



Office of Youth and  
Community Restoration

2023



ANNUAL  
REPORT



# Message from Director Lucero



2023 marked my second full year of spearheading the Office of Youth and Community Restoration. It was a time of transitioning the youth that remained at the Division of Juvenile Justice to the counties by June 30, 2023, building OYCR infrastructure, developing collaborative relationships, and determining funding priorities. As the health and healing practices of accountability and restoration for all youth and communities impacted by the justice system were identified and rolled out through technical assistance, webinars, and published briefs, OYCR continued to grow and thrive to meet the mission and vision of Senate Bill 823. This report will provide an overview of the expansive reach of our Office and the numerous milestones that were achieved.

A handwritten signature in orange ink, appearing to read 'K. Lucero', followed by a long horizontal line.

**JUDGE KATHERINE LUCERO (RET.), DIRECTOR**  
Office of Youth and Community Restoration



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# List of Acronyms, in Alphabetical Order

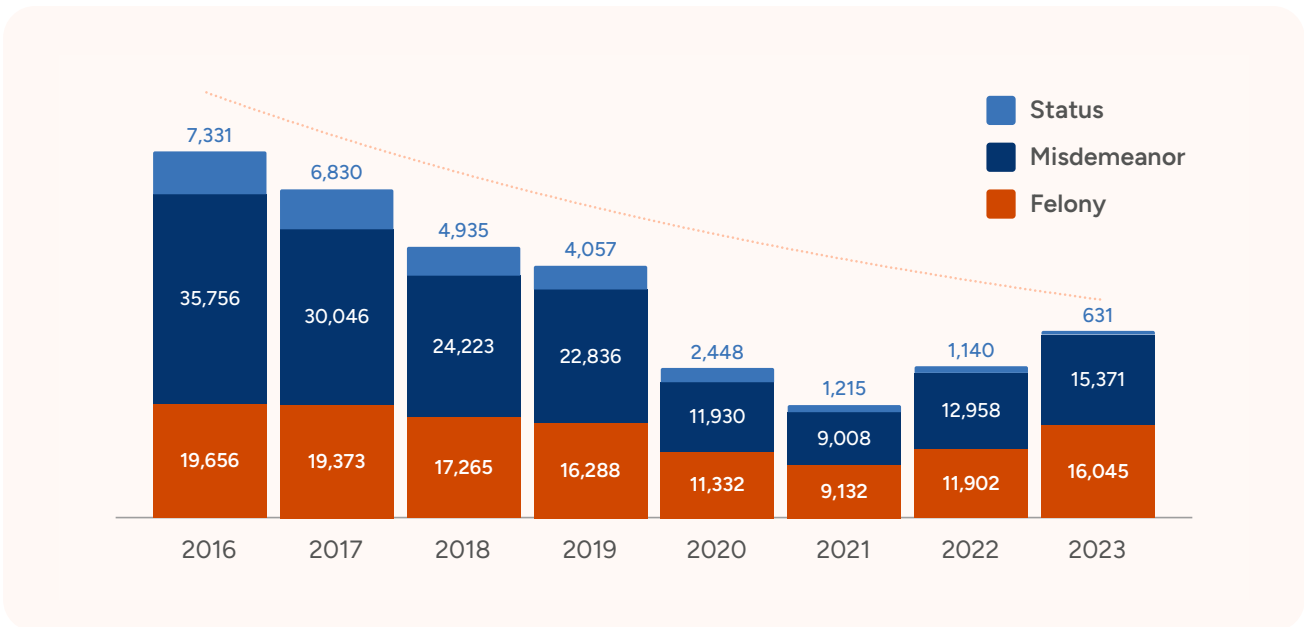
<b>AB</b>	Assembly Bill	<b>LRP</b>	Less Restrictive Program
<b>BSCC</b>	Board of State and Community Corrections	<b>MCLE</b>	Minimum Continuing Legal Education Credits
<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organization	<b>OYCR</b>	Office of Youth and Community Restoration
<b>CCJBH</b>	Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health	<b>RFA</b>	Request for Applications
<b>CCU</b>	County Coordination Unit	<b>SB</b>	Senate Bill
<b>CTFC</b>	California Tribal Families Coalition	<b>STC</b>	Standards and Training for Corrections
<b>CYBHI</b>	Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative	<b>SYTF</b>	Secure Youth Treatment Facility
<b>DJJ</b>	Division of Juvenile Justice	<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>EGI</b>	Ending Girls Incarceration	<b>UCLA</b>	University of California, Los Angeles
<b>FASD</b>	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	<b>YAB</b>	Youth Advisory Board
<b>HCAI</b>	Department of Health Care Access and Information	<b>YBOR</b>	Youth Bill of Rights
<b>JJRBG</b>	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant	<b>YJA</b>	Youth Justice Action

# Youth Justice in California

California’s juvenile justice system stands at a critical juncture, defined by significant reform efforts and evolving approaches to youth rehabilitation. In 2023, 32,047 juvenile arrests were made, 16,033 of which were referred to probation. While this marks a 23% increase in arrests and a 1% decrease in referrals to probation since 2022, the numbers have decreased 26% and 54% overall

since 2019. It is important to acknowledge that this period includes the COVID-19 pandemic, which contributed to the very low numbers seen in previous years. Despite the increase in recent data, the overall trend continues to show a decline, reflecting ongoing efforts to reduce youth involvement in the justice system.

**FIGURE 1: JUVENILE ARRESTS FROM 2016-2023**



[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

From 2019 to 2023, there have been significant changes in various categories of offenses for arrests:



Noncriminal offenses **decreased by 84%**

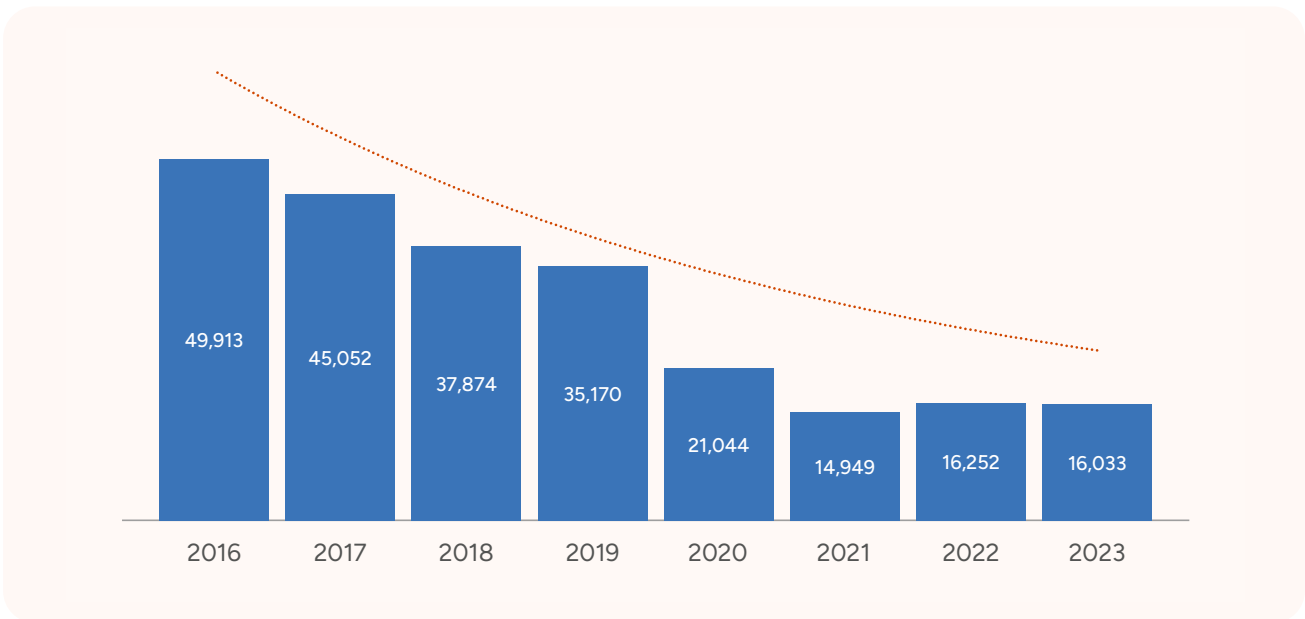


Misdemeanors **decreased by 33%**



Felonies **decreased by 1.5%** overall, with non-violent felonies increasing by 1.2% and violent felonies decreasing by 5%

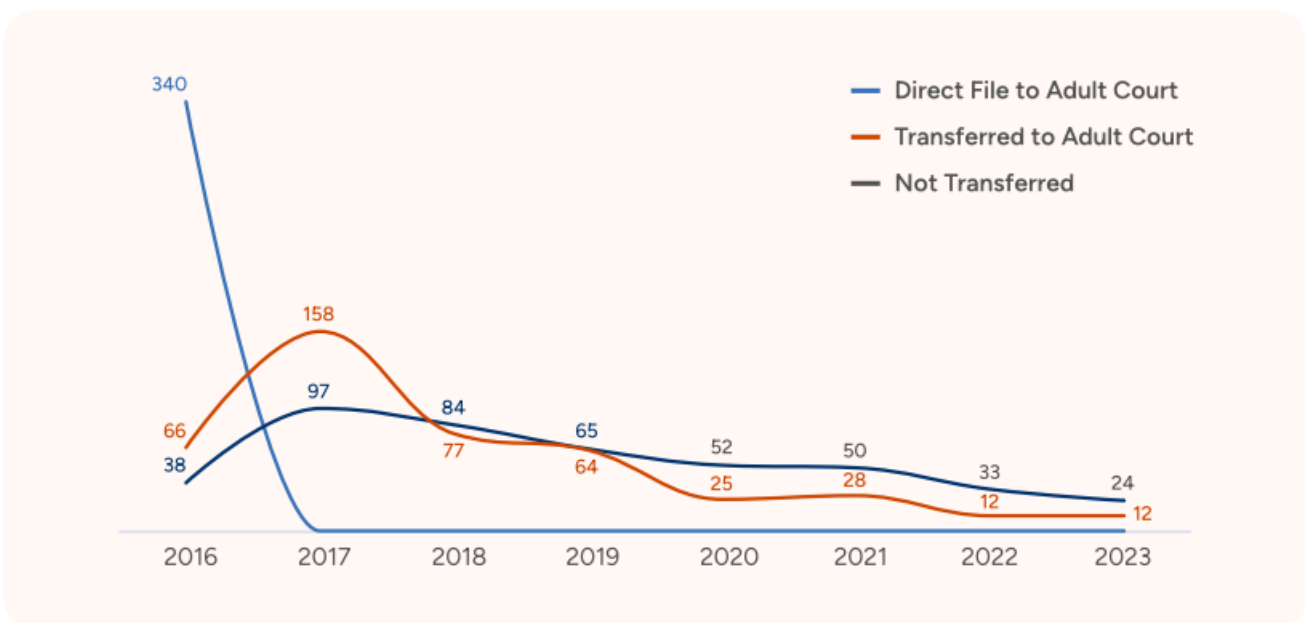
**FIGURE 2: REFERRALS TO PROBATION FROM 2016-2023**



[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

The number of youth offenders transferred to Adult Court has also remained historically low in recent years, with only 12 youth sent to Adult Court in both 2022 and 2023.

**FIGURE 3: DIRECT FILE AND TRANSFER OF JUVENILES TO ADULT COURT**



[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

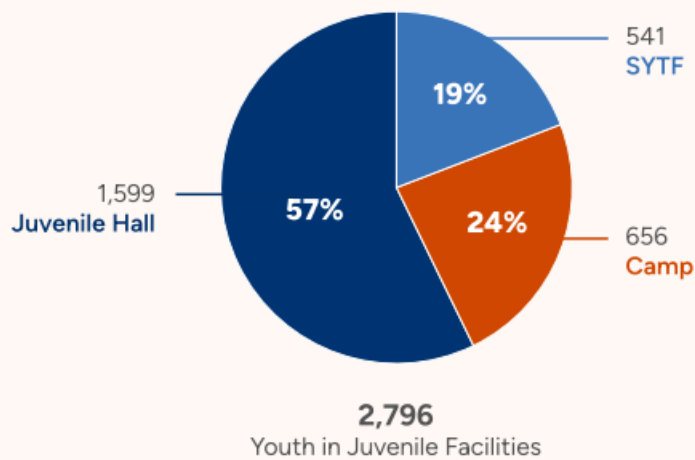


During the 2022/2023 fiscal year, 427 youth were placed in a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) out of the 1,730 eligible due to committing a serious 707(b) offense. This figure includes 140 youth returning from the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) after its closure. The notable strides made in California’s juvenile justice system this year reflect the State’s commitment to centering youth and their rehabilitation. Efforts to ensure that youth have access to diverse and supportive environments conducive to their rehabilitation and growth can be seen in the 100 youth reportedly transferred from an SYTF to less restrictive pro-

grams (LRPs). These LRPs include halfway houses, camps or ranches, or community residential or nonresidential service programs with the purpose of facilitating the safe and successful reintegration of youths into the community.<sup>1</sup>

As of December 2023, an average daily population of 2,796 youth were housed within juvenile facilities, including 24% in camps, 57% in juvenile halls, and 19% in SYTFs. Of these youth, nearly 60% had already had their legal case decided, indicating that they are likely to remain in their placement for the duration of their sentences or until other legal or rehabilitative actions are taken.

**FIGURE 4: NUMBER OF YOUTH IN JUVENILE FACILITIES AS OF DECEMBER 2023**



[Board of State Correctional Centers \(2024\). Juvenile Detention Profile Survey.](#)

Disparities continue to be present within the juvenile justice system, which underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions to address and reduce inequities within communities. The figure below shows the rates at which Latino and Black youth face different experiences within the juvenile justice system as compared to a white youth in 2023. Compared to white youth across

California, Latino and Black youth face significantly higher arrest rates, with Latino youth having a 1.64 times greater chance and Black youth a 6.12 times greater chance of being arrested. Once introduced into the system, these youth are then much more likely to remain in the system along each decision point.

**FIGURE 5: RATE OF SYSTEMS INVOLVEMENT FOR LATINO AND BLACK YOUTH**

Decision Point	Latino Youth Compared to White Youth	Black Youth Compared to White Youth
Arrest	1.64 times more likely	6.12 times more likely
DJJ Commitment*	3.86 times more likely	16.28 times more likely
Transfer Hearing Held	3.50 times more likely	14.86 times more likely
Transferred to Adult Court	3.00 times more likely	24.77 times more likely

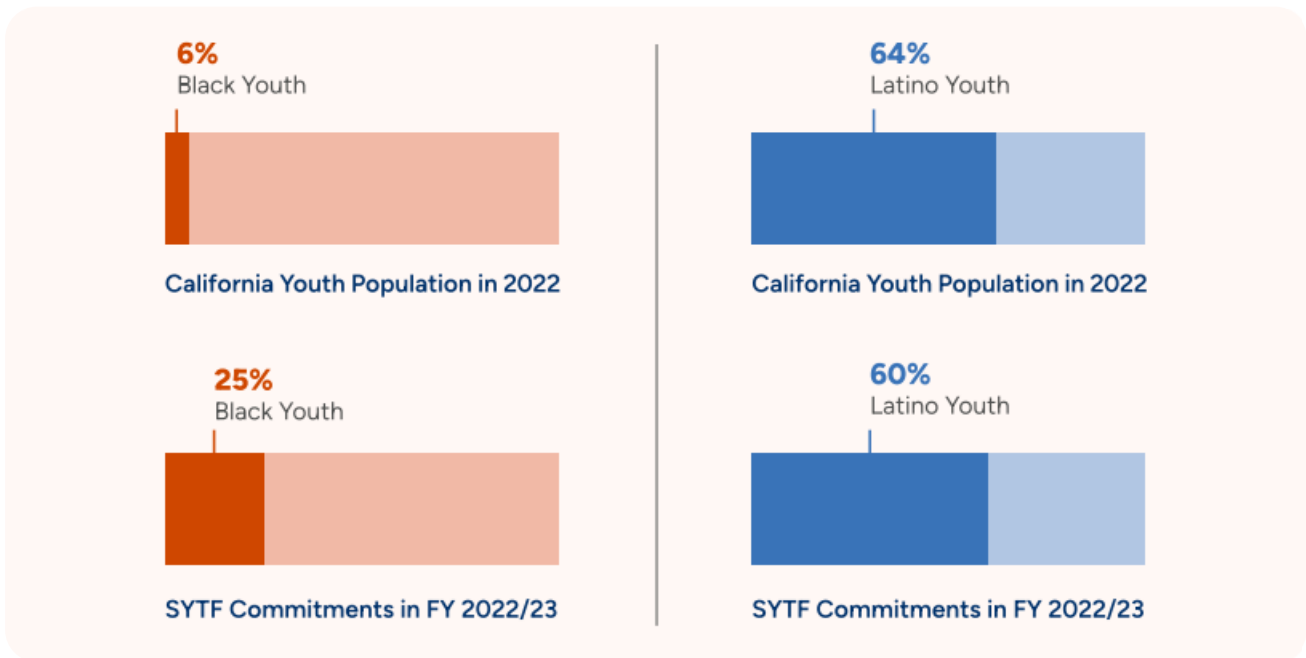
[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Monthly Arrest and Citation Register \(MACR\) dataset.](#)  
[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System \(JCPSS\) dataset.](#)  
[California Department of Finance. \(2023\). P3\\_California-and-Counties data set.](#)

\*The DJJ numbers represent youth committed prior to its closure in 2023.

The same pattern is seen with SYTF commitments in fiscal year 2022/2023. Black youth represented over 25% of the SYTF commitments, highlighting a large disparity, as they only made up 6% of the California youth population in 2022. Latino youth, who made up 62% of the State’s youth population in 2022, accounted for slightly over 60% of the SYTF commitments. Given that Latino youth represent the largest population in California, their significant representation in SYTF commitments underscores the importance of addressing both the number and the rates of commitment.

Additionally, Latino youth remain the largest group in detention, even in counties where they are not the majority of the youth population. This emphasizes the need to closely examine both the numerical impact and disproportionate rates across different regions to effectively target interventions and resources.

**FIGURE 6: NUMBER OF BLACK AND LATINO YOUTH COMMITTED TO SYTFs IN FY 2022/23**



[Office of Youth and Community Restoration. \(2024\). AB 102 Report.](#)

## Implementing a Health-Based Approach to Youth Justice

The work to transform California’s youth justice system has been ongoing for decades, led by advocates, researchers, and probation departments, and supported by policy, funding, and practice changes. In July of 2021, this movement was matched by a historic commitment by the State to shift its approach to youth justice from a lens of punishment to one of accountability and healing. Senate Bill (SB) 823 established the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) — the first state office to implement a health-based, youth-centered approach to youth justice — to complete the transition from state-run youth incarceration to county care, and to support the State’s restorative justice and healing-focused approach to the care of youth.

### Our Mission:

OYCR promotes trauma responsive, culturally informed, gender honoring, and developmentally appropriate services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths’ successful transition into adulthood.

### Our Vision:

The OYCR vision of youth justice is one that is framed by accountability and healing rather than punishment and has been driven by on-the-ground advocates, researchers, and probation departments, along with policy, funding, and practice changes, working together to make this new vision of youth justice a reality.

In our third year, we continue to create new partnerships and processes, work collaboratively with stakeholders from across the justice system in open dialogue, center and support youth in their rehabilitation journeys, and assist California's counties as they take responsibility for the care of all youth who are court-involved.

## Shifting Care to Counties

In 2022, we sought to better understand the needs of each of California's 58 counties and how to best assist them following the scheduled closure of DJJ. In 2023, we have put those insights into action and gained new understandings as we embark on a journey of evidence-based county care for the realigned youth.

As a necessary step of the State's shift toward the positive youth development lens, and in accordance with SB 823, the last remaining state DJJ facilities were to be closed by June 30, 2023, so that youth could be cared for in their communities by county jurisdictions beginning July 1st.

OYCR coordinated closely with multiple state partners to support the counties' efforts in finding the appropriate placements and care for the 410 youths in the care of state DJJ as of January 2023. Given that some youth had more complex needs, each youth was assessed on a case-by-case basis. This ensured that the youth's needs were met, counties were prepared, and DJJ could transfer crucial knowledge to county practitioners promptly, supporting both individual care and systemic continuity.

County collaborative continuums of care provide a supportive environment for young people that fosters personal growth and development, reduces the trauma associated with incarceration, and strengthens community ties by allowing youth and young adults to remain close to their families and support networks.<sup>2</sup> Promoting more effective and compassionate methods of justice, this approach furthermore enhances public safety.

OYCR is committed to fostering a juvenile justice system where each of California's counties is resourced to effectively nurture and rehabilitate their youth and young adults in alignment with local

practices and culture. Whether through technical assistance (TA), evaluation support, or funding, OYCR's role, as outlined in statute, is to partner with counties to create a positive youth justice system that holds youth accountable while providing the resources they need to realize their potential and become valuable assets to their communities upon reentering society after incarceration.

The Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) County plans help us to achieve that goal.

For the second year, counties were required to submit comprehensive plans to access a minimum of \$250,000 in funding from the JJRBG. These plans serve as crucial blueprints for how each county will support youth previously eligible for DJJ, detailing everything from demographic insights to evaluation methods, and reinforcing their commitment to realizing a reformed and equitable juvenile justice system. Our team reviewed each plan, ensuring they met the statutory requirements for acceptance. In some cases, revisions were requested. OYCR provides ongoing support to all system stakeholders to implement the county strategies effectively. In 2023, the law required that at least every three years, counties reconvene their JJRBG subcommittees to update these plans. A summary report memorandum of the 58 counties' JJRBG plans for the year, along with individual versions of each plan, are available on [our website](#).

2023 was pivotal for California's justice system as the State transferred all youth back to their home counties for rehabilitation. Together, we are challenging the belief that incarceration is the only option for youth and communities. We prioritize addressing root causes and understanding adolescent brain development when holding youth accountable, focusing on rehabilitation rather than punishment with lifelong legal repercussions. By engaging stakeholders — youth, families, advocacy groups, community organizations, and local authorities — at every step, we strive to equip young people with the resources needed to lead law-abiding, self-sustaining lives from the outset. In all we do, we return to three core priorities: (1) centering youth as experts of their own experience as well as capable of change, (2) building strong relationships, and (3) fulfilling our responsibility as a guiding body.

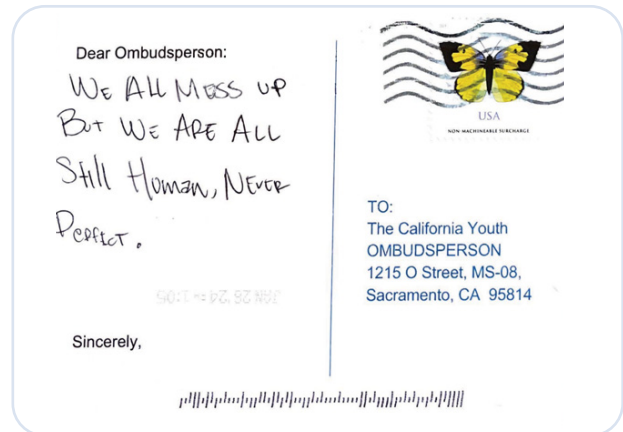
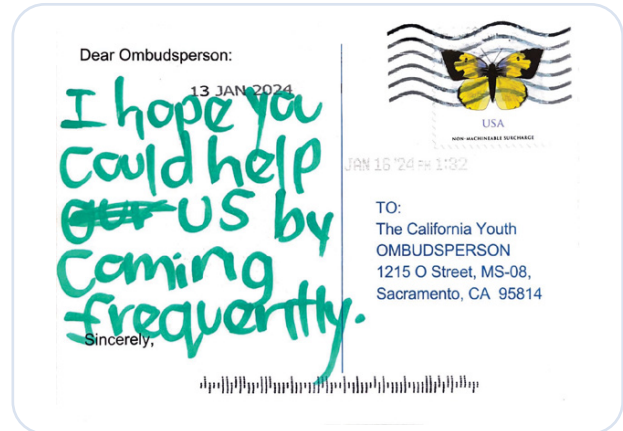
## Centering Youth

Youth and young adults are at the center of our work as California shifts towards a restorative justice system. In addition to leading youth-focused initiatives, OYCR is creating space for youth to share their insights and feedback because we understand their participation and voice are essential for services, resources, and programs to be successful in supporting their rehabilitation.

## Ombudsperson Division

Building upon the Ombudsperson Division's work in 2022, the Division continues to help youth who reside in a California juvenile justice facility. This includes youth incarcerated in juvenile halls, ranches, camps, and SYTFs. The Ombudsperson Division impartially resolves complaints filed by youth, their families, counselors, teachers, probation staff, or others.

Beyond serving as an independent problem-solver, the Ombudsperson Division has made significant strides this year in empowering youth to make their voices heard, increasing efficiency and transparency in how complaints are addressed, achieving collaborative complaint resolutions, and expanding its infrastructure and staffing.



### In 2023, the OYCR Ombudsperson Division...

**Closed 198 of 218 open cases** (more than 90%), 203 of which came from just 20 counties;

**Addressed many complaint issues**, with conditions of confinement, staffing, and programming as the top three most frequent;

**Investigated 112 cases** specifically initiated by youth or conversations with youth, gaining invaluable firsthand insights into the challenges they face;

**Visited sites** across 11 counties;

**Conducted six trainings** to educate diverse audiences — including probation officers, public defenders, and child welfare and advocacy groups — about the rights of youth and the services provided by the OYCR Ombudsperson;

**Filled 4 of 6 staff positions**, with final recruitments under way into 2024.

The Ombudsperson Division developed an age-appropriate, standardized version of [California's Youth Bill of Rights](#) (YBOR), with input from youth, advocacy groups, families, and facilities staff and administration. The YBOR is a monumental document outlining the rights of youth in juvenile justice facilities, including living in a safe and clean environment free from abuse, contacting attorneys and the Ombudsperson without retaliation, receiving quality health and reproductive care, and maintaining contact with family. Although these rights have existed for years, they were gathered in one place by Assembly Bill (AB) 2417 and codified as law.<sup>3</sup> Our version presents them in a clearer, more accessible format. This makes it easier for youth to understand their rights, empowering them to advocate for themselves and access the protections and support to which they are entitled.

**OYCR** Office of Youth and  
Community Restoration

# YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

In California, we have rules to protect the rights of young people who are in a juvenile hall, camp, or other juvenile justice facility. These rights are laws. Here you can find a list of your rights.

**Personal**

- You have the right to live in a safe, healthy, and clean place that helps you to get the skills and training you need to heal and return home.
- You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- You have the right to eat healthy food and snacks.
- You have the right to have clean water to drink at any time.
- You have the right to use the bathroom when you need to.
- You have the right to take a shower every day.
- You have the right to have clean bedding.
- You have the right to have clothes that fit you, are in good condition, and respect your gender identity and expression.
- You have the right to have clean underwear every day that fits you properly and respects your gender identity and expression.
- You have the right to have the things you need for grooming (like soap, shampoo, deodorant, menstrual products, and lotion) that respect your culture, ethnicity, gender identity, and expression. This means that you can have hair and body products that are right for your type of hair and skin and gender.

**Discipline**

- No one is allowed to take away any of the following things from you as a form of discipline or punishment: food; contact with your parents, family, or attorney; sleep; exercise; education; bedding; clean clothes; religious services; a daily shower; clean water; a toilet; grooming products; medical care; reading materials; and sending or getting mail.
- You have the right to not be locked in a room as a punishment.
- You have the right to be given the rules on discipline. You must be given these rules in writing.
- If someone accuses you of something, you have the right to know what it is, to be heard, to defend yourself by sharing evidence or testimony, and to appeal the discipline decisions.
- You may want to contact your attorney to get their help to defend yourself and appeal discipline decisions.

**Phone, Mail, & Visits**

- You have the right to make at least two free phone calls within an hour of arrival at a juvenile facility after an arrest.
- You have the right to frequent and continuing contact with your parents, brothers and sisters, your children, and other relatives.
- You have the right to talk to them on the phone, have them visit you, or send them letters. You may be given access to a computer to connect with your family, but it shouldn't replace seeing them in person.
- You may be allowed to visit other family members and supportive adults with approval from the Facility Administrator.
- Mail that you send or get from family, friends, your children, and other supportive adults can be opened to search for contraband and can only be read by staff when they have a good reason to believe that the letter or mail could risk the safety and security of the facility, other youth, or the public.

**Searches**

- You have the right to not be searched just to make you feel bad or embarrassed, or to punish you. Searches must be done in a way that respects your privacy and dignity.
- You have the right to not be searched just to verify your gender.
- You have the right to get a written copy of the rules about searching at any time, and it must have the rules on who can do the searches.
- Searches should only be done to ensure the safety and security of the facility, youth, staff, and visitors.

**Confidential Contacts**

- You have the right to confidentially contact your attorney, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson, advocates, and certain people who work for the government about your rights being violated and what is happening inside the facility. You cannot be punished for contacting them.
- You have the right to make private phone calls, send and receive private mail, and have private visits with your attorney, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson, advocates, court personnel, people who give you legal services, and people who hold a public office.
- You have the right to have these visits and letters be confidential, which means that the Probation Department is not allowed to be listening or recording these visits or looking at or reading mail or letters from these people. The Probation Department can authorize certain staff to open mail from these people only to search for contraband and this must be done with your there.

**Recreation**

- You have the right to have time to do physical activities every day for at least one hour.
- You have the right to go outside for at least one hour per day unless there is bad weather.
- You have the right to at least one hour a day of daily recreation, including having time to read, to write letters, and to entertainment that match your age and maturity.

**Medical**

- You have the right to ask for and get timely access to doctors, dentists, eye doctors, reproductive care, and mental health services when you need them. All of these services should be given to you by professionals who have the training and licenses to provide you with the type of care that you are getting.
- You have the right to say no to certain medicines that are used to help with mental health. The only time this right can be taken away from you is if it is needed to save your life or protect you or others from serious harm.
- You should always talk with your doctor about your concerns and the risks of not taking a medication. If you want to stop taking a medication you are already on, you should work with your doctor and the facility medical staff to do this in a safe way. You can also tell your attorney and probation staff how you feel about the medications you are taking, any side effects, or other concerns you might have about these medications.

**Education**

- You have the right to a quality education that follows the state law and standards, and prepares you for high school graduation, college, and a job.
- You have the right to attend the classes for your grade level and job training.
- You have the right to have access to college, career, and job training programs.
- You have the right to have access to a computer and the internet for your school, career, or job training program.
- You have the right to get educational services even if you are on disciplinary or medical status.
- You have the right to have access to information about the education options that are available to you.

**Court**

- You have the right to go to all the court hearings that involve you.
- You have the right to have an attorney and a court hearing, called a probable cause hearing, if you are being held in a juvenile facility for probation violations.

**Pregnant and Parenting**

- If you are a parent, you have the right to get information and help to take care of your child, your rights as a parent, things that can support you as a parent, reunification help, and ways you can stay connected with your child.
- You have the right to get education and special training on pregnancy, caring for your baby, parenting, breast-feeding, and child development.
- You have the right to get proper medical care if you are pregnant, including prenatal care, food and nutrition that is best for pregnancy, vitamins, other medical treatment that is needed to keep you and your pregnancy healthy, and counseling for you before and after your baby is born.
- You have the right not to be put in restraints, leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind your back when you are pregnant or recovering after giving birth.
- You have the right not to be restrained during a medical emergency, labor, delivery, or recovery, unless it is necessary for safety and security, and to have them removed if a doctor or nurse determines it is needed to provide you medical care.
- You have the right to access written policies that explain how pregnant, nursing, and new parents should be treated.

**Religion and Spiritual**

- You have the right to practice your religion or spiritual beliefs including religious services and activities.
- You have the right to refuse to take part in religious services or activities.

**No Abuse**

- You have the right to not be abused in any way. This includes physical, sexual, emotional, or any other abuse. No one is allowed to punish you by hitting you.
- You should tell your attorney, a trusted adult, a staff person, or your probation officer if you are being abused. You can also call the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson at 1-844-402-1880.

**Treated Equally**

- You have the right to be treated fairly and have equal access to all available services including housing, care, treatment, and benefits.
- You should not be treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, language, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental or physical disability, immigration, or HIV status.

**WHAT IS AN OMBUDSPERSON?**  
A person whose job it is to help you if you are in a juvenile justice facility in California and need help to solve problems about how you are being treated.

The Ombudsperson is an independent problem-solver responsible for investigating complaints and attempting to resolve them for the people involved. As a youth in a juvenile justice facility, you have the right to ask questions or file a complaint with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson. You can file a complaint if your rights have been violated or ignored or you are concerned about the condition of the facility you are in. You cannot be punished or threatened for making a complaint. If you are not sure how we can help, please call, email, or write to us.

**WHO TO CALL ABOUT MY RIGHTS:**  
If you think your rights are being violated or have concerns with the juvenile justice facility you are in, you have the right to privately contact the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson. You cannot be punished or retaliated against for making a complaint.

**Helpline:** 1-844-402-1880

**Email:** [OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov)

**Website:** [oycr.ca.gov](http://oycr.ca.gov)

**Address:** OYCR Ombudsperson  
1215 O Street, MS-08  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Looking ahead to 2024, the Ombudsperson Division will ensure that YBOR materials are available in all facilities and will conduct trainings for not only youth but community groups, probation officers, attorneys, and other interested parties on the YBOR and role of the OYCR Ombudsperson.

Additionally, the Ombudsperson Division made significant progress in upgrading its complaint tracking system and implemented a collaborative approach to streamline the handling of complaints and provide youth with the most comprehensive solutions. For example, in response to a complaint about the lack of educational programming, the Ombudsperson Division, through OYCR's County Coordination Unit (CCU), connected the facility to an educational program that began providing services the next week.

In 2024, the Ombudsperson Division expects to complete hiring, have a fully operational infrastructure with a detailed case management system and an integrated call center, and publish its first report to the Legislature detailing the complaints received, investigations conducted, resolutions achieved, data summary, and recommendations for system improvement.

As it continues to carry out its responsibilities, the Ombudsperson Division remains steadfast in its commitment to youth and fostering positive change from within the system.

## Health Policy Division

In our ongoing commitment to centering and supporting youth in their rehabilitation journeys, OYCR seeks to address their holistic health needs — physical, behavioral, educational, and occupational well-being. By ensuring access to adequate health support across the board, we can help set young individuals up to make changes in their lives and live self-sufficiently out of the system.

“ When I realized that a lot of this stuff was stemming from things that I experienced in the community or within my household, it enabled me to be able to cut those things out and to be able to heal in those areas and, then, to be able to come out and be sober for 10 years now, and to be learning how to manage my anger more effectively, as well as managing my mental health through continual counseling.

— Jarad Nava,  
formerly incarcerated youth

Many youths in the court system are from disadvantaged communities and more likely to be incarcerated due to underlying factors or conditions beyond their control, so receiving support to which they have not previously had access will help them on a path forward.<sup>4</sup>

It is believed that 17% to 35% of youth in the California juvenile justice system have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a complex disability caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy, resulting in damage to the fetus's brain with potential impact to key areas of function including information processing, adaptive skills, and social communication.<sup>5</sup> Very often, these youths' strengths are not sufficient to face the constant challenges of daily life, and they don't respond well to common interventions used.

OYCR's Health Policy Division collaborates with experts to develop essential resources and information for a diverse set of practitioners working directly with youth and young adults who are systems-involved.

To enhance the support that counties provide to youth, OYCR collaborated with the RAND Corporation and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) to develop the "California Juvenile Justice Programs and Practices Toolkit."

## The California Juvenile Justice Programs and Practices Toolkit encompasses four key components:

### 1 Toolkit Compendium of Best Practices:

Released on the CCJBH website in October 2023 and on the OYCR website in November 2023, the toolkit compendium compiles current and relevant information on effective, evidence-based practices and emerging best practices programs for youth. It serves as a crucial resource for probation officers, behavioral health professionals, and other stakeholders seeking interventions that promote positive outcomes.

### 2 Training and TA Plan:

Scheduled for completion and release in Summer 2024, this plan will offer specialized training and guidance to counties, helping them to effectively implement the practices and programs highlighted in the toolkit compendium.

### 3 System Capacity Development Toolkit:

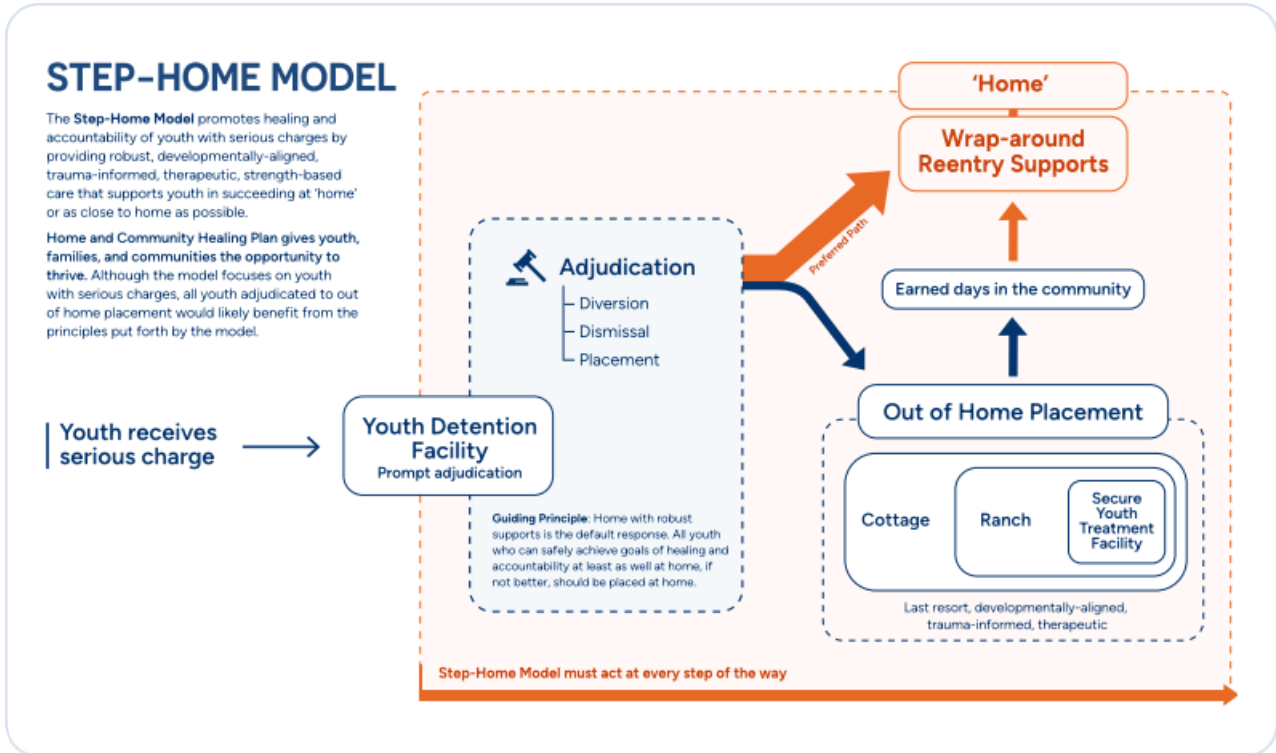
The toolkit outlines the necessary infrastructure and capacity needed to deliver effective treatment and support to youth. Completed in 2023 and scheduled for release in April 2024, it will provide a framework for counties to build and sustain robust youth support systems.

### 4 TA Roll-Out:

Starting in Fall 2024, we will begin providing TA and training to counties, facilitating the integration and adoption of new, evidence-based and emerging approaches to support youth.

With researchers from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the Health Policy Division also finalized the “Stepping Home Model” in 2023.<sup>6</sup> Grounded in evidence-based practices, this innovative model works to increase positive community engagement while gradually reducing supervision by county agencies, preparing youth holistically for a successful reintegration. Stepping Home guides youth from their initial confinement in SYTFs, through phases in LRPs, to their eventual safe return home as thriving, successful young adults.





Central to the Stepping Home Model is the development of an individualized case plan tailored to each youth's unique needs, dependent upon neuro-psychosocial assessments, strengths-based activities, mentorship, peer support, care for gender-expansive youth and those with disabilities, and more. As youth achieve their case plan goals, they receive the targeted support and conditions they may have previously lacked in order to be successful in the community. This approach equips them to learn and thrive and lowers their likelihood of re-involvement in the justice system.

While the model's full implementation is pending further supportive research from UCLA, foundational steps have been taken. Namely, we have committed to allocating \$15 million to develop LRPs and establish a system for tracking the outcomes of participating youth. For more details and to explore the science behind why the model works, you can access UCLA's initial research brief [here](#).

Plans for upcoming years include enhancing the prevention, education, assessment, and treatment of neurodivergent disorders, beginning with FASD, through a diagnostic protocol and screening assessment algorithm. OYCR's Health

Policy Division will inform and support our youth justice partner in implementing programs that are part of the State's behavioral health reform efforts, including, but not limited to, the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Initiative, Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) School-Linked Services, Behavioral Health Transformation, and Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment. We will also train county probation departments on youth substance use disorder services and the California Sex Offender Management Board treatment guidelines for youth offenders.

### Education Team

Educational health must be included in the holistic health of young people involved in the juvenile justice system.<sup>7</sup> OYCR's long-term vision for our educational team is ambitious but clear: to ensure that every young person in the juvenile justice system is seen as a college-bound individual, with access to multiple, equitable pathways to achieve their post-secondary aspirations.

By fostering an environment where every student is recognized as “college material,” we not only encourage their academic success but also create tangible opportunities for youth to build brighter futures.<sup>8</sup> While college may not be the chosen path for everyone, it’s crucial for college to be included as an option alongside vocational training and other pathways for success for all youth.

In December, OYCR hosted “High-Quality Education for Incarcerated Youth,” a webinar that showcased the breadth of our educational initiatives and partnerships. The event featured legal experts, policy advocates, and state education leaders who discussed funding, implementing Individualized Education Plans, and enhancing workforce development, among other topics.

The [Rising Scholars Network](#), which has connected the California Community College system with programs for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students since 2020, was a key participant. OYCR collaborates closely with Rising Scholars who contracts, provides resources, and aids strategic planning for juvenile justice involved students to access higher education. Rising Scholars is utilizing a \$15 million California investment to empower up to 45 new community colleges to create and expand educational programs in partnership with facilities and alternative schools.



Many of our educational efforts in 2023 were led by OYCR’s Education Advisory Committee, composed of leaders and partners from public colleges and universities, probation departments, county offices of education, and other stakeholder groups across California. The Committee convened monthly to share insights, challenges, and relevant updates related to higher education, steer initiatives, and align efforts statewide.

With the Education Advisory Committee, OYCR consolidated all publicly available education-related materials for juvenile court schools into one centralized, online resource hub to simplify access to and sharing of information. Additionally, the Committee worked with [Forward Change](#) to produce a critical and first-of-its-kind report — [Building Higher Education Pathways for Youth in Secure Treatment Facilities in California: A Call to Action](#) — which details the drivers of educational and life outcomes for incarcerated youth, as well as promising interventions and essential infrastructural elements.

In 2024, OYCR and the Education Advisory Committee will continue their vital work, delving deeper into expanding educational opportunities within juvenile justice settings. Furthermore, OYCR plans to develop a dedicated Education page on our website to make the aggregated juvenile court school data easier to access.

## Spotlight: Youth Advisory Board

OYCR began the process of developing a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) within OYCR’s Systems Change & Equity Division in early spring 2023. The YAB will consist of about twenty young people with lived experience and expertise to help shift the narrative and improve policies and practices that directly affect them and their peers. By creating an entity and a space for youth to meet regularly with decision-makers, provide their insights, and influence decisions, OYCR is ingraining the inclusion of youth participation and perspectives into our work processes. With the YAB, youth will be agents of change, leading and guiding California’s youth justice reform work alongside our staff and all our partners.

**“ Having a voice and knowing how to use that voice leads to positive impact on me and my community.**

**— Youth who is currently court-involved**

First, OYCR established a temporary “YAB Workgroup” comprising eight young people and Systems Change & Equity staff. Together, we engaged with over 85 adults and more than 100 youth and young adults, alongside numerous community-based organizations (CBOs) and system partners across the State to better understand the landscape of youth participation, uncover the barriers they face, identify youth champions, and assess the feasibility of taking this challenge on. This comprehensive assessment was pivotal in paving the way for a YAB that genuinely reflects the needs and aspirations of youth who are systems-involved.

### **The assessment highlighted several key themes essential for the YAB’s success:**

Access to necessary services and programs, such as coaching and emotional support;

A nurturing environment that encourages open communication;

Stronger connections between existing youth advisory councils across the State;

Ensuring that other stakeholders are genuinely committed to the YAB’s goals, thus enabling youth to follow through on promised actions.

In addition to developing and preparing for the launch of OYCR’s YAB, the YAB Workgroup supported various initiatives where youth input was crucial, shaping key projects like the YBOR and a Youth Dignity Guide, organizing and participating in conferences, conducting youth-led workshops for OYCR staff, and sharing their personal stories. Their perspectives even informed the development of focus group questions already being implemented across California, foreshadowing future accomplishments surely to come with the formal YAB in action.

**“ We can’t incarcerate, jail, or medicate out of our problems. Deep healing is needed, and it can only happen if we look at the root cause — not manage the symptoms.**

**— Susie Rivera,  
OYCR Consultant**

Developing the YAB this year has not only underscored the importance of youth perspectives in our initiatives but also demonstrated the profound impact they can have when given the opportunity to sit at the table and contribute meaningfully. The more we listen to youth with firsthand knowledge of how systems can cause harm, the better we’ll understand their circumstances, their needs, and root causes, so that we may find the best pathways to help set them up for long-term success.<sup>9</sup> And for the youth participants, we hope it will be an empowering experience — to develop agency and leadership skills, to gain confidence, and to be seen for who they are today instead of what they’ve done in the past.

In this coming year, we will establish the process for identifying and engaging the members of the YAB and be officially launching the YAB in the Fall of 2024.

## Collaboration and Partnerships

Since OYCR was established in July 2021, the Office has prioritized bringing critical partners together. The success of youth treatment and justice system reform hinges on open dialogue and a willingness to work collaboratively.<sup>10</sup> Genuine collaboration and partnerships among all stakeholders — including judges, attorneys, law enforcement, probation officers, youths and families, administrators, child welfare workers, victims, victim service providers, schools, and CBOs — is needed for sustained systems improvement.<sup>11</sup>

We know that every interaction with a young person can significantly impact their life and the communities they touch. Therefore, all stakeholders making decisions as youth move through a complex system have a responsibility to communicate and work together to provide a seamless continuum of care and rehabilitation. To help break down professional silos, OYCR creates pathways for stakeholders to share their expertise, ideas, and feedback, and offers cross-discipline education and training.

### Here's what a path can look like for a youth navigating the court system:

- 1 Initially, law enforcement can cite, arrest, or divert a youth.
- 2 When probation receives a referral from law enforcement, in many instances the probation officer can decide what to do with the case; other times, the case must be taken to the district attorney.
- 3 The district attorney decides whether or not to bring charges and what those charges will be.

- 4 If the case goes to court, the probation officer uses their expertise and various assessment tools to recommend a course of action to the court.
- 5 The judge ultimately decides the disposition, which might include services like counseling, family therapy, restorative justice interventions, or sometimes placement in a facility.
- 6 Services, aimed at addressing the harm and fostering rehabilitation, are then provided by facilities, probation, and/or CBOs.
- 7 Through a youth's journey, they receive support from many system professionals and community supports who create a personalized care plan and advocate for their individual needs, from health to education to family.

## Spotlight: Ending Girls' Incarceration

One of our most impactful, ongoing collaborations has been with the Vera Institute of Justice to expand their Ending Girls' Incarceration (EGI) initiative statewide in California. OYCR partnered with Vera starting in 2022 to establish the "EGI-CA Action Network." After a competitive selection process, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Imperial, and San Diego Counties were chosen in April 2023 for the inaugural year-long cohort. The Action Network has since convened four times to explore the significance of gender-responsive approaches, hear from national and regional experts, and train on evidence-based harm reduction strategies. Each county has also received \$125,000 to collaborate with Vera and each other, analyzing their local data, identifying system and programming gaps, and implementing solutions to address gender disparities in youth legal systems.

This partnership demonstrates the power of shared goals and collaborative, targeted efforts in driving innovative policy changes. In 2024, Vera will share actionable policy recommendations derived from data collected by the participating counties. Each county will then create a Reform and Sustainability Plan detailing their selected policy changes and strategies for implementation. If their plans are particularly bold and effective, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Imperial, and San Diego Counties may qualify for additional funding over two years to sustain and expand their efforts.

Next year, we will also develop collaboratives within each of the four EGI counties and launch the Request for Applications (RFA) process, allocating \$1 million to each county for CBO-based programming aimed at ending the incarceration of girls and gender-expansive youth. We will release the RFA to select eight CBOs that will receive TA and funding to build their capacity, strengthen their organizations, and better serve youth in the legal system.

**" We have been thrilled to see the interest that this opportunity has generated across the State and believe that with targeted support, these four counties have the potential to become leaders for their peers in California and nationally.**

— **Judge Katherine Lucero (Ret.),**  
Director of OYCR

## Providing External Services

One of OYCR's core responsibilities is to equip all youth- and child-serving organizations with the knowledge, tools, and support they need to meet the needs of young people in the juvenile justice system. OYCR is working to strengthen a wide network of informed and capable partners and practitioners.

**" It takes everyone at the table together to work collaboratively to create change.**

— **LaRon Dennis, J.D.,**  
OYCR Consultant

## Technical Assistance

In 2023, we completed 70 TA requests. Our TA services broadly assist county probation departments, judicial officers, attorneys, educators, juvenile commissioners, community partners, and other county agencies. Most requests are "direct," where OYCR provides specialized guidance to address a specific challenge, like evaluating

programs or pointing an organization to resources. OYCR has also assisted with youth workforce development, remedying safety issues, re-entry support, housing assistance, facility design, evidence-based programming, capacity-building, and community collaborations.

OYCR received a TA request from a county in Southern California looking for resources to nurture a youth's strong passion for cooking and dream of attending culinary school. We realized local programs through community colleges nearby would not be a viable option because of high interest and long waitlists, and the costs to attend a private culinary school would be a difficult barrier.

Not wanting to give up, Director Lucero reached out to the Department of Rehabilitation to find pathways to secure funding so that cost of attendance would not be an obstacle for the youth. The youth applied and was accepted to the Institute of Culinary Education, a private culinary school with more than 45 years of experience launching culinary careers. Through a TA request and dedicated members in the juvenile justice system, the youth was able to begin their culinary journey at one of the top culinary schools in the country.

OYCR also partners with organizations like the California Tribal Families Coalition (CTFC) to learn from their expertise so that we can better provide TA to others in the justice system. OYCR has dedicated time with CTFC each month for knowledge sharing and to help further expand our support network to better care for systems-impacted Native American youth.

When OYCR shares the ways that the Office can offer support, more TA is requested by stakeholders. Following initial interactions with CBOs, for instance, they have often requested information about local LRPs, help facilitating their programs, and more. Similarly, county commission members have reached out to receive presentations from OYCR staff. This ongoing engagement underscores why we work with stakeholders — to share information, collaborate, and address the evolving needs of youth justice stakeholders across California.

## Youth Justice Action Webinars

In October of 2023, we launched a Youth Justice Action (YJA) Webinar Series designed to share best practices and pioneering research with system partners on the first Monday of each month.

Our YJA webinars in October, November, and December covered three critical topics: “End Girls’ Incarceration” led by Vera; “Positive Youth Justice” with Jeffrey A. Butts, Research Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and director of the John Jay Research and Evaluation Center; and “High-Quality Education for Incarcerated Youth” featuring a panel of legal experts, policy advocates, and education leaders from Rising Scholars, Youth Law Center, California County Superintendents, Forward Change, and San Diego, Mendocino, and Los Angeles County Offices of Education. These sessions fostered meaningful discussions, reinforcing our commitment to transforming youth justice in California.

The average attendance rate for YJA webinars is 59.7%; the average government webinar attendee rate is about 30%, and the industry standard attendance rate is 30% to 50%

Webinar	Registration #	Attendees
Ending the Incarceration of Girls & Gender Expansive Youth (Oct.)	137	93
Positive Youth Justice (Nov.)	262	149
High Quality Education for Incarcerated Youth (Dec.)	280	165

In total, we offered 33 MCLE credits and 175 STC credits towards professional development and certification of individuals working within California’s juvenile justice system.

OYCR is grateful for the opportunities to reconnect with on-the-ground experts and create new relationships. Planning for 2024 webinars is already underway, and we’re looking to cover a range of topics, including credible messenger mentoring, the criminalization of youth of color, and aligning youth justice practices with research.

Many of the Office’s YJA webinars qualify for Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) and Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credits. Recordings of past webinars can be found on the “Resources” page of our [website](#).

## Coordinating Stakeholder Expertise

As a facilitator in transforming California’s juvenile justice system, we’re always listening and bridging gaps between critical stakeholders, ensuring we help others enhance their efforts.

These stakeholder groups, among many others, collectively drive forward OYCR’s mission to create a comprehensive support system for all youth in California.

## Four of the stakeholder groups shaping youth justice in 2023:

- 1 OYCR’s CCU played an active role in three types of juvenile justice-related county commissions this year: the **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, its Subcommittee, and the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission**. By providing regular updates on initiatives and policies, OYCR cultivated new relationships and received multiple TA requests. In response, OYCR delivered presentations on recent legislative changes concerning the JJRBG, and the roles of OYCR and the Ombudsperson.
- 2 The **Child Welfare Council Youth Justice Committee** brings together probation chiefs, behavioral health professionals, judges, attorneys, youth advocates, and educators. Meeting four times in 2023, the committee focused on alternatives to incarceration, including expanding educational resources, building CBO capacity, and developing the “Stepping Home” model with UCLA.

**3** In February 2023, OYCR partnered with the **California Interagency Council on Homelessness** to address the needs of youth involved in the justice system within the broader context of homelessness initiatives. It's important to dedicate resources to prevent youth housing instability because we know there's a high percentage of youth who experience homelessness also have been involved in the court system, foster care system, or both.<sup>12</sup>

**4** OYCR's participation in the **AB 2083 Systems of Care Workgroup**, which meets weekly, aims to address the unique needs of youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In 2023, the workgroup focused on providing TA, reviewing documents, and planning for a conference in 2024.

## Grantmaking

In addition to providing TA, sharing best practices, and creating space for cross-discipline collaboration, OYCR also distributes grant funding to support a robust continuum of care for youth. Grants are a critical tool that allows OYCR to facilitate additional collaborative efforts, fill in resource gaps, and invest in community infrastructure to support youth rehabilitation.

Approximately \$6.5 million was dedicated to the Justice and System-Involved Youth Grants Program. In collaboration with the CYBHI and the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), the goal of the Program is to expand the health provider workforce by supporting health professional pathway programs to include individuals with diverse lived experience, including justice system involvement. HCAI received 24 applications for funding, with awards set to be distributed in early 2024.

Approximately \$4 million has been awarded as part of our CBO Capacity Development Grant to enhance eight CBOs in their developmental capacity and ability to support youth reentry into the community. In November 2023, the Sierra Health Foundation, along with the National Center for Youth Law and the Public Works Alliance, were announced as the main vendor and partners for this initiative.

Since September 2023, OYCR has committed \$100,000 to \$200,000 per youth to help counties develop innovative methods for transitioning youth from SYTFs to LRPs and their community. This funding will support 24 months of targeted services aimed at facilitating the transition of select youth and evaluating their success.

Additionally, a significant undertaking in 2023 has been preparing for the transition of the juvenile justice grant management responsibilities from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to OYCR by the start of 2025. To facilitate this, OYCR hired a full-time grants management staff member and began knowledge transfer sessions.

Looking ahead to 2024, OYCR plans to expand our grants team and implement online grants management software that will help manage funding programs, engage with grantees, and ensure a smooth and efficient transition.

## OYCR Updates, Development, and Training

As OYCR continues to guide California's shift in youth justice from state-run incarceration to county-run restoration, from a lens of punishment to accountability and healing, we will continue to invest in our own Office's growth and development. Best practices evolve based on new data and understandings, and — for our team to be qualified to support the State's juvenile justice transformation — our Office is committed to being lifelong learners.



In 2023, OYCR implemented internal procedural improvements, including updated policies and procedures, desk manuals, factsheets, and accessible and improved communication resources. We finalized our internal strategic plan and consistently return to it as a guiding document for all requests and workflows. These efforts have been critical in bolstering capacity to drive meaningful change.

## Our Internal Journey

In 2023, OYCR focused on building a strong team by actively recruiting talent to fill key positions. By year's end, three new team members were scheduled to start in 2024, one candidate received a final job offer, and recruiting efforts for four positions were underway. We also benefited from the knowledge, skills, and abilities of six consultants with expertise in youth law, education, Ombudsperson operations, contracts and procurement, child welfare systems funding streams, and youth sex offender treatment.

We expect to be fully staffed by early 2024 as we prepare for increased responsibility from the transfer of the administration of the juvenile justice grants from BSCC to OYCR pursuant to SB 823.

Through the development of a Common Language Guide, OYCR formalized our commitment to inclusion. This guide represents a collective effort to shift the language used within OYCR, aligning with its mission of promoting positive youth justice practices in California. Staff engagement was crucial throughout the process, as their input shaped the final document. Going into 2024, the guide will serve as a valuable tool for current staff and a resource for onboarding new team members, as well as fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment at OYCR.

### In addition to continued learning throughout the year, targeted OYCR team trainings in 2023 include:

The inaugural Haywood Burns Institute's James Bell Racial Justice & Structural Well-Being Certification Training;

Individual and group coaching sessions for all OYCR staff by Northern California Training Academy, University of California, Davis;

University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Core Correctional Practices End-User Training

As OYCR enters its third year, we will continue to invest in our development so we can show up as the best versions of ourselves personally and professionally.

## Embracing a Growth Mindset

Our commitment to supporting youth is grounded in a growth mindset, where every moment is an opportunity to learn, adapt, and enhance our practices.

**We are dedicated to constantly expanding our knowledge and capabilities to better serve youth who are systems-involved.** Anticipating the full implementation of our Systems Change & Equity Division in 2024, OYCR partnered with [JustSolve](#) in July 2023 to build the internal infrastructure needed for statewide systems change. JustSolve attended staff meetings, supported the development of several YJA webinars, and conducted three training sessions on reform and probation transformation. In 2024, they will continue to conduct training and support webinar development, as well as facilitate onsite county engagements and develop learning communities focused on data-driven strategies for managing SYTFs and LRPs.

## The Systems Change & Equity Division made progress on several key projects this year:

Completed engagement with four entities to provide TA and funding to counties and/or CBOs to serve SYTF youth effectively;

Engaged with community members with lived juvenile justice experience, as well as currently incarcerated youth, to refine our Youth Dignity Guide on ways to promote dignity to youth in custody;

Requested and received proposals from counties to collaborate with us to design effective LRPs;

Enhanced internal culture, improve staff experiences, and address inequities in our programs with the help of the California Health and Human Services Agency Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Workgroup.

**We're committed to continuous improvement and proactive engagement.** To better support counties and understand their needs to prepare youth for successful reentry into the community, OYCR leadership and staff began making site visits to each county with SYTF facilities in 2022. Coordinating with the Chief Probation Officers of California and local chiefs, OYCR visited the remaining 7 of the 36 counties with SYTF facilities in 2023. These visits allowed OYCR to learn firsthand about the diverse programming offered at each facility, understand the unique challenges they face, and identify areas where TA can be most impactful. OYCR staff also conducted two comprehensive listening sessions with county representatives, gathering feedback on how OYCR can best assist in their efforts to implement effective youth justice strategies.

**We aim to respond swiftly to challenges and adapt to evolving needs.** Our Data & Research Division continuously monitors and analyzes trends, grounding OYCR's work in the latest research. We also actively track data around concerns such as "net widening," to make sure our efforts do not inadvertently increase youth incarceration within California's SYTFs or deepen racial disparities. By using the most up-to-date data, we're able to make informed decisions, identify issues early, learn new insights, and build trust.

**We maintain a culture of awareness and openness to feedback, recognizing it as instrumental in refining our strategies and policies.** In January 2023, when CBOs voiced concerns that OYCR was not adequately prioritizing community inclusion and voice, we listened. By year's end, the CCU team met with 74 CBOs, in-person or virtually.

From these visits and meetings, OYCR noted CBOs' need for capacity building, such as locating funds, grant writing and report help, and mentorship from more established CBOs, as well as assistance to engage with their local probation departments. We worked to continue providing TA and sharing best practices, as well as connecting government stakeholders to CBOs, informing CBOs of funding streams, and helping government stakeholders understand state juvenile justice policies and laws. OYCR will continue meeting with CBOs, and embrace all feedback as opportunities for improvement, ensuring that our work is responsive, inclusive, and most impactful.

“ The best part of my job is hearing stories about youth who successfully return to their communities. I take pride in supporting the investments to expand community-based organizations' capacities to provide holistic rehabilitative support because effective long-term care lies in the community.

— Desiree Victor,  
OYCR County Liaison for Northern  
California Counties

These core commitments inspire us to push the boundaries of what is possible as we work to foster a just and supportive system for youth.

# Looking Ahead

## **Message from OYCR Deputy Director Jackson and Division Chiefs**

We hope OYCR's commitment and dedication to our youth and young adults came through in the pages of our annual report. For our small yet mighty office of civil servants, the California Health and Human Services Agency, youth justice reform advocates, and probation officers, we firmly believe the juvenile court system must be structured in a way that allows for youth to prosper in adulthood, one that includes rehabilitation, individualized care, protection from stigmatization and further harm, and second chances to make better choices.

This year gave footing to several priority initiatives that gave way to new partnerships, transparency, and measurable momentum — all of which will be carried into 2024, as we continue to guide California's shift in youth justice from a lens of punishment to accountability and healing. In addition to the previews of 2024 we shared throughout the report, we will be working to make as much of our data and information publicly available to foster transparency and to better inform our communities on the progress of realignment.

To our many partners, we cannot shift the narrative or achieve system improvements for youth across the justice system without you. We are deeply grateful for your continued collaboration, support, and guidance.

# Appendix

## Additional OYCR Presentations in 2023 in Alphabetical Order

1. AB 2083 Systems of Care OYCR Presentation
2. Bench to School Initiative OYCR Presentation
3. Bridging the Gap Between Probation & Human Services Training
4. CA Institute Fall Retreat OYCR Presentation
5. California Alliance of Child and Family Services Winter Summit Keynote Speech
6. California Association of Probation Institution Administrators Ombudsperson Division Presentation
7. California Association of Youth Courts Youth Court Summit Keynote Speech
8. California Council on Juvenile Justice and Behavior Health Juvenile Justice Workgroup OYCR Presentation
9. California District Attorney's Association Juvenile Justice Seminar
10. California Public Defenders Association Juvenile Committee Ombudsperson Division Presentation
11. California Special Education Local Plan Area OYCR Presentation
12. California Youth Court Association OYCR Presentation
13. Chief Probation Officers of California Board Meeting
14. Chief Probation Officers of California Ombudsperson Division Presentation
15. Children's Advocates' Roundtable OYCR Presentation
16. Child Welfare Council Interim Meeting
17. Child Welfare Council Youth Justice Committee Ombudsperson Division Presentation
18. Columbia Justice Lab and Annie E. Casey Foundation Youth Justice at a Crossroads Presentation
19. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) 2023 Conference Workshop
20. County Welfare Directors Association of California Board of Directors OYCR Presentation
21. Education Summit on Youth Diversion
22. Functional Family Therapy Webinar
23. How to Measure Success with Goals Education Presentation
24. Imperial County Secure Youth Treatment Facility High School Graduation Speech
25. Inland Empire Successful Reentry Conference
26. Judicial Council Collaborative Courts Advisory Committee Juvenile Subcommittee on Youth Serious Mental Illness Presentation
27. Liberty Hill Foundation Youth Development and Youth Justice Discussion
28. Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission OYCR & Ombudsperson Division Presentation
29. Medication Assisted Treatment in Jails and Drugs Courts Learning Collaborative OYCR Presentation
30. Mendocino County Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission OYCR Presentation
31. Partnerships for Well-Being Institute Conference
32. Prison Education Project/Chief Probation Officers of California/OYCR Forum
33. Statewide Juvenile Justice Council and Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission OYCR Presentations
34. Title 1 Part D Juvenile Justice and Adolescent Development Presentation
35. Using Responsivity Principles to Attain Better Results with Behavioral Health Needs in the Justice System Presentation

## **Additional Organizations that OYCR Worked with During 2023, in Alphabetical Order**

1. 3Strands Global Foundation
2. California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
3. California Black Women’s Health Project
4. California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
5. California Conservation Corps
6. County Probation Consortium Partnering for Youth Realignment
7. California Department of Developmental Services
8. California Department of Education
9. California Department of Finance
10. California Department of General Services Office of Publishing
11. California Department of Health Care Services
12. California Department of Industrial Relations
13. California Department of Social Services
14. California Health and Human Services Office of the Agency Information Officer
15. California Institute on Law, Neuroscience, and Education
16. California State Board of Education
17. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
18. Children and Family Futures
19. The Children’s Initiative
20. Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
21. Evident Change
22. FASDNow
23. Fresh Lines for Youth
24. Focus Forward
25. Forensic Mental Health Association of California
26. Guidehouse
27. Haywood Burns Institute
28. Healing Dialogues
29. Health Management Associates
30. Justice to Jobs
31. Kids In Konflikt
32. Liberty Hill Foundation
33. Los Angeles County Consortium
34. MASS (Model of Architecture Serving Society) Design Group
35. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
36. Pacific Juvenile Defenders Center
37. Prison Education Project
38. Project Kinship
39. Project Rebound
40. Prosecutors Alliance
41. Rancho Cielo
42. Restorative Academic Mentorship Program
43. Restorative Justice Design Lab
44. Sacramento State University School of Social Work
45. The Social Changery
46. State Education Agency
47. UCSD School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics
48. Women of Substance & Men of Honor
49. Youth Alliance
50. Youth Forward
51. YoungSTers for Change
52. Young Women’s Freedom Center

# Additional Data

## ARRESTS

Year	Felony	Misdemeanor	Status	Total
2016	19,656	35,756	7,331	62,743
2017	19,373	30,046	6,830	56,249
2018	17,265	24,223	4,935	46,423
2019	16,288	22,836	4,057	43,181
2020	11,332	11,930	2,448	25,710
2021	9,132	9,008	1,215	19,355
2022	11,902	12,958	1,140	26,000
2023	16,045	15,371	631	32,047

[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

## REFERRALS

Year	Referred to Probation
2016	49,913
2017	45,052
2018	37,874
2019	35,170
2020	21,044
2021	14,949
2022	16,252
2023	16,033

[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

### NUMBER OF SYTFs – BSCC

- As of December 2023: 46 SYTFs

### THE NUMBER OF YOUTHS IN THE SYTFs – BSCC

- As of December 2023: 541

### THE NUMBER OF LRPs IDENTIFIED

- Number is not comprehensive but an estimated 80 unique LRPs have been identified by the OYCR’s County Coordination Unit (CCU) as of December 2023.

### THE TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTHS INCARCERATED – BSCC

As of December 2023:

- Post-Disposition Average Daily Population
  - Camp: 656
  - Juvenile Hall: 432
  - SYTF: 541
  - Total: 1,629

### ADJUDICATION

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wardship/Adjudicated	25,471	23,689	21,758	19,216	12,769	9,623	9,044	10,647

[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

### DISPOSITIONS

#### ALL YOUTH DISPOSITIONS

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Detained - Home Supervision	609	578	664	624	370	285	257	355
Detained - Non-Secure Facility	547	532	483	419	294	177	210	281
Detained - Secure Facility	18,449	18,033	17,320	16,512	11,575	8,603	8,918	9,836
Not Detained	51,861	46,109	41,841	38,162	27,548	19,780	24,525	29,308

## DISPOSITIONS FOR YOUTH WHO WERE UNDER WARDSHIP PROBATION

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Detained - Home Supervision	441	402	518	466	226	153	123	121
Detained - Non-Secure Facility	166	145	152	160	72	68	60	69
Detained - Secure Facility	11,835	11,615	11,060	10,284	6,927	5,010	4,933	5,442
Not Detained	11,491	9,971	8,560	7,146	4,839	3,777	3,481	4,364

[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

## THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FACILITIES (JH, CAMPS, SYTF) – BSCC

Type	Camp	JH	SYTF	Grand Total
As of December 2023	39	44	46	129

## ADULT TRANSFERS

Year	Not Transferred	Transferred to Adult Court	Direct File to Adult Court
2016	38	66	340
2017	97	158	0
2018	84	77	0
2019	65	64	0
2020	52	25	0
2021	50	28	0
2022	33	12	0
2023	24	12	0

[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)



## RACE DISPARITIES

Racial Disparity analysis compares all decision points to the population of youth in the identified race/ethnicity category and then compares those rates to the rate of white youth.

Population	2020	2021	2022	2023
White	882,719	879,482	897,247	913,815
Latino	1,930,129	1,905,993	1,870,839	1,825,328
Black	184,690	183,031	185,026	184,435

Decision Point	2020			2021			2022			2023		
	White	Latino	Black	White	Latino	Black	White	Latino	Black	White	Latino	Black
Arrests	1	1.27	5.01	1	1.26	5.09	1	1.43	5.30	1	1.64	6.12
Referrals	1	1.33	4.98	1	1.34	4.90	1	1.47	4.61	1	1.70	5.16
Detained	1	1.90	8.54	1	2.07	8.87	1	2.06	8.49	1	2.41	8.37
Secure-facility	1	1.95	8.97	1	2.15	9.39	1	2.08	8.81	1	2.40	8.56
Petitions filed	1	1.66	7.19	1	1.65	6.73	1	1.73	6.41	1	1.89	6.55
Wardship Probation	1	2.21	9.51	1	2.12	8.60	1	2.11	7.74	1	2.23	7.09
Secure County Facility Placement after Wardship Probation	1	2.43	6.81	1	2.46	5.76	1	3.13	7.97	1	2.52	4.84
DJJ*	1	3.63	15.23	1	4.29	19.59	1	3.74	31.04	1	3.86	16.28
Transfer Hearing*	1	2.40	8.96	1	3.89	6.18	1	1.78	5.54	1	3.50	14.86
Remanded to adult court*	1	7.32	33.46	1	1.31	4.00	1	1.68	0.00	1	3.00	24.77

\*Please be aware of small counts regarding these decision points creating larger disparities.

[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

[California Department of Finance. \(2023\). P3\\_California-and-Counties data set.](#)

## GENDER DISPARITIES

### ARRESTS, REFERRALS, AND DISPOSITIONS – FEMALE YOUTH

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Arrests	17,763	15,232	12,864	12,137	6,355	4,784	6,426	8,238
Felony	3,312	3,207	3,152	2,932	1,899	1,576	1,997	2,954
Misdemeanor	11,505	9,276	7,580	7,438	3,381	2,584	4,027	5,016
Status	2,946	2,749	2,132	1,767	1,075	624	402	268
Referred to Probation	13,307	11,491	9,989	9,368	4,756	3,501	3,991	3,983
Secure county facility under wardship probation	1,232	1,049	1,031	916	484	351	312	400

[California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California 2023.](#)

## Footnotes

1. (Welf. & Inst. Code Sec. 875 (f)(1))
2. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2013). [Transforming Juvenile Probation: A Vision for Getting it Right](#).
3. (Welf. & Inst. Code section 224.70 et seq.)
4. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). [Race for results: Building a path to opportunity for all children](#). Annie E. Casey Foundation.
5. Ingoldsby, E. et al. Prenatal Alcohol and other Drug Exposures in Child Welfare Study: Final Report. Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, US DHHS.
6. Office of Youth and Community Restoration, & Department of Social Welfare. (2024). [Stepping home elements of restorative justice](#).
7. Nellis, A. (2015). “Addressing the Educational Needs of Incarcerated Youth.” The Prison Journal, 95(1), 43-65.
8. Guzzardo, M.T., Khosla, N., Adams, A.L. et al. “The Ones that Care Make all the Difference”: Perspectives on Student-Faculty Relationships. Innov High Educ 46, 41–58 (2021).
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10. Justice Policy Institute. (2013). [Juvenile justice reform in Connecticut: How collaboration and commitment have improved public safety and outcomes for youth](#).
11. Unnithan, N. P., & Johnston, J. (2012). [Collaboration in Juvenile Justice: A Multi-Agency Study](#). Federal Probation, 76(3), 22-30.
12. [The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness Report](#).