



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

2025

AB 102 Report



Message from Director Lucero



The Office of Youth and Community Restoration is pleased to present the latest data and analysis of the AB102 county data submissions. OYCR is committed to the development of data driven practices and policies towards a more equitable youth justice system. This data assists in that mission.

This data tells us among other things, how many youth are adjudicated for 707(b) violations, how many of those youth are committed to the SYTF, and who is later stepped down to an LRP. It also tells us how many youth are subject to Transfer Hearings to Adult Criminal Court and for what law violations. This report also uses the data to assess racial disparities and net widening. It is important to know where we were and where we are, and where possible, where we are going with systems changes that can positively impact public safety and the lives of thousands of young people and their families. That is the purpose of this data and the purpose of this report. Without data change cannot be documented and lessons cannot be learned.

American businessman W. Edwards Deming said that **"Without data, you're just another person with an opinion."** Data helps us all to make informed and intelligent decisions. We are so grateful to all our county partners for their continued commitment to data transparency and the useful direction that it points us all towards to improve outcomes for each person impacted by the youth justice system.

In partnership,

JUDGE KATHERINE LUCERO (RET.), DIRECTOR

Office of Youth and Community Restoration

Table of Contents

Message from Director Lucero.....	2
Table of Contents	3
Executive Summary.....	6
Summary of Findings.....	7
Key Findings	7
Conclusion	9
Background	11
Introduction to Assembly Bill 102	11
Overview of the Report.....	12
Data and Methods	13
Data Collection Procedures.....	13
Analytical Methods.....	14
Net Widening	14
Racial Disparity Analysis.....	15
Limitations	17
Overview of AB 102 Data	19
Commitments to SYTFs	20
Offense Types of Youth Committed to SYTFs	21
Demographic Characteristics of Youth Committed to SYTFs.....	22
Gender	22
Age	23
Race/Ethnicity	23
Racial Disparities in SYTF Commitments	24
Step Downs from SYTFs to LRPs.....	27
Offense Types of Youth Stepped Down from SYTFs to an LRP	28
Demographic Trends of Youth Stepped Down from an SYTF to and LRP	29

Gender	29
Age	29
Race/Ethnicity	29
Racial Disparities in Step Downs to an LRP	30
Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses	30
Offense Types of Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offense	32
Demographic Trends of Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses	32
Gender	32
Age	33
Race/Ethnicity	34
Racial Disparities among Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses	35
Youth Adjudicated for PC § 290.008 Offenses	37
Offense Types of Youth Adjudicated for PC 290.008 Offense	37
Demographic Trends of Youth Adjudicated for PC 290.008 Offenses	38
Gender	38
Age	38
Race/Ethnicity	38
Transfer to Adult Court: Hearings Ordered and Hearings Held	39
Offense Types of Youth with Transfer to Adult Court Hearings Ordered and Held	40
Demographic Characteristics of Youth with Transfer to Adult Court Hearings Ordered and Held	41
Gender	41
Age	41
Race/Ethnicity	42
Transfers to Adult Court	43
Offense Types of Youth Transferred to Adult Court	44
Demographic Trends of Youth Transferred to Adult Court	44
Gender	44
Age	44

Race/Ethnicity	45
Racial Disparities Among Youth Transferred to Adult Court	45
Pulling it Together	47
Exploring Net Widening	48
Examining Increases Across Key AB 102 Data Outcomes	48
Secure Confinement Pre and Post SB 823 Implementation	51
Examining Racial Disparities.....	52
Conclusion.....	55
Appendix A. Analysis of Large, Medium, and Small Counties.....	56
Large Counties	56
Mid-Sized Counties.....	57
Small Counties	59
Appendix B. SYTF Commitment Rates per 707(b) Adjudications by County	62
Statewide.....	62
Small Counties (Population: 0 - 200,000).....	64
Medium-Sized Counties (Population 200,001 – 700,000).....	65
Large Counties (Population: > 700,000)	66

Executive Summary

Over the past several decades, California has significantly reduced youth incarceration at the deepest end of the juvenile justice system. This progress was driven by investments in county-based alternatives to incarceration and strong partnerships with justice stakeholders and community organizations to support youth through research-based, community-centered practices.

In 2020, Senate Bill 823 (SB 823) was enacted, initiating the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and transferring responsibility for youth with the most serious offenses to county-operated Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs). The law was rooted in the principle that youth should be supported through local, developmentally appropriate rehabilitative services rather than confinement in large, state-run institutions.

The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) is charged with supporting this transition, ensuring counties implement effective rehabilitative services, and monitoring system impacts—including racial disparities and incarceration trends. One component of this includes examining potential net widening effects.

Net widening is a term routinely used in juvenile justice to describe the process of policy or practice changes that result in a greater number of youth being controlled by the juvenile justice system, resulting in the harmful consequences of applying a more restrictive intervention than previously used on a similarly situated population.¹ Using the AB 102 data alongside publicly available youth violent felony arrest data (2010 – 2023)^{2 3}, OYCR analyzed preliminary trends to assess for red flags associated with net widening. While fully assessing net widening requires detailed case-level review and more extensive data than currently available, this report provides insight into whether there is preliminary evidence suggesting that youth are being adjudicated for 707(b) offenses and/or committed to SYTFs beyond what underlying offense trends would suggest. Assembly Bill 102 (AB 102) was enacted in 2023, requiring counties to report annually on a standardized set of juvenile justice data. These data, disaggregated by race, gender, age, and offense type, where possible, allow OYCR to assess local implementation and statewide trends.

¹ (2002). Net widening. In D. Levinson (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of crime and punishment* (Vol. 4, pp. 1088-1088). SAGE Publications, Inc.

² California Department of Justice. (2024). *Juvenile Justice in California, 2010-2023* [Series].

³ Violent felony arrests are used as a proxy because there is no publicly available DOJ data for 707(b) arrests

Summary of Findings

This report presents findings from the FY 2023/24 AB 102 data, alongside comparative data from FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23, examining the number of SYTF commitments, step downs to less restrictive programs (LRPs), 707(b) adjudications, Penal Code (PC) 290.008 offenses, and transfers to adult court among youth in California to inform policy, guide practice, and support the continued transformation of California's youth justice system.

Key Findings

SYTF commitments increased each fiscal year.

- The number of SYTF commitments increased from 237 in FY 2021/22 to 386 in FY 2023/24, representing a 63% increase over the three-year period.
- In FY 2022/23, 140 youth were transferred from DJJ facilities to SYTFs following the statewide closure of DJJ.
- A total of 59 individuals aged 20 or older were committed to an SYTF in FY 2023/24, compared to 19 individuals in FY 2021/22; some of these commitments may be attributed to recent legislation allowing youth previously sentenced in adult court to be recertified to the juvenile system.⁴

There is not clear evidence of net widening to explain SYTF increases.

- A 63% increase in SYTF commitments from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 may be explained by youth violent felony arrest increases of 70% from 2021 to 2023.⁵
- Commitment totals may also be inflated by an unknown number of youth previously sentenced in an adult court who were returned to the juvenile justice system for a variety of reasons, including myriad law changes.
- An examination of SYTF commitments and transfers to adult court per 1,000 youth violent felony arrests during three years of SB 823 implementation compared to DJJ commitments and transfers to adult court per 1,000 youth violent felony arrests in the three years prior to Covid-19 showed higher commitment/transfer rates during the implementation of SB 823 (65 per 1,000 youth violent felony arrests compared to 56 per

⁴ Since the passage of Proposition 57 in California in 2016, which removed a prosecutor's ability to direct file in adult court, subsequent legislative changes further limited the use of adult court for juveniles. Senate Bill 1391, effective in 2019, prohibited the transfer of 14 and 15-year-olds to adult court, and more recently, Assembly Bill 2361, passed in 2023, raised the legal standard and shifted the burden of proof for transfers to adult court. Importantly, these legislative changes could be applied retroactively to youth previously sentenced in adult court when their appeal is not final, allowing some to return to the juvenile system.

⁵ California Department of Justice. (2024). Juvenile Justice in California, 2010-2023 [Series].

1,000 from 2017 - 2019). However, due to data discrepancies indicating an undercount of adult transfers in publicly available DOJ data, combined with the unknown number of youth committed to an SYTF after returning from adult court, net widening could not be substantiated or ruled out based on a pre/post SB 823 comparison.

The use of LRPs is expanding.

- Only two youth were stepped down to an LRP in FY 2021/22, expanding to 100 in FY 2022/23, and 161 in FY 2023/24.

Adjudications for 707(b) offenses increased each fiscal year.

- The number of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses increased from 1,459 in FY 2021/22 to 3,216 in FY 2023/24, marking a 120% increase.
- Los Angeles (LA) County accounted for a large portion of this increase, from 224 707(b) adjudications in FY 2021/22 to 1,290 in FY 2023/24, marking a 476% increase in LA County.
- When excluding LA County, the remaining 57 counties experienced a 56% increase in 707(b) adjudications over the same period.

Adjudications for PC 290.008 offenses increased from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 (there was a decrease in FY 2022/23).

- Adjudications for offenses under PC 290.008 rose from 98 in FY 2021/22 to 185 in FY 2023/24, reflecting an 89% increase.
- As with 707(b) adjudications, LA County was the primary contributor to the statewide increase, and when isolating the other 57 counties, the number of adjudications for PC 290.008 offenses declined in FY 2023/24 (n=85) relative to FY 2021/22 (n=87).

Transfers to adult court fluctuate year to year but remain low.

- Fewer than 50 youth were transferred to adult court each fiscal year, with 48 in FY 2021/22, 35 in FY 2022/23, and 50 in FY 2023/24.
- Examining all judicial decisions of whether or not a youth would be transferred to adult court, males were 5.5 times as likely as females to be transferred.
- Youth aged 19 and older were also more likely to be transferred to adult court.

Racial disparities persist among youth in the juvenile justice system.

- Black and Hispanic/Latino youth are consistently overrepresented at multiple decision points in the juvenile justice system, with disparities widening as youth move deeper into the system.
- This overrepresentation is especially apparent when comparing (1) youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses to those arrested for violent felonies; (2) youth committed to SYTFs to those adjudicated for 707(b) offenses; and (3) youth transferred to adult court to all

judicial determinations of whether or not to transfer a youth to the criminal justice system.

- While smaller in number, American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) youth also experience similar patterns of disproportionate involvement.

Racial Disparities in SYTF Commitments decreased from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24.

- Racial disparities in 707(b) adjudications leading to SYTF commitments have declined for Black and Hispanic/Latino youth since FY 2021/22, although disparities remain.
- Black, Hispanic/Latino, and AI/AN youth were more likely than White youth to be stepped down from SYTFs to LRPs. Although Black, Hispanic/Latino, and AI/AN may be released to a less restrictive setting, it is notable that this happens after they have already experienced the harsher consequences of disproportionate entry. The exiting disparity doesn't balance/cancel out the fact that the system is imposing more harm on these groups overall.

Conclusion

This report examined statewide trends in AB 102 data from FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, with an emphasis on FY 2023/24, to assist in evaluating progress towards the goals of SB 823 to reduce adult court transfers, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and further reduce secure confinement by increasing community-based responses and interventions. To that end, OYCR analyzed all AB 102 data elements with attention to age, gender, race/ethnicity, and offense types, where possible, and presented findings with emphasis placed on examining potential net widening and racial disparities.

The report reveals that youth of color remain overrepresented in youth violent felony arrests, referrals to probation, 707(b) adjudications, SYTF commitments, and adult court transfers, although disparities have decreased in SYTF commitments since FY 2021/22, and Black and Latino/Hispanic youth were stepped down to LRPs at higher rates than White youth. In addition, the report suggests that while there have been increases in the number of SYTF commitments and 707(b) adjudications since the start of SB 823, OYCR cannot substantiate that net widening has taken place.

It is imperative to continue to use data to monitor SB 823 implementation and effectively address the risk of net widening and racial disparities within the juvenile justice system at these decision points. AB 102 reporting requirements ended on December 30th, 2024, however AB 169 passed in July 2024, which ensures that counties continue to report the data required in AB 102, as well as more specific data and definitions regarding LRPs. Stakeholders must recognize the critical role of counties in conducting thorough analyses of local data, including further examining of local factors such as policing practices and diversion rates. By leveraging technical

assistance from OYCR, counties can develop actionable strategies to promote healthier youth development and further reduce reliance on incarceration. Collaborative efforts are essential to transform youth justice practices in California and ensure equitable outcomes for all youth.

Background

For decades, the California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), formerly the California Youth Authority, was responsible for detaining and rehabilitating youth who committed serious offenses. Since 2011, only youth with sustained offenses under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 707(b) (violent offenses) or Penal Code § 290.008 (sex offenses) were eligible for DJJ commitment.

Over time, youth arrests declined, and counties increased their investment in local youth justice systems. In this shifting landscape, the state moved away from centralized youth incarceration, and, in 2020, Senate Bill 823 (SB 823) was signed into law, initiating the closure of DJJ and a realignment of responsibilities to counties. The law emphasizes local, developmentally appropriate rehabilitation over confinement in large, state-run facilities.

Effective July 1, 2021, counties were prohibited from committing youth to DJJ unless the DA filed a motion for transfer, as allowed under WIC 731. Counties were also required to develop local plans for youth adjudicated under § 707(b) and § 290.008. These plans outlined secure placement options, and the rehabilitative services counties would provide. By June 30, 2023, all remaining DJJ youth had been transferred to county-operated Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs), marking the full transition to local responsibility for youth who would have previously been committed to DJJ.⁶

The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), established within the California Health and Services Agency on July 1, 2021, was created to support the state's transition from state-run youth incarceration to county-based care. Through the promotion of evidence-based and promising practices, OYCR aims to strengthen youth and community safety by advancing efforts in three key areas: reducing the transfer of youth into the criminal justice system; reducing racial and ethnic disparities; and increasing community-based responses and interventions.

Introduction to Assembly Bill 102

To enhance data collection related to DJJ realignment, AB 102 (Chapter 28, Statutes of 2023) was enacted in July 2023. The following data elements, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, age,

⁶ [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. \(2017\). *Division of Juvenile Justice recidivism report*.](#)

gender, and offense type, where possible, were required to be reported for fiscal years 2021/22 through 2023/24 under AB 102:

AB 102 Data Elements

A

Number of youth and their commitment offense or offenses, if known, who are under the county's supervision that are committed to a secure youth treatment facility, including youth committed to secure youth treatment facilities in another county.

B

Number of individual youth in the county who were adjudicated for an offense under subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or Section 290.008 of the Penal Code.

C

Number of youth, including their commitment offense or offenses, if known, transferred from a secure youth treatment facility to a less restrictive placement.

D

Number of youth for whom a hearing to transfer jurisdiction to an adult criminal court was held, and number of youth whose jurisdiction was transferred to adult criminal court.

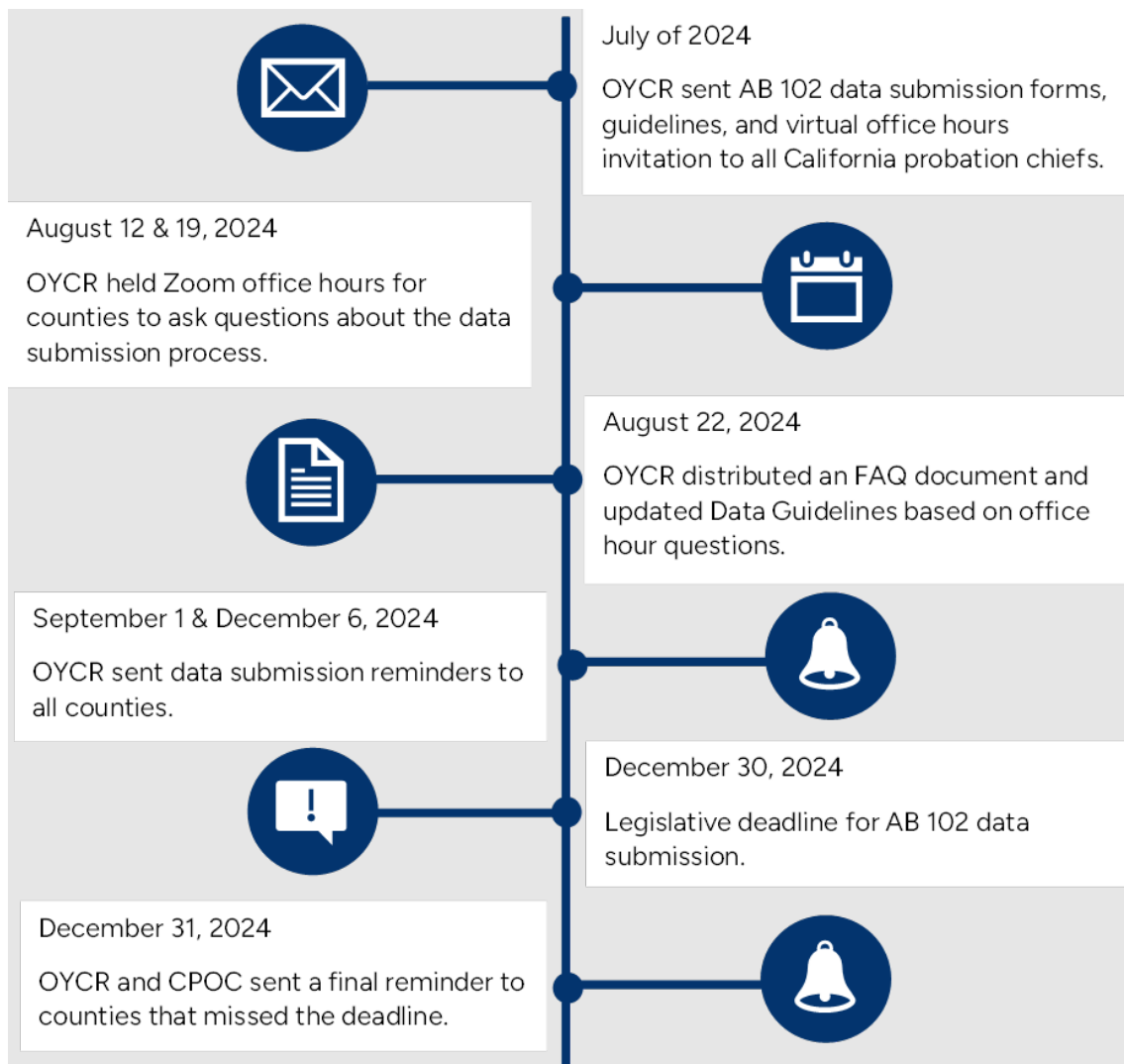
Overview of the Report

This report begins with an overview of the *Data and Methods* used to complete the analysis, including a section describing some of the data limitations. This is followed by a high-level *Overview of AB 102 Data* across FY 2021/22 through 2023/24. Subsequent sections provide analysis pertaining to the mandated AB 102 reporting elements. Within each of these sections, OYCR examines the demographic characteristics (gender, age, and race/ethnicity) of youth and the offense types committed, with special attention paid to racial disparities among youth committed to SYTFs, stepped down to LRPs, adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, or transferred to an adult court. This is followed by further analysis of the data in the *Pulling it Together* section that examines to what extent, if any, there is preliminary evidence that net widening has taken place since DJJ Realignment, as well as the extent to which racial disparities exist at the deepest ends of the juvenile justice system. County-level data, based on groupings of small, medium, and large populations, is provided in appendices along with county-level information on SYTF commitment rates. The report concludes with a *Summary and Recommendations* based on the report findings.

Data and Methods

To support the collection of AB 102 mandated data elements, OYCR developed standardized submission forms and collaborated with probation agencies statewide to promote consistency and completeness in reporting. The *Data Collection Procedures* section outlines OYCR's data collection process from July to December 2024. For detail on prior years data collection procedures, please reference the previous years AB 102 report (https://oycr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/346/2024/05/OYCR_-AB-102-Report_5.1.24.pdf)

Data Collection Procedures



Technical assistance was provided via email and phone to help counties navigate the data form. The statewide data was fully validated by mid-January 2025.⁷

Analytical Methods

OYCR analyzed FY 2023/24 data (as well as FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23 data) reported by probation agencies using descriptive statistics (e.g., frequencies, rates) to calculate the number of youth each fiscal year who:

- Were committed to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)
- Stepped down from an SYTF to a Local Rehabilitation Program (LRP)
- Were adjudicated for a 707(b) offense
- Were adjudicated of a PC § 290.008 offense
- Had a transfer hearing ordered
- Received a transfer hearing
- Were transferred to adult court
- Were not transferred to adult court

All data were disaggregated by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and offense type. The analysis also examined racial disparities and potential net widening following the implementation of SB 823.

Net Widening

Net widening is a term routinely used in juvenile justice to describe the process of policy or practice changes that result in a greater number of youth being controlled by the juvenile justice system, resulting in the harmful consequences of applying a more restrictive intervention than previously used on a similarly situated population.⁸ Hence, net widening is closely linked with racial disparities and overrepresentation of youth of color seen nationally in youth justice systems.⁹

⁷ The number of counties reporting no youth to AB 102 data varied by fiscal year. In FY 2021/22, nine counties reported having no youth: Alpine, Calaveras, Del Norte, Inyo, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra, Trinity and Tuolumne. In FY 2022/23, this number decreased to eight counties: Alpine, Calaveras, Del Norte, Plumas, Mariposa, Nevada, Sierra, and Tuolumne. By FY 2023/24, the number increased to eleven counties: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Del Norte, Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Sierra, Siskiyou, and Trinity.

⁸ (2002). *Net widening*. In D. Levinson (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of crime and punishment* (Vol. 4, pp. 1088-1088). SAGE Publications, Inc.

⁹ Rovner, J. (2023). *Racial disparities in youth incarceration persist*. The Sentencing Project. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/racial-disparities-in-youth-incarceration-persist/>

Using the AB 102 data alongside publicly available youth violent felony arrests data (2010 – 2023)^{10 11}, OYCR analyzed preliminary trends to assess for red flags associated with net widening. The analysis focused on whether increases in 707(b) adjudications, SYTF commitments, or adult court transfers were disproportionate to increases in youth violent felony arrests. In addition, OYCR examined the number of SYTF commitments and transfers to adult court per 1,000 youth violent felony arrests during three years of SB 823 implementation compared to the number DJJ commitments and transfers to adult court per 1,000 youth violent felony arrests in the three years prior to Covid-19 to assess for indications of net widening. Finally, we examined the average daily DJJ population in 2019 and 2020 relative to the average daily SYTF population in 2024. Together, from these vantage points, we sought signs of potential net widening.

While fully assessing net widening requires detailed case-level review and more extensive data than currently available, this report provides insight into whether there is preliminary evidence suggesting that youth are being adjudicated for 707(b) offenses and/or committed to SYTFs beyond what underlying offense trends would suggest.

Racial Disparity Analysis

One of OYCR's responsibilities, under SB 823, is to promote the elimination of racial disparities among youth involved in the juvenile justice system. To measure these disparities, OYCR calculated racial disparity gaps and developed figures showing how likely Black and Hispanic/Latino youth were, compared to White youth, to experience 1) commitments to an SYTF, 2) step downs from SYTFs to LRPs, 3) 707(b) adjudications, and 4) transfers to an adult criminal court.¹²

Figures in this report focus on Black and Hispanic/Latino youth because they represent the majority of youth across AB 102 data points. For other racial and ethnic groups, such as American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/NA) Pacific Islander, and Asian American youth, smaller

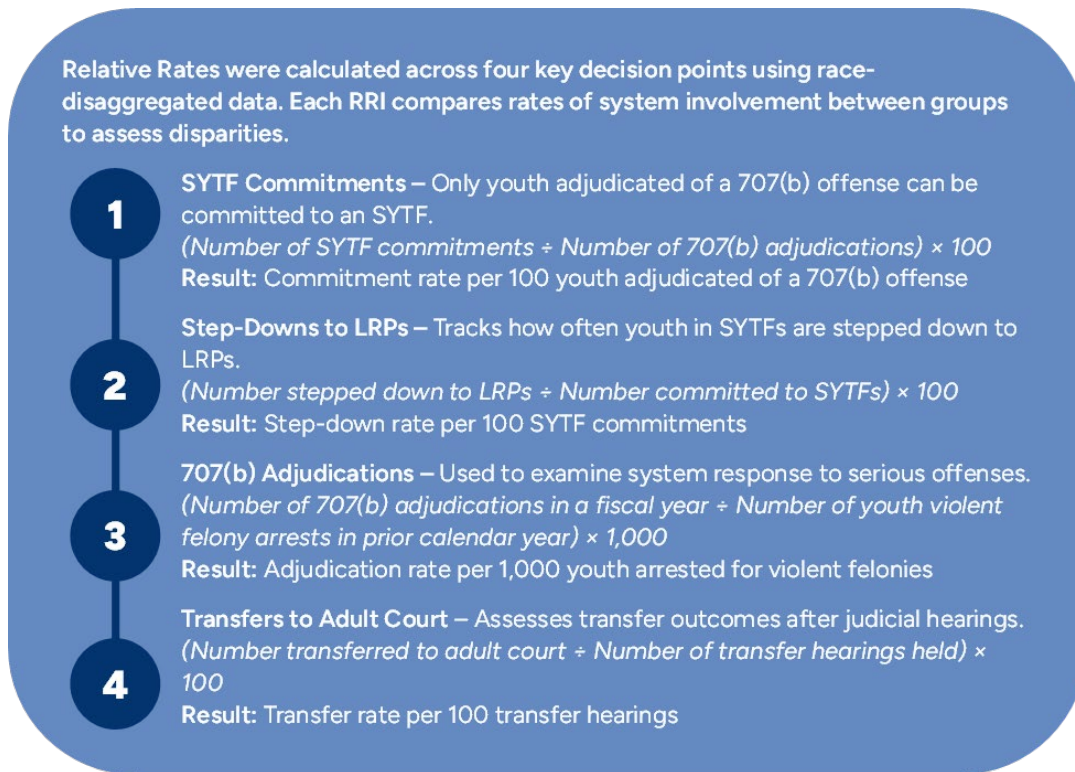
¹⁰ [California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile Justice in California, 2010-2023 \[Series\].](#)

¹¹ Violent felony arrests are used as a proxy because there is no publicly available DOJ data for 707(b) arrests

¹² These comparisons use a measure called the Relative Rate Index (RRI), which shows the rate at which each group experiences a particular outcome based on a prior decision point (for example, SYTF commitments per 100 youth adjudicated of a 707(b) offense). The RRI is calculated by dividing the rate for one group by the rate for White youth. An RRI greater than 1 means youth of color are more likely than White youth to experience that outcome, while an RRI below 1 means they are less likely.

numbers can lead to wide fluctuations from year to year. Still, this report includes discussion of disparities found among these groups when applicable.

The figure below describes how we calculated RRIs across each of the four measures listed above.



In addition to the racial disparity analyses described above, OYCR also utilized population data on California youth ages 14 to 17 from the September 2024 P-3 Report¹³ to examine the extent to which certain race/ethnicities were overrepresented across AB 102-mandated reporting elements relative to their population sizes in California. Again, while young people can remain in the juvenile system until the age of 25, we focused on the 14-17 age group because involvement in the system typically begins with an arrest that happens before age 18.

¹³ [California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit. \(2024\). Report P-3: Population Projections, California, 2020-2070 \(Baseline 2023 Population Projections; Vintage 2024 Release\). State of California.](#)

Limitations

As with all research, this report has limitations. While OYCR reviews submitted data for accuracy, it is not responsible for any reporting errors made during submission.

1

AB 102 Data Structure

For each of the mandated AB 102 data elements, probation departments submitted aggregate data, broken down by offense type, gender, age, and race. However, because individual-level data were not provided, OYCR could not analyze intersections across these variables (e.g., offense types by gender for youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense).

2

Deidentification Policy

OYCR follows California Health and Human Services Agency protocols and therefore cannot share any data, including counts of less than 12 youth, if there is a risk of personal identification (CHHS, 2016),¹⁴ (Office of Civil Rights, 2012).¹⁵ For this reason, this report only presents summary data statewide or across multiple counties without specific county identification. Many counties had very low numbers to report for most of the measures. Therefore, county-level analysis is limited in this report, and numbers below 12 are not reported when specifically referring to a county.

3

Trend Analyses

AB 102 data included in this report covers three fiscal years, FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, so an analysis of long-term trends is not possible. Additionally, because AB 102 data are reported on a fiscal year, and some other system data are reported in calendar years (e.g., DJJ commitments), some trend analyses in the report (e.g., DJJ and SYTF commitments) include an overlapping period (e.g., Calendar Year 2021 and FY 2021/22) and do not make for direct comparisons.

¹⁴ [California Health and Human Services. \(2016\). Data De-Identification Guidelines \(DDG\).](#)

¹⁵ [Office of Civil Rights. \(2012\). Guidance Regarding Methods for De-identification of Protected Health Information in Accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPPA\) Privacy Rule.](#)

4

WIC 707(b) and PC 290.008 Analyses

Shifts in the number of youth adjudicated for 707(b) and PC 290.008 offenses are reported. However, OYCR is unable to assess the specific factors influencing these shifts, such as shifts in youth behavior, policing and arrest patterns, and charging practices, all of which could have impacts.

5

Limited Assessment of Net Widening

As described previously, OYCR analyzed preliminary trends across FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24 to assess whether the implementation of SB 823 shows any indication of net widening. Some of the increases in 707(b) adjudications and SYTF commitments include youth previously transferred to adult court who were returned to the juvenile system due to legislative changes. Current data does not allow us to ascertain how many youth previously sentenced in adult court were returned to juvenile court within the 707(b) adjudications and SYTF commitments. Additionally, when comparing DJJ commitments and transfers to adult court pre-Covid, with SYTF commitments and transfers to adult court since SB 823, there are inconsistencies in transfer data reported that make it difficult to interpret findings with confidence. This is described in more detail in the net widening discussion of the report.

6

Transfer Hearing Analyses

When viewing data in the *Transfer to Adult Court: Hearings Ordered and Hearings Held* section, it is important to note that the number of transfer hearings held in a fiscal year does not represent a subset of the total number of transfer hearings ordered that reporting period. Based on the structure of the data reported to OYCR, a hearing could be ordered at a given point in one fiscal year, but it could take months, or even years, for the transfer hearing to be held. These hearings held would be reflected in a subsequent fiscal year's data, if the hearing was held in a subsequent fiscal year. Similarly, time may lapse between a hearing held and the final judicial decision to transfer a case, causing some cases to cross fiscal years and the total number of cases transferred or not transferred to not equal the total number of hearings held within a fiscal year.

7

Health Lens Limitations

A key intent of SB 823, and the mission of OYCR, is to apply a health lens to the youth justice system to support trauma-informed practices. Based on the limited data set, it is beyond the scope and ability of this report to examine the myriad of factors influencing the likelihood of youth justice system involvement. For example, AB 102 does not include qualitative data or individual level data, such as Adverse Childhood

Experiences (ACEs) or health-related data, despite their known impact on juvenile justice involvement. As a result, OYCR cannot make health-related inferences about the youth covered by AB 102.

Overview of AB 102 Data

Table 1 summarizes AB 102 data reported by County Probation Departments to OYCR for FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24.¹⁶ Over this period, the number of youth committed to an SYTF, adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, and adjudicated for PC 290.008 offenses increased. The number of youth stepped down from SYTFs to LRPs also rose each year. In contrast, the number of transfer hearings and transfers to adult court remained mostly stable.

Some increases in 707(b) adjudications and SYTF commitments may include youth previously transferred to adult court who were returned to juvenile court following legislative changes, but the available data does not allow OYCR to identify how many youth were returned each year.

TABLE 1. Summary of AB 102 Data Points, by Fiscal Year

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24
Number of Youth Committed to an SYTF	237	427*	386
Number of Youth Adjudicated for a 707(b) Offense	1459	1730	3216
Number of Youth Adjudicated for a PC Section 290.008 Offense	98	74	185
Number of Youth Transferred (Stepped Down) from SYTF to an LRP	2	100	161
Number of Youth for whom a Hearing for Transfer to Adult Court was Ordered**	213	244	185
Number of Youth for whom a Hearing for Transfer to Adult Court was Held	102	117	130
Number of Youth Transferred to Adult Court	48	35	50
Number of Youth Not Transferred to Adult Court	82	112	93

* This number includes 140 youth who were returned from DJJ operated facilities to an SYTF during this fiscal year, as all DJJ facilities closed.

** This data is not required but was included in the initial form sent to counties in Fall 2023. The form was developed and distributed by CPOC, and OYCR retained it for consistency.

¹⁶ Nominal differences in the AB102 Report findings when compared to the [SB 823 DJJ Realignment Report](#) are due to OYCR's receipt of updated County Probation Department data submissions ahead of the final AB102 Report analyses

The sections below provide more detailed information about the demographic characteristics of youth across each data point, as well as offense types.

Commitments to SYTFs

Over the past three fiscal years, the number of new commitments to SYTFs in California has increased steadily, from 237 youth in FY 2021/22, to 287 youth in FY 2022/23 and 386 youth in FY 2023/24, representing a 63% increase in new SYTF commitments over the three-year period. In FY 2022/23 an additional 140 SYTF commitments were the result of youth returning from DJJ after its full closure, as depicted in light orange in Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1. Number of Youth Committed to an SYTF, by Fiscal Year

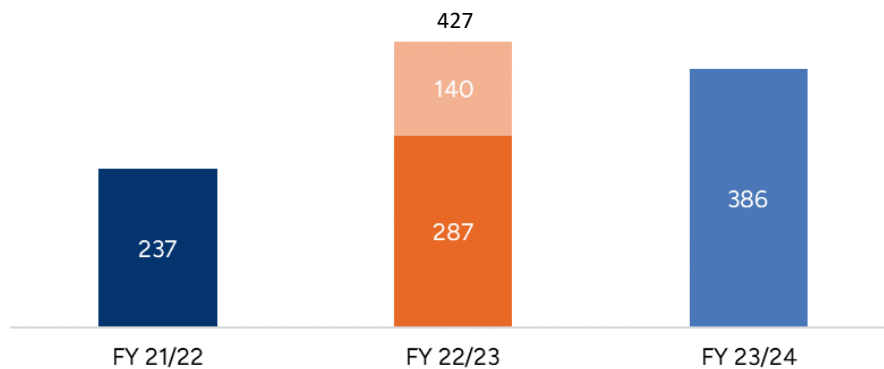


FIGURE 2. DJJ and SYTF Commitments from 2019 through FY 2023/24

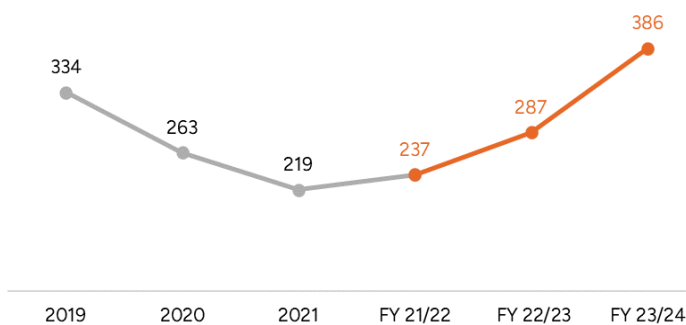


Figure 2 shows the number of SYTF commitments in FY 2023/24 (n=386) exceed the number of commitments each year since 2019 (the last year prior to the Covid-19 pandemic). In 2019 there were 334 commitments to DJJ. This was followed by decreases from 2019 through 2021, primarily attributed to statewide efforts to reduce carceral populations during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, due to SB 823, there was a near total cessation of courts sending youth to DJJ by July 01, 2021, which was a key factor for the low numbers in that year. It is notable that during FY 2023/24,

there were 59 individuals aged 20 and over committed to an SYTF, compared to FY 2021/22 when there were 19 people aged 20 and over committed to an SYTF. Some of these commitments in FY 2023/24 may be the result of legislation¹⁷, such as Assembly Bill 2361 passed in 2023, which raised the legal standard and shifted the burden of proof for transfers to adult court and can be applied retroactively to youth previously sentenced in adult court when their appeal is not final, allowing some to return to the juvenile system. OYCR is unable to know how many of these older youth are commitments originated in juvenile court versus youth returning from the criminal justice system who subsequently received a juvenile court disposition.



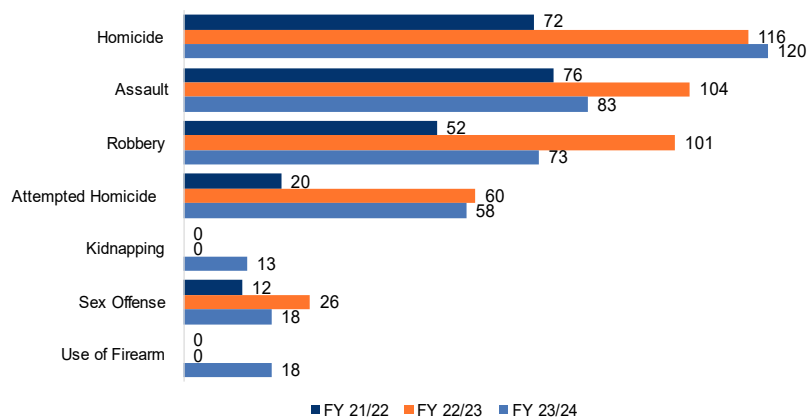
In the previous reporting year, OYCR identified five counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern and Riverside, for further monitoring due to large increases in their SYTF populations. In FY 2023/24, four of these five counties reported substantial decreases. The one county that did not experience a decline in SYTF commitments had fewer youth ordered for transfer hearings to adult court and fewer youth transferred to adult court, suggesting that these judicial decisions contributed to the county's SYTF growth.

Offense Types of Youth Committed to SYTFs

Figure 3 provides a breakdown of the offense types of youth committed to an SYTF in FY 2021/22, FY 2022/23, and FY 2023/24. The most common adjudicated offenses among youth committed to an SYTF are homicide, assault, robbery, and attempted homicide. Data from Figure 3 reveals that increases in SYTF commitments from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 were driven by increases of some of the most serious offenses, as there were steeper increases in the number of youth adjudicated of attempted homicide (190% increase) and homicide (67%) between FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24, compared to all other offense types (which increased 40% between FY 2021/22 and FY 2023/24).

¹⁷ Since the passage of Proposition 57 in California in 2016, which removed a prosecutor's ability to direct file in adult court, subsequent legislative changes further limited the use of adult court for juveniles. Senate Bill 1391, effective in 2019, prohibited the transfer of 14 and 15-year-olds to adult court, and more recently, Assembly Bill 2361, passed in 2023, raised the legal standard and shifted the burden of proof for transfers to adult court. Importantly, these legislative changes could be applied retroactively to youth previously sentenced in adult court when their appeal is not final, allowing some to return to the juvenile system.

FIGURE 3. Offense Types of Youth Committed to SYTFs, by Fiscal Year



These findings demonstrate a pattern of retaining youth who have committed the most serious offenses, such as homicide, within the juvenile system rather than transferring them to the adult system. This approach aligns with research on youth development and community safety, which emphasizes rehabilitation and age-appropriate interventions over incarceration in adult facilities.

Demographic Characteristics of Youth Committed to SYTFs

Gender

In FY 2023/24, 96% of youth committed to an SYTF were male (99% were male in FY 2021/22). Of the remaining 4%, one youth identified as non-binary, and the remainder were female. Although it is promising that few females and gender expansive youth are committed to SYTFs, indicating lower rates of system involvement, the small population poses challenges in building, funding, and sustaining robust and tailored services that are responsive to their needs. Additionally, a sense of isolation and stigma is likely to be heightened for a female or a gender expansive youth who may be the only one in a facility. Offering gender specific programming for confined youth is a best practice that all counties should strive to implement.¹⁸



In response to a county technical assistance request, OYCR launched its first Community of Practice focused on supporting the positive development of girls and gender expansive youth in SYTFs.

¹⁸ [Acoca, L. \(1999\). Investing in girls: A 21st century strategy. Juvenile Justice, 6\(1\), 3–13. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.](#)

Age

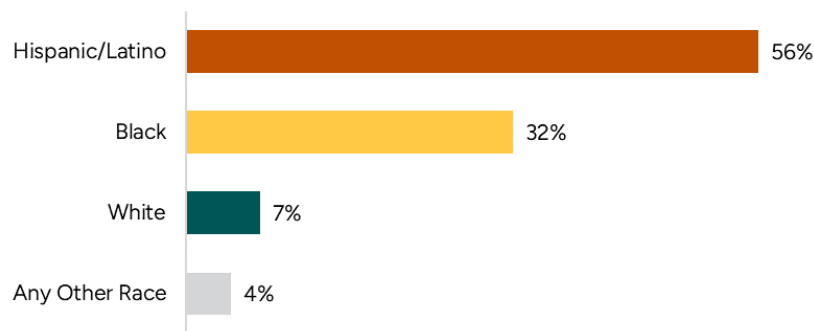
Close to half (45%) of youth committed to an SYTF were aged 17 or 18 at the time of their commitment in FY 2023/24. Among the remaining youth committed to SYTFs, approximately 27% (n=105) were between the ages of 14 and 16, and 28% (n=107) were 19 years or older.

Notably, over the three-year period, a greater proportion of youth committed to SYTFs were aged 20 or older at the time of their commitment. This was the case for 15% (n=59) of youth committed to SYTFs in FY 2023/24, compared to 8% (n=19) in FY 2021/22. As noted above, individuals returned to juvenile court after previously being sentenced to adult court could partially explain the increases in SYTF commitments.

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 4 below shows in FY 2023/24, among 386 youth committed to an SYTF, 56% (n=217) were Hispanic/Latino, 32% (n=124) were Black, 7% (n=28) were White, and 4% (n=17) were some

FIGURE 4. Youth Committed to an SYTF in FY 2023/24, by Race/Ethnicity



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding and/or the exclusion of certain response categories.

other race. The racial/ethnic composition of SYTF commitments was similar in FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23. Among all other race/ethnicities, approximately 2% (n=8) were Asian American, 1.3% (n=5) were AI/AN youth, and less than 1% (n=2) were Pacific Islander (or some other race, n=2).

According to the State of California Department of Finance (DOF) population

data for 2023, approximately 52% of youth ages 14-17 living in California were Hispanic/Latino, 24% were White, 12% were Asian American, and 5% were Black (7% were all other races). Only 0.3% of youth ages 14-17 were AI/AN. These data suggest that Hispanic/Latino, Black, and AI/AN youth are overrepresented among SYTF commitments relative to their population sizes.¹⁹ This is

¹⁹ [California Tribal Families Coalition. \(2025\). Native Youth in California's Juvenile Justice System.](#)

especially pronounced for Black and AI/AN youth. Black youth comprise only 5% of California's population ages 14-17 yet make up 32% of commitments in FY 2023/24, while AI/AN youth comprise 0.3% of California's population ages 14-17 and 1.3% of SYTF commitments. Meanwhile, White youth comprise 24% of California's population ages 14-17 yet make up only 7% of youth committed to SYTFs in FY 2023/24.



Beginning in February 2023, the California Tribal Families Coalition (CTFC), in partnership with OYCR, launched an initiative to better understand and address the involvement of Native youth in California's juvenile justice system. While the full scope of Native youth and family involvement remains underexplored, this collaborative effort seeks to uncover both data and lived experiences to inform system change. The findings from this work are detailed in the report *Native Youth in California's Juvenile Justice System: What Do We Know*.

Relative to their population sizes, Black youth were 22 times more likely than White youth to be committed to an SYTF in FY 2023/24, while AI/AN youth were 12 times as likely and Hispanic/Latino youth were 4 times as likely as White youth to be committed to an SYTF.

Various systemic factors, such as disparities in policing, charging decisions, and access to legal resources, among other factors, including differences in youth behaviors, influence SYTF

commitments. With the limited data available, it is beyond the scope of this report to explore all these factors, which are best examined at a county level where additional information, such as police reports, is available to help surface the various factors that result in youth of color being overrepresented in the deepest end of the juvenile justice system.

Racial Disparities in SYTF Commitments

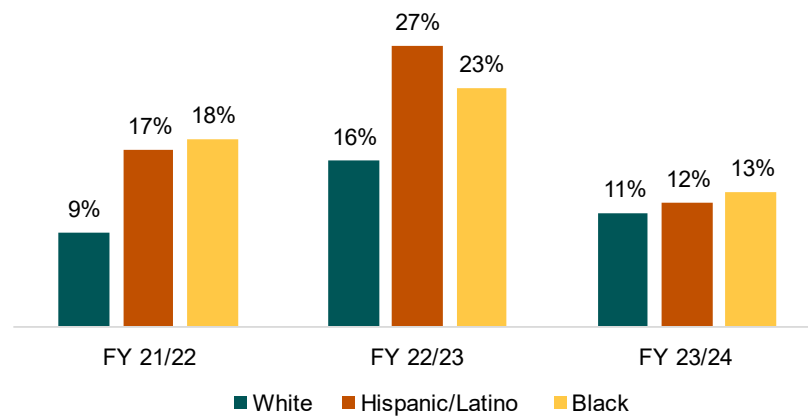
SYTF commitments stem from 707(b) adjudications, therefore, to assess racial disparities in commitments we examined the proportion of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses committed to an SYTF, by race. Because 140 youth in FY 2022/23 were returned from DJJ facilities and not the result of new commitments, it is notable that commitment rates appear higher during FY 2022/23.

Figure 5 below shows two phenomena:

1. A higher percentage of Black and Hispanic/Latino youth than White youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses are committed to SYTFs.

- Among youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, the proportion who were committed to an SYTF decreased for Hispanic/Latino and Black youth from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24. The proportion of 707(b) offenses that result in SYTF commitments for White youth increased slightly from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24.

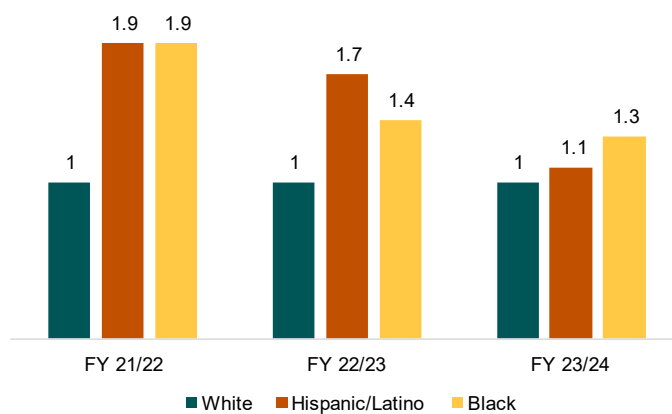
FIGURE 5. Percentage of Youth Adjudicated for a 707(b) Offense Committed to an SYTF, by Race/Ethnicity



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding and/or the exclusion of certain response categories.

Figure 6 below shows relative rate indices comparing SYTF commitment rates of Black and

FIGURE 6. Relative Rates of SYTF Commitments for Youth Adjudicated of 707(b) Offenses, by Race



Hispanic/Latino youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses relative to White youth. Findings indicate that among youth adjudicated for these offenses, Black and Hispanic/Latino youth were nearly twice as likely as White youth to be committed to an SYTF in FY 2021/22. While racial disparities remain, they have decreased since FY 2021/22 for Black and Hispanic/Latino youth. In Fiscal Year 2023/24, Black youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense

were 1.3 times and Hispanic/Latino youth were 1.1 times as likely as White youth to be committed to an SYTF.

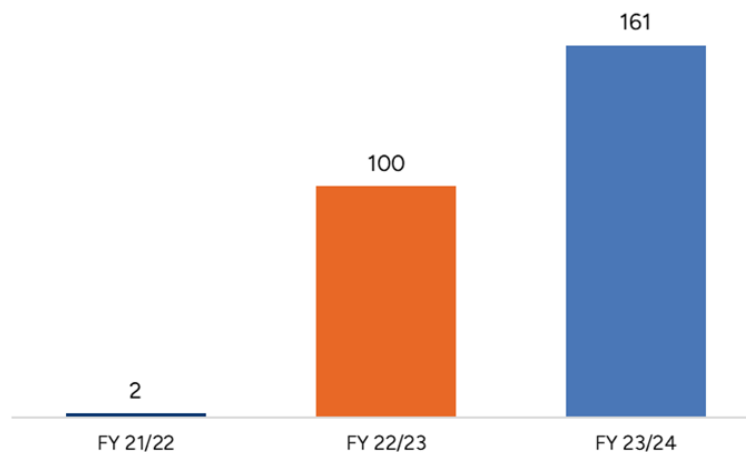
In addition to disparities found for Black and Hispanic/Latino youth, there are also disparities for AI/AN, Pacific Islander, and Asian American youth found at this decision point. In FY 2023/24, among youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, AI/AN youth were 2.4 times as likely as White youth to be committed to an SYTF, Asian American youth were 1.9 times as likely as White youth to be committed to an SYTF, and Pacific Islander youth were 1.6 times as likely as White youth to be committed to an SYTF.

It is important to note that there are differences in disparities across counties. For this reason, it is recommended that counties actively monitor SYTF commitments on an ongoing basis to identify whether disparities exist locally and to identify what factors may be contributing to them. This will allow counties to identify and address factors contributing to disparities so that they can be addressed through an intentional data-driven process to ensure that all youth are provided with equitable opportunities to remain in the least restrictive settings.

Step Downs from SYTFs to LRPs

Youth confined in an SYTF can be initially placed in an LRP or stepped down to an LRP if they are participating in rehabilitative services and demonstrating progress towards achieving their goals.²⁰ In FY 2021/22, only two youth were stepped down from an SYTF to an LRP, in large part because SYTFs had just opened, and most youth had little time to receive rehabilitative services and then later be stepped down to an LRP. The number of youth who stepped down to LRPs increased in FY 2022/23 and FY 2023/24, with 100 youth stepping down to LRPs in FY 2022/23 and 161 youth stepping down in FY 2023/24. This reflects a 61% increase in the number of youth who stepped down from an SYTF to an LRP over the last two reporting periods.

FIGURE 7. Number of Youth Stepped Down from an SYTF to an LRP, by Fiscal Year



The number of counties stepping youth down from SYTFs to LRPs has grown over the last three years as well, from two counties in FY 2021/22, to 14 in FY 2022/23, and 26 counties in FY 2023/24. Among these 26 counties, 31% were in Northern California, 27% were in Southern California, 23% were in Central California, and 19% were in the Bay Area. The continued growth in counties stepping down youth from SYTFs to LRPs is a promising sign that aligns with efforts

²⁰ Less Restrictive Program (LRP) is defined as the transfer of youth from a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) to a less restrictive placement pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code § 875(f) (AB 102 Data Guidelines, n.d.).

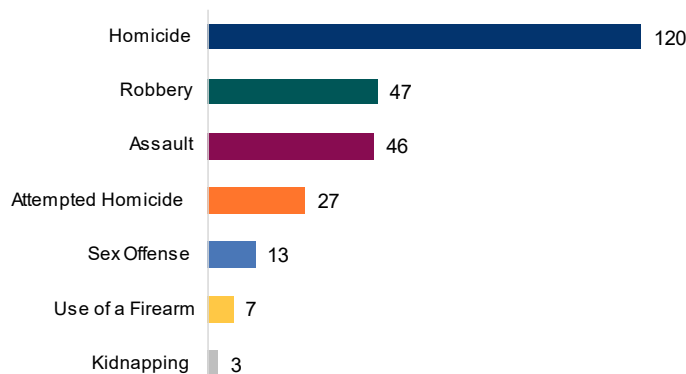
to prioritize youth rehabilitation and community safety, indicating progress toward a developmentally appropriate approach to juvenile justice.



OYCR, in collaboration with thought partners, developed the Stepping Home Model, a framework grounded in adolescent developmental science, to support counties in transforming the juvenile legal system.²¹ This model promotes healing and accountability while guiding counties and their partners in ensuring the safe and successful transition of youth from SYTFs through a continuum of placements back to their homes.

Offense Types of Youth Stepped Down from SYTFs to an LRP

FIGURE 8. Offense Types of Youth Stepped Down from SYTFs to LRPs through FY 2023/24



The most common adjudicated offenses among youth stepped down from an SYTF to an LRP through FY 2023/24 were homicide, robbery, assault, and attempted homicide (the other adjudicated offenses of youth stepped down to an LRP were sex offenses, as well as use of a firearm and kidnapping). These are also the most common adjudicated offenses among youth committed to SYTFs. This

suggests a growing willingness to not only allow youth who commit the most serious offenses to remain in the juvenile justice system, but also to utilize less restrictive settings, as appropriate, even when the original offenses are the most serious. This shift indicates an evolving approach to youth rehabilitation that prioritizes structured step down opportunities as part of the rehabilitation process.

²¹ [Office of Youth and Community Restoration. \(2023\). Stepping Home Model. California Health and Human Services Agency.](#)

Demographic Trends of Youth Stepped Down from an SYTF to and LRP

Gender

Most youth who are stepped down to an LRP are male (96%). This is to be expected because males also make up approximately 96% of youth commitments to an SYTF over the three-year period. This indicates that the gender distribution of step-downs mirrors overall SYTF commitments.

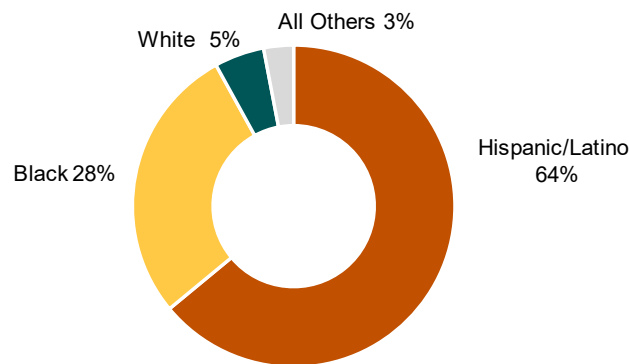
Age

Relative to all youth committed to SYTFs, youth stepped down to LRPs were older. While only 27% of youth committed to SYTFs in FY 2023/24 were age 19 or older, 75% of youth stepped down to LRPs were age 19 or older. Additionally, only 7% of youth stepped down to LRPs in FY 2023/24 were below the age of 18 (11% were below age 18 over the three-year period). As counties continue to develop effective LRPs that promote rehabilitative opportunities, the gap between age at commitment and step down could decrease. Given this information, programming should be geared to assist young adults in meeting their developmental needs for their age. This includes support and access to continuing education, health care, housing, and workforce development.

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 9 shows the proportion of youth, by race, stepped down from an SYTF to an LRP since DJJ Realignment. Hispanic/Latino youth represent the largest share of step downs, comprising approximately 64% (n=168) through FY 2023/24. This is slightly higher than the percentage of youth confined in SYTFs that were Hispanic/Latino (approximately 59%) during this same period. This is largely due to a steep increase in step downs for Hispanic/Latino youth in FY 2023/24 (n=107) relative to FY 2022/23 (n=61).

FIGURE 9. Proportion of Youth Stepped Down from SYTF to LRP in FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, by Race/Ethnicity



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding and/or the exclusion of certain response categories.

Through FY 2023/24, 73 Black youth were stepped down to an LRP, while 13 White youth were stepped down to an LRP (comprising approximately 28% and 5% of all step downs through FY 2023/24, respectively).

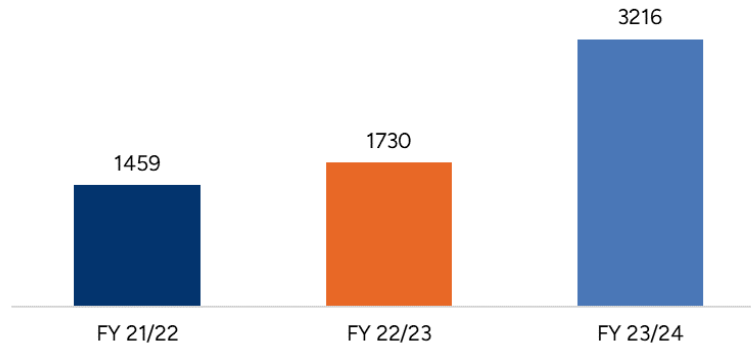
Racial Disparities in Step Downs to an LRP

OYCR examined whether there were further disparities among youth who stepped down to LRPs and found that there were not. In fact, among youth confined in SYTFs from FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, Black, Hispanic/Latino, and AI/AN youth were 1.2, 1.4, and 2 times as likely as White youth, respectively, to be stepped down to an LRP. These findings suggest that, among youth already committed to SYTFs, youth of color had greater access to LRPs over this time. While Black, Hispanic/Latino, and AI/AN may be released to a less restrictive setting, it is notable that this happens after they have already experienced the harsher consequences of disproportionate entry into the juvenile justice system. Transferring into LRPs does not offset the cumulative overrepresentation of these groups in earlier stages of the juvenile justice system, including arrests, 707(b) adjudications, and SYTF commitments. Counties should seek to address disparities at earlier decision points and continue to prioritize stepping down youth of color committed to SYTFs whenever appropriate.

Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses

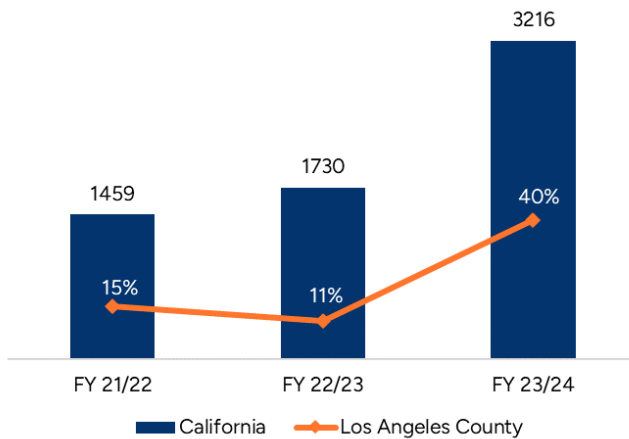
The number of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses increased each year since FY 2021/22. Figure 11 below shows that in FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23, there were 1,459 and 1,730 youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense, respectively. This represented a one-year increase of 19%. In FY 2023/24, there were 3,216 youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense, representing an 86% increase from the prior year and more than double the total from FY 2021/22.

FIGURE 10. Number of Youth Adjudicated for a 707(b) Offense, by Fiscal Year



A closer look at 707(b) adjudications reveals (Figure 11 below) that the overall increase from FY

FIGURE 11. Proportion of Youth Adjudicated of a 707(b) Offense in California who Live in Los Angeles County, by Fiscal Year



2021/22 to FY 2023/24 was primarily driven by Los Angeles County. Los Angeles experienced a 476% increase in 707(b) adjudications during this period, rising from 224 to 1,290. In comparison, all other California counties combined saw a 56% increase, from 1,235 to 1,926 707(b) adjudications. This growth outside of Los Angeles was smaller than the rise in youth violent felony arrests across the state, which increased by

70% between 2021 and 2023 across the state (and by 75% in all counties excluding Los Angeles).

In the following sections describing the offense types and demographic characteristics of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, Los Angeles County is not separated from California as a whole, because despite dramatic increases in the number of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses in LA County, the distribution across offense types and demographic characteristics does not dramatically shift trends found across the state (other than a steep rise in attempted homicide and homicide 707(b) adjudications that took place in Los Angeles County in FY 2023/24). We observe where there are some key differences and further explore these differences in the *Pulling it Together* section of the report.

Offense Types of Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offense

FIGURE 12. Offense Types of 707(b) Adjudications in FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24

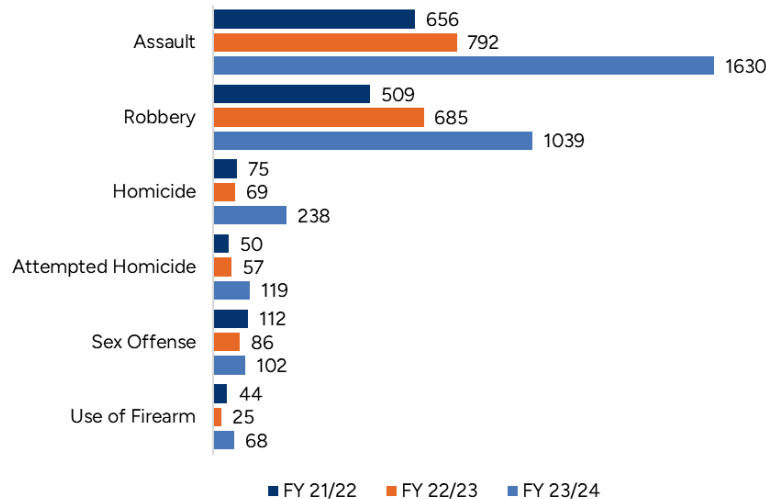


Figure 12 provides an overview of the 707(b) adjudications by offense type in FY 2023/24. As was the case in each fiscal year, most 707(b) adjudications were for assault (51% in FY 2023/24) and robbery (32% in FY 2023/24). It is notable that the raw number of almost all violent crimes, including homicide and attempted homicide, have increased since FY 2021/22.

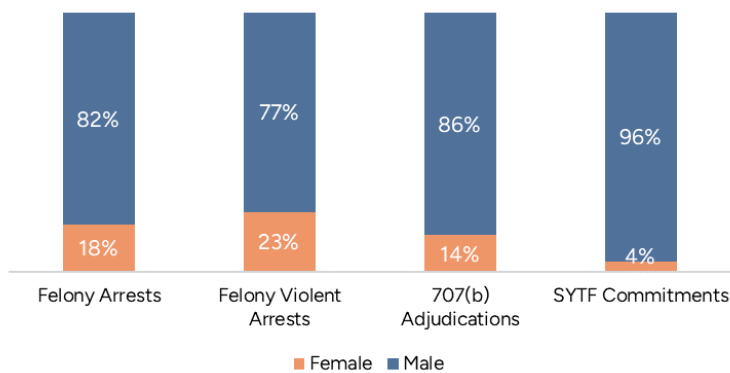
Homicides and Attempted Homicides rose more than any other offense type from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 (138% and 217% respectively). These phenomena are largely a result of trends found in LA County where attempted homicides and homicides increased by 1,083% (from 6 to 71 attempted homicides) and 500% (from 24 to 144 homicides) respectively, compared to all other counties where 707(b) adjudications for these offenses increased much less, by only 9% (from 44 to 48 attempted homicides) and 84% (from 51 to 94 homicides) respectively. As noted previously, we do not know how many of these adjudications were returns from adult court for offenses occurring in prior years.

Demographic Trends of Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses

Gender

Across all reporting periods, approximately 86% of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses were male, while 14% were female. This is in line with previous trends and research suggesting that

FIGURE 13. Percent of Youth Representation across Key Process Points, by Gender, FY2023/24



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding and/or the exclusion of certain response categories.

females, when they commit crimes, tend to commit less serious offenses than their male counterparts.²² It is noteworthy that while approximately 14% of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses were female, only 4% of youth committed to SYTFs were female. This suggests that among youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, females are less likely to get committed to an SYTF. Figure 13 shows the females comprise approximately 18% of youth felony arrests, and

a slightly higher percentage of violent felony arrests (23%). It also illustrates that the proportion of females decreases from the point of adjudication to commitment.

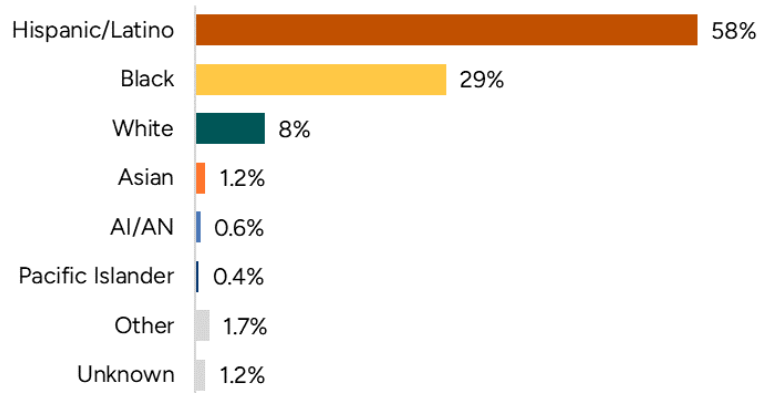
Age

In FY 2023/24, 75% of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses were below 18 years of age. In contrast, only about 50% of those committed to an SYTF were younger than 18. This suggests that youth below the age of 18 are less likely to be committed to an SYTF following adjudication than youth aged 18 or above. Of the 3,219 youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses in FY 2023/24, 250 (approximately 8%) were age 20 or older, including 80 individuals age 25 or older. Notably, approximately 75% of these older youth were in Los Angeles County. The older youth count may be influenced by a number of factors including delayed court processes following arrests during adolescence, the delayed execution of warrants for offenses committed as a minor, the length of time it takes to resolve very serious cases, or the resentencing of youth previously sentenced in adult court under recent legislation. However, the current data do not allow for determination of how many cases fall under these categories.

²² [Bennett, S., Farrington, D. P., & Huesmann, L. R. \(2005\). Explaining gender differences in crime and violence: The importance of social cognitive skills. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 10\(3\), 263-288.](#)

Race/Ethnicity

FIGURE 14. Percentage of Youth Adjudicated of a 707(b) Offense in FY 2023/24, by Race/Ethnicity



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding and/or the exclusion of certain response categories.

Hispanic/Latino and Black youth represent the largest proportion of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses each year. Figure 14 highlights that in FY 2023/24, among all youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, 58% (n=1,865) were Hispanic/Latino, 29% (n=925) were Black, and 8% (n=264) were White. Approximately 1.2% (n=39) were Asian American, 0.6% (n=20) were AI/AN, and 0.4% (n=12) were Pacific Islander youth. In

addition, approximately 1.7% of youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense in FY 2023/24 were some other race/ethnicity, and the race of 1.2% of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses was unknown.

According to the DOF population data for 2023, approximately 52% of youth ages 14-17 living in California were Hispanic/Latino, 24% were White, 12% were Asian American, and 5% were Black. Six percent (6%) of youth identify as multiracial, and all other groups comprised less than 1% of the California population age 14-17 each. These data suggest that Hispanic/Latino, Black, and AI/AN youth were overrepresented among 707(b) adjudications relative to their population sizes in FY 2023/24. This is especially pronounced for Black youth who comprise only 5% of California's population ages 14-17 yet make up 29% of 707(b) adjudications in FY 2023/24.

The number of youth across all races/ethnicities adjudicated for 707(b) offenses has increased since FY 2021/22, however, over the past three years, Hispanic/Latino, Black, and AI/AN youth saw larger increases than White youth. Hispanic/Latino youth saw the largest increases, rising from 826 youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense in FY 21/22 to 1,865 in FY 2023/24, marking a 126% growth over this period. Similarly, the number of Black youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense more than doubled (128% increase), from 404 youth in FY 2021/22 to 924 in FY 2023/24, while the number of AI/AN youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense nearly tripled (185% increase), from 7 youth in FY 2021/22 to 20 in FY 2023/24. Over the same period, the number of White youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense increased from 144 in FY 2021/22 to

264 in FY 2023/24, representing an 83% increase. This suggests racial disparities among youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses increased over this three-year period.

While Hispanic/Latino and Black youth make up the largest proportion of adjudicated cases, it is important to recognize that youth from all racial and ethnic backgrounds commit these offenses. The numbers reported reflect who is adjudicated within the system, not necessarily who is offending at higher rates. Various systemic factors, including disparities in policing, charging decisions, and access to legal resources, influence these outcomes.²³

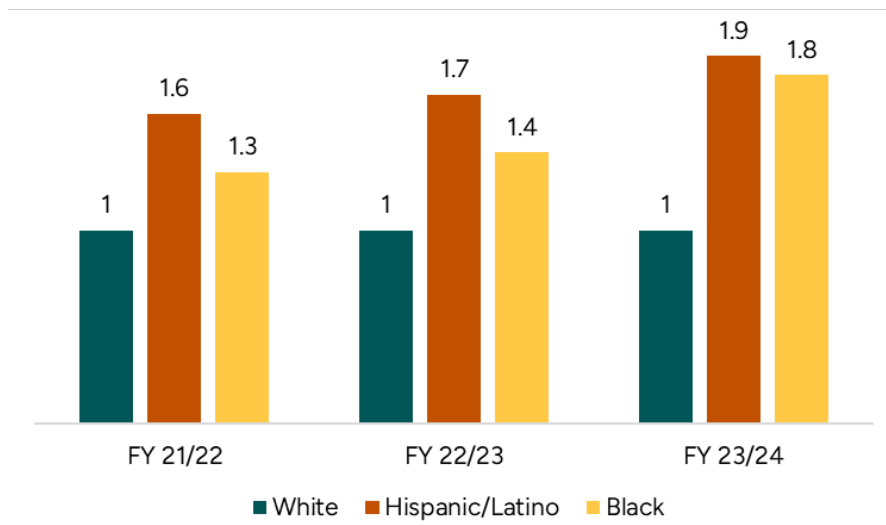
Racial Disparities among Youth Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses

Some youth felony arrests, especially those that are considered violent in nature, can be categorized as a 707(b) offense. To determine if there were any racial disparities in youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, we examined the number of 707(b) adjudications each fiscal year, by race, relative to the number of youth violent felony arrests in the overlapping calendar year, by race (e.g., 707(b) adjudications in FY 2021/22 relative to youth violent felony arrests in 2021).

Figure 15 shows relative rate indices comparing the number of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, by race, relative to race-specific youth violent felony arrests for Black and Hispanic/Latino youth compared to White youth. Findings indicate that among youth arrested for violent felonies, Black and Hispanic/Latino youth were nearly twice as likely as White youth to be adjudicated for a 707(b) offense in FY 2023/24 (1.8 and 1.9 times as likely, respectively). As the number of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses has risen since FY 2021/22, so too have racial disparities. This is something that counties should continue to monitor locally.

²³ [Rovner, J \(2021\). *Racial Disparities in Youth Incarceration Persists*. The Sentencing Project.](#)

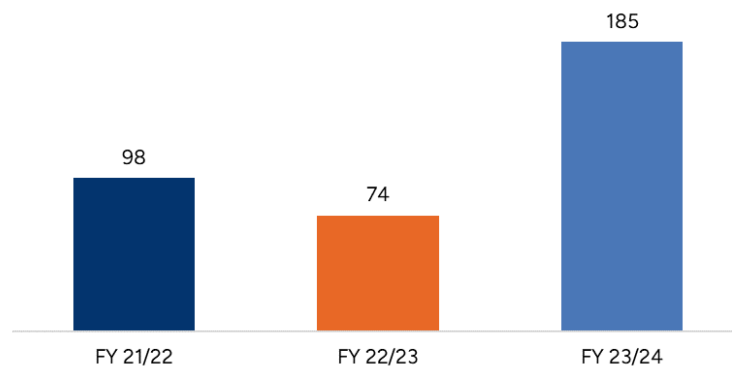
FIGURE 15. Relative Rates of Youth Adjudicated of 707(b) Offenses per 1,000 Violent Felony Youth Arrests



Youth Adjudicated for PC § 290.008 Offenses

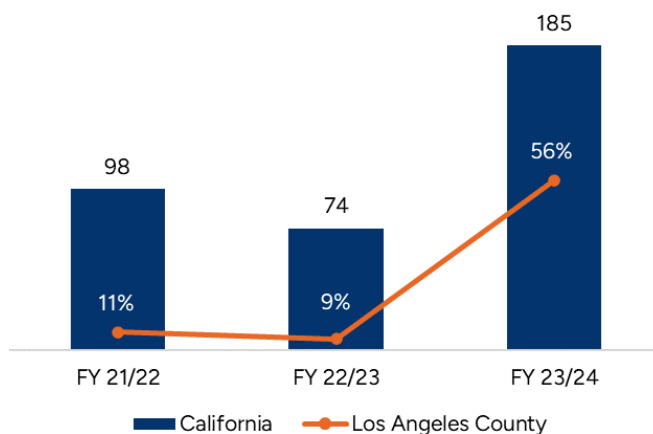
Similar to trends among youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense, the number of youth adjudicated for PC 290.008 offenses nearly doubled from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 (although notably, the number of PC 290.008 offenses decreased from FY 2021/22 to FY 2022/23). Figure 16 below shows that in FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23, there were 98 and 74 youth adjudicated for PC 290.008 offenses, respectively. In FY 2023/24, there were 185 youth adjudicated for a PC 290.008 offense, representing an 89% increase from FY 2021/22.

FIGURE 16. Number of Youth Adjudicated for a PC 290.008 Offense, by Fiscal Year



In examining these data more deeply, OYCR found that the increase in PC 290.008 offenses from FY 2021/22 and 2022/23 to FY 2023/24 was the result of an 836% increase in the number of youth adjudicated for PC 290.008 offenses in Los Angeles County (from 11 in FY 2021/22 to 103

FIGURE 17. Proportion of Youth Adjudicated for a PC 290.00 Offense in California who Live in Los Angeles County, by Fiscal Year



FY 2023/24). Looking across all other California counties, the number of PC 290.008 adjudications decreased, from 87 in FY 2021/22 to 85 in FY 2023/24 (there were even fewer, 67, in FY 2023/23).

Offense Types of Youth Adjudicated for PC 290.008 Offense

Every offense adjudicated under PC 290.008 is a sex offense, even when other serious crimes are involved (less than 1% of PC

290.008 adjudications also involved kidnapping or attempted homicide).

Demographic Trends of Youth Adjudicated for PC 290.008 Offenses

Gender

Only two youth adjudicated for a PC 290.008 offense across the three-year period were female, accounting for less than one percent of these cases.

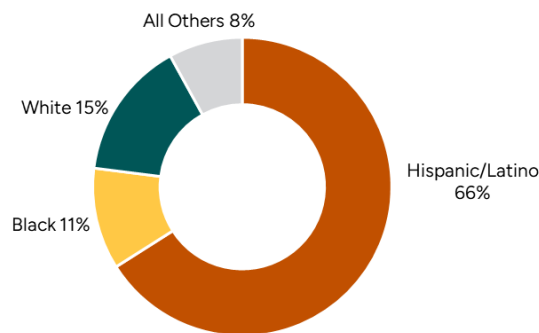
Age

In FY 2023/24, approximately half of youth adjudicated for a PC 290.008 offense were below 18 years of age. Overall, the ages of youth adjudicated for PC 290.008 offenses became older during the three-year period (31% were 18 years or older in FY 2021/22 compared to 39% in FY 2022/23 and 50% in FY 2023/24). It is noteworthy that among 185 youth adjudicated of a PC 290.008 offense in FY 2023/24, 50 were age 20 or older. Among these older youth adjudicated for PC 290.008 offenses, approximately 72% were in Los Angeles County. As stated previously, we are not able to ascertain how many of these youth were new adjudications or youth returning from adult court and being re-adjudicated in the juvenile system.

Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino youth represent the largest proportion of youth adjudicated for PC 290.008

FIGURE 18. Proportion of Youth Adjudicated for a PC 290.008 Offense in FY 2023/24, by Race/Ethnicity



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding and/or the exclusion of certain response categories.

offenses each year since FY 2021/22.

Figure 18 shows in FY 2023/24, among 185 youth adjudicated for a PC 290.008 offense, 123 (67%) were Hispanic/Latino, 27 (15%) were White, 20 (11%) were Black and 15 (8%) were some other race. Two Asian American youth and no AI/AN or Pacific Islander youth were adjudicated for PC 290.008 offenses in FY 2023/24.

Across all three fiscal years, the number of White youth adjudicated for PC 290.008 offenses remained

relatively stable (24, 16, and 27 each year respectively) while the number of Black youth increased nearly threefold from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 (n=20 Black youth adjudicated for PC 290.008 offense in FY 2023/24) and the number of Hispanic/Latino youth nearly doubled. This means that, over this time period, the proportion of youth adjudicated of a PC 290.008 offense

who were White decreased, while the proportion who were Black and Hispanic/Latino increased.

Transfer to Adult Court: Hearings Ordered and Hearings Held

Studies show that transferring youth to adult court leads to negative consequences for long-term well-being and increases the risk of recidivism.²⁴ Consistent with adolescent brain development research, California law presumes that youth should remain in the juvenile system whenever possible, due to the opportunity it presents for rehabilitation and because of the juvenile court's focus on individualized treatment. Any youth 16 and over who is petitioned for a felony, and any youth who was 14 or 15 years old and alleged to have committed a 707(b) offense, but who was not apprehended prior to the end of the juvenile court's jurisdiction, is potentially subject to adult transfer proceedings.

AB 102 data assists with monitoring the ongoing use of the adult transfer process, including capturing data on the number of transfer hearings ordered and held each fiscal year.²⁵ However, the reader should note that the number of transfer hearings held in a fiscal year does not represent a subset of the total number of transfer hearings ordered that fiscal year. Based on the structure of the data reported to OYCR, a hearing could be ordered at a given point in one fiscal year, but it could take months, or even years, for the transfer hearing to be held. Despite this limitation, the data are useful for understanding how many hearings are ordered and held each fiscal year, and what the gap between the number of hearings ordered and held is.

Figure 19 shows that the number of transfer hearings ordered fluctuated from FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24; there were 213 hearings ordered in FY 2021/22, 244 in FY 2022/23, and 185 in FY 2023/24.²⁶ Despite an increase in the number of youth petitioned for 707(b) and PC 290.008 offenses in FY 2023/24, and a general increase in felony arrests over the past several

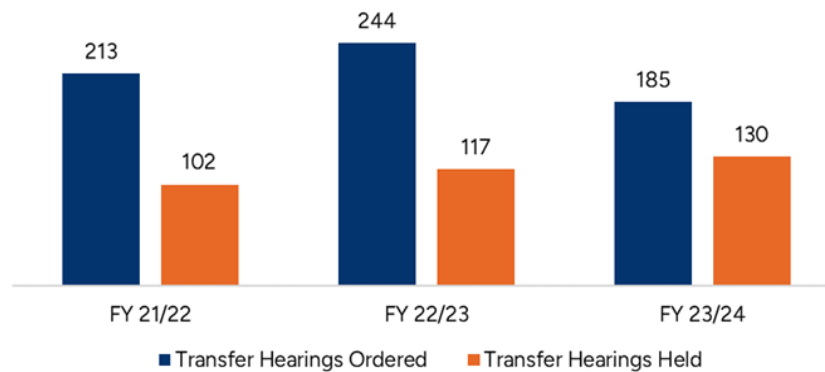
²⁴ [Office of Youth and Community Restoration. \(2023, March 21\). Technical assistance: Maintaining youth in juvenile court—Published research summary.](#)

²⁵ The data point, number of youth for whom a hearing for transfer to adult criminal court was ordered, was not required by AB 102. It was included in the initial data collection form distributed by CPOC in Fall 2023, which OYCR retained for consistency.

²⁶ Nominal differences in the AB102 Report findings when compared to the [SB 823 DJJ Realignment Report](#) are due to OYCR's receipt of updated County Probation Department data submissions ahead of the final AB102 Report analyses

years that could result in transfers, fewer transfer hearings were ordered compared to previous fiscal years, suggesting that a smaller proportion of these cases resulted in transfer proceedings.

FIGURE 19. Transfer to Adult Court – Hearings Ordered and Hearings Held, by Fiscal Year



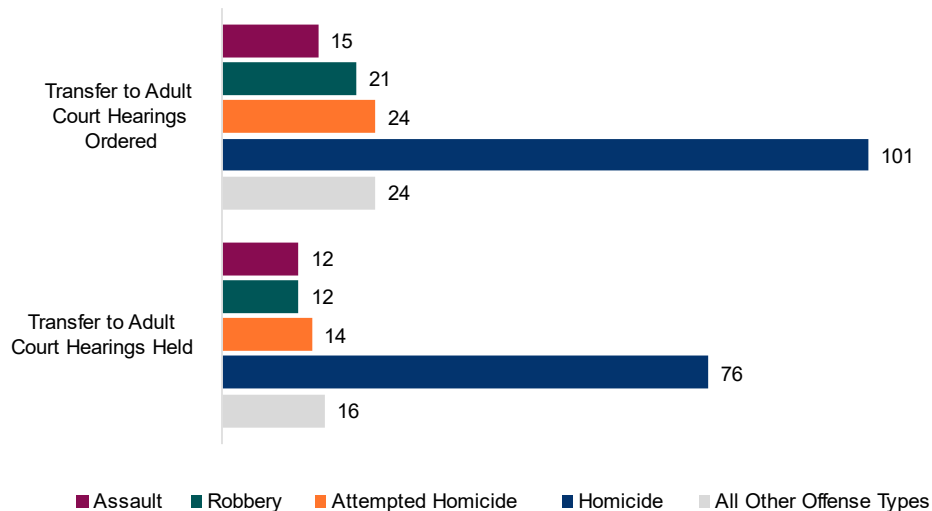
The number of transfer hearings that were actually held was much lower than the number of hearings ordered each fiscal year (the number held was 102 in FY 2021/22, 117 in FY 2022/23, and 130 in FY 2023/24). However, the gap between total hearings ordered relative to total hearings held within each fiscal year narrowed, and there is also variation across counties in the size of the gap. There are many possible reasons why a transfer hearing may be ordered but not held. For example, new information could come in after the initial arrest report that changes the prosecutor's opinion that the youth should be transferred, or prosecutors may request a transfer hearing be ordered but withdraw the transfer motion before a hearing during the plea-bargaining process to incentivize youth to agree to a less severe disposition, such as an SYTF commitment. It could also be that the prosecutor learns new information during the pendency of the case that suggests the youth is amenable to rehabilitative services in juvenile court, for example, through a positive report from juvenile detention staff or others working with the youth. Counties are in the best position to explore locally the reasons transfer to adult court hearings are ordered but not held to better understand the reasons behind these decisions, with a goal of reducing transfer hearings in inappropriate instances.

Offense Types of Youth with Transfer to Adult Court Hearings Ordered and Held

Figure 20 shows that most adult court transfer hearings ordered and held were for the most serious offenses; homicide (55% of transfer hearings ordered and 58% of hearing held) and

attempted homicide (13% of transfer hearings ordered and 11% of hearings held). This suggests

FIGURE 20. Offense Types of Youth with Transfer to Adult Court Hearings Ordered and Held, FY 2023/24



that transfer hearings are largely reserved for youth charged with the most serious offenses.

Demographic Characteristics of Youth with Transfer to Adult Court Hearings Ordered and Held

Gender

While approximately 86% of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses were male, approximately 95% of youth with transfer hearings ordered and 97% of youth with transfer hearings held were male. This suggests that among youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, male youth were more frequently considered for adult court transfer, potentially due to offense severity, perceived risk, or other decision-making factors.

Age

In FY 2023/24, approximately 43% of youth with transfer hearings ordered were under the age of 18, compared to 15% of youth with transfer hearings held. Deeper analysis should be made at a county level to understand why there is such a big gap in ages between these two data points.

Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Figures 21 and 22,²⁷ Hispanic/Latino and Black youth represent the largest proportions of youth for whom a transfer hearing to adult court was ordered and held in FY 2023/24. Hispanic/Latino youth comprised 59% of transfer to adult court hearings ordered and 64% of hearings held, while Black youth comprised 28% of transfer to adult court hearings ordered and held. These proportions are aligned with the proportions of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses in FY 2023/24 (approximately 58% were Hispanic/Latino and 29% were Black). Less than 1% of transfer hearings ordered (n=1) and transfer hearings held (n=1) were for AI/AN youth in FY 2023/24.

FIGURE 21. Proportion of Youth with Transfer to Adult Court Hearing Ordered in FY 2023/24, by Race/Ethnicity

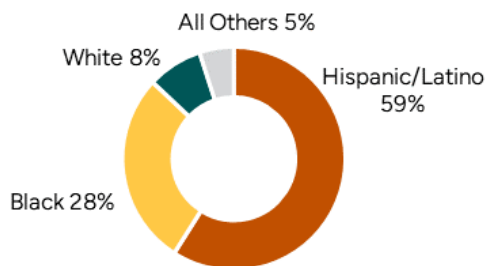
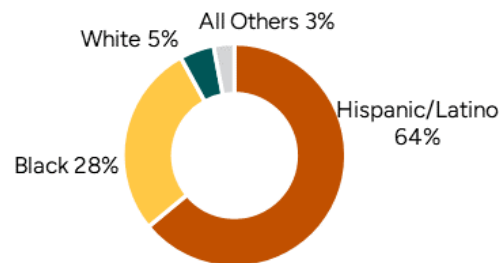


FIGURE 22. Proportion of Youth with Transfer to Adult Court Hearings Held in FY 2023/24, by Race/Ethnicity

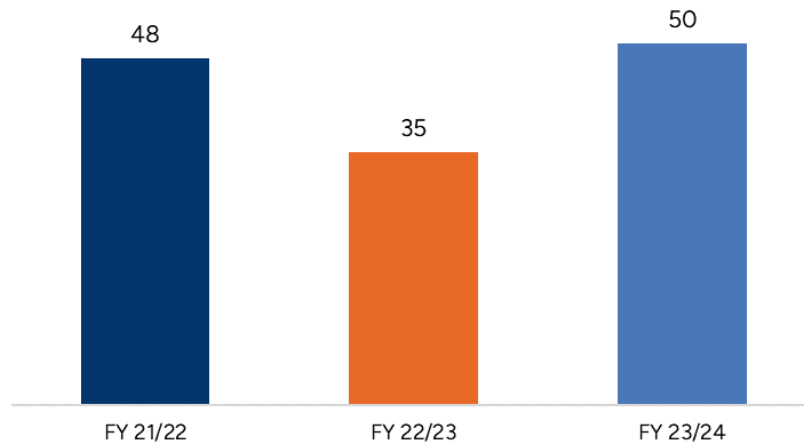


²⁷ Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding and/or the exclusion of certain response categories.

Transfers to Adult Court

This section provides an overview of youth transferred to adult court. Figure 23 below shows that 50 or less youth were transferred to adult court each fiscal year from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24.

FIGURE 23. Youth Transferred to an Adult Court, by Fiscal Year



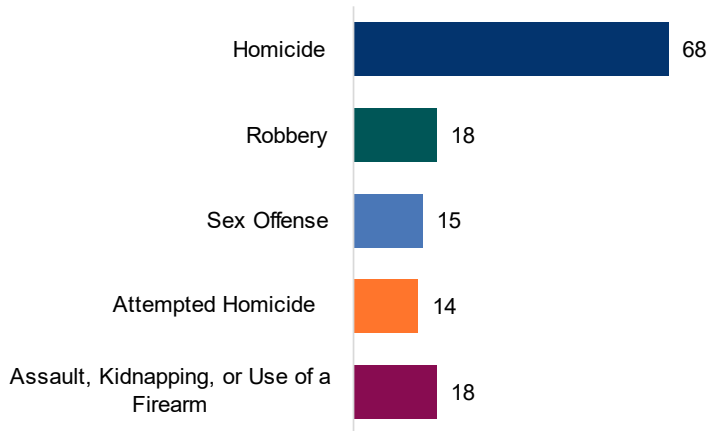
The relatively low number of youth transferred to adult court reflects a strong commitment from juvenile justice stakeholders to keep youth within the juvenile court system, even in cases involving the most serious offenses. This is a deep shift from the previous decade when thousands of youth were transferred to adult court from 2010 through 2016. During this time, 4,979 youth (an average of 711 per year) were transferred to adult court either through direct filing by a prosecutor (n=3,955) or a transfer hearing (n=1,024). In 2016, the last year prior to Proposition 57 taking effect, 406 youth were transferred to adult court either through direct filing by a prosecutor (n=340) or a transfer hearing (n=66). Since the passage of Proposition 57 and as a result of limitations strengthened by other more recent legislative changes²⁸, the number of youth transferred to adult court has dropped by 68%, from 158 in 2017 to 50 in FY 2023/24, showing the state's ongoing effort to limit the use of adult court for youth. The small

²⁸ Since the passage of Proposition 57 in California in 2016, which removed a prosecutor's ability to direct file in adult court, subsequent legislative changes further limited the use of adult court for juveniles. Senate Bill 1391, effective in 2019, prohibited the transfer of 14 and 15-year-olds to adult court, and more recently, Assembly Bill 2361, passed in 2023, raised the legal standard and shifted the burden of proof for transfers to adult court. Importantly, these legislative changes could be applied retroactively to youth previously sentenced in adult court when their appeal is not final, allowing some to return to the juvenile system.

increase from FY 2022/23 to FY 2023/24 breaks the previous downward pattern, and future data will allow us to determine whether this represents a one-year fluctuation or a potential shift in trajectory.

Offense Types of Youth Transferred to Adult Court

FIGURE 24. Offense Types of Youth Transferred to Adult Criminal Court, FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24



During the three years spanning FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, 133 youth were transferred to adult court. Among these youth, just over half (51%) of these cases were for homicide. Additionally, 14% (n=18) of youth transferred to adult court were for robbery offenses, 11% (n=15) were for sex offenses, 11% (n=14) were for attempted homicide, and 14% (n=18) were for assault, kidnapping, or use of a firearm.

Demographic Trends of Youth Transferred to Adult Court

Gender

Among 133 youth with their cases transferred to adult court from FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, all but one were male.

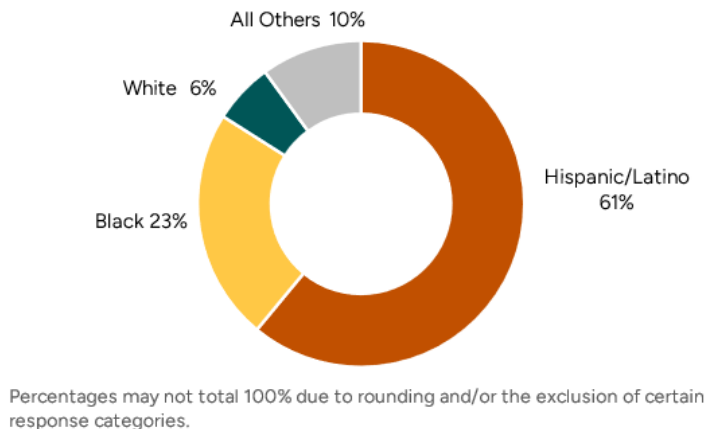
Age

In FY 2023/24, 90% of youth transferred to adult court were age 18 or older. This suggests that, consistent with developmental research, judges are factoring in age when deciding whether to retain youth in the juvenile justice system or transfer them to adult court.²⁹

²⁹ Steinberg, L. (n.d.). *Juveniles in the justice system: New evidence from research on adolescent development*. Wisconsin Family Impact Seminars.

Race/Ethnicity

FIGURE 25. Proportion of Youth Transferred to Adult Criminal Court from FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, by Race/Ethnicity



Over the three-year period, approximately 61% of youth transferred to adult court were Hispanic/Latino, 23% were Black, 6% were White, and 10% were some other race or unknown (4% were Asian American, 3% were AI/AN, and less than 1% were Pacific Islander). Among youth transferred to adult court, Black and AI/AN youth are vastly overrepresented relative to their population size (5% and less than 1% respectively). Hispanic/Latino youth are also overrepresented,

while White and Asian American youth are underrepresented relative to their youth population sizes in California.

Notably, the proportion of Black youth rose from 17% of transfers to adult court in FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23, to 36% of youth transferred to adult court in FY 2023/24. The increase in Black youth transfers to adult court in FY 2023/24 represents increases among small total numbers, from 7 Black youth in FY 2021/22 and 6 in FY 2022/23, to 18 Black youth in FY 2023/24. However, the increase is notable and underscores the need for further examination of the factors that drive decisions to transfer youth to adult court.

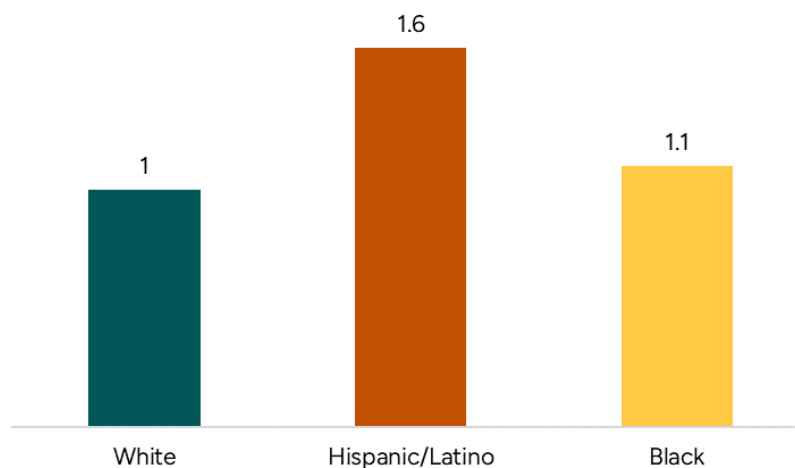
Racial Disparities Among Youth Transferred to Adult Court

Examining racial disparities in outcomes over the three-year period where a judge determined whether or not a youth would be transferred to adult court, data indicate that 57% of AI/AN were transferred to adult court (n=4), 50% of Asian American (n=5) and Pacific Islander youth (n=1) were transferred to adult court, 35% of Hispanic/Latino youth were transferred to adult court (n=81), and 25% of Black youth were transferred to adult court (n=31). Approximately 22% of White youth were transferred to adult court (n=8). This indicates that among youth for which a judge determined whether or not youth would be transferred to adult court during the three-year period, AI/AN youth were approximately 2.6 times as likely as White youth to be transferred to adult court, while Asian American and Pacific Islander youth were approximately

2.3 times as likely as White youth to be transferred to adult court. While these disparities are substantial, it is notable that they represent small numbers, as a total of 10 youth who were AI/AN, Asian American, or Pacific Islander were transferred to adult court over the three-year period.

Hispanic/Latino youth were approximately 1.6 times as likely as White youth to be transferred to adult court, and Black youth were approximately 1.1 times as likely as White youth to be transferred to adult court. While these disparities were smaller relative to other youth of color, Black and Hispanic/Latino youth comprised the vast majority of youth transferred to adult court over the three-year period.

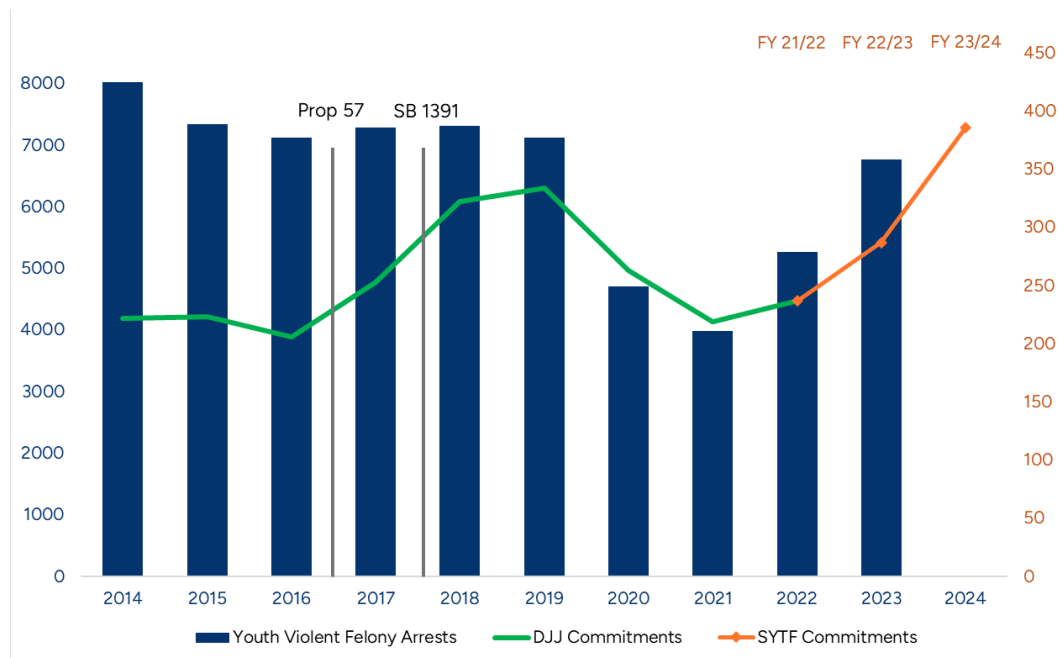
FIGURE 26. Relative Rates of Youth Transferred to Adult Court per 100 Judicial Determinations, FY 2021/22 through 2023/24 Combined



Pulling it Together

Prior to its closure, there was a precipitous drop in counties committing youth to DJJ. This promising multi-year trend proved that significant reductions in youth commitments could be made without jeopardizing public safety, evidenced by a concurrent drop in juvenile arrests, including arrests for violent felony offenses. The success of reducing DJJ commitments was in large part due to the investment in probation, in partnership with justice stakeholders and community partners, building local capacity to support youth in their communities with research-based practices.

FIGURE 27. Youth Violent Felony Arrests and DJJ/SYTF Commitments from 2014 through FY 2023/24



The closure of DJJ is premised on the belief that counties can best serve youth and further reduce the use of long-term commitments and incarceration that led to abusive conditions of confinement and high rates of parole violations and recidivism.³⁰ Using AB 102 and publicly available data included in this report, OYCR looked for signs of net widening that could take place through increases in 707(b) adjudications, SYTF commitments, or transfers to the criminal justice system that are not explained by increases in youth violent felony arrests, but rather,

³⁰ [Ridolfi, L., Menart, R., & Villa, I. \(2020, August\). California youth face heightened racial and ethnic disparities in Division of Juvenile Justice: DJJ realignment requires state oversight and safeguards for youth of color \[Fact sheet\]. W. Haywood Burns Institute.](#)

may be based on policy and practice changes or shifts in discretionary decision making. The factors that contribute to net widening are many and nuanced. They often require extensive analysis of aggregate data, as well as qualitative and quantitative reviews examining policing, charging, and dispositions at the individual case file level, which is beyond the scope of this report given the limited available data. However, the data available for this report are useful to help identify or rule out some of the red flags that could be indicative of net widening, which should be fully vetted at the local county level through collaboration with justice stakeholders, child serving agencies, community partners, and impacted youth and families.

Exploring Net Widening

In the sections below, OYCR examines percentage increases across key AB 102 data outcomes from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 relative to youth violent felony arrests from 2021 to 2023 to better understand whether the increases found over the first three fiscal years of SB 823 implementation are indicative of net widening. Next, we examine rates of DJJ commitments and transfers to adult court per 1,000 youth felony violent arrests for three years prior to Covid-19 compared with rates of SYTF commitments and transfers to adult court during the first three fiscal years of SB 823 implementation. Finally, we examined the average daily DJJ and SYTF populations in 2020 with the most recent year. Together, from these vantage points, we sought signs of potential net widening.

Examining Increases Across Key AB 102 Data Outcomes

Figure 28 below uses statewide data and shows percentage changes in the number of youth violent felony arrests, 707(b) adjudications, new SYTF commitments, and transfers to adult court from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 (Table 2 provides the statewide raw numbers of AB 102 data points for the three fiscal years).

FIGURE 28. Statewide Percentage Changes in Youth Violent Felony Arrests, 707(b) Adjudications, New SYTF Commitments, and Youth Transferred to Adult Court from FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24

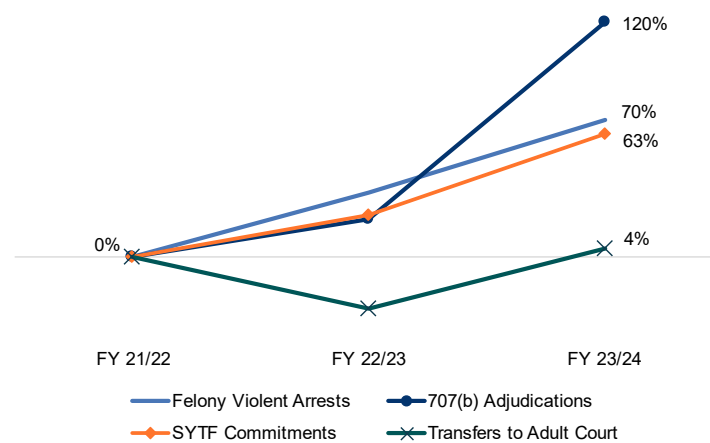


TABLE 2. 707(b) Adjudications, New SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court, by Fiscal Year

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24
707(b) Adjudications	1459	1730	3216
SYTF Commitments	237	287	386
Transfers to Adult Court	48	35	50

These data indicate that since implementation of SB 823 Realignment, the number of youth committed to SYTFs rose 63%, from 237 in FY 2021/22 to 386 in FY 2023/24. This increase raised concerns about potential net widening. However, the data also demonstrates that increases in SYTF commitments are nearly parallel, but slightly less than the 70% increase in youth violent felony arrests from 2021 to 2023. In addition, while the number of youth transferred to adult court increased very slightly from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 (and dropped substantially in FY 2022/23), they have increased far less than the number of youth violent felony arrests each year, indicating consistency with adolescent development and brain science of maintaining young people in the youth justice system where rehabilitation can best occur.

A sharp increase of 120% in 707(b) adjudications over the past three fiscal years, far surpassing the 70% increase in juvenile felony violent arrests, is cause for concern and indicative of potential net widening through the charging and adjudication process. While this increase is concerning, it appears that the impact of this increase on SYTF commitments is mitigated through the dispositional process, with SYTF increases more closely mirroring violent felony arrest increases, not 707(b) adjudication increases. It is beyond the scope of this report to identify potential net widening in juvenile arrests, but as mentioned previously, all juvenile

arrests and the subcategories of felony and violent felony arrests saw similar increases over the three-year period.

A deeper county level analysis of 707(b) offenses revealed that one large county with the largest number of 707(b) adjudications, Los Angeles, has driven the statewide increase in 707(b) adjudications, obscuring the data portrait for the remaining 57 California counties. To illustrate the different outcomes between Los Angeles and all other California counties, Figure 29 and 30 below shows the percentage change across the same data points in the figure above for Los Angeles County and the other 57 counties aggregated.

FIGURE 29. Los Angeles County Percent Changes from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24

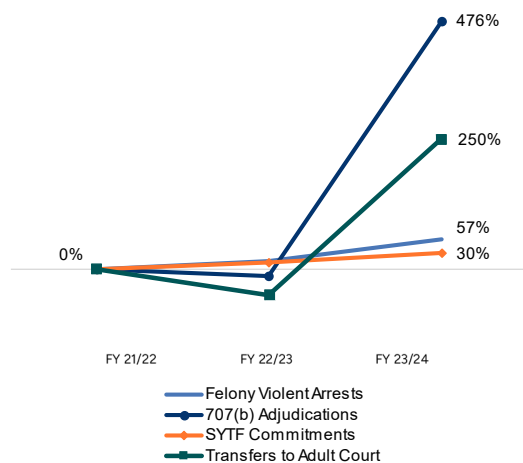
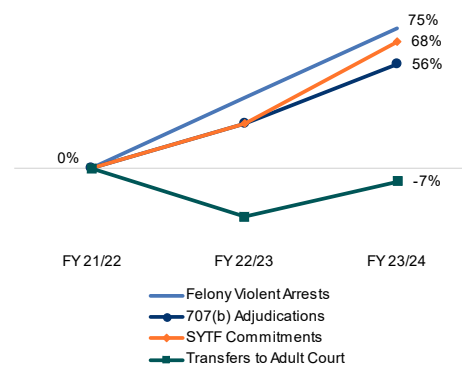


FIGURE 30. Statewide, Excluding Los Angeles County, Percent Changes from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24



Los Angeles showed a 476% increase in 707(b) adjudications from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24, while the youth violent felony arrest increase in Los Angeles was actually less than the rest of the state (57% in Los Angeles vs. 75% in the rest of the state), presenting a stark contrast between arrests and 707(b) adjudications. While this increase poses questions and concerns about potential net widening in Los Angeles, it is encouraging that the 30% increase of SYTF commitments does not parallel, and is substantially lower than, the 476% increase in 707(b) adjudications and 57% increase in youth violent felony arrests in Los Angeles. While the percentage increase in transfers to adult court is high, it is important to note that the numbers are very small and under 12 each fiscal year.

Looking at the 57 counties other than Los Angeles, Figure 30 above demonstrates that the percentage increases of 707(b) adjudications and SYTF commitments (56% and 68% respectively) are lower than the percentage increase for violent felony arrests, reaffirming that there are not early indications of net widening among 707(b) adjudications or SYTF commitments across these 57 counties together from the first to most recent fiscal year of AB 102 data.

Secure Confinement Pre and Post SB 823 Implementation

Here we examine rates of DJJ commitments and transfers to adult court per 1,000 youth felony violent arrests for three years prior to Covid-19 compared with rates of SYTF commitments and transfers to adult court during the first three fiscal years of SB 823 implementation. We found that over the calendar years 2017 through 2019, there were approximately 56 youth committed to DJJ or transferred to adult court per 1,000 youth violent felony arrests statewide. During the first three years of SB 823 implementation, there were approximately 65 youth committed to SYTFs or transferred to adult court per 1,000 youth violent felony arrests, amounting to a 17% increase in the rate of commitments or transfers per 1,000 youth violent felony arrests.³¹ These findings would suggest net widening; however, they should be interpreted with caution. Publicly available data from DOJ appear to undercount the number of transfers to adult court by 39% when compared with the data provided directly by counties to OYCR.³² Factoring in this potential undercount, the increased rate of commitments or transfers is 7%. This 7% increase could potentially be explained by the unknown number of SYTF commitments that were previously transferred to adult court and recertified to a juvenile court. Given these factors, we are unable to substantiate net widening.

The data cited above does not account for how long youth stay in the most restrictive carceral settings, and SB 823 changed the nature of incarceration by incorporating reviews that reduce commitment time and emphasize the use of LRPs that can shorten the length of stay in SYTF facilities. In 2024, the average SYTF daily population was 587 youth.³³ Prior to SB 823, in 2019

³¹ Youth can be transferred for non-violent felony offenses. However, using all non-violent felonies in this analysis would include many offenses very unlikely to be transferred to adult court. Therefore, violent felony arrests were chosen from publicly available data as the most accurate proxy.

³² Comparing publicly available DOJ data on transfers to adult court in 2021, 2022, and 2023 to the data on transfers to adult court received by OYCR directly from county probation agencies, we found that the publicly available data appear to undercount transfers by approximately 39%. Therefore, for the purposes of this analysis, transfer counts for 2017, 2018, and 2019 were increased by 39% to provide a more accurate comparison between pre- and post-COVID rates of DJJ commitments and transfers relative to total youth felony violent arrests.

³³ [California Board of State and Community Corrections. \(n.d.\). Juvenile Detention Profile Survey \(JDPS\) dashboard.](#)

the average daily population in DJJ was 667, and in 2020, the average daily population in DJJ was 680 youth.³⁴ These data suggests that, as would be expected, the expanding use of LRPs reduces the time incarcerated in the most restrictive settings. Current data is insufficient to capture the daily population in less restrictive community-based programs and non-SYTF commitment facilities (Ranches and Camps), however counties can and should be tracking this information at a local level to more fully understand the use of SYTFs and LRPs. Assembly Bill 169 passed in July 2024 further defines LRPs as non-SYTF facilities and step downs to community-based placements, which will provide greater specificity from counties in future data reporting.

Do our findings suggest net widening has taken place?

Based on findings from this report, there is not clear evidence of net widening to explain SYTF increases from FY 21/22 to FY 23/24. However, a deeper examination of the factors that have resulted in increased youth violent felony arrest rates, 707(b) adjudications, and SYTF commitments should be explored to further unpack and understand if arrest, charging, and/or adjudication practices may be resulting in any net widening across the state. Examining these factors could also help illuminate and reduce racial disparities among youth arrested by law enforcement, adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, and committed to SYTFs.

Additionally, a quantitative and qualitative look at the county level length of stay in SYTF facilities and the use of LRPs would provide a more complete picture of SB 823 implementation. In counties with findings that mirror statewide data (or show even higher increases across AB 102 data points), examining case files to understand the seriousness of the offenses committed, as well as charging and adjudication practices, would help uncover whether shifts in youth behavior, shifts in system responses, or some combination of both are driving increases in 707(b) adjudications and SYTF commitments. A county level analysis is not included with this report; however, Appendix A provides percent change analyses like the statewide analyses presented above based on county size. Appendix B presents county information based on rates of 707(b) adjudications resulting in SYTF commitments, including a breakdown by county size.

Examining Racial Disparities

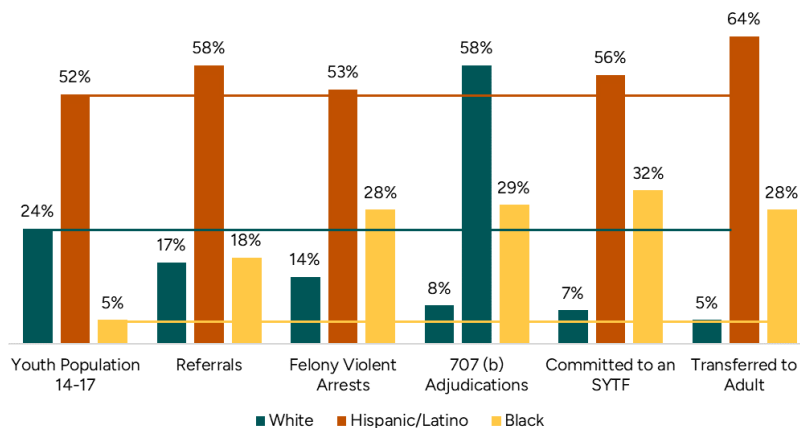
To examine racial disparities, OYCR examined the proportion of youth in California who are Hispanic/Latino, Black, and White across key juvenile process points, including: 2) referrals to

³⁴ California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (2019). *Division of Juvenile Justice. Admission Counts from Activity File.*

probation, 3) youth violent felony arrests, 4) 707(b) adjudications, 5) SYTF commitments, and 6) transfers to adult court to assess the extent to which each group is over or under-represented across each of these decision points. Figure 31 shows that White youth are vastly underrepresented across the juvenile justice system, especially at the deepest ends of the system, while Black youth are vastly overrepresented and Hispanic/Latino youth are slightly overrepresented across the juvenile justice system.

White youth comprise 24% of the population ages 14-17 in California, while they represent only 17% of referrals to probation, 14% of felony arrests, 8% of 707(b) adjudications, 7% of SYTF commitments, and 6% of transfers to adult court. Meanwhile, Black youth comprise only 5% of the population ages 14-17, yet they comprise 18% of referrals to probation, 28% of violent felony arrests, 29% of 707(b) adjudications, 32% of SYTF commitments, and 28% of transfers to adult court.

FIGURE 31. Percent of Representation by Race, Across Juvenile Justice System Decision Points, FY 2023/24



In addition, while Hispanic/Latino youth comprise 52% of the population ages 14-17 in California, they comprise between 53% and 59% of youth referrals to probation, youth violent felony arrests, 707(b) adjudications, SYTF commitments, and transfers to adult court.

Examining racial disparities more deeply among 707(b)

adjudications, SYTF commitments, and transfers to adult court, OYCR found that racial disparities exist at each of these data points. Notably, comparing the number of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, by race, relative youth violent felony arrests, we found Black and Hispanic/Latino youth were nearly twice as likely as White youth to be adjudicated for a 707(b) offense in FY 2023/24 (1.8 and 1.9 times as likely, respectively). As the number of youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses has risen since FY 2021/22, so have racial disparities. This is something that counties should continue to monitor locally.

OYCR also found that among youth adjudicated for 707(b) offenses, Black and Hispanic/Latino youth were nearly twice as likely as White youth to be committed to an SYTF in FY 2021/22. Racial disparities at this decision point remain, however they have decreased since FY 2021/22. In FY 2023/24, Black youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense were 1.3 times as likely as White

youth to be committed to an SYTF, and Hispanic/Latino youth were 1.1 times as likely to be committed to an SYTF. Finally, over the three-year period, OYCR found that among all transfer to adult court determinations, Black and Hispanic/Latino youth were more likely than White youth to be transferred to adult court (1.2 and 1.6 times more likely, respectively). While smaller in numbers, AI/AN youth also experience similar patterns of disproportionate juvenile justice system involvement.

It is notable that there are differences in disparities found across counties. For this reason, OYCR recommends that counties actively monitor 707(b) adjudications, SYTF commitments, and transfers to adult court on an ongoing basis to identify whether disparities exist locally, and to identify what factors may be contributing to them. This will allow counties to identify and address factors contributing to disparities so that they can be addressed through an intentional data-driven process to ensure that all youth are provided with equitable opportunities to remain in the least restrictive settings.

Conclusion

This report examined statewide trends in AB 102 data from FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, with an emphasis on FY 2023/24, to assist in evaluating the impact of SB 823. To that end, OYCR analyzed all AB 102 data elements with attention to age, gender, race/ethnicity, and offense types, and presented findings with emphasis placed on examining potential net widening and racial disparities.

The report reveals that youth of color remain overrepresented in arrest, adjudication rates, 707(b) adjudications, SYTF commitments, and adult court transfers, although disparities have decreased in SYTF commitments since FY2021/22, and Black and Latino/Hispanic youth were stepped down to LRPs at higher rates than White youth. In addition, the report suggests that while there have been increases in the number of SYTF commitments and 707(b) adjudications since the start of SB 823, OYCR cannot substantiate that net widening has taken place.

It is imperative to continue to use data to monitor SB 823 implementation and effectively address the risk of net widening and racial disparities within the juvenile justice system at these decision points. Stakeholders must recognize the critical role of counties in conducting thorough analyses of local data, including further examining of local factors such as policing practices and diversion rates. By leveraging technical assistance from OYCR, counties can develop actionable strategies to promote healthier youth development and further reduce reliance on incarceration. Collaborative efforts are essential to transform youth justice practices in California and ensure equitable outcomes for all youth.

Appendix A. Analysis of Large, Medium, and Small Counties

The statewide aggregate picture of AB 102 data provides a broad view across the state but does not account for differences found across counties that may result from local factors such as arrest patterns, offense characteristics, adjudication decisions, culture, and resources, among other factors. To unpack some of the differences in trends found in small, medium, and large counties, OYCR examined percentage changes from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24 in youth violent felony arrests³⁵, 707(b) adjudications, SYTF commitments, and transfers to adult court.

Large Counties

Large counties are defined as those with populations exceeding 700,000.

TABLE A.1. Large Counties in California that Did Not have Transfers to Adult Court in Fiscal Year 2023/24

County	No Transfers to Adult Court
Alameda	x
Contra Costa	
Fresno	
Kern	
Los Angeles	
Orange	
Riverside	
Sacramento	
San Bernardino	
San Diego	
San Francisco	x
San Joaquin	x
San Mateo	x
Santa Clara	
Ventura	x

In FY 2023/2024, all large counties reported 707(b) adjudications and SYTF commitments; however, five counties reported no transfers to adult court.

Examining all large counties excluding Los Angeles, collectively these counties show increases in SYTF commitments, 707(b) adjudications, and transfers to adult court. However, these increases all fall below increases in youth violent felony arrests from 2021 to 2023. While FY 2022/23 shows percentage changes of SYTF commitments higher than youth violent felony arrests, this can be

³⁵ Felony violent arrest rates are for calendar year 2021, 2022, and 2023. [California Department of Justice. \(2024\). Juvenile justice in California 2023.](#)

explained by youth returning from DJJ in that year, not new commitments.

In large counties collectively, including LA, there was a 133% increase in 707(b) adjudications from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24, outpacing the 71% rise in youth violent felony arrests from 2021 to 2023. However, the steep increases in Los Angeles primarily drove this surge. As noted above, excluding LA the 707(b) adjudication increase falls below the percentage increase in youth violent felony arrests from 2021 to 2023.

FIGURE A.1. Percent Change of Youth Felony Violent Arrests, 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court from Fiscal Year 2021/22 to Fiscal Year 2023/24 for All Large Counties

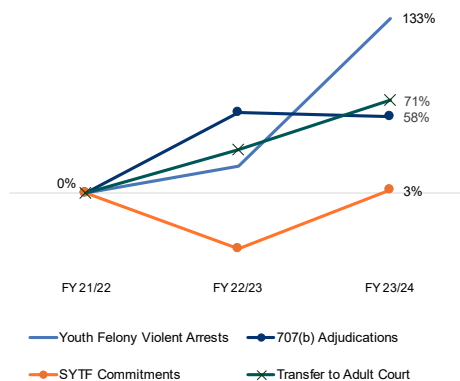


FIGURE A.2. Percent Change of Youth Felony Violent Arrests, 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court from Fiscal Year 2021/22 through Fiscal Year 2023/24 for Large Counties excluding LA County

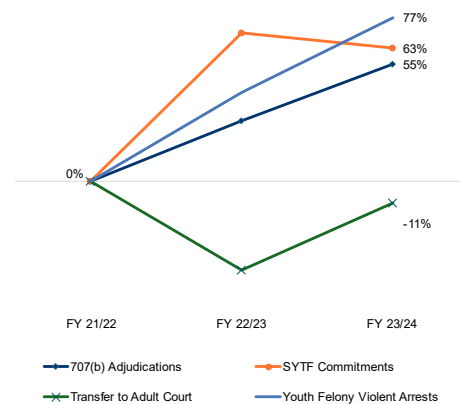


TABLE A.2. 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court by Fiscal Year for All Large Counties

Fiscal Year	707(b) Adjudications	SYTF Commitments	Transfer to Adult Court
FY 21/22	1214	205	40
FY 22/23	1468	331	23
FY 23/24	2829	324	41

TABLE A.3. 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court by Fiscal Year for Large Counties, Excluding LA County

Fiscal Year	707(b) Adjudications	SYTF Commitments	Transfer to Adult Court
FY 21/22	990	154	38
FY 22/23	1275	262	22
FY 23/24	1539	251	34

Mid-Sized Counties

Mid-sized Counties are defined by populations between 200,001-700,000.

In FY 2023/2024, all mid-size counties reported 707(b) adjudications, however four counties reported no SYTF commitments and seven counties reported no transfers to adult court. These counties are indicated with an “x” mark in the table.

Across mid-size counties, there has been a 68% increase in SYTF commitments from FY 2021/22 to FY 2023/24, which trails the 77% rise in youth violent felony arrests from 2021 to 2023 in

TABLE A.4. Medium Size Counties in California that Did Not Have 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, or Transfers to Adult Court in Fiscal Year 2023/24

County	No 707(b) Offenses	No SYTF Commitment	No Transfers to Adult Court
Butte			
Marin		x	x
Merced			
Monterey		x	
Placer			x
San Luis Obispo			x
Santa Barbara			
Santa Cruz		x	x
Solano			x
Sonoma			x
Stanislaus			
Tulare			x
Yolo		x	

mid-size counties. A spike of nearly 200% in SYTF commitments from FY 2021/22 to FY 2022/23 was largely influenced by the return of youth from DJJ, counted as new commitments.

While 707(b) adjudications increased by 40% in FY 2023/24, the increase did not match the pace of youth violent felony arrests from 2021 to 2023. Transfers to adult court also rose, by 60%, indicating shifting dynamics. However, these numbers remain small, with a total of eight transfers to an adult court across six counties in FY 2023/24, with an additional seven counties having no transfers. Taken together, these fluctuations suggest that despite rising arrests, net widening is not substantiated in these counties.

FIGURE A.3. Percent Change of Youth Felony Violent Arrests, 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court from Fiscal Year 2021/22 to Fiscal Year 2023/24 for Medium Size Counties

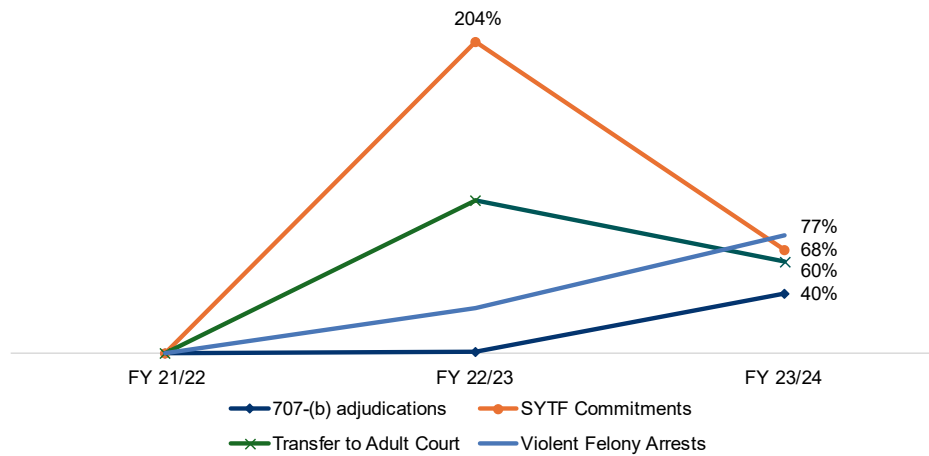


TABLE A.5. 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court by Fiscal Year for Medium Size Counties

Fiscal Year	707(b) Adjudications	SYTF Commitments	Transfer to Adult Court
FY 21/22	181	25	5
FY 22/23	183	76	10
FY 23/24	253	42	8

Small Counties

Small-sized counties are defined as having populations of 200,00 or below.

In FY 2023/24, 12 small counties reported no 707(b) adjudications, and 23 counties reported no SYTF commitments. Only one small county reported a transfer to adult court, which is a very promising outcome. Given CHHS's deidentification policy, we have not identified which county reported a transfer to adult court.

TABLE A.6. Small Size Counties in California that Did Not Have 707(b) Adjudications or SYTF Commitments in Fiscal Year 2023/24

County	No 707(b) Offenses	No SYTF Commitment
Alpine	x	x
Amador	x	x
Calaveras	x	x
Colusa		x
Del Norte	x	x
El Dorado		x
Glenn		
Humboldt		
Imperial		
Inyo	x	x
Kings		
Lake		
Lassen	x	x
Madera		
Mariposa		x
Mendocino		
Modoc	x	x
Mono	x	x
Napa		x
Nevada		x
Plumas	x	x
San Benito		x
Shasta		
Sierra	x	x
Siskiyou	x	
Sutter		x
Tehama		x
Trinity	x	x
Tuolumne		
Yuba		x

In small counties, the number of 707(b) adjudications more than doubled and SYTF commitments nearly tripled from 7 in FY 2021/22 to 20 in FY 2023/24. These increases outpaced the 45% increase in youth violent felony arrests from 2021 to 2023 in small counties. Meanwhile, transfers to adult court saw a 67% increase. These trends should be interpreted cautiously and cannot be interpreted as net widening without further analysis. It is common to see large fluctuations from one year to the next when dealing with low counts, which is the case across AB 102 data points in small counties.

FIGURE A.4. Percent Change of Youth Felony Violent Arrests, 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court from Fiscal Year 2021/22 to Fiscal Year 2023/24 for Small Size Counties

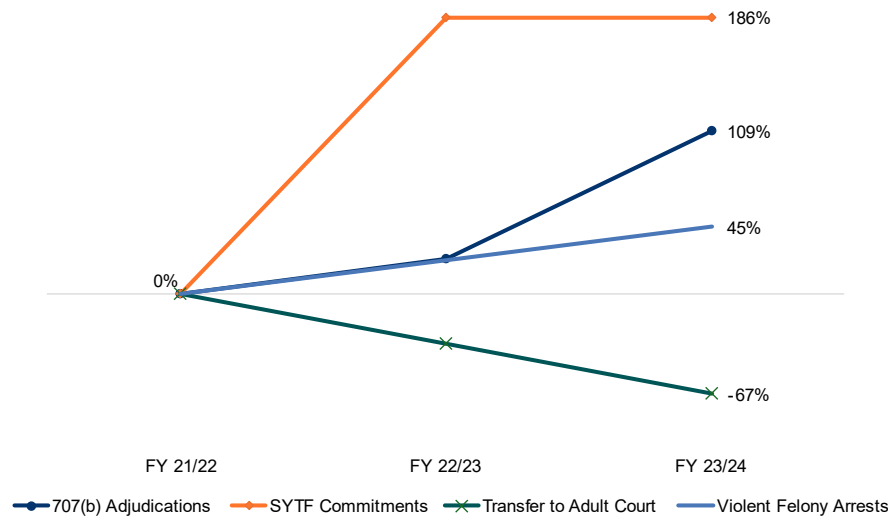


TABLE A.7. 707(b) Adjudications, SYTF Commitments, and Transfers to Adult Court by Fiscal Year for Small Size Counties

Fiscal Year	707(b) Adjudications	SYTF Commitments	Transfer to Adult Court
FY 21/22	64	7	3
FY 22/23	79	20	2
FY 23/24	134	20	1

The data provided here underscores the necessity for a nuanced understanding of juvenile justice practices across California's diverse counties. The data demonstrates that many counties have had no transfers to adult court or SYTF commitments, and a sizeable number of counties have had no 707(b) adjudications, which is promising. Across the state, youth violent felony crimes have increased over the course of SB 823 implementation, which is concerning. However, arrest rates remain below pre-Covid-19 levels in 2019. A county-level strategy emphasizing collaboration and data-driven decision-making will be essential in fostering a justice system that prioritizes rehabilitation and supports the well-being of youth.

Appendix B. SYTF Commitment Rates per 707(b) Adjudications by County

The tables included in this appendix show SYTF commitment rates per 100 707(b) adjudications in Fiscal Years 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24. Counties are color coded based on the extent to which their SYTF commitment rate is lower or higher than the state average. Counties are sorted from highest to lowest SYTF commitment rates based on FY 2023/24 rates. The third and fourth columns of each table show where counties ranked in FY 2022/23 and FY 2021/22.

In FY 2022/23 there were 140 youth returned from DJJ to SYTFs. As a result, commitment rates appear higher than FYs 2021/22 and 2023/24 and some counties have rates above 100 in this fiscal year (e.g. Imperial County).

Below is a key defining how counties are color coded and grouped in the tables.

Category/Color	Rule	FY 2023/24 Thresholds	FY 2022/23 Thresholds	FY 2021/22 Thresholds
Zero Rate	Rate = 0	0	0	0
Much Below Average	Rate $\leq$ 50% of Avg	0 to 12.07	0 to 24.1	0 to 17.72
Slightly Below Average	50% Rate $\leq$ Avg	12.08 to 24.14	24.2 to 48.21	17.73 to 35.44
Slightly Above Average	Avg < Rate < 2× Avg	24.15 to 48.27	48.3 to 96.41	35.45 to 70.88
Much Above Average	Rate $\geq$ 2× Avg	48.28 and above	96.42 and above	70.89 and above

Statewide

In FY 2023/24 there were a total of 237 SYTF commitments. In FY 2022/23 there were 427 SYTF commitments and in FY 2021/22 there were 386.

Table B.1. SYTF Commitment Rates per 100 707(b) Adjudications in all Counties

County	FY 2023/24	FY 2022/23	FY 2021/22
Imperial	100.0	100.0	100.0
Madera	83.3	-	100.0
Sacramento	81.8	54.0	48.5
San Luis Obispo	40.0	50.0	50.0
Sonoma	31.3	58.8	120.0
Kern	30.0	30.6	78.6
Butte	26.7	42.9	5.6
Santa Barbara	25.9	35.3	22.7
San Bernardino	25.0	43.6	31.7
Ventura	25.0	12.1	33.3
Solano	23.8	71.4	13.3
Fresno	20.4	21.8	15.4
San Joaquin	20.0	9.5	8.0
Humboldt	20.0	0	16.7
Stanislaus	19.5	21.6	3.0
Riverside	17.1	13.1	14.0
San Mateo	16.7	6.7	0
Shasta	15.8	23.1	28.6
Tuolumne	14.3	-	-
Kings	14.3	40.0	0
Glenn	12.5	0	-
Tulare	12.5	42.3	17.2
Alameda	12.5	16.8	17.4
Santa Clara	11.5	19.3	9.3
San Diego	11.3	18.6	0
Mendocino	11.1	0	0
San Francisco	8.7	17.6	16.7
Los Angeles	5.7	35.8	22.8
Orange	4.4	0	0
Merced	4.2	300.0	100.0
Contra Costa	3.1	35.4	41.9
Tehama	0	75.0	-
Monterey	0	65.0	3.8
Santa Cruz	0	28.6	9.5
Yuba	0	15.4	14.3
Colusa	0	-	50.0
Mariposa	0	-	0
Nevada	0	-	0

Marin	0	12.5	0
Placer	0	22.2	0
Sutter	0	100.0	0
Yolo	0	0	0
San Benito	0	0	0
Lake	0	0	0
El Dorado	0	0	0
Napa	0	0	0
Alpine	-	-	-
Calaveras	-	-	-
Del Norte	-	-	-
Inyo	-	-	-
Plumas	-	-	-
Sierra	-	-	-
Modoc	-	100.0	-
Siskiyou	-	100.0	-
Trinity	-	0	-
Amador	-	-	0
Lassen	-	0	0
Mono	-	0	0

Small Counties (Population: 0 - 200,000)

In Fiscal Year 2023/24 there were a total of 20 SYTF commitments. In Fiscal Year 2022/23 there were also 20 SYTF commitments and in Fiscal Year 2021/22 there were 7 commitments.

Table B.2. SYTF Commitment Rates per 100 707(b) Adjudications in Small Size Counties

County	FY 2023/24	FY 2022/23	FY 2021/22
Imperial	100.0	100.0	100.0
Madera	83.3	-	100.0
Humboldt	20.0	0	16.7
Shasta	15.8	23.1	28.6
Tuolumne	14.3	-	-
Kings	14.3	40.0	0
Glenn	12.5	0	-
Mendocino	11.1	0	0
Tehama	0	75.0	-
Yuba	0	15.4	14.3
Colusa	0	-	50.0
Mariposa	0	-	0
Nevada	0	-	0
Sutter	0	100.0	0
San Benito	0	0	0
Lake	0	0	0
El Dorado	0	0	0
Napa	0	0	0
Alpine	-	-	-
Calaveras	-	-	-
Del Norte	-	-	-
Inyo	-	-	-
Plumas	-	-	-
Sierra	-	-	-
Modoc	-	100.0	-
Siskiyou	-	100.0	-
Trinity	-	0	-
Amador	-	-	0
Lassen	-	0	0
Mono	-	0	0

Medium-Sized Counties (Population 200,001 – 700,000)

In FY 2023/24 there were a total of 42 SYTF commitments in medium size counties. In FY 2022/23 there were 76 SYTF commitments and in FY 2021/22 there were 25 commitments.

Table B.3. SYTF Commitment Rates per 100 707(b) Adjudications in Medium Size Counties

County	FY 2023/24	FY 2022/23	FY 2021/22
San Luis Obispo	40.0	50.0	50.0
Sonoma	31.3	58.8	120.0
Butte	26.7	42.9	5.6
Santa Barbara	25.9	35.3	22.7
Solano	23.8	71.4	13.3
Stanislaus	19.5	21.6	3.0
Tulare	12.5	42.3	17.2
Merced	4.2	300.0	100.0
Monterey	0	65.0	3.8
Santa Cruz	0	28.6	9.5
Marin	0	12.5	0
Placer	0	22.2	0
Yolo	0	0	0

Large Counties (Population: > 700,000)

Table B.4. SYTF Commitment Rates per 100 707(b) Adjudications in Large Size Counties

County	FY 2023/24	FY 2022/23	FY 2021/22
Sacramento	81.8	54.0	48.5
Kern	30.0	30.6	78.6
San Bernardino	25.0	43.6	31.7
Ventura	25.0	12.1	33.3
Fresno	20.4	21.8	15.4
San Joaquin	20.0	9.5	8.0
Riverside	17.1	13.1	14.0
San Mateo	16.7	6.7	0
Alameda	12.5	16.8	17.4
Santa Clara	11.5	19.3	9.3
San Diego	11.3	18.6	0
San Francisco	8.7	17.6	16.7
Los Angeles	5.7	35.8	22.8
Orange	4.4	0	0
Contra Costa	3.1	35.4	41.9

In FY 2023/24 there were a total of 324 SYTF commitments in large size counties. In FY 2022/23 there were 331 SYTF commitments and in FY 2021/22 there were 205 commitments.