA is responsible for the state data plan, open data, P20 WIN and the GIS Office.

Secure state and local data use supports Governor Lamont's vision for policy that is informed by data and evidence.

# Data & Policy Analytics Programs



GIS Office



P20 WIN



Open Data



Research &  
Evaluation



State  
Data Plan

# P20 WIN

[P20 WIN](#) (The Preschool through 20 Workforce Information Network) is Connecticut's state longitudinal data system and is the mechanism by which data from multiple agencies are matched to address critical policy questions.

P20 WIN informs sound policies and practice through secure sharing of longitudinal data across participating agencies to ensure that individuals successfully navigate supportive services and educational pathways into the workforce.



# P20 WIN Membership

- Department of Labor (DOL) – Also the Data Integration Hub<sup>6</sup>
- CT State Department of Education (CSDE)
- CT Technical Education and Career System (CTECS)
- Department of Correction (DOC)
- Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
- Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
- Office of Higher Education (OHE)
- Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS)
- CT Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC)
- CT State Colleges and Universities (CSCU)
- University of Connecticut (UConn)
- CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH)
- Judicial Branch Court Support Services (JBCSSD)



# Crossover Youth

# Crossover Youth: Background

## Original study conducted in 2014/2015 on Crossover Youth by UConn

- “Crossover youth”: youth who, at any point, are involved with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- DCF involvement was defined as either (1) at least one substantiated maltreatment allegation or (2) youth with at least one out-of-home placement in DCF care.
- Juvenile justice involvement was defined as having at least one case in the Juvenile Justice system at some point in time.

## Key findings:

- 90% of crossover youth enter child welfare first. For these youth, the time to first offense is on average 8 years.
- 9% enter juvenile justice first. For these youth, the time to first substantiated allegation was ~1 year
- Other factors explored included: nature & severity of youth involvement in both agencies, level of involvement, predictive factors

# Crossover Youth: Current work

Engaged Department of Children and Families and  
Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

Interest in testing new data matching methods: privacy-  
enhancing technology (PET) partnering with Massive Data  
Institute (Georgetown University) and Asemio

Development of data request & data-sharing agreement in  
process.

Analytical plans include:

- Evaluate match rate using current P20 WIN strategy and PET strategy
- Descriptive analysis of crossover youth population

Data request submission and data match expected late 2024





# Disconnected Youth

# Disconnected Youth: Background

## Original study conducted by Boston Consulting Group through support of Dalio Foundation

- "Disconnected youth" means an individual who is fourteen to twenty-six years of age, inclusive, and who is (A) an at-risk student, or (B) not enrolled in high school, and (i) has not obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, (ii) has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent but is unemployed and not enrolled in an adult education program, institution of higher education or otherwise pursuing postsecondary education, or a workforce training or certification program, including an apprenticeship program, or (iii) is incarcerated.
- Leveraged P20 WIN to merge data from 11 agencies
- Connected to extensive municipal advocacy & communications, 119K Commission

## Key findings:

- 119K youth are considered "disconnected" or "at-risk"
- Findings about integrated data
- Recommendations to include data from DSS, CTECS, DOC, JB-CSSD

# Disconnected Youth: Current state

Public Act 24-45 states that the P20 WIN Executive Board "shall submit an annual report on disconnected youth" and establish a plan for a data intermediary.

## Annual Report (Sec. 22)

- The 119K Commission recommends a report "...should include the overall count of at-risk and disconnected young people and breakdowns by key demographics and subgroups."
- In August, the Governor's Office engaged Dalio Foundation to provide support through Boston Consulting Group to replicate this report
- As of 11/14/24, a data-sharing agreement has been developed and signed by 11 agencies and data matching is underway.

## Data intermediary (Sec. 21)

- Plan to "establish a state-wide data intermediary...responsible for (1) providing technical support, (2) creating data sharing agreements, and (3) building and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to share data between nonprofit organizations serving disconnected youth."
- Consultant ready to engage to develop a plan, interview nonprofits, districts, local and national examples; plan expected early 2025

# Disconnected Youth: Next steps

Data analysis will examine the following questions:

- How many youth ages 14-26 are at-risk or disconnected?
- How has this population changed over time?
- What are the factors associated with being at-risk or disconnected?

Data match/merge underway

- Report to be released in early January
- Extended appendix & existing dashboard to follow



# Cross-Agency Information Sharing

# Cross-agency information sharing

Section 13 of Public Act 23-137 tasked OPM, in collaboration with various state agencies, with developing a plan for a "Secure Online Portal" to facilitate cross-agency data sharing and improve service delivery for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Based on the findings from a landscape analysis and agency feedback, the report recommends moving away from the original goal, and not building a secure online portal.
- Instead, consider investing in developing a **people-powered** coordinating body empowered to develop and implement **shared governance and technology standards** (i.e., policies, processes, technical tools, and templates) that improve service delivery not only for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but also broadly for most state residents via a Data Enablement Service

Questions?

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# **JJPOC System Trends**

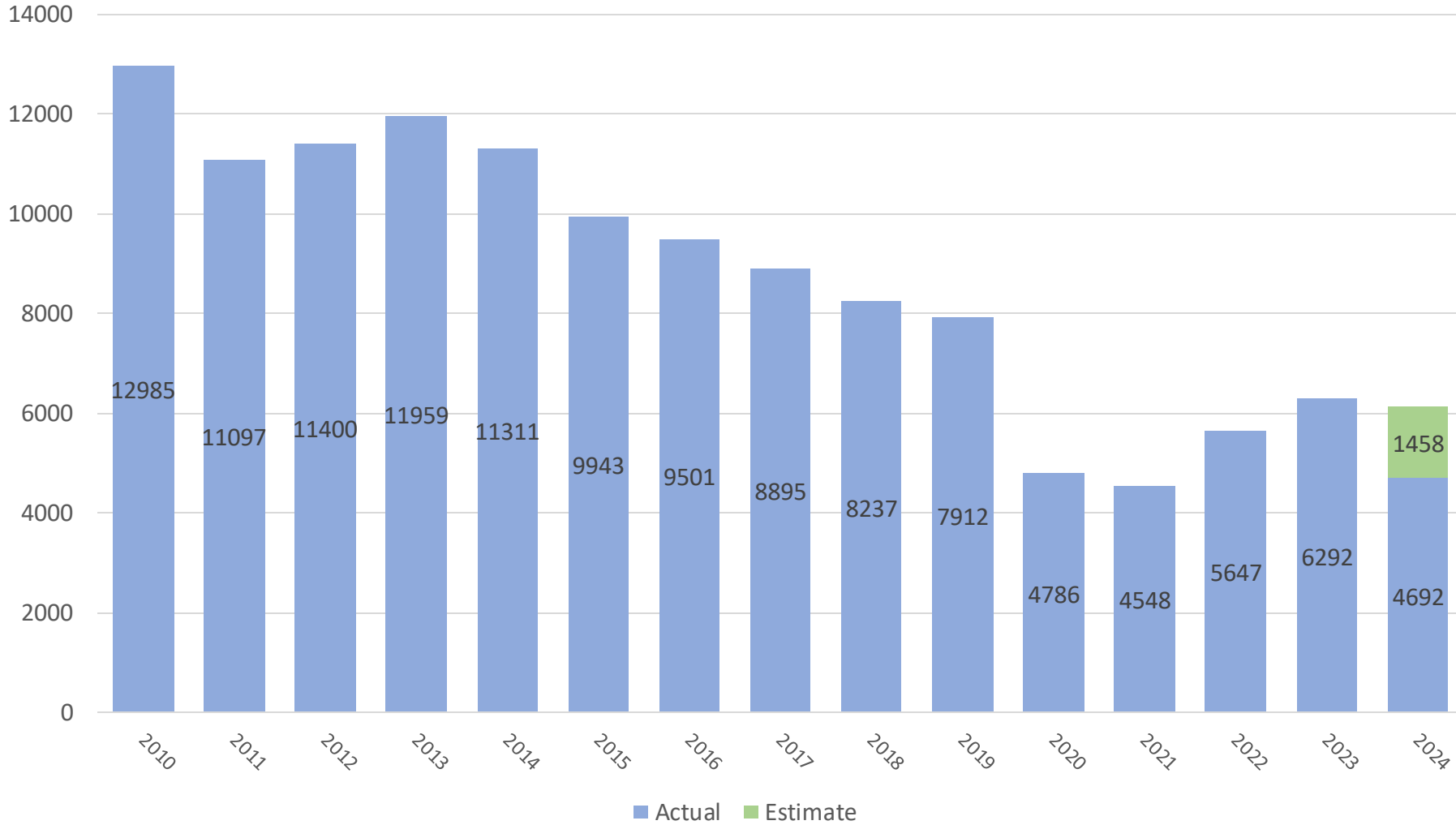
## **A high-level look at the trend of Juvenile Justice in the State of Connecticut**



# Objective

- Describe changes to the size of the Juvenile Justice system over time, using Judicial Branch data:
  - Delinquent Referrals to Juvenile Court
  - Admissions to Pre-Disposition Residential Centers
  - Juvenile Probation Population Data
- Annual data, 2010- Q3 2024
  - Some metrics may have narrower date ranges due to data availability
- Intended to provide context to stakeholders

## Total Annual Delinquent Referrals to Juvenile Court By Calendar Year



- 2024 data is through end of Q3
- More than four years after the COVID-19 pandemic began, annual referral volume remains lower than pre-pandemic periods
- 2024 is estimated to close out at approximately 6,150 referrals
- Reductions in referral volume have averaged 6% per year since 2013

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

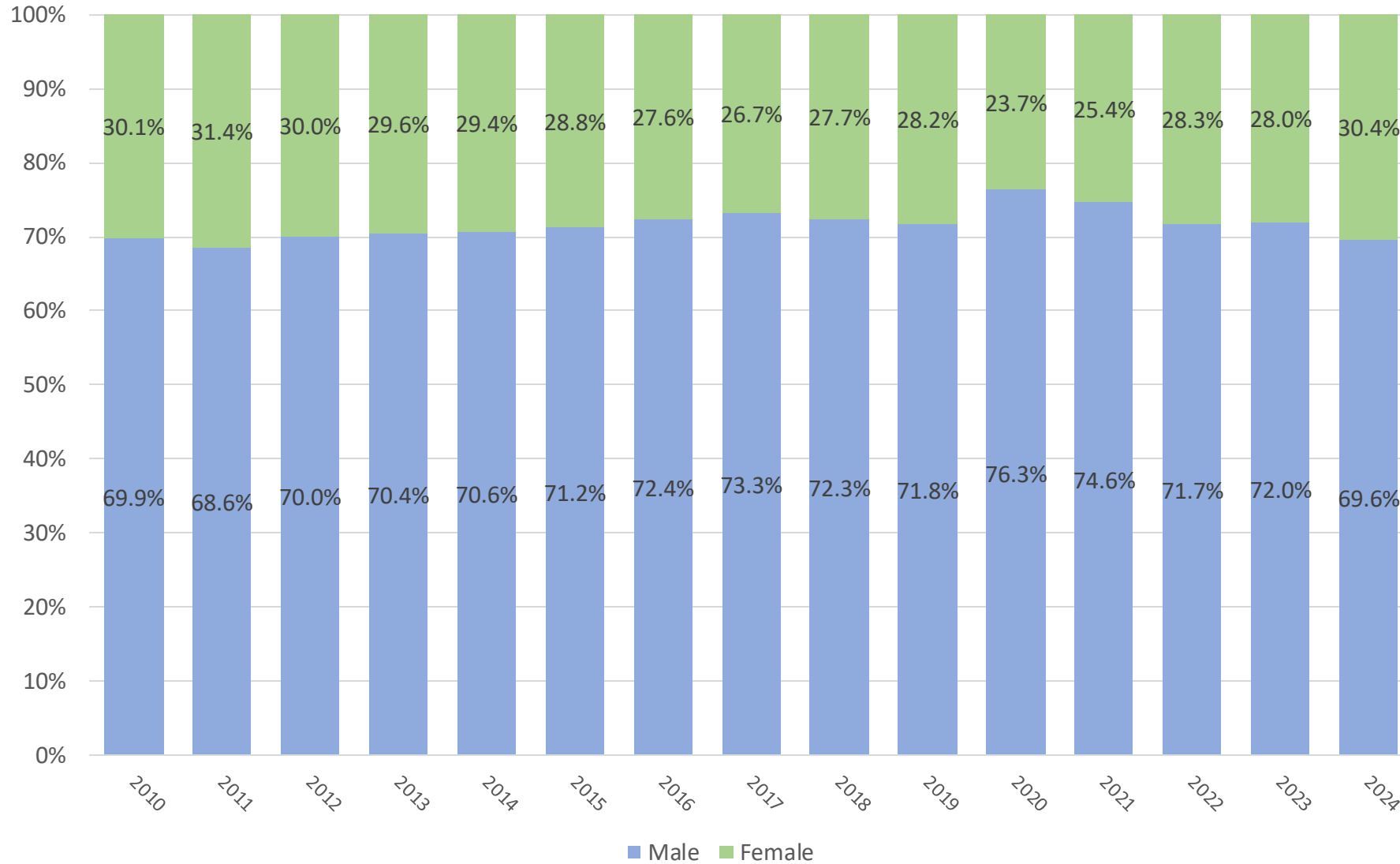
### Total Annual Delinquent Referrals by Race/Ethnicity



- 2024 data is through end of Q3
- The proportion of delinquent referrals for Non-Hispanic White and Non-Hispanic Black clients have increased slightly, while the proportion of Hispanic clients has been decreasing.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

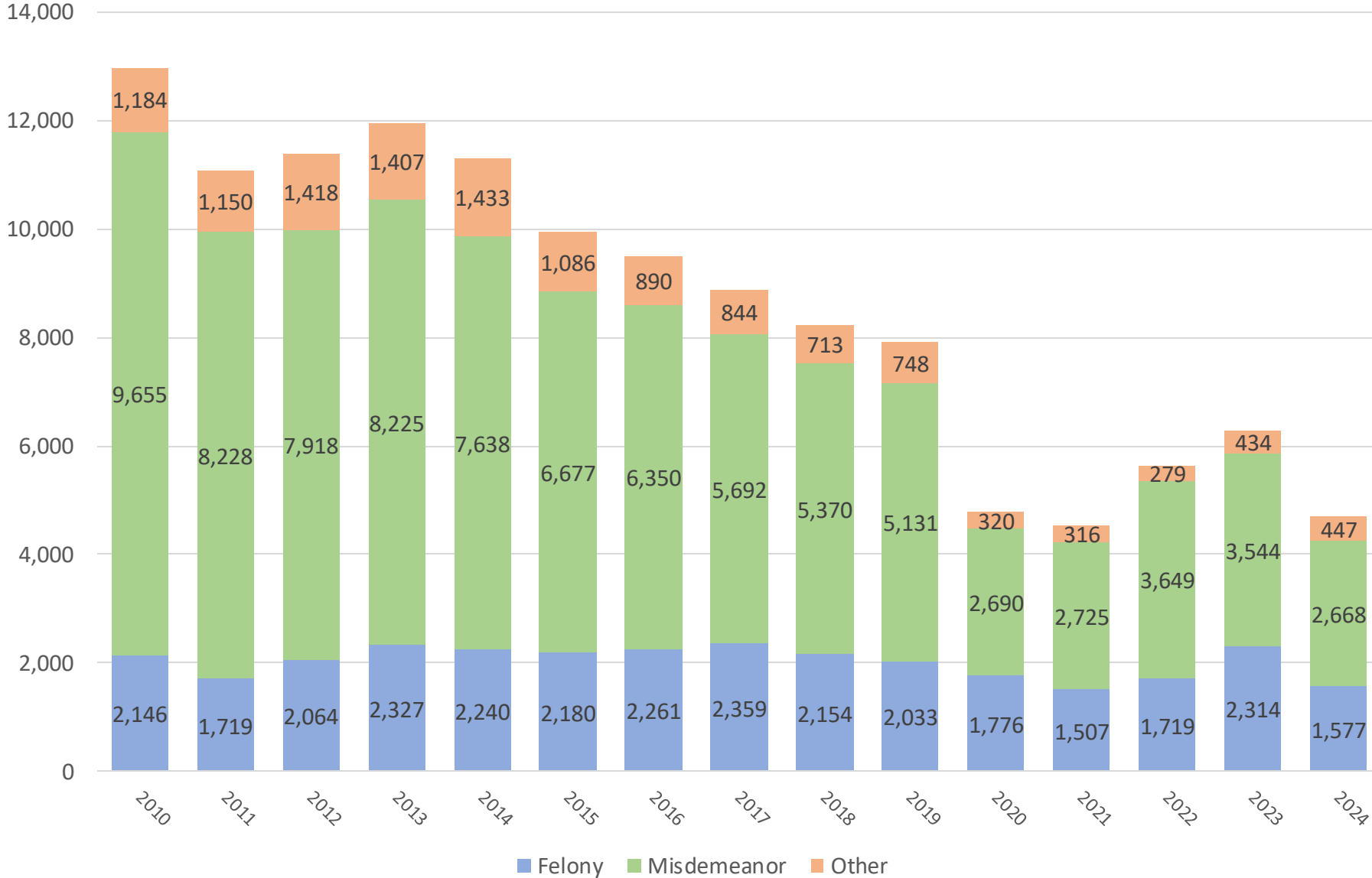
### Total Annual Delinquent Referrals by Gender



- 2024 data is through end of Q3
- The proportion of referrals between males and females have remained steady.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

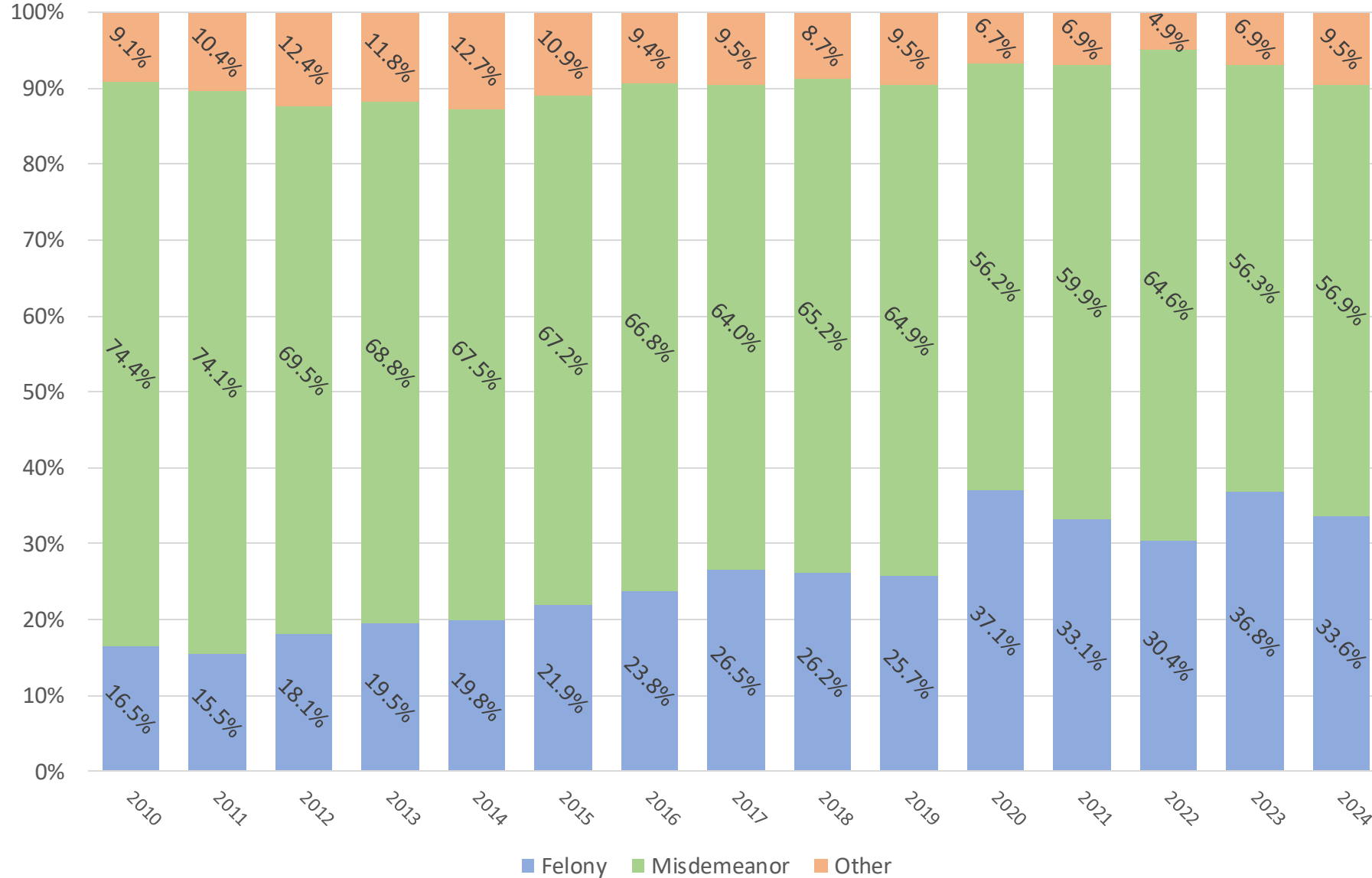
## Delinquent Referrals by Charge Type



- 2024 data is through end of Q3
- Much of the reduction in volume is seen among Misdemeanor referrals, with a 57% reduction from 2013 to 2023.
- ‘Other’ includes violations, infractions, status offenses and unclassified.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

## Charge Type as Percentage of All Referrals



- 2024 data is through end of Q3
- The result of fewer Misdemeanor offenses are proportionally more Felony referrals in the system.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

## Top Charges

### Top 10 Charges - 2017

BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG	M	1,148
ASSAULT 3RD DEG	M	1,003
LARCENY 6TH DEG	M	683
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	M	614
INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTI..	M	407
LARCENY 3RD DEG	F	358
BURGLARY 3RD DEG	F	355
THREATENING 2ND DEG	M	293
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEG	M	277
POS CONTROL SUBSTNCE 1ST OF..	M	238

### Top 10 Charges - 2023

ASSAULT 3RD DEG	M	840
BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG	M	839
LARCENY OF MV - 1ST OFFENSE	F	507
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	M	378
INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTING	M	265
LARCENY 6TH DEG	M	235
BURGLARY 3RD DEG	F	182
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 2ND DEG	M	144
THREATENING 2ND DEG	M	144
LARCENY 2ND DEG	F	138

- This visual shows a comparison of the top 10 charges (misdemeanor and felony only) by total referrals for 2017 vs. 2023
- The most common court referrals continue to be conduct-based misdemeanor offenses
- Larceny of MV and Larceny 2 have risen on this list as other less severe offenses are less prevalent
- The top 10 charges account for 60% of all court referrals in both 2017 and 2023

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

## Top Charges

### Top 10 Charges - 2023

BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG	M	659
ASSAULT 3RD DEG	M	615
LARCENY OF MV - 1ST OFFENSE	F	377
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	M	287
INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTI..	M	209
LARCENY 6TH DEG	M	192
THREATENING 2ND DEG	M	144
BURGLARY 3RD DEG	F	138
LARCENY 2ND DEG	F	123
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 2ND DEG	M	122

### Top 10 Charges - 2024

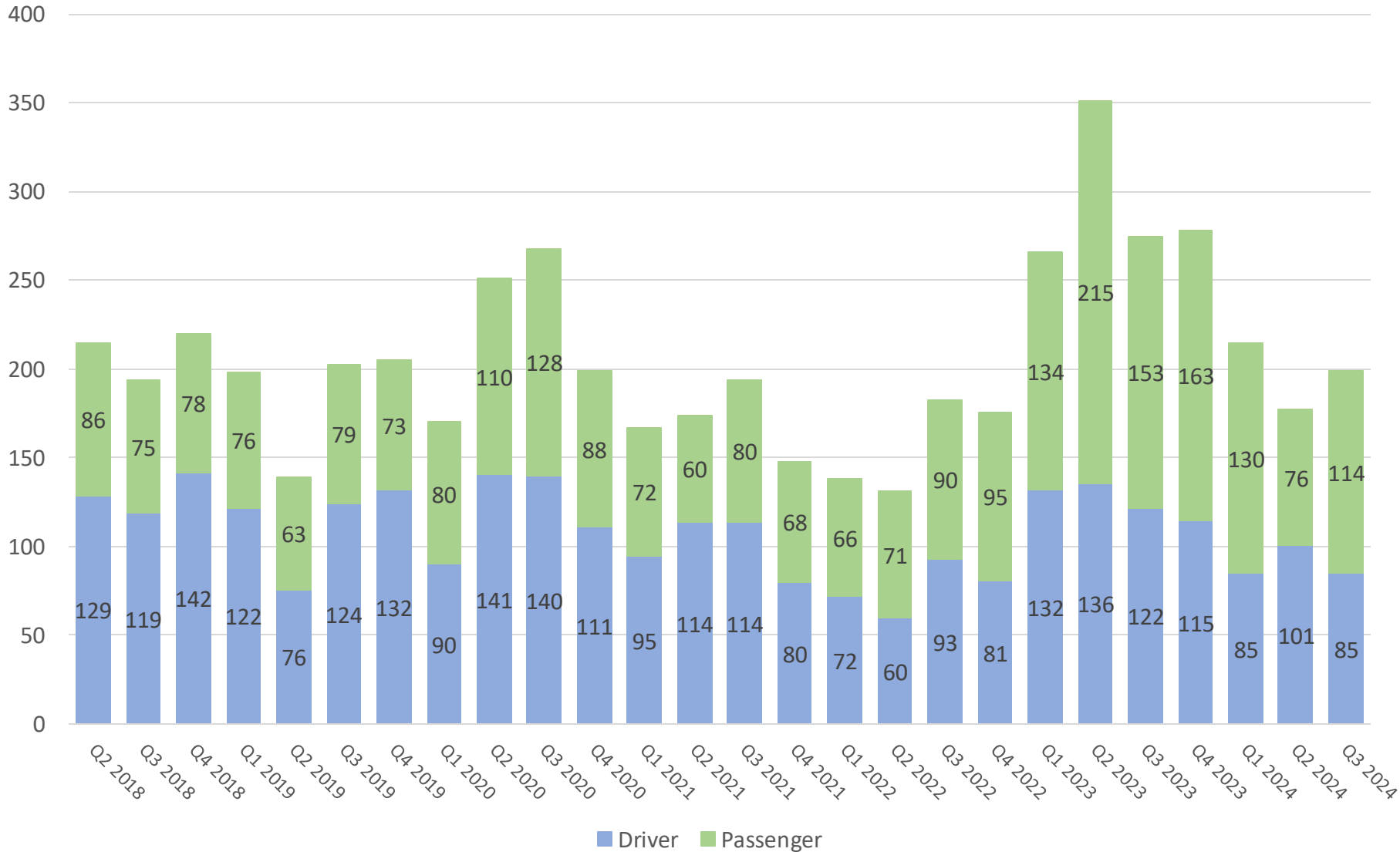
ASSAULT 3RD DEG	M	741
BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG	M	587
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	M	290
INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTI..	M	232
LARCENY 6TH DEG	M	231
LARCENY OF MV - 1ST OFFENSE	F	220
BURGLARY 3RD DEG	F	202
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 2ND DEG	M	93
ASSAULT 2ND DEG	F	90
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEG	M	89

- Compares the top 10 charges (misdemeanor and felony only) by total referrals for the first three quarters of 2023 vs 2024
- Larceny of Motor Vehicle – 1<sup>st</sup> Offense has fallen in real numbers (377 in 2023, 220 in 2024)
- The top 10 charges account for 60% of all court referrals in both 2023 and 2024

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD



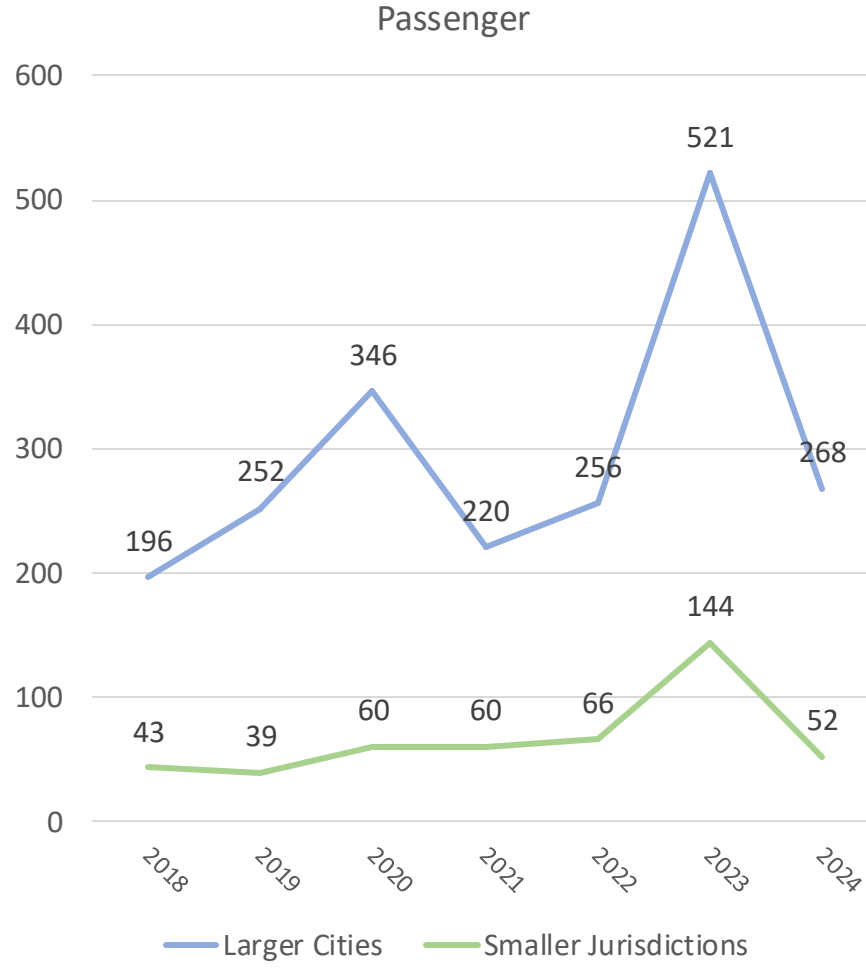
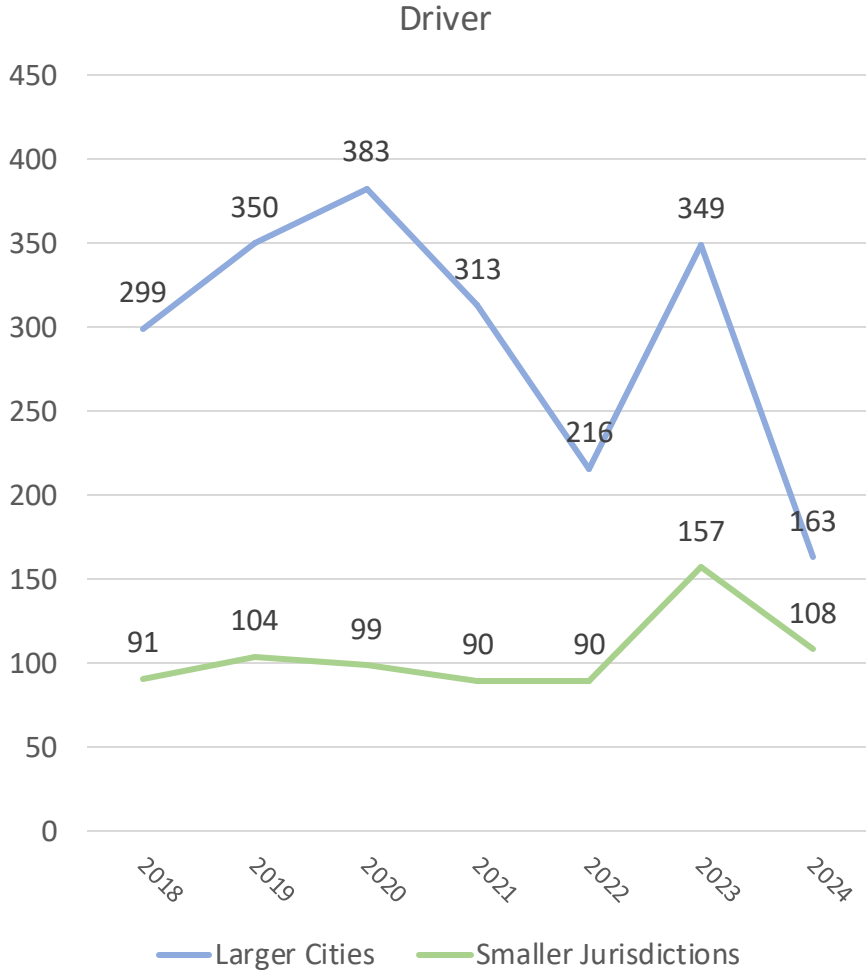
## Delinquent Referrals Involving Motor Vehicle Theft By Participant Type



- Juvenile Probation Supervisors flag court referrals as being motor vehicle theft-involved at the time of case handling, as well as whether the youth was a driver or passenger.
- This visual shows the total number of delinquent referrals involving motor vehicle theft by quarter.
- In 2024, auto-theft related referrals have dropped since the peak in 2023.
- Auto-theft related charges for passengers in auto-theft arrest events continue to be slightly higher in 2024.
- The number of court referrals for drivers of stolen vehicles has remained somewhat even with prior quarters.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

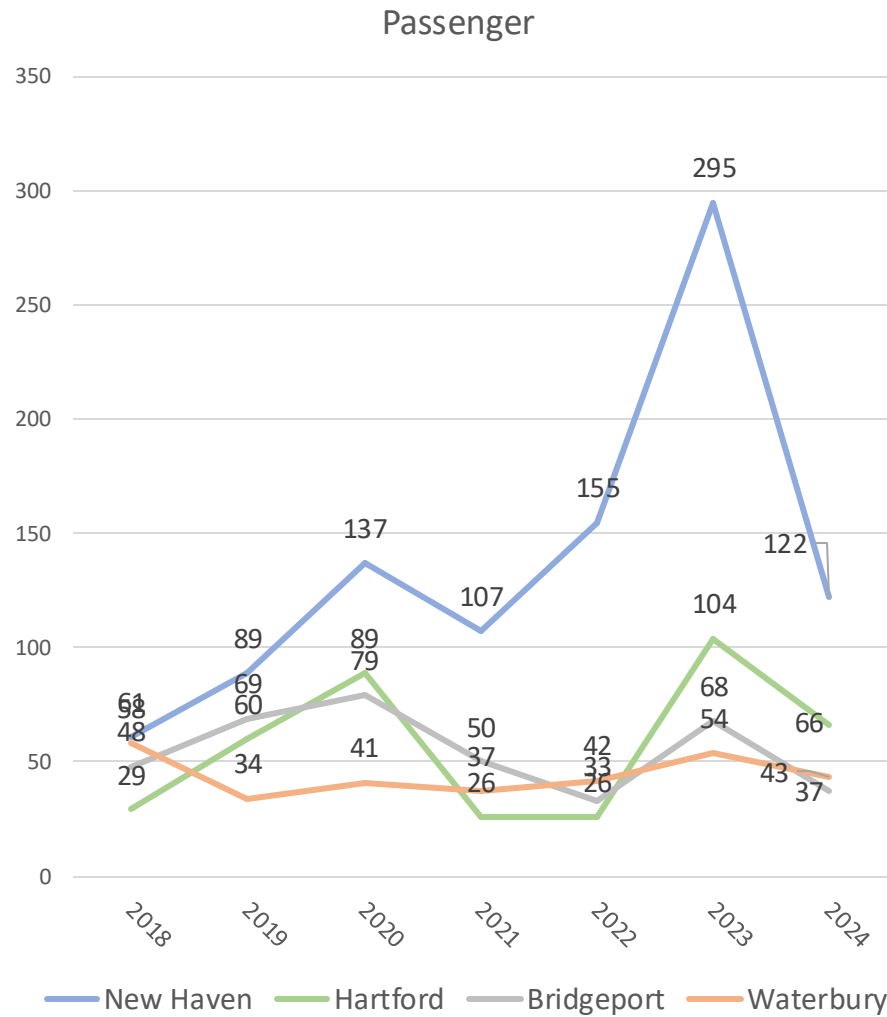
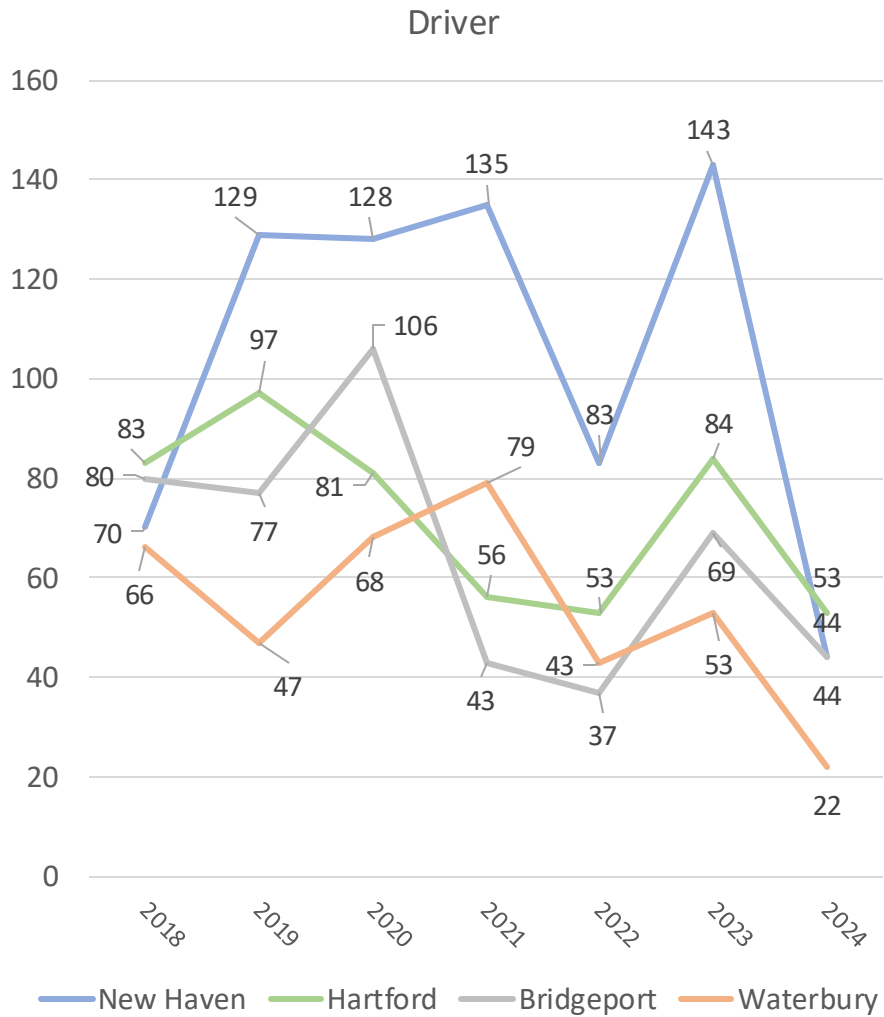
## Delinquent Referrals Involving Motor Vehicle Theft by Court Location by Participant Type



- Increases in court referrals for passengers is more prevalent in larger cities.
- Chart compares larger cities, an aggregate of referrals in New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, and Waterbury, with smaller jurisdictions.
- There has been a sharp decrease in auto theft-related court referrals for both drivers and passengers in 2024
- This decrease is primarily in the larger cities

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

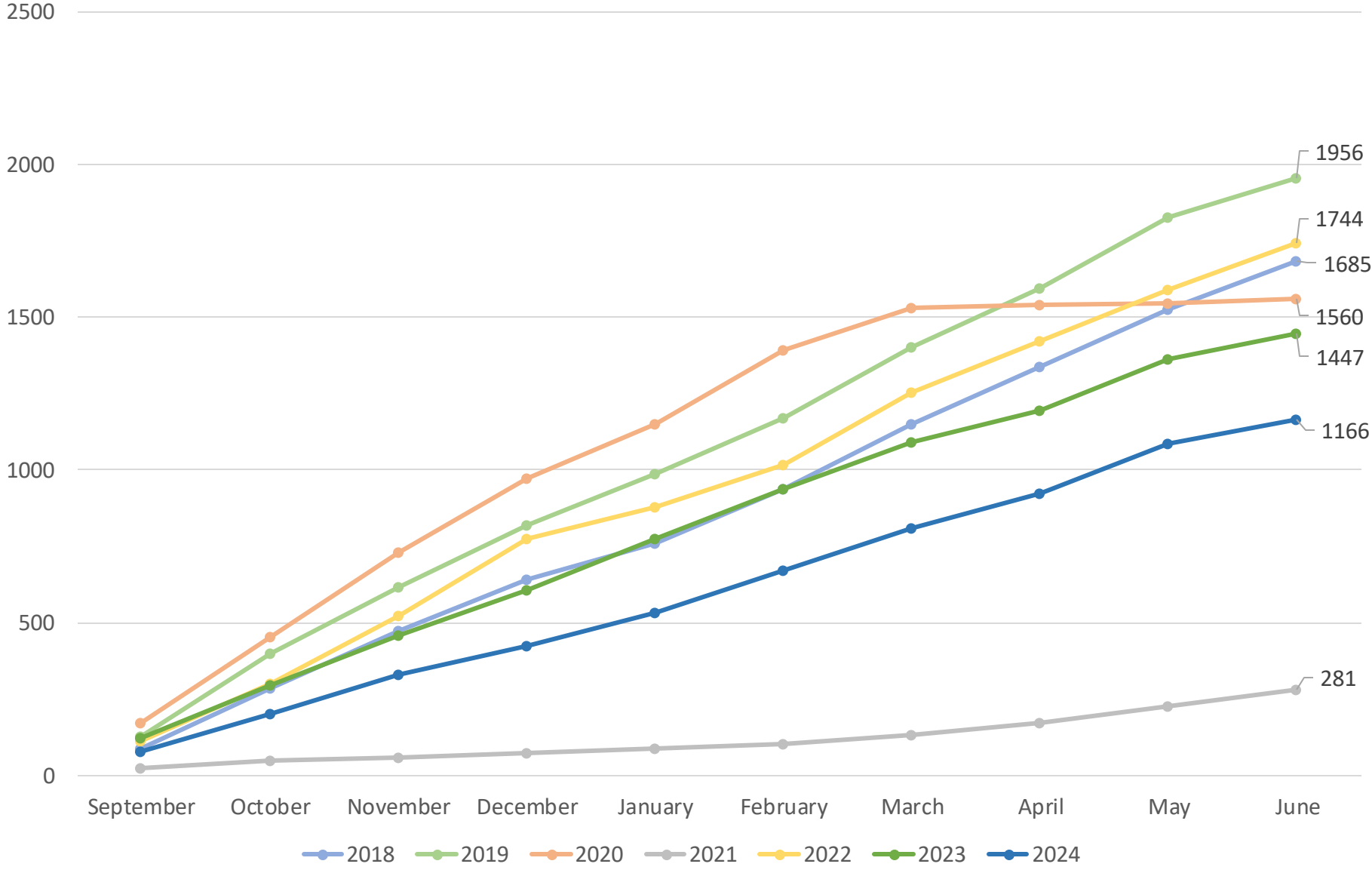
# Delinquent Referrals Involving Motor Vehicle Theft in CT's Largest Cities



- Looking more closely at MVT-related court referrals in CT's largest cities, the increase in passengers becomes more isolated to New Haven and Hartford.
- New Haven saw the sharpest decrease in MVT-related court referrals from

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

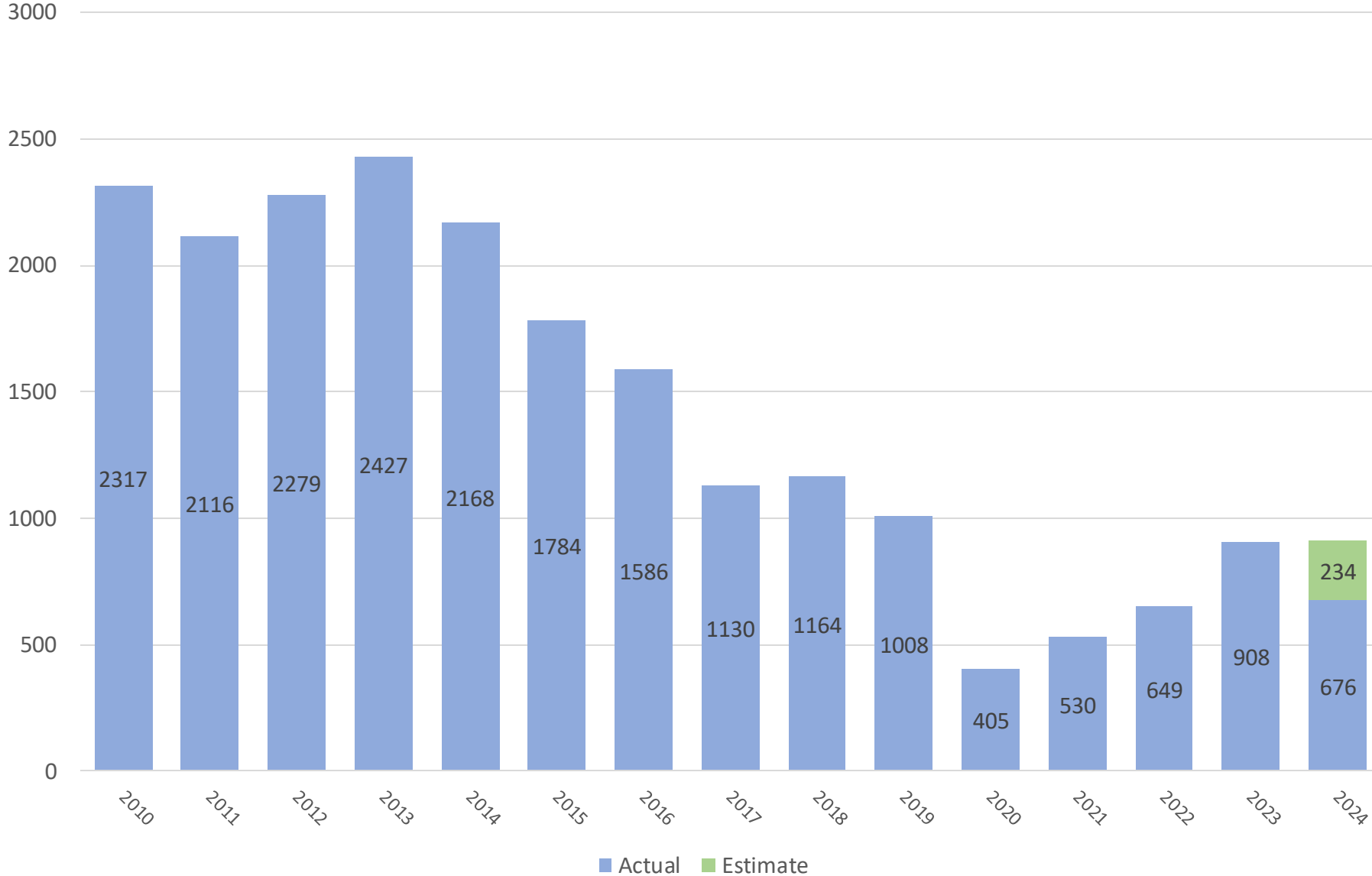
# Running Total of School-Related Referrals to Juvenile Court by School Year



- This visual shows a running total of school-related delinquent court referrals for each school year (September – June).
- School year 2024 saw 19% fewer school-related referrals compared to the 2023 school year.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

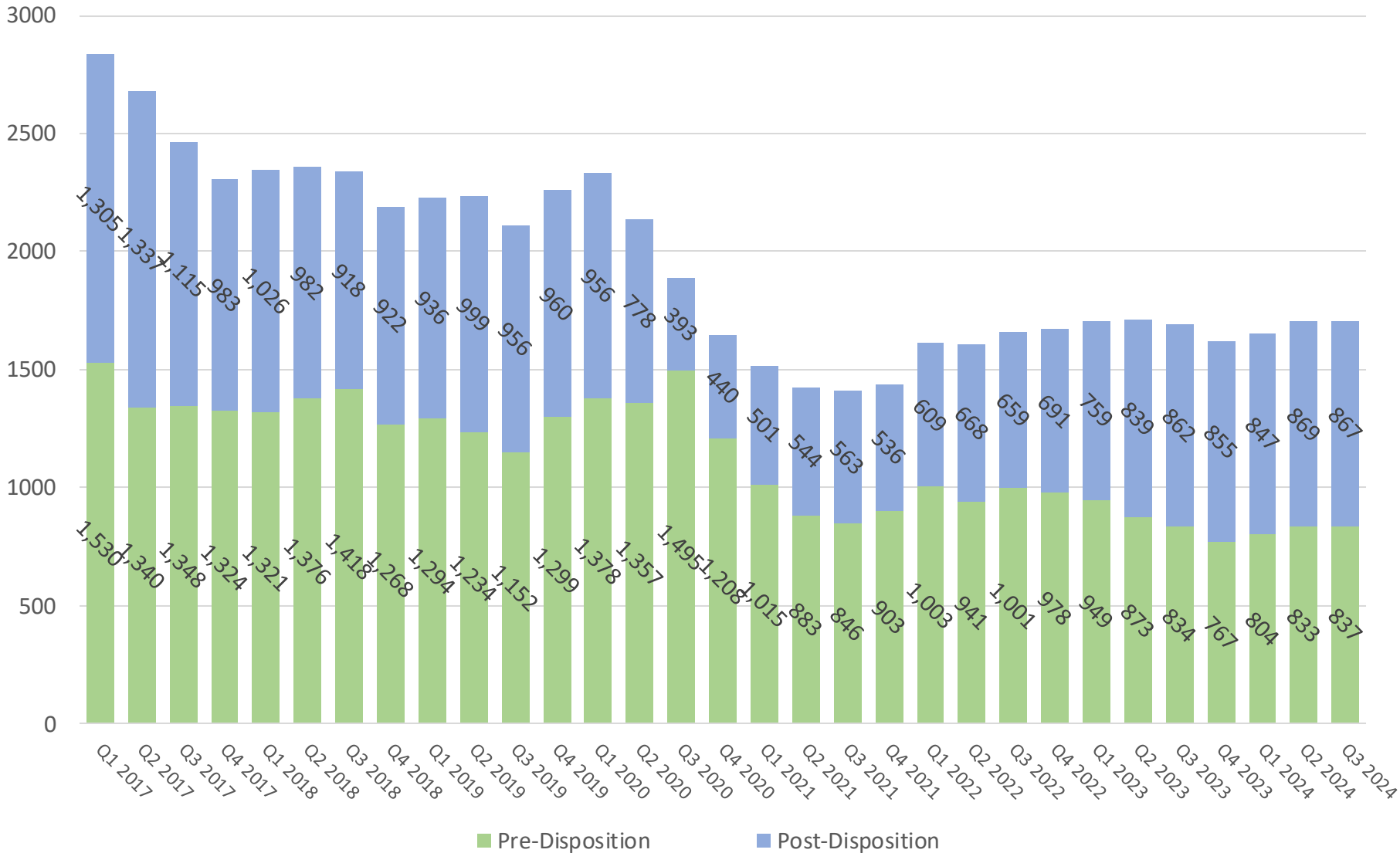
## Pre-Disposition Detention Admissions



- 2024 data is through end of Q3
- Pre-disposition detention admissions continue to contract on an annual basis
- Calendar Year 2024 estimated admission totals (910) represent a 63% decrease from 2013.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

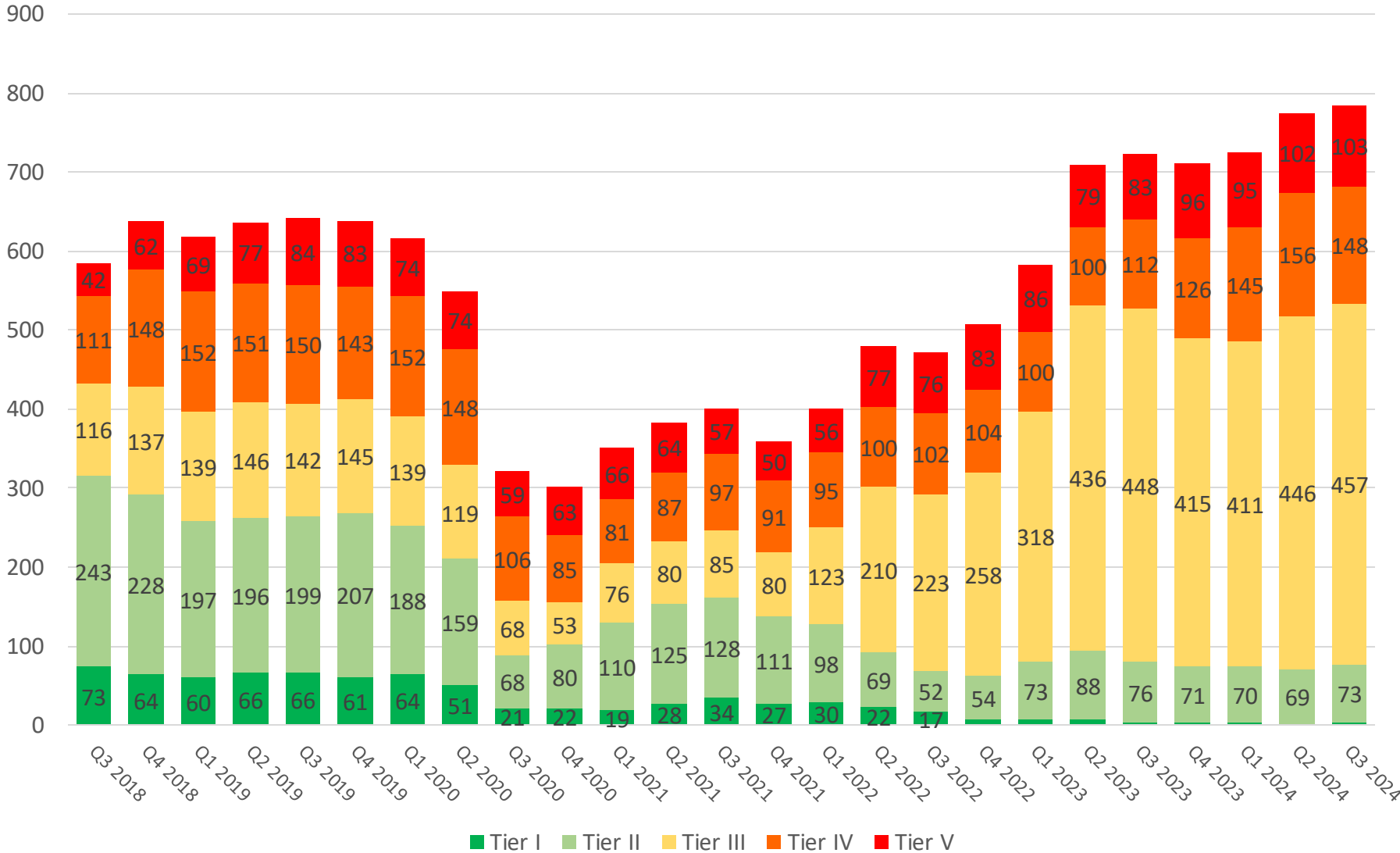
## Average Quarterly Juvenile Justice System Population Pre-Disposition & Post-Disposition



- This visual shows the average number of children in the juvenile probation population, broken down by pre-disposition (intake) and post-disposition (supervision) cases.
- Roughly 1,650 youth are present in the system on any given day

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

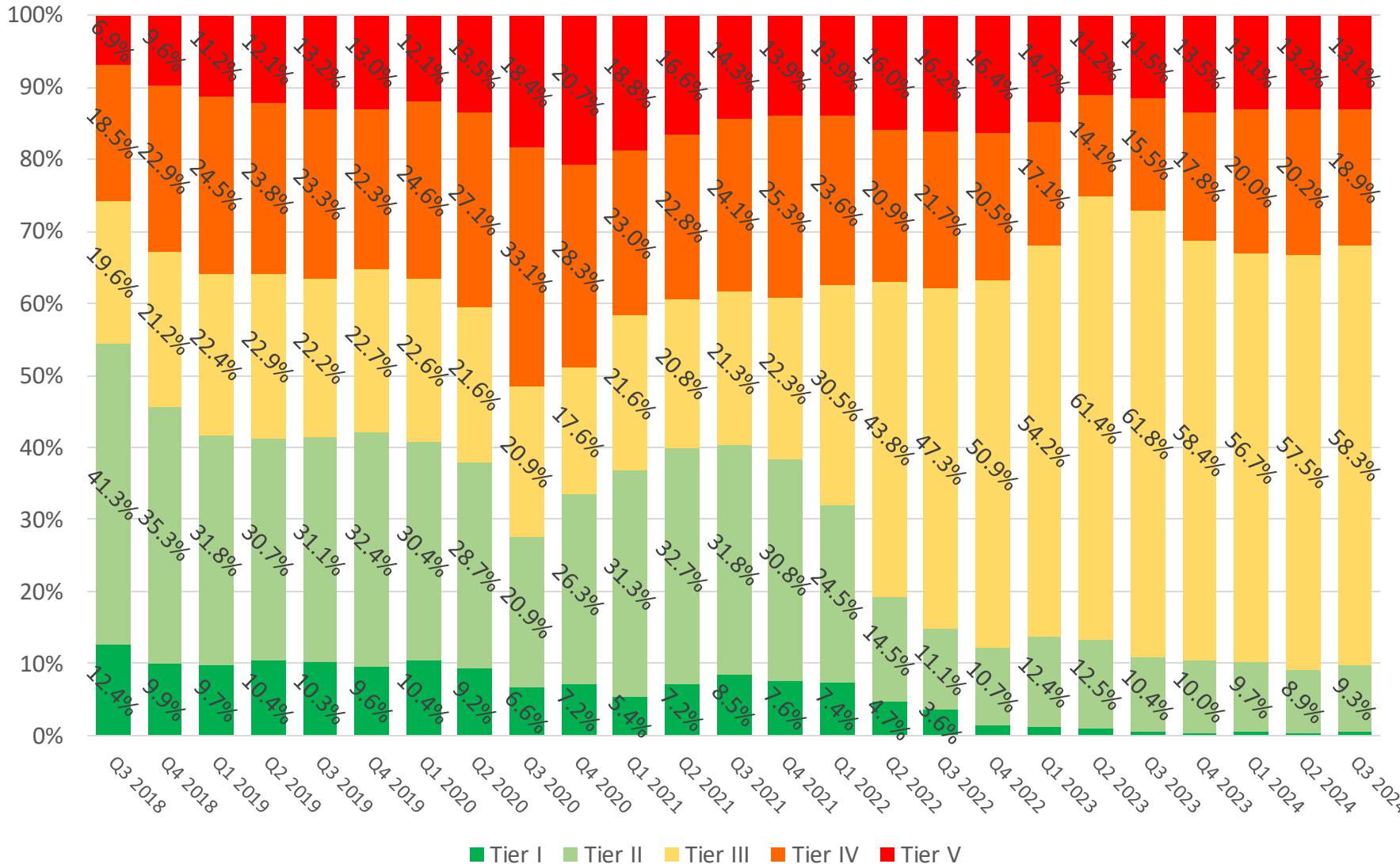
## Average Quarterly Juvenile Probation Supervision Population by Supervision Level via the PrediCT Assessment



- This visual shows the average quarterly juvenile probation supervision population broken down by supervision level as determined by the PrediCT assessment.
- Risk of youth on probation supervision has changed, due primarily to algorithmic changes to the PrediCT assessment.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

## Supervision Level as a Percentage of Supervision Probation Cases via the PrediCT Assessment

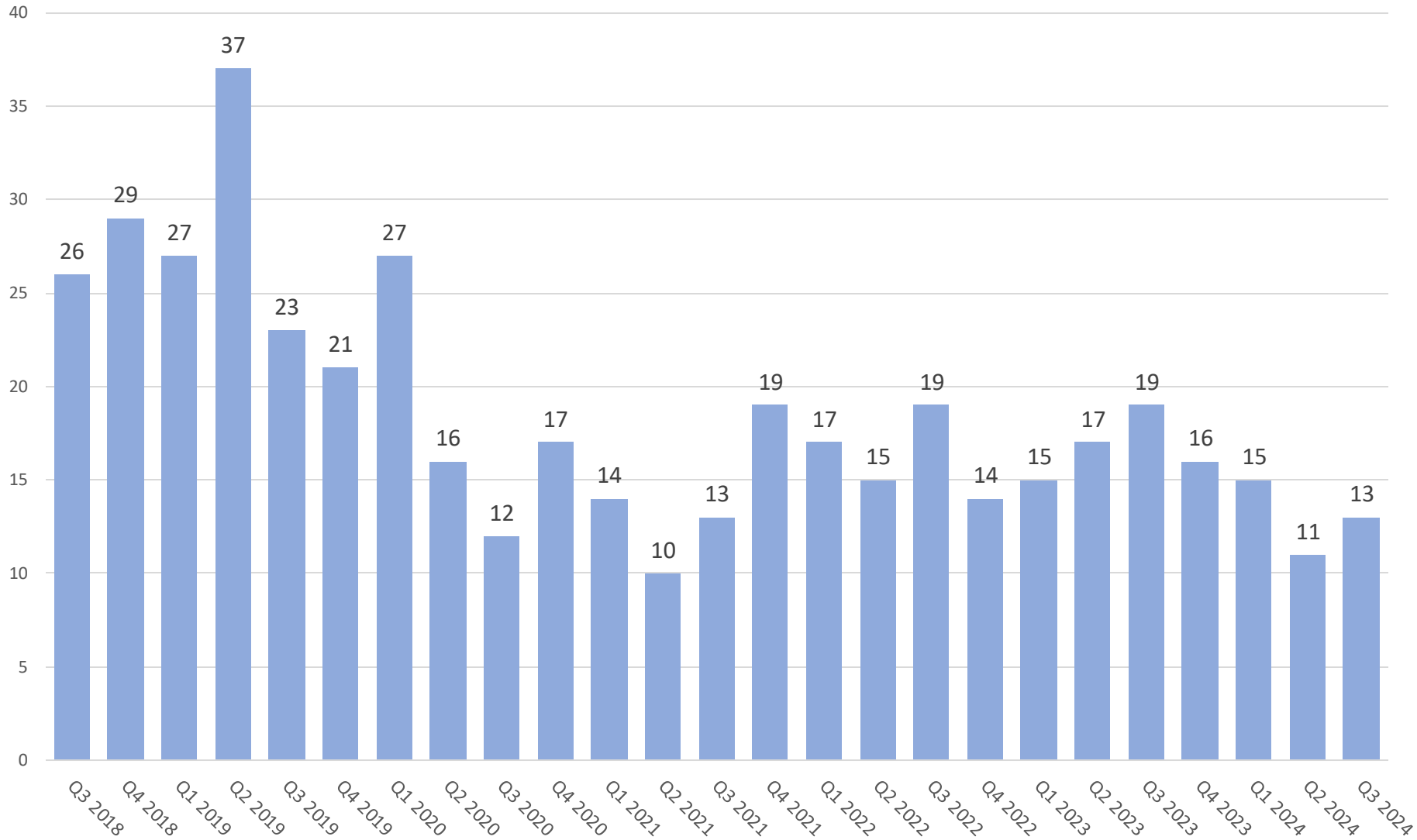


- A larger proportion of children on probation present higher levels of risk.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD



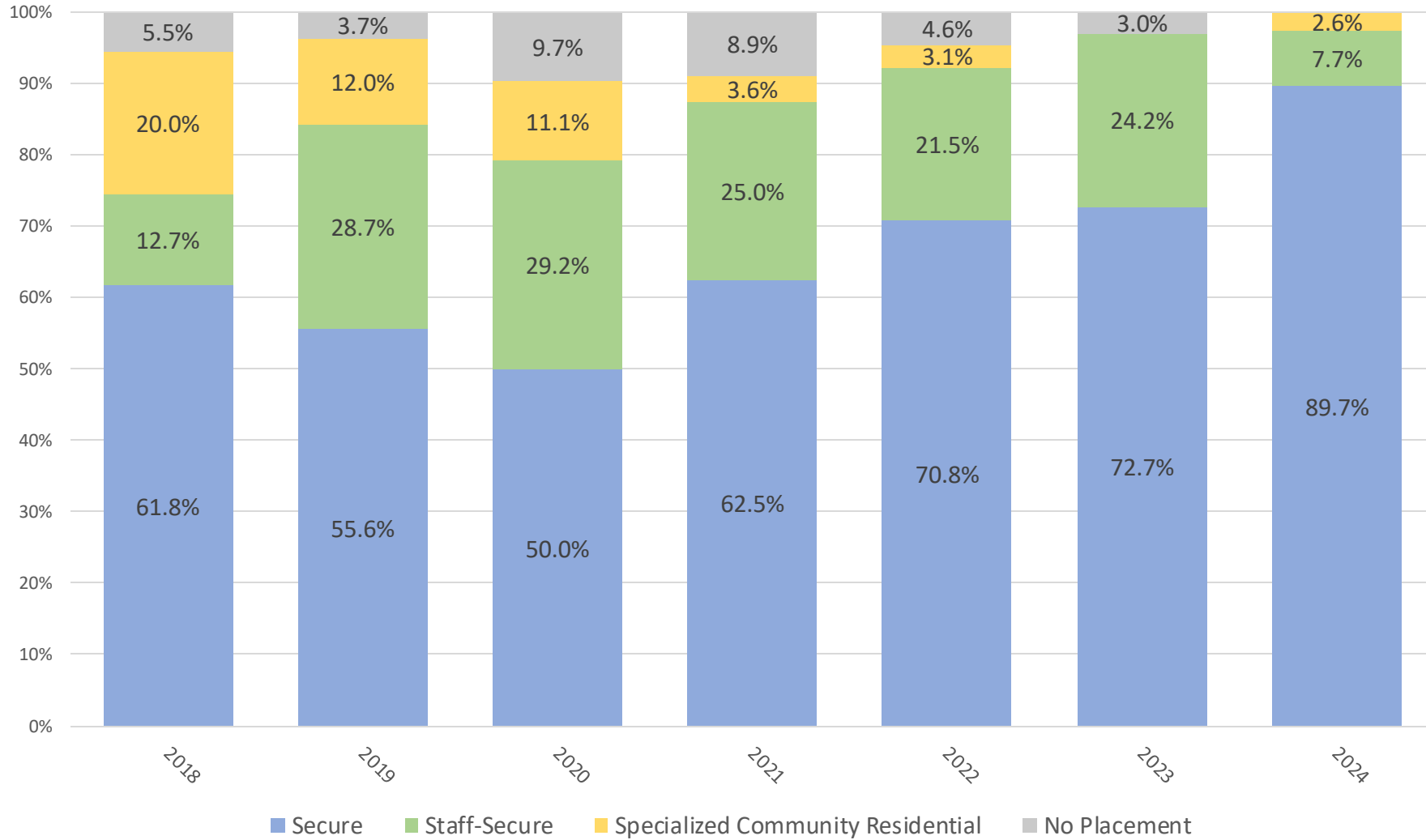
## Probation With Residential Placement – Court Order Events



- Dispositions to Probation with Residential Placement (REGIONS) have remained below pre-pandemic levels.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

## Probation with Residential Placement - Court Order Events by Placement Type



- The majority of placements are to a REGIONS hardware-Secure facility.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

# Program Referrals

Top 10 Program Referrals - 2019

	Count of Referrals	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Linking Youth to Natural Community	422	133.6
Educational Support Services	172	218.3
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	112	111.1
Mentoring	86	39.5
Hamilton	80	15.2
Other	45	117.0
Adolescent Sexual Behavior Treatment and Education Program	41	155.6
Intermediate Residential	40	75.6
Boys Respite and Assessment Center	32	46.6
Homecare	26	120.4

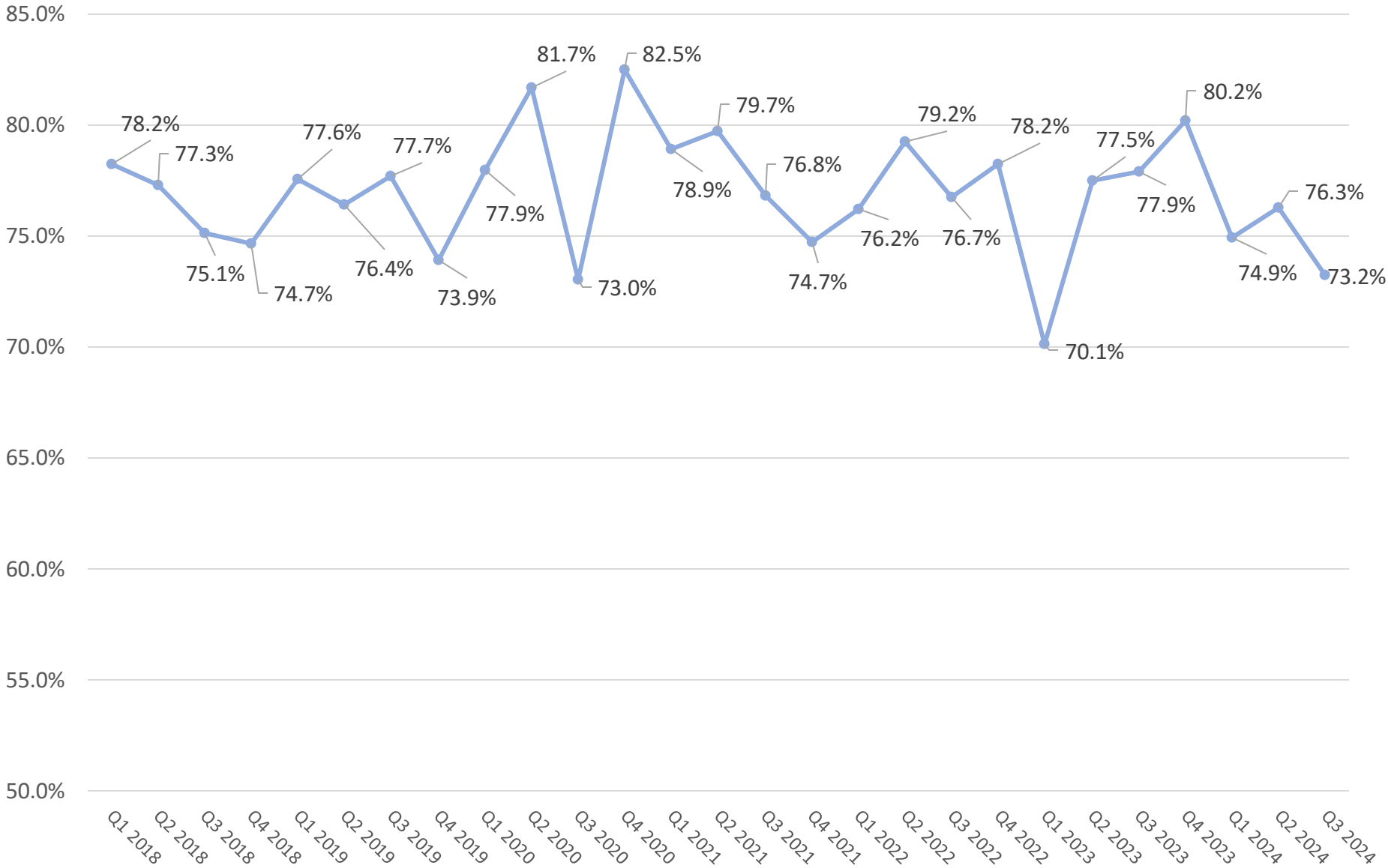
Top 10 Program Referrals - 2024

	Count of Referrals	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Linking Youth to Natural Community	688	76.5
Educational Support Services	282	63.4
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	190	56.9
Credible Messenger	77	87.5
Community Diversion and Respite Center	32	35.5
Intermediate Residential	28	82.6
Adolescent Sexual Behavior Treatment and Education Program	23	99.5
Juv Res – Assessment Center	20	72.0
Juv Res – Respite	15	40.2
Transitional Living Program	6	92.8

- This visual shows the top 10 programs by number of referrals comparing the first three quarters of 2019 to the first three quarters of 2024, and the length of stay for each program.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

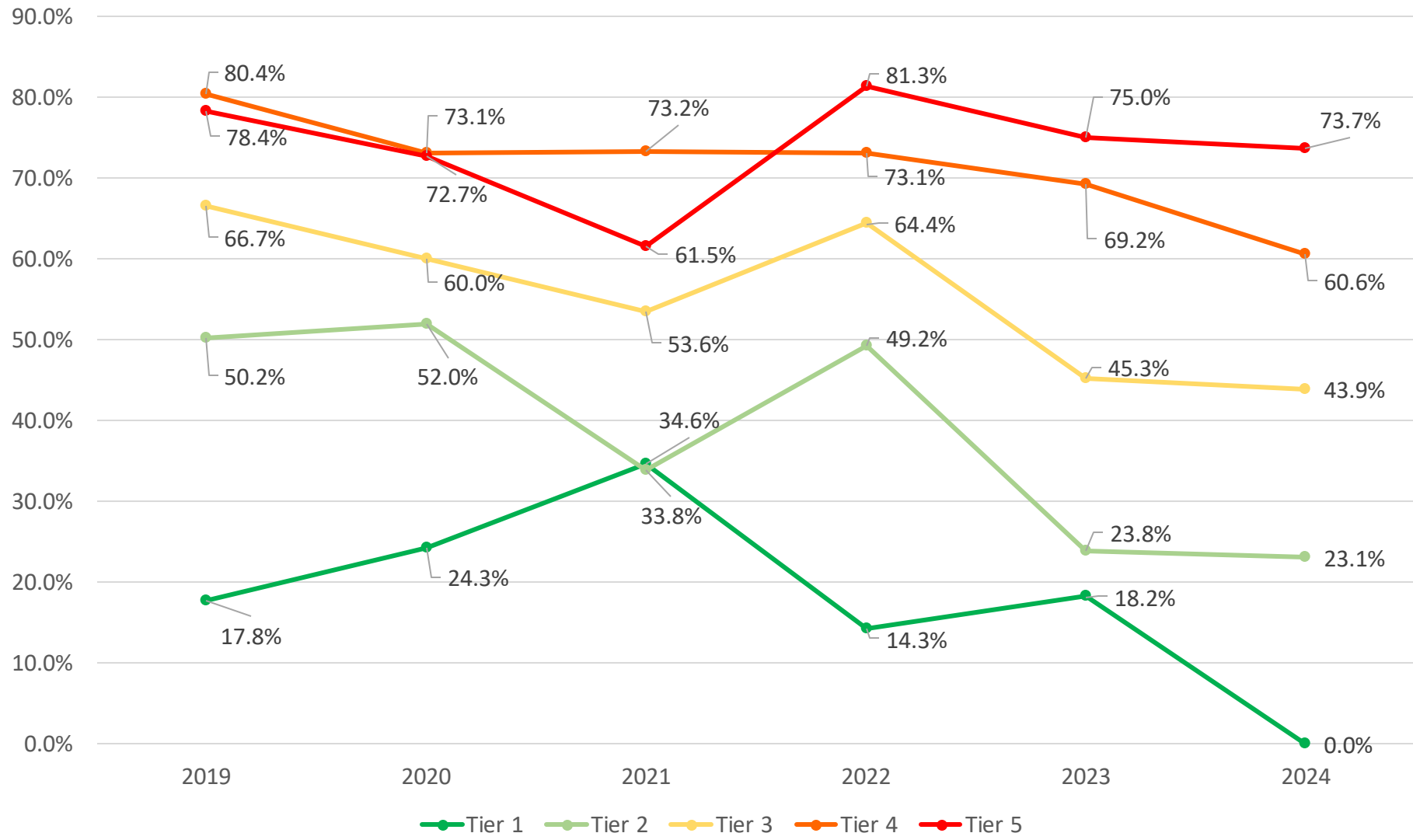
## Success - Clients Completing Supervision Without Re-Arrest



- The percentage of children who remain arrest-free throughout probation supervision has remained relatively stable.

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

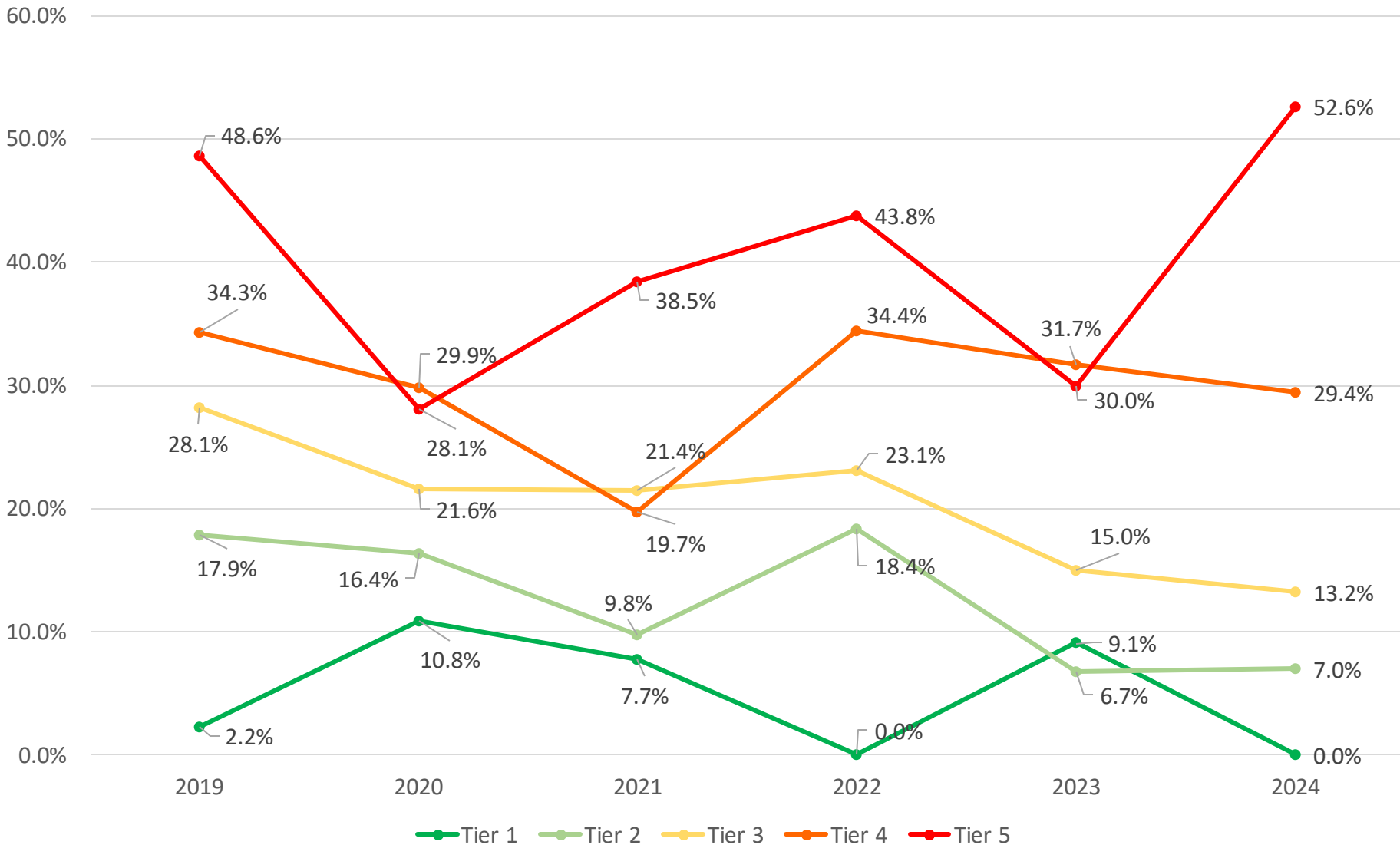
## 12-Month Re-Arrest Rate by Supervision/Risk Level via the PrediCT Assessment



- This visual shows the 12-month re-arrest rate annually broken out by supervision/risk level per the PrediCT assessment.
- 2024 data is through end of Q3

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

## 12-Month Adjudication Re-Arrest Rate by Supervision/Risk Level via the PrediCT Assessment



- Adjudication rates in the year following supervision start remain below 50% for Tier 1-4 risk levels.
- 2024 data is through end of Q3

\*Data provided by CT Judicial Branch – CSSD

# Questions?

- For more information please reach out to [Bryan.Sperry@jud.ct.gov](mailto:Bryan.Sperry@jud.ct.gov)



# JUVENILE JUSTICE EQUITY DASHBOARD DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Presentation to the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee

**NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

*Presented by:*

*Maurice Reaves, Assistant Division Director*

*Kevin Neary, Research Unit Director*

**Office of Policy and Management**

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

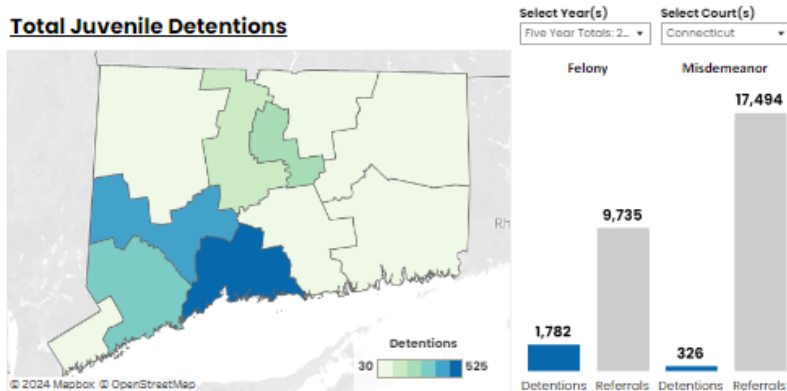


# Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard: Detention Measure Added



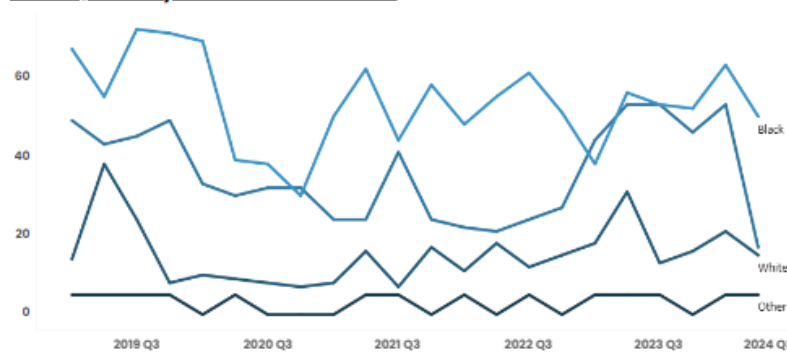
## Juvenile Detentions in Connecticut

### Total Juvenile Detentions



In Connecticut, when a juvenile receives a delinquent referral during a custodial arrest, law enforcement has the option to seek an order to detain. This is considered if officers believe that releasing the juvenile to a guardian or the community before trial could pose a public safety risk. No detention of a juvenile may occur without an order from a judge. A 24-hour system maintained by court staff is available for officers to check a juvenile's legal standing, such as past offenses or active cases, and seek a detention order if necessary.

### Total Quarterly Juvenile Detentions



This metric shows delinquent court referrals where the juvenile was **detained by court order prior to their first appearance**. Detentions are shown by court district, offense type, and quarter. Detentions that occur post-hearing or post-disposition are not included in this metric.

*\*Other comprises Native American/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*

In July 2024, the dashboard project team launched the third measure examining detentions ordered following a delinquent referral.

- <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/2ppm-urt7>

**Detentions:** A short-term confinement, primarily used after a youth has been arrested, but before a court has determined the youth's innocence or guilt.

Geography: Juvenile Court District

Available Data: January 2019 – June 2024

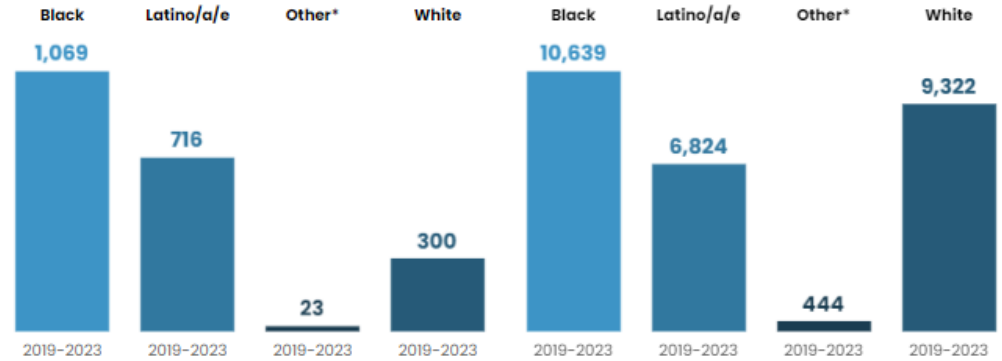
Additional Specificity:

- Race/ethnicity
- Gender
- Charge type (i.e. Misdemeanor, Felony, or "Any" which includes both)

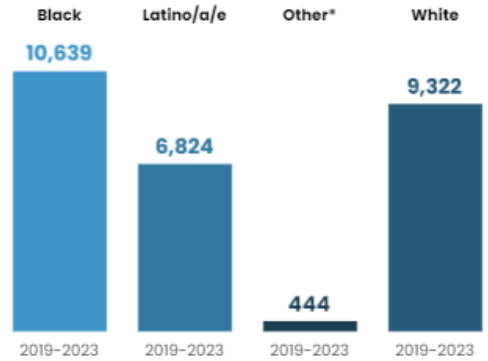
# Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard: Detention Measure Equity Comparison

Select Period: Five Year Total  
 Select Year(s): 2019-2023  
 Select Gender: Both  
 Select Court District: Connecticut  
 Select Charge Type: Any (dropdown menu showing Any, Felony, Misdemeanor)

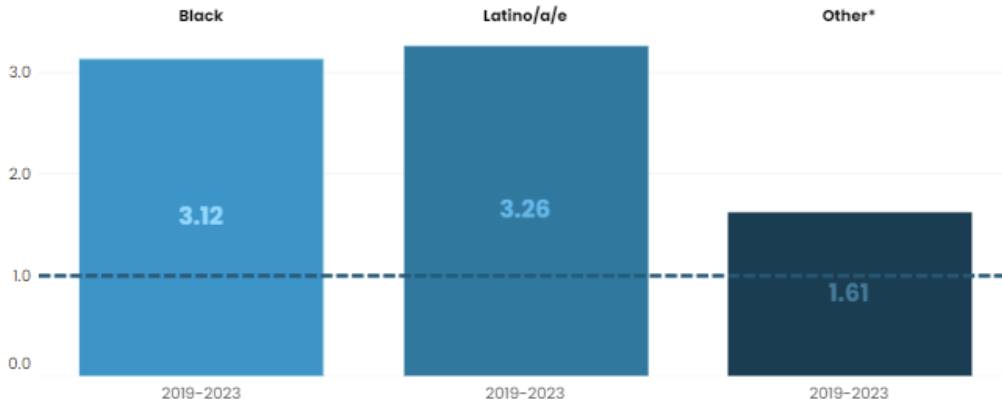
**Juvenile Detentions by Year: Any Charge(s)**



**Total Referrals by Year: Any Charge(s)**



**Relative Rate Index: Detentions for Any Charge(s)**

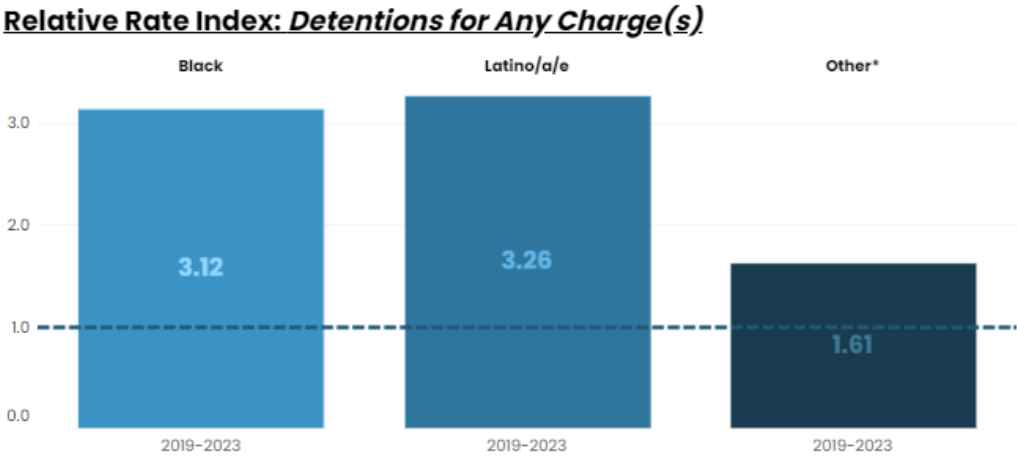
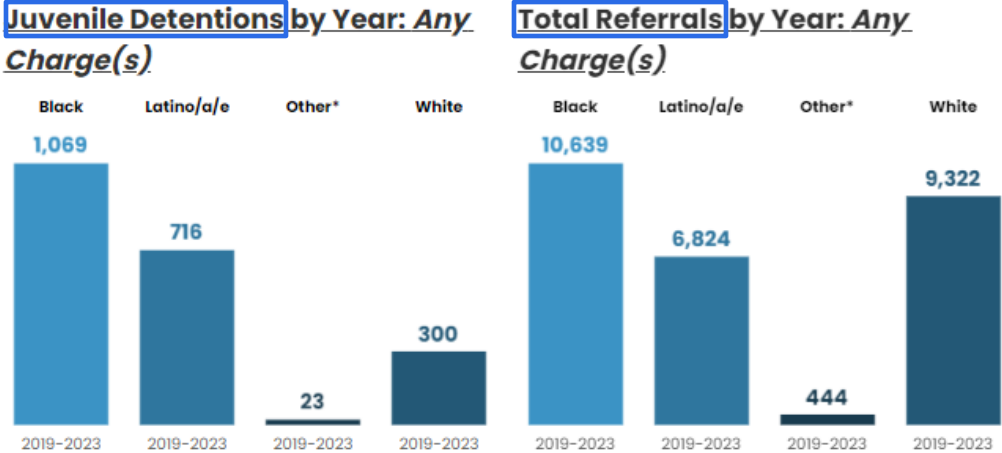


Available in the Equity view:

- Select Period (i.e. 5 years, 3 years, or 1 year)
- Select Year(s)
- Select Gender
- Select Court District
- **Charge type (i.e. Felony, Misdemeanor)**
  - Default selection is "Any" which displays equity comparisons of detention rates overall, including both misdemeanor and felony charges.

# Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard: Detention Measure Equity Comparison

Select Period: Five Year Total | Select Year(s): 2019-2023 | Select Gender: Both | Select Court District: Connecticut | Select Charge Type: Any



**Relative Rate Index:** A detention rate is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Juvenile Detentions}}{\text{Total Referrals}}$$

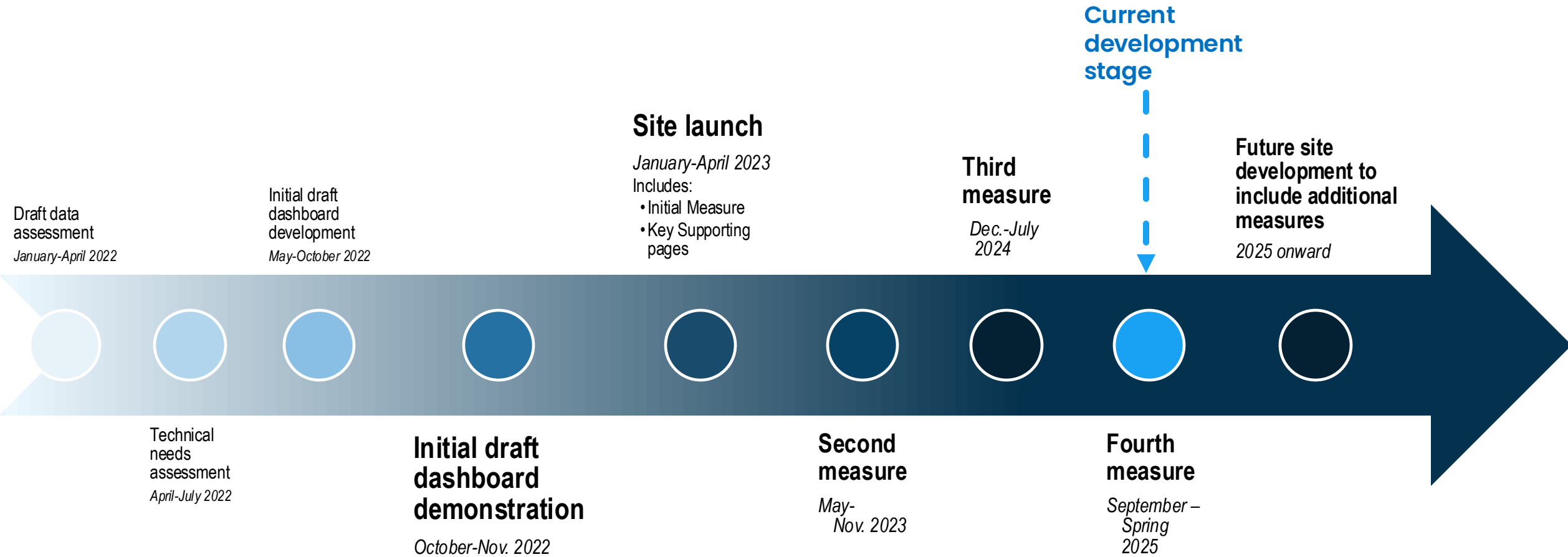
Detention rates for each group are then compared to the white detention rate to produce a **relative rate index (RRI)**.

As shown, the RRI can be interpreted as follows:

In the **five-year period 2019-2023**, including juveniles of **all genders** on **any charge** in the state of **Connecticut**...

- **Black juveniles** were 212% more likely to receive detention
- **Latino/a/e juveniles** were 226% more likely to receive detention
- Juveniles of other races including **Native American/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander** were 61% more likely to receive detention

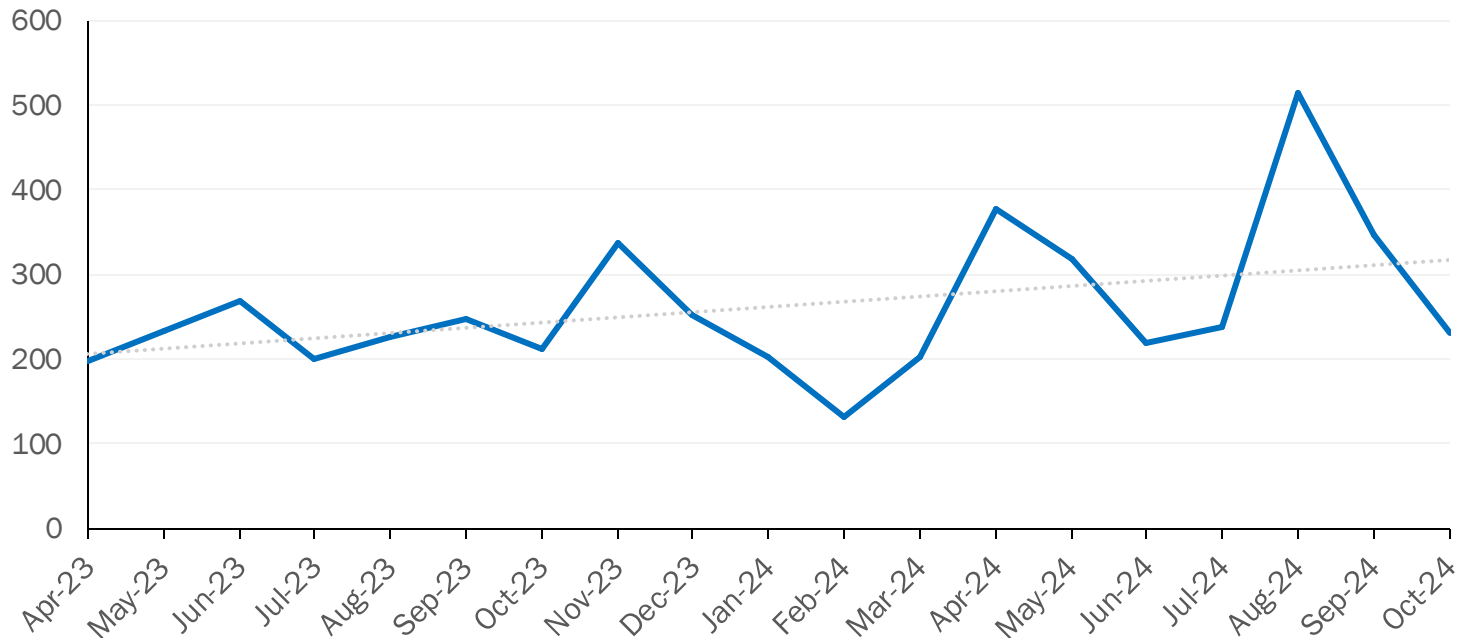
# Equity Dashboard Development: Current Timeline



# Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard: Usage since launch

- In April 2023, Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard tool launched publicly with the release of the Delinquent Referrals measure and About this Dashboard webpages.
  - A 2<sup>nd</sup> measure, Dispositions of First-Time Felonies, was added in November 2023
- From launch through October 31, 2024, the Equity Dashboard data stories combined have averaged over 250 views monthly.

**Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard Website Views – April 2023 through October 2024**



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# THANK YOU



**CONNECTICUT**  
**Policy and Management**

*OPM wishes to acknowledge :*  
*Court Support Services Division, **Judicial Branch***  
*Data and Policy Analytics Unit, **Office of Policy***  
**and Management**  
**Tow Youth Justice Institute**

**As well as the assistance of OPM CJPPD Research Unit staff:**  
Melissa Beattie  
Justin Etheridge



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# Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

November 21, 2024

2:00PM – 4:00PM

Legislative Office Building, Room 1E

Zoom Option available

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# Agenda

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Rep. Toni Walker/Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz**

**Overview of Meeting & Announcements**

**Brittany LaMarr, University of New Haven, TYJI**

**P20WIN**

**Rachel Leventhal-Weiner, Research Director, OPM, DAPA**

**Katie Breslin, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, OPM, DAPA**

**Cross Agency Data Sharing  
Workgroup Annual Report**

**Bryan Sperry, Deputy Director, Information Technology, JBCSSD**

**Equity Dashboard Update**

**Kevin Neary, Research Unit Director, OPM, CJPPD**

**JJPOC Recommendations**

**Workgroup Chairs**



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# JJPOC 2025 Draft Recommendations



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# Incarceration Workgroup: Reentry Subgroup

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #1: Coordinate and Expand Reentry Supports for Connecticut's Youth**

1. A coordinating entity will convene multi-agency team meetings for each youth until the youth has successfully reintegrated and service coordination is no longer necessary. Agency staff and contracted community-based organizations and local service providers will participate and provide information and services as needed for each youth and their family. State agency representation may include but is not limited to JBCSSD, DOC, CSDE, DCF, DMHAS, DOL, DOH, DSS, and DCJ. Based on the needs of the individual youth and their family, agency staff, community-based organizations, and/or local providers will be added to the meetings based on what referrals the probation officer and the team deem appropriate. The entities which are appropriate to work directly with the youth and their family will be included in these care coordination meetings.

---

# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## Recommended Strategy #2: Expand Access to Credible Messengers

1. Credible messenger programs (including reintegration mentors, navigators, etc.) will be expanded, as funding allows, to serve youth reentering from DOC, JBCSSD, and contracted programs. This support will be available to youth for up to 24 months from the time of release.

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #3: Improve Education Transition Planning and Monitoring**

1. The CSDE will partner and coordinate with the DCF JJEU to build relationships and improve communication between facility education providers, transition specialists, and school district reentry coordinators to support joint training, enhanced communication, and the timely transfer of records. (The focus will be on the reentry of students with known discharge dates at residential treatment programs or at end of sentence. Students in pretrial detention or at DOC presentence will benefit from the development of these relationships and practices as well.)
2. The DCF JJEU will convene a meeting with the facility education provider, the school district, and the JBCSSD, DOC, or contracted program as soon as possible within 30 days after admission to a program to review and develop the student's educational and reentry plan. (The focus will be on the reentry of students with known discharge dates at residential treatment programs or at end of sentence.)

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #3: Improve Education Transition Planning and Monitoring (Cont.)**

3. As soon as the student, legal guardian, and school district have agreed upon to which school the student will return, the DCF JJEU will provide updates on the student to the school district every other week.
4. JBCSSD will provide students discharging from JBCSSD and DOC facilities and contracted programs with access to Educational Support Services (ESS) for legal representation and advocacy as needed.
5. The DCF JJEU will facilitate a reentry circle(s) for a returning student prior to (and/or thereafter) their first day back at school to provide wrap around support and inclusion for the student. Reentry circles at schools may include, but are not limited to, the school counselor, principal, teacher, family, probation officer, mentor, and school resource officer.

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #3: Improve Education Transition Planning and Monitoring (Cont.)**

6. The DCF JJEU will provide ongoing reintegration support and check-ins for 90 days, or longer if needed and staff resources allow, once a student is placed back in the receiving school.
7. The DCF JJEU will work with facility education providers and school districts to assure that education credit earned in the facility is applied to the student's transcript at the school district.
8. The DCF JJEU will place greater attention on students released to alternative schools and large urban high schools. The DCF JJEU will provide weekly attention to absenteeism and any interventions put in place to eliminate barriers to attendance.
9. The DCF JJEU will facilitate conversations with the school district regarding essential educational services for any student on house arrest following their stay in a facility, or who experiences environmental safety challenges that create barriers to them returning to school.
10. The DCF JJEU will assist a student's parent or legal guardian with connections to continuing their own education if so desired.

---

# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #4: Provide Access to Meaningful Vocational and Employment Opportunities**

1. JBCSSD and DOC will ensure that each youth has access to their preferred immediate educational goal (high school diploma or GED), career exploration and development, and post-secondary education and occupational training during facility stays. Staff will assist youth as requested with access to testing, information, and funding resources for post-secondary education and/or vocational training, such as, SAT testing, college and technical school applications, and financial aid forms.
2. JBCSSD and DOC will ensure that youth reentering from juvenile facilities and contracted programs have started, and whenever possible completed, job readiness and/or career training programs with imbedded industry-recognized credentials (IRCs), certifications, or licenses.
3. JBCSSD and DOC will work with DOL to understand how best to support youth to benefit from CT Hires, CT Pathways, workforce development boards, and post-secondary technical schools.



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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #4: Provide Access to Meaningful Vocational and Employment Opportunities (Cont.)**

4. The facility or contracted program will collaborate with the youth and coordinating entity to support the youth in finding and sustaining employment upon release. JBCSSD and DOL will collaborate to identify opportunities and access/pathways to year-round employment.

5. The coordinating entity will connect interested parents or guardians to employment and/or vocational opportunities and trainings.

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #5: Address Mental Health Service Gaps and Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Supports**

1. The facility or contracted program will connect the youth to mental health and behavioral health community service providers as needed prior to the youth's release to begin the engagement process and ensure a warm hand-off. When deemed acceptable by the facility or contracted program, a young person may have the opportunity to see their provider in the community.
2. DOC, JBCSSD, and DSS will work together to expand transition and reentry care coordination services and supports through the 1115 Medicaid Waiver for justice-involved populations application and implementation process.
3. Through the 1115 Medicaid Waiver for justice-involved populations implementation process, JBCSSD, DOC, and DSS will explore the possibility of developing a rate for treatment providers to meet current clients in pretrial detention or incarceration so that treatment may continue while the youth is awaiting trial or serving their sentence.

---

# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #5: Address Mental Health Service Gaps and Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Supports**

4. DCF will work with the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Committee (TCB) to ensure there are no gaps in service delivery from facility to community for the juvenile population, including but not limited to psychiatric medication management services.

5. JBCSSD and DOC will work with DCF and DMHAS to identify and provide access to youth substance use treatment and recovery supports.

---

# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #6: Increase and Expand Transition Supports**

1. Every youth will reenter with a Reentry Wallet and Portfolio provided by the facility or contracted program. Documents to include are birth certificate (with seal), social security card, driver's license or state identification (ID), driver's permit if applicable, school transcript, immunization records, program certificates, vocational achievements, resume, cover letter, letters of recommendation, job references with contact information, job application template, W9 template, email account and password, and resourceful phone numbers youth should maintain.
2. When a youth is admitted to a facility or contracted program, the provider will connect with the youth's identified family and provide, within available funding, up to two (2) people with access to bus passes or other transportation assistance to visit the young person at the facility or contracted program at least twice a month.

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #6: Increase and Expand Transition Supports**

3. JBCSSD and DOC will utilize flex funds, as available, to provide support for families in need for up to 6 months following a youth's return home. Support may include but is not limited to housing assistance, basic needs, transportation, and vocational training.

4. JBCSSD and DOC will work together to develop community supports for reentering youth like the adult reentry welcome centers and reentry round tables, which may include peer support groups.

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #7: Support Safe Driving and Address Barriers to Transportation**

1. The coordinating entity will provide released youth with assistance getting to school, interviews, work, and other appointments for up to a year.
2. The coordinating entity may utilize flex funds to cover Uber/Lyft costs; mileage reimbursement, if possible, for anyone providing transportation to the young person; bus passes; and any other approved method of transportation to support the youth.
3. JBCSSD and DOC will partner with the DMV to provide youth with the opportunity to take driving courses and obtain their permit and driver's license prior to reentry.
4. The coordinating entity will provide the youth and their family with information about how to obtain car insurance.

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #8: Expand Access to Housing Options**

1. JBCSSD and DOC will screen youth for housing needs upon admission to the facility and work with the family to determine their housing needs upon release of the youth.
2. DOH will continue to educate JBCSSD and DOC staff about DOH funded housing options and how to access them so that identified youth and/or their family may benefit.
3. JBCSSD and DOC will use flex funds, as funding allows, to provide youth and their family the ability to relocate if needed for safety reasons. Funds may cover moving, basic needs, and initial housing payments.

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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #8: Expand Access to Housing Options (Cont.)**

4. JBCSSD and DOC will educate staff about the existing triage systems with DCF, DMHAS, and DDS to determine eligibility and develop service plans to support youth who cannot return home because of abuse/neglect, significant behavioral health, or developmental needs. Services based on eligibility and appropriateness may include but are not limited to DMHAS behavioral health supports; DCF educational and vocational supports (e.g., CHAP/CHEER); START program case management and housing assistance for non-DCF involved youth; and CSSD transitional housing and rapid rehousing opportunities.



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# The Connecticut Reentry Success Plan

## **Recommended Strategy #9: Improve the Use of Restorative Justice Practices**

1. JBCSSD and DOC will continue to implement restorative justice practices in their juvenile facilities and contracted programs.
2. JBCSSD, DCF, and OVA will collaborate to improve the use of restorative justice principles and practices by community-based providers.

## **Recommended Strategy #10: Implement a Quality Assurance System and Identify Key Funding Sources for the Reentry Success Plan**

- Implement a quality assurance system using the Reentry Success Plan Logic Model and the Accountability and Progress Monitoring Framework.
- Pursue state funding, applicable federal and private grant opportunities, and other funding sources as available.



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# Community Expertise Workgroup

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# JJPOC Membership

## **2025 Recommendation: Appoint Youth to Vacant JJPOC Membership Seats**

1. Section 46b-121(n)(b)(23) of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage): Two children, youths or young adults under twenty-six years of age with lived experience in the juvenile justice system, shall be appointed by the Community Expertise Workgroup of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.



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# Diversion Workgroup

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# Diversion First Plan

**Legislative recommendation language will be presented to JJPOC in December, regarding the Diversion First Plan**



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# Gender Responsiveness Workgroup

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# Gender Responsiveness Workgroup

**Recommendation 1:** DCF will report to JJPOC by July 1, 2025, on the new STTAR Plan released in March 2024.

**Recommendation 2:** Enhance and require training for congregate settings / out of home care providers. enhance programming standards. . DCF, DOC, and JBCSSD to collaborate to provide/facilitate/support regular uniform prevention training and ensure cyclical training in case of staff turnover. DCF to examine and strengthen (with youth and provider input) programming standards in out of home care settings, including clinical and non-clinical programming. Trainings shall be received pre-service or within 90 days, at any out of home/congregate care setting

a. The Gender Responsiveness Workgroup will review trainings provided by DCF and JBCSSD and establish guidelines for any additional appropriate trainings by October 1, 2025.

i. The group will consider

1. All DCF, JBCSSD, and YCI/MYI staff assigned to work with youth to receive required training on child sex trafficking upon hire and every three years.
2. De-escalation and harm reduction trainings
3. Minimal Facts Training (how to receive disclosures of trauma from youth)
4. Training on racial and ethnic disparities as they intersect with gender and class
5. Restorative justice practices to address incidents/conflicts
6. Trainings on sexual and domestic violence
7. DCF, DOC, and JBCSSD will track and monitor compliance with training at an individual level.

b. DCF, DOC and JBCSSD will track and monitor compliance with training at an individual level.

---

# Gender Responsiveness Workgroup

**Recommendation 3:** Strengthen safety of out of home care settings. Agencies that serve vulnerable children, including JBCSSD and DCF, should address security needs of out of home settings, e.g., lighting, security cameras, other.

- a. DCF, in conjunction with local police departments, shall assess all out of home care settings for security needs, including: lighting, security cameras, other by July 1, 2025.

**Recommendation 4:** Consistent monitoring of specialized placements for overall accountability.

- a. DCF to develop a quality assurance framework and provide bi-annual updates to JJPOC
- b. DCF shall collect data on the treatment and stability of placement for children in STAR homes, group homes; and JBCSSD on treatment and stability of placement for children in secure residential facilities, and provide Bi-annual updates to the JJPOC regarding:
  - i. Number of children placed in the quarter, include age/race/gender/number of admissions
  - ii. Average, range, and median length of stay and reasons for discharge delay/stay greater than 60 days
  - iii. Number of kids who cumulatively stay longer than 60 days in the last year
  - iv. Recommended and actual discharge settings for youth and reasons for deviation (e.g., residential, therapeutic foster home, kin home, bio home)
  - v. AWOL's by duration and number of incidence
  - vi. Critical incidents (136s, 737s, calls to EMS, police responses, hospitalizations/ED visits)



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# Gender Responsiveness Workgroup

**Recommendation 4 :** Consistent monitoring of specialized placements for overall accountability (Cont.)

C. OCA will annually examine the treatment needs and stability of placement for children in STAR homes, group homes, and/or residential facilities, by reviewing a small cohort of girls in such placements, and provide a report to the JJPOC that will include information on:

- i. Child welfare histories;
- li. Number of placements;
- lii. Lengths of stay in placements;
- lv. Identified Treatment needs, including mental health, behavioral health, and educational needs;
- v. Services provided to meet treatment needs;
- Vi. Unmet needs; and
- Vii. Involvement in critical incidents, including AWOL's.

---

# Gender Responsiveness Workgroup

**Recommendation 5:** Enhance capacity to provide individualized wrap services to children in star/other out of home settings. Ensure children in out of home settings are timely connected to services to meet their assessed needs, and that they have access to WRAP funding to ensure their needs are met, including receipt of services outside the scope of the out of home care or community-based provider contract.

- a. DCF will submit an annual report out, to the Gender Responsiveness Subgroup, no later than August 1, beginning August 1, 2025, of how much WRAP funds are allocated, what they are spending, what requests were approved including name of vendor paid, denied requests, and what services receive the percentage of funds.
- b. DCF and JBCSSD will submit to the Gender Responsiveness Workgroup information on how many youth Gender Response Providers/Programs they have for youth under the age of 18 and how much funding is going towards these programs, and their utilization rate or lack thereof, by July 1, 2025.

**Recommendation 6:** Referral to multidisciplinary teams Ensure DCF and law enforcement refer within 24 hours, every case of possible (suspected) child sexual abuse, including reports of abuse and neglect in out of home care, to Multidisciplinary teams.

- a. By April 2026, The Governor's Taskforce on Justice for Abused Children shall develop a plan to further enhance the multidisciplinary response to human trafficking, including CSEC (commercial sexual exploitation of children).



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# Education Workgroup

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# Education Recommendations

**Recommendation 1: The Education Workgroup of the JJPOC is recommending an amendment to Section 10-198c of the general statutes. In Section 10-198c of the general statutes the Education Workgroup is recommending that attendance review teams report annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education on their approach and outcomes. Section 10-198(c)(b)(2) shall read:**

(2) Any attendance review team established under this subsection may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school social workers, teachers and representatives from community-based programs who address issues related to student attendance by providing programs and services to truants, as defined in section 10-198a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals for such truants and chronically absent children and making any additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall meet at least monthly **and shall report annually to the Department of Education on its specific efforts and outcomes.**”

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# Education Recommendations

**Recommendation 2: The Education Workgroup of the JJPOC is recommending an amendment to Section 10-198d of the general statutes. In Section 10-198d of the general statutes the Education Workgroup is recommending that the State Department of Education and the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap report on its use and efficacy (by school district) of chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plans. Section 10-198(d)(a) shall read:**

(a) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap established pursuant to section 10-16nn of the general statutes, shall develop a chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan for use by local and regional boards of education to reduce chronic absenteeism in the school district, and **shall report on its use and efficacy by school districts.”**

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# Education Recommendation

The Education Workgroup will collaborate with CSDE to identify school district metrics that shall be reported to CSDE in 10-198c and 10-198d.



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# JJPOC Recommendation Timeline

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# JJPOC 2025 Recommendations

- JJPOC 2025 Recommendations Timeline
  - JJPOC 2025 Recommendations Released on 11/21/2024
  - JJPOC 2025 Draft Reports Released by 11/25/2024
  - JJPOC Member Feedback Due by 12/9/2024
  - JJPOC Final Package of Recommendations Sent out 12/16/2024
  - **JJPOC Voting Meeting Thursday, 12/19/2024**



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# Next Meeting – December 19, 2024

VOTING MEETING

# Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

## 2025 Recommendations



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**GENDER  
RESPONSIVENESS  
WORKGROUP**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Recommendation 1:** DCF will report to JJPOC by July 1, 2025, on the new STTAR Plan released in March 2024.

**Recommendation 2:** Enhance and require training for congregate settings /out of home care providers. enhance programming standards. DCF, DOC, and JBCSSD collaborate to provide/facilitate/support regular uniform prevention training and ensure cyclical training in case of staff turnover. DCF to examine and strengthen (with youth and provider input) programming standards in out of home care settings, including clinical and non-clinical programming. Training shall be received pre-service or within 90 days, at any out of home/congregate care setting.

- a. The Gender Responsiveness Workgroup will review trainings provided by DCF and JBCSSD and establish guidelines for any additional appropriate trainings by October 1, 2025.
  - i. The group will consider:
    - 1. All DCF, JBCSSD, and YCI/MYI staff assigned to work with youth to receive required training on child sex trafficking upon hire and every three years.
    - 2. De-escalation and harm reduction trainings
    - 3. Minimal Facts Training (how to receive disclosures of trauma from youth)
    - 4. Training on racial and ethnic disparities as they intersect with gender and class
    - 5. Restorative justice practices to address incidents/conflicts
    - 6. Trainings on sexual and domestic violence
- b. DCF, DOC, and JBCSSD will track and monitor compliance with training at an individual level.

**Recommendation 3:** Strengthen safety of out-of-home care settings. Agencies that serve vulnerable children, including JBCSSD and DCF, should address security needs of out of home settings, e.g., lighting, security cameras, other.

- a. DCF, in conjunction with local police departments, shall assess

all out of home care settings for security needs, including lighting, security cameras, and others by July 1, 2025.

**Recommendation 4:** Consistent monitoring of specialized placements for overall accountability.

- a. DCF to develop a quality assurance framework and provide biannual updates to JJPOC
- b. DCF shall collect data on the treatment and stability of placement for children in STAR homes, group homes; and JBCSSD on treatment and stability of placement for children in secure residential facilities, and provide Bi-Annual updates to the JJPOC regarding:
  - i. Number of children placed in the quarter, include age/race/gender/number of admissions
  - ii. Average, range, and median length of stay and reasons for discharge delay/stay greater than 60 days
  - iii. Number of kids who cumulatively stay longer than 60 days in the last year
  - iv. Recommended and actual discharge settings for youth and reasons for deviation (e.g., residential, therapeutic foster home, kin home, bio home)
  - v. AWOLs by duration and number of incidences
  - vi. Critical incidents (136s, 737s, calls to EMS, police responses, hospitalizations/ED visits)
- c. OCA will annually examine the treatment needs and stability of placement for children in STAR homes, group homes, and/or residential facilities, by reviewing a small cohort of girls in such placements, and providing a report to the JJPOC that will include information on:
  1. Child welfare histories.
  2. Number of placements.
  3. Lengths of stay in placements.
  4. Identified Treatment needs, including mental health, behavioral health, and educational needs.
  5. Services provided to meet treatment needs.
  6. Unmet needs; and
  7. Involvement in critical incidents, including AWOL's.

	<p><b>Recommendation 5:</b> Enhance capacity to provide individualized wrap services to children in star/other out of home settings. Ensure children in out of home settings are timely connected to services to meet their assessed needs, and that they have access to WRAP funding to ensure their needs are met, including receipt of services outside the scope of the out of home care or community-based provider contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. DCF will submit an annual report out to the Gender Responsiveness Subgroup, no later than August 1, beginning August 1, 2025, of how much WRAP funds are allocated, what they are spending, what requests were approved including name of vendor paid, denied requests, and what services receive the percentage of funds.</li> <li>b. DCF and JBCSSD will submit to the Gender Responsiveness Workgroup information on how many youth Gender Response Providers/Programs they have for youth under the age of 18 and how much funding is going towards these programs, and their utilization rate or lack thereof, by July 1, 2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendation 6:</b> Referral to multidisciplinary teams. Ensure DCF and law enforcement refer within 24 hours, every case of possible (suspected) child sexual abuse, including reports of abuse and neglect in out of home care, to multidisciplinary teams.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. By April 2026, The Governor’s Taskforce on Justice for Abused Children shall develop a plan to further enhance the multidisciplinary response to human trafficking, including CSEC (commercial sexual exploitation of children).</li> </ul>
<p><b>EDUCATION WORKGROUP</b></p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> The Education Workgroup of the JJPOC is recommending an amendment to Section 10-198c of the general statutes. In Section 10-198c of the general statutes the Education Workgroup is recommending that attendance review teams report annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education on their approach and outcomes. Section 10-198(c)(b)(2) shall read:</p>

(2) Any attendance review team established under this subsection may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school social workers, teachers and representatives from community-based programs who address issues related to student attendance by providing programs and services to truants, as defined in section 10-198a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals for such truants and chronically absent children and making any additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall meet at least monthly and shall report annually to the Department of Education on its specific efforts and outcomes.”

**Recommendation 2:**The Education Workgroup of the JJPOC is recommending an amendment to Section 10-198d of the general statutes. In Section 10-198d of the general statutes the Education Workgroup is recommending that the State Department of Education and the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap report on its use and efficacy (by school district) of chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plans. Section 10-198(d)(a) shall read:

(a) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap established pursuant to section 10-16nn of the general statutes, shall develop a chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan for use by local and regional boards of education to reduce chronic absenteeism in the school district, and shall report on its use and efficacy by school districts.”

**Recommendation 3:** The Education Workgroup will collaborate with CSDE to identify school district metrics that shall be reported to CSDE in 10-198c and 10-198d.

**INCARCERATION  
WORKGROUP REENTRY  
SUBGROUP**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Connecticut Reentry Success Plan Recommended Strategies

**Recommendation 1:** Coordinate and Expand Reentry Supports Connecticut's Youth

1. A coordinating entity will convene multi-agency team meetings for each youth until the youth has successfully reintegrated and service coordination is no longer necessary. Agency staff and contracted community-based organizations and local service providers will participate and provide information and services as needed for each youth and their family. State agency representation may include but is not limited to JBCSSD, DOC, CSDE, DCF, DMHAS, DOL, DOH, DSS, and DCJ. Based on the needs of the individual youth and their family, agency staff, community-based organizations, and/or local providers will be added to the meetings based on what referrals the probation officer and the team deem appropriate. The entities which are appropriate to work directly with the youth and their family will be included in these care coordination meetings.

**Recommendation 2:** Expand Access to Credible Messengers

1. Credible messenger programs (including reintegration mentors, navigators, etc.) will be expanded, as funding allows, to serve youth reentering from DOC, JBCSSD, and contracted programs. This support will be available to youth for up to 24 months from the time of release.

**Recommendation 3:** Improve Education Transition Planning and Monitoring

1. The CSDE will partner and coordinate with the DCF JJEU to build relationships and improve communication between facility education providers, transition specialists, and school district reentry coordinators to support joint training, enhanced communication, and the timely transfer of records. (The focus will be on the reentry of students with known discharge dates at

residential treatment programs or at end of sentence. Students in pretrial detention or at DOC presentence will benefit from the development of these relationships and practices.

2. The DCF JJEU will convene a meeting with the facility education provider, the school district, and the JBCSSD, DOC, or contracted program as soon as possible within 30 days after admission to a program to review and develop the student's educational and reentry plan. (The focus will be on the reentry of students with known discharge dates at residential treatment programs or at end of sentence.)
  3. As soon as the student, legal guardian, and school district have agreed upon which school the student will return to, the DCF JJEU will provide updates on the student to the school district every other week.
  4. JBCSSD will provide students discharging from JBCSSD and DOC facilities and contracted programs with access to Educational Support Services (ESS) for legal representation and advocacy as needed.
  5. The DCF JJEU will facilitate a reentry circle(s) for a returning student prior to (and/or thereafter) their first day back at school to provide wrap around support and inclusion for the student. Reentry circles at schools may include the school counselor, principal, teacher, family, probation officer, mentor, and school resource officer.
  6. The DCF JJEU will provide ongoing reintegration support and check-ins for 90 days, or longer if needed and staff resources allow, once a student is placed back in the receiving school.
  7. The DCF JJEU will work with facility education providers and school districts to assure that education credit earned in the facility is applied to the student's transcript at the school district.
  8. The DCF JJEU will place greater attention on students released to alternative schools and large urban high schools. The DCF JJEU will provide weekly attention to absenteeism and any interventions put in place to eliminate barriers to attendance.
  9. The DCF JJEU will facilitate conversations with the school district regarding essential educational services for any student on house arrest following their stay in a facility, or who experiences environmental safety challenges that create barriers to them returning to school.
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10. The DCF JJEU will assist a student's parent or legal guardian with connections to continuing their own education if so desired.

**Recommendation 4: Provide Access to Meaningful Vocational and Employment Opportunities**

1. JBCSSD and DOC will ensure that each youth has access to their preferred immediate educational goal (high school diploma or GED), career exploration and development, and post-secondary education and occupational training during facility stays. Staff will assist youth as requested with access to testing, information, and funding resources for post-secondary education and/or vocational training, such as, SAT testing, college and technical school applications, and financial aid forms.
2. JBCSSD and DOC will ensure that youth reentering from juvenile facilities and contracted programs have started, and whenever possible completed, job readiness and/or career training programs with imbedded industry-recognized credentials (IRCs), certifications, or licenses.
3. JBCSSD and DOC will work with DOL to understand how best to support youth to benefit from CT Hires, CT Pathways, workforce development boards, and post-secondary technical schools.
4. The facility or contracted program will collaborate with the youth and coordinating entity to support the youth in finding and sustaining employment upon release. JBCSSD and DOL will collaborate to identify opportunities and access/pathways to year-round employment.
5. The coordinating entity will connect interested parents or guardians to employment and/or vocational opportunities and training.

**Recommendation 5: Address Mental Health Service Gaps and Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Supports**

1. The facility or contracted program will connect the youth to mental health and behavioral health community service providers as needed prior to the youth's release to begin the engagement process and ensure a warm hand-off. When

deemed acceptable by the facility or contracted program, a young person may have the opportunity to see their provider in the community.

2. DOC, JBCSSD, and DSS will work together to expand transition and reentry care coordination services and supports through the 1115 Medicaid Waiver for justice-involved populations application and implementation process.
3. Through the 1115 Medicaid Waiver for justice-involved populations implementation process, JBCSSD, DOC, and DSS will explore the possibility of developing a rate for treatment providers to meet current clients in pretrial detention or incarceration so that treatment may continue while the youth is awaiting trial or serving their sentence.
4. DCF will work with the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Committee (TCB) to ensure there are no gaps in service delivery from facility to community for the juvenile population, including but not limited to psychiatric medication management services.
5. JBCSSD and DOC will work with DCF and DMHAS to identify and provide access to youth substance use treatment and recovery supports.

**Recommendation 6: Increase and Expand Transition Supports**

1. Every youth will reenter with a Reentry Wallet and Portfolio provided by the facility or contracted program. Documents to include are birth certificate (with seal), social security card, driver's license or state identification (ID), driver's permit if applicable, school transcript, immunization records, program certificates, vocational achievements, resume, cover letter, letters of recommendation, job references with contact information, job application template, W9 template, email account and password, and resourceful phone numbers youth should maintain.
2. When a youth is admitted to a facility or contracted program, the provider will connect with the youth's identified family and provide, within available funding, up to two (2) people with access to bus passes or other transportation assistance to visit the young person at the facility or contracted program at least

twice a month.

3. JBCSSD and DOC will utilize flex funds, as available, to provide support for families in need for up to 6 months following a youth's return home. Support may include but is not limited to housing assistance, basic needs, transportation, and vocational training.
4. JBCSSD and DOC will work together to develop community support for reentering youth like the adult reentry welcome centers and reentry round tables, which may include peer support groups.

**Recommendation 7: Support Safe Driving and Address Barriers to transportation**

1. The coordinating entity will provide released youth with assistance getting to school, interviews, work, and other appointments for up to a year.
2. The coordinating entity may utilize flex funds to cover Uber/Lyft costs; mileage reimbursement, if possible, for anyone providing transportation to the young person; bus passes; and any other approved method of transportation to support the youth.
3. JBCSSD and DOC will partner with the DMV to provide youth with the opportunity to take driving courses and obtain their permit and driver's license prior to reentry.
4. The coordinating entity will provide the youth and their family with information about how to obtain car insurance.

**Recommendation 8: Expand Access to Housing Options**

1. JBCSSD and DOC will screen youth for housing needs upon admission to the facility and work with the family to determine their housing needs upon release of the youth.
2. DOH will continue to educate JBCSSD and DOC staff about DOH funded housing options and how to access them so that identified youth and/or their family may benefit.
3. JBCSSD and DOC will use flex funds, as funding allows, to provide youth and their family the ability to relocate if needed for safety reasons. Funds may cover moving, basic needs, and initial housing payments.
4. JBCSSD and DOC will educate staff about the existing triage

	<p>systems with DCF, DMHAS, and DDS to determine eligibility and develop service plans to support youth who cannot return home because of abuse/neglect, significant behavioral health, or developmental needs. Services based on eligibility and appropriateness may include but are not limited to DMHAS behavioral health supports; DCF educational and vocational supports (e.g., CHAP/CHEER); START program case management and housing assistance for non-DCF involved youth; and CSSD transitional housing and rapid rehousing opportunities.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 9:</b> Improve the Use of Restorative Justice Practices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JBCSSD and DOC will continue to implement restorative justice practices in their juvenile facilities and contracted programs.</li> <li>2. JBCSSD, DCF, and OVA will collaborate to improve the use of restorative justice principles and practices by community-based providers.</li> </ol> <p><b>Recommendation 10:</b> Implement a Quality Assurance System and Identify Key Funding Sources for the Reentry Success Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement a quality assurance system using the Reentry Success Plan Logic Model and the Accountability and Progress Monitoring Framework.</li> <li>2. Pursue state funding, applicable federal and private grant opportunities, and other funding sources as available.</li> </ol>
<p><b>COMMUNITY EXPERTISE WORKGROUP</b></p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> Appoint Youth to Vacant JJPOC Membership Seats.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Section 46b-121(n)(b)(23) of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage): Two children, youths or young adults under twenty-six years of age with lived experience in the juvenile justice system, one of whom shall be appointed by the Community Expertise Workgroup of the Juvenile</li> </ol>

	Justice Policy and Oversight Committee
<b>DIVERSION WORKGROUP</b>	To be presented in December