



Juvenile Probation Services



STATE OF
NEBRASKA
JUDICIAL BRANCH
Administrative Office
of the Courts & Probation

Annual Report

Detailed Analysis

July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023
fiscal year 2023



Dear Stakeholders:

This year provided the Juvenile Probation Services Division with a new and exciting phase of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement ~ Nebraska (JISEN) initiative. The final report was received and officially posted for public comment in May 2023, followed by a series of townhall meetings to gather input from a variety of juvenile justice stakeholders. The JISEN report detailed multiple strengths highlighting significant progress and noting a support for research-driven and evidence-based policies and approaches. The report emphasized that Nebraska juvenile probation is positioned as a positive leader in juvenile justice system practices, and I look forward to moving toward prioritizing recommendations over the next year.

Similar to last year, the Fundamental Measures for Juvenile Justice (FMJJ) data continues to be increased within the report and can be found throughout represented by yellow starbursts. Additionally, this fiscal year data shows a 27% increase in new youth served by juvenile probation and a 17% increase in the total juvenile probation population. Plus, the number of youth assessed as high-risk has increased. With these increases, I am happy to share that the successful release and recidivism rates have maintained at noteworthy percentages.



I want to thank all the dedicated probation staff across the state. They work tirelessly every day to investigate and supervise youth placed on probation to prioritize our shared vision and commitment for inspiring hope, empowering individuals, and strengthening communities.



Kari Rumbaugh
Deputy Administrator
Juvenile Probation Services
Division

OUTCOMES

Juvenile Probation Outcomes

The goal of juvenile probation in Nebraska is to prevent juveniles from returning to the juvenile justice system or entering the adult criminal justice system by:

- Engaging juveniles and their families in the court process;
- Eliminating barriers to accessing effective treatment and services; and
- Partnering with educational and community stakeholders.

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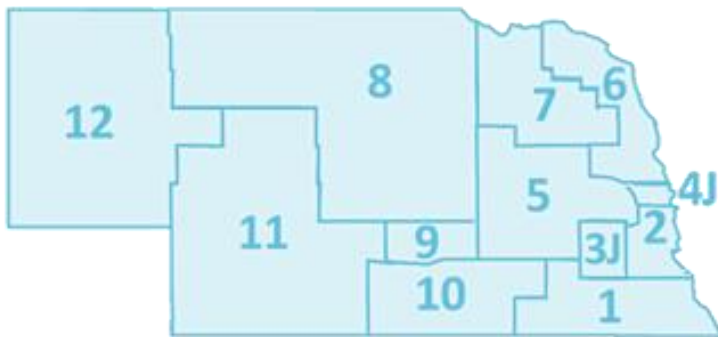
Nebraska State Probation Vision:

Inspiring Hope
Empowering Individuals
Strengthening Communities

Nebraska State Probation Mission:

We, the leaders in community corrections, juvenile, and restorative justice, are unified in our dedication to delivering a system of seamless services which are founded on evidence-based practices and valued by Nebraska's communities, victims, offenders and courts. We create constructive change through rehabilitation, collaboration, and partnership in order to enhance safe communities.

Map of Juvenile Probation Districts



This map includes the judicial probation districts across the state of Nebraska covering all 93 counties.

For more information about probation districts, visit:

<https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/directories/district-information>

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Juvenile Justice System Enhancement-Nebraska



Juvenile Justice System Enhancement ~ Nebraska (JJSSEN) is the Juvenile Probation Services Division's approach to prioritizing our continued focus on youth justice best practices. This is the third year of JJSSEN efforts. Fiscal year 2023 focused on completing the youth justice system review with the summation and recommendations contained in the *Juvenile Justice Enhancement Nebraska Probation System Review Final Report, December 2022*. The report is available on the Nebraska Judicial Branch website on the [Juvenile Probation Services Division tab](#).



In August 2022, the RFKNCJJ Probation System Review concluded with observations of juvenile court proceedings across the state. The final report was received and recognized the many strengths that the Nebraska juvenile justice system possesses, as well as provided recommendations to enhance current practices. In May 2023, the report was presented to the Nebraska Supreme Court for review.



During a national-expert site visit, John Tuell from RFK (back row) and Dr. Robin Jenkins from The Impact Center (left) met with some of the Juvenile Probation team members at the Chief Standing Bear Administration Building.



In July 2022, The National Center for Juvenile Justice concluded the Data Capacity System Assessment that was embedded in the Probation System Review

Report, along with the recommendations. The Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation created a dedicated trainer position for the probation information management system. This was the top recommendation from the Data Capacity System Assessment as it will benefit probation staff across all the state.



Dr. Robin Jenkins of the Impact Center continues to educate and grow skills of Implementation Science by creating readiness for the entire management system to understand their essential role in the creation of the first draft of the strategic plan. Throughout the year, ongoing support was provided to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), the Systemic Leadership Team (SLT), and the Integrated Leadership Team (ILT) who engaged in learning and application activities with Dr. Jenkins.



Through the technical assistance of Dr. Keith Cruise of National Youth Screening & Assessment Partners (NYSAP), the implementation team has created a rebrand of the predisposition investigation process. This initial selection includes two behavioral health screenings which will allow probation to develop a more complete picture of youth's risk/need/responsivity profile during the investigation process and ensure their behavioral health needs are supported. The implementation team created visuals for juvenile justice stakeholders which will assist in transparency and understanding as they strive to set probation youth up for success. More work will continue into 2024.



Juvenile Probation Services Division Annual Artwork Contest

The annual Artwork Contest started in 2016 to encourage youth throughout the state to express themselves by telling the story of their journey through creativity.

Probation staff were asked to encourage the youth they supervise to create artwork for the contest. All forms of art were accepted. Fourteen entries were received from across the state with a majority of them writing a short explanation of their entry. The results were moving and inspiring.

Artwork is represented on the Judicial Branch website and the winners are displayed in the Juvenile Probation Services Division office, displayed at conferences, as well as used in publications.

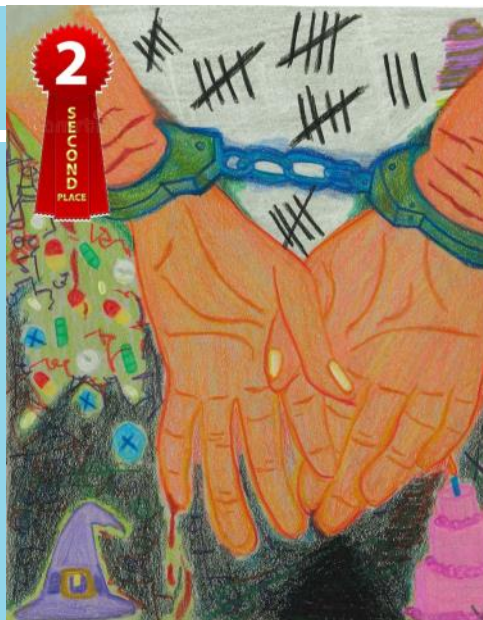
1st Place Winner

Javis from Kearney created this vibrant drawing with colored pencils to win 1st place. Her artwork depicts her journey with a damaged heart. Javis says music, nature, and art has helped her broken heart mend to become a strong and independent woman.

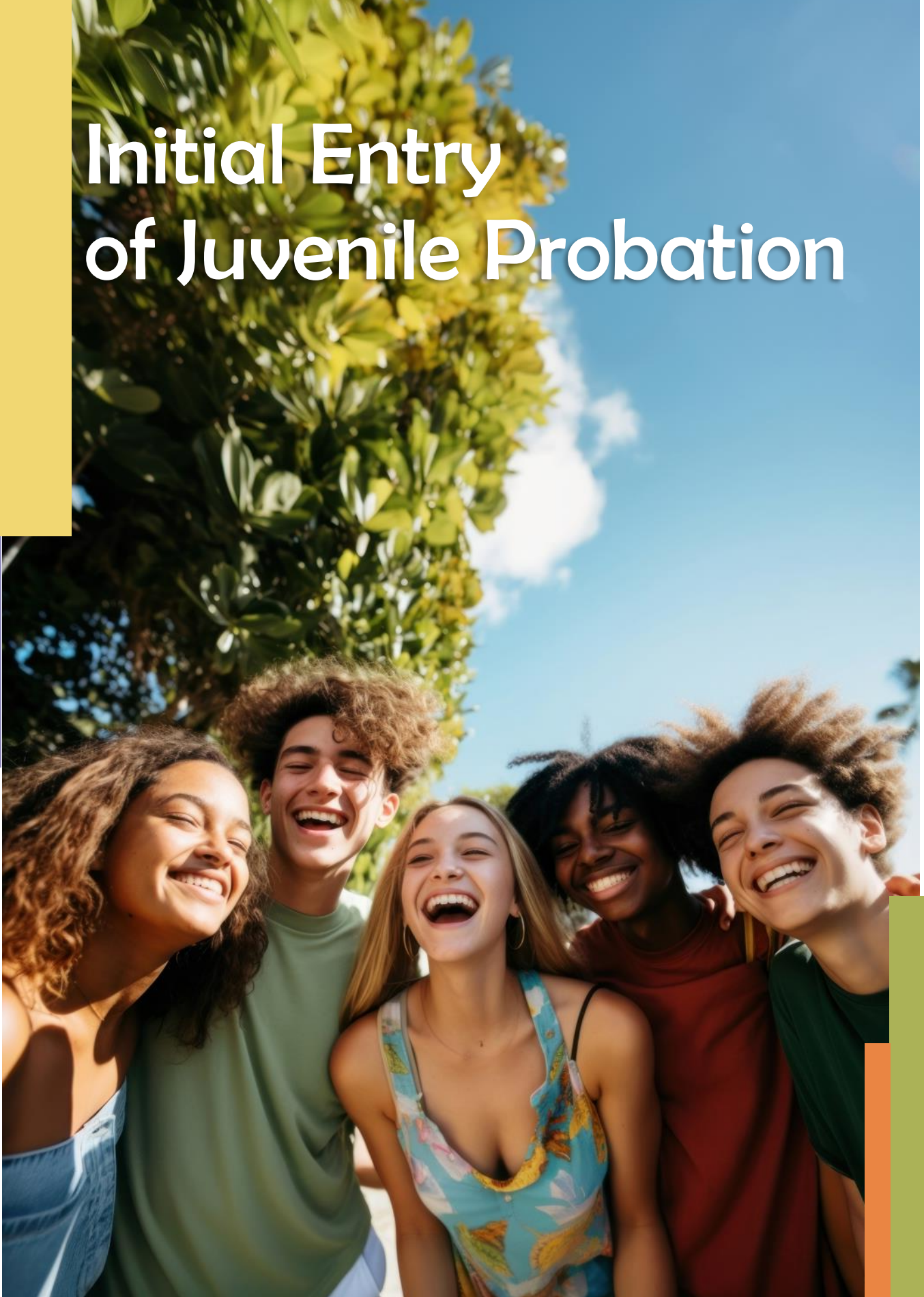


2nd Place Winner

Cambry from Lincoln is now a two-year 2nd place winner for her drawing entitled, "Too Much Time Taken," depicting her journey in and out of placements and juvenile justice facilities.



Initial Entry of Juvenile Probation

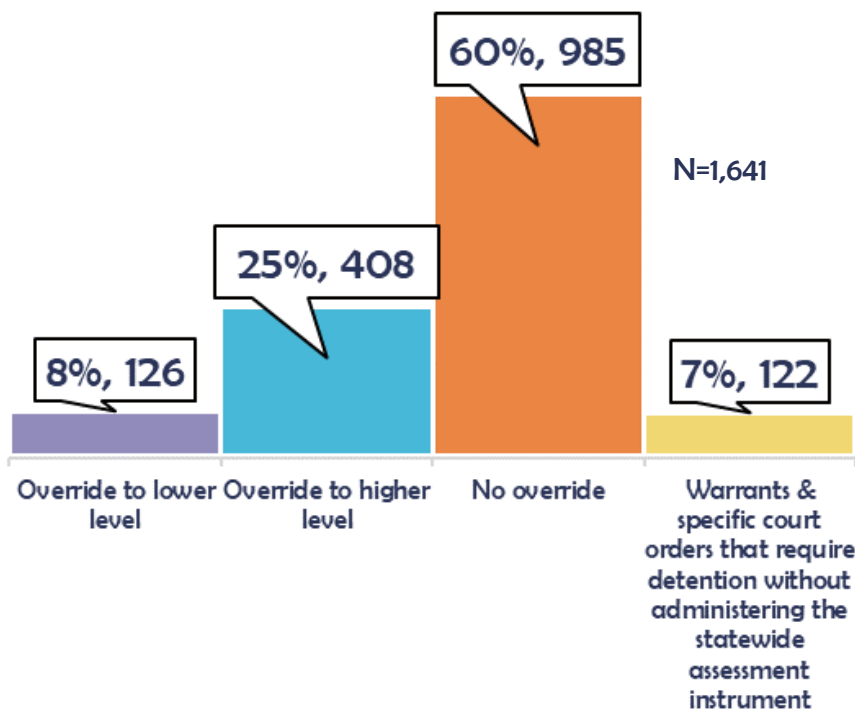




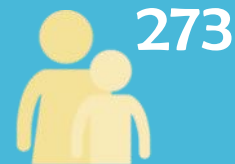
Juvenile Intake

Nebraska Revised Statutes §43-250 & §43-260 authorize probation to manage the juvenile intake function. The goal of juvenile intake is to promote the most appropriate detention decision that is least restrictive while balancing safety of the community. This is accomplished through a standardized risk assessment instrument that is administered when law enforcement contacts probation for the purpose of determining an intake decision. The instrument examines the youth's risk to persons within the community and history of documented willful failure to appear at a scheduled court hearing within the past 12 months. Note: Juveniles may have more than one intake and/or outcome during this time frame.

Juvenile Intake Overrides



Intake Decisions



Released to Parent Without Restrictions



Released with Alternatives to Detention (ATD)



Staff Secure Detention



Secure Detention

93%

Percent of intakes that met criteria on the validated detention risk assessment instrument were detained*

* Includes both staff secure and secure detention

What is an Override:

Juvenile intake instrument overrides occur when there are special circumstances that a probation officer considers to authorize a higher or lower intervention than recommended by the instrument. Overrides are used to ensure community safety while utilizing the least restrictive options available and must be approved by a supervisor.

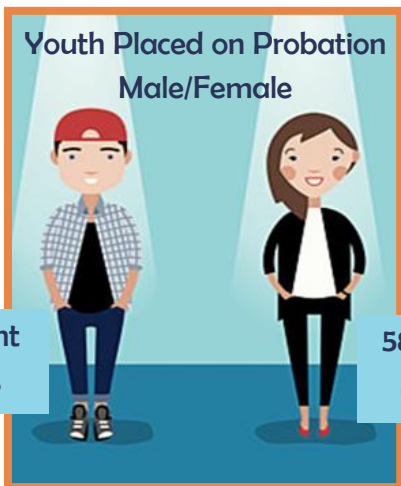
ATD Definition:

Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-245 (3), a program or directive that increases supervision of a youth in the community in an effort to ensure the youth attends court and refrains from committing a new law violation. Alternative to detention includes, but is not limited to, electronic monitoring, day and evening reporting centers, house arrest, tracking, family crisis response, and temporary shelter placement.

Initial Entry Population

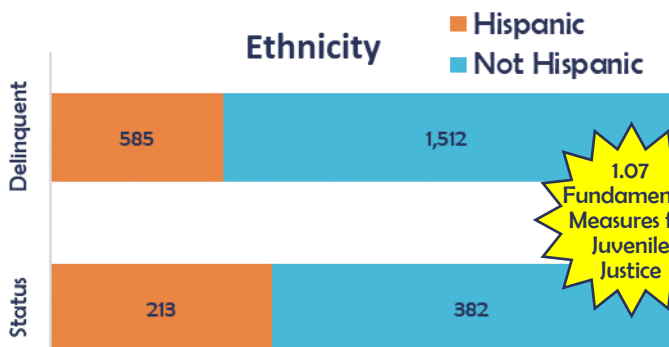


The demographic information below reflects youth placed on probation for delinquent and status-related offenses. There were 2,692 youth placed on probation during the fiscal year. A status youth comes before the court for non-delinquent offenses such as truancy, running away, or other behaviors that a parent is not able to control. Beginning July 1, 2017, youth who are ten years of age and under at the time of a traffic, infraction, status, misdemeanor, or felony offense is alleged, are no longer eligible for juvenile probation. **The total number of youth placed on probation increased by 27% as compared to FY 2022.**



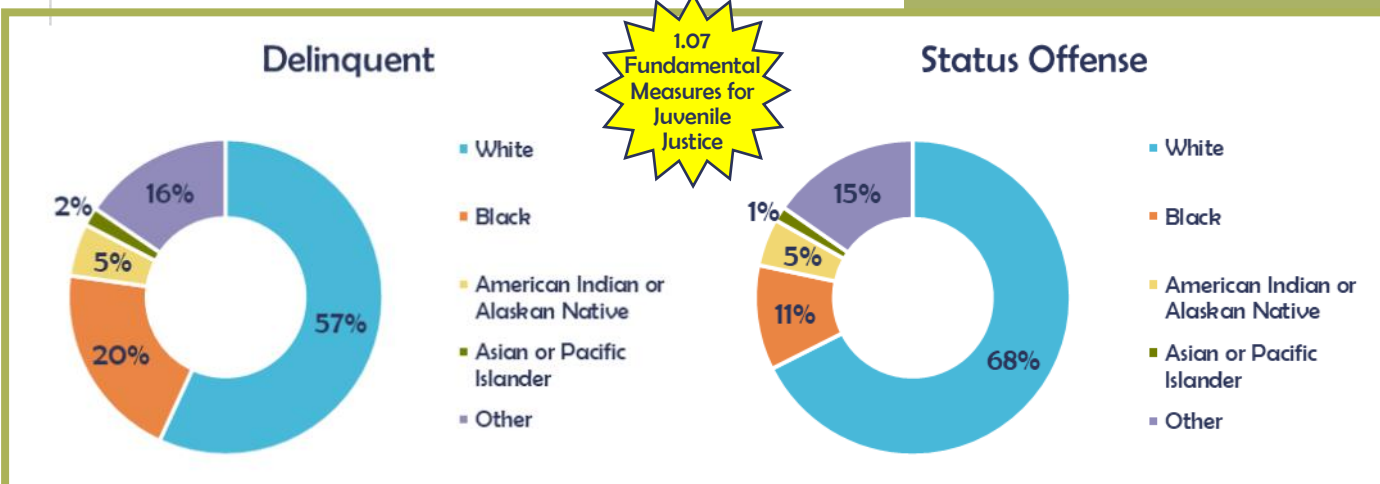
1.07
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

Age	Delinquent	Status	Total
11	12	3	15
12	57	13	70
13	158	36	194
14	300	65	365
15	421	137	558
16	491	184	675
17	497	134	631
18	161	23	184
Total	2,097	595	2,692



1.07
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

Youth Placed on Probation by Race



1.07
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

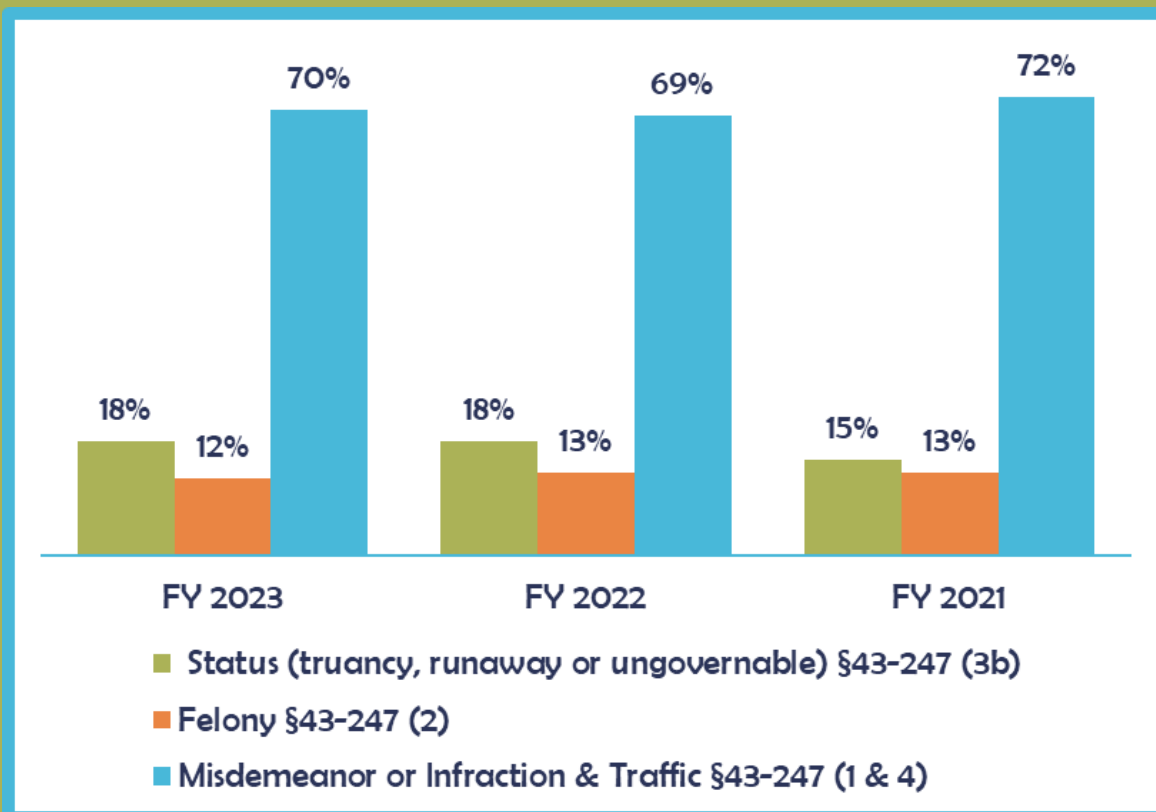
Adjudication



The Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation has oversight over youth who are subject to supervision by a probation officer and have been adjudicated under one or more of the following subdivisions of Nebraska Revised Statute §43-247 (1), (2), (3b) and (4). Adjudication is the fact-finding phase of a juvenile case in which a judge receives and weighs evidence before determining whether a delinquency or status offense has been proven.

Each subdivision refers to the offense type that brought the youth before the court. When youth are adjudicated for multiple offenses, they are represented in only one category and prioritized in order of felony, misdemeanor/infraction, and status. The majority of youth placed on probation were adjudicated under subdivision (1) for offenses which are considered a misdemeanor or infraction.

Adjudication Resulting in Probation

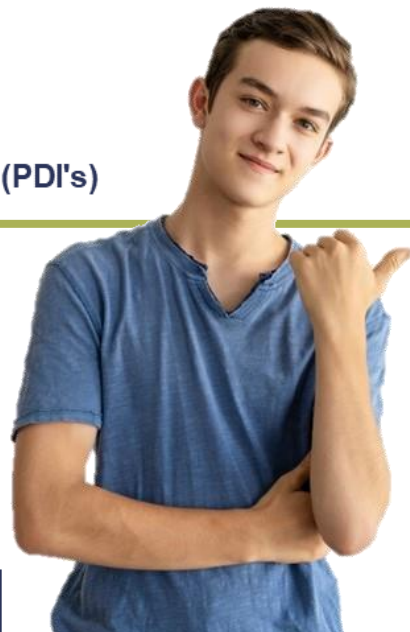
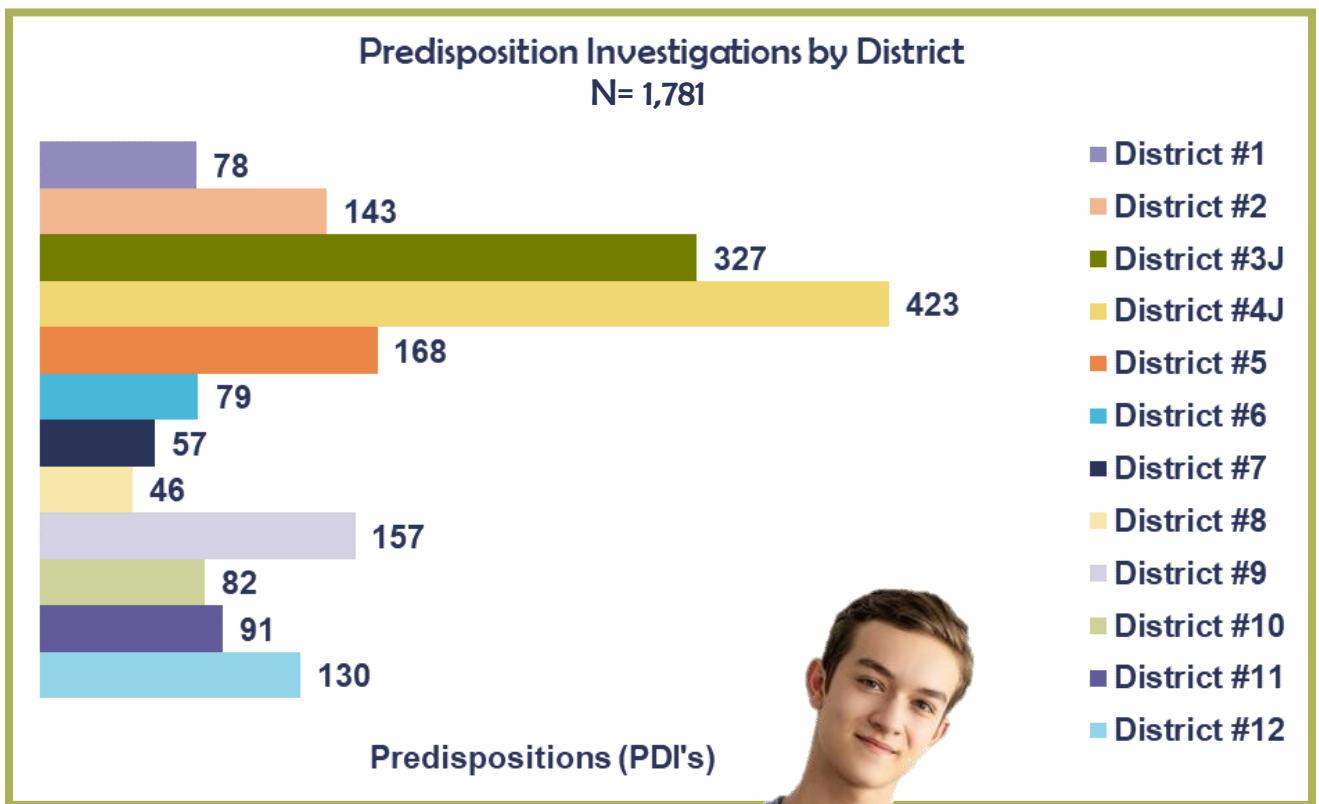


Of the 494 status youth, 84% were for truancy

Investigation



Probation is responsible for completion of comprehensive investigations, also known as predisposition investigations (PDI). Investigations include: interviews with the youth and family, collateral contacts, validated risk/need/responsivity assessments, screening tools, available treatment reports, and/or evaluations. The investigation and recommendations target the youth's risk, needs, and responsivity, as well as the supervision and services that will be most effective in reducing the juvenile's risk for continued delinquent behaviors. The total number of PDI's for fiscal year 2023 was 1,781, which is up 22% from fiscal year 2022.



Risk/Need/Responsivity Assessment



Initial Criminogenic Risk Assessment Category

Probation staff are highly-trained to utilize the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI 2.0), which is a gender-informed, culturally-informed, strengths-focused risk/needs/responsivity assessment tool. The YLS/CMI 2.0 reliably and accurately predicts a youth's criminogenic risk, which is the risk to continue delinquent actions that could come to the attention of the court. Identification of a youth's overall risk, along with the individual factors that contribute to that risk, support a probation officer's priorities of case management. Key life area language is used with individuals not trained in the YLS/CMI 2.0.

1.07
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

LOW
28%

Percentage of youth placed on probation that were assessed as low risk using the YLS/CMI 2.0

Down 1% from FY 2022

MODERATE
57%

Percent of youth placed on probation that were assessed as moderate risk using the YLS/CMI 2.0

Down 3% from FY 2022

HIGH/VERY HIGH
15%

Percent of youth placed on probation that were assessed as high or very high risk using the YLS/CMI 2.0

Up 3% from FY 2022

Determining the "Driver"

Determining the single most influential criminogenic risk factor or "driver" is essential to risk reduction as not all criminogenic risks influence behavior equally. The "driver" is used to focus case management and create a Success Plan for targeting behavior change in high-risk youth.

Factors Contributing to Criminogenic Risk:

YLS/CMI 2.0 Domains

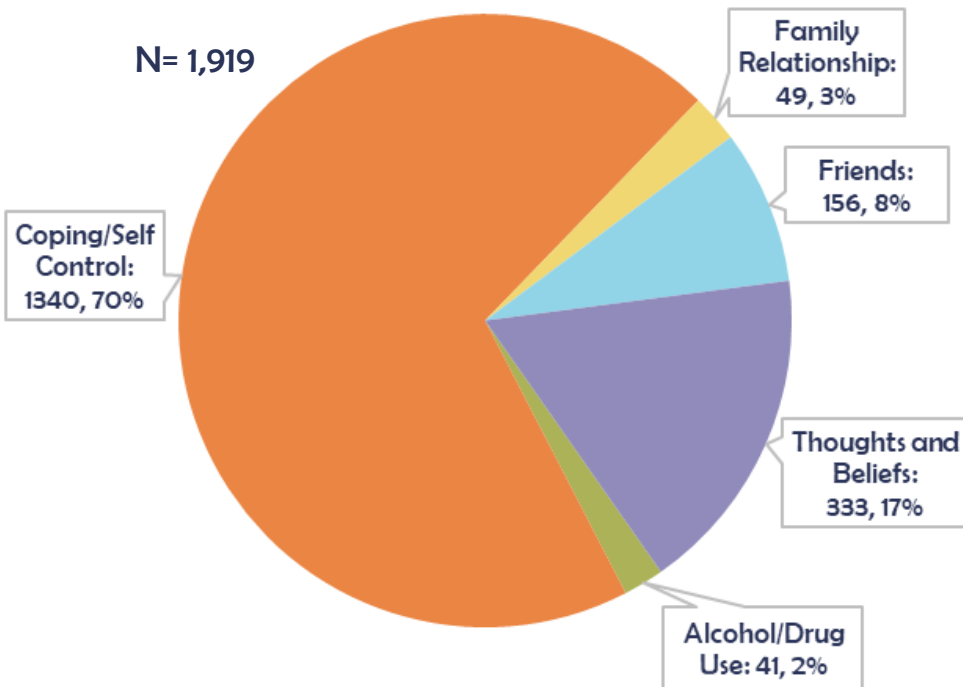
- Prior and current offenses/dispositions
- Education/employment
- Substance abuse
- Personality/behavior
- Family circumstances/parenting
- Peer relations
- Leisure/recreation
- Attitudes/orientation

Key Life Areas

- Prior and current court involvement
- School/work
- Alcohol and/or drug use
- Coping/self-control skills
- Family relationships
- Friends
- Use of free time
- Thoughts and beliefs

Drivers Identified on Success Plans

N= 1,919



Amoreena Brady

Juvenile Justice Employee

SPOTLIGHT

“Innovation” Award Recipient



Right: Amoreena holding the award she received at the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association conference joined by her husband-Rick, mother, and stepfather.

Amoreena is the recipient of the 2022 Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation *Innovation Award*. The innovation award recognizes individuals for their contribution of effectiveness, efficiency, or economy of Nebraska Judicial System operations. Amoreena was nominated for her dedicated work towards implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Nebraska ~ JISEN.

“Amoreena is committed to walking-the-walk by keeping current on best practices in all areas of our work.”

Those nominating Amoreena recognized her for passionately leading efforts to implement cutting-edge, evidence-based practices for serving youth in Nebraska. Further, acknowledging that she is constantly demonstrating reliability, perseverance, and a results-oriented commitment to system reform.

Additionally, Amoreena’s dedication to engaging probation and stakeholders was noted through her compassion and talent for building relationships with others. She is also a trusted partner among national experts who she partners with to support system reform efforts.

Amoreena has worked in the justice system for most of her career. As a Criminal Justice graduate from Chapman University in Orange, California, she started with the Orange County Probation Department. Her first position was a deputy probation counselor and then she moved up to a deputy probation officer, performing intakes at Juvenile Hall.

In May of 2006, Amoreena moved to Nebraska and worked with high-risk youth and adults as a community-based intervention probation officer in probation district 2. She promoted to the Administrative Office, Juvenile Services Division, in August of 2013 as a case management and service specialist.

In March of 2019, Amoreena was selected for the new role of juvenile justice reform specialist to support the reform efforts in district 3J. Amoreena went to work with her compassion and talent for building strong relationships with the 3J staff as well as the four national technical assistance partners as they overcame challenges.

“Her performance, professionalism, and loyalty is an exemplary representation of the values and professional standards of the Judicial Branch.”

Amoreena has received multiple awards during her career, including the one pictured above for the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association. Her leadership and passion for probation are remarkable.



Artwork Contest Winner

3rd Place Winner



My Journey
 2 years away from home
 all because I wanted to make it known
 known I wasn't alright
 and I was giving up the fight
 I wanted someone to see
 everything going on with me
 but all they saw
 was a teenager in trouble with the law
 skipping school to sleep in
 and to be honest I thought this was a win
 felt like everyone was being distant
 so I kept my negative behaviors consistent
 until cops dragged me out of my home
 to send me to the great unknown
 I thought juvenile detention was fake
 something my mom said to scare me straight
 stayed in JDC for a month
 when judge decided I hadn't had enough
 in and out of facilities for the next 2 years
 whole time I was blaming my mom and her problem with beer
 it took me that long to finally realize
 I was feeding myself lies
 The reason I am where I am
 is because of my mindset, and me not giving a damn
 sitting where I am now
 I'm lookin back and thinkin "now"
 how I spent most of my teenage years
 being locked up there and here
 now I'm ready to go home
 so I can finally make it known
 know I'm finally damn alright
 and I'm fighting a new fight

Jasmine from Norfolk wrote a poem about her 2-year journey in out-of-home placements winning her 3rd place

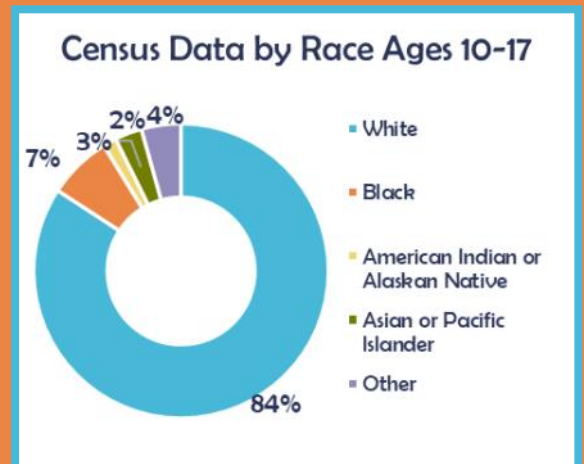
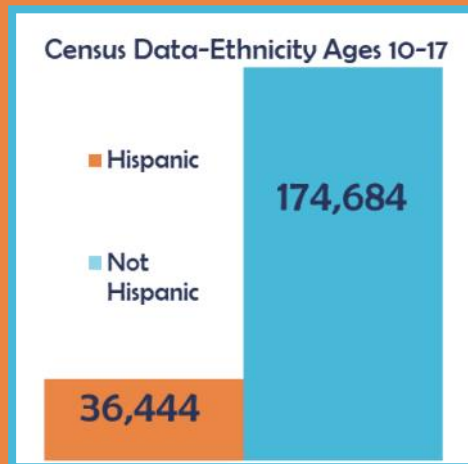
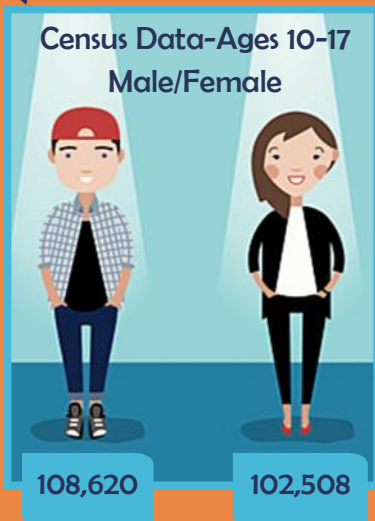
Total Youth Served by Juvenile Probation



Total Youth Census Population:

1.01
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

Represented below is a snapshot from the 2020 US Census Bureau of total youth in Nebraska's population base within age boundaries of 10-18 as defined by the census, although 2020 Nebraska census data represented includes 10 year-olds and excludes 18 year-olds. These youth represent original juvenile court jurisdiction in Nebraska, which is ages 11-17.



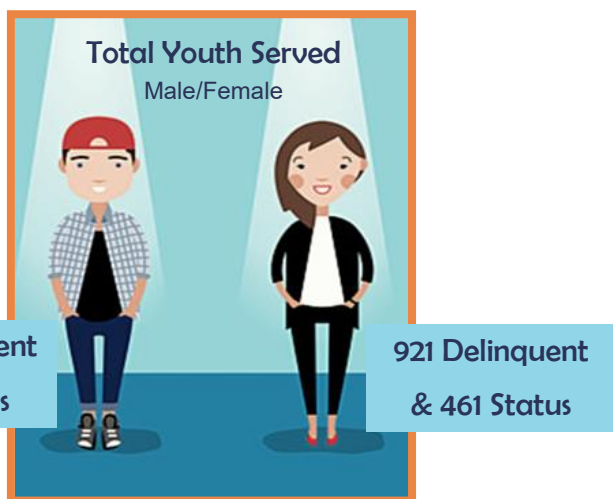
*Last year census tables were listed for ages 10-19 in error

*Nebraska census data is only available every ten years



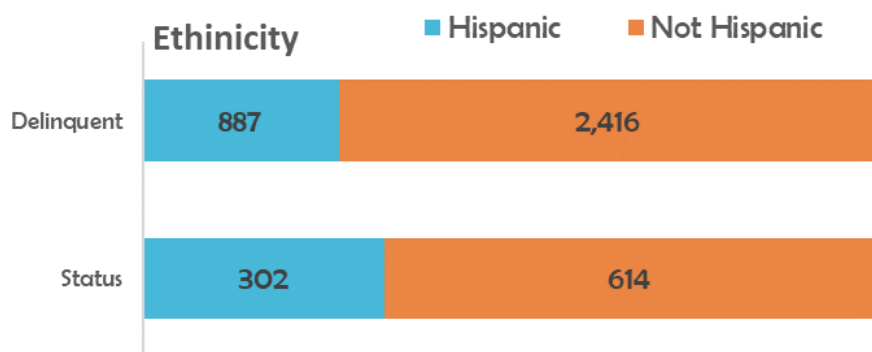
Total Youth Served Population

In this section, all data represents the total population of youth actively supervised on probation which includes youth already on probation from the previous year. There were 4,219 youth served during this fiscal year. The table below shows demographic data for the population of youth served by probation separated by delinquent and status-related offenses. The total number of youth served on probation increased by more than 17% as compared to FY 2022.

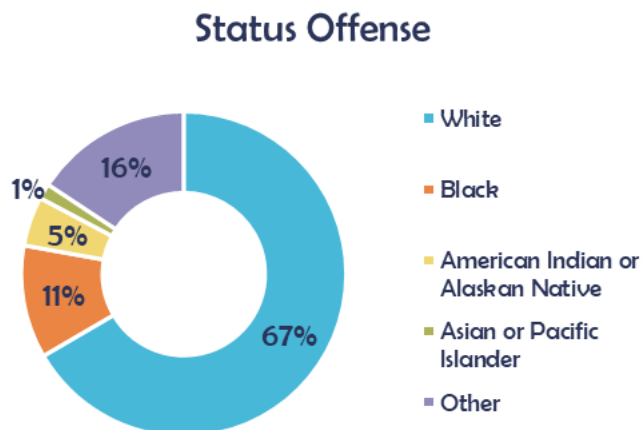
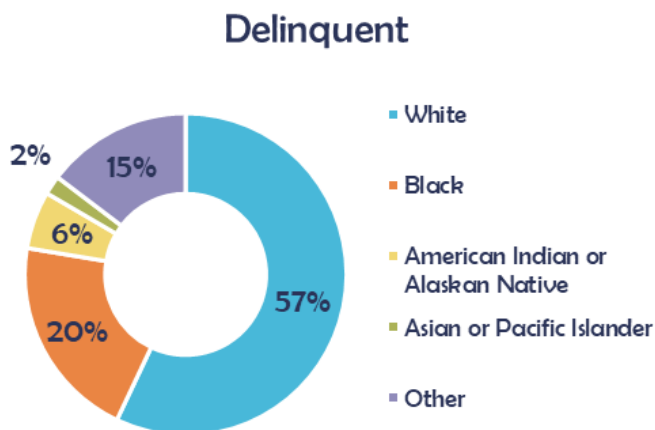


Total Youth Served by Age

Age of Youth	Delinquent	Status	Total
11	14	3	17
12	76	17	93
13	214	56	270
14	413	102	515
15	601	195	796
16	797	272	1,069
17	806	220	1,026
18	382	51	433
Total	3,303	916	4,219



Total Youth Served by Race



Case Management



NE-ART Training

181

Youth successfully graduated from the 8-week curriculum

Nebraska Aggression Replacement Training (NE-ART) is a research-based model used for moderate to high-risk youth. This comprehensive program in social emotional learning allows youth to learn new skills on how to handle stressful situations, understand their emotions, and other's emotions in a positive way. All youth need social emotional learning. Knowing empathy, self-control, social skills, and character education is fundamental for success in all areas of life.

Habilitation is the process of learning new behaviors to appropriately respond to challenging situations such as increasing knowledge of self and others, helping to learn empathy for others, and developing self-control. After graduation from the program, probation officers use NE-ART strategies to help youth work through day-to-day situations and responses.

Youth Comments:

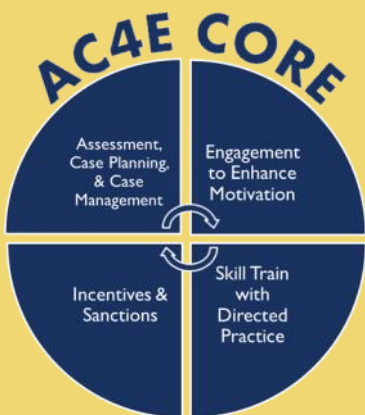
What did you learn about yourself that you didn't already know?

- I learned about my triggers.
- I need to regulate my emotions.
- I learned I can calm down faster.

Would you recommend this group to others?

- Yes, it helped with my anger issues.
- Yes, because it teaches important skills for living your life.
- Yes. Self-control is important.

AC4E Training



Advanced Coaching for Excellence (AC4E) launched in 2017 and focuses on the four core elements shown in the diagram on the left. In fiscal year 2023, a curriculum on *Incentives and Sanctions* was trained to district and administrative management staff in partnership with Shannon Carey from Northwest Professional Consortium (NPC Research) and Hasan Davis, founder and director of Hasan Davis Solutions, Inc. Research suggests that incentivizing positive behavior correlates to long-term behavior change in youth. Probation officers utilize tangible and non-tangible incentives as positive behavior changes are observed.

Incentives and sanctions must be meaningful to the youth to be effective in changing behavior. During training, a focus was also on H.O.P.E. (Humanity Optimism Perspective Empathy). As incentives and sanctions are imposed with youth, utilization of the H.O.P.E. model is vital, so youth feel valued, heard, and their perspective matters.

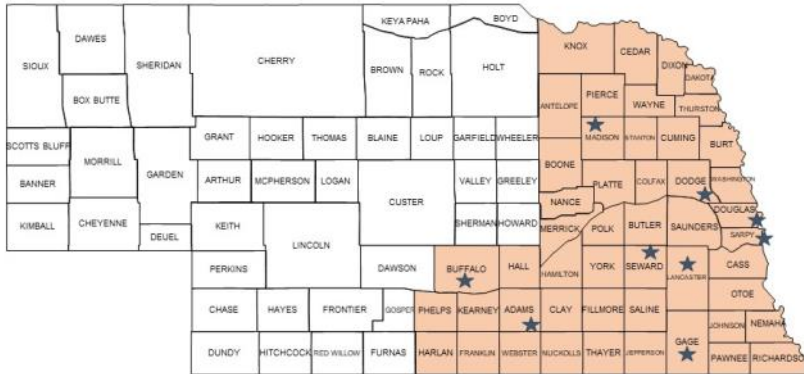
RISE Program



AmeriCorps



The Recognizing Increased Skills in Education (RISE) program, implemented in 2007, is a grant-funded AmeriCorps program which allows probation to place AmeriCorps members, titled “RISE program specialists,” serving in nine probation districts. See the map below showing the county location of the RISE program specialist indicated with a star.



Number of Youth Who Graduated RISE:

133

Percentage Over AmeriCorps Goal For Graduates:

33%

RISE program specialists are responsible for organizing and facilitating a skill-based curriculum to adjudicated youth, which includes five chapters: goal setting, motivation, organization, class participation/study skills, and test taking. When youth successfully complete all chapters, they are considered RISE graduates. As a result of completing the RISE program curriculum, youth build skills, improve school attendance, decrease negative behaviors, and are less likely to be involved in future delinquent activities. As skill development takes time, additional support is provided to youth for 3 to 6 months after completion of the curriculum.

The RISE Program is under a three-year evaluation study as part of the grant continuation. An external evaluator was contracted to complete this process. In this first year, previous evaluation studies and program curriculum were reviewed to draft an updated pre and post survey that relates to the RISE program curriculum. The final version of the survey was trained to AmeriCorps RISE members on how to facilitate to youth in the program. During the August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025 grant year, the surveys will be implemented.

Previous evaluations of the RISE Program have shown promising impact including data which suggests that graduates of the program are more likely to have successful probation discharge than youth who do not graduate.

AmeriCorps Member Service Experience: Jenna—District 2

Jenna served in district 2 during the 2022-2023 grant term. She says, “When it comes to serving as an AmeriCorps RISE program specialist, the experience has meant a lot to me. It has given me the opportunity to get involved in the community in a way that will help others and have an impact on positive long-lasting change. I have always wanted to make a difference but never knew where or how until I started as a RISE specialist. I can continue on in this service position knowing that I will be doing what I believe in.”



Case Management

Graduated Response



4 to 1

This ratio is best practice as it relates to incentives and sanctions.

For every one sanction, four incentives is the goal.

Research continues to build evidence supporting the implementation of age-appropriate graduated responses for youth on juvenile probation. In 2017, Nebraska Revised Statute §43-286.01 was enhanced to support the creation of a standardized matrix for youth incentives and sanctions. This is essential, as working with youth to change behavior can take time and have multiple differing responses. If youth are unable to change their behavior and continue to violate the court order, an alleged probation violation can be submitted to the court.

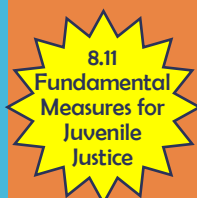
Due to the importance of Fundamental Measures, a new way of measuring data is being used. This year, all of the Fundamental Measures on this page are new and align with national juvenile justice data with the intention of improving outcome reporting.

Nebraska Revised Statute §43-286.01 states: "Failure to complete a sanction may result in repeating the sanction, increasing the duration, or selecting a different sanction similar in nature. Continued failure to comply could result in a request for a motion to revoke probation."

Number of Incentives

11,167

Average Number of Incentives/Per Discharged Youth

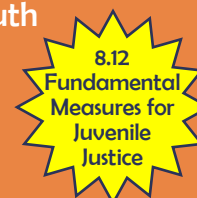


5.7

Number of Sanctions

3,195

Average Number of Sanctions/Per Discharged Youth

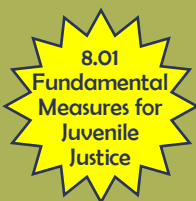


1.7

Technical Violations:

Number of Youth With at Least One

534



Technical violations occur when youth do not follow their conditions of probation.

The probation officer can choose further court involvement or sanctions.

Tangible Incentives



Incentive-based probation, particularly for juveniles, has been widely recognized as an effective strategy creating a learning opportunity that guides youth as they replace negative behaviors with positives. Encouraging reinforcement increases the likelihood of repetition. Research suggests that incentives must be meaningful and tailored to youth to effectively promote positive youth development. This is consistent with Nebraska Revised Statute §43-286.01 (9) which states that probation officers shall use “graduated incentives” to encourage continued compliance of youth.

In 2020, Juvenile Probation Services Division received a grant from the Sherwood Foundation which allows districts to purchase tangible incentives to reward positive progress for youth on probation. Some examples are: gift cards, art supplies, and earbuds. In 2022, the use of “Special Exception” incentives was launched to allow for individualized options for youth based on their current needs. Two personal stories are told below.



Total Value of Tangible Incentives Awarded

\$37,223

Number of Tangible Incentives Awarded

4,348

Special Exception Incentives Provided to Youth

18

Special Exception Success Stories

Makela: An officer supervised Makela who had drug-related charges and a 1-year-old son. She had very little support from her family, was living independently, and gained a full-time job after graduation. Makela learned to use community resources wisely to gain additional support and was studying to become a certified nursing assistant as a single mother. Makela told her probation officer that spending time outdoors with her son gave peace to her hectic life, so a 1-year zoo membership was purchased and used as an incentive. Makela continues to take her son to the zoo weekly, while going to school and has since been successfully released from probation.

Erin: Erin was on probation for truancy and struggled with motivation to attend school and hold a job. She and her officer worked through a variety of options to assist in managing her schedule. The officer realized that Erin is a visual learner so she made a Special Exception request for a planner, flash cards, and pens. The planner was used to write down thoughts and fears as they occur in class, and Erin used these notes to talk with her counselor. The planner was also utilized to keep her school and work schedule organized. The flash cards were used to study for her exams as well as writing notes. These served as visual reminders for Erin’s classes, and she could easily access them due to her use of the colors. Without these Special Exception incentives, these resources would not have been available to assist Erin in addressing her school attendance.

Case Management



Home-Based Initiative

69

Average # of families receiving MST services per month

Evidence-informed home-based services cover

86%

of Nebraska Counties

108

Average # of families receiving IHFS services per month



Juvenile Justice

Home-Based Initiative

The home-based initiative launched in April of 2017. Since that time, two evidence-informed services have been expanded. These services are Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and the Boys Town In-Home Family Services (IHFS) model.

In May of 2023, Boys Town rebranded the “Ecological In-Home Family Treatment” (EIHFT) service to the “In-Home Family Services” (IHFS). Additionally, IHFS received recognition from the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse as a Promising Practice.

After launching the juvenile justice home-based initiative, an initial multi-year evaluation was completed to determine the efficacy of the initiative including data from 2017 through 2020. The first evaluation report, prepared by Catalyze Evaluation, was published and distributed noting initial progress regarding the increased utilization of evidence-informed in-home services. The data elements of this report are being replicated and will be reflected in future editions of this report.

Multisystemic Therapy Success Story

When 14-year-old Emily was placed on probation due to her uncontrollable behavior, her probation officer immediately recognized that she would benefit from MST services. Emily and her family weren't so sure. The officer and family agreed to give Emily some time to see if her struggles with catastrophic thinking, substance use, verbal aggression, physical aggression, risk of self-harm, and running away would improve. But after Emily failed a drug test, her family was afraid that she would run away and hurt herself again. Her probation officer spent two hours de-escalating the situation! Emily's caregivers agreed it was time to try MST.

Emily returned to court soon after MST services began. At court, the judge was concerned that she had been refusing to participate in services. The goal of stabilizing Emily's behavior in her home seemed hopeless. Her probation officer worried that an out-of-home placement was inevitable. But MST services had just started, and in court the MST therapist asked to keep working with Emily. He shared that research shows MST works best when the service is allowed to run its course.

Thirty days later, Emily went back to court. Everyone was nervous. Emily was starting to improve, but there were still major concerns about her behavior. With Emily on a waitlist for placement, MST continued to work with her and her family. This was her last chance to make progress.

The next time Emily was in court, her situation had dramatically improved! With MST's continued support, there had not been any significant incidents of behavior escalation. Everyone at the hearing, including the prosecutor and the judge, commented on her positive progress. Emily said that she was happy with herself for doing good and made sufficient progress on her goals to successfully discharge from MST services. Soon after, her case closed without any probation violations and without any need for a subsequent out-of-home placement.

Financials



Probation staff work with registered service providers statewide to connect youth to quality behavioral health and non-treatment supportive services. Financial assistance is available to ensure youth can access services. With targeted services, supervision outcomes can improve youths' risk of recidivism. Treatment services may include: substance-use or mental health treatment (outpatient or residential), and medication management. Non-treatment services may include: educational tutoring, day/evening reporting, mediation, shelter care, foster care, and transportation, just to name a few.

Average Daily Cost of Probation

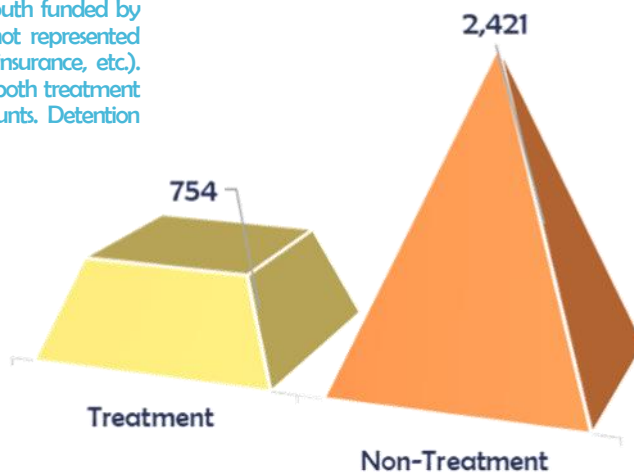
Includes personnel, operating expenses, and services funded by probation

\$34.81

*Average daily costs decreased 16% from FY 2022 as a result of an increase in youth placed on probation while personnel and operating costs remained unchanged.
Personnel includes administration, juvenile officers, Investigation officers, support staff, and management staff.

Service Type Per Youth Receiving Financial Assistance

Service provisions for youth funded by alternative streams is not represented (i.e. Medicaid, private insurance, etc.). Youth may appear in both treatment and non-treatment counts. Detention is not included.



Average Annual/Monthly Cost for Youth Receiving Financial Assistance

In-Home/Community-Based Services



\$5,579.24

Overall Avg./Youth

\$464.94

Monthly Avg./Youth

Out-of-Home Services



\$23,897.39

Overall Avg./Youth

\$1,991.45

Monthly Avg./Youth

Total Youth Served by Juvenile Probation

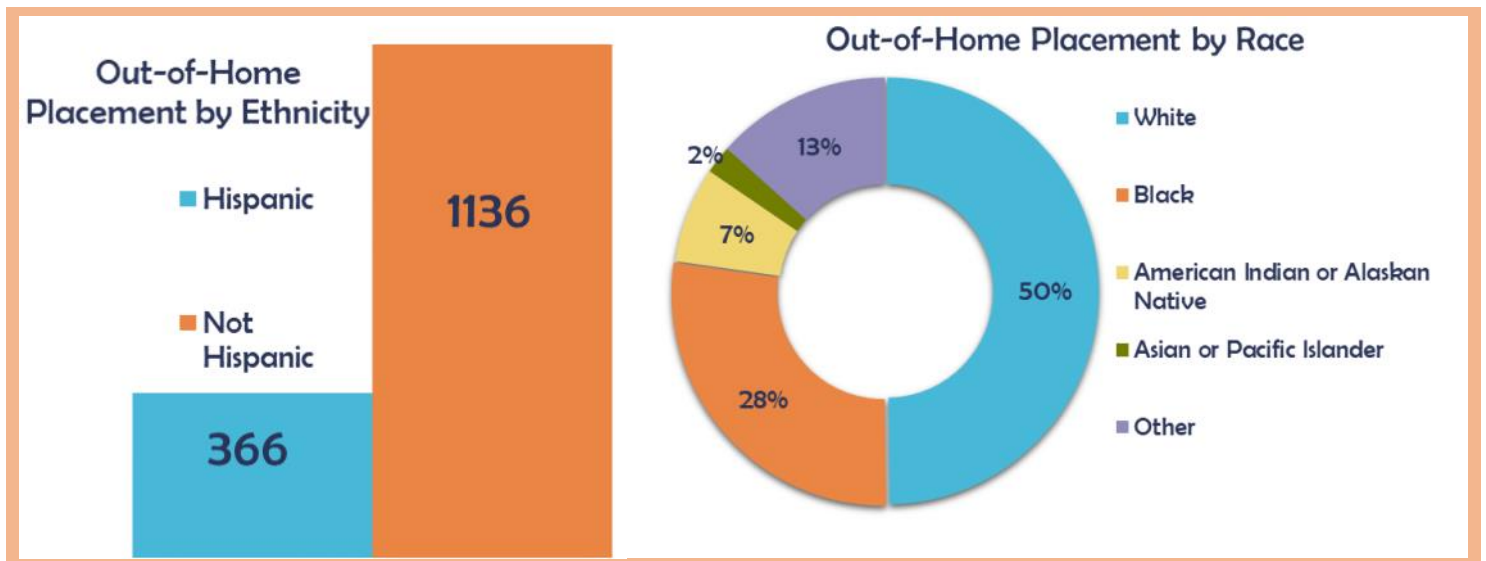
Out-of-Home Placement



Juvenile justice system enhancement prioritizes the reduction of unnecessary placement of youth outside of their homes. Efforts continue to enhance and expand access to home-based services which will assist in accomplishing this priority. There are still times when all efforts have been exhausted and an out-of-home placement is necessary to provide for community safety and treatment services. The term out-of-home placement includes: congregate care (treatment and non-treatment), foster care, alternatives to detention, detention/jail, runaway, and youth residential treatment centers. In fiscal year 2023, 1,502 youth were served in an out-of-home placement for one day or more.



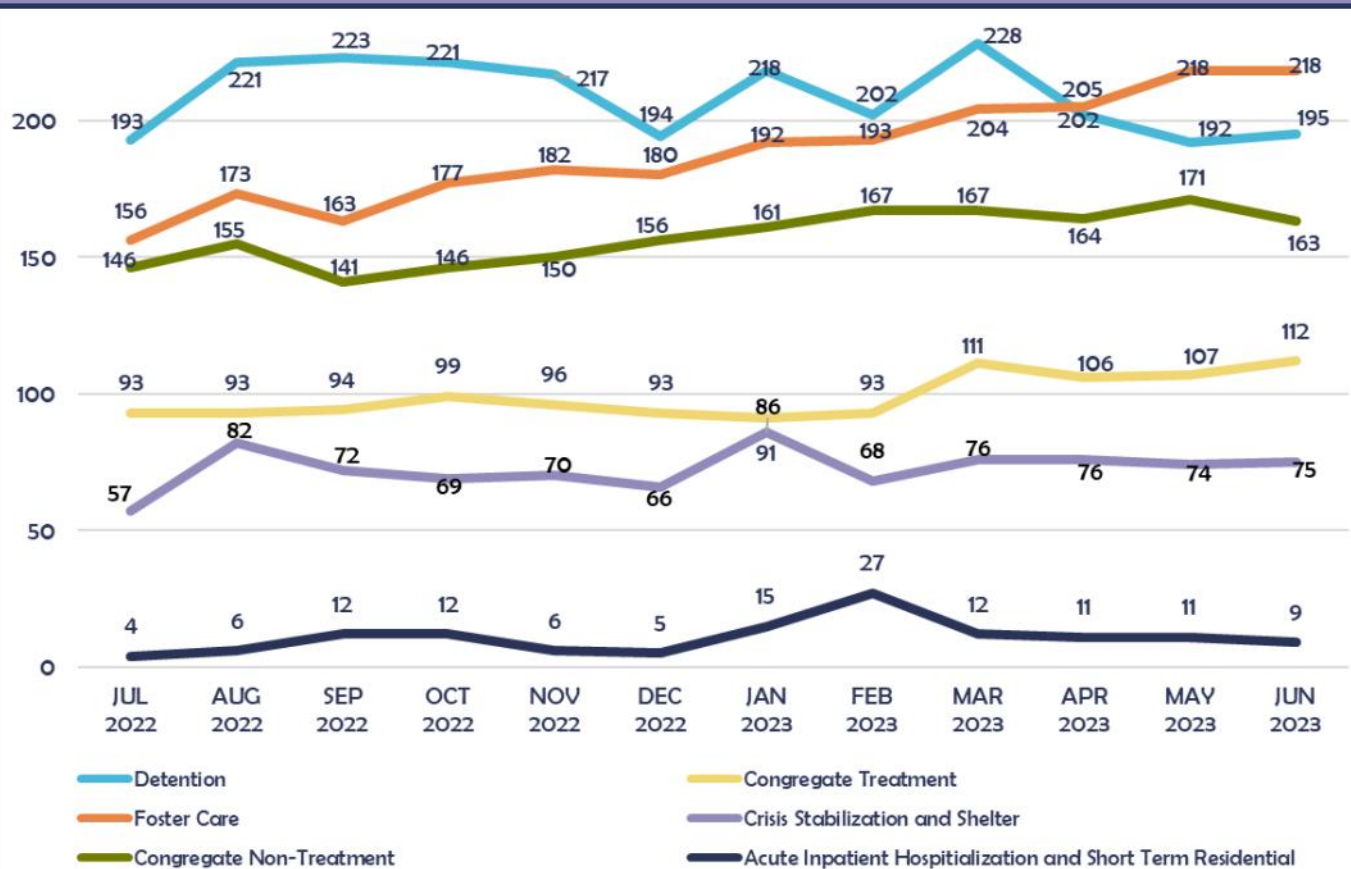
Age at Out-of-Home Placement	
Age of Youth	# of Probationers
11	12
12	55
13	147
14	230
15	324
16	368
17	275
18	91
Total	1,502





When youth are placed out of home, probation officers work immediately with the placement staff, youth, and family to develop a plan for youth to transition back to their homes and local community. This is especially important when youth are placed out of state because distance becomes a key factor in transition planning.

Total Number of Youth in Out-of-Home Placement per Month



Congregate Non-Treatment: group homes (A, B, and developmental disability), maternity group homes (parenting and non-parenting), and independent living
 Congregate Treatment: psychiatric residential treatment facilities and treatment group homes
 Detention: secure and staff secure
 Foster Care: developmental disability, extended family home, professional foster care, emergency foster care, foster care, relative/kinship, and respite

OUT-OF-STATE CARE → **13%**

Of 1,502 treatment or non-treatment congregate out-of-home placements, 200 were outside the state of Nebraska

Out-of-Home Placement

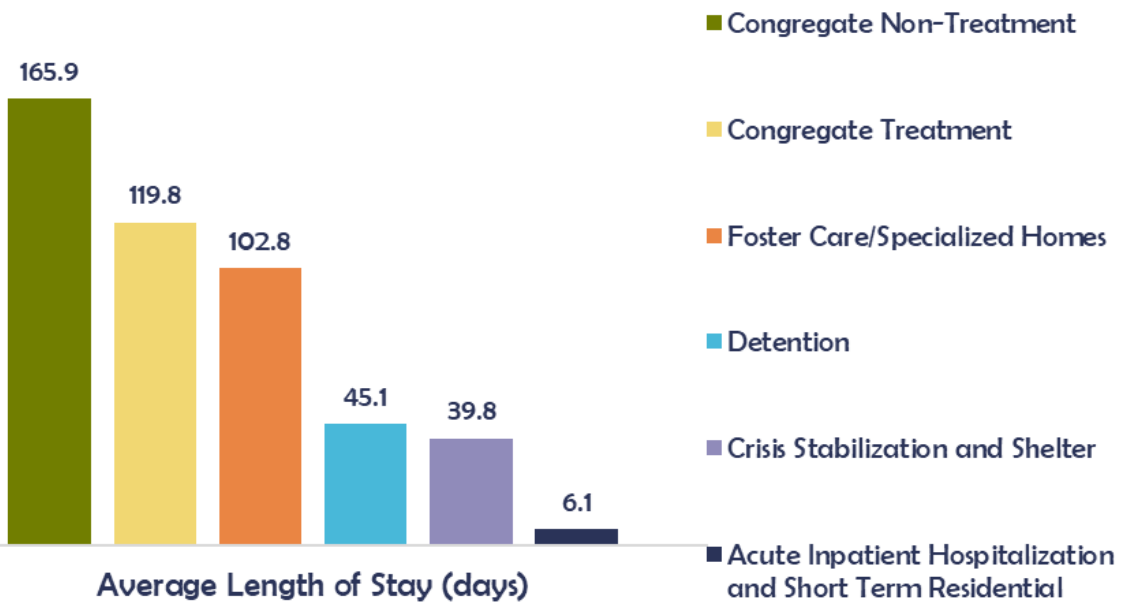


When a youth is placed out of home, each placement type has an optimal “average length of stay” detailed in each of the specific *Juvenile Service Definitions*, found on the Supreme Court website. This “average length of stay” reflects the time the service has shown evidence to achieve the service outcomes with the overarching goal of behavior change and risk reduction. Additionally, research demonstrates that short-term placements such as detention should focus on immediate community safety risks and have shown to increase risk if utilized for low-risk youth and for long periods of time.

For the youth that were discharged from out-of-home placement during the fiscal year, the following lengths of stay were reported. Note that a youth may have multiple out-of-home placements across multiple levels of service so the table reflects the number of placements that had a release date-not the number of youth discharged from out-of-home placement.

4.19
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

Average Number of Days in Out-of-Home Placement



Despite more than a 17% increase in the total probation population, out-of-home placements have decreased by

1%

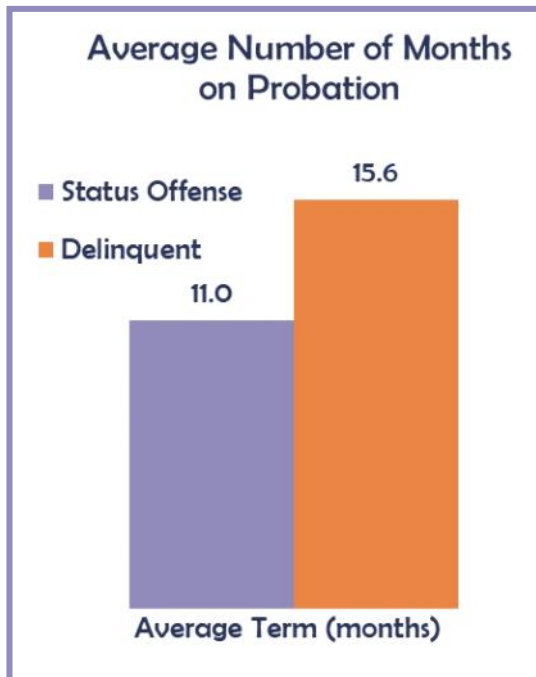


Discharge

When a youth is placed on probation, it is key that a skilled probation officer works closely with the youth to ensure all court-ordered probation conditions are successfully completed. This should result in a reduction of the youth's risk and a change in those behaviors that brought the youth before the court. Once a youth has completed his or her probation conditions, a judge releases the youth from probation supervision. There are three options: the youth may be discharged from probation successfully, unsuccessfully, or probation may be revoked. A basic measure of success for juvenile probation is the number of youth that successfully complete probation.

In this fiscal year, 2,807 juvenile court cases were discharged from probation (102 youth were released for an "other" discharge option and are not included in the total). Discharge examples include a district override or adjudication transfer.

District #	Successful Discharges	Unsuccessful Discharges
1	90	15
2	134	24
3J	256	111
4J	368	160
5	173	27
6	159	28
7	128	40
8	57	7
9	248	65
10	99	26
11	181	38
12	235	36
Total	2,128	577



*Youth can be represented in both categories

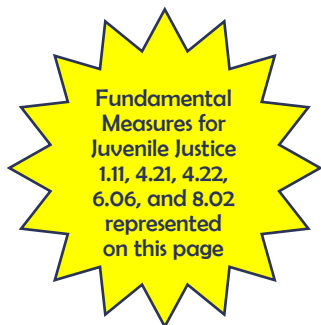
79%

Juvenile court cases were discharged successfully

Down 2% from FY 2022

4%

of the cases discharged in fiscal year 2023 were for youth who reached the age of majority



75%

Of Youth Who Completed Probation Did Not Have New Offenses While Under Supervision

80%

Of Youth Who Completed Probation Did Not Have Technical Violations While Under Supervision

Recidivism



The Fundamental Measures for Juvenile Justice data has recommended a recidivism definition. After exploration, it has been determined that this complex data element is not currently available for addition to this report.

Recidivism is nationally supported as a way to measure the impact of juvenile probation. The Supreme Court approved a standard definition for recidivism which is documented below. National experts continue to suggest using a consistent definition over time to determine impact as a best practice. Recidivism has remained stable despite an increase in high/very high-risk youth and total probation population.

DID NOT
RECIDIVATE
79%

Note: Youth included in this data were discharged in fiscal year 2023



RECIDIVATE
21%

Nebraska Supreme Court Recidivism Definition

For the purpose of accurately assessing program recidivism across justice programs, Nebraska State Probation and Nebraska Problem-Solving Courts shall utilize the following uniform definitions of recidivism for all adults and juveniles within their respective programs.

- A) Adults: As applied to adults, recidivism shall mean a final conviction of a Class I or II misdemeanor, a Class IV felony or above, or a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state law or an ordinance of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law, within three years of being successfully released.
- B) Juveniles:
 - 1) As applied to juveniles, recidivism shall mean that within one year of being successfully released from a probation or problem-solving court program, the juvenile has:
 - a) an adjudication pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-247(1) or (2)
 - b) for a juvenile fourteen years or older, a final conviction for a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state traffic laws or ordinances of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law; or
 - c) a prosecution and final conviction as an adult for any crimes set forth in subsection A) above
 - 2) For juveniles that age-out of the juvenile system within one year of program exit and who did not recidivate post-program as juveniles, the adult definition of post-program recidivism, including any drug-related or alcohol-related conviction, shall apply.

Juvenile Probation Program

SPOTLIGHT



Alternative to Detention (ATD) Reception Center

92 SERVED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR

59 males and 33 females

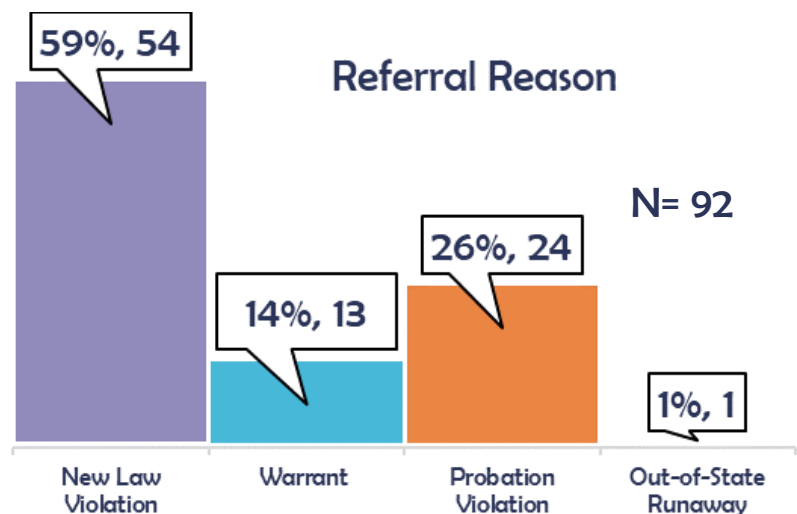
96%

YOUTH REMAINED OUT OF DETENTION FOLLOWING THEIR COURT HEARING

Pictures to the left are CEDARS Reception Center

The Reception Center is an alternative to detention (ATD) that follows a national best-practice model. Introduced in Lancaster County in August 2018, the statewide ATD provides early intervention through 24/7 screening, referral, and crisis intervention services for youth at juvenile intake. A collaborative partnership between law enforcement, juvenile justice, and community-based organizations, the reception center allows law enforcement officers to quickly return to their other essential duties, spending an average of only 26 minutes at the facility.

Youth may remain at the Reception Center for up to 48 hours while staff assess their needs and match them with local resources and supports. These collaborative programs aim to divert youth from the juvenile justice system when possible. Utilization has increased with positive outcomes since implementation.





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Fall 2024*

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