

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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FAIRFIELD  
COUNTY • OHIO

JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT

*Judge Terre L. Vandervoort*

# Forward by Judge Terre Vandervoort

From intake to case closure, Fairfield County Juvenile Court commits its resources, interventions and decisions to achieving these principles:

- protection of the community,
- offender accountability, and
- skill and competency development.

If Fairfield County Juvenile Court becomes an unplanned stop on a child's journey through adolescence to adulthood, we owe it to that child and the future of our community to make the detour worthwhile.

Using a restorative justice approach, Fairfield County Juvenile Court has developed services to bolster youth competencies in five major skill areas:

- pro-social skills to address conflict resolution and anger management;
- moral-reasoning skills which focus on connecting thoughts and actions;
- academic skills;
- workforce development; and
- independent living skills.

Guided by the premise that each child is a unique individual, the interventions and services developed by the Court are evidence-based practices that vary in scope and intensity to match the risk level and needs of each offender.

To reduce the likelihood a youth will reoffend, research indicates that courts should focus resources on individuals



most likely to offend. By aligning our programs with nationally recognized models, all levels of intervention are tailored to the specific risk level of each youth. Fairfield County Juvenile Court uses research-based risk assessment tools to determine whether each juvenile offender poses a low, medium, or high risk of reoffending.

Research also indicates that most delinquents outgrow their offending behaviors because they acquire skills; obtain employment; establish close, caring personal relationships; and form attachments and bonds to pro-social groups and institutions.

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# Juvenile Detention Alternatives

Fairfield County Juvenile Court is a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) court. Supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, JDAI is one of the nation's most successful and widespread juvenile justice system reform initiatives. The focus of JDAI is to reduce reliance on juvenile detention where youth have often been needlessly detained with long-term negative consequences for both public safety and youth development.

JDAI was created to significantly and safely reduce detention populations through appropriate screening, assessment, and placement into detention alternatives.

While JDAI's efforts are primarily focused on the detention phase, detention reform is a major catalyst for other changes in juvenile justice which include the following Core Strategies:

- Promoting collaboration between juvenile court officials, probation agencies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, schools, community organizations and advocates;
- Using data collection and analysis to guide decision-making;
- Implementing alternatives to detention programs in lieu of locked detention;
- Utilizing objective admissions criteria and risk assessment instruments to reduce subjective decision-making regarding placement in secure detention facilities;

- Instituting case processing reforms to expedite the flow of cases through the system;
- Reducing the number of youth detained for probation violations or failing to appear in court and the number held in detention awaiting transfer to a residential facility;
- Combatting racial and ethnic disparities by examining data to identify policies and practices that may disadvantage youth based on race or ethnicity.
- Monitoring and improving conditions of confinement in detention facilities.

In 2025, two of the Court's focus areas under JDAI were school attendance and detention screening. Engagement and collaboration with community partners on work in both of these focus areas resulted in positive planning and action steps that continued into 2026.

# Juvenile Court Array of Services

Resource Center Services		Diversion Services		Court Services		
Community Request for Services	Law Enforcement and On-Call	Informal Conference	Diversion	Levels of Supervision	Detention	Department of Youth Services
<p>Resource Center (Assessment Services)</p> <p>Supports for At-Risk Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Management and Service Linkage (Voluntary)</li> <li>• Service Coordination and Referral</li> </ul>	<p>Resource Center (On-Call/ Assessment Services)</p> <p>Supports for At-Risk Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergencies</li> <li>• After-Hours Calls and Service Coordination</li> <li>• Coordination and Referral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warn and Release</li> <li>• Mediation</li> <li>• Curfew</li> </ul>	<p><u>3 Categories</u></p> <p>Expedited General Intensive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal Processing</li> <li>• Direct Referral from Prosecutor</li> <li>• Individual Contract</li> <li>• Care Coordination and Referral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Adjudicated/Disposition Intervention</li> <li>• Court Services Engagement</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Community Intensive Services Program (CISP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placement for up to 90 days per charge or violation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State-run juvenile facilities</li> <li>• Youth placed for minimum of 6 months or 1 year based on offense</li> </ul>
Resource Center				Behavioral Health		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting Services</li> <li>• Assessment Services</li> <li>• On-Call</li> <li>• Workforce Development</li> <li>• Mentoring/Community Outreach</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral Health Treatment</li> <li>• Care Consultation</li> <li>• Program Consultation</li> <li>• Community Outreach and Education</li> </ul>		

# Guiding Principles

## **Community Protection**

- Identify Risk.
- Manage Risk.
- Minimize Risk.

## **Community Protection**

- Accept Responsibility.
- Victim Impact
- Restitution
- Community Service

## **Diversion Services**

- Informal Conferences
- Diversion Accountability
- Safe Harbor
- Positive Youth Development
- Mediation
- Mentoring

## **Behavioral Health Services**

- Counseling/Consulting
- Multidisciplinary Team Coordination
- Family Engagement
- Resiliency Training

## **Resource Center Services**

- Assessment Services
- Reporting Services
- Community Request for Services
  - Skill Building
  - Pro-Social Skills
  - Moral Reasoning
  - Academics
  - Workforce Development
  - Independent Living
  - Group Mentoring

## **Court Services**

- Community Control
- Court Services Engagement
  - Probation
  - Supervision
  - Case Management
  - Graduated Sanctions
  - Positive Incentives
  - Cognitive Interventions
- Community Intensive Services Program

## **Specialized Dockets and Strategic Initiatives**

- Excel (formerly Family Court)
- Protecting and Advocating for Children Together (PACT)

# Interventions

- **Assessment Center**
- **Informal Conferences**
- **Diversion Services**
- **Community Control**
- **Court Services**
- **Detention**



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# Assessment Center

The Assessment Center (AC) is part of the Fairfield County Juvenile Court Resource Center (RC) located in Connexion West, a community center located in a former elementary school in Lancaster.

The AC provides individualized screening, processing, and referral of at-risk youth and juvenile offenders. Staff respond to immediate crises as well as ongoing needs of youth and their families while increasing law enforcement availability to the community through provision of timely service.

The Assessment Center partners with community-based agencies to provide coordinated best-practice and cost-effective responses, services and resources to youth and their families — including screenings, assessments, and referrals.

The AC has a dual goal:

- Prevent the progression of behaviors that put the youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement.
- Prevent the use of secure detention for youth who can be safely served while maintaining family stability and community safety.

The AC process for law enforcement agencies begins with an officer or deputy bringing an at-risk youth to the Center. The youth's parents/guardians are contacted to come in as well. As RC staff begin their assessment, the law enforcement official can clear the case and return to duty.

RC staff provide Assessment Services after hours to law enforcement via phone through On-Call Services.

There are several possible outcomes of this initial referral, as based on results of the screenings and interview:

- Youth returns home with parent/caregiver; or
- Youth stays with relative/other adult overnight; or
- Youth may be taken to detention by Court staff.

The Assessment Center staff interact with the Fairfield County Prosecutor to determine if a case can be diverted, should be formally filed, or will be handled informally.

## Assessment Center Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Community Track (Community Request for Services)</b> Number of Youth Referrals. Service provided/attempted for all.	42	76	59	50	40	48	36
<b>Law Enforcement Track (On-Call)</b> Number of Youth Referrals. Service provided/attempted for all.	34	38	33	61	19	22	<i>Set to open in 2020</i>

## Informal Conferences

When a youth is referred to Fairfield County Juvenile Court as the result of a citation issued by law enforcement, usually for a curfew violation or other minor misdemeanor (such as tobacco possession), a Court Services case

manager meets with the youth and parent(s). Through a brief interview, recommendations can be made for preventive or other services, and the youth is admonished and released. Informal conferences do not become part of a juvenile's record.

## Informal Conferences Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Informal Conferences Caseload</b>	39	60	64	55	69	86	58	98	85	188

# Diversion Services

Diversion Services incorporates a vast variety of interventions that may be utilized both within the Court (General Diversion, Safe Harbor Diversion, School Attendance and Engagement, Mediation Services) and community as alternatives to formal case processing of a youth or family. The intervention utilized is dependent upon the offense, extent of harm to victim or community, and risk of the youth to reoffend.

Extensive research conducted during the past 25 years shows that juvenile offenders deemed at low risk for reoffending benefit most from minimal court intervention. Conversely, research indicates that providing intensive monitoring and treatment to low-risk youth can have a detrimental impact on them. Diversion Services accepts referrals directly from the County Prosecutor or from the Judge/Magistrate when a youth:

- Is alleged to have committed an offense that can range from a status offense to a misdemeanor\*,
- Accepts accountability, and
- Is deemed at low or moderate risk of reoffending as determined through administration of the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) questionnaire.

In a diversion case, the delinquency or unruly matter proceeds through informal processing as opposed to adjudication. Since 2022, youth are no longer ordered

to Diversion once they have entered the Courtroom. If a case is referred from the Judge or Magistrate, the matter has already been filed formally. The youth then enters an admission or is found delinquent or unruly; the disposition order is completion of Diversion Services.

Diversion also provides the youth and their family an opportunity to access needed resources, with the goal of preventing further involvement with the juvenile justice system while allowing the youth to acknowledge responsibility for their actions.

When a youth is referred to Diversion Services, a comprehensive interview with the juvenile and parent(s) is scheduled and facilitated by a case manager. During the assessment interview, the case manager gathers information regarding school behavior, academic challenges, peer relations, and family dynamics while also identifying the strengths of the youth and family.

Specific screenings are administered for mental health and substance abuse issues, as well as prior or current exposure to trauma. If concerns are identified that may indicate a need for intervention, the case manager refers the youth and family to appropriate resources; these recommendations are included in the youths Diversion Contract.

*Continued on next page.*

# Diversion Services (continued)

Other terms of a youth's contract may include the completion of an apology letter, an essay relative to the offense, payment of restitution directly to the victim, community service, referral to mentoring opportunities, or referral to other programs offered through the Court or within the community.

These terms are included within the contract as a means of restoration for a victim and to enhance the youth's protective factors in the areas of work, education, relationships, community, health, and creativity.

Youth who are accepted into Diversion Services remain with the department until all terms of the agreed-upon contract are fulfilled. Upon Diversion completion, which averages 90 days, the youth is successfully terminated, and their record is submitted to the Court with a recommendation for the case to be sealed.

The amount of time between a successful termination and sealing of a Diversion case depends on the level of the offense and whether the youth reoffends during a specified period of time.

If a youth fails to complete the terms of the contract or commits a subsequent offense while in Diversion, the case can be terminated unsuccessfully and returned to the Prosecutor for formal

processing or is returned to the Court for further orders if already adjudicated.

Diversion Services began development of a new intervention in fourth quarter 2024: Restorative Justice Circles. The concept of Restorative Justice is ages old and can be found throughout much of the world's cultures and history. Restorative Justice focuses on three core pillars:

- addressing harm and needs,
- accountability and responsibility,
- and engagement in the process.

The purpose of Circles of Restoration is to provide a space for youth engaging in delinquent behavior where there is an identifiable victim an opportunity to be held accountable for their actions and to understand the implications of those actions in an age-appropriate and developmentally informed way.

# Diversion Services Data



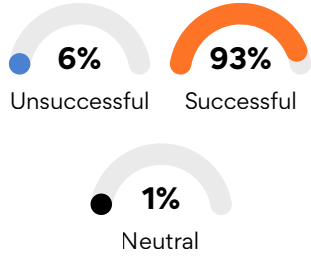
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Youth Referred to Diversion</b>	127	131	144	226	229	200	255	229	313	183	144
<b>Successful Completion</b>	93%	85%	90%	93%	94.9%	86.5%	90%	83.6%	91.4%	84.9%	85.6%
<b>Unsuccessful Completion</b>	6%	10%	10%	6.6%	3.8%	12.5%	9.2%	15.8%	8.3%	12.4%	13.4%
<b>Neutral Outcome Due to Medical Reason</b>	1%	5%	0%	0.4%	1.3%	1%	0.8%	0.6%	0.3%	2.7%	1%
<b>Offense Level: Felony</b>	0%	0	0%	3.1%	0%	1.1%	0.8%	0.4%	1.9%	0%	1.4%
<b>Offense Level: Misdemeanor</b>	100%	89%	90.4%	78.3%	68.1%	60.6%	69.4%	78.8%	73.3%	70.4%	92.1%
<b>Offense Level: Status (curfew, tobacco, etc.)</b>	0%	11%	9.6%	18.6%	31.9%	38.3%	29.8%	20.8%	24.8%	29.6%	6.5%

# 2025 - Diversion

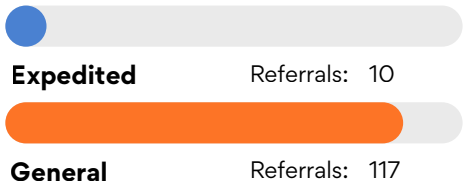
→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

## Terminations

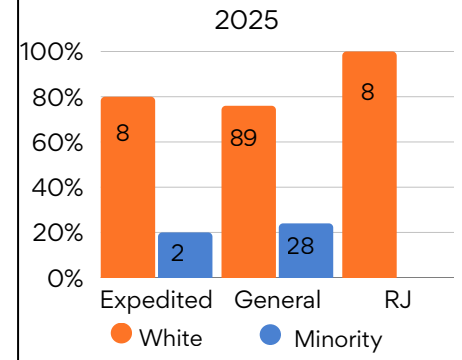
What cases were closed successfully or not.



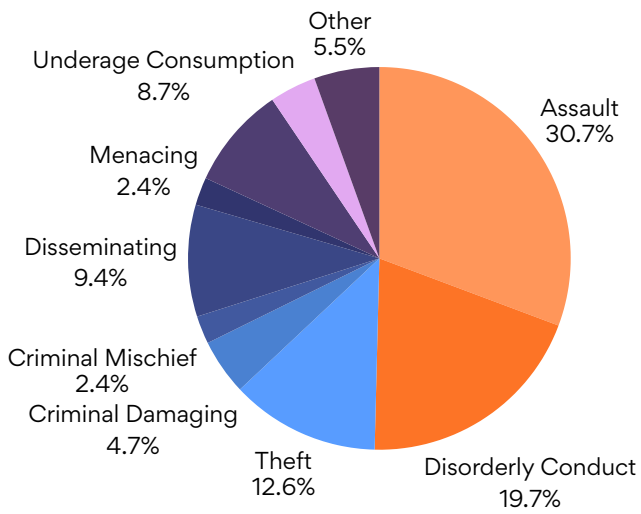
## Diversion Distribution



## Diversion Racial Breakdown



## Diversion Offenses



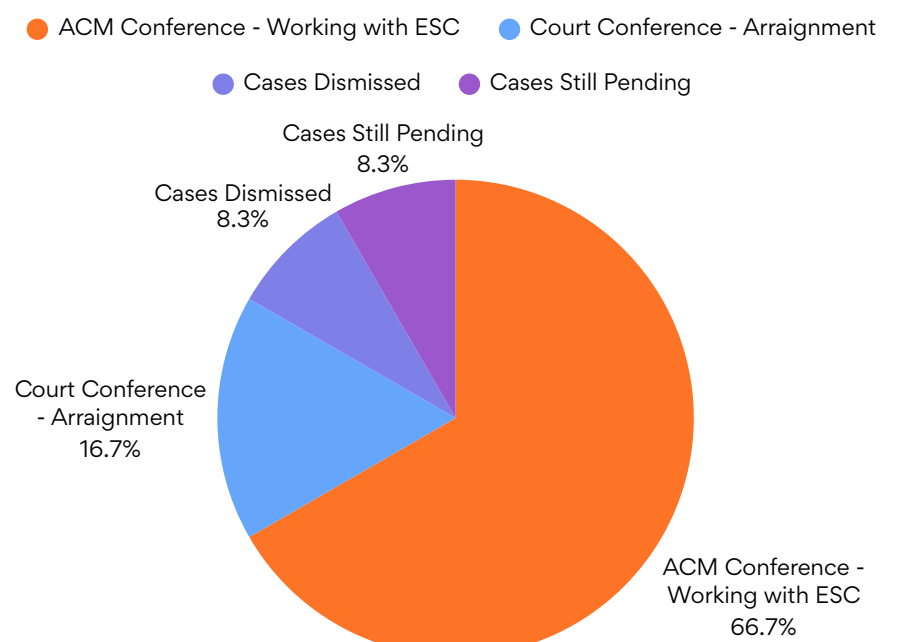
## DS Outcome Measures

ALOS:

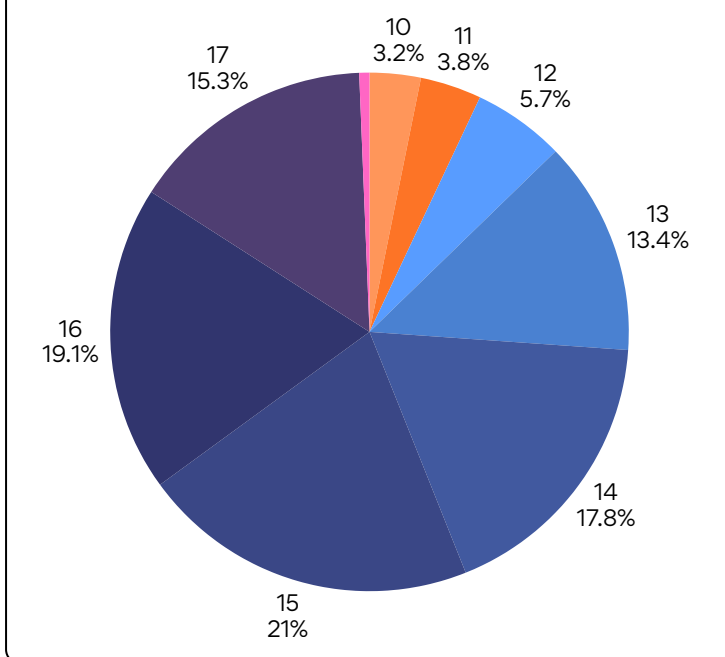
- Expedited Diversion: 30-45 Days ✓
- General Diversion: 60-90 Days ✓
- 80% or more of Diversion cases to be terminated successfully. ✓
- 75% or more of youth will not receive new charges within 12 months of completing a diversion services program. ✓
- 80% of youth served in diversion services will not have their case moved to court services. ✓
- 75% of youth will not receive an additional diversion referral while involved with diversion services. ✓

## School Attendance Engagement

SAE Results Since Program Change



## Diversion Age Breakdown

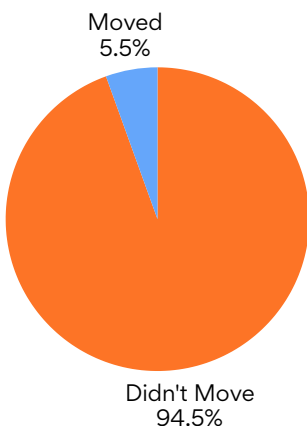


## Other Programs

- No youth were TOR in 2025.
- There were 57 new informal referrals in 2025.
- The average length of an Expedited Diversion Case was 36 Days.
- The average length of a General Diversion Case was 90 Days.
- 44 youth were referred to SAE in 2025.

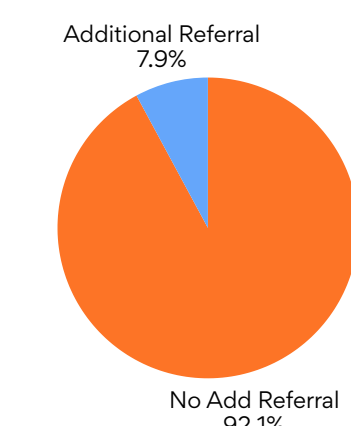
## Diversion Youth Moved

Diversion Youth Moved to Court Services

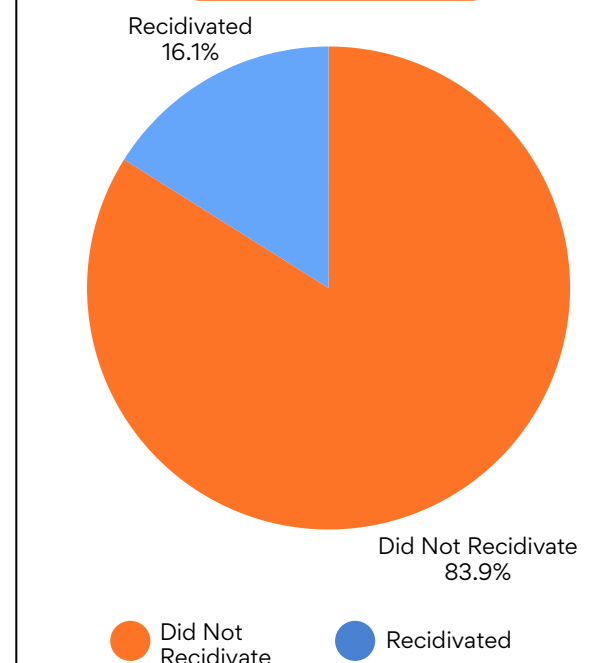


## Diversion Youth Moved

Diversion Youth Who Received a Second Referral While Involved



## Diversion Recidivism 2024



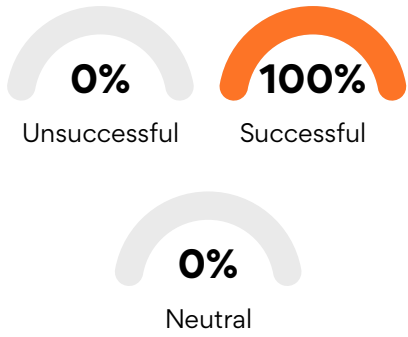
\*34 cases from 2024 not eligible for check yet.

# 2025 - Restorative Justice Circles

→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

## Terminations

What cases were closed successfully or not.



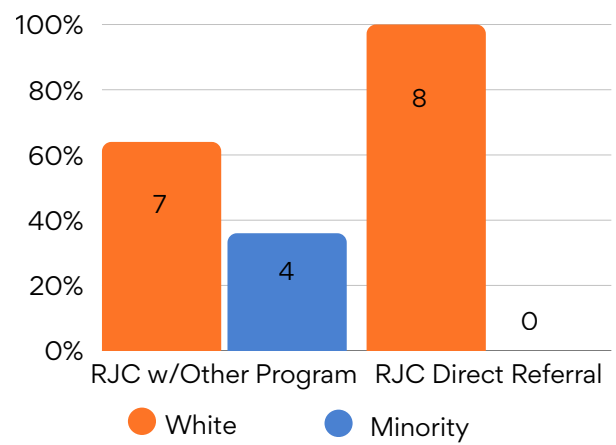
## Referrals

RJ Circles Referrals (Including Mediation): 8

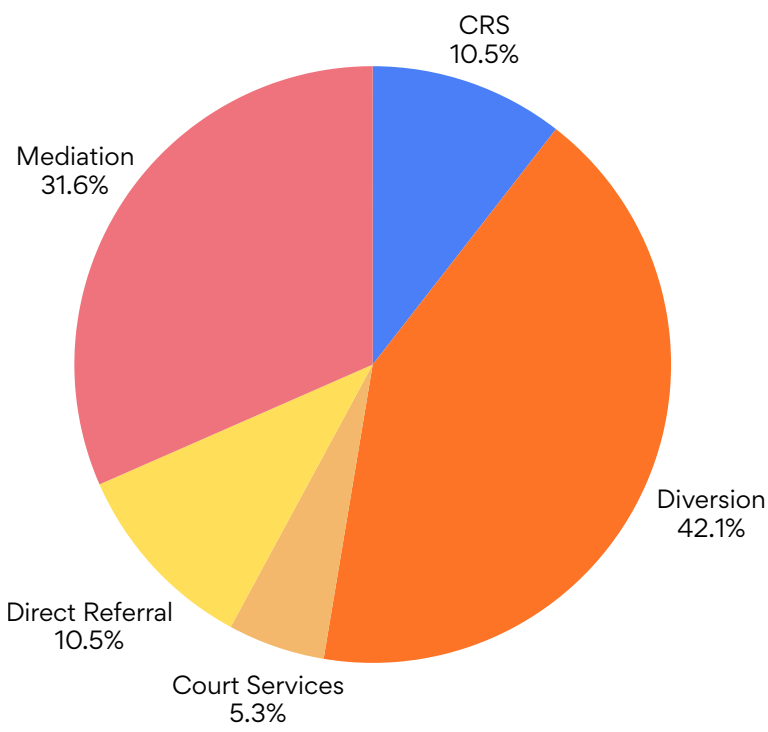
RJ Circles Referrals from a Program: 11

## RJ Circles Racial Breakdown

2025



## RJ Circles Referral Source



## RJ Circles Outcome Measures

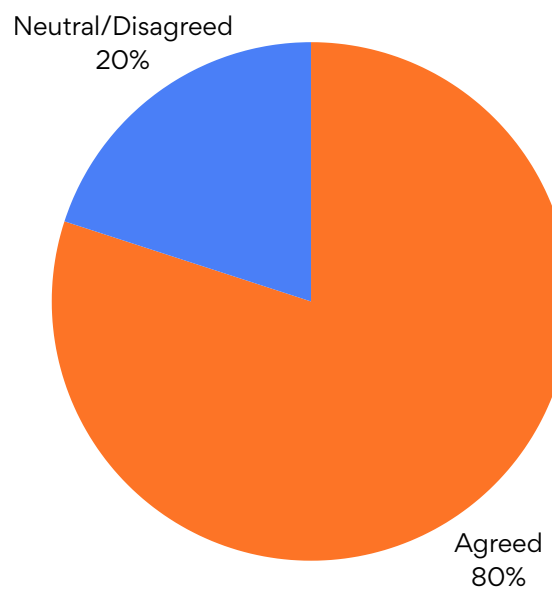
- 75% of youth will not recidivate within 12 months of completing RJ Circle.
- 80% of youth will successfully completed the intervention.
- 80% of the victims participating will report a satisfactory outcome and experience.

## Other Survey Results

- 100% of youth agreed the circle was fair for them and would recommend to other youth.
- 93% of parents and support folks agreed the circle helped their youth better understand how their actions affect others.
- 96% of community volunteers would recommend circles to other members of the community to resolve harm and address concerns.

## Victim Satisfaction

Were victims satisfied with the RJ circle outcome and experience?



# Safe Harbor

Ohio consistently ranks in the top 10 states in the country for reported human trafficking cases, a 2024 UC Health article said. In 2019, University of Cincinnati researchers identified 4,209 youth in Ohio at risk as victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. This staggering number affects every area of the state, including Fairfield County.

Human trafficking of women and children is a reality for the Fairfield County community. Trafficking in a rural setting may look different than it does in larger urban communities, but its prevalence is increasing.

Ranging from the traditional out-of-state runaway arrested at an airport to young people living in hotels with no visible means of support or parent engagement, these cases were the impetus to an initiative led by Juvenile Court. Community partners that joined the initiative include Protective Services, the Community Action Homeless Youth Program, Family and Children First Council, and Gracehaven in Columbus.

The name Safe Harbor comes from Ohio legislation that provides special handling of these cases. Safe Harbor automatically diverts some charges, such as prostitution and soliciting. In rural Ohio, juveniles typically do not receive those types of charges. However, charges of truancy, theft, and runaway/unruly youth are red flags for possible human trafficking.

National and other Ohio best practice protocols were used to develop the Court's Safe Harbor program. Cases diverted through Safe Harbor receive behavioral health assessments and referrals, skill-building, Protective Services involvement, empowerment and support for the youth, and support in addressing charges they did receive.

Once confirmed into Safe Harbor, the youth is considered a victim or survivor of human trafficking. The Court developed a human trafficking screening protocol for all youth who interact with the Court, regardless of which pathway they enter the Court.

## Safe Harbor Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Youth Identified for Safe Harbor Abeyance</b>	1	1	0	4	5

# School Attendance and Engagement

The catastrophic effect of COVID 19 on school attendance continued to be seen in 2025. Ohio Department of Education data shows that 25 percent of Ohio Students are missing 10 percent of the school year.

Due to the April 2017 implementation of HB 410 school attendance (truancy) legislation, responsibility for early intervention for school attendance was assigned to the schools.

Juvenile Court partnered with each school district to support individual youth school attendance intervention plans. Youth who subsequently receive truancy charges were then served through the Court's Diversion programs when at all possible.

Through a community partnership with Family and Children First Council, a community-based school attendance intervention was implemented in October 2022. This diverted families challenged with school attendance issues to the Council, where they are assessed to determine the needs of the youth and family and address underlying concerns that may be contributing to the youth's lack of school attendance.

Through this effort, vulnerable families received needed service linkage and collaboration of community providers without having to be under any form of Court supervision.

A 2024 Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) primary focus area was to review and revamp this community intervention to better serve youth and families. Among those gathered for discussions and planning were representatives from the Court, Fairfield County Educational Service Center (ESC), school districts, prosecutors, Protective Services, and workforce development.

As of 2025, the ESC provides case management services for youth/families referred for school and attendance-related issues in districts served by the ESC. Other community partners provide case management services to all other districts.

# School Attendance and Engagement Data

	2025*	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Truancy Cases</b>	0	79	87	81	69	47	56	65	71	89	55
<b>Truancy Cases Diverted</b>	0	33 by the Court; 46 by the Community	54 by the Court; 33 by the Community	42 by the Court; 39 by the Community	69	47	56	30	50	51	9
<b>Successful Diversion of Truancy Cases</b>	NA	76%	56%	85%	86%	71%	73%	67%	88%	80%	88%
<b>Unsuccessful Diversion of Truancy Cases</b>	NA	21%	41%	13%	9%	25%	25%	30%	12%	20%	12%
<b>Diverted Truancy Cases Closed with Neutral Status</b>	NA	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	3%	3%	NA	NA	NA

\*As of 2025, all truancy cases are provided case management through the ESC or other community partners. Youth are no longer served by the Court’s Diversion Department for school attendance but rather served by the community. If unsuccessful through community case management, families are served through a formal Court filing and may be directed back to the community or other programming. 38 youth were provided community-based case management by the ESC case management position partially funded by the Court. 14 of those youth subsequently were referred to the Court due to lack of progress.

# Mediation Services

Mediation Services are offered to youth who may otherwise incur a formal charge of disorderly conduct, misdemeanor assault, criminal mischief/damaging, menacing, or other misdemeanor offenses that do not pose a serious threat to the community or to themselves.

A trained on-staff Mediator can conduct mediations in person or via Zoom to be more accessible to the community. Referrals come from the Fairfield County Prosecutor’s Office, a Juvenile Court judicial officer, Court Services, or Diversion.

Research has shown youth who engage in physical conflict benefit from learning alternative ways to resolve issues with their peers. Mediation offers both (or additional) parties an opportunity to identify their conflict, own their own part in the conflict, and work toward an understanding of the other person’s point of view.

Mediation offers an identified victim a chance to ask questions that only the offender can answer—such as the how and why of the offense. Mediation is also an opportunity for the victim to express frustrations and concerns. Mediation gives the offender a chance to take responsibility for their actions by facing the victim and working together to create an agreement that is acceptable to all parties.

The goal of reaching an agreement through the process is to restore in some manner what was lost by the victim. The Mediation Agreement additionally makes the offender personally accountable for the loss, injury, or damage done against the victim.

If a youth completes the Mediation process and experiences no further conflicts for a period of at least 30 days, the matter is closed successfully, and no formal charges are filed.

## Mediation Services Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Youth Referred to Mediation Services</b>	2	14	5	35	23

# Court Services

The Court Services Department was created in 2022 to allow all youth facing formally filed delinquency charges to be managed in a single department.

Additionally, that youth and family can typically work with a single case manager from the time the case is filed until the youth completes his or her involvement with the Court.

Previously, services and functions now under Court Services were divided between the Intake and Assessment and Probation departments.

The Court Services structure has helped foster strong bonds between youth and Case Managers and has enhanced the ability to address any barriers to youth and family success.

Immediately following the formal filing of a charge by the Prosecutor, a Court Services Case Manager is assigned to evaluate the risk level and needs of the juvenile. As part of this process, the Case Manager contacts the family to gather preliminary information about family background, education, mental health and/or substance abuse issues, and pro-social activities.

The staff member also meets with the family at the time of the initial hearing, while providing a brief update to the Court during the hearing. The judicial officer may find that no further formal

Court involvement is necessary and order a Pre-Adjudication/Disposition intervention, which is described on page 18. Typically, however, the case will go through a lengthier formal process.

As the case moves through the formal legal process, the Case Manager continues to work closely with the youth and family and also assesses the long-term needs of the youth.

As part of this process, multiple evidence-based tools are used, including the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS), the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2), and the Child Trauma Screen.

Additionally, the Case Manager contacts collateral sources (for which releases of information have been signed by the parent or guardian) including schools, counselors, and others to gather more information.

In most cases, all of the information described above is compiled into a Pre-Disposition Report (PDR) which includes recommendations for further monitoring and intervention.

The PDR is distributed to the judicial staff, prosecutors, the attorney and Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) for the youth and typically guides the Court in making appropriate orders for the youth.

Generally, the PDR will recommend one of several specific interventions which are described on page 18 in the Court Services Array of Interventions.

# Court Services Array of Interventions



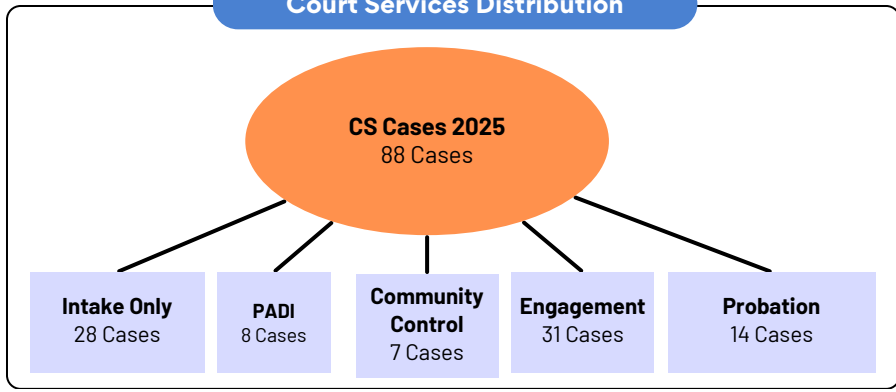
<b>Intervention Level #1:</b> Pre-Adjudication/ Disposition Intervention	<b>Intervention Level #2:</b> Court Services Engagement	<b>Intervention Level #3:</b> Probation	<b>Intervention Level #4:</b> Community Intensive Services Program (CISP)
<p>This level of intervention is intended to serve low-risk youth who have had a formal charge filed with the Court, but where the judicial officer determines that further formal Court involvement is not necessary to protect the interest of the community, and that dismissal of the charge is in the best interest of the child.</p> <p><u>Length of Supervision</u> Typically, no longer than 90 days from the date of the youth’s last Court appearance</p> <p>Written case plan optional while Case Manager monitors compliance with temporary orders and ensures youth is unlikely to commit additional offenses.</p>	<p>This level of intervention is designed to serve low- or moderate-risk youth who, either because of the youth’s history or due to the nature of the charge, require further Court involvement, but whose needs can be met with an intervention less than that of formal probation.</p> <p><u>Length of Supervision</u> Target of 120 days with 30-day extensions as needed</p> <p>A written “Engagement Plan” is completed with the youth and family. The plan focuses on the needs and desires of the youth. The plan is strength-based, emphasizes Positive Youth Development principles, and is designed to foster long-lasting connections.</p>	<p>This level of intervention is designed to serve moderate or high-risk youth who, either due to the youth’s history or due to the nature of the charge, require a more significant intervention designed to help the youth be successful, and to protect the safety of the community.</p> <p><u>Length of Supervision</u> Indefinite and typically longer than the lower-level interventions described above. The case is reviewed by the Case Manager and a supervisor every 30 days to determine when termination is appropriate. A written “Probation Success Plan” is completed with the youth and the family. The plan focuses on community safety, safety of the youth, and the needs and desires of the youth and family.</p>	<p>This level of intervention is designed to serve moderate- or high-risk youth who, due to the youth’s history and due to the nature of the charge, have demonstrated that a significant, closely-monitored intervention is needed to avoid a long-term commitment to a secure facility, to maximize the potential for the long-term success of the youth, and to ensure the safety of the community.</p> <p><u>Length of Supervision</u> Indefinite. The case will be reviewed by the Case Manager and supervisor every 30 days and may be terminated at any time after all steps within the program are completed and youth and community safety are ensured.</p> <p>In addition to the written “Probation Success Plan” completed with the Case Manager, the youth and family will meet with the Case Manager to review and complete various other documents detailing steps associated with successful completion of CISP. These steps are monitored very closely with an expectation of strict compliance.</p>



# 2025 - Court Services

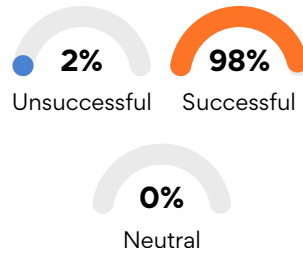
→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

## Court Services Distribution



## Terminations

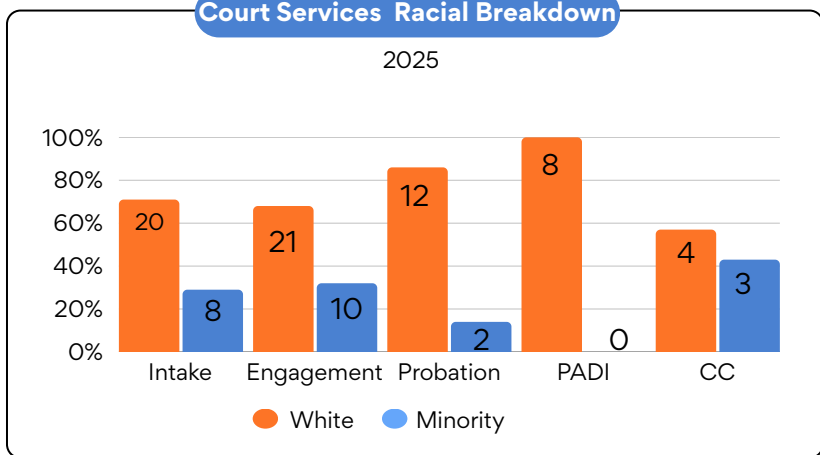
What cases were closed successfully or not.



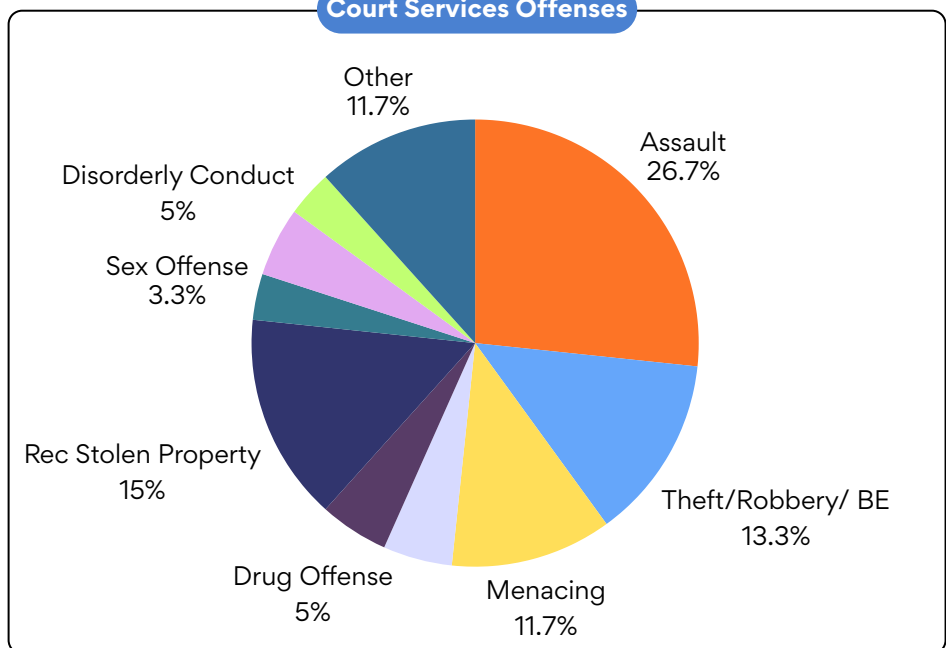
## CS Outcome Measures

- ALOS:**
  - Probation: 80% or more of Probation youth will terminate in less than 18 months from placement in the program. ✓
  - Engagement: 80% or more of Engagement youth will terminate in less than 180 days from placement in the program. ✓
- Recidivism:** 67.7% or more of youth will not recidivate within 1 year of termination from Court Services. ✓
- 80% of youth placed on PADI had the case terminated without being placed on a higher level of supervision. ✓

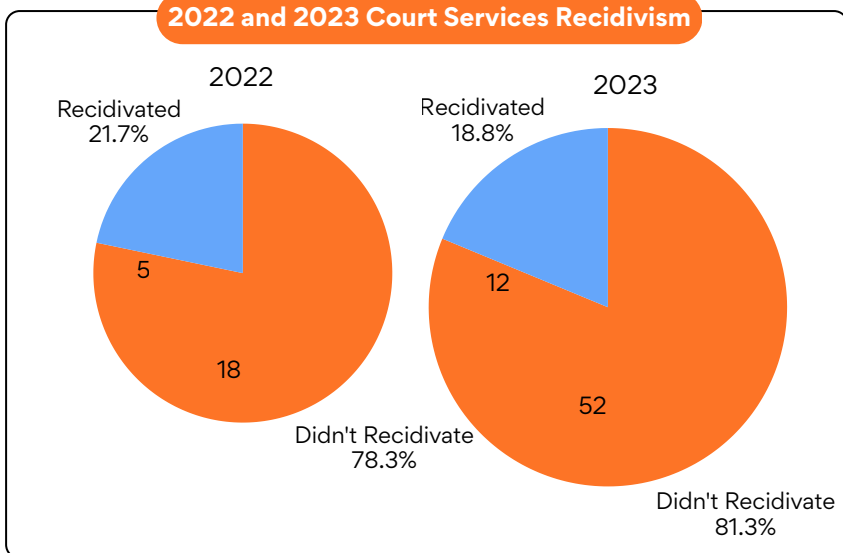
## Court Services Racial Breakdown



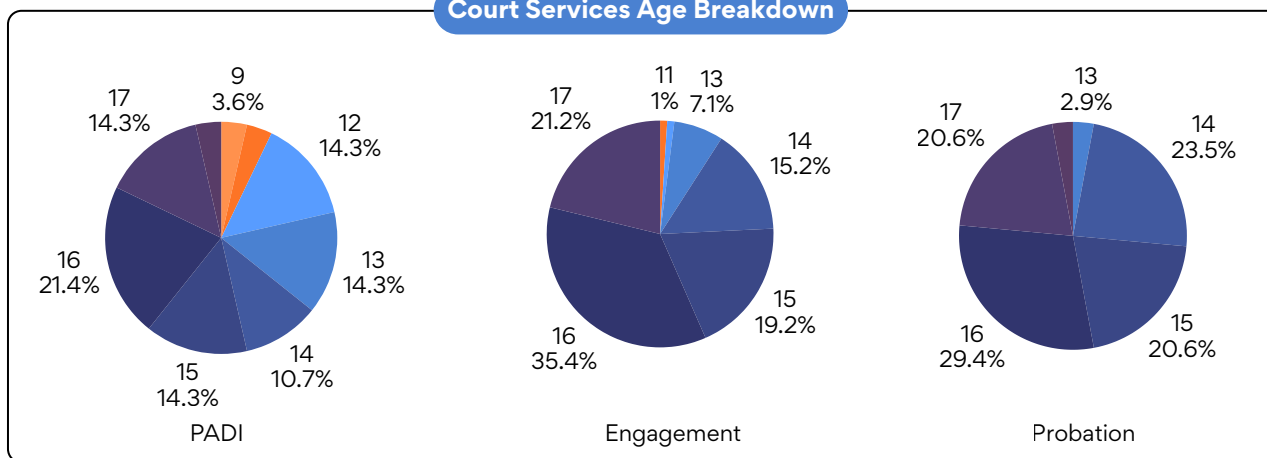
## Court Services Offenses



## 2022 and 2023 Court Services Recidivism



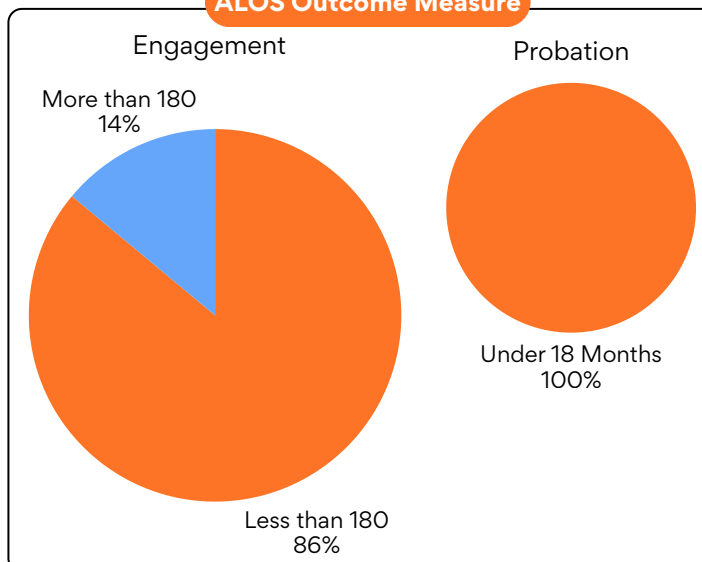
## Court Services Age Breakdown



## ALOS Data

- The average length of a probation case in 2024 was 259.6 days.
- The average length of an engagement case in 2024 was 147.6 days.
- The average length of a PADI case in 2024 was 136 days.

## ALOS Outcome Measure



## PADI Outcome Measure



# Detention

Research on the impact of detention on adolescent development and mental health indicates that its use increases the likelihood of recidivism and negatively affects future employment and educational opportunities. At Fairfield County Juvenile Court, detention is considered only after other graduated

sanctions have been attempted. While placement in secure detention may be ordered for up to 90 days per charge or violation, it is used primarily as a short-term sanction when the youth is a danger to themselves or the community, or when the youth is at risk of absconding.

## Detention Data

Fairfield County - Juvenile Detention Bed Days		
Year	Total Bed Days	Average Number of Juveniles in Detention Per Day
2025	1,116	3.06
2024	1,364	3.73
2023	1,209	3.31
2022	1,648	4.52
2021	1,098	3.01
2020	892	2.44
2019	2,093	5.73
2018	2,767	7.58
2017	2,074	5.68
2016	2,061	5.63
2015	2,961	8.11
2014	4,486	12.29
2013	6,132	16.80
2012	4,835	13.21
2011	5,110	14.0
2010	5,869	16.08
2009	6,767	18.54
2008	6,745	18.48
2007	6,026	16.51
2006	5,957	16.32
2005	4,873	13.35

# Programs and Services

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- **Behavioral Health Services**
  - Counseling/Consulting
  - Multidisciplinary Team Coordination
  - Family Engagement
  - Resiliency Training
- **Resource Center**
  - Reporting Services
  - Community Service
  - Group Mentoring/Community Outreach
  - Workforce Development



# Behavioral Health Services

Licensed social work/mental health professionals within the Court’s Behavioral Health (BH) team provide mental health and substance abuse assessments for juveniles referred from Court Case Managers and Specialists or by the Judge/Magistrates. If through their interview with the youth and parent(s) it is determined that further counseling or treatment is needed, the team will make a referral for the youth to the most appropriate community resource or provide short-term in-house counseling.

The BH team also is available for immediate lethality screening and referral when a youth is at risk for suicide or is a threat to others. Additionally, the team provides case consultation services to all Court staff. A Behavioral Health Specialist is focused on family engagement. Her primary role is to engage, educate, advocate for, and support parents/ caregivers who have youth in Court programming; as well as to facilitate meetings to support family voice and choice.

## Behavioral Health Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Lethality Assessments</b>	1	1	12	4	3	3	6	36	10	27	31
<b>Behavioral Health Assessments/Consults</b>	47	49	66	41	42	67	94	116	99	57	104
<b>Youth in Ongoing Treatment</b>	20	31	40	29	13	23	44	36	10	27	31
<b>Total Youth Served (Unduplicated)</b>	58	62	73	66	63	77	129	156	140	158	201
<b>Public Sensitivity</b>	11	20	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Healthy Relationships</b>	2	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

\*Separate tracking of Public Sensitivity and Healthy Relationships data did not begin until 2024. Those numbers are included under Total Youth Served (Unduplicated) for 2015-2023.

# Resource Center

Fairfield County Juvenile Court Resource Center (RC) provides a combination of interventions and programming to better serve youth and families and law enforcement, as well as other community partners. The RC is located in Connexion West, a community center located in a former elementary school in Lancaster.

Programs and services include Assessment Services, which include Community Request for Services and On-Call Services (described on page 6), Reporting Services, Mentoring, Community Service, and Workforce Development.

The purpose of the RC is multifaceted:

- To utilize restorative justice system best practices to provide high-risk, Court-involved youth a safe and structured environment in which to develop skills, connect to community resources, and establish positive relationships to improve daily living and reduce further involvement in the juvenile justice system;

These skills, as outlined in the Court's Guiding Principles include: Pro-Social, Moral Reasoning, Academic Workforce Development, and Independent Living.

- To promote public safety through around-the-clock availability to local law enforcement for assistance with emergent needs related to juveniles displaying unruly or delinquent behaviors;

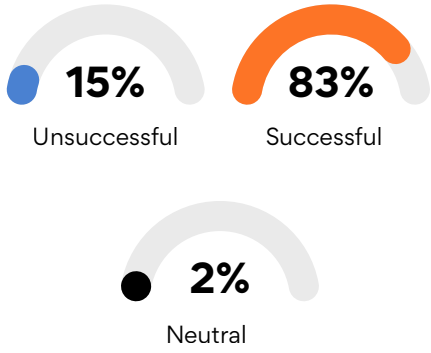
- To utilize trauma-informed practices to promote public and youth safety by encouraging local school districts, law enforcement, other community partners, and affected families to refer juveniles displaying unruly or delinquent behaviors to the RC for skills-development and/or other resources for the youths' personal development and success;
- To assess youth for underlying issues that contribute to their concerning behaviors and to intervene with development of safety plans and provision of appropriate services and referrals to behavioral health and other community partners;
- To assist youth existing detention with their transition back into the community; and
- To provide mentoring services and opportunities for positive community engagement while modeling appropriate social interaction and promoting resiliency.

# 2025 - Resource Center

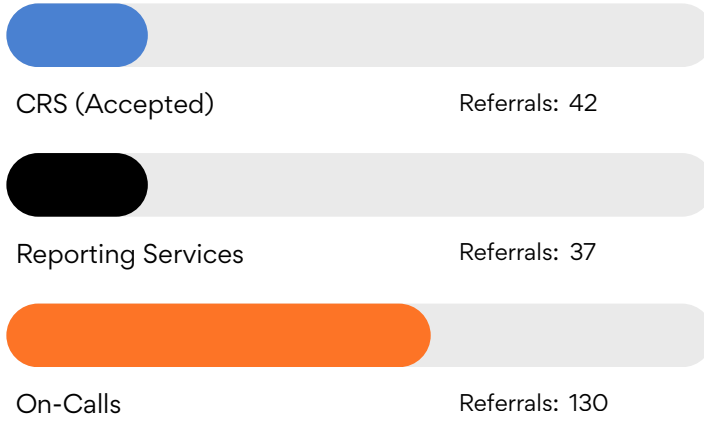
→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

## Reporting Services Closures

Success at RC is measured by whether MCJDC is avoided.

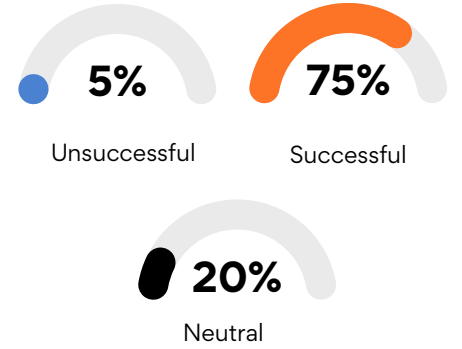


## Resource Center Distribution

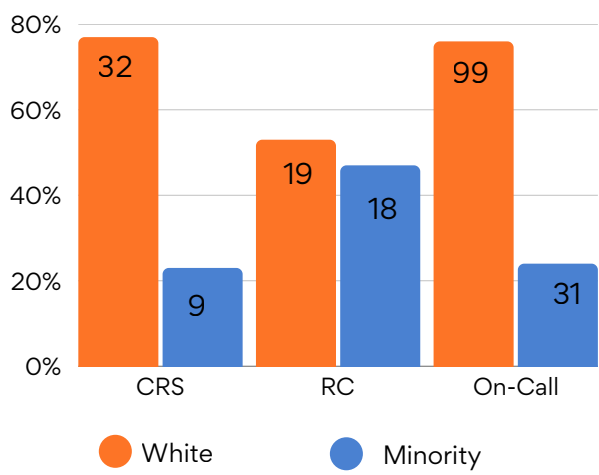


## CRS Closures

CRS success is measured by completion of the program without additional court referral.



## Resource Center Racial Breakdown

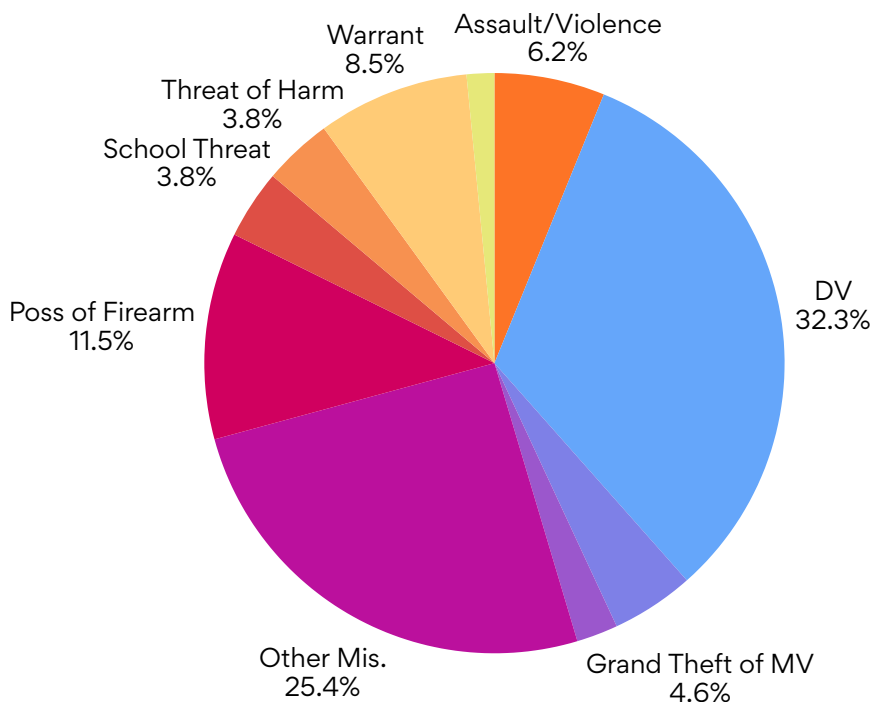


\*Doesn't Include Unknowns

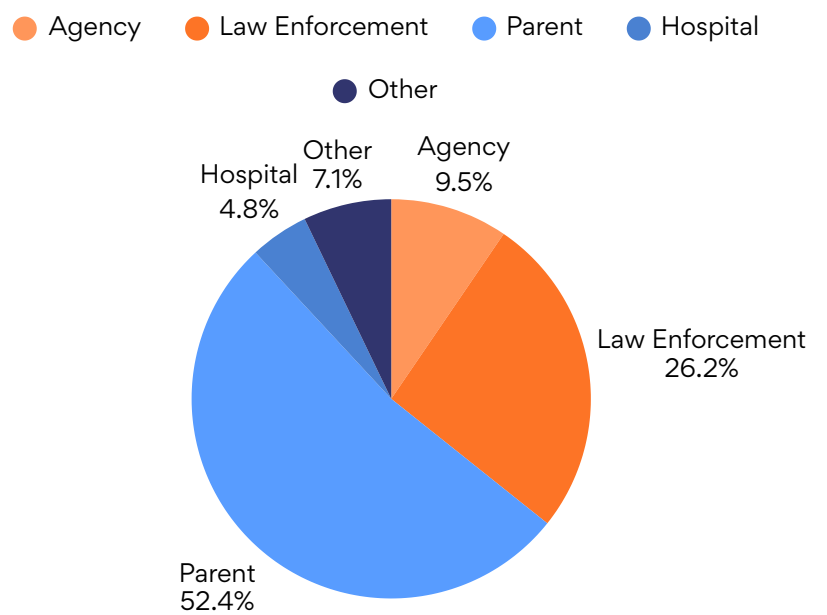
## RC Outcome Measures

- Average length of a CRS case to be 30 days or less. (X)
- 85% or more of CRS cases to be terminated successfully. (X)
- 75% of youth will not receive new charges within 12 months of completing reporting services. (X)
- 75% of youth will complete reporting services without going to a secure detention facility. (✓)

## On-Call Offenses



## CRS Referral Sources



## ALOS Data

- Reporting Center referrals lasted an average of 50 days in 2025.
- CRS referrals lasted an average of 49 days.
- 69% of youth referred to Reporting Services in 2024 did not recidivate within 12 months of completing their referral.

# Reporting Services

Reporting Services utilizes restorative justice system best practices to provide high-risk, Court-involved youth a safe and structured environment in which to develop skills, connect to community resources, and establish positive relationships.

Primary goals are to improve daily living and to reduce further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Programming is based on cognitive behavioral change and structure.

Originally funded through the Ohio Department of Youth Services, Reporting Services provides intensive supervision, as well as supportive services that address identified needs of the juveniles who are referred.

Youth ages 12 through 18 are referred most commonly by Court Services and the by the Judge/Magistrates and less frequently by Diversion Services. Eligible youth may be ordered at various stages: pre-adjudication, by the Court at adjudication, or as a condition of probation. Eligible youth include those who are not a danger to themselves or others or to the property of others. In addition, a youth who is a flight risk is not eligible for placement with Reporting Services.

Programming is scheduled for 3 hours after school Monday through Thursday during the school year and for 3.5 hours in the afternoon during the summer.

The summer schedule allows youth greater opportunity to participate in community service projects and provides supervision earlier in the day when the youth may otherwise be home alone.

Transportation is provided to and from the Resource Center, which houses Reporting Services. During transportation time, staff are able to engage in meaningful conversation with the youth.

A standard referral is for 25 days. Upon program completion, youth may return for a 10-day referral to continue their skill-building and positive relationship development and receive additional supervision.

At times, Reporting Services is used when youth on probation need temporary supervision when parent(s)/guardian(s) are unable to provide it. This service may occur outside of standard program hours if needed to best serve the youth and family.

Because Court staff were unable to meet with youth in person during the COVID pandemic, Reporting Services team members developed a virtual program to enable the Court to continue to provide support to individual youth and families through a creative use of technology and increased staff engagement. Although not in use since 2021, provision of virtual Reporting Services is possible should the need arise.

## Reporting Services Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Number of Youth Ordered in Lieu of Detention</b>	40	26	55	45	41	49	106	66	82	29	26
<b>Number of Hours Served in Lieu of Detention*</b>	3,056	2,576	3,942	3,051	2,217	2,046	4,846	6,250	5,839	454	2,576

\*Includes number of direct youth service hours for youth with a release date within the calendar year.

# Mentoring

Mentoring provides Court-involved, at-risk youth opportunities to work one-on-one with a screened and trained adult mentor whose support and camaraderie will contribute to the development of positive skills.

Studies show that more than 76% of at-risk young adults with a mentor aspire to enroll in and graduate from college, versus 56% of at-risk young adults who had no mentor.

Juvenile Court’s mentor program offers three different approaches: one-on-one, group, and team.

- One-on-one is a traditional approach through which a pre-screened adult is matched with a youth based on similar interests. The matched pair is encouraged to meet for at least two hours weekly for six months. Evidence shows that this timeframe provides ample opportunity for an engaging mentorship to evolve.
- Through group mentoring, two adults facilitate a group consisting of four to six youth who meet for a six-week period. The Court regularly utilizes the group approach in house. Two adult sisters mentoring one youth together is an example of team mentoring.
- Established youth groups and programs such as Connexion West Mentor Academy are other examples of a team mentoring approach.

## Mentoring Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Mentoring Caseload</b>	26*	24**	32	26	27	36	40	50	20	27	36

\*Includes 20 in-house mentoring group participants, 4 youth in community mentoring groups and 2 one-one matches.

\*\* Includes 17 in-house mentoring group participants, 5 youth in community mentoring groups and 2 one-one matches.

# Mentoring

Court-involved youth are provided the opportunity to participate in community service work, through which they may regain community trust, pay restitution, and fulfill obligations while developing new skills and building quality relationships with adult mentors. The Judge/Magistrate or Court case managers and specialists refer the youth to Community Service.

Youth often complete volunteer projects with Court staff at several sites throughout Fairfield County and may work off assigned hours under the supervision of the Supportive Services Specialist. Through a blended approach, youth may volunteer independently at an established community partner site such as Connexion West, Lancaster Parks and

Recreation, Habitat for Humanity, local churches and Pickerington Food pantry. Community connections have the potential to transpire into positive mentorships after Court involvement.

During the summer, Court staff collaborate with Fairfield County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers (SROs) to work on community projects such as park cleanups, landscaping and painting. Youth work as a team with Court staff and the SROs. Lunch is provided after the hard work. Sites have included Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lancaster and Pickerington, food pantries, Maywood Mission, Foundation Dinners, local churches, highway cleanup sites, and many more.

## Community Service Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b># of Youth Performing Community Service</b>	64	45	46	51	83	128	142	137	130	123	174
<b># of Hours Completed</b>	989	711	883	1,204	1,558	1,797	1,859	1,785	1,927	2,292	3,654

# Workforce Development

Juvenile Court values the importance of Workforce Development (WFD) programs and mentoring in preparing Court-involved youth for the workforce and increasing their ability to obtain and retain employment.

WFD traditionally includes a five-step approach:

- Assessment
- Job Readiness Assistance
- Individual Job Search
- Job Placement
- Job Retention

A Court team member acts as a WFD liaison between Court case managers and community partners that provide WFD services, such as:

- comprehensive assessment to determine the level of assistance needed and to identify barriers and challenges,
- job readiness workshops,
- resume/application preparation,
- training in interviewing,
- time management,
- good work habits and conduct,
- communication and customer service skills,
- conflict management,
- workplace relationships,
- good hygiene, and
- appropriate work attire.

Court case managers also assist youth with basic WFD skills, such as:

- creating resumes,
- understanding job postings,
- understanding the value of networking,
- completing online job applications and employment paperwork,
- reviewing employer expectations,
- determining work schedules,
- arranging transportation,
- balancing school and work, and
- learning how to communicate with supervisors.

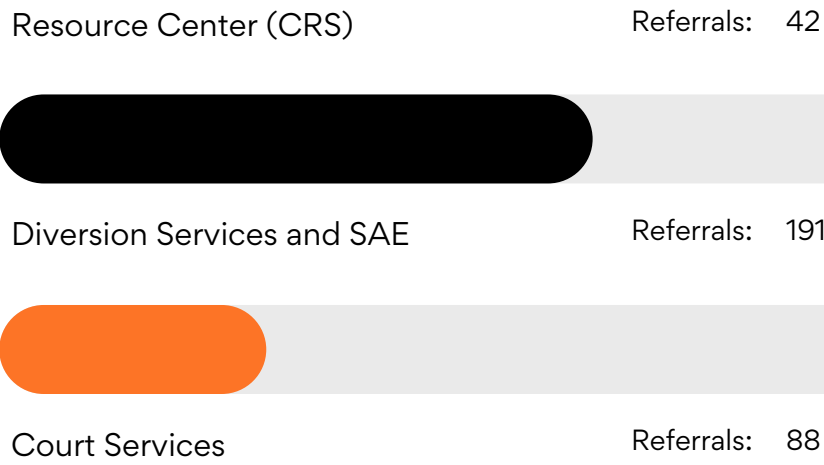
Through involvement with community partners workplace issues and problems may be identified early and addressed as they occur to avoid resignation or firing; and supportive services may be more readily identified and accessed to help youth maintain employment.

During 2025, eight Court-involved youth were linked with the WFD team at Fairfield County Job and Family Services/Ohio Means Jobs. This partnership assists with WFD education, career exploration, and job readiness. Other WFD community partners in 2025 included Opportunity Works (formerly TeenWorks) and Functional Training Services.

# 2025 - Juvenile Court

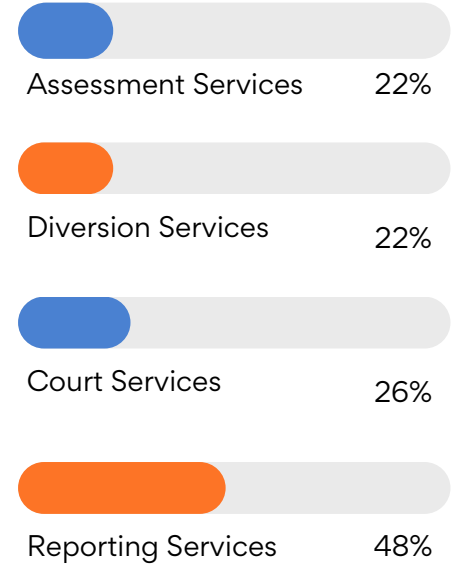
→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

## Program Distribution

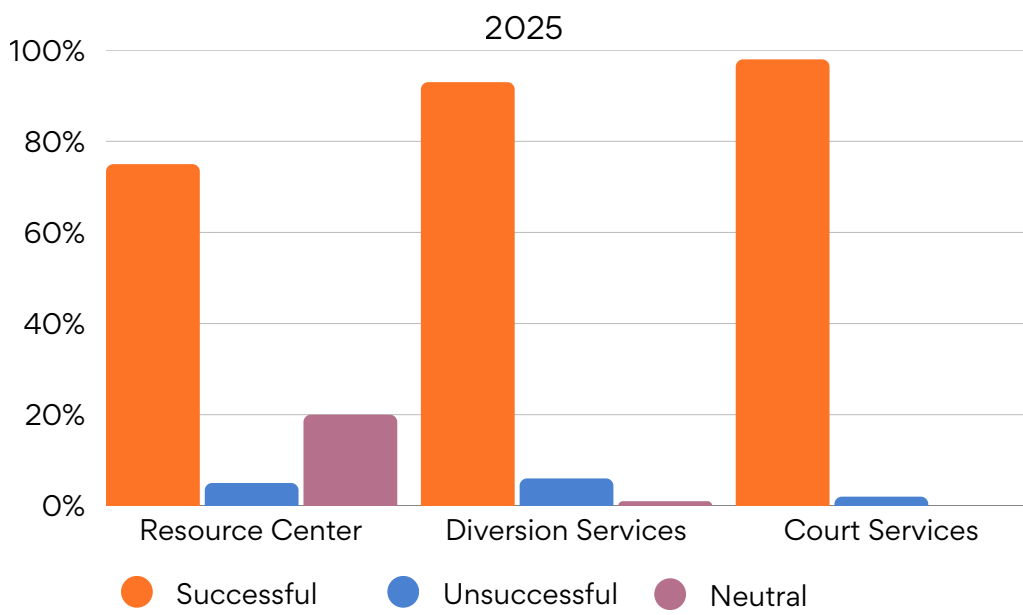


## Program Racial Breakdown

Percentage of Minority Youth in Each Program

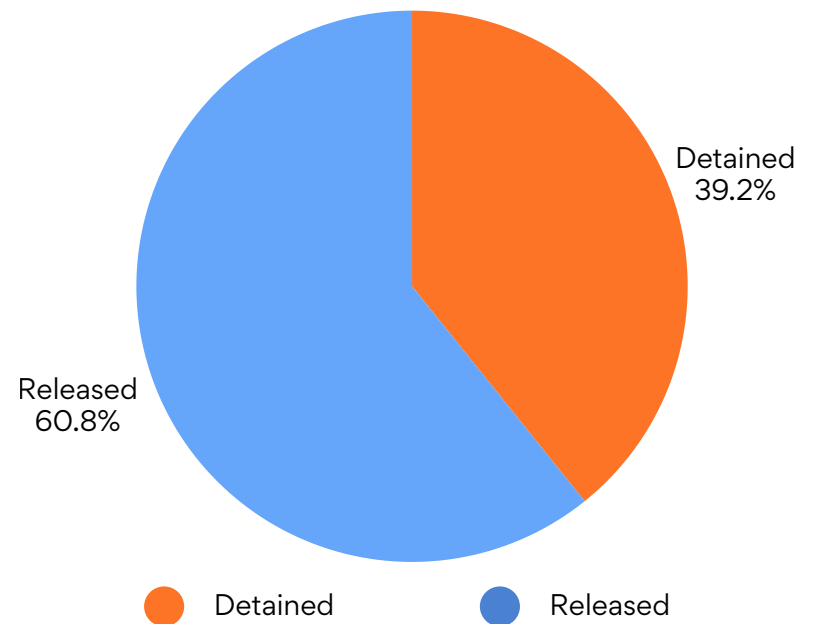


## Successful vs Unsuccessful Closures



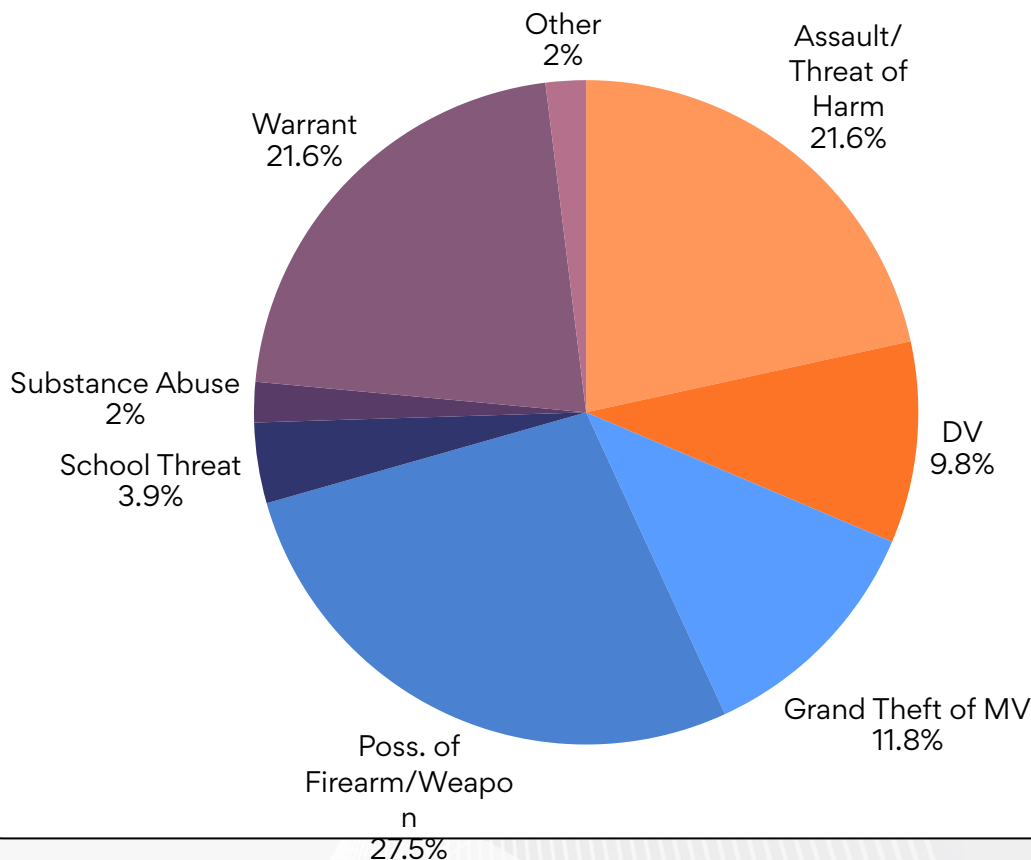
## On-Calls

There were 130 on-calls in 2025.



## Detention Placement Offenses

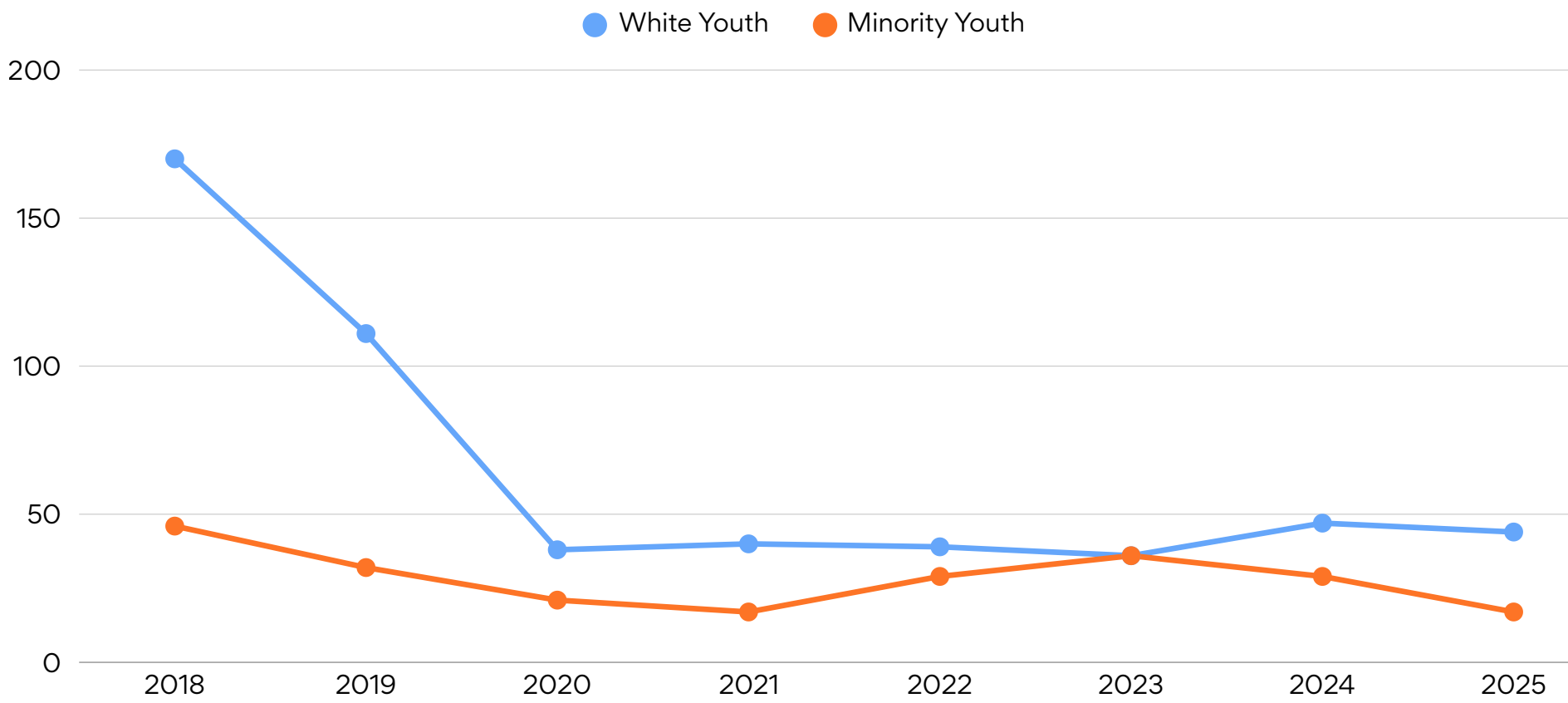
Offense break down of the 51 calls that resulted in detention.



# 2025 - Juvenile Court

→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

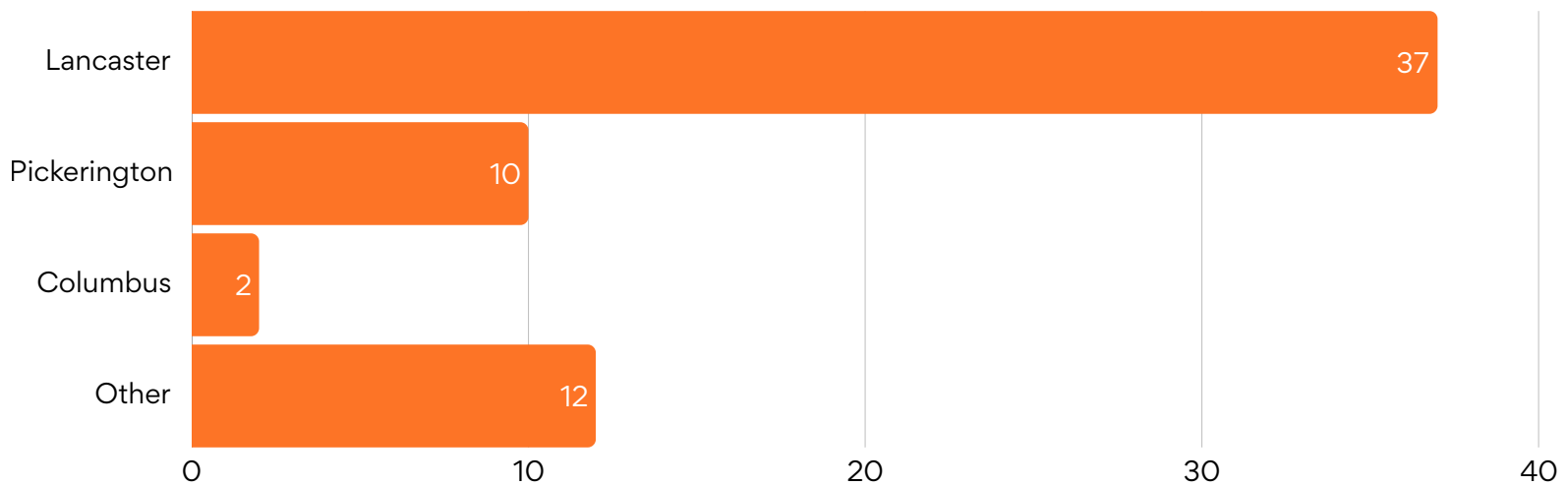
## Detention Referrals by Race and Years



## Other Notes

- There was one youth placed in a CCF in 2025.
- 8 youth placed on Restorative Justice Programming in 2025.
- 4 youth placed in detention for possession or use of a firearm or other deadly weapon were 13 years old.
- White youth ALOS in detention in 2025 was 17.2 days. Minority youth ALOS in detention in 2025 was 22.2 days.

## Detention Placement By ZIP Code

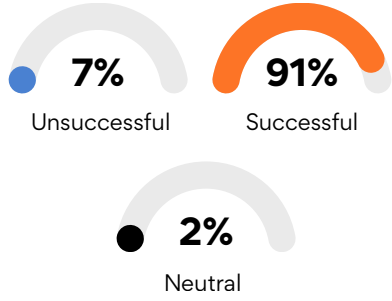


# 2025 - Race, Equity and Inclusion (REI)

→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

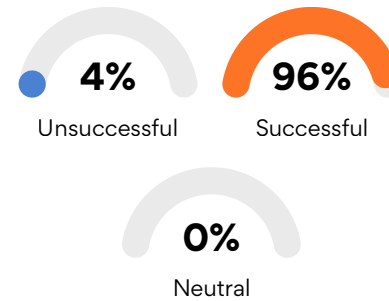
## Minority Youth Closures

Determination of minority youth Diversion and Court Services cases at closure



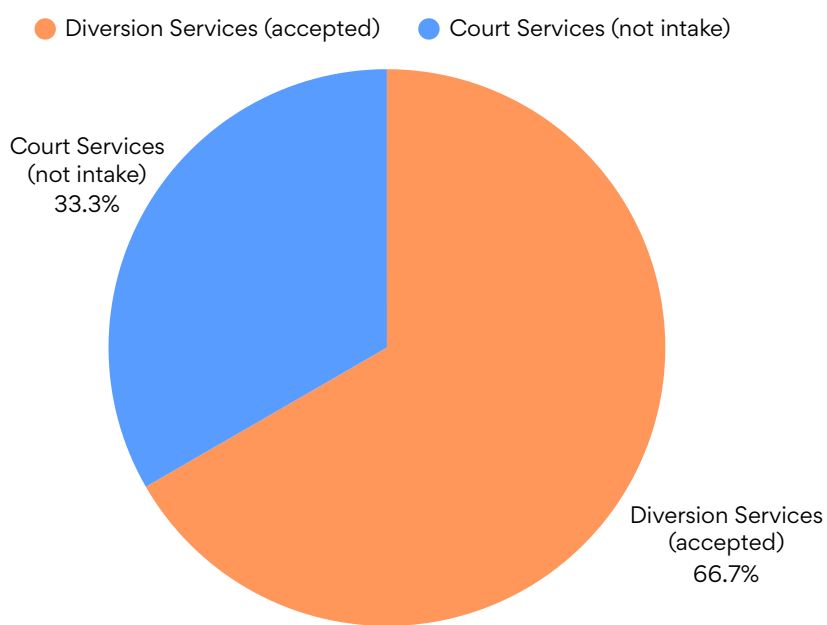
## White Youth Closures

Determination of white youth Diversion and Court Services cases at closure

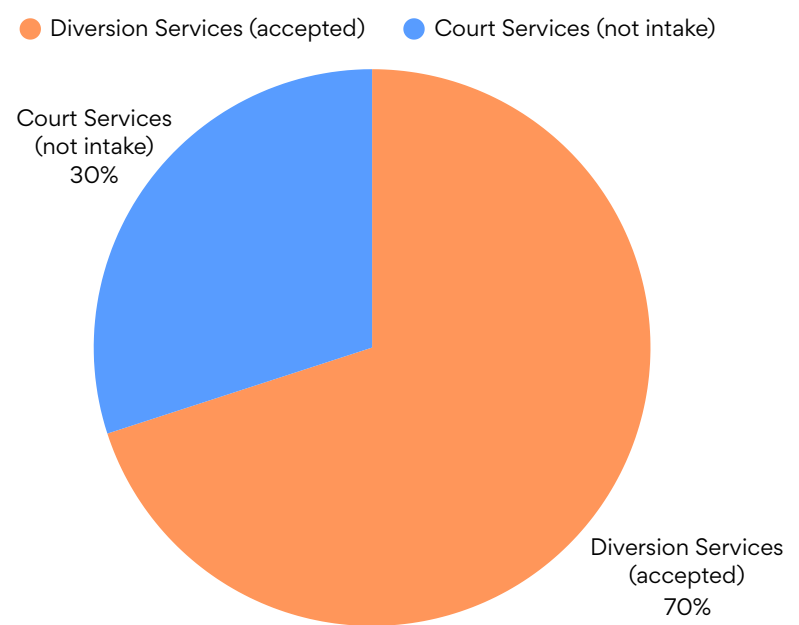


## Program Distribution

Minority

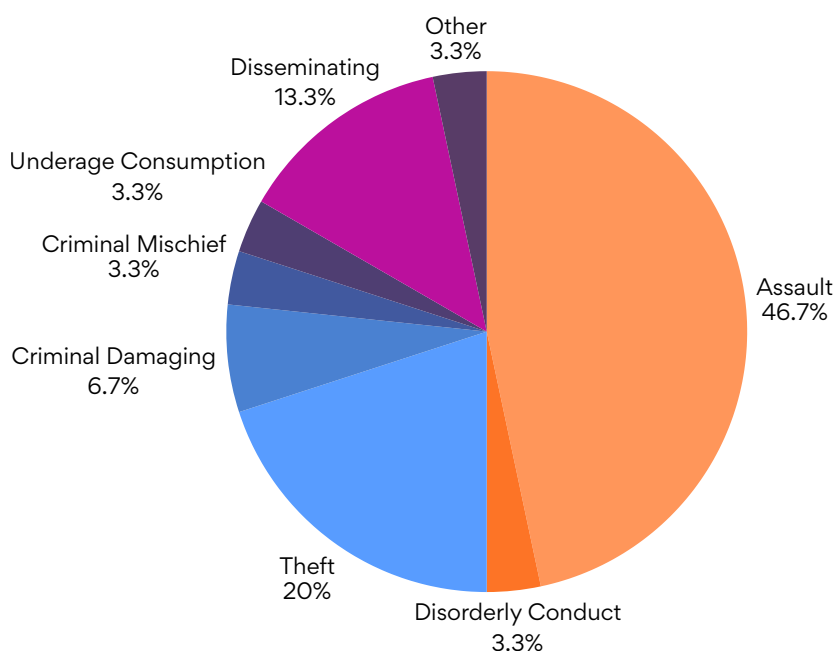


White



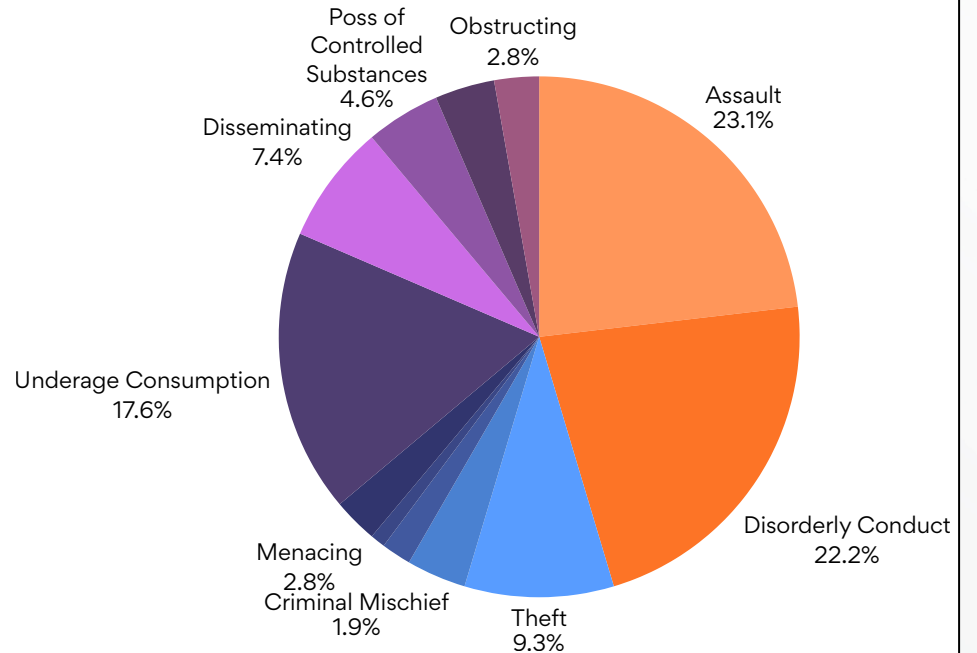
## General Diversion Minority Youth Offenses

2025



## General Diversion White Youth Offenses

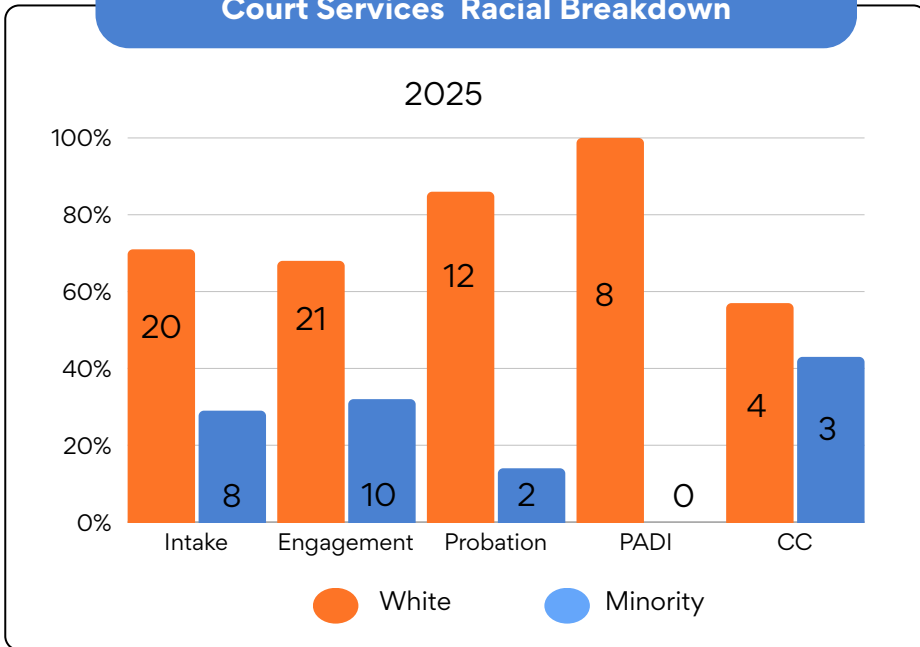
2025



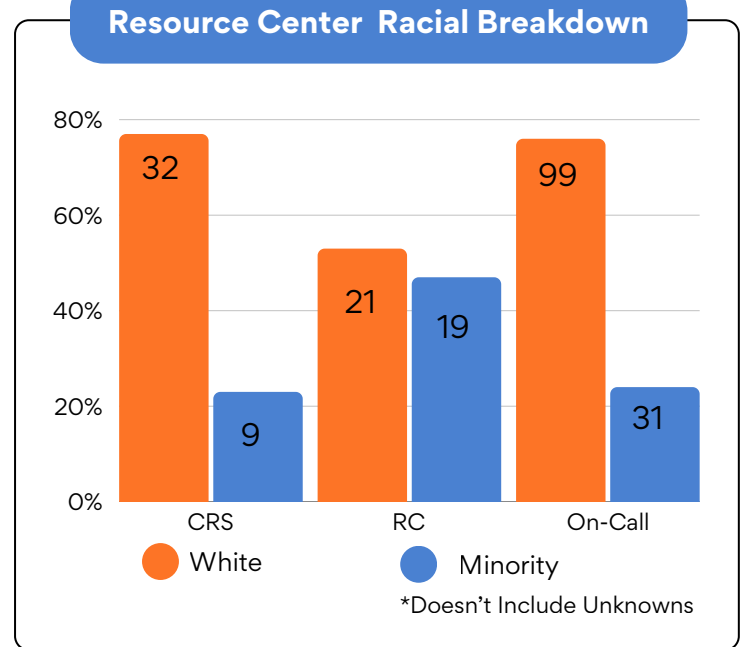
# 2025 - Race, Equity and Inclusion (REI)

→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

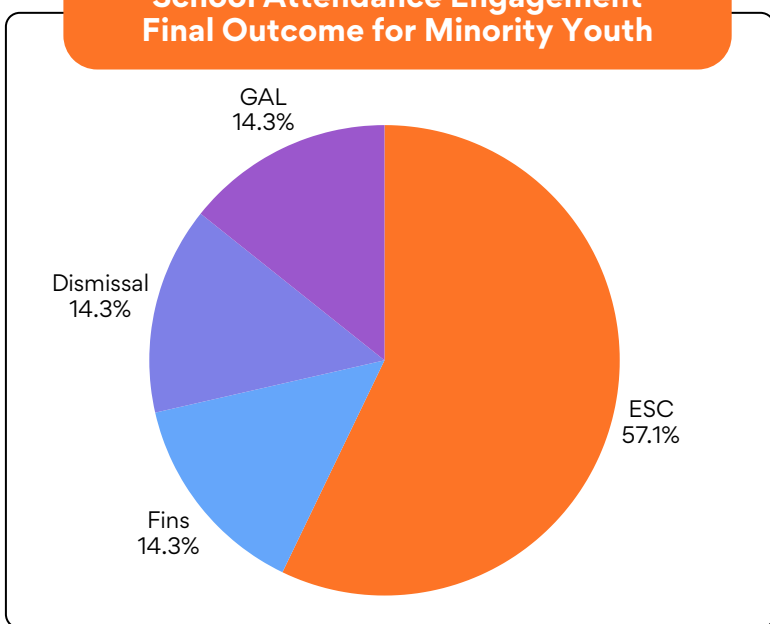
**Court Services Racial Breakdown**



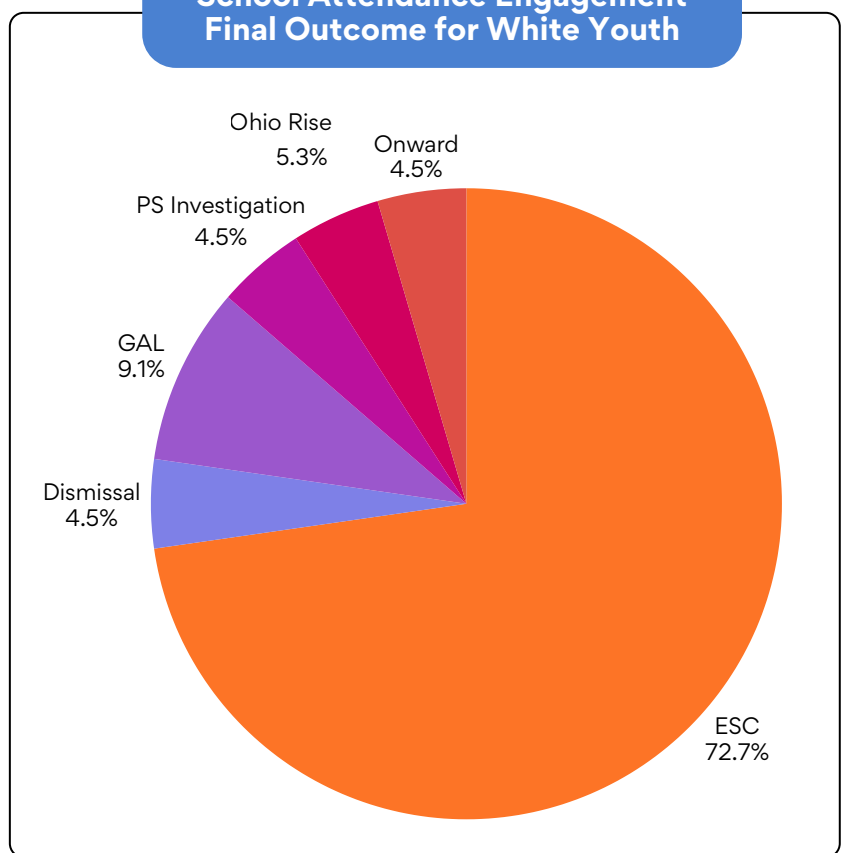
**Resource Center Racial Breakdown**



**School Attendance Engagement Final Outcome for Minority Youth**



**School Attendance Engagement Final Outcome for White Youth**





# Specialized Dockets & Strategic Initiatives

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- **Excel (formerly Family Court)**
- **Protecting and Advocating for Children Together (PACT)**



# Excel



Provided through a specialized docket of Fairfield County Juvenile Court, Excel is a court-supervised therapeutically orientated judicial approach designed to improve outcomes for families involved with Protective Services (PS) with their primary barrier to reunification being substance misuse. Participants include Fairfield County parents working toward reunification.

Goals of Excel (formerly known as Family Court) are:

- Improve participants' recovery support systems and recovery capital.
- Through a multi-system approach, family members will have access to services to create a healthy environment for children to grow and develop.
- Reduce recidivism/refiling of abuse, neglect, dependency cases for participants.

Excel provides a collaborative effort that offers families the supports, services and treatment necessary to assist parents in establishing and maintaining sobriety while providing safety for their children.

Excel strives to empower families to look beyond compliance and abstinence, encouraging them to make a commitment to a lifestyle of recovery.

Excel is a strength-based program enhanced with strategic incentives. The focus is on goal-setting and

achievement, with participants earning incentives for their accomplishments. Incentives have included self-care items, cleaning supplies, housewares, gift cards, and family-focused games and activities.

Referrals to Excel are made by PS. Upon acceptance into Excel, participants are provided additional support through the Excel Case Manager and through the guidance of the Magistrate/Judge during Status Hearings.

Throughout the four Steps of Excel participants build their recovery and systems of support, while increasing knowledge of safe parenting in order to reunify with their children.

Excel is one of the many reasonable efforts Protective Services utilizes in their efforts to reunify parents with their children.



## Excel Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Total Number of Participants</b>	18	25	28	29	34	35	31	13	16	15	10
<b>Number of Children Reunified</b>	6	18	8	6	12	21	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Number of Participants Closed</b>	6	8	8	9	8	11	9	7	3	6	2
<b>N=Neutral Exit U=Unsuccessful Exist</b>	6N 0U	4N 4U	5N 3U	4N 5U	3N 5U	7N 4U	**	**	**	**	**
<b>Number of Program Graduates/ Successful Commencements</b>	6	9	4	5	8	8	4	2	7	1	6

\*Data not tracked until 2020.

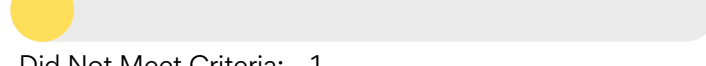
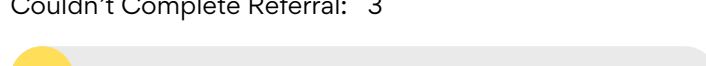
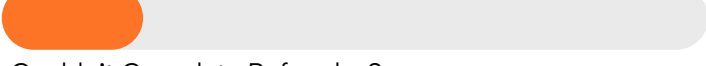
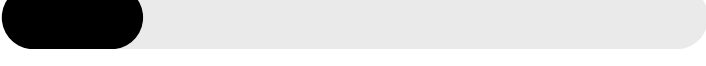
\*\*Additional data (neutral and unsuccessful exits) not tracked until 2020.

# 2025 - Excel

→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

## Excel Referrals

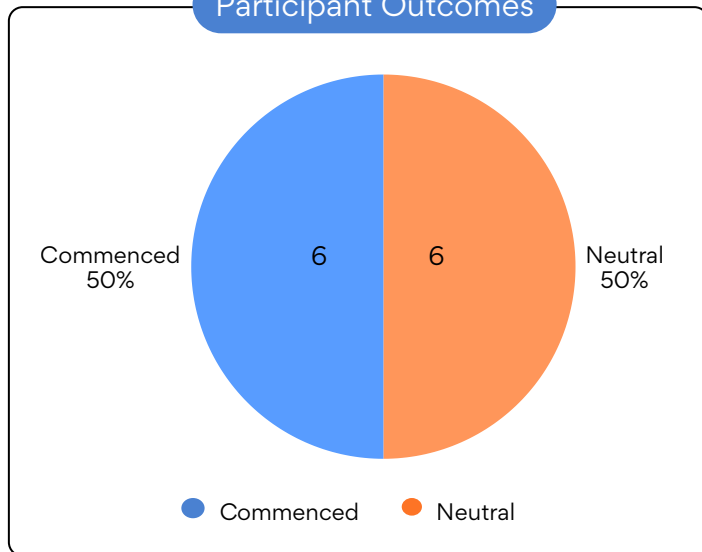
2025



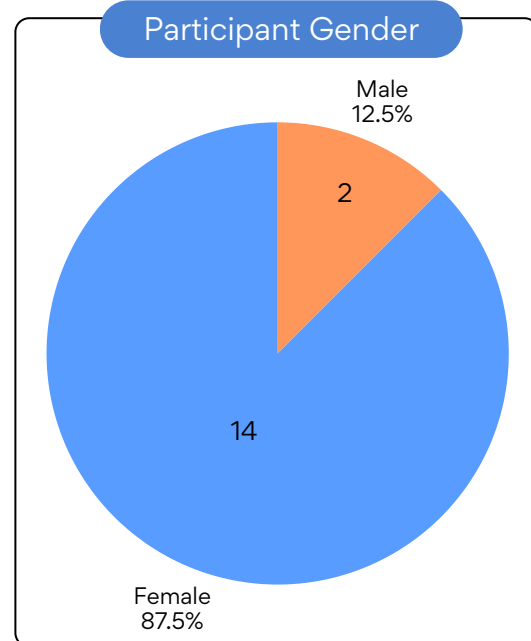
## Excel Outcome Measures

- Improve participants recovery support systems and recovery capital: 1. Participants will show an increase in their available recovery support system and will show an increase in their usage of said systems towards recovery. 2. 80% of participants will show an increase in their recovery capital screen score. ✓
- Through a multi-system approach, family members will have access to services to create a healthy environment for children to grow and develop: 1. Participants will engage in services to address parenting while in recovery. 2. Children will receive therapy, educational, developmental, and other services to repair relationships with parents and caregivers. ✓
- Reduce recidivism/refiling of abuse, neglect, dependency cases for participants: 1. Participants will not have further AND cases filed concerning their children. 2. 80% of participants will not have additional AND cases filed within one year of case closure. ✓

## Participant Outcomes



## Participant Gender



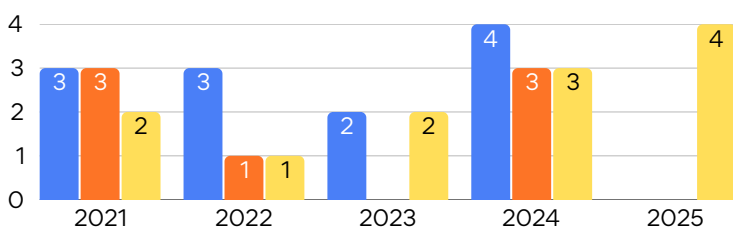
## Recovery Capital Screen

- 100% of participants showed an increase in their Recovery Capital Screen score.
- Participants showed an average increase of 16 points on the RCS in 2024 and 2025.

## Parenting Intervention Utilized by Commenced Parents

2021-2025

● Early Childhood Program ● Family Therapy ● Parenting Class



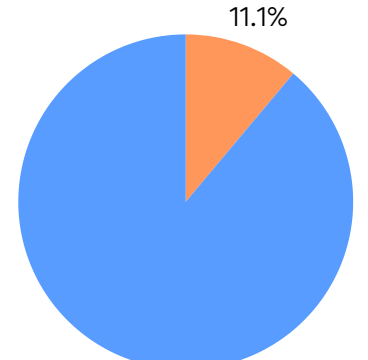
## Recidivism

2024



Did Not Recidivate 100%

2025



Did Not Recidivate 88.9%

● Did Not Recidivate ● Recidivated

# PACT

Protecting and Advocating for Children Together (PACT) is a collaborative effort between Juvenile Court and Protective Services to serve families linked in both systems. Research shows dual-involved youth present with a range of unique challenges and needs that can lead to higher costs and further system involvement than those youth without dual-system involvement.

Juvenile Court and Protective Services identify shared youth and create a family-centered team approach to serving these unique youth and families through the PACT process. PACT teams place family needs and supports at the center of their work, creating changes that work to prevent further system involvement.

## PACT Data

	2025	2024	2023	2022
<b>Families Served</b>	20	17	45	30
<b>Average Range</b>	10-17	12-17	13-17 years	13-18 years
<b>Average Age</b>	14.4	14.8 years	14.5 years	15.9 years
<b>Custodial Residence</b>	Lancaster: 18 Pickerington: 1 Millersport: 1 Reynoldsburg: 0	Lancaster: 14 Pickerington: 1 Millersport: 1 Reynoldsburg: 1	Lancaster: 25 Pickerington: 3 Canal Winchester: 3 Other/Out of County: 12	Lancaster: 18 Pickerington: 10 Canal Winchester: 1 Pleasantville: 1
<b>Offense</b>	Felony: 3 Misdemeanor: 17 Status: 0	Felony: 1 Misdemeanor: 13 Status: 3	Felony: 3 Misdemeanor: 24 Status: 18	Felony: 4 Misdemeanor: 17 Status: 9
<b>Court Department</b>	Diversion Services: 8 Court Services: 12	Diversion Services: 6 Court Services: 11	Diversion Services: 31 Court Services: 14	Diversion Services: 25 Court Services: 5

# 2025 - PACT

→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

## PACT Distribution

Intake Only: 76

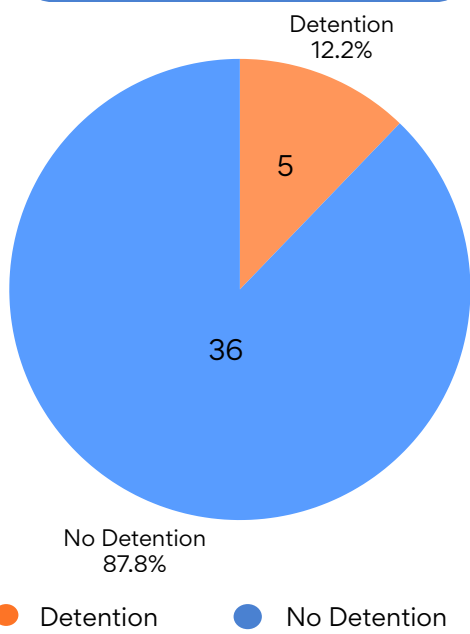
Cases that moved from Intake to Full: 29

Total Full Cases: 53

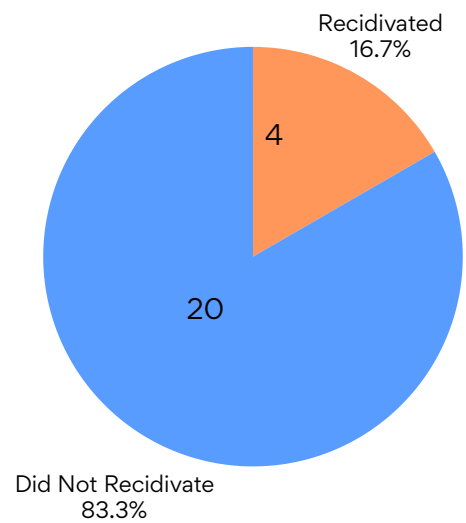
## Court Outcome Measures

- **Stabilization of Placement:** 75% of youth that are served through PACT will not be placed in a juvenile justice placement while PACT involved. ✓
- **Reduce Recidivism:** 75% of youth will not receive a new court referral 12 months post PACT-closure. ✓
- **Stabilization of Education:** 75% of youth will not receive a suspension, 75% will not receive an expulsion, and 75% will not receive a new truancy case while PACT involved. ✓
- **DAP:** 75% of youth will show an increase in the DAP Assessment Results from the Pre-Assessment to the Post-Assessment to be administered to the youth at PACT closure. ✗

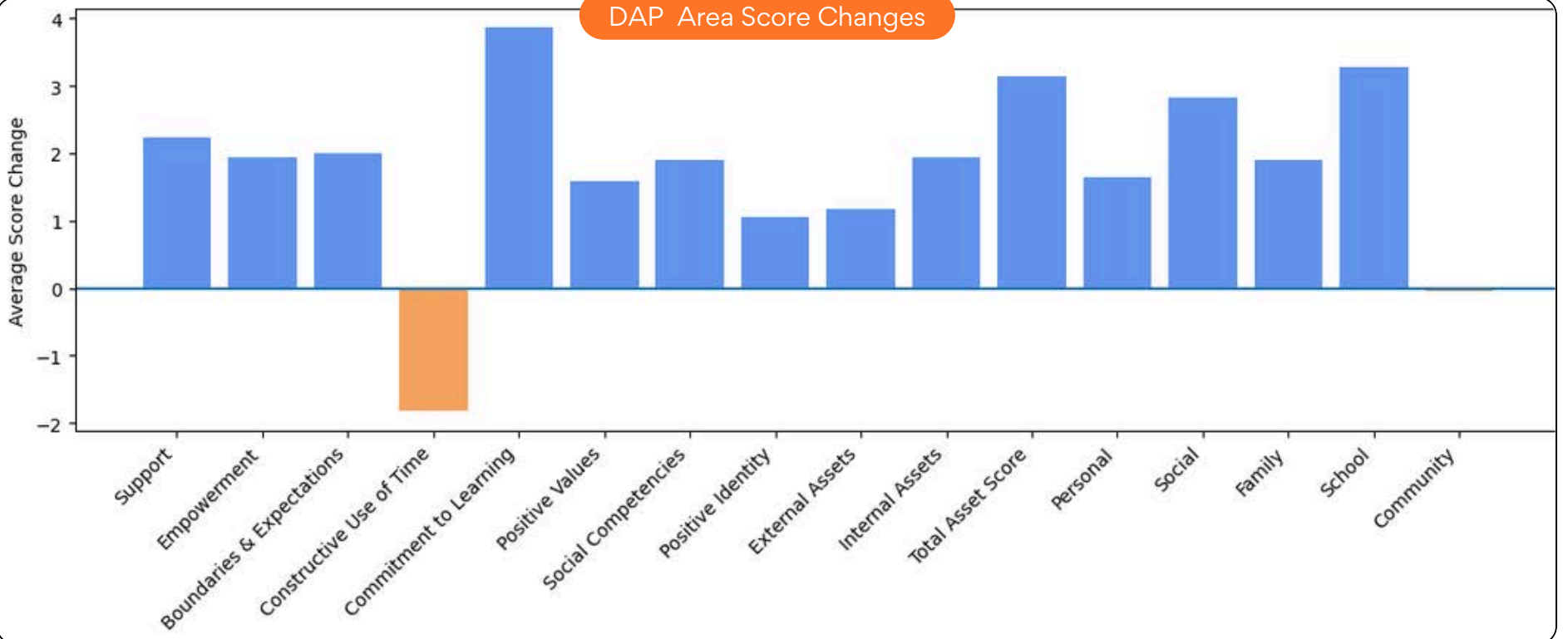
## Court Placement Stabilization (Closed Cases)



## Court Recidivism



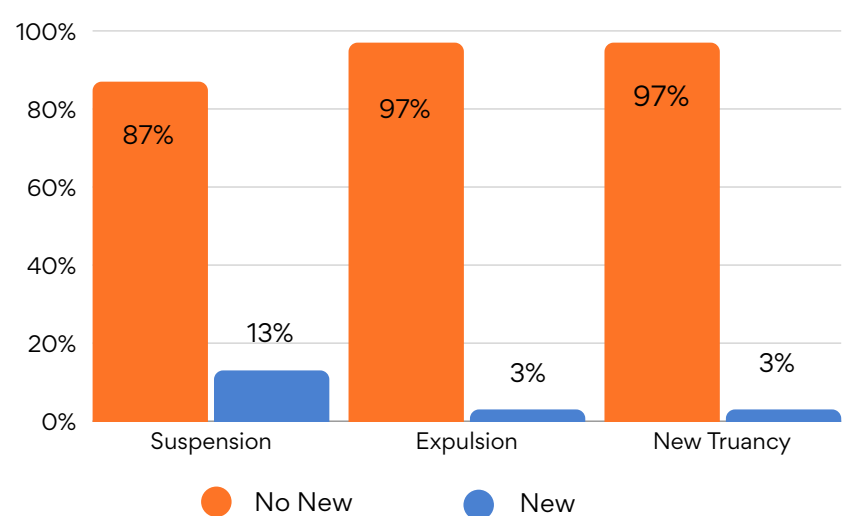
## DAP Area Score Changes



## DAP Overall Score

- 68% of youth who have completed PACT since 2022 showed an increase in overall DAP score.

## Education Stabilization



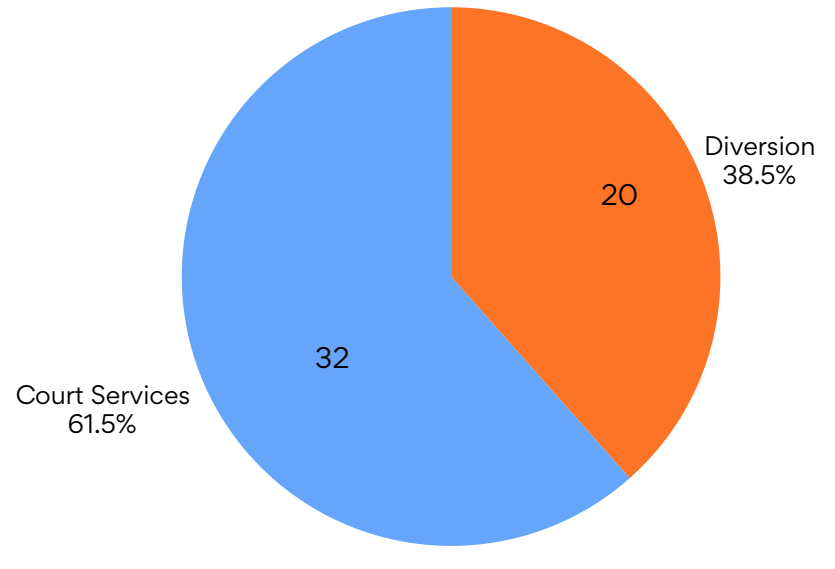
# 2025 - PACT

→ A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESOURCE CENTER DATAPOINTS IN 2025

## Other Data

- The average days between a PACT identification and referral was 6 days. (Goal is 5 days)
- The average length of a PACT Full case was 172 days.

## PACT Youth Court Program

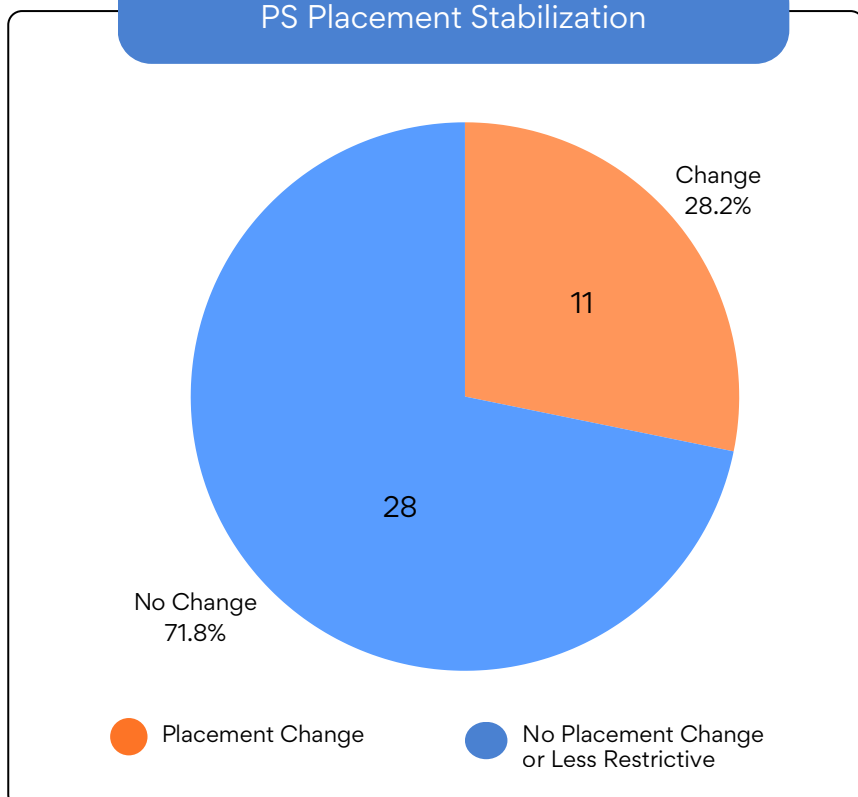


## Protective Services Data

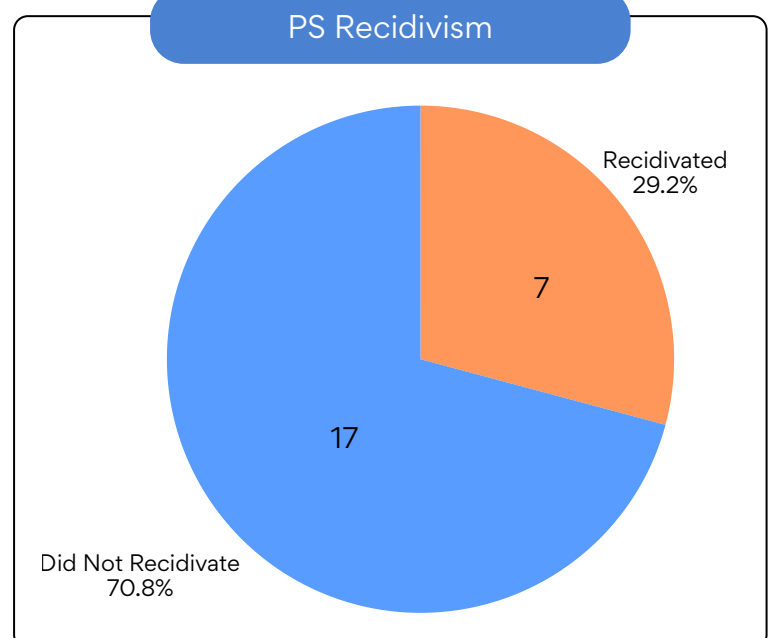
### PS Outcome Measures

- Stabilization of Placement:** 75% of youth that are served through PACT will not have a PS placement change unless less restrictive. (⊗)
- Reduce Recidivism:** 75% of youth will not receive a new ACV (Alleged Child Victim) or CSR (Child Subject Referral) 12 months post PACT-closure. (⊗)

### PS Placement Stabilization



### PS Recidivism



# Juvenile Court Funding and Statistics

- **Juvenile Court Funding**
- **Juvenile Court Statistics**
  - New Cases
  - Comparison of Charges and/or Filings
  - Violent Crime Statistics
  - Offenses Against an Individual 65 Years of Age or Older or Permanently and Totally Disabled
  - Sexual Offenses
  - Traffic



**FAIRFIELD**  
COUNTY • OHIO

JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT

# Juvenile Court Funding



Funding Source	Provides For	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Fairfield County General Fund</b>	<i>Court Operations and Employees</i>	3,909,879	3,704,576.28	3,532,347.00	3,260,334.00	2,562,253.00	2,567,972.00	2,355,338.00	2,083,396.00	1,975,569.00	1,856,247.00
<b>Department of Youth Services 510</b>	<i>Employees— Counselors, Psychological Evals &amp; Trainings</i>	1,071,265.77	1,310,705.23	1,126,632.79	970,598.25	922,843.67	842,991.08	974,868.72	714,265.97	901,004.65	779,472.73
<b>Juvenile Court Recovery Fund</b>	<i>Employees</i>	46.47	93.61	45.00	279.00	135.00	821.86	225.54	30,768.39	32,452.58	178,417.56
<b>Computer/ Computer Research</b>	<i>Maintenance, Upgrades to Software and Equipment, Website</i>	10,512.30	8,669.05	8,311.00	9,489.00	8,634.00	17,225.36	13,974.00	14,208.12	57,568.72	15,908.64
<b>Drug Court Fund Grant ODMHAS</b>	<i>Drug Court Operations</i>	37,947.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	110,000.00	60,000.00	63,811.00	30,011.82	37,500.00	108,900.00
<b>Ohio Multi-System Youth Fund</b>	<i>Mental Health Counselors</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65,000.00	130,000.00	131,001.68	130,016.81	130,000.00
<b>Title IV-E Fund</b>	<i>MSY Placement Shared Pool and Workforce Development</i>	3.75 BWC Refund	7.16 BWC Refund	47.95 BWC Refund	0.00	1,545.87	909.80	311,871.73	209,743.20	368,397.77	305,564.37
<b>Total Juvenile Revenue</b>		<b>\$5,029,634.29</b>	\$4,702,383.74	\$4,702,383.74	\$4,275,700.25	\$3,605,411.54	\$3,554,098.24	\$3,850,088.99	\$3,213,395.18	\$3,502,509.53	\$3,374,759.55

# Juvenile Court Statistics: New Cases



	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Adult</b>	194	92	63	48	80	57	110	125	137	165
<b>Delinquency</b>	186	221	235	163	156	221	270	424	515	402
<b>Unruly</b>	77	34	26	11	19	36	56	71	36	4
<b>Traffic</b>	431	457	466	500	415	451	573	593	751	746
<b>Abuse, Neglect, Dependency</b>	152	151	145	145	138	164	143	162	128	169
<b>Grandparent Power of Attorney and Misc.</b>	33	26	29	33	26	31	39	35	59	50
<b>Motion for Permanent Custody (including refiles)</b>	27	18	25	23	21	24	37	23	29	25
<b>Custody, Change of Custody, Visitation and Motions filed in A, N, D</b>	184	218	192	185	184	180	131	130	137	167
<b>Private Custody Transferred and Filed</b>	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	38	19
<b>Total New Juvenile Cases</b>	<b>1,286</b>	1,251	1,181	1,108	1,039	1,164	1,359	1,563	1,987	1,848



# Juvenile Court Statistics: Comparison of Filings and/or Charges

Charges and/or Filings	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Felony Filings</b>	43	41	65	49	41	48	41	66	55	51
<b>Trespass</b>	4	13	9	9	2	10	10	21	31	18
<b>Criminal Mischief</b>	6	6	14	9	1	9	6	8	13	7
<b>Criminal Damaging/Vandalism</b>	9	22	10	31	7	24	22	30	54	28
<b>Theft: Petty or Grand, and Safecracking</b>	36	15	17	42	16	64	42	75	66	60
<b>Arson</b>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	5	2
<b>Burglary, Robbery, Breaking and Entering</b>	4	9	4	15	16	19	10	11	11	8
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	39	46	29	21	14	18	33	99	113	37
<b>Drug &amp; Alcohol</b>	10	10	22	21	18	13	27	90	115	78
<b>Tobacco</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
<b>Truancy</b>	45	19	22	42	69	47	51	21	70	115

# Juvenile Court Statistics: Violent Crime Statistics



<span style="color: red;">●</span> Violent Crimes <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Sexual Offenses <span style="color: orange;">●</span> Traffic <span style="color: purple;">●</span> Other	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<span style="color: red;">●</span> <b>Assault: Aggravated or Attempted, Neglect, Felonious Assault</b>	33	39	63	30	47	23	52	77	50	42
<span style="color: red;">●</span> <b>Menacing/Aggravated by Stalking, Kidnapping, Abduction</b>	11	17	25	13	12	18	26	54	27	23
<span style="color: red;">●</span> <b>Domestic Violence</b>	2	2	3	2	1	14	33	59	82	24
<span style="color: red;">●</span> <b>Rape, Sexual Battery</b>	0	2	5	4	8	0	8	13	1	5
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> <b>Gross Sexual Imposition, Sexual Imposition</b>	3	7	4	2	10	1	16	24	15	7
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> <b>Disseminating, Importuning, Public Indecency, Pandering</b>	2	2	7	1	2	5	3	17	6	2
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> <b>Speed</b>	207	190	209	238	188	203	262	245	336	347
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> <b>Assured Clear Distance Ahead</b>	16	18	30	48	51	53	70	72	88	85
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> <b>Operating a Vehicle While Impaired</b>	1	10	7	9	12	1	2	16	10	14
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> <b>Felony Traffic Offense</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> <b>Vehicular Homicide</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> <b>Other</b> <i>Significantly higher in 2023 and 2024 due to a change in new data tracking technology</i>	313	407	537	354	337	260	303	361	413	328

# Probate Court Funding and Statistics

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- **Probate Court Update**
- **Probate Court Funding**
- **Probate Court Statistics: New Cases**
- **Guardianship Service Board**
- **Guardianship Service Board Statistics**



# Probate Court Update

## 2025 Accomplishments

2025 was another busy year for the Probate Court, with a total of 980 new cases filed with the Court. In particular, 628 new estates were filed, and 122 guardianships. The Court issued 839 marriage licenses. These numbers reflect a high demand for Probate Court services in Fairfield County.

The Court continued to utilize new technology to make our processes more efficient. In 2025, judicial officers utilized electronic means to view probate files in the courtroom, continuing to move the Court towards a more paperless model.

The Court updated its case management system to more effectively and efficiently track past-due documents in order to maximize efficiency for our staff as well as customers.

The Court's Assisted Outpatient Treatment program continued to provide strong oversight to individuals with significant mental health challenges in our community. Each month, in coordination with Fairfield County ADAMH and other community partners, the Court held review hearings to ensure that previously hospitalized patients continued to maintain medication compliance, ensuring the safety of the individuals and the community.

## 2026 Goals

In 2026, the Court plans to update its local rules in several areas. Consistent with requirements set forth in the Ohio Rules of Superintendence, the Court will update its rules to include an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Rule and a reference to the Court's BCI Compliance Plan. Additionally, the Court plans to update its rule regarding compliance, to simplify the process for ensuring past-due documents are submitted in a timely manner, increasing efficiency for the Court, local attorneys, and customers.

The Court will continue to utilize emerging technology to maximize efficiency and service to our customers. For example, the Court plans to utilize text messaging capabilities within its case management system to alert customers to upcoming hearings.

Finally, the Court plans to actively participate in statewide initiatives to improve services for local customers and those throughout Ohio. For example, the Court's Chief Deputy Clerk will serve on a committee to enhance efficiency with respect to the issuance of marriage licenses, and the Magistrate will serve on a judicial committee designed to maximize technology efficiency in the courtroom.

# Probate Court Funding



Funding Source	Provides For	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Fairfield County General Fund</b>	<i>Court Operations and Employees</i>	900,844.00	879,124.00	801,776.70	747,320.00	750,460.92	710,529.00	712,495.00	673,937.10	645,558.00	653,257.00
<b>Computer and Legal Research</b>	<i>Maintenance and Upgrades</i>	25,905.29	20,035.75	22,943.97	23,784.00	23,508.00	36,178.18	21,197.74	20,772.26	20,228.00	42,826.62
<b>Indigent Guardian Funds</b>	<i>Guardians and Attorneys for Indigent Wards</i>	15,026.96	12,293.53	17,560.00	18,630.00	18,120.00	13,072.00	14,988.00	14,290.00	13,620.00	13,650.00
<b>Special Projects</b>	<i>Court Special Projects</i>	39,497.51	36,240.36	41,214.23	46,107.74	43,467.66	34,180.50	45,947.79	43,763.00	46,457.50	50,278.08
<b>Total Probate Revenue</b>		<b>\$981,273.76</b>	\$883,494.90	\$883,494.90	\$835,841.74	\$835,556.58	\$793,959.68	\$794,628.53	\$752,762.36	\$725,653.50	\$760,011.70

# Probate Court Statistics



	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Adoptions and Placements</b>	42	50	51	62	53	61	66	40	51	58
<b>Civil Actions</b>	19	24	23	18	15	21	14	8	19	51
<b>Estates</b>	628	584	641	684	633	500	562	549	511	522
<b>Wrongful Death Actions</b>	6	4	5	8	11	5	2	2	2	6
<b>Guardianships (All Types)</b>	112	84	91	118	103	89	120	106	55	57
<b>Civil Commitments*</b>	12	18	4	59	39	31	63	60	38	35
<b>Name Changes</b>	122	102	104	99	129	71	67	72	82	65
<b>Minors' Settlements</b>	26	18	15	30	15	13	11	15	9	12
<b>Birth Record Corrections</b>	8	5	7	6	4	2	10	7	7	9
<b>Trusts</b>	3	3	2	6	13	4	3	1	7	5
<b>Conservatorships</b>	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total New Probate Cases</b>	<b>980</b>	892	943	1,091	1,015	797	918	860	781	820
<b>New Marriage Licenses Issued</b>	<b>839</b>	822	866	828	871	792	824	864	861	834

# Guardianship Service Board

Fairfield County Guardianship Service Board (GSB) is the appointed guardian of eligible indigent wards in Fairfield County. In 2025, the GSB staff was comprised of four Case Managers and a program Director. The team addresses the ongoing needs of wards and works directly with their service providers. The GSB marked its 6-year anniversary in November 2025.

Creation of the GSB is the result of a partnership formed with community partners to fund the Board. HB 59 and ORC 2111.52 (effective 3/22/2019) authorized the development of the Fairfield County GSB. Community partners include Job and Family Services, ADAMH, Fairfield County Board of Development Disabilities, Fairfield Medical Center, and The Senior Hub (formerly Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County.)

Through the GSB, the County's guardianship program transitioned from attorney-based to social services-based. The use of case managers results in increased contact and care coordination for all wards/clients.

Individuals served by the GSB are:

- Age 18 or older,
- Fairfield County residents,
- Indigent,
- Placed under a guardianship in Fairfield County Probate Court, and
- Referred or served by GSB community partner(s).

The GSB serves in four primary ways:

- Visit: GSB staff visit their clients regularly and coordinate with service providers to ensure appropriate treatment and continuity of care.
- Prepare: GSB team members prepare care plans and review progress toward individualized goals.
- Advocate: The staff advocate for and support their clients in making important medical and end-of-life decisions.
- Engage: They endeavor to engage and educate family members and other supporters to improve the clients' quality of life.

## **2026**

In 2026, the GSB will transition to Fairfield County Job and Family Services.

# Guardianship Service Board Statistics



	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>Total Cases</b>	177 (93 male, 84 female)	166 (85 male, 81 female)	143 (71 male; 72 female)	132 (64 male; 68 female)	122 (65 male; 57 female)	102 (57 male; 45 female)
<b>Number of Contact Hours per Client per Month</b>	4.14	4.72	4.64	4.33	6.94	3.00
<b>Age Range of Clients/Wards</b>	18 to 96	18 to 98	18 to 98	18 to 86	20 to 87	19 to 96
<b>Ages 60 or Older</b>	76 (43%)	78 (47%)	61 (43%)	58 (44%)	50 (41%)	45 (44%)
<b>Non-residential (<i>Long-term Care Facility</i>)</b>	86 (49%)	70 (42%)	58 (40.6%)	58 (44%)	43 (35%)	44 (43%)
<b>Residential (<i>Living in the Community</i>)</b>	81 (51%)	96 (58%)	85 (59%)	74 (56%)	79 (65%)	58 (57%)
<b>Qualifying Conditions (<i>Wards may have more than one condition.</i>)</b>						
<b>Mental Illness</b>	128 (72%)	119 (72%)	103 (72%)	104 (79%)	80 (78%)	100 (82%)
<b>Cases with Allegations of Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation</b>	91 (51%)	98 (59%)	74 (52%)	71 (54%)	54 (53%)	54 (44%)
<b>Other Physical or Cognitive Impairment That Impacts Decision-Making</b>	68 (38%)	65 (39%)	59 (41%)	63 (48%)	46 (44%)	35 (29%)
<b>Developmental Disability</b>	68 (38%)	68 (41%)	61 (43%)	53 (40%)	40 (39%)	34 (28%)
<b>Dementia</b>	56 (32%)	61 (37%)	50 (35%)	49 (37%)	35 (34%)	60 (49%)
<b>Substance Abuse</b>	32 (18%)	39 (23%)	34 (24%)	41 (31%)	29 (28%)	66 (54%)

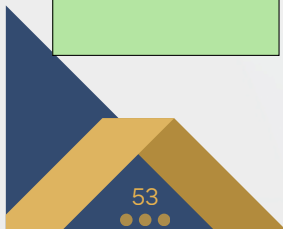
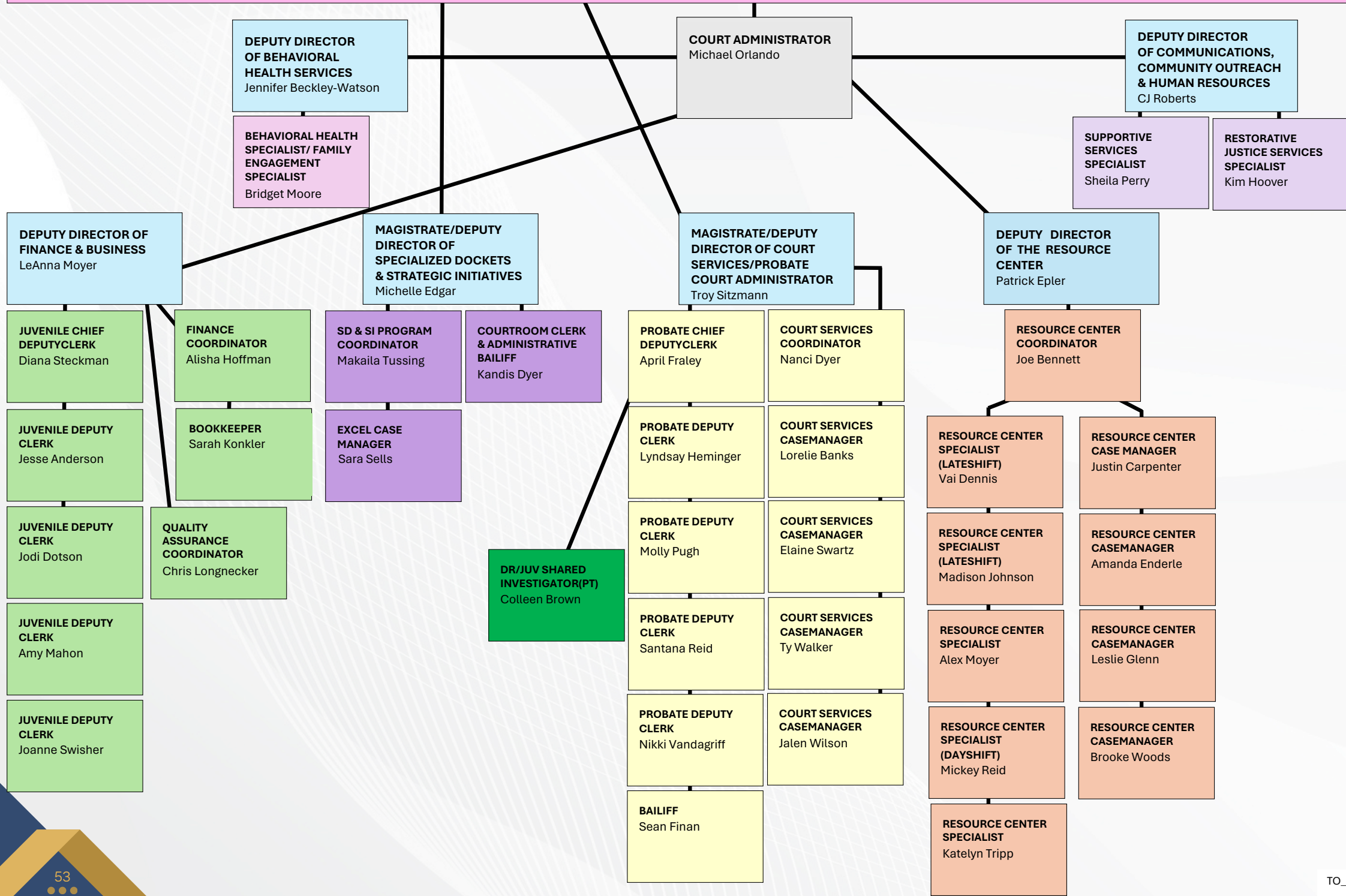
# Juvenile and Probate Court

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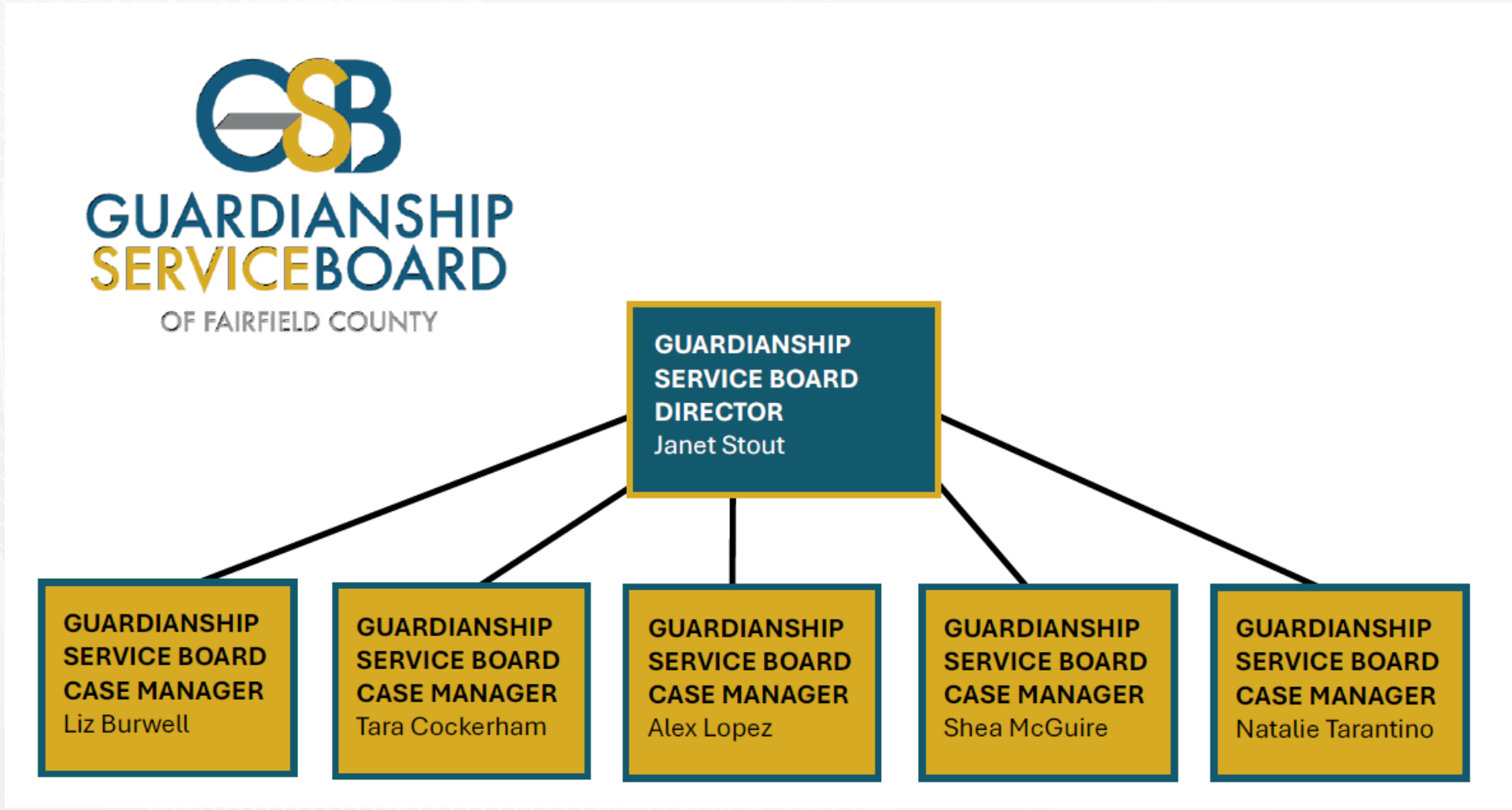
- **Current Court Table of Organization**
- **Guardianship Service Board Table of Organization as of May 2026**
- **2025 Annual Report Distribution and Printing**



**FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT JUDGE**  
 TERRE VANDERVOORT



# Guardianship Service Board Table of Organization



Current as of May 29, 2026

# Annual Report Distribution

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- **Distributed via email to:**
  - Fairfield County Commissioner Steve Davis
  - Fairfield County Commissioner Dave Levacy
  - Fairfield County Commissioner Jeff Fix
  - Fairfield County Administrator Aunie Cordle
  - Supreme Court of Ohio
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