

Youth Justice and Prevention (YJP): From Population to Corrections

Presentation to the Community Justice Council - (CJC) Racial Disparities Subcommittee on 6/9/2026



Presentation Outline

- What is Youth Justice and Prevention (YJP)?
- YJP Organizational Structure
- YJP Responsibilities
- YJP Internal and External/(POS Services)
- Youth Justice Data including:
 - Offenses, Juvenile Arrests, Youth Justice Referrals, Corrections, and Assessment (YASI) Data



Youth Justice and Prevention Services

Youth Justice and Prevention (YJP) in Dane County provides a variety of services and supports to youth ranging from prevention through court ordered formal efforts. YJP is comprised of six units with approximately 60 staff. These staff provide prevention, early intervention, intake, and ongoing services to the youth and families of Dane County. DCDHS also contracts with a variety of community-based providers for services that address the needs, and build upon the strengths of our youth and families.

YJP is responsible for assessing the functioning of youth (and their families) referred via law enforcement for violations of state statutes. Based on the outcome of assessment, youth may work with one or more of the six YJP units. The current evidence-based and state-supported assessment ([YASI](#)) is used in combination with Dane County's own Youth Justice Assessment to determine risk vs. protective factors. The YJP social worker then recommends a formal referral to Juvenile Court, a Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA), or another alternative to meet the needs of that youth and family based on these results.

In addition to YJP services, staff may also utilize additional tools such as electronic monitoring, urinalysis collection, community supervision services, and/or provide specialized support services such as prevention and intervention for gang involvement and sex trafficking.



Potential Services and Supports

Internal Services

- Gang Response Intervention Team (GRIT) – School based supports
- Assessment and Case Planning – (YASI)
- Supervision of youth under DPA's or Court Orders
- Referrals for court ordered services
- Intensive Supervision
- Electronic Monitoring
- Urinalysis (UA) Collection
- Competency Group Support
- One on One support
- Right Track Work Crew

External/POS Services

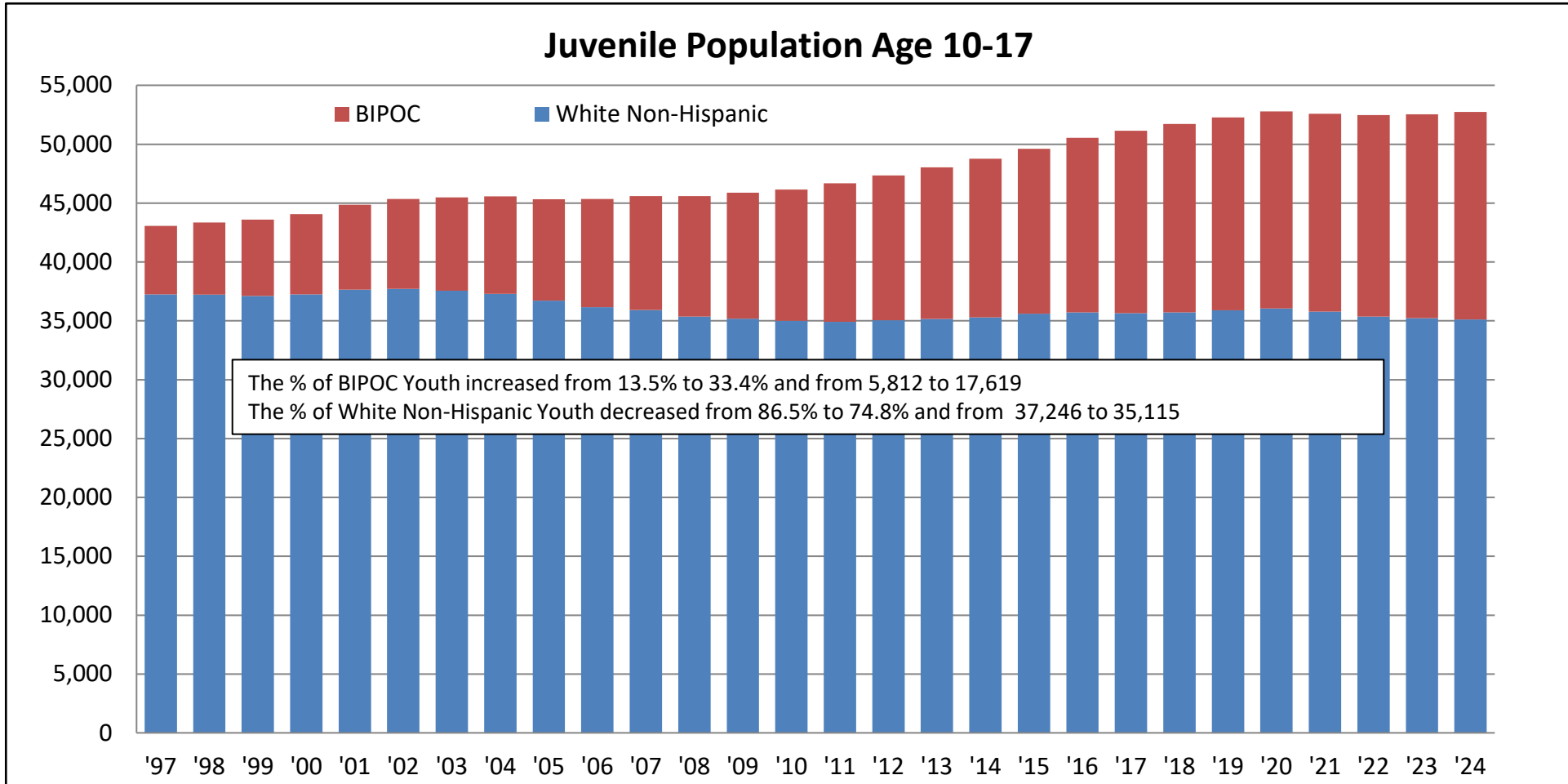
- Youth Employment
- Parent Peer Support
- Restorative Justice
- Restitution/Community Service
- Intensive Supervision
- Sex Offender Therapy
- Recreation Services/Supports
- Individual/Family Therapy
- Placements (Detention/Shelter, Foster Homes, RCC, Group Home)
- Corrections Programming (Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake, MJTC, GROW)
- Corrections Aftercare



Population

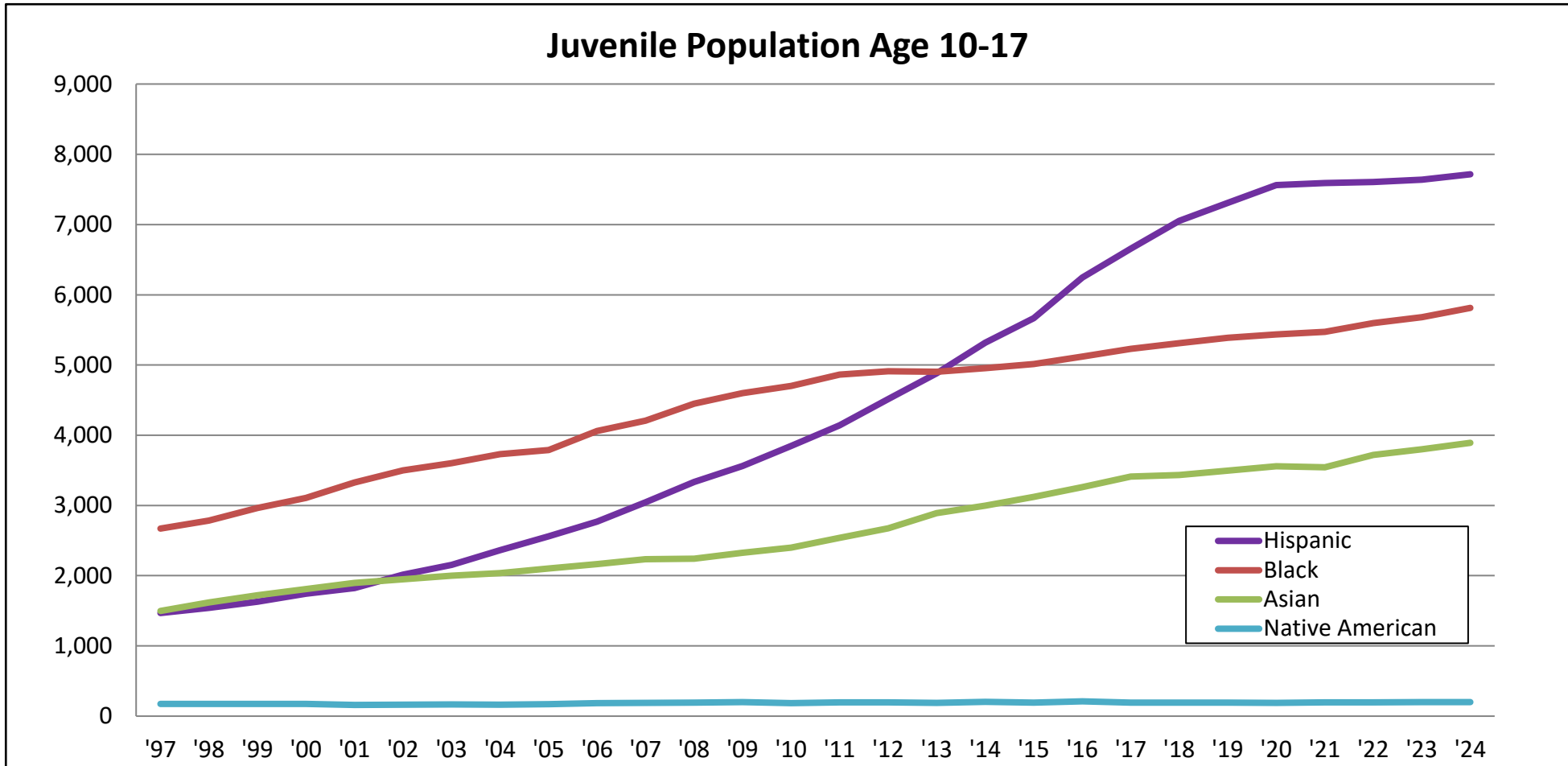
The % of BIPOC Youth increased from 13.5% to 33.4% and from 5,812 to 17,619

The % of White Non-Hispanic Youth decreased from 86.5% to 74.8% and from 37,246 to 35,115

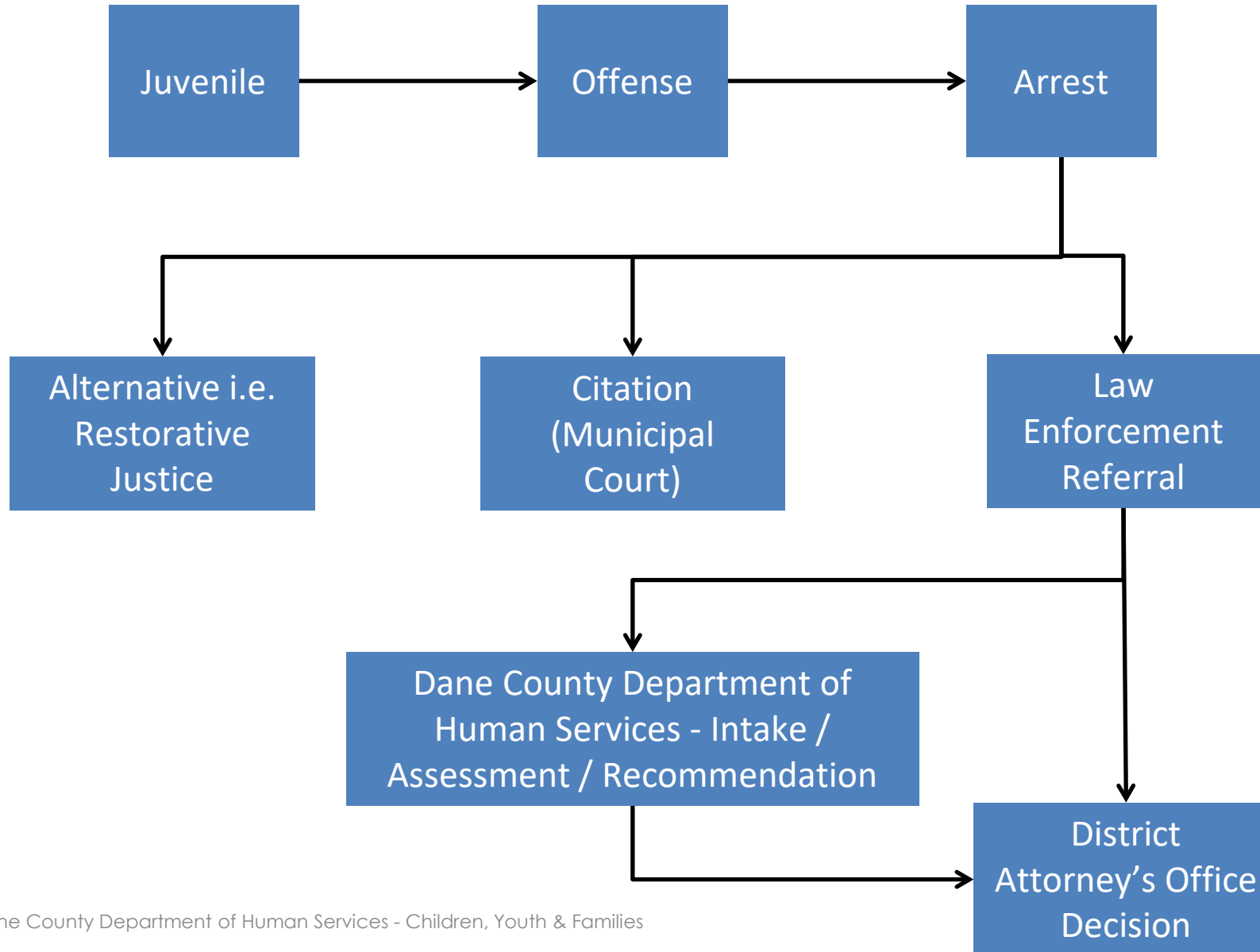


Population

Notice the Hispanic Juvenile Population Age 10-17 overtook the Black Juvenile Population Age 10-17 in 2014 and is now ~ 2,000 youth larger.



Simplified Youth Justice Flow Chart – For Youth without prior History



“...the reporting of offenses known is limited to the following crime classifications because they are the most serious and most commonly reported crimes occurring in all areas of the United States. Together, they serve as a gauge of the level and scope of crimes occurring across the country.”

Violent

- 1) Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter
- 2) Rape
- 3) Aggravated Assault
- 4) Robbery

Property

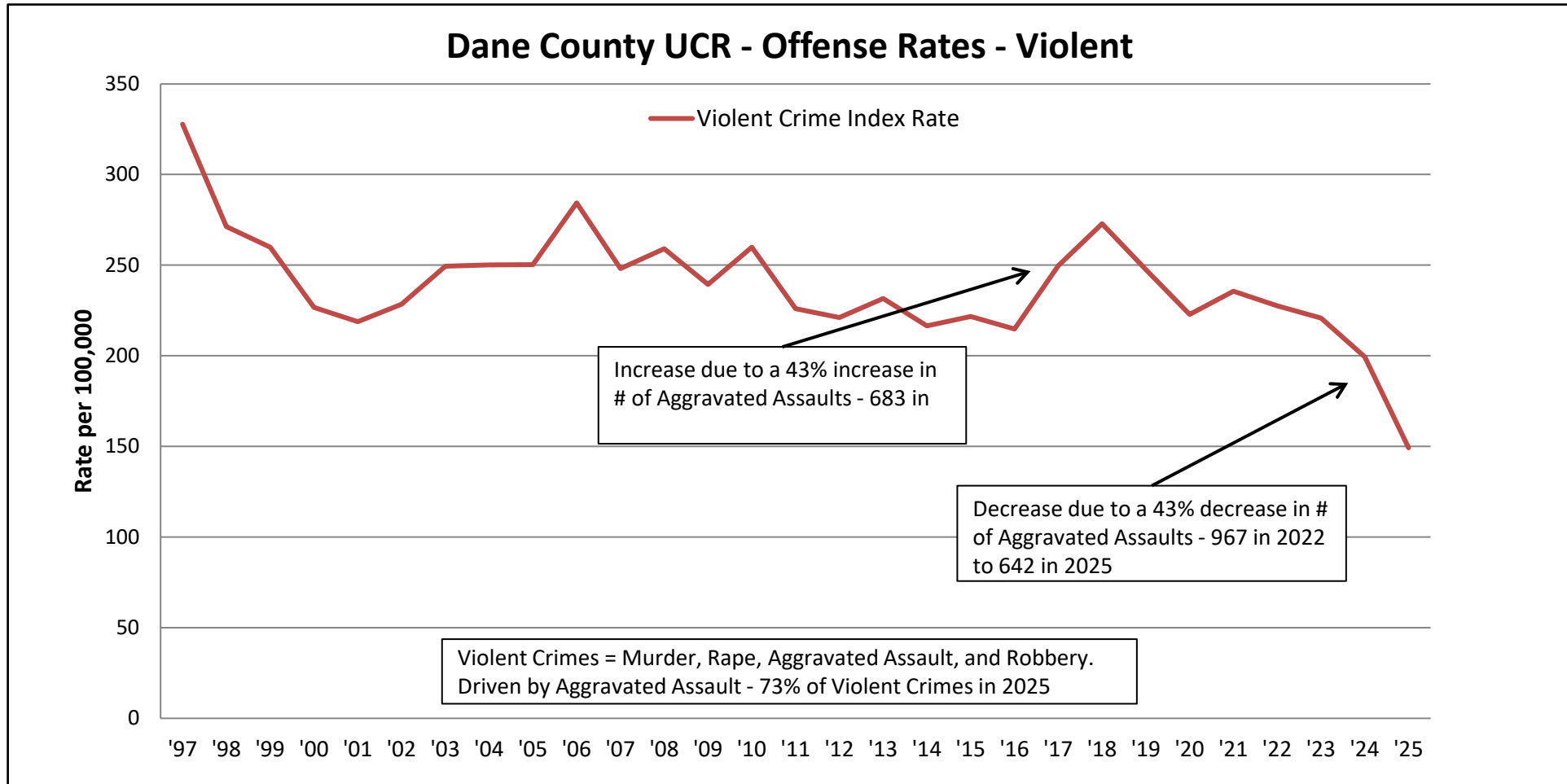
- 1) Burglary
- 2) Motor Vehicle Theft
- 3) Larceny/Theft
- 4) Arson

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/nibrs/summary-reporting-system-srs-user-manual>



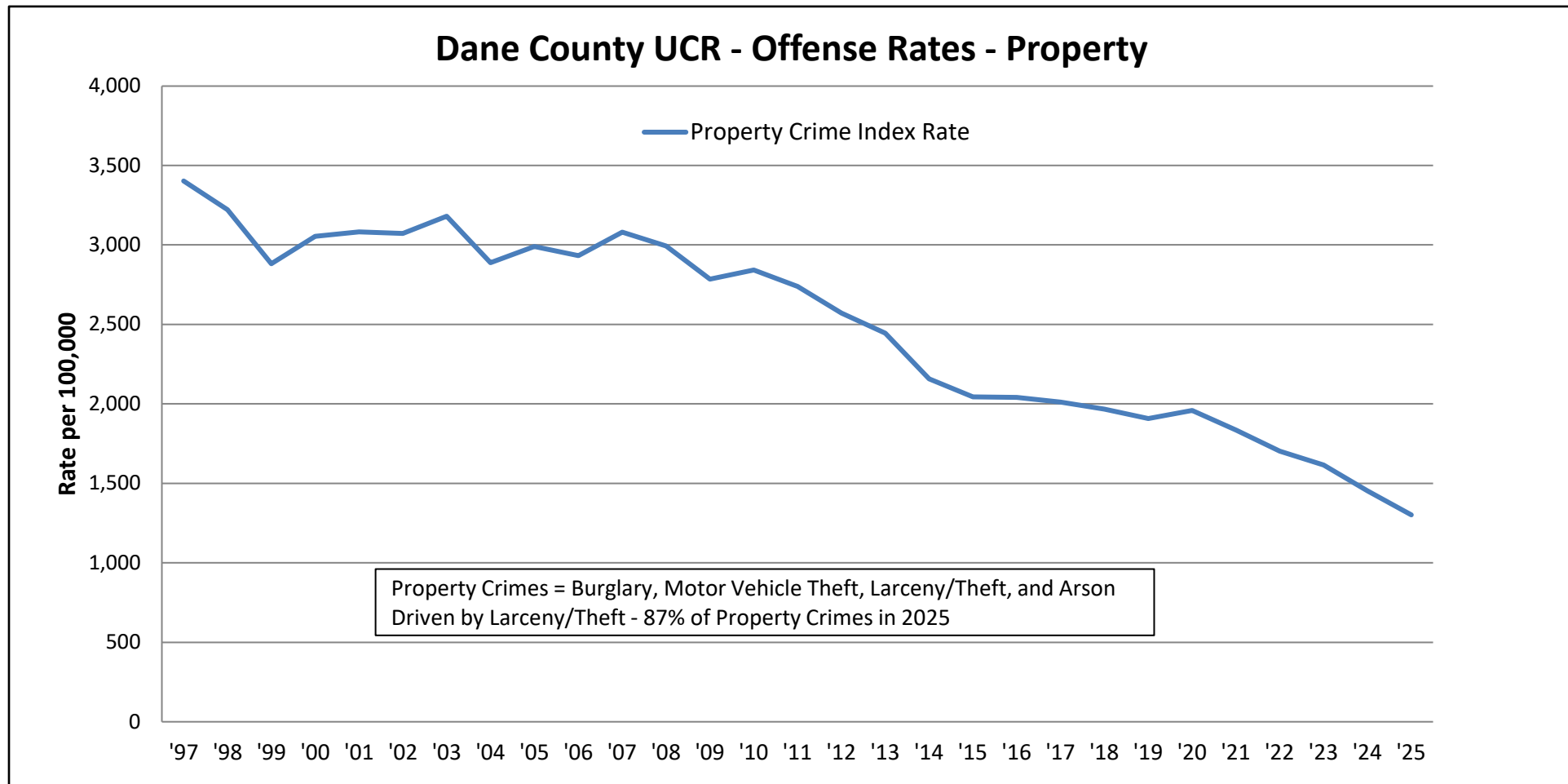
Violent Offense Rate

Driven by Aggravated Assaults (73% of 2025 Violent Offenses), the Violent Offense Rate has decreased in the late 90's, varied around 250 per 100,000 from 2000 to 2018 followed by a large decrease from 2021-2025.



Property Offense Rate

Driven by Larceny/Theft (87% of 2025 Property Offenses), the Property Offense Rate has decreased fairly linearly over time.



UCR – Definition of an Arrest

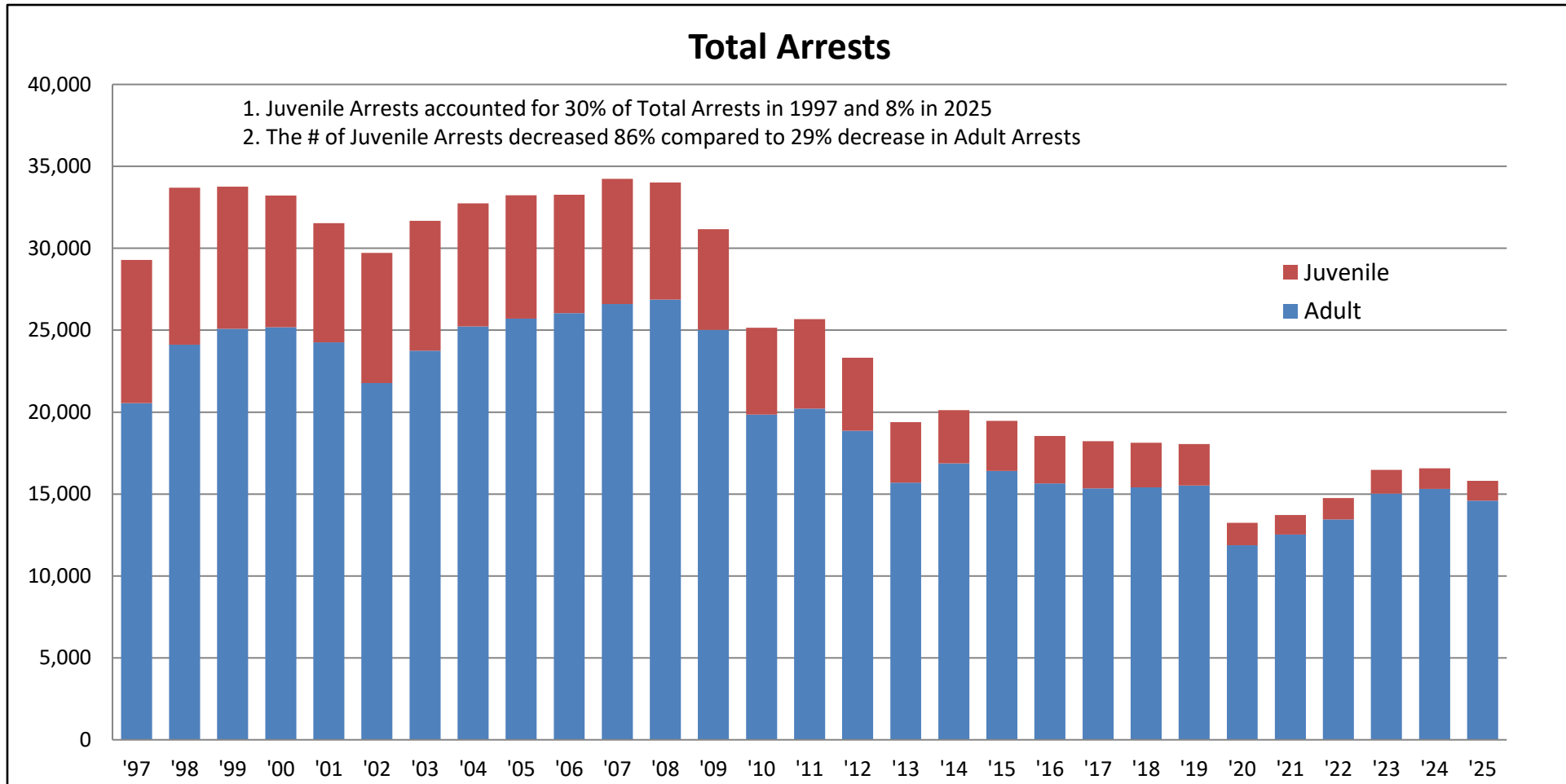
“The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program counts one arrest for each separate instance in which a person is arrested, cited, or summoned for an offense.”

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/persons-arrested>



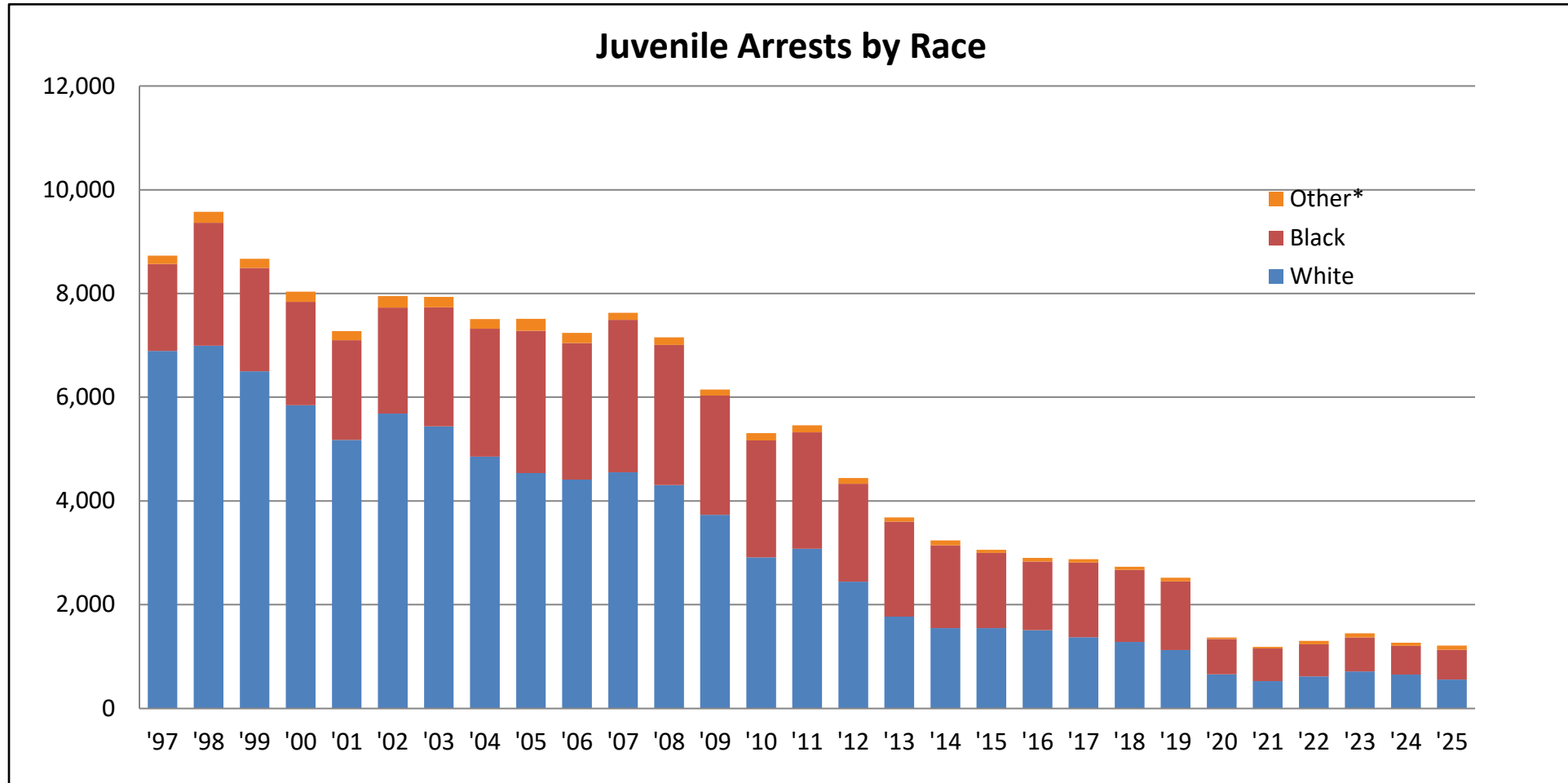
Arrests

Adult arrests decreased in 2020 with Covid as a major factor and have almost bounced back to pre-Covid levels. However, Juvenile Arrests have not bounced back and fluctuated between ~ 1,200 to 1,500 post-Covid.



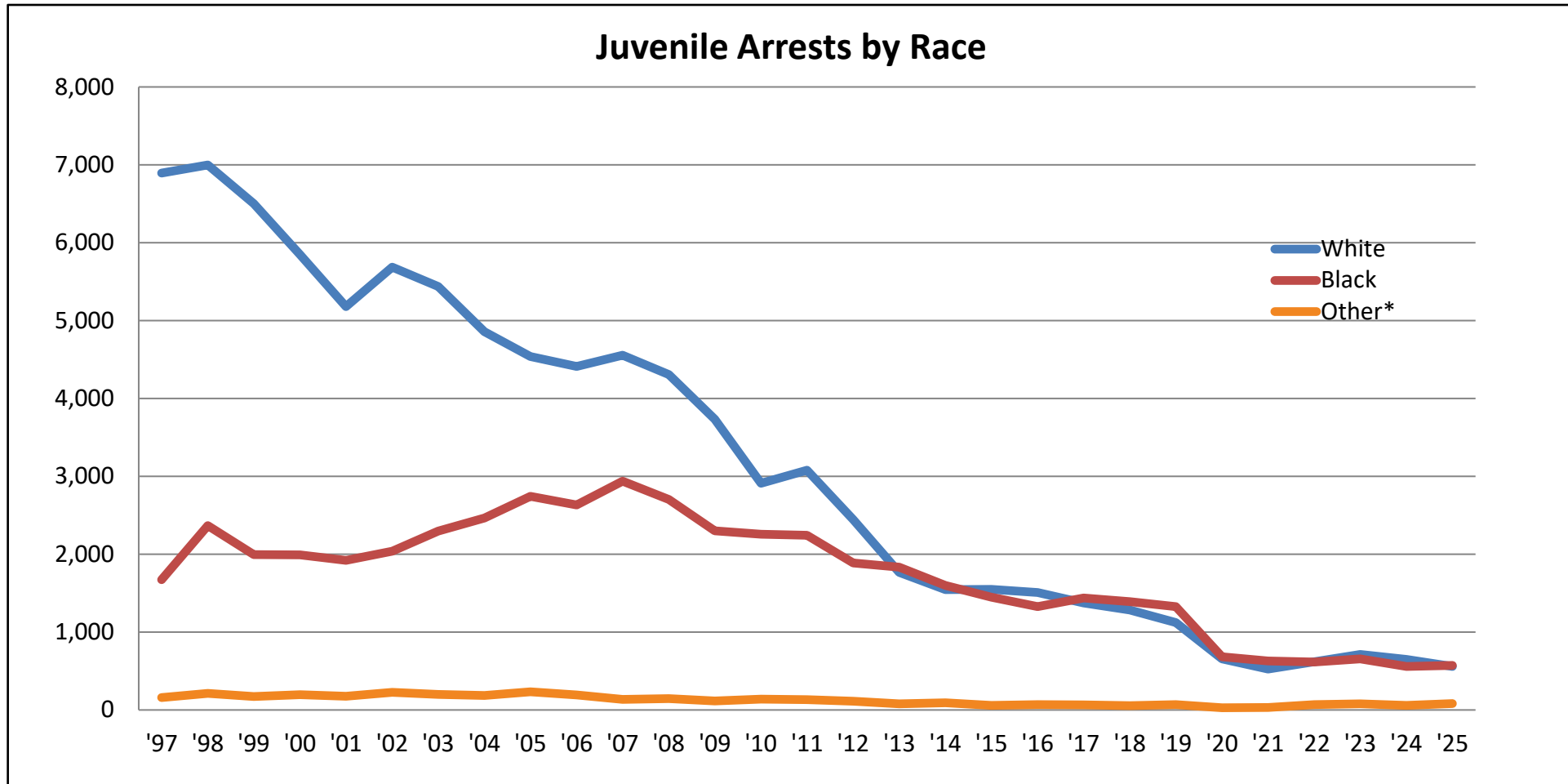
Juvenile Arrests

We see a huge decrease in Juvenile Arrests over time. BIPOC Juvenile Arrests accounted for 21% of Juvenile Arrests in 1997 and have increased to 54% in 2025.



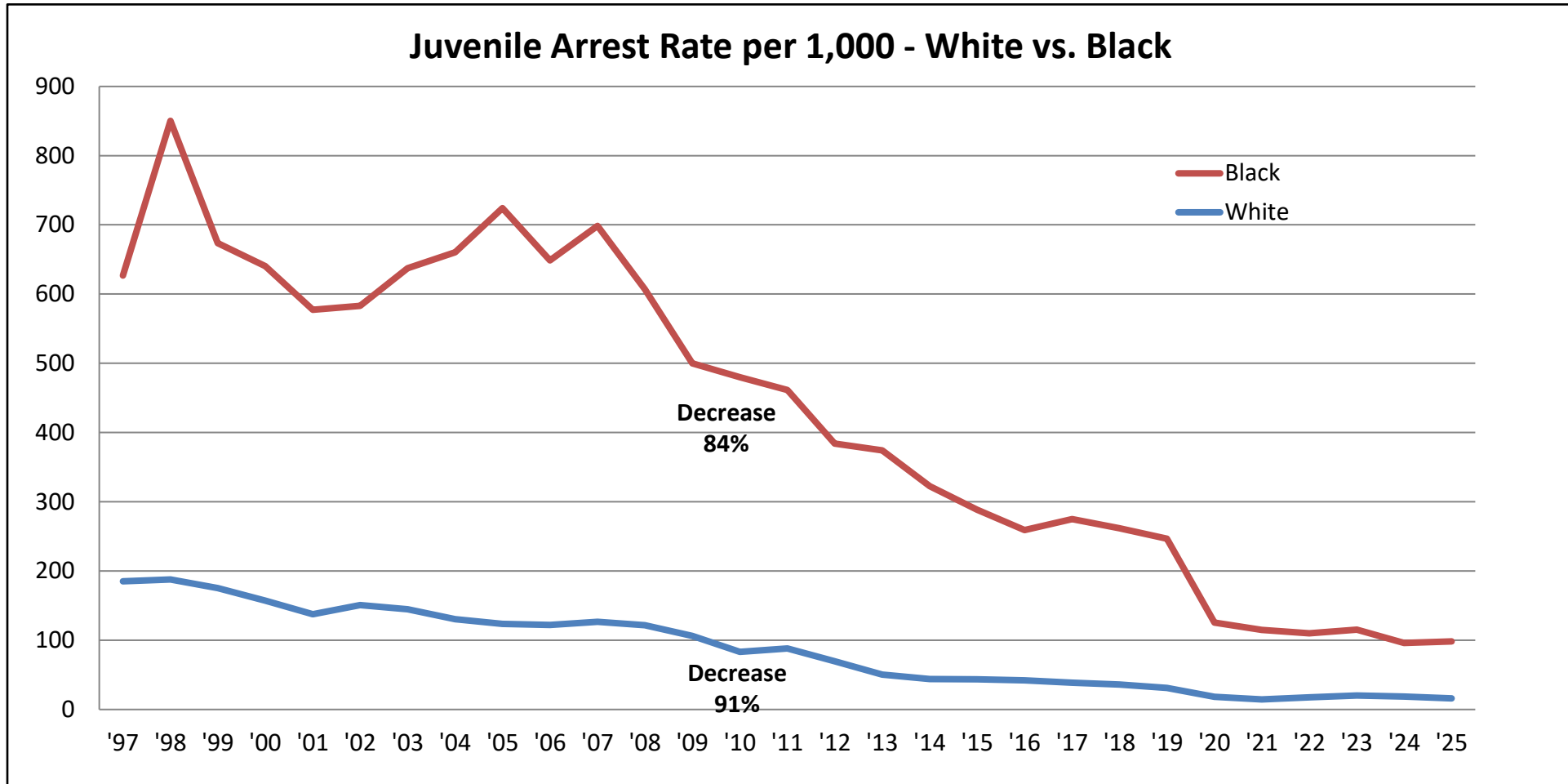
Juvenile Arrests

The # of White Juvenile Arrests decreased quickly from 1997-2020, while the # of Black Juvenile Arrests increased from 1997 to 2007 before starting a rapid decline. While the population sizes are very different, the # of Black and White Juvenile Arrests have been similar from 2013-2025.



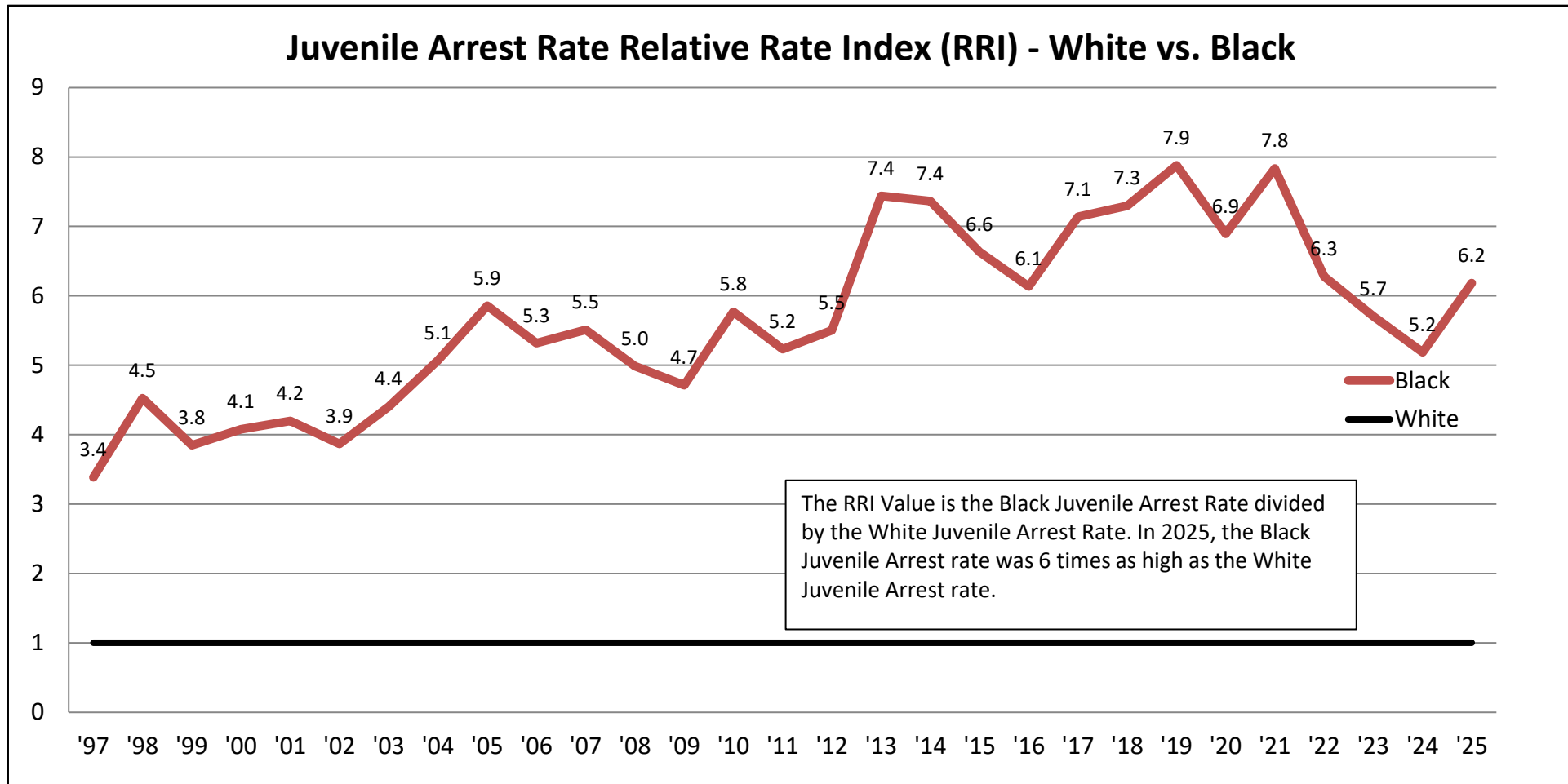
Juvenile Arrest Rate

Comparing rates controls for population changes over time. We can see the Juvenile Arrest Rate for Black youth, while decreasing since 2005, has still been much higher than for White youth. The disparity in these rates is called the Relative Rate Index (RRI).



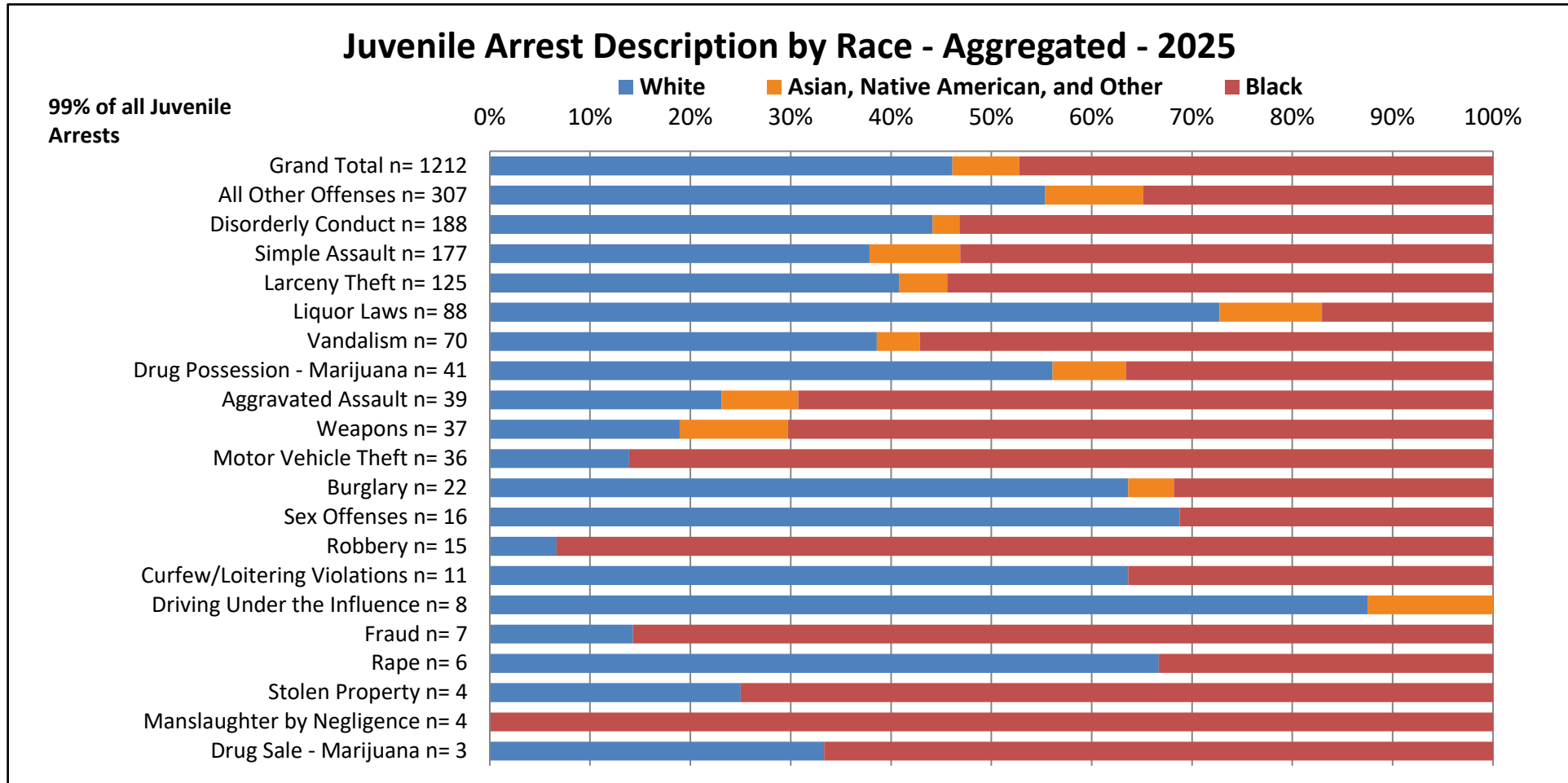
Juvenile Arrest - RRI

The disparity in Juvenile Arrest shows that the rate at which Black youth are Arrested compared to White youth has increased from 3x in 1997 to 6x in 2025. Fewer Black Juveniles are being Arrested, but the decrease was more pronounced for White Juveniles, so disparity goes up.



Juvenile Arrests

Disparities in Arrest are not the same across offense type and have marked variation.



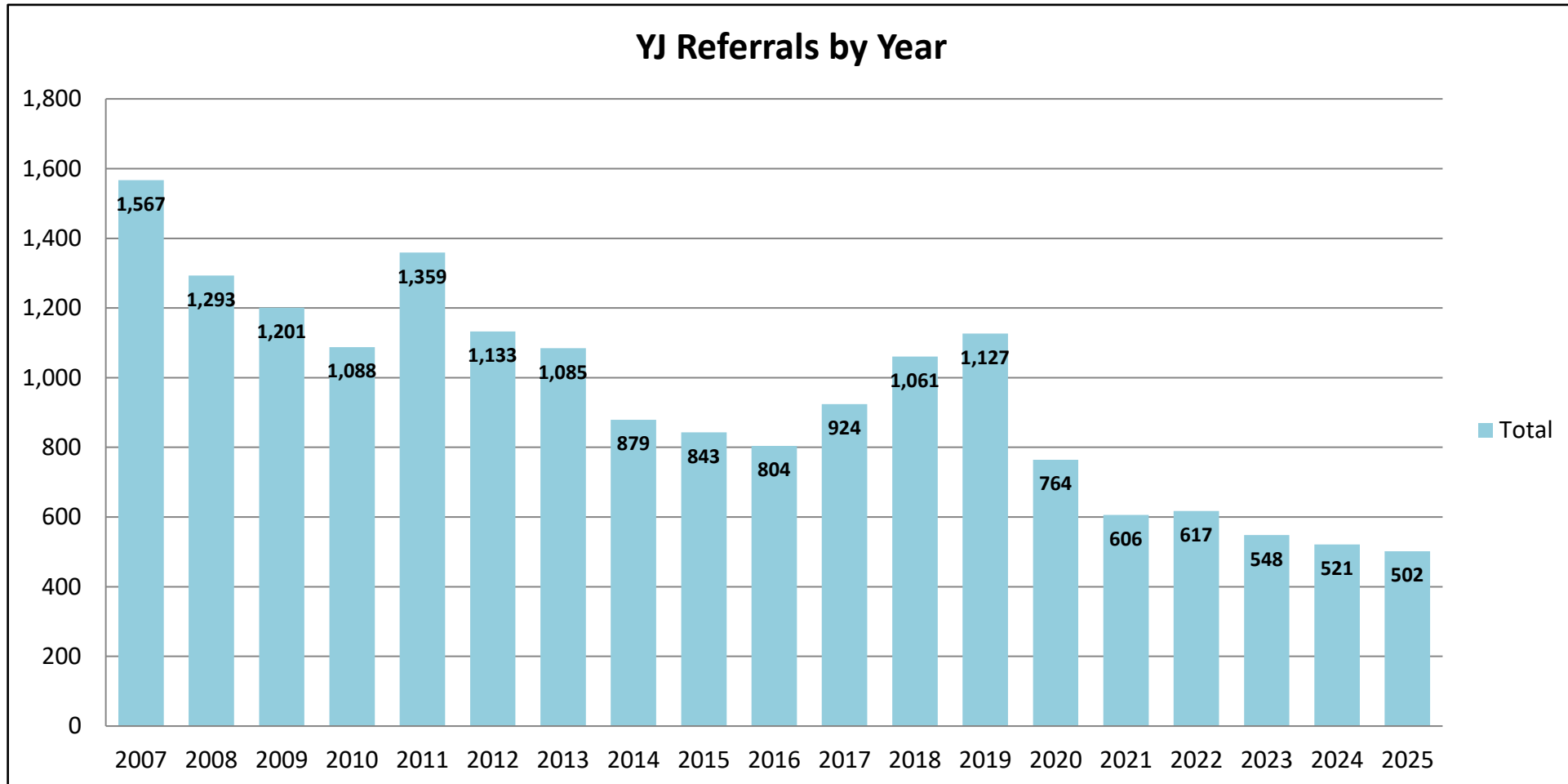
Definition of a YJ Referral

A YJ Referral is a police report that has been referred to the County's District Attorney's Office for a charging decision.



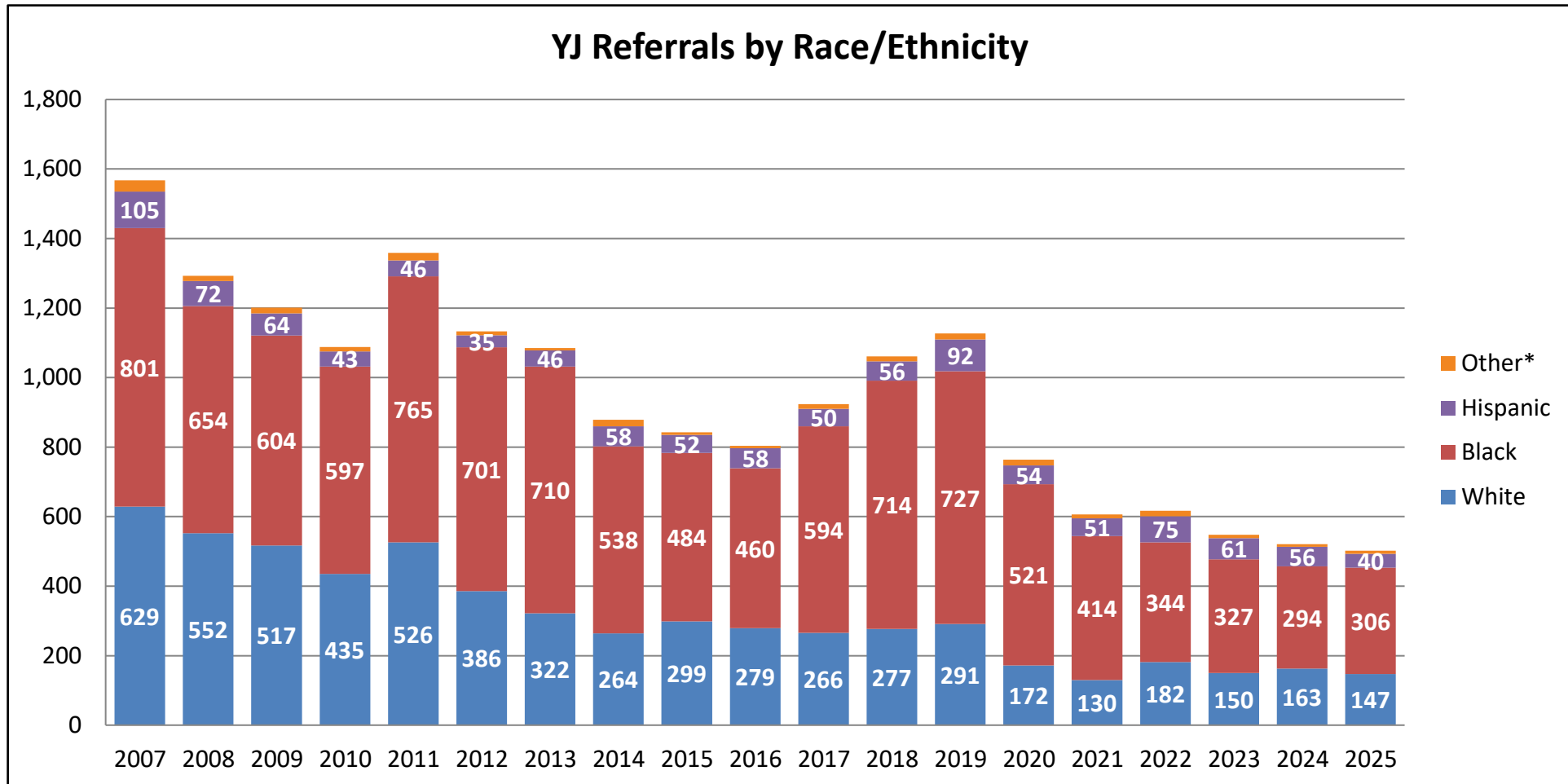
YJ Referrals

YJ Referrals mostly decreased from 2007-2016 before a large increase primarily driven by Car Theft related YJ Referrals. A large decrease due to Covid is seen in 2020 and no bounce back has occurred since with continued decreases from 2020-2025.



YJ Referrals

As with Juvenile Arrests, Black youth are overrepresented in the # of YJ Referrals.

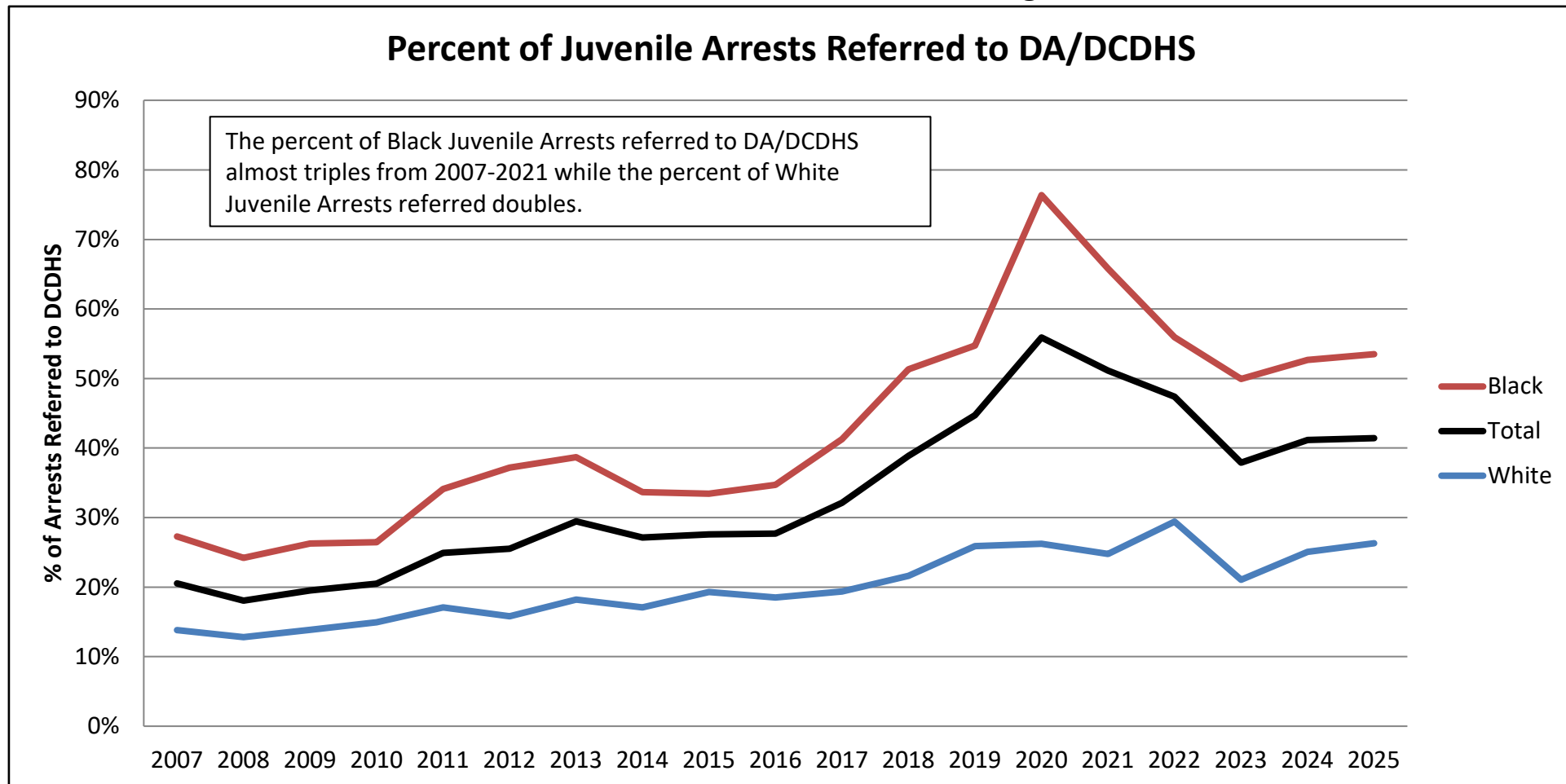


*Other includes Asian, Hmong, Native American, Other, Pacific Islander, and Unknown



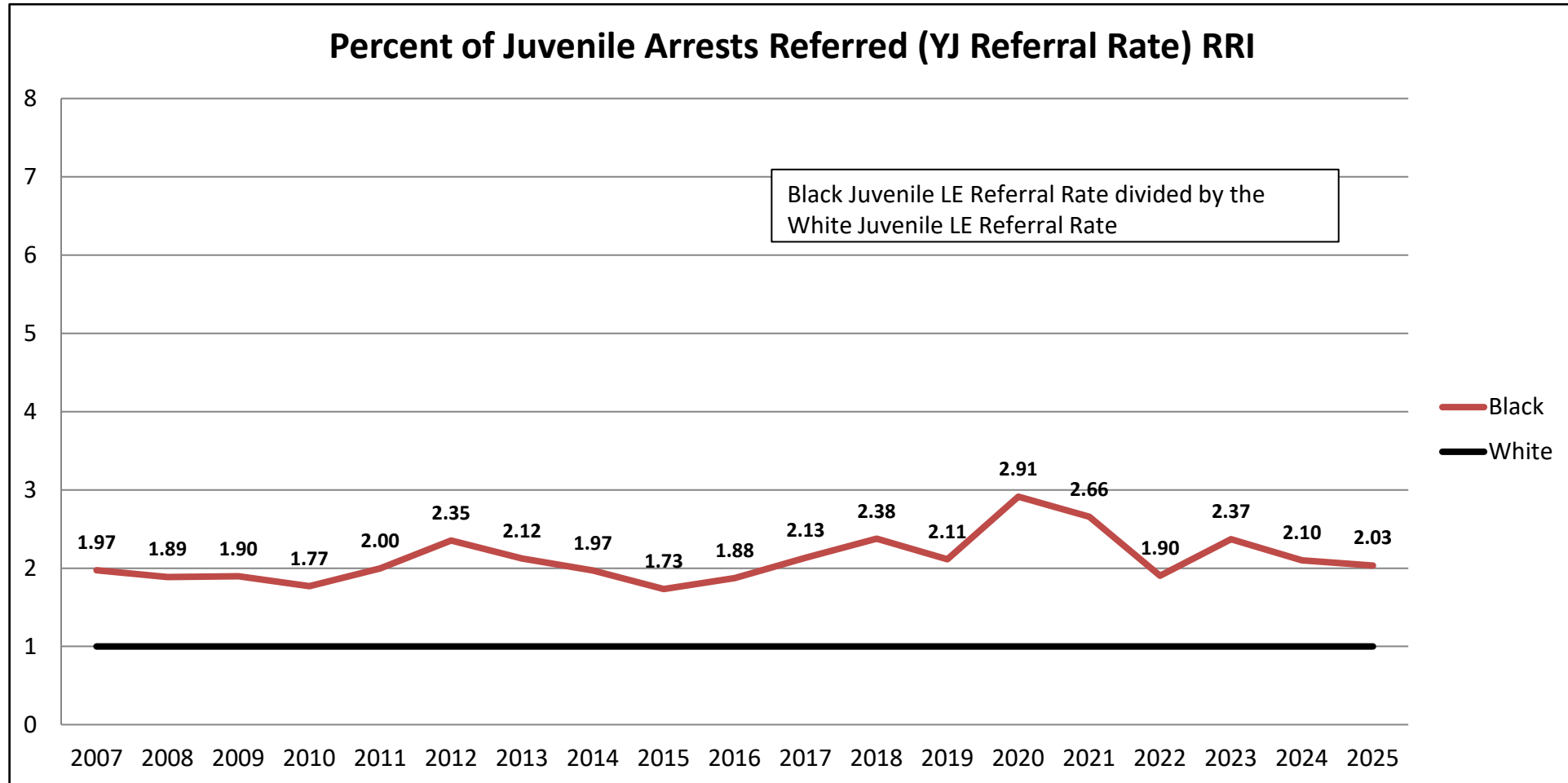
YJ Referrals / Juvenile Arrests

The YJ Referral Rate (YJ Referrals divided by Juvenile Arrests) increased from 2007 to 2020, especially for Black youth and declined from 2021 to 2023 and has stabilized. We believe some of this is due to the decrease in YJ Referrals with Car Theft charges.



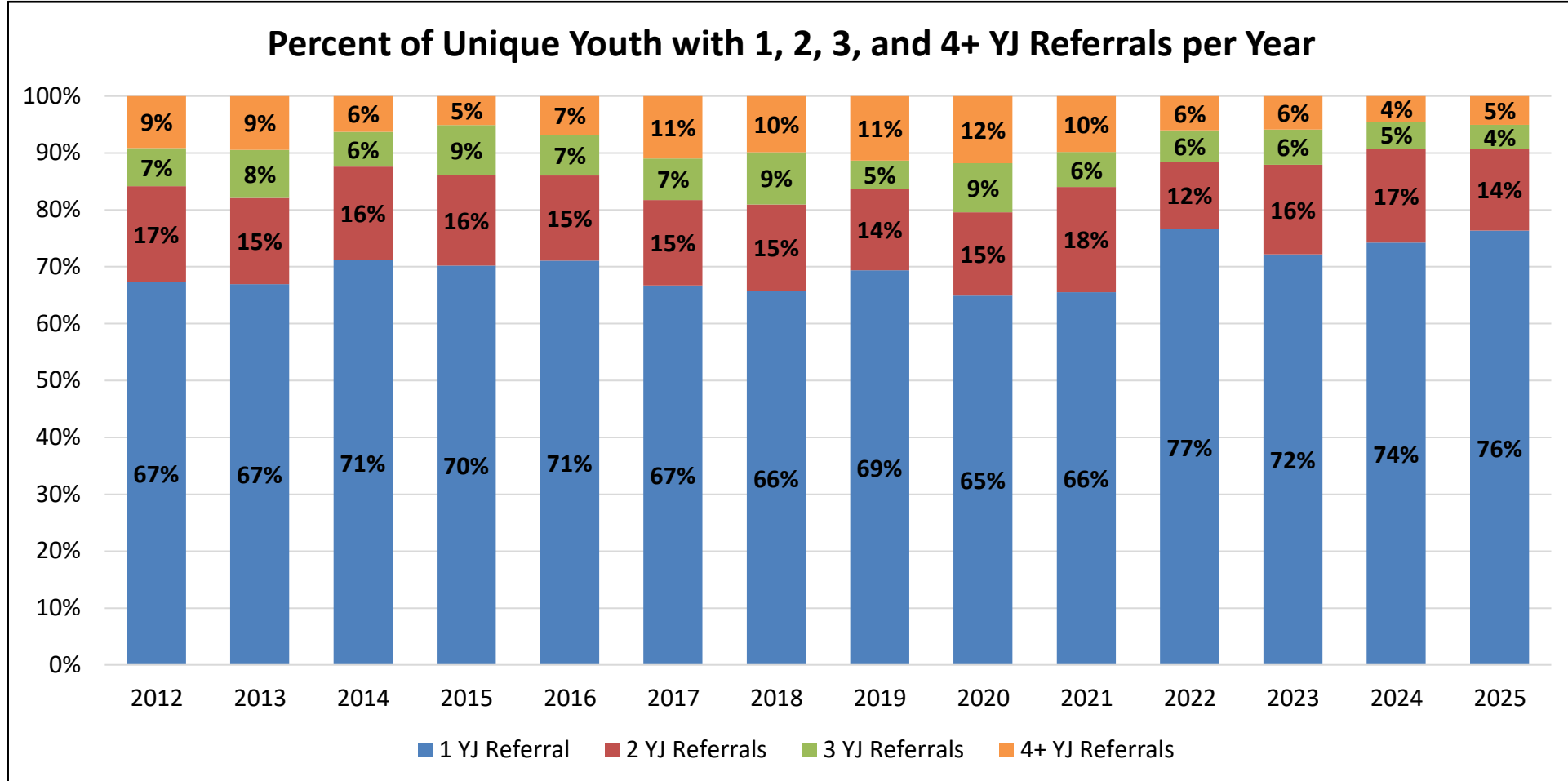
YJ Referral Rate RRI

Black Youth have been referred on YJ Referrals at a rate between 2-3 times that of their White counterparts from 2007-2025.



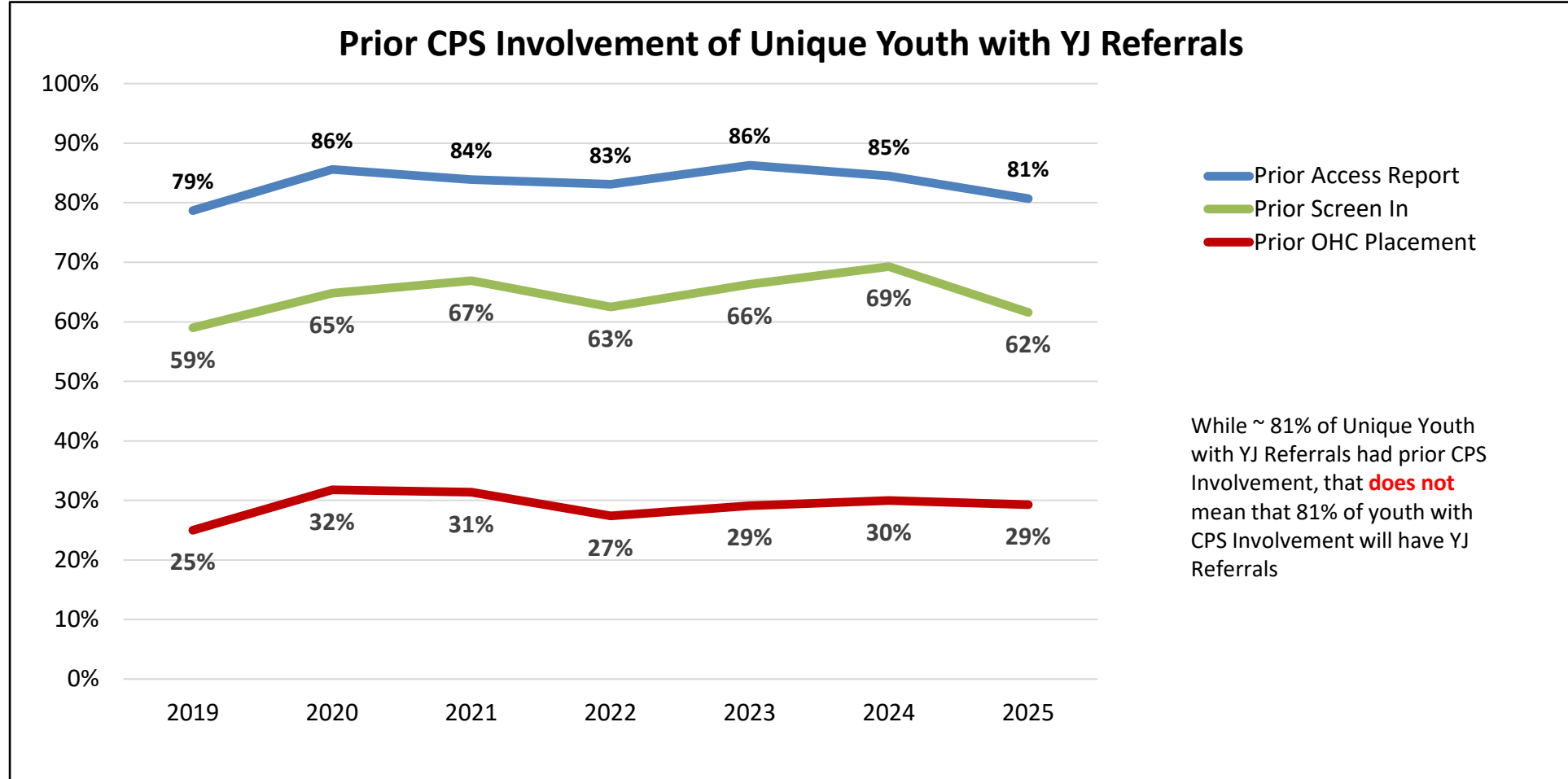
of YJ Referrals in a Year

The % of youth who have had a single YJ Referral in a given year was roughly stable from 2012-2021, but has increased in 2022-2025. The % of youth with 4+ YJ Referrals in a year has also been low in 2024-2025.



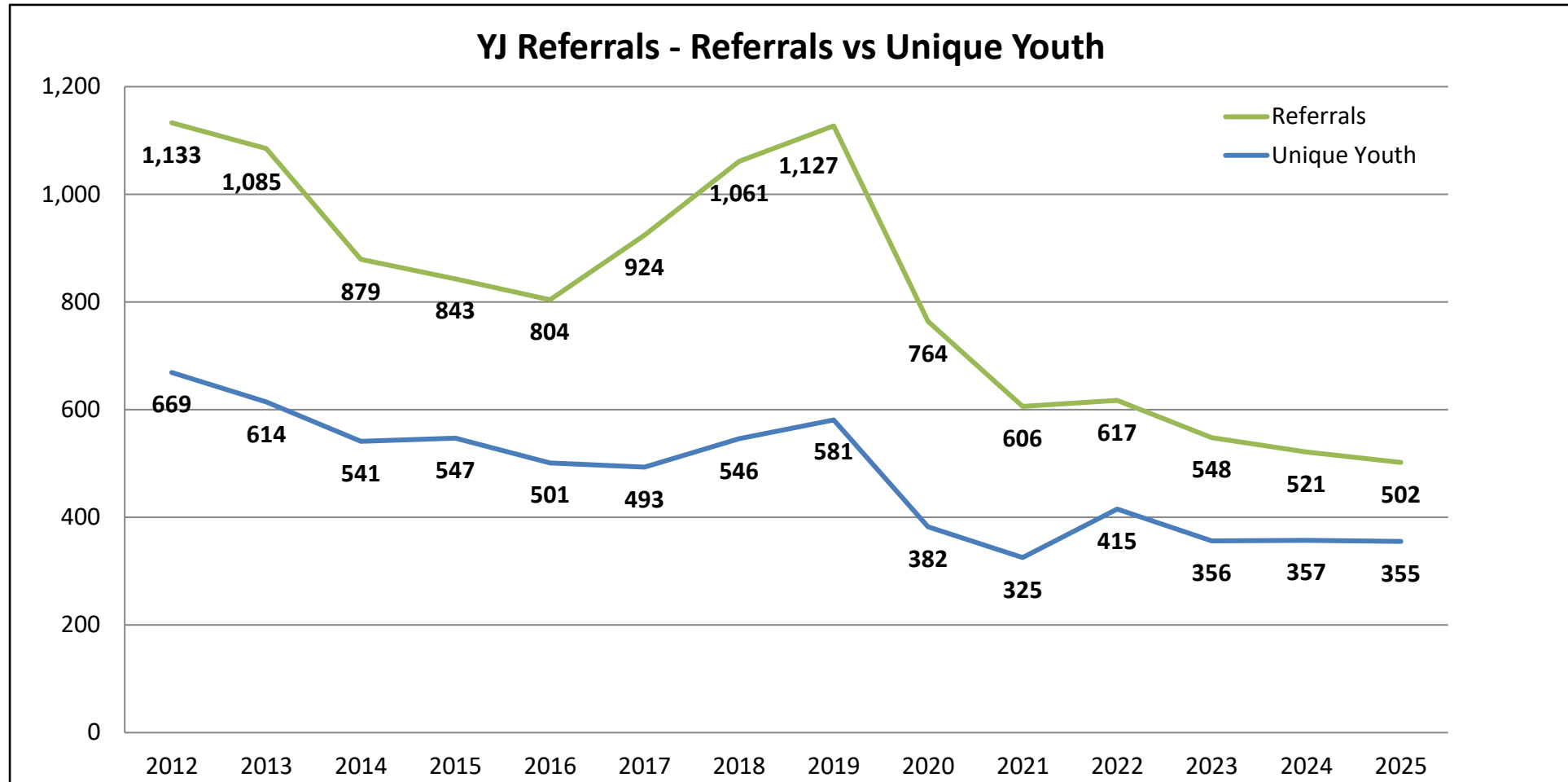
Prior CPS History

In 2025, 81% of youth with YJ Referrals had prior allegations of Abuse/Neglect, with 62% having been screened in for investigation. 29% had previously been placed in an Out of Home Placement.



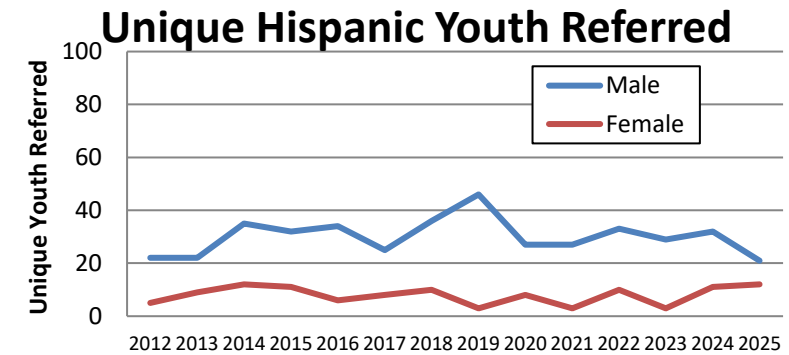
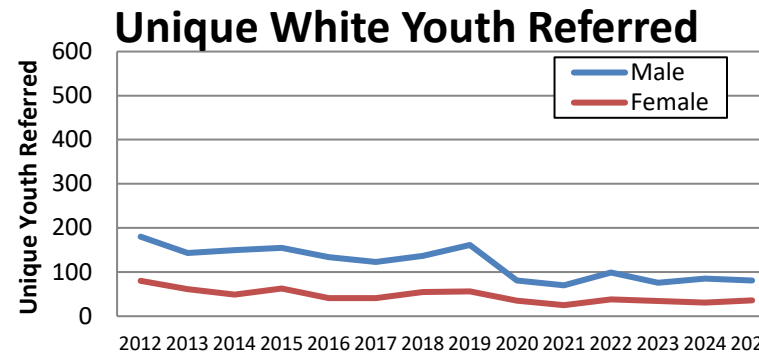
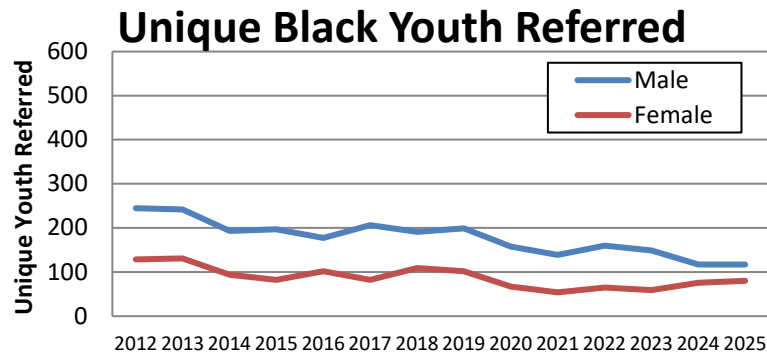
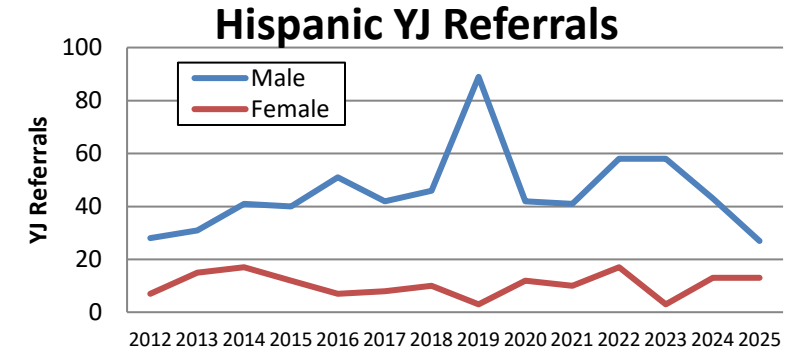
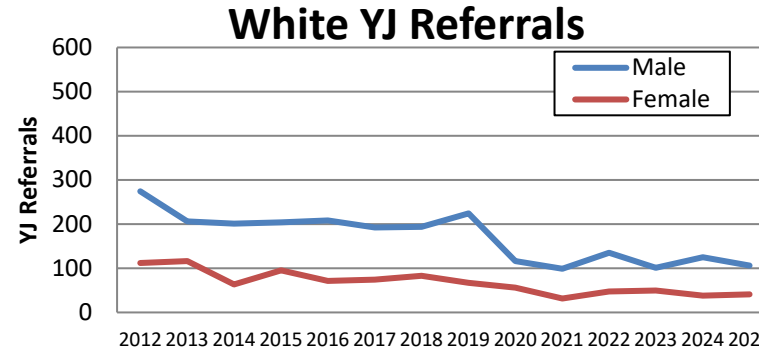
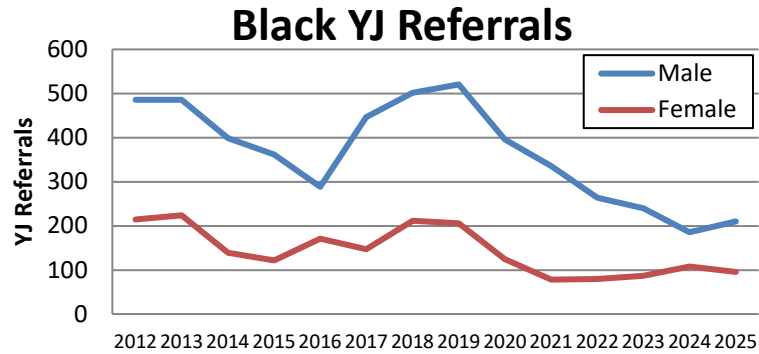
YJ Referrals and Unique Youth

In 2025, 355 Unique Youth accounted for 502 YJ Referrals. In 2025, the average # of YJ Referrals / Unique youth was the lowest during this entire time period ($502 / 355 = 1.41$).



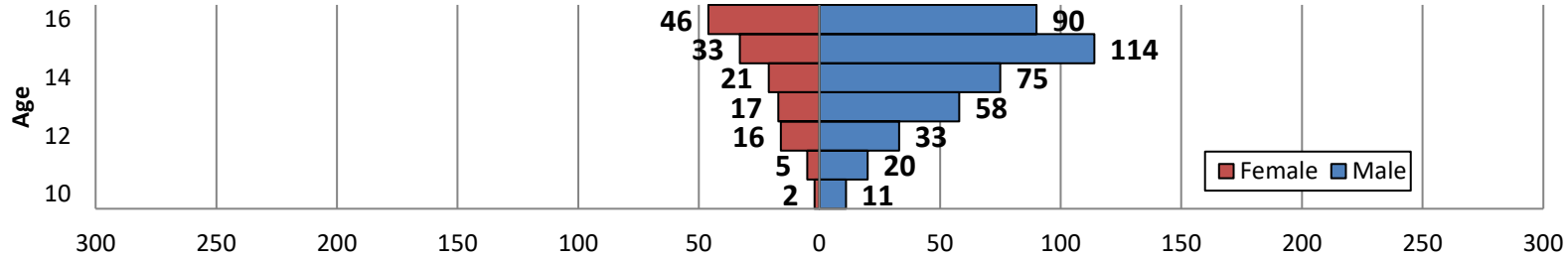
YJ Referrals and Unique Youth

Note that the # of Unique Black Males Referred stayed consistent from 2017-2019 while the number of associated YJ Referrals almost doubled.

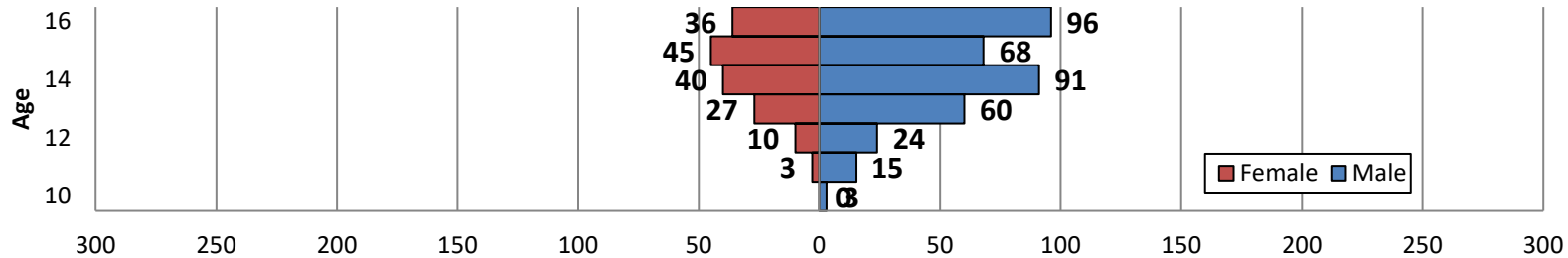


YJ Referrals – Population Pyramid

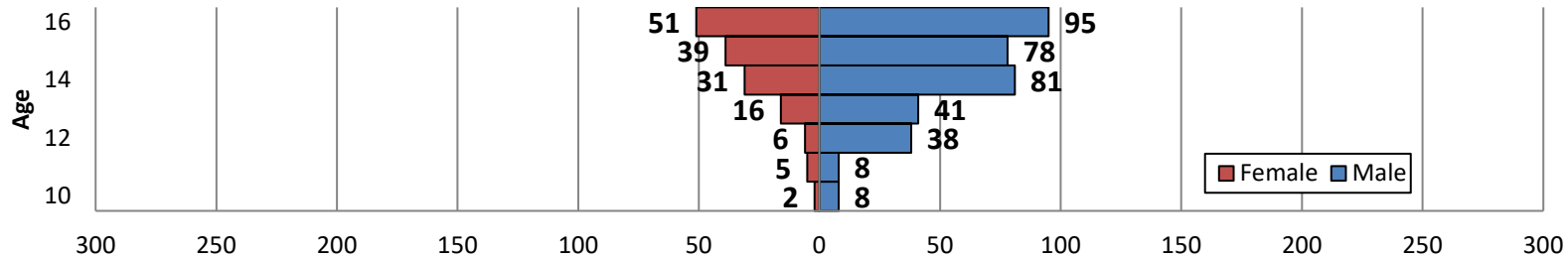
2023 Youth Justice Referrals by Age by Gender



2024 Youth Justice Referrals by Age by Gender

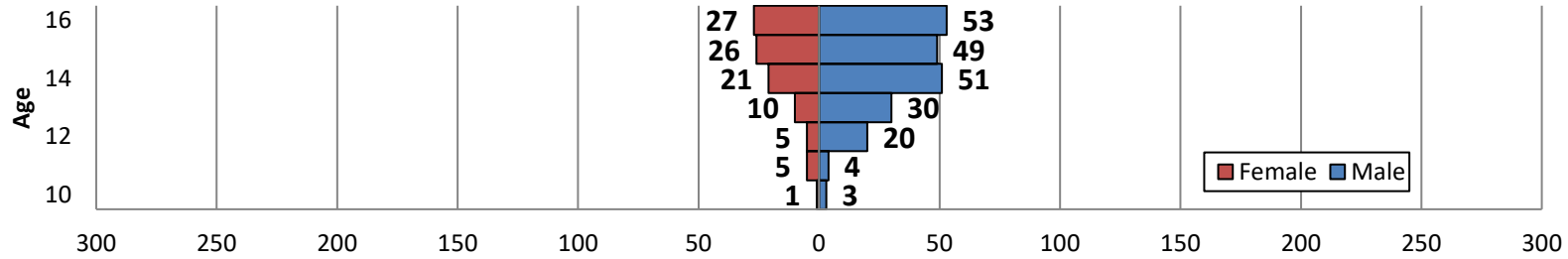


2025 Youth Justice Referrals by Age by Gender

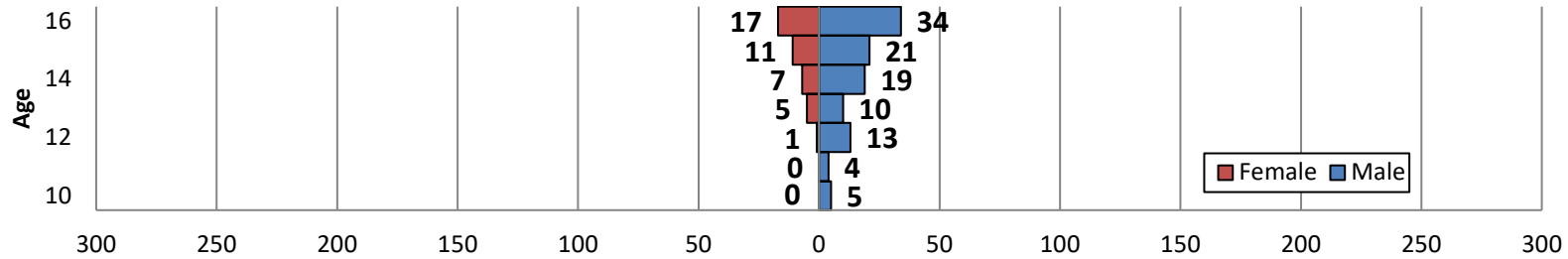


YJ Referrals – Population Pyramid

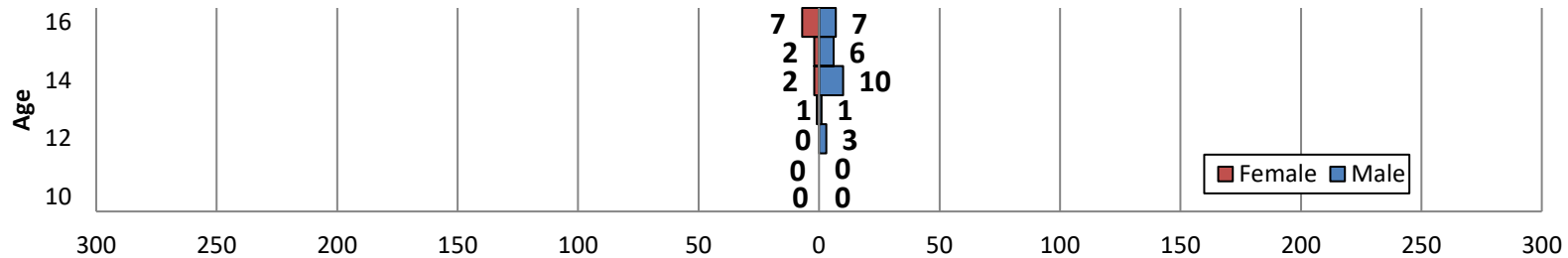
2025 Youth Justice Referrals by Age by Gender - Black



2025 Youth Justice Referrals by Age by Gender - White

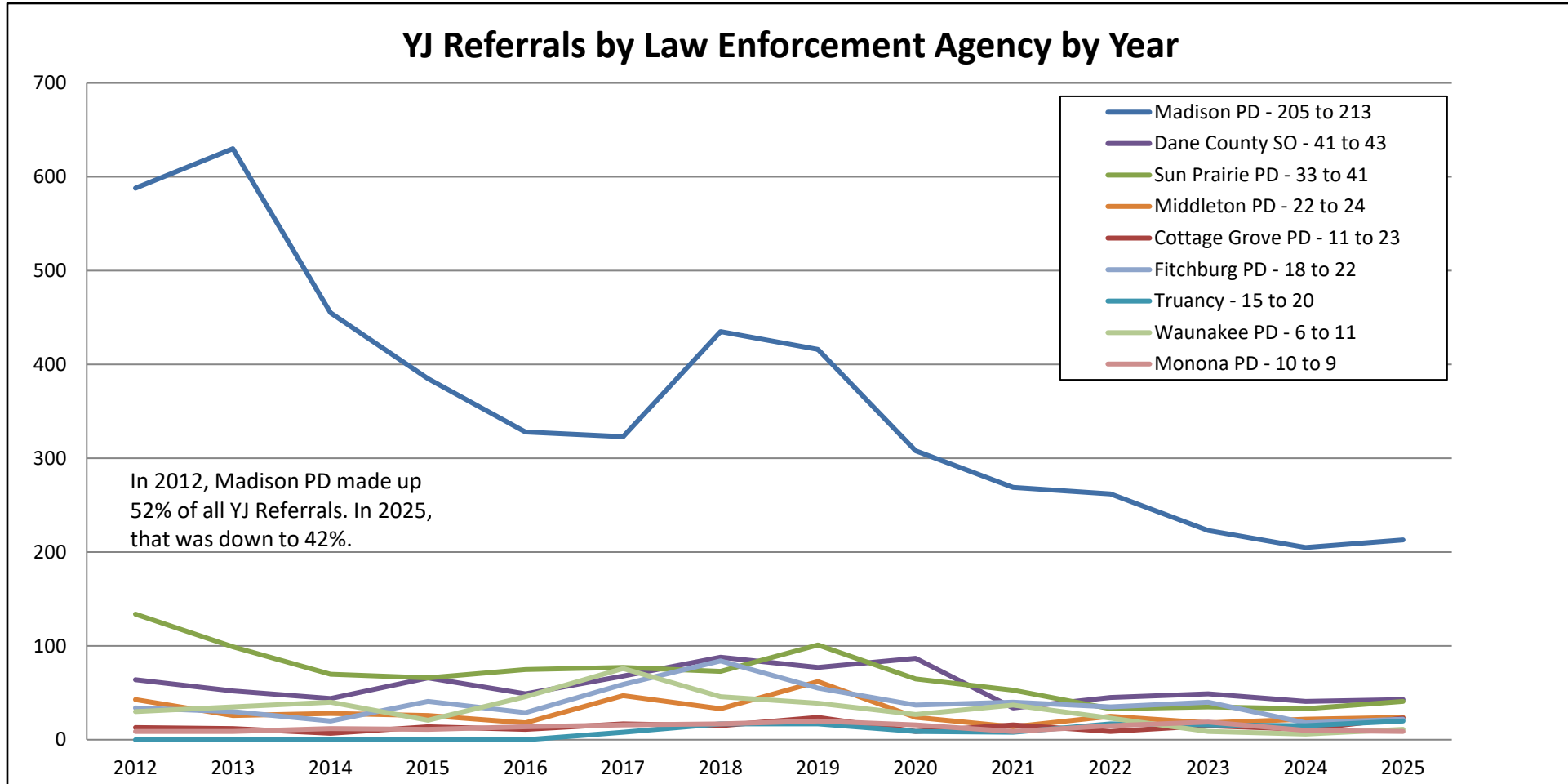


2025 Youth Justice Referrals by Age by Gender - Hispanic



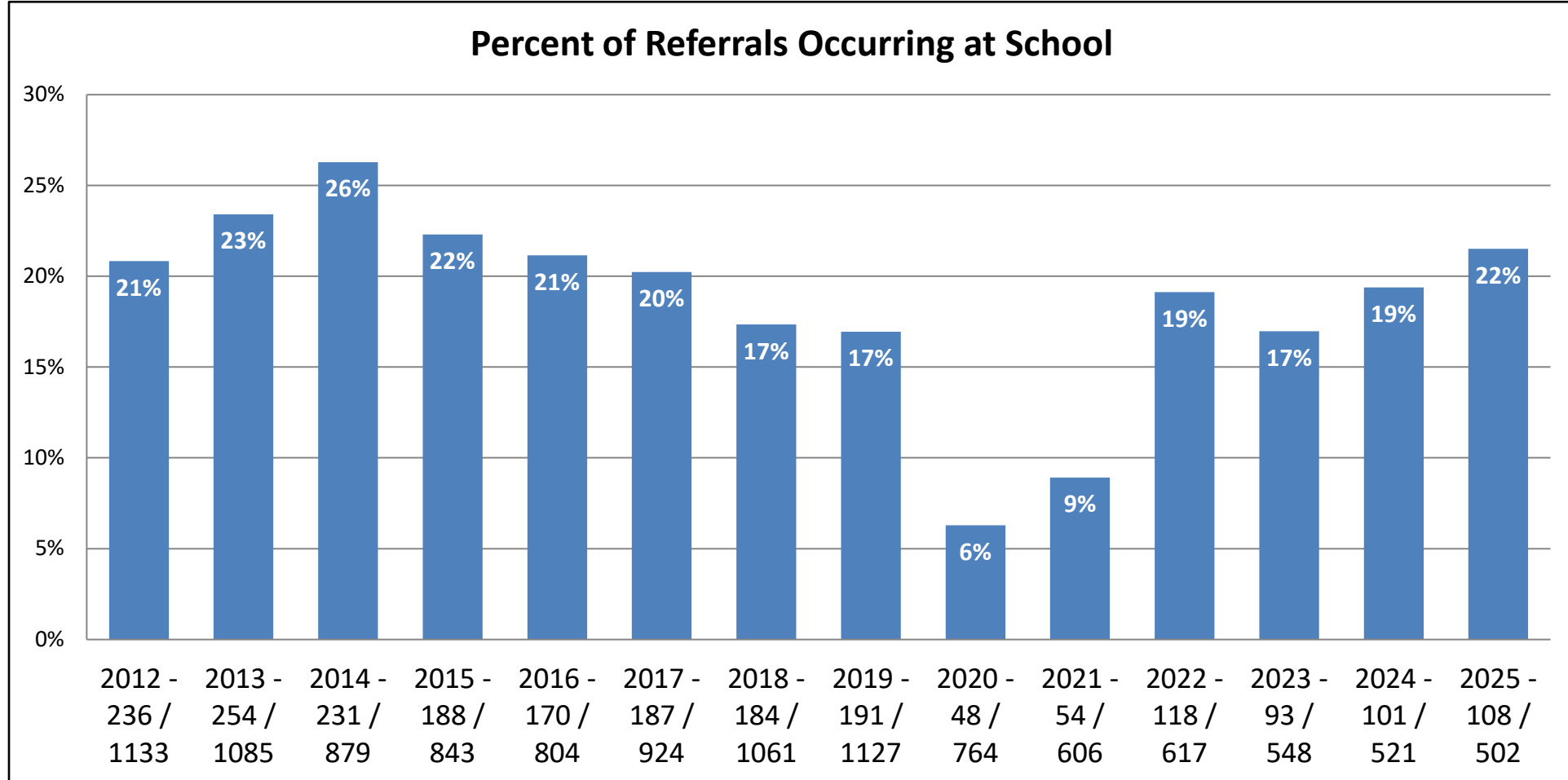
YJ Referrals by LEA

Madison PD is the driver of YJ Referrals in Dane County. However, the share of overall YJ Referrals attributed to Madison PD has decreased over time. Changes in the legend are from 2024 to 2025.



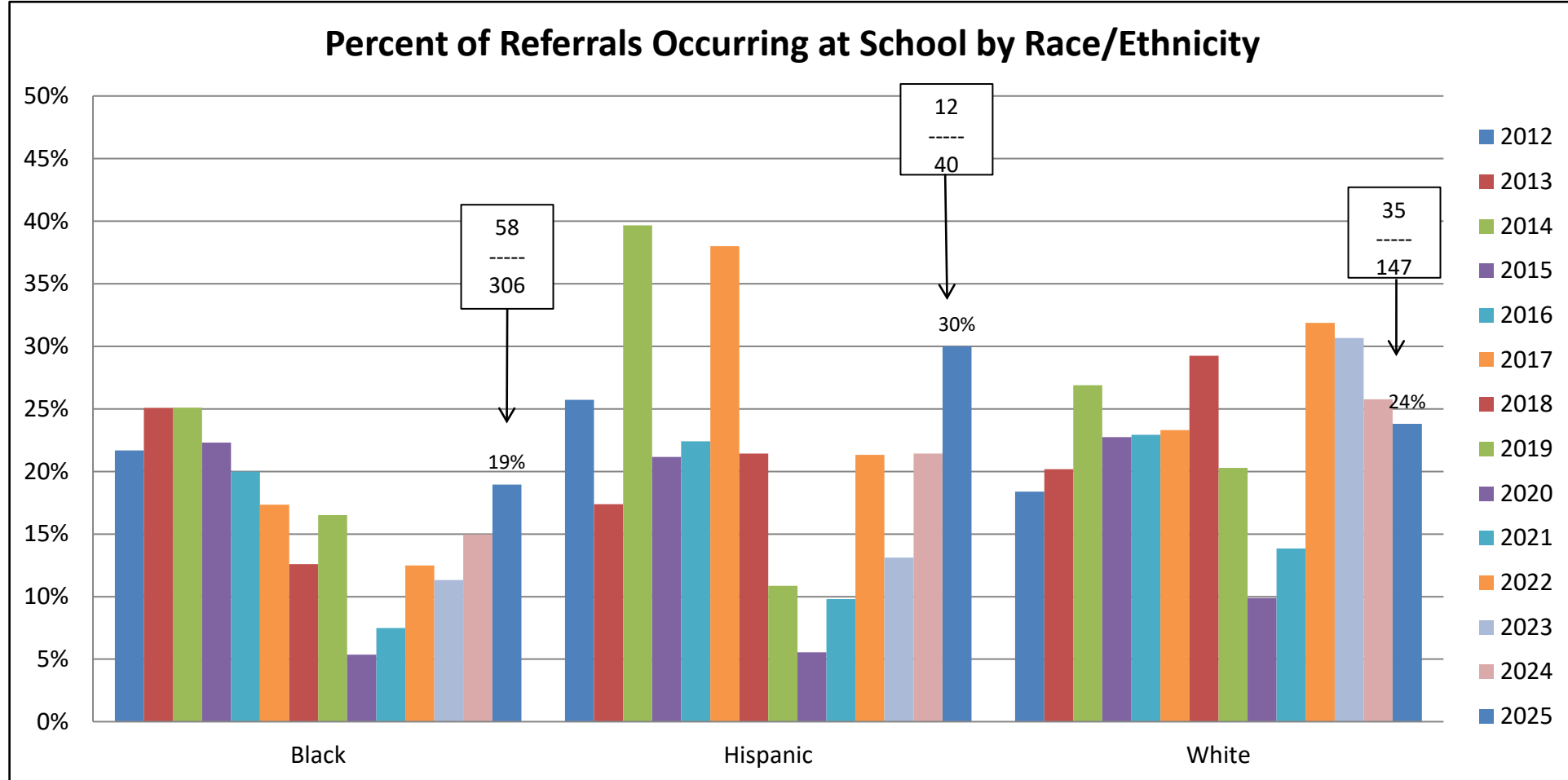
YJ Referrals - % at School

The % of YJ Referrals occurring at school decreased from 2014 through 2019 before dropping dramatically due to Covid restrictions and have bounced back to pre-Covid levels, as a percent. The raw values (~ 100 from 2022-2025) are much lower than pre-Covid (~180).



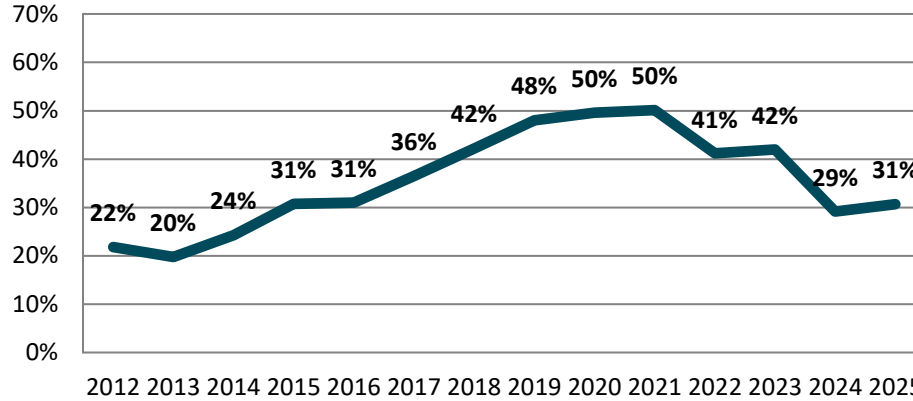
YJ Referrals - % at School

In 2025, 19% of YJ Referrals for Black Youth occurred at School (58/306), which was lower as a percent than the 24% of YJ Referrals for White Youth (35/147). Black Youth did make up 54% of YJ Referrals occurring at school in 2025 (58/108).

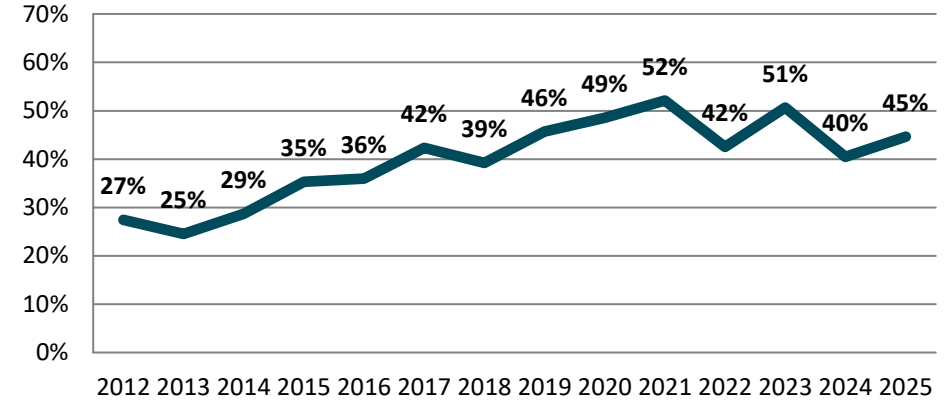


By Recommended Formal and Felony Status

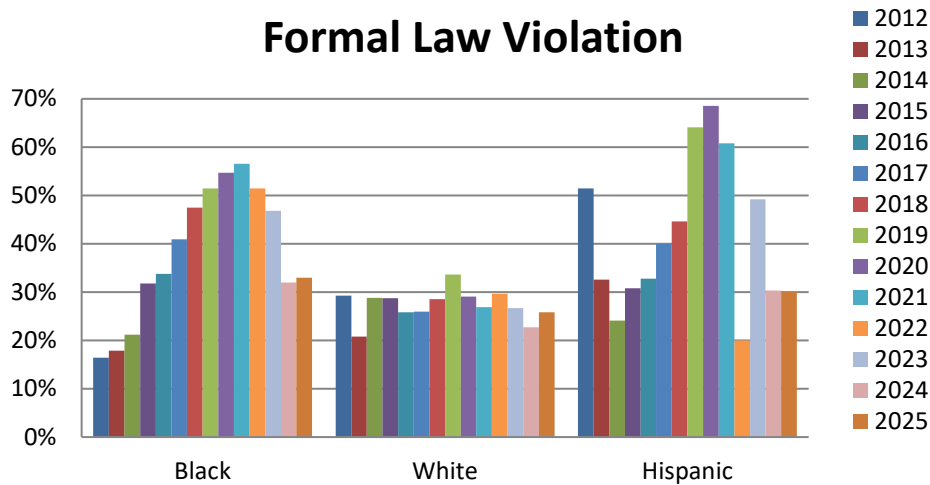
% of Referrals with a Recommended Formal Law Violation



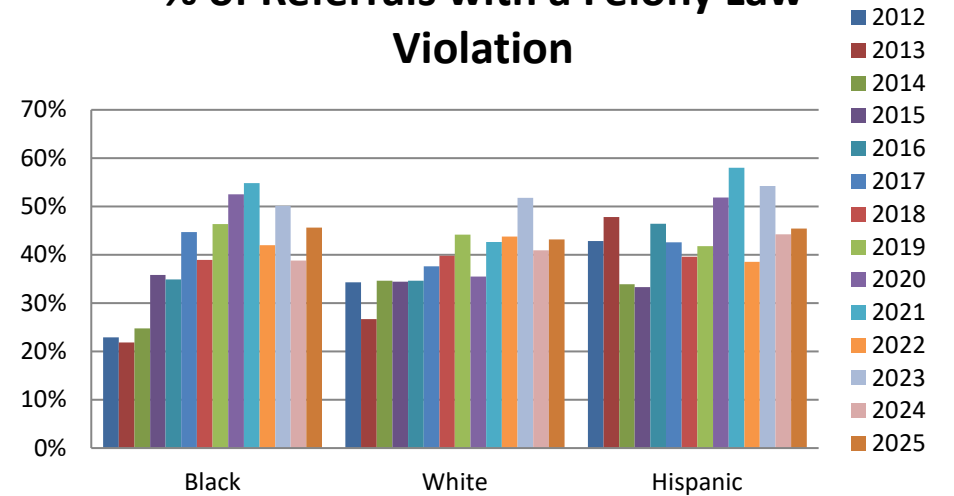
% of Referrals with a Felony Law Violation



% of Referrals with a Recommended Formal Law Violation



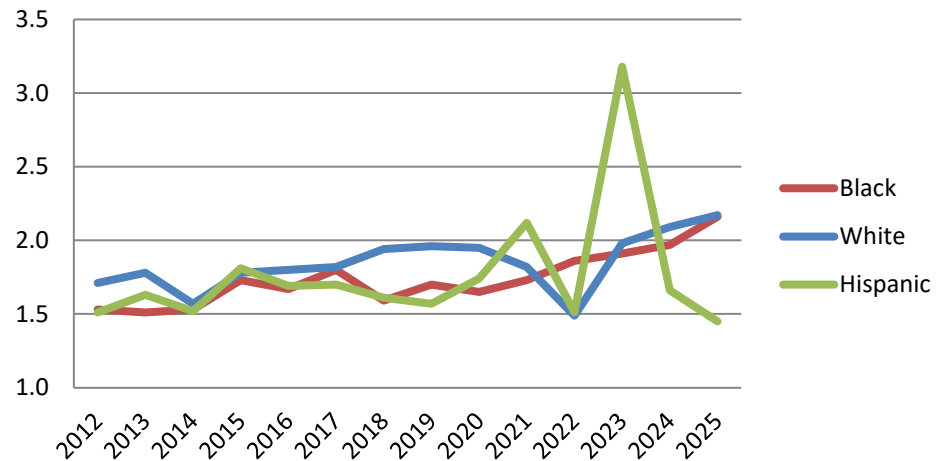
% of Referrals with a Felony Law Violation



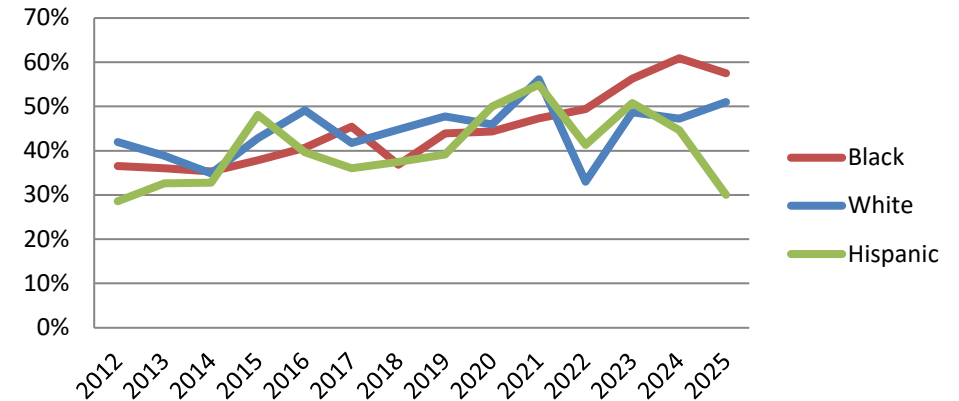
Charges per YJ Referral

On the left, we see the Avg. Number of Charges per YJ Referral has increased from 2012 to 2025, and that the values for Black and White Youth has been very similar from 2023-2025. On the right, splitting YJ Referrals into those with Multiple Charges and those without, Black Youth have a somewhat higher percentage of YJ Referrals with Multiple Charges the last few years than their White counterparts.

Avg. Number of Charges Per Referral

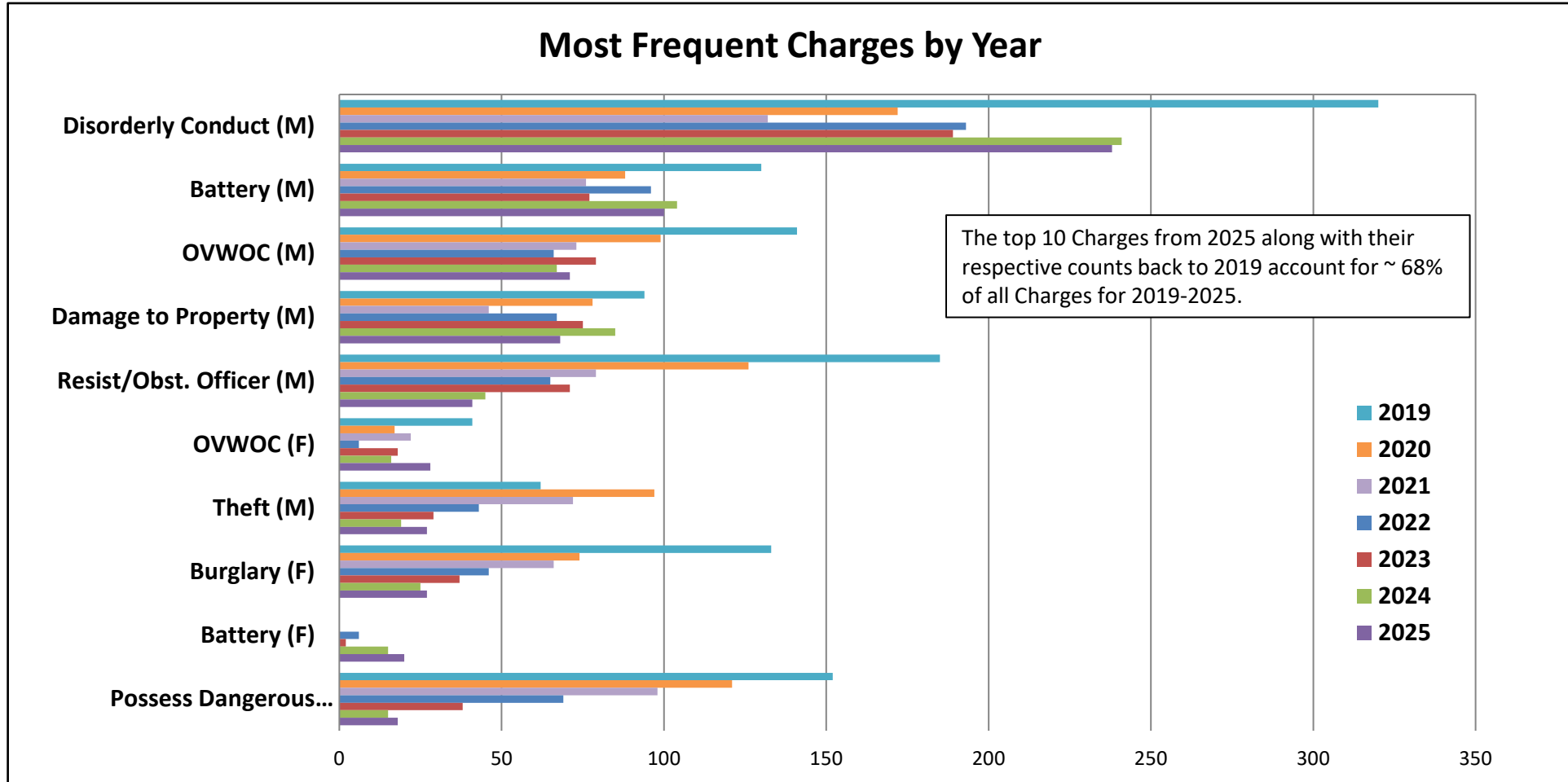


Percent of LE Referrals with Multiple Charges



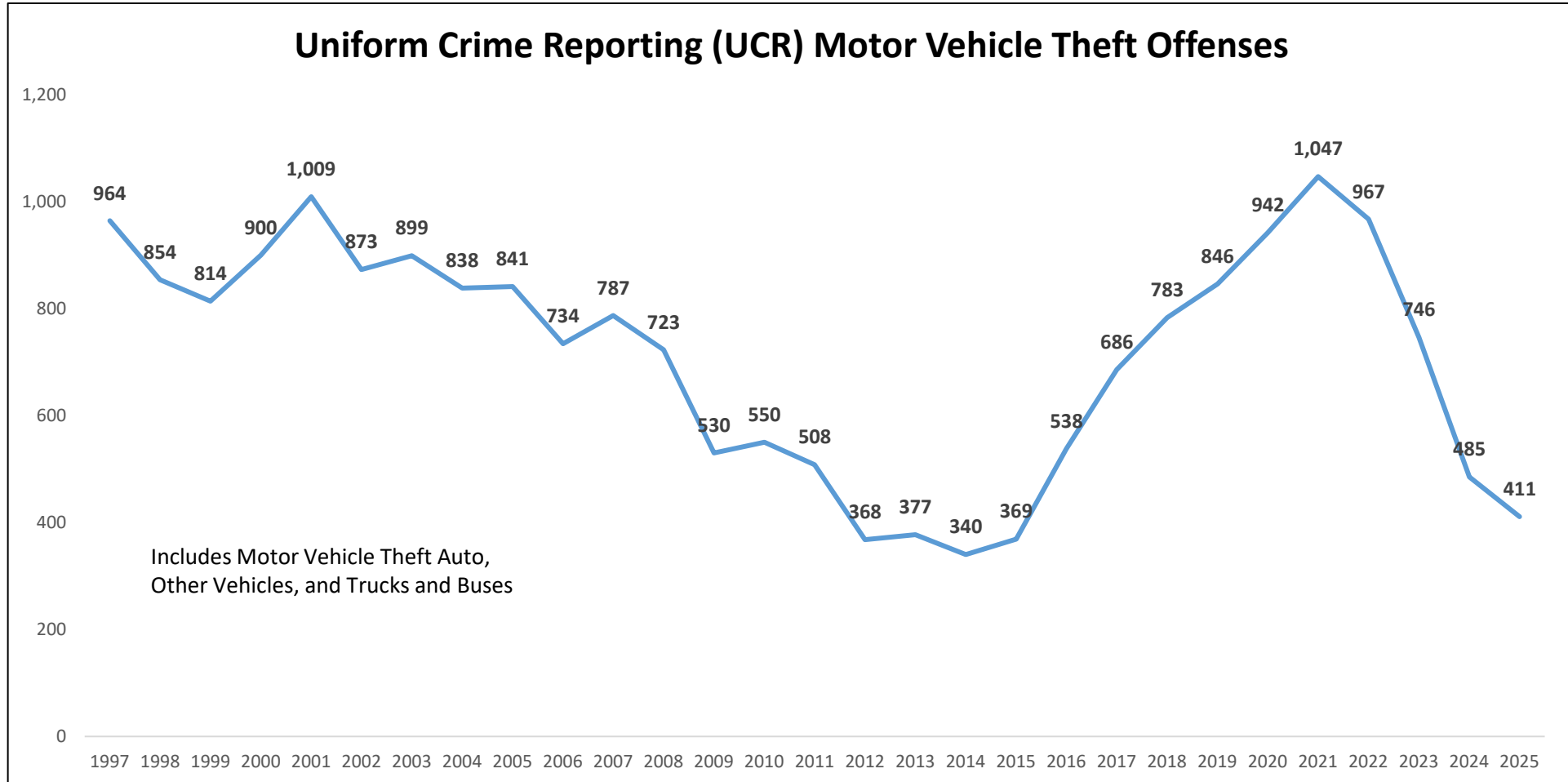
Charges on YJ Referrals

Disorderly Conduct continues to be the most commonly referred charge on YJ Referrals. The “M” and “F” indicate misdemeanors and felonies. None of the five most common charges are felonies.



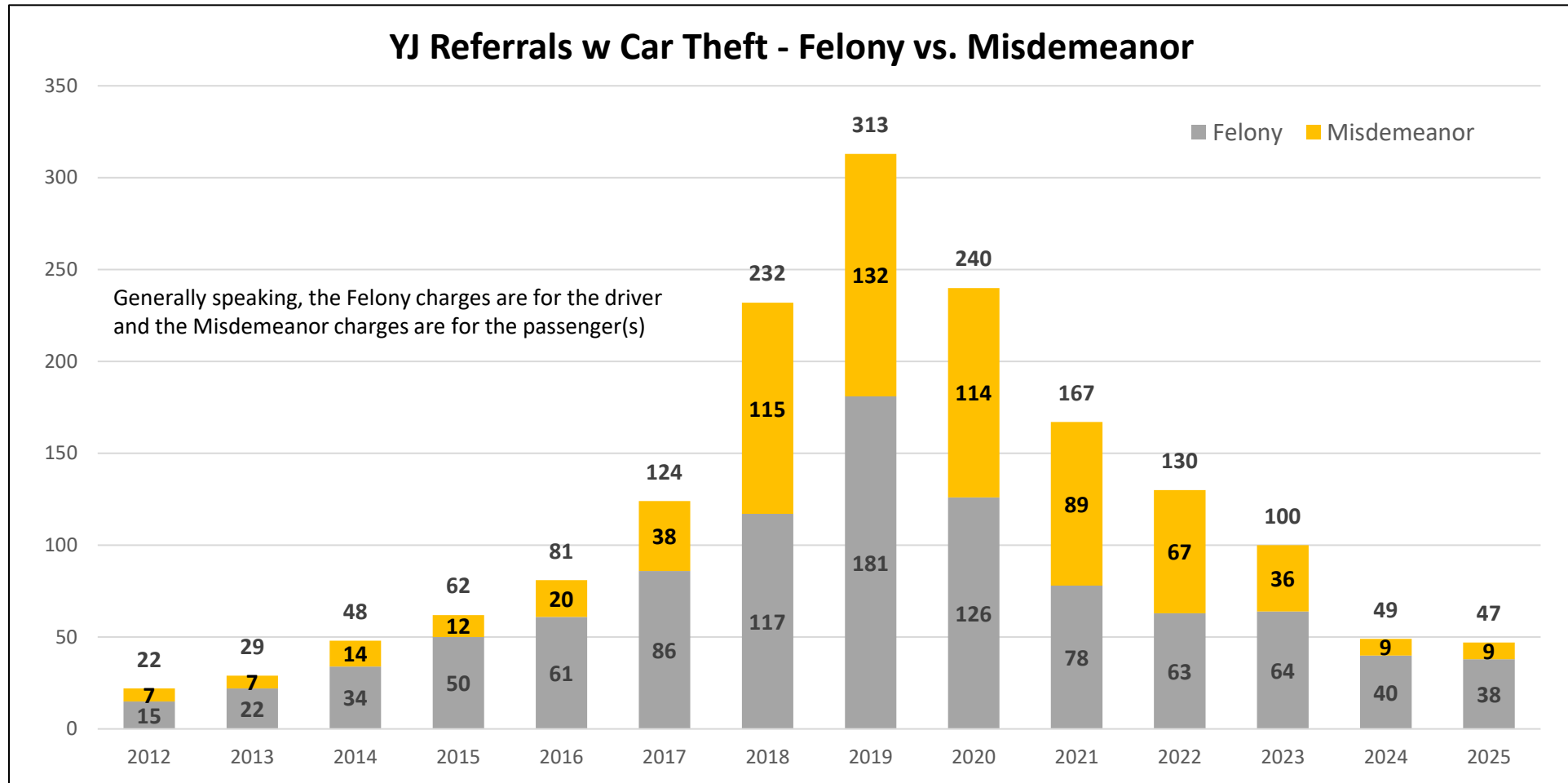
UCR Motor Vehicle Theft Offenses

Motor Vehicle Theft Offenses decreased linearly from a peak of 1,009 in 2001 to a low of 340 in 2014 and have since tripled to 1,047 in 2021. The decrease to 411 in 2025 is the fourth consecutive decrease. Age of offender is not always known and not all offenses will result in an arrest.



Car Theft Referrals – Felony vs. Misdemeanor

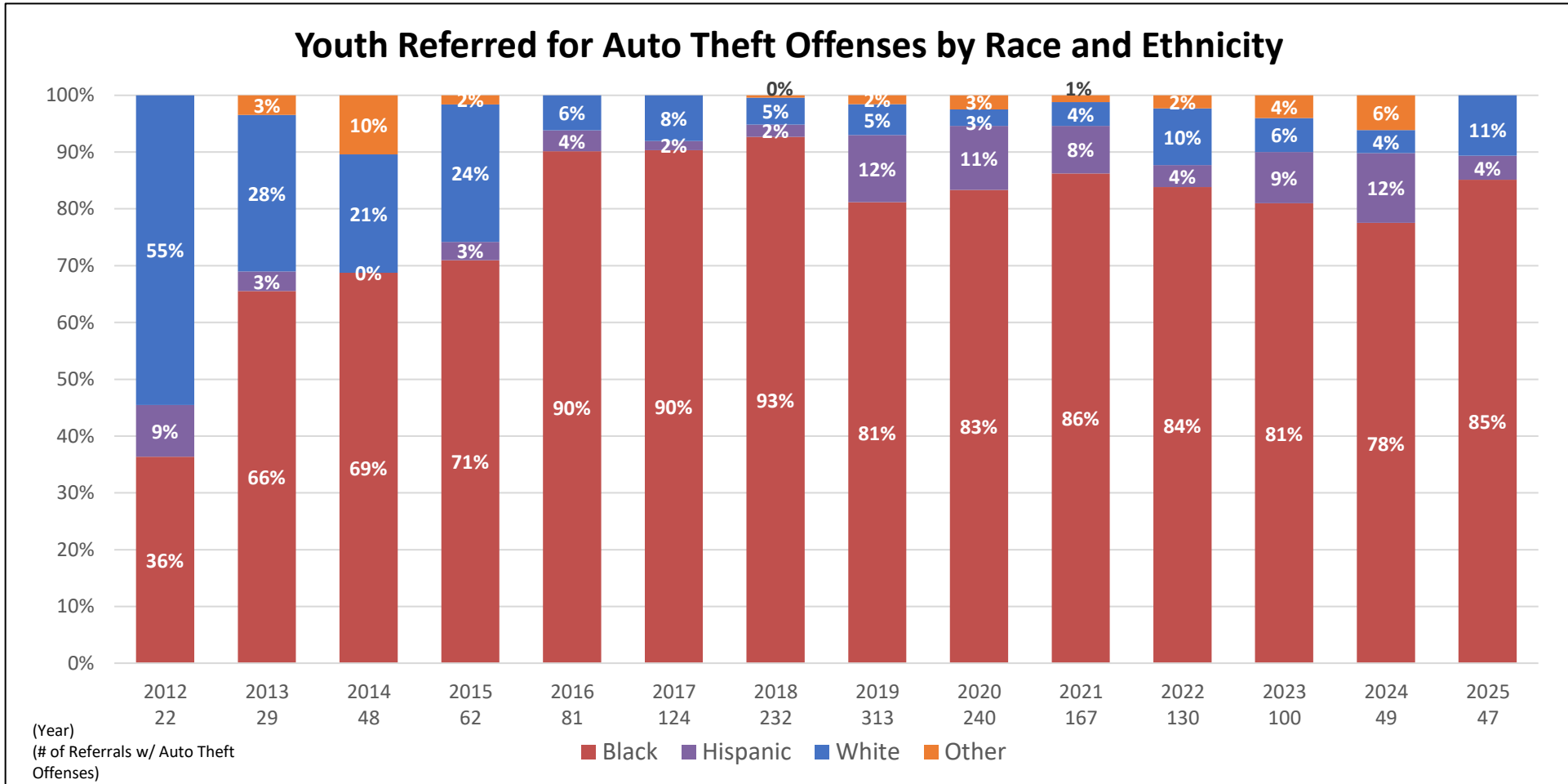
The # of YJ Referrals with Car Theft charges decreased from 313 in 2019 to 47 in 2025, a decrease of 85%. In 2025, unlike from 2018 to 2023, ~ 81% were for a Felony Charge (typically the driver).



Car Theft Referrals – % by Race/Ethnicity

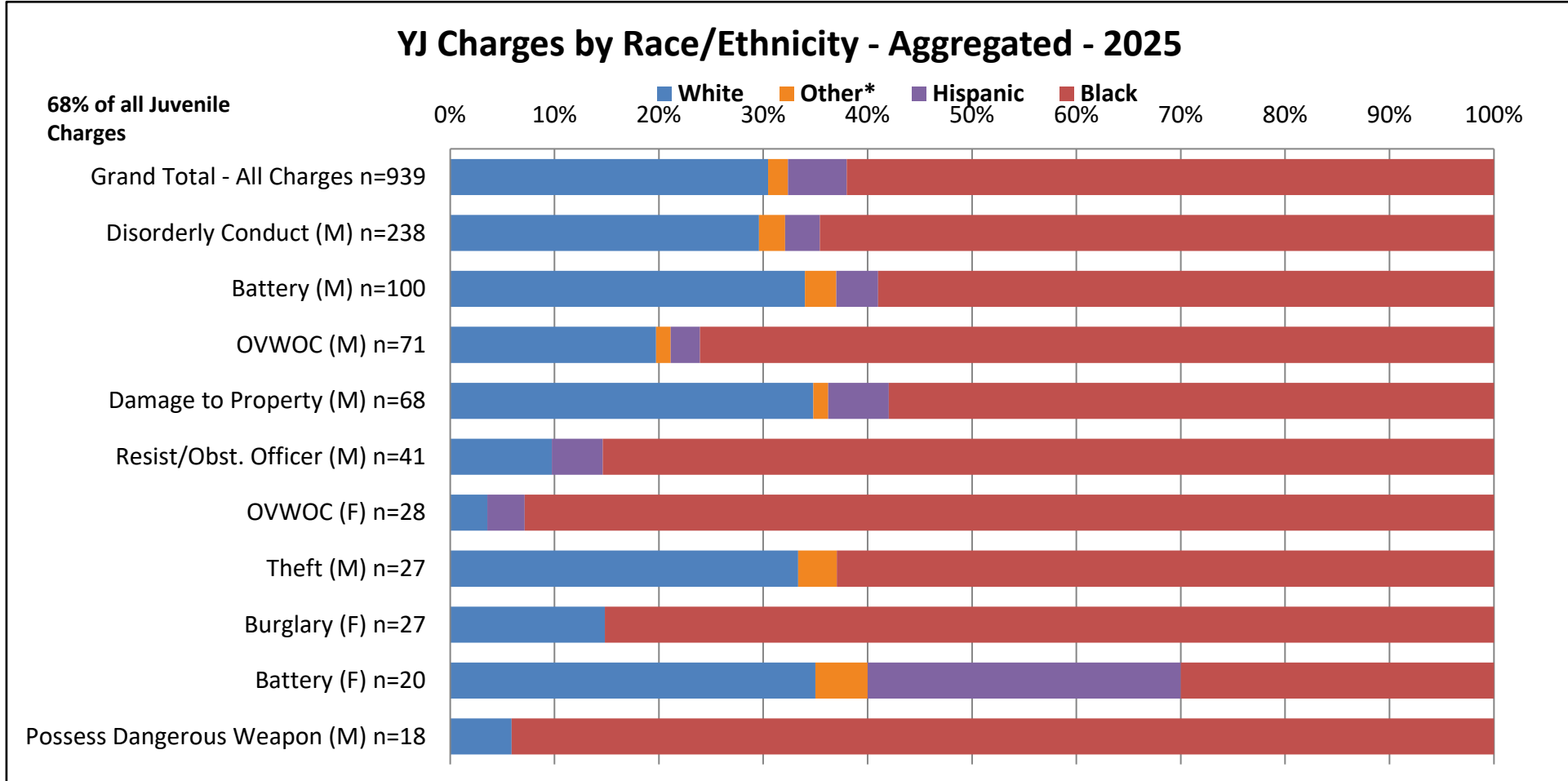
From 2012 to 2018, White youth accounted for a smaller and smaller percentage of YJ Referrals with Car Theft Charges. In 2025, Black youth accounted for 85% of the 47 YJ referrals with Car Theft charges, Hispanic youth 4%, White youth 11%

Youth Referred for Auto Theft Offenses by Race and Ethnicity



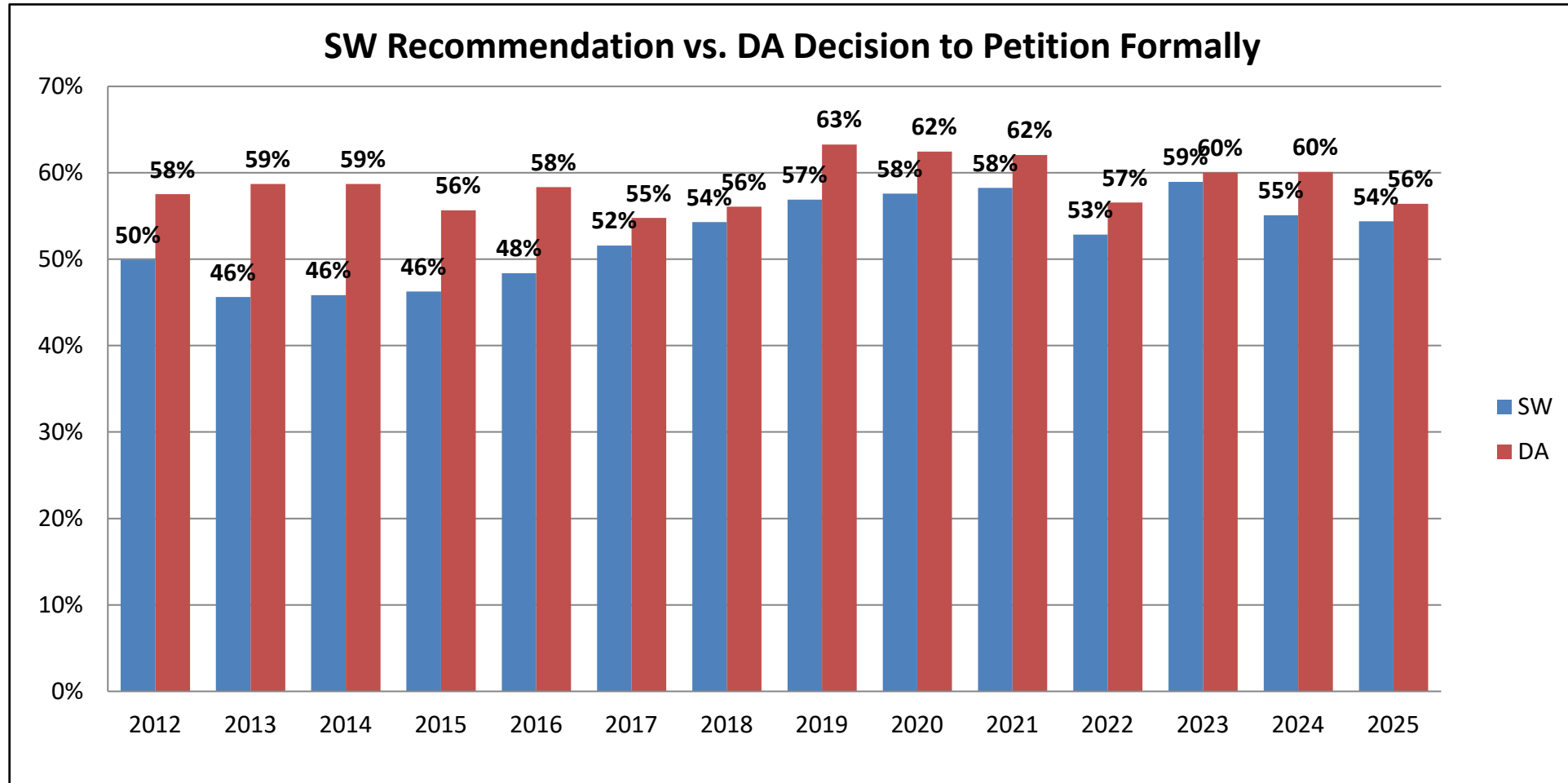
YJ Referrals - Most Common Charges

Keep in mind there can be multiple charges per YJ Referral. In 2025, there were 939 YJ Charges on 502 YJ Referrals.



Formal Recommendation – SW & DA

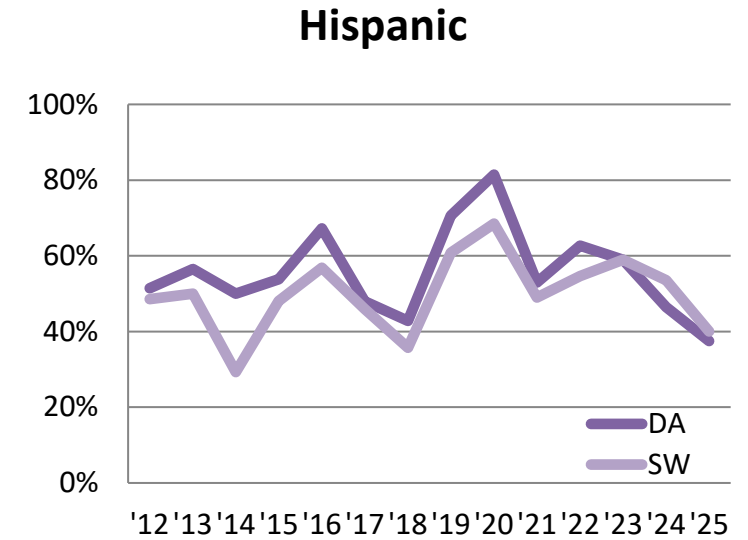
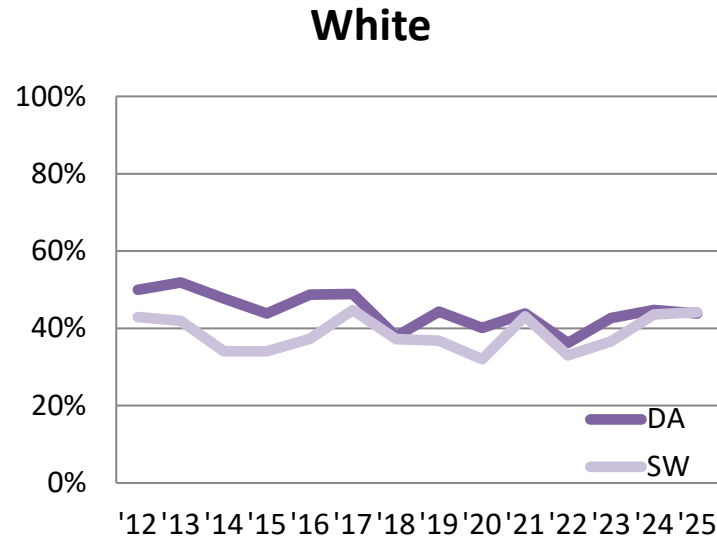
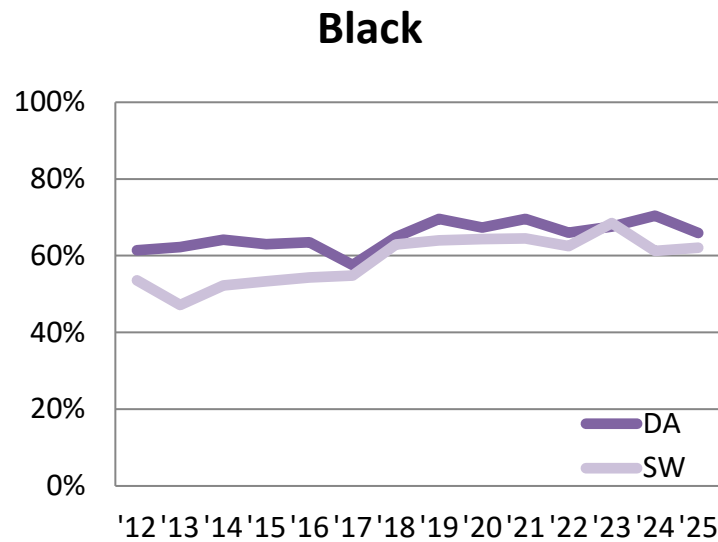
Typically, the most serious option the District Attorney's Office can choose is to Formally Petition a youth so they are Adjudicated Delinquent in court. In 2025, Dane County Social Workers recommended Formal Petitioning at a similar rate as the DA's Office (54% vs 56%).



Formal Recommendation – SW & DA

Black Youth were much more likely to have a Social Worker (SW) Recommend and DA’s Office decide to Petition Formally (above 60% from 2018-2025) compared to White Youth (30-45%).

SW Recommendation vs. DA Decision to Petition Formally by Race and Ethnicity



Methodology of YJ Referral Recidivism

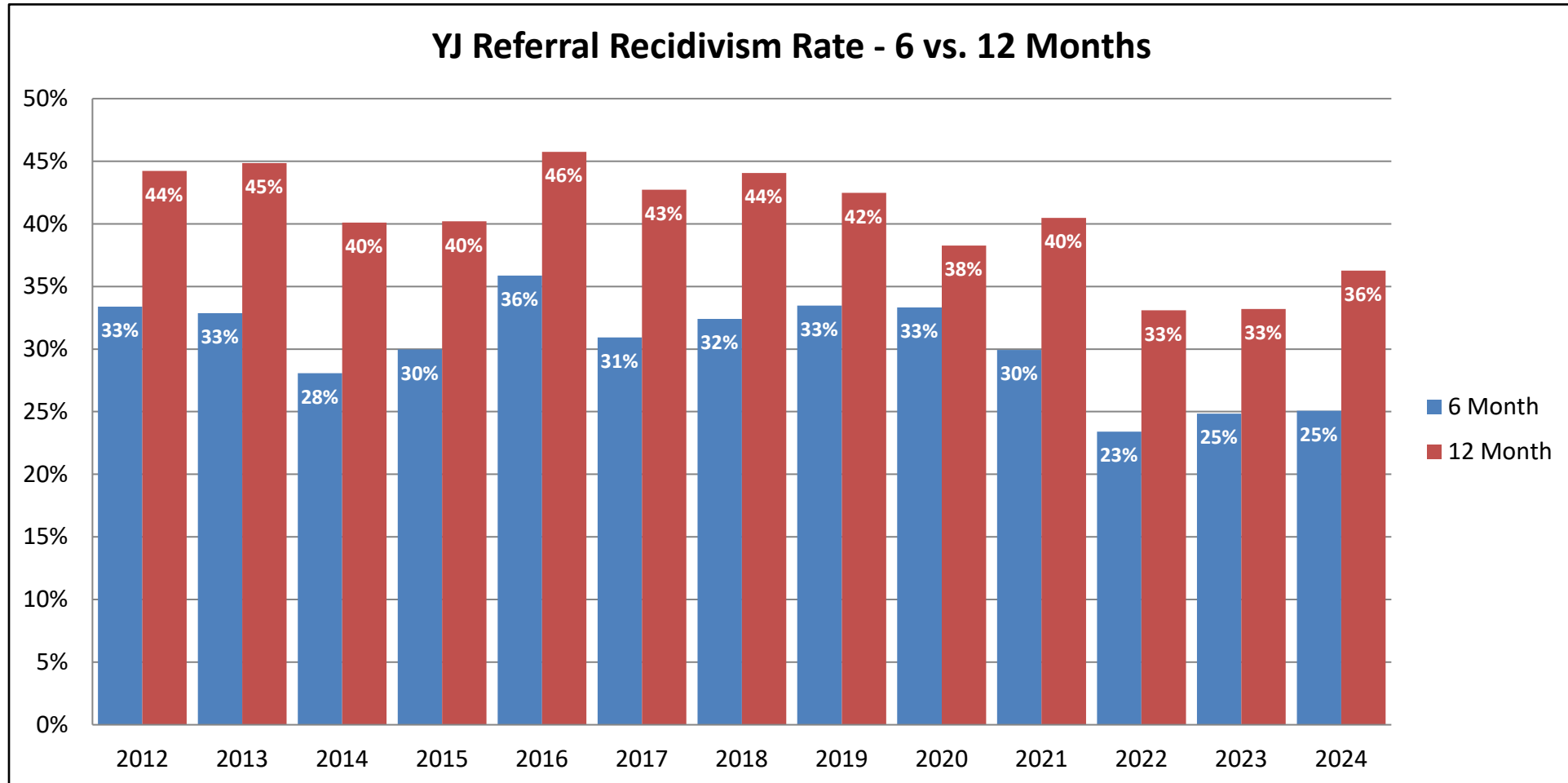
Select the first Youth Justice (YJ) Referral for a unique youth in the prior year and look 6 and 12 months out to see if the same youth had another YJ Referral. If new YJ Referrals have occurred in a given window, count as recidivism.

- Drop any instances where the youth had more than one referral from the same Law Enforcement Agency on the same day.
- Make sure the youth is still under YJ Jurisdiction (under age 17) during the given window.



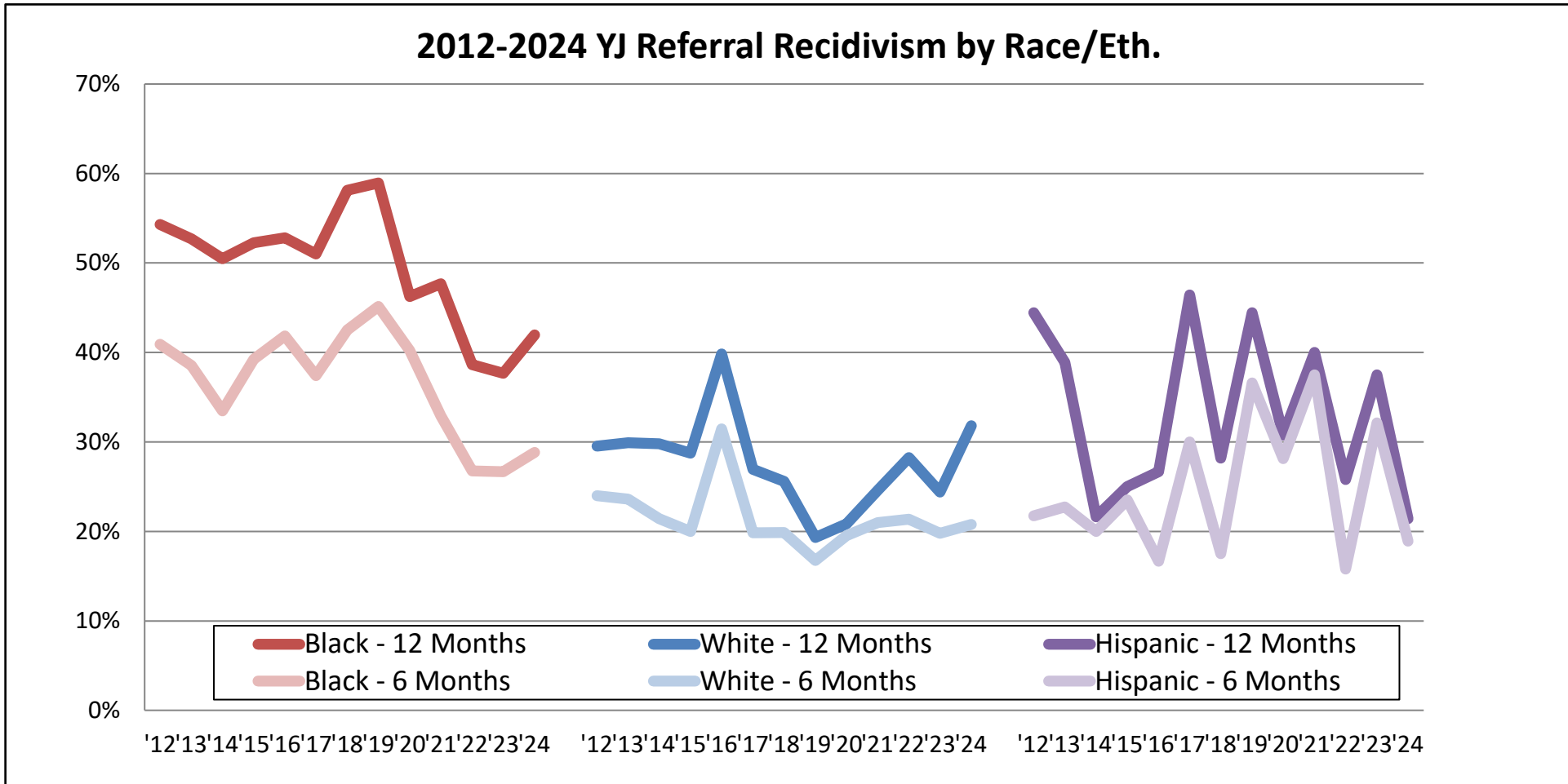
YJ Referral Recidivism

At both the 6 and 12 month periods, YJ Referral Recidivism for 2022-2025 is lower than it has been in prior years.



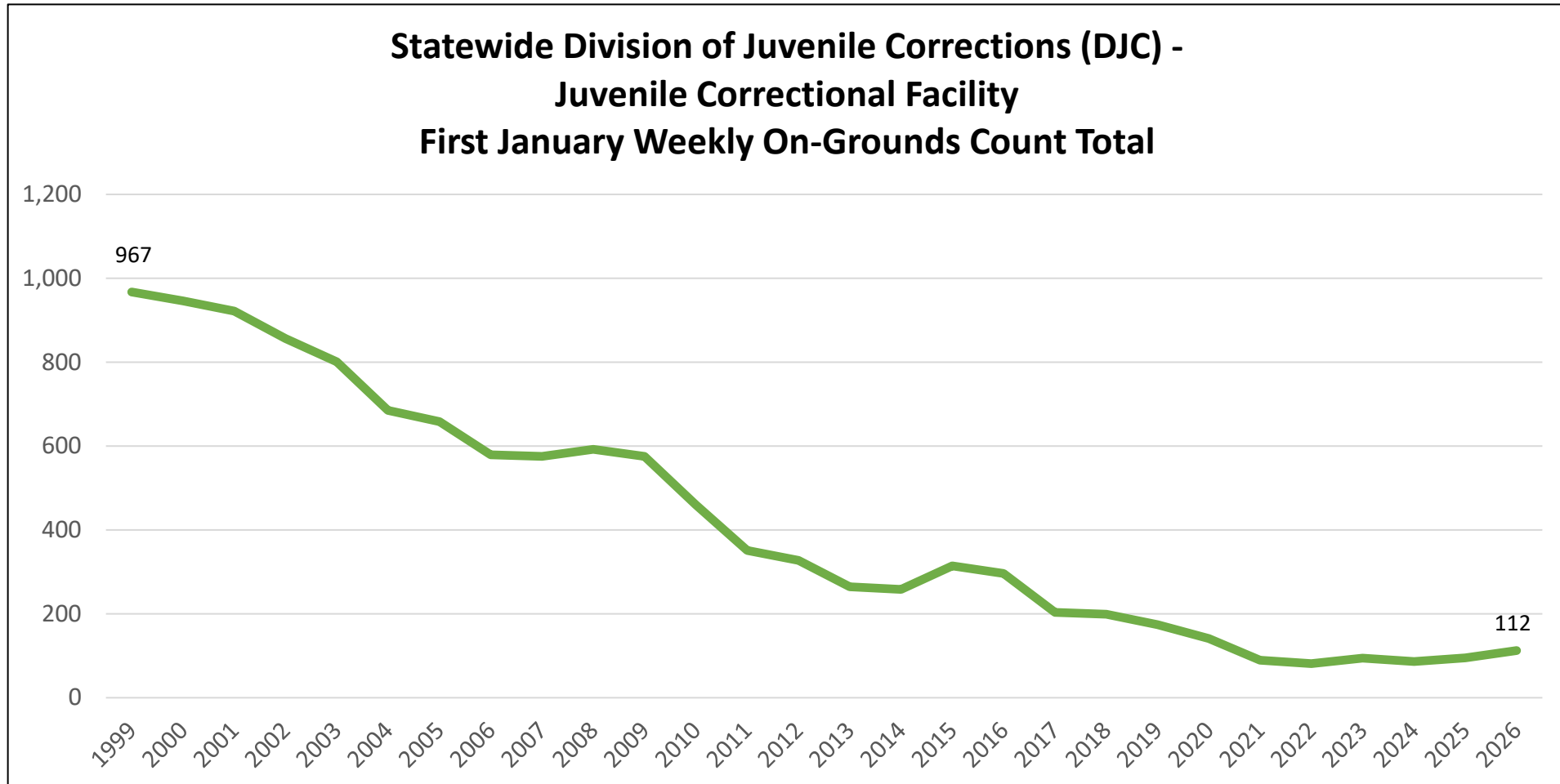
YJ Referral Recidivism

Remember the 2024 data looks through 2025 for new YJ Referrals if necessary. The YJ Referral Recidivism rate is higher for Black youth compared to their White counterparts with lots of variation for Hispanic youth.



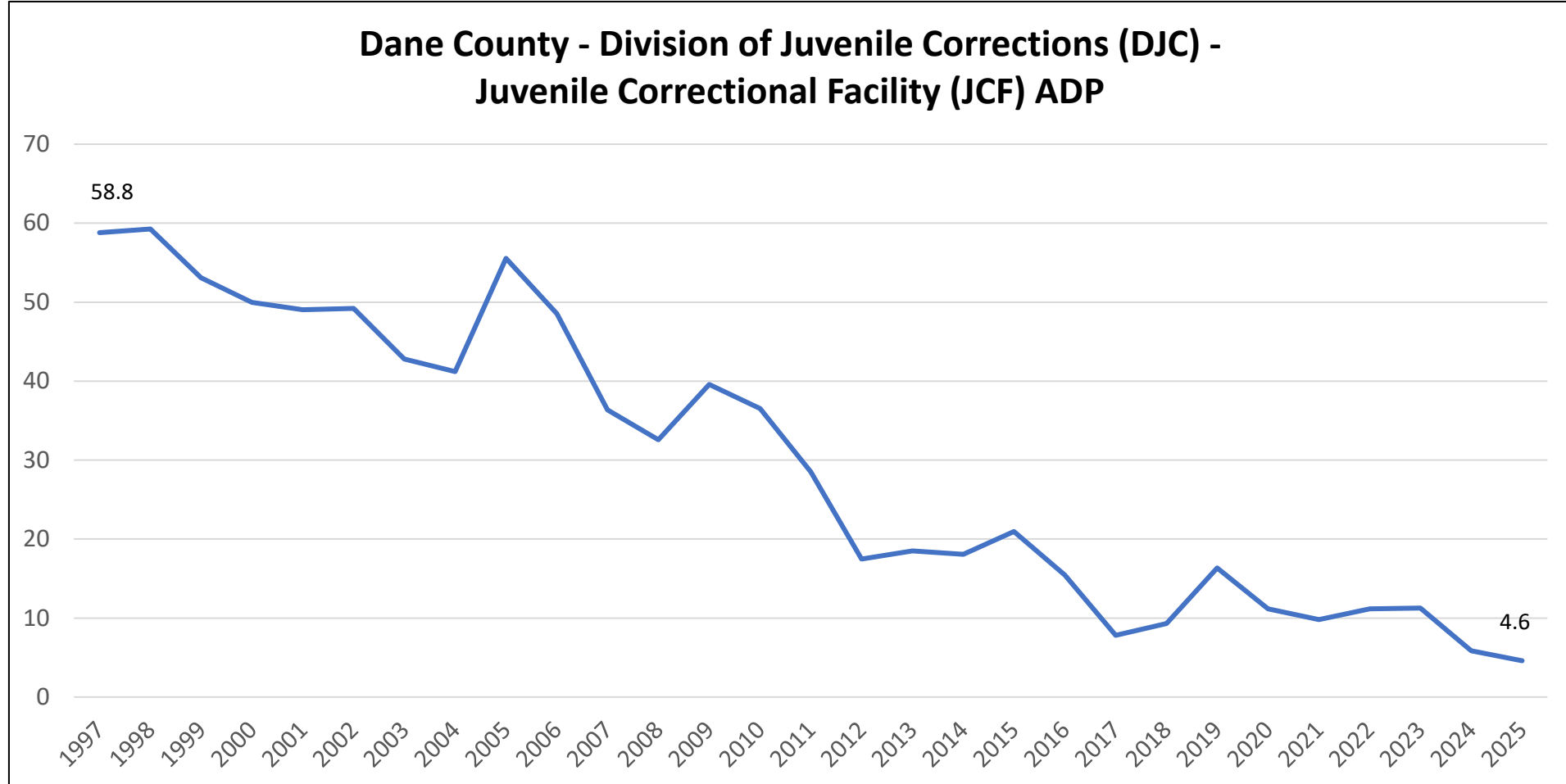
Corrections Data - Statewide

The # of youth served by the Department of Corrections Statewide has decreased dramatically forcing closures of facilities over time.



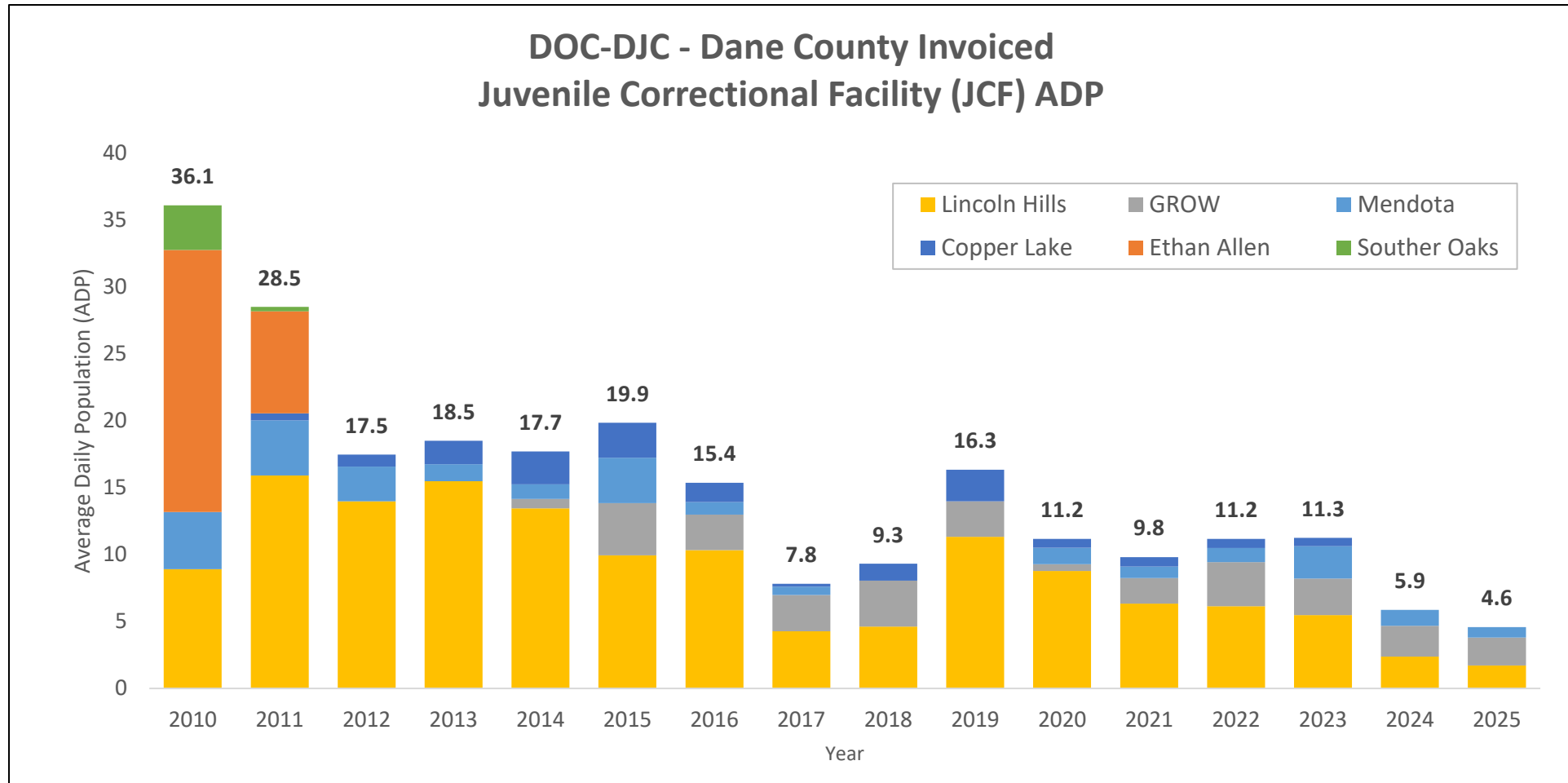
Corrections Data – Dane County

The Average Daily Population (ADP) of youth from Dane County Committed to the Department of Corrections has followed statewide trends.



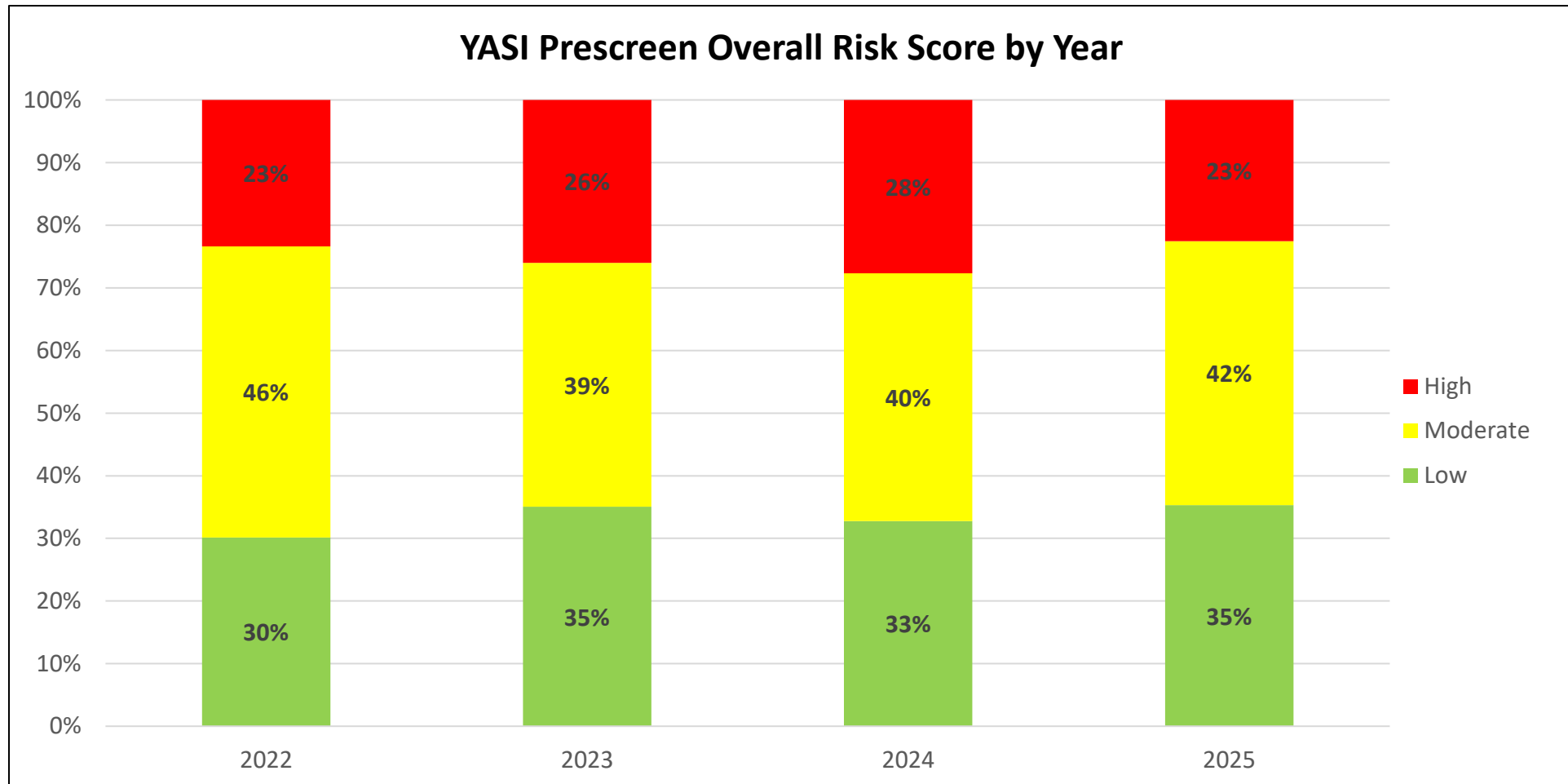
Corrections Data – Dane County

Starting in 2010, we have good data on Facility Location. We can see the ADP at Ethan Allen and Southern Oaks decrease from 2010 to 2011 before being eliminated entirely in 2012.



YASI Assessment Data

The Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) Prescreen Overall Risk has stayed relatively stable over time. New YASI's are to be completed at regular intervals or when major life events occur.



YASI Assessment Data

There are differences in Overall Risk as predicted by the YASI tool by Race/Ethnicity. From 2022-2025, 28% of Black youth assessed had Overall Risk Score of High compared to 18% of White youth and 28% of Hispanic Youth.

