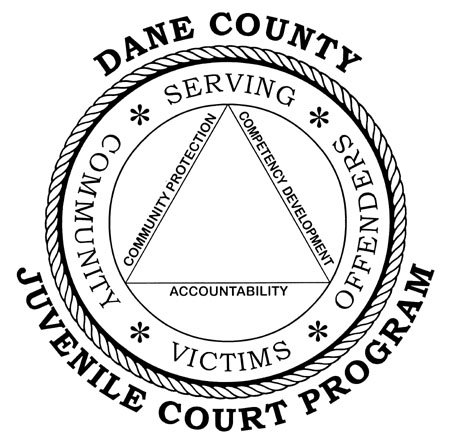
DANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

#### **DANE COUNTY**

##### **JUVENILE COURT PROGRAM**

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**JUVENILE COURT PROGRAM**

The **Juvenile Court Program** began under the Circuit Court in 1970. The Program was initially funded through the Wisconsin Council of Criminal Justice grants and matching county funds. The **Juvenile Reception Center**, **Juvenile Detention Center** and **Juvenile Shelter Home** were placed under the direction of the Juvenile Court Administrator in 1972. The **Home Detention Program** was initially funded in 1974 and the **Youth Restitution Program (YRP)** began in 1978 (The YRP contract was transferred to the Human Services budget in 2008). Many changes have occurred to each program throughout the years and each has continually re-evaluated its mode of operation in order to fit the changing needs of the community. Following is a detailed description of each program in the department.

**Administration and Reception Center:**

The Juvenile Reception Center (JRC) is the point of referral for youth alleged to have committed a law violation for which the apprehending law enforcement officer is unable to release the youth to a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult and/or believes the youth should be referred for a custody decision. JRC then conducts an intake and makes a temporary physical custody decision. JRC also provides a number of other services related to the physical custody of the youth and coordinating information with the courts, human services, and law enforcement. JRC is staffed with at least one Juvenile Court Counselor 24 hours a day.

**Juvenile Detention Center:**

The Juvenile Detention Center’s mission is to provide a safe and secure environment, both physically and emotionally, for youth placed temporarily by the court and to provide them with the opportunity to learn new skills that will enable them to contribute to the community when they leave. The Detention Center has a capacity of 30 residents and is located on the 2nd floor of the City-County Building in downtown Madison, WI. Youth are held in Detention primarily because either there is reason to believe that if released, they would cause harm to other persons or they would be unavailable for further court proceedings, and/or they have been found to be in violation of a valid court order and rules of supervision. The program operates 24 hours a day.

**The Shelter Home:**

The Shelter Home (SH) provides non-secure (unlocked) residential services for youth who need a place to stay pending further court action but for whom placement in a secure setting (Detention) is not necessary. The Shelter Home provides for placement of a total of 16 boys and girls who are involved in the delinquency or CHIPS systems and is located at 2402 Atwood Ave in Madison, WI. Youth may stay at the Shelter Home for up to 60 days. The program operates 24 hours day.

**Home Detention Program:**

The Home Detention Program (HDP) is an alternative to detention or non-secure placement of youth. There is no time limit and the length of their involvement will depend on the court status of the youth. Juvenile Court Workers assist the parent(s) in providing adequate supervision and monitoring of youth. This program:

* Reduces the need for the placement of youth in detention or non-secure placements pending court disposition.
* Assists both the parents and youth in resolving conflicts that might otherwise lead to further problem behavior.
* Provides information to the court about the ability of the youth and family to maintain a safe and supervised plan that would enable the youth to remain at home at the time of court disposition.
* Provides a “bridge” between the court disposition and the implementation of longer-term supervision through the Neighborhood Intervention Program (NIP) or Youth Services of Southern WI by providing supervision to help maintain the situation at home until one of those programs can begin intensive supervision services.

This report seeks to compile information obtained from the above-named programs and other sources into a single resource. The goal is to share what is known, statistically speaking, about those who were involved with the Juvenile Court Program last year.

The Juvenile Court Program has a proud history of providing the Dane County community with the greatest possible degree of professionalism and confidentiality. The supervisors and staff of the programs work hard to maintain a safe environment for the youth and families they serve. The Annual Report is one of the tools that the department uses to convey information to the partners involved with the Juvenile Court Program and is used to monitor their own performance.

**Juvenile Reception Center**

The Juvenile Reception Center is Dane County’s point of referral for youth alleged to have committed a delinquent act and are not released directly to a parent, guardian, relative, or other responsible adult by law enforcement. The Juvenile Reception Center also provides a number of other services pertaining to the physical custody of youth, including the coordination of information with the courts, human services, and law enforcement.

A total of 361 youths, between the ages of 10 and 17, were referred to JRC for intake in 2024. September was the busiest month for intakes in 2024. September was also the busiest month in 2023. Historically, there is a spike in referrals in the fall that coincides with the start of the school year. There is also typically a surge of intakes in the spring after a lull in the winter months.

**Time of Referral**

The Juvenile Reception Center records the time of referral for each youth referred. The time of referral provides an important look into the number of intake decisions that occur outside of “normal” business hours of other county and private agencies. That knowledge may help inform other agencies of ways they could help the Department gather information for intake. It also provides insight to the Department about the number of staff that will likely be needed each day and what resources that staff is likely to have readily available at the time of intake.

Juvenile Reception Center Counselors are involved in a variety of other court related duties that are not reflected by the number of initial intakes completed each year. Counselors are responsible for participating in court-related duties and they have frequent contact with the Dane County Department of Human Services as well as other local, county, and state service providers. This case management and interaction helps ensure the coordination of services for youth held in secure custody.

**Reasons for Referral to JRC**

In addition to the 361 youth who were referred to JRC in 2024, 62 youth under an existing custody order were re-referred (violations of a current custody order) for a total of 423 referrals. Chart three above provides a percentile breakdown of three categories by which youth were referred. Eighty-two percent of the youth were referred for an initial intake. This number includes youth referred pursuant to a Court Order, a Warrant, a Capias, and/or for a new delinquency. It also includes direct placements at Shelter Home or with the Home Detention Program. Fifteen percent of the referrals were for allegedly violating the terms of an existing Non-Secure Custody order (NSC). The remaining three percent came to JRC to be placed in the Juvenile Detention Center or Shelter Home to serve sanction days (See **Sanctions** section for more information). In 2023, 371 youth were referred to JRC and an additional 35 youth were re-referred for a total of 406 referrals. To avoid duplicate data, re-referrals are not included in the information that follows.

**JRC Referral Categories**

Youth referred to the Juvenile Reception Center are divided into three main referral categories. The categories are:

1. Juveniles alleged to have violated one or more criminal statutes.
2. Juveniles alleged to be in need of protection or services.
3. Court related referrals category (Court Order, Sanctions, Capias, etc.)

The percentage of youth listed in each category of Chart 5 reflects only that a youth referred to JRC fit into that category. Youth can potentially fall into more than one referral category and may be entered more than once in each category. For instance, a child who is referred for a capias and who has also been charged with Battery and Disorderly Conduct will be entered once in Category Three and twice in Category One.

As illustrated in Chart 4 above, the majority of JRC referrals are for violations of criminal statutes.

**Category One: Violations of Criminal Statutes**

Crimes against public health and safety were the most common criminal statute violation in 2024, accounting for 45% of violations. Weapon and drug offenses are historically the least common criminal statute violations.

**Crimes Against Public Health and Safety**

**Table 6**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crimes Against Public Health and Safety** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Bomb Scare | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Disorderly Conduct (DC) | 47 | 49 | 96 |
| Disorderly Conduct While Armed | 13 | 5 | 18 |
| Eluding a Police Officer | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Fugitive From Out of State | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Operating Under the Influence | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Reckless Driving | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Resisting/Obstructing | 36 | 13 | 49 |
| Stalking | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Swatting | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Terrorist Threats | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Unlawful Use of Computer | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Unlawful Use of Telephone | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **107** | **76** | **183** |

Disorderly conduct (96) and resisting/obstructing (49) charges account for seventy-nine percent of the referrals in this subsection.

**Crimes Against Property**

**Table 7**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crimes Against Property** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Arson | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Burglary-Attempted | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Burglary-Commercial | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Burglary-Residential | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Criminal Damage to Property (CDTP) | 29 | 12 | 41 |
| Entry Into Locked vehicle | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Identity Theft | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Operating Motor Vehicle Without Owner’s Consent (OMVWOC) | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| OMVWOC-Attempted | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| OMVWOC-Passenger | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Possession of Burglary Tools | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Receiving Stolen Property | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Theft | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Theft of Firearm | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Trespassing | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| **Total** | **81** | **26** | **107** |

Crimes against property accounted for twenty-six percent of delinquency referrals in 2024. Criminal damage to property (41) accounted for thirty-eight percent of the referrals in this subsection.

**Crimes Against Persons**

**Table 8**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crimes Against Persons** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Battery | 27 | 25 | 52 |
| Battery-Substantial | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Battery to Health Care Provider | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Battery to Police Officer | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Criminal Trespass to Dwelling | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| False Imprisonment | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Physical Abuse of a Child | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Reckless Endangering Safety | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Robbery-Armed | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Robbery-Attempted Armed | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Robbery-Attempted Strong Arm | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Robbery-Strong Arm | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Sexual Assault – 2nd Degree | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sexual Assault of a Child – 1st Degree | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Sexual Assault of a Child – 2nd Degree | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sexual Assault of a Child – Repeated Acts | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Strangulation | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Threats to Injure | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **61** | **34** | **95** |

Youth referred for allegedly committing offenses against other persons represented twenty-three percent of delinquency referrals in 2024. Battery charges (52) represented the majority of the entries in this subsection.

**Drug Offenses and Crimes Involving Weapons**

Tables 9 and 10 illustrate that referrals for weapons and drug charges are much less common than referrals for other violations of criminal statutes.

**Table 9**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crimes Involving Weapons** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Possession of a Dangerous Weapon | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Possession of Dangerous Weapon on School Grounds | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Possession of a Firearm Replica | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Possession of a Firearm on School Grounds | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Possession of OC Spray | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| **Total** | **15** | **2** | **17** |

**Table 10**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Drug Offenses** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Possession of a Controlled Substance | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Possession of Drug Paraphernalia | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Possession of THC | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Possession with Intent to Deliver Cocaine | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Possession with Intent to Deliver THC | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| **Total** | **7** | **0** | **7** |

Charges for disorderly conduct (47) and resisting/obstructing (36) were the most common violations of criminal statutes among males who were referred to JRC in 2024. Disorderly conduct (49) and battery (25) were the most common charges among females. Of note, 2024 data shows a sharp decline in referrals for charges related to operating a motor vehicle without owner’s consent (OMVWOC) compared to 2023. There were 32 referrals for OMVWOC in 2023 compared to just 13 referrals in 2024. Additionally, there were 26 referrals for OMVWOC-Passenger in 2023 compared to 10 referrals in 2024. In total, there was a fifty-two percent decrease in OMVWOC-related referrals from 2023 to 2024.

**Category Two: Children and Juveniles in Need of Protection or Services**

This referral category includes referrals to JRC for reasons not involving law violations. Youth alleged or found to be incompetent or uncontrollable are referred to as Juveniles in Need of Protection or Services (JIPS). Children suffering from illness, injury, or in immediate danger from their surroundings are referred to as Children in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS). Youth placed as an emergency change of placement and runaways are also included in this category.

In 2024, 33 youths were referred for JIPS and CHIPS reasons. Most of these youth are placed directly at the Shelter Home and never come to JRC for an intake decision. The following table describes the population referred to JRC as being JIPS or CHIPS.

**Table 11**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CHIPS and JIPS Referrals** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Emergency Change of Placement (.357) | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Illness, Injury, Immediate Danger (CHIPS) | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| Juveniles in Need of Protection or Services (JIPS) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Runaway | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| **Total** | **16** | **17** | **33** |

**Category Three: Court-Related Referrals**

Category three includes youth taken into custody for reasons related to an order of the Court. Youth in this category may be referred to JRC directly after a Court hearing or from a Juvenile Correctional facility so as to be available for Court in Dane County (Writ). Youth in this category may also be referred to JRC pursuant to a directive by the Court itself for failure to appear (Capias) or at the request of the Dane County District Attorney’s office (Warrant). This category also includes referrals for court-imposed Sanctions due to violations of court ordered conditions as well as youth referred as courtesy holds from other counties. Youth referred to detention or shelter home as a courtesy hold form other counties and youth referred for violations of Department of Corrections supervision are also included in this category.

Youth referred to JRC pursuant to Court-related activities or orders represented twenty-one percent of all referrals to JRC in 2024. The information provided in Table 12 on the following page gives a more in-depth description of this population and the various reasons for referral.

**Table 12**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Juvenile Court Related Referrals** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Capias | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| Court-Ordered Custody | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Court-Ordered Home Detention | 17 | 5 | 22 |
| Courtesy Hold (Non-Secure Custody) | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Courtesy Hold (Secure Custody) | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| DOJC Aftercare Violation | 29 | 1 | 30 |
| Sanctions | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| Warrant | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| Writ | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| **Total** | **97** | **24** | **121** |

**Alleged Ordinance Violations**

Law enforcement personnel may issue citations to youth who violate municipal ordinances, which may include citations for underage drinking, obstructing or resisting an officer, and curfew violations. If at all possible, law enforcement officers are required to release youth to their parental homes if taken into custody solely for violating a municipal ordinance. Citation-related referrals to JRC are most commonly made in cases where the parents are unavailable, related family problems exist, or the youth is also referred on other offenses. JRC typically assists law enforcement in these situations by contacting the youth’s placement so they can be released.

**Placement of Initial Referrals to JRC**

When a youth is referred to JRC for a custody decision, unless the outcome is already determined (e.g., sanctions), the on-duty counselor determines the appropriateness of placing the youth under a temporary custody order. If grounds exist, a counselor may place the youth under either Secure or Non-Secure Custody. The criteria for placing a youth under either form of custody are discussed in greater detail later in this section. If Non-Secure Custody is appropriate, the counselor may place the child at the Dane County Shelter Home, in the parental home, in a relative’s home, or in the home of another responsible adult. Should the counselor determine that a custody order is not necessary at the time of referral, the child is released. In certain cases with serious charges, counselors at the Juvenile Reception Center are given a directive from the Court and/or policy as to the most appropriate placement for a referred youth.

Table 4 illustrates a percentile breakdown of the determination of the need for custody and placement for youth referred for intake in 2024. Forty-one percent were placed in Secure Custody. A portion of those placed in Secure Custody were placed under court order, as a DOJC hold, or as an out-of-county courtesy hold. Placing a youth in Secure Custody requires that a Counselor will have found that at least one of the following applies:

1. Probable cause exists to believe that the juvenile has committed a delinquent act and either presents a substantial risk of physical harm to another person or a substantial risk of running away so as to be unavailable for future court.
2. Probable cause exists to believe that the juvenile is a fugitive from another state or has run away from another secured facility and there has been no reasonable opportunity to return the juvenile.
3. Probable cause exists to believe that the juvenile, having been placed in Non-Secure Custody by an intake worker, judge, or court commissioner, has runaway or committed a delinquent act and no other suitable alternative exists.
4. Probable cause exists to believe that the juvenile has been adjudged or alleged to be delinquent and has run away from another county and would run away from Non-Secure Custody pending his or her return.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The percentage of youth held in Secure Custody at the time of intake reflects the severity of the alleged delinquencies for which youth were referred.

According to year 2024 statistics, forty-seven percent of referrals for a custody decision resulted in a determination of the need for Non-Secure Custody. Of that forty-seven percent, twenty-four percent were placed under Non-Secure Custody at the Dane County Shelter Home (See **Juvenile Shelter Home** section for greater detail). The other twenty-three percent of youth placed under Non-Secure Custody in 2024 were placed in one of the following placements: parental home, foster home, group home, with a relative, with a responsible adult, or at a hospital. Youth age twelve and older placed under Non-Secure Custody for Emergency Custody reasons by the Dane County Department of Human Services are included in this category. A counselor’s determination that there is a need for Nonsecure Custody is based upon the belief that probable cause exists to believe the youth is within the jurisdiction of the court and there is probable cause:

1. That if the juvenile is not held he or she will commit injury to the person or property of others;
2. That the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the juvenile or other responsible adult is neglecting, refusing, unable, or unavailable to provide adequate supervision and care and that services to ensure the juvenile’s safety and well-being are not available or would be inadequate; and/or
3. That the juvenile will run away or be taken away so as to be unavailable for proceedings of the court or its officers.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Youth placed under Non-Secure Custody for a delinquency are subject to the same custody hearing guidelines as those placed under Secure Custody. A custody hearing must be held within 24 hours (excluding weekends and legal holidays) and the person/agency with whom the child has been placed is expected to ensure that the youth will be available for court.

All youth who are referred to the Juvenile Reception Center for a custody decision, and for whom a temporary custody status is not necessary, are released either to their parental home or to another responsible adult as soon as possible. twelve percent of all youth referred for a custody decision in 2024 were released outright. Youth in this category were either not found to meet the requirements for Non-Secure or Secure Custody or it was determined that adequate supervision and services were already in place for the youth and their family.

**History of Custody Decisions made by JRC\***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Placement of Initial Referrals:** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Secure Custody | 144 (51%) | 163 (57%) | 188 (52%) | 159 (49%) | 138 (44%) |
| Nonsecure Shelter | 33 (12%) | 44 (15%) | 64 (18%) | 66 (20%) | 73 (23%) |
| Nonsecure Other | 53 (18%) | 41 (14%) | 59 (16%) | 54 (17%) | 59 (19%) |
| Outright Released | 55 (19%) | 41 (14%) | 51 (14%) | 47 (14%) | 42 (14%) |
| **Total** | **285** | **289** | **362** | **326** | **312** |

**Table 14**

\*Excludes Sanctions, Change of Placement, Court-Ordered HDP, Emergency Custody, and Out-Of-County Holds

In prior years, only sanctions, change of placements, and court-ordered custody placements were excluded from this data. In 2024, it was decided to also exclude emergency custody and out-of-county courtesy holds to more accurately reflect the decisions made by JRC counselors upon intake.

**Places of Release**

The Juvenile Reception Center documents the places to which youth are released for all programs in the department (JRC, Detention, Shelter Home, or Home Detention Program). These places are where a child is released when their referral and file is closed, which is due to their custody status or placement being terminated. In certain circumstances, the youth may remain at Shelter Home or in Detention due to a new referral or based on a court order (e.g., the imposition of sanctions). Table 17 illustrates the various placements to which youth were released in 2024. Fifty-six percent of youth were released back to their parental home.

**Table 15**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Place of Release** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| AWOL | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Briarpatch | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Dane County Jail | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Detention | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Division of Juvenile Corrections | 24 | 0 | 24 |
| Foster Home | 18 | 14 | 32 |
| Group Home | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Hospital | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other County | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| Other State | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Parental Home | 137 | 64 | 201 |
| Relative Home | 23 | 8 | 31 |
| Residential Treatment | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| Responsible Adult | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Shelter Home | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Total** | **247** | **114** | **361** |

**Demographic Information**

Youth referred to the department in 2024 can be described by a variety of characteristics. Sixty-eight percent of the referrals were male. White youths constituted twenty-two percent of all referrals whereas minorities constituted seventy-eight percent. In 2023, minorities made up eighty-two percent of all referrals while eighteen percent of all referrals were white. Black males were the largest group of referrals, accounting for forty percent of all referrals in 2024.

The average age of all referrals in 2024 was 14.9 years, slightly older than the average of 14.7 years in 2023. The average age of girls was 14.8 years while the average age of boys was 14.9 years. The largest age group of all referrals was 16 years old (119), accounting for thirty-three percent of referrals. The following charts provide a detailed illustration of the population referred to JRC for intake in 2024.

**Age of Children Referred to JRC**

**Table 16**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 12 | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| 13 | 28 | 12 | 40 |
| 14 | 49 | 19 | 68 |
| 15 | 56 | 31 | 87 |
| 16 | 86 | 33 | 119 |
| 17 | 16 | 9 | 25 |
| **Total** | **247** | **114** | **361** |

**Race of Referrals**

**Table 17**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Race** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Asian | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Black | 143 | 59 | 202 |
| Hispanic | 25 | 5 | 30 |
| Multi-Racial | 23 | 21 | 44 |
| Native American | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| White | 55 | 26 | 81 |
| **Total** | **247** | **114** | **361** |

**Number of Referrals Prior to a 2024 Referral**

**Table 18**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Prior Referrals** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Zero | 191 | 92 | 283 |
| One | 33 | 16 | 49 |
| Two | 16 | 6 | 22 |
| Three | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Four | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Five | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **247** | **114** | **361** |

Seventy-eight percent of all referrals to JRC did not have any referrals prior to 2024.

**Residence of Youth Referred to the Juvenile Court Program**

Chart 19 through Table 22 illustrate the residence of youth referred. The residence of the youth is recorded as the last residence prior to referral. Residence of the youth is obtained from law enforcement or other sources. All referrals that include an address and address changes are counted for youth if a youth is re-referred.

**Table 20**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Residence: Dane County** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Belleville | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Brooklyn | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cottage Grove | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Cross Plains | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Deerfield | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| DeForest | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Edgerton | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Fitchburg | 11 | 4 | 15 |
| Madison | 143 | 64 | 207 |
| Marshall | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Mazomanie | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| McFarland | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Middleton | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Monona | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Morrisonville | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Oregon | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Stoughton | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Sun Prairie | 12 | 8 | 20 |
| Verona | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Windsor | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| York | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| **Total** | **221** | **99** | **320** |

**Table 21**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Residence: Other Wisconsin Counties** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Ashland | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Clark | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Columbia | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Crawford | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Green | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Langlade | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Lincoln | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Milwaukee | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Monroe | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Richland | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sauk | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Waukesha | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Waupaca | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Wood | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| **Total** | **18** | **14** | **32** |

**Table 22**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Residence: Other States** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Iowa | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Illinois | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| New York | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Texas | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Wyoming | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **8** | **1** | **9** |

**School Enrollment Status**

Information regarding school enrollment is obtained at the time of the referral. This information, when available, reveals only where a referred youth self-reports to be enrolled and/or attending school and does not necessarily reflect school attendance, status, or other school-related issues.

**Table 23**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **High Schools: MMSD** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Alternative School Programs | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Capital High | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| East | 22 | 16 | 38 |
| LaFollette | 30 | 6 | 36 |
| Memorial | 18 | 6 | 24 |
| Shabazz | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| West | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| **Total** | **95** | **46** | **141** |

**Table 24**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Middle and Elementary Schools: MMSD** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Black Hawk | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Cherokee | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Jefferson | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| O’Keeffe | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Sennett | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Sherman | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Spring Harbor | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Toki | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Whitehorse | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Wright | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| **Total** | **26** | **18** | **44** |

**Table 25**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Enrolled: Outside MMSD** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Belleville | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Deerfield | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| DeForest | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Marshall | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| McFarland | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Middleton | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Monona Grove | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Oregon | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Out of County | 18 | 14 | 32 |
| Out of State | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Stoughton | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Sun Prairie | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| Verona | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Wisconsin Heights | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| **Total** | **79** | **35** | **114** |

**Table 26**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| **Not Enrolled** | **2** | **0** | **2** |
| **Information Unavailable** | **45** | **15** | **60** |

**Referring And/Or Apprehending Agency**

Youth were referred to the Juvenile Court Program via 21 referral sources in 2024. The Madison Police Department is the leading source of referrals to JRC, accounting for forty-three percent of all referrals in 2024. Court referrals include sanctions and writs in addition to youth who are taken into nonsecure custody by the Court.

**Table 27**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Referring Agencies** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Cottage Grove PD | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Court | 35 | 12 | 47 |
| Cross Plains PD | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Department of Human Services | 13 | 12 | 25 |
| Dane County Sheriff's Office | 15 | 5 | 20 |
| Deforest PD | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Division of Juvenile Corrections | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Fitchburg PD | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| Madison PD | 107 | 48 | 155 |
| Marshall PD | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| McFarland PD | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Middleton PD | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Monona PD | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Oregon PD | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Other County | 17 | 10 | 27 |
| Shorewood Hills PD | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Stoughton PD | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Sun Prairie PD | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| University of Wisconsin PD | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Verona PD | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Voluntary Referral | 14 | 2 | 16 |
| **Total** | **247** | **114** | **361** |

Juvenile Detention

The Dane County Juvenile Detention Center primarily provides secure placement for youth in need of temporary secure placement during all or a part of their court case. Some youths are placed in Detention on the basis of a sanction for violating their previous court-ordered rules of supervision. Youth from other area counties are also accepted for placement, which is a revenue source for the department. “OOC” denotes out-of-county placement in the Dane County Juvenile Detention in the tables below.

**Detention Average Daily Population (ADP)**

**Table 29**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** | **OOC (included in total)** |
| January | 3.9 | 2.0 | 5.9 | 2.2 |
| February | 5.1 | 1.8 | 6.9 | 2.4 |
| March | 3.5 | 0.3 | 3.8 | 1.4 |
| April | 4.0 | 0.6 | 4.6 | 0.1 |
| May | 3.4 | 1.1 | 4.5 | 0.0 |
| June | 2.7 | 2.4 | 5.1 | 0.2 |
| July | 2.8 | 2.8 | 5.6 | 0.8 |
| August | 3.4 | 1.4 | 4.8 | 0.3 |
| September | 4.8 | 2.8 | 7.6 | 1.0 |
| October | 6.0 | 1.1 | 7.1 | 0.0 |
| November | 7.9 | 1.7 | 9.6 | 0.3 |
| December | 5.0 | 2.1 | 7.1 | 0.0 |
| **Average** | **4.3** | **1.7** | **6.0** | **0.7** |

In 2024, 205 youths were admitted into detention, down twelve percent from 2023 when 233 youths were admitted. The number of females admitted (50) was the same as in 2023 while the number of males (155) decreased from 183 admissions in 2023. The average daily population in detention fell to 6.0 residents per day from 8.1 in 2023. The ten-year ADP history is noted in the following chart.

**Reasons for Admission**

**Table 31**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reason** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** | **Percent** |
| New Charge | 55 | 19 | 74 | 36.1% |
| Violation of NSC | 28 | 21 | 49 | 23.9% |
| DOJC Hold | 28 | 1 | 29 | 14.1% |
| Sanctions | 16 | 1 | 17 | 8.3% |
| Courtesy Hold | 9 | 4 | 13 | 6.3% |
| Capias | 9 | 2 | 11 | 5.4% |
| Hold for Court | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2.4% |
| Fugitive | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1.5% |
| Hold for Jail | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0.9% |
| Return from TR | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.5% |
| OOC Runaway | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0.5% |
| **Total** | **155** | **50** | **205** | **100%** |

Violation of NSC = Youth violated a nonsecure custody order

DOJC = Violation of Department of Corrections aftercare supervision

Courtesy Hold = Youths from other counties placed in Dane County Detention

Hold for Court = Writ from LHS/CLS to Dane County for Court

Fugitive = Runaway from another state

Hold for Jail = Youth held in Detention for Adult Court charges

Return from TR = Return from temporary release to hospital or treatment

**Number of Admissions**

**Table 32**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Admissions** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** | **Total Admissions** |
| One | 62 | 19 | 81 | 81 |
| Two | 19 | 6 | 25 | 50 |
| Three | 8 | 5 | 13 | 39 |
| Four | 5 | 1 | 6 | 24 |
| Five | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Six | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| **Total** | **96** | **31** | **127** | **205** |

A total of 127 individuals accounted for the 205 admissions into detention in 2024. Ninety-six males accounted for 155 admissions while 31 females accounted for 50 admissions.

**Age of Youth Admitted into Detention**

**Table 33**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 12 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 13 | 19 | 11 | 30 |
| 14 | 37 | 7 | 44 |
| 15 | 36 | 9 | 45 |
| 16 | 48 | 20 | 68 |
| 17 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| **Total** | **155** | **50** | **205** |

The average age of youth admitted into detention was 14.8 years. The average age for males was 14.8 years while the average age for females was 14.7 years.

**Race of Youth Admitted into Detention**

**Table 34**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Race** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Black | 96 | 25 | 121 |
| Hispanic | 13 | 1 | 14 |
| Multi-Racial | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| Native American | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| White | 31 | 13 | 44 |
| **Total** | **155** | **50** | **205** |

Seventy-nine percent of youth admitted into detention were a racial minority in 2024, down from ninety percent in 2023.

Sixty-eight percent of youth in detention stayed for less than 10 days, similar to 67% in 2023. The average length of stay for youth in detention was 9.2 days in 2024, down from 11.6 in 2023. Males admitted into detention stayed for an average of 9.2 days (11.5 in 2023) while females stayed for an average of 9.3 days (12.3). The average length of stay is broken down by race in the following table.

**Length of Stay by Race**

**Table 36**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Race** | **Males** | **Days of Care** | **Females** | **Days of Care** | **Total** | **Days of Care** | **Ave LOS** |
| Black | 96 | 846 | 25 | 172 | 121 | 1018 | 8.4 |
| Hispanic | 13 | 171 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 180 | 12.9 |
| Multi-Racial | 15 | 161 | 10 | 95 | 25 | 256 | 10.2 |
| Native American | 0 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 1 | 35 | 35 |
| White | 31 | 249 | 13 | 154 | 44 | 403 | 9.2 |
| **Total** | **155** | **1427** | **50** | **465** | **205** | **1892** | **9.2** |

The data in this report is based on JRC records maintained in the Managed Access to Juvenile Records database. Data in this section may vary slightly from other data sources resulting in minor record duplications or discrepancies. LOS data includes and end date of 12/31/24 regardless of a youth continuing in placement into 2025. Programming provided by the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center is detailed in the following pages.

**DANE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION PROGRAMMING**

Each year, youth in Detention benefit from diverse programming facilitated by some local organizations and department staff. In addition to a full school day provided by the Madison Metropolitan School District, youth have participated in programs that teach life skills, coping mechanisms, job skills, physical health improvement and technical skills. The following are the programs that the youth have participated in last year:

**Staff Facilitated Psycho-Educational Groups**

Staff facilitate groups that allow youth to work on decision-making skills, healthy relationships, anger management, honesty, integrity and other character-building activities. Youth participate in these groups on a daily basis.

**Yoga**

Volunteers lead this activity once per week.

**Madison Public Library**

Staff and volunteers from the Madison Public Library Bubbler program teach youth the art of personal branding and messaging by the use of technology including computers, iPads, etc. once per week. Youth have made podcasts, animated videos, created music and videos, created art, learned horticulture, painted murals in the facility, learned culinary skills and participated in numerous other creative activities.

**Lyrics and Leaders**

Youth study music lyrics to discover the art of storytelling and poetry.

**Dogs on Call**

Dogs on Call, through their membership in Pet Partners, are a community organization that provide health and therapy through interaction with dogs and occasionally cats. They provide services for residents in assisted living, UW students, hospitals and the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center four times per month. During each visit, youth and staff pet dogs and talk with their owners, which serves as a therapeutic tool for youth. Some youths have never been in contact with animals and therefore this serves as their first experience being around a pet of any kind.

**Community Connections and Church Services**

Every Tuesday evening, an ecumenical group of pastors facilitates a voluntary group session as well as individual meetings with youth. Each Sunday a pastor leads a church service for any youth who would like to attend.

**UW School of Psychology**

Psychology students provide weekly discussions with youth on a variety of topics including decision-making, conflict resolution, problem solving, and relationships.

**Cooking Class**

Every Thursday morning, a Detention staff member leads a cooking class in the Detention kitchen. Youth learn to prepare meals that they would be able to make on their own and all staff and youth are also able to eat what they prepare.

**UW Science Group**

One to two times per month, youth participate in a Science Group in which they learn about gravity, weight, volume, etc. through safe experiments facilitated by Master’s level science students.

**Juvenile Court Sanctions**

One of the sanctions the Court may impose when a youth fails to comply with conditions of a court order is to place the youth in the secure detention facility or non-secure shelter home for a period of up to ten days per violation. In some cases, multiple violations result in consecutive sanctions being imposed (e.g., three violations could result in a sanction of thirty days).

In 2000, the District Attorney’s Office, the Juvenile Court Program, and other county service providers collectively united to initiate the Weekend Report Center as an alternative to sanctions in detention. In addition to the creation of the Weekend Report Center, the Courts also began ordering sanctions to places other than detention. Such orders placed some youth at the Dane County Shelter Home or at home with electronic monitoring.

Sanction days are either served all at once or include stayed days that can be imposed before the expiration of the sanction order. Imposed sanction days are a part of the original sanction order, but the imposition of the days only occurs when youths further violate the dispositional court order and a social worker imposes days. Sanction orders that were stayed without any days physically served are excluded from the data. In 2024, there were 13 sanction orders served that resulted in a total of 19 sanction placements that totaled 112 days of sanctions served. Ninety-six of those days were served in detention while one day was served at the Dane County Shelter Home. In addition, 15 days at home with GPS monitoring were ordered. The 13 sanction orders in 2024 where at least one day was served resulted in an average of 8.6 imposed days per order. In 2023, there were also 13 sanction orders that led to 121 sanction days served. Generally, sanction orders have been on the decline since 2016 when there were 76 orders for a total of 1020 days served. Starting in 2020, sanctions declined even more due to the COVID pandemic.

**Shelter Home**

Located at 2402 Atwood Avenue in Madison since 1975, the Shelter Home is Dane County's non-secure, short-term residential facility for youth who have been removed from their home or other placement and are awaiting court action or another placement. Shelter Home serves up to a total of 16 boys and girls ranging in age from 10 through 17.

Residents are placed at Shelter Home by the Juvenile Reception Center and/or by a court order entered by a Juvenile Court Commissioner or Dane County Juvenile Court Judge. Residents are placed for CHIPS or Delinquency reasons and are under a temporary physical custody order. Residents may remain at Shelter Home for up to 60 days following each admission. Shelter Home can also accept residents placed on the basis of an "Emergency Change of Placement" (Emergency-COP), pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 48.357 and 938.357. Residents placed under this status are admitted on the basis of Shelter Home staff approval, require no physical custody order, and are limited by statute to 20 days. Residents can also be placed by Juvenile Court Judges to serve sanctions days. These placements represent days spent at Shelter Home as a consequence for violation of a previous court order. Shelter Home also accepts youth from other counties.

The following tables and charts describe youth referred to the Shelter Home in a variety of ways. Note that admissions to Shelter Home are new admissions that may be of the same individual.

A total of 147 youths (86 males and 61 females) were admitted to Shelter Home in 2024, up from 131 in 2023.

**Shelter Home Average Daily Population (ADP)**

**Table 39**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| January | 2.7 | 0.9 | 3.6 |
| February | 2.4 | 1.6 | 4.0 |
| March | 2.5 | 2.2 | 4.7 |
| April | 1.9 | 2.6 | 4.5 |
| May | 1.5 | 2.1 | 3.6 |
| June | 2.3 | 0.9 | 3.2 |
| July | 3.2 | 0.7 | 3.9 |
| August | 3.0 | 0.1 | 3.1 |
| September | 3.2 | 0.9 | 4.1 |
| October | 3.1 | 2.0 | 5.1 |
| November | 1.4 | 4.2 | 5.6 |
| December | 2.3 | 3.5 | 5.8 |
| **Average** | **2.5** | **1.8** | **4.3** |

The average daily population for 2024 was 4.3, a decrease from 4.9 in 2023. As illustrated in the following table, the average population has generally been on the decline since the COVID pandemic in 2020.

**Basis for Referral to Shelter Home**

**Table 41**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Referral Basis** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| CHIPS | 17 | 10 | 27 |
| COP (.357) | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Delinquent | 61 | 42 | 103 |
| Runaway | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| **Total** | **86** | **61** | **147** |

Delinquency count includes sanctions and other court referrals

**CHIPS** = Children in need of protection and services. **COP (.357)** = Emergency change of placement.

In 1982, delinquency admissions represented 18.3% of all admissions. In 1992, delinquency admissions surpassed CHIPS for the first time (54.7%). In 2002, delinquency admissions represented 76.3% and in 2012, they totaled 82%. Delinquency admissions represented 70% of all admissions in 2024 and nondelinquent admissions, including CHIPS, change of placements, and runaways, accounted for 30% of all admissions. The level of need of the youth placed at Shelter has also increased over the past years as fewer placement options for youth with significant needs are available.

**Physical Custody Status at Time of Referral to Shelter Home**

**Table 42**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Custody Status** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Nonsecure Custody | 78 | 52 | 130 |
| Emergency Change of Placement (.357) | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Sanctions | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| **Total** | **86** | **61** | **147** |

Emergency Change of Placements under Ch. 48.357 or Ch. 938.357

Most youth who are placed at Shelter Home are under an order of nonsecure custody which includes youth who are placed for delinquency (NSC) and CHIPS (EC/NSC) reasons. In 2024, 88% percent of youth at Shelter Home were under a nonsecure custody order. In 2023, 94% of youth were under a nonsecure custody order.

**Offense or Basis for Shelter Home Admission\***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reason for Referral** | **Number** |
| Battery | 31 |
| Capias | 1 |
| CHIPS | 25 |
| Court Ordered Nonsecure Custody | 6 |
| Courtesy Hold | 7 |
| Criminal Damage to Property | 20 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 71 |
| Disorderly Conduct While Armed | 9 |
| False Imprisonment | 2 |
| Emergency Change of Placement | 12 |
| OMVWOC | 4 |
| OMVWOC-Passenger | 3 |
| Possession of Firearm Replica | 1 |
| Possession of OC Spray | 1 |
| Possession of THC | 2 |
| Robbery-Armed | 1 |
| Resisting/Obstructing | 15 |
| Runaway | 2 |
| Sanctions | 1 |
| Sexual Assault of a Child-2nd Degree | 1 |
| Strangulation | 1 |
| Theft | 3 |
| Trespassing | 3 |
| Unlawful Use of a Telephone | 1 |

**Table 43**

\*Multiple reasons for referral can occur.

Disorderly Conduct (71) and Battery (31) were the most frequent reasons for Shelter Home placements in 2024.

**Age of Youth Admitted to Shelter Home**

**Table 44**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Male** | **Female** | **Totals** |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 12 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 13 | 15 | 8 | 23 |
| 14 | 15 | 7 | 22 |
| 15 | 12 | 19 | 31 |
| 16 | 29 | 14 | 43 |
| 17 | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| **Total** | **86** | **61** | **147** |

The average age of Shelter Home residents in 2024 was 14.7 years. The average age for females was 14.8 and the average age for males was 14.6.

**Race of Admissions to Shelter Home**

**Table 45**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Race** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Asian | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Black | 37 | 25 | 62 |
| Hispanic | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| Multi-Racial | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| White | 27 | 23 | 50 |
| **Total** | **86** | **61** | **147** |

Minority members represented 66% of the Shelter Home population in 2024, a decrease from 79% in 2023. White youth represented 34% of admissions in 2024.

The average length of stay in 2024 was 10.4 days, down from 13.4 days in 2023. The average length of stay in 1990 was 24.3 days, in 2000 it was 13.8 days and in 2010 it was 10.1 days. Of those admitted in 2023, 63% stayed less than 10 days.

**Home Detention Program**

The Home Detention Program (HDP) is designed to work with youth and their families on a short-term basis to enable the youth to continue living at home and avoid the need for Secure Custody (detention) or an alternative placement. HDP may also be assigned by the court to help monitor compliance with rules of supervision for a brief period subsequent to a court disposition. The goal is to help the youth remain at home, in school, and in the community.

A total of 124 cases were assigned to HDP in 2024, a decrease from 140 cases in 2023. The length of time for which youth were under HDP supervision, starting in 2024 and in some cases extending into 2025, ranged from 1 to 103 days. Youth are assigned to HDP supervision through a court disposition or under temporary physical custody orders. Eighty-two percent of assigned youth in 2024 were under an order of nonsecure custody. Youth who were court ordered to HDP as a bridge to the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) or Briarpatch Youth Services (BYS) comprised 18% of HDP referrals. All of the assigned youth were alleged or adjudicated delinquent.

**Custody Status of Youth Assigned to HDP**

**Table 48**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Custody Status** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Nonsecure | 66 | 36 | 102 |
| Court-Ordered Bridge to ISP/BYS | 17 | 5 | 22 |
| **Total** | **83** | **41** | **124** |

**Age of HDP Referrals**

**Table 49**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Male** | **Female** | **Totals** |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 12 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 13 | 16 | 10 | 26 |
| 14 | 16 | 8 | 24 |
| 15 | 18 | 13 | 31 |
| 16 | 25 | 7 | 32 |
| 17 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **83** | **41** | **124** |

The average age of youth assigned to HDP was 14.4 years. Forty-eight percent were under 15 years old. White youth made up 13% of HDP referrals while minorities made up 87%.

**Race of HDP Referrals**

**Table 50**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Race** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Black | 56 | 31 | 87 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Multi-Racial | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| White | 14 | 2 | 16 |
| **Total** | **83** | **41** | **124** |

Youth assigned to HDP attend school in communities throughout Dane County. Complying with HDP rules normally includes participation in a school program. The HDP worker monitors school attendance and the worker will report on the youth’s behavior to the Court. Table 46 lists the self-reported schools that each youth attended at the time of intake.

**Schools of HDP Participants**

**Table 51**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **School** | **Students** |
| Alternative | 6 |
| Black Hawk | 7 |
| Capital High | 12 |
| Cherokee | 1 |
| Columbus | 1 |
| East | 13 |
| Home School | 1 |
| Jefferson | 2 |
| LaFollette | 14 |
| Marshall | 3 |
| Memorial | 9 |
| Middleton | 2 |
| Monona Grove | 7 |
| Not Enrolled | 2 |
| O’Keeffe | 3 |
| Sennett | 2 |
| Shabazz | 3 |
| Sherman | 2 |
| Spring Harbor | 1 |
| Stoughton | 4 |
| Sun Prairie | 8 |
| Toki | 5 |
| Verona | 5 |
| West | 9 |
| Whitehorse | 1 |
| Wisconsin Heights | 1 |
| **Total** | **124** |

**CASA of Dane & Columbia Counties**

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (“CASA”) program of Dane & Columbia Counties operates as part of the Canopy Center. CASA of Dane & Columbia Counties follows the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association model of programming, which focuses on best interest advocacy for children. Since June of 2022 both Dane & Columbia counties are served by our single program.

CASA trains and supports community volunteer advocates who are assigned by juvenile division judges to children in the Dane County Juvenile Court system. CASA volunteers visit their assigned child/children on a weekly basis, correspond with service providers and adults in their assigned child’s/children’s life, provide informative reporting to the courts, and advocate for the safety, permanency, and well-being of their assigned child/children.

CASA volunteers also provide to their assigned children advocacy for enrichment opportunities and educational services, and teen life skills mentorship as appropriate. CASA of Dane & Columbia Counties serves the Dane County courts pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 48.236, the “Court Appointed Special Advocate” provision of the Wisconsin Statutes, and pursuant to its Memorandum of Understanding with the Dane County Juvenile Courts.

**Number of kids served by the CASA of Dane & Columbia Counties**

**Program in 2024:** 117

* Dane County children served: 73

● Ages of kids served in Dane County:

* + 0-2: 3
  + 2-4: 7
  + 5-14: 40
  + 15-18+: 23

● CASA Volunteer hours spent in 2024: 1245

● Placement of kids in Dane County served by the CASA program in 2024 (where kids spent a majority of the year):

* + Biological home: 30
  + Kinship placement: 13
  + Foster care: 21
  + Residential placement: 4
  + Other: 5

● Number of children involved in different types of cases served by the

Dane County CASA program in 2024 (if more than one applies, both counted):

* CHIPS: 61
* Youth Justice: 5
* JIPS: 5
* TPR: 2

**Child Protective Services**

Allegations of abuse or neglect of children in Dane County are referred to the Dane County Department of Human Services’ Child Protective Services (CPS) and are named Access Reports. CPS Access staff screen allegations based on statutory thresholds and WI State standards. Access Reports that are screened out do not receive additional follow-up. Access Reports that are screened in are forwarded for an Initial Assessment (IA). The IA is a comprehensive assessment of individual and family conditions, functioning, and dynamics in response to a report of alleged child maltreatment. If the IA determines that the allegations did indeed occur, the allegations are substantiated.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CPS Data Point | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Alleged Victims Reported | 8,160 | 7,832 | 7,974 | 8,361 | 7,886 | 5,815 | 6,272 | 5,286 | 4,906 | 5,021 |
| Alleged Victims Screened-In | 2,700 | 2,300 | 2,090 | 1,955 | 1,768 | 1,371 | 1,249 | 1,132 | 1,288 | 1,327 |
| Substantiated Victims | 280 | 280 | 325 | 218 | 218 | 216 | 203 | 211 | 220 | 210 |

Source: Wisconsin’s Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS) Replication Data

The number of alleged victims reported to CPS stayed around 8,000 from 2015 to 2019 before decreasing dramatically in 2020 due to Covid effects. With schools, clinics and other social service agencies opening up in 2021 the number of alleged victims reported increased 8% from 2020 to 2021, but decreased to around 5,000 from 2022-2024. The number of alleged victims screened-in decreased from 2015 through 2022, but increased 14% in 2023 and 3% in 2024. The number of youth who were substantiated has decreased from high 200’s to 300’s from 2015-2017 to low 200’s from 2018-2024. The table below shows the frequency of the given alleged maltreatment types of the youth that are screened-in. The same youth may be the alleged victim of more than one maltreatment type per access report.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Screened-In Alleged Victims by Maltreatment Type | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Physical Abuse | 824 | 720 | 586 | 520 | 468 | 316 | 289 | 262 | 315 | 330 |
| Neglect | 1,809 | 1,494 | 1,348 | 1,307 | 1,141 | 952 | 840 | 748 | 884 | 952 |
| Sexual Abuse | 368 | 365 | 380 | 309 | 332 | 220 | 254 | 246 | 230 | 201 |
| Other\* | 58 | 37 | 33 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 16 | 11 | 15 |
| Total | 3,059 | 2,616 | 2,347 | 2,164 | 1,952 | 1,499 | 1,393 | 1,272 | 1,440 | 1,498 |

\*Other is a the sum of Emotional Damage and Unborn Child Abuse maltreatment types

The chart below shows the data above as a percentage of the total. For example, in 2024, there were 952 alleged victims of neglect out of 1,498 total allegations or 64%. The percent of Sexual Abuse has grown while Other (Emotional Damage and Unborn Child Abuse) have stayed steady over time, but decreased in 2023 and 2024. The percent of Physical Abuse has decreased slightly from 27% in 2015 to 22% in 2024 while Neglect been stable around 60%.

The four tables on the next page go through the CPS system by Race and Ethnicity from the universe of those who could be abused/neglected (population age 0-17), referred on Access Reports, Screened-in, and finally those that were substantiated of abuse/neglect.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dane County Population Age 0-17 by Race and Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | |
| Race / Ethnicity | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| White | 78,662 | 78,843 | 78,639 | 78,424 | 78,458 | 78,389 | 77,231 | 76,084 | 75,514 | 75,514 |
| Black | 11,540 | 11,705 | 11,952 | 11,972 | 11,973 | 11,964 | 12,070 | 12,254 | 12,456 | 12,456 |
| Native American | 403 | 412 | 388 | 399 | 403 | 391 | 379 | 366 | 358 | 358 |
| Asian | 7,722 | 8,014 | 8,312 | 8,346 | 8,415 | 8,407 | 8,318 | 8,287 | 8,368 | 8,368 |
| Hispanic | 13,312 | 13,944 | 14,304 | 14,689 | 14,900 | 15,125 | 14,981 | 14,782 | 14,687 | 14,687 |
| Total | 111,639 | 112,918 | 113,595 | 113,830 | 114,149 | 114,276 | 112,979 | 111,773 | 111,383 | 111,383 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unique Youth per Access Report Referred to CPS by Race | | | | | | | | | | |
| Race / Ethnicity | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| White | 3,328 | 3,256 | 3,260 | 3,401 | 3,161 | 2,349 | 2,372 | 1,906 | 1,637 | 1,632 |
| Black | 3,085 | 3,058 | 3,309 | 3,406 | 3,184 | 2,372 | 2,692 | 2,238 | 2,136 | 2,201 |
| Native American | 99 | 131 | 122 | 118 | 148 | 131 | 104 | 82 | 101 | 73 |
| Asian | 181 | 207 | 223 | 249 | 249 | 133 | 177 | 184 | 168 | 208 |
| Hispanic | 1,026 | 1,082 | 965 | 1,118 | 1,087 | 727 | 836 | 762 | 746 | 819 |
| Unknown | 441 | 98 | 95 | 69 | 57 | 103 | 91 | 114 | 118 | 88 |
| Total | 8,160 | 7,832 | 7,974 | 8,361 | 7,886 | 5,815 | 6,272 | 5,286 | 4,906 | 5,021 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CPS Reports Screened In by Race | | | | | | | | | | |
| Race / Ethnicity | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| White | 1,014 | 796 | 738 | 665 | 584 | 426 | 374 | 313 | 356 | 337 |
| Black | 1,171 | 1,061 | 988 | 872 | 852 | 675 | 627 | 579 | 625 | 663 |
| Native American | 37 | 49 | 42 | 35 | 32 | 38 | 28 | 21 | 35 | 18 |
| Asian | 72 | 82 | 49 | 62 | 59 | 25 | 36 | 38 | 47 | 52 |
| Hispanic | 398 | 309 | 269 | 319 | 240 | 206 | 182 | 179 | 222 | 253 |
| Unknown | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Total | 2,700 | 2,300 | 2,090 | 1,955 | 1,768 | 1,371 | 1,249 | 1,132 | 1,288 | 1,327 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Substantiated Screen-In's by Race | | | | | | | | | | |
| Race / Ethnicity | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| White | 101 | 105 | 116 | 80 | 84 | 67 | 68 | 51 | 57 | 59 |
| Black | 122 | 120 | 150 | 90 | 87 | 99 | 89 | 99 | 108 | 88 |
| Native American | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Asian | 5 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 11 | 4 |
| Hispanic | 50 | 42 | 47 | 42 | 35 | 43 | 35 | 49 | 42 | 53 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 280 | 280 | 325 | 218 | 218 | 216 | 203 | 211 | 220 | 210 |

The tables on the previous page are used to compare rates of referral, screen-in, and substantiation by Race and Ethnicity.

The rate of Referral to CPS for Black Youth decreased from 267 to 177 per 1,000 while the rate for White Youth decreased from 42 to 22 per 1,000 from 2015 to 2024. In 2024, the referral rate of Black Youth to CPS was 8.2 times higher than that of White Youth (176.70

/21.61) and 2.6 for Hispanic/Latino youth (55.76/21.61).

Screen-in Rates decreased linearly overall for all Racial/Ethnic groups over time but were mixed for 2024. However, White youth were almost always screened in at lower rates than Youth of Color. In 2024, the Screen-In Rate for Black and Hispanic/Latino youth was 46% and 50% higher, respectively, than White youth.

White and Black Youth had similar Substantiation rates across time. Hispanic Youth are typically substantiated at slightly higher rates than White Youth. Asian Youth have been removed from this chart because of the small number substantiated and the highly volatile results.

Juvenile Court Referrals

Referrals to the Juvenile Court by Law Enforcement are filed with the District Attorney’s office and the Department of Human Services and are then screened and assessed by the Department of Human Services. After the assessment is complete, Human Services sends a recommendation to the District Attorney’s office as to whether or not to go forward with a formal delinquency petition, a deferred prosecution agreement, counsel and release and/or to use the information in case planning. There is an expedited process when a youth is taken into custody and is under a temporary physical custody order.

In some cases, referrals may contain several “counts” or charges for one individual, while in other situations there may be multiple referrals, each containing single allegations. In either case, the data provides a general picture of the number of referrals law enforcement make to the court for delinquency intake services.

In terms of the number of referrals compared to prior years, the following table illustrates the trend. Juvenile Court referrals had been on a decreasing trend since 2019.

**JUVENILE COURT REFERRALS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Race** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **AVG** |
| White | 299 | 279 | 266 | 278 | 292 | 175 | 132 | 183 | 151 | 163 | 222 |
| Black | 484 | 460 | 594 | 714 | 727 | 519 | 412 | 344 | 327 | 294 | 488 |
| Native American | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Asian | 7 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 15 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Hispanic | 52 | 58 | 50 | 56 | 91 | 54 | 51 | 74 | 59 | 54 | 60 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| # of Referrals | 843 | 804 | 924 | 1061 | 1127 | 764 | 606 | 617 | 547 | 524 | 783 |

Source: Dane County Human Services database

**Juvenile Court Petitions filed**

The following table lists the 15-year history of Juvenile Court Petitions filed with the Dane County Circuit Court. There was a 13% decrease in formal delinquency petitions and a 1% increase in CHIPS petitions in 2023 when compared to 2022.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2010-2024** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YEAR | DEL | WAIVER | CHIPS | TPR | JIPS | JI | JG | EXT/VAC CD | PPR/PPRH | OTHER | TOTAL |
| 2010 | 755 | 24 | 238 | 131 | 42 | 71 | 174 | 20 | 522 | 1216 | 3193 |
| 2011 | 770 | 12 | 232 | 124 | 35 | 45 | 212 | 13 | 476 | 1175 | 3094 |
| 2012 | 660 | 13 | 256 | 108 | 36 | 69 | 157 | 18 | 464 | 1058 | 2839 |
| 2013 | 610 | 16 | 238 | 111 | 28 | 27 | 173 | 15 | 471 | 1094 | 2783 |
| 2014 | 543 | 11 | 251 | 105 | 34 | 25 | 199 | 17 | 540 | 1125 | 2850 |
| 2015 | 482 | 1 | 232 | 105 | 34 | 28 | 149 | 9 | 530 | 1076 | 2646 |
| 2016 | 464 | 4 | 176 | 86 | 44 | 42 | 197 | 14 | 473 | 1026 | 2526 |
| 2017 | 484 | 1 | 203 | 96 | 48 | 37 | 196 | 14 | 499 | 958 | 2536 |
| 2018 | 603 | 10 | 107 | 107 | 48 | 30 | 197 | 18 | 387 | 827 | 2334 |
| 2019 | 691 | 11 | 116 | 76 | 59 | 51 | 206 | 21 | 350 | 847 | 2428 |
| 2020 | 495 | 14 | 136 | 62 | 45 | 6 | 133 | 17 | 396 | 752 | 2056 |
| 2021 | 397 | 20 | 108 | 73 | 18 | 21 | 145 | 19 | 423 | 900 | 2124 |
| 2022 | 503 | 10 | 124 | 78 | 40 | 27 | 176 | 29 | 281 | 428 | 1696 |
| 2023 | 438 | 11 | 125 | 68 | 43 | 20 | 164 | 27 | 264 | 314 | 1474 |
| 2024 | 406 | 3 | 111 | 57 | 43 | 44 | 187 | 43 | 259 | 373 | 1526 |
| AVG | 502 | 11 | 190 | 84 | 40 | 36 | 177 | 20 | 394 | 878 | 2238 |
| "OTHER" includes all Ext/Rev &/or Change of Placement. | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | |

DEL = Delinquency WAIVER = Waiver to adult court CHIPS = Child In Need of Protection or Services

TPR = Termination of Parental Rights JI = Juvenile Injunction JG = Juvenile Guardianship

EXT/VAC CD = Extend/Vacate Consent Decree PPR/PPRH = Permanency Plan Review/Hearing

Source: Dane County Clerk of Courts/CCAP

**Closing**

The Juvenile Court Program looks forward to continuing to serve the people of Dane County and we are working hard to stay in tune with the changing needs of our diverse community.

Continuing in 2024, the entire Dane County Juvenile Court Program (JRC, SH, Detention and HDP) kept a database that was used to collect and tabulate data. Data on youth in Detention was also collected in the State’s Juvenile Secure Detention Registry within eWiSACWIS. With this more accurate and efficient method of dealing with statistics, the ability to deliver information about the trends and patterns affecting the youth of Dane County is greatly enhanced.

“Thank You” to all of the agencies who contributed to this report. Questions, comments, or suggestions regarding this report, and/or the Juvenile Court Program generally, would be welcome and should be directed towards any of the persons listed below. Past reports can be found on the department’s website at: <https://juvenilecourt.countyofdane.com/>

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1. Adapted from Chapter **938.208 (1)** though **(6)**, Wis. Stats. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Adapted from Chapter **938.205 (1)** (1)(a) through (c), Wis. Stats. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)