



PIERCE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

We want our community to be one that is safe and supportive,
where all children are healthy and succeed in school, and
where all children grow up to be productive and contributing adults.



Empowering Young People | Strengthening Families | Investing in the Community

PCJC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



1. Agency Culture

All staff will be respected, valued for their contribution, and supported, so they can thrive.

2. Leadership

We will develop brave and courageous leaders.

3. Equity and Inclusion

Everybody belongs. We will become a multicultural, anti-racist, and inclusive organization.

4. Trauma Informed

We will reduce the likelihood that children and families experience further trauma while going through the court process. In addition, the agency and individual employees will learn strategies to help manage secondary and vicarious trauma.

5. Results

We will make a measurable contribution to the health, safety, and well-being of children and families in Pierce County.

PIERCE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT – 147 STAFF



Civil Services (39)

- Adoptions
 - Truancy
 - At-Risk Youth
 - Child in Need of Services (CHINS)
 - Community Resources
- Dependency**
- Child Advocacy
 - Early Parentage Project
 - Early Engagement GALs
 - Early Childhood Court
 - Reunification Day

Probation Services (38)

- Diversion
- Probation Supervision
- State Commitments
- Evidence-Based Programming
- Specialized Caseloads
- Detention Alternatives
- Community Work Crew
- Community Resources

Detention Services (47)

- Residential Care
- Medical/Dental
- Mental Health
- School
- Programming
- Visitation
- Transportation

Administrative Services (27)

- Court Services**
- Courtroom/Docket
 - Official Record/Customer Service
- Volunteer Services**
- Recruitment, Placement
- Fiscal Services**
- Budget, Finance, Payroll
 - IT, Support Services
- Administration**
- Personnel & Policy

PCJC PRIORITIES



1. We are actively working to **change the system** to be more effective and not be a revolving door.
2. We need to teach young people to be **accountable and take responsibility** for their actions, and at the same time, provide opportunities for rehabilitation, to learn and grow, so they can get on a better path.
3. If we build up community supports, over half of the young people who get caught up in the system can be **held accountable** and **get the help they need** in the community.
4. With true collaboration, we can build a better youth justice system that ensures all young people, regardless of race, ethnicity, neighborhood, or income, are held accountable and launched on a positive path to realize their **full potential**.



Total Pierce County Population* 927,380

Total Pierce County Population Ages 10-17*
99,253

Young People Referred to PCJC for Alleged Offense in 2023
1,426 (1.4% of Population)

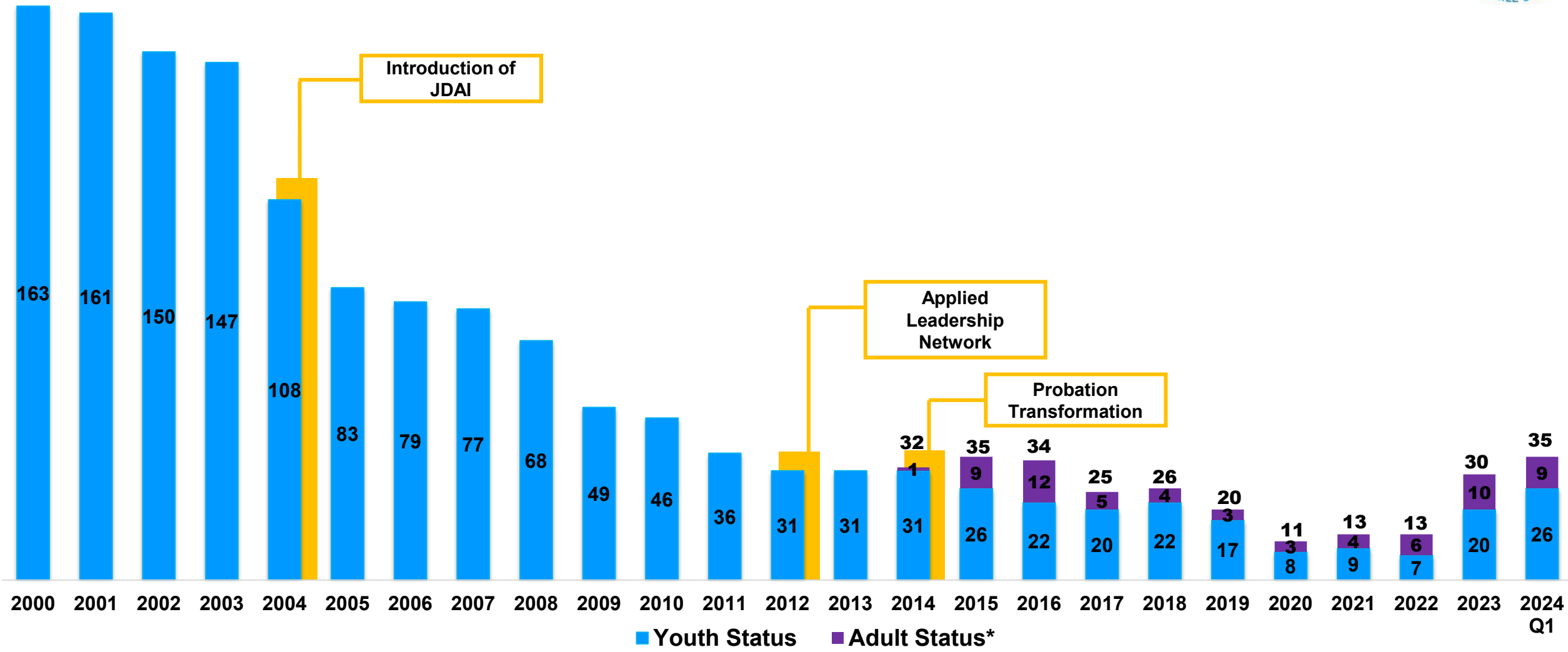
1,426 Young People Accounted for
1,941 Referrals

552
Cases Charged
(28%)

635
Diversion
(33%)

754
No Charges Filed
(39%)

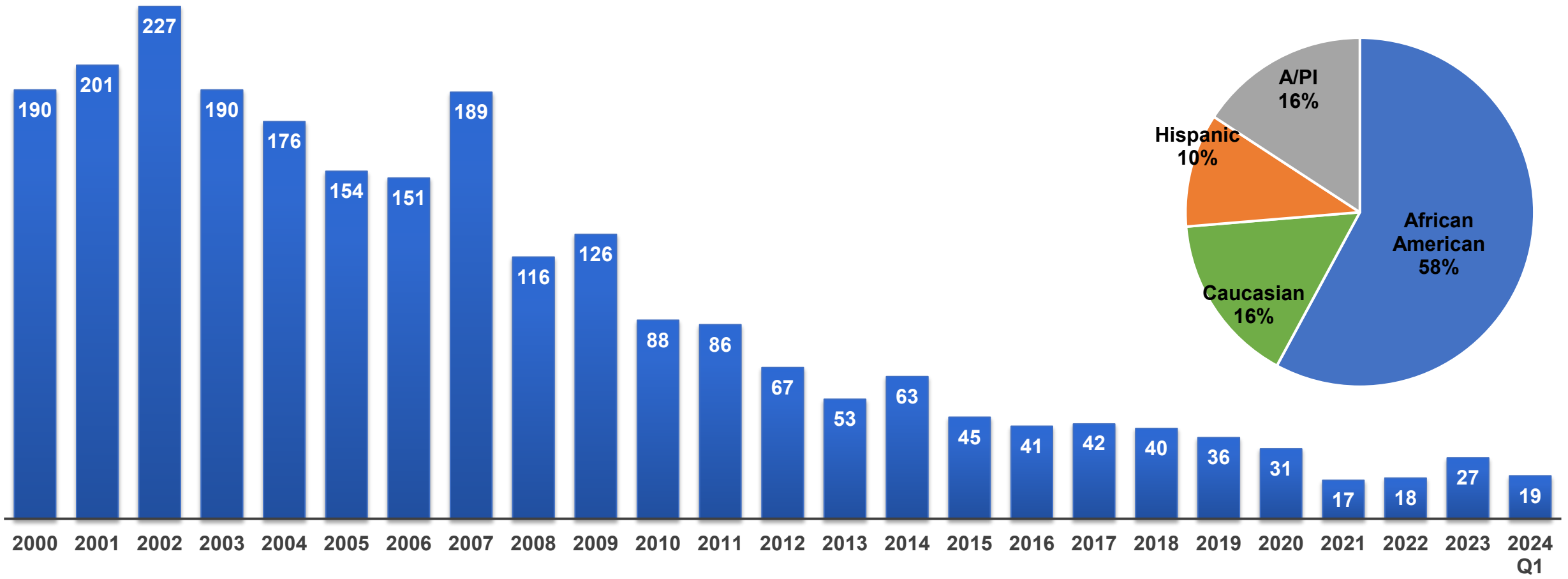
AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION- DETENTION



* In 2014 Adult Status Youth began being housed at Juvenile Court

STATE COMMITMENTS

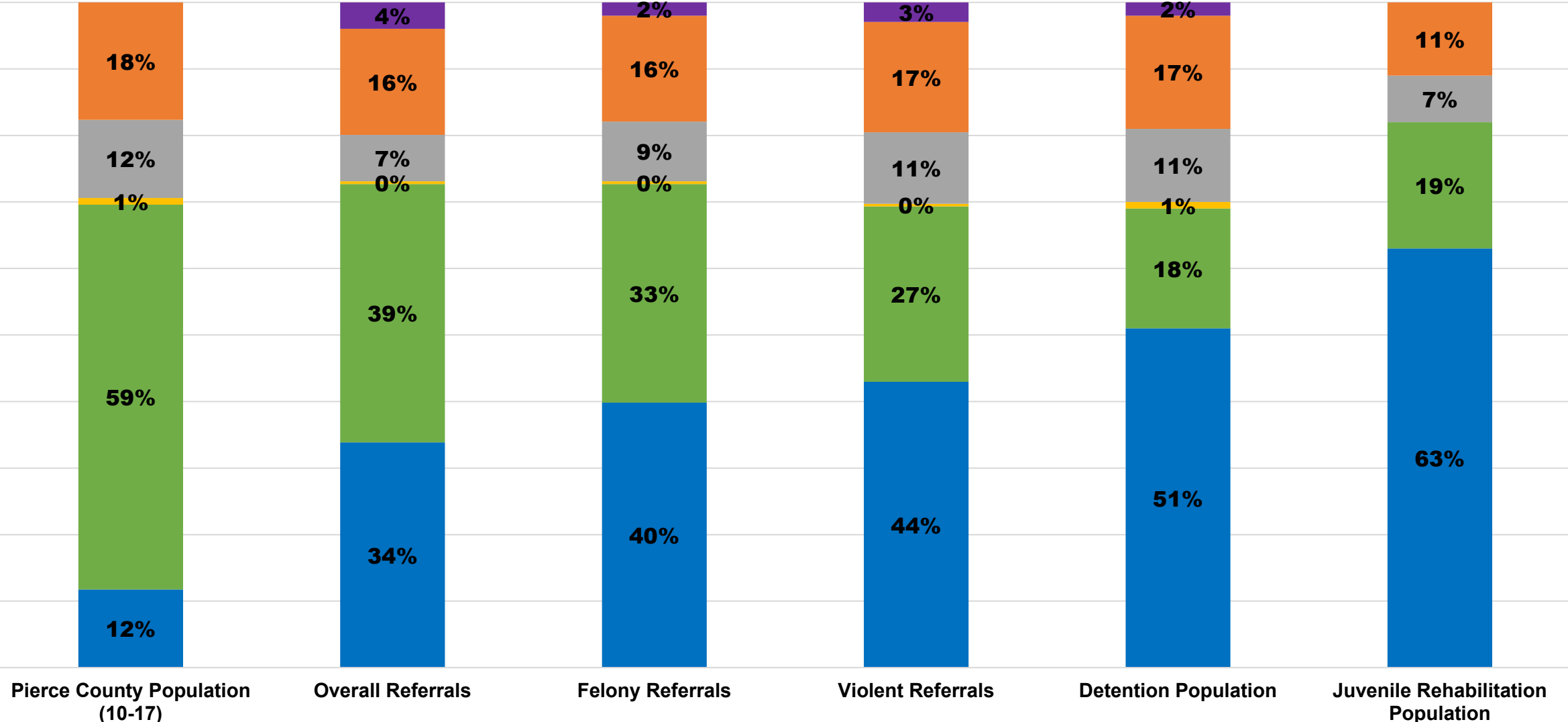
The number of commitments from 2000 to 2023 reduced by **86%**



2023 BY RACE



■ Black ■ White ■ NA / AI ■ A / PI ■ Hispanic ■ Not Available



Because percentages are rounded, they may not add up to 100%.

WHY PROBATION TRANSFORMATION?



Partnering with the Research Community



Engage and Partner with Families



Expand Continuum of Interventions



Increase Positive Youth Development



Cultivate Community Partnerships



Build Capacity to Serve Deep End Youth in Pierce County

PROBATION TRANSFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS



Family Council

Court Order enhancement

Expand Diversion

Increase number of community partnerships

Opportunity Based Probation

Pathways and Alliances – specialized programs

Partner with mentors who have experienced the justice system

Shift practice to limit out of home placements

Prioritize and lean into enhancing the culture

- ➔ Create shared leadership frameworks using Peacemaking principles
- ➔ Establish Self Care, Employee Appreciation, and Equity Teams

TRANSFORMING
JUVENILE
PROBATION
A VISION
FOR GETTING
IT RIGHT



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

FAMILY COUNCIL



FAMILIES SUPPORTING FAMILIES

connect with other parents with similar experiences
share and be heard in a safe space
increase coping skills | access to resources | learn strategic tips
reduce stress | learn more about the Juvenile Court process & programs



FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH PIERCE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT, PLEASE JOIN US...

FIRST & SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

**Pierce County Juvenile Court | 5501 Sixth Avenue | Tacoma
A Lobby Waiting Area
1PM - 3PM**

Meet the facilitator...

ROBERTA JOHNSON
Facilitator - Certified Peer Counselor

Roberta is a parent of 3 kids and has experienced a journey through PCJC with 2 of them on different levels. Not only does she have lived experience, but she is also passionate about helping parents navigate mental health, autism, juvenile court, CPS/DCYF, domestic violence, schools and support. Roberta is a WA State certified peer counselor and involved with various community groups to support families. Roberta knows and believes with the right supports, families will get through this difficult part of their journey.



tara.rittenhouse@piercescountywa.gov

253.213.3562

www.piercescountywa.gov/juvenilecourt

OPPORTUNITY BASED PROBATION (OBP)

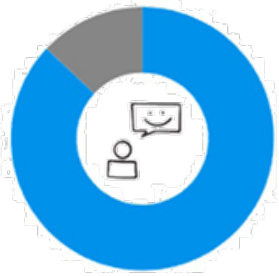


Goal: To enhance youth well-being through effective and supportive probation supervision practice.

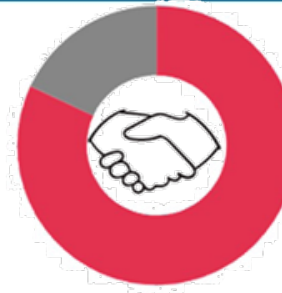
Objective: To integrate principles of adolescent development and effective behavior management into probation supervision.

Outcomes: Reduce probation violations, increase family involvement in probation, and increase youth involvement in development - promoting opportunities in the community.

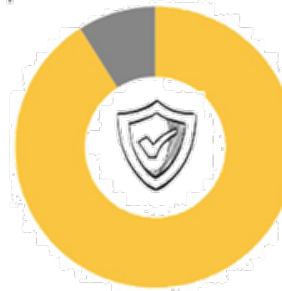
YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEYED AFTER COMPLETING THEIR PYD PROGRAM



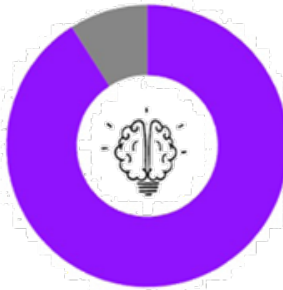
87% enjoyed the experience



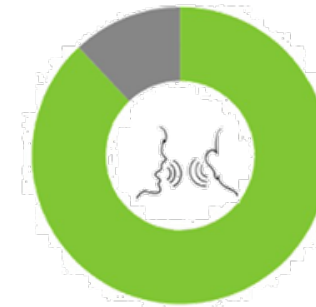
82% made a connection with a positive adult



91% felt safe



91% learned from the program



88% felt listened to

*PYD Satisfaction Survey Results
430 Responses from December 2021 - December 2023*

PYD Partners

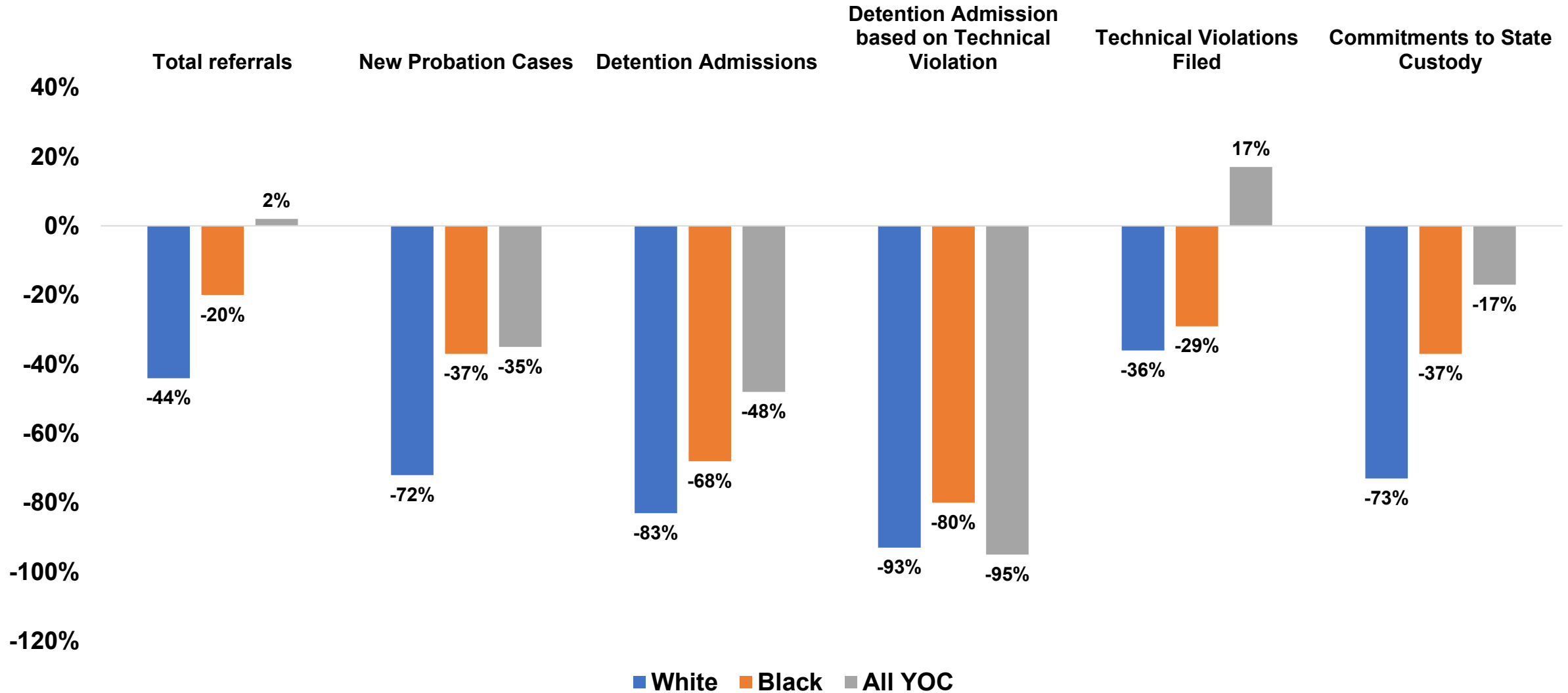
- Alchemy Skateboarding (Metals)
- Youth Assist Program (Culinary)
- Hilltop Artists (Arts Connect)
- Marcus (Mentor)
- Frelimo Omari Amili (Mentor)
- Our Sisters' House
- Tacoma Boat Builders
- Still I Run – Runners for Mental Health Awareness
- 2nd Cycle
- Big Homie Ministries International
- Bold Solutions (FYCOES)
- James Matthew Commission
- Leading Our Children Off Streets
- Recovery Café, Orting Valley
- Create the Space (Mentor)

Thank you Pierce County Council for your investment of ARPA funds to support PYD programs!

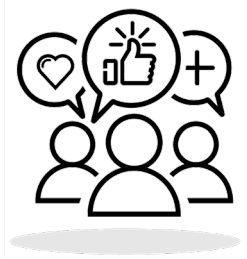
CHANGE ACROSS THE SYSTEM BY RACE SINCE 2014



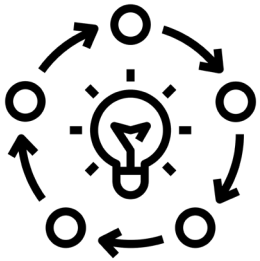
Percent Change Across System by Race 2014-2023



EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES



- Reimagine youth and family engagement to ensure those who are **most impacted** by the system have the opportunity and are empowered to create meaningful change.



- Explore opportunities to bring systems together, analyze cross-system data, and align efforts. **True collaboration** allows us to build a better youth justice system that ensures all young people, regardless of race, ethnicity, neighborhood or income, are held accountable and still have an opportunity for a bright future.



- Build community capacity to support positive youth development opportunities to prevent court involvement. We know when **young people are connected** to things like sports, work, school, and community they are less likely to get in trouble with the law, but some young people need additional support in making positive connections, especially in communities without adequate resources.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Kevin Williams
Probation Manager
kevin.williams@piercecountywa.gov
(253) 255-5381

